

Alternate Horizons Newsletter

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE FOUNDATION FOR PHILOSOPHIC ADVANCEMENT

VOLUME TWO

WHOLE NUMBER ELEVEN

NUMBER FIVE

COMMENTARY: AR

Finding her voice the girl screamed and, writhing, pulled herself free once more, but it was no good because there was another one at the other end of the alley. Through her terror she vaguely heard a truck pull up.

Meanwhile Merlyn, the court magician, made his excuses and hastily departed the throne chamber. Looking up and down the hall to see that no one followed, he unlocked the door of a small room, entered, and relocked it. With experienced finger he flipped a switch, turning on his radio.

Which makes it quite clear why, after the seance, the medium and two others stayed behind. Again she entered a trance and the familiar voice came through as usual; as expected.

And at a point that was no point, beyond space, beyond time, a hand that was no hand turned a dial that was no dial, and a voice that was not really a voice at all giggled.

//////////

I wonder how many of our readers at this point...with this, our eleventh issue of the Alternate Horizons Newsletter...really understand what we are trying to get at. In our first issue we said that we didn't know what we were talking about. We were stabbing, shooting in the dark at what might be all-important to humanity as a whole. We have come a long way since then, but as far as any final, clear answer goes, we still cannot claim to know what is going on. Having arrived at this point in time and circumstance however, we can offer some observations.

For one thing, Chet and David are in trouble. By this we mean that the alternate reality mystery constitutes a challenge to the widespread concept that we pretty well know the score with regard to what is and is not reality. The threats are easy to see, if not so easy to avoid, and similarly the finer points in life are well known if not always accessible to everyone.

In this secure world items like little men, flying saucers and other worlds beside our own but continually interplaying are not in the best of taste. If they must be considered at all, then by all means they must be considered in the most conventional terms reasonably available. It simply would not do to think that everything we do and say might be observed or...perish the thought...actually influenced from the outside. It wouldn't do at all.

Ultimately, such reasoning, although it contains a grain of truth, has to be wrong whether there is anything to AR or not. It is somewhat abstract, but as I see it the fact that there might be something to the AR evidence...and indeed there might...in itself negates the type of thinking that says, for all practical purposes, that there simply isn't, or that constantly looks for the intellectually easy way out.

But, existentially, attitudes are what they are. It isn't easy to talk about the possibility of real, honest-to-Crowley magical practice or natural reality warps at the North and South Poles in a world that is so damned gung-ho on getting a good job with a good education. Even the reported increased sales of spirit writing boards and the like provide at best only favorable portents; not major changes....although in the long run they may herald just that.....IF THEY DON'T FORESHADOW A NEW DARK AGE.

This may sound rather mystical even to readers who are fairly "in". In a sense, I freely admit it; AR is an attempt to revive serious discussion of matters presently relegated to the realm of superstition.

But, there is a difference.

From our research there seems to us to be an inherent "removal" factor involved in the study of the strange phenomena we included under the title "ARish". There may be some great and mystic reason for this, but I think part of the reason lies in the conventional attitudes of society as a whole. You become somewhat "removed" from the "normal" frame of reference as soon as you take an interest in these phenomena. To some extent I would think everyone reading this has had this experience. Imagine greeting your cousin newly arrived from Peoria with "UFOlogists are investigating a flap of Fortean sky-falls." Your cousin, rather than commenting, would probably eye you strangely and take the next flight back home.

This much any fairly intelligent middle-of-the-road UFOlogist should be able to see. But the deeper you get into all this, the less able you seem to be able to communicate what you are doing to people with less research behind them. Back in my somewhat more skeptical days I was taken aback when a man, after a meeting in which I and some others had made light of certain matters, said something to the effect that I "wasn't advanced enough" to understand these things. In my present opinion, he was quite correct on this particular point.

I have reason to think that throughout history there have been people, perhaps many people, who have become quite 'advanced' in this but have in the process become out of touch with humanity at large. Thus, though they may have solved the mystery themselves to their own satisfaction they have been unable (perhaps unwilling, in at least some cases) to communicate their discoveries to others, and in a general sense the mystery has remained a mystery.

AHN is an endeavour to provide the necessary bridge back to Chet and David. In the eleven issues printed as of the publication of this issue we have tried to talk about penultimate mysteries (penultimate, because with Fort we say that great mysteries tend to merge away into other mysteries) in reasonable human terms. We have not met with total success, but hopefully we have thusfar been able to conduct advanced research while still retaining a corridor of communication with the everyday world. It is no easy task.

In our next issue, which will conclude Volume Two of AHN and will hopefully precede bigger and better things for this publication, we would like to publish a selection of letters of comment, critical or otherwise, from our readers. We have stated here some of the problems we have and the issues we are dealing with from our standpoint. Hopefully our next issue will contain something of the same from the perspective of the readers. Short letters are preferred for fairly obvious to obvious reasons. Please state that your letter is for publication in AHN. Address communications to:

Alternate Horizons Newsletter
2875 Sequoyah Drive NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30327 USA

THE SKYWATCH VOICE

On Sunday, August 25th, 1968 a skywatch was held in the Metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia area. The office which serves as headquarters of the Foundation for Philosophic Advancement and other groups was the command post for this watch, held under the auspices of the Atlanta Watch Organization.

It was an uneventful watch, perhaps the most uneventful in this writer's experience. At approximately 10:15 PM, however, we received a call of an unusual nature. I answered the phone and almost immediately recognized that what we had here was a "contact" type call. Without waiting to hear what the specific nature of the message was, I handed the phone to Mr. Frank M. Campbell, III who was sitting across the desk from me. As far as I am able to tell my impulse to do this was based on the desire to have confirmation of the call.

As Campbell listened I quickly activated a tape recorder on hand for the watch, and handed the mike to him. He managed to pick up a brief portion of the weird message. A part of that recording...which was made under less than ideal circumstances of a message which was difficult to understand in the first place...appears to state, "...you will discontinue this project or reap the result(s)." The project in question was apparently the watch or the watch program.

The message, hoax or not, was technically impressive. It included a rather convincing voice speaking in monotone, with a background of some type of electronic noise. It was all the more convincing to me because of its similarity to another "space voice" which I had heard on a tape furnished me by UFOlogist Timothy Green Beckley, and apparently being similar to other messages in one or more respects as well. It is interesting to note that, to my knowledge no one but Mr. Beckley of New Brunswick, New Jersey and myself knew that I had heard the earlier tape. The similarity is remarkable. While it is possible to duplicate the effect, it remains of an impressive technical calibre.

Shortly after the experience, several of the "witnesses" present at the office, including myself, made statements for the record. I stated:

"....the date is August 25th, 1968, Sunday evening, approximately 10:31. We are in the course of a UFO watch under the auspices of the Atlanta Watch Organization; we are at the UFO Sighter office in Atlanta. Approximately 10:15 PM of this evening I answered the phone, "UFO Sighter," and received a — the beginnings of what appeared to be a strange message which I recognized as of the type of the Delong message. I quickly handed the phone to Mr. Frank Campbell, who listened in...."

The "DeLong message" referred to is the tape Beckley provided. Mr. Campbell stated:

"....on the date and time specified by Mr. Greenfield he handed the phone to me. The words preceding the recorded part had to do with the fact that our watch was making the landing of these people or the people whose voice we heard impossible. The background directly over the phone appeared to be the same type as of a computerized network."

Also present, and commenting for the record, was J. W. Adams of the Preternatural Variables Investigation Agency. During an investigation earlier this year Adams and the present writer heard similar sounds to the background of the phone message via radio in an allegedly UFO-active area. This may or may not be of significance. The sound in question, it seems to me, is not unique in and of itself in radio experience (try tuning a multi-band set for odd noises), but the comparison bears noting. A radio experiment after the phone incident was inconclusive.

It was, I believe, considerably earlier in the evening that I had postponed the watch, technically, until a later date. However, there was no direct public announcement of this. Several persons at least, continued to participate after that technical postponement; notably at the office.

In analysing this incident, it is first well to note the considerable possibility of a hoax of one sort or another. This type of phenomenon...an anonymous voice on the telephone during a publicly advertised event...could well be a prank of some sort. Several direct - if somewhat remote - possibilities have occurred to me.

There is, however, some evidence tending in the opposite direction.

We have previously noted the similarity to the Delong tape. It is possible that the similarity is only due to the similarity of many such messages. This in itself could be interpreted in more than one way. But, whether this is true or not the fact remains: They are quite, quite similar.

It is not inconceivable that someone knowing about the Delong tape and perhaps my own interest in it could have made the call, but the circumstances are such that I tend strongly to doubt this.

There is also an admittedly mild structural reason for rejecting the hoax thesis. This structural matter involves a particular term allegedly used by the caller which somewhat lessens the likelihood of a hoax.

It wouldn't stop at least some people, to be sure, but it is also appropriate to mention that making threatening calls such as this do bear some potential consequences for the caller. Perhaps legal; perhaps moral; perhaps UFOlogical.

Whether there is anything to it or not, I don't know. If it was someone 'out there' I owe him credit for pulling our otherwise bland skywatch out of the jaws of boredom. Perhaps an explanation will be found, though I rather doubt it.

Mr. Frank M. Campbell, III, mentioned above, may be reached at 3671 Shallowford Road, Apt. A., Doraville, Georgia, 30040.

A follow-up "rain check" watch the following Sunday, September 1st, produced no appreciable results.

.... Editor

PAPERBACKS RECOMMENDED FOR AR GENERAL BOOKSHELF USE

Witchcraft in the World Today by C. H. Wallace, Award Books, A 269 S, 75¢, First Printing, 1967.

New UFO Breakthrough by Brad Steiger and Joan Whritenour, Award Books, A339S, 75¢, First Award Printing, 1968.

Alternate Horizons Newsletter, Volume Two, Number Five, Whole Number Eleven. Editor: Allen H. Greenfield. Mailing address: 2875 Sequoyah Drive NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30327 USA. Subscription through private mailing list. Available to public: back issues and single copies as supply permits, 50¢ each. Single free sample copies also available, as supply permits, to public. PNV report forms are available to public in reasonable quantities, as supply permits, free of charge. AHN is the official publication of the Foundation for Philosophic Advancement, a non-profit organization founded in 1966.