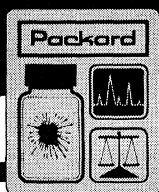


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UFO Trouble in *Science*

AAAS President Roberts assures me that the columns of *Science* are available for a reply to its article, "UFO project: Trouble on the ground" (26 July, p. 339). The article is gossip. It is so essentially trivial that the nonfacts, anonymous opinions, and unsupported statements and misstatements it contains are of no particular importance.

At one point, its author declares with unconscious irony that "it is difficult to know what to make of the Colorado fracas." It is at least as difficult to know what to make of *Science's* editors sending a reporter to Boulder to gather such immateria and solemnly spread it on your pages. This tittle-tattle is what now passes for scientific journalism?

Evidently we have lost touch out here in Colorado with the mainstream of science. We still think that facts, rather than what "some observers believe" are the stuff of science. This being so, we are concentrating attention on preparation of the report on Colorado University's substantial investigation of unidentified flying objects. We have a large volume of data to process and analyze, so the report will take some time to complete. When it is released, we trust the editors of *Science* will read it, and, if they have some lingering respect for scientific method, comment upon it. Meanwhile, they and the readers of *Science* can profitably concern themselves with matter of more import than alleged "fracases."

E. U. CONDON

*University of Colorado,
Boulder 80302*

Scope of State Research

A news item "State research aid," states that the Pennsylvania Science and Engineering Board "claims to be the first state-sponsored science board with funding capabilities" (19 July, p. 247). Sapolsky, in his article "Science advice for state and local government" (19 Apr., p. 280), lists four state agencies which fund research projects. These include the Connecticut Research Commission, the Louisiana State Science Foundation, the New York State Science and Technology Foundation, and the North Carolina Board of Science and Technology. Since March 1964, the North Carolina board has made grants totaling \$1,781,325 from state

funds for the support of 94 research projects which are expected to benefit the state. These include a regional nuclear structures laboratory, marine geological research, a multiuniversity computing center, and studies of air and water pollution.

PETER J. CHENERY

*North Carolina Board of Science
and Technology, Research Triangle
Park 27709*

. . . The Connecticut Research Commission has been making research grants for several years. For example, during the fiscal year ending 30 June, it funded 42 projects with a total value of \$1,270,328.

JOHN S. BURLEW

*Connecticut Research Commission,
18 Trinity Street,
Hartford 06115*

University of Delaware's Independence

Boffey's article on the University of Delaware (10 May, p. 628) was interesting, but parts of it might give a misleading impression. The fracas between the university and the state budget director was less a demonstration of the university's independence from state control than a richly earned rebuff to the budget director, a staff aide to the Governor. Had the Delaware legislature, where state power is vested, or the Governor himself attempted to control university policy through oversight of its spending, there might or might not have been the same result. But for the budget director to attempt such control is considered a usurpation of power which does not belong to him. The legislature's action in this matter was deeply appreciated by many people. . . .

MARION C. STEWART

*407 Brentwood Drive, Carrcroft,
Wilmington, Delaware 19803*

Purchase of Computers: Cost and Size Criteria

Mathews' article "Choosing a scientific computer for service" (5 July, p. 23) should serve as a useful, dispassionate counterpoint to the dissonant clamor of competing equipment salesmen and the "buy by brand name" attitudes of many administrators.