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EDITOR AND STILL
SUPREME COMMANDER:
James W. Moseley, J.S.

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:
Karl T. Pflock

NON-SCHEDULED
NEWSLETTER

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WORLD FAILS TO END!

The date "1900" above is merely a bit of humor. Actually, we really have made it into the year 2000, somehow!

As of this writing, late on January 1st, the planet Earth has not (yet) suffered the various computer breakdowns and other man-made disasters predicted for midnight last night. Seriously, we know that private businesses downtown here in Key West had emergency power generators ready to go into action, and the biggest bar in town (Sloppy Joe's) even had an emergency evacuation plan - not for customers, but for employees only!

Even though the crisis appears to be over, certain disturbing questions remain: What will become of Twentieth Century Fox? Will they quickly rename themselves Twenty-first Century Fox? And what of the Century 21 real estate outfit? Will they reinvent themselves as Century 22, or will they fall behind the times? Inquiring minds want to know!

As for the (alleged) Space People, they are probably wise enough to know this wasn't the real millennium anyhow, and they will simply carry on as usual.

THIS IS AMAZING, RANDI - AND ALSO AMUSING!

The Jan.-Feb. 2000 issue of CSICOP's "Skeptical Inquirer" (sometimes called the "Skeptical Enquirer") contains an article which we find astonishing, to put it mildly. The Fellows and Scientific Consultants of the dreaded CSICOP organization were asked the question - Who are the outstanding skeptics of the twentieth century? No list of names was provided, and no suggested criteria. These learned gentlemen were thus free to choose anyone they liked, the only restriction being that the person's major contributions are from the twentieth century - not earlier.

The winner, as you may have guessed by now, was James Randi! The irony is that, just a few years ago, Randi resigned from CSICOP under a cloud. He had caused that august organization to lose its libel insurance because of various off-the-cuff remarks he made about Uri Geller and others, for which he was sued. The details of these several lawsuits are long and complex, but the upshot was that Randi left CSICOP and is now closely allied with Michael Shermer's rival skeptical magazine out of California, called simply "Skeptic".

The first six runners-up after Randi are CSICOP members in good

standing. Thus numbers 2 through 7 of the "10 Outstanding Skeptics of the Century" are Martin Gardner, Carl Sagan (recently deceased), Paul Kurtz, Ray Hyman, Issac Asimov (deceased) and Philip Klass. If we were asked to vote on this matter, we would definitely put Klass in first place out of the seven - as he is, we feel, in a Klass by himself, though like all of us, he is not without his faults.

But the worst is yet to come: No. 8 on the list is Bertrand Russell; No. 9 is Harry Houdini, and Lord help us, poor old Albert Einstein is at the bottom of the list, at No. 10! In our opinion anyone who makes a favorable comparison between James Randi and any of these three is plainly deranged! What more can we say?

OUR PLANS FOR THE 2000 NUFOC CONVENTION:

As stated in the last issue, this year's National UFO Conference (NUFOC) will be held on Sept. 23rd and 24th at a Ramada Inn in Corpus Christi, Texas, with Doris Upchurch of Texas MUFON as the local host(ess). Confirmed speakers so far include our old pal Stanton Friedman, plus Constance Clear, Dennis Stacy, Walt Andrus of MUFON, Ann Druffel, Rick Hilberg of Cleveland, and of course your humble "Smear" editor. More details will be announced as the date gets closer...

Incidentally, last year's NUFOC in San Antonio was our best ever in many ways, and was even covered by FOX. On the evening of Dec. 28th, there was an hour-long Special on the FOX News Network, called "We Are the Aliens". This included quite a bit of video film (or whatever) from interviews with several of the speakers there, including your "Smear" editor. Our co-worker Karl Pflock had the unique opportunity therein to give the definitive "last word" on the Roswell Incident. Whitley Strieber, Patrick Huyghe and Dr. Kevin Randle also received a lot of air time. The show included a brief history of ufology, and over-all, it was one of FOX's better efforts on the subject - or at least it was a lot better than the alien autopsy video of a few years back!

MISCELLANEOUS RAVINGS:

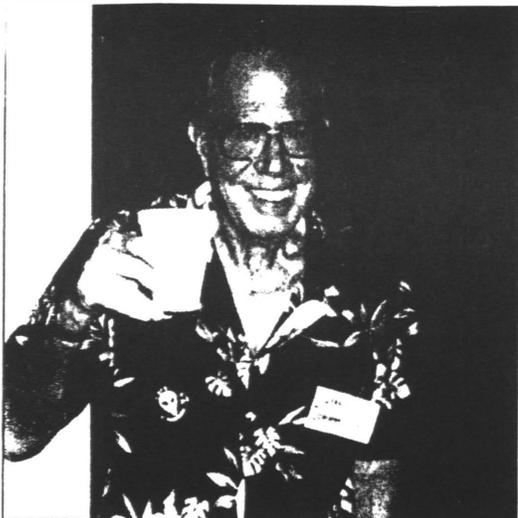
According to a Nov. 25th, 1999 6-page document from his International Space Sciences Organization, computer whiz Joe Firmage now seems to believe that the MJ-12 documents may be sophisticated government-inspired forgeries related to the Cold War. He even speculates that fake alien landings may have been staged by the government for obscure purposes. We have had the opportunity to talk to Firmage in person, and we note that whereas his belief in interplanetary UFOs is firm, he is clever enough not to tie his belief system to any single item of "proof", such as the Roswell Incident, MJ-12, etc....

Although Larry Bryant of CAUS has won his battle to stay on MUFON's Board of Directors, as mentioned in our last issue, he nevertheless continues to upset various people, especially Dan Wright of the 5-member MUFON Executive Committee. Several of the people who have supported Bryant in the past are now having second thoughts!

On the other hand, MUFON itself is currently in worse shape than usual, with the impending resignation of czar Walt Andrus, the continuing decline in membership, and the continuing clash between various factions within the organization. These are indeed dark days for Ufodumb!...

If you want to keep up with the latest antics of Peter Gersten and Larry Bryant, the two prime movers of CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy), you can now subscribe to a magazine called "CAUS & Effect", available for \$20 per year at: 8624 East San Bruno Drive, Scottsdale, Arizona 85258. We have not yet seen a copy of this monthly magazine, but we await with interest...

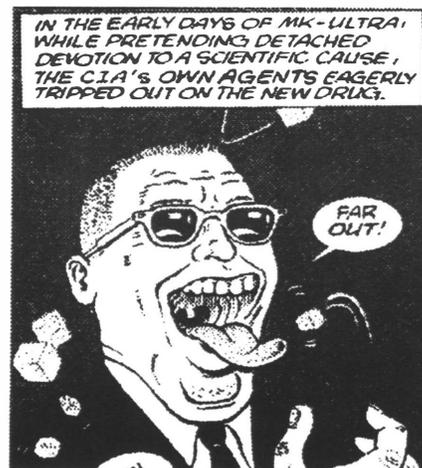
We were sad to learn that "Project Awareness", hosted by Vicki Lyons



Jim Moseley



MR. CREEPO



of Gulf Breeze and two others, is now going out of business. For six years these people put together a total of fifteen conventions, one of which was an annual event in or near Gulf Breeze itself - home town of the Ed Walters controversy plus many apparently legitimate UFO sightings. Thus it turns out that the recent Clearwater Beach (Fl.) convention, reviewed in our Dec. 5th, 1999 issue, was the last of the series...

Timothy Green Beckley, alias "Mr. UFO", has been in the flying saucer field almost as long as your "Smear" editor, and we consider him to be a good friend. Now Beckley has re-invented himself as "Mr. Creepo" (his term, not ours), and is producing such films as: "Barely Legal Lesbian Vampires", "The Curse of Ed Wood", "Blood Spurting Vampire Freaks", and "Sandy Hook Lingerie Party Massacre".

Quite a few years ago, Beckley produced a hardcore porn movie called "Driller", intended as a sick takeoff on Michael Jackson's "Thriller" album. All the above info is taken from Beckley's own recent literature. All we can say is, "Tim, do whatever turns you on!"

Incidentally, Beckley still maintains his interest in UFOs, as he recently posted a rather sensible anti-MJ-12 opinion article on the Internet. However, let no one mistake "Mr. Creepo" for a skeptic, as most of his ufological writings strongly encourage Belief...

A recent issue of "USA Today" has a cover story about Uri Geller - the Israeli psychic or magician (take your pick!) who is famous for bending spoons. Although his international fame has diminished since he peaked out in the 1970s, Geller is still busy with many publicity-seeking projects. For the past several years, Geller and his family have lived in an 8 million dollar mansion in England, which he now intends to sell.

As most "Smear" readers know, Geller's arch-enemy is/was James Randi, and they engaged in several complex lawsuits a few years ago, which were duly reported in "Smear" at the time.

Back in 1992 your "Smear" editor met Uri Geller and his family in person at a posh hotel in Miami, and he gave us a private demonstration of one version of his spoon-bending "trick". We still have the autographed spoon.

...The above-mentioned spoon bending incident is discussed briefly in a wonderful article in the January 2000 issue of Fate Magazine. The article is written by our friend Karl Pflock, and is entitled "NUFOC Report: World's Oldest Continuing UFO Conference". The subject is the National UFO Conference's memorable gathering in San Antonio last September, hosted by Dennis Stacy, former editor of the MUFON Journal. The photo of Jim Moseley (above), also by Karl Pflock, was taken at that event.

We were happy to learn that Phyllis Galde is now back as editor of Fate, so there probably will be no more articles therein about giant penises in Thailand for quite awhile!

BOOKS TO KEEP YOUR BONFIRE BURNING BRIGHTLY:

For some reason, we have lately been receiving many more (free) review copies of UFO & other offbeat books than we ever did before, and there just isn't space in our 8-page format to review them properly. Yet we feel morally obliged to say something, following our motto "if you can't say something bad, don't say anything at all". Thus we will follow the lead of Bob Girard of Arcturus Books, who writes in his monthly catalogue just one short scathing paragraph about each of the books he is trying to sell.

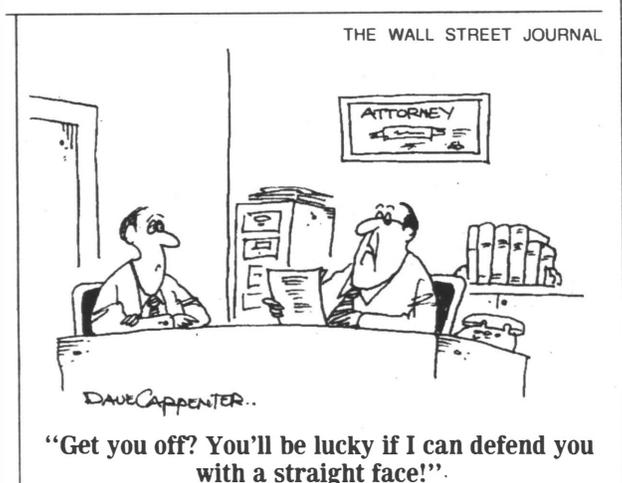
First there is "Gardner's Whys & Wherefores", written for Prometheus Books by Martin Gardner, who is a brilliant scholar and a pillar of the dreaded CSICOP organization (Committee for the Scientific Investigation of the Paranormal). This is a collection of essays on various topics of interest to the author, including a 6-page treatise on the mathematical constant "Pi". Flying saucers are not even mentioned, which is a merciful thing, as Gardner's views are rigidly negative on that particular subject.

Then there is "The Mystic Healers - A History of Magical Medicine", by our olde acquaintance Paris Flammonde, who is said to be a widely recognized expert in the fields of modern mythology (such as UFOs!), the occult, and paranormal experiences. This book purports to be an expose of fake cures of many kinds, including those by the notorious Church of Scientology. Published by Scarborough House, this is a thoroughly revised and updated edition of an earlier work.

Next we have "Alien Base: The Evidence for Extraterrestrial Colonization of Earth". This is one of a series of high-profile books by our friend Timothy Good of England, whose earlier work "Alien Contact" was a best seller. Now Good purports to believe that Earth is actually the base of operations for several different alien species. The photographs are very interesting, but unfortunately they include several by George Adamski, Howard Menger, and Paul Villa. Egads!

Next - "UFO Odyssey", by prolific offbeat writer Brad Steiger and his wife Sherry. This book is said to provide profound insights into tantalizing questions such as: what are UFOs and how will their existence affect our own, in the new millennium? We can't really knock this book, because page 275 (which the authors kindly marked for us) contains your "Smear" editor's quoted opinions about the philosophical aspects of the UFO mystery.

Finally, we have "Alien Identities" by Richard Thompson, with a foreword by famed author Whitley Strieber. Says psychiatrist & psychic researcher Berthold Schwarz, on the back cover: "Stimulating, well organized, and an encyclopedic smorgasbord of UFO data and ancient Indian counterparts"; - whatever that means. Schwarz goes on to say that "Alien Identities" stands to become a classic. Enough said!?

**Names In The News**

MaliVai Washington became the first Black man to reach the final of the Wimbledon tennis tournament since the legendary Arthur Ashe, back in 1975. He lost to **Richard Krajicek** July 7. Commentaries in Chicago commended Mr. Washington on his sportsmanship and recognized him as not just a good Black player, but a good player. The seriousness of the match was lessened towards the end of the final, however, by a stalker running across the Centre Court.

PFlock PTalk / K L A S S I C U F O L O G Y
by Karl Pflock, Our Contributing Editor & Fifth Columnist



Last "Smear", my (gasp!) friend Phil Klass waxed wroth over my having taken him and other "skeptics" to task for their zealous unwillingness to consider contrary facts concerning UFO reports they've "explained" ("Smear", Nov. 5th). He also didn't like my example: his tenacity in defending his ludicrous notion that all seven men directly involved in the Travis Walton UFO-zapping incident conspired in a hoax.

As Phil noted, I'd told him I thought Walton and his best friend Mike Rogers could have rigged up something convincing enough to make the other five think they'd seen a hovering, hostile UFO. * Properly primed with flying saucer talk by Walton and Rogers, with clever theatrics by the duo during the sighting/zapping, with Rogers whisking the crew away after but a few seconds exposure, it wouldn't have taken a "Day the Earth Stood Still" saucer to fool them. After the fact, in the forest gloom, with Walton and the UFO mysteriously gone, their impressions easily could have been further molded by Rogers continuing his act and repeating his version of the saucer and what it had done to Walton.

Experienced investigators know eyewitness testimony frequently is unreliable, a point often made by Klass in criticizing the work of ufologists. They also know people are highly suggestible during and in the wake of dramatic unexpected events. Yet, in pooh-poohing my suggestion, Phil implicitly accepts the accuracy of the Walton witnesses' publicized descriptions of the UFO.

Phil also ignores some very important testimony he obtained from witness Steve Pierce during a June 20th, 1978, tape-recorded telephone interview (a dub of which he kindly supplied me in early 1998), testimony which to my knowledge he's never revealed in any of his writings about the case:

Klass: What did you see?

Pierce: Uh, well, I thought it was something a deer hunter, you know, rigged up. You know, 'cause it was deer season, you know, so he could see. You know? And, uh, and, but I couldn't see the bottom or a top or sides, all's I could see was the front of it, you know. You couldn't tell if it had a bottom to it or, you know, or a back to it or anything...

Hmmmm... A "Plan Nine from Outer Space" saucer, perhaps?

* I hasten to add that, while I think a hoax is possible, I have not made up my mind about the case.

LETTERS TO YE OLDE EDITOR:

DR. GARY POSNER of the Tampa Bay (Florida) Skeptics writes:

"I thank Karl Pflock for introducing me to a new word, 'amanuensis', in the Nov. 5th 'Smear'. But perhaps you'd be so kind as to inform your readers that Pflock is full of pflit as far as this derogatory characterization is concerned. Further, I challenge him to offer even a single piece of evidence in support of his borderline-libelous charge that I 'fight down and dirty' to support pet UFO explanations and to 'suppress any evidence or theory to the contrary'. Jim, are you aware of anyone in the field (or cesspool) whose writings are more honest, fair and reasoned than mine (other than yours, of course)?"

DR. KEVIN D. RANDLE, Ph.D. writes as follows:

"...I don't think it fair to call my Ph.D. a half-assed degree. It's at least three-quarters assed and might even be fully assed. When I first

(6)

mentioned that I was working toward it (you remember, you were in the audience where I made the first public statement about it) I said it was from a 'non-traditional' source that involved 'distance learning', which is the politically correct way of saying correspondence. What I see today is that more people are turning to this alternative of education because it doesn't disrupt life the way attending a more traditional university does."

CHRIS ROTH, who is close to obtaining his own Ph.D., writes:

"...I was amused by Kevin Randle's arguing in the latest 'Smear' that his Ph.D. is legitimate by pointing out first that it is not from a mail-order university but from a 'distance learning' one. Distance learning is in fact a euphemism for mail-order, and just because it's over the World Wide Web doesn't make it better than education through the mail. Then he claims that Web-based learning is the wave of the future - which is exactly what was said about mail-order degrees a hundred years ago!

"It's one thing to say that California Coast University is accredited: fair enough, and Randle may well have gotten the most out of his education 'there' and deserve his Ph.D. But that would be up to his initiative, whereas a bricks-and-stone university's degree guarantees that some real learning took place (more or less!) He should have just pointed out that C.C.U. is accredited and left it at that. I'll call him Dr. Randle on those grounds, not on any other....

"Poor Bill Clinton has now weighed in saying that we might as well call Dec. 31st, 1999, the eve of the millennium. It's my new acid-test for presidential candidates. Anyone who celebrates the millennium's dawn this New Year's Eve won't get my vote. How can you hope to balance the budget if you can't even count to ten?...

"Happy holidays. I hope you enjoy the remaining twelve-plus months of this millennium. Today I turn thirty-three, the same age at which Jesus, Evita, and John Belushi died. Now if that doesn't portend a new dispensation, I don't know what does!"

ALEXANDER MEBANE writes as follows:

"...So Pflock is one of those who still can't let go of Charles Fort's old 'extraterrestrial-constructions' conjecture about UFOs, and consequently must reject all UFO-associated preternatural phenomena as 'merely imaginary, and having no real connection with true UFOs'. I wonder how he would account for Kary Mullis's experience. Of course your (and my) judgment - that this is just the latest 'show' put on to tease us by unseen 'supernatural' (?) entities who have always been playing with us - is the only one that can account for the facts as they have developed since 1954..."

And, DENIS COREY writes:

"Pflock's column was interesting in this issue of 'Smear', though I disagree with his general nuts and bolts point of view. I strongly disagree with his statement that spacefaring beings would seek worlds similar to theirs, and consequently would also resemble us. I don't quite understand why aliens would find earth so interesting. If they're advanced enough to travel throughout the galaxy, there must be more fabulous places to visit than a small, socially backward planet in the backwaters of the Milky Way.."

Navy's Y2K Trick: Span Globe and Years While Standing Still

12/30/99

By LEE GOMES

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

New Year's revelers: Try to top this.

Tomorrow night, the nuclear submarine USS Topeka plans to be under the ocean's surface at precisely 00 degrees latitude, 180 degrees longitude.

Cognoscenti will recognize those coordinates as the intersection of the equator and the International date line, a point in the Pacific Ocean roughly halfway between Hawaii and Australia. At midnight local time—7 a.m. on the East Coast—the 360-foot-long sub will be straddling the two lines.

That means that when the clock strikes 12, different parts of the vessel will be in different hours, days, months, years, centuries, millennia, seasons and hemispheres simultaneously.

(?)

Ace cartoonist MATT GRAEBER writes:

"Yikes! What's this, a revolt in Smeardom? I guess it's O.K. for Karl (Pflock) to question your leanings toward the 3½-4-4½D theories on the UFO phenomenon, but his endorsement of Betty Hill's notion that if aliens looked like elephants they'd be interested in terrestrial elephants (sexually and for abduction/experimentation), is pure ufoology! After all, everyone knows that elephants are primarily interested in peanuts, and only occasionally aroused sexually when the cows of their species are agreeably in heat. Since the grays appear to be lacking reproductive organs, it could be that they're poking around the abductees' body cavities 'in search of peanuts'."

Aged researcher GEORGE EARLEY writes:

"...I am still baffled as to why Walt Andrus dug out the old Valentic case to talk about at the convention. I think that one is a no-brainer with no connection to alleged UFO sightings in the area during the days before and after. I think...that the most likely explanation is prosaic: A leak of carbon monoxide fumes into the cabin through the firewall which separates cabin from engine compartment. Slow unrecognized poisoning (carbon monox is colorless, odorless and tasteless) could well have been accompanied by hallucinations which, given the kid's interest in UFOs, could have been ufological in nature. And the ocean currents could likely have swept the sinking plane a long ways before anyone began looking for him. Of course, Jerry Clark says even those who officially investigated the crash don't buy my idea, but I don't notice anyone putting forth a better one..."

"Random query department: Do you (does anyone) know what happened to Dennis Crenshaw who used to publish a mag called 'The Hollow Earth Insider' and who had a website, now apparently abandoned, on the topic?..."

RICK HILBERG of Cleveland writes as follows:

"...You had a nice mention of Al Manak's passing, in 'Smear'. I have been receiving all kinds of notes from 'oldtimers' offering sympathy, as someone put the word out on the Internet. As I mentioned to you on the phone, Al (and myself too, to some extent) chose not to 'go national' and whore himself like so many 'names' in the UFO and Fortean fields have done. He was happy with that decision, and that's all that counts.

"Not too many people knew the great amount of research and documentation he engaged in over the years..."

UFO researcher & lecturer ANN DRUFFEL writes:

"...There was an unexplained rumor a few months ago in 'Saucer Smear' that Kal Korff was going to analyze the now re-surfaced original Heflin photos to 'prove they were hoaxed'. However, no one yet, besides our 3-person team, has had the ability to analyse these re-surfaced Polaroids. They're safe in my care and they're staying there until our team (two scientists & myself) have had our analysis published. It's in that stage now, pre-publication.

"But Rex Heflin got a weird call last Friday, Nov. 19th, from an unidentified man telling him that the 'original photos were being chemically treated so that no one would ever be able to extract meaningful data from them again.' Rex became used to anonymous threats, etc. long ago, but it's interesting to try to speculate what kind of twisted mind would make a call like that to Rex, a witness not in the best of health, whose scientific attitude toward UFO research in general & his four UFO photos in particular is unquestioned. There is no clue as to who did this. Any ideas?..."

FOR THOSE WHO CARE, the "Saucer Smear" Web address is:

www.martiansgohome.com/smear

Back issues of the print version available for one dollar each!

LINDA CORTILE of abduction fame writes as follows:

"I've been enjoying 'Smear' more than I thought I could. Your newsletter is informative, and at the same time, it's funny.

"You know, after having been involved within the UFO community for about ten years, I've finally come to a reasonable conclusion, of course in an affectionate way: If morons could fly, this community would make some hell of an airport!..."

Famed Remote Viewer INGO SWANN writes:

"I continue to enjoy and admire your production. I always stop what I'm doing when it arrives. I then draw a hot bath and read it with pleasure and smiles..."

"Cheers for the New Year and all best wishes forever!..."

Researcher WARREN GAMMEL writes:

"I love your publication. I always read 'Smear' cover to cover and pass it along to friends...As far as keeping abreast of the latest ufology news, 'Smear' is still indispensable and the best. None of the UFO websites can hold a candle to your highly informative and amusing publication. I'm looking forward to reading 'Smear' in the coming millennium. Keep up the fantastic work!"

And, BRIAN BOLDMAN, an expert on "angel hair" (remember that stuff?), writes as follows:

"I wonder why I'm doing this. Here I am, a furloughed airplane mechanic, and I'm sending you cash for something I could read FREE on the Internet. It has to be some kind of subliminal thing you encode in 'Smear'. Maybe someday after you croak the hard copies will be worth something to somebody, but mine won't get a very good price, as I read them on the throne (somehow it seems appropriate) and they have been soiled!..."

Long-time researcher GEORGE STRICH writes:

"Please find enclosed a Love Offering, as I have received the Dreaded X. I enjoy each issue of 'Saucer Smear' and hope you'll continue with it forever. Best wishes for the New Year..."

Finally, STEVEN PROPP writes:

"I noticed that I have the Dreaded X on my mailing label! But I have a valid reason! I was abducted by aliens, and I've got the Star Map to prove it!

No, wait, you wouldn't believe that one...How about I just submit my 'tardy' offering!? Keep up the good work. I enjoy 'Smear' a great deal - It's by far the most unique periodical of its sort!"

