

**I.B.M.**

RING #29

FEBRUARY 2001

# 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



## February 1 meeting is annual Ring 29 Auction

Here is it! One of the most anticipated and waited for meetings of the year -- the annual **Ring 29 Magic Auction**.

Why is it so popular? For several reasons:

(1) You can pick up some great bargains during the evening if you are quick and bold;

(2) You can get rid of some or all of those tricks you bought but never use;

(3) You can pick up some cash to turn around and invest in tricks which better fit your current act; and

(4) You can help the club since at least

10% of all sales goes to the club.

So dig around in your closets, attic and garage and pull out all those tricks you haven't even looked at in years, and come to the **Great Magic Auction, Thursday, February 1 at the regular time (7 pm) at the regular place, Baptist Medical Center.**

It would speed up processing items if you would pick up auction cards in advance, at Mr. Magic. But if you cannot get to Mr. Magic in advance of the meeting, there will be auction cards available at the meeting itself. Try to come a little early to have time to fill out the cards. Y'all come!

### BITS & PIECES

● **LAST MONTH**, over 100 members and guests attended the annual Ring 29 Christmas Party at the Otter Creek Racquet Club. As the cliché says: "A good time was had by all." The show was a dress rehearsal for the public show which the club will give later in the Spring to raise money for Arkansas Children's Hospital. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a number of annual awards. They are listed separately.

● **RING 75 in FORT SMITH** will honor **Bill & Ruth Pitts** with a "Surprise" wedding reception, Feb. 11 at 2 pm in Fort Smith. Anyone interested in going over should contact Jim at Mr. Magic. If enough people are interested there could be a car caravan or at least a van full to go. Bill & Ruth got married in December.

● **JAN SANKEY** has approached us to see if our Ring is interested in having him come to lecture this Spring. If you like the idea, tell any Board member.

● **MARTIN LEWIS** will lecture at Ring 308 in Searcy at their regular meeting place, the Ewing Pyeatt Building just west of the library on Pleasure Street. It will be **March 12** at 8 pm. Cost is only \$10. Since a number of our Ring members say they want to go, we'll plan on taking a van, running a car caravan or whatever. Sign up to go by calling Jim at Mr. Magic.

● **DAVID COPPERFIELD** is tentatively scheduled for a performance in Little Rock March 13. More information to come.

### Cavalcade of Magic set for Eureka Springs March 22-24

The annual Cavalcade of Magic, produced by our own Bill Pitts, is scheduled for March 22-24 at the Inn of the Ozarks in Eureka Springs, where it has been for many years. You must make reservations. Jim at Mr. Magic has forms and more information so call him. We should have a good turn-out from Ring 29.

● **KYLE HAMSHER**, while performing at Shorty Small's in North Little Rock recently, used his thumb cuffs on a customer. But then he realized he had left the key at home. Ask him how he got out of this one!

● **ELSON BIHM** reviewed "The Magic Land of Alakazam" in the January issue of *Linking Ring*. If you missed it, go back and read pages 114-116. He did a great job with his review. Thanks, Elson, for a nice piece of writing.

### NEXT MEETING:

- **Thursday, February 1**  
**7 pm, UAMS**

### ANNUAL AUCTION

### Magic on Television:

One of the indications of the high popularity of magic in recent years is the attention by the television industry.

• Last Saturday **The Science of Magic** was on. Even though it was a repeat, it still is a good show, so see it next time it's on.

• This coming Saturday at 6 pm **The World's Greatest Magic II** is set for The Family Channel (23). It's a re-run.

• The long-overdue **David Copperfield Special** will be on CBS April 3. It was filmed in Memphis January 7-21. Several Ring 29 and Ring 308 members attended some of it. John Patterson and his wife of Searcy were chosen to be in the show. We've asked him to write a report about the experience.

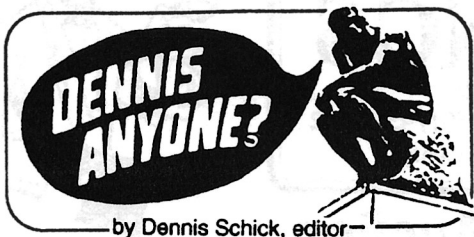
When you watch the show, look for Ring 29 members in the audience: Jimmy Rhodes, Creel, Jim & Christy Henson and others.

### Ring 29 presents awards:

Member of the year: **Dennis Schick**  
Junior Magician of the Year: **Kyle Hamsher**  
Comedy Magician of the Year: **Derrick Rose**  
Close-up Magician of the Year: **Scott Davis**  
Stage Performer of the Year: **Maxwell Blade**  
Board Member of the Year: **Mike Curtis**  
"Power Behind the Magic" Award to two spouses: **Jan Hecke** and **Christy Kinsey**  
Congratulations all of these deserving folks.

### COMING MAGIC EVENTS CALENDAR:

- Jan. 27 **World's Greatest Magic II**, 6 pm, Family Channel (23)
- Feb. 1 **Regular monthly meeting, Ring 29**, 7 pm, UAMS: **Annual Magic Auction**
- Feb. 11 **Wedding Reception** for Bill & Ruth Pitts, Fort Smith (call Jim for details)
- Mar. 12 **Martin Lewis Lecture** in Searcy, 8 pm, \$10, car caravan from Mr. Magic, 6 pm
- Mar. 13 **David Copperfield performance**, Little Rock (tentative)
- Mar. 22-24 **Cavalcade of Magic**, Inn of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs
- Apr. 13 **David Copperfield television special**, CBS
- Apr. 28-29 **"Magic Day" at Museum of Discovery**. Call Bill Fulton for details.



by Dennis Schick, editor

I have been writing a column in one newsletter or another -- sometimes several at one time -- for over 40 years. My first was in a college newspaper after I got out of the Army in January 1959. I called it "Dennis Anyone?" then and still use that name.

Here are some personal magic thoughts over the past month or so:

- I was surprised but also pleased when I learned earlier this week that I had been named the Ring 29 2000 Member of the Year. I assume this is to acknowledge my monthly newsletter (which I started doing in **April 1993**), my performing at the Paper Magic meeting in July, and my regular E-mails to members about what magic is on television that week.

Thank you Ring 29 Board, for this recognition. I am honored.

- Where I was during that meeting was with 10 other APA people on a Winter Get-away trip to Club Med in the Bahamas. It is located on Paradise Island, across the bay from Nassau.

One day one of our group who had been at the Crystal Casino in Nassau said there was a magic show there. So Jan and I made arrangements to take a taxi over there that same evening. The show began at 9:30 and we got there five minutes before it started.

Actually, it was more a musical revue with magic than a magic show. The magician is Joanie Spina, who worked with David Copperfield for many years. According to the show brochure, she was "principal performer, choreographer and artistic consultant" to him for 11 years. She has been in the Nassau show for about a year.

Her talents showed up in the overall show and it was well-staged, with beautiful scenery, costumes and dance numbers. But the magic was less than a third of the 90-minute show and -- while it was fair to good -- it was predictable. I've probably seen too many much better magic shows (from Copperfield and Kirby Van Burch to Brett Daniels and Melinda).

The following is from my notes on the tricks she did during the show:

- Opened with a window frame which rotated. The shade drops and Joanie appears. Then a man steps in, shade is pulled

again and when put up he disappears;

- Card on sword trick;
  - Story theme: woman misses boyfriend; dream man appears and then disappears from clothes trunk when her boyfriend calls;
  - A "dangerous" trick featured a can on a huge crusher;
  - During one dance number the colors of her gloves changed several times;
  - A torn & restored tissue made into a hat for a young girl from the audience;
  - Playing card drawn on pad; wrong card on top but correct one behind it on pad;
  - Concluded with mini-Metamorphosis.
- I enjoyed the show overall, but was disappointed there wasn't more magic.

## A column of reminders

The following are two articles from last month's newsletter. Let them serve as reminders to readers.

### Ring Web site being updated

Bill Fulton and James Kinsey are updating the Ring 29 Web site. If you want to place a free ad on the site you need to send information to Bill and an appropriate picture. Your ad needs to include your name, stage name, phone number, Web site (if you have one), and type of magic.

Either send an E-mail to Bill Fulton at, [wfulton@aristotle.net](mailto:wfulton@aristotle.net), call 501-663-9380, or leave your name at Mr. Magic if you wish to place an ad.

### Ring 29 to host "Magic Day" at Discovery Museum April 28-29

Bill Fulton needs magician volunteers to work at the Discovery Museum on April 28-29 for an event titled "Magic Day." The Ring won't make any money on this public show, but we will be the only event for those days.

You can bring your stuff and set up a station to work for the day. Bring and distribute your brochures, flyers and calling cards to drum up business for yourself. Jim Henson will bring some magic museum stuff to put on a display to advertise Ring 29.

The times will be **Saturday, April 28, 10-5 and Sunday, April 29, 12-5**. You can work both days or just one day. We will have to organize some stage shows and open arena shows three times on Saturday and two shows on Sunday. Let Bill know if you are interested in this event. This looks like an excellent way to get some free advertising, do a good deed, and have some fun. The Museum will do some PR for the Ring.

## A first-hand report on the 2001 World Magic Seminar

Four members of IBM Ring 29 attended this year's World Magic Seminar Jan. 14-17 in Las Vegas. Those members were **Jon Bucher, Richard Knoll, Sean Westbrook and Jim Henson**. The following are notes from Jim Henson. Perhaps the others will share some of their thoughts later.

The seminar consisted of stage shows, lectures, and adult and teen competitions. Seigfried & Roy and Lance Burton hosted the event, but Seigfried had the flu and was unable to participate.

Penn and Teller took their place and performed an outrageous routine, with Teller talking and Penn miming (just the opposite of their usual routine). The audience of magicians went crazy during this act of switching roles.

Performers were there from all over the world, including France, Germany, Japan and many others. All of the lectures were outstanding, including those by Jan Sankey, Simo Aalto (Finland), Karl Norman, Guy Baul, Mark Wilson and many others.

The event honored comedy magician Carl Ballentine, who was a delight to visit with. He has a movie coming out in April called "Remembering Harry."

Ring members who attended had a chance to visit with Fantasio, Teller, Norm Nelson, Eugene Burger, Joe Stevens, Aldo Columbini, Ali Bongo, and many others.

A few words about the teen competition. Of the 17 teen competitors -- with few exceptions -- the performances were outstanding. We sat for four straight hours observing pure magic. The teens came from all over the country, from Hawaii to Minnesota to Florida.

The first-place winner did a full routine around boxes of Cracker Jacks. It was extremely innovative. Most of the teens used doves in their acts. One even produced a rabbit along with doves in the same manner. A 14-year-old boy did a change-to-a-tiger.

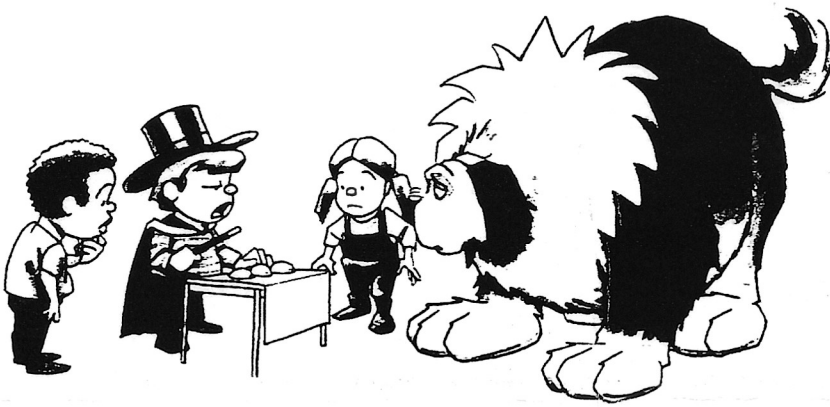
We all agreed that the teen competition was extremely well performed. In fact, in most cases the teens were better than the adults. We should encourage our teen members to develop their magic skills and work to compete in these kinds of competitions.

Any of the four members who attended would love to talk with you about this event. And if you are in Las Vegas, be aware that there are **14 magic shows** going on, including Fielding West, Melinda and Jeff McBride.

# VEGAS AFTER THE NUCLEAR WASTE ACCIDENT



## HOWARD HUGE®



"No fair sniffing!"

PAGE 24 · JANUARY 14, 2001 · PARADE MAGAZINE

JIM HENSON brought this cartoon back from Las Vegas. He said there was a lot of controversy there on what to do with the nuclear waste in the desert outside the city.

## DENNIS THE MENACE



"PICK A CARD, MOM... ANY CARD."

"NOT THAT ONE!"

When YOU attend a magic show, seminar, conference, etc., why not take some notes and then write up a review of it to share with other Ring members? We all can't go to every such event, but we can enjoy them through the eyes of others. Fax us your reviews at (501) 374-1500 or E-mail them to:

[dschick@arkansaspress.org](mailto:dschick@arkansaspress.org)

The usual deadline each month is the 20th of the month for the next month's newsletter. Thanks.

## What's new with YOU?

So what are you doing in magic? Call Jim or Dennis (374-1500) so we can let your fellow magicians know.