



The search for the human soul

If you really believe you have a soul, then, in the interests of scientific research, you will have to prove it, since to scientists the acceptance of anything without proof makes them think that such a thing does not exist. There has never been a scientist who can prove what thought and perception is, yet most of us accept that we are capable of thinking and often have perception in varying degrees. From the dawn of time, however, mankind has been firmly convinced that it has a soul. Faith in the existence has been around and in substantial evidence also. What has not been available is hard evidence of proof. Yet on the scientific non-existence of the soul, religious dogmas and philosophies have been founded, which is pretty good going for something considered as a myth or an unproven belief.

James Kidd, a prospector in Arizona, died in 1949, and during his lifetime he was plagued about the existence of the soul. So he stated in his will that he wished his considerable estate amounting to \$297,000 to go to finance research aimed at establishing the existence of the human soul. He desired that such proof should be given on scientific grounds and hoped that one day someone could photograph a soul leaving the human body at death.

There were 130 contenders for his will, which made legal history. Arizona Superior Court Judge Robert L. Meyers awarded the prize to the Neurological Sciences Foundation of Phoenix.

Well, it would have been nice - if partisan - to have kept the money in James Kidd's home state, but the case was appealed in the Arizona Supreme Court, which ruled that this foundation should not have the money on the grounds that Mr. Kidd was thinking of the soul as a separate entity and not part of the nervous system. The case was returned to Judge Meyers with instructions to review four contenders. Robert Dilts, an Indian medium, claimed he had already been in touch with the soul of Mr. Kidd. Not good enough, said the judge, and out went Mr. Dilts' claim.

Next came Dr. Joseph W. Still, a Los Angeles physician, who had some scientific proof, but could not disclose it adequately enough to satisfy the judge. Then came the Physical Research Foundation of Durham, North Carolina and the American Society for Psychical Research with its headquarters in New York. After several months of deliberation, Judge Meyers picked the New York group as "best qualified and suitable to carry out the trust expressed in the will of James Kidd." No explanation came with the ruling, but no doubt the judge was impressed with the eloquence of Dr. Gardner Murphy, then President of the New York society. He explained that with more money, the society could hire more researchers and increase instrumental analysis to detect physical marks of "the spatial separation of psychic events from the physical body."

Presumably in the near future, we shall be getting the first results of the research program envisaged by Dr. Gardner. It is not an enviable job, because the general public is still very sensitive about psychics looking in on deathbed scenes. While life is still cheap by many standards, death tries to maintain more of its mystique than birth once did. It was once unheard of for father of any man other than a doctor to be present during the sacred ritual of birth. This tabu has gone.

Remember that James Kidd hoped that someone could photograph the soul leaving the body at death, but he did not realize the difficulties of a parapsychologist getting in on a death bed scene with a camera. Not even the producers of those remarkable medical series on television have gotten around to this idea yet.

To include soul photography is almost too much to hope for at this time.

Part of the function of the American Society for Psychical Research is to keep the public informed of what it has discovered. Let us hope that James Kidd's money has been wisely spent and that we shall soon hear of the latest scientific and parapsychical research which has been done in the never ending search for proof of the human soul. Personally I can live without proof, because I am unashamedly sure that I have a soul and an indestructible spirit which will go to another plane on death and then return again to inhabit another body. But then I am just a simple country witch who never had any doubts about karma, reincarnation and that truly remarkable intangible part of myself called the soul.

Science will get its proof when it deserves it, but I wonder what it will do when it has proved something we all know to be a fact. Will it put a soul under a microscope and then begin to dream of a time when a soul can be transplanted in the same way as the physical organs of the human body? It is quite a thought for the science fiction writers of tomorrow. And will our soul really be our own, or must we have new legislature to say that we can donate it in the same manner as we can now donate parts of the eye for the Cornea fund?

The mind boggles at what may happen once science proves we have a soul, but until that day I intend to take good care of my own.

Citadel-on-wheels

With a total of 6,211 miles of highway and 800 air miles travelled, the props and cases of the Citadel-on-Wheels School Touring Company have been stored away for another season. There were 724 performances and workshops, with 213 of these being performances of two original Canadian plays for over 47,750 students and adults in 147 schools and institutions in the 7½ month tour of Alberta.

Thousands of letters and drawings have poured into the Citadel office from children, giving graphic evidence to the impact of the Wheels' visits... a rewarding and gratifying response for the long hours on the road, the snow storms and icy highways.

Nationally and internationally recognized for their work in educational

theatre, the Citadel-on-Wheels also conduct workshops in creative drama and improvisation for students and in-service sessions for teachers, opening doors into further dramatic creativity.

The company under the direction of Irene N. Watts included Judy Cooke, Ian Deakin, Keith Dinicol, William Fisher, June Mayhew and Brian Taylor.

But this is not all for this

talented company. Following a week's rest, they will begin rehearsals for the final double bill at the Citadel, OEDIPUS REX and an original Canadian rock musical SCAPIN! by Richard Ouzounian, based on Moliere's "The Tricks of Scapin". This playbill opens on April 20 for a four week run, then goes on to the National Arts Centre, Ottawa for performances, May 22 to June 8, 1974.

Karate tourney lacked participants

by Greg Neiman

The U of A Karate Tournament held in the main gym Saturday, proved to be smaller and less impressive than planned.

Scheduled to start as early as 11 a.m., if turnout would be good, nothing happened until 2 p.m. due to an unplanned shortage of participants. Nonetheless, those who did show up from the list of universities and professional clubs which were invited across Canada, gave spectators a good idea of the quality of karate in Canada.

There was a good deal of scrapping in the lower ranks that did not show much form

of any kind, but the higher ranks, especially the blue belt lightweight division, gave spectators a thrilling display of spirited karate technique.

Included in the tournament was a kata contest, which gave evidence to the refinement of karate technique which could not be seen during the sparring events. Both weapons and empty hand kata events were held, displaying fighting skills barehanded and with staff and short sword.

The breaking event drew some enthusiasm from the crowd, the largest number of 5/8 inch thick spruce planks was seven.

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Forms for making application may be obtained from the University of Calgary, Student Awards Office, the University of Alberta (Edmonton), or the Commissioners' Office, PO Box 2100, Calgary, Alberta. When completed, the forms are to be returned to the Commissioner of Finance and Administration, Box 2100, Calgary, Alberta, on or before the above mentioned date.

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