

Aura stories

The day the psychics came to town

By Dennis Bailey

A hand-lettered sign on the table just outside Luther Bonney Auditorium at the University of Southern Maine reads, "Psychic Realities 1979 — register here." A large-boned woman with auburn hair and a husky voice, who could have just stepped out from behind a crystal ball or a deck of Tarot cards, is taking the name of a young man who is going to attend. He looks wide-eyed, impressionable like he's waiting for. . . what? The two are engaged in light conversation — the weather, where they are from — nothing too heavy. Not yet, anyway.

Yes, it's the nicest day of the week, maybe of the year. The first day of June and the rain that's been plaguing Portland for weeks is gone. The woman behind the table knows why. "It's all this psychic energy we brought with us." She's only slightly smiling.

When she mentions she's from Long Island, the young man gives a knowing glance and a long, "Ohhhhh. . . then you must know where the house is. The Amityville Horror."

Now, Amityville, as every fan of weirdness knows, is the site of an old house where a number of unearthly and horrifying events supposedly took place. Things like green slime dripping unaccountably from the walls, air

first you must believe. There are some things, you see, that have to be believed to be seen.

ESP, precognition, parapsychology, all of that stuff that gets lumped together in magazines like *Fate* and *Beyond Reality*, has come a long way in a short time, up from the pulps and into the science books...almost. It still has a long way to go before "respectable" scientists latch onto it and seriously study some of the more mind-bending feats attributed to psychics and their lot. But it's slowly being accepted that something's amiss. . . something strange is going on. Too many people are seeing-hearing-smelling things that are just not readily explainable.

Supposedly, the ESP-as-science business got a boost after a fortune teller predicted that her highly skeptical client would be killed by a prehistoric reptile. Since the prediction was made about 10 years ago, long after such beasts disappeared from the earth, the client understandably laughed all the way to the Museum of Natural History, whereupon a huge skeleton of a dinosaur fell on him, killing him instantly. It was a great day for the Jeane Dixons of the world.

Einstein believed in ESP, but he was confident that it had more to do with physics than with anything else. In fact there is quite a debate now raging between

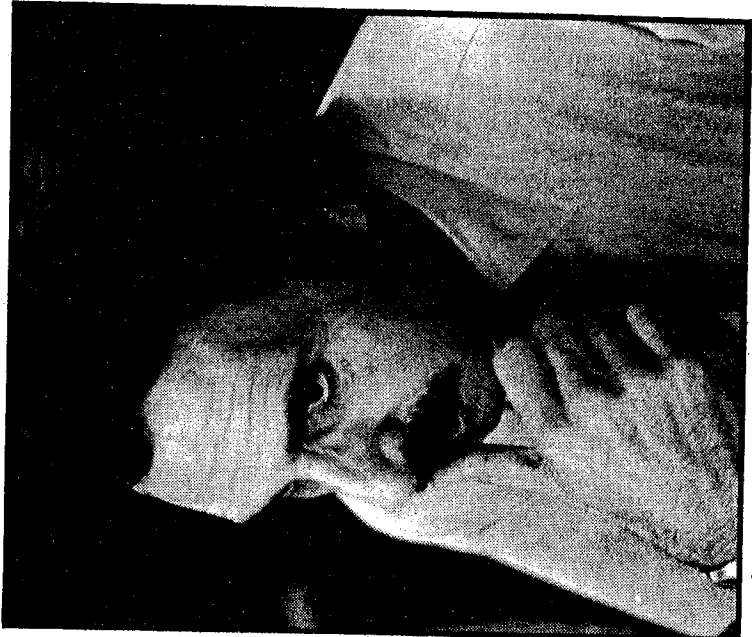


Photo by Scott Allen Emmons

in the windows, swarms of flies, putrid smells, age noises, and a smattering of run-of-the-mill come ghost and hobgoblin sightings. It's the subject quickie bestseller and a soon-to-be-a-major-on-picture.

The woman behind the table knows exactly what

"The age of Superman is upon us," Tanous declared.

gy is talking about, in fact she's driven past the e many times. But she remains steadfastly pressed.

"I thought the whole thing was fake," she unces to her somewhat stunned listener. "I just t believe it. I get certain feelings, vibes, when I read bk, and I just didn't believe it."

"Well I did," says the young man. "I was scared. I it in the afternoon because I knew if I read it at k, and I wouldn't have been able to sleep without seeing s."

is fears have propelled him from Boston to and to attend a three-day convention on psychic nness, a weekend descent into the world of ghosts, arnation, middle earth kingdoms, spiritual ngs and other unexplainable goings-on. When it's maybe he'll be able to sleep better. But maybe not. sponsors are calling it: "A three day festival rating the new dimensions of man; the greatest.

Dr. Alex Tanous, organizer of the event

psychic event in the history of Maine." And its co-organizer and host is none other than Maine's own resident psychic, Dr. Alex Tanous.

Tanous! Even the name sounds. . . eerie. And he has looks to match. Dark hair, bushy eyebrows and moustache, deep-set coal-black eyes with just that right touch of mascara to give him a kind of Steve Ditko Dr. Strange look. Right out of the comic books and into the unknown. Yes, it's his eyes that grab you, always darting. . . quickly. . . looking not so much at but into. And his energy. . . his hyper energy. He's excited about this massing of the psychic minds. . . and he's talking, running around. . . making sure everything's just right. . . he's here. . . now. . . there he goes. . . he's over there. TANOUS! With powers and abilities far beyond those of mortal men. Able to predict the future, heal the infirm, leave his body in a single bound. Yes, actually get up and go whenever and wherever he wants. Like spirit walking. Once, he visited a friend in Canada at 3 in the morning. Of course, he wasn't actually in Canada, he was at home in bed, deep in dreams, no doubt. But something — a part of him — was up there. The friend could even smell Tanous' brand of aftershave. Proof positive.

"The age of superman is come upon us," he declares at the opening of the convention. "And it's all part of the astral projection."

Yes, Wendy, you can fly, you can fly, you can fly. But

great guns when you were working on that laser death. The looks that say, "Gee, Treadwell, you were going suddenly convert to there's something. . . out. . . there. Hyneks of the world, the once promising professors who colleagues that are usually reserved for the J. Allen

Continued from Page 5

physicists and paranormal activists over whether Einstein was on the right track: that everything from ghosts to UFO's to things that go bump in the night can actually be attributed to quantum mechanics. Now, quantum mechanics is an area of physics that would take the rest of this article to explain. Suffice it to say that if this psychic

There was talk of reincarnation, phone calls from the dead, and keeping Skylab up.

stuff could be explained under the theories of quantum mechanics, it might take it out of the realm of mysticism and into an observable, verifiable science. A lot of the psychics will tell you it's already there, and they laugh at scientists who want to change the name of parapsychology to "paraphysics," and out-of-body astral projection to "remote viewing." But it may be necessary, and it's only being done so that when some government researcher is asked at a cocktail party what he's working on, he won't get the astonished looks from his

Continued on Page 6

This was Fate Magazine on stage, a hodgepodge of everything that's weird in the world.

actual beings that inhabit and own this planet."

The gist of her talk was that the fairy people are out there in the woods and can be seen if you can tune into their vibrations. It's getting a lot easier these days, because the wood people are ticked off at the way man is treating the earth, and they are gradually coming out and making themselves known in order to save the planet.

"When we are able to tune our vibrations into the invisible kingdom, they will appear like solid beings to us. Many times you can go into the forest and see a place that is bare, with stones around it. That's where the fairies dance. Or sometimes you'll see a tree with a little hole at the bottom with stones going around the hole. That's another place for a gathering, and no human being has set them up."

The audience seemed to accept this quite well, even when Poole paused on stage, hands on her forehead, to receive psychic messages from the wood people. Evidently the line was busy, or the fairies were off dancing, because they didn't have anything to say.

A woman in the audience asked a serious question. "I have a 120-acre farm that's in bad shape right now. The land is turning into marsh because the trees have grown up so much that the sunlight is not getting through to dry

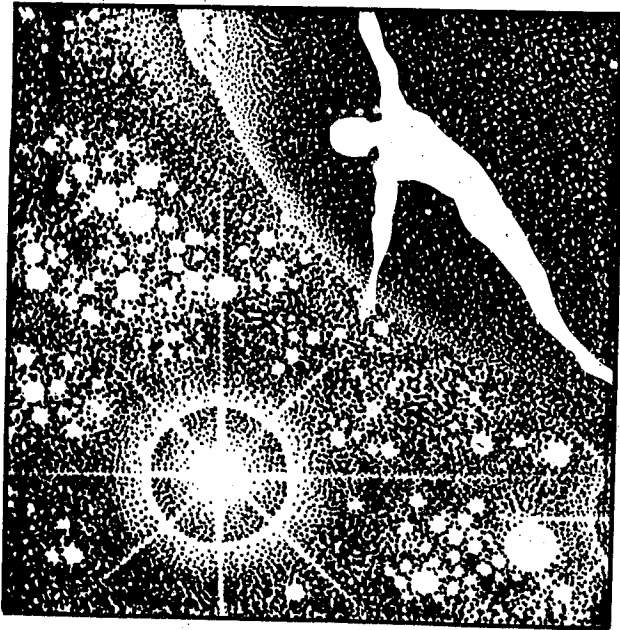
presentation of some of their more famous photos. They even "verified" some of the photos as people who had died years ago, but the evidence here was puzzling. For example, the family once took a photo of a spirit, a woman, looking quite demure as if posing for one of those sepia tone turn-of-the-century portraits. The woman called herself Annie Moses.

Years later, the Veilleuxs discovered that Annie Moses was the maiden name for Annie Oakley — yes, THE Annie shoot-em-up, round 'em up Oakley. They even found an old photograph of Annie that was identical to the one they took. In other words, the Veilleuxs didn't actually take a picture of the ghost of Annie Oakley, it was the ghost of the old photograph they captured on their Polaroid. For some reason, these spirits insist on sending along their old wallet glossies rather than their actual images. Some of the ghosts even wore glasses. "Very unusual," said Veilleux.

"We are not basically dealing with spirits," he continued. "But there is a process involved that we could never understand, that the mind has a certain ability to do very strange things."

And if that wasn't spooky enough, Veilleux cautioned the audience against setting up their own spirit darkroom.

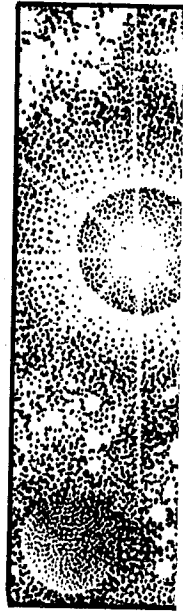
"If I had to do it all over again, I'd never do it, not in the same way," he said. "It was a unique experience, one that I wouldn't advise too many people to get involved with, because it leaves its mark. You are dealing with



healing by touching. Tanous is a master at this.

"There was once a student of mine (Tanous teaches a course at USM), she had cancer on the pituitary. The doctors said they could do nothing for her. I was speaking about holistic theory at the time, the healing of diseases. And I told the class about a cancer victim whom I visited and asked if he would accept me putting an end to his cancer. With Candy, the student, it was the same. She came to me one day and said, 'The doctors just told me it's gone, the cancer's gone.' And all I did was hug her. And we can all do it. We were all born to heal."

On Saturday, the feature attraction was the Veilleux family from Waterville. According to the university press



...S, THE VEILLEUXS ARE KNOWN WORLDWIDE FOR THEIR
 ability to produce photographs with an ordinary
 "oid camera." Amazing. Actually, what's amazing
 it is that when the pictures are developed, blobs of
 appear on the photo, sometimes surrounding
 ct facial images.

"We have had an unusual experience with the
 own," Joseph Veilleux announced at the beginning
 talk. "It may seem like the whole thing is a hoax or a
 , but I assure you it's not."
 he Veilleuxs started their odyssey in 1965 after
 ng contact with a spirit they call ACL. This spirit, a
 an, told them where and when to take photos of the
 s. ACL acted like a behind-the-scenes agent,
 ging the appointments for the spirit photo sessions.
 "ACL would introduce different personalities to us

"The owners of this planet
 are the elves, the dwarfs,
 the unicorns, and fairy
 horses. . . ."

on the other side who were supposed to be
 eased," Veilleux said. "They would give us certain
 of information about themselves, about their death,
 r transition, and what they did in their new existence.
 "Some of the personalities, I would say, came from
 pits of hell, if you believe in hell. I certainly do."
 The Veilleuxs, Joseph and Richard, gave a slide

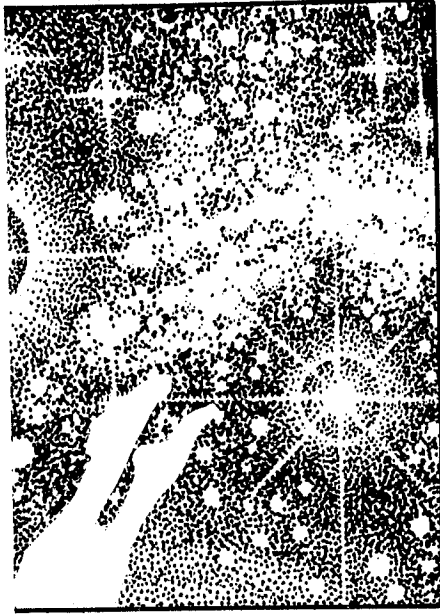
out the land. we need to prune all those trees, but now
 do I make it right with those beings who exist there?"

The answer was equally as serious. "First ask the
 trees if they want the sunlight," Poole told her. "If they
 do, the trees are going to be very glad for a haircut.
 They're going to be itching for it. You will know if you
 take your pruning shears into the woods and say, 'This is
 what we want to do, we want to prune the land.' You will
 either get the feeling from the trees that they are saying
 'Hey leave us alone, this is supposed to be marsh,' or
 they'll say, 'It's about time lady, get to it.' And the
 branches will just come down to be cut off."

This was it: *Fate Magazine* on stage. A hodgepodge
 of everything that is weird in the world. In a way it's
 unfortunate that all these various topics found their way
 into a convention of psychic phenomena, because if any
 of it is ever going to gain wide acceptance, some
 compromises will have to be made. Maybe the spirit
 world and the wood kingdom could be set aside for a
 time, while the scientists take a look at the elemental
 psychic stuff — reading minds, predicting the future.
 Perhaps the point of the convention was not to advance
 psychic theories as legitimate science, because it became
 obvious after a few speakers that no serious scientist who
 has his glands connected would set foot inside Luther
 Bonney Auditorium without risking his career. They
 were talking about ghosts in there, and wood fairies, and
 raising the dead. Scientists haven't accepted UFO's and
 spoon bending yet.

Outside on the campus grounds, next to the trees,
 Louisa Poole wrapped up her talk by instructing the
 audience on how to orient themselves to the forest.
 There were about 100 people bending their arms,
 twisting their limbs, looking skyward, tuning in.

"Now another thing," Poole said, "and it's one of
 the most important, is the ability to walk correctly. You
 can't expect to get anywhere unless you know how to
 walk. . . ."



more than just so-called discarded entities; you are
 dealing with entities which are very hostile and which
 could, if they wanted to, cause you bodily harm."

There were other talks over the weekend equally as
 thought-provoking. Some of the speakers really knew
 their stuff. Some had trouble getting it across, however,
 like Robert Pelletier, who gave a long, rambling two-
 hour talk on the signs of the zodiac. He went off on so
 many tangents — the energy crisis, breeding dogs, the
 National Enquirer (he hates it) — that he never got to
 discuss the last three astrological signs.

The final afternoon session on Sunday featured a
 woman named Louisa Poole. A New England psychic,
 numerologist and palmist, Poole claims to be able to
 contact "nature spirits," elves, gnomes, wood nymphs,
 fairies, etc. Her talk had to take the award for most
 amazing. Positively cosmic.

"The owners of this planet," said Poole, "from what
 I've been taught, are the elves and the dwarfs and the
 unicorns and fairy horses, and things like that. They are

Dr. Tanous claims . . .

Mankind has entered the 'Age of the Spirit'

The present is unique and historical. We are witnessing collective gathering as we have never before seen in history, such as Woodstock, Moratoriums, Marches on Washington, Youth Walking miles to earn money for the poor, etc.

On one hand we have people who advocate drugs abortion, mercy killing, etc., on the other we have those who fight against our problems of pollution, injustices, ecology, etc. These are all fresh new manifestations of our collective culture.

The questions which arise in the minds of people are: What's happening? Where are we going? How will it end?

The first thing we must be aware of in all this is that we have a new heart-beat on the horizon. It is pulsating collectively and individually. It is developing a dynamic consciousness into action. This has been witnessed all over the world. These actions may not always be right, but they are fresh forces of the spirit at work. It's a new organic life-energy flowing from which sleeping giants will awake, and leaders emerge to set the Universe back on its feet.

One of the problems of the "now generation" is to try to balance the past with the present. At the same time, one has to be honest enough to admit that the world today is different enough as to place upon mankind the task of reforming it. The cries such as "In the good old days", "In my day" or "We never did this" and "We never did that" are a mark of a lack of development and maturity.

Amidst these cries, the "now generation" finds itself at the point where it must start building a new universe, one which it feels has to defend itself from the old. It realizes it has been entrusted with a mission — a call for action — which dominates its destiny. One of the tragedies which they want to lessen is that of failure. They have seen in the past, individuals and generations who failed in their mission and passed away leaving their work undone.

We find that all of this leads to a deep concern and consecration to existing life through love. This has created a new "force-spirit" which marks that age. Mankind has entered THE AGE OF THE SPIRIT. By force-spirit, I mean forces at work creating spirit. The spirit may be good or evil, but in the end THE SPIRIT will accomplish its work.

It is at this time that we find that each generation appears at a moment in its vital process as a heart-beat in its organic energy to save mankind. It is an incontrovertible palpitation in the pulse-beat which in a sense shows a determination towards an end.



Photo by Char

This force-spirit is stronger than mankind. It must only move faster or slower towards good or evil. As the Graham says, "It is a vitality, a life force, an energy, quickening which is translated through you into action and because there is only one of you in all times, this expression is unique, and if you block it, it will never exist through any other medium and it will be lost. The world will not have it."

The spirit is undefined at present, so is our destiny. Therefore, we find confusion, unrest, while the spirit is formulating itself in each of us and collectively. Once it does, mankind will have the birth of a new renaissance.

Because of this search, I believe this present age, as compared to the past, lives in greater mental confusion. They see life through love threatened, they say, by religion, morality, economics, technology, science, etc., even with all the progress and achievements we have made in each area.

From this Force-Spirit, Sleeping Giants will emerge. The Spirit is bigger than life. Its height, depth, and width are unfathomable because it encompasses something greater than the universe and surpasses all that man has made or seen. It cannot be found in our teaching, or learning. It is not material or technological. Too often these two depersonalize man instead of elevating him.

This force-spirit makes one realize that he must begin by discovery. Here one finds the meaning of being human and divine spirit. For humanity is divinity divided on the outside and united on the inside. When mankind does rediscover its divinity, it will make an act of belief, first in itself, then in the future, by which it will find its true relationship to God and Christ as a totality and fulfillment.

Peoples and nations are at a point in the historical cycle where they seek a new selfhood. In this search, each nation in its own way is establishing according to its own needs, to accept the responsibility of its duties collectively and individually. This is more than communication. It is a revelation of oneself as an in-

dividual and as a group through which things

In all of this we find that the "now generation" became sensitive to experience and ideas. The something personally and collectively to them: has made them consciously aware of the universe around them and they try to understand it. One of the reasons we have Woodstock, Moratoriums, etc.

All of this has brought out a new kind of Faith in regards to our Faith. It is more than human. Far deep within, the Spirit is emerging.

Faith for the "now generation" is not basic. Nor does it mean one has to be detached, abandon the historical and the secular, the earth, or that one must surrender his humanity. To have Faith for this generation, is to be involved in the world, embrace it and transform it.

Mankind is making steps forward. It is going through a process towards successful rebirths, growth and a maturity for love for mankind, but not without error.

Spiritual activity is making a break-through: practical applications. Eventually from the darkness of the lack of meaning, etc., a spiritual order and sense of the spiritual will flower into action.

These are a few of the observations made on the "now generation. In all of this, failure can only occur if "they become too collective in a state of mind into a safety of anonymous openness." This stripping them of individuality and you will find they become useless clusters.

I am very optimistic that we will through our faithfulness emerge and find a new individuality and we will be set free. From this we will bring forth a new spirit, without force, of life and love, human and divine through the Sleeping Giants which are emerging. This revelation is a promise for the future. THE SPIRIT is at work.

— Dr. Alex