

comprised of excellent formal papers. Perhaps as important is what happens between the technical sessions. Interesting and creative informal discussions ranged far afield and seemed to provide for breaking down some traditional barriers that can separate one discipline from another. Far from merely allowing for the renewal of old acquaintances, this UFO conference brought together both "veterans" and "newcomers" alike.

The emerging field of UFOlogy represents a truly interdisciplinary arena for expressing one's creative

talents in almost every field of endeavor. The Center for UFO Studies' first technical conference provided an opportunity to demonstrate this interdisciplinary dimension and I, for one, will look forward to the next conference.

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Editor's note:

Our grateful thanks to Mrs. Jennie Zeidman for the photographs on pages 13, 14 and 15 (Petit), and to Rick Bonenfant for those on pages 15 (Poher) and 16.

Book Review

MUST IT BE "FOREVER"?

John Lade

A NEW book, Socorro "saucer" in a Pentagon pantry, by Ray Stanford (Blueapple Books, P.O. Box 5964, Austin, Texas 78763, \$8.95), arrived for review as Independent Television showed a play¹ about two U.S. fighter planes which disappeared while climbing towards UFOs shadowing a plane testing experimental radar equipment. The plane was then redirected, by an organization named Digger Control, to a disused airfield in the desert, hastily reopened for the purpose of debriefing the crew, who were brainwashed into admitting that they had experienced nothing unusual. Their commanding officer came to rescue them and, later protesting to his general, was shown a photograph of a fragment on the ground, which was all that had been found of the missing planes; he was told to keep quiet because the Air Force could not risk panic by revealing such events beyond their control. Continuing to assert the right for the truth to be told, he was passed over for promotion and retired early from the service, whilst those who had co-operated were advanced in rank. Whether apologia or attack, the film left an uncomfortable feeling that something like it may have happened.

The feeling is reinforced by Ray Stanford's investigation of the well-known 1964 sighting, by policeman Lonnie Zamora, of a landed UFO and two diminutive crew at Socorro, New Mexico. Stanford, desirous of living down a reputation for associating with contactees in the early days of UFO research, worked for five years on this case and discovered important evidence, as well as other witnesses of the object. He found metal scrapings from one of the four feet of the landing gear, adhering to a firmly embedded rock, and had some analysed privately by Dr. Henry Frankel, department head at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, who told him on the telephone that the metal was an alloy of iron and zinc in a combination or ratio not known to be manufactured on Earth, but which would make "an excellent, highly malleable and corrosion-resistant coating for a spacecraft landing gear, or for about

anything where those qualities are needed." Thereafter Stanford was unable to reach Dr. Frankel or to recover any of his sample as promised. He appealed to a Navy captain friend, involved for years in UFO research, and these are quotations from his report of their conversation:

"So it is better, in your view, that we just quit looking up, just quit being concerned of the rather astonishing things that occasionally happen in our skies. Are we just to poke our heads into the sand and say to one another, 'Some day Big Brother will tell us what those UFOs are?'"

"Well, I wouldn't put it in exactly those words but you'd be doing better for the whole world if you *did*."

And from two other replies:

"Those in a position to know are under no delusion. They know the facts. People are not ready to know the facts, and they have no *need* to know them," and again "If you're wise you fellows who keep chasing the UFOs will drop the subject *forever*."

We have been simpletons who thought that our governments would feel a responsibility to tell the public about flying saucers. It ought to have been obvious that, if there were any truth in Scully's book,² physical evidence of such advanced technology of unknown origin would be top secret. How the authorities must have welcomed the smokescreen of contactees, messages and the sideshows, from space animals to stigmata. But *forever!* Is that desirable if it is only a question of various beings living in space, with bases on Earth, and keeping mostly out of our way because we shoot first? Is the challenge also to the philosophy of our science?

One wonders about the pattern of UFO appearance, which sometimes seems marginal to contemporary activities; for example, Socorro is near the White Sands proving ground and the egg-shaped UFO reminds us of that described by Daniel Fry in *The White Sands Incident*; again, Scully's magnetically operated saucers, grounded in Arizona and New Mexico, were examined by men engaged on magnetic research in the area. Could it be that the facts known to top political and military authorities are such that some of them cannot be explained in terms of our science? It is a science which has placed man upon the moon and his machine upon Mars, yet looks for life out there in the form of inferior bugs announcing their presence by a belch. One could say that the philosophy's music was lacking in overtones. "*Fore-*

(Concluded at foot of page 26)