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## MICHAEL KLEIN



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Posted on Tue, Apr. 14, 2009

### Inqlings: Booker's bicoastal prospects



By Michael Klein  
Inquirer Columnist

On which coast will **Chris Booker** wind up?

Booker, ousted last May from his morning show on Q102 and let go in February from his next job at K-Rock in New York (format change), auditioned for three days last week at L.A.'s new AMP Radio.

Booker is still collecting paychecks. One is from CBS, which owns both K-Rock (now 92.3 NOW) and AMP, and a second is from the remaining term with Clear Channel for Q102.

Booker also recently did a tryout at Fresh 102.7, a CBS station in New York, where B101 alumnus **Dave Packer** hosts mornings.

Booker did not return calls for comment. (Assume that if he ends up in L.A., girlfriend **Alycia Lane** will follow him.)

#### Kitchen mystery

**Thien Ngo** spent seven years as executive chef at Fork in Old City before he announced around New Year's that he



TOM BRIGLIA / PhotoGraphics Photography

Colleen Shannon, Playboy Magazine's 50th-anniversary Playmate, spun records Friday night at the Pool at Harrah's Resort, Atlantic City.

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was retiring and moving back to Vietnam.

Weeks after he stepped away from the stove in late January, he resurfaced with assistant **Jose Leon** at Coquette, a Queen Village bistro. The mission was to add a Vietnamese-Thai influence to **Cary Neff's** French menu. The story was that Ngo had changed his mind.



Now Ngo is gone.

Neff said that he asked Ngo about a money matter on March 21, and that Ngo never showed up for work the next day - and has not since. Neff says he is unable to reach him by cell phone. Ngo did not return my messages, either. Friends in the biz say they have not heard from him.

Leon, who Neff said was doing most of the cooking anyway, is still in the kitchen.

**Briefly noted**

The University of the Arts' College of Performing Arts is performing *Does Your House Have Lions*, an epic poem by **Sonia Sanchez**, as its annual collaboration performance this weekend. UArts prof **Camille Paglia** will interview Sanchez, a liberal arts professor at Temple University, in a free session open to the public from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. tomorrow at Terra Hall's Caplan Recital Hall, 211 S. Broad St., 17th floor. *Lions*, written in 1998, is about Sanchez's brother's alienation from his family, struggle with HIV, and the family's healing.

Philly/Haddonfield-rooted band **Smash Palace** will be in L.A. this weekend for the premiere of the film *Chasing the Green*. The Fab Five has eight songs on the soundtrack.

**Terese Casey** has gone the electronic route to drum up signatures for a birthday card to mark the 49th birthday of her husband, U.S. Sen. **Bob Casey** (D., Pa.). "I hope you'll help me make it extra special," she writes in an e-mail that made rounds yesterday - sent by his political arm, Casey for Senate - that links to the card. She says she will present it to him at a celebration tomorrow night in Pittsburgh, hosted by Mayor **Luke Ravenstahl**.

**Bobby Rydell** has been inked for a May 5 fund-raiser for St. Ignatius Nursing Home, a West Philly nonprofit sponsored by the Felician Franciscan Sisters, at the Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts (3680 Walnut St.) Tickets start at \$45 and can be obtained through [www.pennpresents.org](http://www.pennpresents.org) or 215-898-3900.


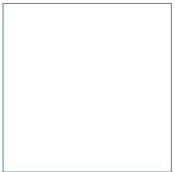
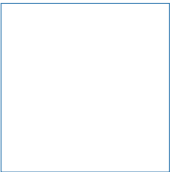
Contact columnist Michael Klein at 215-854-5514 or [mklein@phillynews.com](mailto:mklein@phillynews.com). Follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/phillyinsider>.

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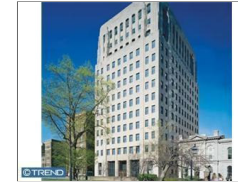
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