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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Filer's Files #27 - 99

From: **Jenny Randles** <nufon@currantbun.com>
 Date: Thu, 15 Jul 1999 18:25:42 +0100
 Fwd Date: Thu, 15 Jul 1999 22:31:29 -0400
 Subject: Re: Filer's Files #27 - 99

>Date: Wed, 14 Jul 1999 08:54:44 -0600
 >To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
 >From: Bobbie Felder <jilain@plinet.com>
 >Subject: Re: Filer's Files #27 - 99

>At 08:38 AM 7/14/99 -0400, you wrote:

>>Subject: Re: Filer's Files #27 - 99
 >>From: Mark Cashman <mcashman@ix.netcom.com>
 >>Date: Tue, 13 Jul 1999 14:03:44 -0400
 >>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>

><snip>

>>Firmage is just another ACC. A lot of hot air taking us for a
 >>ride to nowhere.

>Perhaps so, but this one is sitting on a million bucks or so.
 >That makes him a desirable commodity on anyone's podium,
 >especially around fund raising time :)

>Bobbie

Hi,

Thought I would add a different view here - as someone who frankly would not have known Joe Firmage from Joe Soap before I got to the MUFON conference. Although I did pass a few comments on UpDates last week about turkeys voting for Christmas, which I had best elaborate upon!

Firmage was an impressive speaker. No doubt. His ideas struck a chord with new age thinkers who have a scientific bent. Certainly. I enjoyed his talk immensely - as a talk - but, for me, it was far from the UFO highlight of the conference.

Most people I saw afterwards told me they understood about one tenth of what Firmage said (which barely mentioned UFOs and was mostly a philosophy of how he sees science in 50 years time). So why give him such an ovation, I asked? Because, most told, me he's a real brave guy willing to risk all and stand up for ufology.

The same thing happened at MIT in 1992 when John Mack made his debut. The abductees present gave him the sort of reception you'd expect for a newly elected president. The motive was similar. Here was a hero who would save ufology. It didnt happen. Nice as Mack is. Useful as his support is proving. He knows as much (or as little) as we all do and ultimately will founder against the same rocks we do of seeking to prove impossible things and battling to decipher confusing,

irreconcilable differences between the evidence.

And so Firmage. He's an astute man. He is not and I suspect never will be a ufologist. He is a techologist who wants to build a new future and use some UFO ideology. But he made perfectly clear, to those who were listening, that he is not interested in funding UFO investigations because that job has been done. Frankly, I got the impression listening to him he was actually saying - great work chaps. You've kept the camp fires burning whilst I grew up, made my millions, and saw how this field is a gold mine for new technology research. Now, with all my thanks for what you have done, go off and enjoy the sun in the happy retirement home for worn out ufologists. The day of UFO investigation is dead. The day of the science/technocrat is here.

Now he did not actually say all of this (he did say some and I read the rest in between the lines - perhaps rightly, perhaps wrongly). Nor am I criticising him for it. He's doing what he wants to do and what he thinks is right and funding UFO research just isn't really on his agenda because it's not what he's about. Yes, he may offer some of that. But the last I saw of Richard Hall he was sad because Firmage had not appeared at a meeting in which he was going to ask for some money to publish 'The UFO Evidence Part Two'. 'He was a no show' was how a depressed looking Richard put it.

Now maybe after I left Joe came up trumps and helped Richard out here. If so good on him and it would be a terrific gesture to ufology. That UFO Evidence (scandalously turned down by major publishers whilst they print some utter twaddle on UFOs instead) needs to be seen. Of course, it's not Firmage's business to do it for us and we should not expect him to be a philanthropist and I am certainly not saying he is wicked if he has decided not to fund this book. He could have many good reasons and other places to put his money.

My point is that there might be an unrealistic expectation of what Firmage can or will do. He has a very obvious agenda and it intersects with mainstream ufology not as much as most of those cheering seemed to believe. In fact, if he is hailed by the media, feted by ufology and becomes the new leader of the field I suspect it's something he won't want because it could interfere with his other ambitions. Some scientists, for instance, will not want to play footsie with ufologists. So he might be better off distancing himself. It will also drag attention away from the ego ridden UFO leaders (yes there are some out there) and if they get less requests to appear on TV because Firmage is the new public face of ufology, how long before the knives are out? I predict mutterings (utter garbage as they will be) that 'Firmage is a government plant' beginning once ufology senses the reality of things. Don't worry Joe when they do. It's a sign that folk are really worried about what you are saying. The day people don't invent such yarns about you is the day to wonder if you have stopped doing anything worthwhile!

As such, what I meant was, that ufologists (the turkeys) could be voting for Christmas (thinking it is the start of a great, prosperous future) when in truth Firmage will do his own things that may in some ways signal the death of traditional ufology. After all if he does what he says, uses UFO technology to build spaceships for everyone's garage within a few years, who the heck will care about the Piddletown UFO Clubs annual report of how many pink lights were seen over the local park.

So, I found his talk entertaining but also disturbing. I found Firmage a pleasant, friendly chap, whose vigour and clearly honest intentions are of appeal but a man who is obviously intelligent and with calculated plans. So he won't be here just to help us - nor, indeed, primarily to help us. Don't forget that. I don't think he has any aspiration to harm ufology, let alone not aid it all he can. But I suspect part of the Firmage effect could be a lot more negative than most folk are right now hoping it will be.

But then what do I know? Hopefully, I'll be proved completely wrong and he will fund dozens of major UFO initiatives, open up a new golden age where we are all taken seriously and we can do all those amazing projects we would start tomorrow if we had the power, money and prestige.

Sorry, I have to go, a pig just landed on my roof.

Best wishes,

Jenny Randles

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