



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH, INC.

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The A.I.P.R. News

Failing the Cause of Psi by Rod Garton

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Failing the Cause of Psi
by Rod Garton (pp. 1-3).
Rod Garton is a masters student in psychology at the University of Tasmania focussing on psi and subliminal messages. Our feature article is about an apparently precognitive dream he had prior to the removal of some 'rarely' used journals from the University of Tasmania's library.

Two Precognitive Dreams
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The following might interest readers as an example of psi dreaming that refers to psi research itself. The dream occurred on the morning of Sunday December 16, 2007, and was recorded (as a text file) that morning at 6:42:17 AM. As background, I'm studying at the University of Tasmania, where my supervisor's first name is Walter, a perceptual psychologist.

Dream: *"In the uni library, only it is more like a second-hand books library. I find volumes of a journal called Perception and Physics. I take one to my desk to read. Wondering who could have placed all these volumes here, I find a hand-written note that has my name and an old phone number on it, and the message to call Graeme. I think this must be from Wally. I sense a shadow ahead of me, as if someone is standing behind me. I don't look, thinking it might be Wally. The person goes*

to look over some shelves and sits at a table ahead of me. I smile at him, then realise it is some more official person at the uni. He asks "What are you smiling about?" I say I'm just browsing, meaning, not studying. I look over to the other side, where there might be a fight about to be started."

"It was a meaningful experience . . ."

My only associations to the dream at the time were, as I noted that morning, *"Have not been studying, and have been taking a lot of books to the Op Shop and second-hand dealers."* I had no associations to any of the particular images or actions in the dream, including the hand-written note, and have not known anyone called Graeme for about ten years. The title of the journal I recognised as a distortion of *Perception and Psychophysics*, for which I could think of no particular reason to dream about.

On the morning of December 17, 2007, I went to the uni library to return a book that I had borrowed over this time (entitled *Basic Processes in Reading*). After doing so, I went to the lab I had been using, and saw that the entire psychology department had been removed from its former building. I had heard that this was going to happen, for some purpose unknown to me, but was not prepared to see it in this rubbished state at this time. The lab was for some reason preserved from the general ousting; it was now only in an even greater state of disarray than it used to habitually be. Yet I there noticed, amid the plundered files and boxes, at the computer that I usually used, a book propped up against the monitor. It was a 1964 edition of J. B. Rhine's *Extra-Sensory Perception*. I assumed it could only have been left for me by Wally, my supervisor, as he was the only person with access to the lab who was familiar with my research in-

At My Desk

We have a couple of items on precognitive dreams in this issue. That's partly as a result of Colin Mitchell's article from the last issue on his personal experiences of paranormal dreams. The dream literature seems to support the age-old belief that psi can take place while we dream. There are two pivotal meta-analyses on *dream-psi*. The first is by Child (1985) on the so-called Maimonides series (15 in all), and the second is by Sherwood and Roe (2003) on studies (21 in all) collected after the Maimonides lab closed. Both databases contained large numbers of dream studies that produced significant evidence of dream-psi.

About two years ago, I looked at these two databases as part of a two-part series on the various parapsychological meta-analyses (see *Australian Journal of Parapsychology*, 6[1] and 6[2]). I found that the effect size difference between the two databases was not significant so I combined them into a single database of studies. This meant one could assume that the dream-psi effect across both databases was a consistent effect found in the same general way (as far as procedures were concerned)—kind of like testing two crates of apples to see if they are from the same tree or orchard.

There's no guarantee that grabbing a dream-psi study at random from this database would demonstrate a significant dream-psi effect, but over a period of 40 years, there is extremely strong indication of a target/dream-motif correspondence under laboratory conditions.

* * *

Got something to say about parapsychology or the paranormal? Submit your contribution to:

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Enjoy this fourth issue of
The A.I.P.R. News!

—Lance Storm

Failing the Cause of Psi (cont'd from page 1)

terests. Later, I saw it must indeed have been from him as he has written his name and the date (27.12.1976), with a fountain-pen, on the book's frontispiece. It was a meaningful experience, my return to the uni being greeted by a friendly sign.

It was only five days later, when reviewing my earlier dreams, that I recognised some correspondences between the event just described, and the earlier dream. These were in the ideas of (i) second-hand book, (ii) a title including perception, (iii) "my" desk, (iv) handwritten name and number,

and (v)

from

Wally; as

well as (vi) the general university context. The rubbished state of the lab also resembled the jumbled, "second-hand" state of the library. Placing the "source" of the dream to an event in the lab also rendered the dream's "shadow" element meaningful: I had recently (before the dream) reviewed an incident, occurring about a year earlier, in which another person had been sitting at that computer (wearing headphones, listening to music) as I partially entered the lab from behind, and she immediately turned around, as if she had sensed my arrival by some shadow I might have cast upon the monitor; the incident interested me as an example of possible psi-sensory interaction. In this way, it was only by referring other elements of the dream to the lab that this "shadow" element was intelligible.

Still, there was no close association with the ideas of

journal volumes in the library, the name Graeme, officialdom, and ambient conflict.

Following this experience, my morale in pursuing my thesis was somewhat restored, and I made regular trips to the library for books and articles. Yet I noticed that, each time I visited, the psychology journals were in a different place. This sparked off a seemingly irrational fear concerning the parapsychology journals that, on the night of January 29, kept me awake. I arose and, at 11:14:28 PM, drafted an

"an example of possible psi-sensory interaction"

email to the Library Liaison Officer in the psychology school asking what was happening to the journals, and specifically asked if journals such as the *Annales des Sciences Psychiques* were being moved out. I didn't send the email because, by the morning, I considered there was no basis to this fear: Surely the library, if not the school's library officer, would have consulted with us if journals were going to be removed. That this did not occur—and that I had not forgotten that it did—can be verified by, say, checking the online editions of the university's Library News, or asking other students.

In early February, however, from one week to another, all but one of the parapsychology journals were removed from the library. Metre-lengths of journals on phrenology, psychoanalysis, and sleep research—all fields no

longer studied here—remained for easy access. Did this signify some institutional attitude or personal whim against psi research? I wrote to the library's help-desk (13.2.08) to enquire what had happened. The next day, I received a lengthy reply from the head librarian, a Graeme Rayner.

He informed me that journals now considered to be "low use" were targeted for off-site storage and on-demand retrieval, to make way for more desks. Why this meant favouring the dead students of phrenology over the living ones of

psi remains a mystery, and further enquiries have only

been met with the usual Kafkaesque silences.

Here the correspondences with the earlier dream concern the name Graeme, with the same spelling, and specifically as a contact within the library concerning its journals; the official looking over the shelves of journals; leading to some official conflict against me, the emerging shadow now taking on more sinister connotations. As I was relying on those journals for my thesis-writing, it is easy to see how it would come to be represented in a dream.

Why, however, should the events have been precognitively represented? There was some personal function of the dream, perhaps, in motivating my return to the uni, and so leading to the dream's fulfilment, but otherwise it does not seem to have offered any psychological preparation for the events. More broadly, the psi-relevant ideas of

Two Precognitive Dreams by *Natasha Venkatasamy*

Rhine's book and the parapsychology volumes emerged in a psi dream as if psi were being self-evidential precisely at a time critical to its survival, both personally (in my studies) and institutionally (in its library presence). Clinical psi researchers (e.g., Eisenbud, Fodor) have previously noted such self-evidential psi dreams, their patients seemingly producing evidence of psi in order to impress or extract outcomes from their therapists.

It seems that the outcome here expected should have come from me, and the value of psi's presence in the dream to have been on behalf of psi itself. Ψ

After having read the "Role of Psi" by Collin Mitchell in the March newsletter, I just wanted to share this experience with readers. It has taken me a year to get over it.

I had two dreams approximately two and half weeks apart in October 2006. The first was a conversation I was having with my husband about his own funeral and that it should take place at his mother's as she would want it that way. The second was a vision of him handing over my daughter to somebody else. Words came through from an unknown voice and it said: "It'll be the 13th."

I woke up from both of those dreams in the middle of the night in a cold sweat. My husband was not there on either occasion as he ran a bakery. I had forgotten

"The dreams came back immediately with a wave of nausea"

about both dreams in the morning.

Approximately three weeks later, November 13th, he died of a heart attack in a bank. He was 40. I was sedated when the funeral arrangements were made, but the question was asked as to where it would be, since we had just moved into a new house a couple of months earlier. The funeral was held at the home

of my mother-in-law. She indirectly made me understand that it was what she wanted. I never mentioned the dream. In Mauritius it is quite an acceptable thing, especially when there are many families involved, which was my case. It was done accordingly. The dreams came back immediately with a wave of nausea.

I am still battling as to whether I could have prevented this had I remembered the dreams. However, as Colin Mitchell stated, I do believe that I had been prepared for this event psychologically. I hope that your research eventually answers my questions. Ψ



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The *Australian Journal of Parapsychology* features research articles on ESP (extra-sensory perception), PK (psychokinesis), and the afterlife.

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(see page 4)

The Australian Institute of Parapsychological Research is a non-profit community association. Based in Sydney but with a world-wide membership base, it was established in 1977. The aims of the organisation are:

- To collect, assess and disseminate factual information about claims of psychic (paranormal) phenomena.
- To support and encourage parapsychology (the scientific study of paranormal phenomena).
- To undertake or promote activities (e.g., fundraising, social activities, etc.) in support of the above.

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The Weird and the Wonderful by Hannah Jenkins

The **Parapsychology Association (PA)** and the **Society for Psychical Research (SPR)** held a convention in mid-August in Winchester, UK. It was the first joint convention held in ten years—usually the PA and SPR run independent annual conferences. Lucky for me, as it was the first one I attended. There was general agreement that the combined conference provided an especially lively, thought-provoking and congenial platform which encouraged much fruitful discussion.

The West Downs Centre of Winchester University provided comfortable lodgings and surprisingly good food. (I mean no offence to the host country, but my previous experiences with British food had left me wondering why the entire nation didn't suffer from scurvy and hardened arteries, and with breakfast, lunch and dinner included with the conference registration I'd feared I might not eat fresh fruit or edible vegetables for the duration!) But of course I wasn't

there for a culinary experience, nor to sample the delights of a cobbled British old Roman town, instead I had made the trek to present a paper and, I'd hoped, learn much from those who are active in the world of psi research—people who I'd read and studied and had great respect for. I wasn't disappointed.

I was nervous. I needn't have been. I was made to feel welcome by a wonderful mixture of the well-established and up-and-coming, all thoughtful, captivating people.

The papers were limited to 20 minutes and the content was intriguing, elucidating and varied—from new Google-book aided poltergeist discoveries to lottery prediction apparatus as well as the latest facts and stats from parapsychology. You can view the SPR abstracts from here: <http://www.spr.ac.uk/expcms/> and the PA ones will soon be available from here: <http://www.parapsych.org/>.

Max Velmans, Emeritus Professor of Psychology at Goldsmiths, University of London gave the banquet address, and he surprised us with two personal accounts of apparent paranormal phenomena, including that of a spoon bending experience. Soon after fire alarms went off just as we were all joking and sharing attempted spoon bending experiences and, errr yes, trying to make the dessert spoons bend. We pondered as we gathered on the grassy verge outside: A coincidence? Misplaced psychokinesis? Maybe you had to be there . . .

The President of the Laboratories for Fundamental Research, Edwin C. May, who is known for his extensive work in remote reviewing, gave the invited address in which he outlined the many challenges facing parapsychology: we need more funding, more recognition, less dissent, better theories, more explanation and application. He spoke poignantly about his attempts to publish results in *Science*,

confirming how impossible it still is to get mainstream recognition for parapsychology. And though it was hard to hear someone who has contributed so much to psi research so seemingly pessimistic about the future, he raised valid concerns which do require attention.

During the question time some pointed out successes that have occurred—the growing parapsychology community in the UK for one. So, it is not all doom and gloom. Instead I was left with the feeling that I'd made the right decision becoming involved in psi research—a gamble to be sure.

There are without doubt challenges ahead, but the field has already achieved much against significant odds and I think this is because it is peopled by these SPR and PA psi researcher types who I found to be not just academically rigorous, but thoughtful, funny, compassionate and insatiably curious. I am sure it will continue to do so. Ψ

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