

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

- JOHN KEEL, author of "The Mothman Prophecies",
writing in the March 25th, 1977 issue of "Saucer Smear".

DEDICATED TO THE
HIGHEST PRINCIPLES OF
UFOLOGICAL JOURNALISM

SAUCER SMEAR



**SHOCKINGLY
CLOSE TO
THE TRUTH!**

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAUCER & UNEXPLAINED CELESTIAL EVENTS RESEARCH SOCIETY

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NON-SCHEDULED
NEWSLETTER

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SEEDY SAUCERERS FROM SARASOTA SLINK INTO KEY WEST FOR A SEASIDE SYMPOSIUM!

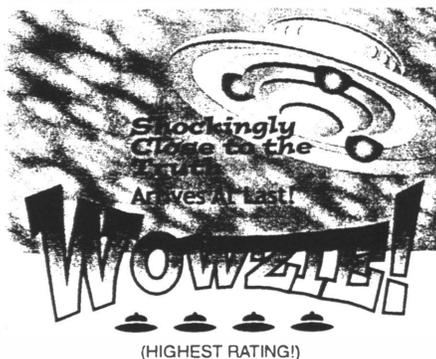
On the weekend of May 11th, there was a series of small UFO lectures at a resort hotel here in Key West, for the first time in many years, as far as we have been able to find out. We very much wanted to attend, but unfortunately the lectures were run by an extremist New Age couple from Sarasota, Florida, who call themselves Michael and Aurora El Legion. The El Legions have a sordid history of shady business dealings in the past, according to those who know them.

Aurora El Legion actually phoned your humble "Smear" editor to forbid him from attending their lecture series, due to his perceived attitude of not taking the UFO subject seriously enough! We warned the lady that it is discrimination to bar any orderly person from a public lecture, but she said she would have us escorted away by the police if we dared to show up. Not wanting to cause trouble, we backed off, after suggesting to Aurora that she perform a rather impossible sex act upon herself.

So goeth ufology in the very deep South!

NEWS BRIEFIES (formerly TIDBITS OF TRASH) :

Hard-core UFO activist Larry Bryant finally has what he's been waiting for - a gen-



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21. Moseley, James, and Pflock, Karl. **SHOCKINGLY CLOSE TO THE TRUTH: CONFESSIONS OF A GRAVE-ROBBING UFOLOGIST.** Prometheus, 2002. HC, 371pp, bibliog., index, illustrated. James Moseley's baptism of fire in the UFO movement, a 1953 cross-country trip in which he interviews 100 experts and eyewitnesses, is described here, as is his work as a saucer journalist responsible for the long-running **Saucer News** (begun in 1954, and continued even today as his **Saucer Smear** newsletter). Moseley unburdens himself here, assisted by Karl Pflock, and there is no finer body of memoirs in the UFO field than this. In fact, I don't recall that anyone else has even attempted such a book—mainly because very, very few people have been around the subject—if not actually in the middle of it—as long as Jim Moseley. It's candid, it's funny, and it is one of ufology's most revealing documents, a book destined to be consulted for centuries by those who somehow hear about the Saucer Age and who want a genuine insider's look at its realities—warts, foolishness, egomania, gullibility, phoniness and all. \$24.95

uine candidate for political office who will make the flying saucer issue the keynote of his whole political campaign. On April 17th, Stephen Bassett announced he will run for Congress as an independent, from the 8th District of Maryland. (The 8th District borders on northwest Washington, D.C., and is very close geographically to Larry's home stomping ground in Virginia.)

Bassett admits that he doesn't expect to get more than about five percent of the total vote. His biggest problem is to gather 4,000 signatures so as to even appear on the ballot. Still, the most important thing about Stephen Bassett may well be that he is a committed speaker for the upcoming National UFO Conference (NUFOC) in Cincinnati, Ohio. There at least he will be able to speak his mind freely before an audience that is susceptible to his belief system; and we are looking forward to hearing him! (See our display ad for the NUFOC, elsewhere in this issue.)

Meanwhile, Bryant is about to file still another of his endless series of FOIA lawsuits against the government. He has chosen June 24th, 2002 as the filing date, as that is the 55th anniversary of the beginning of the modern UFO era. Says Larry: "This milestone effort to compel full government accountability happens to be a natural outgrowth of researchers' discovery of certain smoking-gun documentation pertaining to the 10 days after the Kenneth Arnold case, namely the 'Roswell Incident' and its aftermath."

YAWN!

...As mentioned in our last issue, we have received a fascinating video called "Roswell? Yes!", starring former airline pilot Robert Durant who essentially does a 90-minute monologue on the subject. He is supposedly being interviewed by a parapsychologist, and is answering questions, but the video boils down to Durant's very well-done narration of the basic outline of the Roswell case. He sticks mainly to the well-known military witnesses, and his aim is simply to "prove" that the material found at the crash site(s) could not possibly be anything as mundane as the wreckage of a Mogul Balloon. Durant, to his credit, admits that the stories of alien bodies, as told by various civilian witnesses, are not necessarily credible.

This video might well be called "Roswell's Last Stand", because the definitive book on the subject, called "Roswell: Inconvenient Facts and the Will to Believe" has already been written by our esteemed contributing editor, Karl Pflock. Durant hammers away at the fact that some witnesses describe debris which does not sound like it came from a Mogul Balloon. We insist: So what? There is nothing about this fragile pile of Roswell junk to even remotely suggest that it was part of a spaceship from another world! This is the key point that Durant simply does not seem to understand at all!

In our May 5th issue we stated, "A Bob Durant T-shirt and baseball cap are also in the works". We thought we were being facetious, but sure enough, we have now received these items, and plan to wear them at our lecture at the Roswell Festival on July 4th weekend. (Our talk will be about our book, not about the Roswell mystery.) We can only state in passing that Durant has for some reason deliberately cheapened an excellent presentation as heard & seen on the video, by using the ridiculous ploy of issuing a T-shirt and cap. Why, we wonder, did he do this?

The video is available for \$15 plus \$4 shipping & handling, from Metro-Video Production Services. They can be reached at 1-800-694-0320.

The poem on this page, written by Phyllis Hunt (alias "Morning Glory"),

"ROSWELL"

BY: PHYLLIS L. HUNT

THE "EVENT" FIRES MY
IMAGINATION FOR SOME
THINGS HAVE NAUGHT RHYME
OR REASON, AND I AM SEDUCED
BY DREAMS OF MEN MADE OF
POSSIBLE STUFF

THE WEAK ARE SWAYED BY REASON;
THE STRONG BY EVIDENCE, AND THE
CURIOUS BY PROPHEETS WHO WEAVE
DOOM AND GLOOM
NEITHER THEY NOR THE COMET'S BLAZE
ACROSS THE FATEFUL SKY CAN KNOW
THAT WITHIN OURSELVES DO ANSWERS
LIE

POLICY HINDERS TRUTH. WHEN ENGAGED
BY DOUBT, BATTLES ARE LOST AND WON,
AND THE THINGS I AM FORBIDDEN TO
KNOW ARE REVEALED

***** UPDATE *****

ON THE 39TH ANNUAL NATIONAL UFO CONFERENCE, to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio on Sept. 28th, 2002. Speakers include John Timmerman, Karl Pflock, Jim Moseley, and many others. Further info. may be obtained from Kenny Young, 3903 Hunters Glen Dr. Florence, Ky. 41042. Phone: 859-371-7955 or 513-588-4548.

DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

Items lifted from

FORTEAN TIMES

THE JOURNAL OF STRANGE PHENOMENA WWW.FORTEANTIMES.COM

VERY PROGRESSIVE: From *The Rossett PTA News* last November: "New Parent Evening. This was an excellent night, with over 70 parents attending and from the feedback we hope to shortly organise a sex-and-drugs evening."

AMBITIOUS SCHEME: Michael Marcum, 21, was found guilty of stealing six 350lb (159kg) electrical transformers from a power company in Stanberry, Missouri. He wanted to build a time machine so that he could transport himself a few days into the future, learn the winning lottery numbers, and return to buy the right tickets. *The Week, 16 Feb 2002.*

NEW HIGH: Scorpion-smoking is becoming popular in Quetta, Pakistan. Users dry the scorpion's stingers, grind them, light the powder, and suck in the smoke. "When I smoke scorpion," said Ghulam Raza, "then heroin is like nothing to me." Smokers hang out at a local cemetery, where outsiders will not bother them. *[R] 7 Nov 2001.*

END GAME: A Catholic priest in a Mexican town arranged a ritual burning of Pokémon cards and magazines on 18 February, citing "subliminal demonic influences" in the Japanese game. Fr Juan Ramon Hernandez Bautista, parish priest of Espiritu Santo, a town in Hidalgo state, received "destruction" pledges from 100 local children. *Irish Times, 15 Feb 2001.*

captures the True Spirit of the Roswell Incident, in our most humble opinion. We thank her for this unique contribution to our zine!...

For most ufologists with a side interest in Bigfoot, this semi-mythical creature is as forgotten these days as is Erik Beckjord - the West Coast pitchman who once ran a Bigfoot museum. But behold, a very recent convention in Oregon drew about 400 supporters, including "Smear's" fearless northwestern reporter, George Earley. The search for Bigfoot isn't as frenzied as it was back in the 1960s, and environmentalists have crept into the movement, hoping to save Bigfoot habitat from logging. Yet the search goes on...

John Alexander of non-lethal weapons fame reports that multimillionaire John Bigelow's NIDS (National Institute for Discovery Science) has been downsized dramatically, with only two full-time employees left. Alexander no longer works even part-time for this outfit.

Bigelow is now putting most of his energy and money into Bigelow Aerospace, a for-profit company that has about 45 employees at this time. The ultimate aim of this company is to put something Big into Space, which eventually may even include a luxury hotel in orbit. We are not fearless enough to anticipate ever staying at this hotel, however...

Forget ye not that TOM BENSON is still selling back issues of "Smear" previous to 2001 for various prices. These issues go all the way back to 1954. Contact Benson at: P.O. Box 1174, Trenton, N.J. 08606.

Back issues from the years 2001 and 2002 can be obtained for one dollar each here at Headquarters.

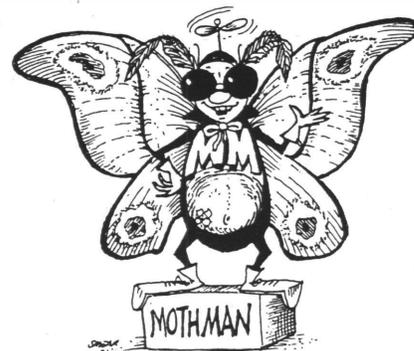
From the (cursed) Net and thanks to our Contributing Editor, we have learned of a little-known cult called Summum, which incorporates sacred wine-making, mummification, and sexual ecstasy. (WOW!:) The group is somewhat similar to the Raelians, in that its founder has had a series of visitations, starting in 1975, from a group of hairless blue otherworldly beings who taught him their philosophy. Naturally the sexual ecstasy part interests us the most, though we have nothing against wine or even mummification. The center of this movement is in Utah, giving a Mormon tinge, and there may be as many as 250,000 people who have come into contact with the Summums in recent years.

The Summum belief is that copulation played a vital role in the creation of the universe, and that all progression and evolution happens through sexual ecstasy. With Summum, sexuality is not merely an avenue to enjoyment. Says their leader: "It's there for meditation. When you have that ecstasy, that's creation itself. We call it the state of becoming god. It's not something you would do at a brothel or only for procreation."

The vital role of sex in their belief system is evident in the decorations in their sacred pyramid.

BRIEF BIASED BOOK REVIEWS :

"Mothman - The Facts Behind the Legend" is a 155-page softcover effort, timed to coincide with the recent "Mothman Prophecies" motion picture, which as we all know by now was based very loosely on John Keel's book by the same name. The present book features eyewitness accounts, news clippings, and previously unpublished material, and is written by two young men named Donnie Sergent Jr. and Jeff Wamsley. Both are somehow associated with "Criminal Records" (strange name!), a video store located at 330 Main Street in Point Pleasant, W.Va., where we have visited. The authors clearly state that they are not out to either prove or disprove the Mothman legend, but they do seem to be enjoying it greatly!



The book contains a long exclusive interview with a woman named Linda - current last name withheld. Linda seems to have been at the very center of the weird activities around Point Pleasant in 1966-67. She claims to have seen Mothman several different times, and gives a detailed description. She also saw semi-transparent Men in Black, at other times. She was afraid of Mothman, but also had a strange sympathy for the creature. The MIBs were much more frightening to her than the Mothman encounters. UFOs were also involved in this complex mess, but in a secondary way. For awhile, the real John Keel actually boarded with Linda and her husband, so it is easy to understand why she is so steeped in all this lore.

Also of interest are photocopies of letters from John Keel to the local "hard core" in Point Pleasant, after he left town and while the Mothman craze was continuing. Your "Smear" editor is mentioned in one letter, not too favorably.

In another letter, Keel either deliberately sews confusion & paranoia, or else he is trying to be helpful, by giving potential UFO and Mothman witnesses weird clues as to what to look for. Such as (Page 139-140): "If you get a UFO landing report, measure the holes left in the ground and look for deposits of a jelly-like liquid. Collect this liquid in bottles, using sticks in chop-stick fashion to pick it up. (It may burn your fingers.) Also look for burned foilage (sic) and for freshly dug earth. The latter will appear in perfect circles. If you dig down a few feet you may find one or more small round metal spheres. If these spheres turn up, ship one to me collect. Do Not Give Them To The Air Force or To Local Authorities Who May Turn Them Over To The Air Force. Handle the spheres with gloves..."

On what basis did Keel ask for these very strange details?? What previous UFO case(s), if any, set him off?? We may never know for sure!

No Mothman fan should be without this book, written deep in the heart of West Virginia by two young men who obviously are enjoying legends from a previous generation of local people. The book is from Mothman Lives Publishing, a publishing imprint of Discovery Press WV, 330 Main Street, Point Pleasant, WV 25550. (www.mothmanlives.com). The price is not given.

....And on another literary front, Rick Hilberg of Cleveland's UAPA (United Aerial Phenomena Agency) has done it again, with a brand new thin softcover booklet about a specific aspect of the UFO mystery. This time it's called "Extraordinary Happenings - 1965 Revisited".

**RICK HILBERG**

Many of the sightings therein are routine, but we like the one from Waynesboro, Virginia, involving a wood chopper who saw three very small humanoids emerge from a landed craft. He stated that they did not appear to be hostile, but they may have thought he was hostile, as he was carrying an ax at the time! (O George Adamski, where are you when we need you?)

Less than a week later, in another part of Virginia, six teenagers saw "three little spacemen", had a complicated encounter with them, and may even have gotten a photograph
(Continued at the bottom of next page)

by Karl Pflock, Our Contributing Editor & Fifth Columnist



I am in a more scattered mental state than usual as, in his gentlemanly fashion ("Write your damn column, damnit!"), the Supreme Commander gently reminds me it's time for another round of Pflock PTalk. So this time, a few tidbits of - dare I say it? - trash.

The two seeming typos in my column in the last "Smear" ("Shaeffer" for "Sheaffer" and "Mars" for "Marrs") were not my doing. The first was a feeble attempt by our Esteemed Editor, Etc., to preserve MJ-12/3.73's cover. The latter was, well, a typo.

As reported last ish, some weeks ago I resigned from the exalted position of MUFON New Mexico state section director for Bernalillo and Sandoval counties. Yet my newly issued MUFON membership card still shows me as an SSD. A sign of MUFON's hard times?

Also in the last exciting "SS", former Adamski believer Christopher Allan laments, "Karl Pflock tells what the black triangles are not. Now why cannot he be a good boy and tell us what they ARE?" What? And ruin my ufoological reputation, not to mention other dire consequences?

In the same ish, Marty Kottmeyer, dean of American psychosocial ufologists, chided the Supreme Commander for being slightly off on the number of UFO reports made to Blue Book in July 1952 ("over 1500" vs. 536). It still was the busiest BB month on record. Marty also noted that the National UFO Reporting Center got 2856 reports in 2001, while Blue Book's annual record was 1501, racked up in 1952. But there are so many variables in play, from changes in population size and densities to the spread of I-want-to-believe-itis, that comparing the two years is very much an apples and oranges thing. And even the explain 'em away Air Force wound up with 21% of 1952 reports (315) as unknowns. Wonder what the figure would be if the NUFORC reports were expertly investigated and analyzed?

Yep, Marty, you're 100% correct about quality versus quantity in as the basis for my They Were Here notions. Which brings me to...

...George Hansen's amusing and erudite likening of my views to those of John Calvin (shudder!). Actually, I am a solipsistic existential Zen logical positivist. Which means, by Schopenhauer, that UFO data - and Everything Else - is and means whatever I want it to be and mean. Thus, though Hansen has now exposed the psychosocialist plot behind my reformist propaganda, it really doesn't matter. The Truth IS out there, and it is what I Will it to be! Hah, hah, hah, hah, hahhhhh...

(Continued from the bottom of Page 4)

of one of the creatures. The probability is that this incident was a hoax, inspired by the Waynesboro case.

Included in this tome is the famous Brooksville, Florida case, which we won't go into here, although it is an unusually interesting incident. Suffice is to say that this book gives an unfiltered cross-section of UFO cases from 1965. After all the good things Rick Hilberg has said about "Shockingly", we haven't the heart to knock his book. Send eight bucks to Rick at the UAPA address: 377 Race Street, Berea, Ohio 44017....

Also in need of a brief review are two new works from Tim Beckley of Inner Light Publications, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903. They are entitled "Develop Your Own Paranormal Powers" and "How to Travel to Other Dimensions". We have not read these, as we have no need. We already have amazing paranormal powers and we travel to other dimensions on a regular basis. Those of you who are mere mortals, however, would indeed benefit from these books. The paper is of high quality and is ideal for starting a friendly little fire in your fireplace on a cold winter night - assuming you have a fireplace and that you don't live in an inferno like Key West!

Remember (as we learn from the back cover of "Other Dimensions"), there is no reason to be tied down to this place and time, best described as the "material world", the lowest of all astral planes. Amen, brother!

MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES:

LINDA CORTILE (also known as Linda Napolitano), famed abductee of yesteryear, lives in Manhattan, not far enough from the former World Trade Center. She has kindly sent us this photo of herself, and the following letter:

"Please keep the 'Smear' newsletters coming. They've cheered us up. Believe me, every little bit counts.

"Although our family members haven't been found, as wasn't most of the people killed on that horrible day, things are just about wrapping up at ground zero. Recovery efforts at a tiny corner where the south tower used to be, is still going on. Evidently, when the south tower collapsed, it was a surprise. So most of the people who lost their lives were in that tower. Those of us (I was on a job interview at the time) who were in the north tower had a better chance to escape, since we were forewarned...

"Since then, I decided to help rebuild our neighborhood 'one meal at a time', and 'one piece of debris at a time', by volunteering down at ground zero. It felt good for three reasons: First, to help the rescue/recovery workers. Second, to help myself from not feeling too helpless. And third, to get even, in a small way, with those sons-of-bitches who did this to our country and to my family. The last thing they wanted was the unification of our states. WELL, SCREW THEM! I HOPE THE ALIENS TAKE THEM AWAY!..."

RALPH COON, producer of "Whispers from Space", a documentary film about the late Gray Barker, writes from an undisclosed location in Chicago:

"I recently shoplifted your new book 'Shockingly Close to the Truth' from a corporately owned chain-bookstore and was disappointed to not even get a mention of my film of which you were so prominently featured. Oh well...

"I'm backed up on my reading, having just finished Cormac McCarthy's epic 'Blood Meridian'. I'm now committed to reading Iceberg Slim's autobiography, 'Pimp'. After that I have several porno magazines to peruse, AFTER which I plan on starting 'Shockingly'. It looks good, Jim. I'll write you a critique when I'm finished.

"How fortuitous that in my 'Last Prom' research I stumbled upon Gray Barker and you and your whole UFO subculture.

"When we're all dead (you and I, as Gray is already dead), I hope we can hang out some time. I think you're O.K., Jim."

"The Last Prom" is the name of an artsy zine that Ralph used to publish. - Editor

Somewhat cryptically, TIM BRIGHAM (editor of the now-defunct "Devil's Advocate") writes:

"Dearest Mostly:

"I found Olde Bob's (R.A.W.) excommunication from the Profit\$ Conference rather ironic. From a group calling themselves Prophets, who would expect such self-righteous elitism?! Bob's use of a quote containing 'profanity' in an essay commenting on capitalism led to him getting less of that green magick of which we are all in need. I hope the esteemed Profits realize that the lack of the one speaker I had actually been tempted to attend their conferences in order to hear will at least save me a few of my own green presidents for use on Old Smuggler, strippers, and mad science work.

"Also, Ed Komarek's stab at you and Karl was totally uncalled for. Though I'm not 'into the lifestyle' as you and Karl say, I appreciate that two men of your ages and eclectic interests can defy the odds and find someone to enrich and, err... stimulate each other's lives."

What? - Editor.



(7)

The semi-mysterious HARRY LIME communicates as follows:

"Dear Not-So-Crypto Monarchist:

"I was amused by your comments about the Bush 'dynesty' (a typo or a subtle bit of irony?) and your observation that it is a 'very poor substitute' for the British monarchy, which as Tom Paine observed was established by 'a French bastard, landing with an army of banditti, and establishing himself king of England against the consent of the natives'. And have you been following the Royals' more recent if far less sanguinary antics?

"Perhaps even more amusing was your follow-on observation that 'America has more money and better bombs than anyone else, and that's all that really matters these days'. Substitute 'ships' for 'bombs', and you could have been referring to the British Empire of old!..."

Our olde friend WILLIAM L. MOORE writes as follows:

"Dear Loon -

"Leave it to Christopher Allan to disparage the title of your new book. Personally, I think it's a great title! Great cover design as well! Of course I continue to question your choice of publisher, but that, as you know, is for reasons which have nothing to do with the way they have presented your material.

"Concerning Karl Pflock's dismissal of the alleged MJ-12 - Tex-Mex (El Indio-Guerrero area) UFO crash of 1950 as 'fragmentary recollections of a real event (the accidental shootdown of a Civil Air Patrol plane)...(coupled with Todd) Zechel's fevered imagination and ambition...', it should be pointed out in fairness to all parties that even though Zechel, Brad Sparks and others (as far back as Frank Scully) had been bubbling about rumored Mexican UFO crashes long before the MJ-12 documents came on the scene, none of these mentioned either El Indio or Guerrero, nor did they focus in on a December 6th date.

"Therefore, presuming for a moment that the so-called MJ-12 Eisenhower Briefing Document (EBD) is a fabrication dating from the late 1970s or early '80s (a possibility which I have never denied, and indeed one which seems more and more likely as time goes by), then how did whoever composed it know of this particular event in order to transform it into disinformation and weave it into the fabric of the document so well that it stood unchallenged for fifteen years?

"Sorry to hear about John Keel's failing eyesight. I'm glad he managed to make a few dollars on the movie, even though it was a terrible film..."

Famed UFO activist LARRY BRYANT writes:

"The copy of your book arrived here in good condition yesterday. I've of course placed it upon the very bottom of my pile of 'to read' tomes (but not without at least perusing that write-up of the Zechelian period in your ufological career!) Plus: I did manage to find time to revel in the photo section. Ah, ufostalgia!..."

JOHN RIMMER, editor of England's prestigious "Magonia" zine, writes:

"Your book is a Triumph! It arrived just as I was setting out for a week in Paris. It kept me going as I sheltered from riots, manifestations, and general mayham, at election time. I am encouraged by how much we agree about certain Serious Researchers and their strange little ways. A favorable review in 'Magonia' is guaranteed!..."

Famed UFO sighter from the 1950s (and lifetime professional pilot) BILL NASH writes as follows:

"I very much enjoyed your book, though Karl (Pflock) didn't get much to say...

"I too considered all sightings in my judgment, placing the most logical foremost in my mental file, and other cases in the order of my believability. As you said, in an unknown subject, who knows what is true and possible, since earthly experience does not prepare us for the unearthly.

"Adamski and I exchanged a few letters when I checked up on him. In my initial contact, I asked him a list of probing questions. His answers assured me, as my Dad used to say, that he didn't know his ass from a hole in the ground about even High School sci-

ence, and he talked as though his head was hollow! I could not believe desert sand could imprint the complicated designs from the bottom of the space man's shoes. Also, even then, I knew enough about the horrible climate on Venus to discount that planet as the home of his Visitor. So, very early, Adamski went to the back of my mental file, and I got on with other things...

"The humor in your book was great. You managed to hash up some who deserve it, at the same time doing it without ego (unlike Donald Menzel!) You're a great guy to know, Jim. The world needs people like you, or we'd all be frowning all the time! I thoroughly enjoyed the book!..."

GEORGE EARLEY, a long-time veteran of the ufological Wars, writes:

"...I chuckled and chortled, giggled and groaned my way through 'Shockingly Close to the Truth', and then had a final guffaw when, on shelving it, I found it went between the ufological works of Professor Donald Menzel and Curtis 'Watch the Sky!' Peebles. Such company you keep!..."

"Which brings up the Mothperson (gender was never established) movie: I did not see it, and from every dribble of info I've read to date, neither did most of the American movie-going public. Perhaps it will find favour in the eyes/minds of the Japanese, who seem unduly fascinated by all things odd in America...Given the poor turnout in the States, I am delighted John Keel got the money up front. I had not realized he was losing his sight...Very sad..."

Ace cartoonist MATT GRAEBER writes:

"In the future, historians, social scientists and philosophers will look back in utter amazement at one landmark and definitive book on the UFO phenomenon. Moseley's 'Shockingly' probably will not be that momentous work, but it will most certainly be 'shockingly' close to it!"

And, SCOTT BOND charms us with:

"...I just wanted to drop you this note to say that the Commander's magnum opus, 'Shockingly Close to the Truth', is everything I hoped it would be, and more! You, Karl and Prometheus have done a first rate job in every department, and I was delighted with the autographed bookplate. For some reason I was expecting a rather routine soft cover presentation, so the handsome hard cover volume that arrived a week and a half ago was a welcome surprise. This really is the insider's look at fifty plus years of ufology that only people like Karl and you can provide..."

And last but by no means least, noted aerospace writer CURTIS PEEBLES writes:

"Congratulations to you and Karl (Pflock) on publication of 'Shockingly Close to the Truth.' I found it most enjoyable and illuminating. The book adds a whole new dimension to saucer history. Reading your account, it seems so much more innocent back in the 1950s, with Adamski and the other contactees.

"When I lived on Mt. Palomar, I met several people who had known Adamski when he lived at the foot of the mountain. They talked about his saucer observing sessions and 'audiences' at the Lodge. None of them believed him, and their opinions seemed to be that he was a con man, but otherwise mostly harmless. One person recalled attending a lecture by Adamski, where a film of a saucer in South America was shown. Even though she was just a kid at the time, she thought the saucer looked like a reflection on a car window. The only real problem Adamski ever had was with the postmaster on the mountain, who got tired of having to deal with his mail. This amounted to a rather sizable volume each day..."

"I was interested to see the reference to the McMinnville UFO Fest in the latest 'Saucer Smear'. I was in the town in April 2000, and the only artifact of the sighting I saw was a framed copy of the newspaper front page in a restaurant. Incidentally, that is not the only strange flying machine the town is known for. It is also the new home of the Spruce Goose...."

The Spruce Goose is Howard Hughes' famous seaplane, which only actually flew once.- Ed.