



The Flash Paper

November 2023

Bob Gehringer, Editor



A Letter from Lindy

Ohhhh!! October. Time for some eerie magic. Add some

new Halloween effects to your show, or put a spooky spin on the ones you already perform. Our timely Monday night magic event fit the bill perfectly. Magic in the corners featured five club members teaching five different spirit writing effects.



After a lot of giveaways, the evening wrapped up with a much-anticipated garage sale. This contained members' personal goodies, and a lot of items that have been

donated to the club. I hope you had a chance to pick up some bargains, I know I did. It's that time of year again. At the November Meeting we will be electing club officers for 2024. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Sargent at Arms. All positions are 1-year terms, and this makes up the Board of Directors. If you would like to throw your hat in the ring, you'll just need to notify the Nomination Committee: **Ryan Chandler** and **Joyce Chleboun**. This will be a short column as we had an early deadline. This is due to an earlier than normal November meeting. **Keith Leff** will be lecturing on **November 6th**. I am really looking forward to Keith's lecture. He was the 2016 International Brotherhood of Magicians close up Magician of the Year. Should be a great presentation!! This month's featured Magician is "Gazzo". You know you have made it when you are recognized by just one name. A British street performer from the United Kingdom. Gary "Gazzo" Osborne has performed and lectured around the world. He first moved to the United States in the 80's, and now lives and performs in Key West, Florida. I admire a lot of magicians for the humor, and the tricks they perform. Even though I love their style and the jokes, I know I couldn't pull it off, just not my personally. Gazzo's act is that way. His character can be almost rude and crude, but with his accent and smile he makes it work. He's actually very down to earth and easy going. He's probably the most well-known street magician in the world. In March of this year Gazzo suffered a second stroke during a performance at Malory Square in Key West. His condition has steadily gotten better and we wish him a speedy and complete recovery So in conclusion: Remember, have fun with some Halloween magic, run for office, and help make magic great again!



October Re-Cap

by
Matt Spielman

“The force of the entering wind nearly lifted us from our feet. It was, indeed, a stormy but beautiful night, and wildly strange. The heavy, low-hanging clouds which seemed to press down upon the house, flew from all directions against each other, always returning and never passing away in the distance”. Contrary to the scene depicted by Edgar Allen Poe in *The Fall of the House of Usher*, the evening the OMS crew gathered was a comfortable 62 degrees with a calm breeze and the smell of freshly cut lawns still in the air. The unseasonably warm weather didn’t stop us from getting into the fall mood with a night of Halloween magic taught by several OMS members. They were each given a few minutes to cover a quick routine and go over the method behind it.



I started off at **Carl Braun’s** table where he gave a presentation of an Elmsley-esque pass and flip revealing a creepy face utilizing two seemingly blank cards. This was all done to his personal rendition of The Police’s hit “Every Breath You Take” which kicked up the presentation of the trick and gave it a nice flair.



Joyce Diamond went all out on her table design with candles, crystals, orbs, and a head-shot of Eugene Burger setting the aura for her routine. Utilizing her mysterious orb, she was able to read minds and reveal

chosen colors from the audience. Next, she had a blank note in the hand of a volunteer transform into a hidden message from a spirit, she went over Eugene Burger’s method for this trick afterwards.



Patrice Fisher had her mysterious trinket from Egypt on display which allowed the spirits to communicate via her spirit message cards. Utilizing her stack of blank cards, a rubber band, and a clever method using half a card, a blank card was signed by an audience member and with a few magic moves the spirit’s message was transposed onto the same card.



Johnny Impossible prepared the group to face a dastardly demon. Using a clever pass, he showed two blank cards to the group and with a few moves revealed his “dastardly demon”. Going over the method

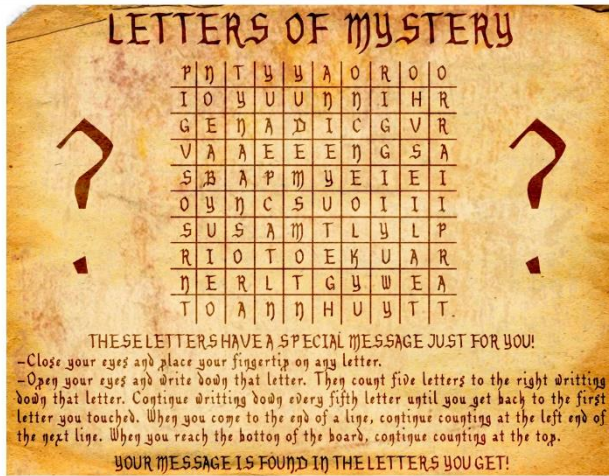
he went over his turnover pass that he thought of on the fly which was a very quick and easy way to keep a card face hidden from the crowd, along with several other tips to increase the misdirection.



Last but not least **Nathan Roberts** showed off his box of cheap cards he purchased from Amazon. He ignored the low star ratings and reviews calling the cards haunted and proceeded to show us how harmless the cards were. After showing us that nothing was wrong with the cards, suddenly the message “You will suffer” appeared.



This quickly changed the mood of his lighthearted unboxing review.



Dave Arch was also in the fray and had the entire room decipher a message from their own personal oracle board. Mysterious music was played as the group revealed one of five possible messages from the oracle board. Along with the Oracle Board members were also gifted a gimmick to perform “the little hand” routine. Since bringing this home my 4-year-old daughter has shown me a different routine every day.

A big round of applause to the volunteers that showed off lessons to the group, we had a few volunteers that were new to teaching to the group and did a great job going over their material.



Rounding out the night was the club's garage sale and the spread was incredible. Props, DVD's, books, packet tricks, and a Tarbell set of books were among the wide assortment of bargains on display. I happened to walk away with a Teyno trick I had been eyeballing for a few months and a John Bannon packet trick as well. Enjoy the Halloween season, we all now have a few new tricks to go with the treats.

November meeting is Monday, November 6th from 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Monday Night Magic

SPONSORED BY THE OMAHA MAGICAL SOCIETY

PLEASE NOTE NEW DATE!



STROLLING MAGIC

KEITH LEFF, 2016 International Brotherhood Of Magicians Close-Up Magician Of The Year, will be visiting us in November - sharing twenty-five years of his experience in effectively navigating the unique performance challenges of strolling magic.

His lecture addresses strategies for evaluating whether or not to approach a group of people as well as how to quickly and effectively connect with them when you do decide to approach. In addition, he'll be teaching in his lecture proven routines that have achieved strong audience reactions from diverse audiences.

You can use the QR code below to experience his style as you watch him perform the finale of his award-winning close-up act.

SIMULTANEOUSLY BROADCAST ON ZOOM:
<https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023
7-8:30 PM (CST)
The Cross Training Center
5030 N. 72nd Street
Omaha, Nebraska

There is no charge for this event.






Larry's Logic

What do you owe?

In my “real” life – in what my boss laughingly called “my career” - I've noticed a few similarities between programming and magic.

And if you think about it, they're actually somewhat similar. You pose a problem and devise a solution. And with luck, the user will have no idea what actually happened.

But perhaps the most striking example of this similarity is in a concept known as “code debt”.

Code debt can be thought of as work that needs to be done before a particular job can be considered properly complete. If the debt is **not** repaid, it will accumulate interest, making it harder to do other work later on.

And what does ANY of this have to do with a magic trick?

Simple.

I believe that ANYTHING that is required to make a trick work **causes debt**. And I mean **anything!**

Each sleight, each psychological ploy, each subtlety, each principle, each iota of attention and misdirection – **everything** causes debt!

And what is this debt? Well, frankly it's suspicion. It's a clue as to how the trick worked. It's a path leading from the problem to the solution.



And if enough debt accumulates, the trick collapses – or – at the very least, there's a very high price to pay the piper.

And what is the price of the debt?

- Loss of amazement
- lessened magical effect
- huge amounts of practice
- memorization efforts
- finicky processes
- attention management for spectators
- attention management for yourself
- scripting requirement (outside of those required for entertainment)
- equipment to carry

So, for every floating lady, there's a debt being paid backstage by a handful of assistants and a fistful of wires.

For every cups and balls routine, there's a debt being paid by carrying loads, extra balls, learning sleights, misdirection, attention to angles, spectator attention management, writing scripts, and on and on.

Now, if you look at the admittedly partial list of debt, you'll realize that some of the payments occur BEFORE the performance. Things like practice, equipment to carry, scripting, etc.

Some payment methods occur during the performance. Memorization efforts, tracking finicky processes, attention management, sleights, etc.

And some payment methods occur after the performance. You still have equipment to carry, silks to re-load, decks to restack, etc.

And I believe that in most cases, you want to push your debt to the BEFORE and AFTER efforts, as that cost in one that only **you** pay.... not your audience and not your magic.

But, be aware - the amount of debt will vary based on circumstances and your audience.

We've all had the misfortune to encounter the highly gullible spectator. And yes, I consider them to be a misfortune.

Every move, every ploy slides right past them. There's no need to do a Ramsey subtlety if they aren't going to question a poorly executed French Drop. Everything you do is a miracle.



You don't need to work hard to hear them scream to the skies, "He's the devil". Good for the ego, bad for the magic.

On the other hand, we've probably all had the nerve-racking experience of working for a very knowledgeable peer and/or very sharp spectator.

They burn your hands, continue watching closely after the trick is "over", and sometimes ask to examine everything. Bastards!

Now, with these two extremes (gullible-vs-I hate you), you can see that debt accrues differently for the exact same action.



A double undercut for example causes almost NO debt for the gullible, while the peer nods knowingly and you can almost hear the "ding-ding-ding" of the debt meter as it runs up the total.

So, how can you eliminate some of your debts?

Frankly, it's fairly simple. Notice that you won't eliminate ALL the debt. You can NEVER eliminate every clue.

But that's a topic for another day.



IT'S COMING NEXT YEAR!

Fundraising Goal Reached!



Thank you to all who are helping our club to be a vibrant experience for all.



Crafting Magic with AI: Narrative Mastery in Your Close-Up Card Act, enriched with insights from ChatGPT, OpenAI

By Greg Adams

Introduction

Welcome back, esteemed members of the Omaha Magical Society! In our previous articles, we discussed how ChatGPT can help design the Perfect Close-Up Card Act and how it can be employed to elevate audience engagement. While these elements are pivotal, the true magic of an unforgettable act lies in its narrative mastery. In today's discussion, let's delve into how ChatGPT can help transform your series of tricks into a compelling, seamless tale. We'll continue to use our Perfect Close-Up Card Act as our primary case study.

A Reminder of the Perfect Card Act

Before we begin, let's review the Perfect Card Act that we've established in our previous articles:

1. **Engaging Opener:** Chicago Opener (Red Hot Mama)
2. **Building Suspense:** Ambitious Card Routine
3. **Interactive Magic:** Two-Card Monte
4. **Touch of Mystique:** Mentalism Card Prediction
5. **Grand Finale:** Card to Impossible Location

The Importance of Narrative in Magic

A beginning, middle, and end punctuate any compelling story, including conflict, climax, and resolution elements. When you infuse this narrative structure into your magic act, you offer more than a collection of tricks; you offer an experience, a magical journey.

How ChatGPT Can Assist in Narrative Creation

With its data-backed understanding of storytelling elements and human psychology, ChatGPT becomes a collaborative tool in constructing your magic narrative.

1. **Consulting ChatGPT for Story Arcs:** A prompt like, "What is a suitable overarching theme for a card magic act?" could yield creative foundations for your act.
2. **Translating Tricks into Plot Points:** For instance, you could ask, "How can the Mentalism Card Prediction be presented as the 'climax' of my magical story?"
3. **Incorporating Emotional Beats:** Utilize prompts like, "What emotional beats should a magic act hit to keep the audience invested?"

Narrative Elements Mapped to the Perfect Card Act

Let's weave these elements into our existing Perfect Card Act, transforming it into a narrative experience.

1. **Setting the Scene with the Chicago Opener:** This trick establishes your magical world. ChatGPT could help brainstorm ways to introduce a recurring symbol, phrase, or character that will pay off later.
2. **The Rising Action of the Ambitious Card Routine:** Make this trick the physical manifestation of the act's central conflict or quest. ChatGPT can provide suggestions on dialogues or subplots that heighten the sense of challenge and build suspense.
3. **The Two-Card Monte as a Twist:** Employ this trick as a surprising twist that re-contextualizes what came before. A prompt like, "How can the Two-Card Monte serve as a plot twist in a magic act?" can provide innovative ideas.
4. **Mentalism Card Prediction as the Climax:** This trick could be the act's emotional and narrative high point, resolving the central conflict or quest. ChatGPT could offer ways to integrate it as a reveal that changes everything emotionally and narratively.
5. **Card to Impossible Location as the Resolution:** ChatGPT can provide ideas to tie up all loose ends, offering the audience a sense of closure, amazement, and satisfaction.

Refining the Narrative

1. **Feedback and Reiteration with ChatGPT:** Following each performance, you can use ChatGPT to review and refine your narrative based on audience reactions.
2. **Analyzing Emotional Impact:** ChatGPT can help evaluate which narrative elements worked best emotionally by asking targeted questions like, "Which narrative elements are most impactful in a magic act?"

Conclusion

The power of a magic act isn't just in the tricks performed, but in the story told. By utilizing ChatGPT's analytical and creative capabilities, you can elevate your magic from a simple series of tricks to an unforgettable journey. But the exploration doesn't end here. In our fourth and final installment, we will delve deep into the realm of "Psychological Depth." Learn how you can glean insights from ChatGPT on the mental underpinnings that make a magical effect genuinely mesmerizing. Don't miss this last chapter, where we'll examine how the synergy of psychology and artistry can make your magic truly unforgettable. Stay tuned!

Quick ChatGPT Prompts for Magicians:

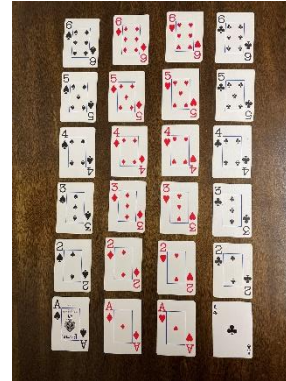
1. "How can I introduce a recurring theme in my magic act?"
2. "What's a compelling way to introduce conflict into a magic act?"
3. "How can I tie the idea of fate or destiny in a card prediction trick?"
4. "What are some ways to bring emotional closure in the Grand Finale?"
5. "How can I weave in humor or levity into tense moments of the act?"

Remember, this is about your unique magical narrative. Use ChatGPT as a co-writer, but let your storytelling voice shine through. Happy conjuring!



THE THIRTY-ONE SWINDLE

Thirty-One is a swindle in which the victim thinks he has a sure thing and consequently bets his shirt. The con man lays out twenty-four playing cards, a row of four sixes, a second row of four fives, then four fours, four threes, four deuces and four Aces. The cards are face up, the six row at the top and the Ace row at the bottom.



"All you have to do," the con man explains, "is hit the number 31 without going over. I turn down a card - let's say a six, and you turn down another, let's say a five, which makes a total of 11. We keep adding as we turn down cards. If you go over 31, you go broke. If you hit 31, you win. I'll show you how it works."

He plays a few games for fun, to explain the game. Some of the time, he wins - and some of the time, the customers win. But when they start playing for money, he always wins.

He has a shill working with him who approaches an interested spectator and whispers, "I know how it works. And I know how to beat it. All you have to do is hit the numbers 17 and 24 on your turn. Whoever hits 24 is bound to win. The highest number this fellow can possibly turn after you hit 24 is 30 - with a six."

The potential victim thinks that over and watches the game awhile longer. He sees it's quite true. The player who hits 24 is bound to win. And he sees that the operator of the game, who makes the first move every time, can't possibly keep him from hitting 17. If he hits 17, the operator can't keep him from hitting 24.

You illustrate this with the cards as you explain it. "Finally," you say, "the victim decided to teach the operator a lesson. He offered to bet \$50 on a hand of 31. Any one of you can play the part of the victim." You get a volunteer, and for your first move, turn an Ace face down. Regardless of what card he turns, you turn down a second Ace. You turn down a third Ace on your third play. You let him arrive at 17 and without any argument. And when he finally arrives at 24, you have turned down all four Aces previously. You now turn down a six, making 30. Since the Aces are all turned down, there is no card that he can turn without going "bust."



THE NUMEROLOGY TRICK

This is more entertainment than mystification. For some reason, the public is always interested in astrology, numerology, and kindred subjects, even when they don't believe there's any logical ground for belief in them.

You say, "I've been doing considerable reading about numerology, and whether you believe in it or not, you can't argue against the preciseness of mathematical science. Numbers are constant; they don't change and they always have the same meaning."

At the top of a sheet of paper, you write:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 9

"I've omitted Number Eight because it happens to be my numerological number, and it's a well-known fact that a student of numerology can't impart any satisfactory information about his own particular number to another."

You look at one of the guests. "Unless your numerological number is eight, give me your favorite number, the one you think is lucky for you—one of the digits at the top of this paper."

Whatever digit the person gives, come up with a little character analysis and fortune telling, being careful to keep it flattering and pleasant. Whatever you see in the person's future is always good. The chances are that you're well acquainted with the people at the dinner table, so you can give a good reading. You don't say that a person is stubborn; he has great determination. He isn't irresponsible; he's happy, carefree and optimistic. He isn't stingy; he has a keen sense of the value of money.

It doesn't make much difference what you say; everyone at the table will be interested. Try to keep it amusing, pleasing to the subject, and not too long.

"Now," you say, "there's one infallible way to learn whether or not six (or whatever number the person selected) is truly your lucky number."

Let's say the chosen number was six. Whatever it was,

mentally multiply it by nine, in this case, 54. Instruct the subject, "Your numero-quotient is 54. On your smart phone calculator multiply the number I've written at the top of this sheet of paper by 54." Here's what happens:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1 \ 2 \ 3 \ 4 \ 5 \ 6 \ 7 \ 9 \\
 \times 54 \\
 \hline
 4 \ 9 \ 3 \ 8 \ 2 \ 7 \ 1 \ 6 \\
 6 \ 1 \ 7 \ 2 \ 8 \ 3 \ 9 \ 5 \\
 \hline
 6 \ 6 \ 6 \ 6 \ 6 \ 6 \ 6 \ 6
 \end{array}$$

The subject shows the result of his multiplication. You nod your head sagely. "There's no doubt about it. Six is unquestionably your lucky number. If I were you, I'd never do anything without giving great consideration to the Number Six and how it might influence the outcome."

Remember, multiply whatever number is chosen by 9. That's the "numero-quotient" (whatever that is) to discover whether their favorite digit really is lucky. The result is always a whole string of their "lucky digit," - unless they multiply or add incorrectly.

2023 OMS Officers

- President** - Steve Lindeman..... amazinglindy@gmail.com
- Vice President** - Bruce Jacoby..... bruce@colorfulmagic.com
- Secretary** - Patrice Fisher patricekfisher@yahoo.com
- Treasurer** - Bob Gehringer gehringerr@cox.net
- Sgt-at-Arms** - Tim Begley tpbegley@cox.net
- Executive Director** - Dave Arch dave@sandler.com

Check out our website:

<http://TheOmahaMagicalSociety.org>



The Flash Paper

November 2023



Our **Magic in the Hospitals** video program is spreading country wide. We teach magic tricks to children using medical items as props. This helps alleviate the wariness the children might have when exposed to these items.



Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando, FL



Gunderson Health Care System from La Cross, WI



Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, IL



Shands Hospital for Children in Gainesville, FL



Methodist Children's Hospital in San Antonio, TX



University Medical Center of Southern Nevada in Las Vegas



Integris Healthcare System in the State of Oklahoma



Children's Medical Center in Dallas, TX



Monday Night Magic

Monday November 6th

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

**Cross Training Center
5030 N. 72nd Street
Omaha, NE**

Or just click on this link: <https://zoom.us/j/4028718108>
(which is the same link we use for all of our monthly meetings).

You can use the QR code below to experience his style as you watch him perform the finale of his award-winning close-up act.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023
7-8:30 PM (CST)**

**The Cross Training Center
5030 N. 72nd Street
Omaha, Nebraska**

There is no charge for this event.



13405 Marinda ST.
Omaha, NE 68144

