

UFO investigation continues

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BELLEVILLE — Reports of unidentified flying objects in the Belleville area continue to surface, but the real story may still be hidden.

In other instances of UFO flaps — a high concentration of sightings in a short period of time — citizens have reported being "abducted" by aliens. Because of the number of recent sightings, one may be inclined to believe something more is happening in the Belleville area than mere sightings.

"We are checking into that possibility," said Don Schmitt, who is an investigator and director for the Center for UFO Studies, known as CUFOs.

According to Schmitt, investigators have met with a number of doctors in the area, and the doctors are somewhat reluctant to talk because of doctor-patient confidentiality.

"I'm surprised, in as much publicity that we have generated in the area, that we haven't been approached, and the center office itself has not received any calls or letters concerning anything about a close encounter," Schmitt said.

"Sightings in general — aside from the number of sightings — are rather unspectacular, nothing really that unusual about the nature of the sightings. But because of the amount of continued activity obviously we were looking for something else," Schmitt said.

Investigators have even turned back to old cases for clues.

Schmitt spoke briefly of an abduction which occurred in 1976 around the southern Wisconsin area. The victim is hesitant to talk.

"I know who he is," Schmitt said. "Because of the nature of it...it's something that obviously bothers him today." Schmitt hopes to speak to the victim in an effort to uncover information.

CUFOs' volunteers include doctors and others who can help abduction victims learn how to cope with the experience.

"We've been involved in a number of abductions in Wisconsin within the last five years," he said, but how many abductions have actually occurred is unknown.

"It's happening much more than we are ever led to believe," Schmitt said, explaining that victims don't talk because they feel violated, almost like a rape victim, and they decide to simply live with the experience.

"It's happening everywhere. We have abductions cases from the Soviet Union and China, Australia, South America, and the accounts are almost identical. So there, too, it certainly talks about something much beyond dream-induced experiences, mass hysteria."

Literature on alien encounters indicates people are physically examined, are sometimes left with a physical mark after an encounter, and often have no memory or a blurred memory of what happened. Recent books on the experience indicate many people who have had such encounters are unwilling to release their names or many details, but some have turned to psychiatrists in an effort to learn how to deal with the experience.

"If we can accept abduction cases at face value then obviously we are talking about some experimentation going on. We even talk about interbreeding experimentation," Schmitt said during a previous interview.

"The thing is when you deal with the cases and you deal with the patterns of similarity, even when you go through where we have the witnesses sketch under regression their abductors... people from different backgrounds and traditions and drawing the same pictures."

"You sit there and these people are speaking under regression and they start reliving their experience. You

sit there and you can't help but wonder, 'Here I am sitting with this person and what if they actually have been, what if they actually were abducted, what if they actually were taken into a ship and physically examined and tested and here I am one step away from that phenomenon.'"

"I think I can confidently say that we (CUFOs) are of the position right now that the abduction cases are the UFO phenomenon. That that is the phenomenon. That the sightings and the photographs and the others are just maybe driving or passing by," Schmitt said.