

CU

# PERSPECTIVE

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BOULDER, COLORADO

May 3, 1968

## Condon Denies Charges

# Controversy Grows

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Condon said, "the article in LOOK was truly irresponsible. It would take an article longer than the one that appeared to refute all its falsehoods and misrepresentations."

LOOK, in an article by John G. Fuller, charged "the UFO committee was a 'half-million-dollar trick' to make Americans believe the Condon committee was conducting an objective investigation."

It charged that Condon was too busy to devote time to the UFO study, was often hard to get hold of, and was not "up" on the progress of the study.

It was further charged by Fuller that Condon and Robert Low (project director) had the conclusion to the study before they started — that UFOs do not exist.

Two staff members, Dr. Norman Levine and Dr. David Saunders, who were upset by Condon's and Low's allegedly biased attitude, proceeded to go through the "project's open files."

In the files they found a damning memo written by Low:

"Some thoughts on the UFO project: Our study would be conducted almost exclusively by non-believers who, although they couldn't possibly prove a negative result, could and probably would add an impressive body of evidence that there is no reality to the observations.

"The trick would be, I think, to describe the project so that, to the public, it would appear a totally objective study . . .

"I'm inclined to feel at this early stage that, if we set up a thing right and take pains to get the proper people involved and have success in presenting the image we want to present to the scientific community, we could carry the job off to our benefit . . ."



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The LOOK story went on to say that Levine and Saunders were fired for this. Condon allegedly told Saunders, "for an act like that, you ought to be ruined professionally."

This in turn led to numerous resignations by staff members of the UFO study committee.

Fuller's article closes by saying Condon and Low had no comment on the "near mutiny" of the staff and that the \$500,000 allotted for the study had gone down the drain.

Condon and Low both had a lot more than "no comment" to say for the PERSPECTIVE.

Low did not deny the existence of the controversial memo. He said it had been taken out of context.

He said the study would continue, was being written now and would appear next fall to the public simultaneously with being submitted to the Air Force.

The Air Force made the grant for the UFO study through the Office of Scientific Research, under the supervision of Dr. Thomas Ratchford.

Low refused to comment on

specific sighting cases saying all the details would be in the report.

Low also released the text of the telegram Dr. Condon sent to Gardner Cowles, editor of LOOK. The telegram declared the LOOK article was full of falsehoods and misrepresentations and that Condon hoped Cowles would get in touch with him so they could discuss the matter.

Condon in a lengthy conversation said that the article was very poor journalism and hoped Cowles would get in touch with him so they could go over it.

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When Condon was asked about Low's controversial memo, he replied; "Yes the memo exists

Continued on Page 16

## FO

— GOVERNOR RONALD REAGAN spoke to a capacity crowd in Macky Auditorium Reagan's speech was devoted to criticism of the rising trend of welfarism in this country and the increased control over the people by the federal government.

— THE BEAGLE BOYS won the first annual TRIVIAL BOWL contest. The team consisted of Steve Ross, captain Drew Kinder, Tom Kenney and Ken Kelly.

— The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the University's Regent-imposed LOYALTY OATH, Monday. This decision ended a two-year fight to make the loyalty oath unconstitutional.

— The Greeks collected over 16,000 books last week in the GREEK BOOK DRIVE. There were over 800 members of the Greek system who canvassed the Boulder area door-to-door.

## Administration Stalls

Scepticism and discontent mark the attitude of the newly-organized black students' pressure group in the past week's dealings with the administration.

Wilmer Cooks, leader of the anti-discrimination movement, is convinced that the University is not acting efficiently in combating the problem:

"The administration has been very apathetic in its attitude toward discriminatory practices, and by saying 'apathetic,' I mean they are condoning it." University President Joseph Smiley has been out of town all week while Jim Garcia, a member of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission (CCRC), has been making inquiries on campus.

On Monday, the CCRC confirmed Cooks' charges of dis-

crimination made against Head Football Coach Eddie Crowder in March.

An organizational meeting of black students was held Wednesday night, with Cook presiding. The group hopes to influence the formulation and selection of committees being set up to deal with discrimination.

The group also hopes to make changes in University curriculum, faculty, recruiting policies, and housing.

Cook pointed out that the University has no Negro history courses, while offering courses in Chinese and Russian history.

Dwight Grotewold, Director of Undergraduate Admission explained that the University (with the exception of the athletic department) does not recruit outside the state.

# UFO Controversy (Cont.)

Continued from Page 1

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He went on to say the project files were open but the memo had come from Low's own personal files.

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Mrs. Mary Louise Armstrong, assistant to Low, said Condon and Low's biased attitude against the existence of UFOs caused a rift between them and the rest of the staff. This led Mrs. Armstrong to resign.

Dr. William Scott who also resigned from the study had a different opinion. He said, "I never got the impression Low or Condon were biased."

"Their tolerance for unusual ideas went a long way. It is too

bad to have the report prejudged this way."

Donald Keyhoe, director of the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) charged on April 30, that Low and Condon were convinced that UFOs did not exist before they took the study and implied they were pawns of the Air Force.

NICAP claims a membership of 12,000 and believes that the Air Force and the CIA have suppressed UFO evidence since 1953 and the Condon study is just another part of this suppression.

Jim Lorenzen, the head of the other major civilian UFO investigating group, the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) in a phone interview with the PERSPECTIVE said that while he had grave doubts about the study, he felt it a mistake to judge it before it published its results.

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He also said that controversy over the study at this point was unfortunate. "If the study is a whitewash, then other scientists can take over. But if there is all this controversy now, no one will touch a further study."

CU officials were "mum" on the controversy. Dean Thurston Manning said the University policy was wait and see, and hands off of the Condon UFO study. That they would wait and see the conclusions of the study.

Regent Joseph Coors said that the LOOK article was very derogatory and he did not want to comment on the affair until he had time to get the other side of the story.

Regent Dale Atkins had no comment. Regent Daniel Lynch said he plans to meet with Condon to get the other side since the controversy is substantial and important.

John David Mitchell is an assistant professor of Journalism at the University of Colorado. He has a B.A. degree from Oberlin College and an M.S. from Kansas State University. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at the University of Denver. This is a filler.

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## BIG DOUBLE FEATURE

**ELIZABETH TAYLOR  
MARLON BRANDO**  
IN THE JOHN HUSTON-RAY STARK PRODUCTION  
**REFLECTIONS  
IN A GOLDEN EYE**

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SUNDAY TIMES  
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Rocky Mountain News May 1 1968.

# UFO Project Is Called a 'Cloudy' Caper

By WILLIAM MARVEL  
Rocky Mountain News Writer

The University of Colorado study of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) Tuesday was labeled a "failure" by a former member of the project.

Dr. David R. Saunders, one of two specialists fired from the project in February, said the \$500,000 in Air Force funds granted for the study "would be better not spent in this way."

"The present study," Dr. Saunders said, "is essentially a failure in view of the circumstances and clouds that hang over it."

The clouds that hang over it were mainly generated by reports of strife between project director Dr. Edward U. Condon and executive director Robert Low on the one hand and staff members on the other.

The reports were first aired in an article in the May 14 issue of Look magazine which branded the study a "\$500,000 fiasco."

Dr. Saunders told The Rocky Mountain News Tuesday that the project staff expected

(See another UFO story on Page 58 and our Editorial on Page 38)

an objective study of UFO sightings and eventual release of a full report to the public.

"We got the feeling," he said, "even though the staff might succeed in the first part, there was no assurance the results would ultimately be released to the public."

Dr. Saunders refused to comment on his firing from the project for alleged "incompetence."

But another former project worker, Mrs.

Mary Louise Armstrong, said that fellow workers did not regard either Dr. Saunders or Dr. Norman Levine, who was fired at the same time, as "incompetent."

Dan Culberson, another research investigator who had worked under Dr. Saunders described him as "without a doubt, the hardest worker on the project. He did more to cause it to function than any other man."

A computer specialist, Dr. Saunders was engaged in a statistical study of UFO reports at the time he was fired. Dr. Levine, an electrical engineer, was making a study of purported radar contacts with UFOs. He was also in charge of a sub-contract under which Stanford Research Institute was conducting radar studies.

Dr. Levine has left CU for a post at the University of Missouri. Dr. Saunders is a professor in CU's psychology department with a nationwide reputation in counseling and testing, according to fellow workers.

Both Mrs. Armstrong and Culberson Tuesday verified reports of conflict between the project's two directors and its staff.

Culberson said he became disenchanted with the project for several reasons. "We had several months of meetings trying to decide how to spend the money," he said.

"It got to the point where it was embarrassing, Culberson said. He reported that several times UFOs were sighted in the Boulder area and that the project staff didn't learn of them until they were reported in the newspaper.

Low and Dr. Condon Tuesday remained silent, with no comment on either the Look arti-

cle or the reasons for the firing of Dr. Saunders and Dr. Levine.

The project report, Low said, is being prepared and will be released on schedule, sometime this fall.

Dr. Saunders expressed skepticism about the report: "I no longer care what the report says, although I will read it out of curiosity," he said.

"The things Dr. Condon has done have served to discredit the whole project and that discredit has reflected on Dr. Condon's reputation."

The explanation of UFOs, he said, "remains an important question."

## Congressional Investigation Of Flying Saucers Urged

WASHINGTON, April 30 — (AP) — A congressional investigation of flying saucers was called for Tuesday by Rep. J. Edward Roush (D-Ind). Roush said a current study of UFOs by the Air Force is apparently foundering in dissention and that doubts have arisen as to its objectivity.

"I think it is time we approached this problem as a scientific rather than a military one," he told the House, "and that we apply scientific disciplines rather than military ones."

# Former Staffer Calls UFO Study 'Essentially Failure'

*Camera Man*

A former researcher for the University of Colorado's Air Force-sponsored project to study unidentified flying objects has called the study "essentially a failure in view of the circumstances and clouds that hang over it."

Dr. David R. Saunders, who, with another Ph.D. research expert, was fired from the project in February, said the "actions of the administration of the project have served to create such doubts about the thing, it really doesn't matter whether the report is positive or negative."

Saunders was referring to the report which will be rendered in September, setting forth the findings of the 22-month, \$500,000 UFO project. "We really have no basis for placing confidence in it," he said.

Saunders and Dr. Norman Levine were dismissed from the project by its chief, Dr. Edward U. Condon. Saunders was making a statistical study of UFO reports when he was dismissed.

He had no comment on the dismissal, and declined to be specific about "actions of the administration."

Saunders would not say that his work on the project led him to believe there have been visitors from outer space.

He did say there have been phenomena that are "inexplicable in terms we understand."

"We ought not to dismiss the matter," he said. "I would feel that there is evidence that would suggest a continuing investigation is in order."

Some sightings "could not be explained in natural terms; could not be explained in psychological terms," Saunders said.

"There is some reason to be-

lieve that with further diligent study some evidence might be forthcoming," Saunders said, noting that with the relatively few such unexplained sightings to date, any explanation that could be offered "would be at best a hypothesis."

In Washington, D.C., Rep. J. Edward Roush, D-Ind., called for a congressional investigation of flying saucers. He said the current study at CU is apparently foundering in dissension and that doubts have arisen as to its objectivity.

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38—ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS— Denver, Colo., Wed., May 1, 1968



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## Just a Boondoggle

LOOK MAGAZINE has discovered what The Rocky Mountain News has known for some time: That the \$500,000 flying saucer study at the University of Colorado is nothing but a boondoggle.

It is a waste of time for a competent team of scientists, headed by the distinguished Dr. Edward U. Condon, to embark upon such a Wizard of Oz venture. It must be a source of embarrassment to them to be associated with such a foolish project.

If there is conflict and back-biting among the scientists, as Look charges, this comes as no surprise. For the frustration of looking for unidentified flying objects, which they know they'll never find, is enough to dislocate the ganglions of any dedicated scientist.

The project was begun following an amusing congressional hearing in which a stream of witnesses said they had seen suspicious objects in the sky and

they wanted to know what they were. The CU team took over after the Air Defense Command, with headquarters in Colorado Springs, had spent three years pursuing clues without ever finding a single saucer. The Air Force couldn't have been happier to get this monkey off their backs.

There are undoubtedly shining phenomena appearing from time to time in the sky and over the ground. These seem to have come from weather balloons, swamp fire, shooting stars, balls of fire, etc. But to date there has not been found one shred of evidence to indicate that any of them is a vehicle from outer space, the possibility of which has caused all the concern.

Dr. Condon's team of scientists obviously knows this. That's the reason that after having spent a good portion of that \$500,000 they're having such a tough time putting together a report that can't really register much except zero.

*✓ O'Brien  
 ✓ Ratchford  
 ✓ Hippler  
 ✓ Dr. Smiley*

## Condon Denies Charges

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Condon said, "the article in LOOK was truly irresponsible. It would take an article longer than the one that appeared to refute all its falsehoods and misrepresentations."

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It was further charged by Fuller that Condon and Robert Low (project director) had the conclusion to the study before they started — that UFOs do not exist.

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In the files they found a damning memo written by Low:

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# VALLEY COURIER

Weather

Fair tonight and Thursday.  
Low tonight 0 to -5. High  
Thursday 33-38. High yesterday  
33. Low this morning -4. Sun-  
set today 5:34. Sunrise tomor-  
row 7:01. MST.

Covers The San Luis Valley Like The Sun

ALAMOSA, COLORADO, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1968

PRICE 10 CENTS

10 PAGES TODAY

## Different Parties, Different Nights

# Two More UFO Sightings Reported Near Sand Dunes

By PEARL M. NICHOLAS.  
Two more sightings of unident-  
fied flying objects have been  
reported in the San Luis Val-  
ley within the last week.

A rancher, Harvey Smalley,  
living at Mosca, followed a  
blue light for about ten min-  
utes for a distance of about  
five or six miles on Friday,  
Feb. 2.

Smalley was traveling on the  
Great Sand Dunes National  
Monument Road, east of High-  
way 17. About a mile east on

the Sand Dunes road, he turn-  
ed into a dirt road south. It  
was on this road that a blue  
light, about as large as a head-  
light of an automobile appear-  
ed in the road ahead of him,  
he said.

"At first I thought it must  
be some sort of reflection, but  
after a few minutes I realized  
it was some mass of light. I  
followed the object for about  
five or six miles and it kept  
just ahead of me, never seem-  
ing to be in any hurry, just

drifting along ahead of my car.  
"I would slow down and the  
light slowed at the same time,  
when I speeded up it speeded  
up. Finally I turned around,  
headed my car back the way I  
had come. When I got out of  
the car to better observe, it  
disappeared, I don't know how,  
it was just gone." Smalley said.

On the following night, Sat-  
urday, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth  
Wilson and the writer, all of  
Alamosa, were driving along  
the Sand Dunes Road near the  
Harry King ranch at about  
9:45 when they spotted a blue  
light bouncing or gliding along  
the meadow northwest of the  
King ranch, near the meadow  
where the body of the Ap-  
palosa horse was found in Sep-  
tember.

The light seemed to be about  
as large as perhaps an auto-  
mobile, oblong in shape, but  
was too far away to distinguish  
any other detail. Wilson esti-  
mated the light to be about a  
quarter mile away. It was mov-  
ing slowly across the meadow.  
When the car lights were turn-  
ed on, it disappeared.

Reports of the sightings have  
been sent to Boulder University  
UFO project.

*2/ Feb/68  
Fm*

*Feb. 9, 1968*

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# Slap at UFO Probe Goes Awry

By DAN PARTNER  
Denver Post Staff Writer

An apparent effort by the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) to discredit a University of Colorado group studying reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) went awry Thursday.

In its February issue of the

"UFO Investigator," NICAP reported that an internationally-known astrophysicist, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, had pledged to "take the wraps off" his personal file of unexplained cases and make them public—if the CU report is completely negative and denies UFO reality. The CU group is headed by Edward Condon.

Hynek, director of the Dearborn Observatory at Chicago and UFO consultant to the Air Force for 18 years, told The Denver Post Wednesday he was "shocked at the report and had written a letter to NICAP denying he made the statement. A copy of the letter, received at The Post Thursday, said:

"I am distressed by the state-

ment attributed to me (in UFO Investigator) in which I purportedly stated that if the Condon committee issued a negative report on UFOs I would open my personal files in rebuttal.

"I made no such statement.

"Such a statement would be quite contrary to my steadfast policy of in no way interfering with the Condon committee's work, either by deed or word and, in short, would be out of character.

"I do not know how the Condon report will read, but in its preparation the committee should be left entirely free to work according to its own lights and certainly without interference from me, implied or direct.

"I hope that you will set this straight for the record."

A former NICAP member in Denver said that Donald E. Keyhoe, director of the Washington-based organization, is "completely dedicated to the belief that many UFOs are ve-



AP Wirephoto

DR. J. ALLEN HYNEK  
Sets the record straight.

hicles from other planets." "It appears NICAP has joined the ranks of the fanatic UFO groups that it has attacked in the past," the former member said.

## Another Report Due On Death of Horse

Those still puzzled over the death of Snippy, the Appaloosa horse, may be relieved to know that there's still another report due on the incident.

University of Nevada scientists are completing a report this week on extensive tests of Snippy's hair, flesh and of materials found around and under him.

Snippy died Oct. 4 on a range near Alamosa, Colo. The incident was widely publicized because his owner, Mrs. Berle Lewis, contended he was killed by visitors from another planet. Investigators at the scene more

than a month after the horse was found reported no scientific facts to support Mrs. Lewis' belief.

An Alamosa veterinarian reported Jan. 26 that Snippy died as result of gunshot wounds.

Richard Norton, coordinator of the investigation at the University of Nevada, said a report of the investigation would be sent to the University of Colorado, where a group is studying reports of unidentified flying objects, and to the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena.

SEE REPORT PAGE 2  
(BIG DEAL COMING UP!)

THE DENVER POST Thurs., Feb. 8, 1968

COLORADO

# U.S. Invites Soviet Cooperation In UFO Project

## Algeria Ci 17 In Plot

By FRANK CAREY

AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Dr. Edward U. Condon, director of an Air Force-financed investigation of unidentified flying objects, said Friday that he has appealed to scientists of the Soviet Union to cooperate in a study of flying saucers.

The appeal, in the form of a letter from Condon, was relayed three weeks ago by the prestigious National Academy of Sciences to the Soviet Academy, Condon said in a telephone interview from Denver.

"We haven't received any answer yet," he said, "but I guess it's too soon to expect one."

Condon, an internationally known physicist now on the faculty of the University of Denver, is a former chief of the U.S. National Bureau of Standards.

Fifteen months ago Condon was chosen to head an independent investigation by non-government scientists to determine whether flying saucers are a natural phenomena, or whether they are spaceships, possibly from distant planets. The Air Force put up almost

\$500,000 for the study.

Condon said the investigation will not be completed until sometime in June, and his report will not be made public until November or December.

The 65-year-old scientist refused to discuss even preliminary findings. Nor would he speculate on whether the report will resolve controversies surrounding reports of UFOs.

Has the project made him a believer or a nonbeliever in flying saucers?

"I'm now getting to be more one way than the other, but I'm not going to tell you what that way is," Condon replied.

Condon said project scientists had spent considerable time "answering false alarms," but he refused to answer when asked whether he or any of his colleagues had seen any evidence of UFOs.

The Air Force's commissioning of Condon's independent probe apparently was prompted, by persistent criticism from non-scientists of its investigation, begun 20 years ago and still continuing.

The criticism, vigorously

denied by the Air Force, has been that its studies are biased against the possibility that UFOs might be manned surveillance craft from outer space. The Air Force has even been accused of withholding information that critics say might prove that contention.

Discussing his appeal for a cooperative effort on UFO research by American and Russian scientists, Condon said his letter was prompted by news reports from Moscow quoting informed sources as saying the Soviet government had set up a special commission to investigate reports of flying saucers.

"The letter said, in essence, that we are doing a job for the American Air Force, and we have an interest in any similar research you may be doing—and we'll be glad to exchange information with you. So, the letter says, 'how shall we get together?'"

In a question-and-answer session, Condon discussed the operations of his project:

Q. How big is your staff?

A. We have about a dozen people, including astronomers, physicists and psychologists here at headquarters. We also

have some outside consultants from time to time, and some of our research is let out on contract.

Q. How do you operate?

A. We get everything the Air Force has in the form of reported sightings. We also get reports from interested private organizations like the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. We also get reports by telephone or mail from individuals who report sightings.

But we just sample from among all these possibly hundreds of reports and try to investigate in some detail the ones that look intriguing to us.

An awful lot of reports are what you might call nuisance reports—things that people would not report at all if they knew more about astronomy or meteorology. And many of the reported sightings are vaguely described, with no real details. Thus, up to 90 per cent of our time has gone into tracking down false alarms.

Q. How many field trips have your investigators made?

A. We've made about 40 or 50 and some have turned out

to be foolish trips, and a lot have ended indecisively.

Q. What has been the most bizarre report you've investigated so far?

A. That dead horse out in Alamosa, Colo.

Condon referred to "Snippy," an Appaloosa found dead on a prairie near Alamosa last October. The horse's owner,

Mrs. Berle Lewis, said it looked to her as though "Snippy" had been killed by men from outer space. If so, the killers used conventional weapons. A veterinarian found two bullet holes in the carcass.

Q. What did your investigators conclude after examining the horse?

A. It stank.

ence and financial starvation." "The public trust in competent educators is being undermined because the present administration in Sacramento has failed to give higher education the constructive leadership it requires and deserves from that quarter," he added.

Reagan's repeated insistence on sharp budget cuts both for state colleges and the University of California has involved him in controversy with educators. The governor, a Republican, also has been sharply critical of how campus disorders were handled.

The District Medical Center in Chicago is the largest in the world; it covers 478 acres.

## College Head Quits, Blasts Gov. Reagan

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The president of San Francisco State College, after surviving demands that he be fired over his handling of racial disorders, announced he has decided to resign—and blamed the administration of Gov. Ronald Reagan.

Dr. John Summerskill, 42, after saying he would quit his post of a year and a half on Sept. 1, charged "The citizens of this state have a huge investment in higher education which is deemed seriously eroded by political interfer-

ALGIERS (AP) — rian government the arrest of 17 men were involved in assassinate "the country."

The official Algerian agency said four men were taking part in which first aimed the ruling party leader Ahmed. Others are are being questioned agency added. They arrested on Jan. 24.

The agency accused former hero Belkacem now exiled in France of the plot.

The average dose rose 6.1 per cent in six months of 1967, with the 1966 average by the Department shows.

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107 E. San Antonio

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January 24, 1968

Dear Bob,



"Best think tank in the country, and their conclusion after two years, thousands of dollars, and millions of words is 'God only knows!'"

Sincerely,

Alice Thompson  
+  
Aggie Miller

FROM S.J. LARSEN FILE

# Demand for new probe

# Report on UFO won't end the swirl of controversy

P. 20  
DAILY NEWS. // MAY 4, 1968

The University of Colorado announced this week its field work on a flying saucer study is completed and a final report will be made to the National Academy of Sciences in September.

-It is likely the report will settle nothing. The controversy will continue because of a conviction by some that the study chairman, Edward U. Condon, had a prejudged attitude of non-belief toward flying objects from distant space.

**CHICAGO DAILY NEWS**  
**Analysis**

The National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) already has termed the project "a failure" and announced it will ask the President and Congress for a new investigation.

CONDON, one of the country's most distinguished physicists, is a former director of the National Bureau of Standards and a former president of the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science.

He was picked in October, 1966, to head the study after the Air Force, repeatedly accused of coverup and secrecy

on unidentified flying objects, decided to try to improve its public image.

Condon and the university accepted the \$350,000 study grant from the Defense Department after several had turned down the ticklish job.

If Condon's report will state, as expected, that UFOs are explainable as natural phenomena, the vast majority of scientists will be happy.

BUT IT will not satisfy James E. McDonald, senior physicist and professor of meteorology at the University of Arizona.

McDonald has opposed the Condon probe from the start on the ground it is not large enough to cope with the dimensions of the problem. He believes the UFO problem is of great scientific importance, a view that differs from that of his astronomy colleagues at Arizona and elsewhere.

A negative report also will not satisfy J. Allen Hynek, chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University.

Hynek, an Air Force consultant on UFOs for 20 years, has found a hard core of unexplainable flying objects and is believed to be displeased with the lack of enterprise by the Condon group in attacking these.

The UFO story is not over yet. Arthur Snider

FROM S.J. LARSEN

# The High Cost of Flying Saucers

MAY 5, CHICAGO SUNDAY TRIBUNE 1968

Maybe the air force was right in undertaking a \$500,000 study of flying saucers and maybe not. But what is certain is that, having determined upon such a study, the air force should have made certain that it was conducted in an objective, scientific, and constructive manner. This, according to an article in the current issue of Look magazine, has not been done.

When it was announced in October, 1966, that the study would be conducted at the University of Colorado under Dr. Edward U. Condon, a distinguished physicist, other scientists who had been studying the phenomenon of unidentified flying objects were prepared to cooperate. As time went on, a good many scientists — including some employed in the study — began to wonder how objective it really was.

In some of his speeches, according to the article in Look, scientists thought Dr. Condon displayed a flippant attitude toward his assignment. They were disturbed to find that many reports were not even investigated. The study seemed more interested in investigating the people who made the reports than the objects re-

ported. Finally an old memo turned up in which Robert J. Low, project coordinator and key operations man in the study, had suggested that the purpose of the study should be to accumulate "an impressive body of evidence that there is no reality in the observations."

"The trick," Mr. Low wrote, "would be, I think, to describe the project so that, to the public, it would appear a totally objective study. . ."

In the end, two leading scientists attached to the study were fired and the project's administrative assistant resigned. Nobody in authority has been willing to comment on the matter, but Dr. Condon has announced the completion of the project's work. The credibility of the report to be issued in the fall has been pretty well destroyed. A half million dollars in all probability have gone down the drain without adding anything to our knowledge of flying saucers.

We can understand the air force's desire to discredit reports which it finds an embarrassing nuisance, but this sort of study is not the way to do it.

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1ST ADD UFO BOULDER, COLO. 052A XXX THIS FALL.

IN WASHINGTON, REP. J. EDWARD ROUSH, D-IND., TOLD THE HOUSE TUESDAY THAT CONGRESS SHOULD TAKE OVER THE UFO PROJECT FROM THE AIR FORCE. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS COMMITTEE.

"THERE IS A STRONG INDICATION THAT THE COLORADO PROJECT WILL BE KNOWN AS THE \$500,000 FIASCO," ROUSH SAID. "AT THE VERY LEAST, GRAVE DOUBTS HAVE ARISEN AS TO THE SCIENTIFIC PROFUNDITY AND OBJECTIVITY OF THE COLORADO PROJECT."

ALSO IN WASHINGTON, THE NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON AERIAL PHENOMENA (NICAP), A PRIVATE GROUP, ACCUSED SCIENTISTS IN THE COLORADO PROJECT OF FAILING TO BE OBJECTIVE.

NICAP DIRECTOR DONALD E. KEYHOE, A RETIRED MARINE OFFICER, SAID HIS ORGANIZATION HAD DISCONTINUED ITS COOPERATION WITH THE COLORADO PROJECT AND HAD BROKEN ALL TIES WITH THE AIR FORCE SPONSORED PROGRAM.

THE AIR FORCE REFUSED TO COMMENT ON THE CHARGES QUESTIONING THE OBJECTIVITY OF THE PROJECT.

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CONDON 5/1 DX

BOULDER, COLO. (UPI)--DR. EDWARD U. CONDON, HEAD OF THE CONTROVERSIAL UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO STUDY OF UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS, SAID WEDNESDAY HE WAS CONSIDERING A LAWSUIT AGAINST LOOK MAGAZINE FOR AN ARTICLE BRANDING THE STUDY A \$500,000 FIASCO.

CONDON SAID HE SENT A TELEGRAM SUNDAY TO GARDNER COWLES, EDITORIAL CHAIRMAN OF COWLES PUBLICATIONS, INC., WHICH PUBLISHES LOOK, CHARGING THE ARTICLE WAS FILLED WITH FALSEHOODS AND MISREPRESENTATIONS.

"SO FAR I HAVE NOT RECEIVED A REPLY," HE SAID. "AN EDITOR OF LOOK TRIED TO REACH ME, BUT I MADE IT CLEAR I WANT TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER DIRECTLY WITH MR. COWLES."

CONDON SAID THE WHOLE MATTER IS AN EFFORT TO FORCE HIM INTO A PREMATURE, PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE UFO STUDY.

"I'M NOT GOING TO GET TRAPPED INTO TALKING ABOUT A REPORT THAT HASN'T YET BEEN WRITTEN," HE SAID. "THE REPORT WILL BE READY BY SEPTEMBER. IT WON'T BECOME PUBLIC UNTIL IT IS REVIEWED BY A COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THAT WILL TAKE.

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THE PROJECT WOULD BE RELEASED AS BEING TOTALLY OBJECTIVE, WHEN IT WAS NOT.

CONDON SAID FIELD STUDIES OF THE PROJECT HAD BEEN COMPLETED BUT LABORATORY STUDIES WERE STILL UNDERWAY. HE ALSO SAID THIS WINTER AND SPRING HAD BEEN A "TERRIFICALLY DULL SEASON" FOR REPORT OF UFO SIGHTINGS.

"IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF LAST YEAR, WE HAD 200 REPORTS OF UFO SIGHTINGS," HE SAID. "IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, WE'VE HAD ONLY 20. THAT'S A PRETTY BIG DROP AND IT'S A REAL PUZZLE AS TO WHAT IT SIGNIFIES."

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Every 50,000,000 years or so, the Earth  
has been sprayed with sudden blasts of  
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radioactive energy—strong enough to kill at  
least half the animals exposed.

insects, they said, can withstand "many  
thousands" of roentgens; while fish and other  
marine life found at depths greater than 75  
to 150 feet "would be protected against doses  
as great as 5,000 roentgens" by the water  
shielding.

## CALLS INVESTIGATION 'IMPORTANT'

CHICAGO SUN-TIMES, Tues., Jan. 30, 1968

# LBJ Aide Backs UFO Study

By Richard Lewis

The scientific investigation of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) represents "an important interaction between science and society," a member of the President's Science Advisory Committee said here Monday.

He is Lewis M. Branscomb, chairman of the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics of the University of Colorado, and a staff member of the National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colo.

### Probe Under Way

Branscomb's views, signifying a merked rise in the scientific respectability of UFO investigation, were elicited at a press conference at the Palmer House during the joint meeting of the American Physical Society and the American Assn. of Physics Teachers.

A scientific investigation of the flying saucer mystery has been under way at the University of Colorado for 18 months under a \$500,000 U.S. Air Force grant.

Heading the probe is Edward U. Condon, professor of physics at Colorado and former head of the National Bureau of Standards. A preliminary report on UFO findings is expected to be made to the Air

Force in September.

An atomic scientist specializing in space physics, Branscomb said he is not connected with the UFO study. But he said he believes it is an important service by science to society.

### 'Obligated To Try'

While the UFO puzzle is not "in a narrow sense" a scientific problem, Branscomb said, the scientist's responsibility is to examine problems which the public believes should be solved by scientists.

"You may not be able to explain the 'why' . . . but you are obligated to try," he said.

A similar view was expressed by James E. Mercereau, professor of physics at

the California Institute of Technology. He said the UFO question was of sufficient magnitude to call for investigation, but he did not agree that it represented a direct connection between science and technology.

How science relates to American society will be discussed Tuesday at a symposium on "The Coupling of Physics and Society in the 70s."

Branscomb will take the view that science interacts continually and directly with society, while Mercereau will contend that science affects society only through technology — the utilization of scientific principles by engineers to make things people use.