

SAUCER SMEAR

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

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS:
Vince Ditchkus
Dr. Chris Roth

MAILING ADDRESS:
P.O. Box 1709
Key West, Fl. 33041

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TELEPHONES:
305-294-1873
305-294-2270



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Gary McKinnon: Pentagon hacker's worst nightmare comes true

The autistic UFO conspiracy theorist has been extradited, charged with the biggest US military hack of all time. 'I sit up all night thinking about jail,' he says

We have run earlier versions of this story several times in recent years, and we're back to it again because (1) it's better than re-hashing Roswell, and (2) it may be the most significant story in ufology right now. It involves issues at the very heart of the ufological problem - such as: What rights, if any, do people have who break Security in their quest for UFO information?

Right around the time of America's 9/11 tragedy, British hacker Gary McKinnon took it upon himself to do the unthinkable. Influenced by his father who was a hard-core UFO fan, McKinnon became convinced that the U.S. had dissected crashed ET craft and learned the secrets of "free energy". Supremely confident in his idealism, he hacked NASA, the Pentagon, and every U.S. military installation he could get into. He spent between five and seven years pursuing this obsession, while drinking and smoking "weed". That is why, no doubt on the advice of lawyers, he now calls himself "autistic".

During this period he did not go out, did not work, and lost his girl friend because of his highly eccentric behavior.

In all that time, McKinnon found only two ambiguous UFO clues: One was a reference to "Non-Terrestrial Officers", and the other was a photograph of a smooth, spherical object on file at the Johnson Space Center. He admits this "might have been a UFO but was probably a satellite".

McKinnon became increasingly careless and apparently he actually wanted to get caught. The British authorities did not prosecute, but the Americans were infuriated, saying he had compromised Security and also had cost the U.S. taxpayers almost a million dollars.

Under a controversial international agreement, he was scheduled for extradition to America, which he has been strongly resisting ever since. After many complex legal delays, this fate is finally awaiting him now, apparently.

At first McKinnon was defiant after being caught, but now he fearfully faces up to 60 years in a U.S. prison. A small, dedicated group of supporters and even a few British celebrities are on his side.

Obviously McKinnon is a harmless nut; but before you take his side, ask yourself what would have happened to us if a Muslim terrorist on a totally different mission had done the same kind of hacking!

We will have further updates as time goes by...

Here's a synopsis of a really unique sort of UFO case that appeared on Page 9 of the July 2009 MUFON Journal. The title reads in part: "UFO or Weather Phenomenon?"

The UFO itself appeared to natives in Senegal, western Africa, on September 9th, 1980, but is only coming to light in our country now due to the efforts of MUFON's representative in France - who appears to be a credible person.

On that date in 1980, a structured unknown object at very low altitude passed over two villages a few miles apart. A powerful noise came with the sighting, followed by very strong winds. Many houses were leveled and at least five people were badly injured.

The UFO was described as elongated - about 15 meters long and 30 meters "large", whatever that means. It had a white body with a blue dome on it, emitting a red light. It hovered over one of the villages for about two minutes. During that short time, many trees were uprooted, and about 50 huts collapsed, as people were being wounded. Great heat was also felt at that time, associated with this terrifying unknown object.

A similar scene occurred at the other village. Most strangely of all, the majority of the witnesses in both locations stated that the UFO came from the opposite direction as the wind. If these details are correct, the incident is not only "Unknown", but is in a class by itself!...

Now we give you a variation on the recurring crop circle theme in jolly olde England:

It seems that a group of Norwegian crop circle enthusiasts recently came to visit a 300 foot long creation in a Willshire field. Kenneth Wilson, one of the owners of the farm, was determined not to be bothered by any more intruders, so he apparently fired several warning shots over the heads of this peaceful group!

One of the tourists complained that 62-year-old Wilson had set up camp in the middle of the circle and armed himself with a shotgun. He was dressed in full camouflage garments and had a black mask over his face.

Police were called and eventually hauled the man away. The person who first spotted the circle about a week earlier from an airplane said: "We know crop circles are man-made and they cause huge problems for farmers, because these crops are grown to earn the farmers income. However, there is no justification for using a firearm to intimidate people. That is simply illegal and totally wrong."

Wilson was released on bond, and our own account of the incident ends there...

The strange creature shown here is said to be a nearly six feet tall "chupacabra" - "goat sucker" in Spanish. Although for some reason these animals are usually seen only in Spanish-speaking countries or neighborhoods, this one was seen in Holly, Michigan last year by a woman driving alone who identifies herself only as "Cora S."

The sighting was late at night on a deserted rural road, with no other witnesses. It lasted only about 10 seconds, according to "Cora S". Our criticism is that her description, quoted below in part, seems to have more detail than could be absorbed in such a short period of time. But - who knows?

Says "Cora":

"Its long triangular-shaped light grey face reminded me of a dog, but it was more pointy and triangular towards the end of the nose and mouth. Its presence didn't seem ordinary, and those gigantic glowing red eyes made me feel that something was out of place here.

"The creature had two long ears. It moved its right ear up and down so I could see the details - long like a kangaroo but rounded like a mouse. Its human-like arms were bendable and closer to the body than its long, flexible and muscular legs. The legs looked like a mix of



kangaroo, human, and dinosaur. The body of this creature appeared to be heavier on the bottom.

"Overall, its entire body kind of reminded me of a kangaroo body but it was completely grey in color. The skin texture looked reptilian. Some parts of its body were darker shades of grey than others...It looked like it had a few short-hairs on its chest. It had a skinny tail that was similar in appearance to a rat's tail. but it was much longer and wider..."

Our final criticism is that the chupacabra's eyes, as shown in the drawing, make it look like he/she/it is preparing for an appearance in Hollywood. We don't know who the artist is.

We could be wrong in all our doubts. The sighting, if authentic, is an excellent one, and according to the witness, she saw the same creature very briefly later that same month, in the same vicinity...

In our July 5th issue we discussed the 1992 incident on Long Island, N.Y., in which some sort of UFO crashed one night in the woods near Brookhaven National Laboratory. The May 20th episode of Bill Birnes' TV series "UFO Hunters" had a segment on this subject, but without mentioning anything about what became of John Ford, a flying saucer enthusiast whose Long Island UFO Network (LIUFON) was the principal investigator of the crash.

We told you that some time thereafter, John Ford was involved in a plot by LIUFON members to kill certain Suffolk County (N.Y.) officials who they believed were covering up the true nature of this mysterious incident and others like it.

In 1996 two of Ford's ufological co-workers were sent to prison after having been found guilty of this plot. Ford, however, was found to be "delusional" and unfit to stand trial. He was apparently sentenced to an indefinite term in a psychiatric facility. We heard from Ford a few times after that, and printed his letters. It was hard to tell if he was rational or not, but his accusations were far out.

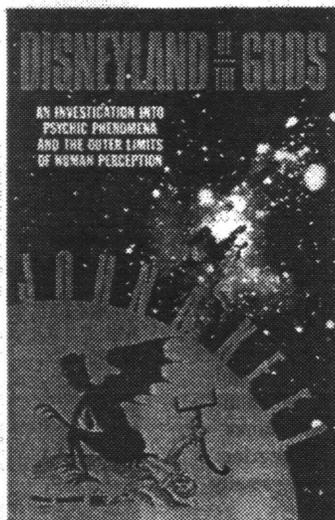
Now, after all these years, we finally have an interesting update on John Ford. It is from "UFO Updates List", July 14th, 2009, and comes via someone named Kelly Freeman. It is called "The Facts According to John Ford".

This rant is far too long for our format, but the quality of John's sanity can be surmised by an unrelated story he tells near the beginning of his long narrative. As a young man Ford had been a well-known ultra-conservative politically, and an occasion arose in which a female co-worker at Macy's, where he worked, took him to her home where she attempted to seduce him. He did not fall for this trap!

Says Ford: "Little did I know that I was the intended victim of a KGB Honey Pot operation. The girl, her parents, and the personnel manager at Macy's were all KGB agents assigned to compromise me and blackmail me into working for the KGB as a spy. I would later learn that I was a victim of a nationwide operation by the KGB to recruit conserva-

M O R E O N T H E L A T E J O H N K E E L - F R O M "F O R T E A N T I M E S"

John Keel in *Strange Creatures from Time and Space* (1970) called humanoid from low-level marshes or bayous Abominable Swamp Slobbs (ASS) to distinguish them from the Abominable Snowmen (Bigfoot etc) that allegedly roam forests and high places. As Keel says, "there's hardly a respectable swamp in the deep south that does not boast at least one ASS".



**JOHN KEEL:
THE LAST YEARS**

DOUG SKINNER

The treatment was terminated.

And so this was it; the end of that "fascinating and disgusting life". Somehow, I was the one left by the deathbed. I knew he couldn't understand me, but I had to say something. So I told him that we'd done all we could for him, that we'd miss him, and that we'd keep reading his crazy books. I said goodbye. He died soon after.

I'm sure many of you will miss him too, and I hope that you too will keep reading his crazy books. **[1]**

tive youth leaders as potential spies should they enter government service..."

We don't know what a "Honey Pot" operation is, but the late Gray Barker would surely say - Sex & Saucers! There is indeed a moral somewhere in this immoral tale of apparent paranoia!...

IS THERE LIFE ON MARS??? ONLY ON SATURDAY NIGHT! (Old joke.):

We have another issue of Gene Duplantier's "Delve Report", and this time there are two stories about Mars that grab us. Between the two of them, we can now say there is proof that liquid water still exists on the infamous Red Planet. Whether this also means life of some sort, we still don't know.

Images from a high-resolution camera now show that water on Mars long ago carved out a 30-mile-long canyon, with beaches surrounding this ancient lake. Also, robot explorers have found ice currently on the surface of Mars. Apparently no one knows what turned Mars from a warm, wet planet into the frozen, airless desert it is now.

Separately - another exploratory device has discovered precipitation in the form of light snow in the planet's arctic plains. Indeed, there were tiny ice crystals glinting in the atmosphere. In Earth's arctic regions, this is called "diamond dust".

Incidentally - we still wonder - how did these ancient Martians get the time & energy to build their famous canals? We still have an authentic painting by the late intensely anti-UFO astronomer Dr. Donald Menzel, autographed to your editor and showing a bare-breasted Martian maiden cavorting over a bridge along one of these (imaginary) canals. The painting is real, and is for sale, at the right price...

Where is Chase County? We ask this because we have a good story from the Net about Chase County, but with no mention of what state of the Union it is located in.

Presumably it is somewhere out west, because it concerns a man named Robert Golka who is chasing (get it??) after a 1884 newspaper story about a "heavenly body" (UFO?) seen hurling from the sky to the ground and witnessed by several cowboys. Golka has spent a lot of time and money on this project, he says.

The object in question was said to be 50 to 60 feet long and 10 feet in diameter. It was extremely hot and upon hitting the ground it probably would have fused into pieces of "blueish, greenish or black glass", and would have left a deep indentation. Golka is looking for a desert site with these characteristics.

We have known Bob Golka vaguely since the early 1970s. He spent many years with government grants to do high energy research on "ball lightning" - a subject that fascinates us. However, he was never able to come anywhere near duplicating the size and duration of ball lightning as found in nature, and thus his endless experiments seem to have ended in utter failure.

Golka was never interested in "real" UFOs in those days, but now he seems to be. He is also into "remote viewing" investigation - an area of research about which we have mixed feelings.

Golka himself is and always will be a very unusual character indeed...

Long John Nebel of WOR radio in New York City is long gone, but your "Smear" editor rages on with his radio career. Our latest "appearance" was on "Ufonaut Radio", with genial host Jesse Randolph, who is in league with our friend & business associate Tim Crawford, chief of the outfit described below. Crawford sells "Smear" on the Net (with a kick-back to us) while we continue to peddle the print version.

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We wanted to tell some of our own weird personal experiences in the UFO and paranormal fields, but the conversation became bogged down on the subject of ecopolitics. We do really hope that Obama drops health care reform and all the rest of his program, to focus on Disclosure, but somehow we still doubt this will happen. Maybe we just don't have the Faith!...



NON SEQUITUR WILEY



In July, convicted sexual molester Donald Fox, 62, of Frederick, Md., became the most recent convict to challenge the unfairness of his sentence (40 years in prison) and then have the appeals court agree it was unfair, except because it was too short (he's now serving 80 years). [Frederick News-Post, 7-23-08]

Is Gulf Breeze, Florida, hopping on the UFO/alien bandwagon? Gulf Breeze will never be another Roswell, but "Smear" readers will be pleased to learn that the Five Flags Trolley Company now has a summer program in which "historic" landmarks in that area are visited by a tour bus.

Among the highlights: The former home of Ed ("Mr. Ed") Walters, where a paper-mache model of a scout ship was once found in a wall of the attic. (Long story here.) Also there is Shoreline Park, where dozens of hard-core UFO fans used to show up every early evening to look for Pie in the Sky.

Indeed, as we mentioned in a recent "Smear", your editor himself, together with several dozen other people, enjoyed a 4-minute vision of "Bubba", the affectionate name locals gave to the UFO that was frequently seen passing over that location - always in the early evening, just when the crowd would be there. It was almost certainly a flare, but no one ever bothered to find out just how this overflight was accomplished, or by whom. It was not necessarily done by Ed Walters, though he obviously remains a suspect.

"Mr. Ed" now lives somewhere in the Gulf Breeze area, under another name. We have lost our UFO contacts up that way, so we don't know for sure if sightings still go on - no doubt far less frequently than they did at their 1987-1989 peak. (See "Shockingly Close to the Truth!" for more fascinating details!)...

Two books of unusual interest are due out in the next couple of weeks or so. Both are from Anomalous Press, run by Fortean luminaries Patrick Huyghe and Dennis Stacy. Anomalous may be the last major publisher that brings out offbeat books in the old fashioned pre-Internet way.

First there is "Secrets of Dellschau - The Sonora Aero Club and the Airships of the 1800s", by Dennis Crenshaw of "Inner Earth" fame, and an artist named Pete Navarro. This is a complex story involving hundreds of airship drawings made by a 19th century eccentric who was supposedly a member of a mysterious "Aero Club" in Sonora, California, around 1850. This situation is then linked - probably incorrectly - with the well-known UFO flap of 1896-1897. Many of the airship drawings are in the book, which is due out on October 1st. It will sell for \$19.95. For more info., go to www.secretsofdellschau.com....

Then there is a fascinating book about David Huggins, the New Jersey UFO contactee whose sexy paintings & drawings we have printed in "Smear" every so often for the past several years. The title is: "Love in an Alien Purgatory: The Life and Fantastic Art of David Huggins".

The author is a lady named Farah Yurdozu, who is one of the stable of columnists for "UFO Magazine". It is to her that we owe the title. Actually, we find the title to be inept, as the word "purgatory" refers to a rather obscure doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church, and does not seem to fit in with Huggins' lifetime of paranormal experiences. We do look forward to this tome, however, and it is due out in mid to late September...

Back to the "Disclosure" front: A June 2009 Net posting by Michael Cohen (whoever he is) gives the following predictions:

"Over the next few days these events will occur:

"(1) NASA will finally admit that it has 'some evidence' that aliens might be monitoring earth and that it is seriously researching UFO events.

"(2) There will be an admittance by another government agency or relevant organization that there is reason to believe that some signals that have been picked up by radio telescope are probably of alien origin.

"(3) The government of a major European nation (France? - Ed.) will outright admit having knowledge of UFOs visiting our planet."

Your editor is finely tuned into the Net thanks to Vince Ditchkus, but no one can cover everything. As far as we are aware, none of the above predictions have come true as of August 28th....

On the other hand, many "Smear" readers are probably unaware that several nations have already released large batches of UFO files in the past two years or so. These include France, Canada, Great Britain, Brazil, Denmark, and (to a limited extent) Russia. Spain, Chile, and Peru all released their files in 2007, according to another Net article called "Gralien Report", but the files themselves apparently are not posted yet, which is strange indeed.

According to the same source, even the United States has released a large amount of UFO material on sites run by NASA, the FBI, the U.S. Navy, the U.S. Defense Department, the CIA, and the National Security Agency.

The problem is that none of these releases satisfy the "Disclosure" fiends by endorsing an interplanetary origin for flying saucers. One reason may be, as we have stated before, that these governments are not sure themselves as to the origin of the "Unknowns", and they understandably don't want to admit this ignorance...

30 foot cone-shaped object lands on California ranch

This is by far the best current U.S. UFO case we have seen in a long time, even though all four witnesses insist on remaining anonymous. (Fear of ridicule, and all that sort of thing!)

At 9:30 p.m. last July 5th, a retired detective and two other men on a California ranch had an incredible sighting. The unnamed detective, retired after 25 years of service, states:

"As I looked out the kitchen window, I noticed extremely bright bluish lights which upon further observation were actually portholes that were illuminated from within. There were three on the bottom in a row, one above-right/center, another one above that, and two on the top. The object was approximately 300 to 400 feet away. It was cone-shaped, about 30 feet long and 20 feet tall. I thought at first that someone was in my field illegally with a truck and trailer.

"As I watched, I noticed that the object was hovering just above the ground and making no noise whatever. I, my son, and a co-worker of mine spent about five minutes trying to figure out what the thing was...The brilliance of the light which the craft produced was 'unearthly' and like nothing I have ever witnessed in my life. I have no logical explanation for what happened, as this incident defied the laws of physics..."

Another part of the incident was also witnessed by the prime witness' brother - also unnamed - who has a doctorate degree and three masters' degrees. Both brothers are UFO

skeptics, and basically seem to remain that way. Being UFO non-believers means that they are probably sane. (Sarcasm here.) This gives added credibility to the whole incident, which is being investigated by good old MUFON...

Here, if Space permits, are a couple more sightings of recent vintage, each with significant details:

A woman (anonymous, as usual) in the Kansas City area went outside her home at 2 a.m. on June 16th, and noticed a large white light in the southwestern sky, moving slowly in her direction and getting larger. She grabbed a pair of high-powered binoculars to look at it more closely, and could see "three large spheres connected together with a large protrusion extending outward at an angle underneath the craft."

Incidentally, this sounds a lot like the mysterious "drones" that were in the ufological news a lot, a couple of years ago, although all of them were probably fictional, and were seen in daylight.

Said the lady: "The arm was moving around in a circle. It looked like it was made of metal, but I couldn't tell just what material it was. The object stayed in one position for a long time and then just disappeared."

Immediately afterwards, many military-looking planes and helicopters appeared and combed the area for about an hour. The woman said she was familiar with the planes that come to and from a nearby airport, but these were not commercial planes.

The same woman has had other strange sightings during the four years she has lived in this house. One was a low-flying black triangular-shaped craft that floated very slowly one evening last winter, right over the center of her street. Even more strangely, it received little attention from her neighbors. Maybe this woman is just "tuned in". (From "The UFO UpDate Archive, June 26th")....

And - on the morning of June 24th, a slow-moving small rotating object appeared over the Louisville (Kentucky) International Airport, and was seen by several outdoor workers there.

Said one (unnamed) worker: "As this object came closer I could see that it was rotating. It alternatively was a cylinder and then a diamond shape. As it spun horizontally and clockwise, the cylinder shape would catch the sun and reflect; but the diamond shape was black.

"The speed of rotation was about 4 times a minute. It continued in a straight line over the runway where I was working, at a slow and steady speed - against the wind, at about 1500 feet altitude. It continued till it reached the very end of our ramp, then stayed in this position for 30 to 45 seconds. It finally started to ascend above the clouds and disappeared." (See MUFON on the Web for more details)...

Finally - we can't close without taking another good-natured (?) swipe at the esteemed International UFO Museum at Roswell, New Mexico.

Our good friend Dave Swink, who used to be a volunteer there, informs us of a somewhat mysterious printed survey sheet that was recently made available to visitors there. The first portion reads:

"What do you see happening and how would it affect the following if the Museum were to close its doors? (a) You personally; (b) The UFO field; (c) General researchers; (d) The media; (e) Your business."

Is Executive Director Julie Shuster merely "testing the waters", or is she seriously thinking of throwing in the towel, so to speak? We don't know, but we really do care.



DOWN & DIRTY

A bad-tempered chimpanzee at Rio de Janeiro zoo, who had a habit of flinging excrement at visitors, was nominated by a satirical magazine in the city's 1998 mayoral election. Tião got more than 400,000 votes, coming third out of 12 candidates. *Metro*, 5 May 2009.

LETTERS TO THE OLDE EDITOR

Contributing Editor CHRIS ROTH writes as follows:

"I was interested to read the 'Who Built the Moon?' arguments you quote in the latest 'Smear', especially since these essentially recapitulate arguments about the Moon made by creationist dummies, e.g. the coincidence of the Moon and Sun being the same apparent size in the sky. However - no, it is not correct that the presence of the Moon makes life possible on Earth. It cannot be known if or in what way life would have emerged on Earth without the presence of the Moon, but none of the conditions for life on Earth depend on the presence of the Moon.

"Also, the supposed October 9th, 2009 planned bombing of the Moon appears to be a distortion of the actual NASA plan, which is to use a water-seeking probe, which, quite incidentally, is designed to crash-land rather than land softly or be reused, as is in fact the case with many space probes and other craft, since the alternatives are so expensive. I'm enclosing an article from the San Francisco Chronicle which clarifies this. The idea that it is a 'bombing' comes entirely from the UFO media, not from NASA or legitimate sources.

"I enjoyed the lengthy tribute to John Keel. I never met the man, and so I fall into the category of those who found his writings (especially 'Jadoo' and 'The Mothman Prophecies') terribly compelling; but I have to admit that I probably would have disliked him in person as much as so many others did. I still wish he had been able to make more money off of his fine work during his lifetime..."

Below are quotes from several recent letters from Roswell scholar JERRY LUCCI:

"...I tend to agree with you about there not having been alien bodies at Roswell. I never bought into that part of the fable, myth, story, or whatever. However, in light of the many new revelations concerning Mogul, it is very hard to believe that any test, experiment, accident, etc. that did not include bodies would be covered up for 62 years!

"Recent documents that are coming to light seem to indicate that Mogul was not the project name of Prof. Charles Moore's balloons, but was part of something else... Remember that Moore has always maintained that he did not know the code name. It was researcher Robert Todd who linked the two, and the Air Force embraced it as fact!...

"When one examines the evidence carefully, the trail leads to (a) some fantastic paranormal event (b) just plain Mogul or (c) some type of experiment involving humans.

"Now, before you dismiss this last thought, here are some facts;

"(1) I have contacted a malpractice attorney who explained that, if this were true, the government could be exposed to hundreds of millions of dollars in lawsuits and reparations.

"(2) Criminal prosecution of any surviving officials who took part or had knowledge of such work would be likely!

"(3) The court of world opinion would view this violation of world agreements quite harshly, and certainly some groups would use this as an opportunity to attack and undermine the USA!...

"Up until five years ago I was fairly certain that Mogul, plus some imagination, accounted for Roswell - this despite the fact that back in 1980 William Moore told me in no uncertain terms that Prof. Moore was quite certain that Mogul balloons were not part of the Roswell Incident.

"At that time I had an opportunity through a private collector to examine one of these balloons. Believe me - no one in 1947, 1937 or even 1897 for that matter, could mistake this material for anything but what it is! So with great reluctance I attempted to backtrack in an unbiased manner, back to July, 1947..."

"The latest news, if you have not heard it, is that Anthony Bragalia has obtained through FOIA a copy of the Battelle report on the so-called memory metal. The report, which was issued in 1949, does not mention Roswell per se - but 30 pages were withheld from the 100 page report. The other landmark finding is that one of the authors is Dr. John Carter, who in the early 1990s stated that he handled debris from a crashed saucer; but he never revealed his participation in this study!

"I believe that if anyone can crack the Roswell mystery, Bragalia will be the one.."
(See you next time! - Editor.)