



MagiCurrents

FICTION

Magician's Choice

By Rick Waterhouse

I still remember it. I saw it on television.

Sweat trickled from the prisoner's brow as he awaited sentencing. The first witch trial to be held in Essex County since the late 17th century was a media circus. Everyone turned out to see the man in black who could make miracles. Everyone knew that his piercing blue eyes could see into the darkest souls of anyone who fell under his glance. Even those at home felt uncomfortably scrutinized every time he stared down the camera's electronic eye.

Numerous witnesses were called during the trial. Folk claimed that he was able to summon spirits of the air, earth, fire, and water. "That's right, I was there when the aerie spirits lifted him almost a foot from the ground". "I saw him produce money from nowhere". "It was at our campground. I saw him reach into the fire and grab a glowing ember. He grabbed it in his hand and squeezed it until it was just a warm piece of charcoal". "... and the water just kept pouring". Video was produced and examined by experts. Scientists swore that he moved objects with his

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RING REPORT

JUNE

The June meeting turned out one of the best crowds of the year for the Ring 76 annual elections and close-up night: thirty-six members and five guests, among them Dick Dale's (one of our professional magicians) daughter, her friend (himself a magician) and Chris from Brad Burt's shop.

Rick Waterhouse began the meeting with the announcement

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RING GALA EVENT

INSTALLATION EVENT!

An Evening of Magic, in San Diego.

Chuck Fayne, Joyce Beck, Gregory Wilson and Michael Veinbergs will be bringing their own special magic to Tid Bits, 3838 5th in the Hillcrest District of San Diego. These are top name performers we have been lucky enough to attract to our corner of the world for this finale to the 1996 Board's term.

The Ring 76 Board of Directors for 1996 voted that this year, instead of an installation banquet limited to the members and guests of the Ring, we would welcome the new Board of Directors for 1997 with San Diegans at an event open

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PRESIDENTIAL PONDERINGS

Dear Brethren,

I cannot tell you what an honor it has been serving you for the last three years. As I leave behind my office, I look forward to being a member of a club that continues to improve. There have been so many changes in the few years that I have been a member of the Honest Sid Gerhart Ring. I remember Mark and I coming to our first few meetings. Brad was the only person that we knew. He was busy running the meeting, and few others really went out of their way to make us feel welcome. Joining the club was just a matter of paying our dues, but being members took a bit more effort.

One fellow told me, some time ago, that he came to one of our meetings and left without ever having been approached or welcomed. He left with the firm conviction that he had no interest in joining such a group. Recently he came back again. He had a great time, and was made to feel welcome. He is now a member.

I believe that each of the teams who have led the club over the last four years have made incremental improvements in the organization. Our finances have gone from crisis to comfortable, our newsletter has gone from a single sheet meeting notice to a multi-authored piece of art (for which I hear praise everywhere I go), our community involvement has taken a marked upswing with three major public events this year, and our location has steadily improved (a short homeless period notwithstanding).

I stand humbled by the efforts of all the members who made these improvements happen. Like-

see PRES page 7

Scott's Thoughts

by Scott Wells,
A.I.M.C.



Birds Of A Feather . . .

Do you aspire to be great or are you satisfied with where you are? Do you even know where you are in the spectrum of achieving your goals? Do you have "more" left or are you "out"?

You may have practiced until you can perform a pass or a classic force better than anyone, but what can you do with your talent? Was your ultimate goal just to do the pass or classic force better than anyone or was that just your short term goal? That is, what is your next step? You obviously must perform it in a "real world" "commercial" situation. After all, magic is a performing art form that must be presented to an audience rather than in seclusion. That is, it must not only be performed for your family or immediate circle of friends but for total strangers who will be ruthlessly objective. If your goal was just to "do the move" and have it pass the "layman test" in a demonstration of your skills, then fine, but is that really what you wanted to ultimately accomplish? You may not wish to become rich and famous and that's fine; but this article is for those who want something more. Something more gratifying than hearing someone say "Hey, you're pretty good! I sure wouldn't want to play cards with you."

First of all, I'm making the assumption that you have goals. I mean short and long term goals with your magic that you have thought about and actually written on paper (or on the computer). You know where you want to be and what you want to earn from magic this year, in five years, and in 15 years. I also assume that you have assessed where you are now in achieving those

goals. Although magic is a great hobby and, as mentioned above, a performing art form, it is a serious business. As someone said about an allied art, "comedy isn't pretty."

If you are satisfied with performing for friends or making some change on the birthday circuit and that's all you want to get out of this art, then that's fine as long as you know where you are and you don't have any larger plans. Or if you do, then you know where you are on your time line. Now some may feel that I'm stepping on their toes but that's not my intention and I'm not trying to put down anyone for whatever they may be in their career. I'm just saying that you need to assess where you are from time to time in relation to where you wanted to be at this time of your life. For example, I wanted to be a millionaire by the time I was 30. Obviously, I have re-evaluated my goals and am now satisfied with where I am in life and I am on track with my new objectives. Sometimes we can't accept the reflection we see in the mirror and it's difficult to go on.

After you feel that you are ready for the next level then consider this . . . associate with those who have already achieved greatness. People who want to be successful should want to associate with successful people to learn their secrets of success. They should make it a goal to learn what paths others have taken to reach greatness. Many successful people are successful because they have surrounded themselves with competent advisors and they associate with brain trusts whose advice and suggestions they respect and use. They recognize that they can't "make it" entirely on their own. They know that we must all "stand on the shoulders of giants."

Magicians can't go to traditional classes to learn the trade like aspiring singers who can take voice lessons or a budding author who can take writing classes then develop their trade to a point where it would bring them fame and fortune. Our field is much narrower and it's



harder to learn from the greats because there are so few in relation to any other performing art form. There is a particular void of competent magicians who are willing and able to teach. It's difficult to find someone who would "take you under his wing" to share the secrets of our art. Those who have been so lucky have gone on to notoriety. As an example, look at the success of Lance Burton who studied under the tutelage of Harry Collins. This is very much an apprenticeship art.

No doubt some are successful and have reached their financial and personal goals in life with their magic, but I feel that they are missing a crucial element . . . interaction with the fraternity. Some magicians prefer to disassociate themselves from other magicians for a variety of reasons. Some feel that they don't want to share their ideas with "amateurs" who will just "rip them off" and start doing their stuff. Some feel that anything they try to teach is nothing short of "casting pearls before swine" since many amateurs just want to know secrets for the sake of knowing secrets with no intention of performing. Points well taken; however, there is something to be gained from relationships with amateurs and part time pros. For example, far and away the majority of effects/props/tricks were developed by avid hobbyists, or non professionals if you will. The working pros don't come up with all of the ideas. They are too busy performing their act and earning a living. That's not to say that they don't often improve on the original. In fact, a working pro puts in a lot of time perfecting and working the trick into a solid, "commercial" routine.

Max Maven once said something to the effect that magic is the only vocation where amateurs feel that they deserve the right to get close to professionals. Amateur singers don't feel that they can go backstage and "schmooze" with Frank Sinatra after a show in Las Vegas or go out for a drink and "hang out" with him. On the contrary, some magicians feel slighted if they can't get close to

David Copperfield. I think that it comes down to the fact that there are so few of us (an estimated 30,000 magicians in the whole world and only 10% of that number are full time pros) that we feel special enough and unique enough to allow us into his circle. Is that enough to "validate our backstage ticket"?

Short of that, you should spend time reading how they became great and what "breaks" they got or rather, made for themselves. Often it seems that someone just happened to be in the right place at the right time; however, I believe that there is no such thing as an "overnight star". They served their time and paid their dues and made their own breaks and when the time came to be in the right place at the right time, then they were ready. Being there at that time and being ready for that opportunity had to have been part of their goals.

If you have the opportunity to be an understudy with someone you consider great, then you are a lucky man. If you have the opportunity to become friends with someone great, then you are a very lucky man. However you do it, I'm still of the opinion that the more you know about the artist, the better chance you have to emulate his success.



*"An
Evening
Of Magic"
Monday
July 8th*

**TIDBITS, 3838 Fifth Ave.
543-0300**

ASK THE PRO



Curtis R. Clark

QUESTION: How do you determine what to charge for your services? I am very frustrated by people complaining about the cost, trying to beat down my price and the like. How does a beginning Magician determine what to charge? Do you have a standard fee for restaurant work, for parlor shows and for company gatherings?

CURTIS CLARK: This is a BIG question. Realize too that some performing magicians won't discuss what they charge because others may think they're charging too little or too much

I think it depends on several different factors:

1. What is your time worth? You need to charge what you think you are worth; at the same time taking into account your market. If your fee is too high you will probably end up sitting at home more nights playing with your newest move or trick more often than you will perform it for a live audience (not that your wife or girlfriend isn't alive, they just may not want to see the trick done 40-50 times a night).
2. Feel out the prospective client when they inquire about a show.



If they mention things like "well at last year's party for Johnny the circus elephant made such a mess in our yard, but the kids really enjoyed the rock group that played after the parachute jumping contest" - this is probably a client that will be able to afford your "Deluxe" show...

3. Offer a couple different shows for different fees. This gives the client a couple different options with different budgets to work. They will then be deciding which show they want instead of focusing on the price for "a show" by "a magician."

4. For larger shows, such as corporate or company shows, you should also have a different rate schedule lined up to offer them different show options. You may want one fee for close-up strolling magic, a different show for stand-up type situations and possibly another show featuring illusions, if you do them. This gives you three different price ranges to offer your prospective clients while taking the focus off of the price and putting it on the type of magic.

5. For restaurant work you have to keep in mind that a restaurant is not going to pay what you would get for a private party or company show. Restaurant pay tends to be much lower. However, in exchange for the lower fee, you have a regular place to perform, develop leads and work out your new material or routines. You are doing the restaurant a favor by giving them a lower price. In exchange, get them to keep you for a set amount of time (minimum of 3 months, 6 months, whatever you think is appropriate for your situation).

The ideal thing to do is to work a restaurant on what would be your slower nights anyway. That way instead of sitting home you are making a little money and laying the groundwork for some

potential future bookings. If you can get a restaurant to pay you somewhere between \$30-\$50 an hour you've got a good start - but hustle - you can make up a lot of the difference in tips.

Bottom line is: if you are new to doing shows, start out charging a modest fee until you are sure of your capabilities. Then charge what your time and talent is worth. Only one person can decide that: YOU.

This is a tough question to answer in detail without going on forever. I hope I have given you a useful overview and, perhaps, some helpful hints.

- Curtis Clark

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE PRO? Send your questions to MagiCurrents.

Curtis Clark has been performing at restaurants, clubs and conventions for over thirteen years. Curtis performs at the Gathering Thursday and Friday evenings.

Ring 76 Online

<http://www.websmart.com/ring76>

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Contact Jim Fry (554-0335) for details and rates.

SAN DIEGO MAGIC! From page 1

to all of San Diego. As our said our good-byes and hellos, we would bring more magic to San Diego, as had been our focus in 1996.

In the past year, the Ring brought back Magic Heritage Day at the Villa Montezuma, helped with the

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I.B.M. Ring 76

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RING REPORT from page 1

of this year's planned installation event, a show entitled **An Evening of Magic**. Ring 76's 1996 Board of Directors is hosting a show of top-name magicians at Tidbits, 3838 5th Avenue, (619) 543-0300. Featured performers are Chuck Fayne, Joyce Beck, Gregory Wilson and Michael Veinbergs. This year, instead of the usual banquet, with members and guests, featuring a single magician, Ring 76 will continue its goal of bringing more magic to San Diego by making this an "open to the public" event. All seats are reserved on a first-come, first served basis; tickets are \$10 each and this is an adults only evening. Ring 76 members had first crack at tickets at the meeting and the following day. Tickets to the general public are on sale from Tidbits directly beginning June 12. The social hour, saw much animated conversation and brisk sales of tickets, \$710 of tickets were sold.

At 7:20 PM the proposed slate of Ring 76 was presented to the membership for vote. This year's slate was short one At-Large Board Member. The Ring member, by a show of hands, accepted the slate. A discussion on the missing At-large Board Member brought volunteers from **Loch David Crane**, who said he may be unable to attend all meetings, and **Don Soul**. Don's name was offered to the membership for consideration and was enthusiastically accepted.

Our new slate of officers is:

Greg Wauson, President
Sherry Luft, Vice-President
Bill Monroe, Treasurer
Gary Schwartzwald, Secretary
Ralph Mauzy, Sargent- At-Arms

At Large Board Members:

Rick Waterhouse
Don Soul

Ballots for Member of the Year, the Ring 76 member who has contributed the most to the Ring during the past year, were passed around. **Greg Wauson**, last year's Member of the Year, will tally the votes and present a plaque to the member of the year at July's Installation Event.

Other upcoming events were announced: **Dan Garrett** will be lecturing August 22 at the Lemon Grove Parks and Recreation Center, tickets are \$15. IBM Ring 21's **A Day of Magic** in Hollywood is June 22nd and Ring members were looking for car-poolers to the event. **Jeff Marcus** (another Ring professional magician) related stories from his recent trip to Gino Manuri's Las Vegas Close-Up at the MGM. About 200 people had shown up for the event, there were some mix ups which caused some confusion and there was much talk about the Magical Empire. Jeff's wife Peggy asked the Ring to ask Jeff who had finished in the close-up competition. Turns out, Jeff took 2nd place! Congratulations Jeff, well done.

Also announced, the Magic Castle will be inviting Ring 76 members who are not now members of the Magic Castle for a mixer at the Castle in August. **Ty Smith** has agreed to take the lead in coordinating transportation for members planning to attend this evening. The schedule, as of this date, is Monday, August 19th.

This meeting was also the night for an audition of a new Ring 76 member, **Jeff Smith**. What a delight for those of us lucky enough to attend the evening. Jeff began with a comedic routine which had the room laughing. He asked a guest to mentally select a card while he brought out his single, jumbo prediction card. He then asked another member of the audience to mentally select a card. He asked, "Wouldn't it be amazing if I successfully predicted

both of your cards?" He revealed that indeed, his prediction had both mentally selected cards on it (plus the 50 unselected ones too). Jeff followed up with his torn and restored newspaper routine returning the torn newspaper to "it original" state. The state Jeff ultimately returned the torn newspaper too was that of tissue paper, big surprise.

For his *pièce de résistance* Jeff performed his signature piece, a routine based on the board game Clue. Jeff first selected Ty Smith as his Sheriff, to guard and protect the prediction. Ty really performed his role with vigor. Jeff then selected Greg Wauson who was charged with selecting the six suspects: 3 men, 3 women; Greg managed to get four men and two women. Each person was assigned a Clue character. Jeff had one character select what the murder weapon was, another selected which room and another selected which character. When Jeff's prediction was revealed, which had been the entire time secured by Sheriff Ty, not only were the weapon and room successfully predicted but the character, played by Jeff Marcus, was pictured on the Newspaper with headlines revealing him as the murderer! Well done and Welcome Jeff Smith!

The remainder of the evening was spent with four Ring members performing various amazing close up routines for the gathered members.

With the enthusiasm befitting a presidential candidate Greg Wauson introduced the volunteer prestidigitators. First to perform was Tom Schmit who amused the Ring by visibly making a gem stone visually melt through a solid sheet of plastic. Tom invented this trick and is currently marketing this effect. Next Frank Herman entertained us with an ever-

changing colorful paper wand; his patter, of course, vaudevillian. Frank finished with a Hypnotic evil eye identifying a spectator's selected card.

Jeff Marcus followed by performing his color changing knife routine which won him second place at Gino Manuri's Las Vegas Close-Up Convention last month. Jeff's ability to build a new routine with seemingly impossible moves, all developed around a historical trick certainly promotes him to one of our leaders in magic. Our next performer Hunter, the youngest and newest member of Ring 76, entertained us with a card trick where he magically removed one of the angels from the back of a selected card. Hunter openly admits that magic some times requires some help from a little smoke and mirrors.

Rich Robertson's card manipulations included losing the four aces into a shuffled deck and finding them in unexpected and astonishing ways. The final prestidigitator, Bill Monroe, amused us by vanishing a card box in full view of the entire ring, a very visual effect. Bill's finale was a gambling routine where all the Kings magically change to Aces.

Afterwards, a contingent of fourteen Ring members made their way to the Denny's in Fashion Valley and spent some more time discussing magic and the Ring. A grand evening.

Reminder: Next month's meeting is **An Evening of Magic** at Tidbits in Hillcrest (543-0300).

(Our thanks to David Lane for providing the details of the close-up portion of the evening for this report.)

AN EVENING OF MAGIC
JULY 8 at 6:30 PM \$10

PERFORMANCES AROUND TOWN

(The following is the best information available at press time, please call ahead to verify performers, times and days. These restaurants are not looking for magicians to perform. Please stop by to support the magicians working there.)

94 Aero Squadron (560-6771) for Sunday Brunch, **Keith Boudreau**, Memorable Magic

Corvette's Diner (542-1476) 3946 5th Ave, features **Magic Mike** since 1987 Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 9:30.

The Gathering - **Curtis Clark** performs Thursdays and Fridays from 7 to 10:30; **Terry Luncford** performs Saturdays from 7 to 10:30

TidBits (543-0300) 3838 5th Ave., various performers call for information

(Professional Courtesy: let the working magician perform at their restaurant, leave your tricks at home. Come and enjoy.)

SAN DIEGO MAGIC! From page 4

Magic In The Streets event and now **An Evening of Magic in San Diego**. Nothing could be more fitting for a year of magic than a magic event for all of San Diego.

These fine magicians were attracted to San Diego thanks to the efforts of our Board and especially **Jim Jolly** who offered a personal tour of the U.S.S. Kittyhawk aircraft carrier to the performers. The Ring thanks Jim for his help in making this event possible.

Tickets are still available at the incredible price of only ten dollars - where else are you going to see two hours of top acts for \$10? Bring your family, your friends, you neighbors! This event isn't likely to be repeat in the near future

at **TIDBITS**, 543-0300



I.B.M. Ring 76

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MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS should be sent to the club Treasurer, Bill Monroe. All Ring 76 Members must be a member in good standing with the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

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RING 76 RECEIVES MAGIC CASTLE INVITATION

Ring 76 received the invitation above, inviting the members of Ring 76 to join certain Board of Directors at the Magic Castle for a personal look at what the Magic Castle has to offer to San Diego

provide an estimate of the number of people planning to attend. If you plan to attend, call Jim Fry, at 554-0335, so we can get you on the list and begin to coordinate ride sharing.



7001 FRANKLIN AVENUE - HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA 90028
Telephone (213) 851-3313 - Fax (213) 851-4899

May 21, 1996

To: Members of Ring 76 - San Diego
From: Mark Wilson, President, The Academy Of Magical Arts
Re: Special Invitation

Dear Members of Ring 76,

On behalf of the Academy of Magical Arts, Inc., I am pleased to extend a very special invitation to those of you who are not members of the Academy, to join us on Monday, August 19th at the world famous Magic Castle.

This will be a great night of entertainment, hors d'oeuvres, and enlightenment in The Inner Circle from 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM with a special presentation designed to promote membership in the Academy. More information will be forthcoming detailing the special events we have prepared for you, our guests for the evening. Of course spouses are most welcome. For those of you who are currently members of the Academy, if you wish to attend, we ask that you bring with you a non-Academy member as your guest.

Please remember that no one under 21 is allowed and the dress code is strictly enforced, coats and ties for the gentlemen and evening dresses for the ladies.

Space is limited so you must RSVP by calling Deena Bernnet at (213) 851-3313 extension 302. Also, if you wish to purchase dinner that evening, it can be arranged by making a reservation and mention that you are with Ring 76. You should make this reservation very soon and ask for the 6:30 seating since the special activities will start at 8:00 PM downstairs in the Inner Circle Ballroom.

I look forward to meeting each of you on this special night in August.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Wilson
President

magicians.

Several members of Ring 76 already belong to the Magic Castle and are planning to take the trip with other Ring 76 members. The Magic Castle has asked us to

If you are planning to attend and have a van, RV or large car and would consider driving, please let us know so we can make the information available to our other Ring members.

August 19! Mark your calendar and call for you reservations today. This should be a delightful, magical evening. You don't want to miss one of the best times magic has to offer.

PRES from page 2

wise, I am thrilled with anticipation for what improvements will occur in the coming years. It is impossible to answer all challenges at once. Speaking for my experience over the last two years, the board has set out to tackle certain challenges, while leaving others for the future. I think that this next year should be the year of the meeting. I encourage the next slate of officers to work ever so hard to maintain the improvements which have been made while striving to improve our monthly meetings in terms of content, participation, and enjoyment. That may just be the hardest dragon any recent board has attempted to slay.

I would like to close out my term of office with a few personal notes:

To those who have supported me: I thank you for your time, effort, moral support, advice, frequent criticisms, occasional praise, everything. It has all been more appreciated than you can know.

To all members: Magic is life. Life is Magic. This club will always rise or fall based solely on the interest, participation, and good will of its members. You! Give of yourself and your talent however you can, and don't wait for the officers to ask. They are fallible humans, and if it were left entirely up to them, there would/could be no club. Dream a better club, then make it so.

To everyone who thought this was all a load of sentimental crap: What can I say? Its my nature.

Thank you very much,
Rick Bruce
Member, IBM Ring 76

Ring 76 Represented at Berglas reception

David Berglas, President of the Magic Circle, is currently on our side of the pond for various duties. Mark Wilson, President of the Academy of Magical Arts, invited all magic circle members and Presidents of area magic clubs to join David for a private reception following his lecture at the Magic Castle. Ring 76 was represented by Rick Waterhouse and President-Elect Greg Wauson.

A special commemorative Magic Circle plate, limited to 300 copies, was presented to Mark Wilson and the Magic Castle. To finalize the bonding between these two magical organizations, Wilson presented Berglas with an honorary life membership in the Academy of Magical Arts. The Magic circle was founded in 1905. They have recently purchased a building to serve as a clubhouse/museum/archive, and are in the process of refurbishing it for use.



Greg Wauson
Ring 76's President-Elect

MAGICIAN from page 1

mind. Testimony was even produced that he had been seen flying through the air at night and stealing the breath of babies.

In short, everyone who had ever seen him work his wonders was called to testify. That and the fanciful hearsay of the frightened masses formed the bulk of the case against him. The defense was a simple one. No contest. The defendant did not take the stand and made no statement. He watched the proceedings with a certain wry amusement. To a degree it was his greatest compliment and his greatest failure. If it hadn't been so ridiculous, the prisoner might have cried. All that we had ever seen were the simple by-products of magic. All along, we had been missing the point.

"This court is now in session. The honorable Judge Gene Questa presiding. All Rise." Judge Questa took his seat before the crowded courtroom. After the shuffles of the courtroom viewers subsided, The judge begins.

"This is a most unusual case. In a sense, it is tragic. We are modern people living in a modern world. I consider it a result of mass hysteria that this statute has been dusted off. Still, a case has been brought before this court. It has been argued, and decided. Now, it has been left to me to decide the sentence for this crime. As much as my personal feelings would have me dismiss this whole nonsense, I cannot. I speak here, not for myself, but rather for this court. Before pronouncing my final sentence though, I will indulge myself one opportunity to avoid it." Quest looks the prisoner directly in his famed eyes. "Sir, you and I both know that you are a charlatan and that there is no such thing as magic or witchcraft. There is no crime because there can be no crime. Regardless, I am

about to pronounce sentence. Will you take this last opportunity to demonstrate to this court that your magic is the result of trickery, and not supernatural powers of any kind?"

For the first time during the trial, the magician looked defeated. His head hung down as he thought through this latest wrinkle. All through the trial, he could have denounced and saved himself. At any point he could have produced gidgets and gadgets that explained his miracles. He could have demonstrated the subtle manipulations of hand and mind. Here was one more chance to decide. Perhaps it didn't matter. Those who believed in him would not be dissuaded and those who didn't were not his concern. Still, this might be his last chance to make them understand. He steeled his will and prepared to speak, at long last, in his own defense.

A gasp went through the courtroom when he stood. Nobody expected him to address the court. Why should today be any different. His eyes swept over the courtroom as he prepared to speak. His body moved with fluid grace as he approached the bench. Many in the room crossed themselves in fear, and nobody spoke. Viewers in their homes could not understand the sense of power that this man brought to the room. Later, folks would say that it was as if he was on the verge of releasing a storm of wild magic upon the courtroom. He was tall, intense, and as menacing as a caged panther. His voice descended on the courtroom; thunder wrapped in velvet.

"For the last 13 weeks you have asked how I accomplish the things that I do. My past activities have been played out before you along with assorted falsehoods. I have not elected to answer these charges for one simple reason.

YOU HAVE BEEN ASKING THE WRONG QUESTION. Yes, I *can* pluck metal from the air. I *have* been lifted from the earth as testimony has shown. I can pluck hot embers from a fire and cool them in my hands. I can do these and many more things that have been brought before you. These things are not my crime. My crime, and crime it is, is my failure to make you ask the correct question. HOW I do these things is irrelevant. I wanted you to ask WHY I did these things."

A woman screamed as the prisoner reached out into the air above him and quickly snatched back a small golden stone. The television cameras zoomed in on the stone and fixed on a small creature trapped within. Lawyers on both sides looked like they wanted to stop this, but seemed powerless to do so. The judge watched entranced as the prisoner's voice once again manacled his audience.

"Long ago, a fly settled upon the sap of a dying tree. He was not thrown there, not captured, but rather landed of his own free will. The fly fed upon the sticky morass. Not once did he try to escape because he did not know his danger. Slowly, much too slowly for the fly to notice, the sap surrounded its victim. Over time, the sap petrified and became this piece of amber. A prison and protection all in one.

The same thing has happened to you. You have trapped yourself. You have limited your perception. You live in cities where you can't even see the stars at night. You surround yourself with sounds and sites that keep you from seeing yourself or the world around you. You listen to radio, but don't listen to yourself. You watch television, but you have ceased to seek for universal truth. You flood yourselves with foreign substances so that your pains are numbed and

your joys muted. You have given up on a world that is crashing around us. You hope that the amber will harden around you and keep you from seeing the danger and destruction that is all around you."

The magician stared intently at his piece of amber. He let the words of his diatribe sink into the crowd. Somewhere in the courtroom a woman sobbed. Slowly the wizard drew himself up to his full height and passed one powerful hand over the piece of amber. The whine of wings, long frozen, filled the courtroom. The television audience watched in stunned silence as the camera focused on the now clear piece of amber. The prisoner suddenly looked as if his power was spent. No longer threatening, he addressed the crowd.

"It is my job to free you from these bonds. Through my magics and stories I have tried to free you, if only for a moment, to see the world outside. I've tried to help you see inside and remember the dreams that you have long forgotten. I have tried to show you hope in times of quiet desperation.

My crime is that I have failed. You ask how I do my magic... It just doesn't matter. My magic is a tangible manifestation of my faith in the mysteries of this world. Cast judgment upon me not for what I have done, but what I have not. I have tried to clear your vision, and you have seen only parlor tricks."

I still remember the day that magician was tried. I watched it on television. I think he was sentenced for all of us.

(Rick submitted this to MAGIC in 1995 and it is reprinted here with their kind permission.)



Board Report

June 24, 1996 Location: Jim Fry's House
Attendees: Rick Waterhouse, Greg Wauson, Jim Fry

Agenda:

1. Handoff to New Board Members
2. An Evening of Magic

Handoff To New Board Members could not be done due to such a small Board turn out. Rick suggested that the handoff be done at July's Board meeting, to be held at Greg Wauson's

An Evening of Magic was the primary focus of the meeting to make sure that all the loose ends are tied up and all the final activities will be handled.

The transportation of the performers has not been finalized. Jim got pricing for rentals; Rick wants to see if he can borrow a Ring member's van to keep costs down. Rick has offered to drive the magicians back to Anaheim and hopes the van owner can pick up the magicians.

Gregory Wilson has requested a lava-lire microphone and Rick is going to check with Tidbits to make sure one is available. Jack White was approached for MCing the event but will be out of town, we are going to check with Chuck Fayne to see what makes most sense.

The Board voted to host a "No Host Bar" at the Gathering after the show for members and guests who would like to celebrate the installation of the new Board. The Board voted up to \$100 for hors d'oeuvres subject to the Treasurer's veto.

Greg is going to try to get the event in Night & Day, the Reader, and the Union Tribune.

Next Board Meeting:

July 22, 7 p.m., Greg Wauson's house.

Ring Meetings

There has been a question on upcoming Ring meetings and the schedule of events in the coming months. The new Board has not met and the out-going Board felt the new Board should control upcoming events.

Ring 76 members are encouraged to contact Board members and let them know what you would like to see at the monthly meetings. This is your Ring and your are the reason the Ring exists.

So ... what would you like the Ring to be? What should the upcoming calendar of events show? Where would you like the Ring to journey in the coming year?

Now's the time to have your voice heard and your vote counted. Come to the next Board meeting and define this calendar!

At The Castle

(All shows subject to change. Information based on best available at press time. Call the Magic Castle for up to date information (213) 851-3313.)

JUNE 24 - JUNE 30

E. CLOSE-UP:	Mark Matsumoto
L. CLOSE-UP:	Terry Lunceford
E. PARLOUR:	Pete McLeod
L. PARLOUR:	Brandon Scott
PALACE:	Martin Lewis
	Bob Borgia
	John Shryock

JULY 1 - JULY 7

E. CLOSE-UP:	Hiro Sakai
L. CLOSE-UP:	Yuji Wada
E. PARLOUR:	Toyozane Sanada
L. PARLOUR:	Takashi Hirabayashi
PALACE:	Koichi Sugaya
	Kazu Katayama
	Shintaro Fujiyama

JULY 8 - JULY 14

E. CLOSE-UP:	Len Reid
L. CLOSE-UP:	David Malek
E. PARLOUR:	James C. Brown
L. PARLOUR:	Brian Gillis
PALACE:	Mike Finney
	Roy Davenport
	Franz Harary

JULY 15 - JULY 21

E. CLOSE-UP:	Paul Wilson
L. CLOSE-UP:	Aldo Colombini
E. PARLOUR:	James Warren
L. PARLOUR:	George Tovar
PALACE:	Peter Pit
	Raymond Crowe
	Mystina

JULY 22 - JULY 28

E. CLOSE-UP:	Jason Alexander
L. CLOSE-UP:	Tony Giorgio
E. PARLOUR:	The Falkensteins
L. PARLOUR:	Earl Nelson
PALACE:	T.C. Tahoe
	Clockwork
	Dan Birch

LECTURERS - on Sundays at 3 p.m.

June 23 - David Berglas

June 30 - Fantasio

July 7 - Hiro Sakai

July 14 - Roy Davenport

July 21 - Paul Wilson

Visit the Magic Castle, now online at

<http://www.magiccastle.org>

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS, A
SPECIAL EVENT!!!

**An Evening
of Magic**

• • •
July 8, 1996
6:30 PM

• • •
TIDBITS
3838 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA
543-0300

"No Host Bar" Get To-
gether after the show at
the Gathering! Welcome
the new Ring 76 Board.

MagiCurrents
4046 Caminito Terviso
San Diego, CA 92122-1993

**Magic Event
of the Year!**

Roy & Betty Armstrong

2548 Littleton Road

El Cajon, CA 92020

