

Thursday 6 August 1981

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Greetings-----

William Bell of Long Beach called me last night that he will be going to the Interval Studio concert for Pepe Saturday evening, so want me to let you know. He was up here a while back after a belated reading of the OMNI article, as you may remember me telling about.

He has made plans about getting some concerts started in the Long Beach area--in November. He is interested in the synthesizers and computer music among other things, and probably will be in a recording studio by October. I believe he is a violinist.

It seems I have a problem: His name is Edward Kneifel. He showed up with a friend of his Wednesday noon and stayed a while. It wasn't as much of an ordeal as the famous hassle one Sunday night about 2 years ago or whenever that was, but it was kind of uncomfortable just the same. Kneifel now looks like the worried tired businessman and much older than the actual aging he would have gone through--I guess he would be 52 y by now--I guess he has sold out to the establishment or the great Whatever, and put on some weight and he started to scold me and I stood up to it this time and scolded him back. For instance when I was answering his friend's questions about the keyboard oboe he said I did not explain properly, so I dragged out the back issue of Interval with the article and pictures --and said I had already taken care of that problem once and for all! so what was he squawking about?

Now imagine: he has known about the OMNI article ever since it appeared, but never bothered reading it--virtually the only person I know of who took that attitude. Is he jealous of my getting a break? I wonder. ***

So his friend picked it up and even read aloud to him from it while he tried to ignore it--almost funny the way it happened. He acted kind of bored--that is the trouble all the 18 years I have known him of course, he is a dilettante and takes up one thing after another only to throw it aside when the next thing comes along, and so on in turn; he never holds a job but always jumps to another one--again when he gets bored. He is in process as I told you a while ago, of moving from Berkeley to Marina del Rey and has made several trips to bring things down. He has actually been traveling all over the world and so I really don't know what he is all about or why or wherefore. But I do think that when I am some 12 years older I deserve more respect. He is the one who took 5 cello lessons and then thought he knew all about the cello, and then wanted organ lessons, and then brought his girlfriend of the time (about ten years ago) to take cello lessons and gave her a slide-whistle for a pitch-pipe! Even she realized what an insult to me and her that that was!

I thought all this nonsense was over with some 5 years ago shortly after I had to move to Glendale----he came back from Iroa Iran and moved to Berkeley and I thought that was permanent. But his last trip to Los Angeles County he passed through his former abode in Venice and decided he must move back here, so he did, piecemeal.

Of course things are much better for me now since I have your moral support and understanding--I had nobody to turn to then.

Did I write you about the phone call from Toni Marcus if that is the correct spelling----she wanted to have the Arrangers come here in October and do it at a time you would be up here? Doesn't seem very

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practical, what with my limited front yard space, and by the projected date of the last week of October, very serious risk that it might be raining. I remember all too keenly the disaster when they were supposed to show up in La Jolla at UCSD CME and they didn't and you were out all that effort of preparing only to get the cancellation, so I don't think I am about to embark on another debacle of that sort! I suppose the thing will die of procrastination and other circumstances: what I might do is suggest that another location be secured---it is simply out of the question for 30 people to be in my yard at one time. Rain or not.

I followed the well-known maxim: WHEN IN DOUBT, MUMBLE.

Back to the Kneifel problem: I am afraid they ran off with the original of the third issue of Interval--the one with Cris Forster's diamond Marimba on the cover---I can't find it around here. All I have of that issue is two of the xeroxes of it that you gave me some time ago. I put the originals of the first and second issues away in a safe place quite a long time ago when you warned me that they were exhausted and of course have the xeroxes of each of the first and second issues that you supplied me with. Now I don't even know whether it was Kneifel himself or his friend who ran off with it if they indeed did-----I didn't see them take it and maybe it's mislaid somewhere---I didn't notice the loss till yesterday morning.

(The reason I am concerned, of course, is that my electronic keyboard oboe article could be rephotographed from the original but not from the xerox if I wanted any reprints---I suppose I could take the pictures over again and get up a booklet or pamphlet on the subject of my keyboard oboe and its history and how a family of new electronic "reeds" could be made now with the Depression-of-Pitch keys.

That is, maybe for the propagandizing about electronic musical instruments adapted to non-12, I need a longer discussion than that article.

Chalmers sent a page or two of possible MICROTONAL SLOGANS at least that is what he called them-----

ABOLISH 12-TONE TAMPERAMENT!

DECIMATE THE CRITICS WITH TEN-TONE

DON'T JUST HARMONIZE-----XENHARMONIZE!

WE CASTIGATE THOSE WHO TWELVULATE

THE CHORD OF NATURE GOES BEYOND 6

ONLY XENOPHOBES REJECT XENHARMONICS

*** of course he is thinking of those paste-on stickers something like the return-address labels that people put on the back of envelopes with various slogans---evidently he is using the one dreamt up by the opponents of the "Creationist" movement for teaching the bible account of Adam and Eve in the public schools---which of course is a very hot issue in uptight Texas right now.

I wonder whether the aircraft controllers' Strike will interfere with his trip to Mexico?

Cl Clyde Corson sent me the POPULAR ELECTRONIC magazine for this month---article about word processing and some paragraphs about speech-synthesis, not speech recognition, but some ads and the things in it along those lines.

Had to climb up on top of my desk and then the storage-rack yesterday to put in the new light-bulbs and they are still burning out two and three at a time like crazy. Must be too high a voltage here.

I suppose Chalmers would be furious if he knew what I was reading this last week---three books out from the Glendale main Library on telepathy and clairvoyance and the Dream Lab experiments where they sent pictures to people sleeping in another room and then taped their dream-reports.

Charles T. Tart, PSI: SCIENTIFIC STUDIES OF THE PSYCHIC REALM

Rhea A. White, SURVEYS IN PARAPSYCHOLOGY

DMo Montague Ullman and Stanley Krippner, DREAM STUDIES AND TELEPATHY.

I u guess you saw the current Newsweek I think it was where Martin Gardner thunders about the fraud of all parapsychology and calls them a bunch of cheats and charlatans etc.

Well, Chalmers did question my honesty and integrity a couple of times, as you know.

Such attitudes amount to censorship.

I got another letter from Do Conviser-----having to do with his efforts to patent something in the way of a just intonation organ.

He sent me a xerox of an article from Journal of the Acoustical Society of America---this by one Simonton about a special temperament which gives a just scale of D major and a just E minor chord and a very close to Pythagorean F major scale. And some arguments against stretched octaves on the piano.

These people who dictate how instruments shall be played or tuned when they do not play the instruments in question, or they play some other kind of instrument with a different set of b iasses.

There is another things that is irritating me: it's the fact that people seem to get gross physiological functions like digestion and all kinds of new diets and expensive special stuff from health-food stores, all the foregoing of which of course is strictly physical and materialistic, with some religious cult or some ideas about mind development or philosophy or even IDEALISTIC philosophy--i.e. the very same people will go in for something which denies the reality of matter. I think this is hypocritical and inconsistent, to tie materialism and idealism together in this manner and insist that one must eat or not eat certain things if one is to develop one's psychic powers. It is just as hypocritical and inconsistent as the people who use drugs like LSD in the hope of having a spiritual experience after making their UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER TO MATERIALISM!

The reason I bring up this thorny affair right now is that I don't want someone to misunderstand my Creativity Meetings, or make them part of some religion, or part of some ascetic cult, or tie them in w- with some system or discipline or restrictive affair that I am not and never have been connected with. I do not believe one has to drastically change one's lifestyle and life-work and mode of existence in order to be creative or develop psychic powers or as in my case, broadcast telepathic commercials. (Indeed, Guspensky wrote that book called THE FOURTH WAY for just that purpose: to show pl people didn't have to become monks or nuns or ascetic masochists.)

I repeat: I must have been doing something right the last ten years, for my health to improve after so many years of illness. And there must be something wrong about punishing one's body with all kinds of self-denial and even self-torture that the various religions impose. Why would a merciful God give you this and that affair, and then you are supposed to sprun it or not use your talents, or be gloomy all the time, or punish children for crimes they are going to commit, so the religion says they might? Nonsense!