

'Guardian' (London) falls for dead cosmonaut website

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.history/2004-09/0961.html>

From: Jim Oberg (*jameseoberg_at_houston.rr.com*)

Date: 09/09/04

Date: Thu, 09 Sep 2004 17:48:16 GMT

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/online/story/0,,1299695,00.html> Lost in space

At the height of the space race, two Italian brothers set up a listening post in the hills above Turin and began probing the heavens for US and Soviet unmanned satellites. One day in early 1961, weeks before Yuri Gagarin's epic space flight, the Judica-Cordiglia brothers were startled by a sound that differed from the usual bleeps of the unmanned satellites they were used to tracking. According to the website Lostcosmonauts.com, the brothers clearly heard "the beat of a failing heart and the last gasping breaths of a dying cosmonaut". The incredible story of a failed Soviet mission unfolds on the site, and adds to the archive of unknown Soviet space missions.

----- Original Message -----

From: Francis French

To: 'jameseoberg@houston.rr.com'

Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2004 11:21 AM

Subject: FW: Inaccurate science story in the Guardian

Hello Jim,

Below is a message I just sent to the Editor of the UK's "Guardian" newspaper. Perhaps you'd like to join me in sending them a letter / E-mail?

Thanks,

Francis.

Francis French
Education Programs Coordinator
Reuben H Fleet Science Center
PO Box 33303, San Diego, California 92163
www.rhfleet.org
Tel: (619) 238 1233 ext: 808
Fax: (619) 685 5771

sci.space.history: 'Guardian' (London) falls for dead cosmonaut website

E-mail: ffrench@rhfleet.org

-----Original Message-----

From: Francis French
Sent: Thursday, September 09, 2004 9:20 AM
To: 'editor@guardianunlimited.co.uk'
Subject: Inaccurate science story in the Guardian

Dear Ms. Bell,

I am a longtime reader of The Guardian, both in print form and, since I have moved to the USA, the online edition, as a reliable source of news. I was therefore appalled to see the following story on your Web Watch page:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/online/story/0,,1299695,00.html>

which I understand is also repeated in your print edition, regarding the "Lost Cosmonauts" website.

The claims of the website owners have long been proven to be utterly ludicrous. While the Soviets did cover up names of cosmonauts who never flew for many years, and downplayed details of failed missions, US tracking stations knew immediately of any true Soviet manned spaceflights. It has also now been almost 15 years since a clear and comprehensive history of all Soviet space activities began emerging from the former USSR,