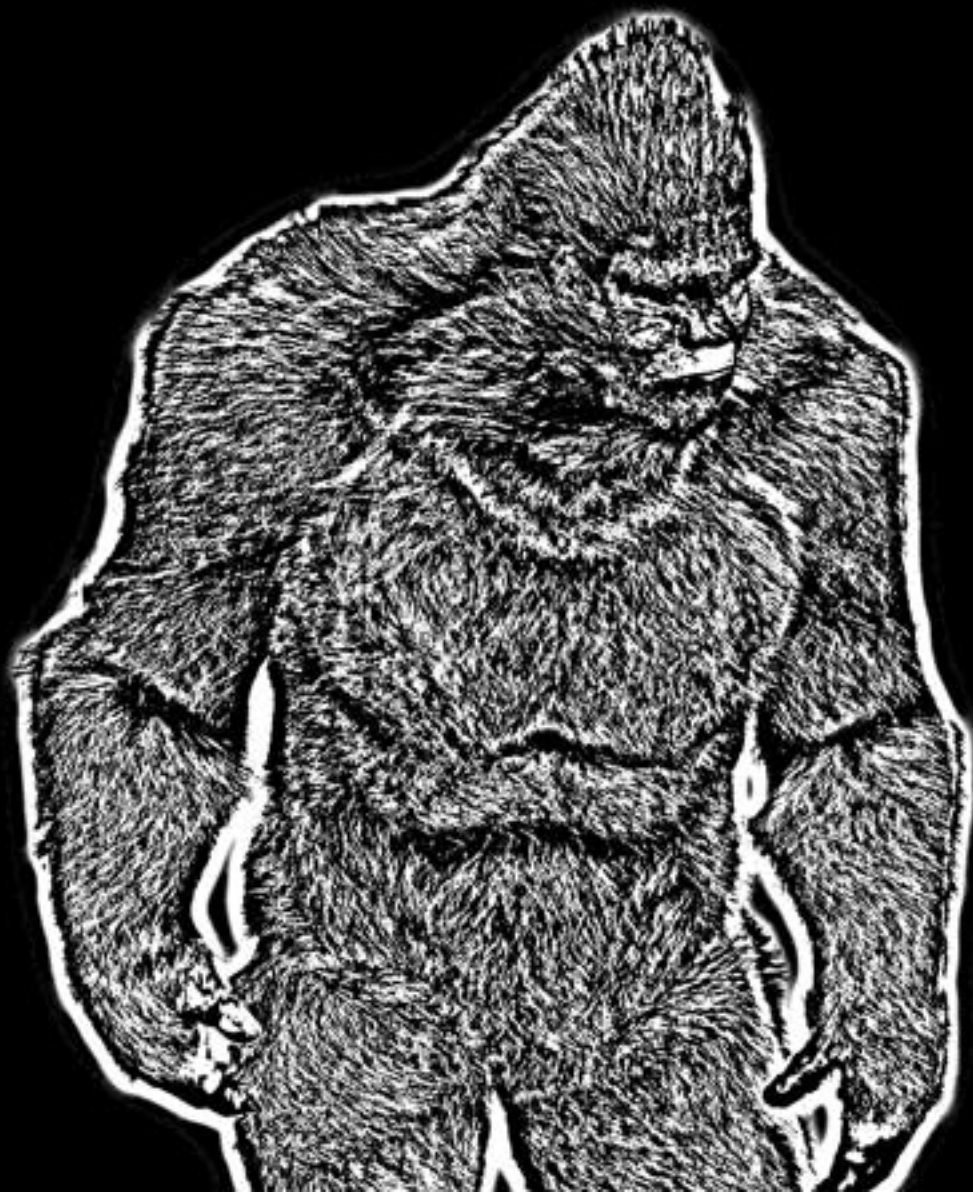


DAVE SHEALY VS SKUNK APE



GROWING UP IN SOUTHWEST FLORIDA,
I ALWAYS HEARD STORIES ABOUT THE SKUNK APE.



THE SKUNK APE IS
THE SASQUATCH OF THE SWAMP.
SKUNK APES ARE 5-7 FEET TALL
AND ONLY HAVE FOUR TOES.



THEY'RE NOMADIC OMNIVORES THAT
TRAVEL IN GROUPS CALLED 'TROOPS'.
THEY SMELL REALLY BAD BECAUSE
THEY EAT A LOT OF EGGS.

THIS GUY DAVE SHEALY HAS BEEN TRACKING THE SKUNK APE SINCE THE 70S. HE RUNS THE SKUNK APE RESEARCH HEADQUARTERS IN THE BIG CYPRESS SWAMP.



ITS NEAR OCHOPEE, FL WHICH HAS THE SMALLEST POST OFFICE IN THE COUNTRY. THE DOZEN PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY OF OCHOPEE ELECTED DAVE SHEALY MAYOR ONCE.



WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I USED TO WATCH HARRY AND THE HENDERSONS ALL THE TIME, HOPING ONE DAY, A SKUNK APE WOULD BECOME A MEMBER OF MY FAMILY.



ONE DAY, I ASKED MY DAD ABOUT THE SKUNK APE. HE HAD GROWN UP HEARING STORIES AS WELL, BUT KNEW THE TRUTH. I GUESS DAVE SHEALY AND HIS BROTHER GO OUT AND MAKE "SIGHTINGS" OF EACH OTHER WEARING THEIR HOMEMADE SUIT WHENEVER THEY'RE TRYING TO GET PEOPLE TO COME OUT TO THEIR NECK OF THE SWAMP. THE SHEALYS HAVE KNICK-KNACKS AND SOUVENIRS THEY'RE TRYING TO SELL. I WAS PRETTY BUMMED TO FIND OUT IT WAS A FRAUD.

DAVE SHEALY STILL HAS HIS RESEARCH
HEADQUARTERS OUT IN THE SWAMP.



EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE,
I'LL STOP BY FOR A VISIT.
IT'S NICE TO BELIEVE IN SOMETHING.



BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE

CONTACT ME ABOUT THIS
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