

**SAS Honors Seminar 259:
Extraterrestrial Life**

11/17/2008

GBT remote observing this evening

When: 9:00-12:30 tonight

Where: Serin Lab 309W

(Busch campus)

Who: Baker + ???

**How: Go to doors at west
end of Serin (across the
street from ARC) and
call 732-445-2544 for me
to let you in. (8:30-8:45
is probably best; may be
in a student's office later.)**



Reading for Wednesday (11/19)

Bennett & Shostak 12.4 – background on UFOs etc.

**Thomas (1995) & Sheaffer (2004) –
explanations for Roswell and
another “UFO incident”**

**Mooney (2005) and McNally
& Clancy (2005) – explanation
for “alien abduction” accounts**



Due next Monday (11/24)

LAST response paper:

The late sociologist Marcello Truzzi deserves credit for the axiom (often attributed to Carl Sagan) that “Extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof.” Discuss whether and how this axiom applies to one or more subjects we have discussed in this class.



1935 – 2003

Coming up...

11/24 Final selection of “student choice” topics.

Last response paper due.

Possible visit by T. Matilsky.

12/1 Possible visit by T. Matilsky.

12/3 Student choice #1

Topic, scope, draft reference list for term paper due.

12/8 Student choice #2

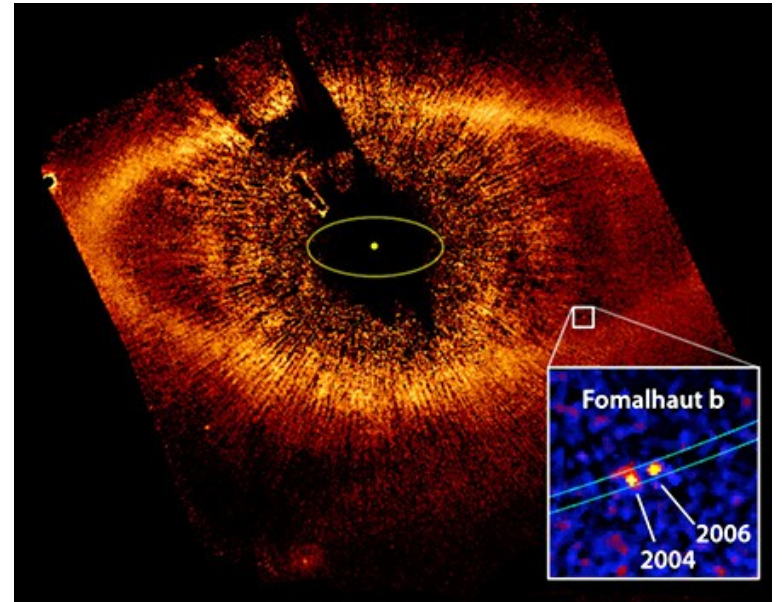
12/10 Discussion of the Drake equation

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12/22 Term paper due.

Possible topics from my 11/13 email

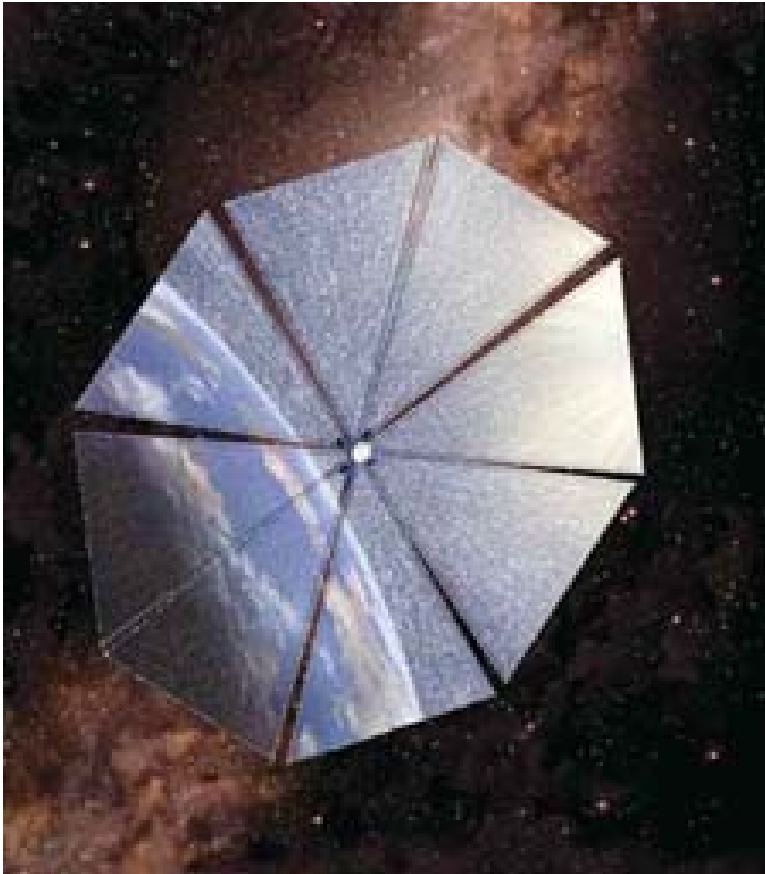
- (1) new images of extrasolar planets
- (2) recent Mars lander/rover missions
- (3) life in terran ice
- (4) highlights from BadAstronomy.com
- (5) YOUR CHOICE HERE



Fomalhaut b

(NASA/Kalas et al. 2008)

The ill-fated Cosmos 1 mission



what didn't happen



**Volna rocket (former ICBM,
launched from Russian sub)**