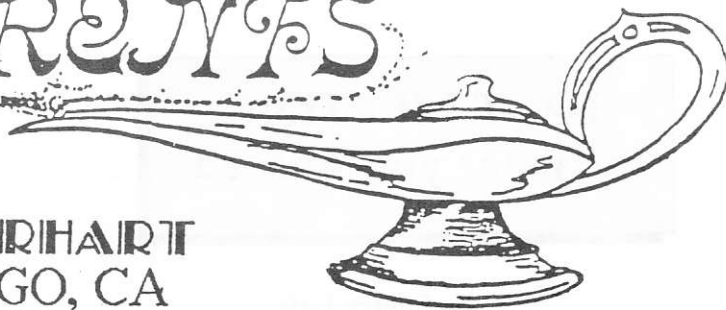


MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA



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APRIL 1992

PREZ'S MESSAGE

Another month has come and gone. April meeting: Swap Meet! Yep, ye ole Swap Meet time is here again. It has always been fun to see what shows up at the various swap meets and magic auctions I have attended. Years ago at a Long Beach Mystics' sponsored affair, I made the outrageous sum of \$423.00 in one night selling off my Ken Brooke collection. I have had friends purchase some really neat stuff at the Magic Castle Swap Meet. So here's hoping we all find some great bargains at our event!

Hope everyone was able to see and enjoy the Copperfield TV special. Most of the magicians I've talked to said they thought it was his best special and that the "flying" was the best effect ever. I concur with both of these opinions. It really was awesome! I've talked to ten or twelve friends in magic who've seen the effect live and noted that it was even better in person. David will have his full stage show here May 9-11. You may want to check with TicketMaster for availability.

We are looking for people interested in becoming officers of Ring 76. If you would like to help support the ring by volunteering, please talk to me at the meeting or at the shop*. Many of the offices take up very little time outside of the monthly meeting itself and the board meeting. I've been an officer now for three and one half years and have enjoyed it, but it's time to move on. To keep a club moving and dynamic - WE NEED YOU!

(*Note: Brad Burt's Magic Shop has moved into a new and larger location. We are still in the Plaza Del Sol, but in Suite 103).

Well - that's all this month. Thanks.

Brad Burt, President Ring 76, San Diego.

LAST MEETING or what you missed

by Sherry Luft

Our March, 1992 meeting was started by President Brad Burt when he presented a membership kit to Jonathan Cristal. A sympathy card was signed by all present to be sent to Frank Syren, the Editor Emeritus of MAGICURRENTS. He recently lost his wife of 50(!) years. Helen was his partner, inspiration, and friend and will be missed by all who knew her. Godspeed, Helen.

Petrick and Mia have asked Ring 76 to sponsor a "Magic Day". After a brief discussion, the matter was referred to the Board for their recommendation. We were reminded that the April meeting will be a Swap Meet/Auction.

In the performance section of the meeting, Brad Burt opened up with a smooth "Rope Thru Body" effect with the help of Bernie Kleinke and Todd Stuart. Next, John Stampfil exhibited a lot of poise for a first-time performer as he quoted Mark Twain, "There are only two certainties in life, death and taxes". He then proceeded to prove this by doing Professor's Nightmare and a throwaway knot with a timely tax theme. Then, Thomas Hoener's father, Mike, borrowed a ring from Bernie Kleinke and performed "Ring on String". Nice effect. For the first time in a long time, Terry Runyon got through a nice selected card effect with Dave Lane without the phone ringing! Next, Terry Lunceford performed his comedy six-card repeat routine. Jeff Marcus ended the night with a jumbo three-card monte by Ben Martin. Orange dots were disappearing and appearing with Aces. Great effect!

BOARD MEETING

by Dick Dale

In attendance at the abode of Sherry Luft on April 6, 1992, were Peg and Jeff Marcus, Julie and Dick Dale, Brad Burt, and J.P. Jackson. After a detailed Treasurer's report, the major topic of discussion was the balance on the Exchange Banquet bill and how payment should be divided between Ring 76 and Ring 96. It was decided to split the bill equally between the two Rings. Other topics of discussion and decision included the defeat of having a Petrick and Mia Magic Day and retaining the same amount of annual Ring 76 dues, \$12.

Brad also suggested that we have a "Backward Swap Meet" sometime for our meeting theme. This is where the buyer returns the goods and is refunded in full. At this point, Brad was informed if he didn't raise his standard of suggestions, this would be his last year as President!

The next Board Meeting will be at 7:00 on May 4, 1992 at the Dale residence.

HONEST SID GERHART RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Brad Burt
1st Vice President	Sherry Luft
Treasurer	Peggy Marcus
Past President	J.P. Jackson
Sergeant at Arms	Dana Law
Director	Dick Dale

MAGICURRENTS

Publisher	Mike Lowe
Editor	Dick Dale
Circulation	Dana Law
Editor Emeritus	Frank S. Syren

EXCHANGE BANQUET

by J.P. Jackson

Another convivial Exchange Banquet in the long-standing tradition between Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76 of San Diego and Long Beach's Merlin Eifert Ring 96 was held in March. Forty members (Twenty-five from 76 and fifteen from 96) convened for the dual event at Pea Soup Andersen's in Carlsbad for a roast beef/chicken buffet dinner.

San Diego President Brad Burt welcomed the attendees with Long Beach President Bill Pearce. He introduced his Ring 96 officers, including Past-President, Dr. Eugene Gloye. Brad performed MC duties for the "Host Ring" and introduced Jack Cory of Ring 96 as the first performer.

Jack started with his signature piece, "The Travelling Silk" and hit a snag - literally. During the brief wait for Jack to reset, attendees were entertained by a truly impromptu series of funny stories told by quick-witted members of both Rings. Paul Barton, Jeff Marcus, Mike Johnson, Stan Mittleman, Brad Burt, and Charlie Norris all attempted to outdo each other by filling the gap with some great spontaneous humor. The wait was worth it when Jack came back. His "vanished" silk crawled up his leg, behind his back, around the brim of his hat (twice!), down behind his hat, and then up over his shoulder and down into his shirt pocket. All this while he pattered on, seemingly oblivious to the travelling silk. He continued with a snappy "Silk onto Rope" production, a very visual bare-handed "Floating Silver Ball" and finished with a pretty "Dove from Ribbon" production.

San Diego's Paul Barton mentally projected his week-old grocery list total to match random numbers selected by three audience members. Then he revealed a bottle of vinegar as the only item in his shopping bag which matched another randomly selected number on his grocery receipt. A stunner!

Ring 96's Jim Callan opened with a Warren Stephens' "Flutter Flower", a quick, funny visual, and followed with a "Cut & Restored Rope" routine which became "Professor Cheer's Comedy Rope Trick." All very nicely done. He did a bare-handed silk color change with the sucker explanation and finished with a diagonal half and half silk, the classic "Fresh Fish", Warren Stephens' "Shrinking Fish", and closed with a great presentation of "Side-Kick, Jr." from Collector's Workshop.

Long Beach's Mike Johnson followed Jim. He tied up John Sparks' wrists with a large scarf and proceeded to "cut" him loose with a jumbo comedy meat cleaver - a neat tied silk release.

Past Ring 96 President Dr. Eugene Gloye opened with an oldie-but-goodie, Al Baker's "Al Producto", a beautiful little bare-handed silk production from a small paper cone. He used his dragon (Mother-in-Law) silk for a 20th Century routine and then used a TIDE box to restore three pieces of rope. He finished with a showy presentation of the "Ropes Through Girl" illusion, leaving the ropes intact with threaded rings.

Ring 76 President Brad Burt gave us a quick filler with a "Rising Pen" effect, the "Royal Rising Pencil" revisited.

(Banquet - cont.)

Ring 76 Vice-President Jeff Marcus up with a slick version of "Professor's Nightmare" by Tim Wenk called "Insomnia" that ends with the tossing out for examination of all three pieces of equal length rope. He then did his classy "Six-ring Linking Ring" routine.

Dick Bush from Ring 76 did an interlude with a hat tear for his volunteer lady helper, Gene Anderson's "Torn and Restored Newspaper", "Sympathetic Silks", and ended with the ol' "Baffling Bra" trick.

Stan Mittleman of Ring 96 borrowed a man's handkerchief and, showing some chagrin, cut it in half and then neatly and quickly restored it. He did a clever, no apparatus "Card in Balloon" and followed it with the real goodie. He had a card chosen and proceeded to tear the deck in half! For real! With his bare hands! Pieces of torn cards were selected at random and matched each other and the chosen card. It was a "piece de resistance"!

Brad Burt came back up to close the show with his personal favorite, the "Needle Through Balloon". However, this version uses a rubber surgical glove and lots of funny gags. It was an "udder" miracle!

It was a longish but enjoyable show and we all started our respective drives home entertained, fed and happily re-acquainted with our Exchange Banquet partners.

SWAP MEET

The Semi-annual Swap Meet/Mini Auction will be the main theme of our meeting on April 20. It will be held in the big auditorium. A WORD OF CAUTION: DO NOT MOVE THE TABLES.

They are in place for another Legion function. Since the Legion has graciously allowed us to use the big room, please give them the courtesy of leaving the tables in place.

Our regular meeting room will not be open, so enter the Swap Meet from either the front door or the side door.

We are hoping for a big turnout for this fun event, so plan on arriving early, setting up, and then waiting for the selling to start after the brief business meeting. Tables are \$5 for members and \$10 for non-members.

The word on the street is that a member has acquired either the inventory of a now defunct magic booth in Las Vegas or an estate. The selection is tremendous and the prices are unbelievably reasonable. It will be difficult to see all of the merchandise in one evening. Could just be a rumor, but it could also be a lot of fun!

CROSS TALK

The most important subject is the fact that dues expire with this April meeting. That means that if you haven't renewed by the end of this meeting, chances are you will not receive the next issue of **MAGICURRENTS** and won't exactly be welcomed with open arms at the May meeting on May 18, 1992. More importantly, in compliance with International rules and bylaws, in order to be a member of Ring 76, effective with the May meeting, you must ALSO be a member in good standing of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and be able to prove it by either appearing on their roster that they provide to us or by showing a valid IBM membership card. Please **READ** and **HEED!** This will be enforced!

(Cross Talk - cont.)

If you haven't been to Brad's new shop, GO! It's great. It's bigger. It's better than ever. It's about three doors West in the same plaza. It's nice to see a successful business growing, especially in these difficult times. He's put a lot of work into magic in this community and deserves your support. ***** Highly Recommended.

For those of you that are working at a regular venue and would like it published in these pages, please let me know. It has to come from the performer personally.

COMING UP

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 20 | Ring 76 Meeting 7:30pm
La Mesa American Legion
Swap Meet/Mini Auction
Pre-meeting Video 6:30pm |
| May 2 | IBM Board Meeting 7:00pm
2447 Nielsen St.
El Cajon |
| May 9-11 | David Copperfield
Spreckels Theater |
| May 14 | Lee Earle Lecture 7:00pm
Brad Burt's Magic Shop
\$15 |
| May 18 | Ring 76 Meeting 7:30pm
Bag Night |
| June 13 | Magic Castle Swap Meet
8:00am-1:00pm |

VINCENT THE MAGICIAN

by Jim Whiting



THE SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE

Valley High's wood shop is dust — goes high-tech

By LESLIE WOLF
Staff Writer

EL CAJON — Noises echo in the cavernous room that was once the wood shop at El Cajon Valley High School, and greasy black fingerprints still stain the doorjamb in a place where generations of teen-agers produced tables, stools and coat racks.

Soon the room will be filled with computers and high-tech gadgetry, and the time-honored tradition of wood shop will be replaced with a more modern — and useful — sort of vocational training.

"After all, how long can you go on making bird feeders and ashtrays?" said Gary Schwartzwald, a former industrial technology teacher at El Cajon Valley High School, who is in charge of putting together the new program.

Beginning in September, ninth-graders in the new "Technology Discoveries" class will get hands-on experience with computers, robots, laser beams and rockets.

The program will be geared to learners of all levels and is designed to teach them technology that will actually serve them in today's world.

"Usually in a ninth-grade wood shop, you say you're giving them job training — but in one semester, you're really not," Schwartzwald said. "This (new program) is not really job training so much as it is career awareness."

For now, samples of the various high-tech learning programs that may be used in the new class are set up in a corner of the school's library, where students and teachers try them out and rate them.

The components actually to be used in the classroom have yet to be selected, Schwartzwald said.

One sample setup guides the student through an experimental course on laser beams and shows how a red pinpoint beam of light is refracted through liquids or crystals and how it bounces off walls.

From that, a student can learn valuable career-related skills with lasers, such as leveling a ceiling or floor at a construction site.

Other setups introduce students to pneumatics, applied hydraulics or to the art of using computers to make machine parts.

In the aerospace program, two students team up for 10 days to learn about aviation. They'll use a computerized flight simulator, build a model airplane and, finally, produce of a small rocket.

In addition to the library's testing grounds, Schwartzwald has been taking the show on the road, letting other high school students throughout the county try out the models and gauging their reactions.

"It really gets their attention," Schwartzwald said. "The places we've taken this, the kids are so well-behaved, it's bizarre."

The students at El Cajon Valley High School can't wait to try the new class next year, Schwartzwald said. Some jealousy even exists among older students who have already passed their ninth-grade shop classes, he said.

Starting in the fall, every ninth-grader will take the one-semester course, which will fulfill a school computer-literacy requirement.

As an example of how far removed it is from the traditional shop program, the new class drew these applicants as class instructors: two science teachers, a business teacher and a computer teacher.

But not everybody is thrilled to see the new technology take hold.

"Some people are really happy this is coming in, but others are very sentimental about it. I say a kid's got to learn how to hammer a nail," Schwartzwald said with a shrug.

For the traditionalists, El Cajon Valley High still offers classes in welding and metal shop, auto mechanics, and printing and graphics. Even more vocational training courses are offered at night, for adults, through the Regional Occupational Program.

The high-tech shop class is made possible by a federal grant for vocational education, which will give the school about \$900,000 over three years.



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