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AMERICAN WARD

Magical Harvey can do his stuff

By CARL STOODARD

Harvey Grant the Great put a sword through his neck. A little later, he put on a pair of handcuffs, disappeared from the room and returned unhandcuffed.

It was magic. But then, magic is what Harvey Grant the Great is all about. Harvey is a magician, an illusionist, singer, writer, comedian and escape artist. He recently returned from a short tour and stopped in Southfield for a little self promotion.

Harvey, a lanky young man with short hair, black-rimmed glasses and white socks, said he does his own bookings, too. He hopes to ply his trade at parties, conventions and any other type of show that might come along.

BUT HARVEY is primarily an escape artist, he said, and during a recent interview he showed up with a shopping bag full of locks, chains, handcuffs and ropes to help prove his point.

Harvey admits that slipping out of handcuffs is easy. But he said the police have asked him not to reveal the secret. Also, as a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, he said it would be unethical to reveal secrets of the profession.

He owns a pair of handcuffs that he claims were once used by Harry Houdini and he has a pair of leg irons that once were used at Wayne County Jail. He also has a straight jacket, from Fort St. Home, Ill., and said he won the jacket on a bet. They said he couldn't get out of the jacket. They

New officers of chamber

SOUTHFIELD—The Southfield Chamber of Commerce has a newly elected slate of officers for 1975. They are: president Stan Letas, first vice-president Phil Meagher, second vice-president Gino Salvia, secretary Lon Kain and treasurer Lucille Hartman.

John Hollywood is executive director of the Southfield Chamber of Commerce.



HARVEY GRANT

bet him the jacket. He now owns the jacket.

The ability to escape is developed through both physical and mental powers, Harvey said. "It's all done concentration and physical means," he explained. "I sort of hypnotized myself."

"I TRAINED every muscle in my body and every muscle is used. I use muscle control and sheer strength."

Harvey said he got into the escape business after an experience when he was eight or nine years old. He said he and some friends were mugged and tied while walking in Detroit. Harvey managed to get himself untied and then untied his friends.

Later, for fun, his friends would tie him up and he would escape. And from there it was up hill all the way, he said.

Harvey now lives in Oak Park, near Greenfield Road, and is attending Oakland Community College. He also is involved in a book-writing course, an extension of his escape work.

But beyond that, he said, he doesn't really like to talk about his background. He wants his background to be intentionally vague, he said, "because it kind of adds a real mystery to me."

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