

Did Earth Have Space Visitors Long Ago?

By KATHY MORAN

Suppose that instead of launching a Skylab, our country launched a rocket which would travel out of our planetary system into the vast universe.

And suppose that the rocket finds a planet similar to Earth where life is still at a very primitive stage.

If the foreign astronauts land on this planet, how would primitive people react

to the strange intruders? Would they think that the "sons of God" had descended from the heavens?

With that question, Erich von Daniken begins his popular book "Chariots of the Gods" in which he puts forth his theory that our planet was visited by foreign cosmologists 6,000 years ago.

And it was with this approach, that von Daniken began his lecture at Schoolcraft College last week where 2,000

believers and skeptics listened to his theory and observed slides of his evidence.

Von Daniken looked the college's gymnasium, and after every seat was filled, another 400 had to be turned away. He drew an audience comparable or larger in size than Ralph Nader, Adlai Davis, or "Jesus Christ Superstar."

The advent of the space age prompted von Daniken to take a fresh look at ancient drawings and recorded stories. His conclusions seem highly probable and believable to a many in space-aware public.

At 38, von Daniken is a self-taught student of the sciences. That he acquired his knowledge on his own has been credited with his fresh views rather than stifled old theories.

He showed slide after slide of ancient carvings and statues of figures with strange halos (or could they be space helmets?) and who often are shown floating in space.

Von Daniken also combed through ancient epics and stories recorded in the Old Testament which describe "sons of God" descending amid smoke, fire and loud noise (a space ship?) and drew similarities between

stories recorded from primitive civilizations which were too distant in time and geography to have been communicated in any way other than a similar experience.

The Epic of Gilgamesh, for instance, is similar to the biblical Book of Genesis but originated from the Sumerians and is older than the Old Testament. In his book von Daniken calls Sumerians

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Don Drew, formerly assistant minister of St. Paul Presbyterian Church in Livonia, has formed a public relations firm with his wife, Judy.

Known as Drew and Drew Inc., the firm is located in Clawson. A wide range of accounts will be served including industrial, real estate and non-profit businesses.



"I say the visitors were from another solar system, and because of the great distance might still be on the way home."

--Erich von Daniken

tomb is over the grave of the god Kukulkan and apparently shows the "god" at the controls of a rocket ship.

These and the unexplained existence of the Egyptian pyramids, possible landing strips in the plain of Nazca in Peru, stone giants at Stonehenge and Easter Island, the temple at Copan, Honduras, constructed according to the Mayan calendar (almost precisely the same as ours), and dozens of hitherto unexplained phenomena find a place in von Daniken's theories.

If his theories are true, then why did the space visitors leave and why haven't they returned?

"I say the visitors were from another solar system and because of the great distance might still be on the way home," he says, adding that they could return.

He also claims that if these ancient astronauts visited this planet, they may have left definite proof which was deposited at a logical, mathematical point and left where it couldn't be destroyed by earlier and less advanced civilizations.

Von Daniken showed slides of a tombstone deep with the huge Temple of Inscriptions in Palenque, Mexico. The

"Have we ever looked for such proof?" he asks, adding that the Great Pyramid may hold the answer.

He also believes that with the development of intelligence, there is no alternative than for man to explore the universe. Those explorations may find cosmologists from other solar systems, perhaps those who visited earth thousands of years ago.

Although his theories seem to exclude the existence of "God" as we know Him, von Daniken (who has a Catholic background) firmly believes in a "universal, timeless" God who is ultimately responsible for existence of the universe.

Von Daniken asked his audience to keep an "open and tolerant mind" — the same thing that led to his theorizing.

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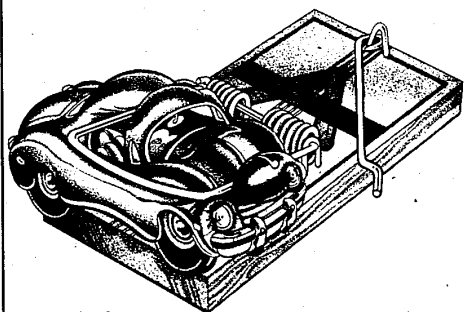
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HELPFUL HINTS FOR CHOOSING SAFE TOYS

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BEFORE YOU BUY

- 1 Choose only toys appropriate for the child's age and development. Many toys now have age group labels on the package.
- 2 Look for warning labels on toys, such as "Not Intended for Children Under 3 Years of Age." Remember that young children may be able to get their hands on toys designed for their older brothers and sisters once the toy has been brought home.
- 3 Certain toys should be bought only for older, mature children. These toys include chemistry sets and electrically-operated toys, particularly those producing heat.
- 4 Check fabrics for "non-flammable," "flame-retardant," or "flame-resistant" labels. Other labels to look for are "washable" and "hygienic materials" notices on stuffed toys and dolls.
- 5 Do not buy toys such as shooting games, especially those involving darts and arrows, unless they will be played ONLY under parental supervision. Avoid toys that produce excessive noise.

AFTER YOU BUY

- 6 Teach your child the proper use of toys. Be sure that instructions accompanying toys are easy to read and understand.
- 7 Supervise the play of young children. There is no substitute for parental interest and supervision. Remember that any toy can be dangerous if misused.
- 8 Check your children's toys periodically. They may develop potential hazards such as sharp points, jagged edges, or loose small parts.
- 9 Don't leave indoor toys outdoors overnight. Moisture can damage them. Check outdoor toys and games also for potential hazards. Remember that rusting can weaken metal parts.

TOYS FOR THE VERY YOUNG SHOULD BE CHOSEN WITH EXTRA CARE

- 10 When choosing a toy for an infant or small child, select one that:
 - ...is too large to be swallowed.
 - ...does not have detachable small parts that can lodge in the windpipe, ears, or nostrils.
 - ...is not apt to break easily into small pieces or leave jagged edges.
 - ...does not have sharp edges or points.
 - ...has not been put together with straight pins, sharp wires, nails, etc., that might be easily exposed.
 - ...is not made of glass or brittle plastic.
 - ...is labeled "non-toxic." Avoid painted toys for infants who put playthings in the mouth.
 - ...does not have parts that can pinch fingers or toes, or catch hair.
 - ...does not have cords or strings over 12 inches in length.

Toys for the very young should be chosen with extra care.



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