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## Profile



[Steve Higgins](#) is a psychology graduate student at an online university. He

hopes that the three weeks and \$29.95 that he is spending on his Ph.D. will get him a job at a Tier 1 research university. Do online universities have postdocs? ok... just kidding Steve is a [real graduate student at a real school.](#)



[Sandra Klume](#) is a neuromarketing test subject. Her McLobe appears to have an affinity for tofu,

which is skewing the data and annoying the burger people.

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## The Magic of Consciousness Symposium

Category: [Psychology](#)

Posted on: April 12, 2007 12:09 PM, by [Steve Higgins](#)

In honor of the Magic of Consciousness Symposium coming up (See below the fold for details) here's a video of Penn and Teller explaining the art of Sleight of Hand tricks.



### The Magic of Consciousness Symposium

The ASSC11 Co-Chairs are happy to announce a Special Symposium that promises to showcase the "Magic of Consciousness" to even the hardest-nosed skeptic. Please join us and five of the world's premier stage magicians on Sunday June 24th, 2007, between 5:30pm and 7:30pm, so that these world-class performers may share their deep intuitions and insights on the covert manipulation of attention and awareness with the research community.

The five magicians joining us will be:

- \* Teller, of Penn & Teller, will speak about the difference between motion and action "Action is motion with a purpose"
- \* Mac King, headliner at Harrah's on The Strip, will speak about why: "It's a bad idea to do the same trick twice" And why magicians never announce their tricks in advance
- \* James Randi, aka The Amazing Randi, and Founder of the James Randi Foundation will present: "Implying data that isn't there" Or how an audience can be lulled into eagerly accepting suggestions and unspoken information
- \* Johnny Thompson, from The Great Tomsoni and Co. will talk about: "Closing all the doors" Or the importance of reducing all potential explanations to nothing but magic
- \* Apollo Robbins, Professional Thief and Pickpocket, who successfully pickpocketed the presidential secret service guarding Jimmy Carter, will discuss: "Misdirection is the story that you make them remember" Or how the audience believes what they are tricked into believing, despite evidence to the contrary

[Go here for more information!](#)

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### What the Brain is Reading

[Rooting Out the Robin Hood Effect -- Mosher 2007 \(411\): 3 -- ScienceNOW](#)

When given the chance, people will sacrifice their own incomes to punish the rich and help the poor. That's the conclusion of a new study, which shows that we harness our inner Robin Hoods to promote egalitarianism--although our motives are not always pur

[About Creation, Pope Melds Faith With Science - New York Times](#)

ROME, April 11 — Science cannot fully explain the mystery of creation, Pope Benedict XVI said in comments about evolution that were published in a book on Wednesday. At the same time, he did not reject evolutionary theory or endorse any alternative for

[ScienceDaily: Depression Can Be Identified Through Internet Questionnaire](#)

The Internet offers a valuable opportunity for the public to screen themselves for depression. This is the conclusion of a study published today in BMC Psychiatry, which demonstrates that a Chinese online tool for assessing depression is both accurate and


[ScienceDaily: Most Physicians Believe That Religion Influences Patients' Health](#)


More than half of physicians believe that religion and spirituality have a significant influence on patients' health, according to a report in the April 9 issue of Archives of Internal Medicine, one of the JAMA/Archives journals. Physicians who are most r

[news @ nature.com - Violin makers can't pick out good wood - Traditional techniques fail to select materials with the best sound.](#)

Despite their reputation as master craftspeople, violin makers don't actually choose the best materials. According to research by a team based in Austria, they tend to pick their wood more for its looks than for its acoustic qualities. Christoph Buksnowit

[How Dont I Love Thee? - TierneyLab - Science - New York Times Blog](#)

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### Comments

I hear there may be thieves and pickpockets in attendance, maybe I'll just catch a few clips afterwards on webcast. #1

Posted by: Mustafa Mond, FCD | [April 12, 2007 12:16 PM](#)

I think magic is so cool. I wish I were going to this conference! #2

Posted by: Katherine | [April 12, 2007 02:43 PM](#)

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