

Monster Fun

By: Bradford E. Jones

There is a new show on the History Channel for anyone who ever spent a sleepless night in the woods wondering what was lurking in the darkness, or for those of us who can't go swimming without worrying about what unknown creature is going to latch onto our leg. The show is called *Monster Quest* and it chronicles expeditions in search of such beasts as Bigfoot, "Champ" the Lake Champlain serpent, mythical giant thunderbirds and the giant squid that inspired the legend of the Kraken.

I have seen five episodes so far and I am officially hooked. The show consists of scientists and amateurs undertaking expeditions to seek out these elusive creatures of legend. The seekers of these beasts use hi-tech scientific equipment combined with simple and sometimes unorthodox techniques to try to capture creatures on film. Bigfoot (or Sasquatch) seems to garner the most attention in this field of creature research and there have been two shows on our hairy cousin so far. Both shows were inconclusive as far as absolute proof of the existence of a giant primate living in the deep woods of North America. One show did uncover DNA evidence that there is in fact a bi-pedal animal lurking in British Columbia that scientists have never encountered previously. The other show on the Sasquatch provided new evidence that the encounter that was captured on 16mm film in Northern California in 1967 was not a hoax. The theory that the beast on film was a "man in a monkey" suit was debunked in two separate ways. Through the use of modern technology scientists proved that a human could not simulate the walk of the beast and through the use of digital imaging technology the film was enhanced to the point that facial muscle and movement could be seen.