

ERG

ELEVEN



EDDIE FOR TAF

ERG ELEVEN

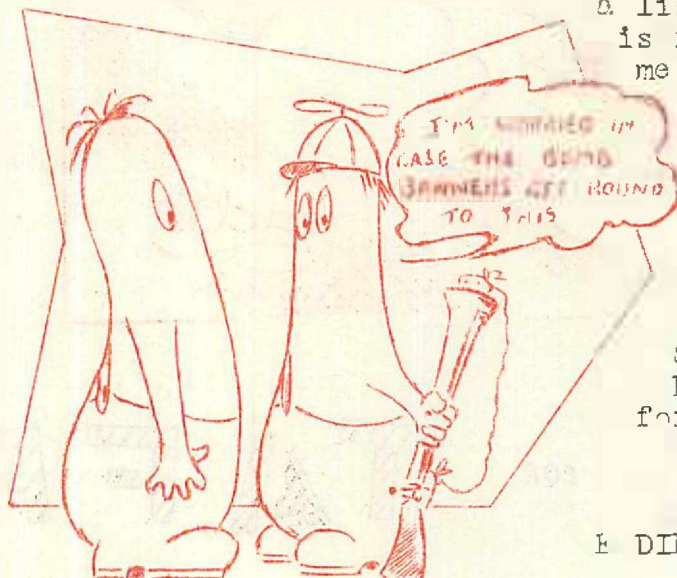
Printed, Published, and
Desecrated by Terry Jeeves
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Sheffield.11

Greetings gentefolks, and welcome to another ERG. This issue was to have been a sort of symposium of four authors and their own ideas of the world of the future. One was approached indirectly, but since the person to whom I wrote, never replied, I don't know if that author ever got the request. Ken Bulmer was approached via a letter and SAE, but apparently he has moved away from 204 Wellmeadow Rd, and I haven't his new address..anyway, the GPO never returned my letter and SAE. However, all praises to Messrs Tubb and Rackham, who generously supplied the enclosed articles. Which to a professional author, must be something like parting with blood. Thank you JOHN and TED.

This issue of ERG suffers from rushitis .. Convention time is almost here, and other things must come first. Getting over the Convention will also probably ensure that the next issue is also a rush job, but I'm now mulling over what to put in the next 'special' issue of ERG. Ted Tubb has suggested a Solar System Symposium, along the lines of the Satellite issue...Any comments or other suggestions??

CONGRATULATIONS to Ron Bennett and Eric Bentcliffe..both of whom are now engaged and coming up to the starting line.. and both are marrying lovely ladies (Liz and Beryl) I don't know any wedding dates as yet, but I gather that Eric hopes to tie the knot before April..if a house can be run to earth.

Nearer home, Terry's fanning fund (Auxiliary) TAFF now has a pile of Doubleday Book Club and other hard cover selections for sale in mint condition and at low prices. Drop me a line for a list if you're interested. This is for the worthy cause of buying me a new typer.



Jane (our car) now has a new engine, having done over 68,000 miles without rebore or any other bother..the clutch finally gave in, so we went rash and got an engine as well. Now we don't expect any trouble in getting to Harrogate....We're looking forward to seeing you there.
Luv....Terry

I DIE FOR TAFFELECT-ED



AS I SEE IT

F. C. Tubbs

Prophecy is very much like standing in the small end of a funnel pointing towards the future - the immediate things are relatively few and obvious but the further ahead the vista expands until the imagination boggles at probable reality and logic degenerates into wild speculation and hopeful guesswork.

There will be colour-television, movie tapes, miniature radios with compact power sources that operate like the present day hearing aids and these things will be an accepted part of everyday living. These things are not new, but like videophones and oral birth control methods they have yet to be accepted and commercially exploited. Exploiting these present-day inventions will occupy most of the next twenty years. On the same basis, we shall have hover cars, turbine engines, a flurry of weather and radio-relay satellites with one or more scientific stations on the moon. Probe rockets will have reached Mars and Venus, and because of the atmospheric breakthrough, we shall have new and perhaps disturbing information on the galaxy.

A little deeper in time will see atomic power as a practical proposition with compact units available for use in backward areas. This will prove a boon to Africa which by then will be a seething cauldron of intense nationalism, the various leaders each trying to outdo the advances of Caucasian races. Stemming from this will be an ugly spasm of racial hatred degenerating into a savage white versus black rivalry....with progressive white elements falling over backwards to excuse and assist the black dictators and those same dictators taking every means at their disposal to use the weakness of such elements. Again, this is nothing but a logical extrapolation of what is all ready occurring, but by this time it will have teeth provided by the Russian - American opposed groups each trying to win favour - the Americans by trying to instill the backward races with their own ideas of capitalism and the Russians by providing technical operators and know-how. The rising African groups will sanely take the best of what is offered from both and then cynically tell their benefactors to 'Go to Hell'!

4 Africa then, will follow very closely in the footsteps of Russia but with the essential difference that various groups, each under power-hungry native dictators, will seek to destroy each other while united in a common hysterical hatred of the 'whites'. The 'whites' being of course, the handiest scapegoat to carry the burden of races which have obviously outrun their capabilities by lack of education of the masses. War, in Africa, will then be an intense mixture of tribalism and spears versus automatic rifles as dictators follow their natural inclinations to achieve self immortality via the Nkrumah route.

The British Empire, all ready crumbling into an empty facade, will in a hundred years time be mostly only a memory with whimsical pageants being held at various intervals - of interest to tourists and historians, but of little real meaning or value. With England in the Common Market or otherwise having absorbed true sovereignty in a Federated State of Europe, no matter how called. The coinage and measuring systems will be metric and an influx of a Lingua Europa of one kind or another will be making rapid progress.

This not-new, but combined language will be the inevitable and desirable result of a close merging of nationalities so that words, transposed from foreign tongues become common coinage. This has all ready happened from the impact of World War Two and will progress swiftly via the commercial and scientific route. Advertising will be the largest factor in this need to label and sell a product to a multilingual market.

There will be a nuclear war. Just when this war will take place is open to speculation, but it is to be devoutly hoped that it will not occur for at least twenty years. By this time the problem of fall-out will have been solved and relatively clean atomic bombs will flatten our cities and incinerate our bones until both nations, Russian and American and the complexes of both, will have won 'face' for they cannot win a war. With the American N bomb, which the Russians will emulate if they haven't all ready got it first, relatively little material damage will be done.

The war fought, China will emerge as the major Eastern Power and assimilate most of Asiatic Russia. The remainder of 'white' Russia will merge with the European Federation which will by this time have become independent of American influence. The world then, in a hundred years time, could well consist of the China Soviet, the Federated States of Europe, The African Unity and a combination of North and South America. Other Islands and areas will be occupied or allied with, via trade and commercial interest, or for reasons of security to one or another group.

Because of nuclear war, tremendous strides will have been taken in atomic science. The risk of radiation death will have been solved so that atomic powered engines are practical for everyday use with new fusion-fission materials and safe shielding. With such power, the wasteful jets will become museum pieces and while the planets will never be a poor man's holiday resort, yet

they will be reached and scientific stations established. Depending solely on the value of any discoveries made, space flight will become a reality but motivated only by nation-driven prestige or commercial exploitation. Science - as usual will dance attendance on military expediency.

But in a hundred years time, the mutations caused by nuclear tests will have become a problem. This will be solved by a simple and brutally direct method - they will be still-born! Mental mutations if any will gradually introduce new factors into the human race so that, at the end of the century, Homo Sapiens will have all ready sown the seeds of his own racial destruction.

So, after twenty years we shall have colour television movie tapes in sound and colour, videophones, oral birth control, hover cars, paper houses and clothes, the beginnings of a multi-lingual language and a spate of insidious advertising mediums which verge on a total violation of privacy. We shall have a decimal coinage and use the metric system. We shall have weather and radio relay satellites and the beginning of the abolition of European passports and visas, but the introduction of personal identity cards to facilitate travel in the members of the European Federation.

Plastic surgery and cosmetics for men will have united to offer a service and a society in which it is not considered odd or abnormal to make the most of one's appearance. Religion will be tolerated by the masses but Church attenders will be in the minority. With Electronics providing all home entertainments there will be a lack of night life. It will be considered daring and a little Bohemian to visit live theatres and concerts. It will be easier to stay at home, watch one of several channels, play movie tapes and lose all desire or ability to create or self entertain.

Fashions will have reverted to pseudo-classical styles with an emphasis on colour and display. In such a society, extravagant dress is a means of asserting individuality, and sex, now safe and accepted will provide the new amusements.

Partially because of this indifference and the decadence of self-sufficiency, war will be unopposed and active groups such as the Africans will be able to make fantastic progress. Driven by envy and greed they will be the modern barbarians as compared to our Modern Rome.

- FINITO -

Eddie
for
TAFF

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AS I SEE IT

by JOHN RACKHAM

PERRY MASON AND THE CASE OF THE TRAINED SUBCONSCIOUS

Current speculation about where Man is going next is generally gloomy in all fields except science. Even there, the feeling is towards faster and more sophisticated gadgets on the basis of what we already know. It is fashionable to say that there hasn't been a really new breakthrough in forty years .. just development and consolidation. It's anybody's guess where the next breakthrough will be. On the understanding that this is sheer guesswork, I'd like to pick the field of thinkin' itself.

Computers are popular items of news, and are getting faster and more complex. Almost everyone who understands just a little, realises that a calculating machine has to be small, or the linkage of concentric loops is lost. In fact, we have reached the point where calculations can be done faster than it takes the signalled result to travel from one part of the machine to the other. So we are getting miniaturisation, and then micro-miniaturisation .. and it sounds as if soon, the electronic brain will be as small as our own, and as good. But this is a slight error. One thing computer technology has shown, above all, is that we can do things, in our heads, that computers just cannot do at all. I am not now referring to original 'thought' or anything as woolly as that. In fact, if I may digress a little, machine brains can, and do, invent new things. See for instance, the account in Penguin Science Survey, Vol 11, p.129 et seq. of a machine which worked out by itself, a new, more elegant and faster way of proof for a theorem by Euclid that angles at the base of an isosceles triangle are equal. The same chapter tells how to make a game-playing machine with its own built-in strategy for winning - out of nothing more complex than matchboxes. And that brings us right back to the old question, 'What do you mean by thinking?'

Now I had in mind something else again. In a recent statement from a laboratory, I saw this: Say you're an employer; you have 20 vacancies, and 20 applicants, and you hand that problem to a machine for solution. In strict logic, which is the way the machine is made, it will try each man against each job, in succession, and this can give you $20 \times 19 \times 18 \times 17 \dots \times 2$ operations. Offhand, I forget how many operations this works out to, but it is enough to keep the fastest machine tied up for several weeks.

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Whereas the average, non-genius employer could solve that problem, with a pencil and paper, in an hour or so. This is different order thinking. And this is what I want to talk about.

I am not saying where the breakthrough will come, but I am saying that it ought to, and if it doesn't, and soon, we are going to be in a much worse mess than we are already. To put it another way, I believe we have an untapped resource right within our own skulls, and we are going to need it in order to keep up with, and use, the complex civilization we are building for ourselves. Already, as Philip Wylie pointed out long ago, we have 99% of the public considerably less intelligent than the machinery it uses. And the brain-power is right there, unused. No, not psionics .. not anything like that. You'll have heard of that 9/10ths brain we don't use? Well, this is my guess as to what that other 9/10ths is for.

Ever since Freud, we have been familiar with the 'conscious' the 'unconscious' and the 'subconscious'. To oversimplify, let me define each this way. The conscious is the 'now', you, thinking, deciding, observing, working out what to do next. The unconscious is that part of you that can call on at any moment to help out .. your library, memory, files, note-books etc, and the subconscious is the bit that knows how to get things done, without 'thinking'. If you've seen Perry Mason on T.V. .. it works like this. Mason is the conscious. His memory, intentions, records of court cases, training and experience .. is the unconscious. He can call on and use, any of these at once. Della Street and Paul Drake are the subconscious. He hands Della the paperwork, and lets her get on with it. He says to his private detective, 'Paul .. I want you to get me all the dope on so-and-so'. And, in each case, he leaves them to get on with it. In each case they have only the vaguest idea what he is really up to. But they know what to do, and do it, without question. And this, precisely, is what the subconscious does. Above all, it doesn't think .. it acts.

So what I'm saying is this, that we have, each one of us, a highly complex computer with its own silent and little-understood, technique for getting things done .. and we are not using same. Not fully. This of course, is not new. Many people make use of the subconscious, in a hit-or-miss fashion. We 'sleep' on a problem, we make 'educated-guesses', we have 'hunches' or 'inspirations' and we all know of those people who can set a mental alarm clock and wake up to a pre-selected moment. But so far we lack a workable technique for getting this on a practical level. I think the thing that stops us is the urge to know how this process works. This is like the Boss walking into the typing pool to see how they are getting on, or Mason going along with Paul Drake to help with his detecting .. or like stopping a ballet-dancer in the middle of a spin, to see 'how' it is done. This is the error. These processes are 'subconscious'. Trying to put them into conscious know-how is what ruins them,

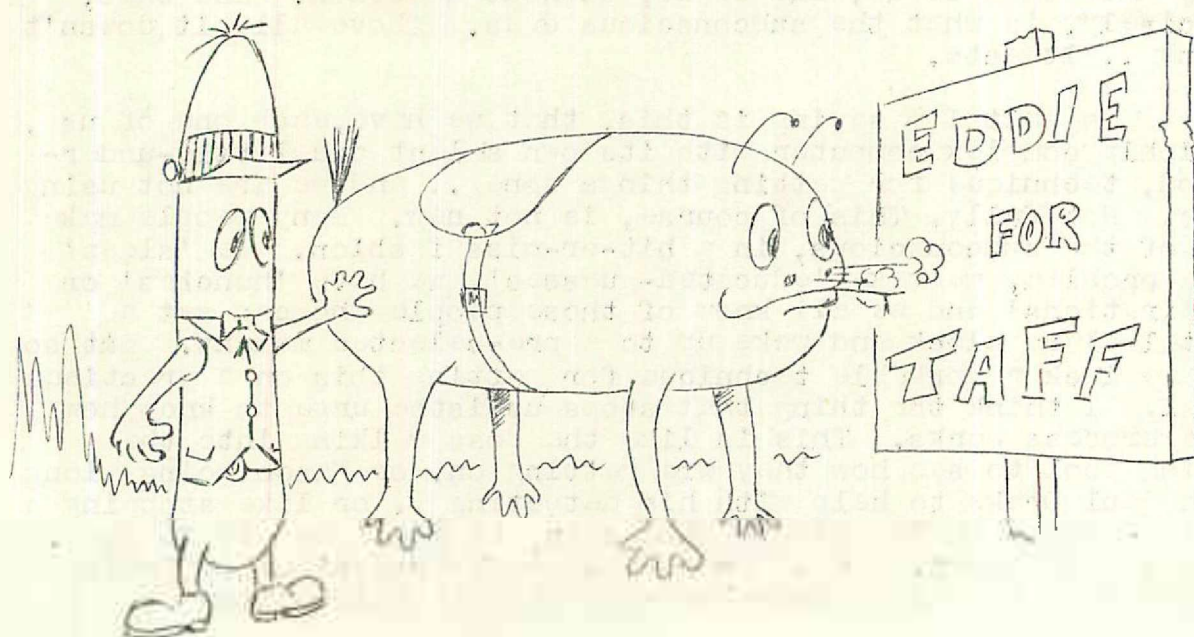
On a much simpler level, take this machine I'm using. If I strike A on the keyboard, I get A on the paper. And that's all I need to know. If I lift the cover to see just how this happens I have to stop typing, and, after I know, it doesn't help my typing any. So we come to a difficulty. How to use, and to train, a function, without knowing how it works. But is it as difficult as all that? Strictly, we don't know how my mental 'want' makes my finger bend, or my legs work. Anatomy study does help us to know what the bodily machine is capable of, and a little of how to put it right when it shows signs of malfunction. And that goes for any machine. In the same way, we know a little about what the subconscious is capable of, and we can guess a lot more. We know it can do this. We do not need to know how it is done. What we do need is some efficient way of training ourselves to use the facility we have.

I believe such a system is just around the corner. Right now, the more lurid press is full of so-called 'methods' for using ones 'inner' powers. All of them, so far as I can see, are linked with 'mysticism, or some ill-defined idea of religion.. as if this was a power from outside. A kind of magic. I don't think there's any magic in it at all. I think we all have the talent, right inside your skull and mine...those idle 9/10ths of our cerebral neurons, just layin' around, eating their heads off wondering when we are going to wake up and start using them.

It had better be soon.

.....John Rackham

~~THE FOLLOWING IS A COPY OF THE LETTER FROM EDDIE TO THE PRESS~~





Swing to the rapidly approaching deadline, I am going to take advantage of Rule 15(a) and make these mainly capsule comments...Erg must go out on time, and I have quite a load of Convention preparations to carry out. Here goes

AMBLE.8. Since you don't read Erg, Ah Chee, there's little point on my commenting here is there...or is this the two pages you did read? I'll take a chance anyway. Your duping VASTLY improved..but heading and illos could benefit from a shot in the arm huh? Next time you come jazz visiting, come early and visit us mate.

SECOND SATURDAY.etc. this one goes in the files, but one query. I seem to recall that Bentcliffe and I shared the editorship of Platform..but I'm not sure whether or not it was a shared membership. (Anyway, I wrote and duped half of it)

VIPER Another SUPER issue. Top was (natch) requiem for asf., but I also got a kick out of You on card games (NOT my cup of tea however) and Nelson on cartoons was enjoyable. I did NOT enjoy 'I made him marry me'..ugh.

OMPASSIBLE Enjoyed 'Moving Fingers', but felt the ending was too weak. Payson's illos croggle me..pages 5 and 12 and 13 were good, but look at 6,7 and 10 for horrors. Stick with it, you have a good idea in this zine.

SOUFFLE Welcome mate, may you have a long and happy OMPalife. Glad you liked Erg..re the Ilyushin rumour... my objection to that is because it is a RUMOUR. Now I have no objection to any journalist digging out FACTS and printing them, even if they prove Gagarin was No.2. But I feel it most unfair to a brave man to pass rumours that he is No.2, without any more than a few flimsily related 'incidents'. Like saying Mrs Brown is no better than she ought to be.."She was seen talking to a man in town,,and holding his arm" Before jumping, check the facts. I'm not saying you're wrong..but your facts don't prove anything even if we accept 'em without corroborative evidence..let's try.

- 1.'Ilyushin was on the short list for space'..so what, so were Wally Schirra, and the other Astronauts in the US..Do you mean Shepard wasn't the first American after all? Same deal.
- 2.Soviets announced 'such and such a day' for first man in space. 3. on this day garbled sounds were heard coming from space. Assuming your facts are true (Proof ???) I'll bet you can pick up garbled voices on hf and vhf ANY DAY..as for space origins..proof of which would require DF gear..ANY satellite recorder pulsing back data would be grabb'd..as would any mistuned FM receiver

4. Ilyushin hasn't been seen since, but reports say he is in the looney bin. Now nothing has been Proven, so let Gagarin enjoy what he earned u til someone does prove it huh?

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ENVOY Patchy in parts, but otherwise very easy on the eye. I lived the rambling reviews, and was fascinated by the parade of little men along the foot of the pages. MORE

ZOUNDS By this time, you should have received an assorted scad of illos..hope you liked 'em as much as I enjoyed the running set of Rotsler's. If you want more..holler. Somehow your brown paper seems to 'kill' the ink..but oh what a drooly type face on page x.

UL. Muchly liked, was the account of the US transport snafu, and your account of the X country trip.

EDDIE FOR TAFF EDDIE FOR TAFF

FRIEND HANNIFEN...I hope you'll find a satisfactory layout with the one shot trial issues soon, as I found these rather heavy going...meanwhile, best wishes.

ENVOY.3 Liked the cover, but not the size, it doesn't file easily (I know, get a new file..hah blooming hah) Was tickled by your comment that the Russians take the money they want for space research, whereas if the US want money, the public hollers like mad. I'm tickled because increased space research expense was one of Kennedy's platform planks, so I guess people didn't know what they were voting for...CLANG..I trofed on the van Allen Belt(s), but you Clanged on your IQ comments..Fair exchange. You mention an average IQ of 120 for a society..you can have an average of 120 for a small group (thirty, forty etc) but NOT for society. Why NOT? Well the IQ 100 is defined as the average level. IQ is man made, not an inherent quality like the amount of blood. The average amount of blood may be ten pints (I'm guessing) you can't alter that amount, with out changing the body..then you'd have a new average, but still a measur able one, not one set arbitrarily as is IQ100.

CCON Liked your cover...liked your Con report, liked your duping and still like you...but what about some more illos.??

PARAFANALIA 'Worlds Gone Hence' the ending spoilt this, as I just didn't get the idea. I'm dim. On the other hand, I enjoyed 'Wandering Chu'. Nice.

MORPH Shoot your duplicator John. Nice to see you with us. Can you recommend any book on the statistics behind large buildings such as the Empire State...such as how they get around burst ing water pipes through such a huge head of water 'multi level tanks'?

SCOTTISHE. Luvverly cover, and the odd odes were right in my groove. Machiavarley has revealed my long secret method for ditching old fanzines. After removing my name and address, I wrap 'em up, and leave 'em on buses, never though of using the idea on bricks though. Sorry I can't vote for you for TAFF (EDDIE FOR TAFF-) but whoever wins, it will be a good man/woman

MAILING COMMENTS..a lovely production..don't blame you for finding missiles a drag..I feel the same way about poetry and jazz...so I understand. Like many things, one man's meat is another's poisson.

LOVE TO ALL.....Terry.