

Friedman Reports Some Of Cooper's "New Majestic" Documents Are Bogus Versions ("Emulations") Of Authentic Documents

Conclusive evidence that some of Timothy Cooper's "New Majestic" documents are slightly modified versions of authentic government documents--modified to insert MJ-12 or crashed-saucer references--and with a pasted-on "Xerox" photocopy of a President Truman signature, was presented by Stan Friedman at the recent MUFON conference in St. Louis. Friedman refers to these slightly modified versions as "emulations."

For example, President Truman signed a four-paragraph directive to (and written by) Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer on July 9, 1947, authorizing him to visit China. One of Cooper's new Majestic documents purportedly is a directive to Lt. Gen. Nathan Twining, also signed by Truman on July 9, 1947, authorizing him to visit New Mexico. Note the curious similarity of the beginning of the four paragraphs of the two directives:

Authentic Wedemeyer: "You will proceed to China without delay for the purpose of making an appraisal of the political, economic, psychological and military situation--current and projected."

Bogus Twining: "You will proceed to the White Sands Proving Ground Command without delay for the purpose of making an appraisal of the reported unidentified flying objects being kept there. Part of your mission there will deal with the military, political and psychological situation--current and projected."

Authentic Wedemeyer: "In making your appraisal it is desired that you proceed with detachment from any feeling of prior obligation to support or to further any Chinese programs..."

Bogus Twining: "In making your appraisal it is desired that you proceed with detachment from any opinions or feelings expressed by personnel involved..."

Authentic Wedemeyer: "When your mission to China is completed you will proceed on a brief trip to Korea to make an appraisal of the situation there..."

Bogus Twining: "When your mission in New Mexico is completed you will proceed on a brief trip to the Sandia AEC facility to make an appraisal of the situation there..."

Authentic Wedemeyer: "You will take with you such experts, advisors and assistants as you deem necessary to (sic) the effectiveness of your mission."

Bogus Twining: "You will take with you such experts, technicians, scientists and assistants as you deem necessary to (sic) the effectiveness of your mission."

Ironically, on July 9, 1947, when the bogus Cooper document purportedly was signed by Truman--directing Twining to go to New Mexico--Twining already was in New Mexico--attending a nuclear weapons conference/briefing by Sandia at Kirtland AFB.

More Bogus "Emulations" In Cooper's Majestic Documents

Other bogus "emulations" cited by Friedman included Wedemeyer's letter of transmittal to Truman of Sept. 24, 1947, for his trip report and the strikingly similar Twining letter of transmittal of Sept. 26 for his (Sept. 19) trip report. Both have three paragraphs which begin:

Authentic Wedemeyer: *"In compliance with your directive to me of 9 July 1947, the attached 'REPORT ON CHINA-KOREA' is respectfully submitted.*

Bogus Twining: *"In accordance with your directive to me of 9 July 1947, the attached 'REPORT ON FLYING SAUCERS' is respectfully submitted.*

Authentic Wedemeyer: *"In consonance with your instructions, advisors from State, Treasury, War and Navy Departments accompanied me on a two-months fact-finding mission in the Far East..."*

Bogus Twining: *"In consonance with your instructions, advisors from State, Treasury, War and Navy Departments assisted me on a two-month exploratory mission concerning the purpose of other-world visitation..."* [SUN Question: Why would advisors from the Treasury Dept. be useful in analyzing crashed ET craft?]

Authentic Wedemeyer: *"The report also includes pertinent data in appendices which may be of interest and assistance to appropriate government departments and agencies..."*

Bogus Twining: *"The report also includes pertinent data in the appendices which may be of interest for forwarding to appropriate government departments and agencies."*

At the bottom of the genuine Wedemeyer report, Truman wrote: "I am keeping for further study." The bogus Twining memo contains the SAME handwritten comment which is physically IDENTICAL to the one on Wedemeyer's report.

Another one of Cooper's flawed Majestic documents, cited by Friedman in his July 15 MUFON paper published in the conference proceedings, is what purports to be a letter dated 27 September 1947 from Secretary of State George Marshall. In the letter, Marshall erroneously identifies himself as Secretary of Defense. (Not until two years later would Marshall be named Secretary of Defense.)

Wood Attempts To Ignore "Emulations" In Cooper Documents

Dr. Robert M. Wood - in partnership with his son Ryan - have emerged as the principal promoters of the Cooper documents. Robert presented an hour-long endorsement of their authenticity at the MUFON conference's Saturday afternoon session. The conference Proceedings carried a more detailed 29-page version. Although Wood's presentation preceded that of Friedman who spoke several hours later, because of their long-standing friendship Friedman had earlier provided Wood with a copy of his critical comments.

In Wood's published MUFON conference paper he did not even mention the "emulated Wedemeyer memos," but he did so briefly in his oral presentation: *"Friedman has found that there are some problems with the documents I've described. Here's one example, received by Cooper, which says 'Approved by Harry Truman, July 9, 1947.' This is the authorization to send Gen. Twining to White Sands to find out what was going on in early July. And the problem is that this signature block includes the exact spacing with respect to the 9th of July, also is the same approval that was sent to Wedemeyer--and that's in Wedemeyer's book....As I looked at the Wedemeyer report at the Archives, I saw a note by Wedemeyer saying 'if you don't mind, Mr. President, I'd like to keep this for my own records.' And so these originals have been absconded with. And the question is what happened to those originals? Was there a covert action for psychological warfare way back in 1947? That's a thought I want to leave you with--without trying to tell you that it is true--though it might be."* (Later, Wood dismissed the possibility that Cooper's documents might be "psy-war" fakes.)

THE FOREGOING WAS ROBERT WOOD'S SOLE ATTEMPT, AT THE RECENT MUFON CONFERENCE, TO EXPLAIN THESE AND OTHER INCRIMINATING "EMULATIONS" OF GENUINE DOCUMENTS IN COOPER'S MAJESTIC DOCUMENTS, WHICH WERE CITED BY FRIEDMAN IN HIS MUFON PAPER.

Many Challenges To Authenticity Of Cooper Documents

In Wood's paper in the MUFON Proceedings, he admits that about half a dozen persons have challenged the authenticity of Cooper's Majestic documents on approximately 60 issues, a few of which he discussed--and attempted to answer. Many of these flaws are contained in the "MAJESTIC TWELVE PROJECT 1st Annual Report" which bears no date but discusses events that (allegedly) occurred in 1952--nearly five years after MJ-12 allegedly was created. [SUN Comment: HOW VERY CURIOUS THAT MJ-12 WOULD OPERATE FOR FIVE YEARS BEFORE ISSUING ITS FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.]

One of the Majestic documents' skeptics cited by Wood is MUFON's Corporate Secretary Thomas P. Deuley, a veteran UFO researcher who was employed by the National Security Agency, where he held the highest security clearances prior to his retirement in the mid-1980s. Deuley has expressed his strong doubts not only about Cooper's documents but also about the authenticity of the "original" MJ-12 Eisenhower Briefing Document (EBD) made public in mid-1987 by William Moore, Jaime Shandera, and Stan Friedman. Deuley added that if EBD was bogus, then all the other MJ-12 documents were of doubtful authenticity. (Deuley expressed these views in two articles published in the May/June 1999 issues of the MUFON UFO Journal.)

Wood's response at the recent MUFON conference was the following: "*There is no claim that Eisenhower Briefing Document is the generating document. It may turn out that some statements in the EBD are not true. There is no claim [by the Woods] that this relates to the authenticity of the others, nearly all of which predate the EBD date of 18 November 1952. Each document needs to be carefully evaluated on its own merits first and then for consistency with other documents, both questioned and genuine from FOIA [Freedom Of Information Act] or the open literature....The author writing it [specific Majestic document] may have limited access to classified data, or been given bad intelligence inadvertently.*" (Emphasis added.)

[SUN Comment: According to Wood, if there are errors in EBD--purportedly written by former CIA Director Radm. Hillenkoetter, who allegedly headed MJ-12--the explanation is that Hillenkoetter had "limited access to classified data, or had been given bad intelligence inadvertently." Thus, Wood's view is that even if serious factual flaws are found in ALL of Cooper's Majestic documents, that does not show that ANY of them are counterfeit.]

Wood Ignores "Elevated 8" In Majestic Document And Cooper Letters

Wood tried to divert attention from hard evidence that the typewriter that Cooper used to write letters to British UFOlogist Timothy Good on Oct. 4 and Oct. 7 1991 was the same typewriter used for Cooper's "Majestic 12 Project 1st Annual Report." As reported in the Nov. 1999 issue of SUN, the typewriter had a mechanical flaw which frequently resulted in a slightly elevated "8" (relative to adjacent numerals) in Cooper's "1952" document and in his 1991 letters to Good. Another similarity was a slight elevation of the capital letters "G" and "N." SUN acknowledged that "*the slight elevation of the upper-case letters conceivably could occur if the typist failed to depress the 'shift' key to its lowest possible position. However, to type a numeral does NOT require the use of the 'shift' key. Thus, a slight elevation of a NUMERAL reveals a slight mechanical flaw in a specific typewriter and thus corresponds to its 'fingerprint'.*"

Wood offered the following evasive comment on this key issue. "*Much has been made of a similarity of raised letters in the typewriting used by Cooper to write a letter to Tim Good and the type in the 'Majestic Twelve 1st Annual Report.'* My own Questioned Document Examiner, James Black, concluded that the typewriter used was a Royal bar typewriter in both cases, but that one could not say more than each could be one of tens of thousands of typewriters, and that fast typists typically do not hit the capitalization bar [shift key] uniformly." (Emphasis added.) [SUN Comment: No mention of the elevated numeral "8s," which don't require use of the shift key.]

THIS IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ANOMALY BECAUSE IT SHOWS THAT COOPER'S TYPEWRITER WAS USED TO PREPARE AT LEAST ONE OF HIS MAJESTIC DOCUMENTS. The Woods can not explain this away as "government disinformation."

Significant Discrepancy Between EBD And "1st Annual Report"

Neither Wood nor Friedman opted to discuss a very critical discrepancy in the content of the "1st Annual Report of Majestic Twelve" and the Eisenhower Briefing Document (EBD). The latter, purportedly prepared by Hillenkoetter to brief President-elect Eisenhower on 18 Nov. 1952, opens with a brief history of UFOs that begins with the June 24, 1947, sighting by Kenneth Arnold. This is followed by: *"Hundreds of reports of sightings of similar objects followed....Thesereports resulted in independent efforts by several different elements of the military to ascertain the nature and purpose of these objects....In spite of these efforts, little of substance was learned about the objects until a local rancher ["Mac" Brazel] reported that one had crashed in a remote region of New Mexico....On 07 July, 1947, a secret operation was begun to assure recovery of the wreckage of this object for scientific study. During the course of this operation, aerial reconnaissance discovered that FOUR small human-like beings had apparently ejected from the craft....These had fallen to earth about two miles east of the wreckage site. All four were dead....On 06 December, 1950, a second object, probably of similar origin, impacted the earth at high speed in the El Indio-Guerrero area of the Texas-Mexico border..."* (Emphasis added.)

But the "1st Annual Report of Majestic Twelve," purportedly written shortly before the EBD, claims that TWO UFOs crashed--one of them near the Trinity atomic-bomb test site--and that FIVE ET bodies were recovered. The report states: *"It is believed that the debris discovered on 2 July 1947, by a local rancher was the result of a mid-air collision with an X-plane from HAFB [Holloman Air Force Base], with another unidentified object, or possibly collided with both (sic)."*

[SUN Comment: Despite the passage of FIVE years, MJ-12 (seemingly) was not able to determine whether one of a tiny handful of our experimental aircraft was involved in a mid-air collision with one or both UFOs. If so, debris from the X-plane and the body of its pilot should have been found in the vicinity.]

Despite Friedman's strong endorsement of the accuracy of the EBD, he believes that TWO ET craft did crash in New Mexico in July of 1947, but that the second UFO crash-landed on the Plains of San Agustin--despite the fact that same is NOT mentioned in the document. The Plains of San Agustin are roughly 100 miles northwest of the (alleged) second crash site mentioned in the "1st Annual Report." (The El Indio Guerrero incident cited in EBD and the "1st Annual Report" was thoroughly investigated by MUFON's Tom Deuley, who found that it involved a small aircraft, not a UFO as claimed in the EBD.)

Woods Believe That Crashed ET Craft Was Recovered In 1941

The Woods believe that the first crashed-saucer recovery occurred in the spring of 1941, near Cape Girardeau, Mo.--more than six years prior to the Roswell Incident. Surprisingly, there is scant mention of this seemingly historic event in the more than 500 pages of Top Secret documents obtained from Cooper. There are two cryptic references in the (purported) Twining report of Sept. 19, 1947, to Truman--but they do not appear until pages 14 and 16 of the 19-page document. The first account of the (alleged) Cape Girardeau incident was published by crashed-saucer researcher Leonard Stringfield in mid-1991. It was based on a 1991 letter from Charlette (sic) Mann, who claimed that her grandfather, a minister, had been called to the UFO crash site to administer last rites to the three ETs [SUN #61/Jan. 2000]. Few if any UFO researchers gave any credence to the Cape Girardeau crashed-saucer tale which was only one of many reported by Stringfield.

The (purported) Sept. 19 Twining report suggests that President Roosevelt and the U.S. military largely ignored the historic (if true) Cape Girardeau incident. According to the Twining report, *"In the early months of 1942, up until the present...there has been no serious investigation by the intelligence arm of the Government. Even the recovery case of 1941 did not create a unified intelligence effort to exploit possible technological gains with the exception of the Manhattan [atomic bomb] Project."* Despite the purported recovery of a crashed ET craft and ET bodies in 1941, and others in New Mexico in 1947, according to Twining's report--allegedly based on two months investigation--only "some members [of Twining's team] expressed the view that the [craft]...may be the product of an advanced culture from another planet."

But this 1947 assessment is challenged and the Cape Girardeau incident seemingly is confirmed by a new Cooper document that purports to be a memorandum written by President Roosevelt on Feb. 22, 1944, which is addressed to **THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON NON-TERRESTRIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**. If the memo were authentic, it indicates that Roosevelt created an MJ-12 type group more than three years before President Truman (allegedly) did so. (Although SUN has not consulted a Questioned Document Examiner, the typeface of the 1944 Roosevelt memo does not appear to have been written with a typewriter. The document appears to SUN to have been prepared with a personal computer printer.)

Wood Offers Possible Explanation For Identical Truman Signatures

The authenticity of the original MJ-12 documents made public in mid-1987 was challenged shortly afterwards by SUN's editor when it was discovered that the Truman signature on his (purported) memo of Sept. 24, 1947, to Secretary of Defense James Forrestal, calling for the creation of MJ-12, was identical to the signature on an authentic Truman memo of Oct. 1, 1947, to Dr. Vannevar Bush. When both were examined by a leading Questioned Documents Examiner, Peter Tytell, he concluded that the Sept 24 signature was a pasted-on "Xerox" photocopy. If this Truman memo is bogus, then so is the EBD which contains a reference to this Sept. 24 Truman memo [SUN #58/July 1999].

The Woods' explanation for the identical signatures on the Sept. 24 and the authentic Oct. 1 memos is that Truman used an "Auto-pen" pantograph machine to sign both, i.e., that the President waited SEVEN days to Oct. 1 to sign and send the (seemingly) vitally important MJ-12 memo until he could use the "Auto-pen". NONSENSE. SUN has a photocopy of a letter that Truman signed on Sept. 26 to Treasury Secretary John W. Snyder and the signature is NOT identical to his authentic signature of Oct. 1 or the MJ-12 signature of Sept. 24. More than a year ago, at an April 18, 1999, MUFON "Training Conference," the Woods said that they would search for a third Truman signature which was identical to the Sept. 24 and Oct. 1 signatures to prove that they were signed by the President using an "Auto-pen." At the recent MUFON conference, Wood showed a photo of Truman using the "Auto-pen" and said *"We are hunting for such a [identical] signature in likely archives."*

A Woods press release, dated July 26, said that they had visited the Truman Library in Independence, Mo. It began: *"Confirmed at the Truman Presidential Library, subtle facts provide more evidence for the reality of the Majestic-12 program....These documents support the contention that a secret high-level investigation into flying saucers took place in 1948."* [The Woods belatedly "discovered" a 1948 Top Secret Air Intelligence Report, 100-203-79, which was declassified 15 years ago and published in the July 1985 issue of the MUFON UFO Journal. It concluded that unexplained UFOs might be covert Soviet craft.] The Woods press release continued: *"Coming soon will be even more compelling evidence for the New Mexico crash events of 1947 from the Truman Archive: namely, the lack of telephone records from the White House for July 4th, 5th and 6th, 1947 and a meeting with Carl A. Hatch, Senator from New Mexico on July 9th."* The Woods did not find a Truman "Auto-pen" signature which matched those of Sept. 24/Oct. 1.

Credulous French COMETA UFO Report Flops In France

The 90-page French report by COMETA--The Committee for In-depth Studies has been hailed by U.S. pro-UFO organizations because it rejects prosaic explanations for UFO reports and concludes that UFOs are most probably extraterrestrial craft [SUN #69/Nov. 1999]. But the COMETA report's recommendations for increased UFO research funding have been ignored by top French government officials. The report--titled "UFOs and Defense: What Should We Prepare For?"--was first published in the July, 1999, French magazine VSD. It attracted considerable attention because some COMETA members are retired high-level military officers.

Enthusiastic summaries of the COMETA report's highlights, written by French UFOlogist Gildas Bourdais, were featured in several U.S. UFO publications last year. But in a recent survey of leading UFOlogists, conducted by "CNI News," Bourdais was more pessimistic about the impact of the COMETA report: *"The current state of UFO research...remains weak in France....A recent effort to overcome the situation--the 'COMETA Report,' published in July 1999, signed by several high ranking military officers and rather prudent in its approach--met either with silence in the media, or bitter critics. The irony is that these critics came mainly from UFOlogical circles..."* [SUN #64/July 2000]. Bourdais provided no specifics.

UFO researcher Jacques Scornaux confirms that the COMETA Report was ignored by the general media in France--except for Le Canard Enchaîné (a satirical weekly) which characterized the COMETA Report as *"a genuine declaration of war on hypothetical extraterrestrials."* Even the French UFO magazine Phenomena was critical of the report, according to Scornaux. The article concluded that *"The COMETA report succeeds in ridiculing the subject....Its main authors are obsessed by hypotheses founded on nothing but an appeal to a New Age UFOlogy and some paranoia."* When another French UFO researcher, Claude Mauge, wrote to the top official of IHEDN on Jan. 31, he reportedly received a reply which stated, *"the Institute of Advanced Studies for National Defense specifies that the statements made by these persons [who prepared the report] are binding only on themselves, and are in no way a reflection of the thought of IHEDN..."* In response to a similar query to COMETA, Mauge received the following response: *"The Association COMETA has no responsibility in the mistaken presentations of its report..."* (Emphasis added.)

UFO-Abduction Leaders Ignore Possible Defense Against ETs

Although most of those who promote belief in UFO abductions claim such incidents have a very traumatic effect on the victims, the leaders of that "cult" continue to ignore possible defense techniques described in the book "How to Defend Yourself Against Alien Abduction," authored by veteran UFO researcher Ann Druffel, which was published two years ago. As reported in a Druffel letter published in the May issue of the MUFON UFO Journal, her book describes nine techniques which *"enable traumatized 'experiencers' to break the altered state of consciousness in which the abduction scenarios occur. Once the altered state is broken and the person returns to full waking consciousness, the creatures vanish and the scenarios end."* While SUN does not agree with Druffel that the persons *"are possibly interacting with interdimensional beings,"* the simple techniques she suggests deserve evaluation. Further, according to Druffel, *"Resisters are able to live happy, productive lives, free of the trauma and effects of their prior experiences."* Druffel adds that some UFO-abduction researchers are teaching her techniques.

But Druffel's suggested resistance techniques are being ignored by the leaders of the UFO-abduction cult. This recently prompted Druffel to send copies of her book to four leading "abductologists," with a request for their comments. NONE RESPONDED. The four are believed to be: Budd Hopkins, David Jacobs, Dr. John Mack and John Carpenter. WHY ARE THEY UNWILLING TO TEST DRUFFEL'S TECHNIQUES?

NIDS Official Describes Its UFO Research Operations

The UFO research program of the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS), created in 1995 by Robert Bigelow--wealthy Las Vegas businessman with a long-time interest in UFOs and cattle mutilations--was reported for the first time at the recent MUFON conference by a top NIDS official, Dr. Colm A. Kelleher. Kelleher, who serves as NIDS deputy administrator under Bigelow, has a background in immunology and biochemistry and was originally hired to investigate cattle mutilations. One of NIDS's new objectives is to become *"a media clearinghouse that answers media questions about UFOs from a scientific perspective,"* according to Kelleher. Another is to *"promote aerial phenomena as a serious topic worthy of scientific study by building bridges with scientists and scientific organizations."*

For the first several years, NIDS focused its research on what Kelleher calls "UFO Hot-Spots" in northern New Mexico (near Chama) and northeastern Utah on the Uintah-Ouray Indian Reservation because persons there had been reporting UFO sightings during the last 40-50 years. Initially NIDS focused on interviewing such persons. Kelleher said that NIDS has interviewed more than 100 persons in the Utah UFO Hot-Spot and nearly as many in the northern New Mexico UFO Hot-Spot--some of whom reported seeing *"unusual entities of different sizes and shapes."* In 1996 NIDS decided to supplement its interviews with mobile instrumentation and the use of dogs as bio-sensors for investigating current UFO sightings.

NIDS's CURIOUS UFO HOT-SPOT RESEARCH RESULTS

Kelleher reported that NIDS analysts believe that 50% of the UFO reports in northern New Mexico involve "craft" but that only 15% of the UFO reports from northeast Utah were "craft." He did not clarify whether this includes those UFO reports dating back to the 1940s or only recent reports. Nor did Kelleher report how NIDS determined which UFO reports did, or did not, involve "craft." But he noted that *"it's interesting that there has been a lot of overlap in terms of the types of unusual phenomena [reported in] northern New Mexico and northeastern Utah: unusual, very large animals that are bigger than bears but seem to be very easily able to vanish without leaving any tracks. These types of phenomena, plus humanoid entities that can appear and disappear, and a type of interdimensional phenomena, have been described in both UFO Hot-Spots."*

Kelleher described one incident that occurred in Utah where two men (reportedly) *"saw a silver-colored disc about mid-day flying over their land at about 100 feet altitude which completely vanished in a flash of light."* Later that night, around 2 a.m., the two men were atop a ridge near where they had seen the silver disc when they (reportedly) spotted a small light about 100 feet below them. One of the men, who had binoculars which operated in the near-infrared, used them to look at the mysterious light. According to Kelleher, he saw *"an expanding three-dimensional circle of light that seemed like a tunnel....He saw a large black creature crawling through the tunnel in mid-air about four feet above the ground. The creature crawled out of the tunnel and vanished into the night."* Kelleher said the two men went down to investigate but could find no animal tracks. *"They checked the area for unusual magnetic fields, electric fields and electromagnetic radiation. They found nothing except for a very intense smell."* [SUN Comment: their access to such instrumentation suggests the two men were NIDS employees.]

In mid-1999, NIDS expanded its research to collect UFO reports from the entire country via a 24-hour Hot Line which encouraged law-enforcement agencies and the news media to promptly report local UFO sightings. Since then, approximately 500 UFO incidents have been reported. In some instances, such as the multiple police sightings last Jan. 5 in west-central Illinois, NIDS sent two investigators to interview the witnesses [SUN #62/Mar. 2000]. Recently NIDS posted a summary of its analysis of these 500 cases on its Website [SUN #64/July 2000]. But its analysis did NOT include what percentage of the UFO sightings turned out to be misidentifications of prosaic objects. Seemingly, that is not of interest to NIDS.

Kelleher briefly discussed NIDS's research into cattle mutilations and said that "in a small number of cases we have ruled out that predators and scavengers are involved." But he admitted that "many veterinarians disagree." He concluded his MUFON presentation: "We think that MUFON is definitely an organization we'd like to cooperate with. John Schuessler [recently named to head MUFON] is a member of our NIDS Advisory Board which has been a tremendously productive collaboration so far, but we'd like to extend that. We're very interested in international collaboration too....The bottom line for us right now: the jury is still out on interpreting the kind of [UFO] data we're getting. We have to slow down the interpretation and do more investigation." [SUN Comment: "ROTS OF RUCK."]

Short Shrift:

* Maccabee authors new book on UFO abductions: Dr. Bruce Maccabee, a leading pro-UFO researcher who previously has focused his efforts on "nuts-and-bolts" type cases, is entering the field of UFO abductions with his new book, titled "Abduction in my Life," to be published late this year by Wild Flower Press. The book will be listed as "A novel of alien encounters" but will be characterized as "factual." A decade ago, Maccabee was a guest of Whitley Strieber in his vacation home in upstate New York and gave a qualified endorsement of Strieber's ET-abduction tales. Maccabee recently authored the book "UFO FBI Connection" and earlier co-authored the book "UFOs Are Real: Here's The Proof" with partner Ed Walters of Gulf Breeze, Fla., whose "hokey" UFO photos Maccabee endorsed as authentic.

* Dr. Greer creates new group to reveal UFO secrets: Dr. Steven Greer--who heads the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence (CSETI)--has recently created "Disclosure News Programming" (DNP) "to disclose definitive evidence and proof regarding extraterrestrial intelligence, UFOs and covert government projects related to the subject." According to Greer, DNP will hold a "news conference during which top-secret witnesses disclose the full nature of their direct knowledge concerning the subject....[Greer did not indicate when this news conference would be held.] This international team working intensely on the disclosure process has recently been joined by one of the most senior aerospace executives in American history--a person who has specific knowledge since the 1970s of the planned use of Ballistic Missile Defense (the Star Wars program) to target extraterrestrial objects in space..." (Emphasis added.) [The "Star Wars" program was first proposed by President Reagan in March 1981.]

* Joe Firmage, Dr. Sagan's widow launch joint venture: Silicon Valley multi-millionaire Joe Firmage, who believes UFOs are ET visitors that use exotic Zero Point Energy (ZPE) propulsion [SUN #59/Sept. 1999], has formed a joint venture with Carl Sagan Productions--headed by the widow of the famous astronomer and UFO skeptic. The joint venture, called Project Voyager, will produce movies and Internet programs on science directed at teen-agers. Some observers sense that Firmage is trying to distance himself from UFOs to focus on exotic concepts, such as ZPE, which are endorsed by a few segments of the scientific community.

* Schuessler takes over as head of MUFON: Walter H. Andrus, who has headed MUFON since he created it 30 years ago, officially retired at the recent MUFON conference and was succeeded by MUFON's deputy director--John F. Schuessler--who achieved fame in UFO circles for his investigation of the 1980 Cash-Landrum incident [SUN #56/Mar. 1999; SUN #59/Sept. 1999]. Until Schuessler's recent retirement he worked with NASA's manned-space operations.

 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. We deeply thank Dr. Gary Posner for his help in proofreading.

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