

Ring Report Ring #170 “The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring” SAM #99

September 30, 2023 | Archived Famulus



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September 2023

England’s Mathew Garrett lectured for the Ring on September 6th.

He is known for his Ninja Rings, which is a Linking Ring routine with smaller rings and added effects, such as linking a finger ring on one of the Ninja rings and melding a ball bearing to a ring.

The *ring with finger ring* that you hand-out is not gimmicked in anyway.

He also did an excellent version of the classic large size linking rings and excellent card flourishes.

Garrett did a walk around version of the classic Magic Square using an Out-to-Lunch way to quickly finish the Square and hand it out.

As a comedic interlude, he showed some hilarious visual and music examples of misheard popular song lyrics.

The Ring 170 monthly meeting was held on September 20.

President Ryan Stiner opened the meeting, and we had two guests, local illusionist Randy Whelmarc and his partner, Arianna Fleischman. Stiner opened the meeting with a review of all the places to see magic in our Central Florida tourist area,

as well as upcoming conventions and magic events. Several of our members are full time performers.

Dr. Ken Schreibman, MD PhD and Professor of Radiology presenting an excellent history of “Pepper’s Ghost” and “The Blue Room” and the associated effects using glass reflections. He always brings a power point, visual materials, and props. All his lectures can be seen at <https://www.schreibman.info/presentations>.

This lecture was comprehensive and traced history of the illusion from Dircks to Pepper and through modern versions such as The Haunted Ballroom at Walt Disney World. He concluded with a multi-glass reflective simulated hologram and then introduced Dennis Phillips to present a modern version , the Abbotts Frame of Life and Death, as used by Bill Neff and Philip Morris. Arrianna was invited up to assist. Her head was placed in a box, that resembled a 1950s television set. Slowly the flesh on her face melted away leaving a skull which was removed and displayed. The skull was returned to the box and the flesh and hair returned and her face was back to normal.

What followed ,in this night’s Ring double-header, was another of former Ring President Mike Matson’s ,“Theory and Thaumaturgy” lectures. This was on the classic “Cords of Phantasia”, also called “Grandma’ Neckless”. After explaining the method, he showed a version using a small bead said to be an evil eye. He had a story about being aware of the “evil eye” and escaping it’s hold. Matson had David Freeman present a Medieval version of the Cords and Dan Stapleton did his version of the cords, his own signature escape from two metal chains.

Greg Solomon had a couple of card decks. He had three spectators select a card. He then named the cards with an obvious peek and a laugh. Then he showed that all the cards were really just blank on both sides. He followed with another deck that had numbers on the cards and a card was selected and it matched a card that had been hanging in an envelope from the beginning of the evening. Paul Thomey called up a spectator and did an excellent series of effects with a finger ring that mysteriously came on and off a cord. All this was in the spectator’s hands and could be examined.

Mike Berlant generously offered to give away some brightly colored cloth for making magic tables covers or costume parts.

Good things are always happening in Ring 170.

Dennis Phillips

This presentation and all Dr. Schreibman’s magic lectures can be found at <https://www.schreibman.info/presentations>

Dr. Ken Schreibman, MD PhD and Professor of Radiology presenting an excellent history of “Pepper’s Ghost” and “The Blue Room” and the associated effects using glass reflections.



Dennis Phillips, the author of the best-selling book on Haunted Houses and their visual effects

assisted Dr. Schreibman and presented the Abbotts-Bill Neff “Frame of Life and Death.”

Dennis was assisted by Arianna Fleishman from Randy Whelmarc’s “Magic and Models”.

The method is a “Mini-Pepper’s Ghost”.



THE FRAME OF
LIFE AND DEATH



Many thanks to Phil Schwartz (Magic author and historian) and Craig Fennessey (magician and master photographer)

and Dan Stapleton (Illusionist-Magician) for the excellent photo documentation.

Meeting policy:

Face masks, if you wear one, will not be ridiculed. We are understanding that some people may be immunocompromised. We also respect your personal choices.

"Pirola" or "BA.2.86" is one of the latest strains of COVID 19. Optional vaccine updates have just been approved and available.

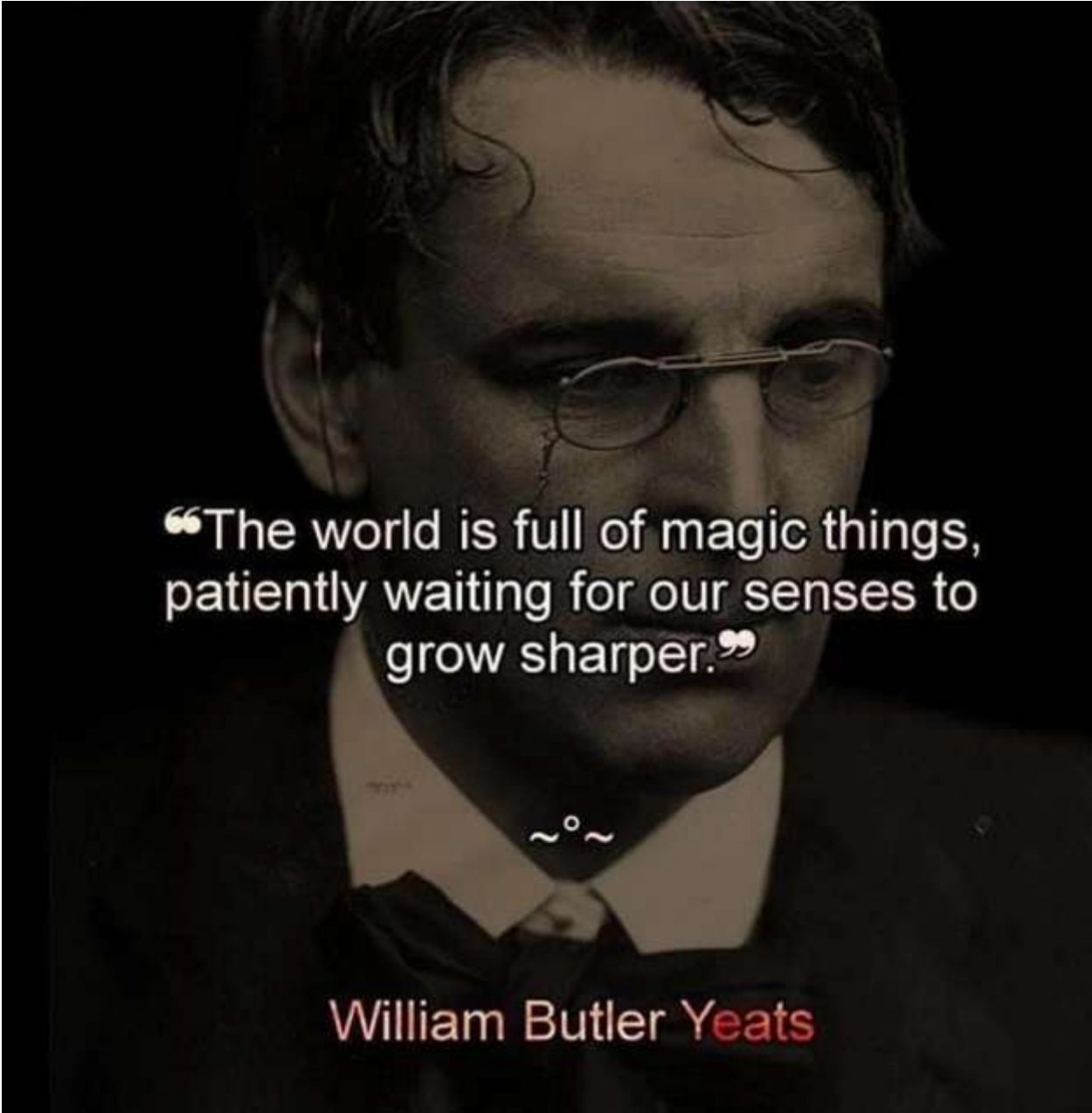
Stay prepared, healthy, and informed about current Public Health issues and contagious outbreaks.

Be respectful of others and avoid group contact if you suspect you have any contagious illness.



Dennis Deliberations ... Ring # 170, Assembly #99

“The Bev and Alouise Bergeron Ring”



“The world is full of magic things,
patiently waiting for our senses to
grow sharper.”

~°~

William Butler Yeats

DAI VERNON QUOTE?

“A good magic effect should easily be described in one sentence.”

“Most magicians consider the palm an easy move to make. They are inclined to believe that they are ‘getting away with it,’ when they are in fact fortunate enough to have a polite audience.”

“Be natural and use your head.”

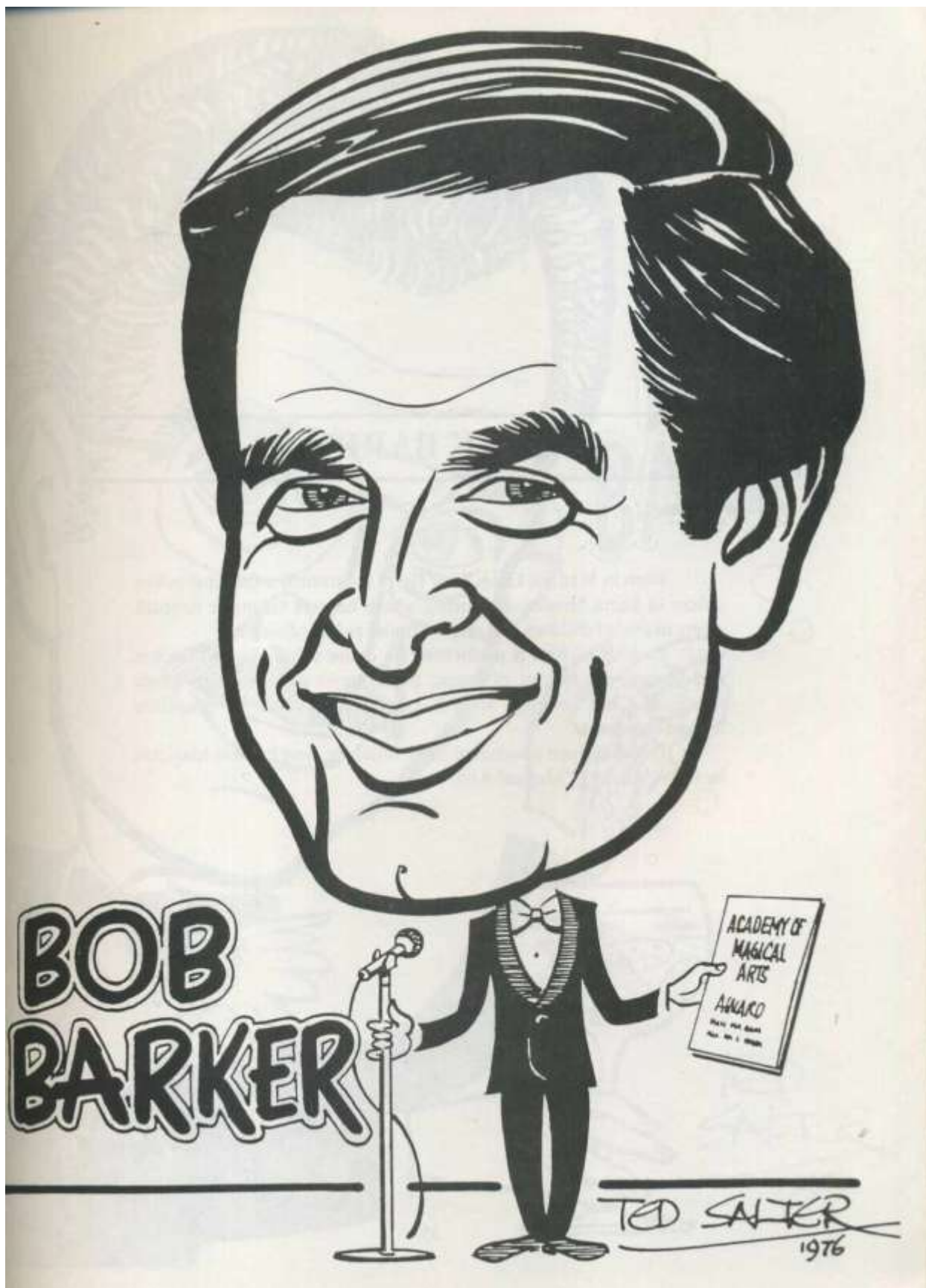
TV Game Show Host , Bob Barker, passes.

December 12, 1923 – August 26, 2023

The late Bob Barker was a member of the Magic Castle was the Master of Ceremonies when Dai Vernon received the Master’s Fellowship Award.

Milt Larsen was a writer who worked on "Truth or Consequences" with Bob Barker .





Barker on the cover of Genii 1984 February with Maurice Rooklyn

Barker received a "Special Fellowship Award" from the Academy of Magical Arts in 1987 for his support to magic and magicians.



The late illusionist Peter Reveen's wife died. She was 86 and one of the last living links to the grand traveling illusions shows.

Coral Reveen

I'm very sad and heartbroken to announce that my mother Coral Reveen passed away today (August 22nd 2020).

It will take several days perhaps weeks before I gather my thoughts enough to tell her story, meanwhile I'm just going to post as many photos of her that I can find on my facebook...

My sincere love to everyone that was kind to her and admired her, she was one of the last standing Classical Magic Assistance from the 1950's. We'll miss her so much. I'm flying back to Las Vegas from Chicago where my dear friends Rick and Parker Lindsey have been treating me like a king for the past few days.

Just a few days ago my son Alex, Jacqui and I made made her a wonderful carry dinner. One of the last things she told me is that she was going to live to be 119 years old. She also told me to express her love and blessings to E. Darrell Lindsey and family for saving my life 47 years ago.

I told her I'd be back on Tuesday. I feel in my heart that she's happy and with my dad and all of their loving friends who died before her. We all LOVE you Mom! ❤️



If you watch the 1942 film, "This Gun for Hire" the other night , you will be delighted to see that Veronica Lake plays a singing magician.

Near the beginning of the movie, she does a multiplying billiard ball routine, a card vanish and appearance (back palming) and a few other tricks while singing a song.

Most surprisingly though was that later in the film she does a "catching fish in the air" routine similar to Mac King's.

Marian Chavez, Jimmy Grippo and Frank Herman were uncredited advisors on the film.

The "Wild and Crazy Guy"



16-year-old Steve Martin demonstrating magic at the Disneyland Magic Shop (1961)

A popular effect for stage.

I have a small version for walk-around magic.

It is from the late Jerry Andrus (Trizonal Space Warper)

From: Swampy's Florida Blog, a note from Dan Stapleton:

Bob Langford's Showcase

Langford Resort Hotel Winter Park
East New England Ave.

NOW!!
Presents its famous Empire Room Supper Club
with fine cuisine.

Beautiful girls dancing top trained routines

handsome male singer

- New Costumes
- Captivating tropical numbers
- Leonora & Hector's special duet adagio fantastico!!
- Cast of eight
- Jackets required

Cover charge
Mon.-Thurs. 2.00 pp
Fri. & Sat. 4.00 pp
for this spectacular classic show is necessary!!

The ALL NEW HECTOR & LEONORA'S
"THE DANCING FOLLIES"
(formerly the Hot Pepper Revue) Reservations 644-3400

The delightful and lovely LOIS THOMAS sings and plays at the Piano Bar IN LOUNGE 5:30-9:30

Mickey Glee's Sophisticated Quartet 8:30-closing Mon.-Sat.

- Free hors d'oeuvres 5:30-8:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat.
- Two shows nightly Mon.-Sat. 9:15 & 11:15

"The best show that ever hit Central Florida. Bigger and better than ever," quote

Bob Langford

TAKE I-4 — FAIRBANKS EXIT — ONE BLOCK OFF PARK AVE. — WINTER PARK

Dan Stapleton once posted the ad from around 1980 and has a story that goes with it!:

"Ah...showbiz. We never stop learning. Lesson here: The Winter Park Langford hotel (no longer there) brought many entertainers to town. I would try and see as many as possible

when a magician or ventriloquist was performing.

Saw Ricki Dunn, Tom & Sherrie, Glen Heywood and others at The Empire Room.

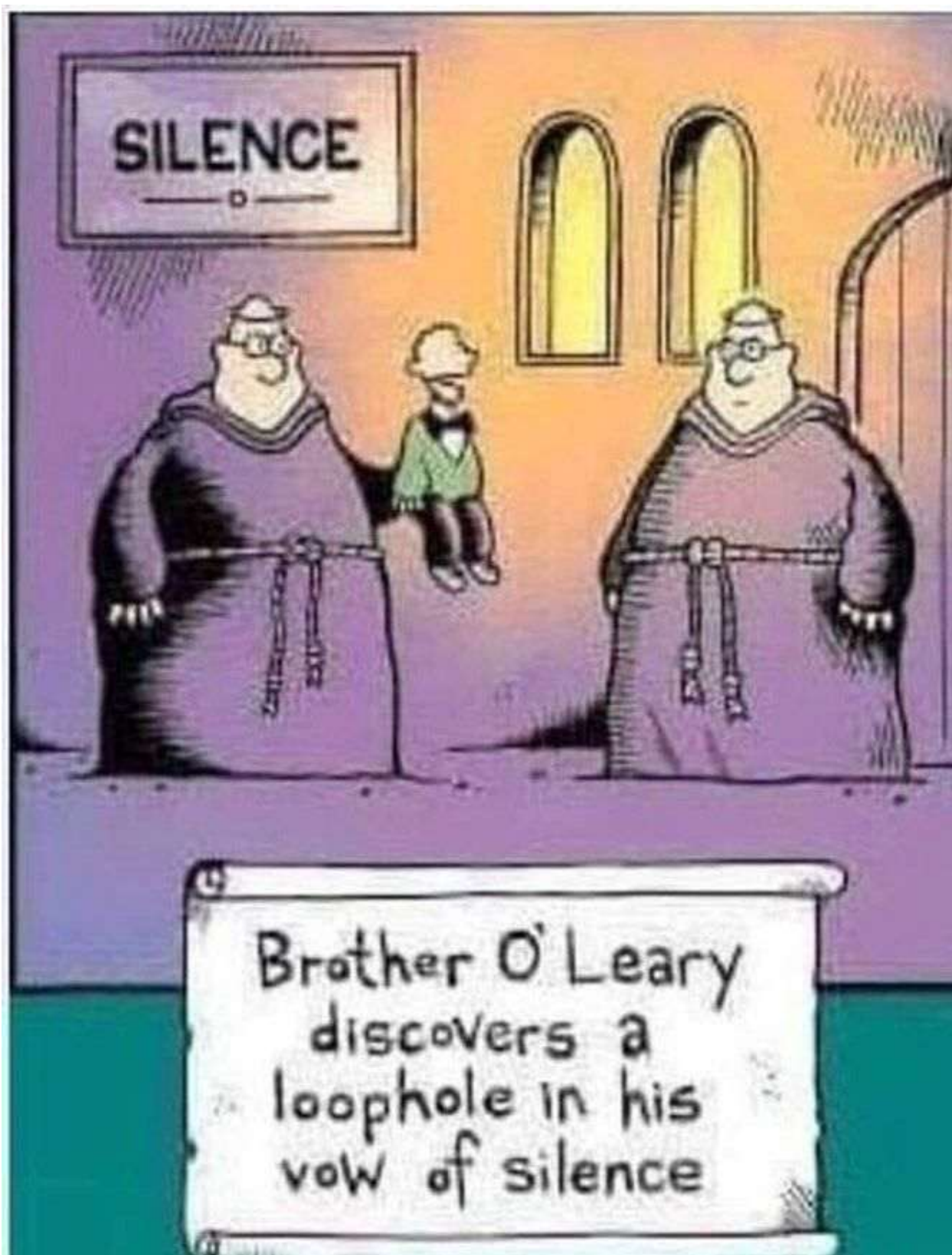
When FarylIn and I began dating, we went to see the show pictured here for two reasons.

1. It too had a comedy-magician in the show but for the likes of me can't recall who it was.
And

2. It had an "ice" floor that I was curious how that would work. As it turned out, it wasn't really "ice" but rather a sort of "Teflon" surface.

But what I really recall from this show was that this night, FarylIn and I were the only ones at this particular performance....and we felt bad for the performers. They sat us front row center. Here is an entire Revue about to perform their whole show...just for us. I went over to the fellow in charge of the group and told him, "Hey...you don't have to do this just for us. We'll leave." Pleading with us to stay we nearly walked out, for our guilt and sorrow in them having put on their show for just two people. Hoping more people would show we reluctantly stayed...and gave them as best our two-audience member reaction we could.

After the show, it was either the Latino magician or the production manager who came over to our table and I was expecting to be admonished for "having" them do the show just for us. But no. He explained how appreciative they were that we did, in fact, stay as had we left, none of them would have been paid for the show. And FarylIn and I felt like hero's for only a moment."



Movie Magic

Special effects technician Marcel Verouter and second assistant director Alan Green test the levitation platform with actress Linda Blair

during construction of Regan's bedroom on the set of *The Exorcist* at the now-demolished Ceco Studios in New York, 1973

They used wires. The wires are virtually invisible due to the intentional choice of the

wallpaper with the vertical stripes.

From an interview with Director William Friedkin: "For the levitation scene, we created an illusion the way a magician does—we tricked the eyes.

Linda was in a bodysuit underneath her nightgown, and there were lots of monofilaments attached to the gown holding her up.

She only weighed around 80 pounds at the time.

The monofilament wires were all attached to a gigantic plate situated above the set and it allowed her to be pulled up by a group of stagehands as if she was levitating.

It took a full week to perfect this. The shadows helped take your eye away from the wires..."

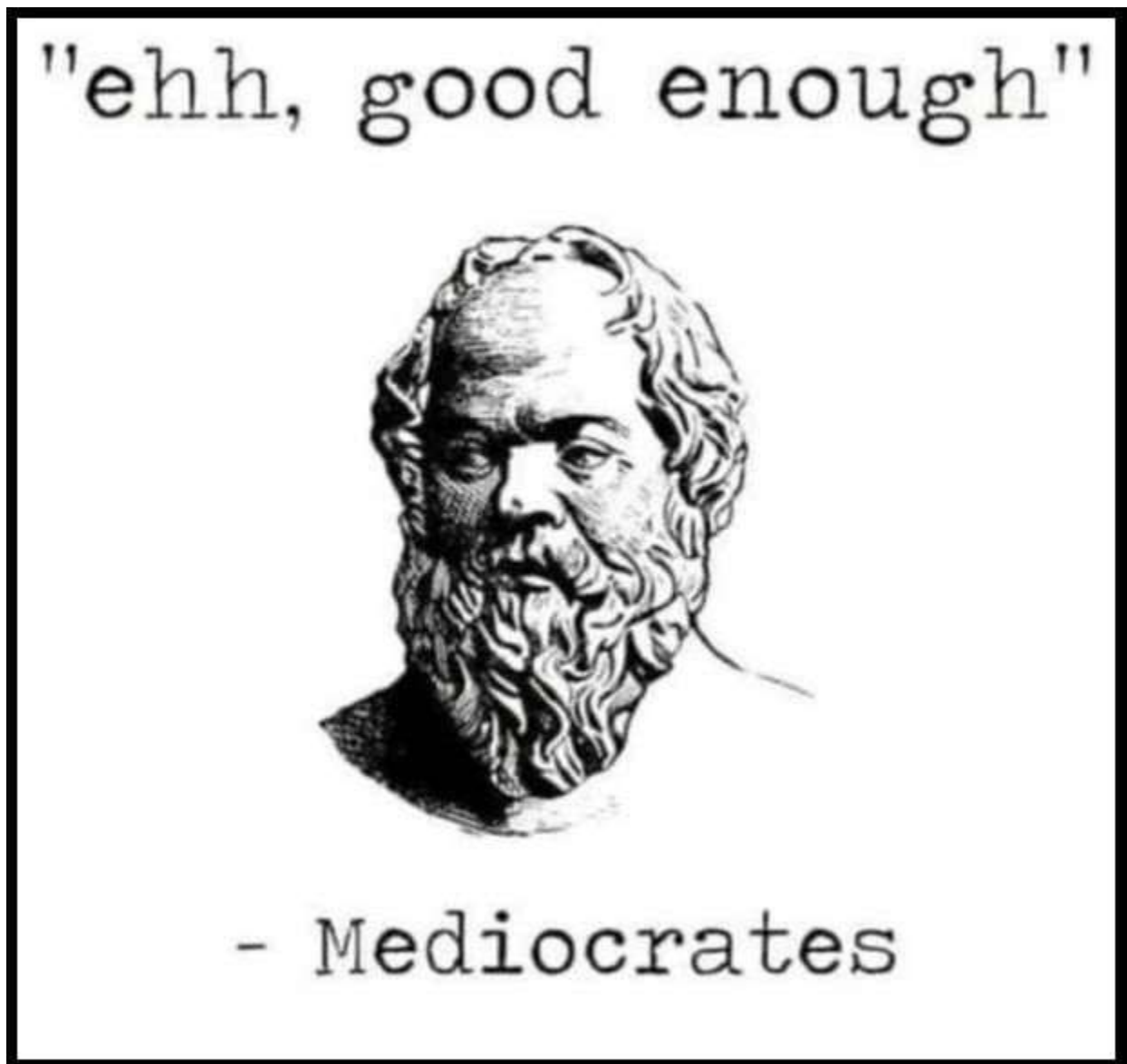


The always clever Steve Hart, created an ingenious way to turn the classic Clatterbox and the Hot Rod Force into a

a cute comedy mindreading routine.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iD3u3qXJw4o&t=3s>

Do not follow this philosopher's advice!





HOW TO SURVIVE AS A STAGEHAND

1. Early is on time. On time is late. Late is unacceptable.
2. Clean up after yourself.
3. Safety third.
4. Your phone stays in your pocket.
5. Lift ON three.
6. What's said on the headset, stays on the headset.
7. If you're not sure, ASK.
8. Own your mistakes.
9. Keep your resume to yourself - unless asked.
10. Pull the tape first, then the cable.
11. If it has wheels, push it.
12. If it doesn't have wheels, put wheels on it.
13. Dress the part - simple black clothes, a belt, and appropriate footwear.
14. Don't steal the gaff tape of someone who can run faster than you.
15. Unless you're directed to, don't touch the power.
16. Never bug the talent.
17. If something falls, step aside. Don't try to catch it.
18. Load in for the out.
19. Asking to borrow something implies that you will actually return it.
20. Don't eat the the fish at catering.

Walking on Water

The late Andre Kole, the Christian Illusionist, made a career of using his magical knowledge to debunk frauds and hoaxes ("fake supernaturalism"). Working under the banner of the national para-ministry, "Campus Crusade for Christ", his Evangelical message was that "God alone does supernatural miracles".



I was with Kole and James Randi following a Kole performance at Tupperware Auditorium (1986) and watched them argue. Randi was a committed atheist and believed that Andre used faulty and believing in fake “miracles”. To Randi, saying that "Jesus didn't do it the tricky way that I am doing it ", seemed to say that all the Supernatural is just an illusion. “Maybe Jesus just knew where all the hidden rocks were”, Randi said. The argument was heated.

I avoided getting involved by maintaining an apophatic theological viewpoint. My approach to religious writing is to try to find what core meaning is trying to be communicated in the story. I allow for metaphor and allegory.

Andre Kole is known for making a magic illusion out of “Walking on Water”.

His amazing trick was inspired by the biblical accounts of Jesus walking on water in Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-52, and John 6:16-21.

The Bible story goes like this: Jesus sent his disciples by ship to the other side of the Sea of Galilee while he stayed behind to pray alone. As night came, the ship got caught in a windstorm and as the disciples looked and they saw Jesus walking on water toward them. As soon as he entered the ship, the weather calmed, and they were able to get to land safely.

Here is Kole’s versions, both on location and on stage:

Kohl's Stage Version



The Masked Magician (Val Valentino) featured the magic stunt on the Magic Expose TV series in the 1990s.

Th Plexiglass sheets can be seen.



Magicians have been replicating this trick for years, but as you know, there is a perfectly logical physical explanation behind what they do.

Before the performance, the magician's helpers lay out some clear platforms made from thick plexiglass plastic just below the surface of the water that are invisible from the audience's perspective, allowing the performer to appear as though he's walking on water. All the while, the magician looks like he's struggling to keep his balance as if he could fall in the water at any second...but that's all part of the act.

In my opinion, there is a lot of room for "mystery" in life. Science is filled with the unexplained on both the micro and the macro level.

Quantum Mechanics is one example. Why the Fine Structure Constant is $1/137$ is a deep mystery that physicist Richard Feynman marveled at. Roger Penrose and Steven Hawking admitted there were mysteries in cosmic physics.

Science still does not have any answers as to where the seat of human consciousness is and even the workings of many brain and bodily functions.

Religion also should have mystery and antinomies (Kant). It should never be presented as a crass carnival side show.

The debate and discussion should continue, which is why I respected both the opinions of Andre Kole and James Randi.

Notes:

"Andre Kole" (born Robert J. Gurtler Jr.; September 30, 1936 – October 17, 2022)

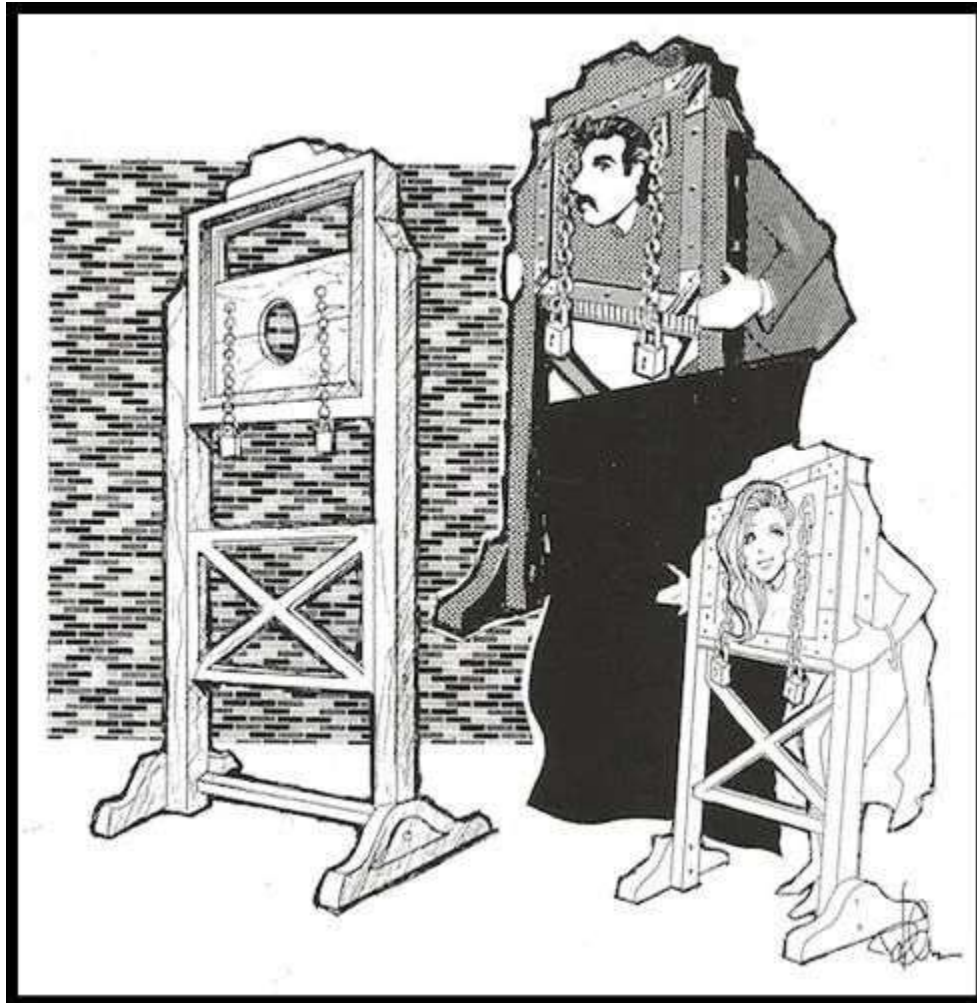
Andre Kole and Al Janssen, "MIRACLES OR MAGIC? ESP, Faith Healing, Fortune Telling, Hypnosis, UFO's, Astrology, MindReading, Levitation, Published: Harvest House Publisher (c.1984)

"André Kole with Jerry MacGregor, Mind Games: Exposing today's psychics, frauds and false spiritual phenomena, pub. Harvest House (February 1998)

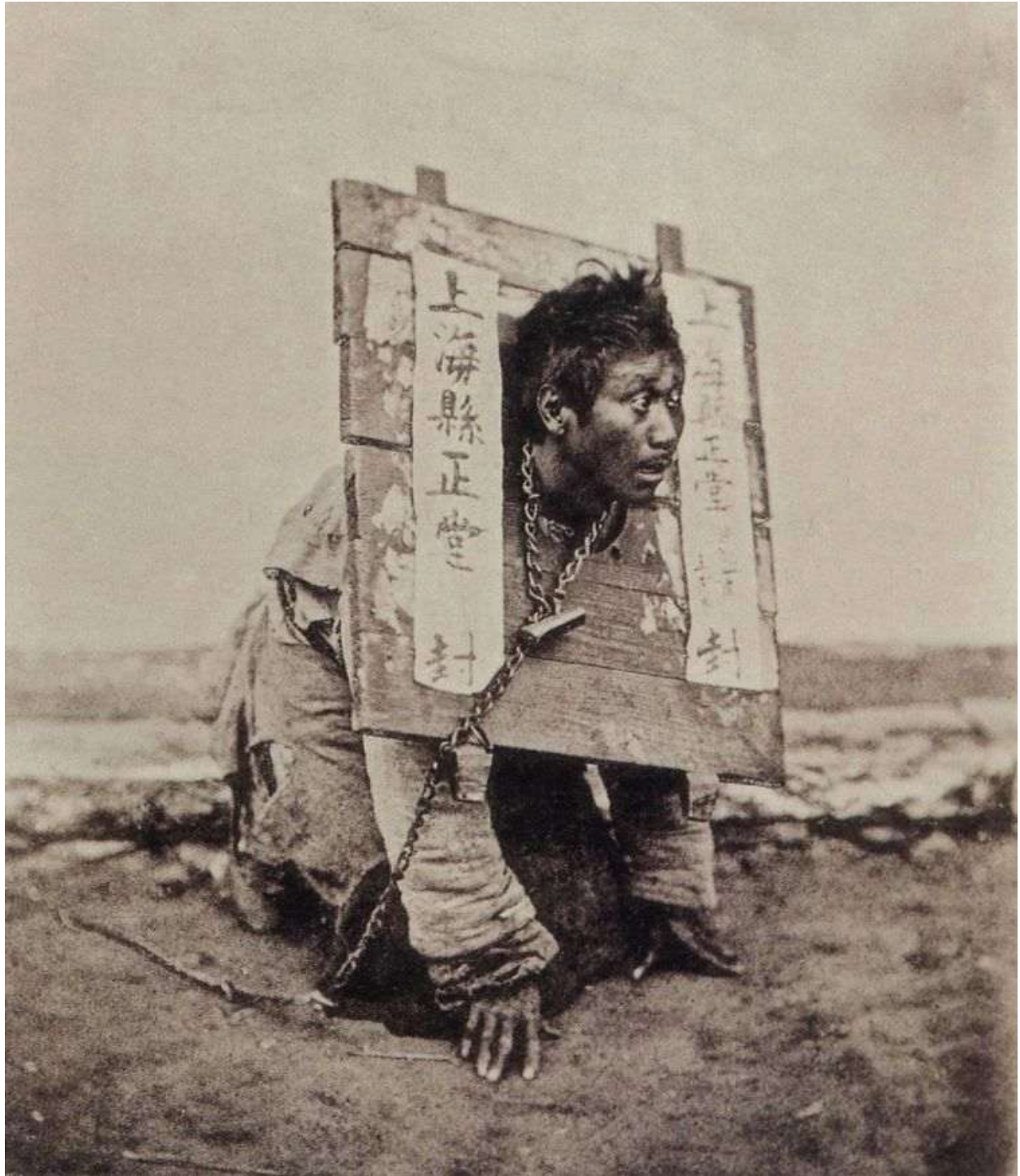
André Kole and Terry Holley, Astrology and psychic phenomena, Published: Grand Rapids, Mich., Zondervan, (c.1998)

The Stocks of Zanzibar was always an interesting design for an escape device.

The effect is simple and straight forward: The magician is locked in an impressive set of stocks. The chains run from the top set of stocks to the bottom and then are locked in place, completely trapping the performer. His assistant steps in front of the stocks holding a cloth up and, within a matter of seconds, the cloth is dropped, and the exchange has taken place.



It has a connection, possibly coincidental, to a Chinese punishment device.



A frequent form of punishment in China was a device called the Cangue. (木枷)

This cruel device was used right up to the start of the 20th century.

Two pieces of wood were fastened around the neck and sealed with padlocks.



The Cangue was designed to humiliate the person wearing it with the offender's crimes posted all over the board for everyone to see.

The size and the weight of the Cangue depended on the severity of your crime. The weight of the device could reach 200 pounds which would cause immense pain and crippling

deformities if you were left in one long enough.



On top of the humiliation, the board was wide enough so you couldn't reach your mouth and relied on strangers for food and water.

An attentive audience from long ago. The Dye Tube, as small as it is, plays big. I have used it many times.



Dennis