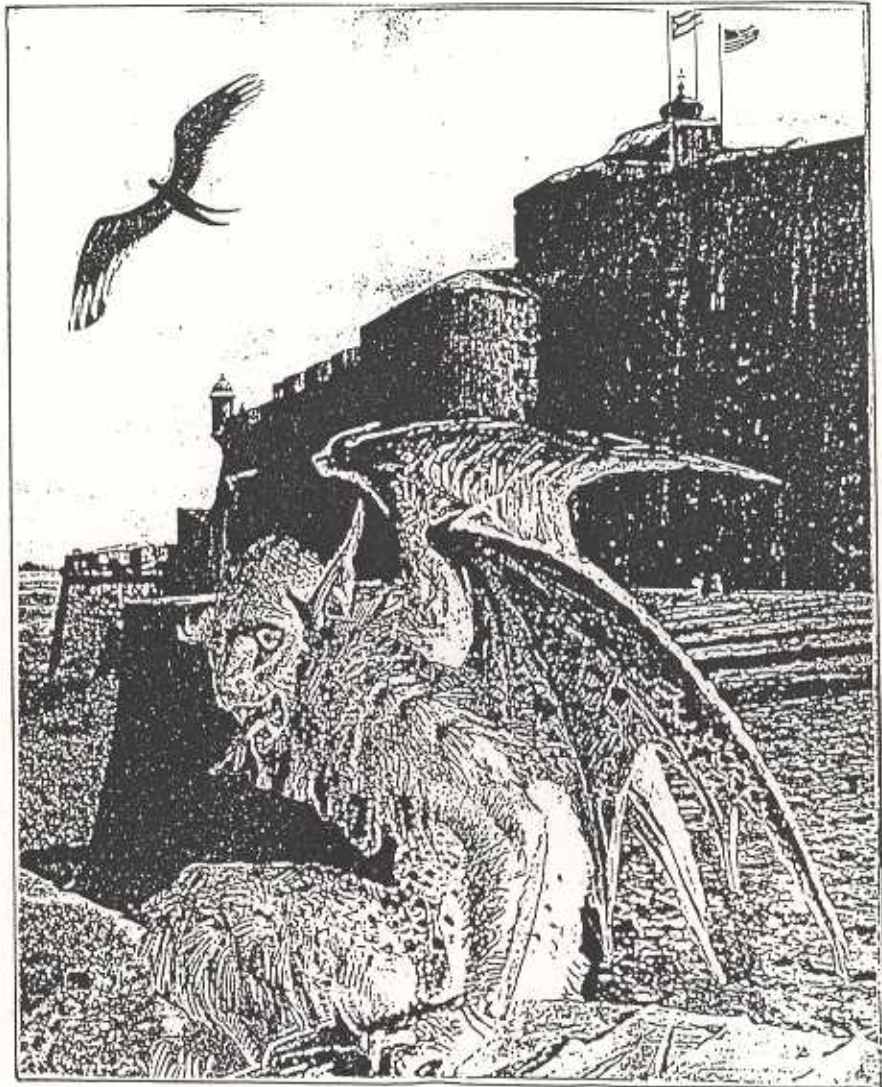


The Chupacabras Diaries

An Unofficial Chronicle of
Puerto Rico's Paranormal Predator

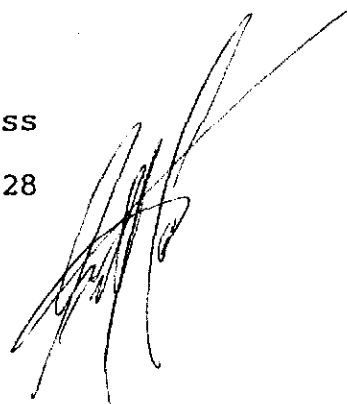


By

Scott Corrales

SCOTT CORRALES: THE CHUPACABRAS DIARIES"

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Acknowledgements

Any page devoted to acknowledgements must begin with sincere gratitude for the sterling research conducted so selflessly by Jorge and Marleen Martín, who have devoted thousands of man-hours, without benefit of grants nor outside funding, to tracking not only the Chupacabras (Goatsucker), but every manifestation of the UFO phenomenon that has been recorded in Puerto Rico. These investigations have never been easy, and in one occasion, have placed their lives in jeopardy. The recognition shown to them at UFO conferences in the United States, Europe, and South America is testimony to the quality of their research.

Greater love hath no man than to clip newspaper items and record television and radio broadcasts for his nephew: this best described José Valdez, who has since 1991 kept the author abreast of the situation in Puerto Rico through a flurry of correspondence and packages that has caused the USPO to accord him preferred customer status.

"...all these men are being drawn closer and closer to ontology, to an examination of the question that lies beyond the simplistic, "Can these things be?" The real question is, "Why are there these things?"

--- John A. Keel
The Mothman Prophecies

Introduction

One of the most significant books I read during my formative years was John A. Keel's *The Mothman Prophecies* (originally by Signet, now IllumiNet Press, 1991). I can remember the cloudy Saturday afternoon I headed to Farmacia Miramar in San Juan's Miramar sector, across from the glittering Condado Lagoon, to scan their considerable book section. I emerged with a glossy new paperback portraying a fearsome looking, batwinged creature on its cover.

I've re-read *The Mothman Prophecies* dozens of times since 1976, and I'm almost certain to offend many by suggesting that it must be the most significant book in ufology to date...but its only a personal opinion. With the hindsight of twenty years, I realize that I was mainly thrilled at the concept of a lone investigator facing the unknown in its myriad guises, and the undeniable visual power of Keel's unmatched prose.

Now another creature of the same epic proportions as Mothman has risen from the depths of mystery to haunt the island where I first read about a small community in West Virginia held in thrall by the unknown. Only this time the scope is island-wide, the media glare beats down on the elusive protagonist, politicians demand an investigation into the riddle, and a lone investigator--Jorge Martín---faces down not only an cryptozoological conundrum, but also the very real danger posed by rogue UFO research groups.

I hope *The Chupacabras Diaries* helps illustrate the situation Puerto Rico is experiencing as of the time of this writing. Knowledge is our only weapon, and our only hope.

Scott Corrales
Bradford, PA
December 1995

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I. The Opening Rounds

For over a century now, the Puerto Rican peasantry has fervently sung: *¡libranos, señor, de este terrible animal!* ("Deliver us, Lord, from this terrible beast!"). It is a song accompanied by the syncopation of numerous drums called *tumbadoras*, and the percussion instruments available in the rural reaches of the island at the time. Folklorists almost surely dismiss the possibility that there might be anything to these lyrics other than a fervent Christian urge to be delivered from the devil, who is described in bestial terms. But Puerto Rico's long history of paranormal phenomena can lead even the sternest doubter to read between the lines of this peasant song.

For decades, Puerto Rico has experienced paranormal phenomena beyond the amount usually felt elsewhere in the world. Major documentaries like *Ovnis Sobre Puerto Rico -- Documento Confidencial* alerted the world to a situation in which bizarre creatures, UFOs and their occupants, and religious phenomena played out on the same stage, or in different rings under the same tent. Animal mutilations presided over the weirdness of the early 1970s, mirroring the Stateside UFO wave of 1972-73, while at the same time people disappeared at the rainforest known as El Yunque, Men in Black walked into business offices, and presumably alien craft crossed the skies with impunity--one of them even pausing to be picked up on a TV commercial for a rum distillery while the camera was left running all night in order to capture a perfect sunrise from the top of a building in the heart of San Juan.

But that was then.

The modern age of weirdness kicked off with the alleged crash of a UFO in El Yunque Rainforest in 1987. Soon after, a massive underground detonation would rock the southwestern tip of the island, attracting the attention of the military. Amaury Rivera would have his controversial abduction experience--a controversy which threatened to destroy the ufological community in both Puerto Rico and Spain, and has indeed left it badly divided)--in the same area a year later.

1989 kicked-off with sightings of the enigmatic, repulsive "vampire birds" which appeared in many different parts of the island simultaneously. Naysayers came forward, alleging that it was they were common island birds with rooster spurs grafted into their beaks. This improbable statement seemed to quell the incipient furor, but the fact of the matter is that government officials not only confiscated the birds in private hands, but even film that was being developed at a Fotomat store.

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1990 and 1991 witnessed the return of the UFO phenomenon and its attendant manifestations to the Adjuntas area, a mountainous region famous for its coffee-growing plantations and as a source of high-grade copper (still unexploited). It was at this time that Laguna Cartagena, an unremarkable, kidney-shaped body of water near the towns of Boquerón and Cabo Rojo, became the alleged entry/exit point for a subterranean/submarine base that reputedly exists deep below the lagoon's surface.

The outrage over the UFO sightings reached such extremes that the mayor of Adjuntas, perplexed by the sightings, and doubtlessly irritated by the sheer volume of sightseers pouring into his normally quiet town, demanded from then-President Bush an investigation into the heavenly phenomenon accosting his constituency. It is unknown if his request ever made it to the White House.

The 1992-94 period witnessed an intensification in the number of UFO sightings, encounters, and abductions. A mysterious "aerostat" -- a kind of barrage balloon tethered to a ground station -- was flown by Federal authorities not far from Laguna Cartagena, ostensibly to help win the war against drugs, but in the process, raising countless suspicions that the aerostat was being utilized to detect UFO activity in the area.

The appearance of triangular UFOs, such as the ones reported over the Hudson Valley in the mid-Eighties, intensified during this period. 1994 ended with the strong likelihood that a diminutive alien corpse--the mortal coil of a creature shot and bludgeoned by farmers who placed it into a freezer for years--was in fact the strongest physical evidence collected on the island to date. The catch, however, was the unwillingness of the party in possession of the cadaver to relinquish it for study, mainly out of fear that it would be confiscated by Federal authorities.

But no one could have imagined what was being heralded by the lull in sightings and unusual activity shortly before New Years, while thousands engaged in revelry and the joys of a tropical Christmas...

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II. The Merry Month of May

Jorge Martín's message on the answering machine on the afternoon of May 17th carried a certain ring of urgency. Returning his call, the first thing he said was, "Do you have any idea what's going on down here?!"

For the next forty-five minutes, Jorge and his wife Marleen briefed me on what had been going on during their investigations in the central region of Puerto Rico's mountainous interior. Since March, animals of all shapes and sizes had been mutilated in the municipalities of Orocovis and Morovis. The authorities were stumped and no clue as to the perpetrator's exact nature had been found.

This new wave of mutilations that disturbed the normally peaceful Puerto Rican springtime was different in many respects from the classic 1975 wave investigated by Salvador Freixedo, who lived on the island at the time. Only a few cases presented the extruded organs that characterized the "mutes" of the American Southwest (admirably documented by Tom Adams). These new gruesome developments left animals entirely bloodless through a single neat perforation found on some part of the body.

The result of the Martins' dedicated research, commuting between San Juan and the scene of the crimes, can be appreciated in the mind-boggling special edition of their magazine *Evidencia Ovni*, which was entirely dedicated to the mutilation phenomenon. He made it perfectly clear in his editorial column that the special edition did not aim to sensationalize the issue--rather, it hoped to provide a series of factual events to help the reader reach his or her own conclusions.

The Orocovis mutilations were first brought to light by Arnaldo García, a radio show host and journalist with Radio Cumbre, as well as an affiliate of San Juan's WKAQ. While the popular perception remains that these events began in March, they had in fact been taking place in scattered locations over a period of time. One year earlier, for instance, a number of deer at the Mayaguez Zoo had been found mutilated and bloodless. At the time, it was considered prudent to conceal this fact from the public.

The mutilation "wave" also had a strong component of "high strangeness" in the form of bizarre humanoids resembling the so-called Grey aliens popularized by Stateside ufology. One of these creatures, in fact, was the first to be reported during the Orocovis flap. A police officer investigating a dead sheep on the property of Mr. Enrique Barreto suddenly became aware that "something" was staring at him from the shadows. The "thing" was generally humanoid in appearance, some 3 to 4 feet tall, and with orange-yellow eyes. Ordering his partner to stop the squad car they were in, the police officer jumped out and pursued the creature. But a truly perplexing thing happened next: the policeman was

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engulfed by a sense of nausea accompanied by a pounding headache when he tried to go after the creature. He was rendered so helpless that his partner had to come to his rescue.

At six o'clock in the morning on March 26, Jaime Torres encountered a similar creature in the field where Mr. Barreto's sheep were kept. Torres, an avid UFO enthusiast, had come to the area the previous evening in the hopes of learning more about what was going on. He and his brothers had repeatedly seen UFOs since December 1994 from their home in Orocovis' Barrio Gato. A nocturnal skywatch, he felt, represented a good chance at seeing more UFOs.

In the early hours of the morning, Torres realized that a round-headed creature with elongated black eyes, a fine jaw, and small mouth, was resting on a tree limb not far from his position. This unusual being had chameleon-like pigmentation, alternating from purple to brown to yellow, while its face was a dark greyish tone.

According to the lone witness, the creature made a curious gesture, moving its head from side to side, and producing a sibilant or hissing sound that caused him to feel faint. Overcoming the sensation, he managed to see the creature drop from the tree-limb and rush off into the dense foliage. Torres decided to abandon the site as well--quickly.

José Vega (pseudonym), a neighbor to the Barreto property, claimed seeing a similar creature at a distance, keeping watch from a tree limb as journalists and investigators covered the terrain where the slaughtered sheep had been discovered. Vega confessed that although he had been looking at the creature through binoculars, it left him deeply shaken and made him feel ill.

The news division of TV Channel 11 in San Juan reported that on the night of May 11, a gargoylesque creature had been reported by a policeman as well as other individuals waiting at a bus stop in Santurce--the hub of metropolitan San Juan. Armed with his truncheon, the policeman struggled bravely against the five foot-tall creature outside the building which houses the Water and Sewage utility (Agueductos y Alcantarillados). The nightmarish creature had allegedly been devouring a rat before squaring off with the policeman. It flew straight into the air, snatching the billy club out of the policeman's hand with its claw (a similar creature was allegedly seen flying over the De Diego Expressway by drivers caught in an afternoon traffic jam. Many of them, no doubt, must have envied its freedom of movement.).

Reports issuing from the Fajardo area, where the El Conquistador Hotel complex is located, indicated that local residents were concerned by chilling screams and howls heard in the night skies, seemingly produced by something flying over the area.

On May 15, 1995, Jorge Martín interviewed Mr. Dolores Torres in the mountain community of Barranquitas. According to the gentleman's testimony, he had stepped out to his backyard

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momentarily to cut some fresh plantain bananas for dinner when everything around him became brightly lit in shades of yellow, orange, red and white. When he looked up to see the source of the polychromatic display, he was stunned to see transparent cylindrical object, less than two feet long, suspended from a cable which vanished into the sky.

The next thing Torres became aware of was that a large black shape was flying or floating toward the cylinder. He was able to distinguish a grey-faced humanoid figure, sheathed in a black outfit. The figure, whose eyes had the curious detail of being shut, approached the farmer, who took a few swings at it with his machete. The cylinder and the black-clad figure disappeared, leaving Torres badly shaken and in need of medical treatment. During his interview with Martín, he declared: "Look, people have come here to tell me that the thing I saw was the Chupacabras that's been killing all these animals. Others tell me its the devil. They're both wrong. These creatures are extraterrestrials...what use could the devil have for a cylinder with a cable attached to it? Something's definitely wrong here."

Mr. Torres was not alone in his speculation regarding an extraterrestrial origin to the entire situation. The strangeness of the animal deaths in Orocovis' Barrio Saltos had many wondering if the federal government would step into the confusing and frightening situation to investigate, particularly after it was learned that a representative of the U.S. Department of Agriculture had inquired on the situation, and that his superiors in Washington had developed interest in the matter as a result of media items issuing from the island.

By now, both the farmers and townspeople of Orocovis were convinced that they were faced with an extraterrestrial menace in the shape of the Chupacabras. Fifty goats had been slain in the town of Comerío, south of Bayamón, and the creature had been identified as three feet tall and hairy. The means by which the animals had been slain was common to all others on the island--incisions around the neck through which blood had been extracted, and in certain cases, the absence of certain organs, such as the heart and the liver.

On May 19, 1995, the inhabitants of the beautiful lake town of Patillas were dazzled by a UFO that flew over the Valle Real urbanization. According to Moisés Picart, the vehicle lit up the hillsides and disappeared shortly after, and did not correspond to any known commercial or military craft. Amazingly bright objects had been reported over the neighboring communities of Comerío and Barranquitas, where another "high-strangeness" event had transpired.

Earlier that same week, an elderly sugarcane cutter, hard at work in the fields, suffered a heart attack after fending off an attack by a monstrous winged creature (which could or could not have been the Chupacabras) in broad daylight. A police report

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indicated that the man had been carrying out his work at Barrio Palo Hincado when the "bird," for want of a better description, assaulted him from behind.

Don Francisco Ruiz, a cattleman in the town of Humacao on Puerto Rico's eastern shore (south of the Roosevelt Roads Naval Facility), was stunned to discover, on the morning of May 22, that three of his goats and their young had been found dead without a drop of blood in their bodies. Officer Stephen Alvarez, a spokesman for the police department, said that the dead animals were found in the Punta Santiago section of Humacao. Puncture marks were found in the goats' necks, foreheads, and lens.

The results of Mr. Ruiz's crude autopsy on his animals, performed on the spot, demonstrated beyond any doubt that the carcass had been completely emptied of blood. This was the first case to take place outside the mountainous central municipalities of the island, and it would by no means be the last.



Julio and Julia Rodriguez examine the bloodless remains of their chickens. Vega Baja, P.R. 11/13/95 (Photo EL VOCERO).

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III. Junebugs, or How much is that doggie in the window?

As the month of June began, the media seemed to lose interest in the Chupacabras and in the constant animal slayings. There was the threat of another water shortage on the horizon (Puerto Rico was very nearly left waterless in 1994, when excellent weather produced no rainstorms to replenish cisterns and reservoirs), political intrigue between one party and another, and the very real threat posed by the discovery that the U.S. Navy intended to build a huge radar array in the southwestern corner of the island. Such concerns understandably drove the Goatsucker to the back burner, but the brown mailer deposited into my mailbox on a sunny Saturday contained a cassette which proved that the critter was still at large -- only now it was the skeptics' turn to have their say.

Perhaps emboldened by the success of a "UFO" conference held at the University of Cupey on June 3 by former ufologists turned apostate (Andrew Alvarez and Orlando Rimax) and disbelieving zoologists and psychologists, the skeptics felt that they could make their case on the national airwaves.

The cassette began with the obvious disappointment in the voice of José Valdez--my uncle and correspondent for my SAMIZDAT newsletter in Puerto Rico. He warned that it had been a mistake to tape the live call-in show because the guest speaker obviously didn't have the first idea of what he was saying. An hour later, I was forced to agree with him.

The host, parapsychologist José Enrique Acosta, announced in a somewhat affected tone that the subject of the evening's broadcast was to be that of the "vampires" afflicting not only the island but the rest of the world. His guest, zoologist Edwin Velásquez, had apparently studied these cases in Mexico, Brazil, Thailand, etc. However, unlike these countries, certain interests had tried make an issue out of the mutilations, alleging extraterrestrial intervention and other supernormal conditions.

The zoologist stated that his study of Puerto Rico's "vampire" problem went back twenty years, when he was employed with the now defunct Safari Park zoo. He had been invited by the media to decipher what exactly had caused the mutilations in the Moca region during the 1975 wave. Apparently, after a search of mountains, valleys, hills and dales, no cause that couldn't be attributed to dogs was ever found.

At this point, I could feel my interest in the recording rising.

Even cats and mongooses, he promptly added, were responsible for the mysterious killings. The slain animals were neither desiccated nor bloodless, as had been alleged: blood was still in evidence within the organs. The signs of attacks to the muzzles of beef cattle were indubitable signs of canine assaults.

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In an incident investigated in Toa Alta, the death of a number of heifers had been attributed to an itinerant mandrill. The zoologist pondered this, and decided that if dogs hadn't caused the carnage, a mandrill would constitute a fitting replacement indeed, since mandrills are carnivorous, and the configuration of their teeth is that of a carnivore.

The host asked his guest why these things appeared to come about every two, three years or so, providing UFO believers with the belief that when lights are seen in the nighttime sky--particularly in Mexico--dead cattle usually litter the ground the following day.

Pausing for a moment, the zoologist replied that if one notices closely, it can be found that there is a refractory period between the so-called waves, the last one being the Adjuntas sightings of 1993. This could be understood as a catharsis or release that the popular mind demanded in order to cope with worldly tribulations. Belief in UFOs could best be seen as a safety valve of sorts, and people who would ordinarily never consider visiting the mountains of Orocovis were now doing so out of this UFO-driven belief. Simply, a means of "escape."

Host: many people have said that the creature drags itself on the ground, lives in caves...is there anything to this belief?

Zoologist: Not everyone can describe a creature they see at night, and their imagination fills the blanks by association with other things. It happens very often in the Laguna Cartagena region, where feral monkeys escaped from a research institution. A person seeing one of these apes in twilight would believe they had seen a little man, thus confusing the real for the fantastic.

Host: [...] people must learn to banish their fears, as can be witnessed by the situation created around vampires, bloodsuckers, and an entire array of creatures.

Zoologist: This is dangerous, because when the humble, ignorant people of our rural areas hear that there is a bloodsucking creature on the loose, they believe it. Hysteria sets in. We should not be so sensationalistic. The media, for whatever reason, only gives one part of the story rather than the whole story.

After a commercial break, the host returned with another guest: Arnaldo Ginés of Channel 11 on the telephone. The reason for his having been invited on the show was that he had of course investigated the Orocovis "vampires."

Journalist: Who said they were vampires?

Host: The callers to our show who've been saying that vampires or extraterrestrials are to blame...but since you're a scientific journalist, we'd like you to tell us exactly what transpired.

Journalist: Well, I always try to produce an objective report by having people say exactly what it is they've seen. I cannot testify to something I

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haven't seen, or that my cameraman hasn't filmed. All I can say is that there were indeed dead animals with wounds on their bodies which can be attributed to any creature, in all the time that we've been going to Orocovis. We did see a bull die before our very eyes, which was a very impressive sight, but aside from that, I can't lay claim to having seen anything unusual. Some of the people who've agreed to be interviewed before our camera claim, allege, having seen something strange and have even produced a number of drawings of what they saw.

Host: But your cameraman hasn't picked up anything strange?

Journalist: Not at all. We have gone out at night with infrared film in the camera and haven't come up with anything.

Host: What about these strange marks on the animals' bodies? Do they appear to have been made by dogs?

Journalist: Well, that's where I draw the line, because I'm in no way well-versed in the subject. I understand that when a dog bites, it tends to tear at the flesh, but I'm not by any means an expert in their behavior. It is curious, however, that the dead bull and the dead sheep had wounds that were similar to each other, and the animals that were wounded but didn't die displayed the same wounds.

Host: [...] Our guest Edwin Velásquez has some questions for you...

Zoologist: Yes, I would like to know if the persons in the regions remarked that there were dogs in the area, or if the wounds could be attributed to feral dogs.

Journalist: Well, at least one witness says that wild dogs could have been responsible, particularly around the property belonging to Quique Barreto, where the dead sheep were found. There is a waste dump in the area where wild animals of all kinds could have bred. It's possible, therefore, that dogs could be involved. I think in fact that Tito Chavez from Natural Resources has said that dog bites or bites caused by some other animal are more than likely the explanation, as opposed to some extraterrestrial creature as some parties have tried to make it seem.

Host: What about the dead heifer? Was it ill before it died? Was its owner treating it with some medication?

Journalist: I really don't know if it was sick. I understand that, as in Don Quique's case, when they found the animals lying there, they were injected with substances at the recommendation of a veterinarian. I suppose the same happened with the bull. It's possible that a reaction or overdose brought about the death--but I'm speculating. I understand that lab results are being expected. I would like your listeners to know that I enjoy this kind of reporting and that when it is an unusual matter, it is highly attractive for purposes of the print media and television. I become concerned, though, when hysteria begins to spread, for which reason I made a report twelve days later showing that no animal deaths had taken place. We cannot say the witnesses are lying, but it cannot be argued that something has been seen causing the attacks.

Zoologist: There is always possibility that an exotic animal is on the

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loose and has caused these deaths. It could have been released accidentally or on purpose, causing the damage in question.

Journalist: Well, what matters is that there have been no more attacks over the past 12 days, and the people of Orocovis can begin feeling calmer about the situation. Trust that the authorities will clear up the matter...I recall that in Camuy, a few years ago, certain pigs died mysteriously, and I'm not sure if it was ever cleared up. For many years people spoke about the Moca Vampire, but I understand that it was all a hoax...

Host: It was a hoax...

Zoologist: It was fabricated...

Journalist:...they took a bat and inserted false fangs into its mouth, or something like that.

Host: No, the fangs were inserted in a bird that was photographed in the newspapers, and it allegedly sucked blood. It turned out to be a guabairo, a bird native to Puerto Rico, into which the spurs used by fighting roosters had been inserted.

Journalist: Now, during all my time in Orocovis, no one has told me anything about animals being bloodless or having their blood removed.

Host: Of course, of course, and you've just made an interesting point. Blood specimens were drawn on the dead animals

Journalist: Sure.

Host: But the story is that the extraterrestrials landed and left them without a single drop of blood, and this isn't true.

Journalist: Correct. No one has told me that they have no blood. I believe that there are people here and around the world who believe in extraterrestrials and have studied the matter for years, there are folks in different parts of the island and of the world who allege having seen strange lights and animals. I respect these peoples' beliefs, in the same way I respect religion and politics. But as a journalist I must stay objective, even though I have my own point of view of this situation. But I can tell people that it is a UFO only if I've captured it in my camera lens. For this reason I insist that these deaths could have been produced by an exotic animal, and that the people of Orocovis were unable to describe an animal they had never seen before...not so long ago I went to Cabo Rojo to report on some apes that were on the loose, in an area where there are no apes to begin with.

Zoologist: They're still there, you know.

Journalist: Its a highly complex matter, and the problem is that the people of Orocovis have taken it very seriously, and it has affected many local children, They can't go to school, they're restless in their sleep, and I feel that although we have a responsibility to inform people about what's going on, we're also responsible for urging them to remain calm, without having to cause an alarm.

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Host: That's how it is, and Arnaldo, we would like to thank you for being on our show...everyone knows the serious and scientific approach you've taken in all your stories.

Journalist: You're very welcome. Good Night.

Host: We will now begin taking phone calls on the line, only calls related to tonight's subject. Noti-Uno, hello?

Caller #1: Hello, good evening. This is Tita Mercado calling...

Host: Doña Tita, excuse me for a minute...aside from the callers already on the line, I'm inviting our listeners from Orocovis to call us as well. I feel they deserve every chance to comment on what's going on in their community. Please go ahead, Doña Tita.

Caller #1: As I'm talking to you, The Learning Channel, I think its Channel 30, is showing something on flying objects, UFOs, and there's a Harvard professor who alleges that they exist, and a whole lot more. My question is this: where do the UFOs seen over Orocovis fit in? Where do the...

Host: Excuse me, Doña Tita, who said anything about flying saucers?

Caller # 1: Well, according to the reports...

Host: There were no reports, photos, films, or any evidence or proof.

Caller #1: I'm sorry, but I heard on WKAQ that there are two witnesses who did see flying objects. I'm not making this up as I go along.

Host: No, no, I understand. Scientifically, there is no proof that any sightings have taken place, only sightings of lights, which are common...

Caller #1: And the decomposition [process] of the animals, which didn't take place, was something I also found strange. Furthermore, all I could say--and Don Edwin knows that I know quite a bit about animals...

Zoologist: Yes.

Caller #1: Do you remember, Edwin, the Tasmanian Devil that escaped from el Monoloro? [defunct zoo]

Zoologist: The one in Carolina, you mean?

Caller #1: No, the not Monoloro, the other one...

Host: Safari Park?

Caller#1: That's the one! That was years ago, and its the only thing that could...I'm looking at this objectively, but the flesh didn't rot with the tremendous heat we've been experiencing. Once, I took two geese which had been found in Cabo Rojo, with no blood and puncture marks, to a vet, who was well known here. He did the autopsy and everything, but after it was done, he refused

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to sign the autopsy protocol. The geese didn't have a drop of blood between them.

Host: I'm going to jump ahead of Edwin here. I'm not a scientist or a doctor like he is...

Caller #1: I think that the protocols or the Federal paperwork granted to veterinarians or importers, people having to do with fauna and flora, are afraid to receive some sanction from Federal authorities, but I'm sitting here watching extraterrestrials on channel 30, and I'm wondering what's going on?

Host: Well, you can have anything you want going on, But let me tell you from experience that I'm not an authorized embalmer, but I have done embalming of bodies during years, and blood is the first thing to decompose. When something has bled to death, there is little blood to be found. With no blood in the body, the decomposition process takes longer to come about. I imagine that the same applies to animals. Edwin can challenge me on this point if it isn't so.

Zoologist: It is so, and both the climatological and soil conditions play a role in determining this matter. Many animal corpses do not betray the decomposition one would expect after many days.

Caller #1: I'd like to add that a few years ago, along with 42 other people at the Caguas Drive-In, I saw a mothership which was later featured on the first page of the old El Mundo newspaper. Among the witnesses there were judges, psychologists...

Host: I'm not saying extraterrestrials don't exist, but the animals are the subject tonight. I have to let you go, since the board is full. Noti-Uno, hello?

Caller #2: Good evening. Do they [extraterrestrials] exist or not?

Host: Look, the subject tonight isn't whether extraterrestrials exist or not, and I still haven't met anyone who has photographed them or filmed them. The day that happens, I'll do like my friend Arnaldo Ginés and respect the person who took the photo or film, which I would then present to you. I don't doubt it. My concept of extraterrestrial is different from that of most people, Someday we'll do a special program on the subject. To me extraterrestrials and Marian apparitions are the Gods which have been deified over the centuries.

Caller #2: But my question has to do with tonight's...

Host: No. As Dr. Edwin Velázquez has said, the wounds are caused by dogs. Got it?

Caller #2: So now it's dogs.

Host: No, it's not a matter of "now it's dogs." It has always been dogs who attacked the animals because the waste dumps were close. Wild dogs were seen in the area. There are no extraterrestrials in Orocovis. It isn't true.

Caller #2: Well, now there's a neighbor saying they saw dogs, and it's really confusing...

Host: No, no. there were people who claim having seen an animal skulking

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Host: That's how it is, and Arnaldo, we would like to thank you for being on our show...everyone knows the serious and scientific approach you've taken in all your stories.

Journalist: You're very welcome. Good Night.

Host: We will now begin taking phone calls on the line, only calls related to tonight's subject. Noti-Uno, hello?

Caller #1: Hello, good evening. This is Tita Mercado calling...

Host: Doña Tita, excuse me for a minute...aside from the callers already on the line, I'm inviting our listeners from Orocovis to call us as well. I feel they deserve every chance to comment on what's going on in their community. Please go ahead, Doña Tita.

Caller #1: As I'm talking to you, The Learning Channel, I think its Channel 30, is showing something on flying objects, UFOs, and there's a Harvard professor who alleges that they exist, and a whole lot more. My question is this: where do the UFOs seen over Orocovis fit in? Where do the...

Host: Excuse me, Doña Tita, who said anything about flying saucers?

Caller # 1: Well, according to the reports...

Host: There were no reports, photos, films, or any evidence or proof.

Caller #1: I'm sorry, but I heard on WKAQ that there are two witnesses who did see flying objects. I'm not making this up as I go along.

Host: No, no, I understand. Scientifically, there is no proof that any sightings have taken place, only sightings of lights, which are common...

Caller #1: And the decomposition [process] of the animals, which didn't take place, was something I also found strange. Furthermore, all I could say--and Don Edwin knows that I know quite a bit about animals...

Zoologist: Yes.

Caller #1: Do you remember, Edwin, the Tasmanian Devil that escaped from el Monoloro? [defunct zoo]

Zoologist: The one in Carolina, you mean?

Caller #1: No, the not Monoloro, the other one...

Host: Safari Park?

Caller#1: That's the one! That was years ago, and its the only thing that could...I'm looking at this objectively, but the flesh didn't rot with the tremendous heat we've been experiencing. Once, I took two geese which had been found in Cabo Rojo, with no blood and puncture marks, to a vet, who was well known here. He did the autopsy and everything, but after it was done, he refused

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about, another [person] was performing a biological necessity and saw an animal climb up a tree...

Caller #2: And he made a drawing of it...

Host: Aha. Why didn't he make a drawing of it before? We're just going through a period of collective hysteria, fear. If we were living in the Puerto Rico of the 1920's, I would have believed the man who appeared on the newscast, but in the age in which we live, with toilets available, anyone who tells me they went into the woods to defecate, I can't believe...these cases are entirely different. They are not the same. [break in dialogue]...We cannot compare what happened in Mexico or in Canada with what happens here in Puerto Rico, specifically what's happening in Orocovis. Do you understand?

Caller#2: Ummm.

Host: Okay? Thanks for your call and good night. Noti-Uno, good evening?

Caller#3: Good evening, this is Jorge Berrios from Bayamón.

Host: Yes, what is your question for Doctor Edwin Velásquez?

Caller#3: My question is: why, if he categorically states that we're dealing with dogs, did the same dogs not attack in the same area earlier?

Zoologist: These things have always occurred. Dogs have always attacked animals and the people who live in the area and have been interviewed can attest to it. However, in this matter, for whatever reason, there is a lapse of a few years and new wave of stories emerges about UFOs or attacks on animals. It's a seasonal affair. It just so happens that now it's in Orocovis...

Caller #3: Okay, but what I'm saying is that with the sheer volume of dogs that we have in Puerto Rico, it just so happens that the dogs from Orocovis are the ones going after steers?

Zoologist: It isn't a casual affair. It happens every day.

Caller #3: With the same characteristics?

Zoologist: With the same characteristics. In other words, it's nothing strange. What's strange is that there are people who want to give it connotations of an unknown phenomenon.

Caller #3: But I ask you again: have you gone to the area?

Zoologist: Orocovis? Yes, I've been in Orocovis. And I've been to many other places on the island.

Host: Don't forget, friend, that Dr. Edwin Velásquez is a zoologist and independently from this, the government has hired him to perform this kind of work over the past 20 years. For that reason I asked him to come on this show: not just to tell you that dogs were responsible, but to give you faith in that it's a scientific matter, OK?

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Caller #3: I know, but excuse me: Noticentro Cuatro just interviewed a biologist, and the man said that in no way could vampire bats have caused such damage to the animals.

Host: We're not talking about vampires here. We're talking about dogs.

Caller #3: In closing, I would like him to tell me what kind of exotic animal can cause wounds of that nature, and bring about an animals death?

Zoologist: Well, there are several kinds of carnivores that can cause that kind of damage. What do you want me to tell you? There are felines, and we're not talking about lions or tigers here..

Caller #3: Who won't tear their prey?

Zoologist: You have to have a certain amount of knowledge. When a feline attacks its prey, it doesn't tear at it. It suffocates it by crushing it, leaving two neat fang marks. Therefore, there is no rending of flesh.

Caller #3: Then what's the purpose of inflicting the wounds and nothing else?

Zoologist: Well, the wounds...

Caller #3: Excuse me, but when an animal attacks it's because it's hungry.

Zoologist: Usually. But these attacks by packs of dogs don't always eat the animal. For some reason, they kill the animal, become frightened, and leave the area. They don't always eat the kill.

Caller #3: Well, you haven't convinced me, but all right.

Host: But friend, I urge to find more information at [name of bookstore]

Caller #3: But in that case--what's your name?

Host: Jose Enrique.

Caller #3: In that case, Jose Enrique, I would have to ask you to do the same. If there is no proof about UFOs, then what proof is there about what you're saying? Scientific proof on the subject.

Host: You know what happens? No UFO was ever seen, but the dogs were seen.

Caller #3: No, no, I mean about the subject you deal with.

Host: Well, the subject we're dealing with tonight...

Caller #3: What scientific proof is there?

Host: Well, visual [proof], for one.

Caller #3: I mean about your field, parapsychology. What proof is there?

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Host: Hey, we can talk all you like about it. I've been a year and a half on Noti-Uno and have 28 years of experience behind me regarding the powers of the mind and the psyche. It's nothing religious, just the mind.

Caller #3: But I mean scientific proof.

Host: Well, the scientific proof would be proof that I've been a year and a half with Noti-Uno, have 28 years experience, and I have a really, really professional office, and I'm doing really well for myself.

Caller #3: Well, okay then. Thank you.

Host: The reason I'm telling you this is that I'm good at what I do, you know?

Caller #3: Great. Thanks again.

Host: I'm at your service whenever you'd like to stop by my office, and I'll give you all the proof you want...The reason I'm saying this to the caller is because there are many people who try to say: what proof do you have? But as you've said, Edwin, it's something real, something that has been proven, these animals are dogs. And it's our subject tonight. Good evening, Noti-Uno?

Caller #4: Good evening.

Host: What's your question, please?

Caller #4: My name's Ricardo...

Host: Quickly, because we're running out of time.

Caller #4: I'm not a zoologist, but I've been bitten by dogs.

Host: Aha.

Caller #4: There's an observation I would like to make. I'm concerned that someone who hasn't seen these bite wounds is saying that its a dog. I didn't go to Orocovis, but I recorded everything with great care because I'm a medical photographer. I've seen the bites of many animals, including humans.

Host: What does a medical photographer do, friend?

Caller #4: A medical photographer photographs everything having to do with medicine in order to show it to students.

Host: Do you work for some agency?

Caller #4: I'm employed by the College of Medicine. There's an observation about animals I'd like to make. Animals--if you've ever seen a documentary on hunters--that bite other animals respond to their self-preservation instincts. Bulls have one of the strongest self-preservation instincts. This bull allowed itself to be bitten, yet did not respond to the attack by its aggressor. This is a concern for me, that a zoologist hasn't explained up to now why this didn't take place.

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Host: Well, look here, friend--Edwin is going to answer your question.

Caller #4: But before he answers, let me ask him a question...

Host: Let him answer you first, then you can ask the second question. Don't go away.

Zoologist: Yes, in the bull's case, it did not display any particular type of wounds or punctures, except in one of its legs. Therefore, we can't really say that it was even a bite, and I would say that it had stepped on a nail or something similar. There wasn't even a bite, in the case of the bull in question.

Caller #4: But I'd like to give you a detail provided last night by the Director of Parque de las Ciencias, who performed an autopsy with some biologists and veterinarians on the bull.

Zoologist: Yes.

Caller #4: This bull had certain incisions on its neck, and had other incisions reaching down to its lungs, okay? After eight days, the dead animal was entirely flexible, it wasn't stiff. Those who grow cattle for commercial sales know that after eight days, no animal is going to be flexible. That's the first surprise...

Zoologist: Let me ask you something. Was the autopsy protocol...who was the person who performed the autopsy, did you say?

Caller #4: I don't recall the name, but I know that it was authorized by the mayor of Bayamón at Channel 4's request.

Zoologist: Yes, but is there an autopsy protocol? Does one exist?

Caller #4: Sure it exists.

Zoologist: And who has it?

Caller #4: The director of Parque de las Ciencias in Bayamón.

Zoologist: The director of Parque de las Ciencias performed an autopsy?

Caller #4: Yes...

Zoologist: To the best of my knowledge, the director of Parque de las Ciencias isn't a vet.

Caller #4: Well, he went there with a biologist and a veterinarian.

Zoologist: Ah.

Caller #4: I heard these words from his own mouth in a recording featured on Jorge Martín's program last night. It was aired with his own words. They got there, they opened the animal, they checked its heart, noticed the animal had died in agony, there were blood clots, eight days later the animal's blood was

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still liquid, and it was flexible when it shouldn't have been. They even thought, before laying a hand on the animal, that the temperature had kept it from decomposing, but at midday the heat became unbearable. I'm sure they'll communicate the results [of the autopsy] to the people in their own time. It's not normal.

Zoologist: I think that the person whom you're describing is a friend of mine, the vet at Parque de las Ciencias, Dr. Bientot. If the autopsy protocol exists, you can be sure that I'll examine it, and I'll talk to Dr. Bientot to see what's really behind all this.

Caller #4: Honestly, you should really inform yourself well, because talking without having visited the site, is a bit...

Host: But friend, what you're trying to do is--sorry for interrupting you--is make it seem as if what our friend Jorge Martín says...and I've heard his show...is that these are extraterrestrials...

Caller #4: No, I'm not talking about extraterrestrials...

Host: You're trying to create the impression that...

Caller #4: For a human to have done that would require...

Host: It's that you, you--the autopsy you're referring to is impossible. Its impossible to make such determinations in a split second. You're giving us conclusions that you yourself don't have in your hands

Caller #4: Yes, but it's evident. There is no aggression, there's nothing...

Host: But this isn't...

Caller #4: Look, when a dog bites it tears...have you ever been bitten by a dog? I've been bitten by dogs and...

Host: It's not the same thing to be bitten by a dog than by a human.

Caller #4: Look, a dog has teeth...

Host: Aha.

Caller #4: It'll stick its fangs into you and the other teeth as well.

Host: If you listened to the show from the beginning, you heard Edwin Velásquez comment that the bull may have been ill to begin with. It's death was not necessarily caused by a dog bite.

Zoologist: In fact, the animal's owners remarked to someone who was present that the animal had indeed been sick around that time, and that many of the owner's animals had been sick and were being medicated. Possibly one of the medications given to it brought about death.

Caller #4: But did you see the puncture marks on it? I've got tapes with close-ups showing that it was an animal that bites with a single fang. There are

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no one-fanged animals.

Zoologist: Yes, but keep in mind that these farm animals can scratch themselves against barbed wire...

Caller #4: You mean to say all the animals, so many cows and goats?

Zoologist: Tell me why can't it be so?

Caller #4: They'd better get the nail out of wherever it's stuck!

Zoologist: But tell me why can't it be so? Why can't it be barbed wire? Why?

Caller #4: Because how are you going to drive barbed wire down to the lungs? He said this himself, and you can ask him if he's your friend, that whatever pierced down to its lungs didn't damage any viscerae, which surprised him. How could something pierce a body without...

Host: Let's do something, friend. Let's--

Caller #4: I'm only asking that...

Host: Let's take up this matter with Dr. Bientot, so that Edwin can talk to him this week, discuss the autopsy, and then next Friday we can comment on it, all right?

Caller #4: Sure, of course.

Host: We're running out of time. Thanks for your call.

Caller #4: So long.

Host: Our last call. Noti-Uno, good evening?

Caller #5: Good evening.

Host: Your question, please.

Caller #5: Yes, I had the same thoughts about the Orocovis situation since it first started, and I've been against anything having to do with extraterrestrials, vampires...

Host: We should always look for the scientific aspect first.

Caller #5: To me, it has to be a dog...either a dog or a lion. There's nothing else.

Zoologist: Yes, well...an animal, you're correct.

Caller #5: A wild dog or a lion.

Host: It may be, but we can't rule out extraterrestrials so as not to