

OMNI

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**SPACE
LAWS OF THE
ROMAN EMPIRE**

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NEUTRINO AND THE
COLLAPSIBLE
UNIVERSE**

THE RIGHT TO DIE

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A NEW VIEW
OF HUMAN
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LARGE LION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 83

can travel through the vacuum of space only at the speed of light; they cannot ever decelerate.

About 1,000 years after the Big Bang, neutrinos would be moving slowly enough to be trapped in the gravitational field created by their own rest mass and would break up into flat clumps, eventually measuring 60 million light-years across.

By the time protons, neutrons, and electrons formed, they would be caught in the gravitational field already set up by the neutrinos and would settle down along the cluster shapes created by the neutrinos.

Astronomers have not been certain until now about how matter managed to collect into galactic clusters. Apparently the Big Bang sent out matter and energy evenly in all directions. The preliminary clumping of neutrinos, which can happen only if neutrinos have mass, may supply an answer. The mass of the neutrino may explain the size and shape of galactic clusters. The gravitational field of the neutrino skeleton would supply the additional gravity needed to explain why the cluster holds together.

One final point. Scientists have been trying to detect neutrinos radiating outward from the sun. However, astronomers can detect at most only one third the number that theory suggests exist. There appears to be no easy explanation.

If neutrinos have mass, then different kinds of neutrinos—three kinds are known now—may be moving back and forth.

The devices used for finding neutrinos can discover only one kind. The assumption has been that only that *one kind* is produced by the sun and *only* that one kind reaches us across the space between the sun and ourselves.

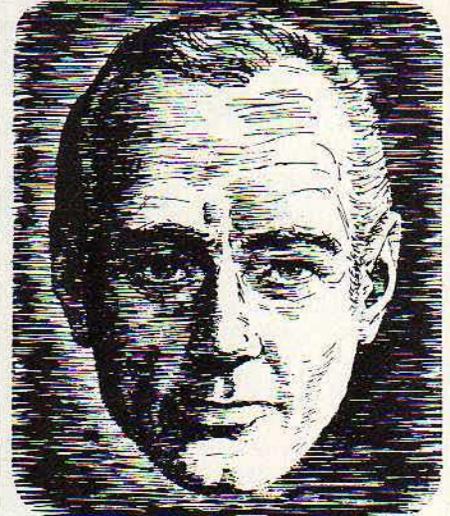
Still, even if only one kind is produced, that one kind, in its voyage across space between Earth and the sun, will oscillate into other, undetectable varieties. Only a fraction will, at any one moment, be in a detectable form. This would explain why we detect fewer neutrinos than we had thought we ought to under the old neutrinos-have-no-mass axiom.

If neutrinos have a very small rest mass, then the universe would be closed, and that explains the Big Bang. It would explain how the matter of the universe settled out into galactic clusters; why the galactic clusters are the size and shape they are; how the galactic clusters hold together; and finally why the sun seems to be short of neutrinos.

To be sure, the experiments that seem to show neutrinos have mass may yet be found to be false alarms and neutrinos may be forced to return to their status as massless particles. If that proves to be so, what a shame! Their mass would explain so much; their masslessness would mystify.

Don't leave, little mouse! Don't go! The lion needs you! **OO**

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