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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: The Scientific Method

From: "WHITE" <mjawwhite@digitaldune.net>
Date: Tue, 16 Sep 1997 07:44:36 -0700
Fwd Date: Tue, 16 Sep 1997 15:21:20 -0400
Subject: Re: The Scientific Method

> Date: Mon, 15 Sep 1997 22:11:10 -0700
> From: John Koopmans <john.koopmans@sympatico.ca>
> To: updates@globalserve.net
> Subject: The Scientific Method

John K. wrote:

> On a light note....
> The following is quoted from Michio Kaku's enlightening book:
> Hyperspace: A Scientific Odyssey Through Parallel Universes,
> Time Warps, and the 10th Dimension,
> New York: Oxford University Press, 1994 (pg. 118):

> A scientist once trained a flea to jump whenever he rang a bell. Using a
> microscope, he then anesthetized one of the flea's legs and rang the
> bell again. The flea still jumped.
> The scientist then anesthetized another leg and then rang the bell. The
> flea still jumped.
> Eventually, the scientist anesthetized more and more legs, each time
> ringing the bell, and each time recording that the flea jumped.
> Finally, the flea had only one leg left. When the scientist anesthetized
> the last leg and rang the bell, he found to his surprise that the flea
> no longer jumped.

> Then the scientist solemnly declared his conclusion, based on
> irrefutable scientific data: Fleas hear through their legs!

To all:

Dr. Kaku, in describing the mass of experimental data in particle physics research during the 1960s, preceded that story with:

"Looking back at all the blind alleys and false starts in particle physics during that period, one is reminded of the story of the scientist and the flea."

I know I must have missed the point of the story when I first read it because, I stopped there and tried to find out, "How do fleas hear, anyhow?"

John White

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