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## So, Starstorm is out...

Brian David-Marshall  
The Week That Was  
Thursday, November 18, 2004



This week, I actually get to play with everyone else and preview an *Unhinged* card. I am doubly excited about this since I have not had the chance to take part in previews since leaving [shark infested waters](#) for this column. Plus I got a pretty cool card to highlight. To be fair it seems like you can't miss when previewing an *Unhinged* card. The last couple have been ridiculous with pretty mind bending effects. Speaking of mind mending... What happens when you are playing *Enter the Dungeon* in your deck and the guy next to you is desperately trying to avoid denimwalk? Do you just not cast it and treat *Enter the Dungeon* as a mulligan when you draw it?

I wasn't the only one excited about my card either. It set off a flurry of activity on our little magicthegathering.comlist when Scott announced the card I would be previewing.

Adrian Sullivan wrote:

*OH! What a lucky &@!\$^@%#! That is the coolest card of them all! (Drew Tucker 4 L, y0)*

Nate Heiss wrote:

*Just don't put **Mana Vault** in your deck - you will frown when you want to draw seven and you have 3 extra mana instead :)*

Mike Flores wrote:

*Isn't an alternately savage strategy to play all (mostly) Tedin cards and just use the card to impulse through your deck? Like you can play all Tedin, random non-Tedin bullets in clusters of 2 or more, and all lands by one artist.*

Here is the card that prompted all of the artist-centric chatter...



The card is functionally a reprint of *Demonic Consultation* with a nod toward card art that is not usually a factor in game play. Nate's comment was in response to my comment about simply putting the card into a Necro deck. That's fine if *Necropotence* is your only card by Mark Tedin but Mr. Tedin has often had multiple card illustrations per Necro deck starting with *Nevinrral's Disk* and up through *Mana Vault* in the Illusions/*Donate* versions.

Mark Tedin has illustrated quite a few cards in his **Magic** career so if you want your *Aesthetic Consultation* to actually hit your *Necropotence* -- and why would you want it to hit anything else, really -- then that means quite a few cards will likely be excluded from your decklist. No *Chaos Confetti*, *Time Twister*, *Psychic Allergy*, *Mana Drain*, or *Winter Orb*.

Actually, you probably want to duck David Martin cards also just because you can never reliably tutor for them without risking hitting another *Aesthetic Consultation*. *Starstorm* is out, as is *Horn of Ramos* and *Fire/Ice*. Scott Johns suggested playing a sixty card singleton deck with all sixty cards coming from different artists but the problem with that is that you lose if you name an artist and hit it in those first six cards as you will mill away your entire library and, barring some unlikely events, lose on your next draw. Then again, this is *Unhinged* we're talking about, so that approach is certainly in the spirit of the set.



Instead however, I think you want to aim for roughly ten different artists with your non-land slots so you can tutor for anything you want. Basically, play it like a Consultation but with the challenge of working around the card illustrators.

One of my favorite **Demonic Consultation** decks makes an aesthetically pleasing transition from outdated Extended format to *Unhinged* friendly casual. Other than a couple of lands there is not any artistic duplication among the eighteen artists that contributed pieces to this gallery. Can you figure out the list based on the artist's names?

I was genuinely surprised by how much artistic diversity there was in these two decklists, with over sixteen different artists contributing work to each of these decks. I thought that in the older decks every other card would be by Mark Tedin or Anson Maddocks but that was not the case. In fact, the only artists that appeared on multiple cards in one deck were Jesper Myfors and Christopher Rush.



I can give you a couple of hints about the decks to help you puzzle them out.

1. The David Martin cards are **Aesthetic Consultations** where Demonic ones used to be.
2. Both decks are Pro Tour Top 8 lists from long departed Extended formats.
3. Both decks are from Chicago Pro Tours.

### Gatherer Consultation I

**Main Deck**  
60 cards

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Brian Snoddy</li> <li>2 Brom</li> <li>2 David O'Connor</li> <li>2 Jesper Myfors</li> <li>1 Jesper Myfors</li> <li>3 Jesper Myfors</li> <li>4 Mark Tedin</li> <li>4 Pat Morrissey</li> <li>4 Rob Alexander</li> </ul> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 5px 0;"/> <p>23 lands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Anthony S. Waters</li> <li>4 Jeff Miracola</li> <li>4 L.A. Williams</li> <li>4 Richard Kane Ferguson</li> <li>4 Scott Kirschner</li> </ul> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 5px 0;"/> <p>20 creatures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 Andrew Goldhawk</li> <li>3 David Martin</li> <li>2 Jeff Menges</li> <li>4 Mark Romanaski</li> <li>2 Paolo Parente</li> <li>4 Terese Nielsen</li> </ul> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 5px 0;"/> <p>17 other spells</p>
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[Click here to see deck list](#)

### Gatherer Consultation I

**Main Deck**  
60 cards

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 City of Brass</li> <li>4 Flood Plain</li> <li>2 Gemstone Mine</li> <li>2 Scrubland</li> <li>1 Tropical Island</li> <li>3 Tundra</li> <li>4 Underground Sea</li> <li>2 Undiscovered Paradise</li> <li>1 Volcanic Island</li> </ul> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 5px 0;"/> <p>23 lands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Acidic Sliver</li> <li>4 Crystalline Sliver</li> <li>4 Hibernation Sliver</li> <li>4 Muscle Sliver</li> <li>4 Winged Sliver</li> </ul> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 5px 0;"/> <p>20 creatures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Aesthetic Consultation</li> <li>4 Counterspell</li> <li>2 Disenchant</li> <li>4 Force of Will</li> <li>2 Misdirection</li> <li>2 Swords to Plowshares</li> </ul> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 5px 0;"/> <p>17 other spells</p>
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Or how about this famous decklist...?

### Gatherer Consultation II

**Main Deck**  
60 cards

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Brom</li> <li>8 Dan Frazier</li> <li>4 Jesper Myfors</li> <li>3 Pete Venters</li> <li>4 Rob Alexander</li> <li>2 Therese Nielsen</li> </ul> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 5px 0;"/> <p>24 lands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Christopher Rush</li> <li>4 Mark Poole</li> <li>4 Melissa Benson</li> </ul> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: 5px 0;"/> <p>9 creatures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 Andrew Goldhawk</li> <li>2 Brian Snoddy</li> <li>4 Christopher Rush</li> <li>4 David Martin</li> <li>4 Douglas Shuler</li> <li>2 Jeff Miracola</li> <li>4 Mark Tedin</li> <li>4 Susan Van Camp</li> </ul>
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27 other spells

[Click here to see deck list](#)

### Gatherer Consultation II

**Main Deck**  
60 cards

2 <b>Bad River</b>	1 <b>Ihsan's Shade</b>	4 <b>Aesthetic Consultation</b>
4 <b>Badlands</b>	4 <b>Knight of Stromgald</b>	3 <b>Disenchant</b>
3 <b>Gemstone Mine</b>	4 <b>Order of the Ebon Hand</b>	4 <b>Drain Life</b>
3 <b>Lake of the Dead</b>		2 <b>Firestorm</b>
4 <b>Scrubland</b>	9 creatures	4 <b>Hymn to Tourach</b>
8 <b>Swamp</b>		2 <b>Incinerate</b>
24 lands		4 <b>Lightning Bolt</b>
		4 <b>Necropotence</b>
		27 other spells

Of course if you were especially greedy -- as I am often accused of being by Mike Flores -- you could play with eight Consultations and have twice the brokenness! I might even try resurrecting this deck for some fun casual games.

### Gatherer Consultation III

**Main Deck**  
60 cards

2 <b>Alan Pollack</b>	4 <b>Christopher Rush</b>	3 <b>Chippy</b>
4 <b>Colin MacNeil</b>	4 creatures	4 <b>David Martin</b>
2 <b>Dan Frazier</b>		4 <b>Doug Chafee</b>
3 <b>Kev Walker</b>		4 <b>Gary Leach</b>
4 <b>NeNe Thomas</b>		3 <b>Henry G. Higginbotham</b>
4 <b>Rob Alexander</b>		4 <b>Mark Tedin</b>
4 <b>Rob Alexander</b>		4 <b>Mike Raabe</b>
23 lands		4 <b>Rob Alexander</b>
		3 <b>Scott Kirschner</b>
		33 other spells

[Click here to see deck list](#)

### Gatherer Consultation III

**Main Deck**  
60 cards

4 <b>Ancient Tomb</b>	4 <b>Chronatog</b>	4 <b>Aesthetic Consultation</b>
3 <b>City of Traitors</b>	4 creatures	4 <b>Demonic Consultation</b>
2 <b>Island</b>		3 <b>Grim Monolith</b>
4 <b>Polluted Delta</b>		4 <b>Mana Vault</b>
2 <b>Swamp</b>		3 <b>Smokestack</b>
4 <b>Underground River</b>		4 <b>Sphere of Resistance</b>
4 <b>Underground Sea</b>		4 <b>Tinker</b>
23 lands		4 <b>Vampiric Tutor</b>
		3 <b>Voltaic Key</b>
		33 other spells

Now I realize that **Polluted Delta** is a million times better than **Bad River** but I was trying to avoid any duplicates among the artists and my original list featured Therese Nielsen in the land slot over Alexander. In talking to Mike Flores about the decklist he guided me away from that plan, "I can't imagine you would want to play a land that comes into play tapped in a Consultation deck just because it has the same artist as another card in the deck!" Hence the Rob Alexander duplication.

However you decide to play this card, you will have to know your artist names. If you play in an [Unhinged tournament this weekend](#) you should make a point of knowing the names of your key cards' artists just in case you decide to consult your deck for aesthetic purposes.

## PTQ Winners...

Here are the winners of the various North American PTQs from this past weekend. Congratulations to everyone who won this weekend and congratulations to Nick "Kephaliid" Feitel who made his first PTQ Top 8 this weekend at Neutral Ground-- see what playing a little slower does for your game, Keph?

Event City	Event Date	Event TO	Attendance
Los Angeles, CA (PT Qualifier)	11/13/2004	Dan Gray	82
Finish: 1. Sam Stein; 2. Ian Ferrel; 3. Philip Haussmann; 4. Rory Draxler; 5. Marshall Fine; 6. Chad Roberts; 7. Tim Henman; 8. Mauricio Blanco			
New York, NY (PT Qualifier)	11/13/2004	Glen Friedman	103
Finish: 1. Patrick Sullivan; 2. Michael Clair; 3. Joshua Ravitz; 4. Steven Sadin; 5. Ben Gesiak; 6. Nicholas Feitel; 7. Steven Cohen; 8. Timothy McKenna			
Vancouver, B.C. (PT Qualifier)	11/13/2004	Johnny Wong	67
Finish: 1. Morgan Findlay; 2. Charles Starling; 3. Tyler Sage; 4. Matthew Lewis; 5. Doug Kimola; 6. Jay Wu; 7. Gavin Kwok; 8. Anthony Ferraro			
Montreal, Quebec (PT Qualifier)	11/13/2004	Mauro Bongiovanni	67
Finish: 1. Pasquale Ruggiero; 2. Jeffrey Dyer; 3. Alex Turgeon; 4. Da Zhao; 5. Etienne Vaillancourt; 6. Francisco León Valencia; 7. William Finn; 8. Matthew LeBlanc			
Detroit, MI (PT Qualifier)	11/13/2004	Mike Guptil	72
Finish: 1. Phil Atkin; 2. Thomas Wood; 3. Bryan Upham; 4. John Honea; 5. Chris Carolan; 6. Marshall Arthurs; 7. Glenn Persello-Seefeld; 8. Di Shi			
San Antonio, TX (PT Qualifier)	11/13/2004	Tim Weissman	47
Finish: 1. Jeffrey Meyerson; 2. Rob Kolding; 3. Michael Musser; 4. Jeremy Jackson; 5. Tim Tschumy; 6. Kyle Sanchez; 7. Joseph Bryant; 8. Sean McWhorter			

*Brian David-Marshall has been involved in **Magic** since 1994 when he was violently shaken by someone searching for the game. He has organized tournaments, run a store, and is currently the Pro Tour Historian. His latest venture is [Top8Magic.com](http://Top8Magic.com), the publishing house that is releasing Michael J. Flores: Deckade.*



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