



# MAGIC NEWS

## HEART OF THE RING

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

### Laser Eye Surgery Goes Terribly Bad for Ring Member



A surprised doctor reported that Harris Deutsch was one of only 10 people in history to have reacted to laser surgery he

had less than 3 months ago. The procedure seemed successful; Harris' coin tricks seemed much sharper. Then, like most magicians, he wanted to try something new. He had just started developing a new routine when he began having problems focusing close-up. "I thought all was fine... now my puppets can see better than I can" said Deutsch. He was trying to create a vanish never seen by anyone, and it was a case of a couple of "washers" gone bad. Some good has come of this so far – the Missouri Repertory Theatre has asked Deutsch to act as a consultant for their production next fall of "Annie" (no pun in-

### Leff Plans Move To England – Takes Magic Act with Him

Cheerio, 'ol chap". That's what you hear almost daily coming from our respected member of 129,



Leith Leff. It seems that Leff has more than adapted his act with a English flair. You see, he has taken it to a whole new level. As of the end of May, if you want to see him, you'll have to frequent the pubs and restaurants in London's quaint Piccadilly district. Leff says, "Once I started learning the English accent and customs, it just made sense to pack up and head across the big Pond". We wish him a "jolly good

### Lake of the Ozarks Owes Miles of Gratitude to the "Rope Man"

It's spring, and you know what that means – thousands of boats sit ready to be removed from dry dock. This year was like no other until panic set in. Marinas on all sides of the Lake found no rope to assist in the tie-downs and tarps needed to prepare the thousands of the floating armada. Then Kevin Kirwan comes to the rescue, within hours of hearing of their plight, he rushes to the aid of the boat owners with miles of rope. There for the cause, as always. (Continued on Page 5)

### Blum Asks for Third Term As President of Ring 129

Even though it is over 6 months before elections, our leader, Dr. Mike Blum, has asked the Board to pass a motion to allow him to serve an unprecedented third term as our President. "I so enjoy the cooperation among all our members and the Board is great to work with. My practice is going well, and I really don't need to spend extra time traveling or relaxing. The Ring is my calling and that's what my choice is". His family is very pleased with his magical decision. (Continued on Page 5)

### Dennis Burks Hospitalized with Contagious Pneumonia

Lack of Adequate Protection the Cause

Not following his own advise, Dennis Burks pays "Big Time" for his mistake. Last week during a torrential downpour, Burks found himself without even a small umbrella. "This proved to be crucial", stated Chief Running Water, Burks physician and choreographer. "We told him to have one available always, but he failed to listen". Burks says he is still feeling under the weather but plans to return to performing soon. (Continued on Page 5)

### Sandy Shocks Magic World

Retires from Career in Magic; Takes Position with Carnival Cruise Lines



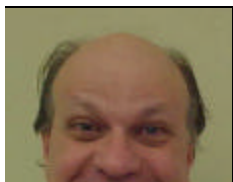
Around the globe the Magic World stands in disbelief. Many thought it could never happen. Others say it is not true. It was announced that effective June 1st, Ring 129's own David Sandy will become the Cruise Director and Production Manager for

the Carnival Cruise Lines ships. "It only takes a week of smelling that wonderful sea air, and I knew that this was the career for me" says Sandy.

Even with the upcoming IBM Presidency, the Workshop Reunion in October, and the International Convention in KC in 2003, he says the laid back carefree lifestyle of cruising was something he just couldn't pass up. Although he has enjoyed his magic career, he is ready for a dramatic lifestyle change. Company officials plan on changing the name of the ship to "The Captain Cadiddlehopper". Sandy intends in time to create an environment where you experience the best of Red Skelton 24 hours a day – 7 days a week. In a related story, Tom Mullica was offered a vendor position with Carnival – their main import – cig-

### Roger Miller Changes Residence To Raytown, MO.; Sells "Bonner Springs Act" on Ebay

After spending the majority of his life in the northwestern part of the Metro, specifically Bonner Springs, KS, our esteemed Roger Miller says he has had enough! Miller said, "After repeating those jokes about Bonner, I just need a fresh subject to deal with. I have been performing at the Lee's Summit library, and I kind of fell in love with this part of town". Roger and his wife, Sheila have taken all the millions they have earned performing magic and purchased a mansion off Bluff Ridge Blvd and 92nd St. If you are interested in his old "Bonner" act, you can bid on it by loggi-



**President’s Column**  
**By**  
**Mike Blum**

As I was reading one of the columns in the Wall Street Journal this past week, I again started to realize just how important my friends and family are to me. The columnist had an almost fatal car accident, not her fault. She survived a near head on collision with an oncoming motorist. Fortunately she was able to avoid the actual collision, but was quite shaken by the incident.

Her article seemed to reflect some of the same things that I have previously mentioned in my column. Not that anyone I know has had a near miss with death, but the reflection of “what if I had a serious accident”? She went on to say she needed to get closer to her friends and do some of the things she had been putting off. Agree!

As a group of people who enjoy performing or watching magic, we have a fun organization. We not only amuse ourselves, but we also have a great time getting to learn more about the wonderful world of magic. So what is my point?

Come to meetings and lectures. Do not put it off for the next month. Participate in what our Ring has to offer; from lectures to club shows. If something serious happened to you tomorrow, many of the members of the ring would indeed be upset that a fellow (what is the male of fellow?) magician had an unforeseen accident.

Participation is important! You do not have to perform at every meeting, but come have fun and enjoy.

Most important is to say hello to the others in our club. Encourage and help the neophyte. We may not be here tomorrow, so make the most of today! I look forward to seeing and hearing from each of you during the next few months. Be there. Be visible.

**Ring 129 Officers**

- President:** Dr. Mike Blum.....(913) 383-2586
- Past Pres:** Jay Godwin.....(913) 385-0845
- Vice Pres:** Carl Macan.....(913) 381-2972
- Treasurer:** David Sandy.....(816) 233-4177
- Secretary:** Alan Goodheart.....(913) 648-0331
- Sgt. At Arms:** Larry Warshaw.....(913) 381-8829
- Board Member:** Danny Mahar.....(816) 923-4788
- Board Member:** Kirk Deweese.....(816) 224-5000
- Board Member:** Rod Sipe.....(816) 916-3330

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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**

**MARCH 2002**

**Stage**

Jay Steffan

**Close-up**

Harris Deutsch

**BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

Web address: [www.ring129.com](http://www.ring129.com) (all lower case)  
 To download your newsletter in full color use the following:  
 Login: **ring 129** (all lower case)  
 Password: **microman** (all lower case)

As always, keep this information strictly confidential; this should not be shared with others outside the ring because we want to protect the information available to us all.

**Looking For A Chance To Give Back To The Club?  
 Get Extra SC Points? Have A Great Time?**

Our close-up Magician of the Year Banquet is fast approaching (June 15th). We would really love to have several people to assist in making this year’s banquet the best ever! But we need your help. If you have just a little spare time and the will to make a difference in our Ring, please contact Mike Blum at the meeting, or call 913-383-2586. Thanks.

**SPECIAL NOTE**

Be sure to check your calendar. In last month’s newsletter the dates for the upcoming Workshop Reunion in St. Joseph, MO were incorrect.

*The Workshop Reunion is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9th through Saturday, October 12th.* Be sure to get more info including registration forms at our website, [www.ring129.com](http://www.ring129.com)

## Whaaaaaat’s Uuuuuuuuuup At Your Ring Meetings

As Submitted by Stu Lewis

The weather was much better by the time our regular meeting rolled around, and over thirty magicians and guests showed up. As an inducement for people to come on time, we have begun a new practice of having the teach-a-trick segment before the business meeting. Cliff Norris taught a variation of a mental card effect of Sid Lorrayne in which the magician correctly predicts what card a spectator will choose (totally free choice). Besides teaching the trick, he gave some background on the development of the method and also reminded us that effects where cards are written on make good use of those cheap casino decks many of us have acquired (they are also good for card-sword effects).

During the business meeting a new rule was introduced for our contests—the option of voting for “none of the above” in our monthly contests. (The Board still has the option of awarding or refusing an award if there is only one contestant). Fortunately, neither of these options was necessary this month, as there were several excellent performances in each category.

Daniel Jackson led off the close-up contest with a selected card that became invisible and showed up inverted in the deck. Joe White divined a selected ESP symbol. Harris Deutsch did a neatly routined coin act based on “tool time,” using a screwdriver as a wand and washers for coins, concluding with the production of a power drill. Among the moves were a Slydini-style coins across and a muscle pass. Roger Miller showed us a photo album from February’s magic cruise, in which several members were seen holding cards which just happened to match cards selected by members of our audience. Dale Huffman had a selected card turn blank as it passed through “the Bermuda Triangle.”

Joe White led off the stage contest with a toy spider that extracted a chosen card from the deck. Jay Steffen demonstrated an original prop he invented. He put a deck of cards into a toaster, and when the toaster shorted out the cards came streaming out, enabling him to catch one on a butter knife. It was an amazingly original approach to what is essentially a card-sword effect. He designed and built the gimmicked toaster himself. Kyle Scheel produced several boxes of flowers from a seemingly empty box and concluded with a dove production.

After voting Jay Steffen and Harris Deutsch as our monthly winners, we moved on to the open session. Kyle Scheel divided a deck of cards into four packets and located a selected card with very little pumping. Stu Lewis did a new version of the endless chain, based on women’s intuition. Harris Deutsch did some more coin work, including a backfire matrix. Keith Leff did the combination-lock deck. Dale Huffman performed a card-spelling routine based on ideas of Jim Steinmeyer, and he also cut a square from a newspaper that changed to a circle.

## DON'T FORGET!!

Don't be late to the beginning of our regular meetings. 'Cause that's when **Teach-A-Trick** is happening! (Meetings start at 7:00 pm) Come early and learn some new and fun magic!

## Upcoming Events

### April 4, 2002

Regular Meeting 7:00 pm  
Holiday Inn  
95th and I-35  
Lenexa, KS

### April 18, 2002

Board Meeting 7:00 pm  
Dr. Mike Blum's house

### April 22, 2002

Alberto Marchese 7:00 pm  
Holiday Inn  
95th and I-35  
Lenexa, KS  
(See magic bio)

### May 2, 2002

Regular Meeting 7:00 pm  
Holiday Inn  
95th and I-35  
Lenexa, KS

### May 9, 2002

Charles Gauci Lecture 7 pm  
Holiday Inn  
95th and I-35  
Lenexa, KS

### May 16, 2002

Board Meeting 7:00 pm  
Location to be announced

## Special Thanks to Our Generous Club Members

Shows in Cameron and Hamilton A Raving Success

these two days such a memorable time: Performers: Duane & Jane Fields, Terry Elton, L.C. Collier, Kyle Scheel, Roger Miller, David & Kris Sandy. Technical Crew: Jay Godwin, Stage Manager; Jay Steffen, Matt Gurley, and Rob Scheel, Backstage Crew; Peggy Adams, Lights; Jir Austin, Sound; Danny Mahar, Curtains; Dave Buttram, Followspot; Bob Adams, Magic Kit Sales; Darrin Springs, Transportation and Pre Show Close-Up Magic; David Sandy, Show Producer & Elementary School Promotional Shows Performer

Also, a big thank you goes to Bob & Peggy Adams for hosting the performers/crew for a couple of nights in their home.

These people put in a lot of time and effort and should be recognized by the club membership at the next meeting As a result, we brought in a great addition to the Ring's general fund.

We recently had the pleasure of hosting two very successful Ring shows in both Cameron and Hamilton, MO. The Ring thinks it only fitting that we thank all those who participated and made

**ALBERTO MARCHESE**  
**“ALAN” A DIFFERENT LECTURE**  
*April 22nd at Holiday Inn*  
*95th & I-35; 7 p.m.*



-**PROFESSIONAL** magic guaranteed for more than 20 years experience for different types of audiences all over the world.

**POINTS THAT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**

- 1-It's **VERTICAL** card magic, to make stand up that can be done **CLOSE UP, PARLOR** or even on **STAGE**.
- 2-All of them are card effects **BUT** with very **VISUAL** props.
- 3-Great **VARIETY** of effects and emotions (predictions, coincidences, a card inside an egg, rising and flying cards).
- 4-A combination of **CLASSIC EFFECTS** with **MODERN**

**METHODS.**

-All inside a magic conception and psychology in which are important points:

- EFFECT.**
- EMOTION.**
- SURPRISE.**
- SITUATION COMEDY.**
- VARIETY.**

-Completed with historical information about **CLASSIC** and **MODERN MAGICIANS** (the spectacular *PINETTI*, the wonderful *DR. ELLIOT*, the legendary *DE KOLTA*, the genius of *FUMANCHÚ*, the professionalism of *ALAN SHAXON*, the comedy of *TERRY SEABROOKE*).

-The **EXPLANATIONS** are direct and practical, but there are **NOT MERE TECHNICAL** descriptions but they have complementary information about **MAGIC PSYCHOLOGY**, the **REASONS** of sleights and structure, and how to make the effects stronger.

**ALL BASED ON MORE THAN 20 YEARS AS PROFESSIONAL PERFORMER AND 30 YEARS OF AMATEUR.**

**CORRECTIONS**

Last month we issued an updated roster with all the Ring members listed. There were several changes as noted below. Please make sure your list is updated accordingly:

Terry Elton: 913-268-8187 only  
 Ken Reedy: magicbyken@kc.rr.com  
 Harris Deutsch: nearlynormalmagic@yahoo.com  
 Imo Patchen: kcimo@kcmicro.com

**TO SUMMARIZE:**

- PROFESSIONALITY.**
- EMOTIONS.**
- POWERFUL AND DIRECT EFFECTS.**
- MAGIC PSYCHOLOGY.**
- CLOSE UP, PARLOR, STAGE.**
- WITH HISTORICAL INFORMATION.-**

**DON'T MISS THIS FRESH AND INNOVATIVE LECTURE! SEE YOU THERE!**

**Independence Newspaper Honors Bob Klamm In Article**

Be sure to check out a very nice article written about one of our members – Bob Klamm of Independence, MO. It appears in the Independence Examiner ([examiner.net](http://examiner.net) ; search for “**Bob Klamm**”, the article written on 3/23/02). A very nice story about Bob and Bernice, their family, magical history and his influence on magic yesterday and today. Bob has associations with the SAM (Society of American Magicians), the International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM) and is a member of the Sorcerer’s Circle, helped institute the Society of Young Magicians, and continues to nurture and teach many the skills of magic. A special thanks to Bob Klamm.

## Ring 129 Kids Magic Show Rains Success



Participants in the Kids Club Show are, left to right, Dennis Burks,

*As Reported by Roger Miller*

Once again Ring 129 did itself proud in presenting a quality Kid's Show for the Roeland Park Community Center on March 2nd. The show was sponsored by the Center's Advisory Council who took tickets, sold concessions and promoted the show. The flyers gave credit to Ring 129.

While folks gathered in the hall waiting for admittance our own Joe White entertained with close-up magic. Once inside and waiting they were treated to a presentation by Harris doing his mime act. Listening backstage it was obvious that he was getting tremendous audience response.

Kyle Sheel opened the show with his award winning act. The oohs and aahs of the audience as the birds were produced were an indication of his success. L. C. Collier was next up with an entertaining segment using audience volunteers to a great advantage. "Crazy Keith" (Leff) was next and his outrageous comedy fit right in with the afternoon's audience. Dennis Burks closed the show with his "Singing in the Rain" routine where countless umbrellas are produced and fill the stage.

Roger Miller got the show together and acted as MC. Rob Sheel ran the sound, Tim Zager handled video and Jay Godwin sold magic kits. Cliff Norris was snowbound but sent a friend to help Jay. Keith Leff also served as assistant producer with the idea of handling next year's show.

Folks at the Center were very complimentary after the show but you could tell by the audience response that another outstanding effort by members of Ring 129 were appreciated.

## Letter From The Editor

To all my Magical Brothers:

Thanks for giving me the freedom to use what little creativity I have to help do some unique and different things with this medium. When I took over just 6 months ago, the one thing I most looked forward to doing was the April newsletter. I wish I could see the looks on your faces as you began to read some of the headlines. If there was a way to build a little camera inside! My hope is that it gave each of you just a bit of excitement and a laugh or two. With spring just starting, this may be a great time to dust off some old magic you haven't used in a while or get out and find something new and different to add to your repertoire. Either way, maybe even think of joining with several of your Ring 129 Brothers and have a magic "jam session". This could keep us fresh, and give each of us new ideas, instant critiques, and a chance to have several minds show us ways to figure out something that has baffled us for months, even years. So don't delay – look around at Thursday's meeting, and ask others to join you. Let's make our Ring stronger, and take level of Magic higher!

**Alan Goodheart**

**Continued from Page One  
and Page 6.....**

## HAVE A HAPPY APRIL FOOLS DAY!!

Our lives and professions would be rather dull if we couldn't take a moment and enjoy some good natured humor. So special thanks goes out to those members whom we all love and respect as part of our brotherhood:

Dr. Mike Blum  
Dennis Burks  
Harris Deutsch  
Kevin Kirwan  
Keith Leff  
Roger Miller  
David Sandy

Oh, by the way, you can drop the last "zero" off the lecture fees chart to see

## This Year's Ring Auction Like No Other Members "Bare It All" For Their Craft



Neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow could keep devoted magicians from their appointed tasks.

This was the catch –phrase at this year's Ring Auction held on March 2nd at the Roeland Park Center. With a couple of inches of snow the night before, there still was a fine turnout for our yearly event. Some out-of-towners did not make it, but that did not spoil the enthusiasm by those attending.

There many bargains to be had, and all the sellers were pleased with what they received for their wares. And if you were not lucky enough to be there, we heard you missed one of the best "floor shows" of the season. When the crowd seemed a little too quiet, Terry Davolt (shown in photo at left) let us see what REAL cowboys wear under their chaps. They say you had to be there!

Special thanks go to the Kirk Deweese and Rod Sipe for organizing and running a fantastic event.

**MAGIC NEWS RING 129 NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
8803 WEST 102ND PLACE #1  
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66212**

## **NEW Ring 129**

### **Lecture Fees**

Unless listed otherwise,  
are as follows:

**Non-Members \$150**

**Members in good standing \$120**

**Sorcerer's Circle Members  
\$100**

**Please refer to Page 5**

### **Stage Winner Jay Steffan**



Congrats to Jay Steffan for winning the Magician of the Month Contest. Jay began his magic career at the ripe age of 8 when he received the Fisher Price magic set. Over the years he has added many other things to his repertoire. As he was learning magic he referred to Dunninger's Book of Magic. Jay says that though most things in that book did not relate to the type of magic he was performing, there were still several good concepts that still relate to what he does today. He said that the "Limping Yule Tree of Nigeria" most resembled his persona (Hello Monty Python fans). He chose this tree because of its abstract nature. This fits Jay to a tee - using many abstract ideas to help create his distinct style of magic. He is currently a IBM member, and is creating his own secret underground magic society (that abstract idea thing, again). Best of luck to Jay next year in the MOY contest!

### **Close-up Winner Harris Deutsch**



Harris' nearly normal rebirth into magic happened about 6 years ago. He is comfortable in both Stage and close-up venues. His "stage" act currently focuses more on Nearly Normal Puppetry and Ventriloquism. Nigel, one of the Nearly Normal Puppets does do some mental magic and even hypnotism. Harris would most like to become a willow tree because it can remain standing after the winds of change. Or a Bonsai, small but healthy and with good roots. His working status is as a Nearly Normal Amateur. Recently he made all the students and staff "disappear" from the Junior High School he works at. It happened when he was making popcorn for one of his school's Social Skills Groups. This year the phone is ringing at a regular rate for The Nearly Normal Magic and Puppet Show. Harris is currently booking for summer, late fall and winter holiday shows. He is a proud member of the IBM, SAM, and Electronic Grymoire (EG). Our thanks goes out to Harris for a Nearly Normal interview. Our best of luck to you in June if you so choose to participate in the MOY contest.



