

Smiley

E. U. CONDON
761 CASCADE AVENUE
BOULDER, COLORADO, 80302

29 July 1968

To the Editor of Science,
American Association for the
Advancement of Science
1515 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

In a letter, AAAS President Roberts assures me that the columns of Science are available for a reply to its article, "UFO Project: Trouble on the Ground" (26 July, pp. 339-42).

The article is gossip. It is so essentially trivial that the non-facts, anonymous opinions, and unsupported statements and misstatements it contains are of no particular importance.

At one point, its author declares with unconscious irony that "it is difficult to know what to make of the Colorado fracas." It is at least as difficult to know what to make of Science's editors sending a reporter to Boulder to gather such immateria and solemnly spread it on your pages. This tittle-tattle is what now passes for scientific journalism?

Evidently we have lost touch out here in Colorado with the mainstream of science. We still think that facts, rather than what "some observers believe" are the stuff of science. This being so, we are concentrating attention on preparation of the report on Colorado University's substantial investigation of unidentified flying objects. We have a large volume of data to process and analyze, so the report will take some time to complete. When it is released, we trust the editors of Science will take the trouble to read it, and, if they have some lingering respect for scientific method, comment upon it. Meanwhile, they and the readers of Science can profitably concern themselves with matter of more import than alleged "fracases."

E. U. Condon

E. U. CONDON
761 CASCADE AVENUE
BOULDER, COLORADO, 80302

Pro Smiley

29 July 1968

Mr. Dael Wolfle
American Association for the
Advancement of Science
1515 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Dael:

Thank you for your letter of July 23 which came last Friday. I, too, am sad and distressed that a 40-year old membership ends this way, but I cannot agree that Science should deal in scandal and rumor, emphasize petty administrative difficulties or be unwilling to accept an offer which could have resulted in avoidance of error. The article will do more to confuse public opinion than would have been the case if its errors had been corrected.

The story does not "appear to be carefully and objectively done." Although it may not have been so intended, its general effect is that of "an attack against the University of Colorado." The actual handling of the story was very bad.

The story reveals that Saunders' book is to be published by the New American Library. The whole effect of the Science piece is to give valuable advance publicity to Saunders' book. New American Library is also the publisher of Dan Greenberg's "The Politics of Pure Science." Dan Greenberg is also news editor of Science. Could this explain why the "news" has suddenly become so very important to Science?

I wish we could work together. Meantime, I am sure that NICAP will keep Science supplied with "authoritative" pronouncements on Ufology and, who knows, some day the AAAS may have a section devoted to this new science.

Sincerely,

E. U. Condon

EUC:kes
cc - Walter O. Roberts