

I.B.M

RING #29

May 1996

MAGIC MUSINGS

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring #29

8912 Stagecoach Road, #7, Little Rock, Arkansas 72209 • (501) 455-6242

Meeting 1st Thursday of every month, Baptist Medical Center



May 2 meeting to feature "weird" magic!

NEXT MEETINGS:

✓ **Thurs., May 2, 7 pm**
Baptist Medical Center
Meeting room 20, Cafeteria

THEME: WEIRD MAGIC

SHORT STUFF

✓ **Bill Spooner** will lecture to our club July 26. Watch for details soon, but mark your calendars now.

✓ The Northeast Arkansas Magic Club at Newport would like to have some of our ring members to attend their regular meeting on the last Sunday of each month, at 2 pm. That's this coming Sunday.

✓ Ring membership dues will be due June 30. Pay before then or be dropped from our mailing list!

✓ **Bill Pitts**, Fort Smith; **Jon Bucher**, Searcy; **Ken Zelnick**; and **Jim Henson**, Little Rock, are discussing ideas regarding a statewide magic get-together at the end of the summer. Any ideas? Bring them to the May meeting.

✓ "The Magician" was a one-season television series which ran from October 1973 until May 1974. Bill Bixby was the star. Each show featured a number of magic tricks and illusions. Mark Wilson was the consultant for the show, and we understand Bixby became a serious magician due to his experiences with the series.

Recently the series was rerun on the Sci-Fi Channel, and Jim Henson taped 10 of the 15 shows. If you would like to have those 10 episodes, give two (2) tapes to him and he'll dub you a copy.

✓ Speaking of magic on television, reaction by our members was mixed to last week's "Extreme Magic" TV special. Jim made a tape. He'll dub a copy if you give him a tape. What did you think about it? You say you missed it? Pay closer attention to the television logs each week.

✓ Sixteen Ring members attended the Dan Fleshman lecture Saturday, April 20. It, too, received mixed reviews. We've had great and not so good lectures.

■ The regular monthly meeting for IBM Ring 29 will be Thursday, May 2 at 7 pm at our NEW PLACE and NEW TIME.

✓ Baptist Medical Center, Meeting Room 20, behind the cafeteria;

✓ 7 pm (NOT 7:30)

Go to the cafeteria, whether you park in the regular parking lot or in the parking deck. Go through the cafeteria line and take your tray to our meeting room, to eat with fellow magicians, who will gather as early as 6 pm.

Our arrangement with the hospital is that we must generate a certain amount of dollar volume in the cafeteria or have to pay the difference.

Meeting to feature weird magic

The May meeting this coming Thursday will feature WEIRD magic, or at least "perceived weird" magic. If YOU think it's weird, then it's weird.

This will be one of our popular "all members perform" nights. If all -- or at least most -- of our members perform at least one trick, then it should be an entertaining and beneficial evening. Please participate.

MORE SHORT STUFF

✓ Did you see the interview with former heavyweight boxer Cassius Clay (I can't spell Muhammad Ali) on television recently? He did the vanishing silk trick and then -- horror of horrors -- showed how it is done. Obviously he hasn't taken the oath of secrecy by magicians.

✓ If you're in Branson this Spring, Summer or Fall, be sure to include in your shows the "Legends in Concert" at The Grand Palace. Professional magician **Martin Preston** is performing in the show as Liberace, and uses magic in his act.

Preston would like any magicians who see the show to identify themselves to him after the show. He loves to talk magic, as shown by his drive down from Branson recently to visit the Mr. Magic store in West Little Rock.

The show will run April 29 through Oct. 12 and he plans to drive down here on Sundays during that time. Let Jim Henson know if you'd like to get together with Martin. He's been performing over 20 years.

Also at the May meeting

Before the magic begins next Thursday, we'll discuss several items at a short business meeting:

- A new award: Member of the Year
- A joint meeting with the other magic clubs in the state: time, place, etc.
- Announcement of annual dues notice
- Announcement of call for nominations and election of officers, at June meeting

See you next Thursday. Come and bring a prospective member!

Arkansas Magic Club annual show is May 11

✓ You are invited to attend the annual show of the Arkansas Magic Club -- students of Jim Henson. It's Saturday, May 11 at 7 pm in Room 22 of Baptist Medical Center, next to our regular meeting place.

Several regular Ring members will also perform. Two students will emcee the show. Come see some new magicians in action.

Committee to discuss new "Member of the Year" Award

The committee to discuss and make recommendations about a new Ring award has been named: Lisa Bolin, Derrick Rose and Jim Henson.

They will lead a short discussion about the award at the May meeting. Come with your ideas about requirements, etc.

Send us your news!

Many of you tell Dennis how much you enjoy this newsletter and all the news in it. But he and Jim Henson have to really scramble most months to dig out what goes in it.

Just think how much easier it would be to call either one of them (Dennis at 374-1500 and Jim at 455-6242) and tell them what's going on!

Just do it!

HOLLYWOOD MAGIC by Michael Strobel

This story is coming to you direct from Hollywood, California. As a management training consultant, I travel to the Los Angeles area a couple of times a year and the famous *The Magic Castle* is usually on my agenda. If you are not familiar with *The Castle*, it is the private clubhouse/theater/restaurant of the *Academy of Magical Arts*. Each night there are a number of shows including: the *Close-up Gallery*; a *Parlour* show and *The Palace* show. In addition there are usually a number of informal performances in the bar/lounge and basement areas. Just the memorabilia in this old mansion located in the hills of Hollywood are worth the visit. *The Castle* may be best known as the place that has banned *Penn and Teller* for their alleged disregard of the magician's oath. Just for the record, I asked about this and the *Castle* has not banned them (but I get the feeling that *P&T* are in trouble for making the club look bad with their hype about being banned).

Although it's a private club, IBM members are able to attend. My clients are always impressed when invited to be my guest since it's well known by locals that it's an expensive and exclusive members only club (but it's not well known what IBM is and that IBMers can attend). About a year ago, The Castle began requiring non-members to have dinner (expect to pay about \$20-\$30.00/person) which can seem expensive by L.R. standards but not for L.A.. Non-members must also pay \$7.50/person as an entrance/cover charge. Using the valet parking is the only practical option (another couple of \$\$). No one under 21 is allowed. Coat and ties for the men and evening dress for the women are required. Reservations are a must. In fact, you usually have to call several days in advance. Shows start at 7:30 p.m. with the last one beginning at 12:30.

The *Close-up Gallery* has 6 shows each night with one magician performing the first 3 shows and the second one performing the last 3. Each show is about 20 minutes and the room seats about 30 people. *The Parlour of Prestidigitation* is very similar to the *Close-up Gallery* in its schedule, but with a bigger audience and stage. The main event is the *Palace of Mystery* which offers a complete magic show of 2 or 3 magicians and usually runs about 45 minutes. All of this takes place in what was once a big mansion built in 1908, so the stage areas are relatively intimate making it the perfect setting for performers who like to interact with the audience. The audience is all over 21 so there are some non-G rated things happening, but I have never seen anything there that rivals what is on the TV every night. I have seen a lot of good magic by well known, award winning and/or international magicians performing there. Although the evening can get expensive (however it is cheaper than Disneyland), I feel it is really worth it.

If you go there, be sure to ask "if Michael Strobel will be performing here tonight or has he been banned too?" Unlike most things coming out of Hollywood, this feature contained no sex, violence, or adult language. However, in keeping with the Hollywood spirit, if there is even the slightest bit of interest in this article, it will be followed by a number of sequels. Next month I will give you my time tested strategies for getting the most out of a one night visit to *The Castle*.