



MagiCurrents



San Diego
Recipient of the IBM's Quality Ring Award
2002-2003

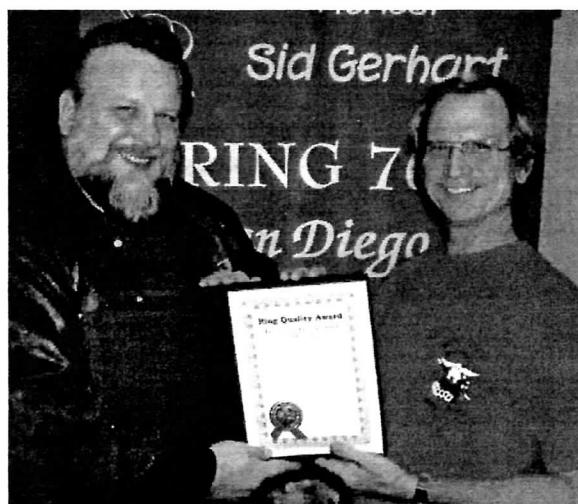
Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Volume XVI No 11 November 2002

Ring 76 Presented the IBM Quality Ring Award

In what can only be called a surprise announcement, acting Territorial Vice President Jeff Marcus told the membership at the October 14th meeting that Ring 76 was the recipient of the IBM's "Quality Ring Award."

The announcement came from IBM President Michael Stratman, who said our Ring had completed all of the necessary requirements to receive this prestigious honor. The award goes to all of the members of Ring 76 for their



**Acting TVP Jeff Marcus
presents Quality Ring Award
to Ring 76 President Don Soul**

continued efforts in making our Ring one to be proud of and a leader in preserving the art of magic.

Ring 76 President Don Soul added his congratulations to the membership and singled out Ring Treasurer, Richard Ustick for his efforts in putting together the paperwork and application for the Quality Ring Award.

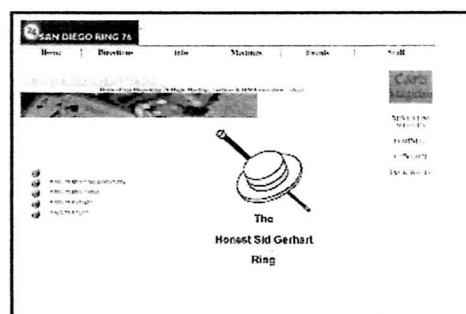
The award itself will be framed and put on display at Jack's Magic Place, our regular meeting location.

New Updated Ring 76 Webpage Now Online

The updated Ring 76 website is online at www.ring76.com. Don Soul has become the new webmaster of this site. Originally started by Sumit Dua for the IBM Convention, the site has been revamped and brought up-to-date with Ring 76 information.

Don Soul noted there is nothing worse than going to a magic website and finding the information

is outdated. With that in mind Soul gave the entire site a new look and brought the information on the site up to date.



It is hoped that in the near future you will be able to read portions of the MagiCurrents newsletter on the webpage. We encourage all members to submit photographs and articles for the online site.

The Ring 76 webpage is currently linked to the IBM and to Diane Lanes websites. This is an effort to allow people around the world to know what is going on in magic in San Diego. Next time you are online take a look and what Don Soul has accomplished.

Information for the webpage should be sent directly to Don Soul at dsoul@san.rr.com

October Ring Meeting

The October meeting was well attended with the membership supplying the show for the evening. The pre-meeting found many members working behind the bar showing off some of their latest close-up routines. Ring 76 President Don Soul called the meeting to order a few minutes before 7. There were announcements and then Lane Lee was the first of two new members auditioning for the Ring. Lane did two very clever card tricks; he caused the back of a selected card to change to red while all the other cards in the packet were shown to be blue; then he presented a very nice version of Roy Walton's "Card Warp" with some very clever original patter. Ken DeWoody was next to audition. Ken is a wild and crazy guy with a great personality he had a card selected from a deck and then told the audience he had to hurry to get to the meeting and had not had dinner; would we mind if he had a slice of pizza? He then opened a pizza box to reveal a bloody hand. The moving and scary severed hand found the selected card. Both applicants were voted into Ring membership. The Ring has adopted a new policy of installing new members in a ceremony twice a year. These new members will be officially installed in January.

Entertainment Vice President Bob Ingalls then took over the program. The theme was presenting a spooky Halloween effect. Don Holcomb did a cute routine that had a ghost travel about in a most mysterious manner. Holcomb told the audience that most of the routine was straight out of the Tarbell Course and encouraged members to use the Ring library when looking for new magic.

Gary Salisbury brought his much talked about "Demon's Head Automation" to the meeting. Professor Hoffman describes the illusion in his book Modern Magic. Rather than present a routine, Gary gave us the history of the illusion and how his differs from the original. The mouth and the eyes move, and



**Gary Salisbury and the
Demon's Head Automation**

when the automation was introduced, the stage was suddenly filled with smoke or a fog, making it even more mysterious. This was a wonderful piece of magic history for our members to enjoy. We are all indebted to Gary for sharing this unique prop with our Ring.

David Guterrez used a deck of cards and a special "Death Card" to entertain us. A spectator selected a card from a spread, and we were told that if the selected card was the Ace of Spades it would mean we had selected the death card. Fortunately the selected card was the Three of Hearts. When the three was turned over there was a message that read, "You missed the Ace of Spades by one card!" Indeed the Ace of Spades was the very next card in the spread.

Jack White, assisted by Diane Lane presented an illusion of pushing a giant 30 X 45 inch playing card through Diane's body. To add to the theme of things, Jack started with a regulation deck of cards, had one selected, which matched the giant card used in the illusion, and then the selected card was replaced in the pack and mysteriously rose out the deck.

Bob Pozner followed Jack's presentation, using a cell phone, Bob called long distance to Harry Houdini. Bob had some wonderful patter and presented a very clever routine of having Houdini locate a selected card. By the way, the selected card was free choice. Bob took a very old effect and gave it a new look. He presented the book that the trick came from to the Ring 76 library.

The ever-original Bryan McDaniels, came out next in his country cousin character. He lured David Lopez on stage to help him. Bryan handcuffed and chained David and then placed a stock around his neck and ran a solid sword through his neck. He said he wanted to make sure that David got the point! Bryan wears buckteeth and a derby hat to make his character standout. It was a very funny and entertaining performance.

Loch David Crane as Bafflin Bill Cody presented a routine he has used at Halloween for years; his Finger Chopper effect. Loch has taken the lowly finger chopper and turned it into a full act. He uses the version where the blade can be removed from the stock and appears to be a real chopper. He makes it very entertaining.



**Loch David Crane as
Bafflin Bill Cody**

Kenny Shelton asked Donna Soul to help him by selecting and signing a card. Kenny then burned the back of the top card on the deck and the burn marks vanished from that card and appeared on the selected

David Eldridge, aided by Arlene Moskowitz, became a mentalist. David was able to name the card that Arlene removed from a standard ESP deck. David is now giving MagiCurrents some wonderful material from his personal arsenal of magic. Look for his column in this issue.



David Eldridge

The amazing Terry Godfrey displayed his skill with coins. The audience was still recovering from the sensational presentation he gave the month before with thimbles, this month Terry knocked us all out with a sensational coin routine that puts him in a class by himself. Great display, Terry.

The last act of the evening was Phil King, who caused a selected and signed card to jump from the deck to which it was returned to his wallet in his coat pocket. Phil has taken a popular card-to-wallet effect and given it his own personality, making it seem like real magic.

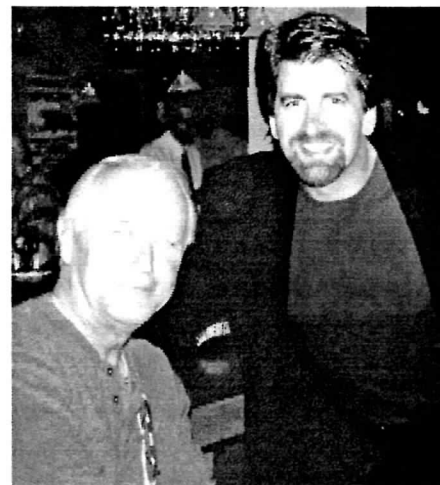
It was a good show with lots of surprises and much fellowship following the meeting.

Ring Dinner at The Gathering

On Tuesday night, October 29th, Ring 76 members attended a special dinner at the Gathering Restaurant where, in addition to fine food, four magicians entertained. Over the years a number of local magicians have gotten their start at performing at this restaurant. Among them



Dan Thomas restaurant owner performing



J.C. Wagner and Craig Stone, two of the performers

Magic Mike Stilwell, who was on hand in his zoot suit. J.C. Wagner worked behind the bar doing finger flinging as only he can do it. Craig Stone, who currently works at the restaurant, came by as part of the entertainment.

On this evening these close-up workers could do more than just a few tricks; they could do a complete routine. One of the highlights was 16 year old Giovanni DiNunzio who did a very nice linking ring routine and a very good set with cups & balls. It was a fun evening.



Mike Stilwell & 16 year old Giovanni DiNunzio

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Magic Pro-Tips

By Brad Burt

Introduction: What follows is the 13th lesson in an online FREE subscription course that's on my web site. I'm quite excited about this material, and you'll get the 2nd installment next month. I believe that in many ways the concept outlined here has never truly been addressed. The reason, I think, is that the concept itself is purely psychic in nature. The concept properly used produces a natural synergy between what the magician THINKS and what that thought produces by way of PHYSICAL manifestation when the magicians at work doing his or her manipulations. What I am suggesting is a degree of patterned belief that comes close to the BEST of Method Acting. (Actually, the idea is to manifest the belief externally WITHOUT opting out of reality. Again, this is technique on the 'head' side of the performing equation.)

This is lesson #13 in the Brad Burt Mini Magic Course. Remember if they are starting to drive you nuts, a simple click at the end of this email, and you are gone. No problem. Today I am going to address a technique that anyone can use to literally make the magic that they do become much better. The technique itself is based on a philosophical notion that I had many years ago when I was teaching magic almost on a full time basis. What is it? I call it the Magic State of Mind and, well, here is what one student/client had to say recently:

I am also enjoying your mini lessons very much. Makes one think again about his/her magic. I hope you stress something that I know I have said to you many times that the thing I have got most from your videos other than the skills themselves is what you called the Magic State of Mind. I think that thought and the way I use it, is just the best advice anyone can get. I use it with my illusions and I know what a difference in audience response it has made. To me it affects your body language and face expressions powerfully and transmits MY belief to those watching.

Here is an example of what the Magic State of Mind (MSOM) is: Close your left hand and IMAGINE that there is a half dollar in that hand. Attempt to "feel" the size and weight of the coin. Feel the ridges on the edge of that coin. Now, open your hand and notice that the coin has vanished. That's not meant as a joke.

Think for a moment: When you PRETEND to put a coin in your Left Hand so that a moment later you can open that hand and show it empty...WHAT is it that you are trying to DO? Is it not fooling your audience into believing that the coin was IN your left hand so that when you open that hand and find it empty the audience will believe that the coin could only NOT BE THERE because it had vanished?

Look....face it...if your audience does not buy into the FACT that you REALLY placed the coin in your left hand there will be no magic. Right? Think about this carefully. The magic that we do only happens because the audience if only for a moment buys into OUR DELUSION if you will.

And...here it comes....the important part...The stronger WE (you and I) believe in that delusion the better and more powerfully will our BODY LANGUAGE transmit that belief to the audience!!! We are acting here gang. ACTING as if it is real.



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Magic Notes from Jack White

Komedy Kidshow Clinic Closes:

If you are one of the fifty or so people who attended the "Komedy Kidshow Clinic" on September 21st here in San Diego, with David Ginn, Sammy Smith, and Steve Taylor, you know this is an informative daylong seminar on presenting magic for children. I am reminded that the last of these seminars is taking place in Baltimore, Maryland, Sunday November 10th. The magic community should feel a twinge of sadness at that announcement because these three men have raised the bar on doing "kidshows."

Since 1995, this trio, all veterans of kids show performing, have been trying to help the rest of us do a better job at entertaining young

people. There was much discussion this past month on the electronic Ring 2100 website about doing a magic show for 4-year olds. Ginn, Smith and Taylor have had a lot to say on that subject in their book, Creative Kid Talk. I was not surprised when one person picked up on the information they had to offer and suggested the magician asking for help refer to that book.

Sammy Smith reminded San Diego entertainers that during his college days he read a magic book that flatly stated; "You can not entertain children under the age of six." It was soon after that he began earning a good living doing magic shows for pre-schoolers and day care centers. All of those children were under the age of six.

Smith tells performers that their manner and approach for the younger set must be very gentle and quiet. He continues, "a group of pre-schoolers will be sitting on a carpet on the floor, and those children might have various levels of fear toward a clown or magician coming into their space. You can't charge in with an exploding flash wand. You must be gentle and sit down on the floor with them.

Get down to their level and gently; quietly gain their trust and attention."

Ginn, Smith, and Taylor have been crisscrossing the country doing their lectures and daylong seminars for eight years. They work 24 to 32 cities each year, but now they are closing up shop. The cost of travel, the long hops they are forced to make 12 to 15-weekends a year has become too arduous and expensive. They also say they have refined and put out all the information they have to offer.



Left to right: Sammy Smith, David Ginn, Jack White, Steve Taylor, loading out after their seminar in San Diego.

What has come out of the wonderful series of adventures by Ginn, Smith, and Taylor are books, video tapes, and lecture notes that will I am sure be available for years to come for magicians and clowns who want to be better kid show entertainers. All three of these men make a good living doing "kids' shows." They are successful because they have taken the time to think things out and find out what really works with children.

David Ginn says when he began working for pre-schoolers he would cause his rabbit to disappear at the end of the act. But he quickly learned the children did not understand the disappearance of the animal. They were concerned it was gone forever; others wanted to know if the rabbit was hurt? David said he quickly changed his act to have the rabbit magically appear rather than disappear. He says for small children the appearance of a rabbit is the biggest thing you can do. Make it your last trick, because there is nothing to top it.

I have known Steve Taylor since he was just a boy taking part in Ring 76 Junior Magician, shows. He recently reminded me it was in 1972 that we first met. He claims a brief letter of encouragement from me kept him in magic and opened the door to a lucrative career. I, of course, feel pleased that I might have had a little influence in his success.



Steve Taylor
Circa 1972

Watching Steve work during his recent seminar here in San Diego, gave me an opportunity to learn from him. For more than 20 years he has been doing magic shows with a message learn to read, say no to drugs, be kind to each other-the list is endless. Steve has emerged a professional entertainer, specializing in children's magic but being able to show us all a better way to create something new and feel good about what we do.

Those of us in San Diego are proud of his accomplishments and what he and David and Sammy have contributed to the overall magic scene in this country. Perhaps one day in the future we will see the Komedy Kidshow Clinic on the road again. Until that time, thank you for opening a new door to better "Kidshow Magic."

A big thank you this month to Bob Ingalls who, at his own expense, has taken our round table and covered it with padding and felt ,giving the top of the table a close-up pad texture. He has also added a skirt for the table that will allow laping and the ability to hide small items in your lap.

This is a very nice addition to our Ring. We invite you to use this great table; however, we do request that you not put food or cups with liquid on the table. We want to keep it for performing purposes.



Bob Ingalls at our newly covered close-up table

BOOK REVIEW

Thinking Outside of the Circle, a Revelation

By Joel A. Moskowitz, M.D.

Mind control is the underlying device of many magical marvels, asserts the author of *Abracadabra*, Nathaniel Schiffman. Published by Prometheus Books, this cloth 441-page book (\$27.95) reveals how magicians deceive/entertain their audiences. Magicians at large, one may well predict, are already experiencing a surge of adrenaline. Many are calling their intellectual property lawyers and chanting spells to expunge the volume from bookshelves.

"Reveal you say" A curse on you and your progeny, I can read your mind. The author and Henry Gordon (himself author of "Its Magic" who wrote the prologue (apology/explanation) argue that this tome is not as venal as revelations on TV (read *Masked Magician*). They further assert that it benefits the public to know how sleight of mind deceives. While it is not exactly *Scots Discovery of Witchcraft*, which was penned to save charged sorcerers from being hanged as witches, in the instance of this book, reluctantly, I might come to agree.

For a moment, consider who seeks out a book on magic. Remember that most libraries are not likely to carry *Abracadabra*. Myself, a public library addict, and knowing the Dewey Decimal System better than the routine for Sam the Bellhop, did a non statistical survey.

The site for books on tricks, 793.5, in at least 10 San Diego branches, disclosed that not a single copy of this book could be found. Add to this the \$27.95 price tag (didn't find it on Ebay either) and you would have to be pretty determined to hunt up a copy. I haven't asked the publisher but I would venture that this is not another "Gone With The Wind." In fact, it was published in 1997 and this is the first that I, at least, have heard of it. Invoking the how to maxim that if you want a magical secret kept hidden, publish it. Be assured, we are safe!

Aside from our understandable paranoia, the author, in my opinion, has done the reader a service. This is not a "How to" recipe book on conjuring. It is, more appropriately, a "How do and how does" magic appear. How do magicians utilize the human mental wiring to deflect understanding and how does, the spec-

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View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

A Review of Apocalypse Volumn Four:

There is an onslaught of new magic on the shelves now: books, videos, and DVDs. However, "new" is not necessarily "better." In the spirit of "Everything old is new again," here are my reviews of two old items freshly re-released in new formats.

Apocalypse, Vol. 4, by Harry Lorayne — L&L Publishing has been reissuing the entire 20-year run of this magic newsletter in bound volumes. Now, the fourth and final volume in the series is available. Bound to match the other three volumes in the series, this large format tome boasts more than 700 pages of close-up magic from 1993 through 1997, contributed by a literal "who's who" in intimate magic. Each of the monthly newsletters contained several effects, so there are hundreds of tricks in this single volume. Intriguing concepts abound, and I keep finding new tricks which I want to add to my repertoire. The volumes are expensive at \$80 per volume, but the cost-per-trick ratio is far lower than most magic books. While the emphasis is overwhelmingly card work, there are many other types of non-card tricks included. A wide range of difficulty levels is present also, which ensures that those of us who are not card specialists will find plenty of material that we can do, both card and otherwise. The four-volume Apocalypse set would keep you reading for happily for years; L&L has a very attractive price of \$285 for those of you who might "bite the bullet" and order the entire set of four volumes at once. Highly recommended.

One might view magic periodical collections as ersatz encyclopedias of close-up magic. Certainly the sheer volume of effects in them makes them fine complements to the eight classic **Tarbell** volumes. As much as anything, I think that such volumes stir one's magic thinking. One may not like the method to an effect, for example, but the effect will spur his thinking to create another method, or the method might be used to create another effect.

Then, too, one can marry effects from various sources into a larger routine and have something that has never been seen previously.

Encyclopedia of Coin Sleights, by Michael Rubinstein — Unlike **Apocalypse**, this three volume set of videos/DVDs contains NO effects; rather, the set is a fairly comprehensive visual teaching aid for the most useful coin sleights, according to coin specialist Rubinstein. A retitled reissue of the Videonics **Mastering Coin Magic** series, the DVD version is a snap to use and incredibly helpful. More than 110 sleights are taught, and each one is instantly available on the DVD with a few clicks of the remote control. Rubinstein shows each sleight several times as the audience would see it, and then the director shows carefully chosen close-up "behind the scene" views to teach the sleight. Often the sleight is shown from several angles to make the correct moves obvious, and Rubinstein's terse commentary points out common mistakes and salient points. Most inspiring is the consistency with which Rubenstein demonstrates; each of the multiple performances of any given sleight looks exactly the same, a goal to which the developing student should aspire. Every single sleight is taught with the same clarity and precision, and the bulk of the camera work is excellent. Unless one truly aspires to be a coin specialist, the huge range of sleights taught would be overkill for most performers. However, the mastery of several palms, an assortment of vanishes, a shuttle pass or two, a steal, a load, a couple of click passes, and a couple of spellbound moves would allow the developing magician to perform some miracles. Couple the above with some routining from Bobo's **Modern Coin Magic** or original routining from the learner to build anything from a single routine to an entire act.

Problems are few but worth noting. Conspicuously absent is the Oblique Palm with which T.N. Downs took coin effects into a whole new field of magic. Perhaps Rubinstein thought it more of a stage magic sleight, but the palm can be used well from a parlor to a platform setting and so deserves to be taught in this otherwise fine encyclopedia; see Bobo, or Henry Hay's **Amateur Magician's Handbook** if you want to know more. Also, especially irritating is the single piece of Baroque music which runs throughout the series; there is an oft-repeated running string line which becomes nauseating very quickly. Recent studies have shown that Baroque music enhances retention of learning, but redundancy is distracting rather than helpful. Publishers of video magic instruction take note: License an entire composition with multiple

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MIND OVER MATTER

By David Eldridge

Blind Date

The performer introduces a deck of cards that has swimsuit models on the cards. As you patter about the deck, and the girls on the deck, the deck is casually mixed. It is explained to a male spectator that he is going to go on a date with one of these 52 girls. All he has to do is psychically determine her phone number. You bring out 5 cards, which are numbered 1 through 10. All of the odd numbers are on one side of the cards, and all of the even numbers are on the other side of the cards. In other words, the card marked with a 1 on one side is marked with a 2 on the other side. The others are, of course, 3/4, 5/6, 7/8, and 9/10. Tell the spectator that you will give him a little help in determining his mystery date's number. The spectator lays out the number cards in a totally random and freely chosen order. He then deals down into the deck according to the number that he has created. The card that comes at the end of the deal is turned face up. It is the 6 of Spades with a picture of Lisa on it. A prediction that has been sitting on the table is opened. It reads, "Your mystery date's name is Lisa. She is 27 years old, and She lives at #6 Spade Drive." Of course, the card is correct, but what about the "27 years old?" The pile of dealt cards is counted. There are exactly 27 cards.

In the March 1974 issue of Swami, Arthur Setterington published an effect called "Telegirl." I liked that effect a lot, but the method is very impractical. It required that you count off up to all 52 cards, and then recount them "to make sure the spectator counted them right the 1st time." I am not going to go into that effect, suffice it to say that it needed a very large face lift. While reading a little pamphlet by Jules Leneir, I found a very nice mathematical force. It is based on a very old principal, but it is very little known. I have altered the method described by Jules just a tad, but the principal is the same. Jules also notes at the end of the pamphlet that nothing in it is new. Therefore, it is my understanding that what was published was farther back than Jules.

You will need a deck of cards that not only has 52 different swimsuit models on the cards, but one that also has the girls' name on the card. The decks that can be bought at Hooter's Restaurants are ideal as they fit all of the requirements. Place the 6 of Spades in the 28th position, and the Joker on the bottom of the deck. Put the deck in its box, and set it aside.

Now, take 5 cards that are blank on both sides, and mark them with the numbers 1-10 with all of the odd numbers on one side, and all of the even numbers on the other side. In other words, the card with the 1 printed on it has 2 printed on the reverse side. The other cards are numbered likewise, i.e, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 9-10. The principle is this: the only two sums that can be arrived at are 27 and 28. This is done in the following manner: Let us assume that the spectator has opted to begin with an odd number. Give him the packet of cards with the odd numbers showing. Tell him to select any one of those numbers, and place it on the table to the far left. Next have him turn the entire packet over, so that only the even numbers are showing. Again, allow him a free choice of any number, and have him place his selection on the table next to the card already selected. Have him once again turn the packet to the odd side, and have him choose another number. This goes on until the packet is exhausted. No matter what the spectator chooses, he will always end up with a total of 27 or 28. It does not matter whether he chooses to begin with an odd number or an even number, and he has a totally free choice as to the numbers that are placed in the row (all except for the last card, of course).

You will now make the prediction card. Actually, you will make two prediction cards. Both will read, "Your mystery date's name is Lisa. She is X years old, and she lives at #6 Spade Drive." The "X" is 27 on one card, and 28 on the other. Keep one prediction in your right pocket, and the other in your left pocket. The prediction will not be on the table the entire time, but you will give the spectators the impression that it was. This will be done with a lie. You are now ready to perform.

Bring out the cards, and hold them face-up. Do a Charlier False shuffle as described in The Calendar Trick. At the end of the shuffle, spread the cards across the table, and use the Bammo Invertolater to bring the Joker back to the bottom of the deck. This will restore the deck to its original position. If you prefer, you can simply cut the deck at the Joker, but I prefer to use the Bammo Invertolater. Place

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the deck off to the side, face-down, and bring out the packet of number cards. Have the spectator select a random row of numbers as described. As the spectator is busy with this task, casually place both hands into your pockets with the predictions. You are waiting for him to use the 9-10 card. If he selects 9, the outcome will be 27. On the other hand if 10 is selected the outcome will be 28. Whichever he chooses, casually, and without drawing attention, bring out the appropriate prediction. Casually drop this onto the table off to the side, and wait for the spectator to finish his task.

When he has finished, hand him the deck. Have him deal the number of cards equal to the number he chose first. For example, if he chose the number 7 first, he would deal 7 cards into a pile on the table.

Have him do likewise for the rest of his numbers, but make sure that he deals only one pile, not 5. If the total is 27 have him turn over the card that is on top of the remainder of the deck after the deal. If, on the other hand, 28 is the total, have him turn up the last card dealt. It will, of course be the 6 of Spades.

Now, draw attention to the prediction, by saying, "That index card (I use index cards folded into fourths for my prediction) has been sitting there this whole time (well, no it hasn't, but because you never mentioned it, the spectators will assume that it has been there the entire time)" Have the spectator open the prediction, and read it out loud. Of course, the prediction matches the card. Draw attention to the girl's age. If she is 27 have him deal the cards in the pile he dealt. There will, of course, be 27 cards in the pile. If, however, her age is 28, have him count all the cards in his pile including the 6 of Spades. There will be 28 cards.

That's it. It is very easy, and has great entertainment value. I like to do this for couples.

Magician
TERRY LUNCEFORD
supports the
IBM & RING 76

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movements rather than a single short piece. For example, G.F. Handel's three Water Music Suites and his Fireworks Music Suite contain a wealth of moods and tempos within the Baroque genre, with generous running times and no repetition.

At \$100 for the DVD set of three volumes, this encyclopedia is pricey. However, the DVD format is used superbly here, and the clarity of the sleights taught here is a real boon to the student studying alone. Highly Recommended.

L&L Publishing is gradually re-releasing most of its video instruction in the DVD format, a welcome improvement. The future is most interesting, though; DVD has the capability of allowing the user to call up different camera angles at will if the publisher includes the various angles on the disk. Imagine watching a performance from audience view, and instantly changing in mid-stream to reveal performer views or multiple camera angles!

Well, my recommendations have urged you to commit almost \$400 for the four **Apocalypse** volumes and the three-volume **Encyclopedia of Coin Sleights**. Just don't tell your spouse I sent you!



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the deck from hand to hand (be careful not to expose the reversed card). Once you have spread over about half the pack, cut the cards, thus bringing the selected card to the middle of the deck. The card is reversed.

Now table the deck. Snap your fingers, wave your wand and say Abracadabra. Have the spectator open his/her hands to find that the thought-of card is gone without a trace, leaving only three cards. Let the effect sink in and spread the deck to find the thought-of-card reversed in the pack.

Afterthoughts: This is a powerful trick. Make sure not to follow the deck while you make the packet switch, so yes, you will have to do a bit of misdirection, but it is worth it. I love this trick, because it is impromptu and I can do it anytime, any where. Be sure you follow the shuffling sequence so you know how many cards to cut to the bottom or the top, depending upon which reverse you want to use. This is my version of a trick by Dick Ferguson called, Wow. I hope you try this and enjoy it, because I have! Remember; never let the spectator see the initial four cards touched. The best way not mess this trick up is to watch the spectator. Have fun with this one.

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tator experience and participate in the deception. Mr. Schiffman, who is from New Brunswick, New Jersey, is simply described as a devotee of magic and a writer. Search engines tell little more. We can presume from the publisher that they thought his contribution would be suitable for their readership. Their market is for persons interested in learning how to think rationally, to penetrate the wiles of the con, the hype, the misleading distraction. Mr. Schiffman describes the tools of mind bending which are pervasive in the media, Madison Avenue, and, yes, in magic presentations.

But the author recognizes that knowing the secret of legerdemain may detract from appreciation of a source of pleasure. The ability to regress in the service of the ego (Psychoanalytic mumbo jumbo which translates: the ability to think and react as a child when your wish commanded mother to bring the milk, change your diaper, or hold you. This stage of mental development is a healthy aspect of our mental processes and truly mature individuals can return to those days of fantasy and experience joy and wonder and surprise).

For those who are too threatened to lower their guard (remember the pesky spectator who grabbed for the deck), such folk are not only irritating to the performer but do a disservice to the audience who can enjoy the mystery and not feel vulnerable or duped. Mr. Schiffman urges his reader to appreciate the mind manipulation used in magic. So, informed and aware, one can identify it in commerce. The better to filter the true from the false. In the magic parlour, sit back and be surprised.

Finally, Mr. Schiffman provides us with an anecdote: A magician in K Mart is seeking to obtain some props for an effect. He picks up a large sharp knife and approaches the check-out clerk. Inquiring, he asks, "Do you have women's bathing suits here." The clerk, apprehensively, stutters, "One piece or two piece?" With a smug smile, the magician says, "Three." Humor and magic share the surprise ending. A cognitive picture places the spectator/reader in the situation and the aha, comes with amusement and pleasure. The word Abracadabra is a Latin word describing an amulet (preantibiotic therapy of sorts), an inverted pyramid, whose letters would vanish line by line. The illness would melt in synchrony. As I studied the book, "Abracadabra," my initial guarded antipathy to those who would divulge secrets evaporated. Instead, it was replaced with, healthy respect for a thoughtful volume that students of magic might cherish and study.



Message from the President

I'm excited about having streamlined our Ring 76 website and hope that the information on it is kept current. Sumit Dua laid it out about a year ago, and it looks nice but a web site must be maintained in order to keep people coming back for more visits. I'll take on the chore for now. I used Macromedia Dreamweaver 4 & Fireworks 4 to alter things and would like to redesign it when I find time. However, if anyone is familiar with web page editors and would like to keep the thing spruced up, let me know. I won't be doing it forever.

The last time David Copperfield was in town I missed the show, and this time will be no different. Donna and I have a hectic schedule ahead of us for the next two months or so, and I can't take the time to see Copperfield during the Thanksgiving holiday. If someone wants to write up a review, please submit it to Jack White.

And, speaking of shows, if you haven't seen Triple Espresso downtown at the Horton Grand Theatre, be sure not to miss it. It's a hilarious family show about the friendship between a lounge singer, a comic, and a magician performing in a coffee house. When we saw it, Patrick Albanese from The Magic Castle was playing the magician. The show is a really tight, fast-paced production full of surprises and laughs.

Don Soul Ring 76 President

Classified Advertising

(Editors note: Members having something to sell have asked for a classified section to sell some of their surplus items. We will attempt to do that through this column. There will be a small charge for this service with proceeds going to the ring.)

For Sale: Doctor's Bag \$150-dollar value now for \$75.00 This is ideal for the close-up performer to carry your entire act. For more information, contact Bob Ingalls 858-571-3340

For Sale: T-shirts from the IBM Convention. We have just a few XXL, XL, Large & Medium left. These black shirts with the Wizard and IBM logo also have a four of diamonds on the shirttail so you can force that card and have it revealed on your shirt. All shirts on sale for \$10.00 at the next meeting.

Takeout a classified ad and sell your surplus magic that is just taking up room on a shelf.



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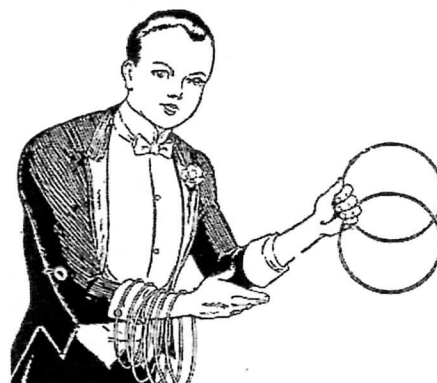
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News

One of the reasons we don't see much of Ring 76 member **Michael E. Johnson** is because of his comedy show "Magic To The Outer Limits," which takes place every Monday night from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at the restaurant *Killer Pizza From Mars*, that is located at 3915 Mission Avenue in Oceanside. November 4th is "Family Magic Night," November 11th is "November Birthday Night," and November 18th is "Houdini Escape Night." Drop by on one of those evening and catch Michael's act and enjoy some pizza. For more information, call (760) 747-4627. We miss you at our regular meetings, Michael!

Bob Sheets, former San Diego magician and member of Ring 76, had promised to present the same workshop and lecture that was the hit of the SAM Convention in New York last summer. Bob returns to San Diego during the Thanksgiving holiday to keep up with friends and family. But at the last minute, Sheets asked to reschedule to next spring, probably late March or early April. He has promised some new material and a complete tutorial in the "Three Shell Game," a routine he has become famous for presenting. We will keep you apprised on the future date for the lecture, it's one you won't want to miss.

Ring 76 has been given a theater follow-spotlight donated by theater owner and show producer **Lloyd Muir**. The light has been in storage for many years following the closing of Muir's theater in West Mission Valley. The spotlight is in good condition and will be used at the November meeting, giving an added dimension to our shows and



lectures. Any volunteers for spotlight operator?

Diane Lane appeared on two television stations newscasts Sunday morning, October 27th as part of the change from Daylight Saving Time to Pacific Standard Time. Every year a "Fallback Festival" is held in the Gaslamp District of the city to celebrate the time change. Diane was the official magician for that event. As a program reminder, Diane's weekly television show "**Magical Moments**," for those of you on Time-Warner Cable, will move to a new time of Saturday evening at 6 pm beginning December 1st.

Fred Kaplan has greatly expanded his junior magicians group and is now looking to begin classes in the near future in the Barrio Logan area of the city. His regular Saturday morning classes in the Escondido area are bringing in 12 to 15 students each week. Fred tells MagiCurrents he has two students that take magic very seriously and will become good performers in the future. Fred needs some magicians to volunteer their time to perform and perhaps deliver a mini-lecture to his students. If you would like to help out, his phone number is 858-451-9012 his e-mail is magicman@san.rr.com Let's give him our support!

Briefs

Magic Castle Swap Meet Saturday, October 19th, was well attended by San Diego County Magi.

Buyers included Jeff Marcus, Gary Dismukes, Terry Lunceford, Tom McCarthy, Neal and Dina Reed, Jeff Smith, Paul Thomey, and Bryan McDaniel. Sellers included J.P. Jackson, Marcus Day, Bob Ingalls, Don Soul Ralph Mauzy and Rick Bruce.



Above: Suds table with Bob Ingalls looking over the vast array of magic. Bob sold the last of the Ring 76 T-shirts from the IBM Convention.

The Ring 76 Magic Show at the Star Theater in Oceanside has been moved from Nov 30th to March 8th of 2003. The March date will give us more time to promote the show. It also gives our members time to put together their act.

Gay Blackstone will be auctioning the magic, costumes and ephemera that belonged to both Blackstone Sr. and Jr. during an online ebay auction conducted by Sothebys on November 14th to the 24th. The auction will represent "two generations of magic spanning three centuries, from the golden age of vaudeville to the digital age of today." Check Sothebys auction site or ebay for details.

Monday, November 11th, Meeting of Ring 76

Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue.

Pre-meeting at 6:30 Meeting at 7:00 pm.

Our November meeting is devoted to magic routines for the coming holiday season. We are hoping these routines can be presented during our exchange show with Ring 313 in Orange County. Ring 76 is presenting the show for that evening; Be a part of that event.

Reminders: Next board meeting Nov 25th, Jack's Magic Place. Have you signed up for the Ring 76 & 313 exchange dinner December Tuesday, December 10th?

Last Board Meeting of 2002 November 25th Open to all members.

Return Address:

**4275 University Ave
San Diego, CA 92105**

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