



## North American AstroPhysical Observatory (NAAPO)



### Cosmic Search: Issue 9

(Volume 3 Number 1; Winter 1981)

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## Miscellaneous Items

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### Information About the Publication

(Editorial Board, Editors, Table of Contents)



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Opinions expressed by persons writing in **COSMIC SEARCH** are their own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editorial staff.

## Front Cover

The Orion nebula, birthplace of stars. The nebula visible in this photograph is several light-years across and is part of a much larger gas and dust region containing many different kinds of chemical elements and molecules. (U.S. Navy photograph).



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Annie J. Cannon (Shapley, Harlow, "Through Rugged Ways to the Stars," N.Y.: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1969). Enjar Hertzprung. Photo by D.Y. Martynov taken at 1958 Moscow meeting of the International Astronomical Union (American Institute of Physics, Niels Bohr Library, Shapley Collection). Henry Norris Russell (American Institute of Physics Niels Bohr Library, W.F. Meggers Collection). William W. Morgan (Yerkes Observatory). Philip C. Keenan (Photo by Walter Mitchell). Representative spectra of stars in the principal spectral types (Courtesy of Perkins Observatory and Charles E. Merrill Publishing Company).

## From the Editor's Kitchen Table

Continuation of the magazine, as explained in the last issue, is contingent on our holding costs below income and this required us to return to an all-volunteer staff. Because of the small staff and the need to wait until there was money on hand to pay the printing and associated costs, we fell behind schedule.

The last issue of **COSMIC SEARCH** (serial no. 8) was four months late, not being mailed by our printer at Fort Worth, Texas, until January 12. I expect that this issue (serial no. 9) will be about two months late but I hope that the Spring (April-May-June) 1981 issue (serial no. 10) can be on-time. Since distribution to all the contiguous 48 states by the U.S. Postal Service requires at least three weeks, this means that the issue will have to be mailed by the second week of March so as to reach most of the subscribers in the contiguous 48 states before April 1.

Of course delivery to more distant subscribers will require even more time (**COSMIC SEARCH** has subscribers in over 60 countries).

As a further economy, the serial no. 8 issue was reduced to 20 pages plus four page cover but more material per page was squeezed in by using smaller type and reducing margins. This issue is 24 pages plus four page cover. With subsequent issues I anticipate that it may be possible to further increase the number of pages. However, any increase in pages or a return to schedule is contingent on sufficient income from new subscriptions, renewals and contributions.

To keep the magazine going you can help by:

- (1) renewing your subscriptions promptly
- (2) making gift subscriptions
- (3) telling others about **COSMIC SEARCH** and urging them to subscribe and
- (4) making a gift or donation.

**John Kraus**

## Thank You!

**COSMIC SEARCH** expresses sincere thanks to the following donors who are helping to make sure that the story of SETI and mankind's future continue to be told in an interesting and factual way.

### Planetary Donors

**Robert J. Allen**, Blythdale, Missouri (2 years)  
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Two anonymous

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Donation categories are as follows:

**Planetary:** \$30 per year

**Stellar:** \$100 per year

**Galactic:** \$500 per year

**Cosmic:** \$1000 per year

Contributions, however, will be gratefully accepted in any amount. Checks should be made payable to Cosmic Quest, Inc., P.O. Box 293, Delaware, Ohio 43015.

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## **COSMIC SEARCH GLOSSARY**

### **Anthropocentric:**

Man-centered.

### **Astronomical Unit:**

A unit of length equal to the distance of the earth from the sun, about 150 million kilometers.

### **Hertz:**

A unit of frequency equal to one cycle per second.

### **Hydrogen:**

The most abundant element in the universe. It radiates naturally at a wavelength of 21 centimeters.

### **Kelvin degrees:**

Absolute temperature measured in the celsius scale. Ten degrees kelvin equals ten degrees celsius above absolute zero.

### **Light-Year:**

The distance traveled by light in one year, about 10 trillion kilometers.

### **Macrocosm:**

The entire universe

### **Microcosm:**

The universe in miniature

### **Redshift:**

A shift toward the longer wavelengths of the optical spectrum due to recessional velocity (Doppler effect).

### **SETI:**

An acronym for Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence.

### **Universe:**

The ultimate structure which contains us, our galaxy and all other galaxies.

---

## Miscellaneous Quotes

The following quotes are not directly associated with any article.

### Quotes on inside back cover

#### *Ozma Revisited*

*(with apologies to Dr. Doolittle)*

If we could talk to the Aliens  
Just imagine it  
Gabbing all throughout the Galaxy;  
Imagine chatting with a creature  
Who lives near Tau Ceti  
What a neat achievement that would be.

If we communed through the Universe  
Via ultra-cee  
Think how fantastic it would seem;  
We might postulate a pulsar  
Broadcasting beyond light-speed,  
Or modulate a tight tachyon beam.

We might converse  
By 21-centimeter wavelength  
Exchanging verse  
With chaps light-years away;  
And if they ask, "Can you  
Speak telepathically?"  
We'd say emphatically,  
"Some day!"

If we could talk to the Aliens,  
Learn their languages,  
Maybe take a course to learn ETese;  
We'd study languages celestial  
From profs extra-terrestrial  
On radio beamed here from Antares.

We'd study every living creature's language,  
And even some  
Of whom we're not so sure;  
And if asked, "Do you  
Speak veg and mineral?"  
We'd say "Indeed, we will,  
If they concur."

If we consulted with multipeds  
Think of all we'd learn  
Inquiring about their society;  
We'd hear homilies from hive-minds;

And allegories, all kinds,  
From flora and fauna microscopically.

If we sent codes to crustaceans  
The advantages  
Any one on earth could plainly scan,  
Exchanging platitudes with plasmas  
And sentient miasmas  
That's a big step forward for all Man.

And we are sure every sentient,  
Man and Alien,  
Certainly would sense it as a plus  
If we could talk to the Aliens  
Speak to the Aliens,  
Esp or psi or grok with the Aliens  
And they would talk to us!

Arlan Keith Andrews, Sr.

---

### ***The Year 3000 Looks Back at the Launching of the Space Shuttle***

Once humans thought their home was Earth,  
And everything beyond those walls  
Of familiar blue was foreign;  
But someone opened a door  
And stepped outside, and now  
Our house is larger than at first:  
Now we call our home the universe.

Don Lago

---

### ***THE BALLAD OF OQ172***

Way out in space further than you can ponder,  
Where the cosmos ends and there is no yonder,  
Is a quasar so strong and bright  
It bends your mind right out-of-sight.

Beginning eons ere the earth was born,  
In a cosmos void and all forlorn,  
Came a horrendous blast of fire and flame  
And thereafter the heavens were never the same.

Now the quasar was a white-hot ball of fire  
Flying at light-speed across a vast empire,  
Spinning around like a spaced-out dervish  
And sending out waves both straight and curvish.

It's bigger than a billion suns,  
It's very old but it runs and runs,  
It's speeding faster than a million jets,  
And it's size even tops all the U.S. debts.

It's a quasar of great fame,  
O-Q-1-7-2 is its name.

Sedgewick Seti

---

The more we learn,  
The more we learn,  
How little we learn.

John A. Wheeler

---

### ***I WONDER***

Why would so great a firmament  
Create itself for us  
And move its solar systems out  
In perfect harmony  
To monitor both time and space  
Of relative pursuit  
A carnival of moons and stars  
That we alone enjoy?

Some alien intellects must know  
Dimensions we cannot  
Yet comprehend in terms like theirs  
To learn which paths to plot.  
Our time will come, it doubtless must  
An Einstein guarantee  
If  $E$  but equals  $MC^2$   
In heaven's astronomy.

Fay B. White

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