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SAUCER SMEAR

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IF AN "X" FOLLOWS YOUR NAME ON THE ENVELOPE IN WHICH YOU RECEIVED THIS ISSUE OF "SMEAR", YOU WILL BE EJECTED FROM OUR MAILING LIST UNLESS WE HEAR FROM YOU SHORTLY!

RE-HASH OF THE 24TH ANNUAL NATIONAL UFO CONFERENCE, IN BURBANK, CA:

As loudly proclaimed beforehand in this zine and elsewhere, the 24th annual NUFOC conclave took place on the weekend of June 12th-14th at the Burbank Hilton Hotel, sponsored locally by famed author & lecturer William Moore.

Pre-convention publicity centered around a group of sensational government documents uncovered by Moore working together with saucerer/nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman, plus a semi-mysterious Hollywood figure named Jaime Shandera. (More about these documents in a separate section further along.) Sadly, in spite of the unusual amount of excellent radio & television advance coverage, the crowd that actually showed up at the hotel was disappointing in size, and Moore apparently lost money on the venture.

As noted in the last "Smear", Moore's unusual convention tactic was to have as many as eight lectures going on at the same time, during four different time-slots on Saturday. This did not present as big a problem as some of us had anticipated, and in general things ran smoothly. Major speakers included Moore, Friedman, Hal Starr, Brad Steiger, Dr. Richard Neal, M.D., and Jim McCampbell of MUFON.

Timothy Good of England had been expected to participate, but was unable to attend, though he widely publicized the above-mentioned documents in his native land, in anticipation of a book he is writing called "Above Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Cover-Up". (In a previous book, Good included the notorious Straith Letter among the evidence he felt supported George Adamski's claims!)

Minor speakers at the convention included your humble "Smear" editor, plus Dale Kacamarek on ghost lights; Brian Parks; Ann Druffel of MUFON; Jim Speiser of "ParaNet"; Vickie Cooper of "California UFO" Magazine; Tracy Torme, son of Mel; Yonah Fortner, out of ufological retirement to give his unique Biblical interpretations; Tim Beckley ("Mr. UFO"); and last but not quite least - Erik Beckjord of Bigfoot fame. Interestingly, it was Erik who attracted the most attention, for his performance on the podium and elsewhere. We were not able to hear all of the lectures, due to the scheduling technique already referred to, but those we did hear did seem to go over well with the public.

Stanton Friedman was presented with our coveted "Ufologist of the Year" award, as recorded for posterity in one of the photos on Page 3. Friedman and Moore were also the featured speakers at the banquet luncheon on Sunday, which was the last scheduled event of the convention.

Usually our NUFOC conventions include a business meeting, where, among other things, bids for next year's conference site are discussed.

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Ted and Phyllis Hunt, typical ufonauts from Phoenix, Arizona, check in at the Burbank Hilton for the NUFOC Convention. Like so many others, the Hunts enjoyed our unique blend of science and fantasy.

Although five of the nine members of the NUFOC Permanent Organizing Committee (i.e., Governing Board) were present in Burbank, not enough other people showed up for the business meeting on Sunday morning; so at the discretion of the Chairman (your "Smear" editor), the meeting was adjourned quickly. This is one of the reasons that, as of this writing, we have not been able to finalize a location for 1988. Central Florida is under serious consideration, and hopefully more info about this will be available in the next few weeks.

All in all, a unique convention, & our congratulations and thanks to local chairman Bill Moore!

THE "MAGESTIC 12" DOCUMENTS: HOAX OR "SMOKING GUN"?

The biggest story to come out of the 1987 NUFOC Convention is, if true, the story of the decade if not of the whole 20th Century! As in the Watergate scandal, where a "smoking gun" was eventually found - leading to Richard Nixon's resignation - the UFO field has finally come up with what purports to be documentary proof of a Government cover-up going back forty years!

For several years Bill Moore has been working together with Stanton Friedman and another man, to painstakingly search existing Government files for proof of a cover-up. However, the "smoking gun" was not uncovered in this way, but consisted of microfilm mailed anonymously to the above-mentioned third man in December of 1984. The recipient was one Jaime Shandera, who is unknown in the UFO field. He is described by Moore as a "producer, director & researcher for 20 years, with an extensive background in news and documentaries." Shandera, like Moore, lives in southern California.

There seems no question about the fact that the document, if genuine, was not properly declassified - just as Phil Klass charges. In his NUFOC speech, Moore stated that when he received the document, nothing was crossed out. Moore and/or his co-workers then crossed out the phrases "Top Secret" and "Eyes Only", leaving the phrase "Copy One of One" legible. The group also censored further information in the versions of the document released previous to the Convention, so that, of the four versions we have obtained, no two are exactly the same in regard to what can be read. However, the document itself is the same in all cases, and runs to several pages of fascinating text.

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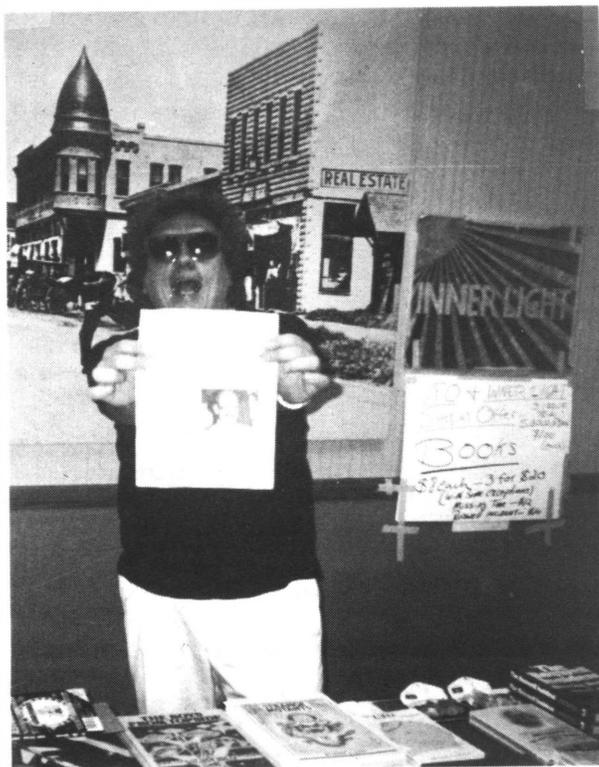
MEMORIES OF THE 1987 NATIONAL UFO CONFERENCE:

Top left: The "Three Men" of "MJ-12" sit at the head table at the banquet. They are (l. to r.) Bill Moore, local convention chairman; the semi-mysterious Jaime Shandera; nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman. These three have worked together for several years for release of UFO information by our government.

Bottom left: Friedman receives our Ufologist of the Year award from a stripper hired for the occasion.

Top right: Timothy Green Beckley ("Mr. UFO") hawks his wares at the convention's bookstand.

Bottom right: Yonah Fortner, alias Yonah ibn A'haron, our long-time Biblical scholar, relaxes at the banquet.



(Continued from Page Two)

Space prevents us from reproducing this material here. It purports to be a briefing document prepared for President-Elect Dwight D. Eisenhower on November 18th, 1952, and refers to alleged events during the 1947-1952 period. The project is called "Operation Majestic 12" or "Majic-12" and is also referred to as "MJ-12". It starts with the Kenneth Arnold sighting of June 24th, 1947, and then goes on to describe a crash near Roswell, New Mexico, on July 7th, 1947. This crash was the subject of the book "The Roswell Incident" which Moore published in 1980 together with co-author Charles Berlitz.

A key part of the document reads: "...A secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that four small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft at some point before it exploded. These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site. All four were dead and badly decomposed due to action by predators and exposure to the elements during the approximately one week time period which had elapsed before their discovery. A special scientific team took charge of removing these bodies for study... The wreckage of the craft was also removed to several different locations.Civilian and military witnesses in the area were debriefed, and news reporters were given the effective cover story that the object had been a misguided weather research balloon...."

Various "attachments" to the document are referred to, numbered "A" through "H", but of these, only "A" was made available by the anonymous security-breaker. This is a letter dated September 24th, 1947, written by President Harry S. Truman to Secretary of Defense James Forrestal, who later committed suicide in May of 1949. The Truman letter, which we believe may be genuine, refers to "Operation Majestic Twelve" but does not state the purpose of the operation. (It could therefore have been something entirely different.)

Forrestal was one of the twelve original members of "MJ-12", as was Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter, then head of the CIA. Hillenkoetter was the briefing officer in regard to the document we have. It is interesting indeed to note that, about 1957, Hillenkoetter - then retired - joined the Board of Directors of the now-defunct UFO organization called NICAP, headed by retired Marine Major Donald Keyhoe. One can ask: If Hillenkoetter already knew that there had been at least one crash involving dead alien bodies, why did he play games with NICAP?

Amazingly, Harvard astronomer Donald Menzel is named as another of the "MJ-12" people. One passage of the document reads: "Since it is virtually certain that these craft do not originate in any country on earth, considerable speculation has centered around what their point of origin might be and how they get here. Mars was and remains a possibility, although some scientists, most notably Dr. Menzel, consider it more likely that we are dealing with beings from another solar system entirely...."

Donald Menzel wrote three anti-UFO books. In his public statements, as well as his private ones, he made Phil Klass look like a hard-core Believer! We knew Menzel personally, and in fact bought four silly paintings from him, showing various scenes of (hopefully) mythical Martians. Did Menzel live a lie for all of his later years? He would have had to, if he knew since 1947 that dead aliens had been found in New Mexico!

Hillenkoetter, Menzel, and all the other original members of "MJ-12" are dead now, which is one of the reasons that an impartial background investigation of this document is difficult. "Smear" has talked by phone (at great expense) and in person to dozens of people, on both sides of the ufological issue, and in general Believers tend to believe, and the skeptics tend to disbelieve - just as one would expect. One exception is

Barry Greenwood, editor of "Just Cause", a pro-UFO zine devoted to discussion of formerly-classified Government documents. Greenwood is quoted in the London Observer as having "suggested that the document is just a sophisticated fraud."

"Smear" is pressing onward in our own investigation, and we have developed leads which no one else seems to be using. In our next issue we hope to have some sensational facts to report.

We tend to believe (sadly!) that the document is probably a fraud, but we heartily condemn Phil Klass's attitude, which is that it should not be released to the public even if it is genuine! Klass has written to the FBI, in hopes that Moore & Co. will be prosecuted if the document is genuine. And, if it is merely a hoax, there is a different sort of violation of law, as those involved with the Straith Letter hoax thirty years ago learned to their surprise and dismay.

It is most interesting to note that even Robert Sheaffer, a member of Klass's own CSICOP UFO Subcommittee, and a fellow political conservative, agrees with us that in the unlikely event that the "MJ-12" document is genuine, the public does have a right to know. And Dr. Thornton Page, a member of the famous CIA-inspired Robertson Panel on UFOs (1952), seems to be of the same opinion regarding the public's right to know!

Klass's vicious attitude on the subject of national security is demonstrated by the following quote from a letter he wrote on June 11th to Friedman: "Your clear disregard for the proper handling of what you claim to believe are authentic 'Top Secret/Eyes Only' documents will be of interest to those responsible for granting security clearances if you ever have to apply for a U.S. security clearance for employment." Friedman, who really is a nuclear physicist, has had U.S. security clearances in the past, in regard to his scientific work. He presently lives and works in Canada.

Our position is that if the document is genuine, the public's right to know supercedes the security leak that apparently is involved here. Surely four dead aliens on the New Mexico desert forty years ago cannot represent a present threat to the security of the United States! Of course, we do not know what has happened since 1952, when our "MJ-12" document was written, but we can assume that whatever threat was envisioned then, has failed to materialize. Otherwise we would all have been forced to learn some weird extraterrestrial language by now!

Moore, Friedman, and the semi-mysterious Jaime Shandera have more information up their sleeves, which they have not yet chosen to release. Our congratulations to them for having, at the very least, already made 1987 a very exciting year in UFO research. "Smear" will continue to keep you informed as future events unfold.

TID-BITS OF TRASH, IN THE SWINGING "SMEAR" TRADITION:

From a British correspondent who shall be anonymous herein, we hear: "Klass does not always go down well even with skeptics. I have a colleague Stuart Campbell, who is as skeptical as anyone. He tried to get an article on the Socorro case published in the "Skeptical Inquirer", but says it was rejected by Klass and someone else who acted as referees. Klass apparently had decided that his solution to Socorro was the correct one and that any other answer, even skeptical, was not feasible...."

Alan Benz of Tucson, Arizona, runs a small organization called The Foundation for UFO Research, which seems to be very similar to Dr. Bruce Maccabee's Fund for UFO Research. Under the motto "Deeds, not Words", Benz is offering a \$500 prize to the winner of a literary competition on the subject of UFOs, preferably on the sub-subject of retrieval of (alleged) suppressed information. Further info from Benz at: Box 182, Tucson, Az. 85702....

We hesitate to ridicule Dr. Leo Sprinkle, who is a really nice guy and a recent but loyal "Smear" non-subscriber. But, in a recent National Enquirer article, Leo is quoted as now believing that Space Aliens abducted him as a child. For twenty years he has been hypnotizing UFO abductees, helping them remember and deal with their frightening experiences. Now, after all this time, it suddenly turns out that he too is an abductee, though his was a relatively benign experience. Most interestingly, we learn that the Enquirer story was taken without permission or credit from a story that appeared about two months earlier in Tim Beckley's "UFO Review". All well and good, but is this science???. . . .

The ufological bandwagon is really rolling this year, and it seems that every author we know is climbing aboard! (Only your "Smear" editor, secure in his huge monthly salary from the CIA, continues to grind out free material!) Now we have John Keel, lurching out of semi-retirement, coming forth with "Disneyland of the Gods" - a sequel to "The Mothman Prophecies" and other brilliant though semi-unintelligible works. Blame AMOK PRESS, P.O. Box 51, New York, N.Y. 10276.

And, Phil Klass is writing an as yet untitled tome on UFO abductions for Prometheus, the CSICOP house publisher. Will he tell of his own contacts and abductions, or is this another cover-up? Then, there is Dr. Richard Haines, whose sneering attitude toward "Smear" long ago offended us, now coming out with "Melbourne Episode - A Case Study of a Missing Pilot". We like his topic, which is the famous disappearance of Frederick Valentich, about seven years ago. This is the book which Kal Korff was to have published for Haines before his untimely withdrawal from the UFO scene. Now the book is available from the author, at 325 Langton Ave., Los Altos, Ca. 94022.

Finally, we should mention that the APRO Bulletin is still being published, in spite of the recent death of Jim Lorenzen. Since the magazine is always undated for some reason, we aren't sure just how long ago we received our two most recent issues; but we are pleased that Coral Lorenzen is still hanging in there. Way to go, Coral!

Larry Bryant of CAUS has apparently won his point in his lawsuit against the Government. In a "consent judgment", the Feds agree to allow him to resubmit UFO-oriented advertisements to military magazines, which had previously been turned down due to Government pressure. Bryant's second charge, regarding recurrence of harrassment against him, was dismissed, and he is appealing. Bryant is a civilian employee of the Government, and uses his advertisements in an attempt to get information about UFO-oriented incidents which have allegedly been "hushed up". Bryant's UFO hobby has no connection with his Government job. (For more details, write to Larry Bryant % CAUS, at: 3518 Martha Curtis Drive, Alexandria, Va. 22302)

While James ("The Amusing") Randi performs for less exulted audiences, his arch-enemy Uri Geller has recently briefed senators and congressmen and even the Soviet's chief arms control negotiator, in regard to psychic powers and world peace! This and more in an article (May 3rd) from the London Times, under the banner headline "DID URI BEND THE WILL OF GORBACHEV?" So, Randi, what have you done for world peace lately?

Have You Heard? (Or do you even care?) There is a new zine out, edited by one of our non-subscribers named Howard Kaufman. It is called, strangely enough, "Have You Heard?", and is a weird combination of back-dated UFO stories and Kennedy Assassination stuff. The mag is reminiscent of Armand Laprade's "Would You Believe?" and may have been inspired by same, since the second issue contains a big ad for Laprade's zine. Write to: Howard Kaufman, P.O. Box 1305, Woodland Hills, Ca. 91365.

LETTERS FROM FANS, LOYAL SUPPORTERS, AND OTHERS:

GERD HOVELMANN, a West German skeptic, writes:

"...I received the May 5th issue of your fabulous newsletter this morning, and I read with interest (though also, as it turned out, with a vague sense of disappointment) your report about the adventures at the Pasadena CSICOP Conference. You seem to have slightly (but not insignificantly) misunderstood or misremembered both the contents and the stated purpose of one of the lectures on the animal language controversy. As that lecture happened to be mine (which you do not mention), I may be permitted a few words to correct what probably was a misperception.

"You write that you 'were told at great length about the exploits of a horse known as "Clever Hans", but that 'the detailed expose was, we fear, an extreme case of Beating a Dead Horse!' Contrary to what your comment suggests, the purpose of my presentation, of course, was not to retell the tiresomely often-told story of the (allegedly) miraculous feats of Clever Hans and his congenitors. While I can appreciate your pun, the root of the confusion behind it appears to lie in the fact that the term 'Clever Hans' denotes two different things: the famous horse that lived and performed in Berlin around the turn of the century, and a certain type of methodological error or fallacy.

"While, in my lecture, I probably spend less than 30 seconds on what you called my 'detailed expose' of Clever Hans, the horse, - I talked at great length about the perils of Clever Hans fallacies which, in virtually every type of behavioral research, are both as omnipresent and as unrecognized as ever. While Clever Hans, the horse, has been dead for far more than half a century, his numberless reincarnations are very much alive, and (as Prof. Sebeok, Prof. Rosenthal, and I have tried to show in our respective lectures) the experimental errors conveniently summarized under the epithet of 'Clever Hans' are still with us...."

Point well taken! - Editor

BOB PRATT, freelance writer & former UFO editor for the National Enquirer, writes as follows:

"...Each 'Smear' is a marvel. Centuries from now, historians will minutely examine each of the many issues of 'Smear' and find them to be significant social documents comparable to the Dead Sea Scrolls. 'Smear', they will say....is an invaluable source of evidence of the ever-clashing thoughts of a handful of headstrong individuals who couldn't even agree as to what they were arguing about...."

"In case you haven't heard, a really good UFO book will be coming out in mid-October. It's 'Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings', by Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Philip Imbrogno with Bob Pratt....The book, in soft cover, is, as you might suspect, about the prolonged series of sightings of a large triangular or boomerang-shaped object (or objects) in the New York and Connecticut counties immediately north of Manhattan, from New Year's Eve 1982 until the latter part of 1986. Thousands of people (we say 5,000, at least) saw the object and many people with excellent, professional reputations were willing to go on record as having seen it.."

However, cynics believed the sightings to be caused by daredevil night-flying planes from a known airfield in the area. - Editor

AIDS from outer space—theory

BOB ZANOTTI, an American radio personality now living and working in Switzerland, writes:

"...The death of Dominick Luchessi is a real shocker for me personally, and for a couple of reasons: It was Dom who brought that excited neo-UFOite, Bob Zanotti, into the New York 'Circle', through the mutual hobby of amateur radio, over which we'd talk for hours on the subject until late at night, attracting quite a bit of attention from fellow 'hams', including Bill Parris, who hopped on the ufological bandwagon. He became a regular participant on my subsequent radio show in the New York area, dealing almost exclusively with the off-beat, and saucers in particular. It was at Dom's home in Jersey City, N.J. that I first met the likes of Jack Robinson, August C. Roberts, Stuart Robb, and Jim Moseley.

"For many of us, Dom Luchessi was a semi-professional antagonist, quick to identify and exploit the weaknesses in others and their views. Yes, he was pedantic and even a little crass. But Dom was intelligent - despite some of his later antics and pursuits. He was, above all, a good and loyal buddy. It's just a shame that his years of research and experimentation into the deeper wisdoms of this planet were not put to practical use, so as to prolong a life and a spirit that could have contributed to this scene for a good while to come."

Continuing the same generally dismal theme, KEN BEHRENDT writes:

"...I am concerned with how many individuals in the UFO field seem to be contracting brain tumors. Could it be that this might be an occupational hazard for active field investigators? Perhaps while investigating UFO landing sites, they accidentally inhale radiologically hazardous substances that wind up being stored in the fatty tissues of their brains. After a few years of the constant exposure to radiation, the surrounding brain cells would be forced to become cancerous. For this reason, UFO field investigators doing site investigations might want to consider wearing protective garmets and, at a minimum, dust masks that will reliably filter out microscopic respirable particulates...."

George Montgomery of Kingston, New York was one of the Beat Poets of the 1960's. He was also a long-time friend, a mild UFO fan, and the ex-husband of Anna Golz. On June 22nd he died suddenly, at the age of about 48. Just a few days earlier, we had offered to stop calling him a former beat poet if he would send us a current unpublished poem. Thus, the following is the last poem he ever wrote:

HOLY MOSELEY

Out of an egg
 CRACK, CRACK
 a diddle do - he comes
 to life like a falling snowflake
 drifting onto the floor
 romancing soiled couch
 this master of the 5 O'Clock shadow.
 He wanted to be the key to the West
 so he moved there
 trying to push his tired ol'
 shrunken head
 which when alone at night
 has been known to sing:
 "I ain't got no body..."