

ANTIMATTER

UFO UPDATE:

To follow their stars, SETI researchers have found that they must seek a pot of gold

In the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI), scientists train radio telescopes on the cosmos, hoping to pick up signals from civilizations light-years away. But in October 1993, Congress pulled the plug on SETI funding, sending some of the most prominent projects back to square one. NASA's SETI program has recently had an infusion of cash from prominent private donors, giving agency researchers hope that at least some of their programs will survive. Other SETI researchers have had no such luck, however, and are scrambling for money so their projects can go on.

The NASA program, saved just recently from oblivion, includes a targeted search for signals from the nearest 1,000 sun-like stars. According to Seth Shostak of the SETI Institute, a nonprofit organization devoted to the search for signals from intelligent civilizations in space, his group has recently raised some \$4.4 million to continue the NASA project. The funds, adds Shostak, were donated by William R. Hewlett and David Packard of the Hewlett-Packard Corporation; Gordon Moore, co-founder and chairman of the Intel Corporation; and Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft Corporation, among a number of others.

The NASA program, renamed Phoenix because it has risen from the ashes, will use Australia's 210-foot Parkes radio antenna to search for intelligent signals from specific stars found in the Southern sky. It will also rely on the 1,000-foot radio telescope in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, now being upgraded. Even so, says Kent Cullers, a NASA Ames project scientist who developed the signal-detection equipment for the thousand-star search, the new program will be able to search just about half as many stars as had previously been planned by scientists behind the effort.

For other groups, the news is worse. Once con-

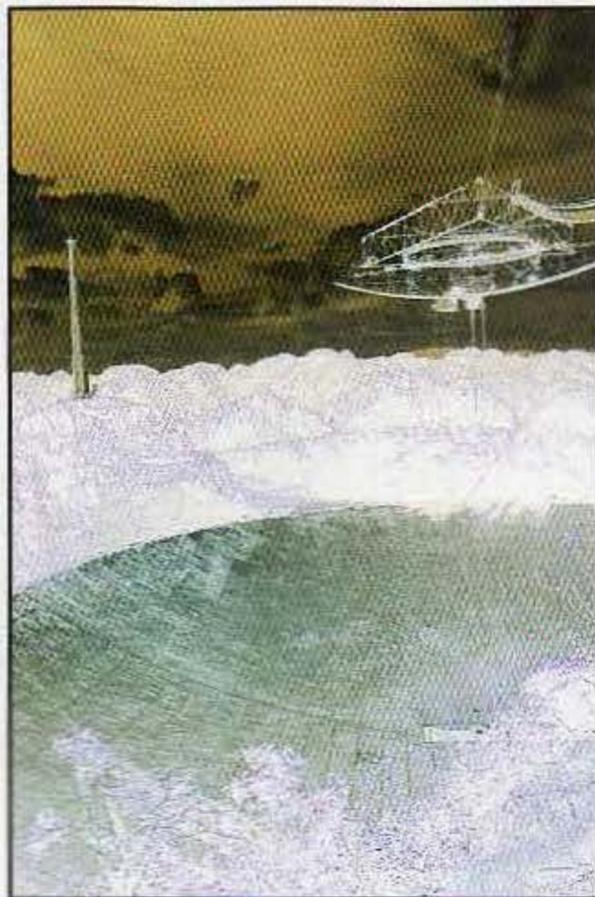
sidered the world's premiere SETI effort, for instance, the High Resolution Microwave Survey operated out of two facilities—the Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL) in Pasadena, California, and the NASA Ames Research Center near Mountain View, California—and allocated \$58 million over the last 20 years largely to build and test hardware designed to pick up messages from E.T. Before Congress withdrew federal funds earmarked for the program, SETI scientists at JPL had been all set to launch the largest "all sky" search ever conducted.

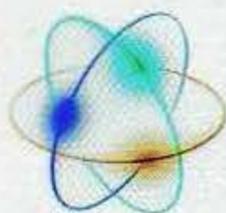
"But now SETI is dead at JPL," says Mike Klein, program manager for the Sky Survey, an attempt to survey the sky on millions of radio channels. Long viewed as a crucial complement to the highly targeted NASA efforts, the broad and wide-ranging JPL program, Klein laments, has been stopped in its tracks.

Smaller players have been crippled by the cuts as well. Project SERENDIP, run by Stuart Bowyer at Berkeley's Space Sciences Lab, for instance, requires just \$60,000 a year, an extremely small sum by SETI standards; at one point, Bowyer even ran SERENDIP on a \$20,000 gift from his mother. But if Project SERENDIP doesn't find some funding soon, it may be benched for good.

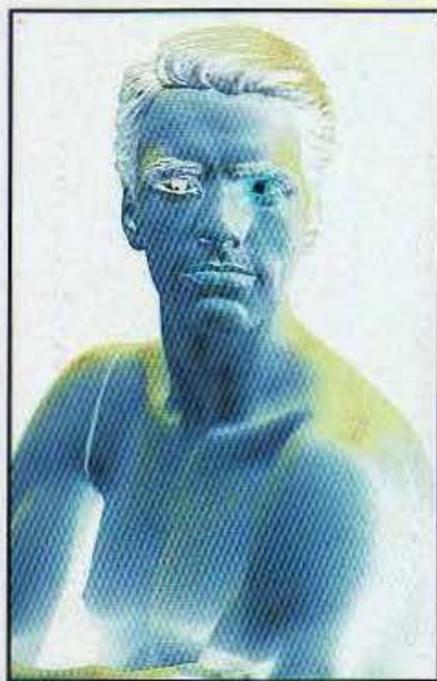
Bowyer is clearly worried. He could get by on less than \$60,000 a year, of course, and has already launched a mailing that puts the touch on prospective donors. "If you have a Christmas card list," he says, "send it to me."

For these groups and others, says Shostak, it's just a shame. "It's analogous to Isabella and Ferdinand financing the *Niña*, *Pinta*, and *Santa Maria*," he says, "and then once the ships were built, telling Columbus that times were tight and they were going to mothball the fleet."—PAUL McCARTHY





ANTIMATTER



SPY DUMMIES

Did you ever look into a mannequin's eyes? Well, it may be looking right back at you—with closed-circuit TV.

Anne Droid mannequins, manufactured by F. Jerry Gutierrez of Denver, are made to keep an eye on customers and employees. Whatever a mannequin's eye-mounted, half-inch camera sees is relayed by cable to a monitor for store security to watch or tape. The spy dummies can be equipped to pick up sound with a microphone installed in the nose.

Most are placed in stores to catch shoplifters, but Gutierrez says some clients install them at conventions to find out what the customers think.

Human figures are the ideal, he adds, but the surveillance systems can

also be fitted into mannequin dogs, cats, or other objects "as long as it has an eyeball" with a half-inch iris.

What if you can't afford the \$2,400 to \$5,000 price tag for a new Anne Droid surveillance mannequin? Gutierrez will fit the spy equipment into the buyer's mannequin for about \$1,800. Moreover, customers who can't afford the system at all but want to look as if they have Anne Droid can buy "blind installation"—fake look-alike eyes for about \$60. Put these lenses on non-spy dummies next to the real thing and you can't tell them apart without looking inside.

THE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS CAN BE FITTED INTO MANNEQUINS OF PEOPLE, CATS, DOGS.

University of Colorado psychiatrist Gordon Neligh thinks surveillance mannequins are "the latest in a long line of things that are, for the average person, somewhat dehumanizing." He says people who are already paranoid will have their worst fears confirmed.

But, according to Gutierrez, "if you're honest, you don't have a thing to worry about."

—Peggy Noonan

STAR-STRUCK STOCKS

Want to make a killing on Wall Street? Try looking to the stars, suggests New York commodity trader Henry Weingarten.

To pick financial winners, Weingarten studies the stock market's horoscope every day and checks what the stars portend for the nation. He sometimes charts the astrology of an individual stock, along with the CEO's horoscope. Although he won't release specific figures, Weingarten insists this star gazing has produced resounding successes for his six-year-old Astrologer's Fund.

"Using astrology, we can make predictions," says Weingarten. In 1992 he warned of upcoming natural disasters

that would affect the stock market. He also correctly forecast, in July of 1993, that gold prices would soar within days.

Few Wall Street insiders will publicly admit that they take astrological predictions seriously, Weingarten says. But that may change: According to Weingarten, last year's Astrologer's Fund conference held in New York attracted financial managers who control more than 3 billion dollars.

"I don't believe in astrology," notes Gary Meyers, first vice president of investments at Robinson-Humphrey in Atlanta, "but there are so many cyclical indicators for the market. It's inevitable some people in this business think astrology is another cycle to consider."

—Sherry Baker

