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PHANTOM OF THE MOVIES

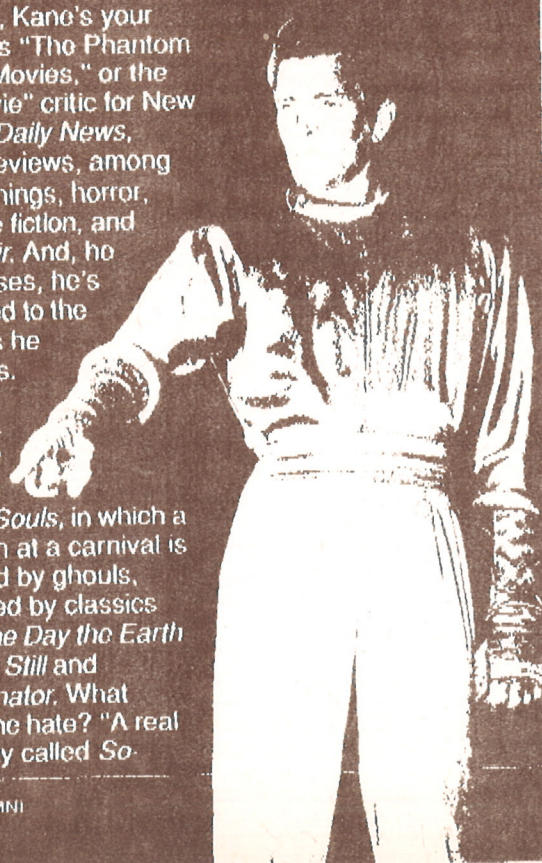
Remember the horror flick that gave you nightmares as a kid? You know, the one about aliens putting implants into people's necks. What was its name? Joe Kane will tell—*Invaders from Mars*. For those who care, Kane can also give a scene-by-scene rendition of *It! The Terror from Beyond Space*, the black-and-white saga of a monster that offs a spaceship crew.

If you're looking for an expert on those old SF movies, Kane's your man. As "The Phantom of the Movies," or the "B-movie" critic for New York's *Daily News*, Kane reviews, among other things, horror, science fiction, and film noir. And, he confesses, he's addicted to the movies he reviews. His all-time favorite? *Carnival of Souls*, in which a woman at a carnival is chased by ghouls, followed by classics like *The Day the Earth Stood Still* and *Terminator*. What does he hate? "A real atrocity called So-

larbabies, about a roller-skating team of the future and a guru.

The best part of his job, says Kane, is "finding something great, such as *The Dark Side*, a Canadian movie made in the Eighties about a cab driver caught up in a web of weird people. It would have been totally unnoticed unless a reviewer like myself bothered to look at it." The down side of the job is watching movies that turn out to be junk. —Anita Baskin

The Day the Earth Stood Still: A "B-movie" great



FORBIDDEN SCIENCE



Vallee

Is the U.S. government withholding information on UFOs? Yes, according to computer scientist and

UFO expert Jacques Vallee, whose new book *Forbidden Science* (North Atlantic Books, 1992) reveals the diary he kept from 1957 to 1969.

According to Vallee, he was organizing the private files of astronomer and UFO pioneer J. Allen Hynek back in 1967 when

that UFO research would have taken a different course had the panel seen the data reviewed by Pentacle. "The scientific approach to a complex new phenomenon is to look for patterns," he says, "and that is exactly what Pentacle did."

But aerospace writer and UFO skeptic Phillip J. Klass believes that Vallee places too much emphasis on the Pentacle memo. "The more than twelve thousand UFO reports that were submitted to Project Bluebook, some of which this memo refers to, are now available in the National Archives, in the

IF PENTACLE'S MEMO HAD BEEN RELEASED, SAYS VALLEE, THE HISTORY OF UFOLOGY MIGHT HAVE BEEN RADICALLY CHANGED.

he discovered a memo marked "SECRET—Security Information," signed by a project manager Vallee has dubbed "Pentacle." The memo cited some unusual UFO patterns and suggested a serious scientific investigation.

For some reason, the Pentacle memo never reached the so-called Robertson Panel, made up of top-level scientists investigating UFOs for the Air Force and the CIA. The panel ended up debunking UFOs. But Vallee believes

public domain," Klass says. "I invite Vallee to pick out what he believes are the best of those reports and demonstrate that they cannot be explained in prosaic terms."

Vallee, however, says this approach would not be useful. "It is unlikely that any single case or group of cases will demonstrate anything," he says, noting that researchers would have benefited most from studying the pattern as a whole.

—Keith Harary