

Science student Sharilyn Johnston watches intently as Trapper, the psychic graphologist, practises his craft.

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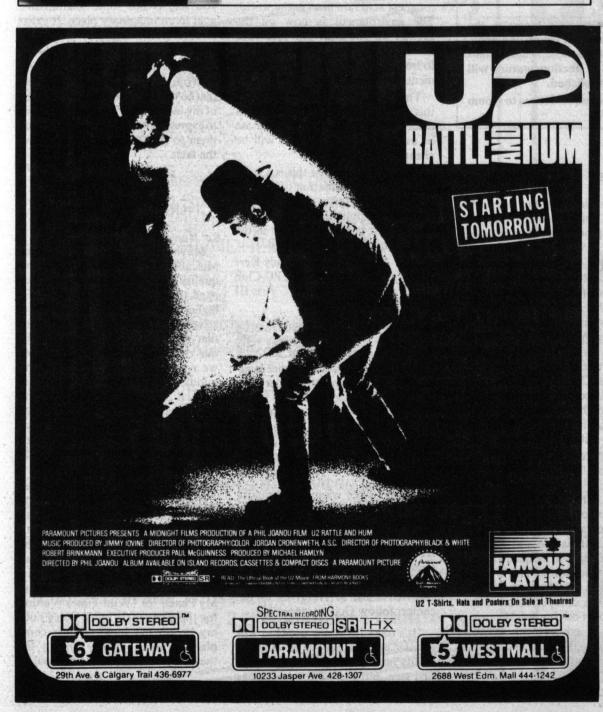
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Trapper the psychic tells all

by Jeea Saraswati

"It's different, but it works..." is how psychic graphologist Trapper describes his line of work.

Trapper provides a complete analysis of your character, your future, your spiritual asperations, and descriptions of people in your life, or what your should study and what your should not. Although there are no guarantees, he claims, "My predictions are 83 percent correct, because I combine all three methods."

For \$10, Fridays at SUB, he will use graphology, the science of handwriting, tarot cards, which devine a person's life from birth till death, and the study of eyes, which he calls "eyediology". This involves asking a question, then noting to the millimetre which direction the eyes move, that being indicative of which side of the brain is being used, and that being indicative of what you are good at. The left side means an inclination to arts, the right, to sciences.

Graphology, which is now admissible as evidence in court, makes up the main part of his analysis. He believes that people put their subconscious mind on paper when they write. He examines the size, slant of the loops, the dotting of the "i"s, the crossing of the "t"s, to determine character and strength in beliefs.

Trapper claims he has been psychic since he was six, and it seems it runs in the family. His father did it before him.

Trapper has done this all over the country, but plans to make Edmonton his base for now. He finds that there is a lot of interest in his profession here.

It seems that Trapper analyzes more women than men, because, he says, women are more intuitive. "They have been ever since the days of the jungle. If they were not, men would take a great deal more advantage of them."

His clientele are of all ages and denominations, and he has had a lot of them come back and verify his predictions.

Another reason for this accuracy is, as he says, "I am psychic." He uses this to his advantage when he is confronted with an especially traumatic ease — murder, suicide, lost children. "I analyze that writing sample, and then I take it home, to a quiet spot, where I fall into a trance. Then the spirit communicates with me through writing. Trapper calls it "spirit" or "automatic writing" and finds it is 90 percent accurate, but exhausting. "I am drained afterwards," he said.

Grapevine

Heavenly fallout

A U of A astro-geologist studying the composition of near-earth asteroids says there is " a ready-made pile of material there that could be useful to us if we ever colonize space."

Edward Cloutis, a researcher in the department of geology, said, "We need to get an inventory of these materials. If we ever go out to colonize space, we could use it instead of having to launch material in a shuttle."

Cloutis is contributing to an inventory by measuring the range of colours in light reflected off asteroids (as seen through a telescope). He then tries to match this range with that of rocks and metorites ground up in his lab.

When there's a match between lab and asteroid spectra, researchers know the composition of the asteroid.

Research has shown that some meteroites are composed of nickel and iron, "a beautiful high quality steel, it just needs to be cut and welded to make whatever shape you want," Cloutis says.

A small percentage of water is also present. "That's important," Cloutis added. "Space colonies will need water."

Chlamydia — more common than gonorrhea

With all the talk about AIDs, other forms of sexually transmitted disease (STD) are often left in the background.

U of A molecular biologist Wanda Wenman is working towards a vaccine against chamydia, a STD that affects more people than gonorrhea.

Although the disease is "perfectly curable with antibiotics," Wenman says, a very real problem is it is difficult to diagnose accurately, and until the late stages, is virtually symptomless. In North America, particularly in women, it tends to be a simmering infection, and a lot of harm can be done before abdominal pain finally sends a woman to her doctor. By that time, the damage is probably irreversible.

Wenmen believes the development of better diagnostic tools and prevention through vaccination are the ways to control the disease.

"But designing a vaccine won't be simple," she said. "We have to understand how this little bug operates; it's very sophisticated in the way in which it evades the body's defenses and attacks."

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