

A.M. STIR

By JEFF BRUMLEY
 The Times-Union

CALLING ALL ALIENS

Otherworldly visitor e-mails A.M. Stir writer

Yeah, you read that right. A few weeks back this reporter launched an important investigation into the presence of aliens on our planet and stuff. This reporter (I feel all Edward R. Murrow when I say that!) has since learned that there are several such beings here among us. Here's the latest message received by this intrepid sleuth:

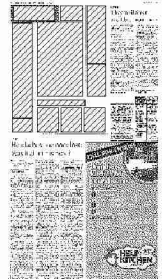
"I'm an alien from Neptar VI. I crash landed on your planet in the year 213.3422 or in your year 1947 in New Mexico, I crash landed because I was chasing a man who had stolen candy from the Neptarian High Priest. I learned your language from an old warlock in the Rocky Mountains in which I fled when I crashed. I take the form of a grizzly bear when I'm on your planet due to the high concentration of carbon dioxide and nitrogen. I am a fan of the New York Jets and what you call 'elephants.' Over and Out. Gropjous."

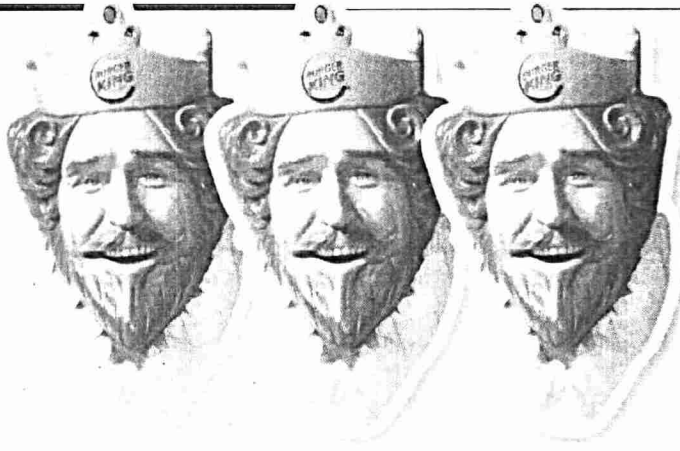
See, we know this is not a hoax because of the writer's name and planet. They are just too random and true-sounding to be made up. (Aren't you glad the T-U is here investigating stuff like

this?).
 So if you, too, are an alien and want to disclose yourself, please drop me a line at jeff.brumley@jacksonville.com, or just beam a note to me at my coordinates.

Back talk

Want to stir it up with A.M. Stir? Find something new everyone should know about? E-mail your comments, beefs and ideas to backtalk@jacksonville.com.





THE WINNER IS

Readers respond with BK beer advice

This column two weeks ago asked readers what kind of beer would go best with a Whopper. The question followed news that Burger King planned to sell beer at one of its franchises sometime, somewhere. Well, here's what some of you said.

- A dude named Marvin said "Miller Lite goes good with everything on the menu."
- Someone who wished to remain anonymous said: "Whopper: Dogfish Head Indian Brown Ale (cross between an IPA and a Scottish ale). Double cheeseburger: Dale's Pale Ale (American pale ale). BK Big Fish: Brooklyn Local 1 (Belgian style pale ale). Original chicken sandwich: Samuel Adams Noble Pils. Dutch apple pie: Full Sail Amber."

■ A Red Sox fan had a different take: "To attempt to pair a boutique or foreign beer with the classic burger and fries for gourmet aesthetics is anathema! A simple domestic brew is the only appropriate pairing. In my perfect world my BK combo would be the Double Whopper w/bacon (no cheese), medium fries and an ice-cold bottle of PBR (no foam cup!)."

There were others but that captures the spirit of it. (Yo, creepy BK King commercial dude, you listening?)

A PRIVATE NOTE TO ELIN

Writer announces availability 'just to talk'

If you are not Elin Nordegren, the smokin' hot wife of Tiger Woods, please don't read any further.

(Seriously, this is a private note. If you're not Elin, flip over to Sports or something, k?)

Anyway, Elin, I just wanted you to know how much I have felt for you all these recent months. I know it's been difficult for you, I know it hasn't been easy (figuring out

where to stash all that cash has got to be exhausting). I know you are grieving and trying to move on.

And that's why I'm contacting you personally, one-on-one, and privately through this A.M. Stir column. I just want to let you know that I am here for you. I'm the kind of guy you can really trust. I want to connect with you on a deep, personal and (if need be) financial level.

I've heard you are going to be divorcing Tiger. If that happens, please contact me! The Paparazzi will never think to look for you in the one-bedroom apartment I share with a cat in Riverside. Please just bring yourself, your credit card, checkbook and anything else you need to relax and feel more comfortable.

I am here for you, Elin!!!

NEW PRODUCT REVIEW

Device thing meant to help dog owners

My readers know that I don't do many product reviews. Partly it's because of ethics — I don't want people to think I'm getting kickbacks from the companies and stuff. But every once in a while a product comes along that is so significant, so helpful and so, um (help me here) ... um ... useful that it screams for recognition in A.M. Stir.

Dear readers, that product is the Dog-e-Minder (manufactured by none other than Dog-e-Minder, LLC, of Miami or Hollywood, Fla., depending on how you interpret the news release).

Based on the picture, Dog-e-Minder is a digital clock you hang on your dog's collar to help you remember to walk, feed or medicate Fido. It has three cute little buttons: one showing "Rx," a little bone and a fire hydrant.

Wanna learn more? Visit www.dogeminder.com. If you buy one, or already have one, please contact me at jeff.brumley@jacksonville.com. Also contact me if you're thinking "why not just get a cat?"