

## Abracadabra no miracle for UNL magician

"Come, bring thy wand, whose magic power can wake the troubled spirits of the deep."

Hemans

Address to Fancy

Magic. The mere word conjures up marvelous visions. Magic is an ancient and honorable art involving illusions, sleight of hand, mind reading and much more.

In turn, that art's purpose is to entertain, as anyone belonging to the Society of American Magicians (SAM) will tell you. The society was formed long ago and has had many famous members such as Houdini, his brother Hardeen, and Thurston, the master of large illusions.

UNL student Dave Madsen, one of SAM's not so famous members, is a magician, and while he's not working at the Daily Nebraskan, he's often entertaining us with his illusions. Madsen has baffled all of us with his magic knife trick, in which he changes a white knife to a black knife and then makes it disappear.

Madsen has been learning magic for about 11 years. His interest was sparked by a little magic kit, a

Christmas gift from his grandmother, which contained eight simple tricks. Madsen said he remembers watching Mark Wilson's *Magic Land of Alakazam* when he was younger, and found it a source of inspiration.

## diane | wanek out of my head

Madsen said he gets most of his tricks from books and other magicians. It's an unsworn oath of magicians that they will never reveal their tricks to anyone save another magician. "Once you learn the basic moves, you can apply them to all sorts of objects," he said. "There is always a simple explanation.

Every magician has his forte: Houdini and Hardeen specialized in escapes, Cardini works with cigarettes and cards. Madsen does not specialize in any special

area, but has done some perplexing tricks with cards, balls, knives and cups.

One favorite of mine involves two small foal balls, which Madsen places in my hand. I am told to hold onto them tightly and after he waves his magic wand and tells me to open my hand, another ball appears in my hand.

His card tricks are especially enjoyable.

Madsen maintains his most spectacular trick is one which he performs on a stage. "Laying on stage are several canvases of the type a painter would use, about three by four feet in dimension. I construct on stage a small house out of these canvases. When the house is built, I shoot a gun at it and my assistant jumps out of the house."

Through the SAM, magicians have access to an assortment of tricks and props for tricks. They can be very expensive, he said, "but you must remember that the most important thing about magic is to entertain them by fooling them, and it isn't necessary to spend a lot of money to do that."

Madsen was recently elected Harper Hall President. His campaign slogan: He can do the trick.

## Country musicians pick way to Lincoln

By Diane Wanek

He's known as Mr. Good'n Country and after hearing his music, it's easy to see why.

Jimmy Martin and his Sunny Mountain Boys, award winning country music stars, will present a concert at the East Campus Union Friday at 7:30 p.m. The concert is sponsored by the Union Programs Concert Committee.

A recent Grammy Award nominee for Best Country Vocal Performance on an album, *Will the Circle be Unbroken*, Martin has been pulling in musical awards for years.

His musical career began when he joined Bill Monroe in 1949. It had been Martin's lifelong dream to sing and play country music, and working for five years with Bill Monroe, one of the most lauded country musicians in the business, was the beginning of his dream come true.

In 1953, Martin formed his own band, known as the Sunny Mountain Boys, and they played WJR's Barn Dance in Detroit for several years.

From Detroit, they moved to Shreveport, La., as a headline attraction on the Louisiana Hayride. After three years Martin and his group moved around a lot, appearing in such places as the Grand Ole Opry, the Philadelphia Folk Festival, the Golden Nugget in Las Vegas, and the World's Original Jamboree.

His song "Sunny Side of the Mountain" is part of the Country Music Hall of Fame; he's won the Golden Guitar Award; the Americana Award for the Most Popular Group, and many others.

The Bluegrass Crusade, a local group, also will play at Friday's concert. The Bluegrass Crusade features Steve Hansen on banjo, who won Best Picker award at the Brownville Fiddlers' Festival this last year. The group also won Best Group award.

Admission is \$1. Tickets are available at the Union South Desk, the East Campus Union and at Dirt Cheap Enterprises.

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