

# UFO

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## After 32 years, UFO sleuth still has no answers

### Space engineer sticks to scientific approach

By **Martys Duran**  
News Staff Writer

John Schuessler was working as an aerospace engineer in 1967 when he took on a puzzle he thought he could quickly solve.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY** Two astronauts reported seeing lights pass by their spacecraft.

"But there was not supposed to be anything going by the spacecraft. That's what intrigued me," Schuessler said.

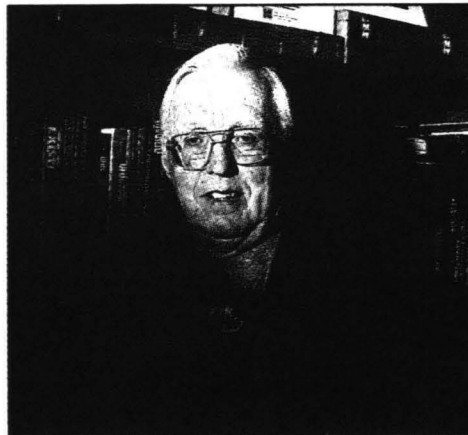
No one ever figured out what the astronauts saw. And countless

claimed sightings of UFOs since then have gone unexplained.

"I figured that working in engineering, I could go into it and come up with an answer in six months or so," he said. "Well, all those years I never came up with an answer, but I've got tons of data."

In fact, after 32 years of investigating reports of unidentified flying objects, Schuessler still doesn't know whether alien space ships are visiting Earth.

He does believe, however, that people who report credible UFO sightings shouldn't be laughed out of town.



John Schuessler, chairman of the UFO Research Coalition, says says credible UFO reports should be taken seriously.

Ken Papaleo/News Staff Photographer

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, Denver, CO  
July 11, 1999 CR: C. Carpenter

SKAMANIA CO. PIONEER, Stevenson, WA - June 2, 1999

## Eye of the storm...

By **Joanna Grammon**

It's one of the more bizarre incidents to be reported in a county that's seen its share of Bigfoot sightings and other arcane events.

The National UFO Reporting Center received a phone call March 1 on its hotline that's worthy of an "X Files" episode. I heard part of the taped call through the miracle of modern technology by downloading it from a website, [www.nwlink.com/~ufocntr](http://www.nwlink.com/~ufocntr)

The person on the line was a rational-sounding male who identified himself as a forestry employee. The incident supposedly happened February 25 in the vicinity of Mount St. Helens. A tree planting crew of 14 on that date reportedly witnessed a UFO pick up an elk from the ground and carry it away.

Peter Davenport of the UFO center and Robert Fairfax of the Mutual UFO Network interviewed three of the 14 witnesses. They also looked over the terrain and the carcass of a pregnant cow found dead on a nearby logging road.

This is what the tree planters reported:

Three of the planters saw a small disc-shaped object as it came over a ridge to the south and descended into a valley. At first they thought it was a parachute, but they quickly realized that wasn't the case, so they called to the other 11 workers, who watched it for at least three minutes.

The object came over a herd of elk and descended toward the animals. Some bolted, and it moved directly over a lone elk, then lifted it up with no visible means of support. The craft wobbled as it increased altitude and the elk, suspended, was seen rotating slowly beneath the craft.

The elk still suspended in mid-air, (theme from Rod Serling here), the craft brushed the treetops, then reversed itself as it made a 360-degree turn to gain altitude. It then began ascending at a steep angle. Somehow as it ascended, the elk was taken into the craft, although no door was visible. After a sharp ascent, the craft simply disappeared. There is a photo on the website, with circles and arrows showing the path of the craft, and an elk grazing in the clearcut.

A report found at [www.sightings.com/ufo2/elk](http://www.sightings.com/ufo2/elk) said: "The witnesses also stated that following the incident, the herd of elk remained in the same general area, although (they) remained more closely huddled to one another than had been the case earlier in the morning. The workers added that they, too, had remained closer to one another until their departure from the area at the end of the day."

Coincidentally, around the time this report finally got to me, around the end of April or the beginning of May, a Stevenson woman called to report th. It had pulsing, flashing lights in red, yellow, blue and white, and hovered over Bonneville Dam nightly for almost a month, she said, moving up and down and side to side in the sky really fast. "It was definitely not a plane," she said, "and it was not Mars."

To quote from "Hamlet," Act 1 Scene 5, Horatio says, "Oh day and night, this is wondrous strange," and Hamlet replies, "And as a stranger, give it welcome. There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

"When people have a serious UFO encounter, they need help, not mockery," said Schuessler.

Schuessler brings impressive credentials to UFO investigations. He headed the McDonnell Douglas team that built the life-support systems for the Gemini spacecraft and the Skylab space station. At the Johnson Space Center in Houston, he helped train astronauts as project managers for space shuttle flight operations.

He was awarded NASA's public service medal for designing and building NASA's Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory, a 6 million gallon pool where astronauts learn how to work in zero gravity.

Robert Pratt, a Florida reporter who wrote the foreword in Schuessler's book, *The Cash-Landrum UFO Incident*, described him as "one of the few really serious, intelligent, qualified people in the UFO business. He doesn't leap to conclusions. He doesn't speculate and accept it as truth."

Schuessler is "very level-headed, very knowledgeable. He's more cautious than most people about things," said Michael Curta, Colorado director for the Mutual UFO Network Inc., an international organization that probes UFO incidents.

After he retired in May 1998, Schuessler and his wife, Kathy, settled in a new home in south Jefferson County to be near their daughter and a grandchild. Their home bears witness to the space career and UFO passion that have consumed more than half of Schuessler's life: posters, photographs, 1,200 or so books, several shelves filled with space-related toys.

His favorite space movie? *Men In Black*. "I loved it."

Schuessler, 66, is deputy director of the Mutual UFO Network Inc. Last month, he was elected chairman of the UFO Research Coalition, comprising MUFON, the Chicago-based Center for UFO Studies and the Fund for UFO Research in Washington, D.C.

In the basement of Schuessler's home are file cabinets crammed with data from his investigations, including a 1980 encounter that left two Texas women and a young boy with radiation injuries. He detailed that case in his book, which he self-published last year.

The book documents the story of a diamond-shaped object, chased by military helicopters, that hovered in front of Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and her grandson, Colby Landrum, on a deserted Texas road

in December 1980. Cash, who died last December in Alabama, suffered disabling injuries that doctors attributed to radiation.

"We don't know what it was," said Schuessler, who led the MUFON

investigative team. "We went to every government installation around. We talked to every major agency in the government. No one would claim it, and no one would claim the helicopters. They would just pretend like it didn't happen."

Schuessler is not convinced the object was from space. "I keep hoping it's some kind of a secret government device and some day we'll find out. But if you look at the technology in 1980, we couldn't fly anything like that."

Meanwhile, Schuessler continues to probe for UFOs with an open mind. "I would be totally happy with a terrestrial explanation for this," he said. "Or, I would be happy with an extraterrestrial explanation. I would like to see an answer, though."

**"I would be totally happy with a terrestrial explanation for this. Or, I would be happy with an extraterrestrial explanation. I would like to see an answer, though."**

— John Schuessler

# OUT OF THIS WORLD

## Area 51 cards lure customers with ingratiating aliens

By Greg Cheeseman  
Review-Journal

The mention of Nevada's Area 51 invokes images of sinister military conspiracies and mysterious, probing aliens, but Robert and Margaret Kolar prefer to look at the lighter side of the classified patch of desert.

The U.S. government refuses to acknowledge the existence of the flight testing facility in central Nevada, but conspiracy theorists claim it plays a key role in keeping otherworldly encounters secret.

So a husband-and-wife graphic design team has created a line of greeting cards that features humorous images of aliens and their spaceships. One card shows a grinning extraterrestrial mowing crop circles in a corn field. Another promotes the fictional Area 51 Hotel-Casino — Motto: "Play the loosest slots in the universe."

Of all the possible subjects for greeting cards, Area 51 was a natural, according to Margaret Kolar.

"Living in Southern Nevada, we're always hearing the stories coming from Area 51. That sort of caught our interest."

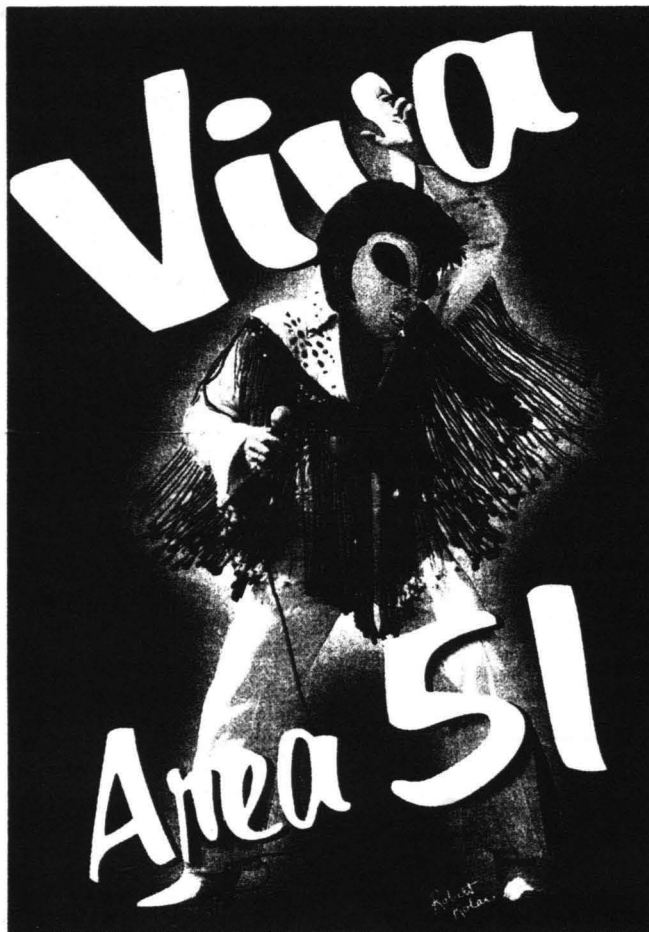
Robert Kolar, who does the artwork, said he was inspired by an investigative television news report on Area 51, a nickname for the Air Force facility the government declines to say exists at Groom Lake.

Subsequent public discussion seemed to be centered on the possibility of an alien invasion or a massive government cover-up, but he saw other possibilities.

"I like to put things in tongue in cheek. I like to make people laugh."

The Kolars gained some inspiration for the cards during the 105-mile drive north to Rachel, not far from Area 51. They were traveling on what has been designated by tourism officials as the Extraterrestrial Highway when they got the idea for a card with a bright yellow road sign marking a UFO crossing.

The couple's Boulder City-based Kolar Design



Courtesy Kolar Design Studio



Graphic artists Robert and Margaret Kolar have fashioned a line of greeting cards poking fun at Area 51, a patch of desert conspiracy theorists claim is home to a top-secret military base. Theorists believe the base, which the government denies exists, plays a key role in keeping otherworldly encounters secret. Therefore, the Kolars' cards feature humorous images of alien spaceships, above, and Las Vegas' official outer space icon, Alien Elvis.

Studio was busy doing work for Las Vegas casinos and other clients when it launched its line of Area 51 cards last year. Several hotels had commissioned the studio to create unique cards for their properties, and the Kolars decided to create their own line.

"We just thought the timing was right and it was sort of a fun thing," said Margaret Kolar.

The Kolars displayed their \$2.50 apiece cards last month at the National Stationery Show in New York. Their cards were honored as one of the best new products among 1,400 exhibitors.

She said the timing was right

for alien-themed cards because of the popularity of the "Star Trek" and "Star Wars" movies and the "X-Files" television show. People were more apt to imagine aliens involved in wacky hi-jinks than gruesome medical experimentation.

"The whole subject is kind of intriguing but also fun. It was time to have some fun with it."

The cards can be found in a variety of stores in the United States and the Kolars have received reports of their popularity in places as far away as Great Britain and Sweden.

Robert Kolar attributes the success of the cards to the mind

set of customers.

"The thing people like about the aliens and Area 51 is they are able to use their imagination."

Lynn Stanford, manager of the Bonanza World's Largest Gift Shop on the Strip, said the store's Area 51 cards are second in popularity only to Las Vegas-themed cards.

"Anything that pertains to Area 51 or little green guys is popular," she said.

Stanford said customer interest in Area 51 remains strong.

"A lot of them are a little surprised to see (Area 51 novelties) then they laugh hysterically

when they see it. Some of them don't realize how close it is to Las Vegas and want to be told how to get there."

Kolar Design Studio has expanded its business by launching a Web site ([www.popart.com](http://www.popart.com)) and offering e-mail versions of its cards.

CONNECTICUT POST, Bridgeport, CT - May 16, 1999 CR: G. Mangiacopra

## Mysterious 'flying saucers' sighted

*This story ran in the July 7, 1947 Bridgeport Post. The first flying saucer reports came from Washington State on June 25 and they spread mysteriously around the country.*

Surprising no one particularly the "flying saucer" reported to be cavorting over most of the 48 states during recent days have finally turned up in Connecticut, with Stratford and West Hartford residents listed as observers.

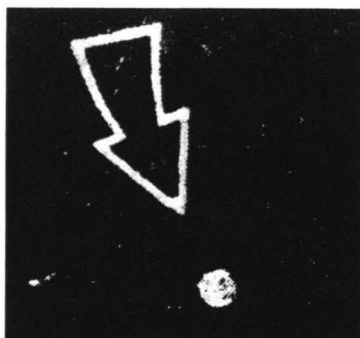
Elmer Holloway, 355 Highland avenue, Stratford and John Sleckenstein, 35 Griffin street, Stratford, reported seeing a "saucer-like" object in the sky between 10 and 11 p.m. Saturday.

Mr. Holloway said that he and his wife and their daughter and son saw a "luminous oval object" which moved in a semi-circle and that he called neighbors for verification. The "disc" was described as "larger than the moon appears."

Mr. Sleckenstein said the "saucer" he saw "seemed to be spinning in the air."

After reading the accounts of the Stratford "saucers" in this morning's Telegram, Robert D. Sharpe, 7 Briar court, Stratford, offered what he believed to be an explanation.

Mr. Sharpe said that he was sitting on the



**A flying disc?** Coast guardsman Frank Ryman reported he photographed this mysterious "flying disc" near Seattle. People all over the country — including two Stratford residents reported seeing the unidentified flying objects.

rocks on Lordship beach with his wife about 10:30 p.m. Saturday and watched for about a half-hour as the beam of the Lordship light was reflected by a slight overcast over the Sound.

In another part the state John Rose, of West Hartford, said today that his six-year-old daughter, Louisa, had spotted a "flying saucer" last night and that he and his wife had viewed it. Mr. Rose said, "it fitted newspaper descriptions perfectly" and was traveling east at "terrific speed."

In New Haven, Jack Tweed, manager of the Elm City's municipal airport, suggested that the beams of revolving airplane beacons, some of which flash rapidly across the sky, may cause the "flying saucers."

A beam of light resting on a cloud, Mr. Tweed pointed out, causes a disc-like reflection.

Prof. Dirk Brouwer, Yale University astronomer, said today that the phenomena may be part of a meteor shower.

Another explanation for the "saucers" came from Branford and Cheshire where luminous spots zipping through the sky were found to be caused by carnival search lights playing on clouds.

"People are just getting saucer-happy," said a Branford official.

A Cheshire Boy Scout, checking up with binoculars, sputtered: "If that's what they're seeing all over the country, we'd better forget the whole thing."



# Buddies hit the road in hopes of finding proof of UFOs

By Judy Baca  
Times Herald Staff

NORRISTOWN — It's not uncommon for a couple of recent college grads to take off on a "break-free" trip once the cap and gown have been packed away but before settling in to life in the "real world."

However, Matt Holm and Jonathan Follett decided to make their summer vacation a five-week working trip in 1996. The result of that working trip is the book, "Gray Highway: An American UFO Journey," which was released by the duo's own publishing company, Toadspittle Hill Productions of New York, last December.

Best friends since their days as students at Methacton High School, the two former Audubon residents decided to explore their interest in the UFO phenomenon after other friends who had planned to vacation with them opted out of the trip.

Now a resident of New York, where he is an associate editor in the Copy and Features Department at Country Living magazine, Holm was in the area recently on a trip to visit his family. "I'd always been interested in space and science fiction," he noted, "so I did most of the preliminary work. I've always felt there has to be other life out there and I had heard a little about abductions, but I wasn't so sure about that."

Intrigued by the September 19, 1961 story of the alien abduction of Barney and Betty Hill in New Hampshire, Holm drove his Penn State roommate, Joe Koon, to New York to visit Jon Follett, by

way of New Hampshire, during the winter of 1996.

And, although they were followed by a mysterious car, which seemed to turn off where there was nowhere to turn without pitching down the side of a cliff, and although they had a close encounter with a female moose in the middle of the road, the two did not meet up with any UFOs or aliens along the same route the Hills had driven.

However, the experience and Holms' telling of it to Follett only enhanced their expectations for their upcoming trip to the locations of other UFO sightings.

On May 26, 1996, the two drove into Gulf Breeze, Fla., the first stop on their journey.

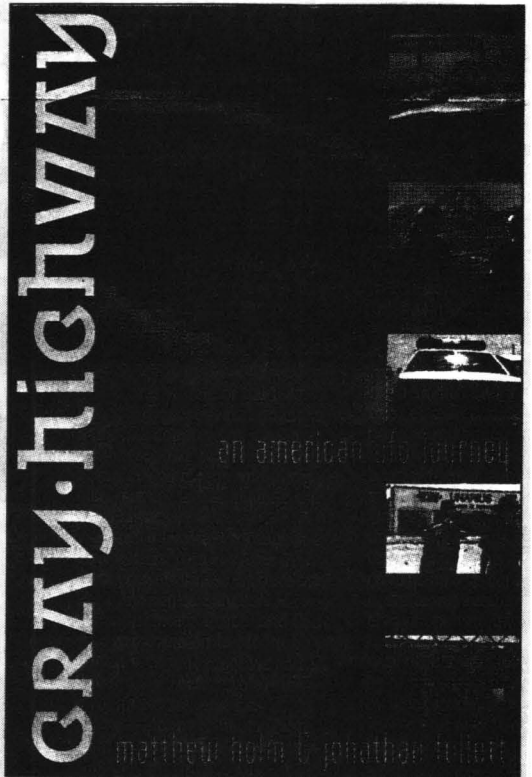
They had plans to meet Bruce and Ann Morrison of the Gulf Breeze Skywatch, a group which, thanks to pictures taken by Ed Walters, have some of the best-documented UFO sightings.

Some of Walters' pictures have been taken with a special sealed camera designed by the private investigative UFO group, MUFON (Mutual UFO Network). He has taken 40 photographs, as well as a 1-minute, 38-second videotape of a UFO, which have stood up under all investigation.

They found that the Morrisons had spent nearly every night from 1990 to 1992 on the Gulf Breeze beach and Bruce Morrison "is nonplussed by his 285 sightings, lacking even the enthusiasm and wonder of a veteran birdwatcher." The Morrisons and the rest of the group reported that the "aliens" have been quiet lately and, when a Skywatch

"A high percentage of the people we met are whackos or just publicity-seeking people who don't seem to care what the subject is, but the whackos seem to be some of the most sincere people. They really are convinced something happened to them. We also met rational people on both sides."

Matt Holm  
Author



Methacton High School graduates Matthew Holm and Jonathan Follett detail their search for true UFO encounters in their new book, "Gray Highway: An American UFO Journey."

hanger-on, whom Holm and Follett refer to as "Twinklehead," wandered in to get his share of the writers' attention, the Morrisons soon left the beach.

The two passed through Pascagoula, Miss., the site of two 1973 fishermen abductions from a shipyard dock. They found the dock but little else and decided the aliens could not have picked a more boring spot to visit.

It was in Murfreesboro, Tenn., that Holm and Follett found what they describe as their most creditable witness.

Leah Haley and her husband, Marc Davenport, run a catalog bookselling operation and publishing house specializing in paranormal titles. Haley has an MBA and was working as a certified public accountant and teaching college-level accounting courses when she began to uncover her history of alien

abduction.

The revelations eventually caused her to lose her job, get divorced and then marry Davenport, an author, UFO researcher and former engineer. Because of her own experiences as a child, Haley wrote a children's book, "Ceto's New Friends," as a primer for young abductees because, she said, "If you're educated about the existence of something, you're not going to be as afraid as if you have some kind of experience when you know absolutely nothing about it."

"Our meeting with Leah and Marc was very strange," Holm conceded, "but I have to think she did experience something. She's an intelligent woman and she's lost so much. I can't see why she would pursue getting out the in-

NEWS, Dunsmuir, CA - June 16, 1999

## UFOs and ETs discussed

Dr. Steven M. Greer, considered by some to be the world's foremost authority on the subject of extraterrestrial intelligence, will be at the Mount Shasta City Park for a workshop and lecture on June 25th and 26th.

The Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence is hosting the workshop, entitled "Extraterrestrial Intelligence: The Evidence and Implications."

Greer, the founder and international director of CSETI will give a lecture on June 26th, from 7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. Cost is \$5, cash.

A workshop will follow on June 26th, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is \$40, cash.

An emergency room physician, Greer has led research teams throughout the world, investigating the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence, and claims to have successfully established preliminary contact and communication with extraterrestrial spacecraft at close range, according to information provided by Virginia Delwiche of Mount Shasta, the regional organizer for CSETI.

Greer has provided briefings on the subject of extraterrestrial intelligence and so-called UFOs to sitting CIA Director James Woolsey, senior White House officials, numerous

members of Congress, the UN Secretary General, senior US Joint Chiefs of Staff, and various international leaders.

Some of the information he will share in Mount Shasta has been discussed with top US and European government and military officials.

In his lecture, Greer will discuss extraterrestrial intelligence evidence and how he believes its release will impact economics, science, religion and the environment.

He will outline what he told the CIA Director and other senior officials in our government. He will discuss what the evidence is relating to extraterrestrial intelligence, what the implications are of disclosing the truth as he sees it, why he believes extraterrestrials are here and how we should view the matter and how he feels we might safely create open relations with non-human intelligent species.

"The lecture is designed to give us an understanding of the nature of extraterrestrial's reality," say the organizers of this event, "...their understanding of space, time and consciousness, and the interface developed by them as it relates to computerized communications which bypass the speed of light and the restrictions of space. Experiments conducted by

CSETI research teams and Dr. Greer indicate that ET communications involve technologies which can directly interface with consciousness and thought, and that by doing so, obliterate the vastness of outer space."

At the workshop, Greer will give an in-depth look at the meetings and historic events which he says have recently occurred with various world leaders and will discuss the experimental protocols which he has created for communicating with extraterrestrial spacecraft and life forms. He will also discuss his understanding of the nature of extraterrestrial reality.

The Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence is a 501-C-3 nonprofit corporation dedicated to the furtherance of our understanding of extraterrestrial intelligence.

Call the Visitors Bureau for more information, 926-4865.

formation if she didn't really believe these things had happened to her — and she's not really a publicity seeker. She just wants to educate the public."

Following stops in Memphis and at Graceland in Tennessee, as well as in Bovina, Texas, and New Salem, N.D., the two young men moved on to Roswell, N.M., the infamous site of the July 1947 "UFO crash," one of the least-explained, most secret phenomena this country has ever experienced. The two found the fame of the 1947 incident, and not much else, is what is still keeping the town alive.

The two traveled through the government's secret Area 51; through Bottomless Lakes State Park and White Sands, N.M.; through Meteor Crater and Sedona, Ariz.; and on to Mount Shasta, Landers, Mount Palomar and El Cajon, Calif.; before returning through Rachel and Las Vegas, Nevada; Mount Rainier, Wash.; Sand Dunes State Forest, Minn.; and Dayton, Ohio.

Admitting that "a high percentage of the people we met are whackos or just publicity-seeking people who don't seem to care what the subject is," Holm said, "but the whackos seem to be some of the most sincere people. They really are convinced something happened to them. We also met

rational people on both sides. I am amazed that we pulled it off. Now, having read and learned more about the subject, we would have planned things differently."

Calling by phone from his home in Boston, Follett noted, "As far as validity goes, I think whenever I was fairly skeptical and talked to some of the people we interviewed, I got the feeling that 'something' happened to them. But there is no hard evidence to verify that they have been abducted.

"Ever since Ezekial, there have been wheels in the sky so I think, whether there is something physical happening is hard to say, but there have always been spiritual things happening and that's the conclusion I've come to about there being another world. I'm always open to new ideas."

Holm's agrees that he, too, has not reached a definite conclusion as to whether we've been visited by beings from other worlds.

"I'm still not sure," he said. "I'm the kind of person that needs to see it myself, I suppose."

Holm and Follett are currently completing work on their next book, "Preparing for the Apocalypse" is due out in September.

Copies of "Gray Highway" are available at Barnes & Noble Books in the Plaza at King of Prussia or at amazon.com on the Internet.



Photos by Sean Dougherty/The Washington Times

People attending the International UFO Symposium at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City look over vendors' goods, including videos — and aliens.

# For devout, truth about space aliens is close to home

## Speakers recount being abducted

By Julia Duin  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**B**everly Trout is demure, 70, the daughter of Iowa farmers and — she adds emphatically — a frequent abductee by space aliens.

Mrs. Trout was among the speakers over the weekend at the MUFON '99 International UFO Symposium at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, which drew 400 attendees, many of them scientists and government workers. Also attending were curiosity seekers, New Agers and artists, who filled one room with "abductee art" of creepy scenarios featuring small, gray beings with large heads and limpid, black eyes.

Normally, the Seguin, Texas-based Mutual UFO Network sticks to more provable phenomena, such as the mysterious, huge V-shaped object that floated above Phoenix for 106 minutes on March 13, 1997. Residents flooded police departments and Luke Air Force Base in nearby Glendale with terrified calls.

This year, the MUFON conference ventured into far riskier territory by turning over much of its speaker slots to more radical territory: People who claim to have been kidnapped by aliens.

"This phenomenon is very difficult," admitted MUFON board member Thomas Deuley of San Antonio. MUFON had sidestepped the issue for some time until the number of people calling their office with abductee stories got too numerous. Now "we're in the position of having to deal with it," he said.

Dressed in a dark-colored pantsuit with silvery hair, Mrs. Trout looks more like a denizen of county fairs and rural school board meetings than an abductee of alien spaceships. Mrs. Trout started speaking out about 18 months ago when she realized she had to express the truth as she sees it.

"I was in the line of fire, and I got hit," she says of her abduction experiences that began during her childhood years. "We are being utilized [by aliens]. There is some kind of breeding program under way."

Most distressing, she reports, is the way aliens perceive humans —

much in the same detached way that farmers view a breeding herd of livestock. Speaking last weekend on "Talking Back to Aliens and Humans," she ventures that there is communication between the two species, but that "it's one very dysfunctional relationship."

Sounds like "The X-Files" come to life? The very idea has sparked media reports ranging from Fox TV to PBS' NOVA show. Essentially the scenario is the same: Alien kidnapers snatch unsuspecting people and perform sexual experiments on them in the hopes of creating a hybrid human-alien race.

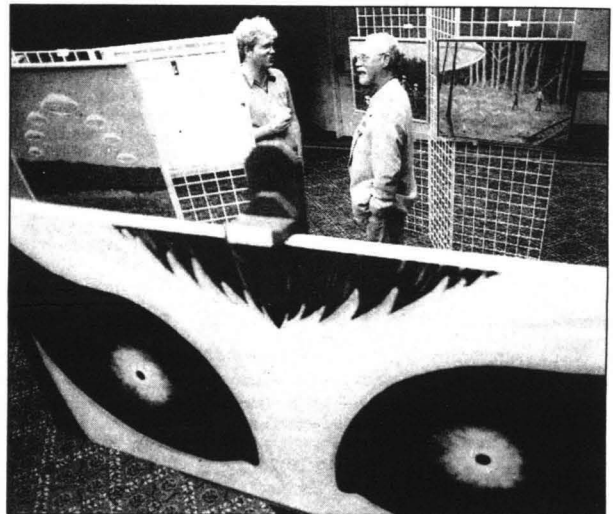
Aliens are apparently multi-generational, too. "Ever since I was a child, I've had encounters," Betty Ann Luca of Hays, Va., said at a press conference. After introducing her daughter, Becky, she said even her grandchildren and great-grandchildren "have had experiences."

The star speaker at the conference was Kelly Cahill of Australia, who kept several hundred people spellbound with her account of a multiwitness "abduction." It occurred early in the morning of Aug. 8, 1993, she said, when six persons in three different cars told authorities of being forced over to the side of a road east of Melbourne, the capital.

After they had gotten out of their cars to investigate what looked like a hovering craft with bright orange lights, they were approached by 7-foot beings, cloaked completely in black with luminous red eyes, she said. Partly because of her Pentecostal background and partly due to the evil feel of the "energy wave" emanating from these creatures, she first thought they were demons.

She said she was knocked to the ground and temporarily blinded. "Let go of me," she overheard her husband saying. Then, she remembers a "sarcastic, beautiful male voice" with no accent informing them that "we are a peaceful people" and telling his companions he would not harm her because, "after all, I am her father."

This frightened her, she said, as her real father was still alive. She remembers little after that, until she and her husband found themselves back in their car. Later, she



Bob Kathman (left) of Baltimore and David Huggins of Hoboken, N.J., tour a room full of "abductee art," including some by Mr. Huggins.

told conferees, she found a triangular cut burned into her abdomen and began experiencing uterine bleeding. People in the other cars, she said, claimed to have been taken into alien ships. Two of them, she said, emerged with strange-shaped slashes on their inner thighs and ankles.

UFO researchers from a nearby university combed the site in hopes of finding some traces of paranormal activity and came up with strange holes about 19½ feet apart burned into the ground, as if a giant tripod had rested there. A soil test revealed an abnormally high concentration of sulfur in the area.

Mrs. Cahill said her religious convictions have radically changed since the incident, as the kind of Christianity she had known had no category for her experience. Conferee organizer Susan Swiatek, an Episcopalian, said abductees, including participants in an "abductee support group" in Centerville, have been shunned by church members.

"Christians need to look at this with new eyes and say it's not all demons and delusions," she said. "It's either real or a new mental illness."

Not everyone attending the conference agreed that "abductees" should have been given time at the podium. Vincent J. Mooney of Fairfax called their tales "a never-never land" of confusion.

"UFO stories are complicated to explain as it is," he said. "The

abduction stories contaminate the effort. They're difficult to prove and difficult to believe."

Physicist Robert Swiatek of Fairfax said there has been plenty of evidence over the past 50 years that "something is going on," but "there is no definitive evidence to civilian UFO researchers that the UFO phenomenon is extraterrestrial in origin. If there were, we wouldn't have to be trying to convince these people there is legitimate phenomena to be studied."

"I don't know where UFOs come from, I don't know what they are, I don't know who or what mans them," he said. "It's my personal opinion it's an extraordinary phenomenon of nonhuman intelligence. . . . I cannot prove it to you definitively."

Budd Hopkins, a UFO investigator living in Manhattan, said: "If something violates physics as we know it . . . somehow it has to be rejected. It's very difficult to get to people who've already made up their minds."

He compared the UFO phenomenon to early accounts out of the Auschwitz concentration camp in 1945. "[Both] were inherently unbelievable. How could they have happened?" he asked. "If you find the material is inherently unbelievable . . . and inherently disturbing, you're not going to get people opening up their minds and allowing their curiosity and their scientific impulses to see what in fact is going on."



# There Goes the Neighborhood!

## UFOs Over Topanga Canyon

By Preston Dennett

Anyone who has lived in Topanga for any amount of time knows it is a strange and magical place. I learned this firsthand in 1987, when several Topanga residents began telling me of bizarre experiences with UFOs. Two years later I sent an article, detailing their stories, to the *Messenger*. The article was published in January 1989, and was the first UFO article ever printed by the *Messenger*.

But it was by no means the last. In July of 1992, Colin Penno (then editor of the *Messenger*) published the article, "UFOs Over Topanga—The Sixth Encounter: They Came Once More." The article described an incredible event which occurred on the night of June 14, 1992. On that night four separate witnesses called the Lost Hills/Malibu Sheriff's Station reporting UFOs over Topanga. One couple said their car was chased by three objects as they drove through the Canyon. Another person said he was tailgated from above by a brightly lit object which cast beams down on his car. Another couple reported that they too were followed by a light, which hovered over their car and lifted it in the air. The final call came from a couple who was awakened by a bright object hovering over their home near the boulevard.

Calls also came into the office of the *Messenger*—one reporting an odd star-like object which darted across the sky, and another reporting blinding beams of light outside the witness's home.

Colin Penno put the accounts together in an article. Shortly after publication the article sent shockwaves through Topanga, and beyond. Several letters were sent to the *Messenger*, some of which were published.

More calls came in, both to the police and the *Messenger*, reporting more UFOs. The article was quoted in both the *Daily News* and the *Los Angeles Times*, and eventually found its way into a mainstream book in England, where the event was listed as one of the most significant UFO encounters of that year.

As more and more calls began to flood the *Messenger* office, Colin recalled my earlier article and referred the calls to me. He said, "You're a UFO investigator. See if you can find out what happened that night."

I agreed, and so began the single most complicated case I have yet investigated. I not only found additional witnesses to the events of June 14, 1992, but I interviewed many other Topanga residents who had seen strange activity in the days and weeks following June 14. I networked with the police station, and they began referring callers to me.

Before long I had interviewed well over a hundred Topanga residents and uncovered dozens of encounters of all types. Topanga, it seemed, was in the middle of a UFO wave of activity. I got calls from longtime residents throughout the Canyon—from the Top O' Topanga trailer park to the top of Fernwood, down Old Canyon Road and up Entrada, and everywhere in-between.

The stories shared with me by Topangans were truly incredible, such as:

- the Entrada family who experienced a metallic craft landing outside their home for three days in a row, on several different occasions;

- the Fernwood family who encountered three disks on their way to the local market, and experienced a period of missing time;

- the Entrada lady who experienced a bedroom visitation by a short entity who temporarily paralyzed the witness, probed her body, clipped off a lock of her hair, and left as mysteriously as it had arrived;

- the Fernwood teacher who was awakened by helicopters hovering over the state park and saw a shiny metallic disk scooting down the Canyon, easily evading the helicopters;

- the couple who was chased down the boulevard by bright glowing objects that moved silently and darted at right angles (I have at least five cases of UFOs chasing cars down the boulevard), and

- the man who saw a fiery red globe of light land next to the boulevard near the video store.

These are only a few of the nearly 100 cases I have uncovered in Topanga Canyon. It wasn't long before news of my investigations spread and, the next thing I knew, I was leading groups of people into the Canyon for the purpose of seeing UFOs. Amazingly, we were successful more than once. On one occasion, the television program "Encounters" filmed a segment in Topanga and actually caught an anomalous light on film! The local KTLA news also did a segment, and "Unsolved Mysteries" expressed strong interest. In May 1995, the *Messenger* published my follow-up article, "UFOs Over Topanga—the 1994 Sightings" which only touched the tip of the iceberg in terms of the sheer number of sightings. However, it was not the last UFO article printed in the *Messenger*. In 1998, residents along Callon called the *Messenger's* office and reported sightings of strange lights. More details appeared in the editorial article, "UFOs Anyone?" which was published in October '97.

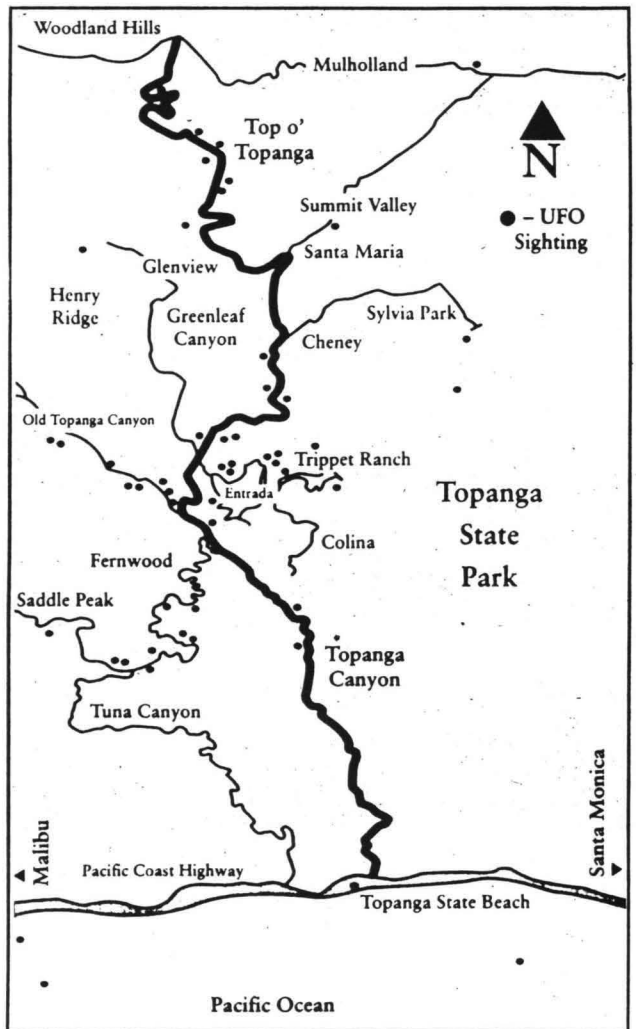
Today, I have collected all the Topanga accounts and published them in a new book titled, "UFOs Over Topanga Canyon." Just released by Llewellyn Publishers, it tells the story of the 1992 UFO wave which actually lasted for more than two years. I also discovered that Topanga Canyon has a history of UFO encounters stretching back to the 1940s! I found activity strong in Malibu and Santa Monica, and to this day I still get calls from residents who are seeing UFOs.

All of this and more is covered in the book, which is on sale at bookstores everywhere. But if you're a true Topangan and don't feel it necessary to descend into the smoggy city, you can find the book at local Topanga retailers including The Spiral Staircase, Country Natural Foods, and Fernwood Market, (where, I am told, it is flying off the shelves). Or you can order directly by calling (800) The-Moon (800/843-6666).

*Preston Dennett grew up in Topanga and resided here for more than 20 years. Today he lives in nearby Canoga Park, but plans someday to make Topanga his home again. Anyone wanting to report UFO sightings can reach Dennett at (818) 348-3892. ■*



Entering the Twilight Zone is author Preston Dennett at Entrada UFO landing.

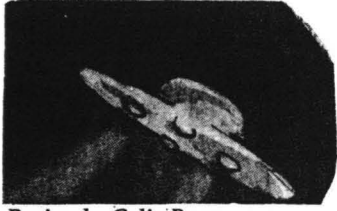


Map of UFO sightings in Topanga.

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5 - MESSENGER, Topanga, CA - July 29, 1999)

"UFO's Over Topanga: Eyewitness Accounts of the California Sightings" by Preston Dennett, \$12.95, Llewellyn Publications, 1999



Review by Colin Penno

With recent scientific discoveries being what they are—snowballs from space bombarding the Earth with thousands of tons of water daily; comets, meteors and other space junk scattering "building block" chemistry all over the place; and the almost monthly discovery of yet another distant sun surrounded by planets—it would seem not a matter of whether there is intelligent life out there, but why aren't we having lunch with them?

Topanga native Preston Dennett is one such person who feels that way.

In his just-published second book "UFOs Over Topanga Canyon," Dennett supplies an intriguing compendium of sightings, incidents and encounters over the Canyon and beyond—from Santa Monica to Malibu and across the mountains.

While he hangs the structure of his book around the June 14, 1992 UFO scare which was written up in the *Messenger* as "The Sixth Encounter: They Came Once More," and contends that the Canyon these days is a UFO hotspot, the author is careful to reach into the past to bolster his case.

On February 25, 1942, in a still-famous incident that eclipsed anything the Japanese enemy would bring to bear, the population of Los Angeles was scared to death by the appearance of a large, disk-shaped object over the city. The 37th Coast Artillery Brigade opened fire, and debris from exploding triple-A shells killed three people. Many homes and buildings were destroyed as "the object eventually proceeded at a leisurely pace over the coastal cities between Santa Monica and Long Beach." The craft was seen for several hours by many thousands of people.

Dennett scoured the literature to bring us this gem from the 1954 book, "Flying Saucers on the Attack"—"Freda owns a house in Topanga Canyon. One night...she got up, looked out, and saw a silver bar hanging in the sky, quite near. It hopped around here and there. It would vanish and then return, as if quartering the neighborhood, looking for something...a number of people have seen a round object showing different lights and colors, moving fast through the clouds, by day or night."

And so it goes through the decades—fascinating stories which lead one to think that, back then, Santa Monica Bay rather than the mountain interior is where the action was at.

"Well, even in the sixties, families were going down to the beach and waiting for a UFO to pass by," Dennett quotes Malibu resident Robert M. Stanley as saying. "By the early 1970s, whole families were going down to the beach at Point Dume at night to watch the multi-colored UFOs that would sink under the water at times."

But it's the Topanga stories that really grab you. Maybe it's the locale—the fact that you're reading a book talking about the street around the corner from you, and every location is as familiar as your own back yard.

Quiet, polite, studious and even shy, Preston Dennett was already a field investigator for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and author of

numerous articles when strange craft hit the fan in Topanga in the summer of 1992.

Born and raised in the Canyon, the writer began leaving flyers around town inviting anyone with experience or knowledge of UFOs to please contact him.

Slow at first, responses began to pour in—and continue to this day. Dennett believes that the appearance of the "Sixth Encounter" story in the *Messenger* opened the floodgates to a collective memory, and encouraged those embarrassed by them to realize that they were far, far from alone.

Some encounters went back decades, including a striking one in a chapter the author calls "Missing Time on Grandview Drive." It began one summer afternoon in 1961 or '62, when Fernwood resident Beverly Smith and her two young daughters were heading back up the hill in their Volkswagen van after a trip to the market.

"It was Beverly who saw it first—two or three large, shiny metallic disks hovering at eye level (to them) on the opposite ridge of the Canyon...over the Entrada area." They pulled over and, almost 40 years later, Beverly told Dennett exactly what she saw: "I saw these two—what we referred to then as 'flying saucers' or whatever—outer space things. I saw these two...over near where the park is. You could see them really clearly, and it was just really strange. They were round, like the pictures you see these days—similar to those tops that you push and spin, the old fashioned spinning tops."

Beverly and her daughters decided to continue on home and fetch some binoculars, and that's when their memories vanish. Beverly says, "I remember somebody saying we had been gone an awfully long time just to go to the store..."

The majority of the sightings and experiences in the book, though, are centered in our own time—the 1990s—and range from ho-hum colored-lights-in-the-sky stuff to the truly extraordinary. A great many are from the corridor along the boulevard—"where the Canyon gets deep"—from the Center north to the Valley ridge, where Top O' Topanga gets its share.

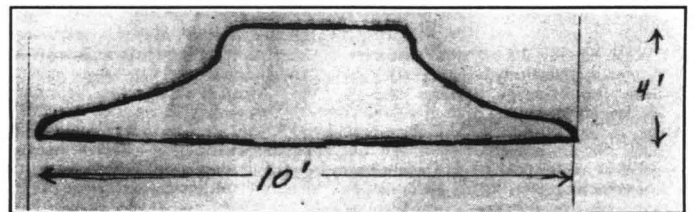
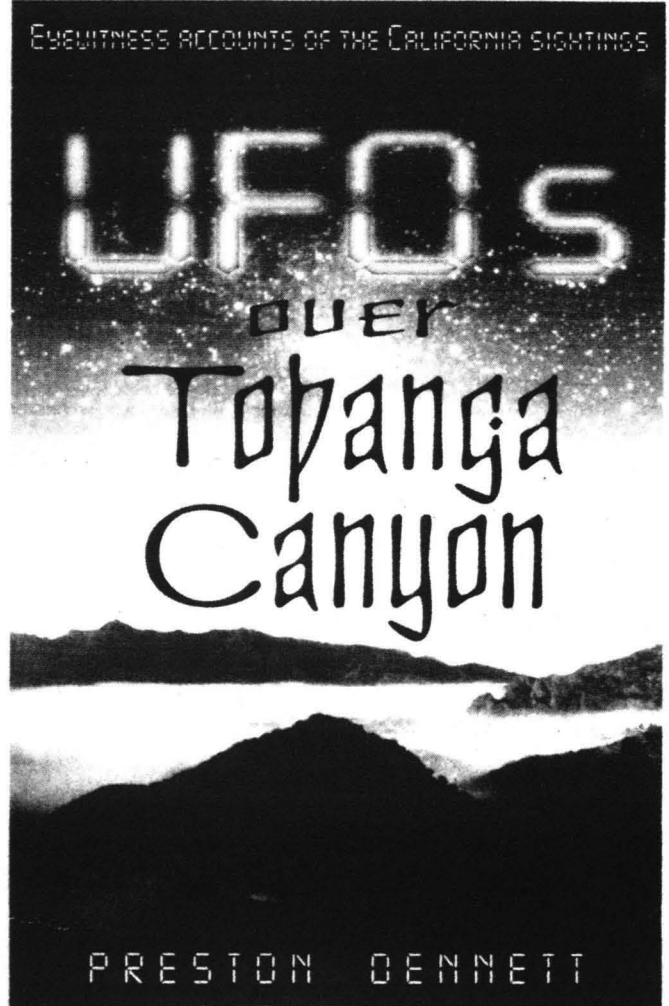
"...As I looked across the road over the water tower, this huge, humongous, gigantic red object lit up red with little lights—it came flying over the water tower. I would say it was about three or four times the width of those water towers. The thing was huge."

What you get from the book (if you care to believe the scores of Canyon people interviewed by Dennett) is that the occupants of many mysterious craft are mighty interested in the area over, above, and around Topanga State Park.

The ongoing story of one very nice and normal-sounding couple is most compelling. They live, judging from the book, near where those beautiful meadows border the lower road along the approach to the park at the top of Entrada.

"On Saturday, June 20, 1992, at around 2:45 a.m., Sarah was awakened from a very strange dream...She saw a large object hovering outside her bedroom window: 'It was in the field across from my house. And it was a ship!'"

Dennett devotes a whole chapter, "Contact," to Sarah's story, in which her husband Roger was also involved: "He leaned forward, looked out his bedroom window, and received the shock of his life. Less than 50 feet away a giant, metallic-looking, disk-shaped craft landed in a field. The object...sat next to the road in full view of several houses. He soon realized that whatever the object was, it wasn't going away anytime soon...So, in the interests of not becoming a specimen himself, Roger remained inside."



Yep. This is a drawing of the craft that one family saw land by the state park off Entrada.

In struggling to explain the concentration of sightings (and, if you believe it, landings) in the state park, the writer leans to a vortex as a possible reason: "A vortex is an area with a high level of geo-electromagnetic energy." Quoting Anthony, a contactee who has had two UFO sightings over Topanga Canyon, there exists an even larger vortex over Topanga Canyon. "He (Anthony) says that he can actually see the energy from the vortex. According to him, it is a negative vortex, meaning it rotates counter-clockwise. Also, the vortex is giant, spanning the entire Santa Monica Mountain range including all of Topanga Canyon and Malibu, and parts of Santa Monica and Woodland Hills."

Preston Dennett's "UFOs Over Topanga Canyon" is a damned good read, made especially succulent by endless references to spots around the corner or across the Canyon from the reader.

Along with the possible reality of God, our existence as a species on this riotously fecund little planet, and our imbued and/or evolving intelligence, I can think of no more interesting area of contemplation.

The truth is out there—perhaps right over our heads.

Former *Messenger* editor Colin Penno is presently greenhouse manager at a nursery in Oregon. ■



# IN FEW WE TRUST

**A survey shows that people think they would handle first contact with aliens calmly but believe the government and their neighbors would react poorly to the situation.**

By Michael Amon  
Review-Journal

What if all of the Area 51 buffs, "X-Files" fanatics and Art Bell listeners turn out to be right? Aliens would make contact with humans, and everyone would turn their eyes skyward, wondering what would happen next.

Would dutiful citizens trust their government to handle the situation and rush to get information to the public?

Just maybe, the world would find some time to act rationally and embrace and learn from the new life forms. Or would there be a national freak-out, with people quitting their jobs, fleeing their homes and moving into the hills?

According to a national survey done in April and released Tuesday, most people think they could handle contact with aliens in a rational manner without the hyperbole of a worldwide catastrophe.

But few trust their neighbors to react so calmly.

Titled "The Day After Contact," the poll of 1,971 people reported that the majority of Americans, 84 percent, said they do not think human contact with alien life forms would change how they live from day to day.

Yet, 25 percent said their peers would "totally freak out and panic," 14 percent said alien contact would cause most people to behave strangely, 36 percent said most people would be very concerned, and 10 percent said their fellow humans would become irrational and dangerous, perhaps

hurting each other.

Only 13 percent thought the rest of the population would handle the coming of extraterrestrials in a calm and reasonable manner.

The disparity between what people say they would do and what they suspect others capable of surprised Dr. Colm Kelleher, a scientist at the National Institute for Discovery Science, which enlisted the Roper Organization to conduct the survey in April.

"To us that means that either people don't trust other people, or they haven't thought about the questions very much," Kelleher said.

When commenting on how they would react to news of alien contact, 32 percent said they were fully prepared to handle it, and 17 percent said they would have to seriously rethink their places in the universe. Only 16 percent said they would be seriously shaken, and 5 percent said they would be extremely distraught. Thirty percent said they wouldn't care.

The survey had a margin of error of 2.5 percentage points.

"We're looking at a survey of what people think they will do, not what they'll actually do," said

Glen Campbell of the Area 51 Research Center.

He said the discovery of extraterrestrial life would be monumental, like "discovering a new continent."

The survey suggests people do not trust each other to react rationally in abnormal situations. History does not do much to dispel that notion.

In 1938, Orson Welles' radio retelling of H.G. Wells' novel "War of the Worlds" provoked mass uprisings in New Jersey and New York City among people who thought the broadcast was a live news feed.

Welles' version of "War of the Worlds" also caused riots when played in Chile and Ecuador and, as recently as 1988, in Portugal.

Few studies have been conducted that detail the effect alien contact would have on human civilization, Kelleher said. He said that the results of the survey did not rule out the possibility of mass hysteria as portrayed in "Independence Day."

"That really depends on how the information is presented," Kelleher said.

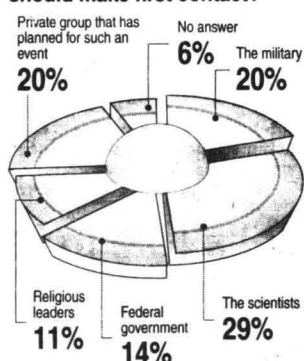
If a military leader or a scientist calmly informs the public that contact has been made with

*"We're looking at a survey of what people think they will do, not what they'll actually do."*

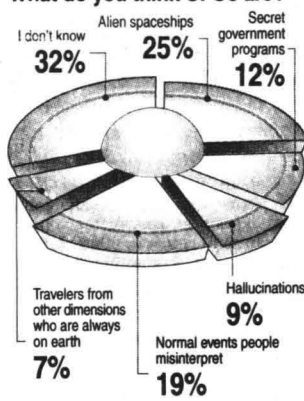
Glen Campbell  
Area 51 Research Center



## If extraterrestrials land, who should make first contact?



## What do you think UFOs are?



Note: Numbers may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding.  
Source: Roper Organization

Mike Johnson/Review-Journal

other life forms, the public would handle it differently than if television news agencies announced the findings while showing scenes of riots in cities.

"It could all depend on who the reporter is," Kelleher said, adding that hysteria can be contagious.

According to the poll, people do not trust the government to handle contact with extraterrestrials nor do they believe the government would release any information.

Only 20 percent said they would want the government to make first contact with aliens. Seventy-one percent said they believe the government would classify findings; 23 percent think federal officials would suppress and actively discourage civilian knowledge of contact.

A subdivision of the poll reported 80 percent of the people who are active in government and the community, the "trendsetters," do not trust the government to make the first contact.

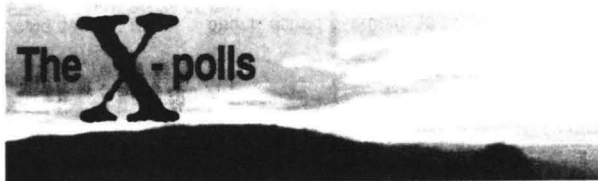
"That's the way that Americans have always thought. Americans have always distrusted the government," Campbell said.

Space industry officials are indignant at the thought of mistrust.

"Who would they trust (to handle it)? The Denver Broncos?" NASA spokesman Brian Welch asked.

When dealing with a hypothetical situation such as discovering alien life, it is difficult to develop an exact, comprehensive plan for informing the public about scientific findings, Welch said.

He points to how NASA recently handled the announcement of a theory that basic life forms existed on Mars. The theory was based on findings that Martian rocks discovered in Antarctica contained fossils of microbes.



People surveyed by the Roper Organization were asked six questions with pre-set multiple choice answers in face-to-face interviews. Before every question, a disclaimer read "The next few questions may sound a bit unusual ..." Here is a sampling of paraphrased poll questions and responses.

### To what extent would the announcement of the discovery of alien life change your lifestyle?

To a very large degree	3%
To a modest degree	11
To a slight degree	42
Not at all	26
Who cares/I wouldn't believe it	16

### What would the government do if undeniable evidence of advanced extraterrestrial life were confirmed?

Advise the public of the findings	9
Convene a civilian scientific panel that would study the topic	7
Conduct a study by government scientists and release the information	14
Classify the information and not allow it to be seen by the public	48
Classify all aspects and suppress civilian sources from obtaining or disseminating information about the topic	23
No answer	2

### How would you react to undeniable evidence of advanced extraterrestrial life?

I am fully prepared to handle it	32
I would have to rethink my place in the universe	17
I would be seriously shaken	16
I would be extremely distraught	5
I don't care one way or another	30
No answer	1

### How would other people react?

A calm and rational manner	13
Very concerned	36
Very strangely	14
Irrationally and possibly dangerously	10
Would totally freak out and panic	25
No answer	1

Note: Numbers may not add up to 100 percent because of rounding.  
Source: Roper Organization

Mike Johnson/Review-Journal

Welch said the government did not want to hype the Martian findings before they were solidified.

"We didn't want to do anything to inhibit our scientists from getting a paper published," Welch said. "We kept it secret. We took extra special care that we at NASA kept our mouths shut and let the scientific process take its course."

The possibility of contact is very plausible, Welch said, but the contact may not be so dramatic as movies make it out to be.

Welch said most of NASA's efforts at first contact are being made through listening for incoming radio waves from space that have signs of intelligent life and searching for signs of basic life on the planets and moons of the solar system.

"It's not so much a question of what are we going to do when the starships come down to the planet. It's how do we communicate (with them)?" Welch said.

EAGLE, Crestone, CO - July 1999 CR: C. Carpenter

## The Mysterious Valley Forum

Understanding UFOs, cattle mutilations & other phenomena with David Perkins July 10

by Caryl Dennis

David Perkins will be the speaker at the Mysterious Valley Forum on July 10th. David's lecture is entitled "Understanding UFOs, Cattle Mutilations and Other Paranormal Phenomena: The (Almost) Final Answer." His eclectic presentation employs a dazzling array of slide images to augment a bold and innovative synthesis of current theories on the origins of unexplained phenomena. In his quest to arrive at a "unified field theory of paranormal phenomena", David draws from a broad spectrum of sources, including popular culture, science fiction, quantum physics, cosmology, psychology, consciousness studies, space exploration, anthropology,

cryptozoology, evolutionary biology, religion and mythology.

David's lecture is guaranteed to be intellectually challenging to anyone with a healthy sense of curiosity about the great mysteries of our times. Both unsettling and uplifting, David's often controversial insights offer new dimensions to ponder for both skeptics and believers.

It all takes place at the POA Hall. Vendors open at 6:00 pm and Parker Whitman will offer world anomaly updates beginning at 7:00, followed by David's presentation. The cost is \$5. To inquire about vendor space or for general information about the MVF, call Caryl at 256-4959.

# Local UFO collection goes to museum

## Assortment accumulated over 50 years

By BILL HEWITT  
LTN Staff Writer

Some people consider UFOs to be only the imaginings of children and others with child-like minds. Others wonder how Earth could be the singular oasis of life in this vast expanse of stars extending beyond eyesight and even beyond the realms of imagination.

Lincolnton's George Fawcett believes we are not alone and has spent his adult life studying the phenomena of extraterrestrial life and unidentified flying objects.

Over that time, he has amassed a large personal collection of UFO reference material.

Last week Roswell's International UFO Museum and Research Center opened a 2,000 square foot library and archives where Fawcett's work will remain on permanent display.

The event was surrounded with pomp and fanfare. National Geographic and the History Channel were both there filming, said Fawcett.

He and fellow UFO researcher



George Fawcett peruses his out-of-this-world collection of UFO sightings. Fawcett's lifetime collection of extraterrestrial investigations and research is now featured in the archives of the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell New Mexico.

Bob Sabo of Florida donated their collections of nearly 50,000 documents, photographs, magazines and books valued at \$250,000 to the museum.

Fawcett's collection represents over a half century of research and a passion that took root in Virginia. The Lynchburg College cam-

pus was nearly deserted, Fawcett recalled. Nearly everyone was cramming for exams.

Fawcett, a senior, tucked his text book and notes under his arm and began his daily sojourn across campus. He passed by the administration building at 10:15 a.m.

"It looked like a large tractor tire but orange against a dark blue sky. It was about 300 feet high and that same distance away. I watched the object for four-and-a-half minutes. It moved up and down like a yo yo on a string, and then it took off at a 45-degree angle," Fawcett said.

That same night in Staunton Virginia, according to Fawcett, a woman reported an orange UFO had exploded in her backyard and set her lawn on fire.

Fawcett has always been curious about UFOs. He recalls an entry he made in his WWII scrapbook that intrigued him as a boy scout.

"Paris, Dec. 13, 1944. Associated Press. As allied armies ground out new gains on the western front today, the Germans were disclosed to have thrown a new 'device' into the war — mysterious silvery balls which float in the air."

The largest-of-its-kind collection of UFO materials on the globe is located near the site where in 1947 a "flying disk" was reported to have been found on a farm.

It is said that a mortician was called following the alleged crash and asked if he had four child-size caskets. According to the story, he was called a second time and questioned about procedures used to embalm bodies found in the desert.

Secrecy is said to have shrouded the event. But if the number of people visiting the museum is any indication, the secret is out. Over 500,000 visitors from across the U.S. and over 50 nations have toured the museum since its opening in 1992.

For his life-long contribution to the study of UFOs, Fawcett was inducted into the museum's Hall of Fame last week.

"Its a field of dreams come true for me," he said.

Fawcett wondered as a boy why the Germans never used their secret weapon.

Since those early days, Fawcett has dedicated his life to the scientific inquiry of UFOs. He estimates he has traveled 200,000 miles over the past 55 years investigating sightings. What he has learned has convinced him that UFOs are real.

"They are not natural phenomena. They are unconventional objects with a high degree of technology. They represent a threat to our national security and to our survival," said Fawcett.

Now the world, or worlds, can learn from Fawcett's work at the museum and critique his conclusions.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - July 25, 1999

# Book maps hot spots for UFO site-seekers

It's not exactly a vote of confidence when a guidebook starts with a disclaimer from the publisher. That's the case with *UFO USA*, subtitled *A Traveler's Guide to UFO Sightings, Abduction Sites, Crop Circles and Other Unexplained Phenomena*.

The disclaimer appears on the second page of this Hyperion Paperback Original: "The publisher does not endorse the authors' views, nor does the publisher express any opinion on the veracity of any of the material and information presented by the authors." (The back cover lists *UFO USA* in the category "Travel/Humor.")

It likewise can put a dent in a book's credibility when the authors choose to remain anonymous, listing themselves only as The Society for the Preservation of Alien Contact Evidence and Geographic Exploration (SPACEAGE).

That decision to lie low is explained on the book's second page as well: "Because of the controversy surrounding many of the sites SPACEAGE identifies as 'of significant interest to the quest for evidence of extraterrestrial contact,' the members of SPACEAGE prefer to remain anonymous."

All that aside, the 176 pages of this \$12.95 volume are packed with site-specific information on what the authors call "the nation's extraterrestrial points of interest and the lessons they can teach future generations." Happily for browsers outside the orbit of UFO true believers, there's little overt sermonizing about the validity of visitations from the celestial great beyond.

*UFO USA* contains a short section on supposed extraterrestrial locations in each of the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Readers in America's heartland will be unsurprised to find the longest chapter devoted to sightings in California, whose onetime chief executive Jerry Brown was dubbed "Governor Moonbeam" by the late Chicago columnist Mike Royko.

Jack  
Schnedler  
Booked  
to Travel



A map at the start of *UFO USA* identifies the kinds of sites in each state, divided into nine categories: abduction, animal mutilation, close encounter, convention, hot spot, sightings, strange phenomena, technology/research and UFO crash. Cleverly drawn flying-saucer icons identify the kind of location throughout the book.

### ARKANSAS HOT SPOTS

Lynne Bishop, Arkansas director of MUFON (Mutual UFO Network), is the book's source for the information that Little Rock and the Searcy County seat of Marshall are two of the Natural State's most active areas for unidentified flying objects.

According to *UFO USA*, "Bishop says that Marshall was quite a hot spot for many years, especially for

triangular-shaped craft. However, it was discovered that this town was in a military flight zone. She believes now that the UFO reports are probably IFOs [identifiable flying objects] — military aircraft."

As for Little Rock, it was "one of the few U.S. cities involved in the worldwide UFO wave of 1909-1910. According to an account described in several UFO encyclopedias, the sightings began in March 1909 on England's east coast and quickly spread across the globe. Witnesses consistently reported seeing a torpedo- or cigar-shaped object with some sort of searchlight."

This apparition "apparently hit the skies of Mabelvale, a small community just minutes away from Little Rock, on Dec. 13, 1910. A local resident reported seeing a bright, bobbing light that was moving rapidly through the sky. At first, German spies were the suspected culprits but that belief gave way to the speculation that what people across the globe may have been seeing was a UFO airship."

Never mind the puzzle of why there would have been a German spy scare in the peaceful year of 1910, when the Great War that erupted four years later was barely a blip on the horizon. *UFO USA* recommends Pinnacle Mountain State Park on Little Rock's western outskirts as a prime spot to scan the skies for cigar-shaped airships and other unidentified intruders.

On more solid footing, the guidebook recommends the Ozark UFO Conference, usually held in April in Eureka Springs, as "one of the largest and best-known annual UFO conventions." It's a chance to "meet the experts, contactees, abductees, authors and everyone else in between."

According to the book's introduction, "Serious ufologists will tell you that 90 percent of all UFO reports are proven to have nothing to do with extraterrestrial life. (After all, the term *UFO* means only what it stands for, and implies nothing more — *Unidentified Flying Object*.)"

The authors supply a list of airborne objects most commonly mistaken for UFOs: airplanes, atmospheric disturbances, ball lightning, blimps, meteors, naturally occurring

light phenomena, planets, satellites, stars, unconventional or secret military aircraft, weather balloons.

### MINORITY OF MYSTERIES

But what about the remaining 10 percent? Those are the mysteries that keep UFO enthusiasts going, says *UFO USA*. And where are the best places to hunt UFOs? The greatest number of reports come "from the Northeast and the Southwest. Bush, N.Y.; La Grange, Ga.; Phoenix; Colorado's San Luis Valley; and Gulf Breeze, Fla., are the United States' most consistently active UFO hot spots."

And if you decide to include a UFO search in your next trip, bear in mind these tips from the guidebook:

1. Never go alone. The more witnesses to a sighting, the more seriously your report will be taken.
2. Stay calm. If you freak out or become excited, you're likely to forget to notice important details.
3. Know some basic astronomy. The more you know about stars and meteors, the less likely you'll mistake an identifiable flying object for a UFO and then feel like a dope.
4. Be patient and persistent. Some veteran UFO researchers and investigators have never seen one in the skies.
5. Wear sneakers. You just never know when you'll have to make a run for it.





[All British clippings courtesy of Timothy Good, unless otherwise credited.]

SUNDAY EXPRESS, London, England - Feb. 28, 1999

# The strange adventures of an alien investigator



ENCOUNTERS: Tony Dodd

**TONY DODD was a no-nonsense, hard-headed Yorkshire policeman until one night in 1988 when a strange encounter changed his life forever. In the first of two extracts from his book, Alien Investigator, he describes his own first-hand experiences and how he came to catalogue hundreds of bizarre cases of human-alien interaction on a hitherto unsuspected scale**

**F**IRST ENCOUNTER: It was 2.30am on a bitterly cold night in January 1978. As a sergeant in the North Yorkshire Police with 15 years of experience, my job was to supervise the night patrols in the area around Skipton. I knew the roads around the North Yorkshire Dales well and, at this time of night, this narrow lane was the quickest route we could take.

As we approached a curve in the road me and my colleague noticed a glow of light coming from around the bend. There were no buildings nearby, and my first thought was that another vehicle with lights on full beam was coming towards us. But the light was too big, too diffuse.

We were suddenly confronted by a huge airborne object about 200 feet in front of us. It was a massive disc with a dome shape on top, small, round dark portholes along the side and a skirting at the bottom.

Coloured lights — red, green, blue, white — pulsed on and off, in no discernible sequence around the skirt and the whole object, which was hovering about 100 feet above the ground, glowed as if white-hot.

I slammed on my brakes and we skidded to a halt almost underneath the disc. We both instinctively opened our doors and jumped out. Slowly and silently the object began to move away into the distance until it was over a forest a few fields from us, where it appeared to descend among the trees. From our vantage point, all we could see was a glowing ball of white light until we lost sight of it completely below the ridge of treetops.

Neither of us had spoken, nor had we felt any fear. Still without speaking we climbed back into the car. Before I restarted the engine, we discussed what we had seen, without being able to make any sense of it.

I was shaken. I am and always have been a hard-headed individual. Yet I had seen something that I could not explain — and a sane, reliable colleague had witnessed it, too. It bothered me, and before I went off duty I made a pact with myself that I was going to get to the bottom of it. At that moment I had no idea that getting to the bottom of it was going to turn into my life's mission.

From that day on my encounters with the strange flying objects increased. The more I looked for "them", the more I saw, and I soon became eerily aware that they appeared to be looking out for me as much as I was for them. I quickly realised that plenty of other people were also seeing mysterious objects. In 1988 I retired from the police. I had enjoyed my years as a country copper, but gradually my interest in UFOs took over my life.

I have spent many hours counselling and questioning people who believe they have been abducted by aliens, checking out their stories and arranging for them to take part in regressive hypnosis sessions. I now have a whole filing cabinet full of

abduction stories, many of which I have probed in depth.

I believe that the abductees who come forward are only the tip of an extremely large iceberg. There are many, many people who have experienced disturbances in their life and have no idea of the cause.

**I**N 1993, Tracey, Darren and their daughter Georgina and sons Daniel and Marcus rented a cottage near Wakefield for four months. One evening they heard a strange loud humming noise from outside. After a few moments a very bright light suddenly engulfed their cottage. It was an intense white light coming from the sky, but they could not see the source of it. It lasted for about 15 minutes according to the clock, although it seemed only a few seconds as they watched it.

The next morning, Darren discovered that the wrought-iron gates at the front of the cottage had been wrenched open and twisted, and that the three sets of stable doors — all secured with padlocks — had also been forced open. This forcing of the stable doors continued intermittently while the family lived there, usually happening about once a week.

Soon after they moved to the cottage Tracey went into hospital for a chest operation. The wound became seriously infected. When she was allowed home, the bandage on the wound was secured with white surgical tape which covered the whole of her chest.

One morning she woke to find the bandage had gone. There was no sign of it anywhere in the bed, or in the room. Darren even pulled the bed out to check behind it, and when they moved out of the cottage, and all the furniture was cleared, there was still no sign of it.

Astonishingly, Tracey had experienced no pain. The wound was clean and healthy looking — until then it had leaked through the bandages and stained

the bedding every night. On one occasion, Darren woke to see a figure near the bedroom window. Still drowsy, he assumed it was Tracey. It was only when he turned to go back to sleep that he discovered Tracey was sound asleep next to him. Instantly awake, he sat up and looked towards the window: there was nobody there.

**O**NE morning, Darren went into the bathroom for a shower. Tracey followed him within a second or two. To her astonishment, Darren was not there. Puzzled, she looked into the shower: it was wet and had obviously been used very recently. She checked all the rooms upstairs but there was no sign of him. From the window she could see that his car was still on the drive, so she ran downstairs and searched the rest of the house. As she went back up the stairs she saw Darren on the landing, a towel around his



**Tracey told of waking to see two very tall men, with piercing blue eyes both wearing monk-like habits**

## The truth is out there for new UFO society



*'Is there anybody out there? Michael Carter scans the skies for signs of alien life forms.'*

IF there's anyone out there with an interest in UFOs and the paranormal, Michael Carter would like to hear from you.

Michael, 27, of Cinderford, a care worker who helps to look after people with learning difficulties, wants to start a Forest UFO and paranormal society to investigate any strange happenings in the area.

Although he comes from Glastonbury — a hotbed of so-called flying saucer sightings — he says this part of the world is also a hot-spot of UFO activity. "I was at Symonds Yat with some friends not long ago when we saw something over the Black Mountains," he said. "If you look at the stars a lot you get to know

what satellites look like on a 90-minute orbit of the earth, and aircraft with navigation lights and so on. What we saw, quite high in the sky, was a pulsating light which grew larger and larger, but then disappeared.

"Of course I'm not saying they were visitors from outer space, but it was something that cannot be explained as a normal phenomenon."

It was nothing like the experience he had when he was younger of seeing a huge shape like a horizontal cross appearing from behind Glastonbury Tor.

"It was covered in all sorts of lights," he said. "It came towards us and circled above the house, and then all at once it split in two and went off in opposite directions.

"Moments later two jet fighters appeared and started to chase the lights. Many other people reported seeing the same thing on the night."

Michael said he hoped to form a group which could look into all sorts of psychic phenomena as well as UFOs.

"For instance, the Forest is a farming area, and in Scotland for example there have been several cases of animal mutilation which cannot be explained rationally. And then there are matters like alien abduction. We could look into any claims like this.

"I thought we might first meet in a pub or something to talk over setting up the group and then we could have field trips, and meetings with speakers who know par-

titular subjects well."

His mother, Mrs Margaret Coles, is also interested in the subject and keen to help Michael start the club. Anyone interested in helping to start the group or report strange happenings can ring Mr Carter on Dean (01594) 823491 or Mrs Coles on 825662.

Michael is expecting two new arrivals for the planet this summer — he and his wife have twins due in either June or early July!

FOREST & WYE VALLEY REVIEW, Lydney, Gloucestershire, England - March 19, 1999

(continued on page 10)



waist, dabbing at a nick in his chin from shaving. He was bewildered when Tracey told him what had happened: he was adamant that she had never walked into the bathroom, and that he had been there all the time.

Shortly after this, Darren began to lose time. A five-minute journey to the local garage would take half an hour, with no memory to account for the missing minutes. On more than one occasion Tracey saw two tall, thin old men with long white beards and black habits at the foot of the bed looking at her. All the family, with the exception of the baby, Daniel, would find strange marks and bruises on their bodies, and one morning Marcus clearly had the

imprint of four fingers on both sides of his torso.

Significantly to me, because of what I know of other cases, Tracey woke one morning to find her right nostril bleeding slightly, and hurting. Because she was pregnant with her fourth child, I was not prepared to let her be hypnotised. A few months after the birth of her son, Branden, Tracey was put under hypnosis. She told of waking in the middle of the night to see two very tall men at the foot of her bed, both wearing monk-like habits, and both with piercing blue eyes and white beards.

Not knowing how she had got there, she then found herself lying on a white table in a room with

rounded ends: it was not completely circular but was curved at the corners. She was unable to move, but could feel no physical restraints. There was a powerful white light shining down on her, and her chest was exposed.

**S**HE SAW what she described as a mechanical object coming down from above, with a long silver-coloured needle at the end, and a line of red lights flashing up and down the needle. The needle came down as if automatically and entered the open wound in her chest, and she felt a burning sensation. She recalled seeing shadowy figures moving about the room but she was

unable to look at them properly because she could not turn her head.

This was enough for one session, but in future Tracey will be having more hypnotherapy to talk about other incidents. Like most of the others who had hypnotherapy, she felt a sense of calm and relief after the session. My own belief is that Tracey, and probably Darren, are being abducted on a regular basis. They themselves have found it hard to accept the idea of abduction but they have open minds and they believe the hypnotherapy will provide some answers. Both Darren and Tracey are sensible, intelligent people who ask for nothing more than a happy, normal family life.

## Help from our ET brothers

**M**Y TELEPATHIC communication with the aliens has helped me to resolve a lot of questions about who they are and why they are involving themselves in the life of this planet. Here, in the words given to me, is one of the messages I have received in response to my mental questioning:

"Our presence within your solar system is to observe the evolutionary progress and environmental changes occurring not only to your planet but to its people.

"Using this observational technique enables us to foresee potential future difficulties which may arise and if necessary give you advice on the course of action needed to overcome them. To achieve these aims we employ the use of many types of monitoring equipment, each with a responsibility for a different area of scientific investigation.

"The problems facing your race are many, and are largely due to the focus of your technology being turned towards the hostile aspects of humanity. You have the ability to turn your world into a place of harmony and plenty if you direct your ability and enterprise towards sharing with not only your own people but the natural laws of the universe. You can advance technology but only for the good of all, otherwise it will destroy you.

"We are here with the hand of brotherly friendship, to teach you as you evolve. Each one of your kind has the ability to grow in cosmic consciousness. The answer lies within the fabric of you all. We hold great love for you and know that the direction is now turning towards the path of cosmic understanding.

"But we can only advise: the future of your race must be determined by your own free will. Our view of you shows great hope and expectation and we await with anticipation the day when you will aspire to the federation of cosmic brotherhood."

● *Alien Investigator* by Tony Dodd is available in hardback (Headline, £16.99) © Tony Dodd 1999.

# Calling Molder and Scully!

**IMAGINE** a wedge of black cheese . . . then picture it 75ft long with head-lamps!

That bizarre object flitted eerily across the night sky above Brinsley.

And it was seen by at least four people before it vanished over the hills towards Heanor.

The wedge's blunt end was at the front as it flew around at 30mph.

The woman and her husband had watched amazed as the UFO changed from a diamond shape into a triangle.

Now the sighting is to be checked by the British UFO Research Association which has received many reports from the North-West of flying triangles.

Director Gloria Dixon told the Advertiser: "The biggest culprits are aircraft, civilian and military.

And that deepened the mystery for Adam Matthews, an adviser at Eastwood Citizens' Advice Bureau.

### DYNAMICS

Said Adam: "Having worked as an industrial radiologist at Rolls Royce, I know that aerodynamically something of that shape should not be flying.

"I am not saying we are being invaded by

aliens.

"It's just that I am reporting something that I will probably never see again in our predictable world," said Mr Matthews, 35, a father of four from Broad Lane.

One of his neighbours also spied the object at about 8.30pm at the beginning of March.

But Mr Matthews had another close encounter the next day -

"And the second biggest are astronomical phenomena."

Mr Matthews often admires the night sky watching satellites that pass over Britain every 90 minutes.

He is satisfied it was not a heavenly body. The UFO arrived on a night so clear that he could hear the engines of a jet airliner some five miles high.

And it's lights were clear white - a breach of aviation law.

in the Safeway store at Eastwood.

He was just about to start shopping when a woman threw her arms out and clipped him with a bunch of keys.

She was trying to describe the object she had seen to a group of women in the foyer at the instant he had walked past.

FINANCIAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
June 28, 1999 CR: G. Duplantier

### MUFOS & SCOTTISH SIGHTINGS

Believers and the curious making the trek to Falkirk, Scotland, for a glimpse of an unidentified flying object are being offered an extraterrestrial weekend package from the local Comfort Inn. Since 1992, there have been about 350 recorded UFO sightings in the area located in central Scotland. In nearby Bonnybridge, half the town has claimed to have seen a UFO. One 68-year-old Bonnybridge woman apparently took a 45-minute video recording of a pulsating, half-moon-shaped object in the sky, "that was definitely not an airplane, helicopter or balloon," according to her account. The Sci-Fi weekends are planned for September 24 to 26, and November 19 to 21. Guests will hear lectures by extraterrestrial experts, and personal accounts of sightings. A night visit to Bonnybridge is also planned. The two-night weekend package includes entertainment and food and drink. It costs about \$426 a person. Those wanting to stay Sunday night pay only about \$95, with breakfast and dinner included in the price. Children under the age of five stay free, while kids age five to 14 stay for half price. To book the Sci-Fi weekend, call Choice Hotels' toll-free reservations line, 1-800-4-CHOICE, or call the hotel directly, at 011 44 181 233 2031. Deborah Stokes, *Financial Post*



# UFO sighting sparks search



WHERE DID IT GO?: Jim Owen checks a map of the route the UFO is believed to have taken. Mr Owen is calling for any Rural City of Wangaratta residents who may have seen the object to contact him.

HAVE you sighted an unidentified flying object over Wangaratta recently?

By Alissa Watson

If so, former Wangaratta policeman Jim Owen is eager to hear from you.

Mr Owen, North East representative for the Victorian UFO Research Society, said a UFO was sighted by a Benalla witness on Tuesday, June 8, at approximately 5.37pm.

Witnesses from Shepparton, Ballarat, Traralgon, South Drouin, Melbourne, Geelong and Ocean Grove have also come forward.

It is believed the UFO should have passed over North Wangaratta very soon after the Benalla sighting.

The Benalla witness described the object as a large cylindrical object travelling at extreme speed from the east to the west. The object was observed to the north of Benalla at 35 degrees above the horizon.

Witnesses state the object is egg or oval shaped, and each sight-

ing occurred for between three and six seconds. Its flight path has been described as directly horizontal.

Mr Owen said witnesses have commented on an outstanding feature of the object, a bright white tail.

However, there have been no sightings of any vapor, smoke or flame coming from the tail, but rather a light trail, possibly a beam which may be a clue to the propulsion system.

The Benalla witness also said there were sparks from a section of the object and a shimmering effect near the tail.

"Not knowing the height above ground, or the distance away, it is very hard to estimate the size, but I think the object was about 18 inches in diameter and possibly eight or 10 feet long," the anonymous Benalla witness explained.

the identity of the object.

"We've already contacted the Bureau of Meteorology and we will also contact police, military departments and airports to determine whether it be natural, manmade or extraterrestrial.

"At this point we'd have to class it as an unexplained, pending any further information that would solve the mystery," Mr Owen said.

Anyone who has any information pertaining to the UFO should contact Jim Owen on 57223522 or mobile 0409835231.

It is believed the object took approximately five minutes to travel from Benalla to Geelong.

The former airforce man from Traralgon commented it was "faster than any jet he'd ever seen, but slower than any meteorite".

Mr Owen said he would continue to hunt for further witnesses, and in the meantime collate information already revealed from investigations and contact local authorities to try and determine

ADVERTISER, Poole, England - April 8, 1999

## Poole UFO back again

### Unexplained orange lights in the sky confuse the experts

A UFO travelling across the night sky in Poole has been spotted for a second time in two weeks.

Former British Gas worker Ian Bryan was with his wife visiting friends at Mill Lane, Parkstone, last Sunday when he saw three orange lights in a strange triangle formation.

The description is an exact match of a UFO sighting a fortnight ago.

The 55-year-old explained: "It must have been about 10pm. All four of us wondered what was going on."

"The lights must have been above cloud level and they were travelling at some speed although it was difficult to tell, but they were there in the sky for about four or five minutes."

Mr Bryan has ruled out aircraft due to the strange positioning of the lights. Checks with coastguards and air traffic control at Bournemouth International

Airport proved negative - leaving the identity of the object a mystery.

But this is not the first time the UFO has been seen.

At 10.45pm on Thursday, March 18, Barbara Nethercott was faced with the same bizarre lights - again in the triangular formation.

The retired Merchant Navy officer from Milne Road, Poole, said:

"They weren't whizzing by - they were travelling about 20 mph and if you asked me they were flying at about the same height as a helicopter."

She added: "I have seen UFOs in the past, but nothing like this before."

A spokesman for Air Traffic Control at Bournemouth International Airport said: "We get a few reports every week."

"We haven't heard anything like this before, but you can always put this down to aircraft of one type or another."

LICHFIELD MERCURY, Staffordshire, England - March 11, 1999

## Driver's close encounter of the blurred kind

A STARTLING image of a 'flying triangle' of three lights over Yoxall was captured on film by a Mercury reader last week.

Ten seconds of videotaped footage, filmed last Thursday night, shows three lights silently swaying and hovering high above road lights below.

The amateur cameraman, who asked to remain anonymous, said: "I was driving from Lichfield to Yoxall when I was shaken by a strange vision, almost coming off the road."

"I was flabbergasted to see a set of three strange lights coming from the west."

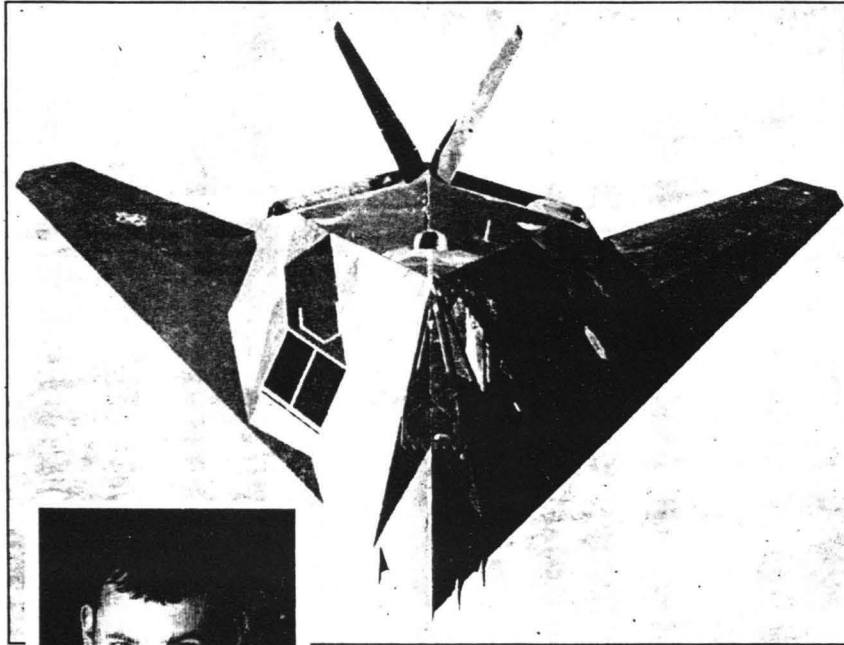
He assumed it was a helicopter or aeroplane, but once he stopped his car engine, could hear no sound. After staring for several seconds, he grabbed his camcorder from the car.

"It seemed much smaller than when I first saw it, it was travelling at some speed," he added. He said he did not believe in 'little green men, UFOs, crop circles or other mumbo-jumbo' but wants his discovery explained.

The Mercury rushed the footage to Walsall UFO author Nicholas Redfearn and Irene Bott of the Staffordshire UFO group for their expert opinions.

"This is an amazing piece of footage," said Irene, "You can clearly see the shape. Those are not conventional aircraft lights."

# Was this the Heyford UFO?



EVIDENCE: Tim Matthews

By PAUL HARRIS

A UFO expert has uncovered evidence that a mysterious flying machine that crash-landed in 1967 in Oxfordshire was an early type of stealth bomber.

It appears a secret military aircraft that crashed during the Cold War near Bicester was probably a prototype for a hypersonic bomber designed to fight the Soviet Union.

Aviation enthusiasts have evidence that a crash retrieval team was despatched from RAF Upper Heyford, near Bicester, in 1967, to collect scraps of a triangular shaped plane - that resembled today's stealth bomber - from a nearby field.

The aircraft bits were taken back to the base, locked in an aircraft hangar and then disappeared without trace. The team had been accompanied by American military personnel to ensure the operation was a success, according to a new eye-witness account.

Until now, there was no evidence that the aircraft had crashed-landed at all. Today, RAF records giving details of that operation are believed to remain classified.

Now an Air Force employee, attached to the Air Salvage and Transportation team in 1967, has admitted for the first time that the "hush hush" operation did take place.

UFO expert Tim Matthews, 31, formerly of Haywards Close, Wantage, obtained a transcript of an interview between that airman and the renowned UFO researcher, Andy Roberts, a contributor to the *Fortean Times* magazine of the unexplained.

## Bounced

In the transcript, the RAF employee, who wanted to remain anonymous, said: "This flying machine, I'll put it, had crashed, you could see where it had gone in, there was a big scar mark across the fields, as if it had come down and bounced a bit, as they do.

"It was just like the nose cone or the front end of a stealth bomber. We picked it up, put it on the back of a low-loader and it was brought from where it landed or crashed to RAF Bicester." He said it was taken straight down to the bomber dump, instead to a hangar.

Air expert Chris Gibson told Mr Matthews he believed the

## Claims of military cover-up

mystery plane crashed during an early test flight for a secret aircraft called the P42.

Mr Matthews also received a letter from a man stationed at RAF Bicester in 1967. He wrote: "During the late 1960s, we were stationed at 71 MU (Maintenance Unit) RAF Bicester. One of the wide variety of tasks was the transportation and storage of the abandoned project, the TSR2.

"The new Wilson Government cancelled it after discovering that Britain was broke and the cost of the project, already enormous, would increase further.

"One or more of the aircraft were transported to Bicester and stored in one of the hangars kept closed to most station personnel."

Mr Matthews said: "We are talking about a secret history that some people know about, very few people talk about and the records are buried in classified archives."

But it is only a matter of time before RAF records from the Cold War, classified until the next century, are released into the public domain.

# Strange lights over Central Park



NOW GRAPHIC BY JIM DAVIDSON

**NIGHT LIGHTS:** Researchers with UFO-BC are seeking witnesses to an unusual event last month over Central Park. According to unconfirmed reports on a Vancouver radio station, people saw a rectangular object with flashing lights hover over the trees scaring dogs and people. It is the third report of an Unidentified Flying Object over Burnaby since the beginning of the year. To contact the group, call their hotline at 878-6511.

*Ufologists look for witnesses to reports of dogs barking and people fleeing in terror*

By Dan Hilborn  
BURNABY NOW REPORTER

Did something very strange happen over Central Park last month?

According to investigators with UFO-BC, several "witnesses" called a local radio station claiming to have seen bright orange lights in a rectangular formation buzzing over the trees, starting a chorus of dogs howling and sending park patrons fleeing in terror.

And now the group that searches for evidence of extraterrestrial visitors to the planet Earth are asking anyone who saw anything unusual to come forward.

"We haven't nailed down a witness yet, but it sounded like there was an event of some sort, unless it was a massive prank," ufologist and UFO-BC director Bill Oliver said. "Apparently dogs went berserk and someone said people were actually fleeing the park."

"It sounds like a scene from *Independence Day* and it's interesting to note the proximity to BC Tel. From a purely UFO hypothesis, that would be of interest."

The incident, which allegedly occurred June 22, prompted at least three phone calls to a youth-oriented Top 40 radio station and generated a flurry of e-mail messages to the UFO-BC website.

Unfortunately, none of the messages came from first-hand witnesses.

But according to another UFO watcher, William Leas, the incident came at the same time a flurry of unusual night-time activity was reported over several

American states. "Seems something of a larger agenda was being carried out over this time period," Leas said in an e-mail message to Oliver.

The group's attempts to track down the radio callers were unsuccessful.

And if something unusual happened, nobody bothered to call the police.

Sgt. Derek Cooke, media liaison for the Burnaby RCMP, said there were no reports of strange lights or a panic in the park listed on the police logs for the evening in question.

"We haven't heard that," said Cooke.

However, Oliver and his colleagues are convinced UFO activity is on the increase across the Lower Mainland this year. And to add credence to their claim, the group's web site lists two other unconfirmed 'sightings' over Burnaby his year.

A pair of witnesses identified only as Sid and Leon apparently spotted a 'massive' craft over Burnaby Mountain for more than six minutes on the night of May 10, and someone else reported a bright fluorescent blue flash in the northeast sky over the city on Feb. 19. (The UFO-BC web site says the latter object was probably nothing more than a meteor.)

But the Burnaby sightings are nothing compared to the mass sighting of a triangular object hovering over the waters off the White Rock Beach earlier this year.

When that story was published on the front page of the NOW Community newspaper in Surrey, the UFO-BC hotline was inundated with other witnesses to the strange object.

Anyone with information on UFO sightings over Burnaby can contact UFO-BC at their phone hotline, 878-6511, via e-mail at [contactus@ufobc.org](mailto:contactus@ufobc.org) or at [www.ufobc.org](http://www.ufobc.org) on the Internet.



## MYSTERY: Reports put strange object in Geelong, Gippsland, Ballarat and Queensland at almost the same time



NO RASH CONCLUSIONS: Paul Norman is probing reports of a mysterious object seen over Geelong.

Photo: REG RYAN

# Investigator probes mysterious sightings

MARK DUNN

A MYSTERIOUS egg-shaped object which appeared to flash across Victorian skies from Gippsland through to Geelong at speeds estimated at up to 800 km/h is being investigated by the Victorian UFO Research Society.

Possibly up to 100 sightings have been made across the State, with descriptions of a bright light that seemed to emanate from a solid object leaving a luminous trail.

Society investigator, Paul Norman, who has been researching UFO sightings for 45 years, was in Geelong yesterday to interview a man who saw the object on Tuesday, June 8, between 5.36pm and 5.40 pm, at the same time another witness reported a sighting in Ballarat.

Mr Paul said the object was also seen in Gippsland about the same

'The man saw it at a North Geelong railway station, he was waiting on his daughter who was catching the train from Werribee. It was egg shaped and it was going really fast.'

— PAUL NORMAN

time; an indication that whatever it was, it was travelling at great speed.

"Certainly faster than any jet," Mr Norman said.

The society was interviewing eight people in locations forming an arc across the State, who said they all saw the object within 15 minutes of each other.

Mr Norman said he was surprised to also learn yesterday that similar sightings had been reported as far north as rural Queensland, at the same time on the same date.

one heading this way in another 28 years which will come pretty close.

"I'm not saying what this was, I am checking on eight people that have phoned into us, I believe (the bureau of) meteorology had about 100 calls.

"It was described as having a bit of a yellowish tinge and a white streak behind it, but it wasn't a vapor trail because it was a bright light."

Mr Norman said 90 per cent of sightings turned out not to be UFOs, but the society investigated multiple sightings that appeared to have no immediate explanation.

"We are not speculators, we are investigators. On this one, we are just trying to find out whether to go further."

Anyone with information can call the society on 9506 7080.

"I'm not making any conclusions, I'm just investigating it because it all happened within the 15 minutes.

"The man saw it at a North Geelong railway station, he was waiting on his daughter who was catching the train from Werribee.

"It was egg shaped and it was going really fast.

"She was on the train and she saw it too, she didn't know it at the time but she told him she had seen something strange.

"At this stage I'm not ruling out an asteroid, and you've got a big

## For a UFO researcher being taken seriously is the hardest part

INVESTIGATOR Paul Norman said cynicism sometimes got in the way of his work.

The media turned an important case he investigated at the Nullarbor in Western Australia into a circus.

There, a mother and her three teenage sons were travelling across the plain when they noticed a bright light.

It passed and they followed, the light then turned its attention on them and landed with a thump on top of their car.

The family said their car was picked up off the ground.

The woman put her hand outside the window to the top of the car and felt a sponge-like material.

The light source then dropped the car and a tyre was punctured.

Mr Norman said he interviewed the woman after the 1988 incident and her hand was inexplicably swollen.

The two dogs which had been travelling with them also began losing patches of hair.

The car was covered inside and out with a dust so thick it could be scooped up in a cup.

Mr Norman said he took the

dust to be analyzed at a respected American laboratory and they found it to contain a mix of substances unrelated with any material either in or around the car.

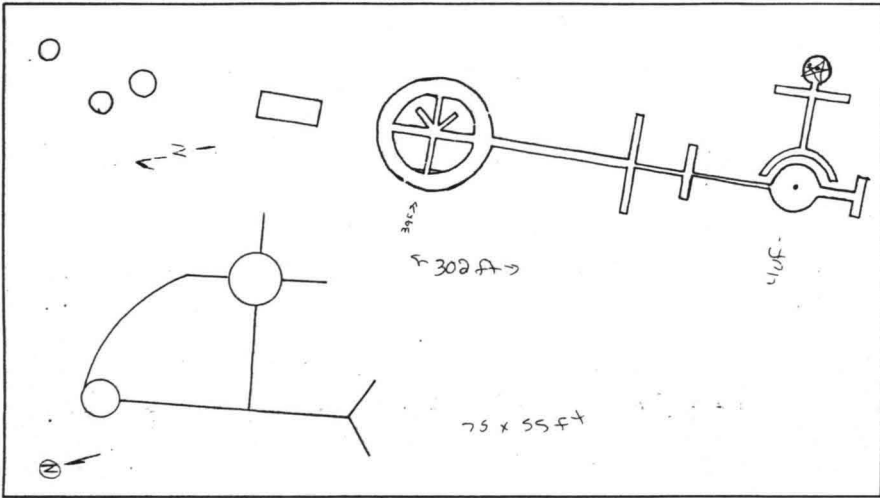
Mr Norman also studied the famous Valentich case of 20 years ago when an aircraft disappeared in flashing lights off Cape Orway over Bass Strait in a way reminiscent of the Bermuda Triangle.



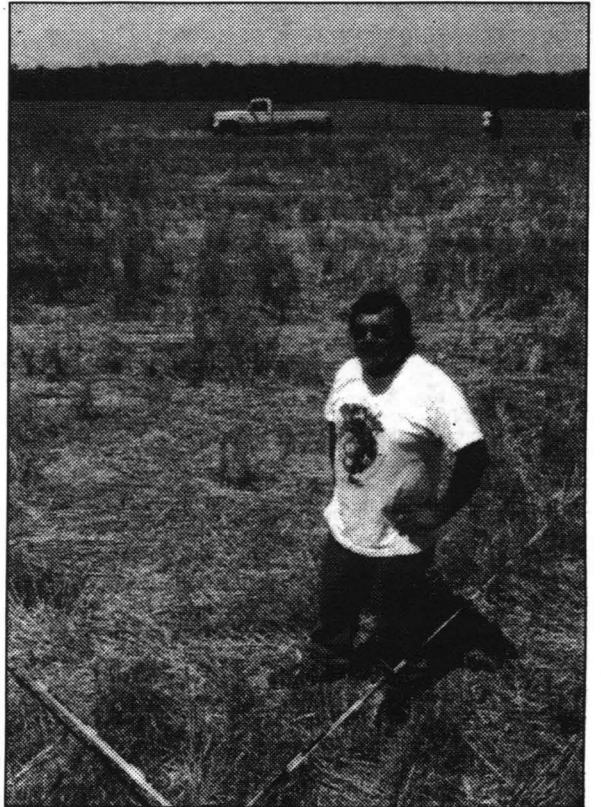
Crop circles and shapes have appeared in a field off First Line in New Credit and can be seen more in its entirety in these aerial photos.



The strange markings form circles and long lines connect the markings. (Photo by Kevin Isaac)



This diagram shows the shape the circles and markings have taken in Ken King's field. One is 302 feet long while in an adjacent field the markings are more compact.



Ken King, owner of the wheat field where the crop circles and shapes have appeared.

## U.F.O. markings, crop circles appear at New Credit

By Lynda Powless  
Editor

NEW CREDIT- Mysterious crop circles and geometric figures have mysteriously appeared in a field off First Line here that are drawing crowds of onlookers and even the scientific community.

The field owned by auto mechanic Ken King were first discovered last Thursday when his brother Clint took the forestry departments A.T.V. out to test it.

"He was in the back field and he came on these shapes."

He said he stopped on top of a rectangle shape of wheat that had been pushed down.

"He looked around and found the rest," he said.

The wheat field had recently been cut. "The farmer was mad he thought kids had made this and he said he lost a lot of his crop but there's no way kids could have made these patterns," Ken said.

The patterns form circles connected to more circles with some containing peace-like symbols and others stars.

The wheat has been bent down, not broken, and forms the shapes in two different directions with the wheat facing clockwise in a pattern and the inside of the circle facing counterclockwise.

The largest of the patterns measures 302 feet long by 40 feet wide and even includes a star pattern in the wheat. A second pattern can be found in an adjacent field and is smaller in size about 75 by 55 feet.

Long lines, appearing almost like sweet grass braids, join the figures and circles.

King says he doesn't know when the figures first appeared. "It's got to be about a month. The farmer cut his crops about two weeks ago."

He said a relative spotted them a few weeks ago when he was out four-wheeling but didn't say anything.

King said he has heard reports of unidentified lights in the area. "One of the neighbours here said she saw lights hovering above the field."

He said another resident said they could see the lights from their house a concession away.

Stephanie General said she was heading home from the Pow wow during the rain storm last Saturday when she saw lights at the field.

"We were driving along First Line and we saw what looked like three spotlights shining up, one was more faded than the others, then they all came together in one big light."

General said she took pictures of the lights. "I couldn't believe it. I just took pictures." General hadn't seen the crop circles.

King said officials from the Royal Ontario Museum of Science were down on the weekend taking magnetic readings, density reading and heat readings of the circles and an investigator

with the Toronto Society Planetary Connections and National Crop Circles Investigations is coming to investigate.

"They said there are some things about these crop markings they haven't seen before, like the rectangular one and the braided markings."

King said recent heat tests also showed an unusual amount of heat being generated from a nearby ridge. "No one knows why its there but there's all this heat coming off it."

He said he even went to New Credit Band Council and alerted them to the crop markings. "The Chief, Carolyn King, said she had read in a book by an author who had dreamt about these markings."

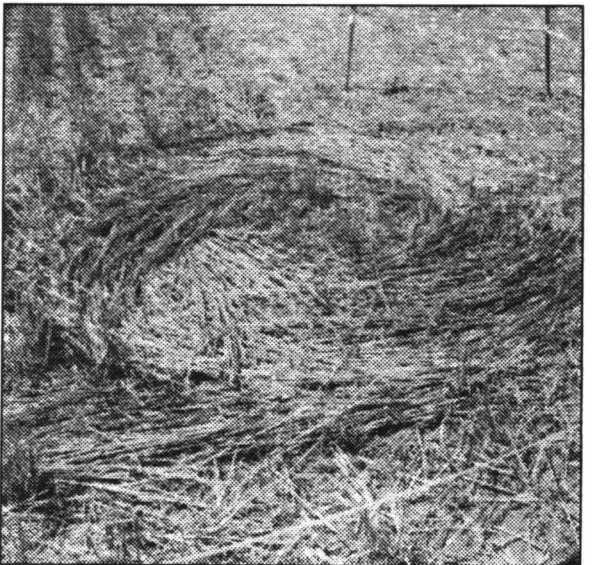
Director of Operations Warren Sault visited the site Tuesday. He said council supports King in his efforts and decision to do what he wishes with the markings. "We're just here in a support role." He said he was surprised by the markings. "I'm surprised at the magnitude and interest in them." He said some of the council members have visited the site.

King said he has opened his field up to anyone who wants to come see the markings. "We just ask that people don't walk on them."

He said he isn't sure what he is going to do with the markings once the investigation is complete. "Once we get pictures and they get all their findings, we'll probably just plow it for next year's crop."

Chris Martin measured some of the circles. "It's really wierd," he said. "I mean you read about this

[Original article incomplete]



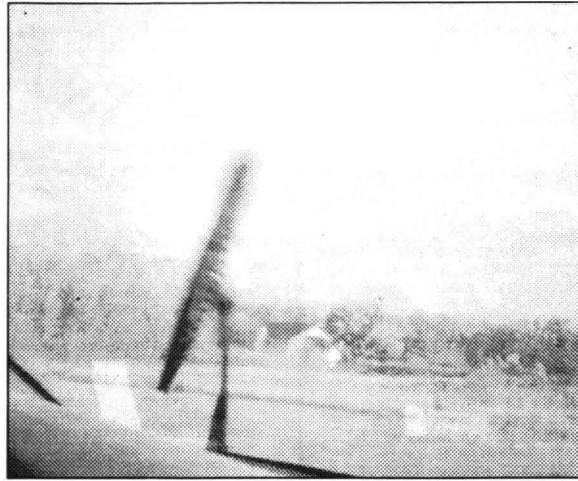
The circles appear from a distance to just be trampled down wheat but on close examination, the wheat forms patterns within the circles and is not broken. (Photo by Kevin Isaac)

(continued on page 15)





Strange lights from a field at New Credit appeared in the sky during the recent rainstorm and were captured by Stephanie General as she drove by.



At first the lights appeared separately shooting up then merged together to form one large almost spotlight. (Photos by Stephanie General)

## Weirder things have happened but it's been a year

Now here, on the anniversary, we might add, of the appearance of last year's "Monkey Dog" we now have crop circles and markings making an appearance in a New Credit farmer's field.

The appearance has taken on almost show like quality with more than 150 people visiting the site in recent days and we expect a lot more will be converging on site in the coming days.

The question on everyone's lips of course is what are they and where did they come from.

In some of the circles there are even plants with burnt leaves so it does leave one wondering what happened down at New Credit on a recent evening or day and just who was visiting whom.

We've all read about the crop circles over the years and wondered aloud if someone didn't just stage the events and now here we have them in an isolated field bordered by bush with entrance only past a home where residents would have spotted anyone heading back into the field.

And out of nowhere we have crop circles. There are also rumours of people claiming to have made the markings but no one has officially come forward to explain the patterns or how they did them.

It does leave one to wonder just what is going on. But then, as an elder told us at the site, the prophecies said the days would come when we would see unexplained and strange things. I think this qualifies.

Whatever Ken King does with the mysterious crop markings, it has certainly generated a lot of interest in the community just next door.

EAST GRINSTEAD COURIER, Sussex, England - March 25, 1999

## Mystery of the UFO

MYSTERY surrounds an unidentified flying object spotted by a Felcourt man spinning out of control.

Jim Warboys, who works for a construction company, spotted what looked like a hang glider falling out of control over woodland near Witherham on Friday at about 2.30pm.

He watched it, called the emergency services and went to look for it, but nothing could be found.

He said: "I was working and looked up to see

an aircraft going over. "As it passed by I saw something that looked like it left the aircraft, or was flying near it. It looked out of control.

"I managed to follow where it was falling. It went down in dense woodland.

### Annoying

"I had a good look round but couldn't see anything.

"I called the emergency services, and the Sussex Police Helicopter went up, but they couldn't see anything.

"It's annoying — it makes me feel a bit of a clown but I don't just see things, and it is frustrating not knowing what it was I saw — it looked like a hang glider."

A Sussex Police Helicopter spokesman said the helicopter crew searched for more than two hours, but couldn't find anything.

He added: "We spoke to a local farmer who has a microlight, but it was not his and he was not aware of anyone flying in the area."

HUCKNALL DISPATCH, Notts., England March 5, 1999

## Did YOU see UFO?

A COUPLE who believe they saw a UFO as they drove through Hucknall are appealing for other witnesses to come forward.

The duo were travelling along Nabbs Lane at around 9.40 pm on Wednesday last week when they saw two strange triangular-shaped objects, stationary in the sky and about eight feet apart.

"I could not believe what I was seeing, so I stopped the car while we took another look," said Roy Walters (47), of Barbara Square. "They definitely weren't helicopters or aeroplanes. I know what they look like and I wasn't drunk or anything like that."

"We went a bit further on and stopped again as they flew directly over us. They had white lights and when we stopped the car and wound the windows down, I couldn't hear any noise. But my partner said she could."

"It was quite amazing to watch. We just want to know if someone can tell us what they were."



ROY WALTERS

"People might think this is all a bit strange but if you've seen something and you're not sure what it is, it's only right to ask if someone can explain it. There might be a perfectly logical explanation and it's nothing to do with UFOs at all."

A police spokeswoman said she was unaware of any reports from members of the public who had seen something strange.

She offered this explanation: "There was a conjunction between Jupiter and Venus on that night and that might have been what the couple saw."

But Mr Walters was unconvinced.

"I saw that too and this was different — it involved vehicles, or whatever you want to call them, moving across the sky very slowly," he explained.

Anyone who might have seen the 'triangles' or any other strange phenomena last week should contact the Dispatch newsdesk on 9538552.

TIMES, Seattle, WA - July 9, 1999

## 100 in cult reported gone to rendezvous with a UFO

REUTERS

CARTAGENA, Colombia — At least 100 members of a cult were missing in northern Colombia after they went to rendezvous with a UFO that they believed would save them from "the end of the world," relatives said yesterday.

"My daughter told me she had to leave because a cataclysm was going to occur and that she had to go to a high place to meet extraterrestrials who would save them from the end of the world," said Andrea de Echenique, whose daughter, Maria Bernarda, is missing.

The followers of the Stella Maris Church, which describes itself as gnostic, headed out to the Sierra Nevada mountains in two groups Friday and over the weekend.

A police spokesman in the Caribbean resort of Cartagena, where most of the cult members lived, said no search operation had been mounted because there was no indication that the cult was planning mass suicide or that members had been forced to go against their will.

Leaders of a gnostic group in Bogota said it did not have any links with the Stella Maris group but had heard reports of its strange beliefs.

"People had told us that certain practices of the Stella Maris group were fanatical and dogmatic. Over the last two years they had been talking about a meeting with UFOs," said Wilson Martinez, a gnostic "archbishop" in Bogota.

Martinez said gnostics believed in the spiritual but not historical existence of Christ and looked to "free their souls with knowledge."

Members' relatives have accused Rogelio Perea, self-styled head of Stella Maris, of swindling his followers out of their homes, property and money.

Others close to Stella Maris believe its members have simply gone on a routine spiritual retreat.

HERALD EXPRESS, Torquay, England - March 22, 1999

## Riddle grows over light in the sky

IS THERE something out there.

Leslie Linton of Chudleigh has had a close encounter with a UFO — the second sighting of a strange object flying over the town.

Last week I told how Robert Bickford saw a strange orange light also above Chudleigh.

Now, Leslie has confirmed an hour later.

"It was like a big tube which was gold in colour," he said.

### Swaying

"The edges seemed to be moving and it was swaying from side to side."

Leslie, 71, of Moorview, said it was flying from the Exeter direction towards Newton Abbot.

"It frightened me for a minute because it was like nothing I had ever seen before."

Spooky, eh? Did anyone else spot this object on Tuesday, March 9, at around 11pm?

EVENING POST, Bristol, England - Feb. 13, 1999

# The PLUNKETT file

A weekly update on the ever-present alien threat

DENIS Plunkett of Winterbourne is the founder of The International Flying Saucer Bureau, the world's oldest UFO society.

An acclaimed authority on extra-terrestrial phenomenon, Denis writes exclusively for Seven about the strange lights in the West's night skies.

On April 27, 1968, the vicar of St Christopher's, Brislington, was taking a twilight walk with his wife in deserted Arnos Park.

Suddenly, without warning, the couple saw a glowing object which apparently hovered some 6 feet off the ground at an estimated distance from them of 75-100 yards.

It seemed to be revolving and to be maintaining a steady position which it did throughout the sighting.

The single dome-shaped object was estimated to be 12-15 feet high and about 10-12 feet in circumference. It was completely symmetrical, it neither increased nor decreased its size, and its overall shape remained constant.

The colour of its outer rim was a dirty yellow but inside the rim it was off-white and this inner light was subject to irregular variation of size.

The whole thing was transparent, for the sky-line at the crest of the slope beyond its position could be seen through the object.

No sound was heard throughout the sighting. After about 20 seconds or so, the object disappeared.

The witness reported the incident to the police at 10pm that evening, the Chief Constable of Bristol was later furnished with a report and the Bishop of Bristol was also informed.

The Reverend was asked if he was knowledgeable about UFO's but said no, only what he had read in newspaper articles.

# LAST NIGHT'S TELEVISION



Close encounters of the highly strange kind. By Tim Hulse

IS THERE anybody out there? This was the question posed by **RIDDLE OF THE SKIES** (C4) in the first of three programmes examining the UFO phenomenon. Ever since an American pilot called Kenneth Arnold reported seeing disc-shaped objects in the sky over Washington State in 1947, thousands of people all over the world claim to have seen unidentified flying objects. But, as last night's programme put it, are they mere quirks of nature or something more profound?

In Belgium in 1989 and 1990, for instance, there were hundreds of sightings of a triangle of lights in the sky which moved slowly across the countryside. According to Leon Brenig, a Belgian physicist who investigated these sightings, the behaviour of this apparition was "highly strange". At one point, for instance, it was said to have spent 20 minutes hovering over a farm. "Why above a farm? What does it mean?" he asked, although I'd have thought a more pertinent question would have been: "Why above Belgium?" If you've come all this way from planet Zarg, there are surely more interesting places to do your hovering.

A Belgian shopkeeper who filmed the three moving lights said people from the government had called him and told him to say it was a plane. This is the sort of statement that fuels all those conspiracy theories about cover-ups and sinister men in black, but if it was true, one wondered why the government allowed members of the air force to talk about their part in investigating the phenomenon. A general recalled the night two F-16 fighters were scrambled after a blip had appeared on radar, and one of the pilots described how he had repeatedly locked onto an object with extraordinary manoeuvrability travelling at over 700 knots. The aircraft never made direct visual contact with the object, but we saw a recording of the little green blob which appeared on their radar displays. An expert who studied the tape said that what the object was doing was impossible according to the laws of mechanics. We were then shown a computer-enhanced photograph which appeared to show a

delta-shaped craft behind the lights. Spooky. Unfortunately nobody asked why, if this was some sort of extra-terrestrial craft or indeed just a secret American spy plane, it would choose to advertise its presence with three bright lights.

It was time to move on. We heard about strange balls of light over Germany, we met a musician who'd photographed a silver flying saucer, and we met a Mexican who'd had an encounter with a strange object which left him with stomach pains and marks on his hands and face. Then we were off to the moon. A scientist who worked on NASA's Apollo programme said he'd been at mission control when an astronaut in a lunar orbiter said

he'd seen flashes on the moon's surface. The head of physics at Nebraska University said he's convinced that a piece of film showing a small object above the moon is proof there are UFOs in space and that NASA must know it. Answering this allegation, a representative of NASA said that considering its budget has gone down for the last five years, if they had any evidence of alien beings, they'd trumpet it loud and clear rather than covering it up.

And that was that, really. By the end of the programme, we were really none the wiser. No doubt any watching aliens will have been very relieved.



SKIES: Folks from Zarg?

**'This is the sort of statement that fuels all those conspiracy theories about cover-ups'**

USA TODAY, Washington, DC - July 21, 1999

**MEXICO UFO:** Mexican experts are seeking NASA's advice after noticing and filming a "very peculiar" unidentified body of light hovering above the Volcan de Fuego. "It is not a light that emanated from an explosion in the crater. It is a light that appears in two out of every 30 frames of the video recording," said Jaime Paz, director of the Civil Protection agency in Jalisco state. The video was sent to NASA for analysis.

EXMOUTH JOURNAL, Devon, England - Feb. 25, 1999

# 'Something very strange afoot in East Devon'

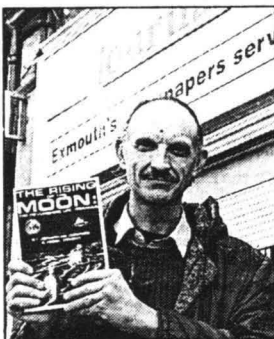
By Geoff Naish  
THE JOURNAL'S own paranormal specialist, Nigel Wright, has just had his first book published, *The Rising of the Moon: The Devonshire UFO Triangle*, co-written with Exeter fortean\* researcher, Jonathan Downes.

Nigel, 41, has been interested in strange phenomena for more than 30 years but only decided to become a full time researcher and writer just two years ago - beginning with a series of articles in *The Journal*.

Since then, his one time hobby has become an all absorbing and hectic full-time career with a growing series of lecture circuit talks and national television appearances lined up.

This week he is appearing on the Fisher Rantzen show; at the weekend he is speaking at the Exeter University Sci Fi Convention; and he has been invited to the International UFO conference in Nevada.

Nigel's decision to concentrate full time on investigating the paranormal came following the summer of 1997 when, as he put it "there was an unprecedented wave of UFO reports, a dead whale is washed up on a Devon beach in the style of a classic cattle mutilation.



NIGEL Wright.

"Meanwhile something is stalking a caravan site attacking domestic animals. Its description fits no animal on earth. Sightings of mystery big cats and ghosts and poltergeist events show that something very strange is afoot in East Devon."

Nigel felt his home in Exmouth was near the epicentre of this "mysterious psychic vortex" and began to investigate with Jonathan Downes, a writer, TV presenter and fortean researcher.

The book that has resulted is described in the promotional material as "an absorbing and thoroughly researched, indexed and referenced work in which Jonathan and Nigel meticulously examine and analyse the evidence and seek an underlying explanation".

## STUDIES

Interwoven with the reports of the strange events of 1997 are studies of the various locations, their geology and their social history - and earlier events, some uncharted from centuries ago, such as missing persons, unsolved murders, UFOs, alien abductions and "missing time", crop circles, mystery air ships and ghost and poltergeist activity.

Sightings of strange lights, objects, creatures and happenings reported in *The Journal*, both in recent times and going back over many years are featured in parts of the 248-page book, which should appeal to those with a fascination for the unexplained and unknown.

*The Rising of the Moon: The Devonshire UFO Triangle* is published by Domra Publications, price £12.95.

\*Fortean - named after Charles Hoy Fort (1874-1932) collector of and researcher into anomalous phenomena.

# Alex's U-turn on UFO hoax



Flying saucer attack: Alex Birch (right) with his son Adrian Birch and grandson, Thomas Dodsworth

A SHEFFIELD man who "hoaxed" the world 30 years ago with a DIY snap of a UFO now claims his story was true after all.

Alex Birch, aged 49, now an antiques dealer and grandfather, claims pressure and ridicule forced him to claim the UFO sighting in 1962, which made him a world-wide celebrity, was a fake.

Now he says he wants the world to know the true story of what happened above the garden of his parent's home in Moor Crescent, Mosborough on March 4, 1962.

Officials at the world-famous Roswell UFO Museum in America have asked to buy the Box Brownie camera he used to take the picture to put on display to thousands of visitors.

Alex, then a 12-year-old schoolboy at Westfield Comprehensive, took the photo while playing in the garden with two pals, David Brownlow and Stuart Dixon.

The photograph was to change his life. It was pronounced genuine by Kodak experts, while the Air Ministry and the Pentagon examined copies and ordered an investigation.

But ten years later, Alex called a press conference and said the photograph was a simple cut and paste fake. He said it was a schoolboy prank which snowballed out of control.

Today Alex explained why he had changed his strange story yet again.

He said: "People think I made a fortune out the photograph - I have heard estimates of up to half a million pounds.

## Important

"In fact, I made practically nothing, but I did become internationally famous for it.

"But with the fame came a lot of misery. I faced a lot of ridicule and pressure. I decided to claim it was a fake in the hope that it would all go away and the pressure would be taken off me.

"The reason I have now decided to let the real story be known is

because I think it is important the public should know.

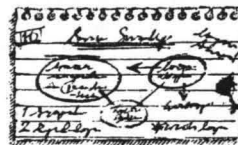
"But it seems that one black and white picture taken in a garden all those years ago will be having an impact on our lives for some years to come."

Today Alex's two former pals were telling a different story.

David Brownlow, 48, said: "We were young and got swept along with it. We had our ten minutes of fame - but it was a hoax."

Stuart Dixon, 53, said: "I find it far better and simpler to let people think what they want to think about that photo."

INDEPENDENT, London, England - March 9, 1999



## EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL NOTES

TONY DODD

# Animal surgeons from outer space

ANIMALS COME very high up the British agenda. We love our pets, and we are sentimental about cute and cuddly farmyard animals. So it is surprising that we have made so little of a phenomenon involving attacks on our domestic and wild animals by an unknown and apparently insatiable predator.

Cows, horses, sheep, pigs, cats, deer, badgers, foxes and even mice are being systematically butchered in a manner that appears, at first sight, to be ritualistic except that the method of carrying out the mutilation seems to be way ahead of any technology known to man.

The corpses are not the messy gory savaged remains of a natural predator kill. They are neat, clinically tidy, with a total blood loss from the animal yet without any signs of blood loss at the site of the wound or on the ground nearby; further, an astonishing catalogue of surgical procedures has been carried out on them. Internal organs have been removed through small cuts, which appear to have been sealed or cauterised. Sometimes the animal seems to have been sedated, and there is usually no sign of disturbance, not even the animal's own footprints, around the scene.

These strange deaths have been occurring not only in Britain, but all over the world. The only major study of them has been carried out in America, where an Emmy-

winning documentary, *A Strange Harvest*, was broadcast in 1980. It was made by Linda Moulton Howe, a respected journalist, who started her investigations when she heard of a few bizarre animal deaths. She surmised that the mutilations might be part of a secret government research programme, possibly monitoring pollution and contamination caused by radiation leak or accidental poison release. She was expecting to unmask a government cover-up.

Instead, she came to realise that, although the US government was aware of the deaths, it was not responsible for them. She reached the conclusion that the deaths are the work of alien visitors to this planet, who are carrying out medical experiments on animal organs.

How can anyone be sure that these deaths are not the work of vandals or animals? Pathology reports in the US have shown that the incisions in the flesh have been made with high heat, which cooked the haemoglobin at the edge of the wound. The cuts have a hardened edge, not consistent with the type of lasers we use today and besides, if lasers were being used, we would be looking at very sophisticated vandals indeed, able to transport power generators to the scenes of the deaths. As the bodies are often found in remote places, with no signs of

disturbance around them, this is unlikely.

The mutilations come in clusters, either with individual cases in the same area over a matter of weeks or, more spectacularly, with several animal corpses being found together. Often these are animals which would never be together in nature such as sheep and foxes.

After a spate of sheep deaths in an area of the north-east coast of England, farmers rigged up infra-red cameras triggered by any movement in a particular field. They were positioned so that sheep moving about in the night would not fire them, but if anything taller than a sheep entered the field the cameras would record it. The following morning, they found another mutilated lamb, with the familiar neat holes in its body, the organs removed. But, when the films were developed, they showed only small white clouds on black backgrounds.

The one common factor with the mutilations is reports from farmers of strange glowing lights hovering in the air over the fields the night before. This suggests an explanation: the "night surgeons" are neither human nor animal, but come from one of the billions of stars in the countless galaxies beyond our Solar System.

Tony Dodd is the author of *'Alien Investigator'* (Headline, 11 March, £16.99)



# Is anybody there?

**T**HE truth, apparently, is out there. And it is Tony Dodd's mission to uncover it. A former policeman, he has spent the last 20 years researching reports of alien races visiting Earth.

His investigations have led him to believe that, not only are a number of different extra-terrestrial groups regularly coming to our planet, but they have also established underwater bases beneath the oceans. An international conspiracy exists to keep such facts from the general public, states Mr Dodd (pictured), 64. Now the UFO detective has opened his own case files to tell of his remarkable investigations to try to back up his astonishing claims. They allege that Norfolk has been the centre of intense alien activity.



"There has been a great deal of activity over East Anglia generally," said Mr Dodd, who served with the RAF in Norfolk during his National Service. "We tend to get a lot in coastal areas and certainly the eastern side has been prominent for an awful long time." Sightings of unidentified flying objects

have, in particular, been concentrated close to military air bases in the region, including Coltishall, Mildenhall and Lakenheath.

"People say, of course, you would expect to see things because they are American air bases, but there have been some extraordinary reports from down there."

One of the most significant cases researched by Mr Dodd, now living in Skipton, Yorkshire, took place just over two years ago. In the autumn of 1996 he investigated what was believed to be a major UFO alert over East Anglia, prompted by the sighting of a red and green rotating light over the sea off the coast of Yarmouth. The curious illumination was first noticed over the sea to the south east of Skegness and was then tracked down the east coast to Norfolk.

According to Mr Dodd's case files, coastguards at Yarmouth monitored the UFO and in radio conversation with an oil tanker heard it described as "stationary and flashing red, green blue and white. It looks very high, north of us, there is no engine noise."

It later emerged that police at Skegness had made a video of the object which they described as a red boomerang shape with a

green light on top. The tape was sent to the Ministry of Defence but logical explanations for the sighting were not forthcoming.

One suggestion was that observers had merely identified Boston Stump, a church spire in Lincolnshire. But the landmark would not have been visible at sea where the oil tanker was and it is incredible to think radar stations cannot distinguish between an airborne object and a church spire.

The planet Venus was also blamed but this would not have been visible after sunrise — and sightings of the UFO were reported in the morning as well as through the night.

And a claim the strange lights were caused by nothing more than lightning from a storm at sea fails to tie up with the descriptions that they were different colours.

Another important case from Mr Dodd's files dates back to 1970. In September of that year he claims a joint British and US military operation was set up to investigate UFO sightings around the east coast of England. Operation Aeneid, as the project is said to have been labelled, led to two jets from RAF Coltishall being scrambled to tail a mysterious conical-shaped craft travelling at speeds of up to 17,400mph. The object had a bright blue light and seemed to be towing a

large "glass ball". It eventually vanished without trace from radar screens.

The fact that Norfolk and East Anglia should be such a centre for alien activity supports, Mr Dodd believes, his theory that an extra-terrestrial base exists under the North Sea. Alien races would, no doubt, possess the technology to operate such a station, he argues, and, as one of the most inaccessible parts of the Earth, it would provide the perfect cover.

The authorities are aware of these unearthly visits, claims Mr Dodd, but have conspired to keep them out of the public domain. He is confident, however, that the truth will out eventually and that this may happen sooner rather than later.

"When I look back over the last five years there is a much bigger acceptance of the possibility of these things. I believe there is a very slow and subtle education process going on. Sooner or later the truth has got to come out. Scientists start off by saying that these things couldn't possibly exist, then they admit the possibility, then they start looking at the probability and finally there is the admission of the facts."

■ Alien Investigator by Tony Dodd is published by Headline Book Publishing Ltd.

THE BIG ISSUE IN SCOTLAND, [City Unknown], Scotland - March 25-31, 1999

## Speyside: the final frontier

Little green men are alive and well – and living in Scotland's disused mines! In the start of our three-page alien special, **Liam McDougall** meets the ufologists who are taking on Tony Blair in a quest for the truth

Something very strange is happening over Scotland's skies. From the Borders to Shetland, weird lights are flickering and mysterious shapes are soaring and hovering, controlled by forces unknown to most of us.

The truth is indeed out there. What's more, it's said to be living in abandoned mines – and it may soon change all our lives forever.

Gary Wood, 36, an ambulanceman from Edinburgh, is one Scot who believes he has found the truth – or rather that it has found him. One clear August night in 1992, he and his friend Colin Wright were driving under a starry sky on the desolate A70 near Balerno, when they claim they were confronted by a black floating saucer 20 feet in the air and as wide as a bus.

"I crashed the gearbox into a lower gear and accelerated," recalls Gary. "But just as we were heading

under it, it dropped a shimmering curtain of light like a waterfall. Suddenly I wasn't in my car – I was standing in blackness for 15 seconds.

"Then we were back inside the car, on the wrong side of the road and heading up an embankment. I must have driven at about 100 miles an hour down that road."

Gary and his pal were horrified to find that two hours had passed. Nine months later, while under hypnosis, they relived a terrifying experience which still haunts them to this day. Details emerged of small grey extra-terrestrials on an alien craft.

"I saw these translucent creatures with four fingers just looking at me," Gary says. "There was also a brown one which had folds of skin like contours on a map. I was lying there crying and this thing came up to my face and said telepathically, 'I've got a life like you – but different'.

Is this the proof? Below: a suspected UFO captured on film in 1997 in Mexico. Left: this rod-like phenomenon was recorded on video in Stirling last year. Similar objects have also been seen in Mexico, the US and several other countries

"I kept asking, 'What do you want?' It just said, 'Sanctuary'. I don't care what anyone says or thinks – I know this is real."

Now Gary is convinced the "greys" are living underground in abandoned mines just outside Edinburgh. He argues that sightings near Blackridge and unexplained explosions in nearby empty silver mines provide hard evidence.

Malcolm Robinson, 41, has studied the paranormal in Scotland for more than 20 years. Now based in London, he is behind the

group Strange Phenomena Investigations England.

"I started out trying to disprove these sightings," he says. "But soon I began to realise that something very strange was going on."

Robinson is now so convinced that he and around 50 others will picket Downing Street next month to demand that Tony Blair makes public any Government information on UK alien encounters.

Another ufologist dedicated to finding the truth is Ron Halliday, chairman of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research. Like Robinson, he believes the Government knows more than it is prepared to admit.

"The Ministry of Defence admitted to me in a letter that it has been keeping UFO reports dating back to the 1950s," he says.

"We laughed at the prospect of putting man on the moon," he adds. "But it has happened. And I think that if people looked into the UFO phenomenon a little more, they would be pleasantly surprised." ●

For more information, contact Ron Halliday on 01786 832480 or Malcolm Robinson on 0181 998 4936



## So, can anyone shed any light on this?

TONY DODD recounts one UFO incident that he says happened in the Huddersfield area.

"In November 1995, several residents of the small Yorkshire town of Sowerby Bridge were amazed to see a very large UFO hovering over Scammonden reservoir, to the south of the town. "It was described as disc shaped, glowing bright white, with coloured flashing lights around the bottom.

"As they watched, the observers saw seven fighter aircraft and three helicopters flying in circles around the object, which was hovering several hundred feet above the reservoir."

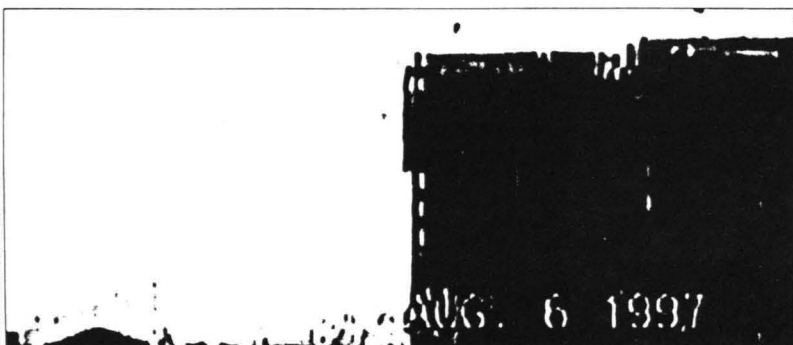
This makes it sound like a King Kong scenario and yet I can find no record of it being reported in the Examiner, even though Scammonden was in the news at the time.

During November, 1995, Yorkshire Water was running a round-the-clock operation, ferrying supplies to the near-empty reservoir in a fleet of tankers.

This produced stories and features for the Examiner on a daily basis. Scammonden was hot news.

And yet no-one apparently reported this "very large" flying saucer, or the seven fighter aircraft and three helicopters that buzzed it, to the newspaper.

Yet another mystery.



SILICON WINDOW/UFO MAGAZINE



## Monster recalled 30 years later

BY PAUL BOURGEOIS  
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

FORT WORTH, Texas — Some remember it as the summer of the miracle Mets, Woodstock and the astronauts' first landing on the moon.

But in Fort Worth, it will forever be the summer of the Lake Worth Monster.

Exactly 30 years ago this week, the monster first reared its not-so-pretty goatlike head and captured the imagination of thousands. Monster sightings lasted a week, but the myth, lore and legend continue to this day.

Some said it was a really big bobcat. Others said it was an ape that had been burned in a circus fire. Others said it was the infamous "mud man" who prowled the area for years and deserves his own story.

It all happened on Greer Island, a part of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge.

Reporter Jim Marrs broke the story in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* on July 10, 1969. It ran on Page 2 with the headline "Fishy Man-Goat Terrifies Couples Parked at Lake Worth."

It made the front page the next day.

"Police, Residents Observe, But Can't Identify Monster," the headline read.

There were more headlines throughout the week: "Witnesses Watch Monster 'Avort,'" "Loch Worth' Monster Reportedly Furry, Scaly" and "Ghosts Seen on Greer Island."

The monster was described as having a short humanoid body with a long neck. It had the head of a goat or a dog and a horn in the middle of its head. Some said it was a satyr.

"Witnesses today said the thing threw an automobile fire and wheel 500 feet," Marrs reported July 11.

In her book *The Lake Worth Monster*, author Sallie Ann Clarke recalls a personal close encounter.

"It was not bobcat, nor was it a sheep skin. It wasn't a person dressed in a Halloween costume," she wrote. "It was really the terrorizing monster. It stood on its hind feet and ran like a man. It had white hair over most of its body and scales, too. It was a goat-fish-man.

I'm sure it stood about 6 feet and 9 inches tall and was undressed. It looked like it weighed 250 or 260 pounds.

"It was the most pathetic sound I have ever heard. It went Grrrrrr, Brrr, Yeeeeepe, Yuuuuuuuuuuuu, and sounded almost as if it would cry any minute from the great pain it was in," she wrote.

Clarke cited reports of sheep being horribly mangled.

Nature Center Director Wayne Clark said he's not aware of any recent sightings, but questions about it do arise regularly.

"We still have little kids on occa-

sion who say they heard about the Lake Worth Monster or ask, 'Is there a goat man out here?'" he said last week.

"I remember when all that was going on. There were a number of old parking lots, and the kids used to throw keg parties. They were a pretty well-behaved group but they would party.

"Then supposedly some creature showed up and started yelling and threw tires like Frisbees. From what I heard, it was a total panic with everybody running into each other and burning rubber to get out of there."

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR - June 16, 1999

## Shroud of Turin carries pollen from Holy Land

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Plant imprints and pollen found on the Shroud of Turin, revered by many as Jesus' burial shroud, support the premise that it originated in the Holy Land, two Israeli scientists said Tuesday.

"In the light of our findings, it is highly probable that the shroud did in fact come from this part of the world," said Avinoam Danin, a botany professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The botanists did not address the issue of the age of the linen cloth, which was brought to France by a 14th-century crusader and has been enshrined since 1578 in a cathedral in Turin, Italy. About 13 feet long and 3 feet wide, it bears the image of a man with wounds similar to those suffered by Jesus.

In 1988, scientists tested scraps of the shroud with Vatican approval and concluded it dated back to between 1260 and 1390. They can't explain how the image was made, and some experts have said contamination might have affected the carbon-14 dating tests.

The shroud also includes the images of some plants, and Danin identified one as the bean caper (*Zygophyllum dumosum*), which he said grows only in Israel, Jordan and Egypt's Sinai desert.

Two other plants whose images were found on the shroud were the Rock Rose (*Cistus creticus*) which grows throughout the Middle East; and the *Goundelia tournefortii* tumbleweed, believed by some Christians to be the material of the crown of thorns.

Traces of pollen taken from the shroud are from plants found in Israel and neighboring countries, including the bean caper and the tumbleweed appearing on the shroud, according to Uri Baruch, an expert on pollen at the Israel Antiquities Authority.

Danin and Baruch both refused to discuss the authenticity of the shroud, but said their findings show that it was very probably from the Holy Land.

The flowers "could have been picked up fresh in the fields. A few of the species could be found in the markets of Jerusalem in the spring," Danin said.

The Roman Catholic Church has never claimed the cloth as a holy relic, but it has attracted pilgrims to Turin since the Middle Ages.

The shroud went on display in a bulletproof case for several weeks last year and will next go on view in 2000, for Holy Year celebrations.

UINTAH BASIN STANDARD, Roosevelt, UT - June 1, 1999

## Researchers want to hear from Uintah Basin residents & ranchers

It's been about two years since the National Institute of Discovery Science (NIDS) mailed out questionnaires to Uintah Basin farmers and ranchers in an effort to obtain information to assist them in local studies of animal mutilations which could be connected to purported extra-terrestrial activity. In the 1970s, eastern Utah was considered a "hot spot" for such activity, and, although sightings of UFOs don't make the news as much these days, NIDS researchers and others who study the unexplained happenings say that doesn't mean it's not occurring.

Colm Kelleher, deputy director for

NIDS, urges farmers and ranchers to contact his organization when they have experienced an unexplained livestock death. NIDS foots the bill for thorough clinical, morphopathological and laboratory examinations which need to be conducted. In each case, time is of the essence, he stresses.

"Only by carefully analyzing the results of such scientific information can pertinent conclusions be drawn," explains Dr. George E. Onet, PhD, DVM, employed by NIDS to handle cases in the Uintah Basin and elsewhere.

It's estimated that nationwide there are at least 2,000 unexplained

livestock mutilations a year. Many go unreported because of the direct financial costs induced by necropsies and laboratory examinations, financial repercussions from bankers who have outstanding loans against the herd, the ranchers' fear about being ridiculed by the community, and the ranchers' basic nature of being self-reliant and independent. Many others simply want to avoid the attention and publicity, said Dr. Onet.

NIDS has a toll-free number and urges ranchers and others who want to report unexplained occurrences they feel could be related to extra-terrestrial phenomenon to contact their sci-

entists and investigators at 1-888-433-6500, or they may call 702-798-1700. NIDS is careful to keep the name of the rancher confidential if requested, said Kelleher.

Linda Moulton Howe, an Emmy-winning TV documentary producer who has extensively researched livestock mutilations over a 20-year period and regularly interfaces with scientists and veterinarians, also seeks input from area residents who may have an experience to share related to new animal mutilation cases. Howe can be reached at PO Box 300, Jamison, PA 18929, or by fax 215-491-9842.



SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TEAM STUDYING CASE

# Answers sought in cattle mutilation

By Lezlee E. Whiting

Last fall, when a Duchesne County cattle rancher made a routine check of his herd, he found one of his prized registered polled Herefords dead. The day before he had seen the cow in perfect health. But on Oct. 17, 1998, he discovered the animal lying in an unusual position and missing an eye and part of an ear. There was no sign of a struggle, and there were no tracks around the animal, which was found in a water-logged pasture about 20 feet from a paved road with frequent traffic. There were no other sick cows in the herd.

*Animal mutilations have been reported worldwide since the 1960s. Reports became even more common in the 1970s, and occurred in clusters in specific geographic regions especially northeastern Utah.*

**Timely Reporting**

The rancher's discovery and his quick decision to contact local representatives of the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS), an organization dedicated to the scientific study of extra-terrestrial phenomenon, launched the

beginning of an extensive investigation into the cause of the cow's death.

"What was intriguing about this particular case is it was relatively fresh and a good amount of tissue and blood were able to be taken and that's rare," explained Colm Kelleher, deputy director for NIDS. "Several

things about this case were interesting."

So far research efforts have turned up even more bizarre findings and posed unanswered questions which are attracting a great deal of interest.

Several weeks ago NIDS posted their preliminary research findings in the unexplained death on their website, ([www.accessnv.com/NIDS](http://www.accessnv.com/NIDS)). The public report marked the first time NIDS had made such specific details about their research available for public consumption.

Over the past three years, since

NIDS purchased the 480-acre Sherman Ranch between Fort Duchesne and Randlett, in Uintah County, they have investigated less than half a dozen unexplained animal deaths in scattered locations, said Kelleher. The ranch is the site of documented, but unexplained, cattle disappearances and reported UFO sightings.

NIDS, based in Las Vegas, Nev., is headed by millionaire Robert M. Bigelow, who reportedly spends several million dollars a year on research and scientific study of anything related to extra-terrestrial phenomenon.

In this case, the rancher requested anonymity. He had not contacted NIDS before the unexplained death, nor after he reported the mutilation, said Kelleher.

**Similarities and Abnormalities**

Several of the findings in the cow's unexplained death in an unincorporated area northwest of Roosevelt match or are similar to other instances of unexplained cattle mutilations in the Uintah Basin and elsewhere, said Kelleher.

For starters, the cow was found lying in a north-south pattern with its front legs tucked under and rear legs splayed behind -- the same way 16 other cows in the Uintah Basin, dead from unexplained mutilation, were found over the past several years. Other than the fact that the placement is not random, its meaning is unknown, Kelleher reported.

The cow, estimated to have been about 90 days pregnant, did not have a fetus. Blood tests confirmed the presence of a placenta, leading researchers to believe the animal was indeed pregnant very close to the time of death, said Kelleher. Although the fetus was missing, there were no signs of an aborted calf, another similarity in other mutilation cases.

Tests conducted by two separate veterinary laboratories at university research facilities confirmed the animal's left eye and the portion of its left ear were removed with a sharp instrument and not by scavengers. The eye and ear are typically removed in such animal mutilation cases.

The full necropsy yielded a heart which appeared "to have been blown apart." The heart disintegrated when touched, although the pericardium (outer sac surrounding the organ) was intact. The decimated condition of the heart is a recurring factor in animal mutilation deaths that continues to puzzle researchers because the heart is normally the last organ to decay when an animal dies.

One exceptionally unusual occurrence was the presence of a "blue gel-like substance," which continues to be analyzed with results due out soon. Kelleher said although he is aware of one report in the 1970s of a "blueish-greenish" substance found on a mutilated cow, there has been no precedence found in the Uintah Basin.

**Cause of Death Undetermined**

Blood tests revealed a copper deficiency, which further analysis found did not appear to be the case with the herd, and a possibly toxic level of potassium chloride -- a chemical similar to "lite salt" -- in the blood. Potassium itself has the potential to be toxic, and the cow had a level ten times higher than normal, although NIDS investigators and the veterinarian who performed the necropsy agreed the animal appeared to be in excellent nutritional condition.

Investigators have questioned whether an injection of potassium chloride may have killed the animal. Potassium Chloride is easy to obtain, hard to trace in a post-mortem and kills rapidly, the NIDS report explains, while stating the animal did not die a natural death.

Dr. Blaine L. Whiting, the Roosevelt veterinarian who conducted the necropsy for NIDS, said he could not determine a "distinct cause of death," although he reported that some of the findings -- including hemorrhaging around the neck -- were similar to Black's Disease, an infection caused by organisms in the soil. Although cows are usually vaccinated for the disease, the inoculation isn't a guarantee.

He does admit that many of the findings are puzzling and unexplainable.

The weather wasn't a factor, since there were no storms or associated lightning strikes in the area before the cow was found dead.

**Strange Harvest**

Animal mutilations have been reported worldwide since the 1960s. Reports became even more common in the 1970s and occurred in clusters. From 1975 - 1977 in two Colorado counties alone there were nearly 200 reports. Most of the reports from Utah have occurred in eastern and north-eastern Utah.

Ryan Layton, who has immersed himself in the study of extra-terrestrial phenomenon, and is very familiar with the Uintah Basin's history of UFO sightings and reported extra-terrestrial activity, calls the unexplained animal deaths "one of the most incredible mysteries of the day ... and it's happening right in your



DISSECTION--Scientific analysis shows the eye removed from a cow found mutilated in a Duchesne County pasture, was done with some type of surgical instrument.

vicinity," he notes.

Popular theory and mere conjecture, leads one to believe that extra-terrestrials descend on helpless cattle and other livestock to conduct biological experiments which may benefit their own species. Whether this belief will ever be a proven fact, cattle mutilation researchers estimate the actual cases far outweigh those that are reported.

In spite of investigations by law enforcement officers, including the FBI and others attempting to gather legitimate evidence, no one has ever been arrested or charged with the crime of animal mutilations, said Linda Moulton Howe, author and awarded-winning TV documentary producer.

Howe has spent the past 20 years researching unusual animal deaths and mutilations. In 1993 she won an Emmy for her documentary, "Strange Harvest."

She was contacted by the Standard for comment on the NIDS website report and said she was immediately struck with the fact that the animal mutilations she had researched had a common chord with NIDS investigations in Duchesne County.

"In reading the NIDS report on the Utah animal my mind was flooded on with the many reports I had done with sheriff's deputies and vets ... dealing with the intact pericardium and no (heart) tissue."

From her extensive years of study Howe has concluded that the government knows far more about extra-terrestrial phenomenon than they will reveal. Howe has produced seven works specifically related to what appears to be physical evidence, governmental knowledge and cover-up about the interaction of non-human intelligence with our planet.

She alleges the massive cover-up by U.S. government intelligence and even the media, is designed "to keep the public ignorant" of the reality and pervasiveness of such phenomenon.

Howe said she didn't deliberately embark on the study of animal mutilations and UFOs. Her knowledge is the result of a single story on animal mutilations she worked on in Colorado. The cases gripped her curiosity as a reporter. Now, two decades later, she says, "Once you understand how real the facts and the evidence are, the story never lets go of you nor you of it."

POST-INTELLIGENCER, Seattle, WA - July 29, 1999 CR: R. Dyke

**SEATTLE**

**3 cats mutilated, slain; police are investigating**

Seattle Animal Control officers responding to a complaint found three cats skinned and decapitated in West Seattle Tuesday.

The animals are believed to be adult cats, one with long gray and

white fur and two with medium-length brown or gray fur, of unknown gender and age 1-5 years.

There are no suspects in the mutilation. Animal control is working with the Seattle Police Department on the investigation. Anyone with information can call Seattle Animal Control at 206-386-4254.

# Sea serpent story brings tall tales of the sea

The unexpected e-mails and phone calls can be the most fun. That's how it's been with Caddy and Dr. Bousfield.

A month ago, I had never heard of *Cadborosaurus willsi*.

Then I got an e-mail from Edward L. Bousfield, Ph.D., a retired marine biologist formerly of the Canadian National Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Bousfield had just seen a copy of our April 17 paper, which featured a page from the July 17, 1937, *Bellevue American*. Every Saturday, in honor of the close of the century, we publish a page from our past.

Those pages are always a kick to read, but that day's page carried a special treat, under the headline: "Discover Sea-Serpent."

The story described a "genuine, in-the-flesh sea-serpent" that had been recovered from the belly of a sperm whale killed near Victoria. The sea serpent,



Tom Wolfe

Editor

described it thus: "The serpent, which is alleged to be a mere baby, is 10 feet long, has a head somewhat similar to that of a horse and wears considerable long brown hair."

That specimen has since been lost, except for three black-and-white photos archived in Victoria. Other scientists say the photos show the decomposed body of a basking shark, a filter feeder that can grow to 45 feet or more. Bousfield is convinced it's his Caddy, but he needs

though partly digested, had been brought back to Bellevue, plopped into a vat of acetone and put on display at the American Pacific Whaling Co.

The Bellevue American

more evidence.

Bousfield has researched hundreds of such sightings over the years and is certain of the existence of *Cadborosaurus willsi*, named for a 1933 observation of the creature in Cadboro Bay, near Victoria.

The purpose of Bousfield's e-mail to our paper was to gather more evidence. He was hoping that we would still have files on Caddy. We don't, but yesterday I called him anyway and heard several good tales of the sea, told with scholarship and wonder.

One of them was about a Mercer Island woman who not only saw Caddy, "she held a baby one in her hands."

That was too good to pass up, so I called her, too. "I've got a story," she promised. "Definitely. But I like money, like anyone else."

That took the fun out of it, for me, as did a piece in last Sunday's *Toronto Globe* and

Mail — the *New York Times* of Canada — which sniffed and snorted about the quality of the science behind Bousfield's sea monsters.

The marine biologist didn't seem discouraged, though.

The reason is that no matter how many Caddy sightings are discredited, there are always more to investigate, especially in the summer, when the mysteries of the sea are on display for so many more people.

Every year for the past decade, there have been a few summertime encounters. "We're expecting the animal to come up in the next six weeks," Bousfield promised.

If so, let's get on with it, Caddy. Let the summer begin.

*Tom Wolfe is editor of the Eastside Journal. His column runs every Tuesday. Readers can reach him by phone 425-453-4230, e-mail tom.wolfe@eastsidejournal.com or fax 425-635-0603.*

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - July 27, 1999 CR: G. Conway

## POLICE END UNIDENTIFIED CREATURE'S REIGN OF TERROR

AMMAN • An unidentified creature which terrorized the people and poultry of the northern Jordanian city of Mafraq for a month was captured Sunday night by police, officials said yesterday. "Townfolk first sighted the small cat-like animal a month ago, but then it started appearing on a nightly basis, devouring dozens of hens and pigeons," said an official from Mafraq governorate. The small-headed creature with disproportionately large eyes, teeth and tail was hunted down after townfolk lodged complaints that the animal was prowling Mafraq's residential quarters by night. The official speculated that the animal could have been drawn to Mafraq, which lies on the edge of the desert 100 kilometres north of Amman, by this year's drought. The animal, nicknamed Al-Massara, has been handed to local vets to determine its species, but it was not known if it was the only such creature at large in the town.

## Canadian astronaut believes in life on other planets

Views shared by other scientists

BY MARINA JIMÉNEZ AND LUIZA CHWIAKOWSKA

Julie Payette, the Canadian astronaut who recently returned from her first mission to space aboard the space shuttle *Discovery*, believes in the existence of intelligent life beyond Earth, but is less certain extraterrestrials have graced our "little planet."

Ms. Payette says based on the law of probabilities and the vast number of planets, stars and other galaxies, it is almost impossible to conclude that humans are the only intelligent life form in the universe.

"The chances that we're alone is almost nil," Ms. Payette, 35, said in an interview yesterday with the *National Post*. "It's actually a prevalent scientific thought that statistically it makes a lot of sense that there is something else out there. We just haven't had any proof yet."

Earlier in the day Ms. Payette, who holds two engineering degrees, told a television audience at

RDI, the CBC's French all-news network, that the idea that human life is the only intelligent life form is as presumptuous as the belief 400 years ago that the Earth was at the centre of the universe.

Ms. Payette's views are shared by other scientists and astronauts, many of whom believe in life on other planets, and support the search for extraterrestrials.

Thomas McDonough, an astrophysicist, attributes this to their cosmic perspective and ability to imagine life beyond our solar system.

"Most scientists think it is quite reasonable to imagine there are other life forms in the universe and that some of them might be intelligent," said Mr. McDonough, of the Planetary Society in Pasadena, Calif., which runs SETI, the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence. "I think astronauts are much more likely to think about the rest of the universe because they've seen it in a way that normal humans have not."

Among the society's supporters are three former astronauts, including Buzz Aldrin, Ray Bradbury, a science-fiction writer, author Arthur C. Clarke, and actor

Paul Newman. Steven Spielberg, the movie producer, has donated \$100,000 to SETI.

Mr. McDonough said that no radio or light signals from other civilizations have been detected, but scientists have found molecules in space that "are the basic ingredients for life."

While scientists such as Ms. Payette are open to the idea of extraterrestrial life, many do not believe there is scientific proof they have visited Earth.

"It is presumptuous to believe that these other forms of life will come visit us, our little planet in a little solar system in a galaxy of average importance in a massive universe that consists of several billion galaxies," she said. "If they do come visit, I can assure you of one thing, we will all know."

Ms. Payette said her journey through space broadened her horizons and changed her perspective. "You do see the beauty and fragility of our planet," she said.

Dr. Roberta Bondar, the first female Canadian astronaut to go into space, also supports the idea of life elsewhere, and said her view was altered by her momentous 1992 visit into the "black void" of space.

"We're part of a tremendous spread of planets. The probability of having life out there is very high," said Dr. Bondar. "Just because we haven't seen and identified it doesn't mean it doesn't exist."

National Post

NATIONAL POST, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - July 26, 1999 CR: G. Conway

## WILDLIFE OFFICIALS PROBE MARITIME PANTHER SIGHTING

BY STEPHEN SMITH

Wildlife officials in New Brunswick are investigating a report of a black panther lurking about the outskirts of the village of Gagetown, near Fredericton.

Ruth Mahoney said she first saw the large, jet black cat last Tuesday as it prowled about the far side of the road opposite her rural house, situated five kilometres outside Gagetown.

"I thought it was a dog at first walking through the field across the street but when I saw it's long, swooping tail I knew it wasn't a dog at all," she said.

Her brother-in-law Bernie Johnson, who had just arrived with Ms. Mahoney's sister Pat from Panama City, Fla., grabbed his binoculars for a closer look at the cat, which Ms. Mahoney said he thought looked a lot like a young panther.

The sighting was the second big cat encounter for Ms. Mahoney recently. Two weeks ago, she said she saw a dark brown, adult cougar twice in a field near her wood-bound house.

Ms. Mahoney said Department of Natural Resources officials have been treating her stories with a mix of interest and skepticism. Panthers are not native to New Brunswick and, despite numerous reported sightings, scientists have little concrete proof to confirm popular suspicions that eastern cougars still roam its woods.

National Post