

T O P S I D E

Published by the Ottawa Flying Saucer Club

10 Lotta Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

The opinion expressed in this publication are those
of the authors and are not necessarily those of the
Ottawa Flying Saucer Club.

SUMMER EDITION

1961

WE ARE NOT ALONE (1)

*Topside
Summer 61*

(2)
W.B. SMITH

Our Universe is a very large place, much larger than our minds are capable of understanding. There are several billions of stars in our own Milky Way Galaxy alone, and there are millions of similar galaxies scattered throughout space and within range of our large telescopes. The Universe is also incredibly old. Our earth alone is estimated to be several billion years old, and it is presumed that the stars are much older. Maybe the universe doesn't even have an age; that it is eternal and ever passing through the cycle of energy to matter and matter to energy. The episode of Man on this planet, so far as we can determine, is relatively an extremely small portion of the larger time that the universe has existed, and the period of recorded history is relatively even shorter.

We consider the race of Man to be native to this planet and to have evolved here from lower life forms. We look upon our present civilization with pride and realize that we have accomplished much, particularly in the last few centuries. Even in the past few decades we have made tremendous progress in certain directions. Therefore, it is only natural that we should be egotistical about our position in the Universe. But are we alone? Are there not others in the Universe who, also, have progressed? The Universe is very large and has been here a long time.

In the last few years we have taken our first faltering steps out into the vastness of space, first through the Sputniks and now through manned space flight. There is now no doubt that we can do it, and if we can refrain from blowing ourselves to glory with atom bombs, we most certainly will do it. In the light of our present technology, and not allowing for any basic new discoveries, our timetable calls for inter-planetary space travel well before the year 2,000, and a good possibility of inter-stellar trips being initiated shortly thereafter.

Our space travel plans include exploration, exploitation and colonization, of the other planets, so far as this may be possible, and there is no doubt that this thinking will be extended to the planets attached to other stars as soon as we can arrange to get there. Mankind has always been an adventuresome creature, exploring, conquering, colonizing and exploiting, and there is little reason to think that his future actions will be much different from those in his past.

- (1) This paper was given as a talk to the Kinsmen Club of Ottawa, at a dinner meeting on May 25, 1961.
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Our large telescopes indicate low order perturbations in the positions of several of the nearer stars, such as could be accounted for by the presence of large planets, and if there are large ones there will probably be smaller ones also. In fact, it is generally agreed now that planets attached to stars are more probably the rule than the exception, and that we will eventually find the heavens filled with all sorts of primary and secondary bodies.

When we consider the extent, the age, and the opportunity of the Universe, and the fact that we do have intelligent life here on this planet, it is only reasonable to speculate that somewhere else in the vastness of space and the eternity of time, other intelligent life could have blossomed forth. Since we have made such rapid progress towards space travel in such a short time, a differential of only a few hundred or at most a few thousand years between the development on some other planet and ours could easily have resulted in a race capable of doing right now what we plan to do in the near future. Furthermore, it is quite possible that such a race may have reached this critical point some ago, and to them space travel is as commonplace as the wheeled vehicle is to us.

Now, if this should be the case, and this alien race were anything like us, they would probably set forth to explore and colonize as rapidly as their means would permit. It is rather obvious that, even with the speeds of travel available to us, it would be much quicker to colonize the universe than to wait for Nature to evolve separate races in each and every favourable environment. In fact, intelligent races might even set about accelerating environmental conditions to their liking, seeding and stocking planets with appropriate life forms, and watching over them while they developed.

The foregoing is not just idle speculation, since we have a great deal of evidence that something like this is actually happening. The Darwinian theory of evolution shows certain relationships between the various life forms which inhabit this planet, but there is very little evidence to indicate that they all evolved here. Maybe some of them did, but a more reasonable explanation is that they were brought here when the planet was in suitable condition to receive them. Recent spectroscopic observations of the reflected light from Mars shows the presence of vegetation which synthesizes sugar, thus making it closely related to much terrestrial vegetation. Radio telescopes are picking up all sorts of radio noises from the sky, many of which are so systematic as to preclude natural origin. Peculiar markings, light flashes, and cloud or dust formations have been seen on Mars and our moon. And, most significant of all, the craft of these alien beings have been seen near, and on, this earth!

Legends and history abound in stories of visits to this earth by beings from the sky; beings which came in strange craft capable of the most extraordinary performance, and who themselves possessed great powers or had at their command strange forces, much beyond the understanding of the simple folk who witnessed these things. There is much evidence that this has gone on all through the ages, and is going on right now. With the excellent news gathering and

desseminating means at our disposal, very little happens anywhere in the world which is not reported, and, if it is of sufficient interest, gets wide publicity. During the last ten years or more there has been much publicity about "flying saucers" and thousands of reports have been made of sightings of these strange objects in our skies. But this is not an exclusively recent phenomenon; only the publicity is recent. Ever since we have had newspapers there have been similar reports, but the absence of news services until recent times usually confined the details to a few local papers, and searches of old newspaper files confirm that flying saucers are old stuff.

The tense international situation in recent years has made everyone jittery and anything in the skies which could not be established as known and friendly was regarded with suspicion. Consequently, procedures, projects, and publicity combined to make the whole subject of flying saucers appear quite out of perspective. Instead of recognizing them for what they probably really were, they became a ward of the Military, and since the Military are charged only with the defence of a country, their interests waned when they had established the fact that the saucers apparently were not hostile. But in order to arrive at this conclusion they collected much data, classified it, and buried it so effectively that no one else could get at it, and those who might have been able to sort the matter out found themselves deprived of the basic data and had to content themselves with the bit which escaped the clutches of the Military. However, on the basis of this material some rather startling conclusions have been reached.

Thousands of people have seen lights and apparently solid objects in the sky which behaved as no light or object normally seen in the sky ought to behave. Thousands have seen these objects under circumstances which enabled them to say definitely what they were not, even though they were unable to say what they were. Reliable photographs and movies have been taken, and bits of "hardware" collected which cannot be explained away without challenging the integrity of many witnesses. Simultaneous visual sightings and radar fixes exist in a great many cases, and there is quite a bit of evidence of physical contact with these strange craft.

In several instances reliable people have reported seeing the beings who ride about on these craft, and they say they look just like us. There are quite a number of reported contacts between these people from "elsewhere" and people of this earth, and although this latter point may be hard to prove it is equally hard to disprove, and the results of these contacts are remarkably consistent and enlightening. At the present time there are quite a number of books, magazines and bulletins devoted to the study of flying saucers, and anyone who wishes to establish for himself the validity of these things will find no dearth of material.

At this point we may summarize the position somewhat as follows. There is virtually no doubt that alien craft are visiting this earth, and that

the beings who operate them are very much like us, probably our distant relatives. Considering the age and extent of the Universe, it is reasonable that space travel, exploration and colonization, may be quite commonplace among races of mankind more advanced than we are. Information obtained through alleged "contacts" confirm the general nature of the picture as presented herewith, together with quite a bit of interesting side-lighting on the technology, customs, way-of-life, and philosophy of these people from "elsewhere". It would appear that we are well along the way to becoming truly civilized, and if we can refrain from committing racial suicide and learn to respect the dignity, divinity and brotherhood of man, we can expect eventually to be welcomed into the great cosmic fraternity of advanced races that inhabit the regions beyond the limits of this little planet.

DONATIONS FOR TOPSIDE

We have received a few donations from friends who wish to have their names added to the club mailing list. While there is no charge for "Topside" these donations will certainly help defray the expenses involved and are greatly accepted with many thanks to those most thoughtful people.

From the Ottawa Citizen - Thursday, June 29, 1961
By Billy Graham.

Dr. Melvin Calvin of the University of California, a world-renowned scientist on the chemistry of life, said recently that there are living beings, many of them far more advanced than humans, existing on millions of other planets throughout the universe.

While there is nothing definite in the Scriptures, yet there are many indications that Dr. Calvin is right, God did not bring our world into being without a purpose. Isaiah the prophet said, "For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens. God himself that formed the earth and made it, He hath established it. He created it not in vain. He formed it to be inhabited. I am the Lord and there is none else".

ANOTHER UFO?

About 25 minutes to six on December 10th, 1960, Brian Buchanan and his chum Ian Robertson were walking down Skead Road on the eastern city limits when Ian's attention was drawn to a light in the southern sky about 30 degrees above the horizon. The object appeared to be a disc and as he watched a reddish cloud appeared to emanate rapidly outward from the disc to about three to four times the diameter of a full moon.

Unable to identify this phenomena Ian pointed it out to Brian who confirms that he saw what appeared to be a white disc tilted to present an elliptical appearance, surrounded by the cloud. He estimated the size of the disc at about a third of the moons diameter. As they watched the disc moved out of the centre of the cloud at an angle of about 75 degrees to the horizontal started to grow dim. By the time it had moved clear of the cloud it had faded from view. The cloud remained visible while they walked

about half a block then it started to gradually fade. Suddenly at a point about 60 degrees elevation and a little to the east of the original sighting a red light appeared. It rapidly expanded to form a circular glowing arch having relatively well defined edges a bit less than the diameter of the moon. This phenomena persisted from first observation for about 5 seconds when it vanished almost as though someone had turned off a light with a rheostat. The original cloud was visible but fading. About a minute after the second light had disappeared a third became visible on the same bearing about 45 degrees above the horizon. This took the form of a rather dim red light which grew rapidly rather like a smoke ring. As the ring expanded the centre grew dim. This went on until by the time its diameter had exceeded that of the original cloud somewhat, it had become so attenuated that it was lost to sight. Shortly after the original cloud also faded from sight. The sky in the area of these activities was cloudless but rather hazy as only a few of the brighter stars were visible.

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