

Introduction [Madhouse – Wendel Scherer]

On the 30th of April 2015, a resident of Portland, Oregon would suddenly encounter strange flyers around the city.

The signs simply ask if you've been having strange dreams, and if you have? To report them to a mysterious phone number.

After posting their discovery on Reddit, attention on this quickly ramped up, however it seemed to fade away just as rapidly.

Interestingly, five years later, these flyers have returned sparking interest once again. But this time, evidence has surfaced that the culprit behind these postings just might be linked... to a modern day cult.

Why are these signs here, and who's behind them?

This is the mystery of the Strange Flyers Around Portland Oregon.

-title sequence-

World Build

It was a warm summer night.

-walking outside-

Off the heels of the KidsChat investigation, I was out clearing my head. It's safe to say that since then my email inbox's been blown up regarding other rabbit holes in the same vein. It's been pretty impossible to get to each and every one of you, but just know, I hear you. I see them. And we will expose each and every sick website we can.

-take out phone-

I get a notification. This one isn't about Kids Chat, though. It's got something to do with creepy flyers around Portland, which, now that I'm thinkin' about it reminds me of something that gave me nightmares years ago.

I. This Man

-bring up This Man webpage-

It was 2008.

We were living in an age preceding the widespread social interconnectivity of late. The Internet was clinging to the wild west era by nothing but a thread.

A mystery gripped the world, sending it spiraling into a years-long hunt for one man. This Man. *Have you ever dreamt of this man? ...Well, have you?*

-boom to black-

For the better part of a year, a niche little website in an obscure corner of the internet lied dormant. Untouched, and unseen. It told of a story, involving a New York psychiatry patient and the strange dreams that they'd repeatedly have about a man with a strange face. The Man's purportedly keen on providing life advice to the patient, although she's never met or laid eyes on anyone similar to him in her life.

An odd turn of events for sure.

The psychiatrist places their rough sketch of the man on their desk for a few days, and as it turns out, further patients were quick to notice. They too had seen this man in their dreams.

And so it began.

Brazil. Paris. Poland. Morocco. San Francisco. South Korea. Austin, Texas. La Habana, Cuba. London. Washington. Rome. and New Zealand.

This Man was everywhere. With nothing but a question, a face, a quick summary, and a website URL, the flyer information was easily digestible and was short enough to remember it until you got back home.

-fade then boom to thisman.org webpage-

Having visited this site a few times during my teenage years, it's bringing back some anxiety. God, I don't know what it is but, every page, did they *really* have to have him stare at you on EVERY page? I hate it. God I hate it.

Anyway, the website fleshes out the information presented on the flyer with a call to action to contact the administrators via email. That is, if you ever saw him. As it turned out, over 10,000 people *did*, and they shared their sightings, dreams, visions, whatever you wanna call it. And with that, the widespread consensus was that This Man was undoubtedly real. I mean, people have seen him. Right?

-boom to black-

I hate- I hate to do this to you but This Man..... he's not real. [BOOM] I know, I know, I know I'm sorry. It was a marketing stunt.

-outside again, maybe sitting on a bench-

So why did I bring this up? Why am I discussing a twelve year old internet phenomenon on a video about bizarre flyers around Portland? Well, like I said, I wanted to establish this foundation as a precursor to where we're headed, because a very, *very* similar phenomenon is happening in the real world right now, and you just *might* have seen it, without even knowing it.

-fade to black-

II. The Willamette Valley Dream Survey

2015.

At 10:38am on the morning of April 30th, a Redditor by the name of Marcus_Yellow would jump into the r/creepy subreddit, inquiring on an odd flyer that they'd stumbled upon in Oregon. *Have you been having STRANGE DREAMS? – A real sign found in Portland.*

And the image attached, reading:

Have you been having STRANGE DREAMS? The Willamette Valley Dream Survey is investigating a recent spike in bizarre, unexplainable dreams. IF you have been experiencing any unusual dream activity, you can help by reporting a summary. Please call (971) 258-1465 with a description of your dream.

No other context was provided. No organization, no name, not even a deadline. As you'd might expect, some were quick to pass this off as another startup ARG and, to be honest I don't blame them. Some are hard to discern at first. But, that didn't halt interest.

Upon calling the number which is surprisingly still active, you're merely met with this:

[play recording]

The post went on to garner a considerable amount of attention, racking up around 1.9 thousand upvotes and 277 comments.

German Summer Camp

Responses were mostly comprised of personal accounts of bizarre dreams that Redditors were having shortly before this was posted, which made it seem that much stranger to them. Out of all of these, though, one reply would stand out. Posted by a user named u/knoxxx_harrington, it reads: *A quick Google search brings up the number for a children's german summer camp immersion program, lol. Although, it appears the number may have since changed.*

The website is germansummercamp.org

No idea if this is an old number or some creepy death camp.

[show me on comp] Interest piqued.

Heading over to the URL presents us with a considerably dated website run by Sophie Scholl Schule, a German language immersion program. As of writing, they appear to be advertising open registration for their 2020 event from July 12 – 17th, so it *is* still active. Digging through the website doesn't bring up any red flags, either. The reviews that I was able to find about this camp all seem overwhelmingly positive, so I'm left curious as to why something as simple as a summer camp would be broadcasting interest in a cryptic dream survey.

Eventually, I was led to an article by a website named OregonLive posted on the same day as Marcus' Reddit post. They discuss the exact same story, and mostly retrace the steps that we did, with the exact same question: *who* are the ones behind this? Interestingly, they were able to get in contact with a

Sophie Scholl Schule official that claimed that *the number was a Google phone account that the school no longer uses. "All we do is German, I can see why you're checking into this. That's one weird poster"*.

Going by the camp's track record, I honestly believe it. It seemed like a stretch to think that they'd be the ones behind this as it was, and even digging through their website's archive shows us that the contact number listed doesn't match up with that of the sign, even as far back as 2013.

And just like that, we're back to ground zero. Interest in this strange flyer died down as most trends do, and we were all left with those two lingering questions, why are these flyers here, and who in the world is behind this?

-fade-

-signify time passing, boom on text "2020"-

III. Happy Valley

On the 29th of April, 2020, the dream survey mystery would encounter new life.

That evening, a user named u/Aliensdid9ll would jump into the r/NonMurderMysteries subreddit with an eerily familiar question: *saw this strange poster this morning in Utah and looked up the survey name and a poster with the same format was put up around Oregon in 2015. Anyone know anything about this?*

Accompanying this was a photo of a new flyer that heavily resembled the former. It contained the same question, and the same description, but instead was advertising for a dream survey in *Happy Valley*, a nickname for the Salt Lake City region in Utah.

Now the resurrection of a years-old mystery for newfound clout isn't something unforeseen. Going into this, it's easy to pass this off as some sort of gamejacker that might've encountered the Willamette Valley version, but, one glaring flaw exists in that thought process.

Shortly after posting this, a user named u/1regit actually called the number and recorded their entire conversation. His post went forth to gain some considerable traction, but before he could give any sort of legitimate followup, both he and u/AliensDid9ll vanished. To me, this effectively nullifies the potential of someone doing this for internet clout. Why would someone resurrect such a bizarre mystery before getting the hell out? Did something happen to them? Or was that "attention" intended to be directed not towards them, but somewhere else...?

-fade-

Onlookers were quick to jump onto the connection between this flyer and the mystery surrounding the ones from Portland. You get your run-of-the-mill reaction from Reddit, with some believing this to be an ARG. Again. Some thinking this is a dumb hoax, and others being super invested. Like me. Oddly, in the mix of speculation, some Redditors recalled a few things that both 1regit and Aliensdid9ll would claim over and over like they had a guilty conscience.

...Something by the name of Futel. Whatever it was, both 1regit and Aliensdid9ll made absolute damn sure that you knew that this was *not* Futel.

[laugh] Let's check out Futel.

-show me digging through their website-

So it appears to me that they connect payphones across Portland to a Wi-Fi receiver, allowing anyone that utilizes one to make free phone calls. Apparently these things have automated menus with both specific phone numbers you can call, and a free-dial option if you'd like to call someone else. These phones effectively hide in plain sight, initially appearing to be nothing more than derelict relics of years past.

IV. Futel

Their website, which admittedly provides more questions than answers, describes the service as the following:

At Futel, we believe in the preservation of public telephone hardware as a means of providing access to the agora for everybody, and toward that goal we are privileged to provide free telephone calls, voicemail, and telephone-mediated services. We do not judge the motivations of our users, or who they choose to call; if they don't have someone to call, we can provide a presence on the other end. Denial of telephony services has long been a tactic used against undesirable populations, and our devices will counteract that. But more importantly, we will help to establish a new era of communication, one in which reaching out is not only desirable, but mandatory.

To what extent are our interactions mediated by intelligent machines? Who is doing the talking when we let them decide who we interact with and what constitutes appropriate topics of communication? We believe that the time has come to greet each other not with our heads down, staring at our hands and begging for the permission of the minds that oversee our networks, but proudly, standing tall, with our eyes open and aware of our surroundings.

We are primarily driven by the basic needs that we see on the streets every day, by giving something away that is cheap for us but valuable to the recipient. But we hope that we can also build a tower of Babel on top of that, a monument of telephones and switching networks and cascading psychological structures which will give the community something else as well, something we may not appreciate until it has forever changed us.

All services, including telephony and human interaction, are free from any Futel telephone.

Now, their mission seems noble. Provide phone access to communities that need them. The way they execute this, though, is an entirely different oddity within itself. A writer named Rory Elliott for a student newspaper named PCCBridge actually went Futel phone booth hunting in May of 2019. They recount their experience in an article, claiming that there's an *entire world of bizarre and mystical interactivity laid beyond each key.*

Stunned, we explored all of the different ways we could travel the winding roads within the world of Futel. By dialing 3 for the directory, you are given the option to call the Mayor, the "Druid of Sisyphus Gardens" (still unknown), the Apology line (a voicemail confessional that began in New York in the 1980's), Willamette Valley Dream Survey, and more.

Interesting. What in the world would a free phone service have to do with something as elusive as the Dream Survey flyers? Given the fact that the phone number is mapped to a single button in their automated menu also gives rise to the possibility that either these people are the ones behind this, or they know someone who might be.

-fade-

Curious for more, I looked up Futel and Dream Survey on Google and stumbled upon a 2016 blog post also referencing this phenomenon.

My first Futel phone. There was no dial tone, just a recorded menu that includes the Mayor's office, the 211 social services and resource finder, a general repository for apologies, and other options. I chose the Willamette Valley Dream Survey and reported last night's dream.

No big deal right? Just a random phone booth run by a startup company that has some sort of random dream survey mapped to its automated menu. Nothing to see here?

Anyway, so far Futel's my best bet. This is the *only* organization with a direct link to the surveys, so I have a funny feeling that they know more than they're letting on.

In an attempt to get to the bottom of this, I spammed their Twitter begging for a DM, emailed their company address numerous times, dug up the founder's email and sent some nice messages, and even joined their official Patreon *just to get in contact with them*. My god please, *please, DM me back senpai~*

I'm determined, what can I say. Fingers crossed.

Intermission

So I anxiously waited. Weird dreams involving my friend getting possessed, the earth losing its natural rotation velocity and spinning out of control, and buildings snapping in half while I was in them kept me up consistently, and I felt like I'd possibly gotten myself into a rabbit hole that I shouldn't have.

I waited. The days turned to weeks.

I waited.

I walked my dog.

I waited.

I played some New Horizons.

I waited.

I battled COVID.

I waited.

...and I just kept waiting.

I think I've been ghosted.

V. Time for an Adventure

They say that history repeats itself, and so that rings true again.

I'd be lying if I told you that it doesn't eat away at me when I get this invested into a mystery that ends up dying. We've seen it before with countless OPs, except this time, that OP is Futel.

Come on, throw me a bone. Give me something. Send me a tweet, an email, prank call me with a private number, give me. Something.

But of course, I listen. I wait. I refresh, and I get nothing.

When I try to check on 1regit or aliensdid911, it's more of the same. While I'll admit the brick wall looks nice from down here, the hinderance is a bit annoying. Reddit's keen on keeping this impenetrable barrier over accounts of days past preventing me from gaining any sort of follow-up on what happened to them. I *have* to figure out what happens when you call, though, and so it appears that I'm left with no other option...

Than to call the Dream Survey myself.

-intense music while in car-

Any attempts at contacting an organization in which you have no idea who or what they are should be met with caution. I found this ad for a burner phone from Walmart and I know of the perfect hidden spot to give them a call. Perfect for this case, if they try any stupid sh*t they're not gonna find me.

-find phone at Walmart-

Bingo.

-back in car, get some b roll, and arrive at destination-

Seems safe enough. Let's do this.

-call number, record conversation, boom to black-

Rumor had it across Reddit that they'd wait to call you back at 3am. Perfect, because you already know Ryan's always up. He never sleeps.

The span of time between when I made the call and 3am felt like an eternity. The only bit of correspondence that I received from them was nothing but a simple automated confirmation text. I was ready for the big guns. Call me back, I just wanna talk.

Patreon

Speaking of wanting to talk? I host weekly Discord voice hangouts as one of my perks for Patrons, and it's one of the best things I've ever done. Interacting with you guys outside of YouTube and on a more intimate level gives me life I never knew I had. All of you are awesome people, and I wanted to thank you for being here. If you're able and would like to join in, it's just two bucks a month over at Patreon.com/Nexpo.

VI. September 5, 2020

Anyway I was waiting, hyped up and ready.

[AT 3AM IF THEY CALL]

[Buzz, zoom in dramatically, intensify music with heavy distortion, then answer, show interaction]

[OTHER TIME IF THEY DON'T CALL BUT TEXT]

[Buzz, zoom in dramatically, open phone to text]

Look who it is.

At first glance I was quick to pass this off as a mistype. It doesn't seem like 9 goeh 5 jit bears any significance here, but I was wrong.

You guys know me, I should've known better. I should've KNOWN better. It's Haitian Creole.

-type into Google, then hit enter, boom on September 5-

-Show camera angle of me looking at monitor, then type September 5 2020 into Google, zoom into Reddit posts-

-dramatic display of posts, boom on each one, show shots of me at the computer-

What the f*ck.

Now it appears to me that this bears some sort of connection to a mystery surrounding doomsday prophecies that are projected to take place in September of this year. I'm reluctant to label each Redditor here as a cult member, mainly because of the sea of speculation as to what might be happening on that date.

The mystery began about eight months ago. A Redditor named u/September5Survivor would spam cryptic messages across various subreddits, all alluding to a doomsday that they heavily believe in due to disturbing dreams that they've had since late 2019. You know, with enough persistence, you can get eyes on anything. And they did. Their efforts started off innocent enough, and with that people passed them off as nothing but an ARG creator or edgelord trying to garner some internet attention. But then it actually started to gain traction.

Now I'll spare the details and get right down to it. I feel that September5thSurvivor sums up their beliefs pretty well right here:

The World is Not Ending

I've Seen much talk of people saying they think this is an apocalypse group and that the world will end on 5th September 2020.

I would like to clarify that I have never said the world will end on that date or that an apocalypse is coming, that is not what I have seen in my dreams and visions.

Many bad things will happen on 5th September 2020, however I do not believe the world will end entirely. An 'apocalypse' suggests a large global event, whereas 5/9 will consist of many individual events. (The bad things)

It concerns me because if people think this is yet another 'The end is nigh' group they will not take it as seriously.

September 5th is coming, many bad things will happen.

Keep your eye on the 5

Stay safe and prepare

24

To be honest, I can see why people were confused. With constant mentions of the number 24, a prophetic dream dimension by the name of the Sixth Realm, mass misfortune consuming the world on September 5th, and world enlightenment supposedly occurring on May 3rd of 2021, it's easy to get lost in the cryptic vernacular that comes with trying to get such a message out.

But back to the core question: Why would some sort of prophetic doomsday cult be connected to something like a dream survey? ... Let's suspend our belief here. Let's take our doomsday conspiracy hats off, and let's recap what we've been through and how the hell it got us here.

-fade-

VII. Discussion

2015. Willamette Valley Dream Survey becomes a thing in Portland, Oregon. The mystery is met with intrigue, and some people went forth to call it. No follow-up. No cryptic text.

Also in Portland- a company named Futel, providing free phonebooths to underdeveloped communities with the Willamette Valley Dream Survey mapped to its automated menu. This company has unfortunately not returned my emails.

2020. The Happy Valley Dream Survey resurrects a half-decade old mystery, but this time in Utah, and the mystery is once again met with intrigue. Both u/Aliensdid9ll and u/1regit went forth to call it, and they more than likely received follow-ups alluding to September 5, 2020, a pre-existing mystery that's been ongoing since 2019. Interestingly, u/1regit stressed that it was *not* Futel, but the thing is, Futel wasn't even connected to this arc of the mystery. They're involved with the Willamette Valley version.

With this in mind, while I'd love to entertain the possibility of this being some widespread growing conspiracy about an impending doomsday apocalypse that's been predicted since 2015, I don't believe all of this is connected.

I'm heavily leaning on the postulation that either u/September5thSurvivor or someone involved with the September 5th mystery stumbled upon the original post about the Willamette Valley flyers. They realized that it was a mystery that had its time and faded away, and so they went forth to jump on the opportunity, make their own version, and post them around Happy Valley.

The fact that the phone number responds in such odd increments of time adds weight to the potential that there is a person or multiple people behind that phone number sending these cryptic texts out. It appears that their workflow aims to get people to look up the translated version of the date, encounter the September 5th mystery, spread it around like wildfire, and lead the masses to believe another hoax.

Closing Remarks

Now, I'm no prophet but I doubt anything's going to happen on September 5th. I'm not even entirely sure why they're doing a dream survey aside from riding the hype of a prior mystery. To be honest, this arc of the rabbit hole isn't exactly the most exciting or captivating one either. Portland's is different. That's the real one.

I fell into this mystery because of it, and it's continued to perplex me to this day. Unfortunately, I can't pinpoint who's behind this or why they're doing it. Futel never followed up, 1regit and aliensdid9ll are gone, and I have no idea where else to look. It's like I'm jumping through hoops to get any sort of lead, and it's kicking my ass.

I do know one thing, though. Futel's silence is deafening. I'd love to give them the benefit of the doubt regarding my messages but, nah, I know they've seen them. They're just ignoring them. If their Tumblr is anything to go by, it's safe to say that they've been involved in unique art projects before, and this very easily could be one of them. With that in mind, I think they're connected here. It would just make sense, even if this is nothing but a circumstantial theory. Only time will tell.

-fade-

Someone's out there, and they want your strange dreams. The question is- will you give it to them?

Thanks so much for watching, I'll see you in the next one, I love you all, and good night.