



February 27, 2004

Mr. Michael Horn
P.O. Box 5163
Playa Del Rey, California 90045
michael@theyfly.com

Dear Mr. Horn,

I think it is important to recall what your exact challenge to the Center for Inquiry-*West* was. In your February 19, 2003, email to Mr. Vaughn Rees you stated:

“I first contacted you at CFI West and showed you the photographs and films of UFOs taken by Billy Meier in Switzerland. You may remember telling me then that they were ‘easily duplicated hoaxes’ and that you accepted, on behalf of CFI West, my invitation to duplicate one of each.”

Then, in an email to Mr. James Randi on April 14, 2003, you stated:

“I challenged CFI West, the professional skeptics’ cult with which you are associated, to duplicate ONE of Billy Meier’s UFO photos and ONE of his film segments.”

And, in your press release/email bulletin of December 5, 2003, you stated:

“Mr. Rees agreed to back up his claims by duplicating one of Meier’s UFO photos along with the film segment.”

So, let us be very clear. Your challenge to the Center for Inquiry-*West* was to duplicate one photograph and one movie. At our website, www.iigwest.com/horn.test.html, we have duplicated seven photographs. We have actually duplicated more, but we have only posted seven. In time we may decide to put more examples on the webpage.

After the Independent Investigations Group and the Center for Inquiry-*West*’s letter to you on February 11, 2004, you responded with a very different claim. In your February 15, 2004, email to us you state:

“the next step is for you to show that your hoaxed photos meet the *same criteria* on which Meier’s claims of authenticity are based.”

And, in your February 19, 2004, email you write:

“Sooooooooo [sic], now you just have to do the next step in the examination of *your* photos and show that they do indeed duplicate Meier’s by meeting the above criteria.”

INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS GROUP
4773 Hollywood Boulevard
Hollywood, California 90027
323-666-9797 x159
www.iigwest.com

To use a sports analogy, this is “moving the goalpost.” Having successfully duplicated Billy Meier photographs you are now asking for an entirely different challenge than you previously requested.

You are also asking us to conduct tests on our photos without having examined Billy Meier’s photos for ourselves. There have been several books and magazine articles written about the Billy Meier photographs, but CFI-*West* and the IIG have never actually seen the original Billy Meier negatives. In order to accurately compare our UFO photos with Billy Meier’s photos in the way you are suggesting we would need you to supply us with the original 35mm camera negatives of Billy Meier’s photos, and specifically an entire roll of negatives from the first negative to the last negative without any gaps. You can choose which roll of camera negatives you want to provide, as long as it is a complete roll of original negatives.

We would also like to reiterate something that was in our February 11, 2004, press release. And that is “photographic evidence is very unreliable, as photos (and their close cousins videos and movies) can be easily faked and manipulated.” Little relevant information can be gotten from the mere “testing” of photos, because the *content* of any picture, movie, or video can be so easily faked. We, and many others, have demonstrated this ad infinitum.

We are far more interested in investigating physical evidence. An extraterrestrial metal alloy that you claim to have from an alien spacecraft intrigues us. If you were to provide us with a small sample, approximately 10 to 15 grams, of this metal alloy for testing we would be more interested in examining that than comparing photographs. Please keep in mind that any sample you send to us will not be able to be returned to you since part of it would be destroyed by the examination itself. We wish it could be done another way, but this is the way the actual science of Mass Spectrometry works.

We will be happy to consider any physical evidence that supports the idea that the Billy Meier, or any other, UFO sighting is legitimate. However, the IIG will not spend a lot of time examining photographic evidence, or any other minutia which does not refute the great weight of evidence against this case.

Sincerely,

James Underdown
Executive Director of CFI-*West*
Chair of IIG

Derek Bartholomaus
IIG - Treasurer
Lead Investigator – Michael Horn/Billy Meier Challenge