

**THE SEARCH FOR GOD**

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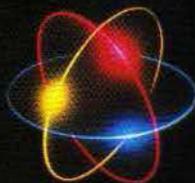


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**THE GREAT WALL OF THE COSMOS • REINVENTING RELIGION • MANIPULATING REALITY • DAN QUAYLE'S POWER OVER SCIENCE**

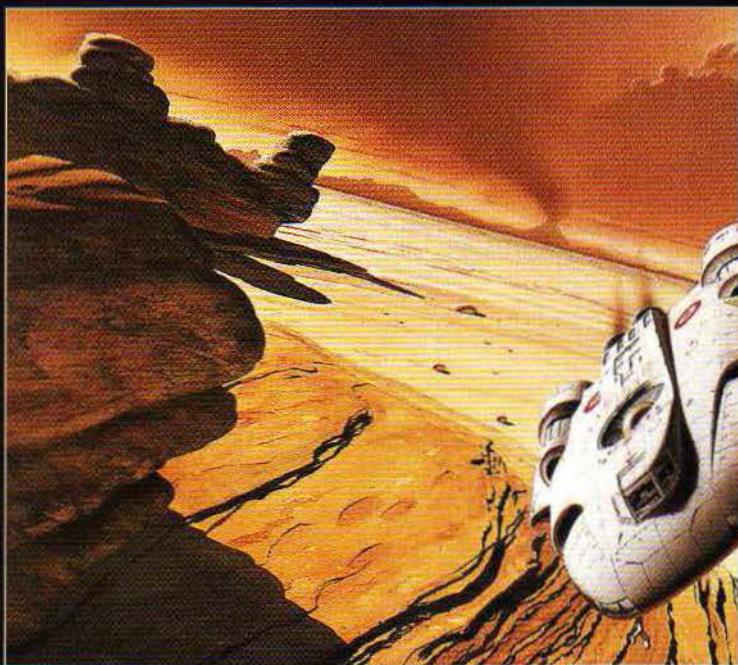


# ANTIMATTER

## UFO UPDATE:

A 900 number offers callers tips on UFO sightings, alien abductions, and E.T. anatomy

Users of telephone dial-it services, jaded by stock market reports, sports news, jokes, astrological readings, party lines, and erotic fantasies, can now dial a 24-hour 900 number devoted to UFOs. Founded by popular lecturer and UFO researcher Stanton Friedman with backing from businessman Ryan Wood, UFOLine provides access to Friedman's thoughts about UFO sightings, alien abductions, and what he calls "proof of a cosmic Watergate," an alleged high-level government cover-up of crashed saucers and the origins of UFOs. UFOLine call-



ers can also use the service to report alleged UFO sightings, leaving their names, addresses, and telephone numbers for investigators who might wish to follow up.

Friedman, who claims that "the evidence is overwhelming that planet Earth is being visited by intelligently controlled extraterrestrial spacecraft," isn't shy about stating his views. "I think the government is covering up a very great deal," he says, from the recovery of a crashed saucer or two in New Mexico in 1947 to all the technological developments we've gleaned from them to a knowledge of alien anatomy.

Asked where he believes UFOs might be coming from, he says, "Some at least seem to be coming from a planet around either one or two quite special stars—Zeta 1 or Zeta 2 Reticuli. These two stars are only thirty-two light-years away from us, which is just down the street compared to the size of the galaxy." On the subject of what he believes UFOs might be doing, Friedman adds, "Aliens might want to check us out because if we were to take our brand of friendship, namely destructive hostility, out there we may be a threat to them. As we get ready to leave the earth the cop on the beat is going to say, 'Hey, you guys, you don't qualify for membership in the federation.' If you were an alien, you'd be concerned."

Friedman says he plans to use UFOLine to get the word out to the public about his views on UFOs, as well as to collect fresh data about alleged sightings. He also

admits to an additional motivation. "I hope to make a little money," he admits. UFOLine costs callers \$2 for the first minute, and \$.49 per minute thereafter for each call.

Leading UFO expert Jacques Vallee, the author of *Confrontations* (Ballantine, 1990), is not convinced that the UFOLine data will be useful to researchers in the

field. "Previous experience," Vallee says, "has shown that UFO sightings of higher credibility tend to be reported in person, rather than on the telephone, to individuals that the witness trusts—when they are reported at all. In the past, UFO screening centers that have relied on 800 or 900 numbers have usually been swamped with the lowest quality and least reliable information."

UFO skeptic Robert Sheaffer, of the UFO subcommittee of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, has called UFOLine and isn't impressed with the information Friedman offers. "Clearly, Stanton Friedman is in the UFO business to make a living. By having a long list of selections you can do, he keeps the minutes up and keeps the bills up, which I suppose is the way to do it," he says. "In my opinion, in the time-honored tradition of P. T. Barnum, he's trying to make a buck off of people's credulity. The information that he's offering is at best dubious and at worst downright misleading. Much of it has been seriously challenged, if not totally refuted. You'll get far better information from a responsible science publication than from a thing like this."

Callers can reach the UFOLine at 1-900-446-8367.

—KEITH HARARY