

MAGIC NEWS

HEART OF THE RING

IBM Ring 129 - "The Heart of America Ring" - Kansas City

**GREAT FOOD....MAGIC.....
FUN.....PREPARE TO BE
DAZZLED AND MYSTIFIED!**

*H. Claude Enslow Magician of the Year
Banquet Scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 19th*

What a truly great way to honor one of Ring 129's premiere magicians, H. Claude Enslow. Once a year our entire ring gets together and celebrates the accomplishments of a remarkable individual. Some of us knew him for many years; others have no clue who he is. But look around, and see his influence in how we perform our routines and his efforts to further the enjoyment of magic.

Mr. Enslow had that kind of personality that personified magic as we know it. He was an inaugural Sorcerer's Circle member, and was responsible for its name. Mr. Enslow was known as well for his expertise in the close-up arena. He inspired each person he had contact with to perfect their presentations and sleight-of-hand capabilities.

The honor of performing in the H. Claude Enslow Magician of the Year Contest goes to the following Ring 129 members: **Kevin Kirwan, Danny Mahar, Dean Elledge, Dennis Burks, Terry Davis, Keith Leff, Kyle Scheel, Harris Deutsch, Israel Rivera, Matt Gurley, Brent Ahsmuhs, and L. C. Collier.**

Our **International President Robert Escher** and his wife, Sandy, are tentatively scheduled to join us for this celebration.

Look forward to a truly great night to begin this new magical year. Bring your checkbooks to make reservations at the Jan. 3rd regular Ring meeting.



**CAREFUL
OR YOU'LL
BUST YOUR
GUT**

Exciting Event
Planned
For Sorcerer's
Circle Members

Hard to believe another year has passed since the H. Claude Enslow Magician of the Year Banquet, but this is always an anticipated weekend when combined with a Sorcerer's Circle get-together.

This year **Roger Miller**, along with **Walt Mitchell** and **Jay Godwin** have organized what is to be a most fun and entertaining event – on Friday, Jan. 18th, dinner and a show at Comedy City, located at **300 Charlotte**, a few blocks east of Grand in the River Market area.

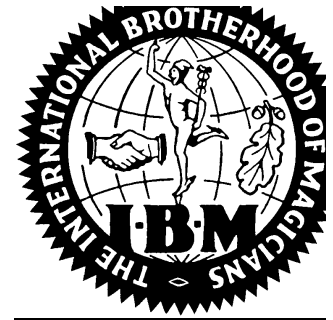
EDITOR'S NOTE: AS OF THE DATE OF PUBLICATION, THERE WAS A MISTAKE IN THE INVITATIONS YOU WILL BE RECEIVING. THE LOCATION IS NOT 300 COMMODORE, BUT AS STATED ABOVE. PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE.

Comedy City is known for its fast moving impromptu performances that get you busting a gut! They encourage audience participation, so come along with other SC members and have a ball.

Costs for the buffet dinner are \$18 per person / \$36 per couple. Includes admission and dinner. The \$15 cost for the show will be covered with your dinner reservation. We are encouraging all SC members to attend both the dinner and show.

We will be taking your paid reservations at the Ring meeting on Jan. 3rd, so bring your cash or checks. (CON'T PAGE 2)

You don't want to miss this kick-off to a truly



Upcoming Events

January 3, 2002

Regular Meeting 7:00 pm

Holiday Inn

95th and I-35

Lenexa, KS

Friday, January 18,

2002

Sorcerer's Circle

Event

Comedy City

**H. Claude Enslow
Magician of the Year
Contest & Banquet
Saturday, January 19,
2002**

Roeland Park
Community Center

**Tim Ellis -
Sue-Anne Webster
Lecture**

Thursday, January 24, 2002

7:00 pm

Holiday Inn

95th and I-35

Lenexa, KS

(See Page 3 for more info)

**Board Meeting
January 31, 2002**

7:00 pm

Place To Be Announced

February 7, 2002

Regular Meeting 7:00 pm

Holiday Inn

95th and I-35

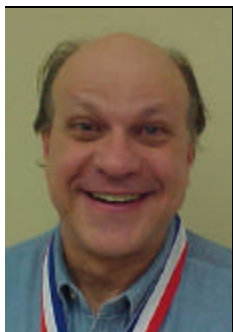
Lenexa, KS

**Children's Magic Show
and Ring Auction**

March 2, 2002

Roeland Park Community
Center

Kid's Show- 1:00 pm



President's Column
By
Mike Blum

Finally, a new year I cannot mess up! Even if I get it backwards, for one whole year, 2002 is 2002 no matter how I do it. I will get off my usual chit-chatting about my pediatric patients and my trips to ask for some help from every club member.

We are entering perhaps one of the best years a magic club could ever hope for. We have a great meeting place. We have scheduled some super lectures for the year. The banquet for Magician of the Year is this month. The board is really working very hard at trying to make things fun, entertaining and sociable for all the members and guests at every club function.

I need your help. This will be my second year as president of Ring 129. My first year was successful only because the membership worked together to make the club a quality and fun organization. I do not want to rest on the successes of the past, but we need to make changes to create a better club for the future.

This is the start of my top ten list for January 2002:

- 10 Pay your dues (no more newsletters, etc. will be sent if you have not)
- 9 Look through your magic...know what you have (or do not have)
- 8 Look for the new roster to be mailed to you in the next month
- 7 Recruit at least one new member to join our Ring 129 (and the IBM)
- 6 Start collecting your Sorcerer's circle points
- 5 [^] Quote of the Month
 t
 the date
- 4 Start thinking about the club auction, March 2nd (see #9)
- 3 Participate in club meetings (perform, mini-lecture, sell, etc)
- 2 Call, email or write me any suggestions, complaints or concerns you think will make the club a more fun (funner?) and entertaining group.
- 1 Please set your goal to **attend at least 75%** of all club functions this year! If everyone tries to attend and participate, we promote a lot more magic and we get to know each other better.

I look forward to hearing from each of you during this year. My thanks for a successful 2001 and my best wishes for a happy, healthy and magical 2002.

Doc Blum

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The Heart of the Ring is published monthly as a service to the members of IBM Ring 129. Views and comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Ring 129 officers, the IBM, or the Editor. Articles must be in the Editor's office by the 20th of the month. Members are encouraged to submit articles and comments for publishing.

Ring 129 Website

<http://www.ring129.com>

Magician of the Month

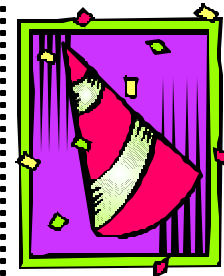
December

Stage

L. C. Collier

Close-up

Stu Lewis



**Hope everyone
 had a Happy and
 safe New Year!**

BUST A GUT...CON'T from Page 1

The Sorcerer's Circle planning committee has asked for help from the ring. In order to defray the cost of the comedy show, they will be collecting as many Entertainment or Gold C coupons for Comedy City as we can. This will allow us a chance to see this great innovative show at a really great price. So bring any coupons you may have to the Ring meeting, or send them to **Roger Miller, PO Box 417, Bonner Springs, KS 66012.**

COME OVER FOR GREAT MAGIC FROM DOWN UNDER

Tim Ellis and Sue-Anne Webster.....

Their Unique Fast-paced Lecture Makes Its Way To Kansas City

From January to March 2002 Australia's favorite magicians, Tim Ellis and Sue-Anne Webster, will present their hit lecture 'Ellis in Wonderland' throughout the USA, UK, Europe and South Africa. We are honored to have them perform for us on **Thursday, January 24th at 7:00 pm at the Holiday Inn in Lenexa, KS at I-35 and 95th St.**

They specialize in close-up magic, comedy, illusion shows, and product launches for corporate and private events and perform throughout Australia, New Zealand, The Pacific Islands, Singapore, Japan, Europe, the UK, and the USA.

Tim has won over twenty awards and is world renowned for his highly original and entertaining twists on the "classics" of magic, as a result he is the only Australian ever to win twice at the FISM World Championship of Magic.

Sue-Anne has performed drama professionally in theatre, film, and television and is trained in mime, puppetry and Latin dance.

As a team, they were voted "Most Valuable Performers" at the prestigious FFFF close-up magicians conference in New York, 2001. Other awards include: Silver Medal Close-Up Magic, FISM (Japan), Special Prize of The Jury, FISM (Switzerland), Champion Close Up Magician of Australia, Champion Stage Magician of Australia

They co-edited Australia's only national magic magazine, and produced a calendar 'The Wizards of Aus: Exposed' featuring Sue-Anne's hilarious caricatures of Australian magical personalities.

Tim and Sue-Anne have been featured in over 200 press articles, including many front page feature stories. They have made over 80 appearances on TV world-wide, and Tim helped produce a two hour Australian magic special 'Magical Mystery Tour in Australia' for Japan's media giant NHK TV.

Tim created and produced Australia's national festival of Magic 'Magic Week' annually from 1986 to 1996, and produced three major Australian Magic Conventions. He created Melbourne's 'Magic School', coordinated several University based 'Magic Unlimited' courses, and produced a series of 18 magic teaching videos.

Sue-Anne's greatest delight comes from sawing Tim in half with a chainsaw. You have to see it to believe it!

Be sure to mark your calendars and make every effort to attend this outstanding opportunity! It will be an evening you soon won't forget!

Letter From the Editor

YES!! - KANSAS CITY TO HOST IBM INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN 2003

My interest, or truly, my obsession with magic over the last two years since joining Ring 129 has been so rewarding. I have learned so much and in turn started to pass that learning to other new magicians that are at the same spot I was back then. One of the first things that I remember EVERY magician telling me is this – whatever you do, never tell them how you did the trick, and never repeat the same trick twice. This drives me to what I witnessed this past Sunday. Maybe others saw the same.

It was a 60 Minutes interview on CBS. Ed Bradley was interviewing The Great One, Muhammed Ali, in sync with the release of the movie "Ali" starring Will Smith. It explained his rise to fame and fortune, and respect from millions around the world. Because of his many fights, he has contracted Parkinson's Disease, but still makes personal appearances and visits to thousands everywhere. It seems Ali has used magic as therapy for improving his dexterity due to his disease.

But what raised the hair on the back of my neck was CBS's blatant exposure of Ali's use of a thumb tip to vanish and reappear a handkerchief as he performed for Fidel Castro. Their excuse was that Ali had to share with his audience the secrets because in the Islam religion, you cannot deceive someone and not allow them know the truth. But every time that one of us uses a TT to disappear salt, a cigarette, or a hanky, now several million more people have been exposed to a great mystery in the magic fraternity. What are we to do? Can we write CBS and ask for more scrutiny in editing? Can we write Ali and beg him to keep his magical secrets to himself? I am in a quandry. What are your thoughts? What if it happened to you?. Well, in the meantime, SSHHHHHH – let's keep it *all* a secret!

Quote of the Month

cure diseases, cast spells on an invading army, and most significantly gain the favor of the gods.

From the days of ancient sorcerers to the present-day feats of such master illusionists as Harry Blackstone, Jr., Doug Henning, and David Copperfield, magic as entertainment has surpassed the appeal of magic in religious ritual. There are ancient Egyptian records giving detail of performances before Pharaoh Cheops, who died about 2494 BC.

When in the 4th century Christianity became the dominant religion of the Roman Empire, it turned against all magicians. They were outlawed nearly everywhere. Later, in the Middle Ages, magicians were caught up in condemnations of witches, sorcerers, and devil worshipers. They were often jailed and sometimes executed. Not until the Renaissance did it become possible for traveling entertainers, such as jugglers and other wonder workers, to perform before royalty, nobility, and even bishops if not always for the public. By the 16th century there were professional magicians doing card tricks, reading minds, and making objects disappear.

There are today many books of magic that show anyone with manual dexterity how to perform tricks. During the Renaissance there were many such instruction manuals. Illusionists passed the secrets of their trade from one generation to another.

Books on magic began to appear late in the 16th century. One of the earliest was published in France in 1584: 'The First Part of Subtle and Pleasant Tricks' by Jean Prevost. The first book in English came out in 1612: 'The Art of Juggling'. Debunkers of magic also published. In England Reginald Scot issued the book, 'The Discovery of Witchcraft' in 1584 to expose the sleight-of-hand artists of his time.

By the 18th century magic as entertainment was well established in Europe. One of the most famous illusionists was Baron Wolfgang von Kempelen. In 1770 he devised an automated chess player that took on all challengers. Benjamin Franklin played against the machine in 178

It was brought to our attention that some of us were not aware of this totally exciting news. It's true! Kansas City and Ring 129 will be hosting the IBM International Convention from July 1st to July 5th, 2003.

Even more special is that our own **David Sandy** will be installed as the International President during special ceremonies at this convention. It seems too early to think about, but it's really only about one and a half years away.

So circle your calendars, or list it in your Palm Pilots, and let everyone know that Kansas City will see magic like they haven't seen in decades. ARE YOU READY KANSAS CITY???

JUST A SUBTLE REMINDER!!!

Your Ring 129 Dues are NOW DUE! Please send to David Sandy, Treasurer, at 3604 Emerald Lane, St. Joseph, MO 64506, or bring with you to the Ring meeting. If you have already paid, we

A LITTLE INTERESTING BACKGROUND, PLEASE

Tales of our Forefathers

The hand is not really quicker than the eye. The skill of the magician is in getting an audience to focus its attention where he wants it at a specific instant. The success of magic lies in the ability to create illusions that have the appearance of reality. For thousands of years it was believed that magicians or sorcerers were able, by use of supernatural powers, to gain control over natural forces.

igion. A king's personal magician ward off enemies, prevent and

Don't Do An "About Face"

There Are New Faces Among Us

We are happy to announce the addition of several new faces to the Magical landscape at Ring 129. In the last several months, we have had the following Magicians join our ranks – from amateurs to professionals: **Cliff Norris, Terry Carlson, Daniel Jackson, Lynne Philips, Brent Ahsmuhs, and John Ward.**

Members – it is so important if you see an unfamiliar face, take the time to go and say "Welcome" to your fellow Magicians. For that matter, make any guest feel at ease in our meetings. For our home is their home.

And let's keep it up by letting friends and business associates know about the camaraderie we experience. Bring a guest next month!

And Congratulations to our new members!

Magic Giggle for the Month

A man was walking through the Sahara desert, desperate for water, when he saw something, far off in the distance. Hoping to find water, he walked towards the image, only to find a little old merchant sitting at a card table with a bunch of neckties laid out on it.

The adventurer asked, "Please, I'm dying of thirst, can I have some water?"

The merchant replied, "I don't have any water, but why don't you buy a tie? Here's one that goes nicely with your robes."

The man shouted, "I don't want a tie, you idiot, I need water!"

"OK, don't buy a tie. But to show you what a nice guy I am, I'll tell you that over that hill there, about 4 miles, is a nice restaurant. Walk that way, they'll give you all the water you want."

The adventurous man disappeared. Three hours later he came crawling back to where the merchant was sitting behind his card table. The merchant said, "Hey, I told you, about 4 miles over that hill. Couldn't you find it?"

The weary gent rasped "I found it all right. Your brother wouldn't let me in without a tie."

-Stage Winner L. C. Collier



While working for an attorney's office back in 1984, L.C. wrote an article for a newsletter about several employees that were moonlighting as clowns. The more he researched, the more he became swept up in magic. As magic became the driving force in his life, he sold his collection agency business and became a full time magician. L.C. prefers all forms of magic, but prefers stand-up. He says pleasing a large crowd of people for a prolonged period provides an exchange of energy not unlike a love affair. He has recently moved back from L.A. (that's Lower Alabama) and has not had an opportunity to establish a regular performing arena. He loves to run with scissors and plays well with others, and will have something lined up soon. If he could be any tree, he wanted to be a giant redwood, because viewing them always produces awe, and they stay around for a thousand years. He has been learning sign language, and recently performed for the KC School for the Deaf. Performing for a challenged group provides a satisfaction like no other. He would encourage others of us to

Close-up Winner Stu Lewis



Stu Lewis became interested in magic later in life after seeing several impressive mentalists perform. He doesn't recall having an interest in magic in his younger years. He performs mostly for friends and at Ring meetings, and he occasionally does Kid's shows. Having performed both close-up and stage, he leans towards close-up, because he likes the idea of performing magic that depends on him, and not props, assistants, and staging. When asked what tree would you most like to be, he said a "tree"mendous magician!! Stu loves to perform for anyone that truly appreciates seeing magic, and is a member of IBM, Congregation Beth Torah, Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education, and the Lyric Opera Guild. Thanks Stu for everything that you contribute to the Ring and its members.

Pick one – sight or hearing impaired, shut-ins, the inner city, mentally challenged, hospitals – you will not regret it! His biggest aspiration is to perform in the world market (England, France, Monte Carlo, South America, etc.). Paid vacation! Not a bad idea!! He has been Past President of Ring 129 and SAM Assembly, and maintains those memberships today. He is also associated with the International Magic Association. We are glad that L.C. is a part of our Magical Family.

Ring 129 Lecture Fees

Unless listed otherwise,
Are as follows:

Non-Members \$15

Members in good standing \$12

Sorcerer's Circle Members \$10

See Article on PAGE 3

What Really Happens At Our Ring 129 Meetings

*Special thanks to Stu Lewis for his notes from the
Linking Ring report*

Our December meeting, with about forty in attendance, began with some good news – the announcement that the Board has accepted six new members: **John Ward, Lynn Phillips, Daniel Jackson, Michael Kirwan, Terry Carlson, and Cliff Norris.**

Before beginning the performances, we were treated to a teach-a-trick session with **Kev Kirwan.** He demonstrated the “scissors move” principle, which is hard to describe in print. Essentially, it involves changing one’s grip from the thumb and index finger to the index and middle finger. He showed how it could be used to vanish a coin or to switch linking rings. The best-known use might be the count in “Professor’s Nightmare” where the three ropes are counted while being shown to be the same length.

Stu Lewis led off the close-up contest with a variation of the Mark DeSouza “Fast and Loose” routine (a.k. a., endless chain). By introducing a “double-catch” move and some other innovations, DeSouza turned this novelty into an entire routine. Junior magician **Kyle Sheel** continued with the classic cups and balls. **Harris Deutsch** did a card effect in which two half cards change places under increasingly difficult conditions (Doc Eason, I believe). He then did the hanging coins, and to show he is more than just a magician, he concluded with a short tune on the harmonica. **Jimmy Jarrett**, our tallest junior member, did a card effect involving a force.

Stu Lewis returned to lead off the stage contest with two card-based mental effects, including Harvey Berg’s “Intercept,” in which the magician reveals a card that the spectator has merely thought of (that’s right-nothing is written down or shown to other spectators). **L. C. Collier**, a long-lost member who recently returned to K.C. from Alabama,

did an act to music, including the production of a candle from a silk, cut-and-restored rope, a “Professor’s Nightmare” variation (ironically, some of the moves had been exposed during Kev’s session—a fact which he wryly noted when introducing his act), and “Starcle,” which he tied into the theme of the Christmas star. His act was flashy enough to win the stage contest, while Stu took the close-up contest.

Dale Huffman led off the open segment with a card effect in which he located the aces from a shuffled deck. **Terry Davis** used a change bag to perform an egg-bag routine, in which the egg kept changing colors. He also did a gag “slow-motion” vanish a la Mac King or David Copperfield, in which an assistant sneaks behind him and takes the vanished item—something spectators would miss, supposedly, when the act is performed at normal speed. **Joe White** did an effect in which a die placed in the pocket reappeared in a tin container, and then did some card work involving multiple glides.

