

# RADIOLOGY CONSULTANTS

of Madison, S.C.  
309 W. Washington Ave.  
Madison, WI 53703

GARY  
FYI

March 10, 1982

David Atwell, M.D.  
John Juhl, M.D.  
Jerald Pietan, M.D.  
Peter Rank, M.D.  
Dennis Steffen, M.D.  
William Waskow, M.D.

Philip J. Klass  
404 N. Street Southwest  
Washington D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Klass:

Thank you for yours of February 14, 1982, which I hurry to answer immediately upon my return to the city after an absence of two weeks.

Yes your name is well known to me, and I have read your book with great interest.

For the Cash/Landrum incident, I certainly agree that it can not be explained very readily. My involvement in this case is at the request of Mr. John Schuessler, who asked me to evaluate the medical information, including conversations with one of the principal's physicians.

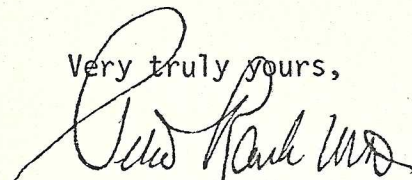
After a thorough review of this information, I have provided my opinion to Mr. Schuessler, for incorporation into his rather extensive case study. He has gone public with it, and I would have no statement to make beyond that.

My basis for this is simply absolute necessity for confidentiality of medical information. Certainly, in every day practice, we are bound both ethically and legally to respect a patient's right to privacy, without exceptions. If this is true during routine medical practice, it becomes all the more urgent to observe these regulations in the case of a UFO witness. It has been my experience that a considerable amount of personal, and sometimes embarrassing information reaches the media in UFO cases, and I do not want to be a party to that.

Furthermore I am not authorized to release any of the private medical information and refer you to Mr. Schuessler who is, after all, the expert in this particular case.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,



Peter Rank, M.D.  
Director, Department of Radiology

PHILIP J. KLASS  
404 "N" ST. SOUTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20024  
(202) 554-5901

March 13, 1982

Dr. Peter Rank  
Radiology Consultants  
309 W. Washington Ave.  
Madison, Wisc. 53703

Dear Dr. Rank:

Let me say that I fully understand your position as an M.D. in terms of confidentiality on the Cash/Landrum incident.

IF John Schuessler had addressed the key issue of "before/after" effects in his article published in the Nov. 1981 issue of The MUFON Journal, I would have been spared the trouble of writing to him, to Dr. Niemtzw and to you in an effort to learn something about this all-important issue.

Schuessler made it clear that Landrum's doctor was informed of her medical problems, instructed that she go to a hospital where she remained for 12 days, according to Schuessler's account. Apparently her doctor authorized her release "even though she had shown little improvement." Then, John reports, that Landrum returned to the hospital "for 15 more days." Presumably at the suggestion of her physician. Curiously, his account says nothing of Cash's medical treatment by her physician. In other words, his public account raises, in my mind at least, far more questions than I have encountered <sup>before</sup> for such a seemingly well-investigated incident.

For me the key question is whether, or not, both women were in excellent health prior to the incident, with none of the symptoms later reported.

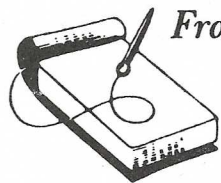
But since that is something which you feel you yourself can not answer because of confidentiality, could you respond to the following:

On the basis of your discussions with one of the principal's doctors, what probability would you assign to the possibility that her post-incident symptoms might have a prosaic explanation, and what probability would you assess that the symptoms could only be explained in terms of an extraordinary phenomenon, such as an extraterrestrial craft with some sort of radiation "weapon". (The sum of these two probability estimates should total 1.0, unless you feel that there is a third alternative not listed above.)

Sincerely,



Mar. 20, 1982



*From the desk of*

PHILIP J. KLASS

Dear Gary:

Everyone is "clamming up" on the Cash/Landrum case. See enclosure.

I understand that Cash or Landrum (or both) have hired lawyer who is suing the U.S. Govt. on the charge that it secretly tested a radiation weapon in vicinity of the Houston airport!!!!

I only wish the U.S. had such a secret weapon! And if it had, rest assured it would not be tested in so public an area.

If Cash/Landrum were irradiated by such a weapon at such a distance--imagine the crews of the 20+ helicopters who ALLEGEDLY were flying nearby.

What a crock of bulloney.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. J. Klass', written in a cursive style.

Packet of material--nothing exciting--is being put into the daisy chain today.

# RADIOLOGY CONSULTANTS

of Madison, S.C.  
309 W. Washington Ave.  
Madison, WI 53703

GARY  
FYI

March 23, 1982

David Atwell, M.D.  
John Juhl, M.D.  
Jerald Pietan, M.D.  
Peter Rank, M.D.  
Dennis Steffen, M.D.  
William Waskow, M.D.

Philip J. Klass  
404 N. St. Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Klass:

Thank you for yours of March 13, 1982, which arrived this morning.

I hasten to reiterate my inability and unwillingness to comment in any way on the Cash/Landrum case for reasons mentioned before.

I would not begin to comment on the pre-incident medical condition of either Betty Cash or Vicki Landrum, nor will I comment on their hospital care, nor will I comment on their post hospitalization condition.

Again, I must say it would be unethical for me to transmit any medical information to an interested third party, regardless of their journalistic or other credentials.

Not only is it unethical, I have no legal authorization to transmit this information.

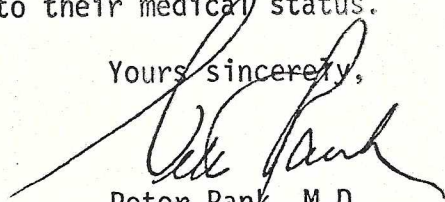
Finally, I do not agree with the philosophy current among people who style themselves ufologists, of transmitting personal information about informants or witnesses, and I have no sympathy for the journalistic model under which you are laboring.

There is no doubt that we have caused many citizens a great deal of inconvenience, embarrassment, and harrassment by going public with names and private details of their lives as they relate to the entire UFO question. I will not be a party to this in any way.

Furthermore, neither of the adult principals involved in this episode have given me any authorization to release such information to you, and it is unlikely that they will do so in the future.

Again, Mr. John Schuessler is in charge of this case and is the only one that can obtain authorization from the principals to release any information at all, and certainly this applies to their medical status.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Rank". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Peter Rank, M.D.  
Director, Department of Radiology

PHILIP J. KLASS  
404 "N" ST. SOUTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20024  
—  
(202) 554-5901

March 27, 1982

Dr. Peter Rank  
Radiology Consultants  
309 W. Washington Ave.  
Madison, Wisc. 53703

Dear Dr. Rank:

It is regrettable that in your haste to reply to my letter of March 13 you failed to read my letter with care. I did NOT ask that you comment on the pre-incident medical condition of the principals, nor on their post-hospitalization condition per se, and certainly not on their hospital care. My opening sentence clearly indicated that I fully understood your reasons for declining to discuss such specifics.

You could have responded to my single question somewhat as follows: Prosaic explanation = 0.3. Extraordinary explanation = 0.7, or with whatever numbers you felt were appropriate.

While I have expressed appreciation and understanding of your own views on your professional ethics, you have criticized my own, at least by implication, which compells me to respond.

IF Betty Cash and Vicki Landrum had sought and tried to keep private their alleged experience, refusing to be interviewed by John Schuessler and other UFOlogists, I would honor their desire for privacy and anonymity. But the published record indicates quite the opposite! (Surely Schuessler and other UFOlogists did not resort to ruse to obtain the published facts. And surely Schuessler and other UFOlogists did not publish extensive details against the wishes of Cash/Landrum. Surely they did not agree to pose for photographs unwillingly.)

Many years ago, I recall my father (a lawyer) telling me of a high-court decision involving "privacy" which stuck with me possibly because of its association with "virginity." As best I recall the words of the court they were: "Anonymity, like virginity, once forfeited can never again be regained, regardless of the reasons for its loss."

As a professional journalist and long-time UFOlogist, I not infrequently find it appropriate to protect the anonymity of sources, for a variety of reasons. And since your recent letter implies that your motivations for not commenting are more noble than my own for seeking the facts on this case, may I state my own concerns and motivations:

IF there are alien craft in our skies that are "irradiating" innocent citizens and the U.S. Defense Dept. is derelict in its responsibilities, that fact needs to be brought to the attention of the public as soon as possible so it can apply pressure to its government representatives to take appropriate action to protect its citizens.

Dr. Peter Rank:

-2-

Mar. 27, 1982

IF the U.S. Defense Dept. is testing radiation weapons in proximity to populated areas, using innocent citizens as guinea pigs, this too deserves to be known to the public, in my opinion, so that appropriate action can be taken to halt such tests.

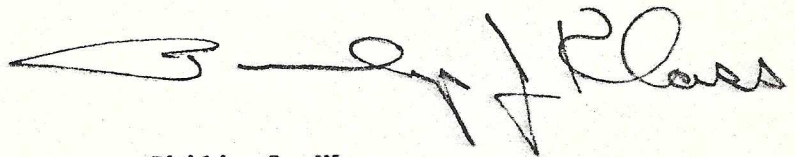
IF the Cash/Landrum incident is a hoax, and innocent citizens are needlessly being caused to fear for their safety, this too deserves to be known to the public, in my opinion.

I do not claim that my ethical motivations should override your own, or are the more commendable. But surely they are as professional and altruistic as those you state.

I have been told that Cash and Landrum have hired legal counsel and are planning litigation against the U.S. Government because of the incident. If my informant is correct, it would suggest that the principals are not as anxious for anonymity as you seem to believe.

Perhaps I shall have to wait for these legal proceedings when the principals will be obliged to "go public" in great detail, as well as stand for cross-examination, along with their physicians. Possibly even you will be called to testify?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Philip J. Klass". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Philip J. Klass

GARY  
FYI

PHILIP J. KLASS  
404 "N" ST. SOUTHWEST  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20024  
(202) 554-5901

April 5, 1982

Dr. Peter Rank  
Radiology Consultants  
309 West Washington Ave.  
Madison, Wisc. 53703

Dear Dr. Rank:

Did you have the opportunity to see Vicki Landrum, her son Colby, together with John Schuessler and Dr. Leo Sprinkle discuss the Cash-Landrum incident on the ABC-TV network show, "That's Incredible," on April 1, 1982?

None of the participants seemed at all embarrassed at discussing details in public, nor did they seem to be "harrassed," nor in any way reluctant. Landrum even underwent hypnosis for the occasion, on camera.

Either innocent citizens are in great jeopardy of suffering "radiation burns" from extraterrestrial craft or U.S. Defense Dept. weapons tests...

Or the public is being victimized by a gigantic hoax.

Yet those who might help resolve the issue refuse to speak out for the Commonweal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip J. Klass". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "P".