

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

For Immediate Release

Skeptic Group Refutes Famous UFO Claim *Fakes Indistinguishable from “Real” UFOs*

Los Angeles, CA: Recently, an article appeared in the *Sun* tabloid and on a UFO website (www.theyfly.com) claiming that the Center for Inquiry-*West* and the Independent Investigations Group (IIG) have by default proven that Billy Meier’s UFO photos are real. This is false for at least two reasons:

First, our delay in producing compelling evidence in this case no more proves alien visitors than the lack of evidence disproving Santa Claus means *he* exists.

Second, there is a huge body of evidence in skeptical literature that has invalidated Billy Meier’s claims numerous times. We now have compelling new evidence showing why Meier’s photos cannot be taken seriously. See below for two current examples.

For the record, the Center for Inquiry-*West*, and the Independent Investigations Group recognize no UFO photo as good evidence for intelligent life visiting this planet.

Photographic evidence is very unreliable, as photos (and their close cousins videos and movies) can be easily faked and manipulated. Indeed, members of the IIG have done just that with little cost and effort. (See our Billy Meier comparisons on our website at www.iigwest.com/horn.test.html)

More information about faking UFO pictures can be found in *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine’s Sept/Oct 2003 issue. Tim Callen’s [Faking UFO Photos for the Twenty-First Century](#) gives basic instruction for the amateur hoaxer.

We think the lack of hard evidence associated with UFO claims, along with the ease with which stories and ersatz spaceships can be fabricated leads the reasonable observer to conclude that it’s *extremely* unlikely we earthlings have experienced visits from other worlds. There may very well be life on other planets, but so far, there is no good evidence supporting aliens visiting earth in flying saucers or any other craft.

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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, or call (323) 666-9797