

# The Washington Post

## Weather

**Today:** Partly sunny, cool, shower.  
Wind 6-12 mph. High 64. Low 42.  
**Wednesday:** Sunny to partly  
cloudy. High 68. Wind 6-12 mph.  
**Yesterday:** Temp. range: 44-61.  
AQI: 40. Details on Page B2.

115TH YEAR ... No. 145

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 1992

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## Hoaxers and Frauds Abound in UFO Field

*Brazen Con Artists Prey On Believers and Skeptics Alike*

I. Gotha  
Washington Post Staff Writer

James W. Moseley, an active UFO researcher turned UFO "guru", is the target of a recently established Federal investigation into fraud, corruption and smuggling. Speaking off the record, informed sources in the Justice Department said Moseley, who has written two books on the subject of UFOs, is suspected of running one of the nation's longest running confidence rackets.

Speaking anonymously, one Justice Department official referred to Moseley as "the sleaziest of the sleazy". "He's been passing himself off as an authority on the UFO subject for years, when in fact, his mental faculties are no greater than a small household appliance bulb," said another Justice Department official. Investigators say they are certain that Moseley's vicarious, jet setting lifestyle has been bought

and paid for by both gullible UFO believers and anti-UFO skeptics. But for years Federal authorities have been unable to figure out the mechanics of Moseley's con game.

Now, however, investigators have reason to believe that Moseley's luck has run out. For many years Moseley has distributed a newsletter that has served as an open forum for UFO believers and skeptics alike. Until recently, Moseley's newsletter, *Saucer Smear*, was distributed at no cost to its readers. But in recent months Moseley has applied subtle, yet unmistakable pressure on subscribers to offer cash donations to be kept on Saucer Smear's distribution list. His solicitation for donations might lead to his downfall. "The greedy SOB just went too damn far. He crossed the line", said one special prosecutor assigned to the investigation.

See **HOAXERS** - page A-9



James Moseley's vicarious lifestyle is under careful scrutiny. Some Justice Department officials think Moseley's luck has just about run out.

## HALLELUJAH, O LORDE, WE HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT!

On the evening of May 10th, your fearless editor joined the Pensacola, Florida MUFON "hard core" and others, at their "summer location" for viewing UFOs. This location is actually a large parking lot at the south end of the Pensacola Bridge, which joins Pensacola with the now-famous bedroom community of Gulf Breeze.

At least 30 or 40 of the Faithful were present, many with cameras, spot lights, folding chairs, and other necessities for the nightly vigil. We were told that the UFO, affectionately nicknamed "Bubba", can come from any direction and can have any sequence of lights, though red to white is the most common. 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. is the most frequent viewing time, probably because most people have to leave by 10 p.m. or so, to get to bed.

Well, sure enough, at a little after 9, a bright red light appeared from the east, and gradually moved closer till it was nearly overhead - but at a considerable altitude of possibly one or two miles. The red light was actually composed of several (some said eight) small red lights. There was no noise and no abrupt motion, but interestingly, at one point a small white light dropped off it at a 45 degree angle downward, and then disappeared. We were told that this sort of thing is a common occurrence with "Bubba".

After three minutes or so, a lady standing next to your editor in the crowd remarked, "A lot of times it turns white about now." As she said this we turned from looking at her to looking again at the light, and at that instant it turned white! It then flared up suddenly until it appeared very large indeed, and then gradually faded out completely. We are told that this sighting - one of the best this year - lasted a total of 3 minutes and 50 seconds.

The next day we watched a video tape of this sighting and several others, at the home of MUFONite Bruce Morrison and his wife. They are perhaps the hardest of the hard core, as they go out to the viewing area almost every night, and are rewarded on the average of about twice a week for their efforts.

What do these people hope to accomplish by seeing essentially the same thing over and over? "To learn what it really is," says Morrison; and then there is the hope of eventual communication and (though no one says so) abduction.

Non-Believers such as Mark Curtis and Rex Salisbury, whom we interviewed at length, feel that "Bubba" is probably a flare of some sort; and this, in our humble opinion, is the most logical solution to the mystery. But we returned to the viewing area two other nights, on one of which the Coast Guard supposedly sent up flares at MUFON's request. These were weak little lights near the horizon, and could not possibly be mistaken for "Bubba". (See also Mark Curtis' letter to the editor in this issue.)

While in the Gulf Breeze area, we attended a monthly MUFON meeting, along with about 100 other people. Recent TV publicity about UFOs has increased the attendance at these meetings, as well as at the viewing area. That night's speaker was Ed Komarek of Thomasville, Georgia, a rising star in the MUFON hierarchy, and sponsor of this year's glorious forthcoming National UFO Conference (NUFOC) in Tallahassee, Fl. Komarek mainly showed slides of his recent trip to Russia, where he hung out with various Russian ufologists.

The Big Rumor in Gulf Breeze when we were there (a rumor given to us by crafty old Phil Klass) was that "Mr. Ed" Walters and his wife Francis - mother of their two teen-aged children - were about to get a divorce. Imagine poor Ed - convicted of forgery many years ago, pardoned recently by the Governor of Florida - but now this - divorce! Moral purist Phil Klass was licking his chops, but alas, it appears that the couple have changed their minds and reconciled. We had dinner with Ed & Francis one night, and they seemed in good spirits. Ed is back to building houses locally "on speculation". We also ran into the couple at the MUFON meeting and at the viewing site.

Ed refuses to lead the pack of local MUFONites as he well could do, but



ABOVE: A smiling Ed Walters and wife Francis pose for our camera. Note the presence of at least two semi-mysterious lights in the background. Wheeee!

## Andrus lambastes plan to move N-lab

By BOB FICK  
The Associated Press

he does hang out with them, because, to him and to them (but not to us), every sighting of "Bubba" is a confirmation of the authenticity of the controversial UFO photographs in his recent book.

All we can say for sure about "Bubba" is that it is obviously there to be seen by the people who want to see it. Be it flare, spaceship, or inter-dimensional time-travellers, the intelligence behind the light wants us earthlings to know it is up there, - for what purpose, we do not know. Stay tuned!....

#### A PROFESSIONAL CRITIQUE OF CSICOP:

George Hansen, a New Jersey parapsychologist who has followed CSICOP (Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal) almost from its inception, has written a 60-page scholarly critique of this esteemed organization. The article, entitled "CSICOP and the Skeptics: An Overview", appeared in The Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research for January, 1992. (Available in full for \$3.50 postpaid from Tom Benson, P.O. Box 1174, Trenton, N.J. 08606.) When we saw four references to "Moseley", our former editor, in the list of references, we knew this treatise must be nothing less than an Inspired Work!

Under the categories of "Legal Concerns" and "Conclusions" (Pages 50-51) Hansen writes as follows. We quote him almost verbatim, but for simplicity we have omitted the references, including (modestly!) one reference to ourselves:

One of the problems that will confront CSICOP for some time to come is the issue of libel. This problem first emerged with the local affiliates. The cofounder of the Northwest Skeptics, John Merrell, sent press packages to news agencies claiming that psychic Noreen Renier was misleading the public with fraudulent claims. Renier sued and won a judgment of \$25,000. In 1986, Gharith Pendragon began a battle with the Hawaii Skeptics. He alleged that he lost teaching positions because of pressure the Hawaii Skeptics brought to bear. This led to a publicized legal fight, and CSICOP was named in the suit. It was ultimately settled in CSICOP's favor, but it undoubtedly cost the Committee considerable time and money. Shortly after the beginning of the Pendragon battle, CSICOP attempted to distance itself somewhat from the local groups and no longer referred to them as affiliates.

But it is not only statements by the local groups that have caused problems. James Randi's statements have drawn fire. In an interview for "Twilight Zone Magazine" (Winter, 1988) and at a meeting of the New York Area Skeptics, Randi claimed that Eldon Byrd, a friend of Uri Geller, was a child molester and in prison. The "New York Skeptic" later admitted this was untrue, but Byrd sued, naming CSICOP as one of the defendants. Randi also claimed that Geller had launched a blackmail campaign against him, and Geller also filed a number of suits against Randi and CSICOP. This led to Randi's resignation from the Committee to avoid its being named in subsequent suits. Several newsletters published an appeal from Randi (1991) that said, "I'm in trouble, folks. I need help." The battle attracted wide media attention, including the "Wall Street Journal" and "Scientific American". Whatever the outcomes, these legal battles will undoubtedly prove costly, and according to Mike Sullivan of the North Texas Skeptics, "Paul Kurtz warned at the 1991 convention in May that the Committee may not be around for the next annual convention" because of financial problems....

CSICOP has exerted enormous effort and mobilized considerable resources in its battle against the paranormal. Some of the leaders have devoted much of their professional careers to the cause. Their strenuous activity attests to the Committee's belief in the importance of the truth or falsity of parapsychological claims and their significance for mankind.

Although recognizing the importance of the paranormal, CSICOP elected not to conduct scientific research, but rather it has undertaken an extended public relations campaign. The Committee actively attempts to influence the



media, and it has complained to the FCC under the Fairness Doctrine. CSICOP seeks endorsements from scientific luminaries, despite the fact that few, if any, of these luminaries have ever published scientific research on the paranormal. CSICOP has also fostered a grass roots movement that assists it in influencing popular opinion. These activities display more parallels with political campaigns than with scientific endeavors.

CSICOP's message has often been well received, particularly among scientific leaders. The growth of CSICOP, the circulation figures of *Skeptical Inquirer*, and the academic credentials of its readership prove that there is wide interest in the paranormal among the most highly educated members of our society. Many readers of *Skeptical Inquirer* undoubtedly assume that CSICOP presents the best available scientific evidence. The readers are rarely told of the existence of referred scientific journals that cover parapsychology. The effect of CSICOP's activities is to create a climate of hostility toward the investigation of paranormal claims; indeed, at one CSICOP conference, the announcement of the closing of several parapsychology laboratories was greeted with cheers.

Surveys show that over half the adult population in the U.S. have had psychic experiences and believe in the reality of the phenomena. Those who have had the experiences but encounter the debunking attitudes of apparent "scientific authorities" are likely to conclude that science is a dogma and inapplicable to important aspects of their lives. Jacques Vallee has suggested that debunkers "are among the primary contributors to the rejection of science by the public" and are "contributing to the growth of irrational movements in modern society". Ironically, CSICOP's activities will likely inhibit scientific research on the paranormal and might potentially foster an increased rejection of science generally.

#### TIDBITS OF TRASH:

One of our fans in the Washington, D.C. area recently sent us the Gem at the top of Page One of this issue. If we weren't so lazy, we could easily figure out who this unique contributor is; but rather than bother, we'll just say - WHOEVER YOU ARE - take a well-deserved bow, and we hope you rip open your pants, you cunning so-and-so....And, speaking of Greed, let us seize this opportunity to remind you-all that back issues of "Smear" are still available for a mere one dollar each. Also, our ghost-written book "UFO Crash Secrets at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base" is available for \$12 per copy (reduced from \$15). Make checks payable to James Moseley, not "Saucer Smear" or OISEAU. (OISEAU is a crook!) Address: P.O. Box 1709, Key West, Fl. 33041....Hottest rumor of the month is that the CUFOS investigative team which recently re-examined the Roswell, N.M. UFO crash site, found some of the original 1947 debris that had been deliberately buried in concrete nearby. CUFOS is now awaiting the results of a lab analysis of this debris. A high CUFOS spokesman, when told about this rumor, had no comment. When this story breaks, just remember you read about it here first!...

Our arch-enemy Bill Knell, formerly head of something called "Island

Skywatch", now publishes a pathetic little newsletter appropriately called "Bill Knell's UFO Newsletter". Knell, whose death threats against Moseley were published in the April 15th "Smear", has isolated himself from all elements of organized ufology, and seems doomed to continue his fantastic ego trip alone!...Dan Wright, a deputy director of MUFON, has resigned in anger from that esteemed organization, due to a long-simmering feud with Shirley and George Coyne, who are also "wheels" in that same organization. The dispute centers around whether or not MUFON officials should or should not be required to share confidential abduction/hypnosis material with the MUFON head office, for statistical analysis, etc....Veteran cattle mutilation researcher Tom Adams (former husband of abductee Christa Tilton) has come out with a revised edition of his 1980 book called "The Choppers - and the Choppers: Mystery Helicopters and Animal Mutilations". Adams' point is that mysterious unmarked helicopters are often seen in the vicinity of mutilation sites, and thus there may well be a link between the two phenomena. Published by Project Sigma, P.O. Box 1094, Paris, Texas 75461....

#### MISCELLANEOUS RAVINGS:

We have been criticized for linking Rima Laibow and TREAT IV with PSI-TECH, the outfit that charges Big Bucks for "Remote Viewing", which is a form of clairvoyance. However, the truth is that Major General Albert Stubblebine, the Chairman of the Board of PSI-TECH, is a very close personal friend of Rima's, and he was one of the main speakers at TREAT IV. Another important speaker was Ed Dames, President of PSI-TECH.

It seems that nothing about the cost of "Remote Viewing" is in PSI-TECH's literature, but through research we have learned the following: A two week, 8 session course costs \$2,000, but is not guaranteed to make one an expert. Or, one can "rent" PSI-TECH's six trained Remote Viewing experts for one week, for \$6,000. Nearly 100% accuracy is claimed for the results obtained by these supposed experts.

The PSI-TECH literature explains their aims and performance in high-sounding technical phrases, but it all boils down to clairvoyance - the psychic ability to transcend the normal limitations of time and space. This skill (?) can be applied to UFO research or to anything else.

Stay tuned, because we will have more to say in future issues about all this....

This year's most intriguing saucer convention will be hosted by Tim Beckley on the weekend of July 17th-19th at the Little A'le'inn (get the name??), a tiny 7-room motel in an isolated desert town called Rachel, Nevada. The nearest other motel is 40 or 50 miles away! Purpose of the convention: To get as close as possible to the dreaded "Area 51" UFO viewing area nearby. Leader of this expedition will be William ("Wild Bill") Cooper, America's most talked-about UFO personality. Wish we could be there. If you have the nerve to go, phone Beckley for details, at 212-685-4080 in New York City....

Your editor will attend the annual MUFON convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico the previous weekend, and of course we hope to meet many of our non-subscribers at this year's National UFO Conference, which will take place in Tallahassee, Florida on Oct. 24th-25th. For details about the NUFON, write to us or to local host Ed Komarek, Rt. 3, Box 1076, Thomasville, Ga. 31792...

Pat Marcattilio's flying saucer library and museum, consisting of nearly a thousand bound volumes on the UFO subject, can now be seen at his home at 202-B Wert Ave., Trenton, N.J. 08610. Attempts to find a permanent location in Florida for the collection have failed to far. Get details from Marcattilio by phoning 609-888-1358, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. only. Incidentally, Marcattilio will be hosting next year's annual National UFO Conference, and in 1994 the convention will return once again to Cleveland, Ohio, the city where the organization was founded, way back in 1964.

No more Space, Man!....

MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES:

PHYLLIS GALDE, Managing Editor of FATE Magazine, writes as follows:

"...Your 'Saucer Smear' is much appreciated here at FATE - a voice of reason crying in the wilderness.

"Stay well and keep writing! When are you coming up to the Twin Cities again to harass Dennis Stillings? He needs some tail twisting..."

Famed writer & lecturer ROBERT ANTON WILSON writes:

"Dear Oiseau:

"My new code name is 'Vogel'.

"Last two issues (of 'Smear') excellent, as usual. Sorry Bob Sheaffer was not represented, however; an issue of 'Saucer Smear' without him seems like a Three Stooges comedy without Moe.

"So you became 60 last August, eh? I became 60 in January. Strange damned age to be. I don't feel any older than I ever have, but the sheer power of Number Magic has me looking at myself suspiciously all the time, wondering if any of the symptoms of Alzheimer's or Old Fartism or similar dread conditions have appeared yet. Nope; I still think (and behave) like a juvenile delinquent most of the time. I'll let you know when I start metamorphizing into a senile delinquent, so you can nominate me for President, or Senator at least.

"For God's sake, vote for Perot in November. Otherwise, he'll just send in his own commandos to seize the White House and the whole country will go up like Los Angeles!"

Space expert & CSICOP enthusiast JIM OBERG writes:

"As always, a carnal pleasure to hold 'Smear' in my hands. (Your brand of ink drives me wild.)

"...Congratulations on scooping NBC's roving correspondent Fred Francis as he filmed secret flying vehicles from mountains near a super-secret military base ('Area 51' - Ed.) The low-light video was aired April 20th. I just by purest chance had my TV tuned in. This is a genuinely unidentified flying object - with a small-u, small-f, small-o.

"I've recently had some evil jollies in squashing like cockroaches a new batch of Russian UFOs brought out in Jacques Vallee's latest book. The connection with misperceived Soviet space & missile activity is clearcut & direct, but Vallee just won't open his eyes. In the Sept. 1982 MUFON UFO Journal I published the definitive debunking of the USSR Academy of Sciences report on the 1967 crescent-UFO wave, but Vallee never seems to have seen my debunkery and swallows the garbage enthusiastically...."

MARK CURTIS of WEAR-TV in Pensacola, Florida, writes as follows:

"I enjoyed seeing you again on your recent trip to Gulf Breeze. A couple of items of interest surfaced after you left, and I thought you might want to include them in your G.B. follow up.

"I received a letter from the executive assistant to the head of mini-series and movie production for ABC Television in Hollywood. They have advised me there will be no ABC mini-series on the 'Gulf Breeze Sightings' by Ed and Frances Walters! In their words they 'have abandoned the project for creative concerns'. Translated into English, that means they aren't doing a movie on Ed's book!

"Also, on Monday May 18th, 1992, a crew from KHOU-TV, the CBS affiliate in Houston, videotaped another famed 'red light' from Shoreline Park in

# Alien Sex Fiend just has fun

Gulf Breeze. Close-up shots of the light show smoke trailing off of it, as well as some particles falling off. (This was when the object split into two lights and turned bright white!) The conclusion of most people I know observing it (except for MUFON), was that it was a flare! I mean the smoke was clearly visible at close-up range! WKRG-TV, the local CBS affiliate, reported that it appeared to be a 'parachute flare', like the ones used by the Air Force...."

At this point in typing up the issue, we received a form letter from the "CSICOP Legal Defense Fund", asking urgently for donations. No Space to print their letter in this issue, but briefly, we have NO sympathy for them! They brought their predicament on themselves, in our humble opinion!

Famed researcher BILL MOORE, head of the entire aviary, writes:

"...The Fair-Witness Project had to suspend operations for a few months due to a series of personal tragedies in my life, but should be fully operational again by mid-June if not sooner. We recently rented a small office in Hollywood and are busy moving files, books, etc. I will continue to use the Burbank address as always, and hope to have a phone installed within the next few weeks...."

"Meanwhile, as long as the Spirit of Lord Calvert continues to channel alien wisdom through Beckjord, Beckley, Cooper and Lear, and as long as the toll of your death Knell can be traced to an insignificant ding-a-ling and a dischordant 'bong', you should rest assured that Ufology is in good hands!"

Ace nuclear physicist STANTON FRIEDMAN writes as follows:

"It may be that Jerry Lucci (May 5th 'Saucer Smear') is unbiased about Roswell. Unfortunately, he is also uninformed.

"(1) It is NOT true that Gerald Anderson suddenly after 40 years recalled the crash event. It had been talked about amongst the family for decades. But he, like essentially everybody who phoned 'Unsolved Mysteries', had not been aware that the story was out. Nobody who called mentioned 'The Roswell Incident' by Berlitz and Moore (1980), not surprising in view of the low sales.

"I accept Anderson's story because I spent days with him; because what we found in New Mexico matched what he had described and testimony of others; because he had completely independently from Glenn Dennis told me about a nasty red-haired officer and a black sergeant and other details; because he is a police officer with a good reputation; because John Carpenter, who also spent days with him and is a mental health professional, has expressed his strong support; and for a lot more reasons, including his passing a polygraph examination. Much of this is described in my 1991 MUFON Paper, 'Update on Crashed Saucers in New Mexico', \$4 postpaid from UFORI, P.O. Box 958, Houlton, Me. 04730. Where did Lucci get the strange idea the event was suddenly recalled? Many more details are in 'Crash at Corona'...."

Whereas CAPTAIN KEVIN RANDLE writes:

"...Friedman continues to support the Gerald Anderson story in the face of great contradictions. How does he explain, for example, that Anderson told him that he knew the red-haired officer's name was Armstrong because his father told him, because he couldn't read at age six. Later, he told John Carpenter that he knew the officer's name was Armstrong because he read his nametag. Anderson said, 'I could read at six...I was very good at six.' Which is it? Could he read at six or not?"

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"...Anderson's claim that the events took place at Horse Springs is in direct conflict with the story told by friends of Barnett, in direct conflict with the diary Anderson submitted, and is in direct conflict with what Anderson told me originally.

"You want more? How about Dr. Winfred Buskirk, who Anderson identified as the leader of the archaeologists at the scene. Dr. Buskirk said he wasn't there. One of the two is not telling the truth. Anderson said Buskirk was from the University of Pennsylvania, but Buskirk was working out of the University of New Mexico. Buskirk taught at the Albuquerque High School in 1957 where Anderson was a student. The reasonable person will see that having both of them at the same high school at the same time draws a connection between them ten years after the events. Friedman wants them in the same classroom, and there is evidence that Anderson took a class from Buskirk.

"I bring all this up because of claims made by Friedman....When confronted with evidence that he doesn't want to see, Friedman ignores it and then attacks the credibility of those who found the evidence. Wouldn't his time be better spent searching for the truth rather than attacking those who are also in the search for truth?...."

ERIK ("GASHAWK") BECKJORD writes as follows:

"Lest your readers decide I am prone to do physical fighting at conventions, let me point out that I engaged in only verbal battle with Ed Dames ('won't give names'), C.E.O. of PSI-TECH, a favorite of TREAT who asks for \$2,000 per course in Remote Viewing. Could Remote Viewing rhyme with remote screwing?....

"Re UFO EXPO WEST, which I also attended: Well-meaning 'Dr.' Harley Byrd revealed that his 'doctorate' is actually a 'Doctor of Metaphysics', given him as an honorary degree by the Press Club of Los Angeles, a well-known academic institution....Another 'Dr.' is 'Dr.' Fred Bell, HMD, which stands for Doctor of Homeopathic Medicine, and not a doctor of physics, which everyone assumes falsely that he has....These men should avoid the trap of false doctors like 'Dr.' Williard McIntyre of defunct MARCEN fame, and other fake doctors...."

CSICOP member TOM McIVER writes:

"...Klass accuses me of conspiring with Beckjord to defame Al Seckel and refuses to believe I've never met or spoken with Beckjord. I tried explaining to Klass that the reason different people are making the same charges against Seckel is not that they are conspiring together, but that the charges are true!....

"The next time you have a chat with your Close Personal Friend Uri Geller, feel free to mention to him that I have lots of documentation concerning CSICOP's intimate associations with a known charlatan (Seckel). Seckel was elected an official CSICOP member, and Kurtz was largely responsible for putting and maintaining him in power as leader of the Southern California Skeptics, during which time Seckel allegedly defrauded 'skeptics' and scientists out of many thousands of dollars. James Randi was a Board Member of Seckel's Southern California Skeptics.

"Regarding psychic abilities - I've always been on Randi's side rather than Geller's - but libel about personal matters is a different question. I liked your lawyer's response to the Kansas City lawyer hired by Randi."

### **British scientist unleashes extraterrestrial menace**

LONDON, Dec. 3: The British scientific community is outraged at the suggestion that one of their number has revived a menace that could endanger the entire planet Earth.

The Weird Happenings Organisation (WHO) released proof that Dr. Jonothan Cayre

**T**HE chance you could be killed by an asteroid slamming into the Earth is more than triple the chance you could be killed in a plane crash—one in 20,000, compared with one in 6,000. Those probabilities come from NASA, where astronomers say the Earth will eventually be destroyed by an asteroid. "The Earth is certain to be hit."