

Illusionist blows magic's fun

By ROY BRAGG
Battalion Staff
The magic of magic is that it's magic.

It's no fun going to a magic show and knowing that the tricks are just tricks. Unless you have a professional interest in magic yourself, it defeats the purpose to know how something does or doesn't work. When a magician lets his audience in on any aspect of the trick, the ultimate effects of the show cannot be achieved. The mystery is gone.

Everyone knows that there is a trick to everything a magician performs on stage, but it's nice to put my cynicism at ease for a change.

For example, when a performer pulls off his top hat and then empties thirty pigeons and a box of panatella cigars out of it, I call it a "neat trick". However, if the guy tells me beforehand that he has a collapsible bird cage and a secret compartment full of cigars in his jacket, I am disappointed. It's not magic, but illusion.

That was the main problem with Andre Kole's World of Illusion Thursday night. The show, presented by the Campus Crusade for Christ, was full of neat tricks, but Kole continually reminded the audience that they were tricks. Because his illusions served as a showcase for the religious message he delivered after the intermission, Kole downplayed the magic. At one point

in the second part of the show, he even asked the audience to pray with him.

Kole made his entrance Thursday night by appearing "out of nowhere" into a large globe centerstage — nothing new, just a typical magician's entrance.

He followed that with an old standard in the world of modern magic which he calls "The Crazy Lady". This trick is the one where his female assistant, in this case his

daughter Robin, stands in a tall box. The box has holes in it that leave her face, hands and toes uncovered.

Then he and two other assistants perform the ritual rotation of the box on stage. This is to show the audience that there's no trick involved. There is nothing wrong with that, except that very few other performers would tell an audience that they will see an illusion and then rotate the box around to show that it's not an illusion.

If his attitude toward the tricks themselves had been a little more "helpful," perhaps the show would've been more enjoyable. It was apparent from the crowd response that I'm probably alone in my opinion.

Review

daughter Robin, stands in a tall box. The box has holes in it that leave her face, hands and toes uncovered.

He then inserts two blades into the box (and into his daughter for all I know) and slides a large section of the box out, thus making it look as though he has dismembered her and that a sizable portion of her body has disappeared. Pretty neat trick, eh?

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Magician and illusionist Andre Kole left his audience in wonder as he demonstrated the art of levitation Thursday night in the A&M Consolidated High School auditorium. The World of Illusion, featuring Kole, was sponsored by Campus Crusades for Christ.
Battalion photo by Jeanne Graham

Speeding car knocks house off foundation, traps boy in bedroom

United Press International
PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Michael James Jr., 9, got a rude awakening Tuesday. He woke up to find a car at the foot of his bed.

Police said a speeding auto smashed through the front of the family's seven-room house, trapping Michael inside his bedroom.

The room was covered with debris, but he escaped injury.

The crash pushed the house off its foundation.

Police charged the driver, Donald E. Jacobson, 19, with drunk driving and leaving the lane of travel. Police estimate the car was going 100 mph at one point before they began chasing it.

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