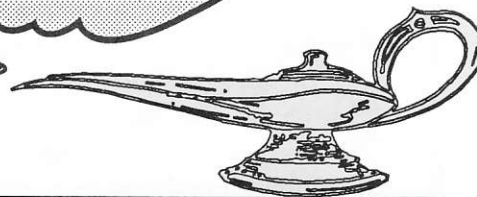


MAGICURRENTS



HONEST SID GERHART
RING 76, SAN DIEGO, CA



VOL. VIII NO. 10

OCTOBER 1994

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

We've made it to a new location. Nice digs. It will take us awhile to get used to the facility, but it should be great. This month I'll be thanking the Legion for the use of their facility over the years and making sure we leave on a positive note.

At the Installation Banquet, I stressed we are both a social and a technical organization. It's been mentioned that our club is of the size where people don't really get a chance to know one another. The new name tags will help you match names to faces and help new members or guests feel less confused. The Membership Directory should be ready by the next meeting. In it you'll learn a little more about many (but not all) of our members. Now, it's your turn. We've done all that we can. Go out and get to know your club.

On the technical end, we're trying to provide tools we all can use to perform magic. Pre-meetings, such as our upcoming "False Cut" and "Haunted Pack" workshops, will continue, as will the occasional open dialog surrounding a specific subject. If you're interested in something that is taught, practice it, come back and show people in the club who know what it should look like. You don't have to show the whole club, but it will help you to show *someone*. If you're having trouble, ask for help at the next meeting, or call someone. The greatest value the club has offered me, as a magician, is help and feedback from fellow members.

Greg Wauson has been contacting some big names about potential lectures. Our plan is to book at least one "name" lecturer this year. Please call Greg or catch him at a meeting to let him know who you'd like to see. Be quick. We should make our final arrangements soon.

On the subject of lectures...it was mentioned to me at the last meeting that another club was "better" because they booked more lectures. I truly hope that the overall membership of our club does not feel that the quality of our organization is linked directly to the number of lecturers that we bring in. Lectures are a very enjoyable and useful part of a club, but I don't believe they are the backbone. Watching a lecture is a passive experience. To become successful magicians, we need fewer passive experiences and more active involvement. If we simply want to know secrets, we should go out and buy an exposure book.

With a selling even scheduled in November, now is a good time to start looking through your treasures to find something you'd like to part with!

This looks like a fine time for you to part with me.

See ya soon,

Richard B. Waterhouse

LAST MEETING or what you missed

by Mark Flores

The September meeting was held at a new location, the Hungry Hunter restaurant in El Cajon. The ambiance was wonderful; the staff was friendly, attentive and prompt making for a very enjoyable evening for the 28 members and 2 guests. The meeting convened with the presentation of a new membership package to Genoa Ward, one of Ring 76's newer, younger members. New name tags were available for all members present and they promoted a feeling of camaraderie in the club. The name tags will be distributed and collected at each meeting.

As members arrived, they were encouraged to share ideas and talents. With the social atmosphere of the restaurant, there was a lot of magic in the air. It is apparent this Ring has a vast pool of talent to draw upon and small group discussions such as this are very beneficial. Discussion of the benefits and drawbacks of the new location led to a cooperative effort between some Ring members and restaurant management to provide a performance venue and improved seating plan for future meetings. There were also kudos to Dick Dale and Mike Lowe for providing an improved format and quality of *MAGICURRENTS*. Good work, gentlemen!

The first performer was Jeff Marcus who prepared, in this very appropriate setting, a spicy chicken entree from mere spices! Although the meal appeared to be well done, it was rumored that the chicken had a rather rubbery taste and texture! The next performer, Greg Wauson, performed an impromptu card effect to the delight of those front row patrons who could see him clearly (unlike a certain secretary). Finally, Rick Waterhouse took full advantage of the subdued lights and summoned the spirit of

a haunted pack of cards. Not to disappoint, the pack took on a life of its own and was truly eerie!

The evening was enjoyed by all, and Ring 76 would like to thank Hungry Hunter for donating their space to this monthly club function.

BOARD MEETING

by Mark Flores

The September Board Meeting was hosted by V.P. Don Soul in the far northern wilds of Rancho Penasquitos. In attendance were Rick Waterhouse, Jeff Marcus, Dick Dale, Sherry Luft, Mark Flores, Don Soul and Greg Wauson. Rick opened the meeting with an update of the membership directory which is in its final stages. The new directory will soon be distributed in booklet form with many interesting facts about our diverse membership. It's still not too late to submit your personal bio. Give Rick Waterhouse a call at 461-1875 right now!

The Board also discussed the pros and cons of our new meeting place, the Hungry Hunter Restaurant in El Cajon. Although not a central location, the price (it's free!) and other benefits far outweigh any disadvantages. The general Board consensus is that our new meeting place is a success and that with a rearrangement of chairs and tables and the addition of a riser for performances, this will be an excellent venue. Of course, the Board welcomes any suggestions about location and the Board meetings are open to all members.

The upcoming schedule of lectures was clarified, with Ron London written in for our February 13 meeting. The schedules of other performers are being examined for a possible April lecture and the Installation Banquet.

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REVIEW

by Rick Waterhouse

Max Maven: Thinking - In Person

Max is subtle, Max can be funny, Max is mysterious, Max is strange, Max has a quick wit, Max is brilliant, but can Max perform? I had heard that Max played well for magicians, but kinda sucked with lay people. Perhaps that has been the case, but you could not prove it by the performance that I saw at the Way Off Broadway production of a Max Maven one man show.

Max opened with an unexpected entrance and a short allegory which used his impressive voice to good effect. It set a mood and established him as a man you would not want to mess with. The set was bare, theater black with three black chairs facing the audience. It suited him. The first act consisted of numerous miracles with playing cards and the second contained... other stuff.

The program was amusing and an important part of the show. If I were Max, I would have kicked in a few bucks of my own to have the program reproduced on better paper with a more professional look. I must share with you Max's resume of successes... Radio announcer, graphic designer, author, pianist, teacher, singer (I

would pay money!), actor, lecturer, screenwriter, composer, advertising consultant, director, and chef! This man is much older than he looks, has a very short attention span, or can't hold a job.

Max is a very engaging and amusing performer. At a magic convention or his own show, he exudes professionalism. His razor wit was occasionally turned towards the audience, but it was tempered by moments of warmth. When Max was

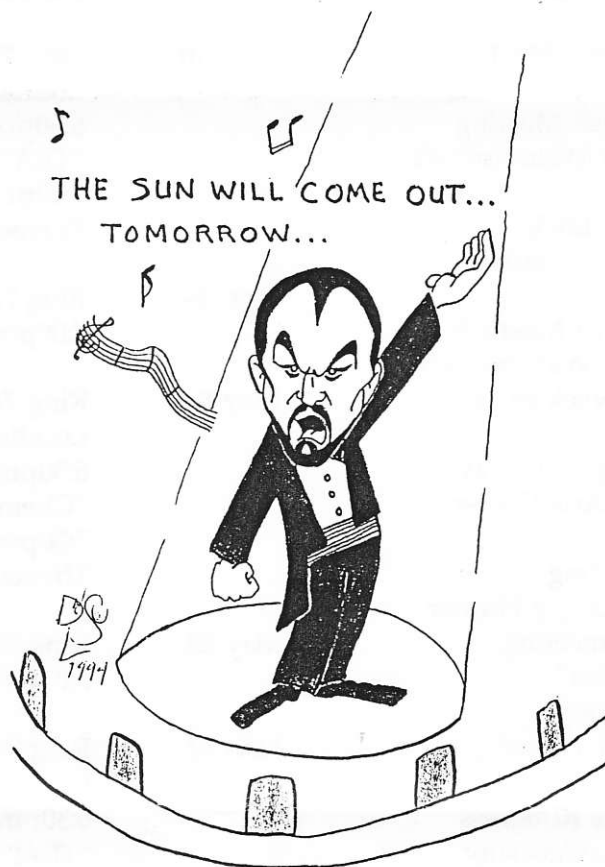
blindfolded he heard a member of the audience stumble. He all but stopped the show to ascertain that the man was uninjured. The more cynical would say he was just trying to avoid a law suit, but that would be unjust and wrong. When Max was at his most charming, he was also at his most entertaining. I would like to see a whole show with the warm charming Max one day, but perhaps that wouldn't be Max after all.

Max led the way up a slow ramp of credulity through things that sounded

reasonable, past the unlikely, straight to the patently impossible, and the audience followed him every step of the way.

I guess that I would have written it off as a very entertaining mental magic show if I hadn't been eavesdropping on the other audience members.

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COMING UP

Oct. 10	Ring 76 Meeting Location: TBA 6:30pm Pre-meeting: "Haunted Pack" 7:30pm Meeting Theme: "Halloween Magic"	Feb. 13	Ring 76 Meeting Ron London lecture
Oct. 24	Ring 76 Board Meeting 7:00pm Don Soul's	Mar. 13	Ring 76 Meeting Location: Hungry Hunter 6:30pm Pre-meeting: "Showmanship & Patter" 7:30pm Meeting Theme: "St. Paddy's Magic"
Nov. 14	Ring 76 Meeting Location: Hungry Hunter 6:30pm Auction/Swap Meet	Mar. 27	Ring 76 Board Meeting 7:00pm Sherry Luft's
Nov. 28	Ring 76 Board Meeting 7:00pm Rick Waterhouse's	Apr. 10	Ring 76 Meeting Location: Hungry Hunter 6:30pm Pre-meeting: "TBA" 7:30pm Meeting Theme: "TBA"
Dec. 12	Holiday Pot Luck Dick Bush's (tentative)	Apr. 24	Ring 76 Board Meeting 7:00pm Sherry Luft's
Dec. 19	Ring 76 Board Meeting 7:00pm Rick Waterhouse's (Note: one week early)	May 8	Ring 76 Meeting Location: Hungry Hunter 6:30pm Pre-meeting: "Chemistry Magic" 7:30pm Meeting Theme: "Flower Magic"
Dec. 31	Stars of Magic - Poway Performing Arts Center	May 22	Ring 76 Board Meeting 7:00pm Dick & Julie Dale's
Jan. 9, 1995	Ring 76 Meeting Location: Hungry Hunter 6:30pm Pre-meeting: "False Shuffles" 7:30pm Meeting Theme: "Old Tricks"	June 12	Ring 76 Meeting Location: Hungry Hunter 6:30pm Pre-meeting: "TBA" 7:30pm Meeting Theme: "TBA"
Jan. 12-15	Magic Hands Kongress Sindelfingen, Germany Tel: (49) 7032-83535	June 19	Ring 76 Board Meeting 7:00pm Dick & Julie Dale's (Note: one week early)
Jan. 23	Ring 76 Board Meeting 7:00pm Mark Flores'	July 1995	Installation Banquet "TBA"
Feb. 9-11	Convention at the Capital Sacramento, CA Contact: A-1 Multimedia 451 Park Fair Drive #1 Sacramento CA 95864 Tel: 800-876-VIDS Fax: 916-972-0626		

LETTERS, we get letters. . .

Dear Editor:

Re: The debate, "Do magic clubs promote bad magic?". Candidly, as a novice, I'm not looking for acceptance from the pros, nor do I have a problem with criticism. Constructive critiques are welcome. However, I hope that comments by fellow magi would be placed in the context of whether or not the critic is a working professional. As a pro offering advice to a novice, it should be put forth in the form of encouragement. Do I have support?

I do occasional "tricks" for friends and family and feel perfectly comfortable in my presentations, I like the stimulation of performing in front of magicians. Whenever I use the performing platform, I give myself the toughest challenge I know: 1) Everyone knows the trick and is therefore concentrating on the presentation. 2) When appearing in front of this group I'm not intimidated by their mystical elevation but simply view it as a playing to a "tough audience". 3) I do NOT perform anything I have done in the past routinely.

When I'm up there I'm trying something new-usually for the first time. Though I may have performed the effect before, I do it for Ring 76 with a twist I have not yet attempted in front of an audience. As a result, my stunts don't always work. So be it. With the built-in pressure of performing plus the peer pressure plus the inner workings of the trick, if I DO pull it off, I can go on the adrenalin for days!!

"Do magic clubs promote bad magic?" The main thing is that *magic clubs promote magic*. Without such interest no one could improve.

Sincerely, Don Soul

Dear Editor:

On Thursday, December 1, 1994, we will be celebrating World Aids Day here in San Diego. We would really appreciate some strolling magic between the hours of 4-5:30 pm. I may be reached at 236-0786.

Thank you in advance for your interest and participation.

Sincerely, Elizabeth Brehm

as seen in *Linking Ring* 43 years ago. . .

No. 76, SAN DIEGO, CALIF.--Magic Club
Meets 2nd Mon. member's home.
JIM THOMPSON, President
3547 Riviera Drive
REV. CLYDE COMPTON, Secretary
4873-68th Street

Met at the home of Kevin Barry this month. We had a short business meeting. Our guest Leo Benke (*sic*) of Long Beach Ring 96 told of plans for the coming PCAM Convention to be held in Long Beach July 16 to 19. This, being "silk" night the following performed: Kevin Barry did "Slik-Silk", Grant's Crystal Screen with silk production; Ted Angell and the "Mis-Made Flag"; Bill Keyes with the new "Plako"; Stewart Wilson with crystal casket and more silks; Guest Leo Benke did the handkerchief Penetration Frame and some nice card effects; Jim Thompson had them guessing with a safety pin and hankie penetration; Guest Kevin Barry performed the Zombie and serpentine silk with blacklight effect which was very effective. Topped off the eve with refreshments followed by several close-up effects by members.

Ted Angell

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Lastly, the Ring 76 Board discussed the direction and success of our present organization. Most of us will agree the club is quite different from what it was a few years ago and the Board's consensus is that it is heading in the right direction.

As the representative IBM organization in San Diego, Ring 76 would like to expand its membership to include the many talented professionals that have not been a part of our brotherhood. This is one of the most important immediate goals of Ring 76. The Board needs your support and suggestions. If you have an opinion on any of these issues, or one not discussed here, please come to a Board Meeting, speak to a Board Member or write a note for the newsletter. A club can only be as good as the effort of its membership.

"In anything at all, perfection is finally attained, not when there is no longer anything to add, but when there is no longer anything to take away."--Saint Exupery

(continued from page 3)

People were convinced that through the strength of his own mind, verbal control, subliminal suggestion and a host of other psycho-babble terms that he...

- Memorized a deck of cards in less than 20 seconds
- Forced audience members to choose where to sit, what card to pick, and what to think
- Read their physical reactions (body language) to reveal their thoughts.

I only once heard the word *trick*, and that in the lobby from a couple of magicians who were in attendance. I thought it in rather poor form, actually. The lay audience was saying, "I find all this fascinating", "He must meditate...", "He just memorized the order of the deck (note: *freshly shuffled*), that's not psychic!", "How did he know???", and "He is very charming and entertaining".

Can Max perform? Well, in this instance he fooled, he amused, and left a lay audience happy for an enjoyable, if uncanny, experience. I was happily impressed.

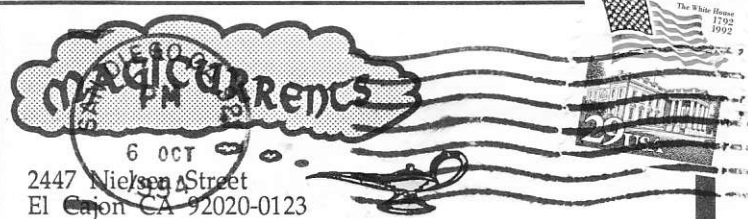
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