

Magician Lance Burton to visit "Area 51", 2/24

From: **Ken MacGray**
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Absconded from a.c.a51... -Ken

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From: Dave B <bethland@ix.netcom.com>
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PR from AP that's almost on topic

Coming soon to a TV near you: an underwater escape!

LAS VEGAS (AP) _ Lance Burton thought being buried alive was a tough gig.

But that was before he attempted a water torture stunt that magic legend Harry Houdini concocted but never performed.

``It was the scariest illusion I've ever done,'' Burton said, referring to being strapped in a straitjacket, then padlocked in a cramped, water-filled chamber. ``When you can't get oxygen, your mind begins to do funny things.''

After taping the stunt twice for his NBC special ``Lance Burton, Master Magician: The Encounter,'' airing at 8 p.m. EST Monday, Burton thinks Houdini had the right idea.

``I know I'll never do it again,'' he said recently, munching on a Big Mac between shows in his dressing room at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino on the Las Vegas Strip. ``It was just too dangerous.

[snip]

Burton opens this year's show by making a giant flying saucer appear on stage, then takes the audience on a supposed trip to Area 51, a restricted base northwest of Las Vegas where top secret aircraft have been tested.

Burton just grinned when asked where the ``Area 51'' segment of the show actually took place, and publicist Wayne Bernath said only that it was ``somewhere out in the desert.''

The TV special also includes segments from his popular stage show, which opened at the Monte Carlo last June.

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