



MagiCurrents

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Volume XV No. 3 March 2001

A Letter to the Editor:

Concern About Raising Ring Dues!

The following is a letter to the editor with an opposing view to a similar letter published in the February issue of MagiCurrents:

To the Membership of Ring 76:

I was more than a little dismayed to read there was even a suggestion of raising ring dues to \$36 per-year. I am not against a modest increase in our annual dues, but a 40 percent increase is to be questioned. Where does our money go? Perhaps a brief treasurer's report and an accounting of how our money is spent would help in understanding why we need such a hefty increase in dues and why our treasury always seems to be "empty". Why is it we are always broke?

It is apparent the two "free" lecturers each year are costly. It is clear that a portion of our dues are budgeted for our monthly newsletter and mailing of same. But what other expenses do we have to pay? How much rent are we paying for the use of the hall? If it is excessive maybe it is time to shop around for something less expensive? The Christmas Potluck dinner is just that "Potluck". Then there is the installation dinner that is paid for by each member who attends. Can we not tack on a couple of bucks extra to each dinner so there is enough left over from the cost of the dinner itself to pay for the awards and plaques handed out to the contestants and officers? I believe most members would much rather pay a couple of extra dollars for dinner and forgo a dues increase of \$16-dollars.

Ring 76 does not presently produce any public shows so there are no costs incurred there. We do not even have a sign advertising our Ring meetings at local magic shops. I again repeat my original question, "where is our money going"? Until a complete accounting and budgets for the coming year are presented to the membership, I urge the rank and file members to protest any increase in ring dues. Maybe running a tighter ship budget wise will save us all from digging deeper into our pockets?

Robert Ingalls
Ring 76 Member for 20-years.

The Editors of MagiCurrents thank Bob Ingalls for his letter. We welcome the comments and thoughts of all our members and will publish all views on issues important to the magic community of San Diego.

For more information on this topic, please see the Board Report (pg. 2), the Treasurer's report (pg. 3) and the Message from the President (pg. 3). All in this issue.

-Ed

Ring 76 is holding its annual Swapmeet and Auction at the American Legion Hall, Monday, March 12.

Tables for the Swap Meet are only \$10 at the door. Cash or checks (made out to Ring 76) can be paid to Gary Dismukes Monday night. Any member can come and sell any magic that he wishes. Tables sell fast and bargains are always available.

After the Swap Meet, Ring 76 will host the annual Ring auction. The fee for auctioning your prized possessions is a simple donation of one item valued at \$20 or more, to be auctioned for ring benefit. Only one donation is needed no matter how many items a member wishes to auction off.

All members and guests are welcome to this sales extravaganza. Swap meet begins at 6:30 and ends promptly at 7:15. The auction will start promptly at 7:30.

Come early for best deals. Major magic is rumored to be offered this year

March Madness Sale!

Did you get ANOTHER set of Billiard Balls for Christmas last year? Have you discovered that your Raven does not fit your magic style? Have you recently switched from Close-up to Clown magic and do not know what to do with all of that paraphernalia? Then March is your month!

Yes, it is that time of year again.
March Madness!

February Business Meeting

This month's meeting featured Ring 76's annual Close-Up competition. All members in good standing are encouraged to compete for the title of "Close-Up Performer of the Year."

There was no pre-meeting this month and president **Julie Dale** started the business meeting promptly at 7:00. **Don Soul** reported that we had twenty-four attending members and five guests. The guests were all introduced and encouraged to become active members. ring's finances. In view of this it was decided that a stronger treasurer's report was needed with an explanation of monies received and monies spent. It was also decided that the board will draft a yearly budget and present it to the membership at a future meeting. A very important to adhere to the Constitution and By-Laws and that they annual treasurer's report will also appear in the ring newsletter, as well as brief reports at each ring meeting. This will help keep the membership more up to date. The first of these reports will appear in the March newsletter.

The next order of business dealt with several articles in this month's **MagiCurrents**, the Ring 76 newsletter. Julie reminded the membership that although Don Soul has officially thrown his hat in the ring as presidential candidate for the June election, our constitution and bylaws require a nominating committee to present a slate of candidates. That it is very important to adhere to the Constitution and By-Laws and that they annual treasurer's report will also appear in the ring newsletter, as well as brief reports at each ring meeting. This will help keep the membership more up to date. The first of these reports will appear in the March newsletter. After looking at the current list of expenditures a number of cost cutting measures were proposed. Among these was reducing the number of lectures paid by the ring, and reducing the newsletter to a single-sheet information flyer. Examples from other rings were examined.

Past president, **Gary Schwartzwald**, was then asked to comment on the current budget crisis, and his editorial calling for increased dues. Current Ring 76 dues are \$20. Some board members feel that an increase is needed to maintain the quality of services Ring 76 provides for its members. With the increase cost of rent for the American Legion hall, increased fees for guest lecturers, and increases in postage and printing costs for the newsletter, an increase in membership dues may be in order. Following Gary's introduction, the floor was open to questions from the members. **Gary Dismukes** provided a brief treasurer's report on our current accounts, and other ideas for raising revenue were discussed. An advisory vote was taken as to how much the annual dues should be raised with a majority favoring an increase to \$25, with significantly fewer members welcoming any higher increase. The board will address this action at the next board meeting.

The next order of business was of a more pleasant nature as **Don E. Holcomb jr.** auditioned for membership into the Ring. Don has been interested in magic since the days when movie houses had stages, and even sat through a show by Harry Blackstone Sr. This evening he delighted the audience by passing a solid wood cube through an equally solid rope, with the help of audience member David Vazquez. Don was voted in unanimously. We welcome Mr. Holcomb to IBM Ring 76.

With all other business concluded, the floor was given to V.P. Entertainment **Tom La Chance** as master of ceremonies for this year's Close-Up Competition.

(See page 6)

Board Meeting

Mike Silwell is proposing to aid Ring 76 both financially and with public relations with both his PTA shows, and a magic show October 15 at the north County Repertory theater. The board approved the idea, and it will be presented to the membership at the next business meeting.

The final order of business was presented by Dick Dale. It was to once again question the editorial ethics of an article that appeared in the February edition of **MagiCurrents**. Dick and Julie Dale strongly felt that the profile article on member Don Soul, violated the spirit of the Ring constitution, specifically the nominating process for ring officers. That by printing Don's intentions to run for president in the next election, the editor of **MagiCurrents**, secretary Richard Ustick, went against the tradition of the board submitting their recommendations of candidates. Julie restated her opinion that the Constitution and By-laws should followed, and that the article violated those rules. Richard reiterated that the article was a profile piece on a member of the ring. Member pieces had been a staple of **MagiCurrents** for the past few years, including a recent one on Julie Dale, and that ANY member wishing to declare his or her intentions to run for office would receive equal treatment. It was informational only, and in no way violated the policies or procedures of Ring 76. Julie restated the objections that she raised at the last ring meeting. Dick suggested that in the future all material in **MagiCurrents** be cleared by the board of directors before publication. It was decided that this was impractical, and Julie closed the business by agreeing to disagree.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned. The next board meeting will be March 26, at the home of Gary Dismukes. All members are welcome to attend.

Vice-president of Entertainment Tom La Chance

announced that the Mike Rogers will be the guest lecturer at April's

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Message from the President

To the membership:

I believe that an increase of our local Ring 76 dues is necessary. The immediate response from a member would be, "WHAT?? where is our money going?" Bob Ingalls did a good job acting as spokesperson for the membership. Our role as members of the Board of Directors is to give a factual summary of what our expenses are versus our income. Well, immediately if you just do the math from approximately 80 members x \$20.00 annual dues would be \$1,600.00 annual income for the year. Rough expenses that can be summarized from our treasurer's report indicate that we fall short about \$400.00. We believe that increasing our dues would at least bring us up to the level of activities that we currently have been grateful in experiencing such as two paid lectures, American Legion hall rental, for holiday celebration expenses, teach-in tools, installation banquet expenses, year end awards and plaques, and monthly postage and newsletter printing expenses.

As a member of Ring 76, your suggestions of how we believe we could reduce these level of expenses would be great to hear. I would also like to mention that at least two professional magicians, as members of our club, have donated their time and energy to bring fund raising events that give monies back to our club. Our auction, as well, has helped to manage the short falls in the recent years. We cannot always depend on this generosity or (hopefully) auction profits to maintain our club functions. Therefore, we increased the dues and would welcome your genuine input as to ways that we can optimize our funds for everyone. Thank you for your feedback and continued love and interest in our club.

President,

Julie Dale

Editor's Note: *After President Dale submitted her message to the Ring, a question arose as to the constitutional procedure for raising Ring dues. This issue will be settled during the next meeting.*

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Membership Questions should be sent to the club treasurer, Gary Dismukes.

All Ring 76 members must be members in good standing with the International Brotherhood of Magicians.

Articles, contributions, and letters should be sent to: MagiCurrents

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Treasurer's Report

Ring 76 Treasury Report - Year 2000

In the interest of keeping Ring members better informed about the Ring's financial status, following is a short summary of our sources of income and expenses covering the period of calendar year 2000. As noted in the President's Message, we experienced a shortfall in revenue vs. expenses this last year. To address this in the coming year, in addition to a planned dues increase, we are discussing some additional fund-raising activities, as well as continuing to monitor expenses. Our goal is to have a healthy treasury balance by this time next year as we approach the International Convention in San Diego in 2002.

Income Categories

Ring dues	\$1450
Lecture income	105
Auction income	310
Raffle sales	214
Total income:	\$2079

Expense Categories

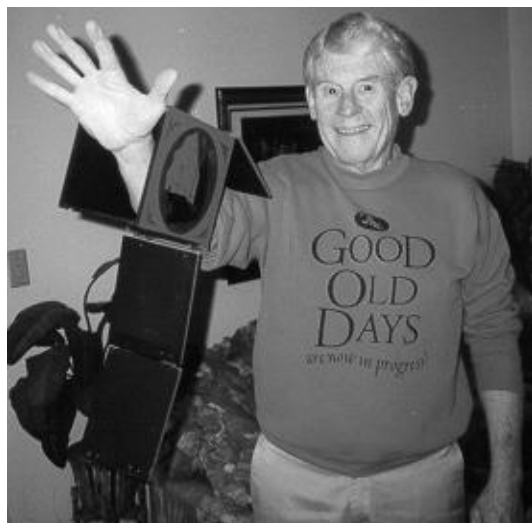
Newsletter	\$615
Am Legion Hall	\$465
Lecture/shows	\$700
Raffle Prizes	\$216
Banquet & Awards	\$335
Misc. Expenses	\$365
Total Expenses	\$2696

Magic Notes from Jack White:**J.P. Jackson Magic Collector Supreme!**

Recently magic scholar Harry Riser lectured in San Diego and he did a wonderful routine with a ball and cone and something called a "Morison Pill Box". All of the props that Riser used were items not common on today's magic shop shelves.

I wanted to know more about a Morison Pill Box and if they were still available. My first call was to J.P. Jackson magic collector supreme. Of course he knew all about the Morison Pill Box and knew what they were currently selling for and where I could find one.

J.P.'s house is a magic museum. Every room is filled with magic apparatus from the past. He has been a collector all of his life but his interest in magic was rekindled about 30-years ago.



Above: J.P. Jackson magic collector and a production box that he used as a boy in his magic act in Wisconsin.

Like most of us J.P., became interested in magic as a boy of 9 or 10. He still has the first trick he ever owned. It's the old sore finger gag, which is really not a trick at all its more of a joke. His dad brought it home to him one summer afternoon. Jackson still has his original sore finger gimmick.

The success of truly scaring the "yell" out of his mother and his friends at school prompted J.P. to send off for a catalog of magic. He grew up in the small farming community of Stevens Point, Wisconsin and there were no magic shops in that part of the country.

Yes, he still has a copy of that first catalog that got him excited about learning new tricks. It came from the Mystery Mart in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Like all younger J.P. Jackson continued doing his magic and building a better act throughout his teen years. He worked all of the service clubs and parties he could book in his area of Wisconsin. Then came an opportunity to go to the U.S. Naval Academy. He took some of his magic with him and made his way through his freshman year by doing shows for upper classes.

**THE CUT FINGER**

Scare the "YELL" out of your friends with this gory-looking finger! Made of Latex Rubber. Fits your finger. Has a "bloody" cut near the finger-nail and a real bandage at the other end. Made in natural, life-like color. A wonderful item for the practical joker! 25c

By graduation time he drove to Chicago and sold all of this magic for fifteen dollars. That was 1959, his interest in magic was dormant until ten years later. He had just finished a stint in Vietnam and was coming home via Australia and while in Sydney found a magic shop.

Things had changed a great deal in ten years in magic and J.P. was once again bitten by the magic bug and came home with a bag full of new magic tricks and books.



Above: Buddha tubes and an old Mystery Mart Magic Catalog. Circa 1944

Stationed in Napa, California he joined a magic club and became friends with Lloyd Jones and Byron Walker both big time collectors. It was then that J.P. began to learn about collecting older magic props, books and posters. It was during this period that J.P.'s father in Wisconsin discovered a box of magic tricks and books that his son had forgotten about. They were stored in the attic of the family home. His father sent the large box of magic out to his son and that became the nucleus of J.P.'s growing magic collection.



See **JP Jackson**, page 5

JP Jackson

Continued from page 4

Retiring from the Navy in San Diego in 1986, J.P. became active in Ring 76 and worked evenings with J.C. Wagner at his Magic Lounge in East San Diego.

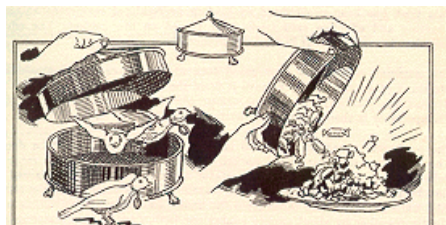
When Jackson got involved with Ring 76 the club was in decline and J.P., was the bundle of enthusiasm to rekindle interest and rebuild the membership. He breathed new life into a faltering organization and made the meeting interesting and informative.

All the while J.P. was acquiring more and more collectable magic apparatus. Today he is a walking encyclopedia of antique magic and his house is filled with desirable older magic props.



Above: Just one small corner of one room of JP's collection of antique and collectable magic.

Drop by his home to talk with him about an older piece of magic and you will find the phone constantly ringing. Magicians around the country are calling asking if he knows how to repair a long forgotten item or someone's calling hoping to locate a set of Paul Fox cups and balls that might be for sale.



Or maybe someone is trying to find the original instruction sheets for a Bertini Double Lid Dove Pan. You can be pretty sure that somewhere in his files J.P., will have what the person on the other end of the phone is looking for.

How does one build a collection like the J.P. Jackson collection? You begin by attending magic swap meets and auctions. After a while he says you know what is in your own area, then you branch out and begin attending collector's meets outside of your home state. You make friends with fellow collectors and sometimes trade lists of equipment you are looking for or have for sale.

You also read books, lots of books that talk about older magic and manufacturers of collectable effects. Thayer, P&L, Lloyd, Martinka, Abbotts, Berg, Okito, the list goes on and on for antique magic apparatus.



J.P. has found that some of his best reference sources for the history of older magic are the catalogs of prominent magic dealers. Especially the catalogs of the 1930's and 40's.



If you ever visited the old Abbott's Shop in Colon, Michigan, or Berg's shop in Chicago, or the Thayer Shop in Los Angeles you will have a feel for what it is like to spend a few hours in J.P.'s living room.

J.P., will be very quick to tell magicians who are new to collecting to specialize. To find one area that you want become an expert in and collect only in that area.

Jackson has collected everything over the years and he says his collection has gone in many different directions. While that is exciting he is quick to tell you general collectors are becoming fewer and fewer because of high prices and the room to store and display your collection.

Speaking as an experienced longtime collector J.P., encourages newcomers to the hobby of collecting to find one special area that appeals to them. Magic books, magic posters, and apparatus that are used exclusively in silk magic. The point being trying to build a large collection like J.P.'s is becoming more and more difficult as older magic becomes harder to find.

If you have never met J.P. Jackson the March meeting may be a good opportunity. He will probably be at the swap meet looking around for an older piece of magic he does not have in his collection. Or a book that he needs to complete a section of his vast library on magic. He will tell you the fun of collecting is in the "hunt."

Close-up Contest Entertains the Ring

The meeting of February 12th opened with a heated discussion concerning a letter to the editor of *MagiCurrents* urging the board to raise ring dues to \$36 per year.

Gary Schwartzwald author of the letter stated his reason's for writing the letter and for the significant increase in the dues to the assembled membership. That was followed by much open discussion. Some very meaningful comments were presented.



The board of directors will continue to ponder the dues structure later this month in executive session. But it was noted that in April dues are payable and the fee to be charged must be determined by then. No one seemed to know what future dues would be or exactly how much was in the treasury but it is believed the ring has about \$200.00. Keeping the ring solvent appears to be a serious concern.

There were a plethora of other announcements and then Tom LaChance the entertainment Vice President began the main event of the evening the annual close-up contest. This contest is one of the highlights of the year. The name of the winner of this event will not be announced until next July during the installation dinner for the new ring President and board of directors.



The first contestant was Tom McCarthy who is a relatively new member of the ring. He presented a series of clever card effects that were technically clean and mysterious. Tom has an easy manner and is a delightful storyteller. Being first in any contest is always tough, but Tom rose to the occasion.



The second contestant is a longtime ring member and one of our most colorful characters Loch David Crane who dresses like Buffalo Bill Cody complete with six gun. Loch used jokes that brought audible groans from some of the audience members but smiles to all our faces.

Loch opened with a series of rubber band effects, did a very different prediction effect with a Native American drum and closed with a very clever card stab in a wrapped napkin. In addition to being a contestant Loch was a team motivator and led the applause and cheers for the rest of the contestants.

Close-up

Continued from page 6



Contestant number three was Bob Pozner. Bob has a hearing deficit but that does not stop him from doing a splendid act. Bob presented material he has used and honed to a sharp edge over many years of performing. He offered some unique coin and card magic. He does a very different miniature linking ring routine that is a delight to watch.



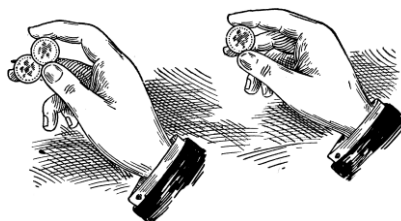
Next came Michael Feldman, who was last year's winner of the close-up contest.

Michael is 16-years old and presents a classy image. He has developed his showmanship and has a velvet smooth deep voice he is also technically superb. He worked with a ball point pen for a series of productions and vanishes and produced coins from the cap of the pen. Then he introduced his audience to some paper coins and presented some very clever coin magic.



Syd Segal was contestant number five. Syd is a senior in high school and is 17-years old. He works part time at Brad Burt's Magic Shop and has also honed his act to a sharp edge. We are told that most of what Syd presented were his own original routines. He began with some clever coin work and then moved to cards. He has a contagious smile and works fast. His magic is very good.

See **Close-up**, page 7



**To ease the pain Ring 76
presents the magic of
Mike Rogers
April 9**



The final contestant was Diane Lane, who is a triple threat gal. She has a clown act. Does a great straight magic act and produces her own cable television program devoted to magic.

**April Dues
are coming
Soon.**

Diane did a nice routine with sponge balls, a very clever ring on rope, some nice card slights and a different cards across routine. She closed her act with a coin routine.

All of the contestants were very professional and presented just over an hour of fine close-up magic for those assembled in the audience.

After the meeting veteran magician Jeff Marcus sat down at the table to show Bob Pozner how he does one of the routines that Bob used in his act. All of this proved to be good interaction among members.



Don Holcomb Auditions for Ring 76:

Don Holcomb a retired engineer has been interested in magic all of his life and from time to time would give shows for his family and friends. In his youth he was active as a performer. But for a number of years his family and work came before his avocation of prestidigitation. So his hobby of magic was put on the back burner. But now in retirement he has once again become active in a pastime he has always enjoyed, that of performing magic.

Prior to the start of the February meeting Don was introduced and he presented a very clever routine for that wonderful old trick called "Blockcord". He first bought the trick in 1946 and performed it for years. The miniature illusion is still serving Don well.



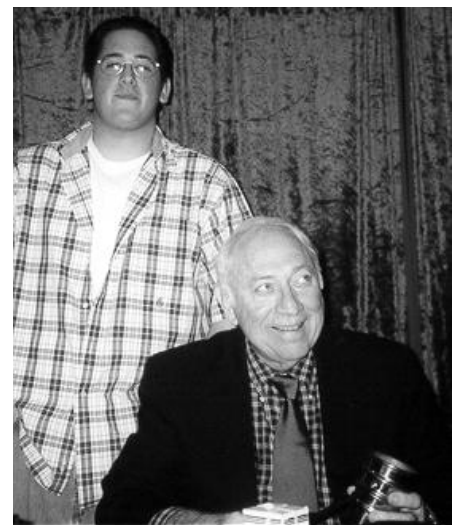
Don Holcomb was given an overwhelming vote of confidence by the membership and is now an official member of Ring 76 having passed his audition as a performer.

**Harry Riser
Talks Magic in San Diego:**

Harry Riser who writes the popular column in MUM (Society of American Magicians) Magazine, "The Riser Repertoire" delivered a lecture at Jack White's Magic Museum in City Heights on February 1st.

Riser and his wife were spending three weeks in the San Diego area this winter and Syd Segal booked him for the lecture.

Harry Riser is a true teacher of magic and slight of hand with cards, coins and billiard balls. He does not offer a flimsy set of lecture notes but instead has his very beautiful book for sale *"The Feints and Temps of Harry Riser"*. Riser does just a few things from the book to whet the students appetite to read on and learn more.



Seated: Harry Riser, author, teacher, and magician standing Syd Segal who booked Riser's lecture.

The thirty or so magicians who attended the lecture were treated to a very different session of learning magic. "The *Feints and Temps*" are terms referred to by Robert-Houdin who writes the *temps* is a "favorable moment" to do something perhaps unseen.

In discussing the *faint*, Robert-Houdin states, "The essence of a *feint* is to give the utmost possible appearance of reality to an action which in truth is only make believe."

"The *Feints and Temps of Harry Riser*" is one of the best-illustrated magic books on the market today and is filled with more than just a lot of

tricks strung together.

We have all grown up watching the standard Billiard Ball act. At this session Riser gave his students the basic's for a close-up routine that is every bit as effective as the standard routine and is easier to master. He presented his routine featuring a set of beautiful old Thayer turned Billiard Balls.

Harry's mentor in magic was the late Charlie Miller whose work is legendary. In turn Harry's students include Johnny Thompson often times referred to as the best all around magician in the country today. During the lecture Harry drops in stories about performing and associating with some of the greats of magic adding humor and intrigue to his actions.

While in Southern California the Riser's celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They live in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Syd Segal a devoted slight of hand magician who is very accomplished at a very young age hope's to attract several other magicians of Riser's quality to lecture to the San Diego Magic Community in the next few months.

Segal is currently talking with Martin Nash who is planning his final lecture tour with a visit to San Diego.

A View from the Cheap Seats

Last month I presented a new trick deck (Jonah Deck, VFTCS, Feb., 2001) with suggested handling and patter. At the conclusion of that article, I suggested that the user do a deck switch to continue with other card tricks if desired. I freely admit that all of this article is derivative of other sources, most of them long forgotten for crediting, as I have been doing deck switching for a long time. Contributions have come from classic magic books and from online magic friends over the years, so I can no longer differentiate from whence these ideas came. My hearty thanks and a tip of the hat go to all of those sources over the years.

First, you need a habitual brand and color of cards. I use red Bicycle 808s with a blue deck or two for assorted routines which need the color contrast. I know that Fox Lake, Aviator, and Bee are also popular around other parts of the country. Next, you need routining of your act. Deck switching needs a bit of prior planning, usually not much, but some. Once you have worked out your details, then doing the switch at any time in an impromptu setting is no problem. Finally, you need to decide which of the following ideas suits your needs, or develop a new one (email it to me!), and work it into your routine.

The simplest way to do anything, says science, is the best way. For our first switch, recase your deck 1 and dump it into your jacket pocket or your close-up case. Perform some non-card effect, and then remember "just one more card effect" that you want to do. Pull out a matching deck 2, and you are all set.

Want more subtlety? When you start your first card routine, uncased deck 1, pull out the jokers, and place them to one side of the table, momentarily forgotten. Perform your routine(s), and then case deck 1 without the jokers. Drop the card case into your jacket pocket or close-up case, and suddenly notice the jokers still on the table. All eyes follow yours as you

grab up the jokers, and the other hand emerges from the pocket or close-up case with deck 2 (which is minus jokers, of course). Place the jokers in the deck, and lay the cased deck on the table for later use, or begin using it immediately as you remember that "just one more" mentioned earlier.

Want still more subtlety? Take a brown, yellow, or green rubber band (three of any single color that contrasts well against a red or blue deck) and wrap it around the case of each matching deck from top to bottom (not too tightly, as you don't want to warp your cards; find one that fits snugly without doubling). Case deck one and snap the rubber band on its case to put the deck away. When you come back with deck 2 later, the rubber band quietly reinforces the idea of "same deck used earlier." If you want even more subtlety, use a permanent marker to put a black dot somewhere on each rubber band, and position that dot at the top of each deck you intend to use. After using deck 1, replace the rubber band as naturally as possible, ending with the dot on top. Switch for deck 2 as before.

Need uncased deck switches? Tommy Wonder in his BOOKS OF WONDER recommends that you dump deck 1 in a left-hand pocket while talking between effects and emerge with deck 2 from the right hand pocket immediately! The relaxed concentration of the spectators between effects coupled with your conversation will blow the switch right past the audience! Try it; it works!

That last one too bold for you? Then try bolder still! With One thing for sure many magic internet operators are watching these development closely and if eBay makes the change you can be sure many independent operators will quickly jump in and try to pick up the already

Or, when starting your card work, have the loose deck 2 in the left jacket pocket. Uncase deck 1, and place the empty card box in your right coat pocket. When you want to do the switch, place both hands into your pockets as if searching for the box. The left hand switches deck 1 for deck 2 just as the right hand emerges with the card box. Recase the deck and leave on table for later use, or have a reason to use the box immediately (you could

force a card earlier, and find it [duplicate] in the card box that has been in your pocket for the duration of the card work).

How do you solve the problem of keeping the loose decks "sorted out" in the coat pocket? All you need is a small piece of light, thin cardboard, such as the backing board around which a new dress shirt is folded. Cut it

to ½" less than the length of your pocket front to rear, and ½" taller than the height of the short side of the deck. This will give you a flexible pocket divider that weighs nothing and keeps you from fumbling in your pocket. Store deck 2 on the outside of the cardboard, away from the body. Since the height of the cardboard is probably less than half of the height of your pocket, you have plenty of room to bring in deck 1. Drop it on the body side of the cardboard, and then grab the new deck from the outside of the cardboard. The switch is done with no hassle. If need be, you can switch back later by dropping the current deck to the outside of the body and regaining the original from the inside. Another advantage of this method is consistency: you always know which deck is in your hands because of the position of the remaining deck in your pocket!

What's your favorite deck switch? Email me at jon.hand@n2music.com or jonahand@hotmail.com and share it with me! And, if you made up a Jonah Deck, I would like to hear about it! Until next month, remember not to inadvertently switch a red deck for a blue one!



Jon A. Hand

established internet auction of magic and related items on the internet.

Magic For Sale on eBay May Disappear!

Buyers and sellers of magic memorabilia on the popular internet auction site eBay are in for some changes and magic items up for auction may be mixed in with a dozen other collectable categories with magic items becoming more difficult to find says eBay executives.

Category restructuring at eBay is being blamed for the changes. Currently Magic is a category by itself and as such all of the magic up for auction is in one section. However, the revising of categories would totally eliminate magic as a group and mix magic items in with a number of other collectable groups.

Magicians across the country are crying "foul" and demanding that eBay leave the magic section as it is and not change it. The dedicated eBay magic shoppers are sending e-mails to the San Francisco based Internet auction headquarters by the hundreds demanding that the magic section be left alone.

It is too early to know if the feed back from magicians who are both buyers and sellers will make a difference or if eBay is committed to make the change inspite of customer reaction.



Magic Newsline

One of the truly nice guys of magic **Mike Stilwell** celebrates his 14th year at the Corvette Diner in the Hillcrest area of San Diego. Mike went to work at the popular restaurant three weeks after it opened for business in March of 1987. David Cohen the owner of the now famous diner gave Mike a 12-week contract and Mike has run it into a 14-year engagement. Mike is at the restaurant Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and if you bring a deck of cards **Magic Mike** will teach you a trick. Drop by and wish **Ring 76's "King of Restaurant Magicians"** continued success.

A big thank you to longtime Ring 76 supporter **Terry Lunceford**. Terry donated a number of items from **"Terry's Pub"** to our monthly auction. Terry by the way has become the first magician to produce a full magic show for the World Wide Web. The show first went online February 15th. Check it out.

Bafflin Bill Cody better known as Ring 76 member **Loch David Crane** reports that he has been invited via telephone to perform for ten-days at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City in February of 2002. Loch will be conducting his annual tour of Germany this summer and will firm up his Olympic tour then.

San Diego restaurant magician **Curtis Clark** while riding his bicycle hit a pot hole in the road and was thrown from the bike breaking his collarbone. That happened in late January but by mid-February Curtis was back at work doing his regular restaurant magic shows. Proving you can't keep a good magician down and the show will go on.

Magic enthusiasts **Barry & Stella Rucker and Tony Burman** were guests at our February ring meeting. All said they enjoyed the magic competition and are thinking about becoming members of the IBM and Ring 76 in the future. Welcome!

Ring 76'er **Diane Lane** reports that **Anne White** has decided **not** to hold any more **Women in Magic Conference's**. White says it's too much work for one person to organize and the turnout has dropped significantly. Lane attended the most recent conference that opened the day after the World Magic Seminar closed in Las Vegas in January. Only 24-women took part in the conference the lowest turnout to date. However, some of the top women in magic were their including Society of American Magicians President Jann Goodsell, Luna Shamada, Paula Paul, Fay Presto and Suzanne. Diane Lane conducted a class titled: "How to get yourself on TV, and what to do when you get there." Videotapes of Diane's show in San Diego were shown during the class.

Transplanted Ring 76 member **Tom Kasner** writes from his new home in Altoona, Pennsylvania that he and his family are now settled in and the e-mail is connected to the computer. Drop him a note he loves to keep up on San Diego magic news. Takasner@aol.com

"In 1983 magician David Fisher wrote **"The War Magician"** a book based on the World War II exploits of **Magician Jasper Maskelyne**. Paramount Pictures is now planning to make the story into a movie that will star **Tom Cruise** as the famous British magician. No date has been set to start filming.

Jeff Smith and Bryan McDaniel both appeared in a floor show at the Cannibal Bar at the Catamaran Hotel in Pacific Beach in early February. Jeff opened the show with a 20-minute stand-up magic act. Bryan did his hilarious stage hypnosis show. Hotel management liked what they saw so much they invited Smith and McDaniel back for another show

Saturday evening March 4th. Its hope this might turn into a regular attraction for the hotel.

San Marcos Magician **Michael E. Johnson** is encouraging magicians to give themselves a pay raise in 2001. In a secret newsletter he sent to a select group of San Diego County magicians, Michael urges you to raise your fees for shows. Michael sights a private study conducted last year that shows people booking children's birthday party magic shows hired the performer that charged \$150 to \$175-dollars per show over the magician charging \$100-dollars. The reasoning being the performer that charges more gives a better show according to the study. For more on the subject of charging contact Michael Johnson, 1657 Palomar Drive, San Marcos, Ca., 92069

Active Ring 76 member and web site designer **Sumit Dua** announces that **Jon Racherbaumer** has submitted three original card effects to Sumit's cardmagician.com web site. Racherbaumer is considered to be the best writer in magic today. Currently Sumit is negotiating with San Diego's **Syd Segal** to present some of his original material on the site in the near future. Currently the site is receiving more than 7-thousand hits a month. If you haven't done so check it out.

Jeff Marcus has booked International Magic Stars **Petrick & Mia** to present their show, do a lecture and conduct a special one-time only Pro Workshop prior to the lecture that includes free, the props needed for the workshop. The lecture has been set for Wednesday, March 28th at Jack White's Magic Museum, 4275 University Avenue, San Diego. Petrick & Mia escaped from their homeland of Czechoslovakia and brought their one-of-a-kind original magic to the U.S. This will be a very special lecture for San Diego Magicians. For reservations and more information call Jeff Marcus at 619-562-3434.

Busy San Diego magician **Craig Stone** is taking a break from working cruise ships. On weekends he has been appearing at **The Gathering Restaurant** in Mission Hills. Craig, truly enjoys the restaurant work, "it's a nice break from doing stand-up magic" says Craig. In late February however, he appeared in San Juan Puerto Rico as part of the Fujitsu Corporate Road Show doing his stand-up act then back to The Gathering with his close-up routines.

Two new locally produced magic video tapes are to be released in late March or early April featuring **Brad Burt and David Eldridge**. Brad's tape will teach the handling of a unique and clever version of "color changing knives" and a series of routines with trick decks. The Eldridge tape will present his much anticipated "Gambling Routine" and a variety of other close-up and stand-up routines. Both will be available at Brad Burt's Magic Shop. Coming Soon.

Close-up trickster **Sebastian Figuora** who was the resident magician at the Red Robin Restaurant in San Diego is currently pitching a large restaurant corporation to hire him for all of their San Diego based restaurants. Stay tuned for more details and good luck Sebastian.

Ralph Mauzy visited **the Magic Castle in Hollywood** in February and took with him the uncut sheet of playing cards he is having autographed by the greats of magic. Ralph purchased the sheet of cards in Las Vegas at the World Magic Seminar and had every famous magician appearing there sign a card. Ralph got several new and important autographs during his recent visit to the Magic Castle. He plans on auctioning off the cards and autographs at a future Ring 76 event with the proceeds going to benefit

Ring 76 Wants You

Elections are only a few months away. The nominating Committee will present its slate of candidates in May. Ring 76 needs you for the Board of Directors. Any member can run for any office.

Contact
MagiCurrents for more information.

Children's Hospital or a similar charitable group. The cards and autograph's will be a real treasure for any magic den.

Dan Thomas owner of the Gathering Restaurant and part-time magician was recently honored by **the North Park Lion's Club** for his continuing efforts at helping the club and presenting family entertainment for the group. Dan does one of the cleanest linking card routines anywhere. Drop in and see him at the **Gathering in Mission Hills**.

Upcoming Events

March 12	Ring 76 Swap meet and Auction Swap meet 6:30-7:15 Auction 7:30
April 9	Ring Membership dues due Guest Lecture by Mike Rogers
May 14	Pre-Meeting Video Meeting Theme, Paper Magic Nominating Committee presents slate of candidates
June 11	Stand-up Competition Election of new officers

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