

UFOs Study To Gain 'Highest Priority,' McDonald Predicts

By LEN DAVIS
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Sightings of unidentified flying objects are steadily increasing throughout the world and the subject soon will be given the "highest priority," Dr. James E. McDonald predicts.

McDonald, senior physicist in the Institute of Atmospheric Physics at the University of Arizona, told a capacity audience at the Sunday Evening Forum in the UA auditorium:
"Let's face it, UFOs are in our air spaces all over the world. They are being ignored by our public officials, in spite of the fact that more and more sightings are being reported —

and by sober, reliable, observers."
Among those he mentioned were a former governor of Florida, the mayor of Jacksonville and the superintendent of schools in Boulder, Colo.

McDonald described UFOs as "the most important scientific problem of our time" and spoke of the "arrogant pontificators who have kept the problem in the ridicule bin."

Reporting on a recent trip to the nation's capital, McDonald said "everyone in Washington knows UFOs are a lot of nonsense, not worth an intelligent person's time and consideration."

He cited several sightings over a period of more than 10 years and assailed the Air Force for assigning "its most inexperienced personnel" to investigate the reports.

"The Air Force, which has done literally nothing about the problem for nearly 15 years, has some topflight investigators in its ranks who could use their expertise to great advantage, if given the chance," he said.

"Instead, the Air Force assigns a major, sergeant and secretary as a typical survey team, none of whom is qualified to conduct the serious study the subject warrants."
McDonald said that "with the

help of the CIA, the Air Force has been debunking UFOs ever since 1963, and this attitude is difficult to understand in the light of the enormous scientific significance of UFO sightings."

Many of the sightings in the United States have been over large power plants and highly classified military bases, "such as the Atomic Energy Commission facilities at Los Alamos this year," McDonald said.

"One of the guards who saw a disc-shaped object at Los Alamos didn't report his sighting

until he was interrogated long after the event took place," he said.

"This is not unusual. I find many hidden UFO reports that crop up at various places I give lectures on the subject."

The UA physicist said he believes UFOs are extra-terrestrial (from outer space) "because I have eliminated, by scientific hypotheses, every other plausible theory."

McDonald said they can't be secret aircraft from this or any

other nation "because of the diversified locations of the sightings throughout the world."

He decried the lack of "really good photographs of UFOs" and issued a strong plea "for more scientists who would work through the United Nations (McDonald spoke before the UN recently on the subject) and examine the facts closely."

Comparatively few scientific people have studied the many case reports that exist — "11,000 in Air Force files alone" — and talked with persons who have

actually seen UFOs, according to McDonald.

"This is understandable," he said, "because most scientists don't like to deal with messy anecdotal data that makes the pot boil."

The need for correlating UFO data "from Russia, Red China and other foreign countries" was expressed by McDonald, who noted that "the Russians, for example, are even more skeptical than most people in this country."

"I cannot share this skepti-

cism because UFO descriptions by a variety of observers are too universal," he said, referring to "the craft-like objects with structural details defined similarly, almost to the letter."

He said many reports invariably mentioned "bright lights in the cockpit, no wings or tail, a faint clicking or humming sound and, an ability to hover like a helicopter and depart from the scene quickly at high speeds."

McDonald told the audience, "I haven't seen a UFO, I admit

— ever so strongly — they exist in the form of something from outer space."

No UFO hardware — components — has ever been found, according to McDonald, who added facetiously it may be because "they" have perfected something that is uncrashable and capable of self-destruction without leaving any visible traces.

McDonald was introduced by Dr. Leon Blitzer, professor of physics at UA, who handled a question-and-answer period, following McDonald's talk.