

victor@inqmind.bison.mb.ca (Victor Laking) writes:

>Does anyone have any info on the apparent sightings of Vulcan?

>All that I know is that there were apparently two sightings at

>drastically different times of a small planet that was inside Mercury's

>orbit. Beyond that, I have no other info.

>Does anyone know anything more specific?

>(Yes, this happened LONG before Star Trek and is apparently where they

>got the reference for the "guy with the ears".)

Yes, long before Star Trek. Before Einstein, in fact.

Vulcan as a planet inside Mercury was hypothesized to explain a perturbation

of Mercury's orbit that could not be explained by the known planets. But

Einstein's theory of relativity explained Mercury's motion, and analysis

of Mercury's motion now shows there are _not_ any planets inside its orbit.

-Mike