

Mind readers mystify college crowd

By LYNN ODENS

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One week ago, the Student Center's lower food court was packed with people who wanted to see if Jeff and Tessa Evason could really read their minds.

It did not take long for the students to realize the famous duo is for real.

The couple chose volunteers from the audience and Tessa was able to tell them their first and last name as well as family members' names whom she had never met before.

Freshman Ryan Becker, was a participant in the show. Tessa was able to tell the audience Becker's first and last name and what color of ball he picked out of a bag in one of their acts.

"I was skeptical, but after the show, I along with pretty much everyone else was blown off their feet," Becker said.

While the crowd was

stunned already, Tessa was just getting warmed up.

In another act, Tessa left the room and five audience members each took a playing card. Tessa was still able to tell what playing cards each volunteer audience member was holding.

But it did not stop there.

An audience member was asked to call a family member at home.

While the person at home was drawing a card out of the deck, Tessa was also doing the same. She was able to pick the same card that the family member hours away from Wayne also picked.

These acts were just a few of the many that the Evasons performed.

Jeff and Tessa began their act in 1983. At the time, Jeff was working as a radio announcer and Tessa was a fashion model.

They met through a mutual friend, a fashion designer, who was looking to enhance her fashion show by adding acts of illusion. Tessa imme-

diately volunteered.

Their act was a hit and they decided to put their talents together. They began to work around the Toronto area, where they lived at the time.

It was not long before they received an offer to perform on a Caribbean cruise ship for six months.

In the couple's magic acts, they also demonstrated telepathy, which intrigued the audience the most.

They decided to study the area of psychic phenomena further to dedicate more of their show to performances of ESP.

"Tessa was always very intuitive, even at a young age," Jeff said.

While what Tessa does on stage depends upon intuition, it can be a learned trait, according to Jeff. However, having that natural intuitiveness helps.



Photo by Nicole Rabe

Tessa Evason guesses the identities of the audience.

"We don't ask people to believe...we do this for entertainment," Jeff said.

Jeff and Tessa Evason now live in Annapolis, Md., and they travel all over the

world. They have no secret assistants and do not use any electronic communication devices. The couple even offers \$25,000 to anyone who can prove otherwise.