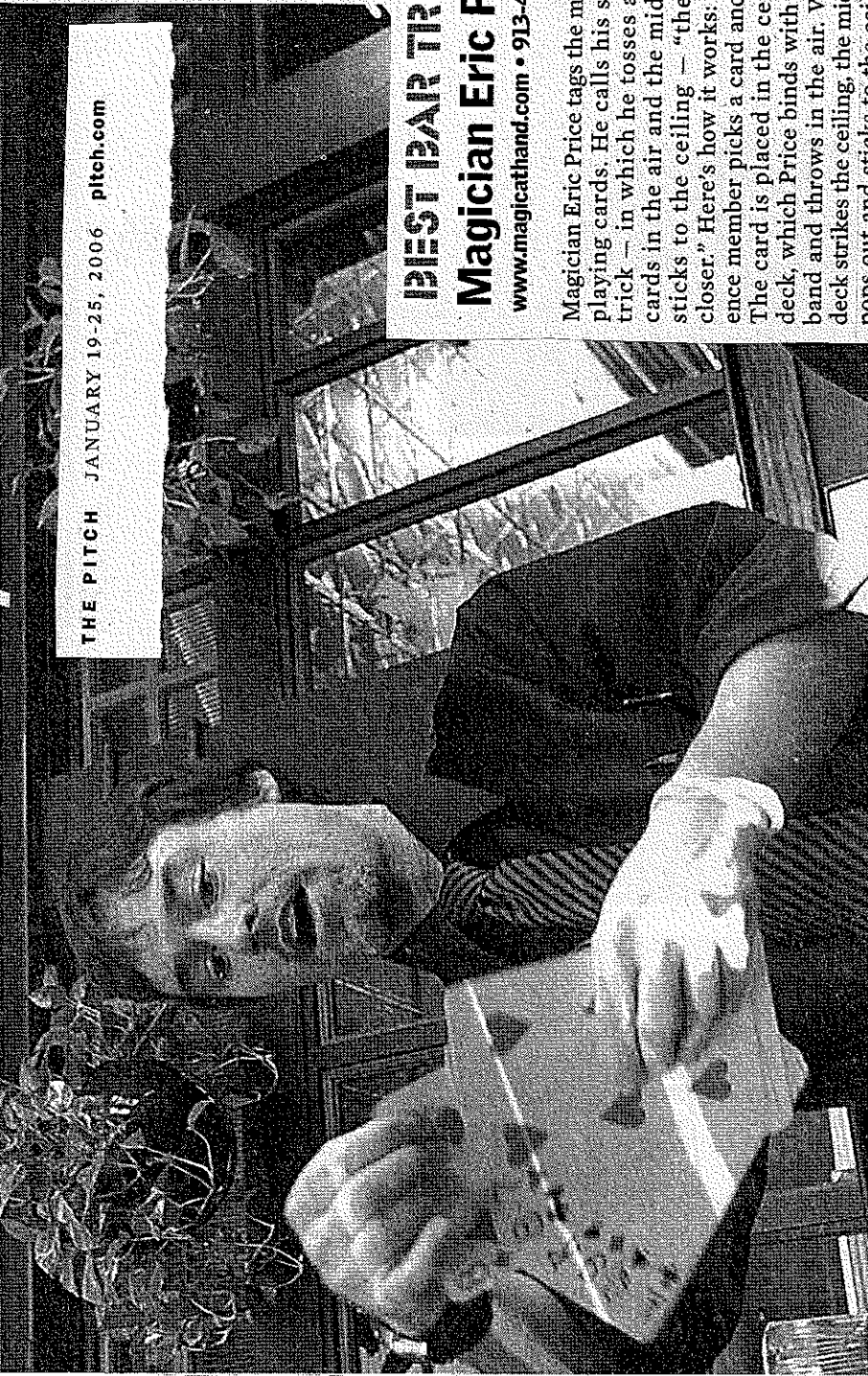


# SATURDAY/2

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## Magic Touch

The transvestite who used to hang around Chubby's late at night wowing intoxicated patrons with amazing card tricks finally has some competition. In recent months, at Alacartoon's engagements and Donkey Shows, **Eric Price** has attempted to do what he says is every magician's biggest fear: perform in front of bar crowds.

"I've had some embarrassing things happen," he tells the *Pitch*. When your audience is low on inhibitions, they'll shout out just about whatever comes to mind. For example, there was the time Price forgot to zip it up. "Somebody shouted out, 'Your fly's down!' in the middle of a trick. Luckily I had a card stuck to my palm and played like it was part of the act — you know, stuck my whole hand in and pulled a card out. It worked — but I think I was blushing a little bit."

His hobby turned career began in high school, when he worked as a clerk at U.S. Toy. Employees received a 40 percent discount on goods in the store's magic shop, where he says he endured the typical rites of passage for aspiring tricksters.

"You used to have to go through this hazing where all these old geezer wannabe magicians sell you all this junk as a way to weed people out," he says. "And that included me. I gave it up in college. It wasn't until I moved to Omaha and met a magician working part time in a brewery that I got back into it." He filled in for the guy from time to time; now Price has worked as a full-timer for three years.

During the week, Price works various restaurants around town — including Waldo Pizza, where he stumbled upon his lovely assistant, Alacartoon's Erin McGrane — and will go back to his regular Saturday night gigs in February. But for now, he's at your disposal for private parties and lessons. Call 913-461-5332 or see [www.magicathand.com](http://www.magicathand.com) for more information.

— ANNIE FISCHER

## BEST BAR TRICK Magician Eric Price

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Magician Eric Price tags the metro with playing cards. He calls his signature trick — in which he tosses a deck of cards in the air and the middle card sticks to the ceiling — "the perfect closer." Here's how it works: An audience member picks a card and signs it. The card is placed in the center of a deck, which Price binds with a rubber band and throws in the air. When the deck strikes the ceiling, the middle card pops out and sticks to the ceiling. The other 51 cards fall, still bound together, and audience members are left wondering how he did it. The 33-year-old Price sounds like a historian when he talks about the trick. For instance, he says, a decade ago, the man who popularized the trick, Michael Ammar, was arrested for throwing a card at the ceiling at KCI. For his part, Price tossed his highest cards 60 feet at the River Market Brewing Co. Now, he regularly chucks cards 25 feet at Waldo Pizza and at Johnny's. The cards serve as free advertising because customers wonder why the ace of spades is stuck to the ceiling, he says. Price is definitely leaving his mark.