

YUFOS



Vol 4 # 8, February 2001)

CONTENTS

1) ANOTHER INTERVIEW WITH JENNY RANGLES

Beware the Time Storms! Jenny talks to Dave Baker about her latest book.

9) UFO CENTRAL

Jon Slater with a round-up of UFO reports.

11) NEW SIGHTING ADD TO BIG CAT REPORTS

More out-of-place monster felines...?

12) THE SNAEFELL MYSTERY

Jon Slater investigates a strange case from the Isle of Man

13) MORE UFOs IN MATLOCK SKIES

A report of a flying triangle UFO

14) FROM AROUND THE WORLD...AND BEYOND!!!

*Human Cloning Within Reach
Astronomers find evidence for alien life
Big Cats...again
Sasquatch imprint
Stonhenge 'improved'
And more...*

YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

224 BELLHOUSE ROAD
FIRTH PARK
SHEFFIELD
SOUTH YORKSHIRE
S5 6HT

Tel (0114) 2497270

e-mail: davbak@ic24.net

website www.yufos.ic24.net

Subscriptions:

£12:00 - 12 issues (1 year)

£7:00 - 6 issues (6 months)

sample issue - £1:50

Project Red Book is published each month by the Yorkshire UFO Society.

Editor, Chairman & He-Who-Speaketh-The-Most Dave Baker

Web-master, Group-secretary . and Chauffeur to the Editor, Chairman & He-Who-Speaketh-The-Most Richard Moss

They-Who-Printeth-The-Issues- STA and Jonathan Slater.

Cover Illustration- Dave Baker

Treasurer- Jacqui Baker

Group Mascot- Lil' Mathew

Contributions: Dave Baker, Jenny Randles, Jon Slater

Dedicated to: Brian Potter. One day, he WILL walk again...

To re-print articles in this magazine please enquire at the above address- that means me, Dave. I'm sure to say "yes", but it is nice to ask first...and remember to give us a reference now, y'hear?

The articles and views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, YUFOS members or hell, anyone for that matter.

"On my order...give them hell."

ANOTHER INTERVIEW WITH JENNY RANGLES: TIME STORMS

Jenny Randles has been involved in UFO research for over thirty years and is recognised as one of the world's leading authorities on the subject. She is a respected and prolific author of over 50 books, which have been printed in 27 countries around the world. She has made countless appearances on TV and radio around the globe and was the consultant to ITV's *Strange-But True?* series. She has been instrumental in eliciting sweeping changes in the UFO movement, and has even briefed MPs in Parliament on the subject of UFOs. She is presently the editorial consultant to the much-respected *International UFO Reporter* a founder of the UFO Investigation Network (UFOIN) and she is the editor of her very own *Northern UFO News*.

Her books include *"Something in The Air"*, *"From Out of the Blue"*, *"The Complete Book of UFOs"* (with Peter Hough) *"Alien Contact- the First Fifty Years"* and *"MIB- the Men In Black Phenomenon"*.

Jenny recently took some time out to talk to PRB about her latest book, *"Time Storms"*.

DAVE BAKER: Jenny, tell us a little about your new book, "Time storms".

JENNY RANGLES: About 15 years ago I met an extraordinary woman (Dawn) at her home in Cheshire. She was almost blind but did phenomenal charity work for the local church. Nobody had anything other than good things to say about her.

During the break up of the British Raj in the aftermath of World War Two she and her army Colonel husband had lived in India, then Nepal and on this day in autumn 1947 was driving with him, a convoy of trucks and a gorkha guard contingent on a several day trek into Tibet to see the Dali Lama.

One afternoon in the foothills of the Himalayas, whilst sat on the tailboard of a truck eating a meal, an incredible thing happened. A huge grey floating cloud appeared, headed towards them and at close proximity emitted both a severe vibrational effect and a strong electrical field. She and the others felt their skins tingle, the trucks shook and her husband - ever the trained soldier - imposed himself between his young wife and the thing, promptly being felled as if struck by lightning.

As he lay prone on the ground with Dawn unaware whether he was alive or dead reality 'blinked'. One moment the above was occurring, the next the thing had gone, it was an unknown time later (growing dark) and everyone was recovering in total disorientation

- including her husband. All felt weak and nauseous. The three closest to the floating cloud (herself, her husband and a Ghurkha that had ridden shotgun with them) were the most severely effected and were physically sick. All of them developed a red itchy rash on all exposed parts of their bodies.

Given the shock of this sudden experience they abandoned plans to go ahead and turned back to make the several day journey home without visiting the Lama. The whole thing was a deeply profound and inexplicable experience and Dawn wanted me to explain what had happened.

Now, I've had some training in science (doing both physics and geology courses at university) but I could not tell her what this thing was. I could see how a sandstorm or electrified tornado might have some of the attributes. But what kind of electrical storm can make people physically ill, give them rashes, knock them unconscious, create the Oz factor effect (of stillness and silence) here noted and also disrupt the flow of time causing several hours to pass in what to the witnesses was subjectively a blink?

I coined the name 'Time Storms' (as it was an electrical storm that disturbed the flow of time) from this experience and started to look for any other cases like it. To my surprise they were everywhere. But often they were being misunderstood and misreported.

Whilst at its most basic level this phenomenon

was clearly some kind of atmospheric storm that disrupted time (objectively or subjectively) virtually identical experiences - or cases with many similar attributes - were today being ascribed to aliens.

Dawn's advantage was that in 1947 she had not yet heard of the recent US 'fad' of flying saucers. She had no context into which to place this experience. So she just described it as a wonder of nature. Others since have not done that. As a result of media interest, sensationalism, UFOlogists seeking evidence for their theories - you name it - cases like this tend to get placed into a spurious box labelled alien contact. Even when, as here, there was no UFO or alien presence at all in the sense we understand those terms.

I thought then about a case like the Aveley 'abduction' from October 1974. I had met the family in 1978 and sat in on one of the regression hypnosis sessions (this was my first experience of serious doubts about the ETH and grave doubts about the way hypnosis can unconsciously fabricate evidence that takes over a case and becomes UFO mythology). Stripped to its bones at Aveley five people in a car were driving along when a strange green cloud appeared out of nowhere, they drove into it, there was a 'bump', some electrical interference (causing the radio to spark) and once out of the misty cloud reality seemed back to normal. Except when they next did a time check - because they had rushed home to watch a TV show and not only had this finished but the TV channel was off the air for the night - they realised that some hours had vanished 'in a blink'.

Now to UFOlogists (myself then included) it was 'obvious' what had happened here. Hence the regression. There had been some sort of experience during that two hours in which a missing memory had occurred. So if we could dredge out that memory from the subconscious of the witnesses we would have vital info on (as many presumed) the alien kidnap that happened in the interim.

Of course, in the Aveley case regression brought forth a sci-fi saga of alien contact in a dream like reality. But that both adult witnesses (the children were not regressed) recalled different on board experiences was the first big clue. For this happens all the time in these multi witness 'abductions' (see for instance the Telford, Shropshire case or the Stanford, Kentucky incident).

I suspect the reason for this is simple but unpalatable to most UFOlogists. These witnesses share a recall of the actual events on a conscious level (at Aveley the car drive into a green electric cloud that took them 'instantly' two hours into the future). Everything else is a space age fantasy conjured up afterwards during this attempt to 'plug the gap'. This happens on the (false) assumption we all make that there is a gap to plug.

Of course, if there is no gap and the phenomenon simply warps time or renders a witness unconscious (both seem to occur according to circumstance) then there's no memory to be retrieved because there is an instant passage forward in time. And all our efforts to do so are simply leading us away from the truth into a cuckoo land of fantasy aliens.

As I dug deeper case after case like this appeared. You only have to think - in Yorkshire - of the Alan Godfrey case in November 1980. What do we have here? A conscious recall of a spinning grey mass that had physical properties (it caused roadside trees to shake and blow dried a wet road surface). It was seen by others nearby from a distance. It had electrical properties (the car stopped working). And it induced exactly the same sort of spatial and temporal 'reality blink' as experienced by Dawn in Nepal.

To a UFOlogist it was again an alien abduction. But the only evidence we have that it was more than a fuzzy grey mass that did strange things to the local environment is from subsequent presumption and regression hypnosis during which what many would regard as a dream-like 'recall' (or fantasy) occurred. Even doctors cannot agree which is more likely here. This 'recall' involved robots, black dogs and various sci fi trappings (just as in Aveley - and just as in dozens of similar cases).

These things ought to be screaming a warning to us all.

Once you realise that Godfrey is probably truthfully describing what he saw but that there is no need to assume what he saw was an alien craft or that it snatched him away for a ride into space then all of a sudden this case becomes - like many others - far more logical as an example of the Time Storm transmogrified by the media and the UFO community into something else.

Faced with this growing realisation that there are hundreds of misunderstood cases out there that make far more sense if we look only at the consistently reported consciously recalled details and ignore the grafted on 'missing time memories' you see this data in a whole new light.

I also was aware that science itself was gradually moving away from the idea that time travel was pure science fiction and into a realisation that the laws of physics did not merely allow it but made it a logical consequence of certain phenomena.

So I started to look at how modern physics would predict examples of time travel and the clues that we should look out for if such things were occurring right now (perhaps naturally within our atmosphere as side effects of extreme physical phenomena in the way that black holes in the cosmos induce spatial and temporal disruptions).

When this all started to slot together I decided to write Time Storms.

The first half of the book surveys some of the cases for these 'very strange clouds' - as I call them. It builds up the data slowly so that you gradually come to see how these clouds share many features and a few extreme examples offer the more bizarre (but still consistent) aspects that truly seem to defy science - like distorting time and space. Its a gradual sequence of cases from chapter to chapter.

Then the second half of the book looks at what science has come to understand about the nature of time and how it leads almost full circle back to the cases we have just discussed.

To 'paranormal' researchers this science is not usually of interest because they believe these cases are supernatural or extraterrestrial. To scientists these cases are anathema because they are wild tales about aliens. They don't see the hidden core that has so much good physics shared between these cases.

Bring these conflicting views together and suddenly they mesh into a suggestion that maybe we are seeing a strange atmospheric phenomenon that is creating rifts in time and space and that we as a society have simply done what cultures have done throughout the ages. We have deified the unexplained.

Our gods and monsters are aliens and spaceships. But they are simply appropriate

and topical dolls clothing for the human mind to dress up these mysteries in a way that satisfies our child like minds. Laid bare we see something less supernatural, more scientific but - if true - every bit as extraordinary. For it may hold the key to understanding time and the possibility of time travel.

Can you give us any more examples of this?

Compare this case (from 19 November 1980) with Dawns in Nepal. It was told to me by a baffled member of the skeptical Condon team when I stayed with him (along with Allen Hynek) at his Boulder, Colorado home soon afterwards. There is no way Dawn knew of this incident or that these witnesses knew of her unpublished story. They are clearly independent.

A couple - friends of this social psychologist - were driving late at night when a blue glow enveloped their car. They were surrounded by a noise like rushing air. The car radio filled with static and the headlights dimmed and went out. Then the car literally rose up off the road a few feet into the air. Now the couple realised they were inside a mist or cloud that seemed to be glowing and emitting a smell like electric arcing. Then there was a 'blink' in reality and they were back on the road at some place further on without recall of any spatial or temporal transition. It was also more than an hour later. The wife developed a red rash and (being pregnant) was rushed into hospital feeling ill. They assumed she had an infection of some sort but nursed her through and she recovered. The child was born prematurely but was well. Her husband suffered too in the immediate aftermath. Stopping at a petrol station he could not coordinate his body movements and kept walking into doors unable to make his legs and hands act as his brain was telling them to do. He felt temporarily 'out of phase' with reality. Exactly this curious after effect is reported in several other time storm cases in the book, where a perfectly reasonable medical explanation is provided that is totally consistent with the witness testimony. But there is no way most of these witnesses would be knowledgeable enough about physics to have made up such a logical account.

Of course, we can (as here) assume this was an alien abduction, perform hypnosis or probe dreams and look for vague recall of aliens such as might have been suppressed from an actual memory during this missing time. Or we

can forget that misleading practice and concentrate on the clear and conscious data which make this case (like so many others) so mutually consistent with others like it that any half awake scientist out there should appreciate this is some kind of actual physical phenomenon being well described by witnesses. But usually they do not see this because it is then hijacked by the ETH believers and the tabloid media, and turned into something that it never was - an alien kidnap.

If my book makes even one scientist wake up to that exciting possibility it will have done its job.

Can time storms yield any kind of physical evidence, or are they like most UFO or cryptozoological reports, mere hearsay? What convinces you that there may be an actual phenomenon at work here?

There are often physical experiences that leave physiological or environmental effects that can be supported by others. There is also no reason why they cannot be photographed and some do seem to have been. But with the anecdotal testimony cases only - of which, indeed, there are many - the difference is that they are extremely consistent and include small details of scientifically credible value that it is very unlikely to be widely known. Whilst you can make up an alien contact story and be sure to get it 'right' - because this is a phenomenon that has been widely reported - time storms are little recognised.

Moreover this consistency shines through despite the forces actively working to try to convince us that these things are something that they are not (eg often alien kidnaps). I think any scientist faced with this level of reporting of clearly very similar cases that are being independently described all over the world and that are consistent with known science would sit up and take notice. Or they should do.

The reason they do not do this with UFOs in general is less because of the data itself but the way that we as a community tend to report it. We invest it with a great deal of our own supposition - emotional baggage if you like. If we can learn to separate what is demonstrable as good science from the evidence away from what is simply speculation / or fantasy many of our problems over credibility of evidence would disappear.

UFOlogy is often 10% evidence and 90% speculation. If we start reporting it as 90% evidence and 10% speculation we will make progress. Unfortunately to do so many precious (but barely supported) theories will have to be junked first. I don't see that happening any day soon.

Is there any way that you can follow up and research a time storm report in the same way that you could investigate, say, a UFO report?

I hope they can be followed up better - that is without presupposition. What is needed is to record the facts as consciously experienced, collate these, look for patterns and try to match them to known science. Instead what too often happens is rather less specific and more imaginative than that.

The idea of time-travel of any kind used to belong purely to the realms of science fiction, but there are a number of respected scientists who are beginning to seriously consider the possibility...can you expand on this?

Science has been aware for nearly a hundred years that the laws of physics do not preclude time travel. In fact they appear to facilitate it. Indeed many scientists have fought to come up with a missing factor that would ban time travel just because their equations say it should happen and their common sense decrees that it surely cannot. That's why looking into time storms is so important because it challenges the presumptions - in one direction or the other - behind that thinking. And challenges them not with theories but observational evidence.

But more and more scientists are coming around to the view that transfer of 'information' through time at a quantum level is possible. However. There are likely to be fundamental limits. The greater the 'journey', the larger the cost in energy expenditure. As energy is finite this will probably impose a limit on how far you can travel back. Disappointingly this may mean only hours or days - and it is truly fascinating to me just how that aspect of scientific progress mirrors real life experience.

Time storms almost never involve transfer of more than a few hours (in rare cases days but not longer). Precognition has been shown to follow an inverse square law. By far the most visions of the future seem to occur within

hours and very, very few follow more than a few days afterwards.

This synergy here is powerful. It suggests something fundamental about the nature of time is being exposed. But science, in the main, is aware of only one third of the above equation (the quantum physics theory). Once you see all three parts coming together you realise the significance.

Do you believe that time-travel is only possible the manner of time storms, or do you think that some day we will be able to travel through time using some kind of technology?

Information transfer through time - the time travel VCR that can pick up time slip signals from the past for all to see - both these are realistic and likely in my view. Physical time travel in a machine - as in a De Lorean car! - is much more difficult to envisage and possibly wont happen. But if it does then its a longer term thing in the history of science and there are many problems we have to understand first. Information transfer will almost certainly happen first.

Time-slips are also featured in your book. Do you give any credence to the case of the English holidaymakers who claim that they stepped back in time whilst holidaying in France, even staying the night at a remote inn....

This case, which was one of the incidents that I took to *Strange But True?* whilst I worked on the show, is quite the most extraordinary time slip that I have ever come across. It has also had a fascinating follow up.

Basically what happened was that two families from Kent - the Simpsons and the Gisbys - went on holiday to Spain. They drove through France and decided to stay the night at a hotel near Avignon. But, unable to find room at the one on the main road, headed down a rural track and stopped at a rustic establishment for the night.

All the occupants wore clothing as if from the turn of the century (Nearly 80 years before this event) and the bedrooms were extremely old fashioned with furnishings out of a museum. The four friends thought they were staying in a theme hotel until they came to pay for their board and lodging next day and were

charged a ludicrously small sum. Moreover a visiting (quaintly dressed) gendarme was non-plussed by the word 'autoroute' (French motorway). Amused - rather than frightened - the holidaymakers took some photos and went off to Spain.

Naturally the two couples decided to stay at this dirt-cheap place on their way home - but despite finding the road could not locate the hotel. It had vanished. Then, when they got their film processed, all the shots except those taken at the hotel were delivered but these were missing. They have been back to France since and worked with the tourist board to try to find the hotel, but cannot do so.

I first came into contact with this case a couple of years after it had happened when I met the Simpsons (who originally come from the Pennines and came up north for a visit). I found their story intriguing but had numerous problems with it.

For instance, if their late 1970s model car was parked outside the hotel all night how come it did not create a sensation with the time warp guests who walked in and out? Or, why did the hotelier not react with amazement at the modern money used to pay the bill? Elements of the story also sound more legendary than reality - although that's a subjective estimate.

Not to mention that I have never anywhere else come upon a time slip case shared by so many people who actually fell asleep and then woke up hours later still in the past. Altered states of consciousness are nearly always key to time storms and I don't yet see on this model how you can fall asleep and wake up again without disturbing whatever balance is involved here.

So - to me - the case doesn't quite match the records of prior time slips. Not that this means all that much as such cases are not that common and multi witness events or ones that last more than a few moments very rare.

Then there was the phonetic pronunciation of the town nearby - Aving - yon. Say it out loud and see why alarm bells rang with me from day one!

However, the Simpsons were matter of fact, answered all my questions, did not try to waffle around by coming up with 'get out explanations' and often just said 'I don't know' to the tricky questions. So my views on this case were - and still are - polarised. I am not by any means 'convinced'. But I cannot say

there is any reason other than inherent caution or sheer implausibility to deny it.

I later met one of the Gisby's too and she (Cynthia) was just as straight talking and seemingly convinced that something happened - although less willing to speculate on precisely what this might be. She doesn't come over as a huckster.

If this is a hoax then they have carefully constructed it and maintained the pretence between them for 20 years. They may even believe it as true. That's not impossible. They have gained kudos out of this and their local TV channel have even made a 30 minute drama telling their story starring Gordon Jackson of Upstairs Downstairs fame. They are clearly proud of that and the intrigue the case has created. I don't think they have made (or sought to make) money out of this story and never wanted anything from me - being quite happy to talk freely. So the motive for any hoax here is more Cottingley Fairies (ie fairly innocent) than the usual 'fake a spaceship photo to make money' plot. The fact that they did not leap at a chance for renewed PR (see below) is also potentially significant.

When the Simpsons came north a well-known UFOlogist (no names, no packdrill) suggested they be hypnotically regressed. And one of them was done. Why - you might ask? To see if they could recall more detail about the time slip? Not exactly. The idea was to see if in truth they had been abducted by a UFO and this time slip was some sort of mental cover story. That was not their theory.

No doubt you find time travel easier to accept than that 'stretch' (I know I do!) But in any case I observed the 'regression' and the story was told straight and not a hint of spaceships or aliens intruded. To be fair to the UFOlogist they did not seek to coerce them into this idea and gave up interest immediately the session led nowhere. But it was an intriguing negative experiment as far as I was concerned because by then (already about six years after the incident) the story was clearly well enough established not to be readily transformed into something that then would have been topical and generated undoubted media publicity and finance.

Also you might argue that to agree to this regression might be a risky thing for a hoaxer to do because they might fear exposing themselves to the psychologist involved. On the other hand the second witness was 'too

tense' to be regressed - which, whilst not uncommon in such circumstances and so very likely irrelevant, might temper the above argument a little.

Overall, I'd have to say that this case is much better as a fascinating story than it is as reliable proof of time travel and despite my long interest in it I would have to hedge my bets as to what really happened that night.

If I ever come across other time slips that duplicate its odd features then who knows, but as yet its either a claim too far to be part of the otherwise consistent data base or the rare fluke - the one black swan - that proves real life time travel can happen under extraordinary circumstances.

Many people dismiss any kind of time-travel or time displacement theories due to the concept of creating a paradox. Could you, for instance, go back in time and kill Hitler? Or even prevent the Spice Girls from ever forming?

Yes, this is a major problem. IF - and it is an 'if' - physical time travel as you suggest is possible - there are ways to overcome this. Here are just two.

There is a hidden law of time travel that prevents you from changing the past. You go to shoot Hitler and your gun explodes in your face, killing you. The story is covered up to protect Hitler - so never gets out. Therefore it has already happened as part of history in the way that it does happen when you try this tomorrow - so even before you set off to 'change history' the die is cast to ensure that you cannot.

Or, you do go back and stop the Spice Girls forming and are awarded an MBE for doing so - but then realise the award is presented to you to the accompaniment of the new national anthem (Dicky-Dum-Dum) by President Des O'Connor of the United States of Britain - since, in truth, you have travelled back to a parallel reality in which the event you brought about had always happened as part of its history. You are incapable of travelling back in time in the same time-space universe as the one you left - only to one that is closely (or not so closely!) similar.

Do you think there is a chance that some UFOs may be time travellers from our own future?

If time travel as a practical method is EVER invented - and I mean at any point in the coming history of mankind - then visits from that future era to their past would presumably occur. Since we have lived through an important period of change in human history then any potential future time travellers should want to come here and observe. So if they can do so I expect that they are doing so right now - if you see what I mean.

Thus looking for evidence of time travellers in our current and past history is a perfectly legitimate (not to say scientific) pursuit. It is one of the best methods of trying to discover if time travel is possible - because if it is then we should see traces of it now. These traces will be hidden - not obvious. And, of course, the UFO mystery is clearly one area of exploration to be addressed.

Taken to its logical extreme this means that we should see time travellers in some form today (as well as in our recent past) if time travel ever becomes a reality sometime in the future. And if we don't see them it likely means that time travel is forever impossible.

Since physics and the cases in *Time Storms* do seem to argue that some form of time travel is possible then - on balance - we would expect there to be a chance of finding signs of time travel around us now.

That said, there are important caveats to bear in mind - such as the possibility that time travel into the past is not possible outside of theoretical restricted limits. These might be in the order of hours or days - not years or decades. And so we simply might be debarred from witnessing time vehicles in our midst except in the period immediately prior to their invention during the 'window' that they can journey back within.

Another question is whether by travelling back you can access your own 'universe' or must visit an alternative version to preserve the laws of temporal paradox that arise if you are allowed to change history. For how could you use a time machine to travel back to yesterday, blow up that time machine and therefore never have be able by tomorrow to use the now destroyed machine that lets you travel back to yesterday and blow it up?

But even here if visitors to our present can only come from an alternative universe version of our future then this might not preclude their appearance right here and now.

I do not actually do more than touch on this issue in *Time Storms* - as it is not the real purpose of the book. But I do cover it in more detail in my earlier book on time (*Time Travel: In fact, fiction and possibility*) - which covers some of the same ground from different perspectives.

(*This book was published in 1994 by Cassell - although I do have some warehouse stock and can supply a copy to any of your readers for under half the shop price - £4 - post inclusive - cheques to 'Jenny Randles' at 1 Hallsteads Close Dove Holes Buxton Derbyshire SK17 8BS)

In essence, you can determine what parameters a time machine would require by seeing how the physics of time operates. Firstly, it would seem to require a vortex space-time field surrounding it.

Secondly it would need to fly into earth orbit - as the safest location to switch time tracks would be in the vacuum of space where planetary motions can be precisely calculated. You cannot time travel on the M 1 since you might materialise in front of something unpredictable. Not a good move. And whilst even in space you take a risk it is much less of one than on earth. So a time machine logically has to be a 'space shuttle' like machine in addition to its ability to switch times.

In other words you would look for evidence of futuristic craft that come low down, appear to observe us, accelerate upwards towards space and dematerialise. And as we know there are plenty of those in UFO lore.

You would probably also expect time travellers to be human-like (as are many CE 3 cases) and to be dressed in strange clothes whilst merely observing like tourists. There are lots of cases of what you might regard as 'time tourists' - for example the Jessie Roestenberg case from Ranton, Staffs 1954 where blond haired humans were stood in the window of their craft looking down on the terrified humans below as if they were in a helicopter crossing the Grands Canyon.

Moreover, it would probably make perfect sense to shun contact and when forced into not doing this play-act a suitably appropriate role. That people in this time period saw aliens in spaceships will be part of future history. As no doubt will be the news that this was never proven to be the truth! Consequently, if you are visiting from the year 2051 you would be

well advised to fulfill the stereotype of expectation if forced into contact. It may be rule number one as taught in time travel school!

There are a lot of 'ifs' in this equation as, in truth, we don't know if time machines will ever be a practical proposition. But IF they do become one this is one way of looking at the unsolved UFO cases that makes as much sense (probably a lot more sense) than that we are being visited by incredibly human looking and human thinking aliens.

Indeed I would go so far as to say that IF there are any real visitors in exotic craft involved in UFO cases my money would definitely be on them being time travellers, not aliens.

But I did say IF...!

Do you think that there are certain areas prone to the time storm phenomenon, or could it be certain people that 'attract' them?

There are hints of 'prone people'. But that might be more to do with their apparent visual creativity facilitating memory / or allowing a fantasy to grow via subsequent dreams. Since this attracts UFOlogists like bees to a honey pot and the case then becomes a 'big deal' these cases may just be more likely to get recorded.

There is also a possibility - but this is speculation, based on a few facts that are elaborated upon in the book - that cases might centre on areas where we have linear particle accelerators causing natural disruptions to space-time. These force sub atomic reactions to occur that provoke quantum effects and these could - conceivably - invoke time storms as an unexpected side effect in the local atmosphere. There is a window area for such things in and around the linear accelerator at Daresbury (ironically the small village where Charles Dodgson - aka Lewis Carroll - was born).

We need to look for them in and around other active linear accelerators (eg at Geneva or Stanford in California). There's a research project for somebody!

Jenny, many thanks for talking to PRB about this fascinating subject, and the best of luck with the book!

"TIME STORMS"

By
Jenny Randles

Time Storms explores the astonishing possibility of 'holes in time'. Jenny Randles believes that these may occur on a regular basis as a result of a strange phenomenon - the time storm. She has collected compelling evidence from dozens of extraordinary cases to show for the first time that time travel is not only possible, but that time travellers may have already appeared amongst us. In this well-researched and authoritative book you will discover:

Why scientists believe that time travel will soon be possible

How a time machine would actually work

The truth about experiments already carried out to develop a time machine

First-hand reports of people who were transported hours or days across time and space

Whether UFOs may in fact be time travellers visiting us from our own future

Available in hardback priced
£17.99 Piatkus books
(www.piatkus.co.uk)

From all good booksellers.

UFO CENTRAL

By
Jonathan Slater (YUFOS)

I received the following UFO sightings after I advertised on the 'Knowhere' boards on the Internet. This is a place where you can find long lost relatives and advertise anything you want. (Example look: at Lincoln at <http://knowhere.co.uk/board/kb593/>)

I placed an advert saying, "Have you! Seen any mysterious lights or strange objects in our skies lately? A non-profit making scientific research group requires serious reports."

(Although time and distance prevent full investigations into most of these cases, I have attempted to give a brief analysis of some of them...(DB)

HEBDEN BRIDGE

We were awoken in the middle of the night by my eldest brother Mark who told me and my twin brother Martin to come and "look at this" {incidentally I and Martin were around 6 years old at the time which makes the year around 1973-ish, my brother Mark would have been 9 and my sister Donna would have been 7}

We lived in a Victorian terrace set back from the road. The sighting took place in the attic which had a dorm window all I can remember is going up into the attic it was full of light.

I climbed up to the window and looked out across the road towards an old mill on the other side of the road and hovering above the old chimney was a UFO. It was about 30 to 40m in length and around 10m high, silver in colour; I can remember that it had windows around the middle, which were lit up. It seemed to hover there for ages then in a square-like form it shot upwards to the height of the top of the hill and the sped away out of sight.

(Domonic Mann)

I e-mailed Domonic back at a later date asking him if he and his brothers and sister still remember that night clearly, and what happened?

He replied:

Yes everyone remembers it and we have discussed it from time to time, But I must add because it was something we didn't really understand at the time when we saw it.

It just seems natural talking about it now.
(Domonic Mann)

BOGNOR

In reply to your request for information about the "UFO" sighting...

It happened during the late summer 1999 and it was a weekend when my Son, Mark and his girlfriend, Amy were down from London to stay for the weekend in Bognor.

We had been out for a meal and we had decided to go out into the back garden for a small night-cap. We were sitting in the darkness staring up at the totally clear night sky. It was a warm evening and the street lights were out as it was about 2:00AM. My son and I were staring straight up when three orange lights flew into our field of view from the east.

Two of the lights were apparently moving "together" with the third behind and to one side of the other two. The lights were larger than stars, dull, orange and not flashing. All three moved very quickly from east to west passing above us in a matter of a few seconds. There was no sound, at all. I estimate that the height was probably the height of an aircraft but the spacing of the lights indicated an object far larger than an aircraft, probably a factor of twenty times bigger...

I know that my son definitely saw it as we both looked at each other and said simultaneously..."Did you see that...?"

I am not sure if Amy saw it. I did speak to a friend about it and he advised filling in the standard report sheet with the local police. I

went to the police station in Bognor but they had no standard report form so they just took down the details.

We were both convinced we had witnessed something special because of the fact that whatever it was (if it was ONE unit), was huge, it moved very quickly and was silent (i.e. NO Jet noise).

I hope this is of interest to you, because, at the time everyone "took the piss" and I found it disappointing that it was hard to convince others that we did actually see it, whatever "it" was...!!!

(Chris Burstow)

YUFOS verdict: the description of orange globes of light is a common one in ufology- in fact Jon Slater's own UFO sighting (detailed in YUFOS magazine) involved something similar. In this case, it is possible that the lights were not connected to one huge object, and perhaps were possibly three separate objects, most likely aircraft. The estimated height, the speed and the colour of the 'lights' suggest to me that these objects could have been jets, and the lack of sound attributable to the altitude and the prevailing wind conditions at that height. (DB)

ISLE OF MAN

About two years back one stormy night around 5.30pm I was driving from Sulby towards Sulby Bridge on the main Ramsey road somewhere near Sulby mill I saw a bright light travelling from my right it virtually flew over the Ginger Hall Hotel. Heading towards *Cronk Sumnar*.

It moved North in the St Judes direction travelling in a straight line. The estimated height when I first saw it was about 200 feet as it was going out of sight it dropped height to around 50 feet.

So I felt sure it must have been a helicopter that had landed close to the Sulby/St Judes road due to the bad weather conditions.

I had to turn that way so I looked out for it expecting to find a helicopter that had landed close by but I could see no sign of anything at all what ever the object was it just disappeared.

The object had a steady bright bluish and red light none of the lights seemed to flash on and off. (Malcolm Buckler)

* Cronk Sumnar is a hill on the northern part of the Isle of Man

YUFOS verdict: I think that quite often, a witness solves the case for themselves, whether they know it or not. The fact that Malcolm thought that the 'UFO' was a helicopter is probably an indication that this could indeed be what he saw. Aircraft can often appear to 'disappear' merely by changing their angle from the witness, blocking their lights from view. This can be reversed, so that from a certain angle all of the lights on an aircraft can appear to merge into one huge light. (DB)

DARFIELD, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

I used to live in Wath Upon Dearne until about a year ago. About two to three years ago I was looking through my bedroom window, looking at the lake when over at Darfield I saw this really bright light like a star.

At first I thought it was a star until I realised it was way too bright to be a star. I kept looking at it and thought to myself "what in gods name is that?" then still looking at it I thought I would get my camera to try and take some shots of it when I got it I tried to take some photo's but my film was out! TYPICAL.

Then I looked at the strange object and then it just shot off leaving a trail of silver behind it as it left it disappeared into nowhere.

That is when I realised it was a UFO. I told my mum but she said it was a comet burning up in the atmosphere but it was there for a good 10-15 minutes.¹

A couple of days later, my mum was looking through my brother's window when she told me to get my dad I said why and she said there was a UFO.

At first I didn't quite believe her until I looked myself and saw it. I told her that it was the same thing I saw in the exact place! I ran down stairs to tell my dad but the time we came back up it had gone. Then a week later I was looking through my window (as I did every night) and saw it again this time I just kept

¹A comet wouldn't "burn up in the atmosphere", unless it took all of the planet along with it.- as anyone who has watched the film 'Deep Impact' will realise. They will also realise that they just wasted two hours of their lives...

looking at it then it just disappeared like before. The details of this thing were a bright silver ball just like a star, but brighter when it left you could see the line of what it had left.

I am only 12 years old but I know what I saw that night and it was not an aeroplane. My mum saw the UFO but unfortunately my dad didn't.

(Rachael 12)

YUFOS verdict: Although we are not given any real details in this report, such as the time, date, or the direction or position in the sky of the 'UFO', I think that it is safe to conclude that this is a planet or a very bright star. A major clue is that the UFO appears in the 'same' position in the sky each time. The 'silver trail' initially suggests a meteor, but meteors burn up in less than ten seconds. This could actually be a combination of the planet slipping away from view, and an optical illusion, like an after-image, brought on by staring at the bright light for so long.

SHREWSBURY

Approximately one year ago I was travelling back from IronBridge to Shrewsbury about 12.30 a.m. in the morning, I was with two other friends who also saw the event.

About 3 miles from Atcham, we noticed a bright blue light (a very intense blue almost neon!) on our left hand side approximately 500 metres down the hill to our left. It was large, I am guessing 20-30 meters in diameter, we could not tell if it was at floor level or hovering as we were looking down at an angle to it. Within 10 seconds of seeing this light, the sky was totally illuminated (almost like lightning but blue!)

When I say 'illuminated,' I mean all 360° around us was highlighted by the flash. Incidentally there was a clear sky that night, no rain, clouds, and especially no lightning) Anyway after this flash that lasted only for about 1-2 seconds, the blue light was gone and every thing was pitch black, no noise nothing, we drove home very perplexed at what we had seen.

It was very strange, I am not sure it was a UFO, but it certainly was not lightning, helicopter, or anything normal.

(Derek Blower)

NEW SIGHTING ADDS TO BIG CAT MYSTERY

By Tina Rowe

EXPERTS gathering in the Mendips to discuss reports of big cats roaming the countryside have already got one on their doorstep.

Mrs Norma Jenkins came face to face with a "big black animal with a head like a panther and a long straight tail" as she walked her Jack Russell terrier in a field on the Bath side of Wells on Wednesday.

She was astonished to see the creature, which she estimated to be three bus lengths away from her. She contacted the Western Daily Press about her sighting after reading in Thursday's paper that a stall will be dedicated to the mysterious big cats of the region at the West country Game Fair at the Royal Bath and West Showground near Shepton Mallet, in March.

Big cat experts are worried about a growing number of reports from farmers and landowners about attacks on sheep and want to collect more evidence for a report to be sent to the Government.

Mrs Jenkins does not want to reveal where she lives or the precise location of the field for fear that too many people may be attracted to the site.

She said yesterday: "I have lived in the Mendips all my life and I know a fox when I see one. This was not a fox. It was much bigger and it was dark -black - and it had a straight tail, not a bushy one.

"I had been looking down at the mud as I walked and when I looked up I suddenly saw this animal about three bus lengths away.

"It was looking away from me at first, but then as it turned its head I could see that it had a round face. It loped away across the field out into the Mendips. I have no doubt that what I saw was a big cat."

There has been one other sighting of a similar creature in the Wells area in the past two years.

Other big cat sightings have come from as far afield as Devizes in Wiltshire to Sturminster Newton in Dorset.

THE SNAEFELL MYSTERY

By
Jonathan Slater

On Monday the 15th of January 2001, I received an e-mail from a friend of mine on the Isle of Man saying that a large unidentified object had crashed on the Snaefell summit which is the Isle of Man's highest mountain.

Dear Jonathan,

Monday 15 Jan 2001. Manx radio reported that "a large object" was seen to hit the radio tower on top of Snaefell summit, Sunday 14 Jan.2001 at about 16.30. When we drove past this morning a Search and Rescue Portacabin was parked at the Bungalow. Search and Rescue were asked to start a search as soon as possible after 16.30 on Sunday and were not called off until 23.00. Searching resumed the following morning. We cannot find out what they are searching for.

A member we know said they did not know what they were searching for but that the Police were concerned that they should continue. The same member said that he was driving past Snaefell when the incident took place. From the corner of his eye, it looked like a firework set off on the summit. Cannot find out what damage has been caused except that it is thought that some channels of communication were knocked out. The Amateur Radio repeater is still working OK and that uses one of the masts. This morning the summit was shrouded in freezing fog. There is the usual lack of detail on Manx Radio, who seem to have this low down on priorities. Maybe you could find out more on their Internet site.

Sincerely Malcolm Buckler

The first report I found was on the Manx radio station website.

SNAEFELL INCIDENT

The police are appealing for anyone who was in the area of the bungalow on the mountain road yesterday at around 4pm to contact them.

Especially anyone who was flying model aeroplanes.

A collision with a possible micro-light and one of the masts on top of the mountain was reported but a full-scale search of the area failed to find any evidence of such an incident.

The search was called off this morning. Inspector Carolyn Kinrade says they are now appealing for two men who were flying model planes in the area to come forward.

So was it a micro-lite that hit this mast or was it a model plane?

I decided to check out the Isle of Man online website to see if they had any reports of what was going on. I found the following.

FULL-SCALE SEARCH OF SNAEFELL FOR CRASHED PLANE

A FULL-SCALE search of Snaefell is under way tonight after reports a plane has crashed into a mast at the summit. Fire, police and civil defence search teams are taking part.

A helicopter from RAF Kinloss in Scotland is also at the scene.

A police representative said the search was launched after two separate sightings of what appeared to be a crash at around 5pm.

So now it's a report of a plane crashing at the top of Snaefell but now we have a helicopter on the scene from RAF Kinloss.

Sometime later Monday night (15 Jan 2001) the Isle of Man online website released another news report.

SNAEFELL CRASH SEARCH CALLED OFF

A Full-scale search sparked by reports of something crashing into the communications mast at the summit of Snaefell has been called off. Police are now asking anyone involved in the incident to come forward.

The search, involving police, the Fire and Rescue Service, civil defence, coastguard and an RAF helicopter from RAF Valley, Wales, was launched on Sunday afternoon after two horse riders travelling through Lonan saw what they thought was a micro-lite hitting the mountain-top mast and spiralling down in a cloud of smoke.

A separate witness, in Jurby, reported what he thought was a flare at the same time.

The search continued late into Sunday night and was resumed at 8.30am today. At 12.30pm the search was called off.

Police Inspector Carolyn Kinrade said: 'We have completed the search. It continued today and we have come up with nothing.'

She said another witness has come forward who reports seeing a micro-lite near the summit at about 4.30pm, the same time as the other witnesses.

Inspector Kinrade appealed for any other witnesses to come forward and said if anyone was involved in the incident, but left the scene and is afraid to come forward they shouldn't be.

'They aren't in any trouble,' she said. 'We just need to know what happened and make sure everyone is okay.'

So now, there is no mention of this plane crash at all but we have a witness reporting seeing what looked like a flare.

What make's this a mystery is that on Tuesday the 16th of January two days after the alleged crash on top of Snaefell nothing was found and all news of the alleged crash has stopped on Manx radio and newspapers on the Isle of Man.

SNAEFELL MYSTERY UPDATE

Inspector Gary Roberts said, "There was minor damage to the mast that could have been caused by a bird."

Inspector Roberts said the affair remained a mystery. (*Isle of man online 6/2/01*)

MORE UFOS SEEN IN THE MATLOCK SKIES

UFO spotters should start looking to the skies again following one of the most spectacular sightings in the Dales yet. During the autumn months, around 15 Mercury readers contacted us after seeing coloured lights and flying saucers - one woman even caught her close encounter on video.

Now the little green men are back! At 11.30pm on January 13, 69-year-old Anne Saunders of Matlock saw a spaceship hovering over Crich.

She said: "I looked through the bedroom window and saw a massive triangle in the sky. I thought, 'Good God!' I am a sceptic, or at least, I was - I thought it was a reflection in my glasses!"

But it was no reflection. After further investigation, mum-of-two Mrs Saunders said she couldn't believe her eyes.

The retired local government officer and her husband watched the craft for three minutes.

The triangle was full of pulsating coloured lights with a dark centre. It made no noise.

"Then the front end bit broke away," continued Mrs Saunders, "and flew across the sky at tremendous speed towards the Masson hillside.

"When it re-appeared, there was no uniformity. It was just a random shape of pulsating lights, clustered together.

"I was absolutely gubsmacked. I was looking from one to the other and thinking I must be dreaming.

"It was massive. This has certainly inspired me to be a believer."

Mrs Saunders now goes to bed at night armed with binoculars and a camera - just in case.

(Matlock Mercury On-line,

FROM AROUND THE WORLD...AND BEYOND!!!

UFOs, conspiracies, fortune and paranormal events compiled by Dave Baker

HUMAN CLONING WITHIN REACH, EXPERTS SAY

(Lori Valigra, UPI Science News, 5 January 2001)

NEW YORK, Jan. 5 (UPI) -- Imagine if someone took a scraping of Michael Jordan's skin cells and cloned a whole team of basketball players who could win the NCAA championship every year.

Such a scenario has struck both imagination and fear into the debate on human cloning, sparked after Dolly the lamb was cloned from an adult sheep in 1997.

But reproductive experts and bioethicists now agree that it is unlikely that an army of clones will be created. It is more likely, some say, that cloning will be used by infertile couples wanting to create a genetically related child or those wishing to clone a lost loved one.

They say the technology already exists to clone a human, and somewhere in the world right now, someone probably is doing just that, if they haven't already done it.

That's the contention of an article in the February issue of *Wired* magazine, which will hit the newsstands on Jan. 11.

"If cloning has not happened already, it's going to happen very soon, and the world ought to get over it," said Brian Alexander, author of the article entitled *(You)2 [You-squared]*.

Alexander told United Press International that his original feeling that cloning may be freakish and scary was dispelled during his interviews with experts in human in vitro fertilization and animal reproduction. Armies of drones won't come into being, he said, because while clones will carry the same genetic makeup as their parents, they will be quite different in their behaviour and preferences.

"You could clone Michael Jordan and get tall people, but the clones may not like basketball or even be able to play," he said.

Because of the heated moral and ethical debates on human cloning, work on the first human clone likely will remain secret, Alexander contends. Indeed, his article also takes us into the vast underground of anonymous scientists, religious sects and Web sites like humancloning.org that support human cloning.

Alexander interviewed an unnamed molecular biologist in the United States who wants to be the first person to create a human clone. He also interviewed an unnamed potential client, a businessman living in Western Europe who lost his son to disease more than a year ago, but who kept tissues from the body.

The plan is for the scientist and father to fly to an in vitro fertilization lab in Asia, where the lab's director could potentially take out the nuclei of eggs obtained from anonymous donors and inject the son's cells into the eggs to make embryos. Those embryos would be implanted into five to 10 surrogate mothers in the hope that one of the eggs would develop into a clone of the client's son.

This is all technically possible, although money and experimentation so far have kept it from happening, Alexander said. There are very few regulations on in vitro fertilization. Only a few countries in the world, including Japan and some European nations but not the United States, have banned human cloning.

Another group claiming to be working on the first human clone is the Raelians, a New Age religious group in Quebec that has announced a human cloning project called Clonaid. Last year the sect said they'd found an American couple willing to pay \$500,000 to clone their dead baby.

This kind of talk remains spine-chilling to many people. But Alexander contends that such "under-the-radar pro-cloning agitation" is converging with falling taboos and scientific advances such as DNA microarrays that can more accurately isolate viable cloned embryos. "Human cloning could be done tomorrow," he quotes Alan Trounson, an

animal cloner and in vitro fertilization clinician at Australia's Monash University, as saying.

"All the pieces are out there to do it, so why wouldn't someone do it by now," Michael Bishop, president of cattle cloning company Infigen Inc. of DeForest, Wis., told UPI. "I think the public is becoming more comfortable with the idea of cloning. They are not gasping for air the way they used to with Dolly."

Author Alexander likens the feelings about human cloning to the horrified and concerned reactions in 1978 to Louise Brown, the first test-tube baby, who was born in Britain.

And he points out in his article that the subject of human cloning is no longer so taboo. Noted scientists, philosophers and authors, including biologist Edward O. Wilson of Harvard University and novelist Kurt Vonnegut, have signed the "Declaration in Defense of Cloning and the Integrity of Scientific Research," a document supporting reasoned argument on cloning. And Rabbi Michael Broyde of Emory University in Atlanta wrote an article in the journal *Jewish Law* about the possible place of cloning in Jewish tradition.

With discussions of human cloning becoming more open, there are even some cracks in the ethical wall that has protected use of human embryos, according to bioethicist George Annas, professor of health law at the Boston University School of Public Health. Annas does object to human cloning, but agrees with a recent ruling by Britain's parliament, which in December approved laws to allow medical research to be conducted using stem cells derived from human embryos.

But Annas draws the line at letting those cloned embryos be grown into human beings.

"I don't know why anybody would want to clone a human," Annas told UPI. "The cloned child will be compared to the original child, and this will be psychologically damaging."

Cloning technology does have potential value in genetic engineering, or improving attributes of a person to make him or her smarter or taller, Annas said, but he objects to that as well. Bishop of Infigen noted that genetic engineering is not allowed in feed animals.

One thing supporters and detractors of human cloning do agree on is that only a small number of people will even consider cloning, and they most likely will be parents with a

deceased child or infertile or gay couples who want a genetically-related child. In addition, there probably will be people who will try to abuse cloning technology.

"If cloning were made legal tomorrow, it would only appeal to a small minority of people," said author Alexander. "And there probably will be abuses. Someone will always want to breed the perfect left-handed relief pitcher."

ASTRONOMERS DISCOVER STRONG EVIDENCE FOR ALIEN LIFE

(Diario "La Nacion", Argentina, January 7, 2001)

LONDON.- Astronomers found the strongest evidence yet for alien life in a solar system having characteristics similar to our own. The discovery was made by SETI scientists working with NASA, and Britain's Jodrell Bank observatory, searching for life beyond known boundaries.

Observations indicate that the star system, known as CM Draconis, has two planets in the so-called "life belt", sufficiently close for water to exist in liquid form, which could suppose the presence of life. Instruments were employed close to their design limits when the observations were made, thus, the discoveries have been treated with great caution.

Further details shall be provided during the annual meeting of the American Astronomical Association to be held this week in San Diego, California. If there were life in any of the planets of the CM Draconis system, it would be subject to conditions very different from those on Earth. At the system's centre would be two small red stars (colder than the sun) oscillating around each other while the planets orbit both. A binary system such as this one experiences constant variations in the duration of night and day, and complex seasonal and meteorological structures.

Laurance Doyle, the SETI researcher conducting the study, said that the exact measurements of the candidate worlds are uncertain, but that their diameters would be larger than Earth (17,000 km versus 12,000 km) and some 9 times smaller than Jupiter. Doyle also discovered a third Jovian-sized planet orbiting beyond the other two. This is significant, as these giant worlds, through their

gravitation, would attract the asteroids and meteorites, which could otherwise crash into the smaller planets. Jupiter may have played a similar role in our own star system.

Doyle measured the light in a decreasing manner from the CM Draconis stars, while its planets passed between them and Earth. These stars are some 57 light years away from us. Similar techniques have been employed in detecting more than 50 planets orbiting other stars.

Professor Jill Tarter, SETI's director, stated that Doyle's work represents powerful evidence of the existence of Earth like planets. "These are promising results," she said. "There might be life, there might be none, but at least we can see our work is worthwhile."

HOW RESTORERS 'IMPROVED' STONEHENGE

(*Simon de Bruxelles, January 09 2001*)

Restoration work on Stonehenge has caused English Heritage to consider rewriting its guides to Britain's most famous prehistoric monument. A million visitors a year go to the site on Salisbury Plain to admire what they believe are the untouched remains of the 4,000-year-old temple. What they do not learn from the official guidebooks is that virtually every stone has been re-erected, straightened or reset in a concrete boot by well-meaning restorers who "improved" the monument between 1901 and 1964.

Details of the restoration programme were dropped from English Heritage's guides in the 1960s. Even the organisation's standard coffee table work, *Stonehenge - Mysteries of the Stones and Landscape*, barely mentions work that included the replacement of a giant lintel and the re-erection of fallen stones.

The full extent of the rebuilding was uncovered by Brian Edwards, a PhD student, while he was researching for his doctorate at the University of the West of England in Bristol. He turned his attention to Stonehenge after investigating the re-erection in the 1920s of standing stones at Avebury in Wiltshire. He concluded that modern day Avebury is to a large extent the creation of the gentleman archaeologist Alexander Keiller, who virtually rebuilt it.

Although Stonehenge has not been reconstructed on the scale of Avebury, the extent of the rebuilding is clear when compared to a landscape painted by John Constable in 1835. It portrays the ruins in a far greater state of dereliction.

Mr Edwards, whose findings are included in his recently published textbook *Seeing History: Public History in Britain Now*, said: "We have been looking at a 20th-century landscape which is reminiscent of what Stonehenge might have looked like thousands of years ago. It has been created by the heritage industry and not by prehistoric peoples.

"What we saw at the millennium is less than 50 years old. Stonehenge was historically cleansed and the true history was hidden away."

The first major restoration was carried out in 1901 when one of the largest stones was straightened and set in concrete. The next phase began in 1919, the year after Sir Cecil Chubb gave the monument to the country, and involved the most radical changes: Six stones were moved and re-erected in work conducted by Colonel William Hawley, a member of the Stonehenge Society. Cranes were used to move three more stones in 1959 and four in 1964 in response to worries about them falling. One of the three giant trilithons had its fallen lintel replaced in 1958.

OIL Oozing OUT OF VIRGIN MARY STATUE IN BEIRUT

(*Hindustan Times | 7 Jan. 2001 AFP*)

Oil has been oozing from a miniature statue of the Virgin Mary by the coastal entrance to northern Beirut, sparking a religious fervour.

The faithful have arrived en masse since Friday, clutching candles and crucifixes in hand and chanting blessings. They have also stopped their cars on the road in order to witness the miracle, creating a traffic jam in the process.

Pulling up, some have even installed loud speakers on their vehicles' bonnets in order to blare prayers.

The 30-centimeter high statue shows traces of oil on the edges of the Virgin's hands and on her blue cloak. Since the statue started to

ooze oil, it has been guarded by city employees.

Non-believers are not allowed to enter the area where the statue is housed in a small shelter.

A priest, who requested anonymity, told AFP that some of the oil has been taken away for analysis.

But the priest refused to call the event a miracle. "It is a long process of investigation to certify a miracle," he said, adding the investigation had not left its earliest stage.

BIGFOOT'S BACKSIDE YIELDS A CLUE, ENTHUSIASTS SAY - Imprint thought to be beast's buttocks

(Leslie Moriarty, The Daily Herald Co., Everett, Washington, USA January 13, 2001)

Perhaps Bigfoot isn't named for his best attribute.

Or at least that's been the most recent discovery about Bigfoot here in the Pacific Northwest. Forget plaster feet: An Edmonds man has what he says is an imprint of Bigfoot's buttocks.

Richard Noll, 47, a dedicated Bigfoot believer, was part of an adventure last September to Skookum Meadows between Mount St. Helens and Mount Adams.

Along for the trip were more than a dozen Bigfoot enthusiasts, scientists and a film crew for a program that will air on the Discovery Channel Monday night.

Noll, who works at a Marysville tool manufacturing company, became interested in Bigfoot more than 30 years ago when a cousin took him on a trip to the Bluff Creek area of Northern California.

His cousin had been building bridges and told Noll about seeing the hairy beast. Noll started researching Sasquatch stories and eventually linked with the Bigfoot Field Reporting Organization, becoming its curator of sightings and other exhibits.

Although he's never seen a Bigfoot, Noll's dining room table in his modest Edmonds home is filled with plaster castings of Bigfoot footprints. Photographs and drawings of Bigfoot hang on the wall, and he has a library of videos on Bigfoot adventures.

His most recent casting, however, is kept at a relative's house in a locked garage, hidden underneath a plastic tarp and behind a table of garden tools. Mounted flat in a large wooden cart on wheels lies the "Skookum Casting," Bigfoot's buttocks in a 350-pound casting that stretches about 3 feet by 5 feet.

Noll's got it, but he doesn't flaunt it. It is shown only to select audiences, although he hopes to take it travelling to Bigfoot conventions in the Northwest following the Discovery broadcasts.

The casting comes from a weeklong expedition in mid-September to an area where there had been previous Bigfoot sightings. Their mission: To find physical evidence of the legendary creature through footprints, hair and discarded food. Using pheromone-scented bait and recorded calls made by possible Bigfoots, the crew hoped to lure a Bigfoot into camp and capture his image using infrared photography.

After several days of using a recording and getting what they believed to be return screams from a Sasquatch, the explorers decided to use apples and melons as Bigfoot bait. They selected specific locations where they thought they had heard the beast's high-pitched caterwauls and planned to position cameras at the 10 various "fruit stations."

But Bigfoot's big photo shoot started to fall apart. The regular cameras wouldn't work, and the searchers came up empty in their infrared tracking attempts.

"We thought we could ride along the areas where the fruit had been placed and photograph out of the sunroof of my 4-Runner," Noll said. "If we picked up anything showing infrared readings, then we would sit there and watch for Bigfoot.

"But my car broke down, and we weren't able to do that."

So they trekked back to camp for the night. It wasn't until the next morning that they actually saw evidence of a visitor the night before -- a buttocks print. Maybe Sasquatch should be called Sasquat instead.

"At the edge of the wallow I saw unusual impressions in the transition mud and suddenly, I figured out what it was.

"I was shocked," he said. "It appeared that Bigfoot laid on his side to reach out over the

soft mud to grab the fruit and left an impression of his buttocks, thigh, forearm and heel."

Noll called the more experienced members of the search team to look at what he'd found.

LeRoy Fish, a zoologist from Oregon, and Derek Randles, a Washington landscaper with tracking experience, agreed with Noll: It was an impression of Bigfoot's backside.

The trio speculates that Bigfoots are intelligent species and don't like to leave tracks behind. This one laid down to reach the fruit.

"If it had been any other life form of animal, it would have just walked up and grabbed the fruit," Noll said.

As the most experienced caster in the bunch, Noll directed the efforts to make a cast of the impressions using 150 pounds of Hydrocal B-11 and 50 pounds of Plaster of Paris as the TV crew captured it on tape.

Noll protected the area from the sun with a makeshift roof of rocks and plywood to keep the damp mud from drying and cracking and giving off false impressions.

Then the cast was made, using tent poles as reinforcements. Sleeping bag pads and air mattresses were used to cushion the cast for transportation off the mountain in the back of a large truck.

The remaining apple pieces were collected and sent to a lab to test for saliva and other hints of DNA. They also gathered hair samples to test.

While the DNA tests have not been completed, the hair samples have been determined by an independent lab to belong to an "unknown primate," Noll said.

"It didn't match humans," he said. "And they were tapered at the ends, meaning they had never been cut."

Both the hairs and the castings have been shown to experts who are convinced that they didn't come from an elk, deer or bear.

The Skookum cast, said John Green, a well-known Canadian Bigfoot hunter, changed his opinion about the existence of the beast.

"I have always believed that physical evidence was needed to convince me of the existence of Sasquatches," he said. "But now I think differently. I think the Skookum cast can do it."

He consulted with other physicians and decided that it only could have been made by a big, squatting primate.

Taking into consideration its size, the imprint was left by something 40 percent to 60 percent larger than a 6-foot-tall human.

The cast of Bigfoot's buttocks has been closely examined. Grover Krantz, a physical anthropologist, wildlife biologist John Bindernagel and primate anatomist Jeff Meldrum have concluded the imprint is not attributable to any recognized animal species. It most likely was made by a living Sasquatch, they concluded.

Like Noll, they also belong to BFRO. The organization maintains a Web site about Bigfoot, and sightings are registered with the group and evaluated by the group's scientists.

They operate a bit differently than other Bigfoot enthusiasts, Noll explained.

"Most are reactive, going out and checking for clues when there has been a sighting reported," he said. "We like to think of ourselves as proactive. We try to set up conditions in which Bigfoot will come to us, so that we can observe him."

They're not Bigfoot chasers, he said, and are only trying to collect data that will prove the creature exists.

Noll said non-believers don't bother him.

"A lot of people think of this as a joke, and equate it with things like UFOs and the paranormal," Noll said. "But that's not the way we see it."

"We're talking about an intelligent primate with very human-like behaviours. And we are honest and truthful about what we see and find."

And he now may have Bigfoot's backside to back him up.

UFO SHUTS DOWN RUSSIAN AIRPORT

(Agence France Presse, Jan 27, 2001)

MOSCOW- An airport in southern Siberia was shut down for an hour and a half on Friday when an unidentified flying object (UFO) was detected hovering above its runway, the Interfax news agency reported.

The crew of an Il-76 cargo aircraft refused to take off, claiming they saw a luminescent object hovering above the runway of the Siberia's Barnaul airport, local aviation company director Ivan Komarov was quoted as saying.

The crew of another cargo plane, refusing to use the runway for the same reason, landed their jet at another airport, Komarov said.

The UFO took off and vanished from the airport 90 minutes later, according to the report.

((c) 2001 Agence France Presse)

MAURICE SPOTS THE BEAST

(North Devon Journal - January 18, 2001)

The legendary Beast of Exmoor may have appeared again after a winter slumber.

Quarry weighbridge clerk Maurice Jenkins was travelling from his Yelland home to work in Brayford yesterday when he spotted a strange beast by the side of the road.

Maurice 59, was on his way to Barton Wood Quarry and as he approached Kimbland Cross, he saw something unusual.

He said: "It was a big black pussycat. His eyes reflected in my headlights and I slowed down so I could get a better look and it sat watching me. It was dark but it was in the line of my headlights. It was the size of a Collie dog with a jet-black head and tail.

"He leapt away and made off into the fields. It was a beast of some kind and I have put my camera in the car just in case I see it again."

ASTRONOMERS CLOSE-IN ON ALIEN SIGNAL

(BBC News Online science editor Dr David Whitehouse 17 January, 2001)

A detailed look at the point in space from where an intelligent signal might have come has revealed nothing unusual.

The observations, using the multiple radio dishes of the Very Large Array (VLA) in New Mexico, add to the mystery of what has been called the "Wow" event.

In August 1977 radio astronomers in the United States detected what could have been a signal from intelligent life in space. But it happened only once.

Now, two astronomers, Robert Grey and Kevin Marvel, have used the VLA to look at the spot with unprecedented sensitivity. They saw nothing strange or anything that could explain the signal.

The "Wow" signal as it has become known is often described as our best candidate for a signal from an alien intelligence in space.

On 15 August 1977 a burst of radio waves was detected by the now dismantled "Big Ear" radio telescope of Ohio State University. The person who spotted it, astronomer Jerry Ehman, was so surprised that he scribbled "Wow" on the print-out.

The event had all the properties that astronomers expected in a signal from an alien intelligence. It was confined to a narrow band of frequencies and it was very close to the "hydrogen line," a natural signpost in the spectrum.

Because the Ohio telescope cannot move it was only possible to see the signal as it passed across the telescope's field of view. From the way the signal was detected astronomers were certain it was coming from a point on the sky.

It only lasted 72 seconds and although astronomers later looked at that same patch of sky over a hundred times they saw nothing. The signal, if it was a signal, was a one-off event.

Some researchers have said it was man-made interference but others point to the signal's

characteristics and say it definitely came from the sky.

So no one knows if it was a natural radio burst or some kind of signal.

Since 1977 other radio astronomers have looked at that spot on the sky in the hope of a repeat performance but to no avail.

The latest series of observations, described in the current issue of the *Astrophysical Journal*, are more than a hundred times more sensitive than the original Ohio observations.

Grey and Marvel see two faint radio sources at the position that "Wow" came from but both are nothing unusual.

So the mystery of the "Wow" signal remains.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND NEAR SEAHENGE

(Maev Kennedy, arts and heritage correspondent, *The Guardian*, January 11, 2001)

Another timber structure has been discovered on the beach off Holme-next-the-Sea, Norfolk, near the site of Seahenge, the 4,000-year-old timber circle revealed by a storm two years ago.

The discovery suggests the entire beach is an important prehistoric ritual landscape, with dozens more timber monuments waiting to be exposed and destroyed by storms, archaeologist Francis Pryor said last night.

Dr Pryor is an authority on wetland archaeology, who worked on the conservation of the Seahenge timbers after they were removed from the beach by English Heritage against bitter local opposition.

The new find, two logs surrounded by traces of wickerwork and postholes, was exposed in the sand last year but, in the wake of controversy over Seahenge, it was not publicised.

The Norfolk Archaeology Unit, which is completing a survey for English Heritage, has also found traces of other ancient timbers, including posts which may have supported trackways across what was, 4,000 years ago, a freshwater swamp.

English Heritage said reports on all the timbers were being studied, and no decision had been taken yet on what to do with the site, 200 metres from Seahenge.

Dr Pryor predicted the entire site would prove to be studded with monuments to the Bronze Age dead.

"It is now absolutely imperative that English Heritage and English Nature agree a management plan for the entire area, involving the local council, local people and the local archaeology unit, and permanent archaeological monitoring of the beach," he said.

Dr Pryor believes the new find is the remains of a barrow. "To me the two logs are very suggestive of supports for an oak coffin, which has already been lost."

He said it was probable there were perhaps hundreds of other structures.

Dr Pryor led the excavation over 30 years of a similar site, Flag Fen at Peterborough, where Bronze Age swords, bowls, jewellery and the oldest wooden wheel in Europe were uncovered. He believes there are similar deposits waiting to be found in the sand and silt at Holme.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 13 March, 2001

7:00 pm – 10:00 pm

THE THREE CRANES

Queen Street

Sheffield City Centre