

Inevitably, PHIL KLASS writes:

"I'm sorry that I did not make clear the motivation behind my call to Robert Mortenson, director of conferences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, to have avoided your erroneous statement in the March 1st 'Saucer Smear' that I sought to 'stop the University sponsorship of the pro-UFO conference....'

"Not at all, for that would have defeated my then current plans to write an article that would 'needle' the University for continuing to sponsor conferences on claims of the paranormal in which only one side of the issue was presented to the public. In fact, I already had drafted an article but decided that I ought to give University authorities a chance to explain why they continued to sponsor such conferences without inviting skeptics....

"I welcome UFO conferences, for they not only help to sell UFO books (including my own) but they provide grist for my editorial mill....

"Friedman, Moore and I can agree on one thing: If the U.S. Government did capture one or more flying saucers beginning in 1947, as they claim, and eight American Presidents from Truman to Reagan have conspired to keep that from the American public, that would indeed be a 'Cosmic Watergate'. If these charges are true, the public deserves to know. And if they are false, Friedman, Moore and others who have made them ought to make a public apology!....

"If, following a Friedman-Moore press conference in Washington, D.C., the major news media (such as NY Times, Washington Post, Baltimore Sun, etc., and CBS, ABC & NBC News) launch an all-out Watergate type investigation into these charges and subsequently report to their readers/viewers that the 'Cosmic Watergate' is fact, not fantasy -

"OR if Congress decides to hold formal hearings on this issue, and such hearings issues a report confirming that the 'Cosmic Watergate' is fact, not fiction -

"THEN I WILL AGREE TO KISS THE BARE ASSES OF BOTH FRIEDMAN AND MOORE AT HIGH NOON IN LAFAYETTE PARK, OR ON THE CAPITOL STEPS, WHILE TV CAMERAS AND NEWSPAPER PHOTOGRAPHERS SHOOT AWAY - PROVIDING -

"That if the Friedman-Moore press conference does not result in one of the above, i.e. no formal Congressional hearings, no all-out investigation by major news media, that Friedman and Moore will publicly admit that their Cosmic Watergate charges have been found wanting and they will make a public apology for their wild charges against eight American Presidents and the many dedicated officials of their Administrations.

"If Friedman and Moore accept this challenge and win, I will only ask that both of them wear hats on the day I must discharge my obligations so that I will know which end I must kiss!"

We have pointed out to Phil that Lafayette Park in Washington is noted for its Gaiety, & all three of them might be hauled away on morals charges if the bet is paid off there! - Editor.

To which DR. GARY POSNER, a hard-core follower of Phil's, adds:

"The title of your March 1st editorial almost hit the nail on the head. The 'Phil Klass' that you describe as 'the epitamy of the anti-Everything' is indeed an invention of the Ufologists. The real Phil Klass is a highly respected journalist and editor with a well-earned reputation for scrupulous honesty and factual accuracy (among all but the 'pro-Weird-

Moseley lends helping foot

WASHINGTON (AP) — "He deserves
down in history as one of the

ness' crowd). His UFO views, rather than being 'anti-Everything', are in fact 'pro-Science'....

"Similarly, there is no credible evidence of a 'Cosmic Watergate' U.S. Government cover-up of UFO evidence, as Phil so painstakingly documents in his recent book. If I were an official of the University of Nebraska, I would have been personally and professionally embarrassed by the promotional literature and subject content of the pro-UFO conference, and would have appreciated Phil's efforts to educate those responsible for organizing and promoting such a bizarre spectacle."

KEN BEHRENDT writes:

"After dealing with skeptics for several years now, I believe I can offer your readers the 'Skeptics' Creed':

(a) Anybody who reports a UFO/Paranormal experience is either mistaken or lying. If the object is at a distance, the observer is mistaken or lying; if the object is close up, the observer is lying or hallucinating.

(b) Any observation can be explained in prosaic terms with a carefully constructed patchwork of possible, though improbable, prosaic causes. It does not really matter how improbable this patchwork is, because it is infinitely more probable than the zero probability of the observation being non-prosaic and thus genuine.

(c) If a UFO/Paranormal experience can be even approximately duplicated by trickery, then this guarantees that the original observation involved a hoax.

(d) Our present earthly science is complete, and since we can not build UFOs or readily duplicate Paranormal experiences in all their details, this proves real UFOs and Paranormal events do not exist.

(e) Since all the above are true, anybody who supports the reality of UFO/Paranormal phenomena is not really seeking 'the truth', but is either gullible, deluded, suffering from an inferiority complex, greedy, or using it to recruit followers for their various religious/philosophical/political crusades...."

BOB SHEAFFER, a rising star among the Bay Area (California) Skeptics writes:

"Egads! The mysterious William Steinman says that he has a letter proving that the government has recovered crashed flying saucers, but refuses to divulge the name of the 'well known scientist' writing it, for fear of your widely-rumored 'Intelligence Department ties'. How little he knows about intelligence work! Bohemian-types like you, keeping the kind of company you do, and a former grave robber, and - - - well, I need not go on; but sorry, Jim, you'd never make it to first base in a CIA-type background investigation. Steinman flatters you greatly by insinuating you already have!

"My intelligence sources reveal that Steinman, who reputedly hails from La Mirada (California), near a place called Disneyland, is hard at work on an earth-shaking book on saucer crashes. Its title is to be 'Saucer Down 12 Miles East of Aztec; Scully Was Right'. Steinman has been claiming that the book would be published in the winter of '83, or Spring '84. I haven't heard anything about the book's impending release, have you? Perhaps he has kept the name of the publisher secret, knowing of your intelligence connections?...."

Do you mean to say that a semi-retired Ghoul such as myself would not meet the high standards of the "Intelligence Department"? What a pity, indeed! - Editor.