

EAST GRINSTEAD COURIER (NEWS IN FOCUS)  
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## A WALK ON THE WEIRD SIDE — PART SEVEN: UFOs

# Something to hide Mr Soames?

**T**HE plan was simple: following last week's multiple witness sighting of a UFO in August 1995 by two Sharpthorne residents and their friend, this week was supposed to be an interview with Nicholas Soames MP, prospective Parliamentary candidate for the Mid-Sussex constituency and also, by chance, Armed Forces Minister.

The Ministry of Defence shoulders responsibility for UFOs, and Mr Soames is the one to whom parliamentary questions are addressed. But Mr Soames wasn't playing ball. His assistant answered: "He doesn't want to talk about that (UFOs)."

Paranormal investigators love conspiracies and the fact that an MP, in the run up to an election, doesn't want publicity in his chosen constituency seems mighty strange. Is he hiding something? If he knows nothing the minister would obviously want to hide this but, more intriguingly, if he knows something he might be even more anxious to keep this buried.

The MoD's attitude is that it is not interested in UFOs unless they constitute a strategic threat. Well, what constitutes a strategic threat? Did the UFO that hovered over Ditchling Beacon, as reported last week, carry a strategic threat? Who can say? What

Mr Soames did say, in response to a parliamentary question, was that UK airspace was not threatened by a mass UFO-alert in Belgium in 1990.

A string of UFO sightings were recorded causing the Belgian Air Force to launch fighters in a vain attempt to intercept the craft. He was also asked about similarly futile interceptions by British aircraft of UFOs spotted near a nuclear power station in Anglesey in 1990 and 1995. But, apparently, the incidents never happened.

Something else that didn't happen was the UFO crash in Rendlesham Forest, near RAF Woodbridge, in December 1980. The area was under the control of the United States Air Force, as it is the site of a secret radar station and consequently the crash was investigated by American officers.

The MoD denied there was any risk involved here, but by virtue of the American Freedom of Information Act we know just how alarmed those officers were at the time. This, in UFO-circles, is second only to the infamous Roswell crash of 1947. But it was of no strategic defence significance.

The MoD shares responsibility for the safety of our skies with the Civil Aviation Authority. The CAA controls commercial aircraft, airports, airlines, etc. It ensures that every pilot flying for British airlines has to undergo intensive training to cope

with every possible incident that might occur while flying you from A-to-B. Except one: UFOs.

Graham Sheppard is a former British Airways pilot who lectures on UFOs. British Airways' contract of employment prevented him from talking openly about what he'd seen. Why? Because airlines believe passengers will be too scared to fly if they thought their journey might be interrupted by a UFO.

After a recent talk at the Acorn Centre in Railway Approach, he explained the culture of paranoia that airlines have about UFOs and anyone who might have seen one. "The air-crew, the pilots, come under some scrutiny as to their suitability for the job — their sanity...and would that affect the commercial prospects of the airline. Because everyone knows that people who see UFOs are weirdos "It's a percentage thing — they've only got to look at the record. It has an implication for aircraft safety. I've got a document that lists the number of times aeroplanes have taken evasive action (to avoid a UFO).

But they will say: "The number of times a pilot sees a UFO is about once in a career. It's not worth giving them a briefing on this... Although, every time we do a simulator check, every year, we practice emergency depressurisation and descent... something which will never happen in most

pilots' careers, ever." Indeed, Mr Sheppard wrote a briefing paper for pilots explaining what to do in the event of encountering a UFO and presented it to the CAA.

But they refused to sanction it. To do so would have meant that pilots actually needed the training. For 50 years the powers-at-be have known we are not alone in the universe and have kept the truth from us by ridicule, denial and hoax — witness the Roswell "alien autopsy" footage. A hoax but who paid for it and why?

Ministers like Nicholas Soames should remember they are public servants and that as the public we deserve to be told the truth.

If the UFO crash near RAF Woodbridge has no strategic significance what can be wrong with releasing the documents now instead of having to wait till 2010? But if it was significant then the MoD has a lot to answer for.

Anyone who doubts the existence of extra-terrestrial life need only watch the remarkable Messengers of Destiny video shot in Mexico where 17 different people all video-taped the same UFO. Curiously this footage has never been shown on UK TV.

Perhaps, when the Hale-Bopp comet passes us by in the next few weeks, the object that is travelling in its wake — photographed by the Hubble Space Telescope but not released to the public — may turn out to be a UFO. In which case a lot of people are going to look very stupid.

Isn't it about time the truth came out? Messengers of Destiny is available from Nexus, 55 Queens Road, East Grinstead RH19 1BG.

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Nicholas Soames, MP

## Woman 'abducted' by aliens

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**A WOMAN** alerted police at 3am today claiming she and her seven-year-old daughter had been abducted — by aliens. She said her daughter had seen bright lights in the sky and then they were both beamed up into a space ship. The woman told police she and her daughter were later transported back into their home in Swindon, Wiltshire. "She was convinced it happened and she described the aliens as having beards and grey hair," said a Wiltshire police spokesman. "We did go out to investigate, but we didn't spot any lights or see anything suspicious."

# Dennis hears of Oban UFOs

By Moira Kerr

A LOCAL shopkeeper in Oban in the early hours of the morning one day last year watched a red-sphere of light hovering around for 20 minutes, then took off at high speed.

"And another guy was riding his bike at Loch Fochran and he was overtaken by a red-sphere of light which then shot off at great speed."

These are two of the strange, but true, stories which have come to Dennis Hardley's attention since he has made it known that he wants to set up a group to monitor UFO sightings.

### Orange

Dennis himself has made two sightings. The first was in 1987 when Dennis and his wife Dorothy were driving home to Benderloch when: "This object the size of an orange came overhead very slowly and we thought it was going to crash. We watched it for a minute."

On another occasion Dennis, who is keen on aviation, was at the side of the runways at Glasgow Airport, watching air traffic through his telescope, with his son.

### Ball-like

There, through the telescope, the father and son saw metallic ball-like objects zig-zagging across the sky.

Dennis flagged down a passing police car and the police officers asked the police control centre about the object but everyone was baffled by the sighting in 1994. Dennis was told by the Police to report the incident to the Ministry of Defence which he duly did.

The Ministry of



## 'This object the size of an orange came overhead'

Dennis Hardley, 200197

Defence wrote back saying they had no idea what we saw but that it was of no defence significance — but how do they know that, if they don't know what it was?

Stranger still — it has now come to light that masses of similar sightings have been made in Mexico since 1991. They are recorded on a new video and when Dennis saw this he realised the object almost training in the Mexican sky were the same things he had seen at Glasgow Airport.

People from all walks of life and from a variety of respected trades and professions have expressed interest in joining Dennis in a new group which aims to act as a focal point so that anyone who has had a sighting knows there is somewhere locally to record the fact.

The amount of sightings

amazing thing happened. The white line of light tilted and split into two before our very eyes. The two objects that had started off as one then raced off upwards into the sky, in different directions before disappearing into the night air.

Yes, after an extraordinary sighting such as that, I am definitely a believer. Have you had any sightings? Or are you interested in the subject? If you can join the new group by contacting Dennis on 01631 720434.

He said: "Twenty eight people from all walks of life have expressed interest so far."

He adds that the aim is that the group will provide a local channel for people to report any strange sightings, in the strictest confidence if required, so that all available information is documented.

# Mystery shining object sparks UFO probe

EXPERTS are to carry out a full investigation into reports of a slow-moving, shining object seen in the skies over North Norfolk by two policemen.

About 40 people have contacted Fakenham police with sightings of the craft since the story first broke in December.

The policemen tracked the object for 10 miles. Air traffic controllers had no logical explanation for the object, seen shortly before Christmas, and recorded it as a UFO.

The British UFO Research Association has been in contact with the two police officers and asked them to complete questionnaires on the sighting.

PC Andy Collier and Sgt Steve King stared in disbelief as the red and white lights moved across the sky, but they lost sight of the craft when it moved out across the sea at Cromer.

"Steve spotted it first and pointed it out to me. He's not interested in UFOs at all but I am. I got him to stop and took out some binoculars," said PC Collier.

"My first reaction was: 'this is weird'. I knew it wasn't an ordinary aircraft.

"I couldn't really make out the shape of it. It made no noise. There were four lights in a square flashing and it left a vapour trail behind it."

John Copsy of BUFORA said: "We will pass the information to investigators across the country and contact experts to find out if there is any logical explanation for the object."

SKY watchers claim festive visitors from across the universe dropped in on Scotland's UFO hotspot at the weekend.

One woman who saw unearthly lights at Bonnybridge on Saturday night said: "I'd never seen anything like it — it was really eerie."

Secretary Ann Scott and her husband, Brian, were driving home to Tullibody, Clackmannanshire, after visiting relatives in Lanark when they saw the blue-white lights hovering above them for a few seconds.

The lights disappeared, then reappeared and sped off into the distance.

# Mystery grows over lights in the sky

MORE mysterious lights have been spotted in the skies over Scarborough.

Newspaper deliverer Andy Whitaker last week saw what he believed was a UFO with blue and white flashing lights as he was driving along the A171 Scarborough-to-Whitby Road.

Since then two people have come forward.

Basil Good, 85, of Scalby Road, Scarborough, said that he saw lights at

10pm on Thursday over the north-west side of Scarborough.

He said: "I looked out of my bedroom window and saw something moving slowly with flashing lights and I think it was spinning.

"I can only think it was a comet, but it didn't have a tail and it looked to be thousands of miles away."

Carmen Steel, 45, of Bridgewater Chase, Newby, spotted a similar object

over Newby on Friday at 6.30pm.

She said: "I was just walking to my car to go to the shops when I saw something strange. It was oval shaped, with a blue flashing light at one side and a white light on the other side, and it was completely still.

"I went to the shops and when I came back 20 minutes later, it was still there."

A spokesman for the satellite-tracking station RAF Fylingdales said that the base had not received any reports of strange objects over the past few weeks.

"We haven't seen anything unusual. We do get sightings reported to us from time to time and we come up with possible solutions, but what normally happens is that we pass everything on to the Ministry of Defence, which checks them out from there."

# Strange lights spark UFO investigation

BAFFLED villagers have called in UFO experts to probe mysterious lights seen hovering in the Ollerton night sky.

Tuxford residents saw an object above Ollerton and have reported the incident to investigation groups.

Mr Philip Gropazzi (46), of Newcastle Street, Tuxford, was walking his dog when he saw the strange lights.

He contacted neighbours and a group of 11 people saw the object hovering 400ft above the ground before disappearing 30 minutes later.

He said: "It looked like five or six powerful lighthouse beams above cloud level, which were rotating from a central object.

## Similar

"I have lived here for 15 years and in that time I have never seen anything like it. It was obvious that it was not a natural light."

After ringing a UFO telephone line, he was told that a similar sighting had been reported in Somerset in 1995.

Radio producer Mr Roger Waldron (45), of Willow Holt, Sutton-on-Trent, is appealing for people with similar experiences to contact him. He is currently producing a series called *Strange Reports* for BBC Radio which will deal with the world of the paranormal.

He said: "I am looking for ghost

stories, UFOs, strange smells, thunderbolts, fireballs and things that go bump in the night.

"I am keeping the programmes as serious as possible, but there will be a balanced view and I hope listeners will be able to make their own minds up on each issue. The more bizarre the experiences we get the better."

A pilot programme has already been produced and Mr Waldron is hoping to hear from schedulers when it will be aired on Radio 2.

Anyone with an interesting story can contact Mr Waldron on 01777 822396.

up houses on the hillside. But they had no explanation for the original sightings.

Last night UFO expert Ron Halliday, chairman of the Scottish Earth Mysteries research team, said: "Bonnybridge and that whole golden triangle area is a known hotspot for sightings and this certainly matches previous reports."

"We are very interested in researching this sighting in more depth and are taking it very seriously," Bonnybridge (population 5,450) has been dubbed Europe's UFO capital, with thousands of reported sightings in the last five years.

Mother-of-two Mrs Scott, 44, thought she was seeing things until her husband asked: "Did you see that?"

She said: "They were uncanny. Long lights with circular lights at the end in an arc pattern. We can't come up with any other explanation except that it must have been a UFO."

The lights were first spotted at around 10.45pm on the M80, beside Denny, in Stirlingshire.

Worried Perthshire residents who spotted similar lights above the hills 15 miles from the first sighting called Central Scotland Police.

A police spokesman said they had put the second sightings down to lit-

# Mystery 'UFO' was an airship

THE MYSTERY of Chineham's close encounter with a UFO last week has been solved by the Gazette.

The "massive green object"—spotted by over 30 callers to our hot-line—was in fact an airship.

The airship, advertising American computer company AltaVista, was flying from White Waltham Airport near Maidenhead.

A spokesman from the airfield confirmed the 45 metres long craft was over the area between 3pm and

7pm last Thursday.

The airship was lit internally, explaining its strange appearance described by one eyewitness as "an amazing mass of lights".

Calls flooded in after the Gazette reported the sighting on Monday.

Most, like Philip Williams, of Falkland Road, Popley, identified it as a blimp.

Mr Williams saw it while on the A33 from Reading back to Basingstoke at around 6pm. He said: "It was

definitely an airship, but it did look pretty spooky".

But other callers insisted what they saw could not be explained away.

A 13-year-old from Tadley said: "I'm sure it wasn't an airship. There were flashes of light coming out of it and it was a weird shape, really white around the edges."

Michael Schofield, of Kintyre Close, Oakley, claimed that six pictures he took of the "object" uncannily turned out blank.

## Have the Martians landed?

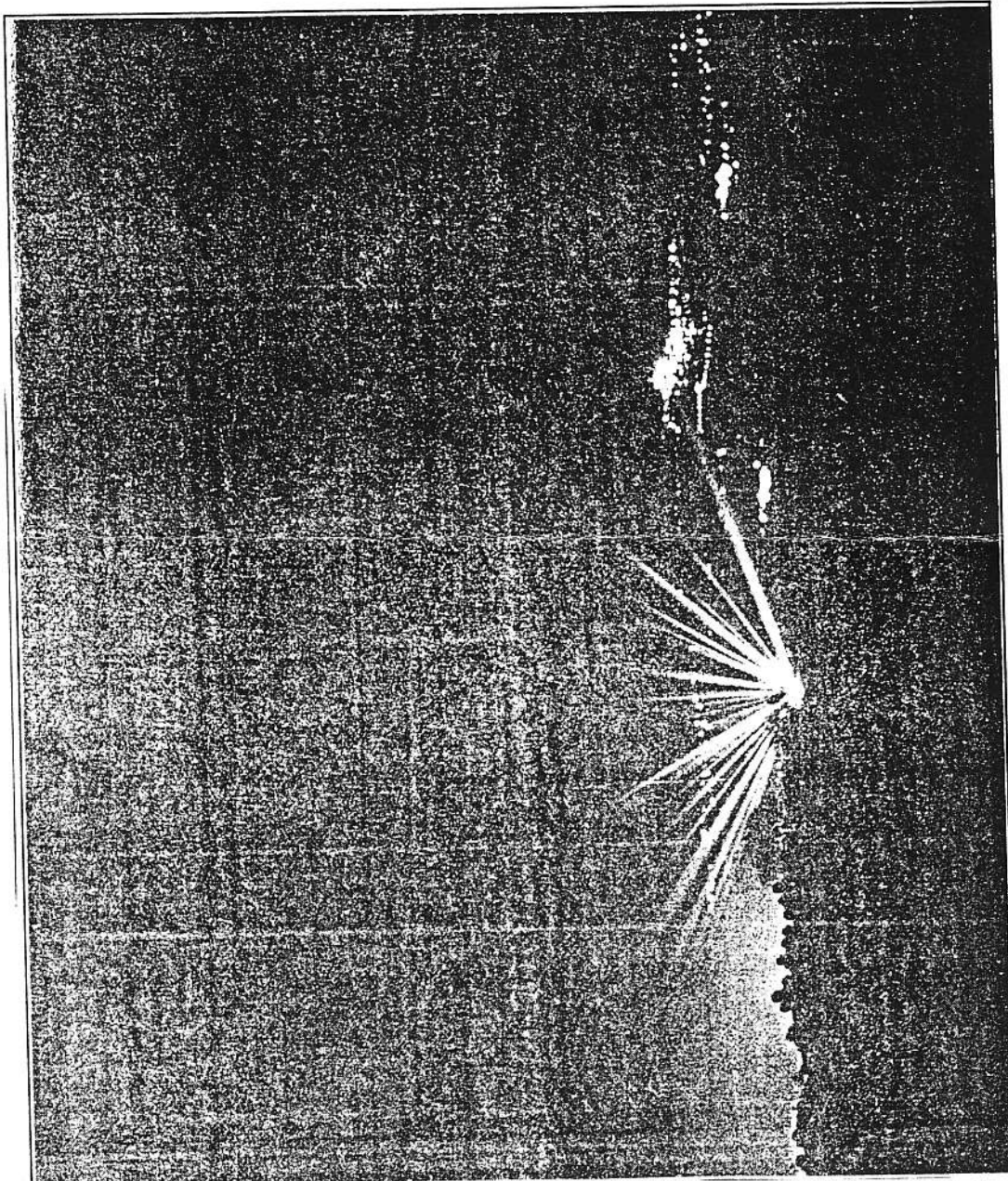
Dazzling lights in the night sky between Chichester and Bognor Regis this week sparked off calls from local residents fearing that the Martians had landed.

The West Sussex UFO Awareness Group said eyewitnesses reported bright white lights above houses in the area.

One man started filming them on his video camera, thinking it was a UFO.

However, the source of the lights was a 6,600 watt searchlight being used by the Viking Motor Corporation, at Elbridge, on the A259 Chichester-Bognor road.

Marketing manager Mrs Rebecca Wrattling said the light show, visible over a 20-mile radius, was to publicise the opening of new showrooms and the launch of the Chrysler Voyager this weekend.



The Viking searchlight in action.

# Brazilian UFO expert boldly goes to Bonnybridge

JOHN SMITH

ACROSS the vast emptiness of space they boldly went in search of new life forms.

The four little brown aliens may have come in peace on their inter-galactic mission. They may even have passed on their immense knowledge to benefit mankind and lead us into a new age of wisdom and understanding.

But now we'll never know. Because after their spaceship crashed in the Amazonian rain-forest, Brazilian soldiers tracked the aliens down and shot them.

At least that's the story a leading UFO researcher will tell an audience gathered near Bonnybridge, Scotland's "UFO hotspot", this weekend.

Professor A J Gevaerd claims that the first anniversary of the incident, 20 January, has brought forward two more credible witnesses to add to the 30 who have spoken at length to him and fellow researchers about the capture of the aliens.

Yesterday Prof Gevaerd, who is Brazilian, described last year's incident as the most important since the well-documented case where "aliens" were said to have been captured at Roswell in the United States 50 years ago.

He told *The Scotsman* that the extra-terrestrials captured close to the city of Varghina in central Brazil near the Amazon were naked, with dark brown skin. "They had two toes on their feet, each hand had three fingers, and they had big eyes and small protuberances on their heads which looked like horns.

"They smelled bad ... it was like ammonia. People close by said that the smell was so strong that their eyes were running."

Prof Gevaerd said that at 2am on Saturday, 20 January last year a US satellite picked up a strange object entering the earth's atmosphere, heading towards Brazil. It had crashed in the state of Minas Gerais.

After reports of "a strange animal" on the edge of a forest

near Varghina, soldiers from a nearby military base had captured it, apparently alive, in the early hours. It had been conveyed to the base.

Prof Gevaerd said: "In the afternoon three girls coming from work close to the area saw a second creature kneeling beside a wall, with a strange suffering look in its eyes as if it was hurt. They thought it was the devil, and ran away."

He said the creature had been captured, taken alive to a general hospital in the city, then removed to a smaller private hospital, where it had remained for 36 hours. It had then been taken, dead, to the same military base.

Prof Gevaerd said that UFO researchers later spoke to a lawyer, who used to work for the military, who told them he had seen two pairs of soldiers emerge from the same area of forest around noon on 20 January carrying two bags.

"In one there was a dark-skinned creature moving, while the one in the other bag was not. Earlier he had heard shots from the area, and he recognised the sound as being the same as weapons used at the military operation where he had worked."

Prof Gevaerd said that autopsies had then been performed on all four creatures by Brazil's leading pathologist, Dr Padan Palhares, at Campinas University near Sao Paulo. The doctor denied carrying out any such post-mortem examinations.

Prof Gevaerd said that he and fellow ufologists had spoken to at least 30 witnesses, including soldiers involved in the operation. Prof Gevaerd added: "All the pieces fit together. There is no way it can be a fake ... all the evidence is undeniable."

Prof Gevaerd is one of several leading international ufologists who will deliver lectures at Falkirk town hall on Saturday, some three miles from Bonnybridge.

Since 1994, several hundred people have reported seeing UFOs in night-time skies in the area, but no aliens - yet.

# New UFO sighting

UNIDENTIFIED flying objects have again been spotted over Stroud, with reports of sightings over Rodborough Common last week.

This week an object was seen over Minchinhampton Common by a group of more than a dozen customers at the Amberley Inn.

"We watched it for over an hour last night," landlord Julian Court told the *News and Journal* on Saturday.

"It was just in one place the whole time with a big shining beam going round and backwards and forwards.

"It was definitely not a plane or a helicopter because it was too high and it wasn't

the comet because of the moving beam. Through binoculars we could see blue on the outside and it was the shape of a saucer."

"We've had nothing flying over here for months so it's certainly not ours," said Alan Pearson, RAF Commander at Fairford.

UFO investigators are planning a night watching the skies above Rodborough after recent sightings in the area. County investigators from Circular Forum will be looking skyward from the second car park past Rodborough Fort on Good Friday, March 28 at 8.30pm.

For details contact Robin Cole on 01242 577629.

## WIGAN REPORTER

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# Just what is this 'black triangle?'



HELLO and welcome once again. This week there's an interesting account of the now famous 'black triangle' this time seen over Shevington.

A woman and her young daughter were travelling home when they spotted the object in the skies above them. When they got home they both drew the object they had seen and their sketches were identical.

The woman says: "I was travelling home from my mother's house and I reached the T-junction at Church Lane, Shevington at 5.35pm. I was waiting to turn left into Broad'oth Lane on my way home to Appley Bridge. As I was waiting, my daughter - who is nine-years-old - asked me what was in the sky. She was very excited so I tried to lean over to see through her window. I couldn't stretch over far enough to see but as I looked up through the sunroof of my car I saw a large triangular-shaped craft with a red

flashing light at each corner.

In the middle of the underside of the craft was what appeared to be a mass of blue/white flashing light. The craft was at about the height that a helicopter flies at and was not travelling very fast or very slow. Although it was quite dark, it wasn't too dark to see the shape of the craft. I turned left and then stopped the car in the bus stop immediately on the left. I got out of the car, the object was now moving away towards the direction of Heintz. There was no noise from it at all."

The woman finishes by saying: "As you can imagine, at 5.35pm there were a lot of other people about as well. Surely someone else saw it?"

(One interesting

point the woman made was that the craft was flying with a flat edge going forward, not one of its tips.

Did you see this weird craft? The date was Wednesday, January 15 and the time was 5.35pm.

● Don't forget this month's WasPa meeting at The Orwell on Monday. This month's guest is Nick Rose, researcher for Sue Blackmore and the title of the meeting is Reality and Imagination - a postcard from the edge.

The meeting was to be held in the History Shop in Rodney Street due to refurbishments at The Orwell but it has now switched back and will be held in The Orwell.

The focus of the meeting is the frequently experienced sense of paralysis featured in many abduction cases.

Any item to be included in UFO Update should be sent to UFO Update, Wigan Reporter, Martland Mill, Martland Mill Lane, Wigan WN5 0JX. Tel 228080.

## LUTON NEWS

12 FEB 97

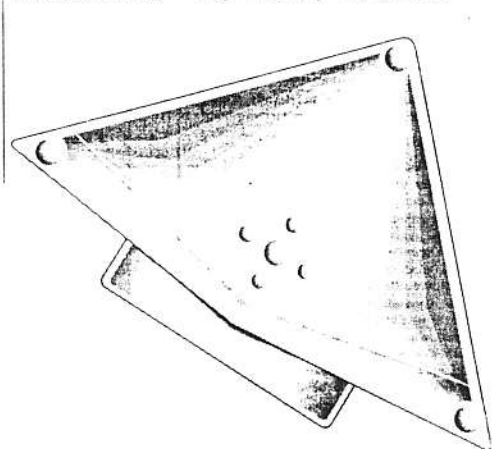
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ON Monday, February 3, I was stargazing with by binoculars, when all of a sudden one of them started zig zagging across the sky. I watched this happen for 20 minutes, then two more objects appeared. All three were white balls of light. Sometimes I couldn't keep up with them. I'm not sure if I was looking at shooting stars, meteors, or in fact UFOs. Now and again the objects were getting fairly close to my house. Even with binoculars I found it difficult to make them out. It wasn't any normal aircraft.

Acroplanes wouldn't move the way I saw them move. After a while two of them shot out of sight, while the third one hovered for a short while before it too disappeared.

Unfortunately, I don't have any camera shots or video footage to show what I saw, but I thought it would be nice to find out from any ufologists what it was I saw. I would like to remain anonymous, but if possible would you print the name and address of where I can contact ufologists so that I could write to them myself. What I saw was no hoax and I'm really interested in finding out. - NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED.

● Any ufologists out there should contact the Luton News and we'll put our correspondent in touch.



# 'Beam me up Scotty' had nothing on town motor firm's launch as UFO mystery solved

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THERE'S loads to tell you this week UFO fans starting with yet another sighting of our 'black triangle' friend.

This latest sighting comes in from an UpHolland man and his three children who ALL saw the craft.

In his own words our man (Brian) writes: "I would like to tell you of a sighting I and my three children had on February 7 at 6.30pm.

"I was travelling from Ashurst/Skelmersdale to UpHolland where my mother lives. We were just turning onto a straight road when to my right, I saw a very bright light. I knew what was coming because I have seen it before in October 96.

It was the triangle...I speeded up to get on to the straight part of the road. It was about 200 yards in front going across the road towards Wigan then turned towards Chequers Lane.

"It turned again and I stopped the car. We all got out and watched in amazement as it passed over our heads.

"It was definitely a triangle shape with a light in each corner, very bright.

"Not a sound came

from it and the size of it was huge. I told my friends but they all think I'm crackers but me and my children know what we saw."

THE next meeting of WasPsi is on Monday, February 24 at The Orwell. Start time is 8pm.

David Cayton will give an illustrated talk on the subject of crop circles. Admission is £2.

A PUBLISHING company down in London are inviting budding young writers to send them short stories on the subject of aliens, alien abductions, unexplained phenomena, ghosts, poltergeists and wraiths.

Points to note: No single story should exceed 1500 words, entrants must be over 16, there is no entry fee, royalties will be paid, those not included in the anthology may receive a short critique of their work and how it might be improved, entries of special merit will be considered for publication, SAE for return of material is essential.

Send your short stories to: Hamilton & Co Publishers, 115 Stamford Road, London, E6 1LP; telephone 0181 548 1814.

## Aircraft enthusiast puzzled by strange flashing lights

quickly," he said. "If it was an aircraft I have never seen anything like it before. It was exactly the same as what I saw at the Spa cliff lift about two years ago."

the lights he said they were whizzing around erratically in all directions at great speed.

A171 Scarborough to Whitby road at 9.30pm when he spotted strange blue and white lights overhead.

A SCARBOROUGH man says he is baffled after witnessing what appeared to be bright lights from a UFO in the night sky.

Scarborough and Whitby police said they had received no other reports of the lights.

Then near the Sneaton road the lights appeared to do a U-turn and disappear. He said that the craft made no sound. "They were dotting around extremely

Being a keen commercial and military aircraft enthusiast, he followed the lights for 15 minutes. Although Mr Whitaker, 38, was able to keep up with

Andy Whitaker, who works for the Evening News, was delivering papers to Whitby on Thursday night on the

RELAX, earthlings.

Following our revelations that an alien space craft had circled over Accrington last week, terrestrial sources have released unclassified information to us which have allayed fears of an Independence Day-style invasion.

Special agents from the Observer were detailed to conduct inquiries after Mrs Marjorie Clegg, of Whitewell Road, Accrington, contacted us to say she had seen a UFO circling above the clouds near her home.

However, just when it seemed that Martians, or some other aliens, had been conducting their own investigation into Hyndburn's everyday life, staff at Accrington firm Lythgoe Motors got in touch to solve the enigma.

Janice Guilfoyle, who works at the Milnshaw Lane premises, explained: "We had two launch nights at our new premises, in which our General Sales Manager Tom Robinson had the idea of hiring some special lights to mark the occasion.

### JIM WILKINSON boldly closes X-file case

"On the Friday night Mrs Clegg saw something, the lights were set up along the frontage of our new showroom and the beams were going even further than normal.

"We hired them from a Bacup firm, Valley Sound and Lighting, to attract attention, so you could say they worked!"

Janice added: "I can understand people thinking it was a spaceship, as there were 20-odd beams and they made circles all around the sky."

### Revolving

The only uncanny element to the tale is that Janice used to be part of the same netball team as Marjorie's daughter Barbara....or is it?

Because, for one resident of the area, the "visitation" brought back memories of a similar close encounter almost two decades ago.

James Bradshaw, 62, of Peel Park Avenue, Accrington told us: "In 1977 I was walking near the Coppice one November evening and I saw a craft hovering above.

"It was about 20 feet away and more than one hundred foot high, with large revolving lights.

"My son Martin and I could hear a faint droning noise and watched it travel across the fields, over Burnley Road and towards Accrington.

"Two years later exactly the same thing happened again."

Mr Bradshaw's son unfortunately died of leukaemia shortly afterwards, but his father has no doubts what he saw.

"It was a space craft, no doubt about it. Your article stirred something in me, because it was seen in just the same area.

"I came into the Observer offices on Edgar Street to report it and they looked at me like I was gormless. But I know what I saw...."

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## What is going on?

Madam - The "blue metallic sphere" travelling from east to west over the common on March 7 might have come from the same experimental laboratory as the sphere of white light travelling in the same direction, which I saw from South Woodchester late one evening last July. Perhaps your reporter can find out what is going on at the MOD, Aston Down?

David Gould

Highcroft, South Woodchester

SCARBOROUGH EVENING NEWS & MERCURY

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# The caring counsellor who now specialises in abductions – by aliens

By Jane Wilkinson  
 Daily Post Staff

EVERY day, Eric Morris receives a handful of letters that read like stories from the X-Files.

Alien landings, glowing space craft and unearthly encounters are among the most common recollections from people across the country.

But as co-founder of Britain's only alien abduction counselling service, Eric prefers to treat the tales as science fact not science fiction.

"I receive dozens of calls and letters from people who have inexplicable missing hours or say they have been abducted by aliens," said the 43-year-old who runs the British UFO Studies centre from his home in Winsford.

"There was a lady in Chester who had experienced various abductions. She claimed she was impregnated by alien sperm and had offspring. I totally believe her. She had scarring on her body that can't be accounted for."

Such was the demand for help that, last year, Eric gave up his job as a qualified nurse to set up the Cheshire-based Abduction Research Counselling Centre.

## Bizarre

He shies away from hypnosis, which he claims can be dangerous, but instead uses relaxation techniques to regress people back.

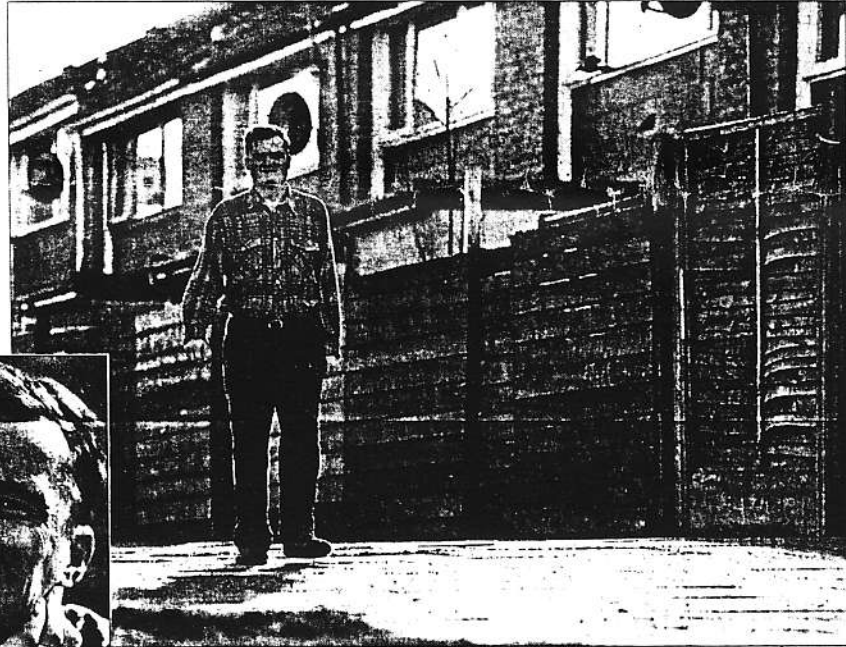
The results have been bizarre. One 64-year-old woman from Essex believes she was abducted by a blue reptile-like alien, who taught her a strange language, called Sencsar. Eric has taken tapes of the vowel-like sounds to various colleges but no-one can understand them.

Another teenager encoun-



□ DOWN TO EARTH: UFO expert Eric Morris with his feet firmly on the ground

Pictures: CLIFF BRETT



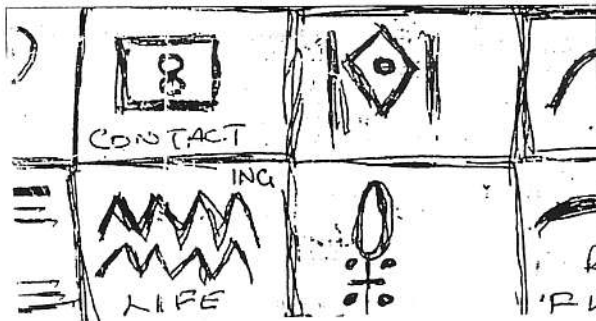
tered a UFO while cycling home. He called his mother two hours later, shaking and pale and unable to say what had happened. The boy now has a lump on his knee, which Eric believes has been implanted.

But while Eric claims one out of four memories are genuine, some do prove to be false. Stress, migraine

and epilepsy can be reasons behind odd recollections – and there have also been several hoaxes.

Eric, who served 15 years in the Royal Navy and has counselled Falklands veterans, said: "To people who think I'm a nutcase, I would say 'Fine, but come along to one of our meetings, and hear what's being said.'"

## 'Dozens of people call, claiming to have lost hours'



□ ALIEN language or doodles? – the strange hieroglyphics drawn by someone who claimed to be abducted by aliens

## Bizarre theory to killings

A UFO investigator from Filey has offered an "X-Files"-type theory for the slaughter of nine sheep near Scarborough linked to sightings of a big cat.

For nearly two years several reports of a panther-like creature roaming the countryside around Scarborough have flooded into the Evening News office.

The "big cat" explanation is most often suggested when animals have been found killed or mutilated, such as Pauline Sandiman's nine sheep at South Moor Farm near Skipton, which were all found recently with their stomachs slashed open.

Local man David Kennelly, an expert in UFO and paranormal activity who was trained by BUFORA, the British UFO Research Association, believes the sheep could have been killed by a Morph – an ancient mythical being which has the ability to switch from savage beast to man within seconds.

His comments come just days after vet and paranormal investigator Tony Todd, from Skipton, said he believed something far more sinister was responsible for the sheep killings, and announced plans to visit Skipton to discover more about the bizarre slaughter of the animals.

Filey-based Mr Kennelly, who recently became an investigator for Global Investigation Systems, a worldwide agency which collates UFO statistics, has also put forward a theory for the strange blue lights seen above Bridlington recently which were reported to the police by dozens of startled residents.

He believes the lights were the blue flashes given off by the after-burners of a passing Stealth Bomber, the highly sophisticated American aircraft which is able to travel undetected by radar.

Mr Kennelly says he is prepared for accusations that he is a "nutter", but says that strange incidents sometimes have to be viewed in an unusual manner in order to produce explanations.

When he was 11, Mr Kennelly and a friend claim to have seen two extra terrestrial creatures in a dark alley in the form of two glowing men.

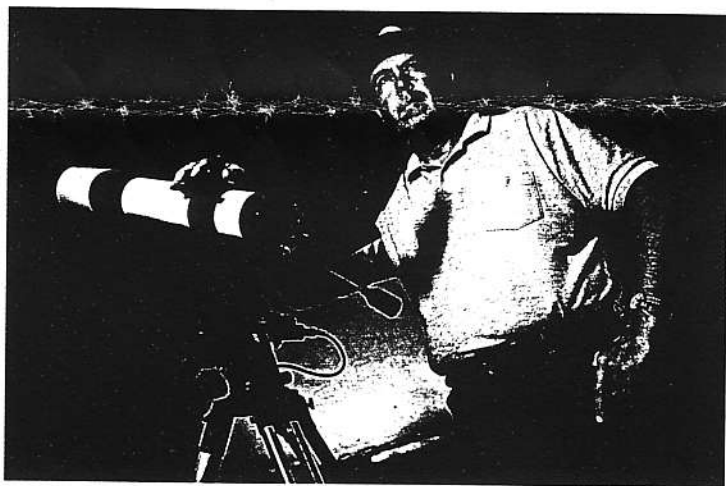
His explanation that the Morph creature could be responsible for the recent sheep killings near Scarborough – and all the other numerous big-cat sightings throughout the Scarborough region – would explain why there is never ever evidence left at the scene of a sighting.

Mr Kennelly says he is available to investigate any paranormal activity in the Scarborough area and has urged people to page him immediately if they need expert assistance on (01426) 352336.

"There's not a lot of people out there who believe in UFOs, I do," he said.

In the high desert of **Nevada** lies the holy grail of **UFO**-spotters, the top secret **Area 51** base. And right next to it runs the **Extraterrestrial Highway**, a stretch of road that seems to link **Mulder** and **Scully** with **Morecambe** and **Wise**

# HOME ON THE STRANGE



**Story: Richard Grant** Photography: Tony Olmos



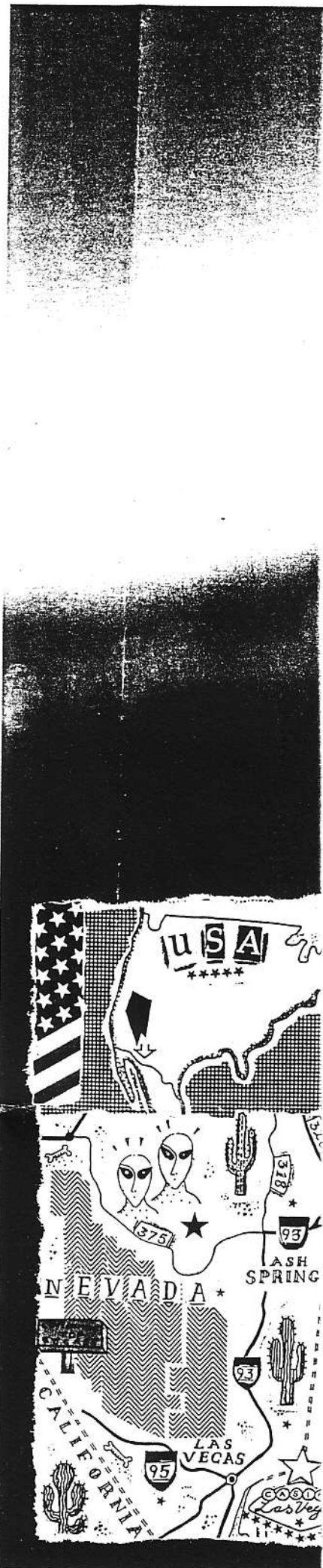
To get to Nevada's UFO country, you drive north from Las Vegas for 150 miles, through a remote, windswept expanse of high desert. Dust devils whirl across the road like miniature tornadoes. Tumbleweeds tumble. A car goes by every 20 miles or so. You drive across dry lake beds the size of Surrey, through barren mountain ranges and dwarf forests of Joshua trees – weird, spiky, deranged-looking plants that reminded the early Mormon pioneers of the prophet Joshua raising his arms to heaven. Soon after Ash Springs (population 200), you turn northwest and, sure enough, there is an official state highway sign with pictures of flying saucers on it and the words 'Extraterrestrial Highway'.

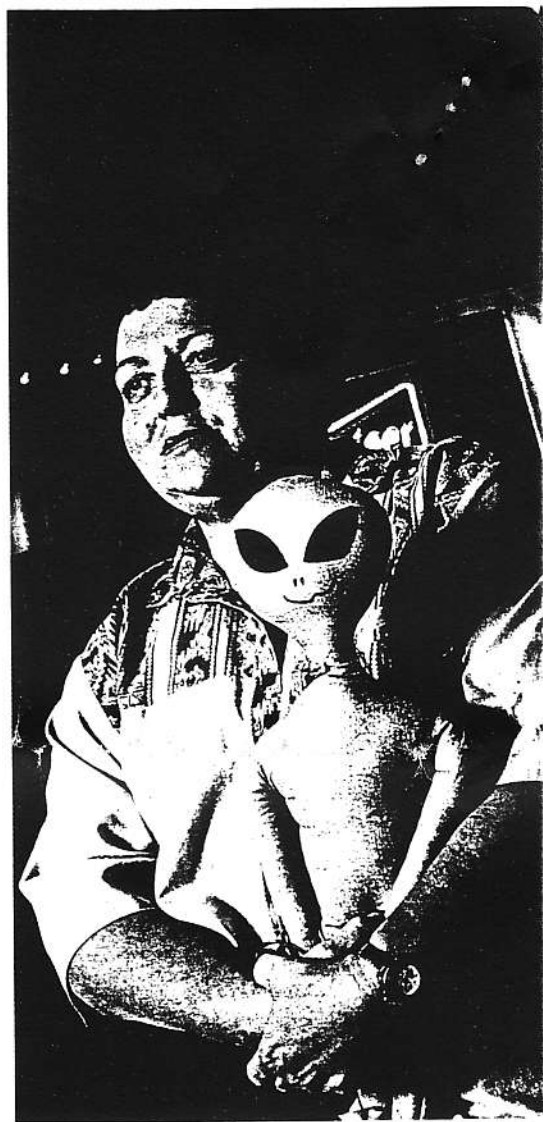
Also known as Nevada Highway 375, the ET Highway passes along the flanks of a military base known as Groom Lake or Area 51, a weapons and aircraft testing facility so top secret that the US government denies its existence, despite the armed guards patrolling its perimeters, and the fact that you can see the base from a nearby mountain top. In April

1989, a self-described astrophysicist named Bob Lazar came forward on a Las Vegas television show and claimed he had worked on a captured alien spaceship at the base, trying to 'reverse-engineer' its technology, which he described in precise detail. He said he saw nine of the saucer-shaped craft, stored in underground hangars, but reported no live aliens.

The story made a brief splash in the national tabloid newspapers and TV shows, then faded out when Lazar failed to prove his credentials as a scientist (he claims the government has destroyed all his records), and pleaded guilty to an unrelated criminal charge involving a brothel. In the UFO community, however, Lazar's claims created a huge stir, and, ever since, this lonely desert highway has been a magnet for ufologists, abductees, conspiracy theorists, aspiring cult leaders, religious prophets, and characters such as Ambassador Merlyn Merlin II, who claims to be an alien from the star Draconis. Rumour has it that he is actually a human being called David Solomon, who ate too much LSD in his younger days.

Nearly all of the visitors have seen strange lights and flying objects over Area 51 and hundreds of intergalactic conspiracy theories have sprung up to explain them. Most of the





Life at The Little A'Le'Inn makes *The X-Files* look like *EastEnders*. Owners Joe (at top) and Pat (main pic) Travis, aided by wiggy waitress Mary Marrier (above) have a highly extraterrestrial hostelry

ls have seen weird things in the sky as well, they tend to attribute them to the earthly ponos and aircraft being tested at the base.

his is where the Northrop Grumman lth bomber was developed, for example, ch looks like a classic flying saucer when ved from the front, and seems to come out owhere when it flies overhead.

he campaign to get Highway 375 officially gnated as the 'Extraterrestrial Highway' was by Ambassador Merlyn Nerlin, who ves that alien spaceships from the planet ha Centauri will be landing here in 1999. e ambassador, who looks like a young aham Lincoln, made repeated trips from his 'bassy' in a Silver City trailer park to the e capital in Carson City, tirelessly harangu- the legislature and state government on the n highway issue. Perhaps a more influential byist was the Fox film corporation, who nted a publicity stunt for their summer alien ckbuster *Independence Day*, whose climatic nes are set in a replica of Area 51.

Fox agreed to contribute an undisclosed ount to the state coffers and fund a big ashly ceremony to name the highway. The rist commission thought the designation ght attract more visitors to the arca, and

so, on April 19 this year, the Nevada Assembly unanimously passed the Extraterrestrial Alien Highway Bill. The hearing was a light-hearted occasion, with many prominent local politicians wearing alien masks and pointy ears on the Assembly floor, and handing each other copies of the Klingon dictionary.

To a background of ethereal sound effects, Assemblyman Roy Neighbours said that the alleged UFO sightings "are part of the fantasy and excitement of the tourist attraction that is Nevada." The governor, Bob Miller, waggishly spread a rumour that the highway signs would be placed flat on the ground, so the aliens would be able to see them from their spaceships and know where to land.

Aside from the Fox corporation, the main benefactor has been a bar/restaurant/motel called The Little A'Le'Inn, in Rachel (pop. 100), the only settlement along the 99 miles of the ET Highway. A sign by the door reads:

**"Welcome UFO's and Crews  
Kneepsheep Nknoock Ip Nkhook  
EARTHLINGS WELCOME."**

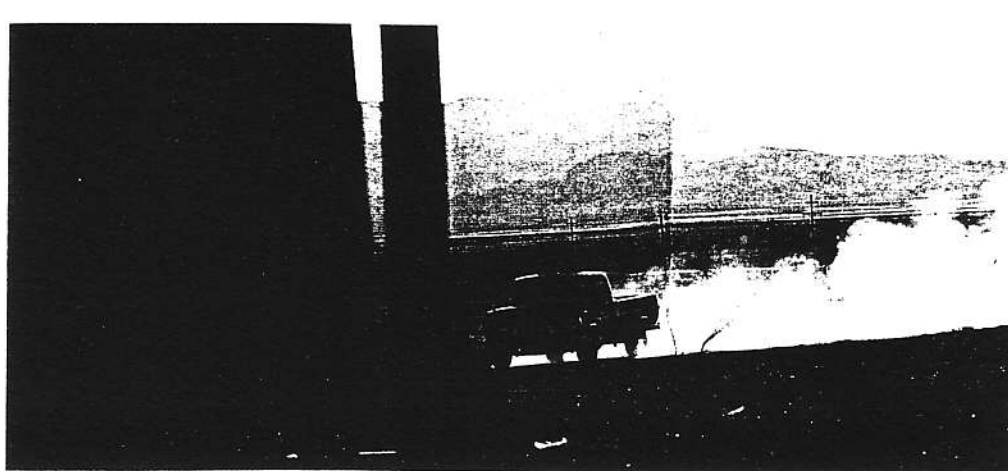
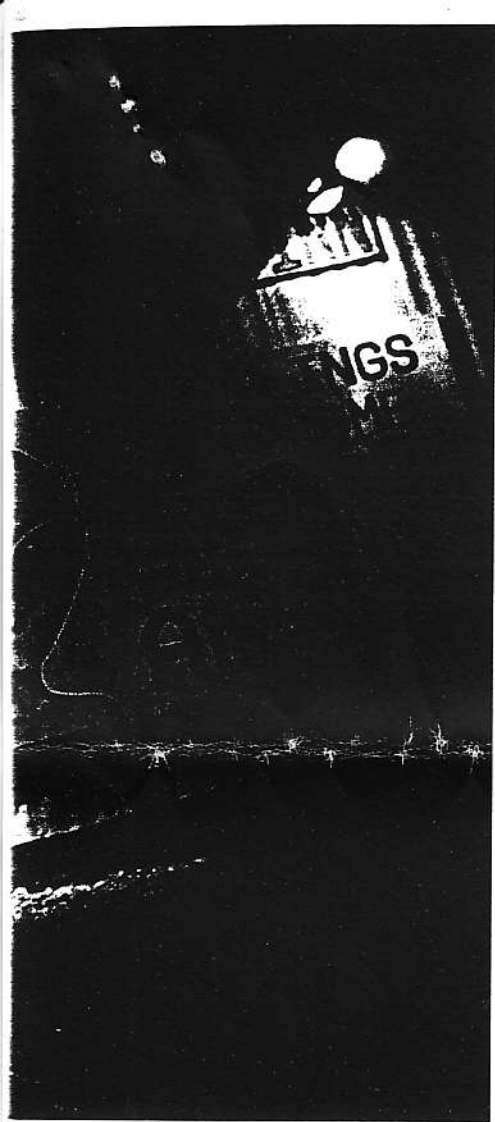
The building is made out of two trailers joined together. The walls are covered with photographs of flying saucers, and posters advocating the far right-wing views of the

establishment's heavily-armed owners, Joe and Pat Travis. By the cash register is a mass of alien-themed tourist souvenirs – T-shirts, caps, coffee mugs, fridge magnets, figurines – and a small library of UFO books. I pick one at random, *The Abductions Of Walter*, which describes having sex with a shapeshifting alien on board a spaceship. There are Alien Burgers on the restaurant menu ('they're out of this world!') and at the bar you can order a Beam Me Up Scotty (Scotch, Jim Beam and 7-Up).

Despite its playful tourist trappings, the Little A'Le'Inn is a haven for true believers. The waitress, Mary Marrier, a very sweet and very odd woman, claims to be in constant telepathic communication with space aliens. And her ill-fitting wigs and tiny stature, bizarre outfits and glitter-spangled cheeks, have led to speculation that she herself is not of this world. UFO devotees flock here from all over America, from Australia, Japan, Britain, Germany, France and South Africa, and find a place where even the wildest theories receive a serious and sympathetic hearing. As Joe Travis puts it: "A lot of our customers have been abducted by aliens. This is one of the only places they can go where no-one kids them about it."

It's hard to determine whether Joe truly





**And on Highway 375, the tourists flock to wait for the little green geezers to turn up. Sadly, nobody has as yet arrived in a saucer. In the bottom of a beer glass, though, weird things tend to occur**

believes in space aliens, or just keeps an open mind because they're good for business.

He tells a story about a thirsty alien materialising at the bar, a 'Grey' about four foot tall – "So I told him, hell, if you can pass through that steel door, you can open your own beer" – but he tells it with a twinkle in his eye.

"This alien business has got a light side and a serious side," he says. "None of us really knows what the hell is going on at the airbase, because the government won't tell us. This is America, goddammit! The government is supposed to answer to the people, not to these goddamn bankers and secret societies and international communists..."

This is Joe Travis' real obsession. He believes that a global conspiracy, led by a shadowy cabal of international financiers, is plotting to take away his guns and enslave him to a one-world police state – the New World Order so feared by America's militias. As he gets on to the subject (and it is hard to keep him off it), his bearded face turns bright red. Veins pound in his temples. He swigs and puffs at his ever-present beer and cigarette with new venom and slams his fist down on the bar. "Total world domination! That's what they're after. They already control the US government. They're

manufacturing diseases right now to bring the world population down to 2.5 million. Lives mean nothing to these people! We've got to fight now while we've still got the chance and the goddamn weapons to make a difference..."

This is not an unusual belief in rural Nevada, and the local ranchers at the bar nod along. "Damn right. When they come to take away our guns, they gonna have a fight on their hands."

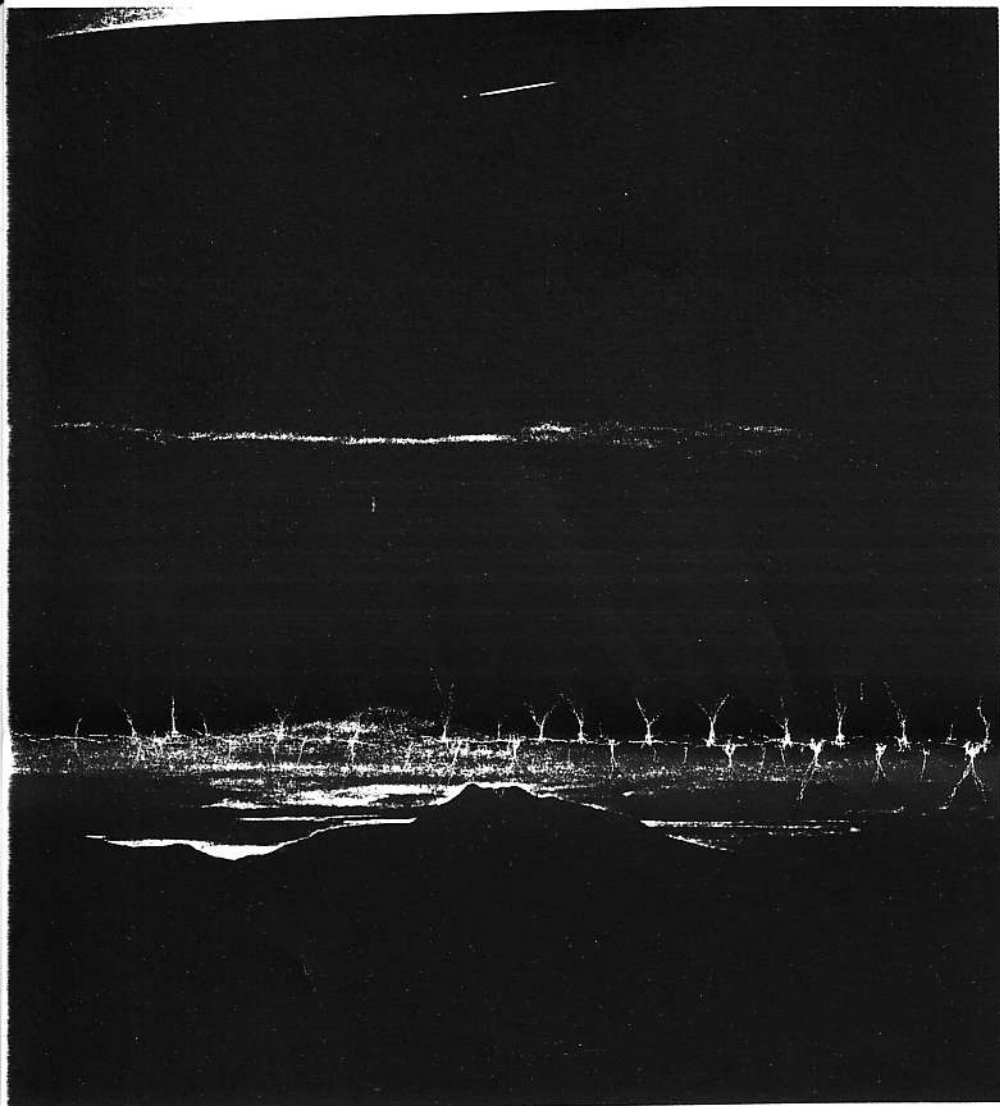
It is this mixture of UFO believers and paranoid Western gun freaks that gives the Little A'Le'Inn its special character. Sometimes the two strains mingle and a theory will travel down the bar that the government is cloning aliens at Area 51 for a mock invasion of America, which they will stage as a pretext for stripping citizens of their firearms and other rights as free Americans. And someone else will respond that what's really happening is that the government has cut a deal with the aliens, to allow them to abduct humans and conduct sexual experiments on them.

At dusk, the rednecks carry on drinking. One wakes up bleary, "Whar am I? Whar's ma beer? Oh yeah. Slurp." The UFO-watchers leave the bar, climb into their vehicles and head down the Extraterrestrial Highway to its most famous landmark: The Black Mailbox. It looks

like any other rural mailbox, but is reputed to mark America's premier UFO-watching spot.

Some ufologists contend that an alien spaceship called Old Faithful can be seen here at 4.50am every Thursday morning. It turns out that Old Faithful coincides exactly with a Boeing 737 bringing workers from Las Vegas to the base. The plane flies directly towards the Black Mailbox with its landing lights on, appearing to hover motionless. Unperturbed, the faithful are now insisting that Old Faithful is an alien spaceship that turns into a 737 just before landing, for disguise purposes.

Tonight, there are about ten people at The Black Mailbox, with binoculars and deckchairs, and the atmosphere is chatty and relaxed, everyone enjoying the amazing show of stars in the high desert sky. Resident expert Chuck Clark points out interesting astronomical phenomena with his telescope, and calms down the more eager watchers: "Nope. That's a passenger jet. Nope. That's a car coming over the ridge. Nope. That's a satellite." Clark comes across very earnest and scientific, a nuts-and-bolts man trying to conduct some serious research among the wackos. His UFO sighting is very precisely described: "It hovered 20 feet above the ground and then suddenly shot to



**That light in the sky – is it alien forces? Or a passing Boeing? Probably. However, Meredith Clark (above) swears that she's been abducted. And now has binoculars growing out of the side of her head**

he right. It went 4.8 miles in 1.7 seconds and t stopped on a dime. At that speed, there should have been a boom but there wasn't."

The anthropology of UFO believers is a fledgling science but a few categories may be tentatively advanced. Chuck Clark is an example of the traditional saucerist, a devotee of the craft's hardware, who believes in sightings but is uncomfortable with abductions and aliens right here, right now.

Then, a little further out there, you have the abductionists. Unbelievably, there are now 3.9 million Americans who claim to have been abducted by space aliens, the vast majority of them women. Men get into hardware, women tend to get more into the relationships; the classic abduction story centres around a mind-blowing sexual encounter with an alien, who typically can shapeshift into a greek god or a quarterback or a rock star.

Then there are the hardcore, beetle-browed conspiracists, and the patently unhinged like Ambassador Merlin or the young man here tonight who claims to receive religious prophecies through plates of food.

The abductionists are represented by Meredith Clark of San Francisco, who 'recovered' the traumatic memory of her abduction

during hypnosis, performed by a hypnotist who charges \$100 an hour and specialises in retrieving abduction memories. It all makes for some curious eavesdropping. "We think they're on the backside of a genetic curve. They're unable to reproduce because of some kind of nuclear accident on their planet so what they're doing is trading hardware with the government in return for our eggs and sperm..." "Ever hear of a man named Jefferson D'Souza? He's a hybrid mutant from Brazil, half human, half alien..." "This is all bullshit! They've only got three fingers so how are they going to build a flying saucer? Huh? You answer me that!"

During the four days and two nights I spend on the Extraterrestrial Highway, I meet only one UFO researcher with a sense of humour. His name is Glenn Campbell, a 35-year-old former computer programmer from Boston, who has led the fight against government secrecy in the area, primarily by satirising it. He puts out the witty, sardonic *Area 51 Viewer's Guide*, which concludes that all the sightings in the area can be explained by weapons, flares and earthly aircraft, and is banned at the Little ALe'Inn for its scepticism. Campbell also posts every fact, rumour and theory emanating from Area 51 on the World Wide Web (the address

is <http://www.ufomind.com>, if you really insist). "UFO belief is a kind of folk religion for the technological age and I consider myself a folklorist," he says. "I collect these stories, circulate them on the Web, and do my best to assess them for accuracy and plausibility. Trying to muck my way through all this drivel and keep a level head is an invigorating challenge."

Campbell is not willing to discount the possibility of alien craft at Area 51. "99 per cent of what you hear is nonsense, but it's wrong to dismiss everything on that basis. Lazar's story is impossible to confirm but it is intelligent and precisely detailed and worthy of further investigation. And now we have another source, a 70-year-old retired engineer who claims to have worked for 30 years on a similar project, and met a live alien named Jarod. Personally, I trust him and find him convincing, but who knows? I go back and forth."

The strangest sighting I can report from the Extraterrestrial Highway is a bloated dead cow on the road, with all four legs sticking straight up the air. I rush towards it to see if it has been zapped by space aliens. But the evidence suggests a truck □

