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## UFO buffs say Mars probe light years behind aliens

From: [campbell@ufomind.com](mailto:campbell@ufomind.com) (Glenn Campbell, Las Vegas)  
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ROSWELL, N.M. (Reuter) - An American spacecraft's voyage to Mars is exciting the world's scientists but staunch believers in extraterrestrial life are unimpressed by human technology they say is light years behind alien science.

As NASA's Pathfinder hurtled toward Friday's landing on Mars, some UFO researchers said Thursday they hoped exploratory missions would eventually confirm their own theories that aliens have visited Earth for thousands of years and are even living among us.

While they fight among themselves over where the alleged aliens come from and what their mission is, all agree humans are way behind on the evolutionary scale.

"We are neither the crown of creation nor at the top of evolution," said Erich von Daniken, a leading UFO researcher who believes ancient cultures in Asia and South America communicated with aliens and learned from them.

Speaking in the New Mexico town of Roswell at a festival marking the 50th anniversary of an alleged UFO landing, von Daniken said aliens first arrived when Neanderthals roamed the Earth and that we all carry some extraterrestrial genes.

He said aliens also colonized Mars, building pyramids and creating a huge image of a human face on the Red Planet's surface. "I hope the Pathfinder probe gets a good shot of the pyramids and the face on Mars," he said.

Pathfinder is to explore Mars using a dune-buggy type vehicle to survey and chart the composition and size of rocks, dust and debris in the area of Ares Valles and look for evidence of life. The landing and exploration of a tiny portion of the planet's surface will "lead eventually to a human expedition to the Red Planet," according to NASA.

In Roswell, tens of thousands of people have flocked to this week's UFO extravaganza, most believing that some form intelligent life is flourishing elsewhere in the universe. Some even claim contact with alien space travelers.

`To me, it was as real as sitting here talking,' said Leah Haley from Tennessee, who says aliens have abducted her many times and taken eggs from her ovaries to make half-human, half-alien babies.

`The aliens told me they would be coming back in greater numbers and that we should be prepared,' Haley said.

NASA scientists said last year they found evidence of primitive, single cell life on a meteorite that was blasted off the surface of Mars and landed in Antarctica. The finding, which is still being investigated, raised hopes in some quarters that scientists might be able to prove that life does exist on the Red Planet.

But NASA has stressed that this week's first Pathfinder mission cannot determine traces of life, focusing instead on whether meteorites actually came from Mars and what processes transformed rocks into soil.

Robert Dean, a retired Army sergeant major, claims the U.S. government is covering up evidence of extraterrestrial life and that he has seen NATO reports indicating that four different extraterrestrial species have visited Earth.

He believes some have taken on a human form. `They're still here and they look just like you or me. If you were sitting next to one in a movie, you wouldn't have any idea.'

Public opinion polls have shown an increasing number of Americans believe intelligent life exists in outer space. TV shows like `The 'X' Files' and `Star Trek' and blockbuster movies like the newly released `Men in Black' and last year's `Independence Day' have sparked huge interest in the issue.

`I think aliens have always been here. They mixed with humans at one point,' Marviline Rivera, a member of Star-Trek enthusiasts' group called `U.S.S. Trinity Dawn,' said as she left a Roswell lecture.

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