



MagiCurrents

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

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An Apology to my readers (and E. A. Poe)

Once upon a weekday dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary, over many a quaint and curious articles of magician lore,

While I slumped over keyboard taping, cutting pasting, sentence scrapping, trying to produce a publication, and get it in the mail once more,

suddenly there came a clapping, beeping, whirring, message wrapping, "**Fatale Error**," flashing, crashing, on the screen, and nothing more.

"Tis some small glitch," I muttered, "flashing on my screen once more- Only this and nothing more."

Ah, distinctly, I thought sober, that this letter in October, would be my first production of five or six good pages more, It would have stories from other source, from speculation, and mouths of the horse, and new areas of magic I would endeavor to explore,

In the pages would be all of this, and so much more.

Steadily I worked the copy, cutting pasting, tossing sloppy, for the works of magic authors that I respected even more.

Local interest that I was sent, even works on the Internet,

and subjects of some interest in the long lost pages of forgotten lore,

all fleshed out with silly art, clippings, drawings, all in their part, to bring about a letter that my pride would be enough to bore, that is all I asked of this publication, only this and nothing more.

But as I added page of prose, I failed to notice the size had grown, in both volume and complication, confusing my poor keyboard by the score,

and so in firm retaliation for the work of automation, my computer took to vengeance, vengeance for the task it bore.

When I hit print and sat there placid, my machine just looked back flaccid, flashing a small notice on its' office door,

"Fatal error" and nothing more.

Presently my soul grew flush, as from my printer there came a hush,

"Sir," said I, "or Madam, truly I must implore; But the fact is I am waiting, as is the printer, anticipating, to duplicate my work by the score,"

And as the deadline came I howled, my

So the moral of this story I beseech you to implore,

that all the grand dreams man may create, when he is a fool, and tempts the fate, can crash around him like cards scattered on his dwelling floor,

for if his fingers are gently trapping, and his work he starts to wrapping, relies upon a computer bought down at the local store,

The work he strives so to create may be stopped at an electric gate, and see the light of day nevermore.

September Meeting

There was no one out of joint this month. Our pre-Meeting teach in was on the magic of thumb tips, and every member received one at the door. Hosted by Vice-president **Dick Dale**, the Ring was presented with a mild history of the magic digit, rules on proper fit, and dos and don'ts on working with fire. Along with the traditional vanishing of the silk, members were shown the use of dollar

poor newsletter locked deep in the bowls, of this inhuman monster of Faustian lore.

bills, salt, matches, ropes and string. Dr. Zola's Salt Passe', the Zombie thumb tip, the sixth finger, and the Darwin books on digital legerdemain, were also demonstrated or discussed. After the teach in, member **Loch David Crane** showed us some of the great magic he saw at the SAM/ Austrian National Magic Convention this last June. There was education all around.

Meeting

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Dick Dale reported that several cities will be making Magic Week proclamations, and **Loch David Crane** reported that the Villa Montezuma may be the site of several shows on the weekend of October 23. More details will be forthcoming. **Rick Bruce** announced that the San Diego Junior theater will be presenting the play, "The Witches" which involves several large illusions he is the technical advisor for. **Tom Kasner** announced the new Ring 76 web site at <http://24.30.149.34>. A good site, it will be updated soon.

The magical theme for the evening was, "My Favorite Trick." **Loch David Crane** used Indian lore patter to explain how a knife can find a chosen card by stabbing the deck. **Gary Schwartzwald** impressed the members with his card skills as he 2nd delt, third delt, 2nd bottom delt, and Elmsley counted. Continuing the unofficial card theme, **Richard Ustick** presented his favorite, "What's Next." While most cards have only two sides, Richard showed that his had four. His simple explanation masked the surprising finish. The next magician on deck was **Rick Bruce**. Calling on the spirit world he unlocked a lock sealed in a small "spirit cabinet." When the invisible spirit turned the key in his hand, the pad lock clicked open as well. **Greg Wauson** pulled a Hip Hop half, and a Kangaroo Copper out of his pocket, and no matter which one he put in his pants, it would zip right back in his hand. **Don Soul** wanted to do a card trick but forgot his deck, so with the help of a member of the audience, and an invisible deck, he

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm with eighteen members, and four guests, in attendance. President **Julie Dale**, and Treasure **Gary Dismukes**, sent their regrets, and the meeting was run by Vice-president **Dick Dale**. The guests were, Ashley McDaniel, brought by her father Bryan, Bob Matchiske and Ismael Sanchez, who have had a long interest in the magical arts, and Seth Asser, former amazed us with Kenton Knepper's Kolossal Killer effect. **Bryan McDaniel**, Marine, demonstrated the proper use of firearms in card magic and helped an assistant shoot a chosen card from a giant deck across the room. After several shots, hitting the table skirt, the flower vase, and table stand, the chosen card was revealed. **Jeff Marcus** finished the magical evening by borrowing a five dollar bill, and in full view changing it into a fifty. Joy turned to despair when the spectator watched as Jeff transformed the fifty back to his five, before it was returned. As always, the magic was top notch.

Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 19:00. In the absence of president Julie Dale, the meeting was run by VP Membership Tom La Chance.

The IBM sent the official membership rooster, with instructions to check it against the Ring 76 membership rooster. You must be a member in good standing with the national organization to be a member of local Ring 76. The membership will be examined and those late in registration will be notified. For any questions please see Tom La Chance.

There will not be a "Magic Week" show this year at Montezuma Hall. Loch David Crain reports that his attempts to schedule a show were not successful. For further information please contact Loch.

Dennis Loomis did not make his lecture, at Jack's Magic Palace, last

Ring 76 member who just moved back from Texas. The business of the meeting involved the upcoming "Magic Week" events for next month.

See Meeting on Page 2

month. While advanced notice of the cancellation was not given to talk organizers, Loomis's family issued their regrets, citing medical reasons. While not an official Ring 76 function, the Board does apologize for the inconvenience of the attendees, and hope for a speedy recovery for Mr. Loomis. Information on the availability of the lecture tape will be sought.

Rick Bruce has been contacted about the appearance of his magic youth group, "A.C.E.S.", at this year's Christmas banquet. He will bring it up at their next meeting, and will get back with the Board.

Mike Stilwell reports that the Spring Valley PTA has changed its Board of directors and at this time is not interested in Magic shows as a way of making money. Mike will continue to be in contact with the PTA and notify us should any change occur.

Skipper Frank, long time fixture in magic, has had some setbacks in health in recent weeks. He is currently at the VA Hospice and in the care of family and friends. Our thoughts go out to this fine magical fellow. We will keep you informed of his condition.

The October 11th meeting will feature a lecture by magician Tom Allen. The pre-meeting will feature magic collectors. As usual there will be no raffle at this meeting.

The Board examined ideas for pre-meeting lectures for the future. Among the ideas proposed were collections of magic business cards, member's scrapbooks, etc. Any ideas or interests that members may have can be directed to any of the Board members, or by contacting the newsletter.

The Board then examined ways to increase revenues for the Ring. The idea of producing a "Magic Calender" was proposed and discussed in detail. It may feature pictures of Ring 76 members, classics in magic, list important dates in magical history, and magical birthdays. Don Soul will work on a prototype for an upcoming Board meeting. It was speculated that a calender of good quality could not be produced for this year, but perhaps the next. Ideas from the Ring will be welcomed.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

The next Board meeting will be on October 25, at 19:00, the home of Richard Ustick. As always all Ring members are invited.



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frustrating, and sometimes even thankless. Sometimes people ask me why I do it. Sometimes I ask. The following anecdote goes some of the way towards explaining my motivation.

When I was a child, I watched a magician on television. He was all about wonder and fantasy. I still remember him personally telling me, as I ignored the millions of other eavesdroppers, that sometimes the little miracles are as important as the big miracles. Maybe he meant that making a personal Jet vanish took the same amount of air time as a rubber band trick, but I chose to believe that he meant something more metaphysical. I never saw him do a

A Chance to Say "Thank You"

Rick Bruce

I've been mentoring young magicians for about three years now. It can be hard,

trick, but he mentioned me in the ways of miracles. I've always wanted to meet him and thank him. Unfortunately, Doug Henning retired from the

performance of magic before I rediscovered the craft and art of making miracles. You see, when I was young I never found any local mentors to carry on the work that Henning started.

Recently I was at the Magic Castle. I had gone to see one of my talented young magicians close the Palace show. As I innocently climbed the short staircase near the Palace I was stopped cold. I have never in my life been completely star-struck. But here I was, an 11-year-old child, looking into the eyes of the man who had given me a gift that even now leads me on new adventures. I hadn't seen him, even on television, since I was in high school. He was older, dressed a bit differently with shorter hair, but I looked in his eyes and saw that smile and recognized Doug Henning in less than a heartbeat.

All I wanted to say was "thank you". It would be enough. What I managed to croak out was "oh my goodness". There was an acknowledging smile and a nod from each of us. The moment passed. Doug smiled and moved on to review a

picture of his friend Kuda Bux. With the moment passed, I didn't feel it would be appropriate to follow him and thank him. I had missed my chance.

Later that evening I made the trek back to San Diego. In my mind I reviewed my protegee's performance. I was cataloging what we could do to improve an act that already was a cut above most. On measure I was proud to be associated with such talented young people. During my reverie, Doug Henning watched the Palace show. As the show came to a close, unbeknownst to him, he was watching a third generation product of his own talent. In a very real way, I was able to thank Doug after all.

MagiCurrents welcomes all articles, artwork, and information from Ring 76 Stardom. The new star search vehicle, seen Saturday nights at 8:00pm on COX cable channel 51.

The production crew insisted that Josh perform under full house and stage lights which, unfortunately, can be counterproductive to bird work. In fact, during the second rehearsal his lead bird (the one that flies over the audience and returns) flew into the lighting. The crew told him that he didn't have time to retrieve his bird and so he had to preform without his flyer. His substitute bird did not perform well. Not a good thing.

On a happier note, A.C.E.S. member Joel Ward (reigning IBM teen stage champion) has been selected to appear on a special that Lance Burton is producing in December. When Lance called him at home the other evening, Joel laughed at him assuming that it was Josh or one of his Magic Castle buddies playing a trick on him.

We will try to keep you up to date on when these acts will be shown.

members and other magicians. Please send you works to "MagiCurrents" 6040 Bob St., La Mesa, CA 91942. Or send it via E-Mail to rustick@flash.net. All works become property of MagiCurrents and may be edited for content.

Things not always *Friendly* in the "Aloha" state

You can't tug on Blackstone's cape. You can't spit into the wind. You can't get no

respect as the Masked Magician, and T.V. isn't all glitz and glory.

At least that is what local A.C.E.S. Josh K. found out when he flew to Hawaii to appear on PAX T.V.'s "Destination



Ghost Editorial

ED: I often participate on the Internet Chat Board "Magic Talk." It is a wealth of information and opinions, most of which is invaluable. One evening a young magician posted a "help" message. He just took a job doing a children's magic show and had no idea what to do. Jon A. Hand was there with sage advice. With the holidays coming up many Ring 76 members may be called on for children's shows. I thought the advice might serve us well so I wrote Jon and asked him to share his wisdom..

In Response To: HELP! Kid Show Coming Up (Alan)

If you must do these shows, here is some advice.

Learn a warmup to get some energy out of the kids and weld them together as an audience before the magic begins.

1. Easy to find books with real help in them: kid's chapter in Hay's **Amateur Magician's Handbook**, 1982 or 1996 edition **Doing Magic for Youngsters** by Easley and Wilson

2. You need some apparatus magic for color and flash. Make your own Square

Ghost

Continued from page 4

7. Get a breakaway fan and a drooping magic wand, and use them as running gags on yourself! The kids will love it. The "adult in trouble" bit will work for you again and again.

8. Choose tricks that need assistants, such as Coin in Ball of Wool. Encourage active vocal response. No trick should work without the kids shouting your chosen magic word; in fact, you should have some that fail until you remember to have them shout the word. Have the kids jump up and down, wiggle, etc., to get some tricks to work. Look surprised yourself, or even relieved at times, that the magic worked! Kids love to have you get down on their level in terms of fun and noisy enjoyment. If you have problems with over exuberance, stop the show for a few seconds and say, "Ok,

Circle (Mark Wilson Book, among many others) to close with a big production. Go to a craft store and get 8 gold or silver colored macrame rings, about 8" each, and hacksaw the joints as necessary to make a set of linking rings, having someone weld the joints back together and touching up

the welds with gold or silver paint. Routines are in Hay's book above and

Tarr's 101 Easy-to-do Classic Magic Tricks, among others.

3. Make up an alphabet deck from unlined index cards (2 cards of each letter, and you can use red and blue for "suits"). Force the letter "Y" and you can have great fun asking the kid the letter; when he says "Y", you interpret it as "Why?" and respond accordingly. Play this up, the kids will love it. Then, have the card appear in an impossible place (on your own back, or on the kid's back, in an orange [load only a short time before the show]). There is your one and only card trick!

4. Make up a set of Afghan bands in colored paper (Hay and countless other books). Make one ungimmicked one for yourself, and the two gimmicked ones

now WATCH carefully!" Afraid that they will miss a climax, most kids will settle down.

9. Don't accept any show longer than 30 minutes, and request that all food, drinks, cake, and presents be served in a different room AFTER your show, which gives you time to pack up without prying eyes.

10. Lead the kids to applaud for kid assistants after each trick. This will convince adults in the next room, who expect the applause that kids do not know to give, that you are doing a good show!

11. Kids like to see vanished items come back, so do remember to "recover" any vanished items before the show ends.

12. Egg bag goes over great! Make your own in a pinch; Hay's LEARN MAGIC and Bruce Elliott's CLASSIC SECRETS OF MAGIC tell how to make one and detail routines.

for a boy and a girl respectively. Tell them it is a race; illustrate with kid scissors by cutting yours down the middle to make 2. Give the kids 2 kid scissors, and set up for a cutting race. Get the boys to cheer for the boy with dog barks, and the girls to cheer for the girl in cat meows. When the paper loops come out "weird", proclaim both to be the winner, and give small prizes (go to Dollar Tree or similar store and get cheap party favors, some for girls and some for boys. \$4.00 should get you enough to produce the rest from your square circle at the end and give something to everyone.).

5. Wilson's book has several versions of Confetti to Candy, which goes over well.

6. Basic Sponge Ball Routines work well.

See Ghost on page 5

13. No mentalism, no fire, no danger, and no trick that cannot reach a climax inside of 3 minutes generally, and that is sort of long, but you can do it if it uses much audience vocal/physical participation as suggested above.

14. Walking through a Ribbon is an easy to make and effective "illusion", or it's rope counterpart, "Cutting the Spectator in Half With Ropes" (Wilson book, adapt to ribbons if you want more color and flash).

I could go on much longer, but I have responsibilities to work right now (I am only online at work).

Good luck, and learn much during the first show that will improve the second show!

Best wishes,
Jon A. Hand
jon.hand@n2music.com

Bio: Jon A. Hand, age 47, is a lifelong amateur magician who started at age 8.

Upcoming Magic

The Return of ET

No, not the loveable alien, but the master of Sleight-of-Hand, Eric T. Anderson. He will be at Jack's Magic Palace, Thursday, October 14 at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$25. Call Craig Stone at Brad's Magic Shop to register.

Rudy Coby Live!

At the Magicopolis Theater in beautiful Santa Monica, from October 6th through 31st. Tickets are \$20 in the evening and \$15 for the matinee. For more information call (310)451-2241 or sign on @ www.magicopolis.com.

Fox Family Channel will be airing some magic specials during their 13 days of Halloween.

Wand

Continued from page 5

It was found that the wand could often be used to tip the cups over, poke inside magic props, etc., to prove them empty

without sneaky fingers getting into the act.

This certainly didn't replace palming, but as you probably know, with the cups and many other magical effects, a "clean" move will be done once to set the tone, and then all kinds of "dirty" methods can be employed, the public thinking the method must be the same throughout the effect.

My own experience, much to my constant amazement, is that many members of the public still believe the wand has some sort of power. I suppose a lot of that comes from them having no idea whatsoever what it is for. Plus, currently, few if any other practitioners of anything use them. But many times when someone has asked to see my wand, which comes up frequently, and I have offered it for them to hold, they take a step back, and say they just wanted to "see" it.

Oct.21, Hans Klok, Magic for Millennium
Oct. 22, The World Magic Awards
Oct. 28, Rudy Coby: Ridiculously Dangerous
Check Local Listing for show times.

A Look At Magic History

Have you ever wondered where the "magic wand" comes from? It appears in almost every magic book and in almost every picture that depicts a magician. The black rod with white tips is as synonymous with magic as a barber poll is with hair cuts. We all use it, but what is it's origin?

As with a lot of things we use every day, the origin of the magic wand is shrouded in mystery. With some mild research though I found this thread of history.

In days long past druids, shamans, priests, etc., incorporated tree branches,

The wand is a powerful tool, even tho most often it is simply a stick used to point and wave. One should never underestimate it's power, and handle it as if it were indeed magical.

bones, stones, and such, into rituals, calling into play nature gods, spirits etc. Also, back in the early days of wizardry, kings and figures of authority or great knowledge all had some sort of stick or staff symbolizing their power. As magicians were members of the court, and considered among the intelligentsia at the time, they had these symbols as well. In Exodus, when Moses wanted to show the power of God, he tossed his staff on the floor where it changed into a snake. To show the power of their gods, the Egyptian priests repeated the effect with their staffs. The power of the staff was firmly established.

When magic started taking its place as entertainment, the large, unwieldy, staff was replaced by a more manageable symbol of authority, the wand. In effects like the Cups & Balls, the trick was done using a lot of palming to load or unload the cups. Although most routines weren't known by the public, the public did know that some sort of chicanery was involved.

See **Wand** on page 6

I Want You

To contribute to MagiCurrents.

This newsletter is YOUR newsletter. Help it out. Send us your stories, ideas, art work, etc. Performing in San Diego? Let us know so we can post it. Got an

idea for a card slight? Send it in.
MagiCurrents is sent all over the world.
Get noticed! Send it to MagiCurrents!
!

Upcoming Ring

76

{Events[

October 25: Board Meeting
Richard Ustick's Home

November 8: Teach in impromptu Magic
Meeting Theme: Y2k Magic

November 22: Board Meeting
Richard Ustick's
Home

December 13: Gala Christmas Pot Luck
No Board Meeting this Month

January 10: Close-Up Competition

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