

I am firmly convinced that the problem has not gone away but that the fraction of the total number of sightings which gets reported has certainly decreased - even if, as may well be the case, the actual number of sightings occurring has not. The reasons are quite straightforward. There first of all, is practically nowhere to report a sighting in most parts of the country now that the Air Force Project Blue Book has been closed. Secondly, many large circulation newspapers have taken an anti-UFO editorial stand since the Condon report which means that even if a sighting were reported to a paper, it would take an unusual amount of courage for a reporter to try to do a thorough investigation since the editor's view is probably that everything is more important than a crackpot UFO story. Thus, we have the paradox that the news media are more reluctant to dig into UFOs at a time when more people than ever believe in their existence.

There is a related myth that the papers have conspired not to treat the UFO subject seriously - perhaps at the connivance of the Air Force or CIA. All I can say to this is that my own experience would seem to contradict this notion. I have received "straight" and friendly coverage of my views about UFO reality in several dozen newspapers across the country from New York to Hawaii. I have even had a couple of cartoons drawn "in my honor" with no hint of ridicule of my positive definite views on UFOs. Several stories about me have also gone out on the news wires so I can definitely say that no conspiracy exists and that probably the real problem is that not enough respectable, professional scientists and engineers and politicians have been willing to speak out. The newspapers are looking for new ideas, new approaches, and new views on all subjects. The UFO kooks and quacks got plenty of publicity in days gone by but really haven't said anything new in years that seems at all reasonable to the skeptical, cynical newsmen. I would certainly encourage all investigators who can solidly back up what they believe to speak out forcefully and accurately.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This paper is an attempt to stimulate thinking by confronting some of the myths and mysteries prevalent about UFOs on a semi-personal basis rather than from a totally detached, uninvolved scientific viewpoint. Many of the ideas contained herein will be discussed in much more detail in a book on which I am presently working - hopefully for publication within a year. If the comments plus the references listed below stimulate even a few of the readers to plunge into the Earth Excursion Module world with minds soaring and fears quelled, I have no doubts that they will find the water invigorating and the mind expansion rewarding.

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General References

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