

# UFO POTPOURRI

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## Oklahoma woman hurt while UFO-watching

MIAMI, Okla. (AP) — Sky-watching for mysterious lights that have flickered over Ottawa County in recent days turned dangerous when a woman was seriously injured in a car wreck during a roadside watch party.

Brenda Hogan, 41, was reported in serious condition at a Joplin, Mo., hospital Friday, a spokesman said. Her husband, Glen, was treated and released after a vehicle rammed their car as they sat on the hood Thursday night.

It was the third night in a row that people in Ottawa County reported seeing large red, white and blue lights and streaks of light in the evening sky. The lights remain unexplained.

The Hogans were injured when their legs were caught between their car and the car in front of them when their car was struck from behind on a dark road. No one else was injured.

Highway Patrol Trooper Danny Miller said 25 to 30 cars were parked on the road a mile west of Com-

merce when the accident happened.

Miller said many people were drinking beer and watching the odd star-shaped lights.

Ottawa County Sheriff Therl Whittle said he is fed up with the reports of sightings of strange lights.

The reports have conjured images of unidentified flying objects. Coupled with the Halloween season, the superstition linked to Friday the 13th and reports this week from the Soviet Union of close encounters with alien spacecraft, the reports have received national attention.

The first officially organized attempt to explain the recent sightings occurred Thursday night when Miami and Ottawa County Civil Defense officials and volunteers conducted a four-hour vigil.

City Civil Defense Director Jim Green termed the effort inconclusive.

In the Civil Defense command post, volunteers received 12 telephone calls Thursday night about the lights in the sky.

## No UFOs,

IN THE EARLY morning hours of Sept. 15, there was a UFO sighting just south of downtown Houston on 288. Channel 11 ran a story. My friend Carol saw the report and said the sighting included a close encounter of the third kind. I must see this report for myself.

Deborah Sims  
HOUSTON

**That was no UFO, it was Steve Smith shopping for pants at the Big 'n' Tall Shop.**

*TONGUE-IN-CHEEK REPORTING  
STYLE SEEN IN MANY NEWSAPERS*

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS October 15 1985  
CANADA

## Yeti breaks free after getting boot

AN abominable snowman captured by three Russians finally got away.

The men, working in the isolated community of Garatov in the province of Volga, captured the Yeti when it ventured on to an apple orchard.

They tied it up, bundled it into the boot of their car and sped to the nearest police station, according to Russian newspaper Pravda.

But when they re-opened the boot the Yeti had broken its bonds and escaped into the night.

"He was very ugly with large yellow teeth," said one of the men.

*CR. GENE DUPLAUDER*

A-14 / The Houston Post/Sunday, September 10, 1989

## Psychics saw jail cell in their future

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUTCHINSON, Kan. — The psychics' convention here has been canceled due to unforeseen circumstances.

The clairvoyants canceled their get-together because an almost-forgotten 1909 ordinance forbids psychics from practicing their craft in this central Kansas city.

Ian Bliss, a psychic from Colorado Springs, Colo., who organized the fair, called the ordinance a violation of his civil liberties.

Another psychic, Judy Haynes Williams, who moved to the area three years ago, complained that the ordinance kept her from advertising her business.

The psychics' cancellation prompted city officials to say they would consider repealing the law.

City Commissioner Ron Leslie said he wanted to know why ordinance was passed in the first place.

"It's difficult for me to visualize that a bunch of people who get together to talk about ESP represents a major problem," he said.

BY

JOHN F. SCHUESSLER

P. O. BOX 58485

HOUSTON, TEXAS 77258-8485

# The UFO went thataway

by David Ljunggren Voronezh

SOVIET investigators opened a commission of inquiry yesterday to try to verify a reported landing in central Russia by huge, three-eyed aliens.

But most of the children who in the past few days have enthralled the country with their tales of spaceships, robots and gun-toting extraterrestrials in this industrial city of 900,000 were not allowed to testify.

"The parents want their kids to be left alone," said Slava Martinov, a member of the Commission for the Investigation of Abnormal Phenomena, meeting in full for the first time.

The head of the commission, Genrykh Silanov, holding a copper rod to try to divine traces of the aliens, took his team to a glade where several children claimed to have seen the spaceship land. He walked up and down a patch of soft earth for five minutes, twirling a bent piece of copper tubing.

"This is called biolocation — it helps me sense where the aliens walked," he told a large group of Soviet journalists.

The team, most of whom are confirmed UFO enthusiasts, have already conducted preliminary interviews with the children about an alleged spaceship landing on September 27 in a Voronezh park.

Lurid accounts in newspapers and the official news agency, Tass, have depicted 10ft creatures with three eyes landing in a luminous sphere. According to the reports one of the aliens, silver-suited and accompanied by a robot, strolled through the park before firing an unusually large gun at a 16-year-old boy, who temporarily vanished. He reappeared when the spacecraft left.

Silanov said it had been hard to trace this youth, who witnesses said had been temporarily vaporised by the aliens, and that tests had proved that mysterious rocks found at the site were of earthly and not extra-terrestrial origin as first thought.

On Friday Pravda criticised local authorities for not clamping down on the rumours.

The incident has provoked a spate of articles in national papers and on Friday the local television station devoted the first 15 minutes of its main evening news bulletin to the story. During the broadcast the two star child witnesses admitted to being avid science fiction fans but denied they had made up the story.

"For once, people here have forgotten about the lack of meat and soap and are talking only of this. You can see it in their faces — they are more alive, enthusiastic," said a shop assistant.

Adult witnesses remained obstinately elusive, but virtually everyone questioned had their own theories about the incident and said they knew of someone who had seen something unusual at some stage in their life.

"I am sure the ship came from Venus. I did not see it myself, but my grandmother's cousin once saw a space ship attack a train in Siberia," said a technician.

"You tend to get the best UFO sightings in the places where there are the worst shops," commented a Soviet journalist. (Reuters)

The Saturday Sun, October 14, 1989

## Moscow 'welcomes' aliens

MOSCOW (UPI) — The Soviet army newspaper expressed mock disappointment yesterday that pin-headed space aliens chose to land in a provincial backwater and not the Soviet capital.

"There are several good airports around Moscow," the daily *Krasnaya Zvezda* said with sarcasm. "There is place enough to land. We welcome them any time."

*Krasnaya Zvezda* heaped scorn on scientists for failing to expose the farce, on newspapers gleeful over increased circulation and on a gullible public for believing in space visitors, charlatans, sorcerers and mystics.

# Astronomer says lights in Oklahoma are natural

MIAMI, Okla. (AP) — The mysterious lights that northwestern Oklahoma residents have seen in the sky the last four nights are real, but not anything to get excited about, a Coffeyville, Kan., astronomy instructor said Saturday.

"It's real, but it's caused by a very natural phenomenon," said Don Lind, an astronomy instructor at Coffeyville Community College. "We do have some rather large, bright objects up in the night sky."

Miami officials asked Lind to use his computer to see if the lights that have caused a stir in northeastern Oklahoma could be explained astronomically.

Ken Murphy, a civil defense radio operator, said Friday that numerous reports refer to three different objects in the sky. The brightest is in the west-northwest sky, another was in the southwestern sky and the dimmest was in the northeast.

Some callers said the lights were flashing blue, red and white and moving slowly across the sky.

Lind found that two planets, two stars and a turbulent, dusty atmosphere could explain all the sightings.

The northeast sighting is Jupiter — the largest planet in the solar system, Lind said. He said Jupiter is coming up at about 10 p.m. It's about 40 times brighter than the average star and could appear to flicker through a thick atmosphere.

In the southwest, Venus is very bright right after sundown, and Antares appears about the time Venus sets, Lind said.

And, he says, in the west-north-

west, Arkturus, a Class K orange star, is the only thing that could be drawing that much attention.

"It's been there for a long time, and people just haven't noticed it. A lot of people now are just wanting to see things," Lind said.

The lights appear to move for the same reason the sun appears to move — Earth's rotation — and they appear to flash because of dust and pollen moving in the warm air on the horizon, Lind said.

"The air is very turbulent. It's moving almost constantly. As these stars are low to the horizon, you are going to get a substantial amount of distortion," he said.

"Basically, there's nothing up there now that hasn't been up there for months," he said.

Lind said the sightings are predominant in northeastern Oklahoma and along the Oklahoma borders with Kansas, Missouri and Arkansas because it's hill country.

"They have a history of seeing spook lights and this sort of thing in that area," Lind said. "They have been proven to be nothing more than light refractions. The people are really seeing these things."

The reports of lights conjured images of unidentified flying objects. Coupled with the pre-Halloween season, the superstition linked to Friday the 13th and reports this week from the Soviet Union of close encounters with alien spacecraft, the reports have received national attention.

"These sightings are not at all typical of UFO sightings," Lind said.

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MACLEAN'S/OCTOBER 2, 1989

## The threats of outer space

A Soviet military journal has cited unidentified flying objects as a reason for the United States to halt development of its complex, laser-ray Strategic Defence Initiative—the so-called Star Wars system. The authoritative *Soviet Military Review* stopped short of acknowledging a belief in the existence of alien spacecraft. But Aleksandr Kuzovin and Aleksandr Semyonov argue that Star Wars' superswift computer systems might mistake a UFO for an enemy missile attack and order a retaliatory strike. Declared the authors in an article entitled "UFOs and Security": "We believe that lack of information on the characteristics and influence of UFOs increases the threat of incorrect identifications."

CR. GENE MORGENTHAU

