

Can six million people be wrong? That is a conservative estimate of the number of followers in the cult of Dr. Jose Gregorio Hernandez, a Venezuelan country doctor whose healing power affects millions of people 80 years after his death. Called "the doctor of the poor" in life, he continues to give medical advice through scores of mediums in Venezuela, Colombia, and other Latin American countries. The good works done during his life and the seemingly miraculous cures dispensed after his death have encouraged the Catholic Church to begin the process to canonize him.

I first became interested in Dr. Jose Gregorio Hernandez while working in Colombia. Eduardo Betancourt was a young miner who worked with me at a mining project in northern Colombia. We were missing some equipment, and he mentioned that his grandmother, Celina Castro, was a Gregorian medium who could find lost articles as well as missing persons.

I had lived in South America long enough not to reject the seemingly absurd out of hand. The Castro family had been friends of mine for a number of years and I remembered Eduardo's grandmother had been very ill. Diagnosed with a serious heart ailment, she had sought the advice of numerous medical doctors. After six months of visits, her condition deteriorated. It was then she sought the help of a Dr. Jose Gregorio Hernandez medium. The "doctor" swabbed her chest, then bandaged the area. Two days later a closed, two-inch-long wound appeared. "The bad had been released from the body," she told me. I expressed my skepticism, but did not fail to notice that not only did she recover from her ailment, but her overall confidence and health improved. Later, Celina Castro herself became a medium.

"I was born with the spirit," she says, explaining her powers.

MEDICAL MEDIUM

*For thousands of poor
Colombians, the channeled
healing power of
Dr. Jose Gregorio Hernandez
is more than
"alternative" medicine.*

**article and photos
by Robert Mykle**

OF THE JUNGLE



Believers bring the ill and sick to be treated in “temples” dedicated to the late doctor. Most are simple converted houses. As a quasi-religious movement, the Gregorian cult is based on modern medicine, indigenous cures, and prayer. Naturally, the faithful are mostly, but not exclusively, uneducated poor—the very people Dr. Hernandez treated. He came from a wealthy family, yet dedicated his life to addressing the lack of medical care afforded to the poor isolated people of his country. Altruism, humility, and faith are the hallmarks of Dr. Jose Gregorio Hernandez.

It is said that Dr. Hernandez met Antonio en Toos (“El Indio”), a Native American medicine man who taught the doctor native cures and spiritual ways. Understanding the large gap between Western medicine and alternative treatments, Dr. Hernandez incorporated the indigenous cures into the modern medicine he practiced. This amalgamation improved on both forms of treatment.

It is still considered “alternative” medicine by the medical establishment — but for billions of people living in poor areas of the world, faith healings and other non-Western treatments are often the only medical option.

Temple of Tumors and Toads

To visit Celina Castro, I had to make a 400-mile pilgrimage to the small town of San Juan de Arama, located where the Amazonian jungle meets the *Llanos*, the great grasslands of eastern Colombia and Venezuela, between the lofty peaks of the Andes and the mesa-studded Sierra de la Macarena. White Cebu cattle graze in green grasses during the rainy season and scrounge among the brown-burnt tufts of grass in dry months. Much of the jungle has been cut and burnt away.

Celina Castro, a diminutive great-grandmother with short white hair and an impish stare, walks with the bounce of a teenager. Her house is a rambling structure with a number of bedrooms where boarders live. The porch offers an unobstructed view of the mesas and a small bull ring used only during the annual fair.

The temple, located in a corner of San Juan de Arama, is an unpretentious house that would be mistaken for any other house in Colombia and Venezuela, except for a lack of windows facing the street. Patients enter the main room, which serves as a worship and waiting area. The inside is lit only by scant sunlight and candles. The temple has no electricity.

While patients wait to be attended by Celina Castro, they are silently encouraged to pray or meditate. An altar dominates the room with candles and statues of Dr. Hernandez, the Virgin Mary, and the Christ child. A drawing of Antonio en Toos, El Indio, gazes down on the room.

I am not ready to claim I have been cured from this experience, but I have not felt the need since then to return to a doctor or chiropractor.

The most startling feature of the temple is the collection of medical oddities on the floor and along the altar. Bottles filled with worms, slugs, hairballs, kidney stones, and large fist-sized tumors preserved in alcohol serve as mute testimony to the healing powers of Dr. Hernandez and his mentor El Indio. It is reminiscent of the many religious sanctuaries with collections of crutches and other medical utensils that are discarded after miraculous cures. The specimens are there to encourage the patients — the equivalent of medical diplomas on the wall.

I am informed that most of the specimens are the result of spells cast by enemies of the patients — hairballs expelled from the throat, a slug that had lodged for years on a man's vocal cords, a fist-sized kidney tumor that had been forced out of another man's body. I shudder to think of such a large object passing through the urethra.

While the majority of the preserved animals are easily purged nematode worms, some of the specimens represent more unusual cases. A large toad squatting in a bottle had been expelled from the uterus of a woman. The woman came to the temple with a bloated stomach. Something inside her stomach kept moving. "It leaped around like a pony,"

Celina Castro remembers. Medical doctors could not find anything wrong, so she desperately came to the temple for help.

While in a trance, Celina instructed the woman that whatever was bothering her would be expelled in eight days. The patient returned home. A week later she expelled through her vagina a large, blue-colored toad. She lost a large quantity of blood, and a white milky substance dripped down her legs. The toad was taken in a white cloth, placed in a jar, preserved in alcohol, and brought to the temple.

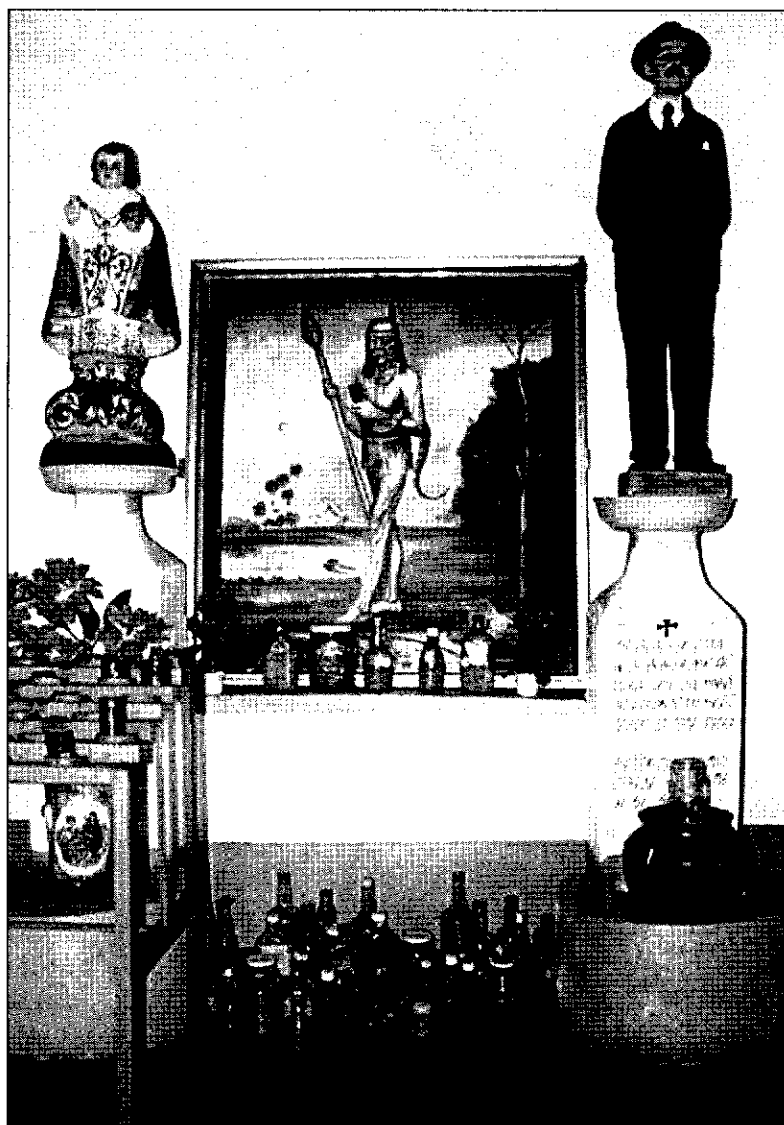
There are many other interesting anecdotes, and the people's belief in them is evident. Patients arrive daily at

the temple even before Celina Castro. The patients are mostly poor, though a couple of luxury cars arrive from the capital, Bogotá. Celina Castro's fame as a healer has spread. "People come from all over the *Llanos* and Bogotá. And farther," she says.

Celina's Solution

As her reputation grows, more people are willing to risk the dangerous trip to San Juan to be healed. She is no longer merely a regional phenomenon.

Word of her abilities reached the upper echelons of the Catholic Church in Bogotá. Since there is a movement to canonize Dr. Gregorio Hernandez, Church officials were interested in talk-



The waiting room is replete with a drawing of El Indio, a statue of Dr. Hernandez (right), and bottles of expelled tumors and animals.



The author sits with medium Celina Castro at her home.

ing with Celina Castro. She was invited to the capital city and questioned by a panel of priests.

"I explained what I do, how I go into a trance and receive his spirit," she says. "They took notes, gave me a good lunch, and sent me home."

Explaining how she becomes the conduit for Dr. Hernandez, she says, "I pray. I pray in the Catholic style. Then I become unconscious and I leave my body. That's when the spirit of Dr. Gregorio Hernandez enters my body and talks to the patient. It's not me talking. It is my voice, but it is Dr. Gregorio Hernandez who talks through me."

"I cannot be in a matrimonial way," she adds, emphasizing that she practices sexual abstinence. She is not quite a virgin — disqualified by her marriage and four children — but her husband died 15 years ago, absolving her of her wedding vows. She is now a jungle sibyl, married to the doctor's spirit.

Early in the morning, she prepares for the day's session by fasting. At the temple she prays. A young woman assists her. Once she is in a trance, patients waiting in the front room are admitted to the back room. Though the consulting hours are 8:00 A.M. to noon, she remains until the last patient is attended.

Thinking it would be quite interesting to be treated by a dead doctor, I decide to visit the temple myself. I wait in line with two dozen people, some in obvious pain. Near midday, I am ush-

ered into a candlelit and incense-filled room. Her assistant helps translate the sometimes garbled messages. Celina sits straight with her eyes closed tightly.

While not suffering from any specific ailment, I do have a back pain that neither medical doctors nor chiropractors have been able to help. I had resigned myself to living with it. I mention my condition and am told to lie down on a gurney. With her eyes tightly closed, she rubs

my back with an alcohol-based clear liquid and chants prayers to the Virgin Mary. I am given a prescription for pain and a clear, tasteless liquid to drink.

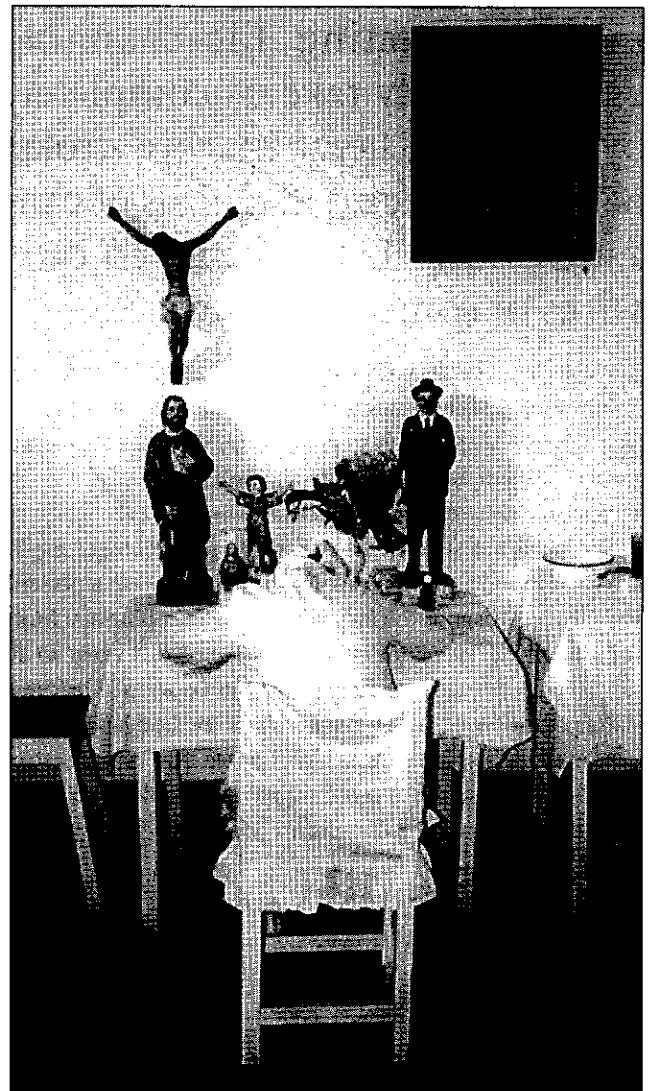
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In the afternoon, Celina attends people who want to talk with El Indio. Then, she assumes a humble position, crouching over the table. People ask about their love lives, lost persons and objects, and just about anything except medical advice. This is the second part of the symbiotic relationship between Dr. Jose Gregorio Hernandez and Antonio en Toos. It is a tiring ordeal for the slightly built Celina Castro, so she sees patients only on Mondays and Wednesdays. She returns home exhausted.

As the cult of Dr.

Jose Gregorio Hernandez continues to grow, the medium phenomenon is worth closer investigation. While there may be doubters, few can deny the healing powers of faith. ■

Robert Mykle has lived in Colombia for two decades and has traveled and made deep-jungle trips throughout South America. He enjoys discovering interesting things and people in Colombia and is intrigued by the beliefs of economically and geographically marginal people.



Celina Castro crouches in the El Indio position.



Punch cartoon of 1919 depicting ghosts of Franco-Prussian War regarding with disapproval the German surrender in World War I.

C The Ghosts of Germany

by David F. Godwin

"Deep forests, gloomy mountains, limitless morasses, caverned rocks, mysterious springs, all these helped to shape the weird and terrible imagination which may be traced in Teutonic mythology, and later in the darker and more repulsive aspects of magic and witchcraft, which first arose in Germany, and there obtained ready credence."

—Lewis Spence

Germany, like every other part of the world, has its share of ghosts and ghost lore. One Hessian tale, reported by Jacob Grimm in his monumental work on Teutonic mythology, relates how a farmer named Kurt didn't seem to know that he was dead and continued to work around the farm. In the barn, he helped a worker throw sheaves from the loft. When the worker threw one, Kurt threw another.

But one day a stranger was hired to throw sheaves, and Kurt stopped working. When the man yelled, "Throw, Kurt!" the

ghost seized him and threw him to the threshing floor, where he broke both his legs.

This rather minor tale serves to point out the difference between German ghost stories and those of other nations. In England, a ghost will merely scare the bejabbers out of you. In Germany, it will do its best to break your neck. Most German supernatural tales seem to possess an element of violence and deeper horror than those from happier climes.

Take Bishop Hatto, for example.

The Rats in the Walls

In the tenth century, there was a Bishop of Mainz named Hatto. Prior to becoming bishop, he was abbot of Fulda. There was a famine in 970, but Bishop Hatto had plenty of food. The starving poor congregated around his door, begging for food. Being rather a greedy fellow, the bishop refused to share his grain, which he had laid up for himself. In order to get rid of the

pests, whom he compared to rats, Hatto invited everyone to his great barn. The hungry and poor flocked into the barn until it could hold no more. Hatto then locked them in and burned down the barn. Quite satisfied with himself for ridding the country of these freeloaders, Hatto slept peacefully that night. But he never slept again.

In the morning, he found that rats had eaten his portrait out of its frame. Then a servant reported that rats had eaten all the corn in the granaries. Then came a messenger to tell that an army of rats was advancing on the castle.

Bishop Hatto looked out the window and saw the landscape dark with rats, advancing remorselessly toward his palace. In terror, he fled by boat to his tower in the middle of the Rhine. But the rats swam the river, climbed the tower, chewed their way in, and ate the bishop.

To this day, tourists are shown the Mäusethurm (Mouse Tower) where the deadly assault took place.



The Mouse Tower on the Rhine

The Black Ball of Dresden

In 1774, a Leipzig restaurant owner turned necromancer called up that which he could not put down. Johann George Schroepfer opened a fashionable café that quickly gained a reputation as a gathering place for those interested in the occult and the arts of magic. The establishment soon became an occult lodge devoted to necromancy—speaking with the spirits of the dead. Even though many people felt that Schroepfer's evocations were faked, he attracted the attention of Prince Charles of Saxony, son of the Elector. Charles accordingly summoned Schroepfer to Dresden for the purpose of evoking the spirit of the Chevalier George Saxe, the deceased uncle of the prince.

What Schroepfer summoned into the palace at Dresden, before 19 members of the German nobility, was a huge black globe that continually put forth clouds of vapor. The sphere bore the distorted features of the chevalier.

The sphere sped around the room crying in a loud and angry voice, "Charles, what would you do with me? Why do you disturb me thus?"

Schroepfer appeared to panic as badly as everyone else, but he finally managed, with much shouting and gesticulation, to exorcise the apparition. It took an hour.

The horrified guests began to come to themselves, arising from the positions where they cowered on the floor, and began to heap abuse on Schroepfer. The doors burst open at that point, and the sphere returned as before. More panic ensued, but at last Schroepfer was able to banish the thing for good. He then fled to Leipzig in fear of his life.

Back home, Schroepfer's supporters treated him to a banquet, and the necromancer tumbled freely. He invited his friends to go with him to the forest of Rosendaal outside the city gates for a further—and even greater—demonstration of his powers. Only three of them were brave enough to go. Once at their destination, Schroepfer excused himself to make preparations. His friends soon heard a gunshot. Rushing in the direction of the noise, they found Schroepfer dead. He had killed himself with a pistol. The black ball of Dresden had been too much for him.

Vivat! Vivat!

Not all German ghost stories are morbid or violent, however. Take the tale of St. Cassius and the peasant.

Near Bonn rises the Kreuzberg. There once stood an old convent church on the mountain at the site of the martyrdom of Cassius and his companions, Florentius and Melusius, who died for the Christian faith.

Once, a simple peasant made a pilgrimage to the place to pray to St. Cassius because of a bad harvest and his many debts. He visited the chapel and went through the required devotions. On his way back home, he stopped at an ancient Roman tower to spend the night rent-free.

He woke up when somebody tapped him on the shoulder. Standing before him were three Roman soldiers, whom he recognized as the martyrs of Kreuzberg. He followed them into another building, where they showed him a table stacked with gold. They filled his pockets with gold coins and offered him a glass of wine. He toasted them with the only Latin word he knew, from the vicar of his village church: "Vivat!" ("He lives!")

The three warriors smiled and returned



FATE, June 1955

Schroepfer conjuring the spirit.

his toast, and then the whole building was full of Roman soldiers drinking and shouting, "Vivat! Vivat!"

Startling himself by all the noise he was making by shouting, "Vivat," the peasant awoke on the floor of the Roman tower.

The peasant naturally assumed that he'd had a wonderful dream—until he felt in his pockets. They were filled with ancient gold coins. Elated and celebrating, he wandered the streets shouting, "Vivat! Vivat!" A watchman stopped him, and the peasant told him his story and invited the watchman to share a draught at a nearby inn. The story spread, and the road from the square to the tower was renamed Vivat Lane. It still bears that name to this day.

Other Tales

But these are very far indeed from being the only tales of the supernatural that Germany has to offer. In more modern times, there is the matter of how Adolf Hitler seemed to be protected and at times possessed by some strange spirit determined to propel him to his destiny, and Elie Wiesel's mention of reports of the blood of Jewish victims geysering from the ground for months after a Nazi massacre in the Ukraine.

From the Wild Hunt and the Flying Dutchman to WW II appearances by the Red Baron of WW I and the mysterious happenings surrounding the *Scharnhorst*, Deutschland has abounded in accounts of the unexplained. †

David F. Godwin is managing editor of FATE magazine.

JOHN KEEL

WHAT FAMOUS LIGHT BULB was named after a personality from some other point in the universe?

BEYOND THE KNOWN

A Persian named Zarathustra (who was known as Zoroaster to the ancient Greeks) encountered and conversed with a glowing spirit called Mazda about 3,000 years ago. He went on to found a great religion known as Zoroastrianism. It concerned itself with evil spirits (demons) and good spirits (angels). Its priests were called *magi* and were reputed to have great powers. The word *magic* is derived from this. Eventually, the Edison Mazda light bulb was named in honor of the Zoroastrian god. The religion itself flourished for many centuries and still has about 10,000 followers.

Naming and studying angels and demons is called aretology. Interest in aretology remains strong today, with hundreds of books and some obscure newsletters devoted to the subject. According to many polls, millions of folks believe in angels and have had some kind of contact with them. St. Michael, for example, was the subject of a recent Hollywood flick with John Travolta in the lead role. Poet and author Gustav Davidson has produced *A Dictionary of Angels*, an impressive scholarly work which is still in print.

The Bible says that many people have met angelic beings without being aware of it. There are now books, including some bestsellers, recount-

ing the intervention of angels in human affairs. The sudden popularity of angels may be a symptom of a desire for guidance or security. But this desire can get us into trouble. The Bible warns us to beware of human-like entities who claim to represent far-off kingdoms. We are told "do not go into the desert to meet them." These beings have been running amok among us in the UFO age, inviting us out to their desert domains.

That ancient advice goes to the heart of the modern contactee phenomenon. There have always been shape-changing entities out there helping us, playing tricks on us, and directing our lives for both good and evil. Davidson's book recounts many of these episodes and the cults that they inspired. And I couldn't begin to list the thousands of letters I have received in the last 40 years, describing unexpected meetings with seemingly supernatural beings.

Across the centuries, the greatest minds of each age have tried to interpret these machinations, producing libraries of learned books advocating thousands of belief systems. There are all kinds of devil theories blaming the evil "Trickster" (known in every culture) for all the misfortunes that befall us.

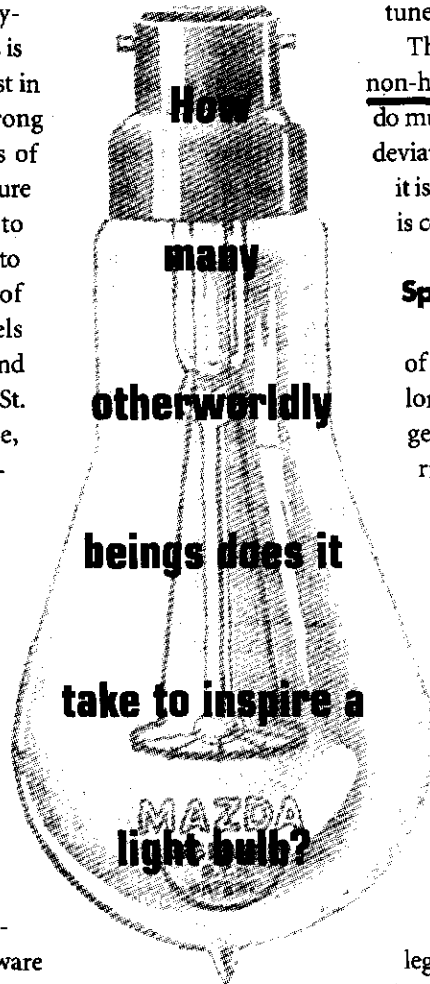
The evidence is overwhelming that some non-human force controls us. We can't seem to do much about it. Terrible evil strikes those who deviate from the prevailing plan, whichever plan it is. Worship the wrong system and your goose is cooked.

Speaking with the Tricksters

Hollywood started dramatizing the world of the Tricksters in the early 1950s. Before long, millions of people believed not in angels, but in the extraterrestrials who were riding around our skies in aeronautically unsound disks.

Communication with the Tricksters proved to be remarkably easy. First, spirit mediums got in touch with the space people through a trance (this is now called channeling). Like those characters from the desert, the mediums enthralled us with tales of faraway worlds, kingdoms, and principalities. They had names that sounded suspiciously like nylon and other modern fabrics. George Adamski, a Californian who once talked with God, switched his allegiance to Orson and built a new cult.

Other methods of communication, previously reserved for spirit contact, started to find their way into



the alien realm. Ouija boards became popular again when people started using them to receive personal advice from extraterrestrials.

Informed FATE readers know that Ouija boards can be very dangerous, and that misuse of them can lead to possession. If you take the board's advice seriously, you can actually fall under its spell.

Many innocent people in the 1950s turned into helpless victims of the space people, creating a new movement of terror and paranoia capped with an anti-government fear that would rapidly expand out of control. Even though former Blue Book chief Edward Ruppelt explained in 1956 what had happened behind the scenes and how the CIA had been involved, author Donald Keyhoe and others screamed that a mysterious "silence group" was at work. Contactees popped up everywhere (especially California), becoming a large cult by the end of the decade. Acting on the advice of the space people, Gabriel Green ran for President of the United States in 1960 as "your write-in space age candidate."

Ham radio operators were the next to get the evil gleam in their eyes. Most of them were night owls who sat in sheds surrounded by magnetic fields from their equipment. Zap! They began to get radio signals from the great void. These were identical to the messages of the spirit mediums of the 1940s. The growing cults of extraterrestrial believers became more convinced than ever that they were being watched by someone "out there," not to mention having their telephones tapped and their mail opened by the silence group.

The Commander Takes Over

Meanwhile, a new space entity appeared on the scene, claiming the name of "Ashtar."

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Within a very short time, Ashtar dominated American ufology. He told contactees he was the head of the Inter-galactic Command.

Ashtar cults burgeoned. Ashtar was coming to save us bumbling earthlings from ourselves. In retrospect, he was the single most important ufological personage of the last 50 years. His messages would fill volumes. His influence on the true believers was undeniable.

Actually, Ashtar has existed for thousands of years, beginning as the multi-breasted fertility goddess worshipped by the ancient Phoenicians. The annual vernal equinox became her holiday, celebrated with the symbols of rabbits and eggs. We now call it Easter, a corruption of the German word for Ashtar. Somewhere along the way she faced a gender crisis, but belief in Ashtar spread throughout the world. That seems to be the biggest mystery of all. How did Ashtar survive thousands of years of history and end up as the big cheese in ufology?

I suspect that some fiendish human being introduced Ashtar sometime in the early 1950s and it caught on just as Roswell did in the 1950s, the 1970s, and again in the 1990s. Maybe Ashtar turned up on a Ouija board. And maybe it will reappear again when our space satellites take close-up pictures of Ganymede and find "Greetings from Ashtar" traced in the cosmic ice. ■

John Keel, author of The Mothman Prophecies, lives in New York City.

Next Month's Columns

Psychic Frontiers

by Loyd Auerbach

Hypnotic Highways

by Dr. Bruce Goldberg

The Age of the Green Sun. In 1949-50, American citizens were befuddled by a green sun. I was in New York at the time and remember it well. The sun was a bright green for many weeks. Finally, some anonymous authority in the bowels of the government announced that there were forest fires somewhere in northern Canada causing the peculiar green effect.

Everybody seemed to accept this explanation without question. I was one of the few cynics. The image of the green sun remained forever in my memory.

After the end of the "Cold War," President Clinton ordered the release of all secret documents, some dating back to World War I. It was finally revealed that our ever-alert scientists had discovered that a Soviet atomic reactor had spread heavy pollution into the atmosphere. So they decided to duplicate this by releasing three tons of highly radioactive uranium into our atmosphere at Hanford, Washington. It not only turned the sun green, it released 7,800 curies of radioactive iodine. (The accident at Three Mile Island much later released only 15 curies!) This is the stuff that can mess up the human thyroid gland.



Thus began many years of radioactive pollution that eventually placed so much strontium-90 into our environment that cow's milk in the midwest became unusable. It didn't do our thyroids much good either. ■

"Earth Changes" such as earthquakes, vulcanism, and global warming. Their "Future Maps" all show significant sections of the east and west coasts eventually submerged, displacing tens of millions of people. In these versions of the future, San Francisco Bay swells into an eastward-spreading sea, flooding large sections of California, Nevada, and Utah. The Mississippi River will widen and deepen enormously, drowning cities like St. Louis and New Orleans beneath its murky waters.

Meanwhile, prophet and TV producer Sean David Morton, a former associate of the late *Star Trek* creator Gene Roddenberry, has predicted enormous political and sociological changes for the U.S. in the early decades of the next millennium. According to Morton, a series of disasters will result in the extinction of the "United States of America" and the birth of the "North American Union." Western Canada and northern Mexico will join this new nation, and the present 50 states will merge into 13 larger entities. Among other political changes, Morton has foreseen that Colorado will be known as "The Plateau of Judgement" after North Americans wage the final battle there against a Chinese invasion.

A more alarmist prediction has been revealed by Ed Dames, a retired major in the U.S. Army and president of Psi Tech, a professional remote-viewing firm in California. "Technical Remote Viewing," as it is termed by Major Dames, is a technique for locating persons and objects at great distances in space and time, which, Dames claims, anyone can learn if taught properly. In his controversial "Kill Shot" prediction, Dames has concluded that a massive solar flare will devastate much of the Earth's surface as early as April 1999. During an October 1998 interview on the syndicated radio show *Coast to Coast AM*, Dames also informed host Art Bell and millions of listeners that Psi Tech had remote-viewed the so-called "Third Secret of Fatima," and said he could confirm rumors that this prophecy, long-suppressed by the Roman Catholic Church, does indeed warn of an apocalyptic disaster at some point in the future.

Some of the potential catastrophes in our future could be the result of our own folly. Aside from the lingering threat of nuclear war, the dramatic change that appears to be affecting

long-term global climate could, in the opinion of many scientists, be the result of human-caused global warming. Hundreds of scientists are united in the belief that continued pollution of the atmosphere will only make the situation worse. They offer as evidence the severity of last year's El Niño.

Dr. Paul W. Dixon, a professor at the University of Hawaii, is a psychologist who has undertaken research into the possible threat posed by "high-energy physics" research. According to Dixon, the increasing energy output of particle accelerators (once known as atom smashers or cyclotrons), could threaten the integrity of the barrier separating our solar system from a theoretical realm known as "De Sitter Space." Dixon fears that a sufficiently high burst of energy from a particle accelerator could literally puncture a hole in the barrier. The result would be an explosion of energy that would turn the solar system into a blazing supernova. Although experts like Dr. Richard Crowe, chairman of the university's Department of Astronomy and Physics, disagree with Dixon's unconventional hypothesis, others have expressed a degree of interest.

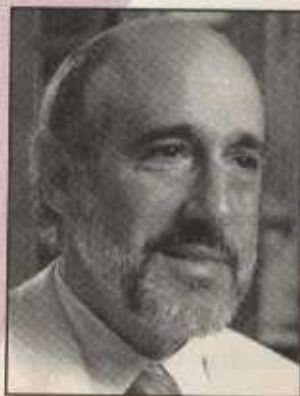
Gordon-Michael Scallion Visionary & Futurist

Background: Gordon-Michael Scallion might be described as a pre-millennial Edgar Cayce. He was an ordinary businessman until an unexplained seizure in 1979 opened him up to the ability to receive vivid visions. Scallion initially used his gift for medical diagnosis and healing, but in 1991 his focus shifted to visions of future "Earth Changes" brought on by earthquakes, vulcanism, and global warming. Scallion soon produced his *Future Map of the United States* (1991) followed by his *Future Map of the World* (1996). He is also the author of *Notes from the Cosmos*, and though his organization, the Matrix Institute, he publishes the bimonthly *Earth Changes Report*.

Hit or Miss: The Matrix Institute reports that Scallion correctly prophesied major California earthquakes from 1992 to 1994, as well as Hurricane Andrew and the Mississippi floods of 1993. Some of his specific 1998 visions have not yet come to light, including multiple volcano eruptions in the tectonic zone known as the "Ring of Fire," a "complete melt-off of Antarctica," and an initial "minor" pole shift.

Forecast for '99: Scallion has numerous predictions for years ahead, but the bulk of his *Earth Changes* visions are summarized on his *Future Maps*, which Scallion says are due to become reality gradually from 1998 to 2012. According to the maps, a huge portion of the west coast and much of the east coast will be submerged (the Pacific will soon reach as far inward as Nebraska) and the Great Lakes will open a wide basin into the Gulf of Mexico. Coastlines will rise worldwide and Europe will be almost entirely inundated with water, while the ancient continents of Atlantis and Lemuria will partly emerge from the sea.

—Simon Peter Groebner



The Matrix Institute

Robert Ghost Wolf Native American Spiritualist

Background: Ghost Wolf is a part-Native American author who bases his forecasts of upcoming Earth Changes and spiritual development on his own modern interpretations of Native American prophecy. He is the author of *Last Cry* and *Winds of Change*, and his organization, Wolf Lodge, produces the monthly publication *Prophecy Today*. *Winds of Change* is clear on Ghost Wolf's personal definition of prophecy: "The Prophet who is most successful is the Prophet who spreads the word of his prophecies, and by doing so, keeps them from coming to fruition."

Hit or Miss: Ghost Wolf accurately foresaw the July 1998 discovery of the remains of an ancient Native American settlement in Alaska, as well as the 1998 birth of a "cama" (a cross-breed of a camel and a llama). But he incorrectly prophesied that Earth's magnetic poles would shift 32 degrees last year and that a human-driven event would cause eruptions of Mt. Raimier and a volcano near Mexico City.

Forecast for '99: From *Last Cry* and *Winds of Change*: The U.S. government as we know it may collapse "between 1998 and 1999"; earthquakes of a magnitude of 9.7 to 12.0 will begin along the Pacific Rim; virus epidemics resulting from the Gulf War will finally emerge; and the time will come for disclosure about extraterrestrials. — Simon Peter Groebner



The Science of Aquarius

Despite all these prophets of doom, there are also voices of hope — far-thinking researchers who for decades have been pushing the limits of conventional science in their search for answers to the mysteries of time and space.

Richard C. Hoagland, who brought the enigmatic "Face on Mars" to the attention of the world (see FATE, October 1996), is championing the optimistic cause of "Hyper-Dimensional Physics." His research into this cutting-edge science indicates that the ancient Egyptians once knew how to harness extraordinary energies, and that they tried to convey this knowledge to their descendants through religious and astrological writings. Mr. Hoagland also believes that the puzzling formations visible on the surface of the planet indicate that an intelligent civilization once flourished

on Mars — a civilization with intimate knowledge of the mysteries of hyper-dimensional physics. Monumental mysteries in stone — like the Great Pyramid at Giza, the cloud-scraping city of Machu Picchu in the Andes, and the immense structures on the island of Ponape — were built thousands of years before the advent of industrial technology, yet our advanced civilization would be hard pressed to duplicate these mighty achievements. Did our ancestors possess the secrets of hyper-dimensional physics?

Nuclear engineer Thomas Bearden has been one of the leading figures in the alternative-physics community for more than 20 years. Bearden, a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army and a former technical intelligence analyst, be-

lieves that the former Soviet Union possesses awesome technology based on what he calls "longitudinal EM waves." This little-understood electromagnetic phenomena can, according to Bearden, "steer" weather patterns by varying temperatures in different parts of the world. (It can also be used as a terrifying weapon that can transmit destructive force through the planet itself to any point on the surface.)

In a September 21 interview on *Coast to Coast AM*, Bearden claimed that the Soviets used this technology to sink the U.S. Navy's nuclear submarine *Thresher* in April 1963. The official reason given by the U.S. government for that disaster 35 years ago was an unknown structural flaw. Bearden also believes that this technology, if properly utilized, can result in a new source of clean, almost unlimited energy, and that it could be employed to limit, or even neutralize, the destructive forces of volcanoes, earthquakes, and hurricanes. It has even been hinted that if this technology can be deployed on a sufficiently wide scale, it may be possible to project force into deep space to nudge an asteroid that may be on a collision course with Earth.

Bearden has said that the United States does not possess longitudinal EM wave technology, but there is ample evidence that our government is pursuing something equally intriguing — perhaps in the form of its controversial High-Frequency Active Auroral Research Project (HAARP).

HAARP's publicly stated goal is the improvement of long distance telecommunications. However, an internal document obtained by *Popular Science* indicates that HAARP technology could be used to control weather, and could also be employed as an anti-ballistic missile defense system. By energizing a large section of the ionosphere many miles above the Earth's surface, a defensive "screen" could be created. Any missile entering this screen would have its delicate electronic components burned out,

knocking the missile off course and preventing its warhead from detonating.

HAARP would accomplish all this by creating Extremely Low Frequency (ELF) "mirrors" and "lenses" in the ionosphere. Dr. Albert Y. Wong, professor of physics at UCLA and a participant in the HAARP program has publicly stated his belief that the system could also be used to accelerate chlorine atoms into interplanetary space, thereby stopping the destruction of the ozone layer that protects us from the Sun's ultraviolet emissions. The idea that Earth's atmosphere could be turned into a temporary mirror raises some interesting possibilities. If a "Kill Shot" solar flare does threaten us, an artificial atmospheric mirror might deflect enough of the flare's destructive energy to prevent the extinction of life on this planet.

The Future: What We Make It

But perhaps the greatest threats of all are the negative emotional and psychological effects caused by all of the uncertainties and dire prophecies that society assigns to the new millennium. Some people believe that the condition we perceive to be "reality" is, to an extent, an actualization of the universe resulting from the consensus of our collective subconscious. In other words, if the majority of the human race determines that something is real, it becomes so.

Ideas like the existence of parallel, interactive universes, time travel, and alternate futures have been popularized in recent years by *Star Trek* and *Terminator* movies. These ideas have their roots in arcane scientific and mathematical concepts like Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle and the Moebius Loop, which indicate that the nature of time, space, matter, and energy are not entirely understood and may not function as once thought.

Are apocalyptic prophecies for the new millennium true representations of the future, or do they reflect the unconscious fears and prejudices of the "prophets" them-

selves? Have unknown, negative influences toyed with the minds and perceptions of the psychically sensitive, planting the seeds of self-fulfilling prophecy in our midst? Perhaps not, but whatever the case, humanity would do itself a great injustice to surrender ourselves to hopelessness. The true extent of human ability has yet to be determined, and it may be true that we hold our future in our minds. In that event, the dawning of the Age of Aquarius need not cast the shadow of fear. ■

John Vincent Sanders's budding career as a prophet ended after he predicted that the movie *Titanic* would be a flop. He quickly returned to writing about paranormal phenomena at his home in Westchester County, New York.

An excellent resource for information on future prognosticators like those in this article is located on the World Wide Web at www.m-m.org/jz/prophecy.html.

Maj. Ed Dames & Psi Tech Technical Remote Viewers

Background: Controversial Ed Dames is quick to emphasize that he isn't a prophet, or even a psychic — at least not in the classic sense. Dames was involved in the development of "Coordinate Remote Viewing" while working in U.S. Army intelligence in the early 1980s. A decade later, Dames retired from the Army and founded Psi Tech — a professional team of "Technical" Remote Viewing tapes that they say can help anyone learn TRV. Dames' frequent guest appearances on the radio program *Coast to Coast AM*, on which he discusses his often-foreboding "TRV data," helped reinstate his nickname "Dr. Doom." Psi Tech is currently engaged in the more "positive" mission of locating Amelia Earhart's lost plane.

Hit or Miss: Psi Tech often draws fire for Dames's statement that the firm has "100 percent accuracy" when its Technical Remote Viewers work as a team. The firm's record suggests otherwise: They predicted that an alien "plant pathogen" would land in Africa last winter, killing the world's plant life, and that a bovine AIDS-like virus would kill milk-drinking babies worldwide.

Forecast for '99: Psi Tech's most astounding piece of Technical Remote Viewing data for 1999 is the infamous "Killer Flare" prediction. Dames expects the sun to release a massive coronal discharge around Easter, devastating much of the Earth's surface. Early in 1998, Dames forecast a "warning shot" precursor to the 1999 event, and on August 27, the Earth's upper atmosphere was in fact hit by the most powerful burst of x-ray and gamma-ray radiation ever recorded. Dames declared a hit, but while the burst did knock out two satellites, the discernible heat and light and the mass cases of blindness that he had also predicted never came to pass. — *Simon Peter Groebner*



Psi Tech

A P O C A

A conversation with millennial author and artist Michael Grosso

Michael Grosso's The Millennium Myth should be required reading for anyone trying to make sense of the escalating hype over the year 2000. This intriguing work catalogues the many beliefs and expectations concerning the turn of the millennium, from ancient texts to modern cult doctrine and beyond. Grosso has created a millennial field guide to help us create our own mythologies for the future — free of fear, dogma, and the seductively lunatic.

X Grosso's recent investigations focus on a "unified theory of consciousness" and its implications for creativity, healing, and life after death, which he explores not only in his writing (his next book is titled Consciousness and Life After Death) but also through his "neo-metaphysical" artwork. He recently opened a studio and has begun to show his so-called "chaotogram" art in New York galleries. Grosso recently shared his millennium perspectives from his home in Warwick, New York.

FATE: What prompted you to write The Millennium Myth in the first place?

Grosso: Actually, it was my study of the near-death experience, in which glimpses of paradise and celestial light are associated with approaching the threshold of death. The same image informs the millennium myth: At the end of history, dreadful calamity will give rise to a new humanity, a new city, a new heaven and earth.

FATE: Did you have any intimations of what would come in the year 2000? A dream or a vision, so to speak?

C **Grosso:** I saw the celestial light in a dream once, an apocalyptic dream crowded with a drama of war, and preparations of war, and of death, of building a ship of death. The dream still haunts me. When I was a kid I used to have a recurrent fantasy — or rather the fantasy had me. I'd be moping along with my mother in the A&P or sitting in a barber shop, and I would find myself in what I've come to see now as a post-apocalyptic world — a kind of new Middle Ages, but there was always this sanctuary I retreated to. Sometimes dreams and memories just hang on in the background of your mind for years and make you do queer things, like write books or paint pictures.

FATE: Since there are so many religious and spiritual beliefs concerning the coming of the millennium, was it hard for you to maintain a consistent point of view while you wrote The Millennium Myth? Did you find some beliefs more convincing than others? Were you ever persuaded by any doctrine of what would come in the year 2000?

Grosso: The fundamental belief — it seems wired in the human brain — is that a fabulous breakthrough is possible. There are two ways it plays out. As a benign influence, a thrust toward optimism and renaissance, it goosed fifteenth-century Italy and eighteenth-century France big time. But there's also a fanatical route — at its worst, in the twentieth century, the rise of National Socialism and the Russian Revolution.



Michael Grosso: required reading for the millennium.

As for the year 2000, it's a pretty number but meaningless. At the same time, it's a lodestone of the imagination. The most unsettling prospect? Some club of moralizing maniacs gets hypnotized by a little calendar magic, uses fancy technology, and scores apocalyptic points against some perceived "antichrist."

FATE: How do you perceive the "antichrist" embodying itself as we reach 2000?

Grosso: Well, I don't literally believe in the antichrist, a person who will appear during end times and embody pure and absolute evil. On the other hand, the notion of the antichrist is an interesting symbol. It expresses the need we have to personify and materialize our images of the frightening forces of evil. According to the myth, the antichrist isn't blatantly obvious in his wickedness, but a false and deceptive pseudo-savior. The antichrist is an appealing figure on the surface.

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In Their Own Words

Voices From the Great Beyond

by Wanda Sue Parrott



C. W. Leadbeater

As the cusp is crossed linking the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, while ushering in the New Millennium, FATE will publish imaginary interviews between a contemporary journalist and a deceased pioneer whose contributions led to today's New Age. Wanda Sue Parrott, a veteran newspaper reporter, poses questions and each interviewee answers in his own words.

Charles Webster Leadbeater (1847–1934) was to early twentieth century occult science what James Dewey Watson and Francis Henry Crick became to molecular biology. He peered mentally inside human cells and found what Watson and Crick discovered half a century later: miniature spirals resembling circular staircases. Watson and Crick, who won the 1962 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, used x-rays to discover the “double helix” of DNA (23 pairs of chromosomes in each cell), which converts to single-strand RNA molecules (patterns for protein construction).

FATE: Bishop Leadbeater, what was your method called?

CWL: Clairvoyance.

FATE: Psychic investigator Hereward Carrington called you a “quasiscientist.” In *Occult Chemistry* (1908), co-authored with Annie Besant, then-president of the Theosophical Society, what did you call your helixes?

CWL: Spirillae. One spiral is a spirilla.

FATE: Describe a spirilla.

CWL: Each spirilla has 1,600 coils.

FATE: Historically, the interpretation following a major discovery—not the event or phenomenon itself—causes rifts between scientists and pseudoscientists whom they view as “crackpots.” What was your interpretation?

CWL: The human body is composed of countless tiny particles.... Suppose that it were possible for each of these particles to go through some kind of evolution by means of which it would, in time, become a human being...

FATE: Modern genetic scientists have decoded and are sequencing all the DNA pieces which comprise the genetic pattern of a human being. They call the ultimate totality of DNA present in human cells the “genome.”

CWL: We call the ultimate heart-shaped unit from which all physical things are composed the “Anu.” The life force flows through the atom.

FATE: What role do your spirals play?

CWL: Each Anu contains seven spirillae... Only four are normally active. Practices such as yoga can force open the spirillae in the brain.

FATE: Genetics research has revealed that 99.9 percent of all humans have identical genetic structures. Not only is our past revealed but our future is roadmapped. Approximately 3.5 billion pairs of chemicals that make up human cells have been identified. Gene therapy, including gene splicing, is the medicine of tomorrow.