

The Wave of the Future

Ted Kaczynski

June 13, 1970

VARIOUS PEOPLE have proposed that the cities of the future should be covered by vast domes to keep out the rain and make it possible to keep the whole city at a constant temperature, and there is little question that this idea eventually will be put into effect. There has been some discussion as to whether these domes should be opaque, so as to protect people from sunlight and such, or transparent so people can look at the sky. My own feeling is that they should be transparent. You might not think the sky is much to look at right now, but in the year 2000 it could be quite a different matter. I am referring to the prospect of cloud control.

At present, scientists have no control over the time that clouds are going to come by or the shapes they will assume. Sometimes there are so many clouds that there is not enough light outside, and sometimes there are no clouds at all; and their shapes are completely irregular and meaningless. It is not good for science to have no control over something. By the year 2000, however, it will be possible for scientists to control clouds so that they come over at regular, stated intervals and have predetermined geometric forms. For instance, the clouds might be cubical on Mondays, tetrahedral on Tuesdays, dodecahedral on Wednesdays, etc. The educational value of this should not be underestimated. And clouds will be timed so accurately that you will be able to set your watch by them.

Now, I can predict in advance that there are going to be some sentimental old ladies who will object to this. For instance, they will say there are some people who like to look at clouds, and they will point out that children like to imagine faces and animals and such in the funny shapes of clouds. They will claim that controlled clouds would be too boring to look at. However, this difficulty can not only be remedied, but turned to advantage. The scientists of the future will be able to make clouds move and change in definite patterns, so that they will make pictures and act out stories, just like television. Thus the clouds of the future actually will be far more interesting and entertaining to look at than those of today. In fact, there will be regular, planned, educational programing in the sky, which will help teach children all the scientific facts they will need to know to get along in the world of tomorrow. And cloud-vision will be even better than educational television, because people won't be able to switch to a channel with violence on it.

Remember, they are your clouds and they should be controlled for your benefit.

Another thing these old ladies and bleeding hearts worry about is that the advance of science and industry could destroy the world of nature. These fears are totally unnecessary. A National Park System has been founded in the United States to protect our plants and wildlife, and in the future our National Parks will be even better, far better, than they are today. For instance, in the year 2000 every animal will have a tiny radio transmitter permanently attached to it so that zoologists can keep track of its location and condition. This will enable them to help sick animals or those who get themselves into trouble. Biologists will change the terrain when necessary and will plant all the right food plants to make sure that animals get proper nutrition. (In fact, some of this is even being done right now, today, in a few of our national parks.) For a

nominal fee, the public will be admitted to the parks—under the supervision of trained guides to ensure that thoughtless persons do not damage our precious natural heritage. The animals may even have their brains wired so that they can be made to act out their quaint habits for the education of the spectators at a command from the guide.

The bleeding hearts and the ignorant old geezers who are still living in the past think the advance of technology could take away some of our freedom. But this is superstitious nonsense. Exactly the opposite is true. The science of tomorrow will make it possible to have far more freedom than we have today. In fact, by the year 3000, we will be able to eliminate all laws, because people will be fixed so they will never even want to do anything that isn't for the good of society. Each baby when it is born will have its mind adjusted by scientists so that it will grow up to be a healthy, happy, public-spirited citizen, anxious to be useful to the community.

And if anybody doesn't like all this, the psychologists of the future will be able to fix him so he does like it.

—THEODORE J. KACZYNSKI.

Phoenix Nest

Edited by Martin Levin

To a Resident Virus

Exit Pneumococci
Playing rough as hockey
With my nervous strings
Dizzying my psyche
Running 'round in rings
List while I'm ad-libbing
This litanic hymn
Tired of your ribbing
I am not a gym.

Exit Pneumococci
Running me all rocky
Bats with busy wings
Jabberwocky music
Like Miss Ella sings
List while I repeat it
What I said before
Hurry bugs and beat it
Out and slam the door.

—HOWARD DIETZ.

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If Walt Whitman Had Written It Today or I'd Settle for Leaves of Grass

I smell America smelling, the varied odors I smell,
Those of exhaust pipes, each one belching fumes as it should belch, blue and fierce,
The factories smelling strong as their smokestacks fill the air,
The abattoir smelling as it makes ready for work or leaves off work,
The cities smelling what belongs to them in their streets, the glue works smelling in the Jersey swamp,
The riverbed smelling as it flows to the sea, the dump heap smelling as it stands,
The brewery's smell, the garbage truck's on its way in the morning, or at noon intermission or at sundown,
The pervasive smelling of the gasworks, or of the sausage plant at work, or of the plane jetting and whooshing,
As we inhale what belongs to you and me and to none else,
Effluvium belongs to us all—we're a country of numbed noses, smog-filled, groggy,
Smelling with weary nostrils our strong malodorous smells.

—ARNOLD M. AUERBACH.

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The Ted K Archive

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