

For more information contact:
James Underdown, Executive Director
Center for Inquiry-*West*
(323) 666-9797, ext 101
James Randi
James Randi Educational Foundation
(954) 467-1112

For Immediate Release

UFO Believer Refuses To Back His Claim!

His failure may cost him over One Million Dollars!

Los Angeles, CA and Fort Lauderdale, FL: On February 27, 2004, the Center for Inquiry-*West* (CFI-*West*) and the Independent Investigations Group (IIG) challenged Michael Horn, the self-described Authorized American Representative of the Billy Meier Contacts, to produce a piece of metal that he claims is of manufactured, extraterrestrial origin to be eligible for the IIG's Five Thousand Dollar Paranormal Challenge. Mr. Horn refused.

On March 15, 2004, the James Randi Educational Foundation (JREF) challenged Mr. Horn to present the aforementioned chunk of metal – through any agency or person he chose – to be eligible for the JREF One Million Dollar Paranormal Challenge. Again, Mr. Horn refused.

Despite the vast amount of 'evidence' Mr. Horn claims to possess, he flatly refuses to submit any of it for testing, or to have Mr. Meier produce new evidence under controlled scientific conditions. Why does Michael Horn repeatedly refuse the opportunity for alleged UFO contactee Billy Meier to prove that what he has been saying for the past forty years is true, and in the process collect over one million dollars? And why does he decline to provide this evidence while still constantly and consistently demanding the prize?

A great deal of correspondence has passed between CFI-*West*, IIG, JREF, and Michael Horn. Mr. Horn's responses have shown both a lack of understanding as to how the scientific process works, and a disregard for the clearly stated rules of the paranormal challenges that he claims to have already won. Instead, he has resorted to circular arguments and ad hominem attacks on our organization. To read the unedited correspondence with Michael Horn, go to www.iigwest.com/horn.letters.html.

CFI-*West*, IIG, and JREF are keeping track of how long Michael Horn refuses to step up to the challenge and produce tangible evidence of extraterrestrial visitation. The IIG website's (www.iigwest.com) "Investigations" page provides a summary of paranormal investigations that the IIG has been involved in. At the top of the page you will see the "Michael Horn Clock" which will count the number of days that have elapsed since March 15, 2004.

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

The James Randi Educational Foundation (JREF) is a 501(c)3 group dedicated to supplying reliable data and expertise on paranormal, supernatural, and occult subjects -- from a critical and skeptical viewpoint. At www.randi.org our weekly web-page and archives can be seen. Mr. Randi can be reached at randi@randi.org.