



Priscilla Mauney, Gay Henderson, John O. Plonk and his father, John Plonk, left to right, select black and gold fabrics the new Renaissance Club will use for special events planned in connection with a new incentive program for Kings Mountain High School students.

Dr. I. Wonder presents Science Circus at KMMS

Dr. I. Wonder's Science Circus was a big hit at Kings Mountain Middle School Friday and students and adults came away with more knowledge while having the time of their lives.

Using innovative circus tricks while standing on stilts high above the crowd, Michael Frith of Sewanee, Tn., was a one-man traveling theatre capturing his audience with his antics while teaching such scientific principles as air resistance, center of gravity, hand-eye coordination and optical illusion.

He enlisted the help of several students and Coach David Heffner to bring his points home.

"The brain is the ringmaster of your personal circus," he told the crowd as he asked his audience to participate in various exercises using their arms and hands.

"Your brain is the thing that makes your body grow and has millions of cells which could probably fill a big truck and your eyes are a camera that never runs out of film," he said.

The act of juggling, which he did to the delight of the crowd, involves coordination of movement by the eyes, hands, arms and shoulders.

At one time during the show he added a bright scarf to his head and mimicked his Grandma Elsie, 93, a Southern Belle, and illustrated how heavy and light objects float, an example of resistance.

Creating vibrations from small instruments, he also spun a series of tubes which illustrated a "cool" sound and showed the audience how they could play with voice and motion drums that resembled those sounds in Africa.

Perched atop stilts that put him 10 feet above the stage floor, he balanced a wheelbarrow, then a 32 pound ladder, on his chin. He balanced his stilted body on the apex

See I. Wonder, 2-B



Michael Frith of Tennessee, also known as Dr. I. Wonder, had some tricks up his sleeve for Kings Mountain Middle School students Friday, using innovative circus techniques to teach valuable lessons about Science.

Incentives promote excellence

A new, incentive program called Renaissance will be kicked off in February at Kings Mountain High School in cooperation with two local industries, Faust Textiles and First Union National Bank.

Friday KMHS Media Specialist Gaye Henderson and former board of education member Priscilla Mauney kicked off the program by selecting black and gold fabrics from Foust to be used in connection with special events for the program.

"Today we hear only negative news concerning high school students but Kings Mountain High is initiating a program which will recognize the positive side," said Henderson.

Henderson chairs the faculty committee which has designed the program similar to Josten's Renaissance program which rewards not only academic excellence but also academic improvement. Like Josten's, Renaissance will pair the efforts of the school with business and industry backing. First Union and Foust are the first area businesses to commit support to the effort.

The committee, dubbed the Card Club by committee member Tim Echols, has been polling both teachers

and students for in-school rewards. The Card Club will consist of members holding Gold Cards, Silver Cards and Bronze Cards. A Gold Card holder must have a 4.0 average and less than eight absences per term. Silver Card holders are required to have an average between 3.5 and 3.99 and less than eight absences. To earn a bronze card the student must have improved his or her GPA by .5 and have the same good attendance records as Gold and Silver Card holders. Some of the perks of the Card Club include a free T-shirt with a club logo, early lunch dismissals and exam exemptions. Other rewards are the the works for each card level.

The program is slated to begin with the new term and a special kickoff celebration is being planned for the first event that only cardholders may attend. In addition, the Card Club, formally known as the Renaissance Club, will be recognized for parents and community at the annual Academic Awards banquet in the spring.

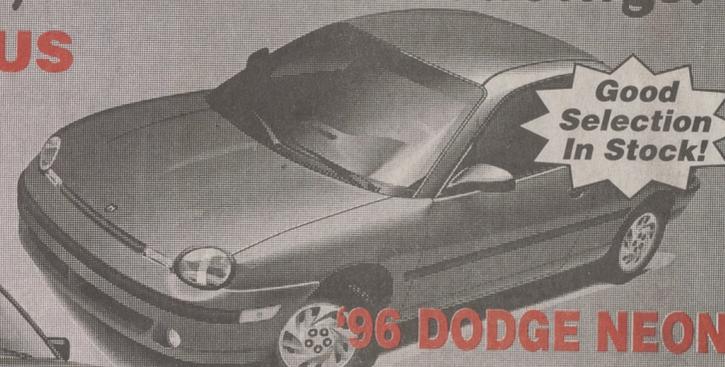
"We are very excited about the program and invite more community involvement from area businesses," said Hannah Cole, also a member of the committee.

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