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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Are we Alone?

From: Stan Friedman <fsphys@brunnet.net>
Date: Sat, 13 Nov 1999 19:51:30 -0400
Fwd Date: Sun, 14 Nov 1999 09:44:49 -0500
Subject: Re: Are we Alone?

>Date: Fri, 12 Nov 1999 11:38:29 -0500 (Eastern Standard Time)
>From: Nick Balaskas <nikolaos@YorkU.CA>
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
>Subject: Re: Are we Alone?

>>From: Graeme Best <graemebest@hotmail.com>
>>To: updates@globalserve.net
>>Subject: Re: Are we Alone?
>>Date: Fri, 12 Nov 1999 03:33:47 EST

>>Paul Davies article in Melbourne Age

>>G'day EBK,

>>While watching this thread develop, I felt I should send you
>>this article by Paul Davies which appeared in the local press
>>last weekend. It should of course be remembered that Davies was
>>also the winner of the 1995 Templeton prize for Progress in
>>Religion. It is actually quite a long article, and I could'nt
>>find it in the archives at www.theage.com.au, so I've snipped a
>>large part from the beginning...

>><snip>

>>"WHY WE STILL BELIEVE IN ALIENS, REGARDLESS OF THE FACTS" by
>>Paul Davies. Published in the Melbourne Age 5/11/99 (extract)

>>...Probes sent to the Red Planet failed to find Lowells canals,
>>or any sign of life. There is a chance that Mars once harboured
>>microbes, but little green men are definitely off the agenda.

>><snip>

>>The absence of any observational evidence for ET leaves us with
>>only theory to go on. Unfortunately, scientists have scant idea
>>how life originated. It may have been a freak molecular
>>accident, unique to Earth. On the other hand, life may arise
>>more or less automatically under favourable conditions.

>>Hi everyone.

>>I have come to conclude that many people, including scientists
>>and ufologists, feel very comfortable with just maintaining our
>>current beliefs and thinking regarding the question "Are we alone
>>in this universe?". We may all profess to be open minded and to
>>be striving for the answer to this important question, but in
>>fact we are not and don't really care to be either.

>Human recorded history tells us the answer to this question but
>we have now discarded all this accumulated knowledge and have
>replaced it with a new religious system of beliefs, dogmas and
>new doubts. Our speculations and educated opinions it seems are
>more important to us in this "scientific age" rather than the
>simple truths.

>
>In our harsh criticism of each others methods and in quickly
>dismissing data we do not like, we may have also actually thrown
>out the answer to this important question on more than one
>occasion.

>
>For example, in 1976 the scientific discovery of life on Mars
>was made. That year on U.S.A.'s Independence Day, the Viking 1
>made a soft landing on Mars. On board was an experiment that
>was designed to detect organic life that would react chemically
>in much the same way as organic life on Earth would. The result
>was positive. Unfortunately NASA which sent out Viking 1
>continues to overlook this discovery even though all its initial
>doubts have been addressed. The September/October 1999 issue of
>UFO Magazine (UK) has an interview with Dr. Gilbert Levin (pages
>8 and 9), the frustrated NASA scientist who made the discovery
>of life on Mars. His papers can be found at the web sites
>below.

>
><http://www.biospherics.com/mars/spie/spiehtml.htm>

>
><http://www.biospherics.com/mars/spie2/spie98.htm>

>
>NASA still promotes a "Mars" meteorite which it claims may
>contain microfossils (now there are two more) proving that life
>once existed on Mars and even created the Astrobiology Institute
>(strange if NASA didn't have good reasons to believe that life
>is really out there).

>
>Although Paul Davies is a learned man, his article is wrong when
>he claims that probes to Mars failed to find ANY sign of life or
>that there is an absence of observational EVIDENCE for ET. If
>there wasn't any, I for one wouldn't be wasting my time reading
>all about the latest ET evidence in ufology.

>Nick Balaskas

In August, 1998, I gave lectures in 11 different Australian cities.

I ran across numerous articles by and about Paul Davies and some of his books in the bookstores. It was quite obvious that despite his having strong opinions about ET life and UFOs, he certainly knew nothing about either.

Of course that should be no surprise.

Look at the writings of Carl Sagan, Frank Drake, Jill Tartar.. always knocking alien visitation and UFOs despite total ignorance about them, and making strange claims indeed about SETI..

Stan Friedman

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