

Chicago phenomenon rekindles UFO debate

On Jan. 2, the Chicago Tribune did something extraordinary for a major newspaper: It ran a UFO story on its front page. The newspaper reported that in the late afternoon of Nov. 7, 2006, a gray, egg-shaped object was observed hovering over Gate C17 at Chicago O'Hare International Airport.



Armentano

The object was unusually low (below the 1,900-foot overcast), remained visible for several minutes, and was observed by several mechanics and various United Airlines ground personnel. The object eventually disappeared straight up through the overcast by reportedly "punching a hole" through the clouds.

Observer descriptions of the object are remarkably consistent. It had no wings or lights. Its surface appeared metallic but with a soft luster that shone "like a pearl." Several witnesses reported a haze around the bottom of the object akin to heat waves off a hot road. One witness in an airport parking lot said that the object appeared to be spinning counter-clockwise. She also said that a small crowd of fellow observers were pointing up at the object and that several were taking pictures with digital cameras.

The Federal Aviation Administration first told the Chicago Tribune that it had no knowledge of the alleged incident but then quickly reversed its position after the newspaper filed a Freedom of Information Act request.

DOM ARMENTANO GUEST COLUMNIST

The agency now claims incredulously that the November sighting was some (unspecified) weather-related phenomenon. Sure.

Even more troubling, United Airlines continues to deny the incident entirely despite the fact that several of its employees maintain that they filed written reports on the sighting with their company, including drawings. United Airlines employees further state that they were instructed by their employer explicitly not to talk about the incident.

In defiance of the company gag order, however, one United mechanic told the Tribune: "It definitely was not an (Earth) aircraft."

UFOs are a 60-year-old mystery made even more mysterious by decades of absurd government denials that anything truly mysterious is going on. UFO proponents say we are seeing space ships from other worlds, while debunkers say eyewitness testimony is remarkably inaccurate and that almost all reports are misidentified natural phenomenon or man-made objects.

Who is right? Draw your own conclusions from just two of the earliest secret, official UFO government documents released under the Freedom of Information Act.

On Sept. 23, 1947 Gen. Nathan Twining, commanding general of the Air Material Command, sent a then-secret memorandum to Brig. Gen. George Schulgen at the Pentagon, stating that "The reported phenome-

non (the flying disc) is something real and not visionary or fictitious. There are objects the shape of a disc ... with operating characteristics such as extreme rates of climb, maneuverability ... and action which must be considered evasive when sighted or contacted by friendly aircraft or radar."

One month later, on Oct. 28, 1947, Lt Col. George Garrett prepared a so-called Intelligence Collection Memorandum for Air Force Intelligence which listed some commonly reported features of flying discs: "The ability to group together very quickly in a tight formation when more than one aircraft are together; evasive action ability indicates the possibility of being manually operated, or possibly by electronics or remote control; and under certain conditions the craft seems to have the ability to CUT A CLEAR PATH THROUGH CLOUDS ..."

It is apparent that technical analysts for military intelligence had concluded as early as fall 1947 that some "flying discs" were real, intelligently controlled, unexplainable objects that could be evasive and even cut a clear path through clouds, precisely like the reported disc-shaped object over O'Hare International Airport.

Will the Chicago UFO incident currently unfolding be the beginning of the end of the 60-year government cover-up?

Armentano, a Vero Beach resident who has published several books on antitrust policy and has written commentary and reviews for newspapers, magazines and journals on various public policy issues, has been following the UFO controversy for 40 years.

Former Ariz. leader Symington says he saw a UFO 10 years ago

PHOENIX (AP) — Former Arizona Gov. Fife Symington trotted out an aide dressed as an alien 10 years ago to spoof the frenzy surrounding mysterious lights in the Phoenix sky. Now he says he saw the lights himself, and believed from the start that they were extraterrestrial.

Now a pastry chef and business consultant, Symington

said he didn't acknowledge his own encounter at first because he didn't want people to panic. The former governor, who faced fraud charges at the time, also said he didn't need the additional problems such an admission would have created.

Symington discussed the sighting with a UFO investigator making a documentary, and

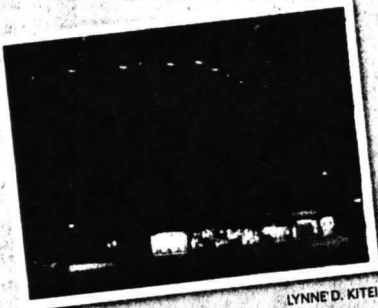
in media interviews this week.

"I'm a pilot and I know just about every machine that flies," Symington, a former Air Force captain, told the Arizona Daily Star on Thursday. "It was bigger than anything that I've ever seen. It remains a great mystery. Other people saw it, responsible people. I don't know why people would ridicule it."

More on the lights

At news.azcentral.com

- See a Channel 12 special report on the "Phoenix Lights."
- Hear Arizona Republic reporter Scott Craven explain the story of the lights and see a documentary video.
- Submit your own photos and see a slide show of readers' photos.



LYNNE D. KITEI

Intrigue persists over lights in sky

For first time, military pilot tells of dropping flares; others say 'Phoenix Lights' were UFOs

By Scott Craven
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

On a mild springlike evening the string of amber orbs appeared as if by magic, a celestial sleight of hand that would in the coming weeks make headlines and video highlights across the nation.

Although little more than an atmospheric

curiosity at the time, the hovering and evenly spaced balls of light would soon become known as the Phoenix Lights, an event that 10 years later continues to spark debate over just what was seen that night.

Those who accepted the explanation that it was military flares dismissed the contro-

versy with logical precision, while people who saw it as an otherworldly encounter claim the truth has been shrouded in lies and disinformation.

In the ensuing decade, the Phoenix Lights would change outlooks, minds and even a few lives. What hasn't changed is this: The mystery that still hovers above March 13, 1997.

The key witness

What she was seeing had barely registered when Lynne Kitei raced inside to fetch her video camera. Lights, six of them, evenly spaced in a direct line. They were — floating? — over Phoenix. Certainly not a plane. Or balloons.

She had seen something like this before, but could these be like the amber orbs she saw in 1995 hovering in formation just 100 yards from the backyard of her Paradise Valley home? And she had seen orbs like that just two months ago. In each case she had snapped photos. This time she wanted video.

By the time she was back on her patio, only three lights continued to shine. She pressed "Record," and those several seconds of tape would become one of the seminal recordings of the Phoenix Lights to be shown on the news, TV specials and, several years later, her own documentary.

In the decade since that night Kitei, a respected physician, has resigned from her position at the Arizona Heart Institute to devote herself full time to talk about, and further investigate, the Phoenix Lights.

"If you had told me this is what I'd be doing," she says, "I would never have believed it, not in a million years."

For seven years she spent nearly all her spare time trying to answer the question that plagued her: What were those orbs, and what did they want? She finished with 750 pages of notes detailing her interviews with witnesses, experts and UFO investigators. Her notes included extensive research of similar sightings around the world.

Kitei remained anonymous for seven years, fearful of the ridicule that accompanies those seen to be tilting at extraterrestrial windmills.

But her chase for the truth eventually overcame her fears of going public. She condensed her notes into a 222-page book, *The Phoenix Lights ... We Are Not Alone*, where she revealed her findings as well as her name.

What she has not found is a definitive answer, only educated speculation as to the meaning of the lights.

"It's never been about me; it's about the data," Kitei says. "To present it I had to come forward, to tell people what I know."

Kitei also has discovered something nearly as surprising as interplanetary visitors — a wider acceptance of things that can't quite be explained. She said she still receives e-mails from fans of her book and her documentary, *The Phoenix Lights ... We Are Not Alone*.

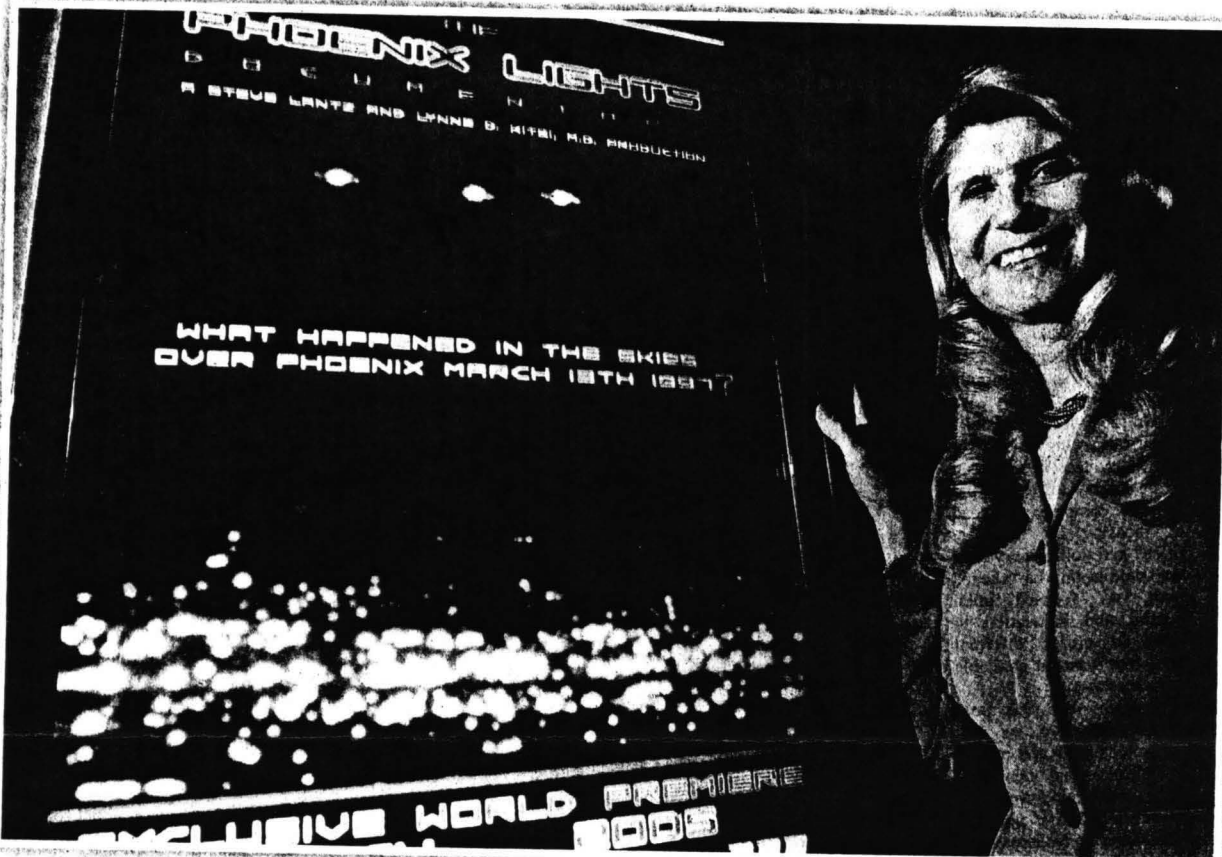
She takes no offense at those who call her efforts a waste of time.

"Some people deny it even exists, that it all feeds into a logical explanation," she says. "That's OK if it gives them comfort. Everyone in their own time."

The lights appear

It is generally agreed that at about 10 p.m. on March 13, 1997, under a clear sky with no breeze, a string of lights appeared to the southwest. The orbs seemed to form a flattened V shape, like a boomerang. They appeared to be motionless, or traveling so slowly that movement was imperceptible.

They shimmered for five to 10 minutes and were seen by hundreds, and likely thousands, of people.



SUZANNE STARR/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Paradise Valley resident Lynne Kitei published a book and produced a documentary about the lights seen over Phoenix on March 13, 1997. The physician quit her position at the Arizona Heart Institute to investigate what she had witnessed firsthand.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Phoenix Councilwoman Frances Emma Barwood, shown in 1997, asked city staff to investigate the mysterious lights.



MIKE RYNEARSON/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

When former Gov. Fife Symington held a press conference on June 19, 1997, a few months after the Phoenix Lights sighting, an aide appeared dressed as an alien.

In the days to come, air traffic controllers at Sky Harbor International Airport would tell reporters and UFO investigators that they spotted nothing on radar. Officials at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson would report that no military maneuvers were taking place that night at the Barry M. Goldwater Range to the west of Gila Bend (and would change their story two months later, saying the person on duty that night failed to look at the proper logbook).

Photos and video of the Phoenix

Lights were popping up on local and national TV news. The images made their way around the world.

Then things got crazy.

Stories trickled in of isolated sightings from northwestern Arizona about three hours before the mass sighting in Phoenix. Some people said the lights seemed to float before accelerating and disappearing into the night. From those sightings, experts in the UFO community assembled a timeline that had a mysterious craft drifting north to south across Arizona.

Video of the Phoenix Lights appeared on TV tabloid shows with breathless commentators wondering if this was the proof UFO believers had been waiting for. And when Gov. Fife Symington called a press conference, few expected to see the extraterrestrial who emerged from backstage (a Symington aide in alien drag).

At least one person wasn't laughing. Frances Emma Barwood never saw the lights as she drove home March 13

(continued on page 3)

north along Highway 51. Her eyes were on the road, not the sky, though in a week's time she'd be eye-deep in controversy.

As the Phoenix city councilwoman fielded calls from curious constituents, she decided she needed to know more. She called for an investigation.

What she got, Barwood says from her home in Dewey, was ridicule.

"Oh, the media had a heyday with me," says Barwood, who would never hold another political office when her City Council stint was up.

Barwood did not assume the lights were UFOs as the media inferred, she says. She only wanted a government agency to look into the odd occurrences of March 13. She received calls from eyewitnesses in Prescott Valley, Phoenix and points south.

A decade ago, Barwood would have leaned toward a logical explanation. Today, she's open to the not-so-logical.

"I don't know what it was, but I'm a lot more open to that thing coming from elsewhere," Barwood says. "What makes us think we're the only intelligent being in the whole entire universe?"

The flares exposed

Those who believed in logical explanations would have to wait four months for the proof they knew was out there when the military, spurred by a June 1997 story in *USA Today* that brought national attention to the Phoenix Lights, decided to take a second look.

They were flares, said the Air National Guard, dropped during nighttime exercises at the Barry M. Goldwater Range.

That simple explanation didn't fly with those who had four months of mystery on their side.

They were flares, insists Lt. Col. Ed Jones, who piloted one of the four A-10s in the squadron that launched the flares.

Jones, in his first interview with the media about the night 10 years ago, can't believe a decision to eject a few leftover flares turned into a UFO furor that continues to this day.

Jones now is assistant director of operations for the 104th Fighter Squadron of the Maryland National Guard. His ti-

tle has changed, but his story remains the same.

He and the rest of his colleagues were cruising the night skies of southwestern Arizona on the last night of Operation Snowbird, so named because they were winter visitors. Pilots dropped flares to light the night but had no idea they were about to ignite controversy as well.

On the way back to Tucson, not far from Gila Bend, Jones says, he reminded pilots to eject their leftover flares. Since this was their last night on maneuvers, it was more cost-effective to eject the flares than to offload and store the munitions upon returning.

"One of our guys had about 10 or so left, so he started to puke them out, one after another," Jones says. "So every few seconds or so, when the next flare was ready to go, he hit the button and launched it."

Jones looked behind him and saw an evenly spaced string of lights over the desert, floating ever so slowly to earth. Each was extremely bright, a "couple million" candle power, Jones knew. They seemed to hover because heat from the flare rose into the parachute, as if each were a tiny hot-air balloon. The planes headed for the base.

Jones and the rest of the crew returned to Maryland. Several weeks later, Jones says, "All this stuff just blew up."

News of the unexplainable Phoenix Lights reached Maryland, where the logical explanation sat waiting to be discovered. It would not be until the end of July when it was announced that the Maryland Air National Guard had launched flares that night and were the lights everyone had seen.

"With flares that bright, they can be a lot closer than they seem," Jones said. "Yes, they could have looked like they were right over Phoenix."

There are those who believe the flare story is a lie, the military's attempt to cover up the truth. Others think flares were indeed dropped but only as a diversion so officials could explain what people saw that night.

Jim Dilletoso belongs in the first camp. The Phoenix computer specialist who has analyzed film and video of dozens of alleged UFO sightings says Lynne

Kitei's video, the best taken that night, is not of military flares.

Dilletoso compared the lights to the thousands of images on his database, which he likens to testing fingerprints or blood samples. He tests for size, brightness, movement characteristics and more.

"I have thousands of knowns," Dilletoso says. "I didn't get a match to flares, airplane lights, Venus, swamp gas, flashlights, whatever. That means it's unknown. Not a spacecraft necessarily, but unknown."

The questions remain

A decade has passed, and while the Phoenix Lights have dimmed, they refuse to disappear.

Steve Kates is not surprised. Dr. Sky, as he is known on radio and on his Web site, follows aviation and astronomy and often is called upon to explain unusual occurrences above us. Kates is hardly surprised the mystery of the Phoenix Lights endures today.

"Mystery is a great thing," Kates says. "We don't want to think we're alone. I imagine even ancient people looked to the sky and wondered."

The night had a profound effect on Bobby Brewer, who was with a friend driving southbound on Highway 51 when the lights appeared.

Brewer would write *UFOs: 7 Things You Should Know*, which many may consider unusual coming from a pastor.

The experience led Brewer to respect those who have reported sightings, encounters or even abductions.

The lights were so compelling that night, he pulled off the highway to stare.

"It was like seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time," says the pastor for young adults and singles at Citichurch in Scottsdale. "It took my breath away."

Brewer did his own research, yet to this day he is still unsure of what he saw. Flares certainly seem plausible. A high-tech craft pushing the edge of physics is in the realm of possibility. And he won't discount a visit from another world.

For Brewer, the Phoenix Lights remain a tantalizing mystery. He can live with that.

Learn more about the Phoenix Lights

Here are some of the upcoming events commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Phoenix Lights:

2 p.m. March 3: Witness forum and Phoenix Lights presentation "Coincidence or Communication?" at Glendale City Council Chambers, 5850 W. Glendale Ave. Free. (623) 930-3431.

2 p.m. March 4: Peoria Film Festival features *The Phoenix Lights ... We Are Not Alone* documentary at Harkins Arrowhead Fountains, 16046 N. Arrowhead Fountain Center Drive, Peoria. \$10. (623) 363-1543, www.peoriafilmoffice.com.

4 p.m. March 8: Opening reception for "Alien Images: UFOs, Photography and Belief." Refreshments will be served. The museum is in the Anthropology Building on ASU's Tempe campus, corner of Cady and Tyler malls. Free. (480) 965-6213, www.asu.edu/clas/shesc/asuma/ufo.html.

7 p.m. March 10: Book signing and question-and-answer session featuring Lynne Kitei, author of *The Phoenix Lights*. Mustang Library, 10101 N. 90th St., Scottsdale. Free. (480) 391-0048.

1, 4 and 7 p.m. March 11: Screenings of *The Phoenix Lights ... We Are Not Alone*. Executive producer Lynne Kitei will answer questions. Harkins Shea 14, 7354 E. Shea Blvd., Scottsdale. Standard movie ticket prices apply. (480) 948-6555.

4:40 p.m. April 11: "Coincidence or Communication?" presentation by Lynne Kitei, author of *The Phoenix Lights*. Physical Sciences Building, F166, at Arizona State University Tempe campus. Free. www.asu.edu/clas/shesc/asuma.

FREE PRESS, Detroit, MI - Jan. 16, 2007 CR: D. Clewell

Ever seen a UFO?

Macomb County science fiction buff making flying saucer

By STEVE NEAVLING

ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLINTON TOWNSHIP — Some people may call Alfie Carrington crazy or foolish.

How else do you describe a man who has spent more than half his life building a flying saucer?

By day a construction worker, Carrington spends his free time inside a rented storage garage in Macomb County's Clinton Township where he broods over a 14-foot-wide, carbon fiber, fiberglass vessel.

"Something genius is hiding away in Alfie's eccentricities," friend D.L. Bradley, a pastor in Clinton Township, said.

Thirty years ago, when Carrington was 27 and obsessed with science fiction, he set out to build a UFO look-alike. But something inside him cried out for more.

Inspired by ordinary Americans like Orville and Wilbur Wright, who piloted the first heavier-than-air aircraft 103 years ago, Carrington pored over books, magazines and studies about aviation. Never mind his lack of engineering experience.

He has spent nearly \$60,000 for some of the materials he believes are needed to launch his creation — a lot for a man who drives a rusted 1986 Mercury Cougar.

Carrington does it because he



Unique design: Carrington has two patents on the design of his vertical lift aircraft, or flying saucer.

believes he has discovered a simple design for an aircraft that aeronautical engineers have spent countless millions trying to build.

"People are going to say I'm nuts," Carrington shrugged.

Unlike aeronautical engineers who have tried to build vessels for commercial flight — most notably those who entered the X-Prize contest for a reusable, privately built suborbital spacecraft — Carrington's aim is more terrestrial. He wants to replace the

automobile with a Jetsons-style vehicle.

"Why drive when you can fly 500 mph?" he asked.

Carrington has two patents on the design and a company called Vertex Aerospace. His work caught the attention of NASA, which invited him to a conference in the mid-1990s where engineers scratched their heads when he confessed he knew nothing about computers.

His idea is to fire up the vessel with

a rotary engine to stimulate a magnetic levitation system to rotate the ship's two discs. The discs would draw air into propeller blades.

"It's a simple concept," Carrington said. "There is no way this thing can't get off the ground because 40 percent of it is rotating."

Aeronautical engineers aren't so confident, especially considering the rotation speeds needed to lift the aircraft.

"Things spinning at those speeds are worrisome because of the stress from centrifugal force," explained Cornelis van Dam, professor of mechanical and aeronautical engineering at the University of California-Davis, a leading aviation school.

"If it's not properly designed and built, it will rip itself apart. I wouldn't want to stand next to it when it gets up to speed."

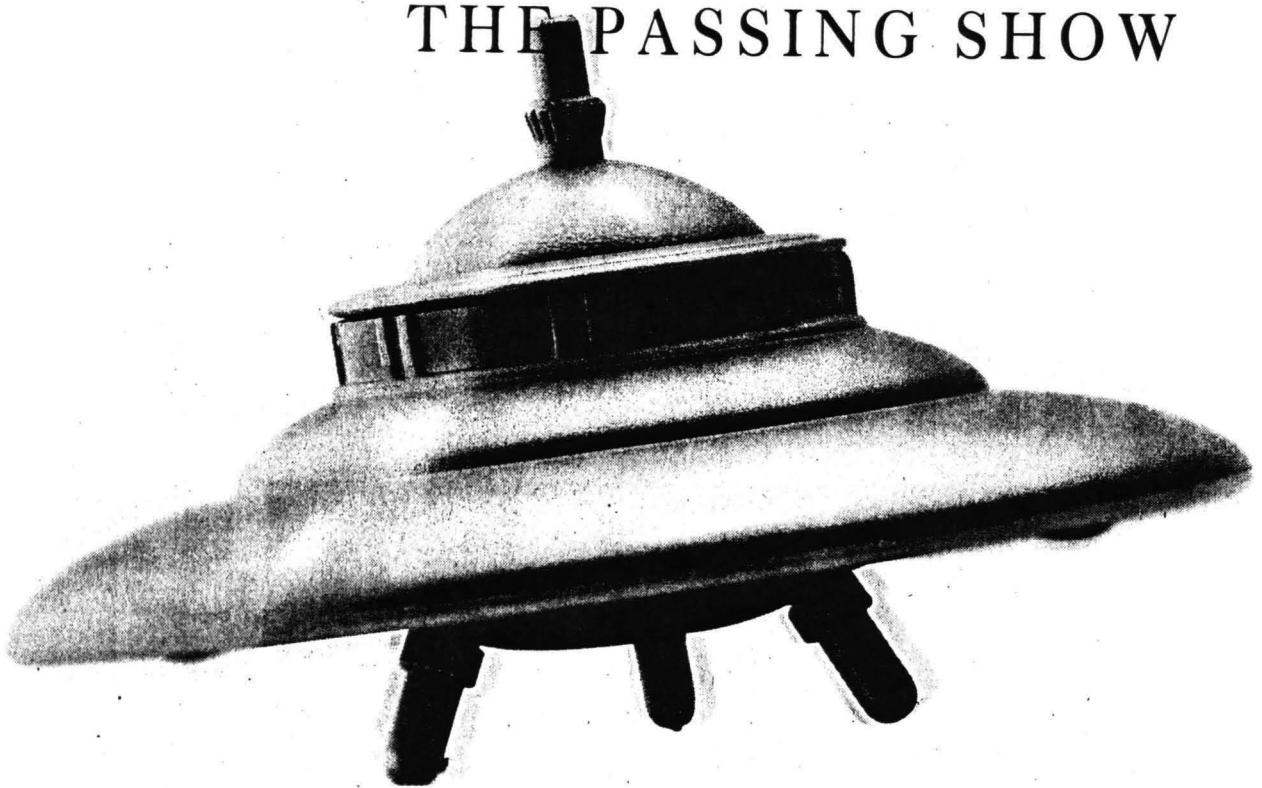
Even aerospace experts rely on other professionals to build such complex vessels, van Dam pointed out.

But Carrington doesn't have time for naysayers.

In eight months, he hopes to launch his dream, assuming he can raise at least another \$40,000 to complete the project.

"When he starts it up, we'll know either it was the biggest folly of all time, or one of the most ingenious inventions of all time," Bradley said.

THE PASSING SHOW



For many at O'hare it was a UFO, for the FAA a 'hole-punch cloud'

By Leslie Kean
SPECIAL TO THE BEE

During one late afternoon at Chicago's bustling O'Hare Airport, pilots, managers and mechanics at the United Airlines terminal saw an odd, disc-shaped object hovering silently overhead, just below the dense cloud layer.

A pilot announced the sighting over the radio; a United taxi mechanic moving a Boeing 777 heard radio chatter about the craft and saw it; so did a pilot waiting to take off who opened the cockpit windscreen to get a better view. Minutes later, the wingless vehicle shot straight up at an incredible speed and disappeared, leaving a crisp hole through the clouds with blue sky visible at the top.

It was definitely not an airplane, witnesses said of the Nov. 7 incident, many of them shaken by what they saw.

"I immediately called our operations center to confirm the sighting, and the FAA was contacted while I drove to the other concourse to talk to the witnesses," a United management employee wrote to the National UFO Reporting Center.

On Jan. 1, the Chicago Tribune published the story, by transportation reporter Jon Hilkevitch, which received more than a million hits on the Tribune's Web site, more than any story in the site's history. "The witness credibility is beyond question, and safety was a big concern," says Hilkevitch, who has interviewed dozens of witnesses.

The O'Hare UFO incident even had its day on national television networks. CNN interviewed a nervous United employee, filmed in shadow so he wouldn't be recognized. So far, all witnesses have remained anonymous.

When Hilkevitch began his investigation, the FAA and United Airlines denied knowing anything about the incident, but taped calls and other evidence revealed their communications about the sighting at the time it occurred.

At first, the FAA attributed the incident to some kind of weather phenomenon, and United Airlines advised its employees not to talk about it, according to the Tribune.

"If this had been a plane, it would have been investigated," Hilkevitch says. "The FAA treats the smallest safety issue as very important."

NASA aviation expert Brian E. Smith, a former manager within NASA's Aviation Safety and Security Program, says, "The safety implications of any vehicle operating at low altitude over a major airport outside the authority of air traffic control are obvious. Managers should want to hear about such vehicle operations before they become accidents or disasters."

FAA spokesperson Tony Molinaro says the

"absence of any kind of factual evidence" precludes an investigation. "There was nothing on radar."

To explain the witnesses' reports, he offered his best "guess." They may have seen a "hole-punch cloud," he said, which is in "a perfect circular shape like a round disc" and has "vapor going up into it."

These unusual natural cloud holes form only at below freezing temperatures, according to climatologists. It was 48 degrees at O'Hare that afternoon.

John Callahan, Division Chief of Accidents and Investigations for the FAA during the 1980s, says it's not at all surprising that the O'Hare UFO was undetected on radar.

Radar technology cannot always capture objects at extremely high speeds. A hovering object wouldn't necessarily show up either. "If it did, it would be a small dot, and air traffic controllers would not give it much concern," Callahan says.

The government response to the O'Hare incident is predictable, says Callahan, who conducted an investigation into a 1986 UFO sighting over Alaska: "The FAA will offer a host of other explanations, as if wearing a blindfold. It's always something else so it can't be what it is."

Official policy spells out FAA disinterest in reports of anomalies. The agency's Aeronautical Information Manual, providing the fundamentals required for flying in U.S. airspace, states that "persons wanting to report UFO/Unexplained Phenomena activity" should contact an organization such as NUFORC.

If "concern is expressed that life or property might be endangered," it says, "report the activity to the local law enforcement department."

Sometimes, pilots and crew report these incidents anyway. Richard Haines, a former NASA scientist who is head of the National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena, has collected thousands of reports by aviators and aviation professionals of unidentified aerial phenomena inconsistent with known aircraft or nature. More than 100 of these involve safety hazards caused by an aircraft's proximity to unfamiliar flying objects or inexplicable brilliant lights.

Given the number of airline personnel reporting this unknown object hovering over a major airport, how could our government not be interested? What about national security? Or passenger safety? Or just plain scientific curiosity about an unexplained phenomenon?

Leslie Kean is an investigative journalist and co-founder of the Washington-based Coalition for Freedom of Information. She can be reached at lkean@ix.netcom.com.



Photographs by Maxim Kniazkov/Special to The Washington Times

Area 51 neighbor Steve Medlin installed a mailbox especially for anyone from outer space trying to send communication to the rumored alien colony on Earth. Pat Travis, owner of the Little ALeInn in Rachel, Nev., is a believer. "The aliens? They could be right here, in this town. I've seen at least two of them," she said.

By Maxim Kniazkov
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

IRACHEL, Nev., would be logical for this town to consider sisterhood with Loch Ness, Scotland, home to a putative aquatic monster whose reported "sightings" have fired up imaginations for decades.

Rachel, population about 100, also has a lake, a mystery at the bottom of it and the business savvy to turn it into a lucrative enterprise.

Groom Lake, about 25 miles southwest of here, has not held any water since probably the last ice age, but even an attempt to sneak a peak from one of the surrounding mountaintops will bring out the authorities.

Pat Travis has seen many a truth seeker ending up in handcuffs. "Remember, if even as much as your toe gets inside the restricted area, they'll grab you, and you'll end up paying a \$600 fine," Mrs. Travis said.

She is the owner of Little ALeInn, Rachel's only restaurant, bar and motel, which is booming with curious visitors.

Mrs. Travis tells the story about a man who set off a major security alert as he stretched his hand across the boundary to grab a rock as a souvenir. Sirens blared, she recalls, searchlights pierced the dark and black helicopters swooped down from out of nowhere to nab the intruder.

Bone-dry Groom Lake and its immediate surroundings are known as Area 51, the U.S. government's single most closely guarded facility. It is so secret that Pentagon officials are not authorized even to acknowledge its existence.

It is protected by somber-

Aliens welcome

Town serves as landing strip for UFO theorists

looking camouflage-clad men who careen around the ridges in sport utility vehicles and pickup trucks, backed up by a network of cameras, motion sensors and listening devices.

For local residents, what could be better for business than a good secret next door?

A dusty gravel road runs through a picturesque Joshua tree grove, then veers to the right before revealing a slew of red-and-white warnings not to proceed any further.

The camouflage men are parked on the hill above — engine running, ready to pounce. The truth is out there, but always out of reach.

There are no confirmed facts, only theories, some of which seem more plausible than others.

The least outlandish argues that Area 51 is a supersecret testing facility for the nation's newest military jets. The F-117 stealth bomber, U-2 and SR-71 "Blackbird" spy planes, some say, were among them.

Another theory postulates that it is an intelligence center where Air Force specialists examine aircraft stolen by U.S. spies.

And then there is the UFO crowd.

They recall a story about an alien spacecraft going down outside Roswell, N.M., in 1947. The government said at the time that it was an experimental weather balloon. UFO theorists say the military captured two alien pilots from that craft and took them to Area 51 for debriefing.

According to the rumor mill, these aliens have helped the government establish a secret relationship with their planet. Alien spacecraft are now regularly landing on an airstrip at the bottom of Groom Lake, bringing in alien engineers to help the military build its own flying saucers. All of this is just behind a ridge maybe 10 miles from the stop signs.

The theory got a boost in 1989, when Las Vegas resident Bob Lazar, who identified himself as a former Area 51 employee, claimed in a television interview to have seen an alien spacecraft and nine other flying saucers parked at the facility.

All the major TV networks sent their best correspondents, with CNN's Larry King holding court for a day.

Armed with binoculars and telescopes, UFO buffs took up positions around Rachel to watch the night sky for any signs of saucers.

Accessible ridges around the restricted area became prime haunts. Tour companies in Las Vegas began offering trips to "the real home of the X-Files" for about \$200 per person.

"It's a fairly popular destination to this very day," said Richard Rancilio, owner of Grand Canyon Tour Co. "We take people in a van to the Little ALeInn in Rachel and the warning signs three or four times a week."

Flipping "Alien Burgers" in her restaurant's kitchen, Mrs. Travis awaits a new batch of wild-eyed visitors.

In 1996, the Nevada state government named Route 375, which connects Rachel to the outside world, the Extraterrestrial Highway. It helped increase sales of Area 51 T-shirts, coffee mugs, ashtrays and bottle openers.

Visitors also can buy, at a fair price, an unauthorized history of Area 51, videocassettes with UFO stories and even a map showing directions to the entrance.

"The aliens? They could be right here, in this town. I've seen at least two of them," Mrs. Travis said. "What else am I supposed to think when a complete stranger walks in a few years ago and knows that my grandson was in a car accident?"

According to another theory, Groom Lake could be housing a whole alien colony.

Steve Medlin, a rancher whose property adjoins Area 51, has installed a separate mailbox for the aliens in case the Empire decides to communicate.

Who knows? One day they may take a new saucer for a spin and drop by for a cup of coffee. Or maybe the unshaven guy with a droopy mustache nursing a beer at Little ALeInn is really from a galaxy far, far away.

As long as they pay in dollars, they are all welcome.

MEETINGS

The Colorado Springs chapter of UFO Institute International will hold an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Penrose Library, 20 N. Cascade Ave. Subsequent meetings will be 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Police Operations Center, 705 S. Nevada Ave. For more information, e-mail ufoinstituteinternational@juno.com.

One of the roles of the UFO Institute International will be to evaluate and document UFO sightings. The Colorado Mutual UFO Network also investigates sightings in the state. For more information, go to www.comufon.org.

then.

The group sought those answers for years, but faded away at the end of the decade. Now Alexander, 53, is forming another group — a Springs chapter of the newly formed UFO Institute International. He met with fellow UFO enthusiasts recently in Las Vegas to help set up the organization.

"I think in six months we'll have up to eight active chapters, from New Orleans to Am- arillo to Albuquerque," he says.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Monthly meetings will provide local members the chance to share their experiences and sightings, and special presentations will cover topics such as alien abductions and the 1947 Roswell incident. The group, as before, also will investigate sightings.

The club is for anyone interested in UFOs, Alexander says, from scientific types to believers in the more metaphysical. "We just ask that they come in with an open mind."

Group welcomes all UFO enthusiasts

By BILL RADFORD
THE GAZETTE

Steven Alexander believes the truth is still out there — and he's back looking for it.

In the early 1990s, TV's "The X-Files" rekindled Alexander's long-held interest in UFOs. He founded the UFO Institute in Colorado Springs, a group devoted to investigating and documenting UFO sightings, in 1993.

"We're out to find answers," he told The Gazette

Members will adhere to a code of etiquette, he said, and be respectful even if they find someone's tale outlandish. That understanding attitude was sometimes stretched to the limit with the old club.

"We would get offers like, 'I can make the aliens come and meet me at the Wal-Mart parking lot on Platte Avenue at 10 o'clock.' A couple of us would show up out there and the person was like, 'Can you see them?' Well, no."

Alexander knows some people might regard the group as "those UFO nuts," but he said that attitude is becoming less prevalent.

A 2005 survey commissioned by the National Geographic Channel found 60 percent of Americans believe life exists on other planets. Alexander, of course, is among those believers.

"I look out at space and can't imagine God would build such a universe and put all of



This is part of an occasional series profiling special-interest clubs in Colorado Springs.

his eggs in this one little basket called Earth."

He doesn't claim to have encountered a visitor from another planet, but he has seen something he can't explain.

In 1977, while driving from Leadville to Colorado Springs, he saw "a peculiar-looking light."

"It was just green and it was moving this way and that way, and a little bit up and down, not like a steady airplane thing."

He assumed it was an Army helicopter.

But 30 years later and with experience in the military — he's a lieutenant colonel in the Army Reserve — he's confident it was no helicopter.

"What it might have been, I'm not sure."

CONTACT THE WRITER: 636-0272 or bill.radford@gazette.com



FOREIGN NEWS

[All British clippings courtesy of Timothy Good, unless otherwise credited.]

CHRONICLE, Barnsley, England - Nov. 10, 2006

PLACE

The man making us ready for UFOs

David Trimble is a member of the Aetherius Healing Society. Julian Thorpe talks to him about dowsing, extra-terrestrials, and how his interest in UFOs brought him to Barnsley.

DAVID Trimble can on occasion be seen walking around the supermarket swinging a pendulum at various foods.

"Some people wonder what the hell you're doing, while others just look away and rush off," he says. I've never been stopped from doing it."

This is dowsing, a practice which he believes can tell him, from the direction the pendulum swings, which foods are good for him and which are not.

Luckily he has become used to dealing with sceptics - his own children are among them - since joining the Aetherius Society, a New Age church, in 1980.

He moved to Barnsley a year ago to be closer to the society's healing centre at Birdwell, after he became fed up of the two-and-a-half-hour drive from Cumbria.

In his home county, David served as high sheriff, a city councillor and a governor of two schools.

He now lives on Skinpit Lane in Hoylandswaine, but is still a director of the newspaper group which owns most of Cumbria's regional papers, and has been involved with many other organisations.

A small note at the end of his long and impressive CV lists one of his interests as 'metaphysics', which only hints at what has now become the chief consumer of his time.

"My life is devoted to doing only what is best for mankind," he says. This involves, among other things, dissemination of recordings which he believes originate from extra terrestrials.

About 600 of these recordings exist, and the public can hear many of them at the healing centre in Birdwell.

David first became interested in UFOs after his father told him a story about a mysterious shape in the sky which he saw while out on a shooting trip.

Some time later he attended a lecture given by the society which divulged recently declassified information about the US government's investigation into UFOs.

He says the society told him what the UFOs were, why they are here, where they came from and who was on board.

He said: "If I walked out into Barnsley and tried to tell the average person that there were beings on other planets, they

would gape at me. They're not ready for it."

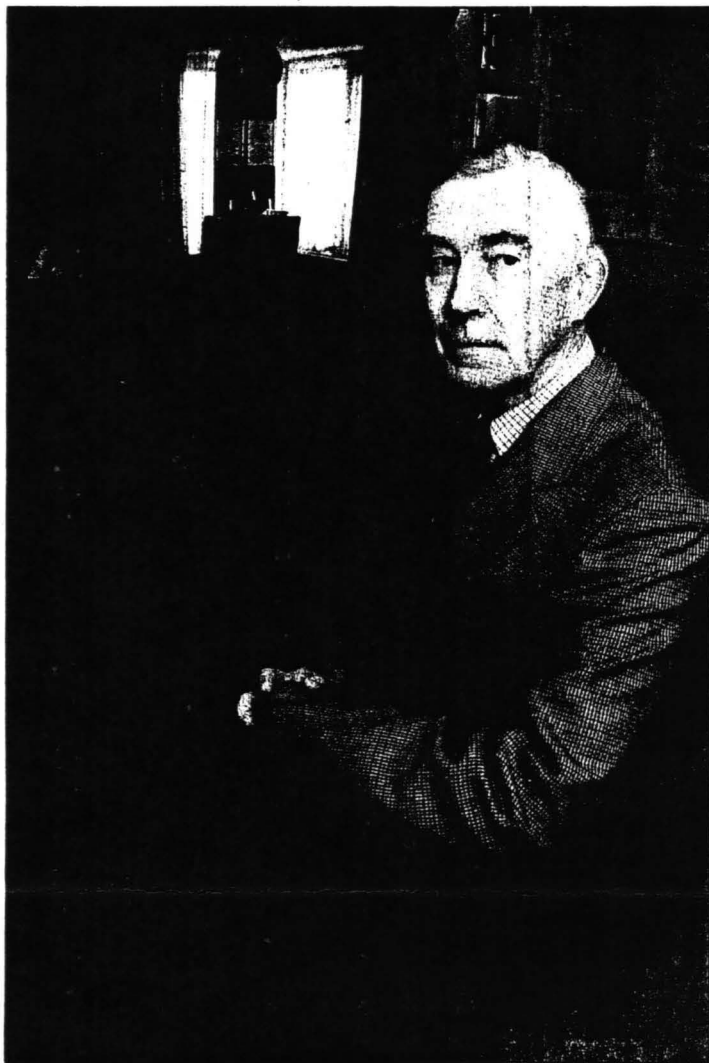
Because of his high profile, David has come into contact with many senior public figures, and has on occasion attempted to interest them in his beliefs.

"I've been used to some pretty high forms of living, dinner parties and such, and for the last 26 years, I always try to raise the subject in some form."

He once urged the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Robert Runcie to meet Aetherius Society founder George King, and although the meeting never took place, the archbishop wrote to David, saying: "Your testament to his influence is both moving and impressive."

David has also spoken of his beliefs to the Prince of Wales, John Major and Michael Howard. He says the Duke of Edinburgh and Earl Mountbatten were particularly interested.

Whatever the reaction to dowsing and messages from Mars, there can be few who would contradict David's best advice: "Be the best person you can. Don't kill. Don't fight. Get more spiritual, and respect the mother Earth."



Art of dowsing: David Trimble.

(D)

EVENING STAR, Ipswich, England - Oct. 28, 2006

Did anyone else spot UFO?

Builder saw strange lights in the sky

By JAMES MARSTON

james.marston@eveningstar.co.uk

DID you spot a UFO flying over Ipswich yesterday morning? If you did you weren't alone.

A 34-year-old builder is today convinced he can't have been the only one to spot three strange objects in the morning sky.

Marcus Normanton, of St Neots, was working on St Frances tower, in Franciscan Way, when he noticed something odd in the sky.

He said: "It was about 6.40am-ish. I was watching a jet go over on its way into Stansted. I happened to look up again and I saw two small objects tracking to the right of it. They criss-crossed and shot straight up into the air."

Strange enough already you may think, but Mr Normanton, who admits to being rather unnerved by the experience, saw still more.

He said: "A second later I saw a larger object following them and this time I could hear the noise it made. It was like an orange glow colour and it was quite bright."

Mr Normanton, assistant site manager at the tower, said he was formerly a sceptic about UFOs. He said: "I didn't think anyone would believe me and can you imagine the stick I'm going to get on the building site? But I'm sure someone else would have seen what I saw."

"I can't be the only one. It was unbelievable. I could hear it as well."

He added: "I hadn't been drinking the night before either. I'm sure I wasn't seeing things."

Suffolk police said they had not received any calls about UFOs.

■ Did you see a UFO flying over Ipswich at about 6.40am on October 27? Contact James Marston on 01473 324788 if you did.

FREE PRESS, Denbighshire, Wales - Oct. 12, 2006

Was this a UFO sighting above Moel Famau or just a military aircraft?

By OLIVER CLARK

oliver.clark@nwn.co.uk

IT COULD easily be a scene from the Spielberg fantasy *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* with strange bright lights, too large to be car lights, suddenly appearing above a mountain side and then disappear just as quickly.

But this isn't Hollywood - it's the latest in a string of UFO sightings in Denbighshire.

On October 4 Sally Gavin of Llanynys was spending an evening with her boyfriend watching a film when they spotted a very bright white flashing light just above Moel Famau Country Park.

According to Sally: "It grew wider and wider and consisted of three lights which flashed on and off like Christmas tree lights before disappearing. I called a friend who lives in Gellifor and would have a better view and he confirmed that he, too, could see the red light."

Sally saw the strange phenomena a month ago when it was hovering just above the mountain.

Five people, including Sally's brother in law, saw the strange light and reported the details to North Wales Police who told them it might

have been caused by the Army or someone out hunting. But Sally is sure this wasn't the case.

"It definitely wasn't a plane or a helicopter. The lights were far too big and bright," she said. The sighting is only the latest in a long history of reported UFOs that have been spotted across Denbighshire over the last 50 years.

The BBC has even set up a web page called "Weird Wales" to document each sighting and where possible provide visual evidence.

In one of the earliest recorded incidents in 1964 a woman allowed her dog out on to the grass near Denbigh Castle only to hear it yelp as if in pain minutes later.

"The woman said she saw a beam of light focused on the dog and as she picked up the animal she said she received a burning sensation on her arm which had come into contact with the light."

In March 2004 pictures were taken of strange white swirling objects in the sky over the Vale of Clwyd which the contributor photographer described as a very bright light in the night sky. In another incident two friends had an unnerving ride from Bodelwyddan to St Asaph when they saw a UFO which approached as they shone a torch at it. The object, which was described as being shaped like a biscuit tin, hovered silently over the car before moving on to Berwyn Mountain in complete silence.

Maragret Fry, a member of the Welsh Federation of Independent Ufologists and expert adviser on BBC weird wales said with regard to UFO sightings, said: "Everyone seems to see something different. It can be bright lights or something more familiar like the classic saucer shape objects. I think that they are spacecraft from other planets. I've been seeing them since the 1950's. to say that we are the only inhabited planet in the universe is ridiculous."

Anyone with a suspected UFO sighting can contact Maragret on 01745 833310.

Tracy phones home her close encounter

MYSTERY LIGHTS: Tracy Major, of Wanstrow, captured the unexplained bright lights she saw at dusk near Cley Hill, above, on her camera phone

PICTURE (right): Will Nicol 46 M6075_2

By Wayne Cornish

A WANSTROW resident has reported seeing dozens of UFOs in the night sky.

Tracy Major, of Coronation Road, had an unexplained close encounter when she took her dog for a walk on a hill near her home.

She was looking out for deer as she walked, but, as peered into the twilight towards Cley Hill, about ten miles away, she said she saw an unidentified flying object.

Ms Major spotted the bright lights moving in the sky at about 4.45pm on Thursday November 16.

The military and local astronomers have been unable to explain the sightings.

Longleat Estate and Center Parcs have also confirmed the lights were not caused by laser shows from their sites.

"These lights are like nothing I've ever seen in this world," said Ms Major, 36.

"There were about six bright orb lights making different patterns and, for about 30 seconds, a long triangle shape appeared.

"It was as if they were chasing each other and I can only liken them to UFOs which you see on television or in books.

"The whole thing lasted about five minutes and they left as quickly as they arrived."

Ms Major captured the sight on her mobile telephone, and although she is usually a sceptic when it comes to UFOs, she cannot explain what the flying objects were.

She said: "They weren't fireworks, as there were no flashes and they weren't a laser show as they weren't linked to the ground.

"I looked on television and listened

to the radio, but there were no events going on that night to explain it."

In recent years, Cley Hill, an Iron Age hillfort, has become an unofficial UFO observatory.

The 240-metre high hill provides breathtaking views for miles around and this has spawned numerous eye witness accounts of extraterrestrial activity.

Often, unusual sightings can be put down to near-by military exercises in the Battlesbury Barracks in Warminster, or on Salisbury Plain.

But officials from the barracks

"Nothing untoward caused any concerns on Thursday that we know of," he said.

"It is unlikely to have been one of our planes as they are all grounded by 5pm."

Charles Daniels is the co-owner of MC2 Telescopes in Catherine Street, Frome.

He has been a keen astronomer for most of his life and was also unable to explain Ms Major's sighting.

He said: "I lived on a farm in the Warminster direction for 25 years and I only ever saw one UFO.

"This recent sighting could have been either the military or someone playing around with lasers.

"You can also see strange patterns when planets are close together, but at this time of year most planets are visible day objects."

Kevin Goodman is the author of UFO Warminster and an expert on strange sightings in the region's night sky.

He said: "The phenomenon around Cley Hill died down nearly 20 years ago, but Ms Major's account does seem to be a classic sighting.

"If you are not a seasoned sky watcher you can quickly assume the wrong thing.

"In my heart of hearts, I would love to say it was a UFO sighting and it does sound like one.

"If it was a hoax, they have gone to extravagant lengths in an area which is now considered relatively UFO dormant.

"Anything to do with conventional aircraft usually has engine noise and it seems a strange time of day for laser shows, so it really is a tricky one."

Days Out

10th annual UFO conference flies in big name guests

Talks are out of this world

THIS weekend all eyes will turn to the skies as the Cornwall UFO Research Group will be landing at Truro College for its 10th anniversary conference.

For this special occasion it will be flying in from America the world's leading expert on UFO abductions, Budd Hopkins.

Budd became involved in UFO research after a daylight sighting in 1964. He took part in his first on-site investigation in 1975.

His article about a New Jersey UFO landing and occupant in a New York newspaper caused a flurry of letters, some of which detailed 'missing time' episodes and led to his first abduction investigations in 1976.

In many lectures and media presentations, as well as in four subsequent books, *Missing Time*, *Intruders*, *Witnessed* and *Sight Unseen*, Hopkins has concentrated upon isolating the patterns implicit in the abduction phenomenon, and as a result has brought many other researchers, such as Dr David Jacobs, John Carpenter and Dr John Mack into the field.

He has lectured extensively in the UK, Germany, Italy, Turkey, Brazil, Mexico, Canada and the United States, and has appeared widely on TV and radio.

At the conference he will be briefly describing aspects featured in his new book *Sight Unseen*.

The abduction phenomenon will

be illustrated by case material from Hopkins' files, as well as by slides and videotapes showing the relevant physical evidence.

As arguably the world's leading expert on this subject, Hopkins' presentation will be informative and thought-provoking.

If the alien abduction phenomenon is occurring – as he and many other researchers believe – it could be seen to constitute one of the most important ongoing events in history.

At the conference you are invited to hear the facts and decide

for yourself.

Budd will be signing all copies of his new book that are purchased at the conference – there will also be a special hour-long workshop after the conference on Saturday.

The two-day conference has a great selection of guest speakers. On Saturday talks will be held by Crichton Miller, Alan Jones, Jane McCarthy, Mike Freebury and Dave Gillham. Sunday will feature Nick Pope, John Hanson, Gary Heseltine, Jason Andrews and Dave Gillham, this time talking about UFO sightings from the

past two years.

The Cornwall UFO Research group formed in October 1995 following a sighting by founder David Gillham. He said: "I have found that people that are psychic seem to experience very close encounters from UFOs – there's abductions, strange lights, craft that appear and disappear, and numerous other events that happen."

"I am always interested to hear from people that have experienced any strange event."

The group meet to share information regarding sightings, offer a forum for discussion and to collate UFO data from across the county in order to record and analyse patterns and trends.

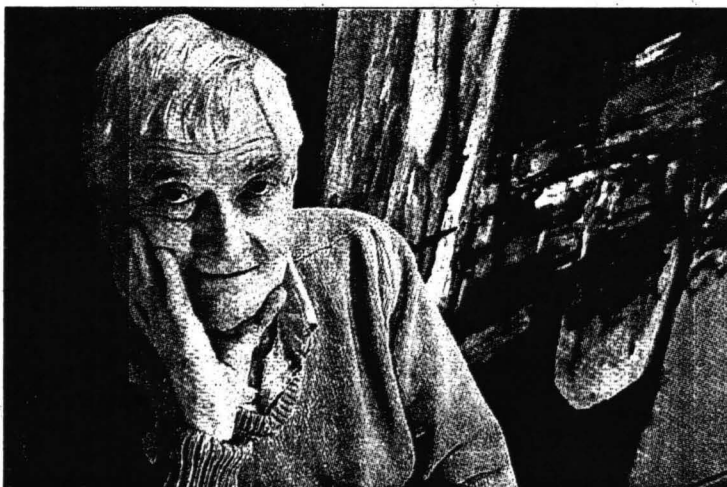
Its conferences attract a wide range of people who come to hear prominent speakers in a range of subjects, from abductions to folklore.

The conference takes place on Saturday between 10am and 7pm and on Sunday from 10am to 6pm. Doors open at 9.30am on both days at the Mylor Lecture Theatre at Truro College.

Spaces booked in advance are £18 per day or a special weekend ticket is available for £32.

Tickets can also be purchased on the day of the conferences at a price of £25.

● For more information or to book tickets call 01872 276381 or visit the website conference.cornwall-ufo.co.uk



■ Budd Hopkins, a leading expert on UFO abductions is guest of honour.

EVENING PRESS, York, England - Nov. 28, 2006

What was it?

ON a clear starry night recently, while out exercising my dog, I looked up and saw a brilliant white light in the sky. It was about the size of a large car and circular in shape. I watched it for about ten seconds, before it vanished into thin air.

Could it have been a UFO? Well, it couldn't have been a terrestrial craft, as it was flying at an altitude higher than an aeroplane, very probably on the edge of space.

In any case, a plane or helicopter would have had smaller green or red lights. The object also did not move as a terrestrial craft would, but remained stationary in one place. It was almost as if the occupants inside were watching me, or had stopped to admire the view.

It's easy to get carried away with the romance of UFOs, but I regard this as my first "genuine" UFO sighting. Has anyone else seen a UFO over Bridlington, or can help me with this?

Aled Jones,
Mount Crescent, Bridlington.

ECHO, Loughborough, England - Sept. 29, 2006

VARIED EXPLANATIONS FOR MYSTERY

Orange lights may be geese

by Rachel Harrison

FLOCKS of geese could be behind the strange phenomenon of the orange lights in the sky spotted in the area.

A number of people in the Loughborough area now claim to have seen the strange spectacle travelling in formation across the sky first reported in the *Echo* a couple of weeks ago.

John Wells, of Rothley, also witnessed the phenomena, but he has his own explanation.

Mr Wells said: "The same thing happened to me about 10 years ago. I was out round the back of my house when these orange lights came over in formation."

"The same thing happened the next night and then the third night we heard a honking sound. We realised they were geese."

He says because the birds had just taken off from a stretch of water their bellies were wet so the water was reflecting the

orange lights of street lights.

"It scared me the first time I saw it but we're not being invaded!" he added.

Brian Turner, of Barrow-on-Soar, says he and his wife saw the lights.

He said: "They were fairly bright orange lights, probably between 100 and 200 meters apart."

"I thought at first they could be military helicopters but there was no sound."

"I had been out for a meal but I'd only had one drink. I had just put the car in the garage and was walking round the back when I saw them."

In search of more information research uncovered a website dedicated to sightings in the Halewood area of south Liverpool in October and

November of 2002 and December of 2003 to January 2005. Halewood is close to the towns of Widnes and Runcorn which are well known as a window area for UFOs.

Halewood Lights In The Sky (LITS) 2002-2005 by Bill Bimson shows various statements and images of lights in the sky and among them is one testament in particular which sounds familiar and describes three reddish orange lights in a triangle moving slowly from Garston/Hunts Cross direction towards Halebank/Widnes.

Conclusions of the site state: "Moving LITS can be caused by a number of mundane phenomena including aircraft, birds, laser shows, satellites aluminised balloons and fire balloons."

"Earth lights and ball lightning are another cause of LITS but these phenomena are rare and not well understood."



MIKE STROBEL

PageSix

Paul Hellyer has a unique solution to global warming and the gas shortage — ask aliens what makes their saucers fly

Al Gore is the poster boy for global warming.

He sure is. Look at him.

There's a man who has never run for a bus.

All that gushing, honey love spread over him by other rich and famous people at the Oscars worries me, too. Watch for a new hole in the ozone 20 clicks above the Kodak Theatre.

Now the radio says Gore's mansion in Tennessee devours \$30,000 a year in hydro and gas, at a clip 20 times the U.S. average.

If this emperor has no clothes, why should he? His thermostat is set on high.

So if not Al Gore, who will save us from drowning in glacial melt and keep beach resorts from Nunavut?

I find one answer in the lakefront office tower where my mom happens to hang her shingle.

Hon. Paul Hellyer. Remember him? Defence minister under Pearson. Liberal leadership contender. Trudeau's transport minister. The Belinda Stronach of his day. Grit. Tory. Grit. He even toyed with the NDP.

'Open your eyes'

These days he dallies with another airy acronym. UFO.

"Open your eyes," he tells me. "Two days of research and you'll believe it too."

I will ask the United Airlines workers who saw a big, metallic Frisbee over Chicago's O'Hare airport last November.

I will not ask the air traffic controller who quipped: "To fly 7 million light years to O'Hare and then have to turn around and go home because

your gate was occupied is simply unacceptable."

What have UFOs to do with global warming, or the GTA gas shortage?

They're the cure, says Hellyer, 83. Here's how he sees it:

When a UFO crashed in Roswell, N.M., in 1947 (oh, stop being such a cynic), it offered a techno treasure trove.

From that wreck, and 77 others, the military gleaned hardware that was out of this world.

The micro-chip, for instance. Bullet-proof vests. Fibre-optics. Tupperware. (Just kidding). Lasers. *Star Wars* weaponry.

"And particle guns."

What?

"High voltage. They fire something like controlled

lightning."

Aha. Ray guns.

"Yes. The U.S. air force probably has them by now."

The big prize, though, is what makes those saucers fly.

Imagine a vehicle that does 30,000 km/h or hovers on a dime, regardless of whether Esso has any gas.

No greenhouse gas

Best of all, no exhaust. No stench. No smog. No greenhouse gas. No ice cap melt. No drowned continents. No Al Gore?

The U.S. must have figured out the aliens' propulsion by now, says Hellyer.

Likely it is zero point

energy, an idea floated by Einstein, which is infinite, pollution free and exists all around us.

Think of it as you queue for rationed gas.

The perfect fuel.

(Or is it? Why do flying saucers keep crashing?)

"That's why I've gone public. I want the Americans to tell us if they have it. Or how close they are."

"The people of the world have the right to know, too. To save this planet."

And if the Americans haven't figured it out?

"Instead of trying to shoot down those guys, we should invite them down to tell us what we need to know."

Which guys?

"The aliens. I'm told there's more than one species."



AL GORE

Global warming poster boy

How do we get them to come?

"I'm told there have been face-to-face communications."

I wait for him to cackle or make monkey sounds or jump on the desk of his lakeview office. But Hellyer has unwavering, sane eyes, pale and clear. He is 6-foot-3 and every inch a gent.

He will be on hand next Wednesday for the Toronto screening of the UFO documentary *Fastwalkers*, so called for a military code name. (See expoliticstoronto.com).

Hellyer has never seen a UFO. "I've never seen the Taj Mahal either, but I know it's real."

Maybe he is right. Maybe oil execs are not the only slimy green men in the energy business.

Beam me up, Scottie.

Anything's better than a buck a litre.

Mike Strobel's column runs daily, Wednesday to Saturday.
mike.strobel@sunmedia.ca
or 416-947-2265



Former defence minister Paul Hellyer believes UFOs may provide a cure for global warming.

ALEX UROSEVIC/SUN MEDIA

ADVERTISER, Long Eaton, England - Aug. 31, 2006

Account of a UFO spotter

I AM writing in about a UFO sighting seen by Natasha, Richard, Debbie and Anthony from Long Eaton.

It was Wednesday, August 23, it was 9.03pm and me and my friend looked out of my window because my friend's son Anthony had told us he could see a UFO flickering in the sky.

We also saw this and it looked to be still. We looked around to see if there was anything else in the sky but there wasn't.

Within five minutes it was gone. We carried on looking in the sky wondering what this was and at 9.13pm we saw the same flickering

red, orange and yellow light but this time it was lower and slowly moving at an angle upwards.

Then just above the roof top across the road from me we saw another flickering light the same colours as the other one which was slightly higher at this point, both heading in the same direction and slowly moving at an angle upwards in perfect alignment with each other.

They both stayed still for a short while then started moving slowly at an angle upwards again with the gap between them remaining unchanged.

It was about 9.20pm when they vanished. While me and Debbie were looking on the PC for any other sightings my partner Richard said he seen three or four of the same flickering lights come together then vanish.

Then at 9.48pm we saw another of the same flickering light in the sky in the same place as the other two, after staying still for about four minutes it began to fade then vanish, this one did not move upwards, this one remained still.

Another sighting was on the same night at a guess of 11.30pm, again moving slowly upward at an angle the same as the others.

Please could you tell me if this was seen by others, I'm still looking for any more that may appear.

At around 1.30am-2am I heard a loud noise and when I looked it was what looked to be an army helicopter circling the same area where the sightings had been, I think there were two of these army helicopters circling the whole of Long Eaton.

Natasha James
Welbeck Road
Long Eaton

GAZETTE, Whitby, England
Oct. 6, 2006

UFO spotted over Ugthorpe

A UFO was seen near Ugthorpe on Tuesday night.

Mel Sprague, who lives just outside the village, was travelling along the A171 at 10pm when she saw an odd light in the sky.

She said the light was changing direction - travelling forwards, then dropping diagonally down before moving to the side.

She said: "It wasn't following a uniform path."

Anyone else who saw the lights or anyone who can offer an explanation is asked to contact the Whitby Gazette on (01947) 829910.

France makes UFO reports public on Net

BY MOLLY MOORE
THE WASHINGTON POST

PARIS — On an August day in 1967, two children tending a herd of cows outside a village in central France reported seeing "four small black beings" fly from the ground and slip headfirst into a sphere that shot skyward in a flash of light and trail of sulfuric odors.

The alleged extraterrestrial sighting, described by the French government as "one of the most astonishing observed in France," is among 1,600 UFO case files spanning the last half century that the country's space agency opened to the public for the first time Thursday.

The voluntary decision by France's National Center for Space Studies to dump more than 100,000 pages of witness testimony, photographs, film footage and audiotapes from its secret UFO archives onto its Internet site, www.cnes.fr, for worldwide viewing is an unprecedented move among Western countries. Most of them, the United States included, consider such records classified matters of national security.

Within three hours of posting the first cases Thursday morning, the French space agency's Web server crashed, overwhelmed by the flood of viewers seeking the first glimpses of official government evidence on a subject long a target of both fascination and ridicule.

The material dates as far back as 1954. Over the next several months, the space agency will post it to enhance scientific research seeking to explain what the French government calls "unexplained aerospace phenomena."

"The data that we are releasing doesn't demonstrate the presence of extraterrestrial beings," said Jacques Patenet, who heads the Group for the Study and Information on Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena, the space agency's UFO investigative team. "But it doesn't demonstrate the impossibility of such presence, either. The questions remain open."

Patenet said that among the 1,600 cases to be opened to the public, "a few dozen are very intriguing and can be called UFOs."

Most of the cases were determined to be caused by atmospheric anomalies or mistaken perception of such things as airplane lights, or to be hoaxes. One case file described how investigators proved a man was lying about being abducted by aliens when blood tests failed to show he had recently experienced the weightlessness of space travel.

In one of the cases investigators consider most credible, a 13-year-old boy and his 9-year-old sister were watching over their family's cows near the village of Cussac on Aug. 29, 1967, when the boy spotted "four small black beings" about 47 inches tall, according to documents released Thursday. Thinking they were other youngsters, he shouted to his sister, "Oh, there are black children!"

But as they watched, the four beings became agitated and rose into the air, entering the top of what appeared to be a round space ship, about 15 feet in diameter, which hovered over the field. Just as the sphere rose up, one of the passengers emerged from the top, returned to the ground to grab something, then flew back

to the sphere.

The sphere rose silently in a spiral pattern, then "became increasingly brilliant" before disappearing with a loud whistling sound. It left "a strong sulfur odor after departure," the report said.

The children raced home in tears and their father summoned the local police who "noted the sulfur odor and the dried grass at the reported place where the sphere took off," the report continued. Investigators said they were impressed by the uniformity of detail provided by the children and other witnesses.

"No rational explanation has been given to date of this exceptional meeting," the investigation concluded.

One of the most detailed inquiries involved the report of an Air France crew flying near Paris on Jan. 28, 1994. Three crew members spotted a large reddish brown disk "whose form is constantly changing and which seems very big in size." As the passenger plane crossed its trajectory, the object "disappeared on the spot," the report said.

Radar signatures confirmed an object of the same size and location described by the crew and concluded, "the phenomenon is not explained to date and leaves the door open to all the assumptions."

Patenet, the investigative team leader, said his group receives about 100 new cases every year and usually opens investigations on about 10 percent of them. "In 99 percent of the cases, the witnesses are perfectly sincere," he said. "They saw something. Most of the time what they saw is a perfectly natural phenomena that has been perceived in an erroneous way."

Patenet said he has never seen a UFO. "I would personally find it abnormal to think that we're the only civilization in the universe, but the probability of various civilizations coming across each other is also very slim."

Information for this report was contributed by researchers Corinne Gavard in Paris and Robert Thomason in Washington.

EVENING NEWS, Cambridge,
England - Nov. 3, 2006

US air base filmed for UFO show

SCENES for a television documentary about a major UFO incident were filmed at the Lakenheath American Air Force base.

The massive triangular-shaped UFO was reported by police and military personnel on two days in March 1993.

It featured in Channel Five's *Stranger than Fiction* on Wednesday.

Although many of the sightings were over RAF bases at Cosford and Shawbury in Shropshire, the Lakenheath-based television production company, Steel Spyda, used the Lakenheath base for "generic" shots.

Kay Hill, the show's producer, said: "The Americans at Lakenheath were absolutely super. They couldn't have been more supportive."

The programme was based on a UFO file obtained under the Freedom of Information Act.

Nick Pope, who used to run the British Government's UFO project, said the UFO was believed to measure several hundred feet across and was estimated to have accelerated away at more than 1,000 mph.

He said: "This is the most convincing UFO incident I've ever come across. It raises serious defence and national security issues. This is the case that turned me from sceptic to believer."

Kay Hill said: "We got all the documents on this incident except the MoD's letter to the American Embassy. They said it had gone missing. It is a genuinely mysterious case and one I was unaware of until making this film."

UFO witnessed over Stratford

VIDEO footage of an unidentified flying object (UFO) over Stratford on the night of Monday 17th July was handed over to the *Midweek Herald* this week — bringing the number of witnesses who saw the phenomenon to seven.

Nineteen-year-old Jonathan Kiefert, who has just left Warwick School and is shortly to go up to Leeds University to study graphic art and design, was with his girlfriend at his home in Bridgetown Road when he spotted what appeared to be a fireball moving slowly and silently across the sky before changing direction. Jonathan's mother Mrs Estella Kiefert also watched the unidentified flying

object. She said on Monday: "We have never seen anything like it and we cannot explain it. Luckily Jonathan had his camera nearby and was able to record its journey in the sky. We were unable to estimate its height."

The phenomenon was also being observed nearby from the Bridgetown Road garden of former head-teacher Mr Colin McDowall, his wife Jill, and Mrs McDowall's brother,

Report by Dale le Vack

the Rev Michael Hiles and his wife Janice.

The president of Stratford Astronomical Society, Mr Steve Smith, told the *Midweek Herald* he believed the object was a large meteor, or shooting star, about the size of a grain of sand which burns up for a few seconds when it hits the atmosphere.

That view has now been challenged by an experienced UFO researcher, Mr Keith Owen, of Shipston, who said: "It made a right angled turn, fireballs do not deviate off course, and it lasted for three or four minutes."

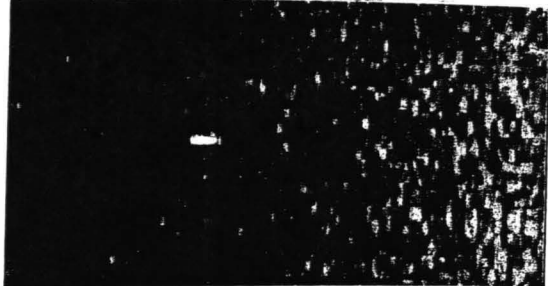
"Fireballs only last for a few seconds, unless they

strike the earth. I've heard nothing about a crash or strike."

Mr Owen, who belongs to two UFO groups, Contact International, based in Wheatley, and the Phenomenon Research Association, based in Derby, is hoping to speak to all seven witnesses and file a report of the sightings.

He said his job was to provide a serious, scientific study of the UFO phenomena, to investigate recent sightings, in confidence, and to provide an unbiased explanation, collate and report new evidence for research groups to discuss and analyse.

●Different planet. . . A frame from the video footage of a unidentified flying object in the sky above Stratford shot by student Jonathan Kiefert.



ALIENS COULD BE ON THEIR WAY, SAYS EX-MOD CHIEF

Invasion warning is no joke

NO DOUBT the usual scoffers sniggered when I mentioned flying saucers on this page recently.

Every year, thousands of puzzling phenomena are seen in the sky all over the world. And the scoffers would rightly point out that the majority can be explained away quite simply – aircraft lights, weather balloons, secret aircraft, even bits of space debris.

But a minority of sightings puzzle even the greatest sceptics. And the reason for this, say UFO fanatics, is that they are the real thing.

I was intrigued to read recently that among the believers is Nick Pope, who was head of the Ministry of Defence's UFO project between 1991 and 1994.



'Abducted:' Hilary Porter

He spoke out because, he says, the project is now "virtually closed." And he claimed that, as "highly credible" sightings are now dismissed, our country is in real



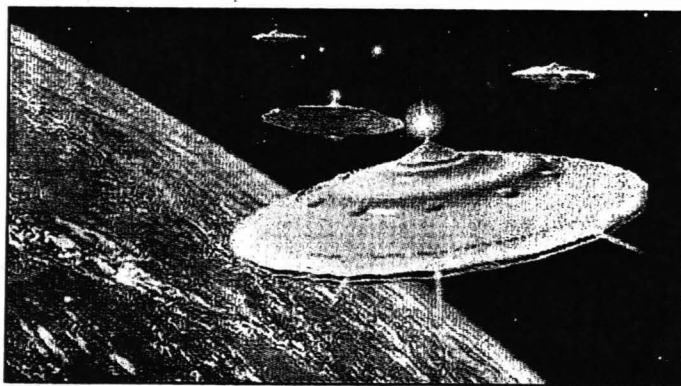
Be prepared: Aliens could be targeting earth

danger of being invaded by aliens. Please read that sentence again.

Mr Pope was sceptical about UFOs when he started his job. But he began to change his mind when he looked through classified files on the subject.

Then in 1993 he investigated reports of a vast, triangular-shaped craft that was seen over RAF bases in the West Midlands.

I recently saw a TV documen-



The big question: If extraterrestrials come, will they be friendly or hostile? And have they visited us already? CNF.

tary about the craft, and about the exhaustive checks that Mr Pope carried out.

Among the hundreds of witnesses were police and military personnel.

Questions were even asked at high level to ascertain whether the craft was a top-secret plane belonging to the British or Americans. It was not.

Not surprisingly, some people are convinced that extra-terrestrials are carrying out reconnaissance missions in preparation for an invasion.

There are even folk about who claim that for years aliens have been beaming-up earthlings to their spacecraft to carry out experiments on them.

A few days ago, I spoke to the vice-chairman of BEAMS (the British Earth and Aerial Mysteries Society), Hilary Porter, who says that she has been abducted around 30 times: What a tale she has to tell.

Perhaps the orange lights seen over Quorn a few months ago should not have been dismissed so lightly.

EXPRESS & STAR, Birmingham,

England - Oct. 14, 2006

714 UFOs are spotted

The Defence Ministry has received 714 reports of unidentified flying objects in the last six years.

Junior defence minister Derek Twigg said only 12 of the reports since January 2001 were "deemed to be worthy of further consideration". None were considered to "demonstrate any threat to the integrity of the UK Air Defence Region".

His comments came in a Commons written reply to Liberal Democrat Lynne Featherstone.

EVENING LEADER, Wrexham, England - Nov. 9, 2006

Mike Devlin The way I see it...

SINCE time immemorial man has been fascinated by the sky.

Ancient astronomers searched the heavens with the naked eye and reached a degree of expertise enabling them to identify planets and to predict eclipses.

There can be little doubt that these same astronomers wondered whether life could be sustained beyond earth on the seemingly myriad of stars, planets and moons in the infinity of space.

The question remains unanswered – or does it?

There are claims of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) from the earliest of times. The *Book of Ezekiel* recounts that about 573 BC what may well be the first sighting of a UFO.

Regular sightings appear throughout the ages. Pilots in the Second World War reported odd balls, which some referred to as shiny metal spheres and which could fly circles around their planes. Both sides in the conflict thought they were secret weapons developed by the enemy, and the Allies named the UFOs "Foo Fighters".

Indeed, a press report, dated December 13, 1944, stated "mystery silvery balls which float in the air" had been seen on the Western Front, surmising "it is possible they represent a new anti-aircraft defence instrument". After the war it was revealed the Germans had not sent up the balls and that their forces had seen them as well!

Here in North Wales we have had

what she had seen and her description is described as among the most detailed ever recorded.

On November 10, 1977, a family travelling near the village of Llandrillan, Ruthin, claimed to have seen a purple triangular craft which proceeded to swallow up their car. The family had "lost" several hours, which they could not account for, and could remember nothing about what

internationally-famous Roswell Incident, in New Mexico, in which, in both incidents, it is claimed alien bodies were recovered.

There are certain conspiracy theorists who claim the photographs released by NASA of the moon landings are fakes. Their claims revolve around the fact there was a lack of moon dust in the photographs and there is major doubt about light angles, which suggest the use of artificial lighting.

Hundreds of thousands of responsible people, such as astronauts, politicians (ex-President Jimmy Carter), pilots, police and military personnel, and people from all tracts of society have reported seeing UFOs. Some are undoubtedly genuinely mistaken, having confused a UFO with other things. And we must not discount the pranksters.

But surely, with all the countless billions of stars, moons and planets, it is presumptuous and arrogant for man to assume the only intelligent form of life is on Planet Earth.

Is there intelligent life other than here on Earth? Well, errr.....

'Arrogant of man to assume he is the only form of intelligent life'

even more graphic personal experiences of the extra-terrestrial phenomenon. In July, 1976, a nine-year-old girl claimed to have seen a strange, silver, saucer-shaped object land in a field at Oakenholt, near Flint. She claimed two silver beings had emerged and probed the ground as she watched, lying terrified on the ground, peering through a hole in the hedge. When questioned under hypnosis she produced drawings of

had taken place during that time.

Afterwards the man experienced trouble with a top molar and, on visiting a dentist, a black unknown object fell out despite the fact he had no fillings. The family claim to have twice been visited by RAF personnel and requested not to speak publicly about the matter.

Between Llandrillan and Llandrillo an event occurred in 1974 which ardent Ufologists compare to the

CLEVEDON, NAILSEA, YATTON & PORTISHEAD MERCURY, England - Sept. 14, 2006

Mystery lights

THE Yatton skies were causing some interest on Friday night when mystery lights were seen hovering over the village.

More than 30 unusual objects shaped like tennis balls prompted some residents to gather in the streets to witness the spectacle.

One resident of Horsecastle Close spotted the lights from her bedroom window when she was closing her curtains.

She said: "I was closing my curtains before

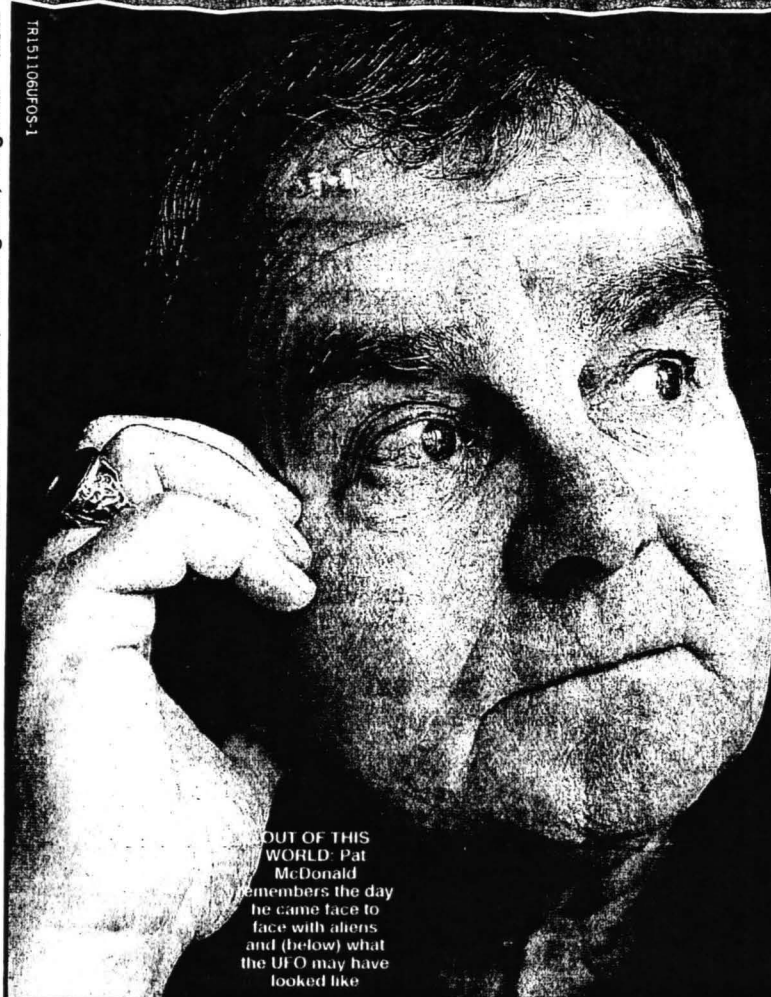
going to bed at about 10.45, when I saw lots of lights floating outside. They were an orange colour and all about the same size.

"There was no noise coming from them so they weren't mechanical and they didn't look like balloons. I have lived here for 30 years and never seen anything like that before. I was so surprised that I got my neighbour out to have a look and there were other people outside too.

"The lights then started to move towards Kingston Seymour so my neighbour called her husband who was over there working and he said that he could see them too."

RETIRED TRUCKER TELLS OF HIS ALIEN ENCOUNTER

TRIST106UFOS-1



A flying saucer followed me all the way home

OUT OF THIS WORLD: Pat McDonald remembers the day he came face to face with aliens and (below) what the UFO may have looked like

SPECIAL REPORT

BY ADAM ASPINALL

A RETIRED lorry driver has broken a 40-year silence to talk about his close encounter with aliens.

Pat McDonald, 65, told how he was followed by a triangular-shaped spacecraft in Kingstanding, Birmingham, in the year that England won the World Cup.

The former trucker contacted us after last week's story about Nick Pope, a former Ministry of Defence UFO expert.

The boffin had investigated a famous flying saucer sighting over RAF Cosford, near Wolverhampton, in 1993, which convinced him we are being visited by aliens.

Pat, originally from Great Barr, but who now lives in Spain, recounted his own out-of-this-world tale. He recalled: "I have



kept this secret for years as most people think you're a nutter when you tell them things like this!

"But I was driving home through Kingstanding one night in 1966 when a beam of light suddenly shone on my bonnet.

"I skidded to a halt - then realised the light was coming from above. I stuck my neck out of the window and saw a massive black triangular object in the sky. It hovered without making a sound - but as soon as I drove off it followed me.

"I got back home and banged on the door and my brother came out and he also saw this colossal craft floating above the house.

"Then it just suddenly disappeared in a split second, far into the distance.

"It had three glowing orange lights which changed shape and transformed into a crucifix pattern at one point.

"It was truly an incredible, scary experience that I did not speak to anyone about for years.

"But I once read a book about UFOs which had a report about the same spacecraft being spotted by two policemen in 1966."

The craft which flew over RAF Cosford in 1993 was also described as triangular in shape and it shone a beam of orange light. It made very little sound and accelerated to incredible speeds.

Mary Coxshall, 57 and from Wolverhampton, also contacted us to talk about her own close encounter in 1996.

She said: "I'd just popped out into my garden at 8.30am to pick up the milk and when I saw a black triangle-shaped craft floating above my house.

"I couldn't believe my eyes.

"It then began moving slowly back and forwards. It made no sound but I felt as if it was electrifying all the air around it. Then it just shot past the house and into the distance."

adam.aspinall@mrm.co.uk

I HACKED INTO NASA TO FIND ALIENS



A BRITISH hacker who got into top-secret NASA files was looking for aliens.

Gary McKinnon, 40, said he stumbled across a file marked "non-terrestrial" and saw a picture of a UFO.

Then he started downloading an image. "It was a hemisphere of the Earth, and in front of it, a cigar-shaped

■ by SIOBHAN McFADYEN

vessel that was totally smooth, no rivets, seams or aerials," he said. "Not man-made, no way."

As he was looking, someone cut the connection. "Bang, I was out of NASA."

Gary, from Glasgow, could be imprisoned indefinitely at Guantanamo Bay after Home Secretary John Reid granted his extradition for trial in Virginia.

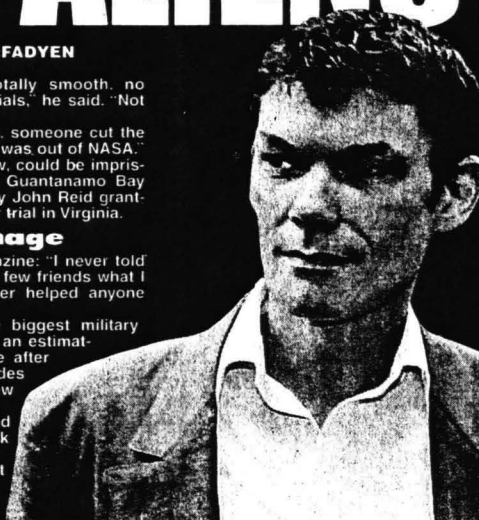
Damage

He told a US magazine: "I never told anyone other than a few friends what I had found and never helped anyone else hack."

Gary, branded the biggest military hacker ever, caused an estimated £450,000 damage after breaking secret codes and creating new passwords.

He wishes he had never tried to hack into the secret files.

He said: "I shouldn't have done it."



TRANSLATIONS

[The following translations are all courtesy of Scott Corrales and the Institute for Hispanic Ufology, with translation copyright being retained. Credit for individual contributors will be given at the end of each article. All articles are from South American and other Spanish-language newspapers and media sources.]

February 2, 2007 — *Diario de Yucatan*, Yucatan, Mexico — UFO Turns Out To Be A Balloon? — Carlos Uicab Sulu never thought that keeping a religious promise to the Child of Atocha would cause such a sensation and wonder in Merida.

The promise consisted of launching a balloon into the sky, which was observed by several citizens of Merida, some of whom videotaped and photographed the balloon, not knowing what it was.

As we reported yesterday, the sighting of a strange light that caused curiosity among many people was recorded on Saturday.

Uicab Sulu promised to launch a balloon in the saint's honor, and took advantage of a novena held in a house of the San Jose Vergel district. The balloon was raised aloft by a diesel flame and was adorned with luminaries.

Comment from Ana Luisa Cid: Merida researchers have not confirmed this news item. However, it is feasible that the case may have been an error of perception on the part of the eyewitnesses, who mistook a balloon for a UFO. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid and *Diario de Yucatan*

SUMMARY OF UFO CASES IN PUERTO RICO

Reported to www.ovni.net and www.andrewalvarez.net

By Lucy Guzman, *Ovni.net*

Revised February 14, 2007

UFO REPORTED OVER MAYAGUEZ, P.R.

Date: 4 February 2007

Location: In front of the Mayaguez Zoo

Witness: Pedro Navarro

Time: 11:10 AM

Object Description: Shining metallic oval (glowing silver) like two superimposed plates. Material glowed, no lights.

Evidence: None.

Summary: When Mr. Navarro drove past the Mayaguez Zoo, he saw a plate-shaped UFO in the sky. He described it as a shining metallic oval flying under the clouds, thus placing its altitude at some 3000 feet. Approximate angle of altitude: 15 degrees; Compass direction: SW. Movement: SE. Material was shiny and without lights. When the witness saw it, it was static and in a matter of seconds (15 sec. approximately), it zigzagged and headed toward a cloud, where it hid. Mr. Navarro did not get out of his car to follow its maneuvers, as he was late for an activity. Nor could he take a photo, as he didn't have his camera with him. He said that the object had the apparent size of a birthday balloon. Note: could there be an relationship between this object and the video recorded at the zoo an hour later? Remark: This was the first experience by Mr. Navarro with a UFO. He was pleased to see one. Evidence analyzed: N/A

Conclusions reached: None. No further reports on the same object.

Source: Ovni.Net <http://www.ovni.net>

ENTITY CAPTURED ON VIDEOTAPE

Date: Sunday, 4 February 2007

Time: 12:40 pm

Place: Mayaguez Zoo

Witness: Jessica Walker, her husband Misael Calderon and their 5-year old son

Witness lives in: Canovanas.

Brief description of the creature: Egg-shaped head, two black eyes, small mouth and nose. Creature appears to have luminescence or irradiates light in its surroundings.

Summary: Jessica's 5 year old had been given a class assignment regarding animals. He had to take a photo and say something about the animal in question in class. Jessica took him to the Mayaguez Zoo, because the child selected elephants. When they reached the house and began watching the video, they were stunned that in the area where a wooden monkey and chickens can be found, there stood a strange creature they believe "not to be from this world." They rewound their video camera and were able to see it, freezing the moment where the creature can be seen. Without saying a word, as the boy was present, the child said, "that looks like an alien." Jessica was so frightened that she didn't sleep in her house that night. She wants to know what that thing could be, because it ***was not there*** when the video was taken. There was no one around beyond the wooden monkey and chickens. What appears on film does not look like anything from our world. Note: Jessica brought the video camera on Tuesday, 6 Feb. to Lucy Guzman's house to have the video copied onto the computer and have it analyzed. Misael took the video. Jessica's mother was near the monkey cages at the time (the animals were disturbed, restless and suddenly bumped into something before retreating into the shelter) and complained about not feeling well. The other animals were laying down and inactive. Misael felt that very same sensation in the area where the wooden monkey and chickens are located, where the strange image was captured. The mother is not sensitive, this is the first time she has felt this sensation.

Video pre-evaluation: A change of light is evident, like a silhouette. Lucy Guzman, Orlando Pla and Andrew Alvarez also saw a dark, humanoid image that they believe could be the manifestation seen by the couple. There also appears to be a face on the tree. Better analysis is required.

Source: <http://www.andrewalvarez.net> and <http://www.ovni.net>

UFO OVER VEGA BAJA P.R.

Date: Sunday, 4 February 2007

Place: Vega Baja, Puerto Rico

Witnesses: Rita Rivera and her sister

Time: Night. Exact time to be verified from the video

Object Description: White light with horizontal motion

Evidence: Yes, video.

Summary: A UFO was seen and recorded. They noticed a light in the sky behaving oddly and decided to observe it and videotape it. The light was following a horizontal route and suddenly shut off. They say it was not a satellite because they are familiar with satellites and their behavior.

Reported in person by both sisters to Lucy Guzman on 8 February 2007.

Conclusions: Pending. Ovni.net is waiting for the video to subject it to analysis.

Source : Ovni.Net <http://www.ovni.net>

STRANGE OBJECTS APPEAR IN RESEARCHER PHOTOGRAPHS

Date: Thursday, 8 February 2007

Location: Moca, Puerto Rico

Time: 12:34 p.m.

Witness: Orlando Pla and Lucy Guzman on site, but the objects were seen in photograph form only.

Object description: 4 photos showing white objects in the sky. Another with the 4 objects darkens in the middle and the other 3 move to the right of the photo. A whitish face with dark eyes appears on the second tree from left to right.

Evidence: Yes, digital photos.

Summary: Lucy and Orlando visited La Casona as tourists. The sky was completely clear. Photos and video were taken. Returning home, and seeing the photos taken by Lucy, they noticed that images IMG_0637, IMG_0638, IMG_0639, IMG_0640 (taken in sequence at 12:34 pm.) show objects that shouldn't be there.

Photo IMG_0637 shows nothing in the sky or on the tree. Photo IMG_0638 shows an apparent whitish face with large black eyes concealed among the foliage in the second tree to the left; IMG_0639 shows 4 amorphous white objects in the sky to the right of the photo and an apparent white face with large black eyes, and photo IMG_0640 displays one of the 4 white objects in the same place, but with a darkened middle. The other three in the area above the foliage show the apparent white face with dark eyes.

Note: Only Lucy Guzman's photos and video have been subjected to pre-evaluation. The ones taken by Orlando Pla have not. It should be noted that poltergeist phenomena have been reported in the house (dark shadows, opening doors, loud noises, chains, almost all of them at night). Upon reconstructing the house Indian artifacts were found, suggesting the possibility of native burial grounds.

Source: Ovni.Net <http://www.ovni.net>

BRIGHT OBJECT OVER MAYAGUEZ, P.R.

Date: Thursday, 8 February 2007

Location: Mayaguez Lions Club, P.R.

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Witnesses: Lucy Guzman, Orlando Pla and another gentleman

Object Description: Very bright white light, under the clouds, with an apparent size twice that of Saturn.

Evidence: An attempt to videotape it was made, but it was not picked up.

Summary: Lucy was in the parking lot of the Lions Club and upon looking at the sky, noted that there was a very intense white light following an east-west trajectory under the clouds, at an approximate elevation of 1,500-2000 feet. Lucy first thought it could be the ISS, but the cloud level dismissed the possibility. The light dimmed, losing its brilliance. Later it recovered until it became even more intense and larger. The gentleman present insisted it was just an airplane, but the fact that it disappeared and had no navigation lights caused him to dismiss the possibility.

Remarks: The sky was very clear with few clouds. No taste was perceived, no sounds were heard, no peculiar odors detected, no impact on the electric grid.

Reported by: Lucy Guzman

Video analyzed: N/A

Conclusions: Based on observation, behavior, altitude, it was not a known aircraft, artificial satellite, meteorite or space junk. It was not possible to determine the light's nature.

Source: Ovni.Net <http://www.ovni.net>

UNEXPLAINED LIGHT OVER LAKE CARRAIZO

Date: Friday, February 9, 2007

Location: Route 52 from Caguas to San Juan, near Lake Carraizo

Witness: Lucy Guzman

Time: 2:00 a.m.

Description of object: A very bright white light with the apparent size of a ping-pong ball.

Evidence: None could be obtained. Vanished before camcorder could be secured.

Summary: Lucy Guzman and Orlando Pla were returning from Mayaguez, had paid the last toll near Caguas and were near Lake Carraizo. Lucy noticed that to her right, above the lake, there was a very bright ball of light approximately 1000 meters high, moving from east to west. It was slowly heading toward the expressway. She had her gear in the back seat; she reached for the camcorder, but by the time she removed the lens cap, the light was gone. She looked all around for it and it was nowhere to be seen. She doesn't know if the object made any noise, as the car radio and air conditioner were on.

Reported by: Lucy Guzman

Video analyzed: N/A

Conclusions: Known objects were discarded. It was not possible to identify the source of the light.

Source: Ovni.Net <http://www.ovni.net>

SINGLE WHITE LIGHT SEEN FROM GURABO, P.R.

Date: Friday, 9 February 2007

Location: Montanitas de Guaynabo, the ones nearest Route 52 from San Juan to Caguas.

Witness: Edwin Fontanez (civil engineer, amateur astronomer, pilot and paranormal researcher)

Time: Between 2 and 2:15 a.m., approximately

Object description: A single white light emerged from a cloud and headed toward San Juan.

Evidence: None.

Summary: Edwin was in Gurabo with some friends. He was outdoors and, as an amateur skywatcher, he looked at the sky. Between 2:00-2:15 a.m. he saw a single white light emerging from a cloud and heading toward San Juan. As he was in the town of Gurabo and the light was over Guaynabo (above the small hills that face the expressway from San Juan to Caguas), he could see the small light, looking like a star. When the light made a sideways move (route change), a single light remained visible. As a pilot, he says that it wasn't any known aircraft. The light went away from his field of vision. Note: these small hills the witness refers to are exactly on the opposite site of the expressway, where Lucy saw the light over the lake. Could it be the same light that Lucy reported in the area at 2:00 a.m.? It was logical that he should see it smaller due to the distance of his vantage point.

Reported by: Edwin Fontanez to Lucy Guzman, Orlando Pla, and G.M. at Lucy Guzman's house on February 12, 2007

Video analyzed: N/A

Conclusions: Light's nature could not be determined.

Ovni.Net <http://www.ovni.net>

RED OBJECT OVER ARECIBO, P.R.

Date: Saturday, February 10, 2007

Location: Barrio Sabana Hoyos, Arecibo

Witness: Mr. Berrios (pseudonym at his request) and one more.

Time: 8:30 p.m.

Object description: Circular, shiny object like a star. Brilliant red.

Evidence: None

Summary: Circular, shiny object like a star, brilliant red, at very high altitude, moving horizontally. Strange luminous objects have been reported lately in different parts of the sky.

Reported to: Ovni.net

Analyzed: N/A

Conclusions: N/A

February 20, 2007 — www.analuisacid.com and Alfonso Salazar Mendoza — MEXICO: SIGHTINGS REPORTED BY AIRLINE PERSONNEL — **Reports from researcher Alfonso Salazar Mendoza** — On February 13, 2007 at 9:25 a.m., a UFO was reported over Mexico City International Airport, flying slowly from north to south. Its aspect was metallic and its overall shape spherical, reflecting the sun's rays with silvery flashes, according to the descriptions given by aviation technicians who witnessed the sightings. They estimated that the object flew at approximately 50,000 feet (15,000 meters) and the observation took place near air terminal #2 of said airport. Among the witnesses was researcher Alfonso Salazar, who added the probable UFO was lost from sight as it headed toward the sun, from his perspective.

The crew of a Mexican Navy helicopter on its way to the Mexican capital advised an air traffic controller that a metallic spherical object had crossed its path in the vicinity of Chiquihuite Hill. The sighting was confirmed by the MCIA Control Tower on 13 February 2007 at 13:05 hours. As a side note, Chiquihuite Hill is located to the north of the Distrito Federal and also covers a share of the state of Mexico, housing telecommunications antennae.

Aviation pilot Captain Tarragona reported having seen, along with his crew, a luminous disk shaped object. He described it as "highly luminous" with red, blue and green lights, calculating that it was at a distance of approximately 3 kilometers. According to his report, the pilot requested information from the Veracruz Center, asking if there was traffic in the area, and receiving a negative reply. This occurred during a nocturnal flight over the Gulf of Mexico and the exact date is unknown, estimating that it took place during the last week of January and early February 2007.

Captain Pena, commander of an Aviacsa Boeing 737, remarked that he had a sighting during a daytime flight on the Mexico-Acapulco route. According to his account, the possible UFO resembled a basketball, with a metallic appearance, and it reportedly escorted his airliner for an estimated 5 minutes, coming dangerously close to the upper section of the aircraft's starboard wing. Subsequently, the sphere rose into the air and vanished from sight. Captain Pena added that he was convinced of the existence of UFOs. The exact date of this event is not known, and apparently occurred at the same time as the preceding report, that is to say, between January and February 2007. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid and Alfonso Salazar

February 23, 2007 — *NOUFA (Noticiero Ufologico Autonomo)* — CHILE: Alleged UFO at the Los Confines Airport (9th Region of Chile) — A strange flying object was picked up by a Nikon digital camera belonging to an airplane mechanic working at Angol's Los Confines airfield. The photo was taken in November 2006 and the photographer did not become aware of the intruder's presence until he checked out several panoramic shots he had taken of the area.

According to the first impressions of people who have analyzed the photo, some believe they can see a sort of aura surrounding the object with some colored lights around it. Are these mere optical illusions? A UFO? A distorted intrusive object? Analysis of the picture is underway.

Two years ago, when aerobatic trials by the "Halcones" group belonging to the Chilean Air Force were being performed, an Unidentified Flying Object shaped like a cylinder was captured on film. That photo remains unexplained.

To see the photo, visit NOUFA at: <http://noufa2.blogspot.com/>

CREDIT: Raul Nunez, NOUFA

February 24, 2007 — *IIEE* and *Cronica* newspaper — CHILE: CELLPHONE PICKS UP GHOSTLY IMAGE by Tania Merino — Technicians believe the phenomenon is "bizarre" — The time was 11:02 pm on February 4, 2007, when after a family get-together in a house at Villa Cap, a 25 year-old man tried to take a photo of his mother with his cellphone camera. All the guests were gone and only the young man and his parents were in the house. It was for this reason that uncertainty gripped them all when they saw the images that the cellphone had captured.

Only in one of the snapshots, taken in a quick sequence of four photographs, did the woman appear. The rest of them picked up sections of the face of a man who looks straight into the lens and who was never in the room.

"My mom got nervous, I put the cellphone away, we checked the house, but there was no one there but us," said the young man, who preferred anonymity rather than face public questioning of his sanity. He said

that "a heavy atmosphere" weighed over the house at the time, that it was "saturated," and that strange things had already occurred then, such as objects moving without any reason whatsoever.

Upon seeing what had happened, he fired another volley of three photos and the same thing occurred. The man's face reappeared.

He nervously showed us the time and date of the images captured by the cellphone. All of them correspond to the hour and minute he indicated and each sequence falls within the same minute: 23.02, 23.03, 23.05 and 23.06 minutes. The photos remain inside the cellphone until their origin can be ascertained.

The next day, he informed his brother of the event and they uploaded the images to a computer through a USB cable. They assembled the parts of the jigsaw puzzle and were surprised to clearly see the features of a man aged between thirty and forty, wearing a white suit and shirt. "This is a person that doesn't exist in the household; no one knows him. No one in my family wears three piece suits, to begin with."

"I even asked the old owner of my mother's house and she had never seen him either," he added.

Furthermore, he added that "the other day a neighbor who drives a taxi cab was getting home at 3 a.m. when he saw an image appear in the backyard of our house, a man wearing a three-piece suit and smoking. The driver turned out the headlights, but by the time he did so, there was no one there." Our interviewee showed the cellphone images to the neighbor and the driver recognized him - not by the face, but by the shape and the suit.

"Now I want to know who this person is, what he wants and what he needs," he concluded fearfully.

We consulted with an expert from a cellular telephony company and explained the situation. "Nowadays, cameras have a VGA system with pixels, and capture the image that is before them. These can only be manipulated and rearranged by editing, but there is no way that they can invent an image or create that of a person that isn't standing in front of the camera," explained Roman Montero. He admitted that it is "bizarre, because I can't find a logical explanation for it. It is impossible that it should occur. A camera cannot photograph something that it can't see," he added. He suggested taking the photos to a lab and to have them analyzed. He understood the urge to associate the images with a ghost. In earlier times, the exposure of a negative could justify such a thing, but it is not possible with a digital photograph. — CREDIT: Raul Nunez, *IEEE*

CREDIT: Jane Thomas Guma

January 20, 2007 — *Salta Policial* (online paper in Salta province, Argentina) — National and international attention is aroused, but the point of impact has already been located — The mystery of the UFO fallen in El Manzano hill, at 4,200 meters altitude continues — The police found that it impacted one of the hillsides of the peak at 4,200 meters (altitude) and some 100 kilometers from Quijano. A team leaves today for the area with equipment to rescue people alive or dead.

A large mobilization of security personnel, as well as media – national and international – and a growing rumor from valley residents were the consequence of the news about an unidentified flying object (UFO) that fell Thursday morning [January 18] in the western hills of the departments of Rosario de Lerma and Chicoana.

It has not yet been determined what the body is that impacted one of the sides of the El Manzano hill, but there are numerous witnesses that claim having seen a ball of fire falling at great speed on the Andean massif.

Forces from the Cavalry, Canine Division, Group of High Risk Operations and Firefighters besides personnel from local departments – Campo Quijano, Rosario de Lerma and Chicoana – combed the area for six hours but could not reach their objective due to the distance and altitude where it is located, which requires the participation of highly specialized mountaineering personnel.

In any case, the chief of the Chicoana police station, Dardo Gustavo Toleba, stated they were able to see the object: "What it really is cannot be established. It could be a plane, maybe space junk, a meteorite or something unknown. What is concrete is that in our approximation we could focus on it with high resolution binoculars and determine that it is something metallic, large. We can't rule out a manned machine and if so it is our duty to reach the objective and rescue anybody who might be there, alive or dead," said the officer.

It all began when Beatriz Prieto, a vendor in the Las Palmas rural estate in Chicoana phoned the police to report having seen the object falling.

"It was like a plane on fire," she said. Other residents confirmed the report afterwards and added more details: "It exploded when it hit the ground," said numerous witnesses.

Location by satellite

The chief of the Regional Unit I from the Provincial Police, Victor Copa, requested 911 to locate the object with the GPS system. The site of the impact could then be exactly pinpointed and it was verified that it is an artificial object.

With this information, early yesterday a small plane from Civil Aviation with police personnel tried to get to the object to photograph it but could not reach the necessary altitude and had to return to the airport.

The Salta airport had no flight plan in its records of any plane in the area and the Argentine Air Force records for the whole country did not show any lost plane.

The expedition that will take place today

A team of rescue and high mountain specialists formed by four members of the Firefighters Division of the Provincial Police and three gendarmes coming down from Squadron 22 San Antonio de Los Cobres, will also be accompanied by a first sergeant guide and they will leave today at 5:00 for El Manzano to find the UFO that fell on the hillside.

They will carry personal oxygen equipment, ropes, radios and stretchers for the wounded or dead.

The police group will be headed by officer Federico Delgado and formed by corporal Marcelo Beas, a mountain rescue instructor who trained in Cordoba province and Chile; by corporal Esteban Romero and by agent Enrique Velez.

They will all be accompanied by sergeant Benito Barboza from the Rosario de Lerma police station, who is an expert guide, a native from the Los Andes department.

It is estimated that the trip, which will be made on foot, will take about 48 hours.

An unsuccessful flight

Yesterday morning, at the request of the Police, a Cessna 182 from the Aero Club Salta piloted by Jorge McIntire, with passengers from the force's specialists, tried unsuccessfully to find the site. "This is a Committee of Aeronautical Security which organizes itself according to a protocol that we follow when these types of cases occur," said Javier Debenedetto, president of the Aero Club Salta.

The site, he said, is at an altitude that exceeds the flight capability of the Cessna. He also stated that this could possibly be "some space junk; this is what we are inclined to believe. For it to be a plane it must have been very large to fly at such altitude because an ultra light or a single engine cannot even attempt to fly over those peaks."



STANDARD-EXAMINER, Ogden, UT - Aug. 6, 2006

Believe it or not ...

**Museum's exhibit
— 'Bigfoot: How Do We
Know?'— for devotees
and doubters, too**

BY BECKY CAIRNS

Standard-Examiner staff
bcairns@standard.net

POCATELLO — Skeptics are welcome at the Bigfoot exhibit at the Idaho Museum of Natural History.

But so are believers — like Jim Boodry.

Boodry lays claim to an actual Bigfoot sighting, on a 1999 car trip through Montana. So he can easily answer the question posed in the exhibit's title: "Bigfoot: How Do We Know?"

"Since I've seen him, I know it's true," says the Pocatello resident.

Boodry, his wife and his daughter-in-law all glimpsed the creature walking at dusk along a wash near the road.

No, he didn't stop, Boodry says during a visit to the museum, and "I've kicked myself the rest of my life for not stopping."

But, "There's no doubting what it was," he says, adding, "I was just glad other people saw him, too."

Believers, skeptics and everyone in between are the target audience for "Bigfoot: How Do We Know?," which opened in June at this museum on the Idaho State University campus.

The exhibit isn't really about Bigfoot — it focuses on ways of knowing, using the infamous creature as an example, says Linda T. Deck, curator of the exhibit and museum director.

Display panels discuss mythology, folklore, scientific method, belief and traditions, and how people come to understand the world through these different approaches.

Yet having an example as colorful as Bigfoot is certainly a draw.

"I think the mystery behind Bigfoot is something that adds to its intrigue," says Frank Spaeth, public relations manager, noting the display has prompted phone calls and visitors from all over the world.

The exhibit ended up as one of Yahoo's Top 10 picks of the week when it opened in mid-June, Deck says, and she was interviewed about Bigfoot on Coast to Coast AM, a national talk radio program specializing in tales of the paranormal.

And, she says, attendance at the museum almost doubled from last June (800 visitors) to this June (1,500).

Bigfoot was here?

Spaeth says Bigfoot believers will be drawn by artifacts in the exhibit that they can't see anywhere else.

There are many footprint casts, some of them "famous" ones often featured in television programs about Bigfoot. Visitors will also see a supposed Sasquatch hair sample and a branch that the creature stepped on in a well-known 1967 video of Bigfoot ambling through a California forest.

(continued on page 18)

**Utahns have
claimed their share
of sightings**

Does Bigfoot roam the Wasatch Mountains? Some folks are sure he does, as any quick Internet search can attest. Web sites such as www.aliendave.com relate numerous sightings of the shaggy critter right here in the Top of Utah.

That doesn't surprise folklorist Steve Siporin of Utah State University.

It doesn't matter if the Bigfoot stories are true, says Siporin. What matters is why we tell them.

"The stories are important because they tell us something about what we care about," says Siporin, an English and history professor.

In the past, Bigfoot tales were linked with the untamed frontier, whether that was in New York, Kentucky or out West, Siporin says. Even today, Sasquatch is still a symbol of the wilderness.

Just think of the hotbed for sightings — in the wild forests of the Northwest, he says.

People like the idea that there could still be something unknown out there, Siporin says, something that's bigger, stronger or wiser than we are.

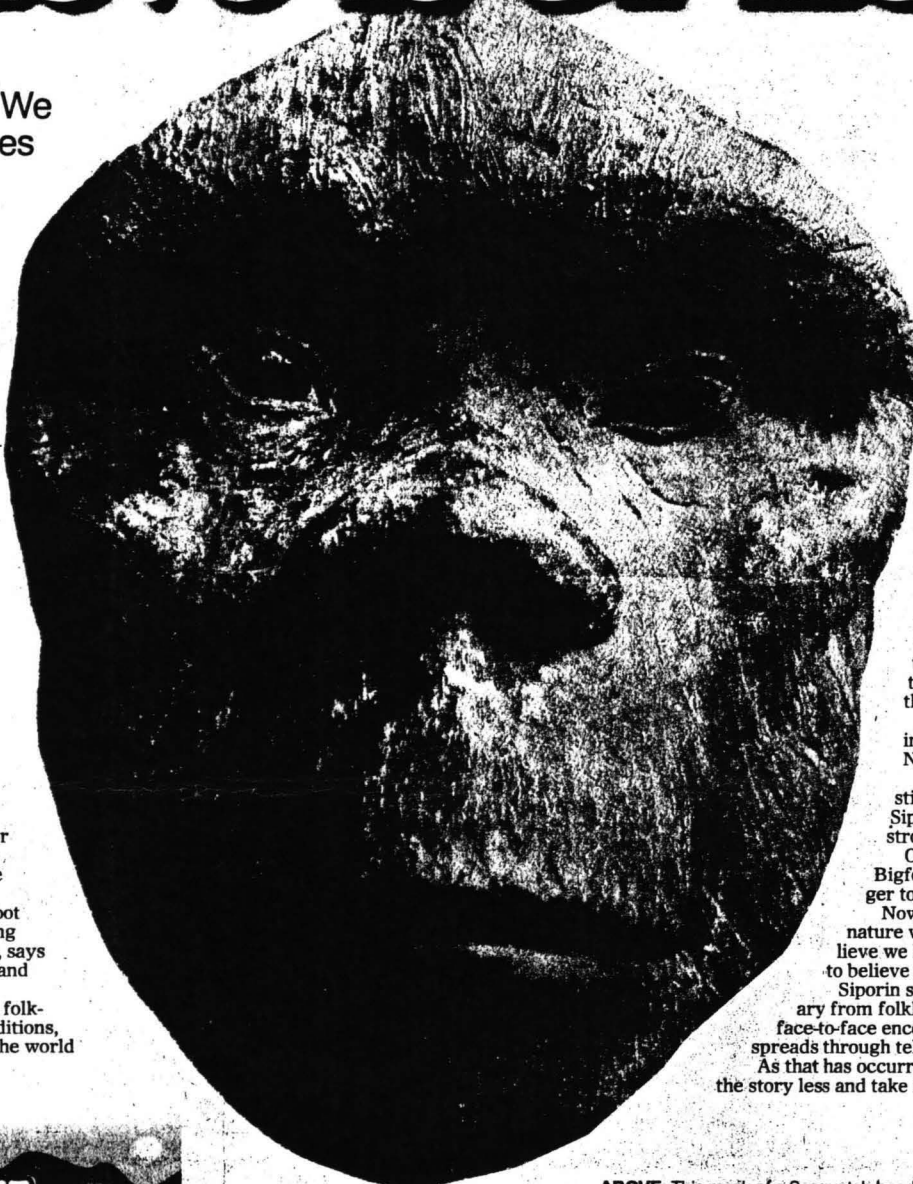
Once upon a time, we were scared of Bigfoot; the creature represented a danger to us, the folklorist says.

Now, we tend to view the conquering of nature with regret, he says: "We want to believe we haven't destroyed nature. ... We want to believe that nature is stronger than humans."

Siporin says Bigfoot has crossed the boundary from folklore, which is transmitted through face-to-face encounters, to popular culture, which spreads through television and other media.

As that has occurred, Siporin says, we tend to believe the story less and take it less seriously.

— Becky Cairns



ABOVE: This mask of a Sasquatch head, which was inspired by images from the Patterson-Gimlin film, hangs on a wall at the Idaho Museum of Natural History in Pocatello, Idaho, as part of the Bigfoot exhibit.

BELOW: Several casts of footprints also are on display.

Photos by ALAN MURRAY/Standard-Examiner

Day Trip

HIGHLIGHTS

Discover the legend of Bigfoot

Learn about the history of Bigfoot

See the famous Bigfoot footprint

Learn about the history of Bigfoot

See the famous Bigfoot footprint

Learn about the history of Bigfoot

See the famous Bigfoot footprint

Learn about the history of Bigfoot

See the famous Bigfoot footprint

Learn about the history of Bigfoot

See the famous Bigfoot footprint

Learn about the history of Bigfoot

See the famous Bigfoot footprint

Learn about the history of Bigfoot

See the famous Bigfoot footprint

Learn about the history of Bigfoot

See the famous Bigfoot footprint

Learn about the history of Bigfoot

See the famous Bigfoot footprint



IF YOU GO

DRIVE TIME: About 2 hours from Ogden

HOW TO GET THERE: Take Interstate 15 north to Pocatello; get off at Exit 67. Turn left off exit ramp onto Fifth Avenue. Go through first stoplight; turn right on Dillon Street, entering the Idaho State University campus. The Idaho Museum of Natural History is ahead, on the left.

HOURS: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, through summer 2007.

ADMISSION: \$5/adults, \$4/seniors, \$3/students, \$2/age 4-11, free/3 and under.

WHAT TO SEE:

"Bigfoot: How Do We Know?" explores different ways of looking at Bigfoot, from scientific, mythological or folklore perspectives.

"Dinosaur Times in Idaho" features dioramas, cast skeletons and murals of the era when dinosaurs were king.

"The Flows: Photography & Poetry of the Great Rift" highlights Craters of the Moon National Monument.

"Raising the Tolo Lake Mammoth" focuses on discovery of a bull mammoth in Idaho in 1994-95. Nearby is a display on bison latifrons, the world's largest bison, which lived primarily in southeastern Idaho.

WHEN TO GO: Weekdays are less crowded; busiest days are Saturdays.

WHERE TO EAT: The university's student union building, next door, has a cafeteria. Various fast-food outlets and restaurants are nearby.

ACCESSIBILITY: Museum is handicapped-accessible; wheelchairs available.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

"How Legends are True," 7 p.m. Sept. 7. A lecture by Elliott Oring, retired folklorist from California State University at Los Angeles. Reception and visit to exhibit follow. Free.

Free admission days offered throughout the year. The next one is in October; check the Web site for details.

INFORMATION: (208) 282-3317, <http://imnh.isu.edu>

Artifacts in the exhibit belong to Chris Murphy, a Canadian author on the Bigfoot phenomenon, Deck says. He used them in a Vancouver museum display titled "Meet the Sasquatch."

The Idaho exhibit came about when the organizer of Pocatello's first Bigfoot Rendezvous, held in June, asked Deck if the museum would like to participate.

Yes, Deck said, but "We'll do our own take on it," in a way that makes sense for a science museum.

That take was exploring various ways of knowing, says Deck, who hopes the exhibit gets folks thinking about the ways we learn about the world.

Science answers certain questions best, she says, but faith will better answer others. Ultimately, she says, "It's OK to have all of these things in your life."

Walking the line

So, does Bigfoot exist? The exhibit itself is neutral and presents the various ways of knowing with an even hand, Deck says.

Visitors on a recent day fall into both camps. "You can't say one way or the other on it because there's no definite proof," says Jim Sosalla, a Blackfoot resident who brought his two grandchildren to the museum.

Although his wife Beverly says she has an open mind, she also wonders, "If he is real, why haven't they found a body?"

"Most of the footprints, they just don't look that real," adds granddaughter Katie Roussel, 10, of Casper, Wyo.

However, Roussel also says, "I think that there's more than one Bigfoot because there's sightings all over the world."

Scientists are always discovering new species of insects and animals, says Lloyd Jackson, so, "Why couldn't there be something like that?"

The Douglas, Wyo., resident says his American Indian grandfather grew up on stories of such a creature and saw one himself. He didn't use the name "Bigfoot," Jackson says, and the creature wasn't feared, just a friendly helper to the tribe.

Jackson's son, 10-year-old Spenser, says, "I think he's out there somewhere and he's real, and I think he's helping the Indians and protecting their land."

Has he ever seen Bigfoot? "Not yet," the fifth-grader replies.

'Hairy man' legends

As she started planning the exhibit, Deck says she knew "about as much as anybody" about Bigfoot.

"I am not a Bigfoot expert — no way," says the museum director, a former exhibit developer for the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History.

In her research, Deck discovered there's a long tradition of "the wild hairy man" in folklore, in legend and in American Indian traditions.

"It really helped expand my thinking about this," she says.

Deck formed an advisory committee that included, among others, a historian, an anthropologist, a minister and a physicist. One member was Jeff Meldrum, an Idaho State University anatomy professor known for his analysis of Sasquatch footprints.

The footprint collection is one of the best parts of the exhibit, says Bryan Boodry, of Ogden, who missed out on seeing Bigfoot the day his father says he spotted him.

Folks can also see film clips of other sightings besides the classic 1967 video known as the Patterson/Gimlin film.

"I wasn't aware that there were others that were more recent," Spaeth says.

One surprise to Deck was that the Bigfoot striding through the Patterson/Gimlin film isn't a he — it's a she, with rather prominent breasts.



LEFT: Lynda Deck, curator of the Idaho Museum of Natural History, talks about the museum's Bigfoot exhibit.

BELOW: Spenser Jackson, 10, pretends to scream at a life-size cutout of Bigfoot at the exhibit.

ALAN MURRAY
Standard-Examiner



Revenge of Sasquatch

Bigfoot even turns out to have some Idaho connections.

"There's a footprint from Idaho," Deck says, "and many recorded sightings."

Art is a big part of the exhibit, in the form of paintings, masks and sculptures, and so is storytelling. Visitors can sit around a make-

believe campfire and listen to recordings of Sasquatch tales.

So many interpretations show that this creature captures the imagination, Deck says.

Jim Boodry, the Bigfoot sighter, admits he was once a skeptic. And he has a theory about the creature's future.

One day, he says, "Sasquatch will rise up and bite scientists in the butt — all those who didn't believe it."

NASA may have killed microbes on Mars

Researcher unveils theory on alien life and Viking probes

By Seth Borenstein
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Two NASA space probes that visited Mars 30 years ago may have stumbled upon alien microbes on the Red Planet and inadvertently killed them, a scientist theorizes in a paper released Sunday.

The Viking space probes of 1976-77 were looking for the wrong kind of life and didn't recognize it, the researcher said in a paper presented at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society in Seattle.

The new report, based on a more expansive view of where life can take root, may have NASA looking for a different type of Martian life form when its next Mars spacecraft is launched this year, one of the space agency's top scientists said.

Last month, scientists excitedly reported that new photographs of Mars showed geologic changes that suggest water occasionally flows there — the most tantalizing sign that Mars is hospitable to life.

In the '70s, the Viking mission found no signs of life. But the probes were looking for Earthlike life, in which salt water is the internal liquid of living cells. Given the cold, dry conditions of Mars, life could have evolved with that fluid consisting of a mix of water and hydrogen peroxide, said Dirk Schulze-Makuch, author of the new research.

A water-hydrogen peroxide mix stays liquid at very low temperatures, doesn't destroy cells when it freezes and can suck scarce water vapor out of the air.

The Viking experiments wouldn't have noticed hydrogen peroxide-based life and, in fact, would have killed it, said Schulze-Makuch, a geology professor at Washington State University.

For instance, one Viking experiment poured water on soil. That essentially would have drowned hydrogen peroxide-based life, Schulze-Makuch said.

"The problem was that they didn't have any clue about the environment on Mars at that time," he said. "This kind of adaptation makes sense from a biochemical viewpoint."

Schulze-Makuch acknowledges that he can't prove Martian microbes exist, but given the Martian environment and how evolution works, "it makes sense."

In recent years, scientists have found life on Earth in conditions that once were thought too harsh, such as an ultra-acidic river in Spain and ice-covered lakes in Antarctica.

A NASA Mars mission called Phoenix is set for launch this summer, and one of the scientists involved said he is eager to test the new theory about life on Mars.

However, scientists must come up with a way to do that using the

Professor theorizes on Gurdon Light

BY DONNA HILTON
DAILY SIFTINGS HERALD

ARKADELPHIA — The Gurdon Light — fact or fiction?

Dr. Charles Leming, chairman of the physics department at Henderson State University, recently made a presentation that explored various possible explanations for the mystery.

The Gurdon Light has been the topic of three television programs, Leming said, including *Unsolved Mysteries* and *The Other Side*, both broadcast on NBC, and *The World's Scariest Places*, which aired on Fox's Children's Channel.

Those who have seen the light say it is seen along railroad tracks off Arkansas 53 south of Gurdon. The railroad was constructed in that area in 1910 and runs between Gurdon and Norman.

There are several explanations for the light, including swamp gas, and geological theories about pressure on quartz, which emits energy. Others say the light is actually the ghost of a railroad man who was murdered along the tracks in 1931.

Leming is not sure of any theory. In research done years ago by a student, people said they recalled seeing the light before 1931, which would debunk the ghost theory.

Others claim the light is merely the reflected headlights from vehicles on nearby Interstate 30. But since the light was seen prior to the interstate's construction, that can't be the case, he said.

Leming said he and his wife saw something one night while looking for the Gurdon Light. "It

wasn't actually a light," he said. It was more of a misty, foggy image that appeared between him and his wife. "I looked at it and then asked her, 'Did you see that?'"

Even after seeing the image, Leming still attributes it to one or more natural phenomena, which include swamp gas, foxfire, atmospheric optics and earth lights.

Swamp gas is produced by rotting plant materials, which could be present at certain times of the year, Leming said. Foxfire is a light that is emitted by a fungus that grows on decaying wood, and could also be possible in that area.

Atmospheric optics can "produce things you don't expect," Leming said, such as the mirages that appear in extreme heat and humidity, or rainbows in the sky. He presented a photograph of the setting sun that showed bands of light that appeared to be circling beside the sun. Those are also examples of atmospheric optics, he said.

The last theory is that of earth lights, Leming said. Earth

lights are often seen just before an earthquake, when pressure shifts in layers of the earth. Pressure exerted on quartz can cause a release of energy, often as light. "That's why we wear quartz watches," Leming said.

A more simple example of this is triboluminescence, which can occur if a wintergreen breath mint is crushed in a dark space. "I think [the Gurdon Light] is a combination of all of the above," Leming said.

The Gurdon Light is more visible in the fall, he said, because the trees are leafless, giving a better view. The light is also more visible on a dark night.

However, one of those attending the lecture claimed the light is visible year-round. "I've seen it many times, all times of the year," said Billy Tarpley, director of development at Henderson.

Tarpley is a Gurdon native and claims to have seen the light on many occasions, including spring and early summer. "It's very popular around graduation time," he said.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - March 12, 2007

DAILY MINING GAZETTE, Houghton, MI - Nov. 8, 2006

'Big' news

To the editor:

Throughout history, individuals who rebelled against accepted scientific dogma have endured ridicule, hostility and professional ostracism. That grand tradition remains unchanged today, as evidenced in a recent article titled "Professor Bigfoot" Draws Critics." The article discussed Dr. Jeff Meldrum, an anatomy professor at Idaho State University who has become involved in Bigfoot/Sasquatch research.

The article quoted several of his colleagues at Idaho State who want to see Meldrum's tenure revoked strictly because of his interest in Bigfoot.

The same tactics have been applied for decades to ridicule credentialed scientists into remaining silent on controversial topics, from Bigfoot to UFOs to the antiquity of man. In the Bigfoot arena, scientists who have become involved find themselves cheated out of tenure (like the late Grover Krantz), or objects of disdain and ridicule.

What never gets mentioned in news reports like the Meldrum story is that such outright hostility and refusal to examine the facts contradicts the scientist's credo of unbiased, open-minded research. Scientists today worship theories.

Just like religious zealots who ignore and/or attack anything that contradicts their ideology, most scientists must resort to ridicule in order to preserve their cherished theories.

The tactics employed by these so-called professionals make them look like spoiled children jealous of a classmate who's gotten more attention from the teacher.

As founder of the Michigan Upper Peninsula Bigfoot Organization, I have encountered the same kind of ridicule filter. I've done radio interviews where the host apologized to me off-air for having to crack jokes about the whole thing, explaining that the station manager wouldn't let "paranormal" topics on air if the discussion were treated seriously.

I've encountered people in the media who know nothing about Bigfoot, yet insist to me the famous Patterson film must've been faked — didn't some guy confess on his deathbed? Never mind that no evidence has ever emerged to support such claims.

It's hard to defend yourself against ignorance and ridicule. Researchers who fight back against the tyranny of academia deserve our respect and thanks. They've taken a truly scientific approach to controversial topics — choosing to examine the evidence before reaching a conclusion. The so-called "skeptics" have no need for pesky things like research — they already know they're right.

Their sanctified theories say so.

LISA A. SHIEL
Lake Linden

mission's existing instruments, said NASA astrobiologist and Phoenix co-investigator Chris McKay.

'Balderdash' on physics schedule

By Jim Erickson
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Roy Masters has been a diamond cutter, a talk-radio host and a hypnotist.

Now the 79-year-old British-born Oregon resident is tackling theoretical physics.

He says he's discovered a limitless source of free energy — gravitational force — that will illuminate the world's cities and power faster-than-light spaceships to the stars.

A yet-to-be-built "electromagnetic vacuum engine" will harness gravity and supply "an endless, clean supply of energy that would free us from foreign oil," according to Masters.

The American Physical Society says Masters' theory is bunk.

Yet it's allowing him to present his ideas today at its Denver meeting, which has drawn more than 7,000 physicists.

Why would a pre-eminent scientific society, whose 46,000 members include Nobel Prize winners, permit a presentation it considers nonsensical?

"It's part of APS' long-standing policy of openness in science," said society spokesman James Riordon. "APS lets anyone present (at its annual March meeting), and so we probably have a dozen or so crazy people out of 7,000 every year."

You don't have to be a physicist, or even a physics student, to make a presentation at the meeting. All you need is an APS membership card, and anyone can join the society, founded in 1899.

So each year, the annual March meeting includes a handful of presentations about: the merits of cold fusion, interpretations of the fossil record that allegedly support Noah's flood, "free energy" sources similar to Masters', why Einstein got it all wrong, and "perpetual motion machines," devices

Nonsensical findings

The American Physical Society's annual March meeting includes a handful of presentations that event organizers acknowledge are either scientifically suspect or outright nonsense. Year after year, a handful of researchers present findings on:

- "Free energy" sources that will solve the world's energy woes.
- The merits of cold fusion.
- Einstein's major blunders.
- Geological evidence for Noah's flood.

Source: American Physical Society

that purport to produce as much, or more, energy than they use.

In 2003, the American Physical Society issued a policy statement saying it "deplores attempts to

mislead and defraud the public based on claims of perpetual motion machines or sources of unlimited useful energy, unsubstantiated by experimentally tested, established physical principles."

Even so, presentations like Masters' continue to pop up.

"It's a very small price to pay for this great, long-running tradition of openness," Riordon said.

Masters will deliver his presentation, titled "Electricity from Gravity," at 9:36 a.m.

He said Thursday that critics don't intimidate him and that he's ready to "wrestle every physicist to the ground, because they only know what they've been told."

"There's not a creative brain among them," said Masters, who hosts the *Advice Line* radio program, which he said is broadcast on 133 stations.

Masters was trained as a diamond cutter but later sold the business to become a full-time

professional hypnotist.

In 1963 he founded the Foundation for Human Understanding. He holds no physics degree.

Physicist Reinhardt Schuhmann read the abstract Masters' submitted for his "Electricity from Gravity" presentation.

"It's balderdash," said Schuhmann, a senior editor of *Physical Review Letters*, an APS publication.

"It doesn't make any sense."

The main problem with Masters' concept is that it violates the law of conservation of energy, he said.

Though energy can change forms — electrical energy into heat energy, for example — it cannot be created or destroyed.

"You can't get energy from nothing, and that's basically the problem with all these schemes," Schuhmann said.

ericksonj@RockyMountainNews.com or 303-954-5129

STAR-TELEGRAM, Fort Worth, TX - Feb. 16, 2007

LEGEND

TV show to look for Texas Bigfoot

■ An aficionado is pushing the search in a new direction with a reality-TV show to be filmed near Paris.

By BILL HANNA
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

It was probably only a matter of time before someone came up with a Bigfoot reality-TV show.

And that time has apparently come.

Next month in the woods outside Paris, a pilot will be filmed for the proposed series *Capturing Bigfoot*.

"You've got a hot spot out there in your back yard, a hot spot like no other," Bigfoot explorer Tom Biscardi, 58, said

by telephone from Northern California.

Biscardi, who retired from the insurance industry to pursue Bigfoot full time, has made the creature his life's work. On his Web site he sells Bigfoot DVDs, Bigfoot T-shirts and pewter Bigfoot belt buckles. He also hosts a weekly Internet radio show about all things Sasquatch.

He believes a Bigfoot family is living in old World War II Army bunkers buried on an abandoned portion of Camp Maxey north of Paris, near the Oklahoma border.

"I think it's a family pod,"

Biscardi said. "What we found is baby footprints next to a mother. This is the first time that has ever happened."

Not only is Biscardi participating in the TV pilot, but he is also inviting enthusiasts to go along.

For \$375, anyone interested in finding "America's King Kong" can join him on a 24-hour expedition as part of the team trying to capture the elusive beast.

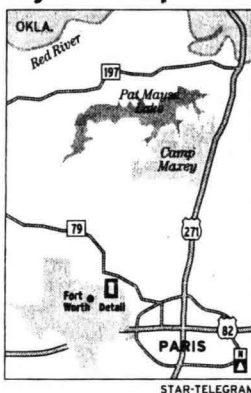
The news that a Bigfoot family is roaming the woods north of town was a surprise to Lamar County Judge Chuck Superville.

Nonetheless, the judge predicted that most residents in the predominantly rural county of 49,644 would welcome the attention, noting that Paris was abuzz recently over an episode of the CW Network's *One Tree Hill* being filmed in the area.

"It puts us on the map, which is good," Superville said. "I think Northeast Texas is a good place to live. It's a garden paradise."

Biscardi describes the 16,000-acre area around Camp Maxey — part of which is still used as a Texas National Guard training center — in

Bigfoot TV expedition



STAR-TELEGRAM

more dramatic terms.

"You've got to look at this place," Biscardi said. "It's prehistoric. It looks like something straight out of Jurassic Park."

The producers will try to sell the show to cable television outlets. If it isn't picked up, the expedition could be turned into a DVD, said Robert Barrows, a spokesman for the project.

But Biscardi is already drawing the ire of other Bigfoot enthusiasts.

Craig Woolheater, chairman of the Texas Bigfoot Re-

search Conservancy, which has annual conferences in Jefferson, does not condone Biscardi's methods, which he says "are produced for the sake of media coverage or for commercial purposes."

"This expedition is not a scientific expedition in my opinion; from what I understand it is being filmed for a reality-TV show entitled *Capturing Bigfoot*," Woolheater wrote in an e-mail. "As such, the TBRC is in no way, shape or form, affiliated with the very controversial Tom Biscardi."

Biscardi says he is often the only person willing to go out to people who have been traumatized by Bigfoot encounters. And he has never denied that he lives off his Bigfoot earnings.

But if by some chance Biscardi is successful, what will he do with Bigfoot?

"We've got two compounds at undisclosed locations where we'll conduct studies for 90 days, then release it back where we found it, I promise," Biscardi said.

ONLINE:

www.searchingforbigfoot.com
www.bigfootlive.com

Bill Hanna, 817-390-7698
billhanna@star-telegram.com

POST, Denver, CO - Nov. 30, 2006

Ancient computer had "unexpected degree of sophistication"

Scientists reconstruct the geared device found in a Roman shipwreck that was used to calculate astronomical information.

By John Noble Wilford
The New York Times

A computer in antiquity would seem to be an anachronism, like Athena ordering take-out on her cellphone.

But a century ago, pieces of a strange mechanism with bronze gears and dials were recovered from an ancient shipwreck off the coast of Greece. Historians of science concluded that this was an instrument that calculated and illustrated astronomical information, particularly phases of the moon and planetary motions, in the second century B.C. The Antikythera Mechanism,

sometimes called the world's first computer, has now been examined with the latest in high-resolution imaging systems and three-dimensional X-ray tomography. A team of British, Greek and U.S. researchers was able to decipher many inscriptions and reconstruct the gear functions, revealing, they said, "an unexpected degree of technical sophistication for the period."

The researchers, led by mathematician Tony Freeth and astronomer Mike Edmunds, both of the University of Cardiff in Wales, are reporting the results of their study in today's issue of the journal *Nature*.

They said their findings showed that the inscriptions related to lunar-solar motions and the gears were a mechanical representation of the moon's orbital course across the sky, as theorized by

the astronomer Hipparchos. They established the date of the mechanism at 150-100 B.C.

The Roman ship carrying the artifacts sank off the island of Antikythera around 65 B.C. Some evidence suggests that the ship had sailed from Rhodes. The researchers speculated that Hipparchos, who lived on Rhodes, might have had a hand in designing the device.

In another article in the journal, a scholar not involved in the research, Francois Charette of the University of Munich Museum in Germany, said the new interpretation of the Antikythera Mechanism "is highly seductive and convincing in all of its details."

Historians of technology think the instrument is more complex than any known device for at least a millennium afterward. The hand-operated mechanism,

presumably used in preparing calendars for seasons of planting and harvesting and fixing religious festivals, had at least 30, possibly 37, hand-cut bronze gear wheels, the researchers reported. An ingenious pin-and-slot device connecting two gear wheels induced variations in the representation of lunar motions according to the Hipparchos model of the moon's elliptical orbit around Earth.

The functions of the mechanism were determined by the numbers of teeth in the gears. The 53-tooth count of certain gears, the researchers said, was "powerful confirmation of our proposed model of Hipparchos' lunar theory."

The detailed imaging revealed more than twice as many inscriptions as had been recognized from earlier examinations. Some of these appeared to relate to

planetary as well as lunar motions.

Perhaps, the researchers said, the mechanism also had gearings to predict the positions of known planets.

Charette noted that more than 1,000 years elapsed before instruments of such complexity are known to have re-emerged. A few artifacts and some Arabic texts suggest that simpler geared calendrical devices had existed, particularly in Baghdad around A.D. 900.

It seems clear, Charette said, that "much of the mind-boggling technological sophistication available in some parts of the Hellenistic and Greco-Roman world was simply not transmitted further," adding, "The gear wheel, in this case, had to be reinvented."