

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

& MEDIA REPORT - "A JOURNAL OF RECORD"

April 2008 - Number 465

Single Issue
\$7.50

Roderick Dyke & Chuck Flood, Editors
UFO Newsclipping Service - P.O. Box 10950 - Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Los Angeles, California
March 28, 2008
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COLUMN ONE

This guy has the lowdown on UFOs

The director of a reporting center and hotline does business from an old nuclear missile bunker. Why? Even he isn't sure.

By TOMAS ALEX TIZON
Times Staff Writer

Harrington, Wash.
"THAT DOOR," he says with dramatic pause. "That door weighs 4,000 pounds. It's been reinforced to withstand a nuclear blast."

Peter Davenport has a radio voice, the kind of exaggerated baritone that cuts through walls and most doors, but not this one. This is solid steel and a foot thick.

It is Davenport's door, which opens into a tunnel leading below ground to what was once a nuclear missile complex here in the desert of eastern Washington.

The Air Force decommissioned the site in the mid-1960s and it sat empty for most of the time since.

Davenport, longtime director of the National UFO Reporting Center, a nonprofit clearinghouse and 24-hour hotline for UFO sightings, bought it for \$100,000 two years ago to turn into his new headquarters.

Why does a man buy an old windowless missile complex deep underground, only to spend his days tracking unidentified objects flying through the sky?

Davenport doesn't have an answer. Furthermore, he doesn't need one. As a full-time UFO investigator and possessor of one of the world's most comprehensive, though unofficial, UFO databases, his life already runs counter to convention.

The center, in continuous operation since 1970, is known worldwide among those interested in UFOs: scientists as well as people surfing the Web. The hotline is posted on various UFO websites, and calls — as many as 20,000 in a year — come from people who believe they've seen or experienced something beyond the ordinary, potentially involving extraterrestrials.

If the case seems compelling and is a short flight away, Davenport will investigate in person. He takes written re-

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HIS MISSION: Davenport says that studying the few UFO sightings that can't be explained is of "immense consequence to every living thing."

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Photographs by INGRID BARRENTINE Associated Press

A SECURE SITE: Peter Davenport at the home of the National UFO Reporting Center in rural eastern Washington. Its files are quite safe — the complex can withstand a blast 50 times the power of the Hiroshima bomb.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
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Underground, looking up

"HE'S NOT the normal guy on the street, but crazy? No. He's not crazy," Robert B. Frost says of Davenport, whom he's known for most of the last two decades. The former chief engineer for Boeing's portion of the B-2 bomber project, Frost met Davenport, a fellow techie, in Seattle.

"The guy's brilliant," Frost says. "Personally, I think he's going to prevail on this thing."

By that, Frost means time will prove Davenport correct on his hunch that UFOs represent a real phenomenon.

Although mainstream science tends to dismiss the subject, along with Bigfoot and the Loch Ness monster, a number of prominent scientists and much of the public — as many as 60%, according to polls — believe UFOs exist and should be studied. As a corollary, a large number of astronomers believe life in other parts of the universe is not only possible but likely.

Among the famous, former President Carter, anthropologist Margaret Mead, psychiatrist Carl Jung and astronaut Gordon Cooper reported seeing a UFO or proclaimed a belief in UFOs as representing visitations from extraterrestrials.

Last fall, Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich, at the time running for the Democratic presidential nomination, made headlines by admitting he had seen, in the 1980s, a strange "triangular craft" hovering above a rural area of Washington state.

In a way, Davenport's destiny was sealed, by his own reckoning, at age 6. In 1954, while sitting in a car with his mother and brother at a drive-in theater in St. Louis, he looked out the window and, there in the sky, a bright red disc hovered then — whoosh — disappeared into the horizon.

"If there was a seminal moment," Davenport had said earlier. "That would be it."

He read and eventually wrote widely on the subject as a sideline to his education, which included earning degrees in biology and Russian at Stanford University and graduate degrees in genetics and the biochemistry of fish at the University of Washington. He became founding president of a Seattle-area biotechnology company, BioSyn Inc., and nine years later, in 1994, sold his stock and made a small fortune.

That same year, he got a phone call from Robert Gribble, a retired firefighter in Seattle, who for two decades had acted as a one-man clearinghouse for UFO information and operator of a 24/7 national UFO hotline (206-722-3000).

Gribble wanted to pass the torch. Davenport accepted and has been director of the National UFO Reporting Center since, keeping the same hotline and funding the operation out of his own pocket. Costs can range from \$500 to \$5,000 a month, depending on travel.

Davenport has few other expenses. He never married, never had kids. He drove old cars. For a dozen years he ran the center out of a rented home near Seattle's University District.

Then he got the notion that he wanted his own missile site.

"There was an allure to the idea," he says he told friends. Davenport, who had long been interested in aircraft and rocketry, had heard of missile silos for sale in eastern Washington.

One in particular was going for a bargain price: Atlas Missile Site No. 6, in which the previous owner had killed and dismembered a visitor. Long-haul truck driver Ralph Benson was convicted of murder in 2004 and was suspected in at least one other murder when he died in prison two years later. Davenport bought the site from Benson's sons.

"IDON'T know about the kind of people who buy these things," Davenport says, his voice trailing off in the darkness. He leaves the steel door propped open, and fumbles for lights.

A series of clicks, and the room turns pale yellow. He stands in an entryway, all concrete and steel, and dank like a cave. On each side is a tunnel.

He takes the tunnel to the right, clomps down a metal tube about 50 yards long. It is large enough for him to walk through without bending. The tube leads to a cave about the size of a basketball court. Piles of debris can be seen in the semi-darkness.

"Launch control room," he says with his radio voice.

Davenport offers up specs (corroborated by military documents): The ceilings are 16 feet high, the walls 18 inches thick. The complex, made of 3 million tons of concrete, can withstand a blast 50 times the power of the Hiroshima bomb at a distance of 1.6 miles.

He returns to the vestibule and enters the other tunnel, similarly constructed, which opens into another cavernous space: the missile room.

The complex was known as a "coffin launcher." This is where the Atlas missile rested flat. Above, the ceiling was a sliding metal door, which opened as hydraulics raised the rocket for launching.

Toward the back of the missile room, shrouded in darkness, sits Davenport's life work: a collection of tens of thousands of reports on UFO sightings from all over the world. He has files from long before the television show "The X-Files" brought the paranormal to prime time.

The information is meticulously labeled and filed in a long row of mismatched metal file cabinets. They form the shape of a miniature city skyline.

The plan was to live and work in here. But the site needed more work than expected. The place leaks. The ventilation isn't good, and there's a little bat problem.

For now, the center's phone and answering machine will stay at Davenport's Harrington apartment, a few miles away, until Missile Site No. 6 is fixed up. Davenport is doing most of the fixing up himself.

Shadows flicker as he shines his flashlight around. He walks to the nearest cabinet, opens a drawer and

randomly pulls out a thick sheaf of files. Call logs. A file for every month. A sampling of entries:

Jan. 6, 1995. 0:15. Warm Beach, WA. Two women observe a strange "rope of light," with a bright sphere attached.

Jan. 6, 1995. 17:30. Glendo, WY. Mother and son witness large glowing craft maneuver into cloud. Pursued by mil. aircraft.

Jan. 7, 1995. 5:00. Makapuu Point, HI. Man and wife observe bizarre hump-backed triangular object over sea. Opaque windows.

Davenport says that of the vast majority of UFO sightings, up to 90% are explainable: weather balloons, military aircraft, satellites and the like. Many more prove to be hoaxes.

But then there's the tiny percentage, maybe only a handful each year, where something was definitely seen — often by multiple reliable sources — and that defy explanation.

He believes that clues lie buried in these hill-sized mounds of paper that he has meticulously cataloged, if only the government or a university would do the research.

"I'm willing to share data," he says. "I'm willing to throw all of it to anyone who wants to know."

There have been few takers.

Someday, he says, a UFO event could take place that would prove irrefutable, and then people would be forced to make a leap in consciousness as big as stone-agers into cyberspace. If that happens, the files in this underground castle could take on new significance. Or not.

Either scenario comes with a burden. Arthur C. Clarke, author of the classic novel "2001: A Space Odyssey," who died this month in Sri Lanka, once said: "Either we are alone in the universe or we are not. Both are equally terrifying."

Davenport slams the drawer shut. He sighs.

Outside, the sun has set and the evening sky has darkened enough for celestial bodies to become visible. The constellation Orion appears in the southern sky, and Mars twinkles too.

"Not many people would waste their lives pursuing such an elusive subject," Davenport says on the drive home. His car is an 18-year-old gray Crown Victoria with a quarter-million miles. The windshield is cracked. "Sometimes I don't know why I do it."

Then he remembers Elger Berg of Seattle.

Berg was a carpenter and mechanic. He had waited 64 years to tell the story of something he had seen outside a small village in Alaska when he was a young man: a cigar-shaped craft with blue-green lights that flew over his head and disappeared into the mountains.

After hearing Davenport on the radio, Berg sought him out to tell him about the UFO. Four months later, in early 2001, Berg died at age 84.

His story, which Davenport captured on cassette, is the only record of the incident. If someone, anyone, ever wants to look into it for whatever reason, the tape and accompanying notes await in a safe place, in a city of file cabinets, under the desert.

tomas.alex.tizon@latimes.com

By John M. Glionna, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

A UFO cold case

Where's that power pole? And the guy who said he photographed a flying saucer above it? Two down-to-earth private eyes want to know.

CAPITOLA, CALIF. -- Private eye T.K. Davis has worked his share of oddball cases. Once he tracked down a one-armed woman wanted for child endangerment. He staked out a backyard to catch a guy throwing dirt clods into a pool. When you make your living answering life's mysterious questions at \$100 an hour, you take a few calls out of the blue.

He works the streets of this suburban town near Santa Cruz, where dog-walking mothers and aging hippies compete for beach time. Oh, sure, it might seem innocent enough, but it can get a little creepy if you let it. People might see things -- unusual objects in the sky, for instance -- and not say a thing for fear of being ridiculed.

At times like that, a private eye comes in handy. He can look around, ask a few hard questions -- even if it means risking his reputation built over 30 years as a deputy sheriff.

That's more or less where Davis finds himself now, behind the wheel of his blue Ford Explorer, with his partner Frankie Dixon. They're cruising down streets, looking at utility poles and trying to figure out: Is that the one in these three pictures, the pictures with the unidentified flying object?

The photographs came from -- surprise! -- the Internet. In May, someone using the name Raji posted them on Craigslist. All three show a lone wooden power pole with its jumble of crossbeams and wires. Hovering just above it is some kind of flying saucer.

The thing looks part campy "Star Trek" prop, part slapdash collection of handyman tools, with metallic limbs jutting from a cylindrical sphere. Examined closely, one of the arms bears some kind of writing.

Raji told people he took the photos in Capitola. Then he vanished into cyberspace.

UFO hunters around the world started buzzing. Apparently, Raji wasn't alone. Elsewhere, other alleged eyewitnesses posted pictures and video of the quirky little craft. It became known as the "California drone" because it was clear from the photos that no human could have fit inside to fly the thing.

Soon, the mystery became too tantalizing to be left to Internet speculators. Somebody who knew what he was doing had to be hired to locate that pole, which might lead to finding the elusive Raji.

Enter Davis, 62, and Dixon, 60.

Men in Black they're not. To cover his middle-age paunch, Davis prefers windbreakers and blue jeans to the crisp suits of Hollywood's extraterrestrial sleuths. Dixon is more Man in White. On this day, he's wearing a Vegas-bright white sweater suitable for the first tee

at the golf course -- which is where he spends most of this time since retiring from police work seven years ago.

"See how close that one is?" Dixon says of one power pole, comparing it with a photo. Their SUV is easing along a shady street, its cab cloudy with smoke from Davis' cheap Hav-A-Tampa cigars.

"I like *that* one," Davis says.

"No," Dixon says, "it's turned the wrong way."

They motor on, scanning the sky.

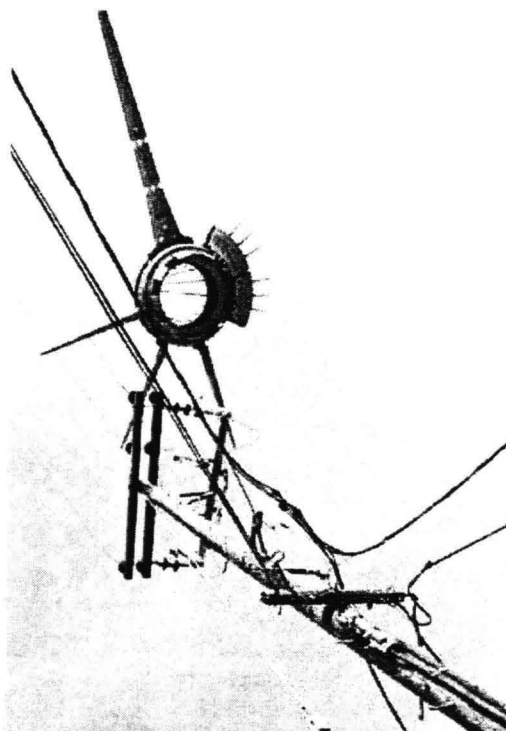
A onetime captain in the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department, Davis considers himself an expert in scam artists and nut cases. So his radar went up in January when he got the call from a woman in London.

She said she was from the Open Minds Forum, an Internet group specializing in "UFOlogy." She said she represented people who were interested in the drone and wanted to contact Raji and others who claimed in Web postings to have seen the craft. There was the guy in Bakersfield who called himself Chad. There was the hiker and the bicyclist, both from the San Jose area. Nobody used last names. So far, nobody could be found.

Before calling Davis, the Open Minds group had e-mailed Raji. He told them he snapped the picture from his fiancée's parents' home. They hoped to ask more questions, but he suddenly closed his e-mail account. They spent months looking for him before deciding to hire a professional.

Find the power pole in the photo, the woman told Davis, and you'll find the house. And Raji.

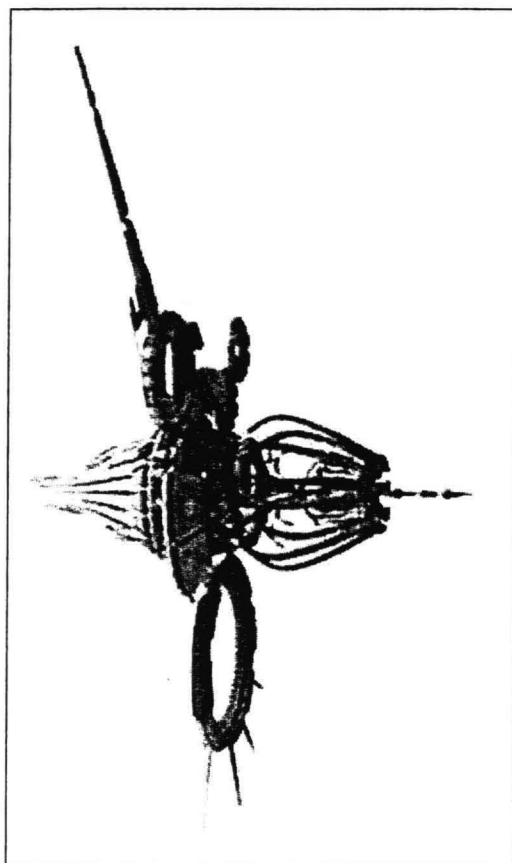
Oh, and one more thing: She didn't want to be identified



OUT THERE: The man who identified himself as Raji said he snapped this photo of a UFO hovering above a power pole in Capitola. Finding the pole could lead to finding Raji -- which is where Dixon and Davis come in.



SLEUTHS: Private eyes Frankie Dixon, left, and T.K. Davis at a park in Capitola, Calif., where they're investigating reports that a UFO was photographed by a man with the Internet name of Raji, who later vanished into cyberspace.



DID YOU KNOW?

UFO sighting never fully explained

Was it a bird? Was it a plane? No, wait, planes had not been invented yet. So what was it that La Crosse residents saw in the evening skies of April 10-11, 1897?

Most of the country, from California to Michigan, was asking the same question after a mysterious bright light, which reportedly could move in several different directions, became visible at various times in the western two-thirds of the country.

The most popular explanation of the time was that the mysterious light was an "airship" equipped with electric lights and some kind of searchlight. One person in La Crosse who observed the light through opera glasses reported seeing an oblong object suspended from the light. This had been reported in other parts of the country as well, with the yet-to-be-famous UFO parlance of "cigar-shaped" being the most-often-used description.

The sightings elicited much speculation and wonder, as well as a number of hoaxes and exaggerations, but no fear or panic. The event was even put to commercial use as a number of La Crosse drinking establishments began offering various concoctions known as The Airship.

It's interesting to note that the vast majority of people considered the mysterious light to be man-made in origin. In a letter to the La Crosse Daily Press, one person thought the object was from Mars, or some other planet, stating that the "occupants may be studying the life of our planet, as we would like to study the life and inhabitants of others, if we were wise enough or well enough versed in science to reach them." This person's theory was deemed to be extremely odd by the newspaper, although 50 years later it would prove to be popular during the UFO craze of the 1940s and 1950s.

This "light" that was observed across most of the country was never fully explained. Reliable airship flights were only three to five

years away, but the fact this light was observed at the same time in places hundreds of miles apart would seem to indicate the mysterious object was more celestial in nature.

VICTORIA ADVOCATE

THE VICTORIA ADVOCATE
Victoria, TX
March 1, 2008

UFO investigator comes home to Victoria to investigate Texas sightings

"Other life probably exists out there, and perhaps in many places." -- Neil Armstrong, American astronaut

In the skies over war-torn Pristina, Kosovo, on a night almost a decade ago, something unexplainable appeared over the head of a soldier with the American 82nd Airborne Division – and changed the course of his life forever.



Jeremy Ray was only 20 when he found himself among the NATO forces fighting in the Kosovo War in 1999, at the time just about the most dangerous spot on the planet.

Ray's job of protecting ethnic Albanians against Yugoslav forces who tried to practice "ethnic cleansing" led him to Kosovo's capital city of Pristina, and that's where he saw them.

Four balls of red light hovered over the city, then swooshed away at high speed.

Ray's unit commander, a lieutenant, had him fill out a report of the sighting. "They took it very seriously," he said.

And that wasn't Ray's first sighting. Three years earlier, when he was a high school student in his hometown of Victoria, he and several of his neighbors witnessed a bright light hovering over the rooftops. "The grownups were all freaking out," he said.

After that sighting, Ray said he "had my nose in books all the time" to further his knowledge about the UFO

phenomenon. "I'd known something was going on," he said.

But it was his later experience in Kosovo that made him realize his future would involve the investigation of whatever was up there.

For the past two years, Ray has been a field investigator for MUFON (the Mutual UFO Network), the largest existing organization to investigate UFOs.

"The scientific study of UFOs for the benefit of humanity" is the mission statement of the nonprofit MUFON, which is now a worldwide network of UFO investigators.

Until now, Ray's field investigation work has been in San Diego, Calif., but he has just moved to Victoria and will be the MUFON volunteer for not only Victoria but also a big triangle of real estate from Corpus Christi, to Austin, to Houston.

It should keep him busy, he said. "Texas has been a real hot spot since the late weeks of January," he said.

Sightings in mid-January at Stephenville, in central Texas, have given MUFON some very rich material for investigation, he said. MUFON records indicate that Texas and California always show the most sightings on a month-to-month basis.

While Ray was in San Diego, MUFON investigators practiced "sky fishing," which is aiming lots and lots of cameras at the skies, then examining the footage for any sign of UFOs.

He plans to do some of the same "fishing" in this area.

MUFON takes a serious and practical approach to UFO investigations, Ray said.

"We don't automatically assume it's alien" when a sighting is reported. "I wouldn't be surprised if these objects were ours – maybe just weird, non-traditional craft."

That's why MUFON field investigators, who are all trained with the same manual and the same techniques, go through a whole checklist of questions and answers and data collection at the site of any UFO sighting.

Ray says that in his experience, eyewitnesses to UFOs are hesitant to come forward with their stories unless they have some evidence to back their accounts – evidence like video, photographs or burned ground.

And in Ray's time in the field, he says he seen a lot of evidence that "something is going on. It's mind-boggling."

"I think in our lifetime the truth is going to come out. There's a couple of guys at MUFON who laugh and say, 'When we were your age, we thought the same thing,' and they've been there 20 years or more."



KIII-TV3 (Online)
Corpus Christi, TX
March 25, 2008

By Jeremy Landers

WAS IT A UFO ABOVE CORPUS CHRISTI SKIES?

He doesn't want to be identified because he says he doesn't want to draw attention to himself.

What this man does want is to share what he saw.

"It got to the point to where it got a little closer and that's when I got a little bit more nervous," says the man who brought us this video, what he calls a UFO.

The active duty military man captured it on his cell phone.

The video may not seem intimidating but it certainly is different. The image looks like a white, glowing spot moving around. At first we were definitely skeptical.

Is it a UFO? It could have been anything.

But then, we went back and looked at the video captured by residents in Stephenville and look for yourself. There are some similarities. Both objects move back and forth and from side to side in the same way

"It got to the point that it was close enough that one of my Chihuahuas saw it and he was trying to take care of me and just started to bark and when he started to bark that's when the light started to do that weird movement."

The man spotted this object Saturday night just outside his home on the corner of Holly and Everhart. He

says it lingered in the skies for about 15 minutes.

"Were you scared?"

"Yes because I was by myself. I may be a dude but I ain't dumb. I don't know if it was instinct and not trying to be seen, maybe I've watched too many movies, i don't know."

Too many movies or not, this man wanted to share the video with us to see if anyone else also spotted this object in the sky.

He says he's shared it with family and some friends and they all say that's definitely not a plane, satellite or shooting star.

"Yeah it made me feel like I'm not nuts or maybe I wasn't the only one that saw it."

So if you saw it shoot us an email to news@kiiitv.com



KIII-TV3 (Online)
Corpus Christi, TX
March 25, 2008

By Michael Gibson

MORE PEOPLE SAW UFO!

On Monday night a viewer came by the station with video of a UFO he captured on his cellphone Saturday night. He says it was in the northern part of the sky and stayed there for 10-15 minutes. After hearing that story on our news, other viewers began to email and call us with their sighting claims. One man, Dennis Limon of Aransas Pass told us that he was out in front of his home when he spotted the object. It was large and yellow to orange in color. He claims that it also had a fire or sparks coming from behind the object. Federal officials at N-A-S Corpus Christi say that no one was manning their control tower over the weekend and at the airport nothing unusual was reported. Still, there are a number of eyewitnesses who saw they saw something in the sky. But what it was may remain a mystery.



KIII-TV3 (Online)
Corpus Christi, TX
March 27, 2008

By Richard Longoria

SOUTH TEXAS UFO STORIES

THESE ARE EMAILS FROM OUR VIEWERS REGARDING THEIR OWN RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH UFO SIGHTINGS:

March 25, 2008

I feel silly for telling this, but I don't feel like I am justifying what happened till it is told. My name is Sxxxx I reside in Beeville Texas. This Morning at about 5:20 in the morning I heard a sound of a huge body being thrown at my back glass door.

Now I live in a small neighborhood of eight residents and have a fenced in back yard. I also heard my 9 month old chocolate lab whimper like it had been hit by a car (she is an outside dog). My husband woke up and thought the dog was going crazy. I quickly told him to go to sleep and that it was probably just the dog trying to catch bugs at night.

Then, a few minutes later, I heard this sound again, and quickly ran to the back door to see what had happened, and again the dog was crying like someone was beating her up.

So, lights off inside and out, I peered outside to see what was happening, and saw her get up, shake it off, and run out into the middle of the yard and full force turn and run and take a flying leap at the door and throw her whole body into the door. It was almost like she was trying to knowingly break the glass.

Outraged, I quickly turned on the outside light, and saw her "shaking it off and crying again." When she

noticed the light had been turned on, she quickly got up and was shaking from head to toe. As I was looking at the most frightened dog I had ever seen she just started peeing all over herself. Telling her to go lay down and alarmed, I ran to get the mag light from my bedroom because my neighbors dog who normally runs free started a curdling howling alarm sound of a bark.

My husband, as freaked out as I, quickly told me not to go outside because we didn't know if someone was out there or not. So, agreeing out of lack of bravery, I rushed to the window that overlooks my front yard hoping to see a stray dog or something. As I was looking, I noticed my dog and the neighbors dog were not the only ones howling and acting crazy.

I heard at least 10 dogs howling and yipping like someone was walking down the street or something. As I am looking out I catch a white light out of the corner of my eye fall from the tree and land in the road.

Quickly diverting my attention to the ball of light, I noticed what looked like a bit of an asteroid laying in the road. It was small like the size of a little saucer but lit up and flashing. It had a light lavender and light green glow to it, and after 10 minutes of staring at this in wonder, I realized this looked just like a star had fallen from the sky.

After about 10 minutes an oncoming SUV's headlights overwhelmed the glow, and after the SUV had passed, I could see it no longer. Spooked out of my wits I started to look for a stranger or stray dog (yes dogs are still going nuts) and much to my surprise, there was another strange ball of light on my neighbors car. It also flashed like light bulb burning out. It looked more white than the other one, and after about 10 minutes also disappeared.

I stepped away to take in what had happened, and come up with excused for all this weirdness. I don't know, maybe some sort of meteorite, or my father even said it could have been a beer can catching reflection off of the moon.

The dogs seemed to continue to act weird and bark till about seven O'clock when the neighbors started to stir. I know this sounds weird, and cannot explain any bit. But maybe someone else might report the same thing, and it will be credible.

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I also had told my story to some friends today and my dad, and the friends said the coyotes were going nuts at 5 am and my dad said his dog was also barking tremendously at the same time.

This could all be just coincidence or bad timing, or what ever it was, we will be looking for something similar tonight. The only thing that kept playing in my head the entire time I was creeping around the house trying to figure out who was here was the movie signs. Well, I feel better.

And, maybe this story will be something others have said. I did not see your UFO news story until 20 minutes ago, when I was explaining what happened to my mother on the phone, and thought you all might like to hear this story.

Thank you for listening. Sxxxxx,
Beeville TX

My friend took these pictures on the way back to C.C. from his work in Kingsville. He was traveling on Hwy 55 when he noticed these lights in front of him. He took 4 pictures with his I phone as he was driving. He tried to get closer to the objects but he could never come close. The crazy thing is that these photos were taken on Valentines day. He showed them to a couple of co-workes but they all laughed at him. He was hesitant to even have me e-mail them.

March 25, 2008

I believe I might of saw what everyone believes is a UFO.

What I saw was around dusk and it was heading on a south to north heading. At first I thought it was an aircraft, but it downed on me that the heading and distance it was on could not be because you can not see the landing lights at that heading nor did I see at any time position lights or anti-collision lights giving a sign that it was an aircraft. (I am an aircraft maint. engineer for an aircraft company.)

So I finally realized that it is one of the many satellites that fly over head every evening and night. And if you are lucky you might even get to see the space shuttle, which some people have. (the suns reflection off of it).Believe it or not, sometimes the sun light, humidity, heat from the earth and the air temp. is just right and you can see them during the daylight hrs.

For many years I have watched them fly over head & and they are very punctual, you can even set your watch to them. At times you will see them on a south to north or west to east heading do to their flight path around the earth. Also some of the satellites are stationary and they will fade in and out do to the sun light reflecting and giving a allusion.

They can fool just about anyone. Sometimes they have fooled even me. I have tried to take pictures of them to and you can not get a steady picture. It gives an allusion that it is changing shape and moving in all directions.

March 26, 2008

Dear whom it may concern,

I would like to stay anonymous if possible. Back in December of 2007 I took some pics outdoors at night where I live here in Robstown. I thought that I was taking pictures of Mars near the moon. When I cropped and zoomed in the pictures on my Picasa II program on my pc I noticed something strange. The pics that I took of "Mars" looked very triangular, an amber, diamond-shaped object almost.

I have attached the photos to this e-mail. You are welcome to e-mail me back about this if you would like. Photos 5,6,& 7 are the best photos of all.

Also, I notice strange lights near the airport off of 44 sometimes. My first instinct is to dismiss them as planes or helicopters. One time I saw a triangular, black, spinning object at dusk look like it was landing but then shot up into the air again over by the airport landing strip. It then shot off over the highway and towards the refineries to the north.

Finally, I have seen strange objects during the day near the naval air station and also over here in Robstown. They are usually silver, cigar-shaped objects that move a lot like the UFOs on your video moved. The ones that I saw near NAS were hovering over Oso Bay opposite the base. They each dropped something half-of their size into the water below. I sometimes think that only certain people are aloud to see these things happen. I guess if everyone saw them at once there would be mass hysteria.

Thanks for taking the time to read my e-mail.



KIII-TV3 (Online)
Corpus Christi, TX
April 8, 2008

By Manuel De La Rosa

UFO SPOTTED ABOVE ALICE

ALICE--One lady says she saw something very unusual in the sky last night near her home. The woman believes it was a UFO, so she called Three News to investigate it.



We have received several calls about UFO's ever since we aired a special report in February. This woman said she was a non- believer, but after last night's encounter, she's now a believer.

Here in the Rancho Allegre neighborhood in Alice located off of State Highway 281 and 44, an Alice resident said she saw something in the sky, while doing her laundry on Monday night. So she grabbed a camera phone and took a picture.

She said this is what came out. On the horizon, she saw this bright light hovering with what seemed to be a reflection below it. Seconds later, she said it disappeared totally.

The woman wants to remain anonymous, but believes it may have been something other than just a bright light.

"It's possible it could be," said the woman. Off camera: could be? It could be a UFO. We don't know."

The woman said people who have spoken with her present two theories. Either it's a full-moon or an airplane flying over the area, but there was no full-moon Monday night.

"I don't think that's possible for either one of those," the woman said. "It's definitely something, I don't what it is myself."

When this woman went to work, she said it was the talk around the water cooler.

"Some are still not believers, though," the woman said. "Some think it's light, but they don't think it's a UFO."

This 3 News viewer said she's definitely curious over what she saw over the sky here in Rancho Allegre. She wants someone to investigate this sighting to see if it was, in fact, a UFO.

"Well, I would like someone to investigate it definitely because now I'm curious," said the woman. "I want to know."

So she plans to call one of the groups to find out if this was something out of this world.

SOUTHTOWNSTAR

SOUTHTOWN STAR
Tinley Park, IL
March 30, 2008

BY JASON FREEMAN

Tinley Park UFO: 'A real phenomenon'

It's out of focus at first, and the cameraman is so overcome with excitement that the picture's constantly bouncing motion momentarily detracts from the three eerily silent red objects sauntering across the night sky.

If you didn't experience the alleged mass UFO sightings above Tinley Park on Aug. 21 and Oct. 31, 2004, the video captured by Crestwood resident T.J. Japcon is the next best thing, said Sam Maranto, State Director for the Illinois Mutual UFO Network.

"When you analyze (the footage) at 1/30th of a second, what you'll notice is there are actual patterns of intensity ... and (the lights) are rotating counterclockwise," he said. "You'll also notice that (you can hear) crickets in the background, yet you can't hear the object (generating the lights), although it was relatively close (to the camera)."

Maranto joined fellow UFO researchers and authors to talk about the "Tinley Lights" sightings and others like it during a UFO symposium held Saturday at the Tinley Park Convention Center.

The event, which was organized by MUFON and the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, featured lectures on the history of UFO research as well as in-depth case reports from the legendary 1947 Roswell, New Mexico, incident to the more recent mass sightings in Tinley and Rockford.

"What I like to work on most is mass sightings," said Maranto, who showed portions of Japcon's UFO footage during his lecture. "When you have a mass sighting, you have a cross section of the community at large ... you'll get people of a higher status in the community coming forward because they know they cannot be discounted as being crazy because other people have reported seeing (what they have)."

In many of the cases where video footage of alleged UFOs are captured by multiple people, Maranto says he is bombarded with explanations from skeptics that range from road flares tied to balloons to digital fakery to mass hallucination.

"Mass hallucinations cannot be photographed, and the videos aren't computer-generated fakes," he said. "Everybody who tapes this stuff isn't going to have time to make

computer-generated images that all look exactly the same. It's moronic. There's a point where skepticism goes and falls off the face of logic and becomes idiotic."

Symposium attendee Guy Richards, of Rockford, said he would love to someday use his bachelor's degrees in engineering and physics to study UFOs.

"UFOs are a real phenomenon," he said. "Whether or not they're alien spacecraft is an open question. I classify myself as a skeptic who comes from a scientific background, and I'm interested in doing some serious scientific study of the phenomena."

"I think it's a shame that it's not being studied by people with technical training who have an open mind who will do it in a methodical and scientific manner," he added.

SOUTHTOWNSTAR

SOUTHTOWN STAR
Tinley Park, IL
April 3, 2008

BY JASON FREEMAN

UFO sighting 'no hoax,' experts say

To this day, no one can say with any certainty what they were or where they were going.

Sure, there are theories.

The wing lights of a commercial airliner, flares tied to balloons, mistaken planets and even mass hallucination have been suggested as possible explanations for the sightings of three unidentified red lights that passed over the skies of Tinley Park in a rough V formation on the nights of Aug 21 and Oct 31 in 2004.

But Sam Maranto, state director for the Illinois Mutual UFO Network, doesn't put much credence into those theories.

"We're pretty well convinced that they were not hoaxes," he said. "It was something definitively unusual. We're not saying they were from outer space, but they certainly were non-conventional."

Maranto, along with UFO author Don Schmitt and Dr. Mark Rodeghier, director of the Center for UFO Studies, talked about the "Tinley Lights" phenomena as well as other local and national UFO cases this weekend in Tinley Park during a nine-hour UFO Symposium.

During Maranto's presentation, he played a video of the 2004 Tinley sighting that was shot by Crestwood resident T.J. Japcon.

"It was a perfectly clear night," he said. "The sky was crystal clear; not a cloud in the sky, and people were

out in droves having block parties. On weekends, when people are out on nice days, you're going to have higher incidents of sightings."

Maranto fully rejects the theory that the lights were merely road flares tied to balloons.

"A 30-minute flare weighs a pound," he said. "Do you know how many balloons you'd need to take that thing off? Quite a bit - 32 regular balloons. Also, a flare burns at 3,000 degrees. What kind of moron would put an incendiary device in the sky? We would have found evidence of it."

"You would have been able to see smoke, but you don't see any in the footage," he added.

Most witnesses claim the three lights moved silently across the night sky in a V formation before suddenly winking out of sight, said Maranto.

"This very well may be one craft," he said. "Very large, triangular, V-shaped craft, many miles long, have been reported. We're talking miles long. The interesting thing about (the Tinley Lights) is that they never break that configuration. They maintain that signature, at least that's what we've seen in the footage we've reviewed."

Participant Guy Richards, of Rockford, Ill., said many people who report seeing UFOs are regular people who have nothing to gain by going public.

"In the 30,000 documented observations of things in the sky, most people (who report them) are not foolish or trying to con you," he said. "They're ordinary people who have seen something, and they'd like to have somebody tell them it's OK or explain it to them. They're just looking for some closure."

Many symposium attendees, like one man who wished to remain anonymous, said the information discussed during the event was, at the very least, something to consider.

"It's different, that's for sure," he said. "I'm not sure what to make of all this."

Most of that footage, I've never seen before."

Maranto said the Tinley Park case, which also included a sighting in 2005, will eventually become legendary in the UFO community.

"It takes a long time to compile all this stuff, but by the time we get done, the Tinley Park case will be one of the best documented mass sighting cases of all time, thanks to people in the community," he said.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

MYSTERY MONEY

Kecksburg fire department cashes in on the infamous UFO 'crash landing' legend

BY RICHARD GAZARIK • TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Ronnie Struble of Kecksburg presides over a growing financial empire UFO buffs are calling the "Roswell of the East."

OK, maybe it's not an empire yet, only a room in the basement of the Kecksburg Emergency Medical Service. But the fire department in this rural Westmoreland County hamlet has parlayed a 42-year-old mystery into a source of revenue that helps to pay the bills.

"Punxsutawney has its groundhog," Struble said. "We got the UFO."

Or do they?

The question of what dropped from the sky near Kecksburg has never been resolved, at least not to the satisfaction of UFO watchers and neighborhood folks who saw it.

SEE MYSTERY • A6

On Dec. 9, 1965, a fiery object streaked through the sky from Canada across the United States and fell into a wooded area of Mt. Pleasant Township, putting Kecksburg — about 12 miles south of Greensburg — into the annals of UFO lore.

State police quickly cordoned off the area. About 25 Army soldiers and a few Air Force members combed 75 acres, keeping out hundreds of curious onlookers, sometimes at gunpoint.

Late that night, a few of the town's 200 or so residents say they saw an acorn-shaped object the size of a Volkswagen hauled out on a tarpaulin-covered military flatbed.

The Air Force said it was a meteor. Others theorized it was debris from a Russian-launched Cosmos 96 spacecraft that survived re-entry into Earth's atmosphere.

Many people believed neither explanation. All that remained in Kecksburg were a cluster of damaged trees and a tantalizing mystery.

Then wider interest in Kecksburg picked up, spurred by a segment on the television series "Unsolved Mysteries" in 1999, then by an hour-long SciFi Channel documentary in 2003 titled, "The New Roswell: Kecksburg Exposed." In 2005, the History Channel offered another documentary, "Kecksburg UFO."

Two years ago, the fire department held the first Kecksburg UFO gathering to mark the 40th anniversary and started selling anything that could be stamped with a picture of a glowing acorn flashing through the sky.

In the latest twist, a recent settlement in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit requires NASA to continue searching for documents that might reveal what happened at Kecksburg. The lawsuit was filed in 2003 by Leslie Kean, a freelance journalist supported by the SciFi Channel who hopes to solve the mystery.

Meanwhile, the fire department sees money in the mystique.

Just as Roswell, N.M., created a tourist industry from reports of

downed spacecraft and alien creatures, Struble hopes Kecksburg can become a mecca for UFO enthusiasts.

"Our goal is to make some money to help pay for a new truck. This kinda helps," he said.

Booming business

On a recent Wednesday evening, the fire hall is hopping with visitors chowing down on wings, a weekly fundraiser in a town where there's no other place to socialize. In the basement, Struble is filling mail orders at the UFO Store — from \$25 hoodies and \$12 Christmas ornaments to hats, T-shirts, beer mugs, commemorative plates and videos — for true believers, collectors of kitsch and the just plain curious.

For two hours each Wednesday, people can browse alien-themed memorabilia or listen to a documentary about the incident.

Tourists and other visitors — sometimes by the busload — have managed to find this out-of-the-way building, now guided by a glowing, acorn-shaped spacecraft replica mounted out back as a beacon. The replica was donated to the department by the "Unsolved Mysteries" program, which made the model for its episode on the Kecksburg incident.

Business is so good the fire department plans to open a second store in the fire station and the Kecksburg UFO Restaurant this year. More bus tours are scheduled to stop by, and the town's annual festival has been renamed the "Kecksburg Old Fashion and UFO Festival Days."

"This is our little niche, and we're going to use it," said Rich Comp, a 20-year veteran of the fire department.

In the first four months the store was open, between \$1,500 and \$2,000 of merchandise was sold, Struble said. In 2007, the first full year, sales hit \$10,000, and the department has been able to bank some money.

The firefighters capitalize on the UFO mystery when they can. Trice Road, which runs near the crash site on the north end of the



Among the items for sale are replica Meteor Road signs. They were made because the signs kept getting stolen after the road's name was changed to honor the sightings.

village, was renamed Meteor Road, and the signs started to disappear as fast as the township could replace them. So Struble decided to get replicas made and sell them for \$25 a pop.

"I just had an order last week for \$800 worth of shirts," Struble said. "Over Christmas, sales were pretty healthy. I've had people come in here and buy \$200 to \$300 worth of shirts at a pop."

Struble said the shirts are so popular that people stop him whenever he wears one, and more and more of them are claiming they, too, saw the UFO.

"Whenever I go out shopping at the mall wearing one of our Kecksburg shirts, someone always pats me on the back and says, 'I was there,'" he said.

Not everyone believes

Not everybody is happy with the department's fundraising plans.

Ed Myers was Kecksburg's fire chief in 1965 and says the story of a glowing object hurling to Earth is bogus. He said the fire department is capitalizing on an incident that never happened and that "eyewitnesses" have changed their stories over the years.

Myers doesn't believe anything crashed into the woods.

"I was all over the woods and didn't see a thing," Myers said. "I went over there right away and stayed until 10 p.m. People were just after publicity."

While Struble said he doesn't believe in aliens, he does believe something crashed in Kecksburg that night.

"Something big did happen here," he said. "It's not little green men, but most likely a U.S. or Russian probe that went astray. Something came down, and they took something out of here."

For the fire department's sake, Comp hopes the government never explains what happened in Kecksburg or what was on the flatbed truck that night.

"The mystery of it is business for us," Comp said. "I hope they never find out what happened. It would break the bubble."

**PITTSBURGH
TRIBUNE-REVIEW**

PITTSBURGH SUNDAY TRIBUNE-REVIEW
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
February 10, 2008



Note: Most British Clippings are courtesy of TIMOTHY GOOD
Spanish Translations courtesy of JANE THOMAS GUMA

SCOTTISH SUNDAY POST THE (SERIES)

Circulation ('000): 420
Readership ('000): 1,125
Display Rate (£/sqcm): £11.55

- 2 MAR 2008

The
SUNDAY POST

SCOTTISH SUNDAY POST
Glasgow, Scotland
March 2, 2008

By Bob Smyth

SECRET files from the UK's "Men In Black" could shed light on Scotland's UFO mystery.

The Ministry of Defence is to release 160 dossiers about UFO incidents over the past 30 years, which include information about Scotland's flying saucer hotspot Bonnybridge.

Among the real-life "X Files" are 26 documents from DI55, the Defence Intelligence department that investigated the most intriguing sightings.

It has been dubbed the "Men In Black" by UFO buffs after the film about a clandestine agency that protects the earth from alien invasion.

Strange sightings

Until recently, the Government denied it existed and there are fears in Bonnybridge that DI55 may have made secretive visits to the town since it became famous for strange sightings of objects and lights in the sky in the early '90s.

Local councillor Billy Buchanan, who has led the fight for answers about the phenomena, said, "Over the past 15 years there have been incidents of mysterious cars with blacked-out windows spotted around town and parked in lay-bys. I believe I've been followed and I've heard noises on my phone that lead to me to believe it could have been tapped.

Billy wants answers from Men In Black's secret files

"I have to ask myself if it was the 'Men In Black' trying to find out what's been going on here.

"The UFO sightings have continued and the most recent was at the end of last year. I have asked the Governments of John Major and Tony Blair to give us answers.

"But all we have had is the Ministry of Defence assuring us there's nothing that's a threat to national security. If they know it's not a threat, does that mean they know what it actually is?

"I hope the release of the files will help throw some light on the mystery."

The mass of information will be published in stages over the next three years on the website of the National Archives, with the first release due in the spring.

The documents are being

revealed following repeated Freedom Of Information requests from UFO researchers.

One of them, David Clarke, a media lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University, said, "I have already got hold of some of the files and Bonnybridge is certainly mentioned in those from 1994 when Councillor Buchanan drew the Government's attention to the claims and asked for answers.

Threat

"There are policy briefings from the MoD making it clear that the public and media should be told the incidents weren't a threat to security, which basically means it wasn't a foreign aircraft. Once they've established that they don't take it any further.

"There will be UFO reports in the documents that are coming out that may include other Bonnybridge incidents."

David said DI55 — which has a primary interest in missiles and satellites — did make field trips to probe incidents in the '60s but there was no evidence they'd made secretive investigations in areas like Bonnybridge more recently.

He added, "If it got out that they were investigating while publicly saying there was nothing of interest to them, they would have Government ministers on their back asking what was going on.

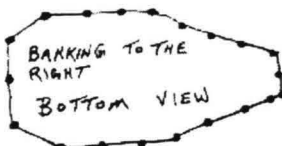
"I think when the files are made public they will show some evidence of incidents that can't be explained but the Government really doesn't know any more than any of us about UFOs."

Journal

GRANTHAM JOURNAL
Grantham, England
March 13, 2008

By Bob Hart

Gonerby UFO sighted over Saskatchewan



Mike Repin's UFO drawing

Thursday, 3.45pm - A UFO sighted over Great Gonerby repeatedly over the last four years has also been spotted in Saskatchewan, Canada.

The Journal recently reported five sightings by Allan Spick, who provided a drawing of the mysterious flying object he has seen from his home at Belvoir Gardens.

Now an anonymous UFO spotter has got in touch to say he saw the very same object over Saskatoon in November or December 2005.

He said: "It was about 50 feet off the ground and not more than a city block away from me. I saw what appeared to be a craft that looked almost tear-shaped but sideways. I slowed down to a crawl and watched it hovering for about 10 seconds.

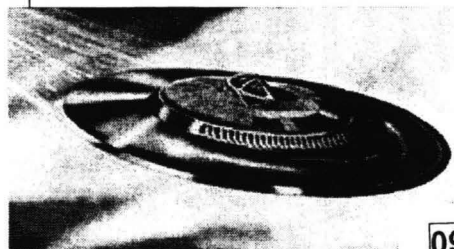
"I could only see the outline by its multi-coloured lights that surrounded the object."

After around 20 seconds the object banked to the right a flew slowly away.

He said: "I do feel that when I slowed down more that maybe they took notice of me observing this and that

caused the object to start its sharp bank and then slowly disappear.

"It was all very weird to me."



-7 MAR 2008

Two UFO sightings

I AM writing to tell you about two sightings of UFOs I have had.

The first was back in the early 1970s. I was in the Territorial Army then, and was on a night exercise with the Light Infantry in Northumbria.

Two of us were manning a machine gun in a small trench we had dug. We took turns to get some sleep.

It was my turn to get some rest and I was laid there looking up into a lovely cloudless night with the heavens full of stars, when I noticed two objects moving across the night sky.

They were very high up, and looked like orbs of some sort. I first thought they must be a couple of satellites or something, but as I laid there watching them, one of them suddenly took off at a right-angle to the other. No big turning curve like a normal aircraft would do.

I found that very strange. I watched them until they went out of sight.

Another experience I had was more recent in 2002.

One evening, at about 10pm, I went outside to bring my dog Rusty in, as he was asleep on the decking. He loved to lay out there.

I went out and, just looking over the back garden, I noticed some flashing lights in the sky. At first I thought it was an aircraft's identification lights that one usually sees, but with aircraft there are only two or three lights flashing, with this craft there were loads flashing all over the place.

Then, as I watched, they all went out and two spotlights came on shining

WAKEFIELD EXPRESS - Wakefield, Yorkshire, England - March 7, 2008

Wakefield
Express

Sighting of UFO sparks fears of alien invasion

By DANIEL BINNS

dyeatman@london.newsquest.co.uk

THE Ministry of Defence (MoD) has appealed for calm after a UFO was apparently spotted over Woodford Green.

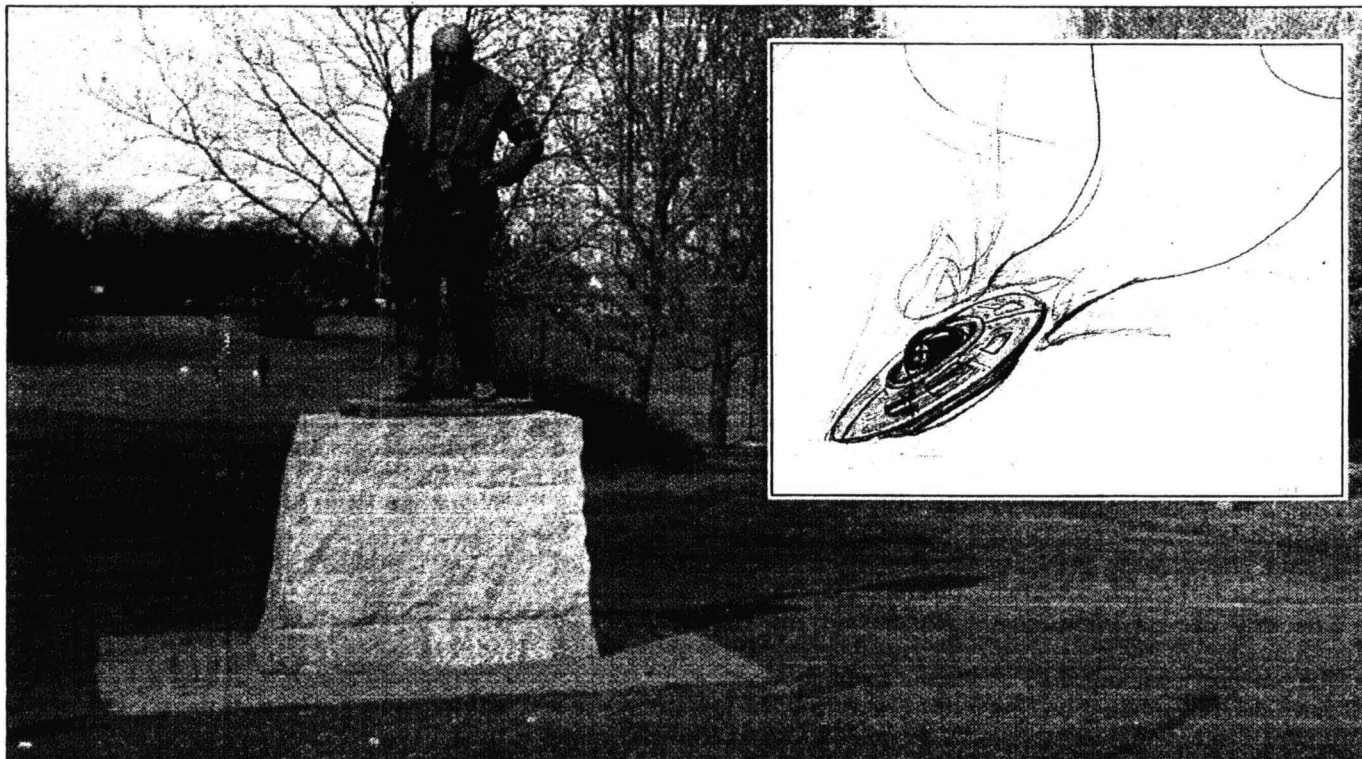
Two readers contacted the Guardian to say they had seen a strange object flying through the sky last weekend above the Winston Churchill statue, off the High Road.

A Government spokeswoman said residents should not be alarmed by the sighting, but construction worker Darrell Greenway, 19, said he was convinced that what he saw was an alien craft.

He said: "I was walking down the road with my friend by the Cricketers Arms pub on the High Road, it was a really sunny day.

"Someone shouted 'Oh my God what's that?' I looked up and there was this white-grey dish-like thing up in the sky.

"It wasn't a plane because it didn't have any fuel coming from it. It was going really fast, and it was quite low, a b o u t the height of Canary



The area in Woodford Green where the UFO was spotted and (inset) an artist's impression of the object

(EL6803-7)

Wharf."

He added: "I think it was aliens. I know people who have also seen strange things in sky - there's something secretly going on in Woodford."

But the MoD dismissed the claims.

Spokeswoman Susan Coulthard said: "It's certainly common that people

see something they don't understand.

"There are many possible explanations for such sightings, whether it is aircraft, balloons or other similar objects."

She added: "We are scanning the skies all the time for security reasons, so the chances of a member of the public seeing

something that we don't know about are remote. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, there is no attempt to identify the nature of each sighting reported." Ms Coulthard said the ministry had not received any reports of unusual sightings in Redbridge.

She added: "Do people

living in Woodford need to be worried? No they do not."

But Mr Greenway disagreed. "They are trying to cover it up" he said. **Havé you seen anything unusual in the skies over Redbridge? Call us on 020 8498 3437 or email dyeatman@london.newsquest.co.uk**

- 6 MAR 2008

Resident 'saw a UFO hovering over village'

By Rob Bellis

robert.bellis@nwn.co.uk

A NORTH east Wales resident has called for an explanation after spotting a UFO.

The man, who did not want to be named, claims to have seen a strange object in the sky above Overton, near Wrexham, at about 6am on Friday.

This is the latest in a string of UFO sightings in the Wrexham area in recent months, prompting one flying saucer enthusiast to dub the region "a UFO hot spot".

In July last year, the *Evening Leader* had its

'I viewed strange object for three minutes or so... I hope it was a plane'

largest ever internet response to a video, posted on its website, of 'UFOs' which had been seen by a number of people over Borras.

Referring to the latest sighting, the Overton resident said: "I don't want to be made a laughing stock, but I thought I'd let you know I saw a UFO this morning over Overton at around 5.40am.

"I viewed it for three minutes or so. I hope it was a plane or something but I was watching

it for a while and it didn't ring of a plane to me. I'm just hoping someone else has seen it so I don't look silly."

One of Britain's most famous UFO incidents, dubbed North Wales' very own 'Roswell incident' allegedly occurred on the Berwyn Mountains in 1974.

On the evening of January 23, dozens of witnesses from across Lancashire and Cheshire had called the police earlier in the evening and reported seeing a strange formation of lights flying erratically over the skies of the north-west.

At about 8.30pm that night, a large disc-like object was seen falling from the sky over what was when Clwyd and apparently crashed into the Berwyn mountains near Llandrillo, leaving an orange glow which radiated in the sky over the spot for a few minutes.

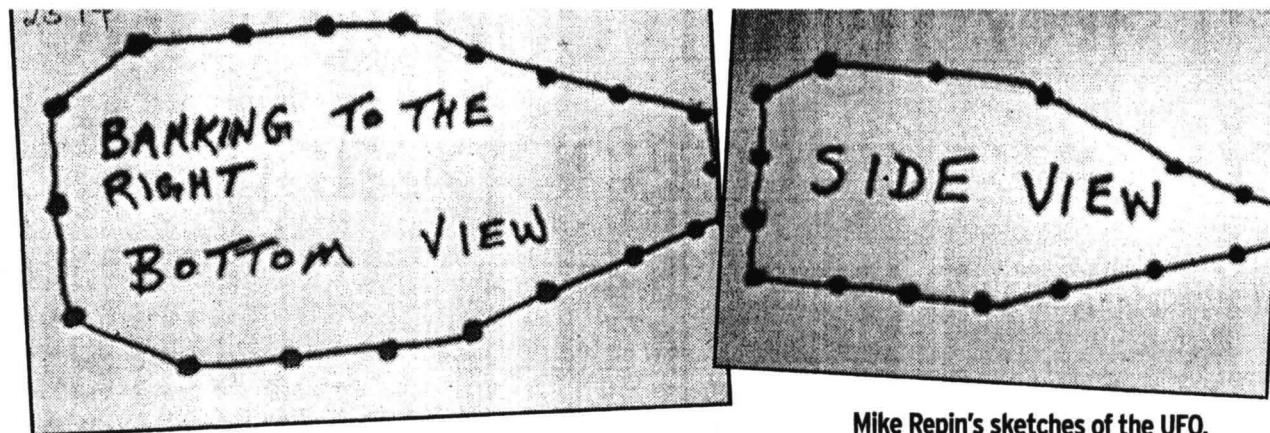
Police and military apparently converged on the crash site within minutes, cordoning the area off from public view.

What is most bizarre is that at the same time as the 'crash', tremors were recorded, measuring 3.5 on the Richter scale, which shook nearby villages.

Due to the volume of 'Freedom of Information' requests on UFO sightings, the Ministry of Defence plans to release a total of 160 files dating back to the inception of their UFO project in 1950.

The files will be given to the National Archives in Kew and the first are expected to be made available in the spring.

● HAVE you spotted something strange in the skies of north east Wales? Email us at news@eveningleader.co.uk



Mike Repin's sketches of the UFO.

That Great Gonerby UFO is spotted in ... Canada

By Bob Hart

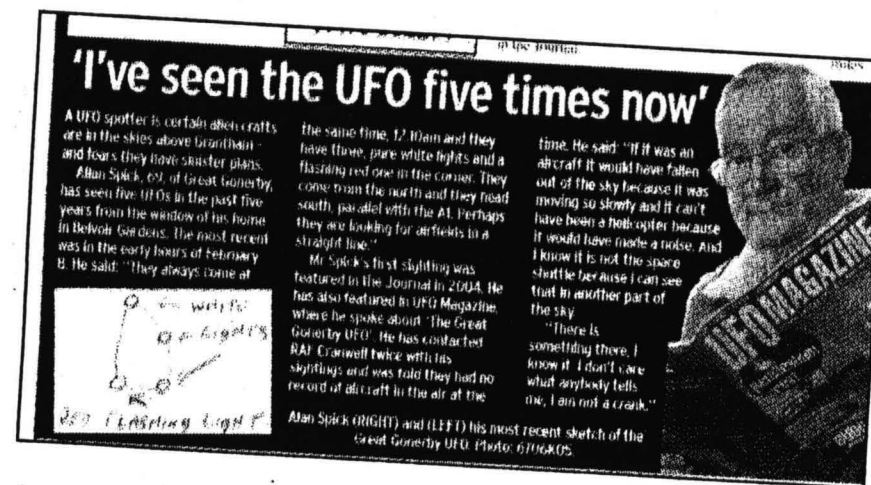
bob.hart@granthamjournal.co.uk

A UFO sighted over Great Gonerby repeatedly over the last four years has also been spotted in the Canadian state of Saskatchewan.

The Journal recently reported five sightings by Allan Spick, who provided a drawing of the mysterious flying object he has seen from his home at Belvoir Gardens.

Now UFO spotter Todd Repin has got in touch to tell us about a sighting by his father, Mike Repin, who says he saw the very same object over Saskatoon in November or December 2005. Mike said: "It was about 50 feet off the ground and not more than a city block away from me.

"I saw what appeared to be a craft that looked almost tear-shaped but sideways. I slowed down to a crawl and watched it hovering for about 10 seconds.



Allan Spick's sighting of the UFO, as report in the Journal in February

"I could only see the outline by its multi-coloured lights that surrounded the object."

After around 20 seconds the object banked to the right and flew slowly away.

Mike said: "I do feel that when I slowed down more that maybe they took notice of me observing this and

that caused the object to start its sharp bank and then slowly disappear. It was all very weird to me."

● Have you seen a UFO? Did aliens show you the stars and the meaning of life? Send us an e-mail: comment@granthamjournal.co.uk Check out the latest UFO sightings at: www.granthamjournal.co.uk/ufo

Are 'UFO' lights linked to county quake?

Lincolnshire Echo

LINCOLNSHIRE ECHO
Lincoln, Lincolnshire, England
March 18, 2008

UNEARTHLY: This photo of a string of lights over Lincoln was taken by Jamie and Emily Goddard. They snapped the picture on a mobile phone at around 8.30pm on February 22 – five days before the earthquake struck.

DID YOU SEE THE LIGHTS?
E-mail yourview@lincolnshireecho.co.uk

'Unearthly' phenomena a warning?

by Salma Conway
news@lincolnshireecho.co.uk

MYSTERIOUS lights spotted in Lincolnshire could have been a warning of the earthquake which sent tremors across Britain.

Several sightings of strange lights appearing in the sky were reported in the days leading up to the quake, which happened early on February 27.

And some believe that these could be "earthquake lights" –

caused by changes in the electrical properties of the ground before a quake occurs.

There have been many similar reports of "earthquake lights" throughout history.

The best-known case was in

Lincoln's twin town, Tangshan in China in 1976, before a massive quake that killed 240,000 people across the nation.

The first photographic evidence was captured in Japan during a number of earthquakes between 1965 and 1967.

Husband and wife Jamie and Emily Goddard, of Alexandra Terrace, off West Parade, Lincoln, captured the lights on a mobile phone camera just as they appeared above Drury Lane around 8.30pm on February 22.

Eight members of staff from Lincoln College witnessed the phenomenon after a ghost walk around Lincoln's Cathedral quarter on the same night.

Staff member Nyla Khan (25) said: "It looked like a plane but there was too much light and then it just disappeared. We saw about six or seven lights."

Schoolteacher Lois Pittman (48), of Cambridge Avenue, Yarborough Road, Lincoln, saw the lights as she was outside putting some rubbish away.

She said: "I've not heard of earthquake lights before. I'm going to look more often at the sky now. If I see lights I'll expect

an earthquake. If it's a warning we should explore it a little bit deeper."

Five days later – at the moment the earthquake happened – Elvira Witney (83), of Westgate, Louth, saw a grapefruit-sized glowing sphere of light in her bedroom. She said: "I heard a very loud bang and a lot of rumbling, and then I was aware that in the direction of the window there was a glowing sphere about five feet in the air."

"It came towards me for a second or two and then it dropped to the ground and travelled along a bit more by the side of the bed."

"Then it just went out like a light. I was terrified. At first I thought it was gas and it was going to set on fire. But it caused no damage at all."

Not all scientists are convinced.

Dr Ian Sutton, from the geology department at the University of Nottingham, said: "I would be very surprised if there was a link."

"I feel it is a coincidence."

Another one of 'life's mysteries' says expert

"EARTHQUAKE lights" could be caused by changes in the electrical properties of the ground which ionise the air, producing glowing balls of light in the sky.

Dr Richard England, from the Department of Geology at the University of Leicester, said that there was little evidence to explain the phenomenon but there had been enough

sightings to suggest there was real a link.

He said: "These have been observed before earthquakes but we just don't have a good facts-based explanation for the reason."

"There may well be changes in the electrical properties of the ground but there is no real evidence to connect those with changes in the atmosphere."

Dr England added: "I certainly wouldn't scoff at the idea but we don't have enough understanding of quake precursors to say that this is a real phenomenon. Until someone finds a way of measuring them it will be one of life's mysteries."

"There are a lot of things about the world that we still don't understand."

Sightings: Have UFOs been spotted at Thornbury and Tortworth Court?

Hunting for the truth out there

by Jayne Bennett

sodbury@dursleygazette.co.uk

AS MORE and more satellites are sent into orbit from Earth, sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects are also on the up, having risen from 97 in 2006 to 135 in 2007.

Denis Plunkett, of Winterbourne, runs the British Flying Saucer Bureau and says this may be just a fraction of the UFOs in the skies above us, once you take into consideration those sightings that are simply not reported and those that are kept secret by the Ministry of Defence.

"There was an incident in Thornbury recently where a man saw a UFO being pursued by a fighter jet - although the MoD would of course deny this.

"The object was very low to



DENIS Plunkett, who runs the British Flying Saucer Bureau

the ground and virtually soundless. The jet, of course, was not!"

The sighting in Thornbury was typical of many reported in 2007; slow moving, silent craft, often disc- or triangular-shaped, and frequently very low to the ground.

"You find there are hotspots of sightings around the country, and our area is one of them. This may be because we have an easily identifiable

North/South, East/West crossing in the form of the motorway interchange, as well as the airfield and a railway bridge."

There is, of course, often a perfectly rational explanation to many of the sightings and Winterbourne is in the flight path of the many extraordinary craft that come in to land at Filton. But Mr Plunkett insists that there is no way that a flying saucer could be confused with, for example, a hot air balloon.

"These things are massive," he says, "And usually very evasive. I believe they are primarily sent for surveillance and monitoring.

"Of course it all began after the war, and primarily after the nuclear bombs were set off in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It has been said that these two explosions could have been witnessed from Mars, so is it any coincidence that the sightings of UFOs began shortly afterwards?"

The British Flying Saucer Bureau was initiated in the autumn of 1952 by Denis

Is this a
UFO?



ABOVE AND RIGHT: A POSSIBLE sighting over Tortworth Court - pictured above is a close-up

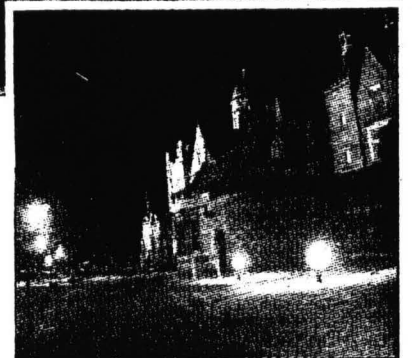
Plunkett's late father, Edgar Lawrence Plunkett, and was an off-shoot of the organisation based in Connecticut USA and run by Albert K. Bender. At that time there were 1,500 members worldwide, but the British branch was left in limbo after 'three men in black coats' went to visit Mr Bender and the American HQ was disbanded.

Denis took over the organisation in 1993 and has a hard-core of correspondents who maintain contact and send in

reports, although this number is gradually increasing.

"I have a few photographs which clearly show some activity in the sky, such as the ones I have which were taken by a friend at Tortworth Court in 1993. He was taking photographs and didn't notice that these objects had appeared until he had the film developed. There's quite clearly something there."

Steven Cotton, general manager of the Four Pillars hotel at



Tortworth Court, said: "We haven't seen any unidentified objects. We have the occasional helicopter flying in with guests, but that's all. There was, however, a naval training centre here in the 1940s and 50s, so maybe there could be something read into that."

Gazette

GLOUCESTERSHIRE GAZETTE
Dursley, Gloucestershire, England
February 28, 2008

Have you ever seen
a UFO? Let us
know at
gazetteseries.co.uk/news



HALIFAX COURIER
Halifax, England
March 14, 2008

Unexplained light above Halifax helps make West Yorkshire UFO hot spot

A large unexplained beam of light above Halifax has helped put West Yorkshire in top hot spot in a national league of close encounters.

Two people witnessed the circular beam of light above Halifax which moved quickly and erratically from side to side.

The Halifax UFO was one highlight among an astounding 34 unexplained sightings in West Yorkshire alone.

West Yorkshire is ranked number one in 'The Virgin Media Files' – a specially compiled list of Britain's top 10 UFO hot spots.

The research, conducted by Virgin Media to mark a month-long Sci-Fi series on its TV on demand service is supported by the former head of the Government's UFO project, Nick Pope.

'The Virgin Media Files' have been compiled from data which goes back to 1961 and , including a large.

The top 10 areas are:

1. West Yorkshire (34)
2. Nottinghamshire (29)
3. Lancashire (23)
4. Shropshire (22)
5. North Somerset and Avon (22)
6. Suffolk (19)
7. South Wales (18)
8. Co. Durham (17)
9. Lanarkshire (15)
10. Devon (15)

Nick Pope said: "It's fantastic to see local folk taking an interest in UFO activity and keeping an eye on the sky! While we currently have no explanation why certain places in the UK are alien hot spots, as the research reveals, there are areas where mysterious objects are repeatedly witnessed, so people who want to alien-spot should definitely head to Halifax."

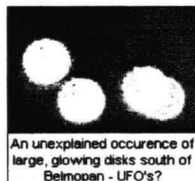
James Kydd, managing director of brand and marketing at Virgin Media, said: "Sci-Fi is a popular genre with many dedicated fans of all ages so it's great to be able to make the classic shows available on Virgin Media TV On Demand for people to enjoy whenever they want. And who knows, as West Yorkshire is one of our top 10 hot spots, Halifax folk may even have their very own close encounter with the third kind!"

Amandala News Online
Belize City, Belize
March 18, 2008

Strange night sightings in 'Pan'!

Could UFO's (Unidentified Flying Objects) be visiting Belize? That's what some

residents of Belmopan and the surrounding areas are wondering after a strange sighting of a mass of bright, circular lights south of the capital city and over the uninhabited mountains, exactly a week ago.



The lights, we were told, repeatedly appeared and disappeared between 8:15 p.m. and 10:50 p.m., and there was no strange noise, as an aircraft would make, accompanying the event.

The objects were approximately 150 feet off the ground, and about 14 feet in diameter, appearing to be consistent in shape and size, said Cadet Henderson, chief executive officer in the Ministry of Works. Henderson, who first reported the sightings to us today, told us that the lights were either stationary or moving eastward, contrary to the prevailing nighttime winds. In one instance, he said, he saw a trail of smoke associated with one of the lights.

Henderson told us that shortly after 8:00 last Tuesday night, he saw as many as 12 of those lights south of Belmopan City. His father-in-law, Lindsey Wade, told us the same, and so did Cedric Borland, Commander of the Belize Coast Guard.

"It is very likely that they are UFO's, especially since they were repeatedly seen in the same area and also seen

about a mile away, west of Belmopan, and four miles away, near the Springfield community," Henderson documents. "Similarly lit objects were also seen about two years ago in the same area of Belmopan."

Henderson described the lights as "circular disks" that appeared in groups ranging from four to twelve for a period of over two hours that night. He said that he called General Borland, who said at first that he did not see anything, but later confirmed the observations. At first, he said, Borland thought the lights were flares. He said that he had called Belize Defence Force Commander, Colonel Dario Tapia, to research whether there was any military activity in that area that night, and Tapia said that there wasn't.

Based on his computations, Henderson estimates that the disks of light were about 14 feet in diameter.

Wade, Henderson's father-in-law, described what he observed to us: He said that the lights appeared to be due south of University Heights, a new community development in Belmopan, and over the hills, the same place where, he said, he observed the same thing happen about two years ago, and the lights showed the same pattern of movement.

Wade likened the lights to extremely bright headlights, or a big ball of light as bright as the moon, which, he said, came on at 10-minute intervals.

He went on to say that when he viewed some of the magnified images Henderson took, it appeared to him that there was someone sitting inside at least two of the lights. At the time of the sightings, he said, two Jehovah's Witnesses were studying with him at his home, and they were "very alarmed" at what they saw.

"I know they are not fire rocket displays or flares from guns," said Wade.

Henderson told us that he held on to some snapshots he took that night,

using his tripod and magnifying lens, because he wanted to be sure whether it was something out of the ordinary. He told us that when he visited the Mennonite community of Springfield, about six miles from Belmopan, on Sunday, residents in that settlement corroborated what he and his relatives had seen, indicating that they, too, saw the lights the prior Tuesday.

Then on Monday, he checked with the Belize Defence Force to see if maybe the military was shooting flares in the area. Henderson said that when he found out that they were not, he decided to come public with the information.

Commander Borland said that indeed, there were some lights observed southwest of Belmopan. He told us that he saw four bright lights glowing in the distance, equally spaced from each other, about 40 to 50 meters apart, and they all lit up and extinguished at the same time. He said that he noticed the lights fall a little before they disappeared. According to Borland, the same phenomenon was observed in the same area, showing the same pattern about a year and a half ago.

Not so believing that the lights were UFO's, however, Commander Borland told us that the area where the lights were seen is often used for military operations, and he advised us to check with the BDF for their views.

But when we checked today with BDF Commander, Colonel Dario Tapia, he told us that they know of no military operations in the area last Tuesday, either by officers of the Belize Defence Force or of BATSUB - British Army Training Support Unit Belize. Col. Tapia said that the BDF intends to do a fly-over inspection of the area with Henderson.

The truth is in a TV documentary for UFO detective

Wakefield Express
Wakefield, West Yorkshire, England
February 22, 2008

FIGHTING crime and watching the sky for extra terrestrial visitors is all in a day's work for one Wakefield detective.

And now Det Con Gary Heseltine has shared his knowledge of all things alien by filming for a major international documentary about UFO sightings for the History Channel and another British programme about police officers and UFOs.

Determined to prove the truth really is out there, Mr Heseltine of Ashdene, Crofton, has been cataloguing UFO sightings for more than 30 years and even set up his own online publication before joining the national *UFO Data* magazine late last year.

As one of the UK's leading and most respected authorities on the subject, the film crews jumped at the chance to sign him up.

He said: "The first is for a forthcoming series by the USA's History Channel called *UFO Hunters*, due for airing in May. I've worked on documentaries over the years, but never on an international one and it was quite novel having an 11-person film crew crammed into my house in Crofton.

"The second programme is for the *UFO Files*, who wanted to get in touch with police officers who have had sightings, which was great too."

Mr Heseltine created the Police Reporting UFO Sightings (PRUFOS) database in 2001, which made him the ideal person to put the film crews in touch with officers who have had close encounters.

And the latest PRUFOS results are set to be published later this month with some interesting sightings set to whet the appetites of sky-watchers everywhere, especially in the Merrie City.

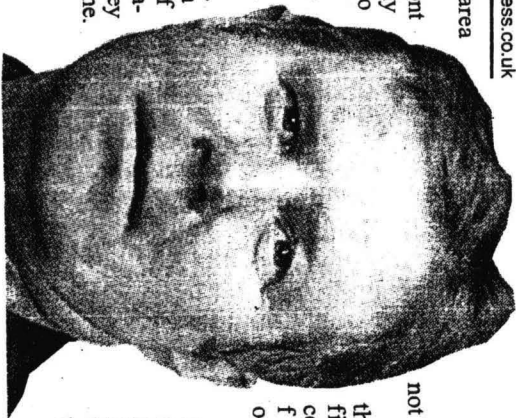
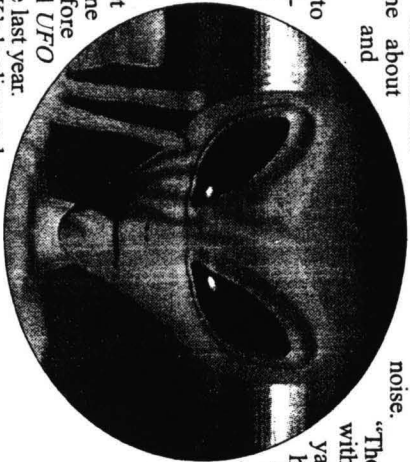
He said: "It needs more confirmation, but I've been made aware of a Crofton sighting. It involves a retired police officer and relates back to the 1970s where three glowing orbs were

by **Graham Poucher**
grahampoucher@wakefieldexpress.co.uk

seen moving towards an area known locally as the Lump.

"He thought it was the front lights of a plane, but quickly realised there was no noise.

"They came within 100 yards of him - then, with a burst of acceleration, they were gone.



"I'd say 95 per cent of sightings turn out to be mundane and not UFOs. "But it's that other five per cent that I focus on."

UFO INVESTIGATOR:
DC Gary Heseltine of Crofton.
W2746a808

fast and they were all following the same path.

"By the time I got back to the window they were too far away and all I could see was a red glow with no flame.

"I couldn't believe how fast they were going and I reckon they were about 1,700ft up."

La Societe Guernesiaise astronomy section secretary Debbie Quertier said her daughter's friend had called to say she had seen something brightly-coloured in the sky travelling from east to west at about 10.30pm.

"I thought it might have been the International Space Station so I looked on the internet but the timing was wrong," she said.

"She also said that the things were quite low."

by **Nigel Baudains**

was a burner in the central section.'

While driving out of his gate on Thursday morning, Mr Robilliard had noticed a similar object in his front garden.

Many islanders have reported seeing sphere shapes travelling at high speed late on Saturday evening - Chinese New Year.

Printer Peter Bowring, 54, was about to go to bed at his Route Isabelle, St Peter Port, home when he saw the lights in the sky.

"I thought they might have been hot air balloons like I'd seen in France, so I went to fetch my binoculars," he said.

"But they seemed to be travelling too

The **Guernsey Press**
and Star

GUERNSEY PRESS & STAR
Guernsey, England
February 16, 2008

'UFOs' celebrate Year of the Rat

'UFOs' that were seen over the island last weekend were probably Chinese lanterns used in new year celebrations.

Several people reported seeing orange-coloured objects travelling at speed in an arc from the airport and disappearing towards the north.

Print platemaker Bruno Robilliard, 60, who lives at Les Abreveurs Road, St Sampson's, woke up on Sunday morning to find an 'alien' in his garden.

"I looked out of the kitchen window and noticed this orange/brown object on the grass," he said.

"When I went outside I found it was fine tissue paper, very fragile because it was wet, with Chinese graphics on it.

"It was wrapped around a circular frame that had spokes which looked as though they had held what I presumed

Periodista Latino (Online)
Madrid, Spain
February 19, 2008

Expertos en ufología avistan un OVNI en Chile



(PD / Agencias).- Expertos en ufología de Uruguay, Perú y Chile avistaron un Objeto Volador No Identificado en la localidad de Vilches Altos, en la cordillera central de Chile.

Según relató Rodrigo Fuenzalida, presidente de la Agrupación de Investigaciones Ovnológicas de Chile (AION), el avistamiento se produjo en la madrugada de este domingo cerca de las 02.00 horas (05.00 GMT) en la carretera de la localidad de Vilches Alto, a 260 kilómetros al este de Santiago de Chile, cuando volvían de comer en un restaurante de la zona.

"Sorpresivamente, y sobre las copas de unos árboles, un Objeto Volador No identificado se hizo visible", dijo Fuenzalida, que indicó que, junto a él, también estaban el coronel Ariel Sánchez, director del Comité de recepción de Informes de Objetos Voladores No identificados (CRIDOVNI), entidad oficial de la Fuerza Aérea Uruguaya de investigación de OVNI.

Cuerpo esférico

"El cuerpo esférico de color rojizo y anaranjado, comenzó a realizar movimientos en distintos ángulos y su duración fue de unos siete minutos hasta que desapareció tras unos árboles", agregó Fuenzalida. Además, explicó que, al día siguiente, averiguaron si había sobrevolado algún avión por la zona, hecho que fue descartado por fuentes oficiales y tampoco había un cuerpo celeste en la posición en la que se apareció el OVNI.

"Fue descartada la instancia de algún avión, como también algún cuerpo celeste estaba en esa posición y no había absolutamente nada", subrayó. El avistamiento se produjo en el marco de la inauguración de la llamada "Primera Ruta Ufológica de Chile", que se inauguró hace unos días en el municipio de San Clemente, por el alcalde Juan Rojas Vergara.

UFOLOGISTS see UFO in Chile

(PD / Agencies).- UFO experts from Uruguay, Perú and Chile saw a UFO in the town of Vilches Altos, in Chile's middle cordillera.

According to Rodrigo Fuenzalida, who is president of the Agrupación de Investigaciones Ovnológicas de Chile (AION) (Chilean UFO Research Group), early this Sunday at about 2 am (5 GMT) on the Vilche Alto Road, 260 kilometers (160 miles) East of Santiago de Chile, they saw a UFO when they were returning from dinner at a local restaurant.

"Suddenly a UFO became visible over the treetops," said Fuenzalida, who said that he was accompanied by Colonel Ariel Sánchez, director of the Comité de Recepción de Informes de Objetos Voladores No identificados (CRIDOVNI) (Committee for the Reception of UFO Reports), the Uruguayan Air Force's official UFO Research entity.

Spherical body

"The reddish and orange sphere started to perform movements in different angles and this lasted for about seven minutes until it disappeared behind some trees," added Fuenzalida. Besides, he said, the next day they made inquiries to find out if a plane had flown over the area, but official sources denied this, and neither was there a celestial body in the position in which the UFO appeared.

"The possibility of a plane was discarded, as well as that of any celestial body being in that position, there was absolutely nothing," he said. The sighting happened during the inauguration a few days ago by Mayor Juan Rojas Vergara of the so-called "Chile's First Ufological Road" in the municipality of San Clemente.

(Translation by Jane Thomas Guma)

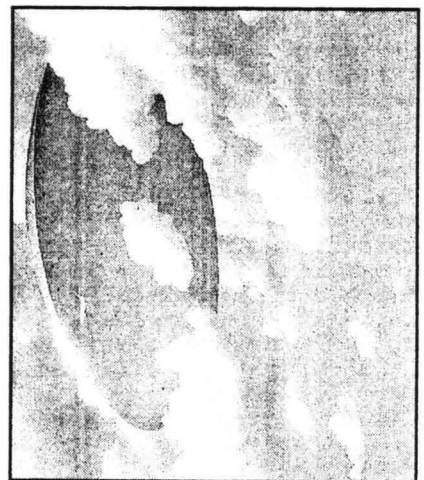
HUDDERSFIELD DAILY EXAMINER
Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, England
March 15, 2008

Watching the skies for UFOs in UK hotspot of 'West York-fear'

Mr Pope said: "While we currently have no explanation why certain places in the UK are alien hotspots, as the research reveals, there are areas where mysterious objects are repeatedly witnessed. "So people who want to alien-spot should definitely head to Yorkshire."

orange objects were spotted in the night sky in Leeds. The study was conducted by Nick Pope, a former government UFO advisor, and taken from data going back to 1994. The areas taking second and third place in the Top 10 UFO hotspots in the country are Nottingham and Lancashire.

PEOPLE are more likely to spot a UFO in the skies over West Yorkshire than any other region in the UK, new research suggests. There is a UFO sighting every four months in the area, dubbed "West York-fear", according to Virgin Media. The most recent incident was on February 17 when three



SPOTTED: UFOs over West Yorkshire?

GRANTHAM Journal

Grantham Journal
Grantham, England
March 28, 2008

More sightings of Grantham UFO

Friday, 3.30pm - A UFO seen repeatedly in the Great Gonerby area may also have been spotted in Ontario, Canada.

Dave P got in touch to say he saw a flying object on Tuesday night, and felt inspired to get in touch after reading about sightings in the Grantham area.

He said: "Last night my mom and I were about to drive out of the parking lot when I looked up and saw a white light just floating across the sky.

"It went across for a bit then just dimmed out. It was strange but cool.

"Also near it was an airplane, which often fly over my apartment, so I highly doubt it was a plane or helicopter.

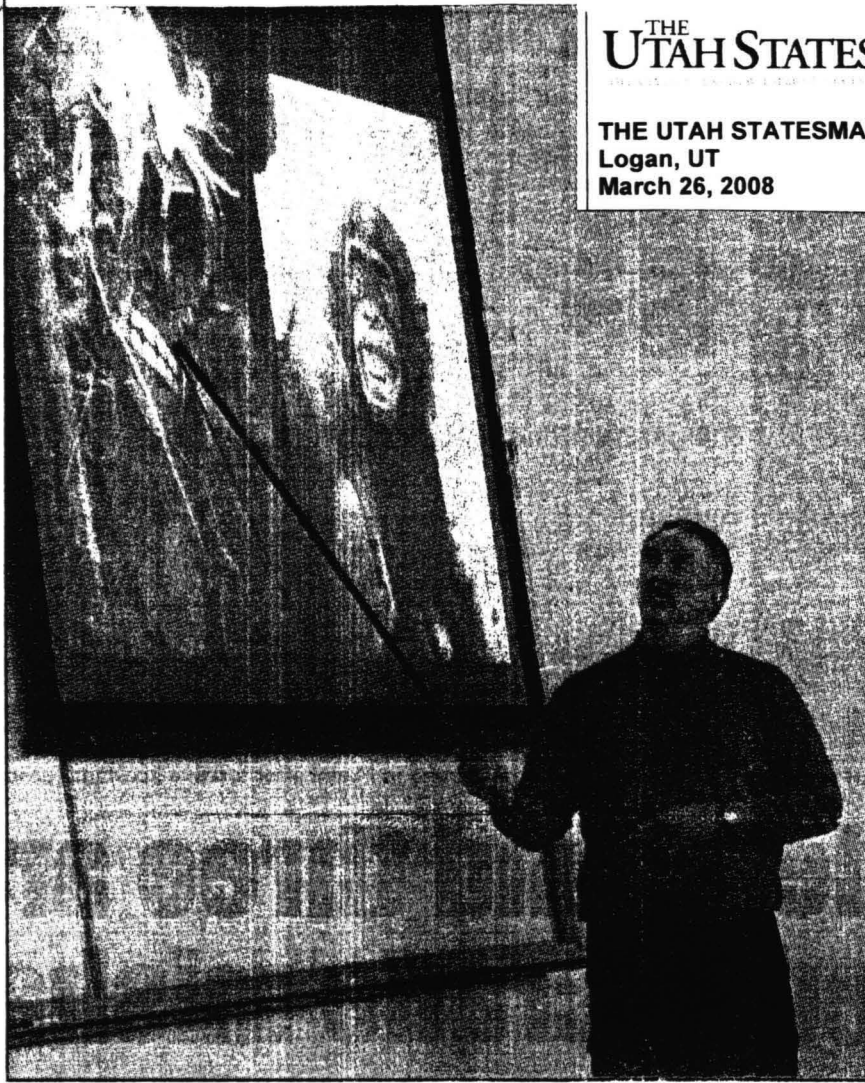
"Not sure if it was a UFO but it sure was different!"



THE
UTAH STATESMAN
online

■ continued from page 1

THE UTAH STATESMAN
Logan, UT
March 26, 2008



JEFF MELDRUM of Idaho State University biological services department speaks to students about whether or not there is scientific evidence that Sasquatch exists. *DEBRA HAWKINS photo*

2165 Author says evidence proves Bigfoot exists

By DRUE TOLMAN
staff writer

It is not a matter of believing in Bigfoot, but it's using scientific evidence to prove his existence, Jeff Meldrum, author of "Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science," said Tuesday to Robert Schmidt's ENV 3600 class.

"It's very difficult in 45 minutes to give you a comprehensive package of the evidence that has motivated me to persist in this investigation. That is what this is, an investigation. It's not me trying to convince you that Bigfoot exists," said Meldrum, who works in the Department of Biological Science at Idaho State University.

Schmidt, an associate professor for the department of environment and society, said, "How do we assess the evidence for Sasquatch, or the Bear Lake Monster, or even the Loch Ness monster? Science gives us the tools for looking at the

validity of the evidence."

Meldrum said folklore, prehistoric evidence and aspects of history convey the intrigue of the possibility of an unknown animal such as Bigfoot.

"Belief has no role as a scientific question. The question boils down to is there evidence for a biological species known as Sasquatch," he said.

Ever since there have been travelers, there have been tales of fanciful, even somewhat unbelievable animals, Meldrum said. He related the idea of describing a giraffe to someone who didn't know about giraffe and how unbelievable that would seem. Similarly, Bigfoot may seem far-fetched when all people hear are stories, he said.

Meldrum said the earliest recorded story about Bigfoot is the "Epic of Gilgamesh." He said that story and "Beowulf" both

have accounts of a hairy wild man, which he said could be early accounts of Bigfoot.

He showed pictures of masks, tribal statues and paintings from different centuries and cultures, and he pointed out the possible correlations to primates and Bigfoot and the differences between both. He said depictions of a creature with very big, human-like hands and feet were showing up in various styles of pictographs.

"No history is without myth. No myth is without history," Meldrum said.

Sometimes stories were told to serve as a warning to children to not stay out late because of the dangers in the woods, he said.

"Are these just boogie man stories? Are these just things the natives tell their kids to keep them in line?" Meldrum asked. "Are these just stories or do they have some thread of truth?"

Meldrum showed possible Bigfoot footprint casts and showed the differences in what are believed to be real and fabricated prints. The evidence in the footprints is what he said he finds most compelling.

He discussed the realities of the video recording of Bigfoot walking into the woods and said even though people have come out and said they were in a Bigfoot suit, the reality is the body proportions just don't match up for it to be a human in a costume.

Meldrum told the students at lunch after the lecture that he became interested in Bigfoot as a young boy. He said it was when the video of Bigfoot walking in the woods emerged that he became curious about Bigfoot. That curiosity developed more in later years as his study of science and primates slowly turned into a study of Bigfoot, Meldrum said. He continues his research on Bigfoot and the evidences to support his theory, he said.

For more information and to see pictures of possible Bigfoot footprints, access Meldrum's web site at www.isu.edu/~meldd/fxnlmorph.html.

-n.drue.t@aggiemail.usu.edu

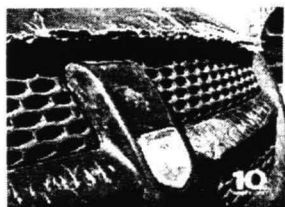
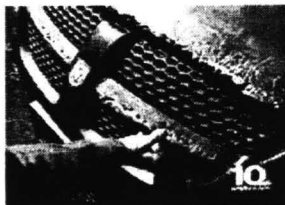
■ See **BIGFOOT**, page 3

WIS10 (Online)
Columbia, SC
February 29, 2008

"Lizard Man" returns?

BISHOPVILLE, SC (WIS) - After a nasty surprise Thursday morning for one Bishopville resident, she's wondering if the "Lizard Man" is back.

Dixie Rawson of Bishopville sent WIS News 10 an e-mail about a big surprise she got at her home Thursday morning. "The whole front half of our van is chewed up. There are bite marks right through the front grill. Both sides of the van above the wheel wells were bitten and the metal is bent like a piece of paper."



It reminded Dixie of the local legend of the "Lizard Man" that stretches back for decades. Now some are wondering if the Lizard Man is back.

The legend blows in with a brisk winter wind, sending chills through neighbors in Lee County.

"I couldn't believe it, I just couldn't believe it," says Bob Rawson. He looks down at the blood and claw marks on his van. "He literally bit, you can feel where he bit straight through here."

Who is "he"? It's a point of renewed debate in the area. Some are sure they know the only creature capable of this kind of damage is the Lizard Man.

If it is the Lizard Man, he's back nearly two decades after first being spotted near Scape Ore swamp.

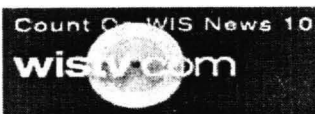


No one's ever been able to confirm the account of the seven-foot monster with green skin, three toes and a three clawed fingers.

In addition to the car damage, the Rawsons didn't find their cats in the boxes where they usually sleep. They did find the towels inside shredded, and the same story with the morning paper. Whatever did this, the Rawsons aren't taking any chances.

His Glock loaded, Mr. Rawson is ready to shoot what he feels is most likely a bear. Lee County Sheriff E.J. Melvin says it could be a coyote, but then again, "All the scratch marks, people are saying, 'Sheriff, it's Lizard Man.' Don't know. It's hard to say."

Several of the Rawsons' 20 plus cats have also disappeared. They're hoping they were just scared away.



WIS10 (Online)
Columbia, SC
March 6, 2008

Dead cow, coyote found near site of "Lizard Man" mystery

LEE COUNTY, SC (WIS) - We have been following a renewed investigation into the "Lizard Man."

Thursday we have learned that two dead animals were found in a field near the home of Dixie and Bob Rawson. The Lee County Sheriff's Department says it could be linked to some pretty serious damage to the Rawson's van.

Last week, the Rawsons showed us how the van's front grill was chewed up, and how the wheel wells on both sides were bent. When some of the Rawson's cats went missing too, neighbors said the "Lizard Man" might be responsible.

Lee County Sheriff E.J. Melvin is out to inspect the field near the Rawsons on his four-wheeler. "Just going to ride the field, see if there are anymore animals laying out dead."

Already, they've found a cow and a coyote. It's significant in that they were both found only yards away from the Rawsons' car.

"This is out of a book," says Dixie Rawson. And now, Rawson doesn't know what's fiction and what's real.

WIS News 10 first showed you last week the bite marks and bends on her van. Neighbors told her it was the Lizard Man - a seven-foot green giant whose first reported sighting near Scape Ore Swamp 20 years ago entrenched him as a legend in these parts, a legend that's never been confirmed.

So investigators told the Rawsons not to worry, all that must have been done by some other animal - likely, a coyote. Now Dixie Rawson asks, "If the coyote did this damage, what killed the coyote and the cow? Was it the Lizard Man? I don't know."

Sheriff E.J. Melvin says, "I don't want to get anybody alarmed. But for some reason, I'm sticking with the coyote. But the coyote, that coyote is dead."

What's left now is more speculation. Authorities had hoped to extract some blood left on the van's hood, but the Department of Natural Resources says the sample taken was somehow contaminated. For the record, DNR believes the holes were made by a dog - a dog trying to get at cats underneath the cars.

About a half-dozen of the Rawsons cats are still missing nearly a week after the attack on their car. The passing time is doing little to answer their questions.

Dixie Rawson says, "We're here in this quiet little town and all of a sudden, this happens."

How this happened, no one is quite sure yet - making clear only that the Lizard Man mystery isn't ready to be solved.



WIS10 (Online)
Columbia, SC
March 30, 2008

California group comes to Bishopville to investigate "Lizard Man"

BISHOPVILLE, SC (WIS) - Stories of the Lizard Man and the van belonging to Bob and Dixie Rawson in Lee County have hit the national media.

After one man saw the Rawsons' story, he came to Bishopville to check it out.

Tom Biscardi runs Searching for Bigfoot, a group out of California that investigates experiences with creatures like Bigfoot.

"We traveled over 3100 miles to see what chewed up her van," Biscardi told WIS News 10.

Searching for Bigfoot has been around for 35 years. They came to Bishopville to ask questions about the legend of the Lizard Man.

Continued On Next Page >>

WIS10 (Online)
Columbia, SC
March 30, 2008

< < Continued From Last Page *

The Bigfoot team will also make molds of the teeth marks the Rawsons say they found in their van.

Then they'll run those molds against imprints they say they already have in their system to see if there is any kind of match.

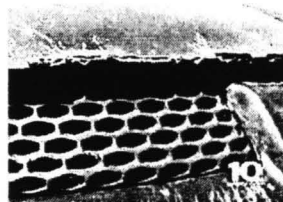
"We're going to do some swabs, and with the swabs we're going to take the blood samples and see if we can get some DNA out of them," said Biscardi.

Biscardi says he has been investigating Bigfoot-like incidents for about 35 years.

WIS10 (Online)
Columbia, SC
April 1, 2008

California crew thinks "Lizard Man" may be "Bigfoot"

BISHOPVILLE, SC (WIS) - It's a story that got a lot of people talking in the Midlands. Back in February, a Lee County family woke up to find their van torn and bloodied. Some people thought the legendary Lizard Man had struck again, and many of you sent us stories telling about your own run-ins with him.

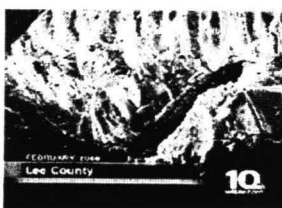


Now, an investigator says those who believe the legend have it all wrong. Instead, he says a very different type of creature is to blame.

"Think about it. It's incredible," says Tom Biscardi. He wants answers, so he drove all the way from California to Bishopville. Biscardi is traveling with his team of researchers - trying to figure out what could've chewed up the front of the van, biting right through metal.

Biscardi heard all the rumors. The only freak of nature that could do it was supposedly the Lizard Man.

A giant creature of legend was first reportedly seen near Scape Ore swamp nearly 20 years ago. Biscardi doesn't think so. "There's no Lizard Man. I'm telling you, you've got something else."



Biscardi, says his investigation - will debunk all the rumors. He can't prove it yet, but Biscardi traces the damage to a creature like the one in Texas. "I'm going to tell you, it's not a Lizard Man. What you've got is a primate, a thing called a swamp ape."



The creature Biscardi speaks of is more commonly known as "Bigfoot."

The team found 18-inch prints in Texas. Biscardi's team of Bigfoot hunters says it's found similar prints near Scape Ore Swamp. The team set surveillance around the swamp, and near the damaged van.

Forensic evidence was also gathered. But after two days of searching, no creature was spotted. Biscardi says, "No problem."

He'll be back next month with a bigger crew. "If anything does travel out on this area, we'll get it. I have no doubt in my mind."

Whether the Lizard Man story ends there remains to be seen. What's clear for now, the mystery's plot - has only thickened.



The Canberra Times

The Canberra Times
Canberra, Australia
March 25, 2008

Photographs back yowie hunch: claim

YOWIE hunter Paul Compton has long believed a giant animal lives in the Glen Innes district - and he claims he finally has photos to prove it.



Proof...Paul Compton with one of the photos that he believes backs up claims of a giant yowie-like animal living in the Glen Innes district.

Two days before Christmas, Mr Compton set up a wild view trail camera in an area north west of Glen Innes he has been watching for some time. A week later he returned, finding the camera - triggered by movement - had shot 921 images, including two showing a blurred black figure he claims to be the elusive animal.

"There had been a lot of activity there - rocks moved, broken tree limbs - I'd left a couple of cooked chops in a plastic bag in a tree about eight foot of the ground as bait, and when I returned it had been ripped apart," he said.

Mr Compton estimates the shadowy figure to be about 35m from the camera, and estimates it's height to be about (4 foot six inches) - "I took my son out and got him to stand in

the same place and he's about the same height".

He says he believes the animal is a descendant of the giant ancient ape Gigantapithecus, which was in Asia tens of thousands of years ago.

"I've got hair at home that's been identified by Dr Henner Fahrenbach from Oregon Regional Primate Research Centre in America who believes it to be a high primate and identical to the type of hair belonging to the (American) Big Foot or Sasquatch."

Mr Compton, who has plaster casts of footprints, has become somewhat of an authority on big animals, and in October will be a guest speaker at the three day Mid American Big Foot Research Foundation conference in Oklahoma to talk about big animals in Australia.

Meanwhile, two commercial television current affairs programs are looking at the recently snapped photos.

"There's never been a picture before, this could really put Glen Innes on the map," he said.

Source: Glen Innes Examiner, NSW

THE REGISTER-HERALD

Beckley, WV

March 16, 2008

By Christian Gigenbach

More than 50 Bigfoot sightings tallied in W.Va.

The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, an Internet scientific community charged with unraveling the mystery of Sasquatch, lists more than 4,000 sightings and trackings of the furry fellow throughout the United States and Canada.

The Web site www.bfro.net has documented more than 50 sightings in West Virginia alone since 1975, with a majority of them occurring in southern West Virginia. The most recent Bigfoot sighting occurred last summer in Monroe County.

BFRO founder and director Mathew Moneymaker last week revealed for the first time the approximate geographical area in West Virginia where the group's April 10-13 outing is scheduled. The group last explored a similar area in 2006.

"Our expedition will focus searching for Sasquatch in the Greenbrier River region area encompassing a span of three counties," said Moneymaker, a law graduate and computer consultant from California.

Moneymaker began compiling his "comprehensive sightings database" in 1995 while still in law school. Since then, he's received more than 20,000 submissions about sightings, but only about "one out of four have credible enough evidence to document and post on the Web site."

The database, the first of its kind, gives a county-by-county breakdown not only of sightings and trackings, but also first-hand accounts. Some reports are buffered with notes from BFRO investigators such as retired Army Sgt. Stephen Willis, who will lead the Greenbrier River expedition.

Willis will most likely be searching for Sasquatch somewhere in Greenbrier and Pocahontas counties, which lists five previous sightings. A 1994 Greenbrier eyewitness account documents a man and son who saw "three creatures ripping limbs and bark from trees" at Sherwood Lake.

"I saw two very large black upright creatures ... it appeared they were eating bark. The smallest of the two had an arm reach about 10 to 12 feet. The larger of the two was several feet higher, later a third one stepped out. That's when I told my son, 'we have to run,'" the unidentified witness wrote. "I grew up in the area and I spent a lot of time in the woods, and it takes a lot to scare me. Through the years, I stopped

talking about it because no believed me or my son."

BFRO officials said many encounters are never documented because eyewitnesses fear they will be ridiculed after coming forward with information.

The Web site also documents a 1987 Nicholas County sighting by three friends of a "7-foot tall, legged, hairy brown animal" at the "Krofford Hole on the Gauley River."

"I estimated by the tree limbs that it had to be over 7 feet tall," the witness, known only as D.A., said. "I am a believer now and I will always be."

Moneymaker said BFRO officials are continuing to input information from their expansive database onto Google Map, which he feels will allow him to glean even more information about the elusive, legendary character.

"By mapping the most credible instances, we will learn more about their behavior and use that to target their locations and possibly trick them to walk in front of cameras," Moneymaker said.

And what of his critics who say Bigfoot is just a hoax? Moneymaker said, "We have been able to convert the best trained skeptic after seeing all the evidence. It's not a magical thing or something you can show in one photo; it's a collection of things."

The state's most recent Bigfoot sighting, a Monroe County encounter last summer, purportedly occurred just northeast of Lindsie near U.S. 219.

"I was walking up to the driveway after getting the morning newspaper," the unidentified witness wrote. "I saw a big, tannish brown creature that sort of had a bump in its back. Its fur was short and clumped."

The witness said the creature also "banged on trees in the yard."

Willis visited the family and set up a trail camera, but "(it) recorded three images, none of any interest."

Will the mystery of Sasquatch finally be answered in the Greenbrier Valley? Moneymaker hopes that will be the case.

"Our group wants the rest of the world to know these animals are real and we are out to prove the existence of Bigfoot," he said.



KLTV-7

Tyler-Longview, Texas

March 9, 2008

East Texans Organize For Bigfoot Search

Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the woods, East Texans prepare for another expedition to find Bigfoot in East Texas. A professional and well equipped group says it's ready to prove the mysterious hairy giant is roaming our neighborhoods.



"Actually, I found that there were a lot of sightings and things in the Arkansas, Texas and Louisiana error," said Bigfoot researcher Mike Hall. "Strange things happen." Several dots on a map represent Bigfoot sightings in East Texas since 2000. Mike Hall is assembling a research team to answer questions.

"What's going on here, what is this thing people are seeing," said Hall. Hall has been chasing sightings across East Texas, and has found numerous clues, footprints and evidence, but admits they must have more.

"We hope beyond hope that we come back with something tangible," said Hall. Hall's no stranger to the Sasquatch. He says he's seen it in January of 2005 in East Texas woods.

"Right in the middle of the road was about a 6' tall bi-pedal animal," said Hall. His focus is proving that a 7' 400 pound ape could be living in Texas right under our noses, so to speak.

"All this technology is out there and yet this thing has been able to elude us," said Hall. "We put our skeptical's on, but there is something out there what is it?" Hall's team is preparing to the Neches River where numerous sightings have occurred, and where he hopes his team can solve a mystery.