



Ming the Magnificent performs a trick with the assistance of his wife, Barbara. Ming has been performing magic since he was 12 when learned his first slight-of-hand from his grandfather, a professional magician in China.

Magician performs

Where can you see a woman float in the air, a Chinese play, clowns and folk singing all in one show? See "Ming's Magnificent World of Magic" on Saturday, May 8, at 8 p.m. at the Northville Community Center, 303 W. Main Street in downtown Northville. Admission is \$1.

Ming the Magnificent and Company is a magical variety troupe starring Ming Louis, a Northville magician recently arrived from Hawaii.

Ming has been performing magic since he was 12. Learning his first slight-of-hand from his grandfather, who was a professional magician in

China, Ming went on to develop an original style, leaning heavily on his Oriental background as the theme for many of his illusions.

Eventually teaming up with his wife and assistant, Barbara, he created the act of Ming the Magnificent. They have traveled extensively, appearing in magic shows throughout the Hawaiian Islands, from the West Coast to New England and Canada.

The act recreates many ancient mysteries which have amazed audiences for hundreds of years, as well as later illusions created by such magicians as Houdini and Blackstone.

Literature comes alive

Summer students see the world

Editor's note: Are you looking for a vacation that's educational as well as fun? Area universities are offering several study trips this summer which are open to the public either for credit or just enjoyment. Russia, China, New York City, Scandinavia

By Sylvia O'Neill
Special writer

Many a student of British literature has glanced away from the words of Chaucer, Tennyson or Shakespeare to stare out a window and imagine himself strolling a quiet English countryside, exploring King Arthur's castle or applauding a play at Stratford.

The British Studies at Oxford Program offers the chance to make such daydreams reality.

For seven years, professors Margaret Pigott of Oakland University and Edward Wolff of the University of Detroit have organized British study trips to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, England.

The Avon Township couple have seen the program grow from 15 students in 1975 to this year's expected 50 participants.

"We started as an academic undergraduate program. Now it's a combination of undergrad, graduate and paracademics," said Wolff, a professor of English.

Students may earn three to eight college credits through the classes or may elect to audit courses.

They choose either a three week or six-week class in one of five subjects: drama, Chaucer, King Arthur and his Knights, art history and antiques, and politics and economics.

Courses are planned in three week blocks, so a student may elect to take a course in Chaucer the first three weeks, for example, and then complete his stay with three weeks studying art history and antiques. Some participants elect to stay only three weeks.

"We encourage students to come for six weeks because then they

and England are just a few of the places local residents will absorb culture and history.

Each summer, two local couples spend their vacations from university teaching traveling with students of all walks of life. Here are their stories:

get their money's worth," said Pigott, OU's head of Women's Studies.

Students attend classes three days a week, usually in the mornings. The other days are free for traveling and field trips.

"We try to give people a feel for what they are studying. All the trips are coordinated with the courses they are taking," said Wolff.

Field trips include excursions by private bus to various plays, Houses of Parliament, castles, cathedrals, museums, antique shops and the Banking District.

Students may plan their free time any way they choose. "Weekends are always free. We are careful to allow students to do what they wish. They are free to stay on with us, but many of them go off by themselves," said Wolff.

Because the college is only one hour from London by bus or train, students often take short jaunts to the city in the afternoon and still make it back in time for dinner.

"This year, we will have general lectures for the whole group," Pigott said. Each teacher will give speeches on his topic, giving the entire group an opportunity to learn something about each subject.

"It truly is a broadened British culture experience," explained Pigott.

STUDENTS, WHO range from college freshmen to people in their 70s, come from many walks of life. Last year there was a traveler from Norway and the couple have had a request this year from a West African.

Wolff said people in the group often become quite close and many friendships are made during the tour. Romance has even blossomed and one marriage resulted.

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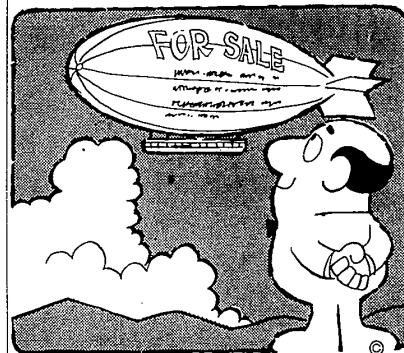
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