'THE LOST SUPREME' | D3

The post-Supremes demise of Florence Ballard is chronicled in a new book, "The Lost Supreme: The Life of Dreamgirl Florence Ballard." She died in 1976.

MARIAH CAREY IS BACK | D3

Pop superstar Mariah Carey made "Glitter," the 2001 film that failed miserably, then went through her "meltdown," but this week her new single "Touch My Body" is No. 1 on the Billboard magazine top singles chart.

SOUTHTOWNSTAR

LIFELEISURE

FAITH: PRESCHOOL TEACHINGS | D4 | RICHARD WIDMARK FILMS | D5

SECTION D

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A VICKROY

pare me the alley oops

f all the wild revelations to come out of this year's whirlwind presidential pri- larack Obama's inability to s to be among the oddest. Democratic candidate y scored a 37 — a miserable at the free world seems to be delight in. Honestly, people! ig game of life, must one's g ability count, too? this because, well, I stink at g and I firmly believe the sport? exercise in torture?) in no way represent the e of a person — presiden- ndidate or plain old voter. many champion bowlers name? Besides Earl Antho-

country is obsessed with hievers. Work hard. Be a itor. Find an edge. Every- ves a winner. But must we strive to excel? Can't there e things in which we just ink — but do anyway? k it's courageous to share eaknesses with the unforgiv- rld — especially if that oming involves a ball made ent, a lane slicked with oil air of clown shoes. gine if your less than admir- mbers were blasted across . Your credit score. Your rol score. Your ACT score. e who stink at bowling are e heckled. They are to be nded. We know the bruising bout to take. We hear the ople crack up when our ball s into another lane or back- o the crowd. t them. owlers don't cry. They tch a fit. They don't take ist guards and go home. , they let the good bowlers eir glory. his every time my husband bowling. I don't think he's ored below 200. dy high game is 62. I'm OK . So is he. He knows I can fin- nble puzzle in less than a while it could take him months. this make us even? Hmmm? se it makes us different. hat's my point. Everybody t different things. wling finesse something a ntial candidate should aspire ay? I prefer my Commander be more adept at handling ional crises, monetary disas- l the yahoos in Congress. e man can't bowl. The only is proves is his inability to owling team. again — ht Obama win the primary general election, I would ng the millions of Ameri- ho could proudly claim they e head honcho at something. ring the sound of that.

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SUNDAY SPECIAL

Runway Wedding

BY ANNA TESAURO, STAFF WRITER

THE GIFT OF DESIGN | It's a day some young girls dream about: choosing flowers and shopping for the perfect wedding dress. For Sophia Reyes, 24, of Homer Glen, her sister's wedding last weekend was a dream come true in a different way.

Sophia Reyes (top photo, right) stands with her sister, Patricia, before Patricia's wedding last weekend. Sophia designed the wedding gown, and the dresses for the bridesmaids and her mother, Linda (right photo, right). PHOTOS BY JASON HAN — SOUTHTOWNSTAR

Reyes is a recent graduate of Parsons School of Design in New York, and she had the privilege of designing eight bridesmaid dresses, her mother's dress and, yes, her sister Patricia's wedding gown.

"With weddings, it's a different design process. You want something they'll be comfortable in and able to wear again," Reyes said. "And also for the bride, I didn't want my sister looking at her pictures 10 years from now and hating the dress."

Reyes began designing and sewing the bridesmaid dresses in July, each gown requiring a month for measurements and fittings. In October, she got an unexpected request.

"My sister couldn't find a dress at any of the stores and asked me to design her one," Reyes said.

Piecing together styles from various dresses, Reyes did her best to create her sister's dream gown while adding some flair of her own.

Reyes, and her family, were proud of the result.

Linda Reyes expressed pride in her two daughters — that Patricia put such trust and confidence in her sister, and for Sophia undertaking the "humongous and challenging task of designing 10 different gowns for the wedding."

"Patricia's faith in her younger sister's talent and reliability brought out the best in Sophia's designing abilities," Linda Reyes said. "Wedding guests were amazed with the elegant simplicity of the bridesmaids' gowns and were wowed by the bride's vintage-looking gown. It was truly a runway wedding."

Reyes went to Lockport High School, then studied finance at Loyola University.

But when graduation neared, Reyes knew she had to choose between a career in finance or pursue her dream of working in fashion.

"I realized how much more I liked fashion and wanted to get more training," Reyes said. "I've always known I wanted to start my own line."

Reyes went to New York for a two-year program that she condensed to a year by taking the fast-track program. After working an internship with designer labels such as Kenneth Cole, Cynthia Rowley, Liz Claiborne and Laundry by Design, Reyes was ready to come home and make her dream a reality. She put together 12 pieces for a spring/summer 2008 line, which is sold at www.studio808.com.

Reyes' line was runner-up at Macy's "distinction and design" competition in 2007. Her fall line will be available at studio808.com, Tangerine in Chicago's Wicker Park community, Totem in Hinsdale and Gray in Chicago's Old Town community. Her Web site is www.sophiareyes.com.

Despite being new to the industry, Reyes says she is ready for business growth.

"It was intimidating at first, but you learn to be persistent and to not be afraid of being rejected, and to not take it personally. It's definitely a learning experience," she said.

Reyes fell in love with sewing when she was 12, when her grandmother taught her the basics. It became a hobby, with Reyes making dresses and dreaming of having her own line.

"I used to hang out in Jo-Ann Fabrics and experiment with patterns. They never had what I was looking for, and I always wanted to design my own clothing and patterns," Reyes said.

While designing wedding and bridesmaid dresses is not her first choice, Reyes is glad to have given this gift to her sister. "Brides always want their wedding to be perfect. I'm just happy I could do something for my sister," she said.

Does she dream of designing her own wedding gown some day? Without hesitation, she said, "of course."

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