



THE PLAYER

VOLUME XCVII, NUMBER 3

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

NOVEMBER 2007

Vendre un Canard à Moitié

By Player C. G. Monley

Duck! November swiftly swooped upon us with pre-winter winds tousling our formally prepared coifs and required the more thin-skinned Players among us to attend Frolic 567 in tuxedo-covering topcoats. But don't we live in Michigan because we love the climate's unpredictability during the changing of the seasons? In spite of the dearth of meteorologists' prognostications aren't we never sure what kind of weather to expect when we open our front doors in the morning? Likewise, don't we love The Players because we never know what to expect? After the curtain rises, aren't the performances delivered usually a surprise? And, like FOX News, mightn't I be able to say just about any ambiguous thing as long as I phrase it in the form of a question?

The pre-Frolic dinner at The Detroit Racquet Club was attended by about 20 members and guests. Rave reviews ensued; especially from those who ordered duck à l'orange.

Before the curtain, The Players Chorus, consisting of ex-Presidents **Players Bill Champion, Roy Jendrzewski** and **Allan Dick**, along with current VP **Player Geno Pirrami**, warmed the sparse but enthusiastic house. They were accompanied by guest **Ed** ("Don't two Players exist willing to sponsor me for membership?") **Price** on piano. Players President Extraordinaire **Player Jim Turnbull** introduced new members **Joe** "Video Joe" **Dabbs**, **Bob** "The Mason" **Bailey**, and **Stu** "They're not booing me they're Stunuing me (honest)" **Johnson**. Welcome, gentlemen. May you each bring in as many new members as the number that attended the November Frolic. As is usually the case, Roy

brought the Players to their feet with his splendiferous rendition of "The Players' Song."

Presented for our enjoyment was *The Curious Savage*, a full-length, three-act play set in the 1950's. Not only did **Player Mike Mongan** direct this Frolic, but he starred as Holden Book (say it out loud), the play's most integral role. It was such an essential and so voluminous an assignment, in fact, that he had to tag-team with Assistant Director **Player Joe Ajlouny** for the part. ("I'm getting beat up here, Joe. Go in for me. Now!")

The set of the great room of The Cloisters, an upscale mental health retreat, was expertly designed and assembled by the crew consisting of **Players Tom Starynchak, Jim Foran, Joe Ajlouny, Henry Nelson** and **Mark Habel**. Mark was seen applying stenciled designs at "ceiling" level during President Turnbull's opening remarks. Isn't set-painting that close to curtain unprecedented at Players? Aw, who am I kidding?

The "guests" at the mental care facility each have their own special reasons for seeking treatment. Florence (**Player Jim Foran**, the Lou Ferrigno of femininity) imagines herself a happy family woman, though in reality she is all alone except for her Cloisters family. I would hope that some brave future director one day casts the talented Jim as a *father* figure for a change. Hannibal (**Player Steven Flum**) believes that he is a maestro on the violin (regardless of the fact that it bears only three strings). Steven actually fiddled his flawed instrument as well as Jack Benny ever did. Jeffrey (**Player Gordon Price**) is a timid bookworm with a facial deformity

about which he is self-conscious. Gordon underplayed the part perfectly. It was a pleasure to see him back on the boards after an extended absence. Fairy May (**Player Tim Bannister**) is a needy extrovert overcompensating for her loveless childhood. “My parents were emotional albinos,” she explains. (Coincidentally, Tim used an albino copy of the script from which to study his lines.) Mrs. Paddy (**Player George Hadden**) fancies herself an artist who, incidentally, hates nearly everything, especially electricity. To compound Mrs. Paddy’s aversion to anything electrical, it consistently takes her three or four whacks of the light switch before the lights finally turn off. It is no wonder, then, that mental healing eludes her.

The tenants’ tedium is broken with the arrival of recently widowed, blue-haired Ethel Savage (**Player Tom Diffendal**) whose family has committed her to The Cloisters for the unforgivable carelessness she has demonstrated in the disposition (read: wasting) of the family fortune. Tom’s acting always seems to draw from his own life and personality. In this case, it is in Ethel’s laissez-faire, I-know-something-you-don’t-know mien. Ethel’s contemptible stepson Titus (**Player John Burke**) is a Senator whose greed is undisguised. Titus’s siblings Samuel (**Player Chuck Roberts**) and Lily Belle (**Player Eric Christian**) are similarly repugnant. Eric overcame the handicap of being only 6’7” to convincingly play a 7’3” ingénue.

Dr. Emmett (**Player Moose “Exit, Doctor” Mijatovic**) facilitates the orientation of Ethel into the home’s community with a confident ease. Miss Wilhelmina (**Player Glenn Scoles**), or as the patients call her, “Miss Willy” (let it go, Messrs. Dick and Robinson — too easy), sees the injustice of Ethel’s incarceration and runs interference to ensure that Ethel’s fear of becoming “*un canard mort*” does not come to fruition.

The story, in which the avarice of Ethel’s family eventually abets their downfall, leaves us with the inevitable question as to which group, Ethel’s family or the inmate population, is more deserving of being required to be hidden from polite society.

A surprise walk-on immediately before the final curtain by budding actor, guest **Jack Nelson** (Henry’s lad) put a smile on every face, so believable was his portrayal of a young boy.

The curtains and intermissions featured the unique song styling of the late Florence Foster Jenkins, to whom the cast dedicated this performance. Mme. Jenkins was committed to perform without regard to critical approval (as are several Players [some more than others]). The cast members also gave a subtle shout-out to the evening’s bartender **Player Brad Dahlhofer** and his very expectant wife Kerri by way of their numerous pregnant pauses.

Player Tom Brandel delighted us with Coney dogs for the Frolic supper.

Quickly becoming a November tradition, SUCA—the Stand-Up Comedy Afterglow (formally known as Open Mike Night with your host **Player Mike Mongan**) this year featured Mike, **Player D.C. Moons**, and **Player Denne Osgood** who delivered their prepared material handily. **Player Gordon Price**, the only audience participant, was outdone by no one.

(Reviewer’s note I: Once a year, during an Invitational month, the reviewer in The Player has a chance to second-guess his original opinions by commenting on the Frolic’s subsequent performances. This month provides such an opportunity. First, please excuse me; I have to take this phone call. “Hello? Yes, Doctor. She’s out of ICU? That’s great news! But extensive and difficult rehabilitation remains? I see. Well, thanks for calling, Doctor.” Now, where was I? I seem to have forgotten. No matter.)

(Reviewer’s note II: Please address comments regarding this month’s review to cmonley@twmi.rr.com, and feel free to cc The Player editor pdawson@silenus.com and/or any or all Board members.)

(Reviewer’s note III: Writing a review can be fun and therapeutic. Please inform me of your desire to review a Frolic by contacting me at cmonley@twmi.rr.com. There are still a couple of spots open for this season, as well as all of next season.) ☺

Frolic 568

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2007

CURTAIN AT 8:30 PM

PRODUCER: PLAYER LARRY SMITH



George

by Van H. Cartmell

Directed by Player Fuzz Corey

Scene: A summerhouse on Cape Cod

Time: The Present

Sue..... Player Bill Volz
 Elizabeth..... Player Ed Priebe
 Edgar..... Player Mike Frank
 Philip..... Player Fuzz Corey
 George..... Player Michael Goodell



A Holmes Family Christmas

By Judy GeBauer

Directed by Player Tom Sloan*
 (*First time directing on Players' Stage)

Time: The 1880s, Christmas Eve

Place: 221B Baker Street London

Sherlock Holmes..... Player John McLaughlin
 Dr. Watson..... Player Larry Smith
 The Woman..... Player Tom Diffendal



The Waiting Room

a play in one act but two parts

Part I by Paul Simms ("My Near-Death Experience")

Part II by Larry Doyle ("I'm Afraid I Have Some Bad News")

Adapted for the stage by Player C. G. Monley

Directed by Player C. G. Monley

The Scene: The waiting room of a downscale hospital.

Woman..... Player Stuart Johnson *
 Patient..... Player C. G. Monley
 Doctor..... Player Mark Habel

*First time acting on the Players' stage



Afterglow: A Selkirk Christmas by Player President James Turnbull
 and "The Walk on Lake George" by Dirk Hamilton performed by Players Denne Osgood & Earl Wolfe

- Mr. Fennyman, allow me to explain about the theater business. The natural condition is one of insurmountable obstacles on the road to imminent disaster. Believe me, to be close by the plague is a bagatelle in the ups and downs of owning a theatre.
- So what do we do?
- Nothing. Strangely enough, it all turns out well.
- How?
- I don't know. It's a mystery.

Shakespeare in Love (1998)

HERE'S YOUR CUE

"When my cue comes, call me and I will answer."

Welcome to another issue of The Player!

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:

PLAYERS FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Do not forget to call me with your reservations for Sunday, December 9! This holiday event will take place in the Founder's Room from 2:30 to 5:00pm. Bring the kids to see Santa and share in some holiday treats. We ask that you bring a *wrapped* gift marked "Boy" or "Girl" so that Santa's helper, Player Mike Mongan, can bring them to some deserving, less fortunate kids. Also, whip up your favorite holiday recipe and bring it to share with the rest of the crowd!

This is a really nice way to meet other Player families. And, come see if you can guess who is playing Santa this year. I hope to see you there!!

"Detroit on Stage"

Gentlemen, you'll want to have one of these!! Dr. Marijean Levering has done a great service to The Players, her book is amazing! Send me a note with your check for \$40, or call me with your credit card information. It is worth every penny.

Office Remodeling

We are in the beginning stages of actually remodeling the office. I am in the process of getting quotes for the job. A few items that I am in search of include a gently used old desk and a small round gathering table & chairs. Let me know if there is something you'd like to donate. Thank you.

P: 313-259-3385 ~ ☎: 313-259-0932

✉: players-office@sbcglobal.net

THE PLAYERS' PLAYHOUSE WISH LIST

We continue with the "Players' Playhouse Wish List." Started by Past President Player Chris Monley, we hope it will generate needed funds and/or items to benefit our "Beautiful Lady." Please peruse the list and see how you may fulfill the wishes of your club! To whom it matters, please be reminded that all donations, cash or useful items are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

Wish	Est. Cost	Donations to Date
New loading dock doors	\$5,000	
Smoke door cupola- flashing	\$5,000	
Hearing enhancement system	\$2,500	Completed!!!
Business office furniture	\$5,000	
Oriental Rug, 10'4" x 11'10"		
Auditorium Step Lights	\$3,800	\$500.00

If any Player has a suggestion for inclusion to the Wish List, please contact any Board member. ☺

WHERE'S THE CALENDAR?

It's on line! On the new Players' web site! Go to www.playersdetroit.org. It's a work in progress, but I'm sure you'll find the new look and feel wonderful! Look elsewhere for the "411." ☺

ANOTHER GENTLE REMINDER OR THE GRANHOLM CONTINUING SALES TAX DILEMMA!

Everyone knows Jen Gen [sic] wants to raise money by collecting sales tax, but did you know The Players is sales tax exempt? Yes, that is correct, sir, The Players is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) organization and a non-profit theater and because of its status, The Players does not have to pay sales taxes on its purchases. How does that work? There is a form, Michigan Department of Treasury Form 3327, that you give to merchants when you buy something and then they do not charge sales tax. Why bring this up? Several Players with good intentions have recently bought items for the Playhouse but have paid sales tax. Please, for the sake of Players, do not do that, it will save us 6%. How do you get the form? It is available on line at or from the office or from the Treasurer. At some merchants we deal with regularly, it is already set up! So please, help us save money by not paying taxes on purchases for Players, and if your reimbursement is short a few pfennig's, do not be too surprised. Thank you for your cooperation!

Does The Player seem like it repeats itself? That's because it does. Even after harping on this, people still turned in receipts with sale tax on them this month! Just so you remember, you may not get reimbursed for the sales tax. Please pick up the form and use it. They are even in the back hallway on the bulletin board. Thank you for your cooperation. ☺

DECEMBER PRE FROLIC DINNER

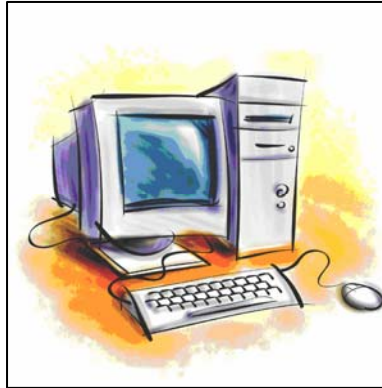
The location of the Pre-Frolic Dinner for December is Bayview Yacht Club, 100 Clairpointe, Detroit. Please go to www.byc.com for directions. Bayview, a/k/a the "View," is considered the shrine of nautical culture and does have a magnificent view of the Detroit River and the downtown "D."

THE PLAYER, VOLUME XCVII, NUMBER 3, NOVEMBER 2007

THE PLAYER ... is published monthly from September to April, with *sometimes* a combined December/January issue and *sometimes* a summer issue. The views expressed herein are those of the respective authors and editor [currently, Player Peter W. Dawson] and not necessarily those of the Players. Comments may be made to and back issues may be available from the office, (313) 259-3385 or send an inquiry to ThePlayer@theplayers.info. The Player is available on the web at www.playersdetroit.org. We welcome your contributions and comments. We do, we really do!

HERE'S YOUR CUE (CONTINUED)

new players web site & domain NAME (url)



<http://playersdetroit.org>

- Access/update your profile
- Read about the latest news and events
- Download the latest "The Player" online
- See schedules for plays and dress rehearsals
- Check out and upload pictures from various functions
- See where pre-frolic dinners will be and get directions
- Download events to your outlook calendar

As a member of The Players, you have the ability to stay in touch with the latest news and updates going on within our organization.

You can see this information online, real-time, with the click of a few buttons.

As a member, you can access your profile and get the latest updates right from your computer.

Once you are registered web site user your permissions will be approved by a site administrator, these permissions will give you access and functionality to various pages within the site.

So go to <http://playersdetroit.org> today and see it today!

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Gentlemen, this past summer and fall have brought great changes in the upkeep of this great historic "lady" of ours. The front gardens, façade, prop storage, lighting, sound systems, kitchen and fire suppression system just to name a few of the improvements. While we can be assured that much more is to come, there are some committee chairmen that report they need occasional help. It has become apparent that we are starting to fall prey to the dreaded "90/10 rule." As some of you already know, this means that about 90% of the tasks around the Playhouse are being done by about 10% of the membership. We all need to reach past our usual comfort zone and "dream sheet" and spend an hour or two on occasion helping a friend do their labors of love. Who knows, you might find a passion in doing so! In the months to come, we will be helping our committees find extra help by scheduling times that our members can work out. Please say yes if asked or speak up and tell us how to make it easier for you to participate. Even an hour can make a big difference. Thank you from the BOG.

WHAT'S THAT? SAY WHAT? OR AS HEARD AT THE LAST FROLIC: "LOUDER!?"

Well, maybe we can finally put the cries of "LOUDER!" to bed. That's right, the long awaited Sound and Hearing Enhancement System ["SHES"] has arrived! Ask whomever is doing sound for the frolic and the receiver will be delivered to you. All we ask is that you return the receiver at the end of the night and fill out a card before hand so we can track the receiver down if you forget to return it, they are expensive after all. And be forewarned, the system works great; you'll be able to hear Player Holden Book as never before! Is that "be careful what you ask for, you just might get it?" I hear being muttered? 🗣️

HERE'S YOUR CUE (CONTINUED)**A LAST CHANCE (WE REALLY MEAN IT THIS TIME) AT A MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION:**

A Great Opportunity for the Players Endowment Fund
IRAs Offer Big Tax Savings for Charitable Gifts

For a few more days this year, the tax law will allow you to give to charity directly from your IRA and count that gift toward your required minimum distribution. Giving to charity from your IRA will also provide you with additional tax savings. But, to qualify, you must make your donations before 2008.

Unlike the typical deduction you may be taking to offset your charitable giving, the Pension Protection Act of 2006 [Sec. 408(d)(8)(A).] offers you tax savings opportunities which a charitable contribution deduction will not.

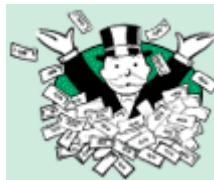
The Pension Protection Act provisions allow you to make so-called "qualified charitable distributions" from your IRA and to exclude the gift from your gross income. Furthermore, such gifts can be used to fulfill required minimum distributions. But you must give before 2008, when the provision sunsets.

Player Denne Osgood

MILLIONAIRES' PARTY!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2008

DOORS OPEN AT 7:30 PM



CONTACT THE OFFICE FOR RESERVATIONS! (313) 259-3385

GAMING FROM 8:00 PM TO 12:00 AM

\$25.00 IN ADVANCE, **\$30.00** AT THE DOOR!

GREAT MUSIC! GREAT TIMES! MAKE YOUR RESERVATION SOON!

WANTED! CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE MILLIONAIRES PARTY'S SILENT AUCTION

We need your help. The SILENT AUCTION generates a few thousand dollars each year at the Millionaire's Party. If you, a friend, or a vendor you know could help by providing an auction item worth \$50 or more, it would be greatly appreciated! Ideas for donations would be sports tickets or memorabilia, gift certificates for restaurants, hotel overnights, spas, jewelry, etc., or let your imagination go wild. Donated items are tax deductible and you or your contacts will receive a letter of estimated value of the item for tax purposes. If you can help, please contact the Player's Office at 313-259-3385 or e-mail players-office@sbcglobal.net. You may also contact Auction Chair Player Chris Nesi at 313-886-5769 or e-mail chrisnesi@nesilawyers.com.

Contributions can be brought to the Playhouse by January 5th. More details are expected soon.

Thank you in advance for your support of our wonderful organization and our "Beautiful Lady."

Regards, the Friends of the Playhouse Committee

MILLIONAIRES PARTY ALSO NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!

Ever wanted to deal Black Jack? Take people's money at the Wheel of Fortune? Or just help serve food and beer? Call the Playhouse to see how you can help out! (313) 259-3385 or e-mail players-office@sbcglobal.net.

HERE'S YOUR CUE (CONTINUED)

One chance in a lifetime ... really! OK, maybe twice.

Ithaca College professor, Marijean Levering, Ph.D., has written a superb book-length study on Players ... ***Detroit on stage: The Players Club, 1910-2005***. We could make the usual riffs about ***one of a kind***, and ***best it***, but we won't. Truth be known, about our club. Wayne State printer and they have done us then some. Dr. Levering has our legends, our idiosyncrasies, stuff. It is truly riveting reading for nurtured by Club Historian, Player



I've seen and no other quite like this is the only book ever written University is the publisher and proud. The book is handsome and included everything: our founding, historical photos and other great Players and public alike and was Thomas Brunk.

The book signing was a success, over book signing and the \$30.00 price Harwell would say, but for \$40.00 Levering is coming back to Detroit and will sign and personalize your copy. So call the office, arrange to pay for the book, leave a note how you want the book personalized and come December, voila!

80 copies of the book were sold. The are "gone, long gone," as Ernie the book can be yours and Dr.

THE EPONYMOUS ANONYMOUS GOURMET!

The November Pre-Frolic Dinner was held at the inimitable **Detroit Racquet Club**. For those that missed it, you missed a great meal at a truly unique venue. Chef Damon, who splits his time between being a chef at MGM Grand and the DRC, prepared a truly sumptuous meal ("good groceries" as former Player Ned Batchelor was wont to say). Players had their choice of Filet, Salmon with Puttanesca Relish or Pasta with Chicken and Vegetables, along with a bottle or two of Cabernet Sauvignon (Estancia, 2004). Yum! Seriously, the dinner and venue were great. 🍷

A GENTLE REMINDER (AGAIN!)

Recently a Player parked in front of the gate next door at Dr. Berke's office. Only problem was, this blocked Dr. Berke's office manager's ingress and egress into their parking lot. Was this an isolated incident? Unfortunately, no. The office manager was nice about it, but we do not want to intrude on their hospitality. Dr. Berke is very kind to let us use his parking lot and we would not want anything to jeopardize that. Please remember not to block the gate next door!

This ran last month (did you see the note about The Player repeating itself on Page 4?), but the observant eye noticed this was followed more in the ignoring of it than the following of it. Really, the week following last month's Player, people were seen blocking the gate on at least three occasions. OK, not only that, but if you park in front of the gate and people come later who know how to get in past the gate, you've blocked anyone from using the parking lot. As Dr. Fashion has been heard questioning his minions, "is that a good idea, or a bad idea?" 🍷

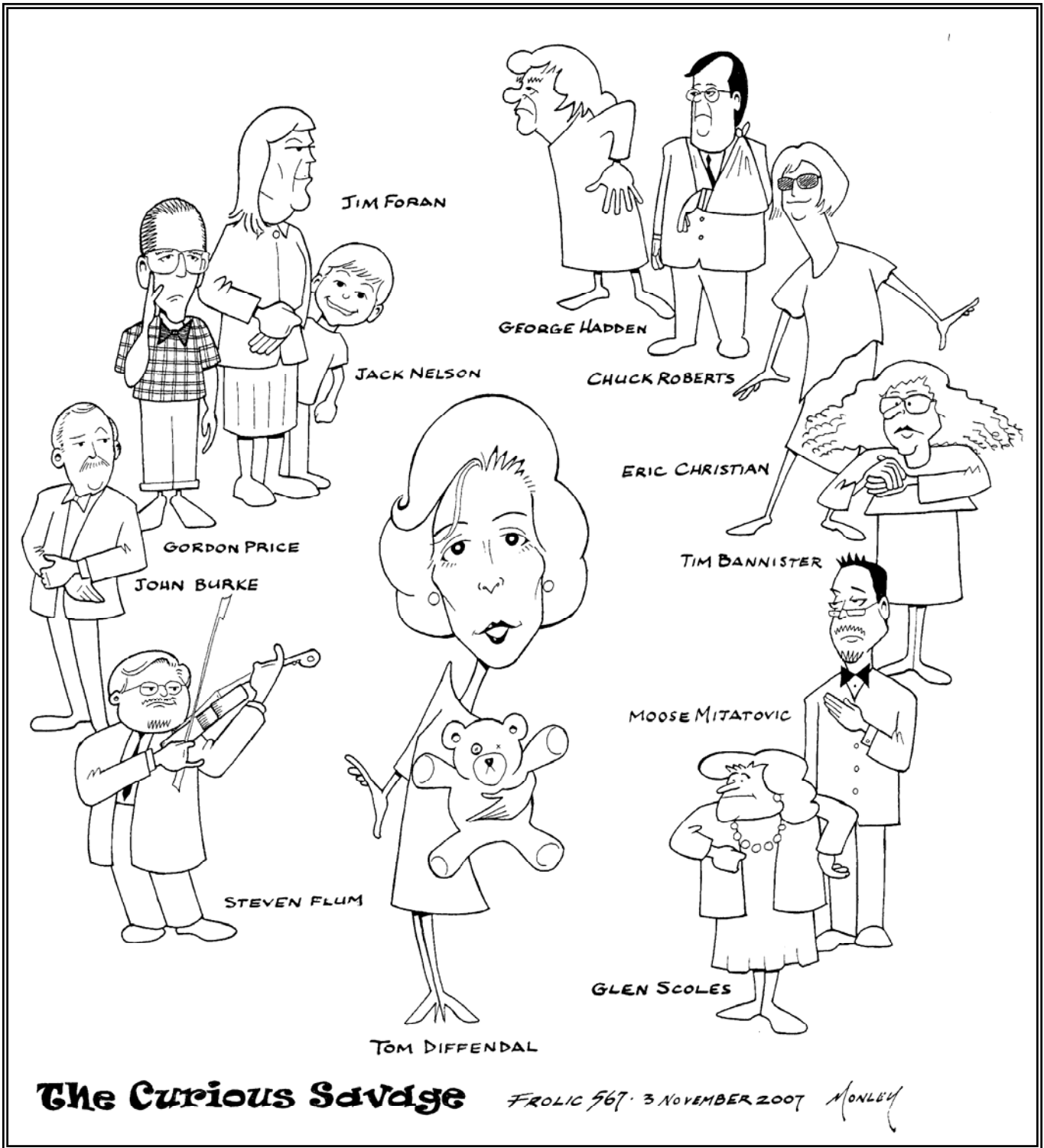


players' christmas party

sunday, december 9, 2007

2:30 pm to 5:00 pm

join santa's number one elf, player mike morgan, at the annual players' christmas party. bring the children, listen to some holiday music, and see santa! if you are coming, please bring two things: a wrapped gift marked "boy" or "girl" as a donation and a dish to pass.



The Curious Savage

FROLIC 567: 3 NOVEMBER 2007 *MONLEY*

THE PLAYERS
 Officers and Board of Governors
 2007 – 2008 Season
 James Turnbull, President
 Craig White, Vice President-Administration
 Geno Pirrami, Vice President-Production
 Michael L. Goodell, Secretary, Peter W. Dawson, Treasurer
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