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### Jerry Black's Open Letter to Friedman

From: Glenn Joyner <[infohead@airmail.net](mailto:infohead@airmail.net)>  
Date: Thu, 22 Apr 1999 15:04:47 -0500  
Fwd Date: Thu, 22 Apr 1999 17:45:32 -0400  
Subject: Jerry Black's Open Letter to Friedman

As always, don't shoot me, I'm only the messenger, heh heh. Mr. Jerry Black has asked me to pass this along to the list, and to let you all know that an e-mail account has been established for him. (See bottom of this article)

Thanks,

Glenn

#### AN OPEN LETTER TO STAN FRIEDMAN

My name is Jerry Black, and I will now state, for the record, my position on the UFO topic. After 41 years of researching and investigating UFOs, I certainly believe that we are dealing with a very real phenomenon.

As with many other objective and scientific searchers, I do not feel that we have the positive, indisputable proof of what the phenomenon represents. Certainly, there is a great deal of evidence which seems to support the extraterrestrial theory. This evidence does not come from the MJ Papers, or from the alleged UFO crash at Roswell, and certainly not from the "alien autopsy" video. It comes, instead, from the thousands of reports of citizens, in every walk of life, who have reported seeing an object, and, in many cases, losing time, to eventually, through their own remembering, or through the use of hypnosis, recall being abducted by small humanoid beings (in most reported cases).

However, there are other theories too. One of these theories concerns the concept that UFOs are continually passing from dimension to dimension. Another theory involves a religious aspect. There are many theories, as we will all agree. At the present time, because I feel, as do many others, that we do not have solid, 100 percent proof as to what these objects are, all of these theories are open for discussion.

Mr. Friedman, I would like to now refer to your response to my open letter to Mr. Bruce Maccabee. You wrote:

"As a member of the Board of MUFON, and as a scientist who has known Dr. Maccabee for about 30 years, and who has indeed met Ed Walters, I will here state my unequivocal support for Dr. Maccabee's objectivity, attention to details, and careful approach to ufological research in all areas including his investigation of the Ed Walters case.

"I have yet to see any indication that Mr. Black is a scientist

or has published in peer reviewed journals. Having strong opinions is not the same as being objective."

Are you trying to impress me, Mr. Friedman, with the fact that you are on the Board of Directors of MUFON? Is this the same Mutual UFO Network that, for over ten years, has continued to support the Ed Walters case? The case which was an embarrassment to the UFO community? The case which has been proven conclusively to be a hoax? Is this the same organization whose leader, Mr. Walt Andrus, has said on radio broadcasts that aliens are interbreeding with humans? Is this the MUFON that supports Budd Hopkins' book, Witnessed, the ridiculous story of a woman who was abducted through her bedroom window in Manhattan? I do not think there are any long lines, Mr. Friedman, of people waiting to be on the Board of Directors of the Mutual UFO Network.

In 1978, I attended my first and only symposium given by the Mutual UFO Network, in Dayton, Ohio. If I had a \$100.00 bill for every time I heard the word "I" used, I could have built my wife and I a very expensive home. I say this only to demonstrate the ego trips of the people involved in that conference.

I note here your support for Mr. Bruce Maccabee. Thank you for letting me know that the "Old Boys' Club" is still alive and well. Of course, the "Old Boys' Club" consists of Walt Andrus, Bruce Maccabee, Budd Hopkins, Don Berliner, and yourself, Mr. Friedman. There are possibly a few others that I could mention. Obviously, none of you gentlemen are going to have anything critical to say about the other. This has been going on for years.

Apparently, Mr. Friedman, you are not as informed on the Gulf Breeze case as you might be, yet you are willing to accept the work of Mr. Maccabee without taking an objective look at the entire body of available data on the Gulf Breeze sightings, particularly pertaining to Ed Walters. If my own father (God rest his soul) was a UFO investigator, and had investigated the Gulf Breeze case, doing as poor a job as Mr. Maccabee has done, I would be just as inclined to question the veracity of his investigation.

You state that you have not seen any of my work in peer-reviewed journals... Does my work have to appear in peer-reviewed journals for it to be valid and objective? You also state that I must have strong opinions about the case, but that is not the same as being objective. Let me inform you, Mr. Friedman, that the opinions come from your good friend, Bruce Maccabee. William G. Hyzer and his son, James B. Hyzer, did make a scientific, objective analysis of Ed Walters' photographs. They found that Photo #19 was, without question, a double exposure. The other nine photographs they had to work with all showed signs of double exposure. Walt Andrus and Bruce Maccabee, your good friends, stated in the MUFON Journal that Mr. Hyzer's evaluation was only an opinion. So I don't believe that my statements are merely an "opinion." My statements are coming from an objective and scientific point of view. My statements are based on some very real scientific investigation conducted by the Hyzers.

Mr. Friedman, you and all of your friends in the "Old Boys' Club," all believe that you have proven, 100 percent, that UFOs are extraterrestrial. Let's talk about your work, Mr. Friedman, on the Majestic 12 issue. I have taken the time to read your book, Top Secret Majestic, written in 1996. Personally, I do not believe you have proven, beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Majestic 12 papers that were received in 1984 are legitimate government documents. With the present technical abilities, even at that time in 1984, these documents certainly could have been faked. Today it would be even much easier and less expensive. The point is, it could still have been done in 1984. And certainly, when one receives documents in the mail, to which one has no source whatsoever to rely on, there are already two strikes against you before even starting your research. I would never deal with any documents sent anonymously to me in the mail. Yet you have spent nearly 15 years trying to authenticate these documents. There is no way you can validate them 100 percent. There have been many questions raised about the validity of these documents throughout the past 15 years. Some have been resolved; many have not. Many of these issues were brought to your attention by some sincere and objective researchers. For the most part, many of these questions remain

unanswered.

The bottom line is there seems to be no way to validate these documents, somewhat contrary to what you are telling readers in your book, Top Secret Majestic. However, it certainly has been to your advantage to claim that you are certain that extraterrestrials are visiting this planet, and that the MJ-12 papers are authentic, simply because this keeps you in "demand" for the network television shows, cable specials, and your lecture circuit. In effect, this is what the television shows want to hear, and this is what the people that attend those lectures want to hear. But in reality, Mr. Friedman, you and I know that you do not have substantial proof of either of these things.

Whenever you are dealing with military people, in terms of being given information concerning the MJ-12 papers, or even the alleged crash of a UFO at Roswell, New Mexico, you have to remember that you could be getting disinformation. It seems very strange to me that there are so many retired military people that have refused to speak on the subject of Roswell, or the MJ-12 papers, because they say that they can be fined, or even lose their pensions, should they give up any military secrets whatsoever. However, others not only seem to be willing to speak freely to people like yourself, Kevin Randle, and others, but are even writing books; yet nothing seems to be happening to these people, in terms of any discipline from the military. It has to make one wonder if this is true information, or disinformation.

On the subject of the alleged UFO crash at Roswell, both you and Mr. Kevin Randle claim that this incident proves extraterrestrials are visiting this planet. However, both of you gentlemen, since your books have come out, have claimed that the other's witnesses are bogus. Most people are now more confused about the crash at Roswell than they were before your books were published. Certainly neither of you have proven conclusively that an extraterrestrial craft crashed there in the summer of 1947. Several of your witnesses, both Mr. Randle's and yours, Mr. Friedman, have fallen by the wayside. Had more time and expense been given to these books by you gentlemen, in terms of possibly polygraphing more people about their alleged involvement, perhaps some of these "witnesses" could have been weeded out in the beginning, and not been an embarrassment to you.

Returning to the MJ-12 documents, I find it almost unbelievable that, after 14 or 15 years you are still working on them. Certainly the technology was sufficient for anyone who had the money back in 1984 to produce fake documents that you, I, or anyone else would never be able to detect. This also stands true now for photographs. Mr. William G. Hyzer informed me that the technology today is as such that anyone who has a computer and the money can make a UFO photograph that no one would ever be able to detect as being a hoax. So one has to question why you continue to work on the MJ-12 documents, knowing the questionable way in which they arrived in the hands of the UFO researchers to begin with, and knowing you will never be able to solidly prove their validity.

The only reason I can think of as to why you would continue to profess that extraterrestrials have definitely visited this planet, and that the MJ-12 documents are genuine, is because of the financial gain you achieve by keeping the interest of the television networks and the general public.

There is no question that the words, "MJ-12 Documents," have a ring of mystery to them. In fact, these words have been used in several UFO movies and television shows that have been made since 1984. However, that does not make them genuine. It does serve a purpose for the networks and cable special producers, though, in being able to use those words, with their mystique, and to have people such as yourself on to comment about them. It increases their ratings. They are also words that will draw a lecture audience, because of their mystique.

It is therefore my opinion, Mr. Friedman, that you are more concerned with promoting yourself than you are with scientific and objective UFO research. There is a saying circulating in the UFO Community, that goes... "Tell Stan Friedman and Budd Hopkins where there's a television camera, and they'll be there." In

some cases the quality of the particular presentation doesn't even seem to matter, as long as it will be viewed by a large audience. It is sad when the two UFOlogists seen and recognized by the most people on national television are espousing stories of aliens interbreeding with humans, and that aliens are definitely visiting this planet; yet neither of you have actual, concrete proof to validate such statements.

As I was reading your book, I noticed with interest that, on the front cover it says, Foreword by Whitley Strieber. Having recently spent four and a half months reviewing all of Whitley Strieber's work, then asking him and his wife, Ann, to take a polygraph test (to which they have not responded), I found it interesting that you would have him write the foreword to your book. I assume that most people, when they buy your book, and see that Whitley Strieber has done the foreword, they assume that you believe his case to be a valid case.

In my review of Whitley Strieber's work, I found there was absolutely no validation for any of the numerous experiences that Mr. Strieber had. Coupled with the fact that he and his wife both refuse to take the paid polygraph tests that I have asked them to take, I have no choice but to conclude that the entire Whitley Strieber scenario with the Visitors is anything but an elaborate hoax.

Now, you, sir, claim to be a scientific and objective investigator. If you have scientific and objective evidence that shows that Whitley Strieber's alleged experiences are valid, I wish you would present that to us. I see none whatsoever. And I know of no investigator, including yourself, who has ever made a comprehensive examination of the Strieber case. You might say that the publishers forced you to have Whitley Strieber write the foreword; I have no idea if that is the case or not. However, I am aware of this: you have a right to say "yes" or "no." This is where integrity comes into the issue.

I would never allow Mr. Strieber to write a foreword to any book that I might ever write in the future, concerning UFOs. I would not care what the publisher might say, I would not care if it meant going to another publisher. As I said, this is where the integrity issue arises. When I look at your book, and I see Whitley Strieber's name on it, I am personally suspicious of you, because, obviously, you are more concerned with selling books and making money than you are with your own integrity in the UFO field, if you allowed this to happen. Then again, I don't know; perhaps you even suggested or sought out Whitley Strieber, simply because of the fact that he is a well-known author, albeit one presenting highly questionable material to the public.

I want to speak now about a subject that certainly includes you, Mr. Friedman, that is rarely talked about in the UFO field. That is the outlandish ego trips that some of our major, self-appointed leaders seem to have ended up on. The three people that first come to mind (and there are many more) are yourself, Mr. Friedman, Budd Hopkins, and Kevin Randle. Just because you three gentlemen appear on television more frequently than other UFOlogists does not mean that your work is more credible. In fact, in these particular cases, basically you gentlemen are only telling the media what they want to hear. That, of course, is why you are always on television, talking about extraterrestrial visitations, crashes that are extraterrestrial in origin, and aliens interbreeding with human beings. None of you can conclusively prove any of this, but, since you do make the positive statements, this is why you are sought out. The networks know that this type of material is interesting, and will sell. That's all they are concerned about.

Other researchers, like Ray Fowler, Tom Dooley, and Tom Adams, to mention only a few, while not getting the extensive air time on national television, certainly have done a remarkable job in UFO research. But because they are careful and objective, and will not make outlandish statements in public, they don't get nearly as much attention or television time.

For instance, recently Kevin Randle wrote two books, after Roswell, one called The Randle Report: UFOs in the 90's, and another called The Face of the Visitors. Both of these books, in my opinion, were just written for the sake of writing books -- just to keep his name out there, to keep him in the public eye.

Neither of the books further the quest of finding the answer to the UFO phenomenon. In fact, in the case of *The Face of the Visitors*, how can one give ratings to a case, when one has never actually talked to the investigators who investigated the case?

In the case of Mr. Budd Hopkins, his latest book concerning the Linda Cortile case, called *Witnessed*, is a farce. Many of Budd's close friends cannot understand Budd's actions with this particular book.

Yet it is what the public wants to see, what the public wants to hear. Dramatic cases, regardless of whether they have any foundation in reality, seem to sell well. The more informed and serious people in the UFO field understand it for what it really is.

Let me reassure, you, Mr. Friedman, that the media that you deal with is not really buying your story 100 percent about the MJ-12 papers, even though they have you on their television shows. They are interested in ratings. This was very dramatically proven with the "autopsy video" purchased by the Fox Network. So just because you are appearing on television, as is Kevin Randle and Budd Hopkins, more than other major investigators, it does not mean your work is more valuable, or more credible. Quite to the contrary, the inflammatory statements you are making are in fact detrimental to the field of UFO research and study, because you make these statements without any proof whatsoever to back them up.

Mr. Friedman, to show just how far someone will go to keep themselves in the limelight, to appear on national programs on a regular basis, I want to bring up someone that you may remember: Mr. Leonard Stringfield. You and he were never good friends, of course. I am sure that you did speak in passing at different symposiums, but I knew Leonard very well, and considered him a very good friend of mine. In fact, Leonard and I worked together on the well-known Liberty, Kentucky case, of 1976. It came to my attention, about six to eight years ago that you were going to appear on the *Unsolved Mysteries* television program, regarding the alleged Roswell crash. Obviously the producers had asked you if you knew how to contact Mrs. "Pappy" Henderson. (Pappy, of course, was allegedly the pilot that flew the bodies from Roswell to Wright Patterson Air Force Base.) You, Mr. Friedman, came to Leonard Stringfield, even though the two of you had never actually done any research together, or were even considered friends, and asked him to give you the telephone number and address of Mrs. Henderson, because you knew this was one of Leonard's confidential sources. When Leonard told you that he could not give you that information, because she was a confidential source that had asked that her personal contact information be given out, you were extremely upset with him, as he reported to me. In my opinion, what you were in fact doing was attempting to get Leonard Stringfield to break a solemn confidentiality agreement, solely to enhance your position with the producers of *Unsolved Mysteries*. Anyone who has been an investigator in the UFO field knows that their credibility concerning confidentiality is one of the biggest assets they have. If a person cannot rely on coming to you in confidence, you will not get much cooperation in respect to learning of UFO encounters. Your credibility is your word. Yet you were asking Mr. Stringfield, a seasoned investigator of, at that time, almost 40 years, to give up his credibility for you, merely to enhance your position with some television producers.

In terms of sound, objective, scientific analysis of UFOs, Mr. Friedman, you, sir, could not even carry Mr. Stringfield's briefcase.

I just have one more thing to say, regarding you and Leonard Stringfield, that I want the readers here to know... And remember, Mr. Friedman, this is not second-hand information. Both of the incidents that I am speaking of here concerning you and Leonard comes from firsthand knowledge.

Leonard, who passed away on December 18, 1994, was in a terminal state before his passing. He was told by his doctors that he had six months to a year left to live. He received a call from you, shortly after that announcement by his doctors, in which you requested all of his files. When he told you "no," you replied something to the effect of "Well, there's no one there that would have any need of them." When Leonard hung up the phone

from that conversation with you, he had a very strange look on his face, and said, "This guy has got to be joking."

Only 36 hours later, Leonard Stringfield quietly passed away. Thus, UFOlogy lost one of the greatest investigators in the field. But how insensitive and rude can you be, Mr. Friedman, to call someone who you know is terminally ill, pressing him for his files? Do you realize the implication, to someone who has recently learned he is dying? All you wanted his files for, was to use them to impress other people at your lectures, as well as the media. Something more to feed your enormous ego, Mr. Friedman? It is common knowledge throughout the UFO community that you have openly criticized Mr. Stringfield's work. Your rudeness and insensitivity to a gentlemen of Mr. Stringfield's stature is inexcusable.

I will close this open letter with the following remarks, Mr. Friedman. In the introduction to your book, Top Secret Majestic, you state the following:

"For almost 41 years I have been researching UFOs. I have written two books, dozens of articles, spoken before hundreds of live audiences, and have appeared on many more call-in shows on television, as well as radio. I am what you might call a personality, judging from the number of strangers who stop me on the street when I am away from home on speaking tours."

Enough said.

Jerry Black

JB/gmj

A NOTE ABOUT JERRY BLACK:

Mr. Jerry Black has been researching and investigating UFOs in a scientific and objective manner for the past 41 years. His Internet website can be found at:

<http://members.xoom.com/blackshole>

Mr. Black invites your comments on the above. An e-mail address has been established for him, and will be checked weekly by an associate of his. Mr. Black can be e-mailed at:

[blackhole60@hotmail.com](mailto:blackhole60@hotmail.com)

He can still also be reached at the following address and phone number:

Jerry Black  
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