



POLITICS AS THEATER



Tribune photo by John Lee

After a day at the Iowa State Fair, Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean (left) jams with Michael "Hawkeye" Herman.

CRITICAL EYE

Vaudeville and blues

Dean and his Dem rivals rehearse all over Iowa

By Michael Phillips
Tribune theater critic

DES MOINES — "Put your hands together for a man who's been traveling like a bluesman all over the country. Governor Dean!"

Wooooo-hooooo!

Over by the bar, near the TV transmitting CNN coverage of the power blackout, it wasn't easy to spot Vermont's former head of state. Yet a gaggle of humid, fervid Howard Dean supporters and a few actual customers got into the spirit of this good-timey photo opportuni-

ty and woo-hoo'd anyway.

Then the compactly built Dean — looking like a lost member of the Kingston Trio, down to the blue pinstriped shirt — took the stage and strapped on an acoustic guitar. He took it, though not in a stand-back-world, get-off-of-my-runway way.

There's a certain shyness to Dean, but it's constantly at war with his impatience. If there's one thing Dean has to watch as an orator, it's this: Even his good speeches carry an undercurrent of *how many times do I have to explain this to you people?* That's a long way from George Bush's *have I completed my sentence yet?* mastery of the issues, but still, it's a concern.

Democrats may as well play the blues literally, since they're playing them metaphorical-

ly. Just when warm water starts lapping at the ankles of the president in the form of questions about waging war on Iraq, along comes a California gubernatorial recall circus led by Arnold, the Circus Strongman. Then comes a blackout.

Hello? Iowa calling — is anyone there?

While the Republicans got on with their merry coup out West, one Democrat in particular got on with his mojo in Iowa. Dean has enjoyed a media blitz this month topped by simultaneous Time and Newsweek covers. He is August's political Mr. Man. Or was, at least, until an ex-bodybuilder went on Leno and made his little joke about getting a bikini wax.

As a recently deposed Mr. Man, if you're go-

PLEASE SEE IOWA, PAGE 5

RECALL OF '03

Comedian first, candidate later, insists Gallagher

By Allan Johnson
Tribune staff reporter

You normally wouldn't find a story here about Chicago visits from food-splashing prop comic Gallagher. In a 1994 Tribune review of his act, the comedian is characterized as a purveyor of "mindless humor." Since little has changed, there isn't need to comment further.

That you are reading about the comic is proof of how far-reaching and insidious California's current mess of a gubernatorial campaign really is.

Gallagher is among more than 130 candidates vying to become governor of the state in a recall vote of Democratic Gov. Gray Davis. The race is as sloppy as the floor of Skyline Stage at Navy Pier was Friday night at the end of Gallagher's routine.

"I'm a comedian first and a candidate later ... so stop yelling stuff about 'governor,'" Gallagher said after spending more than 15 minutes peppering the crowd with candy, carrots and grapes, most delivered via whacks from a

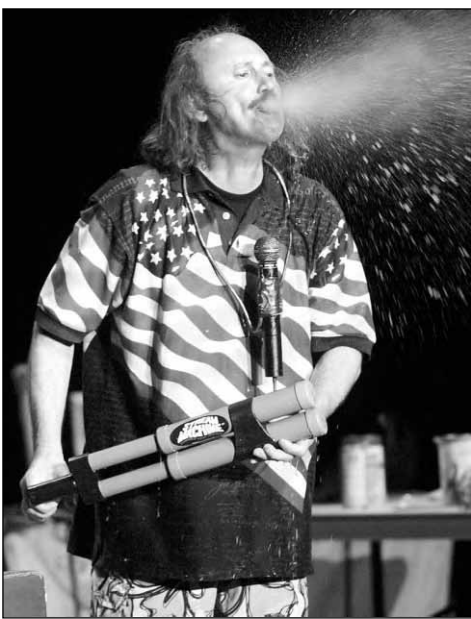


Photo for the Tribune by Peter Thompson

Gallagher's messy act leaves the stage in a shambles not unlike California politics.

tennis racket.

Pundits are saying that unlike actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, many of the oddities running as California gubernatorial candidates, like Gallagher, former "Diff'rent Strokes" actor Gary Coleman and porn star

PLEASE SEE GALLAGHER, PAGE 6

RECALL OF '21

Vote-'em-out fever started in N. Dakota

By Charles Leroux
Tribune senior correspondent

The gubernatorial recall now under way in the balmy home of nuts and sprouts is recalling another recall, this one far away in a state of cold and wheat.

"Until the California recall hit the papers," said Lloyd Omdahl, professor emeritus in political science from North Dakota University at Grand Forks, "most people here never heard about our own recall. After all, it was a long time ago."

In 1921, North Dakotans not only threw out the governor but also the attorney general and the agricultural commissioner — a triple play. For 82 years, until California's recent frenzy, North Dakota's was America's only recall attempt that came to a ballot. For now, it's still the only recall attempt that came to a conclusion.

There are similarities. Both rose from perilous economies; both were spearheaded by very angry Republicans; both had hints of sex.

There are differences. In North Dakota, the law demanded 30 percent of voters from

PLEASE SEE DAKOTA, PAGE 6

Military, media meet off battlefield to debate war coverage

By John Cook
Tribune staff reporter

Journalists who covered the war in Iraq and the generals who prosecuted it met in suburban Chicago last week in an unusual, informal gathering to debate the successes and failures of the media's reporting on the conflict and how the war changed the relationship between reporters and the military.

The discussion — which was organized by the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation and held Thursday and Friday at Cantigny Park in

Wheaton — revealed deep divisions among journalists over whether the coverage of the war was slanted in this country to promote the U.S. military's objectives, and whether the images broadcast from the combat zone to American homes were, in the words of one participant, "sanitized" to avoid confronting viewers with the realities of war.

All parties were in agreement on one point: The Pentagon's decision to "embed" reporters with combat units represents, for better or for worse, a sea change in combat reporting.

"Having gone this far," said Janet Leissner, vice

president and Washington bureau chief of CBS News, "I don't think coverage will ever revert to the way it was before."

Among those present at the conference were more than 40 reporters, media executives and military officials, including correspondent Walt Rodgers and anchor Lou Dobbs of CNN and correspondents John Donvan and John McWethy of ABC. Representatives of the military included Brig. Gen. Richard Natonski, commanding general of the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade in

PLEASE SEE MEDIA, PAGE 4

ASK
AMYAdvice for the real world
By Amy Dickinson

Trust boyfriend to help you with troubled past

Dear Amy: I need some advice. I was molested a couple of times when I was just a little girl. Now my problem is, how do I tell my boyfriend? We plan on getting married and having children. I'm afraid of telling him because I don't know what his reaction is going to be.

The worst part is I was molested by three family members. Now I'm thinking when we have our children he won't let me bring them to visit my mother or my family.

What should I do? Please help.

—ER

Dear ER: You're worrying about what might happen in the future, when what you really need to do is come to terms with what happened to you in the past, and learn to take care of yourself in the right now.

You need to tell your boyfriend about this because he loves you and he deserves to know about things that hurt you. Wouldn't you want to know about this if it happened to him? He can help you heal, but you're going to need more than that — you should see a professional therapist who has experience dealing with sexual trauma, because people who have been abused often have problems that surface later in life.

A good therapist can help you deal with the abuse and also advise you on the best approach with your family: both the people who did this to you and those who let it happen.

And I am telling you this: You should never, ever leave your children unattended with family members who are capable of abusing them. Even if you have forgiven your family, love them and have moved on with your life, you need to protect your children first, last and always.

Dear Amy: I have been dating my boyfriend, "Craig," for almost two years. We've talked about getting engaged next year after he graduates college, and at times this seems like a dream come true for me. Other times, however, I feel like marriage is the last thing I want. I'm 21 and I've had friends tell me that I "took myself off the market too soon."

I'm in grad school and Craig and I are living in different cities right now, and I can't help wondering if there is a better match for me out there somewhere. Sometimes I miss the dating scene and being single and meeting new guys. But I don't want to lose Craig, either, because I am completely in love and don't want to hurt him.

So now I'm torn between being single and able to enjoy my youth and this amazing relationship I have with my boyfriend. Help!

—Confused about Commitment

Dear Confused: Since I'm one of those people who thinks that being out there dating and meeting new guys is the rough equivalent of having my eyes poked with sharp sticks, I'm thinking that you'd have to be unhappy on a pretty deep level to think you want that.

But that's just me. You're too young to get married. You're not ready to get engaged. You don't seem to really want to spend your life with "Craig," but you want to hedge your bets, to see if somebody better comes along. You both deserve better than to be in a marriage that has such a sandy foundation.

When you find the right guy, you won't wonder if he's right or worry about what you're missing. When you're with the right person, you think you have it all, and you do.

Dear Amy: At age 41, I recently got a tattoo. I love it because the Chinese characters mean faith and fearlessness, two ideas that mean a lot to me. It is in a discreet place and truly cannot be seen. Most of my friends think it is great and understand the meaning the tattoo has for me — even those who said they would never get a tattoo themselves. But two of my friends were so disapproving that they bordered on offending me and continue to ask me what is next, as if I am going to run off and join the circus.

At first I laughed it off, but they won't let up. I am not a judgmental person and would like to believe that if one of my friends got her nose pierced I would say, great, if that's what made them happy. How do I let them know to stop, without sounding angry, because I think I am starting to become just that.

—Faith and Fearlessness

Dear Faith: Well, no one tests our faith and fearlessness more than our friends do. Tell them you think they've crossed the line and that they're being mean. Then make a joke of it, OK? Tell them that because they've been such jerks, you're not going to give them a ride on your Harley.

Ask Amy appears Mondays through Fridays in Tempo, Saturdays in the Weekend section and Sundays in Q. Readers may send questions via e-mail to askamy@tribune.com or by mail to Ask Amy, Chicago Tribune, TT500, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. Previous Ask Amy columns are available at Amy Dickinson's Web site, chicagotribune.com/amy.

INSIDE TEMPO

AT RANDOM

A first for Bride's

Sept. - Oct. issue takes understated look at same-sex ceremonies. PAGE 2

MEDIA: Debating the military

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Iraq, and Bryan Whitman, deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs.

The McCormick Tribune Foundation — established in 1955 after the death of longtime

Tribune publisher and editor Col. Robert R. McCormick — has sponsored the Cantigny Military and Media conference every other year since 1992 in an attempt to foster cooperation and temper the traditionally hostile relationship between the Pentagon and the reporters who cover it.

Whitman summed up that relationship, and garnered laughs from the assembled reporters, by quoting Gen. William T. Sherman's remark upon hearing that the Confederate Army had

shot two reporters: "Great. Now we'll have news from hell by noon."

This year's conference was a particularly fertile ground for discussion, occurring as it did on the heels of the first war in history to be broadcast live into American living rooms. The conference consisted of panel discussions followed by smaller group discussions. The foundation allowed media access to the conference only on the condition that the identity of any speaker other than the panelists

be withheld.

Many journalists present expressed concern that by embedding reporters with military units, the Pentagon was able to ensure that coverage of the war favored the American perspective.

"The embedded process proved to be more beneficial to the government than to the media," said George Wilson, defense correspondent for the National Journal and longtime military reporter for The Washington Post, who traveled with an artillery unit in Iraq. "The rah-rah coverage of the units we were embedded with eclipsed a lot of larger questions."

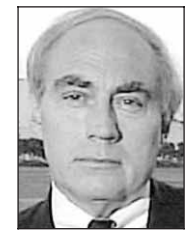
That coverage, several journalists said, was a function of the camaraderie that emerged between military units and the reporters covering them. It became complicated, some said, to report uncompromisingly on the actions of your unit.

"Once you bond with these guys, once reporters have come to like these guys, they're not going to report how horrible anybody can be in war," said one broadcast network correspondent who covered the war as a "unilateral," or unembedded reporter.

"How they were laughing as they shot people." Others faulted the program because it succeeded in keeping journalists "on the dog- sled," as one participant put it, and away from places the Pentagon didn't want them to be.

"[Not being embedded] gave me the flexibility to do my job, a flexibility the embedded reporters didn't have," said Jonathan Landay, national security correspondent for Knight Ridder Newspapers. "Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told the American people that what happened in northern Iraq after the war was a little 'untidiness.' What I saw, and what I reported, was a tsunami of murder, looting, arson and ethnic cleansing."

The military officials present considered the embedding process for the most part to be a success, which made many reporters uneasy.



Walter Rodgers

sonally that the vice president did not want it to happen. [Former Assistant Defense Secretary for Public Affairs] Tori Clarke and Rumsfeld pushed it through over the objections of their superiors."

"The decision was made by Secretary Rumsfeld, in conjunction with his senior staff and military advisers," said Jeanie Mammo, a White House spokeswoman who, when contacted later by phone, declined to comment further.

Furthering Pentagon's goals

The military officials present were candid that the embedding program was developed as a way to further the Pentagon's military goals in conducting the war.

"Information was going to play a major role in combat operations," said Whitman. "We wanted to take the offensive to achieve information dominance and to counter Iraqi lies." Whitman also said military planners were aware that "robust" coverage of ground operations could have a positive effect on domestic and international support for the war.

"We brought the military service members into the homes of Americans, and they became spokespersons for the U.S. military," said Col. Rick Thomas, chief of public affairs for the 3rd U.S. Army. "Every aunt and uncle in America had a niece or nephew that looked just like that person on TV."

Rodgers, citing a recent article in Foreign Affairs by Joseph Nye, dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, described the Pentagon's use of the press in Iraq as "the weaponization of reporters."

At the same time, military officials were highly critical of the practice of allowing unilateral reporters to wander combat zones at will. (Some reporters objected to the term; "so-called unilaterals used to be called reporters," said one.)

"We did have a problem with unilaterals," said Brig. Gen. E.J. Sinclair, who served as assistant division commander for the army's 101st Airborne Division in Iraq. Sinclair said his soldiers "shot up" a white pickup truck driven by a German reporter, because they couldn't distinguish it from hostile forces.

"The unilaterals, sometimes, I felt were leeches," said a Marine commander. "They'd roll up and take [food] and water and run off."

"The president of the United States thought embedding was, quote, a crazy idea, end quote," Rodgers said. "And I know per-

whereas embedded reporters were bound by ground rules that prevented them from reporting certain information that could jeopardize military objectives, unilaterals were free to report what they saw. Combined with their freedom to move around and talk to various forces in the field, that made some military commanders uneasy.

"A unilateral could roam from division to division," said one Army public affairs officer, "and get a better perspective than an embed" on what exactly was going to happen next, perhaps putting troops in danger if they report it.

Frequent rescues

The military commanders also complained that, without the protection of U.S. forces, unilaterals frequently needed to be rescued from dangerous situations, which put American service members at risk.

Many reporters expressed dismay that disturbing images of war — "dead kids," as one put it — did not make it onto the air in America, and they almost universally praised the work of Al Jazeera, which, along with much of the international press, regularly aired gruesome images from the battlefield. "If we show any U.S. casualties," said a broadcast network correspondent, "the Pentagon goes berserk, because that kind of thing about the families first. But if we had shown them, it would have had a profound impact on public attitudes toward the war."

"Are you whitewashing what the public sees?" said one television executive. "The answer is yes, you are. We were making unilateral decisions about what and what we wouldn't allow them to see."

Rodgers said CNN management decided to avoid disturbing images because of viewer complaints. "I was doing live shots in front of a burning T-72 [tank]," he said, "and there were bodies hanging off of it. And I was told by management, 'Don't show those dead bodies again. We've had too many viewers calling in and saying we don't want to see any dead bodies.'"

Rodgers said he complied, but he still favors showing the American public the realities of what goes on in a combat zone. "I think people should see that that's not just a dead Iraqi out there," he said. "It's a dead brother, a dead brother, a dead brother."

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RIVER EAST 21. THE MAGDALENE SISTERS (R) 1:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30. FREDDY VS. JASON (R) 1:30, 2:15, 3:00, 4:00, 4:45, 5:30, 6:30, 7:15, 8:00, 9:00, 9:45, 10:30.

FORD CITY 14. SPY KIDS 3-D (PG) 2:15, 4:50, 7:00, 9:00. JOHNNY ENGLISH (PG) 5:15, 8:45. SWIMMING POOL (R) 1:35, 9:00.

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CANTERA 30. FREDDY VS. JASON (R) 1:15, 3:00, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:15. GRIND (PG-13) 1:30, 1:45, 4:15, 4:45, 7:00, 8:00, 10:15.

SOUTH BARRINGTON 30. FREDDY VS. JASON (R) 1:15, 3:00, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:15. GRIND (PG-13) 1:30, 3:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40.

CITY NORTH 14. OPEN RANGE (R) 1:00, 2:15, 4:05, 5:20, 7:10, 8:30, 10:15. UPTOWN GIRLS (PG-13) 1:00, 2:00, 3:20, 4:20, 5:40, 7:05, 8:10, 9:40.

NORTHBROOK 14. FREDDY VS. JASON (R) 1:15, 3:00, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:15. GRIND (PG-13) 1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:55, 10:05.

YORKTOWN 18. FREDDY VS. JASON (R) 1:45, 4:10, 7:05, 9:35. GRIND (PG-13) 2:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:35, 9:55.

ORLAND PARK. Uptown Girls (PG13) 1:15, 4:00, 7:20, 9:20. Open Range (PG13) 1:20, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00.

RANDHURST 16. FREDDY VS. JASON (R) 2:15, 5:00, 7:30, 9:45. GRIND (PG-13) 1:05, 3:15, 5:30, 7:55, 10:05.

YORKTOWN 18. FREDDY VS. JASON (R) 1:45, 4:10, 7:05, 9:35. GRIND (PG-13) 2:00, 2:20, 4:45, 7:35, 9:55.

GURNEE. Freddy Vs. Jason (R) 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:15, 9:45. Freddy Vs. Jason (R) 1:05, 3:30, 5:55, 8:20.

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6341 N. McCormick. FREDDY VS. JASON (R) 1:15, 3:00, 4:00, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:15.

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UPTOWN GIRLS (PG-13) on 2 Screens: (12:40 1:40 3:10 4:05 5:30) 6:20 7:50 9:00 10:10.

AMERICAN WEDDING (R) on 2 Screens: (12:50 1:50 3:20 4:10) 5:50 7:30 9:20 10:00.

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NORTH RIVERSIDE. FREDDY VS. JASON (R) (12:10 2:40 5:10 7:40 10:10).

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RICE LAKE SQUARE. FREDDY VS. JASON (R) (1:00 4:00) 7:00 10:00.

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