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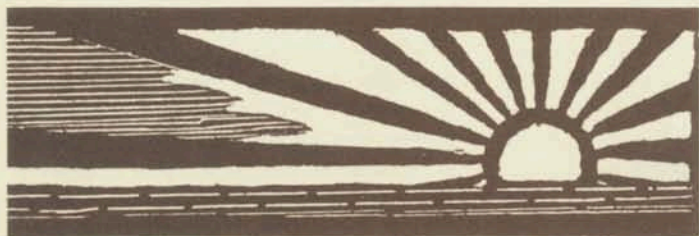
THE ILLUSTRATED NEWSLETTER

**JACQUES VALLEE:
ARE HUMAN
PROGRAMMERS
MANIPULATING
THE UFO
PHENOMENON?**

**MISSING FACTOR:
THE SAGAN-DRAKE
EQUATION**

**ERICH
VON DÄNIKEN
REPLIES**





THE INTELLIGENT UNIVERSE

by David Foster; introduction by Colin Wilson.
Abelard Schumann, London.

by Robert K.G. Temple

This small, easily-read book contains original theories of considerable importance. The author is a cybernetics expert and inventor. In his book he proposes that physical matter is "data" which is being "processed" by a cosmic mentality which by definition must be imperceptible to us. Foster suggests that the Sun is our local cosmic "programmer" feeding all organisms with hyper-dense codes which instead of being messages extended in a normal time sequence such as we use in speech or writing (or with our own computers), are like slices all conveyed at single instants by varying mixtures of frequencies.

Foster also discusses man's limitations through restraint by "the law of the Jungle." But he has a new slant on what that actually is: "A jungle is not a place where a lot of wild animals are fighting each other but is more like a bedroom in which all the species are basically asleep and only wake up at the call of painful alarm-bells such as hunger and take a little remedial action (purely 'anti-pain' motivated) and then doze off again. Thus a jungle is basically a peaceful place, *but it is soporific.*"

These ideas are all linked with a law of evolution newly propounded by Foster: "A species must not be allowed to change if it is the building brick of an ecological system in stable

Our Sun as Cosmic Programmer

equilibrium." Because man is half-animal, we are struggling to free ourselves from this and are threatened by "jungle sleep" or stupefaction in a manner ordained by nature for all species. Foster suggests ways to break free and be truly human.

Foster's thesis that the Sun is "programming" us is one of the most adventurous new ideas which I have come across in years. Foster first put forward some of his notions in 1965 in a journal and since then has worked on them and elaborated them, and it is to be hoped that he will go on doing so. One of his basic themes is that if we do not break free from our passive ecological niche, then "in this fashion Nature retained the 'understanding intelligence' for itself and does the programming" which we should really be doing for ourselves if we but had the initiative.

How many people do you know who are sufficiently motivated by their own minds to "be their own man?" Are we all slaves of an Intelligent Universe? Foster's bold ideas turn the tables so drastically that, if true, we would have been the butt of a cosmic joke for a very long time now. Perhaps I find these outrageous ideas appealing because I have been convinced for years that the Sun is an organism, and hence the idea of it "programming" us is exciting rather than startling.

Why should stars not be alive? If the Universe is intelligent, then we are very unintelligent if we do not begin to realize it.

*Note: This is the first in a series of retrospective reviews of important books which have not been newly published. **The Intelligent Universe** was published in 1975. It received almost no attention then or since. □*