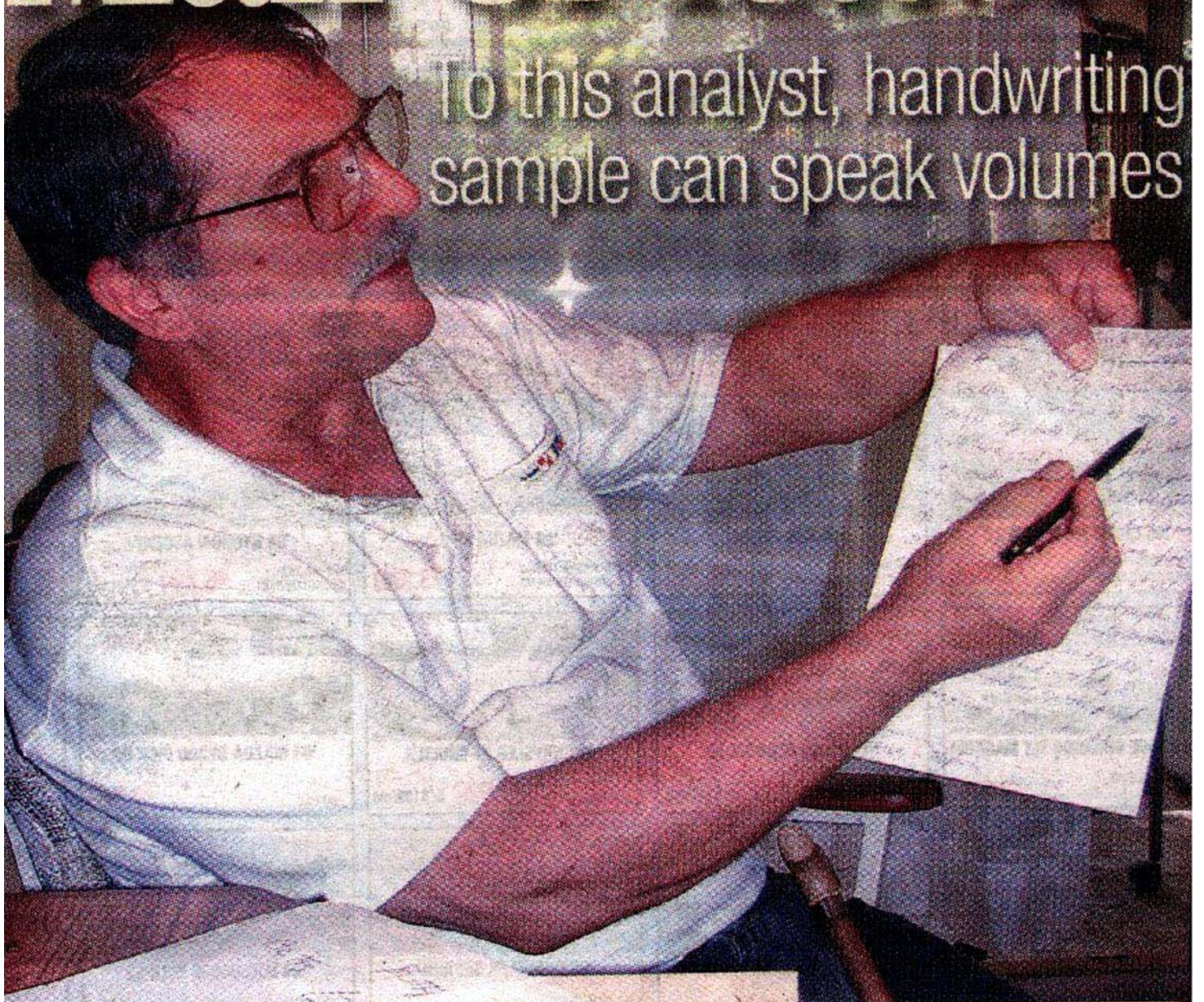


Man of letters

To this analyst, handwriting sample can speak volumes



BY CHERYL BENTLEY
SUNCOAST
NEWS STAFF

The person in question is emotional.

He is comfortable with abstract thinking and is determined and focused in pursuing goals. When he sets his mind to something, he won't let it drop until he achieves it. He would make a

good salesman and a terrible bookkeeper.

The man has a spirituality that goes far beyond weekly church services.

He has a healthy self image and takes pride in what he does.

He likes to debate. He has some physical ailment having to do with his head such as headaches or a sinus problem.

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Shadow Dancer

Point by point, Bill Mader went over a sample of penmanship from Port Richey Mayor Mark Abbott without knowing the identity of the person who had wielded the pen.

Almost 100 percent

When presented with the results of the reading the next day, Abbott gave Mader, who lives in the Bayonet Point area, almost 100 percent in accuracy. The head problems, Abbott said, could be his persistent coughing in the middle of the night.

Handwriting, says Mader, doesn't lie.

He has developed a career out of it. Only a small portion of his business is devoted to graphology, or analysis of people's character through their handwriting, as was done in the case of Abbott, who agreed to allow his writing to be used as a sample for this article.

Most of Mader's work is devoted to examining handwriting on documents.

Mader often serves as an expert witness in trials or court procedures involving forgery and altered documents.

Why the fascination with handwriting?

"I have an insatiable desire to solve puzzles," Mader explains. "It's a mentally stimulating challenge."

Mader shows his certificate of membership

Graphology pointers

Bill Mader gives the following pointers for analyzing handwriting:

T's

- T's are an important element in an analysis. The manner they are crossed shows goals and willpower.
- The longer the T bar, the stronger the willpower.
- A bar ending at the right of the stem shows a temper, to the left procrastination.
- Above, but not touching the stem, indicates a dreamer rather than a goalmaker.
- Touching the stem shows realistic goals.

Slant

- The more the slant to the right, the more emotional the writer.
- Backhand indicates a reserved person who may appear cold.

Size

- The smaller the handwriting, the greater the ability to focus.

his dry wit.

Most of his work is verification of signa-

It was graphology that started Mader's interest in handwriting. As the owner of a Dairy Queen, he noticed his better waitresses had similar strokes in certain letters.

Intrigued, Mader studied graphology at the International Graphoanalysis Society in Chicago.

There are many graphology schools, Mader notes, but he chose the Chicago school because the founder had done a good deal of research before putting together his theories.

He does not know if there have been studies on the accuracy of graphology, but in his own mind, it is accurate.

Some American businesses seem to agree with him, even though the practice still is controversial.

In 1997, the *Washington University Law Quarterly* noted about 6,000 American businesses reported using graphology in the hiring process, but that figure was probably higher because many businesses don't want their use of graphology known.

In his own case, Mader does handwriting analysis of job applicants for a businessman friend. He refused to name the company because, he said, his friend would not want it known that he uses graphology.

"He gives his expectations," he explains. "I tell whether they fit the job."

Down strange roads

Sometimes his knowledge of graphology takes him down strange roads.

Once, a client received hate mail. Using graphology, Mader described the personality of the letter writer. From that, he said, his client determined who wrote the letter.

Mader must have at least six lines of handwriting for his analysis.

Not all letters will always be made the same way. The analyst notes the frequency of the letters made in a certain style and makes that as a part of the analysis.

Other factors include strokes, curvature, angularity, size, slant and pressure.

The legal system gives Mader about 70 percent of his work. He is in several trials a year that require extensive preparation before his testimony as an expert witness.

"Thank God for lawyers," Mader says in

will that, he says, was indeed that of the father.

He can spend several weeks comparing letters in court cases involving forgery before he testifies as an expert witness.

William L. Thompson Jr., Orange Park lawyer, has used Mader several times in some of his cases. He calls the handwriting analyst "honest" and "very thorough."

"When he provides information, he provides sufficient detail to prove the results," Thompson notes.

Mader has also been called on to match handwriting with graffiti and love letters.

In the case of the letters, a woman found love letters to her husband. She brought in employment applications from his office. From those, Mader said he was able to match the writing on an application with that in the letters.

Did the woman confront her husband?

"I don't know. She paid me. I said, 'Thank you,'" he said in his typical tone, laced with part all-business and part irony.

Passion for art

The detailed, highly analytical world of handwriting hides another one of Mader's passions, that of the Army brat who earned a degree in art from Florida State University in Tallahassee.

In recent years, Mader has suffered from Parkinson's disease, but that has not stopped him from layering photographs of nature he has taken with digital versions of parts of his other photographs.

The works are intricate and mystical.

So, is the art a softer, more feminine side to the cerebral handwriting analyst?

"It satisfies a different desire," he said. "If you have a good steak dinner, that's good. If you have a good wine, that's good, too. When you put them together, you've got a killer meal."

For more information on Mader visit www.photographybyduke.com and www.handwritingexaminer.com or call, toll free, 800-453-9168.

Cheryl Bentley can be reached at cbentley@suncoastnews.com