

Local Group To Take Up UFO Lawsuit

By Lee Michael Katz
Journal Staff Writer

An Arlington group has received a \$2,500 grant from the Washington-area Fund for UFO Research to continue a court battle to force the release of secret CIA documents pertaining to UFO sightings.

Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUSE), located in Arlington, was awarded the grant by the fledgling UFO research group to appeal a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against the CIA.

Through the suit, the groups hope to force the clandestine agency to release 200 documents about UFOs.

The existence of those documents was revealed by the almost 1,000 pages of CIA-collected UFO information already released under court order, according to Fund for UFO Research press secretary Fred Whiting.

The Arlington CAUSE group has taken over the case from the Arizona-based Ground Saucer Watch Inc., the organization that filed the original suit in U.S. District Court in Washington, Whiting said.

In a May 30 motion for summary judgment, the CIA succeeded in keeping the additional 200 documents out of the hands of the UFO researchers.

The UFO research fund is helping to finance an appeal of that decision, Whiting announced. "They won the case, but they didn't get everything they wanted."

"The problem is," Whiting said, "since Project Bluebook, which was the Air Force's official investigation of the subject (ending in the early 1970s), the government has said officially it's not in the UFO business anymore."

"However, there is a great deal of evidence that this is not the case," he said. "The Air Force, National Security Agency, CIA, as well as other intelligence organizations within the government have been involved in UFO research for quite some time."

Whiting said the UFO fund has raised \$8,000 from the public, and the CAUSE grant is the first project funded by the year-old organization.

He said the Fund for UFO Research's directors include an assistant curator at the National Air and Space Museum, a Navy physicist and a University of Maryland zoologist: "a broad array of disciplines."

UFO Group Asks U.S. To Bare Secret Files

By Suzanne Bilello
Washington Star Staff Writer

The "crazies" are giving serious students of UFOs a bad name, says an Arlington group searching for signs of extraterrestrial life.

But that's not their only problem. The federal government is giving them a hard time, by hiding "spectacular" evidence of life beyond Earth.

Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, CAUS, is seeking documents on unidentified flying objects from the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency under the federal Freedom of Information Act. They have lost one round in U.S. District Court in Washington for those documents, but are appealing the decision.

The battle is being waged out of the South Arlington home of one of its members and is being funded by a UFO research group.

"It's a real David and Goliath thing," is how Richard Hall, a member of CAUS characterized the suit. "It's a battle to eke out this information."

"For one thing, I think the CIA has hard data such as films that would be much more convincing than someone's report of a light in the sky," Hall said. "Obviously the CIA has the technology and resources to help determine if extraterrestrial life exists. I'm strongly inclined to believe they have spectacular material they are withholding."

CAUS is "a loosely formed umbrella group," members said, that is waging the legal fight on behalf of thousands of members of UFO interest groups throughout the country. It took over a freedom of information lawsuit begun by an Arizona-based group called Ground Saucer Watch, Inc.

CAUS has received a \$2,500 grant from the Washington-area Fund for UFO Research to finance the appeal. The fund is a non-profit group formed a year ago by scientists, engineers and

UFO writers in the Washington area. It is based in Mount Rainier, Md., and was formed to fund "high quality scientific research" on UFOs.

It disassociates itself from "unscrupulous persons who have flooded the popular press with distorted and inaccurate information" that has "confused the public."

"What we are hoping to get out of this lawsuit are some 200 documents the CIA has," Hall said. A reference to these documents was made in some 1,000 pages of UFO related material the CIA has released to CAUS under the Freedom of Information Act.

Hall has written extensively on UFOs and is editor of the Journal for Mutual UFO Network, a newsletter that deals with UFO data and information. He said he was a consultant for the U.S. Air Force office of scientific research on UFOs from 1966 to 1968.

Hall characterizes CAUS as a "serious" UFO group and disowned the "sensational" school of UFO literature that is widely circulated.

Dr. Bruce S. Maccabee, a physicist for the U.S. Navy Department who is chairman of the Fund for UFO research, obtained documents on UFO sightings from the Federal Bureau of Investigation four years ago under the Freedom of Information Act. In that case the FBI deleted the names of sources and special agents before releasing the data. "If they (CIA) don't want to tell us how they got the information that's fine," Maccabee said. "But they should tell us what they have."

Members of the Fund for UFO Research were asked if the group is taken seriously.

"I think the stigma of UFOs is over," said Fred Whiting, an aide for a Long Island Congressman who is publicity director for the Fund for UFO Research. "People are interested in what there is to know. I'm never laughed at or scorned because I spend a lot of my spare time on UFO matters."

Not every member of CAUS or the research group is convinced that extraterrestrial life exists. And that is one reason the lawsuits are being brought.

"The popular theory is that there is some extraterrestrial life," Hall said. "The more objective of us are trying to find out if that is the case."

"We don't take any stand on the outcome of our research," Whiting said. But, as Maccabee pointed out, "If we didn't think something was going on we wouldn't be wasting our time."