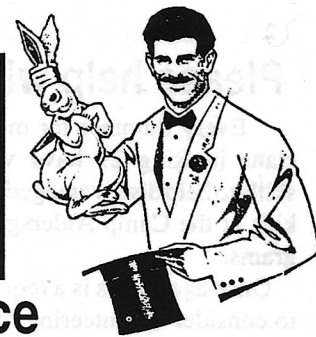


I.B.M.
RING #29

May 1998

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 meeting is a week later -- May 14 -- at new place

NEXT MEETINGS:

- **Thursday, May 14, 7 pm**
You do children's magic
Terry Library

Bits & Pieces

✓ **Bill Pitts** received so many good comments about his **28th Annual Cavalcade of Magic** -- March 26-28 in Eureka Springs -- that now he is considering going ahead with it next year. Previously he had announced that he wasn't going to hold the event in 1999 since the IBM national convention will be in Little Rock in July.

✓ **Mary Ann Campbell** continues to hold a "Money Magic" segment shortly after 8 am each Saturday on Channel 7. She doesn't always do a magic trick, but the tips she gives are still interesting and helpful. (The next time you see her have her tell you about the rare magic book she found in Washington, DC.)

✓ **Officer nominations** will be announced at the May meeting for voting on at the June meeting. If you would like to nominate someone, or would like to serve yourself, speak to any current officer.

✓ **Dues are due in June.** They are only \$15, but after August 1 raise to \$20.

✓ **Mark your calendars:** Only 14 months until the IBM annual convention meets in Little Rock. Don't schedule your vacation (to leave town) for the first weekend in July. Schedule it and plan to go to the convention.

✓ Read and post the **enclosed meeting topic schedule** of Ring 29 for the rest of the year. We have some date and place changes ahead so be alert (our Ring needs more lerts). See the box on page 2.

✓ **Looking ahead,** our July meeting will be a week later than usual because the first Thursday falls on 4th of July weekend, and also because the national IBC convention in Los Angeles will be going on then, too, and some of our members are going.

Since we are hosting the convention next year, it would be great if as many of our members could go to California as possible. Who is thinking about going? Tell Jim.

Ok, Gang! Listen up and listen good! You have two things to remember this month: our Ring will meet on a **different day** (May 14, a week later than the usual first Thursday), and at a **different place:** **Terry Library** in West Little Rock.

Repeat after me: different day at a different place. So be there. Now the details:

We can't meet at our regular place in May, and the best meeting place we could arrange is a week later than our usual time. We'll be

Magic is all around us; go see and support it!

As you head out for vacations this summer, stop by and support the live magic shows wherever you go. Here are those we know about in this area:

- Maxwell Blade, in Hot Springs
- Bart Rocket, in Eureka Springs
- Kirby Van Burch, in Branson
- Melinda, in Branson
- Bret Daniels at Gold Strike in Tunica
- Tony Brent at Libertyland in Memphis

In other words, within three hours of Little Rock you can see six quality magic shows. **Unbelievable!** We all need to support all of these -- including talking them up to friends -- if they are to continue.

Damon thanks those who came to his show

On April 20 Damon performed a preview of his new show, which he'll take on the road shortly, to theaters and casinos. Enclosed is a letter from him expressing his thoughts and thanks.

✓ Check out the sticker section at **Hobby Lobby** for a sheet of neat magic stickers. Jim has a limited supply at **Mr. Magic**.

✓ **Paul Carlon** will teach a magic class at the Children's Museum, June 11 from 10-11:30 am. It's for ages 5-7 and costs \$10 for members and \$15 for non-members. How about introducing some youngsters to magic by telling them about this class? Many magicians today got their start this young.

at the West Little Rock Library, better known as Terry Library. It's at 2015 Napa Valley. Another description is at the corner of Napa Valley and Hinson Road. Still another is two blocks west of the triple intersection of Rodney Parham, Hinson and Green Mountain Drive. OK, one more: two blocks east of Pulaski Academy. Got it? Be there!

The theme -- as you see from the box on page 2 -- is **Children's Magic**. Some of you who went to the Komedy Kid Clinic March 7 should plan to demonstrate some of the tricks you bought that day.

No food will be available at Terry, so call Jim if you want some eating suggestions. There are many restaurants back east on Rodney Parham (including Delicious Temptations, where my daughter-in-law works).

Come share your children's magic skills. **May 14** at the **Terry Library!**

Magic continues to be everywhere on television

Of course you have been watching the TV logs and have caught all the recent magic shows on television recently, right? Magic seems to be more popular than ever, thus:

- "The World's Greatest Magic III" on The Family Channel, April 25.
- Sci-Trek: "The Science of Illusions", on the Discovery Channel, April 25, narrated by Harry Anderson.
- "The World's Most Dangerous Magic" on NBC April 27.
- "Merlin", the two-part mini-series, April 26 and 27, with all sorts of visual effects.
- A magic segment on the Oakridge Boys Show every Tuesday evening on TNN.

If you missed any of these and would like a copy of a tape, give blank tapes to Jim Henson and he'll make duplicates for you.

• Also, the third version of "Breaking the Magician's Code" will be on Fox May 5, from 7-8 on Fox. Supposedly the jerk masked magician will make a military tank disappear. (I hope it is better than the hokey elephant disappear on an earlier show.)

By the way, what have YOU done to protest these shows revealing magicians' secrets. Shouldn't you complain?

Please help with Aldersgate magic this Summer

Every Summer for many years, magicians in Ring 29 have volunteered their skills to help disadvantaged and handicapped kids at the Camp Aldersgate summer programs.

Once again, this is a request for all of you to consider volunteering for one session at one of the camps. Much of the concept of using magic for youngsters comes from the **Project Magic** program which David Copperfield started. It emphasizes going into hospitals and ministering to kids to get them to smile, to teach them some simple magic to give them some self-confidence and self-esteem, and to simply forget their pain and suffering.

So what did you think about the Copperfield Show?

by Dennis Schick

David Copperfield brought his show to Little Rock Easter Sunday, April 12, for two shows. We have talked with a number of people who were there. (Jim Henson had a fire to attend to just as the show was to begin, so he missed it all.)

Frankly, I was disappointed in it. Both shows started 30 minutes late. We understand that three illusions were left out of the 6 pm show because of mechanical failure (but they were back in the 9 pm show).

The performances were supposed to be a benefit, but less than half the \$75 and \$50 orchestra seats were sold. So the organizers just let the people in the mezzanine move down and fill in the empty seats before the

Here are the Summer Camps this year:

Muscular Dystrophy	June 14-19
Spina Bifida	June 21-26
Cerebral Palsy	June 28-July 3
Augmentative Communication Device	July 5-10
Arthritis/Hemophilia,	
Epilepsy/Kidney	July 12-17
Asthma Camp	July 19-24
Easter Seals	July 26-31
Oncology/Amputee	Aug. 2-7

Call Jim Henson for more details. How about planning an orientation/training session for our members, Jim? We'll spread details if someone decides to do it. Won't you speak up and volunteer your talent?

shows began. Needless to say, those of us who paid for those higher-priced seats were not very happy. (At least we can write off some of our cost for tax purposes.)

The show itself was mediocre, at best. At least half of the effects many of us had seen before. The linking finger rings, the floating paper and appearing rose, the graffiti wall, and several others -- were reruns.

Copperfield didn't seem to be into it for the 9 pm show, which I saw. He seemed to have his mind someplace else and sleepwalked through the too-short show.

What did the rest of you think? At least we understand he will have a new TV special this fall, his first since 1995. He is supposed to do something with the moon.

Junior magic program postponed; set June 6th

Our new Junior Magic Club meeting scheduled in April was postponed because of the Easter Weekend. So it has been tentatively rescheduled for June 6.

We'll have more details next newsletter, but call Jim if you want more info now.

Again, let's encourage young people to join us in our hobby. They will be the ones who will carry on our Ring when old-timers are gone.

More Mini-Magic Musings

✓ He came and vanished quickly, but you missed **Tom Burgoon** at Sanford's Comedy House April 14-19. He promised to let us know he was coming much earlier the next time he's in town. Reports are that he was great.

This is another example of the need for all of us to keep each other informed. Please don't just assume Jim knows something and fail to tell him. He'd rather hear it 10 times.

✓ Don't forget **Bart Rockett** opened his new magic theater in Eureka Springs last Friday, April 24. Has anyone seen the show? Please send us a review when you do.

✓ Newsletter editor **Dennis Schick** received a Distinguished Service Award from UALR recently, for his 19 years of defending the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act and promoting journalism education and the newspaper business over the years.

✓ **Greg Gillis** will be performing every Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30 pm. at the new River Rock Bar & Grill, 500 E. Markham in the Museum Building in the River Market area. See the enclosed column from last Friday's Weekend section.

✓ We understand that The Learning Channel will be televising a three-part series on the "Mysteries of Magic" later this year. It will be another history of magic performance and sounds fascinating. We'll pass on details when we know them.

✓ **Paul Carlon** will perform at the New Orleans in the Heights Festival May 16. He will be at the Heights Toy Store on R Street, for 11:30 and 2 pm shows. Stop by.

Also, Paul recently performed at the Arkansas Promise event, before over 1,000 people. He used Governor Mike Huckabee and Dr. Nancy Snyderman for his assistants.

✓ **Don Baer** will perform May 6 at Water Fair in Little Rock; May 15-16 at the Crawfish Festival in Dermott; and May 22-24 at Riverfest. See him if you can.

Ring 29 Calendar of Events for 1998

January	Annual Christmas Party -- Open performance
February	Rope Magic
March	Card Magic
April	Money Magic
May	Children's Magic
June	Mentalism
July	Slight of hand
August	Classics of Magic
September	Ring Picnic at Pinnacle Mountain
October	Scary/Spooky Magic
November	Balloon twisting/Art magic
December	Magic officers/Board meeting



NOTE: Most regular meetings are at Baptist Medical Center



"Truly a gentle man of mystery" Please telephone 1-800-248-1530

April 23, 1998

Dear Ring 29 members,

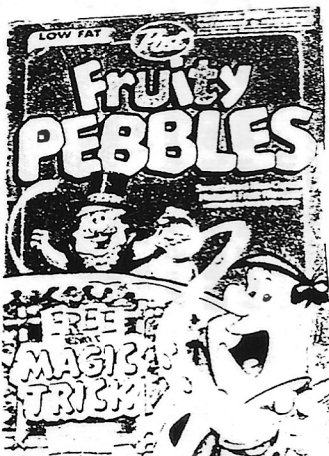
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your friendship and support during the last number of years. I firmly believe that it is a major factor in my regaining my health and activity.

In addition, many of you attended a dress rehearsal of my new show "An Evening with the Wizard" Monday, April 20 and I more than appreciate your participation and feedback.

Finally, a special thanks to Jim (Mr. Magic) for all the encouragement and other things he has done and also a big special thank you to Dan and Jan Hecke for the most beautiful skull lamp presented me as a gift on behalf of the Ring.

I love you all and that moment will remain a treasured memory with me forever. You guys are the greatest!!!

I wish the best for you all
always,



Hey! Where are the tricks?

Did anyone see and buy Fruity Pebbles recently, with the "Free Magic Trick inside?" The same day an ad appeared in the newspaper, Dennis went to several stores but couldn't find any of that version. What a disappointment. (See the box front at the left.)

The dangerous tricks listed:

Tricks shown recently on "The World's Most Dangerous Magic," on NBC:

- Burning rope, upside-down suspension, bungee conclusion
- Pit of Vipers levitation
- Fire swords in wicker basket
- Wolf trap spring
- Table of Terror (platform with spikes)
- Spin of Death (woman on sword)
- Four-knife blade Russian Roulette
- Straight-jacket escape on trapeze bar suspended over Hoover Dam

Everyone lived.

FIFTEEN SECONDS OF FAME

Watch him *not*
pull a rabbit
out of a hat



Like the proverbial rabbit out of the proverbial hat, magicians are popping up everywhere these days.

David Copperfield recently dazzled Little Rock audiences. Now Greg Gillis, a 24-year-old magic man, will perform tricks to amaze customers at the RiverRock Brewery every Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m. While Gillis is a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, he doesn't know the secret handshake. Or so he'd have us believe.

Have you ever thought about getting a stage name? I mean, Greg Gillis isn't exactly something you see in lights.

No. But around the International Brotherhood of Magicians I'm sometimes introduced as Greg "To some extent the adequate magician" Gillis.

What do you have to do to be in the International Brotherhood of Magicians? Is there a secret handshake?

You have to demonstrate some skill before you can join. But we're not like the Masons. We have performance night where some people come in as guests. Our monthly meeting is in one of the conference rooms at Baptist Hospital.

How long have you been in the brotherhood?

About eight years.

Why did you take to magic?

I think everybody likes magic. Everybody learns a trick. I guess I kind of stuck with it. I went to the library and checked out a book and it grew from there.

What did you think of the Copperfield show?

I was disappointed. It was a bunch of recycled stuff that he's done on other TV specials. I went in October and saw Penn and Teller in Memphis and that was a much better show.

Aren't most magicians mad at Penn and Teller because they reveal how the tricks are done?

The people that are mad at Penn and Teller are novices. The way Penn and Teller will explain how it works isn't always the way the trick is actually done. They will lead you down the primrose path, so to speak. Professional magicians love Penn and Teller.

What's the best magic trick you've seen?

At the Penn and Teller show they had a spotlight on a rose and the shadow was thrown on this canvas behind the rose. Teller sticks a knife at the shadow and the actual leaf falls off, like he's cutting the real rose. I have no clue how it works. It's the best piece of magic as far as art I've ever seen.

What kind of magic will you be performing at RiverRock?

I'll be working behind the bar. It's gonna be all close-up stuff. I have a stage show where I do mind reading and bigger tricks. But at RiverRock I won't have a stage. I'll be doing table hopping and working with cards, coins, everyday props. Like an ink pen, etc.

You gonna get free beer?

I haven't worked that out yet. I'll have to ask for that though.

Do you work with doves or birds?

I tried that in high school. It never worked. I did shows for kids and you can't really fool them. They don't fall for the misdirection.

So you never accidentally killed any doves?

I've never been interested in messing with them and cleaning up after them.

Werner Trieschmann