

DEDICATED TO THE HIGHEST PRINCIPLES OF UFOLOGICAL JOURNALISM

# SAUCER SMEAR

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAUCER AND UNEXPLAINED CELESTIAL EVENTS RESEARCH SOCIETY

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**NON-SCHEDULED NEWSLETTER**

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**EDITOR AND  
SUPREME COMMANDER:**  
James W. Moseley

OUR GALA FALL UFO PARTY is scheduled for the evening of Saturday, December 3rd, to be held as usual at our palacial estate at 121 69th St., Guttenberg, N.J. (Phone: 201-869-8053). This time we have even unlocked the ancient secrets of the Bus Schedule: We are reliably informed that buses run to this part of N.J. from Gate 53 of the downtown Port Authority building in N.Y.C. every 20 minutes till 12:30 at night. Routes 165, 166, or 168 will get you to within 2 or 3 blocks of our abode. After 12:30 a.m., the schedule thins out a bit, to approximately one bus per hour.

We should add that this particular party will celebrate the fact that your humble editor has SOLD the building in which he now lives and in which he will continue to live as a mere tenant. At the same time, he has PURCHASED a home in (very) sunny Key West, Florida, where he will also live part time. Fear not, the Fort Lee, N.J. post office box will still be valid. "Smear" will continue to appear on non-schedule, and all will continue to be right with the world.

It should be further noted here that at our Key West location, we will be selling ancient pre-Columbian artifacts & other antiques - a return to a profession we indulged in during the late 1950's. ("There's no ghou! like an old ghou!")

**TID-BITS OF TRASH:**

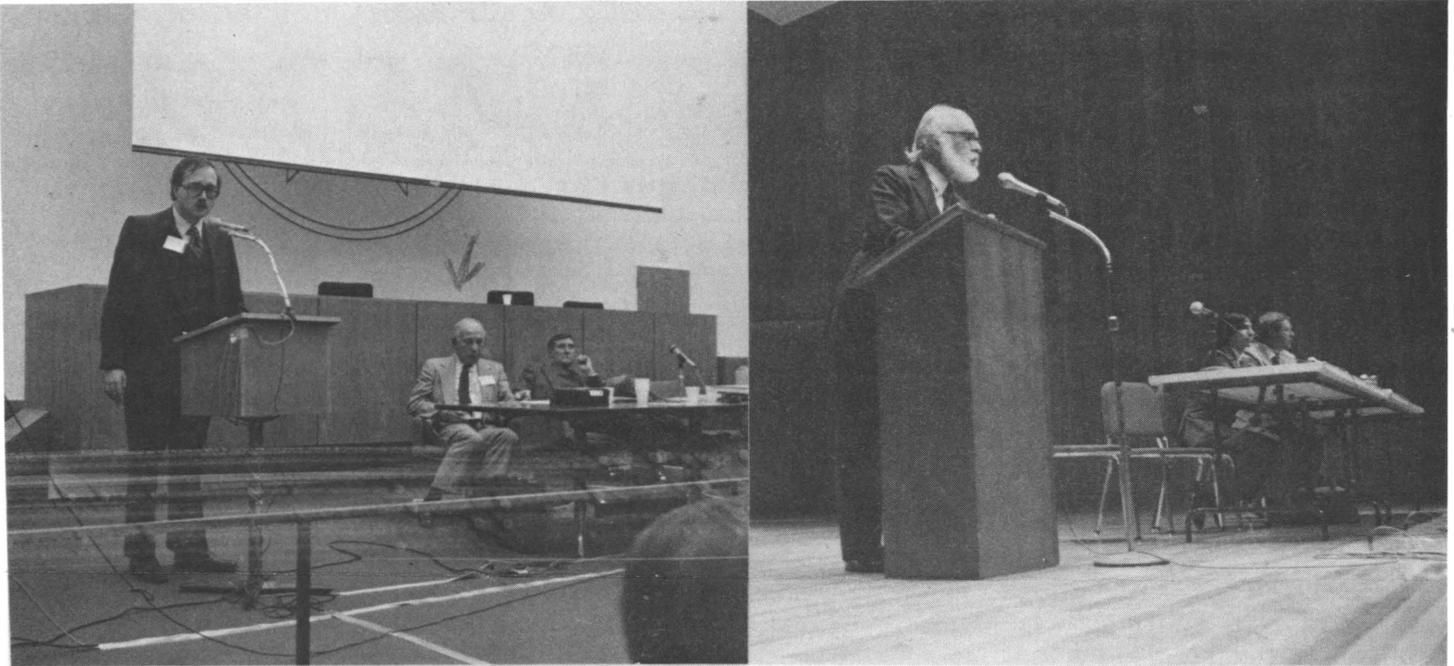
Harry Levelson, formerly a neighbor of ours here in Guttenberg, N.J., has moved to Florida permanently. Harry is a professional writer who used to work for OMNI. He is an avid though slightly credulous UFO researcher, and he'd be glad to hear from any of our non-subscribers who would like to get in touch. Address: P.O. Box 19-0958, Miami Beach, Fla. 33119....

We have received another anonymous threat note in the mail recently, postmarked De Pere, Wisconsin. Apparently it was not from a certain Wisconsin resident whom we at first suspected, but was merely a kindly joke from an old friend. (Paranoia can really get to you in this UFO field!)

We have here at our Headquarters a copy of "UFO - Contact from Reticulum", co-authored by contactee William J. Herrmann and Wendelle Stevens of Pleiadian fame. We intend to actually read this tome one of these days and treat you-all to one of our unique book reviews....

Non-subscriber Loren Coleman has a new book out that we have not seen, called "Mysterious America". Cleverly, his publisher (Faber & Faber) released the book this past Hallowe'en, as it deals with scary Fortean creatures of all sorts.





"SAUCER SMEAR" ATTENDS A REAL (?) HONEST-TO-GOODNESS SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

On the weekend of Oct. 28th-29th, your fearless "Smear" editor journeyed to chilly Buffalo, New York to attend the first annual conference on "Science, Skepticism, and the Paranormal", sponsored by the dreaded Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP). Buffalo was chosen for this cosmic event because it is the home town of CSICOP chairman Paul Kurtz, who is a professor of philosophy at the state university at Buffalo. The relationship between the university and CSICOP is so cozy, in fact, that most of the formal sessions of the conference were held in lecture halls on the campus.

An audience ranging from 200 to 400 sat through two full days of lectures, organized into sub-topics such as "Paranormal Health Cures" (which we missed); "Why People Believe: The Psychology of Deception"; and a weirdly mixed bag of tricks called "Animal Mutilations, Star Maps, UFOs, and Television".

Most of the speakers as well as most of the audience were academic types - either college professors, undergraduates, or college drop-outs such as your "Smear" editor. A surprising number of the CSICOP "hard core" turn out to be amateur magicians, and then of course there is the Amusing Randi (right photo above), about whom more further on.

In the left photo above, Phil Klass (arrow) temporarily takes a back seat to California skeptic Bob Sheaffer, who is enrapturing the audience with a brief put-down of Betty Hill's controversial star map. Note the mysterious streaks across the bottom of the picture, suggesting that Sheaffer may have strong psychic powers that he himself is unaware of!

Other than Klass and Sheaffer, most of the CSICOP speakers would be unknown to "Smear" readers, though we did run into several non-subscribers such as genial Dutch cartoonist Piet Hoebens, Dr. Gary Posner of Florida, and Marcello Truzzi of Eastern Michigan University. Truzzi publishes a semi-scholarly zine called "The Zetetic". Just as with Believers, there are dreadful schisms among the skeptics - with Truzzi (who has resigned from CSICOP) leading the moderate wing, whereas Klass and Randi are among the best known "hard-liners" - loyal to CSICOP and its official publication "The Skeptical Inquirer", edited by one Ken Frazier of New Mexico.

We found that although the average intellectual level is higher, the skeptics delight in gossip as much as the Believers do. Even "Saucer Smear" wouldn't dare print some of the things we heard in private conversations at

the conference. Another interesting thing we learned is that the skeptics genuinely believe that the media (press & TV) are biased against them, just as the Believers do. I guess it all depends on your point of view!

Among the most interesting of the approximately 30 lectures: Robert Morris of Syracuse University, who remains mildly skeptical of paranormal claims in spite of having obtained meaningful results in some of his own laboratory tests; Michel Rouze of France, who told of how the president of France accidentally said "astrology" instead of "astronomy" in a public speech about science; Daryl Bem of Cornell University, who demonstrated how easily psychics can work from mundane clues rather than paranormal abilities; and former FBI agent Ken Rommel, who claims from his investigations that all the supposed cattle mutilations are merely the work of predators - though he did not go into the possible UFO link at all.

But the star of the CSICOP show was magician James Randi, who claims no academic degrees at all. He dominated the "prime time" Friday night meeting, together with two young magicians he had planted in a series of psychic experiments carried on over a period of four years, conducted by Peter Phillips of Washington University in St. Louis. In a publicity binge earlier this year, Randi and the two "plantees" first revealed that Phillips had been systematically hoaxed. Also hoaxed was Dr. Berthold Schwarz, a gentle sort of investigator who let the same two young men infiltrate a separate series of psychic experiments he was conducting. Various ethical questions arise, including Randi's right to publicly reveal how these psychic tricks were done. Suffice is to say that Randi is as hated among psychics and their followers as Phil Klass is among UFO Believers!

Your editor was kindly treated by the CSICOP crowd, partly because in general they want to have a pipeline into what the Believers are thinking, just as your editor mingles with the skeptics to see what they are up to! Among the attendees we met, Marcello Truzzi was particularly cordial, and we had dinner with him one night at the home of a friend who claims to be a part-time agent for none other than the CIA!

We are impelled to comment (favorably) on the high-class organizational structure of the CSICOP bash - especially the unique and very successful way that the skeptics were able to keep their sessions from running overtime. There was a bus service between the motel & the campus, geared to the schedule of lectures. When the bus would arrive at the end of a session, someone would come to the door of the conference hall and yell, "The buses are here!", whereupon the speaker would immediately lose 90% of his audience and therefore would shut up very quickly. This is a ploy much needed in the UFO field, but unfortunately we generally can't afford private bus service.

All in all, it was an interesting weekend. Much enlightenment, and much heavy-handed humor. Though ridicule is certainly not part of the scientific method, pro-parapsychological claims often lend themselves easily to negative humor, and yes (we confess!), your editor laughed right along with the rest of the crowd. If these learned gentlemen are missing the germ of truth hidden somewhere in the pro-psi garbage, all is not lost. Even their negative interest helps to keep the subject alive!



MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES:

We are not publishing any letters about our feud with Gray Barker, since for some strange reason we didn't get any. Due to lack of Space, we've had to omit several of the interesting letters we did receive on other subjects. Here, then, are some of the letters we have received since our last glorious issue:

.....

The above-mentioned GRAY BARKER writes:

"Since you have had no Occult training, I'm certain your error was an innocent one; but your publication of the Black Curse of Klass in a recent issue was unwise.

"No doubt that Klass himself does have this occult training, for his Curse contains elements of a powerful rune which could cause a lot of harm in Ufology, and demonstrates an excellent knowledge of Freemasonry, Allister Crowley and the Illuminati. What Klass has been unable to accomplish by argument, through his books, articles and appearances, he is now attempting to accomplish by Magick. Your publication gives the Curse much greater Power.

"While I can repel such negative influences, many of your readers have scoffed at curses and black magic, and thus have no defenses. If your readers have been exposed to the Curse, they may counter it by burning that sheet of the issue on which it is printed. Burning is one of the oldest and most effective exorcisms.

"An even more effective way of dispelling it is through meditation and repeated recitations of the Ufologist's Creed, which you printed in an earlier issue."

Globe-trotting ERIK BECKJORD of the National Cryptozoological Society (Box 31990, Seattle, Wa. 98103) writes as follows:

"....Re Klass, I agree with his 'curse'. For once, he is right. But this doesn't mean we shouldn't keep trying to find out the truth, nor should we cease looking. I told Uncle Phil that we probably would never find either a UFO or a Bigfoot body, back in 1980 at Maccabee's house with Sheaffer. But I also said we have enough marginal evidence to warrant continuing to look. Let's have some credit, Uncle P....

"Waves of despair and pessimism are flowing everywhere! First we had Beckjord's Prediction - which nobody listened to, if they heard it at all. Then comes the Curse of Klass, accompanied by the Doubts of Moseley. And now we have the Gloom & Doom of Jerry Clark, as seen in the latest 'Zetetic Scholar'. Everywhere I see the real truth coming home to roost - that UFOs, critters, etc. will resist the efforts of science for perhaps eons, until new tools and new, open-minded scientists evolve to cope with the problem. The phenomenon is there, gentlemen, but it will resist 'nuts-and-bolts; flesh-and-blood' proof (as we know proof to be) for the time being. So sit back, support your local psychic, take lots of photos of phenomena, and have a beer. Don't worry so much about proof - just enjoy the hunt. Sometimes the process is better fun than the end result....



HEY OBERG! IT'S GETTING DARK. WE'VE GOT TO FINISH THESE IMPRESSIONS....

"Someone has at last gotten the basic idea about how difficult it is to fake deep and wide-spaced Bigfoot tracks. I refer to Schmidt's cartoon in the Oct. 10th 'Smear', showing a living being on a special unicycle that has Bigfoot track molds arranged around its circumference. This is, as I once suggested in a previous 'Smear', one of the few feasible ways to fake such tracks - the only drawback being that the rider would have to carry 1,000 pounds or more of weight on his shoulders while operating the unicycle. Absurd, right? And equally as absurd as the idea that such tracks can be faked at all. Bravo, Schmidt!...."

See also cartoon on previous page, which has a similar theme. Also see bare-breasted maiden photo further along in this issue, which has a caption supplied verbatim by Beckjord. - Editor.

GARY P. POSNER, M.D., writes as follows:

"It is admittedly difficult at times for me to determine just how firmly your tongue is resting against your cheek as you write your pieces in 'Smear', or your letters to myself and others. But it is disturbing when you refer to me as a 'Dreadful skeptic' (Sept. 'Smear') or a 'dogmatic skeptic' (Oct. 2nd postcard).

"Please reread my letter in the July, 1982 'Smear'. I assure you that I would like to believe that UFOs (properly defined) are real. All that I ask is persuasive evidence - of the same quality as that which a physicist would require before accepting the existence of a new atomic particle.

"In your review of Phil Klass' new book, you generously grant him (and presumably myself) 'as much right to interpret the evidence in a skeptical/logical manner as ...the Believers to interpret it in a pro-Weirdness manner.' But although your generosity is appreciated, your statement is a distortion of the scientific attitude, and a backhanded endorsement of pseudoscience. The proper, pro-scientific formulation of that sentence would read: 'Klass, as a scientific investigator, has the obligation to interpret the evidence in a skeptical/logical manner, unlike pseudoscientists, who choose instead to interpret it in a pro-Weirdness manner.'"

Budding author KEN BEHRENDT writes:

"After years of pondering what psychologically motivates the UFO skeptics, I have finally come to realize that most of their arguments involving witness reliability and credibility, the psychology of perception, and atmospheric phenomena are really a subtle smokescreen that hides the true core of the dispute....The battle between UFO skeptics and believers is, ultimately, a kind of religious war between differing faiths. Some might call it a battle between dogma and hope, and this probably can be used to explain the personality types drawn to either side of the battle. As for myself, I'm still proud to count myself among the believers, for in my opinion theirs is the view which shall be ultimately triumphant!"

DAVE SCHROTH writes:

"This pertains to Kenneth Behrendt's query ('Saucer Smear', Oct. 10) about whether atmospheric factors may cause an observer to think a distant light source is rotating or spinning.

"The answer is yes. Examples: Remember the 'rotating lights of Japan'? In 1952-53 military observers there reported the planet Venus as a UFO replete with a cluster of lights that resembled the rotating colored lights of a jukebox. (Details in Menzel, 'The World of Flying Saucers', pp. 73-75.) And during the great saucer flap of 1957 Venus was

again described as a 'spinning' UFO. (Vallee, 'Challenge to Science', pp. 111-112.) Twenty years later, Allan Hendry at the Center for UFO Studies received many calls from people reporting stars as 'rotating UFOs'. (Hendry, 'The UFO Handbook', pp. 26, 94.)

"In addition to atmospheric factors, the power of suggestion in a group of excited observers may create or strengthen the illusion that a fixed light source is rotating. Mr. Behrendt may recall that considerable excitement prevailed among the observers in the New Zealand UFO case to which he referred in his letter...."

BARRY HOFFMAN hits us with the following:

"....As for me, I am currently seeking to refine, develop and augment the Bjorkian Method of contacting the Space People. I have been harassed by neighbors for my use of this method and have even been jailed for 'disturbing the peace' because of my loud appeals to the Space People each evening.

"In the near future, I plan to further test the Bjorkian Method in Manhattan - perhaps in the Times Square area. Gee, I wonder what'll happen?...."

See Page 8 for further details! - Editor.

KAL K. KORFF of Kalifornia writes:

"If anyone knows how I can go about obtaining the original Straith letter, please drop me a line. Or, if any of you non-subscribers happens to possess the original Straith letter, then I would like to borrow it for a short while.

"The reason for my request is that the technology now exists to lift latent prints even several decades old, off of documents. In short, I am interested in trying to find out just who fabricated the Straith letter.

"Since I have a running correspondence with, believe it or not, exactly 157 researchers (both debunkers and believers alike) I think the odds are pretty good that I can obtain a positive match, if I can borrow the original letter to have the laser enhancements performed...."

Lots of luck, Kal! - Editor.



SMILING NEW GUINEA WOMAN ADMITS SHE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR FOOLING ANTHROPOLOGIST ROY WAGNER INTO THINKING MERMAIDS WERE RAMPANT IN PNG. WEARING A "TAIL" OF WOVEN COCNUT PALM FRONDS, SHE MANAGED TO CONVINCED WAGNER AND GET HIM TO WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE GULLIBLE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CRYPTOZOOLOGY'S JOURNAL. "JUST CALL ME MATA HARI #2"; SHE SAID.

photo credit: Seacow enterprises

GREG C. CUSHING writes:

"....For some reason there still seems to be some confusion about the whereabouts of the most infamous Wendelle C. Stevens. Wendelle is now residing in the southeasten-most corner of Tucson, Arizona, at the Santa Rite A.C.T.C. (Arizona Correctional Training Center), at 10,000 South Wilmot Blvd., Tucson, Az. 85777. Usual visiting hours are from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. So if you get down this way again in the next five years or so, you may want to drop in and say hello...."

Researcher JOHN BARLOW writes:

"First, a mystery: In September of 1971, Fawcett Gold Medal Books came out with a John Keel title called 'Our Haunted Planet', priced at 75¢. No publication date is evident, but some time later the same company republished the book at twice the price, with a cover blurb saying 'REVISED EDITION'. After a quick examination anyone can see that both books are exactly the same, word for word. Not even a new intro or anything. What gives?? I didn't know it was so easy to revise a book!

"By the way, do any of your readers know that John Keel wrote a paperback book back in 1966 called 'The Fickle Finger of Fate'? Billed as a 'camp' classic for adults only, it's the illustrated story of Satyr-Man. In one of the illustrations a character named 'Professor Grant' looks surprisingly like Mr. Keel himself (page 19). I presume this is the unrevised edition, because it has a lot of fucking in it...."

Yes, your "Smear" editor attended a very "in" cocktail party at Keel's New York apartment, celebrating the publication of "Fickle Finger". - Editor.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM NASH of ufological fame writes:

"Skeptic Bob Sheaffer takes umbrage with my inclusion of Morris K. Jessup among 'scientific men of competence'. Perhaps he's a young man and did not know Morris. Whether Jessup completed his professional training or not, he was a scientific man of competence. Otherwise he would not have, for instance, been placed in charge of the telescopic observation of an eclipse in South Africa during the International Geophysical Year, by other 'scientific men of competence'.

"And I did not claim that the deaths (of Jessup and McDonald) were mysterious. Hal Starr did. I placed the words in quotes. Mr. Sheaffer is a poor reader, and another nit-picker."

And our olde pal GEORGE EARLEY lets go with:

"Despite the fancy rhetoric, tap-dancing and hand-waving indulged in by ex-Captain Nash, the fact remains that the propagation of sound through the atmosphere from source to listener is affected by wind or lack of it. As a retiree, perhaps ex-Captain Nash should invest some of his spare time in school reacquainting himself with the sciences he's apparently forgotten!"

TOM BENSON of "The Sixth Quark Journal" writes:

"The Grenada saga continues. Perhaps soon Sir Eric Gairy will be back in power and flying saucers again will be on the agenda at the United Nations. Why don't you get Gairy to be 'guest of honor' at the upcoming Fall get-together at your place. You can get out your shrunken head that looks a lot like Ronnie's friend Bonzo, and we'll all have a great time, voodooing it!"

I'M READY FOR SEX! I'M READY FOR SEX!  
**THE BJORKIAN METHOD**  
 ~ WHEN IT WORKS ~



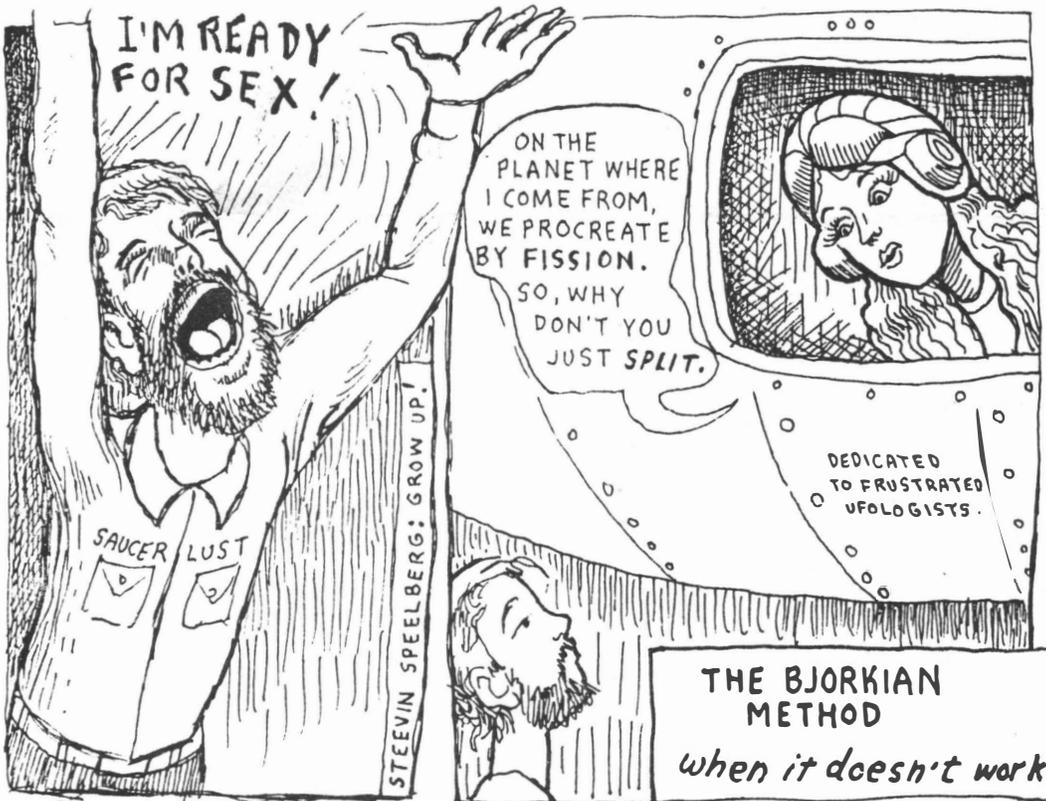
(Page 8)

Several months ago "Smear" non-subscriber KRIS BJORK of Waco, Texas sent us a letter in which she proclaimed that the best way to contact Space People might be to run outdoors one night and simply yell, "I'M READY FOR SEX!"

Cartoonist BARRY HOFFMAN of New York City picked up on Kris's published letter, and came up with the delightful fantasy on this page.

Our sincere thanks to both these fine people for aiding in our scientific enlightenment.

(The item below is not thought to be related. It is here because we hate to waste Space.)



**AIDS kills nun!**  
 A former nun, who left her religious order to help rehabilitate prostitutes in Haiti, died from AIDS shortly after returning to her home in Canada. Doctors in Toronto said the nun had spent 30 years in Haiti and came back to Canada in 1979. The woman had one sexual contact during her years in Haiti and that apparently resulted in her contracting AIDS.