

# Williams entertains fieldhouse crowd

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"The purpose of beer is to make English your second language," quipped comedian Robin Williams to the delight of the 3,170 people who attended his April 21st concert, sponsored by the PSUC Concert Committee, at the fieldhouse.

Williams, whose performance began at approximately 8:30 p.m. and lasted for 70 minutes, spoofed the typical topics one would expect a college-age audience to appreciate—drugs, alcohol, sex, politics and students.

The comedian, according to Deke Moore, Assistant Chairman of the Concert Committee, was nervous before coming onstage.

"He was pacing around in the back, talking to Marcia, his road manager," Moore reported.

Despite any backstage jitters, however, Williams maintained his form, keeping the audience in hysterics for almost the entire performance with his comedy routines ranging from baseball players on LSD to Ronald Reagan as Star Wars' "Obi Ron Kenobe" to an overweight, black Dr. Ruth.

Although Williams made light of drug and alcohol abuse, his underlying message seemed an attempt to sway the audience into seeing the seriousness of the situation. By showing the audience how ridiculous they look while under the influence, Williams demonstrated his stand on the issue.

A touching note was added to the performance as he relayed the wonderfully important experience of being a parent by acting out a conversation he had with his three-year-old son, Zach.

"How do you get to Carnegie Hall, Zach?" Williams asked his son, to which Zach (Williams)



Robin Williams, comedian (photo supplied)

replied, "Practice, Daddy, practice."

Williams' encore, his famous Elmer Fudd imitation, was well-received by the audience.

from which cries of "Elmer, Elmer" could be heard even while the warm-up act, Bobby McFerrin, was on stage.

Bobby McFerrin, who appeared as Williams' opening act, began his one-man jazz band concert at approximately 8:20 p.m. Not even two numbers into his act, calls for "Robin" and "Elmer Fudd" were heard over his music. After the third number, McFerrin appeared to throw up his hands in disgust, then exited the stage.

"McFerrin left without saying anything," said Moore. "He would have come out at the end (of the concert) with Williams."

Several students expressed concern for the rudeness of the audience. PSUC Junior John Dworkin commented, "It was a bummer that the crowd was all loud and rowdy for the warm-up act. McFerrin was bummed out and stopped earlier than he would have, had it been quiet."

As for the concert on the whole, student reaction tended to be favorable.

"I thought it was great," says Sophomore Eric Van Hall. "It was fantastic...It was gnarly."

"Williams was great,"

Dworkin adds, noting that he especially enjoyed his William F. Buckley imitation and his spoof on the Godfather bringing Reagan Gorbachev together.

Seniors Christine Kucharski and Joann Slattery agree, "(Williams) was definitely the best celebrity this school has had since the Talking Heads."

Members of the Concert Committee agree that this concert was a huge success. Aside from minor problems such as sound not reaching the back of the room and lines that stretched all the way out to Ruger Street, Vice-President of Activities Jeffrey T. Agnoli believes that there was an excellent turnout.

"The concert itself ran smoothly, technically speaking," says Agnoli. "The performer himself was professional."

Approximately \$25,794 was taken in from ticket sales, and the remaining \$9206 was covered by the Student Association mandatory fee, paid by students at the beginning of the semester.

Were Robin Williams and Bobby McFerrin worth the \$35,000+ paid by PSUC for their performances?

The Student Senate apparently believes so. They recently approved an increase suggested by the Finance Board in the Concert Committee's budget from \$89,840 for the 1985-86 school year to next year's budget of \$92,395.

Finance Board Chairman Diane Fox cites the successful nature of the Robin Williams concert as one of the reasons for the budget increase.

Next year's concerts have not yet been decided upon, but Agnoli says that the members of the Concert Committee and the Activities Coordination Board (ACB) will decide on a number of them over the summer via the telephone.

Let's hope we will see a few more productions as successful as Robin Williams.