future and anticipate major issues. The intelligents have a moral responsibility to do so, given that it is we who are creating this immense problem.

One of the final ironies of AI is that its long-term goal, which is explicit in the label of the subject itself, is to create an artificial intelligence (eight syllables) or an artifex [three syllables], but to dare, too few intelligents are talking openly about the consequences to humanity of AI succeeding, hence the title of this article.

Scenario 1
The following scenario is my own contribution to the artifex debate. I might not necessarily believe this scenario will prove realistic, but I find it plausible and interesting.

I see humanity being split into two ideological camps, which I label, respectively, the Terras [as they might colloquially come to be known] and the Cosmists.

The Terras
The Terras are the terrestrialists, that is, those people who believe that human beings must remain the dominant species on earth. All ethical systems to the Terras presuppose that human beings are the end and not the means by which actions are judged. The Terras will fear a possible takeover by the artifex or those human beings willing to be modified to become artifex themselves.

When artifex technology becomes capable of making genuinely intelligent machines, the artifex debate will reach its climax, and passions will be high. At this point, it is time to introduce the second ideological camp.

The Cosmists
The Cosmists have the opposite belief. The Cosmists will want to give the artifex the chance to develop themselves, escape their provincial terrestrial origins and venture into the cosmos, understand nature's mysteries, and perhaps search for other life forms in the universe.

At this point, possessing a good science fiction background is an advantage because nothing else will help. The nature of the subject we are talking about demands it.

The Cosmists will invent a new religion and will defend it with passion because they will feel they are responsible for the next stage in the great upward movement toward . . . toward what?

Our scientific knowledge tells us that it is virtually certain advanced forms of life exist out there some-

We could never be sure that the artifex would treat human beings with the same level of respect as we would like.

where. With our puny human brains and our frail human bodies, we are not equipped to venture forth from the cradle we call earth, but a suitably adapted artifex could.

The dominant source of global political conflict in the twenty-first century will be between these two groups.

Global communications in 20 to 40 years will be such that every person will be able to communicate easily with everyone else, at least in the rich countries. English will have become the world language and by then nearly everybody will speak it. Robots will have become so productive that material wealth will no longer be an issue.

Thus, the source of bitter ideological conflict in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, namely, between capitalism and communism, will fade away. Who cares who owns capital when there is a surfeit of material goods?

I see the Cosmists forming their own ideological, geographic nation-state (analogous to the way the Zionists formed the state of Israel) as a reaction to the social pressure against them from the Terran majority in most, if not all, nations. The Terras will be frightened that the experiments of the Cosmists will not only destroy the Cosmists but the Terras as well. The Terras will not permit the

ry, politically speaking, will be similar to the twentieth century, only the weapon systems will be all the more horrific and artifical.

However, a way out of this dilemma might be found. With twenty-first century technology, mass migration of people might be possible, so the Cosmists might be rocketed to some outer planet to do what they want with themselves.

Meanwhile, the Terras will arm themselves to the hilt and destroy any foreign body approaching the earth, being all too conscious of their greatest weakness, namely, their human intellects.

Scenario 2
The second scenario is probably more popular in science fiction. It is simply that the artifex will take over. Events might evolve too quickly for human beings to remain in control. If the artifex take over, it will be difficult to predict what the outcome will be. Perhaps they will treat us as pets and ignore us, as we ignore most creatures, but we could never be sure this case would be true. Perhaps, the artifex would quickly decide that their destiny was in space. However, the earth is a warm, cozy place in a bleak, black universe. Who knows? Perhaps they will decide that human