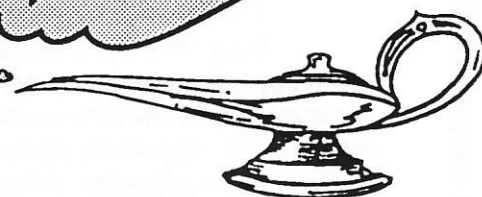


# MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART  
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA



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MAY 1993

## FROM THE PREZ



f you read nothing but this message (HA!) you will know dues are due. Please pay them at the meeting or send them to Julie Dale (\$18.00 is equal to \$1.50 a month). If you belong to any other kinds of organizations you realize our dues are very reasonable.

I was very saddened to hear about the death of another member (obituary elsewhere in the newsletter).

Now, on to what seems to be the number one topic to "working magicians"...ETHICS! I know I've already touched on them and I don't want to sound like a lecturer, but there are a few members (or former members) who either don't know proper etiquette or simply don't give a d--- about their fellow performers.

We're all trying to "feed our families" and times are economically trying for many, but there are still some lines that should not be crossed. Here are a few of those lines: if someone is working someplace, don't try to weasel your way in by undercutting the current magician. Also, it's really slimy to copy someone's routine - especially verbatim. Lectured routines are excepted, but even there, some creativity should be used to at least make it your own. If you come across someone's promotional material, i.e. brochure, it's totally unethical (and quite possibly illegal) to copy literature. Even if you only change a word or sentence it's still plagiarism. And of course, pricing is an entirely separate and lengthy issue.

These types of indiscretions are taking place now and should not be. We're supposed to be a brotherhood of friends. With a little effort there's enough work without being a cutthroat, low-balling plagiarist. If you have any discussion or disagreement, I'm open to it.

See you on the 10th,

## LAST MEETING or what you missed

By Tom LaChance

Ring 76's April meeting was the first time getting together on the second Monday of each month for 22 members and 5 guests. They got an up-close demonstration of the "black art" principle of magic. Julie and Dick Dale brought in a portion of their stage set and demonstrated how their illusions are performed. A video tape of their complete act was also played as Julie explained the unseen details of the show. It was extremely informative and a pleasure to watch such a clever magical performance. In a brief business session, it was decided *not* to have a second selling event in the final two months of our current fiscal year.

President Jeff Marcus presented Greg Wauson with his International membership kit and then had Rick Waterhouse describe his idea for a ring-sponsored show planned for the first of next year. Although it's a long way off, Rick's unique idea will require lots of planning and work. If you want to participate in any way, please contact Rick.

It was then on to the magic and a new format for our meeting. With Tom Owens, Mark Flores, Dick Bush, Jeff Marcus and Ed Forsyth volunteering as teachers, the membership gathered in small groups for a "teach-in" of silk magic. The five instructors rotated from group to group demonstrating various routines or sleights they perform with silks. During this time, group members asked questions or made comments.

Everyone had a good time. The evening was very informative and more "teach-in" type themes on different topics are being planned for future meetings.

## BOARD MEETING

By Tom LaChance

The May Board meeting was held at Peg and Jeff Marcus' house. In attendance were the hosts, Julie and Dick Dale, Terry and Bruce Love, Sherry Luft, Mary Brown, Mark Flores, Dick Bush, David Lane, Rich Robertson, Rick Waterhouse and Tom LaChance. After a brief discussion, it was decided that Rick would continue working on his idea for a Ring-sponsored show early next year. If you wish to help, please talk to him at the next meeting.

Location and entertainment for this year's Installation Banquet were discussed. Mary will be checking on possible locations and Sherry will be looking for a featured performer. Suggestions for either area would be greatly appreciated. The Board then held a lengthy discussion on ethics, or lack thereof, in the profession of magic. While this is currently a hot topic in the national trade journals, the board discussion centered on happenings in our magic community.

The theme of the May meeting will be a Card Teach-in, similar to last month's Silk Teach-in. The evening starts at 6:30 with a videotape so bring a deck of cards and come early. This meeting will also be the last chance to keep your current Ring 76 membership active by paying your dues for the year. The amount is \$18.00 and if your dues aren't paid by the end of the meeting you will be dropped from the active membership list.

Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the next Board meeting will be on **TUESDAY**, June 1 at Sherry Luft's house, 3760 Florida St. #208. All are invited.

## IN MEMORIAM

Dr. James Hourigan, East county chiropractor and member of IBM Ring 76, passed away the week of April 12 at the age of 54. He will be missed by friends and family.

Godspeed, Jim.

## GUEST EDITORIAL

### ETHICS

by Tom LaChance

After the discussion at the Board meeting, I was amazed at the direction some of the members of our local "brotherhood" have chosen to take.

Let me preface my comments by saying that at this point I am by no means a performing magician. I'm in the Ring because I love magic and I want to learn as much as I can so that one day I will be able to perform. When I watch a good magician entertaining people, I not only envy his skill, but I also appreciate the time, energy and part of himself he has put into his show. It inspires me to continue working so I can achieve that level of ability. It doesn't make me want to steal his act and become a clone.

The company I work for is a major player in the pet industry throughout Southern California. We didn't get to that position by copying the competition. We've watched companies that chose to copy

frequently fall by the wayside while we continue to grow. If we can't come up with a new approach or make significant improvements on an existing product, we don't make that item - period. I feel it's the same in the magic field. You'll never really enjoy success you can be proud of as a carbon copy of someone else.

I know my comments won't change anyone who has decided their own personality could never entertain people or who lack the dedication and brain cells needed to come up with new ideas or new venues. They won't change. But, I think other members like myself, who are just starting out in the field, should think hard about blatantly stealing what someone else has worked hard to achieve. Let's keep the Ring a place where we can learn from and help one another, not a place where you're afraid to share new ideas for fear of having them stolen.

## BITS 'N PIECES

BRENTWOOD, CA. (AP) -- Renovating a movie theater can be a dusty job, but it's not so bad when the dust turns out to be gold.

Michael Boening, 14, was helping his father refurbish the Delta Cinema last month when the teenager found a small, moldy bag of gold dust tucked behind the wall boards.

"It felt like a bag of dirt and I poured it out," Michael said. "I knew it looked like gold, but I didn't know if it was real."

Charles Boening, who owns the theater, said he was yelling for his son to hurry so they could leave for the day when the teen showed him the bag.

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"He looked at me and he smiled, and he said, 'This is how we'll pay for our twin theaters,' " the elder Boening said.

The 19 ounces of gold dust was appraised at \$6,200.

A former owner of the theater said original owner Charles Peterson, a vaudeville magician, probably stashed the booty sometime in the late 1930's.

SAN DIEGO, CA. (DD) -- Entertainment volunteers are needed to perform strolling magic at Lake Miramar on May 15 from 10am to 12:30pm. The benefit is for Cystic Fibrosis and the contact person is Carol at 234-5880 during business hours. The event is a 10K Walk and the entertainment is at the start, not walking (or even strolling).

**IF YOUR DUES ARE NOT PAID BY THE END OF THE MAY MEETING, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST COPY OF MAGICURRENTS!**

## HONEST SID GERHART RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Vice President ..... Sherry Luft  
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Past President ..... Brad Burt  
Sergeant-at-Arms ..... Mary Brown  
Director ..... David Lane  
Director ..... Dick Dale

### MAGICURRENTS

Publisher ..... Mike Lowe  
Editor ..... Dick Dale  
Editor Emeritus ..... Frank S. Syren

## COMING UP

- May 10 Ring 76 Meeting  
La Mesa American Legion  
(Regular meeting room)  
Pre-Meeting Video 6:30pm  
Meeting 7:30pm  
Theme - Card Magic  
Teach-in
- June 1 Ring 76 Board Meeting  
7:00pm Sherry Luft's  
3760 Florida St. #208  
San Diego, CA 92104
- June 12 Magic Castle Swap Meet  
7001 Franklin Avenue  
Hollywood, CA 90028  
Sellers reservations required
- June 14 Ring 76 Meeting  
La Mesa American Legion  
(Regular meeting room)  
Pre-Meeting 6:30pm  
JP's Collectables  
Meeting 7:30pm  
Theme - TBA
- June 26 IBM Ring 21  
A Day of Magic
- June 30- IBM International  
July 3 Convention  
Quebec City, Canada

**MAGICURRENTS**

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