

I.B.M. Ring 29

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AUGUST 2002

# MAGIC MUSINGS

International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring #29

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

Meets 1st Thursday of every month, Baptist Medical Center



## August 1 meeting at BMC will feature Ethics in Magic

The next meeting of Ring 29 will be held **Thursday, August 1** at the regular place (Baptist Medical Center) and at the regular time (7 pm).

The theme for the month is "Ethics in Magic." A panel of experienced magicians

### NEXT MEETING:

- **Thursday, August 1, 7 pm**  
**Baptist Medical Center**  
**"Ethics in Magic"**

### BITS & PIECES

● **LAST MONTH** 36 members and friends attended an evening of close-up magic, performed by a dozen people, including some who were in town for only a few days. It was a good evening and we will schedule it again. Thanks to everyone who attended and especially to those who participated.

● **THE WORLD CLOWN** Association meeting -- Laff Master Clowns of Arkansas -- held a meeting July 21. This group always has fun. They meet at Mr. Magic at 2 pm on Sunday afternoon. If you are interested, call Jim Henson for the next meeting date.

● **A SAD NOTE:** Some of you may remember **Merritt Hendrix** from Benton. He died July 7 and was only 27. He was a member of this Ring at one time before he moved away. He loved magic and being around magicians.

● **ON A HAPPIER NOTE,** the annual **Ring 29 Picnic** will be held at the **Jim Henson House, Sept. 14** at 5:30 pm. We'll roast hot dogs on a bonfire and have a great magic show as well. Be sure and mark that Saturday night on your calendars. We'll include a map in next month's newsletter for those who have not been there before. Brenda says: BYOC (Bring your own chair). A few will be available.

● **IF YOU ARE NOT** already signed up to perform at the Museum of Discovery September 21-22 during **Magic Weekend**, you can still get in on the fun. Contact Bill Fulton at [fulton@aristotle.net](mailto:fulton@aristotle.net)

These shows are for children and their parents. Bill has a good list started, but can

will discuss and evaluate the problems associated with performing, including:

- Handling of audience hecklers;
- Using other performers' material
- What to charge for performing, and many other aspects of performing. Last year this meeting was one of the biggest of the year. If you perform -- whether just for family and friends or as a professional, or somewhere in between -- you will benefit from this meeting. Come and learn from others, but also share your own experiences.

still use more performers.

● **AS DENNISHAS REPORTED,** there are several magicians working in Branson right now: Kirby Van Burch, Bart Rocket, Sean Paul and Julieanne, and the Hammers come to mind.

But a new act has just opened in the Imax complex: "**Right before your Eyes**," with **Chris Rayman**. He has a magic store there and performs primarily close-up in the small theater so the audience is very close.

Chris starred in a production in St. Louis for several years, and even had his own magic restaurant. But he likes more personal magic and this is a whole new experience for him, as well as the audience.

Shows are Monday through Saturday, 10

### Dues are now due

As we have reminded you several times, annual dues to be a member of IBM Ring 29 are **now due**. If you **pay by August 1**, you will receive a \$5 discount making the figure \$15. After then the regular dues amount will apply, or \$20.

Bring your dues to the August meeting and you won't be late. Look at the envelope this newsletter came in and if there is a "P" next to your name, **you are paid up** until next year. If no "P," **you owe dues**.

**NOTE:** If you do not pay your dues by August, 1, you will be taken off this newsletter mailing list. A word to the wise!

am, 12 noon, 4:30 and 6:30 pm. Tickets are \$14.95 but Mr. Magic has 2-for-1 passes if you plan to go. If anyone does go, please give the rest of us a review.

● **DID ANYONE GO** to San Diego from Ring 29 for the IBM convention? We know that at least **Margaret Leclair** did, and she was kind enough to write a review for us. It's on the back of this page.

And don't forget that the IBM convention will be in Kansas City next July. We should have a great delegation from Ring 29 because it will be so close.

## "Magic in the Natural State" set for Oct. 19-20

The 1st Annual Ring 29 magic regional convention -- "Magic in the Natural State" -- will be held Oct. 19-20 at the Hot Springs Convention Center. The registration cost is \$60 for immediate family (member, spouse and kids) if paid by September 1, and \$75 after that. A one-day fee will be available at \$40.

Highlights include lectures, close-up, shows, a public show, private shows, competitions and a magic auction on the concluding day (only for people registered).

Some of the performers scheduled so far include Bill & Ruth Pitts, Dave

Emerson, Howard Hale, Diamond Jim Tyler, and Christopher Hart ("Hand" in the Adams Family movies). We're waiting to hear from others to confirm.

Registration forms are available at Mr. Magic. Over 20 members have already signed up and we're looking to have between 75 and 100 to attend. Sign up now to help generate more funds so we can invite more performers. This is **your** club's major project. We need you to (1) register, (2) to volunteer to help on a committee, and (3) to help in other ways (sell ads, sell tickets, etc. Step forward and help. Call Jim for details.

# LIVE! from San Diego! The 2002 IBM Convention

**by Margaret LeClair**

Well, I have returned from another IBM Convention, this year in San Diego. Unfortunately, for the most part the convention was a disappointment. But there was one redeeming factor and I'll get to that later.

I started out with things not going well. I arrived around noon on Tuesday, minus a piece of luggage. The one with my magic stuff made it. The one with my clothes didn't.

Unfortunately, I was scheduled to go to The Magic Castle that night and they have a dress code -- I couldn't get in with what I was wearing. The bellman directed me to a mall, and I ended up going over there to buy an outfit for my visit at the Castle.

I thoroughly enjoyed The Magic Castle, with one exception. My friend, Joe, and I were in the parlor show, and the magician looked at me as if he was going to ask me to assist him with something. He said: "Oh, you're a magician's wife," and turned away. I was speechless. After the parlor show that magician was outside greeting people. I slugged him in the arm and said: "I'm not a magician's wife!" I'm sure Joe explained about me later. He is on a Castle committee and spends a lot of time there.

## Highlight of The Castle

I think the highlight of the trip to the Castle was visiting with Erma. She is interesting, to say the least. Damon: Erma says "Hello again." (Remember the Neil Diamond song?)

Returning to the hotel around 2:30 am, my suitcase had arrived from the airline.

The convention hotel was not conducive to convention gatherings. At most conventions there is one central meeting place -- lobby, bar, etc. Not at this hotel. As soon as the shows were over, the convention center rushed everyone out and locked up. Unless someone volunteered his room, there was no late night schmoozing or brainstorming.

Since the mall was within walking distance, those of us who couldn't afford the expensive hotel food walked to the food court to eat.

## Fitch was best lecture

The best lecture of the convention was the one by Bob Fitch. He didn't lecture on magic tricks or techniques. He lectured on stage presence and how to get the most out of it. He talked about the proper development of your character and how to make sure it fits. He gave several examples of magicians using comedy, but due to their stature the

comedy turned into intimidation. But just slight changes can turn intimidation into comedy. It's all in how you work it!

The evening shows were good, for the most part. Steve Bargatze was hilarious with his straitjacket routine, as usual. Omar Pasha and his black art is beyond excellent. If you have never seen Todd Charles in action, you have missed a very entertaining act. Rick Thomas was good, but several of us thought he talked too much about his assistant, Grace.

I was not impressed with Ayala and Tonya. A little bit of misdirection is good, but he could have brought an elephant and a jumbo jet on stage and the men would not have known it. Darren Romeo made a surprise appearance, but he did not do any magic. He sang a song from Phantom of the Opera. He does have a magical voice, though.

## Dealer's Room was dull

The dealer's room was nothing to write home about. There was nothing that could be labeled "gotta have NOW!" It was just the same old mishmash of cards, coins, silks and other stuff. My friends Mark and Sheila Cannon of Cannon's Great Escapes had a booth. They had all sorts of escape items and did quite well. Mark said that success more than paid for his newest purchase, a water torture cell (which he'll rent out), and also paid for a three-week vacation.

The competition had a surprise. Remember that French judge at the Olympics? She showed up in San Diego. When Keiko Muto won the Gold Medal, many of us were surprised. Some of us thought other acts were better. Even though I didn't think she was even in the same caliber as others, it's just my opinion and I wasn't a judge.

## Remembering Little Rock

A few people noticed where I was from on my name badge. I was complimented several times on the convention Little Rock hosted in 1999. The best thing they said was the fact that the theater was within walking distance of the convention hotel. There was no need for buses or a trolley. Remember to sell that point if we ever bid to get the convention back to Little Rock.

Now for the one redeeming factor for me at the convention. I mentioned that my friends, the Cannons, had a dealer's booth. There were several of us escape enthusiasts at the convention, so we ended up having our own mini-convention during IBM. When most people gathered to talk about coins and cards, the five or six of us gathered to talk

about handcuffs, straitjackets, locks and other escape items. We had one all-night session that was worth the entire trip.

The only thing which would have made it better would have been if Ian McColl had been there. It was nice to be able to sit down and talk serious about technique and presentation. Many ideas were shared and all of us contributed equally. So don't be surprised if I delve deeper into the art of escape!

## Almost embarrassing

I had one situation which could have been "My most embarrassing moment." Before the evening shows started, one man went around getting people on video doing some miscellaneous magic. Since I was hanging out with escape people, I had my ADA-100s with me most of the time, and I had them with me that evening. Mark, Sheila, Joe and Joseph talked me into doing my little handcuff escape for the camera. Mark was chosen to put the cuffs on me.

Unbeknownst to him, I was wearing a watch, and he fastened the cuffs going across my watchband. I could not get the trigger mechanism to work like that. I got one hand free but had difficulty with the other. I did finally get the other one off, but not without slicing my wrist and bruising it. It wasn't too bad; not too much blood. Mark felt really bad about it and he paid me the highest compliment I've ever had with my escapology: He said: "You know what? You DID it. You never gave up! If we had any doubts about your abilities, you have erased them." That made me feel good, knowing that I am not considered just a magician that does a couple of escapes.

Mark now wants to know when I'm going to rent his Water Torture Cell. For you interested, his is not like the standard ones. His was made by Warner Brothers for a movie and he purchased it after the movie was completed. It's got some very interesting and subtle differences that make me anxious for the day when I can rent it.

## Goin' to Kansas City

Well, that's my story of the 2002 IBM Convention. I was disappointed in the convention overall. But then I didn't go just for the main convention. I went for the mini-escapology convention we held. I am glad we went. I do have my registration form for the convention in Kansas City next year. Be prepared. I will enter the competitions next year. Yes, competition\$. I plan to enter both stage and close-up. I've already begun working on them.