

# Former magician delves into occult

By SCOTTA CALLISTER  
Of the Emerald

Ray Hyman doesn't have to use magic to get students to enroll in his class, but that might be what's keeping them there.

Hyman, formerly a professional magician, teaches a class on pseudo-psychology in which he delves into the occult, ESP and "other challenges to existing science" and demonstrates some of the techniques he used when he was a palmist and mind-reader.

A native of Boston, Hyman began his career as a magician at the age of 7, when he gave a show for a parent-teacher organization. From then on, he gave several magic shows a year "all over the East Coast."

His interest shifted from slight-of-hand tricks to mind-reading and palmistry because "people are more willing to believe it's real."

Hyman said that if a person puts a lot of time and effort into learning "psychic" skills, he will convince himself that his powers are real.

That's what happened to him. After studying books on palmistry and related subjects, Hyman said he became a "sincere believer" for about 5 years.

His belief was shaken when a friend, also a mind-reader, suggested that Hyman experiment by telling people exactly the opposite of what he read in their palms. It turned out that he was just as correct in his

predictions as he always had been.

The point, Hyman said, is that the human mind is so creative that people will make what a fortune-teller says fit them.

That discovery was partly responsible for his decision to become a psychologist. He taught at Harvard for 5 years, and then joined the University faculty in 1969.

Students in his class aren't always happy when they are faced with the fact that some popular beliefs are mere trickery. Hyman said one student claimed he changed his ideas about the supernatural, but the new-found skepticism seemed to take "some of the fun out of life."

Hyman said that interest in psychic phenomena is good in that it represents open-mindedness and a healthy skepticism about what is accepted by the establishment.

However, he said the desire to believe can be distorted to make people fool themselves, and it can become a new way for people to exploit others.

He said that most magicians are entertainers, but some attempt to exploit the public with their skills. Hyman said that Kreskin, the television entertainer, falls in the latter category because he insinuates that he is a real mystic.

After Kreskin did a show in Eugene, Hyman said he duplicated the whole performance for his class, openly admitting that it was trickery. Hyman said he faces a dilemma because he can't really expose Kreskin and others like him



Professor Ray Hyman, magician turned psychologist, reads the palm of Vicki

Stickrod, demonstrating a skill he once used to make a living.

without giving away trade secrets.

Recently, the Stanford Research Institute (SRI) conducted experiments on a 25-year-old Israeli, Uri Geller, who had been demonstrating apparently phenomenal psychic powers. The Department of Defense called Hyman to investigate Geller when it was asked to help fund the research.

According to Time magazine, Geller caused quite a sensation among SRI staff members with his feats of mental telepathy and telekinesis (the ability to move objects by concentration), but Hyman said he found no proof of the Israeli's powers.

He says researchers used inadequate controls in testing Geller's powers, and according to Time, Hyman even caught him using fairly standard tricks of the trade.

Some of Geller's tricks, such as driving a car blind-folded, reading what a person writes by watching his arm movements and bending objects by concentration, are offered in magician's catalogs.

Hyman's skepticism about Geller wasn't accepted with open arms by the SRI staff, who seem to be just like everybody else. They're looking for something supernatural to believe in.

## IFC hears final budget requests

It was close to midnight Tuesday before the Incidental Fee Committee (IFC) finished hearing final requests for budget increases, but the calmness in the EMU did not reflect the sharp exchanges that had taken place that evening between IFC members and program directors.

More than 75 people crowded into 337 EMU to protest cuts in the proposed ESCAPE budget. Program director Judy Coffey told IFC members that "you have cut us below the budget we were given to start the program in 1970."

Most of the cuts in the program's budget occurred in salaries. Earlier in the evening, IFC members voted to reconsider their decision not to allow any programs more than two salaried positions. The IFC was scheduled to make a decision Wednesday on whether to fund more than two salaried positions, but did vote to increase the ESCAPE budget allocations in office supplies and printing and duplication.

Coffey added that if the IFC finalizes the proposed cuts, the program would "terminate" June 10, and would end any chance of ESCAPE receiving University funding.

All but one of the programs that protested cuts during the latter half of the session did receive some increases.

Three programs that did not receive any allocations in the proposed IFC recommendations received increases or possible increases from the committee. The Community Video Access Center received \$500 while the Tax Center, whose budget is almost totally salaries, was told that it might receive funding after the IFC makes its decisions on the salaried positions because it is a "unique service."

The Canterbury Center had its budget revived with a \$1350 increase from the IFC.

Other groups that received increases in their budget were Recreational Folk Dance, SEARCH, the Native American Student Union, the Black Student Union and the Gay People's Alliance.

Thursday, May 24, 1973

Applications are now being accepted  
for the salaried positions as  
director and assistant director of  
**SEARCH.**

Applications are available in 310 EMU.  
LAST DATE TO APPLY IS MAY 31.

It's a short step  
from 301 Allen Hall  
to Madison Ave.  
Sell ads for the ODE  
Good Money—good hours  
Apply now.

**BROADWAY**