

Comedian to host hospice benefit

BY DAVID N. DUNKLE
Of The Patriot-News

Comedian Peter Fogel's last visit to the midstate ended when he was fired from his job as a mime at Hersheypark.

That was 1979, when park attendance fell following the Three Mile Island nuclear accident.

"I guess they had to decide whether to get rid of that person who dresses like a Hershey's Kiss or the mime," Fogel said during a recent telephone interview from his New York home.

He was ordered to pack up his invisible box on his 21st birthday.

Undeterred, Fogel pursued a career as a comedian, although not of the mime variety. Instead, over the years he became known as a fast-on-his-feet comic improviser.

He has been in TV commercials (he was the ring-around-the-collar-man for Wisk), movies ("Teen Wolf Too," "Interlocked") and has done voice-over work (Discovery Channel's "Mysteries of Mating.")

He also has written for movies and was a regular contributor to Germany's No. 1 situa-

IF YOU GO

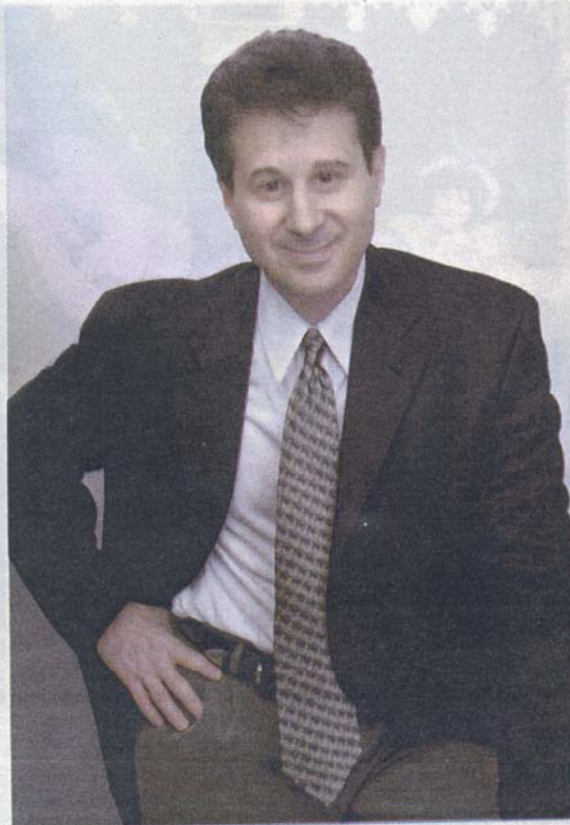
- **WHAT:** "Dancing on High"
- **WHEN:** 6 p.m. Saturday
- **WHO:** Comedian/MC Peter Fogel, with hors d'oeuvres and music by Espresso, The Martini Bros. and violinist James Graseck
- **WHERE:** Carlisle Theatre, 40 W. High St., Carlisle
- **TICKETS:** \$90 (portion also will benefit Hospice of Central Pennsylvania)
- **INFORMATION:** Call 258-0666, e-mail boxoffice@carlisletheatre.org or www.carlisletheatre.org

tion comedy, "Rita's World," for which he won the German equivalent of an Emmy.

"I believe the show is also up for the Himmler, and I have my fingers crossed," he said on his Web site, www.fortune500comedy.com.

Fogel said he is over the Hershey debacle, and will serve as both host and performer next month during a "Dancing on High" benefit for the Carlisle Theatre.

The black-tie affair, which also will feature dance music by Espresso and The Martini



PETER FOGEL

"When baseball great Ted Williams died, his son had him cryogenically frozen. But I noticed that when the son died, he didn't have himself frozen. So I guess he's not a chip off the old block of ice."

Comedian Peter Fogel

Bros., supports the theater's fund-raising campaign.

"I'm going to take some of the inside funny stuff they told me about Carlisle and I'll be using that," he said. They'll think, 'hey, the guy from New York has done his homework.'"

Fogel goes for laughs less often these days, following another career change. This one he chose on his own.

Meet the new Peter Fogel, motivational speaker, copywriter and marketing consultant.

He figured if he could reinvent himself, why not help others do the same? That led to his book "If Not Now... Then When? Stories and Strategies of People Over 40 Who Have Successfully Reinvented

THE FOGEL FILE

- **Age:** 47
- **Career:** Comedian, actor, motivational speaker, speechwriter, author, personal reinvention specialist
- **You might know him from:** Commercials for Wisk, American Express, Mazda, Miller Lite and Budweiser; roles in movies "Teen Wolf Too" and "Interlocked."
- **Web sites:** www.fortune500comedy.com; www.reinventyourselfnow.com

Themselves."

Today, he speaks around the country on personal reinvention, marketing strategies and humor.

Fogel said he made the change after he realized he was 40-something. The comedy gig paid the rent, but not much more. He longed to do something else.

"I realized I was always a communicator [so this] was a perfect field for me to prosper

in," he said. "It's very cool to make a difference in people's lives."

He's still a comedian, but only when he wants to be.

"This has given me the opportunity to pick and choose the corporate venues I want to perform at now, such as the Carlisle Theatre."

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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Carlisle Theatre's Second Marquee Ball, "Dancing on High," supports a capital campaign to improve the historic building.

Cumberland County Commissioner Richard Rovegno, who is

chairing the campaign, said he and members of his family have pledged \$150,000 in memory of his late mother, Evelyn Brindle Rovegno.

"She used to go to the theater as a little girl," Rovegno said. "We

wanted to do something special in her memory."

The money will help to start an endowment fund for long-term maintenance of the theater, he said.

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