

APRIL '97

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HONEST
SID
FRANK



MagiCurrents

Lance Burton review,
by, Don Soul

Lance Burton review: taken from the Magic Desert Seminar, by Don Soul

Lance likes to use child spectators on stage to help perform and, at this late hour (his 10:30) show, one small youngster did assist in his gallows illusion, in which Lance's shrouded figure is 'hung', or so we thought, kinda grisly for a kid to see but, oh well. The boy was rewarded with a magic kit after Burton descended from 60 feet above on the chandelier in the center of the auditorium! This is followed the Victrola stunt and then comes his famous disappearing corvette in which Lance and an audience guest quickly fade into the darkness only to reappear within a matter of seconds once again in the middle of the seating floor.

After a nice fifteen minute breather at which time the talented juggler Michael Goudeau climaxes his spot keeping a lit torch, a bowling ball and a running chain saw up in the air, Burton returns with his sword duel transformation routine and ends 'flying' his corvette into neverland!

All in all, it was highly entertaining and should be a must-see for any Ring 76er venturing to Las Vegas in the future. The reasonably priced tickets at \$35 per person assure you a wonderful time on your stay.

Happy Easter!

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Many thanks go to Skipper Frank for his lecture at the March meeting. We are fortunate to have him as a member of Ring 76. There are not very many magician's who have been the star of their own magic-themed TV show and Frank is one of them. At the board meeting on March 18, Don Soul showed a brief clip of one of Franks TV performances. Classic! And we were also pleased to present at our March meeting 12 year old Gabriel for his audition into the club. This kid is a natural; the future of magic is in good hands if there are many more like him! We are at the end of our 1996 fiscal year and are starting into the next. So what does this mean to you? Well, for one, you'll be \$20.00 lighter. Yep, dues are due in April and we'll be ready to gladly fleece the flock at our meeting on April 14. Pres. report cont. pg.5

MEETING MINUTES

Skipper' Frank Herman entertained Ring 76 with a mini-lecture to start off our March meeting. Skipper Frank delighted us with

only a dozen or so tricks from his vast repertoire. He started out with an Invisible

'Deck routine that surprisingly finished with a full deck house of cards. It was good to see that Frank is still working with a full deck. Frank then showed us a few card tricks that were ideal for impromptu magic.

Skipper Frank was given one of these tricks from Harry Blackstone Sr. Skipper Frank walked us through a Psycho Wallet

routine, some cork magic/puzzles, rope

tricks, and some dice predictions. Skipper

Frank showed us a wide variety of magic

and large amounts humor as well as a deep

love for magic. Skipper Frank, as always,

was entertaining and informative. We are

lucky to have him as part of our magic

community. closed with the coin

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through the hanky illusion. Gabe showed a great deal of composure and a great sense of himself. He did an outstanding job and was unanimously voted our newest and youngest member. Congratulations Gabreil. In the business portion of the meeting, Treasurer **Bill Monroe**, presented **Bill Gillis** with his International membership card, pin and certificate. Monroe also presented **Bonnie Love** with a certificate of appreciation for her outstanding ring audition. Welcome, to both Bill and Bonnie

President Greg Wauson welcomed 25 members and seven guests while reminding us that ring dues are due in April. We were hoping to have a free to members lecture in April, but decided to have the lecture in May.

By delaying the lecture we are able to have **Tom Mullica** as our lecturer. There is a lot of enthusiasm for Mullica and we expect a great turn out for his lecture. Our April meeting will be a swap meet. Francis Parker school needed a magician for a 500 person event in April. **Joe Mystic** and then **Filo** both volunteered to perform. **Sumit** announced a magic show on April 9th, at UCSD, starring six local magicians. Wauson reminded the membership that board elections will be held in June and that people interested in being on the board should contact him. Wauson also announced that he will be sponsoring a **John Fedko** lecture on June 23. As you can see, we will be having a lot of magic in the next few months.

The next portion of the evening started out with **Joe Mystic** performing a smooth signed card to the wallet routine. Mystic once again should enthusiasm and humor. He was followed by **Filo** who entertained us with a deck of marked cards that he subtly read to find the spectators card. **Greg Wauson** then shared a Drum Head Tube that he purchased at Disneyland twenty years ago. **Sumit** convinced **Joe Mystic** to give him two five's. **Sumit** then did an unusual card vanish that had the card reappear in someone's jacket. Great job. **Jeff Marcus** then lead us through some of the trick offered by Magic Works. Our final perform of the evening was our guest from Belgium, **Tristin**. **Tristin** did an excellent Triumph type trick that had a great ending. All the performs were great and we are getting more performers each meeting.

After the mini-lecture, the Ring had the pleasure of an audition by **Gabriel Alvarez**. Gabe is a twelve year old student at the Francis Parker school. Gabe auditioned with a rapid fire series of tricks that included: ring through a string, two ropes melting into one, two ones to a two, some sponge ball magic, a card trick, and he closed with the coin through the hanky illusion. Gabe showed a great deal of composure and a great sense of himself. He did an outstanding job and was unanimously voted our newest and youngest member. Congratulations Gabreil!

Needed great team players, willing to work hard for a good cause. Don't worry no IRS problems, there is no pay for the positions. Get involved, different positions available.

See one of the board members!

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. "Hornswoggled" 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 cleaver 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 Carney. 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.

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RING 76 BOARD MEETING MINUTES. MARCH 1997

Attendees: Tom Kazner, Bill Monroe, Don Soul, Greg Wauson, Gary Schwartzwald. We all agreed that Skipper Frank Herman did a great mini-lecture and that the board would send Frank a thank you.

Tom Kasner has sent in an IBM convention advertisement on behalf of Ring 76. The ad will run in the convention program honoring the 75th IBM convention.

April - Our April meeting will be a swap meet and remember April means that your dues are due. All paid members will attend our **May Lecture at no charge.**

May - The May lecturer will be **Tom Mullica**. The lecture will start at 6:45. It appears that Mullica will do a small group workshop before the lecture. See Bill Monroe to sign up for the workshop.

President Greg Wauson will have John Fedko as a lecture on June 23rd. The lecture will be at Greg's home. We also discussed the possibility of sharing lecturers with the John Fedko ring. The board is considering a future lecture by Mitch Williams. we will keep you posted.

The board is also exploring options for the July 14 installation event. If you have suggestions about locale or entertainment, please talk with a board member.

We look forward to seeing you at our swap meet on April 14th.

An open letter to the members of Ring 76:

The board members of Ring 76 want to do everything possible to bring you the highest quality meetings to entertain and inform you. In addition, we want to give you the opportunity to perform in an environment in which you can feel secure and appreciated. We have recently received a few comments from people who attended our meetings in Feb. and March who shared with us their displeasure with a small minority of the attendee's behavior as audience members. Please remember that performers deserve your attention and respect. We want the meetings to be fun with real live people in the audience who can respond to the entertainers but do try to politely limit your comments and actions. Thank you.

Ring 76 Board Members



I.B.M. Ring 76

1997 Board of Directors

Greg Wauson - President
11007 Red Robin Place
San Diego, CA 92126
(619) 566-5654
wauson@incom.net
gwauson@comstream.com

Sherry Luft - Vice President
3760 Florida St. #208
San Diego, CA 92104
(619) 543-0354

Bill Monroe - Treasurer
589 North Johnson, Apt 257
El Cajon, CA 92020
(619) 590-1134

Tom Kasner - Sergeant-At-Arms
12859 Calle De Las Rosas
San Diego, CA 92129-3014
(619) 484-0695

Gary Schwartzwald - Secretary
6135 Haas St.
La Mesa, CA 92042
(619) 697-9468

DON'T FORGET THE CLUB SWAP MEET!
APRIL 14, 1997

Don Soul - Member-At-Large
10068 Branford Drive
San Diego, CA 92129
(619) 484-3492

Rick Bruce - Member-At-Large
7710 Hazard Center Rd, #226
San Diego, CA 92108
(619) 299-1875
rbruce@pmrp.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS to MagiCurrents are \$10 per year for out of the area magicians.

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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Jargon talk—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.

pres. report cont. pg.1

For your measly twenty bucks your officers will do their best to provide for you during the year a variety of meeting themes that are intended to strengthen your knowledge, experience in performing and enjoyment of our magical art. And our desire is to do this with a personal touch through hands-on teaching and other ideas to bring magicians together. You also receive the Ring 76 newsletter which will keep you informed of club happenings and other magical stuff!

So do be sure to bring your check-book or cash to our next meeting on April 14....and not just to pay dues. This will be the night of our annual swap meet. It's always a good time to see magic tricks I've never heard of and to look for bargains. A few years ago I picked up a pair of sponge bananas at one of our swapmeets for next to nothing and Brenda and I put together a storyline which has been a real hit at some of my kids shows. On the other side of the coin, you're invited to bring some of your magic tricks, books and videos which you've outgrown or never got around to using and offer them for sale. We charge the usual five dollars for each table you use to how your wares. Since the last couple of auctions we've presented on swapmeet nights haven't had strong interest, our plan is to forego it this year and stick with just the swapmeet. This should be a lot of fun and maybe even JP will make it out for this meeting.

We are also looking forward to the Tom Mullica lecture which will be at our May 12 meeting. This is a freebie for paid-up members. Spouses of members are also invited for no fee. Non-members will be charged \$15, payable at the door. In addition, Tom is offering an optional 90 minute workshop for \$25 per person, whether or not someone is a member of Ring 76. This will begin at 4:45, a couple of hours before the lecture. Participation will be limited to 15 people which will give you an oppor-

tunity for more personalized training from Tom and all proceeds from the workshop will go directly to him.

Please note there is no package deal; a non-member who wants to attend both the workshop and the regular lecture will need to pay \$40. A sign-up list for the workshop will be available at the April meeting.

If you are interested in becoming an officer of Ring 76 please see me or one of the other board members. I have served as vice-president for two years and as president for one. It has been a time of personal growth for me in these positions and has been very rewarding. As an officer you will play a part in making decisions which affect your club. The pay is not great (I tell people that being president plus a dollar will buy me a cup of coffee) but life is too short not to go for the gusto and jump in and get involved in your world. Magically yours, Greg

More Jargon talk.....

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 pre-eminent 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 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. It is an empirical judgment based on many performances. It's a first-step criterion. An effect or act must at least "play" to be considered usable or worth learning. 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." Retrograde Analysis -- A term cribbed from Raymond Smullyan, philosopher, logician, magician, and puzzle-master. There's a form of chess detection known as "retrograde analysis." These chess problems require pure, deductive reasoning. Unlike conventional chess problems (which are concerned with the correct number of future moves required for White to win), retrograde analysts are concerned with the immediate history of what happened during a game. A magic effect is more difficult.



ALWAYS

April 97 CODE



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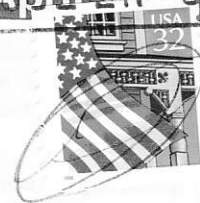
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