

DEDICATED TO THE SEARCH FOR "PHYSICAL EVIDENCE"

SAUCER BONE

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NON-SCHEDULED NEWSLETTER

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EDITOR:

James W. Moseley

MISC. RAVINGS

It is with sincere sadness that we announce that Jack Robinson of Jersey City, N.J. died of lung cancer this past August 4th. Jack, who was 71 years old, had been Recording Secretary of the National UFO Conference (NUFOC). He was also Managing Editor of SAUCER NEWS for a number of years, and had been a member of the Discussion and Lecture Committee of SAUCER NEWS which sponsored monthly UFO lectures in New York City through the 1960's. In "real life", Jack was a retired bank employee. He hoped to live out his retirement years in Florida, with his wife Mary, but somehow he never made it. He died in Jersey City.....

Gene Buck's "Interplanetary Think-In" is still scheduled for November 12th, as mentioned in previous issues of this zine. For details, write to him at: (new address): 257 Van Buren, Suite B; Monterey, Ca. 93940; or phone 408-372-3437.....

On the night/morning of August 15th/16th, your humble "Saucer Bone" editor was privileged to appear on the Candy Jones radio show, for the second time recently, with legendary science-fiction writers Lester del Rey and Fred Pohl. Though they both exhibit an unfortunate skepticism toward UFOs, these guys are among the outstanding intellectuals of our time. Not to mention financially successful, from book sales. (May they both experience a Close Encounter of the 5th Kind!)

BIG FEUD BETWEEN PHIL KLASS AND TODD ZECHEL: The UFO field, long noted for its many weird feuds and personality disputes, is currently in the grip of a rather grim-faced dispute that may eventually turn out to be of great significance. As yet, however, there has been a good deal more heat than light from both sides, in our opinion.

The opening gun was fired by arch anti-saucerer Phil Klass on July 22nd, in the form of a "white paper" entitled "A Critical Examination of a Few of W. Todd Zechel's Claims & Statements". Klass points to alleged inconsistencies in Zechel's statements about his term of employment with the NSA; to Zechel's allegedly false identification of NSA as a civilian rather than a military intelligence agency; and to the fact that, since Zechel has not been prosecuted by the Government for security violations, (whereas others such as Philip Agee have been), it follows that Zechel has never worked for any intelligence agency at all.

Zechel answered with a "white paper" of his own, dated August 2nd, which apparently was sent to the same list of UFO enthusiasts (including your editor) that Klass's statement had been sent to. Apparently there was also an earlier "white paper" by Zechel, dated July 25th, which we did not receive. In the one of August 2nd, Zechel attempts to answer Klass's charges, and makes some interesting counter-charges; but since Zechel's document is clearly marked "Confidential - not for publication", we will respect his confidence and not tell you anything further about what he said.

Klass then countered with another diatribe, entitled "Is the National Security Agency (NSA) Really a 'Civilian Intelligence Agency'?" in which Klass challenges Zechel to make public the proof of his employment by that agency. (A reasonable request, we feel.) As an aside, Klass includes the following quote from Thomas Jefferson: "He who permits himself to lie once, finds it much easier to do it a second and third time, till at length it becomes habitual".

Almost every mail brings us more details of the charges and counter-charges, ending (as of now) with a personal letter to us from Zechel, in which he states in part:

"I have no intention of dignifying Klass's false and malicious charges by stooping to counter mud slinging in your newsletter or any other publication. I have demanded an

apology and retraction from Klass. If this is not received by Wednesday, Aug. 22nd, I intend to make a number of items of evidence available to interested persons, as well as to initiate legal action against Klass for his libel and slander against me.....

"None of Klass's charges has any relevance to issues such as particular UFO cases or the Government UFO cover-up. But Klass, in his typical ad hominem manner, has adopted the strategy of diverting attention from the amazing documents we are forcing to be released under the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act), by engaging in character assassination of me. I strongly believe that the majority of Ufologists and the general public will not be misled by these tactics."

Zechel also enclosed a photostat of a newspaper article from his home-town paper, dated March 21st, 1963, telling of his acceptance by the "Army Security Agency" - presumably the National Security Agency. Of course, in the strictest sense, this article doesn't prove very much, if anything. If we could believe everything we read in the newspapers, we would all go insane.

Obviously, Klass has no intention of backing down on his charges by Aug. 22nd or any other date. But here at "Saucer Bone", we feel that the real issue of primary interest to ufologists has been lost: Irregardless of whether or not Todd Zechel was ever born, have there been UFO crashes and/or bodies of dead "little men" in the late 1940's and early 1950's, or at any other time???? We heard such rumors way back when Zechel was still in grade school! As fascinating as it is to see these two learned gentlemen rip each other apart, it would be even more interesting to learn the truth about UFOs. Somehow, this blood feud doesn't seem to be contributing to that goal!

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL NATIONAL UFO CONFERENCE (NUFOC), of which your humble "Saucer Bone" editor is Chairman, was held in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio on August 15th. It was well-attended this year, by delegates from as far away as New York, Connecticut, and Arizona.

Our passing remark in "Saucer Moan" to the effect that this convention might be the last in the series, made more of an impression than we would have supposed (see Dale Rettig's letter elsewhere in this issue); but at least we are reassured that people are still reading our zine.

Actually, this year's convention was "upbeat", in that there is now an active local group in Cleveland, as well as an incipient confederation of UFO groups throughout Ohio. Credit for this somewhat surprising revival of Ohio Saucerdumb should go mainly to Rick Hilberg of Cleveland and Charles Wilhelm of Fairfield, both of whom are among the more active members of NUFOC. Wilhelm was given our annual "Ufologist of the Year" award at this year's meeting, and the name of John J. Robinson was added to our "Honor Roll" of deceased Ufologists.

Although dissention was minimized at the convention, Hilberg gave a short talk at one of the two public sessions, in which he criticized aging Cleveland Ufologist Earl Neff without naming him. Neff very recently made a fool of himself by accepting as genuine a saucer photo which a minimal amount of research would have shown to be fake. Needless to say, Neff is not a member of the NUFOC.

There was a total of five major lectures at the public sessions, including talks by "Saucer Bone" non-subscribers Timothy Greed Beckley and Geneva Steinberg. In spite of technical difficulties, the most interesting speech by far was the one given by non-subscriber Perry Collins of New Haven, Conn., who purported to prove that the current wave of mysterious cattle mutilations is directly connected with secret nerve gas experiments by the U.S. Army, rather than having anything to do with UFOs. If Collins can prove his point, he's really got something!

Incidentally, Perry Collins will be co-host, together with Tony Ranciato, of next year's NUFOC, which will be held for the first time in Connecticut. Their organization is called the UFO Encounter Group, and held a successful public meeting earlier this year, which was written up in this zine.

Side-lights of the NUFOC worth mentioning: Donna Manak (second wife of Ufologist Al Manak), who asked to be mentioned in this zine; Rumors of mysterious MIB-type break-ins of cars and motel rooms at the recent MUFON convention in Dayton, Ohio, which we did not attend; Cleveland Ufologist Bob Easley's car, which mysteriously wouldn't start when he attempted to drive us from the airport to the convention site; and last but not least, Cincinnati saucerer Earl Jones, who added a much-needed touch of dignity to the public sessions by wearing a weird green monster suit throughout the proceedings. In all, an enjoyable weekend.

"SAUCER BONE" STAFF ATTENDS "FARTFEAST" IN WASHINGTON, D.C: On the weekend of August 5th and 6th, the entire staff of "Saucer Bone" (consisting of your editor and his daughter Betty) journeyed to Carterland to attend the 6th annual "Fartfeast", known to some as "Fortfest '78". The 2-day program consisted of about 20 speakers on various & sundry Fartean topics. In general the quality of the presentations was good, though a few speakers (mercifully unnamed here) achieved the dubious distinction of making fascinating material sound miserably dull and/or unintelligible. (Calls of "WE CAN'T HEAR YOU!" from around the hall, etc.)

Frankly, we didn't hear all the talks, due to the pressure of Other Business - (sleeping late; care & feeding of hangovers, etc.) Of the ones we did attend, the lecture by Bob Jones of Vestigia was surely the best, both in form and content. Vestigia is a Fortean-type New Jersey based group whose researchers have divided themselves into four groups - dedicated respectively to UFOs, Bigfoot & other monsters, haunted houses, and "ghost lights". As reported by Bob Jones, the "ghost light" team achieved some fascinating field results during 1977-78, and has actually added significantly to Mankind's knowledge of this particular phenomenon. (What purely UFO group has ever added significantly to scientific knowledge, by the way???) We recommend Vestigia 100% (if not more) to any and all serious-minded non-subscribers. Jones can be reached at: RD 2, Brookwood Road, Stanhope, N.J. 07874. Incidentally, "Saucer Bone" non-subscriber Lou ("Uncle Lou") Wiedemann was a member until his unfortunate mental decline (or whatever), a few months ago.

Other lecturers included non-subscriber George Earley, of NICRAP*CONN. fame, speaking brilliantly off-the-cuff with tongue firmly in cheek (a difficult maneuver!), on the theme "You're a Good Man, Charlie Fart"; Mr. X (his real name!), speaking on Canadian land and sea monsters; Non-subscriber Loren Coleman on "Creatures of the Outer Edge"; Dr. Stuart Greenwood on "The Giza-Stonehenge Connection"; Ray Manners on a new theory which puts Atlantis in the eastern United States; and non-subscriber Dave FidelRE, erroneously billed as a Michigan school teacher, who spoke (barely audibly) on Fartean events in his home state of Michigan.

Missing in Action was W. Todd Zechel, who was due to report on his recent lawsuit to obtain CIA files relating to UFOs. Somehow, Todd didn't make it to Washington. A sometimes co-worker of his named Dr. Bruce Maccabae spoke on "UFO Information from FBI Files", but we missed that one. Darn.

MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES

DR. THORNTON PAGE writes:

"Dear St. James:

"When the attached book (*) on heavenly warnings arrived, I first thought it was from you, then decided that you would want to spread the word. UFOs are mentioned on Page 191. The author has far out-done Dr. Condon in volume and invective, so Capt. Oberg and I suggest you use parts of it in an issue entitled 'Saucer Hades', or possibly 'Saucers from Hell'.

"While you're about it, find out who the h--- Cyril Marystone is, and why the h--- he sent me so large a book!"

(*) Dr. Page refers to a big thick Vanity book called "Grave and Urgent Warnings from Heaven", by Cyril Marystone. We received an unsolicited copy in the mail (as we often do with Vanity books about UFOs, etc.), and Dr. Page kindly sent us his copy, as well. We know nothing further about the author or the book, and we don't intend to read it - not even Page 191. - Editor.

DALE RETTIG writes:

".....Apparently you take a dim view of the NUFOC's future, since in your last newsletter you refer to the 'fifteenth and possibly last' National UFO Conference. Frankly, as Chairman of the organization, I feel it is inappropriate for you to publicly proclaim such pessimistic notions, no matter how sincere you may be. Of course, I understand how frustrating it must be for you to be Chairman of such a non-organized organization as the NUFOC, so perhaps you should be forgiven.....

"I think it is silly for you or anyone else to believe at this point that 'new

blood^o for the NUFOC is simply going to show up one day. Our situation is akin to that of a business which is trying to attract minority employees. So-called affirmative action programs are never successful if all the firm does is sit back and hope that resumes from minority candidates will arrive in the mail. That is why such firms have outreach programs, i.e., they go out and actively recruit such people into their organizations. The National UFO Conference ought to do the same type of thing if it really wants new people in the group.

"An outreach program, however, won't be successful unless the people we're trying to attract can perceive some benefit in becoming associated with the organization. Herein, I think, lies one of the group's big problems. Presently there is no such benefit, other than working on a good hangover with old friends. There isn't anything wrong with that per se, but we have to be able to offer something else. Otherwise attracting 'new blood' is an idea doomed to failure.

"I definitely think Ufology needs an alternative to the MUFON/APRO/CUFOS clique and that presently a sort of vacuum exists, in that there is no American group to counter the 'one-dimensional thinking' of these groups.....Greenfield has said the same thing for the past few years - the 'Ufology monopoly' is out of step with the times, and there is a need for an alternative. The NUFOC could fill this need. But first of all, the individuals associated with the event have to decide whether they want the event to be something more than it is now. If the consensus is affirmative, then specific goals have to be delineated and a program set up for accomplishing same. But the 'old guard' has to take the plunge first, since for all purposes they are the organization. I am willing to do my share and have a few specific suggestions if anyone is interested....."

JENNINGS H. FREDERICK, Individual Scientific Researcher in Astrodynamics & Rocketry, writes:

"May the giant turd bird of Ufological agony forever shit upon your humble abode! This is of course in reference to your latest saucer Newsletter, in which you have taken the liberty to quote me incompletely. What I said was 'I have had a saucer sighting which was telepathic in origin.' I further said that the occupants of these saucers gave me a message to relate to all 'interested' parties who are concerned, either pro or con, with the UFO enigma. But like an onion in a rose patch, you created a fart, and printed not what was said but an implication of something else entirely! For this, Sir Shithead, you shall now reap the sorrows of the demons of the bark - Mothman, MIB, Big Feet, Zarcon, Vegetable Man, and others....."

"On the more serious side, Jim, what the hell gives? Did you think that what I related was too strong to print, or what?....."

Nothing is too strong for "Saucer Bone" to print! - Editor.

JIM HARRIS writes:

"Thanks for 'Moan' and your card. We had a marvelous time in Clarksburg, and some of our adventures will be detailed in the next issue of UFOCUS.

"I see that Jennings H. Frederick, Individual Scientific Researcher in Astrodynamics & Rocketry, is bugging you now. For awhile, I was receiving almost daily letters from him, detailing new contact experiences which he had recently undergone.

"Thinking back on your zine's subtitle, 'May the farce be with you', I came across an article in the MUFART Journal entitled 'The Force Farce', which debunked quasi-religions such as the Force cults springing up around the country. Actually, the entire article sounded like something one would read in some theological journal. The writer, Ted Peters, somehow overlooks the fact that all UFO groups which have a pre-defined set of beliefs are nothing more than quasi-religious groups, themselves....."

We agree heartily! - Editor.

GEORGE EARLEY writes:

"Re 'Saucer Moan', who is this guy Ronald Spinbottle who thinks people might make fun of his name?

".....Have you read the absolutely hilarious account of editor Jeffrey Goodman et al versus the Brutes of Bellevue in the current issue of 'Official UFO'? That mag is rapidly becoming the National Lampon of Ufology....."

"Leon Davidson's latest cryptonote admits that the 'objects' in the Tremonton film weren't seagulls. He then lists some of the things he says the 'objects' also weren't, but still claims they were faked (by the CIA, presumably.) Can he enlighten us mere mortals as to what the objects really were and how the faking was done? It seems to me that he is as short on substance as he claims others in this field are. C'mon, Leon, put up or shut up!"

RICHARD HEIDEN writes:

"To respond to Dr. Davidson's challenge in the July 25th issue of 'Saucer Moan': When I said that he could start out with anything and end up with whatever you want..... I had in mind that lines could be repeated, cut, etc. So Dr. Davidson is in effect changing the unstated rules. (I realize that in the case of the Socorro symbol and 'CIA', it was not necessary to cut or repeat any lines; but that doesn't mean that Dr. Davidson might not have resorted to these tricks if he had to.) However, what I meant was simply this: If the CIA wanted to put its initials on the craft, why did it not do so in a more straight-forward manner?

"Moreover, what Dr. Davidson was addressing himself to was allegedly my remark that he 'tried to kid your readers with my (= Davidson's) decipherment of the letters 'CIA' from the Socorro symbol'. I said nothing of the kind. My suspicions were directed rather toward Dr. Davidson's sincerity in attributing the UFO phenomenon to the CIA, as I made perfectly clear. Anyone who is aware of the global and historical nature of the phenomenon can easily see through this, and I thought the claim was a deliberate put-on. Rather than answering this point, Dr. Davidson has attempted to direct attention away from it....."

Famed satirist ALAN ABEL writes:

"It seems to me that the appearance of Judge Crater in Cleveland on August 12th would really shake up your NUFOC convention!

"I can arrange it if you are so inclined. There will be some expenses, i.e., the Judge would be accompanied by his two guards, a doctor and a nurse. But the results should be earth shaking.

"Let me know."

The NUFOC convention was pretty wild even without Judge Crater! - Editor.

JAMES ("Capt. Jim") OBERG of anti-Ufological fame writes:

"Help! I want to find a copy of the Jan. 1965 issue of True Magazine, with the article by Keyhoe on various space UFOs including Gemini-1. 'True' is out of business, libraries won't have it, and Lucius Farish refuses to loan me his copy out of fear of what I'll disillusion him of. Can anybody out there help a poor humble seeker after the Truth? At least, how about helping me, at: Rt. 2, Box 1813, Dickinson, Texas 77539.

"At some point, even the most ardent UFO buffs have to stop believing Betty Hill's stories. If it's not MIBs and Bigfoot, it's precognition. If it's not one UFO encounter, it's dozens at the secret landing field. Do you suppose that the needle in her navel was an alien experiment with test tube babies (with Villas-Boas in Brazil as the sperm donor?) And somewhere out there in the Universe is a teen-aged child who is about to establish telepathic contact? That is no more unbelievable - but I confess I sure don't believe it.

"I re-extend my cordial invitation to Moseley-ites and other schismatics and run-of-the-mill UFO buffs to invite me to lunch while you are touring the NASA Space Center in Houston, during your summer vacation. I'll show you the 'secret' photo files. Get my office phone number from the NASA operator."

As taxpayers, we wonder just how much time Capt. Jim actually spends in his office, since he is so often moving about the country accepting important awards and such. But yes, it's a kind invitation, and we might just take him up on it someday when Time permits.
- Editor.

HAYDEN HEWES writes:

"Just received the latest masterpiece, 'Saucer Moan', and I cannot pass up a brief

note before the 'X' appears after my name. (Would it really? You did name an issue for me.)

"I noted Jim Maney's letter in 'Saucer Groan'. I can't see why he picks on poor little Billy Spaulding. The last time Jim came through Oklahoma, he had gotten so paranoid about EM cases and stalled cars that he bought a new Oldsmobile Diesel, which has no ignition system. 'Let's see the bastards try to stall that!', he told me.

"On another front, it is distressing to see how unreliable the publishing schedules of the UFO journals are becoming. Right now, Hynek is overdue (Allen, not Mimi); and I ordered and received the Japanese edition of Brad Steiger's 'Gods of Aquarius' in less time than elapses between issues of NICAP's 'UFO Investigator'. Only 'Saucer Whatever' seems to come periodically every 28 days. Now, at the end of July, 1978, I have just received the April issues of 'APRO Bulletin', 'MUFON UFO Journal', and 'Flying Saucer Review.' Perhaps in Atlantic City in your fair state someone would give odds on which will appear with their May issue before Christmas."

Ironically, we are unscheduled - yet we keep a better schedule than most. How do we do it? Clean living helps (but we manage, anyhow.) - Editor.

JOHN BARLOW sends us the following very nice letter about the old (1954-1970) SAUCER NEWS:

"I've been meaning to write you for quite some time....and to give you a belated thank you for putting out the best god-damned UFO magazine, period. The only thing that's been able to reach that high caliber is Saga's newsstand magazine.

"I grew up with SAUCER NEWS, and now when I dig up the old issues I can see how much I've changed in perspective. When you were publishing SAUCER NEWS, I was very young, naive and impressionable. To me, flying saucers were craft from another planet - an open and shut case. I think we may have found that what skeptics and Believers have in common is a strong hatred for mysteries. After all this time, and despite the special effects of Steven Spielberg, UFOs are still unidentified.

"The mystery that's nagged me, though, is why you dropped out of Ufology. I haven't read anything by you or about you, though I did just get a thing called 'Ufolk', which mentions that you're busy with real estate.

"At any rate, SAUCER NEWS reached a high level of reportage and entertainment that has never been equaled. (I remember being very pissed off at you and then Gray Barker for not being able to keep it alive.) One of its secrets had to be that you never aimed for a mass audience, but kept it as a journal for the insiders.

"Well, I thought you'd like to know that at least one fan sorely misses your presence in UFO publishing....."

CLAUDIA MONTELIONE, wife of non-subscriber Brandon Blackman IV, the Caribbean Celebrity, writes:

".....After perusing each issue of Saucer Shoes, Gnus, Blues, Groan, Moan, etc., for some strange reason I intuitively filed it away. Last month, encouraged by a filing cabinet that threatened to bulge out beyond its confines, I decided that clean-out time had indeed arrived. Immediately, I relieved the strained cabinet of the folder marked 'Saucer etc.' 'But why were you saving them in the first place?', queried Brandon (the Caribbean Celebrity) Blackman IV. I searched my consciousness for an answer and drew a blank. Perhaps the answer lay in my subconscious!....

"I reside in New York City, where they have just passed the 'Poop Scoop' law. Now, as a dog keeper, this law caused me much grief, since I refuse to purchase a proper scooper unless it's tax deductible; I already pay taxes to supply the city with street cleaning equipment and personnel. Nor am I a newspaper reader, as the newsprint is messy and they're cumbersome to read on the subway; so I had nothing with which to scoop the poop.....

"Well, I'm happy to relate that Saucer etc. solved all my scoop problems! Perhaps my experience will even help you in your on-going search for catchy titles (Saucer Scoop and Saucer Poop?)

"However, J.W., allow me to make just one slight suggestion. Could you possibly print your versatile zine on larger paper? Maybe a folded booklet type, rather than just single 8½ by 11 sheets? It would cover a much larger area when open."