October 14, 2002 THE WEEKLY REPORT Vol. 1 Iss. 16

New Planet?

-- Astronomers discover a new object, Quaoar, in the Kuiper Belt, beyond Neptune. --

BACKGROUND:

The Kuiper Belt is a collection of icy objects residing beyond Neptune's orbit (Some consider Pluto one of them). Sunlight takes more than four hours to reach a typical Kuiper Belt Object, compared to just more than eight minutes for sunlight to reach Earth. "KBOs" are thought to have surface temperatures of between 350 to 400 degrees F below zero. Scientists believe solid, thick ice is one of the major ingredients of a KBO.

Decades before the first Kuiper Belt Object was discovered in 1992, Kenneth Edgeworth and Gerard Kuiper predicted the existence of a reservoir of icy bodies outside of Neptune's orbit. Two reasons fueled their thinking: First, it seemed odd to Edgeworth and Kuiper that the distribution of mass in the solar system would be highest in the center, trail off as we approach Uranus and Neptune, then drop to nothing beyond Neptune's orbit. In a 1943 article on the evolution of the solar system, Edgewood writes, “It may be inferred that the outer region of the solar system, beyond the orbits of the planets, is occupied by a very large number of comparatively small bodies."

The second reason has to do with comets. Comet Halley is a "short-period comet" that returns every 76 years. The recent comets Hale-Bopp and Hyakutake are "long-period comets," which means they ordinarily reside in the distant Oort Cloud Ñ a collection of comets-in-waiting orbiting 1,000 times farther out than Pluto. Their appearances in the late 1990s were their first trips to the inner solar system, and possibly their last, at least for hundreds of thousands of years. Some short-period comets are simply long-period comets that have had a close call with Jupiter that altered their orbits Ð but Jupiter's ability to convert long-period into short-period comets is much too weak to explain all of the short period comets that we now see. For that reason, astronomers (such as Julio Fernandez in the late 1970s) reasoned there must be a separate source of short-period comets.

Astronomers David Jewitt and Jane Luu discovered the first KBO, initially called "1992 QB1." Many hundreds have been discovered since then. All of the KBOs are faint, which helps explain why it took so long to find the first one. Some KBOs, like Pluto, have an average reddish color, while others are gray. A few KBOs have known rotation periods, such as 1996 TO66, which rotates in 6.25 hours.

It is likely that the Kuiper Belt objects are extremely old remnants from the early phases of the solar system. The inner, denser parts of the solar system formed into the major planets, probably within a few millions to tens of millions of years. The outer parts were less dense, and planets formed less slowly, or not at all; though evidently, a great many small objects were formed. Second, it is widely believed that the Kuiper Belt is the source of the short-period comets.

STORY:

Quaoar is a Kuiper Belt object, found in June 2002 by Chad Trujillo and Mike Brown at Caltech in Pasadena. They announced their discovery in Birmingham, Alabama, at a meeting of the American Astronomical Society's division of planetary sciences.

Quaoar is about 1250 km in diameter, roughly the size of Pluto's moon Charon.

In This Issue:

2 New Term for Supreme Court
5 James Bond Museum/Supreme Court Case
6 Sprewell/The Dalai Lama
7 Relationships In A Humane, Sustainable Culture
8 Order and Other Information

Nothing larger has been found in our solar system since Pluto was discovered in 1930. It's huge, in fact, if you took the 50,000 numbered asteroids and put them together, it would be smaller than Quaoar. The object is about one-tenth the diameter of Earth and orbits the sun once every 288 years at a distance of 4 billion miles.

The Tongva people (sometimes called the San Gabrielino Native Americans) inhabited the Los Angeles area before the arrival of the Spanish and other European people. The name "Quaoar" (pronounced kwah-o-wahr) comes from their creation mythology. However, note that the name Quaoar is not the official name until the International Astronomical Union (IAU) votes on it. This will happen in a few months, but historically, the discoverer's suggestions for new minor planet names have been followed.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Quaoar is located about 4 billion miles from Earth and had a surface that is thought to be a dark, tar-like substance, and thus it does not have a very bright reflection, or albedo. However, The object is big and bright enough for advanced amateur astronomers to detect.

Armed with precise coordinates and a 16-inch telescope fitted with a CCD camera, an amateur should be able to obtain images on successive nights that will show a faint dot of light in slightly different positions. Quaoar is currently detectable a few degrees northwest of the constellation Scorpio.

It is very likely that there are more big Kuiper Belt Objects like Quaoar. Researchers looked at only 5% of the entire sky before finding Quaoar; so there could be 20 more Quaoars (and probably a few more Plutos).

As larger Kuiper Belt objects turn up, the case for Pluto as a planet weakens. Pluto lies within the Kuiper Belt and is considered by many merely among the largest of the bunch, and not a planet in its own right. NASA is considering launching a spacecraft to explore Pluto, its moon, Charon, and at least one Kuiper Belt object in 2006, but whether it will be funded remains unclear.

Tough Year for Supreme Court

-- This year's docket is filled with country- changing cases. --

BACKGROUND:

On September 24, 1789, through the authority of the Judiciary Act, the Supreme Court of the United States was created. Organized on February 2, 1790, it handed down its first opinion in 1792.

Originally created with five Associates and a Chief Justice; there are now eight Associate Justices and one Chief Justice, all nominated by the president, then confirmed by the Senate. Our current Justices are: William Hubbs Rehnquist (Chief), and Associates: John Paul Stevens III, Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy, David H. Souter, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer.

The court's powers are outlined in Article III, Section 1 and 2, of the U. S. Constitution. This court has appellate jurisdiction over all federal courts and over state supreme courts on matters of federal law or Constitutional issues.

Those who appeal to this court do so through what is known as a writ of certiorari, which is how most cases come to this court, although a majority are denied, whereby they are asking the court to review a lower court's decision. Even so, the court at its discretion may or may not grant certiorari, i.e. may or may not hear the case. In order to grant certiorari, affirmative votes from four of the justices are required. When the court refuses

certiorari, this does not imply that they are agreeing with the lower court's decision. It simply means they do not feel the case has enough substance to be heard.

The U.S. Supreme Court's session begins on the first Monday of October and runs through the end of June, sometimes into July. If required, special sessions can be convened. During this time, each month, two weeks are devoted to oral arguments of cases. The other two weeks are devoted to writing opinions and research.

During discussions of cases, which take place in closed conferences, the Chief Justice gives his viewpoints on any specific case. The other Justices then give their views and/or opinions. A vote is taken. The Chief Justice, who stands for the majority, assigns the "writing of these opinions." Justices are allowed to write either concurring or dissenting opinions of any case, which are then circulated among them for further comments. The final decisions are then made on these cases and announced from the bench.

The Constitution states that justices "hold their Office during good Behavior." There is no time limit on which these Justices can serve.

The Supreme Court Building, located at 1 First Street, S. E., Washington, D.C. is open year round Monday through Friday, hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The public is able to attend lectures presented by the staff held every hour on the half hour beginning at 9:30 a.m. and ending 3:30 p.m.

STORY:

Although they have been together since 1994, the current lineup of justices at the US Supreme Court has never confronted in a single year such an array of potential landmark cases as those looming on the court's horizon.

Terrorism-related challenges to civil liberties, affirmative action, and campaign-finance reform top the list of mega-issues expected to confront the justices in their 2002-03 term.

And as demonstrated by the continuing dispute over the replacement of Sen. Robert Torricelli on New Jersey's ballot, the court remains a national lightning rod for some of the most contentious issues in America.

What is less clear is whether the justices are prepared to elevate the stature of the court, taking an aggressive stance in key cases. Nowhere is this question more crucial than in terror cases, court watchers say. Although the justices have yet to agree to review a case resulting from 9/11, analysts say one key will be how they view their responsibilities at a time of national emergency.

Already on the court's docket are cases examining three-strikes sentencing laws, the registration of sexual offenders on the Internet, and an effort in Maine to mandate affordable prescription-drug prices. The justices will also consider legal disputes involving Congress's power to extend copyrights, whether Americans have a First Amendment right to burn a cross an act that has historically been a tactic of the KKK, and at least four death-penalty cases examining procedures used in trials and appeals (none is expected to raise the much broader question of the constitutionality of the death penalty itself).

With 51 cases already accepted for oral argument, the justices are expected to take at least 30 more in the months ahead. Several could set the stage for landmark rulings that would elevate the current session into an historic term.

The three-strikes sentencing case examines whether California's law goes too far in permitting the state to send someone to prison potentially for the rest of his life when his third strike was a relatively minor crime like shoplifting. Leandro Andrade received a 50-year sentence after stealing $153 worth of

children's videotapes from a Kmart.
California courts have upheld harsh sentences for relatively minor third strikes. But last November, the Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals overturned Mr. Andrade's sentence, saying it was "grossly disproportionate" to his shoplifting conviction.

The high court will hear the case Wednesday that could plunge the earliest images of Disney's mascot and other closely held creative property into the public domain as early as next year. If upheld, the precedent-setting challenge could cost movie studios and heirs of authors and composers millions of dollars in revenue as previously protected material becomes available free of charge. At issue is a 1998 law that extended copyright protection an additional 20 years for cultural works, thereby protecting movies, plays, books and music for a total of 70 years after the author's death or for 95 years from publication for works created by or for corporations.

SIGNIFICANCE:
Some issues the Supreme Court will review in the term that begins Monday:

ABORTION PROTESTS: An abortion clinic protest case that will clarify how authorities may use an anti-racketeering law to prosecute violent civil disobedience.
CROSS BURNING: The constitutionality of a 50-year-old Virginia law outlawing cross burning. CRIME & PUNISHMENT: Whether three-strikes-and-you're-out sentencing laws result in unconstitutionally harsh prison terms.
DEATH PENALTY: Four death penalty cases involving the mechanics of imposing capital punishment, not major constitutional issues.
FAMILY LEAVE Ñ Whether state workers can sue their agencies for denying time off to care for a sick family member, part of a case testing the balance of power between Congress and the states.
HEALTH CARE: How far states can go to pressure drug companies to lower prescription costs and force managed care plans to include more doctors.
IMMIGRATION DETENTION: The government's practice of jailing immigrant criminals without bail to make sure they don't flee before deportation.
INTERNET LIBRARIES: A look at copyright protection that could determine when many books, songs and movies will become available over the Internet.
ORPHANS: If states can control the federal benefits of orphaned and abused children.
SEX OFFENDERS: A review of states' use of Internet sites to list information about sex offenders who have finished their sentences and comprehensive registries of those offenders, both involving so-called "Megan's laws."

ENTERTAINMENT:

James Bond Museum

All of our favorite spy inventions, courtesy of Q, will be revealed at London's Science Museum in a tribute to James Bond.

The "Bond, James Bond" exhibition, which opens Oct.16, boasts the biggest collection of Bond memorabilia ever assembled, including exploding plaster casts, laser-firing watches, bulletproof racing cars and of course exotic costumes worn by "Bond girls."

They have over 100 objects from the 20 Bond films so far, including at least one from every film. The exhibition, which will fill up two floors, will open just over a week after Saturday's 40th anniversary of "Dr. No," the first screen outing for 007, based on the novel by Ian Fleming and starring Sean Connery as Bond.

Visitors can participate in an interactive computer game testing their potential as a secret service officer, and watch unseen film footage and out-takes of several stunts. The exhibition will run until March when it will transfer to the US.

The latest installment in the spy franchise, "Die Another Day," starring Pierce Brosnan, is scheduled for release later this year.

Science Museum Web site:
http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

October 14, 1964

Supreme Court Ruling

Citation: 378 U.S. 130 (1964)
Docket # 6

Facts of the Case: On June 30, 1960, several white and black people picketed the private Glen Echo Amusement Park in Montgomery County, Maryland. The demonstrators protested against the park's policy "not to have colored people on the rides, or in the park." During the demonstration, William Griffin and four other Negroes entered the park to test its management's resolve. A state deputy, who worked as a security staff member in the park, soon observed them. After informing them of the park's racial policy, the deputy asked them to leave. When Griffin and his friends refused, they were arrested and later convicted for criminal trespass. State appellate courts affirmed the convictions. The Supreme Court granted certiorari (see word of the week).

Question Presented: Did ordering five Negro patrons to leave a private amusement park, and arresting them for criminal trespass when they refused, violate their right to equal protection under the Fourteenth Amendment?

Conclusion: Yes. The Court held that the arresting deputy, despite working as a private park employee at the time, possessed and acted under state authority, imputing responsibility for his actions to Maryland. Therefore, to the extent that he sought to enforce a private policy of racial discrimination, the state of Maryland must be charged with racial discrimination in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment.

SPORTS:

Sprewell Fined

Trouble follows Latrell Sprewell as he was fined $250,000 and told to stay away from the New York Knicks for not telling the team he broke his shooting hand two weeks before training camp.

The fine was believed to be the largest ever imposed by an NBA team on a player. Although he was not officially suspended, Sprewell was effectively banished from the Knicks until he can make what team president Scott Layden called "a positive contribution." The players' union, which represented Sprewell when he was suspended for 68 games by the Golden State Warriors in 1997 for choking his coach, said it would file an appeal.

Sprewell underwent surgery last week to repair a broken bone in his hand and will be sidelined at least five more weeks. The Knicks open the season Oct. 30.

He was suspended for one game late last season after he missed a pre-game shootaround in Miami. But after Sprewell met with chairman James Dolan of Cablevision, the team's corporate owner, the fine was cut from $125,000 to $2,500.

WHO YOU NEED TO KNOW:

The DALAI LAMA

The 14th Dalai Lama was born as Tenzin Gyatso in Tsinghai Province, China, in 1935. He was of Tibetan parentage, and Tibetan monks visited him when he was three and announced him to be the reincarnation of the late 13th Dalai Lama. The monks were guided by omens, portents, and dreams that indicated where the next incarnation of the Dalai Lama could be found. At age five, Tenzin Gyatso was taken to the Tibetan capital of Lhasa and installed as the leader of Tibetan Buddhism.

He ruled in peace until October 1950 when Chinese Communist forces invaded Tibet and quickly overwhelmed the country's poorly equipped army. The young Dalai Lama pleaded with the United Nations for support, but his entreaties were denied. In 1951, a Tibetan-Chinese peace agreement declared that Tibet was a "national autonomous region" of China, supposedly under the rule of the Dalai Lama but actually under the control of a Chinese Communist commission.

After years of religious persecution leading to small protests, a full-scale revolt broke out in 1959 which was quickly crushed by the Chinese. The Dalai Lama was forced to flee to India, settling at Dharamsala in the Himalayan foothills, where he established a shadow Tibetan government.

From exile, the Dalai Lama campaigned the world, successfully drawing international attention to the continuing Chinese suppression of the Tibetan people and their religion. He calls for a true self-governing Tibet, with China in charge of defense and foreign affairs. In 1989, the Dalai Lama was the recipient of the Nobel Prize for Peace in recognition of his nonviolent campaign to end the Chinese domination of Tibet.His autobiography, Freedom in Exile, was published in 1990.

After more than four decades of exile, the Dalai Lama continues to travel, publicizing the Tibetan cause.

FEATURE:

Relationships In A Humane, Sustainable Culture

by Klaire Rowley

Plato once said; “Relationships are our most precious resource.” It is in relationships that we connect with each other to create a better world. It is the most important context for our lives; it is the place where we really live, where we learn and grow. Our interpersonal relationships are the source of much turbulence, growth, inspiration and joy.

When we talk about human relationships, we are really talking about love (Love is not an emotion; it includes emotions as part of the experience). It is a unique relationship because it establishes an arena of life which calculative, rational and cost-benefit analysis do not occur. The different ways to express love are the basis for the relationships in our society. They include intimate and romantic love, love for friends, love for a family and community, the love for other species (animals, environment, etc.), and self-love.

The interplay of love and romance is what makes a relationship fascinating, unpredictable, joyful and meaningful. Our deepest desire is for unconditional love. It’s the one thing that would make our life most fulfilling and happy, and yet it is the one thing that we fear the most; what makes us love the most can also hurt the most. Getting beyond the fear of abandonment and gaining

trust that you will not be hurt, leads to this meaningful relationship. In other cultures, such as Ladakh, intimate relationships were shared with more than just two people. Some say that polyandrous marriages were popular and resulted with less abandonment and a deeper quality of happiness.

"Friendship is a strategy for personal growth; it involves a commitment to endure with each other and to make our lives and the world better through keeping each other healthily human and effectively loving," said Plato. Gandhi suggests that "the test of friendship is assistance in adversity, and that, too, unconditional assistance. Cooperation, which needs consideration, is a commercial contract and not friendship. Conditional cooperation is like adulterated cement which does not bind." In a humane sustainable culture, our circle of friends will likely be the "fastest growing sector" of our relationship life. Our friends now become our social workers, therapists, counselors, telephone hot lines, and parole officers. They also play roles such as teachers, protectors, and even family members. Friendships are now providing the constancy and the sense of continuity that families provided in the past. With the size of families reducing, the growing social community now meets the needs usually satisfied by family members.

Stable communities and neighborhoods are a prerequisite for happiness, for productive and rewarding lives, and for the sense of security and belonging. Comparing these requirements with the way Ladakh used to be, the "West" should have taken notes from them. Extended families allow for more unconditional love and less fear of abandonment.

Please read The Weekly Report Vol.1 Iss. 17 for the conclusion of Relationships In A Humane, Sustainable Culture by Klaire Rowley

Quote of the Week:
We learn only from those we love.
-Johann Wolfgang von Goethe
Conversation with Eckermann

Fact of the Week:
President Zachary Taylor never voted in a presidential election.

Word of the Week:
certiorari (ser'*shi*o*ra'') n. Law. a writ to call up the records of an inferior court or remove a cause there depending, that it may be tried in Superior Court.

Thank You for Reading And Have a Great Week!

To order by credit card, please visit us at:
www.theweeklyreport.com/orders.html

To order by check, please send:
Name and e-mail address
Check/MO for $15.00 (CA Residents: $16.09)

To: New Accounts; The Weekly Report; 19 Elda Drive; San Rafael, CA 94903

For a 3 month subscription