



Heart of the RING

"Quality Ring Award Winner"

January 2006 Newsletter

Regular Meeting

Jan 5—7 PM
Best Western

Board Meeting

Jan 16—7 PM
Denny's
Shawnee Mission Pkwy & I-35

Eric Evans Lecture

Jan. 10—7:00 PM
US Toy

Stage Magician of the Year

Banquet and Contest

Jan. 28—6 PM
Roeland Park CC
4850 Rosewood Drive
Mission, KS

NEXT MEETING

Jan 5, 2006 7:00 P. M.

Best Western
Rainbow & Southwest Blvd.
(directly behind Applebee's Restaurant)



L.C. Collier

Previous Stage Magician of the Year

OFFICIALS

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LEGACIES OF ENSLOW WILL MAKE FOR PERFECT EVENING OF MAGIC

A crispness in the air. Excitement abounds at a fever pitch! The room is lit softly in just the right colors, and the sounds begin your blood moving faster in your veins. Even the smell of the dinner about to be served makes your stomach begin to growl. Some are pacing back and forth, while others greet friends they haven't seen in months. It all means but one thing – you guessed it – it is time once again for the H. Claude Enslow Stage Magician of the Year Contest and Banquet.

Claude Enslow's reputation and history supercedes himself. Each year now we assemble to honor a past member of Ring 129 who made monumental contributions to its success. Someone who some of us had the pleasure of knowing, and others who still today hear stories and tales about him, his magic, and how he touched all those who knew him.

Those that are performing do so in honoring the legacy that preceded them. There are several members that have qualified this year to participate in this honor. They are, in no particular order, **L. C. Collier, Joe White, Mark Myers, Terry Elton, Marty Isenberg, Harris Deutsch, Kyle Scheel, Barron Stringfellow, Steve Steiner, and Blake Silvernail.**

We return to one of our favorite venues – Roeland Park Community Center, located at 4850 Rosewood in Roeland Park (a few blocks west of Roe near 48th St.). The event is scheduled

for Saturday, January 28th, 2006. Doors will open at 6:00 pm with reserved seating, and dinner will be served promptly at 6:30 pm. This year's menu is similar to last year's, which includes Roast Brisket of Beef, Grilled chicken breast, sweet glazed carrots, robust green beans, and pan roasted potatoes, along with a fresh garden salad, tea and coffee service, and of course, the best part of the meal – dessert. We promise you a great lead-in to a grand evening!

Costs for the event are the same as last year - \$17 for regular members and guests, and \$15 for Sorcerer's Circle members. **BRING YOUR CHECKS MADE OUT TO RING 129 OR YOUR CASH TO THE JANUARY 5TH MEETING**, or you can send your checks to Chuck Macan, 8821 West 124th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66213, or Alan Goodheart, 10261 Benson, #G, Overland Park, KS 66212. Seats are reserved on a **FIRST COME PAID RESERVED BASIS** (First one with the cash wins!!). Our cutoff date for all seats is January 23rd, 2006

If you cannot send or bring your checks at the January meeting, be sure to call Chuck Macan at 913-681-0368 or Alan Goodheart at 913-648-0331 to make your reservations.

As of this publication, we are just over half sold out, so hurry to get the best of the remaining seats available.



Presidents Column

Last month I told you what a great time I have had being your “fearless leader” this past year. It truly has been a wonderful experience and one that I am glad I pursued with a passion. We reflected on all the successes we accomplished together during the year, and it seems amazing the activities that abounded. Lectures, meetings, shows, parties, jam sessions, and sharing magic amongst each other both before, during, and after meetings, or even at picnics and over coffee or other libations. What I have seen from all this is that more people have joined our “family”, and we are doing more magic than I can remember.

So that being said, here is my challenge for 2006 as I turn to L. C. Collier for his leadership and guidance. As we have all seen during our lives, we found out that it is not quantity that matters but the quality that counts. And it could not be more evident than in the ways we should be approaching our honing of our craft. Magic is meant to be studied and perfected, not just to read an idea, and quickly perform it. As you start preparing what you consider your goals for this coming year, think that maybe I need to massage and practice my patter, routining, and technique more, and make what I present more professional and polished. You will be amazed at what just a little attention to the details will do for your performance and the reaction you will receive when mystifying your audience. Whether you do close-up or stage routines, spend a little extra time perfecting what you do. Don't be afraid of repeating the same routine two month's in a row so we can see what changes you have made, and how drastically you may have improved your magic. That is my challenge, and I hope many of you adopt it as your challenge, too.

Here is to 2006 being an even more exciting and fun-filled year than 2005. Let's see where this challenge I have set before you will take us. Be ready to be dazzled by those around you! Good Luck, and again thanks to each of you for making a difference in this Ring's success!

Oct. Magician of the Month Winners

Close Up Winner

Eric Woods

Stage Winner

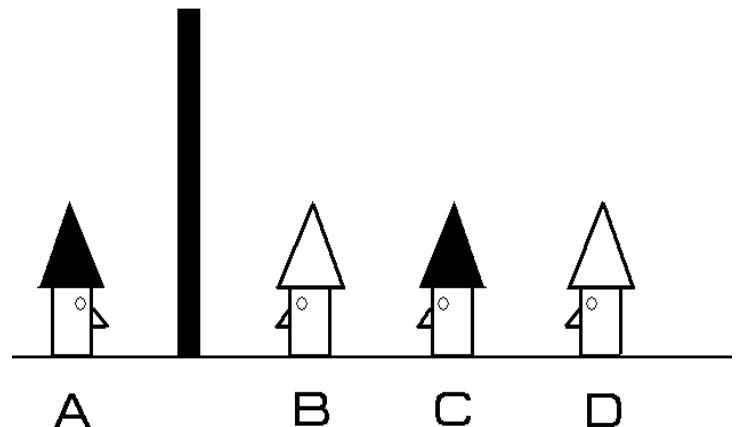
Blake Silvernail

Congratulations to the winners! We look forward to the upcoming performances.



Not Really Magic, Trivia

Four men in Hats



Shown above are 4 men buried up to their necks in the ground. They cannot move so can only look forward. Between A and B is a brick wall which cannot be seen through. They all know that between them they are wearing 4 hats, 2 x black and 2 x white, but they do not know what color they are wearing.

In order to avoid being shot one of them must call out to the executioner the color of their hat. If they get it wrong, everyone will be shot.

They are not allowed to talk to each other and have 10 minutes to fathom it out. After 1 minute, one of them calls out.

Question: Which one of them calls out?

Question: Why is he 100% certain of the color of his hat?

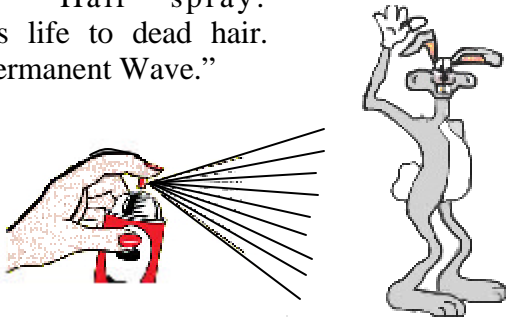
This is not a trick question.

There are no outside influences nor other ways of communicating. They cannot move and are buried in a straight line. So A & B can only see their respective sides of the wall, C can see B, and D can see B & C.

Tragic Rabbit Story

By Jay E. Mastin

A magician was driving along and saw a rabbit hopping across the road and he swerved to miss it, but unfortunately didn't. Quite upset he got out to see what had become of the rabbit. It was dead. Suddenly a blonde woman pulled up to see what was wrong. "I feel terrible" he explained. She told him to hold on, she could help. She got from the trunk of her car a can; she walked over and sprayed the dead limp rabbit with it. Suddenly the rabbit came to life, jumped up, and waved its little paw to them and hopped down the road. A few feet ahead he stopped looked back and waved again, a few feet more, stopped and waved again and then disappeared into the sunset. The magician was astonished, so he asked what she had done. She held up the can to the magician so he could see what it was... the label read... "Hair spray. Restores life to dead hair. Adds Permanent Wave."



Answer to 4 Men in Hat

C calls out that he is wearing a black hat. Why is he 100% certain of the color of his hat ?

After a while, C comes to the realization that he must answer.

This is because D can't answer, and neither can A or B.

D can see C and B, but can't determine his own hat color. B can't see anyone and also can't determine his own hat color.

A is in the same situation as B, where he can't see anyone and can't determine his own hat color.

Since A, B, and D are silent, that leaves C.

C knows he is wearing a black hat because if D saw that both B and C were wearing white hats, then he would have answered. But since D is silent, C knows that he must be wearing a black hat as he can see that B is wearing a white hat.

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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

A List of Magician of the Year 2006 Competitors

	Stage	Close-Up		Stage	Close-Up
01/05	L.C. Collier	_____	07/05	_____	_____
02/05	Joe White	_____	08/05	Kyle Scheel	Laird Wilcox
03/05	Mark Myers	_____	09/05	_____	Mike Melito
04/05	Terry Elton	_____	10/05	Barron Stringfellow	Blake Silvernail
05/05	Marty Isenburg	_____	11/05	Steve Steiner	Chuck Macan
06/05	Harris Deutsch	_____	12/05	Blake Silvernail	Eric Woods

Kyle Scheel Escapes with His Life

By Professor Poague

On Saturday, November 19th, Kyle Scheel once again showed us why he is one of America's Finest Young Magicians and why he truly deserved to win the title of International Junior Stage Magician of the Year.

Kyle's coin manipulation would have made Nor Nielsen proud. Shimada and James Dimare would have been delighted with Kyle's dove routines.

Kyle is to be commended for his creativity and his imagination. The Routines were original and were his ideas.

Kyle performed a variety of illusion. His Don Drake black art presentation was very convincing. His version of Houdini's water escape was a pleasure to see. Kyle added a little "twist"; he escaped from inside a 100 gallon tank full of water, while also escaping from a strait jacket within the tank of water, which, of course, was padlocked.

Kyle's finale was inspirational and heart warming. His use of the Statue of Liberty, a large American Flag and patriotic music garnered him a standing ovation.

I see great things ahead for Kyle. He needs a good agent and maybe a stage name like: "The Amazing Kyle" or perhaps, "Kyle - The Magnificent". Then again - maybe not.

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)

MAGICIAN'S FOR HIRE

We have added a new web page to our web site for all of you. It is a "Magician for Hire" page. I say it is for *you* because if you are a working magician you can put your ad on it so that people can see it and hire you. This is a free ad for you and it is easy to use. You can view the page and see what kind of info we need from you at <http://www.ring129.com/hire.htm>. If you wish to be added to our "Magician for Hire" page on our web site then please send Ken Reedy your name, stage name if any, brief one line description of your act, phone number, email address and your web page address with an attached photo. Please make the description of you act as brief as possible. We only have room for one line.

Tentative Lecture Schedule

Eric Evans

Jan. 10 7 PM

Bruce Kalver

Feb. 28 7 PM

Nathan Kranzo

May 5 7 PM

All lectures held at:

US Toy Magic
2008 W. 103rd Terr.
Leawood, KS 66206

Sorcerers Circle: \$5
Regular Member \$6
Non-Member \$15

Special Lecture:
Eugene Burger

Feb 10-11

When we get the details will pass them on to you...

DONALD HOLMES

Donald Holmes (the Professional name of Donald H. Alsdorf, a successful magic dealer in Kansas City) was born in Albion, Mich. on September 23, 1879. He was just twelve years old when he chanced upon a copy of Hoffman's "Modern Magic," and he had been an enthusiastic devotee of the art from that day on. All branches of conjuring interested him, and he originated dozens of clever principles, sleights and tricks with all manners of objects. His private collection of magical apparatus was one of the largest in this country.

Holmes was an active contributor to magic publications of his time few were better posted than he on the literature of magic. His first venture in magical literature, Some Modern Conjuring, published in 1909 created something of a sensation as it embraced a series of truly original tricks that had never before been attempted.

In the same year he produced his Perfection Rising Cards, one of the most clever and practical methods yet devised for performing this card classic. Later, Mr. Holmes published New Card Tricks, Tricks with Prepared Cards, Donald Holmes' Bag O'Tricks, A Mind Reading Act, The Magic Art, as well as making many contributions of original effects to the Sphinx and other publications. Among other original creations are his "Marvelous Prediction," "Triangle Card Trick," "Phantom Goldfish," several new Handkerchief Productions, a Pitcher and Stein for the Ink Filtration Trick, and some clever conceptions with fluids.

While Mr. Holmes never worked professionally, his magical entertainments have been numerous and always of the highest order. He was a crank on the proper setting and sequence in the staging of even a "parlor show" and he obtained many beautiful effects by his close adherence to this rule. His wife and daughter were no less interested in the work and were expert assistants. At eight years of age Miss Marcella successfully worked, as the medium, several of the texts explained in the Mind Reading Act he published in 1916.

Many well known magicians pointed out the genial hospitality of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Holmes. Members of the Robert Houdin Club (of which Mr. Holmes was a charter member) always prepared for an "all night" session when a meeting was due at the Holmes residence. In January 1916, Mr. Holmes entered exclusively into the field as a dealer, in which he had a wide range of experience, in his home town of Kansas City. He placed upon the market rapidly, all the good things he had hoarded up in his scrap-books of original tricks and illusions over many years. As a dealer, Holmes was wide-awake, honest and keenly alive to the requirements of the modern magician, be he amateur or professional.

The Magic Art is a book very much in the style of the Hoffman

books. It describes in particular the tricks invented or used by Mr. Holmes. Harlan Tarbell calls this book 'excellent' in the Tarbell Course. The Following is a routine from that book:

The Paper Balls and Plates

This excellent impromptu experiment is based on the principle of the cups and balls. Four small plates, or saucers, are placed in a row on the table, and four pellets of paper (preferably tissue) the size of hazel nuts, are formed. The object of the experiment is to place one of the paper balls under each plate, and then cause them to appear eventually under one plate. To make my explanation clear, we will number the plates 1, 2, 3 and 4, from left to right.



You begin by placing a ball in front of each plate. Exhibit both hands empty, then take the ball that is resting in front of Plate No. 1, holding it between the tips of the fingers and thumb of the right hand. Pick up the plate with the same hand and turn it over, leaving the pellet under the plate. Ball No. 2 is placed under its plate in the same manner. Ball No. 3 is apparently placed under the third plate, but is really retained between the tips of the fingers, the back of the hand being turned toward the spectators. The right hand immediately picks up Plate No. 4, and the left hand takes the remaining ball. In placing the plate over the fourth ball, the palmed ball is also inserted thereunder. The onlookers believe there is a ball under each plate, but the balls are actually distributed as follows: Two balls under No. 4; nothing under No. 3; a ball under No. 2; and a ball under No. 1.

Now turn over Plate No. 1 with the right hand, and take the ball in the left in position for making the tourniquet pass. Apparently take the ball in the right hand, making a kneading movement with the fingers of this hand just above Plate No. 4. With this same hand lift the plate, immediately transferring it to the left, thus concealing the ball palmed in that hand. The spectators see two balls on the table, one supposedly having passed through the plate. Replace the plate over the balls, secretly adding the palmed ball.

The same operation is now repeated with the ball under Plate No. 2. As there is no ball under Plate No. 3, you inform your auditors that you will do the trick invisibly. You therefore pretend to remove the ball through the plate without lifting the latter, calling attention to the fact that you are holding an invisible ball, and then apparently pass it under Plate No. 4, lifting up both Plates 3 and 4 simultaneously. Thus the four pellets are revealed assembled under the first plate, and only four pellets are used.

Kirk DeWeese

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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.

Members are encouraged to submit articles and comments for publishing and earn additional Sorcerer's Circle Points.

Articles must be in the Editor's office by the 20th of the month.
ewoods20@hotmail.com

The time has come to pay your annual dues. Fees are:

Regular and Junior Membership \$20

Associate Membership \$ 5

Stu Lewis' Ring Report

December may be a busy time for many people, but our December meeting drew an even larger-than-usual crowd, as over fifty of us showed up for an evening of magic. Mentalist Larry Poague opened the stand-up contest with a billet mind-reading routine, while Blake Silvernail did a prediction effect using a deck of cards.

Eric Woods opened the close-up contest with a clever routine in which one effect blended into another based on common props. He began with a classic bill switch, and then followed with a pen through bill and some other tricks with the pen. L. C. Collier did a multiple-principle force with a lot of humor adding to the entertainment value. Harris Deutsch produced a dreidel in honor of the upcoming Chanukah season, and then went on to an impressive sleight-of-hand routine changing three washers into coins. Mark Myers showed us a stack of poker chips and made certain predictions about the way a spectator would stack them; then he took it a step farther with some clever sleight of hand. Stu Lewis performed his original "Ghost Deal," describing the exploits of a mysterious stranger who was able to deal himself a perfect hand only to have the wild cards he had dealt himself return to their original hands. (Thanks to Darwin Ortiz and Paul Harris for the moves which made this possible).

Steve Steiner led off the open, non-competition portion of the evening with the demonstration of some optical illusions. Eric Woods did some magic parody, saying he was "all thumbs" while producing several thumb tips. Barron Stringfellow dem-

onstrated a collectible magic apparatus called the "Gems of Baghdad." Mark Tams, who has rejoined the ring even though he lives several hundred miles from Kansas City, did the "Mark Tams Eleven Card Trick" (actually borrowed from Derek Dingle, but Tams has made it his own), in which a spectator is unable to count out eleven cards into the magician's hand, always coming up a card or two off. Mark Myers used a calculator to show the selected card on the readout screen. Paul Brune got into the holiday mood with a card routine in which a selected card was shown to be the only one with "Merry Xmas" written on the back. He then went high-tech showing a selected card on his cell phone. Stu Lewis did a mini-teach-in concerning a suggested solution to a card problem he had been working on since Mark Tams used it during the previous meeting. Jason Dean closed out the performances with Simon Aronson's "Prior Commitment," demonstrating that if you have a reputation for sleight of hand, you can "sell" a routine based on mathematical principles. Following the performances, Blake and Eric were declared the monthly winners.

We've had two well-received lectures at U.S. Toy since our last report: Joshua Jay and David Stone. I missed the former but heard good things about it. French coin expert David Stone amazed us with his coin sleights, all of which were well explained, though many will take a lot of work. He provided a highly enjoyable evening.

--Stu Lewis, ring reporter