

# National UFO Information Week

## State group explores sightings of unexplained objects, Bigfoot

By Michael A. Fuoco  
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

Stan Gordon couldn't have scripted it better himself. Just as he prepared for the third annual National UFO Information Week, an unidentified flying object was seen in a suburb south of Pittsburgh.

As much as Gordon likes to discuss the studies conducted by his group, the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained, he's reluctant to talk about the Aug. 2 sighting, declining to even identify the town.

Not publicizing details of the sighting will make it easier to check reports from other people who may have seen a hovering, large, round object.

Such caution is a hallmark of PASU, a volunteer scientific clearinghouse that annually investigates hundreds of reported UFO sightings and other phenomena. The association has about 90 members statewide, including medical doctors, scientists, technicians and engineers. Gordon, 37, a Greensburg electronics technician, founded the non-profit group in 1981 and now serves as its director.

The national information week, which starts today, is sponsored by the Mutual UFO Network of Seguin, Texas, the largest international UFO research organization. The purpose is to bring the serious scientific study of UFOs to the attention of the public.

PASU's participation will include a display Saturday at Westmoreland Mall near Greensburg featuring

slide and videotape presentations, photos, casts of Bigfoot prints and government documents.

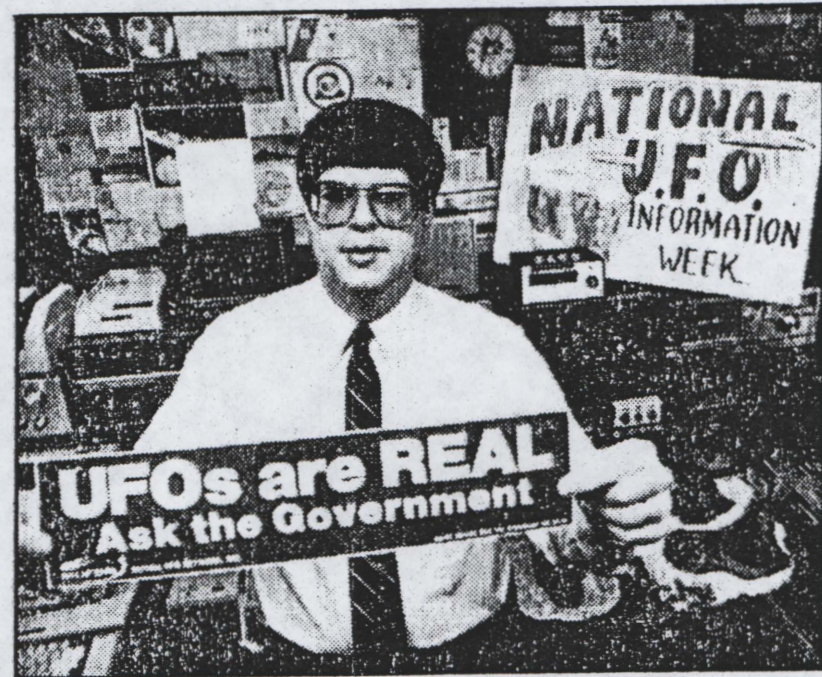
Gordon said about 90 percent of reported sightings can be logically explained as misidentifications of normal objects — planes, weather balloons, bright stars and planets, meteors and satellites. However, no logical explanations have yet been found for the remaining sightings, he said.

"I've never seen a UFO or Bigfoot. I started to study this when I was 10 years old because I was curious. I still am curious to find out what's going on.

"... This is a serious matter that deserves serious study. I've seen so many people who have a lot of psychological problems after they've seen unexplained phenomena. They don't know who to turn to for help. We have the people and equipment to try to find the answers."

The Aug. 2 sighting is an example of an experience that can't be explained easily, he said. According to the report, two people heard a strange noise at about 2 a.m. and saw a large round object hovering between two apartment buildings. The object had two rows of windows and a brilliant searchlight that touched one of the witnesses, Gordon said.

Among the "strange aspects" of the case, according to Gordon, is that a witness appears to have had a memory lapse, which others with similar experiences have reported. Some of those witnesses were later hypnotized and reported they were taken aboard UFOs, he said.



John Beale/Post-Gazette

Stan Gordon displays a bumper sticker for UFO skeptics.

"We're following this up ... We don't know what took place, but the basic information is similar to other reports of sightings," Gordon said.

Other UFO sightings this year occurred Jan. 21 in Sewickley, March 16 in New Stanton and June 14 near Scranton.

Gordon said UFO sightings have increased worldwide and Pennsylvania is among the top two states for total number of reports. He said that may be due to the credibility and visibility PASU has gained over the years, particularly because it promises confidentiality to witnesses who otherwise might be reluctant to report strange encounters.

Reports of Bigfoot sightings also have increased since October, he said, when three footprints 13 inches

long and eight inches wide were discovered in Unity, Westmoreland County. The most recent sighting occurred July 3 near Latrobe when an 8-foot-tall, yellowish-brown creature was seen three times by picnickers.

PASU's 24-hour hotline can be reached at 838-7768. Correspondence can be sent to 6 Oakhill Ave., Greensburg 15601.