

Disk golf catches popularity at Texas A&M

By ARTIE ALVARADO AND
AARON MEIER
THE BATTALION

At Texas A&M's Research Park, there is a wooden sign describing the activities and rules of the disk golf course. Even

though the sign commands that all dogs must be kept on a leash, a husky golden lab frantically chases a tennis ball, "sans" leash. Meanwhile, the dog's owner is attempting to place his putting disk in the basket, in order to make par on the last hole.

Disk golfers may not walk around in plaid pants and wear hats with fuzzy balls on top, but students who play disk golf at A&M say it is their game of choice.

Since it began in the late '60s, disk golf has gained popularity across college campuses and across the nation. Disk golf is played just like regular golf, except special frisbees replace the balls, and a basket substitutes for the hole.

The average disk golfer's arsenal consists of seven to eight disks, because different disks serve different purposes.

Russ Gardner, a political science graduate student, said there are three primary types of disks golfers use. The driver disks, made of a hard plastic, and are used when golfers "tee off."

"They usually travel 250 to 450 feet, but the really good players can make them go 600-plus feet," Gardner said.

The other two types, the "approach" and the "putter," are made of softer plastics and are designed to "float" more, Gardner said. The designs of the disks make them less likely to bounce off the basket.

The 5-foot baskets have chains surrounding a metal pole. The chains can be used to slow down or catch the disks, but some golfers have enough skill to place the disks perfectly in the basket.

Some baskets have a ring of metal at the top that sometimes frustrate the players as the disks bounce off it.



Derek Demere, THE BATTALION
Jim Colquitt, a junior business analysis and management information systems major, attempts a putt on the disk golf course Saturday afternoon at Research Park.



Derek Demere, THE BATTALION
Todd Piasczyk a junior landscape architecture major, records his position on a disk golf tournament Saturday at Research Park.

"I like to call it the chastity belt," Gardner said. "It keeps you out."

Dane Rodgers, a senior civil engineering major, has been playing disk golf since he was 14 years old, when his uncle introduced him to the sport.

"I liked how my uncle could throw the disks 450 feet," Rodgers said. "The distances they could get the disks to travel amazed me."

Rodgers played in mini-tournaments throughout high school and has competed in several national tournaments. In 1993 Rodgers competed in the Round

Robin National Doubles Amateur Championship. He won the tournament and has since competed in several professional contests, where he has collected over \$2,500 in prize money.

However, when Rodgers first arrived at A&M, there was no disk golf course. With the help of the Department of Recreational Sports, Rodgers designed the disk golf course at A&M's Research Park.

The course has piqued several students' interests in disk golf.

Royce Rosenhauch, a senior psy-

chology major, said he has been playing disk golf since the course opened in January 1996.

"When the sport finally exploded on the campus, I figured I had to try it and I have been hooked ever since," Rosenhauch said.

Gardner has played the sport since August, and enjoys the laid back atmosphere.

"It's a very easygoing sport," Gardner said. "I haven't seen a single fight on a disk golf course like I have on regular courses."

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PALM READING: PREDICTING LIFE, FATE AND FORTUNE

By KAREN JANES
THE BATTALION

Psychic reader and adviser Stephanie said she can tell things about a person's future by having a conversation with them.

"I can judge someone's character within a few minutes," she said. Stephanie, who is based in Bryan, is willing to answer any question people have regarding their lives using one or more of three different methods. She reads palms, cards and vibrations through the body to find answers after a question is asked.

"People think the vibration method is the most reasonable one," Stephanie said. When she reads cards, the number of cards spread out on the table is the same number as the customer's age. Stephanie said she reads the cards can know anything.

"They put the cards down," she said. "I just read them."

When she reads palms, Stephanie studies the nine distinct lines of the palm.

The scientific name for Stephanie's palm reading abilities is palmistry, or cheirosophy.

Palmistry originated over 4500 years ago in India. It involves inter-

preting someone's character and nature from the outward formations and aspects of their palms and hands.

"I see (in the palm) different things for different people," Stephanie said. "The different life lines are determined by how you are born and molded."

Associated with palmistry is the science of hand analysis. Angela Mattey, author of the TAM Enterprises Hand Analysis and Palmistry Newsletter, said the two methods used together tell about a person's identity, his or her talents and future.

"Hand analysis makes me aware of the person's personality, potential, and talents," Mattey said. "Palmistry allows me to use my intuition to predict from these potentials."

Palmists and hand analysts say both hands should be read to achieve an accurate reading. The dominant hand is determined by whether the customer is right- or left-handed and is guided by the conscious mind. The non-dominant hand is guided by the unconscious mind and serves as a record of past lives.

"When there are differences in how these hands look," Mattey said, "it means the soul set up a pathway before this life and the conscious mind had to adapt or restructure that blueprint after birth."

According to Dr. Roderick Vick-

ers, everyone has the psychic ability palmists and hand analysts use.

"All will enter the world with the psychic gift, but many will never realize it fully," Vickers said. "Some are born psychics and know from childhood what they are."

Stephanie said she began seeing things before they happened when she was 12 or 13 years old. Her mother and father at first had trouble dealing with it.

"In the beginning, my parents couldn't understand my abilities," Stephanie said. "They thought I had a problem, but later came to accept it as a gift from God."

Stephanie is a strongly religious, Catholic woman. She believes God gave her psychic abilities to help people.

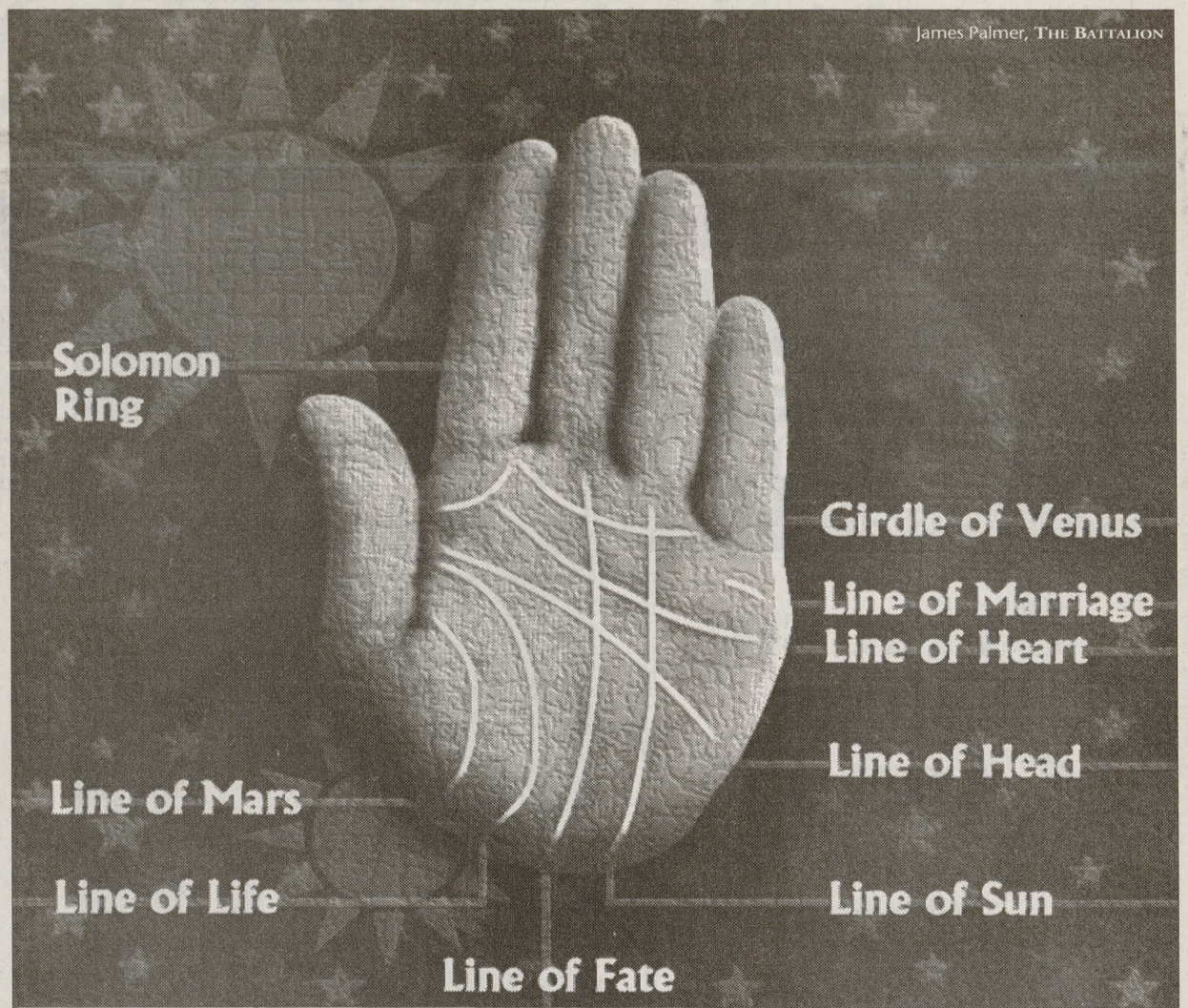
Vickers agreed that religion can be associated with psychic powers. "Some of the most famous prophets, seers, and psychics have been religious," he said. "Psychic gifts should be part of your faith, as it has been with others, including Jesus."

Both Vickers and Stephanie have encountered non-believers and skeptics of their psychic abilities.

"I have worked on many negative people who had no belief in my ability whatsoever," Vickers said.

Stephanie said she has changed many of her customer's reluctant attitudes.

"A lot of people come in because of curiosity, then they believe it and come in again," she said. "You don't have to believe something to try it."



James Palmer, THE BATTALION

"The different life lines are determined by how you are born and molded."

Stephanie
local psychic adviser

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WHAT'S IT LIKE AT THE PLASMA CENTER?

To the staff of the Plasma Center,

I would like to start by saying thank you to each and every employee for making the past three years enjoyable in a professional, efficient and courteous environment. As a donor since 1993, I have been more than satisfied with every aspect of your operation, which allows myself and others to contribute what we can to community service, all the while being serviced by diligent, but relaxed, workers. Everyone at the Plasma Center, from those behind the front counter to the phlebotomists to the supervisors, have made great efforts to insure that each donor feels hygienically safe, as well as keeping the atmosphere light.

Like most, I started coming to the Plasma Center for monetary reasons, but I soon developed acquaintances that appealed to me almost as much as the original need for money, enabling me to look forward to each donation, not only for my wallet's sake but also to see my

friends. Like I commented to someone recently, talking to people at the Plasma Center was like getting mail from a far-off friend that you don't get to do much with, but who you can talk to as often as you write. For those acquaintances and for your continual services. I would like to thank all of those I've come to know and appreciate over the past three years - Emily, and Tracy, Heath, and Marty, Ada and Josie, etc... more I can't remember or those who have gone on to better things.

So, as I graduate from this great University, I bid you all a fond farewell and strong commendations on such a successful blend of quality medical practice and friendly service. Thank you all and have a great summer. Thanks, C.F.

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