

# 'Horrible' UFO ex-

LONGVIEW (AP) — Lavell Morales says she was always skeptical of flying saucers, but a "horrible" experience along a dark, lonely stretch of highway turned her into a believer.

"Since it happened, I haven't been able to rest," said the White Oak resident. "I wake up at night thinking about it. That thing was not of this world."

The "thing" seen by Mrs. Morales and her daughter Dawn, 18, was a large orange and gray object hovering just off U.S. 271 near Owentown.

"People naturally think you're a nut," said Mrs. Morales, explaining why she didn't make public the Feb. 23 incident earlier. "That's the first reaction. But my brother finally convinced me I should report it. My daughter and I know what we saw."

Mrs. Morales and her daughter were returning home from Tyler about 9 p.m. when they had their close encounter.

"It was huge, taller than a building. And it was hovering to the right of us, just off the highway," she said.

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The object was "about a car's length" above the ground and "the top of it was turning. It looked like a fruit jar lid. There were orange lights, bright orange lights," she said. "The bottom was grayish, and it wasn't moving."

After she spotted the object, Mrs. Morales said she tried to point it out to her daughter but couldn't.

"It put me in a light trance. I couldn't get my eyes off of it. I couldn't tell her to look at it," she said. "I'm not a dummy, but I'm convinced there was an energy field of some kind. The energy forces were tremendous."

At that point, she said, the car began to swerve toward a deep ditch and Dawn cried, "You're going off the road!"

Then her daughter spotted the object and started to cry, Mrs. Morales said.

She said she stepped on the accelerator and sped toward home, not looking back.

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HOUSTON, TEXAS

After arriving home, Mrs. Morales called the Tyler Police Department and the Smith County Sheriff's De-

## Texan believer

partment, which said no one else had reported seeing the object.

Mrs. Morales said she is reporting the incident publicly "because I feel it is still in the area somewhere. My daughter feels the same."

She said she is convinced that what she and her daughter saw was more than swamp gas or reflected lights.

"I think it was something from outer space," she said. "And I just hope I don't see any more of them."

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