
SEE OUR JOHN KEEL OBITUARY ON PAGE 3 .

"You are.....a boil on the ass of ufology!"

- JOHN KEEL, writing in the March 25th, 1977 issue of "Saucer Glues" (one of the former names of "Saucer Smear")

DEDICATED TO THE HIGHEST PRINCIPLES
OF UFOLOGICAL JOURNALISM

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-
- [NEWS BRIEFIES](#)
 - [FORTEAN WRITER JOHN KEEL IS DEAD AT AGE 79](#)
 - [ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST](#)
 - [MORE NEWS BRIEFIES](#)
 - [MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES](#)
-

NEWS BRIEFIES

- **Y**our humble editor very recently had his first meeting, face-to-face, with our esteemed Contributing Editor Vince Ditchkus of Virginia and his charming wife Marion. They were on a short vacation visiting relatives, and decided to make their first-ever visit to the Florida Keys.

Vince feels, as we do, that most of the internet material he sends us is factually deficient, but that a small percentage of UFO sightings in the world represent a truly unknown phenomenon.

We intended to publish a photo of Vince together with your editor, but semi-mysteriously the picture came out much too dark to reproduce here. Or, it may have been simply because we neglected to use a flash!

Even so, it was a very enjoyable visit from the Ditchkus pair, which may be repeated early next year...

- Our olde pal Larry Bryant is becoming quite a celebrity! Wearing his utterly weird fake screw-in eyeballs, he is seen on the cover of the latest "UFO Magazine", being kissed on the cheek by an unknown woman named Tonia Madenford (=fake name??) Larry has spent a lifetime valiantly fighting the government on behalf of releasing more UFO information to the public. However, if he really wants to be taken seriously, it is odd indeed that he so often poses with these ridiculous glass eyeballs. Is he just trying to get attention?
- This was the gala 150th issue of Bill Birnes' "UFO Magazine", with the usual stable of editorial writers, some more nearly coherent than others. Other highlights include this ad for a UFO detector. Note that batteries are not included! Wheee!...
- Another death in the paranormal field: Hans Holzer was for many years a very famous writer and investigator, primarily on the subject of ghosts. He wrote over 140 books about ghosts, the occult, and other paranormal subjects in the course of his long lifetime. He also served as a parapsychology professor at the New York Institute of Technology. He was 89 years old at the time of his death.

His "passing" is noted briefly in the May-June issue of Fate Magazine, which is primarily devoted to ghosts and such. Says the editor: "The contributions made by Holzer to further the understanding of the strange and unknown aspects of our world will be long remembered, and he will be missed."

Your "Smear" editor did not know Holzer at all, though he occasionally spoke at UFO conventions...

- The Battelle Memorial Institute, whatever its connection with the mysterious metal Nitinol may have been, was definitely the author of the famous 1954 publicly-released Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14. This document concluded that 21.5% of the UFOs studied by the Blue Book program were unknowns, rather than the official Air Force figure of 3%. No mention is made therein of Roswell or any other saucer crashes.

Dr. Leon Davidson, an atomic chemist who strangely believed the whole saucer mystery is merely a CIA hoax, took it upon himself to publish the uncopyrighted Report #14, together with his own lengthy introduction, and distribute it widely at a profit to himself (=not to the government.) Your editor knew "Dr. D." as he was called, and found him to be a very interesting character.

Incidentally, rumors persist that there was also a Project Blue Book Report #13. (The original series ended with #12, for some reason.) The late William Cooper and one or two other unreliable researchers claimed to have seen #13, which contained sensational references to crashed aliens and such, though nothing of the sort exists in #1-#12 or #14. The consensus is that there never was a #13.

Another interesting fact is this: Many hard-core ufologists always insisted that the "good stuff" on UFOs was not part of the Blue Book study, and it turns out, amazingly, that they were right for once. In a 1969 document released in 1979 under the Freedom of Information Act, one General Bolender acknowledges: "Reports of unidentified flying objects which could affect national security are made in accordance with JANAP 146...and are not part of the Blue Book system."

We find all of the above to be very interesting indeed. Among the many ufological myths and legends, there really are a few undisputed facts...

- Who Built the Moon? This book, co-authored by Christopher Knight and Alan Butler, asks the questions: Could it be that the Moon is artificial, or even hollow? And, if so, who was the architect?

Though the answers are probably negative, the questions above are indeed intriguing. Says Knight: "The Moon is not only extremely odd in its construction, it also behaves in a way that is nothing less than miraculous. It is exactly four hundred times smaller than the Sun but four hundred times closer to Earth, so that both appear to be precisely the same size in our sky. This had been called the biggest coincidence in the Universe.

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"Furthermore, the Moon mirrors the movement of the Sun in the sky by rising and setting at the same point on the horizon as the Sun does at the opposite solstice. This means the Moon rises at midwinter at the same place the Sun does in midsummer. There is a logical reason why the Moon mimics the Sun in this way, and it is only meaningful to a human standing on the Earth."

Knight raves on: "Not only is the Moon an apparently impossible object, it has some unique benefits for us humans. It has been nothing less than an incubator for life. If the Moon were not exactly the size, mass and distance that it has been at each stage of the Earth's evolution, there would be no intelligent life here. Scientists are agreed that we owe everything to the Moon."

We are not sure just how many legitimate scientists agree about this, but it is certainly Food for Thought!...

Our thanks to Vince Ditchkus for the above, and many other items in this issue...

On a more somber note, an Internet item dated June 19th from exopolitics.com gives us more Food for Thought:

There is (apparently) an October 9th, 2009 bombing of the Moon being planned by NASA! One of their orbiters will attack the Moon with a two-ton "kinetic weapon", to create a 5-mile-wide deep crater as an alleged water-seeking and lunar colonization experiment. This, however, is contrary to specific "space law" that prohibits environmental modification of celestial bodies.

The article goes on to say that this may "trigger conflict with known extraterrestrial civilizations on the Moon", which is absurd. However, the bombing plan is utterly obscene and should be dropped. It seems that Amerika has no higher goal these days than to destroy!...

- While the U.S.A. (in spite of Stephen Bassett) continues to withhold a great deal of UFO info., other nations proceed on a much more praiseworthy course. However, it should be noted that these countries probably don't have nearly as much to "hide" as we do.

The "Inexplicata" headline (that's Net-talk for "Unexplained") reads: "Uruguay: Air Force Declassifies UFO Files; ET Hypothesis Not Dismissed."

Thirty years after official research began, 40 cases in that small South American country remain unexplained. The files have been declassified, and a civilian research group has been allowed access to them. These 40 cases are part of approximately 2100 "solid reports", most of which have been dismissed for various reasons. There are landing reports and even abductions chronicled in these interesting files.

The chief military officer in this investigation states: "The UFO phenomenon exists in our country. I must stress that our Air Force does not dismiss the extraterrestrial hypothesis based on our scientific analysis."

Meanwhile in much larger Brazil, over 600 new pages of previously classified documents from 1970 to 1979 were released in early May of this year. This is in addition to over 1,400 pages of documents already declassified. As in Uruguay, rational-appearing civilian researchers helped greatly in causing this to happen.

If Stephen Bassett would only move to the charming little island of Granada, for instance, we think he could achieve his goal of "full disclosure" - at least locally...

FORTEAN WRITER JOHN KEEL IS DEAD AT AGE 79



We say "Fortean writer", because Keel did not consider himself to be a ufologist. In fact he often said that all ufologists are crazy, and he became extremely angry when compared to them. Keel was at least a little crazy himself, especially in his last years. However, his various books made a very important contribution to our culture.

His "ultraterrestrials" were a meaningful way to express the enigma of the truly weird intelligence behind UFOs and paranormal phenomena. In rejecting the extraterrestrial theory, Keel was way ahead of his time. On the other hand, it has been correctly said that Keel's negative personality made him "go to the dark side too quickly". The "ultraterrestrials" are not necessarily here to harm us. Actually, we haven't an idea why they are here or what they want from Mankind, if anything!

Keel suffered from poverty and ill health for many years before his death on July 3rd of this year. He lived in a cramped rent-controlled apartment in Manhattan, unable to churn out books in the 1990s and thereafter as he had done in earlier years. He continued to write articles, especially for Fate Magazine, where he was a star performer.

His best-known book, called "The Mothman Prophecies", about the strange goings-on in West Virginia around 1967, was made into a major motion picture in 2002. Keel received at least \$80,000 for this, which, incredibly, he managed to run through in a very short time.

Keel died at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, after having spent several weeks in a nearby nursing home. He eventually left the nursing home, possibly due to lack of funds or unbearable conduct. Thus he was alone back in his apartment in his last days. He deliberately avoided contact with most of his small circle of friends.

Your editor invited Keel as a speaker at our giant 1967 convention at the Commodore Hotel in Manhattan. We gave him our "Ufologist of the Year" award and also got him onto the prestigious Today Show on TV; but for obscure reasons he held both of these things against us!

Our relationship with John Keel went downhill after that. There is much more we could say, but what good would it do?...

On July 10th, the podcast called Paracast (do we have that right?) recorded a 3-hour radio show in memory of Keel. Was it a Tribute, a Memorial, a "Roast", or Just a Rant? We don't know, but we were there by telephone together with five other writers/researchers who are well known in the paranormal/Fortean/UFO fields. They were cryptozoologist Loren Coleman, UFO historian Jerry Clark, prolific supernatural (?) writer Brad Steiger, Tim Beckley (= "Mr. UFO"), and Fortean investigator Curt Sutherly.

Your editor was quite seriously surprised by the degree of antagonism toward Keel expressed by these people who were supposedly among his best friends and closest associates. While Keel's "outer circle" fans, who didn't know him personally, continue to worship his writings (we still get a lot of letters to "Smear" about this), people who really knew him felt sorry for him at best, but didn't really like him all that much.

Your editor is in this category.

Since six of us (plus two co-hosts) were on the air at the same time, it was hard to know who was talking at a given moment. Someone said that Keel, in his last years, suffered from dementia. A little later Jerry Clark stated quite clearly that Keel had accused him of having been in and out of mental hospitals all his life - or words to that effect.

We thought Clark must be exaggerating, until we looked up in "Smear" the last letter we received from Keel. It was printed in our January IO, 2007 issue, and is a typical example of Keel's bitter humor and bitter accusations. It reads in full:

"Dear Boil:

MOTHMAN

He didn't want to leave her
He never wanted to leave Allentown, Pennsylvania.

But he had to go back for her High School ring
in his Little Douce Coupe
stalled on the railroad tracks.

He was SO sure he could beat the 409

She wore black for 2 years
but later married Fred
who owned his own grocery.

He was glad she had done well,
but in the nights
his cartilage would itch like crazy

and he'd slip one more time
through the dimensional portal,
a great big man with wings-

Mothman to the children
and the host of THE UNEXPLAINED on KFFX-
a Moth Man
driven back-
to his old flame.

GAIL AGGEN
November 28, 1993

"The hospital lost my dentures! So I have been gumming my way through the Fall Season. They are feeding me gruel and oatmeal.

"I'm giving you this big scoop so you can outdo Clark, Coleman, and all of the other victims of dementia out there."

Thus Jerry Clark was apparently correct regarding Keel's accusations against him! "Boil", by the way, refers to "Boil on the Ass of Ufology". As our present masthead shows, we have again used this Keel quote from a 1977 letter. We have used it on the masthead many times over the past thirty years or so. During those years, Keel's letters to us kept getting worse, as if he was daring us to print them. We printed all of them in full, except part of one that libeled someone else. Eventually Keel realized we would keep printing his libel against us no matter how extreme it was, so he basically stopped writing.

People might wonder, as we do, why Keel disliked us so much. We really don't know!

Hopefully by now, whether "six feet under" or in a "Better Place", this troubled individual has finally found Peace...

P.S: Perhaps Keel's worst faux pas of all in regard to Serious Research was his unique explanation for the Roswell Incident.. He always insisted that it was a Fugo (not Mogul) balloon. These Fugo balloons were sent across the Pacific Ocean during World War II with explosives the Japanese hoped would blow up Americans on our West Coast. Apparently one of them killed six people toward the end of the War. Hopefully the Japanese stopped sending them as soon as the War ended in August, 1945. So how did one crash near Roswell, New Mexico in June or July of 1947 - almost two years later?? Perhaps it somehow hung suspended in mid-air for all that time!

ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST

UFO researcher Richard ("DICK") Hall, age 78, died of cancer on July 17th of this year, Just as we were preparing to comment on him in this issue for other reasons.

Hall was an important researcher for a very long time indeed, and you can read about his contributions to ufology elsewhere.

In 2004, our friend the late Karl Pflock was kind enough to orchestrate a "50th Anniversary Roast Page" on the Net for your humble "Smear" editor. By coincidence we were just now corresponding about this Roast with Tim Printy, editor of the new skeptical zine called "SUNlite".

We conclude this obituary with a quote from Printy's July 13th letter to us. The emphasis (=underlining is ours):

I enclose some printouts of the roast webpage. I finally did a search of the phrase and it took me directly to the Saucer Smear website and Volume 51 No. 10. December 1 st 2004. In your very newsletter, you wrote about this. Quote:

Hall is a very bright but emotionally challenged individual, with whom we have clashed since the 1950s. Recently there was a "roast" on the internet for your "Smear" editor, in honor of his fifty years in ufology. In this context, Karl Pflock stated.' "Love him or hate him, there's no denying that Jim Moseley, for better or worse, has been and remains a Presence in ufology". To this, Hall replied: "Yes, like a steaming turd on the living room carpet..." We should add that most comments in the "roast" were considerably more complimentary than this. Modesty prevents us from repeating them here. As for Hall, we have not spoken to him in a very long time - but not long enough!

MORE NEWS BRIEFIES

- Another Gift of Technology from the Space People? There is no reference made to UFOs, but a July 22nd newspaper article tells us of a new "wonder material that has scientists abuzz". Its properties are similar to but even more amazing than those of Nitinol - the indestructible material supposedly developed from the metal found at the Roswell crash site.

This latest stuff is a carbon sheet only one atom thick, but stronger than diamond. It conducts electricity a hundred times faster than the silicon in computer chips. It is called Graphene, and is the thinnest known material in the universe, and the strongest ever measured. A few grams of it could cover a football field. Despite its strength, it is as flexible as plastic wrap, and can be bent, folded, or rolled up!

Graphene will not replace silicon in computer electronics for a very long time, however, as silicon is a multi-billion dollar industry...

- News on the "Skeptical" front: According to an urgent rant from "Skeptical Inquirer" (or "Skeptical Enquirer" as we like to call it), these well-heeled cynics may have to cut back to four issues per year instead of six. We readers are urged to send money pronto to prevent this potential tragedy. The bad economy is given as the reason, but maybe the zine is just plain dull!...

And, James Randi's "Million Dollar Challenge" (MDC) re proving psychic powers is not going to end next year after all. The Randi organization is in the process of "examining how the MDC can be improved, streamlined, and made more efficient, so that it can better test claims of the paranormal...

- Now we want to say something nice (rather than mean) about a little-known outstanding UFO researcher who is still alive (rather than dead).

At age 85, John Timmerman of Lima, Ohio is seven years older than your humble "Smear" editor, and has been interested in the UFO subject for about seven years longer than we have.

John is not dogmatic about flying saucers or anything else, though he firmly believes that something real and worthy of continued study is going on.

Over the years John has been closely associated with CUFOS (Center for UFO Studies - founded by Dr. J. Allen Hynek), and he used to have a traveling ufological display which he exhibited in shopping malls in his area and even as far away as China and Japan.

John Timmerman very recently was honored with several awards at a public meeting of his local research group in Lima. He was described very accurately as "a true gentleman, ufologist, and all-around good guy". Indeed, he seems to be a real Christian in the best sense of the word, rather than in any dogmatic sort of way. We doubt very much if he would ever have described a fellow researcher in print as "a steaming turd on the living room carpet", as the late Richard Hall described your "Smear" editor!

We only met John in person a couple of times. His picture is in our classic book, "Shockingly Close to the Truth:", but unfortunately with the wrong caption under it. We will correct this error in the second edition, though there are likely to be mass landings of alien creatures long before the second edition!

In any case, here's to you, John Timmerman! May you long continue to help us all grope for ufological Truth...

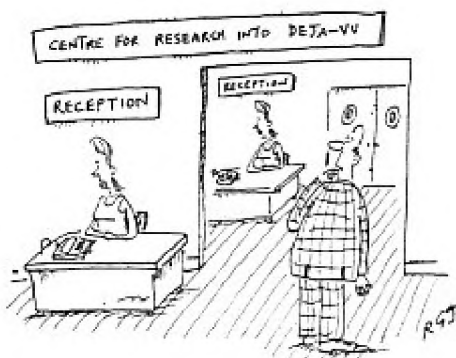
- Finally - a wild Net item credited to Erich von Daniken of Ancient Astronauts fame. According to this story, Arizona lawmen chased a crippled UFO over the border into Mexico back in 1889, and the aliens thereon abducted one member of the posse! This tale was told by an eyewitness named Jorge Hernandez as he was being given last rites by a Catholic priest in 1971. Hernandez was 107 years old at the time of his death. He had been a member of the posse.

We were going to include more details here, but we just noticed that this item is from the website of "Weekly World News", so its scientific value approaches zero. Maybe we will rewrite the story and submit it to "UFO Magazine"....

See you next issue, if the Space People permit!

Happy 40th Anniversary, MUFON!

'Are you ready for a world of challenge...
a world of ambiguity and adventure?'
THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, in a
new radio recruitment ad



MISSIVES FROM THE MASSES

- Shortly after the Keel Paranet radio show, we received the following letter from JERRY CLARK, which we sincerely appreciate:

I meant what I said about you. In other words, there will be no unfriendly words spoken or written by me of you once you have joined John Keel in that Fortean Society in the sky. In the past - and I mean the past, which is where they remain - occasional irritated sentiments have been expressed on my side and yours, but as far as I'm concerned they amounted to little except the usual occasional modest bumps in the road of social interaction between the firmly opinionated.

After the show was over, I wondered if we'd been *too* negative, but I noticed some commentary on the Paracast website where listeners said they'd found the show riveting and refreshing precisely because we did not engage in tedious hagiography.

Keel's inflated reputation has mystified me for years. Perhaps, as I suggested, it was a consequence of his outsized personality. Maybe people have assumed that anybody with that much blustering certainty - not to mention blistering contempt for anybody who might presume to disagree - must be on to something. Long, long ago I (and you, too, obviously) figured out that it ain't necessarily so.

His detestation of me, I have long speculated, may have arisen from rage and resentment generated by my refusal to become his designated successor. Admittedly, the offer was made many years ago, probably in the early 1970s, but Keel had a long memory and loved to hold grudges. What happened was that as I grew up, I outgrew Keel. I matured sufficiently to discern his many shortcomings and the essential craziness of his beliefs. Even so, I harbored no personal animosity until in due course I learned of his apparent desire to crush whatever good reputation I have earned. No doubt some people who adored Keel and knew little more of me than he told them do indeed believe I suffer from advanced clinical dementia. Or, as he also claimed, that I have lived with my mother all of my adult life.

It was something of a relief to hear the testimony of others, including your good self, that my experience of Keel was hardly unique.

- DR. GARY POSNER, of Tampa Bay (Florida) Skeptics writes as follows:

"In your June 1st 'Smear' of me, you alleged, without elaboration, that I 'did not really know Phil Klass.' Now, in your patriotic July 5th issue, you acknowledge that I at least was 'loosely associated with...the late Phil Klass, for whom (Posner) did proofreading for many years.'

"Well, OK, You got me. Unlike you, apparently, I never knew Phil - in the biblical sense. But as for having had no significant relationship with him save for lowly proofreading duties in the shadows, I am enclosing copies of Phil's inscriptions to me in three of his books. (I didn't send the one calling me 'An asshole whom I will forever regret having met').

"Note that two of them were inscribed on April 23rd and 25th, 1989, in Tampa (where I live) - 11 years after he picked me up in Baltimore (where I resided at the time) on his way from Washington to a speaking engagement at the University of Delaware, and we had our first extended (they even put us up in a dorm overnight), non-proofreading, personal (though non-biblical) intercourse..."

Editor's Note: This is a weird letter indeed! It is true that we did not know Klass "In the biblical sense", nor did we know James Randi "in the biblical sense", nor even (Gasp!) the late Gray Barker. Your editor is, believe it or not, "Straight", as was Klass! - Incidentally, the U. of Delaware was the only college, out of over a hundred that your editor spoke at, that invited us to speak twice, several months apart. Doesn't this mean they would accept just about anybody??

- KATHY KASTEN, who tells us she reads every word printed in "Smear", writes as follows about Roswell:

"...There were many different government experiments taking place in southeastern New Mexico during the 1940s. I am not telling you anything you possibly don't know already. Some of those experiments might have involved humans. The book I wrote, and hopefully will be published soon, discusses this type of experiment in detail..."

- In a recent letter, TIM PRINTY of "SUNlite" writes:

"...As for my opinions about UFOs, I will admit that there are cases I find truly puzzling, but just because they remain 'unidentified' does not mean they are alien spaceships! As for Matt Graeber's 'conversion', I can only speak from what I know. You have known Matt much longer than I have. He gave me his cartoon collection for use, and you will see a few in the newsletter.

"Reading your newsletter, I noticed that you called me a - gasp - 'debunker'. I always wondered about the use of that term, and how it became a term used to denigrate skeptics. I guess we will have to agree to disagree on this matter.

"Finally, you mentioned Kal K. Korff in your newsletter. Kal contacted me a few years ago, trying to let me put my Roswell page on his web site. I sort of felt dirty when I read the e-mail. I politely refused his offer and told him I was satisfied with my web page as it existed. When I first was interested in Roswell in 1997, I had contacted Kal and we had some rather cordial e-mail exchanges, However, over the past few years, he seems to have lost it. The videos I saw of him describing Roswell and Kevin Randle were just plain awful. Randle is no saint and I think he is very gullible when it comes to Roswell. However, Korff was just way out there, and was just as bad as any die-hard UFO believer (not UFO proponent) I have ever seen. Of course, this is just my opinion..."

- Roswell scholar JERRY LUCCI writes:

"...Up until five years ago I was fairly certain that Mogul and some imagination accounted for Roswell. (This despite the fact that, back in 1980, Bill Moore told me in no uncertain terms that Prof. Charles Moore was quite certain that Mogul balloons were not part of the Roswell Incident.) At that time I had the opportunity through a private collector to examine one of these balloons. Believe me - no one in 1947, 1937, or 1897 for that matter, could mistake this material for anything other than what it is! So, with great reluctance, I attempted to backtrack in an unbiased manner, back to July, 1947.

"A few basic facts:

"(1) Starting with the original press release, the words Disc/Disk are used frequently. Why?? No mention of debris, wreckage, etc.

"(2) Several press releases in the first 48 hours are so full of contradictions that I was astounded that I did not notice them the first time around. (That does tend to happen when one is looking for E.T.)

"(3) It has always bothered me greatly that absolutely no paper trail exists. I have been told by several military people of rank (who do not believe in E.T.) that it would be impossible that no government/military agency did not exchange reports, etc. And in fact the report that was done on site by Cavett (I believe) has never surfaced!

"(4) The AF report 'Case Closed' - In it they state that Roswell was probably a Mogul balloon - and this is based on research and opinions of the late Robert Todd. No reports have ever surfaced that link the two together!...

"So, at this time, I am 99% certain (never say 100%) that ships from outer space were not responsible for Roswell. At the same time I am 90% sure that far more than a Mogul balloon has caused all this aroma and mystery!

"Thus it is probably (a) some fantastic paranormal event; (b) plain old Mogul; or (c) some type of military experiment involving humans..."



[Saucer Smear](#)
[Index](#)



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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