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“The identity of the donor is so guarded that even his money is invisible.”

ANTI MATTER

Last summer newspapers reported that J. Allen Hynek's Center for UFO Studies received \$2 million from an anonymous donor. But according to John Timmerman, the center's treasurer, "The identity of the benefactor is so closely guarded that even the money has been invisible." That's too bad, he adds, because "I would enjoy having a few dollars available to expand activities."

"What happened to the bucks?" has long been the plaintive lament of ufology. Even the most powerful UFO group ever, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP), which once boasted 5,000 dues-paying members, eventually expired from a lack of funds. Founded in 1956 by retired Marine major Donald E. Keyhoe, NICAP members once included Rear Admiral Delmar S. Fahrney and Vice Admiral R. H. Hillenkoetter, the first director of the Central Intelligence Agency. By 1970, though, NICAP was essentially defunct, embroiled in financial difficulties and rumors of CIA intrigue.

Other organizations are following suit. Jim and Carol Lorenzen, founders of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO), have just announced the cessation of their newsletter. Carol Lorenzen says the reason is her ailing health, but rumor has it that funds aren't flowing too well, either. The Maryland-based Fund for UFO Research also teeters on the brink of extinction; during the first quarter of last year it posted a loss of \$1,800, attributed mainly to a mailing seeking increased funding.

The dilemma extends down through the ranks of individ-



ual ufologists, too. Consider the plight of Jenny Randles, Brenda Butler, and Dot Street, three Englishwomen who began investigating a Suffolk, England, UFO landing—one they claim is confirmed by an official document describing lights, depressions in the ground, and low-level radiation.

Thinking that they were on the verge of a breakthrough, the three tried to go to the press. Randles, director of investigations for BUFORA, the British UFO Research Association, attempted to interest her publisher in a book on the sighting. But, Randles notes, "The idea was rejected flat, on the grounds that if the events at Suffolk had actually occurred, then they would be common knowledge."

Eventually the triumvirate contracted with Neville Spearman, a small publisher specializing in occult books. But while the advance for *Sky Crash: A Cosmic Conspiracy* was small, the investigation was costly. Since Spearman's publicity budget was hardly adequate, Randles held her own press conference in October 1984. No national media turned up. And when she later issued a two-page summary of the conference, no one responded.

Efforts to sell the book in the United States met with even less success. According to Randles, 21 American publishers have turned down the manuscript, including Prentice-Hall, the most likely choice.

Meanwhile, Street's telephone has been disconnected after bills went unpaid, Butler has retired from the field, and Randles has had to sell her home.—DENNIS STACY

UFO UPDATE