

DEDICATED TO THE HIGHEST PRINCIPLES OF UFOLOGICAL JOURNALISM

# SAUCER SMEAR

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## RE-HASH OF THE RECENT PHOENIX, ARIZONA NUFOC CONVENTION

The 23rd annual conclave of the National UFO Conference (NUFOC) was held as scheduled on May 16th-18th at the Executive Park Hotel, in downtown Phoenix, Arizona. The convention was dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who, at our 1983 convention in Tucson, Az., was given the "Ufologist of the Decade" award by the NUFOC, although he was not able to appear there in person to receive it. (Hynek still lived in Illinois & his former co-worker Allen Hendry accepted for him.)

Special Guest at the 1986 convention was Walt Andrus of MUFON, who came in a spirit of ufological co-operation in spite of past differences with your humble "Smear" editor, who is Permanent Chairman of the NUFOC.

Genial host of the Phoenix convention was Hal Starr, a well-known local ufologist & media personality. Hal did an exceptionally good job of planning and MCing this event, and deserves much thanks for same. Our hall was filled almost to capacity for all events, and the banquet seated almost 100 people from all over the western part of the country.

Our main speakers, in order of appearance, were: Bigfootologist Erik Beckjord, who showed the famous New Zealand UFO film, which has been analyzed thoroughly by Dr. Bruce Maccabee. Beckjord issued a challenge to arch-skeptic Phil Klass to admit that the film shows an interplanetary spacecraft rather than a squid boat.

Beckjord was accompanied to the convention by a charming young lady named Molly Squire, who asked permission to perform psychic surgery at the banquet dinner! Prudent voices advised her against this, so she passed around a "UFO Attitude Survey" instead.

The second speaker was Dr. (?) Dan Fry, one of the last of the "classic" contactees from the early 1950's. He is the author of "The White Sands Incident", an account of his 1950 contact and flight by saucer from New Mexico to the East Coast & back. Fry is also the founder of "Understanding", which used to have active contactee-oriented chapters all over the United States. Fry, now elderly, impressed us most when he told us privately that he is still in contact with the E-T pilot who conducted his 1950 saucer flight. This alleged spaceman apparently lives in the U.S.A. part of the time, and passes as an ordinary earthling.

The skeptical viewpoint was represented on the podium by Robert Sheaffer of the Bay Area (Calif.) Skeptics, who gave a lively & entertaining refutation of various UFO cases.

Among the other skeptics attending the convention were Ted Hunt, a Phoenix engineer we've known well since 1948, who admitted he has never read a single book on the subject; and James McGaha, a military fellow so skeptical that he even has it in for chiropractors. It happens that your editor had a re-occurrence of a back problem during the convention, and had to go to a Phoenix chiropractor. The pain did not really get better, however, till just after we listened in private conversation to McGaha's opinions on this controversial branch of medicine - leading us to theorize that McGaha is possessed of Healing Powers that are totally unknown to him!

Brad Steiger, author of over 100 off-beat books, gave a smooth, pro-

professionally-delivered lecture regarding his many theories about the Unknown (UFOs, etc.), phrased in such a way as to lead a careful listener to conclude that he may not actually believe all this stuff himself!

Famed author William Moore once again beguiled us with the overwhelming evidence that something really did land near Roswell, New Mexico in 1947, and that it was not a weather balloon. We continue to disagree with the latter conclusion, but we must admit that Moore is one of the most thorough researchers around.

At the convention banquet, after brief remarks by Hal Starr, your editor, and Walt Andrus, nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman gave the convention's principal talk. As usual Stan was factual and highly entertaining, though we don't necessarily accept all of his conclusions. Mercifully, he managed to finish within his time limit on this occasion.

On the morning of Sunday May 18th, a panel discussion was held, which included all of the above-mentioned speakers, plus several "second-string" experts including your editor; Timothy Green Beckley of "UFO Review"; and pro-contactee writer Timothy Good, who came all the way from England for the event. Hal Starr was moderator. A surprising amount of the discussion consisted of arguments between supporters of Billy Meier/Col. Wendelle Stevens and opponents of same, the latter group definitely including your editor.

Notable by their absence were Kal K. Korff of Kalifornia, the host of last year's NUFOC convention; Arizona State MUFON Director William Spaulding (of Ground Saucer Watch fame); and contactee Travis Walton. Walton actually came to the hotel the first evening of the convention, but he apparently was afraid to meet the crowd, and simply went home again without having talked to anyone!

After last year's fiasco run by Korff, your editor had seriously considered resigning as Chairman of the NUFOC. However, our future looks much brighter this year, in spite of the undeniable fact that UFO interest in general is not nearly as high as it once was. For the first time ever, the NUFOC has at least four possible locations to choose from, for next



Unfortunately, most of our photos of the Convention semi-mysteriously came out very dark (though not connected with the "Black Ufologists" letters in recent issues of "Smear".) Photo at left shows Erik Beckjord and Molly Squire. Photo at right shows your editor sitting next to author & lecturer Bill Moore. Allen Benz stands in background. The peculiar black lines apparently going from Benz's mouth to your editor's face are unexplained. (If you think these pictures are bad, you should see the others!)

year's conclave. They are: Los Angeles, Calif; Miami, Fl; Cleveland, Ohio; and Fredricton, New Brunswick, Canada (not as remote as it might sound!) We will obtain more details about these bids in the next few weeks, and we'll announce the winning bid in the next glorious issue of "Smear", or in the issue after that one.

Again, our thanks to Hal Starr for a job well done. May the alleged Space People bless him and all of us with peace and prosperity!

Incidentally, your editor twice announced the Solution to the Saucer Mystery from the podium at the Phoenix convention. If you weren't there, you probably don't know what we said. Pity!

### IN WHICH

### YOUR EDITOR GROPEES FOR SEMI-RESPECTIBILITY BY JOINING MUFON!

### Also: SOME RECENT CHANGES IN THE MUFON HIERARCHY

Although not a "joiner" by nature, your humble "Smear" editor has had far less than average success in his various attempts to join UFO-related organizations during the past thirty years or so. First there was NICAP, which denied us membership until the very last phase of the organization, when even avowed Communists were allowed to join. (This fact about Communists was checked out by Todd Zechel at the time.) We did make it into Bill Spaulding's GSW (Ground Saucer Watch) during the period when Zechel was Research Director of same, and through his efforts we achieved the exalted position of Grand Dragon (!) A GSW membership card to this effect was published in "Smear" at the time. Obviously, this was in the period before Spaulding lost his sense of humor and, some say, his mental stability.



This is to certify that  
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 is a duly authorized  
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Much more recently, we have documented in "Smear" how we managed to join the prestigious Society for Scientific Exploration, due, apparently, to a clerical error. We were, of course, ejected forthwith, once the error was noticed.

Why, you might ask, has all this happened? Obviously it's partly because we don't take a terribly serious attitude toward any of the above, and also it's because we make a habit of needling people in the UFO field who seem to deserve needling. That includes just about everyone, from time to time. And yes, we even manage to laugh at ourself.

Now to the point: Almost since its inception in 1970, your editor has been trying in vain to join MUFON. A compromise was eventually reached, whereby we became a "Contributing Subscriber", receiving their periodical for a fee, but without the rights of membership. Now, due to Peace Efforts at the recent NUFOC convention and possibly a More Positive Attitude by all concerned, your humble editor has not only obtained membership but has been appointed State Section Director for Monroe County, Fl., where we live. This includes the lower fringes of the famed Everglades (home of various swamp monsters, etc.), several uninhabited or sparsely-populated islands (called "keys"), and the town of Key West. Above us in the MUFON hierarchy is Donald M. Ware of Fort Walton Beach, Fl., who is State Director for Florida. And above all of us, of course, is Walt Andrus.

We sincerely thank Walt for his Change of Heart, and intend to do a sincere job of watching for anomalies in our little corner of the world, namely Monroe County. However, it would indeed be embarrassing to us and all concerned if anything ufologically important happens around here any time soon. In view of our checkered past in UFO Research, someone might suspect (falsely, we assure you) that we were behind it, if a spectacular case developed in the near future in this particular area! The late, great Alexander King said, "Let this house be safe from tigers" - and it was! We say: Let Monroe County be safe from saucers. We shall do our best.

Finally, it is worth noting that the above-mentioned Bill Spaulding has very recently been replaced as MUFON State Director for Arizona. The new man in charge of that state is our friend Hal Starr.

#### MISCELLANEOUS RAVINGS:

A recent (4/13) article in the Clarksburg, W. Va. Exponent-Telegram tells us that part of Gray Barker's extensive file of UFO books, magazines, and letters, has been donated to the Clarksburg Public Library by his niece Sharon Stump, who is in charge of settling his estate. Your "Smear" editor has always felt a little hurt that he was (apparently) not mentioned in Barker's will at all. There was no money, but we would like to have had certain movie films and video tapes that would bring back old memories.

Incidentally, Ms. Stump is quoted in the newspaper article as saying: "I was never able to talk to any of his doctors to find exactly what he died of. His death certificate listed smoking as contributing to the cause of death. The funeral director said he had never seen that before."

#### LETTERS TO YE OLDE EDITOR:

BOB PRATT, a former editor of The MUFON Journal & a former staff writer on UFOs for the National Enquirer, writes as follows:

"....On Tuesday the latest issue of The International UFO Reporter arrived. I found nothing in it to quicken the pulse, until I read Jerry Clark's editorial berating John Schuessler. That disturbed me for several reasons. One is Jerry's claim that 'response to the new IUR has been overwhelmingly favorable.' This puzzles me because there was nothing wrong with the old format - I liked it. It presented a fair amount of information about interesting cases, and it had a definite personality. The new format is bland and seems a bit pretentious, perhaps an attempt to distance itself from the 'kooks, nuts, ding-alings and cultists' that abound in this field of research that binds us all together....If the response to the new IUR has been so overwhelmingly favorable that renewals and first-time subscriptions are coming in at a pleasing rate (whatever that may mean), then why is it necessary to begin accepting advertising? That is, I believe, a first among the publications put out by UFO groups.

"All that, however, was a minor irritation compared to what Jerry had to say to poor John (Schuessler). As you no doubt know, Jerry was responding to John's assessment of the current state of ufology....John was somewhat less than optimistic about the outlook for UFO organizations, including CUFOS. His reasoning was that without J. Allen Hynek (Allen having long since moved to Arizona), CUFOS would be struggling for survival, etc. Jerry's reply was that CUFOS was in damned good hands and is very healthy, thank you. He ended by saying: 'We're all right, John. But please, next time you write about us, would it be too much to ask to give us a call first?'

"Jerry was within his rights to reply to John, but he came across being snide, and his concluding paragraph was a definite put-down. John is quite capable of fighting his own battles and doesn't need me to defend him. But it was when I read that last sentence that I realized

that, for me, CUFOS meant J. Allen Hynek and only J. Allen Hynek (and Mimi, of course, who has one of the best brains of all UFO researchers.) Other than Jerry, I am not on a first-name basis with any of the other people who now 'own' CUFOS, and I don't even know who they are any more.

"....Then on Thursday...I happened to glance down toward the bottom of whatever page of the Miami Herald I was on, and there was a small, four-inch obituary announcing the death of Hynek four days earlier. That was a jolt. I knew he was seriously ill and that his condition was grave, but it was still a shock. Allen was a friend who treated me as an equal, something unusual in a field crowded with big egos....There are a number of very good UFO researchers, but none of them has the national or international stature that Allen had....He brought more credibility to the field than any other person, credibility that is slowly eroding as the public continues to lose interest in UFOs. We will miss him...."

IAN MARZYGLOD, a leading British researcher & loyal "Smear" non-subscriber, writes:

"....I am very sad to hear of J. Allen Hynek's death. He stayed at our home in 1983, and he and Mimi were pleasant guests. It was to me the pinnacle of my ufological days and an occasion I shall always cherish. He was, after all, the world's number one, and I was proud that he recognized my efforts in ufology. God rest his soul now that he is free from pain."

PETE TATE, another British ufologist, writes as follows:

"....The demise of Dr. Hynek (was) obviously a sad loss to his family and, as we know only too well, to ufology. We will doubtless now see all manner of creeping things come out of the woodwork to claim his crown. For my money no one stands a snowball in Hell's chance.... It will only be a matter of time before a bright laddie will claim that Dr. H. did not die of the stated condition, but was done away with by 'them', either CIA or MIB, because he knew too much - thus joining Morris K. Jessup and Co. Any bets on how long before this happens? Also, detractors will come out from under their stones. For my money, Dr. H. did his honest best, was fair, and not afraid to stand up and be counted - not a bad epitaph for anyone.

"One thing is certain: A cohesive force in ufology has gone, and we will see changes. I think it possible that as things are now....and if ufology continues on its present course, as an organized interest it will founder in the relatively near future...."

The inevitable KEN BEHRENDT writes:

"I was saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. J. Allen Hynek. Although, philosophically, I had to part company with him when he became a '4D man', I respect the tireless efforts he made promoting the UFO subject and the aura of respectability he brought to the field. He will be sorely missed."

WALTER ROGERS writes as follows:

"....Say, why don't you be the new head of ufology? Right now I say we could use all the help we can get! Otherwise we'll have to pull old John Keel out of mothballs and make him head of ufology! He did do a damn good job in the sixties!...."

# Alien who won lottery arrested

Former researcher EUGENE STEINBERG of New Jersey writes:

"The UFO field died this week.

"It is not a death that will be glorified in high school textbooks or in television docu-dramas in the years to come - it is an event that has been foretold for years, an inevitable decline and fall; a slow inexorable decay that could not be halted, as life itself.

"When Dr. J. Allen Hynek, over twenty years ago, became a born-again ufologist, there was a sense of the credible and the possible that had never existed before. Those fabulous and eerie discs from the skies would somehow become known to us eventually in all their alien glory. Those who cast UFO believers asunder as deluded and ignorant would be thrust aside in an avalanche of revelation and understanding.

"It was a high that exceeded the impact of any form of meditation or chemical substance. The voice of authority of that gentle college professor gave a nearly discredited field of offbeat study a new (if brief) lifetime of knowledge and incredible possibility....

"But alas it was not to be. Not even the influence of Dr. Hynek and his many friends and colleagues could stem the tide of skepticism and boredom. Even the discs themselves seemed to fade away for most, as if the widespread belief in their existence was the only force that could sustain them.

"It is true that UFOs are still seen in scattered parts of the world. Perhaps such things will be seen till the end of time for reasons that we cannot know. But their reality has died for many, and the world will never be the same...."

UFO researcher & ace cartoonist BOB SCHMIDT writes:

"I know you are on pins and needles awaiting my reply to Tom Cannon's missive in the current 'Smear'. Remove the pins and hold onto a few needles.

"The so-called racist KKK bullshit referred to by Mr. Cannon came directly from one of his black brothers I spoke with prior to writing my original 'can opener'. Obviously, and it goes without saying, that the gentleman who gave me that imput is no longer any Brother of Mr. Cannon's!

"Secondly, I did admire Mr. Cannon's remarks relating to a serious interest in UFO phenomena, based on a higher than average intelligence, for the black man's need to become involved. It might be of interest to know that the major cross-section of ufologists in the white community are at best average in intelligence. In fact there are probably more assholes in the business than one could shake a stick at. As far as I'm aware there are no 'intellectual assholes'. Well, perhaps a few at that, and in a very concise minority.

"I would imagine then that blacks don't need the aggravation of becoming assholes with the rest of us in the world of UFO awareness and study. We'll just stay muthafuckers, as usual, and keep the study alive with everyone's wild guesses!"

And TOM CANNON zings back with:

"....From your perspective the racist pitfalls may seem like an 'exaggeration', but not from mine - not from my lifelong experience as a victim of it. However, I am glad that many blacks have a much more positive, tolerant attitude toward white racism than I have - because if all blacks felt as I do, integration would not likely have progressed as far as it has. I would never have tried to force myself into places where I felt I was unwanted - let alone doing so at the risk of my life. However, I admire those blacks who accepted that challenge and brought

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about the desired change in many areas of society. Even so, racism still prevails throughout our social system. It simply has taken on more subtle forms of expression - less violent but equally effective.

"Anyway, if there are 'black ufologists' out there doing their 'thing' - more power to them! I am looking forward to that earthshaking day when a UFO lands, preferably in MISSISSIPPI, and a horde of coarse-haired broad-nosed, thick-lipped BLACK ALIENS disembark. What a gas!

"In some areas of our American society, blacks are regarded and treated as 'aliens' anyway - so I doubt that blacks would be overly excited by the arrival of other aliens, no matter what their color might be, or what corner of the universe they might come from!...."

SID GOULD of Seattle, Washington, writes:

"....Until now, I found your 'Smear' to be most worthy. But your last issue spent such a great deal of space on black skin color, I am becoming dubious. Were you leading up to something?

"Better to wonder why so many red-skinned Indians have had UFO experiences for generations but feel that it is extremely impolite to discuss them. They even learned about continental drift from their grandparents."

Former MUFON investigator JUDITH STARCHILD writes:

"Have we so little ufological material to banter back and forth that we must turn our idle, bored minds towards analyzing racial statistics? I suppose this may be excused as a curiosity on the fringes of ufology, not unlike MEBON's (Mutual Easter Bunny Observation Network) research on the preponderance of rabbits interfacing with UFOs! But don't you feel it should have been played out about as quickly as the question was raised, for all the actual value it possesses?? 'Smear' has recently become a forum for a racial debate - some sincere, some obnoxious, and some seething. I suggest you just file future letters on the racial topic under 'S' (for SO WHAT??) and get back on the UFO track."

RICHARD OGDEN writes as follows from PORTAL, in Sedro-Woolley, Washington. PORTAL is described in their "in-house" magazine as "a residential program for the rehabilitation of persons 18 and over who have been previously hospitalized for psychiatric treatment and who have been unable to maintain themselves in the community":

"Your story about you and Gray Barker being responsible for the Straith Letter is a hoax. The Straith Letter was masterminded by Soviet Intelligence operating within the State Dept. As I have told you, Adamski's story was a 'Russian hoax' on the American public. When I met Adamski in Seattle, he admitted to me that he was getting his UFO data, including material on the U.S. military, from Soviet Intelligence.

"Adamski's mysterious visitors, as confirmed in J. Edgar Hoover's report on Adamski, were from Soviet Naval Intelligence. Adamski also confirmed to me in that last letter from Europe before he died that the so-called 'Mr. Straith' was working for the Soviets, and that the letter was written to embarrass the State Dept!....."

**JAMES MOSELEY IS  
GUARANTEED FIVE MILLION  
DOLLARS IN CASH.. PLUS...**

ERIK BECKJORD, who still seems to be on a High from the recent Phoenix, Arizona convention, writes as follows:

"It has taken several weeks to recover from the eventful NUFOC in Phoenix. First, my head was made to swim when my lecture on the New Zealand UFO film managed to achieve its vaunted goal - the downfall of Phil Klass. It did this not because the already mostly pro-UFO crowd was able to see that Klass's 'squid boat hypothesis' was sunk when compared to Dr. Bruce Maccabee's 12 reasons why the UFO couldn't be a mere fishing boat - but it did because fellow arch-UFO-skeptic Robert Sheaffer openly admitted that he felt that Klass was proved wrong by Maccabee, and this was seconded by Sheaffer's fellow skeptic, the head of the Tucson skeptics, who was also there. Add this to Klass's failure to respond to Maccabee's points, with adequate notice, and we have Klass admitting, by default, that one 'genuine' UFO exists. (See Page 256 of his last book, 'UFOs: The Public Deceived'...."

Freelance writer & bon vivant GEORGE EARLEY writes:

"Once again Phil Klass has, squid-like, attempted to mask what he has said (and clearly meant) by tossing out a cloud of 'I'll bet you \$10,000...' rhetoric. The implication of his charge that ufologists 'seek what the Soviet Union does - to convey to the public that our government cannot be trusted, that it lies, that it falsifies...' is clear: If you criticize our government, you are serving the Communist cause. Now, if that's Phil's true belief about those who call into question the U.S. Government's commitment (or lack of it) to the truth, where does that leave him vis-a-vis the employer who has paid his wages for several decades? As this (almost retired) Senior Editor of 'Aviation Week' well knows, this authoritative aerospace trade publication has, during the past few months, run articles and outraged letters-to-the-editor on the subject of publicly acknowledged U.S. Government disinformation (translation: lying) programs concerning its military aerospace activities. Interestingly enough, those disinformation programs AvWeek reported on seem aimed more towards Americans than towards Soviets. But even so, by Klass's logic, his (almost) former employer must be numbered among those seeking 'to do what the Soviet Union does.' Big Brother would be proud of Klass.

"Question to Klass: If the federal government can be caught, as it has been, being less than forthright and factual to its citizens re such events as tests of nerve gas, hallucinogens and nuclear weaponry, the bombing of Cambodia, MIAs, the Bay of Pigs, U-2 overflights of the USSR, and a host of other prevarications including, most recently, cover-up attempts concerning aspects of the Challenger disaster, why shouldn't ufologists be suspicious that the Feds may know more about UFOs than they are telling??"

Researcher DALE RETTIG, struggling to avoid "The Dreaded X", delights us with the following:

"The aliens have given me a supply of decals such as the one on your envelope. I hope you didn't touch it, because it excretes microscopic amounts of mind-control drugs far stronger than LSD. They are doing this to take over the world before there is a war and the entire surface of the Earth is forever contaminated by radiation. Once you're exposed to these substances, you become a 'recruit' - the Fifth Column of the alien invaders. They're not like us, Jim. They need to change a lot of things - big things - before they will be ready to take over and save us. They need your help!.... You will receive further instructions!...."

I hope not! - Editor