



THE PLAYER

VOLUME XCVII, NUMBER 7

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

APRIL / MAY 2008

It Was The Best Of Times ...

By Player Larry Smith

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." one of Charles Dickens most famous quotes. For some reason it comes to mind as Frolic No. 571 brought the 97th season of The Players to an end, but not an exact match, maybe more like, "It was the best of times, it was the best of times," for this Frolic was the bright and shining finish of a glorious season.

The evening started for many with a delicious meal at The Detroit Yacht Club, while the rest of the membership and guests gathered at the Playhouse for good conversation, beer, even a final Scripts and Casting meeting, beer, and the melodic tones of the chorus before it was curtain time. **Player James Turnbull** kicked off his final Frolic as our esteemed President (with a tear in his eye I might add) followed by **Player Bill Champion** singing the Player's Song accompanied by **Player Earl Wolf** on the keyboard. With that, the evening, produced by **Players Allan Dick** and **Michael Goodell**, was in full gear.

First, we were treated to *The Boundary* by Tom Stoppard & Clive Exton. The show opens with the scene of an office or library in merry olde England. Through a set of French doors, the out side can be seen, with **Player Fuzz Corey** entering the view periodically, apparently playing in a cricket match next door. Enter **Player Allan Dick** as Johnson to find the place a shambles. Boxes and boxes have been over turned into a mound of papers center stage. He is attempting to call the authorities when **Player Bill Robinson** enters as Johnson's partner Bunyans. As Johnson and Bunyans try to organize the mess, the audience learns that they have been working for years compiling a new dictionary, and the mess is all their hard work destroyed. They are obviously wrapped up in their work, constantly thinking of synonyms and antonyms as part of their conversation. During the cleanup, both men individually discover a limp woman's foot under the debris. They quickly cover it up, acting as if the other might be responsible and they do not want to let on

he has been found out. As the banter continues, it becomes clear that Johnson's wife (also Bunyans' former mistress) is missing AND they discover that for years she has been mixing up the definitions for the dictionary. At this point, the men can no longer hide their knowledge of the body under the papers, and each professes that they can't blame the other for killing her for all her faults. The pile of papers erupts to reveal **Player Bruce Brunsink** as Mrs. Brenda Johnson, alive and kicking mad at what she has just overheard about herself. Johnson and Bunyans ask her to explain how she came to be unconscious under the papers, and as she bends over in front of the window, acting out her last moves before the lights went out, there is a crash of breaking glass and she collapses again. The cricket player opens the French doors finds his ball and leaves. Johnson checks his wife. Thank goodness! She's really dead this time. Kudos to **Player Glenn Scoles**, for directing this dry but tasty bit of British humor. Robinson and Dick were in fine form as usual, the difficult lines, full of fractured words and expressions flowed smoothly off their tongues. Bruce's vigorous performance and flawless spouting of hilarious (and difficult) dialog was just the right counterpoint to Allan and Bill. Fuzz was a natural as the cricketer (there are no small parts). A fine first offering, indeed.

Next came *If Men Played Cards as Women Do* by George S. Kaufman. This little gem, directed by **Player Charles (Chuck) F. Roberts**, starred **Players Jim Foran, Chuck Roberts, Darren Brim** and **Tim Bannister** as John, Bob, George, and Marc, respectively, as they arrive at Bob's house for the "boys' poker night". Immediately we notice something strange as the conversations involved nannies, raising children, shopping and fashion. When two or three would gossip about the one not currently in the room the illusion that it was really women talking took shape. With some of the effeminate mannerisms that Jim, Darren and Tim portrayed the picture was perfectly painted. Chuck Roberts tried to steal the show when in the course of


the conversation he referred to the “famous” Broadway star Chuck Roberts (no relation), who had performed in *Mr. Roberts*. The ensuing heckling from the audience brought the house down [no relation, indeed? – *Ed.*]. We should note that newcomer Darren Brim has marked his 3rd frolic with his 3rd appearance on stage. With his talent, expect to see much more of him in the future. This show had us all laughing. Great job gentlemen!

The final show, *The Green Room* by George F. Walker, was originally a radio play that director **Player Mike Mongan** heard while driving through Canada. Mike managed to track down the author and get a copy of the script. Boy, are we lucky he did! Mike, after doing a yeoman’s job last month as stage manager while juggling 3 complex box sets showed no loss of energy by putting together this well-rehearsed offering, directing and acting a major role in the show as well. The play takes place in the green room lounge of a theatre after the dismal opening night of a new play. The two actresses Sandy, (a young, starlet new to the stage) played by **Player Tom Diffendal** and Jess, (an older, wiser, thespian) played by **Player Bob O’Leary**, have been drowning their sorrows in alcohol while waiting for notes from **Player John McLaughlin** portraying Maggie, the director of the play. Ross, the playwright, as performed by **Player Gordon Price**, is at odds with the cast and director. “Working on movies, the people know what they are doing,” he says, and, “You *theatre people* are horrible!” He storms off stage, followed by the frustrated director, Maggie. Willie, the actor portrayed by **Player Mike Mongan**, having started the show as a cocky self-assured performer, now is reduced to crawling on the floor once the director and writer leave. He admits that he is an over-the-hill actor with no self-confidence. After some humorously malicious teasing from Sandy and Jess, Willie leaves the scene to find Madam Director. He returns with Maggie and she attempts to start notes again. Maggie is still having a hard time getting the wayward actors’ attention, but this time her accent keeps changing. “Is that German?” the actors ask. Maggie’s composure diminishes and now in full European accent she admits she is not Canadian at all, but is from Prague and had to pretend to be a Canadian woman in order to get the director’s job. But wait! That’s not all! Now Maggie admits not only is she from Prague, but she is a HE. Maggie removes her wig, blouse and bra. Now, fully transformed, he grabs a cigar and wades around the stage, “Heir Director” showing the wayward actors how things are done in Europe. Ross the playwright returns and at first is in shock at the new “Maggie”

but soon agrees that they might just save this play after all. This show was a wonderful finale for a great season. Tom Diffendal’s bubbly version of Sandy paired seamlessly with Bob O’Leary’s cynical Jess. Mike Mongan’s rolling on the floor had everyone laughing. Gordon Price has come of age with this role showing great energy and believability. The shining star, though, was John McLaughlin. His transition from meek Maggie to the domineering Czech director, stomping about the stage in nothing but a skirt, hairy belly hanging out (anything for his art), chomping on a cigar with lipsticked lips, had the audience in stitches.

We must not forget the efforts of those behind the scenes, **Players Tom Starynchak, Glen Scoles, Tom Sloan** and **Mark Habel** backstage, **Tom Diffendal** in makeup, as well as **Peter Dawson** and **Gaylord Creedon** in the tech booth.

We were all treated to a fine meal of bratwursts and sauerkraut prepared by **Player Tom Conley**, followed by the always-entertaining April Review presented by none other than the **Beavis and Butt-head of Players, Robinson & Dick** (You pick which one is Butt-head).

All told, it was a marvelous evening for all. It was the best of times. 

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION!

The following gentlemen have recently been approved for membership in The Players:

Kevin Hubbell

Sponsored by Player John McLaughlin
Endorsed by Player D.C. Moons

Warren Liverance

Sponsored by Player Dave Johnson
Endorsed by Player W. Colburn "Bill" Standish, Jr.

Benedetto "Ben" Pugliesi

Sponsored by Player Eric Christian
Endorsed by Player Chris Nesi

Kenneth Reid

Sponsored by Player James Turnbull
Endorsed by Player John Yavruian

Ben Galbo

Sponsored by Player Geno Pirrami
Endorsed by Player Robert Kitchen

Gerald Maloney

Sponsored by Player James Foran
Endorsed by Player Earl Wolfe

Congratulations, Gentlemen,
in joining this "band of brothers."

The May 2008 Invitational

Saturday, May 3, 2008

Friday and Saturday, May 9 & 10

Curtain at 8:00 PM

PRODUCERS J. ROBERT O'LEARY, III AND TOM SLOAN

The Addams Family Meet a Beatnik

Original teleplay by Henry Sharp & Sloan Nibley; Story by Jack Raymond

Based on Characters Created by Charles Addams

Directed by Player Larry Smith

Assistant Director Player Tom Sloan

Gomez..... Player Tim Cordes
 Morticia..... Player Eric Christian
 Uncle Fester..... Player William L. Robinson, Jr.
 Lurch Player Leon Hart
 Wednesday..... Player Christopher Nesi
 Pugsley..... Player Steven Flum
 The Thing..... Player Michael Sherwood
 Rocky..... Player Patrick Coon
 Cartwright..... Player Allan Dick
 Detective..... Player Michael Sherwood

Variations on the Death of Trotsky

By David Ives

Directed by Player Eric Christian

Setting: Coyoacan, Mexico August 21st, 1940

Trotsky..... Player Glenn "Fuzz" Corey
 Mrs. Trotsky..... Player J. Robert O'Leary, III
 Ramon..... Player Chris "Michael Corleone" Nesi

MUTE IT

By Eric Coble

Directed by Player J. Robert O'Leary, III

Setting: A Hotel Room in Downtown Detroit – Present Day

Charlie..... Player Tom Starynchak
 Emmet..... Player John Yavruian

THE GREEN ROOM

By George F. Walker

(First presented on CBC Radio)

Great Northern Artists Management – Agents for Mr. Walker

Directed by Player J. Michael Mongan

Setting: The green room lounge of a modern stage theatre.

Maggie, the Director..... Player John J. McLaughlin
 Ross, the Playwright Player Gordon A. Price
 Sandy, an Actress Player Thomas D. Diffendal
 Jess, an Actress Player J. Robert O'Leary, III
 Willie, an Actor Player J. Michael Mongan

Photography is truth, and Cinema is truth 24 frames a second.

It may be that you are not yourself luminous, but you are a conductor of light. Some people without possessing genius have a remarkable power of stimulating it.

Jean Luc Godard

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, The Hound of the Baskervilles

HERE'S YOUR CUE

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

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE:

May Invitational

Friday, May 9 is completely SOLD OUT! And, both Saturdays are filling up fast!! Call me as soon as possible with your reservations. You don't want to miss this May Invitational.

Visa, MasterCard and American Express, as well as cash or checks, are accepted.

Office Remodel

I am still looking for a small round table & chairs, light fixtures and an area rug for the office. Remember, Players is a 501(C)(3) organization and your donations are tax deductible.

Parking

FYI - Dr. Berke has changed the lock on the parking lot gate. There is a new key hanging in the usual spot in the Playhouse.

Keys

Gentlemen, do you have any keys to various areas of the Playhouse? Such as keys to the make-up room, tech booth, etc. Maybe they are in pockets that have gone unchecked for a while. If you come across any, please return them to the office. Thank you.

Lab Coats

Still missing...

Ph: 313-259-3385 ~ Fax: 313-259-0932

Email: players-office@sbcglobal.net




PRE-FROLIC DINNER?

There isn't one in May because it is an Invitational, but what did you think of the "club" theme for the season? Any suggestions for next year? Let us know!

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	Challenge Grant! \$2,500 +100.00
Smoke door cupola- flashing	\$5,000	
Business office remodeling	\$10,000	
Oriental Rug, 10'4" x 11'10"	?	?
Auditorium Step Lights	\$3,800	\$2,400.00
Water Dispenser	\$250.00	\$75.00


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. Still a work in progress, but reviews have been positive! Look online for the "411."

[HTTP://PLAYERSDETROIT.ORG](http://PLAYERSDETROIT.ORG)

Don't forget about the new web site! 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 a registered web site user, your permissions will be approved by a site administrator and these permissions will give you access and functionality to various pages within the site. Go to <http://playersdetroit.org> and see it today! 

THE PLAYER, VOLUME XCVII, NUMBER 7, APRIL / MAY 2008

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 with great assistance from Player Chris Monley] 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)**WHAT'S THAT? SAY WHAT? OR AS HEARD AT THE LAST FROLIC: "LOUDER!?"**

Remember that we now have a Hearing Enhancement System. Players E. Ray Scott and Ned Schneider used it at the last Frolic and it seemed to meet with approval!

With the upcoming Invitational, if you or a guest want to use it, seek out the Tech Player for the evening (probably Player Peter Dawson), fill out a card (in case you forget to return it, we can track you down) and voilà, you'll be able to hear Player Holden Book as never before! And please, remember to return the receiver at the end of the night. 

Player's Installs a New Alarm and Access System

Remember we have a new alarm and access system. The new alarm monitors unauthorized entry as before but has the added benefit of fire and smoke detection. The access portion of the system allows entry to the building through the front or rear doors via a card reader instead of a key. The access portion of the system will make it much easier to gain access to the building for rehearsals and other events as well as the ability to disable "lost" cards without the expense of changing the locks.


To date, the new pass cards have been granted to current key holders such as committee chairs, monthly directors, etc. This is because during the initial prove out of the system we have kept the gate locked at night in case of a system malfunction and entry required both a key and a pass card, however we will soon dispense with the gate and keys will no longer be necessary. We welcome anyone who desires a passkey to purchase one for a nominal fee of \$25. Please contact Claudine at the Player's office.

There will be two levels of entry access granted: Unlimited, for those who require it by virtue of office, committee, or need, and standard for those that require it for basic Player activities such as practice, or visiting the office. The main difference between the two levels is that the standard level of access will not allow entry when the alarm is active or set.

The new alarm system has the same pass code as the old one. Instructions on how to enable and disable the alarm are posted on the wall next to the keypad. Anyone who desires additional information or instruction on the system may contact the Player's office.

We would like to thank everyone for their patience during installation and prove out of the new system. In addition, we are especially thankful for a very generous donation, from a fellow Player who wishes to remain anonymous, which made the purchase of this system possible.

Water, Water Everywhere, But Now a Drop to Drink!

The new Vitapur® Point-of-use hot and cold-water dispenser is here and installed! But we're still collecting donations for it. We'll take any amount – \$25, \$50, \$100, or even the entire \$250 (we came in under the original \$300.00 budget!). Just think: You could have the "Players' Memorial Drinking Water System" named after you. Well, maybe not, but you would know that you've done your part to keep your urologist happy. Drop off or send in your check with a notation that the money is to be used for the drinking water system. As always, thanks for your help! And, thanks to Players Tim Whims and Roy Jendrzewski who guided the installation! 

**COAT-GATE!
LAB COATS STILL MISSING!**

Remember last Season's Coat-Gate? Well, it seems we have another one! A significant number of lab coats, many bearing The Players logo (some hand-stitched), are missing from the Playhouse. Most of these coats are the personal property of Gourmet(?) Group members. The coats were last seen three months ago hanging on hooks in the stairwell just outside the kitchen. If you took them home to wash them ... THANKS! Now, however, is the time to return them. Since this message did not result in a resolution to the mystery, a small reward for their return is now being offered ... no questions asked. If you have them, return them and wish to receive the reward, respond in confidence to USTRESAGT@aol.com for your secret identity number. Please, for the "love of Mike," help us out if you know where they might be.

[Really, this is getting to be just outrageous. Someone has to know something.

For pity's sake, you can remain anonymous, just help us out here and let us know where the coats are!]

HERE'S YOUR CUE (CONTINUED)**RUNNING OUT OF TIME!****A Challenge Grant!**

A Player who wishes to remain anonymous is most pleased with both the pace and quality of recent Playhouse projects, i.e., the facade, the front doors, the kitchen, the aisle lighting, the traveler curtain, the enhanced security system, etc. To continue this wonderful momentum, the Player will donate up to \$2,500.00 toward the purchase/renovation/etc. of the large backstage double doors. Basically, the anonymous Player will match every dollar other Player members donate toward this project to a maximum of \$2,500.00. His understanding from information published in several issues of **The Player** is that the cost for this project is \$5,000.00. There is a stipulation attached to this donation, however. The donations from the other Players must be received by The Players no later than the **May 2008 Annual Meeting**. Gentleman, the May Annual Meeting is Wednesday, May 21, 2008 and we are way short of the goal! Please help us get this money by anteing up as soon as you can.

My fellow Players:

A disturbing trend seems to have developed in our historically esteemed fraternity. It appears, from the blurbs in several issues of **The Player** over the last few years, that we have regressed from a group of gentlemen to a den of thieves. Missing overcoats – pictures disappearing from our walls -- purloined bottles of wine – lab coats vanishing without a trace – and most recently, a copy of *The Odd Couple* that had been ordered for the Scripts and Casting Committee and set aside in the office in an envelope with my name on it. Perhaps some of these disappearing items were taken as souvenirs by kleptomaniacal visitors. Perhaps some of our members feel entitled to take from the playhouse anything not nailed down. Should we open our membership to forgers, pickpockets, carjackers and commen now as well? If so, let me hand in my resignation now, and let us lock our doors and dissolve our club so that Players can die with some dignity and we can drop the pretense of being a group of gentlemen.

Player Henry Nelson

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Players will take place on Wednesday, May 21, 2008. The usual procedure will be followed:

- 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., voting;
- 7:00 p.m., Dinner; Price for dinner is \$30.00, inclusive, and will be catered by Tom's Oyster Bar. [The last few Annual Meeting dinners have been absolutely "good groceries" (as former Player Ned Batchelor) would say, and alone worth coming to the meeting for. – Ed.]
- 8:00 p.m., approximately, Annual Meeting:
Announcement of Board of Governors for 2008-2009 and Officers;
Committee Reports;
Announcement of the Frank Judge Award and Joe Conley Award.
- 9:00 p.m., Willie Awards;
- 9:30 p.m., Adjourn

The Players nominated and agreeing to run for a three-year term for the Board of Governors from 2008 to 2011 are:

Player Jeffrey Davis (joined 2003)
Player Brad Dahlhofer (2003)
Player Henry Nelson (1986)

Player Chris Nesi (2002)
Player Ed Priebe (1999)
Player Tom Sloan (2003)

Good luck and good night, gentlemen. Their brief biographies and pictures appear on page 7.



Player Nominees for the Board of Governors, 2008-2011

The following biographical submissions are presented in alphabetical order and as submitted (except obvious corrections).



Jeffrey Davis: The love of the arts has been center stage in Jeff's life and continues with his membership in the Players Club in 2003. Jeff has performed in a half a dozen shows including Hypocritical Oath. As President of the Wayne State Men's Glee Club in college, Jeff organized a trip to the International Eisteddfod Choir competition where the esteemed group won the 1981 Male Chorus Competition. His love of music and the stage first began in the children's theater in Ann Arbor with performances including Ralph in Lord of the Flies, Jesus in Godspell and Patrick, Sr. in Mame. Jeff is a flutist and plays a variety of flutes including the Shakuhachi, an ancient Japanese bamboo instrument. He also active in his church and is an integral member of their choir. Jeff is an avid boater and enjoys spending his free time with his four children.

Jeff has more than 30 years business management experience and is currently the Chief Operating Officer of Integrated Healthcare Logistics, a supply chain management and logistics corporation. An entrepreneur at heart, Jeff helped his last company, Commodity Support Group, make Inc. Magazines list as one of the fastest growing companies in America – four years in a row. His previous experience in training and education for automotive also brings additional value. Jeff has a Communications Degree, specializing in Television and Radio from Wayne State University.



Brad Dahlhofer: has been helping on and off-stage since he joined in 2003. He is the current Beer Czar and makes sure that you all have good drink at every frolic. He is also on the Future Planning Committee and Millionaires Party Committee. Brad works as a freelance computer consultant and also co-owner of B. Nektar Meadery (honey winery) in Ferndale, MI where he lives with his wife Kerri and new son Chace.



Henry Nelson: I have been a proud Player since 1986 and served a previous term on the board of governors from 1993-96. I am currently on the scripts and casting committee and the Frolic supper committee. I believe that the two most important issues that challenge the Players' are participation and the condition of the playhouse. As a board member, I would focus on those items first. That's it. As my Dad always says, "Be brief, be bright and be gone." So I'm outta here; Ciao!



Chris Nesi: I joined the Players in August of 2002 and was cast in my first show about two weeks later. Since that time, I've acted in about 20 shows, written a few myself, and directed a few more. The Players stage has become my second home, and my fellow actors, directors and stage crew have become my closest friends. I've also been fortunate enough to become involved in the social events that we invite the general public (and most importantly, our wives and significant others) to attend, whether through wine tastings or the yearly Millionaires Party. It is in that context in particular that I think we, as an organization, have the most room to grow and develop. I hope, through these projects, that we can attract a broader audience to the Players, which may in turn lead to a broader base of membership. I'd be honored to be given the opportunity to work towards this goal on the Board of Governors.



Ed Priebe: I have been a member of Players since 1999; however, I did take a short leave of absence due to a work commitment in Europe. I am very proud to be part of this club, and always speak positively of it to friends and family. Many of you know me as an actor, a costumer, or as a connoisseur of martinis. Whichever capacity you know me from, I have always strived to do the best that I can. I want to try directing in the next season, and look forward to putting my personal stamp on a production.

My career is in the Information Technology fields. I have been a developer, database administrator, project manager and as of late auditor of a variety of processes at several large companies. Also, I teach database design and project management classes at several colleges as an adjunct professor. I strive to make people think about what they are doing. Organization helps me keep my priorities straight. I think my project management acumen, and a little attitude, will be effective in serving on the Board of Governors.

I am honored to accept the nomination to be on the Board of Governors and will continue to do my best to serve you.



My name is **Tom Sloan** and I'm running for the Board of Governors. I know that my five years as a Player pales in comparison to the tenure that most of you hold in the club, but I share the same devotion to our playhouse that all of you have shown through your many years of membership. I have performed in many shows, have been an assistant director for a few productions, co-produced the May 2007 Invitational, and directed once. My longest contribution thus far has been serving on the Scripts and Castings Committee for the last four years. I have truly enjoyed being a Player and sharing our playhouse with as many people as I can by bringing guests to shows or giving tours while working rentals. Many of you know me and I hope I have shown you that what is best for the playhouse is first in

my mind. I know that there are many issues facing our organization including membership numbers and upkeep of the building. If elected, I will work for the betterment of the playhouse and the membership.

The Boundary



FUZZ COREY

ALLAN DICK

BILL ROBINSON

BRUCE BRUNSINK

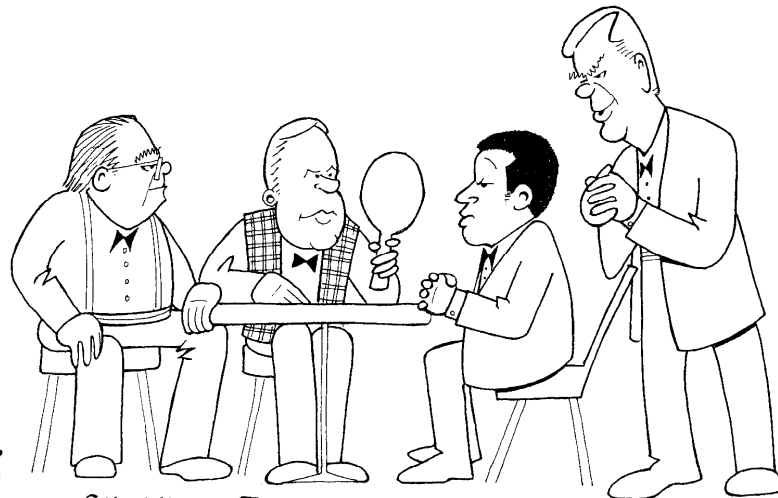
The Green Room



BOB O'LEARY · TOM DIFFENDAL · JOHN MCLAUGHLIN · MIKE MONGAN · GORDAN PRICE

FROLIC 571
 5 APRIL 2008
MONLLEY

If Men Played Cards as Women Do



CHUCK ROBERTS

TIM BANNISTER

DARREN BRIM · JIM FORAN