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SKEPTICS' UFO NEWSLETTER (SUN):

#1

"Smoking Gun" discovered which proves that "Top Secret" MJ-12 (crashed saucer) papers are counterfeit. A person's handwritten signature is like a snowflake--no two are ever identical. Thus, "identical signatures" are proof that one is a forgery, or that both have been produced by a "signature machine." One of the MJ-12 papers purports to be a memo, dated Sept. 24, 1947, from President Truman to Defense Secretary Forrestal. But this MJ-12 signature is identical to one on an authentic Truman letter to Dr. Vannevar Bush, written Oct. 1, 1947, located in the Bush collection in the Library of Congress. In signing the Bush letter, Truman's hand accidentally skidded in writing the second vertical stroke of the letter "H". The identical skid mark is found on the MJ-12 Truman signature.

Full details will be found in the soon-to-be-published Winter 1989-1990 issue of Skeptical Inquirer. Article will also include new evidence to show that another MJ-12 document--a memo from Robert Cutler to Gen. Nathan Twining, which Moore and Jaime Shandera say they found in The National Archive--is also a phoney.

In the process of obtaining independent confirmation from a recognized document examiner in New York, I learned that he had earlier concluded that the MJ-12 Truman letter was a counterfeit because the purported 1947 memo was written on a Smith Corona typewriter that was not introduced until 15 years later--in 1963. Furthermore, that he had earlier made this known to William L. Moore, who made the MJ-12 papers public in the spring of 1987. After comparing the authentic and MJ-12 Truman signatures, the document examiner called Moore's associate Stanton T. Friedman to inform him that the MJ-12 memo was a counterfeit.

Earlier this year, Friedman--who has been the most outspoken proponent of the authenticity of the MJ-12 papers--received a \$16,000 grant to research MJ-12 paper authenticity from the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR). Will Friedman's final report, due soon, include the negative (counterfeit) findings of the New York document examiner with whom he and Moore have been working?

Whitley Strieber's new movie "Communion" made its debut on Nov. 10, according to a nearly full-page color advertisement in the Nov. 14 edition of the National Enquirer. The Atlanta Constitution's movie critic commented that Strieber's film "should appeal to that tiny segment of moviegoers... who've always wanted to see Oscar-winner Christopher Walken undergo an alien rectal probe..." (Please send reviews from your local paper.)

Budd Hopkins, chief guru of "UFO abductions" and author of the book "Intruders," has formed new UFO group which will focus on the "abduction phenomenon". It is called The Intruders Foundation, or "IF". IF plans to publish a quarterly IF Bulletin, "for abductees, UFO investigators, hypnotists, psychologists, physicians and anyone personally or professionally interested in the UFO abduction phenomenon."

Hopkins' promotion material, dated June 20, distributed at the 1989 MUFON conference in Las Vegas, said that "a \$25 contribution to IF insures your membership and receipt of at least four copies of the IF Bulletin." But one person who promptly contributed has yet to receive his first issue as of December.

Lest existing UFO groups be concerned about a potential new rival, Hopkins said his new group "will cooperate fully and non-competitively with the Mutual UFO Network [MUFON] and the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies [CUFOS]." (Emphasis added.)

Whitley Strieber, who split with Hopkins--his former mentor--has also launched a quarterly newsletter, called The Communion Letter, and has published two issues. Subscription price is \$20.00. (The Communion Letter, P.O. Box 1975, Boulder, Colo., 80306-1975.)

Although Strieber doesn't mention Hopkins by name, he is critical of his modus operandi. For example, in the first issue,--referring to the "abductee" self-help groups which Hopkins has formed around the country--Strieber cautions against "groups that have been formed by people with strong beliefs about who the visitors are and what they are doing" [Hopkins claims UFO-nauts are engaged in genetic experiments.] Strieber adds: "We have also found difficulties with psychologists starting groups and making people pay as they would for group therapy."

But in the next (summer, 1989) issue of The Communion Letter, Strieber reports a "dramatic response to the idea of creating Communion groups. There are active groups in Cleveland, Denver, Houston, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New York City, New Mexico, Portland, Ore., San Diego/Palm Springs and San Antonio. New groups are starting in Buffalo, Chicago, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Tennessee and two in Canada, in Edmonton and Winnipeg."

In the same issue, Whitley reported a recent nighttime encounter which prompted him to hurl a bedside night table at the (alleged) visitor, shattering the table and its lamp. Although Strieber said his wife "had a glimpse of what was going on (she) saw nothing in the room." (His emphasis)

Highlight of the 1989 MUFON conference in Las Vegas was the Saturday night speech by William L. Moore which surprised and shocked most of those in the audience. Moore's long-time collaborator Stanton Friedman, appeared as shocked as others. Unlike other MUFON speakers, Moore did not submit his paper in advance for publication in the conference proceedings. Audience was told it could be purchased after his talk for \$10.00. [If you'd like to buy a copy, write to Moore at 4219 W. Olive Ave., Suite 247, Burbank, Calif., 91505.]

In Moore's talk he claimed that he had earlier served as a government agent to infiltrate and report on the activities of APRO (Aerial Phenomenon Research Organization) and other UFOlogists and as a government disinformation agent to feed spurious information into the UFO movement. Moore "admitted" that the disinformation was responsible for the nervous breakdown of a UFOlogist in Albuquerque.

Following Moore's 1-1/2 hour talk, he and Friedman (whose speech preceded Moore's) were scheduled to respond to questions from the audience. Instead, when Moore finished he dashed off the stage and disappeared. He was not seen publicly at the conference the following day. One MUFON member, whom I encountered at the airport, summed up his reactions in these words: "Moore took careful aim at his foot, missed, and blew his head off."

UFO magazine's account of Moore's MUFON talk was headlined: "UFO Researcher's 'Confessional': Disinformation Ploy Revealed." The article quoted Barry Greenwood, editor of Just Cause UFO newsletter as saying: "In his [Moore's] speech he criticizes others for spreading disinformation, but for the last 10 years, Bill himself has been one of the biggest sources of disinformation in all UFOlogy."

When interviewed by UFO magazine, Moore rationalized his alleged role as a government mole and disinformation agent in these words: "If they hadn't found me they would have found somebody else."

In Moore's Las Vegas speech, he endorsed Whitley Strieber's UFO-abduction claims, saying "Whitley has come very close to the truth in a number of ways...gives every appearance of being a real situation..." What Moore failed to tell the audience was that he had served as a paid consultant to Strieber for his new book "Majestic"--whose theme involves MJ-12 coverup of crashed saucers and a childhood "UFO-abduction" of one of those involved in MJ-12. The book is listed as "Fiction," but in Strieber's talk-show appearances to promote the book he implies it is based on fact.

Strieber's new book "Majestic," published by Putnam, went on sale in September. A review of the book in the New Age Journal by Dennis Stacy, Editor of the MUFON UFO Journal, offers the following appraisal: "Majestic, unfortunately fails to approach its title...simply plods, bereft of either grace or majesty, peopled with figures not so much wooden as wan." (If you spot a review, please send me a photocopy.)

"Report on Communion," by Ed Conroy, published by William Morrow & Co., hit the stands on Nov. 10--coincident with the release of the movie "Communion." Conroy, a journalist, provides useful insights into Strieber's younger years via interviews with family, friends and teachers, which initially seem moderately objective.

But not until the last chapter of the book does Conroy reveal to his readers that he believes that he himself has also experienced "UFO abductions." (According to Strieber, writing in the summer issue of his newsletter, Conroy had an "encounter" with the "visitors" while an overnight guest at Strieber's cabin in upstate New York.)

Dr. Brian O'Leary, who left NASA's astronaut corps for more exotic activities, also reportedly encountered Strieber's "visitors" while a guest in his upstate N.Y. cabin. Strieber says O'Leary will describe the experience in his new book "Exploring Inner and Outer Space." The book, according to Strieber, explores "some of the directions that science must take in order to re-establish its connection with reality." (Emphasis added.)

Possibly it was intended to test the new USSR policy of "Glasnost" to determine if ET visitors would be welcomed, or shot down like KAL-007, that prompted UFOnuts to (allegedly) land in Voronezh, in late September, as reported by TASS several weeks later. President Gorbachev's planned press conference to announce the momentous event was cancelled when advisors warned that this would violate MJ-12 Treaty with the U.S., signed in 1947, under which USSR agreed to withhold UFO information and noted that the USSR always respected treaties to the letter.

In recognition of the Soviet propensity for building giant ICBMs and aircraft, giant-size UFOnuts (9-12 ft. tall) were selected for the mission to Voronezh, rather than the 4-ft. tall ones that typically are reported elsewhere. In contrast to the large-headed UFOnuts reported in the West, those at Voronezh were said to have tiny knob-size heads. (Perhaps only UFOnuts with tiny brains would want to visit the USSR.) The Oct. 12 edition of Komsomolskaya Pravda published highlights of an interview by journalist Pavel Mukhortov with the UFOnuts who told him they came from "the constellation Libra--Red Star."

According to my private sources in the KGB, the TASS editor who approved publication of the Voronezh UFO tale has been given a "Stalin Award," i.e. a one-way ticket to "Siberia-ski."

"The Gulf Breeze Sightings: The Most Astounding Multiple Sightings of UFOs in U.S. History," by Ed and Frances Walters (his wife), is title of a new book scheduled for publication in March, 1990. It is likely to generate considerable media/public interest--especially because of two dozen color UFO-photos taken by Walters with his Polaroid camera.

Most of the UFO photos--which show a craft-like object with portholes seemingly hovering near Walters' house in near or complete darkness--were shot with an old Polaroid camera which can easily be used to shoot double-exposures if the operator does not pull out the film after the first shot. Although Ed had used the camera for 17 years, he claimed to be completely unaware that it could be used to make a double-exposure.

Initially, Walters claimed the UFO photos were taken by a "Mr. X" and that he was only serving as an intermediary to transmit them to the local newspaper. Later, after several MUFON investigators seemed impressed with the photos, Ed admitted he was Mr. X, but declined to allow his name to be made public. Still later, after Ed's photos and tales of being abducted via a "blue beam," hearing UFO-nauts speaking in Spanish and their showing him pictures of nude women with extremely large bosoms were accepted by several MUFON investigators, Walters agreed to let his name be made public.

After Walt Andrus, MUFON's international director visited Gulf Breeze and interviewed Ed and Frances Walters and examined their UFO photos, he was quoted in the Gulf Breeze Sentinel as saying "this is one of the most amazing UFO cases that I have investigated in the past 30 years in the United States."

But two long-time pro-UFOlogists who participated in the MUFON investigation found disturbing discrepancies in both the UFO photos and in Walters' wild tales. One of these was Dr. Willy Smith, a long-time associate of the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek. The other was Bob Boyd, MUFON's state director for Alabama. When Smith and Boyd sharply criticized the work of more credulous MUFON investigators and expressed their view that the Gulf Breeze case was a hoax, both were expelled from MUFON.

Not surprisingly, the National Enquirer became interested in the Gulf Breeze case, but before agreeing to buy the Walters photos they submitted them to Dr. Robert Nathan, of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory for analysis because of his long-time interest in UFOs and expertise in using computers for image-enhancement. When Nathan informed the National Enquirer that he

could not endorse the authenticity of the Gulf Breeze photos, the tabloid lost interest.

In early February, 1988, Dr. Bruce Maccabee--an optical physicist employed by the U.S. Navy who heads the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR)--visited Gulf Breeze to investigate the case. Maccabee, in my opinion, is one of the nation's most technically competent and hard-working pro-UFO investigators--but, regrettably, one of the most credulous.

Maccabee borrowed Walters' old Polaroid camera, used it to create a double-exposure UFO-like photo using a yellow street-lamp. Maccabee reported at the 1988 MUFON conference that "when I showed the picture to Ed, he seemed to be convinced that I had photographed a yellow-colored UFO in roughly the same location as the UO [unidentified object] in his first five photos." When Maccabee explained that his UFO photo was a hoax double exposure, he said that Walters "gave no indication that he was aware of the double exposure technique I used."

In Maccabee's MUFON paper, he acknowledged finding anomalies in some of the Walters UFO photos, but he was able to devise explanations which he found satisfactory. Shortly thereafter, Walters accepted a \$200,000 offer from William Morrow to write a book, and Maccabee accepted Walters' offer of \$20,000 to write a chapter detailing the results of his UFO photo analysis. Budd Hopkins agreed to write the book's Introduction which strongly endorses the authenticity of the photos and the tales told by Ed and his wife.

PJK PSYCHIC PREDICTION #1: Within several months, photographic evidence will be made public that shows that Ed Walters not only knew how to use his Polaroid camera to make trick double-exposure photos but that he produced such a photo at a party some months before he made public his UFO photos.

POTPOURRI: Original title for the Walters book, "UFOs: Proof Positive" was changed after a professional photoanalyst hired by the publisher concluded that the photos did not provide "scientific proof" of the existence of craft-like UFOs...William Morrow & Co., which is publishing the Walters' Gulf Breeze book, is emerging as the nation's principal publisher of pro-UFO books, prompted by the remarkable success of "Communion," which reportedly has sold more than 2,000,000 copies in hard-cover and paperback editions. Morrow also published Strieber's sequel, "Transformation," and "ABOVE TOP SECRET: The Worldwide UFO Coverup," by Timothy Good--originally published in the U.K.

NOTE: The views expressed above are those of Philip J. Klass and do not necessarily represent those of any organization.