

Pat Sculley brings his Cabaret to Phillips

by Wizard Marks

Patrick Sculley has been hosting and performing in his Cabaret at St. Stephen's Church on the second Saturday evening of each month for the last three years. "It has been wonderful for years, but they [St. Stephen's] suffer because they can't rent the room to anyone else on that night." Now in its fourth year, Sculley has

City Council approves \$158 million for convention hotel

In a special session on Monday, May 8, the Minneapolis City Council voted 11 to 2 in favor of an agreement with HBE Corp. to build an 800 room convention center hotel and a parking ramp. The deal commits the city to spending an estimated \$158 million in public subsidies. Mayor Fraser signed the measure that afternoon.

The two council members voting against the agreement were Barbara Carlson and Brian Coyle. Sharon Sayles Belton, who had previously voted against the hotel, changed her vote while charging that some of her colleagues had threatened to withhold support for some of her pet projects unless she voted for the hotel.

Council Member Tony Scallion who has been one of the hotel's biggest supporters was quoted in the Star Tribune as saying, "I'm happy for the taxpayers that we didn't invest \$200 million in an empty convention center." Scallion and others had argued that without the hotel the convention center would not make it.

Council begins \$25.6 million Nicollet Mall renovation

The City Council voted last month to allocate \$800,000 to the Nicollet Mall Implementation Board signalling their willingness to move forward with a renovation project on the Mall now budgeted at \$25.6 million.

The Council vote was 11 to 2 in favor of the move with all three Phillips Council members, Sharon Sayles Belton, Tony Scallion and Brian Coyle voting in favor of the new spending project.

The initial allocation will be used to build one stair tower linking the Mall to the skyway system and begin sidewalk repairs in front of Gaviidae Common. The Council has agreed to contribute no more than 15% of the total cost of the project with the rest coming from Nicollet Mall property owners. But Tony Scallion said he wouldn't be surprised if the city is asked to pick up a larger percentage of the costs and cut the size of the project.

Council members Walt Dziedzic and Sandra Hilary voted against the allocation.

acquired space at 506 E. 24th St. to continue his contemporary vaudeville in the Phillips neighborhood.

Contemporary vaudeville, as conceptualized by Sculley, runs the gamut from the sublime to the ridiculous. So much so that on a given Saturday evening you could hear Louis Aлемayhu and Erika Thorne perform *All Love is Sacred* and stay to hear Candy and the (w)Rappers do that perfectly absurd voo-doo that they do so well. Or you might hear Roy McBride read his poems and David Hershey juggle while he recites the iambic pentameter of Shakespeare. It could be jazz pianist Carei Thomas, Jennifer Holt from Totes Noire or Billy Washington and his gospel choir. Or a magician or dancers or comics.

"It is my goal to eventually make a living as director of the Cabaret," says Patrick. The Cabaret got started at St. Stephen's in the spring of 1986 when Patrick accepted the fact that, "if you are going to present your work you are going to have to do it yourself if you are a local. But, by the time you get everything together (catering, performance, space, lights, sound, publicity, etc.) you are asking how the hell you got into this business," Patrick says.

"I didn't want to produce everything myself, so I just called people to do 5 to 20 minutes of their work in exchange for the names of friends and I would send a post card inviting them to the Cabaret." Patrick wanted people to have the opportunity to present works in progress so performers could take risks—risks they could not take on the Guthrie stage, for example.

"Some artists have made career choices in which we work a 9 to 5," says Patrick, who is a dancer and who is also Director of Student Programs for the Science Museum. "We don't have time to be doing all the work of having a way to be produced. The idea is to make it easier for the artist, for artists they know the audience, they can try things here. It is important to be casual and informal."

Sculley and his partner, Richard Dukes, a real estate dealer, have moved into the 24th St. space with the intention of buying



Pat Sculley shares the spotlight with other local performers at his Cabaret on East 24th St.

the building and selling the four beautiful loft condominiums above it to artists who want to create a cooperative, remain in the neighborhood, and do it without paying the earth for it. Dukes' part in the deal is to help people buy the lofts, Patrick's is to run the Cabaret.

It is odd, though, that Sculley would choose an out of the way corner of Phillips tucked up against the freeway, for his club. Sculley's first studio space when he came to Minneapolis from Brooklyn, New York some ten years ago was at 25th and Bloomington in an old print shop. "I feel like I've come full circle. I like Phillips, it feels the most like Brooklyn of any place in Minneapolis." More to the point, Sculley

says that, "if we who have privilege don't take a stand then we have to live with having another South Bronx in Phillips."

Sculley's Cabaret is a slightly remodelled print shop with enough seating for 100 people where there will be food—sweets mostly and fruit—and beverages but no alcohol and no smoking. "There is this lovely smoking room just outside the front door, however," Patrick says, pointing to the well lit sidewalk and the blooming boulevard in front of his window.

"I do want to acknowledge that I receive money from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council so I can pay people and Lutheran Social Services allows us the use of their parking lot which is safe and well-lit."

"If there is enough demand that I can have the Cabaret more than once a month, then I will be able to build up the business."

"If there are artists in the neighborhood who want to perform here, they can get in touch with me at 871-4257," Patrick says. There are no auditions because he doesn't like auditions. "An artist's reputation is his own responsibility. Since I wanted to get away from judging my own work, I also wanted to get away from judging other people's work. But I do require that anyone who wants to perform here come to a performance first so they will know what they're getting into."

The next Cabaret is Saturday, June 10 at 8 pm. The performers are Susan Welch reading her writing; Rebecca Rice, theater; Sue Halloran reading her writing; Laurie Van Wieren dancing; singer Linda Miller; and Edminster, Coursen and Sculley, improvisational music and dance. The cost is \$5 and those who bring a chair or small table and leave it will get in free at the next Cabaret they attend. So what good is sitting alone in your room, come to the Cabaret (I just couldn't resist that).



Waite House Neighborhood Center

2529 13th Av. S. • 721-1681

YOUTH PROGRAMS

MONDAY-FRIDAY: Gameroom and gym open, 3pm. Will meet at the Phillips Community Center on Mondays. Call Tony or Julie for time.

MONDAY: Preschool Library Group, 3-4:30pm.

WEDNESDAY: Girlscouts Activity Center, 4-7pm. Study Group, 6:30-7:30pm (snacks provided).

THURSDAY: Pottery Group, 6:30-7:30pm.

Interested in Basketball? Call & ask for Tony Hunter.

ASIAN ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Provides help with legal problems, landlords, housing, insurance, finding jobs, E.S.L. classes, education planning, sale of art works and handicrafts, etc.

THURSDAYS: Citizenship Class, 6:30-8:30pm. Hmong Wammeng Radio Program. Hmong language traditional song

C.O.P.E. PROGRAMS

MONDAYS: Seniors Group, 9:30am-1:30pm. Presentations on home safety, health & nutrition. Play cards and bingo.

TUESDAYS & FRIDAYS: COPE office open for visits. Goal setting, family crisis intervention, chemical dependency issues, referrals or just someone to talk with, 9am-5pm.

WEDNESDAYS: Home Visits for Home-bound adults & seniors, 1:30-4:30pm. Call for appointment.

THURSDAYS: Women's Support Group, "Issues of Abuse," 6:30pm-8:45pm. Open AA group, 7-8pm.

OTHER PROGRAMS

MONDAY-FRIDAY: Soup Kitchen, 10:30am-1:30pm. Adult Activities Lounge, 10am-4pm. Board games, cards, reading, etc...Free coffee! Seniors welcome!

Commodities Distribution: Saturday, May 20, noon. Call for info.



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