

## Robert/Ryan Wood Split With Joe Firmage Over MJ-12 Documents

Less than a year after Silicon Valley multi-millionaire Joe Firmage revealed his belief that at least some UFOs are extraterrestrial visitors, citing as evidence a recent batch of MJ-12 (purportedly) Top Secret documents obtained from Tim Cooper (whose authenticity had been strongly endorsed by Dr. Robert Wood and son Ryan), Firmage has "parted company" with the Woods over the MJ-12 documents [SUN #58/Mar. 1999].

The first indication of a possible schism came late last year when the Website of the International Space Sciences Organization, created by Firmage to pursue his UFO interests, carried a commentary by Firmage which was followed by an ISSO assessment of the MJ-12 documents [SUN #61/Jan. 2000]. Highlight of the ISSO assessment: *"Ongoing research indicates that many, possibly all, the so-called MJ-12 UFO documents were officially fabricated as instruments of U.S. covert psychological warfare....Intriguing questions arise from the realization that the so-called MJ-12 documents, both the earlier and the later ones, were or well may have been contrived to mislead foreign, inimical (usually Communist or once-Communist) governments. For instance, were some or all UFO crash recoveries staged for the same purpose, augmented by subsequent foisting of clever but deceptive, official-appearing documents to persuade adversaries that the U.S. and its allies might enjoy certain unique advantages gotten from recovering and studying crashed UFOs?"* (Emphasis added.)

## Ryan Wood Sharply Challenges ISSO's View That MJ-12 Documents Were Created As Disinformation By U.S. Government Specialists

In mid-March, ISSO's conclusion was sharply challenged in a paper authored by Ryan Wood which was posted on several Websites, including the Majestic Documents Website operated by the Woods. Early in Wood's challenge he stated: *"If we are intellectually honest, we cannot discard the possibility that the documents are genuine [i.e., not intended as disinformation for psychological warfare]...even with their misspellings, currently unresolved 'anachronisms' and occasional errors. To date there is not a single anachronism or other error that has been raised and then thoroughly researched that clearly shows the documents to be false. An error may be misleading or it may be incomplete, but the examples are not outside the scope of reasonable error in human bureaucracies.* (Emphasis added.)

*"How do these documents serve a valid, officially authorized Cold War purpose, assuming they were US-produced [as disinformation]?...Would they mask some terrestrial but overwhelming American super-technology? This would stimulate greater espionage to acquire it, clearly undesirable. Or do the documents create a 'firebreak' against learning an even deeper secret?...Is the current Majestic discussion of crashed extraterrestrial discs and technology a smokescreen for live ETs and fully functional lines of communication and technology transfer?...Is it credible that a crack Psy-War disinformation team...would try to hide some super-secret, or divert the enemy's attention by taking an existing highly secure project (MJ-12), use its actual name, subject matter...then change presumably key details....One of the most highly protected super secrets of our time was intentionally revealed....[This] would draw attention to the general nature of the UFO and ET matter...and would certainly prompt more intensive and sophisticated targeting by foreign intelligence assets,"* according to Wood. (Emphasis added.)

Ryan Wood's statement claims *"The ISSO paper, titled 'Deceptive UFO Documents' provides no detailed evidence of deception in the Majestic documents. Take this statement for example, 'Ongoing research indicates that many, possibly all, of the so-called MJ-12 UFO documents were officially fabricated as instruments of U.S. covert psychological warfare...' Whose research? What specifics are being alluded to? Without clear answers, this statement is simply argument-by-assertion by an unknown author."* (Emphasis added.)

#### WHO IS "UNKNOWN AUTHOR" OF ISSO'S MJ-12 DOCUMENTS ASSESSMENT

SUN's curiosity was aroused by Wood's use of the term "unknown author" of the ISSO assessment. On Mar. 18, we sent the following e-mail query to Robert Wood: *"When you / Ryan refer to the 'unknown author' of the earlier ISSO posting, do you mean that the author's identity is unknown to ISSO officials or that they decline to provide you with the author's identity."* Wood promptly replied: *"The author of the paper is unidentified and not stated, although the foreword is from [written by] Joe Firmage. I'm sure Joe knows who wrote the balance of the paper."*

Wood's response indicates either that his current relations with Firmage discouraged him from asking Firmage for the author's identification, or that Wood asked but Firmage refused. SUN suspects that the ISSO assessment posted on its Website was authored by Creon Levit who is ISSO's director of science research. In any event, the "unknown author" updated ISSO's original assessment on Mar. 25 in response to Ryan Wood's critical comments.

#### ISSO Responds To Wood's MJ-12 Challenge

A comparison of the original ISSO assessment with the updated version reveals that ISSO was not convinced by Ryan Wood's logic:

\* Original: *"Ongoing research indicates that many, possibly all, of the so-called MJ-12 UFO documents were officially fabricated as instruments of U.S. covert psychological warfare..."* (Emphasis added.)

\* Updated: *"Once it becomes even more obvious that all of the so-called MJ-12 documents were officially fabricated as instruments of U.S. covert psychological warfare....Intriguing questions stem from a realization that the MJ-12 documents, both the earlier ones and the later ones, were or may have been contrived to mislead foreign..."* (Emphasis added.)

ISSO and the Woods agree that the MJ-12 documents were prepared by U.S. Government officials/employees. Both adversaries enjoy considerable latitude in devising explanations for factual "anomalies" and errors found in the Majestic documents. ISSO's explanation: intentional disinformation to deceive potential enemies. The Woods' explanation: unintentional human errors by the writer or typist. (For example, in one of Tim Cooper's Majestic documents, which purports to have been authored by Albert Einstein and Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, the word "celestial" is repeatedly misspelled as "celestial.")

ISSO dismisses any possibility that the MJ-12 papers could have been created by anyone other than government Psy-War specialists. According to ISSO, "The MJ-12 documents are professionally, artfully crafted, good enough to fool informed, perceptive analysts. In that quality, the documents are not the work of amateurs or casual hoaxers....Amateur fakers do not have the means and knowledge to fabricate documents as convincing as are most of the MJ-12 documents." (Emphasis added.) ISSO does not identify which of the Majestic documents it believes are "unconvincing" or offer a possible explanation. But presumably these documents were prepared by incompetent U.S. government Psy-War specialists! Robert Wood claims these factual discrepancies "tend to indicate authenticity....Hoaxers generally try to make sure they are perfect" [SUN #55/Jan. 1999]. Wood's explanation implies that government specialists who prepare disinformation documents to fool enemy intelligence experts are not similarly motivated.

## Cooper (Unwittingly) Shows His Disinformation Skills On Internet

**Tim Cooper** recently demonstrated his aptitude for inserting UFO/MJ-12 disinformation in his recent Internet posting on the career of **Allen W. Dulles**, Director of Central Intelligence from early 1953 until late 1961. Cooper acknowledges his information on Dulles's long career in intelligence is drawn from several books and (purportedly) from "other sources." After mentioning "speculation" that CIA was involved in President Kennedy's assassination in Dallas, Cooper claims that *"Dulles had a secret running dispute with Kennedy over disclosure of classified UFO intelligence collected by the CIA and Kennedy threatened to make such disclosure at Dallas....Lately his [Dulles] name has been associated with a secret intelligence cabal known as MJ-12 who (sic) has steered UFO policy and deception for over 50 years....He did acknowledge that UFOs were top secret and he did authorize the Domestic Collection Division to interview UFO witnesses and assumed the responsibility from his predecessor, Gen. Walter B. Smith, as DCI to coordinate all UFO intelligence within the U.S. intelligence community."*

All of these "UFO links" are Cooper-invented disinformation intended to help "authenticate" some of his Majestic documents. One of these purports to be a brief Kennedy memo to the Director of Central Intelligence, dated June 28, 1961, requesting a brief summary-review on the subject of *"MJ-12 Intelligence Operations as they relate to Cold War Psychological Plans."* Another from Kennedy to DCI, dated Nov. 12, 1963--shortly before the President's assassination--deals with *"Classification review of all UFO intelligence files affecting National Security."* Cooper's suggestion that the CIA might have been involved in Kennedy's death gives credence to another of Cooper's documents which purports to be a one-page memo from the CIA's director of counter-intelligence, **James J. Angleton**. This memo indicates that movie star **Marilyn Monroe** had learned of crashed-saucer/ET-body recoveries and U.S. plans to kill Cuba's Fidel Castro from President Kennedy and was threatening to reveal same. The memo was dated Aug. 3, 1962, the day before Monroe was found dead--due to an overdose of sleeping pills, according to the official autopsy. But the (purported) Angleton memo suggests the possibility that Marilyn Monroe was killed by the CIA to silence her disclosure of UFO secrets.

## Authentic CIA Documents Reveal Agency's True UFO Involvement

Once-Secret CIA documents released in late 1960s and early 1970s, in response to a Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) request, reveal that in late 1952 the Agency considered seeking approval to launch its own UFO investigation. But CIA Director Gen. Smith decided in early 1953 not to do so, largely as a result of the Robertson Panel's assessment that there was no credible evidence that any UFOs were ET or Communist craft. Responsibility for monitoring the UFO situation was then assigned to CIA's Physics & Electronics (P&E) Div. On Aug. 8, 1955--more than two years after Dulles had become CIA director--the head of the P&E Div. wrote a memo to his boss which said, *"In view of the fact that no positive intelligence of significance has been produced under the subject [UFO] project, it is recommended that the project be terminated and the files thereof be placed in dead storage."* Another of the CIA documents is an internal memo dated July 29, 1970, from the Deputy Director for Scientific Intelligence to the Deputy Director for Science & Technology, which provides a more recent statement on the Agency's UFO activities: *"A review of the files on the last two decades shows the following. The only formal CIA involvement in a UFO investigation was in the one conducted by the Robertson Panel in 1953....This was the high point in CIA involvement in the UFO matter."* (Emphasis added.)

ISSO AND THE WOODS HAVE SO FAR NOT COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON THE HARD EVIDENCE THAT THE TYPEWRITER USED TO CREATE ONE OF COOPER'S MAJESTIC DOCUMENTS--ALLEGEDLY IN 1952--HAS AN IDENTICAL MECHANICAL FLAW AS THE TYPEWRITER COOPER USED TO WRITE TWO LETTERS TO BRITISH UFOLOGIST TIMOTHY GOOD ON OCT. 7 AND OCT. 14, 1991 [SUN #60/Nov. 1999].

## New Roswell Witness Claims He Saw Crashed Craft And ETs

Roswell researchers Tom Carey and Don Schmitt are favorably impressed with a recently discovered 83-year-old man, now living in El Paso, Tex., who claims to have stumbled upon the crashed UFO on July 3, 1947, with two live ETs and one dead one. Carey and Schmitt visited El Paso on Mar. 10 to interview "Tex," following an earlier telephone interview by Carey. Michael Lindemann, whose CNI News biweekly Internet Journal featured the story on April 1, asked Carey whether he had been able to verify Tex's involvement at Roswell AFB. Carey replied: *"We have been able to verify that the activities that he claimed that he was engaged in, [which] placed him at the crash scene at the time of the incident, actually took place."*

According to Carey, in mid-1947 Tex was an electrical technician with a high security clearance assigned to an air base in Texas where he was working on a drone-type of jet aircraft. One of the drones, (allegedly) launched on July 3, 1947, was tracked by a radar at the base until it ran out of fuel or malfunctioned, at which time it automatically parachuted to earth. Tex says that he and several non-commissioned officers (NCOs) were sent to recover the drone. *"This is what they were engaged in when they came upon the crashed alien craft and crew,"* according to Carey.

When SUN sent an e-mail request to Carey to identify the air base from which the jet-aircraft drone was launched, he refused to provide same. Carey explained: "If we give you something which you then check and it turns out to be correct...the world will never hear about it. More likely, however, is that you will find out that Tex, after 50 years...has left an 'i' undotted or a 't' uncrossed and you will then...declare to the world that his entire testimony is fraudulent." Carey added: *"We have more confidence in Tex's honesty than yours."*

As Tex and the NCOs approached the crash site, they reported seeing pieces of "silvery-like metal on the ground. It was light and very hard. On one of the pieces Tex noticed strange symbols like hieroglyphics," according to Carey. Tex said that the craft "was teardrop-shaped with stubby curved-back wings....It was small, about 20 feet long by about 12-14 feet wide. In the canopy were two 'beings.' One was slumped over but still alive, and the other was standing up in the canopy looking at us as we approached. There was a third one, dead, which was curled up on its side at the base of a small hill that the craft had hit....I did not get a close look at them, as I was about 15 feet from them. One of the NCOs in my group had gone ahead...and shouted back to us, 'They're aliens,' and we knew he wasn't talking about Mexicans. They were small with grayish-greenish skin, large heads, small noses and ears....had about a one-two inch slit for a mouth. The eyes were dark, not black, and slanted but not like those big black eyes that you see on book covers and in pictures.

*"We left shortly after the recovery [by a team from Roswell AAF] began. I noticed that the two 'beings' that were still alive were also placed in body-bags, as was the one dead one....After returning to base, we were told not to talk about what we had seen and made to sign a non-disclosure form of some sort. By my calculation, the non-disclosure agreement ran out a few years ago. That's why I am talking now."*

### A CURIOUS COINCIDENCE?

Tex's description of the craft and the ETs' appearance is remarkably similar to that offered several years ago by Frank Kaufmann. In 1947, Kaufmann was a civil-service employee at RAAF but claims that he was a member of a top-level RAAF UFO recovery team. Based on Kaufmann's descriptions, Schmitt made sketches of the (alleged) craft and ETs, which were published in 1994 in the book "The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell," co-authored by Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle. Schmitt's sketches also are displayed at the Roswell International UFO Museum which Tex visited some months ago. During this visit Tex first disclosed his involvement to Museum officials who then informed Carey and Schmitt.

## Carey, Schmitt Ignore Flaws In Tex's Tale

Perhaps it is because Carey and Schmitt hope to publish a book on the Roswell Incident, which features their "new witnesses," that they opt to ignore flagrant flaws in Tex's tale. For example, his claim that he and his NCO companions--sent to recover a drone-aircraft launched on July 3, 1947, from a base in Texas--chanced to discover the crashed ET craft more than 40 miles north of Roswell shortly before a Roswell Army Air Field recovery team arrived at the site. Although Carey's account does not provide the date for this (alleged) event, presumably it occurred within a day or two of the drone being launched, i.e., no later than July 5. If true, this would mean that by July 5, top level RAAF officials would have known that an unusual craft with non-human-looking crew had been recovered. Certainly top level Air Force officials in Washington and Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey at 8th AAF Headquarters in Fort Worth would have been informed and they would promptly have flown to RAAF to view the remarkable discovery. There would have been no need on July 8 for Maj. Jesse Marcel to fly the Brazel ranch debris to FWAAF to be inspected by Ramey. In all probability, Ramey would already have been at RAAF, to examine the recovered craft and its ET occupants.

Tex's claim that he was involved in the flight tests of a "drone-type of jet aircraft" conducted from a base in Texas also is suspect. Although the U.S. developed and used small remotely piloted propeller-type drone-aircraft during World War II, the first jet-engine-powered drone, Firebee I, was developed by Ryan Aeronautical in San Diego. Firebee I flight tests did not begin until 1951--four years after Tex's alleged flight test.

## Illinois Case Shows Variability Of Celestial-Body Type UFO Reports

The great variation in witness descriptions of "lights in the night sky" type UFOs generated by bright stars and planets, as reported by Allan Hendry in his "UFO Handbook," is evident in a more detailed analysis of the UFO reports by several geographically separated witnesses in west-central Illinois in the pre-dawn hours of Jan. 5. Hendry's observations were based on his investigation of 1,024 "nocturnal lights" type UFO reports during his tenure as director of the Hynek Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS). More than 35% of these UFOs turned out to be bright planets or stars [SUN #62/March 2000].

Whereas the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS), which sent two investigators to Illinois to interview the multiple witnesses, largely ignores the significant differences in witness descriptions of the "UFO" in the NIDS incident summary, this variability attracted the attention of David B. Marler, MUFON's Illinois State Director, who investigated the case. Marler's initial report appears in the MUFON UFO Journal's March issue. In the concluding part of Marler's report he noted *"the obvious differences in the descriptions given by the witnesses....the largest difference being the description provided by [Melvern] Noll [Witness #1] as compared to the police officers. Noll describes a large rectangular-shaped object. Less than 15 minutes later Officer [Ed] Barton [Witness #2] reports seeing an elongated triangle. The other officers reported seeing objects that are roughly triangular....We also have radical differences in the lighting configuration."* [SUN Comment: For example, Witness #1/Noll reported "a lot of red lights....Big red light bulbs shining down." Witness #2/Barton: "Two gigantic lights...white light." Witness #3/Officer David Martin: "Three huge white lights." Officer Craig Stevens [Witness #4] took a photo of the UFO with a Polaroid camera. His photo shows five bright white lights.]

Marler offered several possible explanations for these differences, including the following: *"One of the major problems relating to this is the issue of perspective....Some witnesses were stationary, while others were driving at the time of their sighting. In particular, Officer Barton's descriptions vary as he views the object from different [perceived] distances and angles. To compound matters, the object was moving at various speeds and directions in relation to the observers."* [SUN Comment: Seemed to be moving...]

## Georgia Law-Enforcement Officers Mistake Venus For UFO

It was at 4:36 a.m. (EDT) on Oct. 20, 1967, that a police lieutenant in Milledgeville, Ga., while on patrol duty, spotted low on the horizon what he first thought was a new streetlight. But then it appeared to move away and seemed to change into a "bright red, football-shaped light." He, accompanied by another officer, pursued the strange object into the country for about eight miles, until they lost sight of the "UFO," prompting them to head back to town. But as they neared Milledgeville the second officer chanced to look back and discovered that the UFO had reappeared and seemed to be following them. The UFO's illumination was so bright that the officers said that they could read the hands of their watches inside their car. When they decided to stop and get out of their car to have a better look at the UFO, the object appeared to "veer away and disappear behind some trees." The two officers returned to police headquarters and picked up a third officer. By this time, they noted, the UFO "had started climbing." The three men watched for about 30 minutes as the UFO changed color from bright red to orange and then to white.

Meanwhile, the Milledgeville dispatcher had alerted the police in nearby towns and soon they called back to say that they too had spotted the UFO. Within several days, thanks to local media coverage, a "mini UFO-flap" had developed in central Georgia. Because the Georgia police reported that the UFO was returning on subsequent nights, the University of Colorado (then conducting its UFO study) dispatched two scientists to Milledgeville to investigate. Their conclusion: the UFO was the very bright planet Venus, with a quite bright Jupiter accounting for some reports of a second UFO. (A summary of the University of Colorado investigation, Case #37, can be found on pages 368-375 of the "Condon/Colorado Report.")

Dr. J. Allen Hynek offered the following comment on the University of Colorado's findings in his book "The UFO Experience": *"This case should be read by all UFO investigators. It is a fantastic example of how persuasive the planet Venus can be as a UFO. Police officers in 11 counties were 'taken in' by this planet."*

Veteran UFO researcher Richard Hall expressed reservations about the Jan. 5 Illinois UFO incident in his regular column, "Perspective," in the April issue of the MUFON UFO Journal and complimented Marler on his report. Hall, noting that a very bright planet Venus was rising to the southeast around 4:30 a.m., commented: *"What does that tell us about the likely explanation for Lebanon officer's sighting of 'a very bright white light east of town'...? A very common occurrence is for people other than an original witness to hear about a sighting in progress, look up at the sky and see a brilliant Venus (or some other light source or stimulus) and assume that is what the witnesses are talking about....The witnesses' guesstimates of altitude are almost worthless."*

## Which Illinois UFO Reports Were Triggered By Venus Is Uncertain

Because the Jan. 5 Illinois UFO incident was triggered by Witness #1's initial report of a "bright star very low" on the horizon, and because a very bright Venus was about to rise, SUN #62 suggested that the planet might explain Noll's "UFO." The Highland, Ill., police log indicates that Noll visited the station to report his UFO sighting around 04:10 (CST) when Venus would be 2.4 deg. below the horizon for an observer in that location. Very bright celestial objects up to several degrees below the horizon may be visible depending on the magnitude of the atmospheric refraction at the time. Venus was then at an azimuth of approximately 112 deg. --SOUTHEAST of Highland. But Noll reported that when he first spotted the UFO it was in the NORTHEAST, moving slowly to the SOUTHWEST. IF Noll's directions are correct, this would rule out Venus as a possible explanation for his UFO. (The Colorado report on its Georgia investigation noted that police from one town reported that the UFO was traveling south, while police from two other towns reported the UFO was traveling east, and police reports from two other towns said the UFO was traveling west.)

## NIDS Conclusion: One Triangular Craft, Nearly Nine-Hour Flight

Because NIDS investigators assume that all the UFO reports were triggered by the same object, NIDS concludes that *"the eyewitness testimony suggests that the total [UFO] flight time of the object was just under nine hours."* This includes a report from a man who said he had sighted a giant craft around 10:30 on the previous night (Jan. 4) north of Chicago's O'Hare airport. Because he reported that the UFO was headed southwest, NIDS assumed that this was the same UFO reported more than five hours later in west-central Illinois. NIDS also concludes that a bright-light type UFO in the southwest sky, reported by another witness near Dupou, Ill., who was driving to work around 6:50 a.m., was the same object reportedly seen nearly nine hours earlier near Chicago, roughly 300 miles to the north. More likely, the Dupou UFO was Venus.

So far as is known, NIDS investigators have not attempted to correlate the reported UFO bearing angle and direction of movement reported by the six primary witnesses (Noll and the five police officers) to try to determine if they were viewing the same object. During the coming weeks, SUN hopes to conduct such a correlation analysis to better assess if there were multiple trigger-mechanisms. Interestingly, none of the officers who reported seeing the bright lights of the UFO in the night sky reported seeing a very bright planet Venus which would have been visible to some of them low in the sky to the southeast.

## CAUS Loses FOIA Lawsuit But Gains Much Publicity

Nearly two years ago, on July 23, 1998, attorney Peter Gersten, who heads Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS), filed a Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) request with the Defense Department to obtain all of its documents pertaining to *"unidentifiable and unique aerial objects...described by eyewitnesses as either delta, boomerang, triangular or V-shaped; ranging in size from a house to a football field; moving very slowly or apparently floating; little or no sound; and with many lights including, on occasion, a red trailing light."* Gersten included 33 affidavits from persons who claimed to have seen such craft. The Defense Dept. responded on Aug. 17, 1998, suggesting that CAUS direct its FOIA query to the U.S. Air Force and to the National Archives & Records Administration (NARA). Gersten responded on Aug. 26, asking that the Defense Dept. forward the FOIA request *"to the proper parties."*

Following a similar fruitless exchange, Gersten responded on Jan. 22, 1999, charging that the Defense Department had failed to conduct a *"reasonable"* search for the requested records, as required by FOIA. The Defense Dept. responded on July 14, describing the search procedures used and requesting the U.S. District Court in Arizona to issue a Summary Judgement rejecting CAUS's charges. Last Feb. 7, Chief Federal District Judge Stephen M. McNamee heard opposing arguments, including a lengthy presentation by Gersten. On Feb. 16, Judge McNamee ruled in favor of CAUS and ordered the Defense Dept. to provide "supplemental affidavits setting forth the specific search terms used...[and] a reasonable description of the electronic mail message used in performing the records query of DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency)." Not surprisingly, Gersten praised Judge McNamee's ruling.

But when the Defense Dept. provided affidavits on March 17 which detailed its records search and which had used many of the same UFO descriptions contained in the original CAUS request, Judge McNamee granted the Defense Dept. request for a Summary Judgement in its favor on Mar. 30. Judge McNamee's formal decision concluded: *"This case is not one over the existence or non-existence of UFOs, but whether the government has conduct a reasonable search....Defendant [Defense Dept.] has met its burden by providing sufficiently detailed affidavits for the Court to conclude that a reasonable search was conducted in responding to the Plaintiff's FOIA request for documents. Plaintiff [CAUS] has failed to demonstrate substantial doubt regarding the reasonableness of the search."*

**GERSTEN SEEKS \$10,000 TO APPEAL McNAMEE's DECISION**

After the Court's final (March 30) decision, Gersten announced that he would appeal McNamee's ruling if CAUS was able to raise \$10,000 in contributions by May 31 to finance such action. Gersten's subsequent complaint on CAUS's Website about the paucity of contributions prompted a reader to question why \$10,000 was needed, assuming that Gersten provided his legal services "pro bono," i.e., without charge. Gersten responded: *"I run CAUS seven days a week and at least 10 hours a day...pro bono. I send out daily CAUS e-mails...pro bono. I post three articles a day on the CAUS Website...pro bono. But I refuse to do Appeals pro bono..."*

Immediately after the Feb. 7 hearing in Phoenix, where Judge McNamee allowed Gersten to make a 20-minute impassioned oral argument, Gersten was interviewed by the local media. In one interview, Gersten said: *"Part of this lawsuit is to get information. And the other part is to bring attention to our contact with this other [ET] intelligence."*

**SHORT SHRIFT::**

\* **Firmage issues new "Position Paper":** A lengthy treatise by Silicon Valley multi-millionaire Joe Firmage, recently distributed via the Internet, suggests that his focus may have shifted from UFOs to trying to eliminate all nuclear weapons and generating greater public concern over the earth's ecology. The only brief mention of UFOs in Firmage's 6,000-word treatise is his praise of the four-part TV show "UFOs: Then and Now?" recently broadcast on The History Channel. Firmage said this TV show (and another on The Learning Channel) *"provided probing examinations of parts of the long-ignored evidence for genuinely unidentifiable aerospace phenomena in our midst."* (The TV show included ancient cave-dweller art that is faintly suggestive of flying saucers, which seemingly confirms Firmage's view that ET visits date back thousands of years.) **Firmage made no mention of the Robert/Ryan Wood Majestic Documents which were featured in Firmage's earlier "The Truth" [SUN #56/March 1999].**

\* **FBI files reveal Corso had poor credibility:** Recently released Federal Bureau of Investigation files on the late Philip J. Corso, whose popular book "The Day After Roswell" made wild claims about his role as an Army intelligence specialist in the (alleged) Roswell crashed-saucer incident [SUN #47/Sept. 1997], reveal that Corso was held in very low regard by the FBI on non-UFO issues. (A candid summary of the FBI files on Corso was recently published by pro-UFOlogist Larry W. Bryant on his Website. Bryant made his FOIA request to the FBI shortly after Corso's death in mid-1998.) The FBI files reveal that Corso admitted he had created a letter which falsely accused the FBI of eavesdropping on telephone calls made from Sen. Strom Thurmond's office, where Corso was then employed. Corso claimed that he had created the letter only as a "joke." A 1965 memo to FBI director J. Edgar Hoover from an agency official stated: *"As previously indicated in [the] referenced memorandum, Corso is a self-styled intelligence expert who retired from the military approximately three years ago, and he has been working as one of Sen. Thurmond's many assistants. He has been a thorn in our side because of self-initiated rumors, idle gossip and downright lies he has spread to more or less perpetuate his own reputation as an intelligence expert."* Corso's book confirms the FBI's assessment.

\* **Stan Friedman also debunks some Corso claims:** In a sworn statement for use by Peter Gersten to support CAUS's claims, Corso said one of his Army assignments was with the National Security Council during the Eisenhower Administration and that he attended NSC meetings. When Friedman checked the Eisenhower Library, he was told these claims were false.

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