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Aliens? Not Bloody Likely!

by Mick Belmont

Recent scuttlebutt in and around the Winter Camp grounds indicates that a lot of folks are falling for silliness about the existence of extraterrestrial beings. Such nonsense could not be more wrong.

It is not our intention to claim that extraterrestrials do not exist; rather that the "evidence" being put forth by certain irresponsible parties is not adequately established as being of extraterrestrial origin. Let us travel back in time and reflect on the wise words of William of Ockham, 11th century English wise guy: "Entities must not be multiplied without reason." Put more clearly, as numerous folks have interpreted Willie O's wisdom: "The simplest explanation is usually the correct one."

Let us apply this maxim, known throughout the ages as Ockham's Razor, to the purported evidence being brought forth by the true believers among us. They would have us believe that their tiny scraps of plastic and latex constitute irrefutable evidence that a spaceship has crashed within the Winter Camp universe. A closer look indicates that their "alien latex" bears incredibly close evidence to a terrestrial balloon, and that their so-called "power core" seems curiously similar to a Cyalume lightstick, available for a dollar or two at any reasonably-stocked camping supply store. Absent any other evidence—and the burden of proof lies squarely with the true believers in our midst, for extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence—consistent adherence to the rules of scientific investigation requires that we reject their claims. It is clearly far more likely that our friends' "alien spaceship pieces" are simply ordinary balloon pieces and expired camping gear.

They are, of course, free to believe whatever silliness they wish. We are, however, at the same time free to reject their claims as they are currently backed, and to demand that they come up with better confirmation of their highly speculative claims. On this point the editorial staff of the *Belmont Bugle* stands as one.