

# Mind over matter: Evasons dazzle students with mind tricks

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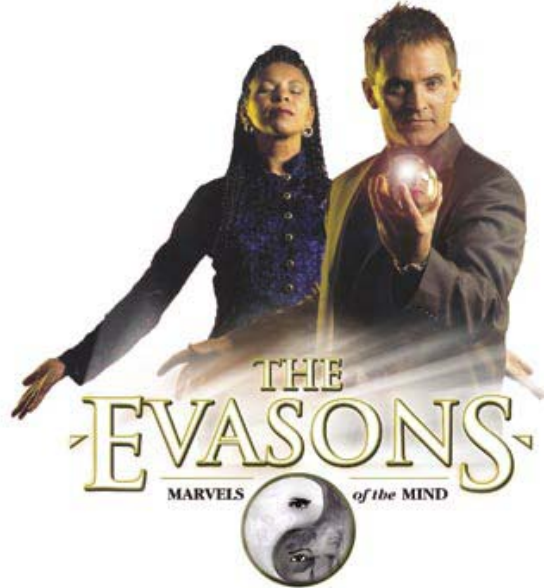
An older gentleman stares into the face of his watch. He is a skeptical but willing volunteer. As he thinks of the word stop, the second hand freezes. When he thinks of the word start, the watch begins to tick. He is amazed. Was this magic or some unknown power of the human mind? The audience inside the Storer Ballroom is left to wonder. Jeff and Tessa Evason have done their jobs.

The Evasons call themselves the psychic duo. Together they have entertained audiences in 28 countries. On March 28 they brought their act to Shepherd University. The Program Board sponsored the event.

"Many times during our show, people are totally speechless because they've never seen anything like this before," said Jeff Evason. So what exactly did community members and students get to see?

Tessa Evason was responsible for performing acts of telepathy, ESP, mind over matter, and levitation. Her husband kept the show moving by choosing volunteers and making jokes. The couple began the show by saying that the most basic form of communication involves numbers. A girl from the audience was asked to open her cell phone and choose one number from her phone book. Tessa Evason, with her back turned to the audience, correctly guessed the 7 digit number. She then asked the volunteer to imagine who would be at the other end of the line if she dialed the number. Evason knew the name of that person.

Jeff Evason then asked members of the audience for



personal objects. Junior Courtney Mittelholzer held up a ring. Tessa Evason said, without looking, that the item in Mittelholzer's hand was a ring with three blue stones. She went on to say that it came from a woman close to the student, her aunt. Evason even knew the aunt's name.

Mittelholzer confirmed that all of this information was accurate.

Student Kathy Olhaber was lifted by the performance, literally. Four male volunteers lifted her with only their finger tips. Another female volunteer sat on stage in front of a white screen. The Evasons asked her to name a person in the audience with whom she would like to connect. She named her friend and that girl was brought to the front of the room. The Evasons asked the volunteer sitting on stage to concentrate with her eyes closed. They then had her friend take a Polaroid of her. When the photo developed there was an image of a face above her. The girl was shocked and visibly shaken as she walked off stage.

Education major Josh Riggs thought the show was amazing.

"It was most definitely real." Tessa Evason correctly guessed Josh's name during the show. However, recent Shepherd graduate Matt Roy felt the performance was fake.

The Evasons said that it is not their goal to make people believe in the existence of psychic ability. They simply want to generate enthusiasm and entertain the audience. They added that it would be nice if people kept an open mind about what they are seeing.

The Evasons have been featured on major television networks including FOX, NBC, PAX and The Comedy Network. They have also performed at The Tropicana, Caesar's Palace and The Rio. They spend much of their year on the road entertaining college and university campuses.

"I'm not sure if they made a believer out of me. However, I was shocked and amazed as were many people sitting next to me. Jeff Evason said, "Hopefully we give everybody an experience they will never forget!"