

SAUCER SMEAR

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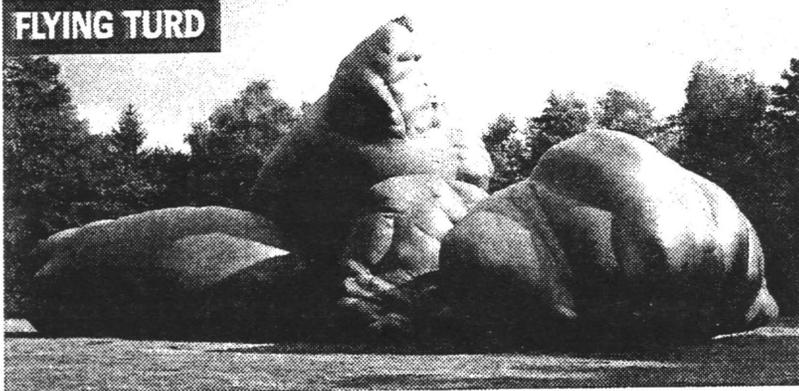
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FLYING TURD



A giant inflatable dog turd blew away from a Swiss museum, the Paul Klee Centre in Berne, on the night of 31 July. The artwork, entitled "Complex Shit", by American artist Paul McCarthy, was carried 650ft (200m), brought down a power line and broke a greenhouse window before landing in the grounds of a children's home. It was equipped with a safety system that should have deflated it. *BBC News, 13 Aug 2008.*

(Our sincere thanks to England's "Fortean Times")

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SAUCER & UNEXPLAINED CELESTIAL EVENTS RESEARCH SOCIETY

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":

We were admittedly sort of pleased to read a basically negative review of ufologist Stanton Friedman's latest book in the current issue of "Fortean Times". The title of this tome is "Flying Saucers and Science: A Scientist Investigates the Mysteries of UFOs". (Yes, he is a scientist!)

The reviewer is England's Peter Brookesmith, who ends his rant by saying: "Friedman rehearses at tedious length his arguments for a UFO crash near Roswell, the authenticity of the MJ-12 papers, and the notion of a 'Cosmic Watergate'. All these topics have been shredded elsewhere."

Brookesmith continues: "He produces no evidence of a UFO case, or a number of cases, that without reservation can only be interpreted as evidence of an ET presence on Earth. There are many other flaws in this book - ranging from half-truths through omissions of truths...to severe misinterpretations of data...This is propaganda, not science, and not an investigation."

At the end of this review is the usual little box, called "Fortean Times Verdict". It says "Some useful insights, but mostly special pleading". The book is given a rating of 3 (out of a possible 10.)

In contrast, about six years ago, "Fortean Times" reviewed our autobiographical UFO book, called "Shockingly Close to the Truth!". The little box at the end reads: "Should Be Attached to All Interstellar

From ace ufologist PAUL KIMBALL:

Posted: Fri Aug 01, 2008 1:28 pm Post subject:

Saucer Smear is a source of brilliance, illumination and enlightenment. You should send a love offering at once. And find a copy of Shockingly Close to The Truth -its an excellent memior.

Probes". Our book was given a rating of 9 out of 10.

Ours was certainly less scientific than Friedman's, but obviously it was more entertaining. (This must sound quite egotistical on our part, but what the hell!)...

On the other hand, we are in Stan's corner completely regarding a recent dispute he had in regard to UFO lectures booked for him at the Mary Brogan Museum of Art & Science in Tallahassee, Florida.

A Florida State University physics professor named Paul Cottle wrote an angry letter to his local newspaper in advance of the Friedman bookings. He bemoaned "the threat of pseudoscience undermining scientific literacy in our state", called Friedman "a well-known charlatan", and questioned his credentials as a nuclear physicist. He accused the Museum of undermining efforts to "improve the scientific environment in Tallahassee".

The executive director of the Museum quite rightly sent in a swift reply, defending Friedman's scientific credentials (= a M.S. from the University of Chicago followed by 14 years as a practicing physicist). Said she: "UFOs and dinosaurs attract people of all ages to (we hope) seek truth, learn more, and perhaps be entertained while being inspired."

In any case, Stan Friedman apparently lectured twice in a row at the Museum, as planned, to a packed house each time. Hopefully he skipped the increasingly archaic "Cosmic Watergate" stuff. Egads!...

You have no doubt noticed the increasing number of obituaries in recent "Smears". The "Old Guard" of ufology is dying out, while their place is being taken by (among others) enlightened newcomers - a small group of whom the best, in our opinion, are Tonnies, Kimball, Redfern and Bishop - as we have stated previously.

There is only one way for an older ufologist such as your editor to stop witnessing this parade of dead contemporaries, and that way is too obvious to need explanation.

The latest ufological legend to pass on is Dr. Frank Stranges of California. He died on November 17th, 2008, at the age of 81, after persistent heart problems in recent years. A fall at home finally did him in. His wife Julie was kind enough to inform us, and we also heard from a co-worker named Craig Campobasso.

Stranges was a preacher, a ufologist, an immigration lawyer & judge of some sort, as well as a member of the law enforcement community. He had many hats and many degrees, some more valid than others.

We first met Dr. Frank many years ago at one of the classic conventions at Giant Rock, California, where he was showing a UFO documentary he had composed. Through the years we met him at many other ufological gatherings, where he appeared as a spellbinding speaker and/or Master of Ceremonies.

Perhaps Frank Stranges' most memorable achievement was his best-selling book "Stranger at the Pentagon", published in 1967. The story behind this is - Strange. In 1958 contactee Howard Menger held one of his outdoor UFO conventions at his farm in High Bridge, New Jersey. Among the guests was a professional UFO photographer named August C. ("Augie") Roberts, now long deceased. Your "Smear" editor was also there, but not paying attention.

Campobasso was not there, nor was Stranges; but Campobasso's version is that Augie noticed that one of the guests had hands that did not appear to be human, as they were too smooth, with no veins, etc. Augie somehow decided this was a spaceman, and took many photos, which he passed on to his friend Stranges.

Eventually Dr. Stranges met this spaceman at the Pentagon, and somehow by then this interplanetary stranger had been given the name Val (short for Valiant) Thor. Sadly, we have never read the book, but we do know that one of Val Thor's powers is that he never ages, whereas of course we earthlings all do, and eventually we die.

Since about 2002, Dr. Stranges has been trying to promote a motion picture based on "Stranger at the Pentagon". Campobasso is the script writer who has been trying to help him do this, so far to no avail. A minimum of \$25 million is needed in order to do a proper job of it, and Campobasso intends to go on trying. Incidentally, he has had many weird experiences of his own, but he has never met Val Thor.

Everyone seems to agree that a claim made recently by a 77-year-old woman named Patti Jeanne Spencer, to have met and married Commander Thor way back in 1950, is false. As for Val today, a recent poster put out by Dr. Stranges shows two floors of the detailed layout of Val's spaceship. It is said to be called "Victor One", and is located in the vicinity of Lake Mead, east of Las Vegas, Nevada. It has apparently settled in there, or whatever.

There's much more, but no Space! Again, we say a sad farewell to Dr. Frank Stranges.



Extremely rare photos of (alleged) spaceman Commander Val Thor, courtesy of Frank Stranges' friend Craig Campobasso.



Kent and Sussex Courier, 2 May 2008



**Might fantasies
become reality?**



"Saucer Smear, Jim Moseley and Me" is the title of a 5-page blog (Nov. 22nd, 2008) by Dr./Major Kevin Randle, Ph.D., in angry response to our continual suggestions that the 1947 Roswell Incident was merely the crash of a Mogul Balloon train from Alamogordo, New Mexico.

Randle calls "Smear" "the second oldest continuously published UFO zine". Here he has annoyed us already, as we are the oldest, as far as we know - having been established way back in 1954.

We had sent Randle two documents, even though we knew he had almost surely seen them already, a long time ago. One is a 4-page issue of "The KowPflo Quarterly" from 1995, published by the late UFO skeptic Robert Todd. It is called "Major Jesse Marcel: Folk Hero or Mythomaniac?" The other is "The Roswell Incident and Project Mogul", by a scientist named Dave Thomas. It was written for the Skeptical Inquirer in 1995, based on evidence supplied by Professor Charles Moore. (NOTE *** These 4-page tracts are available for five dollars each from our Headquarters. Only a few hundred are left!)

We will spare you the dreary details of this endless Roswell debate. The fact is that all the stories of alien bodies, dead or alive, have been discredited, as even Randle might agree. That leaves only the descriptions, by the late Major Marcel and others, of Roswell debris that could not be bent or burned, plus weird hieroglyphics, etc. Other than that, the debris sounds very normal and earthy.

This above-mentioned strange description is all that Randle has left! He has made his reputation as a persistent pro-ET proponent, and if Major Marcel and the handful of others are lying or exaggerating, he can hang up his sombrero as a Roswell expert and take up some other hobby.

So - suppose Mogul isn't the answer! Why would any rational person jump to the conclusion that it must therefore be part of an interplanetary spacecraft?? The debris was, after all, merely a pile of spindly junk, as seen in the pictures taken in General Ramey's office. We once asked Randle about this on the phone. He replied that this relatively weak flying saucer might have come from a nearby "mother ship". Was he kidding?? No one has ever mentioned a "mother ship", as nearly as we can remember!

Maybe the debris was from a secret U.S. experiment other than Mogul, or maybe it was from our Russian friends. Several non-Mogul earthbound explanations have been offered over the years.

Our favorite is the one by famed ufologist John Keel, who believed it was a Japanese Fugo (= fire) Balloon. These were colorful incendiary balloons sent across the Pacific Ocean by the Japanese toward the end of World War II. A few reached our West Coast and did minor damage. The trouble is that by July of 1947 the War had been over for almost two years. Did the Fugo hover somehow for all that time?

More nearly rational is the theory by famed British ufologist Nick Redfern, expressed in his 2005 book "Body Snatchers in the Desert". This is indeed a catchy title. Here he

gives information supposedly from high-level military sources, claiming that Japanese prisoners of war were sent up in high altitude balloons to test the results of cosmic rays on humans. This theory is very interesting, but has many flaws!

Many students of the Roswell syndrome claim that we may never have a definitive answer. Our opinion is that there are many dozens of excellent UFO cases that are truly mysterious and point definitely to some sort of non-human intelligence. Why are people like Randle so stubborn in clinging to this one particular case? It is indeed a religion!

See also Matt Graeber's letter to the editor further along in this issue...

P.S: One excellent but largely overlooked UFO case, far more significant than Roswell, occurred in Socorro, New Mexico in 1964. This is the famous incident in which a policeman named Lonnie Zamora saw a landed craft with two small humanoids nearby. This case is re-hashed in the November 2008 issue of the MUFON Journal, from a new angle.

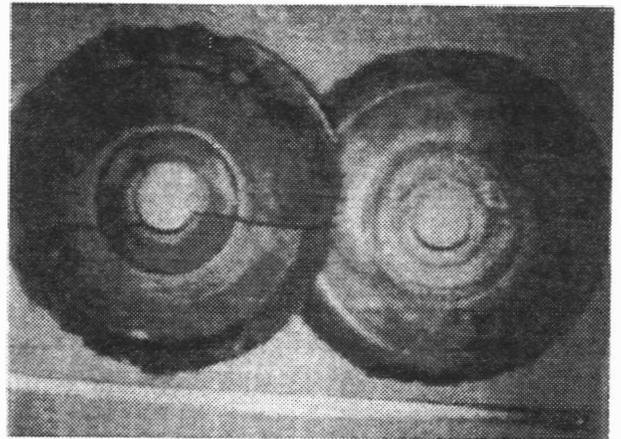
A man named Dr. Donald Burluson claims that confiscated photos taken by another policeman at the scene are fogged by radiation, whereas photos taken the next day showed no significant radiation at all. This proves to Burluson that alien technology was involved. Problem: Since no one ever saw the confiscated photos, how do we know they were fogged by radiation?? Excellent case, but faulty conclusion by Dr. Burluson.

Professor Charles Moore of Roswell fame took your editor to the Socorro landing site in 1996, and declared to us that he has no explanation for this sighting....

In our last issue, we started to give you a list of "Paranormal's Top Ten Unexplained Phenomena", from somewhere on the Net. Unfortunately, we ran out of Space in the middle of #8. - (The stories are numerically in reverse order.)

#8 is the Dropa Stones (pictured here), which are each about 9 inches in diameter. They were discovered by a 1938 archaeological expedition to a remote mountainous region of China, and are said to be about 12,000 years old.

Each is etched with a spiral pattern of hieroglyphics supposedly telling of a race of people who came from outer space. Neat rows of small humanoid skeletons were also discovered nearby. Unfortunately, there seems to be a high probability that this whole story is a hoax, or at least it has escaped the attention of serious Fortean researchers for a long time!



8. The Dropa Stones ↑

Moving on - #7 is the well-known "Miracle of the Sun", from Fatima, Portugal in 1917 - a genuine mystery indeed! Strangely, #6 is a peculiar disease called MORGELLONS. - #5 is the mysterious Taos Hum, named after Taos, New Mexico, though it is heard in various parts of the U.S. as well as elsewhere in the world. - #4 is Near Death Experiences, which is another well-known mystery. It is either a psychological aberration or else a purely religious experience. (We'll bet on the former.)

#3 is Doppelgangers, a German word meaning "evil twin", which somehow involves a person being in two places at the same time. #2 is the Sudarium of Oviedo, an ancient religious cloth somewhat similar to the famous Shroud of Turin. Finally, #1 is "Black Triangle UFOs", a subdivision of the over-all UFO phenomenon.

We wish we had enough Space to go into more details. As already stated, our amazement is mainly in regard to how the items on this list were chosen, and by whom. Whoever he is, however, the author does believe that Mogul explains Roswell...

We have what we believe to be a Hot recent item from "Inexplicata - The Journal of Hispanic Ufology". (We should explain that "Inexplicata" in Spanish means "Unexplained".)

It seems that in late October of last year, strange, deep marks were left on three nearly adjacent wheat fields in the vicinity of Chicoana, Argentina. The marks were almost one meter deep and in circular & rectangular geometric shapes.

These prints appear to have been made by the "legs" of enormous structures that were seen in the night sky by hundreds of witnesses. These people saw very strange lights dancing above the fields in question. The lights moved erratically at times, and at other

(5)

times remained suspended for long periods, after which they moved away rapidly and vanished over the horizon. Many cell phone cameras inexplicably failed to work, as if the batteries had died, so there are apparently no pictures of these mysterious lights/objects. Afterwards, in daylight, tourists took many photographs of these damaged fields.

A few brave souls crossed the barbed wire fence to inspect the marks on the ground. They said that the soil looked like something extremely heavy had landed on it. The wheat was flattened but not cut. There were no signs of burning or anything similar - only the above-mentioned deep geometrical marks.

To us, this sounds like a Hispanic variation of the crop circle mystery. On the other hand, cynics said that the marks were merely the result of wind and rain; but this seems highly unlikely!

This particular part of Argentina has a long history of weird events...

Congratulations indeed to Fate Magazine for having achieved 60 years of continuous publication and over 700 issues since it was begun in early 1948. ("Smear", begun in 1954, has had a mere 400 issues or so.)

The first Fate featured the classic UFO sighting in June of 1947 by private pilot Kenneth Arnold, who spotted "nine gleaming objects" flying in a loose formation over Mount Ranier in the state of Washington. Researchers are still arguing over what he really saw.

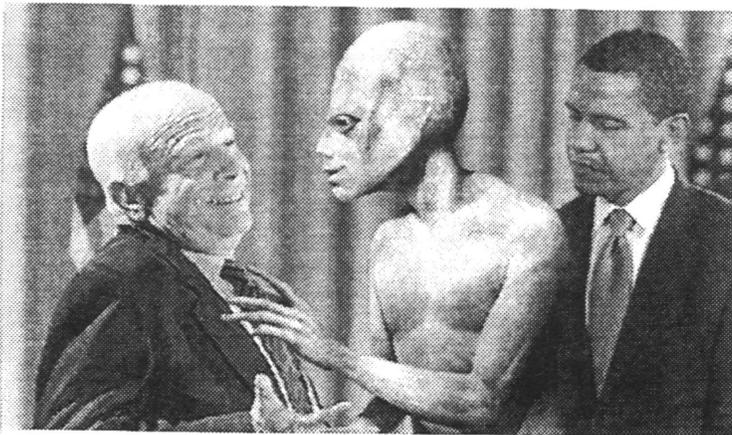
Less than two weeks later in July 1947 came the alleged Roswell crash, now taken to be the beginning of the modern flying saucer era. However, Roswell received almost no publicity anywhere until more than thirty years after it occurred.

Fate was founded by famed saucerer Ray Palmer, together with a lesser-known partner named Curtis Fuller. Through the years the magazine has run many UFO articles, though its main focus is the paranormal - consisting of ghosts and such.

Your humble "Smear" editor has been an occasional contributor to Fate since 1955. We fondly remember that one of our early articles was called "The Curse of Quishaurani", a jazzed-up version of an authentic treasure hunt we engaged in, deep in the foothills of the Peruvian Andes. Our original version was, we felt, jazzed up enough; but it was turned down by Fate with a scribbled note (probably from Fuller) which read, "Needs more Ghosts". We duly added more ghosts, and the article was accepted!

Palmer and Fuller are long gone, of course. The current editor/publisher is a nice lady named Phyllis Galde, who also publishes esoteric books under the title Galde Press. For more info., write to: P.O. Box 460, Lakeville, Minnesota 55044...

Peter Davenport of Harrington, Washington, says he is fed up with running the profitless National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC), which he has been doing since 1994. He is angry with the many people who call his "hot line" with insults, and others who won't take the time & trouble to properly fill out a UFO reporting form. Says he on his Web page,



According to the (defunct?) Weekly World News, "The Alien" shown above (not Val Thor) switched his support from Barack Obama to John McCain at the last minute! The second photo shows "The Alien" cavorting with Laura Bush in a "hot tub" during the 2004 campaign. (Shame!)

Is Peter Davenport Pooped?

Stress Reduction Kit

**Bang
Head
Here**

Directions:

1. Place kit on FIRM surface.
2. Follow directions in circle of kit.
3. Repeat step 2 as necessary, or until unconscious.
4. If unconscious, cease stress reduction activity.

(6)

"I'm at the end of my rope - with the government, the press, and the American people."

We could certainly sympathize with this guy, except that he appears to be unusually eccentric, even for the flying saucer field. We have read somewhere that he lives & works in some sort of obsolete government concrete bunker, which he obtained cheaply several years ago. His personality is such that he alienates people. (Get it?) A defender of his writes on the Net: "I met Davenport last May, and a more pompous, truly laughable yet highly annoying rude twit I've never come across."

Yet, Davenport is performing a unique ufological service, and we hope he doesn't quit. We also hope we never have to meet him in person!...

A brief follow-up concerning recent ufological predictions:

Prophet Yahweh of Las Vegas has blown it again! He predicted that space ships would be clearly seen last November 11th, then changed it to include all of November, 2008 - which, you see, is the 11th month of the year. However, as far as we know, nothing hap-

pened. We have talked to the Prophet twice by phone, thinking maybe some of his negative publicity is unfair. Trust us, it isn't. The man is indeed off his rocker!

Then, Dr. Richard Boylan of California predicted that a huge asteroid would strike the northern part of the Atlantic Ocean between 2:30 and 3 p.m. on November 15th. This didn't happen either.

We remember Boylan fondly as the psychologist who was "defrocked" by the state of California several years ago because of a "hot tub massage" he gave to a female patient with whom he was traveling. Actually, Boylan was correct in insisting that his unusually far-out opinions about UFOs were the real reason he lost his state license to practice psychology. He still writes occasional articles on the subject...

We have just learned about a forthcoming UFO convention which may indeed be the most pathetic yet. It continues the trend in recent years of UFO-related towns inventing a tourist festival of some sort in an attempt to cash in on whatever allegedly happened there, long ago.

Now it's the first annual "Underground Base" Conference, to be held on March 29th in the little town of Dulce, New Mexico. Back in the 1970s and 1980s there were many sightings of "strange lights" over the town. (Egads!) And of course there were the ravings of Paul Bennewitz, whose complex interactions with Air Force Sgt. Richard Doty and ufologist Bill Moore are an interesting part of ufology's sordid history - much too long to go into here. Oh, - and there were cattle mutilations too, which gave rise to the First Cattle Mutilation Conference, held in Albuquerque in 1978.

Things have been relatively quiet in the area lately, and most Dulce residents probably don't care much more about flying saucers, etc. than do people elsewhere.

The pathetic thing is that this Conference will be held in a local Best Western Motel, which has a lecture hall seating only about 25 people, or with extra chairs maybe 35 people at the most. We are told that the fee to attend this one-day-only event is a mere two dollars. We kid you not!...

NEWS BRIEFIES: We were sorry indeed to read about the demise of England's new "Alien Worlds" Magazine, published by Stuart Miller. Sadly, unavoidable financial losses killed it after only four issues!...Lo, someone named Andrew Colvin has brought forth a second edition of Gray Barker's 1970 classic book "The Silver Bridge", about the West Virginia "Mothman" sightings circa 1967 and their very dubious connection to the collapse of a bridge across the Ohio River. We were delighted to read our introduction to this book, not knowing that we had ever written one! (Inside Joke.)....They are still seeing "lights in the sky" in & around the town of Stephenville, Texas. Nothing definitive has yet been recorded, however...

MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES

Researcher MATT GRAEBER writes as follows, in answer to Major Kevin Randle's letter in our last issue:

"As you know, Kevin Randle and I have been friends for quite some time, shared cartoon ideas and thoughts on the UFO scene's many celebrities, too. But in all that time (and despite all the lunacy which has transpired over the years) I have never felt so disappointed about the behavior and intent of a researcher whom I had long believed was a cut above many others in the field. I am of course referring to the missive written by him, which was published in the November 20th, 2008 issue of 'Smear'.

"Mr. Randle's rather lame attempt to salvage and excuse the very self-tarnished credibility of Star-Witness-to-Roswell Major Jesse Marcel by assaulting the character, reputation and integrity of three individuals whom Mr. Randle does not agree with (two now deceased, and one octogenarian who is presently irreversibly ill) (= Robert Todd, Karl Pflock, & Prof. Charles Moore - ed.), was nothing short of insidious, ill-mannered, callous, and a bit creepy too. Not quite the behavior of an 'Officer and Gentleman' - but unfortunately S.O.P. (Standard Operating Procedure) for the over-zealous Ufoologist!

"Perhaps Mr. Randle will favor 'Smear's' readers with a bit more than crass accusations and questionable claims in the future! Perhaps he will even reveal if the 1949 'Cold War Era' letter of introduction he mentioned (in which Project Mogul's 'Top Secret' identity was divulged) ever actually penetrated Professor Moore's stream of consciousness. Maybe Mr. Brad Sparks would know. Perhaps Mr. Randle and Mr. Sparks will provide us with credible certification of the alleged document's authenticity, plus examples of Mr. Pflock's cleverly misplaced commas, as well as informing us of what Mr. Randle means by 'illegally-obtained' service record. Hopefully one would not have to purchase another UFO book to learn the answers to these rather simple questions!"

Beloved Skeptic CURTIS PEEBLEFS writes:

"Here is my check for my 2009 non-subscription to 'Saucer Smear'. It is the only publication in the UFO field with a sense of fun. A free publication well worth paying for! Keep up the good work.

"I noted in your November issue that Kevin Randle offered another set of excuses supporting Roswell. Judging by Randle's recent blog entry about Mogul and his earlier comments in 'The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell', he does not seem familiar with either the history of ballooning or nuclear detection efforts..."

And, non-subscriber DAN KELLEY writes:

"...I got down to Roswell last year and visited the UFO Museum there, which isn't much; but the library they have is really something. I found some very early issues of your zine in tidy cardboard boxes - definitely the highlight of the visit! Roswell is a bigger and much dumpier place than I had expected, although not as dumpy as some other towns we drove through out there. I should talk, living in St. Louis!..."

SCOTT BOND writes as follows:

"...It was another great year of 'Saucer Smear' with the peerless Commander on the bridge, and I'm looking forward to yet another. As things stand currently, it's one of the few bright spots on an otherwise dismal horizon..."

"As for now, as far as I can see, The Truth is (still) Out There, mainly on cable TV these days. I was watching the latest 'UFO Hunters' on the History Channel (!) a week or so ago, and was amazed to see that Bill Birnes & co. had finally gotten into that locked-up well out there in Aurora, Texas. This is the one that supposedly contains remains of the UFO which supposedly crashed there in the late 1800s. All they found at the bottom, apart from a lot of murky water, were a few soggy clods and a live snake. If and when they finally locate the grave of the alien pilot in the local cemetery, I predict they will find, if anything, more of the same, minus the snake. Still, good old Bill is in there, pitching this alien crash yarn for all it's worth. It's good for a few more rating points!..."

GARY HEMPHILL (a.k.a. "The Big Cashew") writes:

"I just finished reading your Vol. 55, No. 10. I commend you for your efforts to give meaning to the somewhat meaningless.

"I realize there is a lot I do not understand. I do not understand why educated men who have earned advanced degrees write letters alluding to male genitals. In my opinion, this is the behavior of school children. Is this all skepticism has to offer? I have read enough. Is it time to completely ignore skepticism? I suggest that instead of printing the missives of known and confessed skeptics, you consider something more interesting, like the bar codes on cereal boxes!

"I am proud to receive the 'X'. Please accept this small offering that I send to the altar of alternative reality and advanced religion...Keep up the good work."

Skeptic MICHAEL DENNETT writes:

"I agree with many other people that 'Smear' is the best UFO magazine. Please sign me up for another year..."

Researcher NORMAN HOWARD writes as follows:

"...The more I think about UFOs, the more I think the phenomenon is of this Earth. I no longer 100% believe they are from another planet. They are a product of this Earth in some way or form, because it seems like they have always been here. They could also be from another dimension, right here on Earth.

"During the past year or so I have noticed that 'Saucer Smear' has improved: Your writing is more interesting and your comments are sharper and much more direct and to the point. You comment much more freely and you seem less concerned about how others feel about you and your opinions. This is good.

"You seem much less likely to tolerate bullshit from any source, and you are much quicker to spot charlatans and frauds and to give no credibility to the usual crap that takes up 90% of Ufology. And, no - this is not a result of your using more stuff from the (cursed!) Web. The topics that you, alone, write about contain a lot more of the real Jim Moseley and how he really feels about a lot of this stuff. I like it. You seem to write better as you get older."

Many thanks indeed! - Editor.

Researcher JOHN MERRELL writes:

"Given your many years of 'Saucer Smear' losses, I encourage you to request a federal bail-out. A billion-dollar payment could convert non-subscribers to intellectual free-loaders. However until that time, enclosed is my pittance."

Again, our thanks to all beneficiaries of the Bush Prosperity who have chipped in.-Ed.

