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HIGHEST PRINCIPLES OF
UFOLOGICAL JOURNALISM

SAUCER SMEAR

NON-SCHEDULED NEWSLETTER

Dr. J Allen Hynek

Scientific Consultant to Blue Book



"When the long awaited solution to the UFO problem comes, I believe that it will prove to be not merely the next small step in the march of science, but a mighty and totally unexpected quantum leap."

On Camera shortly before his death in 1985

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UFOLOGY IN HUDSON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

This is a continuation of the two-part article on Page 5 of our last issue. Therein, we told you that the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle claims that there have been a total of 775 UFO sightings and incidents since 1975 in Hudson County, N.J. That makes the county Number One in the whole U.S.A., they say. (This information was on Frank Warren's web page, dated December 9th, 2007.)

Not only were all these sightings in Hudson County, but it sounds like most of them were in or very near the town of North Bergen, at the northern end of that county. This is exactly where your editor lived from about 1972 till 1983. We were as much into UFO research then as we are now, but we only remember two local sightings - the sensational George O'Barski "little men" case in 1975 and one other very routine sighting around that time. Thus, after careful consideration, we can tell you definitely that the Nat. UFO Reporting Center figure (775) is dead-out wrong by a vast margin. Shame on this supposedly reputable outfit!

The article even concludes with the following statement from William Galvin, who is apparently the current police chief in North Bergen, N.J. He has been a native of the township for many years and says, regarding a current TV special about this alleged "flap": "We laugh about it. No one has ever received a call reporting a UFO to the police department. It is mind-boggling to think so many have been reported here...I can't believe we are number one on that list. It amazes me!..."

Now, back to the O'Barski case, which occurred one night in early 1975 while the elderly man was driving home from his job at a liquor store in nearby Manhattan, New York City. As we told you last time, he saw 8 to 11 "little men" get out of a landed saucer briefly, to take soil samples in North Hudson Park, which is a city park in North Bergen.

Good old Budd Hopkins (now a famous abduction guru) was a regular customer at the liquor store, and persuaded O'Barski to go public with his story. Thereafter, your editor met & interviewed Mr. O. at his apartment, no more than a mile or so from where we lived at that time. The man seemed sincere, but told us clearly that Hopkins controlled the distribution of his sighting report. After all these years we don't remember the exact words, but it was obvious that Hopkins was his spokesman, agent, handler, or whatever.

This made us wonder if perhaps Hopkins had contaminated or even invented the story. We have no trouble believing in "little men" landings, but they were for some reason mostly confined to the 1950s. The idea that such a landing occurred (maybe) in 1975, so close to our own abode, still makes us wonder!

In the summer of 1976, wild-eyed UFO researcher Timothy Green Beckley decided to stage a "Happening" in North Hudson Park, to somehow commemorate the O'Barski incident. Your editor had absolutely nothing to do with the planning of this event, but Beckley decided to bring in a psychic from Chicago to hold a seance in the park, to see if the same alien entities could be contacted. He called a couple of local newspapers, but neglected to call Hopkins, who "owned" the case. We felt this was a rude oversight, and got his permission to phone Hopkins, as a courtesy. When Hopkins heard that Beckley & friends would be operating the "Happening" out of our nearby apartment, he demanded that we throw them all out, "or else I'll see to it that you never publish anything again, anywhere", or words almost identical to that!

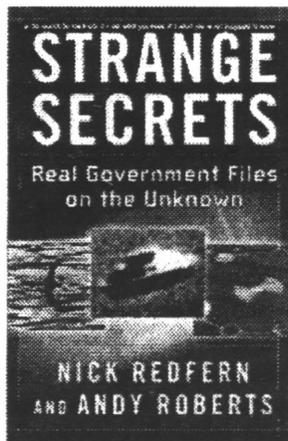
We were astounded, and scared. After all, good Americans like Hopkins had "black-listed" pro-Communist Hollywood screen writers in the 1950s, and most of these writers never worked again except under pseudonyms. Eventually we realized that Budd Hopkins had no such power, but was just a nasty, arrogant hot-head letting off steam. He never apologized!

As for the "Happening", it was a Gas. Our hard-core people held hands in a circle around the psychic from Chicago, and, seated on the grass in North Hudson Park, we invoked the Entities. Unfortunately, the newspaper publicity had brought out a somewhat hostile crowd of half-drunken mostly Hispanic men, who messed up the seance and even tried briefly to overturn the psychic's car, parked nearby. We fled the park in mild panic, and eventually continued the seance on the roof of a nearby apartment building called Stonehenge.

Incidentally, two minor events at Stonehenge had been said to confirm O'Barski's original sighting, but they don't. George O'Barski was the only witness. The only "physical evidence" was the little scoop marks that the aliens allegedly left in the ground when they dug up soil samples in this city park. Hardly proof of alien invasion! And yet, it may surprise you to learn that we would really like to believe the O'Barski story. As it is, we're on the fence, or wherever.

A very nice lady we know, who is familiar with the antics of Budd Hopkins and his close friend Jerry Clark, asked us to include her opinion here, which is that these men are both twits. We agree completely!...

NEWS BRIEFIES →



An in-depth study of the real X-Files that features chapters on official government records on Sea-Serpents and the Loch Ness Monster; Crop Circles; UFOs; Men in Black; Spontaneous Human Combustion; Cattle Mutilations; ESP; and much more!

Prolific UFO writer Nick Redfern recently posted a very favorable review of "Saucer Smear" on his "UFO Mystic" web site. Modesty prevents us from quoting it here, but if you write in & ask, we will gladly send you a copy.

Meanwhile, at your left is info on Redfern's latest tome, this one co-authored with an excellent British Fortean writer named Andy Roberts...

On a somewhat related topic: As mentioned previously, Paul Kimball's Redstar Films Limited is opening up a branch office in Los Angeles this year. Paul will be there, while his brother Jim continues to guide the parent company in Halifax, Nova Scotia. What we did not know till we talked to Paul by phone recently, is that our old pal Greg Bishop (formerly of "The Excluded Middle") will head the L.A. office. Nick Redfern, currently living with his wife in Texas, will also be a regular contributor to the organization.

It is very good to see that, at least for once, good people rather than fanatical extremists are rising to the top of the ufological scene!...

From Ontario, Canada, comes the very unusual story of a farmer named David Hamel who spent about 32 years of his life trying to build his own spaceship from telepathically-transmitted plans passed on to him by space visitors. He has now died at age 83 without ever coming close to completing his home-made craft, which he always worked on alone.

It all started with an abduction, in which aliens

flew Hamel about fifty miles to a specific spot where he was told to build a spaceship. He eventually made piles of detailed drawings of material which had been "planted in his brain" by the abductors. In a press interview at his farm a couple of years ago, he said, "It is now up to me to make it work. The end of the world is not far off, and we will need some of us to survive. Otherwise, all is lost."

Hamel's life-changing abduction occurred on October 21st, 1975, while he was sitting in his farmhouse watching television. Three silver-suited visitors from the planet Kladen suddenly showed up - one human-looking woman and two human-looking men. He took their instructions very seriously, but apparently he did not have the ability or the money necessary to meet the aliens' demands. Somehow this all sounds rather sad, actually.

Our thanks for this item go to Gene Duplantier's little-known magazine called "Delve Report - Saucers, Space & Science". It is available for a small sum at: 17 Shetland Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M2M-1X5...



Randi's secret autobiography?

Our (very) former pal James ("The Amusing") Randi has announced that as of March 6th, 2010, he will discontinue his notorious million dollar offer for proof of the paranormal. Basically, he explains that the "major personalities" in the paranormal field have steered clear of his challenge for whatever reason, and those who have actually applied for the money are "honestly self-deluded persons" who have no idea what scientific method is. (But does Randi really understand scientific method either?? The idea isn't to make the rules so draconian that only a raving masochist would be interested!)

Randi has decided that his Foundation would be better off using the million dollars for other purposes. Awhile back, when someone on the Net inquired about details as to where the prize money is kept, and in what form, Randi became furious and basically would not answer! We do hope that the million dollars really does exist even if the world of the paranormal doesn't!

Something called the "Mind-Energy.net" website has this to say:

"First of all, there is no doubt that Randi has used his alleged offer - over a period of many years - to generate enormous publicity for himself and his cult of debunkers.

"Second of all, Randi's offer sets himself up as judge and jury. And, of course, he has not the slightest interest in losing the very game he has created. A true prize would have an independent panel of neutral judges - and these judges, not Randi, should be in control of the prize money, to determine if and when it should be released.

"So while James Randi and his cult go around accusing the general public of falling for a variety of psychic scams, they themselves are engaged in perpetuating a scam of an equal and opposite sort. The final irony is that they are very nearly a mirror image of the phonies they try to expose."

Our personal experience, which may or may not differ completely from other people's, is this: We, in our lifetime, have had two occasions in which precise mathematically impossible things have occurred. Each incident lasted no longer than a minute or two, and then the mysterious "Power" was gone. Neither incident could possibly have been proven in any way, because the structure of the circumstances made proof impossible. Yet these things did really happen, unless your editor is completely insane & deluded. Our opinion: The psychic realm does really exist, but unless some drug, operation, or whatever can be found to make the "Power" much more reliable, nothing will ever be proven. Randi's money is safe, as he appears to have known all along....

We were highly amused by a newspaper article sent to us recently by Matt Graeber, concerning our buddy-in-research (?) at the International UFO Museum in Roswell, New Mexico. Museum czar Julie Shuster is now molding herself into a moderate regarding the famed Incident in 1947. Says she: "Greed and ego are rampant in the UFO field and among everybody who is trying to capitalize on it."

Dear Julie is referring to a proposed multi-million dollar resort and conference center for UFO enthusiasts, featuring a 1000-seat concert hall, plus an exhibit hall, plus an ultra-high-class cafe and a 400-seat theatre, pool, and lecture hall. There is also a separate plan to build a UFO-themed amusement park, complete with an indoor roller coaster that will take passengers on a simulated alien abduction experience!

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Dear Julie goes on about how quaint and peaceful Roswell used to be in the old days, before all the greed and hype. But she adds; "People were told - people in the military in particular - if you want a V.A. loan or any government assistance for you, your kids, or your grandkids, you won't say anything about it (= the Roswell Incident) now or ever!" Paranoia, eh?

Julie Shuster's International UFO Museum opened in 1992, but Roswell insiders started "talking" long before that. Her own father Walter Haut talked his head off in the last few years before he died very recently. Many dozens of speakers, almost all of them pro-Roswell Incident, have talked their heads off in the Museum's endless lecture series. Your "Smear" editor is one of them (2002), but was not invited back, apparently for being too "negative". The important fact is that none of these "talkers" have been Silenced by the government, as far as anyone knows!

Obviously, Julie's main concern is that her Museum may "lose the ball" if & when these huge new local projects are put into place. Had she been more co-operative with the Roswell City Council and other local entities, she might not be finding that she will soon be "out of the loop" for future Roswell tourists. Her greed is as intense as anyone's, and her hypocrisy is deplorable!...

Two rather silly Net blogs, or whatever, re Fortean mysteries:

First, the Seven Fortean Wonders of the U.S.A. (Why must it always be seven?) Number One is the "Integratron", which is a domed wooden structure built in the California desert in the 1950s, by famed UFO contactee George Van Tassel. Yes, a very interesting edifice, but does it really belong at the very top of such a list? Hardly!

Then there is a separate list of "Wonderful Fortean Wonders of the World". Seven are listed, of course. Admittedly, these are not necessarily the best, but merely items that the writer had not heard about before, on a much longer list.

Number One is "The Zone of Silence" in Mexico, but the less said about this the better! (Joke.) Moving past "the fairy coffins" and "the fairy shoes", we have an artificial metal cube (1885) that coal miners found inside a rock known to be about 60 million years old. We have heard of this before, and it is indeed fantastically important, if true. However, the artifact has been lost somehow, over the years. The details about this are not explained.

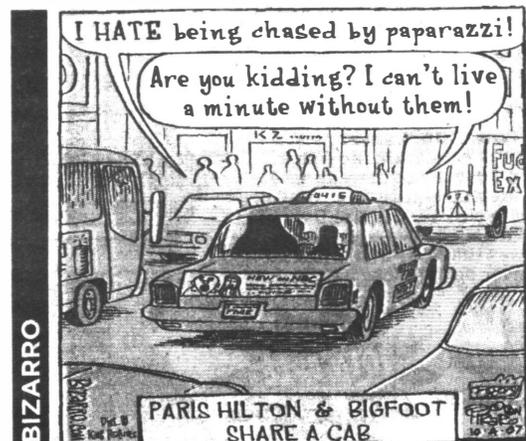
How about a real Fortean mystery, from our own world travels, many years ago? Very near Cuzco, in the mountains of Peru, lies an ancient fortress called Sacsahuaman. It is very well known, but rarely discussed for some reason. (Even Von Daniken ignored it, as far as we know.) Its age and the identity of its builders are totally unknown. The fortress consists of three layers of huge irregular boulders, which fit together perfectly, and reach a total height of about sixty feet. Each boulder appears to weigh hundreds of tons, = far, far more than the stones in the Egyptian pyramids. Do any of our readers have further info on Sacsahuaman? We would love to hear from you!...

Ufologists claim, correctly, that the mainstream press often holds legitimate saucer sightings up to ridicule. But it is also true that the press can blow a meaningless UFO story up into something sensational. Such as:

Former MUFON Director John Schuessler sends out an endless series of unscheduled communiques to the ufological "hard core", and his latest is headlined; "Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura Says UFOs 'Definitely' Exist". Schuessler's packet of in-

Daniel cites Curtis Peebles:

In the late 1980s I ran across the Curtis Peebles commentary from his Watch the Skies! A Chronicle of the Flying Saucer Myth that followers of Adamski reported. During Prohibition Adamski had founded a monastery in Laguna Beach and acquired a license to make wine for religious purposes. He claimed he had made "enough wine for all of Southern California" and cursed Roosevelt for the repeal of Prohibition. If not for that, he said "I wouldn't had to get into this saucer crap."



formation then follows with thirteen Net pages of repetitive material about a statement by the above-mentioned gentleman concerning UFOs. Therein, the man claims, "Personally, I absolutely believe they exist."

There are so many problems here! First, we can't even be sure he was serious, and very likely he was not. Secondly, "UFO" should mean just that - unidentified flying object - but unfortunately to many people, including Machimura, it automatically means "space ship". Pity!

Thirdly, Machimura then trips into one of the very few areas about which your editor is an expert, namely Peru's famous Nazca Lines. Apparently paraphrased, Machimura is reported to have said that these vast, ancient drawings can really only be properly appreciated from the air. This has led some to believe that they are the work of extraterrestrials. Yes, Erich Von Daniken (for great profit!) and others have made this claim. But your editor is the only amateur archaeologist to legally dig on the Nazca Lines, many years ago. We can tell you that, like New York City, they indeed can only be "properly appreciated" from the air. Yet, N.Y.C. was not built by extraterrestrials!

Fourthly, Machimura's main statement was brought on by an absurd claim: The planet Mars is supposedly being targeted by an unknown alien spacecraft that has been transiting our solar system "disguised" as a comet. Another Japanese official expressed concern that his country could not respond to an attack by space aliens while adhering to limits on military action under his country's post-WWII war-renouncing constitution.

But then, why should we assume that a fake comet headed toward Mars would turn around and attack Japan? The whole thing makes no sense. Our point is that there is no point to this hyped-up story. However, it does sound nice, offhand, that a major spokesman for a major world power would endorse the reality of UFOs!...

From the Mac Tonnie's web site we learn that Colonel Kal K. Korff of the Israeli-funded Special Secret Services (S.S.S.) is coming forth with a 1,200 page book called: "Secret Wars: Defending Against Terrorist Plots". Korff is better known for his anti-UFO efforts, but apparently his talents are diverse. It is said that this book is the result of "a 5.5 year classified project", whatever that means.

Interestingly, Korff's publisher is said to be Prometheus Books, noted mainly for its debunking stance against all claims of the paranormal, etc. On the other hand, Prometheus was the publisher, in 2002, of our own "Shockingly Close to the Truth: Confessions of a Grave-Robbing Ufologist". Our tome was a light-hearted look at ufology, but definitely not an effort to put down the very important kernel of Truth therein.

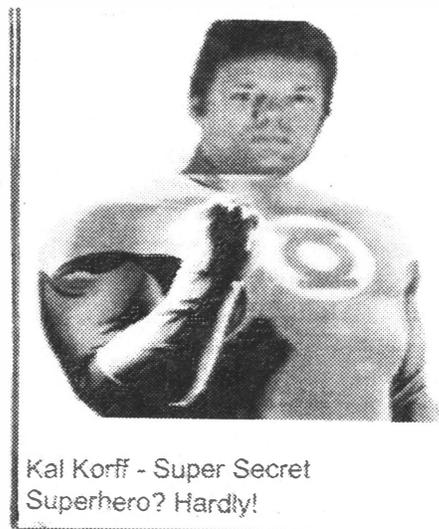
In view of Korff's wild antics of recent months - some of which have been reported in "Smear" - we won't believe his new book really exists till we see it in print!...

Just as France did recently, England's Ministry of Defence is about to publish its once highly-classified work of recent years, in which about 7,000 British UFO cases were investigated. The staged release of this information will begin in the spring of this year.

In the very first batch will be the official government files on the famous Rendlesham (Bentwaters) Incident (1980), which is often called the British Roswell. Although Paul Kimball's recent documentary included this case as one of the all-time "Ten Best", it is steeped in controversy even after all these years. Though the case is mercifully less complex than Roswell, informed opinions range from skepticism to proof of alien visitation.

The Rendlesham sightings occurred on two different nights in late December, 1980. Some say that a landed craft with Egyptian-style hieroglyphics was seen, and even alien creatures. Others insist it was just misinterpretation of a normal distant light, due to fog, etc. As with Roswell, there will never be an answer that pleases everyone. One thing that the government files may clear up is the question of whether or not radiation was detected at the site after the events.

Although hailed as the complete disclosure of the United Kingdom's official UFO files, questions are likely to remain as to whether all information will be made public. Some ex-



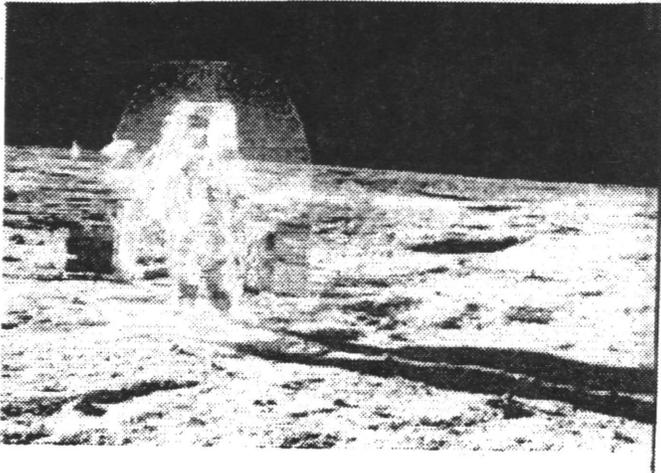
Kal Korff - Super Secret Superhero? Hardly!

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perts claim that the disclosures are likely to lend credence to the theory that these unsolved UFO incidents, rather than being alien visitations, actually were military activities such as missile launches, testing of prototype aircraft, etc, during the Cold War. One expert states: "These files will show that something was definitely going on, but that the government did not know either, as to just what it was."

And will the time ever come when the U.S. government opens all its files to the public? Probably not!...

The photo below is a very unusual one, and the story behind it is complicated. It is from a Net printout, and naturally the version you are looking at here has lost clarity and detail from that level. Anyhow, here is the story, as told in "Bad Astronomy Blog" (Dec. 17th, 2007), apparently written by someone named Dwayne A. Day.



Most of us have heard of Richard Hoagland, promoter of the famous "Face on Mars" (later shown to be an optical illusion), and many other attempts to convince us that there are various sensational alien artifacts on Mars and the Moon - all being "covered up" by NASA.

Now Hoagland has written a new book called "Dark Mission", together with a man named Mike Bara. He also has a website promoting the book, and he has even done a press conference on it.

One of the most interesting items therein is this photo. The image shows Al Bean from Apollo 12 carrying the ALSEP (Apollo Lunar Surface Experiments Package).

Hoagland cranked the contrast way up to show fainter features. Notice the pentagonal-shaped glow around Bean. On his website Hoagland claims that this is actually a "massive tier of glass-like ruins", which is obvious evidence of alien artifacts on the Moon. Bara makes the same ridiculous claim elsewhere.

The problem here is that this supposedly massive pentagon has to be somewhere between Bean and Pete Conrad, a fellow astronaut who took the picture from only a few yards away.

For Dwayne A. Day the simple explanation is that the Hasselblad camera used on Apollo flights has an iris inside, much like the one in the human eye. It can open and close an aperture to let in more or less light. This aperture is pentagonal in shape. Thus there is no glass ruin. It's just an internal reflection inside the camera itself. Mystery solved!...

Here's an apparent Fortean phenomenon that we have touched upon at least once before. Now we have a detailed newspaper article on the subject, sent to us by our fearless correspondent Steve Barnett of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

North of Santa Fe there is a picturesque little town called Taos, which your editor has visited several times. In it, a small percentage of the population hears a mysterious low-frequency sound known as the Taos Hum.

Careful scientific investigation in the early 1990s, using all sorts of sophisticated equipment, failed to find the source of the noise, and this may be a clue to the solution: Since it is heard by only a relatively few people, and since it is also reported (much less frequently) in Phoenix and in other areas throughout the world, the probable explanation is that it is the result of some sort of ear condition, rather than anything external. This solution sounds strange, but it is probably true.

Of course, conspiracy theorists are not satisfied with this answer, and look to some sort of secret government project. In any case, the noise is harmless, though annoying. It is heard mostly at night, when most other noises are absent. Your editor, being normal (?), heard nothing at all unusual while in Taos!

**VEGAN VAMPIRE
ATTACKS TREES**

**SEEING EYE SQUIRRELS
FOR BLIND DOGS**

LETTERS TO YE OLDE EDITOR

CHRIS ROTH, future editor of "Saucer Smear", sends us this quaint summary of the recent UFO media frenzy in Texas:

"I am enclosing a packet of articles about the latest media flap, concerning an apparent saucer blitz over Stephenville, Texas around January 8th. This is interesting for a number of reasons, including the fact that one of the witnesses is a loonie who once had a 14-hour standoff with police in the Waco, Texas V.A. office, in 1998. There are also some indications that headline-grabbing star-like lights over Texas in early 2008 were foretold in the prophecies of an evangelical fruitcake in Scotland! Some of the media coverage of the Stephenville sightings points out the fact that quite a lot of Texans are already watching the sky expectantly for signs of Christ's return. In addition it turns out - as one of the enclosed articles points out - that Stephenville figured prominently in the 1890s airship wave, around the time of the 1897 Aurora, Texas 'crash'. Say, maybe there is something going on here!...

"I'm always pleased to read (in 'Smear') more about George Hunt Williamson, one of the most interesting figures in ufology, though not one of the most admirable. Incidentally, he did not have a mere two names but at least three. In addition to his real name, he was known as Brother Philip in his South American days and was also known as Michel d'Obrenovic. This last identity was supposed to be a Serbian or Croatian (I forget which) nobleman, and apparently it was such a convincing act that Jacques Vallee, in 'Messengers of Deception', says that Michel d'Obrenovic was his real name and George Hunt Williamson was the pseudonym. On the other hand, maybe it was!"

We have lots of print versions of this Texas flap, but Chris Roth's letter sums it all up nicely. Whatever happened in Stephenville recently does not impress your overly sophisticated "Smear" editor unduly. - Editor.

Non-subscriber DAN POLING writes:

"Enclosed is a donation for another year of 'Saucer Smear'. Reading 'Smear' is usually the highlight of each month, especially now that the Weekly World News went out of business. Happy Holiday."

Famed parapsychologist GEORGE HANSEN writes:

"Thanks for the great zine! It's by far the best periodical in ufology..."

Ufological Super - * NICK REDFERN writes:

"Many thanks for your recent letter. Your comments are much appreciated. For the record, I am a big fan of yours too. There is far too little humor in ufology these days, and 'Smear' is a welcome breath of fresh air in a field dominated by humorless, monstrous egos.

"As for the Roswell ghost documentary (described in the Oct. 20th, 2007 issue), I'm glad to hear it entertained you, despite your 'fiasco' comment! A lot of people seemed to think, for some odd reason, that it was a self-produced thing by us. In fact, it was a show made by and for The Discovery Channel. They filmed us in November 2005 but decided not to broadcast it. Presumably they still own it. I'm not sure.

"Re my Roswell book: Although it (and I) was greeted with venom and scorn, and just about everything else, the theory isn't that far out. The book basically tells the story of high altitude (and very large) balloons being used with Japanese POW's, in high-altitude experiments to test the effects of Cosmic Ray exposure on the human body. There is new data coming out on this soon, and I am one hundred percent confident that, in time, Roswell will be shown to have indeed involved a very large man-made balloon (but not Mogul) with humans on board who were used in this controversial experiment.

"Feel free to quote the above in 'Smear', and continue to write about me! Re your 'malice' comment: I never take what you write in malice, and always look forward to a new issue! May 'Smear' always have its finger on the pulse of ufological gossip and scandal. I am sending my subscription money in a separate envelope..."

Hard-core skeptic ROBERT SHEAFFER writes as follows:

Your gossip about former Arizona governor Fife Symington reminded me of the good laugh I had when I once ran into him. About five years ago I was in Phoenix, and happened to visit the Arizona State Fair. In a building sort of at the edge of the fair, where pushy salesmen peddle water purification products and little old ladies' Blue Ribbon craft projects are displayed, sat a man alone behind a table. He was peddling a book whose title I can't recall, but was something like "Why I am Not a Crook, and all the Charges Against me Were Trumped-Up." All he had on the table were stacks of his book, and nobody was paying any attention to him at all. The lady I was with said, "Oh, there's the former governor, he resigned over some big scandal." I replied, "Yes, I know about him, he had his assistant dress up like an alien at a press conference." He looked like a pathetic little forgotten has-been, trying desperately to salvage some shred of his reputation but obviously not succeeding.



Researcher MATT GRAEBER writes:

"I wanted to add two thoughts to our conversation about Jerry Clark: The first is his saying that his Net list is a small audience for his 'Misinformation', while 'Smear' has a much wider readership. This is pure bunk. In fact, he has admitted by this statement that he is doing exactly what he claimed Karl Pflock was guilty of: Back stabbing is back stabbing whether a small knife or a sword be used.

"Secondly, his writing so many pages of criticism in his review of 'Shockingly' clearly shows malice, compulsive/obsessive behavior, and the fact that his desire to trash the work is grounded in the 'Fear' that others may find it good reading. He has assumed large sales of the book and dreaded that potential successful outcome for you and Pflock."

Researcher CARLOS MENTIRA writes as follows:

"Old Jerry Clark makes such a big thing about your remark in 'Shockingly' concerning 1950s contactee George Hunt Williamson. You stated (Page 137) that his wife may have been murdered by her husband while they were on a mule expedition together in the Andes mountains of Peru.

"Apparently the woman did not die in that way, but does it really matter after all this time? Williamson has been dead for many years, and apparently left behind no close family at all. Thus no one was harmed by your careless remark! No doubt you would have been more careful if anyone was still around to sue you!"

Esteemed non-subscriber TRISTAM JONES writes:

"You asked some time ago what my personal theories about UFOs might be. In this regard, I'm afraid, I am profoundly boring, since I prefer no explanation so emphatically that I'd hang my hat on it. I always tell people I know everything there is to know about UFOs except three minor details; Who they are, where they come from, and what they want. I share your conviction that a certain residue of sightings and encounters represents earthly interaction with some sort of authentic and unknown phenomenon. The rest is just a lot of fun!

"Contrary to your written assumption, my interest in saucers did not result from any sort of personal encounter. Sadly, I have never seen a UFO. But my fascination with Adamski (when I was nine) became a fascination with Keyhoe when I matured (and became twelve), which transmuted into an obsession with John Keel's theories when I was twenty, which ultimately became an overarching fondness for the entire milieu.

"My favorite part of ufology is; ufology - the whole nutty para-sociology of it, or ufoology, as you aptly call it - which is why I liked your book so much. And my favorite ufologist is still Gray Barker, in part because I refuse to trust any flying-saucer authority too self-important to be photographed in a plastic space helmet!"

BRUCE M. FORRESTER JR. writes:

"As Nuclear War approaches (NeoCons and Iran), keep a sharp eye out for Flying Saucers.

"Especially poignant will be the re-emergence of the Goddess Types of Blondes, harkening back to Pre-Christian Pagan days when Men were Men - and Women were glad of it! (You may quote me on that!)"