

UFO

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Editorial/Opinion

UFOs haven't gone away

Fifty seven years ago this month the public became aware of many sightings of unexplained objects being observed in our skies.

The Kenneth Arnold sighting of several strange flying craft were seen near Mt. Rainer, Washington on June 24, 1947. It created widespread newspaper coverage around the country.

That sighting along with many other sightings since then have remained unexplained to this day. Some seven months later our own local Bruce Stevenson sighting occurred.

On Feb.2 of this year the *Circleville Herald* had on its front page a news article about farmer Bruce Stevenson's sighting of Feb. 1, 1948. Bruce's sighting is just the tip of the iceberg of UFO sightings in Pickaway County seen ever since he had his.

There has been at least 28 other reported UFO sightings in the county in the years following Stevenson's. A county map will be displayed at the annual UFO display in August at the local library.

Some witnesses remain anonymous if they wish. During the years the ridicule factor has kept many UFO sightings from being reported.

Of the ones that have been reported, some witnesses stated they would never report another one because of the ridicule they received. However, that has changed recently because more people are being educated about this subject. The public awareness level is rising.

It has gained credence thanks to some coverage by television channels like the *History*, *Learning*, and *Discovery*, and the Internet. Not all of the material is recommended.

Some sightings are hoaxed, natural phenomena, or honest misidentifications. The credibility of a witness means a lot. In several cases there are multi-witness reports.

It has been estimated among

Guest
Column



Pete Hartinger

Hartinger is director of the local Roundtown UFO Society and is a state section director of the International Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

ufologists (ones who study the UFO phenomena) that only one out of 10 UFO sightings are ever reported.

That may be a conservative figure. With the age of the Internet you can find out about a sighting the same day it is sighted and then reported. Peter Davenport's Web site www.ufo-center.com is highly recommended. Just think there have been thousands upon tens of thousands of UFO sightings seen all over the world in the last several decades. (and it hasn't let up) We have several of these cases listed as unknown by our authorities in charge.

One that is outstanding is the Socorro, N.M., sighting of April 1964. It was a landing trace case, listed as one of the best documented cases ever recorded.

The view of many skeptics is that UFOs can't be real, therefore they aren't. They have no basis for their argument when compared with the evidence; very credible eyewitness reports, landing trace cases, power failures, car engine failures, etc. A fellow UFO researcher and friend of mine is from northern Ohio. He is a lawyer and states, "The weight of evidence is now so strong that there is something unexplained going on that the burden of proof has switched to the skeptics to prove that there is nothing to it."

I know it is hard for some people to accept the reality of ufos. The acceptance factor becomes real when you have an outstanding sighting, like Bruce Stevenson's; you talk to who you consider a very credible person or persons you trust that tells you of their outstanding sighting or of someone they know; or most importantly you do your own research while being open minded. You will be surprised by what you can find out about this extraordinary subject. Anyone who laughs about ufos, obviously has never done any research on it.

Anyone who is interested in this phenomena can try this very simple test. I call it the one on one approach. You can try it on someone you know or a complete stranger. When you are talking to someone and nobody else within earshot, just ask them "what do you think of the ufo phenomena?"

Some people may just shrug it off or you may get an interesting reply. They may tell you of a person they know of that had a sighting or one of their own.

Don't ask them in a group, because they may still feel uncomfortable about their reply in front of others. I have gotten a few interesting sighting reports this way. As an investigator you always try to correlate the reports with others that you have heard or read about.

Hopefully, in the near future more people will accept this phenomena openly, and then we can try to learn from it and understand it. What does the future hold? Only time will tell. Some interesting events have occurred recently. On March 1 of this year, the Mars Rover spotted a UFO when observing the Martian sky while going over a hill. NASA reported this as a UFO, but said it may have been a meteor. On April 29, CNN reported that UFOs were seen over Iran. On May 11, the Mexican government stated that several ufos had been seen by

their plane's instruments while searching for drug smugglers. This incident was covered by many U.S. news organizations.

I would like nothing better than to have more scientists to become involved in this research. Many scientists state that there is life out in the universe, but of those not many will even look at an outstanding sighting report. Being a member of the Mutual UFO Network, there are many professionals who belong to this organization.

The director, John Schussler is a former NASA engineer. Many people state that UFOs do exist. These include former astronauts, airplane pilots and other aviation-related professionals

If anyone wants to do research on UFOs just go to the Circleville Library. All the Mufon monthly journals since 1994 are there along with several good books; newsletters from the Roundtown UFO Society since 1991; an excellent two volume UFO encyclopedia; and the 4-hour "Disclosure Project" eyewitness video.

The Roundtown UFO Society has a monthly meeting on the third Thursday of the month at the library and it is open to the public. Our stated purpose is to exchange information between members and other ufologists; to have an organization that people can relate their UFO experiences to; to document UFO sightings; and to give to the general public facts about UFOs. Some people may wonder why I am involved in this research? Not only because I had a personal sighting, but because it is a part of our history. I call it the hidden history. History and mystery are part of ufology - study of the UFO phenomena.

If anyone would like to discuss with me about this subject or have questions. Please feel free to phone me at (740) 477-6252, or write me at P.O. Box 52, Circleville, Ohio 431123,

LINCOLN TIMES-NEWS,
Lincolnton, NC - June 21,
2004 CR: G. Fawcett
Reagan had
UFO encounters

Thanks to a recently published letter in the Readers' Forum, additional independent witnesses to sightings of UFOs over Lincolnton have been found.

I would also like to take this opportunity to point out UFO connection to our late President, Ronald Reagan.

In 1974, then Gov. Reagan reported that he and his wife Nancy encountered a UFO while driving down the California coast where they slowed down to watch the UFO movement in detail.

In another widely publicized incident, the couple, along with their private pilot, saw a UFO while flying above Bakersfield. Reagan ordered his pilot to follow a large white, UFO. For several minutes the three observed in utter amazement when it flew near their plane. The UFO finally departed rapidly as it flew straight up in the heavens and left the area.

In four of his final six talks, President Reagan spoke about the "Alien Threat." He made reference to UFOs in talks before the National Press Club, the United Nations General Assembly and before Russian Leader Gorbachov at their Geneva Summit. He also spoke about it to a group of high school students in New Hampshire. His taped moments before the UN can probably be located on the Internet and is well worth watching.

GEORGE D. FAWCETT
Lincolnton

DESERET MORNING NEWS, Salt Lake City, UT - May 22, 2004

Unidentified photographed object sparks wonder

Flying saucer? Image so far defies viewer expertise

By Laura Warner
Deseret Morning News

PROVO — It's not a bird and it's not a plane. So what was the unidentified flying object hovering over Provo Canyon that Tommy Woodard captured on film this week?

"Until they come up with a reason or an explanation, it will still be a UFO to me," Woodard said.

Woodard, who serves as photo librarian for the Utah Film Commission, spent Tuesday afternoon in Provo Canyon taking pictures of a local Scout camp that could serve as a possible film location.

But the beauty of the canyon prompted him to take several more digital photos for personal use. While browsing through those pictures later, he noticed one that had a dark speck on it.

Curious, the 22-year-old enlarged the image and couldn't believe his eyes.

"It appeared to be a flying saucer," Woodard said.

The enlarged photograph shows a purplish object hovering high above the trees that bears

a striking similarity to UFO depictions in art and film.

"If I didn't know any better, I'd think someone was filming 'Men in Black 3' up there," said canyon enthusiast Brandon Ortega. "It seems like a joke, but it's too eerie to laugh about."

Though he is an admitted "sci-fi buff," Woodard said that he has been skeptical in the past about photos that claim to be of UFOs.

But since he shot the photo himself and couldn't see the object on any of his other photographs, Woodard has become a believer.

"A lot of the photos that are shown on television look really cheesy. Some of them — it's

(continued on page 2)

really obvious that they're fake," Woodard said. "But I've seen some photos that look just like mine. It's unbelievable."

Just last week, photos taken in March by Mexico's Air Force were released, showing 11 blobs of light detected by infrared cameras.

Scientists quickly disputed UFO rumors, however, and declared the lights to be a rare occurrence of "ball lightning."

But attempts to identify the object in Woodard's photo have been fruitless thus far.

Woodard said that initial reports from the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle

indicating the object in question is actually a bird have now been abandoned.

A representative for Hill Air Force Base also said that it had "no aircraft at that time" in the Provo Canyon area.

Of course, this isn't the first time that Woodard has seen unidentified objects flying in the air.

As a 10-year-old boy, Woodard said he noticed "three gray, blurry spheres moving up and down" nearby while he played Little League baseball.

But like this most recent incident, Woodard said those objects remain unexplained.

"I'm a little more excited now because this has kind of sparked my interest a little bit more," he said. "This has got a lot of people excited and wondering."

E-MAIL: lwamer@desnews.com



TOMMY WOODARD

Tommy Woodard, who serves as photo librarian for the Utah Film Commission, snapped a photo in Provo Canyon on Tuesday that contains an unexplained purplish object hovering above the trees.

British UFO researcher interviews local author

by Barry Potter

After two days of pointed interviews about "various details" in his book, Helena author Leo Dworshak was convinced he'd made a good impression on a man described by the *London Daily Mail* as "one of the world's most respected authorities on UFOs."

To be fair, bestselling British author and researcher Timothy Good's ideas are also described by *The Spectator* as "those of a maniac," while *The Daily Telegraph* characterized his work as "shrill yappings" and asserts that, "Only mentally subnormal people could believe in it."

After reviewing a copy of Dworshak's book, "UFOs Are With Us - Take My Word," sent to him by an American colleague, Good called to order additional copies and then to schedule a visit to Helena last week.

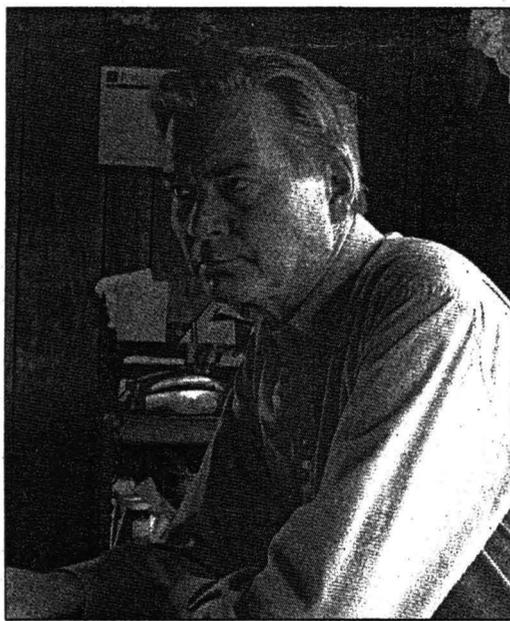
The Guardian described Good's technique: "He worries away at the evidence like a forensic scientist, until, at the end, there's a small pile of incontrovertible nuggets containing the impermeable conclusion that Earth is increasingly visited by aliens" Calling UFOs "the most highly classified subject on Earth," Good has made an intensive study of the military and political implications of an alien presence, interviewed many military and civilian pilots and flight crews, and built a library of thousands of declassified government intelligence documents concerning events spanning more than 50 years.

As an example of his gleanings, Good offers a photocopy of a U.S. Air Force item about "flying saucers" marked "Top Secret" and dated Nov. 4, 1948: "They have been reported by so many sources and from such a variety of places that we are convinced that they cannot be

disregarded and must be explained on some basis which is perhaps slightly beyond the scope of our present intelligence thinking."

Good is quick to note that the field is cluttered with cranks, flakes, apparently intentional government dis- and mis-information, and more recently, a spate of "New Age thinking." The accounts of those such as Dworshak, an 83-year-old decorated WWII veteran, who would seem to have nothing to gain and a personal reputation to lose and yet claim to have made direct personal contacts with alien beings, are different. Dworshak, who participated in the invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa and witnessed the Japanese surrender, points to a long line of satisfied customers and a solid reputation.

Over 40 years of research, Good has interviewed "more than 50" persons claiming to have made direct alien contact and has winnowed his share of wheat from the chaff. The former scholarship student at the Royal Academy of Music does not make a living solely from his writing and efforts at UFO research,



(Photo by Barry Potter)

Timothy Good, a British UFO researcher, was in Helena last week to meet with local author Leo Dworshak about his book, "UFOs Are With Us - Take My Word."

although he is promoting his latest book, "Unearthly Disclosure." The professional violinist began his career in 1963 with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, played 14 years with the London Symphony and has since recorded for such luminaries as Phil Collins, George Harrison, Elton John, Paul McCartney,

Rod Stewart and U2.

A lecturer at numerous U.K. universities, schools and organizations, Good was the first western UFO researcher interviewed on Russian television following the Soviet collapse. He was invited for discussions at the Pentagon in 1998, with the French Air Force in 2002, and has served as a consultant for several U.S. Congressional investigations. Following Good's presentation, the Royal Canadian Military Institute concluded, "the evidence in his slide presentation clearly indicated that several governments throughout the world know that UFOs and the alien presence are real and substantial."

Good was interested in statements contained in Dworshak's "UFOs Are With Us" about efforts

to control grasshoppers by spraying with DDT circa 1932, noting that DDT did not come into use before 1937. Dworshak, then a 12-year-old farm boy, remembers he heard "the government had been spraying a new chemical called DDT" elsewhere "but we just had to suffer with (grasshoppers)". He thought the airships

he saw might have been a government scheme to control insects. What is certain is the North Dakota Extension Service first became involved in grasshopper control in the very early 1930s.

Dworshak's own memories of the faces and hands of the "visitors" also interested Good. "They looked just like us," he affirmed. "If one of them was in a group of people, you couldn't pick him out, but if you saw a group of them, you'd notice they all look pretty much the same." When asked about their touch, he said they had a "firm grip" and, while shaking his hand, would place their free hand on his shoulder, causing a "tingling feeling." Asked how "contact reports" varied from place to place, Good responded that sightings of "bug-eyed grays" predominate in the states, while reports of aliens very similar to humans come from all over.

Good asked Dworshak the most important things he learned from the alien contact, and he responded, "They are not that different from us, only far more intelligent," and said they left him with the impression that "they pick your brain before you talk."

Asked his impression of Dworshak's book, Good called it compelling: "It read like a true story to me."

CORRECTION: The article, "Out of this world," Page 1, June 2004 UFONS, was from the DAILY RECORD, Hickory, NC for May 24, 2004. Credit to George Fawcett.

TRUE UFO BELIEVER HOPES YOU, TOO, WILL SEE THE LIGHT

By STEVE ROCK
The Kansas City Star

REEDS SPRING, Mo. — Bob White is convinced his story deserves a grand stage, that his most-prized possession should be displayed before a national audience.

It should draw tourists from all over the country, he figures, and be a major attraction for people who want to see an artifact that White swears was retrieved from a UFO in 1985.

Instead, White's find is in tiny Reeds Spring in southwest Missouri, secured in a locked display case at the back of a converted video rental store. Here at the Museum of the Un-

plained, a small, fledgling operation that during a recent morning went more than three hours without a customer.

White can't figure it out. All he wants to do is find some believers. He wants people to quit snickering and looking at him like he's crazy. He wants them to listen to his story, to take a hard look at his metallic artifact, to give him a chance.

"This," White said, "is the most difficult thing I've ever done in my life."

The odds are stacked against him, no question about it. He and his partner at the museum, Robert Gibbons, have been rejected and ridiculed. White esti-



NORMAN NG/The Kansas City Star

Skeptics abound, but Bob White is convinced that this object is from an extraterrestrial spacecraft that he says he saw in 1985.

mates he has spent more than \$60,000 traveling to conferences, starting the museum, having the artifact tested and retested.

And yet he forges on. "I'm 73 years old," White said. "I don't have much longer."

"What I'd like to see before I'm gone is the national media get their heads out of their ..." White paused, choosing his words carefully, "... out of the sand. I'd like to see the national media and everybody else realize that what I have is real."

Scientists theorize that the "UFO" lights White said he encountered could have been nothing more than a falling star, that his artifact could be space debris. Some scientists who have tested the object, or arranged for a laboratory to test it, said there was nothing



ing extraterrestrial about it.

People have questioned White's motives, even his sanity.

"I've been called every name you can think of," he said.

For his part, White doesn't wear outlandish clothes, and he looks as if he could spend the winter months as a department-store Santa Claus. He comes across as a plain-spoken, level-headed guy who is every bit as homegrown as his Kansas City roots.

And if he's doing this for the money, well, that plan was a miserable failure.

The museum, about 13 miles north of the glitzy Branson strip, might as well be in another world.

There are no neon signs pointing the way, no twinkling lights outside the front door. Rather, it's sandwiched between the Humane Society thrift shop and the Sunrise Cafe on Main Street.

Visitors pass the crumbling concrete steps, the "Flying Saucer Parking Only" sign. Inside, three donation jars sit in various locations, and the attached notes say, "Your generosity supports this museum."

On this day, the jars have gathered layers of dust but not so much as a quarter.

"Business is slow," White said. "We're barely getting by."

But White isn't going anywhere. This has become his passion, his

mission. His life was forever changed during that spine-tingling encounter, he said, and he's got the souvenir to prove it.

"Once it happens," White said, "it's something you'll never forget."

☆☆☆

Ask White whether he believed in unidentified flying objects prior to 1985, and he scrunches up his nose.

"Never," he said. "Not a bit. I was the biggest skeptic in the world."

That all changed overnight. Here's how he remembers it:

White and a friend were driving from Denver to Las Vegas on a desolate highway near the Colorado-Utah border. It was 2 or 3 a.m., he

said, and White was sleeping in the passenger seat of the car. At one point, his friend woke him up and pointed out a strange light in the distance. White didn't think much of it and went back to sleep.

Then his friend woke him up again. This time, White said, the lights were practically blinding.

He got out of the car and stared, dumbfounded. The object was about 100 yards in front of him, he said, "and it was huge ... absolutely huge."

White was paralyzed, not with fear but with awe.

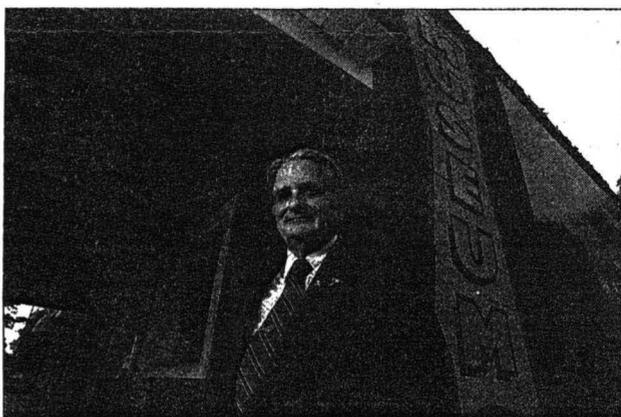
In time, he said, the lights bolted toward the sky. He said that they

connected with a pair of neon, tubular lights — "the mother ship," White guesses now. And just like that, he said, the entire contraption zipped eastward through the Colorado sky and disappeared.

"What I saw," White said, "was not of this earth."

As the craft flew away, White said, he noticed an orange light falling to the ground. A locator probe? Something that simply broke off?

It was red hot when he reached it, he said, but in time it cooled enough to pick up. White shoved



NORMAN NG/The Kansas City Star

Robert Gibbons helps operate the Museum of the Unexplained in Reeds Spring, Mo., where Bob White's artifact is on display. Business hasn't been good, but the two are undeterred.

the object into the trunk of the car, and he and his friend headed off to the nearest all-night diner.

"The strongest thing they had was coffee," White said, chuckling. "We wanted more than that."

☆☆☆

White didn't say much publicly about his encounter when it first happened. A comedian and a singer, he was trying to earn a living in show business.

"I didn't want anybody to call me a UFO nut," he said. "I was afraid it might hurt my career."

So he packed up the artifact and forgot about it, at least until the mid-1990s. Around 1996, after his nomadic show business career had ended in Branson, he decided to seek out answers.

The object is about 7½ inches long and shaped like a teardrop. It has a coarse, metallic exterior and weighs less than 2 pounds. It looks a bit like it could be a petrified pine cone and is composed primarily of aluminum.

White has had the item tested several times.

The Nevada-based National Institute for Discovery Science in 1996 sent a sample of the object to the New Mexico Institute of Mining

and Technology.

"The metallurgical analysis was pretty mundane," said Colm Kelleher, a scientist who runs the day-to-day operations of the National Institute for Discovery Science. "We didn't find any evidence that it was extraterrestrial."

"Now you can make the argument that we didn't spend \$1 million and look at every conceivable option. We didn't cover every base."

Gibbons, whose background most recently includes work as a senior technician in the interconnect technologies division of Northrop Grumman in Springfield, is quick to point that out. He said it was the first test conducted on the artifact and wasn't very thorough. A later test, he said, was conducted by a laboratory in California and showed that the object's strontium isotope levels were "virtually the same" as those found in meteorite samples from Mars.

A scientist at the California laboratory, who asked that his name and that of the laboratory not be used, disagreed.

"It didn't show any extraterrestrial signature," he said.

Meanwhile, skeptics abound. Sgt. Gary Carpenter, who works at

the North American Aerospace Defense Command in Colorado Springs, Colo., said it was not uncommon for NORAD to get calls about strange lights and unidentified objects.

Not once, he said, has the object been identified as an alien spacecraft.

"Usually it turns out to be space debris from a satellite that's decaying, or it's in the realm of naturally occurring, celestial lights," he said. "It could be something like a falling star. It could be contrails, the things you would see trailing an aircraft."

But White and Gibbons are undeterred, proclaiming that White has twice passed polygraph tests about the encounter and the artifact. Capt. George Larbey, who is in charge of the criminal investigation and drug units for the Greene County Sheriff's Department in Springfield, conducted the first polygraph test in 1998.

"I believe he found an object that fell from the sky," Larbey said. "As far as the UFO goes, I don't know if I'll go there, but in his mind, that's what he believes he saw."

"There was no reason for me to believe he was intentionally fabricating any aspect of his story."

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This year alone there have been 16 alleged UFO sightings in Missouri reported to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle. There have been 10 in Kansas, including one in Olathe in March in which the person filing the report said, "There was a threat present."

White and Gibbons still hope to tap into that market.

White opened the Museum of the Unexplained with visions of turning it into a destination. He wasn't looking to get rich — according to the Missouri secretary of state's office, the museum was registered as a nonprofit organization in August 2000 — but hoped to spread the word about his experience.

But the museum has struggled, unable to tap into the Branson spin-off crowd and secure a niche audience of its own. Only 2,800 people went through the doors that

first year, when admission was free, and the museum hasn't been able to replicate those numbers since.

These days, patrons age 12 and older pay \$5 to stroll through about 2,000 square feet of space. There's a keyboard, for example, from the movie "Men in Black II" in which the shift key doesn't capitalize or decapitalize but translates from English to alien. Other exhibits are little more than newspaper articles or passages from the Internet.

Such exhibits are nothing but ambience, White concedes. The focal point is the artifact, and White takes no chances with its safety. Motion detectors, closed-circuit TV, and window and door alarms protect it at all times. White packs it up in a gun case every day at 5 p.m., and the object never spends the night at the same place two nights in a row.

You can never be too sure, he figures, even in a town with just 465 residents.

"I'm happy for them that they're having a good time, but I guess I'm just not into that kind of thing," said Kacee Cashman, the Reeds Spring city clerk since 1998. "I really think they've been accepted, but everybody's kind of taking it with a grain of salt."

Everybody, of course, but White and Gibbons.

They have a Web site about White's experience — www.hard-evidence.com — up and running, and Minnesota-based Galde Press said it was planning to publish White's book this summer. A member of the museum's board of directors recently purchased a 42-foot transit bus from the city of Dallas, and White and Gibbons hope to take it to Kansas City and other cities across the country.

White has told his story on radio shows nationwide and was featured on a segment of the TV show "Extra" in 2000. He recently was flown back to the site of the original encounter by a TV crew from England, and that segment will be broadcast this fall.

"I don't know what I have to do to prove this is the truth," White said. "You can't make this stuff up."



Author researches stories of alien encounters

Spanish Fork field takes on uncommon characteristic

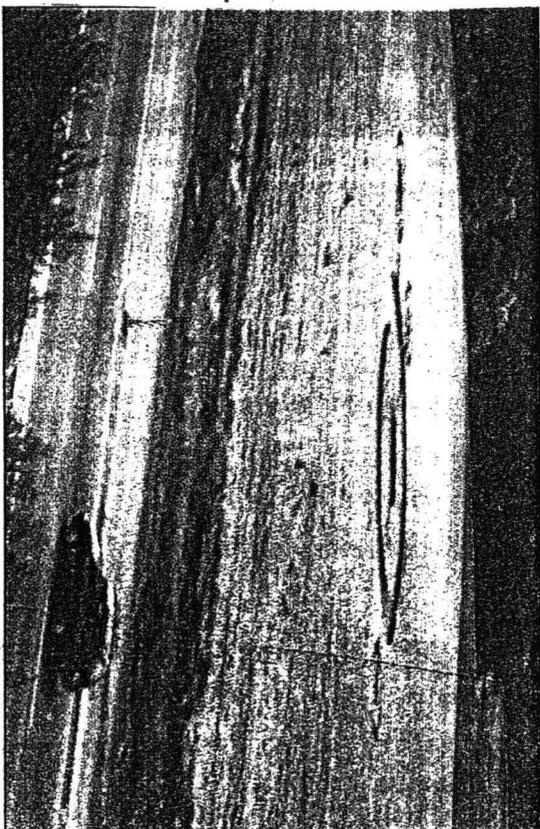
Todd Hollingshead

DAILY HERALD

A few south Spanish Fork residents awoke to an unfamiliar sight Monday morning when a mysterious crop circle appeared in a wheat field just off Main Street. The roughly 100-foot-diameter circle is located on the east side of Main Street, about 100 yards south of Spanish Fork Motors. Residents of the area said the circle must have appeared Monday because they didn't see it Sunday. Gustavo Lopez, an employee at Spanish Fork Motors, said he saw the crop circle Monday when he took his two sons to a hill that overlooks the area. "This morning a lot of people were standing on this hill looking at something, but I didn't know what," Lopez said. "Now I know why. I don't have an idea who made it, but it looks like it was made by machines."

The crop design is made up of four circles with one large center circle and three smaller outer circles that are all connected to the large circle. There were no marks in the surrounding crops that showed foot traffic of any kind. The Utah County Sheriff's Office is investigating the incident. The circle appeared in one of the fields owned by farmer Paul A. Prior of Springville. Prior was informed of the uncommon landmark Monday morning and was not pleased with the damage caused to his crops. "It was just a bunch of vandals doing some damage," Prior said. "I wish they wouldn't trespass, and I wish they would do their art somewhere else." Prior estimated the damage to his crops was at least \$300. He said he thinks the crop circle was created by some local kids or, at worst, some drunks looking for a good time. Nearby residents were mostly unaware of the unusual sight, but those who did know of it said they weren't too worried.

Todd Hollingshead can be reached at 344-2524 or thollingshead@heraldextra.com



A motorist travels past a crop circle near 8000 South in Spanish Fork on Monday evening.

MATT SMITH/Daily Her

Helena man interviewed about own experiences with extraterrestrials

By MARTIN J. KIDSTON
IR Staff Writer

Leo Dworshak and Timothy Good don't seem to have much in common at first glance.

Dworshak, 84, grew up on a North Dakota farm, joined the military, and worked as a salesman most of his life.

In contrast, Good came of age in World War II London, received a formal education at The King's School in Canterbury, and picked up a scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music as a chamber violinist.

So when these two men sat together at Dworshak's home in Helena June 10, one appeared as different as the next. But their belief in UFOs and alien encounters served as the only bond the two would need to get the conversation started.

Good, perhaps the world's leading authority on UFOs, arrived in Helena to interview Dworshak about his alien encounter and subsequent book, "UFOs Are With Us—Take My Word." Good heard of Dworshak's experience through a man named Lucius Farrila, who runs a UFO news clipping service in Arkansas.

"I find this one of the most compelling contact stories I've investigated," Good said.

That says a lot considering that Good has been investigating such stories for more than 40 years. He first became fascinated with aviation and space travel as a boy. In 1955, his interests compelled him to read a book written by Maj. Donald

Keyhoe describing the high-altitude encounters between military and commercial pilots, and UFOs.

Good began his own research into the topic in 1961. He has since collected information from around the world, including, he said, declassified documents from both the British and U.S. governments.

"There are relatively few people who know what's going on, and those who know don't talk," Good said. "It's the most sensitive issue."

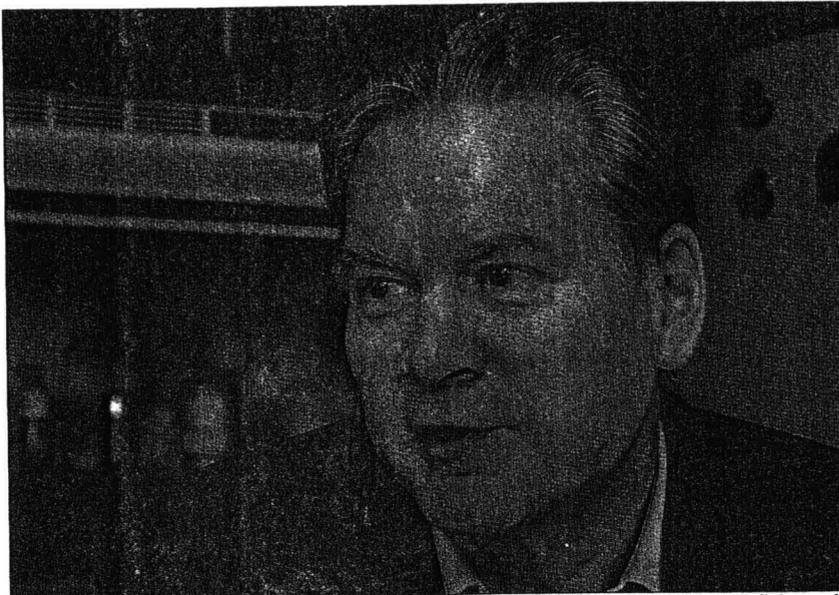
Good's credibility as a UFO researcher is well known. He's the author of six books on the topic, including the Sunday Times bestseller, "Beyond Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Security Threat." His lectures include IBM, the Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences, the Royal Canadian Military Institute and the Oxford and Cambridge Union societies.

Over the years, Good has interviewed some 50 people claiming contact with extraterrestrials. Some accounts, he admitted, are more credible than others.

"I have been hoodwinked on occasion," Good said, his British accent shining through. "The hardest thing to deal with are the pathological liars — those who have come to believe their own lies. The human mind is limitless in its ability to imagine."

Good's goal seems simple enough — to get actual proof of alien presence on Earth. His latest book, "Unearthly Disclosure," argues that aliens have taken up planetary residence, establishing as many as three bases within the United States.

"They have the ability to manipulate space-time."



George Lane IR Staff Photographer

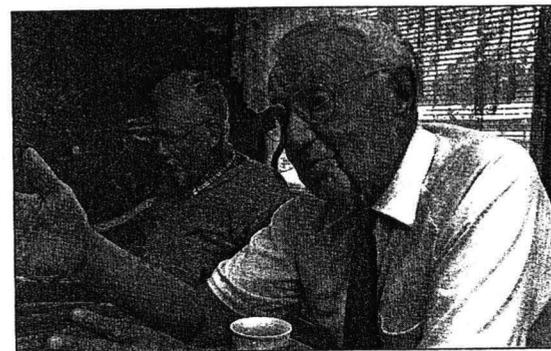
A leading authority on UFOs, Timothy Good, above, was recently in Helena to interview Leo Dworshak, photo below, about his encounters with extraterrestrials.

Good said. "They travel at incredibly fast speeds. These are based upon what I consider to be credible accounts."

When dealing with a topic that begins with "unidentified," at times, Good said, his pursuit of proof can be a frustrating endeavor.

That's not to say that he hasn't had his own unusual encounters. Good recalled one instance in New York City in 1967 where he encountered what he could only describe as an ET in human form — a resident alien. Good communicated with the man not through words, but through telepathic thought.

"There wasn't a word spoken between us," Good said. "He didn't smile. He didn't frown. It was a cathartic experience and it changed my life."



George Lane IR Staff Photographer

Dworshak doesn't need to be convinced. He wrings his hands this morning while listening to Good's own contact stories, nodding on occasion — a true believer.

It was on a summer night in 1932 that Dworshak and his brother saw a spacecraft land near their North Dakota farm. The first time they ran

off in fear. The second time, Dworshak said, they entered the ship.

"The inner shell seemed to be standing still, or perhaps, turning the other way," he said. "It was totally silent and produced no cloud of exhaust or smoke."

Dworshak chronicled the encounter in his book,

"UFOs are With Us—Take My Word." The book has become something of a cult classic among believers around the world, and the letters have rolled in from as far away as Australia.

"When we were talking a few days ago, I forgot to tell you about the recent sightings of round, stationary lights over New Mexico and Mexico," one writer said. "Our local TV weatherman, Jimmy Stewart, commented about them, showed some amateur footage, and made the comment, 'I'd like to know about these...'"

Over the course of his life, Dworshak said, the ETs have revisited him several times. His experiences have altered the way he views religion and culture, both of which will serve as fodder for his next book, "UFOs and What's to Come."

"I knew it was up to me to leave a record of what happened," Dworshak said. "If I'm still around, talk to me 12 years from now. You won't believe what's happening."

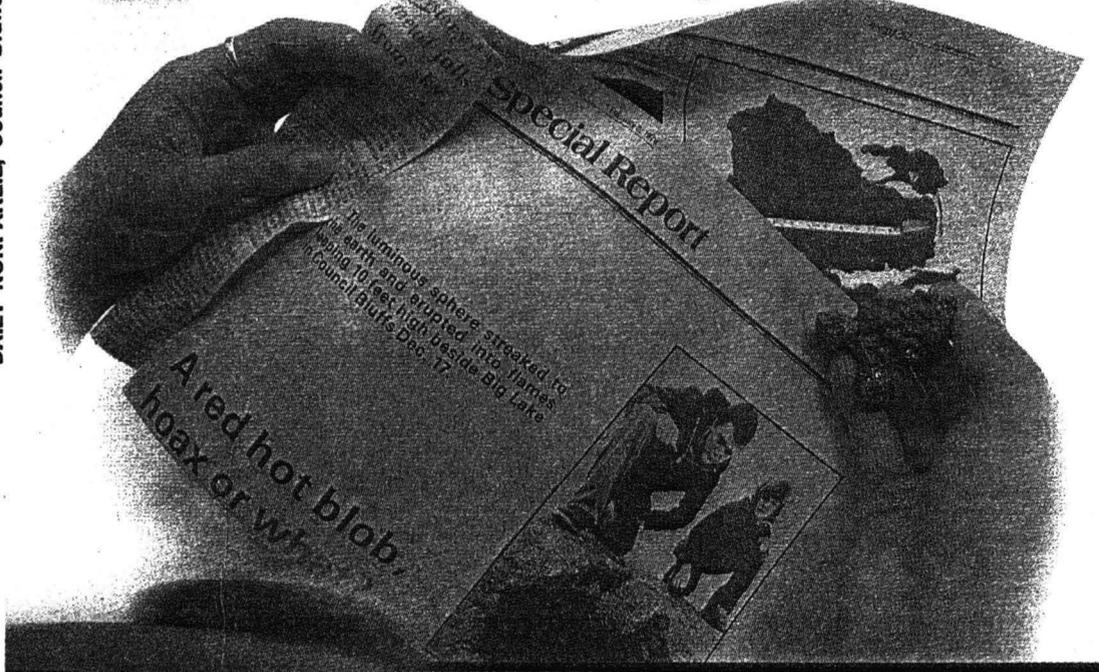
Through his interviews with people like Dworshak, and his subsequent research, Good has concluded that aliens are indeed living on Earth. He says they have been here for a long time.

"Some of the beings do not have our best interest at heart," Good said. "They have their own agenda, and there's a feeling they may need this planet. It's a complex picture. The information they (the witnesses) have relayed to me, I find compelling. We're not the ones in charge."

Reporter Martin Kidston can be reached at 447-4086, or at mkidston@helenair.com

MYSTERY • AT • BIG • LAKE

Fire in the SKY



GREG JERRETT
Staff Writer

"And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire.

— Ezekiel 1:4

Ezekiel saw the wheel and spoke of it as a mystical vision.

Was Ezekiel's vision a sign from God? Or did it signify something entirely different? Something the prophet was incapable of explaining?

Since the earliest of recorded history, man has seen and reported things that could not be explained. In the sea, on the land and in the sky. The bizarre and unexplained have always been dismissed as myth, vision and fantasy.

The great mountain gorilla was once just a crazy story — not unlike Big Foot or the Loch Ness Monster — told by madmen and

savages. It is only in the modern era that gorillas have been accepted as the most common attraction at any municipal zoo.

Mermaids were just manatees, not sea borne lovers as many sailors had hoped. Leviathans and other denizens of the deep have been identified as whales and large squid, nothing more.

Even the Bermuda Triangle is losing its mystery as scientists begin to fathom that its bubbling depths sink ships more often than the devil, aliens and ghosts.

Troy was a myth until it was discovered, what then of Atlantis? Mysteries give life depth. It is our nature as rational beings to try and solve those mysteries. It is all a part of the great adventure of the mind.

Council Bluffs is not without its own mysteries. One of the greatest unsolved riddles in this sleepy railroad town occurred on Dec. 17, 1977, when Kenny, 17, and Carol Drake, 16, and Carol's brother Randy James, 12, were driving Kenny's Dodge Challenger to the Richman Gordman store on North 16th.

According to a Daily Nonpareil story dated Dec. 18 of that year, several witnesses in addition to Drake, saw a bright red object fall from the sky toward Big Lake. When Kenny, Carol and Randy saw the object, they went with great haste toward the lake. On the dike along the road between the lake and the railroad tracks, was a molten "blob" of glowing orange metal. The pool of metal was slowly running down the sides of the dike and was too hot to touch.

According to an article published in the now defunct Omaha Sun on Feb. 9, 1978, Kenny Drake, who is now dead, saw four men about 18 or 19 years old drive by the site in "a tiny foreign car." As they passed the three on the dike, they asked if "they saw that thing fall out of the sky, too?"

The car turned around and drove by the sight again without stopping. This fact would become more relevant later on as the possibility of a hoax was discussed and who, if anyone, might have perpetrated such an act and how.

"It looked like a great big sparkler at first. Then it cooled down and seemed like lava, glowing and bubbling. I thought it was a meteor," said Kenny in the Sun article.

Randy James is still alive and living in Council Bluffs. He said he is not now and never has been "a real UFO buff."

He said that he hasn't really talked about what has been referred to as "The Big Lake Incident" since he spoke to Dick

Ulmer for the Sun story in 1978, not for any reason dramatic or suspicious — though Kenny told the Sun that he had purportedly received a call from the United States Air Force insisting that he never mention his sighting again.

"Basically, we were heading down North 16th, and we saw what kind of looked like a ball of fire streaking from the sky. It appeared to come straight down. We saw a flash so you could tell it kind of hit the ground," Randy said. "Maybe it was space junk. We stayed there with the fire department and picked up a couple of pieces. There was a blue crystal in the middle of the pool of metal. When it cooled down a bit, we picked up a piece of the metal about the size of a toothpick and couldn't break it."

The bluish crystalline pieces were not affected by the heat, according to both Randy and Kenny.

At the same time that Kenny, Carol and Randy were driving up North 16th, Mike and Criss Moore were driving east on Broadway. Just as they crossed 16th, they saw what Criss described as "a big round thing hovering in the sky below the tree tops."

"It was hovering. It wasn't moving," Criss told investigators.

Criss also told the Sun she saw "red lights around the perimeter of the object, blinking in sequence."

A middle-aged couple who saw the event and spoke to investigators by telephone, but refused to be identified for fear of ridicule said

they saw "a bright red object rocket to the ground near Big Lake."

Former Fire Chief Jack Moore, father of Mike Moore, was called out to the scene where the grass had caught fire and the ground was smoldering. He told the Nonpareil in a story at the time that Kenny told him "something red fell out of the sky to the southeast, hit the ground and exploded in flame."

When he arrived on the scene, Moore said he found a grassy area about four by six feet on a levee off Big Lake to be covered by a mass of molten metal, said the Nonpareil article.

"It was running, boiling down the edges of the levee. The center of it was way too hot to touch," Moore said at the time.

It should be noted that calls were made to Eppley Airfield as well as Offutt Air Force Base by investigators, according to the Sun. They could not explain the phenomenon as an air crash.

Astronomer and Nonpareil Columnist Bob Allen was a secondary witness to the event. He heard about it by the next day, Sunday, and went to take a look at what remained. Overnight, most of the metal had been chipped away, but a few pieces remained.

Allen did several things that would later make the Big Lake incident important to another investigator. The first is that he took a sample of the metal to Griffin Pipe to have the metal analyzed. He also sent a sample to Ames Lab at Iowa State University. Both said the metal was simply high-carbon steel of a very ter-

restrial origin. Part of it seemed to be slag, the kind of metal used widely in manufacturing.

Allen also sent samples to the Foreign Technologies division of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and received a letter from Col. Charles H. Senn who confirmed that the object could not have been space-borne because of the lack of an impact crater; could not have been part of a satellite because the metal was too common and space debris does not become molten or glow; the USAF had no interest in the case.

Meteors fall from the sky as stones and even the earliest of space craft were made of light metals with a high alloy content. The molten metal of Big Lake was far too primitive to be a satellite of human manufacture.

Part of an airplane perhaps? Even if the metal had come from an aircraft not noted by Eppley or Offutt, it would not have fallen in a semi-molten state.

All of this leads to one explanation that would satisfy the theory that a hoax had been perpetrated. Remember the four unidentified men in the small car who seemed only vaguely interested in the flash, but not enough to stop?

Perhaps they had planted the metal in its molten form or melted it using Thermite then set off a flare to attract attention but didn't count on the quick reaction time of Kenny, Randy and Carol who would have practically caught them in the act?

This was also right at the time that "Close Encounters of the

Third Kind" was in theaters. In fact, Mike and Criss Moore joked about having seen the movie only the night before in the Star article. Perhaps imaginations were running wild and one thing seemed like another.

But in any event, a hoax would have taken a tremendous amount of effort to pull off just for a few laughs. For one thing, molten metal is hard to come by. It can't be transported easily and certainly not in "a small foreign car" with four men in it.

Allen concluded that the use of Thermite to melt the metal at the location would have been extremely unlikely as no local sources of the material were available at the time and considerable amounts of ice should have been present on the ground around the metal had pranksters attempted to cool the metal with water as was indicated by surface structures on the metal itself.

And so we are left with what we began, a mystery.

If the Big Lake incident is a hoax, it is one of the most cleverly perpetrated hoaxes requiring the perpetrator to be simultaneously smart enough to pull off the hoax while being simple-minded enough to be amused by a prank that just as easily could have gone unnoticed. The pranksters would also have had to be willing to spend a great deal of time, energy and money.

In many ways, this incident has not drawn a great deal of attention. It certainly doesn't garner much attention even locally.

The incident did catch the attention of Jacques F. Vallee, noted computer scientist, astronomer, astrophysicist, writer and member of the Society for Scientific Exploration where he has studied unidentified aerial phenomena.

In a report entitled "Physical Analyses in Ten Cases of Unexplained Aerial Objects with Material Samples" presented at the Pocantino Conference in Tarrytown, N.Y., in September 1997, Vallee used what he calls "the Council Bluffs case" along with descriptions of nine other similar events from around the world to describe what he speculates could be part of a liquid metal electrical system in which the high conductivity of liquid metals makes them an attractive means of current collection, according to the author, that could also be a part of a nuclear design for a flying object's power plant using direct energy conversion rather than a heat driven engine such as a plane uses.

Put simply, magnets could move liquid metal inside a "magnetohydrodynamic" generator instead of gasoline being used to move pistons to create motion. The MHD generator would be quiet and could explain why even base terrestrial metals might be found associated with such a strange phenomenon.

Sadly, we might never know what fell from the sky on Dec. 17, 1977. Bob Allen and Randy James agreed that one explanation has yet to be fully explored. It is possible, according to both men, that what fell to earth that night did land on the levee.

It is possible that what fell to earth actually fell in Big Lake and what ended up on the levee was merely a splash that wouldn't have left a crater.

"Look in the lake," said Allen. "Get your scuba gear on and look in the lake."

UFO Festival has great parade and help for abductees

The annual event in McMinnville runs today through Sunday.

BY ANGELA YEAGER
Statesman Journal

For the employees of Applied Physics Technologies, the UFO Parade has gone from a fun idea to a mission each year to come up with the wildest, wackiest parade float.

It started off three years ago mixing turkeys and aliens. Last year, the company re-enacted the famous Trent UFO sighting complete with a farm, the Trent family and a whole lot of aliens.

And this year? Well, that's top secret.

The 5th Annual UFO Festival is back with more alien fun than you can shake an antenna at.

It starts today with a dinner with alien-abduction expert Budd Hopkins, and then kicks into high gear Friday with vendors

5th Annual UFO Festival

WHAT: Wild and wacky fun with aliens, abductees and more, including guest speakers, exhibits, a parade and a costume ball

WHEN: 7 p.m. tonight, 5 to 11 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to midnight Saturday

WHERE: McMennamins Hotel Oregon, 310 NE Evans St., and downtown McMinnville

COST: Free and open to all ages except as noted in event schedule

CALL: (503) 472-3605

and speakers at locations around downtown McMinnville.

But the biggest community events continue to be the UFO Parade, which starts at 1 p.m. Saturday, and the Alien Costume Ball at 8 p.m. Saturday.

"We're not really serious alien followers," said Bob Mackie, co-owner of Applied Physics Technologies. "We just have a lot of fun putting this together."

Mackie, fellow co-owner Gary Cabe and the 23 employees at the McMinnville-based company have won the parade's entry for Best Alien Float two years in a row. They won't give away what kind of other-worldly scheme they've got cooked up for this year, but Mackie said an employee donated his car and "we took a torch to it."

Event schedule

TONIGHT

7 P.M.: Dinner with alien abduction authority Budd Hopkins. Along with a special dinner menu, Hopkins will discuss how he became involved in UFO abduction research. According to McMennamins' Web site, Hopkins has investigated more than 700 cases of alien abduction and has long been considered Ufology's most visible figure as well as the world's premier expert on the subject of alien abduction. McMennamins Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33rd, Portland. Cost: \$35 per person. 21 and older. Register for the dinner by calling, (503) 249-3983.

7 P.M.: A separate event from the UFO Festival, the McMinnville Public Library and Oregonians for Rationality are sponsoring a talk by science writer and UFO skeptic Robert Sheaffer, author of "UFO Sightings: The Evidence," McMinnville Public Library, 225 NW Adams St. Free.

FRIDAY

5 P.M.: Out-of-this-world vendor fair featuring everything from jewelry to help for UFO abductees, at McMennamins Hotel Oregon, 310 NE Evans St.

7 P.M.: Speaker's Forum, featuring Budd Hopkins and



Special to the Statesman Journal

UMMM ... OK: The McMennamins Hotel Oregon entry in last year's UFO Festival parade featured the return of "The King."

The family-friendly parade draws hundreds of spectators — both of this world and not — to downtown McMinnville each year, said Kathy Stahl, assistant manager of the McMinnville Downtown Association.

The downtown association puts the parade together, while McMennamins is in charge of the rest of the festival.

"Oh, it's very popular," Stahl said of the parade. "We get all kinds of strange people in the streets, some who are in the parade and some who are not."

Another big event at the UFO Festival is the Alien Costume Ball held at McMennamins Hotel Oregon on Saturday night.

Eric Byler, assistant director of Oregon UFO Research and editor of the publication Oregon UFO Review, Mack Theater, 510 NE Third St. Cost: \$7.

9 P.M.: Speaker reception and book signing with Hopkins and Byler, McMennamins Hotel Oregon, 310 NE Evans St.

SATURDAY

10 A.M.: Vendor fair, McMennamins Hotel Oregon, 310 NE Evans St.

10:30 A.M.: Alien Abduction Workshop/Trent Case Film, featuring Terry Halstead, an expert on the subject of McMinnville's Trent alien sighting. Halstead will show his 30-minute documentary. The showing is followed by Budd Hopkins' Alien Abduction Workshop, which encourages audience participation, Mack Theater, 510 NE Third St.

1 P.M.: UFO Costume Parade. Cost to participate in parade is \$5. It's free to watch the craziness. The parade weaves through downtown McMinnville.

2:30 P.M.: Willamette Radio Workshop performs "Flash Gordon" and "The Jewel," Mack Theater, 510 NE Third St.

8 P.M.: Alien Costume Ball. Featuring live reggae music, hand-crafted ales and an alien costume contest. McMennamins Hotel Oregon, 310 NE Evans St. For guests 21 and older.

Open to those 21 and older, the Alien Costume Ball features a live reggae band and prizes such as hotel gift certificates and pint bottles of McMennamins hand-crafted ales.

But the UFO Festival isn't just fun and games. Serious believers also come to McMinnville for the event, and this year, there will be many who believe they have been abducted by aliens.

Hopkins is one of the key speakers at the festival.

Amber Lindsey of McMennamins marketing department said Hopkins will be talking about his own abduction experience and coping strategies at

the Speaker's Forum at 7 p.m. Friday.

"He's going to address how he got into this unorthodox line of work," she said.

"We had a lot of people show up last year who say they've been abducted. That was kind of the first time that had happened to that extent. So we expect even more abductees this year."

Friday and Saturday, Hotel Oregon will have an exhibit hall with vendors and various UFO-related organizations. This is the place to go if you're looking for a bracelet made out of pieces of a meteor or looking to join an abductee-coping support group.

And if that doesn't suit your taste, there's always a chance to put some antennas on your head and cheer on the parade. Mackie said he heard they have some big competition this year from other floats, so Applied Physics Technologies is making sure their entry is quite a spectacle.

"The crew here really gets into doing it," he said. "We make our aliens look any way we can think of. The sky's the limit."

Angela Yeager can be reached at (503) 399-6743 or ayeager@StatesmanJournal.com



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

MAIL, Northwich, England - April 30, 2004

Fields could hold the key to alien life

SPRING brings many of nature's visitors back to the Cheshire countryside - butterflies, migratory birds... and aliens!

Well possibly, because late April is the time when those strange phenomena known as crop circles start appearing in farmers' fields.

Many theories have been put forward over the years as to the cause of these mysterious and complex formations: localised weather patterns, alien greetings and even amorous hedgehogs have all had their champions at some time.

Now a group of local paranormal and UFO researchers have got together to investigate and evaluate the crop circles and their associated phenomena.

And to help in their research, The Cheshire Crop Circle Studies Centre (CCCSC) is asking for anyone who notices a circle to get in touch.

Group member and veteran UFOlogist Eric Morris, who is formerly of Rudheath, explained: 'The main focus for research has always been the South West - Wiltshire and Hampshire particularly - but we have had reports of formations in the recent past and I believe that a concerted effort, part of which is to alert the public, may make a big difference this year.'

'Some single or double-type circles could possibly be made by a phenomenon called fair-weather whirlwinds. That's what we are looking for - purely and simply because of the geographical location.'

Eric has had plenty of experience of the uncanny as head of the British UFO Studies Centre (BUFOSC). He saw some of his first crop circles in Wiltshire back in the summer of 1978 and although the vast majority of circles are the work of clever human



SIGN LANGUAGE? UFOlogist Eric Morris is aiming to discover the secrets behind crop circles. 23HP9521

By ANTHONY HARVISON

hoaxers, he revealed that not everything can be so simply attributed.

He said: 'I was in a crop formation a couple of years ago and I took some photos of the formation - when they were developed they showed something anomalous hovering in the sky.'

'We also researched one on the outskirts of Chester, that was a massive formation and spent two days measuring its dimensions.'

'We couldn't put it down to any type of hoaxing or weather formation that had been around so obviously they do occur in the Cheshire area - it's just that people don't know who or where to report them to.'

'Some of our supporters believe that some sort of higher intelligence might be responsible for these re-

markable formations,' he added.

Eric's untiring quest to explain the seemingly unexplainable has recently been featured in a BBC4 documentary, *The Mythologist*, and he thinks the publicity can only do good.

He said: 'It might help focus people's minds on the extremely urgent issues of UFO sightings, the paranormal and crop formations, all of which are linked and require research by open-minded but sensible groups like ours.'

'People with skills who feel they may be able to make a contribution are welcome to contact me.'

■ If you want to support the work of the Cheshire Crop Circle Studies Centre, contact Eric Morris on 07753 744978 or e-mail uinfo@aol.com for further information.

ECHO, Loughborough, England - April 30, 2004

Warning from aliens must be heeded

IT IS not everyday that one's photograph is printed in a newspaper (*Echo*, April 23).

However, I want to point out that neither accurate nor full and detailed information was given about my experience with an encounter of the first kind.

The people I encountered on board the ship also warned me to tell the human race that we are fast destroy-

ing the Earth, and that no amount of money or riches will save us. If agriculture dies then we all die.

Oxygen is becoming polluted and in the end plants and trees will no longer be able to give us life breathing oxygen.

There are far too many cars on the road, and, now we discover that China is set to overtake America with petrol-guzzling cars.

If humans carry on the way that they are doing, within the next 50 years there will be no more oxygen left for our grandchildren to breathe.

R L Stevenson,
Selbourne Street, Loughborough.



Robert Stephenson - alert, RU.

NEWS & STAR, Carlisle, England - March 25, 2004

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? Is it an alien life form? No, sadly for UFO boffin Sharon, it's just a stress-relief toy from the States

By Stephen Meredith

A MYSTERIOUS object thought to have come from outer space has turned out to be nothing more than the latest stress-relieving gizmo.

Sharon Larkin, West Cumbria's answer to Agent Scully, launched an appeal in the *News & Star* to try and find out what a magnetic 'stone' found on the side of a car could be.

She was contacted by several people who thought it could be anything from a fishing weight to the latest toy to arrive on these shores from across the pond.

Magnetoids

It turns out the object - 6cm long and shaped like a tapered cigar - is actually one of a pair of two spheroids called Magnetoids - a US stress reliever and desktop plaything. Their shape and magnetism make them perform a sort of magnetic ballet - clashing, spinning and making a chirping sound in the process.

Sharon, 31, administration director for the North West Cumbria UFO research and investigations group, said: 'Without the *News & Star*'s help I would never have



No mystery: UFOlogist Sharon Larkin with the magnetic, shiny object now identified as an executive stress-relief toy

known what it was. I had a good response from the public and now know it is a toy from the USA.

'At least the mystery has been solved and I won't be getting a knock on the door from the Men in Black.'

EXAMINER, Douglas, Isle of Man - May 11, 2004

Links with mysterious orange UFO seen in Cumbria

UFO experts from the UK continue to be baffled by an orange-coloured UFO which appears to originate from the Isle of Man.

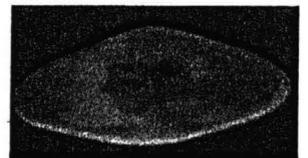
The first reports of the orange UFO were in August last year.

The witnesses all saw a UFO which resembled the shape and colour of an orange street lamp and a month later, members of the Whitehaven Golf Club in Cumbria reported seeing an orange UFO passing over the clubhouse at an estimated 500 feet.

Reports of the orange UFO had intensified over the Christmas period and things were quiet until Saturday, April 24 when I was one of several witnesses who observed the same type of UFO for a five-minute duration at 9.25pm.

I hope this date and time will strike a chord with anybody who may have witnessed something similar in the Isle of Man.

All the witnesses have stated that the



BAFFLING: An orange UFO seen in America. Could it be similar to one said to have come from the Island?

orange UFO approaches from the vicinity of the Isle of Man and over half the witnesses describe seeing the mystery object releasing a smaller glowing object which falls to the ground.

Premier UK ufologist, Russ Kellert of Filey, has also noticed a mysterious UFO connection with the Isle of Man and hopes that people will come forward with UFO information on his British UFO hotline on 01723 517000 or write to UFO&I, PO box 33, Filey, North Yorkshire.

CHRIS PARR
47 Monkway Brow, Whitehaven.

DEDICATED: Betty Meyler — Roscommon's answer to X-Files agent Scully — holding a model of an alien in her home town of Boyle



UFO? THE TRUTH IS UP THERE

THE truth may be out there — but it's been taking its time in getting to Ireland.

While claimed UFO sightings are running at an unprecedented level across the world, our own island has remained strangely immune to the craze for all things extraterrestrial.

We appear to be a bit of a backwater as far as intergalactic tourism is concerned.

But all of that could be about to change as our small band of dedicated Ufologists prepare to host the first ever Irish International UFO Conference.

The conference, to be held in Galway from June 11 to 13, will attract some heavyweight speakers in the field from all over the world.

They will include the original civilian investigator into the infamous 'Roswell Incident' and a German investigator who claims to have discovered the secret UFO files of the KGB.

Some 250 delegates are expected to attend from all over the world.

And the driving force behind the event is Betty Meyler — the 'Agent Scully' of Co Roscommon.

Betty first became interested in all things extraterrestrial back in 1996 when she heard of a suspected UFO crash in the mountains near her hillside home in Boyle.

UFO fever is finally taking hold in Ireland — we meet the lady behind it

By JOE O'SHEA



But what started out as simple curiosity soon became a passion in her life.

"There was a meeting in my local pub and I went along just out of interest," said Betty.

"They were talking about megaliths and how they relate to UFO sightings — I was very interested because we have some tremendous megaliths just outside Boyle."

Betty decided to organise a meeting in a local hotel for interested people from the locality.

And that led to her setting up the UFO Society of Ireland and then organising the first ever international conference on the subject in Galway.

Betty herself said she has had multiple sightings of UFOs — and has taken photos which she believes back her up.

"I've had quite a few sightings but then again I have got an exceptionally good view from my home," she said.

"There was an occasion last November, at around 5am in the morning when I saw an orange cigar-shaped object go past the window.

"There were seven of them altogether."

Betty believes that the visitors have varying reasons for coming to Earth — she believes that those who came before the turn of the millennium were here to ensure the smooth changeover of time.

"There was a lot of talk about the millennium bug and the chaos that would be caused — but in the end it all went off pretty smoothly," she said.

The Co Roscommon woman says she realises that her views will strike some as being a bit outside the pale.

But she retains a sense of humour and perspective and does not come across as a fanatic.

"When I started off, people used to call me Agent Scully," says Betty.

"These days, people just approach me quietly and tell me what they have seen.

"There are a lot of sightings that never get reported — people might be afraid of ridicule or maybe will just say something to their family.

"I just try to have a sense of humour about it and when people say its all crazy or rubbish — I point out that they said the same thing to Galileo when he said the world was round!"

Betty has had "huge interest" in the June conference in Galway — and she hopes that it could be the start of something much bigger here in Ireland.

In the meantime, she will keep watching the skies over Boyle and collecting information on reported sightings.

For more information on the UFO Society of Ireland and the upcoming international conference, visit www.ufosocietyireland.com.

ARE THEY ALREADY HERE?



DESPITE UFO-spotting being a relatively new phenomenon in Ireland, there are a number of sites dedicated to it — and they include a number of sightings here.

Here's some examples of the most recent sightings from www.mysticaluniverse.com...

Reported by: Mark, Dublin
When: January, 2004

Description: At approximately 22:45, I saw three lights directly above. There was some high cloud cover in the west but otherwise it was relatively clear.

The three lights looked like stars but moved quickly in a rotating pattern in a south/south-westerly direction.

The sighting lasted about five seconds at which time they disappeared out of sight.

The lights moved in a coordinated fashion and were definitely not shooting stars, planes or anything else I can think of.

Reported by: Majella, Killybegs

When: August, 2003

Description: It was a beautiful starry night so we have been taking full advantage of the good weather and visibility this last week.

We had been outside for about a half hour and my husband was focusing on Mars and myself and my two sons were taking turns to look.

We saw shooting stars, aeroplanes, a satellite — but this appeared very suddenly. It was a bright light which I automatically thought was an aeroplane, but with the second flash, I know it was much to bright and had moved to quickly.

The planes crossing over us fly on an east/west path, this was due south overhead and moved northerly.

The flash it omitted reminded me of a camera flash, but it appeared to pulsate and it moved erratically across the sky. Then it just disappeared as suddenly as it had appeared.

Investigator set to probe suspected UFO activity

UFO enthusiasts have today vowed to investigate unexplained objects sighted over Portsmouth.

John Field, of Newcomen Road, Stamshaw, was one of six people to see an unusual object in the sky above Portsdown Hill on Sunday.

He told *The News*: "I witnessed a very long and thin pencil-like object drift across the sky over Portsdown Hill at about 3pm.

"It appeared black and had no visible markings. It was shortly followed by two small spotter-type planes."

The police have no record of the sightings and navy spokesman Simon Smith, based at Portsmouth Naval Base, said there were no navy flights at those times.

Now Southern Paranormal Investigations Group led by Bob Schindler is to look into their claims.

Married father-of-five Mr Schindler, 35, of Oakshott Drive, West Leigh, said: "If the object was pencil-shaped and they were looking at it from a different angle it could have been triangle-shaped."

Anyone who spots a UFO can contact Southern Paranormal Investigations Group on (023) 9249 9192.

Rivington 'magnet for flying saucers'

THE mysterious moors around Rivington have been revealed as one of Britain's UFO hotspots.

The country park has been listed as second only to Fleetwood in the North-west for the sheer number of UFO sightings in the skies.

A handful of other areas across the region where close encounters have been reported include Manchester, Liverpool, Fleetwood and Denbigh in North Wales.

Rivington has been ranked at number 19 in a list of the 40 best saucer spotting venues across the country put together by ex-MOD UFO expert Nick Pope for a new book called *How To Be Abducted By Aliens*.

Long a magnet for stargazers and walkers, Rivington has been the site of a catalogue of unexplained sightings for several years which included the capture on film of a mysterious object and even an alleged abduction in 2001.

Phil Catterall, chairman of the Horwich-based Bolton UFO Society, said he was unsurprised at Rivington's listing as one of the country's premier venues for meetings with the unknown.

"I've got details of sightings which go as far back as the last 1960 and early 70s," he said.

"And we even have details of an abduction where a farm worker lost two hours and still can't explain what happened or how he got home."

"What we captured on film in 1998 has never been explained by anyone and there have been literally dozens of sightings which we have looked into."

EXPRESS & STAR, Wolverhampton, England - April 17, 2004

UFO film on Chase sightings

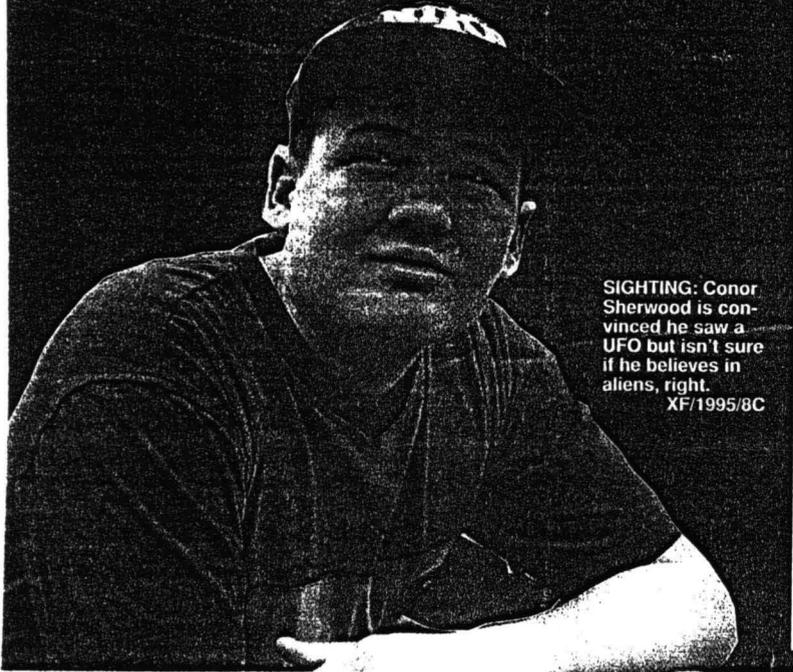
A documentary about sightings of unidentified flying objects above Cannock Chase is to be shown in Stourbridge.

The documentary, called *Cannock Chase UFO Hot Spot UK*, covers the sightings within the Staffordshire skies of silent flying triangles and includes interviews with MoD officials.

Graham Allen, from the Staffordshire UFO group, will present the 45-minute documentary to members of the UFO Midland Research Group which meets at The Page, Market Street, from 8pm on Tuesday.

The Chase has been cited by a retired US Naval Intelligence Officer as the location for a crashed UFO.

TOWN IS UFO HOTSPOT



SIGHTING: Conor Sherwood is convinced he saw a UFO but isn't sure if he believes in aliens, right.
XF/1995/8C

BEXLEYHEATH has been identified by UFO experts as one of the top spots for seeing UFOs.

The town ranks number eight in a top 20 list of hotspots for UFO activity in the country, with Bonnybridge in Lanarkshire in first place.

The research comes as no surprise to one teenager who, while babysitting his sister two years ago, witnessed what he believed to be an alien ship hovering near his home.

Conor Sherwood, now 15, of Malvern Avenue, Bexleyheath, said: "My mum was out for the evening and I was in babysitting my little sister.

"I was sitting in my living room and I heard a strange vibrating noise. I thought it was interference on the television, so I got up and turned the TV down.

"But the noise was still there and it was getting louder. My house was shaking a little and I thought it could be a low-flying plane.



■ SCOTT SINCLAIR

the area and I had never felt the house shake like that.

"When my dad came back, I told him and he phoned the police straight away.

"No one else had reported seeing anything, although there had been a couple of phone calls about the vibrations.

"I really thought it was a Concorde but when I looked closer, it had lights all around it and I have never seen a plane or anything like it before.

"I don't really believe in aliens but this was very strange and was definitely a UFO."

"But this was not the first time I had seen something. When I was younger, my uncle had a barbecue and there was a small, green, round shape in the sky. My uncle immediately got a camcorder, and my whole family saw it."

Conor logged his sighting on a Lycos website.

The list was compiled by leading UFO expert Nick Pope for Grolsch beer.

Mr Pope, who ran the Ministry of Defence's UFO desk from 1991 to 1994, said: "It is difficult to arrive at a precise number of sightings in any one place as there is no central data collection point.

"We must also take into account widespread under-reporting due to fear of ridicule and the fact most people are unsure where to submit reports.

"However, it is certainly possible to gauge the intensity of current UFO activity.

"Our listed hotspots exhibit up to 20 times as many sightings as anywhere else."

Lewisham also made the top 10.

● Have YOU seen a UFO? If so, contact Scott Sinclair on 0208 269 7000 or e-mail s.sinclair@inuk.co.uk

BEXLEYHEATH is the eighth most likely place to be abducted by aliens in the UK, according to a leading UFO expert,

The area was named in a top 20 list of hotspots for extra-terrestrial activity and sightings by leading science fiction buff, Nick Pope.

The news has brought memories flooding back for one teenager, who claims he saw a UFO near his home in 2002.

Conor Sherwood, 15, said: "I saw to my left a white triangle. It wasn't very high up, maybe as low as a plane coming into land or a tall building.

"The triangle looked like it was falling from the sky, but slowly, like the ashes of a firework that had just exploded."

Triangle

"I went outside and saw to my left a white triangle. It wasn't very high up, maybe as low as a plane coming into land or a tall building.

"The triangle looked like it was falling from the sky, but slowly, like the ashes of a firework that had just exploded."

"Then the telephone rang in my house, so I ran in to answer it and when I returned, which was almost straight away, it was gone. The sound had gone as well.

"My sister slept through the whole thing."

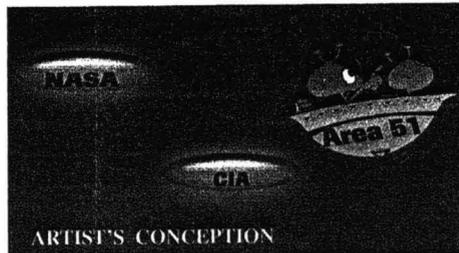
Conor believes what he saw was an Unidentified Flying Object, and said it was not his first UFO sighting.

He added: "I thought it was a Concorde plane, because of the noise and the vibrations, but I have never seen one before over

BEXLEYHEATH & WELLING
TIMES, Dartford, England

April 15, 2004

UFO's In Mexican Airspace?



Air Force Pilots Take Videos

Mexican Air Force pilots have videotaped what they say are images of Unidentified Flying Objects.

In an Associated Press story published May 13, the wire service said the videotape was taken March 5 by air force pilots using a video camera equipped with an infrared lens. The tape shows 11 bright, rapidly moving objects at about 11,500 feet accelerating rapidly and then suddenly changing course.

The tape was turned over to Mexican UFO enthusiasts for further study after it was determined the lights posed no threat to Mexican national security.

One of the crew members said the lights captured over southern Campeche state encircled the military jet at a distance of two miles. They were encountered as the plane was making a routine drug surveillance recon flight.

A crewman said only three of the objects they saw appeared on the plane's radar. Because infrared captures only heat images, it was impossible to determine the shape of the objects.

Later, a scientist suggested the lights could have been electrical flashes emitted spontaneously from the atmosphere. Oil platforms also burn off gasses in the area, he noted.

The AP said Mexican Defense Secretary Gen. Ricard Vega Garcia gave the video to Jaime Maussan, who has spent 10 years studying reports of unidentified flying objects. Maussan said the tape is proof that UFOs exist (the AP used the

words "flying saucers").

Vega said the Mexican military had come to no conclusions about where the lights came from nor would he say they were UFOs.

"This is Maussan's point of view," the general told a radio station. "For that reason he was give (the video) so that he could draw his own conclusions."

Maussan is general director and anchorman of "60 Minutes Mexico" and a long time student of UFO sightings. He also produces a radio program, "Jaime Maussan, UFOs and other Mysteries," which has become one of the most popular shows in Mexico.

"July 1991 marked the date of one of the most important solar eclipses of our century, and in Mexico, the beginning of the most amazing UFO waves in the world!" a statement on his website declared. "Thousands of people in many places have witnessed — and recorded on videotape — these UFO sightings."

Maussan has compiled more than 5,000 videos and photos from eyewitnesses to make what is now one of the largest collections of UFO videos in the world, the website said. It also offers for sale on CD-ROM "The UFO Anthology Volume One" which features "some of the most startling UFO footage you have ever seen, including moving UFO formations, mother ships, UFOs flying near airplanes, clear, sharp video of UFOs in broad daylight, spaceships of light and more!" (We did not make this up.)

PACIFIC FLYER, San Diego, CA - June 2004 CR: P. Dennett

OBSERVER, Stratford-upon-Avon, England - April 22, 2004

Was UFO just Venus?

A MYSTERIOUS pink light spotted in night skies near Stratford - sparking rumours of a UFO sighting - could have been the planet Venus, according to astronomy experts.

Steve Smith, chairman of the Stratford Astronomical Society, said Venus was very bright at the moment and although it should appear white in colour, a hazy skyline could make it seem orange or even pink.

The Observer contacted Mr Smith after two students spotted a bright pink star-like light in the skies over Great Alne, between Stratford and Alcester, on April 6.

The friends - 20-year-old Victoria Ricketts from Bidford and 19-year-old Lucy Holbrooke from Broom - were driving towards Great Alne just before midnight when they first noticed the strange light.

But their experience

became more bizarre when the light suddenly dropped much lower in the sky, leading them believe it was a plane, and just minutes later they claim it hovered silently at street-lamp level just metres away from them.

Stratford Quaker Philip Morris also contacted The Observer to report a strange pink-light on the same night.

He was driving back from Adderbury, near Banbury, with two fellow Quakers when at around 9.45pm the group noticed the sky glowing a strange colour.

"We passed Upton House and as we were approaching the Banbury Road towards Stratford most of the low sky was covered in black cloud but below that there was this extraordinary pink glow," he said.

"We thought it might have been a fire or the lights from Stratford but who knows."

Things that go bump in the night – UFOs on the Berwyns?



Tracey Williams – witnesses claimed to have seen a piece of metal from an alien craft.

IT is over 30 years since the Berwyn Mountains was the centre of an unexplained incident - and researchers are still no closer to finding out the truth. On Wednesday, January 23, 1974 bizarre goings on were reported and witnessed near Llandrillo.

At around 8.30pm on that evening something caused an explosion to occur on the mountains, causing an earthquake measuring some 4.5 to be registered on the Richter Scale.

Shockwaves from the impact were felt in Wrexham, Chester, Liverpool, Southport and even in some parts of greater Manchester.

Over the years, two schools of thought have developed on the cause of this "impact"- one believing a meteorite is the plausible answer and another ascribing it to an alien craft.

Tracey Williams of the North Wales branch of paranormal group UPIA has helped carry out an investigation into the incident and in her report, Tracey says a meteorite impact is a plausible suggestion.

But Tracey added in her report: "Experts then argued that it would take a very large meteorite indeed to cause an earthquake of that size."

SHAUN DAVIES on the mystery of an earthquake 30 years ago in the Berwyns – was it a meteorite or or aliens?
shaun.davies@nwn.co.uk

Impact

Also, one would expect an extremely large crater to have been left by it and yet nothing of that nature was ever found."

According to Tracey, the original accounts from the Corwen Times also suggested a meteorite impact, but no additional, new information or evidence was found to be available in connection with the event.

"Since the 1990s the case seems to have taken on the UFO theme, the facts being reinterpreted and original witness statements greatly exaggerated," she added.

"We have spoken to witnesses who claim to have seen a piece of unusual metal,

seeming to be from the craft.

"We haven't seen this object ourselves, but would be delighted to view this material to be able to make our own opinions of its source.

"We are leaving this case open for further investigation and welcome any additional information from the public to assist us to find the truth."

But the UFO Casebook (<http://www.ufocasebook.com/Wales.html>) calls the incident "one of the best kept secrets in UFO history".

According to this study: "Approximately two hours earlier, several dozen witnesses across Lancashire and Cheshire had phoned in reports of a strange formation of bright green lights, which flew in a haphazard pattern in a north-westerly direction.

The report continued that residents from Chester witnessed a convoy of Army trucks on their way to the Berwyn Mountains on the night of the impact.

"Upon the military's arrival, the area was immediately cordoned off," added the study.

"Civilian rescuers and police were not allowed into the area."

Among the answers for the impact given by the UFO Casebook are a prototype of an experimental craft or a UFO, but they do not mention meteorites.

The final word should go to Andy Roberts and his exhaustive 7,000-plus word study on the subject (<http://www.flyingsaucery.com/files/Berwyn%20Mountain%20UFO%20Crash.doc>).

According to Roberts, author Gavin Gibbons wrote "By Space Ship to the Moon", a sci-fi book which featured a UFO landing on the Berwyn Mountains in Wales.

The actual 1974 event, he argues, was not extra-terrestrial-based.

In his study Roberts says: "Whilst rumours of this crash have been in existence for a quarter-of-a-century it has only recently drawn any serious attention from the UFO community.

"And although dramatic claims have been made no-one had investigated this potentially remarkable case in any great depth.

"The Berwyn Incident, far from proven, was a kaleidoscope of rumour and fact concerning crashed UFOs, alien bodies, military retrieval teams, earth tremors, meteorites, weapons testing, disinformation agents, Men In Black and geologically created lights."

Roberts, from his investigation, claims that records kept by the astronomy department at Leicester University show that bolide meteors were seen on the night of the impact and these sightings coincided with approximate times given by witnesses.

Poachers using lamps on the mountain could also account for the lights spotted around the scene, adds Roberts, who also refutes claims of a large military presence at the scene soon after the incident.

ECHO, Loughborough, England - April 30, 2004

Why did the national media ignore groundbreaking story?

MAY I BE one of the first to congratulate your newspaper on the groundbreaking story on an "alien abduction" you carried on page four of your April 23 issue.

Not satisfied with reporting that Loughborough is among the top 40 UK hotspots for such bizarre extra-terrestrial activities, your diligent reporters managed to track down a man from the town who'd actually been beamed up to a spacecraft two-and-a-half years ago.

It was a story in the best traditions of provincial journalism.

There are no doubt some cynics who will be highly sceptical about the claims of Robert Stephenson (61), from Selbourne Street.

But I think the *Echo* deserves praise for the objective and balanced way it reported his clearly plausible testimony of his encounter with a Jesus-like figure and others who were grey and "funny looking."

I recently retired after working for more than 30 years in the world of Journalism, the last 22 with the BBC. I can say, hand on heart, that I would have given my eye-teeth to interview someone who'd genuinely been beamed up to an alien spacecraft.

What amazes me is that the national media, so obsessed with the antics of footballers and soap stars and the gossip emanating from the "Westminster Village" seem to have ignored this tale altogether.

Mr Stephenson's plucky no-nonsense response to his unwarranted abduction, "while sleeping," must have given his alien captors something to chew on. No doubt they'll think twice before beaming up any more residents of Selbourne Street, or any other district of the town, for that matter.

But if they do, I look forward, more than I can possibly say, to reading about their experiences in your excellent columns.

Chris Mills (by e-mail)

Is there anyone out there?

REDBRIDGE residents are advised not to stray across the borough boundary for fear of being abducted by aliens in Unidentified Flying Objects.

by Doreen Friend

A report, commissioned by Grolsch as part of its The Fish Can Sing campaign, states that Walthamstow is fifth in a list of 40 towns nationwide with Bonybridge, Lanarkshire, topping the alien abduction league.

Researcher Liz McGrath, from Wanstead, spent time compiling the report for Grolsch called How To Be Abducted by Aliens. She said: "I have no idea why Walthamstow is so popular, particularly as there is plenty of open land in Redbridge for space landings."

"The report was compiled from reports of sightings which have helped us build up a picture of alien abduction hot-spots over a number of years."

"No one body is responsible for collating the sightings which means there are no conclusive statistics available on the exact number of sightings nationwide."

A Redbridge Council spokesman said there was an unexplained sighting two or three summers ago when a large object was seen in Valentines Park.

The object was 40 feet long and stood 15 feet high and was approached

with extreme caution.

Closer inspection revealed it to be a unit used to separate oil and water for placing in an underground water course.

The spokesman added: "There was a scare some 12 years ago when radio active glowing golf balls were seen on Woodford Golf Course."

"The story was reported in the local press, the National Enquirer and was reported worldwide. The whole thing turned out to be nothing more sinister than a test on the levels of radon - a gas which occurs naturally in nature."

"There have been no confirmed sightings of UFO's, or reports of alien abductions in the borough."

A major incident plan is in place to deal with any borough emergencies, and the only time this included any sort of precautions against an alien invasion was when a Russian space lab was thought to be on the flight path along the A12.

The object overflew the area and landed in the Pacific Ocean.



Liz McGrath - writer and researcher of aliens

ARGUS, Brighton, England - April 10, 2004

UFO mystery as lights in sky caught on film

by HUW BORLAND

AMATEUR alien enthusiasts captured video footage of what they believe was a spaceship soaring over Sussex.

Brian Barnes called police and the coastguard after spotting an unidentified flying object from his home in Bevendean, Brighton.

He estimated it was hovering above Shoreham airport.

Mr Barnes, 62, described a bright sphere coupled with an orbiting light as he alerted neighbours in Dartmouth Crescent.

They filmed the eerie apparition with their video camera.

Mr Barnes, who works with young offenders, said: "I saw a big light first and thought it was the Pole Star, which comes off the Plough constellation."

"But it got more interesting when I got the binoculars out."

"It was a white ball with little lights inside and one going round the outside slowly."



His wife and 19-year-old son rushed to look at the UFO while his neighbours filmed it.

Mr Barnes said: "I've got a flying licence and I do know about the atmosphere and lights in the sky - I know when it's a plane. This object was stationary for two hours."

"I came indoors for 15 minutes, then went out at midnight and it had gone."

"I thought it could be a satellite but they move with the Earth."

Neighbour Cheryl Hope's daughter

Donna Clarke filmed the mysterious lights.

Both are keeping open minds about whether it really was a visit from little green men.

Mrs Hope said: "We did not know what we were looking at. I would not like to say what it was because I do not have a clue."

Selsey-based astronomy expert Sir Patrick Moore said: "It's probably hot air balloons, people getting excited over nothing."

SIGHTING: The mystery object, which remained stationary for about two hours

"At this time of year, it's usually Venus that prompts these sightings - that's what people mistake for UFOs."

"But it could be all kinds of normal things. UFO sightings have been going on for years but it's quite harmless."

A Solent Coastguard spokesman said he did not know of any UFO sightings and crews would not have taken any action.

A Sussex Police helicopter chased a UFO in August 2000.

Sergeant John Tickner and paramedic Sean Mitchell sat mesmerised as a glowing object floated next to them, then disappeared into the distance.

They were so stunned they decided to follow it and used a thermal imaging video camera to record it for three minutes before giving up and returning to base.

Mr Tickner later insisted: "Not for a moment did we believe it to be anything sinister. We thought it was funny, though, so we chased it around for three minutes and were laughing and joking about little green men. None of us took it seriously."

huw.borland@theargus.co.uk

Expert begins research into 'speeding UFO'

by Katherine Davison
Staff Reporter
e-mail dorsetnews@westgaz.co.uk

A WOMAN who saw an unusual sight in the night sky has turned to an alien-spotter for help in identifying it.

Kath Simpson of Thornford, near Sherborne, enlisted the help of Weymouth-based UFO expert David Kingston after she saw the object flying above her home.

Last week, the Western Gazette reported how ex-RAF man Mr Kingston was preparing to host a UFO conference at the weekend in the Corn Exchange, Dorchester, focusing on topics including UFOs, crop circles and government conspiracies.

Mrs Simpson, her husband Alex and family friend Ken Gibson saw the light in the sky between 9.20pm and 9.25pm on Monday 29 March, and were struck by the speed at which it was moving.

Mrs Simpson, who claims to have seen unusual objects in the sky above London before, said: "We were loading the car and I saw a bright light up in

It really was moving very, very fast and it did a quick flick to the right and then disappeared

the sky and it was moving. I often watch satellites moving at speed but this was different. It really was moving very, very fast and it was travelling from the south towards the north and travelling quite fast and it did a quick flick to the right and then disappeared.

"We were all stood there, wondering where it went."

Mrs Simpson said she was so perplexed by the "round-shaped" mystery mover that she telephoned the naval base at RNAS Yeovilton to see if they had any aircraft in the area at the time.

"They said it was not one of

their helicopters. I wanted to know if they had monitored anything themselves there and they said, 'We do not really monitor high-flying things'.

"When I spoke to RNAS Yeovilton, the guy I spoke to said it was funny because he had been listening to the radio and up in the Midlands people have been reporting odd lights in the sky.

"I often watch the night sky and you see little tiny dots travelling across the night sky and you think, 'That's a satellite', but this thing really was shifting and it was quite a big, bright light. It was not just a pale, silvery colour."

Mr Kingston said: "I will follow my usual procedure of checking with military and civilian air traffic control and also the coastguard to see if it was a flare."

"If nothing comes up with either of them then we will log the report as a sighting."

Mrs Simpson's sighting comes weeks after Diana Martin of Thornford Road, Yetminster, saw flashing red lights as she was driving through Lydlinch.



UNUSUAL SIGHTING: Kath Simpson of Thornford, near Sherborne, with her husband Alex, wants to learn more about a strange light she saw in the Dorset sky. Picture by Deborah Johnson.

OBSERVER, Stratford-upon-Avon, England - April 29, 2004

I saw the UFO too

READING your edition of April 16 (Can you shed light on UFO?) reminded me of something that happened around that date, at around 11pm.

I went into the kitchen to make a drink and went to pull down the window blind and noticed a very bright light in the sky. I thought at first it was a star but it was big and very bright with a little light either side of the big one and I would say around 30 to 40,000 feet up. You could see other stars around.

I kept on watching from the kitchen and in the lounge. About

half an hour later I looked again and it disappeared. Then I read your article. Then on April 19 at 10.55pm I again went to make a drink and noticed the same thing. I kept on watching it again, each time it was stationary and there was no noise. Then it suddenly moved. It went at a slight angle to the right in the direction of Birmingham, then took a sharp right angle to the left but it was so fast - I've never seen anything move as fast before. It was gone in a second, nothing on this earth could move so fast.

So you can tell those two young ladies they had seen a UFO, that's certain.

Ted Whale
Castle Close
Henley

EVENING POST, Yorkshire, England - April 28, 2004



From galaxies far, far away, across countless light years, through the vast silent emptiness of space they travelled. They are aliens. And they came to ...

Ilkley Moor

(.. and 1 in 12 of us say we've met them)



● THE BLOB: A distant picture of an 'alien' on Ilkley Moor

BY GRANT WOODWARD

YORKSHIRE folk are renowned for their down-to-earth approach to life.

But it seems these days many Tykes harbour thoughts that are, quite literally, out of this world.

According to a new poll, one in three people in the county believe in the existence of aliens, while one in 12 reckons they have actually seen a UFO.

And Yorkshire expert Russ Kellet said he was not surprised one bit by the findings - which emerged in an online survey.

He said: "This demonstrates the level of belief in the potential of alien existence.

"I'm not surprised at the response because Yorkshire has long been recognised as

one of the top places for sightings.

"I have the evidence, including sighting reports, photography and video footage to prove that this area is now the UFO capital of the UK."

World-renowned sightings in Yorkshire include 1974's 'Cigar', a 100ft silver object hovering over Bradford, and an alien on Ilkley Moor in 1987.



Meanwhile, hundreds of residents reported seeing two orbs of light travelling at very low speed across the region in 1998.

Mr Kellet, 40, from Filey, has been studying the phenomena since spotting what he believes to be a UFO near Keighley over 15 years ago.

He said: "I think people in Yorkshire are more open to

the idea of aliens than they were a few years ago.

"The evidence is starting to stack up and it's becoming difficult to ignore with all the documentaries that are on TV."

The survey, conducted by the National Lottery among more than 2,000 people, also looked at the lighter side of the alien debate by asking them to name their scariest extra terrestrial.

In first place was the alien which burst out of John Hurt's chest and then proceeded to hunt down Sigourney Weaver and her crew in the original *Alien* movie.

The aliens voted the least scary of all time were the Daleks from TV show *Doctor Who*, who were intent on taking over the world despite not being able to cope with a flight of stairs.

grant.woodward@yypn.co.uk

TRANSLATIONS

[The following translations are all courtesy of Scott Corrales and the Institute for Hispanic Ufology, with translation copyright being retained. Credit for individual contributors will be given at the end of each article. All articles are from South American and other Spanish-language newspapers and media sources.]

June 5, 2004 — *Las Ultimas Noticias*, Santiago, Chile — INTERVIEW WITH ALIEN PHOTOGRAPHER — **He photographed the "alien" in Parque Forestal** — **German Pereira: "One can see something walking and [it] has arms and a head, but I don't know what it is." — Text by Luciana Lechuga — "I have no opinion on the nature of what came out on the photo, or else I'll just keep it to myself," said German Pereira.

The engineer is startled by the stir caused by his snapshot and says that he has received phone calls from Spain, Colombia and Argentina.

Pereira, a civil engineer, says that he had to turn off his cell phone in order to concentrate on work, since the instrument did not stop ringing after it was learned that he was the author of the surprising photo of an alleged alien in Parque Forestal.

He's only been a week at his new job and his co-workers don't know that he has been on television and in newspapers, and has received calls from Colombia, Argentina and Spain, whose news media want to know more about his story.

"I have no knowledge of this, but from what Erick Martinez (of the Corporacion de Investigacion de Fenomenos Aereos--CIFAE) tells me, it seems that it is one of the clearest photos ever taken. It is surely for this reason that it has had such an impact," he speculated.

Pereira, 33, is a graduate of the University of Concepcion and came to Santiago a little over a year ago. He is an amateur photographer and owns a Kodak DX6490 digital camera. On Monday, May 10 he had the afternoon off, so he got on his bicycle with the camera and went off to Parque Forestal.

He took ten photos and was "rewarded" with the image of a tiny grey being walking between two Carabineros (state police) on horseback. This is the image that has gone around the world, thanks to websites on paranormal phenomena.

-- *What was it about that shot that drew your attention?*

-- Look, first I took a photo of the Carabinero patrol that was coming over the nearby bridge. Then, since I was riding my bike, I headed for the northern sector. I took another photo of them from that point, and that's the one on the Internet.

-- *Did you see the alien in the [digital camera's] screen?*

-- No, I saw it the next day, when I downloaded the photo.

-- *And what did you think?*

-- I was impressed, that's all. I saw it with a colleague and we found it odd. I thought that it was the same impression everyone else who saw the photo must have had. It's rather shocking. The fact of the matter is that I didn't see it when I took the picture.

-- *Do you recall seeing anything odd at the time?*

-- No, nothing at all. And I also asked myself that when I checked the photo, I tried to recall what was there. It would have been ideal to have seen it when the photo was taken, but I saw nothing strange. I was interested in taking a photo of the mounted patrol.

-- *If it was an alien, it should have come out in the other photos you took that day.*

-- Yes, it could have come out, but it appears in that one only. Now, the other (photos) are from other areas.

-- *Had you ever had any similar experience?*

-- In fact I'd never had any experience of this type, nor was I very involved in UFO or alien matters. I don't know if that's the true nature of the matter, and that's why I stepped back from it and turned it over to people who deal with the subject. All I know is that it isn't a photographic error. I also know that it isn't a hoax, because I'm not behind it. The photo is still there, still inside the camera. I haven't wanted to erase it.

-- *And why's that?*

-- I want the Kodak people to see it. In fact, I have to phone them.

-- *How did your photo reach the Internet?*

-- What happened is that on Tuesday, when I downloaded it to my computer, I mailed it to a friend in Concepcion. He sent it to the people of CIFAE and to another two parties. That very same day Erick and I met up, because they were the first to believe in the photo.

-- *And what's your opinion of all this?*

-- I have no opinion on the nature of what came out on the photo, or else I'll just keep it to myself. In any event, one can see something that appears to walk, has arms and a head, but I don't really know what it is.

-- *Are you into UFOs? Have you had "close encounters"?*

-- No, no sightings. I don't lose any sleep over the subject, but I find it interesting. And with this stuff the same, if not more so.

-- *Have your co-workers bothered you?*

-- No. I think that maybe now they will. The day I took the photo I was with another company. I've only been here a week. They don't even know me. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

June 5, 2004 — www.infobae.com/ — SYRIA: Witnesses Report Seeing Alien — The entity was red in color and had a "peasantish" look. It was seen in an olive grove near Al-Naaisia in Central Syria, according to eyewitness reports.

The state newspaper *Teshreen* cites the eyewitness accounts of seven workers who claimed having seen "a strange creature that remained seated for a while before taking running strides to climb up a tree."

According to the peasants, the apparition came to an end when "the creature rushed skyward with incredible swiftness after leaving a wake of smoky white bubbles."

The journal went on to explain that authorities mandated an inspection of the site after the event became known, but nothing abnormal was found. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

June 7, 2004 — *La Segunda*, Santiago, Chile — CHILE: COLLEGE STUDENTS SAW STRANGE RED

OBJECT — Three UNIACC students managed to capture red object over the Malleco viaduct with their camcorder — **TEMUCO** — There was great expectation among residents of the Collipulli community regarding the experiences of three college students who claimed having seen and recorded an unidentified flying object over the Malleco viaduct.

The sighting took place last Saturday and involved Alvaro Zamora, Sergio Vidal and Cesar Arellano, audiovisual arts majors at UNIACC who had been in the vicinity of Malleco making a documentary about the viaduct. Around 18:00 hours, when darkness began to fall over the area, and as the students waited for a train to appear to complete their shooting for the day, a scintillating red object appeared at moderate speed, crossing the skies in a southward direction. According to local eyewitnesses, the UFO flew over the Chiguayhue hills, facing the viaduct.

"We were able to see it for about 5 minutes," said the students. "What's odd is that the object neither fell nor landed, and it vanished behind the hills as swiftly as it appeared."

According to the students, the object moved slowly. "Another important point is that the UFO suddenly vanished. We thought it was a meteorite, but we realized that it never descended." The sighting was recorded on video cameras and will almost surely be requested from the students for analytical purposes by Santiago-based specialists. While the sighting took place, some motorists traveling along the road pulled over to get a better view of the strange phenomenon.

The students say that they will keep the tapes in their custody until they return to Santiago, where they shall examine them frame by frame. The object is still a source of excitement among local residents and Chilean ufologists, who maintain that the area is a sort of "corridor" for mysterious flying objects.

UFO sightings are nothing new in Malleco. This sector of Chile's 9th Region has been classified by specialists as a "UFO transit corridor," which has been proven by the number of sightings that have taken place in recent months. Residents of Collipulli and Victoria have seen strange objects in the sky for which no scientific explanation can be found. An object similar to the one seen in Collipulli was reported only a few days ago by motorists driving toward Victoria from a sector adjacent to Inspector Fernandez. — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

June 8, 2004 — *Las Ultimas Noticias*, Santiago, Chile — CHILE: JAPANESE STARTLED BY PARQUE FORESTAL PHOTO — ****Encounter site to be visited by ufologists on Friday**** — The first phone call that Erick Martinez of CIFAE received yesterday came from the other side of the world. It was a journalist from a Japanese newspaper who wanted more details about the alleged Parque Forestal "alien."

"Japan's most important newspaper (*Asahi Shimbun*) published the photo," explained Martinez. "The fact of the matter is that they have had a legend for thousands of years about a creature called the kappa. According to them, the figure in the photo resembles the legendary creature."

Kappas are the river-god's messenger. They are as small as a primate, with scaly greenish or yellow skin, and they drag humans to the river bottom to drown them.

The CIFAE director said that "the journalist was translating for the people over there, and when I told him that Parque Forestal was only a few meters away from the Mapocho River, they went wild. If I understood correctly, he was telling me that they still get reports."

Parque Forestal shall be analyzed closely this Friday, since Erick Martinez says that they received a video recording of strange lights in the same location where the "alien" was photographed.

"I truly cannot say what it is, but we have a strange photograph, we have a strange video from the same place...what can I tell you? This tells me something is going on."

"Could this be an urban version of the Chupacabras?," inquired journalist Juan Carlos Valdivia, who accidentally recorded a couple of UFOs in Cairo a few years ago. The video by Valdivia was selected by Martinez as the most hard-hitting video he's seen in his ufological career, because it was taken by "a well-known person who is not going to go around hoaxing UFOs."

The host of the *Sabado por la Noche* program said: "When I saw the [Parque Forestal] photo, I laughed and then I had a nervous reaction, like when people laugh as they shudder. Now I'm upset that so much coverage is being given to it, since one believes that it could be an element to distract people from real problems."

In any event, Valdivia took it all in good humor. "It's just as fun. If Scotland can have its Loch Ness monster, having aliens wandering through downtown Santiago can be tremendously attractive," he joked. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

June 10, 2004 — *Correio da Manha*, Lisboa, Portugal [www.correiomanha.pt] — Portugal: UFO Photographed in Monte Novo by Rui Chaves/Carlos Varela — A UFO was photographed in Monte Novo between Reguengos and Evora on Monday, May 31, at approximately 14:30 hours. Four people at the site--two engineers and two students--did not notice the presence of the object until they checked the images picked up by the digital camera. Eduardo Silva, 25, of the Instituto de Soldadura e Qualidade (ISQ) took the photo as he performed a water quality survey on the waters of Monte Novo, Vigia and Caia.

"I DIDN'T SEE ANYTHING STRANGE"

"I only noticed it when we saw the photograph. That's when we started saying it was a UFO, but I only gave it importance when I saw the news," explained Eduardo Silva. "It was very hot and there were no birds about, or balloons or helicopters," said the author of the photo. *CM* reported on last Thursday that the Portuguese Air Force had followed the tracks of a "spindle-shaped" object which had crossed the national air space. On Monday, Colonel Barbosa of the Armed Forces High Command explained that they were currently "cross-checking information from the radar images and eyewitness accounts."

The officer said that "if possible," any news would be made known "shortly." The photo provided to *CM* shows no signs of tampering. The reflection of the sun on the apparently metallic object agrees with the shadows of the trees shown in the photo. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero

June 28, 2004 — *Terra.cl*, Chile — CHILE: AN IMPRESSIVE UFO CAUSED ALARM IN OVALLE — A considerable number of locals witnessed one of the most significant sightings of recent times over the capital city of the province of Limari. This event is a successor to the well-known and enigmatic case that occurred in 1998 over Las Mollacas in Paihuano.

OVALLE, June 25 — On Saturday, June 19, hundreds of people took to the streets of Ovalle to witness--in shock and expectation--a strange circle of lights positioned in the skies over the city.

The characteristics suggested the circle was at least 100 meters in diameter; it blinked and rotated uninterruptedly in the night sky.

Likewise, certain locations on the city's outskirts attracted large numbers of people who reported seeing the same thing. Radio station telephone switchboards did not stop receiving calls, creating a sense of alarm, even among those who had not left their homes.

"We received so many calls that we had to interrupt our regular programming and present a special on the subject, in order to offer an explanation about the phenomenon and provide answers to our listeners," said Carlos Ossandon, director of the Comunicativa FM radio station.

Comunicativa obtained its highest number of listeners in recent months on that evening. However, there are also witnesses who claim having seen strange lights on preceding days, which would suggest a small UFO wave in the skies over Ovalle.

Chile's 4th Region has been prolific when it comes to sightings of this kind. In November 1967, several fishermen witnessed a UFO engulfed in flames crashing into the sea off Penuelas. More recently, another unidentified flying object collided against a hill in Paihuano before the startled gaze of several witnesses. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *PlanetaUFO*

June 30, 2004 — *Planeta UFO*, Chile — CHILE: UFO SEEN OVER PUNTA ARENAS — ***The Office of Aeronautics Claims Having No indication That The Light Was an Airplane or Helicopter*** — PUNTA ARENAS, June 29, 2004 — A strange luminous object was seen in the skies of the capital city of Chile's 12th Region, Punta Arenas. According to eyewitnesses, the Unidentified Flying Object frequented the skies of the city for five days, being seen in various locations.

Radio Polar, the local radio station, had its telephone switchboard collapse due to the volume of calls received from witnesses to the phenomenon.

The Office of Aeronautics reported that it lacked official records on the strange luminous bolide, making it clear that it was neither an airplane nor a helicopter. They did not, however, confirm that it was a UFO.

Alfredo Vera, correspondent for Radio Polar, managed to take photos of the object from the Sonadores lookout over the city, where a large number of people had gathered to watch the strange object and its irregular movements, which were foreign to those of any known object.

It should be noted that the Magallanes Region and the city of Punta Arenas have been the site of important UFO-related events, the most significant being the one of June 1968, when two pilots of Aerolineas Argentinas witnessed a "flying saucer" over Punta Arenas. According to the pilots and 18 passengers aboard the plane, the object had the characteristics of a shiny red cylinder that moved swiftly, like nothing seen before. Likewise, incredible film footage was obtained in 2003 showing 3 UFOs separating and joining near a Chilean military base. This video was made known by AION's correspondent in the 12th Region, Carlos Munoz.

This sighting in Chile's southern regions can be added to others reported in the country in recent days, such as the one over the cities of Lanco and Petrohue on June 15, and the incredible Ovalle sighting on the 19th of this month. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero

June 30, 2004 — *La Estrella*, Iquique, Chile — CHILE: CEFAA Records 15 UFO Sightings — The Committee for the Study of Anomalous Aerial Phenomena (CEFAA, in Spanish) studies the experiences posed by civilian and military pilots. While they may not say so openly, perhaps so as not to create expectations or cause false alarms among the citizenry, the military authorities are disquieted by the subject. The fact is that the sightings recorded in the nation's skies, and particularly the Corporal Valdes case of 1977, are food for thought. For this reason, The General Office of Civilian Aeronautics created CEFAA, which is a dependency of the Technical Aeronautics School, directed by Hernan Henriquez Cobaise, acting as president, a secretary who is an air traffic controller, a public relations agent, a geophysicist, a computer consultant—all of whom are members of the DGAC and having responsibilities in other departments of the institution, and an external psychiatric advisor. The purpose of this committee is to compile, study, analyze and classify all information pertaining to the subject in order to determine—based on a serious and objective analysis—if the safety of aerial operations in the country has been jeopardized, and to further create a database that enables a characterization of the phenomena studied. It analyzes the elements obtained thus, as well as the tasks performed; it coordinates activities with external and internal advisors and—if no complementary information is available—performs a final evaluation of the report.

Subsequently, film or photo evidence, whenever available, is forwarded to external consulting agencies such as USACH (Universidad Austral de Chile)'s School of Technology for a final computer analysis. "It was necessary to become involved in the subject to have as earnest a study as possible and offer explanations for the sightings," says Henriquez. His agency must study aerial phenomena reported by aircrews or aeronautical personnel in order to ascertain the degree to which these phenomena can affect navigation. "We are not focused on any study that departs from this mission."

SIGHTINGS

Since 1997 to date, there have been 15 anomalous phenomena recorded, which could be natural phenomena that produce a light or interference that can affect an aircraft's flight path. The cases recorded by CEFAA correspond to sightings. "Pilots who have seen UFOs making sudden movements, violent position changes and even approaches to the aircraft and lights of different kinds." There are pilots who have seen objects very close to them, but have been unable to define them in detail, only as general shapes. "These are close-up sightings that can even be worrisome, but whose true distance we have been unable to calculate."

All pilots are able to see clearly a distance of two miles—in other words, to distinguish the type of aircraft and its colors. "We have details that have created great doubt. For example, they say three lights turning on and off, or were constant, but when we ask for details, we never seem to get any."

FORMATION

CEFAA's president points out that there are currently many phenomena which lack an explanation, given our poor understanding of them, and which in the long run [causes people to say] an alien spacecraft was involved. "But this is not the case, because many observations identified as UFOs have been aerostats, sightings of stars or planets, and which have a logical explanation. There are, however, cases that have no explanation and are curious, but that is not going to make us say outright that it was an alien spaceship." The air expert adds that this does not mean that life on other planets doesn't exist, but that there still isn't enough proof to ratify it. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

June 30, 2004 — *La Cuarta*, Santiago, Chile — CHILE: UFOs Reported in Llay-Llay — The Center for the Study of Anomalous Aerial Phenomena (CEFAA) of the General Office of Civil Aeronautics (DGAC) shall study the strange aerial phenomenon reported at 7:20 a.m.

Several UFOs flew and executed pirouettes before daybreak yesterday some 60 kilometers northeast of Santiago, in the vicinity of Llay-Llay and Las Chilcas, where they were photographed by Juan Serey, 37, who was driving a pickup truck toward the capital.

The witness told *La Cuarta* that he has spent 9 years driving the same route from the north along the highway on a weekly basis, and had never seen anything like this.

"It was incredible. I was driving southward when I suddenly noticed several powerful lights moving swiftly and hanging in the sky. It was spectacular," remarked the mechanical engineer. The phenomenon

lasted approximately 10 minutes, which gave him enough time to whip out his Sony Cybershot 3.2 megapixel camera, using it to take several photos which are published in *La Cuarta* today.

"The lights were suspended some 50 meters over the mountaintop. A large light opened up and seven or ten would gather. They adopted various shapes, fell out of order, would rearrange themselves together and then one of them took off skyward at a prodigious speed, zigzagging as it went, vanishing in a matter of seconds," said Juan, who shall be submitting the photos shortly to persons who study the subject. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

June 30, 2004 — *Planeta UFO*, Chile — CHILE: MORE UFOs OVER PUNTA ARENAS — ***Drivers halted their vehicles to get a better look at the phenomenon*** — ***Strange object paralyzed residents of Punta Arenas*** — The object was seen at first light at Tres Puentes, to the north of the city*** — ***A colored sphere crossed the southern skies. Experts say it could be a planet or optical illusion*** — A luminous sphere sailed slowly across the skies over Punta Arenas as it changed colors, bringing the capital city of the 12th Region to a standstill. Many drivers pulled over their vehicles to observe the strange phenomenon, resulting in traffic jams and causing people to be late to work. Others chose to climb nearby hills to get a better view.

Local radio station "Radio Polar" began getting calls from its listeners at around 6 a.m., reporting the strange unidentified object. Some even said the object had been visible for five days in a row. "A gentleman phoned in from Tres Puentes, in the north, saying that there was a light that shone intensely. This was the first call at around 6:30 a.m.. Then people kept calling," says Claudio Vidal. "People spent a long time watching the phenomenon. Folks working at the fisheries phoned in, and since they usually get home before dawn, they said that the light has been seen over that same area for five days straight," Vidal added.

"It's highly unusual," remarks Alfredo Vera, Radio Polar's announcer. Vera was given the task of following the object and reported his experiences in three morning dispatches. He also managed to photograph the sphere from the Sonadores Lookout, where a large contingent of earlybirds had gathered to discuss the sighting. "They were startled, because the luminosity was quite intense and the object moved slowly. They said that it couldn't be something like Jupiter, which could be the nearest thing to it," says Vera. The journalist added: "It didn't scare me, but I did get goosebumps, because it was very weird."

In order to worsen his doubts, the initial photos taken did not come out. "Out of 14, I managed to recover 4. It's remarkable that when I focus on the object, I see an image that resembles a chewing gum from a Christmas Tree, but then it fades and is replaced by a point of light. The photo shows a burning ball, something red, green, blue," he explained.

Despite the sensation caused by this sighting, experts from the General Office of Civilian Aeronautics (DGAC) say it could be "a star or an optical phenomenon created by light refraction." — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

June 30, 2004 — *Las Ultimas Noticias*, Santiago, Chile — CHILE: HOME VIDEO CAPTURES STRANGE LIGHT IN PENALOLEN — Residents of Penalolen also heard about strange flying objects yesterday. At first light, ChileVision Noticias presented a home video recorded Monday afternoon, showing an odd light glowing through the fog as it changed shapes. Ufologist Alberto Urquiza was one of the first to analyze the images. "To my understanding, based on a preliminary analysis, it appears to be the sun reflecting on a piece of glass, a glass roof or a sunscreen." In any event, the researcher said: "I am heading to the area to speak to witnesses and to make recordings by daylight, without the fog. Then we will be able to establish what was causing the reflection." — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

July 5, 2004 — *Grupo CAFE*, Yucatan, Mexico — Mexico: BETWEEN 150-200 People See UFO in Ticul — On Saturday and Sunday, members of the CAFE and SIRIO-MAYAB research groups visited Ticul. During their stay in this community, they were among the 150 to 200 witnesses to the phenomenon that occurred over this location.

Although Saturday (07/03) was somewhat overcast, hindering the visibility of any event, this was not the case on Sunday, which allowed for a light to be seen around 7:00 p.m. coming from the direction of a nearby radio mast. It first moved in a straight line and then descended somewhat before ascending again, all of this in a zig-zag motion, which dismissed any possibility that it was a satellite. A few seconds later, maybe 20, the object disappeared again, but this time upward, as though leaving our atmosphere.

A video was taken of this event using a Sony Hi 8 Camera. The person who shot the event was Prof. Silvestre Leal Campos, director of the SIRIO-MAYAB group.

The parties to this research were: Arq. Jorge Castro Alejos, Prof. Silvestre Leal Campos, Br. Ricardo Leal Guillermo Contreras Cruz (Corresponsal de C. A. F. E. en Ticul) — CREDIT: David Triay Lucatero, CAFE

July 5, 2004 — *El Diario de Yucatan*, Yucatan, Mexico — UFO's: A Compulsory Subject of Conversation — **More people visit a neighborhood to see "the lights"*** — The subject of the alleged apparition of lights in the sky has been a compulsory subject of conversation among local relatives. Skeptics and believers alike are visiting this locale and some even think they could be UFOs.

The remarks made in the county seat have not delayed long, especially among people who visit the site and residents of the Benito Juarez sector itself, located on the hill and one of the most isolated ones in the community.

Witnesses report that shortly after midnight the lights begin to appear. At times they can see a very large light that crosses the skies several times. At times they remain motionless before taking off at high speed, they say.

The widespread belief is that [the lights] are UFOs.

Residents of the Benito Juarez neighborhood claim that the lights began to appear the very same night the earthquake occurred. Others believe that the phenomenon occurs on given years and is not limited to a certain part of the state.

According to the information provided, these lights were also seen some two or three years ago along the road leading to the municipality of Santa Elena. Furthermore, some five or six years ago, the same strange phenomenon was seen along the road to Sacalum.

The fact is that the unidentified lights are the topic of the day--one that is gaining popularity among every stratum of this community. Night after night, between 150 to 200 people have been reporting to the Benito Juarez sector and claim that they have indeed seen these lights. — CREDIT: David Triay Lucatero, CAFE



Iowa Bigfoot stomps into hoax history

Creator of '78 tracks confesses to spinning winter boredom into media, sightseeing lore

By The Des Moines Register

DES MOINES, Iowa — Glen Visser waited 26 years to spill the beans: He is the Bigfoot of Marion County, Iowa.

Visser says a case of cabin fever in 1978 led him to grab snowshoes and embark on an elaborate hoax that drew droves of sightseers, kept the local media busy for weeks, and fooled so-called experts who make it their lives to track the elusive half-man, half-ape whose legend is rivaled only by the Loch Ness Monster.

Visser said he made his confession, which appeared in the online edition of the Knoxville (Iowa) Journal-Express, because "there's so much bad news now," and he thought the tale of how one bored guy put an entire town in a tizzy might "lighten things up" a bit.

Visser, 69, still lives in Harvey, a little burg east of Knoxville with only a post office and a tavern.

The obvious question — why did he wait so long to fess up? — has a simple answer. Visser heard about a similar hoax in California that didn't die until the hoaxer did.

"I didn't want to wait that long," he said last month.

The winter of 1977-78 was especially harsh, so Visser had time on his hands — and an idea.

He strapped on a pair of military snowshoes he had gotten from a fishing buddy and took a walk on the outskirts of Harvey.

Visser, an avid outdoorsman, said he was inspired by a friend who once made bear-shaped feet from plywood, made prints to fool folks, then laughed until he cried.

Visser jogged in the snowshoes to create tracks about 3 feet apart that looked like footprints made by a large, ambling primate.

The trail appeared to cross a tall barbed-wire fence. At the base of a nearby railroad bridge was a packed depression in the snow that looked like a bed where the creature had lain, complete with a smaller dent for his resting head.

The next day "a thousand cars" turned up at the site, Visser said.

Harvey's postmaster, Catherine Van Waardhuizen, had seen the tracks on her way home, the local newspaper said. She breathlessly told her son and daughter-in-law, who drove out to see for themselves.

"Does 'Bigfoot' prow through

the woods near Harvey?" was the headline. Then Cliff Worthington said he would follow the tracks to find out where they led. Then Shirley McCombs said she found a strange tuft of hair on the barbed-wire fence. Visser, whom the newspaper called "the most determined tracker," joined the hunt. He even took along his .22-caliber rifle to make it look good.

Cliff Cook of Bigfoot Central, a national group that keeps track of tracks, said the hunt continues today, just "more quietly now."

"It has moved away from the repetitious misinformation plastered all over ... Bigfoot-labeled websites," he said last month. "The real search goes on behind the

scenes. There are only a handful of people who are actually out there in pursuit."

Most scientists agree the legend of Bigfoot is a tall tale. No hard evidence, such as bones, has ever been collected for scientific study.

"How could an animal exist for so long without a fossil record?" Russell Ciochon, a paleoanthropologist and professor at the University of Iowa, said in an article published last year. "He's an important figure. But I still don't think Bigfoot exists in any form."

Visser knew that all long. And it's not like he hasn't tried to tell people the truth for the past 26 years. "But people really wanted to believe," he said, "and I think some still do."

THE ABC'S OF ALIEN BIG CATS

Gahanna, a 15-square-mile patch of central Ohio just northeast of Columbus, is home to about 34,000 people. A lion can grow up to six feet in length and weigh anywhere between 300 and 570 pounds. If there really was a female lion stalking the suburb, as was breathlessly reported throughout last week, it shouldn't be that hard to catch.

At least, not with all the people out looking for it. The Gahanna police, Franklin County Sheriff's Department, Ohio Highway Patrol, Columbus police and the Columbus Zoo rescue unit have all been involved on some level, and searches have been conducted using helicopters and infrared cameras.

The first three lion sightings occurred the night of May 3, and as of presstime there had been a total of 11 reported sightings, six within 24 hours and three of them deemed credible.

On the morning of May 5, a Port Columbus Airport police officer reported sighting the animal, and an NBC helicopter captured footage of what looked like a large coyote soon after. Supposed lion paw prints have been dismissed (one turned out to be made by a deer).

With no new sightings and no captured lions, the search petered out by the end of last week. If this really is the end of the story of the Gahanna lion, then it ended like many tales of big cats in places they shouldn't be—with the animal sighted, feared and hunted, but eventually slinking off into oblivion.

But where did the story begin? That's a mystery more interesting—if not as urgent—as where it's gone to.

Was there ever really a lion, or was it simply a large coyote, dog or feral cat? Maybe it was a mountain lion. Or an escaped exotic pet whose owner was afraid to let authorities know he lost a lion.

Or could it have been a case of good old-fashioned mass hysteria?

The Gahanna Lion, as it's now called on a line of T-shirts cleverly marketed by Eden Lane (edenlane.com), fits rather snugly into a particular branch of the weird tree of "Fortena," the strange phenomena like raining frogs, spontaneous human combustion and poltergeists named after their chief early-20th-century researcher and chronicler, Charles Fort.

Fort, writing decades before human space travel was possible or the upper atmosphere thoroughly explored, might have posited that the Gahanna Lion had fallen from a floating island far above central Ohio, or that it had perhaps accidentally been teleported here from Africa, only to be teleported home again before it could be caught.

Fortean Times, the magazine founded in 1973 to carry on Fort's study of strange phenomena, often refers to such mysterious cats appearing outside their natural habitats as Alien Big Cats, or ABCs. In this case, "alien" doesn't necessarily mean dropped off by UFOs (though the circumstances are often so mysterious they might as well have been), but simply alien to the environment in which it's sighted. Related instances, including more of a seemingly imaginary menagerie, are often referred to as "phantom animals" or as "black dog" experiences.

ABCs have been especially popular in the U.K. over the past 50 years, where they're spotted on a fairly regular basis. In a 2003 issue of *Fortean Times*, Paul Sieveking described the variety of the British ABCs.

"From witness descriptions, the most common ABC approximates to a black panther," he wrote, "but the British countryside also seems to play host to lynx, puma, cheetah, serval and maybe caracal, ocelot, lion, tiger... The felids are black, gray, all shades of brown and even white; they are striped, spotted, with long legs, short legs, long tails, short tails, with ear-tufts, without ear-tufts; they roar, they scream, and so on."

They were *the* unexplained phenomenon of Britain in the '60s, much like UFOs were all the rage in the '40s and '50s

and Bigfoot was big in the '70s. The '60s saw lots of high-profile ABC cases, with giant cat sightings and mutilated barnyard animals fueling puma hunts.

Over the years newspapers gave the ABCs colorful names based on the areas where they were seen, like the Surrey Puma, the Fen Tiger, the Nottingham Lion, the Beast of Exmoor and the Beast of Bodmin. Today some enthusiasts maintain there's an undiscovered species of big cats roaming England.

Similar (if less exotically named) ABC cases can be placed throughout North

America, where the big cats are most commonly described by witnesses as black mountain lions or black pumas, prompting amateur cryptozoologists and *In Search Of* types to posit there's a species of rare black lions dwelling in the States. (My theory is that they only eat Bigfoot meat, which is why we can't seem to find any of those bodies either.)

While the Beast of Gahanna (doesn't that sound much cooler than the Gahanna Lion?) may fall into the category of an ABC, it doesn't seem to be evidence of an undiscovered species of central Ohio lions. Still, it

might be interesting to see if the town can benefit from playing up its unusual visitor.

Having a dangerous predator on the loose in your neighborhood is nothing to joke about of course, but maybe one day we'll see the Gahanna Convention and Visitors Bureau erecting "Home of the Gahanna Lion" signs or sponsoring a Gahanna Lion Festival similar to nearby Point Pleasant, West Virginia's annual Mothman Festival. Eden Lane's "I Was Eaten By The Gahanna Lion! I Got Better" shirts seem like a good start.

HAS NOAH'S ARK BEEN FOUND?

Its shape can be seen from outer space. Now this year, a team of explorers hopes to prove that in the mountains of eastern Turkey lie the remains of Noah's Ark

DEEP within the confines of the CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, are stored case files that even its most experienced agents have been unable to explain. They are marked top secret, and few outside the building are even aware of their existence.

One file that lay hidden there for more than 40 years was labelled 'The Ararat Anomaly' and contained a picture taken by a U.S. spy satellite in 1949 at the height of the Cold War. It showed a grainy image of the summit of Mount Ararat in eastern Turkey, near the border with Iran and Iraq Kurdistan.

At 15,500ft above sea level, the region had never been explored by man. But the satellite image showed something quite remarkable. Amid the snow and scree, there appeared to be the outline of a man-made structure. Its elongated shape, some 400ft long, seemed to be entirely out of place in the vertiginous landscape. Geologists could provide no natural explanation for its existence.

How could they? What they were shown defied all rationale. For what the shape most resembled was the frame of a giant, primitive ship.

Even the most sceptical among them were aware of the significance. Could this picture show the last resting place of Noah's Ark, the ship celebrated through the centuries as part of divine lore?

The Great Flood is surely one of the most awe-inspiring tales in scripture — the transformation of God the Creator into the Divine Destroyer — and has been solemnly passed down by Jews, Christians and Muslims alike for thousands of years.

According to the Book of Genesis, God surveyed the work of sinful humankind and said: 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man and beast.'

Only one righteous man, Noah, and his family, would be spared from this wrath. And so God said to Noah: 'The end of all flesh has come before me... Make thee an ark of gopher wood.'

The dimensions were specific — 300 cubits long by 50 wide by 30 high (a cubit being 18-20in, or the length of a man's forearm) — as were the instructions about saving a pair of every species on earth, from the elephant to the earthworm.

As we all know, the ark was tossed around for 40 days and 40 nights before the waters subsided and it came to rest on 'the Mountains of Ararat', ready to disgorge its cargo and re-populate the earth.

BUT was this Biblical rebooting of life on earth merely a myth, a fable passed down through the generations as part of narrative tradition, or could there be some basis in fact?

In other words, was there really a flood, and did one man create a floating menagerie to save himself and all God's creatures?

It is a question archaeologists, historians, geologists and Christians have been arguing about for decades, fuelled not only by religious fervour, but by tantalising clues.

Now, an American expedition is preparing to climb Mount Ararat and examine for the first time one of the most perplexing pieces of evidence yet: the Ararat Anomaly. Could this intriguing satellite photo really be proof of the lost Ark?

THE man leading this summer's \$500,000 expedition is millionaire Christian businessman Daniel McGivern, who made a fortune in calendars and greetings cards



by **Nick Craven**

and has long nurtured a dream of finding the Ark.

Ever since the satellite imagery of Mount Ararat was made public in the 1990s, he has been intrigued by the possibilities it suggested.

Initially, McGivern commissioned even more detailed photographs of the area from commercial satellites, but it was impossible to tell if what appeared was something specific, or merely a freak of nature.

Then, last summer, a heat-wave that hung over north-east Europe gave an unexpected boon to the ark-hunters: it melted tons of ice from the top of Mount Ararat, exposing more of the 'anomaly' than had ever been visible before.

'These new photos unequivocally show a man-made object,' McGivern, 54, claims.

A non-expert, or perhaps a non-believer, might not be so adamant, but there is only one way to be sure — and that is to make the perilous ascent of the mountain, which is exactly what McGivern and his team of American and Turkish archaeologists, forensic experts and geologists plan to do.

If he does find any trace of an ark, his plans are clear: 'We have no intention of excavating it — we will photograph it, enter it, examine it as much as possible, but not disturb anything. It's going to be left where it is.'

He claims that his Christian beliefs will not overrule rationality. 'Anybody who thinks the entire world was flooded by 40 days of rain is totally unscientific,' he says. But he does hope that his journey might provide the focus for spiritual unity.

'All three of the monotheistic religions believe that we are all descended from Noah and his three sons,' he said. 'In these times it is good to have something that Jews, Christians and Muslims all agree about.'

Unfortunately, the Muslims believe they've found their ark already.

Some 20 miles from Mount Ararat, the much smaller peak of El Judi is only 7,000ft high, but according to the Koran this was where the Ark really came to rest. When a boat-shaped outline was discovered there in 1908 word soon spread, but following World War I, access to the highly volatile area for Westerners was nigh impossible.

That didn't stop one San Francisco businessman, John Libl, from trying. He claimed to have been shown the Ark's location on El Judi in a dream.

After seven assaults on the mountain, he gave up at the

age of 73, having survived being buried in an avalanche, chased by wolves, attacked by a bear and accused of spying by the Soviets.

But in 1988, celebrated American archaeologist Vendyl Jones, said to be an inspiration for Hollywood's fictional swash-buckling adventurer Indiana Jones, succeeded in reaching the site and declared: 'There is very strong evidence it could well be Noah's Ark.'

That was more than enough for the Turkish government, which declared the area a site of outstanding natural and historical interest and marked official maps with 'Nuhu un Gemisi': Noah's big boat.

Various Christian authors and scientists who have since made the trek to the El Judi site claim to have evidence of traces of wood or nails — one team claiming to have found sea shells at the site, despite it being hundreds of miles inland. Another claimed to have found 'trainloads' of gopher wood.

Many of the Western visitors did well out of books

and documentaries chronicling their expeditions — not so much Raiders as Traders Of The Lost Ark.

All that came to an end, at least as far as El Judi was concerned, when Professor Lorence Collins from California State University conducted extensive tests at the site in 1996, only to conclude: 'The supposed ark... is a completely natural rock formation. It is understandable why early investigators falsely identified it.'

THE unusual boat-shaped structure would so catch their attention that an eagerness to be persons who discovered Noah's Ark or confirmed its existence would tend to override caution.

By then, though, another theory was beginning to emerge which, while it did provide intriguing evidence about a huge flood, also undermined both the Ararat and El Judi theories. Two marine geologists from Columbia University

in New York suggested that the Black Sea, in fact a giant lake which lies several hundred miles north-west of Mount Ararat, was created by the Mediterranean overflowing through a natural dam at the Bosphorus and flooding with a force 'equal to 10,000 Niagara Falls'.

While such a flood was nowhere near enough to reach 7,000ft above present sea level, never mind 15,000ft, it did perhaps confirm one tenet of the flood story — that a mighty deluge of water had swamped the earth.

And if this had taken place at the Bosphorus, could Noah's Ark in fact not be on top of a mountain, but at the bottom the Black Sea?

On the strength of that theory, renowned oceanographer Dr Robert Ballard, who discovered the wrecks of the Titanic, the Bismarck and the Lusitania, set off for the Black Sea, hoping to find Noah's Ark in its murky depths.

He was encouraged by the fact that the top 450ft layer of the water, fed by rivers such as the Don and Danube, is fresh water, while the great mass of water beneath, extending up to 7,000ft in places, is salt water — which, because it is trapped in a natural basin, is devoid of oxygen.

In this environment, creatures and bacteria which would normally corrode metal and cause wood to rot cannot survive, turning the whole sea into a huge preservation tank. Ballard hoped that if the Ark was indeed at the bottom of this salt-lake, then it would be almost perfectly preserved.

When his team stumbled upon a mass of ancient timbers on the sea floor, they could scarcely contain their excitement. But when they

brought the wood to the surface for further tests, their hopes were dashed. The ship was indeed ancient — more than 2,300 years old. But while it was the oldest wreck ever discovered, it was not nearly old enough to be Noah's Ark.

NOW, once more, attention has turned back to the Ararat Anomaly, partly because the site has never been reached and properly examined, but also because the tremendous advances in the quality of satellite imagery have failed to resolve the mystery one way or the other.

The man who, in 1995, forced the CIA to reveal its hitherto secret photographs of Mount Ararat was Porcher Taylor, assistant professor of communications at the University of Richmond, Virginia.

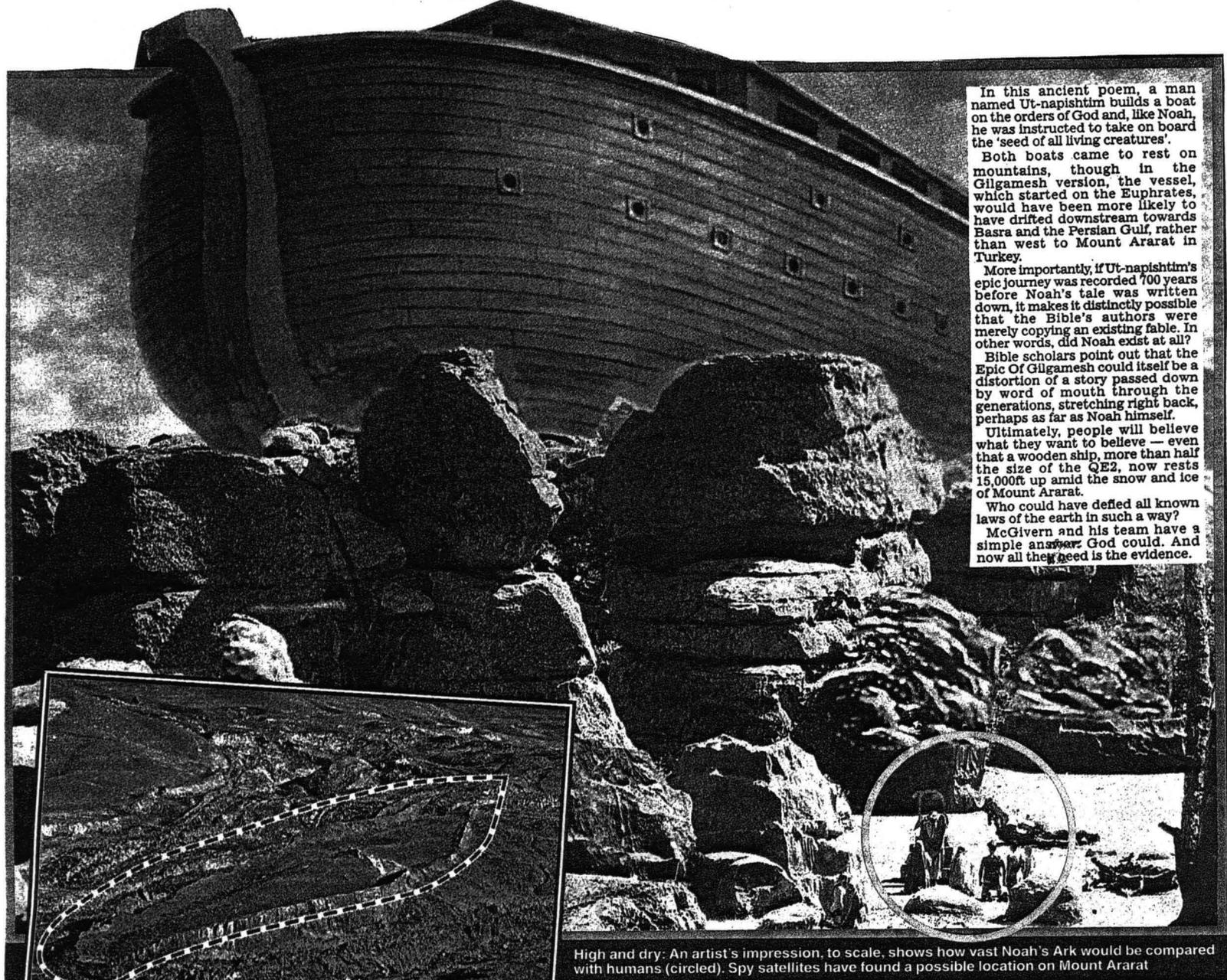
'Debates centre on whether or not it's a strange rock formation, a crashed airplane, perhaps a fortress or some other structure hundreds of years old — or maybe something more interesting of potentially biblical proportions,' he explains.

The ten-strong McGivern expedition in July will be led by Ahmet All Arslan, a Professor of English and an experienced mountaineer who has climbed Ararat 50 times.

While he has come as close as 200 yards to the supposed site of the Ark on one such expedition, an ice avalanche forced him to flee before making a more detailed study.

JUST how far McGivern and his team will get this time remains to be seen. But until they return, the most plausible theory about the Ark's existence is to be found in an ancient text from Mesopotamia, in modern-day Iraq. Called the Epic Of Gilgamesh, it is thought to pre-date the Bible text by more than 700 years.

(continued on page 19)



In this ancient poem, a man named Ut-napishtim builds a boat on the orders of God and, like Noah, he was instructed to take on board the 'seed of all living creatures'.

Both boats came to rest on mountains, though in the Gilgamesh version, the vessel, which started on the Euphrates, would have been more likely to have drifted downstream towards Basra and the Persian Gulf, rather than west to Mount Ararat in Turkey.

More importantly, if Ut-napishtim's epic journey was recorded 700 years before Noah's tale was written down, it makes it distinctly possible that the Bible's authors were merely copying an existing fable. In other words, did Noah exist at all?

Bible scholars point out that the Epic Of Gilgamesh could itself be a distortion of a story passed down by word of mouth through the generations, stretching right back, perhaps as far as Noah himself.

Ultimately, people will believe what they want to believe — even that a wooden ship, more than half the size of the QE2, now rests 15,000ft up amid the snow and ice of Mount Ararat.

Who could have defied all known laws of the earth in such a way?

McGivern and his team have a simple answer. God could. And now all they need is the evidence.

High and dry: An artist's impression, to scale, shows how vast Noah's Ark would be compared with humans (circled). Spy satellites have found a possible location on Mount Ararat

Mystery mountain: For years, this outcrop on El Judi was believed to be the Ark. Now, a new site has come to light

BURNTWOOD POST, Cannock, England - April 29, 2004 CR: T. Good

Big cat returns to the Chase

Michael Bradley reports on the latest sighting and other strange goings-on

A prowling cat-like animal has been spotted skulking through our woodland - The Beast of Cannock Chase is back.

In the last few weeks, reports have seen figures for sightings of The Beast soar.

Eye-witnesses describe a black animal, five or six times bigger than a domestic cat, scouring lanes in search of roadkill, or roaming the hills of Hednesford.

The results of a 15-month intensive survey by the British Big Cat Society show that of the record 2052 sightings reported in the country (from January 2003 to April 2004), 26 were recorded in Staffordshire, and a further 64 in the West Midlands.

One eye-witness, Penkridge's David Lomas, contacted The Post to tell us about his encounter.

"I was driving my car to work one morning last week," said David. "It was about 6am.

"As I got near to Cocksparrow Lane, near the crossroads with the road to Penkridge, I spotted it.

"It was definitely feline. I've got a cat, and it had all the movements of a feline creature, but much bigger, and much more powerful. It was jet black, and easily five or six times as big as my own cat at home.



"There was a dead rabbit in the middle of the road. It was prowling its way towards the rabbit when my headlights shone on it.

"For a second it stopped and looked straight at me, with its eyes glaring. It gave a hiss and shot off into the blackness of the bushes, where it vanished from site."

This was not David's first big cat experience, he claims.

"I saw one about four years ago. Near down towards Limepit Lane.

"I was reading a survey a few weeks ago where it said sightings are on the increase as each year passes by.

"Cannock Chase is a perfect breeding ground for these animals, I'd imagine, and an equally good feeding ground for them."

Another eye-witness claims to have seen the beast roaming Hednesford Hills.

The man, who only wishes to be named as Paul, said his experience came over the Easter weekend.

"It was 8am," Paul said. "I'd taken the dog a walk over Hednesford Hills, on a route I have taken for two years now.

"I saw it out of the corner of my eye. It was running slowly towards some bushes with something in its mouth, and then it just sat down. It was about 50 metres away. My labrador started barking at it but it

didn't move at all. I just carried on walking to the car and drove off.

"It's a good job my dog was on the lead or else it would have chased it, and I'm sure I'd have no dog by now if it had.

"It didn't approach us, but it looked like it could have caught us easily. It was a cat-type animal, black in colour and about five times as big as a normal cat."

A spokesman for Cannock's Ranger Service could neither confirm or deny reports of big cats roaming our woodland, fuelling more rumours of wild beasts on our doorstep.

He said: "Whose to say? If people think they have seen big cats on the Chase, then maybe they have seen them. I couldn't really say for sure either way if they are there or not."

The mysterious sightings continue, with a 117-per-cent nationwide increase in sightings of big cats in the country's woodland and parks...but the sightings might owe more to wealthy law-dodgers than they do to mystery.

The Dangerous Wild Animals Act of 1976 was introduced to tackle

the rich man's worrying trend of keeping exotic animals as pets, and many were released into the wild by owners who would rather rid themselves of the creatures than face a £2000-plus fine for owning them.

British Big Cat Society founder Danny Bamford agrees, adding that Cannock Chase, like most areas of the country, has seen a huge increase in reports of wild cat sightings.

He said that original big cats, released into the wild in the late 70s, are still alive and continue to breed.

He said: "These cats can live for 30 or 40 years.

"The evidence has been increasing and becoming clearer - we are now going to approach the proper authorities and ask for their support in undertaking a properly funded scientific study on the big cats of Britain."

It's not the first time The Beast has been spotted in our area, or the first mystery to have been



sighted so close to home. Cannock Chase is a haven for unexplained goings-on.

Earlier this year, The Post exclusively brought you the story of Cannock's Bigfoot, spotted lurking in trees near the German War Cemetery by a group of ramblers, and researched by the Gulf Coast Bigfoot Research Organisation based in America.

Triangular lights of UFOs are another common sight around our woodland. The most famous incident took place in 1988, when two triangular crafts were seen hovering over Cannock and Stafford. Police units were dispatched to trace the object, which promptly vanished.

Our woods are also a regular haunt for ghosts, the most common sightings taking place in Gaskin's Wood, where 23-year-old Elizabeth Gaskin was butchered and her remains hidden by husband Thomas, back in 1919. The 'Grey Lady' is often seen sat on stiles in the wood, weeping, or spying on passers-by from amongst the trees.

Have you seen The Beast of Cannock Chase? Have you had any spooky experiences while walking in the woods? Seen any strange lights dancing across our skies? Contact The Chase Post on 01543 501764 and tell us your story.

Girl who made telephone 'fly' still in prison

Tina Boyer said she dreams about the house on Blue Ash Road a lot, the house of her childhood on Columbus' North Side.

"They're never good dreams either," she lamented to a friend, "and I always find myself thinking — when I wake up — that I wish I could go and bulldoze that house to the ground. Like somehow that would make me feel better."

That house witnessed Boyer's rise to notoriety almost two decades ago. At age 14, when her name was Tina Resch, she became the focus of a debate surrounding her alleged telekinetic abilities.

Paranormalists said she possessed an extraordinary fount of mental energy that allowed her to move objects with her mind. Skeptics dismissed it as a hoax fueled by a mix of public gullibility and sleight of hand.

In time, the public forgot the photo of the airborne telephone and the little girl who made things fly.

Parapsychologist Bill Roll was one of the few witnesses to the case whose intrigue with Boyer's story never dimmed.

"I think that the abilities she had were a natural endowment of the human mind," Roll said Friday in an interview from his home west of Atlanta.

"To understand ourselves fully, we need to know more about people like Tina."

For now, and perhaps for years to come, researching the purported psychokinetic powers of Boyer are out of the question. She is serving a sentence of life plus 20 years at Georgia's Pulaski State Prison.

In 1992, she was charged with murder in the beating death of her 2-year-old daughter, Amber. She claimed her boyfriend was responsible. He blamed her.

He received a 20-year sentence. She agreed to a plea.

"That was a plea bargain that saved her from the electric chair," said Roll, who visits her in prison and wrote the newly published *Unleashed: Of Poltergeists and Murder: The Curious Story of Tina Resch*.

"I didn't do it," Boyer told *The Dispatch* in 1993 while waiting for her case

to come to trial. "I just want to go home."

From infancy, home had always been an elusive commodity to Boyer. Her birth mother abandoned her at Children's Hospital in Columbus when she was 10 months old.

Ping-ponged from one foster home to another, she eventually ended up in the care of Columbus couple John and Joan Resch, who adopted her.

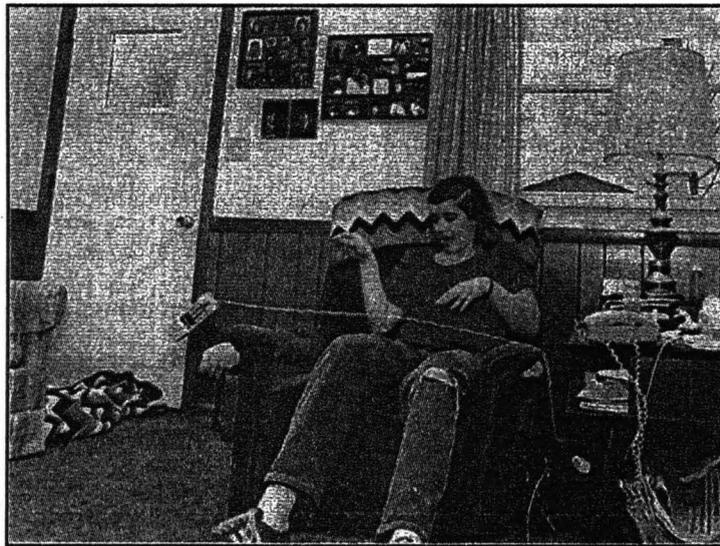
At 14, she became the focus of media attention when witnesses claimed that objects — everything from candlesticks to telephones — appeared to take flight in her presence, unabated by her hand.

To this day, Roll claims that in a controlled laboratory environment in North Carolina, Boyer was able to move objects on a table out of her reach.

"I really do consider her sort of a natural treasure who needs to be explored, investigated to see if her abilities can be revived in order to understand the brain processes that may have brought on these occurrences," he said.

That is not likely to happen soon.

"The parole board came down very negatively when she applied a couple of years ago," Roll noted. "The assistant district attorney was there and



FRED SHANNON | DISPATCH FILE PHOTO

Tina Boyer, shown in this March 1984 photo with the "flying phone," is now 33 and in prison for the death of her daughter.

spoke very forcefully against Tina.

"In 2007, she'll be eligible the next time.

"She considers herself innocent and just wants to get out. She blames herself for not taking Amber to the hospital.

"She's depressed."

Roll said that, although he would like to do more research on Boyer, he would understand completely if, eventually released from prison, she retreated to a life of anonymity.

"She has already made a substantial contribution to science," he said.

Debunkers of the

paranormal would most certainly scoff at that observation.

As for the subject herself, at 33, she is likely possessed of enough irony to appreciate the fact that all the examinations, tests and lofty pronouncements from her days under the figurative microscope have nothing at all to do with why — at the end of the day — she feels like a lab rat.

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MIKE HARDEN

ARCHAEOLOGY

Legend of lost civilization of Atlantis still intrigues

Atlantis reportedly has been found — again.

Rainer Kuehne, of the University of Wuppertal in Germany, has identified two rectangular structures surrounded by concentric rings in a satellite photograph of a salt marsh along the south coast of Spain.

He interprets the rectangular structures as the Atlantean temples of silver and gold that the ancient Greek philosopher Plato described. Concentric circular walls and moats also are notable features of Plato's utopian kingdom.

Kuehne believes the fabled Atlantis was not a continent or even an island, but part of the Spanish coastline that became submerged because of rising sea levels.

Atlantis has been a wildly popular myth for centuries. Originally described by Plato in an allegory of a high and mighty militaristic society that faced defeat at the hands of the upstart Athenians, it has become the quintessential "lost civilization."

Atlantis was said to be an "island" or continent that sank into the Atlantic Ocean.

Our modern understanding of the mechanics of continental drift makes it impossible for a landmass of any sub-

stantial size to have ever existed in the Atlantic basin.

Once you piece together the jigsaw edges of North and South America and Europe and Africa, there are no "missing pieces" large enough to be a continent.

Undeterred, researchers have sought Atlantis in far-flung locations across the globe. One of the more plausible suggestions is that the empire of Atlantis corresponds to the ancient Minoan civilization of Crete, which was devastated by tidal waves and earthquakes in 1500 B.C.

Tony Wilkinson, an archaeologist from the University of Edinburgh, disagrees with Kuehne's interpretation. Wilkinson told the BBC that while he agrees that there is "something there," interpreting the structures as remnants of Atlantis requires "several leaps of faith."

Archaeologist Ken Feder, author of *Frauds, Myths, and Mysteries: Science and Pseudoscience in Archaeology*, suggests that the quixotic search for Atlantis will continue because of a deep-seated need to believe in a lost Golden Age.

Feder added that it is ironic that Plato, "one of the great rational minds of the ancient world," produced an enduring myth that appeals to the non-rational in all of us.

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BRADLEY T. LEPPER

Fairy circles



A report in *New Scientist* said that attempts by South African botanists to explain "fairy circles" in Namibia — bizarre outlines in the grass somewhat similar to Britain's crop circles — have drawn a complete blank. Radioactivity, toxic proteins from milkbush and termite colonies were all ruled out. Scientists have tried to explain for the past three decades why the circles occur in a broken belt from southern Angola to the Orange River in South Africa.