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Unidentified Flying Threats

2165

By Nick Pope

LONDON
ON the afternoon of Nov. 7, 2006, pilots and airport employees at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago saw a disc-like object hovering over the tarmac for several minutes. Because nothing was tracked on radar, the Federal Aviation Administration did not investigate. Yet radar is not a reliable detector of all aircraft. Stealth planes are designed to be invisible to radar, and

Why we should be more curious about U.F.O.'s.

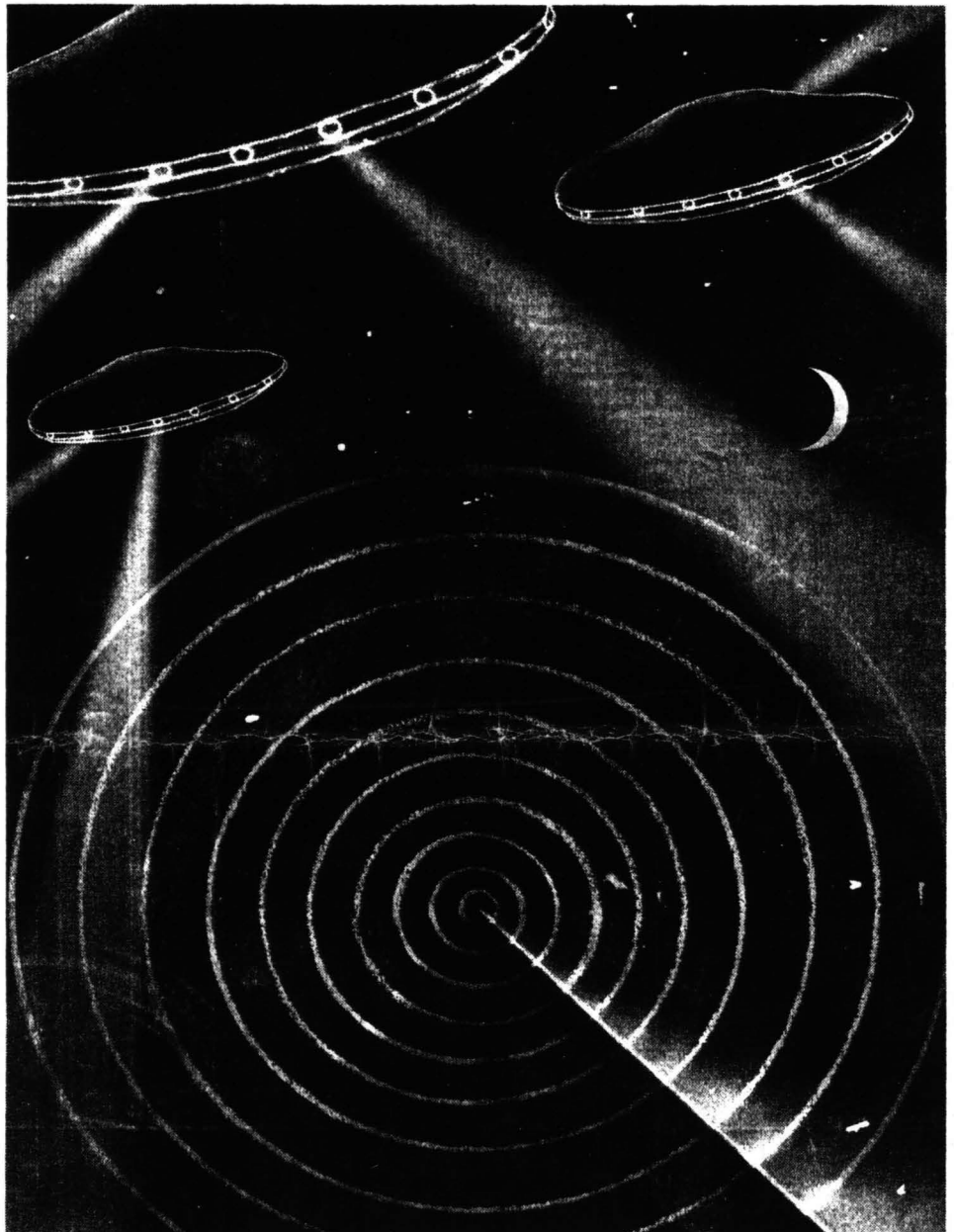
many radar systems filter out signals not matching the normal characteristics of aircraft. Did it really make sense to entirely ignore the observations of several witnesses?

A healthy skepticism about extraterrestrial space travelers leads people to disregard U.F.O. sightings without a moment's thought. But in the United States, this translates into overdependence on radar data and indifference to all kinds of unidentified aircraft — a weakness that could be exploited by terrorists or anyone seeking to engage in espionage against the United States.

The American government has not investigated U.F.O. sightings since 1969, when the Air Force ended Project Blue Book, an effort to scientifically analyze all sightings to see if any posed a threat to national security. Britain and France, in contrast, continue to investigate U.F.O. sightings, because of concerns that some sightings might be attributable to foreign military aircraft breaching their airspace, or to foreign space-based systems of interest to the intelligence community.

Most of the incidents investigated in Britain have been easily explained as misidentifications of stars and planets, aircraft lights, satellites and meteors, but some cases have raised national security

Nick Pope, the author of "Open Skies, Closed Minds," was in charge of U.F.O. investigations for the British Ministry of Defense from 1991 to 1994.



JONATHON ROSEN

or air safety issues.

On Dec. 26, 1980, for instance, several witnesses at two American Air Force bases in England reported seeing a U.F.O. land. An examination of the site turned up indentations in the ground and a level of radiation in the area that was significantly higher than ordinary. More witnesses at the same base reported the U.F.O. again on subsequent nights. The deputy base commander reported that the aircraft aimed light beams into the most highly sensitive area of the base — a clear security breach.

On March 30 and 31, 1993, there was a wave of U.F.O. sightings over Britain. One witness described a triangular-shaped craft that flew slowly over an air force base before accelerating away to the horizon in an instant, many times faster than a jet. The British military reported, "There would seem to be some evidence on this occasion that an unidentified object (or objects) of unknown origin was operating over the U.K."

On April 23, 2007, a commercial airline

pilot and some of his passengers reported a huge cigar-shaped U.F.O. — the pilot estimated it to be a mile wide — near the Channel Islands. At the time, air traffic controllers reported to the pilot that radar picked up something, but that it was "unknown traffic."

In addition, there have been several incidents of near misses between U.F.O.s and known aircraft — enough to prompt the Ministry of Defense and the British Civil Aviation Authority to advise pilots, if they encounter anything, "not to maneuver, other than to place the object astern, if possible."

The United States is no less vulnerable than Britain and France to threats to security and air safety. The United States Air Force or the National Aeronautics and Space Administration should reopen investigations of U.F.O. phenomena. It would not imply that the country has suddenly started believing in little green men. It would simply recognize the possibility that radar alone cannot always tell us what's out there.



BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES
Levittown, Pennsylvania
July 2, 2008

UFO investigators drawn to Bucks

Since January, four UFO incidents have been reported over Lower Bucks.

By JAMES MCGINNIS
STAFF WRITER

The Mutual UFO Network said it will dispatch "field investigators" to Lower Bucks after four reports of strange craft hovering over the county between January and June.

The latest incident was reported Wednesday, when someone saw a craft "with six lights in the shape of a boomerang" over the Oxford Valley Mall in Middletown.

The first sighting was reported Jan. 27, and Falls police officer Jeffrey Omlor was dispatched to Don Pablo's on Route 1 across from the mall. Someone called 911 to report a craft "hovering like an octopus" over the Mexican restaurant. Omlor said he saw nothing strange over the restaurant that night.

But that same day, MUFON said it received a third report from a pizza deliveryman who said he saw an object "over the tree line of Vermillion Hills" that "appeared to be blinking red, white and green lights."

The fourth report was from Newtown on April 25. Someone claimed to see "an orange fire ball that seemed to be crashing out of the sky."

Each report filed with MUFON was anonymous. The caller to Falls police also didn't give a name. But

that has hardly deterred MUFON. Field investigator Elise Simon

See **UFO**, 4A

said the group probably would issue a finding in a couple of weeks. She wasn't sure when the investigators would arrive.

"We'll be talking to the local police, the FAA and the local media and any witnesses," said John Ventre, state director for MUFON, who estimated about 93 percent of UFO reports turn out to be conventional aircraft. "That 7 percent, though, that's the great part, because it really defies explanation," Ventre said.

BUCKS COUNTY COURIER TIMES
Levittown, Pennsylvania
July 15, 2008

Flying fajitas and other alien craft

Not since the mysterious Yardley Yeti creature spooked people throughout Lower Makefield two summers ago have I received as many remonstrations from readers on my persistent skepticism.

This time it's regarding reports of alien space craft flashing, zooming and hovering over Bucks County.

It began two weeks ago with news that an outfit is coming to Bucks County to "investigate" several UFO sightings, two of them over a shuttered Mexican bistro in Falls (herewith known as the "Flying Fajitas Incident.")

Then, a man called to give me a play-by-play of two large UFOs floating over Levittown. That column seems to have given others the confidence to contact me about their semi-close encounters with things "up there."

"I'm not saying I saw flying saucers," a woman said to me.

Of course not, I said in a fatherly way.

"I didn't imagine it, it was real and there were others who saw," she said.

She said it was in the 1980s, in Doylestown, when she saw a "grouping" of UFOs in the sky. She said the craft were "round, half the size of a bowling ball. They were moving silently higher into the sky. They were made of some kind of metal. You could see the sun reflecting on them. The weirdest part was no noise, and that was weird because there were so many of them."

May I comment?

Yes, she said.

You say it was a "grouping." These things were round — half the size of a bowling ball. Shiny and silent. Could they have been balloons launched from a birthday party? Those things fly pretty

high and are not known to be noisy, I said.

I could tell she had not considered the balloon possibility. She stuck with her UFO story.

"We aren't alone," she said.

A man left a message close to midnight, according to my voice mail.

"I witnessed a UFO," he said. "1978. It was documented on our road in Washington Crossing. We reported it to the National Institute of Aerial Phenomena. I was asked to be on ABC national news, and people all the way from here to South Carolina saw this thing light up in the sky. A deer fell asleep or was sleeping on the side of the road and what was really weird was that we took hundreds of pictures of it, and none of the film came out. We gave it to NICAP and they didn't return it to us for 20 years."

"My daughter saw one, too, on Eagle Road, I think, 10 o'clock at night," he continued. "She was with a couple of other people and something happened that caused extreme turbulence, and dogs howling and everything else and suddenly they heard a swish and the thing was gone. So, I just wanted you to know there are things going on up there."

Other stories. Discs. Saucers. Round things. Blinking things. Silent things. Whooshes, streaks. And hovering. Lots of hovering.

"Did you see anyone at the windows, waving?" I asked a guy.

"No windows," he said.

"How do they know where they are going?" I asked.

He wasn't sure. Camera gizmos or computer sensors, maybe.

"They are more sophisticated than us," he said.

No alien abduction stories, though.

What would be really boffo would be a story about an abduction in which the abductee is swiped from say, the mall parking lot, and finds an alien crew of Yardley Yeti-type creatures.

Anyway, that would solve the Yeti mystery.



Jerry
Jonas

COMMENTARY

Are extraterrestrials monitoring Bucks County?

Recent news item: *The Mutual UFO (Unidentified Flying Objects) Network said it will dispatch "field investigators" to Lower Bucks [County] after four reports of strange craft hovering over the county between January and June [2008].*

A story that appeared in this newspaper earlier this week cited eyewitness accounts of a boomerang-shaped object over Oxford Valley Mall, a strange object hovering over Don Pablo's restaurant near the mall, an object hovering over Levittown's Vermillion Hills section blinking red, white, and green lights, and a fireball crashing out of the sky over Newtown.

What's new about UFOs in Lower Bucks? Nothing, really.

With the exception of the alien visits to Mel Gibson's home in Newtown a couple of years ago in M. Night Shyamalan's locally based motion picture "Signs," there haven't been many UFO sightings reported in the local news in recent years. Yet it takes only a cursory check of UFO investigative Websites to turn up dozens of what some believe to have been extraterrestrial visits to Bucks County and the Philadelphia area on a regular basis for decades.

I personally remember several of them, especially several that occurred in 1973.

Nationally and locally, 1973 was the year that saw a huge spike in UFO sightings. It was the year that then-future

President Jimmy Carter filed a report with the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), claiming that along with a dozen other friends, he had seen an unidentified flying object (UFO) in October 1969. After the sighting, he vowed that never again would he ridicule anyone who claimed to have seen a UFO.

1973 was also the year that numerous Bucks County residents claimed to have seen strange objects in the night sky. Two of them, teenaged daughters of one of my close friends, had a terrifying experience while watching a movie at the Roosevelt Drive-In Theater on Route 1 (where the Target shopping center now stands). According to their panicked descriptions to their father, and later to me, the girls saw a large V-shaped object with bright pulsating lights descend from the sky and hover over several cars parked in front of them. The object reportedly remained silent and motionless for long minutes before rapidly accelerating and disappearing into the night sky.

A few days later other witnesses claimed to have seen a similar object hovering over Morrisville Borough and the U.S. Steel plant. Later that year as my curiosity got the best of me, I attended a regional meeting of UFO investigators and was informed that dozens of witnesses had reported seeing that same V-shaped object in the skies over Lower Bucks County.

That same year, a then

well-known and highly respected reporter for a major Philadelphia TV station told me in confidence an even stranger story. She claimed to have been awakened late at night and to have seen a brightly glowing red spherical object descending from the sky and hovering outside her bedroom window.

Since 1973 reports of UFOs seen hovering over Lower Bucks haven't abated. A typical report from an online UFO investigative Web site reads: "Nov. 3, 2001. I was driving to Oxford Valley Mall from Trevose, to pick up my friend from work. I was almost at the intersection of 413 and Maple Avenue, when I looked up and saw what appeared to be three circles in a triangular pattern hovering directly above power lines along the street."

An observer from Levittown's Vermillion Hills wrote: "Sept. 3, 2001. [I was] looking for a star which I usually observed with my telescope. It wasn't where it normally was that night. Right out of that area, a light appeared and [grew] to Nova brilliance. [It] flew straight towards me; made a sudden 90-degree right turn; and then, gradually faded out of sight. [I] saw similar objects and movements in 1998 ... They made several right/left turns before fading out. All objects were silent."

Another report from 2001 reads: "On a clear winter evening, I went to the backyard, looked up and saw a huge oval-shaped object, 'red-

BUCKS COUNTY
Courier Times
UFO'S SPECIAL REPORT

orange' with black lines across object. The object was silent. It looked like it was hovering over the woods, in the upper part of Vermillion Hills, Levittown. Went in to get a camera, and it was gone."

It was an article in a 1949 issue of *Argosy* — then a popular men's magazine — that dramatically brought the subject of UFOs to my attention. The article was authored by Major Donald Keyhoe, a retired Marine Corps test pilot. He cited various encounters that military and commercial airline pilots had experienced with strange flying objects with capabilities that were far beyond any of that era's aviation technology.

While I certainly can't say that I ever saw a UFO, I did observe something strange while serving in the front lines during the Korean War. Staring at a clear cloudless and starry sky during a lull in the fighting, I noticed a tiny light moving across my front and in a straight line. It was far too high to be a helicopter and far too slow to be a shooting star, so I assumed it was a jet aircraft at a very high altitude.

Then something strange occurred. The light suddenly stopped and made a sharp 90-degree turn.

Since no airplane in 1953 was capable of that kind of maneuver, to this day I still wonder what it was.

Bucks 'flapping' over UFO sightings

A nonprofit says about 50 reports have been made in Pennsylvania in two months — more than two dozen of them in Bucks County.

By CHRISTOPHER RUVO

STAFF WRITER

Pennsylvania is "flapping." And Bucks County is apparently the epicenter.

"Flaps" is the term a national organization that investigates UFO sightings uses to refer to an abundance of supposed close encounters in an area in a short period of time.

The Mutual UFO Network has fielded about 50 UFO reports in the Keystone State in the last two months, and more than two dozen have been in Bucks County, said John Ventre, Pennsylvania and West Virginia director for the Colorado-based nonprofit.

Then on Wednesday, a Plumstead woman told township police that she saw a blinking, triangular shaped unidentified flying object hovering above her neighborhood off Stump Road around 9:45 p.m.

"We have clusters of people all across the state making reports, but mostly in Bucks County," said Ventre.

"It's the largest wave of UFO reports we've seen in Pennsylvania since Kecksburg," he added, referring to the December 1965 incident in which a "fireball-like" object purportedly crashed in the woods of the Westmoreland County community.

Ventre was recently in Lower Merion, Pa.,

Bucks County interviewing eight people who claim to have witnessed mysterious flying aircraft. A film crew from the Dis-

covery Channel accompanied him to record the interviews, he said.

There appear to be two types of craft that have been consistently described by people, said Ventre.

One type is a high-flying, bright "star-like" object that zips across the sky with great speed, he said. The other is variously described as a low-flying, six-sided or boomerang-shaped object with multi-color lights — from white and red, to green, blue or orange — that silently moves and hovers somewhat like a helicopter, said Ventre.

The latter type is similar to what Diana Bereck, 47, described seeing in Plumstead above her development, Cabin Run, on Wednesday.

Bereck, who says she "absolutely" does not believe in aliens or UFOs, was spooked enough by the craft to report it to police.

Bereck said she was driving down Cabin Run Road when her daughter, a passenger, spotted the airborne object hovering at the altitude of a low-flying plane above houses on the other side of the street.

Initially dismissing the sighting as a plane, Bereck became a bit uncomfortable when the craft came closer without making any sound. After parking in her driveway, she got out of her car and stared at the craft as it hovered, noting its triangular

shape, bright white light toward the front flanked by dimmer white lights, and two red lights at the back.

"It made no noise whatsoever," said Bereck. "It wasn't in a hurry to leave...I watched it until it just went off and disappeared over the trees."

Despite the encounter, Bereck firmly believes it was not a flying saucer.

"It was probably something from a military exercise," she said. "I'm absolutely positive there is nothing else out there, but I saw something I couldn't identify and I felt that I should report it."

A police officer discovered nothing out of the ordinary.

In late June, one person claimed to see a UFO "with six lights in the shape of a boomerang" over the Oxford Valley Mall in Middletown.

On Jan. 27, someone called 911 to report an aircraft "hovering like an octopus" over a Mexican restaurant in Falls. A Falls policeman responded to the scene, but found nothing.

Most Mutual UFO Network investigations conclude that the aircraft in question is "something conventional and explainable," said spokesman Alejandro Rojas. He said the network has investigated around 2,000 sightings per year. To become a "field investigator," an applicant must study a manual available for \$28 and pass a 100-question test.

Ventre is continuing his investigation into the Bucks County incidents.

"Either we're seeing the next generation of military aircraft, or we're looking at extraterrestrials," he said.

Christopher Ruvo can be reached at 215-345-3147 or cruvo@phillyburbs.com.

INTELLIGENCER
Doylestown, Pennsylvania
July 18, 2008

[Note: Although not a clip directly from the BC/CT, it pertains to the UFO flap in Bucks county.]

That explains it

It took eight years with George Bush in the White House to have my suspicions confirmed about UFOs and the one that was heading toward the Crawford ranch (See: "Radar tracked unidentified craft near Crawford, group's report says," July 12).

The little green men are picking up their alien brother and taking him back home.

— Ruth Miazgiewicz, Fort Worth

STAR NEWS
Pasadena, California
July 3, 2008

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(Los Angeles Co.)
Star News
(Cir. D. 99,201)

JUL 3 2008

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 1888

Mysterious fireball lights up the sky

SANTA BERNARDINO — A mysterious fireball has lit up the sky in San Bernardino County.

Tom Barnes, a county fire dispatch supervisor, says people from the Nevada state line to Temecula reported seeing a bright streak falling near the San Bernardino Mountains on Tuesday morning. No landing site was found. Investigators are still looking into the incident.

STAR TELEGRAM
Fort Worth, Texas
July 22, 2008

LETTERS

Radar tracked unidentified craft, group's report says

The Mutual UFO Network says witness' stories of Jan. 8 are corroborated by the FAA data.

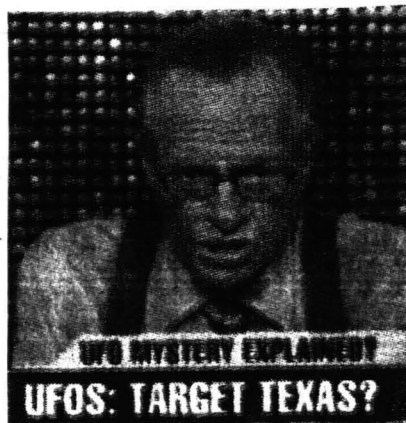
By MATT FRAZIER and MARK AGEE
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Federal Aviation Administration radar appears to confirm the presence of unidentified aircraft on Jan. 8 over the Stephenville-Dublin area, with at least one ap-

pearing to head toward President Bush's Crawford Ranch, the same night that dozens of people reported seeing UFOs, according to a report released Thursday by a national group that studies reports of unidentified flying objects.

According to the Mutual UFO Network report, the FAA radar indicated that several craft were moving in the same compass direction and time frame as those cited by

More on UFOS on 11B



Texas UFO sighters were interviewed live Friday by Larry King during a segment of his show that was titled "UFOS: Target Texas?"

UFOS: Witness heartened by new report

CONTINUED FROM 1B

Erath County residents. The craft were not military and did not have transponders that relay information about themselves to radar operators.

Radar tracked a Crawford-bound craft for more than an hour, according to the MUFON report. Witnesses said they saw two large glowing amber lights similar in size and color to the lights on the back of a school bus.

The object seemed to be stationary or moving at speeds of less than 60 mph most of the time, but at one point it accelerated to 532 mph in 30 seconds, according to the report. It did not seem to reach the property.

"The object was traveling to the southeast on a direct course towards the Crawford Ranch," the report states.

"The last time the object was seen on radar at 8 p.m., it was continuing on a direct path to Crawford Ranch and was only 10 miles away. During the entire episode of over an hour, there is no indication that any of the military jets reacted to this unknown craft."

Dozens of people around Dublin and Stephenville — about 70 miles southwest of Fort Worth — have reported seeing something in the sky on or about Jan. 8 that did not move like conventional aircraft. Some witnesses said the objects were accompanied or followed by military aircraft.

Descriptions varied. Some told of objects up to a mile long and hundreds of yards high. Others reported seeing two to eight lights that flew in formation, changed color and shone with intensity greater than a welding flame.

Media attention

The reports attracted international attention.

On Friday night, a producer

from CNN's *Larry King Live* program and a six-person production team from Dallas set up in the back yard of Ricky Sorrells, one of the UFO sighters who lives about eight miles west of Dublin.

They were there for a live interview with King, who was in his Los Angeles studio. Their segment of the show was titled "UFOS: Target Texas?"

Others interviewed were Erath County Constable Lee Roy Gaitan; Angelia Joiner, a former reporter for the Stephenville *Empire-Tribune*; and James Fox, a filmmaker from California.



Joiner

Gaitan told a *Star-Telegram* reporter that he felt vindicated by the new report.

"You probably think we're just a bunch of hillbillies out here," Gaitan said. "There were people who did doubt me, but I know I saw something."

Gaitan and Joiner told King that they hadn't given much thought to UFOs before Jan. 8. Now, it has taken over much of their lives. Joiner said she lost her reporting job because she was spending too much time on the UFO question.

She told King that all the witnesses' stories are credible. "I used to go the other direction," she said, "But lately I think maybe we're being visited from another place."

Gaitan said that for a while he was frustrated by all the attention. He said he has given at least 150 interviews.

"I was seeing that thing in my sleep," he said. "I was getting tired of it, but my wife reminded me that what I saw was pretty special and a lot of people would like to see it."

What do you think?

Post a comment on this report at star-telegram.com

MUFON report

Two MUFON researchers said they got information for the report by filing 10 Freedom of Information requests to the FAA, National Weather Service, all nearby military bases, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the 21st and 30th Air Force Wing Commands. The researchers noted that the FAA and weather service were "very responsive," but most of the others responded that they had no information.

FAA spokesman Roland Herwig said he was not familiar with the radar data and could not comment Friday.

The report was released on the MUFON Web site late Thursday night.

It seems to back witnesses' stories, including Gaitan's, who said he saw an unknown object south of his home about four miles southwest of Dublin.

He described it as two amber lights that were initially stationary but changed into about 10 white lights that departed at a high rate of speed.

"Radar detects an object at 7:20 p.m. only 2.8 miles south-southwest of the constable's home and traveling in a southeastern direction," the report states. "This matches very well with the time and direction of the constable's sighting. At 7:36 p.m. radar shows the object suddenly veering to the north at 1,900 miles per hour and then returning a minute later to continue on its southeastern course."

Online: The report is available at www.mufon.com

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Fort Worth, Texas
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whatever happened to ...

the former Marine who reported seeing a massive UFO in Suffolk?

TERRELL COPELAND BECAME "CASE NO. 58105" on The History Channel's new "UFO Hunters" series. There, on national TV, host Bill Birnes declared the Suffolk man to be a "hybrid" – a product of intergalactic breeding who is being prepped for direct contact with his alien relatives.

"That's heavy," Copeland says. "It's not surprising to me, though. After all that's happened these last couple of years, it could be true."

Yes, life has gotten even weirder for Copeland, now 26, since the former Marine became one of several locals who told The Pilot they've seen UFOs over Hampton Roads. Back then, Copeland reported that he'd witnessed a massive triangle-shaped craft hovering over a Suffolk shopping center late one night in 2005.

Copeland now says that close encounter was followed by another sighting last year that he videotaped – an orb of bouncing light that pulses different colors.

Copeland put the video online, and it wasn't long before a mysterious man knocked on his apartment door. Copeland said the man identified himself as a military contractor and began asking personal questions, ultimately asking if Copeland "was ready for the truth" and stating that the government has a "personal relationship with 'ET.'"

After that, Copeland said, he began experiencing what's known in UFO circles as "missing time" – minutes or hours that unaccountably vanish – and episodes of temporary paralysis, when he was awake and aware but couldn't move.

His story wound up drawing the attention of the "UFO Hunters" team. TV types showed up in Suffolk in November, and Copeland became part of an episode called "Alien Contact," which first aired in April.

On the episode, Copeland's video was compared with one taken at Lake Erie by Michael Hill of Cleveland, who said he has not only had multiple UFO encounters but also



BILL TIERNAN | VIRGINIAN-PILOT FILE PHOTO

Terrell Copeland stands in 2005 outside his parents' home in Suffolk. He says he spotted a triangle-shaped craft that year.

has been abducted by their occupants. The team called in an expert, but the images were too fuzzy.

Next, Copeland and Hill were ferried to Massachusetts General Hospital for testing, where it was discovered that both have elevated levels of the enzyme creatine kinase, normally associated with muscle injury.

Mere coincidence? Show host Birnes speculated otherwise. Perhaps the men's mutual condition is the result of extraterrestrial contacts that have altered their physiology. Or perhaps they've had numerous encounters because they themselves are unique.

"I've got a funny feeling," Birnes told Copeland during the episode, "that you are being recruited and there is a branch of the government that you're being recruited for – that somehow, some way, you are a hybrid between 'ET' and humans."

That announcement startled Birnes' sidekick Pat Uskert, who pulled his boss outside: "How can you conclude that the guy's a hybrid?" Uskert asked Birnes. "I mean, don't you think you're going off the deep end a little bit?"

In the end, the show concluded that there wasn't enough evidence to prove much of anything.

So where does all that leave Copeland? Waiting for "ET."

"I truly believe that's what all of this is leading to – a meeting with a biological entity," he said.

In the meantime, Copeland gets up before dawn most days and heads to work in a warehouse. Nights find him at his computer, chatting with a host of new acquaintances who have tracked him through the Internet. Many tell him they've had similar experiences.

The show has earned Copeland a little more respect at home: "I was at a low point before this. I had decided to just stop talking about it. I was losing friends. Family members thought I was losing my mind. But when you've been on TV, it's like, 'Well, maybe he has got something to say.'"

What did Copeland's mother think about her son being branded as an alien hybrid on a national television show?

"I expected her to lose it," he said, "but she didn't. She said there was always something strange about me."

Joanne Kimberlin, (757) 446-2338,
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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Not quite a year after Kenneth Arnold's report of flying objects kicked off the modern era of UFOs, and only a relatively few miles away, two sightings of "flying men" were reported from *Chehalis* and Longview, Washington. On their 60th anniversary, we present these gems from our Archives:

THE OREGONIAN
Portland, OR
January 21, 1948

The Oregonian

1 10 THE OREGONIAN, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1948

Is It a Bird? A Plane? No! It's Birdman! Chehalis Woman Reports Strange Sight

CHEHALIS, Wash., Jan. 20 (Special)—A birdman who went "sizzing and whizzing" above her barn on January 6 was reported Tuesday by Mrs. Bernice Zaikowski, 61, long-time Chehalis resident.

Her report was received with a certain amount of skepticism. Police Chief Tom Murray declined to investigate. An army official at McChord field commented that it "sounds like one of those saucer deals—I just can't put any stock in it at all."

Fliers at the Chehalis county-city airport said they could find no record of a transient birdman making a refueling stop, although they conceded January 6 was a good day for flying and ordinary, old-fashioned pilots piled up a lot of flying time.

Clear View Gained.

Undaunted by doubters, Mrs. Zaikowski, whose veracity is not questioned by acquaintances, said she "heard a sizzing and whizzing and there he was, just about 200 feet above my barn."

She insisted she could see him clearly, that he was equipped with big, silver wings and appeared to be manipulating controls strapped to his chest. The wings appeared to be fastened over his shoulders by a strap arrangement and he flew in an upright position, she said.

Polish-born Mrs. Zaikowski, whose descriptive powers occasionally failed as she attempted to explain the birdman's maneuvers, said the wings ap-



Here is Artist Ernie Richardson's conception of the "sizzing and whizzing" birdman Mrs. Bernice Zaikowski reported cavorting in air above her barn at Chehalis, Wash., January 6.

peared to retract close to his body as he ascended "very rapidly," then were extended to hover, bank and proceed in level flight. She could not tell what motive power was used, but saw no propeller. The wings did not flap, she added.

Other Viewers Listed

She was certain it was not a one-man open helicopter, such as the army has at McChord field, because the "wings did not rotate."

"I know most people don't believe me," said Mrs. Zaikowski, "but I have talked to some people in Chehalis that tell me they saw the man, too, and that he flew south from Chehalis and apparently came in from the north or west."

"It was about 3 P. M. on the Tuesday after New Year's day (January 6) and there were a lot of small children coming

home from school at the time. They saw the man, too, and asked me if they could go into my back yard so that they could watch him longer as he flew toward the south end of the city."

Mrs. Zaikowski asserted at least five other Chehalis residents, none of whom she knew by name, told her they also had seen the birdman. One, a soldier she met at church, told her the army had been experimenting with birdmen for some time, she said.

Field Denies Report

McCord field officials said that if it had, it was news to them.

One other explanation remained. Mrs. Zaikowski said one man she talked with suggested it must have been an angel predicting the coming of a third world war.

THE DAILY CHRONICLE
Centralia, WA
January 21, 1948

The Chronicle

Chehalis Woman Sees 'Birdman'

Doubted but still undaunted, Mrs. Bernice Zaikowski, 61-year-old Chehalis resident, repeated to a Daily Chronicle reporter Wednesday morning she saw on January 6 a birdman who went "sizzing and whizzing" above her barn before he flew south over the city.

Mrs. Zaikowski's story brought news prominence to Chehalis Wednesday, for at least one major Northwest newspaper carried the story in its entirety and several radio network news broadcasts repeated it.

The Chehalis woman, a long-time resident whose story is not doubted by acquaintances, insists she saw the bird man clearly and that he was equipped with big, silver wings and

appeared to be manipulating controls strapped to his chest. The wings seemed to be fastened over his shoulders by a strap arrangement and he flew in an upright position.

Polish-born Mrs. Zaikowski, whose descriptive powers at times failed as she attempted to explain the birdman's maneuvers, declared the wings appeared to retract close to his body as he ascended "very rapidly," and then were extended to hover, bank and proceed in level flight. She could not tell what motive power was used, but she saw no propeller. The wings did not flap, she said.

The Chehalis woman said a number of small children coming home from school saw the sight, and that one

man had asked to enter her back yard to better watch the flier.

Checking on the story revealed a number of authorities were inclined to skepticism. Police Chief Tom Murray declined to regard it seriously. Fliers at the Chehalis county-city airport said they could find no record of a transient birdman making a refueling stop, and at McChord field an army official said it "sounds like one of those saucer deals—I just can't put any stock in it at all."

McCord field officials also largely ruled out the possibility the birdman could have been a one-man helicopter. They said they knew of no experiments the army is making with the one-man helicopter.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Not quite a year after Kenneth Arnold's report of flying objects kicked off the modern era of UFOs, and only a relatively few miles away, two sightings of "flying men" were reported from Chehalis and Longview, Washington. On their 60th anniversary, we present these gems from our Archives:

The Oregonian

THE OREGONIAN

Portland, OR
April 10, 1948

Two Report Winged Men Circling Above Longview

LONGVIEW, April 9 (Special) Residents of this Columbia river city were agog Friday at the report of Mrs. Viola Johnson, a laundry worker, and James Pittman, janitor, that they had seen three men hovering about 250 feet in the air over Longview.

"They looked like three men in flying suits flying through the air," Mrs. Johnson recalled. "They wore dark drab flying

suits and as far as I can judge—I'm not very good at judging distance—they were about 250 feet high, circling the city."

Pittman could not be reached for his version of the flying men.

Mrs. Johnson said:

"They were going at about the same speed as a freight train and had some kind of apparatus on their sides which looked like guns, but I know it couldn't have been guns.

"I couldn't see any propellers or any motors tied on them, but I could hear motors which sounded about like airplane motors, only not so loud.

Faces Stay Hidden

"When they first came into sight, I thought they looked like gulls, but as they got closer I could make out that they were not gulls and I knew they were men. I could see it plain that they were men.

"I couldn't make out their arms, but I could see their feet dangling down and they kept moving their heads like they were looking around. I couldn't tell if they had goggles on, but their heads looked like they had helmets on. I couldn't see their faces."

Mrs. Johnson, a 56-year-old widow and mother of five children, has lived in Oregon since 1918. Her present residence is Rainier and she commutes daily to her work in Longview.

When she and Pittman spotted the flying men, their shouts drew other workers out of the laundry, but by then the fliers were gone. Other Longview residents reported hearing plane motors about the same time and declared they had seen three planes circle over the city at fairly high altitudes.

Previous Instance Cited

In January, Mrs. Bernice Zaikowski, 61, a long-time resident of Chehalis, reported a similar experience with the words that she "heard a sizzling and whizzing and there he was, just about 200 feet above my barn."

Mrs. Zaikowski's flying man was equipped with big, silver wings and appeared to be manipulating controls strapped to his chest. The wings appeared to be strapped over his shoulders, leaving him to fly in an upright position, she said.

Like Mrs. Johnson in Longview, the Chehalis woman did not see a propeller.

THE DAILY NEWS
Longview, WA
April 9, 1948

Flew Through The Air—

3 'Flying Minute Men' Seen Over Longview On Wednesday

By Jim Stuart

A story of three flying men—who flew through the air with the greatest of ease—over Longview Wednesday was related today by Mrs. Viola Johnson of Rainier and James Pittman, employees of the City Cleaners.

"I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes," Mrs. Johnson said in describing the three men in grey uniforms who circled the City Cleaners at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon. According to Mrs. Johnson, she was taking her afternoon

rest period when literally out of nowhere came three men flying toward the cleaning building.

She rushed towards the nearest exit, as one is prone to do in such circumstances, telling the rest of the employees to follow her. In the general hub-bub which followed, the only one who made it to the door in time to catch a glimpse of the men with the strapped in motors enjoying an odd afternoon cruise was the janitor, James Pittman. According to him, the gents, sans wings, headed back in the direction of Seattle. The speed was estimated at "medium."

"The best way I can describe them," Mrs. Johnson said, "is to call them minute men. They looked just like grey uniformed minute men." According to Mrs. Johnson, when she first saw these celestial playboys she thought they were gulls or else it was time to have her glasses changed but as they came closer there was no doubt in her mind that they were human beings flying at about 250 feet.

Besides Mrs. Johnson and Pittman the engine powered fliers were seen by a boy who also was struck with the strange sight.



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

THE SUN - London, England - July 7, 2008

Amazing UFO map shows how sightings have flooded Britain

ALIEN NATION



IT'S the summer of the UFO — with dozens of mysterious objects boldly glowing where none has shone before.

This map shows how reports of weird night sightings have poured in from across Britain.

Shapes of all sizes, colour and brightness have been spotted at night from Liverpool to Dover and

By KATHRYN LISTER

from Cornwall to Hertfordshire. And the experts cannot explain whether it's alien activity or natural phenomena to blame.

Top UFO watcher Malcolm Robinson said yesterday: "Something very bizarre is happening in the skies over the UK."

"I have been dealing in UFO sightings for more than 30 years and we are currently dealing with

something very real and tangible which mankind cannot comprehend or explain.

"Usually 95 per cent of sightings can be explained, but it is the remaining and mysterious five per cent which we can't just shake off that particularly interests me."

Malcolm, founder member of Strange Phenomena Investigations, said: "There has been an unusual number of sightings recently."

"Some experts believe it could be linked to global warming and craft from outer space are appearing

because they are concerned about what man is doing to this planet."

Royal Navy aircraft engineer Michael Madden, 25, told last week how he spotted a disc-shaped UFO over the M5 in Somerset before it disappeared at "incredible speed".

Soldiers reported seeing 13 objects above their barracks at Tern Hill, Shrops. And a police helicopter reported a close encounter with a UFO near Cardiff.

k.lister@the-sun.co.uk
Read more on UFO sightings at thesun.co.uk/britishxfiles

UFO LIGHTS OVER BRECON BEACONS

Boffin tells of third UK sighting in five days



Doctor spot . . . Simon

EXCLUSIVE
by JOHN COLES

A BAFFLED university don who spotted a UFO over the Brecon Beacons last night said: "There is no logical explanation."

Dr Simon Griffey saw lights loom over a mountain village – before they disappeared.

His close encounter is the third reported in the space of just five days, following sightings by the Army and police.

Simon, a doctor of psychology at Cardiff University, said: "I've had loads of theories proposed by friends and neighbours but none of them add up."

Dr Griffey, 50, and his son Jack, 23, were driving near Llangyndir Mountain in the Brecon Beacons, Powys, when they spotted lights over Talybont-on-Usk.

He said: "There was no noise whatsoever, it was a bit eerie. I've driven over this mountain for 17 years and have never seen anything like it."

"There were seven lights and having read the description from the soldiers in Shropshire, there are some similarities. They were the same sort of colour and the

same spherical shape that they reported.

"I know I wasn't seeing things because Jack saw exactly the same as I did – and two other cars pulled over to look."

Sceptics have suggested the sightings could be huge man-made lanterns floating into the sky.

But the boffin, of Llangyndir, said: "It was too big. It was way above the horizon and stayed there for 15 minutes. It was a bit smaller than a full moon – quite big and high up."

Jack recorded the phenomenon on his mobile phone –

but when they examined the pictures later, they found only three of the seven lights showed up.

Dr Griffey said: "The police helicopter crew said they failed to record the sighting on their equipment."

"If it had been a natural phenomenon you surely would have been able to photograph all of it. I'd like someone to explain – because I have no idea what to make of it."

He added: "I think it's plausible that there could be life on other planets."

The close encounter at 11.40pm on Thursday, June

12 came at a place which lies almost directly between the Tern Hill barracks and St Athan – scenes of sightings days earlier.

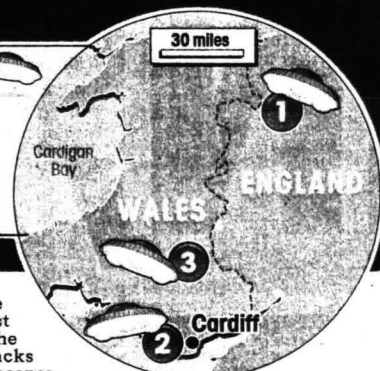
The Sun told on Tuesday how three soldiers saw 13 UFOs spinning over their Tern Hill station at 11pm on Saturday, June 7.

Just over 90 minutes later and 80 miles away the crew of the South Wales police chopper reported a UFO as it tried to land at St Athan.

Yesterday we revealed three women's claims they were abducted by aliens on the A5 – also in Shrops –

War of the Welsh . . .
Dr Griffey's snap of UFO

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS		
1 JUNE 7, 11pm Tern Hill, Shropshire	2 JUNE 8, 12.40am St. Athan, nr Cardiff	3 JUNE 12, 11.40pm Llangyndir, Brecon Beacons



in 1981. Expert Nick Pope, who investigated UFOs for the MoD, wants an official inquiry into the sightings.
j.coles@the-sun.co.uk

THE BBC yesterday denied that a UFO spotted in South Wales was a prop from Dr Who, filmed in Cardiff. It said: "The show was not in production at the time."

Spotted a UFO? Call The Sun
on 0207 782 4104

The Westmorland Gazette

WESTMORLAND GAZETTE
Kendal, Cumbria, England
June 13, 2008

Giant UFO spotted over N. Lancs town

DURING a recent trip to the USA I set out for Heathrow on Sunday, May 18, at 3.20 am in the travel company's minibus.

As we drove down the M6, approaching Carnforth, the driver and I both saw a big bright orange light above the town.

It was shaped like a shoe box, with a slight dome on top – it was huge.

We both remarked, "Look at that, it must be a UFO." Then, it appeared to

turn and it just disappeared.

The driver said 'We'll read all about it in the Gazette.'

I read your reports on UFOs (Gazette, June 6, 'Truth about UFOs is out there').

Now this wasn't a light, the size of a golf ball, this was mega, the size of a bus.

The time would have been around 3.40-3.45 am.

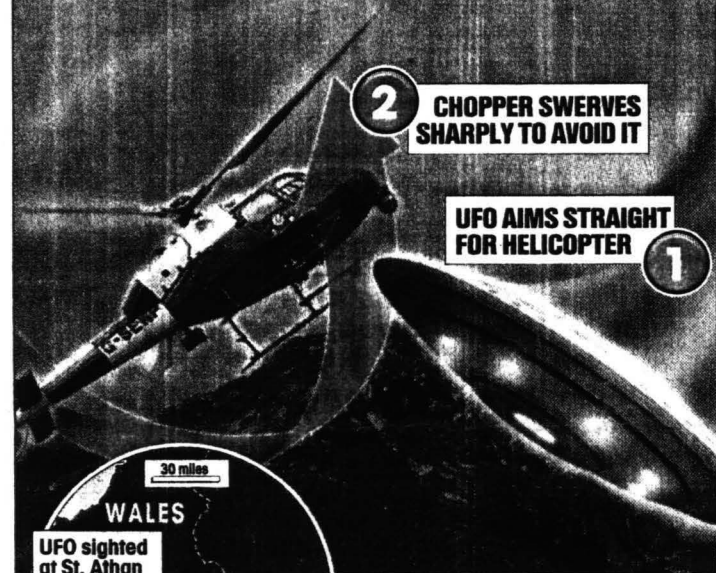
There was not a lot of traffic on the

M6, it being early Sunday morning.

But I can swear on oath that what we saw was true. Not a fuel tank discarded from a shuttle space mission – if it was, it must have landed on Carnforth!

Mrs Kathleen Winn
Sedbergh

ELLO ELLO UFO!



THE Sun

THE SUN
London, England
June 20, 2008

Flying saucer chased by cops over Cardiff

STUNNED police gave chase to a UFO after it attacked their helicopter near a military base.

The mystery aircraft zoomed straight at the chopper as the three-man cop crew prepared to land.

The pilot banked sharply to avoid being hit, then launched into a high-speed pursuit. But he was forced to give up the chase as the helicopter's fuel ran low – and the UFO escaped.

All three crew described the object as “flying saucer-shaped” and circled by flashing lights. They reported it to senior officers, who passed on the report to Britain's UFO investigators.

The incident happened as the helicopter was returning to the MoD's St Athan base near Cardiff, where it is stationed.

The chopper was at 500ft and waiting to land when the crew saw the UFO speeding towards them from below.

A source said: “It closed in at great speed, aiming straight at the helicopter.”

“The chopper had to swerve sharply to avoid being hit. The guys said if they'd stayed where they were, they'd be dead – it would've been a direct hit.”

“They are convinced it was a UFO. It sounds far-fetched, but they know what they saw.”

“These guys are hardened professionals and know people will take the mickey, but they are certain they saw a UFO.”

The source added: “After the near-collision they decided to follow it to find out what the hell it was. They belted across the Bristol Channel in pursuit, but it was too quick. They got

EXCLUSIVE by JOHN COLES

to the North Devon coast and had to turn back because they were running low on fuel.”

The chopper is crammed with hi-tech cameras and surveillance gear, but the UFO somehow avoided being caught on film.

Strangely, the crew could not see the craft with night-vision goggles – but all said it was “clearly visible” to the naked eye on the night of June 7.

South Wales Police said last night: “We can confirm the Air Support Unit sighted an unusual aircraft. This was reported to the relevant authorities for their investigation.”

The MoD, which usually investigates UFO sightings, said: “We've heard nothing about this. But it is certainly not advisable for police helicopters to go chasing what they think are UFOs.”

● **HAVE** you got pictures of a UFO? Email exclusive@the-sun.co.uk or text 63000.

MoD faces calls for X-Files inquiry

THE Ministry of Defence today faced calls to launch an official inquiry into a series of UFO sightings, including one filmed by a soldier on night patrol.

UFO experts believe the incidents, which happened in Shropshire, south Wales and Worcestershire earlier this month, are “particularly significant” because they included observations made by the crew of a police helicopter and military personnel.

The MoD confirmed today that it had been handed footage captured on a mobile phone by a corporal on guard duty at Tern Hill barracks, near Market Drayton, Shropshire, on June 7.

Corporal Mark Proctor told

The Sun he witnessed a “fleet” of objects zig-zagging across the sky at about 11pm.

The 38-year-old soldier, a member of the 1st Battalion Irish Regiment, said: “I was on duty in the guardroom when the other boys outside began shouting.

“I went out to see what the commotion was about and could see 13 craft in the skies. They were like rotating cubes with multiple colours.”

Former MoD UFO expert Nick Pope said that an inquiry to establish what had been seen by the witnesses was vital.

Mr Pope said: “Something quite extraordinary does seem to be going on in British air space at the moment.

“There has got to be an official inquiry into all this and we need a senior air force officer to

take personal charge and oversee the inquiry.”

Radar tapes, as well as footage of the incidents, should be examined as part of the investigation, said Mr Pope, who added: “It's indisputable that something was seen – the very fact that it was seen by military personnel over a military base makes it a national security incident.”

An Army spokesman declined to comment in detail on the sightings at Tern Hill.

“The MoD examines reports solely to establish whether UK airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised military activity,” the spokesman said.

“Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, there is no attempt to identify the nature of each sighting reported.”

Evening Mail

NORTH WEST EVENING MAIL
Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, England
June 25, 2008

UFO sighting prompts fears of an alien visit

By **CHARLIE CAMPBELL**

ccampbell@london.newsquest.co.uk

A MYSTERIOUS craft spotted in the sky over Wanstead and Woodford, has sparked UFO fever amongst shocked residents.

Five strange lights were spotted hovering over Charlie Brown's roundabout in Woodford Green, which suddenly went out one-by-one as a dark object descended to earth.

Bradley Gross, of Baddow Close, Woodford Green, was outside his home saying goodbye to some friends with his partner Cheri and 15-year-old daughter Natasha at 11.55pm on Saturday night when they saw the UFO.

The 32-year-old paint shop worker said: "It still gives me the shivers even thinking about it now. It was really freaky-looking and we saw these bright spots and then this thing slowly come down diagonally to earth."

"Without a doubt it was something odd and it could not have been a plane or a balloon as it was not moving at all and had these bright lights."

"It totally freaked my daughter out and she couldn't sleep. It could well have been something to do with UFOs as I believe we can't be the only living things in the universe."

"I stood out there at midnight the following night to see if I could catch it again but couldn't see anything."

Strange beings have apparently attempted to make contact after a 'hostile alien craft' was seen near Winston Churchill's statue on the Green, Woodford Green, in February, prompting the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to issue an appeal for calm. And when secret

Government files were opened last month, many stories emerged such as the tale of two little boys who were terrified back in 1970 when they saw a pair of strange lights in the skies over Wanstead.

More recently, accounts cover a variety of strange sights, including one man who spotted two "giant sparklers" hovering in the skies of Woodford Green back in February, 2001.

London UFO studies group chairman Roy Lake said north-east London was notorious for UFO activity.

He added: "A lot of times these are Chinese lanterns which float up very high but from the description that must be ruled out so it's definitely an unexplained sighting."

"But there's nothing much to go on and we need more information. There's certainly been contact made with aliens as after 50 years investigating these things and talking to lots of people including airline pilots I'm left in no doubt."

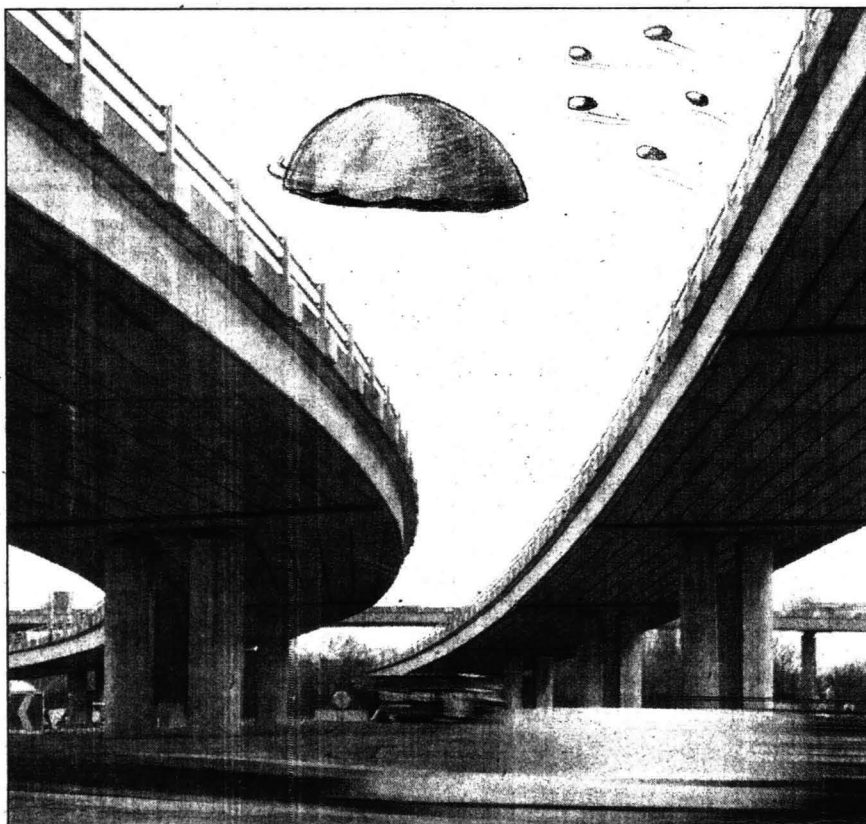
A spokeswoman for the MoD played down the possibility of an alien craft.

She said: "We examine reports solely to establish whether UK airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised military activity."

"Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, there is no attempt to identify the nature of each sighting reported."

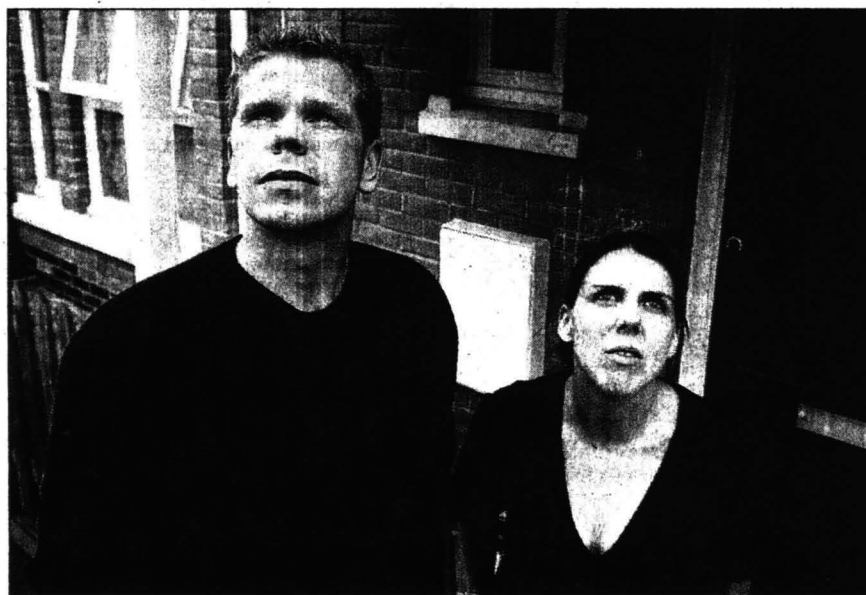
FACT OR FICTION?

Have you seen anything unusual in the skies over Redbridge? Are you worried about alien visits? Email ccampbell@london.newsquest.co.uk or log on to guardian-series.co.uk and leave your comments on our website



An artist's impression of what was seen over Charlie Brown's roundabout

(c)



The Gross family claim they saw a UFO over Woodford Green

(EL8613-2)

UFOs over village?

DRINKERS at two village pubs spotted what they believe were mysterious UFOs.

The bright orange circular objects were seen shooting across the sky above Caerwys on Wednesday evening by drinkers in the Royal Oak and Piccadilly Inn pubs.

Steve Griffith, 52, who was in the Piccadilly, said: "Someone in the pub spotted these strange lights and we all went outside to look."

"There was a strange bright orange circle and it moved in a way that no normal aircraft would move."

Sion Davies, 37, who was in the Royal Oak, said: "I was in the pub with the Caerwys amateur dramatics group."

"We went out to look and at first a few people scoffed at the idea they were UFOs but then they started to move and you could not explain away what we were seeing."

"I am a sceptic but I cannot explain what was going on in the sky that night."

2374 Second witness backs up mysterious UFO sighting

By **DANIEL BINNS**

dbinns@london.newsquest.co.uk

WANSTEAD and Woodford is fast getting a reputation for spooky skies after an apparar-ent UFO sighting was confirmed by another reader.

This time the Guardian was contacted by businessman Simon Brody, 36, who saw a mysterious grey object in the sky while he was in his garden playing with his young son.

He said it looked "exactly the same" as the sighting which we reported last week flying near Charlie Brown's roundabout, Woodford Green.

Mr Brody said: "I've never seen anything like that at all and I probably never will again.

"I was out in the garden with my little boy and I saw something out of the corner of my eye

"It just darted across the sky - it was exactly the same as the man in your story described it. It was grey and looked quite large, but it was moving too fast to be a plane.

"I ran to look to see if I could see it again but it had disappeared.

"I don't know what it was,

but I think it would be naive to say there isn't anything else out there in space."

Paint shop worker Bradley Gross, whose sighting the Guardian reported last week, welcomed the news that he was not the only to have apparently seen the object.

Mr Gross of Baddow Close said: "That's absolutely excellent, I'm very glad because some people have been caning me about it, so now I can say to them it wasn't just me."

"It's quite freaky really" he added.

The apparent sighting is just the latest in a string of reported sightings in western Redbridge.

In February the Ministry of Defence (MoD) urged for calm when there was another sighting near the Winston Churchill statue in Woodford Green, but they have since said they are not investigating further "unless there is evidence of a potential threat."

One MoD Spokeswoman said: "We are scanning the skies all the time for security reasons, so the chances of a member of the public seeing something that we don't know about are remote."

BY **TIFFANY CRAWFORD**

Some swirled, swooshed and hammed while others hovered, zipped and zoomed.

Canadians in four provinces reported seeing a record number of unidentified flying objects in 2007, according to an annual report released by a Winnipeg-based non-profit organization that has recorded UFO sightings since 1989.

The UFOlogy Research Institute, which compiles data from sources including Transport Canada and the Department of National Defence, said researchers examined 836 alleged UFO sightings in 2007, an increase of almost 12 per cent over 2006.

While B.C. typically has the highest number of reported sightings, the 2007 compilation found that New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec pulled in all-time high numbers of UFO reports.

The reports were filed by witnesses with government and military agencies, police and several online UFO websites. Witnesses ranged from farmhands to airline pilots and included teachers and police officers.

Chris Rutkowski, the lead researcher of the study, said that, of the hundreds of reports, only a fraction - about 16 per cent - were labelled as unexplained after review by his investigators. But he cautioned that while some UFO sightings can't be rationally explained,

there is still no evidence to suggest extraterrestrial contact.

Some of the more bizarre cases from 2007 - those to which researchers gave a "strangeness rating" of six or more out of 10 - include one in Hammonds Plain, N.S., on March 10, when several witnesses saw a structured object with lights moving slowly over a lake. The object was 'also "humming," according to the witnesses.

In Halifax on Dec. 21, a helicopter pilot reported seeing a bright object flying overhead and curving around.

For reasons unknown, the highest number of UFO sightings is usually reported in British Columbia. On May 27 last year, a silent object was observed "manoeuvring oddly" over Chilliwack, while residents in the northern village of Granisle saw a "black-light-coloured" object moving across the sky on Nov. 11 near an "odd looking" cloud.

In another instance, residents in North Tryon, P.E.I., saw a small, shiny object spiralling in the sky last Boxing Day. They reported the strange craft flew in a corkscrew manner, leaving behind it a mysterious dark-smoke trail.

"This one really caught our attention," recalls Rutkowski, an astronomer who leads the research along with several engineers, journalists and pilots. "It happened during the day and two individuals saw it and they had enough time because it was visible for half an hour and they took video. The trail persisted

for quite some time."

So what caused the phenomenon? "At this time it is still unexplained," he conceded in an interview from Winnipeg, "but we are open to the possibilities."

Rutkowski started the research institute in 1989 because of his passion to explain what people were really seeing. His organization works with Norad, NASA, Transport Canada and other organizations to find out what kind of objects are known to be up in the sky and visible from particular areas of the Earth at specific times. As such, they are able to explain away many UFO sightings as unusual alignments of satellites or objects such as meteors and space junk that burn up upon entry into the Earth's atmosphere.

He, for one, remains doubtful that any of the UFOs spotted in Canada are occupied by aliens. "As an astronomer I think there's life out there somewhere," he acknowledges. "I don't rule out the possibility, but I don't have anything that convinces me 100 per cent."

These days, reports of flying saucers are rare, but reports of triangles and spheres continue to flow into the UFOlogy institute. "It could be something as simple as there are more UFOs, or people are paying more attention to what is up in the sky," he suggests. "Rather than just being too busy all the time, to just pause and look at the sky and wonder what's out there is always a good thing."

Canwest News Service

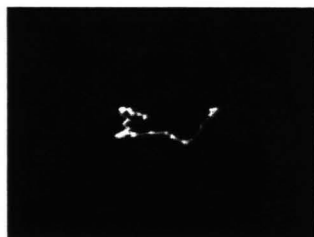
VANCOUVER SUN
Vancouver, B.C., Canada
July 19, 2008

Record number of UFO sightings in Canada: report
While B.C. leads in 2007 sightings, four other provinces have all-time highs

LA ESTRELLA DEL NORTE
Tocopilla, Chile
July 21, 2008

Avistan OVNI al norte de Tocopilla

Como una imagen de película de ciencia ficción, los tocopillanos divisaron el ovni.



El objeto volador no identificado fue divisado sobre el cerro Tolar.

Una extraña visión tuvo la la noche del lunes la comunidad tocopillana, al divisar en el sector del cerro Tolar, al norte de la ciudad, un extraño fenómeno del universo, el avistamiento de un objeto volador no identificado.

Fueron decenas de familias, las que divisaron al norte de la ciudad, el lunes a las 22.30 horas, un ovni, específicamente en el cerro Tolar, el que según testigos, se movía en círculos, imagen que fue captada por el lente del fotógrafo Raúl Carvajal Egaña. Según el relato de vecinos que alertaron ayer en la mañana a este Diario, por varios minutos se observó una luz en movimiento en el sector del suceso paranormal, que varios siguieron atentos pensando que se trataba de un avión, sin embargo esto fue descartado porque se movía con gran rapidez y en distintas direcciones.

El hecho causó excecpticismo en los pobladores que no vieron en directo el suceso, pero los vecinos de calle Sargento Aldea que divisaron el suceso, están seguros que se trata de una nave que recorre el espacio y juran que no estamos sólo en el universo.

Las fotografías del extraño hecho fueron subidas en el día de ayer al facebook de La Prensa de tocopilla, donde de inmediato se originó un debate respecto a la veracidad de las imágenes.

El fotografo Raúl Carvajal, señaló que esta es la primera ocasión que tiene de retratar un fenómeno de esta naturaleza, pero indicó que hace varios años fue tetigo de otro suceso parecido, el que apareció desde el mar y desapareció.

El fenómeno de los ovnis ha sido largamente estudiado por sus seguidores e investigadores, no comprobándose aún su existencia, pero existen una gran cantidad imágenes y material fotográfico que dan la contra a la postura de los más excecpticos.

UFO seen North of Tocopilla

Like the image from a science fiction movie, the "tocopillans" saw the UFO.

Ximena Araya Monroy

The tocopillan community had a strange sighting last Monday night when they saw a strange UFO phenomenon from the Universe in the area of the Tolar hill, north of the city.

On Monday at 10.30 pm, tens of families saw a UFO towards the north of the city, specifically in the Tolar hill, which, according to witnesses, moved in circles, an image that was shot by photographer Raúl Carvajal Egaña. According to the neighbors who alerted this paper this morning, a moving light was seen for several minutes in the area of the paranormal event which several followed attentively thinking it was a plane, however, this was rejected because it moved very fast and in different directions.

The event caused skepticism in the residents who did not directly see the event, but the neighbors on Sargento Aldea street who saw it are sure it was a ship that travels in space and they swear we are not alone in the universe.

The photos of the strange event were uploaded yesterday to the La Prensa de Tocopilla facebook, where a debate arose immediately in regard to the truthfulness of the images.

Photographer Raúl Carvajal said this is the first opportunity he has to snap such an event, but said that several years ago he witnessed a similar event which appeared from the sea and disappeared.

The UFO phenomenon has been studied for a long time by followers and researchers, however its existence has not yet been verified, but there are lots of images and photographic material that go against the position of the skeptics.

(Translation courtesy of Jane Thomas Guma)

BIRMINGHAM POST
Birmingham, England
June 26, 2008

Soldiers' UFO film prompts call for official MoD inquiry

2374
The Ministry of Defence faced calls to launch an official inquiry into an alleged UFO sighting in Shropshire that was filmed by a soldier.

UFO experts said the incident near Market Drayton is "particularly significant" because it came from a member of the military.

The MoD has confirmed it has been handed footage captured on a mobile phone by a corporal on guard duty at Tern Hill barracks on June 7.

Corporal Mark Proctor told *The Sun* he witnessed a "fleet" of objects zig-zagging across the sky at about 11pm.

The 38-year-old soldier, a member of the 1st Battalion Irish Regiment, said: "I was on duty in the guard room when the other boys outside began shouting.

"I went out to see what the commotion was about and could see 13 craft in the skies."

Former MoD UFO expert Nick Pope said that an inquiry to establish what had been seen by the witnesses was vital and should be led by a senior officer.

Mr Pope said: "Something quite extraordinary does seem to be going on in British air space at the moment. It's indisputable that something was seen.

"The very fact that it was seen by military personnel over a military base makes it a national security incident."

It was later reported on *Midlands Today* that the unidentified craft were in fact Chinese lanterns released from a party held nearby.

Evening Mail

UFO buzzes cop copter

2374
A POLICE helicopter was apparently buzzed by a UFO in what appears to have been one of the closest encounters of its kind.

The South Wales Police aircraft, with a three-man crew, was forced to swerve sharply to avoid being hit.

The incident took place near RAF St Athan, a military base outside Cardiff, South Wales, where the helicopter is based.

The police Eurocopter, an EC135T21, was hovering in the sky above the base, waiting to land, at 12.40am on June 8, a police spokeswoman confirmed.

While she went on to confirm the sighting of what is termed as an "unusual aircraft", she went out of her way to avoid using the term UFO.

The police gave chase to the unidentified craft in the air and pursued it across the Bristol Channel as far as the North Devon coast.

But police dismissed any idea that an aerial pursuit took place or that the helicopter crew were ever in any danger.

NORTH WEST EVENING MAIL
Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, England
June 20, 2008



The Australian Northern Territory is having a UFO Flap. Here are the UFONS news reports:



NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS
Darwin, NT, Australia
July 24th, 2008

Chopper 'chase' joins UFO files

MYSTERY surrounds the reported sighting of helicopters that appeared to be chasing strange flashing lights through the sky south of Darwin this week.

Paul Noaks, 45, of Berry Springs, said that he saw two choppers chasing the lights above his home at about 10.30pm on Monday.

"I walked outside and there were two helicopters with a light about 50m in front of them.," he said.

"It was changing from red to a greeny-blue colour.

"I don't know what it was, I have got no idea.

"All I know is that his thing was silent.

"It was heading off over the horizon and then coming back again and the two helicopters were chasing it," Mr Noaks said.

There have been several reported UFO sightings in Darwin's rural area in recent weeks.

Acacia Hills resident Alan Ferguson photographed what he believed to be a UFO hovering above his home earlier this month.

The photos, run on the front page of the *Northern Territory News*, sparked a series of calls from readers also claiming to have spotted UFOs in the area.

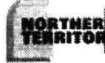
One caller, Independent MLA for Nelson Gerry Wood, said he saw a

strange grey object fly through the sky over Howard Springs.

Mr Noaks said he thought the choppers belonged to the Defence force because they were far bigger than the local helicopters he sometimes sees flying around his home.

But Defence spokeswoman Kelly Cooper said there had been no Defence aircraft flying above Berry Springs last night.

"Defence is not chasing or investigating any UFO activity," she said. "Helicopters don't chase lights in the sky - it's unsafe."



NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS
Darwin, NT, Australia
July 17, 2008

By Matt Cunningham

The truth is out there Is it a bird, is it a plane, or could it be something else?

That was the question Alan Ferguson was asking after taking these pictures at Acacia Hills.



MYSTERIOUS: These pictures taken by Mr Alan Ferguson clearly show there was something in the air that day.

Mr Ferguson, 43, said he was taking pictures of the sky about two weeks ago, but when he downloaded the snaps he noticed a strange object flying among the clouds.



The object encircled by clouds.

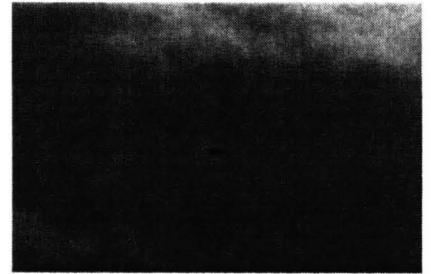
And Mr Ferguson is convinced it could be a sign that life exists beyond the Earth's limits.

"I have been seeing these weird and wonderful things flying around the place for years and no one believes me," he said.

Asked if he thought the object was a UFO, Mr Ferguson said: "It's a possibility... we can't be the only people running around."

Mr Ferguson said he was convinced the object was metallic because he said the sun could be seen reflecting off it.

He said for the past three years he had seen objects moving in the shape of an "N" at great speed in the sky above his home.



Another magnified close-up of the object.

"You picture the letter N in your head, that's the manoeuvre they can make in a split second," he said.

UFO spotting has been a regular occurrence in the Territory.

Last month residents at the tiny town of Marlinja, 730km south of Darwin, reported seeing four UFOs.



NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS
Darwin, NT, Australia
June 27, 2008

UFOs invade NT town

A SMALL Territory community is still reeling with shock after four UFOs descended on their Outback homes.

Families spent hours in fear as what appeared to be three spaceships hovered in the distance with another just metres above their houses.

The drama at Marlinja, population 112 and 730km south of Darwin, began at 8pm on Sunday.

Resident Janie Dixon said it started as an "ordinary" night.

"The kids were on the basketball courts, shooting a few hoops, and I was indoors talking to my two nieces when we heard a strange, loud noise," she said.

"We ran outside but at first we couldn't see anything -- it was really dark and we could hear the sound.

"The sound was horrible. It sounded like something was going past.

"We thought it was a jet. I saw what I thought at first was the evening star, the first star you usually see at night.

**CONTINUED ON
NEXT PAGE >>**

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS
Darwin, NT, Australia
June 27, 2008

**CONTINUED FROM
< PREVIOUS PAGE**

"But then we saw three red lights in the distance, and the sound kept getting louder.

"The ground felt like it was shaking, so we ran inside and shut the doors.

"My nephew and niece were looking out through curtains. The thing came closer, circled around the basketball courts and then came so close above our house.

"The kids at the basketball courts ran -- two girls stood there looking towards the sky.

"They tried to see what it was but all they could see was this bright red light in the pitch black."

Ms Dixon said the UFO hovered above the homes for what seemed like a couple of hours.

She said at one stage the phone rang, but went dead when she tried to answer it.

"Then the light in the house became so bright, it was like we were sitting in a football stadium," she said.

"After a while, after the things all disappeared... I think it was about 11pm by then.

"We went outside and were just sitting around drinking tea and talking about it all. The kids were put to bed.

"We heard the noise again and it came back, but disappeared again moments later.

"We were all really frightened.

"It was a big shock and I couldn't sleep."

IT COULD be the one that got away. Fisherman Simon Moyle, his son Rein and mate Eddie Carroll saw a UFO shooting across NT skies.

The trio were fishing at Shady Camp, 220km east of Darwin, when they spotted an object zip across the sky and burst into fire around 5.30pm on Sunday.

The incident was also reported by Northern Territory News readers enjoying the sunset over Darwin Harbour from the cliffs at Fannie Bay.

Mr Moyle, 36, of Driver, Palmerston, said the UFO was not a plane.

He thinks it may have been a meteor or piece of space junk.

"I thought something must have been re-entering the atmosphere," he said.

Rein, 10, a Year 5 Parap Primary student, said the incident surprised him.

"I saw something orange really high in the sky and it looked like it was on fire," he said.

"It plummeted a big distance in two seconds and then it disappeared in a flash -- the smoke stayed for about half an hour."

Mr Carroll, 37, of Woodroffe, said he had no idea what it was.

"I looked up in the sky and thought it was a plane at first," he said.

"It looked like a falling star -- it was lit for two seconds and then exploded. I think it was a meteor -- it was too high to be a plane."

Territory astronomy enthusiast Geoff Carr said the sighting was odd.

"I can't explain it," he said.

"The atmosphere is an ocean of gas -- all sorts of things could happen."

Lawrie Fuchs, 70, and his wife Gwen, 69, were returning to their home town of Elliott following a trip to Queensland last Friday when they say the UFO swooped them as they drove along the Barkly Highway.

Estimated to be about six metres wide, they say the object passed the vehicle with such speed that its slipstream forced their Mazda sedan into the middle of the road.

They were travelling in a westerly direction and were about 55km east of the Threeways roadhouse when the incident occurred.

"It was about 4pm when suddenly we saw a dark, silvery flash and heard a loud sound as it passed," Mr Fuchs said.

"It was travelling at a terrific speed, very bloody fast, and there was no warning at all.

"I'm sure it dive-bombed us but I can't imagine why."

"I do a lot of bush work and over the years I've seen a number of strange, unexplained things," he said.

Mrs Fuchs said she saw a little flash just below the sun visor then heard a loud whoosh as it passed over.

"I actually thought it hit the car, but there were no marks," she said.

Mr Fuchs, a mechanic who has lived in Elliot for 40 years, says he took the incident in his stride.

"I don't talk about it much because sometimes people don't take you seriously."

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS
Darwin, NT, Australia
June 26, 2008

Fishos catch sight of UFO



RARE SIGHT: Simon and Rein Moyle were just two of a number of people who saw a light shoot across the Territory sky. Picture: CLIVE HYDE

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS
Darwin, NT, Australia
June 2, 2008

By Jasmin Afianos

UFO 'dive-bombs' couple



Elliott couple Gwen and Lawrie Fuchs were swooped by a UFO as they travelled along the Barkly Highway last Friday. Photo: SHELLEY MCDONALD.

AN ELDERLY couple claim they had a close encounter with a UFO while travelling along a Territory highway.

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS
Darwin, NT, Australia
May 3, 2008

UFO buzz puts NT into flap

A "UFO flap" is taking place and Territorians are needed to help scan the skies during a national spotting session tomorrow.

"There have been sightings of triangle-shaped craft with lights underneath, cylinder-shaped craft,

"There have been 30 or 40 dancing lights off SA that took off in different directions."

A navy sailor contacted the Northern Territory News following Thursday's report of a UFO sighting on Groote Eylandt.

One woman said she saw a straight-moving ball of light crossing Darwin Harbour last Saturday night, another woman saw "orange, green and white" flashing shapes moving around the moon.

To register for UFO spotting call 1800772288.



Bigfoot pays visit to Kenora

Berry pickers see 'black thing'

GARETT WILLIAMS
Sun Media

KENORA — Randy Fobister's pictures have been circulating through Grassy Narrows like gossip this week.

They are of a 38-cm long, six-toed "big" footprint.

Driving to a blueberry picking site Tuesday, about an hour north of the Grassy Narrows First Nation reserve 80 km northeast of Kenora, Helen Pahpasay and her mother saw something they've never seen before.

"I seen a black, um ... thing," Pahpasay said. "It was tall and lanky and it was walking towards our way."

'Rubbing her eyes'

"I thought I was seeing things, so I didn't say anything," she said. "I looked over to my mom and she was rubbing her eyes."

About eight feet tall. Slender. Black as night. Bigfoot was out for a walk, she said.

"It was just walking casually. I know it wasn't an animal, cause it was upright. It was human-like, like the way we walk," she said.

Scared, the women drove back to their community. Pahpasay told her family, who turned her right around for the hunt.

What they found were six-



This 38 cm footprint of a six-toed beast was photographed by Randy Fobister of Grassy Narrows.

toed footprints in the woods near a beaver pond. It appears it leaped over a dam, into the pond, Fobister said. "Sort of like one big-foot jump."

Fobister made a cast of the print that afternoon and plans to send it out to be analyzed.

The story of the creature isn't new to the community.

Tales circulated through

history speak of a tall, creature-like thing, screaming loudly in the same area.

No one was previously ever brave enough to try to confront it in the past.

"We were just excited," Fobister said. "I've been hearing about it since I was a kid, so when I got the chance close by here I jumped right on it."

TORONTO SUN NEWS - Toronto, Ontario, Canada
July 28, 2008
[Credit: Gene Duplantier]

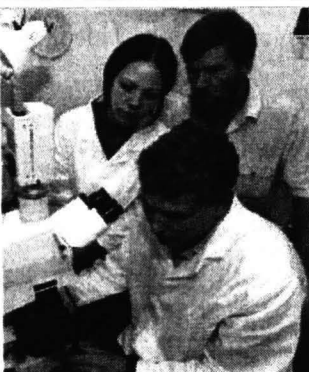
TORONTO SUN NEWS MONDAY, JULY 28, 2008



OXFORD MAIL
Oxford, Oxfordshire, England
July 31, 2008

By Andrew Ffrench

Yeti hunters narrow field



Staff at Oxford Brookes examine the hairs

Scientists believe a first set of tests of hairs brought back from India give the "most positive evidence yet" that the Yeti exists.

Last week, scientists at the university tested a number of hair strands taken from what was claimed to be a Yeti-like creature in India.

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NEXT PAGE >>

OXFORD MAIL
Oxford, Oxfordshire, England
July 31, 2008

CONTINUED FROM
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The Brookes boffins used microscopes to analyse samples found in the West Garo jungle of the north-eastern state of Meghalaya.

Scientists at the university have carried out further tests using an electron microscope, after discovering that the hairs bore a startling resemblance to those brought back from the Himalayas by Sir Edmund Hillary half a century ago.

Ape expert Ian Redmond, who is coordinating the research, said they had ruled out the hairs belonging to Asiatic black bears, macaque monkeys, humans, dogs, and wild boar.

Mr Redmond said: "The hairs are the most positive evidence yet that a Yeti might possibly exist. We are very excited."

The Yeti is an apelike creature reputed to live in the Himalaya region of Nepal and Tibet. It was dubbed the Abominable Snowman in 1921 after an expedition to Mount Everest.

After being brought to Oxford, the hairs from India were magnified 200 times, and one of them was cast in varnish to make a better two-dimensional image.

Mr Redmond added: "There is a resemblance with the photo-micrographs of the hairs brought back by Sir Edmund Hillary.

"The latest hairs will now be sent off for DNA testing. If the DNA test cannot identify the creature, it should be able to work out what it is related to.

"Follicles containing cells remain on the base of the hairs so there is every chance that we will be able to get even closer to the truth. It could easily be an unknown primate."

The sample hairs for the four animals so far ruled out were provided by the Museum of Natural History in Oxford.

Zoe Forbes, a spokesman for Oxford Brookes, said: "The testing of the hairs is a three-stage process, involving microscopic analysis, analysis under a Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM), and then the extraction of DNA.

"The SEM analysis is also taking place at Brookes, but if it confirms the original findings, the hairs will be sent to other laboratories for DNA extraction."

THE MCDOWELL NEWS
Marion, NC
June 19, 2008

By Mike Conley

Mike Conley's Tales of the Weird: Man didn't shoot Sasquatch

Ever since he was a boy, William Roe enjoyed spending time outdoors and observing wild animals in their native habitat. He even helped support his family by hunting and trapping wild game. But the most incredible experience he ever had with a creature occurred in October 1955 in British Columbia, Canada. Two years later, he would give a sworn statement to a Canadian official about his weird encounter.

In 1955, Roe had found a job working on a highway near the town of Tete Jaune Cache. On his day off, he decided to climb up Mica Mountain to an old deserted mine, just for something to do, according to a Web site.

"I came in sight of the mine about three o'clock in the afternoon after an easy climb," he said in his 1957 sworn affidavit. "I had just come out of a patch of low brush into a clearing when I saw what I thought was a grizzly bear, in the bush on the other side. I had shot a grizzly near that spot the year before. This one was only about 75 yards away, but I didn't want to shoot it, for I had no way of getting it out. So I sat down on a small rock and watched, my rifle in my hands."

Roe could see part of the creature's head and the top of one shoulder. A moment later, it raised itself up and stepped out into the opening. Roe then could see that this was no bear. It stood about 6 feet tall and probably weighed around 300 pounds. He could also tell that the upright creature was a female because it had breasts.

"Its broad frame was straight from shoulder to hip," read Roe's statement. "Its arms were much thicker than a man's arms, and longer, reaching almost to its knees. Its feet were broader proportionately than a man's, about 5 inches wide at the front and tapering to much thinner heels. When it walked, it placed the heel of its foot down first, and I could see the grey-brown skin or hide on the soles of its feet."

Roe was able to get a good look at the creature. It came to within 20 feet of him and squatted down on its haunches. Reaching out, the creature pulled the branches of bushes toward it and stripped the leaves with its teeth. The head was higher at the back than at the front and the nose was broad and flat. Its ears were shaped like a human's ears but the eyes were small and black like a bear's.

"As I watched this creature, I wondered if some movie company was making a film at this place and that what I saw was an actor, made up to look partly human and partly animal," read Roe's statement. "But as I observed it more, I decided it would be impossible to fake such a specimen. Anyway, I learned later there was no such company near that area. Nor, in fact, did anyone live up Mica Mountain, according to the people who lived in Tete Jaune Cache."

Finally, the creature noticed that Roe was hiding nearby for it looked directly at him through an opening in the brush. "A look of amazement crossed its face," read Roe's statement. "It looked so comical at the moment I had to grin."

Still in the crouched position, the creature backed up three or four short steps, then straightened up to its full height and started to quickly walk away.

"The thought came to me that if I shot it, I would possibly have a specimen of great interest to scientists the world over," read Roe's statement.

He had heard tales about the Sasquatch and thought this might be one. Roe aimed his rifle at the creature that was still walking away. But then he realized this creature might be a human after all. He lowered his weapon.

"I knew I would never forgive myself if I killed it," he later said.

The creature then threw its head back and made a strange noise that seemed to Roe to be a combination of a laugh and some weird kind of language.

"I stepped out into the opening and looked across a small ridge just beyond the pine to see if I could see it again," read Roe's statement. "It came out on the ridge a couple of hundred yards away from me, tipped its head back again, and again emitted the only sound I had heard it make, but what this half-laugh, half-language was meant to convey, I do not know. It disappeared then, and I never saw it again."

Since that 1955 sighting and his statement two years later, Roe's account has been regarded by Bigfoot researchers as one of the most important in all of Sasquatch lore. It is remarkable for the amount of detail he described and is considered one of the "classic" Bigfoot sightings.

His daughter even drew a detailed sketch of the creature, which included the breasts.

"Whether this was a Sasquatch I do not know," Roe said in his sworn affidavit. "It will always remain a mystery to me, unless another one is found."



TIMES COLONIST
Victoria, British Columbia
July 27, 2008

By Katie DeRosa, Times Colonist

Whatever happened to old Caddy?

'Search ongoing' but Cadboro Bay sea monster last spotted years ago

A reported sighting this month of Okanagan Lake's renowned Ogopogo has sparked curiosity as to whether Cadboro Bay's mysterious water monster has surfaced recently.

Cadborosaurus willsi, affectionately known as "Caddy," was last spotted several years ago off the shores of Galiano Island, according to Paul Leblond, a retired University of British Columbia oceanography professor who wrote a book on the Cadborosaurus in 1995.

"The search is still ongoing," he said.

Leblond said Jason Walton, vice-president of the B.C. Scientific Cryptozoology Club, keeps a video camera at Telegraph Cove monitoring the waters for a hint of the sea serpent.

The woman who claimed she spotted Ogopogo this month said she noticed waves in the water of Okanagan Lake and snapped a photo, thinking it might be the legendary lake creature.

Leblond said his threshold of proof for Caddy sightings are higher than those who documented the Ogopogo sighting. He needs specific details, like a hump, an eye or a head, he said.

"Hell, waves are all over the place," he said.

The first sighting of the leviathan dates back to 1932, just off Chatham Island. Since then, there have been hundreds of reported sightings among the waves of Cadboro Bay,

which sparked the name Cadborosaurus.

People who say they have seen it describe a serpent-like creature with a long neck and horse-like head.

Tammy Voak, who grew up in Oak Bay, says she used to hear stories about a creature lurking in the waters as a kid, but has since dismissed it as Island folklore.

"You'd think you'd see more of it if it was out there," she said, as she watched her kids play on the only likeness of the Caddy which can be seen now, the 100-foot-long play structure in Gyro Park modelled after the green serpent. "Yeah, you need proof," piped in her 11-year-old son Dustin.

But Victoria's version of the Loch Ness monster did carry enough credence to spark a short-lived

tourist attraction, Caddy Tours, which operated from 2003 to 2005. The tour's former operations manager, Eric Hildebrandt, said there was not a sea monster to be found during any of his tours, which also included viewing of other marine wildlife around Discovery Island.

He doubts the serpent exists, but said his riders enjoyed getting lost in a tale of mystery at sea. "There's not a lot of mystery left in life," said Hildebrandt. "So for people to believe in something mythical like that, it makes them feel kind of good."

While Leblond likes the idea of the homegrown, entrancing tale as much the next Islander, he wants scientific proof to either validate or repudiate the murmurings about the monster.

"We hope that eventually it's going to be cleared up. Either someone is going to catch one or it will be stranded somewhere or someone will get a photograph," he said. "Until then, it remains a mystery."

The Gisborne Herald

THE GISBORNE HERALD
Gisborne, New Zealand
June 23, 2008

By Martin Gibson

Going bush? Eyes down for moa sign



An Australian researcher has called on people in the Urewera National Park to be on the lookout for moa tracks.

Rex and Heather Gilroy are tireless researchers who have spent much of the past 25 years searching for creatures thought to be extinct in Australia, and in March-April of this year they carried out a much-publicised search for evidence of the small scrub moa -- *Anomalopteryx didymus* -- in some of the most remote areas of New Zealand where Mr Gilroy claims he found tracks in 2001.

Over the course of his search in the vicinity of his earlier find, he found and made a cast of what appear to be the tracks of a very large bird, measuring up to 52cm from heel to toe, and up to 47cm across. He believes these belong to a giant moa, or *Dinornis giganteus*.

The couple had to cut short their expedition after a bad luck double-whammy. Their car expensively broke down then someone stole Mrs Gilroy's pin number and emptied money from their bank. Speaking from Katcoomba, New South Wales, Mr Gilroy said they would be back next year in search of the elusive ratite.

"The country in which many creatures like this live is often so dense that anything could live there,

even a large creature. People say the area is too small, but I wouldn't like to get lost in it -- it's huge.

"It reminds me of the case where a

tramp lived in a humpie in Central Park for years, with all these skyscrapers looking down on him, and one day a couple of boys looking for a ball found him.

"Now, if a tramp can survive in Central park for five or six years and not be seen by the thousands of people there, well there's a chance for the moa or any rare creature anywhere in the world. We just keep an open mind and search for the evidence and, if nothing else, we at least see a lot of beautiful remote areas that the average person only sees sitting in the sitting room looking at that box. People watch documentaries but it's not the same."

Although he has found some interesting things, Mr Gilroy says he is after hard physical evidence.

"I've found a lot of interesting things here in Australia -- I came face-to-face with an Australian panther here in kangaroo valley and was able to make a cast of its tracks the next day.

"I've had all sorts of experiences in my lifetime and if I ever saw a moa there and snapped it, that would be a plus. But I tell you this -- if the photograph turned out blurry, I would not submit it as evidence. It would just be put in the same realm as the Loch Ness monster. The blurry films one has to put up with don't prove a thing. I want hard physical proof to confront scientists with, otherwise you're wasting their time."

Armchair experts accuse him of being a charlatan but they never get out there, he said

"I had a disc jockey the other day saying how he couldn't see how anything was there, because a Japanese expedition had been there years ago. They had a helicopter and about 14 people and they had some stupid machine with a stove pipe and a ratchet to make a mating call of a male emu, and that was meant to attract a fellow ratite.

"So they found nothing after weeks of bush-bashing with all these voices. No animal is going to stand there waiting for someone to come.

"You have got to be quiet and spend sometimes years in the bush, like Heather and me. So I've had my critics, but they weren't there," he says of their find.

"We've been using our own money. We're not backed by anyone, we're not in it for the money.

"I've had 51 years of fieldwork looking for unknown creatures and have written books on the matter, so I think I can speak with some authority. Even today, there are new creatures being discovered all the time -- think of that giant squid discovered off the New Zealand coast recently. There are still plenty of creatures that haven't been found."

Tribune seeks storied monster

Leviathan rumored to dwell in Lake Merritt

By Angela Woodall

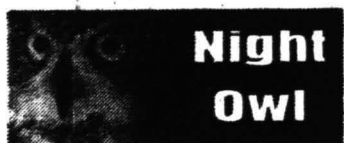
STAFF WRITER

In dark pool halls and smoky juke joints is whispered a legend older than Oakland of a sea monster lurking in Lake Merritt.

Few have glimpsed the creature said to lurk beneath the surface of the murky waters. But the tales persist. Samuel Merritt, who turned the wetland into an urban pearl, unleashed the beast and the legend, which I was eager to dispel or confirm once and for all.

So I set out one dark night in search of the Lake Merritt monster.

My vessel was a gondola equipped with only an oar for protection. My guide, gondolier Benny "Benito" Lee, and I were at the mercy of the monster.



Night Owl

As Benny raised a 14-foot oar and began to glide forward, I recalled the legend that started me on my quest after the Lake Merritt monster.

Ohlone Indians scanned the waters care-

fully for the beast before setting out in their reed fishing canoes, said local historian Jeff Hull, who recorded the legend for the archives of the underground historical society Oaklandish.

Until the skeptical gold rush pioneers arrived in the 1800s, the Ohlone sacrificed animals to the monster they called "marsh devil" to protect themselves from attack as they crossed the waterway.

Hull assured me the monster is in fact

See **MONSTER**, Page 4

ALAMEDA TIMES STAR
Alameda, California
June 20, 2008

Alameda, CA
(Alameda Co.)
Alameda Times Star
(Cir. D. 7,300)

JUN 20 2008

Allen's P. C. B. Est. 188

Monster

From Page 3

peaceful.

So began the nocturnal journey under a full moon that glistened across the inky black water.

Benny said he has detected traces of the Lake Merritt monster over the years working the lake waters for Gondola Servizio, which offers gondola rides nearly year round on Lake Merritt from the boathouse at 568 Bellevue Ave.

He would glimpse a ripple and a shimmery sea horse head out of the corner of his eye, always on moonlit nights like that evening.

By the time he turned, the monster was always gone, disappearing beneath the depths. From descriptions dating back to the Peralta family's arrival to the area in the late 1700s, the creature is a great silver beast with a delicate muzzle, a wisp of a tail, a neck as long as a grown man is tall and flippers that propel it forward at great speed when necessary.

It is, according to eyewitness accounts, as big as a whale yet as graceful as a dolphin.

"Have you seen the Lake Merritt monster?" I cried to a

couple across the lake walking along the paved pathway.

"We heard of it," they replied.

How many romances, I wondered, have begun on the gondolas among couples who were oblivious they were floating above the lair of the dreaded creature.

Benny kept his enigmatic air, saying only, "As they say in Las Vegas, what happens here stays here."

He attempted to serenade the monster into the open by crooning verses from the traditional gondola song "O Sole Mio." (He claimed sightings of the monster tend to coincide with musical offerings made by gondoliers and passengers.)

Perhaps the monster was toying with us. As every object — a goose, a buoy — was transformed into the monster in my imagination, I began to consider the evidence, bolstered by stories of the Loch Ness monster in the Scottish highlands. If a creature so similar in description could dwell in the icy dark waters of the Scotland, surely Lake Merritt, so inviting with its necklace of lights and Mediterranean climate, would make a quite suitable sea monster home.

The gondola drifted quietly on the still water as the night wore on. The air was warm.

and the breeze barely stirred. Occasionally, a ripple spread out across the water and the faintest splash could be heard, as if the monster were toying with my passions.

I was about to abandon my quest and return defeated when suddenly from a southern corner I was sure I saw the coral-like crown said to top the monster's sea-horse head.

Seconds seemed like an eternity until the creature dove silently back into the depths. Had I imagined it all? Was it an optical illusion created by the waterfall, the moonlight?

Benny paddled urgently to reach the patch of water that a short time before had held the answer to one of Oakland's most persistent legends. But the apparition had disappeared.

If only I had been able to call to it by name. Then it struck me. The creature had none.

Thus my plea to join in naming the monster by e-mailing your suggestions to awoodall@bayareanewsgroup.com. The top five suggested names will be posted online June 27 and readers will be asked to choose a favorite. The No. 1 will be given to the creature.

Without a name, how would we beckon to our own Lake Merritt monster?