**Best Bets**

**Latino Fiesta outside**

The city’s growing Hispanic population celebrates Festival Latino-Americano, a free fiesta from 1 to 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday Aug. 16-17, in Clinton Square. Friday’s 9 p.m. headliner is the Dominican bata duo Extreme, while salsa singer Tito Allen closes out the fest at 9 p.m. Saturday For info, see Downtown After Dark inside; 475-6153.

**Roller derby ringside**

Syracuse’s own Assault City roller derby team jams up the Queen City Roller Girls from Buffalo at 7 p.m. Saturday Aug. 16, at the Onondaga County War Memorial, downtown. Live music by the Hounds of Hell will pump up the action. Admission costs $10, $15 or $20, while kids age 12 and younger get in for $5. 416-4346.

**The Wheel rolls courtside**

Asiagate at the Wheel plays two toe-tappin’ shows of wild-as-Western swing at the New York State Fair’s Chevrolet Court, at 4 and 8 p.m. Thursday-Aug. 21. The nine-time Grammy-Award-winning septet was founded nearly 40 years ago by gutarist/ frontman Ray Benson. The Chevy Court concerts are free with fair admission: 847-7711.

**Mary Nelson celebrates 7**

Annual South Side Youth Day Barbecue draws crowd plus Regis and Kelly’s attention

By Kofi Quaye

Seven years ago Mary Nelson had a tragedy in her family. Her nephew, Darryl Patterson was shot and killed. It was the kind of violent death that leaves a family with feelings of remorse, anger and pain that last a long time.

Mary Nelson experienced all those feelings, but gained an insight into life that inspired her to make a very important decision. The incidence of violent deaths among the youth had to be stopped. She decided to dedicate her life to doing things to encourage school children to stay in school and become interested in pursuing higher education.

She would begin by giving away books and a carrier will keep them away from the streets and ultimately help to stop violence. That was her idea, which resulted in the creation of the annual back-pack and book giveaway event. Now seven years later, it has emerged as one of the most significant annual gathering of people on the south side of Syracuse; has changed her life and has made a huge impact on the community.

Saturday Aug. 9 was the seventh annual

See Mary Nelson page 8

**Michelangelo on the hill**

Exhibition regarding the mind of the Renaissance master Michelangelo at Syracuse University now

By Ellen Leahy

The Syracuse man of the hour, most responsible for “Michelangelo: The Man and The Myth,” is Renaissance scholar and long time Syracuse University art professor Gary Radke. Our man is a city of Syracuse resident, who divides his time between the ‘Cuse and Italy, especially Florence, where SU has a prominent school. Radke is also a Fellow at the American Academy in Rome, and has held several foundation fellowships. He formerly directed SU’s honors program, is an author and is now the Dean’s Professor of the Humanities.

SU’s presence in Florence was key.

The show is on loan from Casa Buonarroti, Michelangelo’s ancestral home near Santa Croce in Florence. That museum’s director, Dottoressa Pina Ragionieri is the guest curator. Ragionieri knew Radke well from his travels to Florence. She also knew that he curated a couple of major shows at museums in the United States. Together they had staged a major show on Michelangelo at the High Art Museum in Atlanta.

A couple of years ago she asked if Radke might know someone interested in staging a smaller in scale exhibition on Michelangelo’s work. Radke knew the timing was perfect to bring this artwork, this type of show to Syracuse. He said he shares Chancellor Nancy Cantor’s vision and commitment to scholarship in action.

See Michelangelo, page 13
"Under her leadership, there is a real commitment to the arts, to the community," he said.

He wasn’t knocking previous administrations, instead praising this one. He also said that the SU Galleries had proven their merit over the years, so he felt confident it was capable of handling such a show as this Michelangelo. "I feel very privileged to help bring these extraordinary works by Michelangelo to our galleries," he said. "SU Art Galleries Director Domenic Iacono said. “Working with Pina and Gary to develop an exhibition that speaks to the intellectual and artistic genius of Michelangelo, we hope to provide an educational atmosphere that serves as a catalyst between the worlds of art in the exhibition and the visitors who come to view it.”

"There are examples of his thinking on paper, getting to know the man, understanding the man who was a poet, a painter, an architect and a sculptor," Gary Radke

Finishing touches
Up on campus last Friday, as the university put the finishing touches on "the show," the Shaffer Art Building was humming. Iacono, who assisted Radke on this side of the Atlantic, said in regards to the importance of this show to him personally. "If one had asked in my grad school days, this would have (the answer to) the culmination of my career.

He noted that the university made a real commitment by taking appropriate security measures, re-doing air conditioning and lighting, its special transport sures, re-doing air conditioning and lighting, its special transport. "The university reports that the visitors who come to view it."

"There are examples of his thinking on paper, getting to know the man, understanding the man who was a poet, a painter, an architect and a sculptor."

Gary Radke

"Michelangelo: The Man and the Myth," the finest Michelangelo exhibition to date in the United States, opens at the Shaffer Art Building on Monday. The exhibition, which will run from Monday through Sunday, is truly an emotional experience," Ragionieri said. "But to speak to the students of Syracuse and New York City about a sublime protagonist of the Italian Renaissance by means of his life as a man and artist — as well as offer some of his splendid drawings for their admiration — is also a great responsibility. I am happy and proud to arrange this important rendezvous, and hope to have found the appropriate way in this exhibition to communicate the superhuman dimension of Michelangelo’s creative adventure."

The skinny
4 Opening reception 6 to 8 p.m.
4 Reservations required, 443-4977
4 Shaffer Art Building - Southeast corner of the quad
4 Tuesday through Sunday: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
4 Thursday evening until 8 p.m.

Renaissance man
Did you know that Michelangelo Buonarroti (1472-1564) doesn’t often make the list of polymaths? A formal term for Renaissance man, polymath basically means a person with broad knowledge and skill. The Renaissance is generally described as the period in time when science and art collided in a major way Leonardo da Vinci is one of the best known renaissance men, but after viewing Syracuse University’s art exhibition, “Michelangelo: The Man and The Myth,” you will most likely add Buonarroti, the artist known simply as Michelangelo, to your list of Polymaths with the likes of American men such as, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin. Fictional polymaths include Sherlock Holmes, GI Grissom of CSI Las Vegas, Dr. Who, Mr. Peabody and MacGyver.

Coming for SU, staying in Syracuse
Gary Radke is a bona fide expert in Italian Medieval and renaissance art. We know he studied as an undergraduate at Syracuse University and then went onto prestigious study throughout the country and abroad.

Luckily, he came back to SU where he has taught, directed arts education programming and students for 28 years. During this time, he has traveled to Italy a minimum of four times a year, often staying for the summer or a semester. He credits the relationships he has formed with Pina and Gary to develop an exhibition that speaks to the intellectual and artistic genius of Michelangelo, we hope to provide an educational atmosphere that serves as a catalyst between the worlds of art in the exhibition and the visitors who come to view it."

SU’s Goldring Arts Journalism students will study and write about the exhibition from a variety of perspectives, including art history, cultural significance and how international exhibitions are organized by institutions.

"To bring the myth of Michelangelo across the Atlantic, together with the centuries-long memories of the Casa Buonarroti, is truly an emotional experience," Ragionieri said. "But to speak to the students of Syracuse and New York City about a sublime protagonist of the Italian Renaissance by means of his life as a man and artist — as well as offer some of his splendid drawings for their admiration — is also a great responsibility. I am happy and proud to arrange this important rendezvous, and hope to have found the appropriate way in this exhibition to communicate the superhuman dimension of Michelangelo’s creative adventure."

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