



News & Nuts from The Loco Club

APRIL 1, 2011

Twain Estate Benefits Lotos

The estate of Mark Twain, one of Lotos' most illustrious early members, has announced that a provision of his will – coming into force exactly 100 years after his death – offers a gift of \$100 million to the Lotos Club, provided that the Club “continues to be a place where a man can smoke a fine cigar in peace.”

Twain's love of cigars was well known during his lifetime. He once remarked, “If I cannot smoke cigars in Heaven, then I shall not go!”

Lotos President Anne Russell, noting the extraordinary generosity of the gift, pointed out that smoking is now banned at New York City clubs. For this reason, the Club is establishing a committee to explore ways to

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Young Leadership Cocktail Party

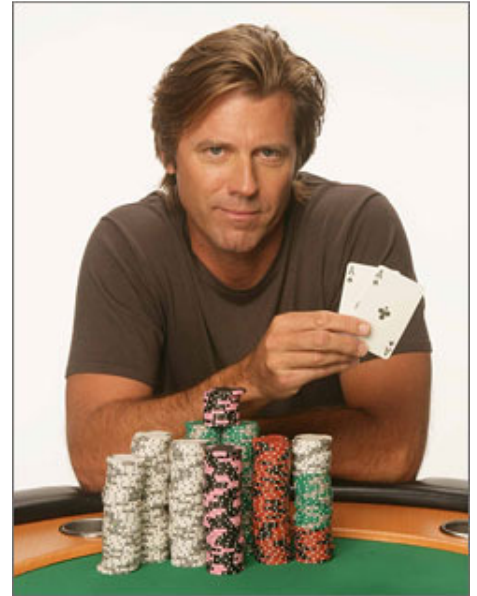
Revisit your youth at the Young Leadership Committee's first annual Beer Pong Evening (6:30 p.m., \$35).

Beer Pong, a perennial favorite among today's college students involves bouncing ping pong balls into oversized plastic cups of beer. The object of the game, of course, is to drink lots of brew. The event has been moved from the Grill Room to the Ballroom so that contestants will not have to worry about bouncing their ping pong balls off the Grill's lower ceiling. Handmade potato chips and Chef Hollanda's famous onion dip will be served. Jell-O

Poker Lessons to Be Offered

Following the success of our current Bridge Lessons, Lotos is pleased to offer Poker Lessons. The eight-week course will cover five-card stud, one-eyed jacks, Texas Hold 'Em and how to tell your spouse about your new hobby. We are pleased to have obtained the services of **Vince Van Patten**, one of Hollywood's leading stars. He is the current host of the nationally televised World Poker Tour, but his work as a poker impresario is only one facet of a remarkably diverse career as an actor, producer, director and world-ranked tennis pro.

Classes will be held in the Grill because Mr. Van Patten is made uncomfortable by all the portraits in the Directors' Room. “I feel like they're all sneaking a look at my



hand,” he explained.

The final session of the class will be a bus trip to Atlantic City.

June State Dinner Will Honor Oprah

Talk show host and media mogul **Oprah Winfrey** will receive the Lotos Medal of Merit at a State Dinner in her honor on Wednesday, June 15 (cocktails, 6:30 p.m., \$140). Reservations will be taken only on receipt of the reply card and members may not invite any guests at all.

Ms. Winfrey will be honored for her ubiquitousness. America's first lady of talk shows will give a short talk on spirit, health, relationships, fashion and beauty, books, food, celebrities, diets and more. Guests will receive a free trip to Australia.

shots and kamikazies will also be offered.

Older members are encouraged to attend and share the drinking games of their younger days. In the spirit of historical accuracy, archivist Nancy Johnson has promised to chair a marathon session of her favorite, “Bizz Buzz.” Game players will sit in a circle and count off numbers, replacing any multiple of three with the word “Bizz,” and any number divisible by five with the word “Buzz.” If a player misses, he or she must take a drink. Johnson reports, however, that she cannot seem to recall how the game ends.

A Note to Members

by Anne Hustle, President

One of the requirements for membership in the Club has always been an affirmative answer to the question, "Is this person interesting?" Once the candidate has been admitted to the Club, however, the only mechanism to assure that he or she remains interesting is a test. Last administered in 1999, the carefully-formulated *Interest Quotient (I.Q.) Examination* will be given to all Club members to determine if they have become uninteresting since joining the Club.

The test will be conducted by a board comprised of the most discerning members of the Committee on Admissions. Members receiving the highest scores will be awarded premium seating at the next State Dinner. **Please call John McGrath for an appointment.** A study guide is available from the Great Thinkers group.

On another note, after a five-year study, the House Committee has resolved to change the Lotos Club dress code. Again.

As of May 1, 2011, the following dress code will be in effect:

Male members may enter the clubhouse without jackets or ties as long as the sun is still shining outside. Once darkness has fallen, jackets are required. In the case of a full moon, ties also must be worn. However, jackets and ties must be worn at all times when discussing poetry, classical music or the virtues of the Tea Party.

Women are left to their own devices; however, jackets and ties are not recommended under any circumstances.

From the Archives

Missing State Dinner Honoree Found

by Jancee Nonsense

Lotos has always taken pride in its long list of State Dinner honorees, but new evidence indicates that a name has been excised from the list, the result of a cover-up orchestrated by the Club's first historian, John Elderkin.

The missing honoree, whose State Dinner was on April 1, 1881, is **William H. Bonney**, better known as



"Billy the Kid"

"Billy the Kid." Bonney traded his bandana for a string tie for the evening (see photo) and checked his revolver at the door.

In a letter recently bought on e-Bay by Club member **Michael MacPhee**, Elderkin explains: "We had a taste for the exotic in those days. We had already honored an African explorer and a South Pacific king, who arrived wearing a loin cloth. We just couldn't resist the opportunity to meet an authentic western outlaw."

The Club later thought better of the invitation, and struck The Kid's name from its list of honorees. "It seemed the prudent thing to do," Elderkin explained, "especially when we realized that, at the time of his dinner, he was on the lam after being sentenced to hang."

At its meeting in late May, the Directory will consider restoring The Kid's name to the Club's list of honorees, reasoning that perhaps it will make Lotos seem more exciting.

Reminder

The Lotos Clubhouse will be closed during August so that it may be rented out for the filming of Dan Brown's latest novel, *The Directory*, which exposes the ancient rites, hidden rituals, bizarre dress codes and secret handshakes of New York Clubs.

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News & Nuts

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Special Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 8, 2011
Seatings: 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Has it been a while since you spoke to your mother?
 Do family dinners always disintegrate into arguments?
 Do your children have no respect for you?



Bring the family to the Program Committee's
 Special Mother's Day Brunch with special guest **Dr. Phil**.
 Dr. Phil McGraw, the television celebrity and self-promotion mogul,
 will go from table to table, encouraging attendees to "Get Real."
 Each family will receive an autographed copy of
 Dr. Phil's *Family First Workbook*.

(\$80 per person; includes copious amounts of wine)
Reservations are not necessary.

Lotosland to Be Replaced

The Art Committee reports that *Lotosland*, the large painting that has hung behind the Grill Room bar as long as anyone can remember, will be replaced. In a stroke of unexpected luck, a private collector has offered the Club an outrageous sum for the work, which depicts naked Lotos members frolicking in a semi-realistic Central Park.

"We cannot pass up the opportunity to unload this painting," said Art

Committee Chair Jim Freeman. "It has been an unsettling image for us all to contemplate each time we visit the Grill," Freeman continued, "I've told John McGrath that if he wants more members to use the Grill bar, we would need to ditch this unseemly painting."

The painting will be replaced by a 60-inch flat screen high definition television.



Lotosland

New Talk Tables

You Think You're Sick Table. **Dr. Max Payne** will moderate this new group, which will gather to share details of their many and varied ailments. The group will meet in the Tennyson Room over tea and toast. Be sure to bring your pills.

Lotos Singles Table. Did you join Lotos thinking you would meet Mr. Right? Were you hoping the woman of your dreams would just walk into the Grill Room? Wait no more! Join this lively discussion group to see who is really out there.

Member Classification Loophole Table. Lotos members who have saved huge sums in dues and other fees by convincing the Membership Committee to change their status from resident to nonresident, professional artist or academic, share their secrets with other wishing to do the same.

Tennyson Expert to Give Lecture

During a Literary Lecture on Tuesday, May 17, **Beverley Boggy Heath**, a renowned Tennyson scholar, will consider the question: "What does it actually mean to *seem always afternoon*?" (6:30 p.m., sherry; 7 p.m., lecture; \$35).

This talk should be of particular interest to Lotos members as it addresses the Club's motto, which is taken from Alfred Lord Tennyson's "The Lotos Eaters:" *In the afternoon they came unto a land/In which it seemed always afternoon.*

Dr. Heath will consider the two primary interpretations of these lines: that afternoon is nap time and therefore the lines convey the idea of rest; or that it actually makes no sense at all and that whoever picked it for the Club motto must have been a Lotos Eater himself.

Club Seeks New Art Work

Acknowledging the requests by a growing number of members, Lotos has decided to add several male nude paintings to the walls of the Grill room, currently adorned with five female nudes. President Russell has asked the Art Committee to recommend three or four new paintings that would capture the spirit of the room, and complement the statuesque beauties that have been part of the Grill Room for decades.

Explaining the thinking behind the move, one member said, "It seemed unfair to those of us who think the male body is also a work of art."

The mandate to the Art Committee includes the requirement that any portrait be in keeping with the style and elegance of those that are currently on display. "We want to be sure that nothing that is hung is offensive to our members or their guests," said one member of the Art Committee.

The Club will offer Life Membership to any male Lotosian who volunteers to pose for a nude portrait that is eventually selected by the Committee. Volunteers may submit their names to the Club Office.

Reserve Places Now for a Really Special Special Event

The Special Events Committee has announced its latest offering: "An Evening of Excess," featuring **Charlie Sheen** and **Lindsay Lohan**. The evening, set for Saturday, July 16, will begin at 6:30 p.m. on the Lower East Side, where guests will be offered the opportunity to sample a 7-gram rock of crack, specially prepared by Mr. Sheen. At 7:30, the group will travel by private coach to Saks Fifth Avenue, where Ms. Lohan will give a lesson in the art of shoplifting.

Twain Estate

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approach the Mayor's office to obtain an exemption for the Club. The Club will also seek legal advice on whether, if an exemption is made, women will be allowed to smoke cigars without violating the condition of Mr. Twain's bequest.

"If Mayor Bloomberg does grant us an exemption," President Russell offered, "I can say with almost complete certainty that we will be lighting up at the State Dinner in his honor!"

Bad News from Great Thinkers

Dr. **William A. Johnson** has resigned as moderator of the Lotos Great Thinkers seminar to take on the more lucrative position of moderator of the Great Thinkers Seminar at the Aspen Institute. The Lotos group has voted unanimously to change its name to **Good Thinkers**. "Without Bill, it will be difficult, but we will continue to strive for greatness," said a teary-eyed group member.

Dr. Johnson could not be reached for comment, but sources in the Club office report that he will be replaced by **Tony Pepaj** from the Front Desk.

Next, Ms. Lohan and Mr. Sheen will escort guests back to the Club, where they will knock back shots. Doritos will be served. (\$110; members may invite only one guest initially).

Please note that the Committee has decided to poll the membership to determine if one-year privileges should be granted to these Special Event guests. **Please call the Club office to register your vote.**

Lotos Adds New City Affiliate

The Reciprocal Clubs Committee is proud to announce a new downtown New York City affiliation. Effective immediately, privileges have been extended to the Bialy Baths and Boxing Gym. The Bialy Baths, open 24/7, is well known around town for its Russian Kitchen (rating pending) and its mixed doubles burly elder boxing championships.

To celebrate their association with The Lotos Club, Bialy members, known affectionately as Bialy Bears, have raised \$250,000 to construct an outdoor boxing ring on the roof of our landmark building at 5 East 66th Street. Past President of The Lotos Club Irv Jacobs has called Maxim "the Beluga" Mischbalonikov, who spearheaded the fundraiser from his "office" in the upstate Preakness Hills Facility, "our newest honorary club angel."

Lotos Club Champs **Mark Lampl** and **Michael Yon** have been sweating and sparring in preparation for their rooftop ring match with Bialy Club champs, Viktor and Vlad. The match, scheduled for May 17, promises to be a real barn-burner. After the brawl, members of both clubs are invited to celebrate under the new Stolichnaya rooftop umbrellas with borscht and bagel canapés and iced vodka chasers. All Lotos attendees will receive a coupon for a complimentary Shvitz at the Bialy Baths' historic downtown spa (gentlemen only, please).

Please note that, in addition to the ever-popular umbrellas, tie clips and tumblers, the Lotos House Committee has added royal blue satin Lotos Boxing Shorts to the list of items now available at the front desk.