



MagiCurrents

Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

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Plans for IBM National Convention in San Diego Move Slowly

Jep Hostetler in charge of convention planning for the 2002 IBM Convention set for San Diego July 2 to the 5th says all contracts have been signed but official announcement of the hotel and meeting rooms for the coming conclave will not be official until July of this year.

Hostetler is now busy putting the finishing touches on plans for this summer's convention in Orlando, Florida July 4th to the 7th. This will be at the Hilton at the Walt Disney World Resort, Lake Buena Vista.

Jep remembers San Diego's first IBM Convention of 1979. There was much debate about bringing a national magic meeting to this city.



(above: steering committee for the first San Diego IBM Convention 1979 at Will Staar's Magic Theater in Rancho Bernardo. Only three of that group are still active members of Ring 76, Bob Pozner Jim Riley and Jack White.)

Will Staar a professional magician and IBM Territorial Vice President with the help of Dr. Victor Trask and his wife Carolyn longtime Southern California magic enthusiasts convinced IBM President Ray Prescott that the local ring and the city of San Diego would be the perfect location for the first IBM Convention on the west coast. It turned out to be a most successful convention attracting nearly one-thousand magicians to sunny Southern California during the summer of 1979.

Norm Neilson and his floating violin was one of the featured headline acts of 1979 along with Milt Larsen doing his much talked about magic carpenter act.

This year's convention in Orlando is hosted by the Bev Bergeron Ring 170. That group just announced the addition of a late night event on July 4th. Jerry Andrus who just released a three volume videotape set, covering his life in magic will lecture from 11:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Other head liners include the Pendragons, Greg Wilson, Tom Mullica doing his Red Skelton act, Shimada, Murray, Mark Wilson, Fielding West and Jay Marshall.

There will be several contests this year and if you are interested in becoming a contestant you should enter soon. The Gold Metal International Award of Excellence will include prize money of \$3000-dollars.

It is expected that more than a thousand magicians and their families will attend this year's convention in Florida. Being so close to Walt Disney World this year's magic event is expected to draw more families than usual. San Diego in 2002... It will be exciting.

Nominating Committee looking for new candidates

In June the general membership of Ring 76 will be voting for a new Ring President and a slate of officers. At least three members of the board have announced they will leave office because of term limits or no longer having the time to devote to ring business.

The nominating committee is made up this year of members Sherry Luft, Jeff Marcus and Leroy Armstrong. If you would like to be a member of the board of directors or be President of Ring 76 notify one of the nominating committee.

The coming year will be one of the most important in Ring 76 history, if you want to take an active part in the rings leadership place your name in nomination.

The coming year brings a National IBM Convention to San Diego it is important that strong people within the ring rally together to make it a memorable year and convention. Change can only come with new personalities guiding the way.

Magic Notes from Jack White:

The Dr. Wilderness Science & Magic Show:

As a performer how would you like to have to face up to an audience of 250 to 275 pre-schoolers through 5th graders twice a day five days a week? For Kevin Barnes that sort of work is right up his alley. Kevin is Dr. Wilderness an Emmy Award winning performer who has been interested in our environment and science for years. He mixed those interests with a couple of other of his avocations like, music and magic, shake them all up and you have a well-blended show that the San Diego County Water Authority is paying for and booking into elementary schools throughout the county.



Dr. Wilderness

Continued from Page 1

I caught up with the Dr. Wilderness Show late last month at the Tierra Bonita School in Poway. San Diego County has more elementary schools than any other county in California about 400. This year the Wilderness Show will play about half of those elementary schools. They will return in Late November and finish up in April of next year. This year's tour will run through June 13th.

Kevin Barnes lives in a rural area called Fishhawk Lake, Oregon. He is a member of IBM Ring 59 in Portland. He loves nature and the out of doors. Two neighbor women who live near Kevin's home at Fishhawk Lake were recruited to come along on the San Diego County School tour and be part of the show. They assist in his illusions, they dance, and sing, help set up and tear down the show. The two women who have had no previous experience in show business add a great deal to the overall look and production of the show and appear to have been with it for years.

A special computer program that Kevin put together and developed himself is carried in huge road cases that open up on the stage and control all the lighting, music, robots and special effects. The computer system is the heart of the vibrant flash of special effects that give this unique school program an edge over other touring shows.

The message of the show is simple, water is important to all of us. We all must conserve water, and protect the environment from polluted water. From the moment the student's move into the auditorium until they leave Kevin Barnes is on stage or in the audience talking, singing, dancing or doing magic. The children in his audience were the most attentive I have ever seen at a school show.

A big part of the success of this show is the personality of the star performer who can relate to his audience and draw them in so he is the only thing they pay attention to. Never an easy task for any performer.

Part of the draw is the special effects of surround sound and the action on stage. After an audience warm up routine that Kevin does right out among the children he runs back to the stage for the show opener with loud music and blinking lights. He makes an appearance out of a large production box with sound effects that truly gets his audiences attention.

After his appearance from the production cabinet he goes into a very clever song that gets his audience members clapping in time with the music. His songs, his patter and his magic are all extensions of the theme of the show "Water". Barnes wrote the show, wrote the songs and staged each act.



(above one of Dr. Wilderness' two assistants getting two of the show illusions ready to perform.)

Next a clever ZigZag is presented. The cabinet is painted up and called the H2O Chamber. It is interesting to note that children from the audience are not used at anytime in the show. If an assistant is needed it is one of the two women who travel with the show.

While water and the importance of conserving it is the theme of this presentation Dr. Wilderness touches on some other aspects of our environment such as recycling old cardboard boxes. He picks up what appears to be a large pile of old cardboard and suddenly it becomes the prop for a unique levitation. The audience believes they see him actually levitate within the box. Kevin makes it a fun illusion with a great story. He wears a wireless head set microphone so he can be heard clearly by his young audience.

(above: Kevin Barnes, magician, singer, electronics' whiz kid, environmentalist, teacher and entertainer.)

SEE DR. Wilderness, Page 2



(above: Kevin Barnes cardboard box levitation.)

A similar effect is currently being marketed commercially but this version is a Kevin Barnes design and is very effective in his show. He has plans for selling his own version of this illusion in the near future.

A robot is introduced that strangely resembles the head of one of those Axtell Bird Puppets. But this is no puppet it is a talking, moving robot known as "Proton" the robotic bird, that gives out interesting bits of trivia concerning water and listens to and makes fun of the jokes that Dr. Wilderness offers. For the children the robot is a high point in the show. The robot is all computerized and operates on cue. You would swear it is alive and can converse with people in an intelligent manner. This is the kind of a touch that Walt Disney would have put in his school show.



(above: Kevin Barnes with the interworkings of his computerized audio unit that is connected to four large speakers, two on stage and two at the back of the auditorium. Proton the robot is just over his left shoulder.)

One of the assistants is dressed up like a drop of water and placed in the "twister cabinet" and twisted up. The kids went crazy with this presentation and were very amused. Water cycle is talked about and then Dr. Wilderness appears on a unicycle. There is another very clever song with cycled water and all three performers taking part in a well-choreographed number.

During the show there are a variety of small magic effects all involving water. Barnes is a good magician and keeps the surprises coming for his audience. He ends his show with the Origami Illusion. Followed by his disappearance from a large cabinet with lots of music and thunder and rain sounds.

April Meeting

As the famous quote goes, "only two things are inevitable, death and taxes." In April Ring 76 adds dues to this list.

Dues are due at the April meeting, and as a reward for paying the modest increase this year, Ring 76 presented the talented lecture of Whit Hayden. Monies were collected and registered by Sergeant at Arms, **Don Soul**, and Treasurer **Gary Dismukes**. A brief business meeting included the welcoming of new member **James Thayer**. Territorial Vice President **Dick Dale** then brought us up to date on the continuing legal difficulties of the I.B.M. including what we can do about it as individual members. President **Julie Dale** presented the agenda for the rest of the Ring year with rope magic the theme of the May meeting, election of officers in June, and the installation banquet in July.

With no further business, the business meeting was adjourned and the attending Ring members and guests were entertained and educated by the talents of **Whit Hayden**. For over two hours Whit delighted us with stories of his experiences on the streets and in restaurant, amazed us with new takes on classic magic, and as usual, lecture notes and materials were available for sale in the back of the room.

For more on the April Lecture see Article on page, 4

Board Report

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Julie Dale. All board members were present. Jeff Marcus attended in his capacity as part of the nominating committee.

Tom La Chance reported that the May pre-meeting video would be a variety of routines, including a new version of "Endless Chain," a "Professor's Nightmare," and Sankey's "Non-Stop magic Party video" for the rest of the time.

The theme for the meeting will be Paper Magic. All members are encouraged to bring their favorite paper illusion, and dazzle the attending audience.

Gary Schwartzwald reported on the catering arrangements for July's Installation Banquet. It was decided to go with Ranch Catering. They will present a Hawaiian luau. Faulkenstein and Willard will be entertaining, and will present a lecture the following night. The cost for the membership will be \$15 per person, with children under 15 paying their age.

The next order of business was the production of plaques and certificates for the Installation Banquet. Ralph Mauzy will be in charge of producing the certificates. They will be presented to all participants of the year's competitions. Plaques will be presented to the

"Member of the Year" (as decided by the membership at the June meeting), and all out going Board members. Dick Dale will once again produce trophies for the winners of the Close-up and Stand-up competitions.

June will feature the annual "Stand-up Competition." All members in good standing are encouraged to participate. Even if you do not plan to perform, this is the meeting you do not want to miss. Bring a friend or two and enjoy the best that Ring 76 has to offer.

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

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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June will also feature the election of new officers. Jeff Marcus is one of the members of the Nominating Committee. They are in charge of presenting the slate of candidate to the membership. Any member in good standing is welcome to run for office. Jeff polled the current Board as to their desire to run for office. The Ring 76 Constitution specifically states that no Board member may hold the office for longer than two consecutive years. Most of the Board positions are open and members are encouraged to run for office.

Dick Dale reported that Kobey's Swap Meet is offering free admission for all Ring 76 members. Contact Dick Dale for more information.

Membership notices were mailed out following the meeting. All members who have yet to pay their dues were sent one of these notices. Secretary Richard Ustick was responsible for the mailing.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next Board meeting will be on May 28th at the home of Gary Schwartzwald. As always, all members are welcome to attend.

I.B.M. Voting Issue
From: "Tom Vorjohan"

Dear Friends,

Allow me to take off my official "hats" of the I.B.M. Please give me a moment to tell you about the upcoming election. Without any "titles" or hype, I am one well-informed member of the I.B.M. and I need each of you

Important Letter to the Membership

to do three things.

First, you will be getting a ballot in the mail (for international members) or with your May issue of the Linking Ring. It is IMPORTANT that you vote. Don't let apathy determine this election. Fill it out the day you get it, and you can be done with it.

Second, I urge you to vote for the Board's nominated candidates. These are Mike Stratman for President-Elect, and both Mel Kientz and Mike Santow for the two positions on the Executive Committee.

Finally, I would encourage you to send this note (or a similar one personally from you) to each of your friends in the I.B.M. on your e-mail address book.

If anyone has any questions as to WHY I thoroughly support these candidates, I would be glad to e-mail you in private. It is no secret that the other candidates have created havoc and thorough disruption of our magic-loving organization. In addition, this disruption has caused us to lose members, lose advertisers, and it actually threatens the existence of the I.B.M. as we know it. Last year's hoop-jumping and court case cost your organization hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Please help me and help your organization by sending a clear message when you receive your ballot. Vote for Stratman, Kientz, and Santow. I thank you for your help and support.

Sincerely,

Tom Vorjohan

April Meeting Brings Surprise Lecture

One of the first items of business at the April meeting was to present new member Jim Thayer with his official IBM pin and membership certificate. Jim auditioned for membership in Ring 76 at the November meeting and was officially made a member then.



Left Dick Dale presenting IBM Membership certificate to Jim Thayer.

Dues for the coming year were payable at the door. Board member Don Soul greeted each person and accepted their money or checks. This year's dues saw an increase of five dollars per member. Don took any flack from grumbling members and cheerfully gave them their membership card.



Don Soul Sergeant-At-Arms checking the list to see who has renewed their membership:

First reports indicate that 22-people renewed their membership at the meeting. An invoice statement will be sent to all members who did not attend the Monday night meeting or did not pay their dues.

April is traditionally the meeting when a lecture "free" to all paid members is presented. Mike Rogers was widely advertised as the guest lecturer however ill health kept him from appearing. In his place the very clever and entertaining Whit Haydn from Los Angeles filled the spot.

Whit Haydn shows the written routine for "Chicago Surprise" a card trick.

Whit presented a sensational card effect called "Chicago Surprise" he spent a great deal of time going over the intricate points of why this trick works so well when presented as written.

He also presented an ESP effect that you can work anywhere and present under the most challenging of conditions. He told the story of doing the effect with a blind woman and stunning the blind woman's family. He gave us some interesting notes on the use of the "Brainwave" deck. In stage magic he did his famous comedy linking ring routine that is a true delight to watch.

Having been a street performer for many years in New York and Los Angeles he had many funny stories to tell about doing magic on the sidewalk.

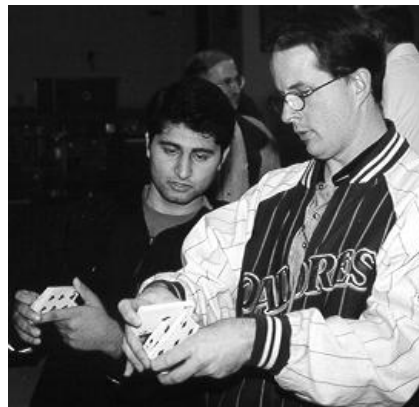


Whit Haydn presenting his famous "three shell" routine with his Golden Shells.

Haydn created the famous "Golden Shells" for the "Army Game" or the "Three Shell Game". He showed those assembled his routine with the shells and a few clever extra moves.

His work with a five-foot chain was another wonderful effort from the con man's book of bunco tricks. Haydn grouped all of these tricks under one heading of playing "fast and loose".

It was an exciting and upbeat lecture that seemed to be enjoyed by everyone.



Left: Sumit Dua showing fellow close up magician Paul Thomey a clever false cut:

During an intermission Sumit Dua was seen teaching Paul Thomey a false cut. By the end of the evening Paul seemed to have all the moves pretty well mastered.

Longtime Ring 76 member and Past President and Territorial Vice President Jim Riley was on hand to talk a little magic with a 25-year member Gary Dismukes, the current treasurer for the ring.

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April Lecture
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A View From the Cheap Seats



Left: Jim Riley talking with longtime friend Gary Dismukes following lecture.

Card mechanic Sumit Dua had to stand on a chair to do a card trick for Don Bromley and Jim Riley who are both about 6.4.



Keeping up with the big guys Sumit Dua climbed up on a folding chair to be on the same level as Don Bromley and Jim Riley while showing them a card trick.

Diane Lane Joins Circus Vargas for a Day

San Diego magician and clown Diane Lane, for the eighth straight year was on the lot in Balboa Park when Circus Vargas set up for their annual two week engagement in this city.

Diane and members of the San Diego All Star Clown Club were on hand to entertain school children who come to watch the setting up of the circus tents and the cleaning and care given the animals with the show.

Sumit says he get a stiff neck looking up at the tall guys in the club so it is easier to pull a chair over and stand on it and look them straight in the eye.

Because of the interest in the lecture and the many questions asked of Whit Hayden the meeting lasted a little longer than usual. Everyone had not cleared the hall until about 10:30 P.M.

I have often thought that I have been guilty, as have most of us, of buying more and more magic books to read, but really learning none of the material to performance standards. Due to personal taste and individual performing style/character, no one will choose to learn everything that a single volume presents, nor should he attempt to do so. However, there are two sides to that coin, and both sides deserve examination.

Heads: Digesting the knowledge (as opposed to merely grazing) from each new (or old!) book opens one's head to creativity in the art. Combining this sleight with that concept toward this finished effect = new creation.

To that end I have been studying the "classics" of magic for the last several years (Hoffman's "Modern Magic/More Magic/Later Magic", Sach's "Sleight of Hand", Neil's "Modern Conjurer", Erdnase's "Expert at the Card Table", Down's "Art of Magic", Hilliard's "Greater Magic" [Kaufman expanded edition], Hugard's and Braue's "Royal Road to Card Magic", Hugard's "Modern Magic Manual", Bobo's "New Modern Coin Magic", Ganson's "Dai Vernon Book of Magic" and "Art of Closeup Magic", "Stars of Magic", and Galloway's "Ramsay Legend/Ramsay Classics", to name some off the top of my head), gleaned concepts and techniques upon which to draw for the creation of my own magic. Resisting the temptation for many years to buy "modern" books, I have finally "given in" of late and purchased Sisti's "Magic Menu", Ammar's "Complete Cups & Balls", Harris' "Quarks & Quirks", and Tommy Wonder's "Books of Wonder". Both old and new books continue to shape my thinking and spur my creativity. In particular, the old books give me long-forgotten effects to resurrect and update, while the new books keep me abreast of changes in our art. The broad background enables me to synthesize my knowledge to create new effects, making me a more individual magician in the pack of "me, too" hobbyists. In all, I have roughly 125 magic books so far, a mere pittance compared to the libraries of some of you. However...

Tails: How much of this magic can I actually perform? Not much! Do I really NEED to buy anything else? Ok, so I want Harris' "Art of Astonishment" books, Cummins' "From A Shuffled Deck In Use", Carney's "Carneycopa", Burger's "Mastering the Art of Magic", and the "Magic of Michael Ammar", but do I really need them? Would I not be better off, like David Devant, to know 8 tricks superbly than only be able to recognize methods for hundreds? Right now, I have choices in my active repertoire of



(above: San Diego All Star Clown Club members from left to right: Jingles, Honey Bee, Diane Lane, Just a Clown and JuWanna, performing for children at Circus Vargas.)

The circus invites the clown club to take part in the opening day ceremonies every year. Diane was not in make-up this year instead she had her colorful Bugs Bunny vest on and was supported by four other clowns who made balloon animals and talked with the children. She has

this one is still in study), and a few other miscellaneous effects. How much more do I need to learn? How many more effects must I have? How often should I learn new tricks to replace older effects? After all, it is easier to find new audiences than to learn new material!

So, Heads or Tails? It all depends upon your personal needs and wants. If you perform rarely, or often but for widely disparate groups of people, then a few effects is enough for you. If, however, you perform often for the same circle of friends, then perhaps you need to keep learning new material regularly. Just remember to give all new material a thorough learning before running it by your usual audience; no need to expose through carelessness!

I am beginning to think that I could take an intelligent neophyte and help her learn only a couple of major routines each from Kronzek's "Secrets of Alkazar", Lorayne's "The Magic Book", Hay's "Learn Magic", and Gross' "Pure Magic", and she would "blow away" most of us "long timers." Food for thought...

Until next month, I challenge you to learn and perfect just one new effect this month from your existing library before you buy anything new. There is much worthwhile material lying unexplored in your books that is undoubtedly deserving of your attention. In fact, make a pact with me: for the next year, you and I will each learn one new effect every month from our existing personal libraries, preferably personalize it to make it fresh, and add it to our respective repertoires so that it is a finished option for our shows. Come on, now; would you not like to have twelve new additions to your working repertoire without spending a dime?

Jon A. Hand

(jonahand@hotmail.com) is currently studying the newly-published Racherbaumer "In a Class By Himself: the Legacy of Don Alan" and trying desperately to resist the urge to buy "The Magic of Michael Ammar"...

retired her clown character "Snickerdoodles" except for a few of her favorite charity events.



Diane had her magic table on wheels set up outside the circus petting zoo and inside that table she had enough magic tricks to do two hours worth of

non-stop material. The children attending the annual day at the circus are given free milk and treated to a show by Diane and her crew of merry makers. The children also get a hearty helping of the sounds and smell of the circus as they watch the colorful action of America's favorite entertainment institution the circus.

Diane and the entire All-Star Clown Club were invited to attend and take part in one of the evening performances of the circus as well as the opening day festivities.

One of the clown's said: "it is a dream come true being able to perform in a real circus inside a real big top."

Ring member Rich Robertson had a letter he wrote published in Duane Laffin's excellent magazine, "Happy Magic," which is for family and children's magicians. Duane wrote, "read his words all the way through and then think about what he says."

Here is what Rich said:

"In the notes for his lecture at the KIDABRA convention, Duane Laffin reminds us that people want to see a magician do things that they can't do themselves. If they think that they can do the magic too, "if they just had one of them there boxes," they will appreciate us far less.

We need to be sure that our audiences think we do special things that common folk can't do. If you do magic as a hobby, don't you want your friends to think you have special talent? And if you earn your living doing magic, this is even more important.

Duane suggests that we not rely solely on self working tricks. We should pursue a higher level of performance. This is right. It is also right that what we do doesn't have to actually be difficult to perform; but the audience should believe it is something that they could never do. Many magicians make the mistake of using patter that suggests that anyone can do the tricks they are watching.

A. perfect example of this is the **SIX CARD REPEAT**. Properly presented, this trick seems to show great skill. But the store-bought patter is often a story about seeing the trick in a magic shop. When people hear this line, they may realize that the magician doesn't have great skill. No, instead he is just someone who spent his money to buy a trick that anyone could do.

Don't let on that you bought the trick! Let the audience imagine that you have manual dexterity and a clever mind to match it!

Dr. Wilderness

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The show runs about 45-minutes and is both entertaining and educational. I talked with several teachers after the show that said they were pleasantly surprised and thought it was the best show their students had seen all year.

Kevin Barnes has been presenting environmental shows for 20-years and toured them all over the United States as well as 50 different countries over seas. His current show is the largest to date and requires a van and trailer to transport his unit. When his current school tour ends in June he will join the fair circuit in the Pacific Northwest playing various fairs and being sponsored by different water districts.



(above: This is a heavy show for a school unit and as such travels in this cargo trailer that is parked just outside of the school auditorium stage door.)

Magicians are lucky. Many people, surprisingly, still don't know that there are stores that sell magic. We profit by this. These people give magicians credit for both creativity and special skill.

Why mess this up by talking about magic shops in your patter? Or, for that matter, why mention them to people any time?

Yes. The audience should believe your magic is something they could never do. So let's not talk about magic shops to our audience and friends!

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Message from the President

If you think the name Kevin Barnes is a familiar name and you may have seen him perform as a magician at the Excalabor Hotel in Las Vegas, you are partly right. There is a Kevin Barnes at the Excalabor Hotel but he is not this Kevin Barnes. For years they have been confused because both spell their names the same and both men have an interest in the environment and magic. But it wasn't until just recently that the two men actually met and became friends.

The Dr Wilderness show is well thought out and produced with an exciting flair that keeps young people's attention throughout which is something that is difficult to do in this modern day and age of M-TV and fast paced video cutting. If you are thinking about putting together a school show I would suggest you take the time to see this show. Not to copy it but to watch it for its staging and presentation. By not bringing children up from the audience Kevin keeps his show moving at a very fast pace. The routining of the tricks and illusions are all original and blend well with the theme. Take the time to see it. It is probably playing at an elementary school near you.

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What is our Ring all about?? Is it a group of people getting together to perform for one another? Have we joined just to learn a few tricks to share with friends and family? Or, are we a group of professional magicians and/or semiprofessional getting together to sharpen our own presentations? A Ring is all the above and more. We are organized to associate together individually in the practice, promotion and advancement of the Art of Magic. We are organized to facilitate social interaction and exchange of ideas and cooperation between individuals interested in or practicing magic.

**We are organized for many,
many reasons more, and
because we care**

We are organized to promote harmony among those interested in the magical arts. We are organized to advance the ethics of the magical professional, as well as those interested therein, insofar as their relationship to the magical fraternity is concerned. We are organized for many, many reasons more and because we care.

A Magic Club can, with united efforts, get together and hear lecturers expound on specific magical topics, and though what they say, many not all appeal to all of us, as a result we all profit. When everyone profits, and grows magically by belonging to a Ring, we are the result of the Art of Magic-- enriched people.

Julie Dale



CONTEST!

All members in good standing are invite to come on stage
and try for the title of

"Stand-Up Performer of the Year"

The May Meeting Theme is Paper

Magic!

Bring your favorite paper trick and show the Ring.

**REMEMBER,
JUNE 11TH IS THE
STAND-UP**

Magic Newsline

Magic Legend **John Calvert** will lecture to San Diego magicians June 6th at Jack White's Magic Museum 4275 University Avenue. Calvert is being voted the Society of American Magicians, Magician of the Year in late April and on August 5th he will celebrate his 90th birthday. For many years he was a movie actor in Hollywood, then turned to directing but always toured his big illusion show. His dancing handkerchief is one of the most beautiful ever presented. He will also teach a wonderful impromptu rope escape and a dozen other effects. Admission is \$10 dollars at the door. Calvert's youthful personality and physical condition has kept him at the forefront of his profession. Don't miss this "Super" lecture.

California **State Senator Gloria Romero** has introduced Assembly Bill 1484 that could have serious effects on magicians working with animals. The bill is designed to remove all animals from circus acts however the proposed measure has far reaching implications and would go so far as to disallow the use of a monkey by an organ grinder and doves and rabbits by a magician. Senator Romero has been greatly influenced by animal rights groups who seem to be determined to remove all animals from any form of entertainment. If you are concerned you should ask your state legislator to vote against Assembly Bill 1484. Late word tells MagiCurrents editors this bill has been tabled in conference but will no doubt resurface in the fall.

David Eldridge manager of **Brad Burts Magic Shop** announces yet another new booklet for the magic market that has just been released for mentalists and magicians. "Mind Control: A Study of Equivogue". Eldridge's new book is packed with tricks and a full explanation of David's handling of "B-Wave" plus many other mental mysteries. The publication is being distributed exclusively by Brad Burts Magic of San Diego.

Ring 76 member **Michael Feldman** is teaching occupational impaired people at Grossmont Hospital how to overcome some of their handicaps through the ability to perform simple magic tricks. Michael says his work with these people is very rewarding. Michael himself is still a highschool student at Francis Parker School but believes in giving back to his community by volunteering his time and talents. Michael also has a built in audience at the hospital for his more advanced slight of hand.

Kerrick "Ice" McDonald who lives in Los Angeles but grew up and learned his magic in San Diego was in town in April to visit his family. His father is a minister locally. Kerrick had lunch one Sunday afternoon

after church with Ring 76 member **Bob Ingalls**. Ice, as he is known professionally was getting ready to take off on a lecture and show tour in the south and eastern part of the United States. He will attend the IBM and SAM Conventions this summer.

If you are looking for something different, the next time you see Ring 76 member **Charlie Norris** ask him to show you his clever and original paddle routine "The Eyes Have It". Charlie has attached two real eye implants to a magician's paddles (two) and presents a routine that is not for the faint of heart. He got the eyes from his ophthalmologist; they are the closest things you will find to a real eyeball. In Charlie's hands it is clever and very funny.

The Southeast Asian Press Club held a talent show as a fundraiser for the organization in April. They brought together reporters, writers, producers and anchorpersons from the five television stations and three radio stations in San Diego. The overall winner was **Jack White** with his magic act. About 250 people paid 8-dollars each to see the show.

Milt Larsen is producing a special edition of "Its Magic" in Honolulu on May 25th to the 27th featuring Juliana Chen, Ed Alonzo, Dana Denials, Rudy Colby, Christopher Hart and the Amazing Joseph Gabriel. It should be a great show if you are going to be in the islands during that time. **The Escondido Performing Arts Center** reports that Larsen has **not** booked their theater for an "Its Magic Show" this fall. Last October's show was a sell out for the evening performance.

New Ring 76 member **Michael E. Johnson** received a large write up and two pictures in the San Diego Union-Tribune North County Sunday edition on Easter (April 15.) The article is titled "Just Say No, Magic Show". Michael's show is designed to motivate children to overcome obstacles in life through magic. It is part of Michael's popular "Life Skills Magic Program" that is much respected in the north county.

Several large groups of San Diego magicians attended the Magic Castle Swap Meet in Hollywood the Saturday before Easter Sunday. **J.P. Jackson and Marcus Day** were operating a booth selling magic and books. Buyers included **Bob Ingalls, Ralph Mauzy, Marty Brenner, Sumit Dua, and Freddie Sanchez**, all from San Diego.

From the North County, **Casey McFadden, Ed Lake, Steve Higgins (Spellman), Bob Allen and Jack Evans**. Most reported coming home with new magic treasures.

Gary Schwartzwald is an avid reader of fiction. He is just finishing up **"Shell Game"** by Carol O'Connell, a murder mystery in which a magician is murdered during a death defying illusion. Before he started that book he read **"The Man Who Walked Through Walls"** also by O'Connell with a magic setting. Gary plans to write a review of the current book he is reading for a future edition of MagiCurrents.

Winding up his current season of Road Shows for Mega Corporation Fujitsu, **Craig Stone** did his act in Chicago, Denver, San Jose, Everett, Washington and Kansas City, Mo., in April. Craig can be seen doing his magic locally at the Gathering in Mission Hills on Friday and Saturday evenings until early June when he returns to the cruise ships for the summer tour. Craig is one busy magician.

MagiCurrents columnist **Jon Hand** who is also a music teacher in Kentucky recently incorporated his jazz saxophone into a talent show that also featured his magic act. Jon is in the process of writing two books on magic. The first is a new look at Cups & Balls, using disparate objects as basic loads and devising plots and new sleights to go around them. The second book is a not for beginners general magic book with Jon's original routines. If you are not acquainted with his work or skip over his column check it out in this issue of MagiCurrents **"A View from the Cheap Seats."** 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 event).

Local Dues are \$25 per year

Membership in the IBM international organization is required

Prospective members are required to perform a five-minute magic audition at a Ring 76 meeting.

Ring 76 members receive the monthly MagiCurrents newsletter.





Attention

All

Members



Elections are in June!

With the **National Convention** coming to San Diego next July, this could be the most exciting year in **Ring 76** history.

The Ring needs its best and brightest to lead the membership in the year to come. Any member in good standing can run for any office.

President, Vice-President of Membership, Vice-President of Entertainment, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-arms, all are open this year. And all posts need to be filled.

Contact the Nominating Committee and tell them **You want to run for office.**

Call Jeff Marcus @ **619-562-3434**

Upcoming Events

July 10th

Lecture by Faulkenstein and Willard

May 14th

Pre-Meeting Magic Videos

Meeting Theme: Paper Magic

Members bring their favorite paper trick!

Nominating Committee presents the slate of candidates

June 11th

Annual Stand-up Competition, all members welcome

Election of new officers

Vote on Member of the Year

July 9th

Installation Banquet

Hawaiian Luau at the American Legion Hall

Faulkenstein and Willard on Stage

I.B.M. Ring 76
San Diego, CA

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