

SPORTS

FUNDRAISER

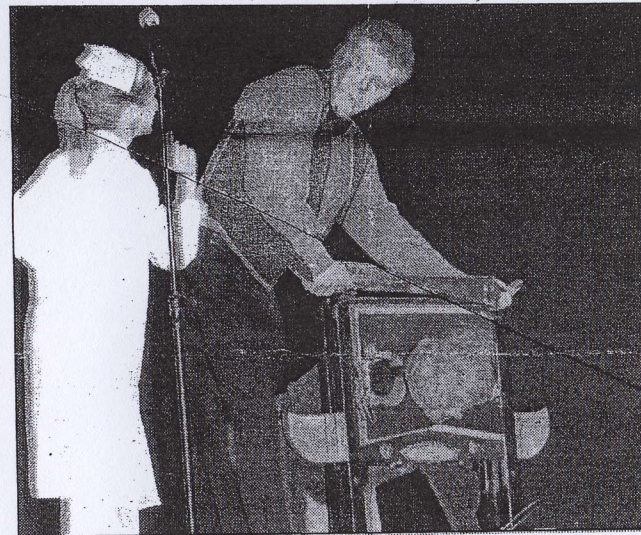
Piranha fundraiser a success

JIM HOLTZ
Gazette Staff

Sunday's fundraiser for the Piranhas Swim Club was a great success. Billed as *Stage Fright, the Thrillusion Show*, the two performances featuring magician and illusionist John Kaplan entertained successive afternoon and evening crowds at the Grand Forks Secondary School (GFSS) auditorium. Over \$6,600 was raised, the total matched by a Sears Canada grant under the company's Young Futures Program. Organizer Christie Wheaton said, "The club raised a large sum of the short fall that we predict with the lack of gaming grants this year. It was wonderful to have something new and exciting like the magic show come to Grand Forks!"

Kaplan performed a wide variety of baffling tricks and illusions, from classic sleight of hand tricks using scarves and pumpkins to elaborate illusions in which people vanished and reappeared. Wheaton said Kaplan's finale was a particular crowd pleaser. "The Houdini act seems to be what the crowds were most talking about," she said. "Obviously a crowd favourite." In that illusion, Kaplan's assistant was locked in a box inside a cloth bag and miraculously changed places with Kaplan in a matter of seconds. Other crowd pleasers included the guillotining of GFSS Vice-Principal Shawn Lockhart and *Gazette* reporter Jim Holtz.

"The event was a huge success!" Wheaton said. "Our 4



Gazette reporter Jim Holtz volunteered his head for the cause as magician John Kaplan works his magic with a guillotine. In spite of the sharp blade, which had previously chopped several vegetables in half with success, Holtz kept his head intact and was able to write this story!

p.m. show saw about 280 - 300 seats filled and 7 p.m. about 240." She added, "The Piranha children want to thank everyone who supported the event."

DARN!
I could have advertised in this space!

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