

Re: Yet Another Roswell Thread

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2007-07/msg00353.html>

- *From:* Ian Parker <ianparker2@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 11 Jul 2007 12:27:35 -0700
-

On 11 Jul, 16:55, eina...@xxxxxxxxxx wrote:

Ian Parker wrote:

On 9 Jul, 16:24, simberg.interglo...@xxxxxxxxxx (Rand Simberg) wrote:

On Mon, 09 Jul 2007 08:17:20 -0700, in a place far, far away, Ian Parker <ianpark...@xxxxxxxxxx> made the phosphor on my monitor glow in such a way as to indicate that:

On 9 Jul, 13:03, simberg.interglo...@xxxxxxxxxx (Rand Simberg) wrote:

On Mon, 09 Jul 2007 03:29:12 -0700, in a place far, far away, Ian Parker <ianpark...@xxxxxxxxxx> made the phosphor on my monitor glow in such a way as to indicate that:

On 6 Jul, 08:12, dumpst...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

The deathbed confession of

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Lt.
Walter
Haut
has
revived
the
Roswell
debate.
See:

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,21994224-2,00.html>

As I keep
on saying
he is a
DISINFORMER.
Off his own
bat or
prompted I
just don't
know. In
view of
some of the
things I read
I can
believe
just about
anything.

ET will
have made
interstellar
journeys
with AI or
not at all.

<laughing at Ian's
monomania>

Yes, of course. It's not
possible to do anything

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without AI. Just
look at the world around us.

What is your route to interstellar travel
Rand.

I don't claim to have a route to interstellar travel. Any more
than I
claim to "have a patent," or have asked you for a hundred
million
dollars. Again, you're just making things up.

I don't have to have a route to interstellar travel to point out
that
your contention is completely unsupported.

The history of space travel is completely unambiguous on this point.
Unmanned exploration reaches places where manned exploration cannot
go. Question – how much intelligence do you need to make a particular
trip. I have said that at LEO all you really need is telepresence –
the only AI you need is a transfer function. The Moon is 2.5 secs,
hence the challenge to maintain a car with a 2.5 sec delay.

The nearest star is a double journey of 8 years. This requires real
AI, real decision making capability, otherwise the whole thing is
impossible.

My proposal for interstellar travel is basically the Forward proposal
with AI guiding the spacecraft. Possibly if we had real
miniaturization antimatter might be used in the deceleration phase.
One thing though is clear to me. Only automatic equipment could
possibly survive the journey.

Warp drive – that is
the only alternative. What else is there, an
ark where a large number
of generations make an interstellar trip? –

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piffle!

If it is impossible to develop AI then
interstellar travel is
impossible. End of story.

No, just unsupported nonsense.

Most scientists would not go so far as to support Kurzweil all the way, but I think you would be hard pressed to find anyone who would put interstellar travel before AI.

– Ian Parker

Mind you, I'm not really interested in this alien this and alien that, if they are around they are being pretty coy about it.

What struck me was the following you said "Only automatic equipment could possibly survive the journey" which appears to indicate you are discounting the possibility for manned interstellar travel, as you claim must really be on that score as well.

That sounds to me to be a strong case of pessimism. Mind you, I'm aware of the threat posed by cosmic rays. I simply don't think the radiation problem to be completely insurmountable for all time. I really expect a solution to arrive some time during this century, as long as we get around doing something about the problem.

In addition, if you are suggesting that impacts with sand grains are going to prove to be a hazardous risk at close to relativistic speeds, it's conceivable to go slower and thus to accept longer travelling times. Mind you, at something less than 1% of lightspeed, only frozen zygotes could travel, the craft or seedship needing to be AI operated for sure.

My remarks about grains of sand were not in the context of interstellar travel they were in the context of space debris. My belief is that the untrammelled arms race proposed by the US could make the space environment unsustainable. I advocate mobile phone masts for navigation because we just cannot afford to take that risk.

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Even so. I am not sure about whether a manned interstellar flight is possible. Such a flight would be for colonization only and would be preceded by unmanned flights. There is no evidence of any attempt at colonization.

A manned flight would be very very very far into the future. I personally believe they would construct their bodies using some sort of artificial womb and DNA at the destination, but I cannot be sure.

If you really want to discuss this properly I suggest you and I might set up a MODERATED discussion group. I am fed up to the back teeth with both Fred McCall and Rand Simberg. It is bad enough being called an idiot when you are wrong.

Fred McCall is priceless. I do a calculation as it would be done in Bac. What do you have in Iceland? Some version of bacculariat I'll be bound. He says "Rubbish". He now expects me to take him seriouly. He says I take things out of context. He does not seem to expect me to take these things personally or lying down.

– Ian Parker

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