

Hypnotist has students hula dancing, battling invisible foes

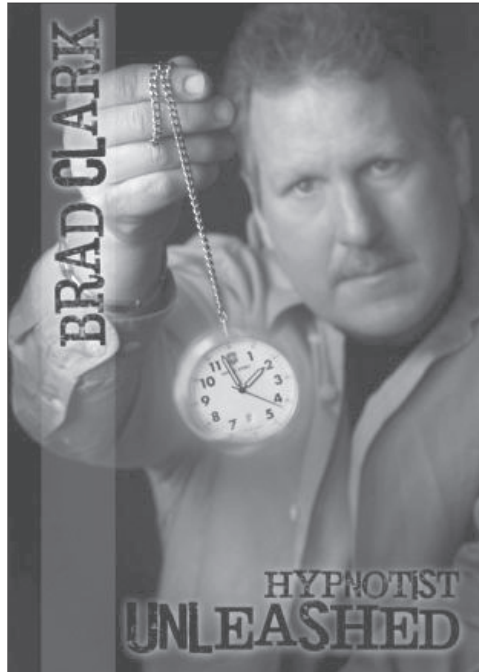
By Erin Brown
Staff Writer

On Jan. 19, in the Mott Auditorium, hypnotist Brad Clark, known as the Hypnotist Unleashed, provided a show that lasted for almost two hours, hypnotizing not only the 16 volunteers on the stage but a few members of the audience as well.

The night began with a question and answer session, as Clark answered questions about his career as well as the art of hypnotism, telling the audience of more than 50 that everyone is suggestible. Of his 10-year career, he said that he began with studying self-hypnotism and then continued on to learn from a hypnotist that he knew. "All hypnosis is self-hypnosis," Clark said. "Your mind and your body don't know the difference between imagination and reality."

He repeated that statement multiple times throughout the night, and also said that confidence is key. Clark also said that the only people who could not be hypnotized were people that didn't want to be hypnotized. "[You just have to] close your eyes, relax, and follow my simple directions," said Clark.

Clark also noted that hypnotism can be used for more than just the purpose



Courtesy photo

Brad Clark, hypnotist, performed for the students of Olivet College on Jan. 19.

of entertainment; examples he listed were dentistry, motivational purposes for athletes,

and calming techniques taught to police and emergency personnel.

Clark also discussed the effects and limits of hypnotism. "[I] can't make anyone do anything against their moral or ethical will," he said, and then he explained that a person will not do things against their will because they are still aware of what they think is right or wrong.

After this introduction to the show, Jason Meadows, director of student activities, gave an introduction of his own. "Get ready to see the show or be the show," he said, and then he gave the stage to Clark, who began what he called his scripted performance. He spoke about daydreaming, and he said that it is the number one form of hypnotic trances that people experience.

Then, he had the audience participate in the first exercise, which he said was his way of seeing who would be easily hypnotized. Audience members were told to hold their arms out and move them in circles for around a minute, and then clasp their hands together with their index fingers extended about an inch apart. They were told to imagine that their fingers would be pulled together as though they were magnets, and Clark said that they should almost will it.

He then chose 16 volunteers, eight males and eight females, who were seated so that they were in a male, female, male, female pattern, and were 'put to sleep' so that Clark could begin to guide them through scenarios that increased in creativity and amusement for the audience.

These scenarios varied from a hula dancing contest to a beach that had a temperature which varied from comfortable, plummeted to being too cold, rose to being too warm, and then fell back to being just right for the individual participant. Other scenarios involved a participant not being able to remember her name until she said the letter 'Q', as well as a participant who had the task of controlling the laughter in the audience. The show, which began at 9 p.m., ended with the males who had been hypnotized sliding around on the stage and the females fighting invisible spies,

"I thought it was a good experience," said sophomore Antonio Todd. "[It was] something to get people out of their rooms."

Meadows said, "According to the student feedback [surveys], the overall consensus stated that the [Brad Clark hypnotist] program was excellent. This was a good program to kick off the new year."

MTG cuts hits struggling students hard

By JD Sullivan
Guest Writer

Elected officials in Lansing have made deep cuts into the Michigan Tuition Grant (MTG), cuts that are hitting hard for students such as senior Dustin Mateling, who said, "Personally, it hurt pretty bad."

The MTG, according to the Michigan student financial aid Web site, is made available to residents who have a financial need for assistance to attend an independent university or college such as Olivet College. Thirty-seven higher education institutions in Michigan participate in the MTG. In the middle of this academic year, this award was being cut by 23 percent. According to Vice President for Enrollment Management Larry Vallar's office, this is a drop from \$2,100 to \$1,610.

Because the MTG is for students who have a financial need, the students who are affected by the cuts face an already tight

budget, making this cut stressful. Freshman Alex Monday said, "I have no money at all, so I depend on that [grant] money... now I have unneeded amounts of stress and strain on my shoulders."

An e-mail sent by Vallar's office claims that this cut is good news because it was estimated that the cut could have gone as deep as 50 percent. But Mateling calls this cut "bad news bears."

Monday said, "I would like state legislators to know that with the actions they have done, I believe it is a window into their true actions and I question their integrity."

State House Rep. Rick Jones (R) whose District 71 includes Olivet College, said, "I place education as a high priority. However, the state is in a crisis and we have to balance the budget." Mark Engle, the Democrat candidate for District 71 said, "It is unfair that it has been cut and we need to restore it."

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