

## **Response to Requests for Demonstrations or Evaluations of Psi Ability**

**The Rhine Center receives frequent offers or requests from individuals who want to demonstrate their psi ability in one form or other or to come to the Rhine Center for an evaluation of their ability. The reported abilities range from the ability to predict the future, to perform telepathic, clairvoyant or mediumistic readings, to influence the movement of various inanimate objects, or to show a healing effect on plant, animal or human tissue.**

**Sadly, we are hardly ever able to respond positively to these requests. This is not from any lack of interest or from any advance prejudice about the validity of such claims. Indeed, it is these various claims that led to the basic research upon which our Center and others were originally founded.**

**Here is a brief summary of some reasons why the Rhine Center has to decline these requests:**

- (1) The demonstration of psi ability even in a well-controlled laboratory situation is of questionable value for parapsychologists today. Modern research has moved beyond the need for mere demonstration of psi ability to a focus on the process of how psi occurs.**
- (2) The Rhine Center currently lacks the time or resources to adequately evaluate claims of unusual abilities, although upon occasion our research staff can help the individual design and evaluate his own process-oriented research. A priority is given to those students or individuals who are already working with local authorities such as scientists in local colleges.**
- (3) Past history with special subjects has shown how difficult it is to expect ESP performance upon demand especially in a laboratory situation. It is best measured by oneself in home-testing, such as with the ESP test card kit or by other free-response tests that can be devised in a home setting.**
- (4) The Rhine Center is very cautious not to imply endorsement of individuals as having special abilities by simply having been part of an evaluation, as sometimes may happen even inadvertently.**
- (5) There are occasions when research participants are needed for Rhine Center research, and individuals can send it their names to be added to these lists or simply respond to such notices that would be place on our website or on our email notices.**

**Sally Rhine Feather Ph.D.  
Acting Director  
Rhine Center, January 2008**