



DISTINGUISHED award OF THE YEAR

To date, there seems to be support from the majority of our members for naming the award for the person who has done the most for the UFO field in each calendar year, the J. ALLEN HYNEK AWARD for Outstanding Work in UFOlogy.

Nominations to date include:

* Dr. J. Allen Hynek

Budd Hopkins

Marge Christensen

Dr. Bruce Maccabee

Dan Wright

Barry Greenwood

* Barry Greenwood suggests that it would not be appropriate to present Dr. Hynek with an award named after him, and that, we should instead present him with a separate award for his Lifetime Contributions to the UFO subject.

Please convey your feelings on this to me when you respond to the Editor's Memo, in the next few days. It is very difficult to get a consensus of the committee, if you don't respond to requests for your feedback in the P.I.P.E. Line. After the previous issue was mailed, I had to write to almost everyone twice or call several persons to get nominations sent in for this award. This means double postage and phone expenses. Please assist me by promptly responding to both requests for your comments in this issue. I would very much appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Thank you.

THANK YOU

I was recently honored by a testimonial dinner at the Nov. Mass. MUFON meeting, as retiring State Director. One of the highlights of the evening was a series of taped speeches by the following persons: Walt Andrus, John Schuessler, Dan Wright, Paul Cerny, Stan Gordon, Budd Hopkins, and John Timmerman. I would like to thank all of you for your parts in making that event a very special one and a very memorable one for me. I will treasure the tapes for many years to come.

Marge Christensen

Editor's Memo

Several recent incidents and media articles have led me to consider possibly submitting my resignation as MUFON's Director of Public Relations. All of these incidents have illustrated an utter disregard for our policies of issuing only credible public information and factual accounts of UFO incidents and UFO data. There has also been a disregard for our policy of divorcing ourselves from the tabloids, as evidenced by a recent article in the National Enquirer. In short, UFOlogists suddenly seem to have become victims of a contagious and destructive disease,-- "foot in mouth" fever.

If these incidents continue, my work and that of all other UFOlogists who have taken great pains to ensure that any UFO-related information issued to the public or to the media is factual, objective, and credible, is virtually worthless. We might as well save our breath and our energy, for as fast as we make any headway in attributing any respectability to the UFO subject as a serious, legitimate subject, these unfounded and often blatantly incorrect bits of information released by others to the public or to the media, only serve to erode any progress we might have made.

Examples of the type of misinformation to which I refer are the following:
An individual has released to the national wire services, a resolution that he will not shoot at aliens, no matter how frightened he might be at the sight of an alien. Another individual has published (in military publications, no less) that we have a govt. document which proves that an alien was slain on a military base. Several others have recently given to the media specific numbers of both alien bodies and crashed discs that our govt. has in its possession. Not one of these claims relating to the govt. or to documents is, to date, documented. Another individual has stated to the media that he knows that there are good aliens and bad aliens. There is no way that this can be stated as a fact, and since we have yet to prove that UFOs represent alien visitation, it is purely irresponsible to make such a statement to the press.

Ironically, during National UFO Information Week, UFOlogists from the three major UFO organizations worked tirelessly to offer credible public information on a wide scale

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HALLEY HOTLINE

For those interested, the University of Massachusetts has established a hotline for information on Halley's Comet. The number is:

800-446-3422

Detailed information on the comet is available via this hotline.

IUR EDITOR SLAMS NATIONAL UFO INFO WEEK.

Jerome Clark, IUR Editor for CUFOS, has recently made a very disturbing comment in regard to National UFO Info. Week, in an article he wrote in Fate Magazine. Admittedly, Fate is totally independent of CUFOS, but since CUFOS was a major participant and staunch supporter of National UFO Info. Week, it does not seem appropriate for the editor of the CUFOS publication to make the following comments: "... and a naive exercise in UFO boosterism by Marge Christensen (creator of something called 'National UFO Information Week')." I have notified John Timmerman, CUFOS

Director, of my feelings about Mr. Clark's remarks. It might be of greater impact if other members of the P.I.P.E. Committee would also write to Mr. Timmerman with regard to this incident. This sort of discrepancy between the official stand of the organization and the opposite stand of one of its spokespersons is exactly the sort of thing which gets in the way of cooperation among the major UFO organizations. At a time when there is a proposal before MUFON, CUFOS, and the Fund for UFO Research for greater mutual cooperation, it is vitally important that we all work together toward common goals rather than expend our energies attacking one another.

RADIO & TV LOG SUGGESTED

Barry Greenwood has suggested that from now on, we include in the Newsletter the stations, dates, and personalities involved in any programs on radio or tv on the UFO subject. That way, in the future, we will have a written log of which programs appeared on which dates and who appeared on those programs. This will also give us an idea of the particular focus of those programs. If you know of any such programs, please forward the information to me for use in future Newsletters. Thank you.

I WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY, AND PROSPEROUS HOLIDAY SEASON, AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR.

Marge

During that week, everyone jumped on the bandwagon and took special care to offer credible, serious information of the UFO subject. As a result, I received countless excellent news clippings from throughout the country, and these all treated the subject seriously and objectively. Also, our State organizations received many new sighting reports, and, in many cases, also gained new members. All of this is reported in the recent Journal article on National UFO Info. Week.

From recent indications, it appears that now that the big week is over, many individuals among our ranks have let down their guard and have been very careless and sloppy in their public information endeavors.

Public information and public education in this subject must continue throughout the year, and not exclusively during National UFO Information Week. Public information which is, in reality, public misinformation is not only of no value-- it is destructive to the UFO subject and to our credibility as serious UFO researchers.

We cannot condone this sort of sensational treatment of the UFO subject by our own people. In reality, we cannot afford to permit it to occur.

The problem is how to put a stop to this sort of thing. We are dealing with volunteers and this is a free country, and we are guaranteed the right to freedom of speech.

On the other side of the coin, if we do not effect a change in this situation, and soon, we might as well quit, as our efforts in the area of public information will be close to meaningless.

That is why I would like to hear your suggestions for the best, most effective method for rectifying the situation before it becomes any more widespread or any more destructive than it already is. This must be a group effort. Perhaps we should submit a letter to the editor of the MUFON Journal signed by all of us on the P.I.P.E. Committee. Maybe a more effective method would be to have various of our members contact the individuals who have been guilty of sloppy public information, and have a talk with them in private. We could also submit letters to the editor of newspapers carrying the articles (mentioned on page 1) and correct the misinformation in the particular articles. This method, however, would not reflect too positively upon the UFOlogists, in the eyes of the public.

The UFO subject is too important to treat lightly. The stakes are too high here to simply ignore this problem of misinformation. I need your input on this one. Please let me have your feelings on this as soon as possible. Call or write, but don't put it off.

Marge Christensen