

Science and the Person-- An Alternative to Occultism

For Your Infor. Lester

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A basic premise of this proposal is that the best critical assimilation of detailed information only takes place in an optimal environment. Another premise is that the present set of attitudes of the general public, as evidenced by the rapid growth of extreme occultism, is not optimal for the acceptance of singular (albeit numerous) scientific and technological programs and innovations. This situation is also not compatible with the need of our expanding science and technology (S&T) for critical support from these people.

I believe it is a fair observation that occult groups represent a large and influential portion of society at large, and that they are quite sincere in seeking answers to questions, many of which S&T have no present expertise/programs to answer or deny. To be fair to these people, and to the rest of society that needs their support for new S&T programs, it is not sufficient to refute or ignore occult claims of paraphenomena and their appeal to extra-terrestrial forces to solve terrestrial problems. When dealing with tangible issues, it is also necessary to replace these occult conceptual approaches to our universe with more "organic" scientific disciplines and methodologies that are capable of yielding viable solutions to real problems.

Especially in the greater San Diego area, there is an ever-increasing endorsement of occult movements, perceived by many to express their personal and societal identity against impersonal scientific forces. This project proposes to design a series of lectures/workshops that will influence this present setting towards the critical support of new but isolated S&T programs. The level of presentation will be geared to be understood and appreciated by the general public.

This project must therefore have a broad appeal to occult concerns, but must be specific and constructive to be convincing and have a

lasting effect. There will be detailed attention given to the two major concerns that most occult systems claim to unify and thereby transcend--the powers of consciousness and the powers of the (sub-atomic and astronomical) universe. Stress will be on the methods of investigation, empirical evidence, and the rigorous, although often tentative nature of current scientific theories. The thrust of the project will be to show that the approaches of S&T to the questions of interest are eminently plausible. The program will consist of three major subdivisions that will span a series of 10 sessions, to be prepared within 3-4 months, then regularly presented to the public.

#### Attention--The Great Force Within Us

\*what and how we perceive our environment (conscious control of information processing) \*evidence for things "unperceived", but influential to our perception of our environment (automatic processing) \*archetypal processes of cognition (as evidenced in information-processing and representation models)

#### Physics--The Great Force Without Us

\*what and how we perceive our environment (experimental and theoretical approaches of particle-physics and astronomy) \*evidence for things "unperceived", but influential to our perception of our environment (underlying abstract concepts of physics used for theoretical and experimental designs) \*archetypal processes of physics (as evidenced in particle-wave constructs and symmetry laws of physics)

#### Universe--The Merging of Great Forces

\*examples of archetypes of analysis and intuition in learning, creativity, personal interactions \*examples of archetypes of particle-wave constructs and symmetry laws in models of physical measurement (Copenhagen vs many-worlds interpretation) \*necessity of principles of physics to understand our conscious universe; necessity of prin-

principles of consciousness to understand our physical universe (isolated examples of environmental, drug, biological, cultural issues) \*scientific, psychological and philosophical implications of the merging of archetypal processes common to consciousness and physics-- a scientific approach to a speculative question.

To establish a comfortable atmosphere, the first meeting of each of the three major subdivisions will take place at a pot-luck gathering. Other meetings will take place at private homes, the ISA studio, and tours of the experimental facilities of the UCSD Psychology and Physics departments. Aside from the regular meetings, sessions will also be available for informal small group discussions of these topics. Each session will be from 1½ to 3+ hours, depending on the requirements of the group.

At the beginning and end of each of the three major subdivisions, participants will be requested to fill out a questionnaire, rating on a scale from 1 to 5, their belief in S&T vs occultism to deal effectively with such issues as nuclear power, ESP, space colonization, UFOs, lasers, levitation, life in the far universe, etc. At the end of the series, it will be suggested they write/cassette-record a critique of this program with respect to its goals, methodologies and influence. All this information will be organized and presented as an evaluation of this project.

The series of meetings will be offered without charge to the general public. ISA will make available on a cost basis, manuscripts, cassette tapes and information as requested by participants as well as non-participants. Promotion will be through the many San Diego newspapers, radio and TV media, and high school and college publications that do not charge non-profit organizations for announcing such programs. The regular availability of an introductory lecture and of the entire series will be explained in these announcements and

on flyers posted on local bulletin boards by the ISA staff.

I have worked very effectively with the general public for many years. In 1972 I chose to work full-time in administration and teaching with an earnest group of ISA staff and students to establish an alternative junior-senior high school. Since then, we have successfully worked with a broad spectrum of teenagers that could not or would not derive benefit from other institutions. Many adults have also greatly profited from part-time classes. As a result this host institution now enjoys the respect, trust and good will of the public.

I have also maintained a disciplined participation in physics and psychology research. Publications are forthcoming with the collaboration of those persons mentioned on my application. For four years I taught a UCSD summer-session course that I developed for non-physics majors, "Concepts in Physics." All areas of my research are pertinent to this project. Besides being a Master and author in the discipline of karate dealing with the phenomenon of "attention", I have worked with various Neuropsychology, Psychology, and Music departments on experimental and theoretical aspects of attention. My physics expertise is on quantum mechanical systems and their mathematical structures. I also have a working knowledge of quantum theories of measurement and their philosophical implications. I have 20 years of experience in physics and karate, 10 in psychology.

This project requires me to draw from all the areas of my technical expertise, and to create a format accessible to the general public. I believe I am particularly well-suited to the successful performance and completion of this project.