

CTLIVING

CHEVROLET THEATER

The Fray Serves Up Dual Styles

Denver-Based Band Performs With Jack's Mannequin In Wallingford

By LEAH IGDALSKY
Special To The Courant

The Fray is experiencing an identity crisis. In its Saturday performance at the Chevrolet Theater in Wallingford, the piano-rock band displayed two sometimes conflicting styles — anthemic rock in the grain of U2 or Coldplay interspersed in intimate, emotional, piano-centered songs.

The Denver-based quartet began with its first major hit, "Over My Head (Cable Car)," surrounded by a semi-circle of flashing, multicolored lights and two additional instrumentalists.

Drummer Ben Wysocki grinned throughout the tune, as lead singer Isaac Slade worked the stage, asserting himself as the band's front man and showman. By "She Is," another song from 2005's "How To Save A Life," Slade was standing, sitting and interacting with the

crowd, although his voice was behind the band throughout the song's opening, as he caught his breath and laughed. Some feedback issues also accompanied the beginning of "She Is." Still, Slade's mid-range voice, at times both milky and scratchy, carried the song.

"Say When," off the band's latest self-titled record, featured shredding guitar breaks, electric keyboard and dramatic, kneeling delivery from Slade, who then moved to the piano on "How To Save A Life," the moody tune of "Grey's Anatomy" fame. The two songs highlighted the dichotomy of The Fray's live performance "How To Save A Life" was sensitive and raw, and the band tried to replicate the feel of a smaller, more intimate performance. "Say When," on the other hand, yearned for an arena.

"We Build Then We Break" deviated from both usual patterns, featuring a boppy sound with a pop-punk edge, similar to that of opening act Jack's Mannequin. At times, the

thrashing guitars were reminiscent of Muse. Rhythm guitarist Joe King took over vocals on "Ungodly Hour," singing in a voice similar to Slade's.

Jack's Mannequin, the project of Andrew McMahon, lead singer of Something Corporate, a punk band from California, opened the show with a one-hour set of alternative pop. McMahon spent the performance writing and bopping with passion as he sang and played piano. He began the band's second song, "Bloodshot," by climbing on and jumping off his piano, and stood on its keys during the song's climax. Jack's Mannequin's tunes featured guitar, bass and drums, but McMahon's vocals and piano were the heart of the music.

Richard Swift, a California-based singer and instrumentalist, was slated to open. He missed the show because his van broke down en route, according to Jack's Mannequin.

STAYING PUT

Tips To Keep Your Name Off Layoff List

By LIZ REYER
Minneapolis Star Tribune

Q: I like the company I work for and am happy to have my job but suspect that more layoffs are coming. How can I cut the chances that I'll be on that list?

A: Take ownership of your career and let your higher-ups know your value.

The Inner Game

First, focus on the assets you bring to the company. Many of us are too humble about what we're good at, so in the privacy of your own mind, list your abilities and accomplishments. Consider how your advocates would describe your strengths. Likewise, notice and address shortcomings that may be holding you back.

Next, consider what you enjoy doing. Identify the tasks and responsibilities that fit you best, and analyze why you like them. Here's an example: If you relish leading strategy teams aimed at landing new accounts, get specific about what, in particular, you like. Is it being in charge, working with groups, brainstorming ideas or implementing the plan? Drill down until you understand the aspects that get you really jazzed about doing your job.

Now look around the company, looking for roles that would fit for you. Also, look for gaps. Every company has problems, and you may have the right skills to offer a solution. If this is your vision, develop a concept to pitch. Even if it isn't acted on, your initiative will get attention, in a positive way.

As you get ready to build your visibility, watch for barriers that could interfere. These may be internal, such as nervousness, or external, such as a rigid hierarchy that limits your access to people. Take the time to plan how you'll deal with these barriers.

The Outer Game

Having a compelling story about the contributions you could make is only half the battle; you'll need to get in front of the right people.

Start by selecting the right people to approach. In a smaller firm, you may want to go right to the top, talking with the owner. In a large company, you may want to target the next level of division executives, choosing those who are flexible in managing change and solving problems. Be aware of company performance, and be careful about areas that may be more vulnerable in the near term.

Plan the conversation, but don't script it. Know the messages you want to send and what you'd like to learn. Focus more on listening than on talking so that you can understand the company's vision for the future and ways you can contribute. Match your tone to the company culture and the individual's style. If the leaders are very direct and value initiative, you can be bolder than if there's a more reticent culture.

Then ask! Request time on their schedules; don't wait for them to come to you. After you talk, follow up with some written thoughts or a link to an article that is relevant to an idea they mentioned.

The Last Word

Under any circumstances, it's a good idea to take an active role in your career advancement. Now more than ever, it can make the difference in keeping you out of the job market.

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OBITUARIES

PINTAVALLE, John "Bill"



John "Bill" Pintavalle, 89, of East Hartford, passed away on Friday, (June 19, 2009). He was a proud U. S. Army veteran of World War II and served with distinction with the 43rd Division, Company G, 169th Infantry. While stationed in the Pacific he had been stationed on Guadalcanal, New Guinea and Luzon in the Philippines. He was awarded the Purple Heart with four battle stars and was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant. He had retired from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft of East Hartford after 32 years of dedicated service. He is survived by his four sons; Donald of Manchester, Richard of Enfield, and Gary and Brian both of East Hartford. He also leaves his two sisters; Gloria Hudack of Windsor and Gaylene Sudano of Hartford. He also leaves his six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to gather at the Newkirk & Whitney Funeral Home, 318 Burnside Ave. East Hartford on Wednesday, June 24 at 9 a.m. for the procession to St. Rose Church, 33 Church St. East Hartford, where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. The interment will follow with full Military Honors in the Veterans Memorial Field of the Silver Lane Cemetery, East Hartford. Mr. Pintavalle's family will receive callers at the funeral home on Tuesday, 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Memorial donations may be made in his memory to the V.F.W. Dept. of CT P.O. Box 429, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-0429.

REID, Mary L.



Mary L. Reid, 70, of Manchester died on Saturday (June 20, 2009) at Fox Hill Nursing Center in Vernon. She was the widow of James Reid. Born in Manchester, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Helen (Zavack) Mokulis. Mary is survived by her sons Michael of Manchester, Mark of Tampa, FL, Mitchell of East Hampton, and Matthew of Vernon; her grandchildren Elizabeth, Aiden and Kevin; her sister Jane Toomey; and several nieces and nephews. She was also predeceased by her brother Robert Mokulis.

Funeral Services will be held on Wednesday, June 24 at 11:30 a.m. from the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester with a Mass of Christian Burial 12 p.m. at the Church of the Assumption 27 Adams Street South, Manchester. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family. Family and friends may call at the funeral home on Tuesday, 5-8 p.m. Memorial donations may be made to a charity of the donor's choice. For online condolences please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com

SCENTI, Corrine



Corrine Scenti, 87, beloved wife for 63 years of the late Michael Scenti, died Saturday, (June 20, 2009) in Wethersfield surrounded by her loving family. She is now at peace with the love of her life, her husband Mike. Born in New Britain, daughter of the late Walter and Rosalie (Warren) Curtin, Corrine lived in Hartford prior to moving to Wethersfield 54 years ago. She was a graduate of Mt. St. Joseph Academy in West Hartford, a member of Corpus Christi Church and served as the first president of the Corpus Christi Women's Club. She was also a member of the Elm Tree Women's Garden Club and the Portland Women's Golf Club. Corrine is survived by three cherished sons; Michael Scenti and his wife Shawn of Melbourne Beach, FL, Gary Scenti and his wife Gloria of Windsor, CA and John Scenti and his wife Lisa of Milford, MA; six grandchildren; Michael John, Lindsey, Christopher, Nicholas, Shael and Shea Scenti. Corrine also leaves her nephew Biagio Ciotto and his wife Jean of Wethersfield.

Funeral will be Thursday June 25th beginning at 9 a.m. from the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. at Corpus Christi Church, Wethersfield. Burial will be in Village Cemetery, Wethersfield. Calling hours will be Wednesday from 5 to 8 p.m. at the funeral home in Wethersfield. Memorial contributions may be made in Corrine's memory to Vitas Innovative Hospice Care, Charitable Trust, 255 Pitkin Street, East Hartford, CT 06108. For on-line expressions of sympathy please visit: www.desopo.com

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN B. SILVESTRI
6/22/1924 - 12/7/1995
Our special friend
Happy Birthday
Love, G.G.

GEORGE CLARK LEWIS

6/22/1924 - 7/16/2004
Happy Birthday Beloved husband, four long years have passed since you've said good-bye. Now you and our beloved Joi have joined hands in the Secret Garden with the beautiful wild flowers that you love. I will always be on our beach waiting to see you.
Your Loving Wife, Gloria

Everyone leaves a legacy. Celebrate an extraordinary life by creating an enduring Life Story on Legacy.com with biography, photos, eulogies, letters and cherished mementoes.

For more information, visit the obituary section on courant.com to share memories of loved ones.

JOB HUNTING

How To Impress Job Recruiters

By DIANE STAFFORD
McClatchy Newspapers

The U.S. Department of Labor reported this month that job seekers outnumber reported job openings by about 5 to 1. That helps explain job hunters' protracted searches.

Competition for available jobs is fierce. With so many applicants, employers have the luxury to wait for the perfect candidate.

Here are ways to appear "perfect" for your target job:

- » Apply only for the positions for which you can make the case that you're a good fit. You'll just depress yourself and get no responses by applying for longer-shot jobs.
- » Tailor your resume for the published requirements. Show how

your professional experience dovetails with the job.

» If you're trying to change industries, translate industry jargon or titles to make it clear how your skills and experience are transferable.

» Research compensation structures in the industry and company so that you don't price yourself out of consideration or appear "overqualified."

» Augment your resume with a cover letter or attachment offering a strong sales, marketing, quality or productivity improvement idea.

» Give names and correct contact information for references who you know will say positive things about you. Keep your references updated so that they don't say, "know Mary really wants to work as an events planner" when you've applied for a public relations job.

» If you're stuck with an online application system, answer every question.

Can you do all this and still not get a response? Sure. Remember the 5-to-1 ratio. But doing these things should improve your odds of a follow-up.

Carver

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always stayed with me even when I wasn't carving."

Matthew barely fits down the staircase leading to his 150-square-foot basement workspace, where black garbage bags are stapled to the ceilings so dust doesn't fall.

"The wood on this railing is so old. It has too much history," he says, smiling as he touches the surface.

When he feels like taking a break from drilling or sanding, Matthew sinks into an old camping chair lined with a faded American flag. He watches shows like "Three's Company," recalling his youth, when he learned English by watching the series.

Matthew already has his next project. Wiktorina Anderson, a family friend, has hired him to rebuild damaged cabinets in her New Britain home.

"I think he should pursue a

woodworking career now," she says. "I especially like his style of the dining room set he made. It reminds me of the story 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.' It also reminds me of the mountains of Southern Poland. It surprises me that he still has the vision of that style in his head, because he came to the U.S. as a little kid."

Jim Mueller, vice president of the Connecticut Woodcarvers Association, which has about 60 members throughout the state, says he has seen an increase in people who have lost their jobs turning to woodworking.

But Mueller, who has been a woodworker most of his life, has a full-time job.

"I'm always impressed with raw talent, but it's very hard to do for a living," he says. "Most projects take 100 hours and you can't make enough money for something that you spend two weeks making. People don't realize how much time it takes. They love it, they want it for their homes or walls, but they don't want to pay the big bucks, now with the economy and even before now."

CONSUMER WATCHDOG

Do you feel ripped off?

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Read the "Watchdog" column every Friday & Sunday and watch for "Today's Bite" throughout the week.

Have an issue that you want George to look into? Contact him at watchdog@courant.com

DILBERT BY SCOTT ADAMS



ALMANAC: JUNE 22, 173RD DAY OF 2009

There are 192 days left in the year.

Today's highlight in history: In 1945, the World War II battle for Okinawa ended with an Allied victory; some 13,000 Americans and 90,000 Japanese soldiers, plus 130,000 civilians, were killed in the nearly three-month campaign.

On this date: In 1940, during World War II, Adolf Hitler gained a stunning victory as France was forced to sign an armistice eight days after German forces overran Paris.

» In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, more popularly known as the "GI Bill of Rights."

» In 1977, John N. Mitchell became the first former U.S. attorney general to go to prison as he began serving a sentence for his role in the Watergate cover-up. (He was released 19 months later.)

— Associated Press