

UFO

NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE

November 2004
Number 424

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Lucius Farish • #2 Caney Valley Drive • Plumerville, AR 72127-8725 USA

CAPITAL, Annapolis, MD - Oct. 25, 2004

Head out of this world with UFologist's workshop

Peter Resta, a tweedy psychotherapist and 20-year Prince George's County Community College psychology instructor, has never seen a space alien or a UFO.

He's never seen oxygen, either, but he believes all three exist.

An Arnold resident, Mr. Resta feels the topic of aliens visiting Earth is a hot one that makes most people uncomfortable. But discussions and examination of evidence should take place in the open, not in top-secret bunkers, he said.

If Jack-o-lanterns, hobgoblins and ghosts are not scary enough to send chills up your spine this haunting time of year, perhaps Mr. Resta's daylong workshop exploring the "mysteries of space and sky" will do the trick.

There was a good-natured twinkle in his eye as he described the event, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold. Check in starts at 9:45 a.m. at the Humanities Building in Room No. 112.

"We'll have some extraterrestrial-sounding music by a recent AACC graduate and talented musician **Steve Hickey** of Luiniss and, perhaps, a few skits about Halloween. Some spoofing," he said, raising one eyebrow and grinning broadly. "I want to get people in. If we can entertain them, that's fine."

In addition to Mr. Resta, speakers will include retired U.S. Navy Capt. **Robert Durant**, discussing Roswell; **Anna Jamerson**, co-author of "Connections:

Solving Our Alien Abduction Mystery," on close encounters of the alien kind; Virginia residents **Bob and Sue Swiatek** expounding whether UFOs and Men in Black (more aliens) are fairy tales; and cosmologist **Tom Van Flandern**, who will muse about former civilizations on Mars — an intriguing theory as more and more evidence points to the presence of water and ammonia on the Red Planet.

"We do have more important things to talk about. We're at war here. But, at the same time, if there's life someplace else in the universe, I think that's pretty daggone important," Mr. Resta said firmly.

He also thinks government files on hundreds of "unusual incidents," such as the Roswell crash of '47, the Oct. 18, 1973, incident of U.S. Army Reserve Capt. **Lawrence J. Coyne** and his helicopter crew over Mansfield, Ohio, or the UFO sightings on Capitol Hill on Jan. 11, 1965, should be declassified.

He's not alone.

Aside from the usual granola mix of nuts and flakes, Mr. Resta is keeping company with the late astronaut **Gordon Cooper**; actor **Dan Ackroyd**; Nobel Peace Prize winner President **Jimmy Carter**; later Senator and presidential candidate **Barry Goldwater**; New Mexico Governor **Bill Richardson**, formerly President **Bill Clinton's** Energy secretary; and Clinton's chief of Staff **John Podesta**.

Mr. Cooper, Mr. Carter and Mr. Goldwater all publicly claimed to have seen UFOs despite the damage they knew it could do to their careers.

Mr. Resta sketched out the details of the Coyne Case. A helicopter full of reasonable Army officers and enlisted men was chased, caught by an unknown vessel and briefly pulled upwards in some sort of eerie green "tractor beam."

In addition to the military men, the account was



By Wendi Winters — For The Capital

UFologist Peter Resta jokingly uses a toy UFO to demonstrate how an alien vessel might land on the Broadneck Peninsula. Mr. Resta is hosting a day-long seminar focusing on UFOs, life on Mars and alien abductions from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

corroborated by a family of five watching from the ground and a boy in his bedroom. According to Mr. Resta, government investigators said they'd actually seen Venus rising. Capt. Coyne was later promoted.

"That and 'swamp gas' is so typical of what the

public hears," Mr. Resta fumed. "They read a brief item or hear something about an incident on TV. Then comes a pat explanation and that's the end of it. People don't know the real details of what's going on."

He added, "It's true, the vast majority of sightings are Venus, meteors or other planets. No question they're misidentifying objects. But you have a small percentage of cases with no easy explanation. My point is, if more people knew it wasn't always Venus, they would be concerned."

Mr. Resta noted that he's a behavioral scientist. Born and raised in Washington, he earned a masters degree in Clinical Psychology and another in Clinical Social Work. His doctorate from the University of Maryland is in Human Development. The 58-year-old has been in clinical practice for more than 20 years.

Married to **Debbie**, who works in the accounting department of a local car dealership, the couple has four children: **P.J.**, 25; **Tiffany**, 23; **Stephen**, 19; and **Patrick**, 13.

"Any science does not presume an answer before you start," he explained as if he were standing before a

chalkboard. "You don't start by saying UFOs can't be, therefore they're not. It's not scientific. My big thing is education, education, education. I don't know the answers, but more people should be asking questions. What's going on now is closing off science."

He's been fascinated by "this genre since he was a little kid. "I wasn't walking around with my head in the clouds, I was looking at the clouds. My Mom said she couldn't wait until I grew up and got over this nonsense," he said as opened a report he recently wrote based on his empirical research for a peer review journal published by a Chicago-based center for UFO studies.

He chuckled. "Sorry, mom!"

Tickets are \$25. Bring a bag lunch, purchase lunch at campus eateries or beam up to the cafeteria on your spaceship. For more information, contact AACC's **Gloria Lighthizer** at 410-777-2055.

* Please e-mail news to Wendi Winters at BroadneckNews@quantumstep.com; write to her c/o The Capital, P.O. Box 911, Annapolis, MD 21404; or fax to 410-280-5953.

WINONAN, Winona, MN - Oct. 1, 2004 CR: J. Modjeski

Winona Art Center hosting UFO specialists

John Yehamaram

WINONAN

Do you believe in the paranormal and the unexplained? Whether or not you do, the Strange Phenomena Conference will be held in the Winona Art Center on Saturday.

The event organizer Jerry Modjeski said that this conference is open to the public and will feature talks by Chad Lewis, paranormal investigator and Craig Lang, Field Director of Investigations for Mutual UFO Network (MUFON).

MUFON is an organization that has branches spreading out to over 20 states and also includes Canada, which specializes in investigating UFO activity.

Modjeski said that the conference will feature an open microphone session for the audience to voice their opinions or experiences about the paranormal.

Modjeski said this gives a great opportunity for believers and non-believers of the paranormal to speak out and say what they feel or have witnessed.

"Chad will be presenting a slide show presentation of photographs taken during his investigation on crop circles this summer. He also will present a picture of a 'bigfoot' creature taken by a witness named Dennis Murphy," Modjeski said.

According to Lewis's Web site, there is a lot of UFO activity happening in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

"Craig, who is a certified hypnoterapist, has been in the field for almost 12 years and has worked with people who have claimed to be

abducted by aliens," said Modjeski.

Modjeski said Lewis helps them get over the experience through hypnosis. He will be conducting his talk on his experiences with people who have had this problem.

According to Lang's Web site, some anomalies are seen in the sky while others, such as UFO abduction and or contact experiences, intrude deeply into people's lives.

"Among these, the experience of the UFO encounter presents one of the greatest challenges to our world view. More than a witnessing, a close encounter with the unexplained can be an up close and personal, reality-changing event," Modjeski said.

"I have done some investigating for MUFON but so far have never witnessed any UFO's, but I do have a strong belief in them. I'm curious to know what's out beyond this earth. I have meet with friends, relatives, co-workers and people that you would never think would approach you, talk about their experiences," Modjeski said.

Modjeski said that this is the first time he has organized something like this and is eager to find out what the people of this community have to say on Saturday.

"I have been to many conferences like this and it is always a surprise to see people's reaction and experiences because it's from people you would never think of," Modjeski said.

"People are always afraid to voice out their opinions especially when it comes to the paranormal, but hopefully by bringing this event to Winona we can help somebody or anybody bring out whatever they have to say," Modjeski said.

HERALD-REPUBLIC, Yakima, WA - Sept. 13, 2004 Unidentified Lights Seen Over Moxee

YAKIMA — Strange lights seen late Sunday night in the sky over Moxee were likely part of a military training exercise at the Yakima Training Center, according to the Yakima County Sheriff's Office.

By 10:50 p.m., the sheriff's office hadn't been able to confirm that information, but said

the location and form of the lights indicated a military exercise.

A call placed by the Yakima Herald-Republic to a spokesman for the training center wasn't immediately returned.

Between 9:30 and 10 p.m., several people called the newspaper and the sheriff's office regarding the lights, which were described as silent yellow and white flashes.

Betty Hill, 85; asserted she was abducted by spacecraft

By Tom Long
GLOBE STAFF

Betty Hill, 85, whose alleged abduction by an alien spacecraft inspired a book, a TV movie, and many other reports of Close Encounters of the Third Kind, died of lung cancer Sunday in her Portsmouth, N.H., home.

"She was a very courageous woman, who didn't have to speak out about the encounter; in fact, her husband didn't want her to," Mrs. Hill's niece Kathleen Marden of Stratham, N.H., said yesterday.

According to Mrs. Hill, it was a warm late summer evening in 1961 when she and her husband, Barney, were driving through Franconia Notch in New Hampshire and saw an unusual light in the sky.

"We assumed it was a satellite, so we stopped and got out to look," Mrs. Hill said in a story published in the Globe in 1996. "As we watched, it turned and started coming towards us."

Puzzled but not scared, Mrs. Hill said, the couple continued driving south under the light of a full moon until the craft came over the highway and stopped in front of them.

"Barney got out of the car with binoculars to try to identify it," she said. "He saw men standing in the window looking down at him. Then the craft began to descend, and he got frightened. He ran back to the car and we went speeding down the highway."

The couple turned onto a dirt road. Their car vibrated, and six beings bathed in bright light blocked their path.

This is how Mrs. Hill described the unearthly visitors: "large eyes, small nose, thin slit for a mouth, no protruding part of the ear, no hair. They wore a one-piece dark outfit. Their skin had a gray tone."

The description became the prototype for many of the unearthly visitors that stalk the nation's TV sets and movie screens.

The otherworldly beings examined Mrs. and Mr. Hill's ears, noses, and throats, and collected hair samples and scrapings of their skin, Mrs. Hill said.

They also showed the couple a star map of their home, but the location was unidentifiable.



1966 AP FILE PHOTO
Mrs. Hill of Portsmouth, N.H., with her husband, Barney.

A map she recreated later from memory resembled a cluster of stars named Zeta Reticula.

According to Mrs. Hill, the couple were released and returned to their car, where their dog, Delsey, waited dutifully.

The couple did not remember anything about their "abduction," but when they got home, realized that their trip had taken longer than it should have. Their watches had stopped, she said, and there were polished spots on the trunk of their car that made a compass react erratically.

"After medical hypnosis, the truth came out," she said. "It was the first recognized abduction by astronauts from another solar system."

Perhaps. But it was undoubtedly one of the first "alien abduction" reports to reach wide circulation and it caused a media furor.

Their alleged encounter was the subject of a 1965 book, "The Interrupted Journey," and a TV movie called "UFO Incident" starring Estelle Parsons and James Earl Jones.

In his book "The UFO Experience," Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a leading enthusiast of unidentified flying objects, described their experience in the chapter titled "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," which was also used as the title of the 1977 Steven Spielberg film.

"I know there are some people around who may think I'm crazy," Mrs. Hill said in a story published in the Globe in 1972. "I've learned to live with that. I'll tell you one thing, though. Since 1961 I've been examined by more psychiatrists than any woman in history. And each and every one of them



1977 GLOBE FILE PHOTO
Betty Hill described the visitors as having "large eyes . . . thin slit for a mouth, no protruding part of the ear, no hair."

has certified me as sane."

In her book "A Common Sense Approach to UFOs," Mrs. Hill explained that there are two types of UFO enthusiasts, "the commercial UFO field in which anything that sells goes, and the real UFO field."

She said that UFOs are piloted not by aliens, "but by a civilization 25,000 years ahead of us."

And she offered advice to anyone who encounters one: "Don't panic," she wrote, "just relax. Don't be afraid, they don't hurt anybody. If they wanted to conquer you, they could."

Mrs. Hill lectured widely and made many personal appearances before gatherings of UFO buffs, prior to her "retirement" in 1991.

She stopped lecturing then "because of her attitude toward the UFO field at that point," said her niece. "Thousands of people were talking about abductions and nocturnal visits. She thought it was a lot of nonsense."

Bunice Elizabeth (Barrett) Hill

was raised on a chicken farm in Kingston, N.H.

A graduate of the University of New Hampshire, she was a child welfare worker with the state and was supervisor of referrals in the welfare agency's Portsmouth office for many years.

"That's what I want to be remembered for," Mrs. Hill said in a story published in Boston magazine in 1979. "For my social work, not as the woman who sees UFOs."

Barney Hill died in 1969.

In addition to her niece, Mrs. Hill leaves a daughter, Constance Jean Stewart Zukowski of North Little Rock, Ark.; a son, Kenneth James Stewart of San Jose, Calif.; her sisters June Barrett Lazos of Haverhill, Janet Barrett Miller of Kingston, N.H., and Norma Barrett Sears Coats of Petersburg, Tenn.; and three grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. tomorrow in Brewitt Funeral Home in Exeter, N.H. Burial is private.



BY SUSAN WALSH—ASSOCIATED PRESS
John E. Mack, a Harvard Medical School professor of psychiatry, won a Pulitzer for his Lawrence of Arabia biography and studied claims of alien encounters.

John E. Mack, 74; Professor, Author

Associated Press

John E. Mack, 74, the Harvard Medical School professor of psychiatry who won a Pulitzer Prize for his biography of Lawrence of Arabia and who studied people who claimed to have had encounters with aliens, died Sept. 27.

Dr. Mack was struck by an alleged drunk driver in London and pronounced dead at the scene. He was in England to take part in at the T.E. Lawrence Society Symposium in Oxford, according to a release on the John E. Mack Institute Web site.

Dr. Mack won the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 1977 for "A Prince of Our Disorder" on the life of World War I British officer T.E. Lawrence, better known as Lawrence of Arabia.

His research about people who claimed to have had encounters with space aliens resulted in two books, 1994's "Abduction" and 1999's "Passport to the Cosmos: Human Transformation and Alien Encounters."

In studying 200 people from around the world who made such claims, he concluded that they had a heightened sense of spirituality and generally had no evidence of mental illness. He held that such encounters were real, though probably more spiritual than physical in character.

His work was the subject of the 2003 documentary film "Touched."

In 1994, Harvard Medical School initiated proceedings to review the controversial research. After a 14-month investigation, the school "reaffirmed Dr. Mack's academic freedom to study what he wishes and to state his opinions without impediment."

Dr. Mack's early work focused on clinical explorations of dreams, nightmares and teen suicide, and how world perception affects relationships. He advocated a move away from materialism in Western culture, blaming it for the Cold War and global ecological problems.

John Edward Mack was born in New York. He was a 1951 graduate of Oberlin College and a 1955 graduate of Harvard's medical school.

His marriage to Sally Stahl Mack ended in divorce, the Boston Globe reported. Survivors include three sons; a sister; and two grandchildren.

Mercury Astronaut Gordon Cooper, 77

By MARTIN WEIL
Washington Post Staff Writer

Gordon Cooper, 77, one of the seven original U.S. astronauts, who made the nation's first manned spaceflights and became known as possessors of "The Right Stuff," died yesterday at his home in Ventura, Calif.

The cause of death could not be learned immediately.

In the 1960s, with the nation determined to prevail in a space race with the Soviet Union, Mr. Cooper and fellow members of the Mercury program were all national heroes—celebrities and larger-than-life figures who carried the nation's destiny into the void with them.

Among Mr. Cooper's signal achievements was serving as pilot of the Faith 7 spacecraft in a 22-orbit mission in May 1963. That was the mission that concluded the operational phase of Project Mercury, the program that enabled the United States to put humans into space and lay the foundations for the moon landings.

During his Mercury flight, Mr. Cooper converted a technical problem into a personal triumph. Equipment that was supposed to provide

electricity for the reentry control system failed to function. Mr. Cooper found it necessary to fly his capsule to an ocean landing without the assistance of the usual variety of automated devices. He landed the capsule himself, 7,000 yards from an aircraft carrier in the Pacific Ocean.

President John F. Kennedy, who had committed the nation to making a moon landing, called Mr. Cooper's achievement "one of the great victories for the human spirit."

Later, Mr. Cooper served as the command pilot of the Gemini 5 mission, which lasted for eight days, beginning Aug. 21, 1965. On that flight, he and fellow astronaut Charles Conrad set a record for time in space, when they covered 3,312,993 miles in 190 hours and 56 minutes.

Mr. Cooper, the first man to make two orbital flights, accumulated a total of 225 hours and 15 minutes in space.

He "was one of the faces of America's fledgling space program," NASA administrator Sean O'Keefe said. He "helped gain the backing and enthusiasm of the American public, so critical for the spirit of exploration," O'Keefe added.

In addition to Mr. Cooper, who was an Air Force colonel, the original astronauts were Alan Shepard Jr., Virgil "Gus" Grissom, John Glenn, Scott Carpenter, Walter "Wally" Schirra Jr. and Donald "Deke" Slayton.

They were celebrated as exemplars of "The Right Stuff" in the book of that name by Tom Wolfe and in the subsequent movie.

The qualities they each appeared to demonstrate included an aviator's unflappability and an unshakable confidence in their skills and abilities that bordered on swagger. All were highly qualified pilots, and all endured severe physical and psychological tests and a demanding training regimen.

Yet, within the group, whose members might have seemed to have been cut from identical cloth, differences existed. Early on, it was reported that some officials in the space agency were skeptical about Mr. Cooper's fitness for the Mercury program. It was said that he was something of a complainer who had less than an ideal regard for the image the agency was trying to project.

In later years, after he had left the astronaut program, Mr. Cooper was outspoken in his views about

the existence of extraterrestrial life and of unidentified flying objects.

"I believe that these extraterrestrial vehicles and their crews are visiting this planet from other planets, which obviously are a little more technically advanced than we are here on Earth," he said in 1985.

Leroy Gordon Cooper Jr. was born May 6, 1927, in Shawnee, Okla., the only child of an Army Air Corps officer and his wife.

Fascinated from childhood by the exploits of the fictional space explorer Buck Rogers, Mr. Cooper took an early interest in flying, and at 7 years old he took the controls from time to time of a biplane flown by his father.

He enlisted in the Marines too late to see combat in World War II. He attended the University of Hawaii for three years after the war and obtained an ROTC commission that brought him to active duty in the Air Force in 1949.

During four years in Germany, he flew F-84 and F-86 fighters. He ultimately obtained a college degree.

He went through test pilot school and later, when NASA advertised for astronaut trainees, he volunteered; he said it was "pure curiosity."



Gordon Cooper is pictured during test activities in preparation for his Mercury launch in May 1963.

He left the astronaut program in 1970 to enter private business.

Mr. Cooper was said to have believed that frictions within the space program kept him from the moon flights.

"I would have liked to have gone to the moon," he told CNN in 2000. "But it just didn't work out that way. . . . I certainly don't harbor any bitterness or anger."

He married Trudy Olson in 1947, and they had two daughters before they divorced. He married Susan Taylor in 1972 and had two more daughters.

Organizer believes in Strange Phenomena

By Jeff Dankert
Winona Daily News

It might be something out of this world — Winona's first Strange Phenomena Conference.

Event organizer Jerry Modjeski of Winona said he believes otherworldly forces have created crop circles, and, yes, a large, upright, non-human primate roams the North American continent.

Modjeski believes aliens have visited the planet because earth is the "Las Vegas of the universe."

He explains his interest in the

subject simply. "Curiosity. It's the idea that something's around the corner," Modjeski said.

The hope for another explanation is what he says keeps him and others orbiting the gravitational field of the paranormal.

He hopes today's conference helps people "think about some of the phenomena taking place in their own back yards."

The conference is scheduled from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Winona Arts Center, Fifth and Franklin streets. The cost is \$8 and features presentations by Chad Lewis of Eau

Claire, Wis., and Craig Lang of Brooklyn Center, Minn.

Lewis will discuss Bigfoot sightings, crop circles and local UFO reports. Lang, a hypnotherapist, will discuss reports of UFOs visiting Earth and their pilots kidnapping humans, what followers call "alien abductions."

While explanations for crop circles have surfaced — intelligent humans altering the landscape — Modjeski said other circles defy this explanation.

"I'm kind of waiting for that in-your-face sighting," Modjeski said.

Crop Circles investigated Group finds no evidence of hoax

by Kimm Note

The News

Kimm.Note@miller-publisher.com

The mystery of the crop circles in the corn field on the Fox Farm in Miami Township remains just that - a mystery.

With no one stepping forward to claim responsibility, the mystery circles underwent an examination of sorts over the weekend when members of the Independent Crop Circle Association arrived in town to conduct their own investigation.

Following two full days and nights of investigating the circles, Roger Sigtren, representing the group, said the circles do not look like a hoax. "There are no scuff marks on the crops and there are no tell tale signs usually associated with a hoax," he said.

According to Sigtren, the group has been involved in the investigation of several mysterious circles. The Miamisburg site, he said,

closely resembles circles found near the Serpent Mound in August of last year.

Test results on the soil were not available at press time.

The group claims circles are rarely found in corn fields. However, another member of the group, Ted Robertson, said an unusual amount of formations have been found in corn fields this year.

He also said this formation is probably the most elaborate to be seen in a corn field.

The formation measured 222 feet from top to bottom and each circle had a single standing stalk in the center.

All of the stalks were bent at the root and were lying in a clockwise rotation.

There also seemed to be a mathematical precision to the circles. Robertson said he believes the formations are based on sacred geometry used centuries ago.



Investigators from the Independent Crop Circle Association check out the crop circle on the Fox Farm in Miami Township. For more photos, see Page 12A.
Hoax or beings from beyond, we all have to admit the circles are interesting and give us pause to wonder who has been visiting the neighborhood.

Photo by Kimm Note

Crop Circles



Investigators examine the crop circles in Miami Township.



Expert shares accounts of UFO encounters

By JOSH STOCKINGER
The Telegraph



The Telegraph/JIM BOWLING

National UFO Reporting Center Director Peter Davenport speaks about a large UFO sighted over Phoenix in March 1997 during a lecture on unidentified flying objects Saturday afternoon at the Comfort Inn in Edwardsville.

Davenport said the purpose of studying UFOs is to answer numerous questions and to understand how long the phenomenon has been on this planet.

"It may have been with us for a long, long time — certainly for decades, probably for centuries and maybe millenniums," he said.

John Brill of Bethalto was one of many MUFON supporters at the lecture Saturday. He said the events are interesting and bring together "eclectic crowds of people — from housewives to scientists."

"It's a very friendly crowd," he said. "We're people who appreciate each other and the things we try to get done in this area. But the subject matter is such that people who are into this thing get a hard time. But this isn't just a bunch of flakes sitting around trying to scare each other."

Brill said he became interested in UFOs in junior high school.

"I liked anything that was mysterious," he said. "I like to have hobbies that provoke my sense of wonder."

For more information about MUFON, visit www.mufon.com.

jstockinger@hotmail.com

radar detection he feels could aid the United States in identifying mysterious flying objects that are otherwise undetectable.

"It hovered over the elk and lifted that adult elk right off the ground," he told the crowd, showing slides that simulate the event. "It was last seen with this elk dangling below as it streaked to the north."

Audience members asked Davenport questions specific to the changing faces of UFOs over the years. He also discussed a new form of

— responsible people — don't report UFOs. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm here to report to you that's not the case."

Davenport holds degrees in Russian and biology from Stanford University in California and master's degrees in finance, international business and in the genetics and biochemistry of fish. Originally from St. Louis, he highlighted details of his life Saturday and multiple UFO sightings in the southwestern United States and detailed the popular Arizona lights sightings of 1997.

"Without evidence, you have nothing, and that is the only thing that counts in an investigation," he said. "But we have no explanation for what some objects are, and we'll probably never know. There's also this mistaken belief that people of stature

Davenport gave one

One of the nation's leading UFO experts landed in Edwardsville Saturday to make contact with nearly 100 Midwesterners who prize unexplained sights in the sky.

UFO devotees from as far as Memphis and Chicago shook hands and hugged like long-lost friends Saturday as they packed into a lecture hall at Comfort Inn in Edwardsville. They were excited to finally meet and hear from Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center.

Davenport was on hand to share audio and visual accounts of strange encounters with the mysterious lights in the sky and true tales of anomalous events. The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) of Illinois played host to the informational and social gathering, which lasted all evening.

"The UFO phenomenon is real," said Davenport, a highly educated scientist who has been interested in UFOs since boyhood. "This (event) allows me to give a concise collection of data to an interested group of people who seek to know more about the phenomenon."

And that's what Davenport did.

For nearly two hours, Davenport detailed reported accounts from across the country of UFO sightings dating back to 1994 when he became center director. He provided photos, grainy video footage, drawings, marked maps and audiotapes of reported sightings — all pieces of evidence in the unsolved cases of unidentified flying objects.

Visitors landing in Tinley Park?

UFO network interviewing people who claim to have seen something strange in the Southland sky

By Etha Engh
Special to the Daily Southtown

Investigators from a UFO network are interviewing people who claim to have seen an unusual aircraft flying over the Southland this summer.

More than a dozen people reported to the National UFO Reporting Center at www.nuforc.org that they saw strange lights above Tinley Park, Orland Park and Matteson on Aug. 21. The sightings have a featured spot on the Web site.

David Schultz, a self-described skeptic, said he's not sure what he saw, but he knows he's never seen anything like it.

About 10 p.m. the Chicago man was outside a restaurant on Oak Park Avenue in Tinley Park when he saw four red lights in the sky. "Each light had two separate lights that were really close together," he said.

"They moved very slowly, and then they just stopped."

Schultz said he heard no noise, like one would associate with an airplane flying overhead. Then, one by one, the lights went out. Schultz said he didn't think much of the incident until he saw reports on the Internet from people who had seen the same thing.

Samuel Maranto, an investigator with the Mutual UFO

Network, an international UFO reporting group, said he has heard from many people who saw the lights and wondered what they were.

Most accounts on the Web site describe three red lights, but other details differ. Some say the lights moved or changed formation, some say they stayed still.

Maranto, who has an office at Orland Square mall, said one person provided a video.

"It was a large, triangular craft," he said. "Another object came in and displayed lights that were spinning around and disappeared. I believe that object went into the larger object."

Maranto said he's not convinced what he saw was extraterrestrial, but he's not ruling out the possibility.

Maranto has been interviewing people since the incident and making calculations based on their accounts to determine the shape, height, and size of the object. When investigating sightings such as this one, Maranto said he takes into account the color and shape of lights, the sounds and the area in which it was spotted. From certain angles, even a passenger jet's lights look highly unusual, he said.

With all factors taken into account, Maranto said, he determines whether the witness has seen a conventional aircraft or something else. Every sighting must be approached with skepticism, he said.

Tinley Park resident Chris King witnessed the lights in the sky while at a block party in Brookside Glen. He believes the lights came from some sort of experimental airplane, he said. King — who is the Tinley Park

village engineer — says he also saw three red lights moving slowly, but said that when they turned, they look on the appearance of an airplane.

"You could hear the engines," he said. "I'm 99 percent sure these were experimental airplanes."

Tinley Park Police Chief Mike O'Connell said he has heard from a few residents who saw the lights but concluded that they had seen an airplane.

"We checked with the FAA, and they said they hadn't heard anything," he said.

Maranto is planning a meeting this week with witnesses to the lights. He may be contacted at www.illhoistmufon.com.

DAILY SOUTHTOWN
ECONOMIST, Chicago, IL

Oct. 18, 2004

UFO sighting wave of October 1973

By Pete Hartinger

At times I have been asked that if unidentified flying objects exist, then why haven't they been reported in the newspapers? There are possible reasons why there isn't more coverage, but over the years there have been many reports of UFO sightings in the newspapers.

A fellow member of the Roundtown UFO Society is Jon Fry, who is our chief researcher. He receives in the main monthly issues of a UFO Newspaper Clipping Service. It contains many recent UFO sightings from newspapers of the United States and other countries in the world.

31 years ago in October, 1973 there were massive sightings of UFOs from over a large part of the United States. All one has to do is to check any newspaper archives to verify this.

Besides the local organization (RUFOS) and two national organizations (Mutual UFO Network) and (Center for UFO Studies), I am a member of a state organization that investigates and researches UFOs. It is the Mutual UFO Network of Ohio. A few years ago a project we did was to collect newspaper articles from around the state of Ohio that were during the UFO wave of October, 1973. I have the 133 pages of Ohio newspaper articles if anyone would want to look them over. Just get in contact with me.

The locals will remember this time period (October, 1973), as to where Pat Boone visited the Pumpkin Show. The massive UFO sightings also occurred during the Yom Kippur War in the Middle East when Israel was threatened. There was a possibility of World War III at the time.

Here are some of the highlights from the newspaper coverage of UFO reports of October, 1973.

What follows is one of the best documented military UFO sighting on public record. The sighting was carried in many of the country's newspapers at that time. It occurred on the night of Oct. 18, 1973 around 10 pm. An U.S. Army Captain and three Army reservists saw the mysterious craft (UFO) that flew past their helicopter. The helicopter crew sighted a strange red light near Mansfield just off of Interstate 71. The helicopter was flying about 2,500 feet, and the crew first thought it was a radio tower. Suddenly the crew realized the light was coming toward them. Captain Lawrence J. Coyne, a veteran of 19 years in military flying grabbed the controls and dropped the helicopter in a shallow dive. When the UFO approached, Coyne said crew members saw a cigar-

shaped object "unlike anything produced on earth." It was unreal...with a glowing, steady red light on its leading edge. A hull was at the very top of it, and a green light emitted from the rear of the craft which filled their cabin with a green glow. It was eerie. Crew members estimated that the object was moving at more than 600 miles per hour, basing their guess on the rapid appearance and disappearance of the craft. That is about twice the legal speed limit in the controlled space at that level. "It looked like a fighter plane coming straight for us." Coyne said, "I took immediate evasive action. I cut the power and dropped into a shallow dive.

We dropped to 2,000 feet and it was headed straight for us. We braced for impact." Coyne said the approaching craft appeared to stop momentarily about 500 feet overhead and banked to one side. He said he glanced at the altimeter and noticed that the helicopter had risen to 3,800 feet. None of the crew felt the gravitational pull normally felt when a helicopter rises, he added. "We felt a bounce, and then the other craft took off to the northeast." Neither Coyne nor any other members of the crew were able to offer any rational explanation for the incident.

Notes: Coyne's helicopter was near Ashland County during the UFO encounter. Ashland County Sheriff's deputies also had a UFO sighting that night. Later ground witnesses in the vicinity of the sighting, reported either seeing the helicopter and UFO or the strange green light. They also heard the helicopter noise overhead at the same time. Ironically, Captain Coyne was later promoted to Lieutenant Colonel (two grades) before he retired. Apparently the military felt he was very competent. He also was part of a concerned group of people who made a special presentation about unidentified flying objects to the United Nations on Nov. 27, 1978.

Locally, in the early morning hours of Oct. 16 area residents and two city police officers saw a strange phenomenon. A local resident called authorities at 4:23 a.m. to report a large golden object in the sky southwest of the city. He told officers he had spotted the UFO earlier when he left work in Columbus. When he arrived home, he once again spotted it as he got out of his car. Two police officers were dispatched to the scene and both reported seeing a large gold object in the sky. It appeared to be emitting a large red plume and was moving in circles as the officers viewed it. The officers notified base operations at Lockbourne Air Base of the sighting but did not receive

any explanation. Also a Stoutsville woman heading to work in Chillicothe earlier that evening saw a strange object in the sky.

Another newspaper article stated that for what it's worth, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio, kept the official Air Force log on UFOs for 23 years until the project ended in 1969. In those years 12,618 UFO sightings were reported and 701 were never identified. "None of these, the study said, gave any indication of a threat to our national security."

Another famous case occurred during this Oct., 1973 time period. Two men claimed they were taken aboard a UFO near Pascagoula, Mississippi. To this day they have stuck to their story. In the middle of the month several witnesses observed UFOs over or near Greenfield, Ohio. These UFO sightings went on for a few days and included a police officer observing them. He described his UFO, as being egg shaped and had a glow around it. This was covered by front page headlines in the Greenfield Daily Times newspaper. Governor Gilligan of Ohio also reported seeing a UFO one night while driving home from Michigan. He described it as a vertical beam of light, amber colored.

The Associated Press reported on Oct. 19, 1973 that the 2 Skylab astronauts in debriefing sessions told of seeing a mysterious red-disk object in space, the space agency reported. The disclosure came amid a new nationwide rash of sightings of unexplained aerial objects.

In Oct., 1973 Dr. J. Allen Hynek of Northwestern University told a meeting of the Columbus Astronomical Society that it is far easier to laugh about UFOs, than to think. Dr. Hynek was for several years the chief consultant for the U.S. Air Force about UFOs. In later years he did an about face and stated that UFOs did indeed exist and were someone else's craft.

In some cases the UFOs were photographed and in one instance by a Columbus Dispatch photographer.

The Center for UFO Studies reported that they had close to one thousand UFO sighting reports during this month of October. The highest amount received in such a short time.

Since Oct., 1973 there have been thousands of UFO sighting reports from around the world, but none have had the newspaper coverage, such as Oct., 1973.

You can phone me at 477-6252, write P.O. Box 52, Circleville, Ohio 43113; or e-mail at rufos@columbus.rr.com.

Author follows the trail of the Braxton County Monster

By Rusty Marks

rustymarks@wvgazette.com

Frank Feschino Jr. didn't plan on becoming a UFO researcher when he first heard about the Braxton County Monster.

"I'm not a writer, I'm an artist," the 45-year-old author said in a telephone interview from his home in Daytona Beach, Fla.

"I didn't start out with the intention of writing a book."

But the book, "The Braxton County Monster: The Cover-Up of the Flatwoods Monster Revealed," has just been published by Quarrier Press in Charleston. Feschino will talk about the book and his work trying to uncover the mystery of the famed monster at 4 p.m. Sunday at the Charleston Civic Center as part of the West Virginia Book Festival. The festival



runs from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, and all events are free.

The "monster" he writes about was first seen on a Flatwoods hillside on Sept. 12, 1952, by Kathleen May and a group of local boys who went up the hill to investigate the crash of a fireball. According to May and other witnesses, the group came upon a 12-foot, metallic creature perched under a tree. The creature spewed oil on May's clothing, and the being emitted a noxious mist that made those who came in contact with it sick.

Within hours, a local newspaper reporter broke the story

of the strange event, the National Guard was called in, and Flatwoods was suddenly the UFO capital of the world.

Feschino first heard about the Flatwoods Monster while visiting Braxton County relatives in 1990. Intrigued by the story, he began asking local people what they remembered about the monster. Initially viewed with suspicion, he was eventually able to piece together what happened in Flatwoods on that night.

He quickly discovered how badly the story had been distorted in the press over the past 40 years. "I don't think there are two stories about the Flatwoods Monster that are the same," he said.

Feschino interviewed Kathleen May and her son, Fred, original witnesses to the strange sighting. He also won the con-

fidence of a former National Guard colonel who was called in to keep order after the sighting, and the newspaper reporter who broke the original story.

But that was just the beginning. Feschino tapped into the records of Project Blue Book, an Air Force project that attempted to explain UFO sightings in the 1950s and '60s. He found an entire roll of microfilm dedicated solely to the events of Sept. 12-13, 1952.

"A lot of the old documents were faded," he recalled. "I had to figure out with a magnifying glass what they said. Then I had to put it all together.

"To put this story together was like a big, gigantic puzzle."

Feschino discovered that UFOs were spotted all over the eastern United States on the



Artist-turned-UFO researcher Frank Feschino Jr. is shown with Kathleen May, one of the witnesses who allegedly saw the Braxton County Monster on Sept. 12, 1952.

Photo courtesy of QUARRIER PRESS

GAZETTE, Charleston, WV - Oct. 12, 2004

night the Flatwoods Monster was seen, including sightings in Washington, D.C.; Virginia; Maryland and Tennessee. Government officials explained the hundreds of individual sightings as a single meteor, but Feschino didn't believe that a single meteor could be seen in so many different places, at different times, and going in different directions. He smelled a government cover-up.

Feschino believes the events that led to the crash of the Braxton County Monster began several hours earlier, over the ocean. "Every story has a beginning, a middle, and an end," he said. "Flatwoods was the end of the story."

Feschino argues the Braxton County Monster was in fact the occupant of a damaged UFO that crashed after a dogfight over the Atlantic Ocean.

A few weeks before the Sept. 12 UFO sightings, in July, researchers say UFOs were spotted over Washington, D.C. UFO researchers say they have records that the military scrambled jets to intercept the objects, which were violating United States airspace.

Feschino thinks something similar happened on the night of Sept. 12. UFOs were spotted over the ocean, he says, and fighters were sent to intercept them, resulting in massive aerial battles.

Several fighter planes were destroyed in the fights, but some UFOs were hit as well, Feschino asserts. One of them crash-landed in Flatwoods, and the UFOs seen later on Sept. 12 and the next night were attempts to rescue the downed craft.

Feschino was able to re-create a possible scenario for the night of Sept. 12 by carefully plotting each and every UFO sighting reported that night, then tracing them all backwards. He compared the sightings with official explanations of the events, and says he talked to military sources who were familiar with the incident. "I had to read between the lines of the government cover-up," he said.

That the government would try to hush up the possible existence of aliens and the loss of dozens of U.S. warplanes is not surprising to Feschino. At the time, the United States was locked in the Cold War, and more UFOs were seen in 1952 than any other year.

"The country was panicking," he said. "People were starting to realize the Russians were capable of flying over the country and dropping atomic bombs. Then, all of a sudden, there are UFO sightings over the Capitol."

Feschino's book will be released to stores on Saturday. It will be available locally at Taylor Books in Charleston and B. Dalton at the Town Center mall. The book may also be ordered by calling Quarrier Press at 342-1848.

To contact staff writer Rusty Marks, use e-mail or call 348-1215.



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

DAILY EXPRESS, London, England - Oct. 7, 2004

OBITUARY: ASTRONAUT GORDON COOPER LENT CREDIBILITY TO ALIEN DEBATE



Sharon Wright



STATUS: Before becoming a space hero, Gordon was an air force pilot and claimed he saw mysterious craft

GORDON COOPER, who died this week, was the man who muscled America to the front of the space race with feats of endurance and helped pave the way for man on the moon but he was also the astronaut who was brave enough to say that he once chased UFOs.

Cooper took a gamble by speaking out on a topic often dismissed as the obsession of crackpots and conspiracy theorists but his distinguished career as a member of the pioneering Nasa Mercury missions in the early Sixties, and status as part of the military Establishment, gave weight to his startling claims.

"He was an astronaut with the courage to risk ridicule by standing up and saying he had seen UFOs," says Nick Redfern, editor of Phenomena magazine. "He was well trained and well versed in what happened in the sky, so when it came to credibility, he was the top of the pile."

Cooper's astonishing close encounter did not occur in space, however, but in the skies of Europe. He was a young Air Force pilot based in West Germany in 1951 when his squadron was scrambled in their F-86 Sabre jets to tackle several mysterious aircraft.

"For several days in a row, we sighted groups of metallic, saucer-shaped vehicles at great altitudes over the base and we tried to get close to them, but they were able to change direction faster than our fighters," he explained years later. He observed many flights of the craft, which were of different sizes and travelled in fighter formation.

Cooper, who died in California on Monday, aged 77, also went public with an incident at Edwards Air Force Base, California, a few years later. In a story that could have come straight from hit TV series The X Files, he told of seeing footage of a strange object that had crash-landed at the edge of the base before the film was spirited away by the Pentagon.

THE man known as Gordo insisted: "I do believe UFOs exist and that the truly unexplained ones are from some other technologically advanced civilisation. From my association with aircraft and spacecraft, I think I have a pretty good idea of what everyone on this planet has, and their performance capabilities, and I'm sure some of the UFOs at least are not from anywhere on earth."

He discussed his unsettling experiences in 1998 when launching his book, Leap Of Faith: An Astronaut's Journey In The Unknown, and said it was time the American government came clean about alien spacecraft.

"Each administration has probably tried to figure out how, with the least embarrassment, they could

confess to the whole thing," he said. "There certainly have been too many people, very qualified people and qualified groups of people, that have had interface of one type or another with extraterrestrial craft or beings."

He desperately wanted someone to make a serious study of the controversy and, in 1985, he told the UN: "I feel that we need to have a top level, co-ordinated program to scientifically collect and analyse data from all over the earth concerning any type of encounter... If the UN agrees to pursue this project and lend credibility to it, perhaps many more well-qualified people will agree to provide help and information." He was disappointed at the result,

however. "I made the effort to get the UN to pick up the ball but they never did anything about it."

He was conscious that the wilder shores of UFO research strained credibility. "In defence of the military attitude, I can't really blame them for being negative when I consider ridiculous things that have been said and written, and the fact that the military is responsible for national security. It's a little embarrassing to acknowledge they can't explain some things." But he thought we could handle the truth.

"People want to know what's going on in the world around them," he said, "and I think they're prepared for the truth, whatever it is. A lot of

people don't believe anything about UFOs because of the absurd treatises that have come out on the subject and a lot of people are afraid of the unknown. But the more we know, the greater the likelihood of treating UFOs in a friendly fashion."

The many researchers across the world who shared Cooper's views, but not his unassailable reputation, welcomed his public pronouncements as a significant step forwards.

His reputation was built on being the youngest, and perhaps cockiest, of the original seven Mercury astronauts who set the space endurance record that helped clear the way for the first moon landing. As one of the first astronauts, he became a hero to a

generation of Americans as the country tried to catch the Soviet Union in the space race.

On May 15, 1963, Cooper piloted Faith 7, the Mercury programme's last flight, circling the globe 22 times in 34 hours and 20 minutes. The mission, the first space flight of more than 24 hours, made him the last astronaut to orbit earth alone and the first to take a nap during the trip.

Cooper became the first man to make a second orbital flight two years later during the Gemini 5 mission when he and Charles Conrad established a space endurance record and gave the US more man hours in orbit than the Soviets. He was immortalised in Tom Wolfe's book, The Right Stuff, which was made into a 1983 film starring Dennis Quaid as Cooper.

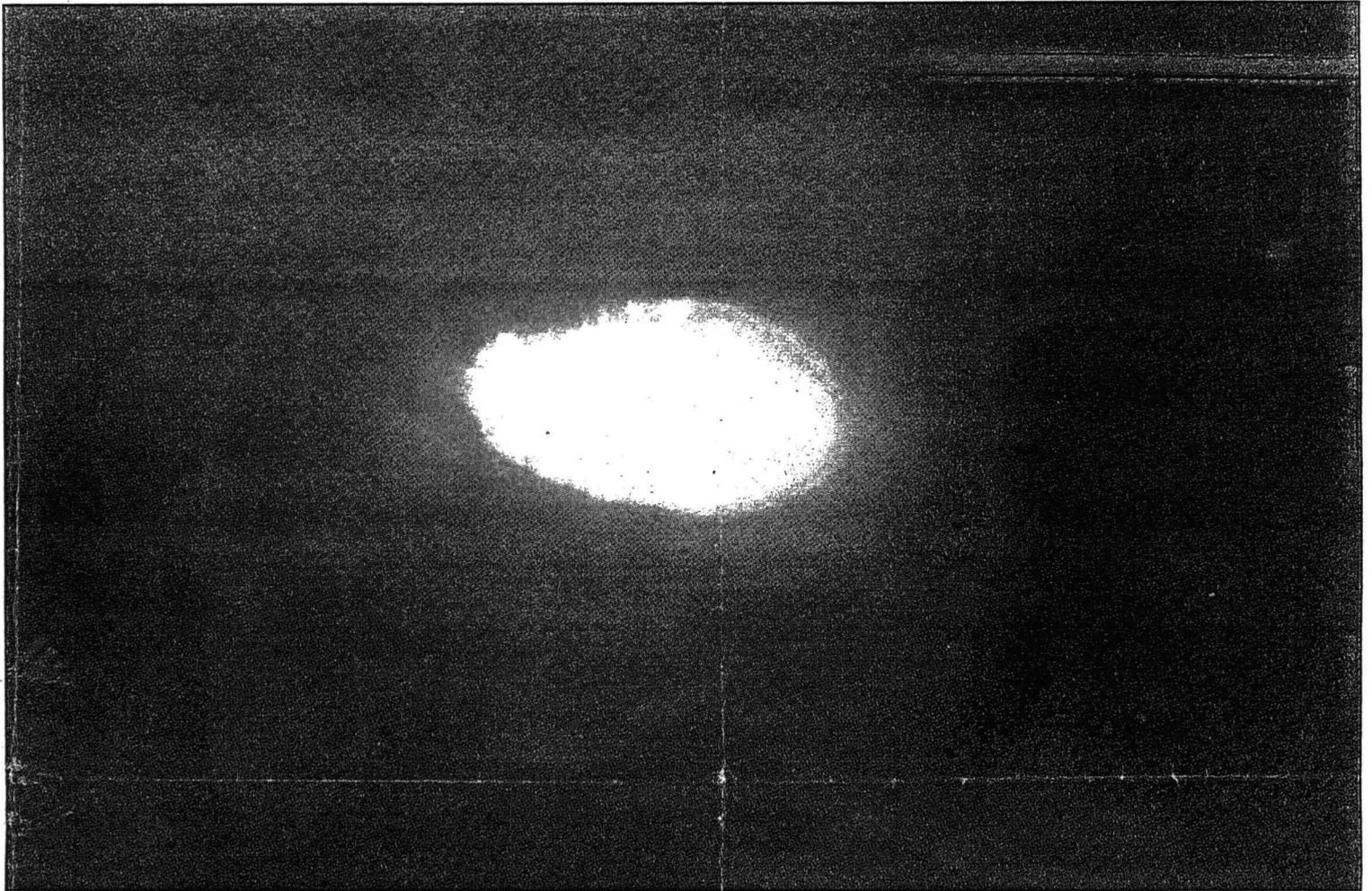
The spaceman who saw UFOs

COOPER gave his signature line during a 1995 reunion of Mercury astronauts. When asked who was the greatest fighter pilot he ever saw, he answered: "You're looking at him!" Cooper, born on March 6, 1927, in Shawnee, Oklahoma, joined the marines in the Second World War and transferred to the air force in 1949. He earned a degree in aeronautical engineering in 1956 before being selected as a Mercury astronaut in April, 1959.

Nick Redfern believes Cooper's contribution to the debate on aliens will be lasting. "Whatever the answer to the UFO mystery may be, Cooper will have proved to have played an integral role in providing that answer. He had a life-changing experience. He realised something strange was going on and was determined to bring it into the public eye."

Gordo did, it seems, know that the truth is out there.

'There certainly have been too many very qualified people who have had interface with extraterrestrial craft or beings'



STRANGE SIGHTING: Astronomers think this is the planet Venus.

Mum's video shots prompt UFO debate

REMARKABLE footage of a suspected UFO has been captured on video camera in the Rhondda.

Alison Moore, aged 26, got up in the middle of the night to tend to her four-year-old daughter, Courtney, who was ill.

Just by chance she looked out of the window and was "amazed" when she saw what appeared to be a floating disc in the night sky.

The quick-thinking mother-of-two filmed the strange object which moved quickly and changed colour from 2.30am to 5.30am last Wednesday (August 4).

Miss Moore, of Woodfield Terrace, Trehafod, said: "I woke up to see to my daughter who was ill and thought what I saw was the North Star.

"It moved about, vanished, then came back later.

"I am absolutely dumbfounded as to what it could be because when I looked at the tapes later it's even more bizarre."

An unusual sound can also be heard as the camera is filming which suggests an electromagnetic response.

Miss Moore was so shocked by the image she even phoned her brother, Dean, and got him out of bed to look at the footage.

"Even he can't explain it," she said.

"You see all these programmes on television and just think it's a load of rubbish but after seeing this I've changed my mind."

Her uncle Alfie Passey, lives in the next street, Rheolau Terrace, and saw the tapes the next morning.

He said: "I'm one of the most

EXCLUSIVE
by GAVIN O'CONNOR

gavin.o'connor@wme.co.uk

sceptical people you'll meet and thought stories of flying saucers were a load of nonsense.

"The pictures she caught are absolutely incredible and there just seems to be no explanation."

● Gary Darlington, of the South Wales UFO Network, said there were no satellites in the area at the time to coincide with the sighting.

"The usual explanation is that it is a satellite, weather balloon or other craft.

"This is a very interesting incident which needs looking into."

● Martin Griffiths, Astronomy course leader at the University of Glamorgan said the planet Venus could be one explanation.

"There could be a number of reasons which explains what was seen but it will be worth looking into."

However, Miss Moore believes a lot of questions remain.

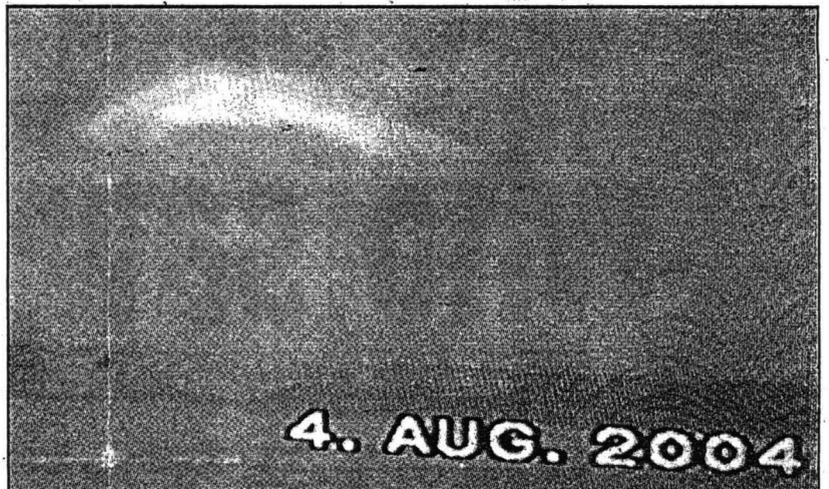
"If it was a planet then why did it move with the stars still in the background?"

"Why was it constantly changing colour and why did it interfere with the camera?"

● DID you see anything strange in the sky on Wednesday, August 4?

Can you explain what the sightings could be?

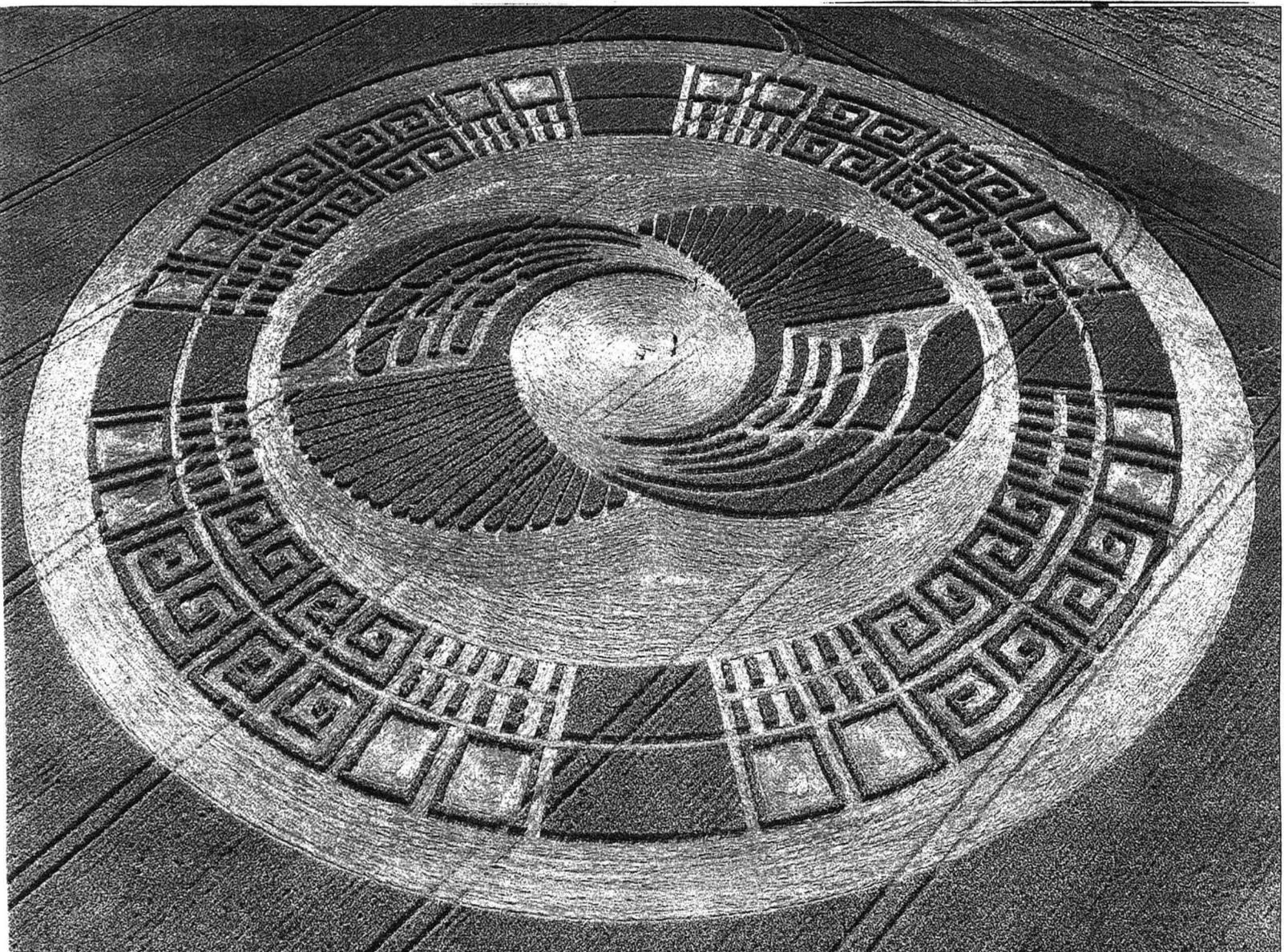
If so give Gavin O'Connor a ring on 01443 665153.



NO EXPLANATION: The object moved around and continuously changed colour.



CAUGHT ON CAMERA: Alison Moore and Alfie Passey cannot believe what they have seen.



Picture: STEVE ALEXANDER/Rea

FROM ANOTHER WORLD? 'Cropplies' claim that this spectacular design, with its Egyptian wings motif, is a sign from the gods that the world is doomed to come to an end in 2012

It's definitely man-made, says hoaxer

COMPUTER programmer Matthew Williams, the first person in Britain to be convicted for a crop circle hoax four years ago, is certain that the latest formation is the work of pranksters.

And he claims to know nearly 30 crop hoaxers who are working in the Wiltshire area.

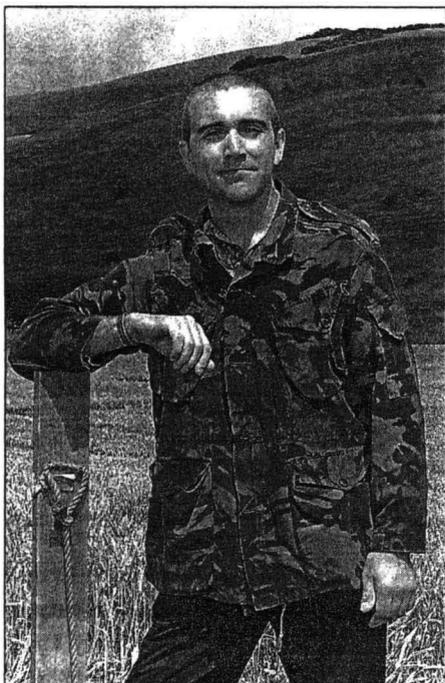
Matthew, 32, of Bishops Cannings near Devizes, Wilts, said: "The circle is quite impressive - it's a nice-looking design."

"It is quite complex but it's no more complex than some of the other crop circles which have appeared over the past few years."

"It is certainly within the limits and capabilities of people to make it and - as a crop circle maker - I can identify certain hallmarks which give that fact away."

"To the trained eye, there are certain inconsistencies. If it had been made by the paranormal, it would be perfect."

"Plus the fact that it took two days to complete means people had to go back to finish off the job."



CROPPIE: Matthew Williams and a 'stalk stomper'

Powerful force created this, insists Francine

THE new circle is the result of some natural if unexplained force, says Francine Blake, 58, who has been researching the crop phenomena for more than 20 years.

Francine, head of the Wiltshire Crop Circle study group, said: "It is impossible that the circle is man-made, I'd bet my life on it."

"It appeared so suddenly, and no one could do that. It would take several days to do and we would have seen them."

"The formation is staggering and very, very complex. It's full of wonderful fine lines and very clean. From the air it looks like a metal engraving or something."

And Canadian-born Francine believes there is "scientific" evidence that the crop circle could not have been created by humans. She said: "The



CONVINCED: Not man-made says Francine Blake

plants in the circle are quite different and have been transformed by a powerful energy."

"The effect on them and the soil shows that the circle was made in less than half a minute - it is simply not possible that humans did this. "Comparing man-made

circles and real circles is like comparing chalk and cheese."

She added: "Crop circles are a natural phenomenon. People who try to make them are clowns who try to catch on to this and become famous. They are like monkeys who copy things, they have nothing to do with crop circles and are just a sideshow."

Steve Alexander, from Gosport, Hants, is a veteran crop circle observer who has photographed formations all over the world.

"I have my feet firmly on the ground, but I could not say whether this circle was man-made or not," he said.

"It is one of the most complex I've seen, full of detail, and it turned up suddenly."

"It would take days for anyone to produce such a complicated design and the hours of darkness available to do it are too short."

24 HOURS, Toronto, Ontario, Canada - Aug. 6, 2004 CR: G. Duplantier

UFO sightings on pace to set record

From a translucent, saucer-shaped object in British Columbia to mysterious lights buzzing motorists in New Brunswick, Canadians are on their way to reporting a record-high number of UFO sightings this year.

More than 400 stories of curious encounters were filed through the end of July, compared with just over 300 by this time last year, says Ufology Research of Manitoba, a group that tracks reports of unidentified flying objects.

At this rate, the total for 2004 will surpass the current record of 673 sightings reported last year, said Chris Rutkowski, research co-ordinator for the Winnipeg-based organization.

The group receives reports directly by telephone and e-mail, from sister agencies that follow the phenomenon, and via federal departments such as Transport and National Defence.

Rutkowski isn't sure

why the numbers are rising, but suspects it might be linked to public awareness of recent exploratory missions to intriguing planets such as Mars and Saturn.

"I think there is a resurgence of interest in space," he said Thursday in an interview.

The Prairies seem to be a hotbed of unexplained activity.

In Alberta, 61 sightings occurred up to the end of

July, compared with 76 in all of last year. There were 50 in Manitoba, already double the total for 2003, while 19 reports emerged from Saskatchewan, topping last year's 13.

Rutkowski believes that while most UFO reports have simple explanations - many being meteors - a small percentage are puzzling and deserve the attention of scientists.

The Canadian Press

So what are aliens trying to tell us this time?*

By Tristan Cork
Galactic Football Correspondent

IT'S the most intriguing crop formation seen in the West for years and last night wry observers were wondering if it's a coded message to our football boys.

Hundreds of sightseers descending on a wheat field near Alton Barnes, Wiltshire, have been left pondering if it's a signal from an alien footie team telling our boys how to win a penalty shoot-out.

And let's face it, Beckham could do with a few pointers on how to hit the back of the net, no matter where the advice comes from.

But according to experts, the giant circles are not supposed to be footballs, instead this pattern apparently represents a diagram of an electrical transistor or designed 100 years ago by the world's most mysterious inventor.

Crop circle experts say it is uncannily similar to plans for one of Nikola Tesla's early pieces of equipment.

Almost the last piece of a jigsaw

Tesla is the unsung hero of pioneering technology, now widely credited with inventing radio before Marconi and coming up with the idea for remote-control objects.

The one discovery he has received credit for is the alternating current which competed with Edison's direct current. He also invented the Tesla coil, which can be found in almost all car engines today.

But why one of his early diagrams should be recreated in a wheat field near

Alton Barnes, the global capital of crop circles, remained a mystery last night.

Michael Soper, a spokesman for Contact International, said last night he was sure it was another message from outer space. He said that while many crop formations were clearly done by dedicated crop artists, some contained messages and were unexplainable.

He said: "I'm very interested in this one. It's almost as if this is the last piece of a jigsaw which we haven't been able to put together yet, and we're doing it backwards."

"Tesla is the one major inventor the establishment hasn't recognised, and as a result his work and his impact has remained counter-establishment."

"This clearly shows coils, connectors and a box with the wires curling out and around it. I've been trying to think about what this means, but it has to be a message. Perhaps there's more to the things Tesla came up with than we've previously realised and they are trying to point us in the right direction. It has

far too many features to be done by people in that short amount of time - how was it done overnight on the shortest night of the year?"

The design was discovered by crop-pies, who are now well into the summer season of formations in Wiltshire.

It is being likened to a design discovered in Hampshire two years ago, which some crop circle enthusiasts claimed was a reply to the famous 1975 Aricebo message sent by NASA outlining the genetic make-up of humans, in an attempt to contact other worlds.

But more earthly concerns were vexing farmers Tim and Will Carson - damage to their wheat field. Not only has the formation affected an area 454ft long, but hundreds of eager crop circle enthusiasts are doing worse.

Will has quickly put a request on many of the numerous crop circle web sites asking for people not to visit the new formation without permission.

Genius claimed outer-space links

- SO if it was the aliens, who was Nikola Tesla ...
- A Croatian Serb, he was born in 1856 and emigrated to the U.S. in 1884.
- He claimed from an early age that he could create and test inventions in his own mind before turning them to reality.
- Most Americans associate him with building a hydro-electric power station on the Niagara Falls.
- Intriguingly, in 1900 while working on a grand remote electricity project in Colorado, he claimed to have received signals from outer space.
- His greatest invention, the Tesla coil didn't make a fortune because he gave away the rights to benefit the world.



■ He died a pauper in New York in 1943, but three Nobel Prize winners spoke at his funeral.

Mysterious message: Are the makers of this elaborate crop circle, above, telling Beckms how to take penalties or is it a remake of an early electrical coil? A cartoon of an alien playing footie, left



nomenon in the Lichfield skies after capturing video footage of mysterious lights hovering above the cathedral.

Graham Allen, of Staffordshire UFO Group, said a city resident had recorded a strange triangular object floating above the Lichfield landscape earlier this month, following a glut of reported sightings from witnesses all over the district.

Mr Allen, who has been one of the foremost experts on UFO activity for over a decade, said the footage is among the most exciting he has ever seen.

The group are currently in

the process of getting the videotape analysed by experts.

"This recording really is unprecedented," he told The Post. "We had a whole host of reported sightings at the start of last month from people from Lichfield, Shenstone and Cannock. All of them reported the same thing, a large orange object, which they said was about the size of a bus."

"At first we thought it could be ball lighting, which is rare natural phenomenon. But has the calls kept coming in we realised it was something different.

"When we got this videotape we got really excited. Something like this is does not happen very often, really."

Mr Allen said the footage shows a object high above the city. He said the strange light moves in a number of directions and seems to hover over the city. At one point the recording zooms in and reveals the object has a glowing triangular shape at its centre.

"The witnesses all say they thought there was something alive in the centre of the ball," he added.

"We have dozens of similar reports from all over the area and all of them say the thing - and that backs up what we have on this recording. It is genuine recording and we are very excited about it."

Mr Allen said the group would release the footage of the incident after it had been analysed.

Camera captures mystery lights over city cathedral

A leading UFO expert has told The Post he has concrete evidence of unexplained phe-

Are there alien visitors?

Are we alone in the universe? It's the question that's plagued mankind for centuries. Following reports in the national press that aliens could have made contact with earth 31 million years ago, as well as UFO sightings all over Stafford Cannock Chase - including recent 'dancing lights' in the sky, the Post sets out to investigate the ultimate question.

FOR

Graham Allen is the chairman of Chase-based Staffordshire UFO group. Their members collect information and data from all over the country and hear talks from experts on the subject. Graham says he is in no doubt that there is something out there, but has no idea what it could be.

"Given the information collected, there's no doubt that there's something out there - the question is what it is. It could be visitors from elsewhere or is it us travelling back in time? But there's no doubt at all that there's something to investigate.

"Around 95 per cent of incidents can be explained away as the weather or hot air balloons, but what about the other five per cent that can't be explained away? That really gives the evidence that there could be something else out there.

"Our group has had talks from a former West Midlands police officer who was called to investigate these incidents on behalf of the police and decided to do his own research.

Our next speaker is a former US

airforce officer who was involved in a famous incident at RAF Bentwaters in Suffolk, which has been officially acknowledged as taking place by the American airforce and the British Ministry of Defence.

"It's quite a famous case. A watchtower reported a light in a forest just off base. They took out the officers from the base and they circled an object that had landed in the forest. Radar traces were retrieved and radioactive samples were taken. It's the closest we've got in this country to the famous Roswell incident."

Alien visits are not limited to the south - there have been a number of incidents a little closer to home. Graham said: "Our group recently produced a documentary about events in Stafford in 1988. It includes written reports and official documents, the paper trail, the involvement of the MP at the time, Bill Cash, and interviews with the MOD."

Although Graham says the MOD has been more than helpful with his investigations and has an obvious interest in UFO activity, officials never publicly admit there could be aliens.



Graham said: "We never really get an answer to what it is out there. The bottom line is that they know these things exist but won't officially admit it. They investigate it but keep a very low profile. They don't officially admit it, so they don't have to explain it. They are struggling as much for answers as we are as investigators."

"There's so much evidence out there and such a lot of sceptics. Anyone that's investigated the subject couldn't have come to any other conclusion than I have. There's a lot of debunking from people that don't know about the subject."

"Scientists say there could have been life on Mars and on one of Jupiter's moons. If there was life in our own solar system, why not in other places?"

AGAINST

Lydia Hodgkinson is the secretary

of the Stafford and district Astronomical Society. The group gathers to observe the night sky. Lydia has been studying the sky for more than 30 years and thinks people can easily get confused about what they are seeing.

She told the Post: "I don't think there are any other life forms out there. I hope there isn't anyway because they might be even nastier than we are. I think we're the only little planet that's inhabited."

"For a planet to have life it has to be a certain distance from a star. It also has to have the right kind of air and water. It all depends on the heat of the planet. It can't be too hot or too cold. Planet Earth is about 93 million kilometres away from the sun and it is exactly right."

"Physics comes into it because the distance affects what happens on the planet. I just think we were lucky to be in the right place at the right time, or rather, the planet was in the right place at the right time. The possibility of life is too remote."

During her 30 years of experience watching the heavens, Lydia's been approached by members of the public who claim they've seen UFOs. She has always found a scientific explanation.

Lydia explained: "A couple of people spoke to me, claiming to have seen something. I found out what they had seen was the planet Venus. It was shining very brightly in the sky. The atmos-

phere on Venus is very white and when it's really close to Earth it looks like a beacon in the sky.

"If it's low it twinkles in different colours because of the atmosphere."

"They thought it was a flying saucer. Planets like Pluto and Jupiter can seem like they are changing and can seem to appear and disappear very quickly when they are close to the Earth's orbit. It could also be fireballs."

"Fire balls are literally coming through the atmosphere and burning up - they can be very, very bright. That's the most likely explanation. It's always something that you can put down to science. I've been observing the night sky for over 30 years and I've never seen anything that could be a spacecraft."

Lydia also thinks there could be many pitfalls for the amateur astronomer, which could fool people into thinking they've seen a UFO. She explained: "They could be clouds. You can usually tell but some people might not at night. Light is always a problem. We get a lot of light pollution and that kills your view of anything. That could be obscuring people's views."

"In my time looking at the stars I've never seen anything that looks like a UFO, but I've seen and heard of hundreds that can be explained by science."

What's your view? Write to The Post at 103-106, High Green Court, Newhall St, Cannock WS11 1AB.

Psychiatrist criticised for giving credence to alien encounters

John Mack

John Mack, the American psychiatrist whose research gave considerable credence to accounts by people who claimed to have encountered aliens - derisively dismissed by some of his fellow academics - has died in a road accident in London, aged 74.

He had been visiting Britain to speak at a conference in Oxford, on an earlier and uncontroversial area of interest. In his acclaimed, Pulitzer-prizewinning biography of TE Lawrence, Prince Of Our Disorder (1977), Mack probed the subject from a psychological and spiritual - as well as a conventional - angle, aiming to relate the individual to the larger picture.

However, it was his study Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens (1994) that became a bestseller. It was based on the testimonies of about 100 self-proclaimed abductees, who contacted Mack at his office at Cambridge hospital, one of the teaching hospitals run by Harvard University, in Massachusetts. The book led to Harvard medical school, where he had been a faculty member since 1964 and a tenured professor of psychiatry since 1972, holding an inquiry into his methods, though he escaped censure.

Mack's interest in the testimonies of people claiming contact with non-human beings had started relatively late in his career. As he explained in an interview: "When I heard about this phenomenon in 1990, I was very doubtful. I thought it must be some kind of mental illness."

Eventually, however, he came to accept that his duty was to help those with abduction stories, known as "experiencers"; to deal with their feelings. Mack said his line with such cases was to be "questioning and sceptical";



Mack... TE Lawrence study

and that he considered the abduction phenomenon "an authentic mystery", meriting more research.

While he never solved the mystery, Mack suggested two years ago that alien abductions were occurring in the context "of a planetary ecological crisis that is reaching critical proportions, and that information about this situation is often powerfully conveyed by the alien beings to the experiencers".

His peers were divided about his work, although there was general agreement that he was never afraid to be a trailblazer, or to give serious attention to what detractors considered a fringe issue or an alternative approach. Such was his academic weight that he was able to pursue his controversial interests from his base at Harvard - though, while his work on

One man claimed a female alien had taken a sperm sample from him; another that he had given birth

alien encounters brought him many media appearances and made him wealthy, there was a price to be paid.

Some of his colleagues hinted that extraterrestrial visitors, and their alleged impact on humans, were not a productive area of research. Matters came to a head when Harvard launched an inquiry lasting 14 months into Mack's methods, following the publication of Abduction.

Mack's work was seen as a slur on serious research by some disdainful colleagues; he had investigated, among others, the case of a man who recalled a female alien taking a sperm sample from him, and another man who claimed to have given birth to a half-human, half-alien.

In its ruling, the inquiry, conducted by a former editor of the New England Journal Of Medicine, Arnold Relman, urged Mack "not, in any way, to violate the high standards... of this faculty", while reaffirming his right, as a researcher, to academic freedom. Mack felt vindicated. Certainly, he continued undaunted, as the confident title of one of his subsequent work, Passport To The Cosmos: Human Transformation And Alien Encounters (1999), showed.

Born in New York, Mack graduated from Oberlin College, Ohio, in 1951, and from Harvard, where he obtained his medical degree, in 1955. He was an intern at Massachusetts general hospital, and did his residency at the Massachusetts mental health centre in Boston. In 1959, he joined the US air force for a two-year tour of duty as a psychiatrist in Japan. In the 1960s, he started the psychiatry unit, which he headed from 1969 to 1977, at the Cambridge hospital.

Early in his career, Mack focused on the psychology of sleep and dreams, and began building his professional rep-

utation by applying a psychoanalytic approach to such troubled groups as children contemplating suicide and teenagers obsessed by the threat of nuclear war. This led him to become a strong advocate of disarmament; in the 1980s, along with his other roles, he became academic director of the Centre for Psychological Studies in the Nuclear Age.

In 1983, he set up the Centre for Psychology and Social Change, which sponsors research projects that combine psychology with ecological or ethnic issues, and earlier this year was renamed the John E Mack Institute.

Mack, who was divorced, is survived by three sons. John James

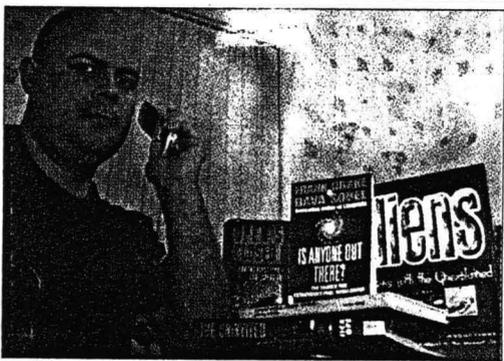
Steve Geller writes: I knew John from my work as director of the screenwriting programme at Boston University. In our course on sacred drama, which deals with cosmic and personal mythology, his Passport To The Cosmos was studied. John addressed my very large class, and was forthright, charming, intelligent, and disarmingly honest about what he knew and did not know. His humanity, compassion and solid science made themselves felt in that classroom. He was a perfect definition of the best of the methods of science and of academic discipline.

Because of the nature of his work, he made enemies in his profession, and in academia. But by his behaviour during the Harvard debacle, he proved himself to be tougher, more rigorous academically, and more the gentleman than political elements of that body of learning had themselves evinced. He won; they did not.

John Edward Mack, research psychiatrist, academic and author, born October 4 1929; died September 27 2004

STAR, Hartlepool, England - Sept. 30, 2004

The truth is out there



Waiting for a call... UFO hunter Glen Richardson. Picture by LOUISE HUTCHINSON. D7245

AN ALIEN researcher has been flooded with phone calls from people claiming to have seen UFOs.

Glen Richardson says 11 people from the Hartlepool area contacted him with their stories after he appeared in the Star's sister paper the Hartlepool Mail just over two weeks ago.

The 22-year-old UFO researcher claims the town is a prime site for alien abductions and sightings, and urged people to contact him with their experiences.

And on the evening the article appeared, September 6, Glen said his phone did not stop ringing.

Glen, of Dorset Street, in the Oxford Road area of Hartlepool, said: "Honestly the phone didn't stop all night, I had about six or seven calls in that one night and a text message."

"Over the next couple of days I had a few more calls, in

all I'd say about 11."

Bright yellow and orange lights, cigar shaped ships and an object the size of three buses, were just some of the mysterious objects callers had witnessed and were eager to inform Glen of.

"It's just really good that people did come forward," said the support worker, who voluntarily gathers alien information.

"It's a very touchy subject and people don't normally like talking about it because they get made fun of. I want to make it less of a taboo subject because it is something that goes on."

Although Glen was pleased with the response, he believes there will be a lot more people in the town who have had similar experiences.

Anyone who would like to talk to Glen about their alien experiences can contact him in confidence on (01429) 286808, or (07967) 202051.

Build it, they will come

A LITTLE over three weeks ago, the weekly *Bancroft Times* did a story — front page, above the fold — of a local Coe Hill widower who snapped a picture of two UFOs that rose above some swamp land near his deep-in-the-bush cabin.

And, in that story, *Times*' reporter Barry Hendry credited me with having "scooped" his newspaper by being the first to publish details of Don O'Brien's close encounter of the third kind after my wife, Karen, scooped up O'Brien's picture after overhearing the 73-year-old former gravel-truck driver talking to a friend about his extraterrestrial snapshot as he stood on the sidewalk on Bancroft's main drag.

But it was deep in Hendry's story that an attention-grabbing paragraph appeared, and had me travelling the other day to another ramshackle house south of Bancroft on Weslemkoon Lake Rd., where 80-year-old Dave Hamel has lived since his own close encounter back in 1975.

It just had to be seen

"In nearby Gilmour," Hendry's story read, "Dave Hamel continues to construct a craft capable of space travel that he plans to launch in the near future... a craft much larger than the (one) that rose over his (former) Vancouver Island home and disappeared into the sky."

Now that was something that demanded to be seen. Dave Hamel's home was virtually impossible to find, so I stopped at a municipal hall to seek directions.

"He's past that barn up there, and down the dirt road on the right," the woman said.



Mark Bonokoski discovers an old-timer in the Bancroft bush working on his own flying saucer

And then she laughed. "Are you looking for a ride on his spaceship?" she asked.

"Maybe," I replied. Dave Hamel looks like a grey-skinned gremlin, and he has little patience for disbelievers. In fact, he is quite profane when a dumb question is asked, such as, "What will propel your spaceship?"

"F---ing energy," he yells, frustrated by the questioner's obvious ignorance concerning the science that was provided to him, through telepathy, by the silver-suited aliens who abducted him 29 years ago when he was working as a carpenter in British Columbia.

And then he talks, at great length, about magnets and vi-

bration working hand in hand to not only to propel his stainless-steel craft but to also make it "weightless."

"Do you understand now?" he asks, tugging at his ball cap and rolling his eyes. "Or are you just stupid?"

The tour takes more than an hour. Behind his house, in a locked barn, is the epicentre of

his craft — indescribable to those who lack Hamel's technological savvy. Out back are the craft's wings, octagonal steel structures that appear akin to science fiction's portrayals of such discs.

After almost three decades of work, however, it appears as if the craft is years away from completion.

"It will be done when it is done," says Hamel. "So what if I'm 80? Maybe I'll be 180. It doesn't matter. The survival of the human race is at stake. That's what this is all about. It's about the survival of our species."

Hamel says the aliens who abducted him flew him to this place off Weslemkoon Lake, and told him to build his spaceship here, which, probably not coincidentally, is not far from the Coe Lake locale where Don O'Brien snapped his pictures of two UFOs rising above the swamp near his home.

'Planted in my brain'

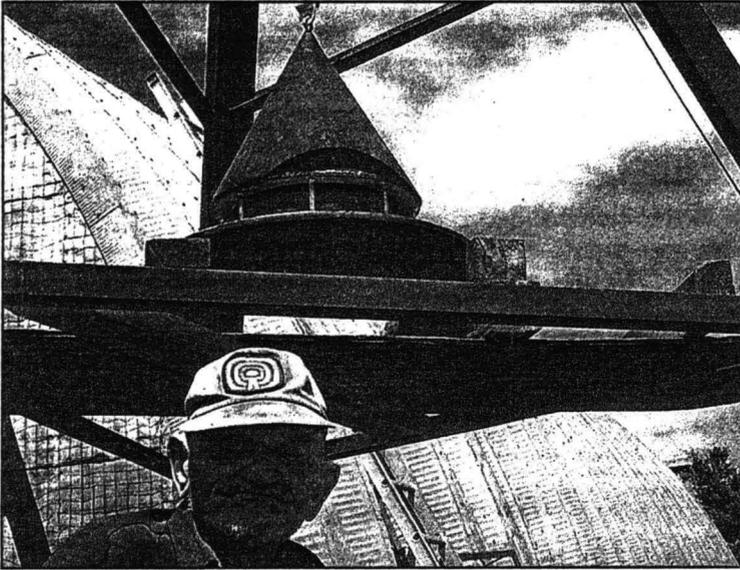
Inside Hamel's home, his infirm wife, Nora, sits in a wheelchair and says nothing as her husband points to the blueprints he drew of his project and, if there is a genius in this far-out scenario, it is in these detailed drawings.

They look real. They look plausible.

"(The aliens) planted these drawings in my brain," he says. "They gave me all the instructions I needed."

"It is now up to me to make it work. The end of the world is not far off, and we need some of us to survive."

"Otherwise, all is lost."
mark.bonokoski@tor.sunpub.com
or 416-947-2445



■ DAVE Hamel, 80, with the workings of a spaceship he's building from plans given to him telepathically by aliens when they abducted him 25 years ago on Vancouver Island.

Alien visitations

Sir, In answer to your feature 'Are there alien visitors?', I would be more surprised if we had not been visited by extraterrestrials on numerous occasions in the past!

A recent estimate gives 200 billion stars in our milky way galaxy and 125 billion galaxies in the universe. The odds therefore for intelligent life elsewhere in the universe are enormous - it is inevitable!

But does the UFO phenomenon represent extraterrestrial visitation?

Long before the great physicist Fermi had pondered his famous paradox, inquiring minds asked the same question - 'if the Universe is teeming with intelligent life - where are they?'

The worldwide SETI programme (search for extraterrestrial intelligence) has recently announced exciting new technological advances and it is expected they may detect alien signals within the next 20 years.

But are our visitors already here? I rather think so!

Of course most UFO reports can be explained. Eyewitness accounts are notoriously inaccurate.

I can assure you, however, there are a small percentage of reports which have both high strangeness and credibility. These close encounter cases involve radar contact, effects on motor vehicles, landings, occupants and effects on the environment. These many thousands of reports from around the world since the last war cannot be dismissed or ignored by science.

The UFO phenomenon is the greatest scientific challenge of our time.

T Pace
Stafford Street
Eccleshall

POST, Stafford, England - Sept. 30, 2004

SOUTH WALES EVENING POST, Swansea, Wales - Oct. 1, 2004

Women spooked by mystery UFO

By Geraint Thomas

THEY are out there — somewhere over Gower.

It's a mystery that Mulder and Scully, of *X-Files* fame, may want to investigate — UFOs spotted in the Swansea sky.

They were seen by Christine Harvey, aged 56, from Nicholaston and 32-year-old Charlotte Williams, from Pennard, as they made their way to work last Friday evening.

The pair were pulling up to an address in Scurlage when they saw two triangular shapes in the night sky.

Christine said: "We were travelling up a country lane when Charlotte said, 'What are those?' The other side of the hedge, on the right hand side of us, higher up the lane, were two white lights."

"There was no aura of light shining down, just two lights about the height or a bit higher than a telegraph pole."

"I drove up the lane, until we were in line with them, wound my window down and we were both perplexed as to what they were."

"They did not move and there was no sound. We were not frightened and must have stayed looking curiously at them for perhaps a minute or two."

"Quite bewildered about it all, we decided to get on with our work."

After parking they saw the lights again.

"There, not very high above us and quite near in distance were two triangle shapes in lights. Six lights to each triangle all white. It was awesome."

"I was the first to get out of the car. For what seemed a long time, probably



HOW BIZARRE Christine Harry, of Parsonage Farm in Nicholaston, Gower, claims to have seen bright white lights in the sky.

Picture: Gareth Williams 040930/2948/GW

minutes, they did not move. There was no sound. No drone of any plane or anything, just two triangles above us.

"Next thing they slowly moved to the right hand side of us."

"We could not believe it. The left hand one merged into the right hand one and as we watched, they just disappeared."

Now the two women are looking for someone to try to explain the mystery behind the lights.

"I have never been interested or believed in UFOs. Charlotte and I remain baffled by what we saw. Whatever answer someone can come up with, may explain a very awesome, baffling and after the event, a spooky

experience," said Christine.

A police spokesman said: "We haven't received any reports of UFOs or other strange lights over Gower."

"To be honest, I can't remember ever hearing about UFOs being reported to the police."

•geraint.thomas@swpp.co.uk

EXPRESS & STAR, Birmingham, England - Sept. 28, 2004

Expert in a flap at UFO bonanza

A Staffordshire beauty spot has become one of the prime UFO hotspots in the world after a glut of sightings in the last two months, according to a leading expert.

Graham Allen, Chairman of Staffordshire UFO Group, said Cannock Chase was experiencing a rare period of UFO activity known among experts as a "flap."

He claims there hasn't been such reported activity since a "flap" was reported at Mexico City during the millennium.

The spate of recent sightings will now be discussed at a UFO conference which is being held in Japan next month.

During August and September there have been dozens of reports of orange balls of light in the sky over the Rugeley and Cannock areas.

Video footage of the hovering orange balls of light have now been passed to the Staffordshire UFO Group which will analyse the tape for its authenticity.

In a fresh sighting reported last week a triangular shaped UFO was seen hovering over cottages at Pottal Pool, near Penkridge.

Mr Allen says he had been left flabbergasted by the sudden surge in sightings in recent weeks which have left his phone red hot.

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.]

September 1, 2004 — *La Region*, Coquimbo, Chile — CHILE: EYEWITNESS DESCRIBES ENCOUNTER WITH STRANGE CREATURE — **Eduardo Vega told *La Region* of the experience he underwent with his brother in the month of July** — LA SERENA -- In its Wednesday, September 1 edition, *La Region* of Coquimbo published an interview with Eduardo Vega, one of the witnesses to the mysterious apparition of a creature with non-human characteristics in the El Panul de Coquimbo (4th Region of Chile). Part of this interview is reproduced below:

- *So, what were you fellows doing in that place?*
- We own property and whenever we can, we visit it to do some work. In this case, along with my brother Francisco, who is the shift supervisor at the Pelambres Mine (Electrical), we had gone out to receive and install slabs on the property.

- *And then what happened?*
- It was around 10:00 a.m. when my brother Francisco, who was some 20 meters away from the three of us, shouted desperately: "Come, come!" ... I got scared and we ran over. He pointed toward a spot and that's when we saw this humanoid figure, which I can't describe otherwise.

- *Don Eduardo, what did that figure look like?*
- It stood some 80 cm tall. Shiny, red. Its head was large but we couldn't make out any eyes or mouth. The figure looked like a small person, a child perhaps wearing a diver's outfit, with its arms close to the trunk and its legs together.

- *How could you estimate its height?*
- I told you, I'm a master welder...
- *Where was the figure? How far away from you?*
- Some 20 meters from us and some 20 meters off the ground. My brother Francisco says he saw it walking and then it took off some 20 meters [into the air].

- *How much time went by?*
- Like I told you, some 12 to 15 minutes. Out of that time the figure was motionless some seven minutes. It didn't move at all.

- *And you just looked at it...*
- Of course, we didn't even move. Some words were exchanged among the gentlemen who were with us, who were just as surprised. They noticed that some sort of sparks or lights were coming out of the head of this image or person or I-don't-know-what. I would say that they were like the sparks that come out of certain exhaust pipes when they're very hot.

- *How many figures were there?*
- Only one. It was only ever one.
- *Do you know if someone [else] could have seen it?*
- No. In fact, we even thought it might be the infamous Chupacabras, because there's a henhouse nearby. But no, nothing happened. — CREDIT: Liliana Nunez O.

September 15, 2004 — *El Sureno*, Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego — WITNESSES CLAIM SEEING FIREBALL CRASH BEHIND THE MARTIAL GLACIER — ***In Ushuaia*** — This occurred last night and could be seen from various parts of the city. A witness who was able to see the phenomenon is a scientist with CONICET. The possibility of a flare was dismissed due to its size. Numerous phone calls were made to Civil Defense. — USHUAIA — Several residents of the city of Ushuaia saw a fireball fall from the sky last night after 20:00 hrs., resulting in an incessant number of phone calls to emergency services centers.

One of these witnesses happened to be Dr. Rogelio Acevedo, a geologist who is a scientific researcher with CONICET, who at the time was taking his son to School No. 13 and saw the "bolide" at the level of the Martial Glacier, but behind it.

The scientist said that it was a mass of white, green and yellow hues, although this is the least important aspect. Regarding the possibility that it could be a flare, he dismissed it on account of its size.

But this man, an expert in the field, was not the only witness to the space phenomenon. Although many people contacted the Municipal Civil Defense to ask questions, they said the colors were of different shades. Again, not a significant consideration.

A resident of the outskirts of Ushuaia maintained that he can determine the area where this object fell, since he has cattle in the area. The man claimed having heard an explosion after seeing this object fall. The possibility that it could have been a meteorite has not been dismissed.

The possibility of a rescue group visiting the site to ascertain the nature of the object was being discussed last night. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez; *Planeta UFO*

September 17, 2004 — *El Sureno*, Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego — Unlikely Objects Found in Area in Which "Fireballs" Fell — The elements were recovered by members of the Special Services Division of the Police, who took photographs of the Valle de Andora region. Experts from CADIC shall try to ascertain their origin. — USHUAIA -- Unlikely objects were found in the forested area located behind the Le Martial Glacier, where the luminous objects reported late Tuesday and Wednesday allegedly fell.

The objects were recovered by personnel of the Special Services Division of the provincial police, who scoured the area. The objects and some photos taken in the area will be submitted for analysis by experts of the Centro Austral de Investigaciones Cientificas (CADIC).

No details on the items found were put forth, but it was learned that they did not correspond to the characteristics of the area.

The survey in Valle Andorra and the Le Martial Glacier - indicated as the sites of the fireball impacts - will continue today, weather permitting. Strong winds are forecasted for today, according to the weather report issued by official agencies.

The new projected expedition may include scientists from CADIC interested in discovering "in situ" the

conditions under which the strange elements were found, and which drew the attention of police researchers. It is worth noting that Dr. Acevedo, a member of this research center, was one of the witnesses to the fall of strange luminous bodies over the skies of Ushuaia.

Acevedo suspects that the objects could be the remains of a meteorite or otherwise of a satellite that burned out upon reentry into Earth's atmosphere.

Readers will remember that on Tuesday night, almost at the same time -- between 20:30 and 21:00 -- over a hundred residents of Ushuaia alerted the Civil Defense and the Police about "fireballs" falling behind the Martial Glacier.

The phenomenon was also seen on Wednesday by residents of the city of Rio Grande. There were even rumors yesterday that new luminous objects had fallen from the sky around 9:00 o'clock at night. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez, *Planeta UFO*

September 16, 2004 — *La Otra Realidad*, Buenos Aires, Argentina — ANOTHER FIREBALL IN USHUAIA — TIERRA DEL FUEGO — Over one hundred phone calls reported a "fireball with a long blue tail." This object, according to witnesses, also fell behind the Martial Glacier, perhaps more to the south, at the same time as the object seen the day before yesterday. This phenomenon was also witnessed in Rio Grande.

Yesterday evening, only minutes after 20:00 hrs., the Municipal Civil Defense received several phone calls concerning a new sighting of a "fireball with a long blue tail" that fell at almost the same location as the one the day before yesterday.

Witnesses in Rio Grande also saw the phenomenon at the same time, reporting it to the media and the authorities.

One of the witnesses to the first sighting was consulted. Dr. Rogelio Acevedo, a scientist with the CADIC (Centro Austral de Investigaciones Cientificas) said: "I was driving my car up along the road to Centenario, taking my son to a basketball practice. The time on the car clock was 20:29 hours. At the level of the hotels in the Martial Glacier, I saw a bolide falling in a pronounced vertical manner with an immense tail. The size of the bolide alternated between that of a flare and the full moon." The scientist added that the object had "green, white and yellow hues. My son saw blue; other people, I later found out, saw red. This lasted only instants, some 5 seconds. It was impossible to react and lower the window. Some people claim hearing a loud report, which would certify that an object indeed fell." Thus, he added that this was "his first meteorite sighting and therefore a moment of joy."

On the other hand, the scientist said that he was in contact with "members of the provincial Police who are going to search to see if they can find something," acknowledging that such an endeavor "is very difficult, like finding a needle in a haystack. However, the effort is a valid one. If we had a helicopter, we would perhaps have greater possibilities," recalling that in the year 2000, "a meteorite fell in a frozen part of Canada. [Scientists] went out in a helicopter and found it." He added that this type of phenomenon is quite normal, "since we have shooting stars as well as these falls, which are a little more frequent. A few months ago in Rio Grande, near Cape Pena, many people saw one. Another fell into the sea some 5 years ago, also in Rio Grande. A few years ago, one fell into the River Plate."

It was also confirmed that two police officers are surveying the area of the first sighting, which would be close to the one where this second bolide fell. — CREDIT: Jose Martinez E.

September 19, 2004 — *El Sureno*, Ushuaia, Tierra del Fuego — ****Behind Le Martial Glacier**** — Part of the Forest was Destroyed by the Mysterious "Fireballs" — Traces of destruction in a forested area measuring 150 square meters: that is what was found in the area in which the mysterious "fireballs" impacted. Sheared pastures were found in another area. — The most curious detail, which was made known yesterday, is that the damage was caused in the upper part of the trees -- some eight meters above the ground -- and that no prints were found on the ground that could serve as evidence for the collision of some strange object.

This appeared in a report broadcast by the "Botella al Mar" news portal, based on an expedition conducted by two individuals to the alleged "fireball" impact site.

The report mentions Fernando Garcia and Roberto Ceballos, who were in a forested area located behind the Le Martial Glacier and who took photos of the damage inflicted upon some 40 trees.

The expeditionaries ascertained the existence of some "thirty or forty uprooted trees, some of them broken in half and others exploded, all of them lying on the ground in a south-north direction."

It should be noted that a group of policemen from the Special Services Division also took photos at the site where the "fireballs" allegedly fell.

It is reported that pasture areas appear as though having been cut by a lawnmower, and that the imprint of a long trail was left behind, as if an object had been dragged along several meters. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

September 20, 2004 — *La Otra Realidad*, Buenos Aires, Argentina — ARGENTINA: SHATTERED TREES FOUND AT IMPACT AREA — Expedition found no craters and the mystery increases — 9-20-2004 - (17:05) - The strange object that fell from the sky a few days ago behind the mountain range of the Martial Glacier, and which was seen by at least a dozen residents of the city of Ushuaia, caused damage to at least 150 square meters of forested area within the National Park, but no visible marks were found on the ground following the impact. This has increased the mystery surrounding the celestial event that caused wonder among the Fuegian population.

The "fireball," described thus by the press to counteract the lack of scientific details on the nature of the phenomenon, destroyed a considerable number of trees as it fell toward the Earth's surface, converting the impact site into a tree-clearing location. Some trees were sheared off at a height of some eight meters.

But researchers would like to double-check this information and will set out tomorrow toward the site that was first surveyed by a police patrol that took photos and some soil samples. One of the investigators to visit the site will be Daniel Acevedo, a witness to the episode that captured the public's imagination. He plans to collect samples of the local sandstone to ascertain if there are pieces of metal or any material foreign to the Fuegian geography.

Acevedo will visit the epicenter of the crash, accompanied by a forestry engineer who will determine if the condition in which the trees were found, in an area measuring "more or less forty meters across," as described by witnesses, corresponds to human intervention, wind action or the consequences of the phenomenon being investigated.

For the time being, scientists have dismissed the possibility that it could have been a meteorite, since the impact would have involved a rock that usually leaves undeniable traces of its impact against our planet. Nor have they discarded the possibility that Earth may have traversed the path of some comet and that these "fireballs" could be part of the evidence.

The survey headed by experts from the Centro Austral de Investigaciones Cientificas (CADIC) will be

essential to define the characteristics of the event and put an end to this week-long mystery.

A five-hour long expedition on foot conducted by Fernando Garcia and Roberto Ceballos, authors of the photographs published in today's issue of *Botella al Mar*, verified the existence of "thirty to forty uprooted trees, some shattered in half and others exploded, all of them lying on the ground in a south-north direction."

It would seem that Garcia and Ceballos reached the same spot discovered by a local police patrol, but with a difference of a few meters. This means that there are at least two impact sites and this increases the number of traces of the event to be confirmed.

It should be recalled that residents of Ushuaia witnessed--on two consecutive nights--how two strange objects fell to the ground. Numerous phone calls were made to the Municipal Office of the Civil Defense and the Police to report the sighting, which was described at the time as "a multicolored fireball that fell behind the Martial Glacier." — CREDIT: Jose Martinez E.

September 22, 2004 — *Botella al Mar.com*, Argentina — Fireball Crash Site: "There's a rage in that place" — One of the expeditionaries who walked to the site where the strange objects fell from the sky on Tuesday and Wednesday last week held an extensive chat with a journalist from *Botella al Mar*.

Fernando Garcia described his journey to the mouth of Canadon Negro in Valle de Andorra and the discovery of a 150 square meter area with trees found in positions that are hard to interpret.

While the conclusions reached by CADIC scientists who also visited the impact site are expected, the following is the transcript of the interview with the Ushuaia resident:

- *What made you go to the alleged crash site?*

Like everyone else in the city, I heard the story of lights falling from the sky last Tuesday and Wednesday. The fact is that I didn't give it much importance. On Saturday I heard a journalist explain that the police officers who'd visited the site hadn't found anything strange, but had indeed found flattened trees. And that was strange to me. Then I phoned my friend Roberto (Ceballos), a backwoodsman who knows the area well, and asked him to come with me.

- *Just out of mere curiosity?*

Exactly, nothing more. Above all, because the toppled trees intrigued me.

- *Why did that surprise you?*

It gave the story a certain veracity. If people saw fireballs come down and there are toppled trees, then there is a certain coherence [to the story] and it was necessary to take a look. That's why on Saturday night we got everything ready and we went out on Sunday at 7:30 a.m..

- *Which is the exact site?*

It's the mouth of Canadon Negro en Valle de Andorra. I wouldn't like to give much more detail until the scientists have been.

- *How long did you walk to get there?*

Once you know the place you can get there faster. We had no clues to go by and were just looking for something strange. But I figure that we walked some two and a half to three hours.

- *Can the site be clearly made out?*

Clearly. The sensation upon reaching the site is that a plane crashed there, and you're expecting to see bits of metal plating dangling from the trees. That's the image. What's incredible is that when you penetrate the place, there's nothing at all to be found. There's nothing strange within the strangeness. Only 150 square meters of toppled woods. Imagine four walls and in the middle, all of the trees are overturned, fallen, all of them piled exactly from north to south. All of them toward the same place. In the north, where the object presumably fell, the tree trunks are sheared off at a height of six to eight meters, from greater to lesser, as though the object came in at a slant.

- *Your opinion is that an object fell?*

Yes, yes, but it's odd, because the fallen trunks are in perfect state, as though the object hadn't quite finished falling yet. Their bark is intact. There is no trace of anything being burned, no dust, nothing.

- *Could the wind have toppled the trees?*

I don't think so, because in one of the photos I took, and in which I asked my companion to stand beside a trunk as a reference, it can be seen that the trees had diameter of 70 centimeters. If there had been wind, it is hard to understand the direction of the gusts. The site isn't like a letter "U", with an entrance leading to the valley. It's an enclosure. It's as if a giant dinosaur had placed its giant foot in the middle of a forest, but never quite finished setting it down. The only possibility I can think of is that a tornado or whirlwind entered the area, caused the damage, and retreated in the contrary direction.

- *A tornado?*

Yes, but that wasn't it, because it would have scattered branches everywhere, not piled from north to south. If the wind was responsible, the ground vegetation would have been damaged, and it was in perfect condition.

- *Would it be easy to see the area from the air?*

Of course, because it is easy to see that the cuts to the trees are no more than four days old. In some parts you could see tree sap, because the trunks had exploded. For this reason the collapse of tree-trunks in a domino like arrangement would have to be discarded, because the trees are very close to each other. The first one can fall to the side and strike a second and then a third, but that's where the chain reaction stops. This is different: there are tree-trunks that appear to have been blown away from within by a stick of dynamite. All of the trunks are frayed on the same side. If there was such great external pressure, at least the roots would have moved. None of that happened. — CREDIT: Christian Quintero, *Planeta UFO*

September 22, 2004 — *www.sinmordaza.com*, Argentina — A UFO OVER SANTA FE? — It was photographed by a colleague by sheer chance. At 21:20 hours on September 20th, in the northern part of the city, as he was taking photos of the movements and effects caused in the sky by the searchlight employed during the Sixth Biennial Youth Art Festival held at the U.N.L. That was when a light crossed his path.

He didn't know what it was until he saw the 17 photos taken. Upon enlarging them, he realized that it was a solid object with a metallic center. Even though his camera was set for maximum definition and sharpness, he could notice a wake.

In other photos taken of the searchlight, a ray of light could be seen coming down from above. This appeared to the right of the event mentioned. The enlarged photo shows the details mentioned. The other shows the actual site where the photo was taken--the roof of a neighbor's house. Was it a UFO inspecting the searchlight or just a trick of nature? — CREDIT: Gloria Coluchi

September 22, 2004 — *El Tribuno*, Salta, Argentina — In Rosario de Lerma/ Police looked but found nothing — STRANGE REPTILE CAUSES TERROR — They say it has a huge hairy head and reddish eyes — A "large serpent with a hairy head and reddish eyes" was intensely searched for up to last night by

members of the Provincial Police Fire Brigade after the three individuals in charge of the Las Acacias hatchery reported seeing the creature in one of the site's sectors, located between Cerrillos and Rosario de Lerma on Route 26.

Modesto Gonzales, 60, Jose Venticola, 53, and his wife Ana Maria Quipildor, 48, reported the appearance of the enormous animal on Monday to the Rosario de Lerma sheriff's office and requested protection, due to the terror inspired by their sighting of this beast.

"We were baking bread when my wife saw the head of this veritable monster emerging from between the holes in the wall of a brick shack," said Venticola, who added, "I was paralyzed. It had a snake's head, but hairy, with red eyes and a piercing gaze."

Firefighters combed the area but found nothing.

"I told my husband and Modesto, who was chopping wood, to kill it. It was a huge snake," said the woman. "They were going to cut off its head, which was the size of a hog, with their machetes, but it went back in when it saw them approach. I've never seen anything so strange. What I do know is that it isn't a lampalagua [Translator's note -- 3 meter long river snake of northern Argentina] because I know what those are. I'd never come across a hairy reptile."

Moreover, Martin Corbalan of the Rosario de Lerma sheriff's office, stated that "we will continue searching for this reptile, if that's what it is, to insure the protection of these people and the neighbors. If we can't find it in the next few hours, we will appeal to animal protection agencies for their assistance."

"We are not discarding the possibility that it is a northern constricting snake that reached this hatchery for some reason," he concluded. — CREDIT: Mercedes Casas

September 26, 2004 — *Las Ultimas Noticias*, Santiago, Chile — Talk of tornadoes, fallen satellites and saucer crashes — Mysterious Treefalls in Patagonian Forest — The forest woke up on the ground. That simple, that strange. All of the trees occupying a space equivalent to a city block in that forest near Ushuaia had been uprooted, piled from north to South as if pointing toward the same location. Of course, speculation on what could have caused the strange phenomenon commenced immediately, according to INFOBAE.com

According to the first explorers to reach the site, it seemed as if an aircraft had crashed, with the exception that there was no fuselage lost among the branches. Locals told of having seen fireballs plunging from the sky days earlier, which--according to them--could have been the answer to the mystery. But none of the trees is burned.

In the northern part of the now-mysterious site, the tree trunks had been severed at a height of six to seven meters, which validated for several witnesses the theory that the impact had been something--meteorite, UFO, satellite--falling from the sky.

The Centro Austral de Investigaciones Cientificas tried to appease the excitement saying it could have been a volteo (overturning), in other words, "a kind of tornado that uproots trees," according to the explanation given by Rogelio Acevedo. But Acevedo acknowledged that research must go on, since the winds in the area weren't strong enough to uproot the trees. — CREDIT: Guillermo Gimenez, *Planeta UFO*

October 6, 2004 — *Planeta UFO*, Argentina — MUTILATED COWS IN LA PAMPA — At the rural estate known as "Hucal," located to the south of the town of General Acha, La Pampa, a total of three mutilated Aberdeen Angus cows were discovered on August 6, 12 and 26, respectively.

The animals were missing their udders, ears, eyes, and entire tongues, and showed mutilations in their maxillaries. The incisions and the state in which the animals were found were similar to the ones in previous cases and which totalled some 1500 beef cattle alone in the years 2002-2003.

In this case, the owners presented a complaint to the police authorities of UR III, headquartered at the locality in question. — CREDIT: Raul Oscar Chaves

CREDIT: Jane Guma

October 18, 2004 — *El Tribuno.com.ar*, Salta, Argentina — In Metan, towards Rosario de la Frontera — Strange object was seen falling from the sky — Three smoke columns like those from a jet fell suddenly in a vertical line — By Adrian Quiroga, *El Tribuno* — It was exactly 7:35 pm yesterday when several residents of Metan saw something unusual in the southern sky of the province: three large columns of smoke that were moving at an impressive speed on a N-S course, suddenly changed direction, falling at right angles, and then something like flames could be seen. There was much alarm.

Some of the occasional witnesses were amazed at the strange phenomenon. "It's a jet," they said, while at the same time others thought it was a "meteorite."

The three smoke columns that at times seemed to turn into fireballs fell towards the city of Rosario de la Frontera or even farther away, towards the neighboring province of Tucuman.

However, no object was seen, only the wide columns of smoke traveling at great speed. Then they suddenly changed course at right angles and fell straight down, disappearing before they reached the ground. Police from Metan and Rosario de la Frontera were alerted, but the chief of the number 3 Regional Unit, Police Inspector Mario Paz, [who] stated officially last night that "there is no news about this."

"We worked with all the units in the southern part of the province and nobody has confirmed finding any fallen object in the area. However, we keep on working," Paz told *El Tribuno*.

The witnesses

Several people in Metan saw the fall and the strange phenomenon, among them some that were on the street in front of the Instituto Trafico Club waiting for a celebration of the peronist Loyalty day to begin.

Justicialist councillor Rodrigo Garcia said that "I believe it was a meteorite, in fact it's something very strange that surprised me."

He added that "It was like smoke trails that fell straight down at an impressive speed. They were completely different from the clouds."

On the other hand, Walter Nunez, administrative secretary of the Town Council in Metan thought that "they were like three flashing balls falling, leaving behind a lot of smoke."

"It really is amazing, I've never seen anything like it, because of the fast motions it did and then it suddenly fell... What we've seen is very strange. It was similar to a jet that fell from above, I'm sure it wasn't clouds."

A well known resident of Metan who at that time was in another part of the city told *El Tribuno* that "my kids just phoned telling me that they saw a plane fall from the sky."



Charlie DeVore trusts his nose.

He says the powerful, distinctive smell of Bigfoot near his home in the Big Cypress Bayou is a reason he believes the creature exists. He's not alone.



Les Hassell/News-Journal Photos

Bigfoot investigator Charlie DeVore paddles his way through Caddo Lake to an area where witnesses claim to have seen the creature. DeVore, who lives in the Big Cypress Bayou, says he believes the creature has a distinct — and putrid — stench that he has smelled several times.

By WES FERGUSON
wferguson@longview-news.com

BIG CYPRESS BAYOU

The motor sputtered, then died, and as the canoe drifted deeper into the swamp, gray tangles of bearded Spanish moss gave way to murky water and black cypress.

Knuckles whitened as Charlie DeVore ripped the pull cord. His two-man canoe, 3 decades old and uneasy under the weight of three men, teetered dangerously with every tug.

DeVore yanked the cord once more, then gave up.

"We'll just have to paddle," he said.

There wasn't time to fix the propeller, and there wasn't time for precaution. The party pressed further into the swamp, because that's where Bigfoot was.

Bigfoot, or Sasquatch, that elusive creature more often associated with the Pacific Northwest, lives among these knobby trees of the Big Cypress Bayou, DeVore will tell you.

While other people have seen the creature, DeVore, well, he has smelled it. Of course, it's the most indescribably putrid, gosh-awful stench you can imagine.

"It's overpowering," DeVore said.

DeVore has discussed that stench with dozens of East Texans who have reported brushes with the hairy hominoid. He investigates sightings for the Texas Bigfoot Research Center, a Dallas-based group that documents close encounters throughout the state, most of them in the Piney Woods and Big Thicket. Although DeVore professes to be an amateur, he knows enough to understand the creature's ways.

"Bigfoot no longer scares me,"

said DeVore, of medium height and a bit paunchy at 64. "It might if one was standing right over me, but they've never hurt anybody. I have a fear of wild dogs and wild hogs and anything else out there that might bite my butt, but I really have no fear of Bigfoot."

So DeVore paddles the bayou in the middle of the night, a coon-hunting spotlight and night vision camera at his side. He also wanders the forest trails he's bush-hogged near his trailer house. He sniffs the night air and listens for snapped twigs.

"It's a hobby," he said, "a passionate interest."

DeVore moved to the Big Cypress Bayou, the slow-moving body of water that slinks

between Lake O' the Pines and Caddo Lake, in 1990. A heart attack had forced him into early retirement. He told himself, "I'm going to sit up here beside this water until the day I die, and enjoy it."

That's just what he did, putting around in his canoe with the little outboard motor that he'd rigged to the back, or gliding across the deep green water in his kayak, exploring inlets and taking photographs.

"It's so beautiful out here," he said. "Normally I'm not talking, and I sneak up on all kinds of wildlife."

As he paddled deeper into the forest of submerged cypress trees, stained black by years of up and down water levels,



Is Bigfoot hiding among the cypress trees of Caddo Lake? DeVore believes so. And so do many others with the Texas Bigfoot Research Center.

Tips on tracking Bigfoot

SUPPLIES

■ Always carry a camera, even if it's disposable; also always carry a tape recorder, preferably voice-activated.

PLAN

■ Study a map of where you plan to search; heavily wooded areas of 50 or more acres with streams, rivers

or lakes where the creature can move easily without roads are prime spots.

LOOK FOR SIGNS

■ Look for tree formations where different types of limbs are mixed; also look for trees that are busted with no signs or wind or storm damage.

— Northeastern Ohio Bigfoot Research

thoughts returned to the rickety little canoe, then to the cold, black water, and always to the possibility of sneaking up on the most elusive creature of them all.

The ways of Bigfoot

Although Bigfoot is reportedly huge — 7 or 8 feet tall, and more than 500 pounds — he's awfully hard to find.

That's because he hates being around humans, believers say. When people such as DeVore go tromping into the woods, Bigfoot runs the other way. He lives in uninhabitable areas, especially around the Sabine and Sulphur rivers, the Big and Little Cypress bayous, and Caddo Lake, where he is affectionately known as the Caddo Critter.

The Longview man's description of Bigfoot reflects many others in East Texas: Long brownish or black hair, the deathly scream-roar, or scream-growl, and that stench, which DeVore believes Bigfoot excretes, possibly from his armpits, when he feels threatened.

Crystal Steiniger of Harleton says she has experienced the smell and heard the screams.

Steiniger and her colleagues with the East Texas Bigfoot Independent Study get together once a month to look for tracks and hair samples and record Bigfoot's noises on all-night camping trips. They used to attract the creature with Bigfoot calls, but they soon abandoned the calling devices because they made it too aggressive.

"If they're walking by us, we want to hear their normal, nonthreatening type of vocalizations," she said, adding later: "I've heard solid screams. I've heard grunts, kind of a grunt-growl when you get a little too close. That was one of the best recordings. Of course, we got in our vehicle real quick. We didn't leave, but we got in our vehicle."

The researchers have posted many of the recordings on their Web site, www.easttexasbigfoot.com.

With so many reported encounters, skeptics quickly ask for conclusive proof — hair samples or bones, for example.

"It's well known and not disputed that we have black bears in East Texas," DeVore counters. "Nobody's ever seen a body or a skeleton of those. Predators in East Texas, which are numerous, take care of a body almost overnight. There are many theories, one, that they may carry their bodies off. After all, these are groups of them, it's not one lone animal."

People have taken pictures of black bears, the skeptics note.

One of those skeptics is Charlie Mueller, a Longview-based wildlife biologist for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He managed the Caddo Lake wildlife area for eight years, and he said he's never seen evidence for Bigfoot's existence.

"If there's a bear out there, I'm going to find bear tracks. If there's a human out there, I'm going to find footprints," he said. "But there's no Bigfoot tracks that I've seen."

Mueller said he's studied supposed Bigfoot nests, but to him, they just looked like a pile of branches that had fallen from a tree during an ice storm.

"People let their imaginations take control a lot of times, and it's easy for someone to point out things that seem to be out of the ordinary that actually are not," he said. "But to layman folks, people that don't know a lot about wildlife and the happenings of wildlife in their habitats, a lot of times they don't understand the normal things that go on."

Fear of that kind of rebuttal, DeVore and Steiniger say, keeps many witnesses from coming forward.

"A lot of people will think they're nuts, or if they do mention it to somebody they'll say, 'Oh, it was just a bear, you don't know what you're talking about,'" Steiniger said. "They'll kind of blow it off and not take it seriously because there's been a lot of people who have spent a lot of time out in the woods who've never seen a thing. They're happily trotting along without a clue."

(continued on page 18)

(continued from page 17)

- NEWS-JOURNAL, Longview, TX - Oct. 17, 2004

Says DeVore, "You're going to be ridiculed. You're thinking your nuts, so most people are real reluctant to talk. If they are going to speak to you, you've got to be real quiet about it. Of course, being in the club gives me credibility."

On the bayou

It was a perfectly clear October afternoon on the bayou, and Charlie DeVore sliced his canoe through red and green water rippling under a light breeze.

He had agreed to guide a reporter and photographer to the site of two Bigfoot encounters that he'd investigated only half a mile from his house. Because the land had changed hands, the only legal access was via boat, or, in this case, an old canoe.

It's better to stick to the water this time of year anyway, he said, because it's not too smart to traipse through the woods in the middle of deer season.

As he guided the canoe, he recalled his first encounter. He hadn't even realized how close he'd come to meeting Bigfoot on that night as he walked the trails near his house.

"I had always gone with four dogs, sometimes five, a couple of my own plus the neighbors'. These dogs generally were not afraid of anything," he said. "When I hit that stench, I looked around for the dogs and realized, hey, I was alone."

He whistled and snapped his fingers, but the dogs wouldn't come. They just sat there squirming. "I decided the dogs were smarter than me, so I went away," he said.

The next night, the same thing.

"It went on occasionally for six weeks," he said. "I wouldn't run into it every night, but it got to be old hat that when I ran into the stink, I'd turn around."

He questioned hunters and outdoors enthusiasts who suggested that it might have been a wild hog, but DeVore knew better. He'd smelled hogs, and it wasn't the same.

In 2002, DeVore heard about the annual Texas Bigfoot Conference in Jefferson. This year's event begins 10 a.m. Saturday at Jefferson High School.

DeVore went and then returned to the bayou with some answers and more than a few new questions.

"After going to that conference and finding out, hey, these things have a stink, I started talking to people who had the stink on them before," he said, "and the

stink described was just too close to what I had experienced. At that point I had already gotten curious about them. I talked to dozens of people who had experienced it."

But stinking isn't believing, and DeVore still hadn't seen one. He gunned the boat into the swamp, past hulking, primeval trees and low-lying branches, toward Bigfoot.

A close encounter

When the cypress became so thick they crowded out the sun, their reflections vanished from the bayou's surface. The water instantly was black. The canoe, further now from the channel's current, cut through a sheet of scum.

DeVore talked above the hum of the outboard motor. Suddenly it cut out, and he couldn't get it going again. Unseen crows shrieked in the abrupt silence.

DeVore took the paddle and rowed through Benton Lake, a small, stagnant body of water that adjoins the bayou, until the trees kept him from going any further.

"Over there," he said, pointing to a spot on the lake's southwestern edge. The witness had been hunting deer as he crouched behind dense brush at mid-afternoon. He reported to the Texas Bigfoot Research Center that he noticed movement in the corner of his eye. Fifty yards away, the hunter told DeVore that Bigfoot emerged from the water, stood up, looked side to side, then walked into the woods and disappeared.

The hunter watched him for about two minutes. The creature was 6 feet tall and covered in hair from head to toe, and in the absence of direct sunlight he appeared to be completely black.

DeVore, having interviewed the hunter several times, deemed him "a very credible witness."

Finished with his story, DeVore docked the canoe on a muddy bank that had built up along the edge of a massive cypress tree and fiddled with the motor. A piece of twine had wrapped itself in the propeller, and after he unwound it, it cranked on the first pull.

He ordered the heaviest of his passengers into the bottom of the canoe, stabilizing it, and he took off for home. Though he did not see Bigfoot today, he knew it was only a matter of time.

"It exists," he said. "Too many people have seen it. It exists."

Speakers to share Bigfoot research at annual conference

By WES FERGUSON
wferguson@longview-news.com

Cryptozoology experts, Sasquatch enthusiasts and other open-minded folks soon will converge on Jefferson for the Texas Bigfoot Conference.

The fourth annual event, to be held Saturday at Jefferson High School, has lined up expert speakers from around the globe. Here are a few:

■ John Kirk III, president of the British Columbia Scientific Cryptozoology Club, who uses criminal investigation methods to seek legitimate evidence for Sasquatch;

■ Alton Higgins and Sue Lindley, curators for the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, describing apparent Bigfoot handprints found in Oklahoma and the creature's intelligence and behavior —

including Lindley's food and beer experiments;

■ Nick Redfern, an investigator from the United Kingdom, discussing Bigfoot creatures in the British Islands;

■ And Jimmy Chilcutt, a fingerprint examiner for the Conroe Police Department who tried to use his expertise to debunk Bigfoot evidence, but came to a completely different conclusion.

The conference has grown from 150 attendees in 2001 to more than 300 last year.

General admission is \$10. For \$40 — \$50 at the door — people can attend a fund-raiser dinner with conference speakers and other Bigfoot experts.

For information, visit www.texasbigfoot.com/events4.html, call 1 (877) 529-5550 or e-mail craigw@texasbigfoot.com.

EXPRESS-NEWS, San Antonio, TX - Oct. 14, 2004 CR: W. Andrus



COURTESY PHOTO

A mystery animal killed in Pollok last week is strikingly similar to one killed in Elmendorf in July.



COURTESY PHOTO

Results of DNA tests to try to identify this animal, killed in Elmendorf, are not in yet.

Mystery animal in Elmendorf may have an East Texas cousin

Could creatures killed 250 miles apart be chupacabras?

By JORGE ZARAZUA
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

The lore of the chupacabra is being rekindled in the small East Texas community of Pollok after a mysterious animal with striking similarities to the Elmendorf beast was killed there.

"It was so much like it," said Stacy Womack, referring to the animal killed underneath her mother's house Friday. "It's unreal. It's just such a creepy creature when you see it."

Womack, a former veterinarian assistant, said she's never come across such a hairless creature with long fangs and claws.

Local animal experts there also are baffled by the doglike creature's identity.

Womack said its closest resemblance is the Elmendorf beast, shot and killed in July. But even the Elmendorf creature remains a mystery, said Devin Mcanally, the farmer who shot it.

McAnally said he still is waiting on lab results of DNA testing on the animal slain on his land. The hairless critter weighed about 15 pounds, had long back legs, shorter front legs and a long, thin tail.

A privately funded San Antonio foundation that

studies the unknown arranged for the testing in August.

Whitley Strieber, co-founder of the Communion Foundation, said he anticipates the results soon.

Strieber said he has seen pictures of the creature Womack's brother killed near Lufkin.

"It's very clear that it's the same type of animal," Strieber said, adding it is evidence that the animal in Elmendorf was not the last of its kind.

Pollok and Elmendorf are about 250 miles apart as the crow flies.

The Elmendorf creature stirred the South Bexar County community, which also wrestled with the animal's identity. Speculation ran rampant, with some claiming it was a chupacabra — a fabled goat-blood-sucking beast said to have terrorized the Mexican countryside.

Womack said the animal crawled under her mother's house in broad daylight, scaring their dogs. She said that after it was shot her brother dragged it out from under the house to the backyard, where it remained Wednesday.

"Everybody asked me why I didn't freeze it, but I wouldn't put something like that in my freezer," she said.

Womack said she wants to know what the animal is because she saw a second scruffy animal wandering around the area later the same day.

jzarazua@express-news.net

POST, Denver, CO - Oct. 22, 2004 CR: P. Noonan

Moffat investigates death, mutilation of three calves

A female calf was found Oct. 10, and two males on Saturday. Their genitals were cut off after death. No cause of death was apparent.

By Kirk Mitchell
Denver Post Staff Writer

Moffat County officials are investigating the deaths of three calves whose genitals were sliced off with a knife after they died.

Two male calves and one female calf were found in a pasture on a ranch south of Craig over the past two weeks, said Sheriff Buddy Grinstead.

At least one of the calves was bloated, indicating that it may have died of natural causes, Grinstead said. The calves were recently moved to a pasture with green, wet grass and may have gorged themselves to death, he said.

The calves were not killed by animal predators, he said.

The first calf, a female, was discovered Oct. 10. The mutilated males were found Saturday.

The female calf appeared bloated and had not been mutilated when first discovered

by a landowner who leased his property to cattle ranchers, Grinstead said.

There were no obvious signs of the cause of death, he said.

The next morning, when Deputy Courtland Folks saw the female calf, its udder and genitals had been removed with a knife and taken away, Grinstead said.

The male calves' genitals had also been removed.

Officials concluded the cattle had not died from the mutilation because there would have been a lot of blood spilled. The organs were removed after death, he said.

Grinstead said his office is investigating whether someone with some bizarre interest dismembered the calves.

Bob Osburn, husband of Jacque Osburn, who owned the cattle, said the calves had been vaccinated and were healthy. He said the three had been sold and were ready to be shipped.

"Three calves just don't mysteriously die," he said.

The three calves are valued at about \$2,400, Grinstead said.

Staff writer Kirk Mitchell can be reached at 303-820-1206 or kmitchell@denverpost.com.

Facing an uphill battle, a learned team of experts realizes its research is going downhill ... maybe

Hill of Illusion

Rumors persist of a paranormal site on the Palouse. This is reputed to be a place where the traditional rules of direction, vision, and gravitational attraction are suspended — a Twilight Zone where up looks like down, and where down is up.

This is the infamous Hill of Illusion, 40 miles north of Pullman, near Farmington, Wash.

To investigate those rumors, and properly assess the validity of these claims, a blue-ribbon scientific task force was assembled. This interdisciplinary research group, christened the Hill of Illusion Paranormal Scientific Team (HIPST), comprised a group of local scientific experts, all Moscow residents. The team members included Dr. Jeanne McHale



BILL LONDON
GETAWAYS

(chemistry), Dr. Hunter Snevily (mathematics), Dr. Vic Getz (sociology), and Dr. Fritz Knorr (chemistry).

Together, they visited the alleged paranormal site and filed this study, entitled the Hill of Illusion Paranormal Scientific Team Evaluation Report (HIPSTER).

Following the map, we located what had to be the site of the Hill of Illusion. We were at the crest of a small hill, near a grove of five pine trees, between the tiny town of Farmington and the forested Idaho hills.

The dirt road continued ahead for about 100 yards, then curved left and disappeared into the trees. Those 100 yards, from the pine trees where we parked to the curve in the road ahead, were the source of the rumors: The Hill of Illusion. The grand illusion was rumored to be a roadway that appears to go downhill, but which actually goes uphill. Our goal was to test that illusion.

The place was disappointingly normal. Just another country road, one that clearly appeared to slope downward.

The first test. We drove forward down the Hill of Illusion. About halfway down, we slipped the automatic transmission into neutral, expecting that the vehicle would gather speed or at least maintain its speed as it continued downward toward the curve.

Wrong. The vehicle slowed, stopped, and then slowly moved backward, in a direction that seemed to be uphill.

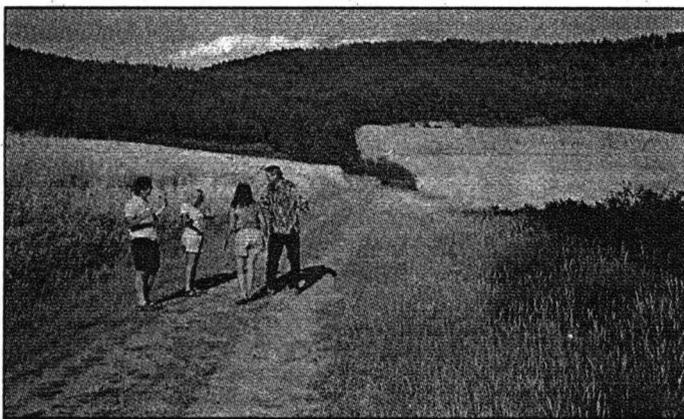
We tried the vehicle test again, with the same result. After shifting to neutral, the car achieved a speed of 12 miles per hour going backward toward the pine trees, accelerating in a direction that obviously seemed to be uphill.

The scientific team conferred. "I did not expect it to be so pronounced," Dr. Snevily said. "The car was speeding backwards, not moving at a crawl. It's clear this road is not close to level."

"This illusion could be caused by a gravitational anomaly," Dr. Knorr suggested. "Or perhaps it could be Elvis and the space aliens."

"Is this a real illusion?" Dr. Getz asked. "I think the answer is yes. You see the road going downhill, but the car rolls the other way."

"I was skeptical. I didn't think I



(Right) At the Hill of Illusion, the investigative team uses a volleyball in an attempt to check the slope. The confused include, left to right, Fritz Knorr, Jeanne McHale, Vic Getz and Hunter Snevily.

(Left) The Hill of Illusion appears to run downhill as it climbs. Go figure.

Bill London photos

mile farther, at a "T" intersection, follow the road to the right. The road is now heading south.

Continue on that road for one mile to the first intersection. In a small grove of trees, turn left onto Pine Creek Road.

This road, especially as it nears the Idaho forest, is very poorly maintained. Visitors should avoid this road in wet conditions, since the clay surface can be very slippery and rutted. Low-clearance vehicles can use this road when it is dry.

The road now parallels Pine Creek east into the mountains. Continue one mile ahead. As the road bends to the left at a junction with a single pine tree ahead, follow the main road around the curve, do not turn onto the narrower roadways to the right and left.

The road then climbs a hill to a small grove of pine trees on the right. The top of that slope, and the grove of pines on the right, signal the start of the Hill of Illusion. Stop there. Decide whether you, too, view that roadway as clearly going downhill. Then test it.

Be sure to report your test results to the appropriate authorities.

would fall for the illusion, but I did," Dr. McHale added.

After returning to the grove of pine trees at what seemed to be the top of the hill, the scientific team exited the vehicle for a prolonged discussion. Lacking adequate surveying instruments or other measuring devices, they were left to making do with more informal instrumentation.

A volleyball was pressed into service. Unfortunately, the ball would not roll either up or down the road, but was repeatedly halted by rocks, weeds and the imprecision of the roadway surface.

Dr. Getz then fashioned a simple surveying tool from a stick found by the side of the road. Sighting along the stick in what appeared to be a horizontal direction, Dr. Getz concluded that the road did appear to descend.

"I'm impressed," Dr. Getz summarized. "It really seems to be going downhill."

"If I had my bicycle, I would be able to really answer the question," said Dr. McHale. "Perhaps this illusion is more pronounced in a car."

"Or maybe there is some magnet-

ic attraction involved to pull the car uphill," Dr. Knorr added.

Dr. Getz summarized for the team: "We all suspended our disbelief. We were all suitably amazed."

The team did have one final conclusion: More investigation is warranted. Curious members of the public should visit the site and test this illusion.

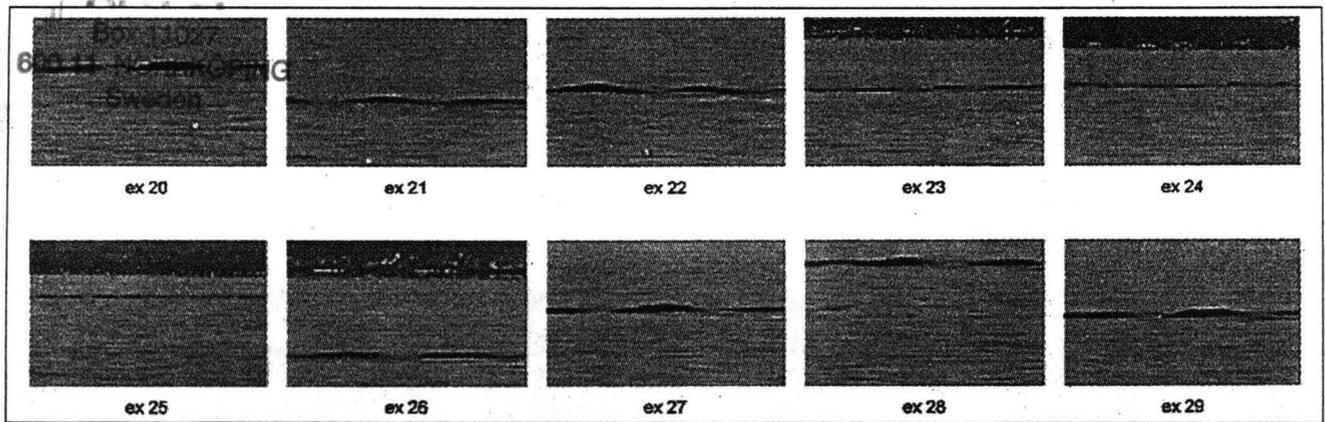
The directions to the Hill of Illusion are as follows:

From Pullman, drive north on Washington Highway 27 for about 22 miles, through the town of Palouse toward Garfield. Just before the curve at the entrance to Garfield, note the small sign on the right, "11 miles to Farmington." Turn right. This paved road continues northward and intersects with Washington Avenue in Farmington.

Turn right onto Washington Street. Follow that street toward the Idaho mountains. At the eastern edge of town, the road turns to gravel and then crosses the unmarked boundary line into Idaho.

The road winds and curves after it leaves Farmington. At the first intersection at 1 1/4 miles from town, continue straight ahead. One

Bill London is a travel columnist who lives in Moscow.



Still frames from video shot by Kelowna resident John Casorso appear to show several large humps moving through the waters of Okanagan Lake in August.

Video renews legend of mythical Ogoopogo

By David Wylie
Special to The Province

KELOWNA — An Okanagan family has gone public two months after a close encounter with what they believe could be the legendary Ogoopogo lake monster.

The Casorso family was startled from sleep Aug. 9 when their rented houseboat began to rock violently just after 7 a.m.

"My first thought was it was my teenage sons goofing around," says long-time Kelowna resident John Casorso. "But then I thought, 'How could they rock a 35-foot vessel?'"

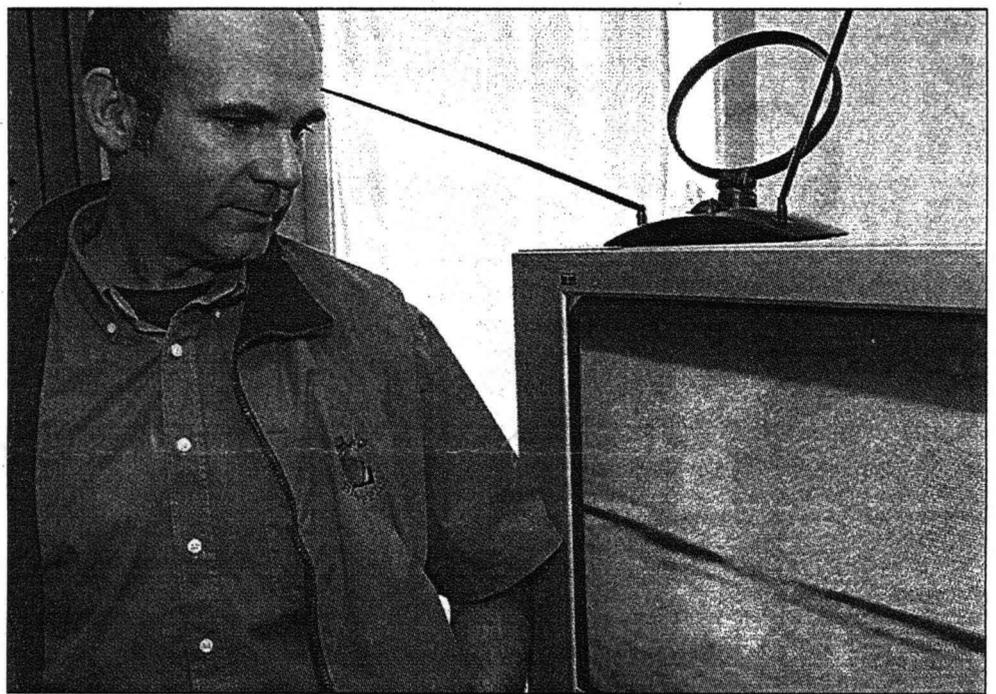
Casorso and his wife joined five others on the deck of the boat, which was moored across the lake from downtown Kelowna, to investigate. They saw, on an otherwise calm lake, what looked like a 10-metre-long black wave moving away from the boat.

Once he regained his wits, Casorso ran for his camera.

His video starts off fuzzy and distorted from a digital zoom. But several minutes into the amateur tape, it clears and Casorso slowly pans from side to side, showing several long, snake-like figures moving across otherwise placid waters. The creatures move out of sight after about 10 minutes.

Casorso says it looked like a family outing, with one large creature about 15 metres long being followed by several smaller ones.

"When they went under the houseboat, you could hear crashing. You could really feel the thrust and the force of their strength," he says. "I



David Wylie — for The Province

John Casorso was vacationing with his family in a houseboat on Okanagan Lake when their houseboat was rocked violently by what they believe could have been Ogoopogo, the mythical creature rumoured to dwell in the massive lake.

don't know if they were chasing something or what."

Casorso says his kids weren't as impressed by the sight. They joked about their dad and fished nonchalantly while he taped.

"I was like 'What the heck?' and my parents were getting all excited," says 17-year-old Josh. "Me and my brothers were laughing because we didn't think there was anything there."

But when they got home and saw the footage on television, the kids stopped joking. In fact, since the sighting, Casorso has shown about 40 friends and family members

the footage. All are amazed, he says.

Only after seeking a slew of second opinions and inspecting digital stills of the footage did he go public.

Ana Celia Casorso says the sighting was a dream come true for her husband.

"My husband always had two wishes. One of them is to fly in a fighter jet, just for a ride. And the other was to see the Ogoopogo," she says.

John Casorso says he wants his experience to add credibility to the idea that the Ogoopogo does exist.

Kelowna resident Arlene Gaal has researched and writ-

ten about the Ogoopogo for almost 30 years. She's collected 15 videos and hundreds of photographs of the creature — or creatures.

"Each incident adds to the puzzle and brings it closer to reality," she says. Casorso's video "certainly shows something very different is in Okanagan Lake, considering we don't have any whales or submarines. Something stirred that boat."

Gaal says there have been nine reported sightings so far this year, but speculates that for every sighting, another goes unreported for fear of ridicule.

Scientists defend pyramid theory

CAIRO, Egypt — A pair of French Egyptologists who suspect they have found a previously unknown chamber in the Great Pyramid urged Egypt's antiquities chief to reconsider letting them test their theory by drilling new holes in the 4,600-year-old structure.

Jean Yves Verd'hurt and fellow Frenchman Gilles Dormion, who has studied pyramid construction for more than 20 years, are expected to raise their views during the ninth International Congress of Egyptologists in Grenoble, France, which starts Monday. They also published a book about their theory this week.

Standing in their way is Zahi Hawass, the director of Egypt's

Supreme Council of Antiquities, who heatedly rejected the theories during a Cairo press conference this week.

"There are 300 theories concerning hidden rooms and other things inside the pyramid, but if I let them all test their theories they will do untold damage to the pyramid, which was built with the blood of Egyptians,"

said Hawass. "I will not let Egyptian blood be damaged by amateurs."

N.W. FL DAILY NEWS, Fort Walton Beach, FL - Sept. 5, 2004 CR: R. Reid