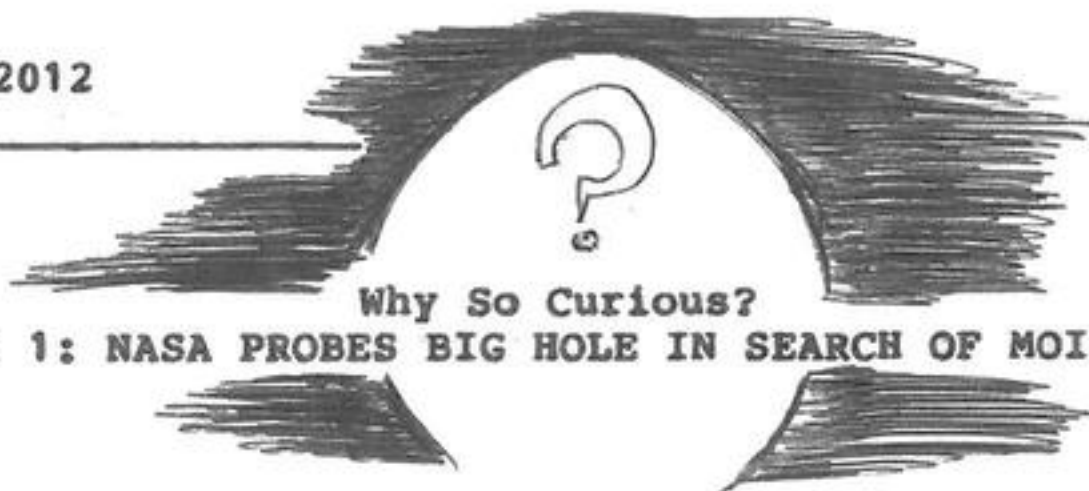


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Why So Curious?

Part 1: NASA PROBES BIG HOLE IN SEARCH OF MOISTURE

Curiosity, NASA's six-wheeled, "sedan-size" Mars rover now traverses the Red Planet's gaping 96-mile Gale Crater.

Kudos for NASA and their success.

I wondered at first why Curiosity was sent to Gale Crater, but now I know about the evidence suggesting water was once there (e.g., channels carved out by water long gone, or, at least, no longer on the surface.). The rover is equipped with spectrometers that can finally tell us more of Mars's chemical composition.

Thing is, we're not exactly in the lead of the space race like we once were. Thanks to a narrow minded government and self-serving budget cuts.

The media skips the fact that Russia's Mars probe, worth \$165-million crashed into Pacific Ocean earlier this year after a malfunction Russian officials claim was due to control systems damaged by U.S. radar!

Or, that China has a third moon probe scheduled for 2013.

They also fail to cover that Japan has now mapped the moon's surface with their own lunar orbiter, and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency plans the establishment of an international lunar base by 2025.* (*Discover magazine 04.2012 pg. 54, "Back to the Final Frontier" by Neil Degrasse Tyson)

The U.S. should've, in my opinion, and I believe the opinion of many others, had a lunar base already done--decades ago; but the days of "American" pride and ambition are about as thin and wavering as our dollar. Long ago are the days that NASA gets praise such as the 1969 New York parade of the Apollo 11 crew.

The U.S. needs to wake up and get its priorities straight, or else get left behind while other countries begin to dominate space. And whoever dominates space will be in position to eventually dominate Earth. You think "air superiority" is important for a military--try space superiority.

While "Americans" stand in lines clutching their Bibles, waiting for the rapture or the end of the world--Japanese scientists will be walking around on the Moon, and the Russian's colonization of Mars well under way. Hopefully Curiosity will find something to wake up this country and get its head out from behind its Book.

