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### 'Self-Proclaimed Leaders Of Ufology'

From: **Jerry Black** <[blackhole60@hotmail.com](mailto:blackhole60@hotmail.com)>  
 Date: Thu, 29 Jul 1999 07:02:01 PDT  
 Fwd Date: Thu, 29 Jul 1999 10:40:47 -0400  
 Subject: 'Self-Proclaimed Leaders Of Ufology'

Mr. Jerome Clark;

I will respond to your petty complaints about my not referring to Mr. Bruce Maccabee as Dr. Bruce Maccabee. In checking with a young lady in the UFO field who is also an English scholar, she has informed me that you are certainly correct about my use of the terms 'Mister' and 'Doctor.' If I am going to use the word "Mister" before Bruce Maccabee's name, that would be incorrect. It should be "Doctor" Bruce Maccabee. I thank you for making that English correction for me. However, she also told me that if I do not use the word "Mister," and simply refer to him as Bruce or Bruce Maccabee, it is perfectly acceptable not to use the term "Doctor" in front of his name. This is what I will do from this point forward: I will refer to him as Bruce or Bruce Maccabee. Thank you for correcting me with this English lesson.

I would now like to refer to remarks you made about my comments concerning the "self-proclaimed leaders of ufology".

You knew exactly what I meant, however I will explain that for you and to all the internet readers. The "self-proclaimed leaders of ufology" are those who appear most frequently on TV, or appear at most of the UFO symposiums throughout the country. In my opinion, you cannot go to any UFO symposium in the country without seeing one or sometimes three of these people at that particular symposium. So in my opinion, those "self-proclaimed leaders of ufology" are those that the general public listens to or hears most, whether it be on TV, radio or major symposia. These people would be: Stanton Friedman, Budd Hopkins, Kevin Randle, Linda Moulton Howe, Bruce Maccabee, Whitley Strieber and Walt Andrus (even though Walt Andrus does not appear on national television or radio frequently, he is a major figure in ufology, being the leader of one of largest UFO organizations in America).

Those people, Mr. Jerome Clark, are people I call the "self-appointed leaders of ufology."

The general public looks to these people for the answers to those cases that they see on national TV or radio: such as the autopsy video, the Whitley Strieber story, or the Jonathon Reed story (he claimed, on the Art Bell radio program to have killed an alien). The public looks to these people to let them know which of these stories are credible and which are not credible. They certainly cannot depend on the television networks, with shows such as Sightings and most recently the NBC special Confirmation. The television media certainly does not lend itself to giving the general public an objective look at the national cases and letting them know, from an investigative standpoint, whether these stories are credible or not. They are not interested in credibility, as I have said many, many times

before, they are interested in ratings. The Whitley Strieber show Confirmation was produced with no intent to authenticate the Strieber claim of experiences with the visitors. Just because he has written a book and is a well-established author, they decided to do a special on TV using him as an executive producer. So the general public cannot rely on TV to give them the true answer to the cases that we see on TV and are written in books.

Therefore, the general public relies on the Mutual UFO Network, the Center for UFO Studies, and the "self-appointed leaders of ufology." In my opinion, neither of these aforementioned are doing their jobs at keeping the general public informed of which cases are credible and which cases do not deserve attention. I also do not think the Mutual UFO Network and the "self-appointed leaders of ufology" are doing a good, sound, scientific and objective job when they do investigate these cases.

As you stated, Mr. Jerome Clark, your organization does not have the time or money to really get into investigating current cases out there in ufology, besides the fact of putting your opinion of cases in your monthly journal. So I am not accusing you of not doing a good job of investigating current cases, because as you have told me: you are not doing "any" job of investigating current UFO cases. You are simply making small reports in your journal which are merely opinions.

While your friendship with some of these "self-proclaimed leaders of ufology" may keep you from making certain remarks about their work, it certainly doesn't stop me. I will continue to keep making remarks that I feel is necessary as long as they continue to do the job they are doing at this particular time.

I, however, agree with you that there are many people out there who do a tremendous job who hardly get any ink, get no time on national radio or TV, but do a tremendous job in trying to help find the answer to the UFO phenomena. Some of those people are: Jenny Randles, Tom Dueley, Ray Fowler, Dan Wright, Tom Adams, Glenn Joyner, Mark Rodheigher, Rex Salisbury, and the list could go on and on. But these people, because of family or other responsibilities, do not have the time needed to allow themselves to be leaders in the field of ufology and attend the national symposia in the country, or to appear on national TV or radio. I wish that some of these people would do so.

But, for the time being, we have to deal with those "self proclaimed leaders of ufology" and the work they are doing.

Finally, Mr. Clark, you have said that honorable men have come down on both sides of the case in Gulf Breeze, Florida. I certainly agree that all the gentlemen and ladies mentioned as "self-proclaimed leaders of ufology" are likely honorable people, some of whom have earned Ph.D.'s. All that means is that honorable men and women, some of whom have Ph.D.'s, can at times be lousy UFO investigators.

Sincerely,  
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