

GARY P. POSNER, M.D.
6219 PALMA DEL MAR BLVD. #210
ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA 33715

April 5, 1982

Peter Rank, M.D.
Radiology Consultants
309 W. Washington Avenue
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Dr. Rank,

I am an internist, and an associate member of the UFO Subcommittee of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP). Philip Klass chairs the UFO Subcommittee, and several months ago he requested my assistance in his efforts to investigate the so-called "Cash-Landrum UFO Radiation Case". I provided him with some basic research regarding the medical effects of lethal and sub-lethal doses of ionizing radiation, and remain very interested in this case from both a medical and a "Ufo-logical" standpoint. Because of this interest, Mr. Klass has forwarded to me your recent correspondence.

Phil originally wrote to you at the suggestion of Dr. Richard Nientzow. If you are not in receipt of copies of Dr. Nientzow's letters to Phil of Dec. 30 and Jan. 10, perhaps you should request such. Dr. Nientzow had hoped that with your assistance, enough medical data might be made available so that a panel of scientists could evaluate the case.

If the principals have not authorized you to release any information for this purpose, I am in full agreement with your stand in this regard. I am greatly disappointed, however, that as a result, there is little prospect of Dr. Nientzow's panel being formed.

In your letter to Mr. Klass of Mar. 23, you indicated that you would not want to be a party to causing anyone any inconvenience, embarrassment, or harassment by going public with details of the case, aside from your considerations of medical ethics. Although the principals have not specifically authorized you to "go public", they certainly have done so in their own way. In addition to the report that they may be planning to bring suit against the U.S. Government, all three principals, as well as John Schuessler, appeared on ABC-TV's That's Incredible on April 1. The UFO encounter was recreated, with Mr. Schuessler asking leading questions, and Mrs. Landrum underwent hypnosis on-stage by UFO proponent Dr. Leo Sprinkle. I do not know whether or not the principals were embarrassed by this spectacle, but I certainly was. I enclose a tape recording for your information (I missed the first minute or so).

This television performance reinforced my initial skepticism of the reality of the case, as reported by Mr. Schuessler in the MUFON UFO Journal. During my research into the effects of ionizing

radiation, I found what appear to me to be several problems with this explanation for the symptoms reported by Schuessler:

1) Betty Cash was reported to have lost 50% of her hair within several days, and it regrew with a "different texture". My research indicates that epilation does not occur for 2-3 weeks, and that rather than regrowing with a different texture, it regrows with normal texture, but with a different color (gray or white). In her TV debut, as I recall, Mrs. Cash's hair appeared uniformly brunette (perhaps she colors it).

2) Although Schuessler's article is unclear as to how long the reported diarrhea lasted, in Mrs. Landrum's case I inferred that it persisted for several weeks. My research indicates that prolonged diarrhea (for more than a very few days) indicates a lethal dose of about 1000 rads.

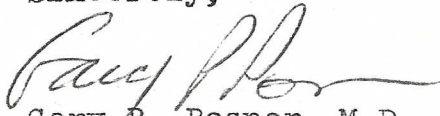
3) Mrs. Landrum's "sores persist after 8 months" according to the article. My research indicates ^{necessary} a ^{necessary} exposure of greater than 1000 rads to the involved areas. Since the rest of her body was not shielded from the hypothesized radiation source, she should have suffered a lethal dose of radiation.

In addition to the above, the skin lesions on Betty's limbs, a photograph of which was shown on the TV show, rather than being confluent areas of "radiation burn", were very discrete, round, coin-sized macules. I cannot imagine any burn injury that could have such an appearance, other than perhaps UV light on a limb covered with a template of that pattern.

If you cannot comment as to the correctness of the facts as reported in Mr. Schuessler's article, could you please comment as to whether or not my observations are medically correct, as they apply to radiation exposure cases in general?

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Sincerely,


Gary P. Posner, M.D.

RADIOLOGY CONSULTANTS

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

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

April 10, 1982

Gary P. Posner, M.D.
6219 Palma Del Mar Blvd.
#210
St. Petersburg, Florida 33715

Dear Doctor Posner:

Thank you for yours of April 5th, and thank you also for the tape of the That's Incredible program.

I am not in receipt of Doctor Richard Niemtow's correspondence with Mr. Klass. It would, however, make very little difference.

The principals have not authorized me to release any information with regard to their medical status. Mr. John Schuessler is the only one with such authorization.

The principals and Mr. Schuessler are perfectly entitled to "go public" in any way that they so choose. I do not have that freedom, and would not exercise it if I did.

As I indicated to Mr. Klass, I have very little sympathy for the journalistic model of UFO reporting, for a variety of reasons. UFO incidents are frequently tried in the press, a situation which does not lend itself to the kind of on-going scientific research required.

My antipathy for the journalistic model, and my proposal of an alternate medical model, quite antedate my correspondence with Mr. Klass. Richard Hall, editor of the MUFON Journal, has indicated he will be publishing a comment I wrote some months ago on this very matter, favoring the medical model.

The journalistic model has been with us now for a generation, and it has generated more heat than light. We must find a way to guarantee the anonymity of UFO witnesses and informants in order to spare them embarrassment and humiliation. This would also encourage other individuals to come forth with their data.

If witnesses choose to go public on their own, that is quite their business.

In response to your questions, please note the following:

- 1.) Hair does regrow following radiation damage with both a different color and a different texture. So far, the outcome of radiation epilation cannot be predicted. This is based not only on the literature, but my experience in radiation therapy, as well as a personal experience in my family.
- 2.) Diarrhea may occur at considerably lower levels than 1000 rads and may occur at doses in the area of 200 - 300 rads.
- 3.) Dermal lesions following irradiation may persist for long periods of time after exposure depending both upon the dose, penetrability, and whether the radiation was partial or total.

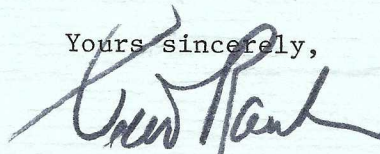
I am sorry not to be able to comment on the witnesses involved in this particular case, and even sorrier that Mr. Klass became so defensive after my recent letter. My strong statements were not meant to be a personal attack, although apparently he interpreted it as an attack against him as a journalist.

Having been both a journalist and a physician, I favor the medical model.

Needless to say, this letter is to be held in strictest confidence except that you may share it with Mr. Klass, should he be so interested. It is not for publication.

Please feel free to write or call if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Peter Rank", written over the typed name.

Peter Rank, M.D.

Director, Department of Radiology

PR/sgw