

UFO

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Are we alone?

UFOs? Aliens? Intelligent life beyond Earth? The truth may be out there, but some locals still aren't comfortable talking about what they believe

By Jeanné McCartin
features@seacoastonline.com

We write about them, talk about them, make movies and films on the subject, but admit you believe there's intelligent life on other planets? Well, maybe privately.

More than two dozen people who were asked their opinion were more than willing to talk on the matter — but not on the record. What's interesting is, all but two believe. And to the last one, the believers felt it was the rational response. To imagine all universes void of life with the exception of earth seemed a ludicrous concept. But on the record? Thanks, but no thanks. They'd rather the neighbors didn't know.

Only one person admitted to a sighting. She was excited to talk about the experience — off the record. The East Kingston resident saw her UFO on Route 108 between Exeter and Kingston, a few decades back. "It's been a 'stick to beat me with' at the family reunions for years. It's good-natured, but I don't need it to be out there ... to my friends," she says. "So, no. Not on the record."

With decades to think about it, does she still think it was an alien space ship she spotted? "Sometimes I question it. ... It was a long time ago. I'll never really know what it was, will I? But it wasn't a plane, and it was definitely different. I've never seen anything act like that — holding steady, and then gone. ... Yes I guess I did see what I thought I saw."

So aliens are a given? "They would have to be wouldn't they? Not little green things. But I do believe in intelligent life, other than us. It only makes sense."

There it is — the oft-repeated comment; the one few would admit to on record.

And yet, a 2006 poll conducted by the Center for Survey and Research Analysis at the University of Connecticut indicates there are 3 million Americans who believe they've encountered bright lights or incurred bodily marks indicative of a possible encounter with aliens. Ninety-percent of the believers feel Earth should reply to any message from another planet. At least two-thirds of those polled who said they did not believe in extraterrestrial agreed. Seventy-seven percent of the believers thought alien life forms could develop on planets very different from Earth. And 80 percent felt intelligent aliens were likely more advanced than humans.

Andrea Ardito of Portsmouth says she hasn't given much thought to off-Earth intelligent life. But her fourth-grade daughter is truly fascinated by the concept. She became interested in the subject when she learned Betty Hill was a neighbor. Seacoast residents Betty and Barney Hill, now deceased, became internationally renowned for claiming they were abducted in 1961.

There are unexplainable occurrences in this world that got a mind to thinking," says Ardito. "I guess I would say that I would like to believe there is life outside ... Earth. And I'd like to think (aliens) are benevolent. But after reading the story about the Hills, I think twice about driving dark back roads in New Hampshire. ... But there have been enough people that have had experiences you can't help but think, gee, there must be something out there."

"I think most astronomers do (believe there is intelligent life on other planets) ... It just makes scientific sense with the amount of stars and planets ... some with atmospheres that can support carbon life."

— Scott Seely,
North Hampton, B.A. in astronomy

What do you believe?

Do you think there is intelligent life on other planets?

**Larry Fiato,
Rochester**

Yes. It just seems like the movie "Contact," there's a lot of room out there. It seems pretty conceited to think were the only ones in the universe.



Larry Fiato

**Karin Bendeck,
Kittery, Maine**

Certainly I think there are. There's too many things we can't explain, things we find or strange objects. There's bound to be something going on.



Karin Bendeck

**Sarah Johnson,
Hampton**

Yes. With all the infinite universe there's got to be more than us. I've never had a sighting, and don't know anyone that has either.



Sarah Johnson

**David Hadwen,
Cafe Espresso,
Portsmouth**

Absolutely. If you think numerically about all the specks of dust that have potential to support other life forms — and good restaurants — of course.



David Hadwen

**Dorothy Trefethen,
Kittery, Maine**

You have to say no religiously. No.

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Scott Seely of North Hampton has pondered the matter. Seely earned a bachelor's degree in astronomy from Northwestern University — many moons ago. One of his teachers and mentors was J. Allen Hynek.

"He was the authority of a UFO project, Project Blue Book. Their mission was to investigate UFOs," UFO, Seely explains, refers to all unidentified flying objects, "not necessarily something that lands in a field with little creatures coming out of it." And yes, Hynek believed in the possibility of intelligent life on other planets, an idea Seely shares.

"I think most astronomers do. ... It just makes scientific sense with the amount of stars and planets ... some with atmospheres that can support carbon life."

According to the New Hampshire Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) Web site, there have been hundreds of sightings reported in New Hampshire. Rockingham County comes in with 143 reported cases, the most of any county.

There are a few reports listed for Portsmouth, including one in 1954 by two military personnel "It flew 800-1,000 mph at 1-2,000 feet, leaving a faint swath. Sighting lasted about 20 seconds."

Melissa Scott of Portsmouth has 20 published science fiction books to her credit. To date she's created only one nonhuman species. "The artistic reason is I'd rather write about humans rather than aliens that are

GO & DO

- **WHAT:** Kathleen Marden will speak on her book "Captured! The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience"
- **WHEN:** 6 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 19
- **WHERE:** Exeter Public Library, 4 Chestnut St., Exeter
- **CONTACT:** For more information, contact the library at 772-3101

stand-ins for people," says Scott.

While she may ponder their existence, her own belief regarding is barely one side of the fence. "Are there aliens? That's a very difficult question. I have no evidence either way. We've never been contacted by any," she says. "But on the other hand, it seems presumptuous not to think, that in this massive universe, intelligent life hasn't evolved on any planet beside this one."

"I think (believing) really depends on how optimistic you feel about the universe to tell you the truth," she says. "There is a Drake Equation that lets you figure out what you think about the chances that there is intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. And if you are at all optimistic when you plug in the numbers, then the answer is of course yes. ... If you're a pessimist ... the answer is almost vanishing small."

"It's a fascinating question — but there is no data. No sensible data for either side of it." And abductions? "I don't want to get into that one."

But Kathleen Marden does. Marden is the niece of Betty

and Barney Hill. She's written a book "Captured! The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience," based on her own research of the case. "I don't like to use the word 'believe.' To me that connotes the idea that it's a belief such as a religious one. I think there is sufficient evidence that some people, at least, have been abducted."

"I want to qualify, 'some' — at least one and possibly more." To her mind, the most credible abductions occurred in the 1960s and '70s. "There was evidence that something had happened." In addition to the Hills, there was the Travis Walton incident in the White Mountains of Arizona, and another with Calvin Parker and Charlie Hickson, Pascagoula, Miss., all with strong evidence. "There were also three women from Kentucky. They had a highly credible, multiple-witness case."

In addition to investigating her own family's claim, Marden has worked with Mutual UFO Society (MUFON), and was an investigator of UFO sighting cases. And she still has people reach out to here who believe they've been abducted.

"You can't simply believe. ... There has to be an extensive investigation." And that can be financially prohibitive. If there are claims of in-home nocturnal abductions, a more common form these days, investigations require security cameras throughout an individual's home. Lie detector tests are commonly used in all sighting and abduction investigations. "You want

"There is a Drake Equation that lets you figure out what you think about the chances that there is intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. And if you are at all optimistic when you plug in the numbers, then the answer is of course yes. ... If you're a pessimist ... the answer is almost vanishing small."

Melissa Scott

physical and circumstantial evidence, radar reports from the Air Force, and multiple

witnesses that are credible." As for those who don't believe, she says they're

entitled to their opinion. "But I'd like to know they'd done the research, not just gone to some special Web site or the site of a ... person whose job it is to debunk every claim out of the ordinary."

Seely will stick with his hunch. Something's out there. "Earth may be unique in some respects. But this kind of scientific development could occur thousands of times all over the universe — in different galaxies," he says. "I think it's a fascinating and intriguing idea, and I hope someday it will be proven and that there will be interplanetary communication. It's an exciting prospect."

Marker placed near Kelso to honor pilots in '47 crash

By Leslie Slape
THE DAILY NEWS

Sixty years to the day after his great-uncle plummeted into the Rose Valley woods in a doomed B25 bomber, Barry Fisher discovered what may be a piece of the plane.

"Unbelievable. What are the odds?" Fisher said, pulling the long, flattened steel tube out of the mud and rinsing it in Goble Creek. "It looks like a piece of exhaust."

Nearby on the creek bank, a large, heavy piece of metal was

buried deep in mud.

"That almost looks like landing gear," said James Greear, who in March discovered the crash site about 100 yards north of his house after looking for it for 10 years. "This is like finding buried treasure."

Wednesday, Greear led a small party up to the crash site to place a memorial marker honoring the pilots, Capt. William Davidson and Lt. Frank Brown, who were killed when it crashed at 2:30 a.m. Aug. 1,

1947, near Kelso. Brown was Fisher's great-uncle.

The pilots were Army Air Force intelligence officers, and their plane was carrying a top-secret payload to California, according to the mission report. Immediately after the crash, the military cordoned off the site and banned all photographs, according to a report in Brown's hometown newspaper, the Vallejo Times-Herald.

The contents of the cargo have never been revealed, but the day

after the crash the Tacoma News Tribune reported the plane was carrying pieces of "flying discs" that broke up over Maury Island on June 21, 1947. The Army refused to confirm the report.

That's why Philip Lipson and Charlette LeFevre, curators of Seattle Museum of the Mysteries, are interested in the site and why they joined Greear and Fisher in placing the memorial.



Greg Ebersole / The Daily News

Darlene and James Greear, Barry Fisher, Philip Lipson and Charlette LeFevre prepare Wednesday to visit where a B25 bomber crashed near Kelso on Aug. 1, 1947. Fisher, who is the grandnephew of one of the pilots, is holding a memorial plaque that the party placed at the crash site.

ters," he said. "We heard there was a lot of suspicious things going on with the whole crash. ... It was almost an urban legend by the time I got the information."

Over the years, family members would occasionally spot magazine articles referring to the crash, he said. But his great-uncle's wife, who is deceased, never talked much about it.

"Unfortunately we're a lot more clouded in the mystery than people in this general

area," he said.

His brother and sister-in-law, Brett and Laurie Dundas of Longview, were unable to come Wednesday. Fisher said he will bring them up to the site as soon as possible — and maybe finish digging up that piece of landing gear.

"Finding this piece, that is insanely cool," he said.

On the Web:
Seattle Museum of the Mysteries:
www.seattlechatclub.org/Arnold.html/

SPOKESMAN REVIEW, Spokane, WA - June 19, 2007

LETTERS

Sound science on crop circles

I noticed that the comments regarding the crop circle that appeared near Wilbur, Wash. (July 15) were skeptical and judgmental. I would like to invite anyone who is truly interested and/or curious about these things to visit a very good Web site that might provide some fascinating information and surprise the naysayers. The Web address is: bltresearch.com.

This particular group has been doing scientific research on crop circles for many years and has had many articles published in mainstream scientific journals and publications. They are not flaky, kooky, weird or any such thing.

I was dismayed that so many folks would just write off an extraordinary happening simply because they know nothing about such phenomena — or automatically dismiss it as a prank. And just because someone believes these things are genuine does not mean that they are of the opinion that they are made by extraterrestrials or something. If someone makes a derogatory or judgmental comment without making a well-informed statement, they are in no position to be talking!

I think something this amazing (that does not happen very often in the U.S. but has been appearing in the UK for centuries) should be treated with awe, wonder and curiosity rather than negative, denouncing knee-jerk reactions.

Andrea Lyman
Sandpoint

Far-out believers gathering in San Jose

By Kevin Fagan
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Bet you didn't know there was a civilization on the moon as recently as 1870. Or that a 900-year-old skull dug up in Mexico dubbed "Starchild" is that of human-space alien hybrid. Or that a whole world of USOs — Unidentified Submersible Objects — swirls in the depths of our oceans.

Don't feel alone. Most people don't know these things. Or believe them.

But don't tell that too forcefully to the crew of scientists and UFO experts gathering in San Jose this weekend for the ninth annual Bay Area UFO Expo. They're true believers, and they expect to have 2,000 fellow fans of all things extraterrestrial touch down at the Doubletree Hotel today and Sunday to hear their theories and see their evidence.

As the biggest UFO convention in the nation, the event is sure to draw the usual, shall we say,

UFO Expo

The 9th annual UFO Expo runs from 7:30 a.m. to midnight today and 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday at the Doubletree Hotel, 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose. Tickets at the door range from \$20 for workshops to \$109 for a two-day pass. For more information, go to thebayareaufexpo.com.

kooks who feel vibrations in their brains from alien rays and the like, organizers admit.

But the intent of the expo is dead serious, evidenced by the veritable flying saucer-full of authorities in the field of "UFO-ology" — ranging from former CIA spy pilot John Lear (son of the Lear Jet inventor) to William Birnes, best-selling author of true-crime books.

To add a little broader star power, so to speak, actor and UFO buff Gary Busey will serenade the crowd with his version of songs by Buddy Holly, whom he portrayed on film. It remains to be seen if hits such as "Maybe Baby" will be recast as "For Sure Baby" in keeping with the tone of the event.

"There are a lot of people out of their trees about this stuff, and hucksters who prey on the true believers, but that just goes with the territory," said Mark Allen, who as co-owner of AboveTopSecret.com is one of the main speakers. "Heck, on my Web site, we even

get people who say they're having tea with an alien right now.

"On the other hand, we also get astrophysicists who understand there is life out there in space and really know their business. We have NASA people on our site. This is a serious subject."

His Web site is a sort of MySpace for UFO and conspiracy buffs. It was created in 1997 and drew 3.3 million posts in the past three years from all over the world.

Among the subjects to be plumbed this weekend will be the usual debates over aliens crash-landing in Roswell, N.M., 60 years ago, ET-carved crop circles popping up in England and the United States, and a fistful of recent and moldy sightings of weird saucers, rockets and lights in the air.

Lear will tackle the subject of civilizations on the moon and cover-ups of U.S. mining operations there. Jack Kewaunee Lapseritis will detail what he says is contact he has had for 26 years with psychic "Sasquatch (a form of Big Foot) and Starpeople." And author Birnes will take on UFO sightings

in Roswell and at Chicago's O'Hare Airport last November.

Believers and doubters endlessly bat these things around, and in some cases the government weighs in — as when the Air Force declared 10 years ago that the UFOs reported in Roswell were simply secret U.S. experimental crafts.

Whatever, sigh the experts converging on San Jose.

"With the amount of evidence we have gathered over the years, there is absolutely no doubt that UFOs exist," said Ruben Uriarte of Union City, who is Northern California director of the national Mutual UFO Network.

His organization investigates alien sightings. He said he can document that a flying saucer zipped above a car dealership in Pleasanton two years ago, that a triangle-shaped craft buzzed the Blue Angels last year, and that a hunter in Lake Tahoe was gassed to sleep in a tree in 1964 by space creatures.

Uriarte, who is co-master of ceremonies for the expo, also has a book coming out soon called "Mexico's Roswell — the Chihua-

hua UFO Crash," that he says will show that an alien starship smashed down in Mexico 33 years ago. When two dozen Mexican soldiers checked it out they mysteriously died, the book contends.

"There is a lot to tell, and I for one never get tired of telling it," said Robert Perala, a real estate investor in Scotts Valley (Santa Cruz County) who is co-producing the expo.

He said he was abducted in 1977 from a cabin in Heavenly Valley ski resort by three aliens who "materialized in the room like something out of 'Star Trek,' opened up a side of the cabin and took me to an illuminated room." There, he said, they extracted DNA for their own bizarre purposes, then deposited him back in his room "with a hell of a sunburn and two black eyes."

"I know it sounds incredible, but it's the absolute truth," Perala said. "Come hear for yourself."

E-mail Kevin Fagan at kfagan@sfnchronicle.com.



MIKE KANE / The Chronicle

Ruben Uriarte, Northern California director of the national Mutual UFO Network, has no doubts.

GREETINGS, EARTHLINGS

The Aliens Among Us (Maybe)

By JOEL ACHENBACH

If we encountered alien life, would we recognize it? I don't mean large, ambulatory, tentacle-snapping organisms with eyeballs on the ends of stalks. Those are always obvious. I'm talking about the low-key, chilled-out microscopic life-forms that might be lurking below the surface of Mars, or beneath the crust of one of Jupiter's jumbo moons, or in some such exotic, slightly scuzzy planetary environment where you'd definitely never find a Starbucks.

What are we looking for, exactly, when we search for alien life? What is life?

That's the cosmic question pondered in a new report from the National Research Council, "The Limits of Organic Life in Planetary Systems." For more than five years, a committee of scientists tried to imagine what life-as-we-don't-know-it might be like. The conclusion: Life may exist in forms completely unlike anything we see on Earth. We need to keep our minds open to the possible existence of Weird Life.

You're thinking: Yes, and he works down the street at the video store. But even if this seems a bit silly, it's a big question, and a practical one. Our space program spends billions of dollars trying to figure out where life might be hiding in the solar system. Where do we look? The new report says that, in addition to exploring Mars, we may want to take a closer look at Titan, the huge moon of Saturn where pools of liquid hydrocarbons might contain Weird Life; and Saturn's moon Enceladus, which has geysers of water ice and water vapor shooting through its crust.

Even more provocative is the hypothesis advanced by scientist and author Paul Davies, that there may have been a "second origin" of life on Earth — or many origins. Weird Life, in fact, may exist right now, on Earth, in what Davies calls a "shadow biosphere." We just haven't figured out how to look for it.

"It could be under our noses, or even in our noses," Davies told me. "The world is teeming with microbes — squillions and squillions of them. The vast majority of which haven't been characterized, much less had their genome sequenced. We don't know what they are. And some of those might be shadow life."

Michael Meyer, lead scientist for NASA's Mars program, agrees: "Our capabilities of looking in the microbial world are still pretty crude. We have marvelously sensitive techniques for finding what we've found before."

Time to take another look under the sofa cushions.

All life as we know it has emerged through Darwinian natural selection. Evolution isn't simply something that happens to life after life gets rolling. NASA's official definition of life is that it's a "self-sustained chemical system capable of undergoing Darwinian evolution." But in the future it may be possible, the new report says, to manipulate human life so that it evolves via Lamarckian, as opposed to Darwinian, processes.

Jean-Baptiste Lamarck was an 18th-century French naturalist and early proponent of the notion of evolution. He proposed the idea, now discredited, of the "inheritance of acquired characteristics," in which attributes and talents gained during one's life could be passed on to one's heirs. Maybe he was just ahead of his time: "Humankind will be able to perceive and solve problems in human biology," the new report reads, "without needing to select among random events, thus sparing the species the need to remove unavoidable genetic defects through the death of individuals."

Every biologist would love to find even a scrap of extraterrestrial (or weird) life, because right now we have only a single example of biochemistry. We don't know the "rules" of organic chemistry, says John Baross, a University of Washington biologist and the lead author of the report.

That said, it's very hard to imagine an organism that wouldn't take advantage of the unusual properties of carbon and water. Carbon is great for making complicated three-dimensional structures — a protein, say, or a DNA molecule. When we study the universe through telescopes, we see the tell-tale spectroscopic signatures of carbon molecules everywhere. Our cosmos has a

Joel Achenbach is a Washington Post staff writer and blogs at washingtonpost.com/achenblog.



BY STEVE SNEYLEY — ASSOCIATED PRESS

hankering to do carbon chemistry. All life on Earth is carbon-based.

Water, meanwhile, is almost a miracle unto itself — the perfect solvent, with all kinds of quirky properties that help make life possible. In fact, the report turns that statement on its head: Life on Earth uses molecular structures with properties "specifically suited to the demands imposed by water." Water is in charge. And wherever we go on Earth where there's energy and liquid water — even miles beneath the surface, or around boiling volcanic vents at the bottom of the sea — we find life.

More important, perhaps, life as we know it has a rather ordinary streak. All living things use mundane elements, the common stuff found all over the place: carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorous and sulfur. Life is small-d democratic. Maybe a life form could employ exotic elements such as platinum or uranium, but it doesn't seem necessary. Life doesn't have a taste for couture; it buys everything off the rack.

"It is chemical in essence," the report says of life, a statement that is both bland and mind-boggling. Life, you'd think, would be more than just chemicals interacting. Surely it would require some kind of special juice, energy, force. But no: Vitalism is a theory that died out a long time ago. It's just organic chemistry. It's just reactions involving polymers, covalent bonds, catalysts, solvents, nucleophiles, electrophiles.

The report by Baross and his fellow scientists is

ultimately optimistic. It's almost a refutation of the "rare earth" hypothesis — the argument that habitable planets, blessed with the right mix of elements for life and a long time for that life to evolve, are few and far between. Baross says, "We believe that astrobiology is a science of optimism. We have no idea if life exists elsewhere. We are dedicating our lives to searching for this. Why are we being driven to do this? I think it's such a fundamental question."

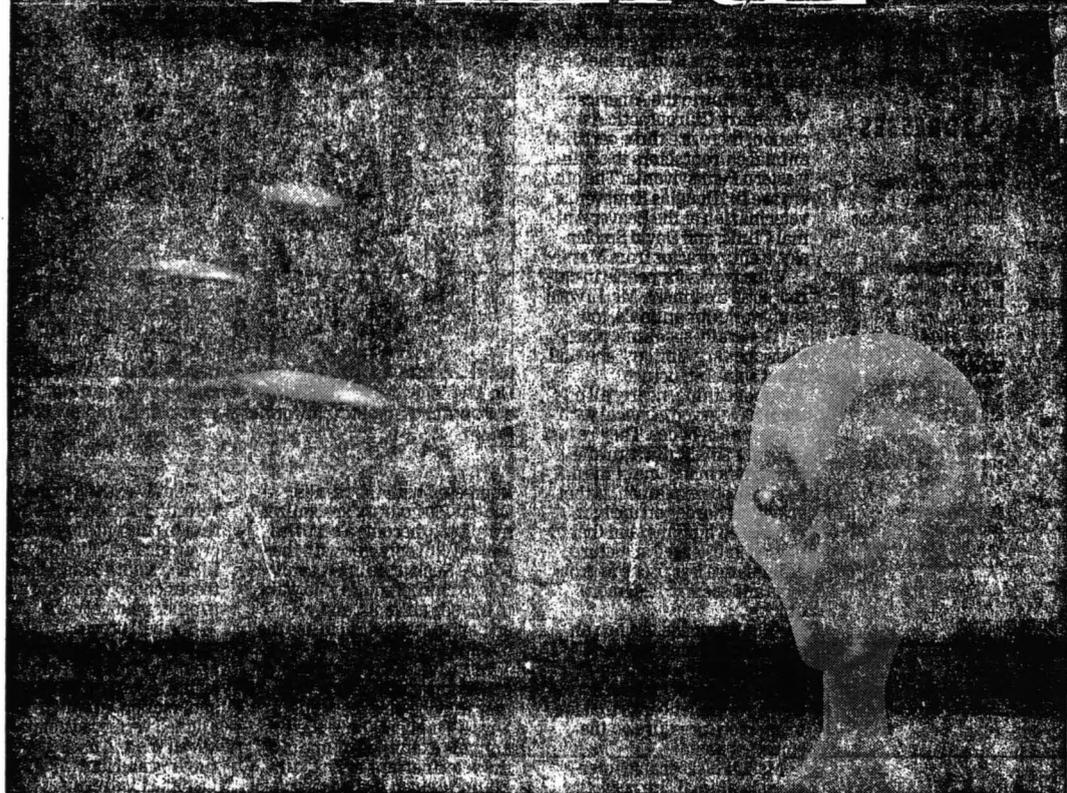
Paul Davies reports, "We are still completely in the dark as to whether life is a stupendous chemical fluke that happened once, or whether there is a sort of life principle (or cosmic imperative to use the words of Nobel prizewinner Christian de Duve) at work in the universe. The best (cheapest, easiest) way to settle the debate is to see whether life has started many times over on Earth."

Perhaps the search for life, and Weird Life, offers a good lesson for everyone. We all have a bad habit of tending to see only the things we expect to see. We are inately biased in favor of the familiar. "The human mind finds it difficult to create ideas truly different from what it already knows," the report states.

So look around: Do you see the world as it really is, or as you think it's supposed to be? Can you see — with your big eyes and big brain — what's really happening all around you?

Maybe we've found the Weird Life, and it is us. achenbachj@washpost.com

THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE



Anita Dufalla/Post-Gazette

BUTLER GROUP IS SKEPTICAL OF DISBELIEF IN PARANORMAL EVENTS

By Len Barcoucky
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Brian Seech has never glimpsed a Bigfoot, but he hasn't given up hope. Sightings of a Sasquatch — an 8- to 10-foot-tall hairy, half ape-half human creature — are frequent in Western Pennsylvania and Ohio, he said.

His wife, Terrie, has been more fortunate with her passion, parapsychology with a special interest in ghosts. She reported personal contact with a poltergeist, or mischievous spirit, when she was an adolescent and, more recently, with the spectral form of her husband's late aunt.

"I was sitting up in bed when she passed across the hallway," Mrs. Seech recalled. The nearly transparent apparition was clad in a blue-white nightgown. "That is the kind she wore," her husband said of his aunt.

Mr. and Mrs. Seech, of Aliquippa, were among the 15 people who gathered recently in the rear dining room at King's Family Restaurant in Butler Township. The occasion was the monthly

meeting of the Butler Organization for Research of the Unexplained.

Over the course of the next few hours, people described their encounters with spirits, silent spacecraft and, they suspect, extraterrestrials. They talked about their experiences in the same calm, matter-of-fact voices they used for ordering supper or dessert from the restaurant menu.

Their organization, known as BORU, is more than 20 years old, according to director Dan Hageman. Membership is about 40. Attendance at meetings waxes and wanes, with anywhere from a half dozen to 35 people showing up. Sessions are open to the public. The group has no membership dues.

BORU is just one of many similar groups in southwestern Pennsylvania devoted to collecting information and sharing experiences linked to the very broad term "paranormal."

Many people interested in topics like unidentified flying objects and alien encounters are torn between two impulses, said Mr. Hageman, a salesman who lives in Butler.

On the one hand, they believe it is important to publicize information on the many UFO encounters that they say have been reported in and around Butler County. "But we don't want to be labeled as kooks, nuts and idiots," he said.

Science and traditional religion sometime have to catch up to what ordinary people already know or have long suspected, members said.

"Cryptozoology" is the name

for the effort to find and classify animals known from folklore or legend but not categorized by biologists. Scotland's Loch Ness monster, which has been talked about for centuries but never captured, may be the best known example of what they call a "cryptid."

The world's oceans and jungles periodically turn up previously unknown or extinct creatures, Mr. Seech said. A living coelacanth, a type of early fish previously seen only as a 65-million-year-old fossil, was pulled from the ocean off the coast of South Africa. In 1993, a new horned mammal called a saola was identified in Vietnam.

BORU meetings are informal, often with no fixed agenda. At some meetings, the group has a guest speaker, but members and visitors more often talk about their interests and experiences. While they are serious about their subject, members don't take themselves too seriously. Their Web site, www.boru-ufo.com, features eerie music and cartoon images of waving aliens and spaceships.

While the site draws visitors and e-mails from around the world, Mr. Hageman and other members are most interested in local phenomena.

One early report dates to April 23, 1897 — an era before dirigibles or airplanes — when an "airship" was sighted in Lawrence and Butler counties.

The most recent unexplained sighting came Aug. 18. Mr. Hage-

Mystery meetings

The next meeting of the Butler Organization for Research of the Unexplained will be at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 26 at King's Family Restaurant, 191 New Castle Road, Butler.

Information on meetings and other activities is available on the group's Web site, www.boru-ufo.com.

Other local groups with related interests include the following:

- Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained; www.stangordonufo.com
- International Parapsychology Research Foundation; www.iprfinc.com
- The Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society; www.pabigfootsociety.com
- Beaver County Ghosts Hunters; www.beavercount yghosthunters.com

man read an e-mail from two people who had been sitting on their porch near Portman Road in Summit, Butler County. They described a single bright light, moving quickly, silently and erratically from north to south, that suddenly divided into two circular lights.

One of the more controversial claims of groups like BORU is that the U.S. government suppresses evidence of paranormal phenomena, especially anything related to possible UFO visits and human-alien contacts.

The best-known claim of a coverup centered around the reported crash of a spaceship near Roswell, N.M., in 1947 and what has been described as secret research — including alien autopsies — in Area 51, the name given to part of a Defense Department testing and training range in southwestern Nevada.

Several late-night national radio programs, TV series such as "The X-Files" and movies such as "Men in Black" have focused, either seriously or humorously, on coverup claims.

While proof of alien life could raise major religious questions, there are no scientific hurdles to the idea of life existing on other worlds. So why would all of the world's major leaders, and especially the U.S. government, expend so much effort to discount reports of UFOs?

"They have been lying about it so long that they can't admit the truth at this point," Mr. Hageman said.

"The government thinks most people couldn't accept the reality," suggested Joe Rice, of Butler.

"Remember what happened after 'The War of the Worlds' radio broadcast [in 1938]?" asked Michelle George, of East Brady, codirector of the group. "A lot of people got very upset."

Public officials fear that entire societies could become unhinged if the existence of aliens were confirmed. "Their technology is clearly so superior," Ms. George said. "It would mean our government can't protect us."

Most people go through life without ever seeing an apparition, a UFO or a Yeti — another name for a Bigfoot. How is it that a small group often has had multiple experiences with the paranormal?

If you are going to spot an alien spacecraft, you have to be scanning the skies. "We're always looking up," Ms. George said.

Mr. Hageman had an alternate explanation. Sensitivity to the paranormal may run in families, he said. He and his mother both have had similar experiences that he believes are best understood as alien encounters.

(continued on page 6)

Life elsewhere likely. Visits? No

By Len Barcousky
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

He also had a suggestion for people interested in improving their chances of seeing something inexplicable.

An amateur astronomer named Ted Anderson has spotted what he calls the "UFO Universe Freeway Entrance" near the constellation Ursa Major, which contains the Big Dipper.

Over the past 30 years, the Washington state resident claims to have seen hundreds of space ships entering and exiting hyperspace via a "stargate" between the stars Arcturus and Muphrid in Bootes, a constellation next to Ursa Major.

"Keep your eye on the handle of the Big Dipper," Mr. Hageman advised.

Len Barcousky can be reached at lbarcousky@post-gazette.com or 724-772-0184.

While most scientists would welcome conclusive evidence of life on other planets, the scientific consensus maintains that it is unlikely that aliens have visited Earth, a Pittsburgh astronomer says.

"If their technology is so advanced, why would aliens have to sneak around and keep their presence a secret?" asked John Radzilowicz, an astronomer at the Carnegie Science Center. "They could do anything they wanted with us ... And why would they be crashing their spaceships all the time?"

A 22-year study by the Air Force of nearly 13,000 claimed sightings of UFOs ended with three no's:

- No unidentified flying object evaluated by the Air Force was ever found to threaten national security.
- No evidence submitted concerning UFOs represented evidence of technology or scientific principles beyond modern knowledge.
- No evidence indicated that any of the sightings was of an extraterrestrial vehicle.

The Project Blue Book report, based on 12,618 UFO sightings reported between 1940 and 1969, remains the federal government's final word on the subject.

"Since the termination of Project Blue Book, nothing has occurred that would

support a resumption of UFO investigations by the Air Force," according to a government fact sheet on the matter.

Mr. Radzilowicz said UFO enthusiasts too often confuse the separate issues of the likelihood that life exists on other planets and that the Earth has been visited by aliens.

"Most astronomers think the chances of life existing elsewhere in the universe are very high," he said. "Some even believe it is likely intelligent life is out there. The physical and chemical laws that apply here appear to be the same everywhere."

"It's a very different thing to believe aliens are visiting us," he said. "There is no conclusive evidence that they have tried to contact us and no evidence that they have visited us."

"I, and many other scientists, would be jumping up and down [with joy] if we had confirmed evidence," he said.

He scoffed at the notion of a conspiracy to keep secret proof of visits and abductions. "I don't see how the scientific community and the government could keep information known by thousands of people secret," he said. "They couldn't keep Watergate a secret and that was known only by a handful of people."

He was referring to the Watergate scandal, which involved a small group of White House aides and campaign officials

that began in June 1972 with a bungled burglary at the Democratic National Headquarters and ended with the resignation of President Richard Nixon.

Mr. Radzilowicz estimated that about 90 percent of the many thousands of UFO sightings have been explained. He said investigators commit a logical fallacy when they point to the unexplained 10 percent as evidence of UFOs.

More than 30 percent of murders remain unsolved in the United States, he said. That means no one being arrested in the suspicious deaths of about 6,000 people annually.

No one ever argues that those people have been killed by aliens, he said. "The logical thing is to assume that the 30 percent of unsolved murders were committed in the same way as the 70 percent that were solved," he said. "It's just that the police don't have enough evidence to bring charges."

The same logic should apply in the case of unexplained UFO sightings, he said. "The logical thing to conclude is that the unexplained 10 percent were caused by the same things as the other 90 percent. The events should be investigated, but you don't jump to the conclusion that the explanation must be aliens."

Len Barcousky can be reached at lbarcousky@post-gazette.com or 724-772-0184.

MONROE CO. BUZZ, Madisonville, TN - May 29, 2007

Monroe County Crop Circle - The Real Thing? Experts: "No Sign of Man-Made Activities"

Although four members of the nation's pre-eminent crop circle investigating organization stopped just short of saying a nine-circle pattern in a Madisonville wheat field was an authentic - although unexplained - natural phenomenon, the group as a whole affirmed on Sunday that following two days of intensive investigation at the site that "so far we've found no sign of man-made activities."

"It doesn't look like anyone came out here and made this one," said Roger Sugden, member of the Independent Crop Circle Researchers Association (ICCR), which is based in Ohio. "But as to exactly what made this beautiful formation, well, that's the mystery."

The formation, a central circle surrounded by four circles of similar size with four smaller circles, each connected to the center circle by pathways, was found about two weeks ago by Monroe County Sheriff's Captain Bryan Graves while flying in his new plane. Graves spotted the crop circle formation just off Rocky Springs Road, on property owned by David Kefauver and in a field leased by Larry Lay of Cold Stream Farm.

On Tuesday, May 22, Graves provided transportation for a series of BUZZ pictures, one of which appeared in the Wednesday issue of the newspaper and another of the crop circle in the Friday issue.

From email communication by BUZZ readers, Jeff Wilson of ICCRA contacted the BUZZ, requesting pictures, and after seeing the formation's image, journeyed on Saturday from Ohio to Monroe County with wife Delsey, Sugden, and another ICCRA member, Ted Robinson. The quartet was then joined



by two more from Ohio and three from North Carolina.

On Sunday, WBIR Channel 10 News arrived at the crop circle, recorded extensive audio and video, and aired reports on Sunday and Monday.

"This crop circle is indeed something unusual," Wilson told the BUZZ on Saturday. "It is definitely complex and not something you'd ordinarily see a hoaxer do."

Wilson explained to Channel 10's Josh West that each of the nine circles' center was "swirled" down in different fashions, features he called "unhoaxable."

"This pathway flattens as it comes into the circle," Wilson said, indicating with an outstretched hand. "Notice how it blends in layers before turning and running within the circle."

Wilson moved to another circle.

"Here, the center of the circle is tightly woven," he said. "Then it begins to swirl outward but moves almost perpendicular to the outside before it joins in the counterclockwise movement."

Wilson said no "swirl" pattern in any one circle was like any other circle in the formation.

"Each center, each pattern, though counterclockwise, is different. It would be almost impossible for a man-made crop circle to be this complex."

For both Wilson and Sugden, the central circle

was the most compelling. "You have a flattened circle," Wilson said, "and a stand of wheat which was not flattened and which contains a flattened triangle. We have only seen this once before, in a soybean field in 2003. This is highly



intriguing."

Sugden said the complexities of the crop circle indicated a natural occurrence.

Plus, beyond the crop circle were areas of flattened wheat, Sugden said. "They're called 'random downed formations,' or RDFs," he said. They indicate an energy spillover of some kind. Whatever energy created this formation wasn't going to be contained and it branched out at random."

Sugden said RDFs were an excellent sign the event was non man-made.

In addition, electromagnetic readings ran high in all circles except one, Delsey Wilson said. "Which was the top circle, or the one the trian-

gle points to."

"But before we say this crop circle is not man-made, we will test wheat stems from inside the crop formation and other stems from far beyond it. If it's real, the crop circle stems will show elongated node growth or cavity expulsions. This is the only foolproof test."

Jeff Wilson's measurements of the crop circle concluded its diameter at 170 feet.

"It's good-sized, bigger than average," he said. "And for a complex formation like it is, this one is within the range of others world-wide."

Wilson said the largest single circle ever found in the United States was 175 feet. The largest overall crop pattern was 800 feet in diameter.

The chances of any wheat field becoming one with a crop circle?

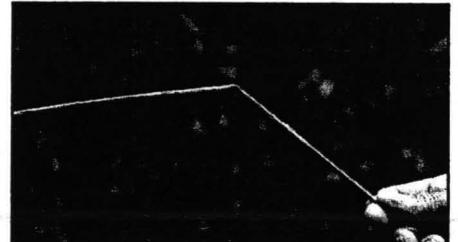
"About one in a million," Delsey Wilson said. "So you people here in Monroe County are quite lucky."

At the end of the investigation, while gathering soil and plant samples, Delsey Wilson spoke quietly.

"In 20 minutes from the time we step into a crop circle, we can tell you whether pranksters created it or not. So far, there's been so sign of them here. And we've been here two days."

Unanswered questions remain, however.

Despite the crop circle's resemblance to a Celtic cross, Wilson feels there's a connection to the Cherokee civilization that preceded the



Europeans into Tennessee.

"And the triangle in the center circle," he said. "To what or where does it point? There's got to be something further."

The stem testing will take weeks, Wilson said. The results will be posted on his website and an affiliated one. They are www.cropcirclenews.com and www.cropcircleconnector.com.

Anyone wishing to see Wilson's accounting of the Monroe County crop circle can access www.cropcircleconnector.com, scroll down to "2007 International Crop Circle Pictures," click, and scroll to the the "USA" portal. Click, and voila! The Monroe

County Crop Circle. (Note in the picture the "spillover" energy, or RDFs, running across the image. The triangle is also apparent is the center circle.)

What made it? Would you go as far as saying it is the "Handiwork of God?" "God's Geometry?" Wilson smiled.

"Everyone has an opinion of what causes crop circles. So yours is as good as mine, or the next one. But the fact remains that no one really knows what causes them. No one knows what makes a crop circle. But hopefully, in the future, with enough investigation, we will be able to offer a plausible explanation based on fact. But, until then, it's a mystery."

"But a mystery you can walk into," Sugden added, "and investigate right at the point where it happened."





DAILY OBSERVER, Pembroke, Ontario, Canada - July 25, 2007

Meath Hill had a crop circle

Area residents recall strange sight

By SEAN CHASE
Staff Writer

David Croft believes something unusual happened one night on top of Meath Hill. He's just not sure if it was an unidentified flying object that burned a crop circle into a farmer's field or something else. "There were a lot of questions about it," says the retired AECL employee reflecting on that day back in the mid-1970's when he stopped at the side of Highway 17 to see the odd phenomenon. "I never saw anything like that before in my lifetime."

Stepping out of his 1972 Plymouth Fury, he walked over and saw a 14-foot scorched ring in the near distance. There were three men digging at the site. They wouldn't tell Mr. Croft what they were doing. The ground in the middle of the ring had been flattened. He noticed



UNEXPLAINED - Crop circles have been found the world over, and most have not been explained by authorities. (File photo)

boulders resting to the sides of the circle. With the 60th anniversary of an alleged 1947 UFO crash at Roswell, New Mexico being observed this month, several area residents have found themselves recalling similarly strange happenings here. "I said to myself 'this must have been a

small flying saucer',” Mr. Croft says, looking at a black and white photo he took of the circle. Pembroke resident Isabel Hudson may have been one of the few to see the thing that landed on Meath Hill.

Sitting on the front porch of her Cecilia Street home, she looked up into the night sky and saw a shimmering, reddish ball of light. The light gradually descended in a southwesterly direction.

“It was something coming down,” said Ms. Hudson, noting that the light vibrated unlike any aircraft she had ever seen before. “There were things going on that just didn't look right.”

The morning after sighting the UFO, Ms. Hudson went down to the Meath Hill crop circle where a large crowd of sightseers had gathered. The area was cordoned off with mine tape. She recalls the farmer who owned the property saying “Somebody's playing a dirty trick on me.”

Mr. Croft adds that at the time, a federal Agriculture Department official released a statement saying the circle was a result of a fungus growth that was destroying the field's grass.

One theory to explain crop circles is that pranksters have used state-of-the-art equipment to create them. However, Mr. Croft believes the circle couldn't have been fabricated, as he noticed the fence bordering the field was intact and there were no tie tracks leading to the site. Ms. Hudson has no doubt that a flying object caused the circle.

“I still think it was something that came down from the sky,” she said.

This wasn't the first crop circle in the area. Three rings appeared in a farmer's field in Pontiac County in 1969. The circles showed up after several people in Chapeau reported sightings of a UFO.

UFO sightings are on the rise this year in Ontario, according to HBCC UFO Research, a non-profit organization based in British Columbia that tracks UFO phenomena across Canada. The organization reports there have been 106 sightings in the province so far in 2007. People are claiming to have seen triangles, disks and formations of light. According to the organization's website, the last sighting of a UFO in the Ottawa Valley was near Renfrew in April. schase@thedailyobserver.ca

EVENING GAZETTE, Colchester, England - April 4, 2007



● Visitors - aliens have more than one way of arriving, argues Gerald Walden.

Planet earth is not ours!

Aliens? They're already here

I READ the piece about ghouls, ghosts and UFOs in the Gazette of March 23 with great interest.

Although there is a soul and after-life, proved by high voltage Kirlian photography, I am more interested in the phenomenon of events involving people and vehicles discovered by Colonel Tom Lethbridge.

According to the location with a conjunction of the earth's magnetic field and underground streams, images of everyday life - people walking, driving etc - are recorded and played back at certain times.

The electro-magnetic spectrum? Possibly. I am still investigating.

Meanwhile I believe that aliens from space have been here for a very long time and do not have to hide the fact.

Abductees - here, America and Europe - have been found to have metal implants in their skulls, not in their earthbound

medical records.

To understand virgin births, or cloning, especially the cloning of the human race, a tertiary being rather than secondary (as perceived by the churches), people should listen to those sane, non-alcohol drinkers who have seen and experienced them.

Not all aliens in flying saucers are from outer space though. They are the real owners of planet earth. They have always been here.

Humans experiment on mice and rats. They think they are the primary force, whereas we are all part of the experiment.

When asked about the unknown, a scientist has to say "It doesn't exist". If he says otherwise he faces questions he is not mentally equipped to answer, in parapsychical terms.

I do not read science fiction which is idiotic and far-fetched.

Gerald Walden, Chapel Road, Stanway.

HERALD EXPRESS, Torquay, England - July 5, 2007

Motel was scene of UFO sighting

THE news that Mr Graham Booth has sold his Torbay Holiday Motel business (HE, June 30) has prompted me to write this letter, which I feel sure will interest many of your readers.

On September 17, 1998, I presented an illustrated lecture to a public meeting of the Torbay Astronomical Society (TAS), at the Town Hall in Torquay. The lecture dealt with my scientific research of global UFO reports.

Afterwards, although it became quite clear that TAS members present had closed minds on the topic, I was approached by Mr and Mrs Booth, of Torbay Holiday Motel.

Something strange had been witnessed by one of the residents of Beechdown Park, who had reported the happening to the MoD and received their standard 'brush-off' letter. To cut a long story short, this led to an interview with the witness, a retired engineer, Mr Fred Lewis-Goodwin, a one-time chief development engineer with Rolls Royce Engines. After I told him of my

past involvement with aircraft future projects with BAE, Fred was very happy to tell me the whole story and to discuss technicalities.

At 8pm on the moonlit evening of February 11, 1998, whilst walking with his greyhound-lurcher dog at the base of the hill behind the motel, the dog suddenly froze, sat up, and gazed intently at an invisible 'something' on the hillside. Then, a large box-like structure appeared very suddenly out of thin air.

Fred was able to describe in detail how this had happened.

The metallic grey box developed two circular openings pulsing bright orange light, raised itself from the ground and then progressed steadily up the hillside. It then manoeuvred along a hedge and sat pulsing out light for a further 15 minutes or so, before exploding into a brilliant ball of light.

The ball of light had also been witnessed by an employee of the motel from his car on the road below.

Through an one of my American contacts, visiting Torquay with a

party of tourists, Fred L-G, the motel and Torbay became stars of an American coast-to-coast radio programme. A live interview with Jeff Rense, by telephone, took place in the early hours of the morning of August 12, 1999.

Thereafter, Fred and I shared many discussions until his untimely death in 2001.

We were given every assistance by the Booth family throughout that time, and this seems to be a good opportunity to thank them publicly for their friendly co-operation. I hope the new owners will be as helpful if something of that kind ever happens again.

If anyone wants to see the late Fred Lewis-Goodwin (with his dog) giving a full video account of that extraordinary happening, at its location, a set of DVDs can be obtained from a local business on Torquay's sea front: Busker54 is located in the Pavilion.

T ROY DUTTON
Kingsgate Close
Torquay

OBSERVER, Leamington, England - June 21, 2007

UFO near Warwick?

DID anyone see strange lights in the sky on Saturday evening?

I was dining with five friends (two of whom were not drinking alcohol) near Warwick at around 11pm when one of the party noticed some lights in the sky that were unusual but quite striking. This gentleman is a retired pilot so he knows all about aircraft lights, weather conditions and what you would normally see in the sky.

We all went outside to get a better look and we soon realised the lights were moving quite slowly from east to west but low in the sky. Initially we saw four lights but as they disappeared more approached from the east, 21 in all. We strained to hear any noise but there was none.

We are convinced these were not aircraft of any description as the lights were not flashing - so the question has to be, what were these lights?

Manty Stanley
Warwick

Were strange, hovering lights coming from a UFO?

MYSTERY surrounds the sighting of strange lights hovering over the Dyfi Valley following reports that no aircraft was in the area at the time.

An Aberystwyth man who wished to remain anonymous contacted the *Cambrian News* with details of his encounter on the A470 near Cwm Lliniau.

He said: "On Friday 27 April I was involved in an occurrence that truly scared me, to the point I thought I may even have died, and yet the whole incident remains a mystery."

The man was driving on the A470 towards Machynlleth at around 9.20pm when he noticed a group of bright lights to the side and above the road, which at that height, initially he took to be street lights.

"At first I was confused as to what it was, then I realised I could see what looked like the image of a wingspan of an aeroplane."

He said that the length was around 50ft in total and the white lights were at the tips and highlighted a small vertical construction which was made of smooth, shiny metal.

"There was a bright white light at the centre, just below the wingspan, and also a glowing dome of white about the wingspan, similar in a way to a cockpit, in which I could see the top half of two figures."

"My immediate thought was that it was an aircraft, the whole image coming slowly towards me but was getting lower."

"The white lights on the wings began

rocking up and down, appearing as if the aircraft was having difficulty in remaining straight and about to ditch onto the road before me.

"I didn't really know what to do. "I believed that if it was to land on the road then it would surely be right in front of me or on top of me, but either way I would not be able to avoid a certain crash and I fear for my life."

"I gasped a huge sigh of relief as the aircraft passed over me, mightily relieved that a crash was avoided after all."

"Strangely, as the aircraft passed over the car I can not remember any particular noise, nor do I remember seeing any form of tail to the aircraft."

"I glanced back and forth between my rear view and wing mirrors, anxious to see the shape pass fully over, but I could see nothing."

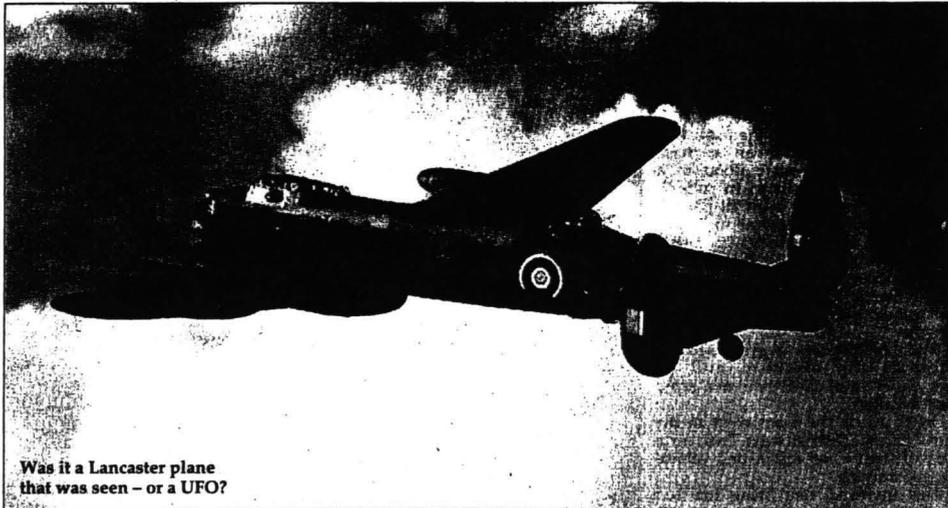
"I quickly stopped the car and got out, looking back down the dark road I could neither see nor hear anything."

Worried the aircraft had crashed, the man then dialled 999 and was told a police car would come out to the area.

The emergency services operator informed him that although there had been an RAF Hercules aircraft in the area earlier, there was nothing scheduled now.

The Ministry of Defence also told him the same thing and that it was unlikely any aircraft would be flying that low.

He also contacted Welshpool Airport, Caernarfon Airfield and Air Traffic



Was it a Lancaster plane that was seen - or a UFO?

Control at Cardiff Airport who all told him they knew nothing of any aircraft in the area at that time.

He added: "Although I cannot say what the aircraft was, I can not claim with any certainty it was of alien nature."

"However it remains unidentified and was a flying object, so I have to refer to it as a UFO."

Bright yellow lights shaped like flat

discs were seen in the sky near Guernsey just two days before the incident.

Reports suggest that those lights were a precursor to the earth tremor which struck in Kent on the following Saturday.

The *Cambrian News* contacted Machynlleth-based geology consultant and Director of the Tornado and Storm Research Organisation, John Mason, who said that he was unable

to link any meteorological phenomena to the description of the events near Machynlleth.

An aviation expert also said that a Hercules plane would not have cockpit lights on at night, and the description of a cockpit above the wing would match that of a Lancaster plane, which doesn't fly at night around Machynlleth, and the Canberra which only takes one pilot.

SUN, London, England - June 22, 2007

By CHARLES RAE and JOHN COLES

THE world's biggest UFOs have been seen hovering off the south coast by an airline pilot and his passengers.

Aurigny Airlines captain Ray Bowyer, 50, reported two cigar-shaped objects each up to a MILE wide in the sky near Guernsey.

Both were yellow and were also seen by a second pilot. An official report was made to the Civil Aviation Authority which issued an air incident report.

And air industry sources say a copy was also secretly sent to the US Air Force Space Agency, which monitors such incidents around the world.

Capt Bowyer, who has flown commercial planes for 20 years, saw the first UFO 40 miles west of Alderney. He said: "It was a sharp, thin yellow object. It was 2,000ft up, stationary, and about 40 miles from us. It could have been as much as a mile wide."

As he continued his approach to Alderney in the BN2a Trislander plane, he saw a second identical object. He said: "I can't explain it. It was visual for nine minutes. I'm not saying it was from another world. All I'm saying is I've never seen anything like it in all my years flying."

Passengers John and Kate Russell also saw one of the objects. John, 74, said: "I saw an orange light. It was like an elongated oval." The objects were also reported by an unnamed pilot with the Blue Islands airline.

John Spencer, deputy chairman of the British UFO Research Association, said it was not clear that the sightings were of extra-terrestrial spaceships. He said: "These types of sightings have been reported by pilots since the 1940s."

"They are often thought to be aliens but many believe they more likely represent natural, atmospheric, phenomena not fully understood by science."

c.rae@the-sun.co.uk

IT'S JUST ONE BIG MYSTERY

SUN Spaceman Paul Sutherland said last night: "These mystery objects were clearly UFOs in the real sense - because they were unidentified and seem to have been flying."

"But that is a long way from saying that they were flying saucers or alien spacecraft. It is notoriously difficult to estimate the size of objects in the sky because it is usually so hard to tell how far away they are."

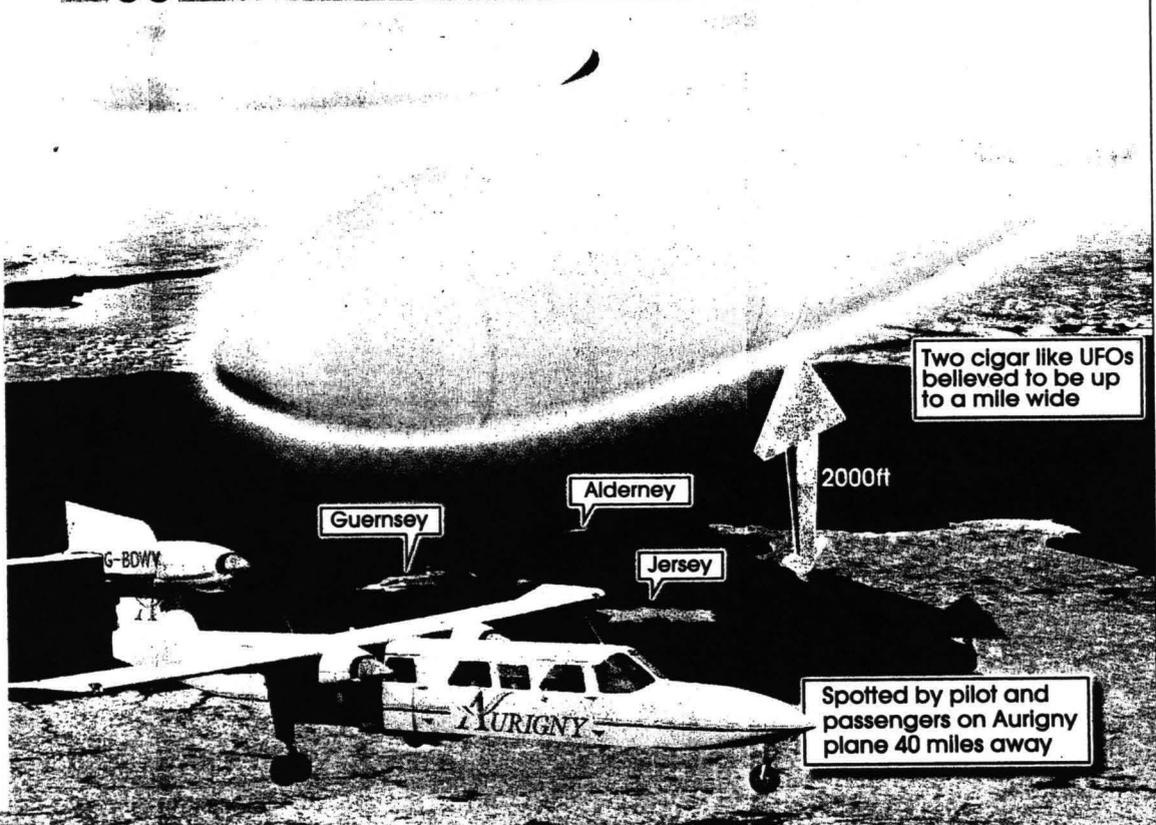
"But sightings previously mistaken for UFOs have included the planet Venus, weather balloons and cloud formations."

THE X-LARGE TERRESTRIAL

Biggest-ever UFOs spotted near Guernsey



Pilot... Bowyer



Two cigar like UFOs believed to be up to a mile wide

2000ft

Alderney

Guernsey

Jersey

Spotted by pilot and passengers on Aurigny plane 40 miles away

Experts seek solution to enduring mystery of the 'UFO'

Hoax or contact? Enigma of the Silpho saucer

EXCLUSIVE

Paul Jeeves

IT HAS given flying saucer enthusiasts 50 years of conspiracy theories to prove the truth really is out there.

The village of Silpho, tucked away deep in the North York Moors, has become an unlikely focal point for an army of Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) hunters and paranormal investigators searching for definitive evidence about alien life.

And 50 years since a mysterious machine was found smouldering in bushes on remote moorland close to the North Yorkshire village, UFO experts are hoping to answer the enduring question as to whether the discovery was proof of contact or just an elaborate hoax.

The British Flying Saucer Bureau, which was set up more than half a century ago, is leading the investigations to establish whether the Silpho saucer did come from outer space.

Its head of investigations for the north of England, Russ Kellett, has been researching the case for more than a decade.

He said: "This really is one of the original X Files, and it is the British equivalent to the Roswell Incident over in America (where a UFO was supposedly found in New Mexico in July 1947).

"It is such a fascinating case and provides us with one of the first incidents where something tangible was found.

"We are trying to track down anyone who was about at the time of the find, and ultimately we are trying to find out if the saucer is still in existence.

"If we can find out more about the flying saucer then, who knows, we might be able to prove that this was conclusive evidence that the human race has been contacted by alien life forms.

"That in itself would mark perhaps the most important

'It provides us with one of the first incidents where something tangible was found.'

development known to mankind, giving answers to some of the world's mysteries but also opening up a whole host of new questions.

"It really is such an exciting time."

The Silpho case hit the national headlines after the



Looking for answers: UFO investigator Russ Kellett at the North York Moors village of Silpho, scene of an alleged flying saucer discovery in November 1957.

Yorkshire Post carried an article on December 9, 1957, under the headline, "Has Yorkshire got a flying saucer? Mystery object found on Scarborough moors".

A little over a fortnight earlier on the evening of November 21, 1957, an 18-

inch metallic saucer weighing 35lb had been found on the moorland between the villages of Silpho and Hackness.

Once the saucer had been opened, 17 thin copper sheets were found inside engraved with a lengthy message in hieroglyphics.

The mystery surrounding the object has been heightened with the passing of time after the exact ownership of the flying saucer has become increasingly murky.

Rumours emerged that it had been sold to a scrapyards and lost forever, while others

laid claim to an even more bizarre version of events that the saucer had in fact turned up in a fish and chip shop in Scarborough.

But while intrigued by the Silpho find, other UFO experts remain cautious as to whether it is genuine proof of contact.

Harry Challenger is the editor of the *Flying Saucer Review*, which was established in 1955 and is the oldest English-language publication of its kind.

Mr Challenger said: "The Silpho disc, like the Roswell Incident, appears to be a signal or a waking call,

although we cannot be certain from whom. There is the enigma that this object has gone missing, and it has never been authenticated.

"But if it had been, it could have given clear and tangible evidence that something is out there."

However, the intriguing find has not gone down in the folklore of Silpho, with many villagers unaware of the bizarre find almost half a century ago.

Richard Coates, 60, who has lived in the village with his wife Diana since 1970 and is the vice-chairman of the parish council, said: "I keep

POST, Yorkshire, England - June 12, 2007

found on the North York Moors

DAILY MAIL, London, England - July 2, 2007

QUESTION Were there any reported sightings of UFOs in Victorian times?

THE history of UFO sightings predates the Victorian era. Ufologists even point to flying saucer-like shapes in the cave paintings of early man in Africa and Australia.

One of the foremost names in UFO research is the French scientist Dr Jacques Vallee, the real-life model for the character portrayed by Francois Truffaut in Steven Spielberg's film *Close Encounters Of The Third Kind*.

In his book *Passport To Magonia: On UFOs, Folklore And Parallel Worlds*, he catalogues a century of UFO sightings. Valee cites more than 30 Victorian era examples, 21 of which occurred in the southern United States in 1897.

Some fabulous examples include: July, 1868 Copiago (Chile): A strange 'aerial construction' bearing lights and making engine noises flew low over the town. Local people described it as a giant bird covered with large scales producing a metallic noise. Although not an actual landing, this is the first instance of close observation of an unknown object at low altitude in the 19th century.

December 7, 1872, Banbury: An object 'resembling a haystack' flew over King's Sutton on an irregular course, accompanied by fire and dense smoke. It produced the same effect as a tornado, felling trees and walls.

1880, Aldershot: A strange being dressed in tight-fitting clothes and shining helmet soared over the heads of two sentries, who fired without result. The apparition stunned them with something described as 'blue fire'.

May, 15, 1879, Persian Gulf: Two very large 'wheels' were seen spinning in the air and slowly coming to the surface of the sea.

March 26, 1880, Lamy (New Mexico): Four men walking near Galisteo Junction heard voices coming from a 'strange balloon' which flew low over them. It was shaped like a fish and seemed to be guided by a large fan-like device. There were eight to ten figures aboard. Their language was not understood.

April 12, 1897, Nilwood (Illinois): On the property of Z. Thacker, 19km north of Carlinville, an unknown object landed. Before the three witnesses could reach it, the craft, which was shaped like a cigar with a dome, rose slowly and left majestically toward the north.

Gordon Finchfield, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire.

an open mind about these things - you shouldn't discount something until you have got definite proof that it is a hoax. It really is an intriguing case, especially as it is so close to home."

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yorkshirepost.co.uk

What do you think? Visit our website and have 'Your Say'.



MYSTERIOUS WEST

Geoff Ward explores the alternative universe

For contact Geoff Ward
by email at gward@westerndailypress.co.uk

Circling in on hidden messages

CAN our minds influence the creation and form of crop circles? This is a key issue to be examined at the annual spring conference on Unexplained Mysteries taking place at Dorchester taking place a week on Sunday.

Now in its 12th year, the conference has become an international event, drawing people from America and Europe as well as the UK.

The one-day event was first held in 1995 and subjects covered range from crop circles and ancient spirituality to the secrets of Ancient Egypt and government conspiracies.

Organiser David Kingston, a researcher, lecturer and broadcaster, of Wyke Regis, Dorset, who will show the conference some previously unseen crop formations from the

last 30 years, has studied a series of uncanny incidents in which people were amazed by a formation appearing after they had thought about, drawn or discussed a certain shape.

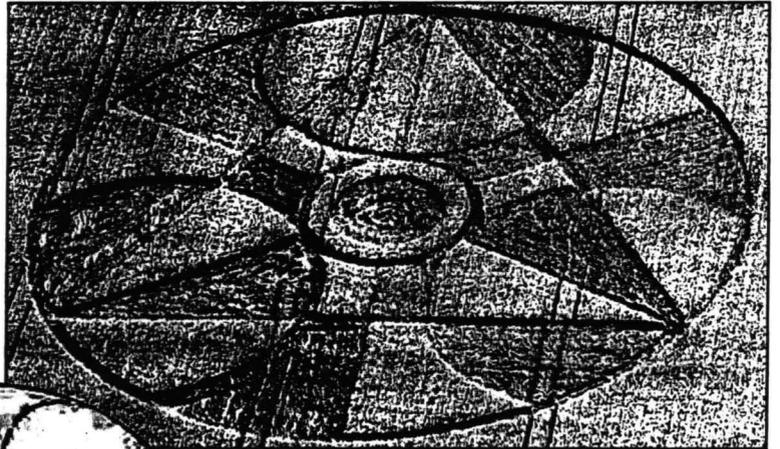
This was his "Project X" in conjunction with the parapsychology departments of the New York and Edinburgh universities and a worldwide research team.

"The X is not as in the X-Files, nothing that sinister, but as X being the unknown quantity," he said. "It came about after my wife and I were driving on the A35 Dorchester bypass one day and she said there was going to be a formation on a hill near there. Six months later one appeared. I found that other people were having the same thing happening to them."

Project X took a random sample of people around the world and asked them to send their feelings about the shape and location of a future crop circle in England. These were put in sealed envelopes and opened after the crop circle season, and a 20-30 per cent success rate was discovered.

"Are we in some way influencing what's going on on the land?" David asked. "We know so little about the brain and the way it works."

His research into crop circles began as long



ago as 1976 after he witnessed a UFO near Clay Hill, Warminster, during the night, and found a 30ft formation when dawn broke.

He then began looking for a possible connection between the two mysteries and founded Crop Phenomena Investigations in 1988.

Other speakers at the conference are:

■ Stan Hall, who has paralleled a career in construction with the exploration of ancient engineering, civilisation and mythology, identifying Central and South America as the "missing page of prehistory", and locating lost cities in Mexico and Peru.

■ Philip Coppens, a former investigative journalist specialising in the world of politics and intelligence agencies, and founder of *Frontier* magazine, whose new book, *The New Pyramid Age*, suggests the mystery of pyramids worldwide is finally about to be solved, the same core message being found in ancient cultures worldwide.

■ Craig Murray, a former member of the diplomatic service - he was recently the British Ambassador to Uzbekistan - and of the Embargo Surveillance Centre, responsible for intelligence analysis, who will speak on "Truth and the War on Terror".

■ Barbara Lamb, a Californian psychotherapist who has been researching crop

circles in England since 1990, and has built up a vast collection of ground details from visits to hundreds of sites. A leading crop circle researcher in the USA, she is the co-author of *Crop Circles Revealed* with Judith K Moore.

More information and tickets for the conference, on Sunday, April 15, can be obtained from David Kingston on 01305 830057, or by visiting the website at www.thecropcirclewebsite.50megs.com



Uncanny: A drawing made of a crop circle under David Kingston's Project X, above left, and one that appeared months later at Winterbourne Bassett in Wiltshire; and David himself, a researcher, lecturer and broadcaster

Daily Press PODCASTS

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MY special guest on the Mysterious West podcast this week is acupuncturist Paul Hougham of Malvern, author of *The Atlas of Mind, Body and Spirit*. Listen at www.westerndailypress.co.uk/mwpodcasts - and you can also hear the programme online at Net Talk Radio (www.nettalkradio.co.uk) and on Glastonbury Radio (www.glastonburyradio.com).

UFOs: TRUTH IS OUT THERE

(And Labour and the Greens will spill it!)

By KEVIN JENKINSON

TOP SECRET 'x-files' held by Irish State authorities could be released to the public if Labour or Green Party leaders are elected to the next Government.

A Labour Party spokesman said: "If there is a case for releasing all UFO files then the Labour Party would be happy to consider doing so."

"However, in the short term the thing the Labour Party is primarily interested in is in bringing the Government back down to earth."

The Green Party said it too would make the files available and would be interested in any unexplained events.

A spokesman for the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern referred *The Star* to the Department of Defence.

A spokesman there said it is aware of just one official Irish 'UFO File' held by Irish Army



NO LAUGHING MATTER: UFOs take a wrong turn near Mayo . . .

Intelligence dating back to 1978.

Yet Dail records show there were at least eight UFO sightings investigated in Ireland between 1962 and 1976.

Mocking

Expert Carl Nally of UFO and Paranormal Research Ireland said the military often refer to their x-files as S-Bar files.

Mr Nally and fellow boffin

Dermot Butler have investigated hundreds of UFO sightings in Ireland.

Mr Nally said: "The time for mocking is over."

"There are objects flying over our land at physically impossible speeds and performing impossible manoeuvres."

"We need to try to find out what they are - and who's controlling them."

GUARDIAN, Somerset, England - July 5, 2007

Sightings of UFOs make the front page

1am. Police searched the area in case it was a balloon in trouble, but nothing was found.

Three hours later a second object was seen by two policemen, PC Max Duke and PC Terry Tanner, and Mr A Kingman, of 1 Manor Cottage, Hallatrow, and Mr R Brown of 4 Ashley Avenue, Lower Weston.

PC Tanner said later they watched what appeared to be a UFO making its way north from High Littleton to Bath.

"All we could see was a bright light travelling across the sky at what appeared to be a great height and speed," he said. "The brightness of the light was similar to that of the brightness of the North Star on a clear night."

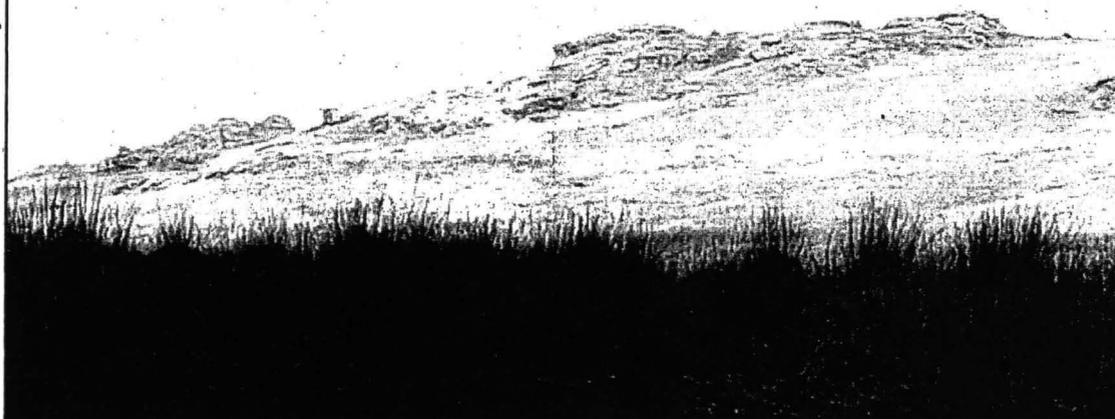
"It made no sound or trail. It was visible for about half a minute before the light grew dimmer and finally disappeared."

Ch Insp Crowhurst, of Keynsham, said: "We have recorded the facts to the UFO collating centre in London."

Somerset Guardian, July 8, 1977

■ Did you see the UFOs? Or do you know what happened about the sightings? If so, get in touch.

Strange shape is snapped in the sky



SPOOKY: The unexplained 'domed' shape that appears to be flying over part of Dartmoor

Mystery of domed UFO over moors

AN amateur photographer from Plymouth has been left baffled after snapping what he described as a mysterious dark object in the sky over Dartmoor.

Stephen Edgcumbe, aged 43, of Crownhill, said his jaw dropped when he downloaded the photograph of a "domed" object.

He said he had unwittingly captured the strange shape on camera while walking his dog at the Merrivale firing range near Princetown at 2.30pm on Saturday, April 7.

A spokesperson for the Army told The Herald there was no military exercises on Dartmoor that day.

It was not until weeks later, when Stephen transferred the digital picture on to his laptop, that he spotted the "spooky" anomaly.

"When I saw it, my jaw dropped," said Stephen, who works as a computer operator for Princess Yachts.

"I'm not saying it's not from this earth, but it's unexplained - there's no wings or anything. And when you zoom in, it looks like it has a dome."

Stephen said he was trying out his new digital camera, a Canon Eos 350D, while walking his Springer Spaniel Kacy on the moors.

"I was making my way back towards Princetown and I let Kacy out because she was whining in the back of the car," he said. "I knew they weren't firing that day as there were no red flags flying."

"I didn't see anything in the sky at the time. I was just pottering around with my camera, just snapping away at the dog, the landscape and that."

He left the image on the camera for weeks, before recently moving it to his computer when the digital card was full.

"I was zooming in a out and saw something and thought 'what's that - it doesn't look like a plane' - spooky," he said.

"I thought it could be a speck of dust, but there was nothing similar on pictures taken before and after."

"I'm not saying what it is; I'm not saying

by DIANA PRINCE

Herald Reporter

what it's not. It's unexplained, that's all I can say."

Stephen added that, although he cannot explain what he photographed, he does believe in the paranormal.

"I do believe in UFOs, but I haven't been abducted yet," he said, laughing.

"My mum's a firm believer and my dad saw one years and years ago - in the late 1970s, early 1980s - when he was working in Estover."

"He'd finished his shift and saw lights over Lee Moor - lights that flew over Plymouth."

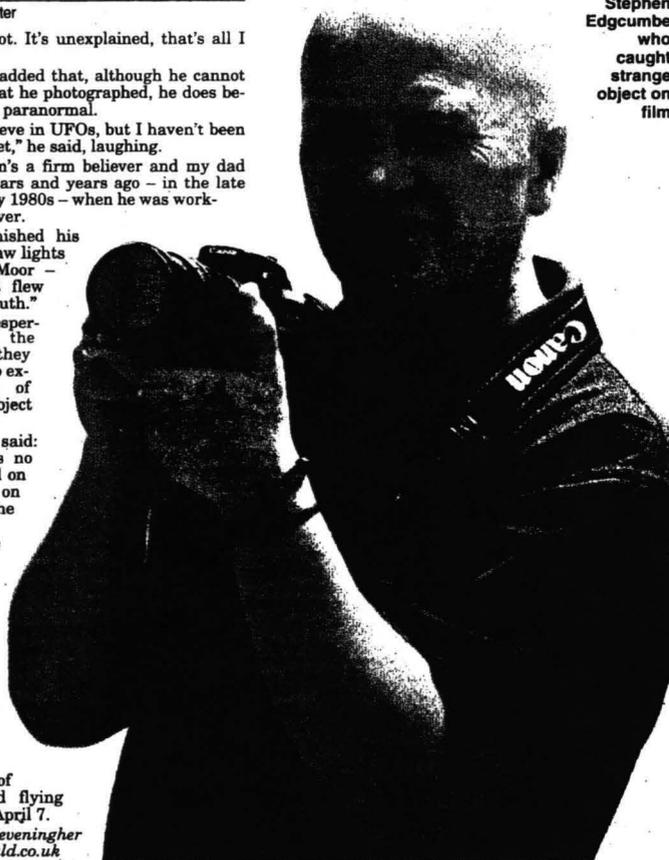
A spokesperson for the Army said they can offer no explanation of what the object might be.

They said:

"There was no firing at all on that date on any of the Dartmoor ranges. We don't fire at Merrivale on a Saturday or Sunday."

A police spokesman said they received no reports of unidentified flying objects on April 7.

dprince@eveningherald.co.uk



BAFFLED: Stephen Edgcumbe who caught strange object on film

Policeman saw UFO

POST & TIMES, Leek, England - July 4, 2007

Dear Sir -

I am wondering whether you or any of your readers can enlighten me as to an incident which occurred in Leek in 1952?

According to my research, it occurred at 9.15pm on a night when a police officer on plain clothes duty and two passing civilians saw a UFO literally above their heads at the recreation ground, Burton Street, Leek. Reports show that the object was seen for about two to three minutes at an altitude of 500 feet.

They described it as orange in colour prior to the object changing shape from sphere to cigar by which time it was blue.

Eventually the object accelerated away at a fantastic speed in a northerly direction. Throughout the duration of the sighting, the UFO made no noise whatsoever. It was a clear cold night, no wind and the stars were visible. The sighting was reported by the officer but he was told by his superintendent to 'keep his mouth shut'.

If anyone knows anything I would be obliged if they could contact me via your esteemed newspaper. Incidentally, your readers may be interested to know of a 'near miss' between an aeroplane and a UFO over Leek.

A Civil Aviation Authority Report concluded that there was a near miss between a Boeing 737 and an unknown object on January 6, 1995, while on its final approach to Manchester Airport. The report was released on February 2, 1996. See Commercial Air Transport Airmisss Reports (January-April 1995) Airmisss Report No. 2/95. As Leek's former MP Lord Davies of Leek said in the House of Lords: "If one human being out of tens of thousands who allege to have seen these phenomena is telling the truth, then there is a dire need for us to look into the matter."

David Gittings, Address supplied.

A UFO sighting

ARGUS, Brighton, England - March 22, 2007

I WAS interested to read the article on the UFO sighting (The Argus, March 14) as I saw it myself.

It was around 7.30pm in the evening. I opened my back door to let the cat in when I saw what I thought may have been a UFO.

I was facing west and saw this bright orange object in the direction of Shoreham. It appeared to be hovering. Then, after several minutes, it began to move very slowly towards Mile Oak. It then started hovering again.

It was soundless and definitely not a plane, as they have red and green flashing lights and this had neither. It was also far brighter than a plane and sat much lower in the sky.

I came back indoors and when I went out side again, I was amazed to see another one, which was also hovering. This one seemed to be slightly closer.

The next time I went out, they had both vanished. I would be interested to know if anyone managed to photograph it.

Joyce Walker
Graham Avenue, Mile Oak

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - June 13, 2007

Lights and triangles prompt UFO reports

More than 10 separate UFO sightings across the West Midlands have been reported to military bosses in recent years it has emerged.

Today the Express & Star reveals bizarre details of the reports, such as "a bright round light that moved in steps" in Tipton.

Reports have been lodged with the Ministry of Defence from places across the region including Dudley, Wolverhampton, Lichfield, Barlaston in Staffordshire, Walsall and Oldbury. And they may have

Report by Helen Cartwright

prompted military chiefs to check whether they were a threat to the UK's airspace.

One report from Walsall in March 2006 described "a UFO doing funny sharp turns over a field." Another unexplained sighting in Dudley, reported in December 2006, simply described "a white light". Back in August 2005 someone in Lichfield reported that they had seen "an object that was circular with a dull orange colour/light that

was the size of a medium aircraft." And in Wolverhampton an RAF sergeant reported seeing "two triangular shaped objects" in 2003.

Once submitted to military officials the reports are examined, with the assistance of air defence experts as required. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat to the UK from an external military source, the MOD does not attempt to identify the precise nature of each sighting. The MOD says many of the sightings could be rooted in

down to earth explanations such as aircraft lights or natural phenomena.

A MOD spokesman said: "The Ministry of Defence examines any reports of 'UFO' sightings it receives solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance; namely is there any evidence that the UK's airspace might have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised foreign military activity."

None of the UFO sightings had revealed evidence of a potential threat, she said.

Was Dyfi Valley UFO a model aircraft?

MODEL plane enthusiasts may have come up with an explanation for a suspected UFO which was spotted near Machynlleth, writes Scarlet Jones.

They think the strange lights seen in the night sky by Aberystwyth man Colin Grethe could have been one of their member's experimental gliders fitted with strobe lights.

But Mr Grethe maintains that the object he saw was far bigger than a model glider, and has come up with another theory - a wartime ghost plane.

A few weeks ago, the *Cambrian News* reported on how Mr Grethe had seen unexplained phenomena consisting of a number of lights and a structure, like a plane but without a tail, in the skies above Cwm Llinau near Machynlleth, at night.

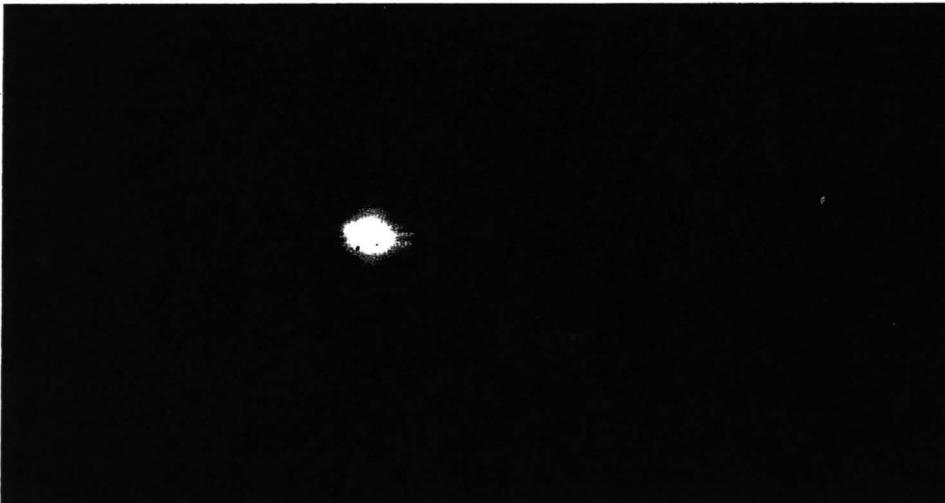
Mr Grethe said the silent structure was so low in the sky that he was fearful of colliding into it. However it then just mysteriously disappeared.

Unable to find any record of planes in the area, Mr Grethe had suggested that it could have been a UFO.

And last week Nathan Theophanides and his mother Bonita, of Penparcau, unveiled video footage that they had taken of a strange light which they saw hovering over their home on the same night.

But now the Aberystwyth Radio Model Club has come forward to suggest that perhaps the Dyfi Valley lights could have been caused by a Machynlleth member.

A spokesperson for the group said:



The strange light that was videoed hovering over Penparcau recently.

"Some of our pilots have been trialing experimental gliders lit with miniature strobe lights.

"One of our pilots is resident in Machynlleth and is known for his unusual models, and when asked would not confirm or deny that he was responsible.

"But I have to say that he did look somewhat embarrassed!"

In response, Mr Grethe said: "What I

saw was approximately 50 feet in width and an 'aircraft', of whatever kind, but certainly not a 'model'.

"Miniature strobe lights were not what I saw either. They were far, far bigger and way stronger than that.

"But then again, if the club member does have a 50-foot model aircraft let me know.

"Meantime, I will keep on searching for an answer."

Mr Grethe added that he was exploring other possibilities. He had heard there had been a German plane crash in the area in the 1940s, and was now investigating the ghostly idea that what he saw could have been linked to that.

● Have you seen any unusual sightings that you cannot explain? Contact us with your story, at edit@cambrian-news.co.uk

UFO sighting in Rochford

BACK in September 1975 or 1976, I was driving east along Barling Road, Rochford, when I saw what I thought at first to be a Barrage Balloon, similar to the wartime type. It appeared to be stationary, as there was a long wisp of cloud near to it in an otherwise clear sky. Although it was high I thought it may have been to do with the experimental department at Foulness. But as I got nearer to Shoeburyness I realised that it was more over the sea, and to the Kent side of the estuary. I was able to keep it in sight all this time by the wisp of cloud nearby which seemed to be quite still. Then from what I likened to a cigar shape or balloon like, it suddenly changed to round with a dark centre and vanished instantly.

During this journey I did stop the car to satisfy myself that it wasn't moving and hoped other cars might stop and look. But this didn't happen.

Hope that this ties up with some of the other sightings. I was living at Picasso Way, Shoeburyness, at the time.

E R James
The Drakes, Shoeburyness

YELLOW ADVERTISER, Chelmsford, England - May 16, 2007

Unknown light was also spotted over bay

Madam, I wish to report that some friends and I witnessed an unknown light above Cardigan Bay on Saturday night 12 May whilst we were walking along Aberystwyth's promenade. Although it was intriguing there was nothing dramatic about the behaviour of the light we saw, and had it not been for the *Cambrian News* carrying stories in the last two issues of people who reported seeing a strange light above Cwm Llinau and Penparcau on 27 April, then I would probably not have bothered to contact you.

What the other people report seeing in Cwm Llinau and

Penparcau sounds more eventful than what we saw. However, I thought it would be worth telling my story anyway in case it helps towards someone solving the mystery.

It was about 11.15pm when three friends and I were returning home from the Pier Snooker Club and walking in the direction of Constitution Hill. We were almost by the bandstand and casually observing our surroundings when one of my friends pointed out what he thought was a star that shone brighter than the others. We couldn't see many stars that night and those which we could see appeared somewhat dimmed as they were

behind the clouds. This one light stood out because it appeared brighter than the rest, but in terms of size it was about the same as the stars. The other thing we noticed about it was that it was too low to be a star. We became interested in wanting to know what it was.

There was nothing dramatic about the behaviour of this light for it seemed to stand still, but after watching it for about ten minutes we noticed that its position had moved a little further north and lower down from where we first cited it and this movement had been too subtle for us to notice. It was hard to tell how far away it was, but we thought it was

just a few miles out from the shore.

In case we could discern better what the light was we moved from the prom to the water's edge but this didn't make any difference, and there was no sound to suggest that it was light coming from a helicopter hovering above the sea. Had there been any motorized aircraft or boats out at sea within hearing distance of the shore at that time then I dare say we could have heard them as the sea was calm and there was no wind.

I have since enquired of other friends and colleagues at work about the light and although none of them can be sure as to what it was, various suggestions have been put forward

including sunlight reflecting off either a satellite, the planets Mercury or Venus, or it could even be a reflection in the clouds or atmosphere of a light that is on the ground.

As much as I would like it to have been more exciting I dismiss the possibility that UFOs from space had anything to do with this light and am of the opinion that there must be a logical explanation behind what we saw. But as of now it is, for us, still a mystery.

Yours etc,
J Haydn Foulkes, 7 Maes-yr-Efail Penrhyncoch, Aberystwyth.

ALIENS INVADE IRELAND!



HERE: Armada of alien craft has been seen

Lawyer's job is out of this world

A LAWYER who landed an out-of-this-world job defending people who have suffered at the hands of aliens has started his first case. Former industrial law specialist Jens Lorek is the world's only X-Files brief.

He defends those whose close encounters with outer space visitors left them physically and mentally shattered. Now he has his first client in chef Paul Hoffmann (23) - who claims he was nabbed by extraterrestrials.

Hoffmann does not remember the aliens' looks, but only that he was "manipulated" and sent back to earth. After riding naked around his hometown in Germany on his return, he was arrested by police and sent to hospital.

UFO armadas spotted in sky

ARMADAS of high-speed alien spaceships are whizzing across Irish skies, say UFO boffins.

Mysterious sightings over north Tipperary, Kildare town and in Bangor in Co Down of unidentified flying objects moving in formation at incredible speeds have been reported. The craft also suddenly stopped, disappeared and reappeared in another part of the sky, said witnesses.

Carl Nally, of UFO Paranormal Research Ireland, said the latest sightings came over the past two weeks. A similar "ring of lights" appeared over Nenagh, Co Tipperary, in 2004 and there was a UFO seen in 1997 over Lough Key Forest Park, Boyle, Co Roscommon.

By KEVIN JENKINSON

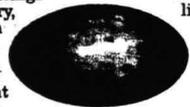
Carl said: "The characteristics in Bangor, Kildare and Tipperary all seem the same.

"They would appear to be like an armada. They also appear regularly in Mexico and there is clear video footage of them.

Incredible

"The manoeuvres defy the laws of physics." He says the Irish Government should release its 'X-Files' after France put its UFO files on a public website.

"We know they have investigated incidents. "We have spoken to airline pilots who have told them of some incredible incidents", Carl said. In 2005, *The Star* revealed that former Taoiseach Albert Reynolds admitted in 1981 that eight UFOs were probed from 1962 to 1976.



VISITORS: UFOs are sighted in Roscommon



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.]

August 2, 2007 — ARGENTINA: Mutilations in La Pampa by Raul Oscar Chaves (*CIUFOS-LaPampa*) — As a fellow researcher once noted regarding ufology, this field of study does not grant a full answer to the phenomenon despite the efforts that have been carried out over the course of the decades. Why could this be? Perhaps because the phenomenon lacks any logic whatsoever, and it becomes necessary to understand this.

This opinion is the result of our experiences as field researchers and not mere speculation: the accumulation of information does not necessarily imply the understanding of knowledge, especially the comprehension of a phenomenon that is as atypical as it is illogical.

And I want to make reference here to cattle mutilations, since our experience has consisted mainly of engaging in field research in the province of La Pampa. Not having gone deeper into this research has not been due to a lack of will or ability, but rather, due to the lack of professional support, both veterinary and laboratory alike, institutions of higher learning, etc., with the exception of those who made a superlative effort to clarify the wealth of existing cases.

However, neither experts nor field researchers were convinced by the explanations offered by bureaucrats at the time, much less by childish answers that drew attention to the characteristics of the cases themselves. It was thus that the absence of the following became known:

Anatomical parts

Almost the entirety of blood (70% of the animals weight is the weight of its blood)

Absence of fetuses in cases of pregnancies ascertained by palpation, without detecting any labor

Absence of corneas

Absence of significant muscular groups in unopened bodies (*longinis dorsis*)

Absence of various glands

Visual confirmation of the nearly complete exposition of 'the uterus, circumstances that would ascertain the extraction/disappearance of the unborn animal, presumably through suction.

Verification of the existence of electromagnetic radiation over and around the animal.

Verification of the existence of unknown chemical compounds on the animals, impacting the carcasses' span of preservation.

Discovery of bodies with severe burns (calcinations of the hard palate) both in digestive and respiratory tracts.

Discovery of unknown substances in the form of gelatinous drops over the carcasses, which could never be sampled. Why? Because when attempts were made to recover them, the substance changed its state to become liquid before crystallizing and vanishing altogether. This substance could be a necessary ingredient in the mutilations, with its impact depending on the degree of sublimation achieved.

Verification of the various preservation times, stretching up to 20 days before putrefaction sets in.

Verification through the use of clay ovens of temperatures of between 180 and 200 centigrade to cook meat from mutilated cattle, with 8 hours elapsing without the meat cooking at all, only emerging slightly toasted.

Discovery of carcasses showing signs of mutilation in various stages (up to 3 stages) in a short span of time.

Verification of the perfect preservation of a body in which 60% of its hide and hair were included, after a period of 3 years. Rigidity of the ocular orb due to exposure to a high source of light or heat.

Verification of extreme hardness in the hides, resulting from exposure to radiation.

Verification of states of deterioration and degradation caused in carcasses whose original position had been moved, without natural putrefaction ever occurring.

Verification of the existence of nearly conical imprints of unknown origin in the ground, proportionally distributed (with a depth of 15 cm, an upper diameter of 10 cm and a hexagonal format) and very close to the carcasses.

Discovery of carcasses beyond the perimeters of farms and ranches.

Discovery of animals in atypical postures: on their stomachs, on their backs (legs in the air), with depressions of 5-10 cm beneath them.

Verification of the existence of hematomas, internal bruising and fracturing in animals - facts that would suggest the animals being hurled or dropped from a height.

Discovery of animals with blue and emerald-green eyes; others displaying signs of blindness.

Verification of the existence of incisions that suggest the use of hitherto unknown technologies.

Verification of the existence of a pathogen in various parts of the body, greenish-blue in color and of unknown origin.

Verification of cattle mutilation in unborn specimens that were still within the cows' wombs.

With regard to the draining of water tanks, it has been possible to find evidence of effects on sub-aquatic flora growing within the tank - notorious changes in coloring, flattening and spiral shape, suggesting the possibility of their disappearance through suction.

The Impact of burns on insects and toads within the same water tanks was also ascertained.

With regard to the condition of the pastures in locations where the mutilated cattle had been located, these areas showed a distinct change in coloration presumably resulting from the impact of electromagnetic radiation. The disappearance of microfauna was also observed.

The foregoing arises from the research conducted by *Ciufos-La Pampa* in over 300 cattle mutilation cases that have occurred in La Pampa and western Buenos Aires province. This was made possible through the collaboration and advice of experts from a number of fields of endeavor.

The first chemical compounds detected outside of Argentina in mutilation cases suggested the existence of oxyndol in very high, atypical concentrations. It is believed that the sedative properties achieve positive results through gradual applications, rather than immediately, and would not produce severe burns such as the ones detected (except for unknown states of sublimation) and which would result in sudden death due to heart

attack.

The cases from La Pampa and neighboring areas revealed the presence of formaldehyde -- a chemical compound that manifests itself as a colorless gas with a penetrating odor -- on the animals. This chemical can be compressed until it achieves a liquid state.

Much like oxyndol, formaldehyde would lack the capacity to yield immediate effects with definite results, under normal circumstances. It can be lethal in higher concentrations. It has aseptic/disinfectant properties and is used in the preservation of samples and cadavers, and can produce skin, eye, nose and throat irritation in humans.

These pathologies were detected by witnesses and researchers alike when approaching the carcasses. Odors similar to ether and formaline were detected, and their presence would have kept vermin and carrion animals from coming close. It should be noted that in two specific cases of consumption of meat from mutilated animals, the flesh had an acid and bitter taste, and could only be eaten after boiling.

In one of the cases in which the parties involved are a witness and the pack of dogs he employs for small game hunting, [consumption of the meat] resulted in a soporific condition that went from 22:00 hours on one day to 17:00 hours the next, continuously.

Opinions posited by professional veterinarians at the time suggested that given the presence of formaldehyde, human involvement could not be dismissed. These chemical agents or compounds, having narcotic and preservative properties, provide a heightened degree of aspepsia which affected witnesses and researchers alike, causing them to manifest such pathologies as impact on the eyes and airways, allergies of undetermined origin, significant weight loss, alteration of melanin levels, lack of bodily stability, liver and intestinal trouble, hair loss, weight increase in muscular mass, intense muscular aches, alteration of normal values in clinical tests, etc. While the mutilation phenomenon centered largely on cattle, it has also affected horses, sheep, dogs, cats, hens, rabbits, domesticated pigs, wild pigs, deer, llamas, guanacos and even humans, as evidenced by the case histories.

Finally, it should be noted that there were specific cases in which the animals involved could survive [the mutilations], but had to be put down due to the extent of their injuries.

In closing, we can remark that the presence of Intelligence with a thorough knowledge is at work. The existence of various stages of genetic manipulation would undoubtedly become evident as well. — Raul Oscar Chaves

August 7, 2007 — *Territorio Digital*, Argentina — Entre Rios Province: Growing Concern over Mutilated Animals — Cattlemen from the department of Parana, Entre Rios, reported finding strangely mutilated animals in this province.

The animals, all of them beef cattle, have had their genitals, tongues and udders removed, according to peasants.

The circumstance repeats itself relatively frequently in rural locations of this province and occurred this time in fields near Tabossi and Viale, to the northeast of the provincial capital. Abel Gunter, one of the affected cattlemen, described the situation as "strange" and claimed that rural dwellers are displaying "concern" and intrigue over the mysterious animal deaths.

"We say that extraterrestrials are coming to mutilate our cows," said the cattleman in an interview with a local station. He insisted that there is "something odd" in the animal deaths, because dogs and wild animals in the area generally feed off of the dead cow remains, but refuse to approach the mutilated specimens.

"This is very strange, because no wild animal comes close to eat the remains of the dead cows," he said. Gunter explained that he found a mutilated cow in a densely wooded region in his fields and added that "the animal has such a perfect cut on its jaw that it inspires bewilderment."

The cattleman added that similar events have occurred in neighboring fields and disclosed that the cow found dead on his property "has a burn on its hind leg that extends up to the knee," and whose origin he cannot explain. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez, *Planeta UFO*

August 10, 2007 — *www.analuisacid.com* — Reports from Airliner Personnel by Ana Luisa Cid — According to information provided by researcher Alfonso Salazar, aviation technician Domingo Caballero observed three objects having a metallic appearance on Sunday, August 5, 2007 at 12:00 p.m. as they flew over Mexico City International Airport at an estimated altitude of 10,000 feet. They flew from north to south and displayed an intense glow as they wove in and out of the clouds. Subsequently, two of the objects remained stationary while the third flew away toward the Mount Ajusco region.

Another report is dated August 4, 2007, when the crew of a Boeing 737 flying the Manzanillo-Mexico City route, witnessed an unidentified flying object with the shape of a horseshoe and having a metallic appearance on the San Mateo air corridor (north of Mexico City).

The airliner's first officer - who said it was the first time he'd seen a UFO - says that the object remained static next to the air corridor at an approximate altitude of 9000 feet (2700 meters). This happened as they made their approach to MCIA at 5 p.m. and with good visibility. The skies were clear and cloudless. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid & Alfonso Salazar

August 11, 2007 — *EIDia*, Coquimbo, Chile — CHILE: Coquimbo's Phantom Train — On a dark night, some all-terrain vehicles made their way along an unpaved road. Their drivers had just gotten off the shift at the Vulcano mining concern and were on their way back to Coquimbo and La Serena.

The first vehicle was driven by Mario and the second by an anonymous geologist. Both vehicles carried mining personnel who were ready to enjoy a few days of rest. The total complement was eight, some of them from Cerro Blanco.

The atmosphere was serene and the personnel at ease, since they were looking forward to their furlough. Mario was driving at some 70 km an hour along a perfectly straight, 15 km. stretch of road across a flat landscape. The Andean cordillera was behind him and the shoreline was in the distance ahead of them.

They were about to get on the Pan-American Highway, where they would make a left turn and head south. No one recalls the exact time, but it was agreed that it must have been around midnight.

"Suddenly I heard a loud noise, similar to when an earthquake is about to begin, only without any movement. It was like a subterranean noise, and then a powerful light appeared in the darkness. I braked, but not abruptly, and Aldo (the driver of the second vehicle) did the same. A locomotive pulling three cars crossed our paths. The cars had their lights, were well-lit, and we could hear the sound of people, as if engaged in conversation," said Mario.

This story was analyzed and the conclusion was reached that no such train could have existed, as it had been eliminated years ago. The case, dating from the year 2000, is still in the hands of the Instituto de Investigacion y Estudios Exobiologicos. — CREDIT: Raul Nunez, *IIEE*

August 16, 2007 — *CIUFOS/LAPAMPA*, La Pampa, Argentina — ARGENTINA: NEW CATTLE MUTILATIONS IN LA PAMPA — *** A Report from Raul Oscar Chaves *** — On July 30, 2007, two beef cattle specimens were found slain and mutilated at the "San Jorge" ranch located on Provincial Route No. 28, between rural routes 11 and 13 and between the locality of Cuchillo Co (some 250 km south of Santa Rosa) and the Sierras de Lihue Calel.

The mutilated cows were black Aberdeen Angus specimens with missing ears, tongues, incisions to their jawbones and missing udders. One of them was lying on its side and another on its back; the carcasses presented signs of extreme hardness in the limbs and hide. Upon being struck with a stick "... they sounded hollow, like a drum..."

Witnesses to the find were Marcelino Martinez and Hector Ruiz, a rural contractor and his employee, who were refurbishing and building rural homes.

It should be noted that there is no rural electricity in this region, and electrogenous units (generators) are employed for power. This circumstance keeps the locals from having access to television or radio (battery units excluded) and the only residents in the area are either transient or temporary.

At midnight on the night prior to the find, Ruiz decided to go out of the place he shares with Martinez to walk and smoke. It was here, and unexpectedly, that he saw a bright source of light at low altitude. It remained static "and gave out lights on all sides--red, green, blue, yellow..."

The light, whose width was equivalent to the length of a cattle cage used for transporting livestock (some 10/12 meters), according to Ruiz's comparison, vanished after a few seconds and another smaller light appeared on the ground, but this time an intense bright green.

Within this light was "a small being standing some 50-70 centimeters tall, who remained motionless..." At this point, Ruiz specifies "...I cannot say if it had a head and ears, but it was humanlike, since to legs could be seen..." This sighting lasted only a few seconds before the entity vanished altogether. The witness was deeply impressed by what he had seen, and decided to go back to bed and sleep.

Subsequently, and as is customary during work breaks, Ruiz and Martinez decided to explore the vicinity. Martinez found one of the cows in the proximity of a cutwater; the other cow was also found near another cutwater, both located within the rural premises. At this point they decided to inspect the place where Ruiz had seen the lights, some 40 meters from the place they spent the night. On the ground they located four holes measuring 2 cm in diameter and some 20 cm distant from each other, forming a square.

This ranch (San Jorge) was also the scene for several cases involving cow, horse, sheep and goat mutilations between 2002 and 2004. Both Martinez and Ruiz live in General Acha, some 120 km south of Santa Rosa, stating that in the area where the animals were found, it is quite common to see lights of various types and colors. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

August 16, 2007 — *La Teja*, Costa Rica — Costa Rica: UFO at Playa Conchal — ***A report from Ana Luisa Cid*** — According to an article in the *La Teja* newspaper dated August 16 2007, paramedic Ricardo Hernandez of the Servicio de Vigilancia Aerea managed to photograph a UFO flying over the sea from Playa Conchal.

This occurred on July 29, 2007 and the photographic sequence appears in the aforementioned newspaper, as part of [an] article from reporter Jeison Granados.

Mr. Hernandez states: "I was taking pictures of my son. The time was just about five o'clock. When I took the photos there was nothing to be seen, but the next day, when I downloaded them to the computer, I saw a very strange flying object -- something I'd never seen before." — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

August 21, 2007 — *El Manana*, Valles, Mexico — ***A Report from Ana Luisa Cid*** — According to a news item published on August 21, 2007 by the *El Manana* newspaper, two unidentified flying objects allegedly fell in Valles and Xilitla (San Luis Potosi). The first of them was reported on the evening of Sunday, August 19 and the second during early morning hours of Monday the 20th.

Reporters Antonio Martinez and Maribor Villalobos state that the initial report was received by Jose Angel Avalos, an officer on duty at the Centro de Control y Comando (C4) through the 066 call line. This report was from Ruben Velazquez, who stated that a silver object measuring 20 cm long had fallen from the sky in a plot of land of the San Miguel collective farm.

Another witness, high school student Oscar Gonzalez Mar, a resident of the El Sidral collective farm, told the *El Manana* newsroom that he had seen a shining object streaming across the skies toward the Gulf of Mexico between 8 and 9 p.m. on August 19 before he lost it from sight. Not knowing whether the object crashed or not.

Nearly two and a half hours after the San Miguel incident, Mrs. Saturnina Castillo reported from Xilitla that an object resembling a fireball had impacted a tree in a property located near the "Montoya" metal shop, owned by her husband Juan Montoya, adding that the tree had caught fire.

Joaquin Hernandez was a direct witness to the sighting. He and his family prepare zacahuil and live next to where the object hit the ground. In fact, Hernandez was preparing the zacahuil batter and he saw the "fireball" as it came down over the tree. Afraid that no one would believe him, he screamed for Juan Montoya and his wife to witness the tree bough catching fire.

He added that it was a highly unusual thing to see, as there was no thunder or storm activity that could lead anyone to think it had been a stroke of lightning.

The incident was reported to the Municipal Civil Protection unit, but no investigation was conducted. — CREDIT: Ana Luisa Cid

September 5, 2007 — *The Journal of Hispanic Ufology* — "Research on Mexico's Balloons - September 2007" by Ana Luisa Cid — While reviewing videos at the YouTube site, I found some recordings that I found interesting, particularly because they present objects that resemble "worms in the sky":

<http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=4reRFOcvTYc>

<http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=kJ2GK0grzLE>

<http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=bDFfO5-zvLI>

Upon reading the explanation offered by the author, his honesty comes to the forefront as he specifies that the objects in question are balloons.

Given the importance of these images to the study of ufology, I got in touch with the author, Mr. Jose Castellanos, who kindly told me that the video is dated June 29, 2007 and was recorded at 4:22 in the afternoon in Rosarito, Baja California (Mexico).

After learning about Mr. Castellanos's recording, some questions about "worms in the sky" have been answered, since this ratifies that their origin stems from human creativity, manifested as long wreaths of

balloons, by virtue of the fact that a high percentage of [these unexplained images] display similar characteristics.

According to another researcher, who has asked me to withhold his name, clusters of these balloons are released over Mexico City with certain regularity, from the Museo del Papalote in Chapultepec Park.

Recently, Jose Castellanos uploaded another fragment of his video to YouTube where aside from elongated structures, the viewer can see dozens of individual balloons making up a cluster or "flotilla."

It should be noted that it is possible to detect the "string" of the balloons in certain scenes, as the author himself explained, highlighting that they form a triangle in the sky and that some ascend while others descend, without even movements, suggesting that these maneuvers may be commonplace in a cluster of balloons.

<http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=OQI0BxBpYkc>
<http://es.youtube.com/watch?v=59AgRcUYQLs>

In closing, I would only like to thank Mr. Jose Castellanos for his authorization and collaboration in this report, while expressing my admiration for his work, since there is no question that his research is of considerable value for the study of unidentified flying objects.

Sincerely,
Prof. Ana Luisa Cid

September 17, 2007 — *Circulo Ovnologico Riocuartense (COR)*, Argentina — ARGENTINA: Researcher Photographs Two UFOs in Cordoba

Location: Villa Quillinzo, Departamento Calamuchita, Cordoba, Argentina.
Date: 10 September 2007
Time: 14:30
Camera Used: Panasonic digital, 5mpx with zoom
Photographer: Hector Serpez
Location: From his home

Mr. Hector Serpez, a member of the *Circulo Ovnologico Riocuartense (COR)* was at his home in Villa Quillinzo, Cordoba, Argentina on Monday, September 10, 2007 at 14:30 hours when he saw a strange object in the sky that captured his attention.

He went looking for his new digital camera, a 5-megapixel Panasonic, and took three photos of the object. Given that the object did not appear on the camera's screen in two of the photos, he erased them from the memory, leaving only one.

While in the company of relatives in the city of Rio Cuarto, he asked a nephew to download his photos to a computer. He was thus able to ascertain that the object photographed days earlier could be clearly seen.

On Monday, September 17, 2007, Serpez contacted the COR's director to report the incident and decided to print a copy of this photo. Once the process was made, he met with the COR's director at noon and both agreed that it was not a bird, given its apparent altitude and the size of the object photographed. The COR's director was left in charge of performing a computerized digital analysis of the photo in question.

[This analysis] has been issued, concluding that under study with the PhotoShop 7 program and carried to its maximum enlargement, there is no chance that it could be a bird. The analysis has determined that the image does not show a single object, but rather 2, with the second being to the forefront and to the bottom left of the first. In the strictest sense of the word, two Unidentified Flying Objects appear in the photo.

The photographer's character is beyond question and his knowledge of ufology has made him a governing member of the COR group. This is the first time that Mr. Serpez has photographed a UFO despite repeated observations unaided or with binoculars throughout his life. — CREDIT: Mario Bracamonte, COR

August 16, 2007 — *TIMES*, Santiago, Chile — UFO ENTHUSIASTS GATHER IN CHILE'S REGION VII by Benjamin Witte {benwitte@santiagotimes.cl} — A National Ufology Conference is set to take place this weekend near the Region VII mountain town of San Clemente. Ufology - sometimes spelled UFOlogy - is the study of all phenomena related to Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs).

The convention begins Friday, Aug. 17 and is organized by San Clemente's City Hall and Tourism Chamber. It also enjoys backing from the Chilean government's National Tourism Service (SERNATUR).

"It's great for us if the UFO phenomenon can serve also as a tourist attraction, encouraging visitors to get to know Region VII's mountain zone, which has such a tremendous biological value," said SERNATUR head Oscar Santelices.

The gathering will take place in the Refugio Nacional Biota Maule, located in Vilches near the entrance of the Altos de Lircay National Reserve. Chilean ufologists say the Reserve is a common place for UFO sightings.

"This is an emblematic place in Chile where UFOs have appeared regularly. It's a hot spot, a window for observing UFOs in Chile," Rodrigo Fuenzalida, director of Chile's Ufology Investigation Group (AION), told the *Santiago Times*. "The idea behind the gathering is to forge an alliance between researchers and the Chilean government in order to promote the San Clemente area as a center for a different kind of tourism."

A similar gathering took place this past February in Vina del Mar, Region V (ST, Feb. 8). The highlight of that Meeting was a display of photographs taken by members of Chile's Armed Forces. Captured on one of those photographs was an image of a spherical metallic object flying over Antarctica. Also presented during the conference was a video recorded in 2000 of Navy ships being pursued by a luminous object.

A more recent UFO sighting took place in May - near the Collahuasi mine in Region I. On that occasion, a very large, spherical object hovered in the sky for a full 24 hours.

"It's an emblematic case because people were able to video record it. It had a very large structure and was seen by a lot of people... It was enormous, with shiny metal, and the whole time it was just stationary," said Fuenzalida.

As part of the upcoming event, Fuenzalida will deliver a presentation entitled "UFOs, The Best Images in Chile." Other speakers will include psychiatrist Mario Dussuel, journalist Enrique Silva, and Marcelo Moya, a researcher.

According to Fuenzalida and his colleagues, Chile has a number of particularly good UFO viewing sites, among them Huara, in Region I's Atacama Desert; Region V's Laguna Verde area; and Punta Arenas and Puerto Natales in Region XII.

"Chile is a place that has recurring sightings," the AION director said. "Keep in mind that of all the cases that occur in Chile, only 5 percent are reported in the press."



IN SEARCH OF THE WILD MAN

BY BILL SHERWONIT



"I was never afraid of anything," Sam Stepanoff recalls, "not even in the dark."

An Aleut resident of Perryville and, later, Chignik Lake (villages on the lower Alaska Peninsula), Stepanoff learned wilderness survival skills from village elders at a young age and felt no anxiety about camping alone, even as a boy.

But once, at age 14, he lost his usual cool.

Out harvesting sea urchins with friends one night, Stepanoff heard a dog barking in the nearby mountains. Recognizing it as his dog that had run off four days earlier, he followed the howls into the hills and tracked it down. As he stooped to pick up the dog, "the alders made some noise right beside me, and I saw a person. I thought it was the boys; we used to play around, scare each other. I said, 'Knock it off, I know who you are.' But it didn't move, so I shined a flashlight and it was a man, his face just pure wrinkles. I said, 'Who are you?' but got no answer. He's just looking at me, not speaking. I got so scared I dropped my dog and went down the cliff. I ran to where [the others] were gathering wood for a bonfire, and told them what I'd seen, and they took off running, too."

Back in Perryville, Stepanoff shared his story with the village elders, who searched the hill but found nothing, not even tracks. The elders told him other "hairy guys" had been seen in the hills; occasionally they'd come into the village and rob fish from smokehouses.

Over the years, my imagination has been stirred by periodic reports of giant, shaggy primates roaming the forests of North America. Like many people, I've wondered: are they physically real? Invented? Imagined?

A middle-aged reading of Robert Bly's *Iron John* — a book that introduces readers to the "Wild Man," a mythical Indo-European being — led me back into ancient, shadowed forests and sent me on my own search for the archetypal figure. Until then, I'd never linked the two creatures. Now I can't help wondering how Western culture's repression of its own Wild Man relates to Americans' schizophrenic fascination with that hairy anthropoid variously known as Bigfoot or Sasquatch.

It turns out I'm not alone in my curiosity. Among the dozens of books written about Sasquatch and his hirsute contemporaries is Robert Michael Pyle's *Where Bigfoot Walks: Crossing the Dark Divide*. Pyle's book stands apart from most other works of the genre by considering the creature's mythical roots.

Only a few pages into his narrative, Pyle reflects, "Certain social anthropologists like to consign Bigfoot to the category of archetypal myth . . . But is there more to it than that? Looking at the traditions of Northwest Coast Indians, we see through the moss and the mist a furry figure who fits that deep myth of the monster-beyond-the-fire-circle, while clutching about itself a coarse-haired cloak of reality."

Pyle then tells us about the Kwakiutl tribe of Washington and British Columbia, whose world includes Bukwus, the Wild Man of the woods, and Dzonoqua, the Wild Woman.

Roaming the forest's deep shadows, they are local, indigenous manifestations of Sasquatch, with one critical difference. The Kwakiutl accept these wild folk the same way they accept frogs, spruce trees, bears, and salmon: as part of their literal, physical world.

The Kwakiutl tribe is just one among many Native American groups who include wild people in their world.

Here in Alaska, Interior-dwelling Athabascans share the boreal forest with the Nuhu'anh, literally, "the sneaker," but nowadays more commonly called the Woodsman. And throughout the state's southern regions, residents tell stories of creatures who, by most accounts, are dark-haired, larger than people, reclusive, solitary, nocturnal, and a forest- or mountain-dweller. Almost always, these beings are "Hairy Men," not women. Sometimes gentle, other times menacing, they never seem to speak, but they may scream, whistle, or imitate animal sounds. To many southwestern Eskimos, this being is Urayuli. To Lake Iliamna's Athabascans, he is Get'gun, to Southeastern Tlingits, Kushtaka, to Bristol Bay's Yup'iks, A-hoo-la-luk, and to the Alutiiq he is A'ula'ats or A'ula'aqs.

Of all those Alaskan beings, I'm most familiar with the Hairy Man, whom I met, second-hand, in the early nineties.

I began hearing stories about the Hairy Man in 1993, while working on a project for the tribally run Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation. My job required that I talk with many of the region's Native leaders and elders. Besides sharing their

(continued on page 18)

memories of traditional healing practices, the influence of Christian missionaries, and introduced diseases that killed thousands of Native residents, a few storytellers shared tales of huge, hairy, human-like creatures. I began collecting their stories in notebooks and on audiotapes and, over time, compiled an impressive record of encounters.

Ted Angasan's stories immediately come to mind. A westerner listening to this Aleut's quiet but earnest accounts might say that Angasan truly believes in Hairy Man. But that would be like saying that you or I believe in whales, or northern lights, or Jupiter. In the same way that Bukwus inhabits the Kwakiutl's homeland and the Woodsman roams the Koyukon landscape, the Hairy Man is as much a part of Angasan's world as bears, birds, and trees. He requires no proof and offers none. But he has stories to tell that speak of the creature's existence.

In the late 1950s, Angasan told me, one of his teenage pals reported seeing a hairy, humanlike creature near the village of South Naknek. The friend, named Peter, had surprised the animal as it lay on some 55-gallon fuel drums. Panicked and alone, Peter grabbed his gun, shot — and missed. The creature, in turn, screamed loudly, and then took off running.

Peter ran, too, and didn't stop until he reached the village, where he told of his meeting with Hairy Man. Most people remained skeptical. "They thought he'd seen everything but a Hairy Man," Angasan recalled. "But I believed. You can tell when a guy is lying or not. He was scared to death." Angasan then paused a moment, as if sorting through memories, before adding, "I know the story is true, because I've seen it too."

Angasan saw Hairy Man in 1985, while on a commercial flight from Kululak Bay to Dillingham, the region's largest town. Passing over forested mountains near the village of Manokotak, he noticed an unusual form below: "There was this giant thing sitting in the trees. He looked like, not quite a gorilla, but dark and full of hair. I'd say, from the trees around him, he was between seven and 10 feet tall."

When I suggested the creature might have been a bear, Angasan shook his head and replied, "Uh-uh. I'm color blind, so I look for shapes. I could see his eyes and his head, his whole body. He was looking at us, watching us fly by; he didn't seem bothered at all. But he was a Hairy Man, all right."

Besides the stories themselves, what stands out in my memory is that Angasan told them in a dispassionate, matter-of-fact manner. There was no attempt to convince me or sensationalize the experience. If anything, he seemed reluctant to say any more than necessary. Yet the fact that they are his stories makes them all the more believable, because this soft-spoken man is a respected leader within his community. Among other things, he has served as the Bristol Bay Native Corporation's executive director and represented the region on Alaska's Inter-Tribal Council. From a western perspective he's articulate, politically savvy, sharp. In both worlds, Native and Western, he's a credible witness.

Then there's John Gumlickpuk, a Yup'ik elder who once encountered a Hairy Man near Togiak, where he was born in 1906. Then in his early 30s, he went outside at sunrise and met a man covered with long hair. "He was as big as us, but hairy all over," Gumlickpuk recounted. "The only place he didn't have hair was his face."

Startled by Gumlickpuk, the man quickly ran away. Speedy exits are characteristic of many Bristol Bay Hairy Men, which by most accounts can run incredibly fast. They can also jump high and far, sometimes over rivers or trees. John Gumlickpuk's wife, Elena, tells of a Hairy Man who was spotted by a woman washing clothes. When confronted, she says, "he jump off, way far. He could jump over high bushes and really run fast."

Stepanoff, Angasan, and the Gumlickpuks are among the many people throughout Alaska — mostly Native and mostly rural — who acknowledge the existence of a large, hair-covered, two-footed creature that is human or apelike in nature.

Scientists and other researchers have so far shown less interest in Alaska's hairy bipeds than in Sasquatch or Yeti. Of the half-dozen Sasquatch/Bigfoot books at Anchorage's public library — books aimed at a general audience — I could find none that mentioned Hairy Man. From an academic perspective, the anthropologists who've documented Alaska Hairy Men stories have tended to treat them as Native mythical beings, rather than real creatures; not surprising, given their scientific bias. One notable exception to that rule is Anchorage resident Patricia Partnow, who studied the Alutiiq people of Southwest for her dissertation with the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In one section of her work, Partnow describes a group of outsiders known to the Alutiiq as A'ula'ats or A'ula'aqs, while avoiding judgments about their reality.

"A'ula'aqs are not human," she observes, "though it is possible for them to be mistaken for people and for people who go to live with them to take on their characteristics." Strong and hairy, they are dangerous beings who lure people away from human society. Much like Dracula, they can be warded off with crosses or holy water, but "the best strategy with A'ula'aqs," writes Partnow, "is to avoid them altogether."

Not all Natives believe A'ula'aqs to be supernatural or "other than human." Several Southwestern residents interviewed by both Partnow and me believe such creatures to be runaways, ranging from members of their own tribes to AWOL servicemen and "hippies" who've "gone wild." But nearly all are similar in these respects: they are not normal; and they usually pose some sort of danger associated with what Partnow calls "an irresistible power which can only be countered by quick minds and feet and powerful religious (i.e., Russian Orthodox) beliefs."

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has not undertaken a Hairy Man study, says Jim Fall, an anthropologist with the state's Subsistence Division. And yet he's often heard Dena'ina Athabascans — some of whom live in and around Anchorage — speak of Nant'inas: large, shaggy creatures that "are fairly malevolent

and dangerous. One of the themes is that they [like the Woodsman] steal children and raise them in the wild." From a Western perspective, Fall adds, "One could speculate that the origins of these stories might come from outcasts or social misfits not subject to traditional norms, and therefore dangerous."

"The thing you have to remember about Native beliefs," he says, "is that boundaries between humans and other creatures are often blurred. There's no question that Nant'ina is part of Dena'ina reality."

The parallels are striking. From arctic boreal woodlands to Washington's old-growth forest, and as far south as California, the wild people of Native lore are as real as any creature that inhabits the landscape.

But they're also mysterious beings that move through the shadows, only rarely showing themselves. They also may possess superhuman, or supernatural, abilities. Though no one knows their origins for sure, each region has legends that suggest these wild folk are social outcasts or misfits, people who left the human world for a more primitive or even animal-like existence. And while many stories describe them as tricksters or even malicious beings who sometimes steal children, these wild men and women usually seem more shy than dangerous. In all of these aspects of the Wild Man, what seems important are the human ties and supernatural elements, which harken back to Western stories from the Middle Ages and more ancient times.

Few cultures, past or present, have lacked a human-faced hairy monster, giant, or wild man in one form or another, whether myth or "real." Such shadowy creatures lurk, mostly hidden, across the planet, including in Western societies — a reminder of the wildness concealed within everything, even "civilized" human beings. The best known outside the Pacific Northwest is the Himalayan Yeti, or abominable snowman. But the residents of southwest Russia's Caucasus Mountains tell stories of another hairy man, named Quidili; and reports of strange hairy primates have also come from western China. Still other hairy monsters inhabit islands, deserts, and even the tropics. In his book, Pyle lists several: the Cigouave, a Haitian forest beast tied to voodoo; the South Pacific's Orenge-Pendek of Borneo and Sumatra; Malaysia's Orang-Dalam; and East Africa's Agogue. "There are," he adds, "swamp beasts galore, the Moth man, the Gray Man of the Carolinas, and a wide array of troglodytes."

Because their experience of what's "real" has remained much broader than that of Euro-Americans, our country's indigenous peoples have left more room in their worlds for the likes of Bukwus, Hairy Man and their wild kin, even in this modern era. Even this may be changing, though, as older traditions and beliefs fade in a world where TVs, computers, and the Internet bring new realities and mysteries.

Given my background I naturally find the physical existence of such Hairy Men — and their acceptance by many Alaska Natives — to be incredible. Once upon a time, I would have said "unbelievable." But now I'm not so sure. Surely the Hairy Man is no more amazing than some of what's in the Bible. Or what scientists have discovered about the origins of the universe and life on our small, blue planet.

The older I get and the more I learn, the more room I leave for the mysterious, the fantastic and magical. I'm open to the possibility of Hairy Man and his kind, because I've come to realize there's so much we don't — indeed, can't — know about this wide, wild world.

No culture, Pyle muses, "has ever been so confused as ours as to what it really believes. Are we such wonderful observers of the natural world that we should expect to know everything that looms, walks, creeps, or grows outside our doors or beyond the city wall?"

I like that gentle jab. I'm reminded how the simple act of bird feeding expanded my own small world, which suddenly exploded with songbirds and their melodious voices after 43 years of inattention. I'm reminded that I largely ignored the spring and summertime wonders of Anchorage's coastal refuge for more than two decades. And I'm reminded that ecologists now believe we modern humans have discovered only a tiny fraction of the species with whom we share the Earth. Our greatest minds admit how little we understand the workings of our planet, despite the past century's explosion of knowledge and technological advances. Wildness — like the Hairy Man, it seems — is capable of popping up anywhere.

Yet all too often we won't take seriously what we can't see or hold onto or measure: the invisibles of life. If we only value and protect that which we know and love, where does that leave the portions of creation that fall beyond the scope of our knowledge? Only by getting to know wild nature will we learn to embrace and cherish and preserve it, both within ourselves and as manifested in myriad other forms, in the larger, more-than-human world.

The good news is that wildness reaches everywhere, from the far wilderness to the innermost pockets of our biggest cities. We can each choose where, in what form, and in what way we get to know the wild. In touching the Wild Man, we learn to better love the world. And in loving the world, we embrace our own richly wild essence. ♦



This story is adapted from a longer essay, which will appear in Bill Sherwonit's book, *Living with Wildness: An Alaskan Odyssey*, to be published this winter by the University of Alaska Press.

Agency labels cattle deaths as possible mutilation

In the report, New Mexico Livestock Board inspector Matthew Romero states that one cow was on its right side and its udder had been removed, with the cut indicating that a sharp instrument was used.

The other cow was upright with all four legs tucked underneath it, the report states. The cow was intact.

Romero states in the report that he couldn't determine a cause of the cattle deaths, but he said Tuesday that lighting may have killed one of them.

"We're not sure what happened. It's a possible mutilation. It didn't fit the classic pattern of a mutilation," he said.

By David Giuliani
Las Vegas Optic

Rancher Joe Quintana can't explain why two of his cows were killed in late July, but a state agency is classifying the crime as a possible cattle mutilation.

On the morning of July 29, Quintana found the cattle dead at his ranch, near N.M. Highway 104 halfway between Las Vegas and Tucumcari.

According to a state report, no evidence of a struggle or trauma could be found. Nor was there any sign of a predator or human activity in the area, it states.



Courtesy photo
Two cattle were found dead at a ranch halfway between Las Vegas and Tucumcari in late July. A state inspector called it a possible cattle mutilation.

See Cattle, Page A2

After a year as a livestock board inspector, Romero said he has investigated two other cases that may have been mutilations. But in one of those cases, predators had started to eat away at the bodies, which hurt the investigation, he said.

He referred further questions to his supervisor, Ray Baca, who promised an interview later Tuesday, which didn't happen.

Quintana said he bought his cows in Kansas in the spring and that they were healthy. He said he is willing to defend his property, noting that the two \$1,600 Angus cows were insured.

"I carry my rifle out here, and I'll apprehend (suspects)

and hold them for the sheriff. I hope it doesn't happen again," he said.

However, he said that because the deaths of the cattle were so mysterious, it may have been the work of aliens or a secretive government agency. For decades, ranchers have reported mysterious mutilations around the West and have pushed similar theories.

However, skeptics say the deaths are caused by misrepresented natural processes, according to Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia.

"I've never experienced anything like this," said Quintana, who has ranched much of his life. "My neighbors haven't either."

DESERET NEWS, Salt Lake City, UT - July 21, 2007

Bigfoot expedition makes a quick visit to Uinta Mountains

By Steve Fidel
Deseret Morning News

WASHINGTON LAKE, Uintah County — Just how big Bigfoot's foot might be varies depending on whom you ask. A group in Utah on Thursday and Friday would be glad to speculate with you.

Jim Boudousquie, from Birch Bay, Wash., measured a track he found in his home state at 17.5 inches long by 7 inches in width. Boudousquie is interested enough in the Bigfoot phenomenon to join about 40 others who

paid \$300 apiece to be part of the Bigfoot Field Research Organization's current expedition, which focused its Utah stop in the Uinta Mountains Thursday and Friday before scurrying to another expedition site, probably in Wyoming.

When expedition organizer Matt Moneymaker guesses what a reporter's first question will be, he shoots out, "Yes that is my real name," not "yes, there really is a Bigfoot."

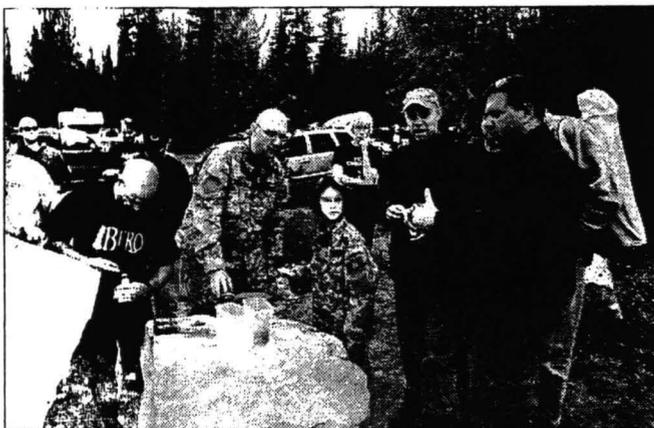
Or a species of Bigfoots. Enthusiasts who joined Moneymaker's expedition used both "it" and "they" to describe their experiences with sights, sounds and markings that might confirm the existence of the elusive beast.

Utahn Dave Broderick said the group was enthusiastic about a Utah visit, though the chance of hearing a unique sound during an overnight search was complicated by the fact the searchers were amid crowded campgrounds and their noises. Perhaps Moneymaker's group should get a briefing on the black bears that have encountered humans in Utah's mountain country this summer.

A short visit with the Bigfoot group revealed search-

ers from both coasts and a number of places in between. Army Maj. Tom Neemeyer, who has served a tour of duty in Iraq, found great interest in joining Moneymaker's expedition. Dressed in partial uniform and packing night-vision goggles, Neemeyer appeared to approach the nighttime search amid the campgrounds as a serious mission. For his daughter Judy, who turned 9 on Friday, it was an outing that meant time with Dad.

Boudousquie said he enjoys the "ecotourist" experience and has fun swapping stories with like-minded Bigfoot searchers. "Everybody's got their various reasons for being here," he said.



STEVE FIDEL, DESERET MORNING NEWS
Bigfoot Field Research Organization chief Matt Moneymaker, right, explains sound recording equipment to searchers in the Uintas.

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Woman says she may have head of mythical chupacabra

By Elizabeth White
The Associated Press

CUERO — Phylis Canion lived in Africa for four years. She's been a hunter all her life and has the mounted heads of a zebra and other exotic animals in her house to prove it.

But the roadkill she found last month outside of her ranch was a new one even for her, worth putting in a freezer hidden from curious onlookers: Canion believes she may have the head of the mythical bloodsucking chupacabra.

"It is one ugly creature," Canion said, holding the head of the mammal with big ears, large fanged teeth and grayish-blue, mostly hairless skin.

Canion and some of her neighbors discovered the 40-pound bodies of three of the animals over four days in July outside her ranch in Cuero, 90 miles southeast of San Antonio. Canion said she saved the head of the one she found so she can get to the bottom of its ancestry through DNA testing and then mount it for posterity.

She suspects, as have many rural denizens over the years, that the chupacabra may have killed up to 26 of her chickens in the last couple of years.

"I've seen a lot of nasty stuff. I've never seen anything like this," she said.

What tipped Canion to the possibility that this was no ugly coyote, but perhaps the legendary creature, is that the chickens weren't eaten or carried off — all the blood



AP/ERIC GAY

Phylis Canion holds the head of what she is calling a chupacabra at her home in Cuero on Friday. She found the strange looking animal dead outside her ranch and thinks it is responsible for killing many of her chickens.

was drained from them, she said.

Chupacabra means "goat sucker" in Spanish, and it is said to have originated in Latin America, specifically Puerto Rico and Mexico.

Canion thinks recent heavy rains ran them right out of their dens.

"I think it could have wolf in it," Canion said. "It has to be a cross between two or three different things."

She said the finding has captured the imagination of locals, just like purported sightings of Bigfoot or the Loch Ness Monster.

But what folks are calling a chupacabra is probably just a strange breed of dog, said veterinarian Travis Schaar of the Main Street Animal Hospital in nearby Victoria.

"I'm not going to tell you that's not a chupacabra. I just think in my opinion a chupa-

cabra is a dog," said Schaar, who has seen Canion's find.

He said the "chupacabras" could have all been part of a mutated litter of dogs, or that they may be a new kind of mutt.

As for the bloodsucking, Schaar said that this particular canine may simply have a preference for blood, letting its prey bleed out and licking it up clean.

Chupacabra or not, the discovery has spawned a local and international craze. Canion has started selling T-shirts that read: "2007, The Summer of the Chupacabra, Cuero, Texas" accompanied by a caricature of the creature. The \$5 shirts have gone all over the world, including Japan, Australia and Brunei. Schaar also said he has one.

"If everyone has a fun time with it we'll keep doing it," she said. "It's good for Cuero."

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THE REAL THING?

My wife and I were having dinner one night and we had the chance to meet Mr. Biscardi and his family. Both my wife and I were very intrigued by him and what he does. Had a chance to have a meeting with him regarding other business with a friend of mine, and, yes, he is a bigger-than-life individual, and he seems to be the real thing.

I have had three liver transplants and have all along believed that I would not perish of this great planet we call home. I have to admit that no matter what you believe in, if you are devout and strong-minded about the goal—in my case, living through what most doctors thought I would not—is a real possibility for everyone, including Mr. Biscardi.

In my honest opinion, there is a good possibility that Bigfoot exists. You yourself cannot deny this. Biscardi just believes that this is a real thing and is totally committed to his endeavor. Your article is a good one, but it is a bit biased towards him being a quack. There are many things out there that we just do not understand, so automatically discount them. Mr. Biscardi is an interesting person who will more than likely find or not what he is looking for.

Glad to be alive,

GEORGE PLAUT
SAN JOSE

BOHEMIAN, Santa Rosa, CA - July 25, 2007

THE REAL TOM BISCARDI

I am writing in reference to the story "Bigfoot Inc.," by Stett Holbrook (July 11). I must object to your publication giving such publicity to Tom Biscardi, a man, in my opinion, who is of dubious intent and little credibility.

In addition to the 2005 incident on *Coast to Coast AM* described in the article, Biscardi has been involved in a number of questionable ventures that leave his credibility in doubt.

In 2006, Biscardi desecrated a Native American burial site near Paris, Texas, and tried to pass off human remains as a skeletal Bigfoot. Biscardi was later compelled to return the remains in compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Also in 2006, Biscardi paraded around with a pickled bear paw in a jar and tried to pass it off as Bigfoot's hand. The limb was identified as a bear paw by scientists, including biology professor Alton Higgins.

In my personal opinion, Biscardi is a poor choice of subjects for an in-depth article for any respectable publication. Stett Holbrook seems to be aware of many reputable researchers like Loren Coleman and the people at the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, yet he chose to write about Biscardi.

In addition, Holbrook appears to at least have done some cursory background research on Biscardi, yet either failed to uncover the embarrassing incidents I outlined above or chose to ignore them.

Now that you are aware of Biscardi and what I can only describe as his shenanigans, please do not give this man any more attention. If we ignore him long enough, maybe he'll find something constructive to do with his time. And maybe Mr. Holbrook will find someone laudable to write about.

ANTHONY HARTMAN
NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y.