

Is Anybody There in Universe?

Space Exploration May Find Out

QUESTIONS about life on other planets came up long before unidentified flying objects (UFOs) were sighted, but answers are missing.

A reader sent a report from the Gainesville, Fla., Sun about a UFO conference held there. Robert Spencer Carr seemed to be the star speaker, because three doors and a window were broken by people trying to get inside to hear him after the auditorium was filled. Apparently the door crashers were Earth People.

"The government captured a giant silver disk containing 12 little men in 1952 and hid them in refrigerator drawers in Edwards Air Force Base," Carr said in describing what he called a vast governmental cover-up of facts about UFOs.

Carr described the men as three to four feet tall, with muscular bodies, blond hair, blue eyes and human-like teeth. He said an autopsy showed DNA molecules, genes like humans and Type O blood.

In an interview published by U.S. News & World Report, Carl Sagan, director of the Laboratory for Planetary Studies and professor of astronomy and space sciences at Cornell University, was asked: "Could there be a form of life out there (in space) somewhere that in no way resembles life on earth?"

Sagan replied: "Not only is that possible, it is inevitable." He said the Martian environment is "sufficiently benign that, for all we know, it can support large organisms. On the other hand, it's possible that there has never been life on the planet."

A U.S. Viking spacecraft is due to land on Mars next year, the first time such a device will have reached another planet. Maybe we will find out more about life in our solar system then.

Pioneer 10, launched March 2, 1972, is to become the first spacecraft to escape the solar system. It passed by Jupiter in 1973 and is to fly out of the solar system about 1987, showing how large the system is. That's why unmanned vehicles are exploring space. Human life is too short to make the long trips.

Joy riding in space may not be feasible, but authorities predict that free-floating space cities will be set up between earth and the moon for both experimental and practical purposes.

Weather and communications satellites already are in regular use,

while Earth Resources satellites (ERTS) supply information about mineral deposits, geology and agriculture.

Part of the glamor has worn off, but America's space program for this year, with 28 shots to be launched, will be the heaviest in nine years. Most spectacular will be the Apollo-Soyuz mission in which three American astronauts will meet two Russian cosmonauts 140 miles above the earth.

In the 1980s and 1990s, a fleet of space shuttles are to make about 725 flights, adding to our knowledge and our wonder.

The earth is a medium-sized planet in a moderately large solar system in an ordinary-sized galaxy, among millions of galaxies. It seems to be totally illogical that earth would be the only planet among millions that would have life on it.

Hello? Is anybody out there? Who?