

clues sought: hoax or scandal?

Is it a hoax or is it a scandal? Is it a serious reflection on the games professors play to keep their jobs and win promotions, or is it a prank played on a prof by his colleagues?

These are the questions the Gateway tried to answer about a copy of a letter sent anonymously to the newspaper with a penciled note at the top asking, "What do you think of this?"

The letter bears the letterhead of a firm called "Academica", but the letterhead lists no office address, telephone number, or responsible officers. It is signed by the "district manager" of Academica, Harold D. Haffnow, with an address at the Macdonald Hotel.

Offered in the letter are services

which range from the preparation of a curriculum vita a prof's academic record on which salary and promotion decisions are based in part, to "references from national and international contacts of impeccable authority, publication opportunities, and if necessary original authoritative papers in the discipline of your choice."

"In short," the letter concludes, "We can provide you with an academic reputation with only a minimum time-involvement on your part."

The letter claims "many successful former clients" at the U of A. "Their progress through the ranks have been, in part at least, due to the efforts of Academica."

Evidence of their results were to be made available to interested potential clients through a local representative, K. W. Toerans. They claim a 93% success rate.

Rates for the firm's services were listed as \$25 for initial services and an additional \$25 or 10% of raised gained as a final fee.

The MacDonald Hotel reports that the building has no room 411, the address listed for Haffnow, the district manager, and hotel records back to mid-November show no registrations under the names Haffnow or Academica.

Neither Haffnow nor Toerans is listed in the Henderson's city directory, and a check of the phonebooks for Edmonton,

Winnipeg, Vancouver, Saskatoon, Regina, Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal and Halifax yielded no listings for Academica or the two individuals.

The Centennial Library information department searching reference-works on Canadian educational and business institutions, could find no firm with the name Academica.

The letterhead's logo seems to have been amateurly done with lettraset, and appears to be on a separate piece of paper which was attached above the body of the letter.

Anyone who has any information about the firm, or the origin of the letter, is requested to contact the Gateway office.

tj

thumbs down on SUB co-op

A proposal for a co-op record store in SUB has received a thumbs-down reception from the SU building policy board.

The board ruled that the site proposed by the co-op group, the lounge and hallway area outside the music listening room, would not meet fire regulations. It also ruled that no space was to be made available free of charge, and that the operation would further reduce lounge space available in SUB.

The proposal, submitted to the board by Maureen Stirling, compared the record store to a co-op bookstore presently in operation at the University of Calgary.

The group planned to buy records at wholesale prices and sell them at 50 cent above cost. The store was to be staffed by volunteers who would receive a monthly "dividend" in records.

They had asked Students' Council to allow them to use the space six days a week, an exception to the recent policy board decision to restrict 'flea market' activities in SUB to Fridays.

In turning down the proposal, the board said that the idea of a record rental and used-record sales scheme would be considered in the formulation of the music listening room budget for next year.

tj

local boy makes good

One of the few U of A campus radicals as of three years ago has been arrested in California. A close associate of Jon Bordo and the S.D.U. (Students for a Democratic University) in '69, Morton Newman was arrested along with six others, all members of a Marxist revolutionary group, on charges of harboring Ronald Beaty, an escapee from Chino State Prison in California.

The arrests occurred in December on charges by the FBI after a disclosure of the bloody escape and subsequent three month hiding period by Beaty.

Bail was set at \$10,000 for both Newman, a Political Science graduate of the U of A, and Bruce Franklin the founder and leader of the group, The Venceremos. When bail was posted at 3 p.m. the same day both were released.

The October 7 escape resulted in injuries to guards, one of whom later died. Immediately following the escape Beaty was taken into hiding with Newman and another man known as Sealock serving as lookouts. Three months later all connected with the plot were arrested.

Newman, along with the other arrested members of the group, appeared at a Jan. 5 preliminary hearing. He is now reporting weekly to a federal probation officer at San Jose and is under instructions to remain in the area pending trial.

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psychic mystifies crowd with ESP



"Extra-sensory perception is something we all possess," says Russ Burgess, parapsychologist. The psychic, lecturer, and entertainer gave a forum and played tricks in front of 250 people Thursday night in Dinwoodie Lounge.

Most ESP skeptics left the forum considerably less likely to say there is no such thing as ESP, and probably several new followers fell at Burgess' feet after the very persuasive show. However, Burgess specifically warned the audience not to believe some of his tricks, as he knew that some people are inclined not to take this type of phenomenon critically.

Burgess' most spectacular prediction involved the mailing of a sealed envelope containing three slips of paper, to Randy MacDonald, forums chairman, a week before the lecture.

MacDonald opened it Thursday night, and read off one of the slips. On it was a very creditable approximation of that day's main Journal headline.

But Burgess struck out, when a member of the audience did not call out the name of the playing card that matched the prediction on the second slip. Burgess admitted his error gracefully.

Then three different people in the audience were asked to write down on the same piece of paper a three digit number. A fourth person totalled the numbers. It did not surprise the audience too greatly that the sum, 1433, matched the third slip's prediction. All three predictions were made a week previous in Boston, Mass.

Also receiving some ooh's and aah's were some comprehensive predictions involving about ten people. A number of members of the audience were asked to write down their names and a question of any sort for Burgess to answer. Burgess then turned showman and was heavily blindfolded. He took each slip of paper in the palm of his hand at quite a rapid pace. Some he would receive no "sensation" from, but for others he called out some initials and pointed to an area of the audience.

Invariably, someone would answer, "I'm here." Then Burgess proceeded to tell the audience something about this person and described his question in detail, finally giving an answer or prediction concerning some future event. His exposition was interrupted only by the occasional affirmation, exclamation, or astonishment of his subject at the time.

Most of the information Burgess gave out was not even written down on the slips of paper, so it was difficult to imagine any trickery's possible method. One person had asked who he was to marry. Burgess then told the audience his question—without seeing it—described the woman in question—her initials and that she lived out of town—and then made a prediction. Continuing to play Ann Landers Burgess told another person that his mother would understand his leaving home.

Burgess believes ESP to be an art form rather than a science. He claims to have been a skeptic who examined the

scientific evidence, then developed his own ESP ability. Existing only with certain limitations, ESP can only be brought out in the quantity one possesses innately. Burgess claims 80% accuracy among the 60% of workable subjects.

Burgess looks down on many "psychics", including Jeanne Dixon who claims 99% accuracy. "She has the faculty of forgetting her mistakes."

Burgess, in addition to being a parapsychologist, is a hypnotist and suggestologist. He believes in the importance of meditation. Answering questions at the end of his demonstration, Burgess told the audience that there is no reincarnation—"I'd hate to come back as a moron". He mentioned that his religion teaches otherwise. He also told the audience that drugs do not bring out ESP, but merely give the illusion of ESP.

four seek

vacant seat

Four candidates are running in the election for Arts Faculty representative, to be held on Friday, January 19. They are Donald Bell, George Mantor, Larry Panych and Jim Tanner.

Mark Priegert, former holder of the position, was dismissed for transferring from the Arts faculty to Education. jw