





**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

By  
**MIKE BLUM**

I thought it was going to be a routine airplane flight to Houston. I was wrong. I left the office early on that Friday afternoon to make the Continental Airline flight from Kansas City to Houston. I left one hour late due to the late arrival of the originating flight. Routine flight announcements when we got going...buckle your seat belts, no cell phones, no palm pilots, exit doors, oxygen masks and of course the seats in their upright and locked position. I was ready to go. As we got closer to Houston, the captain came on and said the weather is not good in the area so we have to circle San Antonio. Okay, no big deal.

It was a big deal, after circling for quite some time; we were running out of gas. We headed to Dallas to get gas. After sitting on two runways for one and one-half hours, we were able to taxi to a gate to fill up. No one was allowed off the plane; because we were suppose to get airborne shortly. One and one half hours later we landed in Houston. We were on the plane for almost seven hours.

We headed for the rental bus. Out of luck again! The Hertz car rental bus was not running, because Hertz was under water. Okay, we will take a taxi to the hotel. One hundred and fifty (150) people were in the taxi line and not a single taxi in sight. Ugh, what to do?

It is now midnight, we are unable to leave Houston's main airport. No hotel space on the airport property. We bedded down on the floor and chairs at the airport to wait out the night. When morning finally arrived, we settled in front of some televisions to see what had happened during the night. Devastation to Houston. Roads closed, the announcement came that the Houston airport will be closed for the next 24 hours. No flights in or out of Intercontinental Airport.

Nice story Blum, get to the point. Okay here we go with a few of my observations.

The flight attendants were fabulous. Despite the delays and problems on the plane, they were able to smile and keep their composure. It certainly made the long ordeal before we got to Houston more bearable. The next day, all airport, car rental and hotel personnel were still very cordial, helpful and friendly. Most of them also had to spent the night at the airport . As I returned to Kansas City, I remembered our last club meeting. It was running close to the 10PM hour and we all had to leave. Like the airport personnel, our club members pitched in together to put the chairs back in place. No one got upset, we left as happy as we came in. Most of our Ring 129 events are fun get-togethers. It does not take a disaster to get our members to help each other or pitch in for the good of magic. We have had members carpool to help another member in need. The recent "roast" at the last club meeting demonstrated how just one

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*The Heart of the Ring* is published monthly as a service to members IBM Ring 129. Views and comments do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Ring 129 officers, the IBM, or the editor. Articles must be the editors 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  
Winners**

**May**

**Stage**  
Keith Leff

**Close-up**  
Terry Davis

individual can do so much to help another person and the club. The Colonel Boone Close-Up Magician of the year contest was put together because so many people pitched in to make it successful. Thanks to everyone. Please continue to extend that helping hand to members of the club, those interested in magic and certainly anyone in need.

**Ring 129 Lectures Fees**

Unless listed otherwise, are as follows

- Non-Members \$15
- Members in good standing \$12
- Sorcerer's Circle Members \$10



## From the Editor

Procrastination-the art of putting off to the last minute something that should have been done yesterday. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Jay Godwin and Chris Bruch still need pictures for the youth brochure that they are putting together for the club. I was told these don't have to be performance pictures, they can be any pictures of our youth involved in magic (e.g. practicing, attending a lecture, showing off for another member). I know you'll get around to it.

Don't forget, by participating in the monthly meetings you are eligible for the drawing to be held at the Col. Boone Close-up Contest in June 2002 for free attendance to the Workshop Reunion to be held in October 2002. *Disclaimer-we cannot guarantee the availability of registration for this event. If you register in advance we will reimburse you. This prize has no cash value and is not transferable. Taxes and hotel fees not included.*

Also a winner will be chosen in June of 2003 for paid attendance to the I.B.M. International Convention to be held here in Kansas City once again the disclaimer-*we cannot guarantee the availability of registration for this event. If you register in advance we will reimburse you. This prize has no cash value and is not transferable. Taxes and hotel fees not included.*

The Board and Dave Buttram would like to thank everyone that participated in the roast last month. Dave was touched and honored to be roasted by his friends in magic.

I should mention that we have a few new members in the last few months: Isreal Rivera, Jr., Kyle Sheel, Terry Davis, and Jay Stephen (the last two were former members and had been away for several years, Welcome Back!).

If you haven't looked at the front page yet, take a look. We are moving to a new meeting place this month, the Holiday Inn at 95th and I-35 in Lenexa. They promise to be very accommodating to us, and hope we make this a permanent move.

Stu Lewis is trying to put together a "Ring Parade" for the "Linking Ring" magazine. If you have a submission please get with Stu at the next meeting. The only stipulation is that the effect or routine must be original or an improved handling of an existing effect.

"The Healing of Magic"- Danny Mahar and Tim Zager both have interest from hospitals, now they need magicians to volunteer some time to help out. If you are interested please see Danny or Tim at the club meeting.

Hope I didn't leave out anything, but if I did I'll tell you next month. Thanks for listening

Matt Gurley

## Ring 129's chapter of the Magic Youth International

meets 9:00 a.m. the third Saturday of the month at  
Magic Supply Company  
632 W Walnut  
Blue Springs, MO 64015

Meetings are open to all youth  
between the ages of 12 and 18.

Our youth program has produced  
top talent such as:  
Paul Arthur, Daniel Doss, Chris Bruch,  
Matthew Grunwald, and Chris Gates

For More information please contact  
Kirk Deweese at (816)224-5000

## Col Boone Close-up Contest

*(Continued from page 1)*

baffling variation of divining who placed what piece of paper in several envelopes by members of the audience that the Professor correctly matched with no other tool, other than his skills of some power known only to a few.

Matt Grunwald shared his set that was very original and entertaining. Matt's performance has garnered raves from both the MAGIC CASTLE and THE COLUMBUS MAGIFEST and now RING 129. Just so much going on at a pace that never lets you think about how it's done.

Keith Leff, looking good in a tux, entertained the audience with magic that flowed nicely, no doubt from being busy performing professionally on a regular basis and keeping his moves sharp. Very magical and entertaining.

Terry Davis, who was very active about fifteen years ago has rejoined our group and if we had forgotten, Terry showed us that he still has that touch. Very nice, fast paced and magical.

This is just a brief description of the evening and maybe if you ask each contestant they will give a better description of their effects.

Gene Turner performed between each act and kept the evening moving. While the judges did their duties Gene played the guitar and those who didn't know found out that Gene is multi-talented and an accomplished musician. The judges returned with the results and those gathered found out that Harris Deutsch was second runner-up, Terry Davis was first runner-up, and the winner was Matt Grunwald. A difficult decision to make, the audience made known their approval with a rousing round of applause that was well deserved.

Just a few notes of thanks to the following: Gene Turner who handled a duty that added much to the evening, the judges who had a tough job to do and all of those behind the scenes who made the evening complete, all deserve a pat on the back for an event well done.

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### **Close-up Winner Terry Davis**



Terry's interest in magic began with his dad vanishing a quarter (he said that he later found out his dad was putting it down his collar).

When asked about magical influences he answered that when he was younger it was magic on television that inspired him-from Mark Wilson to Harry Blackstone Jr. He also says that the biggest influence on his magic was our very own Col. Boone.

When asked what he would perform for the president he replied, "The Linking Rings".

Terry says that if he could be a tree he would be an elm because of the sap.

Terry is a member of I.B.M ring 8 in Columbia, MO and also Ring 129 in Kansas City

### **Stage Winner Keith Leff**



Keith was the winner of the Col. Boone Close-up Contest in 2000. He says his first magical moment was when he saw his next door neighbor put out a lit cigarette in his bare hand.

He prefers close-up magic because "Seeing spectator's reactions up close, where the magic happens literally right under their noses, and many times

right in their own hand, is priceless!"

If given the chance to perform for the president Keith said he would perform the "copper/silver transposition of two coins in his hand." He also added, "I would do this effect simply because I feel it is one of the strongest effects there is. It's one of those things that happens visually in their hand and is therefore the closest thing to "real" magic there is."

Given the chance he said he'd like to perform at the next Presidential Inauguration. "(Did you catch that David?!)"