

Sensory Deprivation On Human Mind May Affect Space Travel

Los Angeles—UPI—The big gest obstacle to manned space flight may be the effect of "prolonged" sensory deprivation on the human mind, according to a neurosurgeon.

Dr. John D. French, coordinator of the mental health training program at the UCLA Medical Center and a leader in the school's vast brain research program, explained sensory deprivation simply as man's lack of "familiar earth rhythms, sights, sounds, smells and pressures."

French was appointed this week to the executive council of the Armed Forces—National Research Council Committee on bio-astronautics, set up to promote research aimed at "establishing space as an operational medium for man."

Hard to Think
The scientist said research shows "man's ability to think properly deteriorates pretty rapidly when he is subjected to sensory deprivation, a man deprived of his sense of balance, which could happen during "weightless" space flight, might find it quite difficult to think properly."

French described two classical experiments:
"Human subjects wearing ear plugs were locked in dark rooms, unable to see or hear anything of the "outside" world."

"They soon developed hallucination," French said.
"Minor stimulation of the senses produced exaggerated mental reactions. They placed undue importance on small things. For instance, interest might become centered on a bead of sweat running down the face."

A scientist, using a breathing tube, lay at the bottom of a swimming pool for hours. He soon reported strange hallucinations.

May Go Insane
Of course, man is going to carry as much of his environment into space as possible,

French pointed out, but this will be artificial and even small differences may affect his ability to think and react.
"And unforeseen things will happen," French said. "Suppose something goes wrong and we can't get a man down out of orbit. I think it might be only a matter of time before he would go insane."

"If we can't modify the space environment to fit man's brain," he continued, "we'll have to modify man's brain in some ways to fit the environment."

How? Through use of drugs—sleeping pills (weightlessness may produce insomnia), tranquilizers, perhaps drugs to anesthetize a man during blast off from earth and pills to help a "weightless" man keep his sense of balance.

"I feel it is urgent that we conduct as much research as possible into this problem with animals before the first men go into space," French concluded.

Explosion Kills Two at Los Alamos

Los Alamos, N.M.—UPI—Investigators attempted to determine the cause of an explosion which killed two employees of the Los Alamos scientific laboratory Tuesday night.

The victims were Leo G. Guerin, 35, and Raymond A. Means, 31.

A spokesman for the top-secret atomic laboratory said no radioactive material or radiation was involved in the blast.

The men, he said, were engaged in a "normal machine operation of chemical explosives, used by the laboratory to study the physical phenomena of shock waves."

The blast occurred inside a building. The men were killed instantly.

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a woman's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Paul R. — It's still Christmas at our house.
Rose R. — This is the worst part.

Paul R. — In our house Christmas lasts about four months — two months before, and two after. And I don't like it!

My wife goes absolutely crazy figuring out gifts for everyone and trying to budget each person according to a lot of different factors. Then she stays awake nights trying to figure out what each person spent on the gifts they gave her so that she'll give them back in equal measure next year. Sometimes she goes around talking to herself because she gets so mad at some mistake she made in giving a too-cheap or too-expensive gift.

It's gotten so bad that I'm just about ready to stage a disappearing act for four months of the year. The aftermath is the worst part, so I'm ready to take off now.

Rose R. — Paul takes no responsibility at all for this very important matter. The whole burden is on my shoulders and he won't even talk it over with me.

It just happens that there are some poor relatives and some very wealthy ones in both our families. Some of the poorer ones give us nice gifts that the wealthier ones, but you can't give a wealthy person a cheap gift in return because he has so many good things of his own he won't pay any attention to your gift.

The post-Christmas letdown sure is the worst part. That's when I start realizing that at least half the things I did were wrong. If Paul talked it over with me in advance I wouldn't make so many mistakes.

The Council: We are fairly certain that Rose's "Christmas neurosis" isn't confined

to the holiday season and its aftermath. This season is merely the occasion for an intensification of her ordinary, everyday feelings. She undoubtedly spends a good part of her time thinking about whether or not others are treating her "right" and punishing herself for real or fancied offenses she has committed against others.

Rose's behavior shows that at bottom she is still wallowing in childish feelings of envy and greed. She is deeply engrossed in the question of whether others love her enough to give her her due and she is overwhelmed by the problem of having to conceal her basic selfishness. She probably resents the power of her rich relatives and would like to "put them in their place" by giving them a better gift than they gave her, yet she is furious at what she interprets as their scorn of her in giving her a small, inexpensive gift. Quite possibly she would like to "lord it over" the poor relatives by giving them a fine gift, but is disconcerted when they fail her by being generous with their gift.

There is only one way out of such a dilemma and that is to make a change in basic attitudes and relationships. Rose might try making her Christmas project a 12-month one this year. She should make a real effort to conquer her pettiness and try to like and understand others. The more she thinks about them, the less will she be concerned about herself and their attitude toward her.

If she succeeds in doing this, we believe Rose and her husband may begin to experience the pleasures of the holiday for the first time when Christmas 1959 draws near.

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There is more forest than farm acreage in the U.S.



WINNING TOP HONORS in twenty-seventh annual National Cherry Pie Baking Contest, Chicago, Karen Gunning, 16, Mulberry, Ind., samples her product. She will receive college scholarship, trip to Washington for victory.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

There is an unsavory member of the strange world of the fungi that comes about as close to being an ogre or a ghoul as any living thing can. Even the habitat and the surroundings in which it grows are gruesome and weird to the point of being eerie and actually spectral.

Even the beliefs and superstitions that have been built up around it are ugly and repulsive. They concern themselves with mysterious and uncanny meetings between it and venomous serpents during the dark hours of night, for many people believe that ground rattlesnakes gather about this plant and hold some sort of mysterious rites known only to the lowly creatures of the world.

This uncanny plant is called, "stink horn." It belongs to the fungus family.

Unless you know differently you would think this plant grew from an egg. For up from the ground, in dark, unpleasant places, first appears a round, egg-shaped case, dirty white in color — often about the size of a pullet egg. If you touch it, it feels like dead skin.

By the time two-thirds of the egg rises above the damp earth, the leathery skin breaks open and a grotesque series of twisted branches or fingers slowly unroll and writhe, like a creature in agony.

These "fingers" look like a badly crippled hand. Bright red in color, the outer surface is pebbled with tiny holes that look like magnified pores in unhealthy skin.

Should you be foolish enough to get close to this plant you would detect a putrid odor, like decayed flesh, rising from it — the reason, of course, why this fungus is called "stink horn." Within a few hours the bent and twisted "arms" begin to collapse. At the same time a black, mucous material begins forming on the lower sections of the plant. It is this substance that superstition associates with the charm the plant has for venomous snakes.

By the end of 24 hours the eerie arms have shriveled and collapsed into a mass of decaying vegetation. The brief life of this plant has ended. But clustered around this dying one, on the damp, mouldy ground in ugly bumps and hideous distortions, other "eggs" are opening. Other soft, clammy "arms" are resting themselves, ready to spring into the warm, damp air.

The race of the plant ogres known as "stink horn" are pursuing their evil ways, completing their weird and ghastly existence. No wonder strange tales are told about this repulsive character with the cold, clammy skin that hatches from an "egg" in dark and gruesome places.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

Slaying of Kentucky Governor In 1900 Continues as Mystery

By JAMES R. RENNEISEN
Frankfort, Ky.—UPI—A rifle cracked. The frock-coated figure staggered and fell. Four days later, after being sworn in as governor of Kentucky, William Goebel died of a bullet that had pierced his body.

Who fired the fatal shot? Though these events took place 59 years ago, the identity of the assassin is still cloaked in mystery and doubt.

On Jan. 30, 1900, Goebel was walking to the Statehouse to attend a joint session of the Legislature which he confidently expected would upset the results of the 1899 election and declare him governor.

Election Contested
Three months before, Republican William S. Taylor had defeated Goebel by 2,383 votes in a bitterly-disputed gubernatorial election. Goebel charged fraud and contested the election in the Democratic controlled legislature.

An army of mountaineers flowed into Frankfort from eastern Kentucky when it seemed certain that Taylor would be unseated. For more than a week, groups of gaunt, rifle-toting mountain men roamed the capital's streets muttering threats at Democratic legislators.

Secretary Arrested
Then came the fatal shot. Virtual anarchy followed as Goebel died after lingering four days in a room of the Capitol Hotel.

Secretary of State Caleb Powers, from whose office the shot was fired, was arrested by state troopers on a train bound for Louisville. The Legislature, barred from the Statehouse by troops, met at the hotel and named Goebel governor. On May 21, the Supreme Court upheld the action, and Governor Taylor fled to Indiana to escape prosecution for conspiracy.

Three men were tried and convicted, but all were par-

doned by subsequent governors.

Powers was sentenced to hang at one of his four trials for conspiracy, but after his pardon he served four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives from a Republican district in eastern Kentucky.

Henry Youtsey, a Statehouse clerk, and Jim Howard, a mountain feudist, were both convicted of the shooting. Both denied firing the shot, although Youtsey testified he pointed Goebel out to Howard and handed him a rifle.

'Confession Heard'
In recent years, an elderly mountain woman has claimed she heard a man named Turner Igo confess the shooting at a family reunion in 1903. Igo was also accused in a deposition made by Taylor's secretary shortly after the shooting.

Dr. Bennett H. Wall, a University of Kentucky historian, recently uncovered another story told by an elderly mountain lawyer. He claimed a

convict named Joe Adkins, who was released from the penitentiary a few weeks before the assassination, was hired to kill Goebel.

But nobody knows for certain who fired the shot.

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French Songstress Undergoes Surgery

New York—UPI—French singer Edith Piaf, 43, was reported recovering satisfactorily today from surgery to halt internal bleeding caused by gastric ulcers.

Surgeons operated on the tiny chanteuse Tuesday night at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical center where she had been rushed earlier in the day from her hotel suite. She became ill last Wednesday and was forced to cancel her singing engagement in the Waldorf-Astoria hotel's Empire room, a Carnegie Hall concert and an appearance on the Ed Sullivan TV show.

The former Paris street singer is the composer of several modern French classics including "La Vie En Rose" and "If You Loved Me."

School News...

Shady Cove School
Rita Spain, Editor
Shady Cove school observed the birthday of Oregon Feb. 14. Most of the girls in the seventh and eighth grades and all the women teachers wore old time dresses.

The eighth grade has painted two large pictures of Oregon for the lunch room showing Oregon in pioneer days and in modern days.

The third grade had a collection of pioneer articles including a bell worn by a cow crossing the plains in 1853 and an old brass candle stick, that came across then.

The first and second grades have collected pictures and are learning songs of Oregon in olden times and the Oregon song.

Fourth, fifth and sixth grades have collected pictures of Oregon and of pioneers then and now. The seventh grade has a bulletin board of Oregon; the lunch room has a large display of valentines made by the seventh grade.

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