

SAUCER SMEAR

A LIGHT-HEARTED BUT POSITIVE LOOK AT THE FLYING SAUCER SCENE, SHOCKINGLY CLOSE TO THE TRUTH!

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NON-SCHEDULED
NEWSLETTER

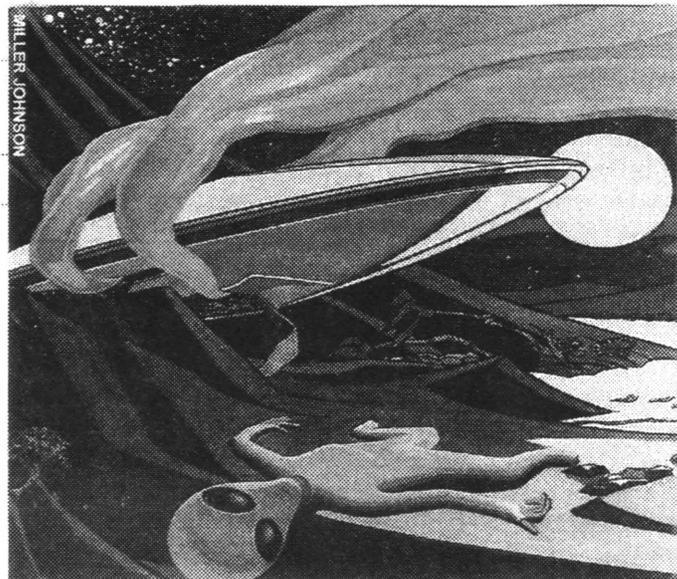
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ROSWELL MURAL by MILLER JOHNSON

Crashed alien craft emits unearthly smoke.

Weather Balloon or Alien Apparition?



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAUCER & UNEXPLAINED CELESTIAL EVENTS RESEARCH SOCIETY

SPECIAL ROSWELL 61st ANNIVERSARY ISSUE!

As we write this, the Holy City of Roswell, N.M. will soon be celebrating the 61st anniversary of whatever happened there in early July of 1947. Since the event first received national attention in 1980, dozens of books and hundreds of articles have been written. Your editor does not profess to be an expert on the subject, though we do know many of the details. To become a real expert would be almost as time-consuming as becoming a legitimate authority on the Bible.

Researcher Numero Uno on the subject is undoubtedly Kevin Randle, aka Major Kevin Randle Ph.D. He has written or co-authored several books and currently blogs at great length on the intricate details regarding which witnesses are believable in which of their sometimes contradictory statements. If he or any other non-subscribers wish to comment on our rambling remarks below, we will be very glad to hear from them. Our own views are mostly negative, influenced as they are by Karl Pflock's classic 2001 book "Roswell: Inconvenient Facts and the Will to Believe".

The only important Roswell witness still alive is mortician Glenn Dennis, who is one of the co-founders of the International UFO Museum and Research Center (IUFOMRC). He has basically two claims to fame: Supposedly the military contacted his funeral home and asked that four (?) small caskets be prepared - for the dead aliens, of course. Isn't it strange indeed that such a cosmically important matter as disposing of the bodies should be given to a local civilian?

And also, there was a nurse at the air base who actually saw the bodies and drew Glenn Dennis a picture. She disappeared mysteriously from the area shortly thereafter. Dennis gave her a pseudonym, and much effort was made by researchers to find out who she really was. Finally, a decade or so ago, the magazine Popular Mechanics traced down the last living Roswell nurse from that era, and she did not remember a nurse of that description under any name. The sad truth is that the nurse never did exist. Yet, when we met and interviewed Glenn Dennis in 2002, he was still telling the same story. He apparently still is, though we are told he is showing definite signs of old age.

Would the government really give up the bodies so easily?? Even the notorious Alien Autopsy Video is more believable! That's where we see a crude tent on the desert where a fake doctor is spooning out the guts of a manikin. All parties to this dreadful hoax from England have now confessed, though (of course) not all the confessions agree with each other.

It was when the late Karl Pflock realized that Glenn Dennis was lying that he became

(2)

a disillusioned skeptic on the whole subject and wrote the above-mentioned book.

Then we have Major Jesse Marcel (Sr.), who actually handled the debris found on the Foster (Brazel) Ranch. (No alien bodies, however.) It's a pity that neither he nor anyone else thought the material to be important enough to hold back at least one debris piece from the government! Marcel was exposed in a little-known article by researcher Robert Todd in his long-defunct publication "The Cowchip Quarterly" - a silly title with a serious purpose. Todd had obtained Marcel's military records, which showed that the man lied and exaggerated about key elements of his military career - thus implying that he was a very unreliable witness as to the exact characteristics of the debris he handled. Kevin Randle has often called attention to the fact (which may well be true) that Todd should not have been given Marcel's military records, but we have never seen him comment on the veracity of those records!

Marcel's son Jesse Marcel Jr., now a medical doctor, handled the debris as the age of eleven, and has therefore become an authority on the subject. He too has written a book. We find it strange indeed that a legitimate M.D. would waste his time and energy on this, instead of sticking to his medical career.

General Ramsey of Roswell held a press conference in which the debris was photographed. It looks like a pile of junk, but some say that this junk was cleverly substituted for the real wreckage. Interestingly, in one of the pictures the General holds some sort of memo in his hand, conveniently facing the camera. Devotees have spent fantastic effort trying to read this text, but it's like an ink-blot test, as the resolution just isn't there. Those parts that can be (sort of) read seem to indicate a top-secret memo about the crash, but we wonder why a general would be so insanely careless! In any case his error, if any, did nothing to harm his subsequent military career.

Our government is far from blameless in regard to the Roswell mess. We still don't understand why they first announced that a "flying saucer" had crashed but then quickly reversed the statement to a "weather balloon". Much worse, in the 1990s, the Air Force put out two soft-cover books trying to clear up the Roswell speculation, which by then had gotten completely out of hand. In one of these books, the military author suggests that the people who claimed to have seen alien bodies were actually looking at experimental crash dummies deliberately dropped on the desert by the Air Force. Yes, but the first of these dummies was not dropped till 1952 - five years later! On the telephone the author of this book told us that they were trying to avoid embarrassing Roswell witnesses who were misremembering or lying. Maybe they even feared lawsuits from these individuals. But the result was a clear-cut case of the government lying to the people!

Pflock and many others believe that the Roswell Incident involved a trail of balloons (= Mogul Balloon) launched from nearby Alamogordo by a scientific team headed by Professor Charles Moore, who is still alive. At least one of their summer 1947 launches was never recovered. In theory, if the Roswell Incident really involved something other than Mogul, then the missing Mogul material might still be found someday. If it ever were, this would be sensational news indeed, but it still would not prove that the debris on the Foster ranch was interplanetary!

There was an incident in the late 1990s that we remember rather poorly. A small piece of metal (gold?) jewelry was thought to be from another planet. Professor Moore knew that all of this metal, wherever mined on Earth, has approximately the same ratio of two atomic isotopes. He arranged a costly sophisticated test that showed the usual ratio, indicating it was not interplanetary. The jewelry was traced to a New Mexico tourist shop.

A wonderful cartoon of that era showed the jewelry shop with a hidden back room in which a genuine grey alien is sitting at a work bench, tapping out metal artifacts. Thus, even though they were made on Earth, they did indeed have an interplanetary tinge!

Perhaps the greatest mystery of all is the fact that the Roswell Museum, which seems to be doing very well, has apparently discontinued its monthly newsletter and its membership program. Or, is it just that your humble "Smear" editor has been Cut Off? Inquiring minds want to know!

P.S: We do believe in other UFO cases, and we love the annual Roswell Festival as a cultural event, or whatever. The underlying story does not have to be true to be fun and interesting!

FT'S FAVOURITE HEADLINES
FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Man held over body in van

Independent, 24 June 2006.

A REPORT FROM THE FRONT

"SMEAR" CONTRIBUTING EDITOR ATTENDS THE 2008 ROSWELL FESTIVAL!

Editor's Note: Your "Smear" editor has been to Roswell three times, and even lectured once at the Museum. We are now too old and tired to endure the summer heat there again. Thus the Report below:

- by Dr. Chris Roth -

This year's UFO Festival in Roswell, New Mexico, held July 3rd through 6th, was finally the occasion for me to live up to my title of 'Saucer Smear' Contributing Editor by actually contributing something!

I should say first that my presence at the event was made possible through the generosity and commitment of David Swink - a Roswell resident, a former organizer of the Roswell UFO Museum's speaker series, and a person very involved in and committed to the Roswell community's high profile in the UFO world. David was an affable host and seems to know everyone in town.

My presence was also facilitated by Renee Roach, the City's Marketing Director and a co-chair of this year's festival and conference, who secured us a VIP pass.

It should be noted that the Roswell UFO Festival in fact embraces two sets of events, one centered on the Museum, run by Julie Shuster, and the other run by the City, with events held mainly at the New Mexico Military Institute's auditorium and at the civic center. At times the spirit of rivalry between the two sets of events was quite palpable, although to my surprise there were several brochures and sets of information that merged both sets of events together.

There was also quite a split between "serious" events like the conferences, and the less serious events like plays, musical performances, and alien costume contests - even a pet alien costume contest. This last involved not people dressing up like aliens' pets or pet aliens, but people dressing up their pets like aliens; I'm glad for the chance to clear that up. You know you're in a little bit of trouble when conference presentations on subjects like Reptilian conspiracies and the coming End of the World are considered to be on the "serious" end of the spectrum!

One of the highlights was the VIP "Meet-n-Greet", which involved a small banquet and a talk by Stephen Bassett. He is a Washington lobbyist trying to get the government to disclose what it knows about UFOs; and in my humble opinion he and others like him are banging their heads against a wall. The government will never willingly make an announcement which will set off a political and social chain reaction of unpredictable and possibly cataclysmic proportions. And there is absolutely nothing to motivate any politician to touch this subject with a ten-foot pole! Petitions and press conferences won't change that. However, Bassett spoke passionately about how the Big Announcement is just around the corner, apparently unaware that, if you've been listening to UFO believers, the Big Announcement has been "just around the corner" continually for the past sixty years.

The VIP event also included a visit to Hangar 84 - supposed temporary storage place of



A proposal from a town marketing committee calls for alien-themed garbage cans on St. Paul's main street, providing information on crop circles and cattle mutilations, painting six blocks of green sidewalks, putting alien statues in parks and hosting UFO conferences.

ALBERTA,
CANADA
6/10/08

the wreckage - out at the Roswell airport, with free cocktails. But I heard various experts attest that this was not the hangar where the actual debris was taken on the fateful day; it is merely the more accessible and picturesque hangar! Meanwhile, operators who were taking tourists out to one or another of the "crash sites" were not necessarily taking people to what experts think were the actual sites. Not being very up on the complex, even Talmudic commentary on which debris field was which, I am not offering an opinion here on those controversies.

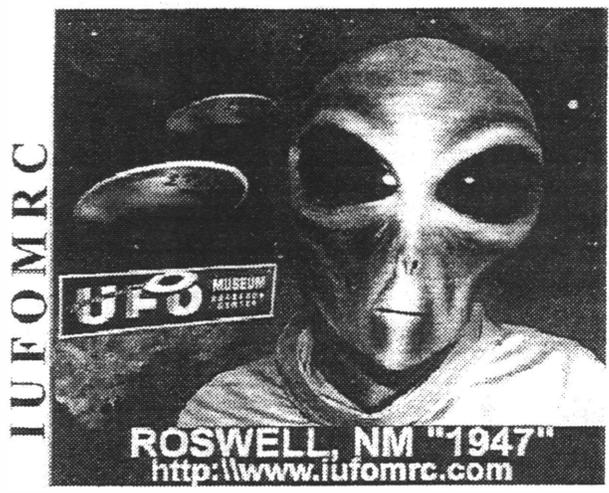
Dennis Balthaser, a Roswell resident, gave a lecture on ancient mysteries such as the Pyramid of Giza. In my opinion he takes a much more rational and skeptical approach to this topic than most Ancient Astronaut theorists. One of the more impressive speakers was Richard Dolan, who is also a Disclosure person but whose presentation featured some incisive research and commentary on the political structure of the cover-up and the social implications of its possible ending. Dolan's wife, Karen Dolan, was also in town, giving a presentation on "media desensitization of children".

I was less impressed than some others were with the City's speakers on the last day, many of whom had a religious tilt. David Flynn managed to convince much of his audience that a barrage of numerological, astrological, ancient-archaeological, geometric, and Biblical codes are all pointing us towards July 4, 1947, and the exact longitude and latitude of Roswell, N.M., as one of the great cosmic turning points in world history. My personal opinion is that you could pick any place and time and make it look that way if you cook the codes carefully enough. End-of-the-world prophets have been at this scam for about two millennia. He seemed passionate, though. He also wants us to hold our breath for the end of the Mayan calendar in 2012, but I plan on going about my business breathing normally between now and then.

It is not clear yet how well attended or successful this year's festival was. There is always a big drop in attendance the year after a well-attended round-number year in this sort of thing, and last year was the big 60th anniversary of the Roswell Incident. The Museum released numbers suggesting a jump in attendance over last year, but several people warned me that the Museum always inflates its numbers.

Certainly on Sunday, when things were supposedly still in full swing, the streets looked dead, and most people had gone home. And most of the time the N.M. Military Institute's cavernous auditorium, able to seat well over a thousand, contained only enough people as could have fit around the tables in a large-ish classroom!

The bars were constantly full of ufologists, though, and I suppose that's the important thing. As they say, what happens in Roswell stays in Roswell.



It's time to move on.....really.

The Roswell crash is here to stay
 It will never Die
 It was meant to be that way
 Though I don't know why.
 I don't care what the people say
 The Roswell crash
 is here to stay.
 (Apologies to Danny & the Juniors)

If it weren't for Bill Moore, Stanton Friedman, and Charles Berlitz, we might not be talking about all this now, whether there is any evidence left for a UFO crash or not. Their 1979 book, *The Roswell Incident* gave us a catchphrase and started a cultural phenomenon. (Greg Bishop, re Roswell)

NEWS BRIEFIES

You may recall that on the masthead of our June 30th issue, we mentioned a UFO prediction by researcher Allen Greenfield of Atlanta, Georgia. He prefers the word "forecast" rather than "prediction", but in either case it pertains to a hopefully forthcoming major UFO event, possibly even a landing, on July 3rd in Houston, Texas.

On July 4th there was a night video taken of something over Houston. We have not seen this video, but it is described on the Net as "Very strange...It does not fit the shape of a normal (sic) triangle UFO...but is still interesting." Another individual who has seen the video describes it as "four poorly-focused blobs of light in the sky".

Greenfield considers this outcome to be a "qualified success". Sadly, we do not agree.

See also the letter on this subject that we received from Tristram Jones, on Page 8 of the issue you are now reading...

Here's a Briefie but Goodie UFO sighting sent in by our old pal Tim Brigham of the long-ago ill-fated zine "The Devil's Advocate";

In Wales, at about 1 a.m. on June 7th, a police helicopter was "almost hit" by what the crew insists was an alien spaceship! The 3-man police team spotted a "flying saucer shaped vehicle" hurling toward them from below. The helicopter swerved to avoid getting nailed, then chased the offending UFO for many miles before running low on gas and turning back.

The South Wales police admit that the report is legitimate. Say they: "We can confirm that this Air Support Unit sighted an unusual aircraft. This was reported to the relevant authorities for their evaluation".

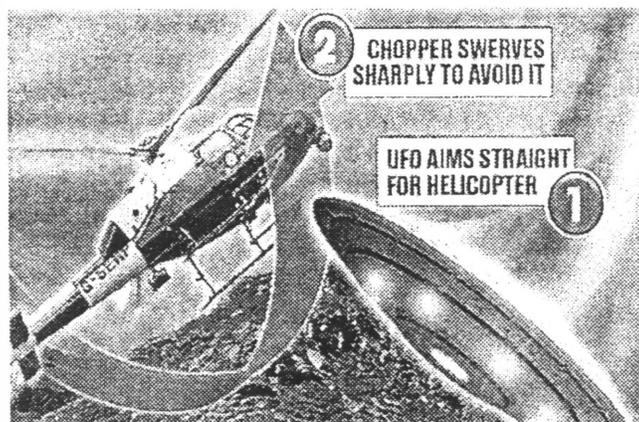
There is very little information here, and amazingly, follow-up articles give little more - except that British UFO expert Nick Pope is hot on the case.

It is also alleged that the real explanation is bright lanterns sent up by a wedding party in the area. Hopefully British police are not stupid enough to make such a simple mistake, but it is certainly possible! (Our thanks to Tim Brigham, "Ray X", and others.)...

On June 22nd we received a telephone call telling us that legendary Bigfooter Erik Beckjord had just died of prostate cancer at the age of 69. The caller was a kind California lady named Molly Hanson, who many years ago, before her current marriage, was a girlfriend of Erik's. She and her husband have for some reason stayed in touch with Erik all this time, and they have had sympathy for his mental and physical problems.

It is indeed bad form to speak ill of the dead, but in this case we really don't know what else to do. Your editor has known Erik Beckjord for nigh onto forty years, having first met him in New York City, where he was showing John Keel some of his subliminal Bigfoot photographs. Subliminal means, according to our dictionary, "existing below the level of conscious awareness". We have seen this man lecture in California and elsewhere, showing photos of Elvis and other celebrities on Mars. Erik was an entertaining speaker, but he never had anything of substance to say.

Nor did he ever write a book on Bigfoot or on any of his other offbeat interests, such as the Loch Ness Monster. He went to Loch Ness several times, sometimes financed by comparatively wealthy lady friends. He is also said to have once re-enacted the famous Patter-



Ufologists like Friedman and Keyhoe who try to convince you that aliens are basically just like us are no different from religious fundamentalists who portray God as a kindly, white-haired anglo saxon. Such portrayals tell you a great deal about the people who put those images and beliefs forward, but absolutely nothing about the possible entity or entities under discussion.



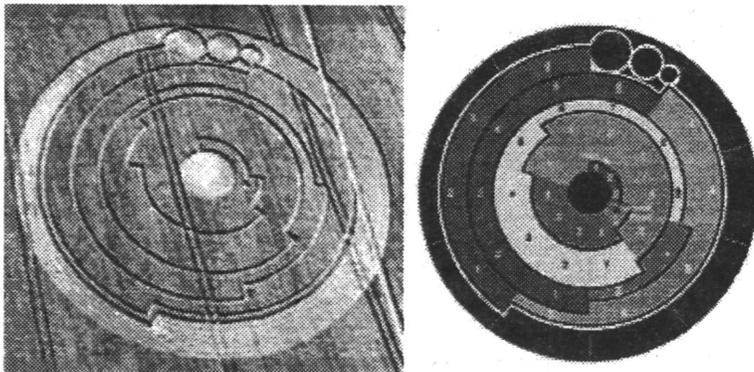
— Paul Kimball

son Bigfoot film, which is believed by many to be a fake. Erik dressed up in an ape costume, and in spite of his large size, did not look at all like the biped in the classic film.

Erik's last public stunt was an "expedition" last summer to the woods near Walnut Creek, in his area of northern California. He took along a girlfriend and also a psychotic woman named Tara, whom he knew only from the internet. A Net posting says that he deliberately brought a mentally ill woman with him because he believed Bigfoot would be attracted to her condition and thus be more likely to come out of hiding. Molly Hanson disagrees with this interpretation. It does seem likely that even Erik would not grant psychiatric abilities to a primitive creature that is not even known to exist!

We met Erik Beckjord many times over the years. He didn't like us, but then, he made a point of not liking most of the people he knew or heard of. He was not at all respected in the field of Fortean research, and it seemed that he wanted it that way. We found him to be an interesting character and liked him mildly. We are very sorry about his demise.

Apologies for this somewhat negative obituary...



The latest crop circle to raise eyebrows in England showed up in early June in a barley field near Barbury Castle (wherever that is), and it is described as "mind-boggling". The circle contains a coded image representing the first ten digits of the Greek symbol "pi".

"Pi", as we happen to know from long-ago math classes, is the ratio between the diameter of a circle and its circumference. It is a never-changing ratio, called a "constant". "Pi" is

usually given to no more than four decimal places, = 3.1416. This amazing circle takes it to ten decimal places! (Computers have taken it to over a million.) To us the mathematically interesting thing is that, as in all "constants", the numbers never repeat in the same order, no matter how far out you go.

Our question is - Why do you need space aliens or even 3½-D entities to make a crop circle like this one? The knowledge encoded therein is already known to mankind!...

Incidentally, Nick Redfern, in one of his many Web postings, makes a very strange but interesting point: For him, the hoaxers who make at least some of these crop circles, are not really hoaxers at all, but "artists", who use crop instead of paint and canvas. And, they experience weird phenomena while in these formations of their own making. These phenomena include sightings of aerial balls of light, periods of missing time, and encounters with unidentified figures!

So, when is a hoax not really a hoax? The whole thing is very complicated, to say the least!...

We recently went to see the current movie "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull". Fiction is not usually our Thing, as we get more than enough of it in the UFO field.

We won't try to go over the whole plot, but the movie starts with a (of course!) garbled version of the Roswell Incident, and then moves on to Peru. Even simple background information is garbled, mixing up the Incas of Peru with the Aztec and Mayan peoples of ancient Mexico. When the team arrives in Peru, Mexican music can be heard in the back-

ground. There is then a garbled version of the Nazca Lines, a subject your editor is very familiar with.

The special effects are spectacular and in fact overwhelming, whereas the dialogue is simple and humorous. There seem to be various kinds of aliens associated with the Skull, and at the end some of them take off in a large flying saucer - not to outer space but to another dimension. This is a Steven Spielberg production (remember "Close Encounters of the Third Kind"?), and it is considered significant that he has apparently moved on from 3-D to 4-D in his thinking. This is good, in our opinion.

Our favorite scene is where a semi-villianous character won't bother to run away from a deadly situation because he needs more time to stuff his pockets with golden artifacts. As a retired grave robber, your editor sympathizes with him!

As for the Crystal Skull, in real life there are about a dozen of them in various museums around the world. Most have undergone highly sophisticated testing, and all that have been tested have been found to be relatively modern fakes - not from tombs at all. Ain't fiction grand!...

Your editor has always dreamed of editing the oldest UFO zine on the planet, but alas, we are aware that British Flying Saucer Bureau (B.F.S.B.) was begun in 1953, one year before our "Nexus" (which is now "Saucer Smear"). The original founder of the British outfit, named Denis Plunkett, is still at the helm, but it is not clear if he still publishes a magazine.

The British Flying Saucer Bureau is a branch of Albert K. Bender's International Flying Saucer Bureau, which was founded in 1952 and closed down in 1953 when Bender suffered the still-famous incident with Three Men in Black, who told him to knock it off. When Bender quit, Plunkett continued to press on, in England.

Bender's "hush up" became the main subject of Gray Barker's classic book "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers". Your "Smear" editor is also mentioned at length therein.

We recently received a long, very friendly letter from Denis Plunkett, who is now 77 years old. Your "Smear" editor is a mere 76. Just for the fun of it, it will be interesting to see who outlasts whom!...

Finally, here's another item from the Good Old Days, when at least a few UFO events seemed to be definitive:

In the year 1994 there was a mass sighting by children 8 to 12 years old, in a school yard in Zimbabwe, in southern Africa. Unfortunately, neither the version we saw very recently on the Net nor earlier versions tell us exactly what kind of school this was - religious, interracial for gifted students - or what.

Anyhow, 62 children were playing in the school yard when, in broad daylight, a silvery craft came down on a very nearby hill. They all ran over to the edge of the yard to see what this thing was. They saw a small creature walking around on top of the craft, while another came down to check out the children. He was in a black very tight suit, and had big eyes "like rugby balls".

The children had direct eye contact with the creature. It sent out some sort of telepathic message concerning the sad ecological state of our planet, etc., though not all of the children received the message. They all soon ran screaming back to their teachers, and later made drawings that are said to be the same.

The situation gets a bit murky later on, as the first major interviews with the children were weeks afterwards, by a BBC television crew headed by American psychiatrist John E. Mack of Harvard University. Mack was known to be quite gullible in regard to his interpretations of the UFO abduction cases he studied and wrote about in his books. He died in 2004.

Now the whole event is being re-investigated by an American film maker named Randall Nickerson. The children have grown up, of course, and are living in various countries, but he has had no trouble finding many of them. Apparently they are prepared to tell the same stories as before.

Incidentally, it is mentioned in the Net article that Nickerson is interviewing "people from two other schools in the same area who had similar sightings on the same day" (in 1994). No details are given.

This is certainly a "classic case", though it has received relatively little attention. We hope to hear more about it.

REPLY TO:-

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MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES

MIKE GENSLER, a friend of documentary-maker Ralph Coon, writes:

"Your Ralph Coon article in the May 30th 'Smear' was very interesting. I thought I'd throw in some clarifications and other tidbits:

"I'm sure you are aware that the 'Spielberg comparison' on the Ralph Coon message board was most likely written by Coon himself.

"Coon did not actually make the improved version of the Gray Barker documentary 'Whispers from Space'. Mike Merchant, a member of the original 'Whispers' crew and long-time friend of Ralph's, actually did the work. He did this for the sake of closure of some sort, and has now washed his hands of the entire affair, throwing it back in Ralph's lap to be distributed as he sees fit.

"Dr. Gene Scott is a lunatic in his own right, one of those wild-eyed evangelists you catch on a UHF station (back in the good old days of VHF/UHF and aerials). For those who really want to know more about this nut, check out the Werner Herzog documentary 'God's Angry Man'. Ralph has a profound interest in Scott and made him the focal point of issue #2 of his 'Last Prom' magazine. Ralph has an interest in crackpottery of every variety, but it's a mistake to think of him as a Gene Scott 'devotee'. (Staying with your own comparison, it would be akin to calling Gray Barker a follower of George Adamski.)

"Then again, maybe this is your attempt to draw Coon out of the shadows. He's been known to type in his own name on internet search engines, just to see if anyone is talking about him, and I'm almost certain you will hear something from him when he finds out he is a Gene Scott devotee!

"Everything about John Nestor and the mysterious skull is cryptic to the core, buried in Ralph's layered efforts to be perceived as odd, weird, brilliant, etc. I've never known if his eccentric behavior was sincere and inspired, or just another compensatory facade."

Researcher TRISTRAM JONES writes:

"...I don't often do this, but your coverage in the latest 'Smear' of Mr. Greenfield's radio prediction inspired me to offer some predictions of my own, based entirely on metaphysical insights derived from the akashic archive (since ciphering requires arithmetic, which always makes me dizzy). Are you ready??

"Alright then, I hereby fearlessly predict that on July 3rd of 2008 there will not be a major UFO event in Houston, Texas - and there will definitely not be a landing! How is that for an audacious set of assertions?

"Furthermore, my predictions - should you choose to pass them along - come replete with the additional gift of instant gratification, since by the time your readers learn of them, the date will be in the past and the accuracy of my augurings will be manifest to all. (Obviously, your word that this letter was received prior to the date in question will suffice to vouchsafe its authenticity.)

"I'll tell you what, though: If Mr. Greenfield's cipher beats me, I'll be the first to congratulate him, and amend him by purchasing shiny new copies of his absorbing books, which I shall invite him to victoriously inscribe. Besides, should saucers darken the skies of Houston on July 3rd, nobody will get a bigger kick out of my discomfiture than me!"

See our comments on the outcome of Greenfield's prediction, elsewhere in this issue. - Ed.

Ace researcher MATT GRAEBER writes:

"Your June 30th edition of 'Smear' was somewhat different in tone to the usual care-free 'frolic' of information found stuffed within its pages. Of course I am referring to Paris Flammonde's rather sobering missive about the passing of so many saucer celebrities of yesteryear - not to mention Jerry Clark's rather convoluted attempts at explaining his current position on the UFO enigma. Egads, has he become a 4½-D advocate??"

Zombies could pose a grave
risk to policies

Dinosaurs threaten water project