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Reaction

Rocket City Astronomical Association

Space Enterprises, Inc.

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REACTION



Dear Editor,

. . . I wish to congratulate you and your associates upon the publication of this journal. I shall read it with much interest.

Alabama Polytechnic Institute

Auburn, Alabama

Ralph B. Draughon
President

Dear Editor,

After reading Dr. von Braun's article "The Acid Test" in the summer issue of *SPACE Journal*, I would like to say that I think that it is the most sensible piece of writing to come out of the Sputnik scare. He stated exactly what this test facing us consists of and does so with better qualifications than many others who write on the same subject. He is right all the way in stating that this test involves not only our scientific and technological capabilities, but "every facet of our civilization, every part of our society: religion, economics, politics, science, technology, industry, and education." In other words, probably for the first time in our history, our very way of life, our system of accomplishment, our whole way of thinking—is being challenged.

Dr. von Braun states, "The acid test of men and nations is the measure of their courage and resourcefulness in the face of adversity and peril." We here in the West must realize that today we are faced with a powerful and determined foe far more formidable than any other in the history of the world. What

VOX POPULI

kind of courage and resourcefulness shall we show in the face of this great peril? It must represent the ultimate in the reasons our forefathers had in founding this country on the democratic principle. If it is, we will meet and beat the challenge of the Soviets.

I wish to congratulate Dr. von Braun on his wonderful insight into the problem at hand. Is man, when he is on the verge of the most superb and exciting venture he has yet embarked upon in his existence, to bicker and fight with his fellow men when he is at the bounds of the Universe? Let's hope not.

Trinidad, Colo.

Bert Sardello

SPACE Journal is glad to see that the man in the street, if we may so call reader Sardello, realizes that the fruition of man's conquest of Space must cut across all arbitrary and chauvinistic obstacles. In the broadest sense, the race for Space is not really for Space at all—it is a political and technological contest between nations with all the attendant hoopla and publicity. It should, of course, be a world-wide race of man against time. In the final analysis, we feel that it will be the conquest of Space which will unite mankind. Once man is convinced of the ultimate necessity of Space travel, we believe that he will forget the purely political, racial and economical views which have kept

him in a state of physical, mental, and moral turmoil for so many years of his brief span on Earth. Editor.

Dear Editor,

. . . We have long recognized the need for education in a self-governing nation, but have only recently realized that it must be a continuing process. Adult education comes largely from current publications that express the learning of men in every field. Since the pages that can be utilized by educational articles are limited, it seems wasteful to print more fiction.

It is good that our best space and rocket scientists can put their knowledge in words the layman can understand. Today when we are bewildered by the bombardment of conflicting opinions of men in high places, it is good to have the truth from those who speak with the authority vested in them by reason of their advanced work and superior knowledge.

For these and other reasons we are sincerely grateful for SPACE Journal.
Phoenix, Ariz. Mrs. E. D. Gooch

Perhaps the important thing is not that our scientists can put their knowledge into words the layman can understand but rather that our scientists are free to put their words before the layman. Today, more than at anytime in history, we are wrestling ". . . not against flesh and blood, but against . . . spiritual wickedness in high places." With this realization, we believe that it is the right of all scientists to speak openly—not because of their advanced work and superior knowledge, but for the reason that science must be free in order to flourish and that the scientist must not be denied his innate dignity as a human being. Editor.

Dear Editor,

In looking through the summer issue of SPACE Journal, I was struck by the fearful attitude of some of the authors. Two articles were concerned with the far distant times

when the Sun burns out. There are attempts to justify space travel on the grounds that it is necessary to undertake this difficult chore to insure man's survival in case of such an event.

May I remind your readers that man in Space will still be man with all his unsolved problems. Space travel will not empty the insane asylums of the world, deal with paranooids on all continents, provide food for the starving, or any other of a thousand measures which will contribute toward survival of the species.

While an increased knowledge of the heavens holds great fascination for me, I still feel that physical knowledge is not any substitute for the spiritual knowledge contained in the great religions or that escape from the realities of Earth will bring any happiness to anyone, including the pioneers of Space. . . .
San Jose, Calif. Richard W. Lundberg

SPACE Journal does not advocate space travel as the absolute panacea for man's ills or as an international form of group psychotherapy. We agree most wholeheartedly that "man in Space will still be man." We do not negate the basic truths of the world's religions by holding them up to modern science. Indeed, we believe that it will be the courage man derives from his religion or philosophy and the knowledge that he derives from his sciences which will ultimately place him in Space. Editor.

Dear Editor,

In his stimulating article "The Purpose of Man in the Universe," summer issue of SPACE Journal, John Hulley raises a number of questions which we have been discussing under the heading of theoretical anthropology. Our analysis, however, has been along slightly different lines, and we submit the following ideas in the interest of furthering careful speculation on man's future possibilities.

A. We take the distinguishing characteristic of Homo sapiens to be symbol-behavior, following Sir Julian Huxley and others. (See

"The Symbol: The Origin and Basis of Human Behavior" and "On the Use of Tools by Primates" in *The Science of Culture* by Leslie A. White.) Note that *symbols* are used freely and arbitrarily, whereas the *signs* used by lower animals have a single, fixed significance.

B. We posit a symbol-continuum (or *semoplasm*) which serves as an instrument of communication both between contemporaries and between generations. In addition it has properties which make it an increasingly efficient instrument of understanding.

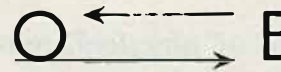
C. We hold that any extraterrestrial organisms likely to be of great interest to most human beings *must employ this same adaptive mechanism*. Otherwise we would be unable to communicate with them and learn from them.

D. We propose calling such organisms *sapient*s. The present terminology covering our possible analogs on other planets is impossibly confused. To call them *human*, as Mr. Hulley does, seems to us to predict too much, since they may not even be primates. They are frequently called *sentient beings*, but this fails to distinguish them from, for example, earthly cows. *Sapient*s seems to us both simple and clear.

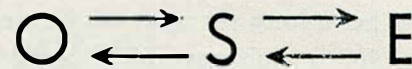
In his discussion of man's place in nature, Mr. Hulley invokes the ecological balance among lower organisms. . . . Finding that man does not fit into the earthly ecology, Mr. Hulley prescribes for him the mission of interplanetary landscape gardener, whose "disseminating agency would contribute to the profusion of life on the planets he reaches."

But we would suggest that a more accurate appraisal of man's place in nature and a more inspiring purpose can be found in the following formulas.

I. In subhuman species, evolution is an interreaction between organism (O) and environment (E) which can be divided into autoplasmic (←) and alloplasmic (→) phases:



II. But at the human level a new factor enters the evolutionary process. Sapience is *semoplastic adaptation*:



(S equals semoplasm)

This being the case, perhaps we should make it our business to search out other sapient's and add our total of the symbol-continuum to theirs. Eventually our combined understanding might make it possible to approach the riddle of the Universe without the overwhelming modesty which Mr. Hulley accurately perceives to be appropriate for the present.

Society for Theoretical Anthropology

John F. Collins

New York, N.Y. Corresponding Secretary

While SPACE Journal feels that it may be unfair to the earthly cows to assume that they are purely sentient rather than sapient—after all, communication with the cow is difficult—we believe that reader Collins and his group have a legitimate point, and we earnestly urge them to submit an article to SPACE Journal putting forth their views—in language the layman can understand. Seriously speaking the problem of communication with extraterrestrial beings is a problem which is worthy of scientific investigation; and the problem must be approached from the philosophical rather than the mechanical direction. We can build an efficient electro-magnetic transmitter, but can we adapt the intelligence of the receiver to it? Editor.

Dear Editor,

One of the most striking articles I have ever read, and I do mean striking, as it is electrifying in its meaning . . . was John Hulley's "The Purpose of Man in the Universe." Here at last in black and white is the theory I personally have held for a long time; but laymen cannot always put such thoughts into prose, though they are locked within us. Beautifully thought out, forcibly written, clear as crystal, and as grand as the majesty of the Eternity above us, it has more meaning than a thousand sermons.

. . . Hulley doesn't say it, but I have often wondered, what with man's ten-thousand year history, where all his fossilized remains are. Couldn't the answer lie in the fact that Homo sapiens was indeed only fairly recently disseminated on Earth from another living world. . . ? This may sound startling to one reading it for the first time, but when one calmly mulls it over and eliminates any inborn or acquired prejudices, the possibility carried tremendous weight. . . .

Mudelein, III.

Mrs. Olive D. Smith

Dear Editor,

. . . My special congratulations on the superior articles by Mr. Hulley and Dr. von Braun. Mr. Hulley's article has a depth in (almost) religious philosophy which has great appeal and value. I certainly wish the US would listen as seriously to Dr. von Braun's views—as presented in his article—as it admires his material accomplishments. . . . Thanks for a fine journal.

Birmingham, Ala.

Miss Onnis Waid

We hope that readers Smith and Waid will enjoy John Hulley's next article in a future issue. Editor.

Dear Editor,

Along with most other people, we are a family of space enthusiasts, and so tend to follow and try to understand each new development.

In trying to help my children understand the most recent one, inertial guidance, a new way of presenting the concept occurred to me that they found very helpful, and which we all feel should be shared with others.

This is to consider inertia as *antiwork* which brings it into a parallel relationship with concepts already familiar in the area of atomic particles. Considered as *antiwork*, it is easy to understand the concept of quantity as applied to inertia. Essentially, then, the amount of inertia, or *antiwork*, of a system is the amount of work which it can neutralize or render ineffective.

We would appreciate your comments on the validity and usefulness of this concept.
Boston, Mass.

William Gray, M.D.

Rather than get involved in physics and the laws of inertia, we offer as an alternative an article on inertial guidance by Mr. Paul Weinschel in the Spring 1959 Edition. This article is written expressly for the purpose of simplifying some of the techniques of and advances in inertial guidance for space travel. Articles in future issues will deal with the problems of navigation and propulsion. Editor.

FOR SPACE ENTHUSIASTS

who still have time to laugh

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ROSES

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Huntsville, Ala.

Dear Editor,

I just bought the first issue of *SPACE Journal* to reach the newsstands in Havana. SUPERB.

No doubt many armchair rocketeers like me have been waiting for a serious magazine in layman's language

When I was about 10 years old, I remember watching a newsreel which, among other things, showed two unsuccessful attempts to launch model rockets from a lake in New York . . . I also remember the laughter of the audience and their comments . . . About that time, a local (and short-lived) rocket society did launch a small power rocket from Havana to Guines, some 30 miles to the south, which

carried as a payload a special packet of "rocket mail". . . .

Best wishes for your continued success.

Havana, Cuba

Antonio V. Alvarado

SPACE Journal is interested to hear of this early attempt at organized rocketry in Cuba. Similar attempts in rocket mail were made at approximately the same time in the US and Europe. And SPACE Journal is glad to hear that we have readers in Cuba now. Incidentally, we have heard from readers in New Guinea, Venezuela, Canada, and Bulgaria, to name but a few countries. Abstracts from SPACE Journal are also printed by the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Editor.



"REMEMBER — I GET THE GOOD LOOKING ONE THIS TIME."