

# UFO said to hover over nuclear plant

## James City man watched craft for 20 minutes

By Cortney Langley

JAMES CITY — A Hidden Lake Drive man says he saw an unidentified flying object hovering near the Surry Nuclear Power Plant Monday afternoon while he was riding his bicycle along the Colonial Parkway.

Bob Foster noticed a "silvery disk" flying in a semicircle across the mile-wide James River, he said.

"I know this sounds a little like 'X-Files,'" Foster said in a telephone interview Monday afternoon. "I don't want to come off as wooly-headed here."

While Foster's report is the first visual sighting of a craft near the plant, last month there were reports of unusual rumbling noises that seemed to originate from the nuclear plant side of the James River. A source for the noise was never determined.

Foster said the craft, which he estimated at 50-100 feet in diameter, was making a slow circuit on the river side of the plant. He said he spotted it about 12:20 p.m.

"I was really mesmerized by it," he said. He watched the object for about 20 minutes before he headed home to get his binoculars.

He drove back to his vantage point, estimating that he arrived at about 1:15 p.m. The craft was gone.

When Foster got home, he called the plant, speaking briefly with power plant security. They had no reports of unusual activity at the site.

"They said they have a lot of eyes on the ground," he said.

Contacted by a reporter on Monday, a power plant representative said, "I would think there would have been an e-mail or something."

In a follow-up phone call Tuesday morning, he confirmed that security had been contacted.

"They did indicate this individual called them up saying that he had seen some UFO that he thought was over the station," said Rick Zurecher. "We did not have anything like that occur, nothing over the station or unusual from where

we are. We assured him there was no UFO or issue like that involving the station."

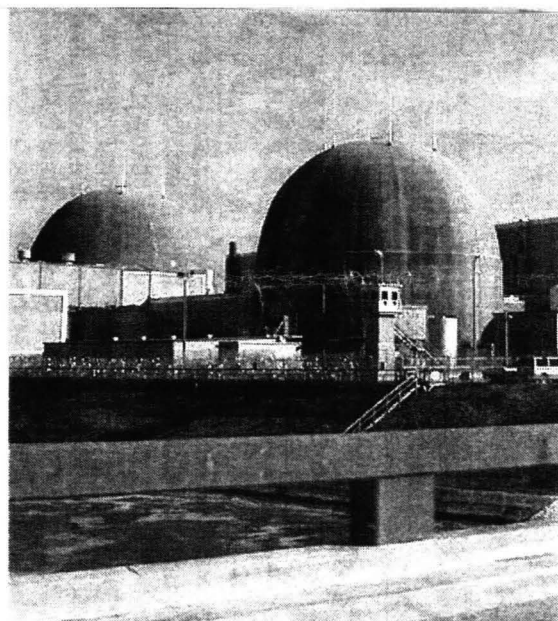
Airspace over nuclear power plants is restricted for national security reasons, but claims of UFO sightings over nuclear facilities is surprisingly common.

In fact, the phenomenon has earned its own link on the Internet site [ufoevidence.org](http://ufoevidence.org). The site lists 11 different sightings, beginning in 1951 over Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada. Surry was not listed.

One of the most fascinating theories linking UFOs and nuclear facilities centers on the 1986 explosion at Chernobyl. The theory goes that a UFO hovered over the infamous Reactor Four for hours, sucking up radiation and preventing an even larger catastrophe, according to the site.

While hundreds of people allegedly saw that UFO, so far Foster is the only one to report a sighting over Surry on Monday.

Coincidentally, NBC's "Dateline" aired "10 Close Encounters Caught on Tape" Sunday evening.



SURRY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

VIRGINIA GAZETTE  
Williamsburg, Virginia  
May 21, 2008



VIRGINIA GAZETTE

# Men claim they saw UFO in Newbury

BY KATIE CURLEY  
STAFF WRITER

NEWBURY — Greater Newburyport is no stranger to UFO sightings, but would the little green men actually pick Friday the 13th as a landing date?

Two local men swear that something appeared over Interstate 95 about 10 a.m. yesterday,

and they say it was unlike anything they've ever seen.

"I was driving my nephew James to school at Triton to pick up some paperwork," Robert Mace, 36, of Congress Street in Amesbury, said. "Then we both looked up and saw this silver, illuminated saucer flying through the air, it changed shape into a cylinder and left a trail of smoke, and

then it snuffed out like a candle."

Mace is no science fiction enthusiast, but his voice shook as he recounted his experience. Hours after the incident, which he said occurred near Exit 55 in Byfield, Mace said he still had goose bumps.

"I never saw anything like this in my life, and I probably never will again," Mace said. "It was so

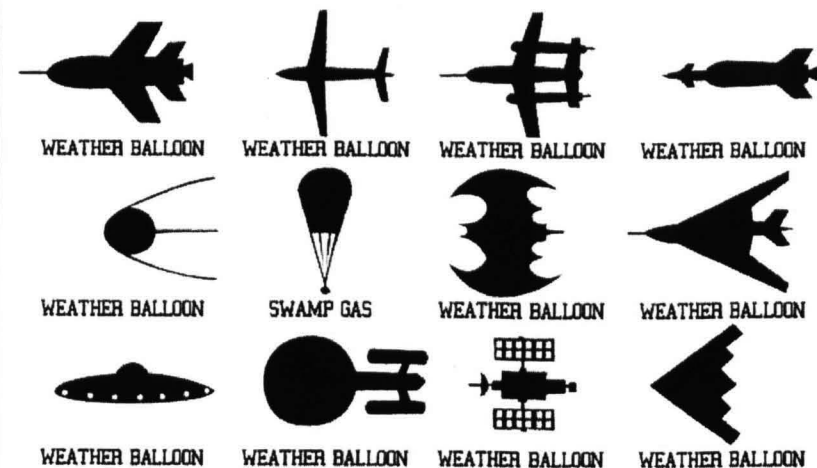
brightly illuminated in the clear blue sky ... It was a big, shiny platter and then changed shape and only lasted about 30 seconds."

"We kept driving down the highway looking up at it shift shape," Mace said.

His nephew James Mace, 19, of Lena Mae Way in Salisbury, said

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## U.S. AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT IDENTIFICATION CHART



## UFO: Hoax or not? Man, his nephew claim they saw UFO over I-95 in Newbury

■ Continued from Page 1

at first he thought his mind was playing tricks on him. But before long he realized his uncle also had his eyes glued skyward.

"I just watched it disappear like a cloud or something," James Mace said. "I don't know how to explain it. It was pretty crazy."

Robert Mace added, "We both got goose bumps. I'm still getting them for some reason. We just looked at each other, and we both knew what we saw."

"I don't care what anyone thinks, anyone can ask me, and I will tell them I know what I saw

and I know the difference between what a jet looks like and what a plane looks like."

Mace worked in local lumber yards for more than 10 years before a back injury forced him to stop work due to disability. His nephew recently graduated from Triton Regional High School.

Yesterday, no one came forward with similar sightings, and the state and Newbury police said they didn't receive any phone calls.

When asked if there were any unique planes in the area, a skeptical Jim Peters, spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration

*"I don't care what anyone thinks, anyone can ask me, and I will tell them I know what I saw and I know the difference between what a jet looks like and what a plane looks like."*

Robert Mace

said, "Our agency doesn't have the time or the resources to look into such things."

Employees at a nearby Citgo in Newbury laughed at the idea, while one stone-faced employee mentioned he had seen on television there have been an increase

on UFO sightings. He also wondered if the UFOs were moving from Exeter, N.H., to Newbury.

The Exeter incident was one of the best documented in the folklore of UFO sightings. It happened on Sept. 3, 1965, when several New Hampshire residents believed

they saw a UFO traveling overhead.

The first to report it was Norman Muscarello, 18, who was walking along Route 150 in Kensington, N.H., at 2 a.m. after visiting his girlfriend in Amesbury, when he saw a strange glow in the sky.

Moments later, Muscarello said he saw an orb of red and blue lights.

"I didn't know what it was, but it was as big as a house," Muscarello recounted in the book, "Sightings: UFO" written by Susan Michaels and published in 1997. "It had a red hue and flashing lights, sometimes in sequence, sometimes erratic."

Muscarello dove into a ditch full of leaves to hide from the extraterrestrial activity.

Exeter police witnessed the orb, as did other residents. The Air Force dispatched officers to investigate. The case was a featured topic in a congressional hearing into UFOs.

While there is little evidence to back up the claims of Robert and James Mace, Robert Mace said he is still telling everyone what he saw, an image he will take to his grave.

"I can't contain myself," Mace said. "I'm telling everyone who will listen."



## COLUMN ONE

# How UFOs took over a town

*In Stephenville, Texas, people reported seeing brilliant lights in the sky. Then strange things appeared: the media, theme T-shirts.*

By DENISE GELLENE  
Times Staff Writer

**C**ONSTABLE Lee Roy Gaitan saw the brilliant red orbs hovering in the sky and hollered for his family to come out.

It's probably an airplane, said his wife, Wendy, who didn't budge from the couch. Only 8-year-old Ryan went to the front yard.

That's a UFO, the boy said. Gaitan, a stocky, 44-year-old lawman who has spent 16 years patrolling the Texas scrubland, faced a bit of a dilemma. With an election coming up, he could tell the world of this incredible sight — and look like an idiot — or keep his mouth shut.

"People would say, 'Hey, this guy is nuts. He's crazy,'" said Gaitan of his sighting Jan. 8.

In the morning, there were no unusual police reports, leaving him to wonder whether anyone else had seen the lights. But the next day, the Stephenville Empire-Tribune came out with a front-page story: "Possible UFO Sighting — Four area residents witness mysterious objects."

Soon, scores more said they had seen the same thing. Ste-

[See UFO, Page A16]

# They know they saw something

[UFO, from Page A1]

phenville, a ranch town 70 miles southwest of Fort Worth, became home to the biggest mass UFO sighting since the 1997 Phoenix Lights, in which thousands of people, including then-Gov. Fife Symington, reported seeing a boomerang-shaped formation in the sky.

With so many reports from so many people pouring in, there was no easy way to dismiss it all as a hoax. A town that had called itself "The Cowboy Capital of the World" now found itself riding an emotional bronco. Things changed.

**T**HE night sky above Stephenville is a jet black canvas that seems the perfect backdrop for the sharp white specks of stars and any imaginings of strange glowing lights.

Stephenville, the largest town in Erath County, is in the heart of Texas dairy country, which means lots of open land and few towns to interrupt the flow of grazing.

Cows easily outnumber the 34,000 humans in the county and, in honor of the dairy industry, there is a Holstein statue nicknamed Moo-la in Stephenville's town square.

After football season ends in the winter, life slows. The green fields turn a dreary brown, punctuated by leafless oaks that reach into the endless Texas sky.

It was a cool, clear January night when Steve Allen, 50, and a group of friends were warming themselves around a fire of brush and debris in nearby Selden, just south of Stephenville.

They first saw a set of brilliant white lights heading from the east that looked like they were at the corners of something a mile long and a half-mile wide. The lights were quicker and quieter than anything Allen had ever seen.

"They came within a mile of us," said Allen, the owner of L&S Enterprises and Texas Freight, a local trucking company. "It flipped us all out."

The lights headed toward Stephenville, where they came to a stop. They reconfigured to form an arch "shaped like the top of a football," Allen said, and realigned into two vertical lines of randomly flashing lights. Then the object burst into a dirty white flame.

"It looked like something firing up, like a blowtorch," Allen said. "It simply vanished."

Ten minutes later, the group saw the lights coming from the opposite direction. Trailing them closely, Allen was certain, were two military jets, followed by two massive red orbs.

Allen, who as a licensed pilot was comfortable judging distance, said the lights were 3,000 feet above the ground.

When the light show was over, he went home and told his wife, who urged him to keep the encounter to himself.

Allen spent a sleepless night, enthralled by what he had seen. In the morning, he contacted the Empire-Tribune.

**H**is call went to education reporter Angelia Joiner. She knew nothing about UFOs, but Allen sounded like a sensible man.

"He was a pilot and seemed very intelligent," said Joiner, a 47-year-old former schoolteacher who had been a reporter for 18 months. Allen's friends confirmed the account, convincing Joiner the sighting was real.

Still, it was a strange story and Joiner's bosses were concerned. Managing Editor Sara Vanden Berge said she was so anxious that she cried the next morning when she saw "UFO" in the headline. Everyone is laughing at us, she thought.

That was before the television crews started showing up. First came the local reporters, then people from "Good Morning America," NPR and CNN.

"Do you believe alien beings are out there?" CNN's Larry King asked, looking into the camera. "Do you believe they've come to Earth?"

A Japanese film crew showed up and theorized that the UFO was related to the local dairy farms, Allen said. Aliens like milk, they told him.

The town was swept into a UFO maelstrom. People sported aluminum foil alien hats at Stephenville High School basketball games. Men with

belt buckles big as fists were wearing "Alien Capital of the World" T-shirts rushed into production by a local company.

The high school science club decided to capitalize on the events by selling its own T-shirts that said: "Erath County — the New Roswell," referring to the UFO mecca in New Mexico. The shirts carried a picture of a cow being beamed up to a spaceship with the caption: "They came for the milk."

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# Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES TIMES  
Los Angeles, California  
June 14, 2008

The school netted \$7,000 for college scholarships. "Money just fell out of the sky," Principal Travis Stillwell said.

Sensing a historic moment for the town, the Literary Lion bookstore invited customers to jot down their accounts for future generations. Owner Sarah Canady put out salsa and chips for the crowd.

The reports attracted the attention of the Mutual UFO Network, a group that investigates UFO sightings. People who had never talked about UFOs suddenly came forward with tales going back years.

Meeting at the Rotary Club in nearby Dublin, the group collected dozens of reports, including one from Kay Harris, a former factory worker who handed out photocopies of a map charting the route of a flying disc that passed over her home in 1995. She

said she had pulled out a handgun but held her fire. "I was not about to start War of the Worlds," Harris said.

Gaitan watched the furor unfold. He had initially been hesitant to mention the event but now couldn't stop talking about it. Media calls came from all over the world, and by mid-February he had logged more than 100 interviews.

His instinct as a lawman was to stick to the facts, so he avoided leaping to conclusions about the lights. Still, he couldn't dismiss a nagging thought at the back of his mind. How could we be alone in a universe so big, he wondered.

"It would be like having a 20- to 30-acre lake and being the only creature in it," he said.

In the midst of the frenzy, his 15-year-old daughter, Katie, came home from school one day and flatly told him that UFOs weren't real. Her school friends didn't believe in them either, she said.

He found himself explaining that "UFO" didn't necessarily mean flying saucers and little green men. It just meant no one knew what the lights were.

Gaitan asked Katie if anyone at school was teasing her because he was on television talking about UFOs, and to his relief, she said no.

**J**OINER was swamped by calls about strange objects in the sky. Even though she was supposed to be covering the schools, she couldn't help pursuing the UFO story.

"As much as I would have liked to cut it off, I couldn't," she said. "I didn't want to abandon the witnesses."

A logical explanation for the lights was the military; a portion of Erath County falls under a fly zone used in training exercises. When Joiner checked, however, the 301st Fighter Wing stationed near Fort Worth said no aircraft had been near Stephenville when the lights were first observed Jan. 8.



**PERSPECTIVE:** Constable Lee Roy Gaitan hesitated to mention the red orbs he saw. But he doubts mankind can be alone in the universe: "It would be like having a 20- to 30-acre lake and being the only creature in it."

There was no solid way to refute the UFO claims, so theories abounded. The UFO needed power, one story went, so it was headed to a nearby nuclear plant. Another explanation had the UFO looking for President Bush at his Crawford ranch, about an hour's drive from Stephenville.

In the deeply religious community, some believed the lights could be a sign from God. A Bible study group at the Bread of Life Ministries discussed the events at one meeting, and Sandra Evans, 59, said she thought maybe they were guardian angels sent to Earth.

Her husband, Keith, 60, pastor of the church, wasn't sure. "Could be the military," he said. "Could be the end of times."

James Huse, 53, thought that whatever the lights were, they had brought him unexpected good luck. People suddenly repaid him money, legal problems with his father's estate resolved and an old girlfriend called him out of the blue.

"It's kind of a crazy thing — it's almost like a blessing," said Huse, a retired telephone equipment installer.

Allen felt that he had witnessed something transcendent and was driven to understand what it all meant.

He flew his Cessna over Erath County's countryside, scouring the land for any sign of an alien spaceship. For three afternoons, he surveyed hundreds of square miles but found nothing.

Two weeks after the sighting, a break came in the case. Correcting its earlier statement, the Air Force said 10 F-16s were on a training mission over Erath County when the lights were initially spotted.

The town splintered into believers and skeptics. To some, the lights were becoming a joke.

"It's ridiculous," said Pam Kinsel, a member of the Stephenville High School science club. "It makes us look like a bunch of retarded hicks."

"Yeah," sighed her friend Morgan Lanier. "Inbred."

Joiner doubted the weird pattern of lights reported by Allen and others could be explained by military aircraft. Allen wasn't buying it either. "Our military wishes it had what we saw," he said.

Gaitan reasoned from the presence of the F-16s that he probably had seen a military experiment the Air Force couldn't fully disclose. "We're in the middle of a war right now," he said.

Gaitan nonetheless found himself repeatedly scanning the sky for another glimpse of the lights. One February morning at dawn, while driving the highway west of Stephenville, Gaitan spotted a mysterious ball of light shining through a field of leafless trees. He pulled over and aimed his police camera in its direction.

Gaitan radioed one of his buddies, Sgt. Jim Clifton of the Erath County Sheriff's Department, to take a look. "In my 35 years of law enforcement, I have never seen anything like it," Clifton said.

Less than 24 hours later, Gaitan was at home in Dublin when he spotted a strange pattern of red, green and white lights. He was off-duty, so he and his wife chased the lights in their car, recording images as they followed them into the countryside.

Wendy, 37, who doubted the first sighting, was now convinced the lights were from a technologically superior ship from outer space.

"Who is to say they are not going to invade?" she said.

**A**s winter turned to spring, and the brown fields became green again, the inconclusiveness of the cosmic news began to fade into the daily grind of terrestrial events. The town started looking forward to graduation at the high school, and the first awarding of college scholarships funded by T-shirt sales.

Joiner, frustrated with juggling her duties as an education writer, quit the paper and signed on as a special correspondent for the Jerry Pippin radio show, which regularly reports on unexplained phenomena. In April, she gave a talk at the National Press Club in Washington about covering the Stephenville lights.

It's become her life. "I am looking at the sky more. Friends and neighbors are looking at the sky more," said Joiner, who has never seen the lights herself. "Is it coming back?"

Allen became friends with Joiner, and when she left the paper he and another witness came up with the idea of a website to keep the story alive and possibly make some money from the sale of T-shirts and videos of subsequent sightings. They also recruited Gaitan, since he was one of the main witnesses.

Despite his skepticism, Gaitan agreed to join. He contributed some photos to the site, but recently said he wouldn't be shooting any new ones.

Weary of the tumult, he hardly searches the sky anymore.



# Was it a UFO? Just exactly what was it?

BY JOHN ARUNDEL  
Alexandria Times Staff Writer

History is rife with sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects. Now add Hollin Hall to the list.

"UFOs," defined as any flying object or phenomenon that cannot be identified by the observer, have been reported in tens of thousands of incidents over the decades, and studies show that after investigation, the majority of UFOs are usually identified and are relabeled Identified Flying Objects, or "IFOs."

According to the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, only about five to ten percent of cases are never identified or explainable. In an earlier study by the U.S. Air Force's Condon Committee, that number was higher, or about 20 to 30 percent being UFOs.

So what was it that awoke residents in the tranquil cul-de-sac of McAdams Place in the Hollin Hall area last Friday morning, May 22? Two residents we spoke to said they were awoken by a levitating flying object with rectangular green and red lights.

"I woke up at about 1 am Friday morning because I heard the sound of something right above my yard," said Janet Kimmel, the owner of Janet's Java on Telegraph Road. "It had four different triangular shapes with green and red lights. It was levitating about 100 feet off the ground. It was just sitting in the air with four different colored lights shining on my yard, making a whoosh sound."

The skeptical journalists in us put the it-must-be-explainable theory to a test.

See **UFO OR NO?** | A6

Was it a UFO? Or just a middle-of-the-night training exercise initiated by the nearby Fort Belvoir military base? Was it Fairfax County spraying for gypsy moths? Perhaps a helicopter mapping the area for Google Earth or Zillow.com? Or most ob-

viously, the Park Police or Fairfax Police looking for a fleeing suspect?

A likely candidate was the Army's Fort Belvoir base, just two miles away, which reads like a "Who's Who" of the Department of Defense. Fort Belvoir is home to one Army major command headquarters and elements of 10 others; 19 different agencies and direct reporting units of the Department of Army; eight elements of the U.S. Army Reserve and the Army National Guard, as well as 26 DoD agencies.

So we rang them up, and got Don Dees, Fort Belvoir's spokesman on the phone. "Fort Rucker, Alabama is the training center of new aircraft for the military, not here," Dees explained. "Besides, I checked with Airfield Operations and the last record of a flight checked in that night was 9:30 pm. We have no record of anything being in the sky after that point. The Tower closed that evening at 10:30 pm."

No luck there, so we checked with Fairfax County Police and the Park Service, no luck there either. "We almost always have helicopters in the sky, but we have no record of any of our choppers being in that area that night," a public information officer said.

As for Kimmel, she swears by her sighting, and at least one other neighbor who asked not to be identified witnessed something in the air which was out of the ordinary and unexplainable. "I don't think it was a UFO. But I don't know what it was," Kimmel said.

Send your explanation to  
[johna@alextimes.com](mailto:johna@alextimes.com).

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## Two times a witness

BY JASON FREEMAN  
CORRESPONDENT

I couldn't believe what I was seeing.

Not wanting to take my eyes away from the three red lights that were slowly and silently cutting their way across the night sky, my fingers fumbled blindly in the darkness of my car as I searched for my two-way Nextel.

When my brother responded, I could tell by his disoriented voice that he had been in the process of going to bed.

"The red lights are back," I said. Of course, he didn't believe me at first. Nearly a year before, in October 2004, we both had stood awestruck as the same lights, which looked as if an artist's brush had dropped three small dabs of reddish-orange paint on an immaculately black canvas, flew over his home in Tinley Park in a rough triangular formation.

What were the chances that such a strange and once-in-a-lifetime experience would happen again, and so soon?

Forgetting about the hamburger and fries that only a moment before had been foremost on my mind, I got out of my car and

tried as hard as I could to get a better view of the anomalies.

As in August 2004, they took the better part of an hour to fully traverse the sky and never made any sound one would associate with an airplane or helicopter.

When I finally arrived at home that night, the lights still were faintly visible through a stack of clouds that had moved in.

Whether it was my imagination, an optical illusion caused by the clouds or something else, I watched as one by one, each of the three red orbs shot off and disappeared into the darkness.

What exactly was it that I and hundreds of other Tinley residents saw that night? I'm not sure. Although I would definitely classify the lights as unidentified flying objects, I'm not willing to say there was anything paranormal or supernatural about them.

What I can say, however, is that they weren't hallucinations. They weren't road flares tied to balloons. They weren't airplanes, and they weren't Mars, Jupiter or Mercury.

They were something else entirely.

# 'UFO Hunters' to land in Tinley

**RED LIGHTS IN THE SKY | Investigators to search for evidence, witnesses**

BY KRISTEN SCHORSCH  
STAFF WRITER

When a trio of red lights shaped like a triangle appeared a few years ago in Tinley Park skies, they stopped drivers in their tracks, strained the necks of neighbors at barbecues and drew workers outside to gawk at the clouds.

One resident nicknamed the trio of lights the "Cleanup Crew." Some people said the lights moved, others said they were still. They were spotted three times in 2004 and 2005.

Were they helium balloons and flares suspended by a string of rope? A spacecraft, perhaps, from a galaxy far, far away?

The sightings have garnered Tinley Park — population nearly 60,000 — national attention from those who believe we are not alone in this universe, and skeptics who poke fun.

They were the topic of a day-long panel at the Tinley Park Convention Center in March. Now they'll be the subject of an episode of The History Channel's "UFO Hunters," in which a team of investigators tries to separate fact and

fiction when it comes to unidentified flying objects landing in your back yard.

Since its debut in 2005, the show has examined cases including a deadly dispute between Mexican and U.S. authorities about a collision between an unknown object and a civilian aircraft and whether the U.S. government is competing with extraterrestrials by using their downed spacecrafts to come up with modern technology, such as fiber optics and night vision, among other topics, according to the show's Web site at [www.history.com](http://www.history.com).

But the "UFO Hunters" crew's visit to Tinley Park is top secret. So much so, the filmmakers won't divulge any details, not even when the team will scour this south suburb looking for evidence and witnesses.

Tinley Park resident Wally Bekta laughed when he was asked about what he saw in 2005 and voiced the eerie sounds, "do do do do do do." Then he realized he might get on TV.

"They were flares on balloons," said Bekta, 48, who was hosting some friends at a firepit



**Wally Bekta (left) and Diane and David Palagi saw lights in the sky in 2005 at Bekta's home in Tinley Park. They say the lights were flares tied to balloons.** JASON HAN — SOUTHTOWNSTAR

in his back yard in the 8200 block of Queen Victoria Lane. "I spotted them. They just came across the house next to us over the peak of the roof, no more than 50 feet over the peak of the house. They were climbing and rising. We got a very good look at them."

Does he believe in UFOs? "No." His friend, David Palagi, is even more detailed in his description. And he doesn't believe the lights

were life from another planet.

"It was extremely clear," said Palagi, who also was at Bekta's home. "There was no doubt in my mind they were red helium balloons and flares suspended by a string of rope. They were just over (Bekta's) next-door neighbor's house, just climbing up over the distance."

Palagi, 54, said he had seen the red lights a few months before that evening, but they were much

higher in the sky, at least as high as an airplane.

Just the mere mention of the Tinley Park lights attracts a flurry of e-mails and comments from skeptics and believers.

Sam Maranto, Illinois director of the Mutual UFO Network, described the sightings as "quite possibly the best mass sighting case, as far as witnesses' videos, evidence, etc., of all time. I'm dead serious. If not the best, one

## DID YOU SEE THE LIGHTS?

If so, contact the "UFO Hunters" at [www.history.com](http://www.history.com) and comment at [blogs.southtownstar.com](http://blogs.southtownstar.com).

of the best."

Maranto said he plans to help the "UFO Hunters" investigate the Tinley Park cases, but that's all he would say. He is, though, very chatty when it comes to the red lights.

"There are elements to (the sightings) that clearly seem to not be anything like road flares attached to balloons, at least on two of those nights or more," Maranto said. "And we're investigating each case separately."

A witness has footage of the August 2004 sighting that shows something going in and out of the flying object, Maranto said.

"Why would we have animals going crazy if these objects were prosaic?" he said.

While you're waiting for the "UFO Hunters" to arrive, stay tuned for more details about another UFO Symposium planned for June 22 at the Tinley Park Convention Center, 18501 S. Harlem Ave. Maranto also will be on "Dateline NBC" tonight talking about the Tinley Park lights as part of an episode titled "10 Close Encounters Caught on Tape."

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Beecher, Illinois  
May 18, 2008



The Paper of Montgomery County  
(Online)  
Crawfordsville, IN  
June 14, 2008

## What was in the sky in 1897

By The Montgomery County  
Historical Society  
For The Paper

Last Halloween, we remembered the sighting of the so-called Crawfordsville monster, which appeared in the Crawfordsville skies in September 1891.

However, two eyewitnesses were able to identify the "monster" as a flock of killdeer. Six years later, on May 6, 1897, the Crawfordsville Star reported on another unidentified aerial phenomenon, which two eyewitnesses described as an airship.

Many people across the country swore to seeing an airship in American skies throughout 1896 and 1897. The Crawfordsville Star was generally skeptical in reporting on unexplained phenomenon, but the testimony of two Montgomery County men they deemed credible changed their minds.

John Callahan, a farmer living around Dry Branch, told the Star: "You will remember that last Monday was a perfect day with the bluest sky without a speck of cloud or moisture. . . . I was washing my buggy . . . about 3 o'clock in the afternoon when I . . . saw Mr. Edward Grimes, a well-known farmer who resides . . . west of Crawfordsville. 'Do you see that?' exclaimed Mr. Grimes as he pointed upwards. 'I do that,' I replied, 'and what a queer thing it is.' 'Do you know what it is?' he exclaimed. 'That I do,' I replied, 'it's the air ship.' . . . And we looked at the queer thing till it faded out of sight away over to the northeast beyond the city."

Callahan described the vessel as flying twice as high as kites normally fly. "It was a dark looking object pointed like a fish," he said, "It had a fan like arrangement at the rear something like a fish's tail. It was much bigger in the middle than anywhere else."

The reporter asked Callahan if the object was not a cloud, and Callahan adamantly denied this explanation. "The object was not a cloud; it was an air ship and I am willing to make an affidavit to the strict truthfulness of what I tell you."

Many people today who have studied the airship of 1896-97 believe it was a UFO. Other people have dismissed it as a hoax, a misidentification, or a real dirigible, which although not numerous did exist by the late 1800s. Yet, what exactly Callahan and Grimes espied in the Montgomery County skies may never be known with certainty.

# UFO investigators say that most Texas sightings were planets, clouds

By ANGELA K. BROWN  
Associated Press Writer

FORT WORTH, Texas — Most of the 300 reported UFO sightings in Texas dairy country earlier this year were probably planets, cloud formations or stars, according to a group that investigates unidentified flying objects.

But some cases still remain a mystery, said Kenneth Cherry, Texas director of the Mutual UFO Network, which examined the January and February phenomenon in Stephenville and Dublin, about 75 miles southwest of Fort Worth.

"The bottom line is: We really do believe something did occur down there," Cherry said Monday. "That

doesn't mean we know what it was, who it belongs to or where it came from. But the large number of witnesses in a small populated area is significant in and of itself."

Still, many Erath County residents are unfazed by the group's logical explanations for many sightings.

"We all know what we saw," said Steve Allen, a pilot and freight company owner. "It had so much technology and was just so far advanced. I know I keep saying it, but I just don't think it was from around these parts."

Although some details differed, many folks reported seeing a large silent object with bright lights flying low and fast. Some said its lights changed configuration, disputing sugges-

tions that it was an airplane or secret, experimental military aircraft. They also said it was larger, quieter, faster and lower to the ground than an airplane.

Some reported seeing something unusual in the sky as early as November, but most came forward in January after the local media covered a sighting by at least 10 people, including Allen. He and a few others said they saw fighter jets chasing it Jan. 8.

Although Air Force Reserve officials in Fort Worth initially said none of their planes were in the area Jan. 8, they later said they were mistaken and that 10 F-16 fighter jets were training that night in the Stephenville area.

The Mutual UFO Network's Texas officials

then began investigating. They took statements, cell phone photographs and even drawings from witnesses including a county constable, preacher, college professor, teacher, truck driver and business owners in four counties — mostly Erath, the state's top dairy county.

The group also obtained, under the Freedom of Information Act, a Jan. 8 radar image from the Federal Aviation Administration. It showed an object — not a passenger plane but possibly a military jet or unknown object — moving at 700 mph about 6:35 p.m. with no transponder, according to a report in the copyrighted May issue of the MUFON UFO Journal to be released this week. Allen's reported sighting

was about 6:15 p.m.

Other "hard-core" evidence was the nearly identical accounts by three law enforcement officers in different locations, Cherry said.

Erath County Constable Lee Roy Gaitan said he saw red glowing lights and then white flashing lights moving rapidly across the sky one night in January. But on two nights in February, he said he saw a different object: a large orb with a triangle shape inside it, with white and multicolored lights, moving across the sky.

Gaitan still isn't sure about the existence of UFOs but said the objects were not a plane, weather balloon, planet or star.

"I wasn't as surprised as the first time I saw some-

thing, even though it was different," Gaitan said Monday. "To this day I don't know what it was. I just try not to look up in the sky now."

Cherry said that although the witnesses were credible, some of their descriptions varied widely. He said his investigators were able to determine that many people saw planets, cloud formations or a piece of material from a military jet.

"They're not trained observers, and with all the media attention, they reported it — which we want them to do," Cherry said.

He also said his investigators determined that a 12-minute videotape depicted close-up footage of a star rather than a multicolored UFO zigzagging across the sky.

# IllinoisTimes

ILLINOIS TIMES  
Springfield, Illinois  
June 5, 2008

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**HISTORY Tara McClellan McAndrew**

JUNE 5, 2008

## A "Hot air"

Remembering when "UFOs" were first spotted in the central Illinois

Seven years before the Wright Brothers' first flight, Americans were boggled by strange objects in the sky. The phrase "unidentified flying object" hadn't been invented, so many observers called them "airships."

The Great Airship Wave of 1896-1897, which has spawned books and contemporary UFO studies, started in November 1896 when an airship with a bright light was seen in Sacramento, Calif., says Thomas "Eddie" Bullard, a librarian at Indiana University, folklorist, and UFO author who researched the phenomenon extensively.

"The story went out that someone had invented a successful flying machine, and reports of this airship, or at least its supposed headlight, spread up and down California and into Nevada," he says.

Sightings continued westward, until they hit Illinois in April. Illinois reported the most sightings of any state, Bullard says.

From Cairo to Chicago, newspapers reported sightings of "a gigantic aerial boat" or an "air ship" with colored lights.

"Airships in the sky appear to be all the rage," the *Illinois State Journal* reported on April 12, 1897.

"Monday night the mysterious air ship which has been seen in Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin, paid a visit to Lincoln [Illinois]," said the April 13, 1897 *Lincoln Daily Courier*. Fifty people standing on Pulaski Street saw the "rapidly moving, V-shaped" ship. "It came toward Lincoln with a headlight as large as an arc electric lamp."

## "Airships in the sky appear to be all the rage"

The same day, Springfield's *Illinois State Register* spoofed the sightings in a shameless commercial twist: "The airship that has been causing so much mystery . . . has finally been discovered and found to have been the advertising medium of that great and standard work . . . the genuine *Encyclopaedia Britannica*." The "article" encouraged readers to buy the *Encyclopedia* at the *Register's* special rate.

Two days later, however, "hundreds" of Springfieldians, including some of its elite, and

state legislators, saw the airship.

"A number of persons standing on the corner of Fifth and Monroe streets about 7:30 o'clock last evening saw a large, brilliant light in the heavens. The light was moving rapidly and was at a great height," the April 16 *Register* said. Some observers climbed to the "roof garden" of the Odd Fellows building (one of Springfield's tallest buildings at that time, located at the southeast corner of Fourth and Monroe streets) to get a better look.

The day before, Adolph Winkle and John

Hulle (spellings varied) reported that they had seen the airship land and talked to its passengers. "Of course, no one believed the story," retorted the April 16 *Register*.

The Decatur paper seemed to take them seriously, though. Its April 16 *Daily Republican* said: "Farmhand John Halley and local vineyard owner Adolf Wenke said that it landed three miles west of the city along the Jefferson street road. They said a long bearded man emerged and inquired where he was. Inside the car was seated another man and also the scientist's wife. He said they usually rested during the daytime in remote parts of the country in order to conceal the vessel's huge wings. When they asked the scientist his name, he smiled and pointed to the letter M, which was painted on the side of the car. After bidding the farmers farewell, he pressed a button and the ship flew off."

Airship sightings died out the next month.

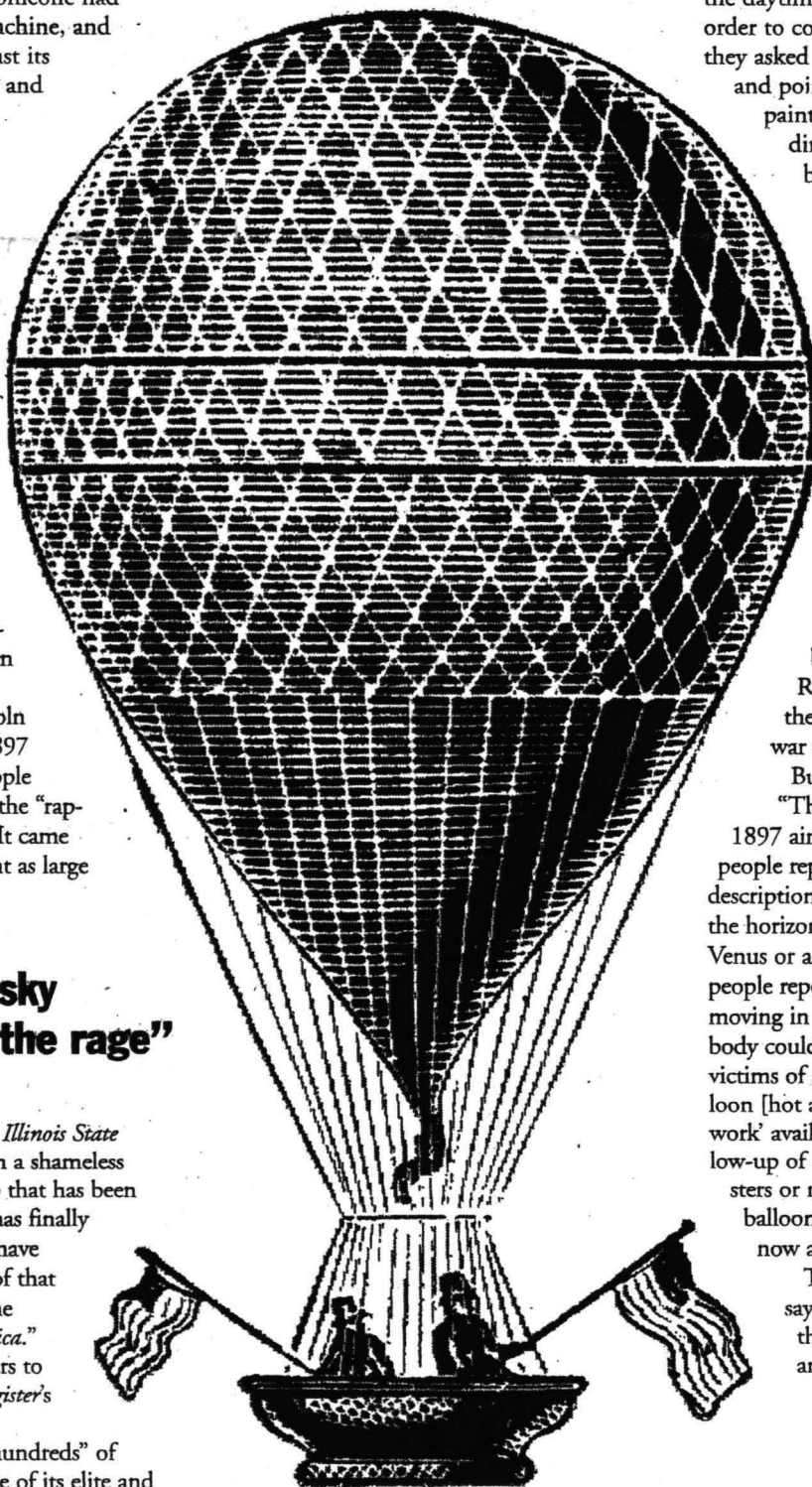
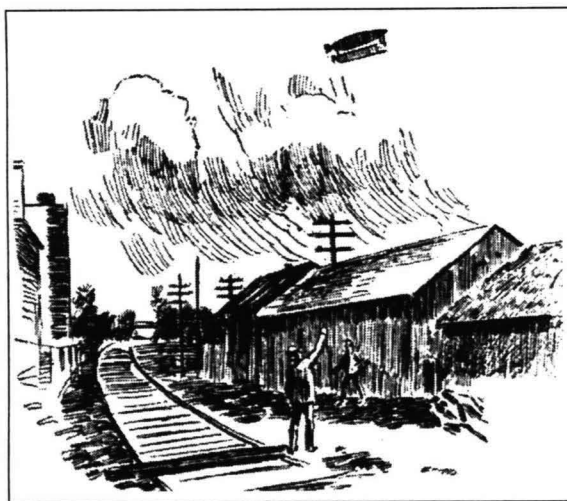
Theories about the sightings varied: drunken observers, hoaxes, planets or stars mistaken for ships, and Martians. However, many people hoped that they were proof that Americans had finally invented a flying machine.

In *Solving the 1897 Airship Mystery* (Pelican Publishing Co., 2004), author Michael Busby explains his unique conspiracy theory: that the airships were real, funded by magnate George Hearst (William Randolph Hearst's father), who used them to get the U.S. entangled in the war with Cuba.

Bullard says the sightings were "hot air": "There are no genuine UFOs among the 1897 airships. . . . Many honest and reliable people reported a light in the sky, but their description of how the light sank slowly toward the horizon makes it clear they were looking at Venus or another heavenly body. Other honest people reported a structured object with lights, moving in a manner and direction no heavenly body could manage, but these people were the victims of a hoax. What they saw was a fire balloon [hot air] . . . a form of Fourth of July 'fire-work' available in drug stores year 'round. A follow-up of sightings . . . often revealed the jokesters or reported the burnt-out carcass of the balloon had landed in some farmer's field, now and then starting a fire."

The remaining sightings were lies, he says, concocted by locals or — *gasp!* — the press for the sake of entertainment and sales. ■

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



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# UFO BLOWS UP OVER VIETNAM

## Mystery as no planes missing

By GARY O'SHEA

**A UFO exploded in mid air — showering a small Vietnamese island with metal-like debris.**

The unidentified flying object is **NOT** believed to be a plane as none have been reported missing in the area.

Investigators are working on the theory the explosion happened five miles above the ground.

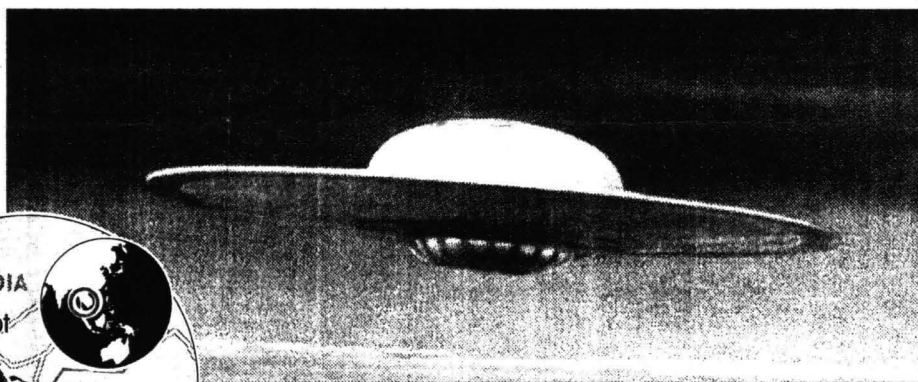
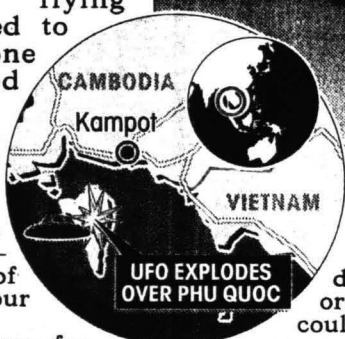
A search of Phu Quoc island off southern Vietnam uncovered shards of grey "metal" up to four feet long.

Soldiers combed the area for clues yesterday as airlines in Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand insisted none of their aircraft were missing in the area.

Villagers in the nearby Cambodian province of Kampot said on Tuesday that they had heard a loud explosion.

A day later they found chunks of material near the coastline.

After the explosion Kung Mony, of Cambodia's Air Force, claimed it could have been a foreign plane



Space oddity . . . UFO and map showing island, left

but he later backed down from the theory. One explanation could be that the plane was a military one — but none of the nearby countries has admitted to losing any aircraft.

### Images

Meanwhile, British UFO experts claim to have found fresh evidence of alien spacecraft flying over **BIRMINGHAM**.

A photographer captured images of three disc-shaped objects shooting through the skies above the West Midlands city. The UFO

spotter snapped a similar, lone spaceship days before. It was only when the photographs were put on to computer that the cameraman realised he had taken the amazing images.

The snapper said: "I only noticed the objects when I uploaded to my PC. I am at loss to explain what these objects are."

The cameraman, who captured the three mystery craft on April 24, said he had no idea why the aliens would want to make **TWO** visits to Brum.

[g.oshea@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:g.oshea@the-sun.co.uk)

See more UFO pics and video at [thesun.co.uk/weird](http://thesun.co.uk/weird)

## Thanet Times

THANET TIMES  
Margate, Kent, England  
April 29, 2008

### Close encounter

A PILOT from Birchington was not the only one spooked by a suspected UFO last month. 2374

Bob Cox told the *Thanet Times* about his "surreal experience" on March 27 when he heard a roaring sound above his home as he was trying to sleep.

Baffled Bob said he was certain it was not a known aircraft as he is used to their noise from teaching flying at Lydd on Romney Marsh.

Bob was not the only one to hear the suspected spacecraft,

as eagle-eyed *Thanet Times* reader Anna Elliot pointed out.

Andrew Warren from Ring's End near Cambridge also had an encounter on the same night.

He told his local paper, the *Fenland Citizen*, he saw strange lights in the sky accompanied by a strange engine noise.

Andrew said the experience gave him the "heebie-jeebies".

# SECRET MoD REPORTS RELEASED TO END CLAIMS OF COVER-UP UFO files show truth out there in Scottish skies

BY DAVID PERRY

An astonished pilot flying from Aberdeen to Sumburgh saw a "a red rocket with a yellow trail" at 20,000ft about a mile in front of him.

What made the UFO sighting in November 1984 so special is that the captain's account was corroborated by his co-pilot and by air traffic control at Sumburgh, which reported "a bright flash" in the sky to the south at about the same time.

So is there really something out there? Believers may well feel justified by official reports of unexplained "aerial phenomena" over Scotland that were released last night by the National Archives in Kew.

Files detailing hundreds of sightings of UFOs - unidentified flying objects - across the UK have been moved from the secret confines of the Ministry of Defence in an effort to end allegations of a cover-up.

They include official reports from the north and north-east from coastguards, aircrew and witnesses regarded as pillars of the local community.

On January 25, 1985, Kirkwall Coastguard reported seeing "one spherical object, very bright with long tail" to the north-west, travelling south-east, splitting into two, a report confirmed by Aberdeen Coastguard.

Police at Kingussie passed on a report on December 31, 1984, of a sighting of "a bright, diamond-shaped object" with its points connected by a halo with a pinkish tinge travelling slowly towards Newtonmore.

On October 17, 1984, the operations room at RAF Kinloss recorded a report of an "orange-yellow flame", 3-4ft wide and 50ft long, seen from Tomintoul descending slowly towards Grantown.

On September 14, 1984, an observer in Drimisdale, South Uist, saw "a white light hanging in the sky" low on the horizon near Barra.

And earlier in January 1982 a "round, crimson object, shining brightly" was seen near Old Deer Road, Peterhead.

The MoD has been very careful to avoid giving any credence to theories about visitors from outer space, insisting its only interest has been to ensure there was no risk to the defence of the realm.

And a briefing for a min-

**"**  
*Many strange  
phenomena seen by  
rational people*  
**"**

ister responding to a debate on UFOs in the Lords said that while there really were "many strange phenomena in the sky" seen "by rational people", "there is nothing to suggest to Her Majesty's Government that such phenomena are alien spacecraft".

Some recorded incidents are even more curious.

US Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, based at RAF Woodbridge in Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, reported that he and three guards had seen "a strange glowing object" in nearby woods, hovering on three legs. The next day he found three depressions in the ground measuring one-and-a-half feet deep and seven inches across.

The Press and Journal

## UFO sightings in skies above North Devon

Amanda Tassell  
amanda.tassell@archant.co.uk

Has North Devon been visited by aliens?

In Britain's X-Files, a number of apparent sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects have been witnessed in the skies above Barnstaple and Bideford.

The strange occurrences are all detailed in the 1978 to 1987 UFO national archives, which have been released by the Ministry of Defence following a large number of requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

On one particularly spooky night in May, 1985, RAF Chivenor received an unusual number of reports of apparent UFO sightings. Between 11pm and midnight on Tuesday, May 28 mysterious lights were witnessed across the clear Devonshire skies.



■ THE sketch of a UFO from a letter sent to the Ministry of Defence from a Barnstaple

The most detailed report spoke of an object the size of a Sea King helicopter and a set of lights in what appeared to be a race track pattern.

The witness, an RAF Corporal saw two sets of lights extremely close together and described their formation as better than that of the Red Arrows.

In Newton Tracey and Bideford three tiers of white, red and green lights were seen silently lighting up the sky.

On the same night, Exeter police also received similar reports of an object travelling between Taunton and Exeter and clusters of light flickering over South Brent.

Another UFO sighting in the same month was described in a letter sent to the Ministry of Defence from a Barnstaple resident.

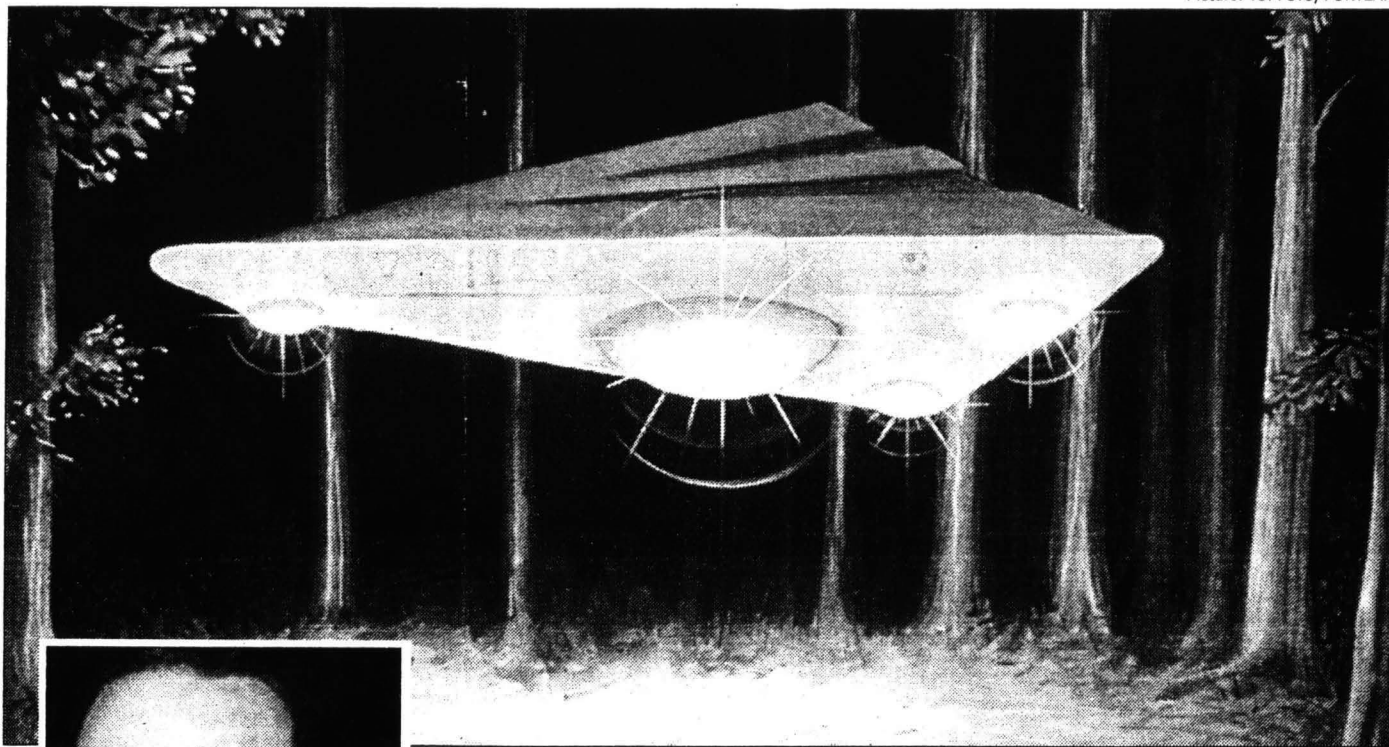
The witness, who had an interest in UFOs, told of a large cylindrical object with a light at each end approaching from the Ilfracombe direction before turning and vanishing.

The following year another Corporal reported an object consisting of two large yellow lights connected and preceded by a small white flashing light hovering above Fremington.

In October 1987 a Bideford resident claimed to see a white light three to four times bigger than a star heading towards Torrington but vanishing after just a few seconds.



# Night I saw a UFO land at my airbase



**AMAZING:** An artist's impression of the craft described by Charles Halt, left



Suddenly, he saw a bright red and orange oval object with a black centre. "It reminded me of an eye and it appeared to be winking or blinking.

"It manoeuvred through the trees with an occasional vertical movement. When approached, it receded and

**'It was gone in the blink of an eye'**

silently broke into five white objects. They changed shape from elliptical to round and several other objects were seen to the south.

"One approached at a high speed and sent down a strange beam right at our feet. It was more like a laser beam.

"The whole time we had difficulty communicating with the base as our radio frequencies kept breaking up."

Another retired American service-

man, James Pennington, who was the senior security officer on the base at the time, said he saw the triangular craft in the forest on Boxing Day 1980.

He said it was covered in blue and yellow swirling lights.

"After 45 minutes, the lights intensified and it lifted off without any noise and manoeuvred through the trees and shot off at an unbelievable speed. It was gone in the blink of an eye."

He said 80 air force personnel saw the take-off. He took two rolls of photographs but was told by British defence chiefs that they were "over-exposed" and did not show anything.

The claims were posted on YouTube by the US Coalition for Freedom of Information.

The Roswell incident refers to alleged alien autopsies that were said to have been covered up by US defence chiefs after a UFO crashed near a military base in New Mexico in 1947.

## Ex-US military chief tells all on British Roswell

From **David Gardner**  
IN LOS ANGELES

A VETERAN air force chief has spoken out for the first time about what he saw in the only British UFO sighting to be documented by the Ministry of Defence.

Dubbed Britain's Roswell, the 28-year-old mystery sighting over East Anglia's Rendlesham Forest has been at the centre of X-Files-style claims of a cover-up by the Government.

Charles Halt, now retired, was the lieutenant colonel in charge of the American base in Suffolk in 1980.

His report – in which he tells how a large red glow split into five white

**'I felt it was under intelligent control'**

objects that hovered for several hours in the skies near RAF Woodbridge – is already part of the National Archives.

Now he has revealed in greater detail how the suspected UFO resembled a "blinking eye" and fired "laser beams" right near his feet as he stood watching in amazement.

"I have no idea what we saw that night but I do know with great certainty that it was under intelligent control," said Halt, who had risen to be director of inspections for the US military in Britain when he retired in 1990.

He recalled being alerted to the phenomenon by his men one night in December 1980. They told him they had seen strange lights and what

looked like a triangular shaped craft over Rendlesham Forest.

Two nights later he says he was interrupted at a family Christmas party and told: "It's back."

In the forest he and two assistants found three deep indentations in a triangular shape in the hard sand.

There was also evidence of "mild radiation" and broken tree branches.

He says he expected to be able to find a rational explanation, until what he describes as a "very strange event".

## Have we been visited by an alien spaceship?

A bright light that changed shape before moving off at speed is what a Margate man saw on Sunday evening.

Henry Smith was with friends in Westbrook on Sunday when they saw the UFO from their garden at 8.45pm.

He said: "What was also quite strange was that about four minutes after it disappeared, we heard two jets high up in the sky proceed towards the area where we first saw the object appear. Half-an-hour later we heard a large – possibly a four engined prop – aircraft which seemed to be circling the area a few times.

"We stood in the garden for a while trying to come up with

logical explanations of what it might have been. We concluded it wasn't a spotlight from the ground – which we initially thought it was – as it was shining through the cloud, not on to it.

"It wasn't a plane or a helicopter. It was stationary for a time, blending in with the cloud, and then would move off extremely fast."

Henry wasn't able to get photos or video of the object but hopes others might have done. As he says, at 8.45pm, it would have stood out like a sore thumb.

■ **Did you see anything unusual in the sky around last Sunday evening? Email us at [thanetextra@thekmggroup.co.uk](mailto:thanetextra@thekmggroup.co.uk)**

## MEDWAY MESSENGER

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- 2 MAY 2008

## Did Henry see a UFO?

AN 18-year-old says he saw a bright light shining through clouds which changed shape before moving off at speed.

Henry Smith, who lives in Broadstairs, was stargazing at a friend's house in Westbrook, near Margate, on Sunday when they saw the mystery light at 8.45pm.

He said: "After about 30 seconds of looking at it, it shot towards us in the sky, moved back then moved left.

"At this point it changed from its original disc-like shape into an oblong.

"It then blended in with the

### ■ Thanet

clouds, but was still visible. It appeared again after a minute getting very bright this time."

He added: "What was also quite strange was that about four minutes after it disappeared, we heard two jets high up in the sky flying towards the area where we first saw the object appear.

"Half-an-hour later we heard a large, possibly a four-engined prop, aircraft which seemed to be circling the area a few times."

CRONICA (Online)  
Buenos Aires, Argentina  
April 24, 2008

## ¿UN OVNI EN CATAMARCA?



A light similar to the above image was seen in Catamarca.

Comoción en la provincia de Catamarca, exactamente en la localidad de Santa María, donde un ovni habría sido visto, según informaron quienes habitan allí.

El hecho tuvo lugar a las 17:45 hs. de ayer y fue presenciado por una gran cantidad de personas, quienes, según el testimonio de testigos, pudieron observar en el cielo, un objeto luminoso que se movía hacia el noroeste a gran velocidad.

Por el momento las investigaciones no pudieron precisar si se trata de un Objeto Volador No Identificado (OVNI).

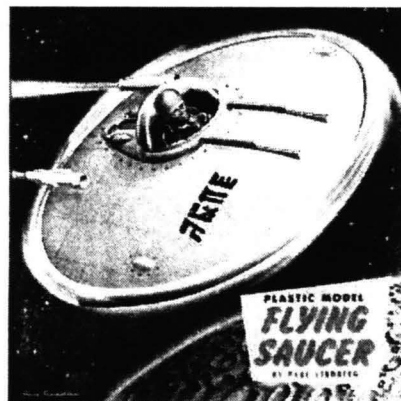
## A UFO IN CATAMARCA?

Commotion in Catamarca province, exactly in the town of Santa María, where a UFO has allegedly been seen, according to reports from people who live there.

The event took place yesterday at 5.45 pm and was seen by a large crowd that, according to the

testimony of witnesses, could see a luminous object in the sky, moving to the northwest at great speed.

For the time being the investigations could not determine whether it was an Unidentified Flying Object.





**LIGHT SHED ON N.WALES' BIGGEST UFO MYSTERY**

# It was coal fire red, a perfect circle with lights all around it



Documents released about an incident on Berwyn Mountains (main) in 1974 point to something happening that night according to UFO researcher Russ Kellett (inset)



**SPECIAL REPORT**  
By **STEVE BAGNALL**

DOCUMENTS have surfaced which could shed new light on one of North Wales greatest UFO mysteries.

The Berwyn mountains incident in 1974 has remained an enigma ever since, with reports of lights in the sky, an earthquake, claims of a crashed object and a cover up afterwards.

In fact some claim a UFO crashed, and "bodies" were retrieved and taken away by soldiers.

Now the Daily Post has acquired official documents showing how police were bombarded with calls and eye witness accounts of the strange event.

The "Welsh Roswell" incident happened one dark winter's night on January 23, 1974, in the Berwyn Mountains between Bala and Corwen.

Families in the villages of Llandderfel and Llandrillo were settling down to watch TV, an explosion was heard and the ground shook. It measured 3.5 on the Richter scale.

As people ran from their houses, fearing another tremor, they saw a blaze of light on the mountainside above.

A local nurse, who believed an aircraft had crashed, drove to the site and saw a pulsating orange and red glow on the hillside and other lights.

Police converged on the area and emergency services were put on standby.

Searches were undertaken but, surprisingly, officially nothing was found.

Gwynedd Police received a number of reports that night from people claiming they had seen a UFO. The documents give a fascinating insight into what went on.

● Gwynedd Police Con-

## Flying saucer or poachers?

**THEORIES have varied widely about the Berwyn Mountains incident.**

• Some claim a UFO crashed with "bodies" retrieved and taken away by soldiers. Given time differences in witness statements – there may have been more than one incident that night.

One theory suggested it was down to two

earthly events coinciding – a meteor shower and an earthquake.

Others say it may have been covert testing of military devices or a crashed secret new aircraft.

Strange glows on the mountain may have been a crashed meteor, or poachers said to be in the area at the time, or a combination of

both. Other research suggested another event where an RAF jet crashed on the mountains in 1982, and the area was cordoned off, has been married with the 1974 event creating the conspiracy theory.

Another theory claims earth lights – caused by geophysical stresses – could account for the incident.

stabulary Major Incident Log – explosion – 21.10pm PC receiving 999 calls of UFO.

● A witness who saw an object on the hillside said in a statement: "Saw bright red light, like coal fire red. Large perfect circle. Like a big bonfire. Could see lights above and to the right and white lights moving to bottom. Light changed colour to yellowish white and back again."

● A message in a police log said: "There's been a large explosion in the area and there is a large fire in the mountainside. I am speaking from... and can see the fire where I am."

● Telex message to chief constable Gwynedd constabulary. 22.00pm approx 23/1/74: Saw bright green lights, object with tail – travelling west. Saw about Bangor direction – dropped down.

● At approx 10pm on 23/1/74: Saw a circular light in the sky at an estimated height of 1,500 feet. This object exploded and pieces fell to the ground. Mr .....

estimates the pieces would have fallen into the sea between Rhyl and Liverpool.

UFO researcher Russ Kellett has studied the event and is convinced something extraordinary happened.

He said: "There is conclusive evidence because of other documents I have that mention these objects on that night from Newcastle down to the Home Counties up to Coventry being seen in the sky."

"Five witnesses who were there on that night, who I know through a friend, said there was a crashed craft by the side of the road near Llandrillo."

"It became known as the Berwyn Mountains incident because there were two objects that came down at two separate locations."

"I know there is a photo of the crash site taken by the five and if any of them have it I would like them to contact me on 0560 2826901."

UFO sightings across the UK from 1978-1987 were released in eight MoD files to the National Archive yesterday.

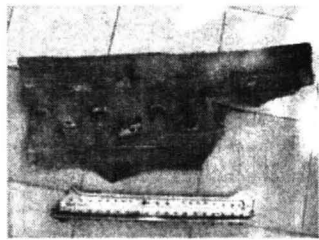


See the documents digitised and in full

stevebagnall@dailypost.co.uk

Thanh Nien News (Online), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, June 1, 2008

## 'UFO' incident in southern Vietnam reported to gov't



Kien Giang Province authorities have reported the discovery of metal debris, believed to be fragments from the explosion of an unidentified flying object (UFO), to the central government, an official said Friday.

Lam Quang Chanh, the provincial People's Committee's spokesman, told Thanh Nien metal pieces had rained down in Ganh Dau and Cua Can communes on the island of Phu Quoc at about 10:20 a.m. on May 27.

The Military Command of Phu Quoc District said militias and residents had recovered 14 metal pieces allegedly deposited on the island from the explosion.

Rumors in Phu Quoc also suggest that some individuals have retrieved "dollars" or "very cold" metal pieces following the UFO's explosion.

Nguyen Thanh Binh, Kien Giang police deputy chief, told Thanh Nien anyone found guilty of spreading rumors from the incident that would negatively affect security on the island would be dealt with according to law.

Binh also said the security on Phu Quoc Island has been stable thus far.

When residents found the metal debris on Tuesday, district authorities said they contacted airlines in Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand but

did not receive immediate news of any missing aircraft.

21日晚，何先生在南滨路拍摄到的不明飞行物

-外形酷似一对紧扣的铜锣  
-轮廓清晰能看见

“简直不可思议！照片中的‘不明飞行物’轮廓清晰，甚至连‘天线’都清晰可见。”前晚，摄影发烧友何忠远惊奇地发现，在自己拍摄的照片中，一个巨大的椭圆形“飞碟”悬浮在渝中半岛上空，“飞碟”在激光灯的照射下轮廓异常清晰。

大小超过半个足球场

何忠远提供的其中一张照片拍摄于6月21日20点47分，他本人当时位于重庆南滨路，照片上的朝天门灯火辉煌，各种颜色的激光灯从不同建筑物上打出彩光。其中，位于照片中央的一栋大楼楼顶射出数道耀眼的绿光，硕大的“UFO”就出现在这些绿光之中。

“UFO”通体呈现出黄绿两色，以绿色为主。外形酷似一对紧扣在一起的铜锣。在“UFO”的底部和顶部，还能分辨出类似天线的凸状物。将照片放大之后仔细查看，能够发现“UFO”身上有几道大小不一的圆环，还有无数类似门窗的方孔。如果把“UFO”和周围的高楼作比较，会发现它的大小超过半个足球场。

拍摄用的相机刚买一周

照片的拍摄者何忠远是一个“刚入行”的摄影发烧友。6月14日，何忠远在一个二手论坛上花1500元买了一个索尼F717相机。6月21日晚8点半，他来到南滨路拍摄重庆夜景。“我大概拍了一个小时，但拍摄过程中并没有发现有什么异常。”何忠远回忆说，他是从南滨路“字水宵灯”附近开始拍照的。当晚11点过，他回家整理照片时，猛然发现在4张照片中出现了“不明飞行物”。“当时我身边还有几个人在拍照，不知道他们拍到没有？”何忠远说。

记忆卡内84张照片全部连号

何忠远发现“UFO”的照片后，立即将记忆卡封存。昨日，他在记者面前打开记忆卡，发现里面一共存有84张照片，每张照片均是连号的。虽然何忠远在此相似的角度拍摄了几十张照片，但只有4张出现了“UFO”的轮廓。

各方说法

市城市照明管理局  
朝天门当晚有激光灯表演

(重庆)市城市照明管理局的曾科长表示，6月21日20点40至21点之间，朝天门广场周围进行了激光灯表演，但是没有添加灯光效果的图案和文字。

重庆天文科普协会  
“飞碟”似乎是个幻象

“‘飞碟’似乎是个幻象。”重庆天文科普协会理事长吴志伦看过照片后表示：“螺旋形的外体看起来非常完美，似乎还在闪闪发光，但是它并没有遮住背景，所以像是一个幻影，并不是实体。”对于该物体是否跟“外星人”有关，吴志伦表示“不好说”。

上海市UFO探索研究中心  
今日将展开研究

“23日全中心将对此展开研究，还将把照片发到中心的网站上供大家观看。”昨日，上海市UFO探索研究中心吴嘉禄主任表示，首先确定照片是真实的，没有造假的痕迹。其次，激光灯下的碟形物虽模糊还是看得比较清楚，但因为激光光柱和碟形物的位置变化微小，所以很难看出这个碟形物的运动轨迹。(重庆时报记者 母国鹏)

相关新闻  
葛洲坝上空  
也现神秘飞行物

6月21日晚9时许，多名市民目睹葛洲坝转盘上空出现一发白光的神秘飞行物，在该区域上空来回飞了半小时，伴随着一道闪电出现后消失。

据宜昌气象台专家介绍，每日早晚7时15分，会准时从地面上1.5米发放一个探空仪，用一个直径两米的氢气球牵引着，下部有一个灯笼，点上一支蜡烛，方便地面工作人员观测探空仪的走向。但是否是探空仪无法确定。

## Debate stirs over UFO photograph

A HEATED debate has developed after a man claimed he had taken a photograph of an unidentified flying object on Saturday in Chongqing, Xinhuanet.com reported today.

He Zhongyuan claimed that a huge, oval-shaped UFO was flying in the sky that night, the report said. He said he was at Chaotianmen Square and shot the picture at about 8:47pm.

The UFO was green and yellow color, according to the report. It was bigger than half a football field and had many holes like doors and windows, according to the report.

Chaotianmen Square had a laser light show from 8:40pm to 9pm that night, the city's lighting authority said, according to the report.

Wu Zhilun, chairman of the Chongqing Astronomy Association, examined the UFO pictures and said it was probably an illusion. Wu told Xinhuanet that it was difficult to determine if He's photo was related to extra terrestrials.

He said he used a Sony F717 camera to take the photos.

"I took pictures at Chaotianmen Square for about one hour and didn't feel anything special," He told Xinhuanet.com. He spotted the UFO in four photos later that night when he went home. He showed Xinhuanet all 84 photos he took on Saturday.

Shanghai UFO Research Center confirmed the pictures were not altered. The director of the center said a team will begin to examine the photos to determine if the UFO is genuine, the report said.

## ShanghaiDaily.com

ShanghaiDaily.com (Online), Shanghai, China, June 23, 2008

By Chen Qian

的位置: 新华网主页 - 地方联播

重庆男子称拍到UFO  
轮廓清晰有半个足球场大  
(图)



UPI.com (Online)  
June 6, 2008

## UFOs hit Romanian plane

BUCHAREST, Romania, June 6 (UPI) -- The Romanian Defense Ministry has confirmed that a fighter plane was struck by four unidentified flying objects and released a video of the incident.

The ministry said the MIG 21 Lancer fighter plane was struck by the objects during an Oct. 31, 2007, check flight but was able to land safely, Hotnews.ro reported Friday.

Lt. Col. Nicolae Grigorie said a video recorded by cameras onboard the plane depicts "two solid bodies, which are not translucent."

Grigorie said authorities are working to determine what the objects could have been.

"They couldn't be birds because there are no birds in Europe able to fly so high. And they couldn't be ice bodies because it was a clear sky -- neither could they be pieces of another plane or a meteor," he said.

He said the government has ruled out rocket launches and ground artillery fires as causes of the incident.

## EVENING POST

NOTTINGHAM EVENING POST  
Nottingham, England  
May 13, 2008

NOTTINGHAM EVENING POST

Circulation ('000): 62

Readership ('000): 185

Display Rate (£/sqcm): £4.86

## Did UFO hover over Beeston?

PEOPLE in Beeston have reported seeing a possible UFO.

A bright and stationary triangular light was said to be seen over the town square coupled with a loud noise for about five minutes at around 11.30pm on Saturday.

One resident, who wished to remain anonymous, said: "At first we thought it looked like an helicopter, but maybe not."

Notts police took a call about a possible UFO sighting at 10pm on Saturday. The caller hung up before giving the exact location.

EL REGIONAL DE PIURA  
Piura, Perú  
April 20, 2008

By Jahel Yovera Cobeñas

  
EL REGIONAL DE PIURA

(Translation by Jane Thomas Guma)

## Vigilante de hospital filma en su celular extraña aparición

Posible avistamiento de OVNI en Sullana



Abril, 22, 2008. - Sullana. - ¿Ovnis en Sullana? Un vigilante del hospital de Apoyo III de Sullana mostró ayer imágenes captadas desde su celular donde se puede apreciar la imagen de una esfera luminosa dando vueltas alrededor de la luna.



Las imágenes fueron captadas al promediar las 8:26 de la noche del domingo último por Eder Córdova Purizaca (22), domiciliado en la calle Salaverry N° 163 del Barrio Norte de esta provincia.

"Me encontraba de guardia en la puerta de la morgue del hospital cuando de pronto me di cuenta de que una luz extraña daba vueltas alrededor de la luna, entonces me quedé asombrado y sólo atiné a sacar mi celular para filmarlo", dijo Córdova sin salir aún de su asombro.

"La luz se mantuvo por casi un minuto para luego desvanecerse en el espacio. Creo que era un Ovni por la forma como destellaba ya que un avión no puede hacer movimientos pendulares en el cielo", dijo el guardián.



Posteriormente el vigilante llamó a uno de sus compañeros de trabajo de apellido Antón a quien mostró el video grabado, el cual a su vez dio aviso al supervisor de guardia del mencionado nosocomio.

Ayer en horas de la mañana, Eder Córdova, mostró el vídeo grabado. Dijo no haber sentido ningún tipo de temor al presenciar este hecho al que calificó como

"asombroso y sobrenatural".

## Hospital cop films strange apparition with his cell phone

Possible UFO sighting in Sullana

April 22, 2008. - Sullana. - UFOs in Sullana? A cop from the Apoyo III hospital in Sullana showed images captured yesterday with his cell phone where the image of a luminous sphere flying around the Moon can be seen.

The images were captured around 8.26 pm last Sunday night by Eder Córdova Purizaca (22), who lives at Salaverry street No. 163 in the Northern District of this province.

"I was guarding the hospital's morgue door when I suddenly realized that a strange light was flying around the moon, then I was surprised and only succeeded in getting my cell out to film it", said Córdova still amazed.

"The light remained for almost a minute and then vanished in space. I believe it was a UFO by the way it flashed because a plane cannot make pendulum motions in the sky", said the guard.

The guard then called one of his coworkers -last name Antón- to whom he showed the video he recorded, who in turn alerted the hospital's watch supervisor.

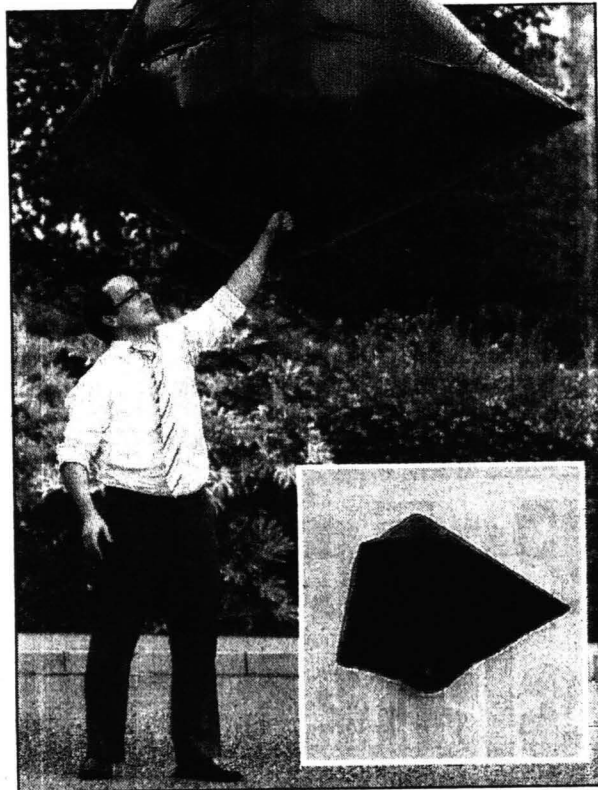
Yesterday morning Eder Córdova showed the recorded video. He said he felt no fear whatsoever while watching this event he considered as "amazing and supernatural".

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.

SOUTHAMPTON EVENING ECHO  
Southampton, England  
June 19, 2008  
Credit: Steve Gerrard

SOUTHAMPTON: Investigating riddle with expert help and bin liners

# The balloon goes up on the great triangular UFO mystery



I'VE BIN BUSY: Echo reporter Peter Law crafts a similar shape to that seen recently from bin liners. Inset a reader's picture of a UFO.

peter.law@dailyecho.co.uk

For up-to-the-minute news and  
information - [dailyecho.co.uk](http://dailyecho.co.uk)

IT is the *X-Files*-style mystery that has been puzzling people for months.

What were the strange black triangles spotted flying silently over Southampton landmarks?

Caught on video three times in the past few weeks, it caused a buzz among UFO enthusiasts from across the country who have described it as the best they had seen for some time.

It even sparked an investigation by Southampton Airport after a report from a worried member of the public.

Thousands of readers logged onto the *Daily Echo* website to watch the slow-moving objects twist and spin over Millbrook, Shirley and the docks.

Now we can reveal what we think was behind the phenomenon: A solar balloon.

The mini-hot air balloon can be made with just four black bin bags, sticky tape, scissors and a hairdryer.

## Ingredients

Mix those ingredients with a warm, sunny day and you have a black triangular balloon which could easily be mistaken for one of the UFOs which have been spotted over the city.

Unfortunately, the *Daily Echo*'s launch attempt yesterday was not too successful - an unseasonably cool and cloudy summer afternoon meant our solar balloon lifted only a few metres before crashing back to Earth.

However, Michael Lowe - organiser of this weekend's Southampton Kite



## FLASHBACK: The *Daily Echo* last week.

Festival - agreed with the findings of our investigation.

"My opinion is that this is neither a kite or a UFO," he said.

"I think that someone, somewhere has made up a large black plastic square-shaped balloon that is inflated by the action of the sun on the trapped air inside and let it go."



COMMENT ONLINE  
[dailyecho.co.uk](http://dailyecho.co.uk)

● To see a solar balloon in action log onto [dailyecho.co.uk](http://dailyecho.co.uk) and click on the Daily Echo Video News section of the website.

Daily Echo  
VIDEO  
NEWS

"The minimal weight of any tether line - which you would not be able to see by eye at altitude - would keep it stable, allowing it to float away on the slightest of breezes.

"These are different at different heights so even if you could feel no air movement at ground level, there could be movement at a higher level.

"You often see the long tubular types of this for sale, easy to make and cheap. I really think that this was just a variation on that theme.

"There might even be something similar at the Kite Festival this coming weekend, you never know."

Freemantle resident Gary Moore contacted the *Daily Echo* to say he had a similar triangular balloon fly over his garden recently.

"It came right down over our roof, my wife spotted it out the window," he said.

"It was made out of a type of vinyl material and it was covered in dirt and mould. I would love it to be a UFO because I am a believer, but what I saw was not a UFO."





# Nessie's allure locked in

TORONTO SUN  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
June 1, 2008  
Credit: Gene Duplantier

## Plenty sightings of the monster – if only at gift shop

**JOHN MASTERS**  
Meridian Writers' Group

DRUMNADROCHIT, Scotland — Loch Ness, Britain's largest lake by volume, attracts thousands of visitors each year, looking for signs of the elusive monster said to dwell in its deep waters.

The first recorded sighting of the creature was by St. Columba in 565. It has been seen intermittently over the centuries, but the number of witnesses shot up in the 1930s when a road was built along the loch's shore, making it easily accessible.

The spike in Nessie sightings, though, may be attributed to something else. The year the road arrived, 1933, was the same year that *King Kong* hit the big screen. The movie primed its audiences for lost-world monsters, so when the *Inverness Courier* reported on May 2, 1933, that a creature had been seen swimming on the surface of the loch, international interest in this previously remote region was high. Visitors began arriv-

ing and some of them thought they saw something.

Most of the sightings have been dismissed as boat wakes, deer swimming across the loch, seals popping their heads up, or tricks of the light.

But that didn't dampen the curiosity of people wanting to see for themselves and over the course of the next several decades the small hamlet of Drumnadrochit, which is actually inland from the loch, became the focus of the Loch Ness monster trade.

### High-brow exhibit

Today there are several gift shops bursting with stuffed Nessie dolls to take home. There are also two permanent Nessie exhibitions, the more high-brow of which is the Loch Ness Exhibition Centre.

Opened in 1999, the centre is the work of Adrian Shine, an Old Testament-looking character who's made a career out of investigating the possibility that a monster does in fact exist.

The exhibition has a few too many explosions in its multi-

media presentations, but is to be commended for the amount of science and rationalism it brings to its subject.

The centre presents some fairly compelling evidence that a plesiosaur-like creature — the most common model for the monster, with a long neck, small head and paddle-shaped fins — couldn't exist in the loch.

The main problem is lack of nutrients: The peaty water stops sunlight from penetrating more than 4.5 metres from the surface. That severely limits the amount of plankton fish have to feed on and the number of fish larger animals, such as Nessie, have to eat.

Bear in mind, though, that Shine doesn't like your chances. But he adds that, "the absence of evidence is not evidence of absence." And the mystery is what keeps him interested.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more on Loch Ness, visit [lochness.com](http://lochness.com). For travel in Scotland see Visit Scotland at [visitscotland.com](http://visitscotland.com).

**timesunion.com**  
Serving New York's Capital Region - Albany, NY

timesunion.com (Online)  
Albany, NY  
May 18, 2008

## Tale of sea serpent fades

Barbara Malloy long ago grew immune to people who think she's off her rocker because she believes in a sea serpent nicknamed "Memphre" who lives in Lake Memphremagog, which straddles the Vermont-Quebec border.

Malloy claims to have seen Memphre eight times. The 69-year-old grandmother of six, a 1957 graduate of Colonie High School, maintains a Memphre Web site (<http://www.memphreusa.com>) and has written a 500-page manuscript, "My Best Friend Memphre & Me." She describes documenting more than 100 Memphre sightings by some 250 witnesses since 1816.

Malloy has organized a 25th anniversary Memphre event on July 5 in Newport, Vt., at the 27-mile-long, glacial-cut lake with depths of 350 feet. The lakeside village has a population of 6,000 year-round residents.

Malloy and her daughters had their first sighting on Aug. 12, 1983, of the creature she describes as a 50-foot-long, humpish, gray, slimy, mud-burrowing beast.

Last profiled in the Times Union in 1990, she still sounds calmly rational and, well, grandmotherly -- without a hint of the characters who fill supermarket tabloids with tales of Elvis sightings, UFO babies and the face of Virgin Mary in a chicken nugget.

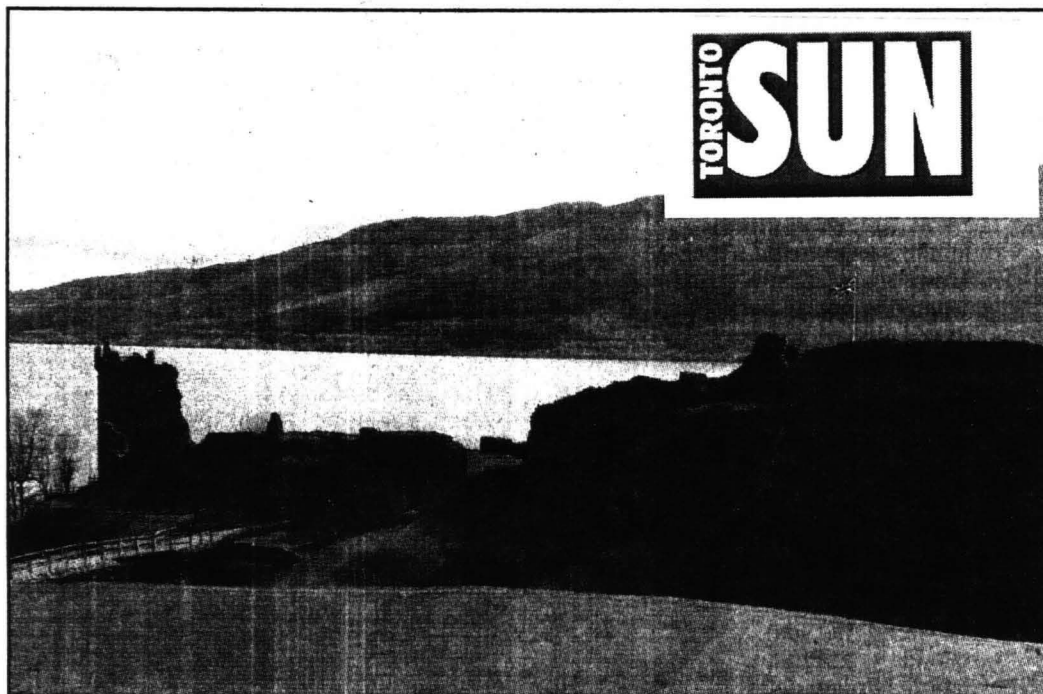
Malloy has been the subjects of numerous articles and

documentaries and relished the publicity, but is looking to retire from pitching Memphre.

"I knew the Champ guy for a long time, but he gave it up and I think I'm the only sea serpent promoter left," she said, referring to the reputed Lake Champlain dweller. "It's hard to let go of something that's been so much fun. I'd like to pass the torch to my children and grandchildren, but they have their own lives and don't seem as interested."

Malloy helped form the International Dracontology Society of Lake Memphremagog. Dracontology is an invented word from drakon, which means "serpent" in Greek.

Her society colleague and fellow Memphre booster, Jacques Boisvert, died in 2006 at 73.



JOHN MASTERS/MERIDIAN WRITERS' GROUP

A suitable vantage point from which to try your own luck at spying the Loch Ness Monster is the ruins of Urquhart Castle on the shores of the loch near Drumnadrochit.

## SOUTH TEXAS

## Carcass adds to chupacabra lore

The 'Chupacabra Lady' wants tests done on the most recent animal.

By BILL MILLER  
wmiller@star-telegram.com

CUERO — The South Texas hunt for *el chupacabra* continues.

The dread of south-of-the-border goatherds — *chupacabra* means "goat sucker" in Spanish — became an Internet-fueled topic last summer when three hairless doglike creatures became road kill south of Cuero in DeWitt County.

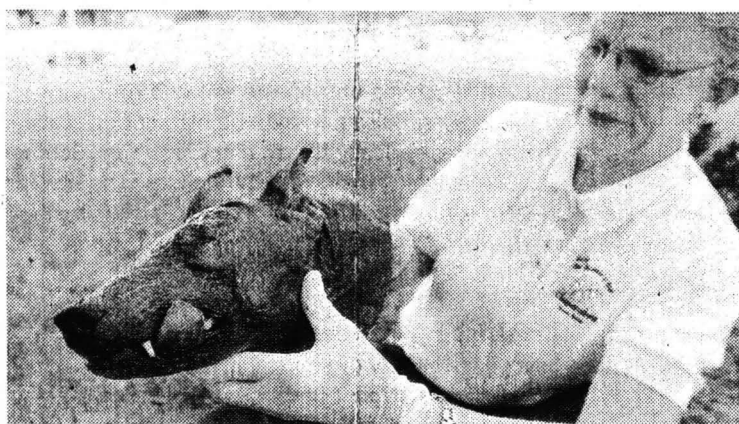
Another met a similar fate May 8, this time north of Cuero. The man who claimed it turned it over to Phylis Canion, whose ranch south of Cuero is near where the original three were killed.

Canion, a nutritionist and owner of a retail sportswear shop, has become known around the world as the "Chupacabra Lady," after selling thousands of T-shirts to commemorate last summer's findings.

"The guy called me," she said, "and he said 'I got one, you want it?' So he brings it in, and I'm saying, 'Whoa, dude, this one looks like mine!'"

"Now we're talking."

The South Texas version of the chupacabra mystery might have ended late last year when DNA tests requested by Canion stated that the creature was *Canis latrans*, or a common coyote. A few skeptics



Phylis Canion found a carcass near Cuero last year. DNA tests said it was a coyote or a coyote-Mexican wolf cross.

AP/ERIC GAY

tics have added that sarcoptic mange probably caused the animals' hairlessness.

Perhaps, Canion said, there is no supernatural component to the legend of the fanged monster with fiery red eyes, big claws, and distinct ridge along its spine.

Maybe, she added, there's a scientific explanation for the mythical creature, which would make it a cryptid — an animal whose existence has been reported but not confirmed.

"I never disputed that it did not have some sort of coyote in it," Canion said of the tests conducted at Texas State University at San Marcos. "What I disputed was the tests were not involved or detailed enough to tell me what else could have been in it."

"Or why it had no hair."

Another round of tests was ordered, this time at the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at

the University of California, Davis, which specializes in animal forensic science.

The UC Davis lab stated that the animal was a cross between coyote and Mexican wolf.

Wolves, Canion said, sometimes have blue eyes, as did her "chupe." Peepers like that, she asserted, can reflect red in the glare of goatherds' lantern or flashlight.

Canion, a nutritionist, said the animal's diet may provide an explanation for its proclivity to suck blood. She said she lost dozens of chickens that were sucked dry of their blood.

She suggested that the animals might crave blood because of a vitamin deficiency that is being passed to their offspring.

The DNA tests did not explain why the creature had no fur except for some wisps of hair along its back. Those strands, however, could ex-

plain the back ridge in the chupacabra legend, she said.

Perhaps, Canion added, the animal carries a baldness gene.

"Could this thing be genetically hairless and it got passed on?" she asked. A pathology expert at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, however, had another explanation.

"Sarcoptic mange — that's exactly what it is," Dr. Danny B. Pence said, referring to an infestation of tiny burrowing mites in the skin.

Canion said she wants UC Davis to test the carcass she received May 8.

"I don't know," Canion said, "maybe now we've finally found the chupacabra."

Arlington Star Telegram  
FORT WORTH, TX  
Circ. D. 45,468

May 28 2008

Texas Press Clipping Bureau

## EveningExpress

EVENING EXPRESS  
Aberdeen, Scotland  
June 19, 2008

By Sally Hind

## Big cat on the prowl at Westhill

Mum saw big cat in countryside



CAT SPOTTERS: Melanie MacNeil, left, and Kim Munro saw the beast.

A MUM today told how she watched a "big cat" on the prowl while walking with her daughter near Aberdeen.

The pair claimed they spotted the beast — which was as big as a dog — near Westhill.

It was the latest in a string of similar sightings in Aberdeenshire.

Several residents have told of a black cat which slinks around near the Westhill's golf course.

Kim Munro, 47, of Hilltop Drive, said she saw the cat recently when out walking in the area with her daughter Ami, 17.

The lecturer said: "My daughter saw it first and was shocked.

"It disappeared but then came out again. I couldn't believe it.

"It wasn't a dog or a domestic cat — it was about the size of a large Labrador.

"It had a big, long black tail and a cat's face and ears.

"It had low-slung movements, not how a dog moves.

Kim's friend Melanie MacNeil, 47, said she was "relieved" when Kim called her to say she had seen the cat — because she saw the same thing 18 months ago, from 400 yards away.

The dog trainer, who also lives on Westhill's Hilton Drive, said: "I was delighted when Kim told me because nobody had believed me when I said I'd seen it.

"I spotted it just a little higher up the hill from where Kim saw it.

Danny Bamping, from the British Big Cats Society, is an expert on sightings like these.

"Cat sightings like this have increased over recent years, and Scotland has certainly been a hotspot for some time."

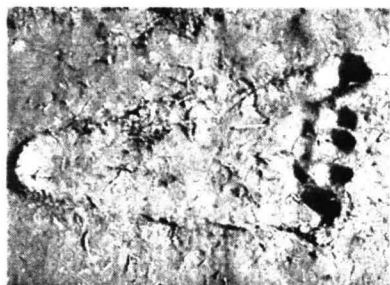


Borneo Post (Online), Kuching, Malaysia, June 13, 2008

By Gaing Kunding, Raymond Tan and Conny Banji

## 'Bigfoot' was here!

Villagers have no explanation for giant footprints but businessman says proof is in the pudding



DARO: Villagers here are reeling from the shock of discovering two extra large footprints near the fence of a nearby orchard.



**HUGE:** Local community leader Pemasca Tan Poh Kuan is among those who visited the site to take a closer look at the mysterious footprints.

They probably resembled those mentioned many times in foreign reports in claims of sightings of the mysterious 'Bigfoot'.

The shocker has been spreading like wildfire in Daro district for the past few days and among those drawn to the phenomenon was local businessman Tan Soon Kuang.

(According to Wikipedia, Bigfoot is one of the more famous creatures in cryptozoology, and, like many cryptids around the world, there is a fierce debate as to whether the Bigfoot species exists or not. Cryptozoologist John Willison Green has postulated that Bigfoot is a worldwide phenomenon.)

Yesterday, Tan, 42, e-mailed the images of the mysterious creature's footprints. He said he personally went to the village (which he refused to name out of respect for the wishes of the locals) to check on the truth of the story.

"The truth is in the photographs that I have taken with my camera," he told The Borneo Post in a telephone interview yesterday.

According to him, each footprint measures 47 inches from heel to toe and 17 inches sideways "clearly too gigantic for any normal human being".



**CLEARED PATH:** All ready to receive visitors.

Asked when and how he went to the village and took the photos, Tan answered: "I went there last Wednesday, June 11 after I heard about the news.

"I drove about five minutes from Daro town to the village. Then, I walked on foot along a footpath for quite a few minutes to the place where I met many villagers who were gathered there.

"Then some villagers pointed to the big footprints.

I was shocked to see them and excited as I took those photographs."

On his conversation with the villagers, he said: "When I asked the villagers the first time they discovered the two big footprints, they told me it was June 9.

"They also told me they now recall that before they came across the footprints, the villagers had, a few months ago felt uncomfortable and sick as if there was something 'unclean' in the air.

"They said they decided to look for a 'bomoh' (medicine man) who told them to go to an area, dig a small hole, then build a fence around it.



**SHOCKING FIND:** Picture shows a group of boys gathering around the right footprint which measures 47 inches by 17 inches.

The bomoh further told them to make offerings outside the area fenced.

"And then last Monday morning the villagers saw the two big footprints outside the fenced up area."

Tan further said: "When I asked the villagers if they were afraid or not they told me some were afraid; other just curious. But all of them apparently believe that the place was 'unclean'.

"The villagers are now clearing up the footpath leading to the large footprints in anticipation of more people coming to have a look at the footprints.

"The villagers also told me that it was not the first time that they saw such mysterious big footprints in their village. In fact, the first time they saw such big footprints was about 50 years ago."

Asked if there is any possibility that the footprints were man-made, Tan said it would be a tough act for a person to create such a mark on the hard ground.

Jemoreng assemblyman Abu Seman Jahwie when contacted yesterday said he heard about such discovery somewhere in a village in Daro area.

Asked if thinks it is real, he replied: "Sorry, I can't say. It could be just rumours. I have not been to the place. I am now in Matu."



**BIGFOOT TRAIL:** A girl points to the two big footprints circled in yellow. The distance between the left footprint (foreground) and right footprint speaks volume of the size of 'Bigfoot'. — Photos courtesy of Tan Soon Kuang

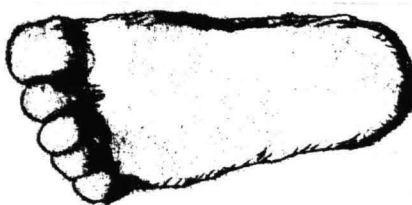
The story has spread to Sibu where Abdul Aziz Pung, who is very familiar with Daro, said he had heard about the footprints from friends and relatives.

"Yes, they said it is true. Initially I laughed it off, but then some of my friends who came down to Sibu town convinced me that they are real. I may be going there soon to see them for myself."

Meanwhile, a Daro villager who spoke on anonymity, said the villagers

stumbled upon the footprints not far from the village that was once attacked by monkeys. This episode was reported by The Borneo Post some months ago.

According to him, many villagers believe that the monkeys had run out of their jungle habitat to escape from 'Bigfoot'.



**JAMAICA GLEANER**  
 Kingston, Jamaica  
 June 5, 2008

By Robert Lalah

## Return of the Scott Town monster



Residents of Scott Town in Manchester talk about a strange animal that has been spotted in their community. - Ian Allen/Staff Photographer

Something moved in the bushes. Everyone froze. I looked across at the man holding a stick beside me. He flinched and I swallowed hard.

I could feel a single trickle of sweat running down my cheek as the bushes moved again. Whatever it was, was making its way out. I squeezed my eyes shut, clenched my fists and braced myself for the impact.

But then, much to my relief, I heard the people around me start laughing. I tentatively opened one eye just in time to see a mongoose zip by my feet and into some more bushes behind me.

"Hee hee! A just one mongoose. Hee hee!" the man with the stick laughed, seeming much more at ease.

### Seeking a monster

I, on the other hand, was still a bit shaky. You see, I was in the small, out-of-the-way community called

Scott Town in the hills of Manchester, where an unidentified nocturnal creature, which, months earlier, had terrorised residents and obliterated farm lands, has made an unwelcome return.

"We nuh see it fi a long time and now, all of a sudden, it come back and start thief di melon dem again," said Munchy, a rather fragile looking fellow with small ears.

I had visited Scott Town early last year when the creature, known by many as the Scott Town monster, made its first appearance. Although nobody has a really good look at the creature, the collective glimpses that a handful of residents have got, paint a picture of a beast about twice the size of a big dog, with a snout and four long, skinny legs like a goat.

It was going around stealing melons and pumpkins from residents' fields and damaging many banana trees.

The frustrated residents devised a detailed plan to stand watch in the fields at night with machetes and torches to capture and destroy the enigmatic beast, but they did so with no success.

"All di watch wi a watch, di creature just gone 'bout him business. After a while, we just figet 'bout it," said Munchy.

### Short-lived respite

But their respite would be short lived. About two weeks ago, Maas Trevor, a retired truck driver turned banana farmer, was on his way to his field when he noticed what he thought was a small dog behind a tree.

"Mi pick up a stone and fling it afta di sinting and it nuh move. So mi ah wonder a how it so bright! So, mi fling a next one and den di sinting git up and mi realise dat it wasn't a dog, but di same crosses sinting dat wi did think gone from round here," he said, distress still evident in his eyes.

An agitated Maas Trevor pounded his fist against his knee as he spoke. He was wearing a baseball cap and a t-shirt with the words, 'The Harder

They Come', printed on it. I was standing near the area where he spotted the beast, with him and his nephew, Munchy.

Now, residents of the community have developed varying theories of what the unidentified creature really is.

Miss Dorothy, the melon farmer, believes it's a beast of the devil himself who has come here to live because of the wickedness of the people.

"Di devil know seh Jamaica is a evil place and so him come teck root. Him will feel right at home wid all a di gunman dem," she quipped.

### Wants it dead

Lorain, the shoemaker's wife, thinks the beast is the love child of a very accommodating goat and a most confused dog, while Maas Trevor couldn't care less what it is. All he wants is the beast dead.

"Di first time mi spot him, mi nuh shet mi yeye fi di whole night! Mi nuh know a wah it be, but mi nuh want it round mi," said he, his hand on his forehead.

So, as dusk quickly approached in the small hillside community, the residents of Scott Town slowly retreated to the safety of their own homes, all the while keeping an eye out for any sign of the next appearance of the mysterious Scott Town monster.

## 'Bigfoot' is someone's idea of a joke

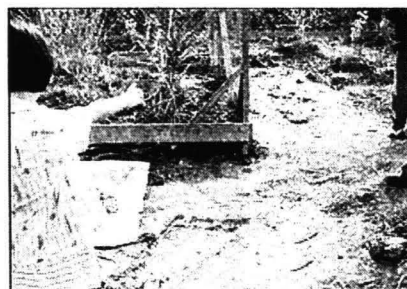


Photo of the footprint published last Friday. - Borneo Post

KUCHING (NST) - The giant footprints found in a fishing village in Daro are a fake.

"It's man-made and a hoax," Sarawak Museum anthropologist Dr Charles Leh said last Saturday while dismissing news reports that the two sets of footprints found in a village in Mukah division were those of "Bigfoot", an ape-like creature said to be found in North America.

He said the hoax may be an attempt to attract people to Daro.

Leh, who is also the assistant director of the museum, based his opinion on an analysis of the published photographs.

He said based on the position of the footprints in one photograph, he wondered why "Bigfoot" did not clip the corner of the fence instead of walking around it.

"If it was Bigfoot, he would not have walked around the fence. The 10-foot fence would have tripped him.

"There are no signs of damage to the fence or of a giant falling on the ground near the fence."

He added the foot stumps were "too light" for a giant.

Leh said the footprint measuring 119cm from heel to toe and 43cm across, indicated "Bigfoot" must weigh more than 200kg.

"But the impression was too shallow for something weighing more than 200kg.

"Unless more footprints are found, I am not going to waste my time going there to investigate," he added.

Thousands of people have flocked to the small Melanau town to get a glimpse of the footprints since word of the find began spreading a week ago.

The discovery of the prints caused a stir in the area where a deeply superstitious community live.

A host of ghostly stories was spawned with similar sightings elsewhere.

The Borneo Post in a report last Saturday said a villager discovered a similar footprint a fortnight ago. There was no proof of his claim.

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