



THE MARTIAN IS THE MESSAGE

Question asked of MARS: Do you think that we have been conditioned by the mainstream media for first contact with the Martians?



Andrew D. Basiago, president, Mars Anomaly Research Society (MARS): Yes! In answering this question, I am going to have to take a meme from Marshall McLuhan's hymnal and say, "The Martian is the message." For many years, mainstream media, including television shows, feature films, even cartoons, have been used to prepare us for the advent of contact with the human beings on Mars. There are several types of humanoids on Mars. One looks like us. They are the long lost relatives on Mars that we were separated from following the solar system catastrophe of 9,500 BC, which destroyed the great maritime civilization on Earth that built the Great Pyramid and the Sphinx and disabled the interplanetary federation that then linked Earth and Mars. The other has bulbous heads and spindly bodies and resembles the Grays found in the UFO literature. I have been asked many times what the Martians that my father and I encountered at Curtiss-Wright in 1970 looked like. They were bald, ugly white guys, of the first typology, in silver spacesuits. They looked a little bit different from us, but essentially like human beings. From a child's perspective, I thought they resembled any combination of three of the four Three Stooges. Since then, to normalize relations with Mars, the Martian has been made a mainstay of popular culture. He is Uncle Fester of The Addams Family, Dr. Evil in the Austin Powers films, and Zippy the Pinhead.



Uncle Fester of TV's *The Addams Family*



Dr. Evil of Hollywood's *Austin Powers* Films



Bill Griffith's Martian-like *Zippy the Pinhead*