

Re: Yet Another Roswell Thread

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2007-07/msg00367.html>

- *From:* ainarbb@xxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* Thu, 12 Jul 2007 08:09:39 -0700
-

Ian Parker wrote:

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:

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

The
deathbed
confession
of
Lt.
Walter
Haut
has
revived
the
Roswell
debate.
See:

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

As
I
keep
on
saying
he
is
a
DISINFORMER.
Off
his
own
bat
or
prompted
I
just
don't
know.
In
view
of

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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
without AI.
Just
look at the
world
around us.

What is your route to
interstellar travel Rand.

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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 ccar 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

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else is there, an ark where a
large number
of generations make an
interstellar trip? – 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.

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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 untrammled arms race proposed by the US is could make the space environment unsustainable. I advaocate mobile phone masts for navigation because we just cannot afford to take that risk.

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 seriually. 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

Yes, I rather like the seed ship idea, and totally agree that most likelly the first new generation would grow up in artificial wombs of some kind.

Not sure that we would bother sending a robot first, as it looks like that future spacetelescopes will be able to tell us enough about our neighborhood to give us a fair idea what systems are interesting.

Moreoever it will take such huge amount of energy to send anything accross interstellar distances, that we might just as well send a robotic seedship in the first plase. Sure robotic probes can probably be built eventually pretty darn small, but the entire package, I mean such a one meant to be sent say to Alpha Centauri would be pretty darn large a craft, when one takes the propulsion package into account.

Once a seedship has established itself, basigly by mining local materials, has built up the minimum stuctures within the system in question, it could begin to grow biological things. I've always considered silly the idea that humans would begin anywhere in the future in some primitive fashion like say when American was settled by Europeans. Once things are established to a sufficient degree, that

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system could launch fresh seedship to the next group of promising systems.

Personally, I reckon the precense of materials that can be mined to be enough to justify a settlement. That means maybe that it might be justifiable to send such packages to not just promising systems but to all nearby systems. If a living planet is found, I would suggest the best strategy is to leave it well alone, untill enough time has been taken to study it. Meanwhile airless bodies and spacestations would contain settlement population.

When I was a kid, I experienced being picked on by my classmates. Let´s say I have a thick skind. There is a lot of annoying people. There is no way of avoyding them altogether, unless one becomes a hermit. Best simply not to let nasty things sayd touch oneself.

Cheers, Einar

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