

E.T. Phone Home

By Hap Hansen

How does one write about extraterrestrials who originate or exist outside of the earth or its atmosphere? "E.T. Phone home!" If they exist, they would have to have mastered traveling at the speed of light, or about 186,000 miles per second. How else could they have travelled the billions or trillions of miles between galaxies? At that speed, they could travel nearly six trillion miles in a year, probably enough to encounter billions of galaxies. Traveling at that speed is not likely to occur in the near future, at least not in my lifetime.

Steven Hawking once said, "If we ever see an alien here, it's probably not a good sign, because they would be so much further advanced and would probably be looking for a new place to live" But there are hundreds of reports each year that someone has seen an Unidentified Flying Object, or UFO, and some of those people claim there were aliens inside them! Theories abound, because the galaxies are so large and never-ending, that the probability of life elsewhere cannot be ruled out.

Many people and some scientists believe that the unusual hieroglyphs and gigantic carved heads on Easter Island in the South Pacific were carved and placed there by unknown aliens. They also believe that the pyramids in Egypt and Stonehenge in southern England must have also been built by extraterrestrials.

A program called SETI, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence, began in 1960. Today, it is capable of receiving billions of radio signals that may be coming from outside the earth. They are hoping to receive signals that may repeat themselves at regular intervals or contain mathematical sequences. None have been found. SETI also keeps sending signals into the atmosphere hoping to get a response. No response to date.

Here are a few beliefs about how we came to be:

One. Most of us believe we are descendants of Adam and Eve, two people created by God.

Two. Many are simply non-believers in anything.

Three. Some believe we are descended from apes, but fortunately, that link has never been found.

Four. Some backward scientists even believe that Extraterrestrials were the first inhabitants of earth, even though early earthlings were very primitive. I have difficulty imagining a Neanderthal and a Cro-Magnon as pilot and co-pilot of a spaceship heading for earth. Think about it! Nancy Neanderthal would say to Charlie Cro-Magnon, "Hey, Charlie, I see a little blue planet down there. Let's investigate! Take a left turn at Venus." And here we are!