

The *Update* WOODREW

GRETA WOODREW/DICK SMOLOWE • 448 RABBIT SKIN ROAD • WAYNESVILLE, N.C. 28786 • U.S.A.
A.S.T.A.R. FOUNDATION publication: Donations Tax Exempt • (704) 926-3440

MAY/JUNE 1985
VOL. 4, NO. 5

SPECULATIONS ABOUT STRESS



It is our observation that the human species is under greater stress today than at any other time in history. This applies to all people, regardless of geographical location or economic status. Tensions are causing problems that result in wars, violence, marital breakups, immunological breakdowns and a general feeling of frustration.

Historically, there is palpable stress and nervous tension at times of syzygy: the time when the full or new moon is aligned with the sun and the earth. At these times, the sun and moon pull together, causing heightened tidal and electromagnetic oscillations on the earth. When there is a coincidence of cosmic cycles like those that cause extreme tides, the human organism is bombarded suddenly by a massive disturbance of gravity and the surrounding EM field. The disturbance dramatically shifts the equilibrium between our inner and outer worlds.

Interestingly, statistical data draws a correlation between periods when there is a full moon and increased stress. Some of the reactions, as documented by psychiatric institutions, hospitals and police, include:

- *Outbreaks of violence.
- *Emotional disturbances among the mentally ill.
- *Increased birthrate.
- *Excessive post-operative bleeding.
- *Increases in individual metabolism rates, tension, anxiety, turmoil.

The medical sciences are prone to ignore such coincidences. In the absence of any absolute scientific proof, let's conjecture together about this phenomenon. The human body is more than 3/4 water and, like any body of water, it responds to the influence of celestial bodies. Anthropologist Lyall Watson says in "Lifetides": "Each of us is like a mobile museum. The fluid in our bodies is a perfect replica of the ancient

sea. We still carry that ocean around inside of us, trapped there like a living fossil, and in each miniature internal sea, the same struggles go on much as they did 3 billion years ago."

At the time of a full moon the same tidal effects that pull at the oceans also disturb the water within us. They heighten the blood flow and rhythms within our bodies, requiring us to be solidly grounded to function normally. Those whose neurological systems cannot handle the increased energies often respond with the sort of behavior described above.

We can scientifically measure the EM changes within the atmosphere. Yet we can't (or won't) relate them to changes in our attitudes, dispositions and biological well-being. We are unable to detect and measure gravitational waves so we are completely in the dark about how they affect us.

The effects of EM waves on the human are just beginning to be explored and understood. A new age scientist suggested recently that with the morning weather report we be given the changing levels of EM waves so that we can factor them into our understanding of our feelings that day. (All of us have had the experience of going to bed feeling great...getting a good night's sleep...and waking up in the morning feeling depressed and low. A change in the EM waves during the night??)

It is our bold hypothesis that among the causes for the increased stress we all feel are increased radiations, both gravitational and electromagnetic, that bombard us daily. The solar system's travels through the Milky Way that will bring us a "New Age" are also bringing us radiation changes. It is these changes in the 'energies' that will propel us into the very bright golden age of tomorrow, but first we must adjust to them.

MARRIAGE and the SINGLES SCENE

The morality of the '70s and '80s is a far cry from what it was back in the Dinosaur Age when I was a girl. That is not to say that one was right and one wrong, but rather that it is very different. Males and females, for example, did not openly live together unless they were married. They did not openly share room, bed and board without benefit of clergy. They didn't openly travel and vacation together unless they were sporting wedding bands. And when two people joined in holy matrimony, the woman took on the husband's last name with pride and joy. One or both wore wedding rings, to proclaim their status.

Times have changed. Today, many young people are prone to living together and "working things out" before exchanging vows. It seems to me that not too much has been accomplished since the divorce rates have risen rather than fallen, and those who lived together before marriage have a divorce rate on a par with those who have not.

What gives me pause for reflection is not the fact that men and women live together, but what they take from the situation into marriage when they finally tie the knot. There appears to be a "his" or "hers" syndrome rather than an "our" mentality that comes of just living together. Each party has his or her own possessions and bank account. Sometimes they will share a credit card for things that involve them both. They might split the rent and food bills and carefully divide the telephone bill. It is really not a couple's mentality but roommate's. Well and good. But what happens when these same people go into marriage?

Many newlyweds..of all ages..have passed through Reisha Way these last two years. Some seek cosmic connections, some seek advice, and many are downright curious about two people who have lived and loved together for over 32 years. Shared dialogues reveal that they have a "singles" mentality in many cases. Each jealously guards his own checkbook, his own collections, his very identity. Where is the "our" in all of this? If getting married means pulling in harness together, where is the togetherness if each partner has such an individualistic point of reference? It worries me. Will it change overnight to an "ours" mentality just because "I do!" was said? This

ψ
W

has not been our observation. To the contrary. (Where my own children are concerned, I have little doubt that their parents' antediluvian approaches will serve them well. But then again, we count our blessings on that score; our off-spring appear to want no less than we have enjoyed, old-fashioned though we may be!) Where is all of this leading? It is one more sign of the times that requires us to think and relate.

"To Have Been or Not To Have Been"

A 1982 Gallop Poll showed that 23% of Americans believe in reincarnation. A particularly healthy contingent of believers live in California. If our Hollywood stars and celebrities are more visible than equally firm believers from other fields, it is because the media has turned the spotlight on them. Reincarnation is alive and well with the movie set, and some of the previous lives revealed are quite startling. Sylvester Stallone feels he was guillotined by the Jacobins. Glenn Ford says that at one time he was a Christian martyr named Flavius and a British sailor at another. Loretta Lynn claims to have been a Cherokee princess in one of her six prior lives, and Shirley MaLaine was a court jester in one life and a prostitute in another: "It is no accident I played all those hookers!"

Many have had past lives unfurled though either hypnosis, regression, trances or through simple deja vu experiences. Actors make good hypnotic subjects, and actress Anne Francis, author of the mystical book, Voices From Home, writes: "Anyone who is artistically inclined can tune into vibrations of a certain period." 

Prediction

The Mayan study of the sun resulted in the formulation of a 5,124-year cycle of civilization. According to the Maya, 1987 begins "the hell period" of our civilization, when earthquakes will literally rip the earth apart. The MAYAN work was based upon planetary studies.

ψ
W

There is an international interest in music in medicine. In Norway, scientists are bombarding mentally retarded and spastic children with audible low-frequency sound waves. These "music baths" successfully induce sleep and relaxation.



MOUNTAIN MUSINGS

It's fun to give the unusual a try, particularly when it meets with outstanding success. Greta and I recently participated in a water dowsing experiment—and we struck a gusher! The well-diggers stopped counting the flow at 45 gallons per minute. That's enough to supply a small town. We wrote about dowsing in the Nov/Dec 1982 Update, and recounted an experience in which we dowsed for a map location. But in that case we didn't do it ourselves. We only observed, and cheered the positive result. This time, Greta handled the dowsing rods and confirmed the location that the two experts were inclined to tap. But that's getting ahead of the story.

It began a while back with a European friend, Updater and S.T.A.R. supporter who purchased a 12-acre tract of land near Reisha Way. On the land sits a small cottage, supplied by a well that has a confirmed flow of one gallon per minute. The couple who live in that cottage were constantly running out of water. They despaired that nothing could be done to increase the water flow from the well to the cottage. Our friend, who plans to erect his own house on the beautiful land, decided to sink another well that could supply both houses. We talked it over and decided jointly to dowse for the proper location.

We called upon the Appalachian Chapter of the American Society of Dowsers, Inc. for help. Two wonderful men and great dowsers, Dr. John Shisler and Vern Peterson, answered the call. And on the big day Greta and I were on hand, as well as the couple from the cottage. (Alas, our European friend was abroad, and had to miss all of the fun.)

John and Vern had a number of different dowsing devices with them, from forked rods to 'L' rods and pendulums. The nicest part of the experience was that they were anxious for us to participate. Greta felt most comfortable with the 'L' rod. The men presented her with a pair they had fashioned from metal with handles in a sleeve that allowed the rods to swing freely. The dowsers traversed the 12 acres separately. Greta likewise scouted the site with her 'L' rods. All three arrived in agreement on a spot atop a small rise. Once consensus was reached, John took a pendulum to dowse for depth and flow. He stated that a 4-5 gallon per minute flow would be found at approximately 300 feet. Vern confirmed,

W

and we marked the spot with a stake. Greta was beaming like a Cheshire cat.

Several weeks passed before the well-digger came. His first comment to the cottage-dwelling couple was, "That's not the best spot to drill." We had all agreed to stand firm on the dowsed site. The couple now stated this intention loud and clear. Accordingly, the well-diggers' bit entered the ground at the spot marked by the stake.

I received a call the night they struck water. At 502 feet they had hit a gusher, over 45 gallons per minute. When I asked what they had found at 300 feet the answer was between 4-5 gallons. The well-digger, however, hadn't thought the flow was sufficient and had burrowed deeper.

Greta and I attended the next meeting of the Appalachian Chapter of Dowsers. Everyone was asked to introduce themselves and tell why they were in attendance. I recounted our experience with Vern and John. We were there, I said, "to worship at the feet of the masters."

Terrestrial Extras

They live on the energy of hydrogen sulfide, never see the light of day, and photosynthesis plays no part in their lives. Extra terrestrials? No! They are newly discovered terrestrial inhabitants, exotic creatures such as white crabs, giant clams, and blood-red worms nearly six feet long that protrude from white plastic-like tubes. They inhabit the area around the deep-sea thermal vents at a depth of 7,500 feet or more where no light penetrates. The first of these deep thermal vents (places where the earth's crust is spreading and creating new ocean floor through volcanic activity) was discovered by the research submersible Alvin in 1976 near Ecuador's Galapagos Islands. Since then, other thermal vents have been found off the coasts of Mexico, Washington, Oregon and in the northwest Pacific.

These ocean springs consist of chimney-like "smokers" spewing out superheated water (350 degree Centigrade). The great pressures at 7,500 feet below sea level prevent boiling and the mineral-saturated water turns smokey as it mixes with the surrounding cold, alkaline water. Marine biologists tell us that the chemosynthetic bacteria convert the hydrogen sulfide and carbon dioxide into organic matter, forming the base of the thermal spring food chain.

SUBSCRIBER Scribings

A most familiar and respected name to all researchers and interested seekers in 'healing' is Dr. Bernard Grad, our friend and fellow Updater. At our request for a Subscriber Scribing, he has written A Scientific Experience with Bioenergy which we are delighted to share:

"At the end of August 1985, I will have completed 36 years of research studies at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and will be leaving to take up further studies elsewhere. I also hope to spend a large proportion of time writing about my experiences and experiments. From the moment I began my graduate studies 40 years ago, I became passionately interested in research and I continue to feel the same to this day. I still believe that the world is a marvelous place full of secrets which surprise and enrich us when uncovered.

Immediately after receiving my Ph.D. in 1949, I was hired to work in the Gerontologic Unit of the Allan Memorial Institute of Psychiatry, McGill University. From the very first day, I had a problem: on the one hand, my position in the Gerontologic Unit required me to study problems of aging. Funds were available for these studies and an active program was pursued. On the other hand, I also had a keen interest in bioenergy and its various manifestations. This interest had both its personal and intellectual roots: personal, because for many years I had had perceptions of the presence of an energy inside the body and outside in our surroundings.

The intellectual roots of my interest were stimulated in 1948 when I came in contact with the work of Wilhelm Reich who described an energy, which he called the orgone, which had both organismic and cosmic components. He was working in Rangeley, Maine at that time, within easy reach of Montreal where I lived. Consequently, within a week of receiving my doctorate, I went to visit him.

I stayed a week looking at various phenomena which served as part of the evidence of the existence of this energy and I came away sufficiently impressed to decide to continue research in this field on my own. From 1949 to 1954, I spent my vacations and other convenient times in Rangeley, Maine attending conferences and other present-

U
W

tations by Reich. However, funds were not available for this kind of research at that time and this situation remained essentially the same over the years. Improvisation became a way of life for me as I continued to work in the bioenergetic field and I quickly learned to conduct experiments with what was at hand. Despite the difficulties, I learned a considerable amount about life energy.

The upshot was that I had two main interests: my studies on aging on which I worked using the conventional paradigm and my studies on bioenergy which had a different theoretical basis. This meant long hours in the laboratory: regular hours for the conventional studies and evenings, weekends and holidays for the life energy work. As stimulating as those times were, it was also a time fraught with anxiety and foreboding. After 1954 I had no further contact with Reich, except for one letter which he sent me. This was because the Food and Drug Administration of the USA had enjoined Reich from doing any further research with life energy, and not only with humans but even with animals. Later, he was arrested for disobeying the injunction and died in prison on Nov. 3, 1957. About 175 years earlier, Mesmer, a predecessor of animal magnetism associated with cosmic energy, which he called the Fluid, was so harassed by the medical and scientific bodies that he retired from public life.

In October 1957, I met a man who claimed to have a decade's experience of healing by the laying-on-of-hands (LH) in Hungary. His explanation reminded me of the mechanism Reich proposed for the operation of his device for accumulating orgone energy, the orgone accumulator (ORACC). By 1957 I had had considerable laboratory experience with the ORACC and so working with this man, who seemed to me to be a living ORACC, was a natural extension of my earlier experiments. Accordingly, on Nov. 2, 1957, the day before Reich died, we began a working association in the lab which lasted 7 years.

Although in the FDA treatment of Reich, I observed how some powerful institutions could deal with those who did not conform with the conventional scientific paradigm, I nevertheless proceeded with the studies on healing. When I began, there were two main trends of opinion regarding healing by LH: one was that LH was an ineffective procedure which, if it did appear to have

any effect, was due to suggestion or hypnosis. This was the official position of medical bodies since the time of Mesmer. The other attitude towards LH was several thousand years older. Although healings by LH were reported even before the rise of Christianity, such healings were considered miraculous because the Bible wrote that Jesus healed by this means along with other methods. However, Jesus did not consider healing by LH as miraculous; but this did not prevent Christians down to our time from believing so.

These then were the two attitudes which existed when I began my studies on LH. Between 1784 when Mesmer opted out from any further investigation of healing by LH and 1957 when I began my own, there were no reports on this phenomenon in the scientific literature. By 1957 I had the benefit of my contact with Reich's thinking and of my experiments with the ORACC. However, Reich himself did no experiments on LH and therefore, my studies followed directly on those of Mesmer, but with the advantage of almost 2 centuries of developments in experimental design and statistical evaluation of data. Most significantly, I avoided experiments with humans and concentrated on experiments with animals, plants and even non-living materials. In this way, I was able to eliminate the major objection to Mesmer's studies, viz., that their effects were due to suggestion or hypnosis.

After 7 years work with the healer (and by this time I had also had some experience with another), I came away with the conviction that healing by LH was not a chimera, but an objective reality, rigorously testable in the laboratory at many levels in animals, plants, water and other substances. I also came to believe that there was an energy or energy field associated with the healer's hands which was the origin of the effects seen.

In the years that followed I learned that the number of individuals with the ability to heal by LH and by other related means was far larger than I first imagined. I also learned that there were serious socio-economic and psychological obstacles in the way of a rational approach to the study of this phenomenon, a study which I believe would yield much to our understanding of how the living organism maintains and heals itself. Such knowledge would be of great

benefit to all humanity, including medicine which has to cope with an ever growing mountain of information, badly requiring synthesis. Without significant leaps in understanding, health care delivery will reach such a level of complexity and cost as to seriously undermine its efficiency.

These then have been some of my experiences of the last 35 years and my opinions stemming from them. Space does not allow me to elaborate further (for the Update). Looking back, I can hardly see what I could have done differently. And no matter what the problems encountered on the way, the joys of discovery and understanding more than made up for the lack of lesser rewards."



The wish for healing is half the health, the Roman philosopher Seneca observed in the 1st century. Today, modern medicine recognizes that the mind has the capability to depress the immunological system, thereby reducing and blocking the effectiveness of our disease-fighting soldiers, the lymphocytes. More and more of our major diseases are recognized as being psychosomatic, or caused by the mind unbalancing our disease-fighters through stress. At the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Dr. Steven Schleifer ran experiments that showed that the protective lymphocytes proliferate "significantly less" in severely depressed patients and the immune system is altered in patients with depressive disorders.

Health Foods Hazard



Not everything sold in health-food stores belongs there. The Center for Science in the Public Interest is particularly outraged by five products. Here is how the Center describes these products: 1-Joan's Natural Honey Bran Carob Bar: "The greasiest bar on the counter...no better than a normal candy bar." 2-Sea Salt: "Identical with regular salt and equally unhealthy when taken to excess." 3-Health Valley Spinach-Mushroom Casserole: "Light as a McDonald's Quarter Pounder. More fat than a TV dinner." 4-Hain Wild Cherry Gel Dessert Mix: "Sanitized Jell-o with no nutrients." 5-Hain Pure Coconut Oil: "Eighty-six percent of its fat is saturated...the kind that clogs arteries."

"Man's Inhumanity to Man . . . and Nature's Plan"

Climatologists attribute the cold wave that paralyzed the East Coast in January to high atmospheric pressures in northern Europe and Siberia that pushed cold weather south, encouraging storms to form in the Mediterranean and southern Europe. Snow fell on the Spanish and French Riviera for the first time in this century. Fred Ostby, director of the National Severe Storm Center in Kansas City, Mo. said, "One of the things we are seeing is more and more variability as time goes by. The longer we keep records, you would think it would get harder and harder to break them, but one of the things that seems a little odd is we seems to be breaking more records. There are wider swings between heat and cold. I'm not sure what it all means. It's wild."

Our favorite climatologist, Iben Browning, confirms these major shifts. In the last winter issue of Wealth magazine he wrote, "The Toronto 1940 climate will be found in northern Mississippi by 2010. Toledo, Ohio, had an 11-year running average 195-day growing season in 1930; now they have a 120-day season. In 1956 the southern portion of Russia, where most of the Soviet grain is grown, had a 100-day growing season. Now, our satellites show snow as late as the middle of June and as early as the middle of August in that area, meaning that they have a 60-day growing season for 95-day wheat. Although we won't have an ice age, increased volcanic activity will mean that it will get cooler. In fact, from the end of the 1930's (the warmest decade) to the year 2010, the temperature will drop about 2.3 degrees Centigrade, which doesn't sound like much until you realize the crop-growing areas move south about 300 miles per degree Centigrade-drop. It is getting cold again, very fast."

A Shortsighted View

Bucking the evidence of the broadening specter of scarcity that is appearing in more and more areas is an article in Boardroom Reports titled "Count on Plenty...not Scarcity." It states, "Water doesn't pose a problem." "No climatic catastrophes are in sight." "World forests are NOT declining at an alarming rate, though deforestation is troubling in some spots." The article certainly contradicts most information we have seen about our dwindling resources.

Take, for instance, a recent cover story in the newsmagazine MACLEAN'S of Toronto. "Each year Canadian forests are reduced by almost 2.5 million acres," the story reports. Further, "In a good year almost 250 million Canadian trees are cut to supply ...everything from houses to hairbrushes..." A serious, coast-to-coast shortage of mature, marketable timber has developed. "The possible liquidation of the dwindling stands of mature timber could destroy Canada's forest industry and create a wave of economic and social damage across the country. Experts say that the shortage of commercial timber is a direct result of waste, mismanagement, and a shortsighted attitude within the industry."

What is possible and what is probable are very different. Canada is a developed, industrialized first world nation that recognizes the consequences of resource mismanagement. Yet, it is set on a destructive course. With sensible management, catastrophes and shortages could be postponed or averted. But that is not likely if too many people adopt the Boardroom Report's no-catastrophes-in-sight attitude...and don't act now.

Chile's worst earthquake in fifteen years occurred in March. The latest count includes more than 150 dead, 2000 injured and 160,000 families homeless.

A FARM Ψ UPDATE

Bank regulators have not forced foreclosure on Third World loans held by the big banks, but they have on the American farmer. Since 1981 about 20,000 farms have been auctioned off. Close to 60,000 mid-size American farms are technically bankrupt. A recent survey found that over 200,000 of the nation's farms may be in serious financial trouble, with another 140,000 already acknowledging extreme trouble. As reported in Business Week, many of these debt-laden farmers will be forced to sell this spring because they have exhausted their credit and will be unable to borrow enough to plant their crops. The Farmers Home Administration reports that 30% of the \$22 billion in loans extended to farmers are delinquent. It's not a pretty picture to contemplate.



Another Response

At the time we were recording our horror at Claude Pepper's bills, HR 6050, HR 6049 and HR 6051 (Mar/Apr '85), Dr. Norman Shealy, M.D., PH.D. of the Shealy Pain and Health Rehabilitation Institute in Springfield, Mo., a friend and fellow Updater, was also recording his disbelief. He expanded on the ludicrousness of the bills and we excerpt from his excellent article:

"The idea of abolishing quakery is indeed admirable. However, can any physician be certain that he or she will not be struck by this gestapo team for 'offering--unsafe, ineffective or unproven' therapy. The very language of these bills is terrifying in its implications. What is known? Who determines the definition of safe and effective? In my brief time as a physician, 'accepted' procedures have included such bizarre treatment as injecting lupus patients intramuscularly with their own blood or freezing the lining of the stomach of ulcer patients, both techniques done at major medical school hospitals.

These bills raise some very serious questions about medical and surgical therapy. Is there any procedure accepted by 100% of physicians as known and the treatment of choice? Even aspirin is reported to cause 10,000 deaths per year. If HR 6051 and HR 6050 become law, the Strike Force will surely abolish all over the counter drugs, all prescription pharmaceuticals and all treatments as none can be proven 'known' to be totally safe and totally effective.

The current fad for evaluating, judging, and condemning quakery needs to be put in perspective. Who is to play God? In 1978 I surveyed the deans of every medical school in this country with a brief questionnaire-- "Just what is scientific medicine? Who decides? If 51% of the physicians agree, does that make it right or scientific? etc." The answers were startling. There was no consensus even on such basic questions. Who is to cast the first stone? How many treatments do you know to be The One and Only, plus perfectly safe?

Science is a constantly evolving field. Today's facts often become tomorrow's quakery. Bleeding and purging were the rule in George Washington's time. Simmelweis was virtually rejected for his rational suggestion that physicians should wash their

U
W

hands before a delivery. Harvey's concept of circulation of blood was rejected by his academic colleagues. Osteopathy was vigorously fought by organized medicine for 70 years. Hypnosis was considered quakery until a few years ago. Less than 50 years ago, masturbation was denounced by physicians as causing, among other illnesses, epilepsy and insanity. The pendulum swings."

We recently spoke with Mr. Pepper's office on the status of these bills. The bills, we were told, were NOT acted upon by the 98th Congress (whose term expired at the end of 1984). They have to be re-introduced and given new numbers before the current Congress could act upon them. Perhaps enough of you have let your congressmen know your feelings on these bills and have helped propel them to a well-deserved death-in-Committee.

WHAT IS DEATH?

Three years ago we ran a front page titled ON A LIFE CONTINUUM (Jan/Feb 1982). It drew an extraordinary amount of comment. "You are not your body," we wrote, extrapolating on the theme that the vehicle (body) and the life force (soul) are two separate units: one with a very finite existence, and one with unlimited horizons. It was a 'think and relate' article concerned with a continuous existence on the one hand and this short lifespan on the other.

Recently, a piece by the Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, Herry Scott Holland, (1847-1918), was sent to us. His words on death resonated strongly, and we share them with you:

"Death is nothing at all. I have only slipped away into the next room. I am I and you are you. Whatever we were to each other, that we are still. Call me by my old familiar name. Speak to me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference in your tone. Wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was. Let it be spoken without effect, without the trace of a shadow on it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was. There is absolutely unbroken continuity. Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near, just around the corner. All is well."

Ψ W "Heuristic Thinking" : The Sixth Sense

Man's knowledge is more than the product of his five normal senses. No one recognizes this more than I, walking as I do between two worlds of equal reality. But even in the 'real world' in which most of us live on a daily basis, the most productive sense is the intuitive one, sometimes referred to as the "gut reaction". It is the key to the executive's successes. He is more receptive to the NON-verbal communication that goes on all around him. At a negotiating table, he tunes in to what is NOT being said...and allows his lawyers and accountants to interpret the words. Each person is constantly broadcasting the real facts about himself and his thinking, his feelings and his emotions. Intuitive executives fill the American businessman's Hall of Fame: J.P. Morgan, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Ray Kroc (whose lawyer told him it was a "bad deal": \$2 million for the MacDonald name!)

We know from studies done in Canada at McGill University by the Faculty of Management that the CEO has tested out to be a holistic rather than an analytical thinker. The results of a 5-year study showed a close link between the chief executive's intuitive and profit-making abilities. (80% of the CEOs who had doubled their company's profits proved to have above-normal precognitive powers.) Who has not used that gut feeling on many an occasion? The mother uses it all the time where her children are concerned and so does the teacher with students or the president with staff members.

We have been led to expect that men tend to operate naturally in the logical left half of the brain, and that women operate more naturally in the intuitive right half. What transpires, however, when you link up left AND right brain is a harmony between deductive reasoning (general to specific) and inductive (specific to general). Recently, a group of cognitive scientists took a giant step in debunking the myth of logical thinking as being superior to intuitive thinking. Heuristic thinking is intuitive, highly automated thinking and the predominant way that the brain actually operates. In other words, people do not review all of

the options and logically discard them, but very quickly zero in on the most likely solution by using their personal heuristics. They "jump to conclusions" successfully. Forecasters' and analysts' "hunches" can fall into this category. R.E. McMaster, Jr., the successful commodity trader and newsletter writer, admits that the best forecasts he ever made "...swelled up from subconscious distillation of all the material (he) had been analyzing which then burst forth in a rainbow of certainty."

Jasmina Wellinghoff, in an article called "Are You A Master Thinker?" for Northwest Orient magazine, says: "Ever since Aristotle, scientists and philosophers have extolled logic and deductive thinking as the only path to valid decisions and problem solving. Intuition was good enough for artists, perhaps, but when faced with a serious decision, you had better not jump to conclusions. Intuitive thinking was decidedly suspect."

Wellinghoff went on to comment that experts organize their knowledge into a hierarchy which is grouped into specific categories according to higher-order and lower-order. The higher-order categories are more broad and abstract while the lower-ones are specific and concrete. "With experience, the experts develop a network of associations and analogies that act as shortcuts between the levels of the hierarchy as well as within each level. When presented with a problem, they use the shortcuts to quickly zero in on the mental category most likely to match the new data. There is no need to systematically scan the whole hierarchy."

Where does all of this lead? Well, after all information-gathering and data researching, it may turn out that the "hunch" is still your best bet. I'd bet on it!

● ● ● ●

"We act in faith, and miracles occur. In consequence, we are tempted to make the miracles the ground for our faith. The cost of such weakness is that we lose the confidence of faith. Faith is not derived from nor carried by anything except its own reality."

Dag Hammarskjöld

The Woodrew Ψupdate: A S.T.A.R. Foundation publication. 1 year subscription with donation of \$30 or more to S.T.A.R. Back issues: \$4 each.

Information herein is gathered and condensed from sources believed reliable, but cannot be guaranteed as to accuracy or completeness.

Reproduction or copying of WOODREW ΨUPDATE is not permitted without written consent of the editors.

Copyright 1985: The Woodrew Ψupdate.

"When the world wearies and ceases to satisfy, there is always the garden."