



# Shell Game

A Monthly Newsletter for the London Magic Community  
March 2006

Volume 1, Issue 6

## February Meeting

February's meeting theme was "Penetration Magic". (You can add your own R-rated joke here!). The night began with a great teach-in of the Linking Rings (the metal rings, not the magazines!) by Steve Seguin. And he got a lot of help: Mike Fisher showed us his Linking Ring routine for children as well as the one he uses for adults. Peter Mennie also showed us his routine as well. Then both Steve and Peter demonstrated a variety of moves (links, unlinks, and displays) while the rest of us had fun giving them a try.

Max Scott pulled out his arsenal of six different effects: a Zig Zag Card; a dice penetrating through a rod inside a tube; a finger chopper; linking ropes; a bolt through a deck of cards; and a thread through a chosen card.

Mark Hogan pulled a rope wrapped around Mike Fisher and a knife he held. Fortunately, the rope (not the knife) penetrated Mike! Steve Wallace presented his Cups and Balls routine, as well as Crazy Man's Handcuffs.

Don Tuckey demonstrated a nice Penetrating Milk effect, while Lorne Overholt showed us a clever Die Tube routine, as well as coins

and a hanky through a glass, and a sword through the neck of Daniel Manley (one of our many guests this night). Dennis Weir also entertained us by pulling a hanky through a chosen card.

The final presentation was by Aaron Waud, who was making his performance to join the club. He, too, stayed true to the night's theme and made two quarters penetrate each other. Then after showing his Pen through Bill, he caused a coin to penetrate a card box to find a selected card. He ended his performance with four coins through a brass tube, and a linking rubber band effect. Certainly more than enough to ensure him entry to our club – welcome and congratulations, Aaron!

- Mark Hogan

Next Meeting:  
Wed. March 8, 7:00 pm  
Beal Secondary School,  
Room 225  
525 Dundas St., London  
Topic: Lecture by Wij the  
Magician



## Word from the President

I'm particularly happy to have Wij the Magician present his lecture this month (more details below).

Wij is a professional magician/entertainer based out of Toronto. He is consistently singled out as one of the city's top close-up guys. He was also chosen by Jay Sankey to be on his panel of experts and to perform at his close-up event last spring.

I'm excited for two reasons:

First, whenever anyone who makes his living entirely from performing magic for real audiences talks, I listen. And learn.

Second, this is a bit of a homecoming for Wij. I first met him back when he was going to Western, about 16 years ago. We tended to work a lot of the same events together. At the time I had a great disdain for magicians as a whole. The part-time pros working in the city at the time all tended to do the same routines with the same lackluster patter. My eyes tended to glaze over with boredom whenever they performed.

Wij was the very first magician I saw that captured not only my interest, but also my sense of wonder.

I could go on about his technical skill, his ability to structure a routine, and his sense of humor. But quite frankly, that's not the first thing I noticed. No, it was enthusiasm for what he was doing that made me pay attention.

The very first time he showed me a trick, he was practically gushing with enthusiasm. Here was someone doing something he absolutely loved and – even though he had done it a thousand times before – he was genuinely excited about the effect. His enthusiasm was contagious. It made me pay attention. He drew me into the routine. Made me care about it.

How did he do it? He loved what he was doing. He did everything he had to get me involved. He made it obvious that he was more concerned with me than with the trick he was doing. And he made it fun. Not funny, fun.

As I worked with him at different events, he had that same enthusiasm and mischievous glint in his eye at every single group he performed for.

I remember watching him do a remarkable coin routine for a gentleman at the bar. The guy was absolutely astounded by everything he had seen so far. When Wij put his hand on his shoulder to draw him closer to better see the coin vanish from his other hand, he leaned in eagerly. As Wij's hand moved off his shoulder, he shot me the biggest sh\*%-eating grin I had ever seen. He had left the coin precariously balanced on the guy's shoulder as he went on to very cleanly show both his hands quite empty.

The guy was astounded. Even knowing how it was done, I was astounded. And, I suspect Wij was a little astounded that it worked.

What can be more magical than that?

- Steve Seguin

## March's Meeting

Wed. March 8, 2006

We are proud to present a lecture by Wij. Wij has spent the last fifteen years working restaurants and other events honing his skills and testing new routines, presentations, and methods week in and week out. He uses all of the material he is lecturing on in real world performing situations.

For non-members, the fee to attend is \$15. Club members are free as always. Hope to see you there!



## News Of Interest

Simon Cowell to Search for Talent in

Vegas

Following on the heels of "American Idol", Simon Cowell is creating a show for NBC that allows viewers to ultimately decide which performer is rewarded with a headline spot in a Las Vegas show.

"Personally, I hope to find the next Siegfried and Roy," Cowell said. Cowell will executive produce the program but will leave the task of humiliating wanna-be magicians and other Vegas hopefuls to other judges.

The show, scheduled to debut in the summer, will feature hopeful future stars from across the country who audition before a panel of celebrity judges. The show has yet to be named.

## Harry Anderson Helps Rebuild Community

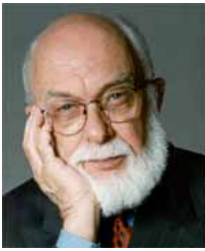
Harry Anderson is doing his best to help rebuild the French Quarter following the hurricane that hit New Orleans using the best tool he has – the ability to draw a crowd. He's been holding weekly meetings that began in his club but have now out grown it.

His flippant solution for the problems in the city is a sin tax: "A dollar on cigarettes and a quarter on beer," he said, "and in three weeks you'd have enough money to clean this place out." But instead of action, he said, "Nobody seems to be capable of anything but planning and forming committees."

## Magic Macabre

Wes Craven is said to be writing a Vegas show mixing magic and horror. "It is a bloody magic show for an 1,800-seat theater in Las Vegas," Craven said. Details are still sketchy.

## Heart Surgery



James "The Amazing" Randi underwent bypass surgery recently. He is currently in stable condition but will need quiet time to recover.

## Magician Creates Really Dumb Website

Unknown magician Stallion has created one of the dumbest and disturbing sites seen in a long time.

To check out this world-class magician, mentalist, ice dancer, majudo expert, and escape artist, visit [www.stallionmagic.com](http://www.stallionmagic.com).

Make sure you watch the movies. Can this be legit?

## Special Fundraiser:

The Make a Wish Foundation needs your help granting the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.

Mike Fisher has arranged a special "busking" day at the Covent Garden Market to help support this wonderful group. (If you're unfamiliar with the term, busking refers to gathering a crowd in the street or in a public space and performing a show for them after which the performer passes a hat for monetary donations.)

On Friday March 24 and Saturday March 25, from 8:00 to 5:00, Mike is looking for volunteer performers to come out and show

their talents and raise money for a very good cause.

Volunteers should be willing to commit at least four hours on either day. You will have fun, meet lots of people, and gain experience street performing. Donation hats will be provided and all donations will be presented to the Make a Wish foundation. Parking costs/bus fees will be reimbursed.

Even if you have never busked before, this is a wonderful opportunity. Please e-mail Mike Fisher if you would like to be a part of this event: [rmafisher@sympatico.ca](mailto:rmafisher@sympatico.ca). Share the power of a wish...



### Calendar

March 8 London Magician's Guild meeting – special lecture by Wij

March 24-25 Busking Days at London Covent Market in support of the Make a Wish foundation

April 12 London Magician's Guild Auction

May 10 London Magician's Guild meeting. Topic TBA. Also, club elections.

June 14 Friends and Family Night. Dinner and show at Elephant and Castle

## Magic Reviews



Redivider by Phil Goldstein

Looking for an interesting magic book? Check out Redivider by Phil Goldstein. It's a small book of card tricks all based around one principle. While summing it up like that may scare some magicians away from it, stick with me here, as I really do think this is one of the most creative magic books out there.

Twenty-four routines are covered in the book, all of which rely on one principle – the Palindromic Stack – to make the effects possible. They are card routines, but not all use playing cards or cards alone. Some use ESP cards or cards with letters printed on them, and dice are introduced for a couple of the effects. Routines, stories, and presentational approaches are included for each effect. The history of the principle is well covered, and a number of handlings to get to the proper arrangements of the cards are also taught well.

This gives a nice variety to the effects presented, and leaves the reader with a great deal of leads to follow if they wished to explore the possibilities of this principle. If such a variety could be created with this principle, it seems that such an approach could be taken with other principles if one wanted to try work like this on their own.

The fact that one person could be so creative with a single principle is also impressive. It offers the reader a glimpse at just how creative

some people are, I think of works like this as a kind of encouragement to be creative. If you think there's no where else you can go with a particular effect, examples like this book encourage readers to try more and explore further. Look how far he could go with this one principle – why can't that be done with others?

Some may think a book of card tricks can be somewhat dry or boring to read, but Redivider certainly is not. Goldstein's writing in this book reads in a relaxed, almost conversational tone, really giving his words a voice, and allowing the author to joke with the reader throughout the book. This style also lends itself well to the transition between effects, as ideas introduced in one effect flow nicely into the following effect.

So far, this sounds like a well-written book of interesting card tricks created by one individual and based on one principle. There are other interesting magic books out there, some of material of one individual, and some exploring a sole method. What makes this one stand out even from those?

As one reads through the book, you start to realize that something more is afoot within the writing. A look at the cover of the book cleverly illustrates this, as the principle of the book is alluded to in the images and text right on the cover – even in the title: Redivider.

The pages are numbered in a palindromic order, and there's a line divided each page down the middle. The subject of each image is a palindrome. The titles of nearly every chapter are palindromes (only one isn't – but it's very close and I

didn't notice it wasn't a true palindrome until a later read of the book where I was looking for these details). Some of these titles are even in other languages like French or Japanese, but are still obviously palindromes, and then alternate palindromic titles are given for many of the routines. Reading the text of each chapter of the book, each begins and ends with a palindrome.

Finally, did I mention the book was published in 2002?

This attention to these sorts of details, and the creativity involved in adding all of this is mind-boggling. I also think its pretty fun and funny. I wouldn't be surprised if there are more things in there that I've missed, and as I noticed more of these things, I started to wonder about other words or parts that sounded or looked just a little different.

These are all reasons why I think this is such an outstanding book. The routines are solid, an interesting principle is explored in great detail, and it is the creative output of one individual on a particular subject. It is well-written, and the author had the care for the subject to embed all kinds of related details into the book.

Generally, a magic book is about magic – most about magic tricks and method. Redivider goes beyond this, presenting us with a book that is substantively and stylistically focused on its topic.

Check it out... and let me know what you find unique about it.

- Devon Elliott



## Tricks

Three Worlds,  
by Steve Seguin

I've been intrigued with Kenton Knepper's Kolossal Killer effect for a long time. For those of you who are not familiar with it, here's the description from [www.wonderwizards.com](http://www.wonderwizards.com):

What is Kolossal Killer? Spectators just NAME a playing card, and you have the correct card in your wallet! YOU ARE ALWAYS CORRECT! It is the ultimate card "out" for close-up work. A spectator can mess with you all they want - RELAX - you can still produce a playing card from your normal wallet, as absolute proof that you knew their card all along!

The strength of the effect depends on the fact that there is no possible way you could conceal 52 cards in your thin wallet, making it absolutely impossible for you to have used a card index. Unfortunately, my own wallet is jammed with notes and scraps of paper that, judging by its size, I could very well have an entire deck of cards wedged into it. Rather than change my lifestyle, I decided to change the routine.

Obviously I can't describe how Knepper's routine works. Instead I'll describe a way to achieve the above effect that is overly dependant on equivoque and a large stack of cards. The result is completely workable, but far less elegant than if you combined what I describe below with Knepper's method. Those of you

who have Kolossal Killer will understand.

Effect: You put a thin business card case on the table and ask someone to name a playing card. Inside, nestled amongst your business cards, is the named playing card. It's quite clearly the only playing card in there.

Pre-Thoughts: When I set out to adapt Kolossal Killer, I set the following guidelines. Most importantly, I wanted to be able to hand the spectator the case BEFORE they named a card. I feel the effect is stronger if the case has been in their hands the entire time. Also, since I want to be ready to perform Kolossal Killer at all times, I wanted to keep everything I needed contained within the case itself - I didn't want to carry a separate pocket index with me to load the wallet. I wanted an instant reset (everything has to have an instant reset). Finally, I wanted the business card case I used to still be functional as a business card case (what's the point of carrying a business card case if you can't keep business cards in it?).

Setup: I use mini cards because they fit better in the business card case. Take the Two through Ace of Hearts out of the deck. Spray the faces of these cards with roughing fluid.

Next, take 15 business cards and spray the backs with roughing fluid.

Once they dry, you are going to make two piles.

From the top down, business cards and playing cards facing up, the first pile will be: BC, AH, BC, 2H,

BC, 3H, BC, 4H, BC, 5H, BC, 6H, BC, 7H, BC (BC=Business Card).

The second pile will be: BC, 8H, BC, 9H, BC, 10H, BC, JH, BC, QH, BC, KH, BC

Put the first pile in the left hand pocket of the business card wallet and the second pile in the right side.

Add an un-roughed business card or two to the top of each pile so that you can give away business cards.

Performance: Set the case down on the table or give it to someone to hold. You're going to use "magician's choice" or equivoque to force the Hearts on the spectators. Of course, doing two equivoques like this back to back is troublesome ("Imagine throwing half the cards on the floor. Do you want to use the red or the black cards? Red? Ok, we'll use the red. Imagine throwing the black cards to the floor. Now name one of the red suits. Diamonds? Ok, throw the Diamonds on the floor. You're left with the Hearts..."). I always feel awkward when the first time whatever they name gets saved and the second time it gets discarded (or vice versa).

Here's what I came up with to get around this. Assuming I am doing this for more than one person, I tell the group that I am going to try to mentally project the image of one playing card into their minds. I ask them to concentrate, and then I ask the group who was thinking of a red card. One of three things will happen:

1. One person will raise their hand. I will use that person for the remainder of the effect.

I will then use a fairly standard equivoque to get that person to settle on the Hearts ("Imagine you're holding all of the red cards. Picture dividing them into suits, Diamonds and Hearts. Imagine giving all of the cards of one suit to me. Which will you give me, the Diamonds or the Hearts...").

2. More than one person will raise their hand. This is the ideal situation. Because I can either pick the person I think would make the best volunteer and use equivoque on her to select the Hearts, or I can use the same ploy above on the group who said "Red" ("Now think of one of the red suits. Who's thinking of Hearts?...").
3. No one raises their hand. Encourage everyone to concentrate harder and think of a completely different card. Ask, "Who is thinking of a black card? Sorry, it was red again." This gets a chuckle. At least one person should now be thinking of a red card. Continue as above to force the Hearts. (If no one is thinking of a red card this second time, I start singing the score from "Grease".)

The chosen participant is now allowed to choose any one of the Hearts that they want. Once they name the card, I know which side of the card wallet it is in. I tell them how a couple of days ago I had slipped a small playing card inside my business card wallet to use whenever I wanted to do this particular experiment. I open the

case and pull out the cards from the "wrong" side of the wallet and flip through them with a "now where did I put it?" attitude – no card. Then I pull out the cards from the other side and thumb through them until I split the appropriate business card/playing card pair to reveal their named card.

One last suggestion: While not as fool proof, you can just use the Ace through Ten of Hearts to make your stack thinner. When you ask the participant to think of a card, say "Picture a card so clearly that you could draw it if I asked you to" to hopefully eliminate the face cards from the person's range of choices. I think this ruse works particularly well since you have handed them a bunch of business cards that theoretically could be used to draw on.

I've never heard of a trick that used roughing fluid on business cards before, but I'm a great believer that there is nothing new under the sun. If anyone could provide me with a name or trick I could source, I would appreciate it. My own business cards are printed on high quality card stock and handle the roughing spray quite nicely. I'm not sure if thinner card stock would affect the handling. The business card/playing card pairs are a bit more "quirky" in their handling than normal playing card/playing card roughed pairs. After playing with them for a bit, you quickly get the knack.

Like I said at the beginning of this trick, this method is nothing like Knepper's method. With Knepper's method any one of 52 cards can be named. After you've read his routine



you'll understand how you can combine my version with his.

We Want Your Reviews and Tricks! Please send any original reviews, magic tricks or routines to: [Steve\\_Sequin@hotmail.com](mailto:Steve_Sequin@hotmail.com)

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Vol. 1, Issue 6  
March 2006

Steve Seguin, Editor

The Shell Game is a free newsletter sent to members of the London Magicians Guild and other people in the community interested in magic.

Content and opinions expressed do not reflect the views of the London Magic Guild.

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