

Arts & Entertainment



"The Oculist" by Norman Rockwell

ARTIST OF THE WEEK Norman Rockwell (1894-1978)

Tradition, family and sentiment spring to mind when pondering the technique and masterpieces of New York City native Norman Rockwell. Ambitious and steadfast in his love for illustration, he knew it would be his life work at a very early age.

At 15 years old, Rockwell abandoned his studies at high school to pursue an education at the National Academy of Design and the Art Student's League. Just before he turned 16, he was illustrating Christmas cards and later he was hired as a teenager to serve as art director for *Boy's Life* magazine.

Longing to collaborate with a colony of other illustrators, Rockwell moved to New Rochelle, N.Y. where he set up a studio and produced several famous illustrations for *Life*, *Literary Digest* and *Country Gentleman*.

However, Rockwell's true fame arrived when he designed his first cover for the *Saturday Evening Post*. He followed up that success with approximately 321 covers for that magazine.

Rockwell moved to Arlington, Vt. with his second wife in 1939 and their three children. It was at this time that the artist developed his signature style for depicting American life in small town settings.

When his Vermont studio burned to the ground in 1943 and several paintings and props were lost to the fire, Rockwell's spirit persisted. He began a traditional production of *Four Season Calendars* which continued for 17 years.

After his second wife died, Rockwell re-married and ended his employment with the *Post*. He took up a new career with *Look* magazine which lasted for 10 years.

Before his death in 1978, Rockwell was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom for "vivid and affectionate portraits of our country." The contents of his studio were entrusted to The Norman Rockwell Museum at Stockbridge, Mass.

ENFORCE THE LAW BY DAY; ROCK THE HOUSE AT NIGHT Westfield Cop, Chris Wolfson, Debuts With 16-Ounce Kings in Long Branch

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD - When the sun is up, Police Officer, Christopher Wolfson lays down the law in Westfield. Tall, towering with authority and in full police uniform, he sociably crosses pedestrians at bustling intersections. And, in today's traffic, one could trust him with their life.

Flash forward to last Saturday. Clad in a leather jacket, the police hat is absent and the badges are no where to be found as Wolfson grabs his drumsticks and pounds his heart out with his band, "Bruce Tunkel and the 16 Oz. Kings."

"One minute I'm covering Springsteen in a gig and the next day I'm directing traffic in the rain," joked Wolfson during a brief interview Monday with *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times*.

"I've been drumming since the third grade," Wolfson recollected

when asked how far back his love of music extends.

Although he has been teaming up with bands before his career in law enforcement and his collaboration with the 16 Oz. Kings, Wolfson recalled a stint with a Beatles type band. However, he noted that he didn't find what he was looking for until he met fellow band mate, Bruce Tunkel of Colonia.

"Bruce was the first guy really in the business that helped me get somewhere," said Wolfson, who has been playing with Tunkel, the former leader of The Red House, since 1993-1994.

Last Saturday at the Gemini Lounge in Long Branch, Bruce Tunkel and the 16 Oz. Kings debuted officially, offering up a blend of Tunkel's original tunes from his solo career, as well as cover songs

from other bands and new pieces.

Several musical evolutions have occurred throughout the years for Tunkel since The Red House broke ties in 1992. Tunkel later decided to go solo as a guitarist, songwriter and vocalist. Then, later jamming with his backing ensemble, "The Head Diggers," he opened up for Southside Johnny and The Asbury Jukes, as well as Jeffrey Gaines. In 1997, Tunkel formed The Groovy Rockin' Combo and most recently decided to assemble the 16 Oz. Kings.

Members of the 16 Oz. Kings took the time to chat about their debut, as well as Wolfson before taking the stage at Gemini.

"The PBA cards come in handy," joked 16 Oz. Kings guitarist Frankie McGrath of Rutherford.

Bassist Chris Michael Junior of Rahway told *The Leader* and *The Times* earlier that Wolfson inspired him to get involved with the band when Tunkel decided that he musicians should regroup.

Junior, who also doubles as a staff writer and copy editor with the *Courier News* revealed that the collaboration with band mates is truly symbiotic. Of his synergy with Wolfson, he added, "Us being friends has kind of contributed to how we mesh as a rhythm section."

Addressing the flavor of the band, Junior contemplated, "Sometimes people think negatively about New Jersey," adding that stereotypes about the state often attach themselves to the group which has been compared to New Jersey icon Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band.

However, Junior reported that in comparison to Springsteen, 16 Oz. Kings "can rock a little harder and louder and we can bring it down a little softer." He also noted that the band is proud to do cover songs of Tom Petty, Neil Young and Springsteen - all inspirations which the band members grew up on.

Continued on Page 22



HER FAVORITE PERFORMANCE... Cynthia Meryl, Artistic Director of Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre, (WYACT) portrayed Hortense Howard in the 1978 New York revival of Cole Porter's *The Gay Divorce*. WYACT will produce *The Gay Divorce* this August in the Kean University Arts Incubator Festival.

WYACT Announces 2000 Summer Season

WESTFIELD - Following two highly acclaimed summer productions at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJ PAC), with *Carousel* in 1998 and *Oliver!* in 1999, The Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre (WYACT) recently announced its 2000 summer season.

In July, WYACT and NJ PAC will co-produce *Brigadoon*, book and lyrics by Alan J. Lerner, music by Frederick Loewe, and authors of *My Fair Lady* and *Camelot*.

Following WYACT's sold-out production of *The Threepenny Opera* in Kean University's 1999 Arts Incubator Festival, Kean is welcoming WYACT back into the

2000 Incubator Festival in early August to present Cole Porter's *The Gay Divorce*, the song and dance frolic boasting Porter's incomparable hit, "Night and Day."

Fred Astaire starred in the stage version of this musical and went on to make the notable film with Ginger Rogers, Eric Blore and Edward Everett Horton.

"Once in the Highlands, the Highlands of Scotland, two weary hunters lost their way." As the mist lifts in a glen in Scotland, two exhausted men, Tommy Albright and Jeff Douglas, are witness to the awakening of *Brigadoon*, a

Continued on Page 22

Pen and Ink

By MICHELLE H. LePOIDEVIN

Madonna's Cover of 'American Pie' Is Enough to Make This Editor Cry

There has been a lot of mixed hype about Madonna's latest offering to the pop gods, a cover of Don McLean's golden 1971 release, "American Pie." Make no bones about it, Madonna's candy-coated voice, made famous by "Like a Virgin" and "Erotica," takes this classic, which has gently echoed through our ears, and makes it sound more like manicured nails down a chalkboard. An alternative band could have rocked "American Pie," surpassing it to levels never imagined. But, this classic folksy tune belongs nowhere near the vocal cords of a pop songstress.

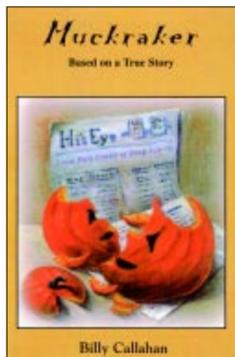
Imagine these unimaginable combinations to illustrate my point: Snoop Doggy Dog singing Barry Manilow's "Can't Smile Without You," The Oak Ridge Boys covering Ricky Martin's "Livin' La Vida Loca," or perhaps the late Frank Sinatra should have tried his hand at Led Zeppelin's "Stairway to Heaven." Nails down a chalkboard, fitting a square into a circle. You get the picture. Certain genres of music just can't cover others. There are subtle lines that can't be crossed.

The 8 1/2 minutes of "American Pie," has reached fame in Karaoke bars around the world, and even in my old sorority that used to taunt another sorority by singing, "Bye, Bye, Alpha Epsilon Pi." 8 1/2 minutes of Don McLean's smooth, yet rugged folksy voice carrying us through a story worth contemplation and analysis. 8 1/2 minutes of tradition now broken by Madonna's syrupy sweet cover that should put all die-

Continued on Page 22

Book Signing, Readings Set by Author Billy Callahan

SPRINGFIELD - Local author Billy Callahan, will be featured in an event at Barnes & Noble in Springfield on Thursday, February 10, at 7:30 p.m. to promote and



sign his recently released novel, "Muckraker."

Mr. Callahan will offer helpful tips for anyone wishing to write for a hobby or a career. He will discuss how his first novel came to be written. Following selected readings, audience members will be invited to ask questions.

"Muckraker," based on a true story from actual local events in

Continued on Page 22



Cheri Rogosky for The Westfield Leader and The Times

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT... The Amateur Chamber Music Workshop rehearsed on January 23 for a concert at Lincoln Center on March 4 and 5, sponsored by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Pictured, left to right, are: Springfield violinist Lea Karpman; Montclair violinist Margo Sokolow; violist, teacher, conductor and founder of the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra Lorraine Marks of Westfield; string specialist in Cranford Public Schools, Marty Steinberg; cellist at South Orange Center, Steve Hart. He is a coach and clarinetist who plays at the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, American Composers Orchestra of St. Luke's, New York Pops, and Westchester Philharmonic.

Former Westfielder Publishes First Novel, 'Paradox in Oz'

WESTFIELD - Edward Einhorn, who grew up in Westfield, has recently published his first novel, "Paradox in Oz." He has also authored the plays, "Linguish," "A Shylock," and "The Living Methusalem," as well as short stories.

Mr. Einhorn formerly was the tri-editor of Westfield High School's newspaper, *His Eye*. He was also co-editor of the school's literary magazine, *Folio*.

"Paradox in Oz," which is illustrated by Eric Shanower, combines travel, logic puzzles and wordplay into an adventure that takes place in Frank Baum's world ("The Wonderful World of Oz"). However, "Paradox in Oz" is completely an original work sprung from Mr. Einhorn's imagi-

nation. David Einhorn, Edward's brother, was also raised in Westfield and together they formed the Untitled Theater Company No. 61 in which Edward is the artistic director.

Mr. Einhorn has mounted productions of Ionesco's *The Bald Soprano*, T.S. Eliot's *Sweet Agonistes* and Richard Foreman's *My Head Was a Sledgehammer*. He is presently rehearsing Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

Mr. Einhorn is expected to have a book signing at the Town Book Store in Westfield on Saturday, February 12. He will be accompanied by his six-year-old cousin, Ayala, who is the inspiration for the enchanted Princess Ayala in "Paradox in Oz."

Please Send
All Arts & Entertainment
Press Releases to:
michelle@goleader.com
By 4 p.m. on Fridays

VALENTINE'S DAY

SHOW HER YOU'LL LOVE HER
FOR THE NEXT THOUSAND YEARS

martin jewelers
YOUR PERSONAL JEWELER SINCE 1945

ACCREDITED GEM LAB American Gem Society
Ellen R. Ramer, Certified Gemologist Appraiser

A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

12 North Avenue West • Cranford, NJ 07016 • (908) 276-6718
NOW IN OUR 55th YEAR

SPRING CONCERTS AT PAPER MILL

MARCH 13, 2000 • 8 pm
Ireland's Golden Tenor
FRANK PATTERSON
With EILY O'GRADY & comedian AL BANIM. From "Danny Boy" to "Galway Bay," this pre-St. Patrick's Day evening of beloved favorites will bring out the Irish in everyone.

MARCH 14, 2000 • 8 pm
MANHATTAN TRANSFER
Contemporary music's premiere vocal group

MARCH 21, 2000 • 8 pm
AIR SUPPLY
Concert and recording legends

CALL NOW: 973-376-4343
VISA, MasterCard, Discover

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE
THE STATE THEATRE OF NEW JERSEY

Brookside Dr., Millburn, NJ 07041 • Visit our website: www.papermill.org
Funded in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts • American Airlines® is the official airline of Paper Mill Playhouse