

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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ANOTHER "SMEAR" EXCLUSIVE:

TODD ZECHEL LURCHES BACK INTO THE ARENA!

As mentioned in our Nov. 5th, 1999 issue, the notorious Todd Zechel, formerly of CAUS and GSW (Ground Saucer Watch), now apparently lives in retirement in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, with his elderly father. We learned this by telephoning him there a few months ago.

Now, out of the blue, we have received from Zechel a 34-page document supposedly written and copyrighted by him in 1989, entitled "The MJ-12/Aquarius Hoax". It is a treatise that we have never seen or heard of before, and Zechel admits it was not widely distributed at the time. It details the involvement of William Moore, Sgt. Richard Doty and others, in the release of the original group of MJ-12 documents in the late 1980s. Also mentioned are Lee Graham, Paul Bennewitz (sp?), Bob Pratt, Linda Moulton Howe, Trace Torme (son of Mel, who is now deceased), Peter Gersten, Brad Sparks, and several others. All these names are well known to hard-core UFO fiends, and the story of the release of the original MJ-12 documents has already been told too many times before, so it won't be repeated at this time.

The most interesting point here is this: Zechel blames these hoaxed documents mainly on Moore and Doty, just as others have done. But it is well known in the UFO field that Todd Zechel himself is a prime suspect in this hoax, due to his self-confessed Intelligence background. We wonder why Zechel is coming forth with his version of events at this very late date!

Secondly: Zechel professes to believe that the Roswell Incident was caused by a balloon, just as the Air Force claims (and we believe strongly that Zechel is right about that); but apparently Zechel still has faith in another lesser-known crash story which is also mentioned, together with much other info., in the MJ-12 "Presidential Briefing Document". We refer to the alleged 1950 incident usually called the El Indio - Guerrero Case, which was debunked in a presentation at last year's NUFOC



convention in San Antonio. The researcher who presented this debunking material was Tom Deuley of MUFON.

We have also received from Zechel a 17-page treatise on the letterhead of "Associated Investigators Group (AIG)", dated Feb. 7th, 1994. If we recall correctly, this was a totally bogus group that Zechel himself invented as a cover for his ufological activities of that era.

In any case, this 17-pager purports to be a petition of some sort, under the Freedom of Information Act, to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Actually, it is not really a petition but a subjective reconstruction by Zechel of the CIA's involvement in ufology since that Agency's inception, circa 1947. Although hundreds of pages of CIA documents have been released in the past, partly because of Zechel's efforts, there is no "smoking gun" here or in anything else Zechel writes.

Of interest is the involvement of "Smear" Contributing Editor Karl Pflock, about whom Zechel says:

"NICAP, at its peak, consisted of a nationwide series of interlocking local groups scattered across the country called 'subcommittees'. One of the founders and subsequent 'chairman' of the local Washington, D.C.-area NICAP subcommittee was Karl Pflock, secretly a CIA briefing officer who utilized a 'back-stopped' Department of Army cover. Pflock later became an agent with the Washington, D.C. field office of the CIA's Domestic Contact Service, all the while continuing as the head of NICAP's local subcommittee.

"More recently Pflock, who had been Deputy Director of Operational Test and Evaluation for the Department of Defense and now purports to earn a living as a freelance writer, has been associated with the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR), a civilian UFO research group based in suburban D.C.

"...Pflock himself received a research grant of several thousand dollars from the Fund, and has recently moved to New Mexico, apparently to further his efforts to focus attention on the 1947 Roswell case, which appears to have been the recovery of a collapsed TOP SECRET balloon cluster launched from White Sands as part of a program to develop high-altitude photographic reconnaissance balloons to be flown over the Soviet Union..."

After consulting with our esteemed Contributing Editor, we believe Zechel's remarks on this particular subject are generally accurate, except for the statement that Pflock was a member of the D.C. field office of the CIA's Domestic Contact Service.

Pflock, together with a handful of other researchers, deserves credit for having proven beyond any reasonable doubt that the Roswell Incident was indeed caused by a Mogul Balloon, as somewhat inaccurately described above. There is quite obviously no CIA plot here, to cover up the Truth about UFOs. So what is Zechel's point!?

SENSATIONAL LOW-LEVEL UFO REPORTS IN ILLINOIS!

As long-time "Smear" readers know, we rarely print sightings, leaving that to our many rival saucer zines. However, a series of police reports in Illinois last January 5th has received a great deal of attention, and seems to be deserving of it.

It was about 4:30 a.m. on Jan. 5th when the series of sightings began. The object is said to have been a craft shaped like an arrowhead, about 100 feet long and two stories high, with bright lights on its tail and underside. It was flying very slowly at about 500 to 1,000 feet above the ground. It made only a very low-decibel buzzing sound. One of the police officers said that the craft had bright red lights that "radiated so much light into the sky that it was similar to the Japanese rising sun symbol".

The sightings took place not far from Scott Air Force Base, which denied any involvement. However, it is said that the Stealth bomber, for instance, was test-flown in the Midwest for eight years before the Pentagon

unveiled it officially. During that time, local UFO societies received dozens of reports of delta-shaped craft zooming overhead.

Thus this strange object is most likely something of our own, though there is no confirmation or proof of this. Interestingly, one of the first groups to look into these particular sightings was Robert Bigelow's NIDS (National Institute for Discovery Science), based in Las Vegas, which employs professional investigators rather than MUFON-type amateurs. Hopefully they will eventually release a detailed paper about their investigation.

MISCELLANEOUS RAVINGS:

More on Uri Geller, the (alleged) psychic spoon bender who is engaged in a lifetime feud with psychic debunker James "The Amusing" Randi (see cartoon below):

It seems that in Japan, Nintendo has a Pokemon card which has amazing similarities to Geller, including the name. The card apparently comes in two versions, Good "Un-geller" and Evil "Un-geller". In other countries this particular monster has other names. Thus Geller is suing Nintendo for something like a hundred million dollars for using his name, etc. without permission. Whereas some of Geller's lawsuits against Randi years ago were based on more ambiguous evidence, this case seems very clear, and we are surprised that a giant corporation would make such an obvious mistake!...

Geller, whose popularity has declined since his peak in the 1970s, was on the Tonight TV Show with Jay Leno on the evening of January 5th of this year. This was sort of a "comeback" for Geller. The last time he was on that show (1973), Johnny Carson was still running it, and Geller made a fool of himself (we saw the show!) in that he got almost everything wrong. We don't understand the details, but somehow Randi deliberately caused this to happen, either by personally messing up Geller's props backstage, or by warning Carson ahead of time as to just how Geller was going to perform his psychic (?) feats.

This time things went much better, and Geller succeeded in duplicating a fairly complex design almost perfectly, supposedly by psychic means. The purpose of the TV interview was to plug Geller's current book "Mind Medicine". Geller appeared very nervous, as he always does. He also made some peculiar remarks, including the statement that he is lucky to be here at all, as his mother had eight abortions in a row before she gave birth to him! A strange guy indeed, this Uri Geller!...

Just as Amazing as Randi, and equally Amusing, is Larry Bryant of CAUS, whom we have no doubt mentioned before in this zine. Larry's latest wild stab in the dark is a FOIA request addressed to the Commander of Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C.

Larry begins by stating: "Word has come to me that your facility administers medical care...to service-members and their family members exhibiting symptoms of having undergone abduction by 'extraterrestrial biological entities', a.k.a. UFO-borne aliens. Accordingly, under the terms of the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, I hereby request that you send me a copy of the following records..."

Bryant then goes on to list nine specific categories of information he

JAMES RANDI VS. URI GELLER



from England's "Fortean Times"

desires, starting with "the standard treatment plan pursued by your personnel in caring for these above-defined victims".

Predictably, Dan Wright of the MUFON Executive Committee finds it necessary to again tell one & all that Bryant does not speak for MUFON when he makes such requests...

The new CAUS newsletter, mentioned in our last issue, has apparently folded already! We sent a \$20 check to "Caus & Effect", and it was returned to us with a note saying "Sorry, but we are no longer accepting subscriptions". Or maybe they're just not accepting our subscription!...

Shamefully, the prestigious Franklin Mint is coming out with a replica of the Roswell saucer, based on input from four alleged experts - Roswell witness Frank Kaufmann, another supposed witness identified only as "Kewper", Sgt. Clifford Stone, and (eek!) Linda Moulton Howe.

We know little about the first two, but we have interviewed Sgt. Stone, and we can truthfully say that his memories become more fanciful as the years go by. As for Linda Howe - a nice lady, but she is as credulous as any one person can get. Her knowledge of Roswell is third-hand at best!

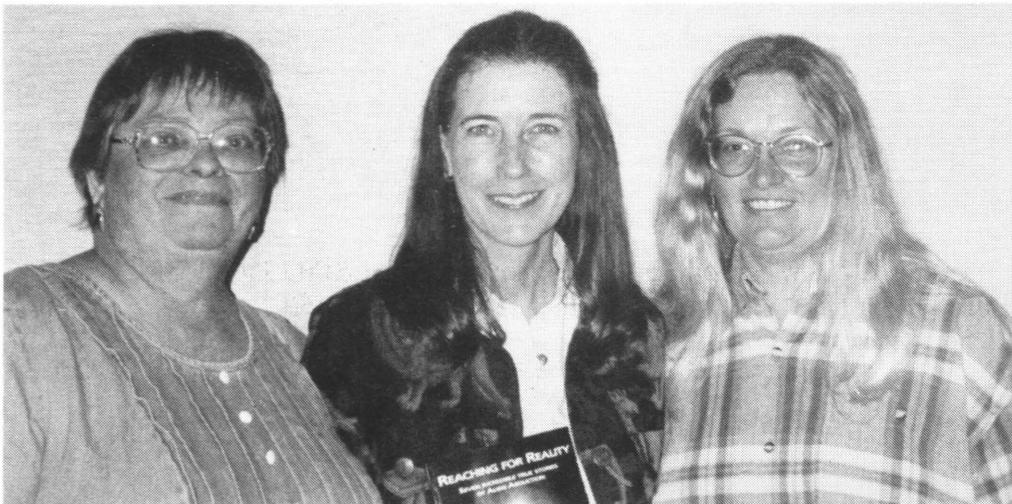
The price is not given in the literature we have, but this saucer replica is made of nickel, and is mounted on a replica of the Roswell riverbed where the craft is said to have crashed. The base includes "cryptic writings", based on eyewitness accounts. Also included is a soil sample, guaranteed to be a genuine sample of the soil found near the crash site. What nonsense! (Our thanks to graphic artist Miller Johnson for this one.)...

In another incident, combining millennium madness with mindless worship of Roswell, a bright green laser beam blasted out of an abandoned nuclear missile site near Roswell exactly at the stroke of midnight last December 31st. The laser beam carried encoded messages into the heavens as part of a hopefully intergalactic end-of-the-millennium event. Matthew Cook, in charge of the project, admits it's a bit "gimmicky", but he sees it as a "good way to draw tourists and increase Roswell's mystique". The article in which we read about this is entitled "Ray of Hope". Shit!...

TIDBITS OF TRASH:

The picture below shows three ladies associated with the forthcoming Corpus Christi (Texas) NUFON convention. They are, left to right: Doris Upchurch, the local chairperson for the event; Constance Clear, who will be one of the speakers there; and Susanna Washburn, who assists Ms. Upchurch.

Seeing so many women involved with our convention, we are reminded of Ellen Crystall, a Pine Bush expert and perennial sourpuss who has accused "Smear" and almost everyone else

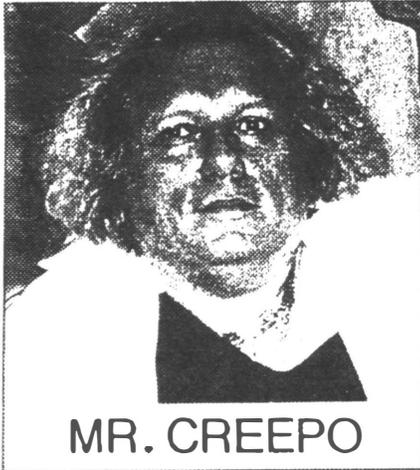


of bias against women. The point she misses is that the bias she experiences everywhere is against her individually!...

In our last issue we attempted to run a photo of Tim Beckley, formerly known as "Mr. UFO", now billing himself as "Mr. Creepo". Unfortunately, our original

(5)

picture was in color, which is tricky to reproduce properly in black & white. Granted that Beckley does look better in the dark, we nevertheless want to give his picture a second chance - as reproduced here. (Sadly, Beckley will not be at our convention.)...



WORK OVERLOAD?

GET AWAY FROM IT ALL FOR TWO FUN DAYS!
SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2000 ARE THE DAYS TO REMEMBER! THAT'S WHEN THE 37TH ANNUAL NATIONAL UFO CONFERENCE WILL BE IN CORPUS CHRISTI!

HEAR SUCH EXPERTS AS STANTON T. FRIEDMAN, WALT ANDRUS, ANN DRUFFEL AND OTHERS!

FOR TICKET INFORMATION
CALL 361/937-2381

We recently received the 15th and final issue of a quaint ufological journal from New York City called "The Flying Saucer Gazette". Dated December, 1999, it consists mainly of tongue-in-cheek millennium hysteria, plus ravings about Pine Bush, N.Y. - a tiny town where strange poltergeist-type phenomena have frequently been reported in recent years.

Scott Carr, the editor, is so impressed with Pine Bush that he and his girlfriend have decided to move out of the City, buy a house in that little town, and live there. Scott will soon start publishing again under the title "Millennium Times", but this zine will be available mainly on the (cursed) Net...

Big Loser of the Month appears to be a UFO lecturer named Lloyd Pye. As mentioned in previous "Smears", Pye obtained an ancient skull from Mexico which he believed might be alien or an alien hybrid. Unfortunately, DNA results so far indicate that the skull in question is male and human. Even more unfortunately, Pye has gone \$50,000 into debt, in paying for all this testing. Well, better luck next time! (This item lifted from the Jan. 2000 MU-FON Journal.)...

Near Seville, Spain in early January, a motorist came close to serious injury when a ball of ice eight inches in diameter crashed into the hood of his car and crushed it. The iceball, which weighed about nine pounds, is believed to be frozen human shit from a passing aircraft. There wasn't a cloud in the sky at the time. We wonder what Charles Fort would have to say about this! (Our thanks to Tom Benson for this shitty story!)

Finally, our favorite Y2K horror story: The item in our last issue about Phil Klass of CSICOP and James Randi, formerly of CSICOP, was taken from the Jan.-Feb. 2000 issue of "Skeptical Inquirer". Karl Pflock received his copy in late December, and when ours failed to arrive in the mail, he kindly loaned us his copy. As of this writing (Jan. 27th), ours still hasn't arrived. Reason? Terrible computer problems at CSICOP Headquarters. These began shortly before the millennium and now are supposedly cured, according to a spokesperson in their office. But isn't it a gas that this strictly scientific organization was one of the very few to suffer such persecution by the random forces of (shudder!) Nature!

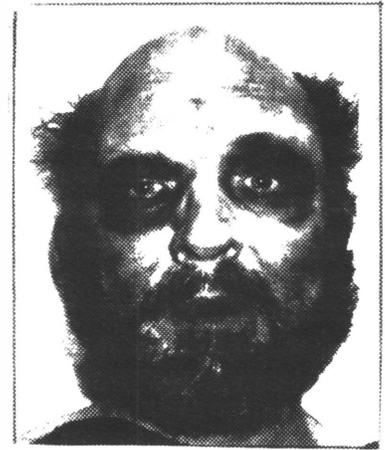
BRIEF BOOK BASHINGS:

In this issue we will review a pair of rather dreadfully mediocre books that have recently seeped into our Headquarters, kindly sent (free) by their publishers.

The first and probably worst of the two is "The Dulce Wars: Underground Alien Bases & the Battle for Planet Earth". This is written by an entity identified only as "Branton", with a "Forward" (sic!) by "Commander X", who may or may not be publisher Tim Beckley ("Mr. Creepo") of Global

(Continued near the bottom of Page 6)

PFlock PTalk / A H , U F O D U M B !
by Karl Pflock, Our Contributing Editor & Fifth Columnist



Two items in recent issues of the "MUFON UFO Journal" and the "International UFO Reporter", the magazines of America's, nay, the world's leading ufological organizations, inspire this ish's column.

The December 1999 "Journal" carries a letter from C. Joseph Barron, a MUFON field investigator in (chuckle) Gulf Breeze, Florida. Barron asserts "the term UFC is not regarded by the scientific community and the general public with much credibility (sic)." He suggests "we bring all of the powers that we have at our disposal to bring dignity and respect to the ET question. We could start by changing the title UFO (MUFON) to a more dignified title."

Barron suggests: "1. Extra Terrestrial (sic) Research Organization (ETRO). 2. International Inter-planetary (sic) Society (IIS). 3. Inter-planetary (sic) Galactic Society (IPGS). 4. Outer Space Research Organization (OSRO). 5. Bureau of Outer Space Contact Organization (BOSC)." Why not "BOSCO", C. Joseph? When I was a kid, a product by that name was pretty good in milk.

The Fall 1999 "IUR", the journal of the Center for UFO Studies, brings us yet another one of Robert "GIGO" Galganski's desperate attempts to re-inflate the Roswell crashed-saucer balloon. Galganski relies heavily upon Jesse Marcel Jr.'s claim to have seen among the debris his father brought home from the "crash" site a metal "I-beam", conveniently ignoring this telling statement made by the senior Marcel during a tape-recorded interview with Linda Corley on May 5th, 1981: "Jesse (Jr.) said they looked like "I" beams but it wasn't (sic). Jesse didn't have that right to begin with."

Then there is the sketch Marcel Sr. did for Corley, showing the rectangular cross-section of the beams. Oh, Robert, and what about the elder Marcel's many statements to many interviewers that the beams looked like wood and were, as he told reporter Bob Pratt on December 8th, 1979, "rectangular members" that were "perhaps three-eighths of an inch by one-quarter of an inch" and "weightless. You couldn't even tell you had it in your hands - just like you handle (sic) balsa wood"?

Sigh... As C. Joseph Barron concluded his letter, "In my opinion, we will never gain respectability and support from our friends, neighbors, and professionals in our current status. I depend upon history to prove my point."

Come to think of it, C. Joseph, we don't need history. Your letter does the trick.

(Continued from Page 5)

Communications.

Instead of an autograph, Beckley writes on the title page "Review Copy - not to be given to Tom Benson. (Price) \$14.95 plus \$4 postage". Here Beckley refers subtly to the fact that we pass along most of our review copies of UFO books to our friend Tom Benson of Trenton, N.J., who is a collector of almost everything ufological.

We will skip the text of this book entirely, and go straight to a warning in red on the back cover: "In the corner of a small town in America's southwest something very strange is going on. IS AN ALIEN 'FIFTH COLUMN' ALREADY ACTIVE ON EARTH PREPARING TOTAL CONQUEST VIA IMPLANTATIONS AND MIND CONTROL?"

The answer to this is - probably not....

Next there is "CE-VI - Close Encounters of the Possession Kind - A

Different Kind of Interference by Otherworldly Beings". This is published by Headline Books, Inc., of Terra Alta, W.Va., and retails for \$10.95. The author is William Baldwin, Ph.D., who is said to have received in 1994 the coveted Franklin Loehr Memorial Award given by the International Association of



New Science in Fort Collins, Colorado. This sounds to be even more prestigious than NUFOC's annual Ufologist of the Year Award!

Also according to the back cover, "'CE-VI' catapults the reader into the many-layered realms of human consciousness and experience, revealing unwanted intrusions by alien 'others'. This kind of ET/UFO encounter appears to be nonphysical, yet every bit as intrusive as the well-known abduction scenario".

A hasty reading of the Introduction, etc., does not reveal what the term "CE-VI" actually means, but presumably it means Close Encounters of the Sixth (Sense) Kind. We do note that Dr. Baldwin admits "the material in this book is not offered as absolute truth". Amen!

MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES:

STEVE MANSEE of Chicago, the kindly gentleman (whom we have never met) who puts "Smear" on the Internet without cost or obligation to us, writes as follows:

"...I wanted to pass along a quick explanation of the web site name, www.martiansgohome.com. It's a hommage to one of my favorite novels, "Martians Go Home", written in 1955 by one Fredric Brown, a pulp fiction writer who seems to have had some ability, if not great repute.

"Mr. Brown posits an invasion of Earth by Mars, which is nothing unusual, but the nature and behavior of the Martians is quite wonderful. They do not have weapons or do any other direct violence, but rather just sit around and insult and ridicule people. They do not have solid bodies, so Earthlings who try to punch them wind up going straight through and punching the wall and breaking their hands. They also have the ability to pass through walls, so they show up and disrupt meetings at the Pentagon and Kremlin and so forth.

"Needless to say, chaos ensues. I'd send along a copy of the book if I could, but it's out-of-print. If you should see it anywhere, I'd recommend it highly..."

Kindly old PHIL KLASS writes as follows:

"...Enclosed is a sketch that will appear in 'Skeptic' Magazine...to accompany a lengthy interview conducted by Gary Posner. It (above) shows me piloting a UFO with an ET (actually, our darling Lhasa Apso Shishi). If you use it, credit 'Skeptic' Magazine, published by Michael Shermer's 'Skeptics Society' (which competes with CSICOP).

"In reference to our phone conversation, I am truly flattered by your comments. In my later years, I have enjoyed a close friendship with a growing number of 'pro-Ufologists' who have soured on Roswell, MJ-12 and 'UFO abductions'. (One of my overseas subscribers to SUN, who is the MUFON director for his European country, always offers flattering comments on SUN when he sends in his renewal.)

"Age is mellowing, I guess..."

Anything with a name like Lhasa Apso Shishi has to be a real ET! - Editor.

Soon-to-be-retired pilot JOHN LEAR writes:

"Got your card. Enclosed is a few bucks to get back on your List.

"As you probably already know, I did indeed drop out of Ufology approximately ten years ago, due to the fact that you refused to publish the New Yorker Magazine cartoon of me in 'Saucer Smear'. It was a large emotional blow to me, not to mention a personal and professional embarrassment, to be terminally snubbed by someone who I thought was a good personal friend.

"I am still flying, having just turned 57. I only have three more years to go, due to mandatory retirement for commercial pilots at age 60. (Just another government conspiracy.)

"In preparation for retirement I purchased the Treasure Hawk gold mine in Gold Butte, Nevada (220 acres). The Treasure Hawk was a good producer in its day (1972-1986). However, the previous owner neglected to share his wealth with the IRS and ran into a few problems. He died in 1994 and I purchased it from his wife in 1996. I have spent the last three years cleaning up his mess and getting the millsite ready for production. As you can imagine, with 28 separate agencies to report to and get permission from, there is a lot of paperwork to do.

"I have also set my wife up in the movie studio business... It keeps her busy and out of the gold mine..."

Our old pal CHRISTOPHER ROTH sends these hilarious lines:

"Thanks for the letter and the new 'Saucer Smear'. What caught my eye most, I must say, is Tim Beckley's emergence in his persona as 'Mr. Creepo'. I like Beckley. I like his cynical attitude toward the UFO business, and I enjoyed my long interview with him years ago. He has also put some valuable texts of ufolore into print.

"With that in mind, however, I will venture to say that this new, or renewed, career-path as a pornographer does not necessarily entail a radical shift in his personal and professional style. I am also delighted that he is merging genres by incorporating paranormal themes into his work. What's next? 'Above Topless Secret'? 'The XXX Files'? 'Plan 69 From Outer Space'? A show-all adaptation of the Billy Meier or David Huggins encounters? Can we expect to see Whitley Strieber following the pattern of 'Communion' and 'Confirmation' with Catholic-school-girl flicks like 'Confession' and 'Indulgences'? And more importantly, will fellow ufologist Wendell Stevens be recruited as a star?

"My real question, though, is about the title 'Barely Legal Lesbian Vampires'. What is the legal age of consent for vampires anyway? 16,000 years old?

"Then, again, we all have to make money!..."

Arch-skeptic ROBERT SHEAFFER writes:

"...Re the Trent photos, Bruce Maccabee says that he photographed the cloud that supposedly cast such sharp, distinct, sun-like shadows on the eaves of his house at sunset, and that 'it was not particularly remarkable'. I urge him to contribute this discovery to journals of meteorology, as this contradicts what the textbooks say....

"Folks, do try this at home. Try to find a single cloud at sunset that casts sharp-edged shadows of the eaves of buildings. It would be almost as remarkable as seeing a UFO. And in any case, the paper on my web page www.debunker.com proves that the supposed 'shining Trent cloud' could not possibly have appeared much larger than the sun, and tiny clouds cast very little light.

"Perhaps it was the Star of Bethlehem? I mean, if you're going to invoke one miraculous event to explain this photo (an E.T. craft), why stop at one?..."

Iraqi drivers see 'dancing ghosts' on road

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Ghost stories are pretty common around the old Iraqi city of Haditha. Still, when the ghosts start dancing naked in front of oncoming motorists, it creates quite a stir.

The state-run Alwan weekly said Saturday that drivers passing through Horan Valley outside the town of Haditha, 135 miles northeast of Baghdad, were reporting that "ghosts ap-

peared next to the bridge, naked and doing some acrobatic moves."

"The ghosts were causing the drivers to panic," the paper said.