## ngSupernatural alive, well in B-CS

Special to The Battalion
Belief in the supernatural is alive ver the world, including Bryan College Station. Clairvoyants, rologists, folk doctors and water iners can all be found locally.

The following narrative captures closely as possible the dialogue ween a man and a clairvoyant at transpired in Bryan. Sources nain unidentified for reason of

The young man climbed the orch of the large, old house and mocked a few times at the door. A ort, dark-complected woman of bout 50 years appeared.

"I, uh, guess I came to seek your The woman unlatched the door and let him in. He found himself

standing in a high foyer with two airs against the back wall and a

tell you your past, present nd future by looking into your yes, your face, and your body. will answer three questions. onsultation is \$40." — A ryan woman who says she is a airvoyant.

or leading into a living area. In-ide, the house seemed stately. The man turned to him and spoke

"I tell you your past, present and nture by looking into your eyes, our face, and your body. I will anwer three questions. Consultation

There was a long pause and then e man spoke:
"Yes, \$40. Don't you have a leaper rate, maybe, like for less

nestions?"
The woman smiled warmly. "You eem to be a little short today. I tell ou what, I let you have the three

questions for \$25, how's that?"
There was another long pause.
"How much do you have," the oman asked. "Well I wasn't thinking of spend-

g more than \$10. Okay. What do you want to

white workers to last. I'd like to mow if one ever will."

"Your problem is you are too emotional. That has been the probem in all your past relationships: our emotions and your temper got out of hand. You have to learn to introl your emotions. You are not ving in the caveman days; you can't Il your way through everything to pack we and always get what you want. You have to learn to control your

The man was awed. Never before had anyone spoken so truthfully to him and with such knowledge and

The man was awed. Never before had anyone spoken so truthfully to him and with such knowledge and authority. He was confused. How could she know these things about him? He had been skeptical of fortune ellers before, but now he was beginning to wonder.

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me by God. Everyone has a ft. You have yours.

"How long have you had it?"
"I have known about it since I was about 15 years old. What else do you want to know?'

'I will soon graduate from college. My father runs a business and he wants me to come work with

No, it will never work. Your father is too much like you are. You don't like to be told what to do. You both would rather give orders than to receive them.

But what if he retires? Oh, well that would be all right.

As long as you are your own boss. Still the man was awed. The words she used seemed to charac terize him perfectly. How could she do it? How could she know?

There is a woman I met who lives in another state. When I graduate, she wants me to come see her. Should I?'

'Go. Give it a chance. Give some ne a chance to be close to you. And don't wait too long. You are young, but you will get older, and you could live a short, unhappy life if you aren't careful. Speed, alcohol and drugs will not make you happy. Why do you need these things? And remember that sex is not all there is to a relationship. If sex is all you want, go out on the street and get it, and that way you won't hurt any-

"Can you predict the future?"
The woman spoke impatiently now: "You are going to be all right but you must do these things I've

But if you can see the future, the future is the future; what difference does it make?

You are going to be all right, if you do these things.

Dr. Tom Green, a folklorist at look.

Texas A&M, called what people want clairvoyants to do "taking then the powers of the shaman are confirmed. If they don't find deer, then the powers of the shaman are confirmed. If they don't find deer, the state of the shaman are confirmed. If they don't find deer, the state of the shaman are confirmed. If they don't find deer, the state of the shaman are confirmed. If they don't find deer, the state of the shaman are confirmed.

The woman had never seen the man before that day, and yet in that brief period she had painted a de-"Well I, uh, have this problem with women. None of the relation-thips ever seem to last. I'd like to do this through her powers of extrasensory perception (ESP), an of extrasensory perception (ESP), and the planted a descriptive image of him that seemed to be correct. She was apparently able to do this through her powers of extrasensory perception (ESP), and the planted a descriptive image of him that seemed to be correct. ability to perceive and understand things that cannot be perceived by the normal senses. The man left the house with a greater sense of direc-tion in his life and a less skeptical attitude toward the supernatural.

In helping people work out their problems, psychologists and ministers take a much less direct approach to giving advice, said Dr. Jeffrey Kern, a psychologist at Texas A&M University.

They don't depend on any kind of ecial, extra sense through which they can define people and give them advice, and they avoid de-scriptive images. In fact most of them, said Kern, avoid giving advice altogether. Instead, they try to help people understand themselves so that they can answer their own

Kern is skeptical of clairvoyants. "I don't think that anyone can make those kinds of statements about another person with such cer-

Kern said clairvoyants try to al-leviate peoples' problems by making something predictable that wasn't

Dr. Tom Green, a folklorist at The woman sensed his awe. "I Texas A&M, called this "taking now you are confused. It is a gift randomness out of a situation." Texas A&M, called this "taking the

lem is confused by the multitude of with, is due to their use of general



clairvoyant does is try to remove the confusion by telling the person what

the outcome will be, he said. The Eskimo equivalent of the Indian medicine man is called a shaman. Before a hunt, Eskimo hunters

The Eskimo equivalent of the Indian medicine man is called a shaman. Before a hunt, Eskimo hunters

The Eskimo equivalent of the Indian was that he was sometimes shy and wouldn't come out of his shell. He would have probably identified with that just as are often uncertain about where to find game. Instead of engaging in an undirected search, they ask the shaman, and he tells them where to

then it is accepted that it was be-cause they didn't believe strongly enough in the shaman or they didn't strictly observe tribal rites," Green

"For the Eskimo, any direction is better than no direction at all," he

And so it often is for people in modern society. Confused by the multitude of decisions to be made, thay turn to clairvoyants and superstition for guidance. It is not necessarily the logical approach to solving a problem, but as Brewton Barry writes in "You and Your Superstition," man is only semi-logical any-

"He is dominated more by habit, custom, public opinion, and vanity than he is by reason. Far more," says Berry

That may explain how a clairvoyant is able to make people feel better and why they seek their advice, but does it mean that all clair-voyants are quacks? And what about the young man who confessed that the things the woman said about him seemed to be true? How is it that the image she painted seemed to be the right image?

Kern admits that he once went to a gathering of psychics in Florida who knew, without him telling them, what his mother's name was and that she was deceased

"I can't explain that," he said. "I'm not dogmatically against it (belief in psychic abilities), but I'm still

exas A&M, called this "taking the andomness out of a situation."

A person confronted with a probity to make judgments about a person can identify

possible outcomes to an impending statements that would seem correct situation, Green said. What the to anyone.

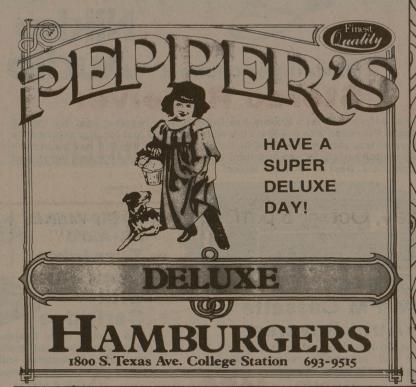
Suppose that the woman had told the man instead that his problem with women was that he was easily," said Kern.

Green said he agreed that this is often true but said nonetheless, that for many groups of people clairvoyant predictions are valid alterna-

tives for dealing with problems.

He also said that most clairvoyants in the United States are quite sincere in their own belief in their abilities.

They are often very sensitive to body mannerisms and physical changes in their clients, such as eye dilations. It could be that they subconsciously extrapolate their predic-



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