

First Psychic Fair garners mixed reactions from Behrend students

by Tony DiPlacido
staff writer

I never would have predicted to find myself at a Psychic Fair, but on Jan. 26 Behrend hosted its first such fair at Bruno's. The event presented several types of psychics, including a handwriting analyst, tarot card readers, palm readers, and a numerologist.

Chris Buchanan, president of the Lion Entertainment Board (LEB), was pleased with the success of the event. More than 100 students attended.

"A lot of students see these psychics on TV, and wonder if it's real or not, but it just costs so much money," said Buchanan. "[The board thought that] students would enjoy a free psychic reading."

Not everyone agreed. The area outside Bruno's was littered with religious pamphlets, rebuking mediums and deceivers. Buchanan was offended by the insinuation that the fair was harmful.

"It's just entertainment, that's all," he said. "Nothing more, nothing less." In fact, one student swore that her reading was dead accurate. Still, a student passing through declined the offer to participate in the fair, saying that the concept scared him.

Dennis Duez, the handwriting analyst, was the only performer at the fair who admitted to, and actually seemed to enjoy, not being psychic.

"I'm more psycho than psychic," he joked. He came up with accurate assumptions about me simply by reading a sentence I wrote in cursive.

"I see you're driven by nervous energy," Duez said.

Bingo, but that could go for a lot of people.

"You're very ambitious. You want it all right now."

Right again, but that's pretty general.

"You had a stomach ache yesterday, and

are interested in music," said Duez.

How did he figure that one out?

"It's very simple," he explained. "See this curve here, and where you crossed your 'T'?"

I told him yes.

"That signifies musical talent."

Silly me.

When I asked him how he could come up with such specifics, he revealed that his skills do not come from telepathic ability but years of studying psychology and writing. Students interested in a more in-depth explanation can visit www.handwritinganalyst.com.

The tarot reader wasted no time asking me if I had ever done this before. I said no before I thought to ask her to read my mind and find out herself. She was rather accurate, but left a lot of gaps that I had to fill in myself. On the whole, she seemed like she knew what she was doing but was just vague enough that I couldn't decide if she was a fraud or not. Some students swore that she told them everything, and some thought she was very general. Real or not, her predictions were certainly interesting.

The palm reader drew several conclusions simply by looking at my palms, few of which were accurate. However, she made a few predictions that were in agreement with my Tarot reading. Coincidence? I can't say. But I also can't say it wasn't fun.

At 8 p.m., a good-sized audience at Bruno's enjoyed the comedy and psychic ability of Robert Channing. Channing stunned several members of the audience by guessing such secrets as the exact date a couple started going out, people's nicknames, and even one poor soul's social security number. Channing also apparently moved a pair of glasses with telekinesis. A veteran of 14 years, Channing said he didn't come to convince skeptics.

"If someone comes into the show a

skeptic, they'll be entertained and leave more of a skeptic," he explains. "But if someone comes in a believer, they'll be entertained and leave more of a believer." He encouraged skeptics and believers alike to visit www.powerperformers.com.

Naturally, there were students who agreed with the pamphlets bearing the

passage from Isaiah 8:19-20.

"Well, you don't argue with the Bible," one student pointed out. He wasn't alone. Several Christians were opposed to this event.

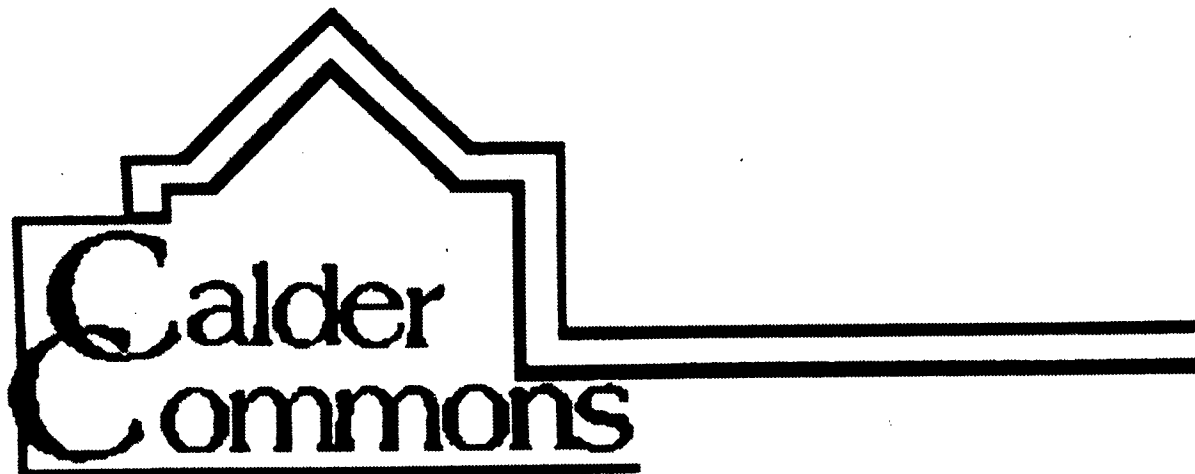
True or not, I won't forget the Psychic Fair for many years to come.

But you knew I was going to say that.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Psychic comedian Robert Channing's performance concluded Behrend's Psychic Fair on Jan. 26. The fair also included a handwriting analyst, a numerologist, and tarot card and palm readers.



520 E. Calder Way,
State College, PA 16801
814-238-3456

www.caldercommons.com

- *Fully Furnished 2 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom Apartments!
- *New 24-hour Study Lounge!
- *Fabulous New Fitness Center!
- *Super Downtown Location
- *1/2 a Block From PSU Main Campus!
- *On-Site Parking & Laundry!
- *Free Cable TV!
- *Now Leasing for Fall 2002*

CALL OR STOP BY TODAY AND ASK ABOUT THE SPECIALS THAT WE HAVE FOR YOU!