

TAMU
STUDENT

THE BATTALION AGGIELIFE

The WRITTE Stuff

Graphology attempts to unravel the mysteries of personality

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By DAPHNE PHILLIPS
THE BATTALION

Studies have found symbolism in the way people dot their i's and cross their t's. A person's handwriting is his or her private trademark, which cannot be reproduced by any other individual.

Graphology, also known as handwriting analysis, is the study of penmanship to determine personality, aptitudes and even a person's past. It is sometimes taught as a branch of psychology and is routinely used as a job-screening tool in Europe.

Graphologist Anne-Marie Seyfarth said handwriting analysis offers an in-depth understanding of self and others as well as the opportunity to explore additional possibilities for a more fulfilling life. "Our handwriting reveals our character, attitudes, likes and dislikes, the way we think and feel, the depth and scope of our emotions, our imagination, abilities and possible talents, chances for success and fears and defenses," Seyfarth said.

With an accuracy rate of 85-90 percent, handwriting analysis reveals personal characteristics through several graphic elements. Graphologists study size, speed, slant, pressure and spacing of handwriting.

Graphologist Arlyn Imberman said in Successful Meetings maga-

zine that emotions often can be determined by the slant of handwriting.

"Slanting to the left or straight up and down can indicate a withdrawn person," Imberman said. "A slant toward the right signals a friendly personality, and a heavy slant toward the right can be an index of impulsivity."

Although handwriting analysis reveals numerous personality traits, all handwriting changes from time to time.

Deborah Berk, president of a handwriting consulting firm, said in HR Focus magazine that mood or weight may change over time, but bone structure or height rarely do. These analyses can be related to handwriting.

"How many people look the same way at 2 p.m. as they did at 6 a.m.?" Berk said. "The same principle applies to handwriting. The size of the letters may be different between samples, but speed and pressure most often remain constant. And those elements are what characterize each individual."

From large corporations to small businesses, handwriting analysis gives employers insight into new hires and employees they want to promote. Handwriting analysis is similar to psychological testing, but less expensive, faster, less stressful to the subject and often less intrusive.

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Right slanted means sociable; i-dot slash going to the right means the writer is irritable with others and details are irritating

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Confused slant indicates unpredictable responses; margin moving to the right reflects goal-directed or future-oriented behavior

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Upright slant means independence; connected letters mean logical thinking; garland strokes between letters mean friendliness and receptiveness

Left-slanted means withdrawn; disconnected letters indicate a reliance on intuition; light writing means mood changes

Poor form indicates an out-of-control person; script imbalance and disorganization reflect inner turbulence, agitation, and anxiety

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Strong sense of rhythm; marked right slant shows impulsiveness; extra hump on "m" shows a compulsive need to check and recheck

Handwriting analysis compiled from A Dictionary of Graphology: the A-Z of Your Personality

Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Lost Prophets predict vibrant local music scene

By APRIL TOWERY
THE BATTALION

A prophet can be someone divinely inspired or an individual with the ability to see into the future. Bryan-College Station rock band Lost Prophets sees their future in making music.

Three shows every week, including birthday parties, bar mitzvahs, weddings and funerals, are business as usual for the band. Tonight's show will be held on Double Dave's patio on Northgate at 8 p.m.

Singer/guitarist David Gonzales, an English graduate student, and keyboard player Mike Bishop met nine years ago at Santa Barbara City College in California. Gonzales said the music scene in Santa Barbara contrasts significantly with that in Bryan-College Station.

"It was different in California because there were all kinds of famous bands — Toad the Wet Rocket, Ugly Kid Joe, Dishwalla — in our hometown," Gonzales said. "When you see your friends on MTV, you think, 'Why can't that be us?'" Bishop said playing to small Texas crowds can be discouraging.

"We came to this desolate wasteland to try to make something out of this nothingness," he said. "We're trying to build a scene. I can definitely feel a surge, an upswell of people wanting to see live music."

Upon their arrival in Aggieland two years ago, Bishop and Gonzales recruited drummer Scott

McKenzie, a junior business analysis major, and began to write songs. The original bassist they recruited was replaced in August 1996 by Jesse Gober, a senior animal science major.

Gober said there are no disadvantages to playing in a college town — except in College Station. "This is the most sterile university," he said. "In Athens, Ga., it's like Northgate times five. There's no scene here."

Despite frustration with local circumstances, the band members enjoy playing as often as possible. Their debut album, recorded at Harry O's in Wheelock, Texas, is currently being digitally mastered in Los Angeles. The album features power ballads with a pop groove.

Gonzales said his experience as an English teaching assistant has helped him write words with meaning.

"The songs were all written with love in mind," he said. "It's all well and good to write about politics, but when it comes down to it, I guess I'm a jaded romantic. The CD is a series of heartbreaks with distortion."

Bishop said the band's music is personalized and deals directly with emotions each band member has experienced.

"All of us have an urgency and a need for love," he said. "That's evident in the music and the way we play. That's part of who we are."

Gonzales agreed, saying the band members are "compulsive" where the subject of love is concerned.

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Lost Prophets, a rock band from Bryan-College Station, is playing tonight on Double Dave's patio on Northgate.