

Re: NASA TRIES, FAILS TO WITHHOLD PLANETARY DEFENSE REPORT

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So I am ignorant. Pray, how do you find facts out. If some years ago I had been told that the intelligence services of a major western country would concoct a cock and bull story about WMD and yellowcake from Niger, I would have said that was loony. yet it is a matter of historical record. OK you don't like it, it is acknowledged as being accurate. What is even worse, when the illegal war they had lied about came about, they made a complete mess. According to the Al Jazeera estimates, which lie somewhere between the British academic estimates (600,000) and the "official" estimates, are probably the most credible.

Basically I you have provably lied about major aspects of fact, people are rightly going to suspect everything. I don't know why you are going out of your way to support the religious right, I would have thought that support for them was definitely out of place in a scientific discussion group. So BTW is getting so deeply into politics, but I will return to this later. The Religious Right are where the evidence is pointing, the most crucial being the evidence of the graphologist that the notes were written by a child.

Of course the CIA could have used a graph plotter to produce the notes and make it look like a child. That would be even more conspiratorial would it not. No it is not MO. The CIA would have used a fairly standard dot matrix printer that would be impossible to trace.

I don't know why you wish to defend or cover up for the RR. They have absolutely no place in any scientific discussion.

The Universe began with a Big Bang some 13.7 billion years ago. That is to say if $\Omega=1$. If we do not have dark matter the age goes up to some 19 billion years. The solar system was formed some 4.55 billion years ago. If you are investigating for example the material out of which comets were formed, these figures come immediately into view. Hydrogen, Helium and Lithium were formed in the Big Bang (after about 3 mins stable nuclei could exist). All the other elements were formed inside stars and released by supernova explosions. LISA (I mean gravitational wave LISA) is going to detect gravitational waves from collapsing (and exploding) stars and there is the tantalizing prospect

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of the Big Bang itself. Is this relevant – Is it hell! These are the central planks of Intelligent Design, which you appear to be implicitly supporting.

Could someone please tell me how the administration can evaluate the rival merits of LISA and Dark Matter for example.

Lets take something else and try to use our brains for once. Hydrogen Peroxide. In the recent attacks (some of which went wrong) a dilute solution of hydrogen peroxide was boiled on a stove. Anyone with any chemical ability would soon realize that to get Hydrogen Peroxide in a reasonably pure state you need a reflux condenser with a desiccating agent being used in the final purification. How can AQ go from this to the complex processes needed in the purification of Anthrax or Smallpox? What I am told simply does not make sense. I may be ignorant, but what I am being asked to learn is not coherent, it does not make sense.

We have been told a great many things. The Shuttle was to have brought in a era of cheap spaceflight – In fact it cost kilogram for kilogram twice as much as Ariane that itself was not exactly cheap. Going into Iraq was supposed to reduce terrorism. In fact it quickly exploded into violence. Whether or not defeat in Iraq, which is now next door to inevitable, will mean an increase in terrorism in the Western heartland – Bush is confidently telling us it will, is an open question. I personally believe that after a withdrawal Iraq will probably get to its own equilibrium. This may not be an equilibrium which the Western politicians will like (possible Iranian take over) but it will be an equilibrium which will prevent international terrorism.

There is one thing on which the Religious Right is correct, though not in the way they mean it, and that is the assertion that America brought 9/11 on itself. During the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan Reagan channelled arms to the Afghan opposition via OBL and Pakistani intelligence. Come the end of the war, the US loses interest, the Taliban and OBL, backed by the ISI took over. What happened next? First of all OBL backs the KLA, the Kosovo Liberation Army. The US promptly bombs the hell out of the Serbs. After 9/11 there is a complete volte face, nothing gets said about Serbia, the number one enemy is OBL.

This does indeed tell us something about the way in which decisions are taken. Reagan of course was long out of office on 9/11. 9/11 strikes me somewhat as a speech in 1984 where Oceania is fighting Eurasia. Suddenly the Ministry of Truth delivers a note – No we are at peace with Eurasia, East Asia is the enemy. In fact whenever you have an "elective" war, as opposed to a war in which your country is DIRECTLY fighting for its interests. Fighting an elective war is not necessarily wrong although it usually is. You see, if you fight a war as a third party, you are stepping into a complex and often murky

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situation. Generally speaking third parties make a bad situation worse. The US cannot win wars now because all its wars are elective third party wars, such wars are intrinsically unwinnable. I think the extent to which elective war increases existential risk can be exaggerated. It sure does not reduce it though.

As I said Stephen Hawking is talking twaddle and dangerous twaddle. You cannot have "siege" colonies without huge advances in technology. Dangerous twaddle because politicians and generals probably don't know this when they do their calculations. A siege colony demands rapid transition to Type 1. Kurzweil talks about the "Singularity". Because of Ks emphasis on Biology and Psychology I tend to part company with him and not use the S word. However what he says about the misuse of S technology by governments is interesting. It is clear that comparatively small advances in AI will bring about a situation where access to information will become a lot more transparent. I could not envisage such a thread as the one we have had with us "jogamos Bridge" instead of "puente". retrieval based on meaning will enable information that is on file anywhere to be brought up as you type in text. his of course is the holy grail that Google, Yahoo and Microsoft are all pursuing.

The specific point on the senators has been answered.

– Ian Parker

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