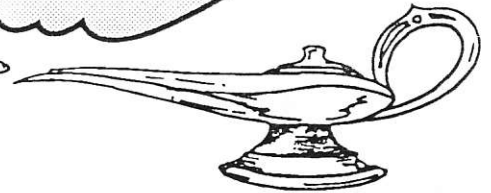


MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA



VOL. VIII NO. 5

MAY 1994

FROM THE PREZ

Be a rabbit in the hat...get involved! Although the magic rabbit helps us out with magic tricks by popping out of the hat, the rabbit is not always on stage or performing. However, the rabbit *is* always ready to help in a pinch. Like our helpful rabbit, you can take part in our club. Elections are around the corner - run for office. Or be a mentor...or assist a performer at a meeting...or perform at a meeting...or write an article for *MAGICURRENTS*...or arrange special events such as a Magic Castle trip...or lead a roundtable discussion...or talk about a film about magic...or talk about a magic book at a meeting...or talk about your favorite collection. We need your ideas!

Think about the industrious rabbit, always ready to **HOP TO IT!** It will really benefit our club by bringing more enjoyable entertainment to our magic community.

Sherry

LAST MEETING or what you missed

by Tom LaChance

I guess magicians like to fool around as much as they enjoy fooling people as Ring 76's April meeting theme of "*Betchas, Gags & Jokes*" drew a crowd of 48 members, 7 guests and a slate of 11 performers.

In the business session, **Tac Tacelosky** announced that he's interested in forming a "*Magicmasters*" group, combining a magic club with the Toastmasters club of which he is also a member. If you are interested, talk with him at the next meeting. Members of the nominating committee for the upcoming Ring 76 election were announced. They are **Lulu Flatt**, **Charlie Norris** and **Joe Florian**. If you are interested in running for an office, please contact one of them.

Our performers offered a wide variety of information, gags, challenges and practical jokes. **Sean Gallagher**, **Paul Stepahin**, **Tom Schmidt**, **Dick Dale**, **Don Soul**, **Ashi Facher**, and **Jeff Marcus** kept everyone laughing with their clever and humorous routines. **Loch David Crane** and **Roy & Betty Armstrong** gave some useful tips and **Tom Owen** coached two very young performers through their first magic performance.

Although he clearly stated that practical jokes need not be malicious to be funny, **Rick Waterhouse** used an egg, a doorjamb and a close-up case to inflict revenge on **Jeff Marcus**. Words fail me in describing it; you had to be there.

All the performers were great and I wish I had the room in this article to give the highlights of all their routines. If you've been missing the ring meetings lately, you've been missing out on a ton of great information, fun and magic.

BOARD MEETING

by Tom LaChance

This month's Board meeting was hosted by **Sherry Luft** and attended by **Julie & Dick Dale**, **Rick Waterhouse**, **Greg Wauson** and **Tom LaChance**. The Installation Banquet is just a couple of months away and initial preparations were the main topics of the meeting. **Rick** volunteered to check on a couple of possible locations for the banquet and will report back to the Board. If you know of a great place, please mention it to him at the upcoming general meeting.

The selection of someone to serve as the banquet's featured performer was also discussed. **Rick** again volunteered to contact some possibilities and see who's available and how much they charge. The banquet, which is tentatively set for Monday, July 11, will replace our regular July meeting.

The theme for our May meeting is supposed to be "*Flower Magic*", but I guess you could cook up something using "*Flour Magic*" if you wanted. Also, please remember that Ring dues were payable as of last month. The amount is \$20.00 for the year and I will be collecting the money before the meeting and during the break.

Due to the Memorial Day weekend, our next Board meeting will be held one week earlier than previously announced. It will be on Monday, May 23 at the **Marcus'** home. The address is 10513 Kerrigan Court in Santee and everyone is invited.

dues are now PAST DUE!
Please pay up!

RICK'S RAMBLINGS

by Rick Waterhouse

Amateur vs Professional

amateur (n) 1. one who pursues an activity for pleasure instead of for material gain.

professional (n) one working for pay, not an amateur.

I was talking on the phone with a fellow magician who got me thinking about my status as an amateur magician. The word amateur has gained a negative connotation over the years. Can't you just hear someone sneer derisively, "bunch of amateurs!" Even the second definition in my dictionary refers to one who is unskillful. Let's look seriously at the term "amateur". The primary difference between an amateur and a professional is that amateurs do not get paid. That's it! I've seen professionals who positively SUCK and I've seen amateurs who are truly "magical".

There are other differences inherently linked to the need to pay bills and put food on the table. Professionals demand a fee for their services and most must perform a wide variety of shows (whatever the public wants) in almost any venue. Amateurs have the option of performing only what and when they want. Professionals are damaged financially by poor magic, exposures, and cut-throat competition from pro-wannabees. Amateurs, on the other hand, run the risk of putting off the old practice sessions, stifling their own creativity, and generally not earning the title "magician".

I think pros have a better shot at understanding amateurs because they were once amateurs themselves. Yes, there are differences. Understanding these differences is imperative if we want to coexist in a positive, mutually respected manner.

I'm proud to be an amateur magician. If someday, I turn my avocation into a vocation, I'm sure I'll be just as proud. Although there are differences between amateurs and professionals, they are not qualitative. Professional does not mean good and amateur does not mean bad. Both words need qualifiers before they can imply a skill level.

Magic Shows

Well, this month I didn't get to nearly as many magic shows as is my wont. I did, however, get the opportunity to catch the El Cajon Valley High Faculty Follies. As it happens, one of my favorite magicians was performing under the rather anonymous heading of "The Magic of M". The "M", of course, stood for Mark Flores, our own second vice president. Mark performed some mental magic with a turtle. This really was an incredible feat, considering that Turtle, a young high school co-ed, had trouble remembering her playing card!

Later in the show, "The Magic of M" returned. All I can say is I don't think I could even *throw* a deck of cards to the top of that theater, let alone make one stick! Overall, the show was very entertaining and it must have been a blast for the kids to watch their teachers let their hair down. My favorite moment, though, was watching one of Mark's students hit on Mark's brother. Ah, young lust!

Note to the Editor

I've heard it said more than once that magic clubs promote bad magic. What do you think about that statement? Think carefully, the answer may not be pleasant.

(continued on page 4)

COMING UP

(Continued from page 3)

Please send your thoughts to the *Magicurrents* Editor. I'd like to explore the concept more fully in next month's *Magicurrents* and look forward to reading your comments.

Installation Banquet

I'm looking forward to our Installation Banquet this year. Your Board has succeeded in securing Aldo Colombini to provide the entertainment and a lecture the following day.

If you have not seen Aldo at the *Castle* or missed him at the *Desert Magic Seminar*, then you might not know that he is a talented Italian import with some very funny stuff! Aldo is very gracious and promises to put on a great show along with a highly recommended lecture. Of course, he'll have his entire line of magic products for sale following the lecture.

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| May 9 | Ring 76 Meeting
La Mesa American Legion
Pre-meeting: TBD
Theme: Flower Magic |
| May 23 | Ring 76 Board Meeting
7:00pm - Jeff Marcus'
10513 Kerrigan Ct. Santee |
| June 13 | Ring 76 Meeting
Pre-meeting:
Please Help Me.
Theme: Liquid Magic |
| June 27 | Ring 76 Board Meeting
7:00pm - Jeff Marcus'
10513 Kerrigan Ct. Santee |
| July 11 | Ring 76
Installation Banquet
Aldo Colombini Show
Location: TBD |
| July 12 | Aldo Colombini Lecture
Location: TBD |

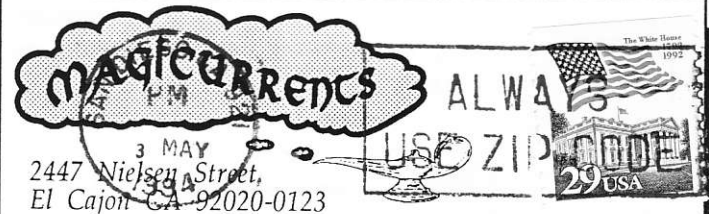
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