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## Steep, stir and stare at Mr. Big

February 9, 2008

Feel the need to see a star this morning? Drop whatever you are doing between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. today and head to Windsor to see actor **Chris Noth** -- best known as Mr. Big from "Sex in the City" -- at the Once Upon a Tea Cup tea room at 3335 Banwell.

Noth helped finance the venture for Windsor's **Tara Wilson**, his actress-girlfriend and the mother of their first child, son **Orion Christopher**, born last month.

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The room bills itself as "a child-friendly cafe where little ones can join in with their teas and play dress-up from our closet."

Noth and Wilson are doing a segment for "Entertainment Tonight Canada."

### Anchorwoman ailing

**Allison Payne**, 43, University of Detroit Mercy grad and Chicago Superstation WGN-TV anchor for almost 18 years, has been sidelined for several weeks after her numbed right hand and arm led to the discovery that she had earlier suffered a series of ministrokes. **Robert Feder** of the Chicago Sun-Times broke the story. Unable to type and showing some problems speaking, Payne said it could take four months to completely heal. Sitting in the anchor seat until Payne returns:

former WJBK-TV (Channel 2) reporter **Micah Materre**.

### Visa comes too late

British drug-troubled singer **Amy Winehouse's** U.S. visa was granted, after all, Friday, but it came too late to allow her to travel to Sunday's Grammys in Los Angeles. A satellite performance and satellite acceptance of any awards holds.

### McCain hits sour notes

It may be "Our Country," but it's **John Mellencamp's** song. So after Mellencamp publicist **Bob Merlis** found out that tune and "Pink Houses" were being played at events for Republican **John McCain's** presidential campaign, he wrote McCain the tunes came from a liberal who had supported Democrat **John Edwards**. McCain has lopped the tunes.

### Comics artist protests

When you look in your Free Press Sunday comics, know that "Candorville" by **Darrin Bell** is a protest. He and at least nine black and minority comics artists are drawing the same comic Sunday in their own styles to protest the notion that their comics are interchangeable.

They feel lumped into a limited category as "black strips" -- even though each of these comics has its own voice, content and nonracial category (family strip, kid strip, friends strip, political strip, etc.).

We tell you this because the other African-American comics artists the Free Press carries -- **Robb**

### BRIEFLY

**On sale:** At 5 p.m. Feb. 15, tickets for **Kanye West's** "Glow in the Dark Tour" with **Rihanna**, **N.E.R.D.** and **Lupe Fiasco** at the Palace May 22. Showtime and prices to come.

**Saying good-bye:** To Hollywood (in his song) and New York's Shea Stadium (literally), **Billy Joel**. The Piano Man will perform at the Flushing Meadows stadium's final music concert July 16.

**Smacked down:** Pro wrestling on the CW network. The long-running "Friday Night Smackdown" won't be airing on the CW this fall; they could end up on USA, which carries "WWE Raw," or

MyNetworkTV.

**Honored:** Author **Terry McMillan**, 56, with a lifetime achievement award from Essence magazine for her novels about the everyday struggles of modern American black women.

**Airing:** At 7 tonight on WDIV-TV Local 4, another edition of "Emery King Presents World Class Detroiters," profiling General Motors executive **Ed Welburn** and Wayne State professor and composer **James Hartway**.

**Reported:** By various sources, that actress **Kirsten Dunst** has checked herself into Cirque Lodge Treatment Center in Utah. Dunst, 25, allegedly displayed possibly boozy behavior at the recent Sundance Film Festival.

**Featured:** Singer, personal trainer and adoption advocate **Lori Adams** on **Jack Krasula's** "Anything Is Possible" at 5:05 p.m. Sunday on WJR-AM (760, [wjr.com](http://wjr.com) and [www.anythingispossible.biz](http://www.anythingispossible.biz)).

### Charlize Theron gets into the spirit of Harvard Hasty Pudding hijinks

Before **Charlize Theron** could pick up her Harvard Hasty Pudding Theatricals Woman of the Year award, she had to prove she was worthy.

That meant dancing to disco music, striking modeling poses, wearing a fake nose and wooing someone wearing an elephant suit and a pink sparkly bra -- all to delight of the cast members of the nation's oldest

**Armstrong** of "Jump Start" and **Nate Creekmore** of "Maintaining" -- aren't participating in the protest.

(Several other unnamed black and white cartoonists were interested but their Feb. 10 comic deadlines had passed when they learned about the action, organizers said.)

## COMMENTS

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undergraduate drama troupe. Theron's efforts landed her a gold-colored pudding pot.

"I hope you all know I'm a high-school dropout. I just thought I'd be clean with you guys," Theron said .

Actor **Christopher Walken** is to receive the Hasty Pudding Man of the Year Award on Feb. 15 before the opening night performance of "Fable Attraction."

The awards are given each year to performers who have made a "lasting and impressive contribution" to the world of entertainment.

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