

DEAD OR ALIVE?

‘Sopranos’ boss should tell all – and stop messing with us.

THE WATCHER, TV PAGE

HOW FABULOUS?

Chris Jones reviews Black Ensemble’s ‘Those Sensuous Seductive ’70s’

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ORNAMENTAL ORTHODOXY

Believers and non-believers alike put faith in religious jewelry.

WOMANNEWS, PAGE 5

*This is a story about **me**. Well, not about **me** exactly. It's more about a bunch of people who go around claiming to be **me**.*

*This is a story, in other words, about the handful of men across the country who share the name **Howard Witt**.*



Photo for the Tribune by Anthony Robert La Penna

Howard Witt the businessman (from left), Howard Witt the writer, and Howard Witt the actor, at a peculiar gathering in Chicago.

What's in a name?

By Howard Witt | Tribune senior correspondent

HOUSTON — As best I can tell, there currently are about **59 Americans, out of a population of more than 300 million**, whose parents decided, out of the infinite universe of possible name combinations, to call us Howard Witt.

Sadly, **40 others of us are dead**, according to the Social Security Death Index, which tracks Americans who have died since 1962. How many other Howard Witts once lived and died before that is, I'm afraid, a question lost to the ages.

It's a little daunting, being possessed of a **rare name**. Not as rare, of course, as, say, Arnold Schwarzenegger, or Oprah Winfrey. But still, if you've met a Howard Witt in your life, you tend to remember him. Unlike all those "James Smiths" or "John Johnsons" strewn across the country, we can't get lost in the anonymity of names shared by hundreds of thousands of others.

Truth be told, it's not always fun having this name. **"Howard" is pretty nerdy** in the first place, and "Witt" lends itself to all kinds of juvenile taunts: "Hey, what's your middle name? Half? Ha ha!"

Howard Witt of Middletown, N.Y., tells of children rhyming his name with a certain four-letter word for excrement when he was growing up — a searing experience many of us can recall.

Despite such handicaps, I can tell you that **some of us have**

done very well over the years. Before he retired to a luxurious Streeterville condo, Howard Witt in Chicago was the chairman and CEO of Littelfuse Inc., a successful electronics company. Howard Witt in Maryland owns a 39-foot yacht.

Sadly, others of us have run into financial troubles: The IRS slapped liens against two of us for unpaid taxes, and five of us have filed for bankruptcy at some point in our lives.

Nevertheless, we've got some nice rides — three of us have owned Cadillacs over the years and one has got a Mercedes — and collectively we've registered six SUVs and three mini-vans. But two of us, I'm embarrassed to say, appear to be tooling around in some rust buckets — an '86 LeBaron and an '83 New Yorker. I hope we've been

PLEASE SEE **WITT**, PAGE 10

Probing the heart of tragedy

Director discusses movie about reporter Pearl's slaying

By Mark Caro
Tribune entertainment reporter

The director: Michael Winterbottom.

One-sentence bio: extremely prolific, creatively restless 46-year-old British director who prefers working — quickly and with maximum spontaneity — in as many genres as possible.

Resume: contemporary, documentary-style political examinations ("Welcome to Sarajevo," 1997; "In This World," 2002; "The Road to Guantanamo," 2006); Thomas Hardy period adaptations ("Jude," 1996; "The Claim," 2000); lively rock 'n' roll biography ("24-Hour Party People," 2002); graphic sex exploration ("9 Songs"); cheeky post-modern comedy ("Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story," 2005); science-fiction mystery love story ("Code 46"); working-class London drama ("Wonderland") and more.

The new release: "A Mighty Heart," starring Angelina Jolie as Mariane Pearl, the wife of kidnapped and slain Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl. It opens Friday.

The interview: Last Thursday, lunch at the



Four Seasons.

What Winterbottom ate and drank: Oh, come on. You don't really care.

How his hair was: OK, I'll tell you. Close-cropped. Bit of salt mixed in with the pepper.

His smile: Twinkling, squinting, touch of mischief.

How he talks: Quickly, words trying to keep up with fast mind. Enunciation not a strength.

What "A Mighty Heart" isn't: The story of Daniel Pearl.

What "A Mighty Heart" is: The story of Mariane Pearl — her reaction to the news of her husband's kidnapping in Karachi, Pakistan, and her attempts to be the strong facilitator as U.S. and Pakistani investigators work to discover Daniel Pearl's whereabouts.

What "A Mighty Heart" is based on: Mariane Pearl's memoir (with co-author Sarah Crichton) of the same name. ("Not only does Mariane come out of it as a strong person in terms of what she does as a character within the book, but also I thought she wrote the book really well," Winterbottom says. "I just thought she did a really good job telling the story.")

Something about Daniel Pearl that was in last year's HBO documentary "The Journalist and the Jihad" but not in the new movie: His love of music and enthusiasm for playing his violin with musicians of various cultures.



Angelina Jolie portrays Mariane Pearl, the wife of kidnapped and slain reporter Daniel Pearl.

Why such details aren't in "A Mighty Heart": "It's not the kind of picture where you're just giving information for the sake of it," Winterbottom says. "It has to connect to the central parts of the story. To be honest, the central thing in the story is Mariane. It's Mariane's experience, Mariane's response."

Disclosure about this writer's connection to Daniel Pearl: We worked together briefly at the alternative weekly The Boston Phoenix in the late 1980s and kept in touch for a bit afterward, before he joined the Wall Street Journal. The Phoenix's Web site wound up linking to the

PLEASE SEE **'HEART'**, PAGE 11

CELEBRITY MAGAZINES

We read them so you don't have to!

McConaughey's pecs; Aniston's new boyfriend

By Lucinda Hahn
Special to the Tribune

PEOPLE: If you read the celebrity magazines long enough, you start to wonder whether Matthew McConaughey ever puts on a shirt. This week his gleaming pecs appear on People's cover — he's "baring all," it says, for the magazine's "Hottest Bachelors" issue.

The issue is packed full of hot guys with hot bods — and shirts. So what's with Matthew? Maybe he:

- Thinks that wearing a shirt means conforming to oppressive societal norms, and he's so not about that.

- Is trying to get an endorsement deal with Nair.

- Knows he can't steal Reese Witherspoon from Jake Gyllenhaal with his acting prowess alone.

- Gets paid to go shirtless by the Malibu Beach Beautification Committee.



US WEEKLY: What do you get when your new boyfriend is a model? No model boyfriend, if you're Jennifer Aniston, and maybe even a "sleazy" (though charming) "fame seeker." That's how pals and co-workers described Aniston's latest Mr. Wrong, Brit construction worker turned model Paul Sculfor.

Us' article on the pair (Page 62) follows a June 10 article in the British tab News of the World that painted him as a limelight-loving "coke-head" and "serial womanizer."

In Hollywood?

If Aniston pulls the plug on this one, it might be because he reminds her too much of Brad Pitt. "She sees the similarities. ... He's good looking and a little too into himself," says a source. "She has been down this road before."

NATIONAL ENQUIRER: Everyone in Hollywood knows it's the nannies who hold all the secrets. The Enquirer claims it has a source inside the nannies tending the Pitt and Angelina Jolie brood — and the "insider" reveals that (a) Jolie complains all the time, (b) Pitt tries to please her all the time, and (c) the kids have no friends.

The insider also revealed the behind-the-scenes drama of Maddox's 4th birthday ("Angelina's Nanny Tells All," Page 34):

"They did a decoy party at the house with balloons and the kids of the security guards. Meanwhile, Brad and Angelina and a nanny and Maddox went up to Santa Barbara. It was terribly sad. Maddox would have been far happier playing with the security guards' kids than riding his mini-ATV on the sand."

IN TOUCH: Jolie, who delivered her daughter Shiloh by Caesarean, had to learn how to give birth for the labor scene in "A Mighty Heart," her new movie about slain reporter Daniel Pearl and his wife, Mariane Pearl. So they called in the "experts": director Michael Winterbottom and other men on the set who had watched their wives give birth (Page 39). "I had to scream at the top of my lungs," Jolie says, "and all these men were screaming, showing me how to do it." ctc-tempo@tribune.com

High 5

Steve Johnson's fast takes on Web news
SEE MORE IN HYPertext, PAGE 2

1 Some Swedes are saying a new Internet service there that lets you find out what your neighbors earn goes too far. Other Swedes are saying they're shocked that ABBA is still pulling in that much.

2 Russian computers that control the International Space Station's oxygen and water supplies failed last week. The first mistake was naming them "Hal."

3 Apple tells potential iPhone buyers they'll need an iTunes account to make the device work. But that's OK. Once they convert all their money to 'Apple Scrip,' they'll never have to worry about being outside of the Apple ecosystem again.

4 Trying to fight what it says are misconceptions about its food, McDonald's invites moms behind the scenes to blog about what they see and will post their observations beginning Wednesday. So log on to McDonalds.com then and hear the true story from Marissa McCheese, Ronald McDonald and the woman who still rules the day her son was nicknamed "Hamburglar."

5 The rapid growth in online retailing is finally slowing down. It has reached a point where pretty much everybody who has bought something online has now had to try to return something online.



