



# MagiCurrents



**San Diego**

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

**Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76**

**Volume XVII No 1 January 2003**

## ***Diane Lane seeks nomination for Ring President***

Diane Lane announced she would ask that her name be placed in nomination as a candidate for president of Ring 76. Nominations will not be officially accepted until April of 2003, and the election will be held during the June 9<sup>th</sup> 2003 meeting. The new Ring president will officially take office during the annual installation banquet in July. Lane said she is announcing at this time, to let the general membership of Ring 76 know she is a serious candidate for the job of president.

Diane has been active as a magic performer doing both close-up and platform shows as well as clowning for many years. She is currently the 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president of Ring 76 in charge of membership. She also produces and hosts a weekly television program, "Magical Moments," that airs on both Time-Warner and Cox Cable. On

Saturday evenings she is currently appearing at "Joe's Crab Shack," a restaurant in the Hazard Center in Mission Valley.

Well-known for her efforts in performing for charity and non-profit groups, Diane was very busy presenting shows and programs for more than a dozen different organizations in both San Diego



Diane Lane and  
her Macaw "Cassi"

## ***Ring 76 Apologizes to Amir A. Rahim***

The Board of Directors of IBM Ring 76 wishes to apologize to San Diego Magician Amir A. Rahim for any action that may have disparaged his image during our September 9, 2002, meeting. One of our members believed he was in danger and was being stalked. He asked us for assistance during that meeting. Because we hold our members' safety in the highest regard it was determined that we would take action to protect that individual's safety. Unfortunately, a sign with Mr. Rahim's image was posted stating he was "Unwanted."

The board wants to say we were wrong and now accepts Amir Rahim's word that he never meant any harm to any of our members, and that he was not stalking anyone. We apologize for any embarrassment that we may have caused Mr. Rahim or his family.

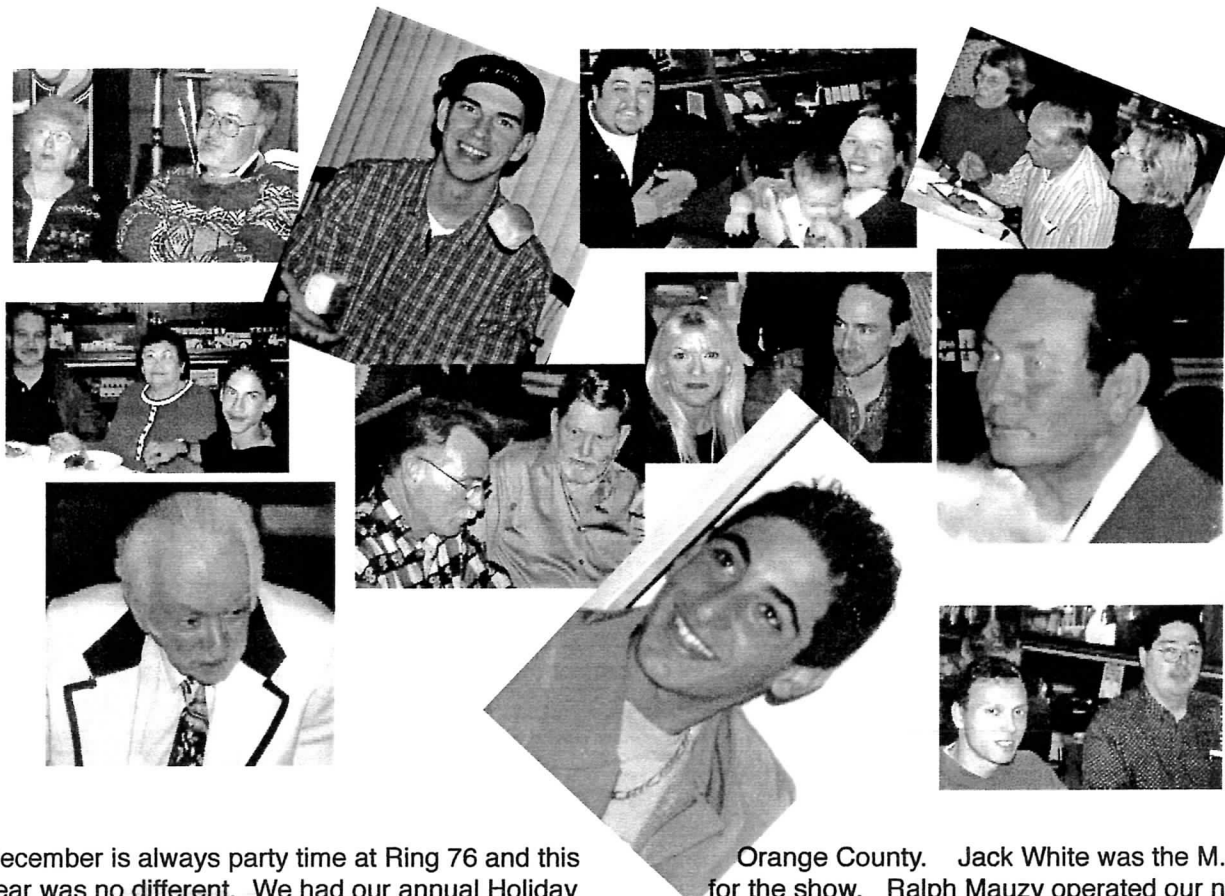
During the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, one of our longtime members informed us we had made a regrettable mistake and asserted that Mr. Rahim, is in fact a fine magician, a good person, and a credit to this community. We accepted our member's glowing report on Mr. Rahim's character and removed the sign immediately. We have taken steps to see that such a mistake never occurs again. We have written a letter to that effect to Mr. Rahim, and are now publicly apologizing for our earlier actions.

As a result of our letter and this public apology, Mr. Rahim informed us by e-mail dated December 9, 2002, that he has dropped any action, legal or other wise, against Ring 76.

***Continued on Page 7***

## December Holiday Ring Meeting

*in words & pictures*



December is always party time at Ring 76 and this year was no different. We had our annual Holiday Pot Luck dinner. About 70 members and guests attended the dinner and show that followed. Our treasurer, Richard Ustick, prepared a large turkey. The bird was cooked in a very big electric oven and brought to the meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Bob Ingalls prepared a large beef roast and brought it and sliced it for our guests. Other members brought salads, appetizers and a variety of fruit and vegetable dishes.

We did not have a shortage of dessert. Four large sheet cakes and four beautiful pies were on the serving table for those with a sweet tooth. There was punch, coffee, tea and hot chocolate to drink. We began serving dinner at 6:30 pm., and by 7:45 pm., the tables had been cleared and the mess cleaned up and the evening's program was about to begin. Many members brought their wives and family members, so, for our performers, there was a different or lay audience to enjoy their acts.

The entertainment was a rehearsal for a program that would be presented the following evening for Ring 313 at its installation banquet at Irvine in

Orange County. Jack White was the M.C. for the show. Ralph Mauzy operated our new spot light and that gave the show and the performers an even more professional look.

Leading off the show was one of our younger members, Josh London. He did his very clever four-minute rope routine where a single piece of rope did more things than this reporter can remember. Josh was followed by the father-daughter act of Christina and Richard Ustick.



The singing Usticks  
Richard & Christina



Once again  
Dick  
Josh London and  
his rope magic

Ustick came up with some very clever lyrics to music from a Broadway show and wrapped it up in a magical theme. Christina, who is only 12, sang along with dad as they performed their magic for a very delighted

audience.

Jeff Marcus was next with a clever stand-up Three Card Monte followed by his very smooth and classic Linking Ring routine-very entertaining act for young and old alike. Bob Ingalls was next and he borrowed a dollar bill, tore it in two and dropped it on the stage; after a very clever cards across routine with members of the audience and some funny jokes, Bob restored the torn bill. But the restored bill took a number of comedy turns before it was returned to its rightful owner.

Jack White then presented his pitchman act featuring the "Wiz Kote" shoe shine



Jack White the Pitchman

machine that burned Sherry Luft's shoe to a crisp. But Sherry's shoe was finally returned to her unharmed. Diane Lane, wearing a shimmering blue gown, opened her act with a gloved Miser's Dream as Dean Martin sang the money song. She finished her



Diane Lane

spot with a clever bird act featuring her pet cockatiel. The bird and lots of beautiful props were an audience pleaser.

Closing this show was the versatile Armando Torres, from Tijuana, Mexico, who presented his beautifully



Armando Torres and his great act from Tijuana

routined act featuring manipulative magic. His playing card productions and cigarette manipulations will make a "Chavez School" graduate envious. This closing act drew a standing ovation from our audience.

It was good that our preformers were able to get together for this rehearsal show. Many of the technical mistakes of missed music cues were

cleaned up for the following night's program. Ring President Don Soul took everyone's music and re-recorded it to CD, and Ralph Mauzy became stage

manager and sound technician at the Irvine show, making for a smooth performance. Because of the heavy and large number of props for Diane Lane's act, it was shifted to the opening spot in the program and the show moved along at a faster pace for the second evening's performance.

Jeff Marcus was the installing officer for the Ring 313 installation banquet. We send our congratulations to Belinda Kaesler, President; John Fedko, Vice President; Ed Groleau, Secretary; Philip Henderson, Treasurer; Jay Leslie, Sgt at Arms; Catherine Fedko, Librarian; and Dave Atkins & Kyle Merck members at large. Ring 76 members were honored to be part of the Ring 313 ceremonies.

## Coming Magic Lecturers

**Jay Leslie** will present his magic lecture January 14<sup>th</sup>, the evening following our regular meeting. Jay was an active magic dealer and performer at last summer's IBM Convention here in San Diego. Jay presented his straight jacket escape when the Houdini postage stamp was put on sale. This lecture is sponsored by Ring 76 and is free to all members. It will include both platform and close-up effects. The cost to non-members and guests is \$10.

On Wednesday evening, January 15<sup>th</sup>, the evening following the Jay Leslie lecture, **Bill Goldman** will present his magic lecture. Goldman is a very respected trade show and corporate performer and well-known for his published series, "Bill Goldman's Bar and Grill." He is also a columnist for Genii Magazine. His lecture is being sponsored by Gary Dismukes, and the fee is \$10 at the door. This is going to be a great lecture. Doors open at 6:30 pm.

February 24<sup>th</sup>, **David Regal** will present his lecture. David is a highly respected magician who has released a new series of video tapes and a book on magic. His work is geared to the close up performer and is sure to offer some new ideas and tricks for performers at every skill level. Syd Segal has booked Regal for this lecture. Advance tickets are \$15 or, at the door \$20. Syd can be contacted through Brad's Magic Shop or at the January Ring meeting.

All of our lectures will be held at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Avenue. All lectures begin at 7 pm sharp.



By Josh London

### *Celled*

**Effect:** The performer asks for a card to be chosen; the card is then ripped into four pieces, one of which is given to the spectator to hold for safe keeping. Then the other pieces are held in the performer's hand, and then made to disappear without a trace.

Then the spectator removes the battery off the cell phone, only to find the selected card folded in a neat square. There is a missing piece to the card, which is the piece that the spectator has been holding the whole time.

**Preparation:** To perform this dandy lion of a trick, you need: 1) a cellular phone with a removable battery pack, 2) two duplicate cards, 3) and, time to prep for this little miracle.

Now what you do is take one card and put it in the deck (but in a place where you can retrieve it easily, then force it) with the other duplicate card you fold it in half (long ways); you fold this card back and forth. Then, you fold the card again (along the width). Essentially, you want a card with creases from the top down, and from the right to the left in the middle.

Now you tear the pip corner off that card. This corner goes into your right pocket (in this trick, I prefer to use the pants pockets as opposed to the jacket pockets). The remainder of the card is then folded into a square, which is then placed under the battery of the cell phone. You do this by removing the battery of the cell phone, then place the card where the battery pack usually goes, then replace the battery pack over the card. Hopefully, the phone will turn on. Now put the cell phone into your left hand pocket. You are now

ready to perform "Celled."

**Performance:** With the duplicate card somewhere in the deck, you have a card selected, but you force the card, using your favorite method. I will not go into any detail, because there are other sources out there on this subject.

Once the duplicate card is forced on an unsuspecting spectator, put the deck away, as it is out of play. I suggest that if you are working in a situation where (God forbid) you have no access to a nearby table, stick the deck of cards in your back pocket or a suit coat pocket. Just make sure you do not place the deck in a pants pocket. Fold the card as explained before.

You let the spectator tear the card into four pieces. Make sure that the torn pieces are about the same size. Take the the torn pieces and the corner pice of the card and place them openly in your left hand. pretend to look for you cell phone, transferring the torn pieces from hand to hand, under that cover you ditch the pieces.

Here is a more detailed description: With the pieces of card in your left hand, you put your right hand into your right pocket, while your hand is in there "searching" for your cell phone: you pick up the corner (which is the corner of the card in the cell phone. This corner is held in right hand finger palm position (hidden from view of the audience). The audience sees that you come out of your right pocket with "nothing" in your hand.

Now you will put your left hand into its pocket to "look" for the cell phone. To do this your left thumb holds the packet in your left hand in place. You then turn your left hand palm down; while this is happening, your right hand turns palm up (be careful not to expose the card in your right hand). Apparently, to the audience, you went into your right pocket and found nothing; you are now preparing to go into your left pocket, and to do this you put the packet in your left hand into your right hand. This is not what happens though.

*Continued on page 9*

Magician  
**Terry Lunceford**  
 supports  
**The IBM & Ring 76**





## Magic Pro-Tips

By Brad Burt

I hope that everyone had a great holiday season. Dave, Tom, John, and I wish all of you the very best for the New Year!

Many years ago now, Winston Churchill was asked to give the commencement speech at Harvard. It was after the Second World War, and Churchill walked up to the podium and looked the look that should have scared the willies out of the Third Reich, said the following, "Never, never, NEVER give up." Having finished, he left the stage.

About seven years ago I bought a guitar with the idea that I would learn to play and make music. I was not committed and gave up. I have found that commitment and now spend at least two hours a day in practice. It is tough. I have decided that only the joints in my hands giving out will defeat me. I am having some stiffness and pain. I am having to figure out what to do about it. How to adjust. What does this have to do with magic?

Pretty much everything from my point of view. One thing that I have seen over the last 32 years in the magic shop biz is that a lot of folks start out, but they just simply stop too soon! Coin manipulation is hard. Really. But, it is not impossible to learn to do well. You just have to dig in and go a little bit longer to master the basic moves. Never give up. Magic is a skill learned over an extended period of time. The more time the better you will become and that almost inevitably. Magic by the nature of the beast demands a certain amount of thought. It is very tough to practice

aimlessly and without intent. There is always a goal. Your goal? Make a New Year's promise to attempt to perfect something that you gave up on, or that you never tried because you thought it would defeat you. Select something that is a step above where you are or further. Set a period of time to learn and perfect it. And, then just simply begin to work on it. A little each day or alot-it does not matter. All that matters is that on this thing you are not going to give up. You are going to persist until you have it nailed or know why it should be impossible for you and not someone else? You can do it. Just never, never, NEVER give up!

## A Big Thank You to two of our Ring members

The board of directors of Ring 76 and our members want to thank several people for their contributions. Magic Mike Stilwell for renewing his ad in our newsletter and for an additional monetary donation to keep our Ring running smoothly.

We also thank Jim Swoger for his ongoing donation of valuable books to our Ring Library. Jim has presented us with a volume of New Tops magazines, and a dozen books, both hardcover and softcover editions. Take the time to go through our library and look at the material available.

We thank the above members for making a difference.

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## View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

**Review: *Performing Magic For Children* by Uwe Schenk and Michael Sondermeyer, translated from the original German by Ariel Frailich; I Saw That! Publications; Toronto, Canada. 167 pages of text, plus two forwards, a preface, a detailed table of contents, and an appendix containing bibliography and index, published 1995 (German), 2000 (English translation).**

This slim volume may well be the best single book of its subject matter in existence. Although there is little that is groundbreaking in this volume, more quality information is found gathered in this one book than any other book of its type. Despite less-than-sterling translation in places, this book needs to be read by every magician who performs for children, or who aspires to do so.

The subtitle of the book explains it all: Theories, thoughts, tricks, and tips for structuring magic performances for an audience of children. In fact, the book is arranged in that exact fashion, proceeding from general to specific. However, the volume is tightly packed with information, and it is imperative that it be read thoughtfully and in compositional order for the reader to get the most out of the information. Do not rush through this book, nor skip to the trick sections first, if you want the real work on children's magic.

There is much useful information in the publisher Frailich's *Foreword*, professional Piet Forton's *Foreword*, the authors' *Preface*, and the authors' *Introduction*. In these short sections, the entire rationale for the book is described, and it is necessary for the reader to adjust his thinking to match the frame of reference of the writers for maximum learning to occur. The bulk of the manuscript then fulfills the promise of the rationale (as well as of the title and subtitle). It is important to note that magician/publisher Ariel Frailich adds the occasional brief aside with additional thoughts or ideas; his comments are always in brackets [ ], and almost always serve to adapt the authors' Euro perspectives to North American sensibilities.

The book opens with *A Few Dates*, a bit of history on magic for children, which is a far more recent development than most readers would suspect. This history section is quite brief, but it is a welcome addition to knowledge on the subject in print, and to my knowledge the first attempt to detail this background information. Most of the historical bibliographical references in this section are European, many of them in German (the authors are German nationals, after all). However, knowing how the subgenre of children's magic developed is interesting in its own right. More importantly, the authors tie concepts examined in this short section to their teaching later in the book, so this section is an important part of the book.

It is important that the reader read perceptively in the following *Pedagogy* section. Far from a pedantic view of the subject, these 11 pages set up the rest of the book while adjusting the reader's thinking about magic from a child's perspective. A bit more history is contained here as well, tying this pedagogy section to the history section while showing how the psychological needs of children had been ignored for so very long (not only by magicians, but by society as well).

Discounting blank transitional pages, the entire direction of the book is outlined in the 24 pages of *Forwards*, *Preface*, *Introduction*, *History*, and *Pedagogy*. If you skip these sections, you have only yourself to blame for getting less than optimal knowledge from this book.

The *Audiences and Accommodations* section is densely packed with information that one would take half a professional lifetime to discover on his own. Practical information on choosing a time and venue, lighting and sound, audience age groups and group size, setting up audience in relationship to the performance area, attention span problems, the all-important audience interaction, and much more are described here in a terse but insightful manner. Merely breezing through this section will result in the bulk of the book's information being lost to you, as the authors continually tie the remainder of the book to information here.

*Designing an Act* is a very useful section of the book. Valuable information on what works, what does not work, and the whys thereof, will help the careful reader avoid the most common pitfalls that await first-time performers for children. Rather than naming specific tricks as "appropriate" or "inappropriate," the authors give a set of criteria that can be applied to any trick under consideration. Adding this section to the learning in the previous sections, the authors have given a crash course in children's magic in less than 70 pages.

However, more than half of the book remains, to the delight of the reader. Each author

**Continued on page 9**



## MIND OVER MATTER

By David Eldridge

### An Equivoque Subtlety

This is an unbelievably easy thing to do, but it will do WONDERS for any Equivoque sequence in which cards (not necessarily playing cards) are used. I came up with this almost by accident. I was in a brainstorming session with San Diego magicians Jeff Marcus and Sumit Dua. We were discussing various ways to make Equivoque more effective. As we brainstormed, we began to discuss the idea of having cards turned over, instead of picked up, pointed to, or any other action of the like. I am going to tell you right up front that it is ridiculously simple, and I think that many of you will not even try it because of its simplicity. Trust me. I tell you that it works, and that it will make your Equivoque sequences much stronger.

To explain this to you, let us assume that you have four cards laid out face-up in a row, one of which has a blue back (the others are red backed). The idea now is to use Equivoque to eliminate the three red backed cards.

With the cards set out as described above, tell the spectator, to push any two cards toward you. The spectator will now do one of two things. She either will push the force card toward you, or she will not. If she does not, then pick up the two cards that she pushed and hold them face-up in your left hand. Do not place them aside as in most Equivoque sequences, but rather hold them in your hand without drawing attention to them.

If, on the other hand, she does push the force card toward you, tell her to pick up the two that she did not push, and hand them to you. In either case, you will end up with two of the non-force cards in your left hand.

Now, tell the spectator to concentrate on the two cards that remain, and tell her to turn one of them over. Do not use the term "facedown." Many lay

people do not know what that term means. Also, I feel that the word "down" implies that you want the overturned card eliminated. Sort of like when you "turn down an offer." She will again do one of two things. Either she will turn over the force card, or she will not. Now comes the subtlety. If she turns the force card over, leaving the non-force card face-up, casually toss the cards in your left hand face-up on top of the other non-force card.

If, on the other hand, she turns the non-force card over, leaving the force card face-up, do the opposite. In other words, casually toss the cards that are in your left hand face-down onto the other non-force card, i.e., the card that was just turned over by the spectator.

In either case, you have now caused all three of the "eliminated" cards to look the same, while the force card looks different. This is kind of like the game that is (was) played on Sesame Street. You know- "Three of these things here go together." Three of these things are kind of the same, but one of these things does not belong here, etc. It is that kind of psychology that has been put into play. All of the attention is now placed on the card that "looks" different. Therefore, it is the object with the spotlight on it.

Well, that is the subtlety. It is absurdly simple, but it makes all the difference in the world. Try it and see.

### *Lane for President* Continued from Page One

County and Tijuana across the border during the recent holiday season. She presented her walk around act at many private parties; she presented her stand-up act for the Imperial Beach Youth Job Corps, Hanukkah Lighting Ceremonies, several Holiday Bowl parties, The Christmas Train trip to Tecate, Mexico, and several New Year's Eve parties. She also became a member of the San Diego All-Star Clown Club on January 5<sup>th</sup>.

A member of the IBM and Ring 76 since 1996, this is her second year as a member of Ring's Board of Directors. Diane says if she is elected she will make Ring 76 her number one priority and will have to slow down in some of her charity work. One of her goals is for the club to have more "hands on magic" geared toward our many armchair magicians. She says she is excited when she thinks about the potential the future holds for Ring 76.

## Magic Notes from Jack White

### What ever happened to Rick Bruce?

This is the time of year we think about old friends who have moved on to new cities and new jobs, sometimes new careers. Just as I was going over my list of friends who had relocated in the past year, I received an e-mail from Rick Bruce, past President of Ring 76 and the man who created a magic program that has yet to be rivaled for young magicians in San Diego County. Rick is now known as the "Wizard of Cambria." Last April first, he and his wife opened a magic/botique/antique shop in the beautiful coastal community of Cambria in Central California.



Rick Bruce  
Wizard of Cambria

After being in business for nine months, Rick says his shop has become a success, but not without a great deal of hard work. All of the effort to make his little business successful is not just working behind the counter in the shop itself. Rick learned that he had to get out in the community and become known.

An excellent performer, Rick has participated in two large public shows, as well as a number of private paying party's. His first experience in Cambria was a vaudeville-style review. The producer of the show talked Rick into singing and dancing as well as performing his magic. After a good deal of rehearsal both Rick and the producer decided it would be best if he lip synched the song, but he turned out to be a very graceful hoofer.

For the magic part of the show, he performed a slight variant of "Matchmaker." It's a very strong mental card effect by David Berglas. David has included the effect in his wonderful new book "*The Mind & Magic of David Berglas*;" if you have not purchased a copy of this book yet, I am sorry to tell you it is pretty much sold out. We are told this huge volume with 566 pages, which was released in early December was printed in limited numbers of 3000 and no more will be published. That makes this publication highly collectable. Don't pass it up if one comes your way.

Matchmaker is perhaps one of the most unusual card in balloon effects you will ever see. It requires a number of inflated balloons and, of course, a

selected card. That card finally winds up in a randomly selected balloon. Rick performed it for an audience of 300-plus people and it became a miracle.

Rick's second show was even more ambitious than his first: he presented a one-man 90-minute spirit show at a Cambria theater. His show opened on Halloween and ran through mid-November. The first 20 minutes of the show were spent telling tall tales of early spirit mediums. The middle section of the show was spent demonstrating many of the unusual things that mediums did. Finally, the theater was surprisingly plunged into darkness to play host to flying tambourines, glowing spirits, and a floating torso with spirit kisses in the dark. This show played to sold out houses on weekends.

While billed as a one-man show, Rick will quickly tell us that he enlisted the help of several aspiring teenage magicians to help with the black art portion of the performance.

If you drop by Rick's shop in Cambria, you might find the Pendragons or the granddaughter of Silent Mora, they drop by when in the neighborhood. Even with all of this excitement, Rick misses his friends at Ring 76, but he is on his way to building new friendships and new accomplishments in the art of magic. As I said at the beginning of all of this, it's good to hear from old friends.



Rick Bruce &  
Jeff Marcus

**Reminder!**  
**Ring 76 Close-up**  
**Contest is February**  
**10th. Let Bob Ingalls**  
**know as soon as**  
**possible if you plan to**  
**be a contestant.**

We will have our big TV screen set up for this event so everyone can see the close-up presentation and vote on the best performers. There is a cash prize for the winning act or routine.



## Josh London Con't from page 4

While your hands come together to make the transfer of the "packet," you hold the left hand packet in finger palm position as your right hand apparently takes the packet. You now have the torn corner (from the cell phone) in your right hand; keep this hand closed palm down. You then go into your left hand pocket and ditch the packet in your pocket, and bring out the cellular phone.

You ask a spectator to hold the cell phone for you, while you insert your left thumb and forefinger into your right hand fist to take the corner out and give it to another spectator to hold as "proof." You now have an empty right hand fist, which is palm down. The audience believes that the other piece of the card is in your fist.

You hand the cell phone over to spectator (after turning it off), and you ask the spectator to remove the battery pack of the cellular phone.

The audience then discovers that the pieces of the selected card have restored themselves, and the piece that the spectator is holding fits with the rest of the card.


**Afterthoughts:** This whole idea of having a card found in a cellular phone battery pack is from Paul

Gertner's lecture notes, Amalgamations. The name of the trick is Cell phone Surprise. What I didn't like about Gertner's trick, is that you use a dollar bill, instead of the card. Gertner's routine called for two cell phones and an assortment of other props that wouldn't comply with my working space, which consists of my pockets. It is a great trick, but I wanted it to work for me, which is the name of the game. If you don't like the idea of having the card appear in the battery of a cellular phone, you can opt to have it appear in a nest of boxes, wallet, or some other impossible place. Make it work for your situation.

## Cheap Seats Continued from page 6

details his specific act as of 1994-1995, including full trick descriptions, methods/secrets, patter/audience interaction, and most importantly, the rationales behind their trick choices and patter. There is some fine material here, and experienced children's performers should find several things that they like. However, the real lessons to be learned are how to adapt magical standards to kid audiences, and Sondermeyer and Schenk teach these lessons with fervor.

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## Message from the President

I want to thank our exchange show performers for putting in the effort to entertain the John Fedko Ring (313) at the Irvine Spectrum last month. And, also, a big thanks to Ralph Mauzy, the backstage wizard who made it work.  
(Pay no attention to the man behind the curtain).

The new year begins with a meeting theme of "EST." Check your Linking Ring July, 2002 issue for ideas. (Oh, by the way, did you catch the Linking Ring March, 2002 Member Profile on Ring 76's Jim Whiting?). February spotlights the Close-Up Performer competition, once again with a cash award. Go for it.

Our December show tipped us off to a problem that must now be addressed. There were so many cameras rolling at that show that some in the back had a difficult time seeing. Beginning with the Stand-Up contest, Ring 76 requests that you refrain from setting up video equipment in favor of allowing our able production staff to tape a "pool" video, as seen on our new big screen projection system. From that tape copies can be made.

The rest of the members will appreciate the reduced clutter of tripods and activity and, thus, enjoy the presentations more.

Don Soul President  
Ring 76

## Classified Advertising

**For Sale:** Doctor's bag, ideal for carrying your complete magic act. This is a real Doctor's bag that has seen some use but still has many years of service. Buy it now for \$75.00 contact Bob Ingalls at 858-571-3340.

**For Sale:** Portable battery operated sound system. Ampli-box, by Perma Power. Used three times, with floor mic, and neck mac. Ideal for trade shows and outdoor engagements. \$175.00 Contact J.P. Jackson at 858 569-0096

**For Sale;** Vicking Haenchen Die Box, 2 door with fake, like new condition. 3 inch die never been used. \$50.00 Black with gold trim, beautiful unit. Contact J.P. Jackson at 858-569-0096

If you have some magic you want to sell list it in the "classified" section of MagiCurrents. Contact Jack White for listings.

♣ Resident Magician & Goodwill Ambassador at the Corvette Diner 1987 - 2002

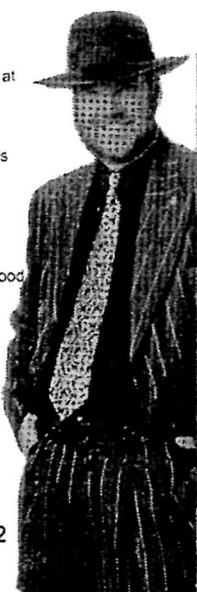
◆ Member of Hollywood's Prestigious "Magic Castle" Since 1981

♥ Member of International Brotherhood of Magicians Since 1976

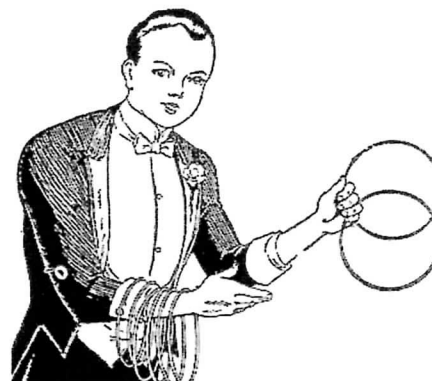
♠ Member of Society of American Magicians Since 1974

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## Ring 76



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## MagiCurrents:

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## News

We have learned that **WizardZ**, the magic club at Universal City's Citywalk in Los Angeles, has closed down. Ditto for **Caesars Magical Empire** at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. But on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, the granddaddy of all magic gathering places, the **Magic Castle** in Hollywood turned 40. One of the newest members of the Castle is our own **Ralph Mauzy**, who joined in early December.

Long distance Ring 76 member **Tom Kasner** tells us that his new hometown of Altoona, Pennsylvania had nine inches of snow on Christmas Day. The first time they have had a white Christmas in Altoona in seven years. But the closest Tom got to that snow was video on television newscasts. He was here in San Diego County visiting his children for the holidays. Tom has created several new products for his fast growing magic line.

**Jeff Marcus** is one of the first to get Tom's latest magic glo-wand. Hopefully, Jeff will bring it to the January meeting and let us have a look at it.

**Joel and Arlene Moskowitz** spent a good portion of their holiday season touring China. Joel said he saw a Chinese magician performing in the streets and will give us a full report in a future edition of MagiCurrents. Joel tells us it was a good trip but not without much hardship.

**Jim Whiting** has created what maybe one of the most original magic routine's your editor has seen in a longtime. It combines a good old fashioned chalk talk and some very clever magic. Jim presented his routine at the



December meeting of the Southern California Cartoonists Society. Also doing magic at that event was **Bob Ingalls, Ted Dunning, and Jack White**. Jim Whiting is one of those people who gives of his time and entertained at the ManorCare, a rehab center for Alzheimer's patients in the North County. He was very busy doing shows there for the Christmas Holidays this year.



Above left to right: Jim Whiting, Ted Dunning, Jack White, Bob Ingalls

**Craig Stone** is working hard to get legendary magician **Paval** to lecture to Ring 76 in early April. Paval, most noted for his rope routines, is making a 20-day tour of the United States. His west coast visit is going to be very limited; however, Craig is trying to convince him to spend time in San Diego. Craig Stone, an accomplished performer himself, received the Darwin Ortiz book "**Scams & Fantasies with Cards**" for Christmas. Maybe he will give us a review of the book in the near future?

## Briefs

**Gary Salisbury** booked Craig Stone to do an hour of walk around close up magic then a thirty-minute stage show for the National Cash Register employee Christmas Party. According to a survey of employees after the party, Craig received a 99% approval rating for his work. I will take that kind of rating any day!

**Don Soul** informs us that the new Ring 76 Website has found its way into the major internet search engine – Google. Search for things like our board members or IBM Convention and you'll stumble across our page. That is good news for our MagiCurrents advertisers who are now being featured on our web page, as well as our newsletter.

Ring 76 member and MagiCurrents columnist **Josh London** performed in the close-up room of the Magic Castle, in Hollywood, on Saturday December 21<sup>st</sup>. According to reports from those in the audience his act went over very well. Josh will conduct a lecture tour January 7, 8, and 9<sup>th</sup> in Palm Springs, Santa Clarita, and San Jose. He is booking other lecture tours for the spring and summer.

**The Magic Castle** has announced it will close down the parlour and turn it into a second close-up room. The manager of the Magic Castle **Dale Hindman** says they will no longer book magicians presenting parlour magic. The Academy of Magical Arts and Sciences is about the last group to recognize parlour magic in their awards program. Many members are upset by this latest announcement and are asking for a hearing.

January 13th meeting at Jack's Magic Place, 4275 University Ave. Pre-meeting begins at 6 pm, meeting at 7 pm.

Members are asked to do their EST effect. That means the funniEST, shortEST, craziEST, grossEST, greatEST, trick that you do. We want to make this into a fun evening, so everyone plan to perform something. Let's have a good turnout for our first meeting of the new year!

Tuesday, January 14th, Jay Leslie will present his magic lecture. This is a Ring sponsored lecture and is FREE to all members. Guests must pay \$10 at the door. Start time 7 pm, Jack's Magic Place.

Wednesday January 15th Bill Goldman trade show magician will lecture. \$10 at the door. Start time 7 pm Jack's Magic Place.

February meeting is our annual close-up contest. Get your act together and become a contestant; cash prize for the winner of this contest.

Board of Director's Meeting January 20th, 7 pm.

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