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Bulletin of the William C. Menninger

DREAM LABORATORY

Number 2

Maimonides medical center

Summer, 1969

FIRST GARDNER MURPHY FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED

Dr. Gardner Murphy, a former president of the American Psychological Association and current president of the American Society for Psychical Research, has given the Dream Laboratory a special fund to allow college students to engage in research activities. The first students to be awarded the Murphy Fellowships are Donadrian Rice (Wofford College, S.C.) and Mildred Carbone (Hofstra University, N.Y.). Other students at the laboratory this summer include Richie Davidson (New York University), Gordon Goodman (Harpur College, N.Y.), Bill Hughes (Oregon State College), Gayle Miree (City College, N.Y.C.), and Diane Schneider (Hunter College, N.Y.C.). Part-time workers have included Ralph Blickenstaff, Robert Harris, Dale Ironson, Ron Victor, and Brian Washburn.

LAB STAFF TO PRESENT SIX PAPERS AT P.A.

Several research reports will be presented by Dream Laboratory staff members at the annual meeting of the Parapsychological Association in New York City, September 4-6, 1969. Dr. Montague Ullman, Dr. Stanley Krippner, and Charles Honorton will read a total of six research briefs and experimental reports. Dr. Krippner's paper summarizes results from 55 experimental nights and 79 pilot nights in which a single subject and a single agent (who attempted to "send" a picture) were used in telepathy studies. Outside judges (who did not know which art print was used for any given night) assigned "hits" and "misses" to the sessions. The most successful combinations involved a male subject and a male agent -- or a male subject and a female agent.

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MALCOLM BESSENT ARRIVES FROM ENGLAND

A noted psychic sensitive from London, England, Mr. Malcolm Bessent, has been spending the summer serving as a research subject at the laboratory. Several research projects are underway, attempting to test areas of his psi capacities and discover information about his abilities. Among the studies attempted are target picture readings, psychometric readings, psychokinetic effects upon plants, and an eight-night dream study involving precognition. During the latter study, Mr. Bessent would attempt to dream about an experience which he would have the following morning. This experience was randomly selected once the night's interviews and dream reports had been tape-recorded. Mr. Bessent's travel expenses were paid by Donald C. Webster of Toronto, Canada; the research projects were funded by the Foundation for the Study of Consciousness, Philadelphia, Pa.

Individuals and institutions wishing to receive future Bulletins are requested to notify Charles Honorton, Dream Laboratory, Maimonides Medical Center, 4802 10th Ave., Brooklyn, New York 11219.

ALPHA-ESP STUDIES INAUGURATED AT LAB

Mr. Charles Honorton, Dream Laboratory Research Associate, has inaugurated a series of projects investigating the relationship between ESP and the alpha state (i.e., when a subject's brain waves register between 8 and 13 cycles per second on the EEG). In his first experiment, he tested 10 subjects with randomized decks of cards containing geometric forms. Each of these 10 subjects attempted to guess the order of the cards in the deck. In the trials with relatively high alpha wave activity there was an average of 6 correct guesses per each run of 25 attempts. In the trials with relatively low alpha wave activity there was an average of 4 correct guesses. The difference was statistically significant and Mr. Honorton concluded that successful ESP performance "may be related to a relaxed, passive state of mind, devoid of imagery, and in which there is a decrease of attentive activity." An alpha training device has now been built for additional experimentation (funded by the Society for Comparative Philosophy, Sausalito, Calif.).