

# NOTES FROM STEPHEN WATERMEN

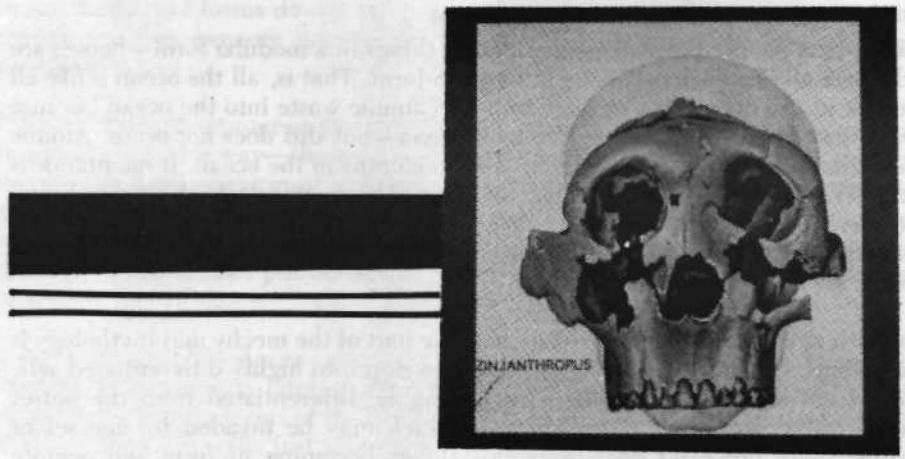
A living body is not a fixed *thing* but a flowing *event*, like a flame or a whirlpool: the shape alone is stable, for the substance is a stream of energy going in at one end and out at the other. We are particular and temporarily identifiable ripples in a stream that enters us in the form of light, heat, air, water, milk, bread, fruit, beer, beef Stroganoff, caviar and pate de foie gras. It goes out as gas and screment—and also as semen, babies, talk, politics, commerce, war, poetry and music. And philosophy. :: Alan Watts/Does It Matter?

Attempting to preserve in two dimensional archive what is not only happening in time (process) but is happening in many different forms/heads/places simultaneously (multi-process). Because Synergy is a coming together of individuals and groups with a group-ego/consensus changing according to what is happening and who is involved to what extent, we can only point to some more or less general operating principles, supplement those with actual history and suggestions for further reading, and provide a situation allowing an individual to see as they want/need to see. Hence, we are to each person involved whatever that person makes it (which is the way we've always perceived anyway, but have tried to convince ourselves that events/energy transactions/things existed without us).

My view of what we're doing, then, is conjured from my perception of activity as energy conversion, events in time. The manifestation most immediately brought to mind would be physical (associative) energy exchange environment, the ones we usually associate with the pre-industrial era, quantified and abstracted by the Smiths, Keynes, and Marxes of our civilization. The industrial era brought us to pure metaphysical (energy exchange): hydroelectric dam, e+Mc2. Each new environment bringing with it new discovery, vocabulary, perception and perceptibility. The borning electronics era adds another metaphysical manifestation, the informational energy exchange environment. Both Ralph Nader and our Vice President have recognized the omniscience of the information environment: the synergy network is attempting to learn the principles of its new economy.

When we get down to learning how to harmonize with environment, and remember that that can include psychological and other metaphysical spheres, we make ourselves eligible for what Robert Theobald has called the Invisible University (*Teg's 1994*, manuscript), a metaphysical institution of people linked by communication and transportation exchange facilitators, each individual assuming roles of student and teacher interchangeably. Hence, I speak of the synergy network more easily than I can of Synergy: herein lies the changeable, process relationship of groups relating to groups, facilitated by the various tools applicable to informational catalysis.

Various elements function independently, as well as synergistically. Peggy still photographs on assignments and plays with her own work; I still produce films and radio, disc, film or multimedia sound tracks. Marketing these various talents is not too difficult, and our professions can be found in the yellow pages. But event of synergy is that unpredictable reaction of the interaction of potentially high energy elements. I am what I think and have only a suggestion of what that might be next year. What we have done and are doing in manifestation beyond our individual capacities have been varied.



Last fall we were an element in "happening" the South Street Week celebration. Putting city land to good use, we built a children's park at 3rd and South streets; brought together a ten thousand person parade; released free cameras to friends and children and children's friends, instituting a photography class; opened and maintained for two months a neighborhood free (barter) store, transforming in time to a school kids didn't have to go to; blew up a bubble, called it the First Building of the Bicentennial, and watched how several hundred neighbors, gang members, hippies, Jewish merchants, Society Hill Matrons, and a rock band could get it on:

-Other past tense celebrations include parties, such as at Everything for Everybody, and the Beaux Arts Ball, with the Department of Urban Outreach, Graduate Department of Fine Arts at Penn., and the American Institute of Architects. That black tie formal involved manipulation of time and definition of space (industrial age environment of the International House juxtaposing the . . . videotape-delay-and-projection.-film.-slide.-light.-four-channel-sound-and-tape-delayed-live-mic.live-electronic-music.-two-bands.-inflatable-bubbles.-and-life-theatre-via-the-tools/toys-environment)

Most synergy network activities are continuous:

-Polis '76 will be conferencing with radio and television station managers in June at the Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington, D.C.

-Ira Einhorn, the mayoralty candidate-as-information-channel, climaxes without him at a celebration of the community of people building a park at 6th and South streets. A main myth of his campaign has been awareness of our myths and the methods of proliferating/maintaining them via various channels, including information's, media:

-Parties continue, the next being a Children's day at Rittenhouse Square June 19th.

-Video-as-professional myth proliferates, with a present project involving video in conjunction with music therapy at the Greentree School, Germantown, with children:

-Festival of Life, itself a community process, will take its next action to the Auditor General's office in Harrisburg to discuss proper use of and negotiation for the Evansburg dam site; the Festival, a cooperative effort in community planning, continues to seek a site:

-Everything for Everybody engages full time in catalyzing, by referring, communicating, and providing institutional frameworks for cooperative efforts in the South Street area, such as Peggy's and friends' community day care center, now forming, and the South Street Cooperative Food Store:

-A community energy center is continuously being developed given by a long time tavern owner now containing two apartments, meeting, work, and office space

-An electronics lab open to qualified use by the community is operating (and Making Money) out of the Pemberton Street Group's architectural offices:

-Steersmen continue to meet with various community, industrial, political, or professional people; I am experimenting with a parallel attempt in bridge-building by communicating via mimeo-letter (soon to become cassette) to a network of friends and associates:

-Mediamobiles are being designed and will be operated in conjunction with the Department of Urban Outreach of the Philadelphia Art Museum. Parallel to this, proposals have been submitted toward development of a community communications awareness to New Hampshire Center for Creative Cinematography and Corporation for Public Broadcasting (film project in super 8mm, 16mm, 1/2" video tape, stills, cassette and studio sound, involving numerous non-professional communicator/playmates), Philadelphia College of Art and American Institute of Architects (community video center), and various public figures/institutions (use of people-media on the various public life-theatre stages). An article on the specific video activities will appear in the Sunday Inquirer "Today" magazine shortly.

People and their external nervous system: how to use it, like any other technology, as a tool for more clearly and usefully manifesting this common information space. The acknowledgment/incorporation of the tools in all of our activities is not so much for archive/documentation (though that is useful and being grown) as it is for the catalysis of activity, only one of the many tools capable of raising and sustaining energy levels.

The nature of our present means of communication is such that I am not telling you much more than I am. Each person fills in the gaps as he experiences/learns/sees fit. Consequently, I can never expect or ask for response; I can only provide opportunities for play. Bridge-building becomes a high priority. As separations/classifications/generalizations dissolve, so does the alienation and degenerative evolution of specialization, being made less necessary by the computer. There must be ways of bridging these systems so that the transformations may take place without destroying the energy/informational stores we call culture or the linkages of their processes. If you see some way your interests/talents/experience could be brought to Us in either an individual or common way, and if you see adequate return/engagement, and mostly, if you'd like to, I could regard you as another valuable teacher.

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