

A personal tour of Blogland

✘ There's some good reading on some of the magic blogs right now. Of course there's a load of crap too, but the balance isn't quite as bad recently. Obviously, this reflects my likes and prejudices. Please take it as such.

B. D. Erland continues to write one of the most thoughtful and well constructed blogs in our strange little world. I particularly liked his article *How to spend your 1st \$100 in magic*. This is kind of like the *five foot shelf* exercises, but with a very different slant. I really can't argue with his choices, although I think I would have taken a different approach, but that's what these articles are all about.

Andster, over at *I, Magician* can be a fun read. Posting has been more erratic lately, but he's at that great age when the glands are still pumping wildly and has probably found girls a LOT more fun - at least I hope so. Like Tom Frank, he frequently puts more of himself in public than many of us are comfortable doing.

The Smiling Mule writes *The Phantom Notebooks*. It has become one of my favorite reads. Maybe, it's because he's as cranky as me. A recent article *Deconstructing the Cafe* was wonderful. He classifies the Cafe posters into 6 categories:

- The Morons
- The Pseudo Authority
- The Mised Nice Guy
- The Truthteller In The Shadows
- The Disenchanted Student
- The Advertiser

He actually gave names of posters in each category. It was great. Personally, I think there are missing categories such as the fawners - especially when a name shows up - I honestly thought Randy Wakeman was going to give Paul Kozak a virtual blow job when he was the monthly guest. There is the group that write vicious, nasty messages and then use a Bible cite in the signature - I give you his holiness, Stephen Youell - among others. And..... of course the industrial grade prick - Thomas Wayne come to mind. There's much more scholarly stuff on his site - he takes his cards seriously - damn seriously. When the Mule speaks - I

listen.

Jim Coles at Unexpected Wonders writes incredibly insightful and thorough essays. His recent post *Performing Magic With Ease* was excellent. Jim and I seem to share a lot of the same views on magic. He just expresses them better and with more class than I do! Jim has been going through a change of blogging software recently - less than fun I assure you.

The name guys seem to be MIA - Joshua Jay, Aaron Fisher, Richard Osterlind..... Osterlind pops up once in a while hawking some of his stuff, but he hasn't had a real post since George Bush had a thought. Joshua Jay is no more punctual with this blog than he is posting his tricks on the Magic Magazine site - last I saw he was approaching a year since updating.

Tom Frank continues to post regularly. He's been a blog stalwart for a long time. In many respects, it's like an autobiography being delivered page by page. As I alluded to earlier, he gives more of himself than many, including me, are willing to do. Always a fun read.

Take care.....



Castle Notebooks - Who cares?



I'm just not too excited about the impending release of the Cervon notebooks - the infamous Castle Notebooks. The price is just plain stupid for scanned pages - especially given the rather large run (500).

Even though Richard Kaufman seems to be on the rag permanently these days, I think he is justified in condemning the Cervon estate and L&L for the release. I find the question of ownership of the material to be quite interesting- and

unresolvable.

Also, when I think *notebooks*, I think of that ass hole Jeff Busby and begin to gag!

Take care.....



We Award the i/m DD Again



(It's been a while since we awarded the i/m DD. Very honestly, the last award was a mistake. The award went to Paul Chosse and while I still maintain that his actions were over the top in the dispute which gave him the award, he appears to be a fine man and, possibly, his actions in that case were, in fact, justified.)

A friend pointed me to a discussion on the Cafe regarding Heiny 500, a version of Pat Page's routine where he changes plain paper to real money - popularized by Greg Wilson on Hundy 500. At that point I hadn't seen it, so I ordered it to see what the fuss was about. It seems that some purchasers felt the description of the gimmick was rather primitive and I have to agree it wasn't very complete. That, however, is a mere sidelight. During the discussion, some doo rag with the screen name of Gabriel Knight chime in with -

When Richard Sanders lectured, the only people who asked to see the gimmick reconstructed were older people. Cause even with super Detailed instructions, any form explained they Never could get it. All the top guys have said, MUST HAVE. Never even giving a second thought to the gimmick.

Now I know this is not his real name. A little research on the Internet tells me this clown is drives a BMW that he's always trying to fix. A car they won't even sell you unless you are a card carrying DICK. After someone calls him to task, we get this bit of clever prose -

I have nothing against OLDER people. Ring 211 has "June Horawits" as a member, 93 years old. She is one amazing, smart gal. Still doing performances in our club.

I was the first person to give her my seat in the front row cause I was faster than the old guy with hacking cough and the walker.

the word was OLDER not OLD

Pardon me, but what the fuck does that mean? Obviously, you won't be running into this dipwad at a MENSA meeting. I doubt he could even qualify as a member of *Kindergartners for Gore*.

Let's examine his comments. Firstly, did it ever occur to this douche bag that maybe, just maybe, the *older* folk might be concerned with actually getting it right since they will be performing for people that can string two sentences together. That doing it well, with precision, might be important rather than doing it just *good enough*.

....and what the hell does he mean by *older not old*? What's the point. The fact is he insulted those of us that are older and hasn't got the balls to either stand by his statement or apologize.

Even more obscure is his "June Horawits" statement and the guy with the walker. I would hope this pathetic phonetic spelling of *June Horowitz'* name is just a lame joke, rather than an inability to take the 10 seconds to find out how to actually spell her name. Based on his attempt to spell *cough* though, I seriously doubt it. He then tops out by making fun of a cripple - real nice!!



So to you Mr Knight - whatever your name is - you are our latest, and dare I say most deserving ever - **i/m Disposable Douche**.

Take care.....



Quick trick recommendation

I know there is substantial disagreement whether the PATEO force actually fools anyone. It's one of those things that shot by me the 1st time I saw it and then I later wondered how it ever fooled me.

Anyway, there's a neat trick in the December *Genii* by Max Maven called **Electile Dysfunction**. Although I'm seldom enamoured with topical presentations, this appealed to me. A neat little trick for election year to have in your arsenal.

and.....



Happy Thanksgiving!!!

Buyer Beware

I see Tim Trono is raving about an upcoming release from Bob Kohler called *IVanish*.

Just remember - the last time he waxed so excited we got *Hole In The Head!*

Walking Eagle



Two weeks ago in up state New York, Senator Hillary Clinton was invited to address a major gathering of the American Indian Nation. She spoke for almost an hour on her future plans for increasing every Native American's present standard of living, should she one day become the first female President.

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She referred to her career as a New York Senator, how she had signed 'YES' for every Indian issue that came to her desk for approval. Although the Senator was vague on the details of her plan, she seemed most enthusiastic about her future ideas for helping her 'red sisters and brothers.'

At the conclusion of her speech, the Tribes presented the Senator with a plaque inscribed with her new Indian name - Walking Eagle.

The proud Senator then departed in her motorcade, waving to the crowds.

A news reporter later inquired of the group of chiefs of how they had come to select the new name given to the Senator. They explained: Walking Eagle is the name given to a bird so full of crap it can no longer fly.