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## Of planets, creatures, and things

IF YOU want to show the world how smart you are, confirm it by quoting Latin proverbs and aphorisms ones easy to remember such as ad astra per aspera. which
 means roughly or reverently "to the stars through difficulties." and is the state motto of Kansas.
don't know what the Founding Fathers had on their mind (a state job. probably) when Kansas was admitted to the Union in 1861, the first year of the War of Northern Aggression, but the motto has wonderful aspirations (astra, aspera), keeping in mind that nobody in Kansas had yet gone to the moon.

The voyage and others like it are very much on the public mind as people ponder the possibility of life, perhaps even human life, on the two planets discovered now for sure in the system 1.500 light years away in the constellation Virgo. So the sun and its orbiting bodies are not alone in our universe. Is there someone else? as Adam said when Eve told him one night just to get lost.

I have always thought that we were absolutely alone, since constant probings of space haven't extracted a single human peep. After all, even the newfound planets are so far away that present telescopes can't reach them and

whet the desires of space creatures. if any, for frequent flier time.

But far more powerful telescones are supposed to be on their way. so it would be imprudent to make predictions and confuse the superstore tabloids in their stumbling retreat from truth. What we do know beyond cavil is that there are two plancts. each larger than Earth. whirling about a pulsar, or disfranchised star. called forgettably PSR B1257+12.

If there are humans around. theyre not talking.

Should this new planetary system exist. then others are bound to be grinning at us in the outback of the universe. The temptation is to go find them, but that is daunting. We could send Star Trek. yet the good ship Enterprise might bring back some frightening monsterlike humans of the kind that scare us witless one night a week on the idiot box.

There are things on this Earth far more deserving of attention than those so far away and free of earthly troubles
that they couldn't possibly get tangled in our miserable doings. If they did, anyway. Bob Dole would let the poor Clintons alone and sic Newt Gingrich on them. leaving Congress with nothing to do but scrounge among the deep pockets for more re-election funds.

There is the added threat of bodily harm to some nice guy if we don't quit messing around in space and send someone off to peril in the wild, blue yonder. (No matter how tempting. please include me out. I've had enough of flying at prevailing prices, and the astronauts may have to take airline food. if any, with them.)

Instead. let machines do the diry work. We have the skills to produce flying things that can reach out in space. Surely someone has produced or can produce a gizmo that would put an end to "If we can put a man on the moon, why can't we . . ."

All it takes for ad astra is for mankind to take another giant step. But this time on a treadmill. In the exercise room.

# The Future's 'Foolproof' ID 

## SYSTEMS BEING IMPLEMENTED TODAY

by Frank Allnuil Reprinted froms The Informer

Denver. Colo. - President Cliners has promisal a revofution in lie health care indusiry. Medicare's computer system is ouldored and inefficient and is buried under a mountain of ever-changing regichoors, matioal procolure codes. and fee schedules. Clinton wants everyone to have a liealli-care "Sinart Curd" The smart card woidd solve the bonkkeeping problerve in use health care indusvry.

The smart card holds so much chis. it ivould not ouly simplify the health care system. but could replace your ivallel full of credil cards, as well as cash. Your Social Scarity mumber could be your universal account number to buy and sell in tomorrow's castices sociecy. But what if yous sunan card is lool, suolen. or mintilatal beyond use?

Unauthorized use will bo impossible. The card owoers fingerprint or retina scan will be pengenunad into une silicon "brain." Il will be read by an electroric searning device. and must match the elactronic "read" of the bearti's lingerprints or retina scun. Only the rightul owner can use $n$ smort card.

There is all allsiver to the

Southem Califomia. and re. portally cosis abous 5.50 par ulit. The liffopet provides foolproof identifiention sinco it uulizes radio traponder. Il provides a meas of quictly locating lost pels and stray or stolen livestock. These implanted computar chips also are being used to track the bealth history of calle and swine, to identify racetrorse in Europe and monitor the migravion palera of salmon in Ure northwese
^ DestronIDI specifica. tions sheet on its lnjectable Transponder TX1400L describes the imiplantable chip this way:

Tine Injeclable Tmasponder la a passive radio-fre. qualacy identification lag. designod to work in conjunction with a compatible redio-froquency ID reading aystem. The trantionde convists of an electromagneuic coil, tuning capacitor. and microchip sealed in a cylindrical glass enclosuro. The chip is proproyronmod with a uniqua $\mathbb{D}$ code that cannot be altered; over 34 billion individual codo numbers are available. When the tervpander is acoiveled by a low-froquency radio signal. it tronsmits the ID ande to the raxding ayatem.

Although specifically de-
The Implantable Blochip has replaced tags on digs and cals, and brands and cowbells on cattle. It is belng marketed by Infopet of Southern California, and reportedly costs about $\$ 4.50$ per unit. The Infopet provides foolprogf identificallon since it utilizes radio transponders.
iuchil criciove cussad by a kint. sioleth. or mudaial singot and Tie locturolngy is here toding. and conld the pui inlo tolivend usage in the very ners future. It is tre Inplantable Biochip. The biochip is about lie sizo of a lorge grain of ṇce; and it is currendy being implanted in animals with a needle, just wida the skin.

Acuording to fum Seller. the praidert of Descron IDI. the Boulder. Colorado firm that onenuractura the tmplaniuble Biochip. the biochip pas re. jwned lags on dogy and ale. and brands and cowbells on catle.. The biochip is beingmarketed by Infopet of
siporal for injouiny in resinsis. dhis stisusponder can be used for oflier applicntions requirling a nuicrusizal iklanifionion tay.

Thic Implantable Biochip could contain your Social Sccurity nuinber and all your health records. (inancial records; police record, and your religion ... . everything about youl The Implanceble Biochip is a ractio tarsponda (which oever neede bellarica or rephosiera). a persimay bo trecked when chis aystem is integrated with the nawrorts of twelve communications ialellites that now orbit the carth This link-up could provide
virtually instantancous worklwide compler rexpoian of micochip omespondar sig. nals from anywhere on the planet. There is a locater progerm now opersing in the satellite network li incospo ratca en exporsive traponder that can be carried thy back country skiers. hikers, and ables who vernet intorande arens.
Tun Willard, execurive of. ficer of the World Fururo Society, a Weshington D.C. ofganizaion that claims 27000 members worldwide, told the Marin Independens Journal that the technology behiad
 uncomplicated" and with a lirle refinamore could be uood in a varicty of bucren applications.
"Corocivably," he said, "a number could be assigned at birth and go with a person throughous life." He ald a microchip would moel likely be implanted on the beck of Ure right or lest hand for converience. "so that it would be eavy to scan."
lio went on to explain." "It could be used as a universal idenuification card that would replace credit cards. peosports. that snt of thing .. . lt could bo programmed 10 sepleca a medical alert brecelet. For exainple, at the scene of an accidcue, a medic could sean the persorit to fund out his or har recent medieal history, alleryics, or a relntivo to get ln touch with. This would the csuccially valunble if the persull was unconscious. The microchip could also replaco the need for house and car kcya."

Jack Dunlap, a privataiavestigator in Ticson, Arizone. hes corne up with a coriccin for a lost child locator systern be calls "KIDSCAN." li incor. porated an implanted biochip that ransmits a signal that bounces off a satellite to compuler scruan arep ex polios icerchuniters. A parent with a missing child could call the police. give the KIDSCAN Social Security number and have the child urach

Willerd believes today's miarochip will be repleood in the next docado by a biochip made our of living provic "It
will be infinitely amoller and have the caproity to carry much more infamation" He added thon it would have the porenoid for "a renge of functions thet will boggle our ininde. Bue it

Frouk Ntrees peblishes The Informer. For more informa. dow wries 20 The Informe. PO. Box 370232. Denver. CO 00237-0232. Allnumalso co. hoscs "The Truch Behind the

News" aired Sarurdavs on KRKS with Spunce O. Nook and is a Cirrent noars Nia. lyst.

## Universal identification system could be implanted on the back of the hand


will cany with it the denger of abue. pericalarly the lows of pasoral privecy."
According to Willsd, a human microchip ID system "would work bea with a bighly centralized computer syzem where one identlfication number would gain cocess to modicd and andmio recorde home security - all kinds of things." Willard anys that research is underway lo develop aliving bioctip" This tiodip - arode from living protein "conld be sepoilly bropleved In tho trieion rovideng ti poceibive lo program or uploed an unUmitod emours of information into the mind - withoul having ever cracked open a book"

Cirlaciras av faniliar wids scripture that warne of a time when many will awear allc. ginnce to and worship the Altidirist in exdrange for Ule "uliak of Uic bence." It is ouly widt this inark that puoque will he athe lo buy or sell. One:
 enrd or Implantable Blochip will bo the mark of the bensl. but they oerninly ane procercoss. 1

## - MICRO CHIP IMPLANTS -

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In this way there will be no chance of your valuable finercid infarumion falling inoo the wrourg hand. It will be so easy 10 do all your finercial ofrereciones. The aged and infants first and then everybody. The Book of Revelation is trua . . .

Come one, come all. slep righl up and get your micro chip implent, good for anything that ails you.

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 gives vital information as well as locnilon marker. I belicre Ulis chip is the MARK it talks ohout in Revetacion 13: 15-17. Thie ivord for inarls in Usc Grock is (Clumgurn) cul into or ncractrad intes.

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Escerpied from TRUMpat MINISTRIES, Dr. Cenl Sanders Jo.. - Ph (s00) Q3-62es.

## A mouse the size of a house?

Rodents were pretty big called Amblyrhiza inundata, 100,000 years ago.
"These rodents were absolutely humungous," says scientist Ross MacPhee. "The largest ones may have been the size of a large bear." roamed the Caribbean. No complete skeleton has been found.

Even so, Amblyrhiza doesn't win the size prize. It goes to Telicomys, a million-year-old rodent the size of a rhinoceros!

ASSOCIATED:PRESS

## BABRCBICY IUTROSIFB IDBATIPICATIO: LOCATBR

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DELVE REPORT JANUARY, 1995

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CARL SAGAN ... Extraterrestrials "would not look anything like us," he says.

## By BEN DOBBIN

Associated Press

I
THACA, N.Y - If aliens do show up, don't expect them to resemble the middling monstrosities on
Star Trek.
"Time for us to revise our views of repulsive!" says Carl Sagan, among the most energetic stargazers.
Organic molecules, the kind that life on Earth is dependent upon, "seem to be almost everywhere in the solar system beyond Mars," suggesting that "life and intelligence ought to be in lots of places," he said.
But extraterrestrials would "almost certainly not" bear any physical resemblance to humans.
"If you started the Earth over again, absolutely identical 4-1/2 billion years ago, and just let random factors operate - when a cosmic ray would hit a gene, which gene gets mutated - you might wind up with intelligence of great moral virtue, but they would not look anything like us," he said.
The sheer grandeur of the cosmos and the riddle about whether humankind shares some distant crossroads or voyages alone have bewitched this Russian garment worker's son since childhood.
And it's a wonder most children share, he says.
"My experience is that kids are naturalborn scientists. First of all, they ask the deep scientific questions: Why is the moon round? Why is the sky blue? What's the birthday of the world?
"By the time they get into high school, they hardly ever ask questions like that. My conclusion is that everybody starts
: out as an enthusiastic potential scientist and then has the science beaten out of them by society."
Sagan said his parents ("who didn't know anything about science") not only nurtured his sense of wonder, they also instilled a healthy skepticism. That mixture, he said, is the key to being a scientist.
Combined with mental agility and a flair for elucidation, it begins to explain his success in astrophysics, as both research-
er and popularizer.
The author of Cosmos, one of the mostwatched series in the history of U.S. public TV, and The Dragons Of Eden, which won him a Pulitzer Prize in 1978, scans the future of space exploration in his 29th book, a recently published Cosmos sequel called Pale Blue Dot. It visualizes man-
kind " $100,200,300$ years from now and
why it is central for our survival that we
be in space," he said.
Not just whizzing around in spacecraft. Actually settling other worlds.
Meanwhile, finding out whether humans are alone or not alone "is one of the most important issues you can imagine," Sagan said.
As for UFOs, lost continents and the like the world can ill afford such pseudoscientific twaddle, Sagan said.
"Nobody would be more interested than me if we were being visited by extraterrestrials, but I demand reasonable standards of evidence, just as I do in searching for radio signals," he said.
"We sometimes pretend something is true not because there's evidence for it but because we want it to be true. We confuse reality with our hopes and fears, and that is dangerous, not just on the borders of science but in politics and lots of other : places."


## Did Earth counterattack with virus?

When Ebola broke out in a monkey colony near Washington, technicians were reluctant to disclose all the facts (two who sniffed a vial of virus didn't want to be isolated in the "slammer'), careers and promotions were threatened, the buck was passed, and territorial battles broke out between. local, state and army authorities.

People are not automatons - they are affected by personal animosities, terror or naked ambition. The point is not that authorities are evil or even flawed, but that like any of us, in a crisis, their actions will be influenced by an array of motives, not the least of which is paralyzing fear.

Preston ends the book with a warning: "The emerging viruses are surfacing from ecologically damaged
parts of the Earth. Many of them come from the tattered edges of tropical rain forest or tropical savanna that is being settled rapidly by people.
"The tropical rain forests are the deep reservoirs of life on the planet ... (including) viruses, since all livịng things carry viruses. In a sense, the Earth is mounting an immune response against the . . . flooding infection of people, the dead spots of concrete all over the planet. . . . The Earth is attempting to rid itself of an infection by the human parasite. Perhaps AIDS is the first step in a natural process of clearance."
This book is an important warning for modern civilization. And it is not fiction.

Your holiday must include a look at The Hot Zone (Random House), a book by Richard Preston that tells a terrifying true story.
"Hot zone" is technical jargon for the area in which a deadly micro-organism is located. The book concerns the outbreak of disease caused by a mysterious class of viruses called the "filovirus." Arising in A rica, the Marburg filovirus kills 25 per cent of its victims. Another, called Ebola, is 50-to-90-per-cent lethal. A person who "crashes" with the virus suffers agony: bleeding through every body opening (including the eyes, which turn bright red); ejection of sloughed linings of the gut and intestinal tract from the mouth and anus; and liquefaction of tissue and organs.

For most of humankind's history, our numbers were small and we were widely dispersed, so the outbreak of a highly infectious disease would quickly peter out. But as human populations rise and people move from rural living into dense concentrations, our species now offers a huge protoplasmic target for an infectious agent.
Human populations juxtaposed with swine and ducks in China create a peculiar incubator for exotic flu viruses that cycle through these three hosts while exchanging pieces of genes and generating new viral combinations.
Similarly, tropical rain forests are rich in species diversity and encourage the creation of new organisms through shared hosts and exchange of genetic material. HIV, which causes AIDS, apparently arose in Africa when a mutant virus was able to jump from a monkey host into humans.
The Hot Zone documents the sudden appearance of filovirus in Africa and its rapid dispersal. Fortunately, it is transmitted only by direct contact with blood. A mutant that allowed it to be spread by a cough would create ar epidemiological nightmare.

# Brainwashing realities are tenifying enough 

## The Monkey-Puzzle Tree

by Elizabeth Nickson Knopf Canada, 277 pages, $\$ 27.00$

## By Matt Cohen

In the early 1950s, in the midst of the Korean War, the United States became aware that the communists were using brainwashing as a weapon. The CIA promptly began its own experiments in mind control. Not wanting to risk the political consequences of experiments on their own citizens, they hit upon the ingenious idea of using Canadians.
The experiments were carried out under the direction of Dr. Ewan Cameron, at the Allen Memorial Institute, a Montreal psychiatric hospital linked to McGill. 'Ihere, numerous patients were drugged, electroshocked, lobotomized and otherwise tortured on the pretext that such treatments would cure them of their mental illnesses.
In 1988, as the result of a lengthy lawsuit, nine of these patients received a settlement from the CIA for damages suffered.
Many articles and books have been written about Cameron's "experiments," most notably Anne Collins' The Sleep Room.
Elizabeth Nickson, whose mother was one of the subjects, now tells the story in fictional form in The MonkeyPuzzle Tree, her first novel.
This novel has not one central story but three. First there is the story of Catherine, the protagonist-narrator, a young journalist who has burned out early, and is crippled by fatigue. Finding out the truth about her mother energizes her, and allows her to re-see
her family history and to renew her relationships with mother, father and brother.
Second, there is the story of her mother, Victoria. A woman who started seeing Cameron for post-natal de pression, she became the subject of a series of brutal and vicious experiments whose object was to see if people can be "re-programmed" after everything they started with has been destroyed. Incredibly, she manages to reconstitute the details of her experiences in a diary - and the excerpts from this diary are among the best passages in the book. Thirdly, there is the recounting of the (real) lawsuit that was carried on by a Washington law firm against the CIA on behalf of those who suffered from these experiments.

The Monkey-Puzzle Tree is wellwritten and often exciting. Yet I wish that the balancing point between fiction and non-fiction had been elsewhere located, and that the dramas of mother and daughter had not been surrendered to the documentary material.

Surely what is so terrible about Cameron's experiments is the terror he inspired in his patients, the devastating effect on their lives and the lives of those who surrounded him, the way the government-sponsored lies and cover-ups that followed denied the reality of people's lives. Allowing that reality its fully imaginative scope should have been the centre of this otherwise remarkable novel.

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