

Clairvoyant calls her skill 'a matter of concentration'

By Rebecca Jacobson

Of the Emerald

Connie McGill's hands tap on an electric keyboard at her full-time job, but outside the office she picks up vibrations from objects other than typewriters. McGill says she can feel oscillations in a person's watch or wallet, and through them she can tell a person about himself or herself.

"It's basically a matter of concentration," says McGill, who calls herself a clairvoyant—someone who can perceive matters beyond ordinary perception, according to Webster's Third New International Dictionary.

Each person has a unique vibration rate that transfers onto their belongings, just as fingerprints do, she says. "You get a hold of that (vibration), and that'll pretty much tell you anything you want to know."

"If you understand physics, you understand the fact that everything, even though it's solid, vibrates. What I'm actually reading is a vibratory rate so fine that it doesn't take a physical form," she says.

McGill explains that vibrations have different speeds, and the rates she reads are the ones moving fastest. "People say, 'Well, this is all pooh-pooh,'" McGill says. "Well, it's not really."

"What I'm trying to do is help people sort out the lessons that they have to learn. I'm not standing in judgment of anything that they do," she says.

McGill says that the answers to people's lives are within themselves. "It's a funny thing because people are looking for instant answers, and they (the answers) aren't there."

Everyone has the ability to be clairvoyant, McGill says, adding that her own skills have been developed.

"The old adage of saying, 'Oh, the phone's ringing; I know who that is. That's for me, and that's so-and-so,' then picking it up, and that's who it is—that's alright. That shows that there's raw talent," she says.

However, clairvoyance can be destructive if it isn't used with care, McGill warns. "A good clairvoyant has got her stuff so together, herself so together, that if someone comes to her and says, 'I really want you to look at this situation,' she can look at it without biases."

Clairvoyants have to separate their values and beliefs from their clients, McGill says. "For example, if I had a problem, say, with a gentleman who beats his wife, and unbeknownst to me, in a crowd of people a guy walks up, and he hands me an object, and that's exactly what he does (beats his wife), if I have a real thing about men doing that, chances are my own stuff's going to get in the way, my own anger, my own dislike," she says.

McGill says she started practicing clairvoyance because she wanted to help people. She developed her clairvoyance by taking classes from a clairvoyant in Salem.

"Part of the time my life was a little muddled, and I never really had understanding of why certain things happened," she says. But she believes her own life recently has been orderly

enough so she can help others clear up their lives.

In 1980, personal events caused McGill to look at herself more closely and begin self-counseling. Then she tried to counsel friends and realized in the process that she was clairvoyant.

"I would say something, and people would say, 'How did you know that? I didn't say that yet,'" she recalls.

McGill eventually shifted from doing readings for friends to establishing a clairvoyance



Connie McGill

practice, charging \$15 per reading and conducting occasional seminars on clairvoyance.

McGill says she doesn't exercise her clairvoyance as much as she used to, and if she continues at all, she may do readings at no cost.

"I quit the first part of December because my physical health was not good. I don't know whether I'm actually going back to doing it or not—because of the label," she says. "People really get hung up on the phenomenon and they say, 'Well, we just want to see you do it.' I have a few that I will be doing just because I have promised people."

McGill says she hasn't been free of criticism. Several groups have branded her "a quack," she says. "They've branded me a charlatan."

McGill says there's a whole breed of people that are afraid of clairvoyance or believe it's the work of the devil. She tries to explain to them that she's not a pagan simply because she practices clairvoyance. McGill tells them that what she does entails religion, science and psychology.

There are stereotypes about mystics that aren't true, she says. "I don't have to work in a dark room. I don't have 10 rings on my fingers and blood-red fingernails."

In a psychological experiment done at a university that McGill requested not be identified, McGill's accuracy was tested. However, the testers had problems measuring her skills, she says.

For instance, if McGill was given an envelope with the name "Jerry Brown" inside and she sensed something dark, earth-colored, muddy or brown, the testers didn't know whether to count her response as correct or not, since she came up with the idea but not with the exact name.

McGill also cited an instance when testers picked cards from a deck for her to identify and then questioned her ability when she could not do so.

"...that's like telling an artist just because he paints in oils that he can work in charcoal. It's not the same thing. And I'd do it time after time and just blow it..."

Finally, they brought in some students so McGill could work with objects that they had provided. She showed the testers her style of clairvoyance, and they began to see that she was much more accurate than they had suspected. "Science finds it very difficult to deal with anything they can't explain," she says.

McGill has given seminars at the University, demonstrating her clairvoyance and showing others how to develop their own. One of the people who attended, senior geology student Dave Rusk says he gave McGill a button he was wearing, and she asked him if he had a brother, which Rusk does.

"She asked me if I have a problem with my shoulder," Rusk says. He didn't, but his brother did, Rusk adds.

Rusk admits he was skeptical at first, but after McGill's foresight into his life, he is somewhat of a believer in clairvoyance. "I didn't come away saying 'Wow,' but she did a pretty good job."

One man who has attended several of McGill's seminars is more convinced. John

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