

Handouts, Maps and Floorplans

PAST ADVENTURES

Apelike Creature Reported near Washington Lake

RANDLE, Wash., June 10-Two visitors to a remote lake in the southern Cascade Mountains reported seeing and hearing a primitive ape-like creature in the dense woodlands. Both sightings occurred in the fir-studded forests near Wolf Lake, a remote destination for summer tourists. Two guests at the Lake and Sky Lodge, John and Angela Gilder of Tacoma, Wash., first reported smelling a horrible odor, "like rotten eggs," before something started banging on the walls of their cabin. When they emerged to confront their attacker they caught a brief sight of a tall hairy apelike black creature that immediately retreated into the darkened forest.

"We were terrified!" exclaimed Mrs. Gilder.

Last Monday, Lorcan Semple, a worker at the lodge, overturned his pickup truck after a massive black, hairy beast stepped across an unpaved road in front of him.

Forest Service Ranger Georgia Masters was dismissive of the reports, "The forests here are dense and dark. We've had an increase in the number of bear sightings this season. Just last week we had to tranquilize a large male bear and move it to the back country. Your eyes play tricks on you at night! That's the most likely explanation for these sightings."

Nonetheless, enthusiasts in search of the mythical "Bigfoot," which has been reported in California and elsewhere in the Pacific northwest, have traveled to the area in hope of finding new evidence. Keith Corbett, the President of the Cryptozoology Society of Flagstaff, Ariz., was among those who traveled to Wolf Lake in hope of encountering the creatures. "This is a fabulous opportunity, with two such recent sightings," said Mr. Corbett, "It certainly means that there is a group of Bigfoot in the area and that something is pushing them into human-settled areas. It's a big mystery! But also, a great opportunity to get photographs, video, and other hard evidence to show the world."

Three Reported Missing in Southern Cascades

RANDLE, Wash., June 15- Two teenagers from Yakima, Wash. set out to hitchhike to a rock concert at the Seattle Kingdome last Thursday. They never made it to the show. Richard Steele and Jack Hale, both 17, skipped out of the last day of school at Eisenhower High School, hoping to hitchhike to the Kingdome and see the former Beatles pop star, Paul McCartney, perform with his band Wings as part of the "Wings Over America" tour. Neither of the two boys' parents had any knowledge of their plans and did not report them missing until Friday morning. An investigation by the Washington State Patrol discovered that the two were last seen in the mountain town of Randle, hoping to hitch a ride west on US-12. Richard is described as white, with shoulder-length dark hair, and wearing a blue flannel shirt and jeans. Jack is an Indian of the Yakama tribe, also with shoulderlength dark hair, and wearing black plastic glasses. The public has been asked to call the Washington State Patrol with any information about their travels and possible whereabouts.

The disturbing news comes just one week after Whitman College honors student and Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority member, Michelle Vicars, 20, was reported missing in the wilderness south of Randle. Ms. Vicars' Chevrolet Vega was found in a muddy lot near Wolf Lake, where she is believed to have embarked on a solo backpacking trip into the wilderness of Gifford Pinchot National Forest on June 1. Friends and family reported her overdue ten days later. Ms. Vicars' parents, Donald and Jane Vicars of Tacoma, have offered a \$10,000 reward for information leading to her safe return. Ms. Vicars is described as petite with long, straight brown hair, likely worn in a ponytail, and carrying a brown frame backpack. She set out on the trail accompanied by her beloved German Shepherd.

The news of the disappearances has shaken this southern Washington mountain community, with these reports adding to the distressing number of youths now listed as missing nationwide. When reached for comment on these stories, Officer Earl Daniels of the Washington State Patrol emphasized that hitch-hiking is illegal and dangerous and that no one should ever hike alone.







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