

Ufology's newcomers hope to put flying saucers into focus by combining hard-nosed police investigation techniques with tried-and-true research methods.

interest in UFOs in their spare time. For reasons of job security and professional stance among their peers (many of whom ridicule the subject) these scientists prefer to remain anonymous for the time being.

One thing both Pete and Jim insist upon is speed in following up on a case while it's still hot. In order to achieve this goal you need a sharp level of organization and coordination, major factors of the SBI function. As Mazzola explained, "We formed this organization to resemble the military or a police agency. There is a definite chain of command. A chief investigator is similar to a sergeant. He is usually someone who has worked with another organization, has some experience investigating and documenting UFO cases. This person also trains the investigators and reports to a state director (we have one in every state) who, in turn, reports to the regional director who is in charge of five states."

Anyone over 21 with a sincere interest in UFOs and investigative experience can apply to become an SBI field investigator. "Although we don't pay our staff we do demand that they move on a case within a maximum of 48 hours," remarked Mazzola. "A later investigation has no use, has no value; you lose the contents. Other organizations might investigate three weeks later. We don't."

Jim Fillow confided a particular UFO incident in the Tri-State area, which lay on one investigator's desk for over a year and is still there. "That kind of stuff makes us move fast," he

said. "If there is any physical evidence at the site you have to get it right away. There might also be physical evidence on the witness, like a scar, burn mark or something like that."

The SBI is currently engaged in a low-key publicity campaign to attract a wider membership and to increase its funds. "We think that publicity can be a tremendous help in solving the UFO problem" stated Mazzola. "If you don't open your mouth nobody is going to know you exist." Fillow elaborated further: "According to the Gallup Poll, 57 per cent of the population believes in UFOs. But how many of that 57 per cent will report a UFO is a different story. We say that if you report your sighting to the SBI we'll do a professional job." Moreover, in cases where there is traceable evidence, the SBI does what no other UFO organization does. It reports back to the witness and tells him what is happening.

The Scientific Bureau of Investigation publishes The SBI Report (\$12 a year), a monthly newsletter which reports on the organization and reviews UFO investigations, news, events and related information.

The September 1979 issue includes, for instance, a timely report by Mazzola, the editor, on the possibility that the U.S. military is actively engaged in constructing and test-flying at least two flying discs. One is alleged to be approximately 12-to-15 feet in diameter and the other is 30 feet across. The story goes back to the fifties when the U.S. Air Force contracted the AVRO Company, a Canadian firm, to build the VZ-9 disc-shaped

craft, also known as the AVRO disc. Although the construction of the VZ-9 was widely publicized by the Air Force, the finished object — propelled by three Continental J69 turbojets — "was considered a total failure and waste of taxpayers money." Why did they bother with it then? Mazzola and others (such as *Ideal's* UFO Magazine contributor Rufus Drake) have suggested that "the Air Force, with the help of the Army, used this craft as a diversion technique so they could secretly test and fly a real UFO, allegedly seized when it crashed in 1953 in the Southwest. Of course, as yet this assumption has never been proven, but we're working on it."

Mazzola's article gives an account of various ongoing projects attempting to duplicate a UFO's propulsion system. Among these we have John Searl's small toy-like prototype of a saucer model; Frank Andrasevitz' "Andra-Jet" project involving a disc-shaped craft; the Disco-Jet to be distributed by a California-based corporation; the French Government secret studies on UFO propulsion using the principles of electrodynamics and magnetic-hydrodynamics (MHD); and finally another saucer model being developed by William Clendenon, a noted researcher with the Alabama Space and Rocket Center (ASRC). All of which brings the subject of UFO propulsion into the realm of science-fiction into the real world of research and development.

The reasons for pursuing this kind of research are explained by Jim Fillow: "We believe that the first government able to develop