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January 16, 1972.

The Editor,
The Ottawa Journal,
365 Laurier Ave. West,
Ottawa, K1G 3K6

Dear Sir:

I do not expect you can find space for this lengthy epistle in your columns but I wish to comment at least for your own benefit on your "Tell Me Why" column of 7 January. I think it necessary to correct serious factual errors to erase misunderstanding which inevitably results from such trash being fed to the public, particularly our youth, in the guise of fact. The item in question was "When was the first UFO sighted?".

I realize that "Tell Me Why" is a syndicated column and you accept it and print it as is, so the Journal is not responsible for its content. Your readers, however, deserve the facts, and most, no doubt, believe they have been given these.

Mr. Leokum's answer to the question was not only misleading but factually incorrect in several respects and is a classic example of why millions of people believe there is nothing to the UFO matter. I will deal with this point by point.

The first report of a UFO was not received in 1947. The history of UFO sighting reports goes far beyond that date. However, it was a particular sighting on June 24, 1947 (the famous Kenneth Arnold case over Mount Rainier) which first captured the imagination of the press and public and drew the phenomena to public attention.

The statement "the largest number (of reports) were received in the late 1950's after the first satellites were launched" is false and grossly misleading. It implies that satellites are a major cause of reports. The facts are that although a larger number of reports than in most years were made in 1957 (the first Sputnik was not orbited until October) the figure of 1006 being admitted by the U.S. Air Force, only 627 were reported to the U.S.A.F. in the entire following year, and only 390 in 1959.