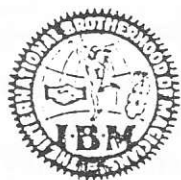
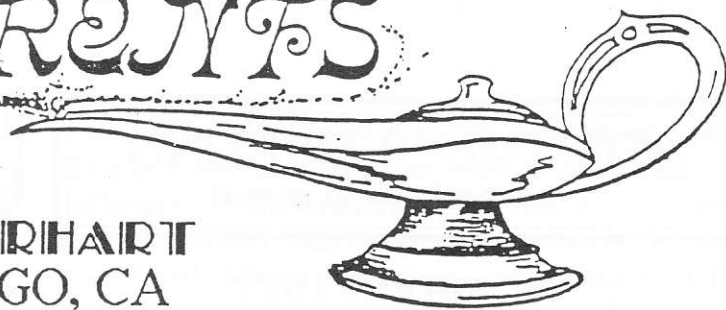


MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA



VOL IV. NO.4

October 1991

PREZ'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Magicurrents!

Next meeting will be Monday the 21st of October. Remember that the performance is an OPEN one. Bring any of your favorites and let wing with 'em! But....if you have a terrific effect, routine or bit-of-business with a Halloween theme that you would like to share, PLEASE DO!

The public show was a terrific show with a very disappointing turnout. There has been a lot of analysis on this and any thoughts and feelings of members would be appreciated. One question you might ask yourself, was whether you as part of the local I.B.M. felt that this was a 'Club' show. If you did not, we need to know why not?

We are always looking for and hoping that we will see some new faces performing each meeting. Please feel free to try out any and all new routines and ideas. If you would like to entertain comments from the audience, please do. Granted that the process of peer review in an attempt to improve our performance is always tough, yet it is still one of the surest ways to increase the quality of our shows. In some areas of the country this type of constructive criticism is done as a matter of course. As a suggestion, many may be interested in breaking up during a portion of the meeting into smaller and more specialized groups and have the critical reviews happen in this smaller, more intimate forum.

Magic is a valuable and unique hobby that has stimulated and stretched some of the worlds greatest minds. Read the life of Robert-Houdin and you are astounded at the creativity and intelligence of this 19th Century Master of Magic. Constant innovation and the urge to create greater and more profound mystery with our Art has always been the hallmark of the best magical innovators. Let us constantly be looking forward to extending our Art and Craft into the world in positive and helpful ways! Let's make Magic 'the' hobby of the 90's and beyond. Thank you.

Brad Burt

SEPTEMBER MEETING

....or what you missed

BY SHERRY LUFT

Forty Four Members and Eight Guests joined us for the September Meeting on the Sixteenth.

In the business meeting our president, **Brad Burt**, presented a membership kit to **Saul Amerling**. There was also a lengthy discussion about the establishment of a club video library which was referred to the Board. In addition there was an extensive discussion about swap meets and auctions (selling events). Should there be more than one per year? Or should there be a combination swap meet/auction. The discussion was inspired by **Jeff Marcus'** letter in our September *Magicurrents*. The subject was tabled for further consideration.

And now to the charming lecturer, **Futiga-gawa!** This clever magician entertained us with rope, card, and coin effects. **Shigeo** uses small, easily recognizable objects in a natural manner. His opening trick was a three rope trick using Japanese cotton rope. Then **Paul Barton** helped him with several effects - locating cards using a gambler's shiner. It was a delightful presentation!

Next was a coin trick in which the coin disappeared on his sleeve and reappeared as a bent coin in his hands. Every effect that he did was simplistic and stylish. Then he did a folding paper trick which he finally blew into a three dimensional box which had a coin in it. He recovered the coin from the paper box. It was great.

This was followed by a four ace trick called "*Spelling Demon*" in which he spelled out each ace using a slip cut and buckling cards. After this came a self-working card trick called "*Spell Your Card*". Next he enlisted **Mary Brown** to help him perform "*Prediction of Pyramid*".

Then came his famous bent spoon effect - "*Spoon Bending By Mental Power*", followed by a production of spring flowers, one at a time. He produced a beautiful fan of color, and then did **Danny Tong's** ace assembly.

What a fun show! Well paced and beautifully performed.

STARS OF MAGIC II

The *SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA STARS OF MAGIC* show which was presented at The Scottish Rite Center in Mission Valley on October Fifth and Sixth was an artistic success and a financial disaster. Despite an exceptional cast and a truly professional production the audience just didn't come. It would be easy to point fingers, but the truth is no one can say what the base cause was. The membership effort in ticket selling was poor, but in fairness it should be pointed out that this alone was not responsible. If every member had been able to sell two tickets the show would still have failed to fill the hall for four performances. The San Diego Blood Bank's Publicity Campaign had sent out thousands of brochures but only a very small handful brought in ticket sales. It was a disaster for them also. We shall probably never be able to figure out exactly what happened. It seems that our last year's relative success raised expectations beyond realization. The potential just didn't seem to be there.

The membership should realize that the club was *not* financially responsible. **Don Halbach**, the producer for both this and last year's effort, had assumed complete responsibility for

(Continued on Page 3)

HONEST SID GERHART RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President.....	Brad Burt
1st Vice-Pres.....	Jeff Marcus
2nd Vice-Pres.....	Don Halbach
Secretary.....	Sherry Luft
Treasurer.....	Peggy Marcus
Past Pres.....	J. P. Jackson
Sgt-at-Arms.....	Dana Law
Director.....	Dick Dale
Director.....	Jan Eastman

MAGICURRENTS

Co-Editor.....	Dick Dale
Co-Editor & Publisher.....	Frank S. Syren
Circulation.....	Dana Law

the event. Last year he shared the production's small profit between us and the Blood Bank, keeping only expenses for himself. This year was to have been the reward for his generosity. Instead he finds himself thousands of dollars in debt, a debt neither he nor most of us would find easy to meet.

To what degree the club is morally indebted to **Don** should be the subject of much soul searching by the membership. He **did** turn over profits to us last year which, considering the small return, he was neither legally nor morally responsible to do. Some of our club benefits this year were paid for with that money.

Whether the club should make any attempt to compensate this year's loss is, as we said, a subject for debate.

And now on to the much more pleasant discussion of the show itself. **Jack White** again assumed the task of Master of Ceremonies with his usual urbane competence. Neither his urbanity nor his competence can chill the warmth he projects to the entire audience, however. He is just the original "nice guy" and he transfers his sincerity to each of the performers he introduces.

The first of those performers was a skilled and graceful magician named **Mitch Williams**. To the accompaniment of a neatly tailored musical score he presented a pantomime of varied and often exquisite magic that was professional, entertaining and, of course, mystifying. The range of effects included rings and silks, doves, card fans and multiplying balls, an almost classical melange of manipulative magic.

To this writer the feature of the act was **Mitch's** presentation of the **ZOMBI**. In his performance the scarf assumed its proper function as merely the stage upon which the ball performed. There was never any feeling that the ball hung upon or was attached to the silk in any way. In fact at one time the ball performed *in front of* the silk. It was one of the greatest **ZOMBIS** I've ever seen and I've been around since they invented it.

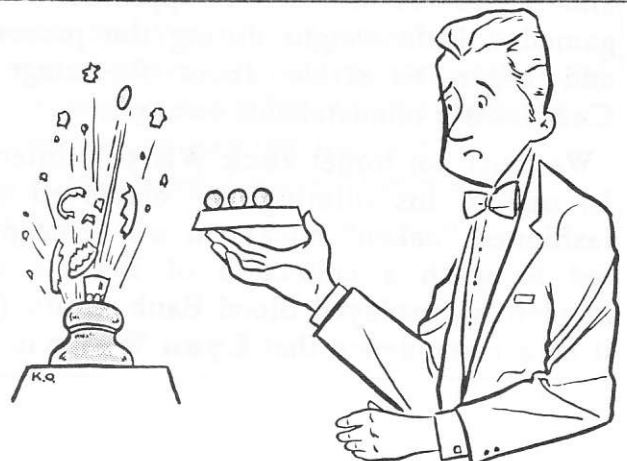
In addition to his polished skills **Mitch** possesses an engaging personality which he uses most effectively to highlight his work.

The next performer, **Robert Baxt** is familiar to most of us from our Installation Banquet, however, in the theater atmosphere, with an audience well populated with children, he displayed an additional dimension: a master's hand with a child assistant. At the two o'clock show on Saturday he got a tyke from the audience with a pair of pants nearly as baggy as his own, and a smile that didn't quit. This youngster didn't have much to say, but he was neither somber nor dour. And there was no mistaking the fact that he was having the time of his life. **Bob** entertained him with balloons, a rabbit hand puppet, and a brilliant conception of **THE MISER'S DREAM**. It would be hard to say exactly why the performance was so charming. Possibly the easiest way to describe it would be to say that both **Bob** and the boy appeared to love every minute of it.

We were next treated to a warm interlude with **Dick Dale**, the show's director, and ten year old **Kyle Varonfakis**, acting as the official

(Continued on Page 4.)

By Guest Cartoonist
Keith Oldham



spokesman for the *San Diego Blood Bank Bone Marrow Program*. **Kyle**, who has a rare disease which requires a bone marrow transplant, nevertheless learned a magic trick for his contribution to the program. He did a hat tear which he had previously defied **Dick** to duplicate. (**Kyle** was too shy to speak on stage but the message had been transmitted earlier.) **Dick** publicly vowed that he would "do it or eat it." You guessed it; **Dick** had to eat his tissues which, fortunately, turned into a mouth coil from which he made a production. For pure comedy we were once again convulsed by the antics of **Don Hall** and **Michelle** (Don Halbach and Mike Klicman). The character of **Michelle** was as flaky as it was at the special show last winter, and the basic act had been refined even more. (If "refined" is a proper word to use about such an act.)

CAMERON & COMPANY closed the show again this year with all the flash and panache that anyone could ask of a production magic show. The sets were colorful, the music brilliant, and the cast well trained and attractive. The dancing in the opening production was better than most magic shows (excepting Sigfried and Roy, of course) and **Cameron's** magical appearance was fast and mysterious enough for any magic show. He himself has an insouciant exuberance as he struts about the stage, obviously in control of everything he surveys.

There was something for everyone in the act including a stretching illusion, a guillotine using a couple from the audience, several box illusions and a final double exchange that lost only a little by the fact that one of the masked and costumed assistants appeared to have gained a little weight during the proceedings and began to stride about the stage with **Cameron's** unmistakable swagger.

We must not forget **Jack White's** interludes. In one of his offerings he employed an old fashioned "oaken" bucket in which he purported to wash a collection of T-shirts which, incidently, displayed Blood Bank motifs. (Could it be a coincidence that **Lynn White** is public

relations director for the Blood Bank?) After adding water to the bucket he tossed the contents out to the audience. Everything had turned to glitter. (Isn't that show biz for you!) The youngsters of the audience had great fun at intermission trying to gather it all up. He used the hangers that had displayed the T-shirts to do the *LINKING COAT HANGERS*.

Another of his bits was a presentation of the *COLLECTORS WORKSHOP CHOPPER*, a startling and grisly experience to say the least.

It was a great performance and a great show. If only we could evolve a method of presenting it annually *and making money*.

NOTES

On November 21 there will be a "THANK YOU" program in three area High Schools and Junior High Schools to celebrate the "SMOK-OUT" program. **Kimberly Dark**, who can be reached at 299-4200, would like volunteers to perform at these events

On November 9 **Sharon Hileman** at *CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL* is looking for volunteer performers at the beginning and end of a fashion show. Call 594-1085

Joy Blake at *SOUTHWEST COLLEGE* is looking for volunteers to entertain college students from 11:00 to 12:00 A.M. on October 23. Call her at 421-6700, Ext 5288 or 5240.

MAGICURRENTS

4041 Ibis St. #207
San Diego, CA 92103



Roy & Betty Armstrong
2548 Littleton Road
El Cajon CA 92020