



End Times Bulletin

No.2

THE FUTURE OF ETB

Well, it certainly seems that we have a future, which is nice. After a slow start, the subs have rolled in nicely, and in due course I'll probably recover my initial printing costs!

All this means that I've had to decide what pattern we are going to follow in future, and that I have to ask you to come up with a subscription to see us through the next year.

You may have noticed that you're not exactly receiving this in September, as promised, and that is part of the plan (if that's the word for it). Apart from having a fairly time-consuming job I'm also finding myself writing to deadlines, and it appears that I'm going to have to produce a full-length book by March 1983. Consequently, my plan is to publish three times a year, more or less in October, February, and June; don't be surprised if it's a little early or late. Each issue will have 24 pages (as opposed to 16 now), and I hope it will be professionally finished. For this I'm asking a sub. of £2 in the U.K. and \$6 or equivalent abroad (including printed paper airmail while rates hold). This is marginally cheaper per page than now.

I'd be very grateful if you could re-subscribe as soon as possible, and maybe send some material for publication with your sub. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

* * *

'End Times Bulletin' is published by Kevin & Sue McClure, 14, Northfold Road, Knighton, Leicester. Please make cheques & P.O.'s payable to Kevin McClure, and pay foreign subs in dollar bills or by International Money Order, in Sterling. Thanks.

All material used in 'End Times Bulletin' remains the copyright of the authors. Uncredited material is usually by the Editor.

'End Times Bulletin' is printed by Copy Sprint, Hotel St, Leicester.

* * * * *

I have great problems accepting most of the versions of 'New Age' philosophy. Not because they aren't wholesome, honest, or hopeful, but because they never seem to have any real relationship to what goes on in the world: either what is happening now, or what is probably going to happen in the near future. To be quite honest, being told that privileged information has come from this spirit guide or that extra-terrestrial (and often both and several of each) inspires in me no confidence at all. Purveyors of good tidings on grounds as dodgy as that I would refer to the 1939 Peace Prophecies, when every famous Spirit Guide in Britain forecast that Britain would not be involved in war. Nor am I much encouraged by those who gleefully predict earthquakes here and nuclear wars there and believe that these will be a wonderful catharsis for the human race. I have yet to find evidence that sickness, squalor, and utter disorientation produce anything but further and worse hardship. Consequently, I was much encouraged to receive the following article, which is by the author of the 'Schrodinger's Cat' trilogy, of 'Cosmic Trigger', 'Masks of the Illuminati', and co-author of the wonderful 'Illuminatus' trilogy. This is the stuff of a possible real new age, in that compared to serfdom and unavoidable constant poverty in a primitive agrarian economy, we are in a new age now. This is worth surviving for, and working to make come true.

MILLENIALISM AND FUTURISM BY ROBERT ANTON WILSON

Millennialism, the belief that some major 'spiritual' change is about to occur, has cropped up repeatedly throughout history, usually with sinister results. (See Norman Cohn's The Pursuit of the Millennium to find out just how sinister this can be. Adolf Hitler and Jim Jones were typical of the dark side of Millennialist mentality.) Nonetheless, despite the fanatical and often totalitarian results of Millennialism, I am some kind of sociological Millennialist myself. A great deal of evidence - of which only a small survey can be presented here - convinces me that something very dramatic is about to occur to the human race.

I am very impressed by Carl Jung's Flying Saucers: A Modern Myth of Things Seen in the Skies, which argues that the UFO phenomenon represents a major shift in the archetypes of the collective unconscious. Jung wrote this in 1952 when ufology was just beginning and before it had given birth to the grossly obvious messianic and apocalyptic cults that now infest it; I think he intuited what was coming. The current rebirth of interest in Nostradamus, the revival of Millennial Christianity, and the wide circulation of notions about an oncoming Pole Shift are three other aspects of this massive psychological upheaval. I don't think all of this is due to 'fear of the bomb'; I think it is a recognition, in dream-like imagery, of a planetary 'rendezvous with destiny.' I believe that the emergence of scientific futurism or 'future studies' represents the same tendencies on a higher intellectual level.

Consider the following futurist scenarios, all of which have attained considerable popularity in parts of the scientific and intellectual world:

1/. Immortalism. "Millions now living will never die" was originally a slogan of the Millennial Dawn movement of 1910, which later became Jehovah's Witnesses. They meant that God was about to usher in the New Jerusalem, including physical immortality. The same idea, minus God and Bible prophecy, reappeared in the longevitist-immortalist movement among scientists and technologists starting around 1960. Some formed cryonics societies, to freeze their bodies at physical death, in hopes that future science would find a way to revive them; others specialised in anti-aging research. Scientific guesses about when extreme longevity (more than double today's 72-year average lifespan) would be achieved have gotten more optimistic with every research breakthrough. Dr. Alvin Silverstein recently predicted that the longevity revolution would put life extension drugs in every pharmacy between 1989 and 1999.

2/. SMILE. This is the current slogan of Dr. Timothy Leary, who has never hesitated to use Madison Avenue semantics to popularise his notions. It means Space Migration + Intelligence Increase + Life Extension. Leary expects that major achievements in all those areas will, before the year 2,000, change all the parameters of human life. The advocates of Dr. Gerard O'Neill's space cities also hope for human colonies in space by then; Dr. Nathan Kline has also predicted intelligence-raising drugs by then; the immortalists hope for longevity by then. The combination of all three 'revolutions' - in space, consciousness, and time - will certainly change everything we take for granted, if and when it happens.

3/. Utopia or Oblivion by 1989. Buckminster Fuller has been claiming since the 1940's that modern technology not only gives us a good chance of race suicide but also alternately gives us a chance to achieve a state of affluence for every man, woman, and child on the planet - an affluence that would be Utopian by comparison to any previous society. Now, in his recent book, Critical Path (1981), Fuller takes a more extreme and urgent position. By international cooperation, he says, we can give everybody the standard of living of a billionaire; but if we continue international competition and hostility, nuclear holocaust is probable by 1989. Fuller insists that he can demonstrate the stark truth of this Utopia-or-Oblivion trajectory on his World Game computers, which he has been stocking with relevant sociological-technical data for thirty years.

Fuller is no fool; many of his earlier predictions have been confirmed.

4/. The Third Wave. This is Alvin Toffler's model, from his book of that title. The First Wave, he says, began around 5,000 years ago and transformed most of humanity from tribal societies to huge agricultural civilisations, a process that took thousands of years. The Second Wave began around 1750 and transformed us into the industrial age, a process that took only centuries - ten times faster than the First Wave. The Third Wave began with the first computers c.1945-1950 and will transform us even more totally, in a period of decades - ten times faster, again. A whole new world order will emerge.

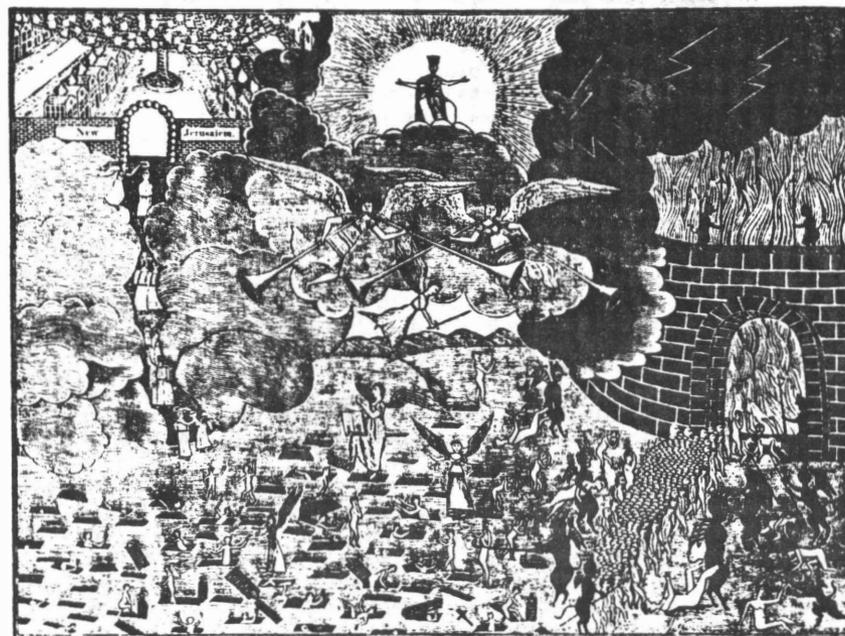
5/. The Paradigm Shift. This refers to the switchover, within the scientific community, from one model or reality-tunnel to another. Previous paradigm shifts took us from Ptolemy's astronomy to that of Copernicus, from Genesis to evolution, from Newton to Einstein. That we are headed for another paradigm shift is widely believed by physicists, and many biologists and sociologists are saying the same. Each previous paradigm shift has had major social and cultural consequences, as well as ushering in new technologies.

6/. The Anderla Statistics. Georges Anderla, a French economist working for the Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation, calculated in 1973 the rate of accumulation of new knowledge since the time of Christ. He found that it took 1500 years for knowledge to double the first time. Between 1500 AD and 1750, another doubling occurred - in only 250 years. The next doubling took 150 years - to 1900. The next doubling took only 50 years and was complete in 1950. The next doubling was complete in 1960, ten years; the next in 1967, seven years; and the most recent in 1973, six years. The acceleration is itself accelerating.

It is worthwhile to think of these scenarios two at a time at first, then three at a time, etc. before trying to comprehend all six of them simultaneously. Longevity and the dawning possibility of physical immortality. Space colonies: families living in new worlds designed to minimise hostility (how could such colonies survive without such sociological fail-safes?). The computer revolution and the massive unemployment that will follow - the growing risk of annihilation and the possibility of super-affluence. The doubling and then the tripling of brain power - knowledge doubling not in centuries or decades, but soon in years, which means our power for good and ill doubling also.

I think the Millennialists see, as in a glass darkly, the enormity of the transformation before us. What James Russell Lowell wrote of men and nations will soon be confronting all of us as a species:

Once to every man and nation
Comes the moment to decide
In the strife of light and darkness
For the good or evil side.



Sources

I am delighted to be able to say that among a number of responses to ETB 1, some people have actually asked for details of the sources I have quoted in various places. This is great, because a/ it means that I'll have to be jolly accurate in what I quote, and b/. I'd rather people went back to the originals themselves sometimes, because it's the only way you can get a real flavour of what is going on, and what various groups and individuals believe in.

The most professional and glossy of the British publications devoted to the end times idea is, of course, a Christian one, the monthly 'PROPHETIC WITNESS'. It is available for £5.25p per annum from;

Prophetic Witness Publishing House,
Upperton House,
The Avenue,
Eastbourne,
Sussex, BN21 3YB.



It is also worth mentioning that they publish and distribute a considerable range of relevant books and pre-recorded cassettes - if you write to them, ask for a list. Over all their material a number of characteristics emerge. The approach is very traditional, aimed, perhaps, at the older person, mostly men. There is a pre-occupation with the conversion of the Jews (this is a practical contribution, I suspect, to the Second Coming, because it is widely accepted that the Jews must become believers before the Tribulation will be brought to an end). There is a very close adherence to Scripture, and a couple of articles each month consist more or less of Bible study. There are good book reviews, classified and other ads, and an occasional vitriolic attack on Rome in general and the Pope in particular, which seems rather out of place.

MARANATHA!

More extreme and consequently, for the worst of reasons, rather more gripping, are the publications of the prolific 'MARANATHA REVIVAL CRUSADE'. I found an advert from them a few months ago in a copy of the excellent glossy evangelical mag. 'BUZZ', and have since had a number of fascinating items from them. Their headquarters are in Secunderabad, India (I have no idea why), but in the U.K. their many publications can be obtained from;

Maranatha Revival Crusade,
11, Gledhow Wood Avenue,
Leeds, LS8 1NY.

They publish a 'Monthly Message', but each of these actually consists of a magazine section, and a booklet on one specific topic. Recent titles include, 'Mystery Babylon', 'Earth Shake', 'World War 3', 'Jerusalem, the Coming World Capital', 'Terrors and Great Signs from Heaven', and so on. But the first book I had from them is perhaps that which has the broadest appeal to the existing readership of ETB, and that is 'Mystery 666', price £1, 168 pages of conspiracy theory, satanism, the Illuminati, and much, much more besides. I'm going to be quoting from the Maranatha publications at times, whether you buy them or not, but I think you'll find them of interest.

I had hoped to be able to quote from the one British 'Survivalist' mag. 'Protect and Survive', which was a delight for a variety of reasons, a mixture of technical plans for nuclear shelters and, from the last issue (in June), 'Argentina and the Bomb - Exclusive' and 'Will Your Pet Survive a Nuclear War?' I've heard various versions of its demise, mostly concerning going broke. But I preferred the one about the editor launching a 'Survivors' Wine Club' at a major public meeting. Now that's what I call real optimism!

LAST WRITES

For this title some credit (or whatever) must go to Alan Cleaver, reporter on the British newspaper 'Psychic News'. This section should, within the next couple of issues of ETB, constitute about a third of the length of the magazine. What it will contain, I hope, is all the bits and pieces that have come to hand (my hand, that is) within the previous four months that seems relevant to our field of interest.

Not surprisingly, unless you wish it to be pretty boring, and limited to the sources that I can both afford and obtain, this means that you, the readers, are going to have to help, by sending in cuttings, quotes, abstracts or originals of books and articles, religious tracts, pictures if reprintable, and so on, so that the section becomes both substantial and representative. I know that many of you receiving this issue on subscription are well acquainted with the journal 'Fortean Times', and that you have probably been sending Bob Rickard such items for years. Well, now you have some more postage to spend your money on, with the one slight advantage that because we will have only the one subject-heading, your item is likely to appear that much quicker! I will, of course, credit by name wherever practical. Please bear ETB in mind; it will make all the difference.

Anyway, several good souls have started doing this without prompting, so here is this issue's collection of sense and nonsense, balanced prediction and utter failure, interspersed with the odd bit pinched from other publications to fill up the spaces.

The first item comes from an article in 'Future Life' (June '81) about the U.S. Survivalist movement;

"When you start getting into the recommended guns that most Survivalists feel they need, the cost really rises. Kurt Saxon, writer, publisher, chemist and gun afficianado, is one of Survivalism's main proponents of guns for survival purposes. He is the author of four volumes of 'The Survivor', a sort of 'best-of' collection from his now defunct newsletter by the same name. Saxon recommends being well-stocked with ammunition and guns rather than gold. As he puts it so succinctly, "One of us is going to get both the gold and the gun. I say it's the person with the gun." Understandably this kind of attitudes unnerves more moderate survivalists, because it gives rise to a whole sub-section of the Survivalist movement which attracts people who Bruce Clayton characterizes as "unnattached men in their middle 30's who are lonesome for Vietnam." The way he sees it, "They miss the war zone and they look forward to seeing something like that established here. They look forward to the burning and looting and pillaging and raping that they have had to give up." Survivalists feel that because they have provided for themselves, they will be particular targets for the lunatic fringe who carry this arsenal with them."

6 Questions For Survival...

Finance can be arranged.

1. Do YOU believe that Nuclear Conflict is now a distinct possibility? Yes No
2. Do YOU believe that with proper precautions you and your family/friends can survive? Yes No
3. Do YOU have the foresight and confidence to place yourself in the hands of one of the countrys' leading Nuclear Fallout Shelter Manufacturers? Yes No
4. Do YOU wish to purchase a shelter which can be installed with a minimum of disruption in a matter of days? Yes No
5. Do YOU feel that between £4000 and £5000 including installation is a reasonable figure to shelter up to 8 persons? Yes No
6. Do YOU have a 10% deposit available to reserve a place on our 1982 waiting list? Yes No

If YOU can answer YES to the above questions -
We would like to hear from you.

I guess we are all first and foremost the victims of our own beliefs, and secondmost the victims of the beliefs of others. The Survivalists (of whom I would like to know much more, you over there in the U.S.) are primarily concerned with saving themselves. Not so John Roeleveld, as his story appeared in World Weekly News, 5.8.82. Credit; Al Rozenzweig.

"A modern-day Noah's Ark was discovered by mystified police who arrested a man who said that God had commanded him to collect two of every animal - in preparation for Judgement Day!

The bizarre collection of 250,000 stuffed animals was found in a huge bomb shelter deep beneath the home of John Roeleveld of Eerbeek, Holland - and smelled so bad that police had to wear gas masks to remove the specimens without getting sick.

"I don't know how anyone could stand to go in there with all those dried-up specimens," said incredulous police officer Peter Troost. "That crazy man must have had them for years."

Roeleveld told cops that the end of the world is near so God had contacted him and told him to collect two of every animal and insect and preserve them. He had collected 250,000 specimens in all.

"This is God's work", he told police who were summoned to the old man's house after several neighbours complained of the stench. "When Judgement Day comes, my animals will come alive and repopulate the world. The Lord is depending on me."

"I don't care what you do with my animals now," he told police as they carried the creatures away. "I know that they'll return to me of their own accord when time runs out. For each one that goes, a hundred will come back."



As if we didn't have enough to worry about with what ordinary human beings are doing, there seem to be others among us working towards a new age. A new book 'Strangers Among Us', by Ruth Montgomery, tells of 'soul walk-ins', who will take over a body from a human who genuinely wishes to leave it (do I detect shades of Cyril Hoskins/Lobsang Rampa and The Tree here). I quote from the review section of the 'Spiritual Frontiers' journal, Fall 1982 . . .

"A crucial factor is the walk-in's ability to take over the complete memory, abilities, attitudes and life-patterns of the walk-out, so that friends and family will be unaware of the switch . . . Ruth gives guidelines that enable walk-ins to recognise their true nature, and says that hundreds of them have now identified themselves to her. She claims that there are tens of thousands of walk-ins now on earth because they will be needed to help civilisation through the tribulations of the ensuing decades, which she is told by her guides will involve shifts of the earth's axis and other cataclysms. With guidance from a large cadre of walk-ins Ruth is completely sanguine as to mankind's ultimate fate. So, are any of you opting to walk out, or do you suspect you are a walk-in?"



Vultures are winged scavengers that prey on the remains of other animals, including man. They have always been present in the valleys of Northern Israel but now their population is increasing at a rate never before seen in that area. So states Michael Esses in his new book 'Next Visitor to Planet Earth'. Esses, a former Rabbi, claims this is a sign that the legendary war of Armageddon predicted in the Bible will take place in the near future.

"The vultures are already circling in the valley of Armageddon", writes Esses. "God is preparing a feast of 7 months for these vultures to feed upon. And a new breed of vultures has appeared in Israel, a breed never seen before. These vultures are multiplying at three times the normal rate in Israel. This is a sign of the end time."

Esses' observations are confirmed by Pastor Archie MacKinney of the American Messianic Fellowship who states, "Yes, it is true, very true indeed. They call them buzzards over there. Whereas the buzzard normally lays one egg at a time, they are now laying four and swarms of them are surprising people in Northern Israel."

Among Christian scholars who have supported the religious interpretation of this event is Ray Brubaker, commentator for 'God's News Behind the News' in St. Petersburg, Fla. He describes the developments as of 'unusual interest', and says, "Now is the time to get ready for Christ's coming."

Joel Darby of the Gospel Tract Society in Independence, Mo., agrees that the events could be a sign of the end time. "At any rate", says Darby, "the amazing multiplication of the buzzard population right now should warn any careless Christian to get busy and, 'work for the night is coming when no man can work.'"

In recent years Fundamentalist Christians, believing Armageddon is just around the corner, have looked upon it as a great battle occurring in Israel, taking millions of lives and heralding the reappearance of Jesus Christ on Earth. Middle East political events add credibility to this idea. Now it seems that events in nature may be doing the same.

From 'FATE' Magazine, Feb. 1978.
Thanks to Hilary Evans.

Keep these Items in the Fall-out Room:

Containers such as polythene buckets, fitted with covers and - if possible - improvised seats.



RECENT BOOKS REVIEWED

Not surprisingly, in view of the fact that people buy in quantity books about things of which they are afraid (rats, spiders, incurable diseases, rampaging wild animals, etc) popular publishers have figured out that there is money to be made from popular books on 'end times' subjects. Of course, that means that they have to find an author who knows about the subject, to write the book. And there their problems would seem to start.

One way round this problem would seem to be to find an author who is already well-known, and to get him to write a book which appears to be about the End Times. This is the method adopted by Granada, who have recently put out in paperback DOOMSDAY 1999, by Charles Berlitz, the back cover of which exclaims -

"Seventeen years from now the world will come to an end"
and proceeds to claim -

"Charles Berlitz has the answers. He investigates theories of the end of the world, as predicted by religious, scientific, and political leaders through the ages, and brings them all together for a startling and terrifying new conclusion - Doomsday: 1999"

Any of you who know Berlitz's work will be sorry to hear that this is both as vague as 'The Mystery of Atlantis', and as deceitful as 'The Bermuda Triangle'. Even that touch of quality brought to some of his recent work by the use of competent co-authors is lacking; for this travesty of investigation, research, and the truth, he claims sole responsibility.

The book is constructed in the manner usual to this author. Where unverifiable speculation is available - what happened in 999 (including an absurd 'faction' account of Pope Sylvester's actions in the final moments of the millennium), the Jupiter Effect, a supposed Babylonian astrologer called Berossus, predictions by 'Heracticus of Ephesus, a Greek philosopher of the Ionian School', Hopi legend, Ezekiel, Nostradamus, Mother Shipton (Berlitz claims that the alteration was from 1981 to 1881 - so what, we're in 1982!), Malachy, Mongolian Buddhism, Shangri-La and so on - Berlitz presents it quite rankly, and without reference to the informed opinions of others.

However, where he is using portions of primarily factual and scientific investigation, he adopts a procedure somewhat akin to rape. That is to say, he takes a body of fact, tears from it what he wants to use, has his way with it, and leaves its genuine meaning and significance soiled but unexplored. Here, he takes this line of approach with earthquakes, melting ice-caps, meteors, comets, wandering black holes, solar flares, cosmic rays, magnetic reversal, over-population, DDT, pollution, atomic waste, nuclear weapons, and more.

Having dealt with aspects of prophecy and science that just might be relevant to the subject of the book, Berlitz descends into three chapters of irrelevant fantasy that only abuse our intelligence. Simply described, they are 'Has the World Ended Before' (Atlantis), 'The Drowning of a World' (Flood legends), and 'The Impossible Artefact from the Great Flood' (Noah's Ark!)

The concluding chapter, 'The Arks of the Future', seems to be about UFO's and CETI. Like the rest of the book, it isn't about "17 years from now the world will come to an end". About that subject, I don't think Berlitz has the least clue. But I bet his publishers make a few bob out of printing palpably false material on the covers of their books.

I have recently had cause to have a look at the prophecies of Nostradamus with reference to the two World Wars, and have been less than impressed. In brief, I have yet to find one single quatrain that was correctly interpreted before the event. To me, that makes prophecy seem pretty darned pointless. In this context, the latest book by Rene Noorbergen (author of the infamous 'Secrets of the Lost Races) is daring, if nothing else. With the help of a certain Joey Jochmans on research, he takes 265 of the quatrains of Nostradamus, reinterprets them afresh, and turns them into a detailed advance account of World War Three; by Q. 165 England has already sunk into the sea, Scotland is an island, and the government, troubled by Scottish rebels, has moved to North America. The enemy, incidentally, appear to be the combined Arabs and Chinese. Have a look yourself at 'INVITATION TO A HOLOCAUST' by Rene Noorbergen, New English Library, 1981.

Given a choice between naivete and commercialism, give me the naivete every time. I recently received, unbidden, from the U.S.A. 'THE NEW WORLD ORDER', subtitled "Channelled Prophecies From Space", available price \$9.95 + p&p from 303, Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016, U.S.A. Edited by the prolific Timothy Green Beckley (well known to collectors of UFO trivia), it is more or less true to its title divided, as it is, into 27 'sessions', each of which consists of a communication from one or another of our Space Brothers and Sisters, usually philosophical, or concerned with possible fates facing the world.

The names of some of the communicators may be familiar to many of us; Ashtar, Aura Raines, the "Federation of Planets", "The Etherian", and Monka of Mars. The old favourites are all here - even the fabled planet Clarion. Ashtar, "Commander of the Intergalactic Forces", predominates, though interestingly this series of communications is only said to have begun on July 4th 1980.

The subject-matter is, perhaps, predictable, but none the less intriguing for that. It includes, "UFO's monitor our TV broadcasts on a day-to-day basis", "The inside of Earth is inhabited by beings from Atlantis", "The Selection of the Chosen Ones to be removed from the planet in the event of a global disaster which has been widely predicted", "The earth is a living entity and we are destroying it", and "George Washington and Abe Lincoln inspired by Space Brothers."

You can imagine, I'm sure, roughly what is said, particularly with regard to fears for the future, and ways of avoiding the worst. But at least it's well-printed, intelligently written, and the contents are as claimed on the cover. Naive it may be, but at least it's honest, and its heart is emblazoned boldly on its sleeve.

Finally, I must mention a book that originally appeared in 1979, and was republished in 1980. It was privately printed, and the only place where I have seen it on sale (Price £3.75p) is Watkins Bookshop in Cecil Court, near the underground station at Leicester Square. The book is entitled 'THE NEXT TWENTY YEARS', and is written by an English writer, John A. Greed. A work of genuine eccentricity, it is the finest collation I have ever seen of religious and pseudo-religious material related to the end of the world, Armageddon, etc. Written as a sort of voyage of discovery it is excellently referenced and indexed, and deserves a much wider audience. By ETB 3 I hope to have traced the author, and even if I cannot persuade him to contribute a piece, I will try to find a way for those of you outside London to obtain it. Why must it always be the case that what is worth reading is virtually unobtainable, and almost certainly an ill-rewarded labour of love, while stuff like 'Doomsday 1999' sits and glares at you from every bookstall in the country? Have a good read!

COMETS, IONS and 1988 by MOLLY REID

"There appeared a very fearefull comet and there were great eclipses of both sunne and moone as red as blood with horrible earthquakes: there fell a fire from heaven as big as a great tower, the which burnt long, then followed so great and violent a plague as the living died in burying of the dead."

This passage is quoted from the only known copy of a book, dated 1608, by Edward Grimstone, the account being taken from the records of the year 989, so it is probable that the reference is to the visitation of Halley's Comet. After this traumatic experience, the people rose against their leader, Count Arnold, the third duke of the Netherlands. The question is, did the duke's subjects accuse him of the events and wish for revenge, or was this a case of mass hysteria caused by atmospheric conditions - positive ions?

Oliver Goldsmith, in his 'Animated Nature', dated 1774, speaks of dangerous winds: -

During the summer all along the coasts of the Persian Gulf, a very dangerous wind prevails which the natives call the Sameyel. The natives not only of Persia but of Arabia talk of its effect with terror. They have described it as under the conduct of a minister of vengeance, who governs its terrors and raises or depresses it as he thinks proper."

In those days, the effect of positive and negative ions was unknown, and the depression of which he spoke might well have been caused by a positively charged atmosphere. However, later in his book Goldsmith speaks of the electrical discharge emanating from comets and meteors, and suggests that a comet leaves a positive condition in its wake.

The following quotation from Whitelaw, a hundred and fifty years ago also indicates that there was an awareness of such winds, and their effects: -

"In Sicily is a wind known by the name 'Sirocco' so called because it is supposed to blow from Syria. It is fatal to vegetation and destructive to mankind, especially strangers; it depresses the spirit in an unusual degree and suspends the power of digestion."

It is only within the last few years that the research of Fred Soyka (THE ION EFFECT by Fred Soyka with Alan Edmonds, Bantam 1979) has brought to light a full understanding of the adverse effect of an imbalance of ions, weighing on the positive side, can have on living creatures. This may call for a deeper investigation into the energy forces associated with comets, for the 'tail' might easily cause the earth's atmosphere to be positively charged.

Since 12 B.C. the arrival of Halley's Comet has been regarded as portentuous, from the death of Agrippa to the death of Napoleon. Comets have also been supposedly instrumental in causing plagues, famine and flood, and perhaps they are. On closer inspection of records they also appear to be the harbinger of battle and unrest.

Learned men have intimated that actual germs of life are contained in the tail of a comet. This would be an easy explanation for the many plagues which, without accurate record, seem to appear spontaneously. Although thoroughness of research in a recent publication is impressive, it is not in fact convincing in its feasibility. Maybe some diseases do come from outer space, but safely enclosed and protected within the core of large meteorites.

The gases in the tail of the comet become luminescent under the action of the solar rays. Our atmosphere protects us from the shorter wavelengths of the ultraviolet band; the full force of these rays is lethal, in fact they are used to kill bacteria. The comet has also been exposed to cosmic rays, which could produce X rays, gamma rays, and other high energy radiations, and there is no known form of life which could endure such an environment, and before reaching earth the comet would have experienced ranges of temperature quite beyond the survival level of any bacterium or virus. So to clarify - existing bacteria and viruses mutate and this is more likely to happen in adverse atmospheric conditions, perhaps caused by the passing of a comet. As we have no antibodies to deal with the altered D.N.A. (the genetic code) diseases could rapidly reach epidemic proportions.

From information culled and correlated from antiquarian books it can certainly be understood that comets first bring war and then disease. It was not until Halley showed it possible to predict the return of certain comets that superstition gradually gave way to the keeping of records from observation.

Many prophets have predicted another great war at the end of this century, but it seems that there is every indication that it will come earlier. I have never made any claim to be able to prophesy, except that at times I have foreknowledge of events so petty that they are not worth recording, yet now the date 1988 looms large in my mind, and it is possible that something momentous may happen in that year. I can see unrest in the Middle East, this tension spreading to Europe, America and Russia. Maybe this is the 'horrible tumult' that the old prophets foresaw, because looking forward from the shadowy days of Nostradamus, the twelve years to the end of the century would seem so short a time.

It is possible that the coming of the comet in 1986 will spark off the tension which has been lying dormant for so many years, and that the effect will be of a physical nature - the predominance of positive ions. A prophecy is but a peep in to the future with psychic and physical powers often going hand in hand, and in this case there can be no reprieve unless world leaders are aware of the danger. Tomorrow is not preordained as J.W. Dunne would have us believe; there are two paths to the future, and therefore some hope of averting danger. However, when mankind already under tension is subjected to adverse atmospheric conditions, all sense of logic is lost and because of this and the previous arrival of the comet, 1988 could herald an atomic war. There would be survivors, but exposure to radiation produces mutations in the sperm and egg. Can we take the risk of producing future generations of monsters?

In the past, war meant a fall in the male population. In some of the battles of history, whole communities were decimated. But never before was there a threat to the descendants of the human race.

World leaders beware - remember forewarned is forearmed -
1988 is only six years away!

(Molly Reid is now retired, but previously worked in Genetics at the University of Sussex, and in the Animal Behaviour Dept. at Birmingham Medical School).

Not quite like anyone else's 'Readers Letters' column that I know of, this may well be where you first find the future laid out before you. Apart from all your intelligent and witty comments about what has appeared in ETB, or anything else you can think of, I would be particularly pleased to give space to prophecies and premonitions of the future that haven't been widely broadcast elsewhere. Please make them as clear and succinct as you can, and if it isn't too difficult, try to explain the method by which the information was obtained. Also, please make it clear if you want to remain anonymous!

READERS LETTERS

From Roger Sandell.

I'd like to take issue with Jenny Randles' piece on Nostradamus. Certainly, some individual Nostradamus prophecies look very convincing. However the cure for admiring Nostradamus is to read his works as a whole since, as a whole, they are rather less impressive. As Jenny mentions, he wrote several annual almanacs, but she does not mention that no-one, to my knowledge, has ever pointed out a single correct prediction contained in any of these. Another rarely reprinted part of the writings of Nostradamus is the introduction to his rhymes, in which he provides a detailed and almost totally inaccurate forecast of the future history of the world, in which he assigns world-shattering significance to some future years that turned out pretty uneventful, and predicts that around 1800 the greatness of the Venetian Empire will be nearly equal to that of Ancient Rome (in reality Napoleon ended Venetian independence at that time).

If you turn to the rhymes themselves the record is pretty mixed. He seems to have expected a new Hundred Years War in which the English would again colonise much of France. He certainly expected a French Prince named Henry (there were several around at the time) to prove a messianic King who would unite Europe.

Where you can find something that seems impressive the record isn't always as clear when you look carefully. To take an example, when he writes:

The driven from the reign will return,
Her enemies found conspirators.
More than ever her time will triumph
70 and 3, death assured. (6.74)

This works out quite well if you take the "driven from the reign" as being the Napoleonic Empire. This was driven from France in 1815 but triumphed with the return to power of Napoleon III who was the target of several conspiracies and died in 1873. However other writers link it with Queen Elizabeth I who was banished from Court by Queen Mary, only to accede to the throne where she enjoyed a triumphant reign, was once again the target of conspiracy, and died at the age of 70 in 1603.

Another one much quoted is:

From Castel Franco the Assembly shall go forth
The ambassador not satisfied shall make a schism
They of Riviera will be involved. (9.16)

Many writers are impressed by finding Franco and Riviera, both twentieth-century Spanish leaders. However Castel Franco and Riviera are also towns in North Italy (where the French fought most of their wars at the time of Nostradamus).

Jenny mentioned the rhymes that include the word 'Hister', and assumes these mean Hitler. In fact Hister was the Latin name for the Danube, and since most of the 'Hister' references involve rivers this seems a more plausible explanation. To take one example:

In a place quite near but far from Venus
The two greatest of Asia and Africa
It will be said they ate from the Rhine and Hister. (4.68)

It's hard to see what this has to do with Hitler, but it seems to make better sense if you just take it as a reference to the Danube.

It is certainly true that Nostradamus has exerted a constant fascination since his death, especially at times of social crisis. The French Revolutionary wars and World War II both saw upsurges of interest. (I've seen two WWII Nostradamus commentaries. One predicts the war will end in 1940, and the other predicts that a Russo-German army will attack New York in 1942.) An exhibition currently in the British Museum Press Library includes some propaganda the Germans dropped over Britain in 1940 that uses Nostradamus to predict Britain's overthrow. The British did the same in reverse later in the war.

From Clive Harper.

A possible origin for some of the 'Mark of the Beast' stories (ETB 1. p.16) is 'The Day the Dollar Dies' by Willard Cantelon. I haven't seen the book, but Robert Anton Wilson in his 'Cosmic Trigger' describes a review copy he received in 1974. Apparently according to Cantelon the Illuminati are conspiring to wreck the international financial system. Once this is achieved Satan and his fallen Angels will appear upon Earth and deceive the masses into thinking them saviours. These 'saviours' will institute a World Government, a World Religion and will then abolish money replacing it with a computerised credit system. Everybody will then be tattooed on the forehead and wrist with a credit number which they will need to make 'purchases' under the new system. Rebels will simply have their credit cut off and will then be unable to make any form of transaction.





EDITORIAL

Possibly it is only symbolic of my own inadequacy, or some suppressed desire to be ingratiating, but whenever I receive an article for a magazine from a 'name' author, I find myself going back to his or her books. In the case of Robert Anton Wilson, it wasn't so much a case of going back; he writes so much that I have trouble keeping up with his output. Anyway, his work has two great qualities for me. Firstly, they confuse me, which is good because I'm apt to be far too certain about things. And secondly, they make me think, which I don't often make time to do. Maslow would have liked Wilson; he makes you think you're at least capable of peak experiences, of great mental insights, even if they don't look that way the next morning.

However, in the synchronistic way that he makes things happen, he did afford me something of an insight into what I actually intended ETB to be about. I'd already given it some thought since the rather parched editorial in ETB 1, and had begun thinking in terms of the close of 'The Owl Service', a very grown-up childrens' book by Alan Garner. In this, much trouble and suffering ensue from a misinterpretation of a pattern on some plates; a pattern that can be rearranged two different ways, making two different artefacts. Throughout the book, they are believed to be owls, which come to life and wreck lives and relationships. At the end of the book, someone realises that they could also be flowers. If only they had known. Flowers Not Owls.

Wilson, who puts words into the mouths of his characters like George Bernard Shaw on speed, reflecting various of his ideas and desires, puts it a slightly different way, but says much the same thing; -

The future exists first in Imagination, then in Will, then in Reality.

Generally speaking, ETB is intended to be a combination of intelligent analysis, quiet humour, and reasonably objective research. But I will hope that we can keep a close eye on this one aspect on the basis that it might lead us all into danger. If too many people reach a consensus belief that the proverbial end of the world is at hand, then it probably will be.

Kevin McClure

