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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### **Re: An Open Message To Whitley Strieber**

From: Don Ecker <[decker@ufomag.com](mailto:decker@ufomag.com)>  
Date: Sun, 05 Jul 1998 10:57:27 -0700  
Fwd Date: Sun, 05 Jul 1998 14:36:59 -0400  
Subject: Re: An Open Message To Whitley Strieber

To all subscribers to the UFO UpDates Mailing list.

I recently read an Op Ed piece from long time ufologist Mr. Jerry Black addressed to abductee Whitley Strieber. When reading it I could not help noticing a very large glaring error. Mr. Black wrote:

<<http://members.xoom.com/ufobarb/jb04.html>>

An Open Message To Whitley Strieber  
by Jerry Black  
July 1998

"On or about February 10, 1998, Mr. Whitley Strieber and Ms. Vicki Cooper, who is a promoter for the annual Gulf Breeze Symposium held in Gulf Breeze, Florida every year, appeared on the Art Bell Show. Vicki made a comment that, just recently, a young couple took a video of what appeared to be a steel or metallic ball in the sky."

For those of you that may not be aware, Ms. "Vicki Cooper" Ecker is the Editor of UFO Magazine. "Vicki Cooper" Ecker and former partner Ms. Sherie Stark founded UFO Magazine, which is published in Los Angeles, California, in 1986. Over the years UFO Magazine has garnered a reputation for reporting on the UFO field second to none. Over the years we have broken open many stories that today make a large part of the UFO field. Vicki is not now, nor ever been a promoter for Gulf Breeze, nor for any faction in the overall UFO community.

Mr. Black was actually refering to "Ms. Vicki Lyons". Ms. Lyons has been affiliated with PROJECT AWARENESS which has been hosting UFO Conferences in Florida for several years now.

Mr. Black goes on to say;

"Whitley Strieber had seen this photograph taken from the video a few days earlier. Upon seeing the photograph on Art Bell's website, and listening to Vicki Cooper relate the story, Whitley Strieber made a comment that maybe the doubters of the Ed Walters photographs would now take a second look."

First, "Ms Vicki Cooper" Ecker has never been a guest on the Art Bell Show, although she did years of commentary on my former radio program 'UFOs Tonite'!

Vicki Cooper went on to mention the then upcoming March 20

symposium in Gulf Breeze, Florida. Of course, Ms. Cooper would obviously be promoting this, as she has had a financial interest in the success or failure of the Gulf Breeze Symposium, ever since the early 1990s, if not even before that.

And once again "Ms. Vicki Cooper" Ecker has never had ANY FINANCIAL INTEREST in any symposium ANYWHERE. Mr. Black means "Ms. Vicki Lyons".

Mr. Black goes to great lengths to question motives and credibility on various UFO researchers and this is a valid question. However, he should be much more careful with his own research and at least get the names and people correct in his own research when placing something like this out in the INTERNET.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to write me at the following email address.

Thank you for your time.

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