

PALMS

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legitimate.

Hyman didn't realize he was doing a trick until he told a customer the opposite of what their palm lines "said." When the person was still thrilled by the accuracy of his reading, Hyman knew there was something more to palm reading than in-

terpreting hands.

Today, in addition to teaching classes at the University, Hyman spends his time learning why people like himself can be conned.

For all his training in the art of deception, Hyman has been fooled a number of times by other magicians.

One time a graduate student completely stumped him with a magic trick. Eventually, the stu-

dent told the professor that he had learned the stunt from a magazine article by "a guy named Ray Hyman."

"He had changed it enough so I didn't even recognize my own trick," he said.

An internationally-known specialist in the psychology of deception, part of Hyman's time is spent figuring out the tricks of fortune tellers from around the world.

Two summers ago, Hyman flew to England to help discredit the popular radio call-in psychic Christian Dion.

Hyman said Dion would only talk about different combinations of the same 13 areas with his callers.

For example, Dion would tell a caller that she or someone close to her was currently considering a career change or having money problems. Often, he was accurate because the categories were general enough that they could apply to anybody.

Hyman first became interested in deception as a 7-year-old during the Depression, when his father bought him a few tricks from a magic store.

Throughout his high school years in Everett, Mass., he was able to make enough money performing magic shows to help fund part of his college tuition.

After a while, he began inventing his own tricks, writing them up and sending them to the magician's trade magazine *Linking Rings*. He was featured on the magazine's cover in 1953 and in 1986.

Since the early 1970s, Hyman has been incorporating what he knows about magic into some of the classes he teaches.

Until a few years ago, he taught "Pseudo Psychology," a class dealing with the activities of fortune tellers and psychics. Now, he incorporates his psychic knowledge into his department's "Thinking" course.

Hyman usually begins that course by asking two volunteers if they can bend keys with their minds. While the class' attention is focused on them, he secretly bends a key by using another key as a lever.

When the volunteers say they can't do it, he gently strokes the bent key in front of the class, creating the illusion that he is bending it right then.

After the demonstration, he asks his students how they think he did it. They reply with blank stares.

"I've gotten away with it since 1972," he said.

Besides tricking students, Hyman plans to continue working on a book he started some time ago tentatively titled *How Smart People Go Wrong*.

Laurie Freier (left) and Judie Hamilton (right) have joined the Clinic for Women. Laurie is from Ames, Iowa, where she worked for the Doran Clinic for Women. Judie has worked for many years as a labor and delivery nurse for Sacred Heart.



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