

Physicist says extraterrestrials

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SASKATOON — The likelihood of extraterrestrial beings making their presence known to "earthlings" is greater now than ever.

There are two reasons for the increasing likelihood of intergalactic contact and communication, according to Stan Friedman, 49, a nuclear physicist who has spent the last 11 years on the lecture circuit declaring the existence of UFOs.

First, the current generation — the "Star Trek" generation, as Friedman calls it — would be more receptive to such contact than its predecessors, and alien beings who have been observing Earth for however long are aware of this.

"All you have to do is watch Saturday morning cartoons: space is the place," Friedman said, adding that this is the first generation that has grown up with a notion of space travel as fact, not fiction.

The upshot of this has been ever-increasing percentage of the population who believe in the existence of UFOs. A 1978 Gallup Poll revealed that 70 per cent of the population under 30 believed UFOs to be real. Among those 30 and older, only 40 per cent believed in them.

Friedman based his second reason upon his work from 1956 to 1970 as a nuclear physicist with General Electric, Aerojet General Nucleonics, General Motors, Westinghouse and TRW Systems working, among other things, on the development of fission and fusion rockets.

"Soon we'll be going to the stars," offered Friedman, who spoke Tuesday at the University of Saskatchewan. "Within less than 100 years, we'll be going to visit them."

According to Friedman, alien beings, aware through their long-time observation of Earth that our technology is edging toward the sophistication necessary to enable us to travel outside our solar system, may soon condescend to communicate with us, for the good of the universe.

"Whatever mess we make of our planet is our business, but when we start moving out it becomes their problem too," he said of their motivation for announcing their presence, especially since, relative to them, earthlings are a primitive civilization.

In Friedman's opinion, the evidence substantiating the existence of UFOs is overwhelming. There have been more than 2,000 landing trace cases reported from 64 countries, he said, adding there has also been a myriad of believable "critter" reports and earthling abduction claims.

Although many of his contentions may be news to the public, he says the world's major governments, certainly that of the United States, are not only cognizant of the existence of UFOs, but possess documented proof which they classify in the interest of national security, resulting in what Friedman calls a "Cosmic Watergate."

To substantiate his contention, Friedman referred to Federal Court Judge Gerhard Gessell's November, 1980, ruling against the Citizens Against UFO Secrecy — of which Friedman is a member — which had challenged the National Security Agency's right to classify 100 of its documents concerning UFOs.

Judge Gessell.

In handing down his decision, the judge said: "The in-camera affidavit presents factual considerations which aided the court in determining that the public interest in disclosure is far outweighed by the sensitive nature of the materials and the obvious effect on national security their release may well entail."

Although Friedman resents governments keeping the lid on their UFO findings, he does not find it surprising.

"I think the answer is obvious," he said. "First, I think there is a technological reason. The government that can find out how they work — because they can fly circles around us — and duplicate the technology will be able to dominate Earth."

"Second, it is important to be the first to duplicate the technology, because the other side of the coin is how do you defend against it if the other side does it before you."

Finally, there is a political problem. If there was to be an announcement verifying the existence of UFOs, it would result in a whole new view of ourselves, especially by the younger generation.

"Instead of defining ourselves as Canadians or Chinese or whatever, we'd think of ourselves globally as 'earthlings.'"

will likely contact us

Extraterrestrials A 9

In lieu of the documents, the security agency presented Judge Gessell with a 21-page top secret brief, complete with an affidavit, explaining why it would be contrary to national security to declassify the information. It was enough to convince