



# MagiCurrents



## President's Message

On January 12th, 38 of us saw one of the best nights of magic that could be found anywhere. The close-up contest was a great success because of the Ring 76 members that chose to give it a try. Congratulations to the 11 performers. You each did a great job and I can't wait to see you (and some new contestants) at the stand-up contest in June. The only bad news is that we'll all have to wait until the July installation event to find out who the top vote getter is. It really was an evening of great magic, style and humor. There is a lot more magic on its way to San Diego. Our next Ring 76 meeting is a Paul Green lecture on February 9th, on February 5th Craig Stone is hosting a Martin Nash lecture, and on March 5th the East County Magic Club (contact Dick Dale) is hosting a Danny Archer lecture. That should keep you interested and learning for a while. Believe it or not, there is more on the way.

Please contact Rick Bruce if you can help with the Ring 76 public show. Rick has been kind enough to volunteer to organize the show as a very much

needed fundraiser for the Ring. We are lucky that Rick is so giving and has a short memory. Please participate, it should be fun and will really help the Ring 76 bank account. If you know people who are interested in magic let them know about Ring 76 and our upcoming events. I hope you're enjoying the Ring. If you are, let me know, if you're not, let one of the other board members know. Seriously, we are working to make it a good ring for the membership and if you have input of any kind, please talk to us.

See you February 9th for the Paul Green lecture. Have fun.

*Gary S*

## Magic In The Air

February 5th at 7 pm Martin Nash will be in town for a lecture. Craig Stone is the sponsor. Contact him at Brad Burt's for details.

A&E cable channel plans to rerun the Biography on Harry Houdini. And on February 11th, PBS will air The Art of Magic. Consult your TV listings for times.

March 5th a lecture by Danny Archer will be presented at El Cajon High School.

And let's not forget, the I.B.M. convention will be held July 1st through the 4th in Century City, L.A. Please plan on attending.

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I.B.M. Ring 76

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

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

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**MagiCurrents**  
10068 Branford Road  
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# Ring 76 January Meeting

The usual pre-meeting was set aside this evening to allow for enough time as our eagerly-anticipated Close-Up Contest garnered a whopping 11 contestants! Open to all members of Ring 76, it was indeed gratifying to see the response. Leading off was mentalist **Rick Bruce** who gave us a matching card prediction, a signed (on the back) card location in a face-up pile and his now famous Gypsy Thread routine. Next up was recently-honored IBM member **Jeff Smith** who delighted us with a card prediction using a decorative scarf, a candy machine ala Pea Can and a stunning signed-card-in-candy tin that still has us scratching our heads. The third contestant was **Sumit Dua** decked out in a tux, no less! He performed Mental Photography, an invisible deck "your card" effect, Twisting the Aces, the wonderful Guy Hollingworth torn and restored signed card (he's really improving with that one) and a selected card in a sealed envelope.

**Gabe Travers**, our 13 year old boy wonder, gave a brilliant and flawless performance as he retrieved props from his treasure box to show us a coin transposition, a selected card which left an impression on the handkerchief the deck was wrapped in and a great presentation of a quarter to Bahama coin switch inside a coin envelope. Following that was last year's president **Greg Wauson** who did a nice copper/silver transposition, a \$1-\$5 swindle, dollar bill pen penetration and Dan Harlan's Cardtoon. The sixth performer was **Gary Dismukes** who reversed a selected card in the deck very cleanly then followed with a single-card duplicated four times ala Mental Photography only to display the rest of the blank-faced deck as having 52 entirely different backs!

Next up card sharp **Bill Monroe** gave us Ambitious Aces while dealing the perfect hand at any of four positions. He followed with a unique twist on Tony Griffith's Pokerdem (Linking Ring, Aug. '97), a presentation I hope he allows some of us to steal. Bafflin' Bill Cody (**Loch David Crane**) took center stage next and had two members of the audience help divine a famous

historical character from the late 1800's whose names were written on a cowhide. He followed this with a three-stack card coincidence prediction match. The next entertainer was **Tom Schmidt** who slammed coin after coin through the table without leaving any holes. No, it wasn't a gimmicked card table. He then presented his own creation Melt Down and followed by bringing out his secret assistant (a trained flea) who located a selected card from under a handkerchief. This was followed by a jumping card routine and a smooth card Color Separation.

**Paul Thomey**, who keeps getting better and better (if that's possible) as time progresses, was our 10<sup>th</sup> contestant. Jack the Ripper was his theme as he did a knife penetration through a handkerchief then followed with a spectator selecting a card only to find its corner torn in the deck later. It was, of course, the Jack. Finally, budding star **Misha Osinovskiy** (don't forget that name) showed us how he hangs coins invisibly in mid-air, finds a selected card under a scarf (maybe the flea was still on the table) and closed

*(Continued on page 5)*

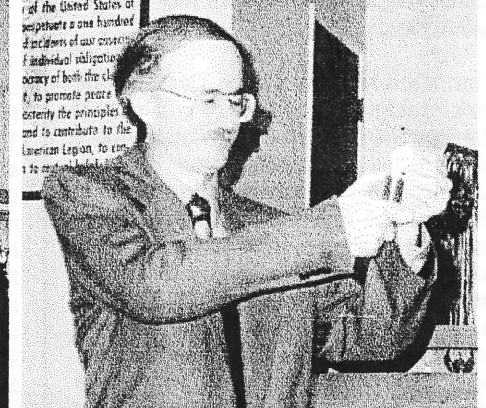
## About Ring 76...

- Members must be at least 12 years old
- Non-members may attend three Ring 76 meetings at no charge (except for special events)
- Local dues are \$20 per year (under 18 years is \$10)
- Membership in the IBM international organization is required. IBM dues are \$40 the first year. You will then receive "The Linking Ring" magazine, one of magic's best publications.
- Prospective members are required to perform a five-minute magic audition at a Ring 76 meeting.
- Ring 76 members receive the monthly MagiCurrents newsletter and may attend all monthly meetings at no charge.

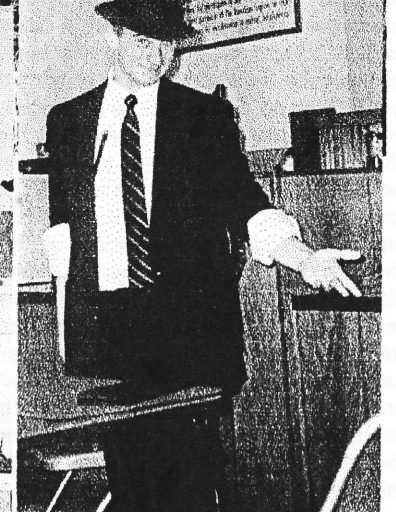




## Close Up Contest



*Top left, clockwise: Rick Bruce, Jeff Smith, Gabe Travers, Gary Dismukes, Loch David Crane, Misha Osinovskiy, Paul Thomey, Tom Schmidt, Bill Monroe and Sumit Dua. Center: Greg Wauson. All did a bang up job entertaining and vying for the coveted Close Up Competition award to be presented at this year's officer installation banquet in July.*



# Tape Talk

by Bill King

## "Card Shark" by Darwin Ortiz

Darwin's work on cards in "The Annotated Erdnase" published in 1991 introduced your scribe to the wonderful view he has of this medium of our craft. Ever the technician of high standards, he presents seven effects on this video. Some of the material requires some knuckle-busting, but the bulk is within reach of most of us.

The "One-Handed Poker Deal" is the most technically demanding piece of the lot. His premise is the notion that a friend once commented that the only way he would play cards with Darwin is that he had one hand tied behind his back. He then demonstrates a one-handed riffle shuffle, cut and deal of poker for two. The shuffle, in actuality a faro shuffle, is the most difficult part of the routine and will take some practice. The result is a very impressive sight. The cut is the standard Charlier Pass or cut if you will. The deal is a striking way to turn the cards over and attributed to Oriental blackjack dealers. Alternately, Darwin uses the Neil Elias cut which is more difficult to my eye than the Charlier.

"The Psychotronic Card" is an effect developed by Darwin for British television. The major requirement was to be able to show a slow-motion series of frames and not give away the sleights needed to perform the little miracle. The four kings from a blue back deck are placed on the table face up and the balance replaced in the box. A red back deck is produced and a single card is turned face down in the center of the face up spread. The red cards are peeled off one at a time still face up until the spectator finds one that they like. The card is signed on the face and laid face down on the table. The four blue kings are picked up and the signed selection is placed among them. The selection then vanishes cleanly from the packet. It is then revealed in the center of the red deck as the card that had been originally turned face down. Compeers, if you are not completely blown away by the disappearance of the selection from the four card packet, then you, unlike most of us have truly seen it all!

"Four to One" is a very straight forward card(s) transposition. The Ace of Spades is placed face down on the table. The four Kings are now carefully put on the table and the spectator places their hand over them. The single Ace is touched by the wonder worker and spread into four (you guessed it) Kings and the four Kings covered by the helper's hand a moment ago have been changed into the Ace of Spades. A neat bit of business that requires a double lift, an Elmsley Count and a slick secret ingredient. No cookbook this--you'll just have to check out the tape for yourself.

"The Unholy Three", even though I'm not too thrilled with the title, is a snazzy transposition of three selected cards that jump from one place to another. Three helpers are asked to pick a card and place their initials on the back of three red back cards. These are then placed in three different parts of the red deck and a spectator covers it with their hand. The wonder worker then cuts a blue deck in three places to reveal the three selected cards face up. The finale is when the three cards from the blue deck are turned over to show that these are indeed the original red back selections, initials and all!

"Museum Piece" involves a delightful story about a tour Darwin made of a Spanish playing card company's manufacturing facility. As a souvenir of his visit he was given a deck of cards that had not yet been printed, thus they were blank on both sides. A spectator is asked to select any four of these blank cards and check them out on both sides. The performer then proceeds to show that the four selections have faces and backs. To top the piece off, you can then show the cards to have transformed back to the blank condition giving the blanks to the helper as a memento of the occasion. A Marlo drop move and a clever method of turning the deck over in one hand called "The Flop" are techniques utilized here that are worthy of your examination.

"The Cross" is a exposé of card cheats that starts with dealing the four kings onto the table face up. They are openly stacked face up in a face down deck and dealt by the cardician with each king coming into his hand one at a time and then turned face downward. The transformation occurs as the four cards dealt to the player across from the performer are now the four kings

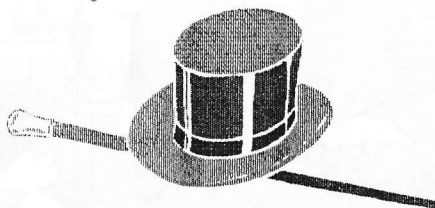
seen just a moment ago in the dealers hand. The big surprise hits as the wonder worker turns his hand over to reveal the four ACES!

To conclude the session, maestro Ortiz presents a vignette entitled "The Showdown." A young card shark seeks out the old master card shark and challenges him to a demonstration of his ability. The stakes are set at the young man's new Cadillac El Dorado against the old man's entire bank holding. The old hustler brags that he can take a shuffled deck and cut without hesitation to four of a kind. The four queens are laid on the table face up and to prevent any switches, they are signed on their faces, two each by two bystanders. The old card shark proceeds in cutting to three of the queens turning them face down in front of him. But when the fourth cut card is turned over it is a two of spades. Bummer for the old guy, he loses! However, before the youngster can grab his prize, the old master reminds him that he bragged to cut to four of a kind--which four of a kind wasn't mentioned. The old man then turns the three face down cards to show they are the three mates to the two of spades. To top that as a finish, he has previously laid a wallet under one spectator's hand and a key case under the second helper's palm. The old guy then rubs salt in the wound by producing the first two signed queens from his two pants pockets. To add insult to injury, the final two signed queens are revealed in the zippered compartment of the wallet and the inside of the key case. Card To Wallet is one of my favorite effects and Darwin certainly incorporates this marvel into the routine in a nifty manner.

There is a sameness about many of the pieces on this tape with lots of transpositions, but the nice narratives that go with them plus the techniques involved makes this video good material for card workers.

As always, thanks for listening

Bill





## RING 76 JANUARY BOARD MEETING

*by Don Soul, secretary*

The board meeting was held at Gary Schwartzwald's home on January 26th. Attending were Dick and Julie Dale, Tom La Chance, Don Soul and Gary. The meeting opened with a discussion of the Close-Up Contest at which time it was agreed that a second and third place award should go to runners-up at the July installation banquet.

New business was covered next. Because of a small budget the newsletter shall remain at from four to six pages. As a result, the board decided to discontinue features such as Tape Talk due to lack of space. Next, it was decided that club dues should remain at \$20/year when dues are to be renewed in April. This will help rebuild the treasury.

A review of future meeting themes was tackled next. The March meeting will consist of a pre-meeting swap meet and a fundraising Goodwill auction. The April meeting is set to include a surprising and valuable event members should not miss. The theme is to be

A site for the installation banquet was next on the agenda. Larger facilities used in the past such as Villani's were rejected due to cost. The board therefore intends to pursue smaller venues such as the Casa Picante restaurant, the El Cajon community center, the Legion Hall and Jack White's business facility. Should such facility lack a food preparation area, the party will be catered.

The treasurer reported funds of \$675.25. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

## This Month's Meeting

This month's meeting features a lecture by Paul Green. Paul is one of the most successful restaurant magicians in the country as well as being an accomplished trade show magician and lecturer. There are many tricks to his trade and Paul will share many of them with you.

The lecture starts at 7:00 at the American Legion Hall but there will be a pre-meeting address at 6:30 to conduct business and the raffle.

This is one lecture - free to members, non-members \$10 - that you won't want to miss. See you there!

## Invite a friend

Next time someone comes up to you after a performance and expresses how interested they are in magic, why not let them know that Ring 76 welcomes visitors to the monthly meetings. It's one of the reasons that Rings exist throughout the country and a great way for them to learn magic!

A Goodwill auction is set for March. All proceeds from the auction will go directly into the treasury. Items donated by members should be worth a retail value of at least \$10 with a minimum starting bid of \$5. Auctions in the past have always been well attended and the bidding fast and furious. Great fun and bargains are guaranteed!

Ring 76 Online

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

Sponsors:

**SEAN KEYS - WEBSMART**



**Support Ring 76 and get a web page, too. Contact Greg Wauson at (619)566-5654 for details.**

## January Meeting

*(Continued from page 2)*

by dropping a razor blade into a deck of cards in a card case, shaking the case then dumping out a shredded deck with the exception of the previously selected card.

This evening gave us stellar performances by members whose efforts in routining and presentation were clearly evident. They all put a lot of time into their work and it was thoroughly appreciated by those in attendance. Unfortunately, as hard as it is to select the best, only one Ring 76er will be named Close-Up Performer of the Year at our annual banquet in July. Until then, it's

## WHERE'S THE LA MESA AMERICAN LEGION HALL?

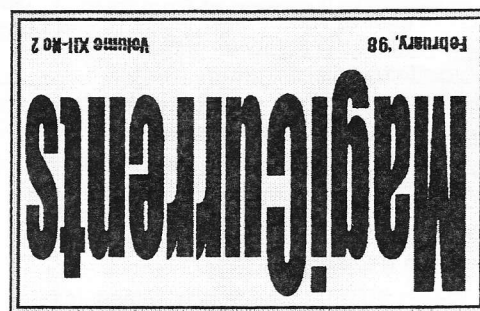
It's located south of the Interstate 8 freeway. Heading east of I-15, take the Spring St. exit and bear right. Go to the end and you'll be right there in the parking lot! Heading west of I-125, take the El Cajon Blvd. exit, turn left at Baltimore and go past El Cajon Blvd. The Hall will be on the left. Make a U-turn at Spring St. and enter the parking lot just past the hall.

San Diego, CA 92129-3223

10068 Branford Rd.

Don & Donna Soul

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10068 Branford Road  
San Diego, CA  
92129



## At the Magic Castle

## What's Happening

- February 9 7:00 pm American Legion Hall - La Mesa  
theme: Lecturer Paul Green
- February 23 7:00 pm Board meeting  
Tom La Chance's home
- March 16 6:30 pm American Legion Hall - La Mesa  
theme: Goodwill auction/fundraiser  
pre-meeting: Swap meet
- March 23 7:00 pm Board Meeting  
Tom La Chance's home
- April 13 6:30 pm American Legion Hall  
theme: Bag Nite  
pre-meeting: A special 1-hour event  
you won't want to miss!
- April 27 7:00 pm Board meeting  
Don Soul's home

February 16 - 22	Feb 23 - Mar 1	March 2 - 8
<b>CLOSE-UP GALLERY</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 <u>Allan Hayden</u> Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 David Avadon	<b>CLOSE-UP GALLERY</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 R. Paul Wilson Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 Fernando Keops	<b>CLOSE-UP GALLERY</b> Early - 7:30 - 8:30 - 9:30 David Regal Late - 10:30 - 11:30 - 12:30 Jeff Farmer
<b>PARLOUR</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 The Falkenstien Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 George Towar	<b>PARLOUR</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Andy Nyman Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Phil Cass	<b>PARLOUR</b> Early - 7:45 - 8:45 - 9:30 Mark Haslam Late - 10:15 - 11:15 - 12:15 Fernando Keops
<b>PALACE of MYSTERY</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 Amos Levkovich Larry Wilson & Co	<b>PALACE of MYSTERY</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 Billy McComb Ed Alonzo & Co	<b>PALACE of MYSTERY</b> 8:30 - 10:00 - 11:15 Whit Hayden Christopher Hart Jason Byrne

### Lectures (for magician members only)

Lectures are presented on Sundays at 3 p.m. in the Parlour. Please note however that as our Annual General Meeting has now been postponed until February 22, ANDY NYMAN'S previously scheduled lecture on that date has been moved up to 1 P.M.

- Feb 8 James Chantler  
Brown This will be James' first lecture in the Magic Castle. He will be presenting novel, original magic, with the emphasis on leaving you 'clean' at the conclusion of each effect, for both stage and close-up.
- 15 Allan Hayden Another first timer, Allan is well-known for his many books on magic and his unusual, off-the-wall comedy magic. He will be showing and explaining many original effects from his extensive repertoire.
- 22 Andy Nyman Andy is a first class professional mentalist from England, who will be performing in the Parlour the following week. He has a most enjoyable performing style and has many twists and subtleties to show.