



Puppet Magic

by Sue Beck

David Syrotiak is not a magician; Yet what other than magic could temporarily change a roomful of college students back into children for an hour? The answer is puppetry. On Friday, April 6th, the National Marionette Theatre entertained an enchanted crowd of Penn-Staters in Room 101.

Four modular stage units, precise timing and appropriate music compiled this one-man show — not to mention the excellent costuming by Carol White and stage sets by Tom Creallo.

There were nine scenes showing the basic concepts of puppet movements, staging, and applications of both.

Of the nine, the most popular skits included a funky, dancing bear, a flower-picking gentleman in the park and a roller skater who is extremely dependant on his puppeteer.

The audience seemed especially touched by "a tiny enchantment". It featured an adorable white-haired old woman with a balloon fetish which literally grows by leaps and bounds as

she is catapulted through the air by her once-innocent balloons.

This entire production was geared towards an adult audience although the company also specializes in children's shows.

The Marionette theatre was founded in 1964 by David Syrotiak who designs, constructs and manipulates the puppets. His entourage has performed in numerous countries including Belgium, France, Switzerland, and the Soviet Union.

My. Syrotiak's interest in puppets began in second grade yet he has studied human anatomy and the theater extensively in order to acquire his fine touch for depicting human reactions through puppets. He affirms that many long hours of practice are required each day in order to become "Me with the puppet". He also admitted that in doing so, he sometimes feels physically tired after the puppet has done something strenuous!

Whatever the case may be, it is obvious that it is something other than perfect co-ordination and dexterity that makes one of David Syrotiak's shows so delightful — It's sheer magic.



Nuke Fluke Affects University

Plans made to Accept evacuees

The University Commonwealth campuses, as well as the counties in which they lie, had planned to accept evacuees from the Three Mile Island area in the event of a nuclear emergency there. University officials drafted proposals on how the University could best use its facilities in the event of a large scale evacuation.

The Penn State main campus at University Park, with 13,000 rooms, is the largest housing facility in central Pennsylvania.

State officials remained ready to implement a massive emergency evacuation the overall plan was for a systematic evacuation of up to nearly a million people from a 1,200 - square mile region around the stricken nuclear facility. Pennsylvania's 17,000-member National Guard was on standby alert throughout the ordeal to assist police with security and traffic control.

Capitol Campus Closed

University officials closed the Capitol Campus in Middletown on Friday, March 30 after Governor Richard Thornburgh ordered the evacuation of public buildings within a five-mile radius of the Three Mile Island plant. The campus, which is located one mile northeast of the plant was closed at 12:45 p.m. and students left for home. Thornburgh ordered the closings to be in effect until Monday, April 2, but the campus remained closed until Monday, April 9.

Officials were also concerned about the Penn State York Campus, just 20 miles from the nuclear power facility. All York schools and York College were closed, but the York Campus remained open.

Crisis Under Control Now

The worst accident ever to occur in a commercial nuclear reactor is now under control. The damaged reactor at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant continues to cool, and for the first time since last week federal officials said the crisis appeared to be under control.

However, the containment building housing the reactor remains full of highly radioactive gases and water. Officials say it

will take as long as two years after the reactor is shut down to decontaminate the plant.

Most of the radioactive debris which will remain lethal for thousands of years will remain stored indefinitely at the plant, 10 miles southeast of Harrisburg. There are no facilities in the the United States to dispose of high level wastes from commercial nuclear plants.

The odds — economic, political and environmental — against the plants' reopening appear to be growing. Some industry experts estimate it would cost \$1 billion to repair it, some \$300 million more than it cost to build.

Official reports of The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), indicate that since the potentially explosive hydrogen bubble has disappeared, officials are in a better position to assess the extent of damage at the facility and determine whether it can eventually be reopened.

The optimistic mood of NRC officials at the site prompted many people who fled the area at the height of the crisis to return to their abandoned homes and jobs.

Many schools, including Penn State's Capitol Campus, closed

since the accident, were scheduled to reopen last Thursday. Absenteeism in business and offices dropped, and activity picked up on nearly deserted streets. As many as 80,000 people had evacuated the area since the plant began leaking radiation nearly two weeks ago.

Governor Dick Thornburgh announced that pregnant women and pre-school-aged children remain outside of a five-mile radius of the plant. He also established a 24-hour telephone service to "supress rumors" about the accident.

The danger point is considerably down from what it was a week ago. The hydrogen bubble, which had been trapped in the reactor, making shutdown impossible, had "almost" been completely eliminated.

Elimination of the bubble means that the reactor can be cooled down at a much faster rate. The bubble had blocked the cooling water from circulating around the rods inside the reactor.

Average temperature inside the reactor remained about 280 degrees fahrenheit. However, damaged fuel rods, which had been much hotter began to cool.



Spring Week

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Undergraduate Student Association

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