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Paranormal Science

The scientific community has been put on notice "that there is something worthy of their attention and scrutiny" in the possibilities of extra-sensory perception. With those words the respected British journal "Nature" called on scientists to join—or refute—millions of non-scientists who believe human consciousness has more capabilities for real perception than the five senses.

Last month "Nature" published a report of experiments at the Electronics and Bioengineering Laboratory of the Stanford Research Institute which concluded that information can be transferred and obtained, in the researchers' words, "by means of an as yet unidentified perceptual modality." In an accompanying editorial the magazine's editors conceded that this was a "high-risk" paper to publish, partly because one of the subjects was a performing magician named Uri Geller, whose reputation is deeply clouded by suspicions of fakery.

But the point of the Stanford experiments was not any alleged clairvoyant ability of Mr. Geller; on the contrary, the authors conclude that "it may be that remote perceptual ability is widely distributed in the general population, but because the perception is generally below an individual's level of awareness, it is repressed or not noticed."

Scientific orthodoxy has grown increasingly remote from the interests and beliefs of a generation of Americans. Apart from the junky "pop-occult" literature, the shelves of any college bookstore give testimony to the interest in serious but long neglected thinkers from early in the century, like Gurdjieff and Ouspensky, up to contemporary writers as diverse as William Irwin Thompson and Carlos Castaneda. The epithet "non-scientific" is no longer a sure ticket to oblivion.

Perhaps an analogy can be drawn with the reactions of big industry to new energy sources; like unorthodox ideas, these tend to be dismissed for their incompatibility with the existing patterns of investment and thought. The energy industry at least has capital plants and markets to protect: the essence of science should be receptivity to new ideas.

The editors of "Nature" have taken an important step to stimulate scientific discourse, openly posing the issue

EDITORIAL

DATE: 19 November 74

TO : Russell Targ, Stanford Research Institute
Hal Puthoff, Stanford Research Institute

FROM : Lt. Walter Konar, Investigations
Stanford Department of Public Safety

SUBJECT: Homicide Case #SR74-2163
Re: Hella HAMMID

Confirming my telephone conversation with Russell Targ, Tuesday, November 19, 1974, 1000 hrs., I am writing a brief synopsis of my observations of Hella HAMMID in connection with the observations/impressions that she provided on the afternoon of November 6th, 1974 at the Stanford Memorial Church.

Hella HAMMID provided a series of accurate and precise impressions of events, locations and descriptions of factual evidentiary knowledge, which in most cases, were never revealed to the press or news media and known only by the six officers of the homicide investigating team.

Upon entering the church, Hella precisely indicated a series of pews as the location where the victim sat. The investigating team determined that the victim did in fact sit in that area prior to her death. (This location has never been publicized.) Hella then proceeded to the East apse and declared that the homicide occurred in that area. (This was correct; however, this fact was publicized in the media). Additionally, Hella provided a very precise and accurate description of the victim, including height, weight, clothing etc. (The description of the victim carried by the news media showed only an old photograph; there was never any mention of a physical description or clothing.)

Hella was questioned regarding the weapon and the manner of death. She precisely indicated an area (left base of skull) which was exactly the point of entry of the lethal wound. She indicated an absence of a weapon and a very "clean murder"; again, this observation on the "weaponless aspect" is most significant because the location of the stab wound was never made public and at the time of the initial investigation, no weapon was found, however at the post-mortem examination the weapon was found imbedded in the victim's skull and brain.

Having been present at the time Hella made her observations and impressions, and being a member of the investigating team, I acknowledge that Hella has a remarkable ability to accurately describe locations and specific evidentiary facts connected with a crime which occurred approximately two weeks earlier, of which certain facts were never made public.

Walter S. Konar
Lieutenant

W.S. Konar

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