

Every large scale poll including the Gallup and the ones taken for Condon indicated that more education means greater likelihood for belief in life in outer space and UFO reality.

With regard to interest on the part of professional people I can certainly cite my own experience in lecturing to dozens of technical societies across the country. It is clear that most of the members have never heard of me but must have turned out because they had heard that I had a legitimate technical background in advanced nuclear and space development programs and that the title of my talk was a straightforward "Flying Saucers ARE Real" — rather than some wishy-washy fence straddling one. The Engineering Society of Detroit — hardly a kook group or an ivory tower organization — was sold out for my dinner talk three weeks in advance, for 1008 people. Record crowds also turned out at the Engineering Society of Cincinnati, several sections of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers and of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, as well as the Pittsburgh Chemists Society, the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Westinghouse and Gulf Research Labs, and numerous other such groups. The question and answer sessions revealed far more interest than hostility, and frequently went on and on until the halls had to be cleared to keep the janitors happy.

As a clear and definite indication of a broad community-wide interest, I can again cite the turnouts at my college talks. Several colleges have apologized in advance of my talk for the apathy of their campus and then had to turn people away for the talk. Overflow crowds have been the rule rather than the exception — almost 2000 at E. Carolina State University, about 1600 at New Mexico State University, about 1800 at College of the Sequoias, 1200 at Merced College, etc., etc., In most cases the audiences included a substantial number of townspeople as well as college students and faculty members. Perhaps an even better indication of high community interest (even if underground until I showed up) is provided by the kind of newspaper response I received AFTER the talks. In February 1971, six of seven college talks had overflow audiences and four of the six received front page favorable non-ridiculing coverage. The other two received no coverage. Anybody who believes that the thinking public isn't interested in a serious approach to UFOs is incorrect and ignorant of the facts.

Incidentally, for those who may believe that only kooks attend the Giant Rock (California) convention, I can testify that after each of my two appearances there, I was thanked quietly by many professional people who attended more or less incognito.

MYTH: "You can't get here from there."

One of the most common myths, again amongst both believers and non-believers, is that travel between earth and other solar systems is impossible. Thus, if we are being visited, "they" must be from either another planet in our solar system or from a 4th dimension "parallel universe" or from a secret civilization — in the center of the earth, under the oceans, or buried under the poles, etc. I don't deny the remote possibility of either a parallel universe or of secret bases (bases would require much smaller installations than an indigenous advanced society would probably require). However, I see no need for invoking them — travel to the stars is feasible with the knowledge we have today. This does not mean you can buy tickets for a trip tomorrow, only that we have the technology to plan trips to the stars. The question is, do we want to spend the money on the required development program??? No laws of physics prevent such trips and we don't need

scientific breakthroughs such as revocation of the laws of gravity or relativity.

Published studies such as those by Spencer and Jaffe of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology clearly show that staged fusion or fission propulsion systems would be capable of providing trips to nearby stars in round trip times less than 50 years. We forget that there is very little resistance to acceleration once one gets away from large gravity field regions such as near the earth, moon, or sun and that fusion (the process which powers H-bombs and the sun) provides millions of times as much energy per particle expelled as chemical reactions. At even a nominal acceleration of only one-G, one can very quickly reach extremely high speeds: 100,000 mph at the end of one hour if starting from an earth orbit, and 1.8 million mph after a day. Remember there is no friction "out there" and that the fuel for fusion systems is the most readily available material in the universe — namely hydrogen isotopes. One need not invoke anti-gravity, space time warping, matter, anti-matter annihilation or other probably achievable (but not terribly soon) approaches. One also must bear in mind that there are many stars and undoubtedly many solar systems in the universe much older than our own sun and that somebody out there (if not almost everybody) may have developed fine schemes for interstellar travel a million or billion years ago. Note too, that at high speeds we would take advantage of the gravitational and magnetic fields produced by the stars.

MYTH: "The finiteness of the speed of light and man's short life span forever limit our exploration of the universe to nearby stars."

Everybody seems to have gotten the idea that Einstein's findings restrict our travel because as they solemnly proclaim, nothing can go faster than the speed of light. Thus, the shortest time for a round trip to a star ten light years away, even neglecting the time to accelerate and decelerate is 20 years. Right?? No — wrong, at least for space ships if not for light photons which unlike men and machines have no mass. The Einsteinian laws of relativity, as a matter of fact, are what make it possible to explore the universe in times compatible with human life spans, — for the voyagers, if not for their friends back home. Relativity says that as the velocity of a mass approaches very closely to the velocity of light, time, in effect, slows down for the mass though not for the observer. This effect has been repeatedly proved for particles and must be taken into account in the design of high energy accelerators for physics research. Dave Fronsing (of McDonnell-Douglas) presented the following information to illustrate in a simplified form the contrast between vehicle time and observer time for trips made in a hypothetical interstellar spaceship accelerating at 1-G during the initial part of the journey and decelerating at 1-G for the final half. Obviously most of such a journey would be made at velocities very, very close to the speed of light.

Journey	Journey Duration Earth Time	Journey Duration Vehicle Time
Interstellar Journey		
Earth to Nearest Star	6 years	3 years
Earth to Center of Milky Way Galaxy	30,000 years	19 years
Earth to Nearest Spiral Galaxy	750,000 years	26 years
Earth to Limits of Universe as now Postulated	30 billion years	46 years