

The original documents are located in Box 2, folder “12/11/74 - Diplomatic Kids Christmas Party” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

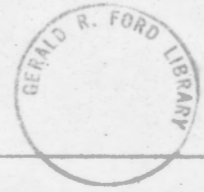
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Nancy Howe

Date Issued 11/20/74
By P. Howard
Revised _____

FACT SHEET
Mrs. Ford's Office



Event Diplomatic Childrens Party
 Group T. H. I. S.
 DATE/TIME Wednesday, December 11, 1974 4:40 p. m.
 Contact Until 12/6, Mrs. Weber (652-7570 then Mrs. Jeffries Phone 232-3002
 Number of guests: Total 500 Women _____ Men _____ Children x
 Place State Floor
 Principals involved Mrs. Ford
 Participation by Principal yes (Receiving line) no
 Remarks required yes -- Welcome -- Thank you to entertainment
 Background Mrs. Ford's Christmas party for the children of the Diplomatic Corps

REQUIREMENTS

Social: Guest list T. H. I. S. to Pat Howard
 Invitations T. H. I. S. Programs no Menus no
 Refreshments Christmas cookies and punch
 Entertainment yes
 Decorations/flowers yes
 Music Marine Brass Choir
 Social Aides yes
 Dress afternoon dress Coat check yes
 Other ---

Press: Reporters yes
 Photographers yes
 TV Crews yes
 White House Photographers yes Color yes Mono. _____
 Other --

Technical Support: Microphones yes PA Other Rooms no
 Recording yes
 Lights yes (?)
 Transportation cars
 Parking South Grounds (limited parking)
 Housing --
 Other -- (Risers, stage, platforms) stage

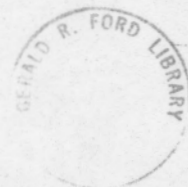
Project Co-ordinator Pat Howard Phone 2927

Site diagrams should be attached if technical support is heavy.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MRS. FORD

Event: Diplomatic Children's Christmas Party
Date/Time: Wednesday, December 11, 1974 4:30 p. m.
Place: State Floor
Number of Attendees: 487 children from 89 countries



Schedule of Events: 4:30 p. m. The children will arrive through the Southwest Gate and will be escorted through the Blue Room (around the Christmas tree) to the East Room where they will be seated on the floor facing the stage at the north end of the room.

NOTE: There will be five clowns from the Almas Temple Shrine Unit to amuse the children before the entertainment begins.

4:40 p. m. As soon as all the children have been seated, you will be escorted to the State Floor by Nancy Lammerding.

You will enter the East Room through the center door, proceed to the microphone which will be located in front of the stage. You will make brief welcoming remarks and introduce the entertainment -- Amazing Randi, the magician. (Suggested remarks are attached.)

You will be seated with the children for the entertainment.

5:00 p. m. Entertainment concludes. You proceed to the stage to thank Amazing Randi. You will then

tell the children you have another very special surprise -- Santa Claus will then appear on stage with you and Amazing Randi. Santa Claus will then have a surprise for everyone by introducing Mickey Mouse. You will remain on stage and pose for photographs with them.

You will invite the children to join you in the State Dining Room for punch and cookies.

NOTE: There will be full press coverage of your remarks and of the entertainment.

5:30 p. m. The party concludes and you will return to the Family Quarters.

As the children depart, Santa Claus (John Nidecker) will be in the Ground Floor Hall and will hand out candy and autographed pictures of you and the President.

NOTES: Military Social Aides will be present.

THIS volunteers will assist with the party.

The Marine Brass Choir will play in the Grand Hall.

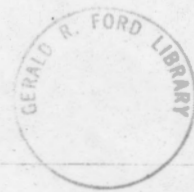
A White House photographer will be present.

Pat Howard
December 10, 1974



GOOD AFTERNOON, BOYS AND GIRLS AND THE YOUNG IN HEART, REGARDLESS OF AGE--WELCOME TO OUR WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY. THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SPECIAL TIME OF THE YEAR FOR PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD. A TIME FOR PRAYER. A TIME FOR BEING TOGETHER. A TIME FOR GIVING. AND THIS AFTERNOON--A TIME FOR JUST HAVING FUN.

AND SO, WE HAVE GOODIES TO EAT, PRETTY ORNAMENTS TO SEE, HAPPY CLOWNS, AND A FEW SURPRISES. AND SINCE I CAN NEVER WAIT WHEN I HEAR THERE IS GOING TO BE A SURPRISE--I WON'T KEEP YOU WAITING EITHER. OUR FIRST SURPRISE IS A MARVELOUS MAGICIAN AND A MAN OF A THOUSAND SURPRISES--THE AMAZING RANDI.



SANTA CLAUS INTRODUCTION

PAGE 2

THANK YOU, MR. RANDI.

OUR NEXT SURPRISE IS A JOLLY OLD GENTLEMAN. LIKE MANY OF YOU HERE TODAY, HE COMES FROM A LAND THAT'S VERY FAR AWAY--THE NORTH POLE. CAN YOU GUESS WHO IT IS? THAT'S RIGHT! AND HERE HE IS RIGHT NOW!

CLOSING

PAGE 3

I HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED OUR SURPRISES--I KNOW I HAVE.

I HOPE THAT SOMEDAY I WILL BE ABLE TO VISIT YOUR COUNTRIES AND
SEE HOW YOU CELEBRATE THIS VERY SPECIAL TIME OF THE YEAR. UNTIL THEN,
THE PRESIDENT AND OUR FAMILY WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES A VERY
HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND A NEW YEAR BLESSED WITH PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

AS I PROMISED, WE HAVE PUNCH AND COOKIES FOR EACH OF YOU IN
THE STATE DINING ROOM.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 10, 1974

Dear Mrs. Ford,

Re: Christmas Party for Diplomatic Children
December 11, 1974 - 4:30 p. m.

Attached for your review and approval are the proposed scenario, suggested remarks and guest list for the Diplomatic Children's Party.

approved _____

disapproved _____

Thank you.

Nancy L.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MRS. FORD

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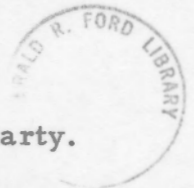
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A White House photographer will be present.

Pat Howard
December 10, 1974



(Orben)

December 10, 1974

REMARKS FOR MRS. FORD AT CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Good afternoon, boys and girls and the young in heart, regardless of age -- welcome to our White House Christmas Party. This has always been a special time of the year for people all over the world. A time for prayer. A time for being together. A time for giving. And this afternoon -- a time for just having fun.

And so, we have goodies to eat, pretty ornaments to see, happy clowns, and a few surprises. And since I can never wait when I hear there is going to be a surprise -- I won't keep you waiting either. Our first surprise is a marvelous magician and a man of a thousand surprises -- The Amazing Randi.



SANTA CLAUS INTRODUCTION

Thank you, Mr. Randi.

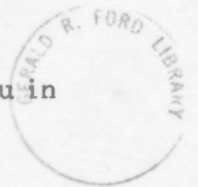
Our next surprise is a jolly old gentleman. Like many of you here today, he comes from a land that's very far away -- the North Pole. Can you guess who it is? That's right! Santa Claus! And here he is right now!



CLOSING

I hope you have enjoyed our surprises -- I know I have. I hope that someday I will be able to visit your countries and see how you celebrate this very special time of the year. Until then, the President and our family wish you and your families a very happy holiday season and a New Year blessed with peace and prosperity.

As I promised, we have punch and cookies for each of you in the State Dining Room.



REVISED GUEST LIST

THE HOSPITALITY AND INFORMATION SERVICE

WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 11, 1974

GUEST LIST

Total of diplomatic
children: 398

Total of volunteer
children: 89

Total number of
children: 487

Total of countries
represented: 89

AFGHANISTAN

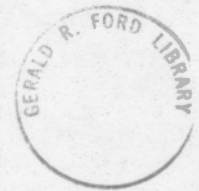
MALIKYAR, Daoud

ALGERIA

BOURI, Leila and Hamid

ARGENTINA

BEAUJE, Victor, Maria Fabiana and Leopoldo
CAZENAVE, Jorge, Ines, Eduardo and Teresa
LOPEZ MUNIZ, Claudia and Yvan
NAVEIRO DE LA SERNA, Helena
QUIJANO, Patricia
RUBIO, Pablo and Daniela



AUSTRALIA

BAMBRICK, Kate and Anna
DOYLE, Christopher
OU, Serge and Isabelle
PEARCE, William
SIMKIN, Toby

AUSTRIA

BIRBAUM, Isabel
MAYERHOFER, Michael and Martina
RUDOLFSKY, Ruprecht and Martin

BAHAMAS

JOHNSON, Deanne

BARBADOS

BREWSTER, Leo and Wayne

BELGIUM

PAEMEN, Joep, Geert, Liesbet and Marjan
SCHELLEKENS (August), Denise and Nicole
SCHELLEKENS (Frank), Wim
WILLEMS, Emmanuel

BRAZIL

OLIVEIRA, Tereza and Ivan
PEREIRA DA SILVA, Robert and James

CAMEROON

NKUO, Lucy and Veronica

CANADA

FRENETTE, Martin
MARTIN, Andrew
McKINNEY, Nicholas
MERKLINGER, Catherine and Alexandra
RYAN, Patricia

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

BANDA-BAFIOT, Joseline and Emma

CHAD

ALINGUE, Anateu, Labeu, Deiba and Tebria
DJEKILAMBERT, Nerolel

CHILE

BOSTELMANN, Andrea
GOYCOLEA, Luis
TRUCCO, Pablo, Claudia and Gisella
VALENZUELA, Diego and Alexander

CHINA

HSU, Linda
HUANG, Cheng-shium
LIU, Joseph

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

GEIKL, Martina
SPACIL, Ales

DAHOMÉY

ADJIBADE, Aboubakar, Falilath and Cherifath
D'ALMEIDA, Paulin and Monique

DENMARK

DYVIG, Christian and Anne
GRUNNET, Eric
TOFT, Mads

ECUADOR

de CASARES, Eduardo and Lucy
MOLINA, Lili, Rommy and Javier

EL SALVADOR

BERTRAND GALINDO, Nelson and Katya

EEC

BOGGIO, Gabriela, Carlo and Elena
DUBOIS, Cecilia and Birgitta
LOUW, Kathleen, Dennis and Emmanuel
WIEMER, Raphael and Patrick

EGYPT

ABDEL-WAHAB, Ahmed
EL-SADEK, Amr
HAFEZ, Ingy

ETHIOPIA

MELAKU, Solomon and Samson

FINLAND

PAJALA, Tiina and Jussi
RAHIKAINEM, Eva Maria

FRANCE

COURTET, Philippe
de SERESIN, Richard
ELBAZ, Pascale, Corine and Ariele
PUJES, Philippe
RETAT, Veronique, Christine and Beatrice

GABON

MAVOUNGOU, Sophie and Georgette

GERMANY

BAHRS, Bettina
GERWINAT, Matthias and Christian
GLOTH, Malte
KLAUKIEN, Gunnar and Olaf
MARKS, Titus
RICHTER, Ralf and Martin
SCHEEL, Martin
SCHENK, Christoph, Alexander and Peter
SCHLIEKER, Lilo
STEINDORFF, Klaus and Timm
TUROWSKI, Ralf
von OERTZEN, Wiebke, Arwed and Stefanie
von SCHMELING-DIRINGSHOFEN, Roland and Henning
von STADEN, Georg
WIENDIECK, Markus, Claudia and Andrea

GHANA

QUARM, Ebela and Anyima

GREAT BRITAIN

BAKER-BATES, Jonathan and Harriet
BROWNING, Hilary and Victoria
CLARKSON, Neil and Julian
FALLON, Thomas and Oliver
HONLEY, Aiden and Amanda
KEMP, Anne-Marie
McAULEY, Andrea
PRYOR, Clare
SHARP, Helen and Elizabeth
WHITLOCK, Fleur

GREECE

KANTOUNAKIS, John and Leo
LAZARAKOS, Vasso and Gregory
MANOLOPOULOS, Panayotis
PERDIKIS, Nick

GUATEMALA

FRENER, Jenyse and Angela
FUENTES-CORADO, Karin and Adela
GRAMAJO MORALES, Hector and Alejandro
ROLDAN MORALES, Manuel
VASQUEZ, Yvonne Alexandra

GUINEA

BAH, Saoudatou

GUYANA

MITTELHOLZER, Peeta and Dominic

ICELAND

KROYER, Ari and Katrin

INDIA

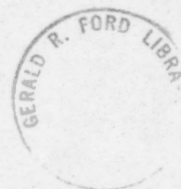
SUNDARARAMAN, Shankari and Venkadesh

INDONESIA

DINATA, Iranita and Lucy
NURJADIN, Nurhadijono, Irawati and Iwan
PANE, Marina, Julita and Rolly

IRAN

GHOUSHBEIGUI, Farhad
HAMZEI, Kourosch and Nader
KAZEMIAN, Nazeela, Atusa and Parisa
MONTAZAMI, Khashayar



ISRAEL

ADAR, Ofier and Sharon
BAREKET, Ira and Ittai
EFRATI, Yael
KORREN, Ilan and Gila
RIMON, Itai
YAARI, Orly, Taly and Ron

ITALY

CARRARA CAGNI, Laura, Alessandro and Giulio
CUPINI, Daniela
GRAZIOLI, Lucia
VANDINI, Paulo and Maria Luisa
SALIMEI, Paola

IVORY COAST

AHOUA, Philippe and Francoise
CAPET, Dianne, Annick, Evelyn and Allain
SAKO, Ahmed and Abdoul

JAPAN

HOTTA, Daigo and Ranji
IKEDA, Mana
MOTOZONO, Kanichi and Kyoko
ONO, Keiko
TACHIBANA, Hirono, Yoshino and Ayano
YOKOYAMA, Takashi and Reiko

JORDAN

HAMARNEH, Dima, Rania, Omar and Kristin
SALAH, Hanya

KENYA

KIBINGE, Michel, Judith and Jimmy

KHMER REPUBLIC

SENG, Sam Saphiro
UM, Soreyrith and Setara

KOREA

CHANG, Jumi
CHOI, Dong Il
KIM (Han Mo), Hun Tak and Yon Tak
KIM (Hung Ki), Nam Yun, Joon and Young
PARK (Kun Woo), Soozin
PARK (Man Kyu), Jong Wha and Ji Hyang
SHIM, Soo-Youn
SOHN, Jie, Mie and Kyong
YANG, Junsok, Sungsook and Ungsok
YOO, Chang-dong and Chang-won



KUWAIT

AL-SABAH, Samah and Abdullah

LAOS

PANYA, Sisanga

LESOTHO

MANARE, Motheba

MALI

TRAORE, Mariam, Adama and Halimata

MAURITIUS

JESSERAMSING, Anjali

MEXICO

CASSELLAS, Ana Mercedes

De ALBA, Arturo and Alfredo

De OLLOQUI, Jose, Guillermina and Fernando

MARTINEZ DEL SOBRAL, Karina, Rebeca and Vanessa

REYES-RETANA, Ofelia

SUAREZ, Francisco

MOROCCO

LAHLOU, Asma

TERHZAZ, Mehdi

NETHERLANDS

BEGEMANN, Edwin and Peter

KUSTERS, Richard, Bart and Noline

PARZER, Mireille

VAN VIERSSSEN, Ronald

NEW ZEALAND

POWLES, Jonathan

SAULL, Nicholas

NIGERIA

AISIDA, Frances, Cecilia and Joseph

GARBA, Isa and Zainab

KOROYE, Ebiolade and Ebiere

OBE, Emmanuel, Caroline and Edward

NORWAY

OLBERG, Kristin

WIKBERG, Thomas

PAKISTAN

ANWAR, Alia

YAQUB-KHAN, Nagib

PANAMA

PITTY-VELASQUEZ, Juan and Maria del Pilar

PARAGUAY

CANIZA SANCHIZ, Claudia

GUTIERREZ, Maria, Nora, Hugo and Rodrigo

LLANES, Beatriz and Karken

FLORENTIN, Liliana



PERU

MELZI, Gigliana and Bibiana

PHILIPPINES

ARGUELLES, J. Randolph and Rowena

BELLO, Roberto

LAGDAMEO, Eric, Manolo, Dino and Michiko

POLAND

BEDNARCZUK, Tomasz

ROMANIA

BESTELIU, Ion

RWANDA

NIZEYIMANA, Jean

SAUDI ARABIA AL SOWAYEL, Talal

SENEGAL

COULBARY, Leon

SIERRA LEONE

PALMER, Pierrindo

SINGAPORE

YOONG, Adeline and Dominic

SOMALIA

ADDOU, Habon, Mussa and Mahad

SOUTH AFRICA

BEKKER, Helena and Anelle

BEUKES, Abraham and Carl

VAN HEERDEN, Clea

SPAIN

BARCIA, Emilio, Leticia, Ines, Cristina and Augusto

FERNANDEZ, Jaime and Ignacio

SRI LANKA

MELDER, Eeshan

SWAZILAND

SIMELANE, Hlolile and Lucky

SWEDEN

GEORGSSON, Jonas

GROENWALL, Cecilia, Frederik and Jessica

LINDE, Cecilia

LINDMARKER, Karin and Christina

STENBERG, Ola and Jakob

SWITZERLAND

GLAUSER, Thierry

STUTZMANN, Nicole

TANZANIA

BOMANI, Benjamin and Betty

THAILAND

PRASASVINITCHAI, Lak and Dharee

TOGO

ADJOYI, Eric

KEKEH, Frederic and Olivier

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

McINTYRE, Karen

SMALL, Errol and Gurney

TURKEY

ATES, Yalim and Elif

HIZEL, Aydan

U.S.A.

THIS Volunteers and children attending the White House Christmas Party

ANGELES, Aaron
ARCHIE, Mrs. Peter and Rob
BANK, Jonathan and Brian
BATTLE, Mrs. William and Christina and Megan
BELLASCHI, Mia and John
BENNETT, David
BEXFIELD, David
BOWMAN, Brilane
CARMICHAEL, Aaron
CHENG, Andrew and Ann
CHERNICK, Mrs. Sidney and Rachel
COLINO, Geoffrey and Stacey
CROWTHER, Mrs. David and Kimberly and John
CULVER, Cathy, Caroline and Sloan
DeGRAFF, Jill
DUNAWAY, Mrs. Mac and Derek and Ashley
FELDER, Andrew
FISHBURNE, Mrs. Benjamin and Benjamin
FRANKEL, Natalie and Ronald
GENTILE, Gregory
GIBBENS, Elizabeth
GIMER, Melissa, Jennifer and Joyce
GOLDFARB, Steven and Danny
GOODWIN, Mrs. Robert and Anne and Helen
GRAHAM, Mrs. Hayward
GRAY, David
HARRISON, Alan and Bradley
HENIG, Alan
HENDRICKS, Jeffrey and Lisle
HYDE, Mrs. William
JACKSON, Julie and Scott
JEFFRIES, Mrs. Donald
KAPLAN, Sharon
KISSIN, Wendy
KLISH, Mrs. Theodore and Alexis and Tanya
KOCH, Mrs. David and Jacqueline and David
LARSON, Kate
LANDFIELD, Katherine and Anne
LEVINE, David
McGUIRE, Mrs. Martin and Walsh and John
NYIRJESY, Mrs. Istvan and Christine
O'BRIEN, Jennifer
O'BRIEN, John and Meghan
OLSEN, Mrs. Ronald and Kristen and Erik
PARSONS, Susan
PATTERSON, Mrs. Melvyn and Daamon and Keeva
PEW, Mrs. Michael and Keith
REYNOLDS, Roy
ROBERTS, John

SCHIEFFER, Susan
SEIGEL, Suzanne
SILVERMAN, Kimberly
SMITH, Caroline
SPAULDING, Mrs. Kenneth and Patrick
STAREK, Mrs. Roscoe
STERN, Larry and Teddy
TALMADGE, Mrs. John and Leslie
TITUS, Paula, Richard and Mark
VIA, Sandra
WEINIG, Mrs. Donald and Amy
WILLIAMS, Patrice
WILLOUGHBY, Gina
WISHARD, Mrs. William and Van and Diana
YOUNG, Paul and Karen

USSR

MALOV, Andrei
TIMOKHIN, Irena

UPPER VOLTA

YAGUIBOU, Marilyne, Christiane and Josiane

URUGUAY

EGANA, Claudia and Alina
FERREIRO, Gonzalo and Alvaro
GIRO, Alfredo
TALAMAS LOPEZ, Maria Ines and Magdalena

VENEZUELA

PALACIOS GALINDO, Robert and Stephen

VIET NAM

TRAN, Kim Lan and Kim Chi

YUGOSLAVIA

VIDOVIC, Bojan
STOJKOVIC, Bora and Slavica

ZAIRE

MBEKA, Nkiama
MANGAYA, Helen

ZAMBIA

DISASI, Kipasa, Mboma and Makabenge
MWALE, Chidi

THE WHITE HOUSE

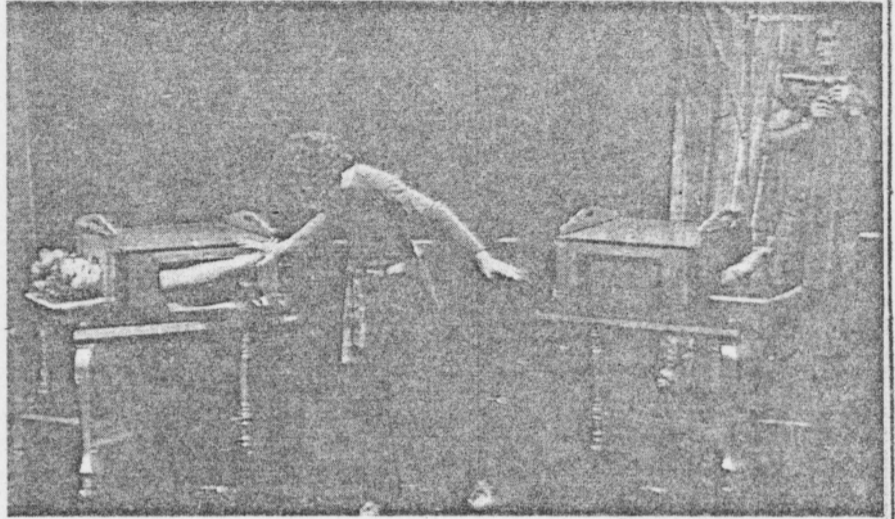
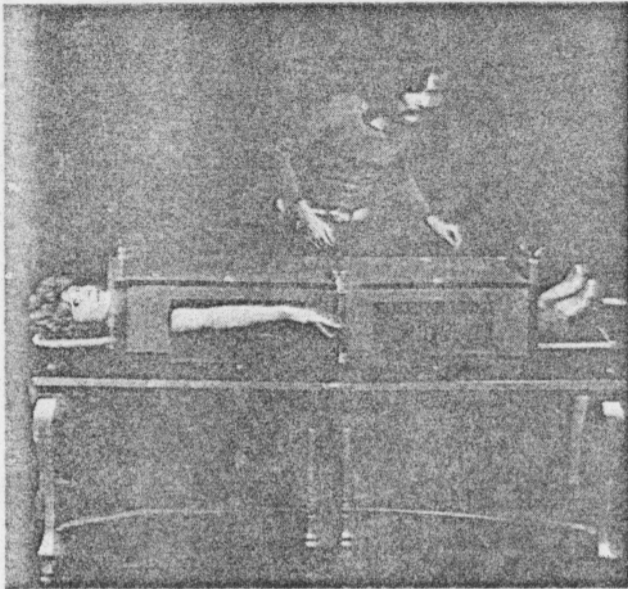
WASHINGTON

Mrs. Ford,

Attached is information on "The Amazing Randi" who will perform at the Diplomatic Children's Party. I thought you might be interested in some background on him.

Sheila





Doug Henning in 'Magic Show': Making them marvel at illusions

Photos by Kenn Duncan

Hey Presto! It's Magic

At Rosoff's restaurant in New York City last week, seventeen men sat down to lunch, and before you could say "Abracadabra!" the air was filled with magic. At one end of the long table, a man picked up a salt shaker, turned it upside down and as he did so, salt suddenly cascaded through the fingers of a man sitting at the opposite end. Three seats away, another fellow was busy plucking coins out of his shrimp cocktail. Across the table, several of his companions were nonchalantly passing around a ball of fire—which ended up mysteriously in the pants pocket of the chap who was last in line. And when one man floated his dinner roll in midair, the table broke into applause. Said Lari Arcuri, a retired newspaperman whose favorite trick is to play the tune to "I'm Looking Over a Four-Leaf Clover" by ruffling a pack of cards: "You don't have to be crazy to be a magician, but it helps."

Like these happy fanatics who gather daily at Rosoff's Magic Table to show off their tricks, magicians across the country are popping out of more hats than you can shake a wand at. No fewer than 1,100 enthusiasts showed up in Boston last week for the four-day convention held by the Society of American Magicians. In the biggest boom for magic since Herrmann the Great pulled the first rabbit out of a silk hat in the 1870s, aspiring magicians are buying up tricks faster than manufacturers can make them. In Colon, Mich., the Abbott Magic Manufacturing Co. estimates that its sales are running \$10,000 per month higher than last year.

Commercial magic has taken off just as fast: sought-after professional magicians are signed up two years in advance to play the industrial trade-show circuit, soft-selling their clients' products to the

audience via the hocus-pocus of flashing silk handkerchiefs and dancing balls. The International Brotherhood of Magicians currently lists 7,600 members, and its ranks are swelling at the rate of 150 per month. In Los Angeles, the Magic Castle, an exclusive club for magic lovers whose members have included Cary Grant, Orson Welles and Tony Curtis (who starred in the 1953 film biography "Houdini"), has been forced to limit its membership to 2,500. It is now the trick of the week even to get through the front door—which slides open upon the whispered command, "Open Sesame"—to watch the masters luxuriating in legerdemain or listen to "Irma," the invisible house ghost, play tunes on the piano upon request.

Kids: There are as many reasons for the spreading appeal of magic as there are scarves up a conjurer's sleeve. "People have more time, the society is affluent and parents are interested in a decent, clean hobby for their kids instead of having them get involved in drugs and other unhealthy things," says Irving Tannen, the co-owner of Tannen's Magic Shop in New York, the world's largest emporium of tricks. On his wall is a list of the ten top tricks of the month selected from the more than 10,000 tricks for sale. This month, the hot ones are Spooky Silk—a scarf that mysteriously floats in the air—and Chop-Chop, a ball-and-cup combination that allows you to change the ball into an orange.

According to Peter Pit, a leading light in the Academy of Magical Arts in Los Angeles, "Magic's popularity is a reaction to current events. The beauty of it," says

Pit, whom the Fédération Internationale Société Magique voted World Champion Magician in 1958, "is that we are living at a time when we are fooled by the government, by politicians and by the oil companies. But people love to be fooled by magic because it's harmless—and honest fun." Yet many take it all seriously. "People even ask me if we can make real stardust to cure hexes," says Recil Bordner, president of the Abbott Magic Manufacturing Co., which lists 1,000 tricks—from a vanishing glass for \$2.50 to elephant-vanishing equipment for \$3,000. And one 7-year-old boy who had just had his allowance cut off asked for a magic wand that would make his mother disappear.

It takes more than a wand to get in on the hottest conjuring act of all these days, an SRO Broadway musical called "The Magic Show" that features the most exciting magician since Houdini,

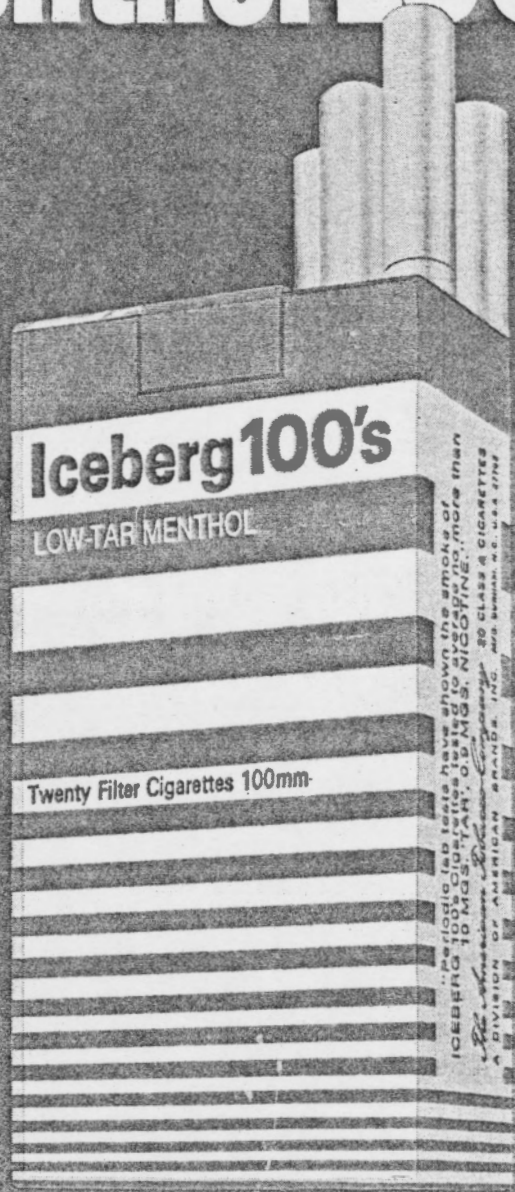


Tony Rolio—Newsweek

The Amazing Randi: Hocus-pocus

Newsweek

Lowest in 'tar' of all menthol 100's.



Iceberg 100's

Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined
That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

9 mg. "tar", 0.6 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.

Thurston and Blackstone, a 27-year-old Canadian flower child named Doug Henning. Energized by hours of yoga and meditation, Henning has traded in the tacky top hat and tails of the traditional magician for T shirts and jeans and replaced drum rolls with rock music. "The point is not to trick people, but to make them marvel at the wonder of the illusions," says Henning, who can transform a dove into a rabbit and his female assistant into a cougar. "Magic is art, theater, pantomime," he explains. "To create illusion in people's minds, I use music and lights. But on the stage I'm completely natural. I'm as amazed as the audience at what goes on up here."

Speed: Henning is a purist, who won a grant from the Canadian Government to study with the world's greatest magicians. One of them was the legendary 80-year-old Dai Vernon in Los Angeles. "I told Doug to get to the effect as quickly as you can," says Vernon. "He's modernized magic by eliminating a lot of wasted time." Whereas Houdini took twenty seconds to execute his famous "Metamorphosis," in which he exchanged places with a prisoner locked in a trunk, Henning claims to be able to do it in a mystifying one-third of a second.

Just as mystifying is the scarcity of women magicians in the field, a fact that causes a lot of embarrassed foot shuffling among the men. "Women already know all the tricks," glibly suggests one male magician at Al Flosso's Magic Shop in New York, a store once run by Houdini. "In magic, the point is to try and fool somebody," points out Frances Marshall, wife of a Chicago magician, "and women don't enjoy being a part of that sort of thing." "There used to be a lot of witches," explains veteran female magician Celeste Evans whose specialty is producing eight doves from her sleeveless, pocketless costume. "But when vaudeville faded, they never made the jump to nightclubs."

Easy: The boom in magic is not necessarily a boon to the art itself. "We're creating a generation of instant magicians," complains sleight-of-hand wizard Derek Dingle. "It's too easy to buy a box, read the directions and then entertain people." "The Amazing Randi," an escape artist who helped promote a New York bank last week by dangling upside down from a crane in a strait jacket, agrees: "A person can't buy magic any more than a surgeon can buy an operation," he warns. "A lot of people do tricks. But only a half dozen are true magicians."

Worst of all is the fear that too many magicians will mean too many secrets out of the bag. "If anyone leaks a trick from the show, I'll sue," declares Henning, who has made the stagehands and the entire cast of "The Magic Show" sign a "secrecy agreement." "Once the secret is out, then there is no longer any magic. You might just as well be a juggler."

—LINDA FRANCKE

FIFTY CENTS

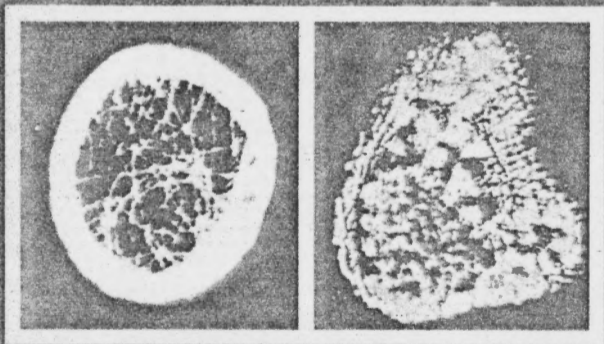
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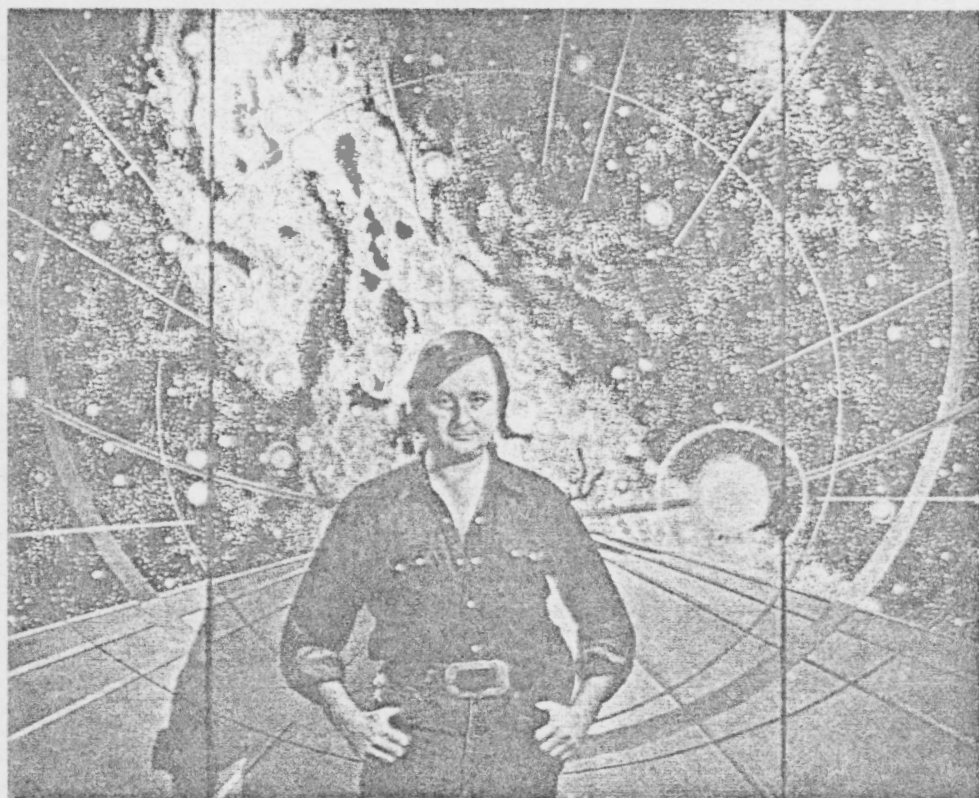
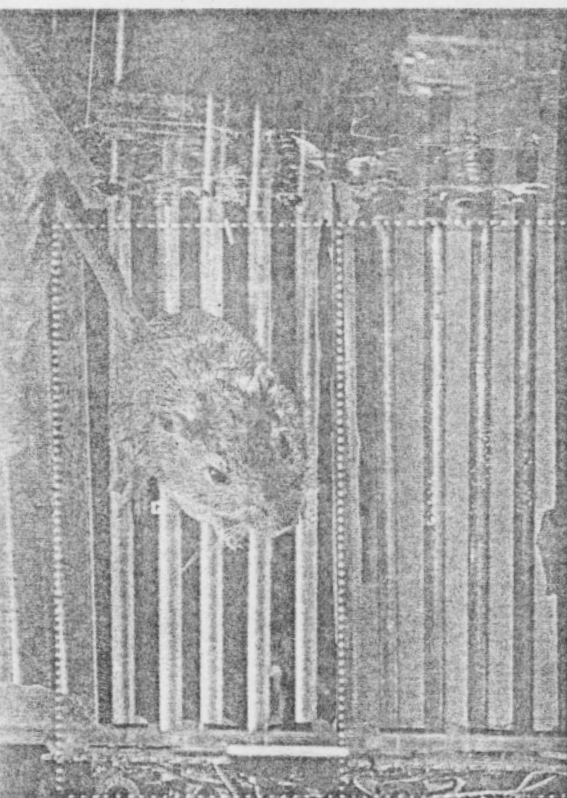
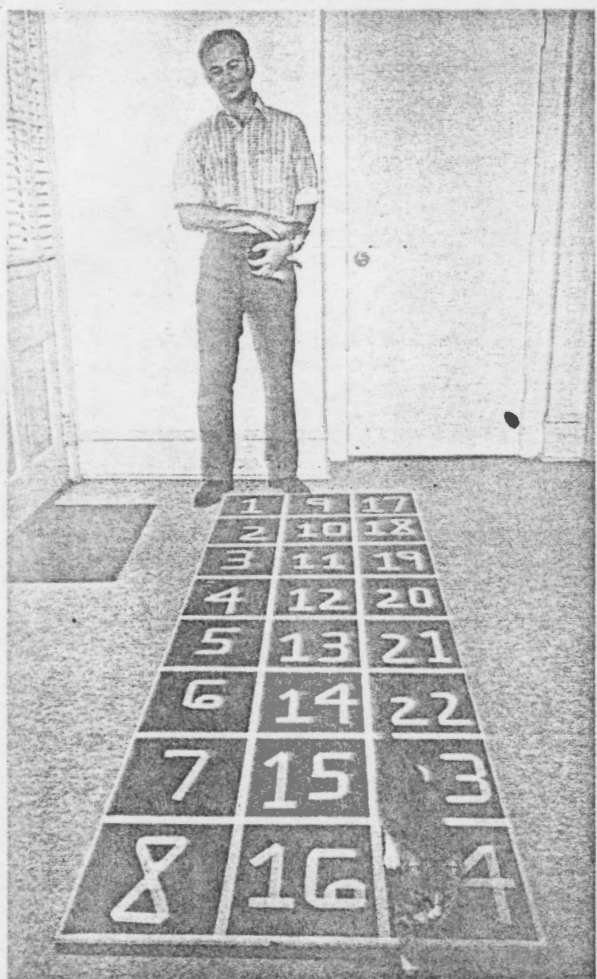
®

TIME

The Psychics







CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT: At Durham's Psychical Research Foundation, Robert Morris displays test in which subject outside of room "influences" movement of a cat; sensory-isolation and telepathy experiment at Maimonides

Medical Center in New York City; Artist and Psychic Ingo Swann with painting completed after his "out of body" adventure in outer space; gerbil in tests for precognitive powers at The Institute for Parapsychology in Durham, N.C.

COVER STORY

Boom Times on the Psychic Frontier

Glendower: I can call spirits from the vasty deep.

Hotspur: Why, so can I, or so can any man;

But will they come when you do call for them?

—Henry IV

For all the enormous achievements of science in posting the universe that man inhabits, odd things keep slipping past the sentries. The tap on the shoulder may be fleeting, the brush across the cheek gone sooner than it is felt, but the momentary effect is unmistakable: an unwilling suspension of belief in the

and memory? Could there be a paranormal world exempt from known natural law?

Both in America and abroad, those questions are being asked by increasing numbers of laymen and scientists hungry for answers. The diverse manifestations of interest in so-called psychic phenomena are everywhere:

▶ In the U.S., *The Secret Life of Plants* becomes a bestseller by offering an astonishing and heretical thesis: greenery can feel the thoughts of humans.

▶ At Maimonides Medical Center in New York City, the image of a paint-

spoons and keys apparently with the force of his thoughts.

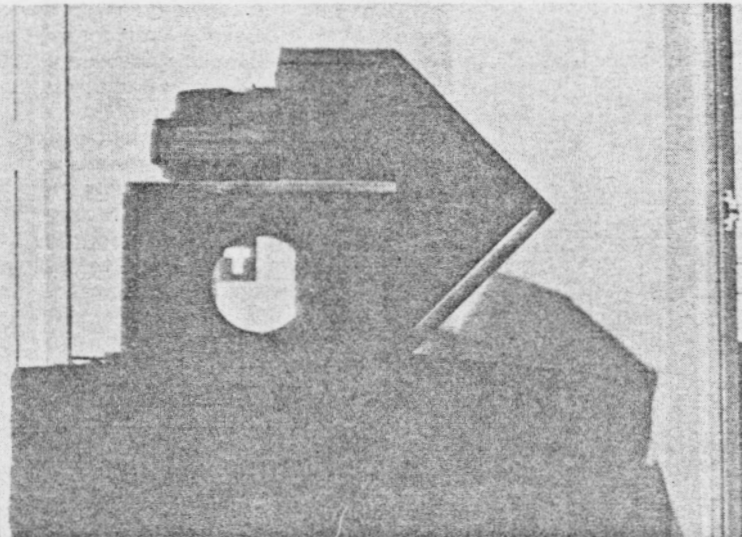
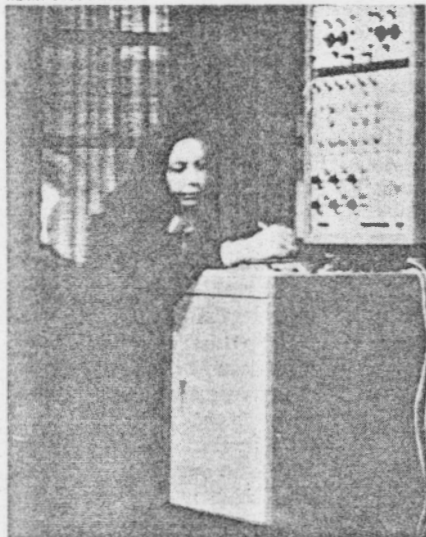
▶ In the Philippines, Tennis Star Tony Roche is relieved of painful "tennis elbow" when an incision is made and three blood clots are apparently removed by the touch of a psychic healer, who knows nothing of surgery or of modern sanitation.

▶ In the U.S., the number of colleges offering courses in parapsychology increases to more than 100.

▶ In the U.S.S.R., researchers file reports on blindfolded women who can "see" colors with their hands.

▶ In California, ex-Astronaut Edgar

HENRY GROSINSKY



DEVICE SET UP TO RECORD OUT-OF-BODY TRIP AT AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH
Questionable procedures costumed in the prim gown of laboratory respectability.

rational. An old friend suddenly remembered, and as suddenly the telephone rings and the friend is on the line. A vivid dream that becomes the morning reality. The sense of bumping into one's self around a corner of time, of having done and said just this, in this place, once before in precisely this fashion. A stab of anguish for a distant loved one, and next day, the telegram.

Hardly a person lives who can deny some such experience, some such seeming visitation from across the psychic frontier. For most of man's history, those intrusions were mainsprings of action, the very life of Greek epic and biblical saga, of medieval tale and Eastern chronicle. Modern science and psychology have learned to explain much of what was once inexplicable, but mysteries remain. The workings of the mind still resist rational analysis; reports of psychic phenomena persist. Are they all accident, illusion? Or are there other planes and dimensions of experience

ing is transmitted by ESP, and seems to enter the dreams of a laboratory subject sleeping in another room.

▶ In England, a poll of its readers by the *New Scientist* indicates that nearly 70% of the respondents (mainly scientists and technicians) believe in the possibility of extrasensory perception.

▶ At the University of California, Psychologist Charles Tart reports that his subjects showed a marked increase in ESP scores after working with his new teaching machine.

▶ In Los Angeles, a leaf is cut in half, then photographed by a special process. The picture miraculously shows the "aura" or outline of the whole leaf.

▶ In Washington, the Defense Department's Advanced Research Projects Agency assigns a team to investigate seemingly authentic psychic phenomena at the Stanford Research Institute.

▶ On both sides of the Atlantic, Uri Geller, a young Israeli psychic, astounds laymen and scientists alike by bending

Mitchell, who while on the Apollo 14 moon mission conducted telepathy experiments with friends on earth, founds the Institute of Noetic Sciences. His new mission: investigate occurrences that will not yield to rational explanation.

▶ In London, Arthur Koestler examines psychic research with the zeal of the believer. Koestler, one of the foremost explicators of Establishment science (*The Sleepwalkers, The Act of Creation*), speaks of "synchronized" events that lie outside the expectations of probability. In anecdotes of foresight and extrasensory perception, in the repetition of events and the strange behavior of random samplings, Koestler spots what he calls the roots of coincidence. In his unforgettable metaphor, modern scientists are "Peeping Toms at the keyhole of eternity." That keyhole is stuffed with ancient biases toward the materialistic and rational explication and, consequently, away from the emerging field of psychic research. Once skeptics aban-

don those prejudices, says Koestler, they will be free to explore fresh concepts and new categories.

That exploration is already being conducted by a number of serious parapsychologists in a wide range of disciplines. In his Foundation for the Research on the Nature of Man, in Durham, N.C., the grand old man of paranormal studies, J.B. Rhine (see box page 70), still keeps watch on test animals for precognitive powers. At the nearby Psychical Research Foundation, William Roll and a research staff investigates "survival after bodily death." In studies with a "sensitive" and his pet cat, Roll finds evidence for a human ability "to leave"

VALERY SHUSTOV



RUSSIAN FINGER-READING TEST
Basically show biz.

the body and "visit" the animal. At the University of Virginia Medical School, Psychiatrist Ian Stevenson also studies the plausibilities of reincarnation.

At the Division of Parapsychology and Psychophysics of the Maimonides Medical Center, Dr. Montague Ullman directs tests in which message senders "think" images into the brains of sleeping subjects. "If we had adequate funding," says Ullman, "we could have a major breakthrough in this decade." In Connecticut, Businessman Robert Nelson directs the Central Premonitions Registry, meticulously recording the prophecies of the dreams and visions that people send him.

All of these researchers believe to

some extent in the existence of some form of paranormal psychic powers. But the forms are open to wide debate. Says Psychologist Gardner Murphy, professor at the District of Columbia's George Washington University and a dean of psychic researchers, "It may well turn out that parapsychology will be a multidisciplinary thing, owing much to psychiatry, neurology ... medicine, biochemistry, social sciences." One of parapsychology's most famous proponents, in fact, is an anthropologist: Margaret Mead. It was her passionate advocacy that helped give the Parapsychological Association its greatest claim to legitimacy. After several vain attempts to enter the eminent American Association for the Advancement of Science, the P.A. won membership in 1969—after a speech by Mead. Her argument: "The whole history of scientific advance is full of scientists investigating phenomena that the Establishment did not believe were there. I submit that we vote in favor of this association's work." The final vote: 6 to 1 in favor of admission.

Immense Claims. As parapsychology gains new respectability, so do its terms gain wide currency: "psi" for any psychic phenomenon; "clairvoyance" for the awareness of events and objects that lie outside the perimeters of the five senses; "out-of-body" experience for seeming to journey to a place that may be miles from the body; "psychokinesis" for the mental ability to influence physical objects; "precognition" for the foreknowledge of events, from the fall of dice to the prediction of political assassinations; and the wide-ranging term ESP for extrasensory perception.

For all its articulate spokesmen and scientific terminology, however, the new world of psi still has a serious credibility problem. One reason is that like any growth industry or pop phenomenon, it has attracted a fair share of hustlers. Indeed, the psychic-phenomena boom may contain more charlatans and conjurers, more naïfs and gullibles than can be found on the stage and in the audience of ten Ringling Brothers circuses. The situation is not helped at all by the "proofs" that fail to satisfy traditional canons of scientific investigations. Despite the published discoveries, despite the indefatigable explorations of the psychic researchers, no one has yet been able to document experiments sufficiently to convince the infidel. For many, doubt grows larger with each extravagant claim.

To Science and Mathematics Analyst Martin Gardner (*Relativity for the Million, Ambidextrous Universe*), announcements of psychic phenomena belong not to the march of science but to the pageant of publicity. "Uri Geller, *The Secret Life of Plants*, telepathy, ESP, the incomplete conclusions of Koestler—all seem part of a new uncritical enthusiasm for pseudo science," says Gardner. "The claims are immense, the proof nonexistent. The researchers, almost without exception, are emotionally com-

mitted to finding phenomena. And few are aware of the controls necessary in a field in which deception, conscious or unconscious, is all too familiar."

Daniel Cohen, former managing editor of *Science Digest* and author of the debunking volume *Myths of the Space Age*, remains unpersuaded by what he sees through the Koestlerian keyhole. "After decades of research and experiments," Cohen observes, "the parapsychologists are not one step closer to acceptable scientific proof of psychic phenomena. Examining the slipshod work of the modern researchers, one begins to wonder if any proof exists."

The criticism that psychics find hardest to counter comes not from scientists but from conjurers. Theoretically, magicians have no place in serious science. But they are entertainers whose business it is to deceive; thus they feel that they are better qualified to spot chicanery than scientists, who can be woefully naive about the gimmicks and techniques that charlatans may use for mystical effects. James Randi, who appears on television as "the Amazing Randi," duplicates many of Uri Geller's achievements with a combination of sleight of hand, misdirected attention and patented paraphernalia, then calls them feats of clay. "Scientists who fall for the paranormal go through the most devious reasoning," Randi says. "Fortunes are squandered annually in pursuit of mystical forces that are actually the result of clever deceptions. The money would be better spent investigating the tooth fairy or Santa Claus. There is more evidence for their reality."

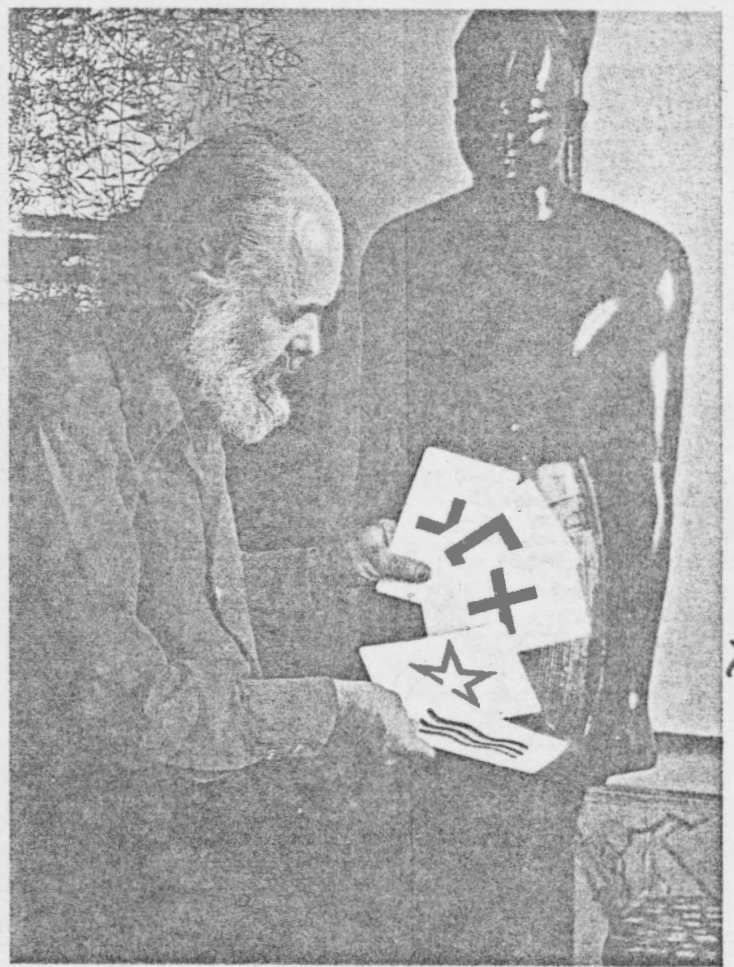
Pure Deception. Charles Reynolds, editor and member of the Psychic Investigating Committee of the American Society of Magicians, agrees. "When evaluating the research, we have found that the researcher's will to believe is all powerful. It's a will that has nothing to do with religion; there are Marxists, atheists, agnostics who cling stubbornly to the ancient faith in black magic. Only now it's called 'the paranormal.'"

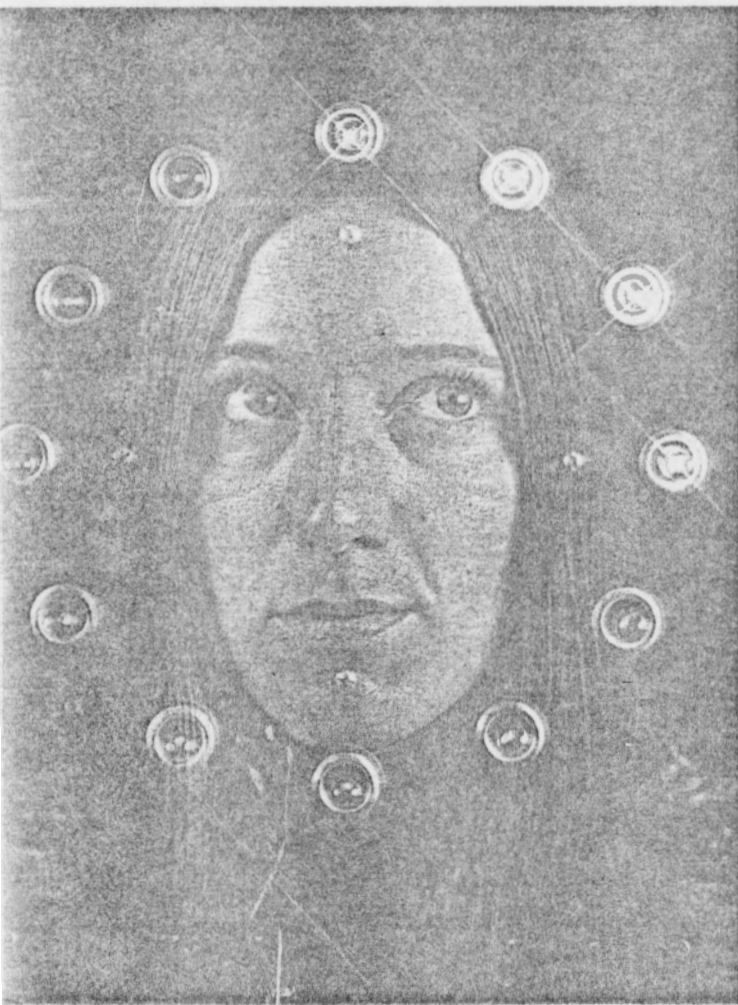
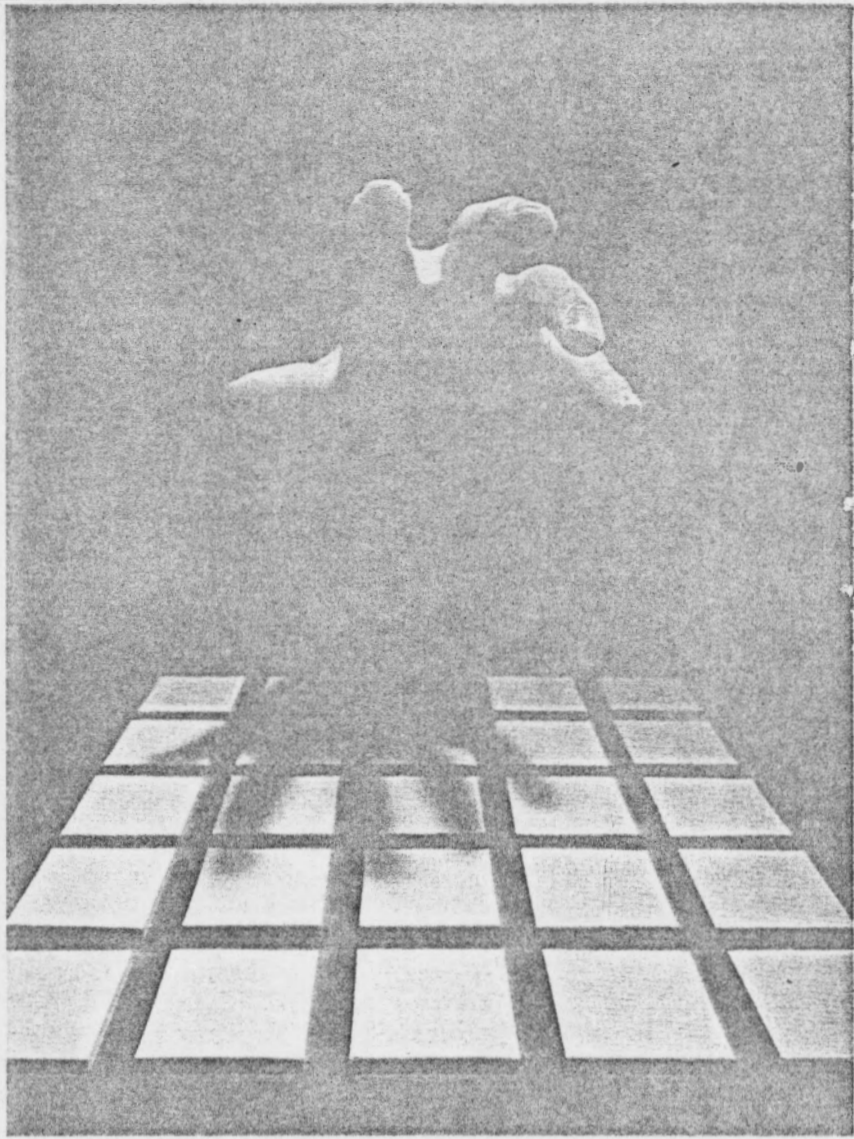
That faith is nowhere more evident than in the U.S.S.R., which has been beset in recent years with controversial sensitives. One, Ninel Kulagina, was appraised as capable of causing objects to float in mid-air. As Martin Gardner notes, "She is a pretty, plump, dark-eyed little charlatan who took the stage name of Ninel because it is Lenin spelled backward. She is no more a sensitive than Kreskin, and like that amiable American television humbug, she is basically show biz." Indeed, Ninel has been caught cheating more than

U.C.L.A. Psychologist Thelma Moss explores the mysteries of Kirlian photography—pictures believed by some to show the "aura" of living things. Insert: Kirlian photos of normal elbow (left) and same elbow while experiencing mild electrical shock.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: In India, Dr. Elmer Green of the Menninger Foundation prepares a biofeedback test for a yogi on bed of nails; Ex-Astronaut Edgar Mitchell, who experienced "altered state of consciousness" in outer space, at his Institute for Noetic Sciences in Palo Alto, Cal.;

"The Amazing Randi" a magician and self-confessed fraud who duplicates psychic feats with a combination of sleight-of-hand, psychology and theatrical gimmicks checks set of "ESP" cards; Trinidadian "sensitive" performing card clairvoyance experiment at The Institute for Parapsychology.





once by Soviet Establishment scientists.

Another Russian lady, Rosa Kulshova, can "read" with her fingertips while securely blindfolded. James Randi, analyzing photographs of Kulshova, promptly announced that her act was "a fraud." To prove his point, he invited testers to blindfold him with pizza dough, a mask and a hood. Then he proceeded to drive a car in traffic. "I won't tell you how I did it," he says. "But it was not parapsychologically. It was pure deception, just as hers was." Such revelations have not deterred the parapsychologists in the U.S.S.R. or elsewhere. They freely concede that many of their subjects do sometimes cheat, but still may have paranormal powers.

In and out of the laboratory, many paranormalist investigators conduct experiments that mock rigorous and logical procedure. Claims are made, and the burden of proof is shifted to the doubter. Ground rules are laid down by the psychic subject and are all too eagerly accepted by his examiner. If the venture proves unsuccessful, a wide range of excuses are proffered: an unbeliever provided hostile vibrations; the subject was not receiving well; negative influences were present; testing rules were too restrictive. It is all reminiscent of the laws in *Through the Looking-Glass*, where people approach objects by walking away from them. And it creates an atmosphere in which even a genuine paranormal subject might have a hard time certifying his abilities.

No one has contributed more to the paranormal explosion than Uri Geller, the handsome, 26-year-old Israeli former nightclub magician who seems equally adept at telepathy, psychokinesis and precognition. "I don't want to spend my whole life in laboratories," Geller recently told TIME London Correspondent Lawrence Malkin. "I've just done a whole year at Stanford Research Institute [TIME, March 12]. Now I'll go on to other countries, and let them see if they know what it is I've got."

Death Threats. At the Stanford Research Institute Geller successfully worked most of his repertoire of miracles. In a film made by S.R.I., Geller picks the can containing an object from a group of identical empty cans, influences laboratory scales, reproduces drawings sealed in opaque envelopes, deflects a magnetometer and correctly calls the upper face of a die in a closed box—eight times in eight tries. If Geller's prowess with dice is indeed paranormal, it raises serious and disturbing

questions for all of modern science. But if S.R.I.'s tests were indeed conducted with what University of Oregon Professor Ray Hyman calls "incredible sloppiness," then other disturbing questions may be raised. Assigned by the Department of Defense to report on the wondrous happenings at S.R.I., Hyman, accompanied by George Lawrence, DOD projects manager for the Advanced Research Projects Agency, caught Geller in some outright deceptions.

Unhappily for Geller, his powers have a tendency to vanish in the presence of sleight-of-hand men. On the *Tonight Show*, where Johnny Carson instituted airtight controls at Randi's suggestion, nothing that Geller attempted (during an embarrassing 20 minutes) seemed to work. After a group of English magicians made plans to catch him

BILL EPPRIDGE



PSYCHOLOGIST TART WORKING ESP MACHINE Searching for a wider kind of self.

in the act during a British tour, Geller abruptly canceled out, citing mysterious "death threats."

In the long run, however, Geller's friends may well be more damaging to his cause than are his detractors. This spring the reputable old firm of Doubleday will publish a book entitled *Uri* by Dr. Andrija Puharich, who brought Geller to the U.S. from Israel. In a crude mishmash of *Mission: Impossible, 2001* and the James Bond series, Puharich (author of a previous volume on the psychedelic effects of mushrooms) soberly describes his adventures with Geller.

From outer space, highly intelligent computers called SPECTRA communicate through taped messages, which disappear. "We can only talk to you through Uri's power," says the mystical voice. "It is a shame that for such a brilliant mind we cannot contact you di-

rectly." When Uri finally meets the investigators from S.R.I., he confesses that outer-space intelligence directs his work. But the S.R.I. scientists are not taken aback. One, Russell Targ, placidly remarks, "The things you are telling us agree very well with things that Hal [S.R.I. Colleague Harold Puthoff] and I believe but we can't prove." Adds Astronaut Ed Mitchell: "Uri, you're not saying anything to us we don't in some way already sense or understand." The text raises some troubling questions. Is Puharich indeed in touch with what he calls "my editor in the sky"? Is his account of the S.R.I. meeting as true as his reasonably accurate report of Uri's meeting a year ago with the editors of TIME? If it is, why have the S.R.I. scientists failed to mention Uri Geller's contacts with outer space? Are they properly fearful of that most irrefutable antidote to nonsense: laughter? Or were they, as they now claim, merely "humoring" their subject?

Almost as impressive as Geller's rise to fame is the phenomenal success of *The Secret Life of Plants* (Harper & Row; \$8.95), a volume that is unaccountably placed on the nonfiction shelves of bookstores. The work of two occult journalists, *Secret Life* is an anthology of the absurd, costumed in the prim gown of laboratory respectability. In it are researchers like Cleve Backster, a lie-detector expert who attached the terminals of his machines to plants. Behold! The vegetation reacted to his thoughts. Most scientists have greeted the experiments with open skepticism—with good reason. After his plants would not respond for a visiting Canadian plant physiologist, for example, Backster offered an interesting hypothesis: the plants "fainted" because they sensed that she routinely incinerated her own plants and then weighed the ashes after her experiments.

Backster is the essence of conservatism compared with the book's more adventurous researchers. A New Jersey electronics buff, Pierre Paul Sauvin, attached a Rube Goldbergian machine to his plants, and then spent the weekend with his girl friend at a place 80 miles away. He found that even at that distance the plants had responded to his sexual relations with the girl. The tone oscillators went "right off the top," he says, at the moment of orgasm.

In Japan, Ken Hashimoto, another polygraph expert, discovered that his cactus could count and add up to 20. George De La Warr, a British engineer, insisted that young plants grew better if their "mother" were kept alive. Ironi-

CLOCKWISE FROM UPPER LEFT: Psychic Uri Geller, whose reputed ability to bend objects with his mind has stirred sharp debate; ESP test at the American Society for Psychical Research; Lie Detector Expert Cleve Backster with plant that he believes can "read" his thoughts; in psychokinesis test, subject tries to influence sequence in which bulbs will light.



cally, the authors did not address themselves to some significant facts about botany. Plants do respond physiologically to certain sound waves. Talking to a plant may indeed make it healthier, because it thrives on the carbon dioxide exhaled by the speaker.

Many psychics and their followers believe that paranormal powers may be dependent on mysterious auras or "energy flows," phenomena that they say can be recorded by Kirlian photography. The technique, developed in the late 1930s by Russian Electronics Expert Semyon Kirlian and his wife Valentina, involves introducing a small amount of high-voltage, high-frequency current into the subject and recording the subsequent discharge on photographic film. The result is a photograph showing an "energy body"—a weird aura—around the plant, animal or human part being photographed.

Soon, Kirlians claimed that photographing a portion of a leaf, for example, would produce the aura of the entire leaf on film. Some psychics claim that in time the aura of a missing limb might be discernible with Kirlian photography. Today the process is an integral part of paranormal exploration. In the U.S. the leading proponent of the

art is U.C.L.A. Psychologist Thelma Moss, who has taken more Kirlian photographs and done more experimental work with them than anyone outside Russia.

Moss, a former Broadway actress, found her interest in parapsychological phenomena kindled after LSD therapy. "From the first," she recalls, "I intended to specialize in parapsychology because of the glimpses of psychic phenomena I experienced during the LSD treatments. But I certainly don't feel the need to use drugs any more . . . When you've gotten the message, you hang up the phone." For Moss, the message is that Kirlian photography clearly demonstrates a human aura. "We have done work with acupuncturists and [psychic] healers," she says, "and we find that the corona of the healer becomes intense before healing, and then afterward is more relaxed and less strong. We think we're looking at a transfer of energy from the healer to the injured person."

Others are less certain. Writing in the *Photographic Society of America* journal, Bill Zalud concluded, "All speculation hinges on obtaining photographs of normal tissue patterns for comparative purposes and, so far, no one has really determined what a normal Kir-

lian photograph is." Stanford Professor William Tiller, an enthusiast of the paranormal, is more assured about the technical cause of Kirlian phenomena on film. "What we're looking at," he maintains, "is cold electron discharge."

Sickly Tissue. Says L. Jerome Stanton, author of a forthcoming book on auras and Kirlian photography: "Perhaps some day the technique will be a valuable diagnostic tool. Maybe sick people do have different 'auras.' But as of now, there is no assurance that it is at all useful." Though not accusing Kirlian researchers of faking effects, Stanton notes that the famous "phantom leaf" is easy to duplicate by double-exposing the film, first with the whole leaf, again after a portion has been removed, and that different voltages and conditions can change the picture in incalculable ways. "Working with advanced equipment," he says, "I could produce Kirlian effects that would astound the unsophisticated, and that includes a lot of scientists and physicists. Remember, electronics and photography are two very complicated

A Long History of Hoaxes

The first professional organization to study paranormal phenomena was the British Society for Psychical Research, founded in 1882. Among its membership were prominent scholars and scientists—men of unimpeachable credentials and high moral character. They soon discovered and enthusiastically reported on the telepathic abilities of five little girls, daughters of the Rev. A.M. Creery. The mentalist millennium was at hand. Six years later, the girls were caught cheating and shamefacedly admitted that they had fooled the investigators. They were the first in a long series of deceivers of scientists.

The society's next major project was an investigation of two "sensitives" from Brighton, G.A. Smith and Douglas Blackburn. Smith would allow himself to be blindfolded, his ears to be plugged, his body to be thoroughly blanketed; yet somehow the thoughts of Blackburn reached him. This time, it seemed, the S.P.R. had really justified its existence.

When Smith left the S.P.R. in 1892, no other comparable sensitive could be found. Still, the members had seen the telepathy performed with their own eyes; the evidence was held acceptable. It was not until 1908 that Blackburn admitted deceit. "The whole of these alleged experiments were bogus," he later wrote. The remainder of his statement has echoed to this day: "[Our hoax] originated in the honest desire of two youths to show how easily men of scientific



COMING OF THE FAIRIES

mind and training could be deceived when seeking for evidence in support of a theory they were wishful to establish."

The American Society for Psychical Research, organized with the help of Philosopher William James in 1885, suffered similar embarrassments. Yet it pursued its quarry with vigor. As James had noted, "To upset the conclusion that all crows are black, there is no need to seek demonstration that no crow is black; it is sufficient to produce one white crow." But after 25 years of reading psychic literature and witnessing phenomena, James admitted that he was "theoretically no further than I was at the beginning, and I confess that at times I have been tempted to believe that the



EXPERIMENTER J.B. RHINE & VOLUNTEERS

Creator has eternally intended this departure of nature to remain baffling."

Other researchers had not been humble or uncertain. Late in the century, a self-styled sensitive named Henry Slade toured the U.S. and Europe making objects vanish and swinging compass needles without the aid of a magnet. He was so convincing that a German scientist published a book, *Transcendental Physics*, devoted to Slade's accomplishments. Again, the psychic millennium seemed imminent. But in his biography, *A Magician Among the Spirits*, Harry Houdini reported that the conjurer was simply a fraud with a dazzling technique; Slade later confessed that it was indeed all an act.

fields. Mix them and all but the expert will remain in the dark."

The most irresponsible and odious niche in the world of the paranormal is occupied by the psychic healers, who cannot operate legally in the U.S. but lure unfortunate Americans overseas with claims of spectacular cures. Diagnosing illnesses and locating diseased organs by purely psychic means, they perform operations by plunging their hands through what appear to be deep incisions to grasp and remove sickly tissue. In the Philippines, currently the center for psychic surgery, a number of conjurers use sleight of hand and buckets of blood and animal parts to work their wonders. Surrounded by adherents who have been "cured," the ill-educated and often filthy surgeons perform "operations"—slashes of the epidermis, knives in the eye cavity, fingers in the abdomen—sometimes painlessly and always with great flourish.

As one witness to such "surgery" describes it: "The healer pulled some tissue from the area of the 'operation' ...

I literally grabbed the 'cancerous tissue' from Tony's hand ... I wanted to have valid medical tests performed on it. The tests, conducted in Seattle, showed that the tissue was 'consistent with origin from a small animal ... there is no evidence in any of this tissue to suggest that this represents metastatic carcinoma from the breast of the patient.'" Tom Valentine, author of a book on perhaps the best known of the psychic surgeons, Tony Agpao, documents the experience of a Mrs. Raymond Steinberg of Two Rivers, Wis. Tony "made a major production" of removing a piece of metal and several screws that had been surgically placed in her hip after an automobile accident. X rays later showed that Agpao had removed nothing.

True Believer. But the psychics, and those who profit from them, remain undaunted. In a few months, the respectable publishing firm of Thomas Y. Crowell will publish the story of yet another psychic healer, the late great Brazilian Arigo, *Surgeon of the Rusty Knife*. The author: John Fuller, whose pro-fly-ing-saucer books *Incident at Exeter* and *The Interrupted Journey* were big sellers during the UFO craze of the 1960s. The afterword is written by Geller Biographer Puharich, who in *Uri* incidentally

tells of extraterrestrial intelligence assuring him that Arigo was not hurt in his fatal car accident in 1971: "There was no pain. He left his body before the crash."

No amount of demonstrable fraudulence, no exposure of the fake, the manipulator, the unscrupulous, ever seems capable of dissuading the true believer in paranormality. James Fadiman, of the Stanford School of Engineering, believes that "most (but not all) parapsychologist demonstrators are also frauds," then gives the classic rationale: "Look at it this way. You think you have powers of clairvoyance, and finally you become a celebrity because of it. You're on the stage or in an experimental situation and sometimes your powers fail you. They do very often for most of these guys. So what do they do? They cheat."

Robert Benchley once separated people into two categories: those who separate people into two categories and those who do not. Parapsychologist Gertrude Schmeidler of New York's City College is in the first category. Her studies show that on the issue of parapsychology her subjects divide into believing sheep and doubting goats. The sheep almost invariably score higher in tests of paranormal powers. Will the sheep ever convince the ruminating



ELIOT ELISOFOON

EARLY ESP TEST (1940)



GERALD BRINACONRE

TED SERIOS PROJECTING PICTURES

Perhaps parapsychology's most glibble proponent was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of the superrationalist detective Sherlock Holmes. Doyle remains the greatest proof that intelligence and scruple cannot compete with naiveté and the desire to accept the paranormal as demonstrable fact. After the death of his son in the Great War, he turned to spiritualism for solace. This led, in time, to investigations of spirits, and eventually to little winged creatures in the bottoms of gardens. In his 1922 volume *The Coming of the Fairies*, Doyle reproduced photographs of a tiny goblin and elves caught by a child's camera. The pictures were manifestly staged; the entire project made all but the blind-

est believers wince. One who did not was a young American botanist named J.B. Rhine. After an inspiring Doyle lecture on spiritualism, Rhine and his wife Louisa immersed themselves in literature published by the Society for Psychical Research. When Rhine later joined the faculty of Duke University, he began a lifelong devotion to psychic research. It was he who coined the terms extrasensory perception and psi (for psychic phenomena); it was he who gave his specialty an academic imprimatur by compiling mountains of statistics about psychic subjects who could "read" cards that they could not see.

From the start, Rhine was criticized

for juggling numbers. (Subsequent researchers have also used questionable procedures, citing "negative ESP" when the number of correct guesses fall below average and "displacement" when subjects call the card before or after the one they are trying to guess.) H.L. Mencken summarized the early views of the dubious when he wrote, "In plain language, Professor Rhine segregates all those persons who, in guessing the cards, enjoy noteworthy runs of luck, and then adduces those noteworthy runs of luck as proof that they must possess mysterious powers." Rhine tightened his laboratory conditions in the 1930s, and much of the criticism withered—but so did his ESP stars.

In the 1960s a psychic superstar came along in the person of Ted Serios, a hard-drinking, onetime bellhop from Chicago. Serios' gift was definitely off-beat: he produced pictures inside a Polaroid camera using nothing but his mind and a little hollow tube he called his "gismo." Reporters Charles Reynolds and David Eisendrath, who observed Serios at work in Denver, had little trouble constructing a device that could be secreted inside a gismo to produce all of Serios' effects. The instrument contained a minuscule lens at one end and a photographic transparency at the other. When the device was pointed at the camera lens and the shutter was clicked, an image was recorded on film. The Reynolds-Eisendrath story was printed in *Popular Photography* and many of Serios' followers were shattered. Again the millennium was deferred.

goats? Will the goats ever undermine the faith of obedient sheep? Stranger events have occurred.

Just a few years ago what smug Western rationalist would have accredited acupuncture? Yet the ethnocentric prejudice seemed to disappear almost at a stroke when the Western world learned of James Reston's appendix operation. The *New York Times* columnist submitted to acupuncture after surgery on a trip to China in 1971; thereafter, the unorthodox method was examined throughout the U.S. Today acupuncture is under intense study at several medical centers. Although some of the beneficial effects of "paranormal" medicine have been acknowledged by Western scientists, they are still at a loss to explain it. It was not long ago that most Americans attributed the feats of Eastern yogis to clever fakery. Yet the new Western experimentation with biofeedback* has shown skeptics that the mind can indeed control what are normally involuntary bodily functions. The Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kans., reports incontrovertible proof that subjects trained by biofeedback can control their blood circulation and lower the temperature of the parts of their bodies at will; migraine headaches can be literally wished away. The ancient yogic mythic skills suddenly seem within the grasp of everyone.

Is it not possible that thoughts—like TV programs—can be transmitted from one brain to another? And if enough energy can be generated by the brain, why should it not influence the roll of dice? Or make a plant respond?

In an epoch when the new physics posits black holes in the universe and particles that travel faster than the speed of light, and has already confirmed the existence of such bizarre things as neutrinos that have no mass or charge, antimatter and quasars, why should any phenomenon be assumed impossible? What is wrong with Physicist Sir James Jeans' attempt to give coherence to an unruly cosmos: "The universe begins to look more and more like a great thought than a great machine"?

The psychic adherent's reply is simple: anything is possible. But simply saying that it is so and then supporting the contention with shoddy or downright fraudulent evidence, is not enough. Psychic phenomena cannot be accepted on

*A process by which one can learn to control involuntary bodily functions (such as heartbeat) through the visual or aural monitoring of physiological data.

faith; they must be convincingly demonstrated to objective people by objective researchers. To date, those demonstrations have not been made.

Any close examiner of psychic investigators and reporters will find a new meaning for Koestler's roots of coincidence. A loose confederacy of parapsychologists parodies the notion of the scientific method. Harold Puthoff, one of the two S.R.I. investigators of Uri Geller, is singled out in *The Secret Life of Plants* as a reputable scientist who has been experimenting with the response of one chicken egg to the breaking of another. He is also a promoter of the bizarre and controversial cult of Scientology, which Ingo Swann, another psychic

NATIONAL TATTLER



PSYCHIC SURGEON OPERATING IN PHILIPPINES
Sometimes painlessly, always with flourish.

tested by S.R.I., also practices. William Targ, a Putnam executive, recently contracted to publish Astronaut Ed Mitchell's forthcoming book, *Psychic Exploration, A Challenge for Science*. At the signing, Targ stated that "the real race now between the Russians and us is in the area of sciences like ESP." Mitchell's Institute of Noetic Sciences helped to fund S.R.I.'s Geller research, which was conducted largely by Puthoff and Russell Targ, who happens to be Editor Targ's son.

The questionable connections of many psychic researchers, in addition to the paucity of objectively verifiable results in their work, has made it difficult to raise funds for research; parapsychologists barely squeak by with money from a few foundations and gifts and encouragement from occasional philanthropists like Stewart Mott and Manhattan Realtor John Tishman. There is only one academic chair on parapsychology

in the U.S., at the University of Virginia. Should the findings prove depressingly negative, it is unlikely that academies or foundations would encourage more chairs, or promote further psychic investigations.

In a way, it is rather a pity that the sheep cannot get together with the goats. At the very least, the paranormal establishment has questioned the dogma, emphasized the ignorance and underlined the arrogance of modern medicine and science. Indeed, modern doctors have scarcely breached the frontiers of the mind. Science has all too frequently destroyed the layman's sense of wonder by seeking materialistic explanations for all phenomena.

As C.P. Snow says: "Scientists regard it as a major intellectual virtue to know what not to think about." Complains one S.R.I. spokesman: "The society we live in doesn't give you permission to have psychic abilities. That is one reason that so much talent is suppressed." As Martin Gardner believes, "Modern science should indeed arouse in all of us a humility before the immensity of the unexplored and a tolerance for crazy hypotheses."

As for the parapsychologists who make many of those hypotheses, they could learn the most valuable weapon in the arsenal of the truth seeker: doubt. One hundred and fifty years ago Charles Lamb observed that credulity was the child's strength but the adult's weakness. That observation is even more valid today, when shoddy or ignorant research is used to lend legitimacy to the most extravagant tenets of the psychic movement.

That is not to say that parapsychology ought to be excluded from serious scrutiny. Some first-rate minds have been attracted to it: Freud, Einstein, Jung, Edison. The paranormal may exist, against logic, against reason, against present evidence and beyond the standard criteria of empirical proof. Perhaps there are reasons why the roll of the dice and turn of the cards sometimes appear to obey the bettor's will. Perhaps the laws of probability are often suspended. Perhaps Geller and other magicians can indeed force metal to bend merely because they will it. Perhaps photographs can be projected by the mind. Perhaps plants think.

Perhaps not.

There is only one way to tell: by a thorough examination of the phenomena by those who do not express an a priori belief. By those for whom probability is not a mystique but a comprehensible code. By those who have nothing to lose but their skepticism. Until such examiners are allowed to play the psychic game, it is unlikely that the paranormal will escape the ambiguous utterance against it in *Leviticus*: "Do not turn to mediums or wizards; do not seek them out, to be defiled by them..." And that most wondrous and mysterious of entities, the human mind, will remain an underdeveloped country.



Miracles, miracles by Dan Troutman

"LADIES AND GERMS, The Amazing Randi!"

The gnome-like man with flashing eyes and a full, wiry, white beard strode briskly onto the stage at Aquinas College's Wege Center a week or so ago, flung his arms wide, knelt on one knee and bowed his head.

There was tepid applause from the audience of about 300.

The man snapped his head up, glaring. "C'mon," he shouted. "You can do better than that." He rose, whirled and stomped off the stage.

"Ta-dah," he hummed his own fanfare, and re-emerged, striding furiously to the front of the platform. He bowed.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he said, introducing himself again, "The Amazing Randi." This time, the response was more like it.

"Thank you, thank you," he said.

Thus gratified, the Amazing Randi, which is the only name he goes by, was ready to perform his array of illusions, escapes and conjures, the kind of act which made Harry Houdini famous and in which this bewhiskered, 45-year-old Canadian has achieved his own success in the annals of now-you-see-him-now-you-don't.

It's the kind of act which requires a very big gesture. Houdini achieved fame by breaking out of supposedly impregnable jails, escaping from "escape-proof" handcuffs and restraining devices, having himself locked into a trunk and dropped through a hole in the ice of a river, and performing similar off-stage feats.

Randi said he got to be noticed about 20 years ago while he was performing in a sleazy, smoke-filled Montreal nightclub, doing his escapes and magic tricks. The Quebec police got the notion that he would be a good man to test the security of their city lockup.

A detective approached him after a performance and suggested that an attempt to escape from a real jail — as opposed to a stage jail — might be useful and instructive for everybody.

The next day, Randall Z. (he says his real last name is Danish, and begins with the letter Z) took himself to Quebec. He says he was handcuffed, put in a restraint belt, chains and a cell and invited to try and get himself out. He accomplished the feat and found himself an overnight celebrity.

"The Amazing Randi Escapes from the Quebec Jail," announced the French-language newspaper *Le Soleil* on its front pages the next day. So the Amazing Randall became The Amazing Randi, and a new dimension was added to his career.

Since then, he says he has successfully escaped from 27 jails, "from Tokyo to Copenhagen," and also countless handcuffings, manacles, strait-jacketings and yards and yards of rope lashings.

The Amazing Randi was cheerful enough talking about all this. He sat on the edge of the stage at Wege Center before his performance and chatted with students and others, joshing them at every turn.

Somebody asked him if he'd ever known the great Houdini.

"What's that? Did I know the Great Houdini? No, he died two years before I was born which precludes my ever having met the man except in the spirit world."

Like Houdini, who spent a good share of his time exposing spiritualists and frauds and pooh-poohing any assistance from the supernatural in his illusions, The Amazing Randi doesn't believe in spirits.

"I'm content enough to live one life," he said.

He explained that he is a special consultant to the Houdini Museum in Niagara Falls, Ont. where mementoes of the great escape artist are preserved.

Earlier that day he was having lunch with Dennis Leiber, Grand Rapids assistant city attorney, Barbara Norgrove, coordinator of student activities at Aquinas and two Aquinas graduates, Dennis Colenda and James Chervenka.

"I was a child prodigy," he explained, modestly. "But I had a tremendous inferiority complex and was terribly afraid of people. Some people are afraid of rats, I was afraid of people."

He was a mathematical whiz, he said, and by the age of 14, he had passed college examinations in trigonometry and had nearly mastered analytical geometry. He said he was offered a scholarship in chemistry and physics at the University of Toronto but declined because of his extreme shyness.

"One day I took a look in the mirror and said to myself, 'You can't go through the rest of your life like this.'" He said he decided he had to face his problem head-on. "I had to

get out in front of people. I forced myself to perform in the most insurmountable of conditions: In front of crowds, working miracles."

During his first public performance, Randi said, he nearly fainted from stage fright but after that he never felt fear of performing in front of people again.

Now, his mathematical prowess mainly works itself off when he's alone, doing nothing in particular. He said he likes to perform mental tricks with large numbers, multiplying and dividing them in his head.

For the rest, he has become a complete showman, performing his "miracles."

He tugged his beard and told how he had himself placed in a sealed coffin, like Houdini, and was submerged at the bottom of a hotel pool for an hour and 44 minutes. He said he's broke Houdini's record for such a stunt — by 13 minutes — in the same pool at the same hotel.

"I take no credit for that," he said shyly. However, the feat was televised on the Today Show in 1958, "back when Dave Garroway had it."

Since then, he said, he has bested his underwater mark, staying submerged an hour and 52 minutes on one occasion and, later, performing his greatest achievement underwater, two hours and two minutes.

That last was a bad trip. Randi said. He says he suffered "temporary brain damage" from breathing his own carbon dioxide for so long. He had trouble seeing in one eye and was "a little bit incoherent" for a short time.

While he talked, he played around with the silverware. On an impulse, he picked up a fork and made it vanish.

"Ha, it went up your sleeve," someone at the table remarked.

"That's right," Randi replied, approvingly. "My armpit is magnetic."

Seriously, he said, "About 85 percent of my tricks are misdirection. Like politics, most of it is psychological."

On stage at Wege Center that evening, The Amazing Randi turned out to be a manic performer, hands flying, gesturing, red silk handkerchiefs whipping through space, Randi's patter the spirited hyperbole of the medicine show.

He performed several tricks he said were the specialties of an alleged psychic performer, Uri Geller. Randi dismissed Geller's sup-

posed healing powers as "nonsense."

Randi's own tricks were standard magic: Tearing a newspaper into pieces and supposedly making it whole again; making milk poured into a newspaper cone disappear and bending a ten-penny nail with the "heat" given off by the hands of an assistant.

The finale was the big escape. Two husky volunteers put him in a restraining device like a strait jacket and tied him to a chair with a long, thick rope. He asked them to tie him tight.

While he was being tied, he laughed and joked with the crowd. The volunteers worked fast. They tied the rope around his chest forcing his arms tight against his body. Next the rope went around his neck.

After they finished, it didn't appear smoke could have escaped from the restraints.

"Thank you," said The Amazing Randi, graciously. He told the audience that he likes to free himself in the same time, or less, than it took to bind him.

Then, it almost seemed as if he turned himself into oil, slithering inside the ropes. A shoe came off. He wiggled and slithered. "Time's up," somebody in the audience yelled, even though he still had a few seconds left.

Suddenly, a shoulder was free. Randi bobbed his head up and down to get slack in the rope. Then, with a last, Herculean shudder, he was out of the whole business and bowing.

Between performances, he talked about his life. He said when not on tour he lives in a house in Rumson, N.J., with his adopted son, whom he said was his protegee, and an assortment of animals, including a male and female dove and a cat.

In addition to individual performances, such as the one at Aquinas, he has toured with other performers, like Alice Cooper, the rock star noted for shocking audiences with bizarre by-play. Randi said he will be rejoining the Cooper group in several months on a tour which will take them, among other places, to Hawaii.

Randi describes Alice Cooper as "a very charming guy."

He said his particular contribution to the Cooper show will be as an "executioner" who seemingly beheads Alice. He will wear a black hood and fur robe and will man a guillotine.

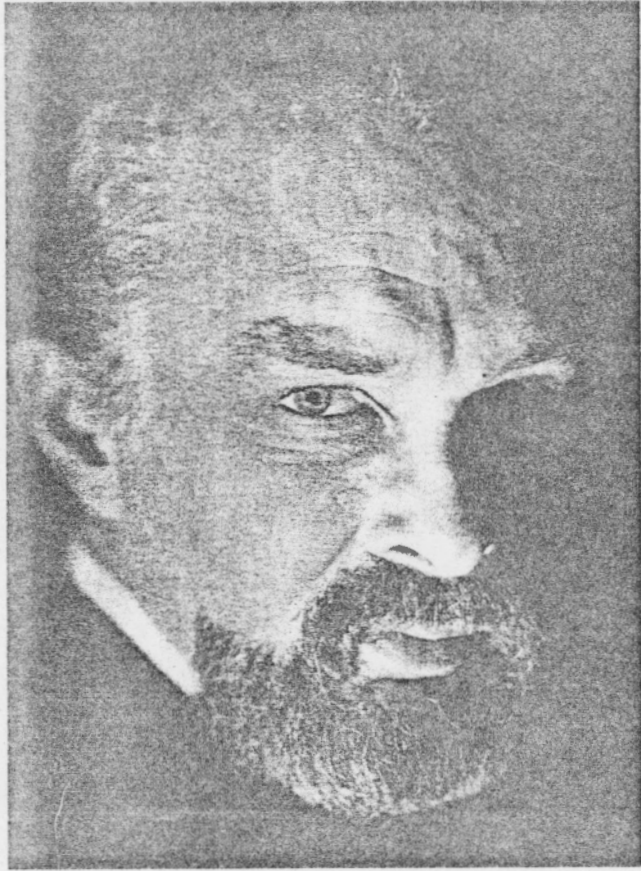
Randi said this beheading is so realistic, he always checks the red-spattered fake head that's used "to see if it's warm."



TIED BY TWO STRONG MEN AND STRAIT-JACKETED.....

.....AND OUT 2½ MINUTES LATER!

The World Festival of Magic and Occult brought together from all over the world some of the finest performers of their kind. Playing to SRO in New York's Madison Square Gardens, it attracted the rapt attention of the press and public for three weeks, and elicited such comments as these for The Man No Jail Can Hold — The Amazing Randi



In addition, some *27 minutes* of TV news time was devoted to interviews and film footage of Randi's stunting. Locked up in a vault while tied with 50 feet of rope and a policeman's handcuffs, he was the subject of an ABC-TV segment and was featured in an NBC-TV news interview—all during the New York run of the World Festival of Magic and Occult. All this coverage—plus 3½ hours on NBC radio!

“The Amazing Randi has been on the show many, many times before . . . he's remarkable, *really* remarkable!”

—Johnny Carson, NBC-TV.

“Randi is one of our very topnotch escapologists—in this show, he breathlessly extricates himself from a straight-jacket while being swung upside-down from the rafters . . . *only a handful of masters are operative in any generation; this character is a master.*”

—New York Post.

“ . . . the Amazing Randi, truly amazing as he makes impossible-looking escapes . . . ”

—Bergen Record, New Jersey.

“Randi, a wiry escape expert, bests ropes and a straight-jacket with overwhelming speed . . . ”

—New York Daily News.

“Randi can still do things no other escape artist will even attempt.”

—True Magazine.

“One artist, The Amazing Randi, justified the whole performance. His ingratiating patter and breathtaking escapes were the hit of the evening.”

—Newsday.



THE AMAZING RANDI HAS
THE PERSONALITY AND
QUALITY THAT CREATE
A DEMAND FOR HIM AS
A SUBJECT FOR RADIO
& TV INTERVIEWS —
*AND HE HAS THE PERFORMANCE
ON STAGE TO BACK IT UP!*

TWELVE IMPORTANT TIPS YOU SHOULD REMEMBER

Here are some basic common-sense points that can improve your home security. Check *your* locks, doors and windows against this list.

- (1) NEVER attach a name-and-address tag to your key-chain! Instead, use the address of a friend who has been informed of this. In this way, a dishonest finder cannot use the keys for burglary. And, always remove your house keys from your key-ring when leaving keys with a parking-attendant. Duplicates are easily made, and can be used dishonestly.
- (2) DEADLOCKS are easily installed, and cannot be "slipped" from outside with a plastic card or knife. A bronze deadlock costs less than ten dollars, and is worth every cent of the cost.
- (3) BACK DOOR locks should be as good as those out front. Just because you seldom use the back door, don't skimp on the installation. A burglar would rather use your back door, anyway. He's shy!
- (4) VACATION time is bonanza time for thieves. Don't announce your departure in the society columns. Wait until you return from your vacation to inform the newspapers. Empty houses are open invitations!
- (5) DISCONTINUE all deliveries when going away. This includes all items such as papers, mail, milk and other articles whose presence indicates you are not at home. Have a neighbor pick up flyers at your door.
- (6) When out for the evening or longer, leave random lights on. Any thief will hesitate to enter a home that shows someone *may* be home. A good idea is to have a friend enter and change which lights are left on if you will be away for some time.
- (7) IF you have a door with glass or thin wood panels near the lock, have double-cylinders installed. This means you will have to use a key to open the door from *either* side, and a burglar breaking the door will not be able to reach in and twist the lock open without a key.
- (8) WINDOWS must be locked if accessible from outside. BUT BE SURE these windows can be opened quickly and easily from the inside in case of fire! See your locksmith for this service.
- (9) LADDERS are dangerous for security. Always lock all ladders with a chain, so burglars cannot use them to enter through a second story.
- (10) CHAIN-LOCKS are good ONLY for privacy and front doors when talking with callers. They are easily broken, and even locking types are NOT good for away-from-home security.
- (11) UTILITY MEN always carry identification. Ask to see it if you do not recognize the caller. He will not be insulted, and you will be assured that you are not being "cased" for a break-in.
- (12) MYSTERIOUS PHONE CALLS should always be reported to the police. Burglars often "case" a home by calling to see if anyone is home, and police can often detect a pattern of such calls and be alerted that the area is being surveyed for break-ins.

ABOVE ALL – IF A BURGLAR SURPRISES YOU, DON'T RESIST! GET OUT AS FAST AS YOU CAN, AND IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, CO-OPERATE. THERE IS NO PROPERTY MORE VALUABLE THAN YOUR LIFE, AND A DEAD HERO IS NO USE TO YOUR FAMILY!

Common sense is always your best weapon against burglars. Have you ever forgotten your keys and had to enter your house by other means? Was it easy? Could a burglar have used the same method? Survey your home NOW and be that much safer. NO home is burglarproof, but your home can be much more of a problem to a criminal if you work at it. A burglar usually works alone – don't *you* be his partner!

James Randi
MR. SECURITY



KANFER PREPARING TO LEVITATE RANDI

A LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Back in Forest Hills, Queens, N.Y., more than three decades ago, a nine-year-old showman named Stefan Kanfer amazed his friends by producing coins and cards out of thin air. "It was the old up-the-sleeve trick," recalls Kanfer, now anchor man of TIME's Essay section, "and the coins would generally clatter to the floor, to my embarrassment. As a magician, I had ten things working against me—my fingers." So the young Kanfer went to New York University and ended up writing advertising copy, gag lines for Victor Borge, short fiction, TV programs, a few off-Broadway shows. In 1966 he joined TIME as a writer for the Show Business section before turning movie critic and essayist. This week he was back at his old haunt for our story on the renaissance of magic.

Over the years, Kanfer has worked on enlarging his bag of tricks. He has learned hundreds of card stunts, math games and vanishing acts from his friend, Science Writer Martin Gardner, through whom he met other magicians willing to share their secrets. Among Kanfer's most prominent mentors is James ("The Amazing") Randi, who served as an informal consultant for the current story. "Steve has been a really good student," says Randi. "If he really applied himself, he'd be terrific. As a writer, he knows how human beings work, which is crucial for a magician. He's also a little crazy, and that helps too." Yet Kanfer remains modest: "The real magic for me is in words, not things. I belong behind the typewriter, not on the stage. When a really good magician performs, I'm the world's biggest geek."

Kanfer's in-house accomplice for his story was Reporter-Researcher Patricia N. Gordon, who interviewed Doug Henning, star of Broadway's *The Magic Show*. "Henning lives magic," she says. "The enthusiasm he conveys is incredible. Talking to him, I fully expected him to turn into a cougar or burst into flames on the spot." Gordon also found Kanfer's spirited but unmethodical treatment of research materials somewhat extraordinary. "He puts everything together and it comes out pure Kanfer," she says. "That is really magic."

Ralph P. Davidson

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The Cover: Photos by Dirck Halstead (President Nixon); Pete Turner (gavel); Harris & Ewing (Supreme Court Justices).

TIME is published weekly, \$18.00 per year, by Time Inc., 541 N. Fairbanks Court, Chicago, Ill. 60611. Principal office: Rockefeller Center, New York, N.Y. 10020. James R. Shepley, President; Clifford J. Grum, Treasurer; Charles B. Bear, Secretary. Second class postage paid at Chicago, Ill., and at additional mailing offices. Vol. 104 No. 4 © 1974 Time Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

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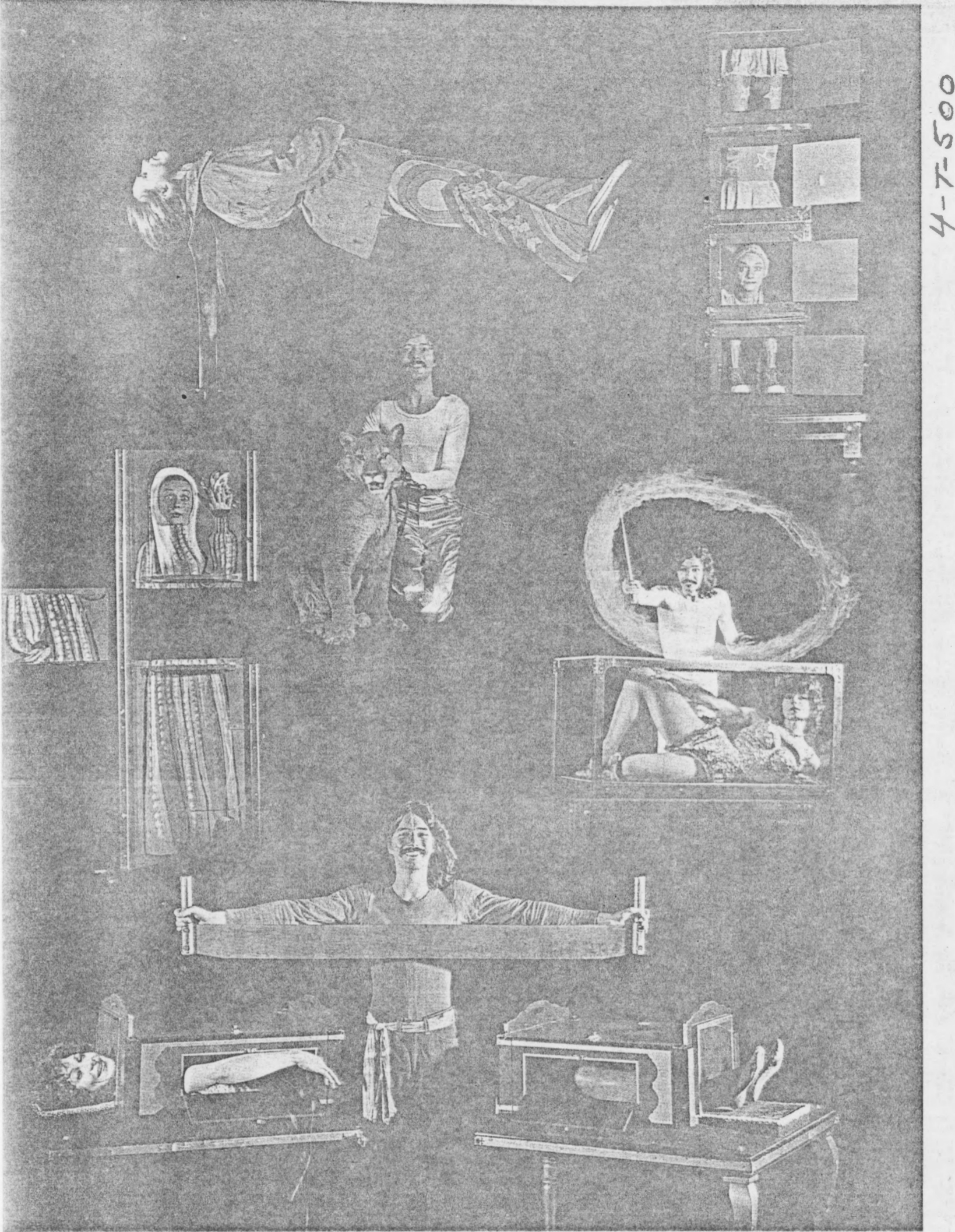
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New Era Photo by O. Henry Hertzler

"The Amazing Randi" hopes the pizza dough doesn't include any anchovies, cause they'll hurt his eyes. The dough and a mask were placed over his eyes to obscure vision, then an airtight, opaque black bag (above) tied

around his head before he got behind the wheel for a drive (lower photo) at Park City this morning. He drove near people and barriers without hitting them.

PERFORMS AT PARK CITY

Escape Artist Drives While Blindfolded

His vision apparently blocked by a mass of pizza dough, aluminum mask and opaque, airtight bag, the "Amazing Randi" stepped into his Red Volvo on the Park City Shopping Center lot this morning and piloted the auto through a maze of shoppers, bystanders and parked cars. (He didn't hit anything)

"I'm doing this because I need the dough," quipped the internationally known escape artist and illusionist as he tossed the pizza dough before beginning the stunt.

DOUGH DONATED

He hoped the dough, donated by a Park City merchant, didn't include any anchovies, cause "they smart on the eyes."

As a crowd of shoppers and interested persons gathered in the shopping center lot at 10 a.m., Randi removed his glasses—"Now that I haven't got my glasses on I can't see a thing anyway" he jested—and permitted officials to obscure his vision with the elaborate apparatus.

Groups of onlookers who had formed a miniature maze, waited while Park City owner Melvin Hyman placed a black opaque bag over Randi's head and tied it securely in place.

His vision apparently obscured by the dough and mask

in front of his eyes and the heavy bag, Randi groped into his car, tooted the horn, and drove away.

He smoothly circled around and between groups of spectators who had formed the maze, piloted the auto around the parking lot, parked and stepped out.

"I have never had an accident in my car," he explained while the bag, mask and pizza dough were removed. Beads of perspiration mottled his forehead, testimony to his confinement in the airtight bag.

'CALL IT TRICKERY'

How does he do it?

"I call it trickery," says Randi, who believes many so-called "psychics" actually are bilking the public with magic tricks.

Randi asked his audience for their explanations of his sightless driving skill, and admitted one person uncovered "part of the solution."

"Sit in the passenger seat

beside an open window, close your eyes, listen closely, and see what happens when you pass a car or wall," he advised the group.

Randi admitted he'd arrived at Park City at 4 a.m. to drive around the lot and recognize the sounds produced by the lights and parked cars. But he wasn't saying how the trick is done—"that doesn't work with people," he noted.

What Randi was saying, however, is that the "trick" can be explained, and he claimed the "tricks" performed by all psychics he has seen also have explanations.

Randi is performing at the Host Farm Resort Motel this week. Next week he will make a similar sightless drive in Manhattan.

OTHER TRICKS

Randi has escaped from prisons, straight-jackets, coffins, ropes and chains, conjured bottles from nowhere, and caused objects to vanish before spectators eyes across the U.S., Canada, Europe and Asia.

Randi got his "big break" about 20 years ago when he was performing in Montreal. A detective saw his act and decided he'd be a good man to test security in a Quebec city jail.

Randi jumped at the chance to escape from a real jail instead of a prison on stage. He was handcuffed, put in a restraint belt and chains and locked in a cell. He escaped and found himself an instant celebrity.

In addition to his performances, Randi has appeared on the Mike Douglas and Johnny Carson Shows and provided information to "Time" and "Photography" magazines on the tricks used by persons professing to be psychics.

He has duplicated mind-reading stunts, drawn pictures of objects sealed in envelopes and duplicated the famous key-bending trick used by supposed psychic Uri Geller.

