

•Auditions for "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" and "Our Country's Good," 7-10 p.m., Aug. 20 and 21, Longstreet Theatre. For more information, call 777-9353.

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## USC students fall under hypnosis

enclave editor RUTH NETTLES

Students gathered two nights ago in the Russell House Ballroom to watch their friends stand up on stage, forget their names, act like Tarzan and dance with brooms.

Michael Anthony calls himself a hypnotist, his own word for what he does.

His show combines mentalism (what looks to us like magic tricks) and hypnotism.

"My uncle did hypnosis and magic. I first got interested from him," Anthony said.

He began by learning magic and moved into hypnosis in his early 20s. He studied neural linguistics programming, or NLP, in Canada.

NLP is a method of reading a person's physiological signs to understand what parts of his brain are being accessed and, therefore, what he might be thinking.

Anthony has also been certified in Ericsonian hypnosis, the stage hypnosis he performs.

"When people don't understand how something happens, they think I must have some 'power,'" Anthony explained.

"I'm the first to tell them not to take me too seriously."

One of his most entertaining shows was at a corporate function with well-dressed businessmen.

"I had already told one of them he was hot, and so he had taken off his tie and loosened his shirt," recalls Anthony, "And then I told him whenever he heard the word 'Tarzan,' he would jump up, beat his chest, and then when he stopped, he wouldn't know what he had been doing. He ended up tearing off his shirt, popping off all of the buttons!" Anthony traveled from table to table in the Russell House Tuesday afternoon to entertain and gain interest in his show.

As he performed one card trick, he told the students with a big smile, "Pick a card... I'll go ahead and tell you now I cheat."

He performed a two-hour show Tuesday night in the ballroom to an audience of fascinated students who couldn't stop laughing.

In his shows, Anthony begins with 30 or 40 volunteers who rush the stage, and gradually narrows it down to a group of 15 by looking for signs of a trance.

By looking for dilation of pupils, flushed faces, and other signs, he can tell which members of the group are most suggestible and uses them.

Once Anthony had chosen his 15 volunteers, the night's real laughter began.

The volunteers were made to feel extremely hot, and clothes began to come off. Then they were made to feel very cold, and they began to huddle together.

One girl was made to forget the number six. When she began to count her fingers, she got 10, then 11, then 12 and couldn't understand why.

Perhaps one of the best suggestions to the group was when they were told that they were in the fifth grade and Anthony was their much-hated teacher. Whenever he turned his back, they made faces and gestures at him.

Shortly afterwards, Anthony used a red handkerchief and a black handkerchief to alternately (and even simultaneously) put the volunteers into peals of laughter and then make them turn their heads in disgust.

Both the audience and the volunteers were thoroughly entertained by the end of the evening.

Anthony has been doing these performances for eight years.

This was the second year in a row he's entertained USC during Welcome Week.



ASHLEY CRAIG The Gamecock

Hypnotist Michael Anthony checks on students who fell asleep while in a trance. Anthony came Tuesday night to the Russell House Ballroom for a show sponsored by Carolina Productions.

## Book makes first college experience an academic one

asst. features editor DENESHIA GRAHAM

Even though today marks the first day of classes, a select group of freshmen started their academics on Monday with the First Year Reading Experience.

The program is an effort to involve freshmen in an academic experience during Welcome Week and before classes begin.

"The First Year Reading Experience demonstrates to the scared new freshmen that faculty members are human and that the freshmen can engage in stimulating intellectual discussion about a novel without fear of uttering their own opinion," said Don Greiner, associate provost and dean of undergraduate affairs.

Greiner created the program five years ago in response to students who said they wanted more academic activities with professors outside of the classroom, and a more intellectual experience in common among their peers.

"I never had any trouble getting faculty to participate," Greiner said.

However, he was concerned that freshmen were getting the wrong impression when the first

activity of the year was Greek rush, a social activity.

While Greiner, who is a member of a Greek organization, recognizes the importance of social involvement, he feels that the year should begin with academics. Therefore, the reading experience program is scheduled for the first Monday morning of every school year.

This year's novel was "Who Will Run The Frog Hospital?" by Lorrie Moore.

Cynthia Davis, assistant professor of English and a scholar on the topic of women writers, served as guest speaker.

Past selections have included "The Water is Wide" by Pat Conroy, "Rich in Love" by Josephine Humphreys, "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald and "The Bear" by William Faulkner.

The first two years, authors Conroy and Humphreys were able to attend the program and serve as the guest speakers.

Both Fitzgerald and Faulkner were chosen because that year marked their 100th birthdays.

A novel by Ernest Hemingway, who would be 100 years old in 1999, is likely to be next year's selection.

"I like the fact that we have an opportunity to sit down to explore a piece of literature"

Denise Wellman  
University 101 instructor

Unlike past years, when students had to buy their own books, the program this year was able to provide the book for all participants.

Greiner said participation was mandatory.

The program started at 8:30 a.m. in the Russell House and ended at 12:30 p.m.

During the program, the students separated into their University 101 classes to discuss the novel.

"I like the fact that, before classes begin, we have an opportunity to sit down in a rather informal setting to explore a piece of literature and try to figure out what it means to you and what it means to me and what it means for us collectively," University 101 instructor Denise Wellman said.

Wellman thinks that the program sets the tone for the rest of the semester and allows students

to see that higher education is a participatory process.

Freshman Felicia Sampson also enjoyed the program.

"I thought it was interesting," she said.

"I had fun doing it."

Sampson admits that at first she didn't like the book.

"Once we started talking about it, I liked it better," she said.

All Honors College freshmen and 25 sections of University 101 classes were included this year, a total of 675 students.

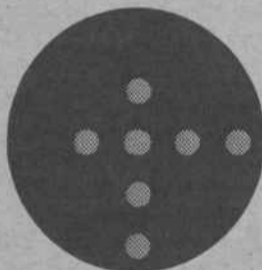
Greiner said he'd like to see the entire freshman class involved in the program, but there's no room large enough in the Russell House to accommodate that number of students.

We can't offer expense accounts for expensive trips or limos for high profile concerts.

But we can offer the chance to meet lots of interesting people and your name in print.

Come to our features writers' meeting at 3 p.m. every Wednesday in Russell House 333. You can also call 777-3913.

The Gamecock.  
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### FALL 1998 Calendar

August 13-21	Coliseum fee payment (not open Sat or Sun)
August 15	Halls open 10:00 a.m.
August 18	Cancellation of registration for non-payment at 5 p.m.
August 20	Classes begin
August 26	Last day to drop/add, Fall room change begins
September 7	Labor Day/No classes
September 18-20	Parents Weekend
October 1	Last day to drop without a grade of WF being recorded
October 12-13	Fall Break/No classes
November 3	Election Day/No classes
November 4-5	Semester room change
November 25	Thanksgiving Break begins Halls close at 10 a.m.
November 29	Thanksgiving Break ends Halls open at noon
December 4	Last day of classes
December 7-14	Final exams
December 14	Commencement exercises
December 15	Halls close at 10 a.m.

## Get Involved

Becoming involved in campus life is one of the most important aspects of living on campus.

- Serve as a member of the *Hall Government*, *Area Councils* or campus-wide *Residence Hall Association (RHA)*
- Join the *Leaders in Residence programs*; *National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH)* or the *WILD Team (Working to Inspire Leadership Development)*
- Meet others at hall sponsored events, student leadership conferences and by serving on hall committees
- Improve your academic skills by stopping by the *Academic Center For Excellence (ACE)* and joining classmates in the hall studies and classrooms
- Get to know your professors better by joining *faculty/student activities* spanning from the classroom to the dining room
- Connect with faculty and staff using the area *computer labs* or data lines in your room

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777.4283 [www.housing.sc.edu](http://www.housing.sc.edu)