

Ring 76 Chartered by the International Brotherhood of Magicians in 1948



MagiCurrents

San Diego, California

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



Honest Sid Gerhart Ring 76

Website
www.ring76.com

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Ring 76 Members invited to perform at Magicians Day at the San Diego Blood Bank

In 1990 several members of Ring 76 took part in the first ever San Diego-Magicians Day at the San Diego Blood Bank. Several members of our Ring visited five donor centers that day and presented close-up magic for people waiting to donate the gift of life and entertained those who had just given blood. Blood



Bob Ingalls 1990 vanishing a silk hanky at the S.D. Blood Bank for father & son

Bank officials reported a very large turn-out for the well-advertised event. They also received many positive comments on having the magicians at the Blood Bank entertaining.

Recently the San Diego Blood Bank asked Ring 76

to reinstitute this successful event. The Ring has chosen Saturday October 11, between the hours of 8 am. and 4 pm. Volunteer magicians can donate one or more hours of close-up magic. We are hoping to have 20 to 25 magicians volunteer an hour or two of their time on October 11th. Diane Lane will talk about the event at our next general meeting August 11th.

Currently the Southern California Cartoonists hold a similar event annually and about 30 to 35 members participate. The Blood Bank has promised to publicize this event through flyers to their donors,

news releases and media advisories. We believe that this event will receive both newspaper and television coverage.

Again, sign up sheets will be available at our next meeting. Once you sign up to work one of the

various blood centers in San Diego County, (they have five centers,) you are responsible for being there. Magicians signing up will be given a briefing



Loch David Crane doing magic act 1990 at the San Diego Blood Bank

and walk through of what to expect at the blood bank the Wednesday evening before the event. More details will be presented at the August meeting. Check your calender and, if you have some open time on Saturday

October 11th, become part of this event and support your community. This is also a great way for the Ring to show off its magic talent. Dust off some of those effects you have been thinking about putting into your act. Give your personality a little extra sparkle and sign up for this event. Here is a great opportunity for magicians to do some magic and help people at the same time.



Jack White Jan 6, 1990 restoring a dollar bill for blood donor at blood bank

October 11th, become part of this event and support your community. This is also a great way for the Ring to show off its magic talent.

Installation banquet and show for Ring 76 held July 20th at the Al Bahr Shrine

Diane Lane was inducted as the new president of Ring 76 at ceremonies at the Shrine Auditorium Sunday afternoon, July 20th. Diane attended the IBM Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, in early July, then flew on to Washington D.C. to visit her sister and other family members. She arrived back in San Diego shortly before noon on the day she was sworn into office. In addition to becoming president she also coordinated the decorations for the hall and purchased the wine served at the tables and transported it to the installation banquet. Diane's daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter were on hand as she was made president of the ring.



Don Soul passes gavel to Diane Lane new President of Ring 76

Bob Ingalls was sworn in for a second term as 1st vice president in charge of entertainment. Bob was at the hall early on the morning of the 20th to help set up the stage and audio system. He also acted as master of ceremonies for the evening.



Bob Ingalls, Jack White and Sherry Luft

Dr. Joel Moskowitz became the 2nd vice president in charge of membership. This is his first year on the board but has served the Ring for several years in varying capacities. His most noted contribution was helping to draft the Ring constitution. His wife Arlene was in the audience as he was sworn into office.



Richard Ustick & Don Soul

Richard Ustick will serve a second term as treasurer. Ustick was set up at the door, accepting payment for the dinner and was assisted by Donna Soul. Richard had his two children with him for the banquet. He also presented

the "Member of the Year," a much-coveted award, to outgoing president Don Soul.

Jack White begins his third year as Ring secretary and newsletter editor. White was joined by his wife Lynn. He also presented the "Honorary Lifetime Membership" awards. This year Al Knox, past Ring 76 president and longtime friend of the IBM, with the first honor. Al lives in North Carolina and could not be present for the ceremony. The second honoree



Jim Swoger

was James Swoger for his many years in magic and his donations to Ring 76. Jim received a standing ovation when he was introduced. Also attending were past lifetime members Roy and Betty Armstrong. Roy just completed his 60th year as an IBM member. Pat and Art Hannum, who became honorary lifetime members last year, were on hand and

helped coordinate the menu and the facility for the banquet. The Hannums were original members of Ring 76.

Sherry Luft was sworn in as sgt. at arms for a second term. Sherry is a past Ring president and has been active in Ring 76 business for many years. J.P. Jackson was sworn in as a new member at large. Jackson is also a past Ring president and returns to the board after a 13-year absence.

Bob Pozner was thanked for his efforts of the past year on the board of directors. He was supposed to receive a plaque. It will be presented at a later date. Bob has made sure the Ring reports get into the Linking Ring magazine each month.



Bob Pozner

Don Soul now becomes a member at large on the board as the immediate past president. Jack White presented Don with the new IBM Past Ring President medal. White said the Ring hopes to present all past Ring presidents with the

same medal at a regular membership meeting during the coming year.

Members who took part in the close-up contest last February were all called to the stage and given certificates. Tom McCarthy received the medal for first place and received \$50; this was Tom's second time as winner of the close-up contest. Josef Rennleitner received the



Tom McCarthy receives first place medal



Michael E. Johnson takes 3rd Place for close-up magic

second place medal for close-up but was unable to attend the banquet. Michael E. Johnson received the third place award in close-up.

Then the contestants for the stand-up contest were all called to the stage and each received a certificate. Jeff Marcus received the 1st place award and \$50, Joe Mystic received the second place award and \$25. The third

place medal(s) went to Diane Lane and Sherry Luft for their portrayal of two old magic widows attempting to do their husbands act. They received \$10.



Jeff Marcus receives 1st place in stand-up contest.



Joe Mystic with 2nd place award in stand-up magic

The Member of the Year award for 2002-2003 was given to outgoing president Don Soul for his leadership and excellent work in presiding over Ring 76 for two years.

The coveted award of "Performer of the Year" went to David Eldridge. The past performer of the year Bryan McDaniel donated a new

perpetual trophy, allowing us to retire the old one. Eldridge also received a plaque that he can keep.

Dinner was served and everyone seemed to be ready to eat. Following dinner, Bob Ingalls introduced Jay Leslie from Ring 313 in Irvine, who acted as master of ceremonies for the evening. Leslie brought along some fun props like a fold up chair that appeared to be very large on stage and then folded



Jay Leslie with Linking Rings



David Eldridge receives Performer of the Year Award for 2002-2003

up into a small package as Jay left the stage. He also presented a short interlude talking about magic tricks that never should have been invented that was perfect for an audience of magicians.

Chris Christian was the first performer and did a splendid Charlie Chaplin routine. His make up is excellent, and he has created a very nice routine of comedy and magic. Kyle Merck presented several very clever and original mental routines that made the audience sit up and take notice. Kyle has an easygoing style that sold his act to the audience. Ryan Shell, who was assisted by a very talented young lady, presented a very different



Left: Belinda Kaesler, Ryan Shell, Chris Christian, Jay Leslie and Kyle Merck. Ring 313 members and entertainers.

style magic act. Ryan's assistant presented a sensational set of very difficult tricks twirling a baton while Ryan, the magician, seemingly ignored her.

Closing the show was

Ring 313 President Belinda Kaesler, who did her "Storybook Lady" routine. Turning a red rose into a silk handkerchief in the blink of an eye got our attention. Her act closed with the production of a dove. It was an excellent show and we thank all of the members of Ring 313 especially their hard working stage manager, Philip Henderson, for making the trip to San Diego and performing.



Roy & Betty Armstrong
Lifetime members Ring 76



Pat & Art Hannum founding
Lifetime members of Ring 76



Diane Lane &
granddaughter



Always smiling
Michael Johnson



Judy Ingalls, Linda Mauzy
and Ralph Mauzy



Dina & Neal Reed



The Tom McCarthys and
the ever present cards



Territorial Vice President
Jeff Marcus and Peg



Belinda Kaesler &
Ryan Shell



Phil Henderson



Jack White

Magician
Terry Lunceford
supports
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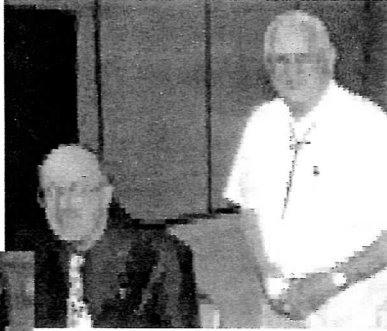
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Strategic partnerships welcome!

Right: Jim Riley and Roy Armstrong. Roy is celebrating 60 years in the IBM this year.



Left: Entertainers Chris Christian and Kyle Merck from Ring 313



Right: Close-up contestants: Tom McCarthy, Kenny Shelton, Loch Crane, back row: David Eldridge, Gary Dismukes, Tom Dunning, and Michael E. Johnson.



Left: two of the hard working staff, Donna Soul and Richard Ustick Ring 76 Treasurer selling tickets at the door.



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by Jim Whiting & Ellen Friedman



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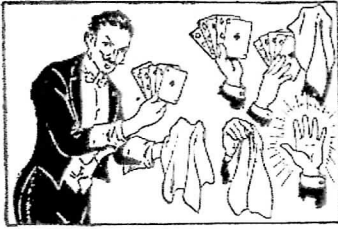
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View from the Cheap Seats



By Jon A. Hand

Those who follow this column regularly know that I am in the middle of a multi-part article on Choosing a Signature Effect. Sometimes, however, one must put aside what is planned and respond to topical events while they are still fresh. That said, be forewarned that this is my soapbox this month.

On Thursday, July 10, 2003, one of the most recognized magicians of our time, David Copperfield, appeared on *Late Night With Conan O'Brien*, a popular NBC-TV show which follows *Tonight Show With Jay Leno* every weeknight. DC was undoubtedly doing the talk show circuit to publicize his new tour, launching in July. He had appeared on NBC's *Today* show earlier in the week, performing a creditable vanish/reappearance of a live duck from a take-apart box to a duck bucket, before a live audience in the round.

In what perhaps was a concession to the somewhat lowbrow humor that shows up on late night "talk" shows, DC chose not to perform any magic, but instead brought a selection of "hazing and initiation devices from the late 19th and early 20th centuries." These devices were doubtlessly chosen from his massive collection of magic and related artifacts. There was a chair rigged to fall over when host O'Brien sat in it, a squirt rifle rigged to douse O'Brien in the face, and a pair of padded paddles with gunpowder charges

that erupted noisily when the paddles were applied to the victims. Unfortunately for Copperfield, O'Brien inadvertently applied his paddle backwards to DC's tush! Not only was the tubular shape an uncomfortable blow for Copperfield, but the gunpowder charge went off, burning a hole cleanly through his jeans and injuring him to some degree. In the spirit of "the show must go on," DC continued to exhibit the hazing devices.

In the talk sequence of the interview, Copperfield discussed in great detail his first experience with f*rt spray, one of those horrendous items available at the practical joke counter. The occasion was to be a performance for President Bush and Vice President Chaney, their spouses, and other White House staffers. DC was considering trying to secretly apply the spray to the VP during the event, but realized that the metal spray canister would never make it through White House security. Having time to kill, he decided to sample the spray, and nearly made himself sick in the process. Some of the spray settled on the decorative white handkerchief carefully arranged in his suit jacket breast pocket. After his performance, DC inadvertently mopped his brow with said handkerchief while in the White House receiving line, promptly offending the President and all others in the line. Note that DC decided to tell this story on national television!

Bottom line: Copperfield chose to blow off this national audience performance opportunity with cruelty jokes and tasteless discussion of his stupidity just before meeting the president and vice president. In my opinion, this made all magicians look bad to the general public (or at least to those television viewers who frequent the late-night genre).

A great many Americans view magic as carnival sideshow fare. Amateur performers are often treated as "geeks." Any national opportunity to improve upon magic's image should be cherished and treated with respect and care. With the big name traveling shows of the past fading from collective memory, most Americans see their magic "from the tube" rather than live. To say that TV magic is rather lopsided in its presentation of the breadth of magic is a supreme understatement. Our art is capable of much emotional depth, and magicians need more opportunities to "get it right" on national TV. Certainly not all magic need be "high art," but the more exposure that such original and wondrous magic can get on television, the more impact it has on the general public's attitude toward magic. The most disappointing aspect of DC's appearance is the fact that he made his initial reputation through national television exposure, performing magic with strong emotional content and theatrical values, human interaction, and good presentation/storyline to which the magic was almost incidental.

I had much respect for DC when I saw him live almost 20 years ago. His show reflected the above values, and it was a welcome departure from the "illusion and dance team" numbers that have dominated magic in recent years. I have no doubt that magic will survive this little episode.

However, when our best-known and most popular practitioners publicly debase our art, who will be there to defend it?

Next month, our series continues with part three of Choosing a Signature Effect. Until then, consider what you can do as a performer, amateur or professional, to help raise the status of magic in the eyes of the public.

*Jon A. Hand welcomes your feedback on this or any other column that he has written for **MagiCurrents**. Contact him by email at jonahand@hotmail.com, and put VFCS in your subject line.*

Ring needs raffle items

The board of directors of Ring 76 has decided to continue the tradition of having a monthly raffle at each meeting. The Ring has accumulated a quantity of books, tricks, and video tapes that will become raffle items beginning in August. We will go through our current supply of items in a few months. We are asking, if you have an item that you want to donate to the raffle box for a future raffle, if so give it to the person selling tickets. By donating an item you will receive 6 raffle tickets to that night's raffle. Your item will probably not be raffled off until sometime in the future. Some of our raffle items will be used and some will be new items. Raffle tickets are a dollar a piece or six for 5 dollars. The proceeds from the monthly raffle go to the Ring treasury. If you donate a trick, it is always helpful to include the instructions. Everyone has something they no longer use. Pass it along and help our treasury grow and make a fellow magician happy by winning a new item.

Loch David Crane

Says:

Thank You

for your support during his recent illness and troubled times.



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for a new generation.*

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Giving back to the community.*

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Magic Notes from Jack White**Magician Dick Bush retires from performing**

If you attended our June meeting then you may have had a chance to meet and talk with a longtime member of Ring 76, Dick Bush, of El Cajon. He and his daughter dropped by the meeting to say hello and goodbye. It was then that Bush told me he still has a great love for magic but that his health will not permit him to remain active as a performer. He was selling the show and retiring as a performer.



Dick Bush at the June, Ring meeting with his daughter

He, of course, still watches video tapes and goes to a magic show whenever he can. However, he says, it has become too much, packing up his show and carrying it to a hall, setting it up, doing the act, and then packing up again. So he is calling it quits as an entertainer.

All of this is a little sad because no one enjoyed doing a magic show for children or adults more than Dick Bush. I first remember seeing Dick perform at the IBM Convention in San Diego in 1989, when he and Joe Bertuzzi brought the convention to a stand still with their bellies hanging out in an act during one of the evening shows, that regular magic convention goers are still talking about.

The one thing that Dick is most proud of are the hundreds of shows he did for young people at Children's Hospital. In 1997, he was featured in a cover story in "Volunteer San Diego," a magazine that recognizes local people who give so much to their community by volunteering.

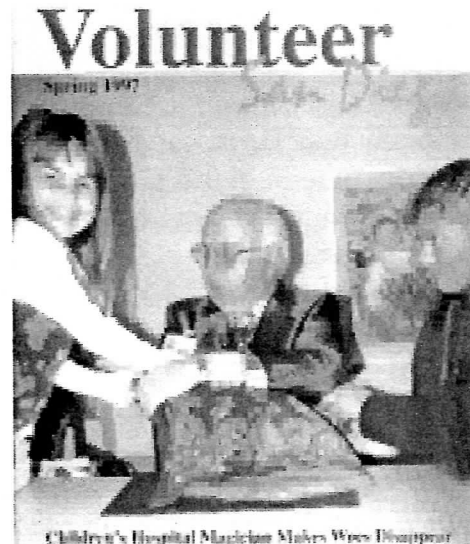
When asked about the Children's Hospital magic shows, Clinical Assistant Marjorie Johnstone said that Dick Bush made her job a lot easier. She said, "When he is entertaining it makes the waiting time for young people seem shorter and it gets their

minds off of shots and other stress they may have to deal with at a hospital."

Dick Bush didn't take up magic as a hobby until he was an adult with children of his own. But once bitten by the magic bug, he spent all of his spare time working on his tricks and trying to make them more entertaining and mystifying.

He worked with a rabbit that was like a member of the family until it died of old age a year ago. He also had a couple of doves and did a very nice act with them as well. He could do close-up or a stage show, whatever he was called upon to present.

He has been a good friend to Ring 76, and we will miss him as a member and performer. But don't be surprised one day while you are doing a show to see him in the audience. He said it best himself. "Once you are bitten by the magic bug, you are infected for life."



Dick Bush on cover of Volunteer San Diego Magazine 1997

The IBM Convention In Kansas City, Mo.

I have been asked by many Ring members what I thought of this summer's IBM Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. The hospitality was wonderful and the facility, the downtown Marriott Hotels; yes, that is plural because we had the use of two hotels connected by an air-conditioned walkway.

Kansas City is well known for its packing houses and good beef and pork. There were a number of historic jazz clubs and fine restaurants within walking distance of the hotel.

Robbie Willmarth looks on as Mel Kientz does a card trick for a waitress before dinner. This was the evening before the convention opened. The only comment from the waitress was, "This is going to be a long week with 850 magicians in town."



Mike Stratman ended his term as president of the IBM and installed David Sandy as the new president for 2002-2003. Attending the installation banquet

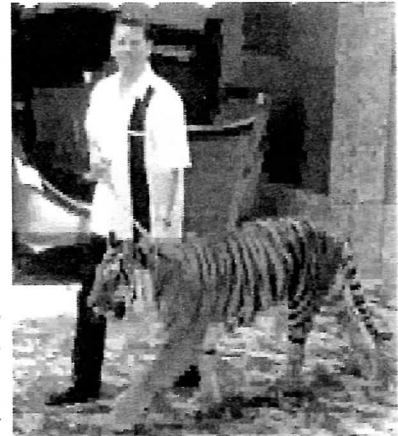
from San Diego were Bob Ingalls, Belinda Kaesler, Diane Lane and your editor.



There was an exciting dealers room, six very good lecturers, and sensational evening shows in a beautiful theater just behind the hotel. Everyone was very happy at how close the theaters were to the hotels.

Like all magic conventions it was non-stop action, and you never knew what would happen next. I looked up one morning to see magician Greg Frewin and a full grown tiger walking through the hotel lobby.

Greg uses the tiger in his shows, but during the convention he allowed people to have their picture taken with the big cat. Greg also did a great lecture.



There was one incident that gave performers a great deal of material to work with all week long.

Early on the morning of July 3rd we were all awakened by a fire alarm in the hotel and told to evacuate the building. The fire was controled on the 22nd floor and no one was hurt.

At 6:15 in the morning we were all out in front of the hotel waiting for the fire department to tell us it was alright to return to our rooms.



I caught IBM Convention Chairperson and a good sport Mindy Burden in her robe and barefooted, talking with Jerry Schnepf and son. By the way we were standing on 12th street, the same street that Scott Joplin wrote the 12th Street Rag about many years ago.

It was a great convention, next year in early July we meet in Cleveland, Ohio. Make plans to attend, you will have a great time.

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Message From the President



I want to thank all of you for nominating and electing me president of Ring 76.

I promise to do my best in this position. I will be there for the club 100% and that means all of you. Please feel free to come to me with any ideas you have.

The board has drawn up the calendar for the next 12 months. It will be fun and educational.

One of the goals for the year ahead I would like to see put together is a "performing troupe" of members. The group would have regular routines choreographed together, creating a really nice show. The show would be available for charity functions and Ring show trade outs.

Another idea is to use the guidelines of David Copperfield's "Project Magic." This would include our members that would go to a chosen facility(s) and work with the residents on learning simple magic tricks. David's theory with his project is to stimulate the residents with magic, helping their motor skills, memory, and self confidence. It is a wonderful project and I encourage everyone interested to go to www.davidcopperfield.com and check out the program. I

welcome your comments. If you have an interest in being part of this program, let's talk about it at the next meeting.

I am excited about representing Ring 76 as president and look forward to a really fun year ahead!

Keep the 'Magic' alive,

Diane Lane

President Ring 76

MagiCurrents:

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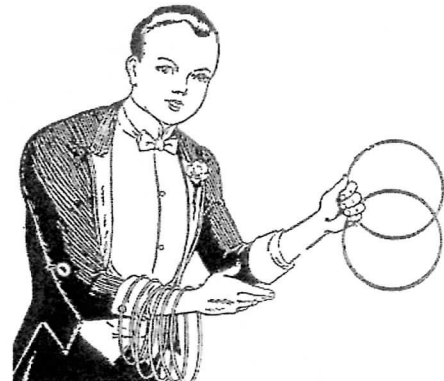
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News

Terry Godfrey spent July 15-20 performing at the Rice County Fair in Faribault, Minnesota. Terry's big push is to have fair performers generate publicity for the fair itself. During his week in Faribault, he was on the radio daily, and had several stories with photos about him doing his magic shows in the local newspapers. Also, after promoting his own shows on the fair grounds public address system he became the voice of the fair, doing almost all of the daily announcements. He presented four magic shows each day, with each show lasting 45 minutes. August 6-10 Terry will be performing at the Nevada County Fair in Grass Valley, California. This is turning out to be a busy season for a real fair show trooper. Could all of this signal a new book about being a Fair Performer from Terry Godfrey?

Don Soul has been published. His sister-in-law submitted Don's "Killer Chili" recipe to a cookbook publisher in northern California. The cookbook editors thought it sounded good, so they included it in their book. For chili aficionados everywhere, here are the ingredients: 6-pack of Mexican beer, miniature bottle of tequila, 2 oz of cooking oil, lemon juice, 1 lb of boneless pork ribs, 1 lb. Beef stew meat, 1 bell pepper, 1 medium sized brown skin onion, large clove of garlic, 15 oz can of tomato sauce, 4 oz. can dried green Ortega chilies, chili powder, Masa (corn) flour, and ground cayenne pepper. Allow at least 2 hours for cooking in a large pot. Notice: Don does not use beans in his chili. See Don Soul for the cooking instructions; sounds great for a cold winter day.



Gospel magician and Ring 76 member **Charlie Gott** recently returned from a 6-day retreat in the shadow of Mira Monte Mountain, just west of Sequoia National Park in northern California. Charlie presented a variety of gospel magic shows for those attending the retreat. Gott tells MagiCurrents he was able to work in a nice modern air-conditioned building for his shows. However, the outdoor temperature was hovering around 100 degrees each day. He says it is good to be back in San Diego with its natural air conditioning.

Speaking of hot weather..Temperatures at the **Society of American Magicians** Convention in Las Vegas July 7 - 10 hit 119 on several days. Television news programs were warning visitors to stay indoors in air conditioning because going into the heat posed a real danger to people's health. Attending that convention were many San Diego and Ring 76 magicians, including **James Thayer, Jeff Marcus, Mike Klickman, Ralph Mauzy, Bob Ingalls, Howard Harris, and Jack White**

Loch David Crane has just sent a copy of a letter he wrote to San Diego **Mayor Dick Murphy** to the editorial offices of MagiCurrents. The letter asks that Mayor Murphy designate October 25th to 31st

Briefs

Magic Week in San Diego. In exchange for that pledge by the mayor, Loch has promised in the name of the IBM and Ring 76 to saw Murphy's opponent for mayor in half, on the steps of City Hall.

Diane Lane presented **Bob Pozner's** magic trick "The Bug" at the IBM Convention in Kansas City, Missouri, in July. The effect received a great deal of praise from magicians and their comments have encouraged Bob to continue his efforts at marketing the trick as a Ring 76 project. Expect to hear more about these efforts in the coming months.

Bob Ingalls tells us that southern California magician **Jason Latimer** won the Grand Prix of magic at FISM. Jason becomes only the third person from the US to achieve that fame behind **Johnny Ace Palmer** and **Lance Burton**. He also won another first prize in the invention category, as well as taking first prize in Micro Magic. Latimer does the most beautiful cups and balls routine with clear-see through cups you have ever seen. The sponge balls magically appear inside and under the cups. Ring 76 is hoping to have Jason as a guest to show us his act in the near future. Congratulations, Jason Latimer!

Alfonso Vasquez has just informed Ring 76 members that he will be coming home from Iraq in August. He has been there since February, and he says it seems like he has been there for years. Alfonso will hopefully be home in time for a big welcome home parade in Oceanside in September.

August 11th meeting, installation of all new members. Fred Kaplan's Junior Magicians will present a program for Ring 76 members. Attend and support our Junior Program.

September 8th meeting, will present some onscreen video's of performers and an opportunity to present a favorite trick or routine. Details in next months newsletter.

August 25, board of directors meeting 7 pm., Jack's Magic Place. All board meetings are open to members.

NOTICE: If you have not paid your dues this will be your last newsletter!

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