



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616

January 14, 1980

Ms. Christine Karlik, Letters Editor
Science
1515 Massachusetts Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Karlik:

It was a pleasure to meet you in San Francisco two weeks ago. I hope you didn't get the impression that those of us concerned with the letters on the Diaconis article were too paranoid! Your charm helped to allay my concern.

Enclosed is a very brief letter-to-the-editor, based on a news item in last week's Science, that should both inform and amuse your readers. I hope you find it acceptable.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles T. Tart".

Charles T. Tart, Ph. D.
Professor of Psychology

Enclosure -1



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Wagner and Monnett (Science, 4 January 1980) mistakenly conclude that American college professors have much more positive attitudes toward ESP than the American population in general. They report that 15% think that ESP is scientifically established and 50% think it is a likely possibility. It is more likely, however, that college professors are simply typical Americans. In a representative survey of the American population, conducted in 1973, (Greeley⁽¹⁾) reports that 58% of the population believe they have personally experienced at least one form of ESP (mind to mind contact with someone at a distance). Greeley further found that people who believe they have personally experienced ESP are significantly better educated and more liberal than those who do not believe they have personally experienced ESP. For those who believe that the characteristics of the majority or the more educated determine what is "normal," one may draw the interesting conclusion that people who do not think they have had a psychic experience are "abnormal!"

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles T. Tart".

Charles T. Tart

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(1)Greeley, A., The Sociology of the Paranormal: A Reconnaissance.

Beverly Hills, CA: Sage Publications, 1975.