

For more information contact:  
James Underdown, Executive Director  
Center for Inquiry-*West*  
(323) 666-9797 ext 101

*For Immediate Release*

## UFO Believer Fails Challenge To Prove His Claim!

*Proponent Unwilling to Provide Evidence to Back His Claim*

Los Angeles, CA: For the past three years, Michael Horn, the self-described Authorized American Media Representative for The Billy Meier Contacts, has been claiming that The Center for Inquiry-*West* (CFI-*West*) has failed to prove that the Billy Meier photographs are a hoax and therefore the Billy Meier photographs are of real extraterrestrial spaceships. This is, of course, a logical fallacy. In addition, Michael Horn's original challenge was to "duplicate the effect" of the Meier photos, not to prove the case a hoax.

On Wednesday, February 11, 2004, The Independent Investigations Group (IIG) and CFI-*West* published a side-by-side comparison of "fake" UFO photos taken by members of the IIG versus "real" UFO photos taken by Billy Meier on the IIG website at [www.iigwest.com/ufopix.html](http://www.iigwest.com/ufopix.html). Having successfully completed Michael Horn's original challenge to "duplicate the effect" of the Billy Meier photos, he then changed the challenge to include having the IIG photos tested in the same manner he claims the Billy Meier photos were tested. He also said that he had a piece of metal that he claims to have come from an extraterrestrial spacecraft that also proves that Billy Meier has had contact with extraterrestrial visitors.

On Friday, February 27, 2004, The IIG and CFI-*West* challenged Michael Horn to provide ONE original camera roll of negatives, out of the approximately 1,200 supposed UFO photos taken by Billy Meier, and a small piece of the metal he claims to have come from an extraterrestrial spacecraft as physical evidence for examination.

Less than two hours after receiving this challenge, Michael Horn emailed back a refusal to provide ANY actual physical evidence to back up his claim. CFI-*West* and the IIG suspect that any physical material he would provide for testing would show the Billy Meier case to be a hoax, and that Mr. Horn might lose income selling DVDs and giving lectures about the Billy Meier UFO claims.

This refusal to back up a claim with hard evidence is not new to the IIG, whose business it is to investigate fringe science, paranormal and extraordinary claims from a rational, scientific viewpoint, and disseminate factual information about such inquiries to the public. You can visit [www.iigwest.com](http://www.iigwest.com) for information on other claims that people have made to the IIG in the past. To see the entire correspondence with Michael Horn and his claims go to [www.iigwest.com/horn.letters.html](http://www.iigwest.com/horn.letters.html) and to see the comparison of photos taken by the IIG versus photos taken by Billy Meier go to [www.iigwest.com/ufopix.html](http://www.iigwest.com/ufopix.html).

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The Center for Inquiry-*West* is the west coast home to the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP), publisher of *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine. Visit our website at [www.cfiwest.org](http://www.cfiwest.org), or call (323) 666-9797