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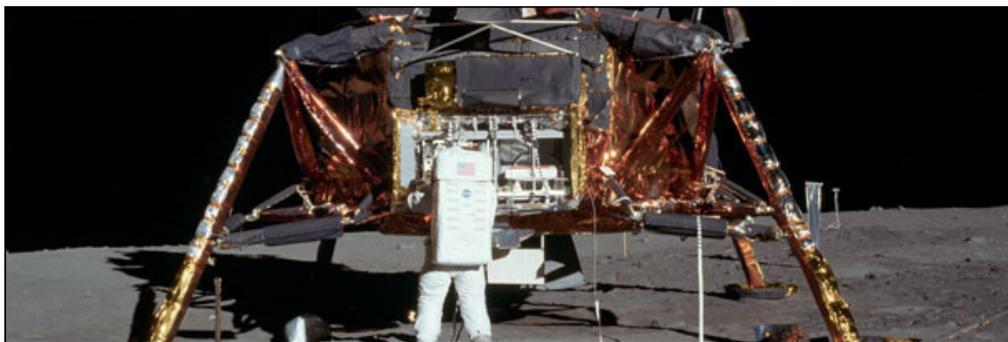
# 6 Insane Attempts to Communicate With the Future

By: [R. Jason Benson](#) | March 04, 2012 | 729,555 views

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## #3. The Apollo 11 Goodwill Messages



Wikipedia

When the astronauts of [Apollo 11](#) made their famous trek to the moon, they carried along some souvenirs for our lunar neighbor to remember them by: an American flag, a plaque inscribed with the statement "Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the moon July 1969 A.D. We came in peace for all mankind," and

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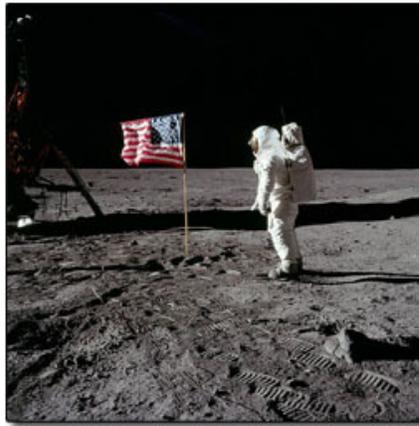
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page after page of messages of goodwill from people all over the world.



Wikipedia

And then we declared world peace and no one died ever again.

But you obviously can't carry a huge stack of paper with you to the moon -- the pages would get all floaty as soon as you let go of them. So to solve this conundrum, NASA developed the [Apollo 11 goodwill messages](#). Those pages upon pages of paper letters were each photographed, reduced 200 times to a size much smaller than the head of a pin and etched onto a silicon disc about the size of a 50-cent piece via the same process still used to construct the circuit boards present in all your personal electronic devices today.



Wikipedia

And then that was shrunk and hidden in the body of a flea, and then they lost the flea. And we've forgotten our point.

At the top of the disc is the inscription "Goodwill messages from around the world brought to the moon by the astronauts of Apollo 11." Around the rim is the statement "From Planet Earth -- July 1969." The disc now rests in a protective aluminum capsule on the moon's Sea of Tranquility, waiting for some future lunar explorer to stumble across it and wish he had a microscope so he could read the damn thing.

### So What Message Was Worth All This Trouble to Send?

The microscopic statements carried on the disc are from Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon and from the leaders of 73 other countries around the world. Some of the statements are handwritten, some are typed and many are in the author's native language. An especially ornate message from the Vatican is signed by Pope Paul VI.

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Wikipedia

"Dear aliens, you don't exist. Also, you're going to hell. Regards, Pope."

The messages from foreign leaders overwhelmingly congratulate the United States and its astronauts on their accomplishments, and the overall sentiment is that the moon landing would usher in the beginning of a new era of brotherhood and peace among all nations of the world. Prophetic, right?

But buried deep within all the "congratulations this" and "peace on Earth that," we'd have to say that this gem of a snippet from the statement of William Tubman, president of Liberia, is the one thing on there that really captured our interest:

"I ask them to bear this message to the inhabitants of the moon if they find any there."



Wikipedia

"All those other countries are dicks. Give your lasers to Liberia."

Yeah, we're totally with Tubman on this one. World peace is a nice sentiment and all, but we like to imagine that the Moonlings are up there playing heads or tails with this thing to see who gets to laser our asses first.

## #2. The 10,000 Year Clock



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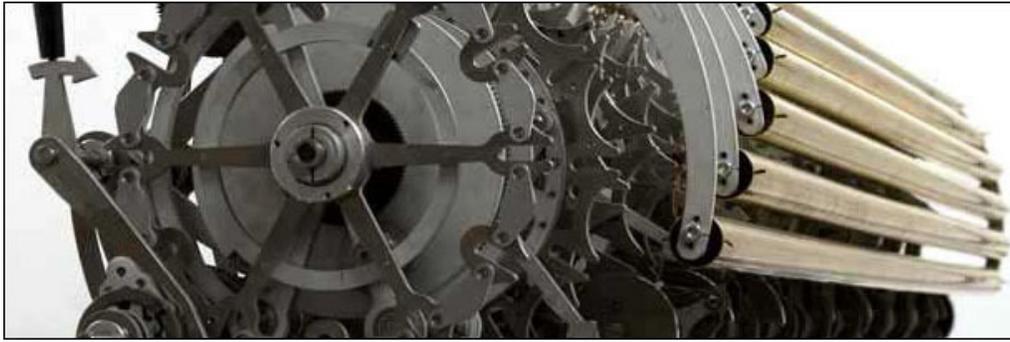
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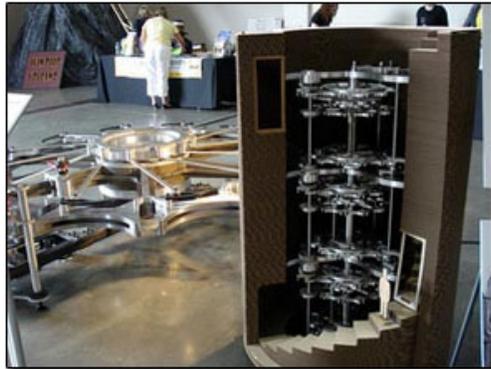
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deskarati

Deep inside the bowels of a mountain in western Texas lies something so strange, so utterly bizarre, that it will leave you shaking your head in disbelief.

It's a clock. A really, really *big* clock.



10000yearclock

Take this, make it around 1,000 times larger ...



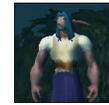
10000yearclock

... and stick it in here.

No, you didn't just stumble into the premise for the worst horror movie ever. We're talking about the [10,000 Year Clock](#), a project that is currently underway as one of the main focuses of [the Long Now Foundation](#) and is funded to the tune of [\\$42 million](#) by Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos.

The clock is the brainchild of [Danny Hillis](#), who had this idea back in 1995 (or 01995, as "long-thinkers" like to call it):

"I want to build a clock that ticks once a year. The century hand advances once every one hundred years, and the cuckoo comes out on the millennium. I want the cuckoo to come out every millennium for the next 10,000 years."

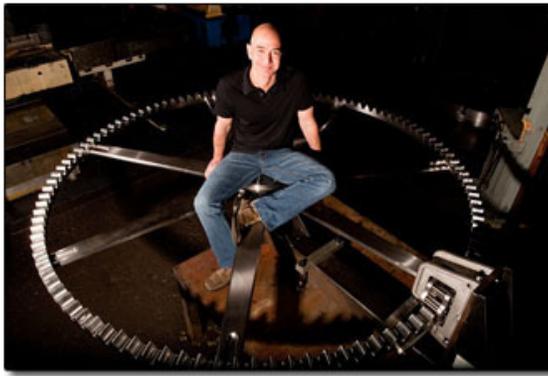


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Wired

"ALL OF TIME MUST KNOW OF MY GREATNESS."

We understand if you're literally trembling with excitement at the thought of seeing this thing in action. And we have great news -- getting to it is as easy as taking a daylong hike to a hollowed out mountain on Bezos' land in Texas and traversing huge underground chambers filled with gigantic dials and gears. And bring your own light source, because they don't have one. We'd suggest one of those torches that line the walls of every cave or tomb in the movies.

Or if you're anything like us (i.e., far too lazy for that shit), you can see scale prototypes at the [Science Museum of London](#) or at the Long Now Museum & Store in San Francisco.



sciencemuseum

It's a really large clock shrunk down. Basically it's a normal clock.

## So What Message Was Worth All This Trouble to Send?

Why put such an enormous amount of effort into something so seemingly random and that so few people will ever see? Is it to send a message to future generations that we ... could build really big clocks?

Actually, the goal of the project is to inspire current and future generations to do more long-term thinking.



[gizmodo](#)

Life is fleeting and inconsequential! Yay, time!

Wait, that's it? Long-term thinking? All of this cash couldn't go toward cancer research or something? Funny you asked, because someone else did also, and here's what Hillis had to say about that ridiculous idea:

"I think this is the most important thing I can work on. More than cancer. Over the long run, I think this will make more difference to more people."

Well, when you put it that way ... yeah, we'd still rather have a cure for cancer. Thanks for the big stupid clock, though!



[gizmodo](#)

Or the dwarf catapult or whatever.

## #1. The Immortality Drive



Getty

Part publicity stunt for [one of the biggest MMORPG flops ever](#), all "Look at me! Look at me!" stunt by [Richard "Lord British" Garriott](#), the [Immortality Drive](#) was a microchip encoded with digitized DNA information personally delivered by Garriott to the International Space Station for safekeeping.



Wired

"I've got your DNA *right here*. No seriously, it's right here in my pocket."

[Operation Immortality](#), as the project was referred to in the campaign leading up to the drive's eventual delivery to the ISS, was "a project to collect and archive the very best of what humanity is and has accomplished." Garriott and video game company [NCsoft](#) spent the months leading up to the spaceflight promoting the project, running contests to give *Tabula Rasa* players a chance to have their DNA sequences included on the drive and collecting surveys from gamers to determine the final data that would make its way up into space. Because as we all know, if there's any one group that completely embodies the best of what humanity is, it's MMORPG players.



Getty

You can pose all you like, handsome stock guy. You're still shitting in the middle of a raid.

And in October of 2008, at a reported cost of \$30 million, Garriott became the sixth paying space traveler in history when he hitched a ride to the ISS aboard a Russian [Soyuz](#) spacecraft with the very future of humanity in tow.

## So What Message Was Worth All This Trouble to Send?

The goal of Operation Immortality was to preserve the genetic code of the very cream of the human crop, should the human race ever go *poof!* and need to be replicated from a backup copy in the future. So which humans are the best of the best, according to Garriott and company?



Wikipedia

Hint: Sir Captain Lieutenant McNotYou.

Men whose DNA sequences were stored on the drive include Richard Garriott himself (duh), Stephen Hawking (theoretical physicist), [Stephen Colbert](#) (comedian), Scott Johnson (Olympic gold medalist), Johnathan "Fatal1ty" Wendel (pro gamer), Matt Morgan (American Gladiator and pro wrestler) and somewhere in the neighborhood of 20 others, mostly writers (one of whom [was a Cracked writer](#) -- the old dead-tree version, that is) and musicians.

Women who were included were Jo Garcia (*Playboy's* Cyber Girl of the Year for 2008), Lucy Hawking (Stephen's daughter) and a couple other television writers.

Something seems a bit askew there, but we can't quite put our finger on it.

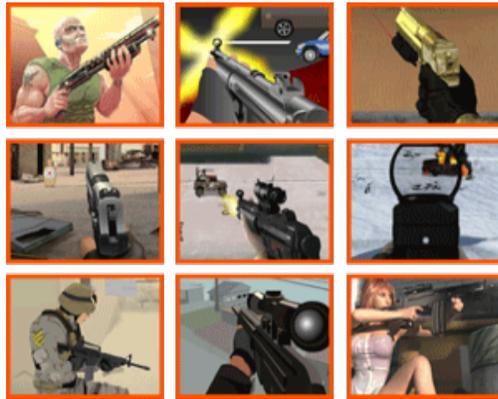


Getty

Oh, only *one* Playmate. That must be it.

So we can all rest in peace knowing that in the future ensured by the Immortality Drive, the human race will have our post-apocalyptic entertainment needs covered in spades. But it's probably a good thing that we will have mastered a non-sexual means to propagate the species.

***For more completely insane projects, check out [6 Insane Do It Yourself Projects That Put Yours to Shame](#) and [5 Projects You Won't Believe the US Government Is Working On](#).***



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- Dix**
03/04/12 12:34 PM
+155
157
2

9,999 years from now people will look at the 10,000 year clock and say OMG THE WORLD IS ENDING IN ONE YEAR, ANCIENT ALIEN AMERICANS SAID SO

[See All 8 Replies](#) | [Hide All](#) | [Reply](#)
- Orangedude**
03/04/12 12:42 PM
+31
32
1

You, my friend, just made my day.



**sseibert83**

03/04/12 12:49 PM

+52

53

0

Then the giant cuckoo destroys them all, just like the prophecy said it would.



**Mskipper**

03/04/12 07:49 AM

+98

98

0

That enormous clock thing is gonna have everyone all riled up some 9900 years in the future! "Oh now what's gonna happen when it reaches 10k?! The ancient humans knew this would be the end of times!!!!"

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**SamRagsdale**

03/04/12 07:57 AM

+43

43

0

Yeah! I thought of that, too! The ancient Americans predicted the END OF THE WORLD!!



**masterofbation**

03/04/12 08:47 AM

+52

53

1

I hope the final Cuckoo is a giant middle finger.



**SuperMechaDeathHippie**

03/04/12 09:55 AM

+92

92

0

Fun fact: They were originally going to put "Here Comes the Sun" on the Golden Record, but the record company wouldn't give NASA the rights to it.

Yeah, can't have those aliens getting pieces of our culture for FREE, can we?

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**GeneralTso92**

03/04/12 10:45 AM

+37

37

0

That would make them filthy pirates.



**falloutcthulhu**

03/04/12 10:47 AM

+80

80

0

space pirates?



**SuperMechaDeathHippie**

03/04/12 10:08 AM

+81

81

0

Wait, Wait, Wait. They included the GENETIC material of Stephen Hawking? A man with a fatal GENETIC disease?

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**Icicle**

03/04/12 10:19 AM

+36

36

0

It was the first thing that struck me too.

Many people are still under the impression that genetic material is all you need for a genius to emerge- as opposing upbringing, education and nourishment.



**TheRandomOne**

03/04/12 10:37 AM

+49

49

0

ACCORDING TO WIKIPEDIA... sorry, I'm a douche. But I did check, and only 10% of the cases of the disease he has are proven to be genetic. The remaining 90% are causes

by \*shrug\*.

Hmm, a society in which everyone is a funny, manly genius that becomes a vegetable past the age of 50... there's a great sci-fi tale right there.



**MadRussian**

03/04/12 08:25 AM +68 70 2

"If you play the Gold Record backwards, you can either hear the scrambled voice of Satan or Rick Astley's "Never Gonna Give You Up""-citation needed

[See All 5 Replies](#) | [Hide All](#) | [Reply](#)



**masterofbation**

03/04/12 08:45 AM +34 35 1

Same thing.



**NathanLoiselle**

03/04/12 05:03 PM +11 11 0

Hold on. Are you saying that Rick Astley isn't Satan?



**danpascooch**

03/04/12 08:20 AM +65 66 1

Only one thing in this article really matters, and I think we can all rest easy at night knowing Steven Colberts DNA is safe for future beings to replicate

[See All 3 Replies](#) | [Hide All](#) | [Reply](#)



**MadRussian**

03/04/12 08:28 AM +29 30 1

Without The Dude's DNA floating up there, humanity is doomed.



**pamela48**

03/06/12 02:12 AM +2 3 1

There has been thousands of single members online and waiting for you.  
blackwhitePlanet.c ^o^ m it's where for men and women looking for interracial' ship for a fabulous lifestyle  
It's a nice place for black white sing'les, to interact with each other...no bounds or extremes in front of true love.  
Finding love can be tough enough but finding a mate that's wealthy can even be harder.  
Would you need someone who can love you back??



**red157**

03/04/12 07:24 AM +62 62 0

Ah, I can see the first meeting between humanity and extraterrestrial intelligent lifeforms now...

Alien: Take me to your leader.

Human diplomat: Well you've landed in a nation named the United States of America and our elected leader is Barack Obama, though we have a council of United Nations who-

Alien: No. We seek the boy who can't read or write so well.

Human Diplomat: Wait... what?

Alien: We have it on good authority he can play the guitar just like ringing a bell.

Oh btw, I need a few loyal Cracked commenters to help me debate where a lightsaber really could cut through Superman.

[See All 8 Replies](#) | [Hide All](#) | [Reply](#)





**JimmyJames**

03/04/12 07:48 AM +29 29 0

After further analysis of our civilization, aliens will conclude we deemed that song significant not for its aesthetic qualities, but because it was paradoxically introduced in 1955 by a teenager from 1985, after he had heard it on the radio growing up.



**flavadave80**

03/04/12 08:09 AM +38 38 0

a lightsaber more than likely could not cut through superman. the proof lies in the first of those fairly s\*\*\*\*y high budget syfy originals george lucas refers to as 'the prequels.' qui-gonn had quite a lot of difficulty cutting through a blast door dropped down by those guys from the corner asian market. i can say with a fair degree of certainty that superman's cellular structure is far denser than that door. so even if a lightsaber could cut through superman, it would be very slow work and take quite a lot of effort. during which, i'm sure, superman isn't just standing around and waiting for the person holding the lightsaber to finish. i hope i managed to sound suitably arrogant and unnecessarily verbose with this statement. i did make a slight effort, so you know. . .



**GreysPrincess**

03/04/12 12:11 PM +54 54 0

Am I the only one looking at the 10,000 year clock and thinking that it's going to cause the same confusion as the Mayan calendar?

[Reply](#)



**Marty1984**

03/04/12 12:34 PM +8 8 0

it's just the modern day equivalent yip



**MrKeegan**

03/04/12 12:34 PM +4 6 2

Genius point to make, you should know that when the rumours start, most, if not all, will trace back to your comment.



**maks8987**

03/04/12 01:17 PM +48 48 0

lol I read the headline but my brain automatically changed into "6 Insane Attempts to Communicate With the Future That Worked" and i was like 'NOOO WAAAY' lol.

[Reply](#)



**3rocker**

03/05/12 04:51 PM +1 1 0

I want what you're smoking



**Caleb367**

03/04/12 05:36 AM +47 53 6

"Let all nations rule internally resolving external disputes in a world court."

No wonder the average American hates it with a passion.

[See All 4 Replies](#) | [Hide All](#) | [Reply](#)



**Hasturoo**

03/04/12 08:55 AM +20 21 1

"WORLD GUV'MENT BAD!!"  
Thanks a lot, Left Behind. Now we're NEVER gonna get anything done.



**DocMedia**03/04/12 09:44 AM **+17** 17 0

I'm confused; as an American, am I supposed to hate internal rule or world court? Please advise.

**nobot-9000**03/04/12 08:31 AM **+42** 42 0

Dear future,

How is babby formed? This has been driving all of us crazy.

Thanks.

[Reply](#)**GoldFashioned**03/04/12 09:17 AM **+18** 18 0

they need to do way instain mother

**sseibert83**03/04/12 12:34 PM **+10** 10 0

who kill their babbies cause they cannot frigt back

**Pmbster**03/04/12 08:35 PM **+38** 38 0

Actually I believe the Voyager record has gone Platinum.

[Reply](#)**zong**03/04/12 11:11 PM **+3** 3 0

Holy s\*\*t did I ever laugh

**PoppaDePooPoo**03/05/12 12:50 AM **+4** 4 0

If Jesus were alive, he'd totally up vote this.

**Pigby**03/04/12 12:56 PM **+37** 37 0

Well? Can a lightsaber cut through a superman or not?

[See All 10 Replies](#) | [Hide All](#) | [Reply](#)**jayman419**03/04/12 01:16 PM **+27** 27 0

No. As someone pointed out earlier, lightsabers cut by heat, and Superman swims in magma. With such a surprising amount of thought going into the answer, I can't argue it.

**Megatonton**03/04/12 01:37 PM **+2** 2 0

I dunno. What kind of light is a lightsaber supposed to be emitting, and assuming it is laser, it'd be on the ten thousands of celsius... much hotter than magma.

**AlloAllo**03/04/12 07:16 AM **+33** 35 2

To be fair, the Catholic church in Italy isn't so averse to aliens and dinosaurs and stuff... I mean, the nun that taught us religion said "yeah, the Bible says why, science says how. You're not made of mud.

Dumbass.". Then again, I've never cared about the whole "religion" thingy, so I could be wrong. I mean, the only ones who care about the Pope are Muslims and atheists.

.....but I digress! Awesome article. I love the idea that maybe, one day, the aliens will attempt to communicate wearing a white catsuit and singing ABBA songs.

[See All 7 Replies](#) | [Hide All](#) | [Reply](#)



**WesRoberts**

03/04/12 07:32 AM **-17** 7 24

you've never listened to rants by southern baptist who say the only truth is the bible.



**AlloAllo**

03/04/12 07:40 AM **+46** 48 2

I said Catholic Church in Italy. South US is none of my concerns.



**JHo**

03/04/12 12:43 PM **+33** 33 0

Contributer for BOTH Mad AND Cracked!? BLASPHEMY!!

[Reply](#)



**Agent-F.Press**

03/04/12 07:25 PM **+2** 2 0

I bet that made the MAD Trip really awkward. I can just see Dick DeBarto holding the guy down while William Gaines beats him in the stomach with a model of the Statue of Liberty, while Al Jaffe prepares his torture device known as "The Fold In." It makes for a very amusing Dave Berg cartoon called "The lighter side of being slowly tortured to death for writing for the competition".



**alex51324**

03/04/12 12:08 PM **+33** 33 0

Isn't Stephen Hawking's medical condition, uh, genetic? I realize he's a genius, but he may not be the best choice to repopulate the species.

[See All 5 Replies](#) | [Hide All](#) | [Reply](#)



**ButtChocolate**

03/04/12 12:13 PM **+27** 29 2

Good point. Maybe they're hoping that the people of the future either will be able to fix his ALS when resequencing his DNA, or \*at least\* have different sounding voice-synthesizers by then.



**killthezombie**

03/04/12 12:28 PM **+13** 15 2

Butt you're future Hawking send back to guide us, aren't you? Yes I'm on to you.



**FettFan**

03/04/12 06:37 AM **+33** 33 0

The Voyager Golden Record actually made for a kickass storyline in Beast Wars.

RIP Dinobot.

[Reply](#)



**rampoop**

03/04/12 07:36 AM **+5** 5 0

thanks for referencing that awesome episode..and also making me teary eyed once more



**toky\_world**

03/04/12 10:32 PM +31 31 0

b\*\*\*h Please... RIAA will sue the aliens for getting the songs off the Golden record illegally.

[Reply](#)



**Tommyg**

03/04/12 02:52 PM +31 31 0

- 4. Rule passion -- faith -- tradition -- and all things with tempered reason.
- 5. Protect people and nations with fair laws and just courts.
- 6. Let all nations rule internally resolving external disputes in a world court.
- 7. Avoid petty laws and useless officials.
- 8. Balance personal rights with social duties.
- 9. Prize truth -- beauty -- love -- seeking harmony with the infinite.
- 10. Be not a cancer on the earth -- Leave room for nature -- Leave room for nature.

Can't really argue against 4 through 10.

[See All 3 Replies](#) | [Hide All](#) | [Reply](#)



**sseibert83**

03/04/12 03:51 PM +19 19 0

SATANIST!



**Lolita95**

03/04/12 05:03 PM +9 9 0

yeah 4-10 aren't really bad at all. Heck I'd even argue that #3 is not too bad. But there is something about 1&2 that really ses off the crazy bells.



**cmchristou**

03/04/12 10:12 AM +29 40 11

The Georgia Guidestones are a credit to the US. You guys should be very proud of them. Unfortunately, your fundies are not a credit to your nation and have shamelessly defaced such an inspirational landmark, all the while revelling in their ignorance.

[See All 12 Replies](#) | [Hide All](#) | [Reply](#)



**LoganTheRed**

03/04/12 10:56 AM -12 12 24

The Georgia Guidestones are at best hippie nonsense and more accurately a call to commit a genocide that would dwarf the Holocaust 1000 to 1.



**cmchristou**

03/04/12 11:15 AM +33 39 6

You do understand the difference between 'maintaining' a population and 'reducing' a population, right? The Guidestones don't call for a reduction in population or, as you suggest, mass genocide. They call for the human population to be maintained at a sustainable level following a mass extinction event. That's common sense, not evil. Overpopulation is the root cause of a lot of the problems that we are facing tofay.

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