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Los Alamos Hermit Booted Off Lab Property Spreads His Theories of the Cosmos

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LOS ALAMOS— Roy Michael Moore, aka the Los Alamos caveman, dropped out of the mainstream almost a decade ago, and though he has been largely ignored for the four years he's peddled his cosmological theories here, he is a long way from giving up on making the sale.

Discovered living in a cave on Oct. 13 in a deep canyon on U.S. Department of Energy property at Los Alamos National Laboratory, the 56-year-old Moore is finally gaining the attention he's been seeking for years. Someone from Albuquerque wants to film a documentary about him and a brief story about his discovery appeared on Wired magazine online.

A Vietnam veteran who spent four years playing clarinet in a Marine Corps band in the late 1960s, Moore is hoping to shift the focus from himself and his cave dwelling to his life's work.

"I would sacrifice everything I own to get my story out," he said.

It was in 1996 that the former computer programmer and network manager sold all his possessions, abandoned his Amarillo, Texas, computer business and devoted all his energy to thinking deep thoughts.

"I served my time until my kids left home. When they left, I felt I had no more responsibilities," he said. Moore divorced when his oldest daughter, now 26, was 8 years-old and his son was about 6.

"I didn't know a thing about business or making money," even though his company employed 25 at one time and he used to bill \$100 an hour for programming the computers he built and sold, he said.

Dissatisfied with computers, Moore said he felt he had bigger, more important problems to work on.

So, the father of two, who calls himself "Micro Mike" because the nickname puts him in the context of the broader universe, started walking and thinking.

Normal life "is a rat race, and as far as I can tell, the rats are winning," he said. Besides, he said, "I never tried to be normal in my life; it is just another word for average to me and I want to be above average."

At first, he walked around Amarillo, thinking about the cosmos, working through Albert Einstein's theory of relativity. Then, he headed to Socorro, where he sought out sky watchers at the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, hoping he could discuss the newly developed theory he dubbed the "gravionic model."

The theory ascribes energy and spirituality to gravity— the action-at-a-distance phenomenon that modern science has a hard time fully explaining.

"They said they didn't have a single cosmologist on staff," Moore said, still clearly disappointed.

No takers there, he next traveled to Roswell, where for a short stint he gave talks on a what he claims is a bowling ball-size Martian meteorite he found while working as a cowboy on his great-aunt's ranch in northern Texas in 1971.

In Roswell, Moore met Lee Weinland, an independent video producer from Los Alamos who was intrigued by Moore and his story about the meteorite and his claims that it held evidence of complex life on Mars.

"I never have been able to get any scientists to do any tests on it," Moore said.

Weinland, who describes Moore as an "eccentric genius," invited Moore to Los Alamos where the two cooperated to produce a short video on the meteorite and Moore's theories on its Martian origin. That's when Moore fell in love with Los Alamos, according to Weinland.

"He fits up here in a lot of ways," Weinland said of Moore. "I believe Los Alamos is a town full of very common sense-challenged people and Micro Mike is one of them; very brilliant, but common sense challenged... he is no whackier than most of the physicists I know up here."

So now Moore walks around Los Alamos and the Jemez Mountains. According to his figuring, he has logged more than 8,000 miles just walking and thinking.

"Most of my life, I was afraid to be alone," Moore said. "But when I started working on my gravionic model, I had to be alone."

Moore, who says he has many friends in Los Alamos who help him with food and clothes, gauges the difficulty of the problems he tackles by how far he walks before solving them—a process he says is aided by smoking marijuana.

When Moore was discovered living in his cave, federal authorities also found 10 marijuana plants, each about 18 inches tall growing around the cave.

"I think the laws that prohibit (marijuana) are unconstitutional," because they infringe on his pursuit of happiness, Moore said. "I should be allowed to use it to solve problems that help humanity, rather than be punished for it."

Los Alamos, with its thick population of Ph.D.s working at the weapons laboratory, is a highly spiritual community and its great trail network is "the perfect place for me," Moore said.

"I would like to change the image of Los Alamos from the birthplace of the atomic bomb to the home of the gravionic model— wouldn't that be so much friendlier? Where spirituality is important?" he said.

The essence of Moore's theory is that gravity, acting through "gravions" between any two masses, travels faster than the speed of light, and defines space and relationships between masses.

He says that all of nature takes place in a two-part process through connections of gravity and exchanges of energy at or below the speed of light. "People make connections of gravity all the time, but no one is aware," he said.

"Spirituality," Moore said, "is really the management of those energies. Love is the actions of a sentient being, whereby they make more connections of gravity than they break and give more energy than they take."

The idea, Moore said, is not too different than the one proposed by Obi-

Wan Kenobi in the first Star Wars movie: Everything is connected.

The world and society is going wrong, because more people are taking than giving, Moore said.

"I want to make everybody aware of these energy transfers," Moore said, "and I think with awareness we'll become a much better society."

Moore says he is on a mission to spread his theory and be accepted as the hermit philosopher of Los Alamos, subsisting on as little as possible and devoting most of his energy to improving human society through thought and eventually, hopefully, the application of his theories.

"I just dedicated myself to staying here forever until I die to try to get this work done," he said. "I am here on a good purpose."

The work has not been easy and his quarry— Los Alamos scientists— have not been receptive to his unifying theory of the cosmos, an idea that, as far as Moore can tell, can solve any and all problems from personal depression to anomalies of space and time.

"Talking to scientists is like banging your head against a wall," Moore likes to say. "It only feels good when you stop."

But that doesn't keep him from trying.

'Not a nut case'

Crunching through about four inches of freshly fallen snow in a pair of sandals and thick woolen socks, Moore recently walked out of the trees on the top of a 10,450-foot ridge and onto a stunning view of a long-dormant volcano— the backdrop to Los Alamos.

"I don't know, I was just brought up to believe philosophers wear sandals," he said. "People tell me I am crazy."

The caldera's grassy meadow stretches from rim to rim, punctuated by ancient lava domes like giant camel humps.

"There were elk down there last time I was here," he said, but not this day.

A broad smile unfolds across his white-bearded face; Moore likes his new back yard.

Since federal authorities discovered him living in a cave in a deep, wooded canyon on LANL property, Moore has had to find a new place to reside.

"I had to get above DOE property; apparently, they are pretty particular about their property," he said.

He's chosen some National Forest land, part way up the volcano's eastern rim, overlooking much of the 40-square-mile laboratory, its mesas reaching toward the Rio Grande and, beyond, to the well-worn and snow-capped Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

But now, instead of his former solar-powered cave— which was complete with satellite radio, marine battery powered LED lights and a sophisticated ventilation system— Moore's shelter is a borrowed tent in a ponderosa glade, where he spends his time communing with ravens when he isn't walking the ridges above, pondering the complexities of the cosmos and human foibles.

"It's a lot harder to understand humans than it is to understand nature," he said.

Broad-shouldered and with muscular legs, the stocky, white-haired Moore has an appearance reminiscent of those Swedish garden gnomes, maybe Santa Claus. He's even got the personality and charisma to go with it.

"He really is fun to know, he is a jolly guy," said Dee Morrison, who worked with Moore for about two years at the Los Alamos Music store. "He should be a Santa Claus, except he doesn't like red. He wants to be a blue Santa Claus."

She said Moore encourages people to act in a brotherly fashion, think outside the box and challenge their assumptions.

"I think the thing he wants most is for people to listen to his theories, to give him a real solid listening and to put aside their preconceived notions and really listen to what he says," she said. "I don't know whether he is right, but they certainly are interesting ideas."

Weinland, who often invites Moore to his home for dinner, said that, once people have a chance to talk with Moore, they love him.

"They know that he is not a nut case," he said. "He is the most kind and generous man to people and he has great respect for everybody."

Moore will sit and talk with anyone who is willing, Weinland said. "He will spend days with people, just talking about philosophy, about reality, music, gravity, love, typical philosophical topics," he said.

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