UFO Study Program In Making

UA’s McDonald Backs Project

A national program for investigating and evaluating sightings of UFOs was reported to be in the making today and the proposal met enthusiastic endorsement from Tucson's James E. McDonald.

The Denver Post, in a copyrighted story, said it has learned that the University of Colorado will head the program. The Post said the official announcement is expected tomorrow from Air Force Secretary.

THE STORY said the new approach to UFOs appeared to be in response to criticism from Congress and the public regarding the handling of reports of strange objects in the sky.

The Post story came a day after McDonald, a University of Arizona physicist, criticized the Air Force for "superficial and frequently absurd" reports on UFO investigation.

McDonald said the Air Force program has been in the planning stage for many months and he disclosed it "outside the closet of the Air Force UFO project.

THE POST said: It is expected the new project, financed by a special appropriation, will be headed by Dr. Edward G. Condon, internationally known theoretical physicist at the University of Colorado. He will direct a team authorized to provide answers, including investigation of selected UFO sightings. Use of the team will provide increased evaluation of the investigation.

Universities, scientific organizations and scientists throughout the United States are expected to be recruited for the program designed to quell public fears regarding strange objects.

Continued Page 4

Study Indicates UFOs From Outer Space

BY JOHN SIDDICK

Officer Staff Writer

There is a serious possibility that visitors from outer space are on reconnaissance of the earth with "flying saucers," Dr. James E. McDonald, University of Arizona physicist, believes after intensive research on the highly controversial issue.

One of the world's leading astrophysicists, McDonald, spent the past six months exploring the Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) reports. He previously had investigated incidents here for a decade.

"There is strong evidence supporting the hypothesis that UFOs are extraterrestrial vehicles," McDonald said today.

"FURTHERMORE, there are certain patterns that suggest they are engaged in something of the nature of reconnaissance," he said.

The official explanation simply do not fit thousands of confidently reported UFOs, said McDonald. He is convinced that dozens of reliable, sane people, whom he talked with, are certain that these most probably were space ships on patrol from elsewhere.

Dr. James McDonald "Scientists are delinquent...

Panel of scientists led by Cal Tech physicist H. P. Robertson was formed in 1960 and it decided they were not.

Therefore, the official policy of the government cannot be "obscure." The UFO issue, said McDonald, and Air Force personnel were restricted from releasing information on pain of fine and imprisonment.

Project Bluebook is the Bureau of Atmospheric Techniques at Wright-Patterson. The Air Force has had the official investigation organization for two decades. This is Project Blue Book at Wright-Patterson AFB.

After looking through the Bluebook records and investigating the air reports in detail, McDonald decided the reports are "illegitimately superficial and frequently absurd.

Although there are creditable reports of UFOs going back to the 1920s, the subject of flying saucers burst upon public awareness on June 24, 1947, when a pilot saw nine discs "skimming along like saucers over water."

A PRIMARY Air Force concern at first was whether the UFOs were matching hostile. To resolve this, a blue ribbon

Continued Page 4
McDonald’s Study Indicates UFOs Come From Outer Space

From Page 1

explanations are that the UFOs are hoaxes, hallucinations, misunderstood natural phenomena, advanced aerial technology not known to the public and still unknown natural phenomena.

While he has been a victim of hoaxes, it is not reasonable that this is the general cause, he said.

"But frequently the UFOs are seen by several persons at one time which would not follow the hallucination explanation," said McDonald.

"FREQUENTLY, the person suddenly observes the UFO and his first tentative explanation is not extreme or bizarre but some every day explanation that seems best to fit an airplane or balloon.

"And the tension, anxiety and emotional stress that psychologists find common ingredients in the genesis of hallucinations are involved in but a small fraction of UFO observations."

The misunderstanding of natural phenomena covers a tremendous number of reported UFOs such as misinterpreting gasses or stars. But this doesn’t fit thousands of cases such as where UFOs follow tracks down the road and then rise in the air.

McDonald said it isn’t reasonable to believe that advanced Air Force test vehicles can explain UFO’s seen 26 years ago.

And of the theory of unknown natural phenomena, McDonald said: "The present gaps in our knowledge of meteorology and astronomy are too small to crowd all of the UFO evidence from them."

THE VARIETY and multiplicity of UFO reports is bewildering and at first tends to make the investigator doubt the evidence such as car ignition failure.

There is no evidence of hostility except for the slight suspicion of a more than random coincidence of power plant outages at times of UFO ‘flying.’" said McDonald.

"This is probably coincidence and not a deliberate war game."

McDonald called for a radical change in attitude toward the UFO data and asked for other scientists to come look at the data. He said there is some change in this direction and suggested that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration would be a proper center for study.

Somewhat similarly, McDonald last year made the first scientific study of evidence on cloud seeding. He played a central role in swinging the National Academy of Science’s Committee on Weather Modification to a positive report.

There is one UFO case that stands out particularly in Tucson, McDonald said.

In the spring of 1962, a disc shaped object was seen by the crew of a commercial plane when the plane was flying over a mountain range. The object was seen by several others.

"A program of this type is long overdue. Having been studying the same problem intensively for the past six months, I predict that quite apart from simply allaying public fears they will learn that the UFO problem is of first order scientific importance."

UFO Plan Suggested by AF

From Page 1

jet reports in the skies over many parts of the country.

The program was suggested this year by the Air Force Scientific Advisory Board.

It grew from a request last year by Maj. Gen. E.N. Lobel, Air Force director of information. He was aware of widespread charges by UFO enthusiasts that the Air Force was concealing the truth about UFO episodes.

McDonald said he was delighted to hear a scientist of Dr. Condon’s caliber had agreed to take a good hard look at the UFO problem.

"A program of this type is long overdue. Having been studying the same problem intensively for the past six months, I predict that quite apart from simply allaying public fears they will learn that the UFO problem is of first order scientific importance."

On this occasion, a white egg-shaped object was seen landing and take off by a Security policeman whose “complete credibility not even the Air Force has been willing to doubt,” he said.

McDonald said he had no theories as to the sources of the UFOs — if they are extra-terrestrial or their occupants.

"As is many other cases of science, one has to be ready to admit ignorance," McDonald said.

UA Urged To Resume Housing List

The Arizona Daily Wildcat campus newspaper today asked the school administration to resume the service of offering listings of off campus housing.

A volunteer organization called Student Off-Campus Housing Service provided the listings during the past two months after the university dropped it.

The service recently said it could not continue past Oct. 30, though it has served 2,000 students. And it suggested the service be carried on in some area of the university, perhaps by student government.

The Wildcat editorially today said that student government does not have the resources to provide the service.

"We would like to see the university step in and operate the service for the benefit of the students, possibly staffed by secretaries attending college under a work-study program," said the Wildcat. "We do not want to see this vital program die out."

Copyright © 2015 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.