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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

THE "MJ-12" FILE: ANOTHER EXCLUSIVE "SMEAR" REPORT:

It has, unfortunately, been over two months since our last issue of "Smear", and in that period of time much has happened regarding the now-famous "Majestic 12" or "MJ-12" documents released by Bill Moore and friends earlier this year.

Before we move on to a summary of new information, let us mention something we neglected to state in our earlier ravings: Apparently long-deceased Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter was the most important member of this group of twelve, because his name comes first on the list (he is referred to as "MJ-1") and because he was allegedly the briefing officer who presented this startling information to president-elect Dwight Eisenhower on or about Nov. 18th, 1952. Hillenkoetter, after retirement from his position as first director of the CIA, became a member of the board of directors of NICAP, circa 1957. Can anyone seriously believe he would have dared to openly join a pro-UFO organization if he had the knowledge of UFO reality that the "MJ-12" briefing document leads us to assume???

We have already published our exclusive information from Dr. Ernest Taves, a very close friend of Dr. Donald Menzel, who apparently was "MJ-10". Taves, like others who knew Menzel well, cannot believe that the long-deceased former director of Harvard Observatory could have had this above-mentioned knowledge of UFO reality and still have written 3 anti-saucer books, and still have debunked UFOs emotionally at every opportunity. Yet Moore and Friedman see nothing amiss here, and have in fact written long, detailed rebuttals re the "Menzel Connection" and all other negative evidence that has been brought up in regard to "MJ-12". They do seem to believe what they are saying!

CUFOS, in an editorial by Jerry Clark in the May-June issue of the "International UFO Reporter", and in a more recent press release, seems generally supportive of "MJ-12", and claims that the "verdict is still open".

MUFON has expressed various opinions, swaying pro and con. They used our Taves material in a recent issue of their Journal, and in the August issue of their Newsletter, edited by MUFON's Massachusetts director James Melesciuc, they state: "The results of the MJ-12 circus created by Moore, Shandera, and Friedman could be detrimental to the future of document research. The hunger for publicity or for financial gain by any type of self-styled expert can be as damaging to the subject as the crackpots and fanatics. Moore and Friedman, of all people, should realize that by promoting evidence loaded with loopholes, will cause people to question the quality of their research and would be disastrous to their reputations..."

Needless to say, CSICOP, as personified by Phil Klass, issued a totally negative press release, based on insufficient information, in our



opinion. Much more interesting than the CSICOP release is the September issue of "Just Cause", published by Laurence Fawcett and Barry Greenwood. In an article entitled "The MJ-12 Fiasco", they give a vast amount of detailed negative data that no student of this matter should overlook. (Address: P.O. Box 218, Coventry, Conn. 06238.) To this Bill Moore's only comment (to us, by phone) is: "Sour Grapes".

"Just Cause" introduces into the fray the name of a present or former intelligence officer named Richard Doty, assigned to Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. The magazine alleges that Doty may very likely be Moore's source. Alas, when we said in our last "Smear" that "we believe we have the name of the probable perpetrator", it was Doty to whom we were referring. We have thus been "scooped", but never mind! Moore admits knowing Doty but denies that Doty is his source. So the mystery deepens!

Phil Klass, relying largely on information from British researcher Christopher Allan, has made a big deal out of the fact that the "MJ-12" briefing paper uses an unusual format in writing the dates, which happens

to be exactly the same unusual format that Bill Moore uses in writing his dates. Our comment is: Whereas the notorious Straith Letter hoax of 1957 did reflect Gray Barker's stylistic peculiarities, since it was written late one drunken night with no forethought, Moore would have to be remarkably stupid or insane to make such a naive mistake. If the dating similarity means anything, it more likely means that the real hoaxter was trying deliberately to frame Moore!

So, to get to the point: It appears that most thoughtful ufologists believe "MJ-12" is possibly or probably a hoax, and some ufologists, plus all of the debunkers, believe that Moore & Co. are behind it. Our position is that, although "MJ-12" is a hoax in all probability, Moore's group is not behind it. On to our exclusive information:

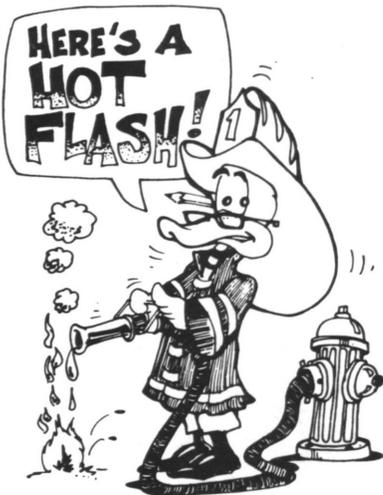
Your humble "Smear" editor spent large parts of three days with Moore and Shandera recently - (Sept. 23-25), in Burbank, California, discussing "MJ-12" and related topics. We were left with the strong impression that they are, if anything, victims of a complex sophisticated hoax that has engulfed them for several years - a disinformation campaign of some sort, for what purpose we do not know.

Ufologists don't seem to realize that Moore has been involved since 1980 in the receipt of supposed "inside" government information from first one informant, and eventually several, on a more or less continuing basis. Like "Deep Throat" in the Watergate scandal, these informants do not always hand him answers, but they tell him where to look. As a result, Moore has given up his literary career, which looked very promising after the publication of "The Roswell Incident" (with Charles Berlitz) in 1980, and has devoted all of his spare time to research related to these ufological matters. He earns a bare living by selling UFO books and his own tracts by mail order.

Shandera joined Moore in the quest in 1982. He too has largely given up his career, which was in film and broadcasting. His financial situation is better than Moore's however, as his wife has a very good job in the TV industry.

Friedman is, it seems, a more passive partner, in that he is merely kept informed of information received by the other two. He continues to work at a normal science-related job in his home town in Canada.

Another thing that ufologists don't seem to realize is that Moore's



evidence consists of a great deal more than what he has released so far. (Apparently his sources tell him what he can release, and were he to disobey, he would blow the whole ongoing relationship.) There are other documents, including one he claims was given to him for exactly 20 minutes to do what he wanted with, and then was taken back. He photographed it and read it into a tape recorder, in the presence of the agent who lent it to him.

There are also several videotapes. We were allowed to see one 20-minute tape and most of another. These consist of a supposed agent talking in a totally disguised voice, answering a list of questions from a supposed newsman. The agent is disguised, and the newsman has his back to the camera. The proven identities of these two are known to Moore and Shandera, they say. No one was present at the tapings except these two, plus Moore, Shandera, and the producer.

The contents of the tapes are Way Out - literally and figuratively. We have been asked not to print anything about the contents, so we will merely comment that we find the material literally incredible without further evidence to back it up. Moore & Co. apparently have such evidence and expect to get more.

The scenario is that by the end of this year, Moore's informants will either come forth with more information and public disclosures, or else Moore will give up on his informants and go public, himself, with all the information he has obtained so far. In either case, we are in for some interesting times!

There is much more to all this, but Space prevents us from rambling further in this issue. Re our continuing "MJ-12" quest: Our sincere thanks to, among others, Tommy Roy Blann (who now says he has suddenly withdrawn from the UFO field!); to Jim Speiser of ParaNet; to Antonio Huneus for material on the deeply mysterious "Humo Papers" which he has not yet sent (See Next Issue!); and to the alleged Space People for making all this madness possible.

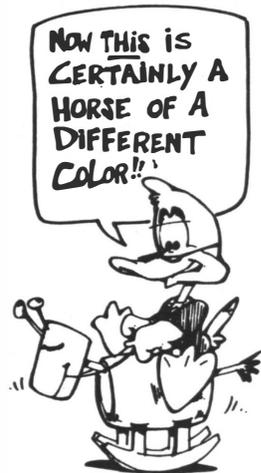
Also a tip of the "Smear" sombrero to the various zines that have seen fit to reprint or condense some of our "MJ-12" material in earlier issues: "California UFO"; "Would You Believe?" (HC 80, Box 156, Marshall, Ark. 72650); "The MUFON Journal"; and (ugh!) "Skeptical Inquirer".

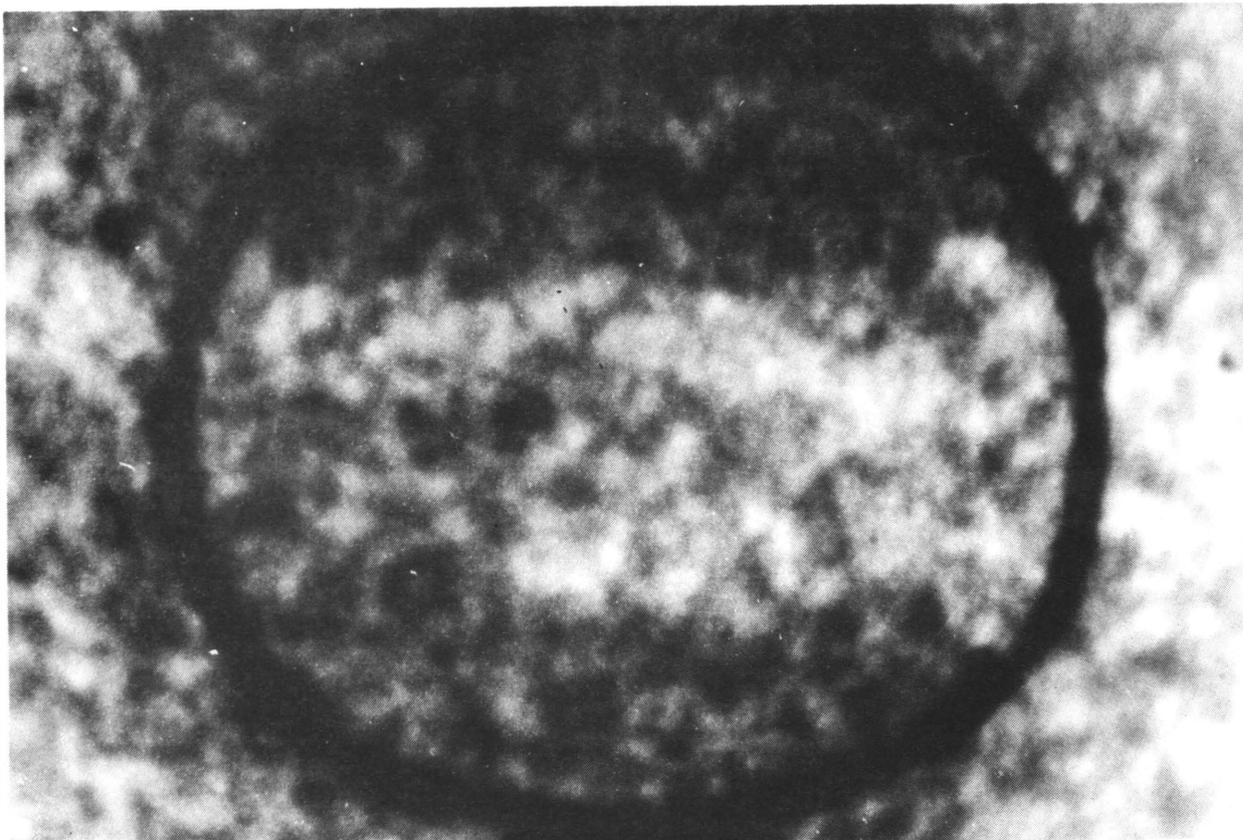
TID-BITS OF TRASH:

Although (sadly!) no one has asked about it, we want to inform you that the location of the glorious 1988 annual convention of the National UFO Conference (NUFOC) has yet to be decided. We are negotiating now in regard to two possible locations, one in Florida and the other in New Jersey. We hope to have the answer for you in our next issue....

Non-subscriber William Steinman has come out with a book called "UFO Crash at Aztec (New Mexico)", co-authored by Col. Wendelle Stevens from the depths of his prison cell. This tome is about the alleged saucer crash of May 25th, 1948, in which the remains of sixteen dead aliens were allegedly found. The book is available from UFO Contact Newsline, 8721 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 600, Los Angeles, Ca. 90069. Price: A very hefty \$18.95!....

Pete Mazzola, co-founder of the Scientific Bureau of Investigation (SBI), died of brain cancer on June 10th of this year. With his passing, the SBI, which had several hundred members at its peak, is now defunct. We knew Peter slightly....





Tim Curry of Waterloo, Indiana - one of our loyal non-subscribers, has committed suicide since our last issue was published. (We do not have the exact date.) Tim was mainly a Bigfootologist, and sent us a nice cartoon about Erik Beckjord a few months ago, which we still have not had Space to publish. Tim was only in his mid-twenties, and seemed like a very likeable fellow the one time we met him, several years ago...

An organizational meeting of the New York Fortean Society was held in what appeared to be a very large closet in midtown New York City, on Sept. 19th. Almost fifty people attended, including your humble editor, and the audience was practically sitting on each others' laps. Predictably, John Keel was elected president of the organization, and all of us who attended are considered founders. Wheee!...

Erik Beckjord wants you-all to know that he went to Loch Ness again this past summer, and obtained more still pictures of the famous Monster. Above is a blow-up of the Monster's head, enlarged at least 100 times from the original picture, which merely shows a "something" in the lake, at a large distance from the camera. Beckjord claims that a skull-type head can be clearly (?) seen in the middle of the black circle he has unfortunately drawn on the print. Also visible are an old man (left); an anguished woman's face (right), and several other 4D-ish entities. What does it all mean? Erik can explain it a lot better than we can!

MISCELLANEOUS RAVINGS:

In our humble opinion, psychic visions rarely if ever have any validity. But - suppose for a moment that just one such vision, of a plane crash for instance, came out precisely as predicted. Don't we know for a fact that the person making the prediction would be arrested for

causing the disaster? He would, in effect, have to prove that he did not cause it or have mundane ways of knowing about it. A sensible person would just keep quiet in the first place.

A case in point is that of Etta Louise Smith, a Los Angeles woman who, following a psychic vision, led police to the precise location of a murder victim, though she had no connection with the crime. This occurred in 1980, and is detailed in an article in the August 1987 issue of FATE. Ms. Smith was jailed for four days without charges, and then let go. She then sued the city for false arrest, and finally was awarded \$26,000 this year.

We await Word from Randi or perhaps Phil Klass, to explain to us that (a) the whole thing was just a coincidence or (b) Ms. Smith really was connected with the murder after all....

In this, the fortieth year since Kenneth Arnold's classic UFO sighting, there has quite naturally been much talk about Mr. Arnold and his friend Ray Palmer, co-founder of FATE Magazine. An interesting article about these two departed gentlemen appears in the June "MUFON UFO Journal", written by Greg Long.

Thus it is timely for us to tell our readers a little-known story about the man who coined the term "flying saucer". In the summer of 1967 we ran a huge UFO convention, commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Arnold sighting, and we made a serious attempt to get both Arnold and Palmer to participate. Palmer would have been willing, but Arnold wanted a great deal of money; and when Palmer heard about this, he decided to hold out for a large sum too.

Incredibly, Arnold claimed he was about to immigrate from Boise, Idaho to Australia, and would be living there by the time of the convention. He wanted a first-class round-trip airplane ticket from and back to Australia, which would have cost thousands! We continued correspondence on the matter, and as the convention date grew nearer, it became apparent that Arnold would still be in Idaho at that time. Arnold shot back that it didn't matter where he was - he wanted a sum of money equal to the cost of the ticket, anyway. We wrote back inviting him to go to hell. That ended the correspondence.

Ten years later, when we met Arnold and his wife at the 1977 FATE Convention in Chicago, he pointedly refused to speak to us, and walked away every time we approached him.

Ray Palmer, on the other hand, was a gentleman. We met him once at his home in Amherst, Wisconsin, and had a long talk with him. He came off as a bright, very articulate, though somewhat eccentric individual. Quite likely the fact that he seldom appeared in public was caused by his dwarf-like physical deformity. However, he did speak at the above-mentioned FATE Convention, and his lecture was most interesting indeed. He died a short while later.

Incidentally, two of our colleagues in the National UFO Conference (NUFOC), namely Charles Wilhelm and Ron Schaffner, had planned to release an "expose" of Kenneth Arnold to coincide with the 40th anniversary bit. We were looking forward to seeing what they would come up with; but for some reason the project fizzled.

Courtroom courtship

James Mosely said he liked fellow juror Diana Serpe the first time he saw her at the Bernhard Goetz attempted murder trial and fell in love as they rode the subway together after each day of the trial. "One thing led to another," Mosley said. Above, the pair toast each other in New York.

If you're thinking of having your body frozen when you die, think again. The word out of California is that it's cheaper and more practical to freeze just your head. It costs about \$100,000 to freeze and store a whole body, but a head can be iced away for half that. It's called "neural treatment," and you can sign up for one at the Institute for Cryobiological Extension (ICE) in Los Angeles.

LETTRES TO YE OLDE EDITOR:

CHRISTOPHER ALLAN of Jolly Olde England writes:

"Re the notorious Majestic-12 documents, I have studied them and wish to point out the following: There are three places in the Hillenkoetter briefing paper where dates of events are given as: 01 August, 1950; 07 July, 1947; 06 December, 1950. How do these strike you? A leading zero has been inserted in all cases, a practice that only came in with widespread computerisation. Nobody, whether military or civilian, would have put a zero in a date in that way in the 1950s (or the 1960s either). In those days a date would have appeared as 7 July 1947, etc.

"....I suggest 'Smear' readers do the following experiment: Go through the letters they have received from ufologists over, say, the past four years. Check the date format for the zero and comma, and report their findings to you. Probably everyone has a suspect in mind, so it will be interesting to see the results....If I am right, this experiment will identify the culprit. It certainly has for me!..."

BOB ZANOTTI of Jolly Olde Switzerland writes:

"Greetings, and congratulations on an outstanding issue of 'Smear', and for an extraordinarily good job of investigating and reporting the 'MJ-12 Affair'. Although I always enjoy reading 'Smear', I rarely get involved in the mud-slinging. However, I feel the need to add my pinch of shit to the pile this time.

"The MJ-12 document appearing in the last 'Smear' has got to be a hoax for all the reasons that were already stated by the other skeptics. But what gives it away to me, as a full-time political journalist, is the English and form used. To my knowledge, the date structure of day, followed by month and year, came into official government use only in the 1960s, to conform with standard NATO practice in Europe. The next 'clanker' is the word 'media'. This is a distinct creation of the 1980s, as an attempt by electronic news sources to grab, or at least share the spotlight with 'the press'. Indeed, in 1947, references would have been to 'the press' and not the 'media'. The same is true of the word 'utilize'. This is a product of 1970s 'New-Speak' that no English teacher in the '30s and '40s would ever have allowed in a classroom. The correct word was 'use', plain and simple, and still is!...."

We have suggested to Phil Klass that he read every book, magazine, and newspaper published before 1953, to see if the word "media" appears; but Klass has refused to cooperate in this simple experiment! - Editor.

Glorious Leader WALT ANDRUS of MUFON writes:

"Volume 34, No. 6 of 'Saucer Smear' was one of your best issues - congratulations. You provided insights into the controversial MJ-12 documents that will make people think. Your letter and response from Dr. Ernest Taves was quite revealing, since Dr. Menzel is unavailable...."

RILEY CRABB of far-off New Zealand writes as follows:

"...Also hilarious is Dr. Ernest Taves fulsome praise of the sterling character of Dr. Donald 'Quack Quack' Menzel. Hadn't heard of or thought of the professor's pontifical dismissal of the reality of Flying Saucers with his pseudo-scientific blatherings, most of which could be shot full of holes by any competent researcher. As I recall, he took the same line as Hynek - all Flying Saucer believers are either liars, dupes, or frauds. The fact that Menzel was in on some of the early government summaries such as the MJ-12 report makes him even more despicable!..."

(7)

STANTON FRIEDMAN of Nuclear Physics fame writes:

"I do not know why you think Taves' opinion about MJ-12 and Donald Menzel's involvement therein is worthy of respect when it fails to deal with the specific points made by me in my MUFON paper 'The Double Life of Donald Menzel' and in the 8 comments made in the covering material for the briefing document. Some questions one might ask are: What level of clearance did Taves have, and when? Did Menzel ever talk at length about highly classified matters to anyone not cleared for that information? Just how many people knew in detail of Menzel's postwar involvement with the NSA which we know (as a result of the FOIA lawsuit) is heavily involved in UFOs?...."

DENNIS STILLINGS of the semi-mysterious Archaeus Project writes:

"Keep the guns on MJ-12. It's just a matter of time until it goes down the toilet - along with American ufology - and you might as well get the credit as chronicler of the fiasco. I look at the perpetrator of the hoax as a mercy-killer, myself!...."

Contactee JENNINGS FREDERICK writes as follows:

"In regard to your postcard dated July 14th, I'll try to answer your questions concerning the MJ-12 documents:

"(1) Yes indeed, there was only one original MJ-12 document, marked 'one of one', but this was a ruse. What I saw were zerox copies of this MJ-12 and they were marked 'Top Secret'...."

"(2) As for my 'need to know' - I had a top secret security clearance, but I really didn't have a need to know. I stumbled onto this MJ-12 document solely by chance....and the ones who had it under their control did indeed have a 'need to know'. The area where this document was kept was in a 20 by 30 by 3 foot thick steel and concrete vault which was computer controlled and required four access codes...It was further guarded by guard dogs, armed guards with M-16s, and closed circuit TVs with armed scanning lasers, set to kill! So I only saw this document for about three minutes!...."

MIKE LINDNER, whom we recently met for the first time at the Fortean meeting in New York City, writes as follows:

"Thanks so much for the ether-shaking Aug. 4th issue of 'Smear'. It is always a red-letter day when a new 'Smear', the 'Roto-Rooter of Ufology', makes its way to my humble mailbox!

"Well, well, it seems this MJ-12 business just won't quit. While I would hesitate to be too dogmatic about anything in this wacky field, the view of my own three one-man organizations (Citizens Pretty Worried About UFO Secrecy; Citizens Unconcerned With UFO Secrecy; and Citizens in Favor of UFO Secrecy) is simple: A belief in the documents' authenticity requires a belief in this government's ability to keep a secret! And anyone old enough to tie his own shoelaces has (or should have) no illusions on that score. Just recently we've had ContraGate, the Walker spy mess, and the Moscow Embassy fiasco....Do Moore, Shandera and Friedman honestly believe that in 40 years no one spilled the beans on the biggest story of all times?? That not one of the pathologists who supposedly did the autopsies on the little creatures smuggled a skin sample out of the forensic lab to show a trusted colleague and say, 'Look what I've got!'...."

An excellent point! - Editor.

(See next page)

Freelance writer BOB PRATT, formerly of the National Enquirer, writes:

"....As for the MJ-12 document, I've doubted the authenticity of this ever since I first heard about it a couple of months back. It seems to wrap up so neatly in one package all the evidence needed to prove what so many have been saying for so many years...."

"Thanks for the plug for 'Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings', but I must say you wound me deeply by adding that line about cynics believing the sightings were caused by planes, etc. It sounds as if you have kissed the whole thing off, and I'm sure you'd never do that without taking a good close look at those events (and now you can, for a mere \$6.95)...."

BLAINE HAMRICK of the North Texas Regional Communications System, writes:

"....You should establish a 'celestial dating service' or something of the sort for us poor, lonely, though not altogether bad looking UFOlk. At least for your 'non-subscribers'. That way you could send out questionnaires containing such personal questions as, 'Are you attracted to web-footed aliens?' (I know someone who is!!) Then your employer, the CIA, could gain all sorts of useful information about us. Something to think about...."

"It was my impression from what I have read in 'Smear' that Molly Squire had dumped Mr. Erik Beckjord and gone on to greener pastures. Is it possible that she got back with him?? If so, then maybe she needs her own professional services!..."

Yes, she does! - Editor.

GERD HOVELMANN of West Germany writes commenting on your "Smear" editor's insistence on being considered an agnostic (not a skeptic or a Believer) regarding UFOs and other mysteries:

"...I wonder why you say that you have difficulties in getting your ideas re anomalies across to others. At least, I can assure you, you had no difficulties getting them across to me - but I realize that this may be because I wholeheartedly agree with what you say.

"Actually, I have had similar experiences talking to people in both the parapsychological and the skeptical camps. Apparently it is difficult for them to understand that it makes little difference to me whether there actually is something like a 'psi phenomenon', and that I am not committed to any particular interpretation of the results of parapsychological experiments. Therefore, it is always a pleasure to be in touch with 'middle-of-the-road' people such as yourself. Keep up the good work...."

MICHAEL A. MCKOWN writes:

"...I have found 'Saucer Smear' to be a refreshing change from the majority of UFO magazines which have a tendency to be overly serious about the subject and centered on the idea that they are doing a serious and scientific study.

"I do not believe that they know most scientific researchers do not follow the basics of the scientific method. The scientists I have talked to recently do not even know what the scientific method is. Most think it is coming up with a hypothesis; run some tests that do not work; modify the results of the tests to match up with the hypothesis; and then publish the results in a way that no one can understand what one was trying to prove anyway!"

Moseley earns redemption