

Parapsychologist comes on strong

By SUSAN AVERILL

It wasn't long ago that a Vietnam veteran undergoing treatment at UCLA for severe epilepsy attacked his wife with a knife.

His right arm raised the knife high above her. At the moment of its downward swing, a strange thing happened. His left hand reached out and seized the right arm, preventing the knife from reaching his wife.

"It was literally a case of the right hand not knowing what the left hand was doing," said Ruth Reva, president and director of the Parapsychology Society International, Inc. (PSI).

Surgeons discovered that cutting the thin white membrane (corpus callosum) between the two cerebral lobes would give effective relief to patients suffering from severe epilepsy, she said.

But it also left the patients with a peculiar problem: They could not coordinate the movements of the left half of their body to those of the right half.

"MS. REVA, a native of Wisconsin, is a long-time student of psychological and physiological processes, particularly where they relate to her special field of interest: parapsychology.

Psychic "since childhood, she is quick to distinguish her field from the occult, which includes astrology, palmistry and witchcraft.

"Included in parapsychology are telepathy, precognition, retrocognition, clairvoyance, clairaudience, telekinesis," she said.

"The difference between precognition, retrocognition and clairvoyance can be best described by analogy. If I were to tell you that, as a small child, you had certain traumatic experience, that would be retrocognition.

"If I told you that you were taking a night class in photography, that would be clairvoyance. It's in the present.

"Precognition would be my telling you that you were going to have a flat tire tomorrow."

NOT ALL psychics have these abilities in equal measure. Some can possess one and none of the others.

"My greatest gift is to be able to reach into people, to touch what's emotionally bothering them. I see the knot," she said.

"But a psychic's role is not that of God's. I can't tell you what to do. I present the alternatives to certain actions, and then it's up to you to make the choice."

She may "know" what is better, but she won't tell. The responsibility, she insists, lies with the individual.

As a science, parapsychology is just coming into its own. It wasn't until 1968 that the National Academy of Sciences recognized the field after an impassioned case was presented to them by Margaret Mead.

The kernel for the PSI Society was planted in Ms. Reva's mind during a brainstorming session with her husband and friends over an ice cream sundae.

IT BECAME a full-fledged organization in April, when it was chartered, and now boasts more than 140 members.

Home base for the non-profit group is Birmingham, where Ms. Reva also teaches two classes dealing with aspects of parapsychology.

Surprisingly enough, many of the people now taking the field seriously are psychiatrists, psychologists and scientists.

"It used to be that 90 to 95 percent of the people in the field were psychiatrists and psychologists, with only 5 percent in science.

"Now it's reversed, and that's really an advantage. They have brought us the scientific method of investigation," she added that through this, parapsychologists may someday be able to more adequately document and research cases, to determine the nature of "the gift."

To relieve the pinched nerve in her neck, Betty Ford, the President's wife, has been using biofeedback, also considered part of the realm of parapsychology.

Even Chrysler Corp. has shown interest in the field by scheduling a conference on ionization and its effects.

"It's been demonstrated that the negative ions stimulate creativity and healing of skin, but in massive doses, they cause hostility and violence.

"Positive ions make you lethargic and apathetic. It can be used for the treatment of asthma and some forms of mental illness.

"Doctors used to think asthma was mostly psychological. They suggested getting the child a dog, to take his mind off his asthma. It was supposed to be good for him."

"We found out that the stroking of the hair on the dog produces positive ionization, which relieves the asthma."

"As for negative ionization, remember the old wife's tale about doing your planting during the full moon? Well, we found out that when the moon is full, the negative ionization in the earth's atmosphere is greatly increased, and that stimulates plant growth."

The particle cannot be seen or measured.

"To the nutrio, we do not exist, and to us, the nutrio does not exist," Ms. Reva said. Apparently, the two are on separate levels of existence, moving at different paces.

Psychics, she said, somehow link up with the faster-paced level of existence.

The PSI Society will sponsor a conference from 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Nov. 9 at Mercy College, W. Outer Drive, Southfield.

Three lectures on psychic healing, ionization and out-of-body experience will serve as introductions to workshops. Lunch is included in the registration fee.

For more information and registration forms, write the PSI Society, P.O. Box 1048, Birmingham.

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Rabbi Sherwin Wine

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"I DON'T know what this might mean, but Jackie Onassis talked Ari into spending \$1.5 million to put a negative ionizer on their private island," she said with a smile.

People often ask her how parapsychology works, from whence the psychic power derives, what its nature is.

She describes it with an analogy.

"A frog sees no colors or shapes. All it distinguishes are small and large shadows. The small shadow it sees as a possible food source, the large as a threat. That's all it needs."

"People distinguish shapes and colors in a way that no other animal can. They have developed their senses to the extent they need."

But we've explored the outside world as much as we can. Now we must turn inward, and to do that, we need to develop different senses," she said.

One of these senses is parapsychology.

Psychics claim that their information comes from a universe which is moving faster than ours, one that we can't see, which with today's scientific discoveries seems possible.

A PARTICLE emitted by the sun, a neutrino, has been discovered by scientists in South Dakota, who one day uncovered a huge vat of cleaning fluid only to find it had changed to a different substance.

**OCC course
on Faulkner,
Hemingway**

A 15-week course dealing with the works of Faulkner and Hemingway will be offered by the Orchard Ridge Campus of Oakland Community College this winter.

The course will be taught by professor William Alexander and Charles Shuler.

Alexander, a native of Arkansas, shares Faulkner's southern background. While talking about the course, Alexander spoke with enthusiasm.

"I am simply one of many who believe that William Faulkner is one of the greatest writers in the history of mankind," he said.

For more information about the course, contact the English department at the Orchard Ridge Campus.

Registration for the winter semester is Jan. 2-10.

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