CENTER INVESTIGATORS QUARTERLY # 11 JANUARY 1982

It has been a year since you have received an issue of the Center Investigators Quarterly (CIQ). Since the last issue several changes have occurred within the Center. One change includes a new editor of the CIQ which is now my responsibility. For those of you who don't know who I am allow me to introduce myself. My name is Chris Centi and I live in Jamestown, New York which is located in the southwestern section of New York State. I have been involved with UFO research since August 1965 and began investigative work in the spring of 1977. I am an associate/investigator for CUFOS and a state section director for MUFON. Also, I direct a local group called the UFO Resource Network (UFORN). Its primary goals are educational & investigative and our services are available within a two county area.

The CIQ will be published and mailed to you on a regular basis (although this issue is late, subsequent issues will be on time). You should receive your CIQ's in January, April, July, and October. The primary goal of the CIQ is to be a means of sharing ideas with eachother, regarding investigation methods and procedures.

I encourage all investigators to send ideas and comments in the form of short articles for possible inclusion in the CIQ. This is your newsletter and you have something to say about what should be included, so I am looking forward to hearing from you. Address all mail to Chris Centi, P.O. Box 142, Jamestown, New York 14701.

To get the newsletter out on time a deadline has been set for any articles you might want to send for inclusion in the CIQ. Material should be in by the 10th of March, June, September, and December for the CIQ issues of January, April, July, and October.

Other people you should be familiar with include Paola Harris, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, and John Timmerman. Paola is the Centers Investigator Coordinator and is responsible for maintaining up to date files on investigators and renewing & issuing of CUFOS I.D. cards. Her address is 1160 Fairfield Drive, Boulder, Colorado 80303. By now all of you know who Dr. Hynek is, but you should also be aware that he is responsible for the assignment of cases for investigation. All case reports should be sent directly to him at CUFOS, P.O. Box 1402, Evanston, Illinois 60204. John Timmerman is responsible for the activities of the Associates Education and Business department of CUFOS. His address is P.O. Box 1621, Lima, Ohio 45802.

I welcome your support of the CIQ. Feel free to write or call me (my phone number is (716) 664 - 7387) if you want to discuss ideas about the CIQ and/or investigations in general.

PROFESSIONALISM IN UFO INVESTIGATIONS

As a UFO investigator you have a responsibility to the general public. You are making yourself available to provide a service in the event of a UFO sighting. As an investigator you are and should act as a professional. It doesn't mean you should act like you are on an ego trip. Just use your expertise wisely and extend respect to the witness(es).

WITNESS INTERVIEWS

When investigating a multiple witness case each witness should be interviewed separately. This is to eliminate any suggestive information from other witnesses. Some investigators may feel time doesn'twarrant this, but it is extremely important. This problem could be eliminated by recruiting and training other people to help with field investigations. The key word is training just as you wouldn't want an untrained person performing surgery.

TAPE RECORDER USEFUL IN INVESTIGATIONS

During a UFO investigation a portable tape recorder is very helpful in obtaining the narration from the witness. It eliminates any gaps that may occur by just writing the narration as the witness talks. Also quotes from the witness(es) are obtained, much easier, when writing out the case report. Some important points to remember include:

1) Get permission by the witness to record his/her narration. Sometimes witnesses don't allow there voice to be recorded, although this is rare.

2) It's easier to have a recorder that can operate on batteries as well as home electrical current. Be sure to use batteries during the recording unless it is absolutely necessary. Use of batteries eliminates using the witnesses electricity and having to fumble around with a cord.

OTHER SOURCES OF UFO SIGHTINGS

Many of you who have established contacts in your area and who are fairly visible will and probably do receive UFO sighting reports even before the Center does. If this happens be sure to contact us so we know you are busy with a case or cases. If this occurs we want to handle the possible flow of cases as smoothly as possible. So please follow these suggestions:

1) When you hear about a sighting in your area through other sourcesthan the Center, inform us about the fact that you are investigating it, so that we won't refer another case to you at the same time.(except when really necessary).

2) When you hear about several sightings in your area at the same time, through other sources than the Center, concentrate on the most promising ones.

3) If the sightings you are working on are old cases concentrate on the most promising ones.

4) Investigate all cases as thouroughly as possible.

5) Be sure to prepare the UFO case reports according to the guidelines in the first CIQ (for those who don't have CIQ # 1 or others write for information to John Timmerman).

RECOMMENDED LITERATURE

As all of you know there are hundreds of books dealing with the UFO subject. Some have been written specifically to aid the investigator with the techniques utilized in the field. Publications that are definitely recommended for the investigator include:

The UFO Handbook by Allan Hendry

MUFON Field Investigators Manual edited by Raymond E. Fowler

Observing UFOs by Richard F. Haines

Those three books are very good references for various techniques that will be utilized in the field, but the UFO phenomenon seems to have become more and more complicated. Several high strangeness cases require investigators to have some knowledge of other fields such as psychology or parapsychology. Other cases may require knowledge in disciplines such as hypnosis, biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, etc. It seems evident that a list of references (books, periodicals, or articles) should be developed to aid the investigator. There is no intention to require that an investigator be an expert in all of the disciplines, but to have a reference guide for information that may aid in the investigation of particular UFO cases.

This list will be printed in subsequent CIQ's. Your cooperation is needed by sending titles of any references (also authors name) you might have used or feel would aid investigations.

LOCAL CONSULTANTS

Many of you live near colleges or universities. A good reference in a particular discipline is a college professor. It would be a good idea to contact various professors, from nearby colleges or universities, to find out if they will aid in a UFO investigation as a consultant. Who knows, some of them may be interested in becoming an investigator.

CUFOS CATALOG OF PUBLICATIONS & PRICE LIST

For those of you who give lectures in your area it would be a good idea (if you haven't already) to obtain the CUFOS catalog of publications and price list for your lectures. Show them to your attendees so they may purchase some UFO literature. It is one way to get the general public more involved and aware of this elusive phenomenon. The catalog is available by sending $1.00 to CUFOS, P.O. Box 1402, Evanston, Illinois 60204.

FINAL REMARKS

In closing I would like to say that this is your newsletter and any comments or suggestions are welcome. Remember to submit any material for the CIQ by the deadline dates. Agood working relationship with you is very important, so feel free to contact me if you have anything you want to discuss.

Chris Centi

Chris Centi
CIQ Editor