

EDITORIAL POLICY

Anyone involved in paranormal research knows that there is an enormous void created by a lack of respectable publications in the field. Despite what many academics say, there are a large number of students and teachers actively engaged in the serious study of "occult phenomena." To these imaginative researchers, the important problem becomes, where can I publish my results.

It is clear that even publications such as the *Journal of Parapsychology* or the *Journal of the American Society of Psychological Research* will not consider material outside of their limiting psychic definitions. The respectable journals in sociology and psychology only print the most convincing studies by the most acceptable people and even then prefaced with conditional editorials (see *Nature*, October 18, 1974).

It is hoped that our *Journal of Occult Studies* can fill this void with a high quality, academic treatment of major paranormal research. Our scope is broad and will cover anything from the standard ESP experience to the problems of UFO's. In short we are interested in research which has historically been "hidden" and allowed to exist only on the fringes of intellectual activity. As so many parapsychologists are now discovering (see the name-change editorial, *Psychic*, March) all paranormal activity is part of a larger fabric and the efforts at specialization and departmentalization only serve to inhibit any solution to the common problems with which we all wrestle.

In addition to its broader coverage, the *Journal of Occult Studies* intends to present the material objectively yet tempered with a sympathetic understanding of the field. We do not agree with the policy of the *Journal of Parapsychology* (JP, June, 1975) that only significant results should be published. At the same time we do not approve of the witch-hunt style that accompanied the new Committee to Investigate Paranormal Phenomena headed by Kurtz and Truzzi (*Fate*, March, 1977). In this issue we printed a critical article on biorhythms, a mixed review of the Geller-effect and a positive result of pyramid power. We will go where the research takes us and in an area as deep and rich as the occult, we think the whole gamut of results can be expected and reported.

As a new publication we require your support in many ways. We want above all submissions of articles, book reviews and letters and comments. Because we have an on-going program at the University of Rhode Island Extension, it has been possible to

publish the first issue almost exclusively with our own research material. It is our intention to *definitely* change this situation and in the future equal consideration will be given to all submissions. Because the subject matter is so controversial we expect your articles to be imaginative in concept, extremely tight methodologically and complete with bibliography and visual or statistical material whenever possible.

The style should be geared to an interdisciplinary audience. This means a minimum of specialized jargon and a simplicity of style which can cut through the maize of precise, but unnecessary terminology. We also endeavor to keep the statistics clear and understandable. Reliability is not lost simply because the statistical results are broken down for the non-mathematical mind.

It is also important for us to have subscribers. The rate of \$7.50 a year (\$6 for students) for four issues is reasonable and with an increase in subscriptions we can increase the size of the journal. A larger number of pages means more articles and a better chance of having your research and comments printed. Circulation is also the key to exposure so that with additional subscriptions we can become more visible and thus more acceptable.

In the second issue of the Journal we hope to continue with some interesting new projects. There is an article on the investigation of a purported flying saucer fragment, a study of the relationship of thumb shape and flexibility to personality, an analysis of the social and political values of people claiming psychic experiences and the results of a series of astrology experiments. We would also like to have a large letters and comments department and an on-going research section which can give exposure to the less well-known students in the field. (see format on p. 85) Volume Three is almost completely open and early submissions will be given prompt consideration.

I know it is the hope of many of us who have labored with the controversy of our field that history will look back kindly on this embryonic period of occult study. Perhaps when metal-bending is a common event and extraterrestrial contact has been established, we can all say that we were at the right place, at the right time and pursued our instincts to the fullest. Hopefully the *Journal of Occult Studies* will play a small, but important part in both justifying our efforts as well as unlocking the elusive secrets of paranormal events.