

SAUCER SMEAR

OUR GLORIOUS CHRISTMAS 2007 ISSUE !



DEDICATED TO THE
HIGHEST PRINCIPLES OF
UFOLOGICAL JOURNALISM

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Sincere wishes for a Merry Xmas to friend and foe alike, and our fond memories go out as always to Gray Barker and Karl Pflock, wherever they may be...

SMEAR POLICY (IF ANY)

We believe a genuine scientific mystery exists, but after all these years, the ETH seems to be a simplistic answer. The nuts & bolts people are losing ground, because unfortunately there are paranormal and perhaps even spiritual overtones to the mystery. It probably will not be solved any time soon, but we still think it's fun trying!

We don't believe in Roswell, MJ-12, exopolitics, and a lot of other key tenets of the UFO movement. However, we definitely are not skeptics, having had a few UFO and paranormal experiences ourselves over the years.

We dislike people who take themselves and the subject too seriously. There are a few ufologists we dislike even though we largely agree with them, and many others whose weird views we tolerate because they are nice people. And we love the social aspects of the UFO field...

WAS THE "ROSWELL INCIDENT" A PSEUDO-RELIGIOUS EVENT???

Yes, the advertisement above is real! We have eagerly sent for our Roswell soil (or wouldn't dirt or sand be a better term?), but haven't received anything yet.

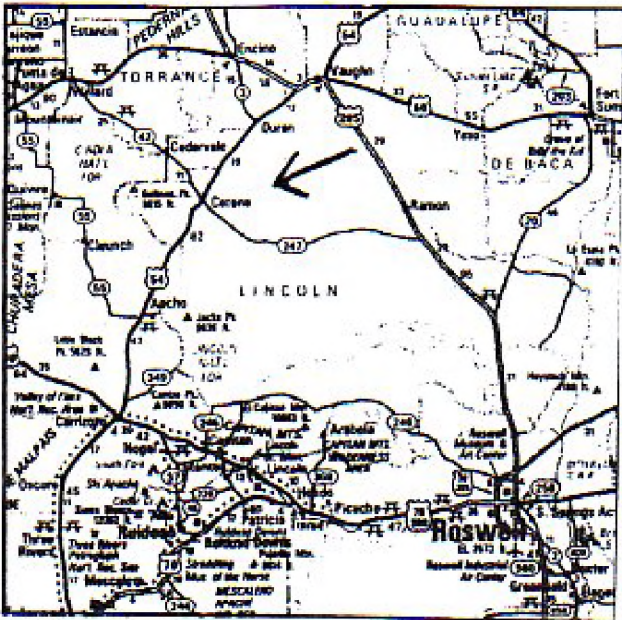
We really can't blame the handful of sincere (but misguided) Roswell "researchers" such as Kevin Randle and Stanton Friedman for the fact that someone has decided to cash in, in this ridiculous way. However, we are not at all surprised that this has happened. The "Roswell Incident" has all the markings of a disorganized religion!

Sacred Soil is not at all unusual in mainstream religions. From the cursed Net we have an item sent to us by Chris Roth, headlined "Holy Land Earth Arrives at U.S. Shores With a Ceremony Befitting the Sacred Nature of the Soil". The story goes on to say:

"The white gloves, tuxedos, and black coats suggested something important was arriving. The Rabbi and photographers who were present hinted that the arrival was spiritual in nature. The anticipation grew as the doors of the ship's hold opened. From the darkness a well-dressed man emerged, carrying a silver tray with packages of....dirt? Dirt indeed!

"This ceremony is exactly what took place in New York earlier this week when Holy Land Earth received their first shipment of genuine soil from Israel. The rich, fertile soil - which is meant to be used in burial ceremonies, graveside visits, or for any other use the purchaser feels appropriate- has been declared authentic by a certifying Rabbi, and is packaged in attractive 16 ounce re-sealable pouches. They will retail for \$20.00"

Interestingly, the president of Holy Land Earth is named Steven Friedman - hopefully no relation to our beloved ufological hero Stanton Friedman.



Then, from New Mexico researcher Steve Barnett we have the following communique, regarding a Roman Catholic situation in his home state:

"The Church/Shrine you are asking about is the Santuario de Chimayo, located in the little town of Chimayo a few miles from where Laura and I first lived when we moved to New Mexico. The 'Our Lady of the Southwest' as it is called, is visited by pilgrims drawn by the healing powers of the 'miraculous dirt' found in a small room beside the chapel. There is a wall of crutches and notes left by folks who claim to have been healed by the power of the soil. I have also heard that someone has been selling soil allegedly from that room on the Net, but I have never visited the site. There is no doubt that it could be that particular soil, as it is freely given out to visitors. However, the hole is re-filled often by the priests, from another location near the Santuario (italics ours), or else there would soon be an open pit mine at that location."

....As already mentioned, we have sent for our Roswell soil sample. We had seen the ad for it in (ugh!) "UFO Magazine", then learned by phone that the price has been raised from \$4.95 to \$9.95, plus shipping. When we asked the agent on the phone about which of the five (or more) possible landing sites the soil is from, she stated it is from Corona.

This is the correct answer. Although there is no landing site called Corona, this is the name of a tiny town (hard to find - see map above) which is closest to the Brazel/Foster Ranch. This ranch is the location of the famous "debris field" and the only one of the five (or more) supposed landing sites where something - probably a wrecked Mogul Balloon - actually did land according to all versions of the complex Roswell saga.

But a problem remains: The samples are mailed from an address on Staten Island, New York - far indeed from New Mexico. Are we to

really believe that they go to the trouble and expense of having the soil shipped in from there? Inquiring minds would like to know for sure!

Well, it's been three weeks since we mailed in our check, and still nothing at all has arrived at our humble mail box. But not to worry. We have Faith!...

A SAD UPDATE ON ERIK BECKJORD

Aging Bigfootologist Erik Beckjord is in the news again, but probably not in a way he would like. We assumed he had retired from Bigfoot "expeditions", but in a rambling 35-page Internet rant, a lady named Tara Hauki gives her detailed account of a very recent such event. She calls it "One Life, One Heart: My Story. Tara Hauki and Jon-Erik Beckjord".

The details are far too long for our format, but it seems that Beckjord, his girlfriend Chris, and Tara (whom he had met through the Net) went into the California woods together on a several-day voyage in search of the legendary beast. Chris, who was continually drunk and arguing with Erik, departed by car, leaving a "Fuck You" note behind. Then things became worse between Erik and Tara. He refused to share the food with her, and finally departed alone, leaving her stranded in the woods. With extreme difficulty, she made it out alive, after walking several miles with a heavy backpack.

We are wondering if any criminal charges will be filed, as there were also incidents of violence during the ill-fated "expedition".

We met BeckJord many times years ago, and often wondered how he could be an Authority on a subject about which he had never, to the best of our knowledge, written a book or even a serious semi-scientific paper!

We had no serious personal problems with him, except for the time he tried (unsuccessfully) to extort one thousand dollars from us. We simply refused to pay.

According to Tara's rant (on page 26), "He (Erik) did tell me he would steal, cheat, and lie to get what he needs."

Beckjord is old, alcoholic, grossly overweight, and probably has cancer. He is more to be pitied than scorned....

NEWS BRIEFIES

- NASA's Mars Odyssey spacecraft has discovered entrances to seven possible caves on the slopes of a Martian volcano. The find is fueling interest in potential underground habitats and sparking searches for caverns elsewhere on the Red Planet.

The caves are nearly circular, about 300 to 800 feet in diameter. They appear to be windows into huge underground spaces. However, they are at some of the highest altitudes on the planet, and thus are poor candidates for use as human habitation or for having even microbial life. Even if intelligent life ever existed on Mars, it probably did not migrate to this height, according to the Net report we recently read...

- We recently ran an item on "unidentified submerged objects", called USOs. Canada's famed Shag Harbor incident (1967) is in this category, and there are many, many others.

To us, the most interesting cases are from the California coastline. Ever since the 1950s, there have been scores of unidentified lights in and around the ocean waters there. Repeated observations of strange subsurface luminous discs suggest that extraterrestrials (or whoever) may live there permanently. According to our friend UFO researcher Ann Druffel, many of these reports come from a relatively short stretch of coast from Santa Barbara to Long Beach, leading her to believe there is an underwater base either on the seabed or below it.

One event, which occurred on an evening in January 1956, is outstanding, and very similar to the Shag Harbor case eleven years later: Residents of Redondo Beach, California reported seeing a large glowing object glide down out of the night sky and float on the surface of the ocean about 75 yards offshore. Dozens of witnesses converged on the scene, including residents, a local night watchman, and police officers from an adjacent town. As the crowd grew, the water around the object started to froth and bubble, and it disappeared beneath the surface. The glow from the object was so intense that it could still be seen despite the fact that it was submerged.

Unsure what they were dealing with, the police officers radioed for assistance, and divers were brought in to search for wreckage or survivors. By the time rescue craft were in position, the glowing "USO" had vanished - as though, once submerged, it had simply continued traveling to an unknown destination.

UFOs appear to be much more at home in our oceans than we are. They seem to have no difficulty making the transition from air to sea. Witnesses all around the world have related how a wide variety of objects have been seen flying into and emerging out of the sea in a controlled manner, often exiting the water at great speed despite the swift change in pressure that would kill a human being!...

- Hopefully you are all aware of James ("The Amusing") Randi and his well-known Million Dollar Offer for proof of the paranormal.

In past issues we have pointed out obvious flaws in this offer. Unless you can be photographed, in front of many witnesses, floating through a wall on your way to the interview, you are not likely to win any money at all!

Now Randi appears to have gone from fighting the curse of the paranormal to mere consumer protection. He is insisting that audio speaker cables selling for \$7,200 are no better than others selling for (unspecified) much lower prices. For once he is probably right, but what's the point??

Tune in for further developments in this high-tech controversy...

- This photo, cropped from a larger picture, has appeared on the Net several times and apparently has caused much merriment. We decided it is time to share this mirth with our loyal "Smear" readers.

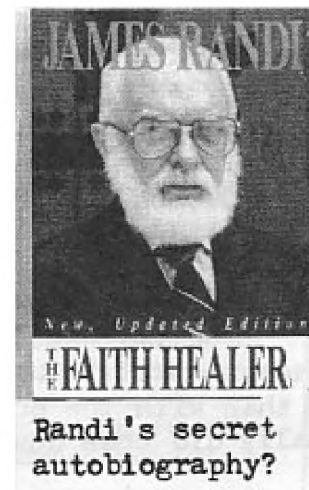


At a private party at a NUFOC saucer convention a few years ago, your editor was (yes!) drinking and taking pictures of semi-famous ufologists there. Alas, we eventually put the camera down for awhile, and later noticed that the film had been torn out by someone in the room! Here we see your editor, looking forlorn with his empty camera, while a party lady gleefully holds up the missing film.

Though this was the first time we ever met her, this party lady later became the director of the NUFOC, after we resigned that post. Her name is Lisa Davis.

The probable (though unproven) film thief was none other than Nick Redfern, who since has soared on to even greater heights in ufology! The identity of the photographer is not known...

FLASH! Our sacred Roswell Soil has finally arrived, after about three weeks, at a cost of \$14.95 including postage. It is a little 2 by 2 inch packet of tan-ish sand (?), maybe from Roswell, maybe not. The "Certificate of Authenticity" is a 2 by 3 inch card, not at all impressive. All things considered, we would call this product a rip-off!...



- Buried within a recent Net item headlined "Ail About Science & Tech", we found the following brief re-hash of perhaps the

most startling UFO-related case of all time. It happened long ago near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and for some reason it has been almost completely forgotten over the years. The quote is as follows:

"Miglay Byena and Manuel Cruz were two young Brazilian engineers engaged in researching the mystery of flying saucers. They had even built a laboratory for that purpose. It was August, 1966.

"Very early in the morning, the two engineers left for Vintem Hill. This hill is covered with dense woods, and for the last many decades, flying saucers had regularly been sighted there. Almost every day, some mysterious object from the sky was reported to land there, remain there for some time and then take off. It was the general impression that the extraterrestrials had chosen this Brazilian hillock as their base for exploration of the earth.

"As the engineers were climbing the hill, some saucer-like object was seen descending. Local citizens confirmed this event.

"In the next few days, some local boys out on a hunting expedition found the two researchers lying dead atop the hill. Police investigation and autopsy failed to find any clue regarding the possible cause of death."

There are many intriguing details that have been omitted in the above write-up. We recall asking a Pentagon public information officer in person about this specific case. He was very interested until he realized we were talking about a foreign event. The U.S. Air Force is only charged with keeping America safe, not Brazil!....

- Due to the persistence of a New York journalist named Leslie Kean, NASA has agreed to search its archives again for documents related to the mysterious crash at Kecksburg, Pa. in 1965. Following a key court decision this past March, NASA took part in negotiations leading to this very recent decision.

The classic Kecksburg case is one of our favorites, and we have referred to it several times in past issues of "Smear". The evidence is confusing and contradictory, but much less really did come down in the woods near Kecksburg that night. It was probably a Russian satellite, which would explain the "hieroglyphics" that a few people claimed to have seen on its acorn-shaped surface.

Researcher Stan Gordon, who has devoted years of serious research to this particular case, must be very pleased that the investigation has been re-opened, and so are we...

- We were amused by a Net item from New Zealand, informing us that American podiatrist Dr. Roger Leir "bombed" at a UFO conference there, even though he was speaking to an audience of Believers.

Leir is the gentleman who has performed about thirteen surgeries to recover "alien implants" from the feet and other body parts of people who believe they have been abducted by aliens. These "implants" are thought to be anomalous, but no one at any time has ever attempted to explain how they perform a function (communication, maybe?), if any. Nor, to the best of our knowledge, has it ever been ascertained whether or not similar anomalies can be found in people who do not claim to be abductees!

We have heard Leir speak, and were even less impressed than the New Zealandians (?). In our opinion, despite its scientific trappings, the implant syndrome is one of the least believable of all ufological belief systems...

- There has been another important update concerning the famed Roswell Alien Autopsy film of 1995. Both sides in the current dispute admit that the film, as shown, was a fake, but the matter is complex.

On one side are England's Ray Santilli and partner Cary Shoefield, who recently made a major motion picture about the film, showing in a comical way how it was faked in order to make money. They still insist, however, that it was based on authentic film from 1947 that was too badly degraded to use.

Now comes a British film maker and magician named Spyros Melaris, who claims it was he who created the autopsy film, not Santilli. Melaris was unable to speak out sooner because of a "confidentiality agreement" which Santilli broke by producing the above-mentioned movie.

Melarts insists that there was no Roswell cameraman and no authentic 1947 footage at all. He had merely wanted to pull off a world-class illusion, with the help of a master sculptor named John Humphries. The plan was to confess the hoax back in 1995, after only a few weeks - but Santilli would not allow him to do so, because of the above-mentioned "confidentiality agreement".

Legal action between the two camps is sure to be forthcoming very soon. In the meanwhile we finally know for sure (as if there was ever a reasonable doubt!) that the film was nothing more than a sophisticated hoax...

- A few issues back we told you about how Chilean ufologist Antonio Huneus almost lost a lifetime of UFO & related files, by falling behind on the payments for a storage unit near his residence in New York City.

The storage company put Antonio's belongings up for auction, and they were acquired by a greedy woman who wanted \$50,000 to give them back to the owner. She finally settled for much less, and luckily a friend of his put up the needed money.

Antonio is living in Virginia now, and doing better financially than in recent years. He has appeared as a speaker at several recent UFO conventions. We wish him well!...

- The new October 2007 issue of "UFO Magazine" is "interesting", as always, and we call your attention to three items therein.

First, there is a very long letter to the editor from famed abduction guru Budd Hopkins, in which he severely bashes famed ufologist Whitley Strieber. Both of these gentlemen are known for their emotionalism and god-given ability to take themselves Very Seriously Indeed. One of the issues is whether or not Whitley's wife once admitted publicly that all of her husband's books are fiction - not just the ones clearly labeled as fiction.

Secondly, the cover informs us of "A Real Alien on Page 40". There is no such thing on Page 40, but on Pages 42 and 43 there are photos of "something" in the woods of Puerto Rico. These pictures are subliminal, and look like they were taken by someone like Erik Beckjord!

Finally, toward the back of the zine, there is a long-winded interview of UFO author Ray Fowler by prolific ufologist Nick Redfern. Fowler is the author of many UFO books, several of which concern the abduction syndrome of a lady named Betty Andreassen. Whereas Betty & Barney Hill are famous for just one "classic" abduction, Betty Andreassen has allegedly experienced an unending series of weird events over a period of many years.

Betty's current husband is named Bob Luca, and (as posted on the Net) someone calling himself "Wintermuse X9" is threatening to expose how Betty & Bob have been hoaxing things all along! He is receiving his information from a very troubled youth named Bob Luca Junior. This forthcoming book, or whatever format the expose happens to take, will be most interesting indeed.

- We are delighted to recommend to you a new book called "Unexplained Phenomena", co-authored by Bob Rickard and another British intellectual named John Michell. Rickard was the founder, in 1973, of England's delightful "Fortean Times" Magazine. We have met this wonderful researcher at the two "UnConventions" we spoke at in London, in 1997 and 2002.

This soft-cover tome is 450 pages long, and if we told you we have read it, we would be lying profoundly. All we can tell you is that it covers most, if not all, of the mysteries that interested the late, great Charles Fort, and which hopefully are of interest to "Smear" readers. Say the authors: "The nature of the world and of our existence are quite different from that which we were taught at school. The reality is far more interesting, humorous and expansive than any religious or rational scientific world-view can possibly accommodate."

Admittedly, we are heavily influenced by the fact that "Fortean Times" gave our 2002 UFO book "Shockingly Close to the Truth!" a rating of 9 out of 10, plus a glowing review. Bless the British intellectual anti-Establishment!

LETTRES TO YE OLDE EDITOR

- STANTON FRIEDMAN, who (probably) needs no introduction, writes:



In response to your question concerning supposed comments at the UFO Extravaganza held in September in Charleston, WV, Frank Feschino Jr., Author of "Shoot Them Down: The Flying Saucer Air Wars of 1952", absolutely did NOT say that over 200 US military jets were shot down by UFOs with the loss of almost 200 lives. The journalist made a mistake. The book doesn't say that either. I heard his presentations as I was there and spoke as well.. Frank has documented more than 200 military plane losses reported by the New York Times in the first half of the 1950s. The Times used such words as disintegrated and disappeared. Some pilots had more than 100 combat missions in Korea, but crashed over the US where there were no MIGs attacking. Frank documents something most of us old timers had missed, namely that orders had been issued to shoot down UFOs if they don't land when instructed to do so. I will enclose a couple of pages from the book giving the references. The head of the American Rocket Society, a man named Farnsworth, even complained to President Truman that he didn't think that was a good policy. The reporter made a mistake in an otherwise excellent article. I should take note of the fact that Saucer Smear had mistakenly reported that the event was to take place in a small town. (probably thinking of Flatwoods or Sutton). As it happens, the extravaganza was held in Charleston, the largest city in, and Capitol of, West Virginia.

I also will enclose copies of some maps of New Mexico clearly showing that contrary to a rumor, there really is a town called Corona. It is the nearest "town" to the debris field found on the Foster Ranch by Mack Brazel in early July, 1947, and visited by Major Jesse Marcel on July 6/7, 1947, as described in the book "Crash at Corona: The Definitive Study of the Roswell Incident" by myself and Don Berliner. Autographed copies are still available for only \$15 (including postage) from me at POB 958, Houlton, ME 04730-0958 or via my website at www.stantontfriedman.com.

Editor's Note: Near the top of Page 5 of our iast issue, "Smear" correctly stated that this convention took place at a theatre in Charleston, WV. We are sincerely grateful for the above clarification about interplanetary warfare, but still, this all sounds sensationalistic to say the least! The "War of the Worlds" has not yet started in real life.

- Researcher CHRIS ROTH writes as follows:

"...I agree with you and Nick Redfern: If there is ever Open Contact, ufologists will be more irrelevant than ever. Many ufologists, toiling in obscurity, feel that if an official announcement of Contact is made, they will be able to quit their day jobs, put on a jumpsuit, and walk up the ramp like Richard Dreyfus at the end of 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind'. In reality, most Americans will be more interested in what televangelists and politicians have to say about it, than to hear David Jacobs or Stan Friedman say 'I told you so'. Especially since, if that day were to

come, the reality would be something that no one, not even ufologists, expected. (Which is not to say anything against Jacobs and Friedman.)"

- KEVIN RANDLE, Ph.D. writes as follows: The context is this: In one of his blogs, Randle went on about people who lie about their military background, and he included a man named Sonny Desverges in this category. However, he failed to mention that Desverges had a "classic" UFO sighting/contact in 1952.

You have found no great conspiracy here. The original article was about men who invented tales of their military experience and Sonny was a good example. I had the statements he had made to others about his Marine heroics, including that he had claimed to be a "flying sergeant" something the Marines did have in the 1940s (but you had to be sergeant and not a PFC). If you had read the article closely, you would have noticed that I said I had originally written it for a veteran's organization forgetting that they live and die by their membership and they are not willing to challenge the fakers because those fakers pay their dues. So, in the original, there was no real need to connect Sonny to the UFO sightings. I'll probably add a note about this into the article for those who see it sometime later.

And, of course, the point of the article was to point out fakers and not necessarily talk about UFO sightings. Again, I mention Civil War fakers and Vietnam fakers. The real point was to show that some believe that appending a military rank to the name increases credibility. Some people create mythical organizations and promote themselves to colonel in it in an attempt to prove their credibility.

- Researcher JERRY LUCCI writes.

"If the dwarfs (see Argentine sighting, P. 3 of Sept. 20th 'Smear') had come out of a saucer instead of a tree, every ufologist in the world would be investigating, in the bedroom, bathroom, etc. No saucer, no interest!

"I hereby challenge any Serious Ufologist to produce any evidence at all that the phenomena we call 'UFOs' is outer space related! All winning entries will receive a lifetime paid non-subscription to 'Smear'..."

- Skeptic MICHAEL DENNETT writes:

"Many thanks for the information contained in the most recent 'Smear'. Without 'Smear' how would we know that a television show never broadcast was about a ghost story in, of all places, Roswell, N.M. Imagine my surprise when I learned that the ghost was not a deceased human but a space alien. Because we didn't get to see the show there are many questions left unanswered. Were these ghosts grays? If so, were they supposed to appear as standard white human ghosts or would they retain their original color?

"Do you really think a Stanton T. Friedman hour is a good idea? I first heard Stanton talk at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. in 1980. His pitch at the time was his participation in the Bill Moore book on Roswell. Since then he has continued to promote the Roswell tale, and more recently he has gone on to sponsor the MJ-12 documents. Here is my question: If the Supreme Commander thinks both of these issues (Roswell and MJ-12) are bogus, then what is the reason for giving Stan his own hour? Should not Bill Moore, who has promoted Roswell and gave us MJ-12 also get time for promoting the wrong ideas??

'Please pass on my thanks to George Earley. I can now stop paying royalties on the use of the alphabet. And when are we going to see another of Matt Graeber's terrific cartoons?'

Graeber has health problems that made him stop cartooning, but he still sends us other great stuff, like the ghostly video referred to above. Again, our thanks to him and to all the others who help us produce "Smear". - Editor.



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Please note that letters for Smear editor James Moseley should be snail-mailed to PO Box 1709, Key West, FL 33041, insofar as Cdr. Moseley is proudly computer-illiterate and determined to stay that way.



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