Chicago Tribune

SECTION

WEDNESDAY

JUNE 20, 2007

C CN CS N NNW NRW NS NW S SSW W

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'

PAGE 3



ORNAMENTAL ORTHODOXY

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

WOMANNEWS, PAGE 5

CELEBRITY MAGAZINES

We read them so you don't have to!

McConaughey's

pecs; Aniston's

new boyfriend

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? • Thinks that wearing a shirt means conforming to oppressive societal norms, and he's so not

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

Us' article on the pair (Page 62) follows a June 10 article in the British tab News of the World

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

"They did a decoy party at the house with bal-

loons 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 play-

ing with the security guards' kids than riding his

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."

that painted him as a limelight-loving "coke-

By Lucinda Hahn Special to the Tribune

about that.

Nair.

Reese

alone.

Committee.

• Is trying to get an endorsement deal with

• Knows he can't steal Reese Witherspoon

from Jake Gyllenhaal with his acting prowess

 Gets paid to go shirtless by the Malibu Beach Beautification

model Paul Sculfor.

In Hollywood?

head" and "serial womanizer.'

Nanny Tells All," Page 34):

mini-ATV on the sand."

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.



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

OUSTON — 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

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 vou'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

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!"

shared by hundreds of thousands of others.

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**

Streeterville condo, Howard Witt in Chicago was the chairman and CEO of Littelfuse Inc., a successful electronics company. Howard Witt in Marvland owns a 39-foot vacht.

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

before that is, I'm afraid, a question lost to the ages. **done very well over the years.** Before he retired to a luxurious

ctc-tempo@tribune.com

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

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

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

• 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.

Trying to fight what it says are misconcep-**T**tions about its food, McDonald's invites moms behind the scenes to blog about what they see and will post their observations beginning Wednes-



day. So log on to McDonalds.com then and hear the true story from Marissa McCheese, Ronalda McDonald and the woman who still rues the day her son was nicknamed "Hamburglar."

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.

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.



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 postmodern 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. Closecropped. Bit of salt mixed in with the pepper. His smile: Twinkling, squinting, touch of mis-

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 Dan-

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 iob telling the story."

Something about Daniel Pearl that was in last year's HBO documentary "The Journalist and the Jihadi" 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

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RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER [PG] 1200 1230 230 300 500 530 730 800

► HOSTEL 2 [R] 1155AM

KNOCKED UP [R] 100

405 710 1015 MR. BROOKS [R] 115

DEER PARK

◆ FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER [PG] 1200 1230 130 230 300 400 500 530 630 730 800 900 1000 1030

◆ NANCY DREW [PG] 1145AM 215 445 715 945

◆ **HOSTEL 2** [R] 1225 305

KNOCKED UP [R] 105 405

MR. BROOKS [R] 1130AM 220 505 745 1025

EVANSTON

CinéArts

◆ LA VIE EN ROSE [PG13] 1050AM 1235 150 335 450 635 755 935

ONCE [R] 1230 255 515 730 945

FANTASTIC 4 [PG]

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• FANTASTIC FOUR:

Matinees daily

♦ OCEAN'S THIRTEEN
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CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S

END [PG13] 200 545 715 93 SHREK THE THIRD [PG] 1215 245 510 745 1005

SPIDER-MAN 3 [PG13] 1250 355

◆ SURF'S UP [PG] 1205 220 440 705 925

Corner of Rand & Long Grove Ro (847) 438-9000 or Exp Code #98

OCEAN'S THIRTEEN

[PG13] 1205 100 150 250 35 440 540 640 735 835 935

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SPIDER-MAN 3 [PG13] 930PM

◆ SURF'S UP [PG] 1135AM 1235 145 245 355 500 615 720 830

Corner of Church & Maple (847) 492-0123 or Exp Code #942

◆ PAPRIKA [R] 1200 220 440 705 930

PARIS JE T'AIME [R] 1050am 140 425 715 1005

THE WAITRESS [PG13] 1135AM 225 500 735 1010

◆ OCEAN'S 13 [PG13] 1100AM 1220 150 320 455 620 745 915 1040

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

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SHREK THE THIRD [PG] 1045AM 1255 315 535 800

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MR. BROOKS [R] 1045AM

135 425 750 1040

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CARIBBEAN 3 [PG13]

◆ SURF'S UP [PG]

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SPIDER-MAN 3

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FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (PG)

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PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG-13)

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◆ **HOSTEL 2** [R] 1245 025AM 1150AM 120 250 415 550 720 850 1025

1020 • SURF'S UP [PG] 1015AM 1225 235 445 710 920

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PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG-13) 12:15 (4:00) 8:00

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PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT World's End (PG-13)

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WITT:

4 Howards once called Chicago home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

changing the oil regularly. Professionally, Howard Witt in West Virginia is a licensed

master plumber and electrician, while another Howard Witt in Chicago — not to be confused with Howard Witt the revealed enough personal infor-long ago, attended by me, myself CEO — used to be a cosmetologist, although we let our license lapse back in the '90s. Another Howard Witt in Chicago (not the CEO and not the former hairdresser) is a famous character actor who has starred at the Goodman Theater and on

Then there's Howard Witt the journalist — that would be me - who used to live in Chicago as well, meaning that at one time Chicago had the most Howard Witts — four — of any city on Earth.

Yet for all those successes, we've also had some brushes with the law, mostly for speeding and disregarding stop signs. But one of us did draw a year of probation for shoplifting, while another of us was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Eye-opening experience

Howard Witts come in all shapes and sizes. Most of us are Christian, and some of us are Catholic; a few are Jewish. There are white Howard Witts and black Howard Witts. We are registered as Democrats, Republicans and Independents. We are spread across 26 states.

Six Howard Witts liked our name so much that we named our sons Howard Witt Jr. In Virginia, the entire population of four Howard Witts is made up of two pairs of Howard Witt Junior and Senior.

So how do I know all of this about myself and my alter-egos? The Internet. Just a few hours spent searching dozens of publicly available electronic databases — such as Nexis.com, the PACER database of federal vehicle registration records —



Photo for the Tribune by Anthony Robert La Penna Dark blazers, khaki pants and red neckties were de rigueur for the Howard Witts' night on the town.

mation about each Howard Witt that, if I wanted to go out and steal my own identity, I probably could.

Of course, that would be a little like dying and being reincarnated as yourself, which would be kind of a bummer. But you get the idea — if Howard Witt is not safe from Internet snoopers, then who among us is?

My cyber-sleuthing experience was eye-opening, and a bit chilling. For nearly every How ard Witt. I found home addresses, phone numbers, birthdates and political affiliations. I found out how much we weigh, how tall we are, when we were born and the color of our skin. I found out the kinds of cars we drive and the value of the houses we own. I found out how many times we've been arrested and sued.

Things got even eerier when I started interviewing some of the other Howard Witts.

Howard Witt in Middletown, for example, drives the same make and model car as I do — a Nissan Quest minivan. His favorite color, like mine, is blue. We both were born in 1960.

Or how about this: Howard Witt the retired Chicago CEO, Howard Witt the Broadway actor and I all have a connection to Vincent Van Gogh's famous 'Sunflower" painting.

Howard Witt the CEO has a reproduction hanging in the foyer of his condo. Howard Witt the actor gave a copy of the painting to his sister as a gift. My parents had a version hanging in our front hallway when I was growing up.

when I was visiting Chicago not Houston.

and I. Or, if you're trying to keep the box score, the attendees down.)

Just to keep things interestnese food a lot.

Meeting on Broadway

Actually, I had met Howard Witt the actor in 1999, when he was starring on Broadway alongside Brian Dennehy in "Death of a Salesman," in the role of Charley, for which he was nominated for a Tony Award. After the play, I chased behind him as he exited the stage door.

"Oh, so you're Howard Witt!" he said after I caught up with him and introduced myself. "I've been getting bills with your name on them for years!"

Howard Witt the actor also got bills from the Room & Board furniture store in downtown Chicago for Howard Witt the CEO, which is how the two of

got crossed with mine. Yes, that's right — I bought furniture from Room & Board as well. (Cue "Twilight Zone" theme

hwitt@tribune.com

This last fact I know because I wrote this story — is a Tribune court lawsuits and state motor arranged a Howard Witt meetup senior correspondent based in

were the journalist, the businessman and the actor. (I had hoped to include the cosmetologist, but I couldn't track him

ing, we all agreed to wear dark blazers, khaki pants and red neckties. We started out at Howard Witt the CEO's building, where the doorman did a triple take. Then we repaired to a nearby Chinese restaurant. It turns out that we all like Chi-

them first met. At least their accounts never

music here.)

Howard Witt — the one who

Cunningham highlights Dance Center season

By Sid Smith

Tribune arts critic

Dance Company will return to the Harris Theater this fall as

clude "eyeSpace," a 2006 work

by Robert Rauschenberg), "CRWDSPCR," "Fabrications" The Merce Cunningham and "MinEvent" also are on the two varying programs.

The Cunningham engagepart of the Dance Center of Coment is part of a season otherlumbia College's 2007-08 season. wise focusing on work by wom-The Cunningham lineup Oct. en. The season includes the 12 and 13 at the Harris will in- Margaret Jenkins Dance Com- Dance Center home at 1306 S. 27-29 Zenhyr Dance pany Sept. that involves audience mem- and the work of Michelle Kranbers using iPods to shuffle their icke Oct. 25-27, Susan Marshall own versions of Mikel Rouse's & Company Feb. 7-9, Margi Cole

score. "Crisis" (with costumes and her Dance COLEctive Feb. 21-23, Urban Bush Women/ Compagnie JANT-BI March 6-8, Mordine & Company Dance Theater March 13-15 and the Chicago debut of Armitage Gone! Dance, the troupe of socalled "punk ballerina" Karole Armitage, April 17-19, all at the

Tickets go on sale July 5. For more information: 312-344-6600. sismith@tribune.com

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TALES FROM THE FRONT BY CHERYL LAVIN

Going from sex objects to romantic partners

o one is going to say that the ideal way to begin a loving, lasting relationship is with a booty call. But is it even possible?

That was the question posed by He's Got My Number. She wanted more from him but didn't know how to ask for it. I told her to be honest with him: "Call him and say, 'Let's see a movie or have dinner this week.' If he says, 'No, but I'd still like to come over,' tell him you're no longer interested in being his booty call and if that's all that he wants, 'See ya,

He's Got My Number writes back to say, "I know that's good advice, but I have a problem making the first move. I was always told that if a guy was interested, he'd initiate the contact. And much of the appeal of dating is being the pursued and not the pursuer.

"Besides, I almost get the feeling that when he drops off the face of the Earth for periods of time, he's seeing someone else or at least attempting to. Then, when that doesn't work out, he wants to see me again.

"I don't want a 24/7 relationship. But I do want to be more than just sex to the man I'm sleeping with, to know that he cares about me, to feel I'm someone he might want to end up with."

Here's what you had to

Shannon: "My fiance and I were on booty call terms for nearly a year before we began dating. We were young and in college, and each wanted time to explore life without the weight of a serious relationship. But I have to say, we could have made the leap much sooner! Each of us was afraid that the other didn't want to take the next step. If we had shared our true feelings months earlier, we could have saved ourselves a lot of heartache. The wedding is next September. We went from making the call to booking the

J.D.: "In the '70s, I was a disc jockey. One day, a woman with an extremely sexy voice called and requested a song. She called several more times, and we began to chat. I invited her to the station. We met, and the booty calls began. They went both ways. We were both married, but the trysts continued, and over time, we became good friends.

"We both got divorced, and I moved out of town in pursuit of my growing career, but we continued to phone each other and correspond. When I'd return home, we'd meet and continue our bootying as if nothing had changed. The last time was in the '90s. To this day, we're the closest of friends..."

Ryan: "I was a booty call for a woman. Then it became a relationship, and then it converted into heartache. After 14 years, I am still trying to figure it out."

Hank: "I'm amazed that some people don't know the rules of the booty call. Here they are: (1.) Daylight is never involved. (2.) Once the sex is over, everybody goes home. Nobody spends the night. Nobody gets breakfast. (3.) Conversation is limited. You're there to have sex, not discuss your cat/job/ day/mother. (4.) Nobody meets friends. (5.) Nobody meets family. (6.) There are never dates. Not even in an emergency, such as a family wedding when you have to bring someone. (7.) You don't tell your friends much, if anything, about the arrangement. (8.) If either party wants more, it's over.

"The last rule is the most important. The reasons someone gets relegated to booty call status are pretty straightforward: One party is not interested in dating, or one party is married or involved, or while the sex is fantastic, there's not much else in common...

Is there such a thing as a celibate affair? Send your tale, along with your relationship questions and problems to cheryllavin@aol.com or Cheryl Lavin, Tales from the Front, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. Please include day and evening phone numbers. Letters may be used in whole or in part and become the property of the column. Read "Tales From the Front" every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday in Tempo.