

"What a waste it is to lose one's mind - or not to have a mind.
How true that is!"

- Vice President DAN QUAYLE, speaking at a luncheon for the United Negro College Fund, May 9th, 1989. (Our thanks to John Kohut of Washington, D.C. for this quote, which we were familiar with, but did not have the exact wording.)

DEDICATED TO THE HIGHEST PRINCIPLES OF UFOLOGICAL JOURNALISM

SAUCER SMEAR

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAUCER AND UNEXPLAINED CELESTIAL EVENTS RESEARCH SOCIETY

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NON-SCHEDULED NEWSLETTER

Volume 38, No. 4

May 1st, 1991

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When one writes a skeptical, highly independent & irreverent zine like "Smear", one inevitably makes enemies - sometimes deliberately, sometimes unintentionally. There are those who have called us the "National Enquirer" of ufology. Then there are those who just don't talk to us at all!

A few weeks back, we had a Phone Problem with famed UFO researcher John Keel, a man we continue to respect and admire in many ways. We had published his Fugo Balloon theory, and various readers then proceeded to shoot it down (notably Bill Moore and Jerry Clark) in their own zines. In the course of the above-mentioned phone conversation, Keel remarked that everyone in the UFO field is crazy. We replied that this must mean he is crazy too. This set Keel into a frenzy, and before hanging up he screamed that he is not in the UFO field and never has been. This seems odd, since he currently is president of the New York Fortean Society (composed mostly of ufologists) and writes a regular column for FATE Magazine!

The case of Phil Klass is much more complex. Some time in June (?) of last year, Klass phoned us - obviously very annoyed - and warned us specifically against libeling him in the next issue of "Smear". He never explained what libel he was anticipating, but our best guess is that someone informed him (quite erroneously) that we intended to name him as the person who "planted" the UFO model in Ed Walters' former home. To this very day we do not know whether the model was "planted" or not, but if it was, Klass would be the last person we would suspect - for various reasons.

We were annoyed by Klass' threat, and it gave rise to our highly negative remarks about him on Page 4 and the top of Page 5 in Vol. 37, No. 5 of "Smear" - an issue which we somehow neglected to date, but which should have been dated July 10th, 1990.

Anyhow - we recently phoned Klass, the above subject came up, Klass denied his earlier threat, became enraged, and started taping the conversation - claiming that he had never taped us before (as if we care!), but will always do so in the future. The other subject bothering Klass was our intention to keep after Al Seckel, the leading light of the Southern California Skeptics, a supposedly independent branch of CSICOP, with no legal connection at all with the parent organization.

In view of the fact that CSICOP has been named in multi-million-dollar lawsuits by Uri Geller and Dr. Eldon Byrd against, primarily, James Randi, it is understandable that CSICOP would be anxious to put a legal distance between itself as an organization and the actions of individual members and/or local affiliates. But Klass, apparently speaking for CSICOP at the same time as claiming he is not an official CSICOP spokesman, made it crystal clear that we may well be sued if we pursue the Seckel mat-

ter. Why? Because, in Klass' opinion, we have a lot of money. This alleged fact then gives us less freedom to pursue Truth than other people have? Actually, it is more likely the other way around!

Please read carefully the letters from George Hansen and Tom McIver in the Letters section of this issue. We are of the opinion that CSICOP, as the self-appointed watchdog of truth and morality in various off-beat fields, has a special obligation to keep its own house clean! Whether CSICOP is or is not legally responsible for Seckel's actions is a secondary matter in our opinion.

For many years we have enjoyed a very pleasant friendship with Phil Klass, which was upsetting to many of our ufological colleagues, and the cause of much criticism to the effect that we are in league with the CIA, the Devil, or worse. Most ufologists do not know that Klass is a charming, witty, and generally delightful person socially, at the same time that he is an utterly vicious antagonist against those with whom he disagrees. Our friendship with Klass went on the skids when we defended Ed Walters of Gulf Breeze against unfair criticism by Klass, Willy Smith, and others. Now that we have "attacked" Seckel, Klass is furious. So be it.

We expect to have more to say about Klass and Seckel in the next issue....

One of the high points of our recent western trip was a meeting with Jerrold Baker in Riverside, California. Baker, whom we met briefly once before back in 1953, was one of the main contributors to our famous (or infamous) expose on contactee George Adamski. At that time Baker's information was sent to us by mail, and this was the first time in all these years that we had the chance to sit down and really get to know this fascinating man, who is deeply into music, poetry, and many other talented areas.

The "Special Adamski Expose Issue" of our former publication, SAUCER NEWS, is now out of print; but we still have many other issues left of SAUCER NEWS (1954-1970), plus most back issues of "Saucer Smear" (1976 to the present). HOWEVER, all the SAUCER NEWS, plus all the "Smear" issues previous to 1983, are going into storage in a few weeks, and will no longer be available! Any of you interested in these, at a mere one dollar each, should let us know as soon as possible, or the opportunity will be lost. Make checks out to the editor, not to "Saucer Smear"....

Your editor had a delightful time at Tim Beckley's recent convention in San Diego, California (March 15th-17th), and as usual we don't even have Space to list all the approximately thirty speakers for you. At least 400 people attended, and Beckley made a nice profit on the affair.

Many people - especially Bill Moore and Hal Starr - have questioned

There is much confusion in the world today about what is true, and what is false. Many claim to have "THE TRUTH."



But all these people disagree about what is true and what is a lie... so where do we go to find the real truth?

FAR CORNER

VOLUME 1 of #4
THE WEIRDLOGICAL BULLETIN
"YOU NEVER CAN TELL..."

© 1991 Obscure Research Labs, PO Box 15266, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. Price 50¢; four-issue subscription \$2 (cash or stamps ONLY, please). On the other hand, if you sent something either mind-bendingly odd or useful, we'd probably trade...you know how it is. (FREE AD ↑)

Garage doors from space

The inhabitants of Irving, Calif., are a little edgy today, one week after the Great Garage Door Revolt, USA Today reports. Last Friday, hundreds of automated garage doors, apparently acting on their own authority, flapped open and shut. No one knows why. The military and Secret Service deny responsibility. Summarizing the complex scientific phenomenon in layman's terms, Federal Communications Commission official Michael Ritter said, "It's really strange."

Beckley's ethics, as well as our own good judgment in that we happily join in these New Age free-for-all. We say - let it all hang out! The UFO field has become more of a circus in recent years than ever before, in spite of the fact that a few new real-people-with-degrees have joined up at the other end of the spectrum. Who knows - there may be some Truth out there somewhere, and if so, one or more of Beckley's speakers may have a handle on it.

For instance, your humble editor gave a talk on the true story behind "The Wright Field Story", a UFO landing case we investigated back in 1954. We also gave an update on Ed Walters of Gulf Breeze. Our conclusion was/is that neither of these cases is provably true, and therefore they may be presumed to be untrue.

Dr. Frank Stranges (another highly controversial guy!) was master of ceremonies for the entire convention this time. Among the many other speakers was former Bigfootologist Erik Beckjord, who gave a very good slide presentation of his recent journey to England in search of crop circles - except that he added a bunch of highly speculative "translations" of what the circles and their appendages mean in the English language. Then there was Dr. Harley Byrd, an alleged nephew of Admiral Richard E. Byrd, who, folklore tells us, sailed to a warm land beyond the South Pole, i.e., into the Inner Earth. Contactee Mel Noel, whose real name is Guy Kirkwood, gave an interesting & highly amusing account of his ufological experiences while in the Air Force and afterwards. (Kirkwood is a fun guy whom we had a nice talk with at lunch one day during the Con.)

Most memorable of all was Bill Cooper, who is a fascinating speaker and has become something of a ufological star in recent years. Interestingly, he now states that perhaps all of the information he has seen and heard in regard to interplanetary invasion is disinformation! He believes that whether or not there really are aliens among us, our Government is intent on bringing about a "New World Order", in which the U.S. Bill of Rights will be suspended, in the interests of supposedly Higher Goals. As a "patriot" (or super-patriot?) Cooper vehemently opposes this. Many call Cooper a right-wing extremist, and we would not disagree with that assessment. His new book, "Behold a Pale Horse", contains a long chapter supposedly giving the complete text of the infamous "Protocols of the Wise Men of Zion", which has been known for several generations as an anti-Semitic forgery.

Our copy of "Behold a Pale Horse" contains an autograph by Cooper and the following inscription: "I sincerely enjoyed our conversation. I hope you enjoy this book. Your father would find it interesting". This is a reference to your editor's late father, Major General George Van Horn Moseley, who was a leader of the anti-Semitic, anti-British, pro-German movement in the United States in the 1930's, previous to World War II. Several ufologists have brought General Moseley's views to our attention in recent months, but we don't dare say a word about him here for fear Klass will get hold of the information!

But darst we tell you that Cooper's book is available for a mere \$20 from Light Technology Publishing (whatever that is), P.O. Box 1495, Sedona, Az. 86336.

Beckley's next conclave will be in Phoenix, Arizona, Sept. 6th-10th. Yes, four full days of madness this time! Your editor's topic there will be "Interdimensional Relationships Between Adjacent Universes as Perceived Thru a Multimedia Space-Time Continuum". Or something like that!....

They went . . .

... thataway! Tallest tale at last week's third Ozark UFO Conference in Eureka Springs, Ark., belongs to **Sandra Seotell**, who in all seriousness told the delegates she was gang-raped by a bunch of interplanetary aliens on the outskirts of Charlotte, N.C.

WAR DIMS HOPES FOR PEACE

Some years it seems there are more UFO conventions than sightings, but we do try to get around as much as possible. As just stated, we expect to attend Beckley's forthcoming conclave in Phoenix, and then of course we will be at our own annual NUFOC convention (National UFO Conference) in Cleveland, Ohio on September 13th and 14th. Other speakers in Cleveland include Antonio Huneus, Tim Beckley, Curt Sutherly, and maybe Ed Biebel. For details, write as soon as possible to United Aerial Phenomena Agency (UAPA), P.O. Box 347032, Cleveland, Ohio 44134....

Someone in the UFO field has slipped us a copy of a "confidential" letter written on Nov. 22nd, 1990 by researcher Robert Todd to lawyer Peter Gersten, who has stated publicly (and in "Smear") that he is on the trail of proof that the Roswell Incident did not involve an interplanetary craft. What we have here is a formerly secret project of the Army Air Force called PROJECT MOGUL, which involved the use of high-altitude balloons for complex research purposes. Todd's letter to Gersten, which contained several enclosures we do not have, was merely a preliminary report on his research, and since it was written several months ago, there may well be an update which we also do not have.

Two fascinating things emerge, however: There was a launch on July 3rd, 1947, almost the exact date of the Roswell Incident, involving "a ten-balloon cluster launched by the New York University team; payload less than fifty pounds; peak altitude 18,500 feet". This launch was made from Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico.

The second item of interest to us is the mention of a Major Edward Doty in connection with the project. This man may be related to the Bill Doty with whom Bill Moore has interacted in recent years! We have neglected to ask Moore about the possible Doty connection, but we did meet Moore in Los Angeles recently and spent a long and pleasant evening conversing with him. After returning to Florida we decided to mail Moore a copy of the PROJECT MOGUL document and to save time by including his comments herein. The following is quoted from a very recent letter to us from Bill Moore:

"Thanks for sending along the Todd-Gersten thing. Clearly their prime candidate for an 'alternative' Roswell explanation is Balloon Launch #8, a cluster of balloons and instrumentation launched July 3rd, 1947. Their argument seems based upon the fact that this particular launch was "never recovered". However, if you will read the highlighted portion of the enclosed document, you can see that it refers to the same launch....and that the additional information provided therein entirely destroys their hypothesis. The 'Tularosa Valley - a few miles northwest of Alamogordo' is a good 60-70 miles from the Roswell crash site, which in any case lies to the northeast, not northwest of where the balloons were launched.

"The thing that grinds me here is that these guys have spent so much time building this house of cards behind our backs, apparently with no other motive than to try to destroy our credibility with it. As I explained to you, their work simply repeats research I did on the same hypothesis a decade ago. Had Todd-Gersten simply come to us with their hypothesis and asked for our comments, we could have saved them a lot of trouble!..."

The Gulf Breeze sightings continue, and are still publicized locally. One evening in early April, Ed Walters and a group of MUFONites went out with triangulation equipment to watch a distant red UFO, and through their measurements were able to come upon a group in a K-Mart parking lot about five miles away, who had been watching the same object almost directly overhead!....

Among the many weird documents circulating in the UFO field these days are two written under the pseudonym of "O. H. Krill". From researcher Jerry Lucci we learn that the second Krill document, at least, is by none other than Al Bilek, a brilliant but extremely far-out gentleman whose specialty as

a lecturer is the Philadelphia Experiment. The title of this tract is: "A Series of Conducted Interviews - Orion Based Technology, Mind Control, and Other Secret Projects". Says Lucci: "Not only is this character out of his ever-loving mind, more importantly, most American researchers fit into the same category. For only in a climate that fosters total belief in any and all psychotic paranoid stories, could a paper like this find an audience".

The tract is available from UFO book-seller Bob Girard or possibly from John Grace at the Nevada Research Group, P.O. Box 81407, Las Vegas, Nv. 89180. Their address appears at the top of the first page.

An earlier (1988) "paper" by Krill entitled "A Situation Report on our Acquisition of Advanced Technology and Interaction with Alien Cultures" is in the same vein. However, Lucci believes this one is more likely by John Grace, Bill Cooper, Bill English, or "some combination of these three, with Grace as the chief suspect". Unfortunately, we do not have extra copies of these tracts to send around to our readers....

We are told that John Bigelow, a business partner of Bob Lazar, together with Prince Hans Adam von Liechtenstein (WOW!) have made a \$200,000 grant to Budd Hopkins for abduction research. The latter was also involved in funding for the TREAT series of conferences....

Mark Curtis, an ace reporter with WEAR-TV in Pensacola, Florida (very near Gulf Breeze) has been awarded the coveted (?) Responsibility in Journalism Award by CSICOP, the anti-everything organization. Curtis did a series of reports on Ed Walters' claims, and plans to publish a book shortly about his investigation. We told Mark that accepting the CSICOP award would be the "kiss of death" as far as his credibility among ufologists is concerned, but there are a lot more non-Believers out there in Book-Buying Land than hard-core saucerers. Actually, Mark Curtis has always seemed like a very fair-minded journalist to us, and we look forward to his book, due out this Fall....

Contactee Howard Menger wants our "Smear" readers to know that he has free photos & information about his current activities, which he will send to whoever writes to him at: P.O. Box 1405, Vero Beach, Fl. 32960. He also has advance copies of his new book "The High Bridge (N.J.) Incident" for twenty dollars each....

Our favorite mystery these days is the Crop Circles, whether or not they have anything to do with UFOs. As already mentioned, Erik Beckjord has jumped on the bandwagon. Jim Melesciuc of "Orbiter" doesn't seem to take them very seriously, but most researchers do. A fine new book is out on the subject, published by our olde Fortean pal David Fideler of Phanes Press. The book is called "Circular Evidence", by Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews, and sells for \$14.95 plus \$2.50 shipping & handling. "Smear" readers (and all others) can phone 800-678-0392 and charge it. Fideler writes us, facetiously, that John Keel insists the crop circles are caused by Fugo balloons!

YE OLDE MAIL BAG:

(with our usual apologies to all those whose letters Space did not allow us to publish!)

GEORGE HANSEN of Cranbury, N.J. writes:

"Mr. Al Seckel is a member of CSICOP and a founder of its local affiliate, the Southern California Skeptics (SCS). It now appears that he does not hold the academic degrees he claimed. This is especially ironic because CSICOP itself has purported to expose false claims and hoaxers. Indeed, this sort of debunking is a main thrust of CSICOP's public relations and media presence.

"Seckel has served as both Chairperson and Executive Director of the

Southern California Skeptics. The board members of this group have included Dr. Murray Gell-Mann, Nobel Laureate in physics; Dr. Paul MacCready, known as the 'Father of Human Powered Flight'; and James Randi, the magician.

"'Laser', the periodical of the SCS edited by Seckel, described him as a 'physicist, historian of science'. In another article he called himself 'a physicist and molecular biologist'....A number of newspapers and magazines reported Seckel as having a degree from Cornell University and as having done graduate work at Caltech. One can only surmise that the reporters received such information directly from Seckel himself. His picture appeared in 3 of the 5 articles.

"The claims of degrees are apparently untrue. A letter to Tom McIver from Gloria C. Howell, University Registrar of Cornell University, states: 'Al Seckel did not receive a degree from Cornell University'....and a note signed by Lisa R. Waitz of the Registrar's office of the California Institute of Technology reported that she was 'unable to verify the attendance of the above referenced person (Al Seckel).'

"The inside back cover of issues of CSICOP's 'Skeptical Inquirer' lists Seckel under 'Scientific and Technical Consultants'. According to the by-laws of CSICOP, this makes him an official member of the organization. Seckel has been a relatively high profile character within CSICOP. He has written three articles for 'Skeptical Inquirer'....and has served on CSICOP's 'College and University Lecture Series Subcommittee' along with Paul Kurtz, Ray Hyman, and Paul MacCready. His picture has appeared three times in the pages of 'Skeptical Inquirer'....Two of the photos were taken by Phil Klass; the third included Klass. Seckel has also edited a volume published by Prometheus Books, whose president is CSICOP chairman Paul Kurtz....Seckel served on a faith-healing investigation project with James Randi, and Randi served on the Board of the Southern California Skeptics. It is clear that the leadership of CSICOP has been well acquainted with Seckel for a long time.

"A number of CSICOP members have written books on con men, and we would expect these people to be especially astute in detecting deception....CSICOP should be encouraged to fully investigate this case and make its findings public. We would hope that the members will describe their experiences so that they can serve as a warning to the gullible...."

On the very same subject, TOM McIVER of Santa Monica, Ca. writes:

"Dear Supreme Commander:

"....My skeptical credentials: I have written two articles for 'Skeptical Inquirer', and a book which received a very favorable review in 'Nature'....I have just signed a contract with Univ. of Calif. Press for a book version of my UCLA doctoral dissertation.

"I worked with Seckel for awhile after he started the Southern Calif-



BROOKLYN BRIDGE,



ornia Skeptics (SCS), but came to realize that he was a charlatan interested primarily in self-promotion. Seckel has for years misrepresented his academic credentials, claiming he has a science degree from Cornell and was a doctoral candidate in 'relativistic astrophysics and molecular biology' at Caltech. In the scientific and skeptical community, this is a sin of the first magnitude, yet the silence from CSICOP, and from various reporters and others who have long touted Seckel's claims, has been deafening! Any ufologist, parapsychologist, or creationist making similar false claims would be mercilessly exposed as a fraud.

"Regarding financial matters, I have heard independent reports from former associates of Seckel's that he has improperly obtained tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars from SCS funds. It is a documented fact that he falsely claimed that donations to SCS were tax-exempt long after SCS lost its non-profit status. The financial charges are harder to document, since Seckel is the only person with direct knowledge of SCS financial matters; but numerous complaints have been filed with government agencies....

"As a loyal and enthusiastic CSICOP supporter, I found CSICOP's response - or rather lack of response - to this scandal bitterly disappointing. I complained about Seckel's false and misleading claims in letters to several SCS board members and CSICOP leaders in 1987 and 1988. Seckel's response was to threaten to sue me for libel and slander. (My reply to Seckel was that if he did, then evidence for my criticisms would become a matter of public record. That was the last I heard from him.)

"CSICOP continued to promote and endorse Seckel. To date, not a word of criticism has appeared in 'Skeptical Inquirer', where Seckel continues to be listed as a CSICOP 'scientific and technical consultant' in physics (and therefore an official CSICOP member). What happens to skepticism and free inquiry when it comes to evaluating Seckel's own claims? Intimidation, suppression, secrecy and cover-up! My latest mailings to CSICOP leaders, documenting his phony credentials, have gone unanswered, as have virtually all of my previous letters. After all the self-congratulatory promotional pieces in 'Skeptical Inquirer' written by and about Seckel and SCS, one would think that CSICOP would at least caution its supporters that Seckel has been making false claims and operating under false pretenses!"

Now, turning once again to the Roswell Incident, we have the following (and much more) from KEVIN RANDLE:

"Dear your Supremeness:

"I'm a little concerned about all those people out there deciding who major Roswell witnesses are and who are not. Especially those who haven't done any real research about Roswell. Gerald Anderson can't be considered a major witness on his say-so alone. He has provided no evidence that he was at the impact site. His information is at odds with that supplied by others whose participation has been demonstrated. Irving Newton...is not a major witness. He was in Ramey's office, identified the debris as the remains of a Rawin target balloon, and that's it. Johnson only saw the balloon in Ramey's office, talked only to Ramey, and did nothing else. His was a minor role at best...."

Nuclear Physicist - Lecturer STANTON FRIEDMAN writes:

"I surely hope you didn't choke on the kudos to me (in your last issue.) Thanks.

"Re Gerald Anderson: A key factor is that I got Gerald together with John Carpenter because of John's outstanding professional background as a



psychiatric social worker who was trained at the Menninger Clinic and has been using hypnosis for a decade. He had two long sessions with Gerald and accompanied him and Don Berliner and I and our sponsor out to the Barnett site in New Mexico. His professional judgment is that Gerald is telling the truth. The book by Don Berliner and I as well as my Chicago MUFON paper will detail a host of reasons for accepting both Gerald's testimony and the conclusion that there were two separate crash sites in New Mexico: (1) the Brazel site S.E. of Corona and (2) the Plains of San Augustin,.... about 160 miles west.

"I am sorry to see that the almost immediate and apparently mutual antagonism between Kevin Randle and Gerald has gotten in the way of Kevin's judgment about the location of the Barnett-Anderson crash site and the legitimacy of the diary...."

MIKE TALPAS, of the Talpas Office of Special Investigations (T.O.S.I.) writes as follows:

"...I must advise you that it would be prudent to take anything said by Kevin Randle with a large block of salt, for the following reason: If you read the 'October Scenario', by Captain Kevin Randle (1988, Berkley Books), you will read that 'Captain' Randle, while in the USAF, served as an intelligence officer. I am extremely skeptical of anyone in this UFO field who claims to be an ex-intelligence officer. You should be, too...."

CHRISTOPHER ALLAN writes:

"A brief response to Donald Schmitt: I eagerly look forward to his book. I suggest that he arranges for a copy to be sent to every member of Congress, just like NICAP did with their 'UFO Evidence' in 1964. I suggest also that he brings it to the attention of the AAAS and the National Academy of Sciences as soon as possible. After all, he (and CUFOS) have stated all along that it is time to get both Congress and the scientific establishment to wake up and take notice of the greatest 'ultimate secret' story of all time...."

"I think you have said enough about Roswell in your recent 'Smear' for readers to now see that the case is falling apart. There is no need for me to elaborate further. The case will die of self-strangulation!

"Yes I did, once upon a time long ago, believe in Adamski. All that shows is that I am wiser today than I was yesterday. This could apply to a great many ufologists. In Don Schmitt's case perhaps he will be wiser tomorrow than he is today.

"By the way, if you really want to know the identity of the Roswell UFO, look at the FBI telex of July 8th, 1947. It is there in plain English (or is it plain American?)...."

JERRY LUCCI writes as follows:

"...I think that the space and time you are giving to the Roswell Incident is not only timely but extremely important. If the Roswell Incident could be proved beyond a shadow of a doubt to have a terrestrial explanation it would rewrite the course of thinking and research of UFOs forever. It would effectively end the rantings and ravings of the lunatic fringe and send all of the conspiracy buffs home to cry on top of their Warren Reports. To that end, I propose that 'Smear' offers some sort of incentive to the researcher who can provide indisputable proof one way or the other...."

Finally, BILL RETOFF writes:

"...I just finished reading an interesting little book called 'Japan's World War II Balloon Bomb Attacks on North America'....It is a chronology of 'incidents' where Japanese balloons/equipment/bombs/fragments were sighted and/or recovered on American soil. There were 285 such incidents recorded, the final two occurring on July 20th, 1945...."