



“FASDIU” Tour

Paul Cummings to Lecture August 13th at U.S. Toy



FASDIU is an acronym for "...from a shuffled deck in use..." and is the basis for the upcoming lecture by Paul Cummings.

Paul will appear at the Ring 129-sponsored lecture to be held at U.S. Toy & Magic, 2008 W. 103rd

Terr., Leawood, Kansas, on Monday, August 13th, beginning at 7:00 p.m. The costs is \$5 for Sorcerers Circle Members, \$6 for Regular Members, and \$15 for Non-Members.

According to Paul, the format of the lecture is as follows: He will perform a set of routines, usually about 5 or 6 items. Then, of course, he will explain how the tricks are performed, including those tips that can only come from years of having performed the routines in real life working situations. During the break, he will stroll through the lecture audience performing a stand up coin routine that is not acceptably performed while standing in front of the group. After the break, he performs another set of routines and explain them as well.

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Magic University 103

by Chuck Macan

ONLY NINE SEATS REMAIN AVAILABLE!

Ring 129’s Magic University 103 will be held on Saturday August 25, 2007 at the Meadowbrook Country Club, 9101 Nall, Prairie Village, KS 66207 from 12:30 pm to 4:00 PM.



Terry Davis, Harris Deutsch, Walt Mitchell and Roger Miller talk things out. (File Photo)

The curriculum will be Cards, Shock Magic, and Magic With Everyday Items. We have a great array of “Professors” that will be providing the instruction throughout the day.

Cards will be taught by four time Close-Up Magician of the Year, Jason Dean and the “Card Man” himself,

John Hicks. Shock Magic, also known as Geek Magic, will be taught by the unconquerable masters of the macabre, Rod Sipe and Eric Woods.



Terry Elton, Harris Deutsch, Julie Clark, Mike Blum and Duane Fields ponder a question. (File Photo)

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CONGRATULATIONS!

- Jim Hagar** - July’s Close-up Magician of the Month!
- Jonathan Atkinson** - July’s Stage Magician of the Month!
- Jared Millican** - Winner of 2 Renaissance Festival Tickets!

DON’T FORGET!

Our Next Regular Ring Meeting, Thursday, August 2nd, 7:00 pm, The Radisson, 95th & I-35, Lenexa, KS



INVITE A FRIEND!

Mark Your Calendars!

Thursday, August 2nd

Next Regular Ring Meeting, 7:00 pm,
The Radisson, 95th & I-35, Lenexa, KS

Saturday, August 4th

Kyle Sheel Magic Show (See Ad in this Newsletter)

Thurs.– Sat., August 9-11

Midwest Magic Jubilee, St. Louis, Missouri

Monday, August 13th

Paul Cummings Lecture @ US Toy, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 16th

August Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Denny's Restaurant, I-35 & Shawnee Mission Parkway

Saturday, August 25th

Magic University 103
Meadowbrook Country Club, 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Friday, October 12th

Ring 129 Halloween Show
Roeland Park Community Center

Friday, October 19th

Jay Scott Barry Lecture, 7:00 pm at U.S. Toy

Ring 129 Board Members

President - Mike Blum 913. 383. 2586

Vice President - Julia Clark 816. 478. 9787

Secretary - John Hicks 913. 334. 1392

Treasurer - Kirk DeWeese 816. 224. 5000

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Ken Reedy 816. 734. 1484

Eric Woods 913. 709. 1606

Past President - Chuck Macan 913. 681. 0368

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According to Paul, there are no complicated set-ups or pre-arrangements, and, with the exception of one routine, there are no gaffs involved. In fact, in the one routine that does use gaffs, you may start and end with a clean borrowed deck and the gaffs are introduced openly, and without sleights. In fact, the routine is built so that your audience may inspect the principle cards!

The routines in the lecture range in skill level from nearly self-working to some that are rather challenging. Also included in the lecture, and in the lecture notes, are some coin routines. Paul uses all of these routines professionally -- many have been in his repertoire for over 20 years while doing bar magic, strolling magic, and table-hopping. He also uses all of the routines socially too — you don't need a tux, topit, sleeves, pulls or any other apparatus, just the borrowed, shuffled deck!

For more information about Paul Cummings you can visit his website: www.fasdiu.com



“Magic 103” - (Continued From Page 1)

Magic With Everyday Items will be taught by the swift and delicate hands of Mike Melito.

The tuition will be \$10 for Ring Members, \$15 for Members of other Magic Societies, and \$20 for Non-Members of Magic Societies.

We only have nine seats remaining, so call Chuck Macan at 913-681-0368 or 913-271-4365 to enroll!

At the ring meeting on August 2nd we will let you know what props—if any—you need to bring.

Don't miss this great opportunity to learn from the masters!



By Rod Sipe

Ring 129's first MOVIE NIGHT was held July 12 at THE WESTPORT COFFEEHOUSE THEATRE. The evening started with footage of classic magic performances by Mark Wilson, Carl Balantine, Dai Vernon and Shimada.

Then, guests and members of RING 129 were entertained by a magical music video worthy of being aired on MTV. This short music video contained no magic tricks but featured two of our members singing and dancing to the James Brown classic "I FEEL GOOD".



The featured film was THE PRESTIGE, a winding suspenseful tale of rival magicians with love, heartache, underhandedness and many twists and turns. Everyone in attendance had a great time.



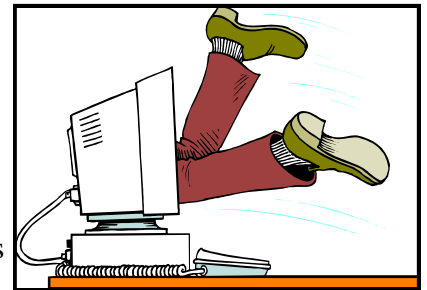
FROM THE
EDITOR'S DESK
By Steve Steiner

The other day, after reading an article in the newspaper, my wife, Celia, remarked that one of the reasons for the recent increase in postal rates has been the fact that the post office has seen their traditional mail market erode away to various competitors over the last couple of decades. With companies like Fed-X and UPS dominating the shipping of small packages and more and more people using email rather than traditional mail, the postal service has had to adapt.

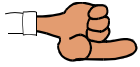
Our magical ring has also been a part of these changes. For the past several months our *Heart of the Ring Newsletter* has been distributed electronically via email to most of our membership. Instead of using standard mail and spending 40 plus cents a member each month, we now click a couple of buttons on our computers and instantly send out our publications and announcements. Whether we like it or not, we now live in the computer age! For the younger members these changes are heartily welcomed. For the old-timers, these changes can be quite challenging.

I guess I can describe myself as one of those "In-between-ers". I really don't mind using or trying something new, I just hate to have to deal with any change in life or learning something new when the old way works fine for me now! Once I take the time to use or try the new version, I ask myself, "How did I ever get along without this?"

The electronic version of our Ring Newsletter not only will save the Ring hundreds of dollars each year on postage, but it will also allow us to do much more with the publication each month. We can send volumes of pictures without spending tons of money on color printing. We can also link our newsletter to other internet sites to provide important information.



Many of you will never read a Ring Newsletter again on regular paper. You will simply pull it up each month on your computer screen for viewing, and file it away somewhere on your home computer. For those of you that may be working through this new method of getting your newsletter each month, just remember... after a couple of months, you will probably ask yourself, "How did I ever live without it"?



NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



New Member - Ring 129 is pleased to welcome new member, Wally Pfaff ! Please make a point to personally introduce yourself and welcome Wally at our next regular Ring Meeting.

New Newsletter Editor - This month's newsletter is the first publication for our new editor, Steve Steiner. Steve says to look for new and exciting things in our Ring Newsletter in the coming months!

Halloween Show Date Set - Doc Blum reported at the last board meeting that the date for the annual Halloween show has been set for Friday, October 12th. The ring provides the Halloween Show in trade for the use of two Ring events held each year at the Roeland Park Community Center.

October Mini-Lecture Set - Mike Melito will present a mini-lecture at the regular Ring 129 Meeting on October 4th on the subject of "Using Ebay for Acquiring Magic". He will include several tips and tricks that will assist not only the beginner, but even the experts in using the internet auction service.

Jay Scott Berry Coming to Town! - Mark your calendars for the Jay Scott Berry lecture to be held at U.S. Toy, Friday, October 19th, 2007, 7:00 p.m.!

Our Web Page

Go to www.ring129.com

User Name: ring129

Password: aj

See all the new changes that have been made and that you can download!! If you have questions, contact Ken Reedy at 816-734-1484 or email him at ...

webdesigners@kc.rr.com.

Ken Reedy

Sick and Convalescent

If you know of a ring member or their family member who is hospitalized or has passed away Contact:

Carl Macan

913-648-1465

crm130@aol.com (if e-mail is sent please contact Carl by phone to let him know to check his e-mail account)

Kyle Scheel Magic
... Welcome to the Impossible ...



Award Winning Magic Show

Saturday, August 4th

2:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

"In the Light"
Performance Arts Center
118 W. Walnut
Raymore, MO 64083

Reserve your tickets by
calling 816-507-1364 or visiting
www.KyleScheelMagic.com

Magician of the Month Winners

The following monthly winners have qualified to compete in the **Stage Magician of the Year Contest** traditionally held on or around the first week in February:

Month	Winner
January	Rod Sipe
February	Steve Steiner
March	Dennis Burks
April	_____
May	Joe White
June	Marty Isenberg
July	Jonathan Atkinson
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	

The following monthly winners have qualified to compete in the **Close-Up Magician of the Year Contest** traditionally held during the month of June.

Month	Winner
July	Jim Hagar
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	
January	
February	
March	
April	
May	
June	

Reminder for all members that would like to compete in the monthly contests and open performances:

- ◆ Please make sure that your performances are within the allotted time of 10 minutes.
- ◆ Make sure that you are aware of the fire policy.
- ◆ You can find all the details for performance rules on the ring website.

Check This Out

Website of the Month



As part of a new monthly feature, I will be selecting a magical “Website of the Month”. It is my hope to pass along to you each month, not only some of my favorite magical sites, but some of your favorites as well! Should you discover a new and exciting magical website, please feel free to pass it along to me.

Thanks,
Steve Steiner



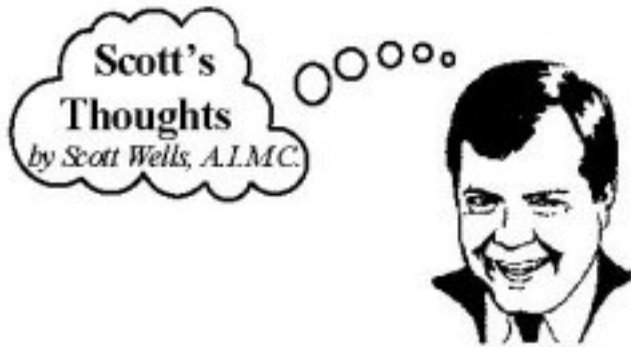
This month’s Magical Website of the Month is “The Magic Café”. Of all the

magic websites I frequent, I think there is no other that can compare to it. Many of you have been Magic Café members for years and have used it many times. However, for those magicians out there that have never visited their site.... You have really been missing it!

The actual webpage link is:

www.themagiccafe.com. The Magic Café is frequented by a virtual *Who’s Who of Magic* from all over the world. It boasts of having over 31,000 members and close to 2 million posted messages. Members can discuss magic by posting questions and comments, finding help with their routines, and obtaining news and information about a myriad of magical topics and events.

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Trix Are For Kids

Are tricks just for kids? Why do people immediately associate magic with children? Is it because of our demeanor, our approach, our looks, our audience's perception, our society, a combination of these, or is it something else? Perhaps it's because that magic appeals to the child in each of us and transports us to a world of wonder where there is a suspension of disbelief where for just a moment, magic happens.

This is what I believe that magic is...a moment isolated in time when there is no known explanation for what just happened. Sometimes this moment lasts for an instant but ideally it should last much longer. It is something that people take home with them in their memories and tell their friends . . . and the legend grows. Their recollection of an instant gets blown out of proportion as the effect grows more and more impossible as the experience is retold.

Often it is a letdown for them to see it ever performed again for it is never as good as the way they remembered it or as Paul Simon said in his hit song 'Kodachrome' ". . . it would never match my sweet imagination." It's like much of life where we only remember the high and low points. The mediocre parts of life, and our routines, are lost in time and space. Without at least one high point, our performances then become, as Michael Ammar has said . . . "bubblegum for the eyes."

A TV sitcom wants to have at least one good laugh in each show, one good joke, one good enough for everyone for viewers to retell at the office the next day. The success of that sitcom rests on that one joke, for if it's good enough and gets retold, then new viewers will tune it in hoping to experience a laugh, a good time, a chance to enjoy what everyone else has seen and heard and perhaps to "chew some bubblegum" for a while. In the meantime, the underlying emphasis is on getting people to buy more of the products advertised on these programs.

The title of this article is the tag line from an advertisement for Trix cereal. Like the cereal which is full of sugar and sweet to eat and directed toward children, tricks done just for the sake of doing them is nothing more than sugar and sweetness and only appealing to kids. If we want to be remembered, then we must put something in our shows to make them remember their experience. Again Michael Ammar has several excellent thoughts on this but rather than recapping them here, you would be better off hearing it straight from him as I highly recommend his audio cassette "Making Magic Memorable."

We all know enough tricks but we continue looking for THE trick that will be the ultimate trick. One which will make us fame and fortune beyond our wildest dreams. I am convinced that there is no trick that has ever been made nor one coming that has been or will be the Holy Grail. What we need to search for is a better performance of what we already know. We need to get in touch with what our experiences are and learn how we can communicate with others through a magical experience. "Know thyself" is the credo and "do the stuff that's you" are words to practice by. Your performances are unique as you inject your personality into every effect.

The "Holy Grail" trick may already be in our closet waiting to be let out. One in which the luster wore off shortly after we brought it home from the magic shop/convention/lecture and read the directions. Just look through your closet or drawers full of stuff still in plastic bags and books with their

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“Scott Wells” - (Continued from Page 6)

spine never cracked. Then ask yourself why you are collecting this stuff if not to use it.

If you're looking for books to stick on your shelves to take up space or arcane artifacts to gather dust, then you're better off filling it with junk from a flea market and it would cost you a lot less than buying stuff from a magic dealer. Perhaps you enjoy the “ownership” of stuff just to say that you have it. Maybe you like the colors of the props. Maybe you like to own a piece of history, something that was once viewed by thousands of people around the world. Perhaps you are trying to keep alive your own memories of a different time when you were fooled, that instant in time when you experienced “magic.”

Your recollection of that moment is precious to you as it is for your audience when they first experience it. And their first experience with being awed by magic usually occurred when they were children. So any subsequent experience with magic brings out their child like quality, putting themselves in the mindset of that time when they were children.

Perhaps then this is the reason that people immediately associate magic tricks with kids (although tricks should have nothing to do with baby goats.) We appeal to their childlike innocence.

We can play on that innocence by directing our approach to that side of our audience. The old adage goes "It's fun to be fooled" but I say "It's more fun to be entertained." Tricks will fool but magic entertains, or said another way, you can fool people with tricks but you can't entertain their soul, their whole being unless it becomes magic. Tricks must be elevated to a level where it becomes entertainment, transcending our audience's childlike nature and appealing to the logical, adult side of their character.

We want to take our performances out of the “trick” category and transcend them into the “magic” class. It's true that “tricks are for kids” but magic is for adults.

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“The Magic Café” - (Continued From Page 6)

When you first visit the site you will probably want to start checking out some of the various topic postings. I would highly recommend that you take a couple of minutes and register. This will give you the right to start posting comments during your next couple of hours of browsing!

One little known fact about The Magic Café is that special things happen to you once you reach 50 posts. You then are automatically allowed access to special areas on the site, including buying and selling, and the discussion of magic secrets. I suppose this is a good requirement to have as it prevents the non-magician person from visiting the site and finding out how you did the effects in your last show!

I must tell you that I check the site nearly everyday to see what new items have been put up for sale by other Café members. I have also used the “search” tool to find help with patter and routines for some of my magic acts. Oftentimes you can discuss your routine with the actual inventor of the trick you just purchased!

For example: I once posted a question about what comedy lines I could use with an arm chopper. You wouldn't believe the number of great lines that other members submitted!

Not all of your posts need to be for public reading. The Café allows you to send private messages to other members. This is very helpful when you are negotiating the price of a trick you want to buy.

If you are not a Café member or if you haven't visited The Magic Café for quite some time, I know you will enjoy the website. Happy surfing!

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.

Members are encouraged to submit articles and comments for publishing and earn additional Sorcerers Circle Points.

Articles should be emailed to the editor
by the 20th of the month.

steves7@microdsl.net