

DEDICATED TO THE HIGHEST PRINCIPLES OF UFOLOGICAL JOURNALISM

SAUCER SMEAR

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EDITOR AND STILL
SUPREME COMMANDER:

James W. Moseley

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MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 1709

Key West, Fl.

33041

IN WHICH WE REVEAL OURSELVES TO BE
TEETERING ON THE VERY EDGE OF THE DREADFUL ABYSS OF SKEPTICISM!

Yes, gentle reader, your humble "Smear" editor is starting to lose the Faith! It seems that whenever a supposedly excellent UFO report is pursued objectively & in depth, it tends to fall apart - or, at the very least, strong weaknesses show up - so that it becomes a no-longer-excellent report. The result is that after nearly forty years of Saucerdumb, we have hundreds of first-rate mysterious cases but no totally proven ones!

We of "Smear" are reluctantly reaching some rather sickening conclusions: (1) Human perception is not as good as is generally thought. Even good people like police and airline pilots can make horrible mistakes. How many times have people been "chased" in their cars by Venus or even the Moon? Why should Jimmy Carter's famous sighting of Venus be more important than mine just because he later became president and I didn't? Which of us has the raw nerve to tell Muhammad Ali that his sighting while training in Central Park a few years ago was really a street light? These and other similar questions must be answered before we totally regain our Faith in human perception!

Sickening conclusion #2: Background checks on UFO sighters are important. It is not impertinent to look into a sighter's background of honesty, truthfulness, use of psychedelic drugs, etc. Klass is despised for having done a "hatchet job" on Travis Walton, but after reading Klass's information, we would be hard pressed to believe Walton if he said the Sun is going to rise tomorrow morning. Walton may (or may not) be a likable young man, but his abduction report belongs in the Circular File!

#3: The Will to Believe is an overwhelming force for many people. They seek to "prove" religious principles which come from Faith, not Reason. They consciously or subconsciously manipulate data to fit their preconceived notions. They discard or ignore elements of a case that don't "fit", and Emphasize the Positive in a "hurrah for our side" attitude which is far, far removed from even the loosest interpretation of Scientific Method. They forget that when dealing with an anomaly, the burden of proof is on the proponent, not the other way around!

Yet there is some sort of mystery going on, even if it eventually turns out to be merely psychological. What is the true nature of this mystery? We really don't know! Educated, unbiased people who are looking for nice, "nuts & bolts" spaceships behind all this, eventually give up, go into "4-D", or become skeptics. Gray Barker was a skeptic, as are several of the still-living UFO "experts" who just aren't willing to admit it publicly. If Planet Earth is really being invaded by intelligent aliens, there's no way the "Truth" could have been suppressed for so long by the U.S. Government, or even the U. N. or the International Bankers (whoever they may be!)

With enough time, MONEY, and research by trained scientists, the real truth can be learned eventually. It might not turn out to be as exciting as bisexual long-haired Venusians or evil dwarfs, but it would def-

inately add to our scientific knowledge. If UFOs & related phenomena are nothing more than delusions or "mass hysteria", why do so many people claim to have had very close sightings, contacts, and even abductions? What about "Missing Time", live "little men" seen all around the world, and last but not least, the crashed-disc-and-dead-alien rumors which refuse to go away even after all these years?

And, even in the "worst possible" outcome - if all these reports some day turn out to be merely some strange kind of psychological manifestations - we'll still need an explanation as to why so many people suffered such bizarre and similar hallucinations!

In short, there is something very odd going on here, but the answer, if it comes, is not likely to fulfill the wishes of the Believers.

It sort of reminds us of a former researcher named Gordon Evans, who used to give a very interesting lecture entitled "Why the Martians Won't Let Us Land on the Moon". Evans was a scholarly gentleman who should have known better. In any case, he doesn't give this lecture any more.

MISCELLANEOUS RAVINGS:

Hark the joyous news that the date for the 22nd annual National UFO Conference (NUFOC) is finally set! It is not April 25th as incorrectly stated in the last "Smear", but May 25th. Make your vacation plans accordingly! Location is Fremont, California (very near San Francisco.) Principal speakers will be host Kal K. Korff and famed UFO author William Moore. Further details in the next glorious issue of "Smear"....

From MUFON's top-secret Newsletter (never sent to us, because we are not allowed membership) we learn that their 1985 Symposium will be held at the Chase Hotel in St. Louis, Missouri, on June 28th-30th. There is also a statement in the Newsletter confirming a situation we were already aware of: "MUFON has discontinued its affiliation (with) and financial support of the North American UFO Federation, as has the Center for UFO Studies. This decision was made at a meeting in San Antonio at the 1984 Symposium,



A TIP OF THE MOONSHINE JUG AND A GET WELL WISH TO GRAY BARKER.

since NAUFOF has deteriorated to an association of UFO splinter groups".... And, in the Dec. 1984 "MUFON UFO Journal" (which we pay to receive), MUFON's lofty Director, Walt Andrus, really lays out Coral Lorenzen of APRO, in retaliation for an unfavorable article about him that she wrote in the "APRO Bulletin". The long-time feud between these two Giants (?) of Ufology is heating up!...

In this issue of "Smear" our Coveted Back Page is courtesy of George Fox of New York City. After all these years, we had given up thinking George would ever send us anything this good, but he finally came through. Way to go, George!....

UFO researcher Richard Ogden has sent us a letter stating: "..Straith was not Gray Barker but me...", and he signs his name as "Richard Ogden '666' R.E. Straith". We do not take Ogden's confession too seriously, as he apparently is writing from a state mental hospital in Washington State, and the rest of his letter is almost incoherent. But he seems to still be reading & enjoying his "Saucer Smear". Way to go, Richard!...

William Steinman is concerned about the unauthorized (by him) passing-around of copies of a letter written to him by a prominent scientist, concerning crashed & recovered flying saucers. If any "Smear" reader has obtained a copy of this letter, or knows anything about the matter, he or she (or it) should contact Steinman at 15043 Rosalita Drive, La Mirada, Ca. 90638....

Researcher Brent Raynes (Rt. 1, Box 66, Waynesboro, Tn. 38485) wants to know the inside story of Fred Lee Crisman - one of the mystery men in the Tacoma, Washington UFO fragment case of the late 1940's, who much later was called to testify in the JFK assassination investigation. Brent says that "an evangelist in Omaha, Nebraska, helped Crisman organize a UFO convention in 1967 for contactees Wayne Aho and Dr. Frank Stranges". Can any of our readers provide further info to Brent?....

Prolific author & hard-core "Smear" non-subscriber Daniel Cohen writes to complain that he is grossly misquoted in the Jan. 22nd "National Enquirer" (Page 2), in an article entitled "Monsters from Outer Space". In discussing Cohen's latest book, called "The Encyclopedia of Monsters", the "Enquirer" article makes it sound like the author believes all that stuff, whereas in reality Cohen is merely presenting what he considers to be tall tales. Says Dan in his letter to "Smear": "The article is proof (if any more were needed) that the 'Enquirer' does not merely distort the truth, it turns the truth on its head"....

From the Jan. 29th "Enquirer" we learn for the first time that little ole Key West, Florida is "America's Real Ghost Town". Not, thank Goodness, in the sense of an abandoned town, but in the sense of Full-of-Ghosts. The main informant for the article was a local ghost hunter named Barbara Hodgens, former director of the Key West Art & Historical Society. We have talked to Ms. Hodgens and, amazingly, she states that she was quoted correctly throughout the article!...

Former UFO zine publisher Jim Rigberg of New York City is still alive, as of early January, but is elderly and very unwell. Ironically, Gray Barker, who prematurely reported Rigberg's death to us several months ago, is now dead, himself.

Finally, we want to thank Barry Hoffman for the cartoon on Page 2. We've actually doubled the fee we gave him the last time we printed one of his cartoons. The drawing was obviously made before Gray Barker's recent death. In our perverse way, we've deliberately left Barry's get-well wish at the bottom, as a tribute to our departed friend....

LETTERS TO YE OLDE EDITOR:

Monster hunter LARRY PETERS writes:

"...I am certainly glad this 'Straith' business has finally come to light. I suppose you were justified at that time, whatever your reasons.

"There was at least one good thing that came out of the recent Cleveland, Ohio convention for which I am forever grateful: My telephones have been acting strangely for the past three years. Now they have stopped. Either we have failed in our efforts or we are much too close to the flames...."

Our olde friend DENIS COREY writes:

"...Well, the lead story in the latest 'Smear' certainly was a 'Hot Flash!'....So, you're coming clean after all these years, eh? Or have you really? After reading and re-reading your fantastic self-expose, I couldn't help thinking that maybe your 'confession' was a hoax in itself. But probably not...."

WILLIAM STEINMAN, with whom we have clashed in the past, writes:

"Now that Barker is gone, are you intending to expose all of the various hoaxes that were generated by yourself, Barker, and the gang? Most of the hoaxes that have led Ufologists off on wild goose chases over the past 30+ years, were generated out of what persons such as yourself call harmless fun, over a bottle of wine or some 'loco weed'.

"Regardless of the various hoaxes generated throughout the UFO field, I am a firm believer that each person who was or still is truly interested in solving the flying saucer mystery, has had one case that he firmly believes in, based on solid (but somewhat vague) facts - all of which have to do with crashed & recovered flying saucers...."

KEN BEHRENDT writes:

"Enclosed please find a complimentary copy of my own efforts to publish a UFO research journal. As I believe you'll realize from reading it, I take my saucers very seriously.

"I greatly enjoyed the last 'Smear', especially where you 'come clean' about the infamous 'Straith letter hoax'. But why did you and Barker decide to pour such fuel on ol' George's messianic complex by giving him such powerful 'official verification'?? Perhaps even you, our Supreme Commander, could not resist the urge to play God by hoaxing the King of hoaxers?!? In any event, it sounds like you did have some jolly good fun!"

Editor's Note: Behrendt's highly technical zine, called AURA, is available at \$5.00 per single copy from Arcturus Book Service, 263 North Ballston Ave., Scotia, N.Y. 12302.

TOMMY R. BLANN has this to say:

"....I am somewhat disappointed in your past activities, Jim, but maybe you have learned a great lesson from all of this. This is not to say that I am perfect, far from it; but I believe we all need to stop and look at what we are doing and try to answer some questions rather than confusing the issue further.

"I would like to see you publish a zine (not a freebee) in which skeptics and believers could present their facts on certain cases, past and future. It would make for good reading, since the arguments would have to be well-documented in order to be published. Over a period of a year, we could weigh the evidence and see where we stand...."

Former researcher RON SPANBAUER writes:

"....Regarding the R.E. Straith letter(s), I am aware of another hoax you were involved in: The place was Clarksburg, W. Va., and there was a truck and a movie camera. Let it be known that I have never mentioned my knowledge of this incident to anyone. If it can be said that confession is good for the soul, and since you have used Gray's death as an opportunity to cleanse your soul, how about letting your readers in on the Clarksburg and Benedum Airport incidents?...."

Editor's Note: We don't remember any truck (maybe a station wagon?) and the place was Lost Creek, W. Va., not Clarksburg. The thing that sticks in our mind is that the flying saucer was much smaller than people seeing the film ever realized. The object was, actually, less than six inches in diameter!

CHARLES WILHELM writes:

"I received the latest issue of 'Smear'. You finally confirmed my suspicions for years. The Straith Letter was authored by Barker & yourself. I also believe that Barker helped create the so-called Men in Black. If this could be proven, look how many UFO stories would wind up in the garbage. Like I've said for years now, remove the garbage from the UFO field and let's see what's left to work with!

"I saw the OMNI article about you. Now you're getting into the Big Time. I like that magazine & have every issue to date...."

And, TOM BURCH writes:

"I enjoyed reading the recent OMNI article about you and 'Saucer Smear'. Your newly-attained celebrity status makes us venerable non-subscribers, I would assume, famous (or infamous) by association...."

And, the ominous PHIL KLASS writes:

"....Congrats on the well-deserved recognition in OMNI. In a field (Ufology) filled with bitter charges and recriminations, you alone have brought smiles and laughs to the gladiators. And you have done so with a light touch, and a fair one...."

TOM HACKNEY, a rising young star in the world of real estate, writes:

"As everyone even remotely associated with or tolerated by the CIA knows, or should know, flying saucers are about as verifiable as God. Who can say - except, I take it, Phil Klass?..."

"The transparent actions of Phil Klass to debunk Ufology should not worry anyone serious in the field. If anything, Klass has served to strengthen the case for UFOs, because anybody who brags about being a chum buddy to KGB operatives, much less admits as much in press release form as he seems to, can't be too bright. And how could a guy so stupid be right about anything?...."

PETE TATE of Jolly Old England writes:

"....Enter the villain in the guise of Mr. Klass! As to this person being a Communist - this is nonsense. He is an Alien! Consideration of his activities and the effect he has on some Ufologists confirms this. He may even be an escaped Thought-Form, manifesting itself also as Henry Kissinger and Wedgewood-Benn, either separately or all three at the same

time. There is a common factor if you look for it.

"With regard to the matter of UFO-originated sewage and its disposal, I can inform you as to the situation over here. Much of said substance is passed through a scato-literary converter and thus finds its way into UFO magazines. Keep this information to yourself, Jim. It seems there are troubles enough on the scene over there without adding to them!

"One thing we lack here is the Bigfoot phenomenon. Reading the correspondence relating to it, I am led to wonder if BF refers to the entities or those chasing them. I find it hard to decide which is 'hairier'. All very exciting - from a safe distance!...."

RICHARD HEIDEN, a man of very exacting tastes, writes as follows in regard to our 12/15/84 "Smear":

"...Who told you (page 2) that the SBI symposium hall was 'almost full'? Possibly the total attendance was 250, as claimed (though there was neither an admission charge nor registration), but in a large high school auditorium, 250 attendees (even if they're all there at once) can hardly be considered a full house. Here's my actual count of the audience for Larry Fawcett, who spoke from 7:49 to 8:34 p.m.: 54 at the start and 47 at the end....

"On page 6, Robert Sheaffer boasted about the near-20,000 circulation of the 'Skeptical Inquirer' - 'dwarfing that of any pro-UFO publication'. Inasmuch as the 'Skeptical Inquirer' is really the only magazine published for the closed-minded, I think that its circulation should be compared to the total (non-duplicated) circulation of all UFO publications, and of other publications specializing in the various other subjects that CSICOP is against."

Ghost Buster D. SCOTT ROGO writes:

"In the Dec. 15th issue of 'Saucer Smear' there appeared a letter written by Erik Beckjord, implying that I plan on sending him out to investigate poltergeist cases. This was certainly news to me! Mr. Beckjord simply had no right to make such a statement. While Mr. Beckjord has phoned me on a few occasions, we have never met nor do we share any professional connection. While he has indeed offered to help me should such cases arise, it is not my policy to send amateur investigators to look into these reports under any circumstances. I certainly never gave Mr. Beckjord any cause to think that I would take him up on his offer."

Dreaded Skeptic DAVE SCHROTH writes:

"In the Jan. 10th 'Saucer Smear' (page 5), one of your non-subscribers referred en passant to 'all the Warren Commission witnesses who beat trillion to one odds and died prematurely after the Kennedy assassination.'

"This claim of many suspicious deaths has long been part of conspiracy lore and was repeated by such authorities (?) as John Keel, Jim Garrison, and the late Ray Palmer. There is only one thing wrong with this claim: It isn't true. As British reporter Anthony Summers wrote regarding this matter:

"'Congress's Assassinations Committee staff studied deaths of witnesses or potential witnesses in the Kennedy case and concluded that there was no evidence to link the deaths with the case itself. A much-quoted London 'Sunday Times' report - suggesting the deaths were actuarially improbable - was shown to be erroneous.' (Anthony Summers, 'Conspiracy', McGraw-Hill, 1980, page 606, note 125.)

"Thus, isn't it about time for conspiracy fans to learn the truth and abandon the 'mysterious deaths in the Kennedy case' fallacy?"

PARIS FLAMMONDE, author of several scholarly UFO books & former producer of the Long John Nebel radio show, writes as follows:

"Although, as I much enjoy perusing your literary efforts regularly, the 'dreaded X' would have moved me to write this epistle, in any event, the death of Gray (Barker) is the primary motivation for it. The passing of old friends, even casual ones, no longer has the power to shock, particularly when many years have faded away since last I saw them. Yet certain demises seem to extract greater regrets than others, and I find him numbered among those eliciting such response. Those marvelous days at 1440 Broadway from eleven (sometimes the pre-show exchanges were even more worthy than those which hit the airways) to five, five-thirty or six (A.M.)still ring changes of notable pleasure for me - and what a galaxy of personalities roamed through, not even excepting ourselves. The three Georges (Adamski, Van, and King); Howard Menger and Marla; Otis T. Carr & Norman Colton and the OTC-X1; Orfeo Angelucci; Dan Fry; Buck Nelson (although never there, unless astrally), et al., et al. There were (fs/UFO) giants in the land in those days.

"I fear that none of the third, fourth, and fifth, let alone the contemporary tenth, eleventh and twelfth, generations of fabulists vaguely compare with the titans of fancy, any more than later scribes can compare with you, Gray, Frank Edwards, and others of the old-set fourth estate. And, needless to say, the ringmaster of that flying-by-night circus, John (Nebel) himself. Those were the days, my friend; we thought they'd never end...

"On so many occasions I have thought of dropping you a few lines for your journal, but couldn't imagine what I might scribble that would interest your contemporary readers. If you think of something, call upon this one-time 'expert', who now is, at best, an historian...."

And finally, we have the following strange missive from DR. STEPHEN KURZWEIL:

"Thank you for your latest 'Smear'. It has come to our attention that certain unnamed 'groups' have adopted the position of self-appointed leadership in publishing 'periodicals' that allegedly divulge the truth to the American public. We object to this callous disregard of the basic democratic processes essential to a free society. The American public has a right to know."

Yes, but to know what? - Editor.

TODAYS WORLD



"Could I have a wonderful, warm human being to go?"

ALABAMA

Santa nicked store, detectives charge

BIRMINGHAM — A 69-year-old department store Santa Claus has been charged with stealing nearly \$100 worth of merchandise from the store where he worked.

Police detectives said Dave Campbell of Homewood, a long-time local radio personality, was released on \$500 bond following his arrest at the Rich's department store at Brookwood Mall. Campbell is accused of taking a calligraphy pen set, a Trivial Pursuit game and a back massager.



"Are you sure that's your name and not your postal code?"

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 - Feb 18) You have an inventive mind and are inclined to be progressive. You lie a great deal. On the other hand, you are careless and impractical, causing you to repeat the same mistakes. Everyone thinks you are a fucking jerk.

PISCES (Feb 19 - Mar 20) You have a vivid imagination and often think you are being followed by the CIA or the FBI. You have minor influence over your friends and people resent you for flaunting your power. You lack confidence and are generally a coward. Pisces people screw small animals and pick their noses a lot.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) You are the pioneer type and hold most people in contempt. You are quick tempered, impatient and scornful of advice. In short, you are a PRICK.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 20) You are practical and persistent. You have a dogged determination and work like hell. Most people think you are stubborn and bullheaded. You are nothing but a goddamn communist.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 20) You are a quick and intelligent thinker. People like you because you are bisexual. However, you are inclined to expect too much for too little. This means you are a cheap bastard.

CANCER (June 21 - July 22) You are sympathetic and understanding toward other people's problems. They think you are a sucker. You are always putting things off. This is why you will always be on welfare and never be worth a shit.

LEO (July 23 - Aug 22) You consider yourself to be a born leader. Others think you are pushy. Most Leos are bullies. You are vain and cannot tolerate honest criticism. Your arrogance is disgusting. Leo people are thieving bastards and kiss mirrors a lot.

VIRGO (Aug 23 - Sept 22) You are the logical type and hate disorder. This nit-picking is sickening to your friends. You are cold and unemotional and often fall asleep while screwing. Virgos make good bus drivers and pimps.

LIBRA (Sept 23 - Oct 22) You are the artistic type and have a difficult time with reality. If you are a male you are probably queer. Chances for employment and monetary gain are excellent. Most Libra women are whores. All Libras die of venereal disease.

SCORPIO (Oct 23 - Nov 21) You are shrewd in business and cannot be trusted. You shall achieve the pinnacle of success because of your total lack of ethics. You are a perfect son-of-a-bitch. Most Scorpions are murdered.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 - Dec 21) You are optimistic and enthusiastic. You have a reckless tendency to rely on luck since you have no talent. The vast majority of Sagittarians are drunks and potheads. People laugh at you because you are always getting fucked.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 19) You are conservative and afraid of taking risks. This means you are basically chickenshit. There has never been a Capricorn of any importance whatsoever. You should kill yourself.