

TRAVIS WALTON, MIKE ROGERS DISMISS COMPLETE LACK OF ANY PHYSICAL EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM TALE OF UFO-ZAPPING:

Travis Walton and his good friend (and former boss) Mike Rogers appeared on the Larry King Live TV show on March 12 to promote the new Paramount movie "Fire in the Sky" based on claims that Travis was zapped and abducted by a UFO. During the first part of the show (before SUN's Editor joined in), they described how Travis was zapped by the UFO.

Walton: "It felt like a physical blow and I blacked out. The men on the truck said they saw a powerful bolt of energy come out of the bottom of the craft and hit me. They said it just looked like a grenade went off in front of me. They said it threw me through the air about 10 feet...they thought it had killed me...I was unconscious." (Emphasis added.)

Rogers: "Well, all of the guys described this thing that hit him as being a very powerful bolt of energy and blue flame...When it hit him it was powerful enough to knock him back...it was like they said, like an explosion going off in front of him." (Emphasis added.)

When I appeared during the next segment, Larry King asked: "Are you saying all seven of these people are lying?"

Klass: "I'm afraid we have to say that on the basis of the physical evidence--physical evidence that should have been there but was not. Now you heard Travis and Mike Rogers claim that this beam from the UFO was like a grenade exploding, fire, flame--that Travis was knocked 10 feet back. And in his book, he [Travis] claims he hit his shoulders against the rocks. Now shortly after Travis reappeared, he was given a physical examination by two medical doctors in Phoenix--Dr. Kandell and Dr. Saults. They found no bruise marks. They found no burn marks. They found no physical damage. The only thing was like a needle mark in his elbow. So there was no physical evidence.

"When--the morning after this incident allegedly occurred--when the law enforcement officers went to the site to inspect, they found all kinds of dry pine needles which--if this had actually happened--those needles would have been blasted away, they would have caught fire, they would have burned."

King: "Why are you laughing Travis?"

Walton: "WELL, BECAUSE THIS IS TYPICAL OF THE SORT OF REASONING PATTERN THIS MAN USES IN ATTACKING ALL UFO CASES. HE'S EQUATING THE ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE TO EVIDENCE OF ABSENCE. THAT'S ABSURD. THAT'S ACTUALLY A LOGICAL FALLACY."

Rogers: "He does not know the nature of this energy beam. He presumes..."

Klass: (Interrupting) "I know the nature of somebody being blasted through the air 10 feet and hitting their shoulders against the rocks. There should be bruise marks...."

[In the movie, the actor playing Travis is shown with bruise marks and lacerations because the director and script-writer (also suffering from "logical fallacy") concluded that movie viewers would expect to see such physical effects of the explosive UFO-zapping.]

CRITICS PAN "FIRE IN THE SKY" FOR DIFFERENT REASONS:

SUN predicts that Paramount Pictures' version of Travis Walton's (alleged) UFO abduction in 1975 is not likely to win many Academy Awards next year, judging from the reactions of movie critics. Here is a representative sample (movie title will be abbreviated to FITS the second time used to save space):

o FIRE IN THE SKY FAILS TO IGNITE: The new aliens-ripped-my-flesh movie, "FITS" poses a number of disturbing questions: Does James Garner dye his eyebrows? Why is D.B. Sweeney starring in movies? What does D.B. stand for, anyway? Unfortunately, this is probably not the sort of speculation writer Tracy Torme and director Robert Lieberman were shooting for. But it passes the time during this close encounter of the sleep-inducing kind...No wonder members of the audience left early at a recent free screening... [Portland Oregonian]

o FIRE IN THE SKY: ALIENS IN ARIZONA: ...Writer Tracy Torme...commits dramatic hari-kari by focusing on the domestic travails of the other loggers instead of Walton's visceral ones aboard ship... The director of "FITS" is Robert Lieberman, whose most distinguished credit is TV's "Gabriel's Fire." He's like the proverbial moth when it comes to flames: He can't stay away from them, and his career seems to be going down in same. [The Washington Post]

o "Fire in the Sky," based on an actual incident, achieves the difficult task of turning abduction by aliens into a mundane experience. With much talk and very little genuine drama or meaningful action, this dreary exercise in tabloid moviemaking is enlivened only by one compelling sequence that lasts about 10 minutes...as dramatized by screen-writer Tracy Torme, the story is about as convincing--and as dramatically complex--as a National Enquirer headline... [Louisville (Ky) Courier Journal]

o "FIRE" HAS ITS BRIGHT MOMENTS BUT MOST OF THE TIME IT FIZZLES: ...Fifteen minutes of "FITS" may be the wildest, wooliest and most harrowing flying saucer movie I've ever seen...Unfortunately the movie is nearly two hours long and the rest of it is unbearably tedious....The special effects boys did frightening A+ work, and Bill Pope's cinematography is dazzling....The rest of it is a bad TV mystery that was kidnapped for the large screen. Now I know why Paramount saturated the airwaves with commercials and used its TV show "Entertainment Tonight" to flog it shamelessly while keeping it away from critics' bloodshot eyes until the last possible minute.... [Buffalo News]

o LOST IN SPACE: ...Walton says, "I'm hoping the picture will have a cathartic effect on me. And I hope it will succeed in allowing people to be a little more open-minded." More than likely though, "FITS" will appeal to the same folks who snaffle up the National Enquirer every week, who want desperately to believe in something outside of their own experience.... [The Toronto Star]

o TALE TOO TALL FOR OWN GOOD: If good acting is the strong suit of "Fire in the Sky," then it's ironic that the story line comes across as the film's major weakness. The combination of a superior ensemble of actors and Robert Lieberman's clever direction puts a hard sheen of realism on a tale that you don't have to be a Doubting Thomas to have some doubts about. But for all their efforts, this remains a tough act to swallow, and you might wish that the drama was being pumped by something other than National Enquirer-type fuel for thought.... [Worster (MA) Telegram & Gazette]

o FIRE IN THE SKY HOKUM BUT IT'S WELL EXECUTED: ...Shame on Paramount Pictures. By disingenuously grafting the words "based on the true story" to the film's title in all of their marketing materials, they undercut the ability of a competent, capably-acted dramatic fantasy to stand on its own...the "true story" has been thoroughly discredited. You can read all about it in investigative reporter Philip J. Klass's books, UFOs: The Public Deceived (1983) and UFO-Abductions: A Dangerous Game (1988).... [The (Vancouver) Province]

- o **CHEESY ALIENS MANAGE TO DOUSE "FIRE IN THE SKY":** *The funniest thing about the alien abduction movie "FITS" is that nobody involved gives a damn about being abducted by aliens. They want to make a movie about the pathologies of small-town life, about working class men entrapped in something they don't understand and struggling to deal with it... Then the alien stuff kicks in and the movie just deflates like a pricked balloon... the alien abduction stuff is standard issue. It's all tacky and banal, going nowhere, wrenching the movie into unconvincing nonsense. [The (Baltimore) Sun]*
- o **DID A UFO REALLY SNATCH A LOGGER?** *"Fire in the Sky" has a visually stunning pulse-pounding climax: A young Arizona logger is trapped in an alien spaceship and struggles to escape the creatures that have kidnapped him. If only they had taken that sequence and built a good movie around it... If you're going to "FITS" to see a true story, you're the type of customer who made P.T. Barnum a very rich man. [Providence (RI) Journal]*
- o **"FIRE" WORTH IT ONLY FOR THE CURIOUS:** *...In an effort to pump some interest into an otherwise mediocre story, Torme and Lieberman take the audience on a flashback tour of the strange cave-like structure where a weightless Walton supposedly awoke in an ooey, gooey mess, and discovered some leather-faced space creatures. The sequence is interesting, but doesn't pack enough wallop to push "FITS" above mediocrity. [Tucson (AZ) Citizen]*
- o **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE ERSATZ KIND:** *"Fire in the Sky," a UFO movie, doesn't fly. It claims to be based on an actual case of alien abduction but the movie is as phony as a \$3 bill... Director Robert Lieberman and screenwriter Tracy Torme lay out the long, dull, predictable scenario... When, after what seems like an eternity, the big moment comes and we relive Travis' experiences aboard the mother ship, the results are disappointedly goopy.... [Los Angeles Times]*
- o **NOT MUCH SPARK TO "FIRE IN THE SKY":** *"Fire in the Sky," the latest abducted-by-aliens movie, is no "Close Encounters." It's hardly any encounter at all... James Garner turns up as a hotshot sheriff, and it's a measure of the clunky writing by Tracy Torme and the clumsy direction by Robert Lieberman that he seems ill at ease doing the same old stuff he always does. [The Boston Globe]*
- o **BY-THE-NUMBERS SCI-FI NIGHTMARE:** *...UFO experts appear as crazed kooks with as much human feeling as the aliens they are supposed to be studying... [San Francisco Examiner]*
- o **"FIRE IN THE SKY" ALIEN TO ALL BUT TRUE BELIEVERS:....** *Diehard saucer buffs-and-believers will take it all at face value; this is a film that preaches to the UFO-converted, and they will likely love every minute of it. [Syracuse (NY) Herald Journal]*

[Our thanks to those who responded to SUN's request to send us reviews of "FITS" from their local newspapers. A special note of appreciation to BARRY GREENWOOD, editor of "Just Cause" newsletter, who visited his local library to read the reviews in more than a dozen major newspapers and was kind enough to send us photocopies.]

TORME PREDICTS MOVIE WILL CONVERT MANY TO BELIEVE IN UFOS:

Five days before "FITS" opened across the country, Tracy Torme was interviewed on "UFOs Tonite," a weekly one-hour talk show on Cable Radio Network (CRN) hosted by Don Ecker (research director for UFO Magazine). Torme predicted his new film would generate widespread news media interest in UFOs. Torme said Paramount gave an advance preview in Los Angeles "for the foreign press and the people from Cable News Network, British Broadcasting Company, New York Times, Time-Warner. There were a small number of people from MUFON Los Angeles... All the people from the non-UFO world were coming up and congratulating us and saying...they will [now] take the subject of UFOs seriously..."

But Torme admitted that at least some of the MUFON members at the advance screening were "outraged because we did not do a documentary." [SUN hears that some were so distressed that they wrote a letter to MUFON Director Walt Andrus protesting his decision to assist Paramount in promoting the picture.] When Ecker asked if the film's portrayal of a UFO-investlgator as a rather obnoxious person was not a bit harsh, Torme said the character was added at the request of director Lieberman. But Torme commented: "I do think there is a fringe element in UFOlogy that is kind of wacky."

Ecker recalled that Walton had reported encountering two distinctly different types of ETs- -the familiar short, bald, large-eyed variety and another who "were very human-looking." When Ecker asked why the "very human-looking" ETs were not shown, Torme offered what he said was "a pretty simple explanation." Torme said that "the [TV show] 'Intruders' ran while we were in pre-production. The people at Paramount said...we now have done some investigat- ing and what Travis saw in 1975 may have been really interesting then, and it may be interesting to a handful of UFOlogists now. But on the larger scale we've been seeing this now in 'Communion,' in 'Intruders,' in Betty and Barney Hill, on Nikon commercials and Lite Beer commercials. They said we don't want to do it again. We don't want to see a guy lying on a table waking up with little guys with big eyes standing over him."

So "FITS" used a Paramount Pictures variant of the bald, large-eyed ETs but NO "very human looking" creatures and Torme cleverly avoided answering Ecker's question. (Ecker did not challenge Torme's "simple explanation.") SUN suspects the reason that Torme opted not to use any "very human-looking" ETs such as Travis described--including a very sexy female with long tresses--was that Torme feared this would adversely affect the credibility of Travis' tale--and the public's acceptance of the movie as being "based on the true story."

TORME ADMITS WALTON'S TALE DOESN'T FOLLOW USUAL ABDUCTION SCRIPT:

Torme said "I don't think the Travis case is an abduction case. I think it is more of a hit-and-run accident...it doesn't fit any of the other patterns as in the cases that were explored in 'Intruders.' So my personal feeling is that it was really a one of a kind deal that doesn't fall into the parameters of most of Budd Hopkins type abduction cases... So many witnesses. Gone for five days and six hours instead of a couple of hours. When he awakened [in the UFO] he was not paralyzed. He was not naked. He was not being experimented on medically. He has not had any experiences since then. He didn't seem to have any in childhood. He didn't come back with a lot of scars or anything. So I think all those things break the mold and make this case unique."

ONE POSSIBLE REASON WHY THE WALTON TALE DOES NOT FOLLOW THE "MOLD" IS THAT A "UFO-ABDUCTION MOLD" DID NOT EXIST IN 1975. (The mold was cast in 1987 with publication and subsequent promotion of Budd Hopkins' book "Intruders." THE FIRST DOCU-DRAMA ON UFO-ABDUCTION DEALING WITH THE BETTY/BARNEY HILL CASE--BROADCAST ON NBC-TV LESS THAN THREE WEEKS BEFORE THE WALTON INCIDENT--DID NOT EVEN SUGGEST THAT ETs REPEATEDLY ABDUCT VICTIMS BEGINNING IN CHILDHOOD. OR THAT ETs SCOOP OUT FLESH SAMPLES LEAVING BEHIND SCARS. SO TRAVIS WAS FORCED TO IMPROVISE. THIS WOULD EXPLAIN WHY HE WAS NOT ABLE TO "RECALL," EVEN UNDER HYPNOSIS, MORE THAN ABOUT 20 MINUTES OF WHAT ALLEGEDLY HAPPENED DURING HIS MORE THAN FIVE DAYS ABOARD THE SAUCER.

A Paramount spokesman told SUN that "FITS" grossed nearly \$11 million during its first two weeks (thanks to massive publicity) and said the company expects the movie will make a profit "ultimately." He told SUN the picture cost \$15 million to produce, not the \$19 million figure quoted in some media stories. (FITS opened in 24 theatres in the greater Washington area on March 12. Five weeks later it was playing in only three theatres.)

NEW "ABDUCTION" STIGMATA REPORTED:

"Abductee" Cindy Vodovoz may some day be credited with having been the first to reveal a new type of "stigmata" reportedly resulting from "UFO-abduction." When Cindy appeared on a Los Angeles radio (KFI) talk show on Feb. 6, hosted by Bill Handle, she reported ETs had inserted a "B.B." type pellet through the "palate of my mouth."

Another guest, Dr. William Cone, a Southern California psychotherapist who now counsels "abductees," said Cindy had "showed me the holes in her mouth." Cone added: "She's the third person who has been in my office with the exact same holes in the roof of their mouth. I find that very interesting." Cone added later: "We have no idea what these holes in the palate are...we don't know that it has anything to do with the Abduction Phenomena...It just seems unusual that a large number of people have come forward with punctures in the roof of their mouth." Cone said he planned to check with his dentist.

BETTER CONE SHOULD CONSULT "GREY'S ANATOMY," page 200, which discusses "cleft palate." There he will discover that: "Occasionally there may be a hole in the middle line of the hard palate..."

During Cindy's Feb. 6 appearance on KFI, she described her abduction as a child in Alabama: "I was on my way to ballet class with my mother...when we arrived at the ballet class... [it] was nearly over so there was about an hour of time that was missing."

But when Cindy appeared with Budd Hopkins on the "Night Talk" TV show, taped in Boston on June 11, 1992, she told a different tale. "Something I discovered through hypnosis happened to my mother and I as we were walking, I mean driving to my brother's house... My mother woke up and we continued on to my brother's house." [SUN admits that it is conceivable that the ballet class was held at her brother's house.]

Cone first became interested in UFO-abductions about three years ago and has worked with approximately two dozen "abductees," about half of them current. During the KFI show, Cone said: "All kinds of people come in. Some of them I believe are very scared, distressed persons who have had this experience. Some of them, I believe, are delusional. Some I believe are borderline psychotics. Some of them I think are sensation-seeking people who would like attention." During the KFI program, Cone announced he has acquired a regional 800 number [800-762-9960]. Since then, Cone told SUN, "a lot of people have called." Understandably, Cone charges for his professional services.

HARVARD'S DR. JOHN MACK MAY BECOME "EAST COAST SPRINKLE":

Although Harvard psychiatrist Dr. John Mack entered the "UFO-abduction" field as a protege of Budd Hopkins and David Jacobs, his most recent pronouncements suggest he is developing a somewhat different dogma which resembles that of Dr. Leo Sprinkle, a pioneer in the field who lives in Wyoming. Unlike Hopkins and Jacobs, whose subjects report being subjected to traumatic medical procedures by seemingly uncaring ETs, Sprinkle's subjects usually say they enjoyed their "abductions" and describe the ETs as gentle and benign.

According to a flyer promoting a talk by Mack, his current view is that "initially the abduction experiences may be highly traumatic, even rape-like; but as the experiencers are brought to acknowledge the reality of their encounters, spiritual growth and personal transformation occurs." This recalls that old (now unmentionable) adage: "When rape is inevitable, relax and enjoy it." Perhaps Mack would rephrase it as follows: "WHEN RAPE IS INEVITABLE, ACKNOWLEDGE ITS REALITY AND IN TIME YOU WILL EXPERIENCE SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION."

CUFOS Criticizes Hopkins/Jacobs UFO-Abduction Survey:

The Hynek Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) recently issued a press release which carried the headline: "Roper Survey on Frequency of Alien Abductions Attacked." The release began: "Last year a widely-cited national survey conducted by the Roper Organization claimed that as many as 2 million Americans (2% of the population) are victims of abductions by alien entities. The survey [was] directed by researchers Budd Hopkins and David Jacobs... [SUN Note: The 2% figure applied to an adult population of 185 million, corresponding to 3.7 million alleged abductees.]

"But now, after close scrutiny of the survey's design and interpretation, that claim has been shown to be false. In an article in the current issue of Journal of UFO Studies, sociologists Robert L. Hall and Mark Rodeghier and psychologist Donald A. Johnson, argue that the survey's questions were poorly written and tested and that the results have been badly misinterpreted."

[CUFOS' BELATED CRITICISM ECHOES THAT VOICED NINE MONTHS EARLIER BY SKEPTICS UFO NEWSLETTER (SUN) IN ITS JULY 1992 ISSUE.]

Despite this criticism, the authors conclude that "publication and widespread circulation of this booklet appears to have served some useful purposes: it has called the attention of psychotherapists to a puzzling phenomenon...and it has led some psychotherapists to seek additional knowledge and training so they can help self-reported abductees." The "experts" who offer the training courses are the same persons who authored the flawed report: Budd Hopkins, David Jacobs and John S. Carpenter, a Springfield (Mo.) hypnotherapist who is MUFON's Director for Abduction Research.

According to an unconfirmed rumor, there was heated debate among top CUFOS officials over whether the press release promoting the new issue of the CUFOS Journal should feature criticism of the Hopkins and Jacobs survey. Rodeghier is CUFOS's scientific director but Jerome Clark, CUFOS vice president and editor of its bi-monthly "International UFO Reporter" publication, is a very close friend of Hopkins and serves on the board of Hopkins' Intruders Foundation. In a recent letter to a fellow UFOlogist, Clark admitted "I owe Budd some big favors," but Clark said "the details are nobody's business."

SUN wonders: Is it possible that Jerry Clark underwent hypnosis by Hopkins who discovered that Clark himself is an "ET Hybrid" that the ETs forgot to transplant? If so, perhaps Hopkins has agreed to keep this under wraps in return for favors from Jerry?

FORMER SOVIET SPACE OFFICIAL OFFERS INSIGHTS ON UFOs:

Dr. Roald Z. Sagdeev, former chief architect of the Soviet space program and now a professor at the University of Maryland, was queried about UFOs during a recent interview with The (Baltimore) Sun. "Some people are convinced that the U.S. government is hiding evidence of the existence of UFOs. A few even claim to have been kidnapped by aliens," the reporter noted before asking: "Did the Soviet space program ever find evidence for UFOs?"

Sagdeev replied: "No. Besides certain accounts by eyewitnesses, there were some kinds of interference and signals on military radar screens... in general, the scientific community firmly believes that all these phenomena could all be explained as artifacts, associated with different types of electromagnetic interference... or natural atmospheric phenomena. No one in Russia worries that Yeltsin's government will be kidnapped by these guys. The reactionaries, the pro-Communists think that Yeltsin has already been kidnapped by the United States so we don't need to invent UFOs."

Hopkins, Jacobs Continue To Ignore "Missing Fetus" Challenge:

The cornerstone of the theory proposed by Budd Hopkins and David Jacobs to explain reported UFO-abductions is that ETs are engaged in a vast genetic experiment which includes removal of unborn fetuses fertilized with ET sperm, called "missing fetus" cases. When one such case (endorsed by Hopkins) was rigorously investigated by two pro-UFOlogists, Ann Druffel and Georgeanne Cifarelli (whose husband is a medical doctor), they found a prosaic (non-ET) explanation. [See SUN #13/Jan. 1992] Their findings, published in the Nov. 1991 issue of the MUFON UFO Journal, were challenged by Hopkins in the Feb. 1992 issue. In the letter Hopkins claimed "that many other missing fetus cases remain truly inexplicable..."

This Hopkins claim was politely challenged a few months later by Dr. Richard M. Neal, a Southern California obstetrician/gynecologist and long-time Pro-UFOlogist, in a paper presented at the 1992 MUFON conference in Albuquerque. [See SUN #17/Sept. 1992] Dr. Neal cited three "missing fetus" cases he had personally investigated for which he found prosaic explanations. Dr. Neal asked: "Why do some of our top researchers say they have numerous cases in their files related to Missing Embryo/Fetus Syndrome, yet they fail to produce anything that can be investigated or documented when questioned thoroughly?"

One might expect Hopkins and/or Jacobs to have responded to Dr. Neal's challenge. Hopkins often states, "AN EXTRAORDINARY PHENOMENON DEMANDS EXTRAORDINARY INVESTIGATION." In view of the hundreds of female "abductees" that Hopkins and Jacobs have worked with, surely they would promptly provide Dr. Neal with a few "missing fetus" cases he could investigate. RIGHT?

WRONG! In a letter published in the April 1 issue of Jim Moseley's popular newsletter Saucer Smear, Dr. Neal reports his investigation into "so-called missing embryo/fetus syndrome" has failed to show "one documented or verified case that such events are occurring." Dr. Neal believes that extraordinary claims deserve rigorous investigation. So his letter said he is "offering \$500 to any case that shows without a reasonable doubt that a female abductee has had a missing pregnancy." SUN PREDICTS THAT THIS GENEROUS OFFER WILL NOT PROMPT HOPKINS OR JACOBS TO SUBMIT EVEN ONE MISSING-FETUS CASE TO DR. NEAL.

Former Supporter Reveals More "Crashed Saucer Witness" Misdeeds:

Hypnotherapist John Carpenter, who once was one of the strongest supporters of Gerald Anderson's tale that as a boy of five in 1947 he and four other members of his family stumbled on a crashed saucer on the Plains of San Agustin in New Mexico, provides a remarkably candid and revealing account of Anderson's "hanky-panky," including the counterfeiting of documents, in the March issue of the MUFON UFO Journal. Anderson's tall tale is the centerpiece of the book "Crash At Corona," by Stanton T. Friedman and Don Berliner who recently made a brief public admission that Anderson "can no longer be seen as sufficiently reliable." But they added that this "does not mean that everything reported by Gerald Anderson is without value." [See SUN #20/March 1992]

Carpenter's report reveals many of Anderson's actions which should have aroused suspicions if he, Friedman and Berliner had not been so credulous. For example, pages from a diary which Anderson claimed his uncle wrote in 1947 used ink that did not become available until 1970. Carpenter, seeking to justify his earlier faith in Anderson, speculates that perhaps Anderson "was given genuine data about a crash on the Plains of San Agustin in order to leak it deliberately. In this manner he could feel that he was being honest about much of the information and could even pass the polygraph test." Carpenter then asks: "Was Gerald following someone else's orders?" SUN's answer to that question: "Yes, the Devil's."

SUN "Clarifies" Its Editorial Policy:

The Editor of SUN wishes to clarify its editorial policy which firmly adheres to the following principles: (1) SUN never errs. (2) When SUN does err, it never admits it. (3) However, there may be times when some "clarification" is appropriate.

CLARIFICATION #1: SUN-#20, in discussing Paramount's new movie and the Travis Walton case, reported: "During Travis' first TV interview, 11 days after he reappeared, he said that when he awakened in the UFO 'I was bleeding very heavily.' Yet no evidence of blood was found on Travis' clothing..." Tracy Torme, FITS co-producer and screenwriter, complained that Travis had really said "I was breathing very heavily." I promptly replayed my audio tape recording of the TV interview over and over. After repeatedly listening to that part of the tape, I concluded that Torme was correct and promptly wrote him a letter saying I would set the record straight in the next issue of SUN and in any subsequent printings of my book "UFOs: The Public Deceived."

CLARIFICATION #2: Kevin Randle has challenged the report in SUN-#20 (Mar. 1993) that he and Don Schmitt (R/S) would unveil their third "Roswell crashed-saucer scenario" in their new book. Randle writes: "I believe we're still on the first, though we have had to modify it based on the new data we have uncovered." Randle confirmed SUN's scoop that the "impact [crashed saucer landing] site was not two or three miles from the debris field [on the Brazel ranch] but 30 or 40 [miles] back toward Roswell."

In the R/S book "UFO Crash At Roswell," the authors wrote that the saucer had crash-landed on the Brazel ranch several miles from the debris field. "That was where the ship came down and where...Barney Barnett and the archaeologists stumbled onto the wreckage." [Page 89] Nearly a year after the book was published, R/S published an article in the May/June 1992 issue of International UFO Reporter, titled "Second Thoughts on the Barney Barnett Story." In the article R/S wrote: "...we must conclude that Barnett was not a participant in the Roswell incident." But Randle now challenges SUN's statement that he now considers Barnett's crashed-saucer story only a "tall tale." Instead, he explains, we don't know how it fits into the picture."

SHORT SHRIFT:

IUR editor Jerry Clark responded briefly to rumors that R/S have recovered pieces of the Roswell crashed-saucer in his editorial in the Jan./Feb. issue. "To those of you who have written and called about the many rumors in circulation about developments in the CUFOS' Roswell investigation, please be assured that the full story will be told. Our investigation has entered an extremely sensitive phase, in which premature airing of information would prove counterproductive. Our purpose is to end a cover-up, not commence one of our own. Be patient, and rest assured: the wait will have been worth it. Well worth it."

We'll try to be patient. But we recall a similar forecast Clark made three years ago in IUR (March/April 1990): "...investigation of the Roswell incident continues...One result will be the publication of what may be a seminal work in the literature [the Randle/Schmitt book], which, among other happy consequences, should lay to rest the canards that UFOs neither exist nor crash..."

NOTE: Opinions expressed in SUN are those of its Editor, unless otherwise noted, and do not necessarily represent the views of any organizations with which he is affiliated--or his spouse. We thank Dr. Gary Posner for help in proofreading.

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