

DEDICATED TO THE HIGHEST PRINCIPLES
OF UFOLOGICAL JOURNALISM

SAUCER SMEAR



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAUCER & UNEXPLAINED CELESTIAL EVENTS RESEARCH SOCIETY

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NON-SCHEDULED
NEWSLETTER

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TIDBITS OF TRASH:

Karl Pflock has kindly sent us an item from "CNI News" of August 1st, and it tells us of still another alleged animal kidnapping by a UFO. "Smear" fans will remember that our May 5th issue had the story of the abduction of an elk from a herd in Washington State, witnessed by several Spanish-speaking forestry workers. Now we have a pig abduction which was seen by peasants in a rural area of Brazil. More than 50 people attested that they saw the pig being levitated into the air toward a bright light that hovered over the small town about 10 p.m. on the evening of July 12th. Said the night commander of the town's police: "People think they have seen a flying saucer. It may have been something else, but these reports are from serious people."

Other abductions in recent years have involved cattle, and in one Brazilian case, a horse was the victim. (See Matt Graeber's cartoon below!)

Joe Firmage is not the only wealthy gentleman making a splash in ufology. There's also Robert Bigelow, the Las Vegas businessman who finances the non-profit National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS), with which the semi-mysterious John Alexander is (or was) associated. This Institute is interested in cattle mutilations, UFOs, and the paranormal, among other things, and it owns a somewhat haunted ranch in Utah. They also have a book out about European UFO sightings, which we will review in our next issue.

Now Bigelow says he is willing to put up to a half billion dollars into designing & building a 100-passenger luxury cruise ship that will permanently orbit the Moon, giving very rich vacationers a week-long excursion they'll never forget (assuming they live long enough to come back to Earth). The ticket price would be in the range of "tens of thousands of dollars". Whee!...

UFO debunker Kal K. Korff (KKK) has written two books for Prometheus, the publishing arm of the dreaded CSICOP organization. The first of these was about the Billy Meier case, and the second one, about Roswell, is now in its fourth printing, ac-



ording to Korff. (This is incredible if true!) Korff also plans to expose the Kenneth Arnold case, the Rex Heflin photographic case, and the Betty & Barney Hill case, in future tomes.

In the latter instance, Korff may klash with Karl Pflock, our Contributing Editor, who is favorably disposed toward the Hill case. These two gentlemen can't even agree in regard to Roswell, even though they both believe the Incident was caused by a Mogul balloon!

The only thing your editor has against Korff, other than his overwhelming ego and strong tendency toward exaggeration, is an incident from the distant past: In May of 1985, Korff was "local chairman" for the 22nd National UFO Conference (NUFOC), which he held in his then-home-town of Fremont, California. Korff did no advertising, held the event in a (free) high school auditorium, and wouldn't allow any speakers except himself and William Moore. About twenty people showed up. It was by far the smallest annual event in our now 36 year history!

Korff tells us that he is now resigning, retiring, and/or withdrawing from the UFO field, for reasons that he has not explained. Will he be missed???...

As predicted in the last "Smear", the August 1999 issue of the MUFON Journal tells us the details of the impending resignation of Walt Andrus as International Director of that esteemed organization - a post he has held since MUFON's inception thirty years ago. Walt's resignation will take effect on July 16th, 2000, and the new Director will be John Schusler of Littleton, Colorado.

Andrus will be a speaker at the forthcoming NUFOC convention in San Antonio, Texas. Due to outstanding advance publicity, this event is shaping up to be a real Biggie. Your humble "Smear" editor will be one of the many speakers and will also act as Master of Ceremonies at the two-day event...

Former UFO researcher & right-wing extremist William Cooper has placed a long rant on the Net, expressing his interpretation of the recent multiple shooting at a Jewish Community Center and other senseless shooting rampages. Cooper apparently believes that the government, through a mind control device, causes these shooters to do their terrible Thing, so that the public will submit to gun control, thus paving the way for the socialistic "New World Odor", as he calls it...

Venerable FATE Magazine has two new male co-editors, and they seem to be trying to shake up the readership a bit. We picture the typical FATE devotee as a middle-aged to elderly female, mainly interested in inspiring tales of the psychic and the (alleged) afterlife. But the August issue features on the cover an article starting on Page 22 called "The New Face of Witchcraft"! Whereas witchcraft is a harmless religion, it is widely misunderstood and therefore not popular with many people.

Even more startling, an article beginning on Page 38, called "Enshrined & Endowed", has five pages of photos of gigantic wooden penises in Thailand - some from the grounds of the Hilton Hotel in the capital city of Bangkok. If this article doesn't rattle the typical FATE reader, nothing will!...

Once again, our sincere thanks to the handful of hard-core fans who send us enough hot material to keep this zine going. In particular, a huge "gracias" to Contributing Editor Karl Pflock, whose aid & encouragement have been Above and Beyond the Call of Duty - or whatever. A true friend.

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS:

There is an unusually large number of UFO conventions coming up this late summer and early Fall, and we have not seen them all listed together anywhere, except in the MUFON Journal. On Page 3 they are listed briefly in chronological order.

Sept. 4-5 - The Bay Area UFO Expo at the San Mateo Marriott Hotel, San Mateo, CA. Eighteen speakers. For information contact The Bay Area UFO Expo, 1706 Hogar Dr., San Jose, CA 95124 or FAX 408-266-4749.

SAN ANTONIO UFO CONFERENCE

36th Annual National UFO Conference in San Antonio, TX, September 25-26. Speakers include Walt Andrus, Whitley Strieber, Joe Firmage, Kevin Randle, Patrick Huyghe, Constance Clear, Jim Moseley, Karl Pflock, others. For more info call (210) 828-4507, e-mail dstacy@texas.net or SASE to Dennis Stacy, Box 12434, San Antonio, TX 78212.

Oct. 9-10 - The 10th UFO/ET Congress to be held at the Days Inn, Route 206 in Bordentown, NJ. For information contact Pat Marcattilio at 609-631-8955 or Tom Benson at 609-883-6921.

November 12-14 - Clearwater Beach UFO Conference at Clearwater Beach Hilton, Florida, sponsored by "Project Awareness." For free program guide call (334) 621-5750 or (850) 432-8888 or write to 7262 Highpointe Pl. E., Spanish Fort, AL 36527



JAMES RANDI

RANDI UPDATE:

More on the infamous James ("The Amusing") Randi "Blackmail Tape": Parts of it have appeared anonymously on the Internet very recently, and part was placed on the Net some time ago by a Canadian psychic named Earl Curley, now deceased. But when we challenged Randi in our July 1st 1999 issue to let us mail out the transcript, together with his April 1999 Position Statement, there was no reply from either him or his lawyer.

We'll accept this non-reply as a "no". Yet, in the above-mentioned Position Statement, Randi claims: "When...Eldon Byrd sued me in Baltimore a few years ago, his lawyer brought up the famous tape recording as evidence against my character. My own lawyer, at my insistence, asked that the entire tape be played for the courtroom and jury, so that the true nature of the record would be understood, instead of being misrepresented as it usually was."

The above statement by Randi is utterly untrue. In reality, Randi and his lawyer fought against the playing of the tape in the courtroom, but it was played for the jury anyhow, through earphones. (See also Eldon Byrd's letter to the editor, further along in this issue.)...

Separate item: In a postscript to the above-mentioned April 1999 Position Statement, Randi arrogantly states, referring to those who have sued him over the years, "I have still not paid a nickel to any of these people".

However, in a June 19th, 1999 statement on the Internet, referring to a complex dispute Randi was having with a "psychic detective" named Riley G., Randi states: "I want to put an end to this 'challenge' of ours. On the advice of legal counsel I will pay you three thousand dollars to drop your claim on the million bucks..." The million bucks referred to here is a supposed offer by Randi's Foundation to pay that amount to anyone who can prove he/she has psychic powers. This particular dispute, however, had nothing to do with psychic powers! (Long story here.)

The essence of this matter is that Randi has been caught shooting from the lip again - a habit that has gotten him into trouble several times before. (Our thanks to Rob MacGregor and others for this item.)...

At press time (August 20th) we learned that the entire "Blackmail Tape" transcript is back on the Net! It is at two different sites, one of which is unnecessarily filthy, while the other is serious & very well done, with the equivalent of about thirty pages of negative information about Randi. Whee!

T H E B O O K B R I G A D E :

We have here a softcover tome called "Criptozoology A to Z", written by Loren Coleman and our olde pal Jerome Clark. This is published by Fireside Books, a division of Simon & Schuster, and sells for \$13.00.

This book has almost two hundred entries regarding semi-mythical animals of various sorts, including such favorites as the Abominable Snowman, Bigfoot (with a separate section on the famed Patterson film), Chupacabras, the Loch Ness Monster, Sea Serpents, and the stinky old Swamp Ape. The entries are written in an entertaining and reasonably unbiased manner; so we have no difficulty recommending the book to anyone interested in the subject matter.

Among the creatures omitted is Mothman, the weird West Virginia bird made famous by John Keel and Gray Barker, circa 1970. Best thing about the book, by far: There is no mention whatever of pseudo-cryptozoologist Erik Beckjord of California, though there are brief biographies of quite a few other researchers in this field.

Clark, as most of our readers know, is the author of several respected UFO encyclopedias. Loren Coleman is a professor at the University of Southern Maine, and has collaborated with Clark on at least two other books. One of these was the 1975 tome called "The Unidentified", which Clark now disavows, as his views about UFOs and the universe have become more conservative since then...

Next we come to "The Source - Journey through the Unexplained", published by Paper Chase Press of New Orleans, La., and written by Art Bell and Brad Steiger. Bell is so famous as a radio personality that there is a two-page article about him in the August 9th issue of Time Magazine. Art has 9 million listeners according to Time, or 15 million according to the book jacket - quite a feat in either case! Brad Steiger, whom we know slightly, has written something like 140 books on various paranormal subjects.

This is a hardcover book and runs about 270 pages, with chapters such as: The Mysteries of Human Origins; The Enigma of Ancient Civilizations; Visitors from Other Worlds; Roswell & the Government UFO Cover-Up; Abductions & Mutilations; Angels vs. Demons; Space Anomalies; Crop Circles; Native American Beliefs; Millennial Prophecy; Ghosts & Out-of-Body Experiences; Mind Travel through Time & Space; Etc.

With all that going for it, this book should be a winner - but it isn't. Nearly every strange theory, rumor, legend, superstition, and/or paranoid belief of the modern era is discussed briefly, but without reaching any conclusion. Some of the chapters are reasonably objective and well done (even the Roswell discussion), but in general the authors throw too much shit at us too superficially and just don't know when to stop. As the authors themselves say in the preface: "Keep your mind open, but not so open that your brain falls out."

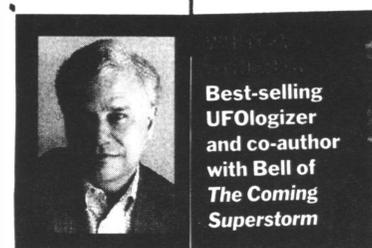
One thing we found of interest is statistics showing that belief in various forms of the supernatural is increasing in this modern age - not decreasing as CSICOP and other pseudo-rational organizations would wish. But there has to be a middle ground, and these guys haven't found it.

The late Carl Sagon is in the index, right next to Satan, but there is no mention of "Saucer Smear".

We leave you with a prediction from Page 192: "Sometime just before 1999...the city of Phoenix (Arizona) will become a major seaport on this newly-created western coastline". With predictions like this, how can we go wrong!?

Debate brews over ethnics in execution by lethal injection

Las Vegas Daily Optic 1/24/80



PFlock PTalk / THE FUTURE OF UFOLOGY - IS THERE ONE? (PART 2)
by Karl Pflock, Our Contributing Editor & Fifth Columnist



While as I observed last time, * 95% of ufology is crap (ufology), the remaining 5% is getting better every day. It is a curious paradox - a sub-domain of the realm of Saucer Logic? - that at a time when the general run of Popular Ufology is getting goofier and goofier, Serious Ufology in many important respects is getting better and better.

This is particularly notable in historical research, a much neglected facet of our peculiar preoccupation. Old UFO cases and witnesses and others involved are being carefully and thoughtfully re-investigated and re-evaluated, and previously unknown and known but not investigated cases are being brought to light and studied. The history of the field itself - including what really was done (and not done) by the Air Force, private researchers, and others, and why - is being studied closely for the first time since David Jacobs' mid-'70s study, "The UFO Controversy in America."

Significant efforts are being made to take advantage of computer and other technologies to identify, preserve, and make systematically accessible the vast quantity of information, case data, and other resources held not only by ufological organizations but also in private collections and files (including mine), public archives, and university libraries. Also underway is an oral-history project in which I'm playing a small part. It's aimed at capturing on audio and video tape the personal recollections, opinions, and insights of as many key persons as possible.

The new looks at important cases include Brad Sparks' re-examination of the famed 1957 RB-47 radar-visual case. While praising Jolly Old Phil Klass for his dogged efforts and giving him credit for digging up key information, Sparks conclusively demonstrates not only that Klass' debunking of the incident is de bunk, but also establishes "this case as the first scientific proof of the existence of UFOs." Moreover, Sparks' results leave very little room for doubt that whatever the UFO involved was and wherever it came from, it was not a non-sentient natural phenomenon. Don't take my word for it. Read Sparks' report for yourself, pages 761-790, in Jerry Clark's "UFO Encyclopedia", 2nd edition.

Tellingly, although the encyclopedia was released in February 1998 after much advance hoopla about Sparks' work, Popular Ufology has taken no apparent notice of this blockbuster. Ditto - and quite significantly - the "skeptics" (quotation marks used advisedly) and, surprise, Real Science.

Then there's McMinnville and... Aghh! In "Smear" at least, Space is not infinite. (To Be Continued)

* For those who may be interested, back issues of "Smear" are available from "Smear" Headquarters for a mere one buck each.

STRESS MANAGEMENT:

Picture yourself near a stream.

Birds are softly chirping in the crisp, cool, mountain air.

No one knows your secret place. You are in total seclusion from that hectic place called "the world."

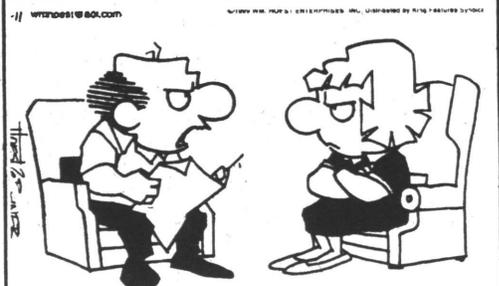
The soothing sound of a gentle waterfall fills the air with a cascade of serenity.

The water is clear.

You can easily make out the face of the person you're holding under the water.



THE LOCKHORNS



"I hope you live long enough to dance on my grave... I plan on being buried at sea."

LETTERS TO YE OLDE EDITOR:

ELDON BYRD writes as follows:

"Thank you for sending me a copy of the subject Newsletter, wherein you refer to me (on page 2) as an '(alleged) psychic'. Who alleges this? I am not a psychic - never have been, never said I was, ain't, never will be (unless I get hit by lightning, maybe). Randi calls me a 'parapsychologist'. Let me set the record straight once and for all for your readers: I AM NOT A PARAPSYCHOLOGIST. Never have been, never will be. As a matter of fact, I DISDAIN parapsychology. There are some very good researchers in that field, but I am an engineer and a scientist and as such, I am not involved in the soft sciences, per se. To call me a parapsychologist is like calling Randi a parabiologist. Neither is true.

"As to your reference to a CD disc of the (blackmail) 'tape' - I haven't the foggiest notion who would be sending it out or why anyone would even want to. I thought all this was laid to rest when a jury of his peers convicted Randi in Court several years ago for maliciously (meaning he knew he was lying) defaming me. Why on earth is he bringing this up again?"

Researcher ROBERT DAVIS writes:

"To answer Christopher Allan's question (p. 8 of 'Smear'), the Truman quote does appear on p. 10 of Vol. 5, No. 5 of 'Flying Saucer Review', as part of a 2-page spread of alleged quotes from 'Very Important People Talking About the Saucers'.

"Unfortunately, the only source cited is the same - 'Press conference, April 4, 1950'. There is no clue as to where they got it from! I have no idea whether any files remain where their current editor could look it up and find out. (The current address for FSR is: Box 162, High Wycombe, Bucks., HP13 5D7, England, if anyone wants to try.) "

Editor's Note: Tom Benson, who also has the issue of "Flying Saucer Review" in question, has researched the matter further. Truman did have a press conference on March 30th, 1950, but apparently there was no mention of flying saucers. However, on April 4th, 1950, while on vacation in Key West, Florida, Truman indirectly answered a group of questions submitted to his press secretary, including one about saucers. Truman's response was negative, but there was apparently no direct quote. (This information is from Page 5 of "UFOs: A History, April - July, 1950", by Loren E. Gross) Our thanks to Tom Benson for all this research!

DR. GARY POSNER of the Tampa Bay Skeptics writes as follows:

"George Hansen's bizarre, irrational attack upon my character, in the July 25th 'Smear', displayed even more ignorance (as I hope your Holiness will confirm at the end of this letter) than it did his typical winning charm. I hope his 'sources' will come forward with their frank impressions of my character, specifically as it compares to Hansen's. In our discussions they excused Hansen's chronic misbehavior (my term) on the basis of his overzealousness and highly emotional personality, characteristics that Hansen now projects upon me.

"Anyone interested in my response to Hansen's brief-yet-reckless depiction of me in his 45-page article about 'CSICOP and the Skeptics'...can find it on the 'Critics' page of my website (<http://members.aol.com/garypos>). Readers will note that Hansen's



own editor at the Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, Rhea White, to whom I had mailed copies of my prior correspondence with Jerry Clark (Hansen's acknowledged 'source' for his misinformation about me), sided with me - not with Hansen - in this dispute. White's personal letters to me contained several additional such comments that I have tactfully failed to post for public dissemination.

"As for my 'primary claim to fame...being Phil Klass' lowly proof-reader', visitors to my website will see otherwise. And, for the record, no one need fear that I have any designs on the throne of 'UFO debunkerdom'. I suspect that this 'widely rumored' plot of mine is but another manifestation of Hansen's mischief."

Posner admits only to being "an aging white male". Hansen's other remarks were a bit excessive if intended seriously. - Editor.

Ace cartoonist & researcher MATT GRAEBER writes:

"As the person who first coined the term 'ufoology', I take exception to Mr. George Hansen's flagrant misuse of it in regard to his attack on Gary Posner, re his probably becoming heir to Phil Klass' evil debunking empire. I mean, what's wrong with Gary playing Captain Hook, while George does his Peter Pan impersonation while defending 'the good ship UFORIA'?"

"Moreover, as you once pointed out, 'Every religion needs a Devil' (even George's!) Besides, the only real difference between 'ufoology' & much of today's ufology is an extra vowel! Hey George, lighten up, will ya? Nobody likes a smarty pants!"

And, the above-mentioned GEORGE HANSEN writes:

"...In the last issue of 'Smear' I seem to have erred re Gary Posner's ambitions. He assures me that he has no interest in becoming a major debunker of ufoology. That's unfortunate, but I hope that CSICOP is grooming someone smarter than Joe Nickell for that function.

"I may have been slightly too hard on Posner in my other remarks. After all, anyone who upsets Richard Hall can't be all bad!..."

"Gary Posner seemed to be extremely upset over my characterization of him...I assured him that it was meant as humorous, and of course it was! Many people who met him at the MUFON convention found it hilarious. But poor Gary didn't seem to find it funny at all. In fact, he wanted me to write a letter to you saying that it was indeed meant as humor!..."

And, the One & Only PHIL KLASS chimes in with:

"Your latest issue is one of your best.

"Ref. George Hansen's stated suspicion in 'Smear' that Dr. Gary Posner 'has been obsequiously pursuing Philip Klass' blessing as the designated heir to the throne of debunkerdom': WRONG, not 'obsequiously!' Dr. Posner has offered to pay me \$10,000,000 per year if I will designate him as my UFO-debunker successor (knowing that a 'certain Agency' pays me \$100,000,000 per year plus taxi fare for my UFO-debunking efforts). However, I am now seeking bids from Stanton Friedman, Bill Moore, Budd Hopkins, David Jacobs and Joe Firmage..."

From Design Week, 21 May 1999:
 'A Japanese underwear manufacturer claims to have designed a bra that will "save the earth from annihilation at the end of the century". The Armageddon bra has been developed by Triumph International to counter the "great king of terror coming from the sky" in July. It is made from NASA space suit material. The bra should be worn without outer garments, and includes a feature that signals impending danger. But there are no plans to market the bra, so it looks like we're all going to die anyway!'

PHIL DUKE Ph.D., author of "The AIDS-ET Connection", writes as follows:

"I don't have the words to tell you just how much I appreciate your review of my book. You are a great man, and 'Saucer Smear' a great publication. A review could not be obtained from MUFON, the JSE, The Omaha WH, and so far also not from CUFOS or UFO Mag.

Only 'Saucer Smear' has given a review. Action speaks a lot louder than words. You and your publication have been much fairer and much more positive in your actions regarding my work than all the other UFO publications put together. This is the truth...

"For your information, at present MUFON is not a quasi-scientific organization because the director, editor, dean of UFO investigators, etc. know absolutely nothing about science. Articles are published entirely without scientific peer review. Regarding their so-called 'consultants', I was never able to contact any because MUFON would not tell me who and where they were..."

"Re Richard Hall - Why doesn't MUFON wise up and get rid of him? UFO Magazine did!..."

CHRISTOPHER ALLAN of England writes:

"...Is it really true that smoking is banned at Stonehenge? Outdoors? As a non-smoker I regard some of the anti-smoking legislation as almost paranoia - as bad as parts of ufology, maybe worse! The anti-smokers have gone bananas!"

Skeptic MICHAEL DENNETT writes:

"I just received another issue of the wonderful 'Saucer Smear' newsletter.

"Two items distressed me in this issue (Vol. 46, No. 8): First, as a newsletter I anticipate the material contained to be timely. The fact that Dan Cohen (who is a pretty good writer) dedicated a book to you in 1971 is not news. It appears that you perceive this dedication as worthwhile and were unable to take credit for it almost three decades ago and you are now trying to catch up!

"The second area of concern was the announcement that Randal Raydon 'will not be able to perform his duties' at 'Smear'. Is this a coverup? Is there a real story and Jim Moseley is not telling us what's going on? Tell me that the Supreme Commander has not caved in and is holding back juicy tidbits just because they involve 'his' vaunted 'Smear' staff!..."

Regarding the misspelled dedication, we forgot that we already took Dan Cohen to task for this way back when the book first came out. Re Randal Raydon, yes, this is a coverup! - Editor.

COLM KELLEHER, Ph.D of the National Institute of Discovery Science (NIDS) writes as follows:

"I have enjoyed the electronic version of your newsletter for a few years now. I think Ufology badly needs a sense of humor. So keep up the good work!

"Please review the enclosed book. It was recently published by the NIDS."

The book in question is called "Best UFO Cases - Europe", and it will be reviewed in our next glorious issue. - Editor.

Finally, our friend CARLOS MENTIRA writes:

"'Saucer Smear' continues to pick on James Randi for no reason other than his intense dedication to psychic Truth. His sex life, if any, is nobody's business but his own. Let's stick to the facts for once and forget about personalities, no matter how obnoxious they may be!..."

BIZARRO

By Dan Piraro

