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Home	Local News	News Archive	Local Sports	Sports Archive	Editorial	Obituaries
Features	Courts	Deeds	Multimedia	Circulation	Feedback	Advertise

LOCAL NEWS

"Please let the Gentle Wind people know I have a million dollars here I just can't seem to give away. All they have to do is pass a simple two part test."

— James Randi, professional skeptic

Feeling those good vibrations? Not

By CAROL ROBIDOUX

Courier Times

E-mail

As a co-founder of The Gentle Wind Project, Mary Miller says she's not fazed by skepticism.

Unfortunately skepticism is somewhat of an occupational hazard for a member of a 13-member world healing organization inspired by the spirit world to sell healing tools for several thousands of dollars with a 30-day money back guarantee that aforementioned tool will repair the shattered auras of the world.

"I think that's really a healthy response to something I know I feel skeptical of things I don't really understand, things I haven't seen proven. But once people have had this healing — and some come at it with a great deal of skepticism — even on a lark — they later apologize," says Miller.

She also contends that her organization — which is definitely not New Age and not a cult — produces a line of healing tools that really work, unlike the slew of bogus new-age gadgetry on the market that people should be pitching in the trash.

She's almost right, says Joe Nickell, former stage magician, private detective and academic turned researcher for the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims Of the Paranormal (CSICOP), a national organization dedicated to debunking hard-to-believe claims.

Only she's deluding herself if she thinks her product is unique, what with the glut of God inspired healing tools out there.

"What Gentle Wind is offering is, at best, pseudo science. If you read through their literature you see they start making claims about 'etheric damage.' They're talking new-age nonsense," says Nickell, who has collected a small file of clippings on the Gentle Wind Project over the past year.

"It sounds very new-agey, very hippie-tippie, and I say this as one who's an outgrowth of the '60s and all that cultish-crystal power healing clairvoyant realms," says Nickell.

For more information

For more on the James Randi Education Foundation and the \$1 million Challenge, go to www.randi.org

A review of other instruments that could be **Healing tools or hoaxes?**

Nickell's suspicions about the authenticity of the Gentle Wind Project's healing tool is echoed by James Randi, an internationally recognized skeptic who was able to guess the organization's modus operandi even though he hadn't heard of this particular company before.

"With these people, the first thing you'll find is they use a lot of pseudo-science lingo, like 'quantum physics.' And they love to use the word 'vibration.' But all these terms are vapid generalities and, just when you try to pin them down about how their gadget works, they tell you it's one of the great mysteries of humanity, or some similar line," says Randi.

Faith in something with proven effectiveness is not bad, blind faith without scientific inquiry is. While the average consumer should watch his pocketbook and use logic and common sense, the main question for a seasoned skeptic becomes "who's at the top" of any organization claiming to have blueprints from God.

"You have to find out who's at the horse's head. They all embrace skepticism, and then they tell you they got a revelation, that God visited them in bed while eating a hamburger, or during some other defining moment in their lives. From there, it's nothing but circular reasoning. And the sad part is, many of them really believe they're helping humanity," says Randi.

What began as a hobby for Randi 56 years ago at age 13, has become a quest to give away \$1 million to anyone who can prove their claim — sort of like Ed McMahon's prize patrol seeking the owner of the Holy Grail.

"Please, let the Gentle Wind people know I have a million dollars here I just can't seem to give away," says Randi. "All they have to do is pass a simple two-part test. The hardest part for them seems defining what it is they can do. Since 1968, no one's gotten past the preliminaries. They always say their power is blocked by evil vibrations or a bad pork chop, or the fact that Jupiter was in Sagittarius."

Healing tools or hoaxes?

Sure enough, we found a number of products on the Internet that claim to mend auras and promote healing — many of them making similar claims to those of the Gentle Wind Project and its Super Puck healing tool. The following product descriptions are excerpted from the actual company Web sites:

Amethyst crystal wands – \$25 each "These hand-polished crystal wands are often used by those beginning their spiritual awakening to connect with spiritual guides and angels. For physical healing you would use a violet gemstone to aid stress and related diseases as well as mental disorders, tumors and diseases of the head, skull and high blood pressure." www.neatstuff.net/

Egely Wheel – \$159 "The amazing Egely Wheel, a new tool for measuring the strength of your aura energy as well as your ability to control it. This product is the result of many years of intense scientific development. Although some of the basics of the phenomenon are not yet fully understood, after thousands of sessions with more than 1,200 test subjects, its inventor found that those with the highest levels of 'Life Energy' could make the wheel turn faster." Comes with an 85-page manual. www.blancocrytal.com/

ADR-4 – \$119 ADR-4 is a device for energizing beverages and food. It changes the structure of the water and makes it more healthy for the living organisms. The water energized by ADR-4 has beneficial influence on the human organism's homeostatic balance. Just place a glass of water or any food on ADR-4 for a few minutes. The principal element of all the ADR units is a special construction named Monitor Element of Energy Transformation. www.aicrmark.com

The "Oracle" Divining/Healing Kit - 5125 The parts in this kit reconfigure to make three essential tools for Auric healing. The Aura Meter for reading the energy fields of the body, the Oracle Spring Pendulum for diagnosing the problem and the Aura Stabilizer for balancing. You are the sensing instrument, not the tools; they simply give a visible response to what your subconscious knows. www.pai-tronics.com

EMPulse Pro™ - \$800 A breakthrough device for clearing human energy fields. Removes blockage, repairs tears in auras, normalizes ahalons, rejuvenates subtle bodies, completely portable and easy to use. This is a new class of energy balancing device that's capable of clearing hundreds of different types of disturbances in the Human Energy Field, achieved by a continuous series of narrow, reversing magnetic pulse tuned to the bodies harmonic one. www.galsysintl.com

One Force – personal model – \$647/professional model – \$11,797

This invention affects all levels of being by an invisible spiritual force which most people can actually feel working on their problems. This invisible spiritual force is established when light from a tiny light bulb interacts with high technology components in the invention. The so-called technology, of how to produce this invisible spiritual force, was given to an engineer by God in a mystical experience. The engineer was told to place this instrument on the market. The invention is not like anything else on the market and has a patent pending. The principles are mathematical and require a whole book to explain, as there is no background knowledge from a current field of consciousness research. A book will be published in the future when society can use such information properly. www.oneforce.net

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