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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: SETI Scientists Petition White House

From: Stan Friedman <[fsphys@brunnet.net](mailto:fsphys@brunnet.net)>  
Date: Sat, 28 Nov 1998 07:42:38 -0400  
Fwd Date: Sat, 28 Nov 1998 17:33:52 -0500  
Subject: Re: SETI Scientists Petition White House

>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)>  
>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark@frontiernet.net](mailto:jkclark@frontiernet.net)>  
>Subject: Re: UFO UpDate: Re: SETI Scientists Petition White House  
>Date: Fri, 27 Nov 98 16:43:23 PST

>>From: Roger Evans <[moviestuff@cyberjunkie.com](mailto:moviestuff@cyberjunkie.com)>  
>>Date: Fri, 27 Nov 1998 14:14:42 +0000  
>>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)>  
>>Subject: SETI Scientists Petition White House

>>>From: Serge Salvaille <[sergesa@connectmmic.net](mailto:sergesa@connectmmic.net)>  
>>>Date: Thu, 26 Nov 1998 21:37:02 -0500  
>>>Fwd Date: Fri, 27 Nov 1998 13:30:54 -0500  
>>>Subject: Re: SETI Scientists Petition White House

>Howdy, listfolk,

>>Previously Larry Hatch offered:

>>>>For the life of me, I cannot understand some of the anti-SETI  
>>>>messages recently.

>>Serge's rather rude response was:

>>>Then I suggest you read the posts more carefully and try to  
>>>understand the situation.

>>>>Any 30 years \$100-million flopped project supported by  
>>>>mainstream science on the hypothesis of extra-terrestrial life  
>>>>must be questioned by people involved in a 50 years \$0.00  
>>>>research who came up with evidence - people who are still  
>>>>laughed at by the same SOBs who support the fore-mentioned  
>>>>project.

>>Time out, Serge.

>>You make a pretty strong accusation. Please give us names of any  
>>SETI supporters that laugh at terrestrial based UFO research. My  
>>money is on the bet that you can't. In fact, I'd go so far as to  
>>say that everyone I know that supports SETI also supports the  
>>investigation of UFO sightings and encounters. True, SETI has  
>>received the lion's share of the funding, but \$100 million is  
>>squat for 30 years work. No one, including SETI members, is  
>>saying that terrestrial based UFO research doesn't deserve  
>>funding, also. The fact that UFO researchers don't get it is not  
>>SETI's fault. Your grudge is with the wrong people. Grow up.

>Wow. I am at a loss to understand any of the above paragraph.

>I've read a reasonable amount of the SETI literature, and  
>overwhelmingly, the attitude toward UFOs and UFO research is (a)  
>ignorant and (b) hostile. A rare exception is the British  
>popular science writer Edward Ashpole, who has done books on  
>SETI and one (sympathetic to the ETH) on the UFO phenomenon.  
>There is, in fairness, astronomer/SETI historian Steven Dick,  
>who while more or less skeptical is not notably hostile toward  
>ufology, and he does know the subject. Far more typical,  
>however, is Jill Tartar's boast of close- mindedness where UFO  
>reports are concerned, or Carl Sagan's many and tiresome  
>fulminations.

>A wonderful paper on the possible sources of SETIans'  
>consistent hostility to UFO research is "The Effect of  
>Conscious and Unconscious Attitudes About UFO Evidence  
>on Scientific Acceptance of the Extraterrestrial  
>Hypothesis," by D. C. Donderi. (Donderi is a psychologist  
>at McGill University in Montreal.) Prof. Donderi speculates:

>"[T]he intense scientific interest in communicating with  
>extraterrestrial intelligence is behavior which draws in part on  
>experience of UFO evidence for its motivation, while allowing  
>the interested scientist to refuse to consciously acknowledge  
>that source. The `scientific' ETI interest is in part a rational  
>but unrealistic attempt to deal with the problems presented by  
>the overwhelming UFO evidence in ways which are acceptable  
>in current scientific understanding.... This behavior recognizes  
>the anxiety which would be caused by accepting the reality,  
>and the possible extraterrestrial origin, of the UFO phenomenon.  
>... An interest in communicating with ETI is certainly not  
>scientific behavior which can be justified on the basis of its  
>results; as one critic (equally critical of UFOs) noted:  
>`Exobiology is still a "science" without any data, therefore no  
>science'." (From JUFOS 1 [old series, 1979], pp. 38-39)

>SETI has many critics within mainstream science, though  
>you'd not know that from the breathlessly uncritical accounts  
>you'll find in popular media treatments of the subject. One  
>clear reason, it seems to me, that SETIans are unfriendly  
>to UFO research is that, in the grand tradition of "anomaly  
>snobbism" (William Corliss's phrase), they're seeking to  
>establish their legitimacy by dissing another, possibly  
>related subject which like SETI is often seen as fringish.  
>In other words: Yes, I believe there are friendly space  
>people out there, but I'm not crazy enough to believe  
>they're coming here in UFOs. Sort of like the cryptozoologists  
>who habitually assure us that while they believe in Bigfoot  
>or the Loch Ness monster, they aren't among those  
>deluded souls who deem UFOs also worth investigating.

>Jerry Clark

It makes me feel old to admit it, but my 1973 MUFON Symposium  
paper "Ufology and the Search for ET Intelligent Life " dealt  
with many of the false arguments made by SETI cultists against  
UFOs. It was p.40-61 in the Symposium Proceedings. I do have  
some copies available. There are 73 references.

Stan Friedman

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