

## Study of Gulf Breeze UFO model further discredits Walters' claims

Findings by Gulf Breeze city officials investigating the discovery of a model UFO in the former home of UFO photographer/abductee Ed Walters (see headline article last issue) appear to further discredit the claims of Walters, a building contractor and author of *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*.

Walters, whose allegedly hoaxed UFO photographs and claims of alien contact have driven many pro-Ufologists toward the skeptics' camp, has charged that "debunkers", as part of a conspiracy "to discredit UFOs at all cost", are responsible for the hoax model, which was made from drafting paper and four plastic/foam plates.

As Walters explained during his lengthy internationally-broadcast radio interview with Chuck Harder on the June 20 *For the People* program, "People have to understand that there is now a very orchestrated attempt, three weeks before the big international [MUFON] symposium comes to town, to debunk these sightings...We have recently uncovered the evidence proving that this model was fabricated...two years after...everything I saw...It was fabricated and then they put some drafting paper, that they took from my garbage, inside this thing to further incriminate me. But what they didn't realize is that I was able to take that drafting blueprint paper and check back and find out what house - I'm a builder - it came from and then therefore determine when that was actually drawn, when it was produced. And it was actually produced on September the 6th and the 7th of 1989 and I have the sworn letters from the people that I drew the drawings for. See, I discarded the drawings and they were picked up out of the garbage and they [i.e. the "debunkers"] used them to make this model...It's quite clear that somebody has fabricated this fake model...and planted it [during the ten-month period when the house was vacant (for sale) and open to the public], hoping that the present owner would find it, which he did. I hadn't lived in the house for a year and a half. It's absolutely ludicrous to think that I would fabricate a model here where I live now, and then carry it to a house that I used to live in and hide it in... (laughter)...It's just ludicrous."

Yet, according to acclaimed aerospace journalist Philip J. Klass, writing in the July issue of his privately published *Skeptics UFO Newsletter*, Walters' forceful and authoritative-sounding explanation has been proven false. Klass, who also chairs CSICOP's UFO Subcommittee, reports that, "Recent investigation by Gulf Breeze city officials, including Mayor Ed Gray and police chief Jerry Brown - both of whom have publicly denounced Walters' UFO claims as a hoax - reveals that Walters made the house plan in the spring of 1987, at least six months before he took his first UFO photos, and not two years afterwards as Walters claims" (original emphasis). Further, reports Klass, "Mayor Gray recently informed

(continued on page 5)

### Merrell vs. Renier Update:

#### Judge allows Merrell's suit to proceed Renier claims to be on "Zodiac" murder case

As John Merrell's lawsuit against her clears its first hurdle in court, Orlando "psychic homicide detective" Noreen Renier is reaching new heights in national media attention.

Following a May 22 *Joan Rivers Show* appearance, (see last issue), Renier returned on July 16 (also rerun on August 27), at which time she seemed to merge minds with New York's "Zodiac" killer. Immediately thereafter, Rivers, who finds Renier's performances "fascinating", read a disclaimer on behalf of the show (which she said she found "embarrassing" to have to do), to the effect that Renier's information "is only theory", and that if "police investigation in the capture of this criminal" should confirm its accuracy, "we'll have you back."

On July 17, Rivers announced that, as a result of the previous day's show, Renier was now working with the New York Police Department on the "Zodiac" case. *TBS*

(continued on page 5)

**TAMPA BAY SKEPTICS**  
Statement of Purpose  
and "\$1,000 Challenge"

Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc. is a non-profit educational and scientific organization devoted to the critical examination of paranormal and fringe-science claims, and the dissemination of factual information about such claims to interested parties throughout the Tampa Bay area and environs. TBS does not reject claims on a *priori* grounds, but rather is committed to objective and critical inquiry. We share the philosophy of the international Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP), although we are an autonomous group with no formal ties to CSICOP.

TBS is presently sponsoring a "\$1,000 Challenge" for anyone able to provide TBS with verifiable evidence of the existence of any paranormal phenomenon. Details are available upon request.

*TBS REPORT* is published quarterly. We welcome news clippings, and articles and letters for publication (subject to editing), including opposing points of view. As we are non-profit, **stamped, self-addressed return envelopes would be appreciated with all correspondence.**

Views expressed in articles and letters are those of the author, and not necessarily those of the Tampa Bay Skeptics.

**TAMPA BAY SKEPTICS**  
**REPORT**

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## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Terry A. Smiljanich

"It is vain to do with more what can be done with fewer."

--William of Occam

Although some people (like Shirley MacLaine) are seemingly content upon going through life believing in almost anything and everything, most of us decided a long time ago to be much more selective in what we accept as true. We may not have associated a name with it, but what we have been doing is applying "Occam's Razor" to the world of possibilities.

William of Occam, a contemporary of Dante, was a medieval philosopher who formulated a system of logical analysis which he applied to matters theological and metaphysical. He argued that a logical approach to any question should assume as few hypotheticals as possible, and that if a hypothesis is not necessary to explain a phenomenon, the hypothesis should be cut out of the analysis as if with a "razor".

"Occam's Razor" has become a central tenet of modern science and skepticism. Occam is usually the first casualty, however, when believers of paranormal phenomena attack an issue. Let's see how it works:

It is probable that the universe contains other forms of intelligent life. It is possible that "aliens" have proven relativity wrong, and have perfected "faster than light" travel. One may also hypothesize that aliens have visited this planet, and continue to do so in record numbers, as evidenced by the many UFOs being reported. It is further possible that they have cultivated an extreme curiosity about the community of Gulf Breeze, and citizen Ed Walters in particular. It is additionally possible that Walters' photographs show some of these alien craft, and that he has indeed been "zapped" by blue beams from a UFO. It is even possible to hypothesize that his known predilection for trick photography is just a coincidence. And that "debunkers" planted a phony UFO model, made in part from his own drafting paper, in an attic hideaway. And that Walters' friend concocted a "hoax" cover story about the UFOs because of "religious convictions". And that the money Walters has made as a result of the Gulf Breeze case is just an unplanned by-product.

In short, it is possible that MUFON is correct in calling Ed Walters' saga "one of the most important UFO cases in the last 40 years."

Or, it is possible that all of this is simply a hoax - that the photos are fakes, that Walters is enriching himself by exploiting the gullibility of the public, and that alien visitation remains unproven.

Which conclusion requires the fewer hypotheses? When Ufologist Dr. Brian O'Leary (see p. 3) was a student at the University of California, what would his freshman physics instructor have told him about the "scientific approach" to these matters?

Of course, there is nothing inherent in Occam's theorem that makes it infallible. If one sees a solitary set of great heron tracks along a stretch of beach, one may assume that such a common bird indeed passed by. But it may be that a young boy fashioned a wooden heron foot, made tracks along the sand, and carefully wiped away his own

(continued on page 8)

## Mutual UFO Network holds annual meeting in Pensacola

The Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), the largest pro-UFO organization in the country, held its 1990 convention in Pensacola, the nearest "big city" to the site of the controversial Gulf Breeze sightings.

As reported in Chris Lavin's July 8 article in the *St. Petersburg Times*, an estimated 600 MUFON members and others attended that weekend's activities, which followed on the heels of new accusations that the Gulf Breeze case is a hoax, and counter-claims by Ed Walters that *he* has been the victim of a hoax by skeptics to discredit him (see front page articles in this issue and last).

Of the MUFON attendees, Lavin reports that "virtually all shared a strong belief in UFOs and an equally strong belief that the U.S. government is hiding vast storehouses of information on UFOs and alien life." Former NASA astronomer and Princeton University instructor Brian T. O'Leary told Lavin that we need a new science to unravel such phenomena as UFOs and ESP. Explained O'Leary, "I began communicating telepathically, I experienced moving out of my body and floating over cities, I healed myself with my mind."

Lavin also noted that in Pensacola he found "a city split over the reality of UFOs, but unified on the economic impact of this convention."

## Local "psychic" offered TBS "\$1,000 Challenge"

Clearwater "psychic" Frankie Avery has been invited by TBS to work with us to devise a controlled test of her alleged paranormal abilities. Thus far, no response has been received.

Avery appeared on Kathy Fountain's "Eye on Tampa Bay" program on July 26, along with skeptic John Anderson, who claims to have once been a High Priest in

a satanic cult, and later a radio "psychic" for KLVN in Los Angeles, before embarking upon a campaign ten years ago to explain that psychics are merely performing "tricks". During the WTVT-TV 13 (Tampa) program, an audience member suggested to Avery that she consider being tested by James Randi, who offers a \$10,000 prize should anyone succeed at demonstrating "psychic" or any other paranormal power. Her response: "Great! I could use the money."

As we noted in our letter to Ch. 13 and to Avery, it seemed doubtful that Avery would seek out Randi, or that he would bother to test her before she first passed muster with TBS. We therefore proposed testing her, preferably on tape at the TV studio, with the results to be unveiled live on "Eye on Tampa Bay" later that day. Further, Gary Posner offered to personally match TBS' "\$1,000 Challenge", and suggested that a few other members might consider doing the same.

We will certainly publicize this event to our members and the media by preparing a Press Release, should Avery ultimately decide to accept our offer.

## More on Richard Hoagland's "Monuments of Mars" and Pioneer 10 plaque claims

On the July 13 *For the People* radio program, Richard Hoagland (now Chuck Harder's "science advisor" for the show) announced that, despite the information given us from NASA/Lewis (see last issue), he has been invited back there to address a "major national education conference" on September 11. He further stated that a NASA interview with him was being prepared for the Public Broadcasting System, and spoke of "a groundswell of official NASA interest...in what we...have found on these Viking photographs", and of "what we now know, and what NASA keeps inviting us to show...their engineers and their scientists..."

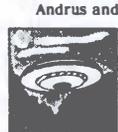
During the same discussion, he repeated his claim that he and Eric Burgess (and *not* Carl Sagan) "conceived" the famous Pioneer 10 plaque (showing a man and woman, and, in astronomical language, the craft's planet of origin), and charged that since acknowledging such in a 25 Feb 1972 article in *Science*, Sagan has suffered from "amnesia" on this point (Sagan's article credits Hoagland only with sharing in the "initial suggestion to include some message" aboard the craft). We have written to Sagan, to Dr. David Morrison (NASA/Ames), and again to Joyce Bergstrom (NASA/Lewis) for further information.

July 21 Tampa Tribune

Letter to the Editor:

### UFOs and Science

Your July 7 AP article on the Mutual UFO Network's news conference states that regarding the allegedly hoaxed Gulf Breeze photographs, MUFON's director, Walter Andrus, "made it clear the organization considers them authentic until proven otherwise."



Andrus and others are certainly entitled to the view that alien visitors, ESP, astrology, etc., are "authentic until proven otherwise." However, within the ground rules of science, novel claims (be they of UFOs or cold fusion) are considered not to be authentic until proven so by the proponents and confirmed by independent, skeptical analysis.

People who believe in UFOs ought not be ridiculed. But self-styled "scientific" UFOlogists, such as Andrus, invite ridicule by their blatantly unscientific behavior.

GARY P. POSNER, M.D.  
Founder, Tampa Bay Skeptics,  
St. Petersburg

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## SNIPPETS

George Thommen, author of the biorhythm best-seller *Is This Your Day?*, died on May 30 at the age of 94 in St. Petersburg, where he had lived since 1981. According to his obituary in the *St. Petersburg Times*, "It was said that Dr. Christian Barnard, the world-famous heart surgeon, wouldn't operate until he had consulted Mr. Thommen's biorhythm charts to determine whether he [Barnard] and his patient were in top physical, mental and emotional condition."

(*St. Pete. Times, June 1*)

Hoping to document the existence of the UFOs or other phenomena responsible for the mysterious "circles" being found in the fields of Great Britain (and elsewhere), a group of engineers and photographers from the U.S., Japan, West Germany and Britain began a field study outside of London on July 23. Their \$1.8-million of high-tech gear, including thermal cameras and other sophisticated sensing devices, apparently succeeded almost immediately. "The circles formed [last night] by this phenomenon are the most beautiful and spectacular we have ever seen", announced Operation Blackbird's spokesperson at a July 25 press conference. But only hours later, group scientists appeared on BBC television to acknowledge that review of the scientific data confirmed human hoaxers, and not ET visitors, to be responsible. A reportedly "crestfallen" Colin Andrews, author of the book *Circular Findings*, said that this unexpected finding "has actually set our research back." [Late note: On NBC's Sept. 12 *Unsolved Mysteries*, Andrews claimed that the project subsequently discovered two "genuine" circles. Their official report is pending.]

(AP & *St. Pete. Times, July 25 & 26*)



Books such as *Catcher in the Rye*, *Oedipus Rex*, *About David* (dealing with suicide), and *I Am the Cheese* (which allegedly undermines parental authority), are increasingly being banned from Florida's public schools due to complaints from conservative religious groups. About one third of Florida's 67 school districts have removed at least one book during the past three years. Says Daniel Scheuerer, an assistant superintendent in the Brevard County school system, "Florida has been one of the leading targets...imposing restrictions on what students can read certainly raises the question of whether they are receiving an adequate education."

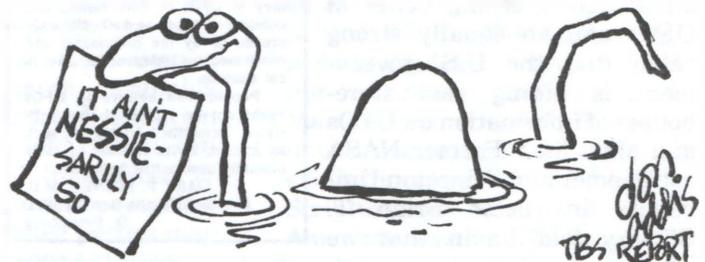
(*St. Pete. Times, July 7*)

David and Ginger Twitchell, the Christian Science couple whose 2-year-old son Robyn died in 1986 of a bowel obstruction, were convicted on July 4 in Boston of manslaughter, sentenced to 10 years' probation, and ordered by Superior Court Judge Sandra Hamlin to call a doctor should any of their remaining three children develop "any signs of serious illness." This was the fourth time in the past 15 months (including the Hermanson case in Sarasota) in which Christian Science parents have been judged guilty of manslaughter or neglect in the death of a child.

(*St. Pete. Times, July 5 & 7*)

According to the *Times of London*, a half-million tourists annually visit the Scottish Highlands in the hopes of catching a glimpse of the elusive Loch Ness monster. In this context, the legend of "Nessie" is worth \$42-million annually.

(*St. Pete. Times, May 29*)



Gulf Breeze, Florida, home of the Walters UFO case, was recently the destination of six deserters from a U.S. Army cryptography intelligence unit in West Germany. UPI reported that friends said the six "believed the end of the world was near and that Jesus Christ would arrive on a Pensacola beach on a UFO to take believers to heaven. They also said they were out to destroy the 'Antichrist' who planned to sneak aboard." The soldiers' arrival in Gulf Breeze nearly coincided with the MUFON convention in nearby Pensacola. An acquaintance of one of the deserters told the *Pensacola News Journal* that Specialist Kenneth Beason was interested in UFOs, and "was one of those people who believed anything someone would tell him. He kind of lives in a science-fiction fantasy world sometimes." Benson's sister reportedly told the *Knoxville News-Sentinel* that he had met a woman when he was stationed earlier in Pensacola who "got him involved with a group that believed the government was covering up alien visits to Earth. Part of the group's mission was to reveal that cover-up." The six soldiers reportedly were staying "at the home of Anna Foster, described by [Gulf Breeze] Police Chief Jerry Brown as a psychic." Initially arrested for a traffic violation and subsequently charged with desertion, the six were discharged from the Army on July 27.

(AP | *Tallahassee Democrat, July 20*; UPI | *Tampa Tribune, July 28*; AP | *St. Pete. Times, August 5*)

*"UFO model further discredits Walters" (continued from page 1)*

MUFON [Mutual UFO Network] of these findings, which have not yet been made public in the news media."

The largest UFO organization in the U.S., MUFON has lost several investigators (both through resignation and expulsion) as a result of its official endorsement of the Gulf Breeze case, which Walter Andrus, its International Director, has labeled "one of the most important UFO cases in the last 40 years." Klass reports that he is unaware of any public response so far by MUFON to the revelations of the Gulf Breeze city officials.

As originally disclosed in the June 10 *Pensacola News Journal*, the model UFO was found by the current resident of the home in which Walters resided during his 1987-88 "close encounters" with UFOs, blue beams, alien thought transmissions and abductions. As the owner (who did not wish to be identified publicly) explained, "I was going to install an icemaker and I needed to turn off the water. I was fooling around in the attic and I was moving insulation aside when I saw it. I never would have found it if I hadn't been looking for the pipe." Although only circumstantial, this scenario seems much more consistent with a UFO model that was 'hidden and forgotten', as opposed to one having been 'planted and conveniently discovered' just in time for the MUFON conference.

Klass also discusses the charge by Tom Smith, Jr. (mentioned in our previous issue), who has come forward claiming to have been a participant with Walters in creating hoax UFO photographs. As Klass recounts in his newsletter, "Young Smith said Ed [Walters] asked him to take these 35mm. hoax UFO photos to the *Gulf Breeze Sentinel* newspaper and to claim that he (Tom, Jr.) had taken the pictures. The young man's father had advised him not to do so. Young Smith retained the 35mm. negatives of the 'UFO'. (Walters later took other UFO photos to the newspaper, first claiming they had been taken by a 'Mr. X.'). Walters promptly challenged Tom Jr.'s story, claiming that the young man himself had really photographed a 'genuine' UFO, but had concocted the 'hoax' story because of his family's 'religious convictions'."

And as Klass also notes, MUFON held a press conference two days later (on June 19) to announce that it was reopening its investigation into the Ed Walters / Gulf Breeze case. [But see item in page 3 box re: MUFON's continued endorsement of the Gulf Breeze photographs.]

--Gary P. Posner

*"Merrell vs. Renier" (continued from page 1)*

Report, however, is unable to confirm the accuracy of this claim. We spoke on September 12 with Officer St. Just of the NYPD Public Information Office, who informed us that Renier "is not working with the Police Department" on the case, although (as a matter of confidentiality) he could/would not exclude the possibility that Renier might have called or visited NYPD to offer information as might any witness. "We didn't reach out [for her]", he added.

On August 23, Judge Pfeiffer of the Ninth Judicial Circuit Court in Orlando denied Renier's motion to dismiss Merrell's new lawsuit, filed on June 29, and provided Merrell the opportunity to submit affidavits or other sworn testimony to support his pursuit of punitive damages against Renier. The suit accuses Renier of improper activities following Merrell's failure in bankruptcy court to have her 1986 \$25,000 libel judgement against him dismissed.

Count I alleges that Renier "delivered [her] February ...press release...to the offices of [Merrell's] employer (to be) 'forwarded to the Manager of John Merrell'... specifically to...destroy any confidence [Merrell's] employer had in [him]...[Renier's] actions were...malicious..." *[Editor's note: Renier's "Press Release" was excerpted in our Spring issue.]*

Count II alleges that Renier's February press releases were "delivered to various local and national media organizations...The 'facts' as set forth...are...carefully calculated to be misleading, and to infer (*sic*) that [Merrell] was hiding and/or had improperly, illegally, or unethically sought to avoid a legal obligation... Statements made by [Renier] were...to achieve publicity and personal notoriety so as to enhance her standing as a 'psychic'...and to enhance her earnings potential... [causing Merrell] embarrassment, humiliation, and public ridicule..." *[Editor's note: The releases include the charge, which I edited out of our Spring excerpt, that after Merrell lost the 1986 libel suit in Oregon, "he retreated to Tennessee and filed bankruptcy to discharge his debt..." Merrell reports that he was transferred to Tennessee by his employer.]*

The third and final count of his suit states that, "As the owner and holder of an Oregon judgement against [Merrell], [Renier] has available to her proper legal process...[yet] has resorted to publication of false and misleading statements regarding [Merrell's] legal defenses... specifically designed to embarrass and humiliate...and to intimidate him into satisfying her claims on the judgement outside the normal legal process...[Merrell] has a constitutional right to privacy and to be free from public 'dunning' and use of the public media to seek to enforce collection of a debt...has an absolute right to seek appellate review of the lower court's award and the judgement entered in favor of Ms. Renier...has an absolute right under the Constitution of the United States to seek protection from his creditors in bankruptcy...[Renier's] tactics...are...malicious..."

Renier was contacted in an attempt to obtain her input for this article. She referred us instead to her attorney, Carey N. Bos, who told us that he has instructed his client not to speak with us. Citing *TBS Report's* "pre-disposition" on the issues, Bos said, "It would not serve her best interests to comment." Bos did offer that, regarding Merrell's charges, "None of that is true", and indicated that Renier intends to file a counterclaim.

When asked if Renier could comment simply about her *Joan Rivers Show* appearances, and any NYPD/"Zodiac" connection, Bos again refused our request.

--Gary Posner with Terry Smiljanich

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**Kodak no longer selling  
UFO videotape**

Chuck Harder's "Letter to the Editor" on page 3 of our last issue contained the following suggestion: "Eastman Kodak...sells a UFO tape...Why not buy a copy and then pick it apart. I'm sure Kodak [like NASA] would be thrilled to get your snotty letters."

In response to our inquiry, we have been informed by a representative from Eastman Kodak that the independently produced videotape, entitled *UFO - The Unsolved Mystery*, is no longer being distributed by Kodak as of this year. As explained to *TBS Report*, although Kodak did not endorse the viewpoints and opinions expressed in the tape, they had functioned as one of several distribution channels for the tape, which was one of more than a hundred videotapes available from Eastman Kodak distribution centers. We are told that it can now be obtained from Wood & Knapp Distributors, Los Angeles, for \$23.90. Interested parties may order by calling (800) 331-6839.

**Upcoming CSICOP Events**

The Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP) has announced plans for its next three public events.

The first is a UFO workshop to be held in Tucson, Arizona on Nov. 16-18. Featured guests will be Major James McGaha, USAF (Chairman of the Tucson Skeptical Society), Robert Sheaffer (author of *The UFO Verdict*), and Robert Baker, Professor of Psychology at the University of Kentucky at Lexington.

On December 2, CSICOP's Executive Council will meet in Cincinnati, and host a luncheon buffet. Expected to attend are CSICOP Chairman Paul Kurtz, *Skeptical Inquirer* editor Ken Frazier, Lee Nisbet, Philip Klass, James Alcock, Ray Hyman, Martin Gardner, Joe Nickell,

Barry Beyerstein, and our own James Randi.

And next April 19-21, a workshop in "Investigative Techniques" will be held at the University of Kentucky at Lexington, featuring Prof. Baker and Joe Nickell, expert on the Shroud of Turin, whose most recent book is entitled, *Secrets of the Supernatural: Investigating the World's Occult Mysteries*.

A brochure with further details is available from CSICOP.

**Steve Allen on the Bible,  
Religion, and Morality**

The above is the title of a remarkable new work scheduled for publication by Prometheus before year's end. In the Foreword to this, Allen's 35th book (others include *Explaining China*, *Meeting of Minds* and *Dumbth*), Martin Gardner calls it "the most impressive...a detailed, scholarly, skillfully reasoned analysis of Scripture. No other work by an American can be likened more favorably to Thomas Paine's classic, *The Age of Reason*." And he asks, rhetorically, "What press aside from Prometheus would have dared publish it?"

Although noting that Allen says he finds belief in God "less preposterous" than he does atheism, Gardner concludes: "I have no doubt about the resentment this book will arouse. It will not surprise me to hear that some congregations plan to burn it, as they once burned Paine's *Age of Reason* and as in still earlier times their fanatical counterparts tortured and burned heretics and witches. But here and there, one dares to hope, people will have the courage to study all of this book's well-reasoned arguments with at least half an open mind. Perhaps it will send them to the Bible to find out for themselves whether every absurdity and horror Allen refers to is really there. It may even lead a few away from their narrow biblicism and back to God."

**Other skeptical sources  
on the paranormal:**

- 1) *The Skeptical Inquirer* - flagship journal of CSICOP / Box 229 / Buffalo, NY 14215
- 2) *Free Inquiry* - secular humanist journal Box 5 / Buffalo, NY 14215
- 3) *Prometheus Books* - 35-page catalogue 700 East Amherst St. / Buffalo, NY 14215
- 4) *CompuServe Skeptics Teleconference* - a computer forum P.O. Box 20212 / Columbus, OH 43220

## READERS' FORUM

To My Dear Concerned One (Don Addis): Don, I am writing to you as quickly as possible because of your current critical situation. It makes absolutely no difference that we have never met. My commitment is to helping people all over the world - sight unseen. That includes you, Don. Even though you are not one of my regular paying clients, I felt it my moral obligation to forward my advice and cautionary warnings for your benefit.

You may be asking yourself, "How did Joyce Jillson, America's most renowned astrologer, ever find out about me, DON ADDIS, and my special circumstances?" Permit me to answer you honestly and directly: The very moment I saw Don Addis on my private list, I had a "sixth sense" about you...All at once I knew about the tremendous problem you had three or so years ago. And the misery and unhappiness it brought...

But what's done is done...Now you must concentrate on your future and maximize the manifold opportunities it presents for growth, financial well-being, and happiness. Since you are an above-average, highly intelligent person, Don, you understand quite well that it will not be easy...All I ask is that you pay attention to my words and trust me beyond question, which will take deep faith on your part...The "Personal Forecast" which I have begun to prepare for you is a "road map", a truly vital tool to guide you day-by-day to put you in complete control...

Today, before midnight at the very latest, send me the enclosed request [\$17.95/month for 1st 3 months...]. Please don't put it off. You have too much to lose. Trust me on this...

Faithfully yours,  
Joyce Jillson  
"Astrologer to the Stars"  
New York, NY

*Don's priceless response (in a St. Petersburg Times column) is available from TBS for a self-addressed stamped envelope. Also see page 8 of Spring '89 TBS Report for a brief discussion of "Good Morning America's" expose of Ms. Jillson's talents. --Ed.*

Editor: I am very pleased to see the rational, reasonable, relatively unbiased thinking that is contained in *TBS Report*. Whenever the opportunity occurs, I mention the good work that is being done to correct the nonsensical superstitious garbage that permeates our media, and indirectly influences politics and most everything else.

The Manatee Public Central Library provides excellent public service. But for the last several years an important magazine has been missing from the reference section - *The Skeptical Inquirer*. Our area permits fortune tellers to operate under the guise of palm readers. Recently on a trip to Wisconsin I noticed that they too have permitted Tarot card readers and such to advertise again. Many movie and TV writers do not believe in ghosts and spirits, but that sort of story seems to dominate. Let's hope that reason will ultimately prevail.

C.J. Wenger, Bradenton

Editor: On March 30, 1989, my UFO story was printed in the [now defunct] Clearwater *Sunrise* newspaper. I have decided to challenge you! I have had 42 UFO sightings, including six close encounters. My first contact was in 1967 when I was 5 years old. I met an alien woman with long blonde hair and blue eyes. I claim to be kin to her, half-human and half-alien.

D.M., Largo

*For medical-legal reasons, we have opted to use Mr. M.'s initials only. In response to my proposal that he submit to medical testing to verify his claim, Mr. M. informs us that, "There is no test that can prove that I am half-alien. My blood and organs are the same as any human." He instead offered the following two predictions:*

- (1) Prince Andrew will become King of Europe, and will use robots and androids to help him rule (by 2000 A.D.).
- (2) Russia will invade Israel in 1992 for its to-be-discovered oil, resulting in a nuclear war.

*Anyone wishing to contact Mr. M. may do so through TBS. --Ed.*

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- YES, I wish to support the Tampa Bay Skeptics in its efforts to examine and report upon paranormal and fringe-science claims. Enclosed is my check for \$10. Please enroll me as a member of TBS, and begin my annual subscription to *TBS REPORT* with issue \_\_\_\_\_ .  Renewal  Please accept this donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .
- Please list me as a subscriber only, beginning with issue \_\_\_\_\_ . Enclosed is my check for \$10.  Renewal
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V3N2



## *Tampa Bay Skeptics Quarterly Membership Meeting*

Scheduled feature: "UFOs - The Best Evidence"  
 KLAS-TV (Las Vegas) documentary  
 Also: Noreen Renier's "Zodiac" performance  
 on *The Joan Rivers Show*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 --- 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
 AUDITORIUM, TAMPA CENTRAL LIBRARY  
 900 N. ASHLEY DRIVE

The KLAS-TV documentary, produced by news anchor-  
 man George Knapp, includes an interview with Bob Lazar,  
 allegedly a scientist involved in secret government research  
 aboard UFOs in the Nevada desert (see Spring '90 issue,  
 p. 5). We hope to have more about Lazar in our next issue.

\* \* \* \* \*

"CHAIRMAN'S CORNER" (continued from page 2)

footprints. If the latter were the case, employing "Occam's  
 Razor" would lead one to an erroneous conclusion. But  
 one has to start somewhere, and it is logical to start with  
 the fewest hypotheses, and to place the burden of proof  
 upon the person invoking more, especially if they are  
 complex, and involve the assumption of phenomena as yet  
 unknown or unproven.

Logic is not always, however, a popular proposition. In  
 1328, William of Occam was excommunicated by Pope  
 John XXII.



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 St. Petersburg, Florida 33715

### TBS "\$1,000 Challenge"

The Tampa Bay Skeptics is offering \$1,000 and a  
 place in history to anyone able to provide TBS with  
 verifiable proof of any paranormal phenomenon. We  
 hereby extend an open invitation to any and all  
 Florida ufologists, psychics, astrologers, and the like,  
 to contact TBS for further details.

### TBS logo T-shirts still available

A small quantity of TBS logo T-shirts remain in  
 stock, made from Fruit of the Loom's top-of-the-line  
 all-cotton Ts. They are available in either light blue or  
 white, with logo in navy, in sizes S, M, L (XL sold out).

Please specify first and alternate choices, and  
 enclose a check for \$10 each (plus \$3.00 P&H).

### TBS Telephone Update Service

Call (813) 867-3533 from 9 to 5 on weekdays, for  
 information about any late-breaking TBS events,  
 possible last-minute meeting changes, news of  
 upcoming media coverage of the paranormal, etc., or  
 just to leave us a message.

If you wish, you may continue to send a stamped  
 return envelope for the mail Update Service.

Late Note: Dr. David Morrison (see p. 3), Chief of the Space Science  
 Division at NASA/Ames, writes on Aug. 31 that, "I know of no one in  
 the scientific community, or who is associated with the NASA Mars  
 Science Working Group, or who is working on Mars missions plans  
 at [any] NASA centers...who ascribes even the smallest credibility to  
 Hoagland or his weird ideas about Mars." More next issue.

**FIRST CLASS**