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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: UFOs and Counter-Intelligence

From: rfsignal@sprynet.com <Cathy Johnson>
Date: Thu, 2 Jan 1997 18:29:51 -0800
Fwd Date: Thu, 02 Jan 1997 23:49:48 -0500
Subject: Re: UFOs and Counter-Intelligence

>Date: Thu, 02 Jan 1997 16:27:51 -0500
>From: Greg Sandow <GSANDOW@prodigy.net>
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
>Subject: Re: UFO UpDate: Re: UFOs and Counter-Intelligence
>References: <2.2.32.19970102182713.006f6020@mail.globalserve.net>

>I'm not sure what there is in Frank Drake's bio that should make anyone
>suspicious.

What could possibly make any difference in his bio that would have an effect upon an obviously great effort and intellect that went into the formulation of something so undeniably simple as the equation? Nothing of the man's personal history should be infringed upon for public study.

>Should we be worried because he served in the Navy? Does that make him
>an intelligence operative?

Whether or not he is an operative, has nothing to do with the formula that he was so adept in creating. The numbers are a science of themselves, not affected by weather or politics.

>Am I missing something here?

Yes, definitely. You are missing that simple fact of being human. You are trying to reach a plateau of etheric impossibility when you try to defeat simplistic mathematics by dragging any mathematician through a mud puddle. The formula devised by him was considered and found to be an acceptable expression of possibilities concerning intelligences in the known universe.

>The bio is incomplete, in any case. Drake's currently at the University
>of California at Santa Cruz.

Perhaps the esteemed man will bend an ear to some of your questions about the matter. Afterall, it seems he is still among the living.

>And about Drake's famous equation, which is supposed to show us how many
>intelligent civilizations there are in the universe...its main value, I
>think, is simply to put any number at all on something so unknown. Once
>you begin to put a number on something, it seems more scientifically
>legitimate.

>But as for the equation getting any results...well, here's Drake's own
>conclusion, after running the numbers (most of which he had to guess at,
>of course). I'm quoting from his book, which he tells how he presented
>his figures at a meeting:

"We've reached a conclusion," I said. "Our best estimate is that there are somewhere between one thousand and one hundred million advanced extraterrestrial civilizations in the Milky Way."

>Quite a margin for error, wouldn't you say?

Just how easy is it for anyone to guess the possibilities that would begin to show the probabilities of intelligent life in the universe? At the moment, we can only truthfully say that the equation cannot equal zero nor any negative numbers. Whether it is only one, two, or two billion races of intelligent life in the universe, we can only be sure that the possibility of finding other intelligences in the universe is also more than one.

It doesn't matter whether the equation is an accurate expression of mathematics or not. It doesn't matter what the mathematician did during his lifetime to have composed such a simplistic mathematical expression. It only matters that there is an accepted value in the presentation of the numbers to express a possibility that otherwise would have remained as an unknown value in our lives and sciences. NO?

Personally, I can only say that there are things out there that humanity will not like for the most part. Only a few and rare kinds of intelligences could bear the whims of humanity for long. And at that, those kinds of intelligences are probably still considering whether or not humanity should be defined as an intelligent species. Think about it. Think about it a lot!

Take care for now,
Cathy

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