

Magic moments at their best

by Lori Beals
Collegian Staff Writer

With fire shooting from one end of his black wand, magician/comedian Bob Garner starts his show Friday September 18th. After he put out the fire by waving the wand in the air, the crowd settled back for a night of amusing magic. First he made his pet, an Indian parakeet, appear from a long bunch of red ribbons he was holding. To get the audience loosened up, he told a story about how a con artist got away with ten dollars of his by pretending to burn it up. Getting ten dollars from a volunteer in the audience, he put it in an envelope and had the volunteer sign it. Then he proceeded to burn the envelope to the volunteer's chagrin. But as luck, or magic, would have it, the envelope with the signature and the ten dollar bill was found in a zippered wallet inside the jacket of his tuxedo.

His next trick was to take needles and put them in his mouth, put a string in his mouth, and drink some water. After some odd facial movements, he pulled the end of the string out of his mouth. As he continued to pull, the needles he had "eaten" came out attached to the string.

Next he did a "telepathy" trick using three volunteers from the audience. One picked a card, one chose a city, and one thought up a name. He wrote what he thought

were the items the people had picked on a chalkboard. To the amazement of the audience, he got all the answers right, even the city of Har-dheim, W. Germany.

After this he had three people write down three numbers in a notebook, while he wrote down what he thought the sum of the numbers would be. Of course, when added, somehow the numbers added up to 1,023, the amount he had written down.

He chose Matthew, age five, from the audience to help with his next trick. He had Matthew examine and knock on a small mirror to make sure it was solid. Then he put the mirror in a paper bag, pulled a knitting needle through it, and bent the mirror in half.

He chose two guys to come on stage to help with his hoop tricks. They each got a hoop around their necks, and two people in the crowd were given hoops. The guys tied his thumbs together and the people in the audience threw the hoops at him and he caught them, somehow getting past the tied thumbs. He also retrieved the hoops from around the necks of the guys.

His next trick was the mandatory "Saw a Lady in Half" trick. By some twist of fate (maybe the fact that I was sitting near the front had something to do with it), this hapless reporter was chosen to be the one sawed in half! He told me to come up front, I put down my pen and paper with which I was recording the show, and mounted the stage. I sat on a long table, then was told to lie down, which I did

with some hesitation. As he gave his patter he put a red (of all colors) towel over my stomach, and also an arch shaped board, which he also placed over my middle. He asked me questions such as what instrument he would cut me in half with, and prompted me with the answers. He showed me and the audience the tool with which he would carve me up—a Black and Decker electric hand saw with a sharp blade! At this point I was a little nervous, but became more so when he bent down and whispered to me "Don't move." A pause. "I'm serious!" A comedian who's serious? That's trouble.

He started the saw and carefully began to cut me in half, his face contorted with the effort. After what seemed like quite a while to me, he finished, and to my relief I was still all in one piece. Then slowly he removed the board and towel to show the audience that I was still whole, and I finally was allowed to sit down and watch the end of the show.

His last tricks were to make the bird that he made appear at the beginning of the show, disappear. The bird was in a glass box, which he covered for a moment with a gold cloth, but the bird was gone when he removed the cover. His last trick, which he admitted to us was his favorite, was the "Rip up the Newspaper and Make it Whole Again" trick, which he performed to music. He ripped the paper until it was in two inch squares, then magically made it reappear whole again.

The audience of about 60 people gave him a well deserved round of applause, and he disappeared into the room behind the stage. A few moments later he reemerged, and called me up to the front saying that since I had to go through the experience of being sawed in half, I should at least have an autographed picture of him to remember it by. He also signed autographs for the others who came to the front.

In talking about how he became a magician/comedian, he said he became interested in magic "when I was a little kid." He started by picking up tricks out of books, and eventually became good enough that he was "groomed by the top dogs," such as technical directors from the magic shows of Blackstone, Jr. and David Copperfield. Bob Garner has been in the magic business for seven years, after turning pro at age 20. He worked doing magic shows in resorts, hotels, on cruises, and at colleges. But the comedy side of his show, he admits, "happened by accident...I started being myself." He told me that much of his humor comes from the fact that "I respond back to the audience." And they respond back to him. What I want to know is, how was I cut in half?!



Bob Garner, Magician

Reptile World— Scales above the rest

by Michelle Gasmick
Collegian Staff Writer

Picture yourself in a tropical jungle or a dense swamp, somewhere in the heart of Africa. As you make your way through the thick vegetation, you encounter a wild, exotic reptile with each step you take. This is very close to the feeling Behrend students had at Reptile World on September 21st. Reptile World was presented by Michael Schwedick, a reptile expert, who travels along the East Coast displaying his various reptiles to enthused audiences.

Michael began his presentation with some history about himself and information about reptiles. He and his brother co-own a reptile center in Landover, Maryland. Ever since his youth, he'd been fascinated with reptiles and their lifestyles. (Especially snakes, which his mother refused to let him have because they have no legs.) Michael went on to explain that reptiles do not regulate their own body temperatures; instead, their body temperature equals that of the temperature in the room. However, they prefer warmth, and are much more active in a warm environment.

The first reptile to go on display was "Buttercup", an albino Siamese, soft shell turtle from Thailand. Instead of being Army green, Buttercup was the bright yellow his name implies. Had he not been rescued from nature, it would have been quite unlikely that he would have survived due to his lack of camouflage protection. His shell was very soft, about the hardness of leather, through which his backbone and ribs could be seen. Michael then presented the audience with "Igg", a South American green Iguana. He seemed to be quite a hit among the au-

dience, especially due to his bright streaks of color and prehistoric-looking spines on his back. His spines are used to absorb ultraviolet rays from the sun to warm his body and ward off any potential predators. Underneath his chin was a flap of skin called a "dulp", which when blown up, would also intimidate his enemies.

Cookie the crocodile, was the next reptile the audience had the opportunity to see. The crocodile and the alligator are the two smartest reptiles, and even display maternal instincts. Crocodiles help nudge their young to water and keep a special eye out for them until they can fend for themselves. Unfortunately, crocodiles are on the endangered species list, mainly due to the use of their hide to make shoes and purses.

Tex, the alligator, was caught in Maryland, and had nearly starved to death. Most likely, someone had taken him from Texas, grown tired of him, and left him to die in a lake in Maryland. However, Michael and his brother have done an

outstanding job of nursing him back to health.

Finally, Michael tempted fate, and brought out his wide variety of snakes, fanging from boa constrictors to pit vipers which spit venom all over the table while attempting to strike. A large portion of the audience got to experience the sound of the rattle from a rattlesnake for the first time.

The crowning glory of the entire performance was the display of "Junior Miss," an eight year old, fourteen foot long python weighing 162 pounds. It took seven volunteers from the audience to lift her from the box. Everyone was quite openly impressed. When the show ended, the audience was invited to experience Junior Miss in person.

The show was quite impressive and left the audience with a greater understanding and appreciation of reptiles. Some even overcame misconceptions and fears of the animals. Michael Schwedick kept his audience fully entranced, as he most surely does everyday along the East Coast of the United States.

Retreat Progress

by Susanna Jalosky
Collegian Staff Writer

One warm fall afternoon, 39 students from Behrend college boarded the blue bus carrying sleeping bags, footballs, and duffle bags stuffed with sweet pants and munchies. Before they had a chance to start a chorus of their favorite travel-ditty, the bus pulled onto the grounds of Camp Glinodo. Every student seemed eager to spend a weekend in the wild. These 39 students were the participants of this year's Leader-

ship Retreat. The agenda consisted of nine hours of seminars and workshops, with plenty of time left for outdoor or indoor recreation. Some students, however, chose to use their free time catching up on homework.

Some of the seminars were Leadership Styles by Chris Reber, Assertiveness Training by P.J. Brown, and Meeting Management by Jamie Grimm. In an interview with John Downey, assistant to the Dean of Student Services, he conveyed a very enthusiastic attitude toward Behrend's student involvement. He also reported that he was happy with the success of this year's retreat.

A lot of stress was placed on student involvement: How to get involved, utilizing abilities to the benefit of the organization, and increasing camaradery with both students and faculty. A seminar given by Mary Beth Peterson on Activities and Your Future Career, showed the students how involvement can aid in job search, self assessment and maturity. The students also had a chance to participate in a question/answer session with Jack Burke. A tremendous amount of topics were covered during this time. As John Downey put it, "The students truly did act as the voice and representation of the student body."

At the end of the retreat the surveys were collected and tabulated. John Downey said the general consensus was great. The seminars were helpful as well as informative and everyone really had a good time. John chuckled, "The most entertaining part of the retreat was finding my boxer shorts strung up the flagpole!"

The participants of this year's Leadership retreat benefitted from the leadership skills taught, however, 39 students out of Behrend's entire population is few. Many others may be equally as interested. For those people a leadership class is in the making as well as a Leadership Seminar Series which is said to begin on October first.

FAMOUS LAST WORDS:

"But you can't get pregnant doing it standing up!"

There's a lot of dangerous information about sex. Dangerous because it's just plain wrong.

If you don't know the facts, you can get into extremely serious trouble. How many of these mistakes have you heard others make?

"YOU CAN'T GET PREGNANT DOING IT STANDING UP!"

Gravity has nothing to do with getting pregnant. The millions of sperm in each ejaculation can live for two or three days inside of you. Jumping up and down won't stop them. Doing it standing up won't faze them. It takes just one sperm to get you pregnant.

"YOU CAN'T GET PREGNANT THE FIRST TIME!"

It's all the same to eggs and sperm. They're ready the first time, every time, even if you're not. It's not a matter of "luck." It's just a fact of life. If you have sex and don't use an effective method of birth control, you are going to get pregnant. If you don't want it to happen, you have to do something to stop it from happening.

"YOU CAN'T GET PREGNANT WHEN YOU'RE BLEEDING."

Oh, yes you can. Some girls can have bleeding when they ovulate—the most fertile time—and think it's their period. Think of bleeding as the start of a cycle, not the end of one. Because few girls have periods like clockwork, calculating the actual low points in your fertility cycle is the most difficult birth control method there is. Even when you do it right, it's the one that's most likely to go wrong.

"DOUCHING WITH SODA POP REALLY WORKS!"

If it did, you can bet the companies who make the stuff would be selling it for a lot more than they do! The fact is, douching with any kind of soda pop is not only useless, it's extremely dangerous. Douching with anything is no substitute for the simple, effective birth control methods you can buy at any drugstore without a prescription. We wish there was an easy way to prevent pregnancy "after the fact," but there isn't.

This year, a million teenage girls will get pregnant because they didn't know how not to. Or because they "thought" they knew, but really didn't.

Getting pregnant is easy. You don't have to be smart. You don't have to be popular. You don't have to be anything except mistaken. Just once, about one thing.

Nobody's born knowing the facts of life. Everybody has to learn them. And the best way to learn is by asking people you're absolutely sure know the answer. Like your parents. Or your teacher. Or the people at Planned Parenthood. We're listed in the phone book. We can help. That's what we're here for.

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