

7. Colonizing the Solar System
June 16, 2006

From: Observer 3A10Z
Re: 3rd Planet, Star B6W739E2, Cluster D51M6F, Arm 4, Galaxy C2NGI05L825G
Date: Sixty-six billion local stellar axial rotations
To: Planetary Lifeforms Archivist, Mothership 6M3K2X

Subject: MOST URGENT, Interplanetary Expansion

Although this observer monitors all the electromagnetic emanations generated by this planet's dominant lifeform [humanity or human race], until now none has risen to the level of concern raised by the report [<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0606140160jun14,1,7819436.story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed>] that its most prominent 'physicists' have recently debated one of their number's proposal "for the human race to spread out into space for the survival of the species"!

In the course of a few tens of thousands of this planet's solar orbitings, 'humanity' has made this planet an open running sore, a cesspool and sewer, overspreading it like a invasive fungal infection on the fragile skin of its surface with untenable population growth, consuming its non-renewable resources, trashing its environment, and extinguishing more other lifeforms in a shorter period of time than in any other period in its history.

Generally among the societal subdivisions of this lifeform, proof of competence is required to be entitled to engage in potentially dangerous activities. Yet so far 'humanity' has miserably failed the competence tests for its most significant responsibility: managing the viability of this planet for its own and other lifeforms!

Entrusted as we are to monitor the behaviors and viability of lifeforms throughout this and neighboring galaxies, it is of paramount importance that we intervene to PREVENT the spread of the 'human' contagion at least until this species has shown itself able, competent and willing to husband the life and resources of THIS planet sustainably.

Unless and until 'humanity' demonstrates its willingness, ability and competence to take responsibility for this planet, allowing the infection it represents to spread to other sites in this solar system would be a disaster of galactic, if not universal, proportions.

Kindly alert the Watchers that remedial action may soon be required.

Knowledgeably aware,
Observer 3A10Z
Lightbearer DG2F

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Archived intercepts

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0606140160jun14,1,7819436.story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed>

Hawking: Humans must colonize space to survive

By Sylvia Hui
Associated Press

June 14, 2006

HONG KONG -- The survival of the human race depends on its ability to find new homes elsewhere in the universe because there's an increasing risk that a disaster will destroy Earth, physicist Stephen Hawking said Tuesday.

Humans could have a permanent base on the moon in 20 years and a colony on Mars in the next 40, the British scientist said.

"We won't find anywhere as nice as Earth unless we go to another star system," added Hawking, greeted here Monday with a rock star's welcome. Tickets for his lecture Thursday are sold out.

Hawking said that if humans can avoid killing themselves in the next 100 years, they should have space settlements that can continue without support from Earth.

"It is important for the human race to spread out into space for the survival of the species," Hawking said. "Life on Earth is at the ever-increasing risk of being wiped out by a disaster, such as sudden global warming, nuclear war, a genetically engineered virus or other dangers we have not yet thought of."

The 64-year-old scientist, author of the global best-seller "A Brief History of Time," uses a wheelchair and communicates with the help of a computer because he suffers from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

One of the best-known theoretical physicists of his generation, Hawking has done groundbreaking research on black holes and the origins of the universe, proposing that space and time have no beginning and no end.

However, Alan Guth, a physics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said Hawking's latest observations are something of a departure from his usual research and more applicable to survival over the long-term.

"It is a new area for him to look at," Guth said. "If he's talking about the next 100 years and beyond, it does make sense to think about space as the ultimate lifeboat."

But, he added, "I don't see the likely possibility within the next 50 years of science technology making it easier to survive on Mars and on the moon than it would be to survive on Earth."

"I would still think that an underground base, for example in Antarctica, would be easier to build than building on the moon."

Joshua Winn, an astrophysicist at MIT, agreed.

"The prospect of colonizing other planets is very far off, you must realize," he said.

Hawking's "work has been highly theoretical physics, not in astrophysics or global politics or anything like that," Winn added.

"He is certainly stepping outside his research domain."

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Date: Thu, 15 Jun 2006 11:39:48 -0400 (EDT)
From: Cooper John N <jcooper@bucknell.edu>
To: ctc-TribLetter@Tribune.com
Subject: Colonizing Space?

Sirs:

An article in the 14 June Tribune reports that physicists Stephen Hawking, Alan Guth and Joshua Winn debated Hawking's recent proposal "for the human race to spread out into space for the survival of the species"!

In the course of a few tens of thousands of years, humanity has made an open running sore, a cesspool and sewer of this planet, overspreading it like a invasive fungal infection on the fragile skin of its surface, trashing its environment and extinguishing more lifeforms in a shorter period of time than any other in recent geologic history.

Generally among ourselves, we require proof of competence to be entitled to drive a car, be an engineer or doctor, or practice law. So far humanity has miserably failed the competence tests for managing the viability of this planet for its other lifeforms.

If there indeed be intelligent life, or design, in this universe, surely it would intervene to PREVENT the spread of the human contagion at least until our species has shown itself able, competent and willing to husband the life and resources of THIS planet sustainably.

Unless and until we demonstrate our responsibility for this planet, allowing the infection we represent to spread to other sites in the solar system would be a disaster of galactic proportions.

John N. Cooper

Date: Thu, 15 Jun 2006 15:16:16 -0500
From: "Permut, Merrin" <mpermut@tribune.com>
Subject: Chicago Tribune letter to the editor - 6/15/06

Your letter to the editor is currently posted in the Voice of the people section on ChicagoTribune.com.

Here is a link: www.chicagotribune.com/letters.

We now post additional letters in the online version of the Voice of the people; while there isn't room in the print version of the Chicago Tribune to publish these letters, we are excited to be able to let many more voices, including yours, "be heard" online.

Sincerely,

Dodie Hofstetter
Editor, Voice of the people

Merrin Permut
Chicago Tribune

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