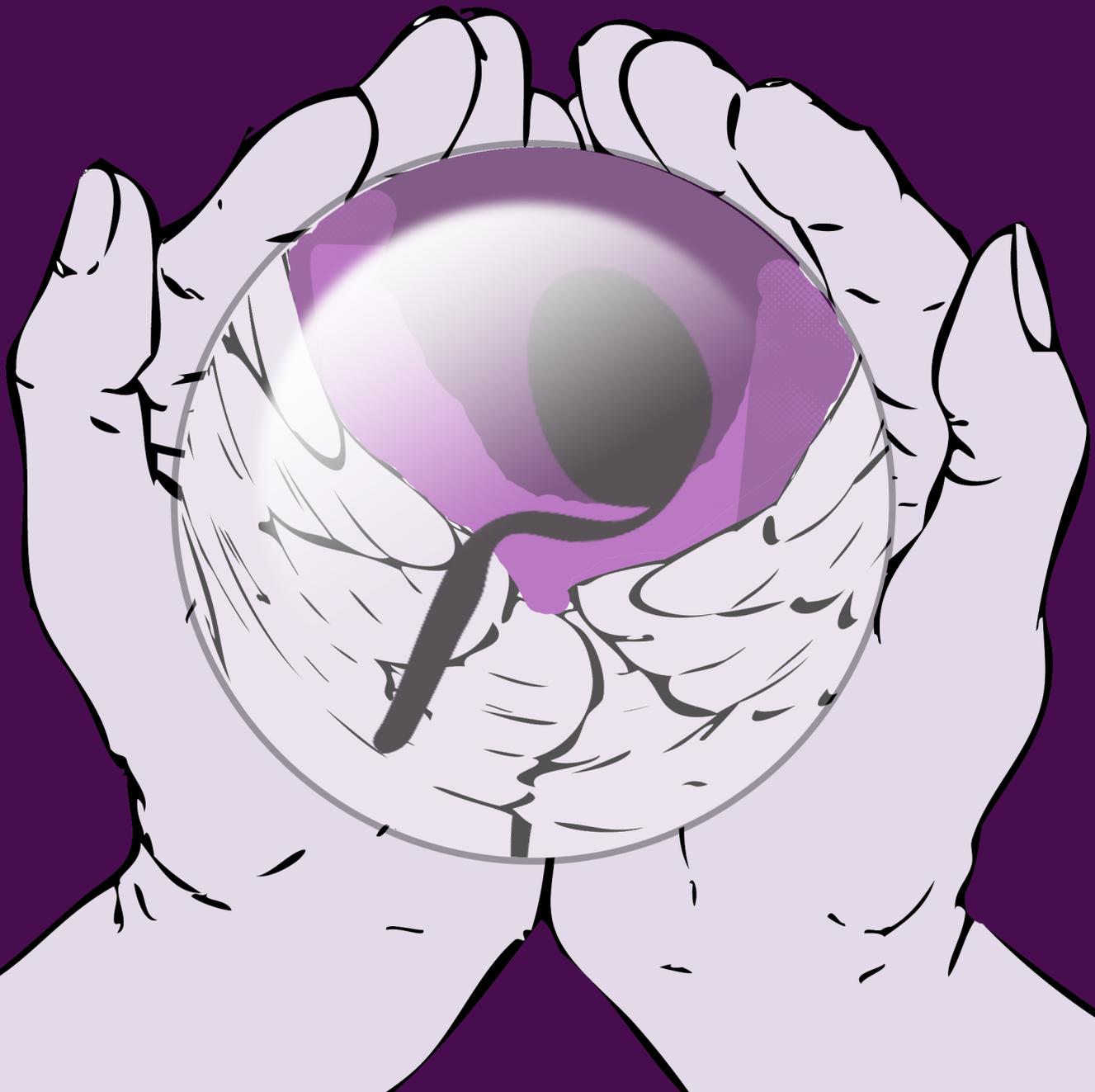


# THE BENT SPOON

PEER BEYOND THE VEIL WITH  
EXTRASENSORY PERCEPTION



# THE BENT SPOON

In the landscape of paranormal media, there are traditionally two unique, yet separate, brands. One geared toward the believers, and the other more skeptical in nature. The problem is that the true believers rarely, if ever, embrace a skeptical attitude or ask tough questions of their community; instead preferring to surround themselves with like-minded individuals that reinforce their own belief systems. And the skeptics, likewise, promote science and critical thinking largely to those already open to it, or who are active participants in the skeptical community. This results in an echo chamber effect, wherein the same ideas are bounced back and forth, guru-student relationships are inadvertently created, and neither side ends up learning much about the other.

Enter: The Bent Spoon.

The Bent Spoon is a skeptical magazine for the true believer. Within its pages you will find Q&A between those with opposing viewpoints, interviews with leading investigators and thinkers, as well as articles which will not only provide in-depth analysis, but also be critical of both believers and skeptics alike. Along with reviews, comic strips, and other lighter fare, The Bent Spoon hopes to foster an attitude of outreach, forming a middle ground where believers and skeptics can come together and have a conversation about the issues and questions we've all given thought to.

*The Bent Spoon. Where extraordinary claims meet ordinary explanations.*



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# PSYCHIC OR CLEVER TRICKS? BY BOBBY NELSON

The time was not too long ago when you could turn your TV on, late night, and watch infomercials for psychics like Ms. Cleo, a gaudy woman with a thick Jamaican accent, who would tell you your future for a couple dollars a minute (she was later proved fake, not only her accent but also her so called psychic abilities).

You may have also seen singer Dionne Warwick doing her own infomercials for the Psychic Friends Network (too bad she couldn't have warned her good friend Michael Jackson of his untimely death). Even more recently, there was a pollution of "psychic" television shows such as Crossing Over with John Edward and Beyond with James Van Praagh. As well as talk shows employing psychics; Sylvia Brown made frequent appearances on The Montel Williams Show. The question is, are these few that have been named really psychic? Or are they just using a clever trick known as cold reading? Cold reading is a technique that has been used by magicians and mentalists for years. Professional illusionists have said that the way that this works is by

simply studying body language and looking for cues given off by the individual that is being read. When "psychics" use this technique, they claim to be obtaining this unknown information about the sitter from the spirits of people that have crossed over.

First, let's analyze Crossing Over with John Edward and Beyond with James Van Praagh. Different shows but the same exact format. John and James stand up in front of their audience and give cold readings. These two men, when using this technique, seem to baffle the minds of "millions" of people with their hits and accuracy. Of course, to someone who doesn't know what to look for, this would seem amazing. Again the question is, are they really all that accurate? Or is it the sitter themselves that makes them accurate? For example, one of them may say, "I am seeing a male right now." OK statistically speaking, about half of the audience will either connect to a male or female and by doing this the cold reader (John or James) has eliminated half of the room. Then they will continue to ask vague questions until they hook a

person in; this is called fishing.

It is actually very clever how they can work a person. For example, one could say, "I am seeing water, lots of water," and one person could make the connection that their father died by drowning, and there's a hit for the reader. Or, one could make the connection that their father loved to fish on the lake; amazingly, it would be another hit for the reader.

So either way, the reader always has the upper hand. One of the most comedic points when watching these shows takes place when they are trying to address the name of the deceased. With these types of cold readings they all usually start off in a similar fashion, something like, "I am hearing a J sound, like a Jason or a Joseph." Then someone will raise their hand and say, "my father Jerry died two months ago," and it's another hit for the reader because he/she came up with the J sound. When you get a room filled with people who A. Lost a loved one, B. Want to make contact with that loved one, and C. Believe in what the reader is saying, you get

people who become blind to facts.

People will totally ignore the 30 to 40 misses and only remember the 6 to 10 hits. They also fail to see how the reader can turn a miss into a hit. An example of this can be seen on the HBO television show, *Bullshit*, hosted by magicians Penn and Teller. In this episode titled, "Talking to the Dead," it shows psychic Rosemary Altea doing a cold reading for a man who is trying to contact his mother. At one point she says his mother is very shy, but after a second of the man showing no response she cleverly says, "but that is not like her at all," which then triggered a response in the man. The best part of the episode is a scene before the readings start where we see Rosemary walking around talking to potential subjects, and what do we see? Rosemary walks right up to the man who lost his mother and asks him, "who would you like to contact?" The man replies "my mother." So when the session starts, Rosemary knows exactly who to go to for her amazing reading. This technique is a little different, it is known as hot reading, which is the use of foreknowledge.



(If you would like to see this video, use your smart phone to scan the QR code.)

Another "psychic" who also uses the cold reading method is the (in) famous Sylvia Browne. But let's not get into personal feelings on the woman, let's look at the facts. Sylvia claims to have helped thousands of people with her spot-on accuracy, but she is rarely right. Her yearly "predictions" are so vague that 100 possible things could relate to make them hits. She was a frequent guest on *The Montel Williams Show* where the audience could ask her questions and what not. This is where Sylvia has been wrong many, many times. One of the most famous foul-ups Browne has made was in February of 2003, where a devastated family told a story of their son, Shawn Hornbeck.

Shawn was kidnapped in late 2002 at the young age of 11. Browne then gave a description of the man who abducted the boy, told them where he may be found, and finally she told the parents to most horrible news parents could ever hear, she told them Shawn was dead. The troubled parents asked to meet with Sylvia for more information after the show but she told them that they would have to pay the going rate for her services (which is \$700 for a half an hour). A few months later, Shawn Hornbeck was found, but he wasn't decomposing in some shallow grave, to the amazement of the parents he was still alive. The description of the man didn't match that of Sylvia's nor did the location of where she said the boy would be found. Great job Sylvia!

(If you would like to see this video,

use your smart phone to scan the QR code.)



On January 3rd, 2006, she appeared on *Coast to Coast AM* and she started to talk about a mining incident that happened in West Virginia. Sylvia Browne said, live on air, that they would be found alive. Sadly, 12 of the 13 miners were dead when they were found.

James Randi, investigator of paranormal claims, challenged Sylvia Browne to take his million dollar challenge live on *Larry King*, in which she accepted. When Randi didn't receive word from Browne he asked what the problem was. Browne's management responded that she had no way to get a hold of James. After Randi supplied ways of contacting him, she then said he wasn't a godly man and wanted nothing to do with him. Well, as James Randi has said time and time again, "If I am not a godly man, wouldn't that be a better reason to take the million dollars?"

# THE MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE

BY ROBBY NELSON

On a radio show in 1964, a parapsychologist told James Randi to put his money where his mouth is. Randi then offered a certified check of \$1,000 of his own money to anyone that could show positive evidence of paranormal abilities. This was the start of what we now know as the Million Dollar Challenge. Between the years 1964 and 1982, Randi states that over 650 people have stepped up to try and prove that paranormal abilities exist, every one of these individuals failed. Not only have they failed, but no one has ever made it past the preliminary stage.

There are two parts to the test, the preliminary and then the official test. So if the applicant is able to do what he or she says they can do, this shouldn't be a problem. For example, if I say I can dowse for metal with an 80% accuracy rate, I am expected to dowse for metal with an 80% accuracy rate. So if 10 cups are placed on the floor and under 1 of those cups is a piece

of metal, I should be able to find the metal 8 out of 10 times. This test would have to be performed 2 times, once in the preliminary stage and then again for the actual test. If I can't perform with the accuracy I say I can, that is no one's fault but my own.

Not only that, it is the applicant that designs the test in agreement with the James Randi Educational Foundation protocol. Below is a list of the protocols taken from the JREF website, some have been omitted, please go to <http://www.randi.org/site/index.php/component/content/article/37-static/254-jref-challenge-faq.html> to read them in their entirety.

“Protocols

2.1 Protocols must be “mutually agreed upon,” what does that mean?

Neither the Foundation nor the claimant can force a testing procedure without the approval of the other side. The testing procedure is a negotiation, and no one can put their foot down. If at any time it

[sic] a deadlock is reached, the application process will be terminated, and neither side will be blamed or considered at fault.

2.2 What is the definition of “paranormal” in regards to the Challenge?

Webster's Online Dictionary defines “paranormal” as “not scientifically explainable; supernatural.”

Within the Challenge, this means that at the time your application is submitted and approved, your claim will be considered paranormal for the duration. If, after testing, it is decided that your ability is either scientifically explainable or will be someday, you needn't worry. If the JREF has agreed to test you, then your claim is paranormal.

2.3 Does my claim count as paranormal?

Possibly. Read through the JREF forum for a list of previous applicants if you'd like to see whether or not your claim has been tested before. The list can be found at: <http://forums.randi.org/forumdisplay>.

php?f=43

Past claims have included: psychic or mediumistic powers, ESP, dowsing, magnetic humans, astrology, faith healing, etc.

If you are submitting a claim that works off a previous assumption, you have to present evidence proving the assumption correct first. For example, a claim of exorcism must have prior proof of the existence of demons, unless the existence of demons would be self-evident during the exorcism. If someone's head spins 'round the wrong direction during an exorcism, it is safe to say that demons (or some other entities) are responsible. Projectile vomiting, however, is nasty and probably explainable.

Some claims are, unfortunately, untestable. For example, claiming that you are able to make someone feel happy by talking to them is untestable, because it is impossible to objectively gauge someone's level of happiness, especially if they have been told that after talking to you they should feel happy.

If your claim is untestable, there is nothing that can be done to alter that status unless you find a new claim or negotiate a protocol in which the results are self-evident and objectively testable.

2.4 Why do you reject claims

that might cause injury?

Because the JREF doesn't want anyone to get hurt or die, for both legal and humanitarian reasons. The JREF will not condone or support any claim where injury may occur. We don't even want you to try it at home first.

For example, if you claim you can jump off a ten story building and survive, the JREF is not going to test you at it because people jumping off buildings doesn't normally end well.

2.5 Why can't I submit a religious or spiritual claim?

Because they are, for the most part, untestable. For example, you can look at a series of events – say surviving an automobile crash, surviving a plane crash, surviving a near-drowning and say “This was the hand of God,” but the point of the Challenge isn't to give anecdotal evidence. It is to give something testable. Most religious people believe it's impossible to test God. We're pretty sure they're right, though perhaps for different reasons.

2.6 I'd like to change a rule.

No. The Challenge rules are in place for a reason. When you fill out the JREF Challenge application, you are entering into a contract. The JREF doesn't cut corners or make exceptions. Not even for you. The Challenge guidelines are

not that difficult to meet. One issue that comes up often is the new rule describing the need for a media presence. Many excuses have been offered as to why this is impossible.

Here is a list of common issues:

Issue 1: I don't want the publicity.

Response: You will get the publicity if you pass the Challenge, which you believe you can do. If you don't want publicity, it's best not to apply at all.

Issue 2: I've never been featured in a news story.

Response: Newspapers and news stations love human interest stories. Contact one and ask that they run your story. If you can really perform what you claim, that should be no problem!

Issue 3: You didn't used to have this rule. Why do you have it now?

Response: The JREF has spent valuable time and resources investigating claims that were submitted by people who were obviously suffering from a mental ailment. These people need medical help, not encouragement. By requiring media presence, the JREF ensures that only those people who make an impact on society will be tested, and the individuals who are mentally ill receive no encouragement

to continue their delusions.

2.7 This particular rule shouldn't apply to me.

It does. Again, the application is a contract."

In 1981, on the TV show That's My Line, hosted by Bob Barker, James Hydrick agreed to take Randi's challenge. Hydrick claimed he possessed the power to move objects with his mind. After Hydrick demonstrated his "gift" in front of the studio audience, the studio was filled with thunderous applause. However, James Randi was not impressed and showed how Hydrick was able to manage these not so difficult feats. (This video can be seen by scanning the QR code at the top right)

Today the James Randi Educational Foundation now offers a 1 million dollar prize to any individual who can show, under proper observing conditions, evidence of any paranormal, supernatural, or occult power or event. Again it must be said that no one has ever passed the preliminary stage of the test.

In a recent article written by Randi in an issue of Skeptic Magazine, James goes over some of the reasons why people refuse to take the challenge. I must say they are quite humorous.

1. I can't afford to be in a higher tax bracket.

2. I'm already rich.

3. I don't want money; I'm totally spiritual.

4. You wouldn't pay me the money, anyway.

5. It's all a lie; there is no prize.

6. It's a trap by the CIA to identify and murder me.

7. The prize comes from the CIA (or from the communists).

8. God told me not to get into it.

9. If I win you will have me killed to save paying out the money.

10. You'll put out negative vibes to inhibit my powers.

11. Since you're a trickster, you'll fool me somehow.

12. It's too much money.

13. It's not enough money.

14. I want the money in a pile, in cash, (or a certified check) before I try.

However, it must be said the most common complaint I see is that Randi doesn't even have the money. Well, in hopes to at least hush up that ridiculous myth, here is a picture of the bank statement for the Million Dollar Challenge.

So please stop trying to use cheap excuses as to why the challenge can't be won, either put your money where your mouth is, like Randi did, or admit you can't do it.



**OPPOSITE PAGE:  
BANK STATEMENT SHOWING  
THE MILLION DOLLAR PRIZE.**

# Evercore | Wealth Management

55 East 52nd Street  
New York, NY 10055

## Account Summary

### Statement of Value and Activity

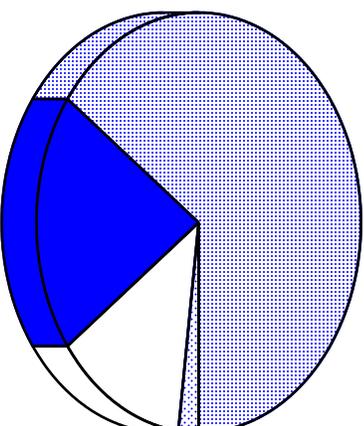
September 1, 2011 - September 30, 2011

#### Market Value Reconciliation

	This Period	1/1/11 to 9/30/11
<b>Beginning Market Value</b>	<b>\$1,177,835.31</b>	<b>\$1,162,778.37</b>
Receipts	\$0.00	\$0.00
Disbursements	\$0.00	-\$2,748.49
Income	\$11,209.29	\$47,001.01
Non Cash Asset Changes	\$0.00	\$6,912.40
Change in Market Value	-\$38,187.90	-\$63,086.59
<b>Ending Market Value</b>	<b>\$1,150,856.70</b>	<b>\$1,150,856.70</b>
Realized Gains/Losses	-\$392.04	\$797.98
(Does Not Include Pending Trades)		

#### Asset Allocation

Asset Class	Balance
Fixed Income	\$748,490.00
Equities	\$227,340.60
Cash & Equivalents	\$154,836.20
REITS	\$20,189.90
<b>100% Total Assets Value</b>	<b>\$1,150,856.70</b>



**Investment Objective:** Balanced - To achieve a balanced return with an emphasis on current growth and modest income with the understanding of potential short-term volatility comparable to a broad market index at times.

# THE PALM READER OF NEW ORLEANS



# JERIK OF JACKSON SQUARE

BY DR. KAREN  
STOLLZNOW

“When you go to Jackson Square, you have to have a palm reading with Jerik!”

Jackson Square is a park of name-dropping proportions, located in the French Quarter of New Orleans, and ‘protected’ from the nearby Mississippi River by hillock-like levees. Along the park is the Cabildo, the site of the 1803 Louisiana Purchase, and the grand St. Louis Cathedral, the oldest in the United States. From a distance, the view is faintly Disney, unlike the reputation.

The Cathedral features an enormous statue of Jesus Christ that casts an eerie rapturous shadow across the building at night. This ‘night miracle’ is apparently the most photographed scene in the area. Although the French Quarter was relatively unscathed by Hurricane Katrina, the long-suffering Jesus lost two fingers during the high winds. Jesus just keeps on sacrificing. According to folklore, He sacrificed His thumb and forefinger, single-handedly fending off the storm and redirecting the Hurricane before it hit the coastline.<sup>1</sup> Though Moses was clearly needed to part the sea...

“Before The Storm”, a euphemistic, wistful phrase uttered often in New Orleans, Jackson Square was

a bustling tourist zone and a thriving Mecca for some 200 artists, musicians and mystics. However, the latter were not always welcome. In 2003 a Parish Ordinance (yes, ‘Parish’ is the Louisianan equivalent of ‘County’) forced the psychics, astrologers and palm readers out of Jackson Square. Ostensibly, this was a measure to return New Orleans to its former glory, a haven for art and music. Rather than a display of skeptical zeal in this city of voodoo, hoodoo and juju, this was a fiscal ranking for those who held permits and paid taxes. At this time, Jackson Square had “deteriorated” into a hovel of homelessness, (Southern) decadence, filth and crime. The Ordinance was viewed as an elitist beautification campaign for the wealthy residents of the “Beverly Hills on the Bayou”.

The Storm further depleted the “street culture”. Only a handful of artists remain today. Of the 50-100 mystics that once plied their trade in front of the Cathedral, only about 5-10 have returned. Jerik Daenarson is one of these psychic stalwarts.

“Jerik – House of Scorpio”, as his sign proclaims, is the patriarch mystic of Jackson Square, and a palm reader with over 35 years experience. He operates his psychic

stall seven days a week from dusk til midnight. Payment is “by donation” (But expected to be \$20 or more). Known to all of the locals, Jerik came highly recommended by my hosts, as part of the Nawlins’ experience.

It was a Saturday night and the Bourbon Street crowds were rowdy. It wasn’t Mardi Gras, but tourists hurled plastic beads at people from the hotels above, as intoxicated passers-by hurled back insults. The French Quarter is one of the few places in the US where drinking

on the streets is permitted, as long as the drink is contained in a plastic cup. And so, the Quarter is crowded with tourists quaffing and spilling Hurricanes and Grenades.

I escaped to the renowned 24-hour Café du Monde, where the staple Café au Lait is blended with chicory (hearkening back to the blockade of the city during the Civil War, when the root was added to extend the coffee supplies). Their specialty is the lard-laden beignet, or ‘French doughnut’, a greasy instant-diabetes covered in an unfeasibly high mountain of icing sugar that carpets the floor of the café.

I arrived at the psychic promenade at 11pm. Sure enough, Jerik was

there, resplendent in medieval jester-style garb. He was engaged in a group reading, but he paused and made eye contact, at which I nodded and he winked. The deal was sealed. At my turn, Jerik welcomed me like an old mate, and, in the way of those in the not-so Big Easy, he soon shared his Hurricane tale.

Jerik's psychic powers weren't sufficient to predict Katrina, "We'd been warned for many years, but we never thought it would actually happen". Jerik is a long-term resident of New Orleans, and was reluctant to evacuate during the non-calm before the storm. Like many others, he assumed that the city would weather "just another storm" in the turbulent climate.

Jerik described the storm as a fearsome vigil in a perpetual night of darkness and howling winds. The aftermath brought new horrors of hunger, thirst, isolation, crime, death and destruction. In the rioting, looting, junta-like state that followed, Jerik spent twelve days and nights in his "besieged city". He and his family were coerced to relocate temporarily to Knoxville, Tennessee. Others were forced out of their homes at gunpoint. Only a third of the former population have returned so far, and Jerik is one of those proud, resolute residents, infatuated with and forgiving of their hazardous home.

With his Southern charm and cultivated Californian accent, Jerik and I had a warm chinwag, as much as a palm reading. I was promised that my experience would not be a "Gypsy fortune telling", but would be a bone fide palm reading, backed by "good science" and his

many years of expertise. Palmistry (also known as Chiromancy or Hand Analysis) is the practice of interpreting the markings on the hands, palms and wrist, and providing predictions about a person's past, present and future on the basis of those markings.

As an Australian, I need only speak to aid and abet a cold reading, but in his first 'miss', Jerik mistook me for being English. My mini-lecture on the not-so-subtle differences across Commonwealth accents provided him with some immediate and future fodder. "Show me the hand you write with. This is called your dominant hand." I presented my right palm, fingers straight out and thumb splayed out in isolation. "Your hand formation shows that you are a very dominant person." (I later attended a ghost tour in which my group made a pit stop by Jerik. He performed this very trick for the group, and this same "hand formation" was presented as "Cantankerous. People see you as arrogant and argumentative. You're an asshole!"). I resisted proving him right, and asked what other

hand formations might reveal. Apparently, resting the thumb straight alongside the hand would indicate a "team player", while squishing the thumb onto the hand would suggest a "meek and mild" personality type.

Jerik lit up a cigarette and continued. Running a pen along my 'heart line', he told me that I am strong in personality, and strong in health. The heart line supposedly indicates literal and figurative issues related to the heart, i.e., aspects of love and health. I am also kind, sympathetic and generous (he hopes!) There

was good news in the idiosyncratic creases of my hand; I will always have good relationships, and good mental health. It was all good.

The "Line of Head" is supposedly indicative of the subject's intelligence, talent and affluence. My "head line" reveals that I am both creative and analytical. Apparently, I am an excellent communicator, and also a great listener. In an interpretation that was probably directly motivated by my spiel about pronunciation, I was told that I would make a great teacher or professor. I love to learn, and I love to share what I learn.

In a quick pre-judgement day, my "Fate Line" revealed that I will have great success and fame in my career, there will be no major traumas or terrible events, and I will make a major relocation in my life (Really? Never!). I have a "high fertility rate" and will have 2 or 3 kids (which was a nice hedge bet on the 2.5 average).

My "life line" is thin, deep and long, indicating that I will live well into my 80s. I overheard other subjects being told that they too would "live well into their 80s". We live in an aging population, but this was too uncanny. This stock gem was further repeated by a few local friends who had visited Jerik (including one in his 60s, suffering a terminal illness).

Was Jerik telling me what I wanted to hear, or did he truly have better vision than me in the dim light of the night? Anecdotally, Jerik's reading contradicted two other palm readings that I have had previously (where I was respectively told that I would have 1. one child;

and 2. that I would be childless). Jerik's reading was very formulaic and rehearsed, with many stock phrases and jargon that must keep the tourists convinced. The psychic code, preventing the disclosure of bad news, keeps the tourists happy (but who is to say a psychic can foretell bad news? Better to avoid than be inaccurate!). Overall, the reading was replete with generalizations and assumptions, constituting a cold reading.

One website unwittingly admits that palmistry is a pseudoscientific attempt at kinesics (the study of body movement, such as gestures), and therefore presents a cold reading:

A palmist usually greets their clients and watches to see how they use their hands.

Do they shake, ring their hands, fidget or when they place them on the table do they lay flat or hold them close and tight fist at first? This can tell the palmist right away if their clients are shy, suspicious, or relaxed.<sup>2</sup>

This was borne out by my own experience, when Jerik introduced Heather, his "apprentice". I shook her hand prompting her comment, "I like a woman with a strong handshake." Did my "strong handshake" influence Jerik's portrayal of me as a "dominant" person? In addition, interpreting the shape and appearance of the fingers and nails, and the texture of the hands as soft or rough, is part of a cold reading, leading to assumptions about the background and personality of the subject. For example, the subject who indulges in manicures might be labelled vain, while the male

subject with rough hands might be perceived as a tradesperson.

Some proponents believe that palmistry is more 'scientific' than other paranormal practices, such as a psychic reading. Palm reading certainly appears to have structure, in that specific markings are meant to be invariably indicative of specific traits and events. However, there is subjectivity and ambiguity in any palm reading. It is one person's subjective (often conflicting) interpretation of superficial features, using an unproven theory. Palmistry makes many obscure, irrelevant and untestable claims. For example, traditional palm reading contains elements of astrology, whereby different fingers and mounts or bumps supposedly represent different planets. Whatever that means...

Using the shape, colours and appearance of the hand to identify personal characteristics is a form of physiognomy (i.e., judging character based on superficial appearances). So, are the lines on our hands specific signs, or inconsequential, random markings? Some aspects of appearance are certainly indicators of physical health or disease, such as white markings on the fingernails that can suggest a zinc deficiency. However, one web site claims that palmistry has practical applications for medicine, and functions as a diagnostic tool. It is claimed that there is a correlation between specific hand patterns and finger ratios to conditions including ADHD, Autism, Dementia, Dyslexia, Schizophrenia and Depression.<sup>3</sup> The site offers many links to genuine medical publications but these are irrelevant to palmistry, which is divination, not diagnosis.

A book by John Manning further suggests that digit ratio can reveal such characteristics as homosexual inclinations, musical aptitude and sporting prowess.<sup>4</sup>

During the reading and the tour, Jerik repeatedly spoke of a Duke University study in which he claims to have participated. The study reputedly revealed that two vivid lines below the hand, across the wrist, indicate that the subject is not predisposed to Parkinson's disease. I could not find any reference to this particular study, so I contacted Tim Strauman, Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience at Duke University, in Durham, North Carolina. I received the following reply to my enquiry:

I'm aware of no such study. At one time there was a "research institute" called the Rhine Research Center at Duke (back in the 30s and 40s originally) that purported to study parapsychology. At some point Duke and the Rhine Institute parted ways, thankfully, but it may be that the story you heard originated from some Rhine study.

The Rhine Research Center (<http://www.rhine.org/>) still exists in Durham, but it is no longer connected with Duke University (although they make much of their former

connection to the institution). During the 1930s, Joseph Rhine conducted experiments into ESP and other paranormal phenomena, using Zener cards and other paraphernalia. However, Rhine was later criticised for using poor experimental design and faulty statistical analysis.<sup>5</sup> If Jerik referred to these early studies, it is impossible that

he could have participated in them. It is plausible that such a study exists, perhaps through another department at Duke University or through the modern incarnation of the Rhine Research Center, but I could find no reference to this. In any case, the alleged study is again unrelated to the main aims of palmistry concerning personality, love, career and other social themes.

While there is no concrete or significant evidence to suggest that there is a connection between illness and hand markings, there is certainly no evidence to suggest that hand appearance is related to personality and can be used to predict future events. The lines on our hands are more likely creases formed by hand movement, rather than markings that predetermine our lives. Most palmists will admit that these lines change over the course of a lifetime, but this is often seized as an ad hoc hypothesis to explain the dynamic features of palmistry, to account for different readings over time. The site [www.handanalysis.co.uk](http://www.handanalysis.co.uk) further claims that our lines are influenced by our behaviour:

Most prediction is based on the direction you are going in now. It is not set in stone - we all have free will to make choices and changes in our lives that will affect our future and alter our 'fate', and our lines will change accordingly.<sup>6</sup>

The site goes on to make a revealing observation that we can extrapolate to the entire practice:

Some people have several "marriage lines" (these days we would say "relationship lines") but have never married or lived with anyone, or had only one marriage

type relationship. Although many palmists still read these lines, (and sometimes get them right!), any prediction about children or marriage from the hand shouldn't be taken too seriously, as very often it is not accurate.

Indeed, palmistry itself shouldn't be taken too seriously.

Where does this leave Jerik? As part of the street culture, Jerik and his mystical cronies are important to the tradition of Jackson Square. These mystics are as New Orleans as gumbo, and probably as paranormal too.

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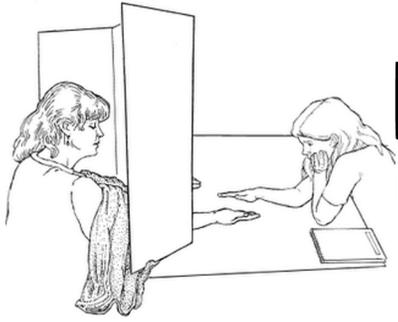
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# HOW A 9 YEAR OLD GIRL DEBUNKED "ENERGY HEALING"

BY JASON KORBUS

Therapeutic Touch (TT) is an “energy therapy” in which the practitioners claim to be able to feel and manipulate the body’s natural “energy field” in order to aid in healing. Dolores Krieger, a registered nurse and one of the two developers of therapeutic touch in the 70s, says that the technique has its roots in ancient healing practices, but admits, as do most TT practitioners, that there is no scientific evidence of a human energy field because our present technology is inadequate to detect it.

That’s where a 9 year old girl by the name of Emily Rosa comes in. She saw a video of TT practitioners talking about the Human Energy Field and how they could use their hands to manipulate it in order to diagnose and treat disease. With Krieger and the other nurses she schooled in her method saying that the fields felt “warm as Jell-O” and “tactile as taffy,” this 9 year

old wanted to create a simple test for her 4th grade science fair to “see if they could really feel something”

Using a science fair display board, Emily cut two holes toward the bottom for the practitioner to put each of



their hands through, palms up. With the rest of the board blocking their vision, Emily would then put her hand over

the top of their palm and simply ask them to tell her which of their hands could feel her energy field. In 1996, Emily tested 15 practitioners of therapeutic touch at their homes and offices, and another 13, including 7 from the first trial, in 1997. The second series of tests were filmed, with the permission of all parties involved, by the producers of Scientific American Frontiers.

American psychiatrist, and operator of the QuackWatch website, Stephen Barrett, then assisted 9 year old Emily Rosa, as well as her mother and stepfather, in writing and publishing a paper about the experiment in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 1998. The results were astounding, but not at all good news for the field of therapeutic touch. The 21 different TT practitioners who volunteered for the test, who were each given ten tries to locate Emily’s hand, could

only do so on average of 4.4 times. Their 44% success rate was less than chance, even when they were given the option of first examining Emily's hands and choosing that she use the one which produced a "stronger field"

Emily Rosa has gone on to a certain measure of fame within the skeptic and scientific community's, due to her continued hard work in scientific endeavors. In 1998, the James Randi Educational Foundation awarded her \$1000, and the Skeptics Society bestowed upon her the honor of their "Skeptic of the Year" award. In 1999, Emily was recognized by Guinness as the youngest person to publish original research in the Journal of the American Medical Association. And a few years after taking 1st place at the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair, Atheist Alliance International named her the winner of their "Future of Free Thought" prize.

Of course, the results of her original therapeutic touch experiment, which have never been challenged or overturned by any other published study, has done little to sway practitioners of TT, Reiki, or the many registered nurses of the world who believe they can feel and manipulate hu-

man energy fields. Patients all across the world swear by these techniques as well, even in the face of what we know about the placebo effect. It seems that the need for one to believe they have special powers, or have been healed by them, outweighs the more necessary reactions of humility and common sense.



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# ANOTHER POOR YET ACCURATE DOWSING DEMONSTRATION

BY BOBBY NELSON

On Saturday, September 17th, 2011, Jason Korbus and I attended the 10th annual Mothman Festival in Point Pleasant, WV. It's about a 280 mile trek my best friend and I take every year, even though we swear every year we will not be returning. And after a brutal 5 hour drive to the middle of nowhere, we finally arrived to the poor little city that birthed the story of the Mothman.

Not much ever changes, same guest speakers, same vendors, haha they even sit in the same exact locations. But I am not writing this to give a review of the Mothman Fest. I actually want to talk about a poor old lady, dowsing rods, and her inability to prove that they work.

I was standing at a table glancing over some books to purchase for my personal library when a child, no more than 10 years old, picked up the two L-shaped wires and asked what they were. Quickly the old lady jumped up and said, "These are called divining rods or dowsing rods." Intrigued, the little girl asked how they work. I, myself, was probably more excited to hear the explanation that was about to be given, which went something like this:

"You see honey, these tools have been used for thousands of years. They work on energies produced

by the earth and from the spirit world. When you ask a yes or no question, the spirit will either cross them for yes or pull them apart for no. A more experienced dowser can use the earth's energy to find metals and water."

I just kept pretending to read different book titles, smiling nonchalantly as this woman spewed wrong information. Finally, after her terrible explanation on how dowsing rods work, the old lady did a demonstration. The woman held a set of dowsing rods and also gave the little girl a set of rods and began to ask questions. "Are we at the Mothman festival?" the old lady asked. Sure enough the rods crossed (that meant yes) and the little girl was sold (even though the rods she was holding did not move at all). Quickly the little girl pulled out 10 dollars and trotted off with dowsing rods in hand.

Next in line was another little girl, this one was at least with her mother. "Did you hear the explanation I gave the other little girl?" the old woman asked. The little girl nodded along with her mother. The mother of the new little girl was talking very quietly but was asking questions to the old woman holding the dowsing rods. I could only make out something about her son who was sick. Before I could let the scam go on any long I finally

jumped in.

Normally I don't interrupt people in conversation but I had to cut in. "You know how these work don't you?" I said. The old lady looked at me and said, "Well, I just explained that it works on energy." Quickly I asked, "What kind of energy?" The woman gave me the same mumbo-jumbo about spirit and earth energy as I heard her give before. "How does that work?" I asked. I got silence; I chalked that up as a point to the skeptic. "Actually ma'am, the way this works is by something called the ideomotor effect," I explained. Of course the woman had no idea what the ideomotor effect was, so I gave a quick rundown about how it refers to the influence of suggestion or expectation on involuntary and unconscious motor behavior. I made it clear that this was the explanation on how things such as Ouija Boards, pendulums, and of course dowsing rods, worked.

The old lady stared at me with a confused look on her face, like she couldn't believe that I didn't believe in the validity of the rods. I proceeded to explain that the dowsing rods couldn't tell me things I didn't already know, for example, if I lost my car keys, the rods couldn't find them. The lady jumped in and told me how that is actually wrong because people

have dowsed for water for years. To avoid further argument, I just said, "Let's test your rods." The old lady complied.

#### Test 1

I explained to the lady that I was about to purchase a book on the table next to hers and I wanted her to dowse for it. Her response was she couldn't do that, but I could. I explained that is because the rods can't tell you things you don't already know.

#### Test 2

I explained that I purchased a book already at another table, could she dowse and find that book I had already bought. Her response was she couldn't do that, but I could. I explained that is because the rods can't tell you things you don't already know.

So after asking the woman to test her rods, and her agreeing to do so, she ended up not taking any of the easy tests I offered her to try in order to demonstrate the validity of her rods. However before I left, she did want to show me one thing that could prove that the rods really did work.

She explained that the rods were made by her husband who had lost his eyesight some years ago. So she asked the spirits, "Did a blind person make these rods?" the rods crossed (again that meant yes). I simply said, "So again to you, proof is getting an answer to a question from yourself that you already know that answer to?" And the old woman only muttered, "I guess."

# THE SKEPTICAL WORLD WAITS ON LEIGH-CATHERINE

by Jason Korbus

On September 27th, Leigh-Catherine, a self-professed "sassy psychic medium" appeared on ITV's "This Morning" to participate in a debate regarding her alleged powers. I didn't see the program, but the big news that came out of it was that she agreed, on-air, to take the famous Million Dollar Challenge as offered by the James Randi Educational Foundation.

Anytime I hear of someone announcing publicly that they plan to take the test I get excited, but I am also leery. For instance, Sylvia Browne agreed to take it over 10 years ago, and has since come up with several silly excuses for why she will not. Allison DuBois, James van Praagh, and John Edward; all held up as having genuine paranormal powers by believers, nevertheless have not even applied.

Soon after Leigh-Catherine's appearance on television, I checked out her Twitter page (@PsychicLC) and noticed she seemed to be backing down. As she tweeted to one follower, "They probably devised the tests to set us up to fail and it is a bit dodgy legally." I was a little confused, since I have always understood that the claimant would participate in devising a test with an independently qualified investigation team based on what the psychic says they can do. Once agreed, having genuine psychic abilities should make it a cakewalk. James Randi himself isn't even involved!

As far as the legalities go, reputable news organizations have time and time again verified the authenticity of the money in question; several times even offering to act as impartial mediators between paranormal claimants and

the JREF. The charge, then, that the whole challenge is somehow legally "dodgy" is laughable.

Still, I have attempted to contact Leigh-Catherine several times now in an effort to get more information about her charges. I have offered her a spot on Strange Frequencies Radio. I have offered her an interview here in the pages of The Bent Spoon. I've even asked her to forward an email to me she got that she says proves her case. I've yet to get one single response and, at least by looking at her Twitter account as of this writing, she only seems to reply to supporters.

So, what's it going to be, Leigh-Catherine? It looks like you aren't going to be stepping up to the challenge, after all. It appears as if you are going to join a legion of other loudmouth "mediums" who speak out, run their mouth, and then quickly back down. All we're hearing from you are more of the same, tired, worn out excuses.

I guess I had a funny feeling this was going to happen. And I'm not even the one claiming to be psychic!



# SOUPERNATURAL



BY JASON KORBUS

## SEX & SPIRITUALISM

In parapsychologist Dean Radin's books, "The Conscious Universe" and "Entangled Minds," he spends a fair amount of time covering both the history of investigation into psychic phenomenon, and what harnessing and strengthening our psychic abilities will mean for the future of mankind. However, like most historical accounts of spiritualism and scientific psychic investigation accounts I have read that were written by true believers, the sordid details seem to be intentionally left out.

It does not appear to be common knowledge among many paranormal enthusiasts how often poorly controlled experiments have caused statistically insignificant results to look astounding. Or, if it is, they just don't seem to care. Recently, a paper by Darryl Bem had the paranormal community buzzing - that is, until Richard Wiseman, James Alcock, and several other psychologists showed that Bem's results were either highly questionable, or simply unable to be

repeated. Joseph Banks Rhine, of the famed Duke Parapsychology Lab, was convinced a horse was telepathic (it took a magician named Milbourne Christopher to prove that it wasn't) and also was admonished by behaviorist B.F. Skinner regarding a defect found in the lab's Zener card tests. The cards themselves were see-through! Skinner himself staged a demonstration where he correctly guessed 100 cards in a row just to prove his point.

Fraud, too, has played a large role in the history of psychical research. The Fox Sisters, Kate and Margaret, who kicked off the spiritualism movement in 1848, rose to fame when they began "communicating" with a discarnate entity in their Hydesville, New York home. It was by getting this spirit to make "rappings" on the walls and floors in response to questions that people began to believe strongly in the ability for some to contact and speak with the dead. They impressed their family, their

neighbors, and soon became a very successful stage act, performing for audiences all around the world. However, after years of unhappiness, an intense feud with their other sister, Leah, and heavy drinking, the Fox Sisters confessed that it all been nothing more than a clever ruse.

in 1882, another group of sisters, the Creery's, were able to fool Sir William Fletcher Barrett, a professor of physics, in the first psychic test done for Britain's Society for Psychical Research. Sir William devised a simple card guessing game wherein he declared that the ability of the Creery Sisters to correctly guess five in a row were "over 142 million to one." That may have been true, but the Creery's weren't guessing at all. Along with a servant, Jane Dean, they devised a clever verbal code which they could surreptitiously clue each other in to the correct answers. The sisters admitted their hoax after a special committee of the SPR discovered their method later that year.

Still, it seems that even children are perfectly capable of fooling respected scientists.

Far more titillating than poor controls and frauds, though, are the tales of sexual escapades that went on between psychic claimants and those that investigated them.

Mina Crandon, known popularly as Margery, was a popular medium in the early 1900s who frequently performed her seances in the nude. She was also fond of exuding “ectoplasm” from her vagina. I’m not making this up. Of course, many males wanted to “investigate” these claims first-hand and, as a matter of fact, Margery is believed to have slept with several of them - all with the knowledge and consent of her husband! A cash prize offered to genuine mediums by Scientific American magazine was on the verge of being awarded to her if not for famed magician Harry Houdini, who had made it his mission to prove her a fraud. Not only was Houdini able to duplicate her slight of hand trickery, but a fingerprint left in wax, said to be the spiritual print of her deceased brother Walter, was found to belong to none other than her own dentist, who was very much alive!

Florence Cook was another medium whose good looks attracted the eye of the people sworn to investigate her. Florence herself fooled Sir William Crookes, one of history’s most brilliant chem-

ists and physicists, with simple parlor tricks; even convincing him that she could produce a full-form spirit materialization who went by the name “Katie King.” Crookes could not admit even the possibility of this girl fooling him, stating, “I do not believe she could carry on a deception if she were to try, and if she did she would certainly be found out very quickly, for such a line of action is altogether foreign to her nature.” Still, photographs taken by Crookes himself of his beloved “Florrie” and Katie King show a striking resemblance, even to casual observers.

Whether or not Cook and Crookes were sleeping together is a matter of some debate. It has never been proven that they were, indeed, having an affair. Still, Crookes was certainly enamored with the beauty of his subject, and his wife was frequently absent from their seances, leaving them plenty of opportunity. But perhaps the strongest case, though anecdotal, was made by Francis G. H. Anderson. Anderson, who claimed to be a former lover of Cook, testified to the Society of Psychical Research that, not only did Cook admit to him that her mediumship was fraudulent, but she had unveiled details of an affair she had with Crookes. The seances she and Crookes performed together were but a cover to keep their love affair hidden from his wife and the public, she is alleged to have

told him.

Throughout the history of psychical research, poor controls, episodes of fraud, and the trade of sex for secrecy have been very common. To this day, no psychic or medium has ever been able to scientifically demonstrate that they have mental powers beyond that of ordinary people. But when the proponents of parapsychology, as well as the true believers in psychic phenomenon, whitewash the lurid history of spiritualism and psychical research, they appear just as desperate and deceitful as the psychics and mediums themselves.



# ANOTHER PSYCHIC FRAUD? IT LOOKS LIKE IT.

by bobby nelson

Britain's best loved psychic, Sally Morgan, aka Psychic Sally's "gift" looks to be nothing more than a hoax.

A caller that identified herself as Sue phoned into an Irish radio show called Liveline. The caller stated that she had been a long time fan of Psychic Sally and that the night before (September 11th, 2011) she was at the Grand Canal Theatre in Dublin to see Sally perform readings live.

"The first half of the show went really well but when the second half started we could clearly hear a man's voice coming from the window behind us," Sue said to the radio host. What was the male voice saying? Good question, the voice appeared to be relaying information to Morgan, possibly through her microphone headset. "Everything he said, the psychic would say 10 seconds later," Sue said.

The Radio host prodded a bit deeper, "Give me an example," he said. Sue said that the voice was saying the name David, that pain in the back was involved and so was a quick passing. Sure enough, on stage, Sally claimed that a man named David was standing before her, that he had had some back pain and passed over very suddenly.

Sue claims that she was not the only person that witnessed the male voice, which was confirmed to be coming out of an open window from a projection room, and she urged other people to call in. Other callers did in fact phone in and supported everything Sue said.

However the male voice that seemed to be relaying information to Sally isn't the only suspicious occurrence that happened that night. It seems that when a member of the

staff realized what was going on, the usherette quickly informed her supervisor and the window slowly closed and no more talking was heard.

A spokesman for Sally Morgan Enterprises refuted accusation that the medium was being fed information during the Dublin show.

"There are absolutely no plants on Sally's show. This is her gift and she has been sharing it for years with audiences and doesn't need to do that," said the spokesman.

But what else would you expect a spokesman for Sally Morgan Enterprises to say?

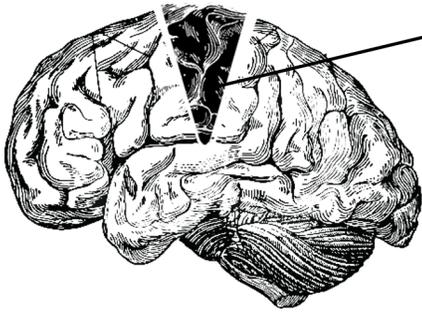
# THE BENT SPOON

Here at The Bent Spoon we always appreciate feedback, whether it be criticisms, compliments or suggestions. The Bent Spoon also accepts article submissions but they do not necessarily have to be from a skeptical viewpoint. If you are a true believer and love to write, The Bent Spoon's new section titled "The Open Forum" may just be the place for you. With the intentions of keeping the dialogue open between true believers and skeptics, we feel "The Open Forum" might be the perfect opportunity to do so. It will show the believers viewpoint with at least one skeptical rebuttal.

Please send all inquiries and submissions to  
[TheBentSpoon@live.com](mailto:TheBentSpoon@live.com)

Thank you.

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# the 10% MYTH

Working in the paranormal field, I talk to a lot of people who hold stock in psychics and/or PSI phenomena. When questioning individuals who hold such beliefs on how psychics are performing this paranormal feat (and I know there are many who believe this and have no interest in the paranormal), they more often than not respond with:

“Well, perhaps they are using or unlocking parts of the brain others cannot access.”

Intrigued, I shoot them another question and a smirk. “What do you mean?”

They tend to reply with something to the effect of, “We know humans only use 10 percent of the brain, maybe they are tapping into the other 90 percent.”

I have heard this time and

time again, from people who believe they possess psychic powers to the people who believe in (or are deceived by) it. This ‘10 percent of our brains’ misconception is 100 percent false. There is absolutely no scientific data or evidence that supports and/or suggests that human beings only use 10 percent of the brain. As a matter of fact, can you guess how much of the brain we humans do use? All 100 percent of it!

Author (and all around amazing fellow) Ben Radford has written on this very topic. Radford states that the argument, psychic powers come from an untapped part of the brain, is a logical fallacy called the argument from ignorance (my favorite fallacy). In this logical fallacy, something has to be either true or false merely because it has not been proven or

refuted. So basically, even if 90 percent of the brain is untapped by most humans, it doesn’t mean that being able to use any of that 90 percent would give anyone psychic powers (or any other paranormal mental powers).

So saying, “I don’t know how such-and-such is a psychic, they are probably using the other 90% of the brain,” doesn’t work.

Now although humans may not use 100 percent of their brain at once, it is important to know and understand different actions may require different parts of the brain to react. However, not using all of the brain at once and only using 10 percent as a whole are two totally different things. It kind of makes one think, where did the idea of humans only using 10 percent of the brain come from?

I have been able to find very little information as to where the origins of this myth come from, but there seems to be quite a bit of speculation. One idea that may have fueled this myth is that less than 10 percent of the cells in the brain are nerve cells, called neurons, the rest of these cells are called glial cells. To sum it up, neurons are cells that have the function of receiving and transmitting the neural impulses and glial cells are the cells that support, feed and insulate the neurons.

Another possible origin of the myth comes from Albert Einstein when he told a reporter that his brilliance came from using more than 10 percent of his brain.

So we may not know the exact origin of the myth. But just because we don't know where the myth came from doesn't refute the fact that humans do use 100 percent of their brain. So please, the next time a psychic, or person claiming to have any type of PSI powers, tries to use the

10 percent myth as an explanation, be sure to respectfully correct them and ask them to try a different explanation.

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# INTERVIEW

internationally renowned  
psychic, medium,  
spiritual counselor, and  
television personality

# CHIP COFFEY

**What exactly is the ability you claim to possess and what does it allow you to do?**

I am a psychic, which means I am able to access certain information and energies that cannot be accessed using the five human senses, and I am a medium, which means that I am able to communicate with disincarnate beings.

**Many skeptics hold on to the explanation the things such as cold readings and other techniques that psychics (in general) are simple tricks that can be mastered if one practices. For example people like James Randi, The Amazing Kreskin and other mentalists have shown how this trick can be achieved. What are your thoughts on this?**

Has any mentalist (or skeptic or doubter) FULLY “proven” that EVERY facet of psychic ability is a “trick”? I think not.

**A lot of psychics claim that everyone is born with the ability to be a psychic, do you share this same belief or do you believe you are either born a psychic or you're not?**

I'm not sure if people are born with psychic ability, but I do know that I, personally, demonstrated

precognition at a very early age. I believe that there are varying degrees of psychic ability. Some people are very psychic, some are a bit psychic and some are as psychic as a rock.

**Do you have any theories on how the psychic mechanism works? I know some psychics say that perhaps they are tapping into the unused 90% of their brain, is this something you subscribe to or not?**

Honestly, I have no idea how psychic ability works. I do know that I have seen convincing evidence that it does work, however.

**I know you and many other psychics feel that they should not (?) have to defend their ability, and I respect that, however don't you feel that if one could prove that they are indeed in contact with the deceased it would be a major triumph for the paranormal and science community?**

There is a difference between psychic and medium. Mediums communicate with the dead; psychics do not. How, precisely, would a medium “prove” that he is communicating with the dead? What actual “proof” is there, really, especially “proof” that would convince

a “skeptical” or doubter?

I have provided PRECISE information to many clients, information that I could not possibly have known through “guessing” or “cold reading.” Here is an example: I once conducted a reading, in which a woman named Rebecca asked to communicate with her deceased grandmother in order to find a missing ring that the dead woman had gifted her with. Grandma gave fairly specific details about where the ring could be located: in a white jewelry case with a blue velvet lining, located near a place where the carpet was pulled away from the wall or a rug that never stayed in place. Rebecca was very confused by this information and had no idea where the location might be. Toward the end of the reading, another spirit energy made its presence known to me. The spirit's name was Ralph. He told me three things that could be associated with him: a house fire, a funny or unusual story about underground water, and spitting tobacco juice in someone's hand. (Yes, you read that last part correctly - spitting tobacco juice in someone's hand - which is a VERY PRECISE act.)

Rebecca claimed to know no one named Ralph, so the spirit said, “Ask your father.” A few days later, during a phone conversation with her dad, Rebecca told him all about Ralph dropping by during her read-

ing with me. Much to her surprise, her dad told her that Ralph was his uncle - someone Rebecca never knew about - and he verified the three things Ralph had said to me. Uncle Ralph's home had burned down when Rebecca's dad was a boy; Uncle Ralph taught Rebecca's father to dowse for underground water using a willow reed; and Uncle Ralph, always a prankster, would sometimes tell kids to "close your eyes, hold out your hand and I'll give you a surprise," then spit tobacco juice in their outstretched hand. Yes, this is totally gross... and how could I have pulled that specific gross act out of thin air and relate it directly to Rebecca and/or her dad?

Rebecca was amazed. She then told her dad details about where her grandmother had said the missing ring could be found. Her dad recognized the location as Rebecca's mother's jewelry box, located in a walk-in closet with - unbeknownst to Rebecca - a recently purchased scatter rug that refused to stay in place on the floor.

Rebecca insisted that she had never had the ring at her parents' home, but her dad was adamant about looking for it in his wife's jewelry box. Yes, the ring WAS found...in Rebecca's mother's white jewelry case with a blue velvet lining, located in an area where a rug would never stay in place.

Curiously, if dearly departed Uncle Ralph hadn't shown up with information that would intrigue Rebecca's dad, she may never have spoken with him about the information I provided about the missing ring and it might never have been found.

**Would you ever be willing to**

**have your gift tested by the James Randi Educational Foundation? If one can prove that they are psychic they will win \$1,000,000.**

No, I am not willing to take the Randi challenge. Why should I? I don't feel obligated to "prove myself" to him or his minions. Or anyone else, except my clients.

**Most psychics charge money for their services, however many people feel that if you truly have this gift, psychics should not be charging any money, it should be more like a service to the community. How do you feel about this?**

Many people (including those who "feel that if you truly have this gift, psychics should not be charging any money") earn a living by utilizing their talents and skills. I am no different. I enjoy living indoors and eating, which I would not be afforded the luxury of doing if I provided readings as "a [free] service to the community."

**When it comes to receiving information, how does it work? A lot of people will say, "Well if they are really psychic, why don't they predict the lottery numbers?" Every psychic says this is a foolish question, but why not predict the winning lottery numbers?**

I have no idea how it works. It just does. Ah, that tired old question about lottery numbers...again! Haven't skeptics/doubters figured out yet that we psychic sure as heck wish we COULD predict winning Lotto numbers, but for some unknown (and damnably frustrating) reason, we cannot. If possible, I would much rather be a lottery

winning gazillionaire, relaxing in my opulent villa in the south of France and being waited on hand and foot by a dotting staff, than answering these questions for you, Bobby. :-)

**I've seen many psychics have amazing accuracy with the people that believe in the phenomena, however I have seen those same psychics fail when confronted by a skeptic, is there any reason why this happens?**

Let's be real here, Bobby. Most self-professed "skeptics" are not skeptical; they are total disbelievers. And they are very often also openly and aggressively critical of those who do believe. Most "skeptics" that I have encountered would flatly refuse to acknowledge that any psychic or medium has, indeed, provided valid information.

Personally, I don't believe in skeptics. Just sayin' ...

**Do you think psychics will ever be accepted by the scientific community or will it forever a taboo subject?**

Most psychics, myself included, don't give a rosy red rat's ass if we are ever accepted by the "scientific community." Arguing or debating with a skeptic/doubter is a no-win endeavor and a complete waste of time and energy.

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# REVIEWS

## UNBELIEVABLE

By Stacy Horn

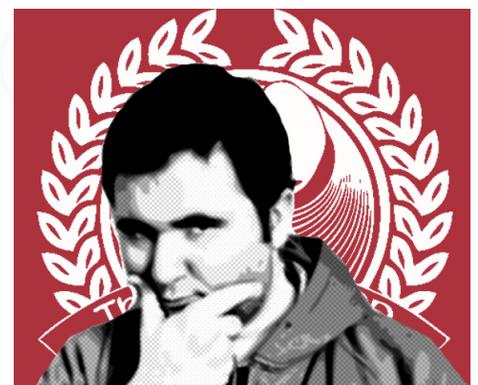
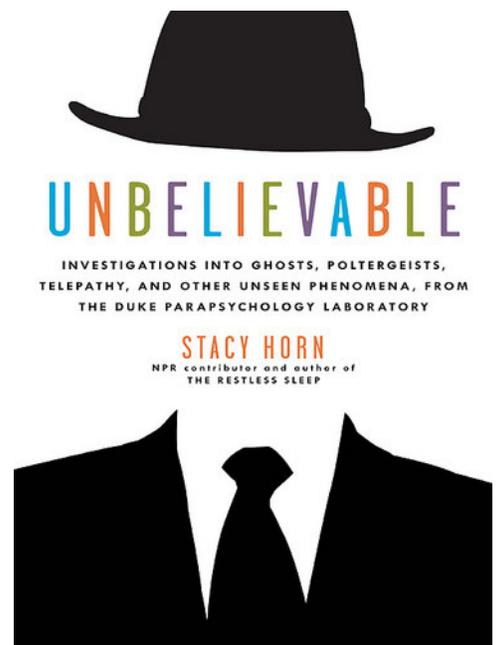
In her 2009 book, “Unbelievable,” writer Stacy Horn delves into the foundation and the work of the Duke Parapsychology Lab formed by J.B. Rhine from 1930 until 1980. Along the way, the researchers and scientists explored the mysteries of reported psi phenomenon, as well as reports of ghosts, poltergeists and other “unseen” phenomenon.

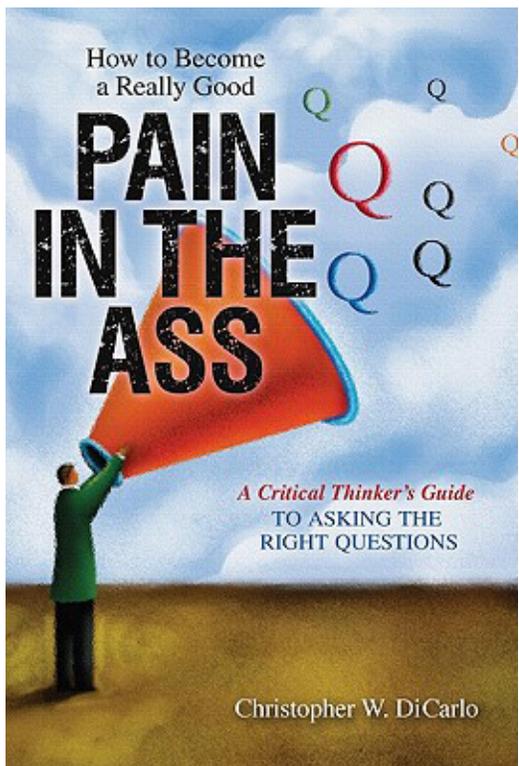
What I loved about this book is the amount of dedication Horn puts into it. She spent countless hours pouring over the lab’s old case files and archives, including correspondence between the scientists, as well as tracking down and speaking with some of the people involved in the experiments. The book is written in a clear and exciting style, and is a real treat to spend a few hours of your time with.

I do wish, however, that Horn was a little more skeptical about the subject matter. She definitely writes from the perspective of someone eager to believe, and I feel this occasionally clouds the truth about some of the problems with the lab’s work. For instance, embarrassing incidents involving Lady Wonder, an allegedly psychic horse, and criticisms from eminent

psychologist B.F. Skinner regarding the shoddy aspects of the experimental controls are mentioned, but not given a fair hearing in my opinion. Where positive aspects of Rhine’s work, of which there are many, are given pages upon pages of glowing prose, Horn gives at times just a few paragraphs to criticism. In the case of Lady Wonder, especially, some crucial details are actually left out.

All in all though, Stacy Horn’s “Unbelievable” is a treat, and one that I recommend to those interested in the real scientific study of perceived psychic phenomenon. It is also a noteworthy biography of Rhine himself; one that holds him up as a scientist worthy of admiration and respect, and not the mere dismissal that some skeptics unfortunately pay him.





## “How to Become a Really Good Pain in the Ass”

by Christopher DiCarlo

I don't often listen to Amazon recommendations, but when I was purchasing a used copy of an out-of-print book by Mark Mattaini (social worker and behaviorist), Amazon suggested I may like “How to Become a Really Good Pain in the Ass: A Critical Thinker's Guide to Asking the Right Questions” by Christopher DiCarlo. Ah Amazon, you know me well enough. So I bought a copy.

I was surprised at how thick this paperback is. 350 some pages. One main complaint: Dr. DiCarlo, a lecturer on bioethics and philosophy, must have had a graduate student draw tacky images of the topics of the book. For example, he mentions Lady

Gaga on one page, so there is a drawn depiction of her. If anything, the cheesy drawings were distracting and didn't add to the information in the book. But I digress. The premise of the book is to talk about philosophy and argumentation as it pertains to answering “The Big Five”: What can I know?, Why am I here?, What am I?, How should I behave?, and What is to come of me?. The book outlines types of arguments, biases, context, diagramming, evidence, and fallacies. This is what makes this book relevant for educated

skeptical thinkers. It serves as not only a refresher course for what we already know, but it lays it out in such a way that we can easily explain these concepts to those who don't have a background in philosophy, or didn't pay attention to Philosophy 101 freshman year.

With a touch of snarkiness throughout that won my heart, this book is an easy read, easy to understand, but you'll find yourself wanting to put it down after every chapter, run out, and find the first person to talk it through with.

Advanced Skeptics will enjoy the book for Dr. DiCarlo's attitude and clarity. Believers should get this book to better understand skeptical arguments, not just when it comes to religion or the paranormal, but to everyday life. My verdict: Buy it. Read it. Talk about it.

“How to Become a Really Good Pain in the Ass: A Critical Thinker's Guide to Asking the Right Questions” by Christopher DiCarlo, is published by Prometheus Books in New York, and can be found at [www.prometheusbooks.com](http://www.prometheusbooks.com) under the “Critical Thinking” section (along with a bunch of other good looking titles) for \$19, or online new through various vendors for under \$20, or ordered at your local bookstore.

-Rachel Wolf



# PSYCHIC vs MAGICIAN



Can tell you what kind of person you are

Can tell you about your dead relatives

Can read your mind

Can make predictions

Sightless vision & similar unnatural abilities

Able to conduct psychic surgery

Bend spoons, mend watches etc.

Claims to have supernatural abilities

Can tell you what kind of person you are

Can tell you about your dead relatives

Can read your mind

Can make predictions

Sightless vision & similar unnatural abilities

Able to conduct psychic surgery

Bend spoons, mend watches etc.

Doesn't claim to have supernatural abilities

## SEE THEM COMING

[www.projectbarnum.co.uk](http://www.projectbarnum.co.uk)

# PROJECT BARNUM AIMS TO STOP PSYCHIC FRAUDS

by Jason Korbus

Oftentimes people ask what the harm is in believing in the paranormal. People go ghost hunting, they search the sky for UFOs, and maybe they even think they are King Henry VIII reincarnated. So, fine, maybe sometimes it is a little whacky. But, seriously, “what is the harm?”

In the case of psychics, the harm is in swindling hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of dollars from unsuspecting and grief-stricken people under the guise of connecting with their dead relatives. Of course, no psychic or medium has ever demonstrated under properly controlled conditions that they can do what they say they can do. In fact, several have even taken the James Randi Educational Foundation on their famed “Million Dollar Challenge,” only to back out later for contrived reasons. In reality, these

psychics are defrauding people, and they have been going largely unchallenged at the grassroots level for years.

Well, this may be all about to change soon. Project Barnum, the brainchild of UK skeptic Hayley Stevens, aims to put so-called “psy-

projectbarnum

chics” and the theater owners who profit from them, on alert. After news broke recently that psychic Sally Morgan was being accused by audience members of being fed information by an assistance off-stage through an earpiece, Stevens noticed that it was the paying spectators who were the real victims.

Project Barnum aims to educate people to the tricks of the psychic trade, showing

just how they perform their deceptions, and how you can spot it. It also has an online petition you can sign that will be sent to “all the theaters in the UK who are currently hosting psychic shows in 2011 & 2012.”

It is hoped that through education, as well as letting theater owners know how

much the public disapproves of fraudulent deceptions for monetary gain, these psy-

chic shows will begin to dissipate.

If you would like to find out more information about Project Barnum, to sign the petition, or get involved in this grassroots effort to prevent psychic frauds, check out the website at: <http://www.projectbarnum.co.uk/>

And please visit Hayley’s website while you’re at it by surfing over to: <http://hayleyisaghost.co.uk/>

**NOTE FROM BOBBY NELSON: I MUST ADMIT THE INTERVIEW PORTION OF THE BENT SPOON IS PROBABLY MY FAVORITE SECTION. I ALWAYS FIND IT INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ASKED. THIS ISSUE WAS A BIT WEIRD THOUGH, I'VE NEVER HAD SO MANY PEOPLE BACK OUT OF INTERVIEWS. COME TO THINK ABOUT IT, I NEVER HAD ANYONE BACK OUT OF AN INTERVIEW. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT WITH SELF PROCLAIMED PSYCHICS, IT SEEMS THE MINUTE YOU WANT TO QUESTION THEIR "ABILITY" THEY WANT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU. AS I MENTION BEFORE, I HAD A HARD TIME LOCKING IN PEOPLE WILLING TO BE INTERVIEWED FOR THIS ISSUE, I THINK I HAD A TOTAL OF 5 PEOPLE ALL AGREE TO TALK WITH ME, AS SOON AS THEY GOT THE QUESTIONS, THEY BACKED OUT OR TOLD ME THAT THEY COULD DO THE INTERVIEW BUT IT WOULDN'T BE TILL AFTER THE DEADLINE. AFTER SCRAMBLING AROUND LIKE A MAD MAN, I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO LOCK IN 2 INTERVIEWS WITH PEOPLE WHO CLAIM TO HAVE PSYCHIC POWERS ONE BEING DAVID BAKER AND ANIMAL PSYCHIC JANEL EATON.**

**THERE ARE A COUPLE THINGS I WANT TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION BEFORE YOU START READING THE INTERVIEWS. IN ONE QUESTION I ASK IF THEY SUBSCRIBE TO THE THOUGHT THAT PEOPLE WHO CLAIM TO BE PSYCHIC ARE SOMEHOW TAPPING IN TO THE UNUSED 90% OF THE BRAIN. I KNOW THE "HUMAN'S ONLY USE 10% OF THEIR BRAIN" IS A MYTH, IN FACT I WROTE AN ARTICLE ABOUT IT FOR THIS ISSUE OF THE MAGAZINE. THE OTHER THING I WANTED TO CLEAR UP, IS ONE OF THE INTERVIEWEES SAYS THAT RANDI HAS SET UP HIS MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE SO THAT IT CAN'T BE WON, THIS IS A FALSE STATEMENT. THE JREF AND THE APPLICANT (THE PERSON BEING TESTED) MUTUALLY AGREE ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE TEST SO THAT IT IS FAIR. THE TEST CAN BE WON AS LONG AS THE APPLICANT CAN DO WHAT HE OR SHE SAYS THEY CAN DO.**

**THANKS FOR READING AND I HOPE YOU ENJOY.**



## JANEL EATON ANIMAL PSYCHIC

**First I would like to ask, what exactly is a pet psychic?**

Having ESP is the ability to gather information from a distance.

Any living being can put this information out there to read.

**How and when did you discover this ability?**

I've been psychic since I was young. I saw ghosts, felt when bad things would happen ahead of the event, and even predicted I would die on my 18th birthday. As it happened I was on location doing a movie and the writer added a scene where my character gets killed, and yes it was my 18th birth-

day.

**Do you have the ability to read people or is it limited to animals only?**

Yes, I can read people as well.

**Since animals can't speak how can we be sure the information you claim to be receiving is accurate?**

I can see, hear, feel and even smell what they're experiencing. The best thing about animals is that they do not lie.

**Since animals do not speak any known human language, how is it that you can transmit their feelings or personal language to English?**

Again it's a feeling. I get so many images from them that's it's not difficult to put it all together.

**Animal psychics fascinate me because of what they claim to be able to achieve. I just can't figure out how someone can know and understand the complex thoughts and feelings of a cat or dog when their brains aren't powerful enough to have very complex thoughts, how is this done?**

Don't under estimate the com-

plicity of the animal brain. They have evolved into complex creatures by co-habitating with us. They've learned how to tell time, push our buttons and sabotage animal housemates.

**\James Randi offers 1 million dollars to anyone who can prove they have a paranormal ability. Your ability would definitely qualify, have you or would you ever be interested in a challenge like this? Why or why not?**

Absolutely!!! Bring it on!!

**This ability you claim to possess seems to be a bit taboo even in the world of psychic phenomena. What has the reaction of others been to you being an animal psychic?**

People that own animals communicate with them in small ways all the time. My skill comes from a psychic gift and years of training with some of the best instructors/mediums/animal communicators. Animal owners WANT me to talk to their pet. They believe.

**I've read certain animal psychics say things like animals are more intelligent than they seem, if this is true I was wondering how rabbits feel about having to**

**ingest their own feces every-night?**

Human beings are the only species that can't eat their own feces without getting sick. I'm sure back in cave-man days they probably did but we've evolved. I have top show dogs and I have to put a "poop eating" deterrent in their food sometimes. And they get the best quality food and meat that I can provide. Horses eat poop when they're babies. Fish take it in and then spit it out. Would you do that?

**Does your ability have any limitations? Are there some animals that can't be read?**

Rarely.

**Finally I was seriously wondering how animals feel about things like slaughter houses? Do they understand the concept of that type of death?**

They have NO concept of death. If they did then a family dog wouldn't run out into the street, a cat wouldn't go out at night when coyotes are prowling. If they thought they would die then they surely would, because they would never leave their den, nest, cave...etc. to find food, water and mates.

*Note from Bobby Nelson: I have been keeping in touch with Janel Eaton and she has sent me separate correspondences about her interest in taking the million dollar challenge. I have agreed to help her take all the proper steps in order for her to be tested by the JREF. I will be sure to keep you all posted on the progress in future issues of The Bent Spoon.*



## PSYCHIC MEDIUM

### DAVID BAKER

**What exactly is the ability you claim to possess and what does it allow you to do?**

As a psychic I focus on the energy field of another when asked, and I can see things about their current situation or possible future to a certain degree. I clear my mind, raise my vibration (speed up the energy through relaxation or meditation) and when I focus on a question I usually see a picture or video clip of something or also at times a picture of a sign or symbol. For example, in one reading a person asked me about their career and finances. I told her that in the coming year though she would be successful, there would be changes. Then I saw that in a year that she would buy a silver colored sports car. A year later she invited a few friends and I out to dinner. She took me

outside and showed me a silver BMW sports car. Then she said she did do well in the job market. Then she got fired, found another job and was once more successful. When I did the reading, I saw her shaking hands at an office, then I saw her leaving and then another situation. The car; I saw her standing next to a silver colored sports type car in what appeared to be a driveway of a home and felt that was hers. I said a year because we were in Spring when I gave the reading and I saw dark cloudy skies, rain and trees without leaves. Then I saw the word December on a calendar. That is called Clairvoyance, or what I term as a psychic tool. Clairvoyance is the ability to see pictures in your mind that come from another source.

I am also a medium. A medium possesses the psychic ability, but unlike a straight psychic, a medium is able to see and communicate with deceased people in spirit form. Not all psychics are mediums but all mediums are psychic because it is those “psychic tools” that aid us in our medium abilities. Again, I use Clairvoyance to communicate with the spirits of deceased people. I also use a form of telepathy called Claircognizance. When I read for someone who wishes to make contact with let’s say their deceased father, I again focus, but this time to see if there is anyone in spirit around them. It is called raising your vibration to the frequency to enable a medium to discern a spirit, through training, practice and one must also possess the ability. During a group reading with a room full of strangers for example, I was reading a person and the spirit that was her deceased father showed me a gold heart shaped locket with a Mickey Mouse on it

and a picture of him inside. Then he showed me a picture of her purse. I asked the lady if she had a personal item in her purse relating to her dead father and she opened it up and pulled out a gold heart shaped locket. It had an engraved Mickey mouse on the back and an old photo of her father.

Those examples I just gave you were considered good hits which one would hope to always achieve. Understand that it is not like Ghost Whisper on TV where Melissa has a regular conversation with a ghost the same as you and I would have a conversation. Since spirit does not have a human body they do not talk, they use telepathy to communicate. In addition to that, they show pictures, signs and symbols. How? How do you sit down and use your thoughts in a form we call imagination to picture yourself sitting on a beach in Hawaii with an attractive person by your side and drinking a Mai Tai? The only difference is spirit communicates that very way, they are able to project their thoughts to you telepathically. And since spirit communicates through thoughts and feelings, there is no language barrier. If you speak Russian and I English and you start showing me photos of Moscow, then it would be much easier to understand what you wanted to convey. Thoughts are comprised of real but fine energy and are real. A thought is sent out to you and the energy particles reach your aura and ripple through and your energy translates it to your brain. It is totally a natural process. Have you ever walked in a warehouse that you assumed was empty? Then after you enter you get this strong feeling that you are being watched? You turn around and see someone staring at you

from the loft? That is energy at work.

Unfortunately, there is simply not enough room here for a more detailed explanation of how this works.

**Many skeptics hold on to the explanation the things such as cold readings and other techniques that psychics (in general) are simple tricks that can be mastered if one practices. For example people like James Randi, The Amazing Kreskin and other mentalists have shown how this trick can be achieved. What are your thoughts on this?**

Most definitely! Not only do the phony psychics use it, some real psychics that are either not that psychic or are unscrupulous do this as well. I have seen it. Not all psychics are like that and when you go to a legitimate psychic, they should only ask you one question; "What do you want to know?" Nothing more. I have that posted on my website! The psychics are suppose to tell you! I have done readings when a person I have read for did not say one word until I was finished with the reading.

**A lot of psychics claim that everyone is born with the ability to be a psychic, do you share this same belief or do you believe you are either born a psychic or you're not?**

I believe that the psychic sense is a natural additional sense. Science claims we have five senses, while I believe that the psychic sense is the sixth sense. Yes we all are born with a psychic sense, but in most people it is unused or lies dormant. Some people are born with

a heightened psychic sense to a degree that they could be a psychic, but very few people. Not all psychics are great, very few are, and those that are good can rarely claim to be perfect or 100%. No psychic is every time, but it does happen sometimes. Perhaps 65-85% at best would be the average. It is because we are only human and must be able to read or translate what information we are getting from a high frequency that also contains a static that we must penetrate as best as we can. Sometimes the energy is clear and sometimes it is not. Also keep in mind that we are human and if we are not feeling well, or are under stress that also could affect the outcome of a reading, and remember the universe controls the energy, we just try to read it.

**Do you have any theories on how the psychic mechanism works? I know some psychics say that perhaps they are tapping into the unused 90% of their brain, is this something you subscribe to or not?**

No. The consciousness is contained in the spiritual (spirit/soul) or energetic body. It is a subtle energy that vibrates at such a high rate of speed that the average person cannot see it. I will use the word soul to keep it simple. When the soul enters into a carbon human body, it gives it life. Somehow, when the psychic senses are used the information that the soul receives gets sent to the human brain which translates what it is receiving. It does not come from the human mind, but rather from an outside source, the soul's consciousness. When one dies, there is nothing in the body; it all goes with the soul. The best way I can make this clear is the movie

"Avatar". When the humans wanted to mingle with the creatures of the planet in the movie to spy on them, they created a biological copy of the residents of that planet. However, that body would not be able to function, walk, think, or talk without something with a consciousness placed in it. They figured out how to do it in the movie using a soldier who volunteered. That soldier was the one who brought animation and a consciousness to the alien body.

**I know you and many other psychics feel that they should have to defend their ability and I respect that, however don't you feel that if one could prove that they are indeed in contact with the deceased it would be a major triumph for the paranormal and science community?**

It should, but I do not think it would. Though psychics and mediums have been tested and proven by scientists already, here and in England including at the Psychological Research Institute almost one hundred years ago, and that several governments have used so called "psychic spies" successfully to a degree, I doubt it would make any waves because there is a large body of hardcore disbelievers and debunkers. Being a skeptic is healthy of course. A disbeliever/debunker believes that no such thing exists, will not let you prove it to them that it is possible, and if shown it is true, will still refuse to validate it. That is just human nature. Additionally, science is not the one all knowing go to place for proof of everything simply because science is not capable of explaining everything, nor does it know everything. And psychic abilities cannot be replicated in a laboratory.

But there is hope with some scientists now looking at the so called "God Particle" and the theory of quantum physics.

**Would you ever be willing to have your gift tested by the James Randi Educational Foundation? If one can prove that they are psychic they will win \$1,000,000.**

No. I do not have anything to prove or wish to be tested. I use my ability the best I can to help others. If the people that come to me believe some, all, or none of what I do, that is just fine with me. But I will never lie about what I see, as that is unethical and could hurt someone. So if I give a reading and cannot get everything another asks for, the best thing to do is say that you are not getting anything and be honest or one should not be doing this work. I may add that I feel that the test that James Randi has is structured so that no matter how good a psychic is, you cannot pass his test.

**Most psychics charge money for their services, however many people feel that if you truly have this gift, psychics should not be charging any money, it should be more like a service to the community. How do you feel about this?**

Who are these career police and what right does someone have to tell another what to do because of what they possess or are able to do? Legitimate psychics do not charge for using their abilities, they do however charge for their time giving the reading. Let's say a person has a most high, most beautiful and rare gift of song, and is so

good that they win the American Idol! What a gift! They should do that for free! Why should people like psychics, healers, doctors and priests for example work for free when sports stars, porn stars, movie stars and strippers get rich? Not logical. Especially when a psychic has no income, they are merely giving a service, who cares what kind? In this world when you give a cabbage or two, you expect a chicken or something in return. The exception is that like you mentioned above, if someone chooses to do this for the community for free, that is just fine. I do radio every month and I give hours of my time doing free readings. Yes I have a website and yes I charge, but I also have given thousands of free readings over the radio waves for the last few years and continue to do so today.

**When it comes to receiving information, how does it work? A lot of people will say, "Well if they are really psychic, why don't they predict the lottery numbers?" Every psychic says this is a foolish question, but why not predict the winning lottery numbers?**

It is a perfectly logical question! Everyone uses their abilities in similar or slightly different ways. I do not use Ouija Boards, cards, crystal balls, divining tools or anything other than Clairvoyance. I will admit to trying it one time because I was curious. I got four out of six numbers. I didn't win much, maybe \$60.00. I never did it again. When I did focus on that specific lotto game I saw a picture of a sequence of numbers in my mind and wrote them down. It is as I stated above, the best average a psychic can get is about 85%. Yes there are

times when psychics do get 100% in a particular reading, but not all the time.

The psychic abilities are generally considered a spiritual gift used to help another weather for free or for a fee. They worked and perhaps got paid for their services, but it is a strong belief amongst psychics that it is unethical to use the gift for riches one has not earned, like cheating. That is not the purpose of the gift. I do not believe that there are many psychics that could predict the winning numbers of a lottery anyway. There was one in the UK who supposedly used her psychic abilities and won the lottery, but I would think that is rare. <http://www.psychic-junkie.com/psychic-wins-lottery.html> However, I have read about a high profile medium who said that he was reading for a family in dire need and the deceased father whom the medium was reading, told them which horse to pick at the race track and they did just that and won a tidy amount of money to help them. They did not get rich of course; they won just enough money to help them get out of their situation.

**I've seen many psychics have amazing accuracy with the people that believe in the phenomena, however I have seen those same psychics fail when confronted by a skeptic, is there any reason why this happens?**

Energy is much easier to read when in a relaxed setting with open minded individuals and even skeptics. Psychics can generally read in any situation, however, when under pressure and being made to prove is difficult for concentration. It depends on the situation and the psychic. I generally do not talk

about psychics on TV much as being that I was not actually present during the filming, I could not say what really occurred, but I would like to mention it this time. There was a show called "The Psychic Challenge". They tested a group of psychics and mediums. There was a winner at the end; Michelle Whitedove who I feel did well under pressure. But there are different kinds also, depending on the situation. They seemed to do well being tested. On the other hand, I watched ABC TV's "Beyond Belief" recently and they tested medium James Van Praagh and he is a well known medium. In fact it is my opinion that he is really good. I witnessed him work in person. On the TV show I could see that he was being pushed to prove and according to the host he did not prove his abilities enough for his satisfaction. That is what pressure can do to even the best, and sometimes when they do real well, they do not air that. They show only the negative parts.

**Do you think psychics will ever be accepted by the scientific community or will it forever a taboo subject?**

I think perhaps someday. It looks like there are more and more paranormal shows on TV and books coming out and quickly becoming mainstream. More and more children with powerful psychic gifts are being born every year. If it keeps up at this pace I think it will not be much longer. It will have to take people like you who are in the middle to do fair testing and research. Does science accept religion? It's been with us for thousands of years. Perhaps, someday. Science laughed at the

radio and some people thought it worked by magic in the beginning. I was taught in school years ago that it was a scientific impossibility to fly to the moon. Galileo would have been burned at the stake if he showed people his telescope and stated that the earth goes around the sun and not the other way around. Mankind has come a long way. Let us hope we are now not going back to the dark ages once more.

# PAREIDOLIA OF THE MONTH



**Pareidolia of the month goes to the Cornwall UFO Research Group (CUFORG) for their amazing UFO picture.** Dave Gillham states:

“The person who took the photo never saw anything in the area while taking the photo.

It was only when he got home and downloaded it onto his computer that he saw an object – a disc shaped craft, hovering just above the sea.

There appear to be two trails of water beneath the object which looks as though they are falling from it in to the sea. It could be that the object has just emerged from the sea.”

This is why UFOlogy has taken the on the role of pseudoscience, people tend to jump to conclusion without proper research. A blurry picture of something in the sky doesn't equal extraterrestrial space craft...either do seagulls, which is exactly what is shown in this photo.

