

They all laughed at Christopher Columbus...

Andy Heyward's Gadgetorium

By Michelle Haynes

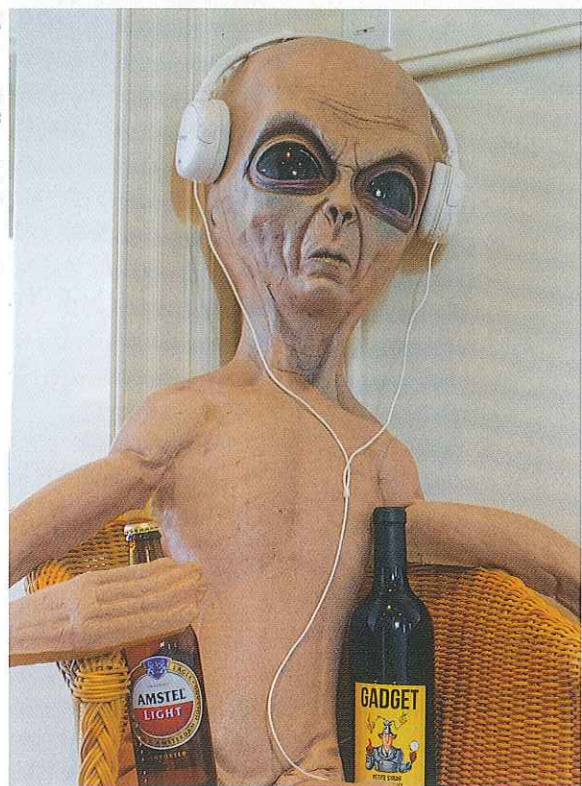
**Y**ou can add Copernicus, Galileo and countless others to the, 'Are they crazy?' list," says Andy Heyward, who is not convinced planet Earth is the only inhabited planet. "There are a few thousand planets out there with similar qualities to earth, and whether they are little green men or just algae, I do believe there is something out there." Heyward is the creator of the popular children's television show, *Inspector Gadget*. His state-of-the-art 'Gadgetorium' in the backyard of his Martha's Vineyard home was built by a team that includes NASA, Caltech and Smithsonian staffers, and is the only functioning space observatory on the island.

"I have always loved anything to do with outer space," says Heyward who is also on the board of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. For the last three years the Center's Director, Dr. Charles Alcock, has lectured at the observatory about the cutting edge of space exploration.

More about the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory at [cfa.harvard.edu](http://cfa.harvard.edu).



Photos: Colleen McDermott



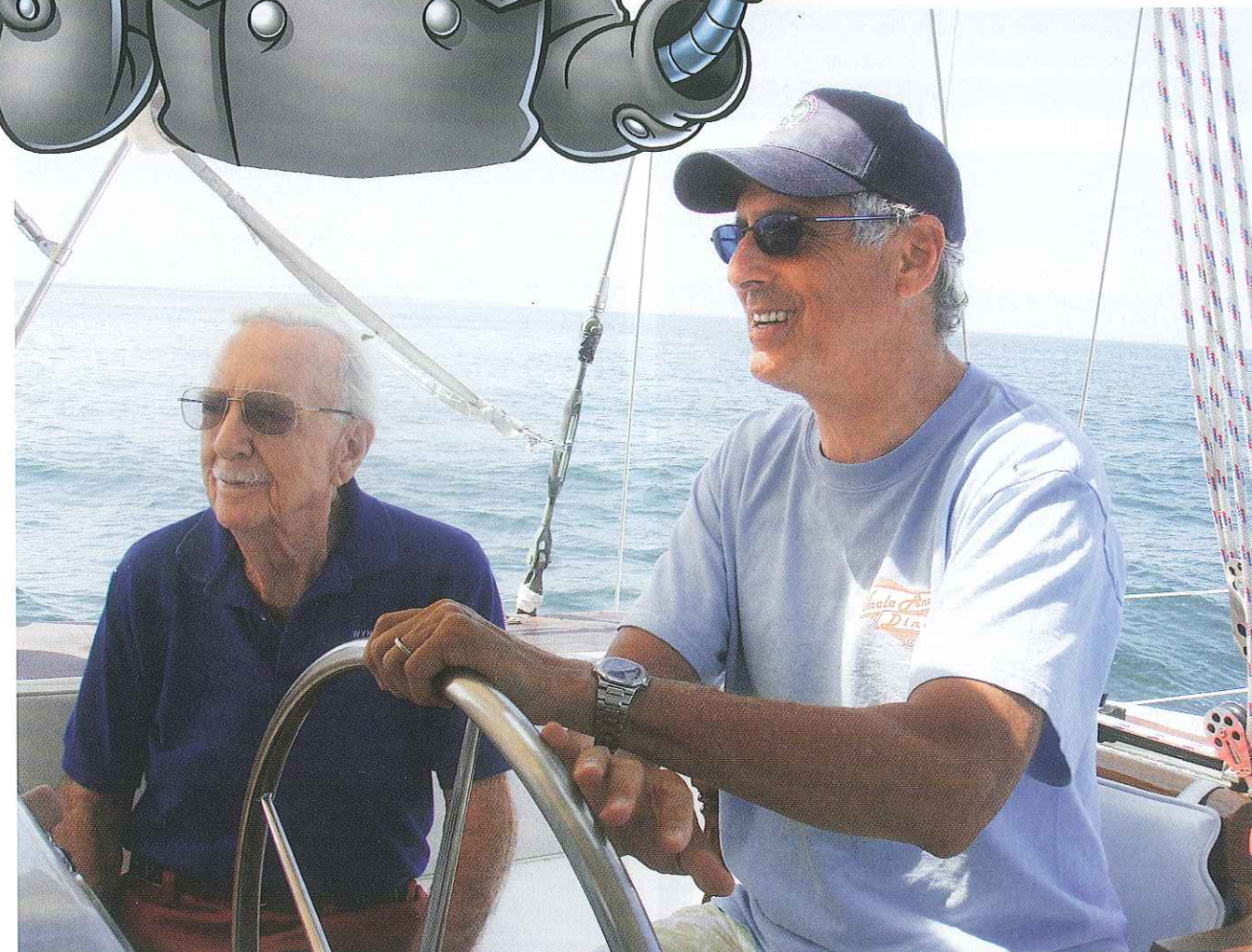
Although the observatory is serious science, owner Andy Heyward is not above having fun at his 'Gadgetorium' which also includes an alien landing pad.



"This is the most exciting time ever in the world of space exploration, and space science. As for life on other planets, I think about it a lot and frankly I am simply not sure."

— Inspector Gadget creator, Andy Heyward

Familiar to most thirty-somethings— "Go Go Gadget Hat!" *Inspector Gadget* and his top secret sidekicks Penny and Brain starred in one of television's most popular series. Created by Martha's Vineyard resident Andy Heyward, the show ran from 1983 through 1986 and shows no sign of going away as it continues in syndication everywhere.



Andy Heyward moved to Martha's Vineyard after meeting celebrated island resident and news anchor, the late Walter Cronkite, who shared his love of space exploration. Cronkite broadcast to the world Neil Armstrong's historic moon walk.