

# Fool Me Once



A year or two ago, I bought Silver Shifter – Steve Brooks' \$50 rubber coin. I swear that's what it is. It also came with some silver colored powder and a Q-Tip, I think.

If I rubbed the silver powder on the coin and I stood at one goal line of a football field and you stood at the other goal line it looks a little like a half dollar. Now I can perform miracles as long as you don't move any closer.

I bought this well before I understood Steve Brooks. Those of us that have bought magic over the years have opened many packages and felt seriously screwed, but NOTHING ever compared to opening the Silver Shifter package and realizing you had just paid 50 bucks for a fucking rubber coin. FIFTY BUCKS! Supposedly, they had high manufacturing costs.

Brooks promised aftermarket books and even a special section on the Cafe for purchasers. I understand it will now be a section of Cogitations II. If the man had an ounce of compassion he would have, at least, included a bottle of Vaseline with every purchase. I'm still sore.

The next release from the fertile mind that is Steve Brooks was something called Free Fall. Someone gave me this over a year ago and I never bothered to break the seal. After all the initial hoopla and congratulatory posts you would think we could see it on every street corner. Hell, I thought they may even make a TV series from it. To date, I've never seen anyone do it or mention it.

MagicChris, took his lips off Brooks' ass long enough to pen this:

***That's right! Anyone that uses Free Fall or Silver Shifter knows how his creative mind works!***

Yes, Chris, I believe we do!

Having conquered the creative end of magic, Mein Brooks turns his considerable self to the craft of DVD production. He's a talented S.O.B. His latest effort is *The*

*Rat Pack* by Curtis Kam. Peter Studebaker reviewed it in the September *Magic*. I won't fully recount the article. The final paragraph is sufficient:

***If you build a better card trick the world will beat a path to your door. This ain't it.***

Maybe, just maybe, I've figured out the problem. Peter's review says the performance was shot in a *pool hall/restaurant*. Talk about the fox in the hen house. How was Mein Brooks supposed to concentrate when he was working surrounded by french fries and hamburgers? The DVD never had a prayer. Never!

I'm told Curtis is a nice guy and a good performer. Too bad he teamed with this clown for a very visible project. I doubt the Cafe publicity offset the harm from the amateur production.

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## The Baby & The Bath Water

OK! The title is trite - it's Sunday and I'm tired and not particularly clever or original today.

Lost in all the hoopla over the Haydn/Sheets/Bush/MagiCentric/MagicWhack/MagicianX/Pinnard/Schneide/Kreskin/BabeRuth/HowieMandel.....etc. etc. uh..... controversy was the very real issue raised by MagiCentric in the original Haydn/Bush post. The lost point of the original post was there are 2 levels of accountability in magic when it comes to creation and crediting. First, there are the elite - I won't call names here as that's not the point - they can publish and produce anything and the magic world applauds. Statues are built in the park. The Magic Castle awards a fellowship and Steve Brooks gets so excited he *nearly* misses a meal.

Then there are piss ants like you and me. We can pull a rabbit out of a hat and some pious, self-righteous jackal will quickly inform us that that was developed by Reginald Scot and we should make arrangements with his estate before performing it again. It's the ethical thing to do.

Create an original idea and have it ripped off and we hear coincidence or that it was already in some underground notes privately circulated by Hofzinser and the routine was well known among the cognoscenti.

Exaggerrated? Barely, if at all. It's sick and perverted.

## Drivel & Drool

### Is it possible?

I'm about to say something I've never said before and doubt I will say again. *I think the Magic Cafe **may** have done the right thing.* OK I said it and it felt REAL strange.

The giantormous thread about the 3 shell DVD is G-O-N-E as far as I can tell. I hope someone captured it. Unfortunately, I've been away and didn't have the opportunity.

My gut tells me that there's something else going on here. Brooks' boys seemed to have things well in hand last time I looked. MagicianX, always on top of things, wrote about Al Schneider's posts in the thread. It may well be that the only face saving move Brooks could make was trashing the whole thread after Al called out some of that hypocritical cadre of idiots.

As I often said in my years at Arthur Andersen, "if you hear the truth, it is nothing but a statistical anomaly". Likewise, if the Cafe does the right thing it is merely a cosmic accident that will shake the space/time continuum to its knees.

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## Posts I Didn't Read

The Magic Circle Jerk's inspired contest which is rewarding a prize for the most boring post is wonderful. I'm sure all of us have tried to determine which ones

they are. It's also funny to see the Cafe powers scramble – No new registrations and I've seen a number of legitimate posts trashed. Trying to find the MOST *purposefully* boring post is a seriously manly challenge.

Anyway, this made me think of those posts by Cafe regulars that were of no interest *prima fascia*. There are thousands. These come quickly to mind:

- How I developed my Buns of Steel – S Brooks
- Brevity is the soul of wit (4 pages) – B Palmer
- I'm not one to say much, but..... – J Townsend
- Do you think the left side or the right side of Steve Brooks' ass is sexier? – M Chris
- Humility, probably my BEST asset – P Chosse
- My humility is better than Chosse's – T Wayne
- Live and let live – D Scribner
- Steve Brooks are a gnius – xxxxx (grammar host)
- Joe Porper and I\* – P Biro

\* Sorry, I lost interest in this before I could finish the title.

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## A Familiar Stench In Blogland

For much of my, too long, life I've been around lawyers. Personally, I consider the legal profession to be the most harmful enterprise this side of being the Enron CFO. Yeah, I know there are exceptions – Damn Few!

Over the past few days, I believe I've seen this evil slithering through the blogs, extorting a serious toll.

I'm convinced things will never be the same.

Another notch on the bed post for the bad guys.

Nothing new, I'm afraid.

I'm taking a break.....

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## More Of The Same

I long ago quit posting on the Cafe, after I was banned. It's easy enough to get another set of IDs, but it's just not worth it. I have nothing I want to post, that's within the Round Man's rules anyway.

I do enjoy reading the posts on a periodic basis. Unfortunately, when I read posts I remember why I detest these people some much. As I write this, there's a post in the Tech area asking about editing ones own posts. Actually, if you look, this question has been asked more than once. That pompous Chief of Staff will invariably reference something else, implying that the poster was too damn stupid or lazy to do it himself. This time he says:

*Here's the explanation from the rules and etiquette forum.*

It goes on to cite Brooks terminally boring missive and says you can only edit within the 1st 30 minutes and then only if no one has responded.

There's two things seriously wrong here:

1. This rule is buried deep in the bowels of a massively dull post by Mein Brooks. Only a person that could eat raw slugs wouldn't have spit up well before reaching this point.
2. More importantly, here's the Cafe F.A.Q on the issue:

***You may edit your own posts at any time, unless the topic is locked. Just go to the thread where the post to be edited is located and you will see an edit icon on the line above your message. Click on this icon and edit the post. No one else can edit your post, except for the forum moderator or the Magic Cafe administrator.***

You see, Mr. Chief, we're not as stupid as you continually imply.

## FIX YOUR F.A.Q

take care  
im

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# The Continuing Saga

### Whit Responds:

I've been marginally covering this story since Magician X and MagiCentric are way ahead of me on the curve. Also, I trust I've left no doubt that I dislike the Whit Haydn that appears on the Magic Cafe. He's mean, condescending and just plain rude. I can do without that.

Magician X has posted the first commentary on the long awaited response here. It's a good read. Please be aware that this thread has been *purified* by the guards at Stalag Cafe. Unfortunately, I didn't have the foresight to grab it earlier.

It's an interesting story. It will be interesting to watch it play out.

I only have one comment here. Whit's blaming the blogs for the problems seems to be totally misplaced.

## Drivel & Drool

One of the posts I didn't see on the revised thread were comments from a good ol' boy from Tennessee calling anonymous posters cowards. I believe this was in a couple of posts. Let's see if I can't explain this so he can understand it:

***Let's say you're in the cabin enjoying a chaw and you hear a noise outside. It's Pa Kettle - mad as hell, standing there with his loaded musket. He's calling you out and wrongly accusing you of messing around with Ma***

***Kettle out behind the privy.***

You're not gonna take it, so you go get your gun and when you start to load it you find that Pa Kettle sent his fat, ugly brother-in-law over and took your bullets.

Now you have two choices - you can walk outside unarmed and get blown to smithereens or be a coward and sneak out the cellar, so you can live to fight another day.

Which one you figger you're gonna do?

Get it?!