

ARTS NOTES

Author discusses 'Dumbest' book

What: Mark Baurlein, professor of English at Emory University, will speak about his new book, "The Dumbest Generation," an examination of the intellectual life of young people and a timely warning of its consequences for American culture and democracy.

When: 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 5.

Where: Science Center Kennedy Auditorium at Hamilton College.

Cost: Free.

Band rises above disabilities

What: A performance by the band Flame, comprised of 11 individuals with developmental or physical disabilities, including autism, Down syndrome and blindness. Band members sing, dance and play guitar, bass, drums and percussion.

When: 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6.

Where: Herkimer County Community College's Sarkus-Busch Theater.

Cost: Free.

Contact: 866-0300, ext.

8286, or www.flametheband.com.

Center seeks ghouls, goblins

What: Rome Art and Community Center is seeking "ghouls and goblins" to volunteer for its annual Halloween House Festival.

When: Fridays and Saturdays, Oct. 9 and 10, and Oct. 16 and 17.

Where: Rome Art and Community Center, 308 W. Bloomfield St., Rome.

Contact: 336-1040; www.romeart.org.

Basic pottery class begins Monday

What: A pottery class for new students and for students with basic potting skills, teens to adults. Beginning techniques will be taught during the six-week session. Students will learn to create functional wheel-thrown pottery and hand-built pieces.

When: 6 to 9 p.m. Mondays, Oct. 5 to Nov. 9.

Where: Arts Center/Old Forge.

Cost: \$120/\$100 members.

Contact: 369-6411.

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Cassandra Baber's Arts Notes column appears Wednesdays and Sundays in The Observer-Dispatch and Thursdays in Fusion. You can reach her at 792-5013 or e-mail her at cbaber@uticaod.com. Items must be submitted at least two Sundays prior to publication.



Cassandra Baber

WALL STREET JOURNAL BEST SELLERS

FICTION

1. "The Lost Symbol" by Dan Brown (Doubleday)
2. "The Last Song" by Nicholas Sparks (Grand Central Publishing)
3. "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett (Putnam/Amy Einhorn)
4. "South of Broad" by Pat Conroy (Nan A. Talese)
5. "Catching Fire" by Suzanne Collins (Scholastic Press)
6. "Alex Cross's Trial" by James Patterson, Richard DiLallo (Little, Brown)
7. "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins (Scholastic Press)
8. "Spartan Gold" by Clive Cussler, Grant Blackwood (Putnam Adult)
9. "Breaking Dawn" by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown for Young Readers)
10. "The White Queen" by Philippa Gregory (Touchstone)
11. "Dead and Gone" by Charlaine Harris (Ace)
12. "Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Last Straw" by Jeff Kinney (Amulet Books)
13. "The Magician's Elephant" by Kate DiCamillo (Candlewick)
14. "The Girl Who Played With Fire" by Stieg Larsson (Knopf)
15. "The Last Olympian" by Rick Riordan (Disney Hyperion Books for Children)

NONFICTION

1. "True Compass: A Memoir" by Edward M. Kennedy (Twelve)
2. "What Happy Working Mothers Know: How New Findings in Positive Psychology Can Lead to a Healthy and Happy Work/Life Balance" by Cathy L. Greenberg, Barrett S. Avigdor (Wiley)
3. "Where Men Win Glory:

- The Odyssey of Pat Tillman" by Jon Krakauer (Doubleday)
4. "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" by Julia Child, Louisette Bertholle, Simone Beck, and Sidonie Coryn (Alfred A. Knopf)
5. "Official Book Club Selection: A Memoir According to Kathy Griffin" by Kathy Griffin (Ballantine Books)
6. "StrengthsFinder 2.0: A New and Upgraded Edition of the Online Test from Gallup's Now, Discover Your Strengths" by Tom Rath (Gallup Press)
7. "Outliers: The Story of Success" by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown and Company)
8. "Culture of Corruption: Obama and His Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks, and Cronies" by Michelle Malkin (Regnery Publishing)
9. "Liberty and Tyranny: A Conservative Manifesto" by Mark R. Levin (Threshold Editions)
10. "In the President's Secret Service: Behind the Scenes with Agents in the Line of Fire and the Presidents They Protect" by Ronald Kessler (Crown)
11. "Fierce Leadership: A Bold Alternative to the Worst 'Best' Practices of Business Today" by Susan Scott (Broadway Business)
12. "The Last Lecture" by Randy Pausch with Jeffrey Zaslow (Hyperion)
13. "A Bold Fresh Piece of Humanity" by Bill O'Reilly (Broadway)
14. "Shooting Stars" by LeBron James and Buzz Bissinger (Penguin Press)
15. "Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man: What Men Really Think About Love, Relationships, Intimacy, and Commitment" by Steve Harvey (Amistad)

— Wall Street Journal

'Prospect Park West' is fun escapism

By ALICIA RANCILIO
The Associated Press

"Prospect Park West" is fun escapism at its best — like reading a gossip column or tabloid magazine.

Amy Sohn's new novel follows four thirtysomething moms whose paths intersect in Brooklyn's yuppie, fashionable Park Slope neighborhood. Readers find out what happens behind closed doors — and the revelation is quite a soap opera.

Rebecca, unfulfilled in marriage and motherhood, is looking for a lover. Lizzie is a former lesbian who is now in an interracial marriage. She lusts after Rebecca. Karen is a social climber obsessed with buying a co-op apartment and determined to get her over-protected toddler son into a good public school. Narcissistic Melora is an Oscar-

winning actress with a pill habit.

While it's fun to see the ladies meet up in various ways, the way in which that occurs can be really over the top. Karen is obsessed with Melora and her seemingly perfect life. What happens next could be the plot for a TV movie.

"Prospect Park West" is filled with celebrity name-dropping: Melora gets into a fight with Kate Hudson at a movie premiere afterparty and Lucy Liu breaks it up. Melora sees Maggie Gyllenhaal at the local food co-op. And so on.

There are also a number of subplots and short chapters written about minor characters that will remind readers of the beginning of each episode of television's "Desperate Housewives." These snippets, however, only slow the plot.

ADVICE

Couple trading affronts put their marriage on the line

Dear Abby: Several months ago, I made a terrible mistake and e-mailed "Tom" — a friend I had a crush on — topless pictures of myself. Tom rejected me because he is happily married. I am married, too, and when my husband, "Jake," discovered the pictures on our computer and realized what I had done, we discussed it and agreed to put them aside and never talk about them again.

Because Tom and I are friends and he was doing some repair work on our home, I have spoken to him on my cell phone numerous times. When Jake saw the phone records and realized I was still talking to Tom, he posted my pictures on an Internet porn site for all the world to see and blamed Tom so I wouldn't speak to him anymore.

Abby, Jake never told me I couldn't speak to Tom. That he made me believe that Tom was the

bad guy is upsetting, even though I was wrong in the first place for sending my pictures to him.

Do two wrongs make a right? I'm so upset by what Jake did that I don't want him to touch me. In fact, I want a divorce. I don't know what to do. Please help me. — Linda in Texas

Dear Linda: Your husband was willing to forgive and forget the fact you were trying to start an affair by sending the photos to Tom. When you "discussed it and agreed never to talk about them again," he took for granted that you would end the "friendship." And you should have. Your actions weren't platonic and were a threat to your own marriage. When your husband realized that the flirtation was ongoing, he punished you in a cruel way.

Two wrongs do not make a right. And my advice to you and Jake is to sit down with a marriage counselor,

figure out where your relationship went off track and decide, calmly, whether your marriage is worth saving.

Dear Abby: My son, "Jeremy," age 25, married his high school sweetheart a little more than a year ago. They live about 4½ hours away.

When Jeremy was growing up, he and I were very close. Since his marriage, I have tried not to call as often as I did when he was single. I do call, but now I limit it to once every few weeks, although he rarely answers his phone. I wanted to let him call at his convenience.

He has told me that e-mail is the best way to reach him. The problem is, he doesn't respond to my e-mails, doesn't answer my calls and rarely phones me to see how our family is doing.

I was recently ill and Jeremy didn't even call to

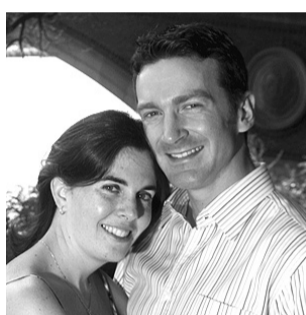
see how I was. I'm hurt, and part of me wants to tell him so. I'm afraid if I do I'll alienate him, but I feel he's already alienated. What should I do?

This is really starting to bother me. My son doesn't call his younger brother either (his best man) like before. Should we just back off and leave Jeremy alone? — In a Spot in Virginia

Dear in a Spot: Your son's life has changed and he has new responsibilities since his marriage, but that's no excuse for him not to answer calls and e-mails from you — especially if they are as few and far between as you have described. His behavior is extremely rude, and one can only hope it isn't because his bride has taken over and rules the roost. You deserve some answers, so by all means clear the air.

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Write Dear Abby at www.Dear-Abby.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS



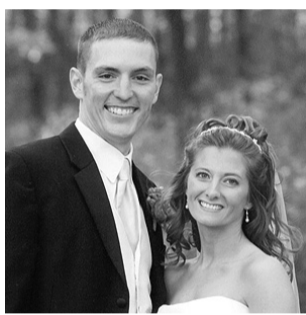
Nawoj-Farrell

A November 21, 2009 wedding is planned for Elizabeth Anne Farrell and Alan John Nawoj. The future bride is the daughter of Paul & Trudy Farrell of Long Beach, CA. She is the granddaughter of the late Wes & Vonnie Farrell and the late Raymond & Grace Johnston. The future groom is the son of Dennis & Lorraine Nawoj of Marcy. He is the grandson of Jeanette Nawoj of Utica and the late John Nawoj and the late John & Mary Simard. Elizabeth is a graduate of Long Beach Polytechnic HS, received a Bachelor of Science in Biological Anthropology & Anatomy and in Psychology from Duke University and her Medical Doctorate from Georgetown University School of Medicine. She is a Doctor at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, MA. Alan is a graduate of Whitesboro HS, received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Cornell University and a Master of Science in Computer Science from Harvard University. He is a software architect and technology consultant at Deloitte Consulting in Boston, MA.



Kress-50th

Suzanne and Patrick Kress of Chadwicks marked their 50th wedding anniversary with their family on October 3, 2009. Mr. Patrick Kress and the former Suzanne Darling were married on October 3, 1957. They have two children: William & Robin Kress of Chadwicks and Deb & Mark Smith of Sauquoit. They have six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Mr. Kress is retired from the Carpenters Local #120 of Utica. Mrs. Kress is retired from Williams Tool in Chadwicks.



Callahan-Blanchfield

Lindsey Rae Blanchfield and William Robert Callahan were united in marriage by Friar Lawrence Ford, on October 18, 2008. The 2 pm ceremony took place at St. Pius X Church in Loudonville, NY followed by a reception at The Franklin Plaza in Troy. The bride is the daughter of Raymond & Brenda Blanchfield of Latham, NY. The groom is the son of Robert & Paula Callahan of Whitesboro. Maid of honor was Lauren Beaver and best man was Dino Cencetti. Bridesmaids were Melissa Combs, Kate Hanauer and Kimberly Ciccotelli. Groomsmen were Kevin Barry, Jr., Joseph Lane and Michael Nashold. Lindsey is a graduate of Union College with a BA in English. She is a communications specialist at Healthfirst, Inc. William is a graduate of Whitesboro HS and Clarkson University with a BS in Interdisciplinary Engineering & Management. He is a specialty pharmaceutical representative for Pfizer, Inc. The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and currently reside in Manhattan.



Metz-Holt

Ronald and Patricia Holt of New Hartford announce the engagement of their daughter Courtney Holt to Dale Metz, son Judith Metz and the late William Metz of Ilion. Dale is a graduate of Ilion High School and currently works for the ARC Oneida-Lewis in Utica as a shipping and receiving clerk. Courtney is a graduate of New Hartford High School and SUNYIT with a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology. Courtney currently works for Beacon Center in Herkimer as a chemical dependencies counselor. The couple resides in Whitesboro and plans to marry in New Hartford on October 31, 2009.

DeLore-Gregory

Traci Gasstrom Gregory & Mark DeLore were united in marriage by the Rev. Dick Tulip on August 1, 2009 in an outdoor ceremony at their home. The couple were attended by their children Kimberly, Kevin, Katherine, and Kyle. The bride is the daughter of Glen & Linda Gasstrom of Ilion and is a staff writer at The Mohawk Valley Business Journal in Utica. The groom, son of Karen Adams of Dickson, TN and the late Edward DeLore, is the systems administrator at Hummel's Office Plus in Mohawk. The couple reside in Ilion.



Tinker-Lucia

After nine years, an August 14, 2010 wedding is planned by high-school sweethearts Carrie Ann Lucia and Russell Joseph Tinker. The future bride is the daughter of Ralph and Fran Lucia of Cassville. She is the granddaughter of Frank and the late Lorraine Giacobelli and Edna and the late Gerald Lucia. The future groom is the son of Joseph and Lauren Tinker of Clayville. He is the grandson of the late Maurice and Nita Tinker and the late Angelo "Chops" and Clara Burline. The future bride, a Math/Edu. graduate from Utica College is pursuing a Master's Degree at UC, where she is also employed and working with the Young Scholars Program. The future groom, a Business Economics graduate from SUNY Oneonta is currently employed at Express Systems Integration Networks in New Hartford.



Chapman-Christian

An October 24, 2009 wedding is planned for Elizabeth N. Christian and Robert J. Chapman. The future bride is the daughter of David and Neva Christian of Lafayette, IN. She is the granddaughter of Waller and Judy Christian of Fulton, MO and Ronald and Joyce Kamper of Montgomery City, MO. The future groom is the son of Paul and Deborah Chapman of Marcy. He is the grandson of John and Gene Chapman of New Hartford and Dolores and James Rasmussen of Clinton. Elizabeth attended Purdue University on an academic scholarship and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Robert is a graduate of Purdue University with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering Tech. Rob is employed by Con-tech CPI as their Mfg. Engineer-Production Manager for the Duro-Maxx product in Kingman, AZ. The couple will reside in Laughlin, NV.



Thomas-50th

Nathaniel and Annie Thomas of Whitesboro, NY marked their 50th wedding anniversary July 18th, 2009 at Harts Hill Inn. Nathaniel Thomas and the former Annie Mitchell were married on February 18, 1959 by the Rev. James Griffin Sr. in Utica. They have two children, four grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren. Nathaniel is retired from Remington Arms and Annie is a retired owner of Anne's Beauty Box in Utica.

Alzheimer-40th

John and Nancy (Kinney) Alzheimer marked their 40th anniversary on 8/9/09 with a party & trip to Las Vegas. They have two children and three grandchildren.