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James W. Moseley

IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR YE OLDE "DREADED 'X'". If an "X" appears after your name on the envelope in which you received this issue, you will receive no more unless we hear from you soon! Since this humble effort is free, we try to reserve it for those who are Truly Interested, or at least alive.

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MISCELLANEOUS RAVINGS:

Well, it's been quite awhile since our last "Smear", and quite frankly, from now on the issues are going to be further apart than in the past - maybe about every second month, rather than every month-or-so. Mail will be answered much less promptly, alas, but it will be answered eventually.

Why the slow-down? For one thing, your humble editor will be spending about half his time in Key West, Florida, devoting himself to the antique business described exclusively in our last "Smear". For another, things seem to have hit a new low of Tedium in the UFO Field, and there is in fact very little going on that really tickles the imagination as of olde.

About the most exciting tidbit on hand right now is an unsubstantiated claim by crashed-disc researcher (and former Zechel associate) William Steinman of California. In a recent missive to us, Bill claims he has received a letter from "a very prominent and currently active scientist", in which said scientist confirms "Government recovery of crashed and/or disabled flying saucers during the 1947-1950 time period". Unfortunately Bill does not trust us, and so far has refused to reveal the name of the alleged scientist, even in confidence, or to send us a copy of the alleged letter. But he tells us by phone that he has turned the letter over to famed researcher Bill Moore, who presumably is more trustworthy, and that Moore will take it from there, with the help of semi-retired researcher Stan Friedman.

We can't help but wonder why this scientist would confess to Bill Steinman - a complete stranger - information that said scientist allegedly admits is "the most highly classified subject matter in the United States Government", after having kept the lid on for so many years. It simply makes no sense to us, but if there is even a Germ of truth in this, perhaps a Congressional investigation is needed! In the meanwhile, we await further developments with the usual Baited Breath. Stay tuned!

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On the evening of Nov. 30th your somewhat humble editor attended a weird conclave in New York City, devoted to celebrating the 100th issue of High Times Magazine, combined with the publication of a book called "The Book of the SubGenius" (McGraw-Hill).

It seems that the SubGenius Foundation, somewhat controlled by a

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RADICAL INSANITY.

non-subscriber in Dallas named Douglas Smith, is a satirical put-down of organized (and disorganized) religion. We have often run tiny (free) ads for them such as the ones on Page One, but these have failed to attract any attention at all for some reason.

Present at the above-mentioned conclave were non-subscribing sub-SubGenii such as John Keel, Harold Salkin, Tim Beckley, Herb Bailey and others. Although none of this has the slightest connection with UFOs as far as we know, a good time was had by all. (See also letter from Ivan Stang, further along in this issue, and cartoon by Barry Hoffman concerning Kris Bjork, who turns out to be a SubGenius minister! And buy the February issue of High Times if you happen to be a Keel fan!)

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Big Jim Oberg informs us that on the morning of May 29th, a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS, as opposed to ASS), will sponsor a program in New York City on "The Edges of Science", featuring among others Isaac Asimov (if his health permits), James ("The Amazing") Randi, J. Allen Hynek, and (of course, or why would he have brought it up?) Jim Oberg. Big Jim's lecture topic will be "The Null Hypothesis for the UFO Phenomenon", which states that "no extraordinary stimuli are required in order to produce the wealth of UFO perceptions and reports of the past several decades".

Strangely, though the time of the meeting is given, the address is not, nor is it clear whether the meeting is open to the public. If it isn't, your editor plans to Crash, anyway. We enjoy mingling with "real" scientists and others of that enlightened ilk!

.....

And, what have we here? Another book by author-publisher Gray Barker - his 11th over the years - this one called "The Year of the Saucer - Gray Barker's UFO Annual, 1983" (Price: \$12.95; New Age Books, Box D, Jane Lew, West Virginia.)

Barker's introduction explains that the book actually covers mainly 1982 sightings (not 1983), and goes on to claim that 1982 was an unusually good year for UFO reports in spite of the usual lack of interest by the national media. Barker then goes on to cloak himself in the mantle of the late Morris K. Jessup by claiming that he (Barker) is merely continuing the tradition begun by Jessup, who published an annual for one year - 1955.

So - how successful is Gray Barker's effort? Considering the primitive home printing he goes in for, and the total lack of competent help or supervision, he has done a better job than we would have expected. Of course most of the stories balance on the thin line between supposed truth and outright fiction, but at least they are presented in an interesting, readable manner. There's no index, but your humble "Smear" editor is mentioned many times in the text.

Skip over the cartoon facing Page 40, which, as Jerry Clark has pointed out in FATE, is in very bad taste. And don't bother to burn the last four pages, even though Barker suggests in the text that you do so (to avoid the curse of the Men in Black!) Read this book with a VERY open mind and an empty stomach, and you shall be duly rewarded!

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IMPORTANT NOTICE: Plans are already underway for the giant 21st annual National UFO Conference (NUFOC) - a 2-day convention that will be held this year in Cleveland, Ohio. Details are not yet complete, but a banquet will be held on Friday Sept. 21st, and the "closed" session, as well as the public (open) session will take place on Sat. Sept. 22nd at the Country Inn - West 150th St. & I-71 in Cleveland. For more info., write to Robert Easley, 3001 Colburn Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44109.

LETTERS TO YE OLDE EDITOR:

DR. RICHARD F. HAINES, Director of the North American UFO Federation, writes as follows:

"Thank you for your letter of Nov. 15th, 1983....Your offer of friendship and cooperation is most welcome. The North American UFO Federation, Inc. has been formed to bring more standardization to the field investigative process (including data collection, analysis, and reporting), to help to bridge past gaps which separated various UFO organizations, to work toward enhanced credibility of serious investigators' research efforts, and to act as a reliable source of information on the 'phenomenon' to the general public, government, and other interested parties...."

"Your offer of support is appreciated. Perhaps a good first step would be for you to publish a short (positive - at least neutral) piece on our federation to help us get started on the right footing. You may know that I have been active in this field for some time and have tried to work positively at each step of the way. Our public image is not all that good (as you know better than most). Your writings contribute to the larger impressions of ufology by the general public as well as to the 'insiders' to whom you send your publication. It is for this reason that I sincerely hope that we can count on you in the future for a positive approach to reporting. Looking forward to hearing from you again...."

We promptly answered Dr. Haines' letter, but perhaps we were not "positive" enough, as we have not heard from him again. - Editor.

IVAN STANG of the SubGenius Foundation (P.O. Box 140306, Dallas, Texas 75214) writes:

"I used Kris's Bjorkian method and ended up getting gang-raped by Mothmen & invisible Santa Clauses. As if that wasn't enough, the next day a bunch of MIBs added insult to injury. So, hey THANKS LOADS for the GREAT ADVICE! Before you print these methods on contacting higher (and bigger) entities, you'd best check 'em out yourself, okay? Bjork is a SubGenius minister, so I should have known better, I admit."

Ace cartoonist BARRY HOFFMAN writes:

"....To further pick up on Kris Bjork's theme: Question: What are the magick words that Wendelle Stevens chants when he wants to contact the Space People? Answer: 'I'm ready for Drew Barrymore! I'm ready for Drew Barrymore!'"

"To comment on Page 8 of your last issue: My humble thanks to you for turning Kris and me into two boils on the ass of 'Saucer Smear'. You have excellent taste in cartoonists. You are truly a man who knows when to send in the clowns.

"Good luck on your move to Key West. Me, I'll be conducting cryogenics experiments here in Flushing (N.Y.) this winter...."

Radio personality CANDY JONES (Long John Nebel's widow) writes as follows:

"....I don't want the all-night radio hours again! I'm on WMCA at 6 a.m. till 7:40 a.m. and at 7 p.m. daily. Also, I do a bi-weekly live segment on Radio 1 in Auckland, New Zealand. It's a combination of 'Today' & 'Carson'. You'll also hear me with Peter Roberts (WOR) as the female voice narrating the new '84 American Cancer TV spots, and the voice on DuPont's new fiber - and on radio doing Fugazy spots. Plus

fashion show commentary and several lectures. With the old hours, I don't think I could handle these extras which mean more in dollars...."

CHRISTOPHER ALLAN of jolly old England writes:

"....I was interested in your write-up on the CSICOP conference. In fact Robert Sheaffer and I have corresponded for some time on UFOs and related things. One thing: We do not have cattle mutilations over here, despite no shortage of cattle. What is it about our cows, sheep, etc. that the aliens don't like (or should I say do like?) Perhaps British cattle are of no interest to the Ufonauts.

"That man (Kal K. Korff) who thinks he can identify the writer of the Straith letter by laser technology - even if he could 'raise' the fingerprints, there must be an awful lot of prints on that letter by now. In fact there would be quite a few still on it from the day the paper was manufactured - before the letter was written! So just how is he going to sort them out? As for the writer of it, I suggest Adamski wrote it himself!....

"All good wishes for 1984. Perhaps George Orwell knew the UFO secret but died before he could tell the world...."

KEN BEHRENDT writes as follows:

"....I do agree with Dave Schroth's previous letter stating that twinkling or scintillating stars and planets may be interpreted by naked eye ground or air observers as distant rotating light sources. However, (particularly for planets) this misinterpretation becomes obvious when one views these lights through a telescope, as the magnified image will rapidly bounce about its true position or will appear to distort, break up, and reform. The New Zealand UFOs were reported by cameraman David Crockett to be spinning as he viewed them through the camera's telephoto lens. Thus, he observed the magnified images of the UFOs to be spinning. These photographed, magnified images do not display the kind of radical motions or distortions necessary to have caused the light sources involved to appear to be twinkling (and thus falsely rotating) to unaided observers' eyes. From this I can only conclude that the spinning lights involved were attached to or produced near a real object's surface which was in a state of physical rotation about the object's internal axis. Perhaps in my Oct. 10th letter I should have specified that I was interested in knowing about any atmospheric optical illusions that could make a distant light source appear to rotate about its internal axis as that light source is viewed via telescope."

To which skeptic PHILIP J. KLASS swiftly replies:

"In the Oct. issue of 'Saucer Smear', Kenneth Behrendt speaks of 'rotation of the light sources observed', which he claims challenges my prosaic explanation of the now-famous New Zealand UFO incident of late 1978.

"None of the filmed images of the 'UFO(s)' - to my knowledge, and I have viewed the film many times - shows a 'rotation of the light sources', unless he is referring to the very brief segment as the flight approached its home base at Blenheim.

"In this brief segment, the orange-red image changes from roughly a circular 'blob' to a banana-shaped blob in a single frame (1/10th second) and 1/10th sec. later (next frame) the single banana-shaped blob splits into two string-bean shaped blobs. Two frames later (1/5th second), the two string-bean-shaped blobs merge into a single, distorted elliptical-shaped blob.

"Curiously, not one of the cockpit observers reported seeing such strange gymnastics or shape changes.

"As detailed in my new book, 'UFOs: The Public Deceived', I believe these filmed images were reflections of the aircraft's rotating red anti-collision beacon, bouncing off one of the propellers during the aircraft's descent when the propeller, briefly, was synchronized with the rotation rate of the aircraft beacon."

And, veteran ufologist GEORGE EARLEY blasts us with:

"The editorial page of Britain's 'Flying Saucer Review' carries the following statement: 'Contributions appearing in this magazine do not necessarily reflect its policy and are published without prejudice.' Don't you believe it! I have been told by editor Gordon Creighton that FSR, which has been publishing Len Stringfield's crashed disc retrieval articles, WILL NOT publish articles critical of that theory UNTIL Len is proven wrong! Yet despite this stance, Creighton continues to boast that 'FSR prides itself on being a forum for debate....' So much for the Search for Truth amongst The Believers!

"Meanwhile, back on this side of the Atlantic, Phil Klass, chairman of the CSICOP UFO Subcommittee, having had some of his public claims apparently irrefutably challenged by me, now says he is too busy to discuss the UFO scene with me any more. He even threatens to toss any further letters from me 'into the wastebasket'. This 'I'm too busy' ploy, previously invoked by CSICOP members Asimov and Sagan when their UFO-illogical stances had been strongly challenged, may now be CSICOP policy towards anyone who presses them too closely. What a change in attitude this is from the Phil Klass who said, back in 1975 when I interviewed him for FATE Magazine, 'This is the way it should be: We can have differing views, you can challenge me and I can respond and you can challenge my response and so on. I think any scientist who advances an hypothesis must be willing and anxious to have it challenged and to be able to respond to it. And that I am delighted to do.' Klass also, despite massive evidence of government cover-ups in a variety of areas (see 'After the Paper Chase', Wall Street Journal op ed page, 5 Jan 84, as an example), still refuses to believe that there could have been (still is??) a cover-up policy concerning UFOs. So much for the Search for Truth amongst The Skeptics!"

The inevitable JOHN A. KEEL delights us with:

"All right, Meathead:

"Your brown-nosed non-critique of the Buffalo bash was a three barf bagger. Why don't you stay home? Ooops, forgot. You have no home now that you've unloaded your N.J. slum on some greedy, illiterate landlord type!

"Tell 'John Barlow' if he has the two editions of 'Our Haunted Planet', he should check pages 127-128 in both. That will clear up the 'mystery'. I have told the story of that 'Revised Edition' so many times in so many publications that I won't bore us all with a repetition here.

"As for 'The Fickle Finger of Fate', it was not porn, as Barlow implies, but a satire on Batman (the Batman craze was at its height in 1966). It has no fucking in it at all, alas. Instead, there are pages of asterisks! Fucking, as we all know, was not allowed in 1966. I wrote that book

Keel Jokes No Longer Funny

NEWPORT, R.I. (UPI) — The mysterious keel of Australia II, the foreign entry in the America's Cup

in seven days in April 1966, and it sold hundreds of thousands of copies, particularly on college campuses where Batman was all the rage. Tab Hunter (!) starred in the movie. In fact, 'Fickle Finger' financed most of my UFO research of that period. It is now a collector's item and mint copies go for about \$25. Incidentally, 'Fickle Finger' was illustrated by Al Jaffee of MAD Magazine. You might recall that the staff of MAD attended my party for the book, including Harvey Kurtzman, the original creator of MAD.

"Re Morris K. Jessup: Due to their general appalling ignorance, few ufologists know that there were two Morris Jessups. The real Morris K. Jessup was a very prominent explorer-philanthropist who had a cape in the Arctic Circle named after him and who made many significant donations to the museums of New York, and to science in general. The ufological Jessup took part in a few insignificant expeditions, but ended up living with a burlesque queen and eking out a living with a mail order business. He never received a doctorate and, unfortunately, is largely a creation of your bosom buddy Gray Barker, who elevated 'Dr. Morris K. Jessup' to a kind of cult hero. He was a manic depressive, like the late Dr. MacDonald, and his suicide was carefully planned. Two of the most tiresome myths in ufology are the Jessup story and the Allende bullshit, both of which have been perpetuated by the Barker-Moseley team.

"Why don't you go back to smuggling? You're going to give ufology a bad name!....

"In a few weeks I will be sending out 'The Unicorn Review', a newsletter that will put your hopeless little effort to shame. You might mention that anyone who wishes to receive a free copy of TUR need only send a SASE to me. If they make it a long #10 envelope I will even throw in some UFO goodies. I won't be sending you a copy because you are mentioned unfavorably and would undoubtedly only make a lot of snide remarks.

"My new address is: P.O. Box 20024, New York, N.Y. 10025-9992."

IN THE PHOTO BELOW, ace UFO researcher COLMAN VONKEVICZKY holds up a newspaper that apparently includes a long write-up about his ufological exploits. Or is it the "L.A. AREA RAIDED!" story that has seized his attention? We



can't be sure, as the print on the rest of the newspaper is too small to be read in reproduction.

Our thanks to Colman for supplying us with this picture.

And now for a (relatively) important missive from ERIK BECKJORD:

"It's time to make some favorable comments about the famed International Society of Cryptozoology, of Tucson, Arizona - also the home of APRO. In case there are any readers who felt the semi-nude New Guinea woman in the 'Smear' photo (Page 6 of Nov. 20th issue) was saying anything serious in the caption, let me assure one and all that this was parody and satire, as befits 'Saucer Smear', no?

"In fact, I feel that the ICS's anthropologist Roy Wagner made an honest mistake, for some villages had different meanings for the term 'RI', thus enabling one to make mistakes about dugongs (real) and mermaids (not quite as real). The ISC has made a good try at finding out what kind of strange fish-like mammal they did see on their second trip to PNG, and this could be either a hot-rod version of a dugong, or else a new sea mammal unknown to science. It was long, fast, and had no dorsal fin. Tests by the PNG navy??

"Please print in full. I am making peace with Richard Greenwell."

Even your hard-nosed "Smear" editor was taken in by the above-mentioned caption. - Erik has also sent us an account of his antics on Loch Ness last summer, but Space does not permit us to print it this time. - Editor.

Former researcher ALLEN GREENFIELD of Atlanta writes:

"I was very interested in your report on the CSICOP conference in October. As you know, I have for some years been a UFO skeptic, but coming from a long background in pro-saucer ufology, I obviously have a somewhat different slant on the subject than the 'professional' skeptics - which is to say, it appears to me that most skeptics become such through a 'will not to believe' psychologically similar, really, to the 'will to believe' found among pro-UFO enthusiasts. I, on the other hand, had a strong psychological preference for UFO belief, and was slowly forced, kicking and protesting loudly, into a skeptical stance by the sheer weight of the evidence. I am still hoping to find someone interested in publishing the booklet-length summary of my conclusions after twenty years in ufology (1960-1980).

"I continue to be annoyed by 'professional skeptics' like James Randi. It seems to me that Randi, though a fine stage magician, is as unscientific in his approach as the proverbial 'true believer' we are all so well familiar with in ufology and parapsychology. I have met Randi - in fact, I visited with him in his home at the time of your spectacular 'giant saucer show' in New York City back in 1967, and have talked to you at some length about Randi's viewpoint. To me it seems his attitude is, 'these things can't exist; therefore, how can I illustrate this fact'. One can't fault him too much on this, since almost everyone seems to come at these subjects with either a pro or an anti axe to grind, but I am disturbed by the publicity Randi's 'demonstrations' provoke. His 'solutions' are simply too simplistic to get the attention they do.

"For example, when I met him in 1967 he demonstrated for Gene Steinberg and myself his proposed 'explanation' for the alleged psychic photography of Ted Serios. The second time he did his 'effect' I spotted what he was doing and told him so. Serios, of course, has performed before many observers on many occasions, is not a professional magician, and was never to my knowledge spotted doing anything like what I saw Randi do. Randi later demonstrated what was apparently the same 'solution' to the Serios case on national television. The question, of course, is - what kind of 'solution' is it if I could easily spot an accomplished professional magician doing it, whereas many observers have noted no such thing with Serios? I thought about this a lot when Randi started 'duplicating' the effects of Uri Geller....

"As to Randi's more current antics, reported on at the CSICOP conference and in 'Saucer Smear', it seems to me that there is a serious flaw in the logic which holds that IF you can hoax a research result in a certain area of parapsychological research, it casts serious doubt on the research as a whole. This, I submit, is a dangerous non sequitur, and should not go unchallenged. Much of the evidence of psi phenomena rests with mass sampling techniques. Unless Randi and his two associates are representative of a much larger group of hoaxers than I have any reason to believe, the simple ability to duplicate an effect through hoax does not prove or even imply that hoaxing plays a major role in paranormal research.

"An accomplished magician, for example, can perform an apparent surgical operation entirely through stage magic (demonstrations of this sort were done to 'disprove' psychic surgery), but does this imply that surgical operations are a hoax? Obviously not. Likewise, for a stage magician to 'duplicate' a psychic feat tells us little about reported similar feats by alleged psychics. It doesn't work either way: If the magician fails to duplicate a feat, it doesn't necessarily follow that the alleged psychic is not a hoaxer, and if he does duplicate the feat, it is not automatic that the psychic and the magician are arriving at the same effect through the same means.

"Magicians DO have a role to play in parapsychological research - that being as advisers and observers in the controls used in parapsychological investigations. But attitudes of 'this can't be, so let's see how to disprove it' are unhelpful. Having seen both sides of the fence firsthand, I look hopefully towards a day when researchers, taking a neutral perspective, will observe the strictest possible controls in investigations of unusual phenomena. The skeptic/believer dichotomy is a false one, spawned more by personality and psychological differences than by objective scientific needs. We don't need 'The Skeptical Inquirer' on one 'side' and, say, FATE on the other. We need a union of both in a spirit of open-ended investigation. Only then can we hope to arrive at something like the objective truth."

An excellent letter, in our opinion. - Editor.



The Experiment is duly executed.

