

Psychic: potential instrument for medical use

By Deb Shanahan

A man was suffering from lung cancer and one lung wasn't functioning. A woman had a tumor and a hernia was the reason for a little boy's pain.

These were the diagnoses made by a woman who had no medical training and had only casually observed the patients. Tests by a physician later confirmed the findings, and started "the world's first palm analysis and medical team."

Team members include Greta Alexander, a psychic from Delevan, Ill., and Leon Curry, a family practitioner from Metter, Ga.

Curry said data from two years of experimentation is being analyzed and readied for publication.

The team's special interest, Curry said, is diagnosing hyperkinesia, a condition of abnormal muscular movement in children. Experiments have expanded to include adults and all kinds of illnesses.

Although not 100 percent successful, Curry said the results are encouraging.

"For example, in the first phase of the study, she was able to pick up that something was wrong with a person's pituitary gland, and indeed, the person had a tumor in that area," Curry said. "That's a hard and rare diagnosis."

CURRY SAID Alexander is prone to pick up on depression, anxiety, drug- and alcohol-related diseases and she also seems to be good at diagnosing diseases of the kidneys and intestines, he said.

Alexander gives her analysis after meeting with the patient and studying his palm print, although Curry said she has successfully diagnosed over the telephone.

Alexander explained that a palm print is made by spreading ink on the palm and placing it on white paper. She said she looks at the texture, size, shape, color, skin ridges, lines, creases and overall condition of the hand.

Palm reading is something anyone can learn, Alexander said, adding that she learned by dreaming she was reading palms.

Curry and Alexander said they are hoping their work will lead to a method of early diagnosis so doctors can intervene and prevent complications.

The resulting treatment, Curry and Alexander agree should use the concepts of traditional medicine. Both said they do not believe in faith healing.

WHILE AGREEING on the team's success, the two do not agree on one thing: how much of the diagnosis is by reading the palm print, and how much is through Alexander's psychic abilities.

"I can't tell that there is any special line, crease or wrinkle that is common in hyperactive children but Greta seems to be able to determine those children right away," Curry said.

"I believe the palm prints are incidental to her knowing about a patient. They are a vehicle for her to tune in on patients."

Alexander said palm analysis may some day be done by a computer, although she admits, "if I can't find the problem (by looking at the print), I allow it to flow through my mind."

She said allowing things to "flow through" her mind has enabled her to answer questions ranging from "Where is my three-year-old lost child?" to "Should I marry the boy I'm dating?" to "What is the best investment for my money?"

She said she gets about 250 calls and 70 to 80 pieces of mail a day requesting her help. The mother of nine said she answers as many inquiries she can. She said she operates on a donation basis and makes her living by giving speeches at universities and conventions.

ALEXANDER CANNOT explain what she calls "a sensitivity," but relates it to being struck by lightning 18 years ago. She said she doesn't know if she received the sensitivity at that point or just became more aware of it then.

No matter, when she received it, she said she considers the sensitivity a gift from God. She said she is able to tell about a person's past or future just by knowing the name and age because of "God's law."

"You see, God has a law: every action has a reaction. Everything you do today is reflected tomorrow."

Curry said religious faith is common among the six psychics he has met, none can relate the ability to any particular thing he did—it just occurred.

His long-time interest in psychic phenomena is what led to the formation of the Curry-Alexander team.

Curry said "a friend of a friend" told him of Alexander's successful work with law enforcement agencies in crime solving. Through curiosity, he said he called her and, several conversations later, they formed their unique team.

Not everyone is as comfortable as Curry about the unexplained aspects of psychic phenomena, Alexander said, but Curry said the patients' responses have been good.

"THE PATIENTS were asked to volunteer and so were willing but nervous," he said. "Immediately after coming into contact with her, they were overjoyed."

"They said they felt like at last someone really did understand their problem."

Curry dismisses the idea that palm analysis is less scientific than other methods of diagnosis.

"This is an extremely scientific method and the experiments were conducted only under the strictest scientific conditions," he said.

Lincoln physician Greg Freed, while not sold on the idea of palm reading and psychics in the doctor's office, said doctors commonly look at every part of the body in diagnosing illnesses.

"Whether reading palm prints is useful or not, I don't know," he said. "But you can tell, for example, if a person is nervous if his fingernails are all chewed off."

He said another clue the hands may give include red palms, indicating chronic illness or alcoholism.

Skin color also may indicate anemia, and analysis of fingertips can indicate how the cardiovascular system is working, he said.

"But I can't tell anything by the creases, and that's all you would see in a palm print," Freed said.

Knowing there are doubts, Curry said he tries to get people to have open minds about innovations in medicine and other sciences.

"Everything is unexplainable in its early stages, but that doesn't mean we can't use it," he said. "Medical science today doesn't know how aspirin works, but it relieves pain, reduces the likelihood of stroke—it does a lot of good things for us."

Area police investigations don't include mind powers

P psychics have become policemen without uniforms and detectives without badges, according to Greta Alexander, a psychic from Delevan, Ill.

Alexander said a growing share of inquiries she's received during the last four years have come from law enforcement agencies.

She has aided authorities in finding missing persons or solving homicides in Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, New York, Florida, California and New Mexico.

The increase in the practice of mixing psychics with police work caused *The Police Chief*, the official magazine of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, to publish an article, "Managing the Psychic in Criminal Investigations," last May.

Authors Thomas Gordon and Jerry Tobias concluded: "As with any potential advance in technology or technique, ESP (extrasensory perception) needs to be sufficiently field tested. Consequently, police executives are encouraged not to ignore this potential resource but rather place it among their arsenals of investigative tools for further experimentation and research."

Despite this encouragement, area law officers say they would turn to a psychic only in desperation or at the family's request, if at all.

"I suppose we would use it (the help of

the psychic) if we had exhausted everything else and were up against a blank wall. It couldn't hurt," said Capt. Glenn Allen of the Lancaster County Sheriff's office.

"Fortunately, we haven't gotten to that point yet," Allen added.

Lt. Jim Perry and Officer Anthony Hadley, both Omaha police officers, said in their department had never been helped by a psychic.

"I'm from Missouri and you have to show me, I just don't believe in it," Perry said. He added that although he wouldn't refuse help, he would "just as soon stick to old, realistic, factual methods." Perry works in the homicide division.

Hadley, who works in the missing persons division, said the department does not solicit outside help, but the family of the victim could contact a psychic on its own.

"It's like if your child or husband is missing, we wouldn't notify the media. You have to ask for the outside help yourself," he said. "We can't get outside help in that case, and we can't bring in a psychic, either."

Capt. Jim Wintle of the Douglas County Sheriff's office, said he could think of one local case where a psychic was called in but was unable to help.

"I've read the articles and sometimes it appears to be very productive. But I don't know enough about it to make a judgment," Wintle said. "I think you always have to keep an open mind."



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