

SAUCER SMEAR

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EDITOR AND STILL
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NON-SCHEDULED NEWSLETTER

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GREETINGS, FELLOW SAUCER FIENDS, from excessively sunny Key West, Florida, where we have set up our new Intergalactic Headquarters. This issue of "Smear", though sizzling with our usual semi-libelous ravings, has been delayed in reaching you because your humble editor has been unusually busy on more urgent matters. As of October 14th, we are finally opening our ghoulish pre-Columbian antique gallery, featuring such rarities as ancient Peruvian pottery, ancient gold & jadeite necklaces from Panama, and even a genuine shrunken head, shrunk circa 1939 by members of the Jivaro tribe of Equador. Selected non-subscribers, suspected of being unusually wealthy/gullible/artistic, have been sent copies of our glorious Opening Announcement. The rest of you will have to be content with the notice you are now reading. We have so many UFO gossip items and juicy Fan Letters to squeeze into this issue that we will reluctantly forego the egotistical pleasure of raving endlessly about our gallery. Maybe we'll do so in the next issue, if Space permits.

PIE HIGH IN THE SKY OVER NEW YORK STATE:

On August 25th there was a day-long UFO conference in Brewster, N.Y., as a direct result of a "flap" that seems to have been going on for over a year in that area - a few miles north of New York City. The conference was sponsored by "Smear" non-subscribers Peter Gersten and Philip Imbrogno. Among the 500 to 1,000 attendees were several saucer luminaries from the New York area, including ace "Smear" reporter Harold Salkin. Sadly, your humble editor was in Florida and unable to be present.

The meeting ran from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., according to our inside information. Speakers included the two sponsors plus Dr. J. Allen Hynek himself (in the physical body), who flew in from Arizona for the event. Also speaking were Pete Mazzola of the SBI, Larry Fawcett (co-author of "Clear Intent") and several others. Many ufological luminaries, seldom seen in one place at one time, were in the audience.

Apparently there have been literally hundreds of UFO sightings in the general vicinity of Brewster, seen by thousands of people. The most commonly-seen object is a huge V-shaped thing, said to be anywhere from one to three football fields in length. It sometimes flies as low as 200 feet over the homes of frightened residents, and it displays approximately six lights of different colors. The strange part is that, unbelievably, there are also about six planes in the area, which fly around in tight formation several nights a week, deliberately imitating the appearance of the "real" object. Little is known about these planes, but some people suppose that they are piloted by people in league with the Air Force or the CIA - the idea being to confuse the public into thinking that all the sightings are of mere airplanes!

It sounds to us like something truly weird may be going on here. At least it should be possible to find out more about these terrestrial planes and the people who pilot them. We've been hearing about this situation from non-subscriber Harry Lebelson and others for a long time, but no one seems to know what the hell is really going on. Stay tuned!

NEWS BRIEFIES:

The second annual convention of the Scientific Bureau of Investigation (SBI) will be held at a high school auditorium somewhere on Staten Island (N.Y.) on November 4th. (Details available from them.) In charge will be SBI Director Pete Mazzola, a rising young (?) star in the ufological firmament. Pete has also recently become Director of the North American UFO Federation (NAUFOF), replacing Dr. Richard Haines. The Board of NAUFOF now consists of the following people, as nearly as we can figure out: In addition to Mazzola and Haines there are Ann Druffel, John Musgrave, Dick Hall (BOO, hisss!), Charles Wilhelm, Al Manak, and (newly added) Larry Fawcett, co-author of "Clear Intent". Walt Andrus has resigned, thus ending MUFON's participation. Dr. J. Allen Hynek has apparently been ejected. In any case, he is no longer on the Board. Thus, none of the three major national UFO organizations (APRO, CUFOS, & MUFON) are officially represented at this point, and the organization's future thus looks dim indeed....

1960's UFO contactee Woodrow ("Woody") Derenberger has re-surfaced somewhat, and is apparently living in retirement in his old home town of Parkersburg, W. Va. A young saucer enthusiast from Massachusetts named Charles Shuman claims to have mailed Derenberger a total of \$345 in recent weeks, in hopes of getting Derenberger's help in his efforts to meet a space person. It is not clear whether Woody solicited the money, or whether Shuman just felt like sending it. In any case, Shuman did not meet any space people, and is now disappointed in Derenberger. Stay tuned!....

Dr. J. Allen Hynek held a well-publicized press conference in mid-August, announcing that he is moving his CUFOS Headquarters from Illinois to Phoenix, Arizona. Is it semi-retirement for the mild-mannered professor or a new approach to UFO research? Hynek is quoted in the (Phoenix) Arizona Republic as stating he "plans to spend \$2 million a year studying the best-reported sightings of mysterious objects." Does this mean our subscriptions to CUFOS's learned journals will be free from now on, or is the "2 million" figure a gross misquote? Hynek has told an informant of ours that he merely stated he would need \$2 million a year in order to do an adequate job. (Wouldn't we all do better with that kind of money!) In any case, our best wishes, as always, to Dr. Hynek. We feel sure that when he got started in ufology, he never dreamed how time-consuming, frustrating, and expensive The Quest would be....

Our old but somewhat friendly adversary Richard Ogden of Seattle, Washington writes us that, upon the recent death of his mother, he went on a wild sex binge with all kinds of prostitutes, and managed to blow all the money he inherited, plus his own money. Says he: "This girl business cost me more than the UFO business. I should have stayed with saucers. It would have been a lot cheaper." Way to go, Dickie!....

Recently deceased are: Jane Roberts, a well-known psychic who wrote several best-selling books, dictated to her by an entity named Seth. Also, Isabel Davis, a co-founder of the olde Civilian Saucer Intelligence (CSI) of New York, in the early 1950's, and long-time NICAP-oriented saucer buff. Also, Joan O'Connell of the "New Atlantean Journal" out of St. Petersburg, Florida. We met Joan only once, at our 1967 UFO convention in New York City, at which time she agreed to be one of our area representatives for SAUCER NEWS. We never heard from her again, and now no longer expect to...

Unpaid ad: Ace publicists Harold Salkin and Mike Luckman have a bunch of UFO magazines for sale, from the 1960's and 1970's. They also announce that they are organizing a NEW YORK CENTER FOR UFO RESEARCH. - Those interested in details should write to Luckman at: 134 West Houston St., New York, N.Y. 10012. Phone: 212-460-8626....

There's no connection whatever with UFOs, but non-subscriber George Montgomery has reeled out with a new book of poetry called "Kingston, a City." (He lives in Kingston, N.Y.) George was a noted poet of the so-called Beat Generation, and is most remembered for his poem "Cock-Man" and its sequel "Son of Cock-Man." Those interested in his current booklet should send \$3 to: P.O. Box 40, Rosendale, N.Y. 12472.

RE-HASH OF THE 1984 NATIONAL UFO CONFERENCE

The 21st annual NUFOC convention was held as scheduled on Sept. 21-22 at a motel in Cleveland, Ohio, co-hosted by Bob Easley and Al Manak of the United Aerial Phenomena Agency. The crowd was somewhat smaller than usual, but filled the conference room rented for the occasion.

In regard to convention business, it was voted to add the names of Kenneth Arnold, Edward U. Condon, and Joan O'Connell (recently deceased editor of "The New Atlantean Journal") to our Honor Roll of ufologists who have passed on. Pete Mazzola was given our coveted annual Ufologist of the Year Award and was made an adviser to our NUFOC Governing Board. (This Board is called the Permanent Organizing Committee, and consists of James Moseley, Chairman; Al Manak, Bob Easley, Rick & Carol Hilberg, Charles Wilhelm, Tim Beckley, Ed Biebel, and Hal Starr.)

A bid was accepted from Kal K. Korff to host next year's convention some time in May, in Fremont, California, near San Francisco. It is believed that the 1986 Con. will be held in Phoenix, Arizona by veteran ufologist Hal Starr, and your "Smear" editor has volunteered to hold the '87 bash in his new home town of Key West, Florida. The 1987 Convention will thus occur forty years after the Kenneth Arnold sighting, and twenty years after the glorious 1967 New York City Convention, which marked a high point of sorts in the history of ufology.

Getting back to 1984 - the lecture program in Cleveland was longer and more varied than usual, and without a doubt gave the audience a good cross-section of current thinking in Middle Ufology. Pete Mazzola gave a spirited plea for unity in the field, while at the same time taking pot shots at Dr. J. Allen Hynek and others. Mazzola waved a copy of the 1982 CUFOS tax return, which shows that they spent only about \$400 for research out of a \$53,000 income!

Larry Peters (now nick-named "Old Red Eyes") gave a stirring account of his adventures in Rome, Ohio a few years ago, playing shooting games in the woods with mysterious red-eyed creatures that could barely be seen. Ron Schaffner countered with a slide lecture, tending to prove that the Rome case and many other Bigfoot-type incidents are hoaxes or misinterpretations.

Madeline Teagle, a contactee lady from Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, gave a charming & mild-mannered defense of the contactee syndrome. Larry Blazy gave a rambling run-down of ancient mysteries in the Bible and elsewhere. Gray Barker spoke briefly on current ufological mysteries and showed a trilogy of allegedly authentic UFO films.

Due to a lack-of-time problem, Antonio Huneeus of New York had to race through his collection of a hundred UFO slides from around the world, but he did a good job anyhow. Al Manak gave a brief run-down of his computer study of recent UFO cases, finding few if any meaningful patterns.

Documents claim Mosley planned to seize power

For us, the best & most interesting talk was given by Charles Wilhelm of OUFOIL, formerly an arch-enemy of "Smear". Wilhelm is one of the very few ufologists willing to admit when he is wrong (as he did a few years ago regarding the notorious "Tomato Man" photos.) In his lecture Wilhelm called researchers such as Stringfield, Friedman, Andrus and Hynek "the real Cosmic Watergate", because they are more interested in perpetuating the UFO mystery than in solving it. Wilhelm insisted, quite rightly, that UFO cases should be investigated thoroughly and objectively, so that those that cannot be solved will have real significance. He emphasized the number of recent cases that can easily be solved by a thorough knowledge of experimental & novel military aircraft, and insisted quite rightly that most saucer investigators wallow quite happily in ignorance of technical matters.

Wilhelm stated correctly that there isn't a shred of hard evidence that the Air Force has captured saucers or alien bodies, in spite of almost 40 years of rumors, and he went on to say that the Military has often covered up their mistakes and illegal test flights by allowing flying saucer rumors to persist. Wilhelm added that in spite of having had a number of weird experiences himself (which he refused to specify), he moves closer to outright skepticism as he continues his investigations. In this regard, we know just how he feels! In short, Wilhelm's lecture provided some thought-provoking ideas from a ufologist who isn't afraid to grow and learn as the years go by.

So, as the 1984 NUFOC convention sinks into history, we can definitely call it a moderate success, due to the efforts of Easley & Manak. Missing was Ed Biebel of Arizona, who couldn't come because of ill health. But many of our other ufological friends such as Rick & Carol Hilberg of Cleveland were present, and the after-hours parties in the bar and in the motel rooms were up to their ancient par.

The Arizona Republic

UFO expert moving base to Valley; will fight 'crackpot' image of field

B. HOFFMAN / L. CLAYMORE / ASTROLOGY BY GEORGE FOX



GET WELL WISHES TO MARY ROBINSON / ALSO TO MY DAD.

THE READERS STRIKE BACK:

Our olde NASA pal DR. THORNTON PAGE writes:

"Thanks for your card from Key West. I've noted your new address. Like many another non-subscriber, I'm curious as to what you are doing in Florida. Will you make millions selling real estate, or billions selling smuggled cocaine? Here's a new idea: Why not use UFOs for smuggling grass, cocaine, etc. This would be 'Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind!' I can see the headlines 'Drug Enforcement Officers Zero In on Ufologist'; 'FDA Indicts J. Allen Hynek'; 'Air Force Patrols Border Against Flying Saucers'. Maybe I'll write a book on it, if Phil Klass doesn't steal the idea first.

"In the last 'Smear', page 4, you let me announce my attendance at a symposium in Boston on the Search for Extraterrestrial Life. When I hinted during the preliminaries that UFOs are the only positive evidence for ETs, I was surrounded by a dozen burly characters led by Carl Sagan, who made it clear that the letters UFO were not to be mentioned at the symposium - and they were not. Even though SETI has the blessing of NASA and the International Astronomical Union, Sagan & Co. are worried about being classified as 'fringe science'....."

LARRY ("Old Red Eyes") PETERS writes:

"I received your recent 'Smear'. I am furious that McIntyre would reveal himself at this time.

"I have totted his damn books and garbage around for two years with not a word from him, and now he sends you a 14 page letter!

"I suppose the next thing he is going to say is that Rome, Ohio and all else is a fraud.

"This man owes me about \$2,000 for mending his fences.

"Should you write that idiot you tell him for me that I am livid for the way he has treated me."

Letters continue to pour in to our Headquarters from "Doctor" McIntyre, but their contents are Confidential at this time. - Editor.

GARY UNDERWOOD writes as follows:

"....It's interesting to note that two 'Smears' ago when you thought Jim Rigberg to be dead, you referred to his 'Flying Saucer News' as 'one of the oldest (and worst) of saucer zines.' Now you omit the 'worst'. I hope Rigberg took it all in stride...."

Young Underwood is obviously guilty of reading our zine too carefully! - Ed.

BILL RETOFF hits us with:

"Two 'Saucer Smears' back, you bravely defied the Silence Group and printed that page about the Aram Church. And in the most recent issue, you published key excerpts from the Khabarah Khoom book - namely, the Definition of Reality and the Mathematical Formula.

"It's all starting to fit together now!!

"Hang loose, (signed)

Bill, member of 'Bigfoots-or-Bigfeet Debate Network (BBDN)"

ED BIEBEL of Arizona blasts in with:

"....Did you know that Bill Moore Publications has joined with a firm in Cornville, Az. and is publishing survival stuff and how to make bombs and automatic weapons? I picked up a magazine propounding the joy of automatic weapons and there was a big ad announcing the merger!...."

DOUGLAS CURRAN (12525 104th Ave., #5; Edmonton, Alberta Canada T5N 0V5) writes:

"....There is a matter that you or your readership might be able to help me with. In the course of my work I have been unable to find anyone who helped work on Ray Stanford's PSI site in Austin (Texas), or attended meetings where Stanford dealt with 'The Accelerator'.

"I would like to talk with anybody who was involved with this work, who has not buckled under Stanford's threat of legal prosecution. Anonymously, if they prefer. Can you offer any help?...."

All we know is that Ray Stanford is one of the weirdest guys in the UFO field, and that's saying a lot! - Editor.

Skeptical but lovable olde PHIL KLASS writes:

"Reference the William Colby quotation (Aug. 1st 'Smear'), a more thoughtful and more accurate comment was offered by a former very top intelligence official in a 'background only' briefing which I attended on May 4th. Under the rules of that briefing, I cannot identify him other than to say he has spent 20 years in intelligence, was a top official of the Defense Intelligence Agency, National Security Agency and the CIA.

"During this backgrounder, he was asked about the damage done by leaks. He replied by citing several types and sources, noting '...by far the largest volume of leaks come from those who want to sell a policy, a program, a force level, a weapon system, or from those who want to oppose a policy or a program or a weapon system. They are very quick to provide you (journalists) with all kinds of details, but in the majority of instances, the data has been jiggered to make their case. IT IS THE ONLY EFFECTIVE DISINFORMATION SYSTEM THIS COUNTRY HAS. AND IT MUST DRIVE THE SOVIETS ABSOLUTELY BESERK IN TRYING TO MAKE USE OF OUR OPEN SOURCES. SO, AS A RESULT, THEY MAKE A VERY LARGE INVESTMENT IN INTELLIGENCE GATHERING SYSTEMS....'"

JOHN KEEL, alias "Claymore Finch", writes:

"....Surely you must know by now that Phil Klass is a non-person employed in a minor post on a trade journal that is even more obscure than the 'Rug Dealers' Monthly Journal'. If he chooses to brown-nose tenth-string Russian functionaries, that is his business - just as holding photo sessions with Vanessa Williams is mine. The whole space technology scam ended several years ago and our 'space program' is now simply using up hardware that was ordered way back when. Klass's pitiful little trade journal has a pathetically small circulation, mostly to engineers and executives who are vainly seeking employment.

"You should review 'Mute Evidence' by Daniel Kagan and Ian Summers, published by Bantam for \$4.95. It is the story of how these two gentlemen toured the U.S. at Bantam's expense in 1980 to visit various ufological personalities such as Dr. Leo Sprinkle and Tom Adams. The book is unintentionally the funniest to come along in many years. Kagan, a one-time Rock singer and bartender, is apparently a medical school dropout and was thoroughly enchanted with the animal mutilation scene. Of course, the Mute phenomenon subsided around 1977-78 and Kagan and Summers could only face the offal residue. Yet they managed to stretch their non-investigation of an expired mystery to 500 pages, accidentally revealing how they managed to insult and offend almost everyone they met on their junket. Then, when their irritated victims shut up and refused to cooperate further with their folly, they, like Klass and Randi, howled 'Liar' and 'coverup'. It is a hilarious exercise in amateurism and should become to Mute investigating what the Condon Report has been to ufology...."

GREG LONG, a MUFON staff writer, writes:

"...Your newsletter is a total entertainment. Unfortunately, little if any scientific information appears on its pages, but that's okay considering that little if any science seems to go on in the ufology field, which I think seems to be the point of your newsletter.

"What gets me, however, is the inordinate amount of space devoted to Phillip Klass. As I have said before, if Klass hates UFOs and the people who investigate them, and believes it's all a pile of ca-ca, why does he continue to write on the subject? Simple. Money. Not only do I believe he likes his book royalties and speaking fees, but he pulls in something on the side from his CIA buddies. The fact that Klass lives in Washington, D.C. is no coincidence when it comes to his anti-UFO stance. Picture this: a healthy salary from 'Aviation Week', plus book sales, speaking engagements, and no doubt, consultant fees from the intelligence network. Above all, he is the debunkers' greatest asset. Why? Because HE IS TOTALLY OBNOXIOUS. AND HE LOVES IT! I mean, what can we really do about Klass? Throw him out of UFO symposia? UFOphiles think that doing so would show they're anti-science, and not fair to the skeptical views that, albeit revolting, help advance their cause. No, it's simple: Klass is a low-down, obnoxious, loud-mouthed irritant. And as long as we continue to criticize him, he'll come back for more. He's like any spoiled brat who's got the teacher's attention, and who realizes that the authorities can't do anything about him short of beating the shit out of him..."

Greg has taken quite a bit of Space to explain why Klass gets too much Space! - Editor.

TOM BURCH hits us with:

"....I've noticed that you have said curiously little about the recently released Prentice-Hall book, 'Clear Intent', heralded by many as the most significant UFO book written in decades. I have read it, but was somewhat disappointed by it. The pre-publication hoopla led me to believe that the book was going to prove the claim of continuous Government involvement with UFOs by hitting the Gov't over the head with its own data, acquired via the FOIA and FOIA lawsuits. The book does quote from a great deal of government documentation, but actually reprints only a few of the official documents. Regrettably, the reproduced documents provided in the book's Appendix are less than dramatic, and will do little to support the claims of a 'cosmic watergate'. In fact, half of the reproduced documents are dated before 1969, the time when the government officially got out of the UFO business.

"Now, don't get me wrong. I enjoyed the book and it gave me even more reason to conclude that the government is withholding UFO-related information - but I suspected that before I read the book. The authors' startling accounts of UFO incursions at Loring and Malmstrom Air Force bases are significant, but nearly all the information provided about these events is written in the authors' words, not the government's! In short, the reader is forced to either accept the authors on faith alone or reject their claims as unsupported allegations. If there is actual government correspondence to confirm the Loring and Malmstrom AFB events, the authors failed to reproduce them and include them in the book. What should the reader conclude from this omission?...."

Editor's Note: We recently obtained a copy of "Clear Intent" and were distressed by the very silly picture on the cover and the fact that there's no mention of your editor or "Saucer Smear" in the index. Perhaps we'll do a more in-depth review in a future issue.

August 7, 1984

JERRY CLARK of FATE writes:

Dear Jim,

By now faithful nonsubscribers are well aware of Phil Klass' effort (in a phone conversation with a University of Nebraska administrator) to portray ufologists as de facto Soviet agents. Less well known is the fact that the university withdrew its sponsorship of future conferences following Phil's threat to sue the institution. Phil made the threat because he claimed that a widely-disseminated internal memo paraphrasing his remarks misrepresented his views. (Phil distributed a partial transcript of his phone remarks which, far from proving his point, only confirmed the memo's accuracy. If anything, the memo made Phil's charges sound a little less nutty than in fact they were.)

Nonetheless, the university told organizer Ray Boeche it would not put any money into the 1984 conference Ray had hoped to hold. Ray tells me he has been unable to get financing from other sources. So there will be no more Fortean conferences at the university.

While all this was going on, I entered into correspondence with Phil about the matter. In the course of same, Phil lumped ufologists not only with Communists but also with Nazis and Ku Klux Klan members. When informed that the university had cancelled sponsorship of the proposed 1984 conference, he declared that he really didn't care all that much. (After all, once again the world had been saved from opinions Phil disapproves of.) He continued to argue that those who express skepticism of official pronouncements on UFOs are aiding America's enemies, thereby, in effect, flirting with treason. Phil's letters got ever crazier until finally, at the conclusion of a communication that was abusive even by Phil's standards, he made a crack about inviting me aboard his yacht, murdering me and dumping my body into Chesapeake Bay. I told Phil that I considered his remark not only unfunny but grossly offensive, that unless I had a full apology from him I would end our correspondence (which spanned a period of years) forever.

Predictably, Phil responded with an abusive letter which, among other things, accused me of having no "sense of humor," in common (naturally) with "most 'UFO Believers.'" I might note here, by the way, that not long ago Phil "joked" to Bill Moore about having him killed. Moore, a typically humorless UFOP, was not amused.

At the conclusion of the affair I described Phil's antics to a well-known UFO skeptic, who observed that correspondence with Phil only encourages him in his excesses, and he should not be encouraged. He said that on occasion it may be necessary to deal with Phil in a public forum but that on no occasion should we have anything to do with him privately. In this man's view Phil's conduct is so outrageous as to be beyond the pale and it is best for all of us, believers and nonbelievers alike, to keep as distant from him as possible.

After years of Klass-watching, I can only agree. So far as I am concerned, the University of Nebraska episode is the last straw. It is time not only for ufologists to cease correspondence with Klass but also for Klass' debunker colleagues (who so far have maintained a tactful silence) to let us know if they believe McCarthyite tactics should be part of the UFO debate. If they say nothing, we can only conclude that silence is assent. And if they assent (by silence or otherwise), I for one will have nothing to do with them either.

With the University of Nebraska incident, the UFO debate has sunk into the sewer. Those who wish to remain there are welcome to do so. I will not be among them.