

SAUCER SMEAR

DEDICATED TO THE
HIGHEST PRINCIPLES OF
UFUOLOGICAL JOURNALISM

The Big Moment



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

TELEPHONE:
305-294-1873 and
305-294-2270

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:
Vince Ditchkus

NON-SCHEDULED
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MAILING ADDRESS:
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IMPORTANT NOTICE: Those of you who failed to respond to the "X" on the envelope of your November 20th "Smear" are being given a second chance to mail us your Free Will Love Offering type Donation! If you fail to respond this time, you will indeed be Un-"Smeared"!

POLITICIANS STRUGGLE VERY MILDLY TO PLEASE PRO-UFO VOTERS

On November 12th, former Arizona governor Fife Symington was the moderator at a high-level pro-UFO gathering at Washington's prestigious National Press Club. Representatives from seven countries including the U.S. were present - notably retired USAF Colonel Charles Halt of 1980 Rendlesham (Bentwaters) fame, and Nick Pope, formerly of Britain's Ministry of Defence. Some of the same people were on a Larry King Live TV show two nights earlier. Neither event was related to Stephen Bassett's exopolitical group.

All (except one skeptic on Larry King's show) had nice things to say in favor of flying saucers and against government secrecy. Symington's participation really puzzles us, however. A day after the well-known 1997 Phoenix Lights incident, Symington held a press conference in Phoenix, where he went way overboard in ridiculing the phenomenon, even though he had seen it himself.

"UFO Media Matters" on the Net paraphrases some of Symington's recent remarks in Washington: "Symington recounted his press conference the day after the Lights were seen, explaining that the nature of the phone calls and citizen anxiety directed at his office was such that, to relieve the tension, he asked his chief of staff to dress up like an alien at the briefing. The aide refused. The governor insisted, and the chief said he would resign before doing such a thing. Symington told him his resignation would then be refused, and the staffer complied, but has never forgiven him. The mood lightener, the governor said, offended many of his constituents..."

The photo above apparently shows Symington (face unseen) putting the alien costume on his reluctant chief of staff. Our question: Is ex-governor Fife Symington some kind of nut? We understand that he has now been driven out of politics completely, and now works as a chef at a high-class hotel in Phoenix...

Well, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Richardson, who is governor of New Mexico, was asked about the (groan!) Roswell Incident at a recent town hall meeting. He replied in a somewhat ambiguous way: "I've been in government a long time...and I've always felt that the government doesn't tell the truth as much as it should on a lot of issues. When I was

This drawing by a Princeton artist depicts what witnesses described in the famous 1952 "Flatwoods Monster Case" in Flatwoods, W.V. It was provided by "Dr. UFO" Pat Marcattilio of Hamilton. In the wake of yesterday's announcement by a former governor and a top FAA official admitting flying saucers are real, Marcattilio is re-energized in his quest to bring the truth about UFOs — both extra-terrestrial spacecraft and secret government projects — out into the open.

We have no space to re-produce the above-mentioned drawing here, but we are pleased that our friend New Jersey saucer guru Pat Marcattilio has received front page recognition in "The Trentonian" newspaper. We wish him well! - Editor.

DRIVEN TO DRINK

After passing her driving test in Sofia, Bulgaria, Kristina Andreeva, 23, went out with her instructor for a celebratory drink. She offered to drive him home, but was pulled over by police for erratic driving. Both she and instructor Ivan Filin, 48, were three times over the limit. Andreeva lost her licence, which she had had for only three hours; Filin lost both his driving and his instructor's licence. *Irish Independent*, 12 May; *The Australian*, 14 May 2007.

in Congress I said to the Department of Defense, 'What is the data you have?'...I was told the records were classified. This ticked me off." Laughter followed.

Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinick, who is a congressman, was put in an awkward position in another of the current series of debates. He was reminded by the moderator that actress & esoteric author Shirley MacLaine writes in her latest book that he once sighted a UFO over her home in Washington state. His exact reply was: "I did (see it). And the rest of the account - I didn't - I - It was an unidentified flying object, okay. It's like - It's unidentified. I saw something."

His further remarks were humorous, but he did refer seriously to a sighting by former president Jimmy Carter. Carter was governor of Georgia at the time (1969), and we remember that he eagerly filled out a handwritten sighting report form for NICAP, a now long-defunct flying saucer organization. But currently Carter's enthusiasm is waning, for some reason. He recently stated: "I have never thought there were extraterrestrial beings on a ship from outer space". He now speculates that he and his several companions may have seen a military test that night. Conservative ufologists have long felt that the sighting in question was actually of the planet Venus under unusual conditions.

Republican candidates can waffle on ufological questions as easily as Democrats. Former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney, when asked by a hard-core MUFONite in the audience about "lessening any possible government cover-up on UFOs", answered: "Sounds like a good idea. I agree. I'd like to know, too". Then he quickly moved on.

Former Republican New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, now using the 9/11 disaster to propel himself into the White House, was asked what he would do if "something bad living on another planet" comes here. Amid laughter, Giuliani replied, in effect, that we must be prepared for anything.

The sad fact is that any candidate who clearly appears to take UFOs seriously would surely lose a lot more votes than he would gain. Whatever the truth may be about flying saucers, the subject very easily lends itself to ridicule (sometimes even in the pages of "Saucer Smear".)

NEWS BRIEFIES

One of the very best stories to come out of the above-mentioned National Press Club Conference on UFOs was the contribution of a retired Peruvian Air Force pilot named Oscar Huerta. In 1980 he was stationed at an air base near Arequipa, Peru (a town where your editor hung out, many years ago!), and his report ties in with the "Shoot Them Down!" claims made by Frank Feschino, Stanton Friedman, and other American researchers.

On April 11th, 1980, at 7:15 a.m., 1800 men in formation at the base observed a stationary object in the sky. It looked like a balloon about three miles away, at about 1,800 feet altitude. The unit commander ordered Huerta to take off in his Sukhoi 22 jet, to shoot down this spherical object, as it was in restricted airspace without clearance.

Huerta approached the UFO and shot 64 30 mm. shells at it. Some of the shells hit the object directly, but they had no effect at all. The projectiles didn't bounce off but apparently were absorbed by this strange craft. The cone-shaped "wall of fire" that he sent out would normally obliterate anything in its path!

The UFO began to ascend and move further away from the base. Three times thereafter he managed to lock in on the target and was ready to start shooting again, but each time it moved away at the very last minute.

At one point Huerta came to within about 300 feet of the target. It was about 30 feet in diameter, with a cream-colored dome and a wide, circular metallic base. There were no engines, exhausts, windows, wings, or antennae. There was no visible means of propulsion at all!

Basically, Huerta panicked, and being very low on fuel, he gave up the 22-minute chase and returned to his base. After he landed, the object remained stationary in the sky for two more hours, for everyone at the base to see.

If this is true, it is surely one of the most startling UFO cases of all times. Supposedly a U.S. Department of Defense document titled "UFO Sighted in Peru" described the incident, stating that the vehicle's origin remains unknown.

Apparently it's not so damn easy to "Shoot Them Down"!...

There are two (or more) sides to every story, and here from the Web is Erik Beckjord's version of his recent ill-fated Bigfoot expedition, which was described briefly in our last issue.

"In September I held an expedition to the Sierras with a person I knew (who dropped out at the last minute) and with another that had told me that she had had many mental-hold arrests and was suicidal, even a former crack addict. She came from Happy Camp, California, and I wanted to test whether a psychotic person would attract Bigfoot. (She did.) However, she freaked out twice, and did six hours of 110 decibel screaming, and hit me with a shovel. I left to protect myself, and she later claimed I had hit her many times with a heavy, 3-cell police flashlight weighing 3 pounds. At Jackson Hospital they found no marks and no bruises, and the police dismissed her claims. I never touched her.

"Later, other people she knew tipped me off that in the 1970s she had killed her own father and got off by an insanity plea, in Coalinga, Ca. She revealed to me his name, = Thomas Raymond Baker. ("Smear" is not accusing anyone of murder, however. - Editor.)

One wonders how Bigfoot would be able to distinguish a "psychotic person" from a more normal one. Apparently this creature is much more intelligent than anyone ever thought!

Beckjord goes on: "She is now persisting in raving on her website in all CAPS letters, that I had hit her many times. There were no bruises then nor now, except in her mind. I never touched her, I repeat. She has four kids, is divorced, and lost the kids. She lives in Happy Camp, Ca. and is 45, and her name is Tara Baker Hauki. Not a good person to go camping with."

Beckjord concludes: "...We now will no longer take mentally ill people on expeditions!"

...Some of you may remember that a few years ago there was a documentary film called "Whispers from Space", about the life & times of legendary West Virginia ufologist Gray Barker. This gem was not widely distributed, but has become a "cult classic" among Barker's remaining hard-core fans. Naturally your humble "Smear" editor is in it, having known Barker well for over thirty years.

Now a young West Virginian named Bob Wilkinson is doing a new documentary about Barker, to be released later this year. It is called "Shades of Gray". This is a cute title, but it may cause confusion with the "grey" alien phenomenon, which did not yet exist as a cultural entity until after Gray Barker's death in 1984. Wilkinson and a friend recently traveled all the way to Key West from West Virginia to interview your editor for this film.

There's also another more important UFO documentary in the works. We don't know the title, but it is being produced by a professional Hollywood outfit, under contract with a major motion picture studio. For his participation your editor has been offered a five figure "honorarium". (Three of the five figures precede the decimal and the last two follow the decimal.) Our portion will be filmed in Key West in early January. Unfortunately, the bias of this production will be skeptical or sociological, with no emphasis at all on what UFOs really are....

Reason #669 $\frac{1}{2}$ as to Why Roswell is Probably Not an Interplanetary Event:

One of Kevin Randle's ceaseless blogs re-hashing the testimony of various Roswell witnesses reminds us of Kent Jeffrey's involvement. He was a respected airline pilot who, in the mid-1990s, believed that "something alien" had crashed there and had been covered up by

the military.

Of course, lots of people believed this, and still do. However, Jeffrey decided to do something about it. He organized "The Roswell Initiative", which was a world-wide petition drive, asking the U.S. government to release all Roswell UFO info. in its files. He also met with witnesses and offered them the services of a legal team if they got into trouble for telling what they knew.

By the time these twenty to thirty thousand petitions were delivered to Washington, Jeffrey had already changed his mind! One reason was that he attended reunions of the 509th Bomb Group and talked with many officers who served in Roswell in 1947, and who said they had heard nothing about the UFO crash. They felt that had it happened, they would have known.

Jeffrey was also disillusioned by Frank Kaufmann's fake story; by Gerald Anderson's fake story; by Major Jesse Marcel's hyped-up military biography (as revealed by Robert Todd); and by negative testimony from military officers who had been at Wright Field at that time or who had been members of ATIC (Air Technical Intelligence Center). In short, Jeffrey really tried to believe, and really wanted to believe, but the evidence let him down.

Kevin Randle's conclusion: Jeffrey would not have lost the Faith had he interviewed still other men whose testimony is reliable and meaningful - at least in Randle's opinion...

Canada's Paul Kimball, producer of the current UFO documentary "Best Evidence", intends to come out with a sequel, "Beyond Best Evidence", some time during 2008. There is also a rumor that he plans to move at least part of his operation from the frozen wilderness of eastern Canada to the more hospitable area (especially for film makers) of Hollywood, Ca.

Paul seems like a good guy, though we have never met. For some reason he is addicted to his own series of public opinion polls. We fondly remember the one in mid-2006, when "Smear" beat out UFO Magazine, the MUFON Journal, and the International UFO Reporter (IUR) for Best UFO Publication! In his latest poll we didn't do nearly that well, for a secret reason we will never reveal.

In Paul's current category called "Best UFO/paranormal trouble-maker", your humble "Smear" editor came in third, after a UFO Magazine columnist named Alfred Lehmborg and another named Jeremy Vaeni.

Then there is a list of 2008 "Hall of Fame" inductees, where we didn't do well at all. Sadly, the winner by a large margin is radio's well-known semi-retired host, Art Bell. Others who did okay are John Keel, Brad Steiger, Dr. Bruce Maccabee, Nick Pope, Nick Refern, and (ugh!) Jerry Clark. We did manage to beat out Richard Hall, the late Gray Barker, the late Edward Ruppelt, the late Long John Nebel, the late Coral Lorenzen of APRO, and the late Philip Klass. We even tied with Kevin Randle, Ph.D., who is still alive!

There was some controversy about the 2008 "Hall of Shame" inductees. Bob Lazar of Area 51 fame is the winner, followed closely by Linda Moulton Cowe. A number of people felt that Linda, sweet and gullible that she is, is being unfairly picked on. Others receiving big votes are Richard Doty, the late Lt. Col. Philip Corso, Ray Santilli of alien autopsy fame, Kal K. Korff, and the late George Adamski. Your "Smear" editor is not even listed in this category, thank god!...

According to a magazine called "Woman's Day" (as quoted on the Net), famed actor Tom Cruise has wasted eleven million dollars on a luxury underground bunker at his Colorado estate. According to this story, the bunker is for the purpose of protecting him and his family against an alien invasion.

The shelter is large enough to accomodate ten people, including his wife Katie Holmes and their three children. It is a self-contained area with a high-tech air purifying system.

All of this must be somehow connected with Tom Cruise' intense belief in the religion of Scientology. Some say that this religion teaches that a specific alien overlord will eventually return to ravage Planet Earth.

So how will the rest of us survive - those who can't even afford a cheap-o million dollar shelter? This sounds like really "Risky Business". We've always admired Cruise as an actor, but as an authority on this sort of thing, he really seems to fall short!...

Man in court over St Paul's death

Independent, 24 June 2006.

**Rubber ducks
race for prizes**

Just before Christmas, famed UFO historian Jerry Clark went on a verbal rampage (again) on the Net, attacking the late Karl Pflock, the late Yonah Fortner, and of course your humble "Smear" editor, because of our various ufological crimes. Yet Jerry piously writes us that he is "bored" by ufological feuds. Then why does he deliberately re-start several of them at this time??

In 2002 Clark wrote an impassioned negative review of our UFO book co-authored with Pflock, called "Shockingly Close to the Truth!" The review, which we tried to ignore at the time, was called "The Trivialist", and incredibly it runs 7 out of the 16 pages of the Spring 2002 issue of "International UFO Reporter", of which Clark is still an editor. We were flattered by that much attention in a major ufological zine, but honestly, a half page would have been enough, or even "I just don't like the damn book!"

Clark irrationally hates the book and its authors, but he needs a peg to hang his prejudices onto, and he easily finds one: We shockingly passed along a rumor that George Hunt Williamson (a contactee in the George Adamski era) was suspected by the Peruvian police of having murdered his wife in the Andes. We made no accusation, but merely repeated what we had long heard. This was indeed careless on our part.

We had not realized that the only source of this rumor was a Jewish scholar named Yonah Fortner. It was he, not us, who had a hatred of Williamson because of Williamson's well-known anti-Semitism. Your editor barely knew Williamson at all, and had no strong feelings about him, one way or the other. We were both in Peru at roughly the same time in the late 1950s, but we never met there.

Incidentally, Williamson used two entirely different names, for reasons that are not clear. Fortner also used two names - Fortner and Aharon - one being his stepfather's name and the other his birth father's name. Clark makes a big issue out of this and other Fortner sins, in a Net rant too long to go into here.

Clark apparently dislikes Pflock for a number of very interesting reasons, again too long for our format. One reason not mentioned is Pflock's authorship of the definitive book showing that the Roswell Incident was not interplanetary. The ufological hard core will never forgive him for this. Pflock also had little faith in most abduction research.

Rather than dwell on Jerry Clark's prejudices, we prefer to remember the glowing review "Shockingly" received from the enlightened editors of Britain's "Fortean Times".

As for Jerry Clark, he is, as always, an opinionated, mean-spirited, arrogant intellectual bully.

Well, maybe we exaggerate just a little. After all, no one is perfect!...

We found this next item to be rather astounding. According to a recent Net posting by Frank Warren, the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle states that Hudson County, New Jersey, has the highest number of UFO sightings in the whole United States. There have supposedly been a total of 775 sightings or incidents since 1975.

Your editor lived in Hudson County, N.J. from about 1972 to 1983. We were absolutely unaware of such a total, and we never saw anything ourselves; but we did investigate the most famous incident, which occurred on January 12th, 1975.

A liquor store owner or employee (take your pick!) named George O'Barski was driving home to N.J. from Greenwich Village, in lower Manhattan, at 2:45 a.m., when he saw a round, flat object with glowing rectangular windows that was hovering at very low altitude near his car. It was about 30 feet wide, flat on the bottom, and brightly domed at the top. A ladder came out of the object, and between 8 and 11 identical creatures emerged.

These entities were three to four feet tall and all wore dark snowsuit-like uniforms with helmets. Each had a small bag and a little shovel. They quickly scooped up soil samples, poured the samples into the little bags, and then immediately got back into the craft.

The episode lasted only about three minutes. O'Barski lived very nearby, so at sunrise he went back to this city park to make sure he had not been dreaming. There he found several holes in the soil, where he had witnessed the aliens allegedly digging.

The strangest part of the story (not so well known) is that Budd Hopkins, who soon became the internationally-known abduction guru we all know & love today, was a regular customer at O'Barski's liquor store. He succeeded in persuading O'Barski to let him make the sighting public, and this resulted in a famous article in New York City's "Village Voice" newspaper. From there the story spread to TV, etc; and eventually your editor, who lived less than a mile from O'Barski and from the park, interviewed the man for "Saucer News".

There is much more to this story, but we have run out of Space until our next issue!

MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES

Famed ufologist BILL MOORE writes:

"With respect to Barry Greenwood's brief 'biography' of Richard Doty which appears in your October 20th 'Smear', he is mistaken on three important points:

"First, with respect to the Ellsworth Air Force Base document, Greenwood states that I 'informed Bruce Maccabee in March 1986 that Doty had confessed to faking the document.' This is not correct. What I told Maccabee was that Rick Doty had admitted to me that the document was a fabrication and that it had to do with some sort of counterintelligence training exercise going on at Ellsworth at that time (1978). Doty told me that he had been personally involved in that training exercise, but he was emphatic about having had nothing to do with manufacturing the documents in question.

"Second, Greenwood's identification of Doty as 'a mysterious shadowed figure called 'Falcon' in the October, 1988 TV production of 'UFO Cover-Up-Live!' is mistaken. The 'shadowed figure' was not Rick Doty. I know, because I was there when the video was made, and I can tell you for certain that the man known as 'Falcon' (now dead) has never been correctly identified by anyone in the UFO community, and that when his identity is eventually made known (as it will be, once enough time has passed), a lot of people are going to be very surprised.

"Third, Greenwood states that 'Doty said that he saw a flying saucer-like aircraft in a hangar', while on guard duty at Indian Springs AFB in Nevada in 1969, and that later that same day he had a meeting with 'a civilian calling himself Blake'. While Greenwood's assertions about this matter are essentially correct (at least to the best of my knowledge and belief), he might be interested to know that the man calling himself 'Blake' and the individual later known as the 'Falcon' were one and the same; and that the 'Falcon' took an interest in Doty because there was something very special about Doty which the 'Falcon' thought might prove useful to American counterintelligence efforts in the future, as indeed it did. Now, as to what that 'something' was, I am not at liberty to say, because I do not feel it would be proper to disclose information which Rick Doty, and no doubt others in the intelligence community who are aware of it, rightly regard as private and personal, and perhaps even a matter of national security."

British semi-skeptic CHRISTOPHER ALLAN writes:

"Interesting that Stanton Friedman's Roswell book is entitled 'Crash at Corona: The Definitive Study of the Roswell Incident'.

"I have the first edition (1992), which is entitled 'Crash at Corona: The The U.S. Military Retrieval and Cover-up of a UFO'.

"Presumably sometime between the first and second editions the book became 'definitive' and the title changed. How did this happen? My dictionary gives the word 'definitive' as meaning: 'positive, final, most authoritative, expert or complete'. This obviously did not apply to the first edition, since on pages 24-25 the authors quote passages from an official USAF document which by 1997 was proven, by Robert Todd, to be a fake. (Certain passages had been cleverly reworded by a forger in the mid-1980s.)

"I would hope that the second edition corrects this careless mistake, but even if it does, there are several other reasons for severely doubting whether the said book deserves



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the title 'definitive'. But Stan is right about one thing: There is a town called Corona in New Mexico."

Our friend DAVE SWINK, formerly associated with the International UFO Museum at Roswell, writes:

"The latest news about the July 2007 festival was that the City spent \$430,000 for the whole thing (including city employees' wages), and in the same issue of the newspaper, the city council is considering raising the sales tax (gross receipts tax for this town). Subsequent letters to the editor questioned the wisdom of this coincidence - and rightly so. One of the Festival members (four had resigned before the event!) said that the City had (1) no budget, and (2) no accountability. Wow, what a surprise. And Julie Shuster (of the Museum) has still not released the number of visitors who signed in on her welcome sheet, and I expect she never will. That is the only method the City has to determine the number of visitors; so now, almost December, there is no record of the number of people who dropped by!"

Researcher DAVID CLEWELL writes:

"...As for your recent Roswell Soil Debacle: About a dozen years ago, I ordered some advertised 'Roswell Crash Site Soil'. If I'm remembering right, it cost me about \$7.50, including postage, and it arrived in not much more than a week. And this was no 2 by 2 inch packet. My soil is ensconced inside the plastic dome of a cheap flying saucerish-looking thing (impressive enough in its 8 inch diameter-dimension, nevertheless). I sent my order to a Roswell P.O. box, and my saucer, when it arrived, revealed an actual Roswell postmark and return address....So if I were you, I'd be leery of any sample you received from Staten Island, New York!..."

And, researcher TRISTRAM JONES writes:

"Your memory is good. The phrase STENDEC is associated with the disappearance of a British South American Airways plane, the 'Star Dust', that went missing on the evening of August 2nd, 1947. Only four minutes short of arrival in Santiago, Chile, the plane vanished after transmitting a Morse-code message ending with the enigmatic phrase STENDEC, often misrepresented as STENDEK, maybe because it looks more outer spacey that way.

"You are also correct in recalling that the mystery of the disappearance was recently solved. In 1998 the wreckage of the long-missing plane was disgorged by a mountain glacier, thus invalidating the preferred ufological version that saucer beings must have absconded with craft and crew.

"Nevertheless, speculation continues to roil around the bizarre usage, STENDEC, which was transmitted a second time by 'Star Dust' after the phrase was queried by Santiago. At the time, ufologists like Harold T. Wilkins treated the phrase as a fragment of alien jargon, doubtless broadcast by interplanetary fiends in the process of seizing the airliner. (This theory rather tends to overlook the fact that the term was tapped out in prosaic Morse, although aliens may, I suppose, have infiltrated the Boy Scouts.)

"Many theories have been offered suggesting the word is some form of acronym, or the word 'descent', inaccurately keyed. None of this makes much sense, however, and the mystery endures, at least lexically..."

DENNIS CRENSHAW, former editor of "The Hollow Earth Insider", writes;

"First I want to thank you for bringing our manuscript on Dellschau to the attention of Dennis Stacy. Without your help it might not have happened.

"I am very pleased to announce that Pete Navarro and I have signed a contract with Anomalist Books (www.anomalistbooks.com) to publish our book concerning the acclaimed mysterious artist C.A.A. Dellschau and his strange drawings of futuristic flying machines. The title will be 'The Secrets of Dellschau; The Sonora Aero Club and the Flying Machines of the 1800s'. Along with the story of Pete's many years spent breaking the code and then closely studying the secret story hidden by Dellschau in his drawings, the book will contain hundreds of Pete's personal drawings and photos taken during his 27 year quest. The book is presently in the design phase.

"Our thanks to Dennis Stacy & the crew at Anomalist Books for helping us get this information out!"

Researcher ROBERT DAVIS writes as follows:

"Word has it that Dennis Crenshaw and Anomalist Books have come to an agreement to publish his Dellschau book. No hint yet as to when it will be available.

"I had forgotten the weird Brazilian 'lead mask' case. As far as I know, it was never explained."

Yes, the 1966 "lead mask" double murder case in Brazil (summarized in our last issue) was indeed UFO-related and was never solved! - Editor.

Skeptic CURTIS PEEBLES, an aviation writer in California, writes:

"...I was amused to see Dr. Salla bring up the 'Extraterrestrial Exposure Law'. As I recall, the law was established in the event the Apollo missions brought back living organisms from the Moon. If the crew or lab technicians were exposed, they could be quarantined to prevent the spread of the organisms. The concern was that humans would have no immunity against it. No Moon life was ever found, and the law was finally dropped."

CHRISTOPHER ROTH, future editor of "Smear", writes:

"In my opinion, Greer and Bassett and other folks pushing this UFO disclosure agenda are banging their heads against the wall. If it's really so important to the government to keep such things secret, they won't break the silence just because a few hundred people sign a petition. They can rest assured that no politician who cares about reelection will ever risk touching this topic.

"If there is a cover-up, the only way to crack it will be to do some 'Pentagon Papers' style sleuthing and then expose it all, at great personal risk. And even then, no matter how explosive or definitive it is, the ufologists will chime in with their typographical analyses and 'ad hominem' attacks and so on, and the public will take essentially no notice of it! So it has always gone..."

MATT GRAEBER writes as follows:

"The last 'Smear' was definitely a tour de force in Ufoological shenanigans and a real hoot too! I can't believe Ol' Erik the (Great White) Beckjord actually abandoned that poor gal named Tara in the wilderness during Bigfoot mating season. How callous!...

"Anyway, you really should write a 'Sex and Saucers' book on the secrets of the saucer celebs you've known over the years!"

Many will remember the "Manhattan Transfer" UFO abduction case (1989?) in which a lady living in New York City was allegedly levitated out a window of her apartment by alien beings. Abduction guru Budd Hopkins wrote a major book about this unique incident.

It was "Saucer Smear" that revealed the lady's real name was Linda Napolitano rather than Linda Cortile. Jerry Clark bitterly writes in a footnote to his 2002 review of "Shockingly" that this caused "harm and embarrassment to Linda and her family".

But is this really true? LINDA CORTILE writes the following message on her 2007 Xmas card, together with her annual donation to our Cause:

"Dear Jim:

"I hope I can answer the question you asked me in the note you wrote to me last year. The question was: 'Why do I send you Xmas greetings and donations for your newsletter after you have been such a jerk in previous years?'

"About eleven years ago at a UFO conference, you looked me in the eye and said, 'I didn't mean to hurt anyone.' I believe that you meant me.

"It must have taken a lot for you to say that to me, and I appreciate it.

"So - How could I resist the sweet side of you? This was a side I hadn't yet gotten to know, or knew existed. You're a good man."

This is one of the nicest Christmas messages we have ever received, and we appreciate it sincerely. We will never believe this particular abduction story, but Linda is obviously a very nice lady, and we really thank her for this comment! - Editor.