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## Politics, magic linked by art of deception?

By Paul Ertelt  
Of the Emerald

Psychology Prof. Ray Hyman held a copy of Sunday's Register-Guard and tore it in half, demonstrating the "flimsy physical basis of our information resources."

Hyman continued his destruction until the newspaper was a handful of fragments, then restored it to its original form with a quick flip of the wrist. More than just a clever magic trick, Hyman said his demonstration was analogous to the human mind and the way it processes information.

Hyman discussed the "Psychology of Deception" as part of a political symposium held in the Eugene Community Conference Center Sunday. He punctuated his talk with other acts of illusion, using cards, rope and a small chalkboard.

"Ever since the beginning of the human race, there have been people who have specialized in deceiving their fellow human beings," Hyman said. "Some have known it as magic, others as politics."

The human mind receives information in fragments, much like the torn newspaper. From those fragments, the mind constructs complete concepts, making assumptions to fill in the gaps, Hyman said.

The mind's assumptions about information are usually correct, but this same ability makes people susceptible to deception. In fact, people who are more intelligent and imaginative are more vulnerable to deception, Hyman said.

"What makes us open to deception, also makes us good problem solvers and good processors of information," he said.

Deception also requires the cooperation of the person deceived in what Hyman called a symbiotic relationship with the deceiver.

"Deception is never a one-way street," he said. "The victim has to cooperate; the deceiver can only arrange circumstances."

Hyman's examples of otherwise in-

telligent people who allowed themselves to be deceived ranged from his father, who never listened to his assertion that "professional" wrestling was anything but authentic, to the scientists fooled by psychic charlatans.

In politics, image makers give us fragments about candidates, hoping that we will fill in the gaps with the desired assumptions, Hyman said.

Although he said it happens "on both sides," Hyman used Pres. Ronald Reagan's so called Teflon presidency to illustrate how assumptions affect a politician's image. (The term Teflon has been used to refer to Reagan's apparent ability to maintain a strong image and deflect public criticism.)

"We are part of the conspiracy, making (politicians) better than they are because we want them to be better than they are," he said.

Hyman began performing magic, which he calls "pure chicanery," as a child. He worked his way through college by reading palms.

Hyman became increasingly convinced of his ability to tell people's fortunes, but a friend challenged him to try an experiment. When Hyman told people the opposite of what he saw in their palms, his subjects continued to agree that his readings accurately reflected their characters.

Because of his knowledge of psychology and magic, Hyman has often been called on to investigate psychic phenomena. Though he said he keeps an open mind, Hyman is skeptical and has yet to witness a demonstration of psychic ability.

"Everytime I got near them, their power evaporated. They said it was my negative vibes or something."

Hyman's talk was part of a series of talks on current politics given by University faculty as part of the Eugene Celebration.

Joan Acker, director of the Center for the Study of Women in Society, journalism Prof. Roy Paul Nelson, and political science Prof. Jerry Medler also spoke.

women veterans to do the same, she says, in order to release some of the bottled-up anxieties left over from the war.

Last week Sandecki came to the Eugene Vet Center and gave two workshops dealing with post-traumatic stress syndrome, a psychological ailment that haunts many veterans with horrifying flashbacks of the war. One workshop was exclusively for women Vietnam veterans, and the other for counselors and community organizers who work with these women.

Sandecki described her experience, which began in 1968. She was watching the war on her living room television one night, and feeling the idealism of the era.

"It was the 'ask not what your country can do for you' ideology that got me going. I just wanted to help the wound-

ed GIs I saw on TV," she said.

So Sandecki joined the Army Nurse Corps in May 1968 and by October was stationed in Cu Chi, Vietnam, as head nurse of the Intensive Care Unit at the 12th Evacuation Hospital. Shortly after she arrived her patriotic fervor dwindled.

"I wasn't prepared psychologically," Sandecki recalled. "As soon as I stepped off the plane in Cu Chi I realized what I was getting into was not what I had expected."

"I remember the scene. The stench was horrible, a mixture of airplane fuel and burning waste from the latrines. God, there's nothing like the smell of burning shit."

"The smell, the heat and people walking around, carrying heavy machine guns, really woke me up to reality," Sandecki said.

"But the real terror was yet to come. We were shelled all the time. The government said we were safe, but the evac hospital was located right next to where the ammo was stored, so we were constantly being shelled," Sandecki said.

"We weren't safe," she added. "That's what people don't understand. I saw combat just like the guys."

And just like the men in the army, Sandecki and the other nurses spent 12 months witnessing the war from center stage. But the nurses couldn't carry weapons. They were supposed to depend on male doctors for protection.

Sandecki said women in Vietnam confronted their own battle line — discrimination.

"We were expected to attend social functions. If you didn't show up at the officer's club

there would be rumors that something was wrong with you. You were either gay or shacking up with one of the doctors. They couldn't understand that we were exhausted from working 12 hours a day," she said.

Many American women served time in Vietnam, though not all were nurses. Teaching, communications and Red Cross work were some of the other fields with women workers.

"No one knows how many women were in Vietnam," Sandecki said. "Estimates range from 7,500 to 55,500."

Through Sandecki's national circuit for women Vietnam veterans, she has tried to locate these women so they can meet and work through some of their frustrations; however, the task of finding and helping them has



Photo by Bill Harpole  
Saturday's football crowd at Autzen stadium was treated to a sunny afternoon and the Ducks' win over the University of the Pacific Tigers, 30-14.  
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## OSPIRG wants CUB in Oregon

By Scott McFetridge  
Of the Emerald

Consumer advocate Ralph Nader visited the University in 1971 and decided the student climate was right for founding the first of his long-desired "student action armies."

It's not an army anymore, but 13 years later the Oregon Student Public Interest and Research Group is still working to get students involved in the world around them, says Louis Tippens, OSPIRG project coordinator.

While OSPIRG members say they usually work on a variety of projects, their principal cause this year has been getting Ballot Measure 3, the Citizen's Utility Board, on the state ballot and subsequently getting the measure passed.

Oregon is the only state in the country with a sole public utility commissioner who is completely responsible for decisions concerning requests for rate hikes. As a result of this, Donna Lawrence, local OSPIRG chair, claims that public utilities have been the top profit-makers in the state for the last three years, and are making unfair profits at the expense of the ratepayers.

The public utilities have a large and

professional entourage of lawyers, accountants and energy experts representing them at rate request hearings Lawrence says. The average ratepayer on the other hand, doesn't have such professional representation at the hearings, and as a consequence, rate increases are almost always granted, she says.

However, if CUB is passed by Oregon voters this November, consumers would gain this informed voice at the hearings, Lawrence says.

As proposed, CUB would consist of a 15-member board, with three members elected from each congressional district, Lawrence says. These boardmembers would in turn select a staff of experts to represent utility customers, she says.

"We will hire the same people as the utilities except at a public-interest wage," Tippens says.

Tippens cites the performance of CUB in Wisconsin as proof that a citizens utility board will work. CUB began there four years ago and now has approximately 90,000 members. It is estimated that CUB has saved Wisconsin ratepayers \$285 million, Tippens says.

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## Woman Vietnam veteran helps others deal with war

By Diana Elliott  
Of the Emerald

It's no secret that when "our boys" returned home from Vietnam more than a decade ago they were greeted with animosity. But they weren't the only ones who got brickbats instead of bouquets from the millions of Americans who opposed the war, Rose Sandecki, team leader of the Concord, Calif. Vet Center said.

Sandecki is one of at least 7,500 women who she says are "the forgotten veterans" of the Vietnam War. With four years of active duty in the Army Nurse Corps in Vietnam more than ten years behind her, Sandecki now devotes her time to lecturing on issues that relate to women Vietnam veterans.

By traveling around the country and discussing her wartime memories, Sandecki encourages

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