

I.B.M.

RING #29

June 2000

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



A teach-in June 1 on cups & balls; Dixon lecture June 6

NEXT MEETINGS:

Thursday, June 1, 7 pm
 ● **Cups & balls Teach-in**

Tuesday, June 6, 7 pm
 ● **Doc Dixon Lecture**

BITS & PIECES

● **HERE'S AN UPDATE** on Ron London, the magician who has lectured to our Ring several times. Ron is recovering from surgery. His diabetes still needs to get under control. It fluctuates between 30 and 350; normal is 120. Fortunately, S.A.M. is helping out with some of his hospital expenses. The last we heard, he was not yet released to go home. But that news is a week or so old by now. We'll keep you informed. If you'd like to donate to Ron's Recovery Fund, please call Jim Henson.

● **ANDY STIRMAN** will perform at Riverfest this weekend, as a strolling magician: May 27 and May 28.

● **LAST MONTH** was one of the best meetings we have had in a long time. Our teach-in was on card forces, and everyone left with new skills and tips. A big thanks to our instructors and leaders: **Damon, Scott Davis, Greg Gillis, Dan Hecke** and **Chris Westfall**.

● **THE MAXWELL BLADE** Theatre of Magic is now open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, at 8 pm. But be sure and call to ensure the theater is open for any specific evening. Call for a reservation: (501) 623-6200. He has added a new opening and a new closing for the show.

● **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will meet sometime in June. If you have any concerns, comments or questions for the board, please direct them at any board member. Board meetings are open so call Mr. Magic to find out the exact time and place.

● **JANE OWENS**, Bob's wife, broke her right wrist May 18th. She connected with her left but missed Bob with her right jab and struck a door jamb. We wish to her

June is another doubleheader month:

(1) On **Thursday, June 1** is the regular monthly meeting of Ring 29. It will be at 7 pm in one of the dining rooms behind the cafeteria at Baptist Medical Center.

The theme for the month: another teach-in, using the format which was so popular last month. This time its cups & balls, chop cups, sponge balls and the ball & vase.

The instructors will be **Scott Davis, Derrick Rose, Chris Westfall** and **Andy Stirman**, all Ring 29 members.

Doc Dixon to lecture June 6. Call Mr. Magic for location.

Doc Dixon, one of the most popular magicians on the lecture circuit, is bringing his lecture to Little Rock, Tuesday, June 6. Call 455-6242 for the location and cost. Doc is 36 years old, and a newlywed! He got married for the first time this past November.

He got into magic at the age of 12 with the Amateur Magician's Handbook. He has been a full time professional for about 12 years. His newest book "Fun-nier with Monkeys" was originally supposed to be called "Take Two Cards and Call Me in the Morning." This book consists of material from Doc's life when he was trying to create restaurant material. He's a great comedian, too.

Dixon was one of the featured lecturers at the IBM Convention in Little Rock last July. Don't miss this one.

a speedy recovery (and better aim).

● **THE JUNIOR MEETING** May 7th was attended by 17 people. We're still working on recruiting young people to our hobby and need your help to seek out and tell potential magicians how much fun this is. Watch for the next meeting.

● **BILL FULTON** has arranged for some of our members to perform at the Science & Math Teachers Conference in November in Little Rock. Call Bill if you are interested in performing. It's a great opportunity for some great exposure for you, for the club, and for the magic profession.

People are still raving about the great teach-in last month (on card forces) and this is another in what is planned as an on-going series. It's a great opportunity to spend a couple of hours with professionals, and leave with some valuable new skills and tips.

Everyone should bring any sponge balls and cups and balls they have, to help in the demonstrations.

We'll follow the same format as last month: members will gather around four or five tables. The instructors will rotate from table to table, demonstrating and teaching their specialties.

Next month, the subject will be tricks with paper. Start practicing your tricks now.

(2) Five nights later -- **Tuesday, June 6** -- we'll have the pleasure of having **Doc Dixon** lecture to us. To show you how high he is held in the magic community, he was one of the featured lecturers at the International Brotherhood of Magicians Convention in Little Rock last July.

At press time we did not have a location for the lecture, so call Mr. Magic (455-6242) for that information, as well as the cost. Mark your calendars now.

Two special announcements:

☐ **ANNUAL ELECTION** This is the official announcement that the ballot box is open and members of Ring 29 have the privilege of voting for its leaders for 2000-2001.

All current officers have agreed to serve a second term if they are re-elected. See the enclosed ballot and read the instructions carefully.

☐ **DUES ARE DUE:** This is another official notice that the annual ring dues are now due. Pay before August 1 and it is only \$15. After then it is \$20. Bring your dues June 1.

● **SCOTT DAVIS** will be performing in Denver, Colorado June 9th and 10th, for the American Waterworks Association Convention. This is the trade conference show that ties into the show he did in Hot Springs in April. Congratulations, Scott.

MORE BITS & PIECES

● **CLOWNING AROUND:** Jim Henson and Don Baer are trying to organize a "World Clown Association" group in Little Rock, to encourage the many local clowns, as well as to provide information and guidance. If you or someone you know is interested in clowning around, call Jim at Mr. Magic and tell him what you think might help make this work. Jim "Strutter" Roberts is working us to provide a quality organizational set-up.

● **MARGARET LECLAIR** performed six shows for Carver Elementary School, May 19th. Margaret's husband, Jim, said he made sure he was working that evening to avoid any crankiness.

Margaret also is performing at Zoo Days at the Little Rock Zoo in August.

● **JIM HENSON** is still looking for anyone who is interested in attending the Texas Association of Magicians Convention in Dallas, September 1-4. Six people have already signed up. Call him for more information and to sign up for the great trip.

● **THE BRETT DANIELS SHOW** and tour by Ring 29 members is still on for this Sunday, May 28. If you receive this newsletter before then, call Jim Henson at 455-6242 or 455-1773 and you may still be able to join the group going over to Tunica.

GOT MAGIC NEWS? Call JIM at 455-6242 OR DENNIS at 374-1500.

Kyle Hamsher passes on these Daffy Definitions and Questions for Magicians:

- On what part of the body do you wear a thumb tip?
- What animal uses a dove harness?
- What are chrome billiard balls made of?
- What language is spoken by French people?
- What country is the Queen of England from?
- Who invented Tommy Windsor's Dye Box?
- What does the vanishing cane do?

(If you answered the above questions correctly, you, too, could become a magician.)

Aviator Deck: a pack of cards that fly
Square Circle: a geometric figure that's not sure of its shape

Three Shell Game: a game for the beach

A Hank of Rope: a Henry of cord

Sucker Die Box: a coffin for dead lollipops

Cigarette Catcher: like a dog catcher but only for stray cigarettes

Card Castle: where kings and queens live

Magicians needed for good cause.

Ronald McDonald House is celebrating its 20th anniversary and is expecting about 1000 people from around the state on July 15 from noon to 4:00pm. They need magicians to work the crowd, make balloon animals, or do a stage show. If you can help, please call Michael Strobel, 771-4474.

**Is YOUR E-mail address here?
Or is it incorrect?**

Notify Dennis with changes.

becky20@prodgy.com (Robert Bedford)
 all5aces@aol.com (Eric Benton)
 jon.bucher@medicaid.stste.ar.us (Jon Bucher)
 mac@moneymagic.com (Mary Ann Campbell)

mojojuju@email.msn.com (Greg Collett)
 magicguy@up-link.net (Scott Davis)
 magicisu@aol.com (Randall Eller)
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sailstrobel@aristotle.net (Michael Strobel)
 magicd@alltel.net (Don Thompson)

● On May 5th, **KYLE HAMSHER** did a show for the 3rd Annual Arkansas Spring Fair. He was "sponsored" by Radio Disney (actually, that's who he did it for. They asked him to come and perform for their little part in the fair).

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Hello Dennis,

May 13, 2000

I recently returned from a trip to Las Vegas where I experienced something truly magical.

There have been so many wonderfully talented magicians in Las Vegas that taking your talent to that desert Mecca for magic would be like taking a bucket of sand to the beach. Well, I think I saw a newcomer that we will all hear about in the next few years if not months.

Darren Romeo performs from the heart! "Darren Romeo: The Voice of Magic," stars in his own afternoon production in the main showroom at the Flamingo Las Vegas. He possesses all of the ingredients for success. You take one talented singer, add to this the ability to perform great magic, blending a comedic flair and you've got the recipe for Darren Romeo--a young man (24) destined for stardom.

Named for popular 1960s singer Bobby Darin, this Darren shares the same enthusiasm for amusing people as his namesake. In fact, he begins his show with a "Dream Lover" sequence in tribute to Darin. During this segment, Darren finds his "dream lover" when she pops out of a clear box that was empty only seconds before. He also pulls off a darling number as "The Prince of Humbug"; he shrinks himself to 12 inches tall while singing the song from the Broadway musical "Barnum."

In Darren's own words, "In the show, I get to combine my love for music with my love for magic. Here I not only can fool the mind, but move the heart." Mission accomplished. Darren's show is both inspiring and enjoyable.

K. Richard Knoll

Opportunity to perform, get gigs at Teaching Conference

Bill Fulton has announced that any Ring 29 members who would like a performing opportunity and the chance to get performance agreements from schools throughout the state, should contact him.

This year's Conference on Teaching will be held in early November in Little Rock. A social event will be held at the Museum of Discovery the evening of Nov. 2. The planning committee would like magicians to give some of the entertainment, and have agreed to pay our Ring \$300 to do so.

Bill envisions 3-4 performers performing at several stations among the exhibits. He has called dibs on the China exhibit (where he'll either play Chinese Checkers, perform with Chinese Linking Rings or do some other oriental trick). Several magicians could also perform in their small theater.

The Ring will get a public performance and some money for our treasury, and you can get exposure before 150-200 teachers and school administrators.

If you are interested in participating, or for more information, contact Bill, or call Mr. Magic for more information.

Fred Hartman presented Ring Lifetime Member Award

Last month, **Dan Bloch** of Hot Springs and **Jim Henson** of Little Rock, presented to long-time Ring 29 member **Fred Hartman** a IBM Ring 29 Lifetime Membership Award. He is only the third magician to be so honored by the Ring.

Hartman started performing magic in California and is a past member of the Hollywood Magic Club and the famed Magic Castle there. He has performed on The Ed Sullivan Show and at the Shriner's Convention in Las Vegas over his long, distinguished career.

The *Hot Springs Sentinel-Record* covered the presentation with a nice article and photo in the April 12 issue. See it at Mr. Magic.

Luann comic strip features magic over a week or so

Do you read the comic strips in the state newspaper? Editor Dennis Schick usually does, looking for references to magic.

Low and behold, the comic strip "Luann" featured magic for a week or longer recently. The story line was a talent show, and one student decided to do a magic act. Two of the strips are reproduced at the right.

BRIEFS

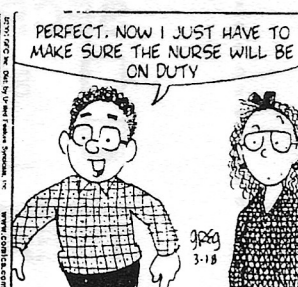
● **AN AD** in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette promotes "Michael: Master of Illusions," and gives P.O. Box 8085, Hot Springs Village, as an address. The ad says "12 years experience with children's parties, civic fund raisers, retirement homes." Are YOU investing in your magic career by promoting yourself?

● **SOMETIME BACK**, the "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" feature on the last back of each day's classified section of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, included a sketch of famous magician Henry Houdini and named him as the first man to fly solo in Australia. See the sketch below.



Believe It or Not!
MAGICIAN
HARRY HOUDINI
WAS THE FIRST MAN
TO FLY SOLO
IN AUSTRALIA!

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BALLOT ON BACK

We are cleaning out our magic file folder by using the back of the election ballot. Don't overlook the ballot on the back of this page!

How's that for conserving paper?

ALLTEL employee's magic is featured in company magazine

Newsletter editor Dennis Schick receives the ALLTEL company magazine, @ALLTEL.us He noticed in the Spring 2000 issue a two-page feature on Bill Hager, a senior account representative for ALLTEL Communications in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Hager's performing name is Darby McGill. He performs at banquets, churches, schools, private parties and company picnics.

PROMOTION TIP:

If your company has a publication -- internal or external or both -- volunteer to be the subject of a feature. It's good publicity for you, for the company and for the magic industry. Who knows? You might pick up a gig or even get someone else interested in magic. But you have to do something!

Greg Evans

RING 29
BALLOT OF OFFICERS
FOR
2000 - 2001

Please read over the entire ballot before making your choice.

Only paid members are eligible to vote. Only one (1) ballot will be issued to each member and copies will not be accepted. Ballots must be returned to Mr. Magic no later than 6 PM on June 1, 2000 or you may bring your ballot to the regular ring meeting on Thursday, June 1, 2000. Ballots received after this deadline will not be counted. Please indicate your choice by placing an "X" in the block to the left. Please vote only once for each officer position. If you write in a candidate please be sure to include the first and last name of your choice.

☐ I desire that all present officers serve a second term.
Select this option only if you want all of the present slate of officers to serve a second term. You do not need to fill out the remainder of the ballot if you select this option.

PRESIDENT:

- ☐ Damon Reinbold (Incumbent)
☐ _____

VICE-PRESIDENT:

- ☐ Dan Hecke (Incumbent)
☐ _____

SECRETARY:

- ☐ Bill Fulton (Incumbent)
☐ _____

TREASURER:

- ☐ James Kinsey (Incumbent)
☐ _____