

"You are....a boil on the ass of ufology"

- JOHN KEEL, writing in the March 25th, 1977 issue of "Saucer Glues" (one of the former names of "Saucer Smear")

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IN WHICH

YOUR EDITOR ATTENDS THE SEVENTH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL UFO CONGRESS:

It's kind of odd to hold a UFO convention in a gambling casino, but this has become a trend in the state of Nevada - possibly because the lecture halls and hotel rooms come cheaply.

Laughlin, Nevada is a town which grew out of literally nothing, just in the past 25 years. Originally catering to the "low rollers", i.e., the great Middle Class - Laughlin has now become a small city with skyscrapers and traffic jams, just like its big sister Las Vegas. But there's still only one main street, and most of the casinos are right on the picturesque Colorado River. We have been there several times by automobile over the years, but as we learned this time, it's a very hard place to fly into.

The International UFO Congress was founded by retired Lt. Col. Wendelle Stevens, best known as the leading American spokesman for famed Swiss contactee Billy Meier. The present organizer of this series of conventions is a man from Colorado named Bob Brown. This year's event drew well over 400 paying people, and by that standard it should be judged a success.

The lectures ran from Sunday Feb. 1st through Saturday Feb. 7th, and included about 27 speakers in all. We missed most of them, for various reasons not related to gambling. Those that we did hear quite expectedly ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous - and all points in between.

For us the most intriguing speaker was David Oates, who, because of a speech impediment, became interested in playing tape recordings backward. We remember that this was a fad in Rock music years ago, but we had never heard a serious presentation on the subject before. Oates' thesis is that the message heard backwards is from the subconscious mind and is directly related to what is being said forward. This represents a kind of "Truth Serum" which will eventually force all of us to be more honest.

Thus, when Neil Armstrong lands on the Moon, he says, "One small step for Man; One giant leap for Mankind". You can play this backwards and clearly hear, "MAN WILL SPACEWALK". Oates played many other examples, including some from recent speeches by President Clinton, in which Clinton

appears to make amusing sexual references related to his present Troubles. (See Matt Graeber's cartoon further along in this issue.)

Some of the backward-talk is very clear, and some is not. This raises the question of whether or not the whole thing is a giant "Rorschach Test", like Erik Beckjord's faces on Mars, the Moon, & elsewhere. We would like to hear from some unbiased scholars about this, before either accepting or rejecting Oates' fascinating new belief system.

Another speaker who was hard to miss was Michael Hesemann of Germany. We say hard to miss, because he was everywhere during the Convention, always talking, talking, talking. It was, indeed, as if he had fallen in love with the sound of his own voice! His lecture was wild, but at least one part was very worthwhile: Hesemann gave a detailed description, with video, of the 1995 UFO incident in Zimbabwe, Africa, in which several dozen school children observed two or three strange creatures come out of a landed craft. There is little doubt that something truly bizarre occurred to set these children off!

Another speaker we found interesting was Barry Chamish from Israel, who told of many strange recent events in that country, including a mass killing of farm animals. And then there was Donald Ware, who continues to support Ed Walters of Gulf Breeze fame, even though Walters won't return his phone calls! Worst speakers were Peter Wrigglesworth & David Spoor (what names!) of England, who did a joint presentation showing endless boring videos of something maybe in the night sky.

Quite a few of the speakers were foreign, which almost guarantees we never heard of them. Of the Americans worth mentioning, there was Jim Diletosso; Peter Gersten; Clifford Stone from Roswell; Jim Marrs, author of "Alien Agenda"; and Wendelle Stevens, who showed a vast number of still photos, including a few that offer a new phenomenon: Aliens materializing as they float down from the sky. Egads! Col. Stevens is pictured below at the Convention, with one of his interplanetary friends.

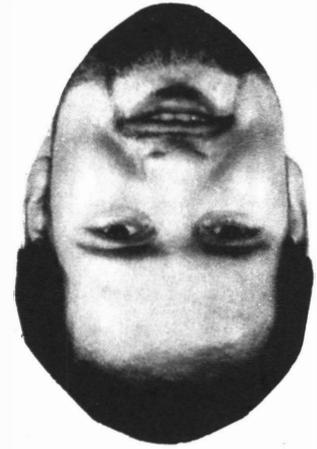
On Wednesday evening of Convention week, there was a "roast" for Stevens, in honor of his 75th birthday. Your humble editor was among those invited to participate. Others included Michael Hesemann (of course!), Bob Dean, Jim Diletosso, and Wendelle's daughter CeCe. In all due modesty, we must admit that the talk we gave at the "roast" was quite possibly the best (and the shortest!) that we have ever given, and the audience loved it. Hopefully we will be invited to be on the main program next year.

Not mentioned at the "roast" was Wendelle Stevens' severe legal troubles back in 1983, when he began serving a five year prison sentence related to sexual misconduct with underaged females. This story was carried as an exclusive in the August 25th, 1983 issue of "Saucer Smear", and there-





The Little A' Le' Inn



MICHAEL HESEMANN

fore won't be repeated here. Stevens still claims that he was framed by the CIA because of his UFO activities, but we have heard from various sources that his prison years were his most productive in regard to output of UFO-related material!

Wendelle Stevens is a very pleasant, likeable sort of fellow, and we enjoyed the opportunity to get to know him better. We had a private conversation with him lasting over an hour, and came away with the impression that his worst fault may be an exceptionally loose grasp of Reality. But this isn't really unusual in the UFO field!

The burning question now is: Will the 8th Annual International UFO Congress be fearless enough to schedule your "Smear" editor as a speaker? As the late, great George Adamski used to say, "Time Will Tell".

FIASCO-TYPE SIDE TRIP FROM LAUGHLIN TO THE DREADED "AREA 51":

On Thursday Feb. 5th, your editor joined about a dozen other hard core UFO fans in an all-day side trip by van, north from Laughlin, up through Las Vegas, and on to the newly-named Extraterrestrial Highway to Rachel, Nevada and the secret Government base near there. Our drivers were two men from the Convention, who began by giving us all a stern lecture about how to behave if & when confronted by The Law, upon reaching the vicinity of "Area 51". We thought this was merely "hype", till we later observed the behavior of these drivers when we finally reached the "Area 51" area.

The distance was about 250 miles each way, and the van was crowded. We eventually reached the famous "black mailbox", near Rachel, which has recently been replaced by a white mailbox, belonging to the same rancher. (The original black mailbox was on display in the Convention vending room. It has now become an Authentic Relic in the War of Nerves. We were impressed with the two bullet holes in the side of the box!)

Unfortunately, our drivers got lost after passing the black (now white) mailbox, and it was some time later that we finally had our eagerly-awaited Confrontation with Authority. We were on a dirt road, headed directly toward the Dreaded Base, and there definitely was a small white van on another nearby dirt road, pacing us & watching us. Suddenly, a SIGN was seen by the side of the road. All we had time to read were the words "No Trespassing" at the top of this small sign - which looked no-thing like the one pictured above, which may indeed be a product of someone's imagination. (Why would the Government name a base that until very recently was not admitted to even exist???)

Anyhow, before we had time to photograph the sign, even from inside our van, the driver made a very hurried U-turn, and hauled ass out of the area at high speed! Our dreaded Confrontation was over before it began!

We then went to dinner at the Little A'Le'Inn in downtown Rachel (population: slightly under 100). This was the high point of the side trip. Plenty of booze, friendly companionship, and decent food. (Best sign on the wall: "Thank you for holding your breath while I smoke!") The owners are Joe and Pat Travis, who make a good living from the foibles of the visiting ufoologists.

Unfortunately, the high desert gets very cold at night, and your editor came down with a bad cold & missed a great deal of the last two days of the Convention, including the farewell banquet on Saturday evening. But such is the price of Getting Out into the Field!

MISCELLANEOUS RAVINGS:

While at the International UFO Congress, we bought a video called "Alien Interview". This is the video we referred to on Page 3 of our last issue, as possibly including another horrible appearance by Stan Friedman, and possibly including an interview with a live alien.

Mercifully, Friedman is not in the video, and it is a matter of opinion as to whether an alien is interviewed. There is a segment with no sound track, showing a very sickly-looking being who looks something like a grey and something like a monkey. Apparently he is being interviewed by mental telepathy by an unseen government agent, somewhere in "Area 51". Thus even if we accept the alien as genuine, only the psychic government guy knows what the alien is thinking, in attempting to reply to a series of questions being asked of him/her/it. Possibly the agent is simply making up the alien's alleged answers, and we have no way of knowing the truth about the situation!

The key figure in "Alien Interview" is a shadowy personage called "Victor". Like the legendary Falcon back about 1988, Victor appears with an electronically distorted voice and a hidden face, to avoid identifying himself. He is a guy with access to "Area 51" who wants to do his bit to see that the truth about the aliens comes out. He also admits he is doing this for the money being offered by an outfit called Rocket Pictures.

There is commentary by the usual cast of characters - Robert Lazar of "Element 115" fame; Sean David Morton; video expert Jim Dilettoso; Bob Dean; and (ugh!) Michael Hesemann, among others. Need we say that we do not take this video too seriously?...

The following item is taken verbatim from an Internet posting by someone named Ted Oliphant III. It was sent to us by Tom Benson. There is a great deal more detail that Space does not allow us to print. See also the headline story in the Jan./Feb. 1998 issue of "American UFO Newsletter", edited by Bob Teets (P.O. Box 52, Terra Alta, W.Va. 26764).

MUFON, The Church of Scientology & The Federal Bureau Of Investigation.

Recently, the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) has garnered a lot of attention due to the arrest of its Puerto Rican Director on firearms charges. It's all the more interesting because the gentleman in question is also an employee of the F.B.I. Many people complained about the appointment of this man by MUFON Chief, Walt Andrus. Long before this recent scandal for MUFON, many Puerto Rican MUFON members were disturbed that

Area 51 - it's really there

Tales of alien landings on Earth are hardly ever complete without a reference to "Area 51," the super-secret federal base in Nevada where stealth fighter planes were tested.

Extraterrestrial lore usually connects the site with the supposed crash of an alien space vessel near Roswell, N. M., 50 years ago. Various parts of the vessel, including aliens themselves - either alive or dead - are believed by some people to have been taken to Area 51.

If UFO buffs had hopes that a recent lawsuit concerning toxic materials and injuries to workers at the site would shed light on the base, they had to be disappointed in an appeals court ruling that the base is too secret to allow information about materials there to be used in the suit.

The decision is likely to be appealed further. It would, however, seem to confirm existence of the site, which federal officials have been loathe to do, no matter how much people believed in it and speculated on its "true" purposes.

While people who don't buy into UFO scenarios view such things tongue in cheek, there's a serious side to this, and that's the lawsuit itself. Five workers and the widows of two others are suing for injuries they claimed were due to the toxic wastes at the facility.

We don't know anything about the merits of the suit. We do know, however, that this is the same federal government that in the past made employees, military personnel and patients unwitting guinea pigs in various experiments, and lied about it. Let's not assume that federal decisions made in the guise of national interests are always fair, moral or ethical.

As for Area 51, obviously there is one in some form, but what exactly goes on there, it appears, will continue to be the basis of lore, speculation and various talk shows. The truth may be out there, but we haven't found it yet.

an "outsider" not from the island was forcibly placed in this position by Mr. Andrus. What seems like a one of kind, embarrassing fluke for MUFON, is actually the result of an on-going situation created by Walt. That is, the apparently cavalier appointment of persons with highly questionable backgrounds at the top of many MUFON organizations. It happened before in 1994 in Tennessee where the principle players became entangled in politics, Scientology, espionage, a death and an F.B.I. investigation that led to the silencing of a law enforcement officer.

H O T F L A S H E S :

Our apologies for the strange vertical line of missing letters on Page 4 of our Feb. 15th issue. This was some peculiar error by our printer, and we hope it won't happen again....

The February 1998 issue of the MUFON Journal confirms our "scoop" in the Feb. 15th "Smear", to the effect that, in the event of the death or resignation of Walt Andrus, the Directorship of MUFON would pass to John Schuessler, who is Deputy Director of Administration....

We are reliably informed that Jaime Shandera, a long-time co-worker of Bill Moore in the Los Angeles area, has disappeared mysteriously. Both Moore and Shandera have been involved in the highly controversial MJ-12 documents....

This is a "P.S." to our article in the last issue about the video "Alien Abduction: Incident in Lake County". There is a Lake County, Minnesota, but there is no record of a family named McPherson there. If they were abducted by aliens, as the video shows, then it must have happened many years ago. (Yea, sure!)....

The Winter 1997-98 issue of the International UFO Reporter (IUR) contains a long & interesting article by physicist Bruce Maccabee, describing his flirtation with channeled UFO material. The article is called "My Mission from the Ashtar Command". In the end, Maccabee rejected the material, in spite of his curiosity & fascination with the messages....

Here's a very odd item we picked up from "Ohio UFO Notebook #15": David Morehouse, author of "Psychic Warrior", has been authorized to give a three-day course in Remote Viewing, as part of a training program at the University of Houston (Texas) for law enforcement officers! His instruction will include "police applications of remote viewing", including "accessing a suspect's mind/mental state"....

Famed debunker Phil Klass now has difficulty walking as well as talking, as a result of a less-than-successful upper spinal surgery last year. However, he definitely has not been Silenced, & has a letter-to-the-editor further along in this issue.

BOOKS TO KEEP YOUR BONFIRE BURNING BRIGHTLY:

"Millennium VII" is the latest book by Dr. Frank E. Stranges, Ph.D., and its main concern is the soon-to-be-forthcoming year 2000 (or 2001?),

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - Dec. 3, 1997 CR: J. & L. Nicholson

Female body mysteriously falls from sky

The Associated Press

MIAMI — A woman who police believe may have fallen out of an airplane was killed after hitting a garden wall in an apartment complex Tuesday.

Police have no idea who she

is or exactly how she fell. Nobody saw her fall.

Residents heard a loud bang and went outside to find that a woman's body had landed on a garden wall and was ripped in half, Moss said.

Police said she could not have fallen from a nearby 20-story apartment building, the tallest structure in the area. The condition of her body indicates she fell from a much higher point, Moss said.

Animal

"A lady came up to me on the street and pointed at my suede jacket. 'You know a cow was murdered for that jacket?' she sneered. I replied in a psychotic tone, 'I didn't know there were any witnesses. Now I'll have to kill you too.'"

— comic **Jake Johnson**, biting back.

(6)

which, according to the author, will bring forth a thousand years of peace on Earth. Stranges' interpretation of the Millennium is basically positive rather than negative, and he disagrees with prophets who claim that "new coastlines will appear (in the U.S.) and waterfront property will go on sale in desert states such as Nevada and Arizona".

Moseley breaks through for gold

Religion is complex at best, and Stranges' little (75 pages) book leaves us confused. UFOs are not mentioned much therein, but the author states that "the Millennium will not only directly touch every living person on Earth, but it will also affect every sphere in the entire Universe that sustains life as we know it."

This book can be obtained from the author by writing to: P.O. Box 73, Van Nuys, California 91408. The price is not given....

Another new book (which unfortunately we don't have a copy of) takes a much more negative view of the Millennium. It is written by A. Vodben and is called "After Nostradamus: Great Prophecies for the Future of Mankind". The publisher is The Citadel Press. According to this, spacemen will rescue a "chosen few" from Earth, as fire destroys our world some time very shortly after the year 2000. Then comes the thousand years of good times. Wheee!...

Next comes "Around and About the Saucer World", by our olde friend Rick Hilberg of Cleveland. This is a large-sized 40-page soft-cover tome, reprinting the best sightings, etc. from the many years that Rick has been publishing various UFO zines. Some of the material is sensational, and some less so; but all of it is just as presented at the time - without the embellishments one might expect from a less cautious, conservative researcher. Available for a mere \$9.95 from: UAPA, P.O. Box 347032, Cleveland, Ohio 44134....

We should mention that Jerry Clark's famed three-volume "UFO Encyclopedia" is about to come out in a revised and updated two volume edition, containing a total of 1,180 pages! This is indeed a heavy work, but there is little doubt that scholars of the future will be poring over it for generations to come. References to your "Smear" editor and his Great Contributions abound therein! Price: (gasp!) \$125.00. Available from Omnigraphics, Inc; Penobscot Building, Detroit, Michigan 48226....

Finally, prolific author Robert Anton ("Bob") Wilson has a new book coming out called "Everything is Under Control: Conspiracies, Cults, and Cover-Ups". Writes Wilson: "It has about 3 or 4 references to you or to 'Saucer Smear'. I'll send you a copy when it comes out in July, with those passages marked, so you don't have to read the whole thing."

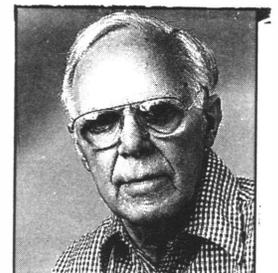
If only Jerry Clark were as thoughtful as this!

LETTERS TO YE OLDE EDITOR:

MARTIN GARDNER, a Founding Fellow of CSICOP, writes:

"You can save yourself some postage by taking me off the mailing list for 'Saucer Smear'. I've stopped reading it, on the grounds that the whole UFO scene is too boring for me even to try to keep up with the garbage that seems endless. I'll let Phil Klass do the keeping up. It surprises me that you still find the UFO mania of interest.

"Speaking of aliens, I've written a new Oz book called 'Visitors from Oz'. St. Martin's will publish it this year. It's all about Dorothy, Scarecrow, and Tin Man visiting the U.S. They get here not by UFOs, but by sliding



Martin Gardner

through a Klein Bottle from a higher space dimension..."

We admire Martin Gardner & his many wonderful writings, and we are sorry that his Vision, though great, is not wide enough to see that there is some sort of Reality behind the saucer mystery! - Editor.

WILLIAM (BILL) MOORE writes as follows:

"...With respect to Mr. Klass' undoubtedly well-meant suggestion that I release certain photos, etc. ('Smear', Jan. 10th, 1998), I can only respond by noting that the material in question has been circulating around the outer fringes of ufo-dumb for several years..."

The above-mentioned PHIL KLASS writes:

"Dear Capt. Jim Moseley:

"Some of my 'political enemies' are circulating the rumor that Monica Lewinsky and I were abducted by a UFO and forced to engage in group sex. That is absolutely false. My 'abduction-mate' was Hillary Rodham. Details will be revealed in the next issue of SUN, IF Independent Counsel Starr removes the 'gag-order'":

PROF. CHARLES MOORE (no relation to William Moore, above) writes:

"...I am enclosing a book review on the 'UFO Crash at Roswell - The Genesis of a Modern Myth' that appeared in the January 30th issue of SCIENCE (the American Association for the Advancement of Science publication). Other than a few misspellings...it's a good, perceptive review. I think we received the Establishment's seal of approval (such as it is). We have not heard yet from the Roswell authorities and we eagerly await their judgment.

"We trust that you were not washed away by the recent global warming eruption, but perhaps your UFO files were clensed suitably."

ROB SWIATEK of the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR) writes:

"In your Vol. 44, No. 10 non-scheduled newsletter...you make note of a rumor that has Dick Hall both retiring from FUFOR and leaving the Washington, D.C. area. Your informant was fifty percent correct, being in the right city but the wrong ballpark, so to speak. As a member of the Fund's executive committee, I can confirm that Dick Hall has indeed resigned as Fund chairman. Don Berliner now has the conn.

"As for Dick leaving the Washington, D.C. environs, that's sheer fantasy. For the time being he plans to stay put and has no immediate intentions of moving. Since he's still on the executive committee, he'll be integral to our daily operations and involved in all important decision-making. Rest assured he will continue to make life miserable for various ufological bilge-spouters, garbage meisters, fuzzy-edged thinkers, and related cenobites..."

I guess we were just indulging in wishful thinking! - Editor.

JOHN ALEXANDER, whom we almost but not quite met (again) at the convention in Laughlin, writes as follows:

"Dear One Who Searches for Truth (Which is out there):

"Returned herewith is your copy of Phil Klass' newsletter. Actually, he and I have many of the same questions. In fact, I sent (Col.) Phil Corso a seven page letter containing similar questions. I do not plan to make that public.

"Please note: In my responses to you and others, I have only vouched for the validity of Corso's background. I have not, nor do I plan to, enter the fray about the validity of his claims.

"(signed) Your semi-mysterious servant"

TIM BRIGHAM writes:

"Regarding your recent renewed interest in my theories on the Gulf Breeze case: The case holds little interest for me anymore. My main interest was always in the 'red light UFO', and I've always felt that the most likely explanation for it was some sort of psychological warfare test or operation conducted by local military. I, of course, may be wrong, but nevertheless it's my opinion that whatever the red light is, it is not relevant to genuine UFO phenomena, and only interesting as a side note - which brings up the question of whether the military would deliberately hoax UFO events for any of a variety of reasons.

"This quote taken from the Hurlburt Field web page (an Air Force base right next to Pensacola/Gulf Breeze) pretty much speaks for itself: 'AFSOC (Air Force Specialized Operations Command) with Headquarters based in Hurlburt Field, Florida...is a step ahead in a changing world, delivering special operations combat power anytime, anywhere. The command is responsible for - Unconventional warfare - Psychological operations - Direct action - Special reconnaissance - Counterterrorism...'

"The document goes on to say that Eglin AFB (another large AFB in the area, known for testing advanced weaponry) is also crucial in the AF's 'psyops' program.

"On another subject: Recently I've been concentrating more on the internet version of 'The Devil's Advocate' than on the print version, and this emphasis will probably continue to increase over time...The internet is a more efficient method for one such as myself to distribute information. However, I'm still sending out print-outs via snail mail to anyone who needs them..."

CHRISTOPHER ALLAN, from beyond the Pond, writes as follows:

"Karl Pflock has slightly misread Phil Klass' book regarding the case of the 'Twining memo'. From the context it is clear Phil was saying that the famous memo was not published in full in a pro-Roswell book until 1994, having first seen the light of day in the Condon Report 25 years earlier..."

"Speaking of the Roswell myth - the Ziegler, Saler & Moore book (as you indicate) is certainly scholarly, and a welcome change from the nuts & bolts stuff. The CUFOS reviewer, predictably, had no time for the book and dismissed it as 'the mushiest that soft science can get'. But the two prime authors show that the makings of the myth are all there, and Charles Moore does an excellent job of showing how the Mogul balloon drifted to the very place it was located!..."

Researcher SHEILA FRANKLIN
writes:

"I and six compatriots recently returned from a UFO research jaunt to Brazil. We were warmly greeted and met with many researchers in various parts of the country. We came away with an incredible awe at the abundance of experience. As evidenced in Bob Pratt's book, most of it is terrifying and physically debilitating. But on rare occasions, it is somewhat similar to contacts taking place elsewhere. I am enclosing a story about one of the abductees we met...."

The Devil's Advocate

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