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SAUCER SMEAR

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DEDICATED TO THE HIGHEST PRINCIPLES OF UFOLOGICAL JOURNALISM

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Lead Story

NICK REDFERN AND THE MEN IN BLACK plus
YOUR EDITOR'S STRANGE ENCOUNTER WITH "ALEXANDER"

INCREDIBLY, YOUR EDITOR
WILL BECOME EIGHTY YEARS
OLD ON AUGUST 4th, 2011!

Said the above-mentioned prolific off-beat writer in a recent phone conversation:
"I don't make this stuff up. I let other people make it up for me."

Fair enough! This is not a criticism. What's a reporter to do but try to make sense out of the information - be it true, half-true, or false - that is handed to him?

The full title of this 250 page 5 by 8 soft-cover opus is: "The Real Men in Black; Evidence, Famous Cases, and True Stories of these Mysterious Men and their Connection to the UFO Phenomenon". (Published by New Page Books, A Division of The Career Press, Inc. of Pompton Plains, New Jersey.)

For years we used to immediately look in the index and bibliography (if there was one) of a new UFO book, to see if our name was there. This time we hit the jackpot! Not only are there many mentions, but even a photo of your humble editor (Page 32). Could a book as obviously great as this get anything less than a very favorable review in "Smear"?

The MIB mystery is exceedingly complex, and it is obvious that there can't possibly be one simple answer. There are hoaxes, innocent misidentifications, authentic government agents, phony government agents, paranormal (and even diabolical) aspects, and more!

By reading this book we learned clearly for the first time that there would probably be no separate paranormal category for "three men in black" type incidents were it not for three authentic earthlings named Albert K. Bender, Gray Barker, and John Keel. Barker and Keel are now deceased. Bender swore off UFOs a long time ago, and if he is still alive, he probably lives in southern California. Sadly, no one even looks for him any more.

Space does not allow us to recount Al Bender's famous "hush-up" back in 1953, Keel's wild adventures in Mothman country (West Virginia) in 1967, and Barker's scary writings about all of it. Your editor was indeed right there, at the edge of most of these strange goings-on.

Redfern presents by far the most complete run-down on Albert K. Bender that we have ever seen, going all the way back to 1945 when Bender became intrigued by the Bermuda Triangle mystery. This was eight years before his famous "hush-up". With all the pertinent facts on the table, it is abundantly clear that Bender was a deeply flawed

individual whose words should not be trusted to be objectively accurate.

As for John Keel, famed UFO historian Jerry Clark sums it up this way:

"...(Keel) came upon genuine weirdness and reported on it generally accurately.

As you well know, it's not hard to find weirdness if you go looking for it. Unfortunately, Keel insisted upon laying his crazy interpretations on all this material. He had a medieval mind and, worse, a cracked one. At his very best moments Keel's contribution: to ufology and anomalistics was a decidedly mixed one. Mostly, he was a textbook example of a crank."

Clark continues: "I am sure, more to the point, that Barker was playing phone pranks on Keel; maybe other hoaxes too. That wasn't because Barker was a 'Walter Mitty' type, however. He was a trickster who enjoyed putting one over on anyone who might be receptive, and God knows Keel was receptive. His paranoia made him quite gullible."

Also very pertinent is Nick Redfern's own summary:

"What we can ascertain from the combined words of Greenfield, Beckley, Steiger, Moseley, Bishop, Bennett and Clark is that one must be very careful how one interprets the published words of both Barker and Keel. And one must also note that this mighty duo had no qualms about turning a fairly good story into an atmospheric and Gothic one - a bright, sunny day becomes the proverbial dark and stormy night. They were not, however, simply concocting stories from their collective imaginations. Rather, they were telling fantastic truths, albeit in somewhat distorted, imaginative, literary fashions. The reason? To provoke new thoughts, ideas, and paradigms."

Bishop concludes: "Thus, the Men in Black certainly live, but perhaps our idea of them as derived from the works of Barker and Keel should be viewed through careful filters."

Let us not leave you with the impression that the MIB mystery consists only of the writings of these hard-core individuals. Redfern presents dozens of cases that have nothing to do with them. However, few are clear-cut examples of anything specific, i.e. there is no proof; and of course, no two cases are anything more than vaguely similar to each other. However, there probably is some objective truth there, if we only knew what it is:

Let's see what the U.S. Air Force has to say about all this. We surely don't believe all of their pronouncements, but we do believe this one, from 1967:

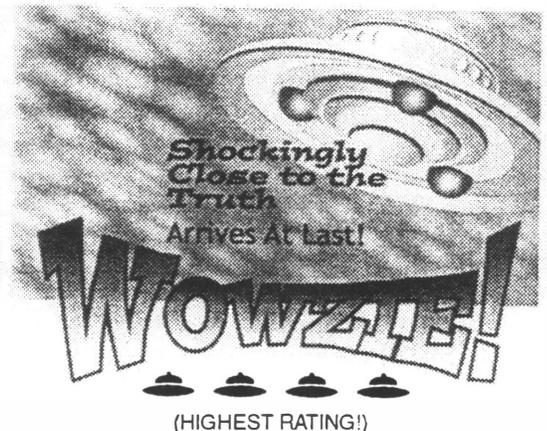
"...Information, not verifiable, has reached HQ USAF that persons claiming to represent the Air Force and other Defense establishments have contacted citizens who have sighted unidentified flying objects. In one reported case, an individual in civilian clothes, who represented himself as a member of NORAD (the North American Aerospace Defense Command), demanded and received photos belonging to a private citizen. All military and civilian personnel, and particularly Information Officers and UFO investigating Officers who hear of such reports, should immediately notify their local OSI offices."

Finally - perhaps the key is to not let unexplainable experiences get to you. Your editor has had almost a dozen puzzling UFO and paranormal experiences in the course of a long lifetime - some of which we have printed in "Smear" from time to time. We will probably be doing more of this in the future. As strange as they were at the time, none of them drove us to paranoia!

As the hippies used to say, "SHIT HAPPENS!"



NICK REDFERN



YOUR EDITOR'S STRANGE ENCOUNTER WITH "ALEXANDER"

As we were about to start writing the book review above, our mind reeled back to one interesting story that we literally had forgotten about at the time we gave Nick Redfern information over the phone for his current book. Whether or not it belongs in the "MIB" category is hard to say, but it is indeed strange-but-true.

It was back in 1964 or 1965, during the relatively short period during which your editor was married to his formerly beautiful former wife, living in a nice apartment in Fort Lee, New Jersey - just across the Hudson River from the isle of Manhattan.

We can't remember all the details after all this time, but somehow a man calling himself "Alexander" (no last name) made an appointment to meet us for dinner in Manhattan. He was staying at a clean but second-rate hotel near Times Square, and was accompanied by a woman named Marla, whom we assumed was his girl friend or whoever.

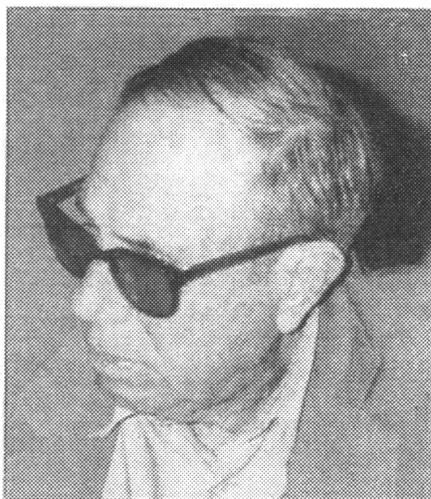
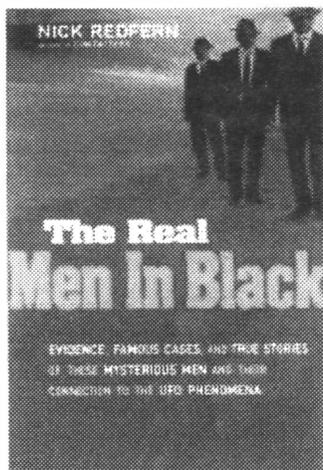
"Alexander" appeared to be about 40 to 50 years old, a bit stout, skin slightly swarthy, a slight European (?) accent - but not really unusual looking at all. Marla said very little, but "Alexander" seemed determined to convince us that he was a spaceman, though he never stated this directly. He claimed to be very familiar with the UFO field, yet had heard of none of the leading American figures, such as George Adamski. There seemed to possibly be some sort of scam going on here, but "Alexander" paid for the meal and asked for no money. In fact, in the course of conversation, he offered to pay all our expenses on a European UFO lecture tour that he would arrange. (We said yes, while wondering if such a thing would ever actually happen.)

We met "Alexander" once more. Your editor & wife invited him to dinner at our apartment a few days later. His spiel was similar, and after dinner he decided to prove to us that he had psychic powers (such as a spaceman might have). We remember that he did one psychic demonstration with playing cards, but it turned out to be a very common trick that we had seen before. In fact, his performance as a psychic was so bad that it occurred to us that he wanted us to realize he was a fake! But why?

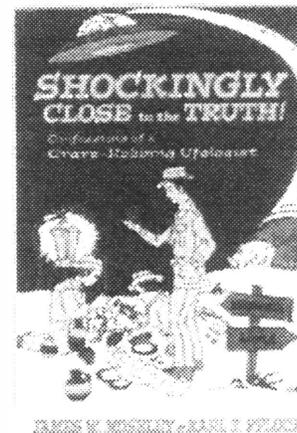
Some time soon thereafter "Alexander" phoned to tell us that he would be away on business in Washington, D.C. (where else?) for a couple of weeks, and would get back in touch when he returned to New York. We never heard from him again. Later we learned that "Alexander" had gone through the same sort of routine with two or three other ufologists as he had done with us. They never heard from him again, either.

Now comes the really strange part: We were left wondering (and we are still wondering) what "Alexander" was really up to, but we never expected to learn more about him. However, a few weeks later, your editor & wife went to a roof-top party in Manhattan that had nothing whatever to do with UFOs. There are about eight million people altogether in the five boroughs of New York City, but there at the party was Marla, by herself!

Of course we asked Marla what she knew about "Alexander", and it turned out that she knew very little. She had answered a newspaper ad for a secretary. After paying ad-



James W. Moseley.



vance rent on an office and advance salary to her, he left town and she never heard from him again!

Well, that's it. We will never know who and why "Alexander" really was. Does any of this relate to the UFO mystery? You be the judge.

By the way, this is not one of our personal UFO and/or paranormal experiences. The "Alexander" story falls into no category that we can think of offhand...

ROSWELL AGAIN :

We don't want this zine to degenerate into a mere series of book reviews, but there are more UFO-related books than usual coming out these days, for some reason.

At present the book with by far the most publicity - favorable and otherwise - is written by a middle-aged professional journalist named Annie Jacobsen. This hard-cover tome goes for a mere \$27.99, and consists of over 500 pages. Your editor is nowhere to be found in the index!

The title is: "Area 51: An uncensored History of America's Top Secret Military Base". The Area 51 stuff is very interesting, but the focus of most of the public discussion is a section about Roswell, which seems to have possibly been an afterthought - maybe to get more attention?

The Miami Herald printed a short review, which we used in our last issue: "The world-famous 'Roswell Incident' was no UFO but rather a Russian spacecraft with 'grotesque, child-sized aviators' developed in human experiments by Nazi doctor and World War II war criminal Josef Mengele, according to a theory floated by investigative journalist Annie Jacobsen. Her book...is about the secretive Nevada base called Area 51. One chapter offers a new Roswell theory, citing an anonymous source who says Joseph Stalin recruited Mengele and sent the craft into U.S. air space in 1947 to spark public hysteria."

To put it mildly, we find this theory to be utterly absurd. In certain vague ways it is similar to a theory floated by ace UFO writer Nick Redfern in his 2005 book "Body Snatchers in the Desert". What these books have in common is that they both offer sensational but utterly unproven (= anonymous sources) non-ET solutions to the Roswell mystery. These books have, of course, earned the wrath of all the Roswell/ET Believers out there. As for your humble editor, he is probably in a minority of one among UFO Believers. You see, he feels strongly that the essence of the Roswell story is probably contained in the caption to the famous photo below.

Researchers are desperate to account for the weird little bodies allegedly found at Roswell, but alas, the people writing about bodies (mainly Frank Kaufmann, Gerald Anderson, Walter Haut and Glenn Dennis) have all been completely discredited by now. Even Roswell ET die-hards such as Kevin Randle and Anthony Bragalia no longer talk about bodies, but only about lesser anomalies such as "mystery metal", etc., found among the debris at the Foster Ranch (= the debris pictured here.)

The long-term confusion about Roswell is largely caused by two horrible mistakes made by the U.S. Air Force:

(1) The original July 1947 press release stated that a crashed "flying saucer" had been found, and this was quickly followed by another release stating it was only a balloon. But in those days "flying saucer" only meant "unknown object". It did NOT imply an ET craft. The bias in that era was toward a possible Russian craft, due to the political atmosphere then prevailing.

(2) In the 1990s the Air Force came out with a book of sorts, blaming the tales of dead Roswell bodies on the fact that the A.F. dropped GI-Joe-looking manikins on the desert in some of their experiments. But, God help us, these experiments did



Image: Brig. General Roger M. Ramey, Commanding General of 8th Airforce, and Col. Thomas J. Dubose, 8th Airforce Chief of Staff, identify metallic fragments found by a farmer near Roswell, New Mexico, as pieces of a weather balloon. This is the basis of the Roswell Incident, the supposed crash of an alien spacecraft (Bettmann/CORBIS).

(5)

not start until the early 1950s! Your "Smear" editor had the opportunity to ask (by phone) the A.F. author of this booklet as to why he gave such an impossible explanation. He replied, "Because we didn't want to call anyone a liar." This makes sense in a certain way, but certainly does not help the search for Truth!

As for Area 51, Jacobsen has penetrated some of its secrets, but surely not all of them. At least we can now reasonably assume that no ET craft, disabled or otherwise, is kept there.

Says one (hopefully) unbiased non-ufological reviewer of Jacobsen's book: "Annie Jacobsen must have a great agent. She has written a poorly-sourced, error-filled book about Area 51, and yet has gained tremendous publicity..."

UFOLOGICAL CRIME

Here's an item that might not have made it into this issue of "Smear" if things were really churning these days in the UFO Field. (They definitely are not!)

It seems that in the unknown vicinity of Outer Banks, North Carolina (vaguely near the area where the Wright Brothers did their Thing in 1903), UFO guru Dr. Steven M. Greer has gotten into trouble with The Law. He and two of his assistants are due to appear in the U.S. District Court for that region some time this month.

The charges against Greer & associates include operating a commercial enterprise in a national wildlife refuge and violation of the "daylight use only" regulation which prohibits all night-time activities on Pea Island except fishing.

These clever conspirators were not fishing! The charges go back to an incident in 2010, when federal officials found a crowd of about 40 people on the beach of Pea Island one night. They were in a circle, holding up light sticks. These light-holders were not anxious to give out information, but it was learned that "the event had something to do with UFOs".

Actually, the participants were engaged in a not-for-profit "Ambassador Training Course", sponsored by the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence (CSETI), which is part of the "Disclosure Project", headed by Greer, who is a former physician. As we already know, he has been doing this sort of thing for more than a decade in various rural areas. Obviously the aim is to make contact with (hopefully) friendly ETs. We honestly don't know what success he has had at this, if any.

To make a long story short, it is obvious that the wildlife Feds have a definite bias against the offbeat kind of thing that Greer & associates are trying to do. We doubt if this is a conspiracy, but it is an example of the old adage, "If we don't understand it, it must be evil".

We sincerely doubt that Dr. Greer's group will ever accomplish anything really worthwhile, but we strongly support their right to be wrong...

HARK! Rick Hilberg of R. Hilberg Publications (377 Race St., Berea, Ohio 44017) has burst forth with another in his seemingly-endless series of UFO-related anthologies. These are all 40 page soft-cover 8½ by 11 books (or 44 pages if you include the front & back covers), and they all sell for a mere \$9.00 each.

Hilberg is editor of a zine called "Flying Saucer Digest", which has existed under various names for many years. He has been involved with it almost since its beginning, in 1967. Other early editors have been Bob Easley and the late Al Manak.

We note that some of the early articles in this anthology are written by ufologists who were noted in their day but now long-forgotten; Ronald Pelger; Laurence Blazey; John Phillip Bessor (creator of the "space animals" theory); Tim Beckley (still active); Paul Collins, and others.

There is a lot of good stuff here, and this booklet is well worth a read!...

TIMOTHY GREEN BECKLEY - UFO & Paranormal Pioneer (taken from the Net)

Tim Beckley has had so many careers that even his own girlfriend doesn't know what he does for a living...

FLASH: Martin Kottmeyer, who is a walking UFO encyclopedia, has answered a question we asked our readers of the June 15th issue to help us answer. In brief, it seems that in October of 1973, a man named Gary Chopic got a very close look at a nearly-landed UFO near a highway in Simi Valley, California.

Chopic is not positive, but he thinks the mystery object had an insignia on it that was very similar to the one that Lonnie Zamora saw on a landed craft that caused his famous 1964 New Mexico sighting. Even more interesting is the fact that Chopic's sighting (which we never heard of till now) included a human-looking creature briefly crawling along the outside of the object.

As always, our thanks to Martin Kottmeyer!...



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DR. JOHN B. ALEXANDER, a Green Beret combat veteran, was a colonel when he retired from the U.S. Army; a project manager at Los Alamos National Laboratory; a member of studies of nonlethal weapons conducted by NATO, the National Research Council, and the Council on Foreign Relations; a consultant to the National Intelligence Council, the CIA, U.S. Special Operations Command, and the Army Science Board. He is widely published in several areas. He lives with his wife, Victoria, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

ANOTHER BOOK REVIEW -

(but this book is outstanding, and definitely should be read!)

The photo above perhaps deliberately makes Dr. John Alexander look like one of the mysterious Men in Black, but we can assure you that he is not. We know him slightly, and also have met his wife Victoria long before her marriage to John. Victoria was a UFO buff in the New York City area many years ago.

John's credentials, above, are overwhelming. We might tactfully ask what specialty his doctorate pertains to. Roswell guru Kevin Randle, also a retired colonel, told us (and others) personally that his doctorate was via mail order. But he also stated, correctly, that "it's better than no Ph.D. at all".

John's current book is called "UFOs; Myths, Conspiracies and Realities". It has a foreword by famed ufologist Dr. Jacques Vallee and printed praise from such diverse characters as George Noory (host of "Coast to Coast AM"); Col. William Coleman (former chief spokesman for the Air Force's Project Blue Book); Nick Pope (former British UFO spokesman); Whitley Strieber (contactee, etc.); Peter Sturrock (founder of the Society for Scientific Exploration); Dr. Harold Puthoff (Director, Institute for Advanced Studies); ufologist Dr. Bruce Maccabee; and others of similar status.

Dr. Alexander seems to have (and no doubt does have) unique personal connections with high-ranking military officers, civilian government contractors, etc. He has apparently always had a personal interest in offbeat subjects such as "remote viewing", UFOs, and non-lethal weapons. Each of these is a complex separate subject.

The dates are unclear in the text, but it was apparently in the early 1980s that Alexander organized a very high-level group investigating "Advanced Theoretical Physics" (ATP). (This strange title was chosen to throw UFO buffs off the trail!) Actually, the group had a goal (perhaps among others) of finding out which governmental agency - mil-

itary or civilian - currently handles the official investigation of UFOs. The ATP members all had very high security clearances and also personal relationships with some of the high-level people they interviewed.

Their almost certain conclusion is: There is no such official investigation, period. Many officials interviewed by this group believed that such a program exists, somewhere, but never in their own organization. Hard-core saucerers simply won't accept this answer, but the truth is that if the ATP, with all its influence and prestige, could not locate such an investigation, no one else will locate it either. In all reasonable probability, it does not exist.

One factor is that, for very complicated reasons, "black projects" cannot exist over a long period of time without oversight. Putting large sums of money into a secret UFO project would mean taking money away from some other project(s), and this could not go unnoticed by Congress, etc. Interestingly, some of these high-level people that ATP members talked to had a personal interest in UFOs or even their own sightings; but as strange as it may seem, this fact is absolutely irrelevant to the complex funding process.

Similarly, not even a president could suddenly create an official UFO investigation. If one were initiated, its conclusions would almost certainly discourage scientific interest in UFOs, rather than increase it. Alexander tells us correctly that the 1969 Condon Report was so negative (and inaccurate!) that it still, after all these years, is a leading reason why scientists as well as military leaders see UFO investigation as a serious detriment to their careers. There are just too many kooks and not enough solid evidence, and yet the UFO phenomenon is genuine, mysterious, and unexplained, according to Alexander, and we agree with him completely!

High among America's unfortunate pile of ufological bullshit is the 1997 (?) book by retired Lt. Col. Phillip Corso (now deceased), entitled "The Day After Roswell". This book is so full of factual errors that Alexander sent Corso a long list of questions that runs almost ten pages in this book. Corso never answered the questions, at least partly because he died shortly thereafter.

Alexander gives a short list of the most perplexing UFO cases, and the Cash-Landrum Case (discussed several times in "Smear") is near the top of the list. He, as well as John Schuessler, the chief civilian investigator, believe the mystery object was not ours, in spite of the large number of U.S.-style helicopters seen accompanying it. We disagree.

As for the Roswell Incident, he feels, as we do, that it was probably a Mogul Balloon. However, he also feels that the debris was switched, so that the material you see in the photo on Page 4 is not the real stuff. We disagree on that point.

Dr. Alexander is an open-minded UFO Believer, in spite of his well-deserved criticism of the True Believers, and we applaud him for that. He also has a positive interest in cattle mutilation, crop circles, and other Fortean phenomena. As for UFOs, he feels that the ET Theory is simplistic, and we heartily agree. He also says that civilian "disclosure projects" are useless and even counter-productive, and again we agree.

Mercifully, Alexander tells us that "MJ-12", if it ever existed, had nothing to do with UFOs. As for Bill Moore's "Aviary", he takes it as a joke, although he was a "member": (Your editor tried to join as "Buzzard", but was turned down.)

This may well be the most important UFO book ever written, though many ufologists who read it may not feel that way, for various reasons.

Dr. Alexander concludes his book with this:

"Based on credible witnesses and backed by physical evidence, I conclude that the UFO observations are manifestations of issues that are anfractous and beyond current comprehension. The extraterrestrial hypothesis is but one possibility, and probably not the best fit with the facts. Unfortunately, it is the solution most frequently espoused by officials and scientists newly acquainted with the phenomena. If not from here, they must be from there is a logical initial conclusion. As noted, the wide variety of encounters suggests that postulate is inadequate....

"In the end it is clear that the universe is far more complex than we ever imagined. We are not close to solving the enigmas posed by UFOs; rather, we are still on the front end of defining the fundamental issues and boundaries."

Unless Dr. Alexander is secretly a very clever Disinformation Artist of some sort, (which we sincerely doubt!), we really believe he is on the road to Truth!...

MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES

Famed UFO historian JERRY CLARK writes as follows, concerning our recent articles about the demise of the APRO and NICAP research organizations:

"...The Lorenzens (of APRO) criticized NICAP for its obsession with the Air Force, arguing that the latter should spend its time investigating and documenting UFO reports. I didn't realize, though, that NICAP had done an excellent job of exactly that, with field work conducted by its affiliates around the country, until I saw the files (now housed at CUFOS) and read through them.

"Besides being useful for my own encyclopedia project, these files confirmed what Jim McDonald had remarked long ago: that NICAP's investigations were very good, the model of how such should be conducted. Unfortunately you wouldn't know that, reading NICAP's 'U.F.O. Investigator', which concerned itself mostly with Project Blue Book's failings and the crusade for Congressional hearings."

DR. GARY POSNER, esteemed editor of the "Tampa Bay (Florida) Skeptics Report", writes:

"Regarding questions in the past two issues of 'Smear' about NICAP's files having been retrieved from an outdoor trash bin, I enclose a then-confidential 9/13/78 letter from (the late skeptic) Phil Klass, in which he reported: 'William F. McIntyre, long-time NICAP member...claims that last weekend he went over to the NICAP office building, went through its trash, and found that they were discarding UFO case files, photos, even movie film, which he says he rescued and now has in his home'....

"One of the two actual reasons for NICAP's demise was your congenial departure, as discussed in Major Donald Keyhoe's love letter to you (published in NICAP's Jan.-Feb.1966 'UFO Investigator' newsletter), from which I quote: 'For eight years we have endured the increasingly vicious attacks on NICAP by you and your newsletter writers. For a 'better NICAP', you urge firing Assistant Director Richard Hall and myself... NICAP is not afraid of honest criticism...but your vicious attacks are obviously aimed at destroying NICAP - not making it better. To let you continue (as a member of) NICAP would be unfair to all the fine members and officials who are working with integrity...Your current membership fee is returned herewith...You cannot legally rejoin under an assumed name, as you have threatened to do if ejected'.

"But what sealed NICAP's fate was, of course, my own 1972 letter of resignation."

As a naive high school student, Dr. Gary at one time was the NICAP youth council representative for the state of Maryland. In later years, under the careful guidance of arch-skeptic Phil Klass, Gary saw the True Light of Skepticism and moved on to become the major farce in the skeptical movement that he is today: - Editor.

Hard-core UFO fan CARLOS MENTIRA writes:

"Few people now remember that, back when NICAP was 'on the ropes' and ready to fold, the late saucerer Michael G. Mann sent them a bouquet of sympathy flowers. The accompanying sympathy card with the flowers was signed by Orthon, Fircon, and Ramu - three of the mythical space entities encountered by the early UFO contactees.

"But it was the late, great Gray Barker who correctly told us who the real Three Men in Black really were. They are named Boredom, Frustration, and Disgust. Many UFO researchers over the years have fallen victim to these guys!..."

**Zombies hang
effigies of
bankers for
causing crisis**



Study: The War on Drugs Has Failed

U.S. A high-profile commission led by a number of Latin American former Presidents released a report that found that nearly a half-century of global policies to combat drugs has backfired, only driving rates of drug use up and creating a black market run by lethal cartels. The report suggests a total rethinking of repressive strategies in use for decades, urging the legalization of substances like cannabis.