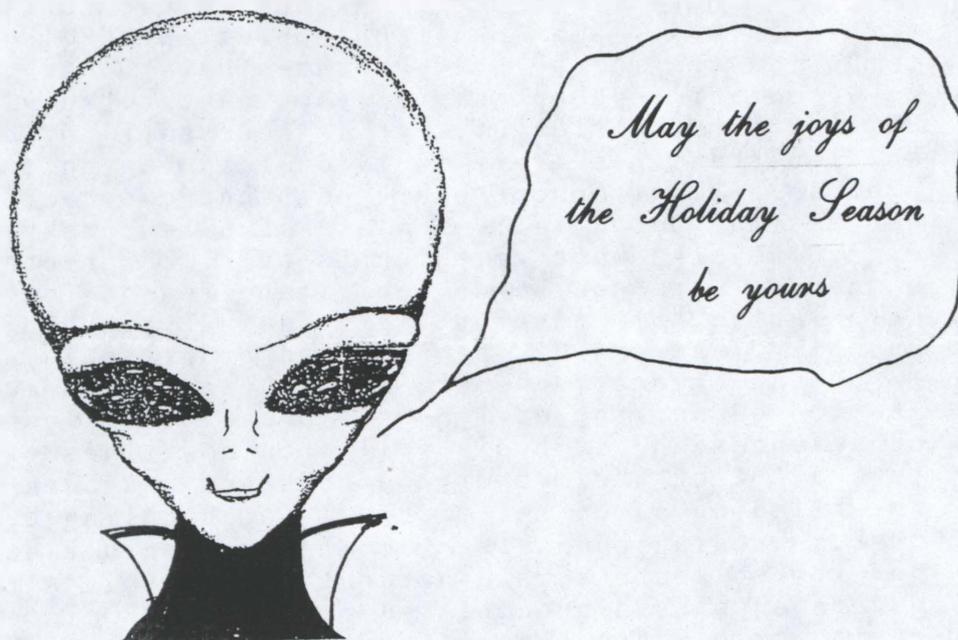


# UFO POTPOURRI

no. 340



It is a joyous time indeed! We are entering the last decade of the twentieth century with a feeling of hope and excitement for what lies ahead. While the world population continues to grow past the 5.2 billion point, peace is breaking out in some of the most unusual places. Wonderful new technological breakthroughs are happening so often it is difficult to keep up with them. We are seeing a renewed interest in space, with Russia, France, Germany, Japan, China, and others taking an active interest in space research and exploration. And scientists worldwide are busy searching the depths of space for signs of extraterrestrial life.

It is an interesting time for UFOlogy also. The ridicule curtain is being torn down just like the Berlin wall. Although the media still treats UFOs in a tongue-in-cheek manner, people around the world are anxious for their UFO experiences to be heard. More scientists are involved today than ever before in history. UFO investigators are no longer intimidated by the debunkers. Abductees are going public with their experiences in such numbers that investigators cannot keep up with the workload.

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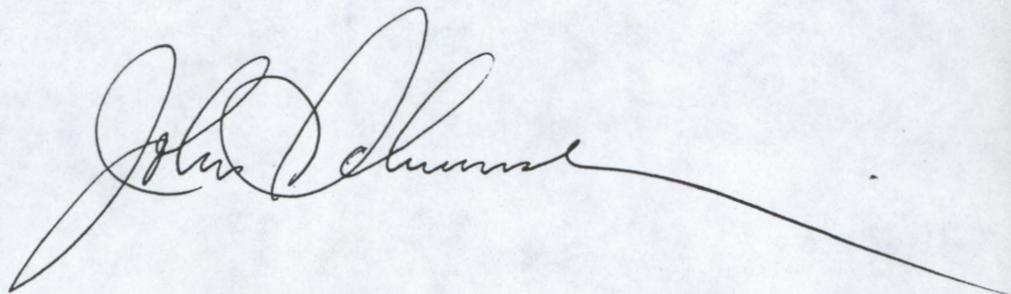
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An attempt was made in the old decade to unify the forces of the private UFO organizations in the United States. The North American UFO Federation was born, struggled to exist and finally disbanded. It was a good idea, but UFOlogy was not ready for it. However, going into the new decade we are seeing a new professionalism being exhibited by a host of researchers anxious to give teamwork a chance. If this trend continues, it will result in a win-win condition for all of UFOlogy.

Businesses in the United States have found they cannot operate as autocratic enterprises if they want to survive in the 1990s. UFOlogy is no different. It is necessary to recognize the role and importance of every individual in the enterprise and to provide an environment where each one can contribute to his or her maximum potential. The era of a few pushy people telling every one else what to think is over. High ethical standards are a must. There can be no legitimate reason for faking information, omitting or hiding data, or treating witnesses shabbily. An era of openness and progress is ahead of us.

We can expect much more international cooperation and interest in UFOs during the early 90s. Broad participation in forums, conferences and symposia will open new lines of communication and take a lot of the mystery out of what has been going on. Establishing a medical protocol for handling UFO victims is a must. Opening channels of communication between the private and government sectors is a natural next step. Although many governments have accumulated masses of UFO information, they are hesitant to share any of it with the private sector. Hopefully, that too will change.

The search for extraterrestrial intelligence continues. SETI scientists are conducting the search using radio telescopes. Some UFOlogists are doing it through UFO reports. It will be interesting to see how the two groups interact when one or both of them show some irrefutable results. Even more interesting will be how the rest of the citizens of the world will react.

Many good wishes  
for the holidays  
and the coming year.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John D. Hummel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page, below the holiday wishes. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.