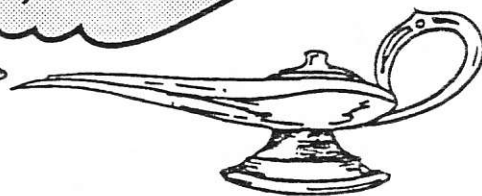


MAGICCURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA



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AUGUST 1994

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

On behalf of the membership at large, I'd like to thank Sherry Luft and last year's officers for a fabulous party to install our new officers.

Our entertainment, Mr. Aldo Colombini, was delightful and provided a fine lecture for our club. I appreciate his taking the time to visit us on the eve of his upcoming trip to FISM. It has been observed that Aldo does not tend to present knuckle-busting moves, but rather well thought out and approachable magic.

There was also material that caught the notice of the professionals in our group. They were pleasantly surprised by one subtlety, (not Aldo's, but properly credited). He performed and explained it at the lecture. Please...the next time you see Aldo at the Castle or at a convention, be sure to thank him for a job well done.

I've asked a member to serve as Ring Historian to help us develop a sense of pride and understanding of the accomplishments of our predecessors. Several members have offered to assist him by providing records of our club's past activities. I hope that he accepts this assignment as there is no one in the club better suited to the task.

A form is enclosed. Please fill it out and return it to me by post or in person no later than September 12th. Items marked *confidential* will **not** be included in the public directory and will be held private by the Board of Directors.

Starting next month, *MagicCurrents* will have regular columns that need to be filled. We all buy magic-related books and materials, see magic shows and have opinions (isn't there a saying about this?). I appeal to the membership to submit essays, reviews, commentary and their own effects to *MagicCurrents*. Of course, the creator retains all rights! To help sweeten the deal, Don Soul has generously offered to provide drawings to help make YOUR material and its sleights clear.

Richard B. Waterhouse

LAST MEETING or what you missed

by Mark Flores

This year, IBM Ring 76, the Honest Sid Gerhardt Ring held its annual Installation Banquet at the elegant Regency Plaza Hotel in Mission Valley. The room was beautifully appointed, the Italian buffet cuisine was delicious and a panoramic view of historic Mission Valley set the mood for a magical evening. Guests arrived for the cocktail social prior to the banquet dressed to the nines and it was apparent that this was going to be a classy evening.

Outgoing President, Sherry Luft, welcomed the evening's diners and introduced the first speaker, Dick Dale, last year's Member of the Year. He presented this year's well-deserved award to former president, Jeff Marcus. Jeff delivered a brief acceptance speech - much to the surprise and delight of the general assembly!

Two additional special awards were presented next. An engraved plaque was presented to Ed Forsythe, a beloved member who will be leaving the Ring to live in more northerly climes. We will miss you Ed! In addition, Mike Lowe and Dick Dale were each presented with an award of thanks for the wonderful work they have been doing with our Ring's newsletter for many years.

The next event was the installation of the new officers. Sherry Luft gave plaques to outgoing officers Rick Waterhouse, Mark Flores, Tom LaChance, David Lane and Dick Bush, then announced our incoming officers. TVP Dick Dale installed President Rick Waterhouse, First Vice President Greg Wauson, Second Vice President Don Soul, Secretary Mark Flores, Treasurer Julie Dale and Sergeant-at-arms Dick Bush. In addition, Sherry Luft, Jeff Marcus and Dick Dale were announced as Directors.

President-elect Rick Waterhouse accepted his office with an inspiring speech to all members and guests, encouraging everyone to get involved with the club. He emphasized the need for members to become closer through better communication. He plans to give anyone interested in magic access to the resources of quality instruction and critique inherent in our organization.

With the official business completed, the rest of the evening was devoted to magic. Special guest Aldo Colombini was our featured entertainer for the evening and gave a wonderful show. Aldo's astonishing illusions, witty patter and European charm had the audience entranced. He performed many classics and a few of his own inventions. The next day, Aldo gave a lecture to many fortunate Ring members.

With our 45th annual Installation Banquet complete, Ring 76 looks forward to a new year of magic where everyone can get involved and participate in the fun!

BOARD MEETING

By Mark Flores

The July Board Meeting was attended by Rick Waterhouse, Greg Wauson, Don Soul, Julie Dale, Mark Flores, Dick Bush, Dick Dale, Jeff Marcus and Sherry Luft. Rick relayed "thanks" from Aldo Colombini and the Regency Plaza Hotel. The general consensus - the event was a big success!

Next, there was a clarification of duties for the officers, some helpful advice from the "old-timers". Of course, the historic "Passing of the Squirrel Cage" ceremony was not to be missed! Certain points of membership were also clarified or reiterated including a maximum of three visits by guests before they must join the club. Dues will either be full year or half year.

(continued on page 3)

1994 IBM CONVENTION by Sean Gallagher

On July 1-5, I attended the IBM Convention in Orlando, Florida. Arriving early at the Walt Disney World Village Hilton on July 1, I was able to catch the "early bird opening of dealers". Entering a room with approximately 30 dealers from all over the world was quite a treat for a newcomer. The dealers (who were closed during the shows) featured such names as Stevens Magic Emporium, Hank Lee's Magic Factory, Paul Diamond, El Duco from Sweden, and many more. On July 2, there was a dealers' show where each had a few minutes to show some items.

At 9:00 the next morning, the preliminary stage contest included some very talented magicians, young and old.

Next, Howard Hale lectured on the topit, the tail-topit, and his newest item, the lapit, a device that sits on your lap in which one carries table magic. It's a clever device that has many pockets so when something is lapped, all you have to do is drop one of your knees and the item goes right into a pocket on either side!

Buses carried magicians on the 20 mile trip between the convention center and the hotel. The opening night show featured Bev Bergeron as the M.C. and performers James Cielen, Rocco, Rebeka Yen, and Norm Nielsen. Cielen did a wonderful colored dove act; Rocco did manipulations with cigarettes and coins and Rebeka Yen presented linking rings. Norm Nielsen performed his famous floating violin, card manipulations, and his version of Miser's Dream. This show was worth the cost of the entire convention.

The next three shows featured M.C.'s Jay Marshall, Karrell Fox, and Lee Noble. They introduced Jade, Howard Hale, Victor Voitko doing his splendid floating linking rings, Dale Scott's illusions, and the gold medal finalists of the competition.

Others included Greg Frewin, last year's finalist, with some magnificent dove work; Invisible Inc., Mike Douglas, and the feature of the convention - Jeff McBride with an incredible modern magic act with masks and mime.

Lectures were given by Bob King, Bev Bergeron, Steve Fearson, Simon Lovell, Jeff McBride, and Rocco. Rocco showed his marvelous sleeving techniques, and Jeff McBride lectured on new-age magic.

Close-up performers included Mike Close, Steve Fearson, Harry Riser, Rocco, Bob King, and Steven Youell.

Overall, the convention was magnificent. Next year's venue is the Park Oakland Hotel adjoining the convention center in Oakland, California.

For any questions or comments, please call Sean Gallagher at 753-7519.

(Board Meeting, continued from page 2)

Discussion of the newsletter was on the agenda and it was announced that the next issue (September) would feature better quality paper, graphics and a six-page format. There was much discussion about the promotion of requesting submissions. The Board would like to encourage all members to write an interest column, a performance or product review, a letter to the editor, a trick of the month, illustrations or whatever. Get involved! (deja vu)

Lastly, the important issue of member relations was addressed. Some ideas were discussed including name badges, an official 'greeter' and a club historian. If you have any ideas about how to get more people involved, please come to the Board meetings. They are open to all!

BRING A GUEST!

LETTERS, we get letters. . .

Dear Editor:

In response to Rick's Ramblings, "Do Magic Club's Promote Bad Magic?", I have several points to offer.

Crutching - (you're reading too much of Hiawatha's material) does it go on? Yes. But the members are to blame for this problem. The club does not present a forum for improvement in the true sense. We show something and a quick once over is given to the performer so we can go on to the next trick or item. After a person has performed, we should, as a club, have enough comraderie to openly talk about the effect and the performance with constructive criticism. But, in our club, we have too many little cliques and not enough trust and friendship between members for this to occur.

There is a lack of sharing in this club, especially when it comes to teach-ins. If someone doesn't understand something in ten to fifteen minutes, it is "on to the next group", with some people feeling left out, because they did not "get it". I have been to other clubs and believe that this is our club's weakest point.

We have too many people whose ego prevents them from sharing or passing on their magical experiences. Isn't that what a club is about?

Too many club members are too standoffish. We, as a club, could grow to greater heights if we learned what "it" is all about - being a *true club*.

Name withheld by request

COMING UP

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|----------|--|
| Aug. 8 | Ring 76 Meeting
La Mesa Am. Legion
6:30 Pre-meeting: False Cuts
7:30 Meeting
Theme: Card Magic |
| Aug. 26 | Board Meeting 7:00
Greg Wauson's |
| Sept. 12 | Ring 76 Meeting
La Mesa Am. Legion
6:30 Pre-meeting: TBD
7:30 Meeting
Theme: TBD |

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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2nd Vice President Don Soul
Secretary Mark Flores
Treasurer Julie Dale
Sergeant-at-Arms Dick Bush
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