

Inspecting the psychic fare

Plastic \$40 barrels relieve tycoons' misery

By RALPH ASHFORD

From last Thursday until last Sunday, the Four Seasons Sheraton was the place to be for anyone interested in psychic phenomena, as the hotel hosted the Psychic Fair.

And if the word 'fair' conjures up visions of a sideshow, consider yourself psychic — the whole thing was a sideshow. (Even the Hare Krishna club was wearing its colours and jingling its bells outside by the cab stand.)

Inside the main hall sat a genuine U.F.O. tracker, built at a cost of \$35,000. Two swivel chairs lounged in the back of the tracker with a telescope between them. A bubble on top set this van apart from any other. Big enough for the whole family and perfect for those Sunday night outings.

Somewhere in space, a Martian is just killing itself laughing.

Participants wandering around the hall encountered a display of plants (mainly geraniums) and rod-like pyramids. The pyramids, not unlike — yes — coathangers, were placed over the plants, a move which apparently adds longevity to the plant's life and stimulates the rate of growth.

The concept behind the pyramid

(which incidentally has other fascinating abilities) is very complex, a fact which becomes very clear upon sight of the \$5 price tag.

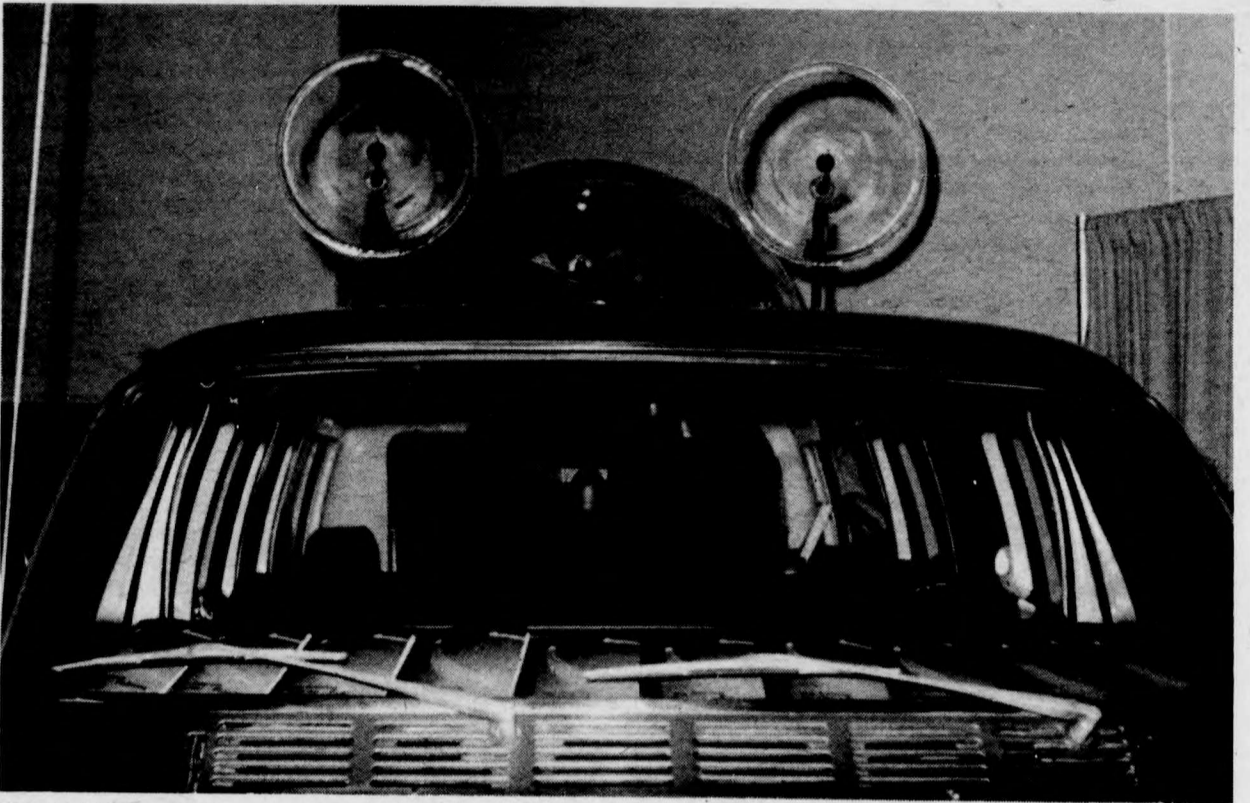
Several 'organic food' booths sold everything from carob root granola to organic ice cream. (The ice cream was 30 cents a scoop and couldn't be told from the stuff ordinary cows make.)

Yoga was also a major attraction; several times a day, a dozen or so people would get up on a stage and cross their limbs for the on-lookers. The trick seemed to be in keeping your legs from falling asleep. (The trick at the fair was in keeping yourself awake.)

A booth with the words 'Executive ESP' behind it offered a little plastic barrel for \$39.95. The barrel, geared primarily toward those in a management or professional capacity (who else could afford \$39.95?) contained thousands of words designed to register in one's subconscious mind as one rotated the barrel.

Apparently, if played with long enough, it could help solve almost any business-related problem except, of course, ulcers.

For \$5, participants could have their Tarot cards read or their fortune told. It was emphasized,



This U.F.O. tracker, on display at the recent Psychic Fair, cost \$35,000 to build. And it's very hungry.

however, that this was all done strictly for amusement. Dozens of people still flocked to the tables.) There's more. One of the 50 booths

was selling a book entitled 'UFOs — The Nazi's Secret Weapon?' Another booth sold Voodoo charms and statuettes, while another sold ox horn ornaments and jewellery. Still another booth sold embroidered garments.

One didn't need ESP to see the commercialism in the Psychic Fair (more appropriately, Fare), or the fact that little there had anything to do with the psychic world, since most of the booths offered at best pseudo-mystic literature.

One of the noted psychics there, Geraldine Smith, only made appearances every second half-life or so.

The fair was, of course, more than a Spirit World rip-off, but most of

the exceptionally interesting topics were presented so poorly as to turn belief into indifference.

Maybe in the next life . . .

Blood donations

A Red Cross blood donors' clinic will be sponsored by Stong college in the Stong Junior Common Room next Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All members of the York community are requested to contribute.

Sri Chinmoy film

The Disciples of Sri Chinmoy will present a film on the guru's life and activities at 8 p.m., March 6, in Curtis LH-B.

Housman

"Shoulder the sky my lad, and drink your ale".

(Last Poems)

Shakespeare

"For a quart of ale is a dish for a king".

(The Winter's Tale)

Borrow

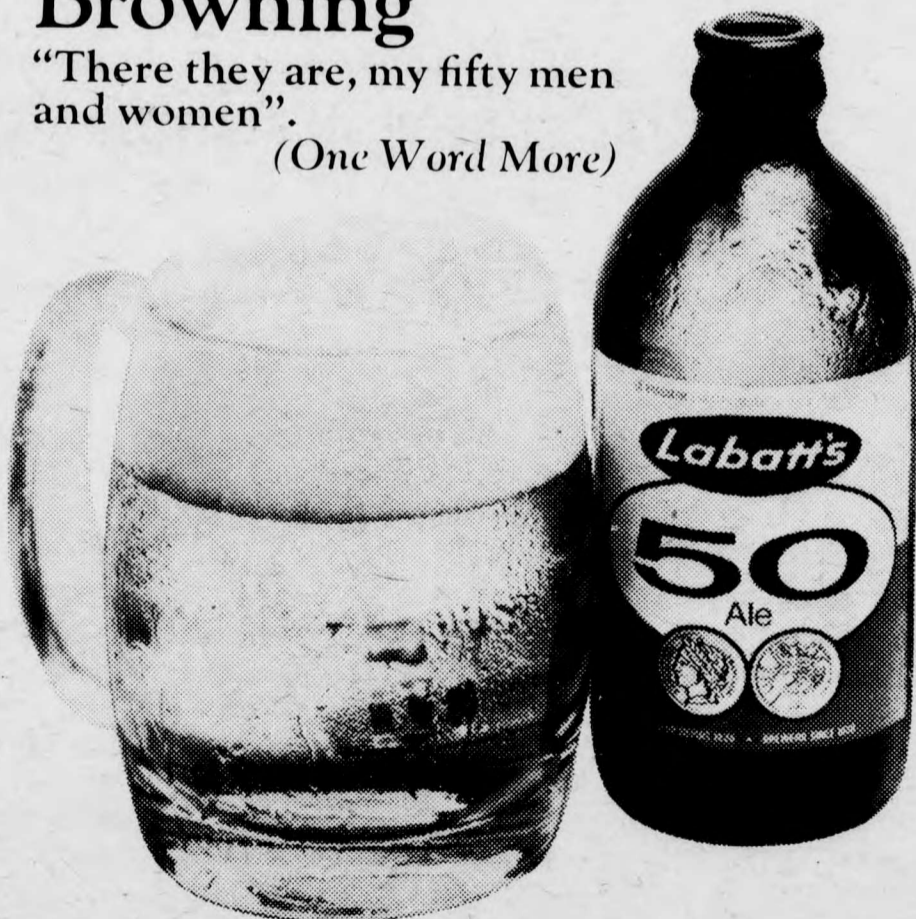
"Good ale, the true and proper drink..."

(Lavengro)

Browning

"There they are, my fifty men and women".

(One Word More)



poetic justice

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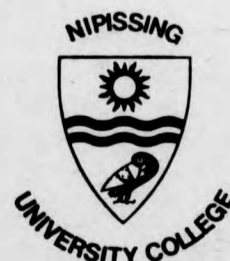
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, MEET DEAN A.J. JOHNSON AND GORDON STEWART AT THE PARK PLAZA HOTEL ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, FROM 2 p.m. TO 10 p.m.

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