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"SMEAR" INTERVIEWS BOB GOLKA, THE KING OF BALL LIGHTNING!

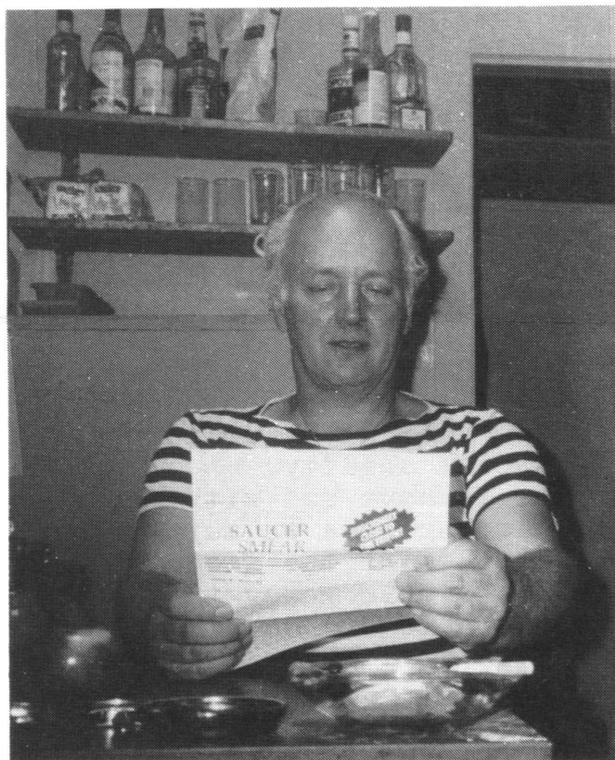
Back in the late 1960s, a self-educated young scientist from Brockton, Mass. became fascinated with the electrical phenomenon known as ball lightning. Whether or not UFOs exist as a truly mysterious phenomenon, ball lightning does, as even cynical old Phil Klass would undoubtedly admit (having written a book on "plasmas" several years ago.)

Ball lightning in nature is a glowing sphere of red, orange, or yellow plasma. It often materializes during lightning storms and floats about, even against a strong wind. The ball may bounce along a floor and, on occasion, the sphere will "slip" through a glass window without breaking it. In nature, the balls sometimes are as large as several inches in diameter. No presently-known laws of physics adequately explain the phenomenon, and it may indeed constitute "a new state of matter".

Ball lightning was first produced artificially by the famous scientist Nikola Tesla in 1899. He created $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch balls that floated for about 30 seconds. These experiments are described in Tesla's unpublished notes, which Golka painstakingly transcribed in a library in Tesla's native Yugoslavia several years ago.

Again in 1919, an experimenter named Benjamin Painter of Chattanooga, Tn. produced ball lightning twice accidentally, using a Tesla coil. Golka tracked Painter down with great difficulty, and experimented with dozens of Tesla coils over the next 2 or 3 years, with no results.

Currently, using millions of dollars of sophisticated equipment obtained through U.S. Government grants, Golka is able to produce $\frac{1}{4}$ " balls which last 3 or



Ball lightning wizard BOB GOLKA at "Saucer Smear" Headquarters. Our well-stocked liquor shelf is (hopefully) clearly visible in the background.

4 seconds. He operates at 2,500 amps, 20 volts. His next move will be up to 18,000 amps, and finally as much as one hundred thousand amps, at a lower voltage.

What is the practical value of this research? Many physicists believe that ball lightning holds the key to a fantastic, cheap and endless energy source - fusion power, or the energy source used by the stars and sun. The fuel is deuterium, or heavy water, which can be inexpensively extracted from ocean water to provide mankind with millions of years of energy!

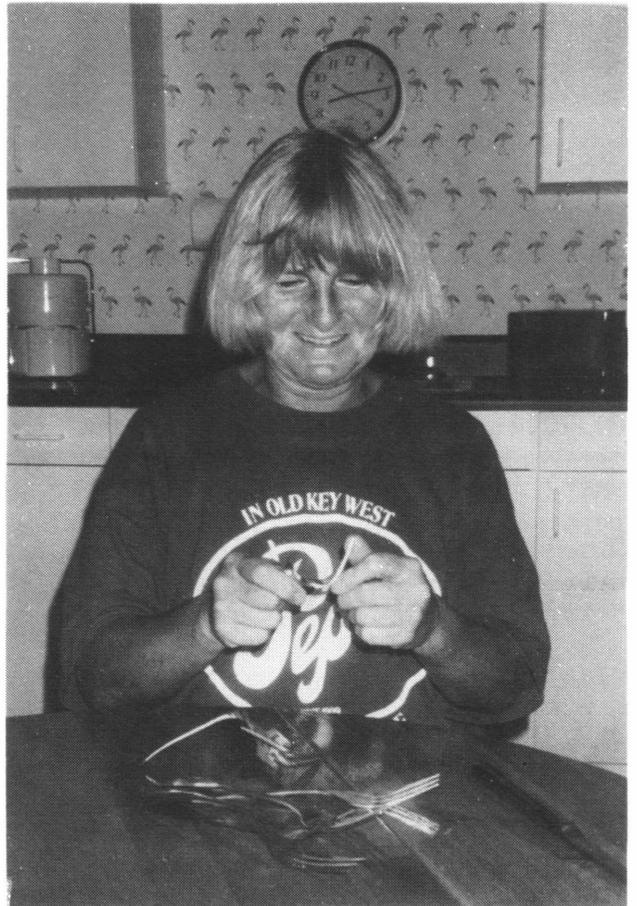
So far, fusion research has been very slow and frustrating for many complex reasons; but ball lightning represents a new approach, and if successful, Bob Golka may indeed someday receive a Nobel Prize (as he modestly hopes for), for his many years of solitary dedication to this research. We have known him since the late 1960s, and wish him well.

PSYCHIC METAL BENDER ON THE LOOSE!

About two years ago, your editor met famed psychic Uri Geller in the tea room of a Miami hotel, together with his family. He gave us a private demonstration of spoon bending, the only problem being that the spoon he used was not the same as those served to the rest of us at the table. But, amazingly, Geller merely touched it lightly on the stem, and it bent to a 90 degree angle in a few seconds thereafter, without being further touched by anyone. We assume he had treated the spoon chemically somehow, but perhaps not - as he autographed the bent spoon and gave it to us to keep!

Our next experience with metal bending was very recently, with a German lady named Lea Boldt, pictured above. She prefers to use forks, as spoons are "too easy", she says. Lea has a long background of psychic ability and even has had a sensational UFO experience in Germany; but she did not become interested in metal bending until she attended a "workshop" in same, at a UFO conference in New York City a few months ago. She claims that a special power comes over her for just a second at a time, giving her a special ability.

We have sat with Lea Boldt three times. She openly handles the forks (including some we supply) with both hands, but manages to bend them and even to twist the stems into very tight loops, right in front of us. If it isn't psychic power it is at least a technique, which apparently many people are capable of learning, just as she did. Lea, who is a very likable lady, will be giving her own "workshop" in metal bending at Tim Beckley's forthcoming UFO convention in San Diego, California.



LEA BOLDT on a bending binge in her Key West home.

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MISCELLANEOUS RAVINGS:

It's hoax letter season again, and we have come across two really great ones. The first is from "Col. Michael Aquino, Hub Four Facility, Storm-trooper Group, Dotham, Alabama". It contains harshly-worded exposes of Russ Estes, the TV documentary-maker; Jim Dilettoso, the (alleged) UFO photo expert; and Erik Beckjord, the subliminal-vision expert. The opening paragraph of this tract states that these men "either suffer from short men's complex (whatever that means - Ed.), have serious learning disability problems, and/or drinking and serious drug problems".

We have good reason to believe this tract was sent out by Inner Earth advocate Harley Byrd, who has a few problems of his own! Harley, who is fighting hard to keep his "Smear" non-subscriber status, recently sent us a bogus check for five million dollars, and later a \$500 bill printed on only one side. But he refuses to make good on a \$20 bad check he sent us quite awhile back!

The other hoax letter was sent to UFO skeptic Jim Oberg, who mailed it on to us and presumably to others. The letterhead reads: "Department of the Air Force; Headquarters United States Special Projects Agency; Groom Lake, Nevada". This, of course, is out around "Area 51", where the captured UFOs fly freely. Shockingly, the letter is signed by Larry G. Shockley, "Col., USAF-SPA". This would seem to be the same Col. Shockley who was last heard of at the Pentagon, as director of Air Force Planning and Operations with the Dept. of Defense Legislative Affairs Office. (See Page 8 of our Feb. 10, 1994 issue.)

The hilarious aspect of this letter is that the good Colonel compliments Oberg for his "work as a public 'debunker' for various branches of the government over the last 15-20 years (which) has been most impressive". He then invites Oberg to join him at Groom Lake and help out, "in the position of USAF SPA - Damage Control Specialist (DCS)". He goes on to state that "already there is too much public attention to our activities with the Advanced Alien Technology here at the site". Way to go, Col. Shockley!...

A sensational UFO book by Harvard psychiatrist John Mack is just out, and it has already caused quite a stir. It is entitled "Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens". We have read a three page in-depth article about Mack in a recent issue of the New York Times Magazine, and this gives a lot of interesting details about Mack's background - such as his 1977 Pulitzer Prize. Because of this unusually classy background, his book is bound to be taken much more seriously than those by Strieber; (ugh!) Hopkins; Jacobs, etc. We look forward hopefully to a free copy.

Predictably, Phil Klass is quoted in the Times article as feeling (to paraphrase wildly) that the whole thing is a crock of shit.

Klass's mood seems to carry over into a 2-page article in the April 25th issue of Time Magazine. The article tells of a woman who, in a cruel Randi-like manner, infiltrated Mack's inner circle as a fake abductee, and, in essence, made a fool of him.

To us, the most disturbing part of Mack's philosophical position is his belief in reincarnation, which he weaves into the abduction scenario. But he is a sincere, courageous, and brilliant man; and we should give him a chance!

UFO pioneer August C. ("Augie") Roberts died on April 9th, 1994 at the age of 73. He had been in failing health for some time, with a serious heart condition.

Augie's main claim to fame was a UFO photo he took in 1952 while a volunteer with the Civilian Air Patrol skywatch of that era. This picture was reproduced in newspapers all over the country. Another photo, showing an apparent UFO over the Hudson River during a civil defense test in New York City (also 1952), was probably a lens flare, but it was printed in George Adamski's first book, "Flying Saucers Have Landed". Unfortunately it was given the wrong caption in the book.

Augie Roberts' other claim to fame was that he, together with Gray Barker and Dominick Lucchesi (both deceased), was one of the original "three men" who were active in Albert K. Bender's famous International Flying Saucer Bureau (IFSB). All IFSB activity ended in the Fall of 1953

when Bender claimed to have been "hushed up" by three men in black. This alleged "hush up" was the main subject of Gray Barker's classic book, "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers", and of the later little-known book by Bender himself called "Flying Saucers and the Three Men", edited and published by Gray Barker.

Augie was always known as the "flying saucer photographer" through the years, but he was shy and inhibited, and rarely lectured or went on media programs. His interest in UFOs never waned, but he was continually frustrated by the hoaxes in the field, and especially by the fact that no provable solution to the mystery could be found.

Augie Roberts remained in touch with Al Bender until very recently, but Bender refused to discuss the UFO mystery even in private correspondence with Augie. No one else in the Field had Bender's current address in California, so the last link to the Bender Mystery is now gone.... We will miss Augie.

As usual, various UFO books slide across our "Smear" desk from here & there. Our favorite of the current crop is written by non-subscriber Curtis Peebles, and is called "Watch the Skies! A Chronicle of the Flying Saucer Myth". How can we help but give it a favorable review, when the author has actually gone to the trouble of sticking markers into every page that mentions your editor, to save us the trouble of having to wade through passages that we might find less interesting. We are a bit concerned about the word "myth" in the title, but our dictionary tells us that, among other things, a myth is "a popular belief or tradition". Thus it is not necessarily something that is untrue.

In any case, Peebles' book is available from the Smithsonian Institution Press, Marketing Dept., 470 L'Enfant Plaza, Suite 7100, Washington, D.C. 20560. Egads, what a prestigious address! One can almost see the CIA agents buzzing around the hallways. Or is that too a myth??....

Next, we have Len Stringfield's latest and possibly last tome of the "UFO Crash/Retrieval" series. This one, Status Report VII, is called "Search for Proof in a Hall of Mirrors". In a personal letter enclosed with the book Stringfield states: "...I believe that the Roswell case will stand up credibly as new sources continue to surface with corroborative information. Like other well-established researchers into Roswell, I too have good sources, with their disclosures published in my previous Status Reports... Short of proof, however, I feel comfortable with Roswell and its preponderance of reliable testimony. But I doubt if the government will ever confirm the Roswell crash, or others, which would open the floodgates to an embarrassing cover-up since World War II..."

Of course, Stringfield's books, including this one, deal with many other cases besides Roswell. To obtain a copy of Status Report VII, write to Len Stringfield, 4412 Grove Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45227. The price is \$16.50, including postage & handling....

Finally, the new book by Kevin Randle and Don Schmitt is now out, although we do not have it. (HINT!) It is called "The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell", successor to a previous tome by the same two gentlemen called "UFO Crash at Roswell". The present book is not just an update, but includes new witnesses, new theories, etc., and is bound to cause a storm of controversy. We even hear that still more new witnesses came forward too late to be included in the book! We ask, just how many new witnesses

Moseley arrested

■ He's charged with fondling a police officer and resisting arrest

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to a 47-year-old event can there be, for gawd's sake! Read the book and find out, or come to our giant Cleveland, Ohio convention on Sept. 17th and meet Kevin Randle in person. He will be there, as well as arch-rival Stanton Friedman, who is another Authority Figure in the continuing Roswell saga....

NEWS BRIEFIES:

Famed ufologist Bill Moore wants our readers to realize that "Far Out" Magazine, where he was editor, has folded; whereas Moore's Fair-Witness Project, publisher of "Focus", is coming back on line. Write to: 4219 West Olive Ave., #247; Burbank, Ca. 91505....There's another significant magazine, Fortean in nature, called "Pursuit", published by Bob Warth of Little Silver, N.J. This zine has not appeared in something like two or three years, but the esteemed editor refuses to even tell us the exact date of the last issue. (Classified Info??) He also refuses to tell us just what has gone wrong, but he vows that "Pursuit" will rise again. He just doesn't know when!.... In a few days your editor will be headed West again, first to Clarksburg, West Virginia, to take part in a documentary film about our late friend Gray Barker; and then on to San Diego, to take part in Tim Beckley's annual conclave there (May 20th-23rd). Our report on all this will be in the next issue....Our pal Pat Marcatrillio's "5th Great UFO/ET Alien & Abduction Congress", held near Trenton, N.J. on the weekend of April 9th, turned out to be something of a Fiasco. Two of the main speakers - John Keel and Tim Beckley - failed to appear, and the average attendance was far below fifty! Way to go, Pat!...Finally, another great issue (March, 1994) of the UFO magazine with the paranoid title, "Classified Communications". This time it's a long & very interesting article on "The UMMO Affair", by a writer named Antonio Moya Cerpa. UMMO, mainly from Spain in the 1970s, is one of the strangest and most complex of all UFO-related events. Write to: Erich Aggen Jr., 4319 Holmes, Kansas City, Mo. 64110.

LETTERS TO YE OLDE EDITOR:

AUGUST C. ROBERTS, in his last letter to us (Feb. 8th, 1994) writes as follows:

"Because of my legs, ankles and feet swelling up with fluid, my doctor told me I must stay in bed with my legs up, on my own at home, or he would put me in the hospital to make certain I do....

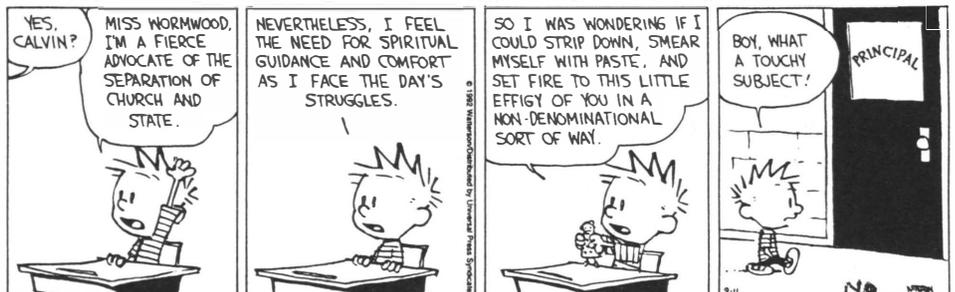
"I do read your 'Saucer Smear' from cover to cover, which keeps me in touch with offbeat goings on. Too bad about 'The Amusing Randi', that you're not writing about him any more, as you did a good job in reporting on him."

ROBERT ANTON WILSON writes as follows:

"I've just read Jacques Vallee's 'Revelations' (Ballentine, 1991) and I heartily recommend it to every UFO investigator with an open mind (all 7 of them). (Or did I just over-estimate their number by about five or six?) Doc Vallee still holds to the model that in Ufology we have two factors: (1) A real and still unexplained phenomenon that violates our traditional concepts of physics; and (2) A great deal of deception, of two sorts: (a) Spontaneous or amateur hoaxsters; and (b) Organized and well-financed disinforma-

I believe I'll have another drink

Time magazine reports that 69 percent of Americans believe in angels and 49 percent believe in fallen angels or devils.



tion experts working for some government. I find his arguments even more plausible than in earlier books, and I think he demonstrates the large role of 2b (government conspiracy) more convincingly than he has before.

"In fact, in some cases (e.g. UMMO) the only alternative to government trickery that makes sense to me would posit a mental illness still unknown to psychiatrists, because only the very, very rich can afford it. Such an illness would take great delight in massive deceptions involving the specialized work of hundreds of well-paid graduate students (at least) and with no 'ulterior' motive - except the sheer fun of making monkeys of the rest of us. Probably I grow too imaginative here; Vallee's governmental conspiracies make more sense than that, after all. The government would have the rational motive of using UFO flaps to cover up other operations they don't want us to know about.

"Nonetheless, the Rich Lunatic Hypothesis (RLH) appeals to me because it makes sense of many other things besides unknown aerial gizmos - e.g. it could also explain the Priory of Sion, the 'secretive' group of French aristocrats who seemingly cooperate happily with any book exposing them, if it contains totally absurd theories about what their organization does or hopes to do. I can even imagine a unified RLH in which one super-rich nut case finances UMMO, the Priory, Urantia, and some of the weirder religions and art movements of recent vintage. Maybe Howard Hughes did fake his death and survives in that famous city under the desert, chuckling over this wonderful new entertainment he has devised."

BILL MOORE of MJ-12 fame writes:

"...Now that Schmitt and Randle have finally come out into the open with their ridiculous Roswell scenario, it should be interesting to watch them get shot down. And they will get shot down! In fact, Jaime (Shandera) and I have enough ammunition in our own basket to do the job all by ourselves if need be - although I hardly expect we will be the only ones shooting..."

BRIAN PARKS writes as follows, in opposition to Christopher Allan's views:

"...I am the first to admit up front when I have erred. Two lines are missing from the famed Roswell teletype in 'The Roswell Incident'. The entire document is in the 1985 MUFON paper as referenced by Moore. The last line, by the way, 'no further investigation being conducted' is a standard referral of FBI investigation and has nothing to do with the Army Air Force.

"Since Mr. Allan is persistent on the FBI matter, I was in fact referring to over a half dozen FBI documents, not just the controversial Hoover memo. I again suggest he conduct further research. The fact that the FBI was not always trusted, nor did they get along with rival Intelligence agencies, is well documented. An FBI and Army Air Force dispute over 'flying disk' investigation is a matter of record..."

Whereas ROBERT DOUGLASS writes:

"Regarding your lead-off rant in your current issue, it is my humble opinion that you are taking this Jadoo John Keel in the wrong spirit. I believe you should welcome, even encourage, such false and misleading info., as this obfuscatory bunk can only add to the Moseley mythos (and the legend of Gray Barker). Why not accept credit for some of the great hoaxes, which are as historically important as anything else in this great sport of ufology? Also, what in the devil's name is wrong with wanting to keep neurotics stirred up? Jeez, Jim, these are positives, not negatives!..."

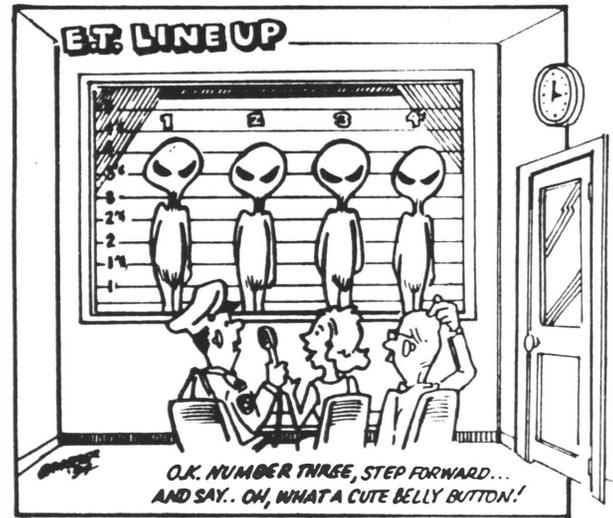
Our old pal WALTER ROGERS writes:

"...As for John Keel, you are right about him not having his facts straight about just who started the crashed saucer myth. It was Frank Scully,

not you! Anyway, I think poor Mr. Keel needs a long vacation - maybe a week at the old TNT Building at Point Pleasant, West Virginia, or perhaps a month's all-expenses-paid vacation on the back side of the Moon will make him feel better.."

PHIL KLASS writes:

"...You mention my 'recent TV appearance'. I assume that was on the Rolanda show, which was taped about a month ago and I never saw the 'edited' version. So I don't know if I 'hogged' the air time. But this raises an interesting ethical question: If a TV show producer decides that the audience is entitled to hear/see 'both sides' of a controversial issue, and if there are (say) five pro-UFO guests and only one UFO skeptic (which is the typical ratio):



"Should the UFO skeptic be given as much air time as the total given to the five other guests, so that the audience has equal exposure to both sides? Or should each guest be given roughly equal air time, so that the skeptical viewpoint gets only one sixth of the total air time?

"You might wish to pose that question to 'Smear's' readers for their response. I'm sure the majority would vote for equal air time for both views, just as I am equally sure that Bill and Hilary have nothing to hide re Whitewater!"

Skeptical GARY P. POSNER, M.D. writes:

"A letter in the April Fool's edition of your refereed (a la professional wrestling) journal disparages John Merrell for his past legal entanglements with alleged 'psychic' Noreen Renier. It further implies that CSICOP somehow bears some 'responsibility'.

"Many of your non-subscribers may have read Loyd Auerbach's June 1991 FATE Magazine article on Renier vs. Merrell. Enclosed is my chapter on Renier for Prometheus' new book, 'Psychic Sleuths: ESP and Sensational Cases', which provides another perspective. Surely you will recommend that your interested readers check it out. Right?? Right??..."

Er, - yes, Right! - Editor.

MICHAEL DENNETT writes:

"Another impressive issue! The cartoons by Matt Graeber were great, and your back page - What can one say about the last page, once the domain of letters from Stanton Friedman, now a parody of 'SUN' and a satire of CSICOP. Difficult to top, but engaging reading!..."

MONTY CANTSIN as usual gives us a few chuckles:

"...What's so surprising that Stanton Friedman should have gotten a federal grant to set up a nuclear research lab in his basement? With a M.S. and the right connections, it's no big deal these days. It's not like he's a homeless unwed mother..."

"I think Khalid Mohammed should sue Robert Anton Wilson for comparing him to Klass, Randi, and CSICOP. Talk about degrading slander!..."

"And, how does Barbara Becker know about Bob Lazar's brothels? Did she work at one of them? More information on this subject might both enlighten and entertain 'Smear' readers...."

"Well, you may be bad, but not as bad as Howard Stern!..."



Subliminal Vision Expert & Bigfoot Hunter ERIK BECKJORD writes:

"I have visited Nevada and the fringes of Area 51 again, for three days with Joan, and found that due to publicity in an airline magazine and in the March 'Popular Science', the USAF has seemingly stopped flights of 'Old Faithful' at 4:50 a.m. weekdays. 'Old Faithful' is a possible UFO under testing.

"However, I found that the flights continue over the Jumbled Hills, and can be seen by night vision devices that use telephoto lenses. In fact, several UFOs (under test) can be seen on various mornings, and some take 30 minutes to go 15 miles.

"Also, the security guards that patrol the area now sometimes drive the back roads with no lights in the dark, which suggests that they too are using night vision. Rumor has it at the Little Alien Inn that said guards have been warned by their superiors that if they get into a confrontation that results in their getting a subpoena to appear in court (where they could be questioned about Area 51), they will be fired.

"Lastly, a new book called 'Crop Circles Apocalypse' shows time-lapse photos of various hoax crop circles being made, and therefore I now say that no crop circle is valid unless I see it being made right in front of me! Time to go back to UFOs!"

Finally, UFO abductee & researcher CHRISTA TILTON writes:

"During my involvement in ufology since 1985, I've listened to many bizarre claims, and I admit that some even came from my own mouth. There were times during those early years when I would have sworn on a stack of Bibles that I was the only one privy to certain 'alien revelations'. I made the mistake of jumping head first with statements such as these, without using the healthy skepticism I was born with. Now I know better.

"A recent letter from my esteemed colleague Anthony Dodd, a former policeman and Director of Investigations for 'UFO Magazine' in Great Britain took me by great surprise. The letter reminded me of an earlier letter I received from Billy Meier, the alleged Swiss contactee, in which he bombarded me with obscenities for even daring to suggest my alien contacts might be Pleiadian in origin. Billy claimed that he was the only true contactee alive today, and that everyone else was a cruel hoaxer!

"Now I hear from Anthony Dodd that 'He is the only civilian on this planet who has been given proof that alien beings are not only visiting and abducting people on Earth, but have been visitors on our planet for thousands of years'. He claims his information came from his airborne friends and now is the time to tell.

"With revelations such as these, I worry that we're treading on dangerous territory when we offer statements such as these to the UFO public. Though I now believe Billy Meier's case to be fraudulent, I can only hope that Tony Dodd's friendly aliens' revelations to him prove to be true...."

Author-priest is fired for not believing in God