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David M. Jacobs, assistant professor of history and author of *UFO Controversy in America*.

UFOs examined by professor

By Susie Reitz

"It's a classic scientific scandal of major proportions," says David M. Jacobs, assistant professor of history, about his book, *UFO Controversy in America*, published by Indiana University Press. His book will be available by mail in March or April, he said, and will be in the bookstores in May.

The book is the result of his work on a doctoral thesis on the history of an unidentified flying object (UFO) controversy in the United States.

"The problem I deal with most in my book is the lack of knowledge on the subject of UFO's," he said. "Although they have been reported consistently for the past 25 years, no one has even done a thorough study on the subject," he added.

Jacobs begins his book with the wave of "mystery airship sightings" in 1896. After that there was no major wave or reportings until the 1940s he said.

Air Force involved

In 1947 a wave of reported sightings occurred and the Air Force became involved, Jacobs said, because people reported sightings to them.

After ruling out extra-terrestrial beings and secret weapons, the Air Force began denying the existence of UFOs, Jacobs said. In 1951 the Air Force began explaining that people who reported sighting UFOs had "atomic jitters" because of their fears of a Russian invasion, he said.

In 1952 there was a "sensational" wave of reportings, including sightings over the White House and Capitol building, according to Jacobs. "This wave of reports was so intense that Air

Force intelligence and the Pentagon were swamped with calls," he explained. In January 1952 the Robertson panel investigated the matter and found that the reports, not the sightings, were a matter of national security and claimed such reports could lead to mass hysteria, Jacobs stated in his book.

UFL organizations

Lack of satisfactory explanations of the subject led to the formation of UFO organizations in the 1950s.

By the 1960s the problem had not "gone away" as was hoped, Jacobs said, and the Air Force phased itself out of UFO investigation altogether.

"Scientists were prevented from seriously studying the problem because of lack of funds and support. The idea of a serious investigation is still something many people laugh about, Jacobs said. "All studies which are being done are privately funded and limited in scope," he said.

'Is everyone crazy?'

"It would be possible to accept the fact that everyone reporting UFOs is crazy if there had only been a few hundred reported sightings. But there have been thousands world-wide and that is only an estimated 10 per cent of the actual number of sightings," Jacobs said.

"The point of my book is that people should admit they really don't know about UFOs and not try to explain them away," he said.

Jacobs traveled the country to research his book. He did research at Maxwell Air Force Base on previously secret Air Force reports and at various headquarters of the UFO organizations in Illinois, Washington, D.C. and Arizona.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARDS

Nominations for Distinguished Teacher Awards are now being accepted by the various colleges. Teachers receiving this award are given a medallion and a prize of \$1,000. Students are invited, indeed urged, to make such nominations. Nominations should be in your Dean's office by February 15, 1975. Simply follow directions as outlined by your college below:

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Submit nominations and supplementary material to the office of the Dean, College of Agriculture, c/o T. E. Hartung, 103 Ag Hall, East campus.

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Submit nominations and supporting material to the Student Advisory Board, Bob Beechman, Chairman, c/o Dean's office.

ARTS & SCIENCES

Secure standard nomination form from Dean's office, 1223 Oldfather Hall. Send material to Dr. Max D. Larsen, 1223 Oldfather Hall.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Contact Dean's office, 240 CBA. Detailed information will be posted in CBA building and published in *Update*.

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