Illusionist explains occult

BY KAREN SCHRISTAD
AND TOM DAVIS
Staff Writers

Through experimentation with drugs and the occult, students may open themselves up to demon possession, illusionist Andre Kole said.

"I have come into contact with so much of this on campuses that I can't deny the existence of a spirit world anymore," Kole said in an interview before his evening performance. Kole said involvement with the occult begins much like drug experimentation. "Many people begin playing with the Ouija board out of curiosity and then start believing in it," he said. "I'm running into more and more of this on campuses."

The illusionist cited as an example a St. Louis girl who, although her lips would not move, spoke with seven different voices at the same time. "I've seen many scary things," he said.

Kole, whose real name is Robert Gurler, said he lived for 15 years in a world of fantasy and illusion before becoming a Christian. "As a musician and a skeptic I was challenged to investigate the miracles of Christ."

"I felt no one else was qualified to tell whether Christ was a trickster or who He said He was," he said. "Only a magician could understand well enough to make this decision."

"Even with 2,000 years of scientific development and new methods of trickery and with some of the best minds in magic building my equipment, we couldn't come close to duplication of His miracles," he said. "Even Simon the Sorcerer, a contemporary of Jesus, said he was constantly amazed by what Jesus did."

During this investigation, Kole said he studied the Bible, history, hypnosis and mesmerism. As a result of the investigation, Kole said he became a Christian.

Kole said that during his visits abroad he has run into much antisemitanism, especially in Mexico and East Canada. He said these incidents occurred because he is an American and a Christian.

Kole, who invented 1,000 illusions in one year, said magic was his "greatest love" until he became a Christian. "Now I have to force myself to keep up my interest in magic."

He said religious leaders sometimes misinterpret his demonstrations as promoting rather than disproving the occult until they have seen his performance.

Kole does not attempt to pull rabbits out of hats—because he is allergic to rabbits.

McGovern backers to meet

BY JULIE LUMPIN
Staff Writer

Students for McGovern will hold an organizational meeting at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Room 310, Russell House to gain the interest and support of students and faculty.

Dan Todd, spokesman of the organization's steering committee, said Tuesday's meeting "is to get enough people to the precinct meeting Feb. 26 so we may continue support throughout the local and state level."

At that meeting delegates will be appointed to each precinct where voting in the primaries will take place.

The McGovern-Fraser Commission Guideline providing for proper representation within the state will be voted on at the precinct meeting. The resolution states that the delegates attending the Democratic National Convention would be chosen on a percentage basis.

"For example," Todd explained, "28 per cent of people in South Carolina are under thirty. That means that 28 per cent of the delegates to the national convention would be under thirty."

Another resolution to be voted on provides that delegates elected to each level should represent the feelings of that area. "Hopefully these resolutions will give true representation," Todd said.

He said, "We want to make McGovern a viable candidate within the Columbia area. We want to bring out his good aspects. Most people think of McGovern as a one-issue man, but that just shows they don't know the facts behind all Sen. McGovern has done."

McGovern has championed such causes as the end of the Vietnam War, the introduction of a bill to help the country change from a war time to a peace time economy, the rebuilding of American cities and the elimination of hunger and poverty in the United States, Todd added.

Students for McGovern will last as long as McGovern campaigns, Todd said. "Hopefully, that will be all the way through to the election in November," he said.

Students for McGovern failed last September to capture student interest but is catching on now, Todd said.

However Todd could not quote a definite number of expected supporters.

Todd said, "We have a lot of energy and we plan to knock on doors within the next four weeks and tell people about McGovern."

"There is a liberal element within Columbia; it just never has been realized. We hope to appeal to these people," he said.

McGovern buttons, posters and bumper stickers will be displayed Monday and Tuesday in Russell House.

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