

Title: MILLER, 'ALIENS' TO CONVERGE

Subtitle: Stars of a new alien film will be on hand when the governor dedicates the Extraterrestrial Highway.

Type: Newspaper article

Publication: Las Vegas Review-Journal

Date: March 22, 1996

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CARSON CITY<Sensing a chance for a publicity bonanza, Gov. Bob Miller has decided to dedicate the state's Extraterrestrial Highway on April 18 as part of a promotion for a hot Hollywood alien movie.

Stars of "Independence Day," a movie about an alien attack on the Earth, will make the trip with Miller to Rachel, 140 miles north of Las Vegas, to dedicate Highway 375 as Nevada's Extraterrestrial Highway.

Large signs proclaiming the 98-mile highway north of the Nevada Test Site as a haven for aliens will be unveiled during special ceremonies. UFO experts also will be on hand to lead discussions.

The state Transportation Board, chaired by Miller, proclaimed the road as the Extraterrestrial Highway on Feb. 1. The highway is just north of the secret Area 51 base where the Air Force is believed to have tested the stealth, U-2 and other aircraft.

UFO buffs also claim aliens and their downed aircraft have been taken to the base for study.

Besides unveiling the signs April 18, "Independence Day" producers will dedicate a monument for the movie. The monument is supposed to serve as a beacon for outer-space visitors.

The movie will not be released nationally until July 3, but producers plan a celebration on April 17 in Las Vegas during which selected scenes will be shown.

Scenes from the movie, starring Bill Pullman and Jeff Goldblum, were filmed in West Wendover and Wendover, Utah. "Independence Day" is being tabbed as one of the summer's top movies.

Since the Extraterrestrial Highway was proclaimed, the state has been bombarded by requests for information, said Richard Urey, Miller's press secretary.

Miller visited Los Angeles last month to talk to Twentieth Century Fox, the distributor of "Independence Day," about tying the road dedication in with the movie.

State government officials did not plan to announce the dedication ceremonies until next week, but "Independence Day" producers surprised them with a Wednesday release out of Hollywood.

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