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SAUCER SMEAR

**SHOCKINGLY
CLOSE TO
THE TRUTH!**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAUCER & UNEXPLAINED CELESTIAL EVENTS RESEARCH SOCIETY

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RANDI AND CSICOP WANT OUR MONEY - BUT DO THEY DESERVE IT?

As mentioned previously, we have now received two letters, over a period of several months, from a Kansas City lawyer representing James ("The Amusing") Randi, threatening us with a lawsuit if we don't send \$10,000 or \$20,000, respectively, within a few days. We declined both offers, and continue to insist on our right of free speech, under the U.S. Constitution.

Now we have received "An Urgent Message from the CSICOP Legal Defense Fund", asking for money but not demanding it. CSICOP, of course, is the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, from which Randi recently resigned under pressure. Phil Klass is another of CSICOP's loudest spokesmen.

CSICOP's fund-raising letter reads in part:

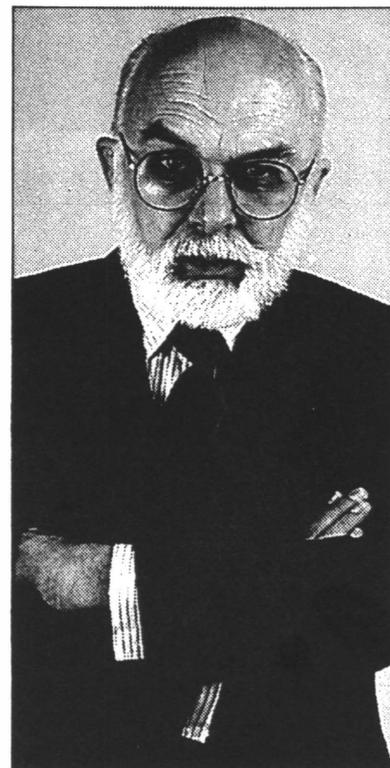
Dear Friend:

We refuse to be silenced. We will not cave in to our critics. We have a vital role to play in promoting rationality and the appreciation of science. But we can only fulfill our mission if you stand behind us and give us your help.

In the Winter 1992 issue of the "Skeptical Inquirer," we outlined the difficulties the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal is experiencing because of harassing lawsuits filed against skeptics....The suits against CSICOP are totally without merit. We feel confident that they will eventually be dismissed. Still, we suspect that the lawsuits were brought for reasons other than the redress of alleged grievances.

For what do these suits mean? They mean that the pro-paranormalists think they have finally found a way to strike below the belt of scientists and skeptics. For years they have been unable to prove their claims of miraculous abilities. They've grown tired of hearing our challenges. Now they have turned to intimidation by lawsuit in an effort to silence their only persistent critics....

Don't allow them to destroy CSICOP (and the values of science and reason it steadfastly represents) through unjust and frivolous legal proceed-



● **AMAZING RANDI** has made a career of debunking psychics

ings. Support the CSICOP Legal Defense Foundation today. It's the best way to blunt this frightening new weapon being wielded by the apostles of nonsense. (End of quote.)

An excellent response to the CSICOP position appears in the March-April issue of "International UFO Reporter", written by its editor, Jerry Clark. Jerry and your "Smear" editor have disagreed on many subjects at many times, including about the merits of CSICOP as a counter-balance to ufological and parapsychological nonsense. But at this stage of the game, we cannot help but agree with him 100% in his remarks, which we quote below in part:

In case you didn't know it, CSICOP, aka "the lone voice defending rationality" (Chairman Paul Kurtz, "Skeptical Inquirer", Winter 1992, page 117) - is in dire straits these days, at the receiving end of a series of lawsuits filed by Uri Geller. Depending on your point of view, Geller is the most remarkable psychic of his generation or a charismatic sleight-of-hand artist. CUFOS and IUR are not required to have an opinion, or even frankly to care very much, about which of these more accurately characterizes Geller.

CSICOP, of course, has always cared deeply, to the point of obsession, about Geller's method of bending spoons, and managed to elevate a question which ought to be of interest only to parapsychologists and magicians into an issue sufficiently threatening to demand both the urgent attention of Western civilization and the rapid infusion of as much cash as you can spare into CSICOP's bank account. CSICOP long ago eschewed "scientific investigation" for itself ("Skeptical Inquirer", Spring 1982, page 9), though retaining its middle name so as to continue to wow the rubes - CSICOP's use of "scientific" is as calculated as the Moral Majority's is of "moral" - but it just as long ago demonstrated that what it lacks in scientific seriousnessit more than compensates for in its extraordinary ability to promote itself and to maintain a fat bank balance.

Currently, even as Chairman Kurtz frets that the Lone Voice Defending Rationality may be stilled (thus necessitating a new round of fund-raising letters), CSICOP is busily hustling millions to construct a huge Center for Inquiry from which CSICOP, "Skeptical Inquirer", and related heresy-bashing entrepreneurial enterprises will be able to combat the irrational hordes in space and comfort - all the while keeping up the pretense that they are displaying immense courage and making enormous sacrifices against vastly superior forces.

This is what the experts call a "rhetorical strategy". In the real world, of course, the odds are stacked hugely in CSICOP's favor. Most magazine and newspaper articles on CSICOP read like press releases; and "Science", the "New York Review of Books", "Nature", "Scientific American", "Science News", "Time", "Washington Post", and practically every other elite organ hold the line, which is that any sympathetic consideration of anomalous phenomena, however cautious, is pseudoscientific by definition. Few of the authors of any of these have ever heard of the "Journal of UFO Studies", the "Journal of Parapsychology", the "Journal of Scientific Exploration", or "Cryptozoology" - all sober, referred scientific periodicals - and CSICOP is not about to enlighten them....

One did not have to be a psychic to predict that eventually CSICOP would get into serious legal trouble, given the extravagance and recklessness of its rhetoric, about which even CSICOP Fellow and founder Ray Hyman - though no other significant figure within the leadership - has complained on occasion. Hyman once remarked to me on a "frightening fundamentalism" he had seen in the debunking ranks. Until its recent crisis CSICOP evinced little interest in moderation in speech or print. The one exception involved the quick squelching of a nobody who circulated a letter which, purporting to speak in CSICOP's name, sought to organize those who wanted to "get dirty" against "those who have no demonstrated facility to reason". In this instance Kurtz sternly admonished the nobody to cease and desist.

But when somebodies - in other words, debunkers with names, public as-

sociations with CSICOP, and publishing contracts with the Kurtz-headed Prometheus Books - have indulged in rhetoric hardly less goofy, Kurtz has been the soul of tolerance. In one of debunking's more hilarious moments, Klass pronounced ufology virtually tantamount to Communism. Speaking over the phone to an astonished University of Nebraska administrator, he declared that "as a patriotic American I very much resent" ufologists' cover-up charges against the U.S. government. In making such charges, he reasoned (if that verb applies here), ufologists "seek what the Soviet Union does - to convey to the public that our government cannot be trusted"....

For CSICOP it is not enough to say that those with whom it disagrees are wrong. It must also depict them as loathsome human beings. In the eyes of this Shiite-skeptic sect, proponents of anomalies and the paranormal are agents of the Great Satan of "irrationality", defined as any view, however arrived at, whatever the supporting evidence, that differs from CSICOP's.

Thus we could only expect CSICOP co-founder and debunking hero James "The Amazing" Randi not to content himself with the simple, and defensible, argument that Geller uses magic tricks rather than psychokinesis to bend metal, but to charge Geller with appalling moral lapses, such as a role in what Randi alleges was an American scientist's suicide (the man, his death certificate shows, did not commit suicide). CSICOP kept mum all the while. Kurtz's belated alibi is that the Lone Voice Defending Rationality did not speak because Randi "was not acting as an agent of CSICOP". Not coincidentally, CSICOP is being sued along with Randi because until now CSICOP and Randi, its most famous member, seemed virtually indistinguishable; until the lawsuits commenced, to all appearances that perception never bothered the former. In fact, Randi's attorneys argue that their client was "acting as the agent of CSICOP".

It certainly would have been out of character for Kurtz and companyto urge rhetorical restraint on a debunking superstar. At any rate, that is, until attorneys for the aggrieved (who include not just Geller but Eldon Byrd, target of another set of accusations by Randi) came calling. Now, however, in the fashion of a latter-day Uriah Heep, Kurtz piously declares that as a "scientific body" CSICOP does not engage in personal attacks ("Skeptical Inquirer", Winter 1992, page 116). A death-bed conversion if ever there was one.

So what are we to think?

First of all, I should make clear - as CSICOP is not known to do when it is on the attack - that not everyone ought to be tarred with the same broad brush. I have friends in CSICOP, individuals I respect and whose views and insights I listen to respectfully even when I disagree with them. I might add that we often agree, too. The remarks here are directed to CSICOP's leaders, who with some exceptions have distinguished themselves chiefly by their arrogance, bombast, and extremism.

Second, as any IUR reader knows, there is no shortage of UFO claims deserving of skeptical scrutiny, and the UFO literature, for all its faults, is replete with this sort of internal criticism. In fact, the virtual absence of internal criticism - at least public internal criticism, the only kind that matters here - within CSICOP has led to its current difficulties. No CSICOP/"Skeptical Inquirer" writer rose up to protest, even mildly, Randi's, or anybody else's, rhetorical excesses. The motto seemed to be, Never give a sucker an even break. In the end, it seems, one of those suckers - a sucker with the money to afford high-priced lawyers - may be about to break CSICOP....For what it's getting, CSICOP has no one to blame but itself. (End of quote.)

RIGHT ON! - Editor.

Khrushchev is buried in encyclopedia

Cleveland Press 3/28/78

Lucky Man Sees Pals Die

The News American (Baltimore, Md.) 4/4/78

MISCELLANEOUS RAVINGS:

Here's an update on a subject one seldom hears about any more - the mysterious "hush-up" of Albert K. Bender, the man who in 1952 founded one of the very first flying saucer clubs. It was pretentiously called the International Flying Saucer Bureau, as they had a few members overseas. Exactly four issues of Bender's little quarterly magazine were published before he made his famous claim to have been warned, by three men in black who visited his apartment, that he had come too close to the Truth about UFOs and must therefore cease & desist. He did.

Although there were a few hundred subscribers to the zine, the active group - as with all organizations - was very small indeed. Among the hard core were Dominick Lucchesi of New Jersey, now deceased; August C. Roberts of New Jersey, now in failing health; and the late, great Gray Barker of Clarksburg, West Virginia, who made the Bender story the heart of his best-known book, "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers". About a decade after the "hush-up", Barker persuaded Bender to write a book about his ufological problems. This little-known tome, first published in 1962, is called "Flying Saucers and the Three Men". It tells of an absurd race of aliens who are coming here for natural resources that are absent on their home planet.

For many years Gray Barker kept in touch with Bender, who eventually moved to California from his original home in Connecticut. Recently we learned that August Roberts is still corresponding with Bender, forty years after they first made contact with each other. Bender has had physical and mental problems through the years, and is entirely off the UFO subject. He now lives in Hawaii, we are told, and is planning to move to Australia, where relatives of his English-born wife are living. Will the real answer to the so-called Bender Mystery ever be learned? Probably not!....

(Our thanks to August Roberts for cooperation regarding this article, and to Armand Laprade, whose magazine "Would You Believe?" specializes in older UFO cases. Laprade can be reached at: HC 80, Box 156, Marshall, Ar. 72650.)

Several more speakers have signed on for our glorious 29th annual National UFO Conference (NUFOC), to be held in Tallahassee, Florida, on the weekend of October 24th-25th. For details, ask for a free copy of our "Convention Bulletin #2", or write to local host ED KOMAREK, Route 3, Box 1076, Thomasville, Georgia 31792. His phone is: 912-377-7098.... Vicki Johnson of Naples, Florida, has resigned from MUFON. This would not be important to us except that she, as State Section Director for her county, was our immediate superior in the MUFON hierarchy. Now your editor, a humble Assistant Section Director, has no one to report to! Egads!.... Sickest rumor of the month: John F. Kennedy's brain, missing for 29 years, has been found encased in a concrete cornerstone of Marilyn Monroe's burial vault! (No, we did not make this up!))....

We now have a 34-page transcript of the statement made by young Tommy Smith to the Gulf Breeze authorities on June 15th, 1990, discussing his per-

150 The Toronto Sun, Monday August 19, 1991

CALVIN AND HOBBS



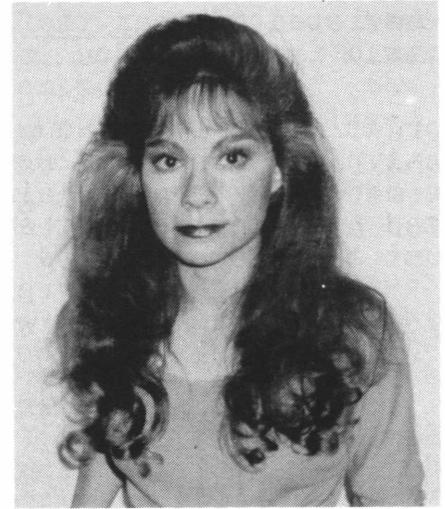
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WILSON

8-19

sonal knowledge and conjectures regarding Ed Walters' famous series of UFO photographs. The statement was made under the name "Chris", but a few days later he released his real name. Serious researchers (and all others) who send us the mighty sum of ten dollars will be sent a copy of this transcript. It is expensive and troublesome to make copies, but Smith's testimony is indeed a very important part of the complex Gulf Breeze saga....

Our friend Rob MacGregor is about to immortalize your editor (Moseley, not OISEAU) in fiction. Actually, it is MacGregor's wife Trish, who for some reason writes under the name Alison Drake. Her next novel (Ballantine Books, Nov. 1992) will be called "High Strangeness - a Tango Key Mystery". See, Tango Key is really Key West, and there is a minor character in the novel named Joe Mahoney who writes a zine called "Saucer Slurs". Part of the plot revolves around a woman who claims she was once abducted by a UFO. (Is her name Betsy Pill???) Our staff of high-powered lawyers is standing by, breathlessly!....



Pictured above is saucer enthusiast Simone Mendez, who became involved in a complex UFO case in 1981 while serving in the Air Force at Nellis AFB, Nevada. It is still not clear whether the case was a hoax or not. Now Simone, no longer in military service, is making a comeback in ufology. Details in future issues.

LETTERS TO YE OLDE EDITOR:

None other than PHIL KLASS writes as follows:

"Thanks to 'Saucer Smear', to George Hansen's critique in the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, and to Jerry Clark's recent editorial in CUFOS' 'International UFO Reporter', I now recognize - for the first time - what an insidiously effective organization CSICOP really is. As a result of CSICOP's (and my own) efforts, there has not been a single TV show dealing with UFOs broadcast on any of the networks for more than 10 years. Nor has there been a single UFO conference held anywhere in the U.S. during the last decade.

"A Gallup Poll taken in 1990 (reported in the Winter 1990-91 issue of CSICOP's 'Skeptical Inquirer') reveals that whereas 51% of the American public believed in ESP in 1978 (shortly after CSICOP was created), by 1990 - thanks to CSICOP - that figure had dropped to a mere 49%. At that rate - if CSICOP survives - within 300 years almost nobody will believe in ESP.

"I'll admit that CSICOP made a serious mistake when it adopted the policy of inviting pro-Ufologists - such as the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Dr. Leo Sprinkle - and pro-parapsychologists to speak at its annual conferences. But then, nobody is perfect.

"Another serious mistake is CSICOP's basic philosophy that the public deserves to hear both sides of paranormal issues. This violates the well-recognized principle (known as McIver's Law, I believe) that in any controversy there is an obvious 'right/correct side' and a 'wrong side'. Obviously, the public should never be exposed to the 'wrong side'.

"As a result of my belated recognition of these dreadful CSICOP misdeeds, I plan to submit my resignation, which is to take effect in the year 2,176 - on the 200th anniversary of CSICOP's creation.....

"If you will admit in 'Saucer Smear' that Ed Walters lied to you and your readers in your July 20th, 1989 issue, when he purported to set the record straight about the reason he served time, i.e. 'car joyriding....I

also passed a \$350.00 bad check' and inform your readers that Walters was convicted of 'car theft and forgery' then I will promise to promptly report his official pardon in 'SUN'.

"I await your action in 'setting the record straight'...."

Okay! We admit that Walters was not forthright about his sins of car theft and forgery, and we eagerly await Klass' report in "SUN" ("Skeptics UFO Newsletter") regarding the Walters official pardon, given to Walters by former Governor Martinez of Florida! - Editor.

ROBERT ANTON WILSON of the Flat Earth Research Society ("In your heart, you know it's flat") writes as follows:

"Dear Seamus de la Plume,

"I was a bit surprised when you wrote that Sheaffer is 'not well informed' about UFOs. You have no doubt guessed that I have little respect for his sophistication - he reminds me of the kind of 17-year-old nerd who 'knows' bloody everything and is obnoxiously eager to correct fuckin' everybody - but I naively assumed he was at least erudite in the UFO literature.

"Like everybody else with a Dogma to prove, Sheaffer beats the facts into the shape he wants, but I expect that from most people in this primitive stage of evolution. The only place I ever found him absolutely ridiculous was the first chapter of 'UFO Verdict', in which he 'proves' an Annapolis graduate (James Earl Carter) was staring at Venus and did not recognize it. To me, that's as dumb as claiming a West Pointer would look at a cannon and report he had seen something totally new to his experience.

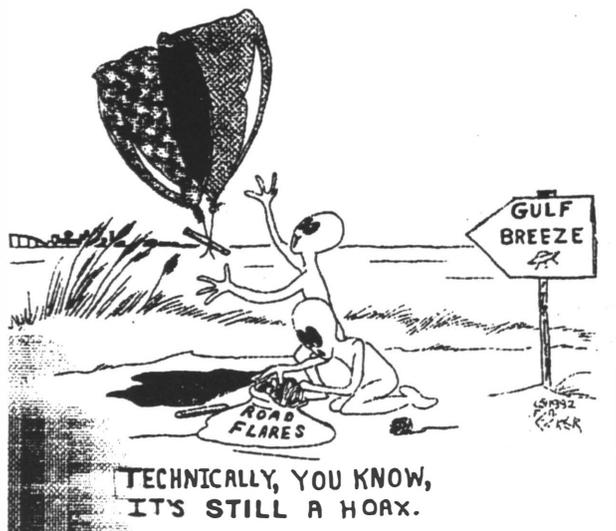
"Bush claims nobody gets killed in his wars. Clinton claims he smoked Weed but didn't inhale. Unless Perot suddenly announces he can walk on water, he seems the least mendacious of the three...."

Yes, "Saucer Smear" endorses Perot for President. At least we do know that he is not a Communist! - Editor.

JERRY LUCCI writes as follows, again concerning the infamous Roswell Incident:

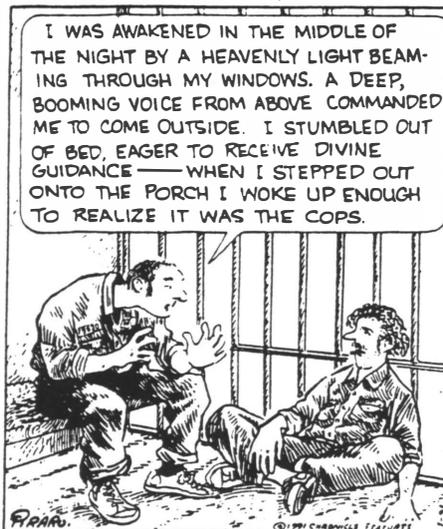
"....I stand corrected about Gerald Anderson's recollections, so I will simply state that in total Anderson's story does not appear to hold up under really careful scrutiny; and as has been previously stated, doesn't anybody find it strange that Dr. Buskirk taught at Anderson's high school? For whatever it's worth, I consider Stanton Friedman to be one of the most astute researchers in the UFO field. However, I believe he is wasting valuable energy with Anderson."

So do a lot of people! - Editor.



BIZARRO

By DAN PIRARO



2 men killed in mind cave-in

GRIFFITH CREEK, Tenn. (AP) — A cave-in killed two coal miners and injured a third.

Wayne K...

Ufological historian CURTIS PEEBLES of California writes:

"Jerry Lucci makes a good point with his Question #2 in the May 5th 'Smear'. If I may suggest a possibility - Mac Brazel found the Roswell debris about two weeks after Kenneth Arnold saw his nine disks. At that point, nobody 'knew' what 'Flying Disks' were - U.S. or Soviet secret weapons, sky animals, alien spaceships, etc. Thus, any odd debris would be seen as possibly coming from a crashed disk. It did not have to look like it came from an alien spaceship, it just had to look strange.

"The ET hypothesis did not become widely known until later in 1947 and early 1948, thanks to Ray Palmer and 'Fate', and did not become dominant until Keyhoe's 1950 article in 'True'. Much later, when Roswell was re-discovered, the events had to conform to the belief system which sprang up in the meantime - disk-shaped alien spaceships, small bald aliens, and the ever-present Government cover-up. When Mac Brazel stood in that field, looking at the fragments, he would not have known these things...."

And, CAPTAIN KEVIN RANDLE writes as follows:

"Dear Your Supremeness:

"Stanton Friedman said that we have said that Gerald Anderson lied but that we never had any proof that he did. We had pointed out that Anderson put Winfred Buskirk at the crash site, but Buskirk denied he was there. One of them was lying. Anderson told me the eyes (of the aliens) were milky blue but told Friedman they were black. John Carpenter claimed Anderson said they were murky blue. Anderson told me the crash site was northwest of Socorro and told Friedman it was southwest, near Horse Springs. The diary he submitted failed the forensic tests, showing it was written after 1970 (we believe it was written in 1990). Friedman and Berliner were able to rationalize away these problems, and dozens of other major discrepancies. Friedman is fond of saying that others don't want to be bothered by the facts, as they have already made up their minds. Such is his mind set on Anderson.

"Proof? Anderson claimed his phone call with me was 26 minutes long. He provided a phone bill as corroboration of his statement. No one could explain how this could be when my tape ran to more than 50 minutes. Mark Rodeghier, attempting to be as fair as possible, said it was conceivable there was a billing error. Southwestern Bell has now confirmed that their records do not agree with Anderson's bill. The only explanation is that Anderson doctored the bill! This is the smoking gun. This is proof that Anderson has lied. Added to all the other discrepancies, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that Anderson was not involved. He invented the entire tale of a crashed saucer!...."

ERIK ("GASHAWK") BECKJORD sends us the following sinister information:

"The 1992 MUFON convention will soon be upon us, and this brings to mind that at last year's Con., crop circle lecturer Colin Andrews showed a UFO film made by owner Steve Alexander of the UK, of a UFO in the wheat. Famous Walt Andrus made videos of that lecture and sold them, only to learn later that Andrews did not have the legal clearance to use the video, nor Andrus to sell copies. Andrus wrote Alexander, asking his fee to get permission, ex post facto, but when Alexander replied, Andrus never sent in a dime. Mere field investigator trainee Goshawk then dared to write Mighty Uncle Walt, asking for the small sum, as Alexander's U.S. rep., of \$250, or the membership fees of only TEN members, to be sent to workingman Alexander. So far, NO REPLY, NO CASH, to either Rep Goshawk or to poor Mr. Alexander in England. The next step? High-powered copyright attorneys are now eyeing the rich coffer of wealthy MUFON!...."

Baker urges democracy in Georgia

MONTY CANTSIN, a man of Alien Ideas, writes as follows:

"Dear OISEAU:

"First let me congratulate you on your new position. I've always liked 'Smear', but I have to say it was really going downhill lately under the demented editorship of that fool Moseley - good riddance to bad garbage, I say! But if you write to Moseley, please congratulate him. I understand that one of his cousins, Carol Moseley Braun, is soon to be the first black woman U.S. Senator!...

"Well, I'm no big fan of Bill Cooper, but I hardly think you can call his behavior bizarre when the root of it was that an up-tight bully like Beckjord jumped on him for saying 'fuck', 'because my mommy wouldn't like it if she heard it'. This is the kind of absolutely oppressive society we live in - exactly the kind of thing Cooper was talking about in his speech - the Bush interpretation of the 'New World Order', where here in America you can't say 'fuck' without everyone from Senator Helmes to that charlatan Beckjord jumping on your head - and then we have to slaughter the Third World millions for this same Constitutionally-guaranteed but completely illusionary 'freedom'....

"Robert Anton Wilson is so funny. I guess all the Ivy League professors fancy themselves juvenile delinquents in their dreams - but who does he think he's kidding besides himself?

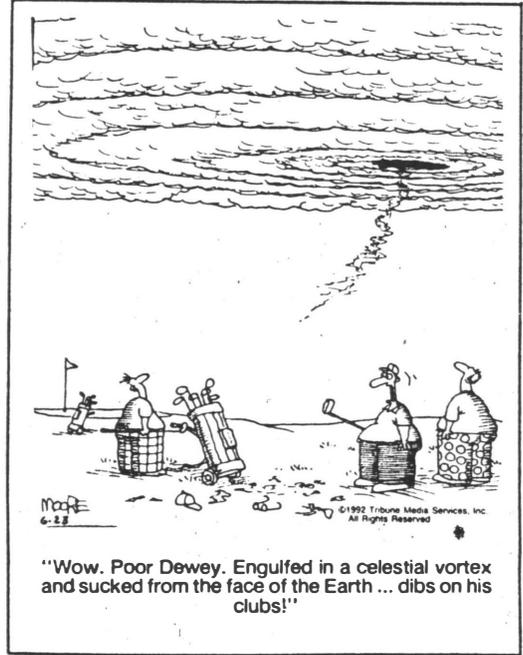
"Yes, I've seen that 'statistic' about your chances of being hit by an asteroid are greater than being killed in a plane crash - more academic lunacy. How many people have been reported killed by asteroids in history? The correct statistic is: In the 18th century, an exactly equal number of people were killed in accidents involving asteroids & airplanes. And no, the dinosaurs did not die as a result of an asteroid striking the earth. They developed the airplane after millions of years of evolution, and all kamikazied themselves to death!

"I saw Phil Klass on TV recently. His position now is that believing in UFOs really is harmless after all. The problem is that it often leads to joining a UFO cult, & this according to Klass is extremely dangerous. This is like the conservative view of marijuana in the late 60's - marijuana, they admitted then, is less harmful than alcohol or tobacco, but it all too often leads to heroin addiction. You may scoff at this notion, but I seem to recall that Klass has belonged to a UFO cult called CUFOS for several years, & eventually became insane.

"Well, you obviously are a part of the aliens' plot to remain invisible. They're using your zine to try to eliminate all of us who know that aliens are here, by boring us to death. That's why you refuse to print my writing. You don't give your readers any comic relief from the pompous academic drivel of the likes of Wilson and Friedman!"

Famed abductee CHRISTA TILTON writes:

"Don't I look good - 40 years old and sitting on your lap in 'The Washington Post'??? Or is that someone else? Anyway, I was abducted for a few weeks, but returned on June 14th. What's been happening?...."



Area Women Were United in Marriage Saturday