

Psychic powers what are the odds? - 26 November 1994 - New Scientist
Engineering professor Robert Jahn laid his career on the line to test the power ... went public with his research in 1986, he was demoted from dean of the ...

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Then in the 1980s, Robert Jahn, an engineering professor at Princeton University, New Jersey, began studies using the random white noise generated by an electrical diode.

Demolition job

Jahn's work is currently the most respected of PK studies because of its scale and technical sophistication - although as was made plain when Jahn featured in a recent BBC2 TV series, Heretic, his move into parapsychology has horrified Princeton's authorities. When Jahn, a rocket propulsion specialist, went public with his research in 1986, he was demoted from dean of the engineering faculty to an associate professorship and left in no doubt that he would have been booted right off campus if it were possible. Even in the safety of his Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research (PEAR) laboratory funded by the McDonnell Foundation and the Fetzer Institute, in the basement of the engineering department, Jahn has had to face a barrage of criticism from former colleagues and other sceptics. Some dismissed his results as being caused by faulty laboratory equipment, others have even suggested that they could be the result of fraud. There is also a constant demand for Jahn to clearly define the mechanism that converts thought to action.