

# SAUCER WIT RIDES AGAIN

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAUCER AND UNEXPLAINED CELESTIAL EVENTS RESEARCH SOCIETY

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NON-SCHEDULED NEWSLETTER

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## MISC. RAVINGS

The 16th annual National UFO Conference (NUFOC) will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio on July 14th (Bastille Day) this year - as stated in previous issues of this rag. Sponsored by OUFOIL, the event will take place in the Cincinnati (Norwood) Quality Inn Central. For reservations, phone OUFOIL at 513-631-6288, or call the motel directly at 513-351-6000. We are told that there are very few rooms left, and thus you would be well advised to get on the stick & make your reservation immediately, if you seriously intend to go.

Public lectures are scheduled from 2 to 5:30 on the afternoon of July 14th, and from 7 to 11 in the evening. Speakers will include several members of OUFOIL, speaking on such topics as: "The Kentucky Abduction"; "Exobiology and Alien Life Forms"; "The Nature of Ball Lightning"; "Strange Encounters from the Ohio Valley"; "Black Holes: Interstellar Subways?"; and "The Relationship of UFOs to Parapsychology".

Your humble editor is Permanent Chairman of the NUFOC, and will preside over the annual "closed session" (organizational meeting) earlier in the day. He may also give a very brief but inspirational talk at the above-mentioned "open sessions", if called upon to do so.....

On two successive recent weekends, your editor made social visits to several of our more notable non-subscribers - Gray Barker in Clarksburg, W. Va., and a few members of the Washington, D.C. ufological hard core - Dr. Willard McIntyre, Phil Klass, Bob Sheaffer, and Dr. Bruce Macabee.

Barker has very recently come out with an issue of his newsletter - for the first time in well over a year. And, as amazing as it may seem, a minor-league movie company is seriously considering making a film based on Barker's classic UFO book, "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers". Production is scheduled to start in the Fall. We are told there will even be a part in it for your "Saucer Wit Rides Again" editor, i.e., some lucky actor will be given the opportunity to play the part of your editor. We told Barker that we feel Robert Redford would be ideal for the part, but it seems much more likely that all the actors in the movie will be total unknowns. Disappointing; but that's show biz!.....

The mysterious Todd Zechel is rumored to have withdrawn from the Washington, D.C. scene, to finally write a book about his UFO research. We hope he doesn't forget that your humble "Saucer Wit Rides Again" editor has a five-year contract as his agent in regard to any & all ufological writings. Incidentally, Zechel recently had a Falling Out with Bill Spaulding of GSW and has resigned as Research Director of that august organization. More about this in our next glorious issue.

VOX POPULI

Our old friend Dr. Thornton Page of NASA writes:

"Dear Son:

"I was horrified to read in the April 30th 'Saucer Wit' that there are two female non-subscribers. I thought till now that saucerdom was a male preserve, with a Betty Hill here and there, introduced by a spouse or lover.

"What is the world coming to when our demure little sisters, wives, daughters, aunts, mothers, and grandmothers talk to saucers? They are as bad for women as that demon, rum! I hope your male non-subscribers will rise in strength to exclude females and save them from themselves. In any case, I'm not going to let any female in a fit tell me what to think about 'Saucer Wit'.

"In order to assess the threat, can you or your readers provide statistics on the growing (or declining) number of females toying with saucers? How has the fraction of female non-subscribers changed in the last 10 years?

"Yours worriedly,

"A male chauvenist pig (identity concealed for obvious reasons)"

DAVE REISSIG writes:

"You should title your next issue 'Daughter of Saucer Wit' - otherwise you're a male chauvinist pig, and we don't want that....."

We note that Dr. Page and Dave Reissig disagree on how to spell "chauvinist". Unfortunately, Dave is correct and Dr. Page isn't. Maybe that's why we subconsciously forgot to capitalize Dr. Page's name, above. - Editor.

Our pal JOHN KEEL, writing in for the first time in quite awhile, and using a weird alias as usual, rattles us with the following memorable remarks:

"Dear Saucer Snot:

"For months I have been hoping that an X would appear after my name, thereby freeing me from your bimonthly (sic) rantings. The lilliputian conflicts of Klass, Oberg, Zechel, etc., are so damned boring that even the C.I.A. agent who reads all my mail is complaining. Leon Davidson's Pentagon subsidy is already in danger of being terminated because of your alleged publication. And a former-nuclear-physicist-turned-entertainer has quit Ufology to take a job on the cleanup squad at Three Mile Island.

"You have done enough damage. I suggest you and Gray Barker retire to your former pursuits - faking photographs and whipping up false documents designed to advance the Great Flying Saucer Hoax.

"May you run out of gas in the Bermuda Triangle....."

JEROME CLARK of Fate Magazine and thereabouts, writes:

"In view of the increasing frequency with which the fulminations of 'skeptics' (born-again or otherwise) are filling up space in 'Saucer Whatzits', I thought this might be the time to quote from a letter I once received from a certain raver whose name I shall charitably withhold, but who contributes occasionally to your and other esteemed publications, including 'Official UFO'.

"On Sept. 5th, 1977, said raver wrote me to fret about my various intellectual crimes, chief among them my view that UFOs are real and inadequately dealt with in the creative fantasies of Swami Philip J. Klass, the raver's guru. My correspondent then proceeded to rave about my 'essentially mystical world-view' and my 'clinging emotionally to a surrogate faith....'

"Finally, working himself into a state of near-apoplexy, the raver scored (get this) critics of atomic energy (as well as eaters of natural foods) as persons 'desperately seeking an escape from reason, looking for

a supernatural being or force that will save us from our own mistakes (and) release us from the responsibility for charting our own future in an uncertain world.' And so on and on in that vein.

"In short, next time you read about Three Mile Island, the dangers of radiation fallout and the possibility of nuclear meltdown, remember it's only the lunatic imaginings of mystics who are so far removed from reality that they believe in flying saucers and refuse to eat Hostess Ho Hos."

Egads! - Editor.

RONALD SPANBAUER, writing again in regard to the alleged UFO film taken at the Clarksburg, W. Va. airport, has this to say:

"You and Gray Barker are playing some kind of game with me and I don't like it at all. I will be happy to fuck around with you guys in some other capacity but not when it comes to photographic information. I take my work in this area quite seriously and I want you to understand that.

"Somebody once told me that a good way to get publicity is to say something provocative in print. I think that is all you are doing. But you might as well be whistling Dixie through your ass because I'm not going to bite - at least not after this letter! Ta Ta....."

Ta Ta! - Editor.

We have the following strange thoughts from someone who apparently wants to remain ANONYMOUS:

"For years I have been filching copies of your most erudite newsletter from a genuine non-subscriber. I only wish I had courage enough to come 'out of the closet' and become an official non-subscriber, but after our first and last meeting - I fear that you would not only not let me be a member of your elite group - but would stop sending your 'Wit' to the real non-subscriber. Then where would I get my dose of raunch that you now have me addicted to?

"I can't imagine where Ufology would be without your helpful hand at back-biting, name calling, mud slinging, sophmoric double entendres and scatology. Reading your publication (?) is a little like the old-time cliff hangers - 'stay tuned for the rebuttals next week.' 'Will Ted Zilch have the last word?' 'What juicy piece of non-information will Capt. Jim send forth now?' 'What little-needed piece of rumor can be dredged up on which of the UFO Greats?' 'Is that really tobacco that Dr. J. Allen has in his pipe?' 'Is Candy Jones still on the air and can't she find anyone but you to guest on her program?'

"It is interesting to note that Candy Jones is the only female mentioned in your 'fact sheet'. (Copies are being sent to NOW and ERA supporters.) Why no mention of Saucer Ruthie or Charlotte Blob? People are beginning to speculate....."

"Well, enough of this fan letter. I want you to know that I am not taken to writing such praise, but I just couldn't let my silence go on any longer....."

Dear Fan: We greatly appreciate your letter, but we do wish you would "come out of the closet": (Time Magazine recently had a cover story on this.) Rest assured that no interested person (such as yourself) is ever kicked off the non-subscriber list, regardless of race, color, sexual persuasion, or planetary origin. - Editor.

LUCIUS FARISH writes:

"Oberg's reference to Stanton Friedman (obviously) as an 'EX nuclear physicist' is technically true, perhaps, but still misleading. The obvious implication is that Stan doesn't know what he's talking about when he discusses UFOs. If we are to follow this example, then we must also say that

Oberg now knows nothing at all about his former job of computer softwear analyst, since he is now an 'EX' Air Force officer. Or we might say that a former doctor knows nothing about medicine, or that a former lawyer knows nothing about law. Somehow, such 'reasoning' leaves something to be desired.

"If Oberg is offended by my statements about his columns and articles, why bother to paraphrase them? Let's have my direct quotes. In the #130 issue of 'MUFON UFO Journal', I said, in regard to Oberg's 'UFO Update' column in 'Omni': 'James Oberg is contributing the 'UFO Update' column for each issue, so we need not expect those reports to be unbiased and objective.' In that same issue, I mentioned the November 1978 issue of 'Fate', which contained 'an article by James Oberg discussing (from his super-skeptic position) the implications of, and controversy surrounding, Robert K.G. Temple's book, 'The Sirius Mystery'.' In a letter to Walt Andrus of MUFON, dated Feb. 6th, 1979, Oberg termed my remarks 'nasty character assassinations.' That seems a bit of an over-reaction, to say the least. The comments I made were personal opinions and I considered them extremely mild, compared to what I might have said about Oberg's writings. They are also very mild compared to some of the things Oberg has said about me in his various writings and interviews; but that's another story.

"Oberg is now irritated because I call him a 'super-skeptic' and do not accuse others of being, to use his term, 'super-dupes'. While it is undoubtedly true that some people tend to believe virtually everything they hear or read (whether pertaining to UFOs or any other topic), I consider that to be obvious and unnecessary to mention.

"I note that the May issue of 'Omni' contains a 'UFO Update' column by a member of APRO, so it would appear that I was not the only one who found Oberg's contribution less than satisfactory. As for his 'Fate' article, I would definitely suggest that it be read, but only after one has read Temple's book....."

RICK HILBERG writes:

"Thanks once again for the recent issue of your zine, although my doctors tell me that I'll get out of the home quicker if I stop reading it.

"Seriously, I just wanted to let you know that from this end it appears that we should have a respectable turnout in Cincinnati in July, for the National UFO Conference.....While on the subject of the convention, I've been doing a considerable amount of thinking about Greenfield's recent article wherein he expressed much anxiety in finally admitting in print that he has become a skeptic regarding saucers. As you well know from our recent conversations on this matter, I too in recent years have become quite skeptical regarding the efficacy of the many tenets put down throughout the years to explain the saucers as being something more than mundane. I also see that the bulk of many of your issues carry letters from believers blasting away at the skeptics, sometimes sounding like little children ranting at mommy and daddy after being told that Santa Claus really doesn't exist. And quite naturally, the skeptics write in to chide the believers for their seemingly messianic belief in the ETH and various other theories.

"What it all boils down to is this: Why can't the NUFOC invite skeptics and believers to attend the annual conventions, and rationally discuss their differences of opinion regarding the possible nature of UFOs? The fact that both sides never will admit to, is that the likes of Klass and Oberg are as much a part of the fascinating sociological phenomenon called 'ufology' as are Hynek, Andrus, and all the other believers. And let's face it, believers are basically scared shitless whenever someone comes along who might be able to make a shambles of the beliefs they have such a high emotional stake in. So therefore it's been taboo to seriously suggest that a UFO convention invite non-believers to share the lecture platform, or to take part in 'scientific' workshops held in conjunction with the overall convention organization.

"I suggest that the addition of those persons who hold views dissident

from the majority that believe in the reality of the UFO phenomenon would make any convention a more intellectually stimulating (and possibly more 'honest' and 'scientific') experience.....Maybe it's time for NUFOC to take a step that the 'scientific' UFO groups have been afraid to do all these years, and actively invite both sides to work together, and throw away the petty bickering that has gone on ever since Menzel published his first book, many years ago....."

And, TODD ZECHEL has this to say:

"David Schroth's tongue-in-cheek (or in his case, head-up-ass) fixation with the Easter Bunny may, under analysis, reveal the reasons for his Klassical conversion from being an insipid but devout believer to being an illogical but obnoxious skeptic. Most likely, Schroth was one of those pampered children so insulated from the harsh realities of the world that even as a teenager he continued to believe Santa Claus brought his Christmas toys and the Easter Bunny hopped by to leave him colored eggs. This immersion in fantasy led him to become a kiddie Ufologist, and his enthusiasm for kindly gift-leavers prompted him to view UFOs as the Santa-Claus-sleigh-like vehicles of friendly little Ufonauts who would leave him presents, as a reward for his devout faith.

"Sadly, one black day Schroth's fantasy world crumbled. Perhaps it was his parents who ended it all, hoping that little David would move into adulthood, now that he was over 21. However it happened, it's apparent that Schroth's psyche received a crushing blow. He reacted, it seems, with absolute anger, like the long-term victim of a cruel hoax. Really, he was angry at himself for being so foolish, but his fury turned outward, manifesting itself in attacks on fatherly Dr. Hynek, who perhaps represents Schroth's real father - the man Schroth holds responsible for duping him.

"Yes, David, there is an Easter Bunny! He lives in the hearts and minds of little children, even those of advanced age. Most of us, however, can leave our childhoods behind us without hating those who made the period so delightful."

MARTIN S. KOTTMEYER writes:

"As a MEBON investigator of the Seventh Kind (Hare Breed), I would like to keep you abreast of recent developments. The honorable G. V. Haroutunian of the University of Minnesota, author of the upcoming book 'Earth: Tax Write-off of the Gods', has recently advanced theoretical arguments for the existence of the Easter Bunny which hinge on the utilization of a sophisticated extraterrestrial technology. We note that this independently confirms the thesis of Tom Benson. (May 'Analog', p. 177.)

"We have recently received reports for BUNNYCAT which shoots the hell out of Jim Harris's nonappearance prediction. MAD Magazine has recently uncovered an EB report during a Project UFO expose. We have also received a first-hand report of a person who has revealed that he has 'Bunny' encounters on a regular basis. We are totally certain there is no hoax or misperception involved. Advocates of 3.33-D should be pleased that there is evidence of stress and an unusual social milieu which partially accounts for his susceptibility. In addition we have received word of a high-strangeness 'Bunny-man' series of reports from 1967. Apparently this was a multiple-witness case, with physical evidence. It carried a hatchet and left damage! ('Fortean Times'; #28, p. 37.)

"We would also like to clear up some organizational confusion. MEBON has merged with BBW and retains ties with APRON and Hamster from the Heavens, etc., but has renounced relationships with the Fungus Mutilations Study Group and the CIA. We have reason to believe the latter are covering up the existence of fairy corpses in a secret filing cabinet in the Pentagon. I ask you to keep this last paragraph in the strictest confidentiality."

Martin K's remarks, though obviously tongue-in-cheek, are nevertheless documented by additional material sent to us with his letter. For instance,

there really is a G. V. Haroutunian, and he apparently really is writing a book called "Earth: Tax Write-off of the Gods". Egads! - Editor.

TOM BENSON writes:

"Dear 'Son of Saucer Wit' Editor:

"It is claimed that Jim Oberg and Stanton Friedman, two New Jersey expatriates, both now living in 'sunbelt' states, pursuing their Ufological money-making fortune schemes, were chased out of the area by the 'Don' of New Jersey 'Saucerology', namely you, Jim Moseley; or are they just prodigal sons of yours, bound to return?

"Viruses are being examined for messages from other worlds. Japanese scientists have proposed that part of the genetic sequence is a message encapsulated in bacterial virus particles to survive prolonged space journeys and dispersed into the universe by one or more highly advanced civilizations. (New York Times, May 7th, 1979.)

"A new virus strain has been isolated and is defined as Moseley 'X' and is spreading throughout the kingdom of UFO/Saucerology. Being a non-subscriber is an acute symptom of this particular type of outerspace virus. It has even infected the UFO skeptics. Some Ufologists, to guard against the infection, have bought home-kit versions of Stanton Friedman's nuclear power plant anti-UFO weapon device. I believe it's named the particle-beam 'spooof' gun!....."

PETER JORDAN confuses us with the following:

"In 1967, a seven-foot winged creature stalked the town of Flapton, New Jersey. Nearly four hundred people allegedly saw the creature, which terrorized school children, mispronounced 'Jung' twice (once deliberately, some believe!), and then stuffed granola into the hair of Barbara Walters, who was vacationing in New Jersey at the time. Ms. Walters, though shaken, was unharmed, and suffered no ill effects as a result of the encounter, except, she said, for 'some tiny alfalfa roots growing along her scalp'. Asked to describe the monster, Ms. Walters declared that it was 'too tall', and was very 'Italian looking'. She added that the entity made an eerie whining noise 'similar to a Corvair', but 'not quite as nasal'. She recalled that there appeared to be no hair on the entity's body, directly in contradiction to her belief that the creature was of Italian heritage. According to Ms. Walters, the being spoke 'flawless English, better than my own', and was quite conversant with important contemporary events, such as rock concerts and disco bowling. Ms. Walters also reported that the creature told her he was annoyed by UFO investigators, many of whom said he was a mere 'tulpoid'. Ms. Walters assured the creature that he was in no way a 'tulpoid', but was very bright, and had a great future ahead of him. The creature is alleged, at this point, to have put more granola in Ms. Walters' hair. Her patience running thin, Ms. Walters screamed at the creature, 'If you aren't a tulpoid, what the hell are you?', at which point the creature is reported to have snarled back, 'I'm a credit analyst'. Finally, said Ms. Walters, the entity left, taking her hair with him."

KENNETH BEHRENDT, who is trying to start a UFO group, writes:

"Gosh, were you ever right! Our brand new, still wet-behind-the-ears UFO research organization (UFOSCAN) slowly struggled to its knees last month, gave one convulsive blood-spattered cough, and then finally collapsed into its own vomit.

"After dispatching press releases to be read by approx. four million people in northern and central New Jersey, I received only a dozen responses! I was tearfully praying that I'd uncover a bizarre abduction case with plenty of rock-solid evidence, which I could confer with Dr. Hynek on. Instead, I got one guy in Englewood who 'thinks' he saw a fireball somewhere at some time! Hey, what gives here? I can't start a major research group with a dozen people who, on top of everything, want a membership with no dues and a free journal. Doesn't anyone in Jersey give a damn about our elusive extraterrestrial friends?....."

(7)

PHILIP J. KLASS  
560 "N" STREET, S. W.  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20024

April 28, 1979

Dear Jim:

For publication, if you wish:

In recent Vol. 26, No. 4, you quote a Todd Zechel letter which says: "As for Klass, my would-be arch-nemesis, I understand he has sort of taken his anti-Zechel conspiracy underground, having enlisted the aid of his buddies in the Air Force Office of Information (SAFOI) and persuaded them to refer Zechel-related inquiries to his office."

Only Zechel could stuff so many paranoid falsehoods into a single sentence. My efforts to expose Zechel's numerous falsehoods had always been above-ground, in letters and White Papers which show my authorship quite clearly. At no time have I suggested, asked, or urged, let alone "persuaded" anyone in the USAF "to refer Zechel-related inquiries to his [PJK] office." and to the best of my recollection I have not received any.

Apparently Zechel is referring to an incident that occurred some months back involving his good friend, Alan Hendry, managing editor of International UFO Reporter. Hendry called SAFOI, talked with Captain Doug Kennett (who handles UFO matters as well as many other assignments), to ask if Kennett had information on a specific case. Kennett said he did not and since Hendry seemed anxious to obtain some information, Kennett suggested Hendry call me and that perhaps I might have some information on the case. When Hendry was asked if he knew me, he acknowledged that he had heard of me but asked Kennett for my telephone number, which he was given. (This is curious because Hendry and I have exchanged a number of letters and he once called me at my office, some months earlier.) But Hendry never called me.

Instead, he informed Zechel of what had happened and a member of Zechel's UFO group then wrote a letter of protest to the USAF Inspector General, calling for an investigation.

Seemingly, Hendry, Zechel, et al strongly objected because Captain Kennett was trying to be helpful.

This apparently is one of Kennett's frequent "faults". As a result, he was recently selected by the Aviation/Space Writers Association as the outstanding military public affairs officer within the entire Defense Department, <sup>in 1978</sup> and recently was presented with this distinguished award at the AWA annual convention in Houston.

Oh yes, Kennett recently received a promotion to the rank of Major.



P.S. I note from Zechel's letter that he has finally admitted that he served in the Army Security Agency, as I first revealed last September in my TZ-3 White Paper. Since Zechel has repeatedly claimed that he was employed for 10 years "by two civilian intelligence agencies" during the period he was serving in the Army--apparently even after three years in the Army Todd thinks it is "a civilian intelligence agency."