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### by Kean Mantius

Tom Meseroll, Systems Engineering Manager for Milstar—former actor, former restaurant manager, former juggler, former drummer, former bartender, and always a magician—has found many uses for his magical abilities.

Says Meseroll, "I used to go to Sunnyvale, California, to help with satellite testing, and between tests when we had to wait around, I would do magic. I suspect that I was asked to go to Sunnyvale

too sick to be at the show. I did card tricks and pulled coins out of their ears and belly buttons. My goal is to make them happy and to help them believe in miracles. When I can get a smile out of a child who hasn't smiled in months, I'm happy.

"Many of these children will die in the next six months. If I can make their last six months happier, it's more than worth the effort—and maybe a real miracle will happen!



***Levitating a satellite model is one of Tom Meseroll's magical abilities.***

PHOTO BY DAN LITTLE

not because I knew how to push the buttons, but because they liked being entertained between tests."

Lately Meseroll has found a new audience for his magic: severely ill children in a hospital cancer ward.

"I like to give back to the community," said Meseroll. "I had been doing magic for children's parties and Milstar events, and a friend asked me to visit the children's cancer ward at a hospital where she volunteers. That was about three months ago.

"My first show was for a ward with eight children, ages 4 to 8. Then I did bedside magic for the children who were

"I believe that one's perspective in life truly can determine one's reality. By performing apparently impossible feats for the sick children, I have encouraged their capacity for wonder and their belief in magic. It is this belief, this perspective on beating impossible odds, that can change their reality. Belief in magic may get them through another day with their illnesses, and may be the winning ticket for their battle with cancer.

"The hardest part is when I get back into the car after visiting the children. It's such an emotional experience—and then I go back home to my own children and think how blessed I am."