

LIFE & ARTS

Coming Monday

THE NEW 'GEEK CHIC'

Timberlake, for example

Golden grandma

White plays Cupid in 'The Proposal' | D2



The Columbus Dispatch
SATURDAY
JUNE 20, 2009

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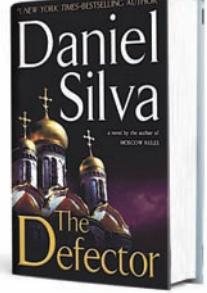
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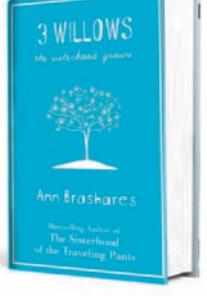
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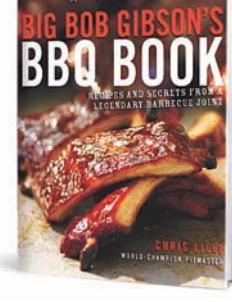
Once a month, we check in on the supply and demand at the Columbus Metropolitan Library:

**TOP BUYS FOR JULY**

1. *The Defector*, Daniel Silva
2. *The Girl Who Played With Fire*, Stieg Larsson
3. *Rain Gods*, James Lee Burke
4. *Guardian of Lies: A Paul Madriani Novel*, Steve Martini
5. *Burn*, Linda Howard

**RESERVES ON THE RISE**

1. *3 Willows: The Sisterhood Grows*, Ann Brashares
2. *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, Jamie Ford
3. *A Reliable Wife*, Robert Goolrick
4. *The Devil's Punchbowl*, Greg Iles
5. *Just When I Thought I'd Dropped My Last Egg: Life and Other Calamities*, Kathie Lee Gifford

**OUTDOOR GRILLING AND ENTERTAINING**

1. *Big Bob Gibson's BBQ Book: Recipes and Secrets From a Legendary Barbecue Joint*, Chris Lilly
2. *Emeril at the Grill: A Cookbook for All Seasons*, Emeril Lagasse
3. *Outdoor Entertaining Idea Book*, Natalie Ermann Russell
4. *Serious Barbecue: Smoke, Char, Baste, & Brush Your Way to Great Outdoor Cooking*, Adam Perry Lang
5. *Weber's Way To Grill: The Step-by-Step Guide to Expert Grilling*, Jamie Purviance



World War II veteran Rupert "Twink" Starr, who will serve as grand marshal of the Columbus Pride Festival

PATRIOTIC ACTIVIST

'Don't ask, don't tell' opponent to lead gay-pride parade

By Amy Saunders

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

As the parade passed, he stood near some bushes — a hiding spot in case someone he knew saw him celebrating with thousands of gay people. Rupert Starr had stood up to Nazis during World War II, spending four months as a prisoner of war in Poland, but his participation in a Columbus Pride Festival in the 1990s required more confidence than he could muster.

This year, he is the center of attention: the grand marshal of the 1 p.m. parade and keynote speaker at a Sunday brunch for what's considered the largest gay-pride celebration in the Midwest.

Not until recently has Starr (known to friends as "Twink") reached such a public comfort level with his decades-old

A video of Rupert Starr is at Dispatch.com/multimedia

See ACTIVIST Page D3



2nd Lt. Starr, who spent four months as a prisoner of war in Poland

One of Starr's military honors

SHOW & TELL

News and information about the arts-and-entertainment world:

Galleries to show vault works

The Short North Arts District will host a series of "seasonal gallery open houses" along N. High Street beginning Sunday afternoon.

From 1 to 4 p.m., visitors can stop in nine participating galleries to see art pulled from vaults or storage areas, or experience other behind-the-scenes activities not usually offered during the neighborhood's Saturday night Gallery Hops.

Participating galleries:

- The Art Exchange, 17 Brickell St.
- Kathryn Gallery, 642 N. High St.
- Mahan Gallery, 717 N. High St.
- Marcia Evans Gallery, 8 E. Lincoln St.
- PM Gallery, 726 N. High St.
- Sharon Weiss Gallery, 20 E. Lincoln St.

- Sherrie Gallerie, 694 N. High St.
 - Studios on High, 686 N. High St.
 - Terra Gallery, 8 E. Poplar Ave.
- Dates for the next seasonal open houses will be Sept. 20, Dec. 20 and March 21.

For more information, call John Angelo, 614-299-8050, Ext. 13.

Cruise OKs another mission

Tom Cruise and JJ. Abrams have chosen to accept another impossible mission, signing on to produce a fourth installment of Paramount's *Mission: Impossible* franchise.

Abrams directed Cruise's last outing as operative Ethan Hunt in *Mission: Impossible III* (2006).

Although they have set 2011 as a target release date, it's still unknown whether Cruise will star again or Abrams will return to direct. According to studio spokeswoman Katie Martin Kelley, Cruise and Abrams are only attached as producers at this point.

Katherine Heigl

**CBS reschedules Emmys**

The 61st Primetime Emmy Awards have been rescheduled for Sept. 20 on CBS to make room for the MTV Video Music Awards.

"After we announced plans for Sept. 13, MTV informed us they were locked into the same day for the Video Music Awards, with venue and sponsorship agreements in place. We had the flexibility to move; they didn't," said Jack Sussman, executive vice president of specials, music and live events at CBS Entertainment.

Heigl to return to 'Grey's'

Katherine Heigl will return to *Grey's Anatomy* next season, sources told *The Hollywood Reporter*.

The news follows word that Heigl's co-star T.R. Knight won't return. ABC would not confirm any casting for its flagship drama series.

— From staff and wire reports

First Person is a weekly forum for personal musings and reflections from readers.

FIRST PERSON

Sharing opens doors for others

As my wife and I returned home from a Western vacation more than a decade ago, we found ourselves in the quaint, dusty town of Tuba City, Ariz.

We checked into the motel owned by the local Navajo tribe. The place was beautifully decorated and appointed with American Indian designs and symbols.

Because we'd been in our vehicle most of the day, we decided to stretch our legs and walk a few blocks to McDonald's for a bite to eat.

We ordered food and took it outside to eat at a patio table. As we ate, we noticed that many of the other tables were occupied by American Indians of various ages — all of them playing chess.

A rancher, dressed in dungarees and a cowboy hat, was playing, too. (We later learned that he was playing with the police chief of the area's Navajo tribe.)

Beside each table, small children watched quietly and took in everything their beautiful eyes could behold.

We sat for an hour or two, fascinated by the scene. As the rancher got up to leave, we asked to speak to him. That's how we learned this interesting story:

A few years earlier, he and a friend had been working in the area on a construction project and had frequently eaten at the McDonald's.

To pass the time, they started taking a chess set to play. The Indian youths began gathering to watch, then wanted to learn to play.

To teach them, the two started a chess club of sorts.

On certain Sunday afternoons, a group would gather at the restaurant, order something to eat or drink, then sit at the outdoor tables to play chess.

The man took several older chess sets in brown paper bags, and the youngsters knew it was OK to pick up a bag, pull out the set and play.

The youngest ones stood nearby and learned by observing.

Tuba City had little to offer young folks as they graduated from high school. I imagine that many hopes and dreams were somewhat stifled by the lack of opportunities in the area.

Yet because of the caring of these men, we learned, students in the high school placed first or second each year in the state chess tournament. Large signs indicating as much hung from buildings in the town.

I'm sure these men never imagined that sharing their talents would yield such an outcome.

The man at McDonald's the day we ate there had continued to show up on designated Sundays, taking his used chess sets and providing encouragement and hope to many children.

The young people, in turn, no doubt gained self-esteem, confidence and the ability to think in a way they might not have known possible.

A random act of talent-sharing can open up possibilities and provide a hand up to someone in need of encouragement.

George M. Meyer, 80, of Columbus hopes the youths are still playing chess and teaching the younger kids to dream big.

ACTIVIST

FROM PAGE D1

homosexuality.

He's 86.
Organizers of the festival — the theme is "Freedom" — wanted to honor Starr for his activism against the U.S. military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

Until recently, the Upper Arlington resident never discussed his war experience, either.

His story:

Trying to fit in

In 1951, Starr read a newly published, progressive book called *The Homosexual in America: A Subjective Approach*.

The 28-year-old loved his college girlfriend but couldn't bring himself toward physical intimacy or marriage after years of dating. A psychologist helped him acknowledge the reason, persuading him to stop dismissing his feelings for men.

At the time, gay life was so underground that Starr thought he needed the book to understand who he was — and that there were others like him.

He told no one of his self-discovery.

Since graduating from Ohio University in 1946, Starr had gained prominence in Columbus through a successful real-estate career. And he would later provide leadership to the Columbus Board of Realtors and Columbus Jaycees.

"I wanted people to think of me as the president of my company and my church," he said. "I didn't want to be different. . . . I didn't want to be a second-class citizen."

Meanwhile, Starr began living with interior designer Allan Wingfield, whom he met in 1954 at a bar near Ohio State University.

Some of their gay friends and colleagues in denial had married women; the couple continued a relationship until Wingfield's death in 2007.

Still, many considered the two "roommates," not partners. In the early '90s, even Starr's two brothers were surprised to learn of their younger sibling's sexual orientation.

During the past decade, Starr has gradually opened up to others. Still, some friends who implicitly knew were never told so, said Loann Crane, a friend for more than 50 years.

"I never knew whether he'd come out with it or not," Crane, 84, said this week. "There are just some things you don't discuss."

Feeling like a failure

Starr still wakes up at 3 a.m. some days thinking about what he couldn't tell his colonel in the spring of 1945.

The Army second lieutenant had recently been released from an officers' prison camp in Poland, where he had tried to keep warm during subzero temperatures with his daily ration of turnip soup.

During the Battle of the Bulge the previous December, Starr had been captured in Belgium after a multiday mission with another soldier. At one point, as he tried to deliver a message across enemy lines, he escaped



Billy Halford of Columbus riding a float in last year's parade

Pride particulars

The Columbus Pride Festival continues today at Goodale Park in Victorian Village. Because of construction downtown, the festival was relocated from Bicentennial Park and no longer coincides with Comfest.

With the extra space, entertainment acts have been expanded to two stages. R&B singer Kat DeLuna is the headliner, and central Ohio groups such as the Columbus Gay Men's Chorus will also perform. The weekend schedule:

TODAY

- **Festival:** 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Goodale Park
- **Pride rally:** 11:30 a.m., Ohio Statehouse lawn
- **Pride parade step-off:** 1 p.m., Statehouse (heading north on High Street, then west on Buttles Avenue to Goodale Park)

SUNDAY

- **Pride brunch (\$35):** 11 a.m., Westin Columbus
 - **Bat-N-Rouge softball game:** 2 p.m., Columbus Africentric Early College
- For more information, visit www.columbuspride.org.

"I wanted people to think of me as the president of my company and my church. I didn't want to be different. . . . I didn't want to be a second-class citizen."

RUPERT "TWINK" STARR

grand marshal, Columbus Pride Festival parade

bullets. The next time, though, he faced surrender or death.

He was then caught in the midst of air raids — surrounded by fires and destruction — during a weeklong march to the prison camp. An eight-day journey on the floor of a crowded boxcar followed.

By the end of the war, almost 700 men in his 106th Infantry Division had been killed and 1,200 wounded.

The colonel wanted the story of Starr's survival, but it was too painful to recount.

"We just got captured," was all he could say.

He believes that he failed the colonel.

Starr had joined the ROTC in 1940, hoping to be a part of a war that seemed an adventure. He thought he'd see the world described in the history lessons his mother taught him at Mount Sterling High School.

Upon his return to the United States, though, he was among the veterans who barely mentioned the war. To him, military service felt unremarkable; his POW experience, disappointing.

"I thought my duty was to fight," he said, "not be captured."

Gaining perspective

Five decades later, Starr found renewed purpose in his story.

Wanting to meet new

people, he joined the gay-and-lesbian Log Cabin Republicans club in 2001.

Soon enough, though, he found himself at political events discussing the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which allows service members to be discharged based on homosexuality.

So opposed to the policy was Starr that, upon meeting documentary producer Patrick Sammon at a dinner in 2004, he obliged a request to become a sort of national spokesman for Log Cabin by appearing in an article and a video about his experiences.

Since then, *Courage Under Fire* has been featured at the organization's national convention and in meetings with elected officials. It remains posted on the national Web sites for Log Cabin and its nonprofit arm, the Liberty Education Forum.

"His story was unique," said Sammon, who was president of Log Cabin until earlier this year. "It certainly illustrates the sacrifices that gay and lesbian service members have made not only today but in the history of our country."

In the video, Starr argues against the policy ("It's important to shoot straight, not be straight," he likes to say) and cries, as he always does when discussing the war.

Sammon recognized his reluctance to share the story but sensed a greater purpose

at hand.

Starr's friend Crane agrees. "Like the rest of us, he's beginning to feel quite mortal," she said. "I'm sure he's not just (speaking out) for himself, but for a lot of other people."

Finding courage

An American flag and a gay-pride flag will accompany Starr today on the parade route from the Ohio Statehouse to Goodale Park.

The Columbus Pride Festival, like dozens of others this month in cities throughout the country, commemorates the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall riots in New York — protests considered to have started the gay-rights movement.

For Starr, this year also marks the 65th anniversary of his captivity.

Since the war, he has traveled to 148 countries, all seven continents, all 50 U.S. states and all of Canada except the Northwest Territories.

As of this week, he can check off one more destination from the list: Poznan, Poland.

Starr returned yesterday from a trip with two relatives in which he revisited the area surrounding his former prison camp.

Though still disturbed by the horrors of war, he believes he gained strength by living through them.

"To be able to say, 'I made it; I'm a man' — that gave me courage," he said. "That courage evolved into me living my life the way I was born and facing my sexuality."

"I felt if I could do it in battle, I could do it in my private life."

asaunders@dispatch.com

THEATER REVIEW | I'LL TAKE ROMANCE**Twist invigorates old-school story**

By Michael Grossberg
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Love, greed and the mysteries of attraction are the human constants that make romantic comedy one of the most reliable genres.

Evolution Theatre's *I'll Take Romance* updates a few conventions of the genre to affirm its charms.

New York playwright Edwin Sanchez sets his amusing and touching play, which opened Thursday in the Columbus Performing Arts Center, amid the social whirl of gay New York — where same-sex marriage has become not just a possibility but also a status symbol.

Yet the old-fashioned roots of Sanchez's gold-digger plot can't be disguised. The ghosts of several classics of the genre seem to smile down on the derivative play, most obviously *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* but also *How To Marry a Millionaire* and *The Philadelphia Story*.

Whatever inspired Sanchez, a playwright better known for darker plays, it worked: His brisk two-act brims with pleasing romance and comedy.

Directors Paul Lockwood and Mark Phillips Schwambacher reinforce the smart dialogue with a well-chosen cast, a fluid stage design and a snappy pace that isn't afraid to slow down for honest sentiment.

Aside from a few dialogue stumbles during a

recent preview performance, the 10 actors seemed smooth and well-knit.

As Angel, the handsome go-go boy who employs all of his considerable assets to marry a millionaire, Cole Simon manages to make the superficial and materialistic character somewhat sympathetic.

Corbin Jones, as Angel's best friend, Dee, and Tim Dougherty, as the super-rich George, deliver the least-stereotyped performances; their sensitivity and humanity are apparent.

A consistent scene-stealer, Raymond Caldwell is hilarious as ChiChi, George's friend and long-suffering assistant. ChiChi takes a rather dim and weary view of Angel's gold digging, and Caldwell milks many of the best lines of Sanchez's dialogue as quotable put-downs.

Although suggested for adults because of sexual situations, partial nudity and brief profanity, *Romance* ultimately offers a sweet affirmation of family values and the benefits of embracing true love, no matter the cost.

mgrossberg@dispatch.com

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The Columbus Dispatch

TELEVISION**Divorce rumors dogging 'Jon & Kate'**

McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Is it kaput for Jon and Kate?

Late Wednesday, TLC began airing a promotion for Monday's edition of *Jon & Kate Plus 8*, and as promos

go, this one is ominous: Recently, Kate Gosselin explains, she and her husband,

Jon, have made "some life-changing decisions that will affect every member of our family."

Well? A new puppy or, as *Us* magazine — which has aggressively covered their bad marriage, extramarital dalliances and fights — wondered: "Are Jon and Kate Gosselin announcing a divorce?"

Radar Online, in fact, reported Thursday that the

answer is yes: "Kate recently met with a divorce lawyer (and) that the couple had previously agreed to separate by July 15." The Web site said that divorce papers

will be filed next week.

TLC isn't commenting on what the news will be from the parents of 8-year-old twins and 5-year-old sextuplets.

DAILY SUDOKU | DIFFICULTY: 3 OF 5

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