

important items which I translated from the São Paulo (Brazil) newspapers *Ultima Hora* and *Noticias Populares* of September 24 and 25 respectively of last year. (Note that the reports never appeared in any British newspaper). These are the accounts of the blacking-out, possibly as a result of a huge flying saucer overhead, of the busy town of Cuernavaca, Mexico, and of the sequel reported by

an airline pilot. Charles Bowen has included these accounts in his article *South American Republics are Watching the Skies* which will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Readers must form their own opinion as to what all this means and, in particular, as to whether Mrs. Jeane Dixon may have erred only in the **interpretation** which she placed upon her vision.

Some Comments on Alien Involvement

By *Adrian R. E. Cox*

I WAS most interested to read Wade Wellman's Article *Sense and Speculation* in the September/October Edition. His article raised quite a few points I should like to comment upon.

1. MR. Wellman's first assertion is that the Aliens' study is not earth centred, but is directed towards the planetary system as a whole.

Surely this would depend upon the nature of their study. If they are interested purely in the physical system as such, then I would agree with him. However, if they are studying an early evolving civilisation then they must base themselves upon the earth. Again, even if they are studying all life forms, their attention will still be terra-centric. (I have never really found the idea of Martians and Venusians very convincing!).

2. The second point is rather composite and relates to Mr. Wellman's assumptions about Alien psychology—if that term has any relevance, and I think it does. His assumptions are just the sort *we* would make about an evolved race, and probably bears less actual relationship to them than—well, anything you like so long as it is far-fetched enough!

I think that of the many reasons for the Aliens' non-interference, at least one is probably just as "deflating" as Mr. Wellman's idea, but rather different. I should imagine than an unscheduled introduction of completely alien knowledge and ideas would probably have a nearly disastrous effect upon many people's sanity—even if they were comprehensible at all to man, which is on the whole rather doubtful.

Until mankind is tolerant and enlightened enough to live at peace with his own kind, contact with something as *different* as these Aliens, could quite possibly cause the very holocaust people most want to avoid.

3. The point about "taking-over" the planet surely must depend upon whether they consider such a course necessary. If they have already done

so, it is probably doubtful whether this runs to more than perhaps the odd base or so.

As for a more overt take-over, this is really an ethical consideration. For example, it may remain to be seen whether mankind can be "forcibly" evolved (rather like a greenhouse plant!) and if so whether this would prove successful or, quite frankly, a horrible disaster. I personally rather doubt that "forced-growth" would produce a stable condition psychologically. Even if they did attempt it, it would be the very devil of a delicate operation!

4. Mr. Wellman's assumption that nothing we do here will have any relevance in galactic terms appears to rely upon an implicit assumption that races remain discrete units indefinitely.

During the early stages of evolution, as on earth, this is obviously true. However, we both agree that planetary man's destiny is "out there" in deep space. Therefore, one would have thought that advanced races would tend to guard, in so far as they can, rather than to disregard the early development of an intelligent race no matter where situated. This seems to indicate that evolved races might take more than a casual interest in us (?).

These comments are largely academic since, if they so wish, Alien races could very easily establish overt contact with us on this planet. I am sure that if they do establish proper contact with earth it will not be the first time this sort of thing has happened. There may be many precedents in this galaxy alone for a breakthrough, and the difficulties they would experience here are, in general terms, unlikely to be unique.

If one thinks about it there may be a well-established technique for contacting primitive races—as we are to them!

The purpose?

This is very difficult to explain, without also describing what one means by 'mind', and why it should interest very advanced races to make the

effort to preserve the future evolution for a race such as our own. However, I think that one ought to attempt a description—even if the process is almost entirely speculative at this instant in time. Unlike Mr. Wellman I do not feel that speculation is necessarily a barren pastime, especially if it is used seriously as a means of throwing-up ideas and discussing them.

At the moment it appears that science inclines to the view that what is called mind is a product of the enormous random circuitry of nerve cells in the brain, together with a relatively small deterministic element (by deterministic I mean the pathways, etc. in the brain that are fixed as a result of genetic inheritance). This obviously makes sense, but I do not think it is the whole story by any means.

(Incidentally, to digress for a moment; research is being done in the U.S.A. and other places, on random, with a small portion of non-random, random, with a small portion of non-random circuits in a computer. The results have apparently “endowed” the computer with a certain amount of learning and self-repair ability rather like the human brain, only very crudely of course. The point of this digression is to illustrate that at least part of the human mind as we know it has “computer-like” aspects.)

The difficulty about bringing in an “additional factor” is that it is unprovable at this moment, and so what follows must of necessity be speculative.

For the sake of convenience I will call this additional factor ‘mind’; and its physical counterpart ‘brain’. Further, to avoid repetition I will leave out the qualifications and treat the rest almost as if it were not really speculative at all.

Using a rather crude simile, the mind is visualised as the “pattern-maker” for the largely random fields generated by the brain—rather in the way iron filings will align themselves with the field of a bar magnet. I imagine the impingement to be coded (rather like the way DNA is a coded molecule) and also, like DNA, a very difficult code to

“crack”. The effect must be a very subtle one since the mind appears to have the ability to effect the overall functioning of the body, although this may just be the result of its control of the brain at all levels.

Exactly what kind of field the brain generates and how the mind effects this field is at the moment very obscure to put it mildly. I even doubt whether one can attempt any meaningful discussion of the field within the scope of this article.

However, the patterns and pathways of thought established in the brain (programmes in the computer sense), appear to have a definite effect upon the mind’s conscious control of the brain. There is also some feed-back between the brain and the mind which serves to limit its effective influence over the brain. The inflow to the brain has therefore to relate to the patterns (programmes if you like) already established in the brain. Thus I see the mind’s abilities very largely controlled by the established brain patterns, which cover all sorts of things from knowledge to emotional behaviour. However, although these patterns will influence the mind and colour it’s functioning, I see it as an entity primarily independent of the brain. It is precisely this mind-factor that we have in common with the Alien races. Our minds are nowhere near their stage of development, but they do share this common nature. In other words they could be described as qualitatively similar; but not quantitatively, since this is effected by the many factors different between the races of the Universe.

In the light of the above I do not find it quite so incomprehensible that Alien races should interest themselves in the fate of mankind. However, their way of showing their interest is very likely to be completely beyond our understanding for some time to come. We will just have to wait and see whether this interest will ever become open enough for them to establish contact publicly.

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