**CELESTIAL INQUISITION 4**

The students in astronomy class were given an assignment to write a story. The opening sentence being

“ The spaceship Orion IV was launched and on its way.Its commander and crew knew their mission was dangerous but necessary. If they didn’t locate new planetary systems capable of supporting life, their civilization would be doomed for ever.”

This was the fiction part and they were asked assume that it can travel with speed of light and was fueled for ever. The rest of the story was expected to be based on science facts.

Following are the two interesting stories by students :

Student 1:

The Orion IV plots its course towards a cloud of interstellar dust and gas called the Moosehead Nebula. As the ship gets closer its instruments pick up strange signals coming from the center of the cloud: flashes of electromagnetic radiation , pulsating at regular intervals. It’ a star of some kind, sending out deadly gamma rays and it could explode into supernova any minute! But before they could escape from this danger the ship was destroyed because of supernova.

Student 2:

The Orion’s navigator studies the ship’s charts and gets the information about a star some 4 light years away. It’s glowing and red ,and its big almost as big as Earth’s orbit around the sun! This star is also in the middle of a huge gas cloud called a planetary Nebula. As the ship gets closer they will search the Nebula for the planets. They are pretty sure that some of these planets can support life because the star is so big and bright. It’s also hot surface temperature ranges between 3,000 and 4,000 kelvin.

Guys its time for u to be the professor and check out the stories given by students. Give a proper explanation whether each story mentioned is factual or not!

Each story carries 5 marks. Participants are expected to write your own story but it won’t carry any marks .In case of tie in points , this story will be considered to decide the winner .

**Please mail your solutions to me10b013@iith.ac.in or me09b023@iith.ac.in before 11.59pm or 5-11-2011 .Late entries will not be entertained .**