



SUSANNA'S NIGHT OUT

Contact **SUSANNA HOMAN** at susannasnightout@yahoo.com.

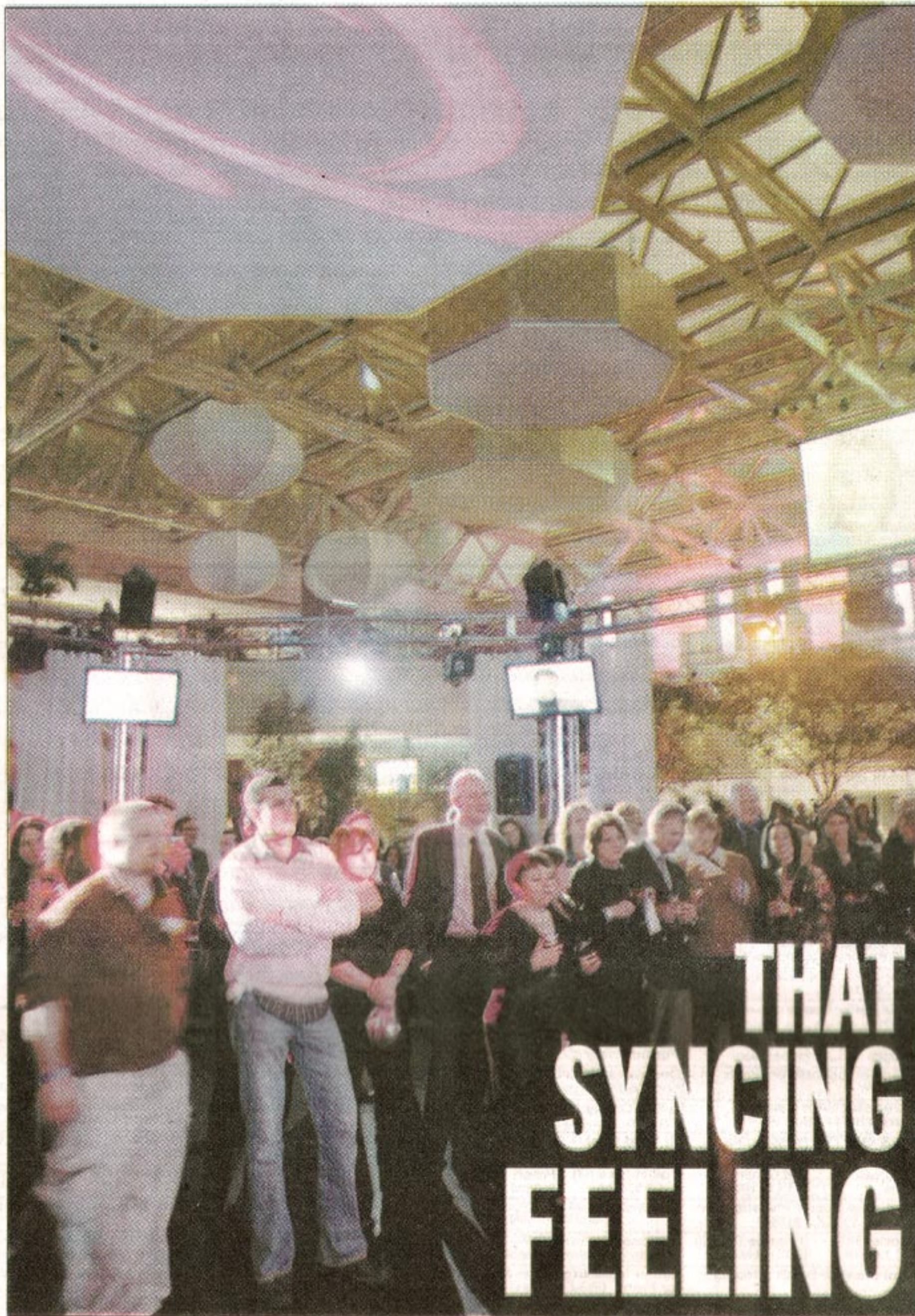
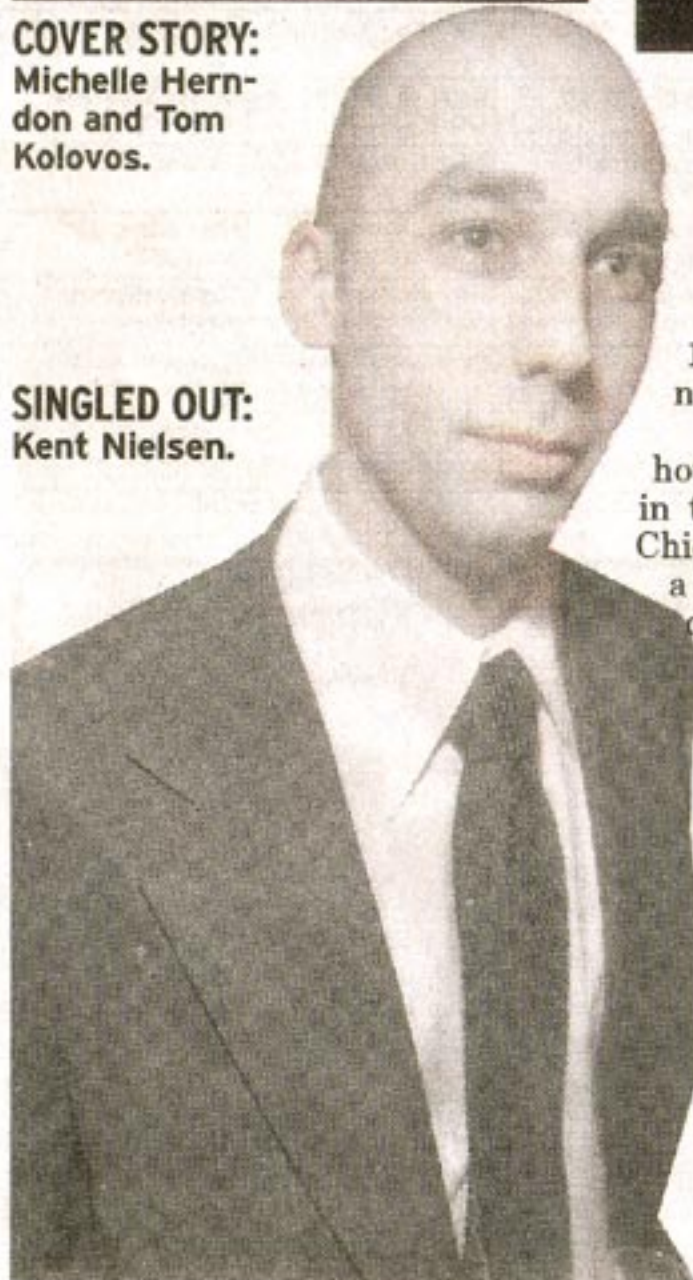


SOCIAL CIRCLE: Jason Erkes and Sherren Leigh, TCW president.



COVER STORY: Michelle Herndon and Tom Kolovos.

SINGLED OUT: Kent Nielsen.



THAT SYNCING FEELING

PHOTOS BY ERIC SAWITOSKI/FOR THE SUN-TIMES

Hundreds of today's Chicago women — and men — attended Sync Up, a swinging singles event at Hard Drive, 151 E. Wacker, last Thursday night.

The party showcased the 50 hottest singles in Chicago, as seen in the February issue of Today's Chicago Woman magazine. It was a fund-raiser for the TCW Foundation, which benefits underfunded local charities that help women and children.

The annual singles issue "blows off the shelves like you wouldn't believe," said TCW Foundation executive director **Ivy Gracie**. "It's the most popular of the year."

Among Chicago's most eligible: Steppenwolf Theatre casting director **Erica Daniels**, Chicago firefighter **Dean Giannasi**, Dita Day Spa owner **Tony Hoti**, 100.3 LOVE-FM promotion man-

PARTY WATCHING

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day Friday night with the Young Irish Fellowship at Forever Green, headlined by Irish rockers Hothouse Flowers. Navy Pier Grand Ballroom, 600 E. Grand, 5-10 p.m., \$30 in advance/\$40 at the door. www.youngirish.com. Call (312) 902-1943.

ager **Mandy Irwin**, Harry Caray's restaurant manager **Jeff Keenan** and fashion designer **Kent Nielsen**. "I came all the way from Indianapolis just to check out the party," said **Stephanie Ahoni**, one of about 500 people who ogled the featured singles. "You never know where you'll meet that person." Some guests were openly hunting for a mate. "I need a husband," said event volunteer **Tanya Cloud**. "Can you put in a plug for me?"

Others were more concerned with appearances; **Mandy Irwin** said she rushed out and bought her black strapless gown at Nordstrom's during her lunch hour.

"If it's the wrong dress, people say, 'I know why she's single,'" she explained.

Guests bid on silent auction packages put together by the singles, and the crowd favorite was from "Jerry Springer Show" director of VIP services **Rhonda Funk**. It included two VIP passes to tapings of the Springer show, "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" and "Late Night With Conan O'Brien," as well as dinner, airfare and hotels. The package went to a high bidder for \$1,100.

In a night celebrating pickup lines, perhaps one of the most creative happened while I was announcing the bachelors. One of them walked up to me onstage and planted a kiss on my lips. He said with a shrug, "Hey, it worked for Adrien Brody."



ON THE PROWL: Tanya Cloud (left) and Stephanie Ahoni.



BIG FUN: Mandy Irwin and US99's Big John Howell.



LOOKING LOVELY: Marci Reaksecker.



LEAN ON ME: Kim Jones (left) and Lindsay Schoenberger.