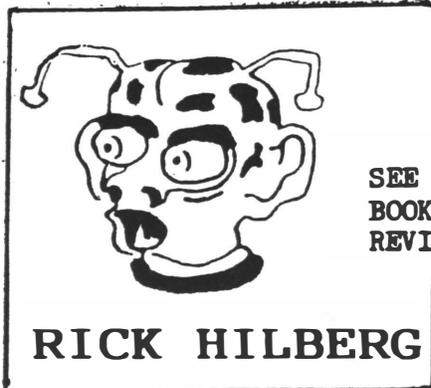


DEDICATED TO THE HIGHEST PRINCIPLES  
OF UFOLOGICAL JOURNALISM

# SAUCER SMEAR



SEE  
BOOK  
REVIEWS

RICK HILBERG

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAUCER & UNEXPLAINED CELESTIAL EVENTS RESEARCH SOCIETY

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We have just received an update from Lisa Davis concerning the 42nd National UFO Conference, to be held Labor Day weekend (Sept. 2nd - 4th) at the beautiful Renaissance Hotel in Hollywood, California. For details contact [www.nufoc.org](http://www.nufoc.org), or phone 858-523-1068, or write to NUFOC 2005; 3830 Valley Center Drive, #705-441; San Diego, California 92130.

The speakers list is now finalized, and will include: Richard Dolan; Nick Redfern; Linda Moulton Howe; David Sereda; Farah Yurdozu; Dr. Lynne Ketei; Greg Bishop; Terry Hansen; Grant Cameron; and Richard Sauder.

There will also be a dinner / cocktail party on Saturday evening, at which the speakers will be Steven Basset and your humble "Smear" editor.

This is our last issue of "Smear" before the Conference, and we hope to see you-all there!

## MISCELLANEOUS RAVINGS:

On Page 6 of our June 15th issue we printed a letter from ace cartoonist Matt Graeber about Mary Sutherland, a Wisconsin woman who has become a major farce in ufology. She is big on radio as well as on the net, and makes a living by selling all sorts of UFO-related wares in her online store. She and her husband also run a real store at their home in Burlington, Wisconsin.

Mary's business takes her into just about every aspect of the paranormal, including a local monster called the Bray Road Beast, plus hooded aliens, cat people, and of course UFOs. We have an item from a Wisconsin newspaper showing her sitting in a crop circle during her investigation of same. Our favorite activity of Mary's is her online dating service, whereby you can meet a "soul mate" who is on the same wavelength that you are, or whatever. Sex & saucers!

In late June of this year Mary traveled to Pennsylvania to re-investigate the classic 1974 Carbondale Case, in which something mysterious landed in a silt pond. Matt and other ufological conservatives think it was a battery-powered lantern, thrown in the pond by kids as a joke, but Mary Sutherland and her colleagues strongly believe otherwise. They shot a documentary film, and plan to hold UFO conferences in the nearby town of Olyphant, which is said to be "near the center of the universe" - whatever that means. All sorts of orbs and other visible phenomena are seen in this area. There is even a haunted cemetery, which reminds us somewhat of the strange goings-on in Pine Bush, New York, a few years ago.

As for what really happened in Carbondale in 1974, one of the three kids involved has confessed to a hoax, whereas the other two have not. That's good enough for Mary, and she presses on!

Our thanks to Matt Graeber for this update. We wish we could visit this area of Pennsylvania where all the fun is going on!...

Then there's the story of "Omega Man" Dennis Bossack, who claims to have been for many years the earthly director of the above-top-secret Omega Agency, which has ties to aliens from 752 inhabited planets. That's a lot of planets! His main job was overseeing the day-to-day operation of an underground facility in which hundreds of earthlings and visitors work side by side to prepare our planet for the day when Omega takes over.

This story is told in long-winded tapes that are sold by Bossack and his wife Ann in their gift shop - first located in New Mexico, then moved to Rhode Island, and now apparently back to New Mexico. Our interest in all this comes from the fact that legendary (?) saucerer Stanton Friedman has been accused of being strangely soft in criticizing the Bossacks because of the fact that they also sell his wares. Ole Stan is thus accused (not for the first time) of being a shameless self-promoter, willing to overlook ludicrous UFO claims for the sake of (god help us!) Money.

We telephoned Stan, who admits to being friends with Dennis and even having introduced him to his wife Ann. But he no longer has commercial ties with them, and says firmly, "I think Dennis has spread a lot of balony about his involvement with ET civilizations and also about his background." Bossack claims to have a degree from the prestigious Columbia University Law School, but this claim did not check out. This misrepresentation seems more important to Friedman than the crazy UFO claims - a fact that we find amusing.

In any case, Dennis Bossack grinds on, as does Stan Friedman, separately. If any of our readers have updated information on the Bossacks, please let us know. Meanwhile, our thanks to Matt Graeber for this material.

And, ole Stan has asked us to mention that he has a new book called "TOP SECRET/MAJIC" coming out in September, published by Marlowe & Co. There's no commercialism here, or is there?...

On the evening of July 6th, CNN's "Larry King Live" had another one-hour flying saucer show. On the pro-UFO side were "Smear" non-subscribers John Schuessler, Rob Swiatec, and Bruce Maccabee, together with our "Hall of Shame" member Budd Hopkins. On the anti-UFO side (boo, hiss!) were a psychologist and a SETI spokesperson, whose names we didn't catch. Surprisingly, former nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman was conspicuous by his absence.

A few classic cases were discussed briefly, such as (of course!) Roswell, the Trent photos, the Hefflin photos, the 1997 Phoenix lights, and the recent Mexican Air Force radar incident.

Unfortunately, nothing new was added to our knowledge. There are many unexplained events over the past 58 years which either do or do not indicate that our planet is under observation by intelligent beings from Out There. But even Hopkins admits that there is still no proof as to their point of origin. We of "Smear" prefer the somewhat unpopular belief that UFOs are a permanent part of our Earth's environment, possibly from another dimension. In any case, let us press on. Keep your Eye on the Sky!...

A couple of issues back, we mentioned a researcher named Paul Kimball, who is a nephew of the above-mentioned Stanton Friedman. He is also a documentary film maker, and has apparently done prestigious work in this field.

Now Kimball has come up with a list of "Ufology's Top 10" and "Ufology's Bottom 10". (Yes, more lists! This seems to have become a fad.) We couldn't help being intrigued by the composition of Paul's lists, which are as follows, in numerical order:

"Top 10" = Dr. Jacques Vallee; Dr. J. Allen Hynek; Stanton T. Friedman; Major Donald Keyhoe; Dr. James McDonald; Dr. Peter Sturrock; Coral Lorenzen (of APRO); James W. Moseley (eeek!); Richard Hall; and Philip Klass. Jerry Clark is first among the "honorable mentions":

"Bottom 10" = Dr. Edward U. Condon; Frank Scully, Silas Newton & Leo Gebauer (as a group); "Professor" George Adamski; Dr. Steven Greer; Bob Lazar; Billy Meier; Frank Kaufman & Gerald Anderson; Philip J. Corso; Philip Klass; and Wilbert Smith. "Dishonorable mention" goes to Wendelle Stevens, William Moore, Linda Moulton Cowe, Donald Schmitt, William Steinman, Howard Menger, Bill Cooper, and others.

How, you might ask, can dear old Phil Klass be on both lists? Says Kimball: "He made the Top 10 list simply because his impact on ufology cannot be ignored. He makes the Bottom 10 list because no one (not even Donald Menzel) ever offered as many hair-brained, wacked-out patently ridiculous explanations for the UFO phenomenon as Klass, and no one (not even Donald Menzel) was ever as mean-spirited when doing it..."

And how, you might ask, did James W. Moseley make the "Top 10"? As far as we can re-

member, we have never met or had any communication with Paul Kimball, but his description of us reads:

"The 'Court Jester' of ufology, Moseley has been a significant player in ufology for over fifty years now. His satirical 'Saucer Smear' remains a must-read amongst UFO cognoscenti (even those who dislike him), and his book 'Shockingly Close to the Truth' (authored with Karl Pflock) is the best, no-holds-barred account of the personalities within ufology over the years that you can find. If there hadn't been a James Moseley, ufology would have had to invent one."

Our only gripe is being placed next to Dick Hall, but we can live with it; and it goes without saying that we greatly appreciate Kimball's kind remarks. May the Space People bless him!

## NEWS BRIEFIES:

Congratulations to Britain's wonderful "Fortean Times" Magazine, which is undoubtedly the best off-beat publication on this or any other planet. They are currently celebrating the birth of their 200th issue, as shown in this cartoon, which we have lifted from said issue. We've also "borrowed" a lot of small items from "Fortean Times" over the years, for which we hereby thank them after the fact. A long and merry life to all Forteans!...

You've always thought that "UFO" stands for unidentified flying objects, but we now learn that it also stands for "United Flying Octogenarians"! This is an organization, based in Florida, of retired pilots who have continued flying after their eightieth birthday. The oldest is 102 years old! There's nothing mentioned in the article about whether these old codgers believe in real UFOs or not. (Our thanks to the semi-mysterious "Ray X" for this one.)...

Denis Corey has sent us a fascinating little item about "the first and only time traveler convention", held recently at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. You see, the convention need only be held once, because time travelers from the past or future can get there by knowing the exact date and location, which are given. The organizers say that no confirmed time travelers showed up, but there were great lectures and music nevertheless. Wheee!...

The cover story of the July 2005 MUFON Journal is about a bizarre 1992 incident from Australia, in which a lucky contactee had sex with a very attractive blond alien entity. He later found two strands of blond hair wrapped painfully around his penis. DNA tests on these hairs gave strange and complex results which, according to the investigator, tend to show that hybrid aliens actually do exist. Of course the conventional belief is that different species can't produce an offspring, but what the hell! In ufology all things are possible - even if highly unlikely...

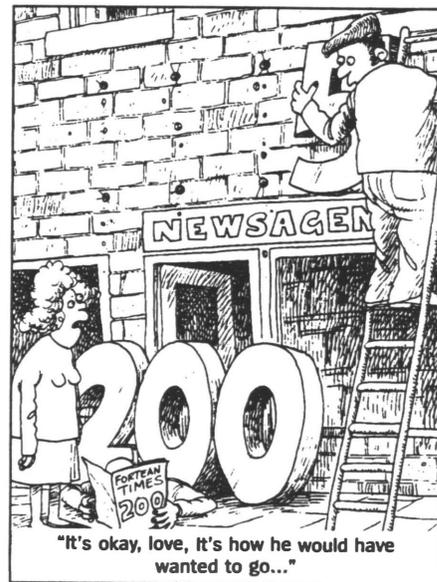
We love stories about "ball lightning", which is a very rare, mysterious phenomenon. There's probably no connection to UFOs, though it sometimes seems to show intelligence.

The latest incident occurred in Russia in early July of this year. Three men were sheltering themselves from a thunderstorm, inside a cottage, when the ball lightning drifted into the house and exploded. All three were injured and taken to a nearby hospital.

Years ago we knew a scientist in Massachusetts named Robert Golka, who spent some twenty years trying to produce artificial ball lightning in his laboratory. He had only very limited success in all that time!

Our thanks to non-subscriber Vince Ditchkus for this story, and our thanks also go out to all of you who have been sending in material with renewed vigor lately. Somehow it makes us feel we're not just sitting here all alone!

## The virtues of doubt



**PFlock PTalk / THE LITTLE MAN WORE GREEN (PART 1)**

by Karl Pflock, Our Contributing Editor & Fifth Columnist

The portable radio crackled with static, but there was no mistaking the news broadcaster's words: "Black and Van Allen say the flying saucer has shown up at the same spot in the mountains not far from here, on the same date and at the same time, for three months in a row. Last time, they say, it landed and its midget pilot was seen. The men think it will be back tomorrow on schedule. If it does return, I and a lot of other people will be there to see it. Let's hope they're friendly, folks!"

I was a boy of 10 at the time, on a camping vacation with family and friends at Big Basin State Park in California's Santa Cruz Mountains - and wishing we were a couple hundred miles or so northeast in the Sierra Nevada instead, near Brush Creek, waiting and watching for that saucer. I know I wasn't the only one of the large group gathered around our radio who felt that way, and I don't mean just the kids.

This was the summer of 1953, July 19, to be exact. A new paperback edition of Gerald Heard's "Is Another World Watching? The Riddle of the Flying Saucers" was on the stands (I still have the copy I bought at the park general store), and Keyhoe's "Flying Saucers from Outer Space" would soon be on the bestseller lists. The previous year the Washington National and several other spectacular sightings had received wide media attention with very little of the usual "silly season" treatment, and "Life" magazine had asked, "Have We Visitors from Space?", the article clearly implying the answer was yes. As a result, UFOs and the idea that they were spaceships from another world were being taken more seriously by the general public than ever before. I remember it as a time of expectation, when we would soon know where the saucers were from and why they were here.

Of course, mine was a kid's perspective, and I was well primed by my reading, films like "The Day the Earth Stood Still", and my own sighting a year or two before. However, there was no doubt that many adults who had previously laughed when flying saucers were mentioned were no longer laughing but instead were watching the skies. The mysterious disks were an acceptable topic in serious conversation. This was certainly the case around our and other campfires as news of the Brush Creek sightings continued to build over several days. Saucers were even the subject of one of the nightly park ranger presentations, usually devoted to wildlife, the wonders of nature, etc.

When the Brush Creek story came to light on June 24 (!), it had quickly received national attention and wasn't brushed off as a tall tale. On that day, titanium miner John Q. Black asked a county sheriff if he'd heard any flying saucer reports lately. When the lawman said he hadn't, Black replied, "Well, I've seen one", and began to relate a remarkable story, one of the more unusual and, oddly, neglected in saucer lore. (To be continued...)

**EDITORIAL BRIEFIE :**

Some of our hard-core skeptical friends have expressed dismay at our attitude toward James ("The Amusing") Randi's alleged one million dollar offer to anyone who can demonstrate psychic powers under the harsh conditions he imposes.

We want to assure Randi that the money (which is not his) is completely safe, for two distinct and separate reasons:

(1) We have had personal experiences with psychic powers - whatever they may be - which do exist in regard to mathematically-astounding ability to guess cards for very short periods of time. They undoubtedly exist in other ways we have not experienced. But these powers are not nearly reliable enough to enable a "psychic" to win Randi's prize. The existence of a "psychic realm" will have to be proven someday in an entirely different way. Maybe a mysterious change in brain waves is involved.

(2) Randi assumes, on blind faith, that psychic powers do not exist. To believe otherwise would open the door to what he considers "spirituality", which as a hard-core atheist he detests. Therefore, if anyone ever appeared to win the prize, Randi would simply assume he/she cheated somehow, and re-test him endlessly. The man/woman might eventually collect by suing loudly. Randi is a mean, nasty individual who would never voluntarily admit that he was wrong! We have known him for many years, and he just gets more & more opinionated as he gets older!

BOOK REVIEWS : (SORT OF)

Hark! We have still another soft-cover booklet from Cleveland's Rick Hilberg. This one is called "A Flying Saucer Scrapbook", and is a very unusual collection of sightings & other items from the ufological past. Some have bylines, including Allen Greenfield, Dale Rettig, Gray Barker, Allan Manak, Tim Beckley, and Rick Hilberg himself. If these names mean nothing to you, then you just haven't been in the UFO Field long enough!

Only one case is illustrated, and this is a unique, very peculiar California incident from 1964 which Rick calls "The Cisco Grove Encounter". Three men were on a trip in a very isolated area, hunting with bows & arrows. It is not stated just what they were hunting in this very unusual way. One of the men, separated from the others, saw weird lights in the sky and heard a loud noise in the brush. He climbed a tree and eventually saw a dome-shaped saucer-like object land nearby. Three alien-looking humanoids emerged from the craft, and throughout the night one of them kept spraying him with a white vapor, while he remained fastened to the tree by a belt. At one point he shot three arrows at one of the three aliens, to no avail. Finally it was morning and the strange entities were gone.

Unfortunately, the illustration shows a daylight scene, in which a Robin Hood sort of guy is standing near a tree, and aiming an arrow toward a crouching humanoid with a dome over his head. The man appears to be just a very short distance from the creature, and is aiming his arrow about three feet above the creature's head! Can this be a case of "artistic license" run amuck??

In any case, this thin tome can be yours by sending a mere \$8.00 to Rick Hilberg at 377 Race St., Berea, Ohio 44017. Rick will throw in three free copies of his magazine called "Flying Saucer Digest". Whee!...

Fate Magazine informs us of a new book by British researcher Nick Redfern. Even the title is unbelievable! "Body Snatchers in the Desert: The Horrible Truth at the Heart of the Roswell Story". (Paraview Pocket Books, 2005)

The only thing that Redfern gets right is that the Roswell crash had nothing to do with extraterrestrials. But he then goes on to claim that the "unusual bodies" (allegedly) found in or near the Roswell wreckage were from a craft brought down by a lightning strike. These bodies were "congenitally deformed human beings from Asia, who had been subjected to high-altitude radiation experiments for the feasibility of a nuclear-powered domestic aircraft. The victims came from "Unit 731", a World War II - era medical atrocities program conducted by the Japanese".

It all gets worse from there! We are astounded that Redfern, whom we have met and who seems like a sensible fellow, could come up with such fantasy. He needs a good dose of Karl Pflock's 2001 definitive work on this subject: "Roswell - Inconvenient Facts and the Will to Believe".

We remember Redfern best for an incident at a UFO conference party a couple of years ago, in which he seems to have confiscated our film! (Long story.) He was very nice to us thereafter, and we have nothing against him except the wild imagination displayed in his above-mentioned Roswell book...

Next, our olde pal Timothy Green Beckley of New York City has kindly sent us a free review copy of his latest opus "Our Alien Planet: This Eerie Earth", written by his co-conspirator Sean Casteel. The price is \$20, "special" to "Smear" readers, and the snail-mail address is Box 753, New Brunswick, N.J. 08903. Probably worth the price, as this large soft-cover book runs about 140 pages - in large type, either (1) for easy reading or (2) to make the book longer, or (3) both.

We won't pretend to have read all of this, but some parts are actually true, such as Beckley's brief account of having gone UFO & ghost hunting with your "Smear" editor in the late 1960s. How time flies!

Chapters include: Our World is a Spooky Place; Ley



Unicorn-Elf-Fairy

(Continued on Page 8)

MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES :

Our friendly (?) enemy WENDY CONNORS writes:

"Thank you for the gratis copy of the June 15, 2005 issue of 'Saucer Smear', where you indicated that even though I'm in your 'Hall of Shame', I should have been included in UFO Magazine's list of the most important persons in Ufology, for the audio restoration/preservation work I am now engaged in.

"However, I vehemently would object to my inclusion in such a list. First, my work is what is important. It is accomplished for the benefit of all researchers and I'm very proud so many have enjoyed my work. Secondly, I'm not a blogger with just opinions, or a shameless self-promoter of gossip journalism regarding Ufology.

"True, you deserve top spot on their list. 'Saucer Smear' has its place - with the rest of trailer trash intellectual reading materials, normally found with various stains, at the local quickie mart.

"I desperately wanted to reciprocate for the free copy of 'Saucer Smear' with a few discs from the project, but I remembered you are computer illiterate and thus, I must be the bearer of bad news: The Edisonphone and wax cylinders are no longer available to the masses via Best Buy, Circuit City or other fine purveyors of technological developments. Thus, you wouldn't be able to listen to them.

"'Saucer Smear' would still be relevant if it was still delivered by pony express. People love retrospectives, but your ufological journalism is old news before you even begin to debase each new issue.

"Keep up the good work, James, and remember - put down the quill before you pat yourself on the back. 'Saucer Smear' wouldn't be what it is without you!"

Researcher CURT SUTHERLY writes:

"I wanted to let you know that the July issue of Fate Magazine will contain an article by yours truly on the mysterious plane crash that occurred near Mobile, Alabama in October 2002, and which I briefly described in the January 2005 issue of 'Smear'. The crash is still unsolved. If you recall, the National Transportation Safety Board - the agency charged with investigating air crashes - initially stated that the accident appeared to be the result of impact with 'an unknown object' at 3,000 feet. Not long afterward, the statement was retracted and the responsible investigator and his team were removed from the case.

"There are a number of queer things relating to this crash, and I spent several months pouring over charts and documents and wracking my minuscule brain for a solution. I finally found a serious Clue while reviewing an NTSB lab analysis of debris from the fallen aircraft. But when I tried to ask an agency PR flack about this - I left several messages, in fact - he would have none of it. No returned e-mails or phone calls! Suffice is to say that I am convinced the accident was not due to weather, pilot error, or any other mundane explanation one might conjure."

Our anthropological friend CHRIS ROTH writes:

"I have mixed feelings about the possible exit of Robert Girard of Arcturus Books from the UFO bookselling business, as reported in 'Smear' - an eventuality that is for the most part surely due to the rise of online bookselling. I have bought books from Girard in the past, but I removed myself from his mailing list many years ago after becoming aware of the extremist racist propaganda that he peddles in the form of his own books ('Futureman', etc.) Amazon.com may be a big, perhaps slightly unethical corporation, or it may not; but at least they are not white supremacists. And, incidentally, referring to one's customers as being 'loutish' is not exactly a way to improve flagging sales!"

**NO ESCAPE**

While away for the weekend, US schoolteacher Charise Hartzol had a dream that foretold her death. Worried, she packed her things and

started for home. Halfway there, her car was involved in an accident and her premonition came true. *Independent on Sunday, 1 May 2005.*

**HOME FROM HOME**

Paul and Barbara Prewett from Suffolk decided to move to a new development 14 miles (23km) away. When they bought the site, it was known simply as Plot 36.

Imagine their surprise when they found they were moving from 31 Sandpiper Road to 31 Sandpiper Road - said to be a three-million-to-one coincidence. *Irish Independent, 25 Sept 2004.*

British semi-skeptic CHRISTOPHER ALLAN writes:

"Nick Redfern's new Roswell book ("Body Snatchers in the Desert"; Paraview Pocket Books) is out at this very time. Firstly, let me say I have not read it, so my comments may seem premature. However, I have read the long interview he gave during two days in May to an internet magazine.

"Secondly, my conclusion is that although the book will undoubtedly spark a lot of fierce debate in the short term, its ultimate fate will be to add just one more piece to the Roswell folklore. Nick's thesis, namely that the Roswell crash was that of a post-war huge U.S. experimental balloon with an airplane attached beneath it, launched from White Sands, and with a crew of four captured Japanese pilots all of whom perished in the crash, will turn out to be as phoney as the ET-crash thesis espoused by so many. This balloon, so he claims, had been developed from the Jap Fugo balloons sent over the Pacific during WW2, so the idea is not totally new anyway. (It was the human Jap pilots that were the bodies discovered in the desert, you see.)

"Essentially Nick's book appears (from the interview) to be a set of anecdotes told to him by informers in the UK & the US, and even these informants are secondhand, or so it appears. In fact, his informants have no more credibility than do those of the numerous ETH writers on Roswell. There is no documentation (surprise!), only allegations of such documentation...

"Granted, the idea of a 'terrestrial' solution to Roswell is slightly more credible than an ETH one; but this still does not account for the extraordinary length of time for these 'whistleblowers' to come forward (and remember none of these are the real participants, only second-hand or third-hand people who have held back their supposed evidence for 50-60 years). And why no complaints from the Japs themselves in 60 years, officially or otherwise?

"As I say, the book will have a startling initial effect, but I predict it will soon fade out. I also predict that it will produce no further investigation into Roswell on the part of US authorities. But as with all such revelations, we shall have to wait and see.

"Certainly some Roswell ET proponents will not be amused. Can you think who they might be?"

Researcher SMILES LEWIS writes:

"Smiles Lewis over here in Austin, Texas. I hope this letter finds you doing well. I continue to read with much excitement your monthly 'Saucer Smear' newsletter...

"I'm sure you are by now fully briefed on the latest Roswell revelations from Nick Redfern. In the latest issue of my newsletter I cover the extent of dialogue about the Roswell Fugo hypothesis and its connections to Unit 731 research. I still can't get over the fact that I now find this idea entirely credible and a good final explanation of the many previously contradictory facts and stories surrounding that weird summer in New Mexico...

"Having long suspected the probable links between Military Industrial Complex / Intelligence Agency complicity in MK-Ultra style mind control research as well as other projects dealing with 'non-lethal' weapons platforms, this latest suggestion of a link between American continuance of Japan's most heinous Unit 731 human experimentation programs comes as no surprise to me - despite my own poo-pooing of John Keel's Fugo hypothesis ten years ago!"

(S)Miles would have been the sponsor of our 2001 NUFOC convention in Austin, Texas, but it was scheduled for the weekend immediately following 9/11/01, and thus it was wiped out. It was later held elsewhere that year. - Editor.

Ace skeptic MARTIN KOTTMEYER writes as follows:

"The most astonishing thing I recently saw on the glorious Web was the opening of a site devoted to the writings of the late contactee Dan Fry. And by devoted, I mean that somebody actually transcribed all, over 240, of the issues of his 'Understanding' newsletter into the digital domain. I can scarcely imagine a more mind-numbing enterprise, having browsed through a handful of them. It puts into focus why Believers will always be with us.

"Contrast this impressive labor of love with the pitiful little corner of the CSICOP

digital universe devoted to Klass. Someone came up with the idea that he wanted to put up an archive of Klass's SUN. A few issues went up with a promise that more would come. The guy evidently burned out. The site has links to issue numbers never transcribed and it has been that way for years! It is embarrassing.

"Skeptics haven't a tenth of the passion and persistence of Believers. They haven't a chance. The ghost of Dan Fry is a more powerful force than 'most influential' Uncle Phil. What influential people in today's world have such pitiful websites as SUN's? Hell, even you have a better website and you don't even like the Web!"

Phil Klass is still alive but very ill, and is no longer active in ufology, sadly. - Editor.

Klass protege ROBERT SHEAFFER writes as follows:

"Rob MacGregor now joins the ranks of those grossly misrepresenting Randi's psychic challenge. He says 'If (Randi) wanted a legitimate challenge, he would set up a double-blind challenge in which he is not the judge.' But that's exactly what Randi has always offered, and what well-known 'psychics' always refuse to accept. The key words everyone misses; agree in advance.

"Randi and the 'psychic' agree in advance what alleged Miracle is to be tested, and what the criterion is for success. From then on, it's out of Randi's hands, and into the hands of independent judges, who are also agreed upon in advance. The only question before the judges is: Was the agreed-upon criterion met? (Example: Were 60 out of 100 cards correctly called?) If the answer is 'yes', the money changes hands, and there's nothing Randi can do about it.

"I'm sick of people misrepresenting a perfectly honest challenge as something that nobody could ever win. The truth is, any 'psychic' who can actually perform the miracles he claims to be able to, could easily win Randi's challenge. The fact that nobody yet has (and that no well-known 'psychic' has even made a serious attempt) is pretty good evidence that 'psychic powers' are, in Penn and Teller's immortal phrase, 'Bullshit'!"

In our opinion Randi's challenge is purely a publicity stunt. See our glorious editorial on this subject at the bottom of Page 4 of this issue. - Editor.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We have a very long but unusually interesting letter from long-time UFO researcher Bob Pratt about the flying saucer situation in Brazil, and we also have some other good material that has to be postponed to our next issue for lack of space. We'll see you then! - Our thanks again to all of you who have sent us material in the past few weeks.



(Continued from Page 5)  
Lines; Are the Polar Caps Melting?; UFOs vs. Earthlights; Jumping Lights of Joplin (Missouri); The Volcano & the Goddess; Tourist Guide to Spooky Lights; Invisible Little Men; Floating Flame Balls; and (best of all!) A Tourist Guide to Eerie Doors and Windows.

The scientifically-oriented drawing on Page 5 is by Tim Beckley's talented co-worker Carol Rodriguez.