

The Market is a Psychic Hotbed

**Confused?
Life Got You Down?
Is There a Question No One
Can Answer? You Can Find a
Spiritual Counselor
at Tenzing Momo.**

BY RENA LANGILLE

Looking into the soft brown eyes of the spiritual counselor Thunder Cloud is like looking into the depths of a warm summer day. A calmness seems to fill the space around him and belies the strong advocate for social justice movements that marked the late 1960s and early 1970s, when he was in the midst of the social justice movements in Seattle. He sits at a small round table just to the left of the door as you enter Tenzing Momo. In front of him is a well worn pack of cards bearing the signs and symbols of his ancestors, which he reads

for people needing spiritual guidance. The Readings will never make him rich, but money is not what he desires. For him, helping people is what it's all about.

Brought up in the harsh environment of North Dakota, Thunder Cloud—a Chippewa/Ojibwa Indian from the Turtle Mountain Reservation—had intuitive powers as a small child, but it wasn't until much later that he saw his uniqueness. The stifling climate of the orphanage where he grew up conflicted with his burgeoning beliefs, but eventually he grew into a power house of spiritual energy.

For fun, Thunder Cloud began reading playing cards, while still in North Dakota. Then in 1968, he came to Seattle for more social and economic prospect. But a professions such as card reading and astrology were risky businesses. There were still witchcraft laws on the books which made these practices illegal. Nonetheless, he found a deck of Tarot cards at Ace Novelty on First Avenue, and began to use them.



PHOTO BY RENA LANGILLE

Spiritual Counselor Thunder Cloud Brings His Intuitive Powers to Tenzing Momo

While working with the cards and developing his own spirituality, through prayers and meditations, he experienced visions that led to the development (in the 1980s) of his own deck based on the pictorial symbols of his ancestors. The picture writing was used by his people

long before Europeans came as a memory device to help younger people who learning the ancient stories.

The 60s and early 70s were a tumultuous time. There were a lot of Vietnam Veterans, whose needs could not be met by the Veteran's Administration, on the streets, and a large mentally ill population that had been turned loose when two of the states mental health institutions closed. The unmet needs developed into grass roots efforts to fill in the gaps where conventional health and mental health services fell short. The Open Door Clinic, which provided crisis intervention for anyone needing services, was opened, and Thunder Cloud was the Crisis Phone Assistant Supervisor. He managed the spiritual aspect of the AIDS vigils in the 80s, and was primarily the spiritual advisor in the gay and Native American societies. During this time, Thunder Cloud hung out at The Daily Bread coffee house, near Seattle University, doing readings. Along with

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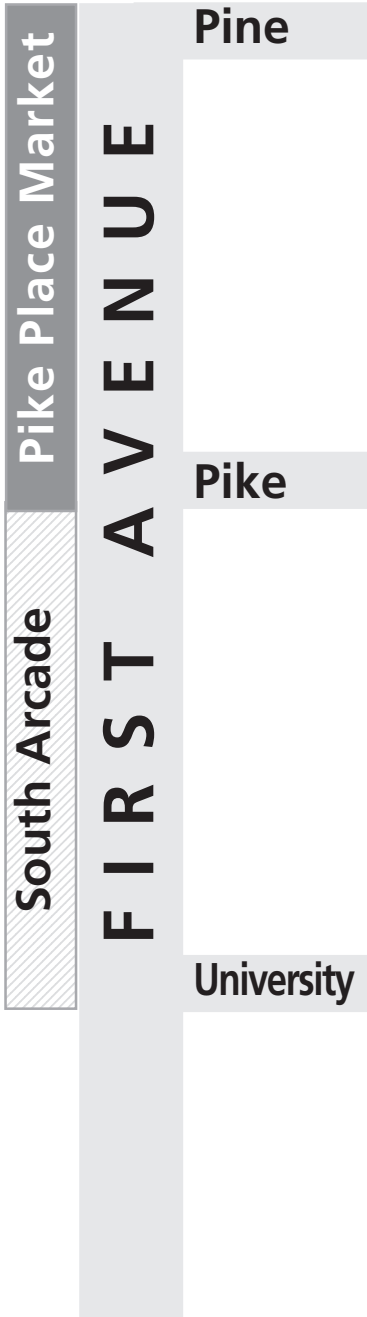
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