

# UFO

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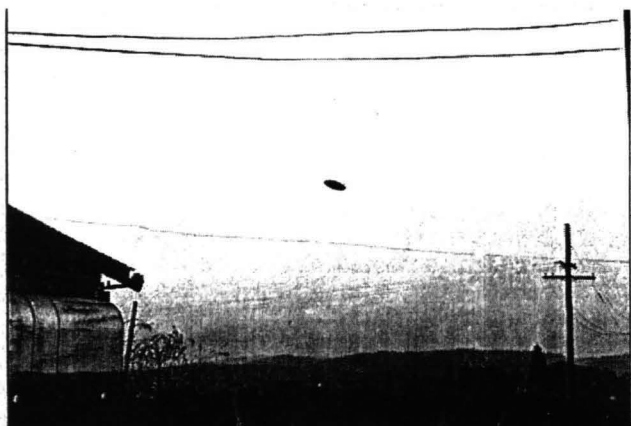
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KATU.COM (Online)  
Portland, OR  
September 11, 2008

By Dan Tilkin and KATU Web Staff

### Fight over UFO photos pits family versus newspaper



These famous photos taken by Paul Trent shows what appears to be a UFO flying near the family farm in McMinnville in the 1950.

McMINNVILLE, Ore. - Two shots of a flying saucer over McMinnville are some of the most debated pieces of Oregon history.

Paul and Evelyn Trent took the pictures in 1950, and now their children are trying to get the negatives returned.

But the negatives are in the hands of the McMinnville News-Register newspaper, who believes they should be part of a permanent historic display in Yamhill County.

The story of how this fight developed begins on the Trent Farm more than 50 years ago.

Evelyn Trent was feeding rabbits, saw something strange in the sky and hollered for her husband, who grabbed his camera and started shooting. And then the saucer was gone.

The photos were printed in the local newspaper, which sold thousands of copies across the country.

Critics have long said that the Trents pulled off one of the most elaborate hoaxes in UFO history - that they took a pie plate or a hub cap and dangled it from power lines that run in front of the property.

The Trents always maintained they saw something. But the ridicule took a toll on the family.

"We were the alien family," said daughter Tammie Gochenour. "That's all that was talked about was the alien family."

When her parents died in the mid-1990s, the location of the negatives was a mystery. Daughter Linda Saylor eventually discovered they had been in the hands of navy physicist and UFO investigator Bruce Maccabee since 1974.

He told KATU he had called the Trents and asked to borrow the negatives so many years ago, implying that he would return them in a few weeks. But it took him longer than that - and he ended up keeping them for 25 years.

Maccabee agreed to return the negatives, and Saylor thought it would be safer if he sent them to the News-Register newspaper to pass on to her.

That was 2001, and she's been trying ever since to get the newspaper to give them back.

Phil Bladine ran the paper when the photos were first published. A letter from 1970 shows he helped get the negatives back from United Press International when they disappeared the first time.

Bladine is also the man who lent the negatives to Maccabee with the permission of the Trents three decades ago.

The fact that Bladine had the negatives to lend is the crux of why the newspaper now wants to keep them.

The newspaper argues in a letter sent to the family in 2004 that Paul Trent left the negatives in Bladine's hands "with the indication that he wanted nothing more to do with them."

The letter states the newspaper "believes that the negatives should become part of a permanent historic display in Yamhill County, with a mediated settlement as to access and other rights."

That's even after Maccabee made it clear in an e-mail that he "sent the negatives to Phil Bladine under the assumption that he would return the photos to the Trent children" and they should be returned to the family.

"The Trents' children are clearly the rightful owners since Mr. and Mrs. Trent never signed any documents giving the rights to anyone else," Maccabee told KATU.

Phil Bladine suffered a stroke several years ago and passed away this spring.

When KATU tried to talk to his son Jeb, who is the current publisher of the newspaper, he declined an interview due to the possibility of legal proceedings related to the UFO photographs.

"We maintain our belief that the negatives should become part of a permanent historic display in Yamhill County," Jeb Bladine wrote in an e-mail to KATU.



Trent daughters Linda Saylor, left, and Tammie Gochenour

The Trent children said they don't have money to file a lawsuit and feel it is wrong to be forced to negotiate over something they feel clearly belongs to the family.

"We're not going to take them and try to make millions off them," said daughter Tammie Gochenour. "We just want to put them in like a safety deposit box, and have them locked up so we know where they're at."

"It's just something that belongs with the family," daughter Linda Saylor said.

## County residents puzzled by object in sky

BY MICHAEL YODER  
Intelligencer Journal Staff

The newest "X-Files" movie may have hit the big screen last week, but another enigma filled the sky of Lancaster County Sunday night, mystifying county residents.

Multiple people reported seeing a dramatic cosmic event around 10:15 p.m. Sunday in the southern sky.

Brothers Joe and Galen Kane of Lititz were talking about watching UFO shows on the History Channel at a neighbor's house on Main Street when they looked up in the sky to see something they thought was a shooting star, moving from east to west in the southeast. As it got closer it be-

Please see UFO, page A4

came more intense and more colorful.

"I've seen long shooting stars that have gone from one horizon to the other, but not like that," said Joe Kane, a sophomore at Philadelphia University. "It was the coolest thing I've ever seen in the sky."

The brothers said the object, in the shape of an oblong cylinder, was glowing blue and white with a red tip on the front. It slowed down for a second, they said, before orange pieces started breaking away from the object.

The object moved behind the tree line at the house, they said, and suddenly erupted in an intense flash of white light, lighting up the southern sky.

Galen Kane, a sophomore at Warwick High School, said the whole event lasted about 12 seconds. He said at first he thought it may have been fireworks because of the way the object broke up, but he said the direction it came from was definitely not the trajectory of fireworks.

The Kane brothers called their father, Joe, who then called his sister, who used to work for NASA. She told the boys' father that, based on his sons' description, the object most likely was a meteor, but also could have been a satellite entering the atmosphere.

"Whatever it was, it was huge, and we didn't hear anything," Galen Kane said. "I was hoping to see a big giant Transformer sitting on the ground."

WGAL reported on its late Sunday news broadcast that the station had received several phone calls from people in the area who saw something bright in the sky.

Members of the Lititz Police Department and the State Police said they had not heard any reports from residents of bright lights or an explosion.

David Eberly, Lancaster Airport manager, said he didn't hear anything from his employees Monday, and the air-traffic controller in the airport's tower Sunday night said he didn't see anything strange except fireworks coming from Clipper Magazine Stadium after the baseball game.

One possible explanation given the timing of the event is the annual Perseid meteor shower, which begins this week.

And according to the Web site [spaceweather.com](http://spaceweather.com), a bright fireball was recorded in the skies of New Mexico around 12:30 Monday morning.

John Groff, who lives three miles south of Quarryville, believes what he saw Sunday was most likely a meteorite.

Groff said he and his wife were watching the sky around 10:15 p.m., tracking Jupiter during the late evening for the last week.

Groff said he told his wife that he would like to see a shooting star — no more than five minutes later, the object came flying across the sky.

The object came from the east to the west as they looked in the southern sky, Groff said, in the shape of a large bullet with a tail and varying colors of blue, red and orange.

Groff said he saw the object for about four seconds before it disappeared behind a tree. He said he didn't witness the bright white flash that others saw in Lititz.

"It happened so fast and unexpectedly," Groff said. "I was impressed with it right away."

## Who are the people who have seen a UFO?

By Daniel Collins  
Scripps Howard News Service

Helen Rhine was 16 when she saw a UFO in Amarillo.

She had just finished watching a lunar eclipse at 2 a.m. one day in 1958. Suddenly, she saw three lights traveling swiftly and silently in a V shape across the sky.

"I was instantly terrified," said Rhine, now 66 and a retired software engineer in Wylie.

Rhine's story is hardly unique.

A survey conducted by the Scripps Howard News Service and the University of Ohio found that about eight percent of Americans say they have seen a mysterious object in the sky that might have been a visitor from another world.

Earlier this year, Marshall Franks of Gulf Breeze, Fla. was at a neighbor's house when he took pictures of an unusual rain cloud passing overhead. When Franks, a 52-year-old musician, uploaded pictures of the clouds to his computer, he noticed three orange, pill-shaped objects in a V formation.

Survey respondents said they saw objects in the shape of lighted orbs, hovering without making any noise, either alone or in V formations.

"I just know I got a picture of something strange," Franks said. "I'm not going to say it's anything, but I'd like to have some professional's opinion."

Franks said he believes the government has withheld information about mysterious incidents.

He sent his photos to the Pensacola News Journal, but otherwise only told a few close friends about his experience.

Some respondents, like 53-year-old Mai-Janne Merklein, feel uncomfortable sharing their stories with others, fearing they'll think they're crazy.

The school bus driver from Springfield, Mass. said she twice saw floating orbs, the first in 1980 outside Dover, Del. when she and three friends pulled their car over to switch drivers. They noticed a vaguely spherical orb of light moving overhead; it hovered silently then quickly flew away.

"When I told my father, he said it was probably a military something or other. I didn't argue," she said.

On another occasion, while hiking with a friend in Holyoke, Mass., Merklein saw a similar object.

Rhine said she didn't tell anyone her story until nearly forty years later, when her half-brother said he also had an experience he believes was extraterrestrial.

He was in Amarillo when an extremely bright white light began pouring into his friend's home. Peering out a picture window to investigate, Rhine's half-brother and his friend saw the silhouette of a humanoid creature, just over four feet tall with a large cranium out of proportion with its small frame. Before summoning enough

courage to open the door, Rhine said, the light had disappeared.

Rhine said she is no longer afraid to tell her story.

"I don't have any reservations now; I'm old," she said.

The survey revealed that people living in rural areas of the country or in suburbs were twice as likely than urban dwellers to report UFOs. Some respondents said this might be due to light pollution in urban centers blocking the night sky.

Still, seeing isn't necessarily believing.

Respondents like 69-year-old Lindsey Ivey of Ellijay, Ga. aren't convinced their sightings are actually extraterrestrial.

Ivey said on two occasions he saw four mysterious lights hovering in a T shape near his former home in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Despite this, Ivey does not believe intelligent life exists beyond earth, partly because of his Christian faith and also since he believes there are too many circumstances needed for a planet to support life.

"If God had made another planet, it would have to have the right amount of oxygen and things like that," Ivey said. "Could there be life out there? There could, but that would have to be proven to me."

The survey revealed that people who have attended church recently are also about a third less likely to report having seen a UFO.

Ivey said he believes students at nearby Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University caused the lights.

Robert Garner, a 62-year-old safety-training supervisor in Nesbit, Miss., isn't sure if his experience was extraterrestrial or divine.

He was deer hunting before sunrise one December morning in 1995 when the wooded area around him suddenly became brightly illuminated for about seven seconds before returning to normal. He said he never saw any object or source of the light.

"There was no sound, no shaking, no movement; all of a sudden, it was as if someone just turned on a light, this beautiful green, golden color," he said. "It was either an angel, or a UFO came down and took a picture of us."

### UFO POLL FINDINGS

The following are selected findings from a survey of 1,003 adults conducted by the Scripps Survey Research Center at Ohio University from May 11-28. The project was funded by a grant from the Scripps Howard Foundation.

Here are some questions about life on other planets. Do you think it is very likely, somewhat likely or unlikely that there is intelligent life on other planets?

Very Likely ..... 26  
Somewhat Likely ..... 30  
Unlikely ..... 35  
Don't Know/Other Response ... 9

Do you think it is very likely, somewhat likely or unlikely that intelligent life from other planets has visited our Earth?

Very Likely ..... 12  
Somewhat Likely ..... 21  
Unlikely ..... 54  
Don't Know/Other Response 13

Do you know anyone who has seen a mysterious object in the sky that might have been a visitor from another world?

Yes ..... 19  
No ..... 80  
Other Response ..... 1

Have you, personally, ever seen a mysterious object in the sky that might have been a visitor from another world?

Yes ..... 8  
No ..... 91  
Other Response ..... 1

— Scripps Howard News Service



COMMENTARY

# Mother and sister back up UFO abduction tale



**Jerry Jonas**  
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In last Sunday's column I related the strange story told to me recently by a Bensalem woman I identified only as Hanna (not her real name). Hanna is convinced that 35 years ago as a 10-year-old living in Fairless Hills, she, her mother, and her older sister witnessed three small UFOs hovering over their street in broad daylight, and that, along with several playmates, she followed them into a nearby woods.

She insists that late that night she was abducted from her bedroom into a huge triangular-shaped UFO by three strange creatures, two of whom she claims held her hands. The next morning she developed a strange rash on both hands and arms that physicians at Temple University Hospital had difficulty diagnosing.

While skeptics may disclaim her story as coming from an individual with an all-too-vivid imagination, follow-up interviews with her mother and her older sister (who was 15 at the time of the alleged incidents) make her tale much more difficult to discount.

"I think I would rather have root canal than tell you this kind of stuff," Hanna's sister Helen (again not her real name) initially told me in a lengthy telephone interview from her home in Maryland. Helen is a well-educated, extremely successful professional woman. "I just don't want to be ridiculed," she explained.

Assured that her real name would not be revealed, Helen

agreed to speak. "It was summer — 1973," she began. "My brother was across the street cutting lawns and I had just finished my chores around the house and went outside to ride my bike. The dogs were barking; the kids were playing. I made about three courses around the block coming back under a tree and facing my house. That's when I saw them — in between the (neighbors') house and mine. There were three of them — traditional saucer-shaped things. They were silver and looked metallic. I think they were rotating because I could see some of the sheen as they moved. They were right above the tree line.

"I looked up and (said to myself) 'Oh my God, what the hell are they?' What was especially strange is that before I came out from underneath the trees, I thought to myself 'something's not right because I don't hear the lawnmowers any more — I don't hear the kids playing any more — I don't hear the birds — I don't feel the wind on me.' It was eerily quiet — like I was in a vacuum. It was something like you see in an old 'Outer Limits' movie. It didn't seem real.

"I saw my Mom standing — on the landing of our front steps facing the (neighbor's) house. My sister was standing at the neighbor's house looking at my mother. There didn't seem to be anyone else there but the three of us."

According to Helen, she dropped her bike and ran toward her mother, who ran into the house wringing her hands. "I ran in after her and said, 'Mom! Mom! Did you see those things?' She turned around and said, 'Don't ever tell anybody that you saw those things! That was just some kind of a publicity stunt.' I think

that she was probably just terrified. I thought, 'Okay, Fine. If it's a stunt, it'll be in the newspaper. But I know what I saw.'

"I ran back to the door, and the minute I opened it, the disks were gone and all the sounds were back. People were cutting the lawn and the dogs were barking and the kids were playing. I looked over to where my sister had been standing, and she wasn't there. Later my sister told me that she and some other kids had followed the discs into the woods and watched them disappear near the Pathmark on Rt. 1."

"I went inside and thought, 'I'll just watch the newspapers.' And then for some strange reason, I never looked in the newspapers. For almost a week, we all just seemed to forget about it; then it all started coming back to us. From that time till now, I haven't seen anything else."

The mother's story is totally consistent with that told by her two daughters. She describes standing outside shaking out rugs and suddenly seeing three round disc-shaped objects.

"There wasn't a sound from them," she recalls. "They came down our road and made a sharp turn right between our house and our neighbor's house. Helen kept saying, 'Mom, call the newspaper! Call the police! There're flying saucers out here.' I said, 'It's probably just some kind of a publicity stunt. Just relax.' Hanna just sort of disappeared. Later I found out that she followed the saucers into the woods.

"The next morning I went into the half-bath and saw Hanna with her feet up in the sink. I asked her why her feet were so dirty if she had gotten a bath before going to bed. She said she didn't know. Some time later we were watching a

TV show that had these little aliens on it, and she said to me, 'That's not what they look like.' I thought she was referring to the little figures. She said, 'No, 'cause I've seen them.' In the past 35 years, her story has never changed."

While Hanna insists that she's willing to speak with legitimate UFO investigative agencies hoping that she can be given a polygraph and other tests to confirm that she's not making up a story, her sister Helen has a different philosophy. "I'm not interested in those people who go out UFO hunting or anything like that," she insisted. "Not me. One encounter — that was it. It was just too weird. Even today, 35 years later, it still feels like it just happened yesterday."

Note: While Hanna, Helen, and their mother all gave me the exact Fairless Hills address where they lived at the time of their alleged UFO sightings, I've kept the address confidential to protect the privacy of the individuals who now live there. An analysis of data from three national surveys conducted by the Roper Center for Public Opinion puts the number of alleged UFO abductions at more than 4 million.

Jerry Jonas' column appears in the Life Section every Sunday.

SAN FRANCISCO DAILY  
San Francisco, California  
July 28, 2008

# Astronaut: Aliens exist

Astronaut Edgar Mitchell, the sixth man to walk on the moon, says aliens have been visiting the earth for the past 60 years.



MITCHELL

A veteran of the Apollo 14 mission, Mitchell also said the U.S. and other governments are aware of the alien visits, but have covered them up.

NASA denies it is involved in an alien conspiracy or cover-up.

## Says governments have covered it up

"Dr. Mitchell is a great American, but we do not share his opinion on this issue," a statement from the space agency said.

Mitchell, who holds two Bachelor of Science degrees and a doctorate in aeronautics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, made his comments during an

interview with a UK radio station last week.

Asked whether he believed there was life on other planets, he replied: "Oh yes. There's not much question at all that there is life throughout the universe. I'm totally sure we are not alone.

"We have been visited on this planet and the UFO phenomenon is real — though it's been covered up by governments for the last 60 years or so," Mitchell said.

# Mars monkey on display in Georgia mini-museum

By **Walter Putnam**  
Associated Press

DECATUR, Ga. — Other museums might have more or flashier items to display. But only the mini-museum of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation can boast of possessing such an other-world oddity as the monkey from Mars.

The bureau's state crime lab lobby has its requisite displays on forensic science, including an illegal moonshine still and the microscopic fibers that solved the 1981-82 Atlanta child murders. But tucked away in a glass cylinder are the preserved remains of a monkey that three pranksters passed off as an alien 55 years ago in a UFO hoax that drew headlines worldwide.

At the height of UFO hysteria then sweeping the nation, two young barbers and a butcher took a dead monkey in 1953, lopped off its tail and applied a liberal dose of hair remover and some green coloring to the carcass.

Then they left the primate on an isolated road north of Atlanta in the pre-dawn hours of July 8, 1953, burning a circle into the pavement with a blowtorch before a police officer came around the curve in his patrol car.

"If we had been five minutes earlier, we would have caught

'em in the act," said Shirley Brown, the officer who happened on the scene.

The barbers, Edward Watters and Tom Wilson, and the butcher, Arnold "Buddy" Payne, told the policeman they came upon a red, saucer-shaped object in the road that night. They said several 2-foot-tall creatures were scurrying about and the trio hit one with their pickup before the other creatures jumped back in the saucer and blasted skyward — leaving the highway scorched.

Brown took down the strange account and filed a report at police headquarters before going home.

Soon after his shift ended, he said, "the phone started ringing off the hook."

"They had the Air Force and everybody else trying to find out about it," said Brown, since retired in 1985.

Word of the discovery spread like wildfire.

Just the night before, some Atlanta area residents had reported seeing a large, multicolored object flying in the sky. A veterinarian who examined the corpse said it looked "like something out of this world." A newspaper put out an artist's drawing of the saucer that the men described.

But within hours the monkey business unraveled.

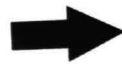


Associated Press  
**A preserved monkey is shown on display in the lobby of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Crime Lab in Decatur, Ga.**

Dr. Herman D. Jones, the founder and director of the GBI lab, and Dr. Marion Hines, an anatomy professor at Emory University, examined the creature that evening and proclaimed it to be a hoax.

"If it came from Mars, they have monkeys on Mars," Hines was quoted as saying in an article at the time by The Associated Press that is set beside the monkey in the appointment-only museum.

APPEAL-DEMOCRAT  
Marysville, California  
July 30, 2008



CALLER-TIMES  
Corpus Christi, Texas  
July 16, 2008

# 2165 Radar backs up Texans' UFO claims

BY ANGELA K. BROWN  
Associated Press

FORT WORTH — An enormous aircraft without transponders traveling up to 2,100 mph — at one time zooming toward President Bush's Crawford ranch — is similar to the mysterious object dozens reported seeing, according to radar documents examined by a group that studies unidentified flying objects.

"This shows ample evidence of UFO activity," said Kenneth Cherry, Texas director of the Mutual UFO Network, which has been studying phenomenon earlier this year in Stephenville and Dublin, about 75 miles southwest of Fort Worth. "They were turning at angles not possible by military aircraft."

His organization, called MUFON, requested documents from the Federal Aviation Administration, nearby military bases and other agencies under the Freedom of Information Act.

FAA spokesman Roland Herwig said this week that he had not seen the radar information provided to MUFON and could not comment on it or the group's interpretation of the data.

MUFON requested reports from the night of Jan. 8, when several dozen people in Texas dairy country — including a pilot, county constable, business owners and former air traffic controller — reported seeing a large silent object with bright lights flying low and fast.

Some folks reported seeing military

caller.com  
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jets chasing it, which also was confirmed in the FAA radar documents.

After talking to witnesses, MUFON investigators ended up looking into 300 reported UFO sightings spanning several weeks and said most were probably planets, cloud formations or stars.

But Cherry said the FAA radar data, which was examined by a radar expert and an engineer who works with MUFON, indicates that some reports do not have logical explanations.

"When you look at that, combined with the witness reports — that's as close to evidence of UFOs as I've seen," he said.

The object was between 524 feet and 1,000 feet long, according to a MUFON report released earlier this month. It's unclear if radar picked up the same object at different times or more than one object, Cherry said.

The object was within 10 miles of Bush's ranch about 8 p.m., but the president was not there that night. MUFON only requested information until 8 p.m. that night, so it's unclear where the object went after that.

At times when radar picked up a slow-moving object and fast-moving object, it was at the same time and place as witnesses' accounts, according to the report.

## Most Americans willing to believe

Most Americans say it is very likely or somewhat likely that humans are not alone in the universe and that intelligent life exists on other planets.

Only a third of adults, however, believe it's either very likely or somewhat likely that aliens have visited our planet, according to a survey of 1,003 adults conducted by Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio University.

The poll revealed that one in every 12 Americans has seen a mysterious object in the sky, while nearly one in every five knows someone who has seen an unidentified flying object.

Men, young adults and college-educated Americans are more likely than most to believe that we are not alone in the universe.

The survey, conducted by telephone from May 11-28, has a margin of error of about 3 percentage points.

Scripps Howard News Service





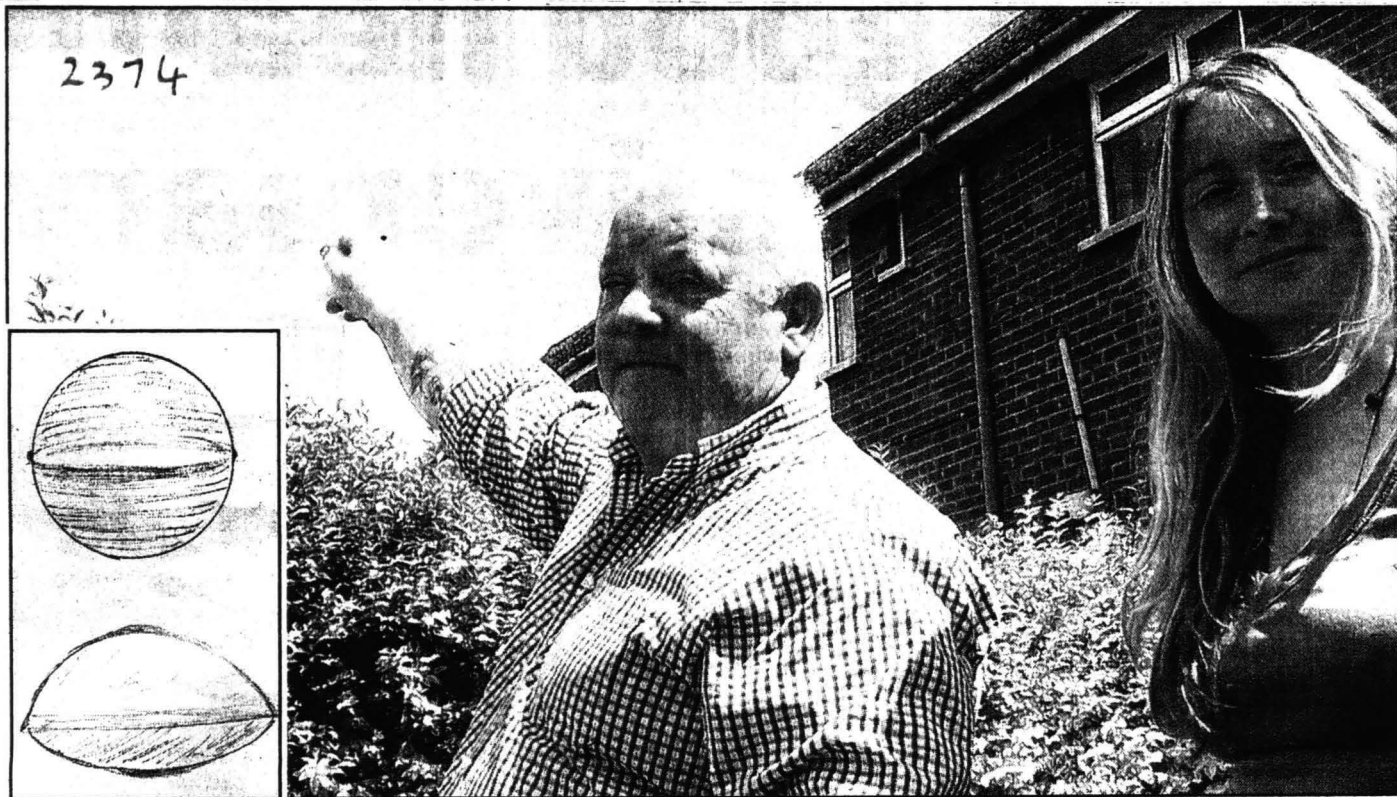
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## Weston and Worle News

WESTON & WORLE NEWS  
Clevedon, Somerset, England  
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WESTON & WORLE NEWS

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IT WAS THERE: Frank Godbeer and Nicola Heskith in the garden from which they saw the UFO, and inset, some of Mr Godbeer's drawings of the object

# 'We saw the UFO'

**WESTON'S UFO mystery continues this week as more people claim to have seen a ball bearing-shaped object hovering over the town.**

Royal Navy aircraft engineer Michael Madden made national headlines when he claimed to have spotted a UFO floating over the M5 near Weston at around 9.50pm on Sunday, June 29.

Since the reported sighting, two more people have come forward to back up the Navy man's story.

Nicola Heskith, aged 25, of Linden Avenue, said: "We saw a metallic round shape right

**By Alex Ross**

alex.ross@clevedon.co.uk

above our house earlier on the same Sunday night, at 7.30.

"It was shaped like a ball bearing, appeared to be shimmering but had no lights and made no noise despite being about 100 metres above us.

"It hovered over us for about three to four minutes and then shot off toward the M5. It was quite a sight - I've never seen anything like it.

"We waited to see if it made the newspaper and it did."

Another witness, Frank Godbeer, also of Linden Avenue, said: "I had no doubt

what I was seeing; this was no plane, helicopter or kite.

"The object seemed to change shape and the speed it went away was amazing. I'm sure plenty more people saw it."

Mr Godbeer, 60, said he had made similar UFO sightings above in Weston.

He said: "The most memorable sighting was over the Bournville estate about 20 years ago - it was witnessed by about 40 people.

"The UFO in this instance hovered over changing shapes from triangle to a spiral and to a disc.

"I have always had the feeling we are not the only people in

our universe. I guess the radar systems at RAF Locking may attract the UFOs to this area."

South Gloucestershire-based Denis Plunkett is a UFO-logist and founder of the British Flying Saucer Bureau.

Mr Plunkett, a former RAF pilot, said he had heard of recent UFO activity in the Weston area.

He said: "They are here and they are real.

"UFOs are drawn to areas of military activity, so I am not surprised sightings have been made in and around Weston with RAF Locking so close by.

"They come down to survey us and remind us they are still here."

## Stroud News & Journal

STROUD NEWS & JOURNAL  
Stroud, Gloucestershire, England  
July 23, 2008

### Humming UFO

AN UNIDENTIFIED flying object was seen over Lansdown in Stroud in the early hours of Monday morning.

The object, which was shaped like a large triangle, hovered slowly just below the clouds as it travelled towards the top of town at about 12.15am. It made a loud hum and had white lights underneath.

STROUD NEWS & JOURNAL

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23 JUL 2008

HEBDEN BRIDGE TIMES  
Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire,  
England  
August 23, 2008

## Mystery lights fuel UFO speculations throughout Calder Valley



Liam and Matthew of Mytholmroyd  
look at the strange lights

IT'S not the first time that Calder Valley residents have seen mysterious lights in the night sky, but a number of sightings over the past few weeks are remarkably similar in description.

Between the end of July and this week householders up and down the length of the valley, from Todmorden to Mytholmroyd, have described seeing silently moving bright yellow or orange lights make their way across the sky in a way that does not seem like conventional aircraft.

And another possible explanation, that they are hot air balloons, seems unlikely because the lights are seen in the night sky.

First residents in the Burnley Road area of Todmorden saw patterns of lights on the night of Saturday, July 26.

Gemma Kipping said family guests were visiting. "Some of them left before the others and were walking home but rang us after they had set off to say 'there are aliens above your house!'"

"So we went outside and I saw three bright orange lights moving uniformly with what looked like a straggler at the end. The three at the front looked like a triangle effect. They weren't making any noise," she said.

While the family watched, a dozen or so customers from the nearby Hare and Hounds pub on Burnley Road, Todmorden, were also watching the lights move across the sky, said Gemma.

"I didn't know what they were," she added. "The ideal explanation would have been that they were a hot air balloon, but surely not in the dark?"

Similar lights were also seen on the night of Saturday, August 2, at 11.15 pm by other Burnley Road residents including Sylvia Sinclair, who contacted the newspaper after reading about similar descriptions of lights in the sky from residents of Mytholmroyd in our sister paper the Evening Courier.

Sylvia explained that friends were leaving her home at Lineholme when they all saw the lights, which appeared to be coming over to the Whirlaw side of the valley.

"They came in twos and looked like big orange lights. They were making no noise and there were six, in pairs. The last one seemed to float over," she said.

Like Gemma, Sylvia wondered if they could be balloons but thought they were too high for that.

"While we were looking a teenager came down the street and said they were out at the Hare and Hounds looking at the lights. They were just silent, going slowly across the sky," she said.

The next sighting of strange lights came further down the valley, on Monday, August 11, in the Mytholmroyd area.

Cragg Vale resident Chris Granger told the Courier he was shocked to see six strange lights for two to three minutes before they disappeared, emerging from the cloud base in pairs and moving towards Hebden Bridge.

The ex-RAF avionics technician said: "They moved in a very erratic manner and did not display the flight characteristics of a conventional aircraft. Nor did they display the normal lighting array of a conventional aircraft - flashing white strobe and red and green navigation lights."

Clevey Gardens residents Peter and Marion Ackroyd also saw something spooky.

They also wondered if they were balloons but thought they were going too fast, in addition to the lack of any engine noise.

Earlier this week Mytholmroyd resident Mark Jeffreys said his wife Mandy called him and sons Matthew and Liam outside where they saw seven orange lights coming over, two together, another two, then one and then a final two.

Mandy said: "It couldn't have been helicopters because they were orange lights, not white. I've never seen anything like it, but Mark said he thought he'd seen something similar when he was a kid."

The Calder Valley is home to one of the world's most famous cases involving Unidentified Flying Objects, that of Todmorden's Alan Godfrey, then a serving policeman.

Alan's case, which dates back to 1980, was examined by a Channel 5 documentary only weeks ago. While on mobile patrol in Burnley Road he described and sketched in his police notebook an object which appeared to be hovering over the road.

He then cannot consciously remember anything for a period of time, coming round further down the road. Under hypnosis with a senior police officer present he described being taken aboard an alien spacecraft and examined - but remembers none of this consciously.

Police officers from two different forces reported seeing an unexplained object zip across the valley on the night in question and the amount of information officially logged made it one of the best documented cases in the world, and one which continues to fascinate people who discover it.

Can anyone explain the latest series of so far unexplainable sightings?

## onsunday

BEDFORDSHIRE ON SUNDAY  
Bedford, Bedfordshire, England  
July 20, 2008

BEDFORDSHIRE ON SUNDAY (SERIES)

Circulation ('000): 103

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Display Rate (£/sqcm): £1.07

20 JUL 2008

## 50 year secret revealed

**SIR - After reading over the last three weeks in Bedfordshire on Sunday regarding Elstow Storage Depot and UFO sightings, I felt I should write to you after keeping silent for more than 50 years.**

I was a serving police officer in the traffic department and we were told that if ever there was a large fire at the storage depot an area of ten miles radius might have to be evacuated.

On the night of August 13, 1956, we were asked to go and see a couple at the junction of the A6 and the turning for Houghton Conquest.

When we arrived they were visibly shaken. They told us they had seen what looked like a flaming arrow skimming across the fields from the direction of Cardington.

It had just missed their car but landed in the corner of the field by the Houghton Conquest turn.

We found a 40-foot diameter blackened circle burned into the long grass. We reported this but were told to say nothing and report back.

I heard no more about it, then a few years back read a book by Timothy Good, called 'Above Top Secret', which included a report regarding sightings of UFOs on the same night.

Fighters from RAF Bentwaters and Lakenheath were sent up to check out UFOs caught on radar, which still remain a mystery.

Ken Cox, MBE  
Regency Court  
Long Close  
Lower Stondon



# TEEN CLAIMS SPACESHIP CAME DOWN ON NATURE RESERVE

# I saw UFO crashland on heath



**CLOSE ENCOUNTER:** Jahtel, left, with pal AJ. Front row, AJ's son Tye (right) with his friend Kerry Roach  
Picture: Matt Grayson

**BY ROBERT CUMBER**

A TEENAGER claims to have had a close encounter with an alien spaceship last Wednesday night as UFO fever continues to grip Hounslow.

Jahtel Roberts-Joseph told the *Chronicle* how he saw a strange craft, about the size of a small trampoline and with flashing lights, make a crash landing on Hounslow Heath.

The 17-year-old, of Bramley Way, Hounslow, was sitting with a friend beside the heath when they spotted some strange lights in the sky.

"At first I thought it was a plane but then it started making some weird movements like it was going out of control," he said.

"It shot straight down to the heath, so we ran over thinking it had crashed. "We heard a loud crashing sound and then we saw something nestled in the branches of a tree.

"It was the size of a small trampoline, but quite chunky, and had red and blue lights all round which were so bright you couldn't stare directly at it."

The youngsters, who insist they had not been drinking, fled in terror but returned within seconds after curiosity got the better of their nerves.

By this time the 'craft' had vanished, leaving only a patch of flattened grass and a few broken branches in its wake.

Jahtel, a pupil at Feltham Community College, insists the 'spaceship' was too large to be a model aircraft and too small to contain a human pilot.

"I'm still a bit shaken up - every time I close my eyes I see the spaceship," he said.

"I never used to believe in UFOs but I've had to change my mind after seeing the evidence with my own eyes."

Jahtel's 'encounter' follows a flood of reported UFO sightings by residents from Bedford to Twickenham.

Dozens of people claim to have seen mysterious lights hovering in the night sky on July 6, but police insist they were just lights used for a display at a party.

## Mystery of Caversham 'UFO' light

READING appears to be a hotspot for UFO sightings after another unidentified object was spotted in the skies of Caversham.

Louise Davis, 26, of Managua Close, was awoken in the early hours of last Wednesday by "a steady engine sound".

The mum-of-two leapt out of bed at 1.20am before frantically searching around the house looking for the 'saucer' the noise.

She said: "I was woken up by a funny noise, which I found strange as I can sleep through anything and I was in a deep sleep.

"After searching around the house I looked outside my window and saw a bright green light in the distance.

"The bold round block of light was really green to my eyes, and it

sounded as if it was hovering over and area for a while. I thought it might have been a police helicopter."

Reading police spokeswoman Andrea Bennett said: "The Thames Valley Police helicopter was not patrolling in the area at the time, but there may have been a helicopter from other police forces."

As reported in the *Evening Post* on Friday, May 16, Caversham is an

alien hot spot according to files released by the Ministry of Defence.

Michael Soper, who is in his 60s, has been investigating flying saucers for years with the group Contact International UFO Research.

If you have seen any extra-terrestrial activity, contact Mr Soper on [fc@accf.fastnet.co.uk](mailto:fc@accf.fastnet.co.uk) or if you have seen one over Reading, call reporter Anna Roberts with your sighting on (0118) 918 3063.



FLASHBACK - Our story in May

**Evening Post**

READING EVENING POST  
Reading, Berkshire, England  
July 8, 2008

READING EVENING POST

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Display Rate (£/sqcm): £2.85

- 8 JUL 2008

**The Hounslow Chronicle**

HOUNSLOW BOROUGH CHRONICLE  
Hounslow, Middlesex, England  
July 24, 2008

**ENFIELD INDEPENDENT**  
Highams Park, London, England  
August 19, 2008

By Hannah Crown

## Orange rugby ball-shaped UFOs seen in Winchmore Hill

A STREAM of orange, rugby ball shaped UFOs making their way purposefully through the skies has been seen in Winchmore Hill.

Mystified Alison Moynihan, of Hillcrest, said she was watching television with her husband at 10.30pm on Sunday 10 when she first caught a glimpse of what appeared to be a procession of lights.

She said: "My husband saw this bright orange light. We ran up to the loft to have a look and it suddenly zoomed out and up. It was like a bright orange rugby ball and it had a sort of halo around it like a street light. It moved up and to the left quite swiftly."

Describing the lights as being only about 300 yards away, she said it wasn't until about half an hour later that she and her husband caught sight of the second light which also appeared to be travelling from the south to the north and appearing on the right hand side of their field of vision.

She said: "It disappeared into the clouds. Then soon after another one did exactly the same at the same point in the clouds. There were four in all."

Mrs Moynihan, who works for a city investment company, said she lived in a flight path but had never seen anything like that before. She said: "I got onto the internet after it happened and so many people have seen similar things. I don't think it was a Chinese lantern because we would have seen a flame underneath it. We thought maybe it was some military plane. But we couldn't hear any engine at all. I have never seen anything like it in my life. I hadn't been drinking alcohol I promise! I am the first one to be sceptical of anything like that."

manchester  
**metronews**

**MANCHESTER METRO NEWS**  
Manchester, England  
August 1, 2008

- 1 AUG 2008

## UFO spotted above Stretford

**LIVE** in Stretford just near Manchester and about 100 yards from the meadows.

On Sunday, July 13 I picked my son up from work at about 11.30pm.

I went in his home for a chat and then drove back. It was around 12.30am by this time. As I drove down my road I saw a massive white ovoid object behind the houses and over the meadows. It also had a red light on it.

I think it was underneath, around the bottom of the white ovoid.

As we live on the flight path to Manchester Airport my first thought was that it was a plane that was coming down too soon. But then I realised it was far too big for that, too deep and too long.

My view was then obscured by the end house at the corner, so I put my foot down on the accelerator and drove past the eight houses to where my view was clear again.

But the object had disappeared.

I drove back up the road to where I had originally seen it but, again, there was nothing to see, just the empty sky.

I put the car on the drive and came in and told my kids, who

thought I was mad. I would be interested to know if there was anyone else in the area who may have seen something on July 13 at 12.30am over the meadows in Stretford.

**KAREN RICHARDSON**  
via email

### COMPUTER CRIME

## He may be a nerd, but he's ours

Hacker who hunted for UFOs is a wanted alien in his own right

For two years Gary McKinnon, an unemployed Scotsman armed with only some spliffs, a few beers, and a dial-up internet connection, went looking for beings of superior intelligence. He couldn't find them. Instead, he found the US Military-Industrial Complex, an altogether different grade of brain.

And, after he'd found them, and fooled around inside their computer systems for a few years, he got sloppy. And so, in turn, he was found in Crouch End, north London, by the US Justice Department, or rather its surrogates in the UK, the Home Office's then National Hi-Tech Crime Unit. In a scene reminiscent of so many extra-terrestrial fantasies of people like Mr McKinnon, one morning in November 2002, they appeared at the foot of

his bed - and abducted him. Using their high-speed craft with its mysterious, revolving light on top, they carried him off to Holloway Road police station and probed him for his innermost secrets. McKinnon ("I'm only a little nerd") was powerless to resist.

They appeared at the foot of his bed - and abducted him

And when they returned him to his own world, he was a changed man. No longer free to come and go without reporting every evening at a police station; no longer allowed near a computer with an internet connection; and no longer the anony-

mous obsessive, whiling away the days burrowing deep into the networks of the US Army, Navy, Air Force, and Defense Department. He was now that most alien of creatures: the cause célèbre. And, after the law lords' decision on Wednesday to extradite him to the US to face trial, and possibly a lengthy jail sentence, he is that even rarer phenomenon: the transatlantic cause célèbre.

To civil liberty groups, McKinnon is a UFO believer whose enthusiasm got the better of his admittedly limited judgement, and whose chief crime was mere electronic trespass. He is just a nut, to whom a superpower's sledgehammer is now being unnecessarily - and vindictively - applied.

The Americans see things rather differently. His actions were, said one US prosecutor, "the biggest military computer



Gary McKinnon faces extradition for trial in the US LINDSEY PARNABY/EPA

hack of all time". According to the Justice Department indictment, he, among other things, "broke into the computer network at the Earle Naval Weapons Station, stealing computer passwords, and shutting down the network in the immediate aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks"; and he caused "approximately \$900,000 [£450,000] in damages to computers".

This month, McKinnon will head to the European Court of Human Rights for his last hope of avoiding the plane ride west. The Americans will fight him all the way. They want his ass. And, after they've finished with it, McKinnon might then be taking it into the US prison system. You can see why he's worried.

**David Randall**

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

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3 AUG 2008

**THE INDEPENDENT**  
ON SUNDAY

**INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY**  
London, England  
August 3, 2008



# TORNADO PUT WIND UP 'UFO'

## ..says saucer-snapper Pat

By BEN ASHFORD

**A TORNADO may have scared off a UFO about to land in Lancashire, a dad who snapped the bizarre incident said last night.**

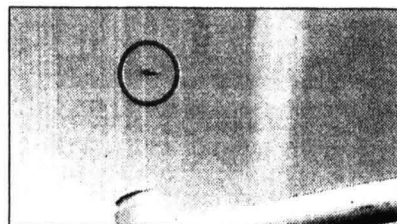
Pat Regan was nearly blown over as he photographed the twister during a fishing trip.

But it wasn't until he got home and enlarged the image on his PC that he spotted the UFO.

Mythology writer Pat, 51, who was with his daughter Jasmine, seven, said: "I noticed this weird speck. I blew it up and there it was - a UFO hovering right beside the twister."

"It's a perfect disc shape and greenish in colour. If

Witness... Pat and Jasmine



Tornado funnel... UFO, circled

it was a little green man he probably took one look at the weather and thought twice about landing!"

Last night an intrigued Met Office spokesman asked for a copy of Pat's picture, taken on Sunday in Rufford. He added: "Tornadoes occur about 30 times a year in the UK, but it's the first time I've heard of a UFO spotted close to one."

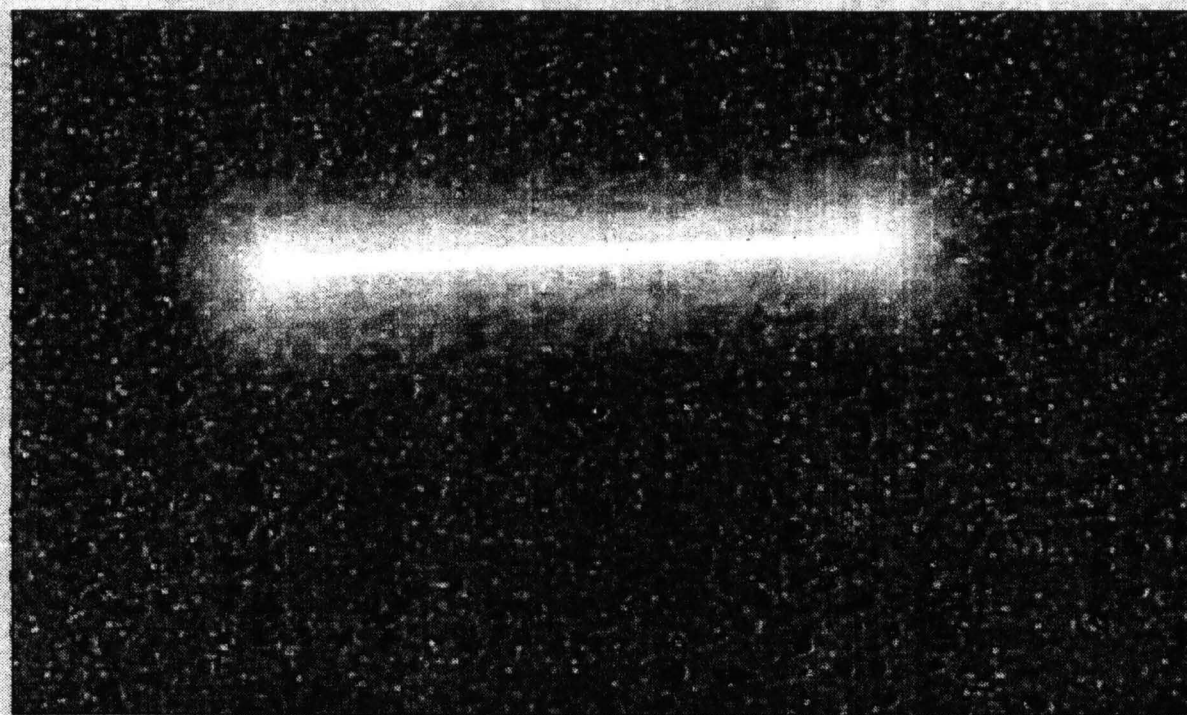
[b.ashford@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:b.ashford@the-sun.co.uk)

Read more UFO stories at [thesun.co.uk/britishxfiles](http://thesun.co.uk/britishxfiles)



**THE  
Sun**

THE SUN  
London, England  
July 9, 2008



## Lights are regular visitors to sky over Roydon

Readers continue to send in reportings of mysterious lights in the skies following the sightings reported in the *Diss Express* last month.

I SAW an unexplained object passing over Roydon recently.

The object was a very bright light, much brighter than any star.

It was not making any sound and not showing any navigation lights. It passed over Roydon four nights in a row, west to east, at about 9.40pm on July 26, 27 and 28.

On the 29th at 10.15pm, on a slightly different track, the object, viewed through binoculars appeared to be oval and wobbling slightly like a jelly on a plate. A circular haze was also visible around the object.

**R P Copeman,  
Nicholls Way, Roydon**

■ I was at my friend's house in Harleston and four of us saw five orange/yellow lights in the sky, larger than stars and closer.

The first four came from the north at a similar speed to an aircraft, but then stopped and

hovered in the west, while another light of the same size and description joined them.

They then proceeded to fade and brighten in sequence, then travelled west as the lights faded away.

The final light then travelled south and eventually faded.

Do you know of any aircraft in that area around 10.45pm on Saturday July 27?

I have recorded it on my mobile phone, but it's not very clear and doesn't give a true indication of size and colour.

**Kirsty Thomas, Milton Keynes**

■ My theory about the recent sightings is that, after looking on Internet sites, it could have been a solar storm.

This causes lights from above and it looked like a lit-up cloud, moving very fast, like a storm would.

When I saw the lights my first thought was a spotlight, then I thought of the Northern Lights. So I think this was a natural phenomenon.

**P Cooper, East Harling**

■ What do you think? Write to the address on the left or email [editorial@dissexpress.co.uk](mailto:editorial@dissexpress.co.uk)

**Diss Express**  
DISS EXPRESS  
Diss, Norfolk, England  
August 8, 2008

DISS EXPRESS

Circulation ('000): 9  
Readership ('000): 23  
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- 8 AUG 2008

# Spate of UFO sightings in the area

By JOEL COOPER

jcooper@c-dm.co.uk

"WE ARE not alone" — that is the opinion of several *North Devon Journal* readers who read our story about UFO sightings.

Since the article was published last week, referring to two alleged sightings in the district, the *Journal* office has fielded similar tales of the apparently unexplained — or inexplicable.

Gary Donnelly, who visited Woolacombe from Sleaford in Lincolnshire, said he had seen "something strange" in his holiday snaps.

He said: "I was on holiday for one week and I spotted something in a photo I took on June 20.

"I know that people did do paragliding from a nearby hill but on this day there was none

going on and I do not recall any aircraft in the sky.

"It was a very calm morning and I don't remember even seeing the flying objects when I took the picture — I only wanted some nice views of the beach.

"It was only when I downloaded the pics from my mobile phone onto my computer that they became clear enough to see. I still cannot readily identify them, very weird."

Lantern FM's breakfast presenter James Chapple also got in touch after he had a close encounter of the blurred kind last Friday night.

Mr Chapple said: "Around 10pm I saw a bright orange light in the sky and following a short distance behind was another.

"As I stood there, stunned, watching these objects pass over Roundswell Industrial Es-

tate, I tried to film them on my mobile but as I zoomed in the quality was very pixilated and when I pressed record the two lights faded out at exactly the same time.

"I could still clearly see two black objects moving in the sky. They were not moving very fast at all and were following each other in a strait line.

"I kept watching them, until they went out of sight behind a building. By the time I had got round the other side the two objects had completely gone.

"I was so freaked out that I phoned a few people in the area to see if they saw it, but I was the only one."

Derek Reynolds, a *Journal* reader from Fremington, saw something very similar the same night.

He said: "I was coming through Bickington on my way back from a bowls match, with

my friend Colin Murrells driving.

"We saw four bright orange balls in the sky. They looked like miniature suns, like flashing fire and travelled very slowly not like any aircraft and there was no noise.

"By the time I got home in Redlands Road, we got out of the car and stood and watched them travel away from us towards the Moors.

"My wife was very disappointed that she was too late to see them but we certainly did."

On the evening of Saturday, June 7, the same night that Andrew Beer of Bickington claimed to see an orange flying object in last week's story, Rod Courtney from Mortehoe looked up from his dinner and saw something peculiar.

He said: "While eating our evening meal (completely al-

cohol-free) my wife drew my attention to what appeared to be a very bright star some distance to the right of Lundy at a height considerably above the normal flight path of incoming aircraft.

"It soon lost its star-like brilliance to become a dark elliptical-shaped object, like a rugby ball with a bump on the top.

"It was stationary and, as far as we could tell, was hovering several hundred feet above Lundy.

"It then emitted an orange glow at the rear of the ellipse, at which point my wife and I were alarmed that it was an aircraft on fire.

"I was sufficiently alarmed to telephone the non-urgent Police Emergency Service to report this object, enquire whether they had received reports of an aircraft in distress.

"The object then disappeared

over the Western horizon in a fiery tail."

But there remains no proof that any of these sightings was a bone fide UFO.

A spokesman from 22 Squadron Search and Rescue at Chivenor, said: "In the three and a half years I have been working at Chivenor I can categorically state that no one here has ever seen a UFO.

"There has been nothing reported to us recently and we do have a system in place for logging the sightings of unidentified aircraft.

"I'm not sure what these could be, maybe it's the sun reflecting off an aircraft.

"Having said that, I suppose there could be anything out there."

Have you seen a UFO in North Devon? Or are you a sceptic. Have your say at [www.thisisnorthdevon.co.uk](http://www.thisisnorthdevon.co.uk)

NORTH DEVON JOURNAL (SERIES)

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Display Rate (£/sqcm): £1.70

17 JUL 2008

NORTH DEVON  
**JOURNAL**

NORTH DEVON JOURNAL  
Barnstaple, Devon, England  
July 17, 2008

NORTH DEVON  
**JOURNAL**

NORTH DEVON JOURNAL  
Barnstaple, Devon, England  
July 31, 2008

NORTH DEVON JOURNAL (SERIES)

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31 JUL 2008

Family puzzled  
at 'dark and  
undefined UFO'

A SAUNTON family has claimed they saw a UFO flying over the beach towards Chivenor on Monday night.

Lara Lane, of Saunton Road said: "My Dad was walking my dogs on the cliffs overlooking Saunton Beach, when at the end of the fields he observed a dark undefined object pass over from the Woolacombe direction, and very high up.

"He proceeded to get back as fast as he could to use our binoculars."

Back at the house Lara went on to detail what the family then witnessed: "We all saw with the visible eye a rod like vessel, with no wings that didn't seem to move over what seemed to be high up over Chivenor area. We went on to see by eye and with the binoculars the object change to a horizontal angle and catch the sunlight, which by the magnified binoculars clearly showed a silver body.

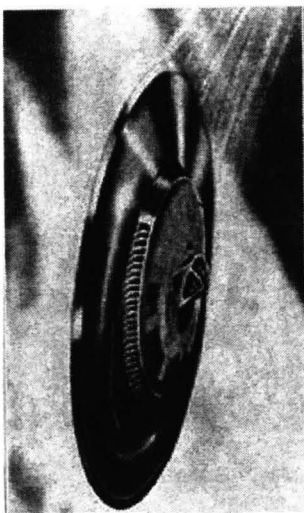
"At the time I was running around trying to find something to capture the moment, but although six of us saw the experience it was distanced with the naked eye.

Lara added: "My father experienced it more up close and personal, and I think he was just glad we could also see it.

"We were watching it for around ten minutes in total."

And it isn't the first time Lara has had an extra terrestrial encounter, she said: "My friends are all laughing at me because I also saw another UFO two years ago on Saunton.

"I drew back my curtains and I was blinded by these football pitch style lights, and when I looked right there was another craft which looked exactly the same moving down the beach. I'm glad someone else actually saw it too this time."





## Another sighting of UFO in region

23/7/4

I WANTED to let you know about a UFO that was sighted at Codnor on Monday, July 28.

We were sitting in our back garden, as it was a nice clear night, when my husband jumped up and shouted "what the hell is that?", I looked up, ran indoors for my camcorder but when I came back it had gone.

The object was rugby ball

shaped with a bright white light underneath, it was going at great speed then stopped turned and vanished instantly.

I have never known any aircraft to stop in mid-air to turn, and there was no noise coming from it.

We did report this to the local police at Ripley.

**Mr & Mrs J Grainger,**  
Field Street,  
Codnor.

## Harborough Mail

**HARBOROUGH MAIL**  
Stamford, Lincolnshire, England  
July 10, 2008

HARBOROUGH MAIL (SERIES)

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Readership ('000): 35  
Display Rate (£/sqcm): £1.65

3 JUL 2008

## Harborough Mail

**HARBOROUGH MAIL**  
Stamford, Lincolnshire, England  
July 3, 2008

HARBOROUGH MAIL

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Readership ('000): 22  
Display Rate (£/sqcm): £1.04

10 JUL 2008

# The mystery of town's silver UFO

23/7/4

**A BAFFLED office worker who saw a strange silver ball hovering in the skies south of Harborough has appealed for other witnesses to come forward.**

Rachael Berry said she saw the shiny, metallic-looking ball moving above fields near the Brampton Valley Way before it disappeared from sight near Clack Hill.

Miss Berry (33), of Stockwell Close, witnessed the UFO from her office at Cps Ltd, in Sovereign Park off Lathkill Street, on Wednesday afternoon last week.

She said: "This thing hovered up and down and across quite slowly. It was too big in scale to be a simple party balloon. It was quite visible in the distance from my office window.

"I would say it was fairly large but nowhere near the size a hot

By Ian O'Pray

air balloon would be at that distance, and not the shape of one either - it was perfectly round and very metallically shiny.

"The ball moved at a good pace but stopped a few times and went up, then down a bit, then carried on to the left."

Miss Berry said the ball had a rigid 'tail' about 2.5 metres in length hanging down from it and continued to move until appearing to stop above Clack Hill.

She added: "It hovered there and went up and down a few times, then disappeared. I don't know if it vanished or came down in the field. I lost sight of it."

Miss Berry's sighting comes in the same week that three soldiers captured footage of UFOs above Market Drayton, Shropshire.

And this is not the first sight-

# UFO sightings take off in skies above town

23/7/4

**MAIL readers have reported more UFOs in the skies above Harborough since we told of a sighting last week.**

We featured office worker Rachael Berry, who saw a shiny, metallic-looking ball moving above fields near the Brampton Valley Way on Wednesday, June 25.

She appealed for anyone who saw anything similar to come forward, prompting readers to contact us with their own sightings.

Jessica Ingram and her friend William Turner were walking home across fields behind Harborough Leisure Centre at about 10.45pm on Friday when they saw a saucer-shaped object hovering and moving in circles above the town's golf club.

Jessica (16), of Rainsborough Gardens,

By Ian O'Pray

said: "It was quite large and we could clearly see it even though we were standing very far away. It was high and was in the clouds, we could see it by its lights. It appeared grey, but that could have been the mist. The lights were yellow."

"We could see it for at least ten minutes. It kept circling over the golf course, disappearing behind trees and then becoming visible again. We were very far away so we sometimes lost sight of it but then it circled back into view again."

Caroline Marriott also contacted the Mail

after she saw a trail of red lights from the window of her flat in Welland Court, Harborough, on Monday last week.

"They were lined up so they looked like a plane," she said.

"As it got closer I saw it was two lots of lights. Then they started to move really quickly and I thought there was going to be a crash. They sort of snaked along. I was waiting for a loud bang but they appeared to go between the flats. I couldn't believe it."

Have you seen any strange activity in the skies above Harborough or do you have an explanation for the objects seen by our readers?

● **Contact Mail reporter Ian O'Pray on** [ian.opray@harboroughmail.co.uk](mailto:ian.opray@harboroughmail.co.uk) **or** **phone 01858 436005.**

4 AUG 2008

# MYSTERY SOLVED: orange globes from wedding 'UFOs' turn out to be fire lanterns

BY PAUL CASSELL

THE mystery of UFOs flying over Woodley has been solved and sadly no bug-eyed green aliens will be landing in the town – well, at least not for the time being.

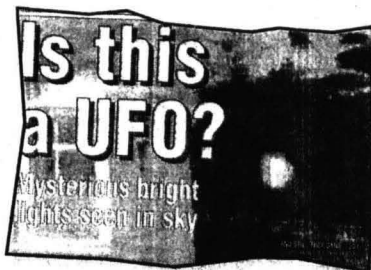
The truth was definitely out there after the *Evening Post* was told the "bright orange globes" which stunned onlookers in the night skies on Saturday, July 26, were in fact fire lanterns.

The lanterns, which work in a similar way to hot-air balloons, were set off from a wedding reception being held at the Oakwood Centre in Headley Road.

Centre manager Cheryl Cardwell said: "I read with glee your report of UFOs in last week's paper. I suppose it makes good press."

"They were indeed fire lanterns, only 18 not 30 as claimed, that were set off by a wedding party taking place at the Oakwood Centre."

"Aren't people strange?" Awestruck residents sent the *Post* photos and video footage of the lanterns with many baffled by the objects they had seen drifting across the sky from east to west.



**ALIENS IN SPACE** – But the UFOs (*Evening Post*, Thursday, July 31) are plain old fire lanterns – a heart-shaped version is pictured above

Steve Dyke, of Malvern Close, spoke of "big, circular and even" objects but was unable to see any detail while Rachel Gormley, of Corbett Gardens, confessed "I'd seen nothing like it before".

Fire lanterns, also called sky lanterns and somewhat appropriately UFO balloons, were invented by the Chinese and originally known as Kong Mong Deng.

They were named after the leader of the three-kingdom period between 184AD and 280AD who, when surrounded by enemies, used the lanterns to send signals for help. They were then made of oiled rice paper with a bamboo frame and

contained a small candle and said to be in the shape of the leader's hat.

Today's lanterns work on much the same principle with the flame inside causing the lantern to rise and glow brightly in the night sky.

The lanterns are built using flameproof paper and fuel cells that are designed not to smoulder and are also available in triangular, circular and heart shapes.

UFO expert Michael Soper, from Oxfordshire, who has been investigating flying saucers and paranormal activity with Contact International UFO Research for 25 years, said: "Fire lanterns are regularly mistaken for UFOs and there are more of them and this is thought to be due to the increase in immigration. They are often amber and circular but the real giveaway is they follow the wind."

"There is enough evidence to suggest UFOs definitely exist whether in a physical or psychological dimension and most of them are doing exactly the same behaviour throughout history."

"Caversham and Earley are areas where there have been cases and there is every chance UFOs have flown over Woodley."

- 3 JUL 2008

# "CALL TO POLICE: man's sighting passed to experts UFO 'seen over M4 service area'

BY ANNA ROBERTS

POLICE have confirmed they have received a report that a UFO was spotted in the skies above Berkshire.

Thames Valley Police were contacted by a concerned man who spotted the 'flying saucer' hovering above Chieveley services at junction 13 of the M4.

Reading Police spokesman Adam Fisher, when contacted by the *Evening Post*, confirmed officers had been told about the X-Files-style object.

He said: "We were called at 8.40am on Monday, June 30, by a man from London who reported seeing a UFO over the Chieveley area that morning. His details have been passed on to a body that specialises in that field."

This is not the first time such objects have been glimpsed over the motorway. An official Ministry of Defence (MoD) report revealed in February 2007 a UFO was sighted over the Swindon

section of the M4.

The report said: "An object fell from the sky. It had like a green halo around it. Was very bright."

In the past, according to figures released by the MoD, flying saucers have also been glimpsed over Woodley, Arborfield and Reading.

Bizarrely, nearby Wokingham appears to be something of a hotbed for UFO sightings. In the past 10 years there have been numerous sightings of UFOs in the skies above the town.

Michael Soper, who is in his 60s, has been investigating flying saucers for years with the group, Contact International UFO Research.

Mr Soper, who lives in Oxfordshire and in the past believes he has been abducted by aliens, said: "This latest sighting was phoned through by Thames Valley Police. A person said they saw a stubby winged object with an enormously bright green light going smoothly, effortlessly, across the sky."

"We were interested the police would phone it through to us."

"On this occasion they were very helpful."

"They have changed their attitude to UFO sightings."

"It is unusual to see a UFO this bright and in daylight. There is no doubt whatever it was a UFO."

Mr Soper, talking generally about UFOs in Reading, said Caversham was an alien hotspot.

"We have had a lot of things happening north of Reading," he said. "People have repeatedly mentioned pearl-like objects above the skies in the Caversham area."

However, some people have cast doubt on Mr Soper's claims, suggesting flying objects are nothing more than Chinese lanterns, aeroplanes or hot air balloons.

People who have spotted a UFO can contact Mr Soper on [fc@accf.fastnet.co.uk](mailto:fc@accf.fastnet.co.uk) or if you have seen one over Reading, call reporter Anna Roberts with your story on (0118) 918 3063.



# SPACE ODDITY

## Riddle of molten lump off 'crashed spaceship'



Out of this world... melted blob found in Wales

**ALIEN** hunter Russ Kellett yesterday revealed a lump of mystery metal which he says was recovered from a crashed UFO 34 years ago.

The shiny one-and-a-half inch melted blob was found near Llandrillo in Berwyn Mountains, Wales, after reports of a spaceship plunging to earth.

Russ says it is similar to melted aluminium, yet heavier. Police logs described a "terrific explosion" shaking houses on January 23, 1974, and locals said hundreds of cops and military personnel ordered everyone off the mountain.

It has been claimed that alien

By **ALASTAIR TAYLOR**

spacemen were whisked off to a secret military installation – all hushed up by the Government.

Former building worker Russ said: "That and this piece of metal from the spaceship proves in my mind the existence of aliens."

"The metal was picked up by someone who was on the mountain at the time. They have since died and it was passed to me about a year ago."

"I passed it to a jeweller who showed it to an expert but they have no idea what it is."

Russ 45, of Filey, North Yorks, has amassed more than 30 years of data about flying saucers – but only unveiled the shiny metal after reading recent UFO reports in The Sun.

We told of three sightings in five days earlier this month – in Shropshire, near Cardiff and over the Brecon Beacons.

Russ, who started studying UFOs after being surrounded by inexplicable lights while on a motorbike in 1988, said: "None of these incidents surprise me."

"It is only a matter of time before we get conclusive proof."

[a.taylor@the-sun.co.uk](mailto:a.taylor@the-sun.co.uk)

**LLand of Legend – P34&35**



Sunspot... page 1 story

**THE Sun**

**THE SUN**  
London, England  
June 28, 2008

**The Hounslow Chronicle**

**HOUNSLOW BOROUGH CHRONICLE**  
Hounslow, Middlesex, England  
July 17, 2008

HOUNSLOW BOROUGH CHRONICLE

Circulation ('000): 5

Readership ('000): 14

Display Rate (£/sqcm): £3.40

## I also saw 'UFO' above our borough

**FOLLOWING** Nina Rossi's article on UFO sightings in the borough, I am writing to tell you that I also saw the circular objects in the sky, and so did my husband.

We live in Edward Road, Bedfont, and on Sunday, July 6, just before 10.30pm, I went outside into my back garden. I looked up to the sky and saw three large circular objects.

I called to my husband to come outside quickly. We both watched the circular objects for 20 minutes. They were chasing each other, then swooping and merging. They seemed to be putting on a show. There was no sound and they could not be lasers as there were no beams of light. It was fascinating to watch, and was very mysterious.

This is not the first time that we have seen strange objects in the skies above our house.

Nine years ago on a warm September evening, we were sitting in our garden. Just before midnight, I looked up to the sky and saw a triangular-shaped objects which seemed to be static. I said to my husband, 'Look, what is that?' and pointed to the object, and within a split second it had disappeared at great speed.

If these were visitors from other planets, I hope that we have more sightings, as I am sure that they are just as curious about us as we are about them.

**JULIE BURNHAM**  
Edward Road,  
Bedfont.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS**  
 Darwin, NT, Australia  
 July 18, 2008

By Matt Cunningham

## 'Sceptic' politician saw UFO



The UFO photographed by Alan Ferguson.

A TERRITORY politician has added weight to growing claims there are UFOs flying around in Darwin's rural area.



Gerry Wood

Independent MLA Gerry Wood said he saw a strange object fly across the sky above Howard Springs early Wednesday morning.

"It was a dark grey object and it was flying parallel to the ground - it lit up white at the front for a short period, maybe one or two seconds, and then the light disappeared and the object melted with the sky," he said.

Mr Wood, a self-confessed sceptic, said the object moved across the sky at a tremendous rate, but he didn't believe it was a plane.

"There wasn't a sound, not even a whisper," he said.

"There was no trail of sparks like you see with a shooting star, it was just a white glow at the front and underneath. I know that people won't believe this because, for starters, I'm a politician ... that puts me in the category of 'what a load of crap'.

"I'm also a sceptic, but I saw this thing, clear as day."

Mr Wood's report is the second sighting of an unknown object in the skies above Darwin's rural area.

The Northern Territory News reported yesterday that Acacia Hills man Alan Ferguson had taken pictures of what he believed to be UFOs flying above his home.

And now a long-term Territorian has backed up Mr Ferguson's claims.

Rob Kennon, 64, of Wagaman, said he saw what he believes was a UFO land at Acacia Hills in 1971. He said he was on his way home from a fishing trip with his mate, the late Harry Baxendale, when the spaceship descended slowly from the sky without making a sound.

"It came in far too slowly for a meteorite and it had huge lights," he said.

The men watched the unknown object land from about 2km away and waited for about 15 minutes to see if it would take off again. He said they never reported the sighting because they didn't think anyone would believe them.

Mr Kennon said he had not been drinking, and he had no doubt what he saw was real.

"We weren't hallucinating, that was for sure," he said.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS**  
 Darwin, NT, Australia  
 August 23, 2008

By Matt Cunningham

## Armada of UFOs buzzing Territory



**MYSTERY:** Ruth Palmer, of Palmerston, took this picture of her husband Richard Magree in front of Devils Marbles. The photograph shows a strange object flying to the left of her husband's right shoulder.

COULD the Northern Territory be under attack from an armada of UFOs?

The Northern Territory News has been inundated in recent weeks with readers' pictures of possible UFO sightings.

The objects captured on camera have ranged from dark disks flying in broad daylight to strange lights glowing in the night sky.

Roger Perner, 52, of the Hunter Valley in NSW, was taking pictures of eagles at Policeman's Point in Timber Creek on the Victoria River last month when he noticed a strange object in one of the shots.

"As soon as I dropped the camera I looked around everywhere and there was nothing in the sky," he said.

Mr Perner said he had believed in extra-terrestrial life since seeing a strange object in the sky in Queensland about 30 years ago.

"It was miles and miles away and as big as a football," he said.

He said he had no idea what the object he photographed last month was.

"It wasn't there when I took the camera away from my eye but it was there when I took the photo," he said.

In March, Ruth Palmer, 27, of Rosebery, Palmerston, took a picture of her husband Richard Magree in front of the Devils Marbles, near infamous UFO town Wycliffe Well.

When she looked at the photograph she noticed a strange object in the sky flying above her husband's shoulder.

"You don't want to think you are crazy, and I don't want to be one of those crazies, but I thought, being near Wycliffe Well, who knows what it is?"

Stephen Jones, of Alice Springs, was also baffled when he photographed strange lights in the sky near Banka Banka, while driving from Darwin to Alice Springs in February.

The UFO-spotters have come forward after Alan Ferguson photographed strange objects flying above his home in Acacia Hills last month.

Territory Independent MLA Gerry Wood made headlines down south for his UFO-spotting last month.

## Surrey Mirror

**SURRY MIRROR**  
 Reigate, Surrey, England  
 July 10, 2008

SURREY MIRROR SERIES

Circulation ('000): 215  
 Readership ('000): 412  
 Display Rate (£/sqcm): £7.15

**10 JUL 2008**

### Is it a plane?

**SIGHTINGS** of an unidentified flying object around Gatwick Airport have flummoxed BAA staff.

A family from Sussex apparently spotted a "ball of flames" taking the same path as an aircraft heading north towards Gatwick.





Seward, AK  
Seward Phoenix Log  
(Cir. W. 2,225)

AUG 07 2008

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

SEWARD PHOENIX LOG  
Seward, Alaska  
August 7, 2008

## Beached carcass may be thing of legends

Animal found on island  
unlike any other, scientists say

ALEX DEMARBAN  
alex@alaskanewspapers.com

Residents from a Western Alaska island are turning to Cup'ig lore and the expertise of scientists to identify the strange remains of an animal coughed up by the Bering Sea.

At least one resident of Mekoryuk – Nunivak Island's only village – thinks the smooth-skinned corpse might be the lake-

dwelling beast rumored about in local legend.

An e-mailed photo of the animal – sporting what appears to be a tail – has reached several computers, including one belonging Mike Castellini, director of the Coastal Marine Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

It's impossible to identify the animal from the photo, but several scientists have tried, Castellini said.

"It's been sent to stranding experts and scientists as far as the Smithsonian and everyone is going, 'No idea,'" Castellini said.

It could be a mangled beluga whale, the

identifying parts obscured in the photo, he said.

A team of UAF scientists who happen to be on the island studying subsistence foods are trying to line up a boat ride to the remote site to see the creature for themselves, Castellini said.

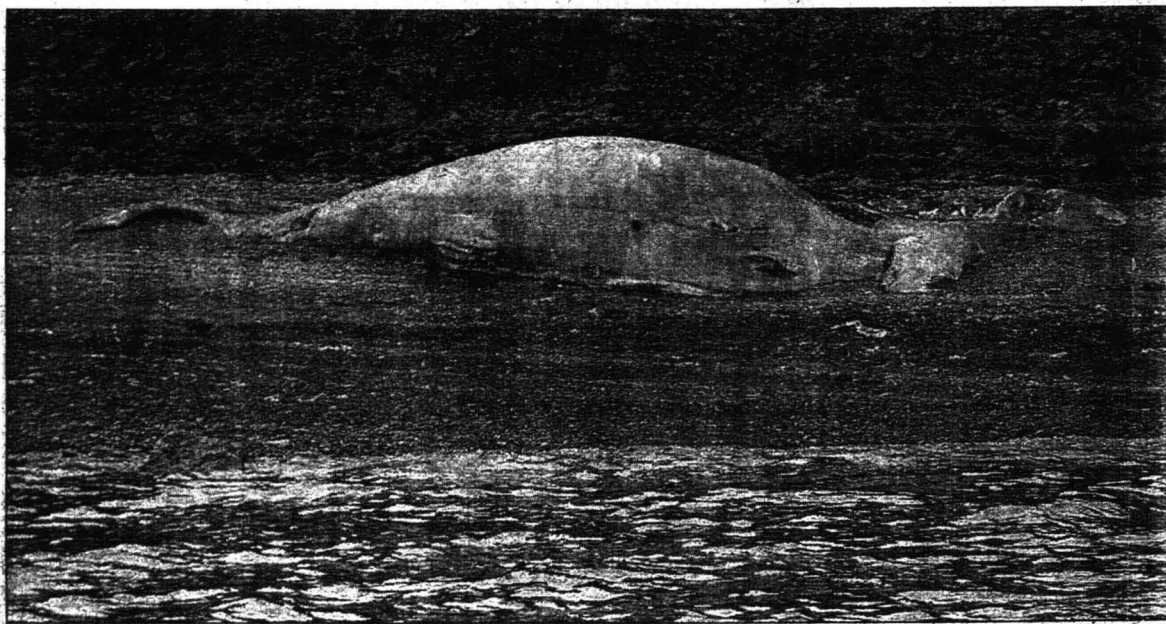
It's not a whale, said Barry Whitman, who e-mailed the photo to Castellini.

Whitman and his wife, Lisa, spotted the pinkish hunk of flesh while returning to the village of about 200 from a salmon fishing trip on the island's east side on Tuesday, July 22.

See Page 10, Thing

Mekoryuk residents and scientists are trying to identify this animal that has washed up on Nunivak Island. Scientists say it might be a whale. Locals aren't so sure.

Courtesy photo/Barry Whitman



## Thing ...

From Page 1

From far way, the bulky body looked walrus-like.

Thinking it might have valuable tusks they could salvage, the couple motored in for a closer look, scaring off scavenging sea gulls. Barry pulled the skiff within a few feet of the thing but didn't slide ashore for fear of banging the boat against rocks.

Lisa stood in the bow snapping several photos showing the animal from a single angle.

Whitman, 30, grew up hunting and fishing near the village of 200.

"I've seen decomposed walrus and whales and this was just something else," he said.

A thick coat of hair seemed to cover the underside. Barry couldn't figure out the head from the tail.

Lisa had the best view. She said the 3-foot long tail – or what she thinks was the tale – seemed to end in a diamond shape. The animal's body was about 6 feet long, she said. The head may have been removed or hidden in sand, she said.

"I was pretty baffled," said Lisa, an optometry technician at Bethel's regional hospital.

The couple spent only a few minutes at the carcass because they had to catch their fishing partner. Moses Whitman Sr., Barry's dad, was heading back to Mekoryuk in a larger boat that couldn't come close to shore.

The couple had hoped to return to the site later but the weather was too windy in the short time Barry had in Mekoryuk – he needed to get back to Bethel where he's a pilot.

Moses said he's never seen any animal like the one in the photo.

The photo reminds him of an old Cup'ig story about an animal that lived in a pond. Around the early 1960s, he remembers seeing evidence of large creatures that had traveled between a pond on Nunivak Island and the Bering Sea.

"Seemed like somebody bulldozed a path out to the ocean and there was three of them," he said.

That animal was called "qaqrat" in Cup'ig, the island's Native language, said Howard Amos, who helped author the Cup'ig dictionary and administers the village's elementary's Cup'ig program.

Phonetically, that's pronounced "koo-gat." It means "beast-walrus," Amos said.

According to legend, when the beast-walrus left the lake and moved to the ocean, the lake dried up, Amos said. The animal was walrus-like and wasn't aggressive to humans.

Whatever the animal is, Whitman would love to find out.

"I always believed there was something more out there than whales and walrus and what we know is out there because the ocean is huge," he said.

Alex DeMarban can be reached at 907-348-2444 or 800-770-9830, ext. 444.

2165

# Private investigator throwing the book at Bigfoot

■ Los Gatos resident collects eyewitness accounts and finds striking similarities in sketches of the creature

By Matt Wilson  
MEDIANEWS STAFF

A gumshoe is looking for a Bigfoot.

The creature also goes by the aliases Yeti, Sasquatch or Skunk Ape. Skeptics have added monikers such as "pure fiction" and "rubbish."

To longtime private investigator David Paulides, the legendary creature is yet another case to solve.

Four years ago, the 20-year Santa Clara Valley detective got bored and wanted to combine his love of outdoors with a good mystery. So he decided to go in search of the elusive

2163

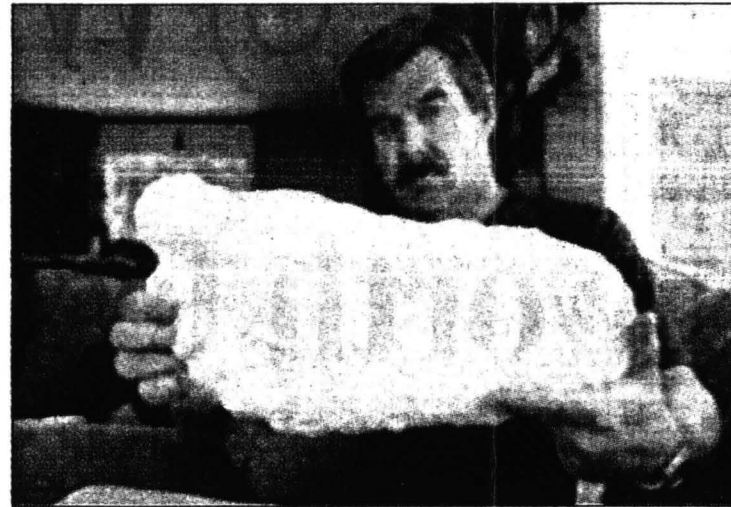
simian.

Paulides is the director of the North American Bigfoot Search. He claims it is the only group in the world researching and studying the subject full time.

"No one has ever given 100 percent of their time to this," said Paulides, citing the lack of serious and credible efforts put into tracking Bigfoot.

This first batch of research is detailed in Paulides' new book "The Hoopa Project: Bigfoot Encounters in California." The book describes Paulides' search along with eyewitness accounts and sketches of the creature. The book, due for release Aug. 1, coincides with the 50th anniversary of the creature receiving the name Bigfoot.

Paulides set out to find consistent patterns, so he and his organization did an exhaustive search of the Western United



JOHN MEDINA/STAFF

DAVID PAULIDES of Los Gatos holds a plaster impression of what he says could be a footprint of Bigfoot.

States to determine the optimum location. They studied accounts, times, dates, seasons and elevations coinciding with sightings. He analyzed 350 sightings since 1861 and

plotted the data.

"It all came back to Hoopa," said Paulides of the Native American tribe that inhabits an area in northeastern Humboldt County. "The Hoopa

have been dealing with Bigfoot since early times. They run into it regularly; they just don't talk about it."

Paulides then spent every other week for nearly three years in and around the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation. He spoke with elders and many in the tribe as he dug deeper for Bigfoot-related clues. "After a year I had the complete trust of the tribe," he said.

Paulides and the organization wanted to add credibility to a search for what many believe is a creature that exists only in the imagination of popular culture.

"We wanted to hold witnesses accountable for their statements, something that is rarely done by (Bigfoot) authors and researchers," he said.

Paulides developed a system where the team investigated sightings only if the wit-

ness signed an affidavit. If no affidavit was signed, no investigation was pursued.

To add to the professional and investigative nature, a forensic sketch artist who has worked with the FBI was brought in. Muscle structure, facial features and closeup accounts were sketched in detail. The full-color sketches are in the book.

Paulides was astounded to discover that 90 percent of the sketches looked similar to each other, but do not conform to what he feels is a mainstream depiction of Bigfoot.

"If you're gonna fabricate an account, you're going to make it look like what everyone is familiar with," he said, citing the famous Patterson-Gimlin film footage.

"The consistency can not be argued," he said. "Most went against the grain of common knowledge."

CONTRA COSTA TIMES  
Walnut Creek, California  
July 21, 2008

Walnut Creek, CA  
(Contra Costa Co.)  
Contra Costa Times  
(Cir. D. 178,911)  
(Cir. S. 190,613)

A18 nationalpost.com

## NEWS

★ NATIONAL POST, TUESDAY, JULY 29, 2008

### Big shoes to fill: U.K. scientist hopes DNA tests confirm existence of yeti

A British scientist is awaiting the results of DNA tests on hair claimed to be from a yeti after initial examinations showed it had human and ape-like characteristics. Ian Redmond, a biologist and expert in ape conservation, said the hairs found in the Indian jungle resembled samples collected by the conqueror of Everest, Sir Edmund Hillary, in the 1950s. "Under the microscope, they look slightly human, slightly

#### MONSTER MISSION

like an orangutan and slightly like the hairs brought back by Edmund Hillary," he said. "These hairs remain an enigma. They could be a new species, but the DNA tests will hopefully tell us more." The hairs were discovered by Dipu Marak, a believer in the yeti in Meghalaya, India, in 2003. "My con-

cern is that if we do find something unusual, it will be from a very small population of animals, and I would want to talk to the state government and Indian government so they are not inundated with people trying to catch one for a museum," Dr. Redmond added. *Agence France-Presse*



NATIONAL POST  
Don Mills, Ontario, Canada  
July 29, 2008

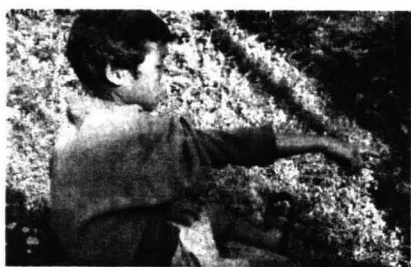


THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY  
London, England  
August 11, 2008

By Andrew Buncombe

## In the footsteps of the yeti: the hunt for Mande Burung

The discovery of two unidentifiable hairs in the far north-east of India has fuelled the belief that the yeti is more than a myth. Andrew Buncombe ventured to the Garo Hills to get to the bottom of the mystery



Tengsim Marak points to where he saw the mysterious creature

Amid the dense greenery of the jungle, throbbing with the hum of insects, the young boy lifts his arm and points: the creature was there.

It was sitting on a rock in the cleft of a cave, said the 11-year-old, and although he only saw it for a few seconds, he is adamant that it was like nothing he'd seen before. "Its face was like that of a monkey," Tengsim Marak recalled, as we stand and peer into the murkiness of the cave. "But the creature was much bigger than a human."

For generations, the people of the state of Meghalaya in the far north-east of India, have whispered stories about the Mande Burung, or the Man of the Jungle. At night, when darkness falls like a black cloak thrown across the forest, they sit and share stories of a creature living among the trees, half man and half ape, occasionally glimpsed through the foliage or more often heard, its strange call echoing across the rice paddies. It is said to stand 10ft tall and weigh up to 45 stone.

Forest department officials and most serious scientists have always dismissed the reports as tribal folklore and considered them a local variant of similar stories told elsewhere in the world about the yeti, Bigfoot or Sasquatch. Yet the story of the Mande Burung has an intriguing and, just maybe, remarkable twist.

Earlier this year, a group of amateur "yeti-hunters" from Meghalaya gave two hairs they say they discovered in a "nest" of the Mande Burung to a renowned British primatologist. Having examined the hairs, Ian Redmond said they were like that of no other creature known to live in these jungles. Even more teasingly, Dr Redmond said that under the microscope the hairs most closely resembled those of a human, a

chimp, a gorilla or else the purported "yeti hairs" brought back by the late Sir Edmund Hillary's 1953 Everest expedition.

The hairs are now undergoing DNA tests. Dr Redmond was cautious about what the creature may be. The most mundane explanation is that it is an already-known species, but one whose existence in the jungles of Meghalaya had not previously been recorded. "We have not ruled out every known species but we have looked at those species known to live in that area," said Dr Redmond, a senior consultant to the UN's Great Apes Survival Project. Alternatively the hairs could belong to a previously unknown species. As Dr Redmond points out, just five years ago, a "new" species of macaque was discovered in the nearby state of Arunachal Pradesh.

Beyond these explanations, of course, there is the seemingly unthinkable.

Not surprisingly, the merest possibility that a yeti-like beast may be living in the jungles of India has triggered a huge buzz in the world of cryptozoology, the usually derided study of uncatalogued creatures.

Jon Downes, of the British-based

Centre for Fortean Zoology, said he believed the creatures might be the last remnants of a giant ape called gigantopithecus, believed to have died out 300,000 years ago. "There are so many reports of yeti-like beasts across south and central Asia that I would not be surprised if there are still some pockets of these very, very rare and shy creatures," he said.

The enthusiasts who handed in the mysterious hairs said they found them in the West Garo Hills, a remote area in the west of Meghalaya populated by tribes who until the arrival of Christian missionaries a century ago were notorious head-hunters.

For the past 10 years, Dipu Marak (no relation to Tengsim) and his friends have been investigating reports of the Mande Burung, dashing off from their base in the town of Tura to interview possible witnesses and photographing whatever evidence may exist, such as the scratches on the bark of a tree or an area of forest where trees have been broken in a way that is different to the damage made by elephants or other known animals.

Though the group calls itself the Achik Tourism Society, Mr Marak insists they are not hoaxers seeking to draw in tourist dollars with tall stories. "We would welcome [more tourists] but we don't want to lie to them in the name of the Mande Burung," said Mr Marak, sipping Indian tea one recent evening in a small hotel in Tura. "I believe 100 per cent there is something. I will not say it is Mande Burung because we have not found it. But as long as there is no proof we will keep looking."

Mr Marak, who says he is a documentary filmmaker, unrolls a map of the Garo Hills. To the south lies the border with Bangladesh and to the west runs the broad Brahmaputra river. Most of the alleged sightings have taken place in the state's Nokrek Biosphere Reserve and the Balpakram National Park, but Mr Marak reaches

over the map and points to a place close to the border with Assam. In the past few days they have learnt of a possible sighting in a remote village there. Tomorrow, at first light, his team is going to investigate and there is a spare seat in the truck.

The road through the Garo Hills twists its way past scenery painted a million hues of green. Coconut palms, banana trees and towering teaks line the narrow road. It seems as though the entire landscape has somehow overdosed on chlorophyll.

After two hours, where the road reaches Assam, there are paler shades as the hills give way to terraces of paddy fields. Women, bent double, work planting rice while men walk behind ploughs pulled by oxen. We pass young girls cycling with umbrellas held up against the blistering sun.

The half-dozen yeti-hunters are a friendly bunch. There is a policeman, a couple of teachers and a few younger men without jobs. They have all grown up hearing their grandparents tell stories of the Mande Burung and are passionate about discovering whether there could be any truth to them. "Everybody in Garo Hills believes in this creature," explained Galbraith Sangma, the policeman. He draws a distinction between the region's folklore and the reports of the creature living in the jungle. "There are many stories in our myths about elves or whatever, but the Mande Burung is not part of that folklore," he said.

The team members roll off a list of sightings. In 2003, Nelbison Sangma, a local hunter, said he had watched the Mande Burung from across a valley for three consecutive days. In 2005, at a village called Rongri, the creature was said to have entered a hut occupied by a widower and her young child. The creature had stamped out the fire and sat down but had not harmed the woman, who was too terrified to run. Another man told them how, as a boy, he had seen the severed hairy red arm of an unknown creature for sale in a remote market.

Today, the team is in search of a teacher in a remote village who – word had it – saw a creature matching the description of the Mande Burung in late May. After driving for three hours, we turn off the main road and head back into the mountains.

Ten miles later the road becomes increasingly difficult. Monsoon rains have created heavy mud and the boulders on the road seem impassable but we bump and barrel our way uphill in the lowest gear, the truck's engine roaring.

The track ends at a village called Tingba, set in a valley of rice paddies cut through by a briskly flowing river. Two team members set off to speak to the headman. When they return, they say the person we are looking for lived in another village, several hours away, but that there is a man in Tingba whose son had seen the creature.

Continued On Next Page >>

<< Continued From Last Page \*

## THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY  
London, England  
August 11, 2008

We find Mohin Sangma and his son, Tengsim Marak, on the far side of the river. Mr Sangma is wearing little more than a loin cloth and his frame is small and wiry, his body not betraying a spare ounce of fat. The pair lead the way the way through the jungle, hot and humid and filled with blood-sucking leaches, cutting back the foliage with a machete. After 20 lung-bursting minutes they stop at a cleft set in the hillside. One team member sets up a video camera and films as Tengsim recalls what he had seen.

"The creature was on the rock. He was playing with a stone, hitting it against the rock. It was black," he said. "It was just a few seconds [that I saw it]. I was very scared."

Having initially been excited, the team now appears a little sceptical. Given the space in the cave, the creature would have had to have been quite small. Also, all the previous reported sightings of the Mande Burung suggested it was red, not black. The creature that the young boy said he had seen sounded more like the Asiatic black bear, known to live in the jungle. Some of the team climb down into the cave to search for clues. There is no shortage of spiders and bats but no evidence of anything else, be it a bear or something more remarkable.

Again led by the boy and his father, the team walk back to the village. The yeti-hunters are obviously disappointed but not down-hearted. One senses that much of their time is spent chasing shadows.

"We have to check out all the reports," said Pimpto Marak. "We are not going to give up until we find it."

It is getting dark by the time we reach the truck and soon the forest is enveloped in blackness. Occasionally we pass a village set amid the trees, hidden but for a glimmer of light from a cooking fire. As the truck bumps its way out of the jungle, back towards the world of electricity and paved roads, I ponder on the team's unlikely pursuit. It is a thrill to think there are still parts of the world where a large, previously undiscovered mammal might conceivably exist but surely it is a leap of faith to think there is more to the stories than just legend.

And then I remember something Dipu Marak had said the night before. I had asked whether there was something within the human psyche that found a need to believe in yeti-like creatures. After all, such legends existed in almost all indigenous communities of the world. "They can't all be right," I'd suggested. "No," he had replied, "but they can't all be wrong."

## THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY  
London, England  
July 27, 2008

### Bigfoot: New evidence

Hairs found in Indian jungle are of 'no known species' say scientists

It is right up there with the Loch Ness monster: the subject of claimed sightings, passionately promoted by believers, dismissed by the scientific community. But now experts say they have found the best evidence to date that the yeti might – just conceivably – be real.

Tests at Oxford Brookes University on hairs which local people believe came from a yeti in an Indian jungle have failed to link them with any known species and are said to bear "a startling resemblance" to those brought back from the Himalayas by Sir Edmund Hillary half a century ago.

Ape expert Ian Redmond, who is co-ordinating the research, said: "The hairs are the most positive evidence yet that a yeti might possibly exist, because they are tangible. We are very excited about the preliminary results, although more tests need to be done."

The two short hairs – 33mm and 44mm long – were picked up in thick forest in the Garo hills in the mountains of north-east India five years ago after a forester reported seeing a yeti – locally known as mande barung, or "forest man" – for three days in a row breaking branches off trees and eating their sap.

After being brought to Britain, the hairs were magnified up to 200 times, and one of them was cast in varnish to make a better two-dimensional image. They were then compared with hairs from animals known to live in the hills. "We fully expected them to come from a known animal," said Mr Redmond. "We failed to find that. So the mystery remains and we go on to the next stage of investigation."

The hairs will now be examined under an even more powerful microscope and sent to two different laboratories – in Oxford and Cardiff – for DNA testing. Follicles containing cells remain on the base of the hairs, said Mr Redmond, "so there is every chance that we will be able to get even closer to the truth".

If DNA analysis cannot identify the creature, it should be able to work out what it is related to, he explained. "It could easily be an unknown primate, even if it is not a yeti."

People in the Garo Hills believe that the yeti exists, and there have been repeated reported sightings of the creatures and their footprints, including by such famous mountaineers as Lord Hunt, who led the Everest expedition.

## The Huddersfield Daily Examiner

THE HUDDERSFIELD DAILY EXAMINER  
Huddersfield, England  
July 8, 2008

By Sam Casey

### Have holidaymakers captured Nessie?



IT'S a legend that has intrigued people for decades.

Now Huddersfield holidaymakers are convinced they have captured the Loch Ness Monster on camera.

David Garside and his dad, Graham, of Glenside Road, Slaithwaite, were on holiday in Scotland in April when they believe the creature appeared to them.

During a tourist boat trip on the loch, David spotted something strange in the distance, so zoomed in with his video camera to get a better look.

David, 31, said: "I couldn't really see what it was but I thought it looked sort of like a crocodile's back or something.

"I was videotaping the boat tour though, so I used my zoom lens to get a closer look and luckily I caught it on camera."

Graham, who lives with his son at Glenside Road, Slaithwaite, added: "When we got off the boat, David told me he had seen the Loch Ness Monster and I told him to keep quiet or he'd get locked up.

"It wasn't until a couple of weeks later when I was having a pint and he showed me it and I could see it was real. I was a sceptic before, but I

believe it now. I told a few people, including the holiday company we went on holiday with, but some clerk I spoke to probably thought I was mad so it didn't get any further."

The video was unearthed by Sony Pictures Entertainment.

The company was in Scotland to stage a projection of the Loch Ness Monster to publicise a new DVD, *The Waterhorse: Legend of the Deep*.

Scientific studies have been conducted in a bid to detect the presence of the monster, but no hard evidence of its existence has been revealed.

Many believe the size of the loch – 21 square miles and 800ft deep – together with potential underwater caves, give the monster many places to hide.



# Fur Real? Pair Say They Have Bigfoot

*Body Reportedly  
Found in Georgia*

By ASHLEY SURDIN  
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 15 — Bigfoot has been found in the Georgia woods and is being held in a cooler at an undisclosed location.

So say two self-proclaimed Bigfoot trackers, Matthew Whitton and Rick Dyer, who held a news conference in Palo Alto on Friday to publicize their claim of having found the elusive Sasquatch, or at least the body of one, in the northern part of the Peach State. The exact location is being kept secret, they said, to protect other Bigfoots still wandering there.

The public was excluded from the conference, but a picture of the supposed 500-plus-pound dead biped was posted online at on [www.searchingforbigfoot.com](http://www.searchingforbigfoot.com), looking like a mangy mound of fur, entrails and the pinched face of a close cousin to "Star Wars' Chewbacca — all crammed into a water-filled icebox. A second photo showed the proud captors, and Tom Biscardi, a fellow Bigfoot hunter and owner of the Web site, posed next to the wet heap of fuzz.

Some Bigfoot enthusiasts were less than convinced.

"It looks like a costume, a water-logged costume that's been stuffed into a freezer," said Jeff Meldrum, an associate professor of anatomy and anthropology at Idaho State University, and one of the few PhDs conducting Bigfoot field work. "It just doesn't have the hallmark of a real corpse."

The Web site said the male, flat-footed man-ape, christened Rickmat in honor of its locaters, measures 7 feet, 7 inches tall, bears reddish hair, blackish-grey eyes and humanlike teeth.

Claims of finding Bigfoot have been legion; zealous pursuers have



PHOTOS BY BEN MARGOT — ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Bigfoot hunter Tom Biscardi, center, distributes photos of what he says are both a deceased and a living Bigfoot.**

girdled the globe in search of the legendary creature. But interest piqued again several weeks ago when Whitton and Dyer went on an Internet-based radio show, the "Sasquatch Detective," to make their announcement.

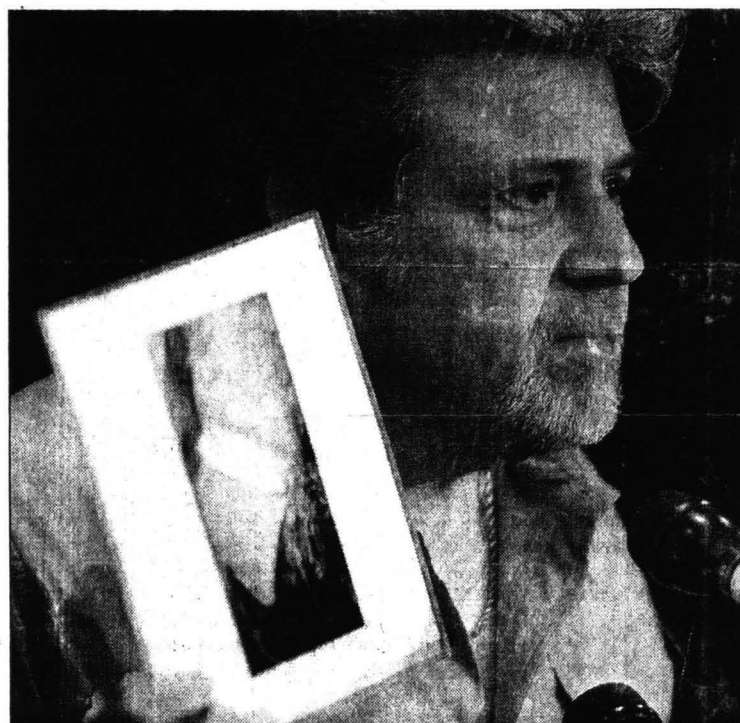
The two later chose Biscardi, who says he has been searching for the creature since 1971 and is known in some circles as "the real Bigfoot hunter," to verify their find.

But Meldrum said the choice of Biscardi did little to bolster their credibility. Biscardi once said he found a severed hand from a likely Bigfoot, said Meldrum, who studied the artifact himself and concluded it was an old bear paw.

"He has a history of lack of reputability," Meldrum said.

Whitton and Dyer said a team of scientists is purportedly being dispatched to Georgia over the next few months to pursue the matter. Meantime, Biscardi and his team are making plans to capture a second creature alive, the Web site said.

Whitton is a Georgia police officer on administrative leave after being wounded on duty. Dyer is a former correctional officer. The two co-own [www.bigfoottracker.com](http://www.bigfoottracker.com) and Bigfoot Global LLC, which offers Bigfoot expeditions.



**At a news conference in Palo Alto, Calif., Biscardi holds a photo showing what he says is the mouth of a dead Bigfoot, or Sasquatch.**

At the news conference, a throng of media representatives swarmed as Biscardi handed out two new photos: a grainy outline of a creature standing in the forest; and a close-up of an ape-like muzzle, one lip drawn back to reveal a row of teeth. A bloated tongue hung between them.

The trio of trackers also handed out what they said was DNA evidence from an expert, who found three matches: indeterminate, human — and possum.

Asked how much the men hoped to make from the discovery, Biscardi

di said, "As much as possible."

According to the Web site of the Bigfoot Discovery Museum in Felton, Calif., there is a discernible difference between "fake hairy" and "genuine" bipeds. Among the telltale signs of fakery: "knees lock and feet flap when walking," "ankles too dainty" and "buttocks too tiny." The real thing has "extra thick" calluses on its feet, "very large jaws" and "bad body odor when afraid or provoked."

It was unclear how many of those characteristics Rickmat might possess.

*Special correspondent Paul McHugh in Palo Alto contributed to this report.*

WASHINGTON POST  
Washington, D.C.  
August 16, 2008

NEWS  
Red Bluff, California  
August 16, 2008



**Bigfoot DNA  
proves hairy  
corpse is the  
real beast**

ATLANTA (AP) — Two men claim they've bagged Bigfoot, and they say the hairy corpse of the legendary creature stored away in a freezer. Matt Whitton and Rick Dyer say they stumbled across the corpse in the woods of northern Georgia, across the country from the remote regions of the Northwest where people usually claim to see the man-ape.

Still, the Georgia men say DNA will prove once and for all that the frozen creature is Sasquatch. They plan to present DNA test results and photographs during a news conference Friday in Palo Alto, Calif.

They're not winning over any skeptics, though.

"What I've seen so far is not compelling in the least, and I think the pictures cast grave doubts on their claim," Jeffrey Meldrum, a Bigfoot researcher and Idaho State University professor, told the Scientific American. "It just looks like a costume with some fake guts thrown on top for effect."

Meldrum said the DNA test likely won't prove anything and, at best, might yield a gene sequence that doesn't match any other known primates.

# Two Georgians Say They Have Bigfoot's Body

By JESSE MCKINLEY

SAN FRANCISCO — In the hairy and hoax-filled history of Bigfoot, those who believe in the mythical beast have offered up all manner of evidence, from grainy photos to hoarse recordings to tracks of those aforementioned feet.

But on Friday at a hotel in Palo Alto, Calif., a pair of Bigfoot hunters say they will present what they contend is the most definitive proof yet of an animal that science says does not exist: DNA evidence and photographs of a dead specimen they say they found in a remote swath of woods in northern Georgia.

"It was very frightening at first," said Rick Dyer, 31, a former corrections officer who now — coincidentally — runs a business that offers Bigfoot tours. "And it got even more frightening when you saw the others."

Indeed, Mr. Dyer said he and his partner, Matthew Whitton, saw three more of the beasts nearby as they dragged the body of said creature out of the woods. Moreover, Mr. Dyer says he has video clips and photographs to prove it.

One photograph provided to the news media showed what resembled a gorilla — or maybe an old sheepskin rug — lying twisted in a freezer, with a dollop of intestines protruding from its belly.

"There's a lot of comment being made that it looks fake, or it looks like a suit," Mr. Dyer said. "But these people wasn't there when I was sweating, pulling this thing through the



PHOTOGRAPHS BY BIGFOOT GLOBAL

Two Bigfoot hunters, Matthew Whitton and Rick Dyer, say they have the carcass of the creature, top. From left, Mr. Whitton; Tom Biscardi, a Bigfoot booster; and Mr. Dyer.

woods."

Tom Biscardi, a longtime Bigfoot booster who traveled to Georgia to see the animal, said he was "150 percent" sure that the carcass was a Bigfoot, an American Indian legend whose modern fame dates to an elaborate "footprint" hoax perpetrated at a Northern California logging camp in 1958.

"This is 'Eureka!' man," said Mr. Biscardi, whose operations include a Bigfoot Web site, a Bigfoot merchandise line and a Bigfoot Internet radio show. "I

touching it."

Both Mr. Biscardi and Mr. Dyer said they expected skeptics to discount the find, which is being kept in a freezer in an undisclosed location outside Atlanta. But they promise even more proof, including video, a DNA test and, of course, a mission to capture one of the big guys.

"I'm not asking anyone to believe us," Mr. Dyer said. "I'm just asking them to sit and watch, because you're going to eat your words."

NEW YORK TIMES  
New York, New York  
August 15, 2008

DAILY DEMOCRAT  
Woodland, California  
August 20, 2008

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### 'Bigfoot' just a rubber gorilla suit

ATLANTA — Turns out Bigfoot was just a rubber suit.

Two researchers on a quest to prove the existence of Bigfoot say that the carcass encased in a block of ice — handed over to them for an undisclosed sum by two men who claimed to have found it — were slowly thawed out, and discovered to be a rubber gorilla outfit.

The revelation comes just days after a much ballyhooed news conference was held in

California to proclaim that the remains of the creature were found in the North Georgia mountains was the legendary man-ape.

Steve Kulls, executive director of squatchdetective.com and host of Squatchdetective Radio, says in a posting on a Web site run by Bigfoot researcher Tom Biscardi that as the "evidence" was thawed, the claim began to unravel as a giant hoax.

TRI-VALLEY HERALD  
Pleasanton, California  
August 20, 2008

# 'Bigfoot carcass' actually a rubber suit

■ Researchers thaw  
purported sasquatch out  
of block of ice

By Juanita Cousins

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turns out Bigfoot was just a rubber suit.

Two researchers on a quest to prove the existence of Bigfoot say the carcass encased in a block of ice — handed over to them for an undisclosed sum by two men who claimed to have found it — was slowly thawed out, and discovered to be a rubber gorilla outfit.

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First, the hair sample was burned and "melted into a



BEN MARGOT/ASSOCIATED PRESS

REPORTERS ATTEND a news conference Friday in Palo Alto announcing a claim that a deceased Bigfoot was found in a Georgia forest. The claim has been proven a hoax.

ball uncharacteristic of hair," Kulls said in the posting.

The thawing process was sped up and the exposed head was found to be "unusually hollow in one small section." An hour of thawing later and the feet were exposed — and they were found to be made of rubber.

Matt Whitton, an officer who has been on medical leave from the Clayton County

Police Department, and Rick Dyer, a former Georgia corrections officer, announced the find in early July on YouTube videos and a Web site.

"Everyone who has talked down to us is going to eat their words," Whitton said at the time.

Phone calls to Whitton and Dyer went unreturned on Tuesday. But the voicemail recording for their Bigfoot Tip



BIGFOOT GLOBAL LLC

THE "BIGFOOT REMAINS" shown in this photo Friday turned out to be fake.

Line — which proclaims they search for leprechauns and the Loch Ness monster — has been updated and announcing they're also in search of "big cats and dinosaurs. If you see any of those, give us a call."

On Tuesday, Clayton County Police Chief Jeff Turner said he has not spoken to Whitton but processed paperwork to fire him.

"Once he perpetrated a fraud, that goes into his credibility and integrity," Turner said. "He has violated the duty of a police officer."