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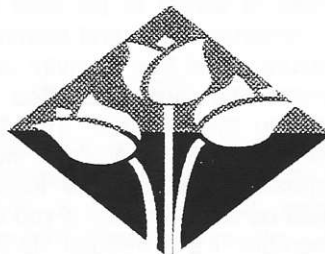
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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Thanks to the members (all four of you so far!) who have completed and turned in their surveys about what you like and not-so-like about Ring 76. I speak for all the club officers when I say your input matters and we feel your pain, oops, we do consider your opinions in sincerely desiring to be responsive and making our club the best it can be.

As an example, some of you told us you want to cut out the slack time in our pre-meetings. We hear and we obey! The "pre-meeting" has been essentially merged with the rest of the meeting. Our monthly meetings will still start at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month but just the first 15 minutes will be an informal time for sharing new magic effects, talking with others, meeting new friends, etc. At about 6:45 we'll start what traditionally was the pre-meeting, whether it be a teach-in, mini-lecture, ebonics lesson or whatever. Here's the main difference: When this part of the meeting is over, we'll take a few-minute break and move into the short business meeting, raffle and then entertainment segment. We will start the business meeting immediately following the break, at a time dependent only upon how long the first part of the meeting takes, not necessarily at



7:30 as we've done in the past. And we'll still try to have complimentary refreshments at each meeting (your membership dues hard at work).

A technical difficulty resulted in the write-up of our January reception for the executive committee of the IBM being left out of the February newsletter. My apologies especially to the four performers: Joe Mystic, Jeff Marcus, Curtis Clark and Craig Stone. You guys did a great job and it was a privilege for us to have you represent our club for our guests from all over the country. Also, I mistakenly referred to Rick Bruce as the

see *PRESIDENT* on page 2

OUR RECEPTION FOR IBM'S EXECUTIVES

Ring 76 started 1997 off with a show for the national I.B.M. executive committee. The show was held at the Vacation Inn, in Old Town, on Saturday evening January 4th, 1997. We met visiting dignitaries such as I.B.M. international president Bev Bergeron, Ken Klosterman, Bud Dietrich, Karrel Fox, and Jack Greenberg. The evening began with local I.B.M. president Greg Wauson introducing himself and our local board. After welcoming our guests from around the nation, Wauson introduced past-president Rick Bruce and his daughter Arial.

Bruce provided the audience with a brief history of Ring 76 including tidbits regarding our name, Honest Sid Gerhart Ring and the youth auxiliary that Bruce

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bringing this to my attention. Dick Bush is our official historian.

Speaking of dues, it's almost that time of year again. We'll collect the local dues, still \$20 per year, at the April meeting. We are currently planning on giving each member a numbered membership card upon receipt of dues, payable by cash or check. Be sure you receive this card when you pay! And, as usual, you must be a member of IBM international to be a Ring 76 member. So what do you get for your hard-earned cash? Well, "The Linking Ring" is one of the best magic magazines you'll find anywhere. (By the way, did you notice which of our members is mentioned in Bev Bergeron's column in the February issue? There were also some terrific ideas in Barrie Richardson's One-Man Parade). And for your local dues, you get the privilege of hob-nobbing with your magical compadres in a very comfortable setting, meetings which offer variety and opportunities to become a better performer, a monthly newsletter to keep you informed and two free lectures a year.

Did I say "lecture?" This segue stuff is getting easier. Our own Frank Herman (a.k.a. Skipper Frank) will be starting off our meeting on March 10 with a mini-lecture covering some of his favorite stuff with items you find around the house. This promises to be very useful for anyone who wants to amaze their friends with their impromptu magic. Frank has a very distinguished background, including being the star of his own magic TV show! How many magicians can claim that distinction? He has graciously offered to donate his

teaching time to us and we jumped on it.

And also speaking about lectures: Here's the latest scoop: we have tentatively booked as the lecturer at our May 12 meeting none other than Tom Mullica. Yep, the king of hilarious cigarette magic, impromptu amazement and Mr. Tom-Foolery himself is slated to be here for your entertainment (and learning) pleasure. Feel free to invite your friends who are interested in magic to this lecture. The \$15 we'll be charging all non-members to attend this lecture should be well worth it. If you are a member, it's a freebie! Is this cool or what? Brenda and I and several others from San Diego saw Tom perform part of his act at the A-1 convention in Sacramento in February. I laughed until I cried. This man knows how to entertain, is a master of timing and really is an expert at comedy, as well as grossing out other people.

Numerous performances, most notably those of Juan Tamariz, I saw at that convention slammed home to me the notion that presentation is everything. Well, maybe just 95%, with the other 5% being baffling magic effects. People love to be entertained with magic. Here's a thought question: Is there a difference between performing and entertaining? Please continue to let your board members know how our meetings can be improved to help you become a better entertainer. And one last item: Our elections are scheduled for our June meeting. Consider serving as one of our officers. You'll be part of a team and if we're lucky enough to have Tom Kasner as an officer next year you can enjoy some terrific munchies when the

board meetings are at his place. (Big thanks to his wife Karen!)

Magically yours,

Greg

FEBRUARY MEETING REPORT

by Gary Schwartzwald

Our February meeting began with Ring 76 President Greg Wauson teaching the Hindu Shuffle to our 25 members and 6 guests. Wauson taught the shuffle and showed how useful it can be while performing card controls. Wauson then slid into teaching the Glide sleight. Gary Schwartzwald, with the help of Charlie Norris showed a trick (*Designed for Laughter from The Royal Road to Card Magic*) that combines the Hindu Shuffle and the Glide in one trick. Many members learned something new from the Presidential teach-in.

Mary Brown, our hostess at Francis Parker School, had four of her students and Francis Parker Magic Club members attend the meeting. They were; Colette Cavanagh, Jacqueline Lopez, Alexis Ravin and Gabe Travers. These youngsters added enthusiasm to our meeting. Member Dick Bush is on the cover of Volunteer Magazine. Bush was also featured in the magazine for his willingness to volunteer and his use of magic to cheer up so many people. Congratulations Dick!. Loch Crane recommended an exchange dinner with one of the other local rings. This idea will be pursued at the next board meeting.

The theme of our evening was out-of-character magic. Many of our members performed magic that was different than they usually perform. Our first characters were our guests the Three Magical Maidens Colette Cavanagh, Jacqueline Lopez, and Alexis Ravin. They performed a painless version of a sword box. The box and swords were made in the campus woodshop. Our next character Tom Schmidt led the membership in a painful rendition of the song *Kumbaya*. Amid this distraction, Tom did an outstanding, and silent, rope routine. A great job though we missed Tom's humor. You are kidding most of the time, right Tom? Next up was our mild-mannered President Greg Wauson. Wauson said the only bizarre magic he could do was to put a pen up his nose and have it come out of his ear. After accomplishing this, Wauson had a sleight mishap. While trying to puncture a balloon he accidentally pierced his arm with a needle. Bizarre! One of our guests, Sumit, did an outstanding version of Las Vegas Leaper. We hope to see Sumit attend and perform at all our meetings. Next up was Joe Mystic who had himself tied into a large canvas bag. Mystic was able to escape setting a new personal best on the time it took him to escape. TVP Dick Dale, Clown Diane Lane, and David Loch Crane each did mentalism routines to the astonishment of the crowd. Lane also floated money that she usually keeps in her bra. Jeff Marcus also did prediction routines that left the audience guessing and laughing. Jeff did a great job and as always kept his sense of humor. Our closing act was Quicksilver the Clown, Rick Bruce. Bruce did a fine mime act where he graffitied a classroom wall, filled a balloon with water while the balloon was in a bottle

and magically had the water jump from the bottle. We had many performers this night and they all did a great job. Because of the number of performers I have kept the descriptions brief. My apologies. If you would like more detail on performances join us at our monthly meetings. Hope to see you soon.

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is going to reinstate. For those of you that are curious, Sid Gerhart used a tag line that said; 'I wouldn't cheat you for the world, honest, I wouldn't.' Yeah right. Next on stage was our vice-president of entertainment and emcee for the evening, Sherry Luft. Luft introduce the opening act, Joe Mystic.



Mystic risked health and hair to show our visitors how easily a brush fire can start in San Diego. Mystic showed a board with four light bulbs (red, green, blue and yellow) and four light switches (red, green, blue and yellow). With the help of audience member Ann Schwartzwald (I think that's how you spell it) Mystic showed that each light switch controlled the light bulb of the same color.. This was true even after Ann switched the location of each bulb and remained true after she also switched the color caps on each light switch. This trick was light, bright and left the audience glowing. Mystic then changed a red silk to white then to blue and then there were three silks, red,

white and blue. Mystic the finished his act by putting the red, white and blue silks into a bag. The silks disappeared, and the bag became an American Flag.

Our next performer was Curtis Clark. Clark had four members of the audience each take out a five dollar bill. He then had Bud Dietrch sign his five. Each of the bill holders randomly selected a film can in which they put their five dollar bill. They then each had the pleasure of putting their film can into an airsick bag. The cans were mixed and Clark was blind folded. He then bravely reached into this hardly used bag and pulled out the film can that contained the bill signed by Bud Dietrich. Clark then had audience member Pete, slowly unwrap and open a deck of cards. Pete then selected six cards giving three of those to Clark. Pete signed one of his cards. The both Pete and Clark tore each of their cards into four pieces. This pieces were put into a bag and Clark mystically pulled out the four pieces that were taped together to reconstruct Pete's signed card.

Next up Jeff Marcus recruited local member Jeff Smith to assist him with the linking and unlinking of six solid steel rings. Marcus deftly handled the rings and after linking and unlinking them, made a variety of designs such as the Olympic symbol, a butterfly and my favorite, a sphere. Jeff Smith had a difficult time keeping up with Marcus the Magnificent, so Marcus, showing unusual generosity, gave Smith a dollar bill. This worked out quite well for Smith who then traded his dollar for the watch that Marcus had surreptitiously taken off Smiths wrist. Marcus then did an outstanding rope routine that started out with one rope with four ends and one middle. This rope then became two ropes and then

one large loop and then back to two ropes. If you find that confusing have Marcus perform it for you. This trick is a lot more fun to watch than to describe in writing. Marcus then turned carnival huckster and showed the Kitchen Helping Hand. Marcus assured us that the Kitchen Helping Hand slices, dices, chops, etc. while keeping hands feet and even unmentionables safe. Marcus then had Ann Schwartzwald volunteer to give him a hand. He took this hand and placed it in the Kitchen Helping Hand. Carrots were placed above and below Ann's hand. Marcus then dramatically brought down the chopper, cutting the carrots but not harming Ann's hand or even her unmentionables.

The final performer was Craig Stone. Stone wisely chose audience member Don as an assistant. Craig then sealed an empty *Big Finish* envelope and set it aside. Stone then did a ribbon spread on Dons outstretched arm. The spread was done so well that the cards stayed spread even after being removed from Dons arm. Amazing. Stone then performed the Cracker of Death trick taught to him by his grandfather. In this trick Stone destroys a cracker but reveals what waffle dust really looks like. Stone then convinced Don to hand him a signed twenty dollar bill. The bill vanished leading to a comic routine reminiscent of Martin and Lewis. If you weren't there maybe they'll release it in video. Stone opened the Big Finish envelope to reveal the restored cracker. Stone then had Don open a box of crackers jacks. The prizes was the signed twenty dollar bill that Don had been hoping for.

All the magicians did a professional job on fairly short

notice. Their efforts for the club and magic are appreciated. Special thanks go to Greg Wauson, Sherry Luft, Don Soul, Jeff Smith and Sandy at the Vacation Inn.

TAPE TALK

by Bill King

Easy To Master Money Miracles
Vol. 1 Michael Ammar

Michael Ammar is one of the most prolific writers and teachers involved in our art today. I was sorry to see him leave Austin, taking up residence in Las Vegas, since our visits will be less frequent. I have been an ardent fan of his for years, enjoying his easy style of presentation and solid grasp of what makes close-up performance so special. This tape was shot on location in Lake Tahoe with a live audience.

The first time the tape was viewed, "The 41 Cent Miracle" just flew right by me; however, on the second run, I found a piece that is now in my strolling repertoire. This enchanting bit of business is perfect for children, but works well with adults, too. As with a number of Michael's offerings, he takes a routine and completely remodels it to suit his taste. He credits this one to Steve and Lynn Konzen from their presentation in the Nov. 1994 issue of M.U.M. The story line which is Michael's own will be written in it's entirety to give you a feel for the profound messages.

My grandfather used to gather all the grandkids around on special occasions and tell a wonderful story. He used four coins, an Indian Head Penny, a Buffalo nickel, a Mercury dime, and a Standup quarter. Placing

the coins on a table in front of him, he began. "A quarter, a quarter-- the average person lets a quarter of their time slip through their fingers like water, not realizing that it's their life they're wasting. Killing time is not a simple crime, it's murder! If you are going to kill time, why not work it to death? The dime stands only half as tall as the nickel, but it is worth twice as much. Same thing is true of a lot of people-- never judge by appearances alone. The Buffalo nickel-- at least one out of every five people is full of bologna. Don't you be one of them! If this penny could talk, it would say-- save me, save me! That's because pennies make nickels, nickels make dimes, dimes make quarters and quarters make dollars. The average person spends their money and saves what's left. You do the opposite, save your money first and spend what's left. But don't be like people who spend their whole life counting their money--twenty five, thirty five, forty, forty one cents. The people who revolve their whole life around counting their money, may end up with a little bit of money, but a life that is worth nothing. Now as long as you live, study how to live and money will come to you--to play in your backyard, just to see what kind of person you are. Now to keep the spice of life, never lose your sense of wonder." He would always end by putting the coins away, leaving only the quarter on the table. Picking up the quarter, he would magically change it into a piece of peppermint candy. Ya-know--to this day, I can't eat a piece of peppermint without thinking of my grandfather!!

After each effect or group of pieces on this tape, a postscript is given entitled "The Real Secret." This is solid advice as to the psychology of the presentation.

In the magic just described, you are trying to reach out with your mystical arms and synergistically include each one of your listeners. Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to fool your audience, not to make a fool of anyone!

"The Jack Chanin Continuous Coin Production" is a perfect vehicle for Ammar's fertile mind. He first produces a silver dollar from a pocket handkerchief. This is repeated three more times then followed by the production of a giant coin. The finale is vintage M.A. with the appearance from under the cloth of a bunch of credit cards. An alternate ending would be the production of a giant Hershey's candy kiss. The "Credit Card Quickie" is a Tony Antoniou creation which presents a lightening fast broken and restored borrowed credit card. This could be used to precede a credit card to wallet sequence.

"The Bent Penny Transposition" is a coin routine with some vanishes, a transposition and the unexpected appearance of a bent penny in the spectator's hand. The bent penny can be given away as a memento of the event. "Homswoggled" is a George Stark-Jay Marlborough paper money counting thing that is neat. Michael relates that he is in Japan and wants to exchange some money at a bank. The initial counting shows \$20 from the teller, but when Mike counts the bills, it only tallies \$19. Hmm-- the piece continues with more counting until only \$19 can be found. After all is said and done, the last dollar is produced in coin from his hand in the form of four quarters.

"Snappy" is an Aldo Colombini idea on the coin matrix. T. Nelson Downs is credited with the first modern effect of this genre.

Nothing new here as to the content, but the use of a double-coin gimmick is unique as far as your scribe is aware. The coins begin in the four corners of the pad and end up in their original places. A neat practice drill using clear plastic cards to rehearse the routine is very helpful in learning the sequence of moves. Michael then offers his own version of this classic. An extremely clever loading of a coin begins his effort, typical of his incisive view of the close-up art. Howard Schwarzman's "Star Warp" is a nice twist in the time-honored card warp using a playing card and a dollar bill. I must report that to me the entertainment value of this piece was well off the usual high standard of Michael's things.

Back on track, in 1979 he created the "Incredible Coins Across", an inspired contribution to this classic of the craft. Ammar is a teacher of the stars with such luminaries as David Copperfield being just one of his students. I read an article some time past quoting David as recalling Michael's performance of this miracle for him one-on-one at the Magic Castle. Copperfield exclaimed that when the last coin fell into his hand, he was completely dumb-founded !! This presentation uses three visible coins instead of four, an approach I adopted from John Camey. The first two appear in the spectator's cupped hands, but after the second appearance, the performer's right hand becomes suspect. The kicker is the third coin's appearance apparently out of thin air. Tipping the method here would be like telling you what you're getting for Christmas, so pick up this tape and experience the wonder for yourself. David Roth's "Hanging Coins" is a natural follow-up to this piece.

A teaching aid called Super Practice is invoked here. It is nothing more than an over-the-shoulder shot of his hands performing the "edge grip;" however, this one little nuance has inspired yours truly to go back and learn this wonderful piece of magic.

A bonus effect is included in the form of Peter Pit's "Cash Back." Michael and Brad Henderson, a very talented performer from Austin collaborated to provide some improvements. The premise is that a jacket was returned from the dry cleaner's with a safety pin in the back and a dollar bill in the pocket. The dollar bill is identified as its' serial number is recorded on a piece of paper retained by a spectator. The safety pin vanishes from the performer's hand and the bill placed on the table changes into an inspection tag. The wonder worker turns around and a dollar bill is attached to the outside of his coat with-you guessed it- (the) safety pin! This great piece of magic takes some preparation, but the effect is marvelous.

This tape is must viewing for you close-up money workers.

Thanks for listening.

Jargon Watch

(Part III)

(Ed. note: This is a continuation of an article from Jon Racherbaumer containing descriptions of terms commonly used in magic.)

Kicker - n. This is an additional, unexpected effect that occurs just after the primary climax. Kickers can be sub-divided into Relevant

Kicker - n. This is an additional, unexpected effect that occurs just after the primary climax. Kickers can be sub-divided into Relevant Kickers, Irrelevant Kickers, and Anti-Climactic Kickers. A Relevant Kicker is clearly connected to the effect being performed. The surprise production of a large ball at the end of a Chop Cup routine is not a kicker, but the production of the second, large ball is a Relevant Kicker. If you perform Triumph and show that the mixture of face-up and face-down cards has changed to a normally faced deck, you've done a startling, direct effect. If you immediately show that the backs have changed colors, you have performed an Irrelevant Kicker. It surely surprises the audience, but the secondary effect is not related to the primary effect. In most Oil & Water presentations, the Red and Black cards are alternated and then magically separate. The Color Separation is the primary effect. If you immediately cause the colors to alternate again (The so-called Anti-Oil & Water ef

Kill - v. Any action that blocks or conceals a condition you want to hide from the audience. Suppose you have two face-up cards on top of the deck. You want to deal the top one to the table without revealing the one below it. Therefore, as you deal the top one, your left hand turns palm down to "kill" the face-up card on top of the deck.

Leak -- v. Refers to the visibility of a palmed object due to opened fingers. The palmed object is usually a playing card held in a Classic or Flat Palm. When the fingers (usually the third and fourth) slightly separate, the whiteness of the card's face or the redness/blueness of its back "leaks" through the opening between these fingers. Cards held in a Rear or Tenkai Palm

sometimes leak at the heel and near the wrist of the palming hand. The same problem vexes the Gambler's Cop.

Outs -- n. 1. Ways and means to overcome any difficulty in a magical presentation that would otherwise ruin or prevent its success. It's a fail-safe system because a secondary mechanism (outs) is built into the primary system (method of presentation) that ensures its workability if anything goes wrong. The term was given a deeper meaning by Charles H. Hopkins when he wrote Outs, Precautions, and Challenges in 1940. Psychic entertainers are preeminent practitioners of applying "outs" in their presentations. They were also pioneers in perfecting the second kind of "outs." 2. Multiple end points, a useful term coined by Dr. Persi Diaconis. These multiple end points ensure success because the performer doesn't specify in advance the exact nature of the effect's ending. In other words, there are a number of possible endings and the outcome depends on the spectator's behavior. Some psychic entertainers are sufficiently adept at thinking-on-their-feet and can spontaneously improvise "outs." Others use "multiple end

Peddle - v. The action of maneuvering the top card of the deck to the bottom as the deck is ostensibly cut. "He peddled the top card!" Also known as the Double Cut.

Playing The Light -- v. This refers to the handling and action-procedure of using a hand-glim to identify cards being dealt face down during a card game or magic trick.

Plays -- v. When a trick or sleight works as rehearsed and, more important, is acceptably received by its intended audience.



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

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. If something doesn't "play" or inconsistently "plays," it is generally rejected. Professionals often recommend tricks or presentations by saying, "This definitely plays."

Retro -- v. Short-hand term for Retrograde Analysis, used as a verb. "The way the trick is structured makes it difficult to retro."

- Jon Racherbaumer
(Joncards@aol.com)

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** KID MAGICIANS **

Remember to support our junior magicians. These are the future Lance Burtons. Mary Brown is doing her part to encourage young San Diego magicians by leading a students' magic club every other Thursday afternoon. She does welcome help from Ring 76 members to either teach or perform for these enthusiasts. Mary can be reached at (619) 560-5099.

Also, call Rick Bruce at (619) 299-1875 for more information about a new magic club for San Diego youth.

closet and bring it to the meeting, ready to show it off!

April 14: **Dues** will be collected at this meeting. Bring your checkbook or hard cash to renew your membership. Also, this is **swap meet** night, which is your opportunity to get hard cash for your favorite unused magical items. Our swap meets are always a hit. Hey, if yDon't miss it!

Turn in your
membership survey
form and earn a
ticket for our March
meeting's raffle.

Many thanks to Diane Lane for her work on the newsletter. Let us know if you'd like to join us in the fun!

WHAT'S COMING UP

NOTE: All regular meetings are at Francis Parker School, 6501 Linda Vista Rd. here in America's finest city!

March 10: This is our next monthly meeting. First, **Frank Herman** will present a **mini-lecture** using everyday items. This will be followed by the performance part of the meeting: "**your magical treasures**" where you can show us your cool gimmicks, effects, books or other magical stuff. Get your neat stuff out of your

May 12: **Lecture** night! We are pleased to present **Tom Mullica!** If you have ever seen him perform, you know this promises to be a special evening. This is free for Ring 76 members; non-members will be charged \$15.

June 9: **Elections...** Vote for your club officers!

**Our Next Meeting is Monday, March 10
Francis Parker School
6501 Linda Vista Rd.
San Diego
6:30 PM**

**Frank Herman Lecture
and
"Your Magical Treasures"**

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