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Subject: This is an official inquiry from independent producer: Spirit Rover Gone Mad???

Dear Quest, NASA PA, and John Callas,

Please indicate whether NASA confirms or denies the information from this following site:

Mars Rover Beginning To Hate Mars | The Onion - America's Finest News Source
<<http://www.theonion.com/content/node/54360>>

It is disturbing that The ORION is reporting anomalous activity from SPIRIT, it's hard to determine whether this is a joke or not.

Yes, I find it unbelievable but wish to hear it from NASA's own official line, or there is a danger I will pursue answers to the story and claims:

- 1) *"Spirit has been displaying some anomalous behavior," said Project Manager John Callas, who noted the rover's unsuccessful attempts to flip itself over and otherwise damage its scientific instruments. "And the thousand or so daily messages of 'STILL NO WATER' really point to a crisis of purpose."*
- 2) *"We began getting the occasional transmission along the lines of 'ANOTHER SOIL SAMPLE OF THE EXACT SAME COMPOSITION AS THE LAST ONE,'" Callas said.*
- 3) *Spirit completes a diagram of an erect human penis on the planet's dusty surface.*
- 4) *Granted, Spirit has been extraordinarily useful to our work," Callas said. "Last week, however, we received three straight days of images of the same rock with the message 'HAPPY NOW?'"*
- 5) *Once, when we radioed her to please leave the lecturing and hypothesis-making to the mission project team, she responded by forming her robotic arm into an obscene gesture," Banerdt said. "That arm contains a state-of-the-art spectrometer meant to provide crucial mineralogy data."*
- 6) *Project organizers said the most distressing instance of erratic behavior occurred last week, when images from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter revealed that Spirit had scrawled the message 'FUCK MARS' in the thick, iron oxide dust that gives the planet its characteristic red color.*

7) *"Hopefully these malfunctions will straighten themselves out," Callas said. "In the meantime, we'll simply have to try to glean what usable data we can from 'OVERPRICED SPACE-ROOMBA AWAITING MORE BULLSHIT ORDERS.'"*

8) *NASA remains optimistic that the rover will remain at least partially operational for the foreseeable future. However, because of the Spirit's recent proclivity toward ramming into boulders at full speed, scientists have remotely disabled its 1.5-pound rock-abrasion tool so the rover is unable to terminate the mission prematurely.*

I patiently await your answer, and think NASA should follow with a LIBEL Lawsuit if this is not true. Or maybe someone has hacked into the system?

Francis C. P. Knize

Producer