

'Remote viewing': A look into the unknown

By NED MacKAY

Mental ability to view a distant location through someone else's eyes—in some cases via future prediction — has been uncovered by two physicists at Stanford Research Institute (SRI) in Menlo Park.

The physicists, Harold E. Puthoff and Russell Targ, conducted 51 experiments during the past three years, using both experienced and in experienced subjects.

People's "remote viewing" skills, as the scientists termed them, were tested using locations as distant as Puerto Rico and as close as the Stanford University campus.

In four cases which the scientists admit reluctance to publish, one person evidenced ability to describe accurately the spot another was visiting, before the visit had occurred and before even the visitor knew where it would be.

The results of the experiments are described in an article appearing in the March issue of the Proceedings of the Institute of the Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

Targ and Puthoff were the two SRI scientists who studied the apparent psychokinetic abilities of Uri Geller, a young Israeli who toured the United States in 1973 demonstrating his alleged psychic powers.

Targ and Puthoff concluded that they had no scientific explanation for some of the things Geller could do, and that "further investigation is clearly warranted."

In working on the more recent research, Puthoff and Targ conducted a series of original experi-

ments, then five additional verification series using different people.

In general the format called for a member of SRI management not otherwise connected with the experiment to supervise selection of the locations and keep each location listed in a sealed envelope in his office safe.

During an experiment a sealed envelope was selected at random and handed to the experimenter who was to visit the site. The experimenter proceeded directly to

the site accompanied by observers.

Meanwhile, the other experimenter, who remained ignorant of the site, was kept in the laboratory with the subject for the entire period. Some subjects were placed in a Faraday Cage to screen out most electromagnetic waves.

While the team was at the site, the subject focused his thoughts on the outbound experimenter and his location, describing the scene and making any drawings he wished.

Ultimately judges not connect-

ed with the experiments were asked to match the descriptions with the sites. Various "double blind" arrangements were used to prevent accidental information leakage.

According to Puthoff and Targ the results of five out of six studies were significantly better than mere chance would allow. Three of the studies differed from chance expectations by odds of 1,000 to 1 or better, one by odds of half a million to one.

In the long-distance experiment, three subjects knew only that

Puthoff was on a 10-day trip to Costa Rica and would photograph and describe his location at 1:30 p.m. on seven specific days.

At one of the appointed times, a subject back at SRI said with some misgivings that Targ's location was an airport with a sandy beach and ocean nearby. It was correct — Targ had taken an unplanned side-trip to an offshore island and had just disembarked from a plane.

In experiments closer to home, subjects described with varying accuracy their experimenters' visits to the Palo Alto Civic Center, the pedestrian overpass to the Bayshore Freeway at Oregon Expressway, and various parks.

One subject correctly identified her experimenter's location as White Memorial Plaza at Stanford University.

The authors approached the future viewing experiment results with extreme caution.

"If the authors may be forgiven a personal note, we wish to express that this section deals with observations that we have been (Continued on page 2, col. 4)



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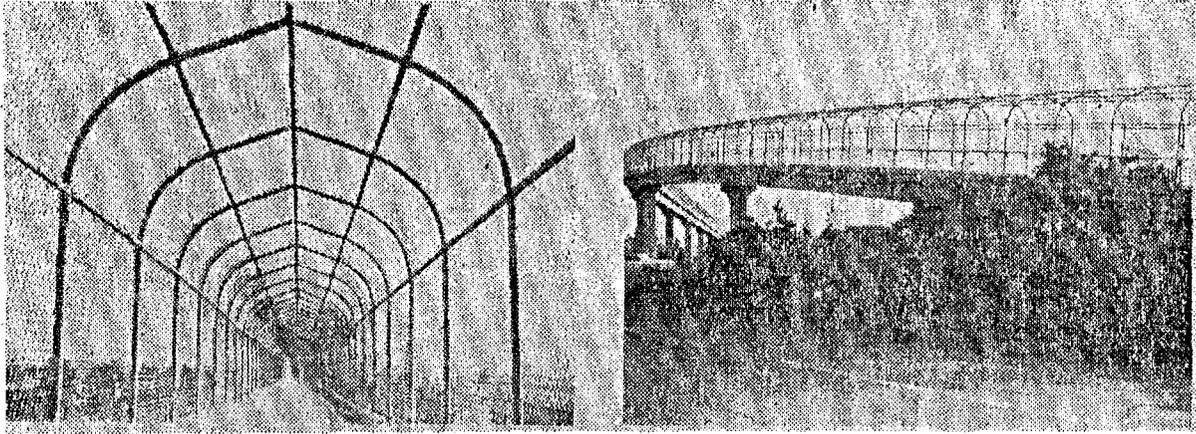
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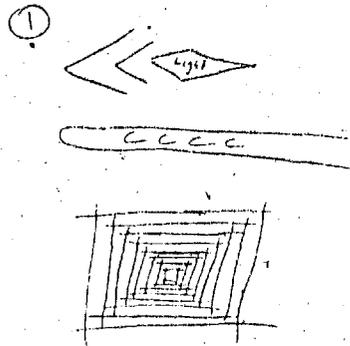
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'Seeing' through another's eyes

The sketches shown at right are one person's mental images gathered during another's visit to a Palo Alto pedestrian overpass. The first participant stayed at Stanford Research Institute and did the sketch, describing the image as "some kind of a diagonal trough up in the air."



SRI's 'remote viewing' study tells of parasensory 'sight'

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reluctant to publish because of their striking apparent incompatibility with existing concepts," Targ and Puthoff wrote.

"The motivating factor for presenting the data at this time is the ethical consideration that theorists endeavoring to develop models for paranormal functioning should be apprised of all the observable data if their efforts to arrive at a comprehensive and correct description are to be successful."

During the original experiments some of the participants had volunteered that they had had images of where their experimenter would visit in the forthcoming test.

So Targ and Puthoff did four more experiments with one subject. The difference was that the subject was required to describe the remote location during a 15-minute period beginning 20 minutes before the location was selected and 35 minutes before the outbound experimenter arrived there.

"For reasons we do not as yet understand, the four transcripts generated in the precognition experiment show exceptional coherence and accuracy as evidenced by the fact that all of the judges were able to match successfully all of the transcripts to the corresponding target locations," Targ and Puthoff reported.

Further experiments are under way.

Targ and Puthoff cite current theories about extremely low frequency waves as one possible explanation of some of the experiment results.

Their discussion of the apparent "time reversibility" of observations is directed at the lay reader. It in-

volves electromagnetic and quantum theory, and suggests that precognition "may be the easiest of apparent paranormal phenomena to assimilate within the current theoretical structure of our world view."

"... Modern theory is not without resources that can be brought to bear on the problems at hand, and we expect that these problems will, with further work, continue to yield to analysis and specification," they wrote.

The research was supported by the Foundation for Parasensory Investigation and the Parapsychology Foundation of New York City; the Institute of Noetic Sciences, Palo Alto; and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Two killed in pipe blast

ROHNERT PARK (AP) — Two men were killed and three injured when a gas explosion ripped open a water pipeline where they were working, police said.

"It appears the men shot through the water line like cannon fodder because they were pretty badly broken up," said Rohnert Park Police Chief Robert Dennett. He said one man was found 1,000 feet from the explosion site.

Dennett said the coroner was on the scene with one of the victims. Four persons were taken to Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. One was dead on arrival, another was in critical condition and two were treated for minor injuries.

Authorities said the men were working inside the 48-inch-diameter pipe when a backhoe used in the excavation struck the pipe, causing a powerful blast.

Nixon tells of CIA orders

(Continued from page 1)

ings, terrorism and domestic violence in 1970 he authorized a coordinated counter-operation by most intelligence agencies but called the operation off after a few days after objections from the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. Nixon said he was "surprised" at Hoover's disagreement because the FBI chief had attended the meeting setting up the operation, later to be known as the "Huston plan."

—The quality of intelligence during the Nixon administration "was relatively adequate" but "better intelligence concerning the 1974 Yom Kippur War in the Middle East might have permitted moves to avert it."

—Nevertheless, he found "recent efforts to emasculate the Central Intelligence Agency and related intelligence organizations to be not only incredibly shortsighted but potentially dangerous to the security of all free nations."

—"For the national media to publish and disseminate classified national security information is in my view irresponsible journalism."

Nixon apparently felt that his responses would leak or be released by the committee partially or in another form and instructed his Washington attorneys to release the answers as he made them.

A spokesman for Miller, Cassidy and Larocca, the law firm representing Nixon, said that the White House knew of Nixon's responses and tried to object to having them released in that form.