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(The following article was written by SP/4 Richard S. Hack, RA 11 801 502, CMR #3, Box 9121, Fort Rucker, Alabama 36360)

MAGICIANS, THE CIA, AND JOHN A. KEEL
by Richard S. Hack

Twice in the last couple of months, Allen Greenfield and I have gotten together to pour forth cogent comments on the UFO situation and life in general, ranging from the validity of Ayn Rand to why the Tannhauser myth sounds like a Brown Mountain contactee case. During our second talk, Al asked me to sound loudly forth on such topics in an authoritative article - quote, unquote. So you asked for it, brothers!

My first topic will be in reference to the enigmatic Men in Black. In a book entitled, "UFOs Over the Americas", Jim and Coral Lorenzen put forth the hypothesis that many of the incidents attributed to strange persons in black clothing were really efforts of the Central Intelligence Agency and/or sundry other intelligence groups to keep a security lid on the subject in the national interest.

My views parallel theirs in some respects, but differ in others. For instance, I believe that the authors make a good case for the existence of some sort of UFO interest by the CIA or some other national agency. There are several valid reasons for believing this. One is the fact that the CIA would presumably receive intelligence reports on the phenomena from the Air Force. Secondly, the Green Bay Gentleman who inadvertently revealed that he had drawn up an intelligence estimate on the Lorenzens. Third, the OSI (Office of Special Investigations) dossier reputed to exist on the Lorenzens. Forth, the intelligence report indicating close surveillance of the Lorenzens reportedly discovered by Dr. Olavo T. Fontes. Fifth, and finally, the Robertson Panel's comment to the effect that such organizations as APRO should be watched due to the possibility of their being subverted sometime in the future.

However, from here my views sharply diverge from those of the Lorenzens. The later incidents they reveal seem to me to indicate a third factor - the one we call the Men In Black.

For instance, they cite the case where deposits of angel hair were apparently deliberately destroyed by the supposedly "accidental" dumping of fuel oil on the area. To me it seems unlikely that the CIA has enough personnel to maintain such a wide surveillance of individual investigators that within two days after a phone conversation with the Lorenzens concerning the incident, they were able to locate the investigator's angel hair site and arrange its destruction, simply to destroy "hard evidence". In other words, the effort expended seems disproportionate to the importance of the incident.

Again, would the CIA track down witnesses to simple sightings all over the world and illegally threaten and even kidnap them solely to prevent their stories from leaking out? I maintain that the normal intelligence procedures cited by the Lorenzens do not include such fantastic procedures as dressing up in black suits and running around trying to look like aliens! If the Air Force isn't doing it, why ascribe omniscience to the CIA?

Again, note that APRO admits that the Ohio Valley is crawling with such incidents, yet refuses to consider the possibility of a connection between this fact and the numerous phenomena uncovered by John Keel in this area.

And the most devastating indictment of this CIA scenario is the physical fact of Men in Black - men with uniform descriptions and apparel who, to say the least, have strange abilities, some which may be considered outside the range of even the CIA. When a UFO witness gets crank calls within scant hours after his sighting, and before he even tells anyone of the event, it is hard to suggest CIA involvement without postulating that the CIA has ears in every wall.

True, one may ask, "Well, how can these MIB pull these things off, and why would they, if the same things are not rational when attributed to the CIA?" Sadly, I have no reply - except to say that at least the ring of truth, as it were, does not hang on the suggestion of such strange practices being the work of hidebound government bureaucrats - and that is what the CIA is run by, if the agents themselves are not.

A quick jump now to alchemists, ancient civilizations, mutants, and a secret society of intellectuals, in short, "The Morning of the Magicians", by Louis Pauwels and Jacques Bergier. This book is required reading for UFOlogists. The authors expound a philosophy of "fantastic realism" and in citing the reasons have delved deeper into the nature of reality than many a theoretical physicist. They ask questions without daring to suggest authoritative answers, and while daring to suggest that the true answers will be incredible and fantastic. Ironically, they regard UFOs as a form of mass hysteria - yet now the evidence is building to suggest that in UFOlogy will be found the linkages of many of their questions.

For instance, they ask: "Were occult forces at work in Hitler's Germany?" And today John Keel asks: "Was Hitler 'possessed' by those behind the UFO phenomenon?" They ask: "Is there an intellectual secret society working behind the scenes of history?" And Tom Comella once mentioned the "Omega Group". They ask: "What were ancient civilizations really capable of?" And we ask: "Are the ancients still with us?"

They suggest that this intellectual secret society may have discovered and used shortwave radio long before the recognized inventors. And John Keel has discovered that it would appear the UFO occupants are and have been using very low frequencies to maintain communication between themselves.

They call this group of super-scientists a "cryptocracy" (a secret autocracy). This term might very well apply to the beings behind the UFOs. They describe the amazing similarities between ancient "charms" and modern technical processes (for instance, the ancient "chant" may have been a means of marking time, such as that used today in advanced photography). They wonder what technical treasures existed in the ancient books burned at Alexandria and Memphis, Egypt. And I wonder what stories of UFOs and their occupants could be found in these same books.

I cannot give a resume of the brilliant ideas contained in this book, as even a resume would be far too long for this piece. But I urge every student and researcher in UFOlogy to read it. LSD could never be so mind-expanding.

Another leap, this one to personalities and the controversy raging over the person of John A. Keel, UFOlogist extraordinaire. As everyone now knows, John Keel has been berating the UFO "buffs" because of their complete inability and unwillingness to do in-depth research in every area of the field. This in turn has led to antagonism on both sides, with charges that Keel has trumped up a lot of sensational stories in order to cash in on the current UFO "popularity". Keel charges that the buffs never go out and do more than collect a bunch of newspaper clippings, and the buffs retort that "since he knows so much, why doesn't he publish it?" - with a righteous air of "If you're so smart, why ain't you rich?"

To clarify my personal views, let me describe how I became involved in this civil (or un-civil) war.

In August of 1967, I was dispatched to Vietnam to "aid in the war effort", shall we say. While there, I took up reading SAGA Magazine. There were two reasons for this: one was the UFO articles, the second was the delightful full-color shots of beautiful broads, in short supply over there. It was in SAGA that I first read of the current Men In Black stories. The article was by John Keel. I immediately went back over my copy of Gray Barker's "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers" and immediately saw parallels. So I began to wonder if perhaps my prior dismissal of Barker's material had been unreasonable. In a prior article, Keel had written about moon bases, and in answer to a critical letter in the magazine's letters section, he had described his research into this particular area, i.e., moon bases. His research seemed thorough and professional, so I decided that perhaps he knew what he was talking about.

One thing led to another. I found out that he was an APRO member. Good enough, I figured. Eventually I obtained his address and wrote. His reply included a copy of his "Open Letter to UFO Researchers". And it was the ideas expressed therein that convinced me that here was a reliable man.

In August of 1968, I returned to the States, and while heading for my home state of Connecticut, I visited New York and on 2 August I met John Keel at his apartment. We talked until about three in the morning. I found that his UFO library contained almost every book on the subject. I was shown a considerable number of articles that he had written, a number of graphs he had drawn up, and the draft for his book "Operation Trojan Horse" - a draft which had about 534 pages in it, close-spaced, chock-full of names of witnesses that he had interviewed. I was played a tape recording of an interview with a contactee which he had conducted. In short, I was shown that here was someone who could only have had a sincere interest in the subject, who could only have spent a great deal of time and effort in research, and who obviously possessed a great knowledge of the subject and many valid ideas concerning UFOs and how to research them.

Let me stress this last. It was his ideas that convinced me of the quality of his contribution to UFO research, not so much the man himself. And regardless of the charges thrown at him, no one has yet refuted the value of the ideas he has expressed.

No concrete evidence has yet been produced by anyone that John Keel has trumped up any of his evidence. No evidence has been produced that he has materially gained from his expositions to the extent that he could not do better in his regular line of work as journalist, script-writer, etc. And whining comments to the effect that he is "too mysterious" in his presentation of his data are totally invalid. Show a reasonable urge to get out and do field work, show that you are only interested in getting at the truth and not in personalities or a "movement" or in meaningless side issues like Air Force censorship, and I guarantee from personal experience that John Keel will become a lot less "mysterious" - and that you will learn a lot.

In conclusion, I would like to say that probably before you read this, I will have spent several days in Point Pleasant, West Virginia, and I will once and for all determine whether or not Mothman and his cronies really exist. And I will present the facts as I see them in an article which will be published in one of the major UFO publications. Hopefully, the controversy will shift from personalities to ways and means of future research, And let us further hope that it will not be too late.

A POSSIBLE LINK...

by

Dennis Stamey

In the July issue of SAGA magazine, John A. Keel, eminent researcher and writer in the realm of UFOlogy, brought forth a most interesting theory as to the origin of the age-old poltergeist phenomena and its significance to the saucer enigma. Keel points out that these invisible entities occur in areas mostly where "flaps" are in progress, and are accompanied by a strong odor of hydrogen-sulfide gas...very characteristic of many UFO reports.

Having completed some independent study, applying this hypothesis, I have found it remarkably feasible.

The "messy poltergeist" of Osceola, Indiana, who plagued two homes in that region during October, 1966, was first being correlated with strange lights in the skies at about the same time when the books were closed. Sheriff William J. Locks commented, "We have had separate reports of the lights. They come from people who were frightened and almost afraid to talk because they didn't want anyone to laugh at them."

Locks also suspected others had seen the objects, but were reluctant to come forth with their stories.

In Newport, Oregon, a strange "haunting" case had occurred around the same time as the above incident although under different circumstances. The despaired family, who later fled their home, told reporters that odd lights, between one and thirty inches in diameter, had been hovering about their windows and that also the entire house was at one time bathed in an eerie red glow. The local newspapers said 25 other residents had experienced similar phenomena and had also received an unconfirmed sighting of a one-eyed monster lurking about.

If the reader is further interested in the poltergeist I would suggest he examine the many cases and see for himself an emerging pattern as related to the flying saucer. I would be glad to receive any comments or suggestions from you.

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