

THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO TODD ZECHEL, OUR CANDIDATE FOR

# SAUCER DUD

".....A BOIL ON THE ASS OF UFOLOGY"

- John Keel, writing in the March 25th,  
1977 issue of "Saucer Glues"

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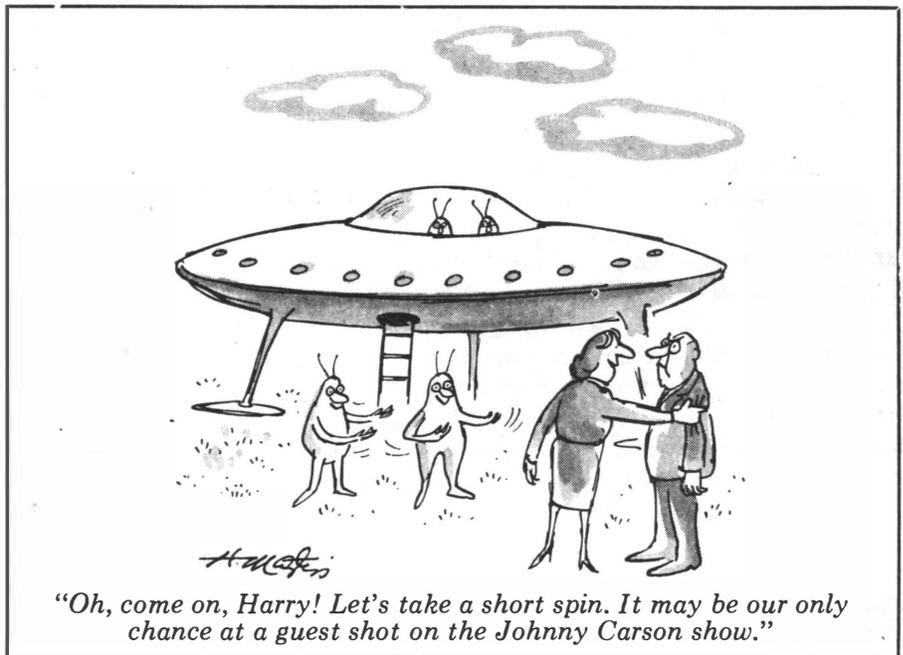
April 15th, 1978

## MISCELLANEOUS RAVINGS:

Our old friend & erst-while companion James ("The Amazing") Randi has received favorable mention in a recent issue of Time Magazine, in regard to a dispute about reincarnation & such, at Iowa State University. A professor named David Weltha has claimed to have extrasensory powers of various sorts, and Randi has offered a \$10,000 reward if he (Weltha) can prove anything under controlled conditions. Randi is a professional magician and a full-time hard-core skeptic, as well as being a member of the dreaded Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal.....Daniel Cohen,

another of our skeptical friends, has just surfaced with a book called "The World of UFOs" (\$7.95 from J. B. Lippincott Co.) It's a breezy, readable little tome, "unblushingly" dedicated to Dan Cohen himself. Your "Saucer Dud" editor is mentioned (favorably!) in the acknowledgments and on Pages 72-73, and we must unblushingly admit that there is a long quote from an early issue of this newsletter. SAUCER NEWS is mentioned on Page 140, though Cohen errs in stating that our circulation was never more than a few hundred. (It peaked at about 8,000 paid subscribers, in 1967.) Thus endeth our review.

.....Ufologist Todd Zechel (alias Ted Zilch) is furious at us, because we refuse to let him out of a five-year contract he signed with us when he was freeloading at our Headquarters last summer. The contract calls for your editor to act as Zechel's agent and to get a percentage of Zechel's income from ufological writings. Meanwhile, "Sky-watch", the forthcoming UFO movie that Zechel was briefly associated with, still has not reached the screen. We hear, however, that the filming will begin very shortly.....



# Jailed Alien Dies Mysteriously

that determine the cause of death.

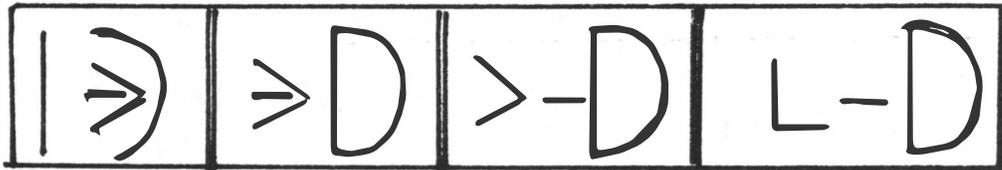
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The dreaded Phil Klass writes: "How very clever and tricky of Dr. Leon Davidson to try to pin the Socorro UFO on the CIA by trying to show that the strange symbol that Lonnie Zamora claimed he saw can be readily decoded by rotation and transposition into the initials 'C.I.A.'"

"In reality, as Davidson knows, he personally manufactured the Socorro UFO (presumably in his basement) and, understandably proud of his achievement, could not resist the temptation of putting his own initials 'L.D.' on the craft - as my own deciphering has clearly revealed. (See below.)"

"One might have expected someone of Davidson's I.Q. to have been smart enough to recognize that someone even with a very low I.Q., like me, could readily decipher his initials and thus identify, beyond all doubt, the source of Socorro's famous UFO."

"Had Davidson been a little smarter he would have painted 'I Am A UFO' on the craft, and we might never have known who created it."



Jerome Clark writes: "I just can't believe it.....Maybe it's a dream. However, it does appear that there is one matter on which Bob Sheaffer and I agree. I refer, of course, to his letter in the current issue of 'Saucer Whatever', the one in which Sheaffer laments the scatological tone of recent issues. He urges a return to 'legitimate mudslinging' and slightly more adult humor."

"So do I. In fact, I made a mental note several weeks ago to write you and urge you to drop the endless pee-pee doo-doo 'jokes' which seem to amuse the more feeble-minded, but not me. Not, of course, that I deny being feeble-minded - it's just that such humor stopped amusing me after the fourth grade. It's interesting to note, by the way, that Sheaffer admits to chuckling at that stuff as late as the seventh grade. Well, no matter. For once in his life, he's right. The crapola 'humor' has got to go."

"In other words: Let's shitcan the toilet humor and get on to some more elevated nonsense."

But, shit! What will happen to those of us who never got beyond third grade humor?  
- Editor.

The notorious Uncle Lou writes: "Your latest issue of 'Saucer Stud' contains a letter from the alleged Bob Sheaffer, plus a related alleged editorial, both of which tend to sling excrement at your contributors. 'It reminds me of what passed for humor in the seventh grade,' says the alleged hollier-than-thou Sheaffer. 'Let's get off the farting pot and back at more meaningful mudslinging.'"

"Well, it seems that both you and Sheaffer have your heads in the polar hole (See 'Saucer Mud'.) Looking back at past issues, what I see is excellent: intelligently imaginative satire which is designed consciously and unconsciously to tease members of ufo-dumb into shaping up!"

"You want meaningful mudslinging? You ain't gonna like it, but here goes:

"I have watched (and been engaged in) ufology since the late 1940's. As an honest-to-gosh professional with a solid scientific background, I can disclose now that ufology is history's prime example of a scientific pursuit which was never a scientific pursuit! I have yet to see even one solitary UFO study performed according to Scientific Method! I have never seen one UFO report which remotely compares with professional reports in other scientific endeavors!"

"Assuming that modern ufology began in the 1940's, there is absolutely no excuse for the fact that more than 30 years have elapsed without the development of a hypothetical model to be used as the basis for solid scientific research, investigation, and experimentation. I agree with Gray Barker, who recently said that Dr. J. Allen Hynek is

the only UFO investigator who was never a UFO investigator! But I go a step further in stating that the whole damned field of ufology is in that category! All we have is one huge, totally disorganized mass of amateurs pretending to be scientists, not even having enough smarts to discover the way in which scientific inquiry is really performed! Even the 'legit' scientist-types who have been sucked into the field seem to lose their marbles and forget how to pursue the quest for scientific knowledge.

"But it does not do one bit of good to present the problem in the way I have presented it here. Such a diatribe is merely divisive. It is far better to shoot down people like Sheaffer who don't understand the value of the indirect constructive criticism inherent in the satire presented in your zine. Let us continue along the delightful (and hopefully stimulating) path which you have already begun. Long live Moseley's zine and its contributors. You guys are weird, really weird, but we love ya!"

Brent Raynes writes: "I was glad to see your Semi-Serious Editorial in 'Saucer Stud' recently, describing how you originally attempted to make us 'see ourselves as others no doubt see us'; but as you further pointed out, your correspondents began to deliberately display their zaniest side, and so the meaning behind the message got lost in the midst of all this non-Keelian 'reflective' process.

"Hopefully, though, we can get back to something satirical but also more meaningful. Some of the so-called satirical material has been downright vicious, and as for Sheaffer's fondness for 'mudslinging', it's been a part of that vicious circle. Can't we express our views and our positions, as well as our various differences, a little more like adults than what Sheaffer himself compares to seventh grade ravings?.....

"I much appreciate the continuing newsletters. I know I've been silent. I was married back in November (the 26th). Of course, I was silent before then also, but at least now I've got an excuse!"

Jim Harris of UFOCUS writes: "We at UFOCUS would like to begin a promotional gimmick, to try to get some new subscribers. However, we need your help. Will you please inform your loyal non-subscribers that they can receive a free copy of UFOCUS merely by sending a card to me? Hopefully somebody may be interested in reading my zine.....

"Your editorial is right, you know. Your non-subbers are trying their best to write zany stuff, when in actuality your zine is an excellent place for Ufologists to let off steam....."

Jim Harris can be reached at: Route 4, Lisa Lane, Mt. Carmel, Illinois 62863 - Editor.

Bob ("Raving Robert") Schiller writes: "I dug 'Stud' until I read the lettre from the Pat Paulsen of Ufology - namely Wet Blanket Bob Sheaffer. Keeripes! What a crybaby! What the hell does he want you to do - don a lab coat and clear 'Saucer -----' through NASA, or something? But this reflects the policy and real temperament of Sheaffer and guys like Oberg and Klass. If they had their way, there wouldn't be anything but differential equations on TV, and zines like Playboy would feature the spectrographic analysis of Racquel Welch. In other words, the goal of existence would be the adoration of the egg heads; or be recycled!

"And in this vein I should add that I subscribed to Sheaffer's object of worship - 'The Zetetic'. For such a supposedly exalted Scientific zine - have you noticed how they can't even get Oberg's name right, on their list of the staff?....."

Marcello Truzzi writes: ".....As you know, I recently resigned from the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, which I helped found, and for which I edited the first two issues of 'The Zetetic' (named after my own earlier newsletter published for several years before I joined the Committee). I first resigned from the co-chairmanship and from the journal's editorship because the Executive Council decided to change 'The Zetetic' into a popular and 'more hard hitting' (which I took to mean more debunking) popular magazine, and because I felt I was not being consulted properly on some press announcements about which I had serious misgivings. I later resigned from the Committee entirely when I felt that my more moderate views could not be appealed beyond the Executive Council, since the other Fellows of the Committee were merely advisory and had no votes. The direction the Committee was taking simply did not represent my

views but, rather, was becoming indistinguishable from the perspective of Paul Kurtz and that of 'The Humanist' magazine.

"The Committee now represents an advocacy position in defense of 'normal' science against claims of the paranormal. This is a perfectly proper role and a needed one; critics have generally not had their say in the media. It is right that there should be lawyers both for and against claims of the paranormal. However, my own view has never been centered about defending orthodoxy in science but has been concerned with seeking rational adjudication of the evidence offered by proponents of the paranormal. Thus, I have been interested in building bridges between responsible scientific critics and proponents, by concentrating on their common agreements as to scientific method and encouraging them to engage in serious dialogue over the empirical and theoretical issues. My commitment is to scientific method, not to any particular substantive claims. Final judgment on these issues must come from the scientific community at large, not from any Committee. My quarrel with the Committee for SICOP is that it has begun to sound more like a judge than a lawyer.

"The Committee's publication is changing its name to 'The Skeptical Inquirer'. I am once again starting up my newsletter as the 'Zetetic Scholar' and hope to find enough support to fund it as a journal. My editorial board consists of both critics and advocates. My concern in its selection has been to obtain responsible expert witnesses, whatever their individual positions. I want consultants who know the literature and issues surrounding the topics involved. Thus I have been able to gain the support of persons as different in their views as Martin Gardner and J. Allen Hynek. I enclose an up-dated flyer listing my current editorial board. As you can see, there is wide diversity of viewpoints, but all these consultants are knowledgeable and committed to serious and responsible analysis and to honest dialogue on the issues within a scientific framework.

"I honestly don't know if I can succeed in helping to mediate the differences and facilitate better understanding and analysis, but I think it is well worth a try. For too many years, the proponents of claims of the paranormal have been speaking almost exclusively to one another, while the critics either ignored them or wrote only for other critics (often not that responsibly and poorly informed). It is high time a real exchange got started in a forum that would try to keep debates to the central issues and away from ad hominem attacks and appeals to authority. Serious claimants of the paranormal have long rejected most of the extremism in these areas while claiming to want a responsible scientific analysis of their claims. Critics have claimed to want careful and rigorous examination of such claims, and have argued that good science includes consideration of unconventional hypotheses. Philosophers of science have emphasized the importance of anomalies in the development and growth of science. All these forces should make it possible for us to properly examine the claims without prejudice. That's what I'm after.

"I remain a skeptic towards most claims of the paranormal, but I do not confuse skepticism with dogmatic denial. The true skeptic (zetetic) must raise questions about everything, including 'normal' science. And the answers to these questions can best be obtained through fair and impartial scientific inquiry. Finally, I hope all this can be done with some degree of humor. Sanity in this area necessitates some ability to recognize how fallible we all are, and how foolishly earnest some of us are on these topics. I hope the 'Zetetic Scholar' will include some levity as well as serious analysis."

Jacob A. Davidson writes:

"Att. Strange-person James W. Moseley:

"I just thought I'd send you a little note expressing my thanks to you for continuing to send your literary effort to me gratis. I know that you receive little mail (you poor guy) and sit around fabricating letters to be passed off as legitimate communications from your reading audience. We all have our needs . . .

"After reading all the data that is currently available, plus some pretty outrageous but interesting case histories in Flying Saucer Review, I'm of the opinion that the collective unconscious has been allowed to run amuk. Meh, heh, heh....."

Mr. Davidson is associated with an interesting zine called The Phenomena Research Special Report, available for about 75 cents per copy at: P.O. Box 1807, Seattle, Washington 98111. - Editor.