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DOUBLE FEATURE

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1:00
3:30
6:00
8:30

2:15
4:45
7:15
9:45

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R

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JAMES CAAN
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3:30 6:10 8:50
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5:10 9:10

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GENE WILDER
KAREN BLACK
EUGENE IONESCO'S
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PETER SELLERS
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THE RETURN OF THE PINK PANTHER

It isn't psychic, it's knowing oneself—palmist

Psychics are poor people's psychiatrists

by Linda Lowe
Asst. Features Editor

"Come on in, and let's get started, honey. I've got four people after you."
A barefoot, jeans-clad woman in her 30's led me into a plush apartment in east Charlotte. She motioned me into a dimly lit room, empty except for two tables and two chairs.

On one table's glass top was a burning red candle in an artificial-flower arrangement, a deck of cards, an appointment book, a glass of cola and two ashtrays.
Seating herself across from me at the glass table, the woman took off her sweatshirt. She was wearing a red blouse. "I try to wear this instead of running the heat since electricity went up so," she said. "Our electric bill last month was \$99."

After patting her frosted hair into place, she asked for an object that I carry with me all the time.
I handed her my wrist watch. Her red fingernails darted up and down it as though she were playing a musical instrument. She stared past me at the white wall and shuttered window.
"Have you ever written any poetry?" she said.
"It's been a long time."
"You ought to go back to it; you're good at it," she said, smiling.
For about 25 minutes, psychic Pat Gabriel asked me similar questions as she felt my watch and read the cards. Part of what she said was true, part false, part unprovable. Many of her conclusions followed naturally from my answers to her many questions.
"Are you going steady?" (yes)
"Has he asked you to marry him?" (yes)
"Have you said yes?" (yes)
"I get strong romantic inclinations from your watch," she said.
But some of her questions were perceptive and couldn't have been drawn from what I had said. "Do you work for the student newspaper?" (yes) "Why do I see medicine around your boyfriend?" (His father and uncle are doctors; his brother is in medical school.) "You're indecisive." (yes... no... well, maybe.)

An amazing thing she told me was something I did not even know. She asked if my boyfriend's or his brother's arm had been broken. I found out later that his brother's arm was broken at the joint several years ago.
On a few counts, she was wrong. She said

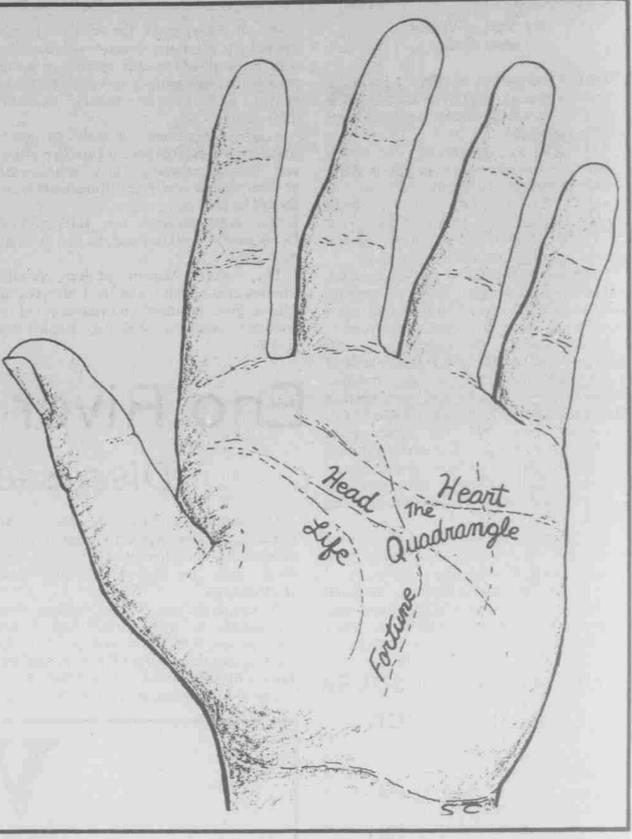
my boyfriend's hair was brown; it is blonde. She also said he draws well, which he does not. She asked if the names "Cheryl" and "Gene" meant anything to me. They did not.
But they may be important in the future, she said. "On this watch is everything—past, present and future."
When my time was up, she handed back the watch, and I handed her \$15.
Self-taught psychic

She said she had been a professional psychic for about three years. "I taught myself, and I like my kind of ESP (extrasensory perception) a lot better than the gift kind. If you ever want to take ESP, I teach it."
"I hope you've enjoyed it."
Her intriguing performance is part of an estimated \$1-billion industry in the United States. And more and more people are consulting readers of objects, cards, palms, heads and handwriting. But the public still has the wrong image of them as crystal-ball gazers and not counselors, several psychics and their customers said.
"I personally do not consult a psychic unless I have a major decision and need some uncontaminated counseling," Sally McBeth, a 38-year-old Charlotte housewife, said. "They're an arbitrator, someone not personally involved."
Mrs. Harrison, a palmist in Glenola in Randolph County, said she often served as a poor-man's psychiatrist. "I'm dealing with people who can't afford a \$50 visit to the psychiatrist," she said. Her fee is \$5 per 30-minute session.
A short, plump woman in her 50's, Mrs. Harrison began reading palms and faces and helping people with their business and personal problems 33 years ago. She is a seventh-generation palmist, and her 8-year-old granddaughter has shown interest in carrying on the tradition.

Mrs. Harrison's clients include "people who are losing themselves... people who are willing to commit suicide or murder," she said. "I try to lead these people to a truer faith within themselves and in God."
She may see up to 10 persons per day. The recession has both helped and hurt her business she said. "People are all curious about what's going to happen, but they don't have the money for frivolous or personal things."
Although she advertises in the yellow pages and occasionally on television, her local reputation has brought her many clients, she said. She has operated in Randolph County for 27 years, from the same farmhouse for the past seven. The interior is elegantly decorated with oriental rugs and chandeliers.
During a recent interview, she wore a silvery, pink sweater, a knee-length, blue skirt and pink bedroom slippers. Diamonds adorned each hand and ear lobe. Her hair

was bleached; her face powder sparkled with bits of glitter.
Before any decision
As the interview ended, someone called who was coming over immediately with a problem. "When I get a call, I never know what it's going to be," she said. Some of her customers like to consult her before making any decisions, she said.
Charlotte psychic Don Hudson discourages his clients from such dependence. "I don't want to be their crutch. I want to help them to be true to themselves, to be their own individual selves."
Hudson practices psychometry, or the holding of an object to reveal things about its owner. He once held a man's ashes, which revealed to him that they should be buried in

the man's home town. His wife had planned to sprinkle them over the ocean.
About 60 per cent of his clients are women. About 30 per cent of the men, including doctors, lawyers and company presidents, ask about business. Women ask about problems with their boyfriends, marriage, children and careers.
Approximately 20 to 25 persons per week visit him in his two-room office in a downtown shopping center, Hudson said. The outer room is small, but much like any doctor's waiting room. The inner room has two comfortable chairs and a coffee table covered with Biblical and psychic literature.
He charges \$15 for a 30- to 45-minute session. "It's not necessarily for the money," he said, "because I know God will take care of me financially." Hudson, in his 40's, quit his job as a traveling salesman two years ago to devote all his time to his ministry in the Alliance of Divine Love Church.
Specializing in locating missing persons, he has been accurate to within one block of where some were found, he said.
"I hold an object of that person and follow that particular person. If the person is a runaway and wants to catch a bus, I see him boarding a bus."
"If it leaves him in Atlanta, I see things familiar to me. If it's an unfamiliar city, I see the sign."
Hudson said he has assisted police departments in five states in locating persons, without charge.
This spring, he predicted the location of the body of a drowned man, Poochie Blanks, near Great Falls, S.C. The man had been missing for three weeks.
"The body was resting feet and hands down just as you had described," rescue worker Lynn Campbell wrote Hudson. "In addition to this, the body was found in a pool much lower than the river bed, again, just as you had indicated."
Another Charlotte psychic who said he has made accurate predictions is Ray Hait, Hait, 60, is a traveling salesman, but he teaches palmistry, card-reading, psychometry, graphology (handwriting analysis) and crystal-ball gazing, all without charge.
Hait said he predicted at a public lecture in May 1973 that President Richard Nixon would resign the first Friday in August, 1974. He also foretold under hypnosis in 1958 that a ruby-red light to cut the pyramids would be discovered in 1962. In that year, the laser beam first was used.
Aswan Dam crack
"I predict that in spring 1984 the Aswan Dam (on the Nile River) will crack and wash the sands out from under the base of the pyramids," causing Mediterranean tidal waves, he said.
Hait, a stocky, gray-haired businessman in a navy-blue suit, did not know what percentage of his predictions over the past 25 years were accurate. "With people, it's pretty dim," he said.
His reading of my palms and handwriting, which was free, was partly correct. He was right in saying I was seriously ill between age 1 and 5 and that I tend to be pessimistic. But I do not have two or three brothers and sisters and my left face and foot were not injured.
Regular clairvoyant-goeser Gus Bell, in his 50's, does not hold inaccuracies against a psychic. "They're only human," he said. "I understand they're not perfect."
That raises questions as to what and how a psychic should tell a person what he foresees. Hait varies what he says depending on the person's maturity. In cases of suicide, "I never tell a person unless that person has the brains to change his destiny."
Hudson will not predict a divorce. "If I plant that thought in his mind, the little things his spouse does start adding up into big things."
If he foresees a death, he tries to break the news gently. "I always try to give a positive approach. These people have come to get help. You can't help them if you give them negative thinking."



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PEANUTS

KNOWING YOU DON'T LOVE ME, DRIVES ME CRAZY!

DO YOU KNOW THAT? HUH?! DO YOU?!!

DO YOU KNOW THAT?!!

IT WAS FREQUENTLY SAID OF HER, SHE KNEW NOT HOW TO SUFFER IN SILENCE!

WELL, ANDREWS, YOUR COMPANY'S OFFER SEEMS QUITE SINCERE, BUT I MUST WARN YOU BEFORE WE CONTINUE.

I HAPPEN TO THINK THE WORLD OF THE SAMOAN PEOPLE, AND I MUST PUT THEIR INTERESTS ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE IN MY DELIBERATIONS!

I UNDERSTAND, SIR...

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THEIRS FOR THE ASKING, SIR!

FINE, NOW ABOUT MY FEE...

GOVERNOR, THINK OF ME AS SANTA!

DOONESBURY

But some psychics are less careful. Hudson said. "A lot of psychics will say anything in the world—double talk—just to pass the time."
He also criticized fortune-tellers "along the side of the road." He said one seer in South Carolina promised a woman a husband for \$200 and a good-luck stone for \$40.
Contaminated money
Some fortune-tellers bilk the public by offering to cleanse a person's "contaminated" money. The seer takes the real bills and returns phony ones. Persons have lost up to \$25,000 to this scheme, the *New York Times* reported in January.
In 65 North Carolina counties, a 1951 state law punishes palm-reading, clairvoyance and fortune-telling with a \$500 fine and or six months imprisonment. The law excludes the amateur practice of these arts at church and school socials, but it is not strictly enforced.
The General Assembly removed Orange County from the list of counties during its last session, and Chapel Hill has no town ordinance. But the closest palmists are in Dunn.
In Randolph County, excluded from the state law, Mrs. Harrison said she pays a \$200 state business-license fee annually.
In Mecklenburg, included in the state law, Hudson said his practice did not violate any law because it is part of his church ministry. "I feel I am called by God because it is my way of helping mankind," he said.
Mrs. Harrison and Hait also said their ability was a God-given insight. Educated to be a Baptist minister, Hait said he first discovered his spiritual powers as a teen-ager driving through Monroe. He saw a pickup truck overturn, ripping open the stomach of one of its passengers.
"Tell the blood to stop"
"I'll never forget how that boy looked up at me: 'Mister,' he said, 'tell the blood to stop. You know how to do it.' I used the power of God... It was like the blood vessels being clamped shut."
He said his mother also had psychic powers. "She was afraid to look into a clear glass of water, afraid she'd see things... They (the family) thought it was the work of the devil."
Although Hudson said his powers were a gift, he thought the basic precepts of psychometry could be taught. "But as far as teaching clairvoyance, that has to be in them," he said.
He gave me a five-minute lesson on psychometry, which consisted of feeling his ring with my eyes closed and telling him what came to mind. I had several hits and several misses, he said, but I could improve with practice.
Hait said everyone is somewhat clairvoyant. "It really isn't psychic. It's just knowing oneself," he said. Hudson agreed: "It can be brought out more so and can be used for one's own benefit."
More and more people, including government leaders, are seeking to do that, housewife and clairvoyant-goeser McBeth said. "People need to be understood more clearly," she said. "There are less and less people you can go and talk to as far as the church is concerned."
Bell, a retired business man, goes for another reason: "I enjoy every moment I'm with one." But he takes their advice seriously; he dropped out of a business partnership once at a card-reader's suggestion. He may go twice a month or twice a year depending on a gut feeling, he said.
"Some say it just never works, and they may be right. But I've seen some very good results," he said. Readers predicted a trip to Europe and to Florida for Bell, who lives and travels in a van.
Hudson said he loves a skeptic. "I tell them they can believe what they want. But I see this for you; you have a tummyache; you have had an accident recently. Then I let him be his own curiosity seeker."

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