

Wednesday, April 12, 2005

## SPOTLIGHT

10

# Sophomore leads double life as a magician

**HOBBY:** Dominic Bernath, member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians, begins using magic at age 10.

**CHRISTINE MAI**  
*Staff Writer*

Like Harry Houdini, no straightjacket, locks or shackles can keep sophomore Dominic Bernath from creating magic.

When Bernath was 10 years old, he saw Rick Thomas' magic show in Las Vegas. It immediately sparked his interest.

"I got a magic kit when I was five and I put it away for awhile," Bernath said. "Then, every magician I saw, especially Rick Thomas, got me interested again."

Bernath, originally from Switzerland, moved to Irvine last summer. In Switzerland, he performed street magic, tricks at open-air festivals, put on stage performances and parties.

"In Switzerland, people show their interest in a different way and they aren't as excited," Bernath said. "Magic is way more popular here. The people here are more open-minded about magic."

Bernath is a member of a local magic club in Irvine called the International Brotherhood of Magicians (IBM), an organization for amateur or professional



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE MAI

**Bernath pulls handkerchiefs through a newspaper at his March 22 audition for the Benefit Concert held last Friday.**

magicians. Over 300 groups have been formed in more than 73 countries.

"Dominic is amazing," AP biology teacher Tim Jacobs said. "He has turned my \$1 bills into twenties and he does many card tricks. Whenever we have three or four minutes left in class, he always shows us a magic trick."

Magicians follow certain etiquette. They don't show a trick twice to the same person and they don't reveal the secret behind an apparition.

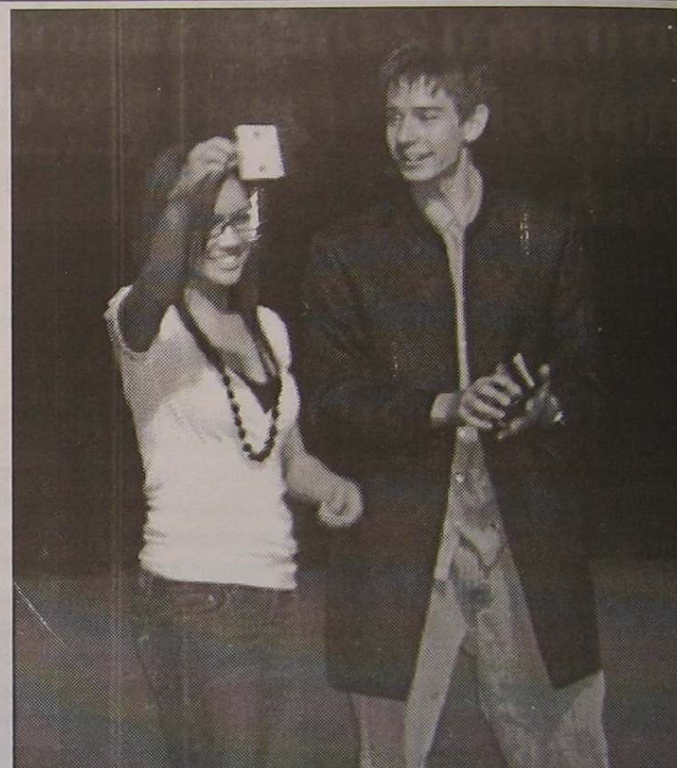


PHOTO BY CHRISTINE MAI

**Bernath picks senior Jennie Pham from the audience to assist him with his card trick at last Friday's Benefit Concert.**

"If I tell how a trick works, the whole magic is gone," Bernath said. "I try to create [illusions] to make people laugh and wonder about them."

Bernath performs at weddings, birthday parties and other events. His friends recommend his act to others and he advertises through his personal website [www.magician.ca.tp](http://www.magician.ca.tp).

"Dominic is a great guy," Bernath's good friend sophomore Avi Ruben said. "He will do wonders at this school because he

can perform magic and keep others entertained."

Bernath gets inspiration from Michael Ammar, Gregory Wilson and Lance Burton, all professionals in the field.

"Magic is not kid stuff," Bernath said. "It is an art in itself and it is entertainment. Either a person appreciates magic or they don't but they should have fun watching."

Last Thursday, Bernath was accepted as a junior member at the world famous Magic Castle in Hollywood.

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