

## **Doctor Heidlin's Creation**

**By Margot Mohan**

In the year of Enlightenment, 6042, in a small laboratory, a man was bent over a strange device, absorbed in its interior workings. Drops of perspiration trickled down his face. Absent-mindedly he wiped his brow and continued fiddling with the small machine. After an interval of three-quarters of an hour, he stepped back, removed his spectacles and thrust his free hand into the pocket of his lab coat. He stood there without motion or expression for what seemed like an eternity, then he began to chuckle. His face illuminated with a crazed sort of exaltation, he started to dance about the room, laughing and whooping like a schoolboy. He picked up his creation and held it to the light. "It's simple really," he said, "but that's the best part, it's complicated in its very simplicity."

His machine was a smallish rectangular contraption that could fit comfortably on a man's outstretched palm. The outside had various antennae and odd wires going in and out of the central box. It had a sort of funnel-looking gadget on one end, and on the other was a small red switch.

When a person speaks, air waves are disrupted, and the sound waves travel through the air to reach people's ears. Now, this machine, when switched on, by a singular property, agitates the air waves in such a way that they become a barrier rather than a conductor of the sound, thus hindering people's ability to speak.

Doctor Heidlin, the inventor of this marvelous device, presented his invention to the Board of Directors of Misinformation. They applauded his creation, stating that it would be used to put an end to certain underground groups of malcontents, in which the Board of Leaders already had spies. Writing would not be a problem, as to fight against lies, both reading and writing had been banned a millennium ago. Dr. Heidlin agreed that this was a noble cause and that he would give the Board his invention. As he handed his creation to the head of the board, he told them that he would only give them this invention, his life's work, if they promised to only use it for the just and honorable cause mentioned. But no sound came out. He said it louder, nothing. He shouted it, but still nothing could be heard. He looked at the board to see a grim smile spread over the face of the leader of the board as he held Dr. Heidlin's invention, active, in his hand.