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Thursday

Man Held in Arson Probe



RICKY CAROTI/WP

The hostage-taker's son is escorted by police.

Deadly End: Police shoot Va. man who held son hostage | 11

Tabletop Fusion: Scientists report nuclear breakthrough | 5

Nats Fall Short:

Philadelphia spoils a masterful outing by Loaiza | 12



WeekendPass

Free Kelly:

Miss Clarkson forges her own path. Also, Rob Thomas; J.L. King; and New Yorker cartoons.

>> **INSIDE**



Weather > Partly Sunny



66 | 49

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 25

DNA evidence from '04 fire leads investigators to suspect

WASHINGTON | DNA evidence led to the arrest Wednesday of a serial arson suspect wanted in connection with more than 40 fires that have occurred since March 8, 2003.

Thomas Sweatt, 50, a fast food store manager from the District of Columbia, faces multiple charges in connection with arsons that have occurred in the District, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia.

The break in the investigation came last week after DNA samples extracted from a pair of U.S. Marine Corps issue dress-blue

slacks were analyzed at the Montgomery County, Md., crime lab.

"Those pants had DNA that matched DNA we found at other fires," said Theresa Stoop, special agent in charge of the Baltimore Field Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The pants were found at the scene of a fire that occurred Dec. 5, 2004, and was never added to the public list of fires under investigation by the arson task force.

It is unclear how Sweatt obtained the military-issue pants, and authorities said there was no immediate indication he served in the armed forces. But investigators contacted the Naval Criminal Investigation Service and were informed that NCIS had investigated a string of vehicle arsons in early 2003. Although Sweatt was never charged in those cases, he was considered a suspect, Stoop said.

Sweatt was questioned by investigators for several hours Wednesday, and had reportedly confessed to at least one fire. DERRILL HOLLY (AP)

♣ **Sigh of relief:** Residents breathe easier after the arrest of suspected arsonist Thomas Sweatt | **Page 10**

AVIATION | A REALLY, REALLY JUMBO JET



ERIC GALLARD/REUTERS

BIG BIRD: The world's largest airliner, the Airbus A380, made its maiden flight over southwestern France on Wednesday. The double-decker, 308-ton plane's sortie was a milestone for aviation and for the European aircraft-maker's battle with U.S. rival Boeing. ♣ **Supersize it:** Big plans for big plane | **Page 9**

LARVAE | Worse Than Wax Doctors found around 50 maggots in the ears of a Phuket, Thailand, man who had gone to a hospital complaining his ears itched, Deutsche Presse-Agentur reported. Anan Temtan, 84, had tried cotton balls to relieve the



itch, but to no avail. "We believe flies might have gone inside his ears to lay eggs, which hatched into larvae and caused the itching," said Dr. Somsak Nonthasri. Doctors used tweezers and a small suction device to remove the maggots. (EXPRESS) **EyeOpeners** | Page 2

eyeOpeners



BURIED TREASURE

The Joy of Yard Work

Tim Crebase and a friend were digging up a tree at his Methuen, Mass., home earlier this month when they unearthed a wooden box containing about 1,800 bills dated from 1899 to 1929, along with gold and silver certificates and bank notes—worth about \$100,000, according to the antique dealer who appraised it. It is not known why the stash was buried in Crebase's yard. (AP)

DISTRACTIONS

Shhh, Officer — This Is the Best Part

A Leamington, Ontario, woman was fined \$88 after she was spotted Monday driving while watching a portable DVD player on her dashboard, police said. After pulling her over, officials found a music video playing on the screen and she was arrested, the Canadian Press reported. (EXPRESS)

NATURAL DISASTERS

Motion on the Floor

Utah's Capitol building has closed so it can be lifted a fraction of an inch for shock absorbers to be installed. The \$212 million project will help prevent extensive earthquake damage. Geological records suggest that Salt Lake Valley is due for an earthquake of magnitude 7. (AP)



SCOTT ANDERSON/RACINE JOURNAL/TIMES/AP

MASCOTS

See Ya Later, Alligator Head

Clifford, the alligator mascot of Gifford Elementary School in Racine, Wis., needs the school's help to find his noggin after it was taken sometime before Sunday. School officials have reported the damage, estimated at \$500, to police, but also advertised their plea for the head's safe return in this conveniently placed sign alongside the decapitated statue. (AP)

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IT'S UNBOUND TO BE A GREAT WEEKEND

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CHANGE CHANGE: The House on Wednesday approved a new gold-colored coin bearing the faces of presidents to join the unpopular \$1 Sacagawea coin in circulation, hoping a new design will spur use of dollar coins. The U.S. Mint would begin selling them next year.



Nation

Jackson's Ex-Wife Testifies

Rowe surprises prosecutors, refuting story of scripted video

SANTA MARIA, CALIF. | In a startling setback to the prosecution, Michael Jackson's ex-wife took the stand at his child molestation trial Wednesday and said through tears how she was never scripted or rehearsed to say positive things about him to rebut a damaging TV documentary.



Rowe

Prosecutors called Deborah Rowe to bolster their argument that Jackson conspired to hold the accuser's family captive to get them to rebut the documentary, in which the singer said he lets children sleep in his bed. The accuser's mother claims a video she recorded praising Jackson was made under duress and that every word was from a script.

The prosecution has said Rowe would offer a similar testimony — that she was also pressured to praise Jackson in a video — but her testimony did not reflect that. (AP)

Trial tribulations: Attorney Gloria Allred discusses the Jackson trial | washingtonpost.com/liveonline at 1 p.m.

Bush: Tech Is Key to Energy Woes

Fast relief from high price of gas beyond his control, president says

WASHINGTON | President Bush called for construction of more nuclear power plants and urged Congress on Wednesday to give tax breaks for fuel-efficient hybrid and clean-diesel cars. He also said he was powerless to bring down high gasoline costs.

Calling the problem one of not having enough energy supplies to keep pace with demand, Bush said

technology will provide the answer in the long run by allowing development of more domestic energy sources.

"Technology is the ticket," said Bush, calling today's tight energy markets "a problem that has been years in the making" and will take time to resolve.

He said he was determined to spur development of more nuclear power, coal, oil and renewable ener-



Bush

gy and again called on Congress to provide him with a national energy agenda.

The high cost of gasoline, followed by a winter of record heating bills, has begun to have political fallout and is believed to be pulling down Bush's popularity.

The president said he knows "many people are concerned" about the high gasoline prices that now average more than \$2.20 a gallon nationwide, but he lamented that he can't do anything about it.

"I wish I could," he said. "If I could, I would." H. JOSEF HEBERT (AP)

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

→ **The Senate Foreign Relations Committee** will approve John R. Bolton's nomination to be ambassador to the United Nations when it votes next month, the committee's chairman predicted Wednesday. The assessment by Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., came as White House Scott McClellan said President Bush chose Bolton for the blunt style that is at the root of the criticism against the nominee. (AP)

TEXAS | QUILTED TOGETHER



VICTOR CALZADA/EL PASO TIMES/AP

WOMEN'S WORK: Cynthia Morales participates in the Women's Worldwide March in El Paso, Texas, on Wednesday and carries a quilt that will visit 50 countries with each country contributing a patch on how women are making a better world. El Paso is the only place in the U.S. where the quilt will stop.

House Passes Abortion Consent Bill

WASHINGTON | The House passed a bill Wednesday that would make it illegal to dodge parental-consent laws by taking minors across state lines for abortions, the latest effort to chip away at abortion rights after Republican gains in the November elections.

By 270-157, the House sent

the bill to the Senate, where it has new momentum as an item on the Republicans' top 10 list of legislative priorities.

The bill would impose fines, jail time or both on adults and doctors involved in most cases where minors were taken out of state to get abortions. (AP)

Army Officer Acquitted of Rape

FORT RUCKER, ALA. | An Army officer was acquitted by a military judge Wednesday of raping a soldier in her barracks room, a claim the defense said she concocted to keep from being sent to Iraq.

First Lt. Mike Hall, 35, of

Nashville, Tenn., was also acquitted on an adultery charge but convicted of having sex without informing his partner that he had genital herpes.

Hall had testified in his court-martial that a night of dancing, flirting and kissing with 1st Lt. Jennifer Dyer, 26, last August led to consensual sex, not rape as she alleged. (AP)



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Nation

28%

The percent of Americans who would talk about the war in Iraq if given the chance to talk to President Bush about any topic, with about three-quarters telling him to end it and bring U.S. troops home, a Gallup poll found. Fourteen percent would discuss social security.

GOP Reverses on Ethics

Hastert seeks repeal on rules that brought panel to a standstill

WASHINGTON | The House prepared to end an ethics committee stalemate Wednesday night as Republicans backed Speaker Dennis Hastert's abandonment of new rules that brought the GOP months of political grief.

Republican leaders planned a vote Wednesday evening to reinstate prior rules for investigating unethical conduct by lawmakers.

"I'm willing to step back," Hastert said after a closed-door meeting with members of the GOP

rank and file at which he stressed the need to end the controversy.

"Now that we again will have bipartisan rules in place, we can begin to rebuild Americans trust in the ethics committee," said Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi.

GOP lawmakers had endured weeks of intense Democratic criticism — and hometown editorials — complaining that the GOP rule changes were an attempt to protect Majority Leader Tom DeLay from further investigation.



Hastert

DeLay, R-Texas, was admonished by the committee on three matters last year, and new questions have been raised about whether a lobbyist paid for some of his foreign travel in violation of the rules. DeLay has denied wrongdoing and has volunteered to appear before the ethics committee.

The ethics rules in effect before the January changes allowed investigations to begin if the committee was evenly divided. The Republican changes provided for an automatic dismissal in case of a tie. (AP)

Rule reversal: For the latest news on the House vote on ethics investigative rules go to washingtonpost.com

ALABAMA | RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE



MARY HATTLER/AP

TYPE THIS! Pam Johnson hurls a typewriter on Wednesday in Mobile, Ala., as part of a lunchtime competition for local administrative staff and their bosses designed to raise money for the American Diabetes Association.

Universities Not Required to Name File Swappers

RALEIGH, N.C. | A federal magistrate has ruled that two North Carolina universities do not have to reveal the identities of two students accused of sharing copyrighted music on the Internet.

The Recording Industry Association of America filed subpoenas in November 2003 asking for help identifying a North Carolina State University student and a University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill student who allegedly file-swapped songs using the universities' computer systems. (AP)



BY THE NUMBERS: Most Americans believe news coverage is biased and negative, but they also say they respect journalists and trust what they hear and read. A national research survey conducted at the Missouri School of Journalism found 62 percent consider journalism credible and more than half rated newspapers and television news as trustworthy. (AP)

Jury Convicts Briton in Missile Plot

NEWARK, N.J. | A former British clothing merchant was convicted Wednesday of attempting to sell shoulder-launched missiles to what he believed was a terrorist group planning to shoot down airliners.

The federal jury reached its verdict in its second day of deliberations, finding Hemant Lakhani guilty on all five counts.

Lakhani, 69, was arrested in



U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE/AP

Authorities nabbed Hemant Lakhani trying to sell shoulder-launched missiles in an undercover sting operation.

2003 at a hotel room near the Newark airport after getting caught in a sting operation in which undercover operatives posed as terrorists and arms dealers. Prosecutors said he agreed to arrange the sale of more than 50 missiles.

It was the first terrorism case prosecuted in New Jersey since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Lakhani's sentencing was set for Aug. 8. DAVID PORTER (AP)

Today in The Washington Post

Digging in the Dirt: ATV racing has a loyal following that doesn't mind when the ground starts to rumble and the mud flies. | *Style*

Hot Wheels: Every half-hour on average, a car is stolen in Prince George's county, giving it the highest theft rate in the region. | *Metro*

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COURTROOM HOOKY: A potential juror in Houston was sentenced Tuesday to 10 days in jail or 10 eight-hour days in the jury room without reading material or contact with anyone, for leaving during jury selection last week. If the order is violated, she faces the full 10-day jail term.



Nation

Forensic Labs Facing Backlogs

Buildup of samples undercuts crime fighting value of DNA

MONTPELIER, VT. | It took five years to get Howard Godfrey's DNA entered into a database at the state crime lab — and just five days after that for police to conclude he committed a murder that had gone unsolved since 1991.

The episode illustrated not only the remarkable power of DNA but also the huge laboratory backlogs across the country that are undercutting its crime-solving value.

A December 2003 report by Smith Alling Lane, a Washington

state law firm that specializes in forensic DNA issues, estimated there were almost 550,000 DNA samples from crime scenes and from convicted criminals across the country awaiting processing, in which genetic material is extracted and a DNA profile created.

The backlog is blamed on a shortage of money and staff. A February report by the Bureau of Justice Statistics estimated that 1,900 additional full-time lab workers at a cost of \$70 million would be needed across the country to reduce the backlog in forensic laboratories to 30 days for both DNA samples and other crime lab work, such as fingerprints. WILSON RING (AP)

Scientists Create Fusion on Desktop

Tabletop experiment said to yield nuclear energy

LOS ANGELES | A tabletop experiment created nuclear fusion — long seen as a possible clean energy solution — under lab conditions, scientists reported.

But the amount of energy produced was too little to be seen as a breakthrough in solving the world's energy needs.

For years, scientists have sought

to harness controllable nuclear fusion, the same power that lights the sun and stars. This latest experiment relied on a tiny crystal to generate a strong electric field.

While falling short as a way to produce energy, the method could have potential uses in the oil-drilling industry and homeland security, said Seth Putterman, one of the

physicists who did the experiment at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Fusion power has been touted as the ultimate energy source and a cleaner alternative to fossil fuels like coal and oil. Fossil fuels are expected to run short in about 50 years.

The experiment's results appear in Thursday's issue of the journal *Nature*. ALICIA CHANG (AP)

HONORING SURVIVORS AND LIBERATORS



This spring marks the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe and the liberation of Nazi concentration camps by American and Allied forces. Pay tribute to Holocaust survivors and camp liberators by visiting the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum during this landmark period.

Admission is free. Passes to the Permanent Exhibition are available at the Museum on the day of your visit, or in advance at www.tickets.com or by phone at 800.400.9373. In addition to special displays in the Museum's newly redesigned Wexner Learning Center, the Museum's Web site features extensive material on liberation. Visit www.ushmm.org.

The Museum is open daily 10:00 a.m.—5:30 p.m.

Special extended hours: 10:00 a.m.—8 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays through June 16

Photo: U.S. Seventh Army troops with liberated inmates at a subcamp of Dachau. Allach, April 30, 1945. *National Archives and Records Administration.*

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NEW YORK | FANNING OUT



GARDEN PARTY: Japanese Folk Dance Institute performer Misachi Aoki performs at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in New York on Wednesday in a preview of the garden's upcoming 24th annual Cherry Blossom Festival.

Sentence Delayed For Bomb Suspect

SEATTLE | The sentencing of an Algerian who plotted to blow up part of the Los Angeles airport on the eve of the millennium was postponed Wednesday by a federal judge to give the defendant more time to

help the government in its terrorism investigations.

After hearing testimony about Ahmed Ressam's level of cooperation with federal investigators, Judge John Coughenour decided to delay the hearing until July 28.

Ressam was caught in December 1999 trying to enter the U.S. with a trunkload of explosives. (AP)

World

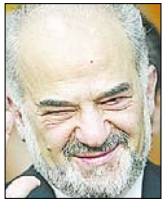


LIP SERVICE: A performance artist said he plans to kiss a photo of British Prime Minister Tony Blair 100,000 times in a marathon display of affection in front of Blair's residence on election day, May 5, Reuters reported. He also plans to vote for Blair.

Iraqi PM Submits Cabinet Blueprint

Government will have ethnic, geographic variety, al-Jaafari says

BAGHDAD, IRAQ | Iraq's new prime minister said Wednesday he submitted a complete list of 36 Cabinet members, including seven women, a critical step before the National Assembly votes on a new government drawing in the main ethnic and religious groups and ending a three-month stalemate.



Al-Jaafari

Prime Minister-designate Ibrahim al-Jaafari — who could have forfeited his post had he not formed a government by May 7 — struggled to reconcile the competing demands of Iraq's myriad factions.

"The Iraqis will find that this government has religious, ethnic, politi-

cal and geographic variety, in addition to the participation of women," al-Jaafari told reporters.

The announcement came hours after gunmen killed a Shiite Muslim lawmaker in her home — the first elected official slain since the country's landmark vote for parliament on Jan. 30. QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHARA (AP)

ITALY TO PROBE SHOOTING

Dissatisfied with the results of a joint investigation with the United States, Italy on Wednesday began its own probe into the March 4 killing of one of its intelligence agents by U.S. troops in Baghdad.

Italian officials said prosecutors are looking for evidence of homicide in the case of Nicola Calipari, who was transporting a rescued Italian hostage to the Baghdad airport when U.S. troops opened fire on their car. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

✚ **More:** Today's Post, A Section

Suspect in Spain Denies Ties to 9/11

MADRID, SPAIN | An alleged al Qaeda militant who shot video of the World Trade Center and other U.S. landmarks in 1997 told a court Wednesday he took the pictures as a giddy tourist making his first visit to a country he loved — not a conspirator in the Sept. 11 attacks.

The investigative magistrate who indicted Ghasoub al-Abrash Ghalyoun as a suspected member of an al Qaeda cell in Spain contends the videos were used in plotting the 2001 attack. Ghalyoun is among 24 alleged al Qaeda members being tried in Spain. (AP)



TRAGIC SIGHT: Sri Lankans examine the wreckage of a passenger bus that collided with an express train in the town of Polgahawela. The bus was dragged for 100 yards.

At Least 35 Die As Train Strikes Bus in Sri Lanka

POLGAHAWELA, SRI LANKA | A passenger train rammed into a bus that tried to dash through a railroad crossing Wednesday, killing at least 35 people and injuring another 60. Witnesses said people, some of them on fire, jumped out of windows after the crash.

All the dead and injured were aboard the bus, which the train dragged for about 100 yards before the bus burst into flames and ended up a mangled heap of metal. Open suitcases and passengers' clothes were strewn about.

The private passenger bus was

apparently racing another bus when it zipped past a warning gate and tried to cross a railroad track at Polgahawela, a small town about 50 miles northeast of the capital, Colombo.

Railway employee E.M. Jayaratna said the automatic warning gate had closed as the train was approaching.

Both the driver and conductor of the bus were arrested Wednesday, after authorities found them at a local hospital. Police were guarding them from angry survivors.

KRISHAN FRANCIS (AP)

In Brief

JAPAN

More Bodies Found at Train Crash Site; Death Toll at 97

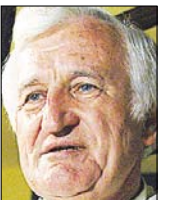
Hopes of finding survivors in the wreckage of Japan's deadliest rail disaster in decades quickly evaporated early Thursday as workers uncovered more than a dozen bodies, bringing the death toll to 97. An unknown number of victims were still trapped in the smashed metal shells of the train cars, which careened into an apartment house on Monday after hurtling off the rails in Amagasaki. (AP)

POLAND

Priest Accused of Sharing Reports With Communists

A Polish priest at the Vatican was accused Wednesday of collaborating with the communist-era secret police during the 1980s when Pope John Paul II was inspiring his countrymen to resist the Soviet-backed regime. The Rev. Konrad Stanislaw Hejmo, a Dominican, acknowledged late Wednesday he had shared reports that he wrote for Polish church officials with an acquaintance, a Pole who lived

in Germany, but said he did not suspect the man might have been a spy. The accusations originated with Leon Kieres, head of the National Remembrance Institute that guards communist-era police files. (AP)



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World



Israeli settlers dance during a mass demonstration in Gush Katif, Gaza Strip, Wednesday against Israel's expected withdrawal from Gaza this summer.

Israeli Settlers Protest Planned Gaza Pullout

40,000 rally against government move to empty 21 settlements

NEVE DEKALIM, GAZA STRIP | Tens of thousands of Israelis gathered Wednesday in the Gaza Strip's largest settlement bloc to rally against the government's plan to withdraw from the area, trying to maintain a carnival-like atmosphere of defiance despite a Palestinian rocket attack.

Though the crowd filled the central lawn at Neve Dekalim, the largest Gush Katif settlement, the turnout of about 40,000 was less than half the number the settlers

expected, and some residents dismissed the prediction that thousands of the visitors would stay to join resistance to the pullout, set for July or August.

As the rally was in progress, a homemade Qassam rocket and two mortar shells fired from a nearby Palestinian area exploded nearby, slightly wounding a soldier.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to evacuate all 21 settlements from Gaza and four from the West Bank has the support of about two-thirds of his people, according to polls. But the opposition, based on religion and ideology, is tough and loud. AMY TEIBEL (AP)

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World



TITLE FIGHT: Last year's Miss France, Laetitia Bleger, was stripped of her title for six months for posing in revealing photos for a May edition of Playboy, the pageant said Wednesday. Winners must abide by contest rules for five years.

In Historic Move, Putin Visits Israel

Russian president is first Kremlin chief to tour Cold War rival

JERUSALEM | Greeted by beaming Israeli officials, Vladimir Putin on Wednesday became the first Kremlin leader to visit the Jewish state, capping a historic rapprochement between two nations that once faced each other as bitter enemies across the Cold War divide.

Putin, on his first Middle East trip, was also hoping to restore his country's profile as a major player in the region and the world, bringing with him a fresh proposal for a conference to be held in Moscow in the autumn.

"Considering the history of relations and the fact that there were times that we were on one side and Russia was entirely on the other side ... (the visit) indicates the significant change that took place between the two countries,"

Israeli Vice Premier Ehud Olmert said as he stood on the airport tarmac waiting to greet Putin.

The Soviet Union supported Israel during the Jewish state's early years, but relations soon deteriorated as Israel increasingly allied itself with the United States. Moscow cut

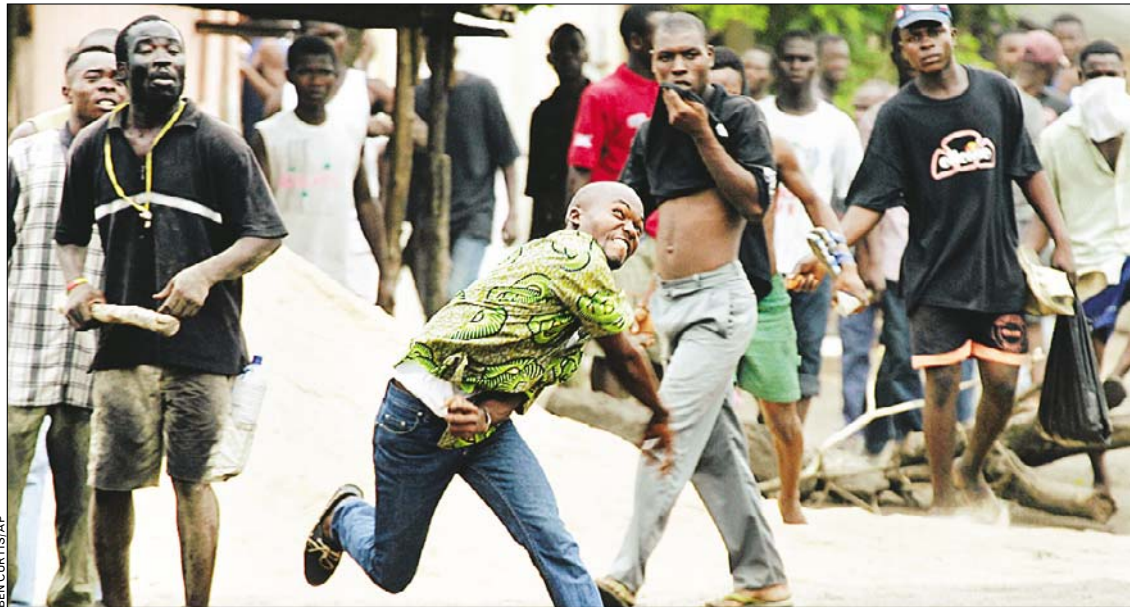


Putin

ties with Israel in 1967 in the context of a Mideast war and strongly backed the Arab states.

As the Soviet Union was collapsing in the early 1990s, the two nations restored ties.

Relations are continuing to improve under Putin, who took office in 2000, as he tries to push Russia's economic interests abroad and evoke parallels between Israel's conflict with Palestinian militants and Russia's campaign against Chechen rebels. RAVI NESSMAN (AP)



RESISTANCE FORCE: An opposition supporter throws rocks at riot policemen during a clash in Lome, Togo, on Wednesday.

Opposition Calls for 'Struggle' in Togo

LOME, TOGO | Togolese lobbed stones and Molotov cocktails for a second day Wednesday after the son of their late dictator was declared the winner of disputed presidential elections. Six people died and at least 100 were injured in the violence.

Opposition leaders alleged widespread fraud in Sunday's vote in the

West African nation and called for supporters to continue their defiance.

Bob Akitani, the main opposition candidate, said the opposition's own ballot count put him ahead of Faure Gnassingbe, the dictator's son who was declared the winner a day earlier.

"Togolese, your president is speaking to you," Akitani said in a state-

ment. "At the expense of our lives, we must be opposed to people who think they have divine order to govern this country. The struggle will be long, but victory will be ours ... resist, until the final victory."

The country's official tally showed Gnassingbe winning with 60 percent of the vote. (AP)

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Money

For Airbus, a Grand Takeoff

Thousands gather to watch the massive A380's inaugural flight

BLAGNAC, FRANCE | Cheered by tens of thousands of onlookers, the world's largest jetliner touched down Wednesday with puffs of smoke from its 22 outsized wheels, ending the historic maiden flight for a plane that Airbus hopes will carry it to market dominance.

The A380's four-hour sortie past the snowcapped Pyrenees removed any doubt that the behemoth capable of carrying as many as 840 passengers is airworthy. But it did little to convince skeptics, led by U.S. rival Boeing Co., that the plane will prove profitable.

Airbus has orders for 154 super-jumbos and has said it needs 100 more to recover its investment. But the weak dollar — the currency in



SUPER SIZED: The six-person crew boards the Airbus A380 near Toulouse, France, on Wednesday. About 30,000 people came to watch the plane's maiden flight.

which passenger planes are sold — and rumors of heavy discounts on the A380's \$282 million sticker

price have fueled reports that the real break-even may be higher. LAURENCE FROST (AP)

Inventory Up, Oil Prices Drop 4.8%

Oil prices dropped more than \$2.50 a barrel Wednesday after U.S. government data showed a large build in domestic crude inventories and President Bush urged construction of new oil refineries.

Light, sweet crude for June deliv-

ery fell \$2.59 to \$51.61 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The 4.8 percent drop in crude prices caps three consecutive days of losses and marks the biggest single-day dollar and percentage decline this year.

The U.S. Energy Department said

Wednesday that the inventories of crude oil in the largest consuming nation grew by 5.5 million barrels last week to 324.4 million barrels, or 9 percent above year ago levels.

Unleaded gasoline supplies shrank by 300,000 barrels to 211.3 million barrels, or 4.6 percent above year ago levels. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers			
STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
WLyOnHm	85.98	+10.73	+14.3
AldWaste	7.98	+.94	+13.4
AFLAC	39.63	+3.48	+9.6
vjGrace	10.91	+.96	+9.6
Amerigrps	35.20	+3.00	+9.3
Losers			
Advo	29.30	-5.93	-16.8
Visteon	3.74	-.70	-15.8
Plantron	32.46	-5.47	-14.4
OreStl	15.53	-2.42	-13.5
Synnex	14.48	-2.06	-12.5

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers			
STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Atmel	2.56	+.49	+23.7
AHPC Hld	3.69	+.59	+19.0
Arrowhd n	2.80	+.43	+18.1
LCA Vis s	39.42	+5.42	+15.9
Mod-Pac	12.67	+1.73	+15.8
Losers			
InfoSpce	32.70	-12.29	-27.3
DCAP Gp n	5.08	-1.25	-19.7
Connetics	22.30	-5.27	-19.1
Metrolog	13.00	-2.85	-18.0
CorinthC	14.03	-2.85	-16.9

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	5.75	5.75
Fed Funds close	2.75	2.75
3-month	2.82	2.81
2-year	3.62	3.49
10-year	4.23	4.19
30-year	4.55	4.55

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5247	.5248	.5583
Canadian Dollar	1.2498	1.2448	1.3511
European Euro	.7729	.7708	.8381
Japanese Yen	105.72	105.93	109.42
Mexican Peso	11.0900	11.0780	11.2700
Taiwanese Dollar	31.43	31.42	33.04

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
+47.67	+2.99	+4.64
+0.47	+0.16	+0.40
10198.80	1930.43	1156.38

Bank Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
ABN Amro	23.93	-.23	-10.0
BcBilVArg	15.53	-.09	-12.5
BcoSnCH	11.65	-.02	-5.8
BkofAm s	44.87	+.26	-4.5
Barclay	41.45	-.52	-9.3
CredSuis	41.91	-.09	-7
DeutschBk	82.77	-.47	-7.0
HSBC	79.90	+.07	-6.2
JPMorgCh	35.50	+.42	-9.0
LloydTSB	34.80	-.10	-5.4
MitsuTkyo	8.60	-.01	-15.9
UBS AG	80.28	-.79	-4.2
US Bancrp	27.90	+.32	-10.9
Wachovia	51.03	+.77	-3.0
WellsFrgo	59.51	+.72	-4.2

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Local



LAST ROAM: A herd of buffalo that was loose in Pikesville, Md., Tuesday won't be causing any more trouble. Their owner told The (Baltimore) Sun: "The way I feel right now, I'm giving them all away. They're going to the slaughterhouse."

Relief, Surprise at Arson Case Bust

'Fatherly' suspect held on 11 federal charges

WASHINGTON | Thomas Sweatt, 50, a fast food store manager from the District of Columbia who is suspected of being the serial arsonist responsible for at least 40 fires in the region, was charged Wednesday with six federal counts in Maryland and five in D.C.

At his initial court appearance late Wednesday afternoon in Greenbelt, Md., federal court, Sweatt spoke quietly, answering "yes" when

the judge asked if he understood the charges. A detention hearing is set for Friday morning.

The arrest came as a relief for both residents and officials worried when the elusive arsonist would strike again.

"All of us were victims of the serial arsonist as all of us remained on edge not knowing where this person would strike next," said D.C. Mayor Anthony A. Williams. The fires were



ATF agents escort serial arson suspect Thomas Sweatt at their offices.

linked to the probe by common evidence: gasoline used as an accelerant, one-gallon plastic containers found at the scenes, plastic bags and cloth material used as wicks.

Sweatt has not been charged with murder in the June 5, 2003, fire that killed Lou Edna Jones, 86, of northeast Washington, but Ramsey said those charges are pending.

Coworkers at the KFC-Pizza Hut

store where Sweatt works also were questioned by investigators.

"It's just shocking to me. ... He was a fatherly, shy type figure," said Joseph Hunter, 34, a KFC cook who has worked there two months.

Investigators also searched portions of an apartment building Sweatt owned with his sister in southeast Washington. The two have lived in separate apartments in the four-unit building for at least 15 years. Sweatt was often seen sweeping sidewalks and picking up litter along their street. DERRILL HOLLY (AP)

Suspect: Little else defined Thomas Sweatt before his criminal charges Wednesday, according to officers looking into the arson suspect | **Today's Post, Metro**

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Bush Sent To Bunker After Alarm

'Radar anomaly' at White House sends security into action

WASHINGTON | President George W. Bush was rushed to a secure underground White House bunker and Vice President Dick Cheney was whisked outside the compound Wednesday because of a "radar anomaly" — perhaps a flock of birds or pocket of rain — that was mistaken for a plane flying in restricted airspace.

The late-morning scare was determined within minutes to be a false alarm, and business quickly



Secret service officers respond to the brief scare at the White House Wednesday.

returned to normal.

There have been similar alarms before, sparked by a blip on a radar screen that looks like an aircraft flying into the area around the White House that is off-limits to aircraft.

In November 2003, the White House was briefly evacuated while

Air Force fighter jets were scrambled to investigate a tripped radar alert that also triggered fears — also groundless — of an airspace violation. Bush was in Britain at the time. This time, though, Bush was in the Oval Office at the time of the incident. JENNIFER LOVEN (AP)

The Lotteries

Wednesday, April 27

DISTRICT	
Mid-day Lucky Numbers	4-3-1
Evening Lucky Numbers	3-5-3
Mid-day DC 4	1-9-8-1
Evening DC 4	4-5-3-1
Quick Cash	34-35-29-38-36-39
Hot Five	20-23-29-28-21

MARYLAND	
Mid-day Pick 3	5-8-4
Evening Pick 3	7-1-4

Mid-day Pick 4	5-3-5-0
Evening Pick 4	2-9-0-4
Match 5	1-2-8-25-35 Bonus: 37

VIRGINIA	
Mid-day Pick 3 (Wed.)	3-5-1
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.)	2-4-3
Mid-day Pick 4 (Wed.)	5-8-3-4
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.)	4-9-6-8
Mid-day Cash 5 (Wed.)	3-10-16-22-27
Evening Cash 5 (Tues.)	8-13-18-19-33

MULTI-STATE GAMES	
Mega Millions (Tues.)	18-22-33-34-42
Mega Ball	16

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

TRIP TIPS

HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF METRO

Elevator Outages

→ Elevator overhauls at two stations are expected to sideline two units for 10 weeks. Work began Monday on the platform elevator at Federal Triangle, and work starts May 2 on the entrance elevator at East Falls Church. Riders unable to use the escalators can call 202-962-1825 in advance to arrange for a shuttle bus to or from a nearby stop.

Have a tip for Metro riders? Send it to Danny.Freedman@readexpress.com.

DATA DONATION: Rockville, Md.-based Celera Genomics — which raced the government to unlock the human genetic code —



and its sister company, Applied Biosystems, have decided to make publicly available much of the genetic library it once sold access to.

Local



Alexandria City Police SWAT team members escort a young boy to an awaiting officer after he was rescued following a hostage standoff on Wednesday.

Mayor Visits Ballou After Shooting

Leaders meet with students to find a way to curb teen violence

WASHINGTON | Stung by the death of yet another young person in a senseless act of violence, D.C. officials said Wednesday they are searching for ways to solve the city's youth violence problem.

A drive-by shooting that killed Lavelle Jones, 16, early Sunday has heightened concern about the safety of young people. Jones was

the fourth youngster with ties to Southeast Washington's Ballou High School to die violently in four months.

"We continue to suffer with the loss of too many children," said Mayor Anthony A. Williams, who went to Ballou Wednesday to talk with about 25 young people about the issue.



Williams

Members of the District of

Columbia Metropolitan Police Department will continue to enforce a curfew which prohibits those under 17 from being on the streets from midnight until 6 a.m. Friday and Saturday nights and 11 p.m. — 6 a.m. the rest of the week. Exceptions are made for those traveling to or from a church, school, or an organized community event.

"We cannot have young people coming to school fearful and scared about being shot or being beat up," said D.C. Councilman and former mayor Marion Barry, D-Ward 8. (AP)

Suspect Killed in Va. Hostage Case

Boy, 9, is fine after a violent end to 20-hour standoff in Del Ray

ALEXANDRIA, VA. | After 20 hours, a standoff between police and an armed man holding his son hostage ended Wednesday with officers shooting the suspect dead when he threatened them with a gun.

"The child is fine," said Capt. John Crawford, an Alexandria Police spokesman. After the shooting, officers stormed the house to rescue the 9-year-old.

"When you come out of a house armed with a handgun, we don't have the luxury of waiting to see if you're acting irrationally or if

you're going to pull that trigger," Crawford said. Although suspect Lewis Barber, 48, did not shoot, the officers did. Barber was pronounced dead about 45 minutes later.

The late afternoon gunfire ended a standoff which began Tuesday night. Authorities said Barber grabbed the boy at gunpoint as the child and his mother were leaving a restaurant on King Street. He then took the boy to the family's home on West Wyatt Avenue, in the city's Del Ray section.

Police said Barber's wife and son had moved out of the home on Saturday when a judge issued a protective order prohibiting the husband from having contact with her or the boy. LAUREN FRAYER (AP)

Charges in Md. Field Hockey Hazing

FROSTBURG, MD. | Six Frostburg State University female field hockey players hazed their new teammates by urging them to drink so much beer and liquor that one 18-year-old was hospitalized with a blood alcohol level more than four times the legal limit, police say.

The freshman victims also were

pelted with flour, ice and eggs, and made to sit in their own vomit and urine, according to charging documents filed in Allegany County District Court by Frostburg police.

Five of the women were charged with second-degree assault and hazing. Charges were pending against the sixth. (AP)

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Sports



SHAQTV: Shaquille O'Neal will narrate and star in "Shaquille," a six-part series set to debut on ESPN on May 24. The show follows the center from his Christmas game against the Lakers to jam sessions, a parade in Little Havana and time with his wife.



PICKED OFF: Philadelphia Phillies first baseman tags out Nationals outfielder Brad Wilkerson in Wednesday's game at RFK.

Phils Spoil Loaiza's Outing

Three-run 9th nullifies pitcher's performance

NATIONALS | Jimmy Rollins broke a scoreless tie in the ninth with a leadoff homer, and Brett Myers pitched seven scoreless innings Wednesday in the Philadelphia Phillies' 3-0 victory over the Washington Nationals.

Rollins pulled a pitch just over the right-field fence and into the Phillies' bullpen, spoiling a masterful pitching performance by Esteban Loaiza (0-2), who faced just three batters over the minimum through eight innings.

Kenny Lofton then singled to chased Loaiza. Later in the inning, pinch-hitter David Bell singled off reliever Luis Ayala to score Bobby Abreu, and Placido Polanco singled home Jim Thome for the insurance runs.

Myers allowed four hits, walked three and struck out seven in seven innings. He allowed a man on base every inning but one, but he never allowed two on base at the same time.

At Loaiza's request, the

Washington Nationals were the D.C. Nationals for a day, wearing their red jerseys with the interlocking "DC" logo for the first time. Loaiza must know what makes him comfortable — he matched his career-high with 11 strikeouts, walked one and allowed just four hits.

The Nationals had previously worn their red jerseys only for batting practice and spring training games. When Loaiza asked that the team wear them for his start, manager Frank Robinson didn't bother to ask why: "I don't want to mess with his psyche," he said. JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

Grudzielanek Hits For Cycle in Win

BASEBALL | Mark Grudzielanek hit for the cycle in his first four at-bats and Chris Carpenter equaled his career best with 12 strikeouts, helping the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Milwaukee Brewers 6-3 Wednesday for their 11th victory in 12 games.

Jim Edmonds had two RBIs for the Cardinals, who at 14-5 are off to their best start since the 1968 team opened with that record. The first four in the batting order went 7-for-



The Cardinals high-five Grudzielanek after he hit for the cycle on Wednesday.

9 in the first four innings against Victor Santos (1-1) while building a 5-0 lead.

The Cardinals won their fifth straight over the Brewers. (AP)

Red Sox Lose Second Ace in 2 Days

BASEBALL | The Boston Red Sox are now down two aces.

Curt Schilling will miss at least two weeks with a bone bruise on his surgically repaired right ankle, the latest misstep for a rotation that lost David Wells a few days earlier.

Schilling's injury could be indirectly related to the operation he had last November, Boston general manager Theo Epstein said Wednesday, although the latest problem is higher in the ankle.

Epstein said Schilling will go

on the 15-day disabled list, rest and wear a removable boot for two weeks. He might be able to throw during that period, which could speed his return.

The Red Sox got an unexpected day off Wednesday, when their game with the Baltimore Orioles was postponed by rain. The game will



Schilling

Screech on Screech: Dustin Diamond of "Saved by the Bell" fame gives his take on the Nationals new mascot at 1 p.m. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Red-Hot Johnson Takes a Day Off

NATIONALS | Washington Nationals first baseman Nick Johnson's hitting streak took a break when he sat out Wednesday's game against the Philadelphia Phillies with a bruised thigh.

Johnson has a major league season-high 16-game hitting streak,

ever in question," team president Tony Tavares said. "I think this is merely a technicality."

Bowden, the Cincinnati Reds' GM from 1992-2003, was working as an ESPN analyst when he was



Bowden

hired to help run the Nationals, who are owned by major league baseball's 29 other teams. He was aggressive early in the off-season, signing third baseman Vinny Castilla and shortstop Cristian Guzman in free agency and trading for outfielder Jose Guillen.

"I've enjoyed it," Bowden said. "We have a lot of work to do. I think we're making progress, but it's a work in progress." JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

but he fouled a pitch off his leg in the third inning of Tuesday night's game. He left the game after six innings.

The Nationals are off Thursday, and Johnson was optimistic he would play Friday against the New York Mets.

Manager Frank Robinson wasn't so sure. "If I had a guess, I'd say no," Robinson said. "He's hobbling around." (AP)

be made up June 2.

The announcement came less than 24 hours after left-hander Wells went on the disabled list with a sprained right foot suffered Monday night. He also is wearing a removable boot and his foot will be immobilized for three weeks, Epstein said. He's expected to be sidelined four to six weeks.

"These are real serious challenges, but we think they're short-term challenges and well get through it," Epstein said. HOWARD ULMAN (AP)

CLOSING THE DEAL: Jose Mesa, who got his 300th career save Wednesday in Pittsburgh's 2-0 win over Houston, has



saved each of the Pirates' eight victories, this season. Previously, no pitcher had saved more than five consecutive wins to start a season.

Sports

NFL Objects to Uniform Drug Tests

Tagliabue appears on Hill to face tough questions on steroids

DOPING | A law establishing uniform drug-testing rules for major U.S. sports would be a mistake, NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue told Congress on Wednesday, while defending his league's steroid policy under questioning from lawmakers who were far less adversarial than during last month's baseball hearing.

"We don't feel that there is rampant cheating in our sport," Tagliabue told the House Government Reform Committee.

Members of the panel asked whether the size of today's NFL players is evidence of steroid use, they criticized football's penalties as too lenient, and asked whether amphetamines should be banned.

"How is the average American supposed to look at the size, strength and speed of today's NFL linebackers and not conclude that they might be taking performance-enhancing drugs?" asked chair Tom Davis, R-Va.

Tagliabue countered: "We're cer-



NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, Executive VP Harold Henderson, and Players Association chief Gene Upshaw are sworn in.

tainly not going to jump to the conclusion that because we have larger athletes today there is increased steroid use in the National Football League. I think it's nonsense."

On the whole, congressmen

praised the NFL for its cooperation, with more than one calling Wednesday's session a "breath of fresh air" compared to Major League Baseball's hearing.

Still, the committee didn't get

a direct answer as to how widespread steroid use might be in the NFL. Lawmakers tried to gauge that level in baseball on March 17, when an 11-hour hearing featured Mark McGwire, Jose Canseco and



Rep. Tom Davis said he will submit a bill calling for uniform steroid testing.

other past and current stars.

On Wednesday, only two former NFL players were present, and one was Hall of Famer Gene Upshaw, invited because he's the NFL Players Association chief executive. The other was Steve Courson, a lineman for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Tampa Bay Buccaneers from 1978-85. He has admitted using steroids and said they probably played a role in his developing a heart condition.

Davis promised more hearings and said the NBA will be next. He said he, Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., are working on legislation that would put sports' banned substance lists and testing protocols under the auspices of the White House drug czar but might leave penalties up to the leagues. HOWARD FENDRICH (AP)

USA Basketball Gets Major Shakeup

BASKETBALL | Jerry Colangelo has been given total control of the U.S. men's Olympic basketball program and has promised radical changes in an effort to restore the United States to international prominence in the sport.

The system of a handful of NBA stars gathering for a few weeks

before the competition will be abandoned, said Colangelo, the chairman and CEO of the Phoenix Suns who has been involved in basketball for 50 years, 39 of them in the professional ranks.

"It's going to be drastically different," Colangelo said Wednesday at a news conference, "and I say that

because you know stars do not necessarily make a great team."

The 10-member committee that selected the teams has been disbanded, and Colangelo alone will name the players and coaches.

He said he wants them to commit to the team for two years leading up to the 2006 world championships and 2008 Beijing Olympics. (AP)

Fan Charged Day After Iverson Hit With Object

NBA | A Detroit Pistons fan was charged Wednesday with throwing an object onto the court after Philadelphia's Allen Iverson was struck with a coin during a play-off game.

Iverson was hit Tuesday night during the Pistons' 99-84 victory while he sat on the 76ers' bench with about two minutes left in the game, Auburn Hills police Sgt. Rick Leonard said in a statement.

Dennis W. Pauley, 31, was charged with throwing an object onto a playing surface, and Michael A. Roberts, 26, was charged with occupying a seat without a proper ticket.

They could be sentenced to 90 days in jail and fined \$500.



A security guard points out Dennis Pauley after the incident on Tuesday.

The situation didn't escalate into a confrontation on the scale of the Nov. 19 Palace brawl involving Pistons fans and Indiana Pacers players. (AP)

TODAY'S TV LINEUP

NBA (7 P.M. ON TNT) The Miami Heat can all but eliminate the New Jersey Nets from the playoffs with a third straight victory in their playoff series.

NBA (9:30 P.M. ON TNT) The Houston Rockets look for a third consecutive victory over the Dallas Mavericks as the first-round series moves to Houston.

GOLF (4 P.M. ON USA) Vijay Singh seeks to repeat as champion of the Zurich Classic in New Orleans a week after beating John Daly in a playoff.

Dallas Inks CB Glenn to 2-Year Deal

FOOTBALL | The Dallas Cowboys signed cornerback Aaron Glenn to a two-year deal Wednesday, providing another upgrade to their evolving defense and giving coach Bill Parcells yet another reunion.

A day after being released by the Houston Texans, Glenn joined the Cowboys to become their third cover man in passing situations. He also provides an experienced backup for Terence Newman, who is coming off

a shaky sophomore season, and free agent signee Anthony Henry.

Contract terms were not released.

Glenn, who turns 33 in September, spent his first eight seasons with the New York Jets and the last three in Houston. He has 35 career interceptions.

Parcells coached Glenn in New York from 1997-99, when Glenn made the Pro Bowl twice. (AP)

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Sports



NATIONAL ATTENTION: The Fiesta Bowl will host the first college football national championship under the revised BCS format that starts in 2006.

A-Rod Earns His Pinstripes

Three-homer, 10-RBI performance has N.Y. finally accepting him

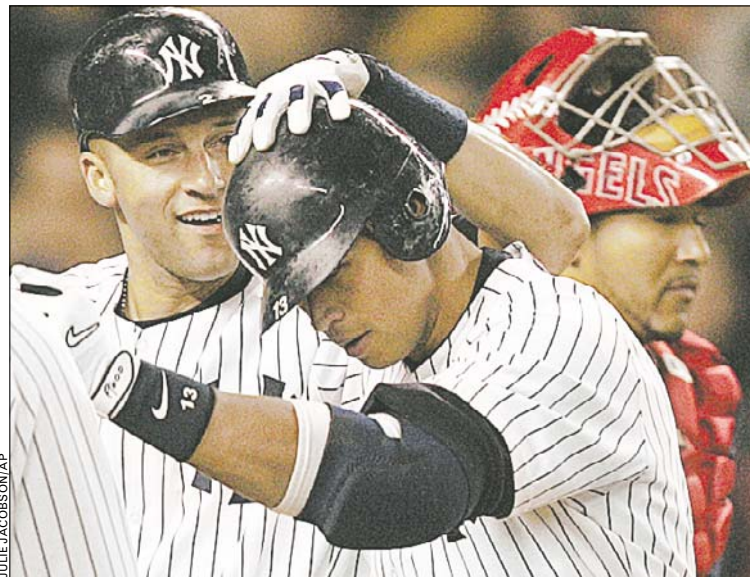
BASEBALL | All Alex Rodriguez has to do is get 10 RBIs every game. Then New York Yankees fans just might start accepting him as one of their own.

His three-homer, 10 RBI game against the Anaheim Angels on Tuesday night was the attention-grabbing performance New York has been waiting for in the 14 months since baseball's \$252 million man put on the pinstripes for the first time.

"That's the problem with it," Yankee manager Joe Torre said as he sat in the dugout Wednesday afternoon. "Magnify it or multiply it by all the games left, he'll break everybody's record."

Even owner George Steinbrenner wouldn't quibble with 1,620 RBIs in one year — as long as A-Rod hits in the postseason, too.

New York papers had front-page headlines about A-Rod, just the 11th



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Yankee captain Derek Jeter congratulates Alex Rodriguez during his 10-RBI night.

player to reach double digits in RBIs in a major league game. "HOT ROD" said the New York Post. "A-BOMB!" said the Daily News.

Rodriguez went straight home after New York's 12-4 win and didn't go out again until leaving for the ballpark Wednesday.

"It was one of those nights where

you really don't remember a lot," he said. "It's just kind of surreal."

He tried to make light of it, saying his wife, Cynthia, didn't depart from the usual routine at their Manhattan apartment.

"She made me throw out the garbage, like every other day," he said.

RONALD BLUM (AP)

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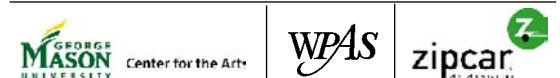
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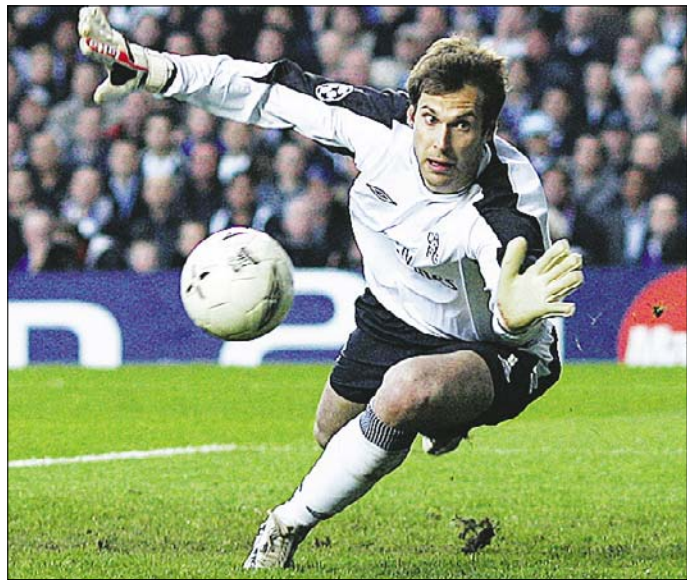
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Sports

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE | SAVE OF THE GAME



DYLAN MARTINEZ/REUTERS

SHUT OUT: Chelsea's goalkeeper Petr Cech dives to make a save during a Champions League semifinal against Liverpool. The teams tied, 0-0, in the first leg of the match played at Stamford Bridge in London Wednesday.

William and Mary May Drop 'Tribe' Monicker

MASCOTS | The College of William and Mary's "Tribe" is under attack.

The Williamsburg school is among 31 that is being asked by the NCAA to reconsider potentially offensive, Native American-themed sports team logos.

Schools have until May 1 to do a self-analysis of the logos' impact and turn the results over to the athletic association for review and possible recommendations.

It is unclear whether schools will

be instructed to drop their logos or face penalties. Schools were first notified of the NCAA's demands last year, said NCAA spokeswoman Gail Dent.

William and Mary hasn't responded yet. Preoccupied with the arrival of a new president and a lengthy NCAA certification process, officials haven't had time, said Vice President for Public Affairs William Walker. The school has received an extension for its self-analysis. (AP)

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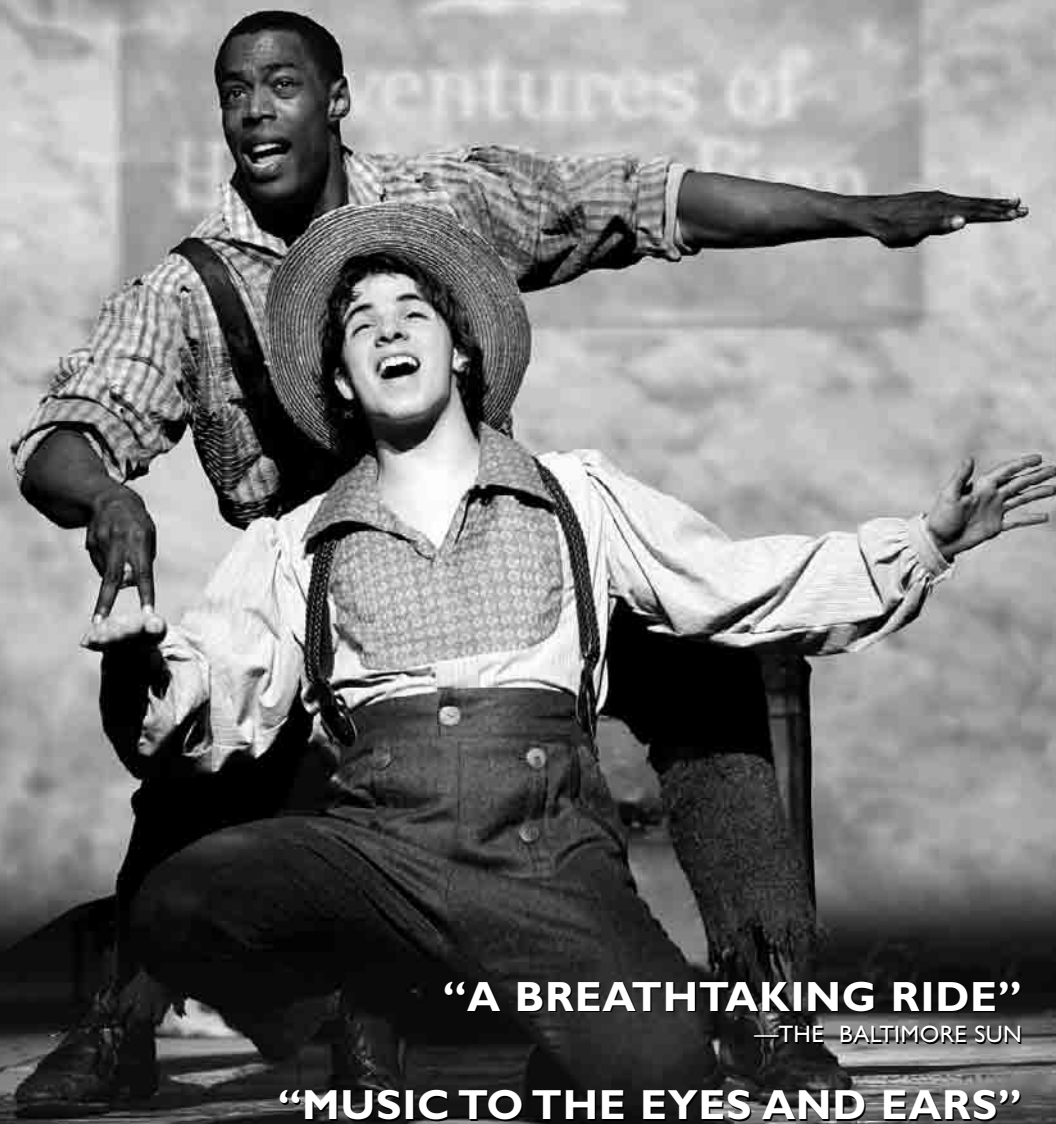
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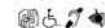
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EAT CAKE, MAYOR: New York's Mayor Bloomberg begged Conan O'Brien to bring "Tonight" back to the city when he takes the show's reins from Jay Leno. Already throwing his weight around, O'Brien told hizzoner, "It's not up to me."



Entertainment



Series such as NBC's late "Deadline" have tackled newsroom doings before.

Newspaper To Make TV News

THE SCOOP | Hollywood has dramatized life inside the newsroom of big-city newspapers many times, but now a team of filmmakers is planning a documentary series based on the workings of a real newsroom — that of the New York Daily News.

The six-part series is expected to air next year on Bravo.

Lauren Zalaznick, the head of Bravo, said the unscripted series would be based on actual reporters and the stories they work on, but it would be edited and structured like a dramatic series. She said it would be the first documentary series set inside a major American newspaper.

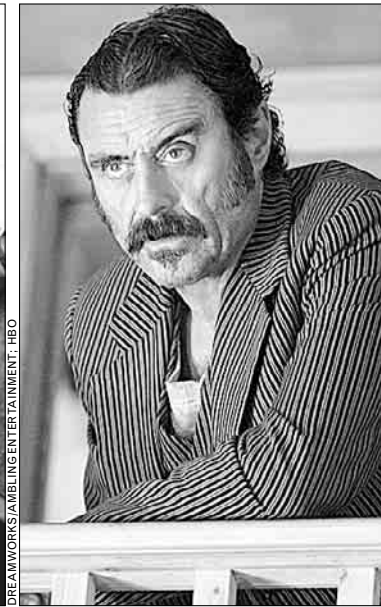
"We are thrilled with the opportunity to partner with Hearst Entertainment in this unprecedented series," Zalaznick said, "which will provide a true 'fly on the wall' look at the inner workings of a leading daily newspaper."

Each episode will follow four or five characters as they go about reporting news in New York. The Daily News, which is owned by real-estate developer Mort Zuckerman, is locked in a fierce competition with its crosstown rival the New York Post, owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp.

Bravo, a unit of General Electric Co.'s NBC Universal, is teaming with Hearst Entertainment Inc., a producer of reality programming for cable television, to make the series. (AP)



DIRTY IS AS DIRTY TALKS: Fear of FCC disapproval kept "Saving Private Ryan" off many airwaves; HBO's curse-laden "Deadwood" could be in similar trouble.



Nothing to See

Is the decency war spinning out of control?

TOO FAR | To many viewers, the current anti-indecency crusade isn't just out to make the airwaves safe for families and children. Another likely goal is to punish TV for its brazen smut-peddling.

Cracking down on TV content is the latest rage in the culture wars. And who wants to be seen as a war resister? Apparently not Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., who recently advocated criminal prosecution for indecent material aired by broadcasters.

Another proposal would expand the purview of the Federal Communications Commission to

add cable and satellite programming to the list of what the fed regulates — which would place shows from MTV, FX and HBO under the government's thumb.

Rep. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., is striking back against indecency zealots with a bill that would clarify the FCC's authority for policing content as being limited to broadcast television and radio. He points to the 66 ABC affiliates that opted not to air the war film "Saving Private Ryan" last November because of fears that the FCC might rule its cursing to be indecent (it didn't). And last spring, some PBS stations removed the

"The least expensive way to generate an audience is through vulgarity."

ACTIVIST ROBERT W. MCCHESENEY
ON MEDIA CONGLOMERATES

image of a nude lithograph from "Antiques Roadshow."

Media scholar and activist Robert W. McChesney blames fewer and bigger media owners.

"Companies that produce the most vulgar fare," he said, "are News Corp. [owner of the Fox network], Viacom [owner of MTV, CBS and many Infinity Radio stations] and Clear Channel [with more than 1,200 radio stations]. What these companies have found is, once you gobble up a lot of media outlets, the least expensive way to generate an audience is through vulgarity."

The public rose up against the FCC's efforts to oblige Big Media with eased limits on how many outlets a conglomerate could own. Portions of the rules passed by the FCC two years ago were overturned by Congress. Then a U.S. Court of Appeals tossed out most of the rest.

Said Sanders, "I think you're gonna see the same thing here: 'Please, don't tell me what I can watch, especially when I'm paying for the privilege of watching it.'" FRAZIER MOORE (AP)



"American Idol" judge Paula Abdul vehemently denies any misbehavior.

Abdul Preempts Rumors

'Idol' judge lashes out at rumors before 'Primetime' airdate

SPIN | Paula Abdul is taking preemptive measures to quash a controversy sparked by an upcoming ABC special on "American Idol."

Though the exact nature of the "Primetime Live" special, "Fallen

Idol," remains unknown, ABC has said it will "explore explosive claims about behind-the-scenes activities" at the Fox talent contest.

Reports have speculated that it will hinge on Corey Clark, a contestant who was dropped from the show after producers learned about a past arrest. He is reportedly trying to sell a tell-all book about his experiences with the program, including

an alleged affair with Abdul.

A spokesperson for Abdul released a statement to syndicated entertainment show "Access Hollywood": "Paula Abdul will not dignify the false statements made by Corey Clark with a response. Mr. Clark is an admitted liar and opportunist ... [who is] communicating lies ... to generate interest in a book deal." (AP)

Entertainment



EDGY WORK: Jennifer Lopez joins Antonio Banderas in a new film, "Bordertown," directed by Gregory Nava, who gave Lopez her start in the biopic "Selena." The film is a thriller about murders in a town on the U.S.-Mexican border.

Radio Free Everybody

For an indie rocker, M. Ward sure is an old-fashioned guy

ORGANICS | Matt Ward pines for the glory days of free-form radio — his new album, "Transistor Radio," is a personal homage to that endangered sensibility — and the singer-songwriter-guitarist's musical touchstones include Louis Armstrong and the Carter Family.

"My vision of [radio] is very idealistic and romantic and not exactly in reality," Ward conceded. "There's just a sort of amnesia on radio, in popular music and popular culture that I feel lost in. So I guess one of the ways I get myself out of this is by making these records that make some sort of abstract sense."

They're also making some kind of sense to a growing audience. "Transistor Radio" is his fourth album, but this is his first headlining tour, and he said all the dates



FOR THE PEOPLE: M. Ward's vision of radio is about isolation and connection.

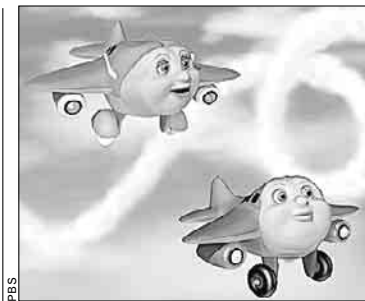
have sold out.

To some degree, his emergence reflects the exposure he's received through indie-rock star Conor Oberst, who invited Ward to open tours for his band Bright Eyes and enlisted him to play in the group. Ward also has teamed with Oberst and Jim James, the singer from My Morning Jacket, on a couple of tours they called "Monsters of Folk."

Ward performs under the moniker M. Ward. On his records he can often seem like an elusive character, slipping in and out of the shadows of his atmospheric production.

That it's all come this far is a continual surprise to Ward. He's a self-described homebody with a love-hate attitude toward touring, but for now, he's enjoying the ride.

"I never really knew that I was going to be doing this for as long as I've been doing it," he said. "I only started doing music full time in 2000, 2001." **RICHARD CROMELIN** (LOS ANGELES TIMES)



Jay Jay, right, and Tracy test the air currents on the popular children's show.

PBS' Jay Jay Takes Flight

CROSS-PROMOTION | "Jay Jay the Jet Plane," the PBS children's show, is landing at air shows nationwide with a stage show, play area and other kid-oriented activities.

The 25-state tour, which kicked off last weekend, includes Jay Jay, Brenda Blue and their buddies from Tarrytown Airport, the setting for the show aimed at preschoolers.

A total of 72 air shows are on the "Jay Jay" tour schedule through November. It will land at the World's Fair for Kids in Dulles, Va., on Oct. 23-23. (AP)

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Homes

Bigger structures to hold larger vehicles leave cities in debate

Paul Piscopo wanted a home for his nine cars, with plenty of space for other vehicles he might buy down the road. So, while building a house in Troy, Mich., he put up a garage — a 6,000-square-foot structure that covers three times as much ground as his home and can hold 28 full-size pickup trucks.

"It's a beautiful garage," Piscopo said. "It's got all the amenities."

But some neighbors call it an eyesore, and they're not the only ones raising questions about outsized garages. As more people buy larger cars and trucks, cities are struggling with how to regulate huge garages while balancing the rights of property owners and nearby residents.

Neighbors insist Piscopo's hulking sheet-metal structure has hurt their property values. They want it torn down.

"It doesn't pay. The only one who wins that way are the lawyers."

PAUL PISCOPO

THE TROY, MICH., MAN, ON WHY HE WOULD LIKE TO AVOID A LAWSUIT WITH HIS NEIGHBORS ABOUT HIS GARAGE

But it's unlikely any restrictions made by the city council and planning commission would affect Piscopo, because ordinance revisions would affect only new construction projects.

Garages have grown steadily during the last 20 years, prompting communities nationwide to review zoning regulations, said Brian Wenzel of Atwell-Hicks, a development consulting firm.

In Pittsburgh, officials considered an ordinance that would prohibit attached garages from exceeding 20 percent of a home's total size. In Schererville, Ind., officials halted construction of a home in February after its garage door was taller than nine feet.

The garage was designed to



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

PARKING ... LOTS: Paul Piscopo's garage can hold 28 full-size pickup trucks.

Monster Garage

accommodate a motor home almost 13 feet tall and 10 feet wide. The homeowners, whose construction plans had been approved, were later granted a variance and allowed to continue building.

Piscopo said he complied with regulations when he planned the

garage. The city granted him a construction permit in 2003, because the building covers less than 30 percent of the lot and is back from the road. Only after construction began did neighbors complain, he said.

They appealed to the zoning board of appeals. Neighbor

George Reed said a real-estate agent recently told him the garage could cut his home's value by as much as 25 percent.

Reed told the City Council the garage "destroyed my future security," he said. BREE FOWLER (AP)

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Roll Call

The Capitol

Roll Call newspaper editor **TIM CURRAN** was online Wednesday to discuss debates on Capitol Hill over ethics and filibusters | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

When will the travel habits of Rep. Nancy Pelosi and her staff start to get the same kind of scrutiny that Rep. Tom DeLay has been under? Do you think that DeLay must have a mole in his organization?

Republicans have been all over allegations about travel by Pelosi and her staff, and it has been getting more coverage recently. The message from Republicans in rallying to DeLay's defense has been, in part, "everybody does it." And I think a lot of lawmakers have been surprised by exactly how true that is. Hence the scramble to update their own travel records. And if the mole in the DeLay operation is reading this, please call me.

I'm worried that in the rush to get rid of Tom DeLay we are going to make anyone who takes a trip look like they are doing something wrong. A lot of these members of Congress have never been out of Podunkville. Seeing a bit of the world so they can do their jobs better isn't a bad thing.

In the short term, it's probably not such a bad thing that members of Congress take a step back and

make sure the trips they and their staffs are taking pass the smell test, but it would hurt their ability to really be informed about what's going on in the world if they simply decided trips abroad aren't worth the media scrutiny.

In the effort to remove the right to filibuster, are Republicans trying to achieve short term political victory at possible cost to the long-term health of the Senate?

That's the very issue behind the concerns of a number of Republican senators on the issue. They understand that times change and that Democrats will eventually win back the Senate. In that environment, Democrats could be free to use the same standard to push through their own judicial nominees or, to take it a step further, push for much stricter limitations on gun ownership, etc.

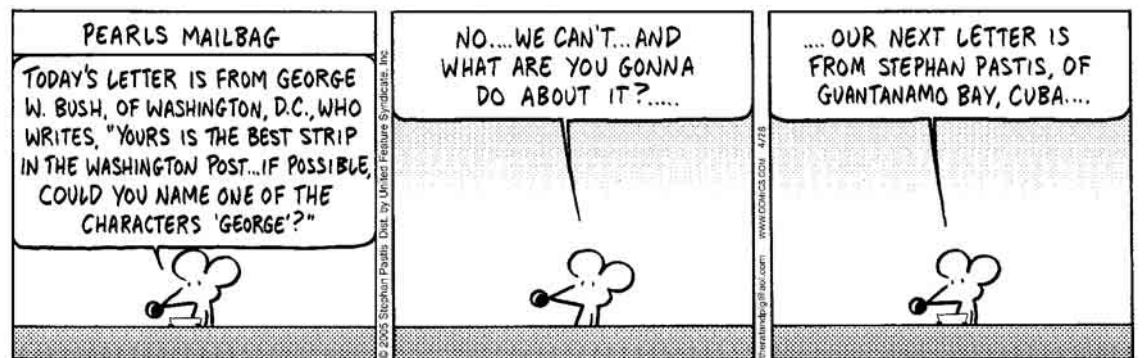
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1 P.M.: Former "Saved By the Bell" star Dustin Diamond ("Screech") reacts to the naming of the Nationals' new mascot, Screech, and answers questions about his career.

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



Letters

Why Oppose Sex Education?

AN ARTICLE ON Tuesday ("Sextravaganza' Goes On Despite GOP Objections") said that some Virginia lawmakers steadfastly opposed George Mason

University's "Sextravaganza" — an event that sought to educate American youth about preventing sexual assault, sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, and the importance of health exams and abstinence. What kind of person, let alone a lawmaker, would actively jeopardize the health and safety of young adults by opposing

such an event? I'm glad that I live Maryland.

— SARA BUSHEY
Silver Spring, Md.

Correction:

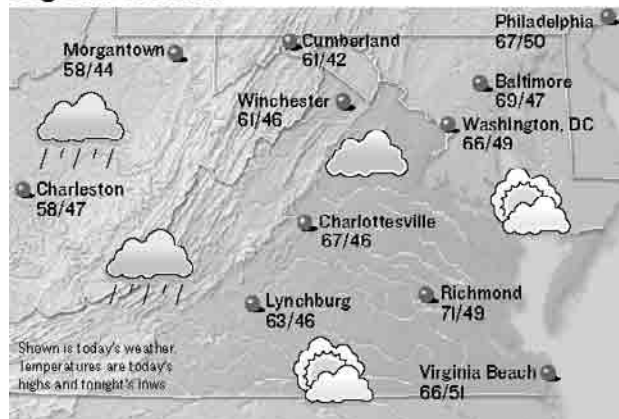
A front-page story in Wednesday's Express incorrectly identified the capital of Lebanon. The capital is Beirut.

✦ Write to us: inbox@readexpress.com

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Partly sunny, seasonable 66°	Spotty rain late 49°	Cloudy, rain at times 65° / 57°	Windy; thunderstorms after noon 76° / 52°	Partly sunny, breezy 68° / 48°	Mostly sunny 68° / 50°

Regional Weather



Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Wed.
Temperature
 High 69°
 Low 54°
 Normal high 70°
 Normal low 49°
 Average humidity 49%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m. Trace
 Month to date 3.16"
 Normal month to date 2.47"
 Year to date 12.56"
 Last year to date 9.56"
 Normal year to date 11.91"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

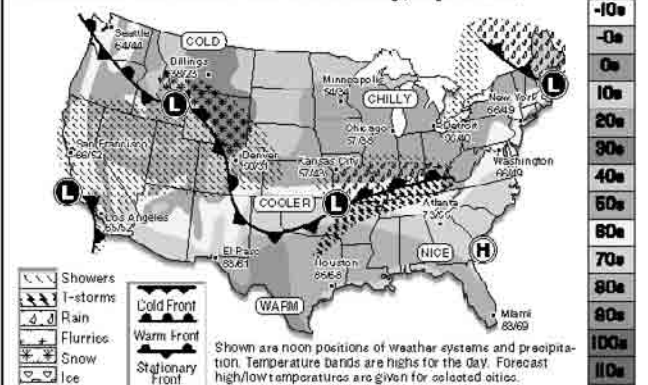
D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny. High 66. Wind west-southwest 8-16 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy, rain late. Low 49.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 6:14 a.m.
 Sunset tonight 7:58 p.m.
 Moonrise today 12:13 a.m.
 Moonset today 9:08 a.m.



National Weather for Thursday, April 28



National Cities

City	Today	Fri.
Atlanta	73/55/s	80/60/pc
Boston	62/48/pc	58/48/pc
Chicago	57/38/c	56/38/r
Dallas	86/65/pc	80/50/pc
Denver	50/31/sh	41/27/sn
Honolulu	82/67/sh	83/69/pc
Los Angeles	65/52/t	69/54/pc
Miami	83/69/pc	84/70/s
New York City	66/48/pc	60/52/r
Orlando	82/59/s	86/65/a
Seattle	64/44/pc	58/44/sh

World Cities

City	Today	Fri.
Amsterdam	57/56/r	58/52/pc
Athens	70/58/s	70/58/pc
Berlin	60/42/c	57/41/r
Buenos Aires	66/48/pc	67/51/pc
Calgary	35/16/c	36/18/c
Dublin	55/50/r	58/49/r
Geneva	63/50/pc	66/50/pc
Moscow	59/43/c	58/46/sh
Rome	68/52/pc	69/54/pc
Sydney	81/66/s	75/59/sh
Tokyo	73/63/s	77/63/s

LOOK* out

People

ANTHROPOLOGY

Primitive Economy Develops Around Celebrity Castoffs

HALLE BERRY has donated two of her designer gowns to her former high school, in Bedford, Ohio, to be auctioned during its annual prom fashion show. The money raised will send Bedford High students on a field trip to the Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati. One dress is a knee-length geometric print that Berry wore on an Ebony magazine cover. The other is a white Versace halter-style gown. (AP)



STEFANO PALTER/AP

Buy Halle's dress and you, too, will be bathed in soft, ethereal, flattering light.

FEMINISM

Melania: Career Woman

In her first big commercial, model **MELANIA TRUMP** is starring alongside the Aflac duck. Both her husband, Donald Trump, and the duck star in a 30-second spot for Aflac insurance titled "Experiment." The duck's speaking part is usually limited to his famous "Aflaaaaaaac" squawk. But in the ad, a mad scientist swaps Trump's sultry voice with the infamous spokesduck, voiced by Gilbert Gottfried. (AP)

NOSTALGIA

Before Tragic Downfall, Judy Wore This

The blue and white gingham dress **JUDY GARLAND** wore in "The Wizard of Oz" was sold for \$252,000 Wednesday at an auction in London. The dress went to a buyer bidding by telephone who did not wish to be identified, said



MATT DUNHAM/AP

To others, this dress represents "Liza Minnelli's mother."

Bonhams, the auctioneer. "This dress represents the quintessential magic of childhood in the most beloved film of the 20th century," said Jon Baddeley, head of Bonhams collector's department. (AP)

SHOWDOWN

Makeup and Airbrushing Vs. Night Feedings and Colic

Having twins last November has made **JULIA ROBERTS** even more beautiful, says People magazine. She graces the cover of the annual "50 Most Beautiful People"



issue, on newsstands Friday. It is a record-breaking third time that Roberts has been the issue's cover girl. "Now that she has her babies, she has reached the peak of beauty," Genevieve Roberts' makeup artist, told the magazine. "She is satisfied and content. All of that shows." It is Roberts' record ninth time on the list, a feat mirrored only by Halle Berry, who's also in the issue. (AP)

SUPER CLAY!

And Then He Went Back in Time To Save One Little Girl's Life

CLAY AIKEN made an unexpected appearance at Lincoln East High School in Lincoln, Neb., on Monday. Twins Britney and Bethany Wekesser were to board "The Oprah Winfrey Wildest Dreams" bus Monday after being nominated by someone at the school. Several classes went outside, thinking Winfrey would be on the bus. Aiken stepped out instead. "They started jumping up and down. One of them, I think it was Bethany, lost her shoes. They were screaming," said a classmate. (AP)



JOE CAVARETTA/AP



FRED PROUSIER/REUTERS

STAR WARS

Costume Drama

The "Star Wars" fans currently camped out in front of Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles were rewarded Wednesday morning with a Netflix-sponsored appearance by **BAI LING**, who plays Senator Bana Breemu in "Episode III." Hugs were given, photos were taken and autographs were signed. (AP)

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1945

On April 28, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini was executed as he tried to flee the country; also, in 1967, during the Vietnam War, heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali refused to be inducted into the Army.

Busy Bees | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

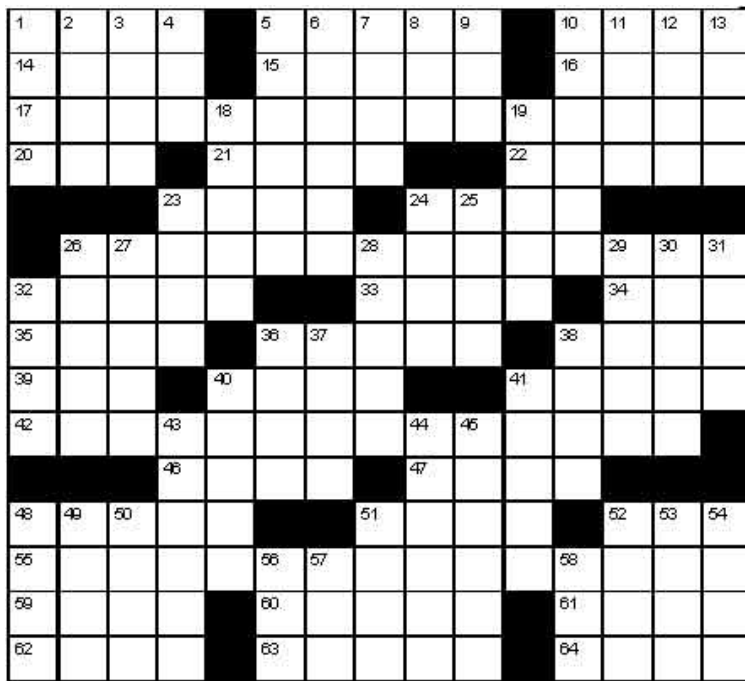
ACROSS

- 1 "Goodbye, Columbus" author
- 5 Pythias' partner
- 10 Sheffield stroller
- 14 Best-selling cookie
- 15 "The Life of ___ Zola"
- 16 Philbin's sidekick
- 17 Big top twosome
- 20 Terrorized street of film
- 21 Hit bottom
- 22 Base negotiating amounts
- 23 Give way
- 24 Charged atoms
- 26 Table mates
- 32 Music to a comic's ears
- 33 It lands at Ben Gurion
- 34 Bale fodder
- 35 Checked out
- 36 Herculean types
- 38 Gael's language
- 39 Decay
- 40 Place for an ace
- 41 Does the get-away driving, e.g.
- 42 1948 Oscar-winning song
- 46 Double-curved molding
- 47 Mediterranean gulf
- 48 Garlic feature
- 51 "___ plaisir!"
- 52 Type of station

- 55 Travelers' stop, perhaps
- 59 Give off
- 60 Antelope with twisted horns
- 61 Song for Madama Butterfly
- 62 Rat Pack nickname
- 63 Map collection
- 64 Bone reading

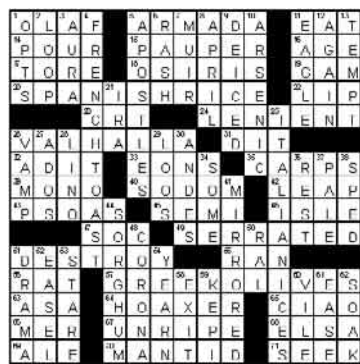
DOWN

- 1 Loungewear
- 2 Ph.D. exam
- 3 Presidential run
- 4 Snookums
- 5 Strong request
- 6 Kitty of "Gunsmoke"
- 7 Ritzy wrap
- 8 Timeworn
- 9 Bird's beak
- 10 Certain man of the cloth
- 11 Provoke
- 12 Mimicked
- 13 Center field great
- 18 "___ directed" (Rx order)
- 19 Void, as a marriage certificate
- 23 It's drawn with a rifle?
- 24 Not up to anything
- 25 Firth of Lorn resort
- 26 Marshy arm
- 27 Gable role
- 28 Ancient Greek games site



- 29 Hurlled
- 30 Some bridge players
- 31 Food grains
- 32 Cardamom or caraway, e.g.
- 36 Make perfect
- 37 "Anything ___?"
- 38 Dark, poetically
- 40 Incredible Hulk?
- 41 How some are taken
- 43 Pizza paste
- 44 Nine days of services
- 45 Doesn't look
- 48 Tucked in
- 49 Do followers
- 50 Frigg's husband
- 51 Asian salt sea
- 52 She had a "Tootsie" role
- 53 Where the Amur flows
- 54 Reprieve from the governor
- 56 Fed watchdog
- 57 Short order?
- 58 Office staple

Yesterday's Solution



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your personal power is on the rise; you may want to try your hand at giving orders — tactfully and with consideration.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You must insist that those who have signed on with you trust your decisions without question. Later there will be time for discussion.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You may find yourself in a new position, and discover that the need for cooperation and com-

promise is greater than expected.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You may find yourself at odds with those who are usually supportive of you. You must ask yourself: Is it something I said or did?
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A look back should provide you with the information you need to pick up the pace and increase production and profit in the near future.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Don't make the mistake of thinking that this weekend is a time to sit back and relax. On the contrary, there's much to do.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) While things are on hold in one respect, you can use the time available to you to get closer to one or two other secondary goals.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Though your primary task may be to tend to imme-

diate concerns as they arise, don't pass up the opportunity to work on a long-term basis.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Others are no doubt seeking your involvement in pet projects of all kinds. Consider what benefits you will reap in the long run.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You may be going through a transition that requires you to adapt your thinking to personal and professional circumstances.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) This is a good day to get in touch with a close friend — or, perhaps, someone you wish to get closer to before the day is out.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your energy and enthusiasm will not go unnoticed. They will win you respect, admiration — and an unexpected opportunity.

express

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José combines two passions: inventing electronic devices and helping people. He is also a Fulbright Scholar, soccer player, and graduate of GW's doctoral program in electrical engineering.

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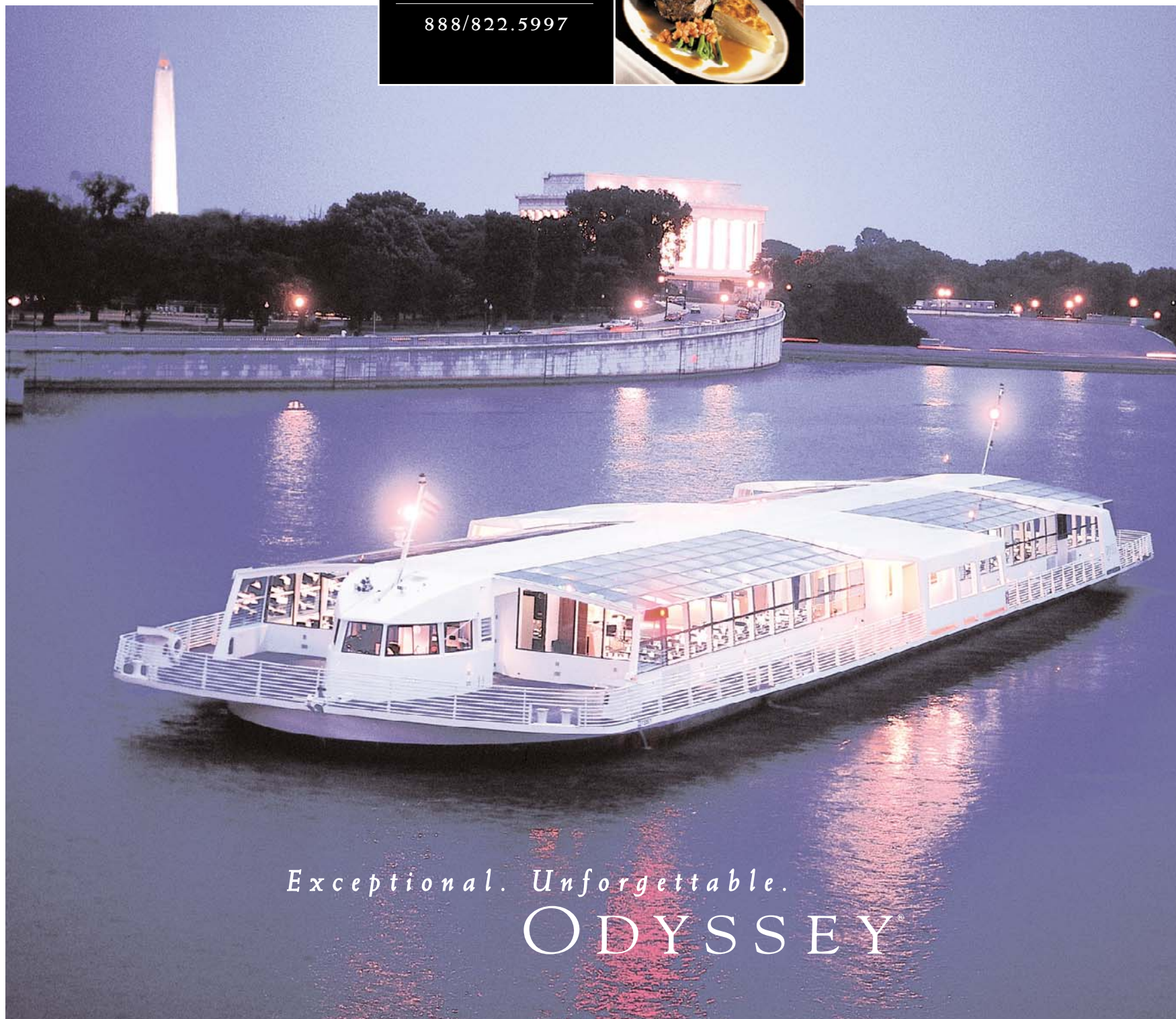
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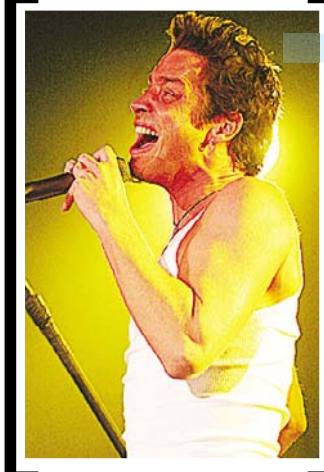
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- + **J.L. KING** talks about healing after the 'Down Low'

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Sweetheart of the radio Kelly Clarkson doffs the 'Idol' tiara | E5



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[on the]spot*

* **NAME:** J.L. King **GIG:** Author of "On the Down Low"

FOR YEARS. J.L. King lived a lie. Married with children, a church-going pillar of his community, he also had sex with men. Last year's tell-all, "On the Down Low," made him a celebrity and fueled a media frenzy. Now King is back with "Coming Up From the Down Low: The Journey to Acceptance, Healing, and Honest Love."

So what's new about the sequel?

I try to move past the whole issue of the fear factor ... and deal more with healing and how can we develop honest and healthy relationships.

What impact did "Oprah" have?

It changed my life. Doing the "Oprah" show [a year ago] brought this behavior to the forefront of the

world. I talk about how my transition went from writing the first book and becoming this ... bestselling author and how it forced me to come to the realization that I am a bisexual man. This is who I am.

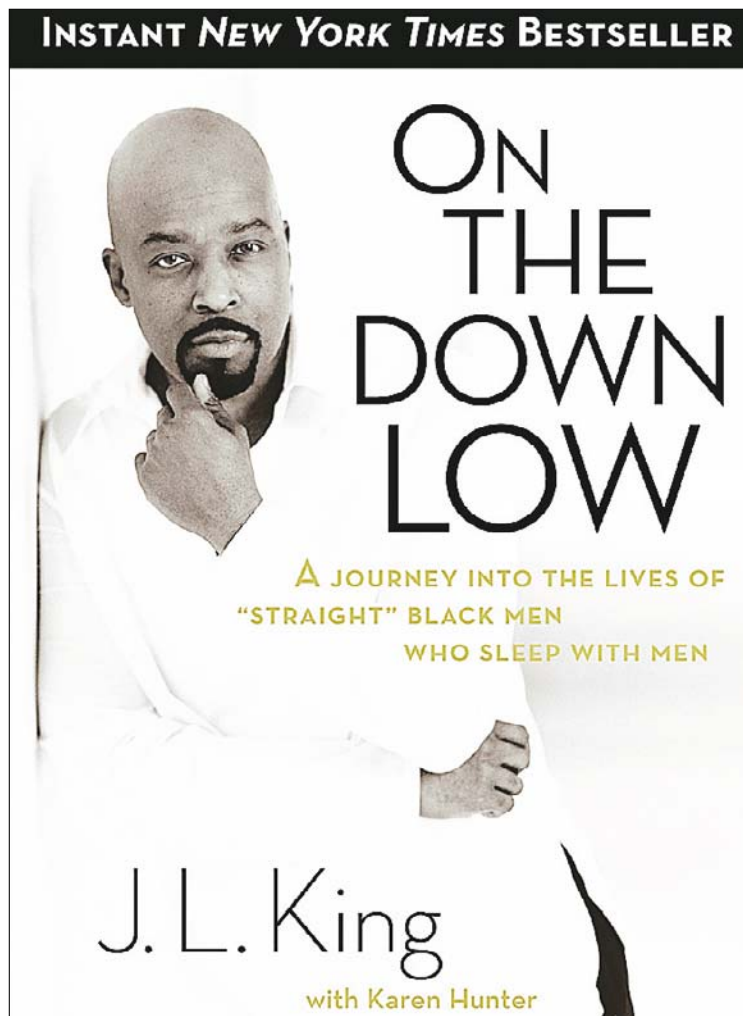
Was that journey harder for you as an African-American?

Yes, definitely more difficult. In the African-American community, we just refuse to accept the fact that homosexuality exists in our community and it is not a learned behavior.

Bisexuality seems a hard sell, too.

In the black community, when you say you're bisexual, they don't hear the "bi-" part of it. All they hear is, "You have sex with a man? You're a fag. You're gay. You're a punk. You're disgraceful. You're going straight to hell. God did not make you."

INSTANT *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER



"In the black community, when you say you're bisexual, they don't hear the 'bi-' part ..."

What is it going to take for the community to change?

It's really going to have to start with the church first. It's going to have to take some healing in the family. The fathers, the mothers and grandmothers and grandfathers are going to have to really try to get as much understanding as they can about sexuality so they don't ... put pressure on the next generation. GLENN DIXON

Olsson's, 418 7th St. NW; Thu., 7 p.m.; 202-638-7610; Karibu Books, 3500 East-West Highway, Hyattsville; Fri., 6:30 p.m.; 301-559-1140.

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SHAGADELIC: The original Louis XIV also had striking hair, but paintings indicate that he probably wore less eyeliner.

Le Rock C'est Moi

San Diego's Louis XIV makes a case for retro-rock monarchy

MUSIC | The original Louis XIV ruled France with iron fist in velvet glove, exercising his divine right with political ruthlessness and stylistic panache. A major patron of arts of the most froufrou kind, he also went through mistresses like le popcorn.

The latter-day Louis XIV combines the supercilious sneer of self-proclaimed monarchs with a lubriciousness that would have made the Sun King blush. When the San Diego quartet plays the Black Cat, much emphasis will be placed on backstage-pass recruitment tool "Finding Out True Love Is Blind."

Behind that sweetly romantic title is sentiment cynical, predatory and greedily inclusive, as lead singer Jason Hill confesses his desire

for all varieties of female companionship: smart girls, self-conscious girls, young ladies who come in flavors of chocolate and vanilla, even carrot juice.

Frenchitude aside, Louis XIV plays like "Goats Head Soup"-era Rolling Stones in reverse. Instead of British guys making like they're blues-bred Americans, you've got randy Californians (who dig the blues, too) affecting Brit-style swagger in hopes of getting more play.

But anybody who loves the little girls so much had better brace for a fall — just ask the Knack. The Sun King reigned for 72 years. We're guessing his namesake won't be on top nearly so long. Better catch them now. **GLENN DIXON**

Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; with Runner and the Thermodynamics, Nic Armstrong and the Thieves, Thu., 8:30 p.m., \$12; 800-551-7328. (U St.-Cardozo)

RoadTrip

Campus Riot

WHAT: Quadmania 2005
WHERE: University of Maryland Baltimore County Fieldhouse, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, Md.
WHEN: Sat., 1 p.m.



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IT'S UNBOUND TO BE A GREAT WEEKEND

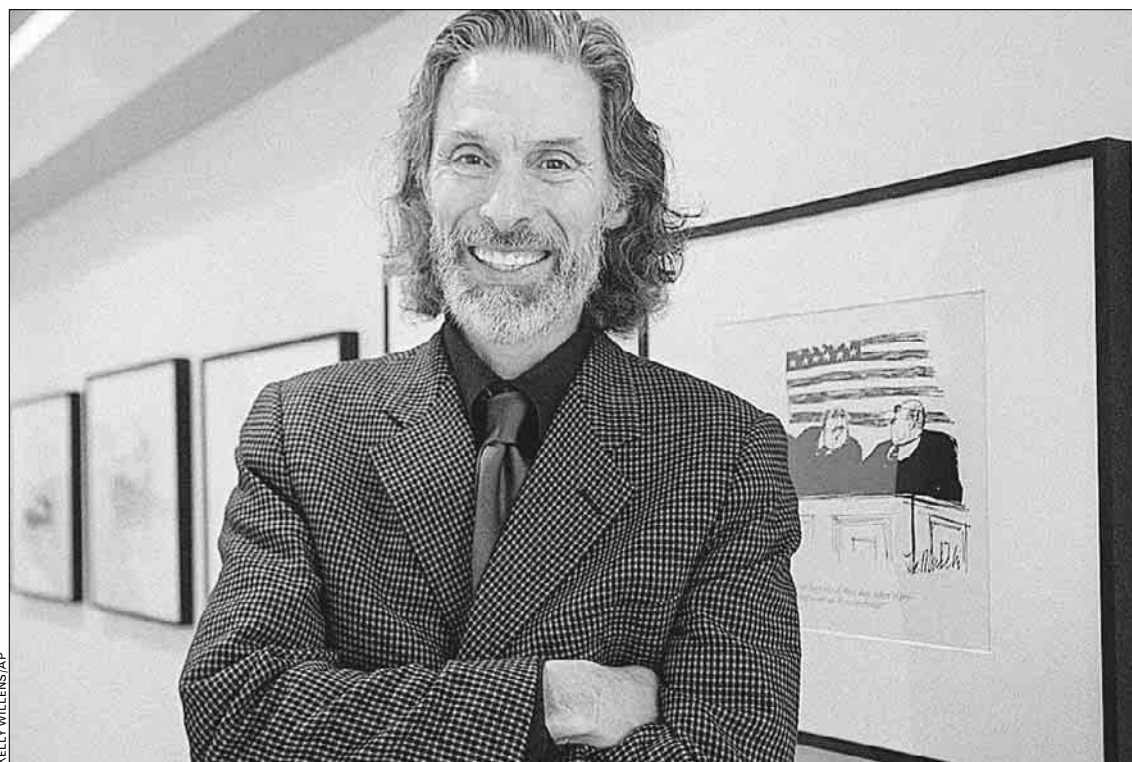
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WeekendPass | Entertainment



'TOON TOWN: The New Yorker's cartoon editor Robert Mankoff knows the real reason people keep picking up the magazine.

Learning His Lines

Robert Mankoff and the New Yorker cartoon archive

OUT & ABOUT | Cartoons are often the best part of any publication. In the case of venerable magazine The New Yorker, this is particularly true.

Fortunately, those who revel in the magazine's cartoons now can look at each and every one. The magazine's editors have compiled

a book, "The Complete Cartoons of The New Yorker," which contains 2,500 selected cartoons and a compact disc with all 68,647 of them — at least the 68,647 that ran in the magazine before this compilation went to print in 2004.

Displeased with the selections? Tell it to the man himself: Editor Robert Mankoff will be at the Corcoran Thursday night to discuss his choices in a lecture titled "History Told Through Humor:

80 Years of The New Yorker Cartoon."

The book features cartoons from the magazine's early heyday, including those by Peter Arno and Charles Addams, who famously put a macabre spin on domestic life.

The volume also includes modern selections from "King of the Hill" writer Alex Gregory and "Six Feet Under" Executive Producer Bruce Eric Kaplan, whose comics, as is noted in the book's foreword, can make "The Addams Family" look like "The Brady Bunch."

And, of course, there's much more. Mankoff attempted to make the compilation representative of the past 80 years. A cartoon textbook? Sounds like fun.

ERIN O'CONNOR

Corcoran Gallery of Art, 500 17th St. NW; Thu., 7 p.m.; \$25; 202-639-1770. (Farragut West)

HotTickets

CONCERTS, SHOWS & EVENTS ON SALE NOW

- **GREG BEHRENDT** State Theatre, June 19, tickets go on sale May 6; \$20-\$39.50; 800-551-7328.
- **A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION** Wolf Trap, May 27, \$18-\$40; 703-218-6500.
- **JAGUARES** State Theatre, July 23, tickets go on sale Saturday; \$29.50; 800-551-7328.



WENDY LYNCH

- ← **RILO KILEY** 9:30 Club, May 28; \$15; 703-218-6500.
- **BOB DYLAN & WILLIE NELSON** Prince George's Stadium, June 4, tickets on sale Saturday; \$49.50; 800-551-7328.
- **GET UP KIDS** 9:30 Club, June 22; \$18; 703-218-6500.
- **WOLF TRAP OPERA COMPANY**, "Don Giovanni," Wolf Trap, June 4; \$15; 703-218-6500.
- **LEWIS BLACK** Warner Theatre, June 17, tickets go on sale Friday; \$40.50-\$45.50; 800-551-7328.

Free Radical

Kelly Clarkson was groomed to be a pop dolly, but she had other ideas

MUSIC | The problem with “American Idol” isn’t the format, it isn’t the cruelty, it isn’t even Ryan Seacrest. (OK, so it’s a little Ryan Seacrest.) No, the problem with America’s favorite cheesy television singing competition is that its standard for itself is artificially low.

Thanks to the Fox Svengalis’ investment in dopey, uplifting, please-everyone-and-satisfy-no-one pop, the genuine talents who do emerge are stuck recording lame factory-produced ballads which serve only the Fox Svengalis’ bottom line — after all, the first album from a winner cruises by on curiosity. It’s up to the artist to earn fans on her own terms.

Enter first-season winner Kelly Clarkson, possessed of a monumental voice with a husky low end, heartland sweetness and Texas sass. If the show wanted a disposable pop dolly, Clarkson had another plan. Just consider the title of her first album, “Thankful,” with her new one: ahem, “Breakaway.”

And is she ever. Clarkson, who’s headlining a tour that comes to Constitution Hall on Saturday, co-wrote half the songs and made sure that all of them were about becoming her own woman and defining herself in the absence of the corporate powers that be ... um, that is, the boy who did her wrong.

Guitar-heavy, rocklike, magisterial, “Breakaway” takes the risks musically she keeps promising lyrically. If the title song is a little Avrilesque (Lavigne did co-write it, after all), the other single, “Since You’ve Been Gone,” runs cold-hot-cold like the cleanest grunge you’ve ever heard, and

Clarkson’s big, clear voice navigates the sonic boom ably.

Is this thing confessional? “Swallow me and spit me out,” she sings on “Behind These Hazel Eyes,” in which she also hits a note that is positively supernatural. And “How can I put it, you put me on”; and “I learned to play on the safe side so I don’t get hurt/Because of you”; and then there are the no fewer than three references to not being able to breathe with him, and being able to breathe without him. We’re not huge conspiracy theorists, but dude. Write Fox a letter or something.

Idols don’t have to be good. They have to look right, sing well, give good interview and understand that they’re not rock stars but star stars.

Kelly Clarkson can do most of these things in her sleep. But not the last. For all the talk on this season’s “Idol” about the contestant “rockers,” it’s the giggling, big-hipped neophyte who brings down the house, hair-flinging, head-banging and all. Take that, powers that be. That is, um, *boy*. ARION BERGER (EXPRESS)

DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D St. NW; Sat., 8 p.m., \$28.75-\$38.75; 800-551-7328.

“Breakaway” takes the risks musically she keeps promising lyrically.



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David Copperfield: Now Disappearing

David Copperfield has a wax likeness at Madame Tussaud’s, escaped from Alcatraz and is the 13th highest paid entertainer in the world. But he won’t expose the mystery of how he snagged a supermodel? The theatrical magician promises to make the audience’s dreams come true.

Warner Theatre, 513 13th St. NW; Fri. & Sat., \$33.50-\$58.50; 800-551-7328. (Metro Center)



David Copperfield sometimes forgets to put on his pants when he goes out.

Crave: In Site’s Last Stand

Jane Jerardi and Ginger Wagg’s final installation of the performance project Crave is a high art/lo-fi variety show, complete with dance, music and theater.

Warehouse Next Door, 1017 7th St. NW; Fri. & Sat., \$10; 202-783-3933.

Hem: Gossamer Webs

Many bands have been born from the Village Voice classified pages, but none as gentle and beautiful as Hem. Sally Ellyson claimed to not be much of a singer, but still sent the band a collection of children’s lullabies she recorded. The result was Hem and its spavined, odd folk.

Birchmere Music Hall, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; Fri., 10 p.m., \$16.50; 800-551-7328.

WHAT’S HAPPENING?

Please send press releases and photos to expressevents@readexpress.com

The Color Front Lines

Adam Mansbach's book is black, white and read all over

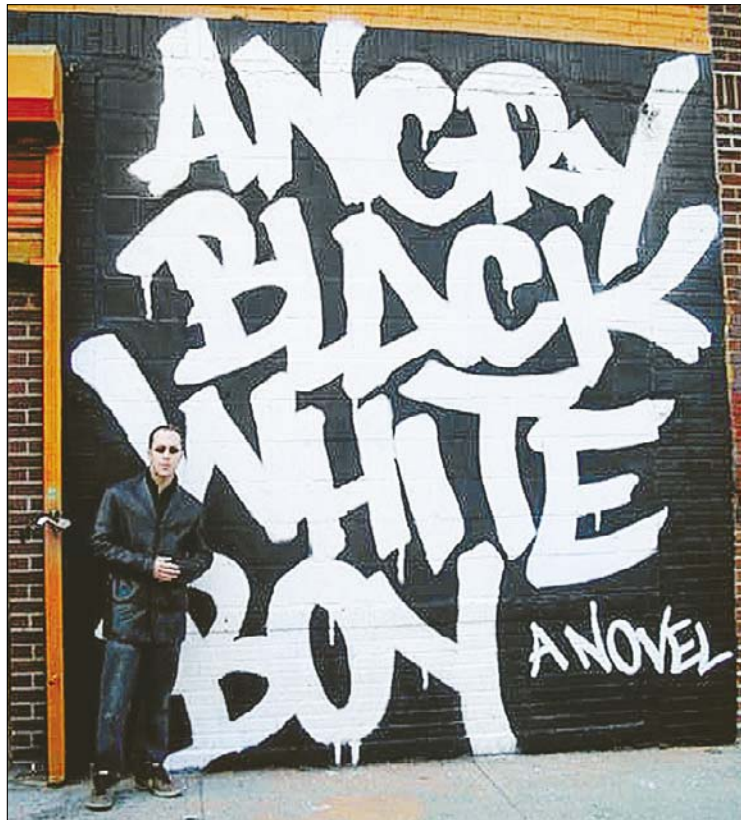
PAGES | Adam Mansbach's novel "Angry Black White Boy" unflinchingly delves into American racism. After he reads from its explosive pages tonight at Politics and Prose, the discussion will undoubtedly focus on incendiary protagonist Macon Detornay — a white Columbia University student immersed in black culture, hip-hop and societal upheaval.

Mansbach's story includes part-time cabbie Detornay robbing fares

at gunpoint — just for being white. "... Everybody like you deserves to be robbed every day of your life," barks Detornay at his first victims.

"To [Detornay], the central problem is white people's refusal to be self-critical, their ability to back away from the question of race when it becomes unpleasant," Mansbach explained. "And so his agenda is to force the issue as radically as he can."

While Mansbach unfurls urban vernacular like a silver-tongued hip-hopper grasping a microphone, he chronicles Detornay's media-injected ascension and horrific collapse with cinematic vision. Not surpris-



ADVERTISEMENTS FOR MYSELF: The author with a "graffiti" ad — his fictional hero would fully understand both the street style and the product placement.

ingly, plans are unfolding for a big-screen version of the novel.

Despite Detornay's criminal activities, he and Mansbach have some similarities in background. Both were raised in Boston's suburbs, attended Columbia and sought out hip-hop. But the comparisons cease when Detornay sticks up his passengers. "He's caught up in a need for validation that I thankfully extricated myself from some time ago," Mansbach said.

While Detornay gigs as a spoken-word poet within the book's pages, so does Mansbach, who records as rhymer Kodiak Brinks and just released the jazz/hip-hop disc "Stand for Nothing, Fall for Anything." A former roadie for the late jazz-drumming visionary Elvin Jones, expect Mansbach to spring some verses on the crowd. "I like to flip the script on what people expect in a bookstore," he said. "Keeps it interesting." CRAIG SMITH

Politics & Prose, 5015 Connecticut Ave. NW; Thu., 7 p.m.; free; 202-364-1919. (Van Ness-UDC)

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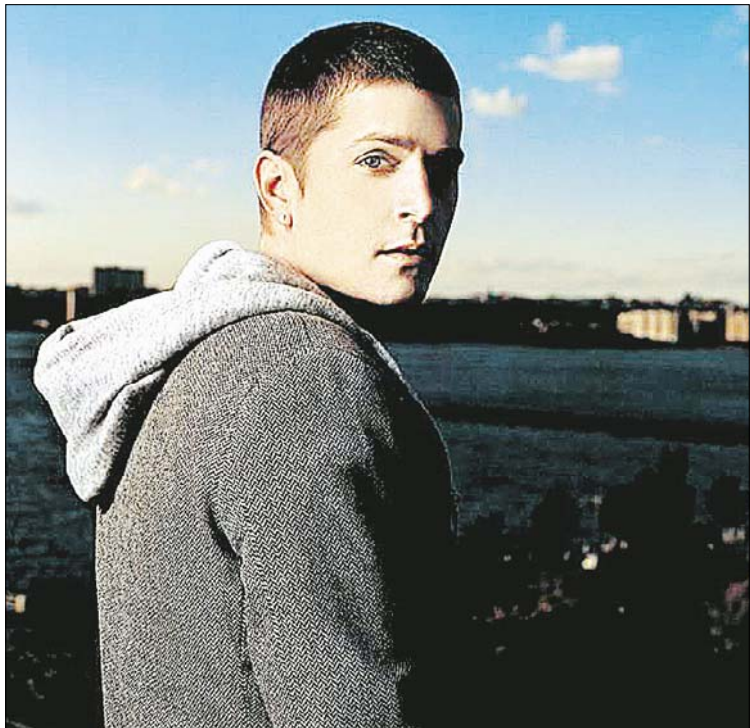
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MARK SELIGER

Platinum Stack

Rob Thomas knows how to be a pop star, but he wants more

MUSIC | Whether he was scoring hits with Matchbox 20 or Santana, Rob Thomas was always the star of the show. But he has never been a genuine solo act — until now.

Thomas' first solo disc, "...Something to Be," just hit stores as one of the hottest new releases of the spring. And its frisky first single, "Lonely No More," has already

MATCHLESS: Thomas' solo album is both experimental and introspective.

gone Top 10.

Right now, Thomas is in the middle of a three-week headlining tour, which wraps up on Saturday at the 9:30 Club. Fellow soft rocker Beth Hart is the opening act.

On the cheeky title track of his new CD, Thomas gives the perfect synopsis of his career: "My pain is a platinum stack." Matchbox has sold almost 20 million albums in the U.S., and he won three Grammys for his work on Santana's "Smooth."

But the pain is still there on "...Something to Be." Bubbly beats aside, "Lonely No More" zeroes in on the potential angst behind every romance.

Though his current stuff is less rock-oriented than Matchbox, the disc's slow-to-medium pace should be familiar to Thomas fans. Its boldest move is the opening "This Is How a Heart Breaks," a feisty collaboration with megapop songwriters Bloodshy & Avant.

Like John Mayer, who guests on the soulful "Streetcorner Symphony," Thomas will never be the edgiest performer around. But on "...Something to Be," his knack for earnest pop remains as sharp as it ever was. SEAN RICHARDSON

9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; Sat., 7:30 p.m., sold out; 202-265-0930. (U St.-Cardozo)

Reserved Seating

Painter Sylvan Lionni coolly considers the contemporary arena

GALLERIES | Art critic Harold Rosenberg coined the term "action painting" to describe the abstract expressionism of Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning. The canvas was the "arena" in which they acted out their struggles against self and history.

In "Stadia," his show at Fusebox, Brooklyn painter Sylvan Lionni takes a different view. To him, the arena (or stadium) is a literal entity, the place we go for sporting events, concerts and the like. It's also a social construct, a means of ordering a vast populace according to a system of access, usually regi-

mented along economic lines: You want a 50-yard-line seat for the big game? It'll cost you.

"Stadia" comprises several shaped canvases based on diagrams of football stadiums like those found in the front of the phone book. Precision-packed into the oblong maps



FUSEBOX

TAKE ME OUT: Lionni's paintings colorfully mimic phone-book diagrams.

are color-coordinated groupings of seats, often moving out from the central gridiron in concentric bands of color: an artist's in-joke on the Target paintings of Jasper Johns or the Circle series of one-time Washington Color School painter Kenneth Noland.

Throughout the show, the hues are decorator-pretty, recalling racks of color chips on a paint display, and the finish is impeccably tight, the result of Lionni's practice of taping off his surfaces with custom-made stickers.

It could be called the opposite of action painting, honoring not the gladiators' heroics but our own place in the crowd. GLENN DIXON

Fusebox, 1412 14th St. NW; through May 21; 202-299-9220. (McPherson Square)

FILM & PHOTOGRAPHY | WEST BY SOUTHEAST



COURTESY (INGS) GRACE HERITAGE

GOLD STANDARD: The US-Asean Film, Photography and Video Festival promotes Southeast Asian culture and influence. National Geographic, 1600 M St. NW; opens Sat., through May 4, most screenings \$5; 202-857-7700.

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Earthy, Erotic Eargasms

POET LADY | Jill Scott isn't stilling her voice; she's just not singing. The neo-soulster will be signing copies of "The Moments, the Minutes, the Hours: The Poetry of Jill Scott." And she may bless the punctual with a reading or two.

Are any of these characters you?

None. I wanted to show the different sides of folks.

So their plights aren't tangled up in

your personal experiences?

It's like staring out the window and seeing a girl walking with her shoes in her hand, and you wonder if it's because her feet hurt or if she's just coming from a wild night of sex. You don't know; but as a writer, you imagine her story.

How'd you decide to structure the collection?

I have about eight journals of poetry. I went through them and



JIM COOPER/AP

Musician, poetess Jill Scott indulges those who prefer their word raw.

pulled the pieces I was feeling at that moment; then built the rest of the collection around them.

So can we expect a Volume II soon?

Absolutely. It's up to the artist to inspire the rest of mankind. And my hope is people will read my poetry and see their reflection; though my perspective as a black woman is always there — I can't and don't want to change that. **DARONA WILLIAMS** (EXPRESS)

Howard University, 2400 6th St. NW; Fri., noon, free; 202-806-6100.

Olsson's, 418 7th St. NW; Fri., 7 p.m., free; 202-638-7610.



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The Sound & the Rage

Audioslave tours with the repertoires of three great bands

MUSIC | When Audioslave released its 2002 self-titled debut, rock fans were as skeptical as they were excited. Sure, the idea of Soundgarden's Chris Cornell singing over three of the guys from Rage Against the Machine was a promising one. But what about the long and troubled history of such supergroups? And weren't the 1990s over?

Three years later, the band has silenced the naysayers. "Audioslave" generated five hit songs and sold two million copies. It also pounded hard enough to justify the Monsters of Rock reputation of its makers.

On May 24, Audioslave will



RISEN FROM THE ASHES: The metal stylings of Rage Against the Machine and Soundgarden annealed into a whole new sound.

release its long-awaited second album, "Out of Exile." The group has been spending the six weeks prior to that on the road. They're headlining the 9:30 Club on Sunday.

Audioslave reunited with star producer Rick Rubin for "Out of Exile," which has already spawned the massive hit "Be Yourself." That track is as mellow — and catchy — as the band gets.

Fans are stoked enough that Audioslave is playing small rooms on this tour. But according to MTV News, there's an even bigger reason to see the group right now. For the first time ever, it's performing Soundgarden and Rage classics.

The opening act, underground rocker Jonny Polonsky, is an offbeat and inspired choice. The connection? He wrote the music for the short film "Sleeping Dogs Lie" — which features Audioslave drummer Brad Wilk in his first role as a lead actor. SEAN RICHARDSON

9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; Sun., 7:30 p.m., sold out; 202-265-0930. (U St.-Cardozo)

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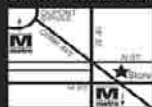
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Continued from page E5

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CHRIS PIZELLO/AP

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Jazz Baby

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WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN? Jason Schwartzman, Bill Murray and Olivia Williams are the stars of Wes Anderson's charming, heavily encrypted 1998 comedy.

Unlocking,
'Rushmore'

It's a film! It's a cult!
It's a code-geek's
dream come true

FILM | Any great midnight movie is part endurance test, part secret ritual. It keeps the squares away. They wouldn't get "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" or "Donnie Darko." Too funny, too perverse, too late. One wonders what took so long to add "Rushmore" to the list.

The film seemed destined for cult adoration even before its 1998 release. After reading the script, Bill Murray offered to star in it for free. After viewing it, Martin Scorsese publicly stated his envy of director Wes Anderson.

The film's unlikely love triangle centers around Max Fischer (Jason Schwartzman), precocious king of extracurricular activities at Rushmore Academy. He wrestles, heads the beekeeping society and stages existential plays. He also quixotically battles wealthy Herman Blume (Murray) for the affection of Miss Cross, a Rushmore teacher. "Reality" is not in his vocabulary.

But as yet, the "Rushmore" cult

has codified no mystical rites as cool as the lip-synching, fishnet-wearing, rice-tossing fans of "Rocky Horror." So as a public service, we offer this "Da Vinci Code"-style cipher to some of the director's hidden references (*Answers Below*):

1) What Frances Ford Coppola war epic is echoed in Max's play, "Heaven and Hell?" 2) Which Gilmore Girl can be seen in the front row of Max's classroom? 3) How many members of Schwartzman's then-band, Phantom Planet, have signed Max's petition to save Latin class? 4) Can you find at least three references to Charlie Brown in the film? 5) What Val Kilmer movie is referenced in the scene where Max buys a crate of explosives? 6) The epitaph on the gravestone of Max's mother is also a clue from what Disney film starring Jodie Foster? Bonus: Name the poet quoted in the epitaph.

There. Go nuts. Because who really wants to do the Time Warp again? BOB MASSEY

Landmark E St. Cinema, 555 11th St. NW; Fri. & Sat., April 29-30, midnight; 202-452-7672. (Metro Center/Gallery Place-Chinatown)

1. "Apocalypse Now"; 2. Alexis Bledel; 3. All four plus the band's manager; 4. Max's dad is a barber; Max tries to fly a kite; the theme to "A Charlie Brown Christmas" plays in the barber shop; 5. "Heat"; 6. "Candle shoe"; Bonus: Thomas Gray. All answers courtesy IMDb.com.



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Rostang of Restaurant Michel Rostang in Paris, cook while wines you thought you'd never taste are poured and discussed. Other grape-related events run through Saturday.

Ooh, Canada

Stars make sexy, north-of-the-border pop sound inevitable

MUSIC | If you name your band Stars, then you've set the bar pretty high. Either you intend to rely on an ironic interpretation, in which case your band is free to boldly suck. Or you intend to reclaim the word from the likes of Ashlee Simpson, in which case you have to be sexier (contest open to primates and above) and way more musically memorable (somewhat trickier, as live TV will never let Miss Simpson forget).

"Set Yourself on Fire" isn't last-ditch career advice for Ashlee; it's instead the blazing new album from Montreal's Stars, whose tour stops in D.C. on Friday.

The first single, "Ageless Beauty," bursts from the speakers, led by the breathy, sultry vocals of Amy Millan and supported by dual driving guitar lines from Millan and Evan Cranley. It's the kind of instantly memorable pop song that upon first hearing seems as cosmically predestined as any entry in the periodic table. It hijacks the "repeat" setting on one's iPod.

Clearly, the group knows precisely what it's doing. Fixtures in



MONTREAL DREAMING: Drawing on everyone from Marvin Gaye to New Order to contemporary emo, Stars' "Set Yourself on Fire" aims to set the pop world on fire.

the Montreal underground, individual Stars have done double duty in the emo-heartthrob vehicle Broken Social Scene, contributed to soundtracks and played in Broadway pit orchestras.

Where songs from previous albums took their cues from New Order and Belle & Sebastian, or classic soul like Marvin Gaye, "Set Yourself on Fire" is a mature, more self-contained work. The song "Your

Ex-Lover Is Dead" embraces the kind of emotional ambiguity ("I'm not sorry I met you," sing Millan and keyboardist Torquil Campbell, "I'm not sorry it's over") that's far too meaty for Ashlee Simpson's weight class. It's cosmic justice that keeps these Stars beyond the reach of mere celebrity. **BOB MASSEY**

Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; Fri., April 29, 9:30 p.m. \$12; 800-551-7328. (U St.-Cardozo)

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Continued from page E10

The best jazz bassist of his generation is also a team player

MUSIC | John Patitucci is such an in-demand bassist that sometimes we forget that he's just as commanding a leader as he is as a sideman.

His extraordinary technique on both acoustic and electric bass has put him in the company of the jazz elite. Long associated with Chick Corea's Elektric and Akoustic Bands of the '80s and mid-'90s, Patitucci has also lent his hearty throbs and fluid improvisations to the ensembles of Roy Haynes, Herbie Hancock and Michael Brecker.

Currently, Patitucci is in the hottest jazz group around — the Wayne Shorter Quartet.



Patitucci has played with the best in jazz while making a name for himself.

When Shorter decided to front an all-acoustic band for the first time in his five-decade career, he quickly nabbed Patitucci for his propulsive drive, interactive alertness and thoughtful counterpoint melodies.

But as his Saturday performance at the Kennedy Center will certainly prove, there's more to Patitucci than just a reliable sideman. His remarkable 2001 disc, "Communion," earned him a Grammy nomination for his absorbing exploration in Latin and Brazilian music. Its fol-

low-up, "Songs, Stories & Spirituals" was just as remarkable as it featured him surrounding his bass in chamber-like orchestral settings.

At Kennedy Center's KC Jazz Club, Patitucci will steer a trio composed of pianist Ed Simon and drummer Adam Cruz — two young, dynamic musicians who are able to keep pace with the bassist's stylistic versatility, crisp virtuosity and imaginative playing. JOHN MURPH

Kennedy Center, 2700 F St. NW; Sat., 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., \$25; 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom-GWU)

As his Saturday performance will certainly prove, there's more to Patitucci than just a reliable sideman.



Shear cuts dance-goth from '80s cloth.

Assemblage 23: New New Wave

Despite the name, Tom Shear essentially is Assemblage 23, a punk-edged, industrial-dance project that owes everything but the facial fuzz to Depeche Mode and New Order.

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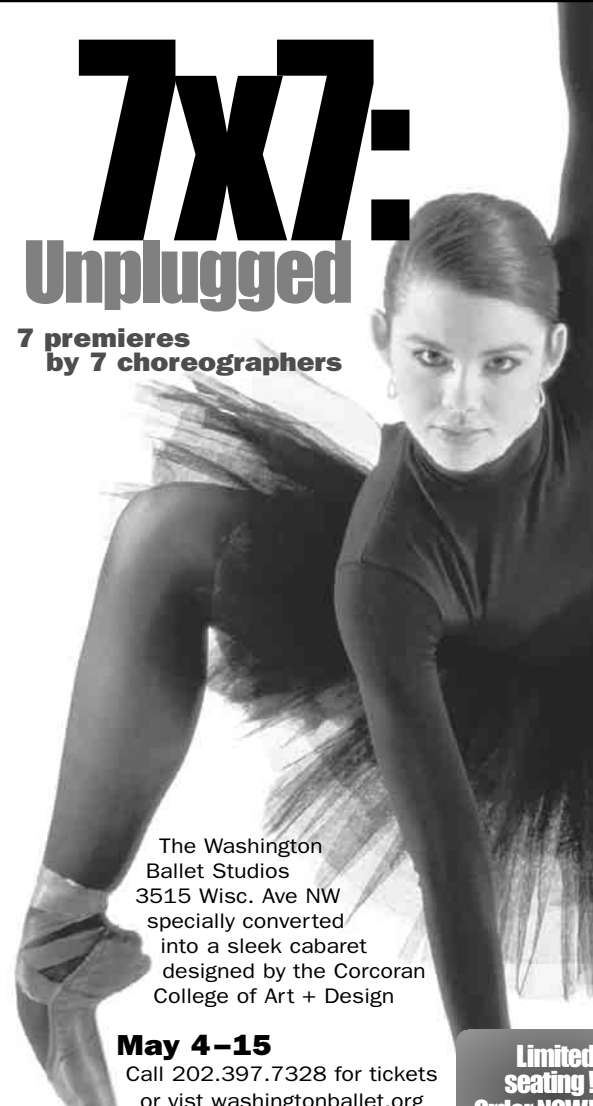
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<p>HOFFMANN CENTER 22 Eisenhower Ave and Telegraph Road in Alexandria 703-998-4AMC</p> <p>THE GAME OF THEIR LIVES (PG) 2:30, 5:05, 7:40, 10:20 THE INTERPRETER (PG13) 1:00, 1:30, 3:15, 4:00, 4:45, 6:45, 7:30, 8:15, 10:00 THE INTERPRETER (PG13) 3:15, 6:45, 10:00 KING'S RANSOM (PG13) 2:15, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15 A LOT LIKE LOVE (PG13) 1:20, 2:20, 4:10, 5:10, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50, 10:30 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR (R) 1:15, 2:00, 3:45, 4:30, 6:30, 7:15, 9:00, 9:45 STATE PROPERTY 2 (R) 1:35, 2:20, 4:10, 5:00, 6:45, 7:30, 9:20, 10:05 FEVER PITCH (PG13) 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:30 KUNG FU HUSTLE (R) 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30 SAHARA (PG13) 1:10, 4:15, 7:20, 10:20 SIN CITY (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:15 BEAUTY SHOP (PG13) 1:25, 2:10, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:45, 9:45, 10:30 GUESS WHO (PG13) 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:30 MISS CONGENIALITY 2 (PG13) 2:30, 5:15, 8:10 THE RING TWO (PG13) 10:00 PM HOSTAGE (R) 9:40 PM ROBOTS (PG) 2:45, 5:10 THE PACIFIER (PG) 2:15, 4:45, 7:25 HITCH (PG13) 1:00, 4:00, 6:50 MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG13) 7:35, 10:30</p> <p>UNION STATION 9 Located at Union Station 703-998-4AMC</p> <p>THE INTERPRETER (PG13) 1:45, 4:45, 7:45 KING'S RANSOM (PG13) 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 A LOT LIKE LOVE (PG13) 2:15, 5:15, 8:15 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR (R) 2:30, 5:30, 8:30 STATE PROPERTY 2 (R) 2:30, 5:30, 8:30 KUNG FU HUSTLE (R) 1:50, 4:30, 7:30 SAHARA (PG13) 1:50, 4:30, 7:30 BEAUTY SHOP (PG13) 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 BEAUTY SHOP (PG13) 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 GUESS WHO (PG13) 2:15, 5:15, 8:15</p> <p>ACADEMY 8 Beltway Plaza on Greenbelt Rd., Center Court 703-998-4AMC</p> <p>THE INTERPRETER (PG13) 4:30, 7:20, 10:00 KING'S RANSOM (PG13) 5:10, 7:30, 9:50 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR (R) 5:30, 8:00, 10:20 STATE PROPERTY 2 (R) 5:20, 7:50, 10:20 SAHARA (PG13) 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 SIN CITY (R) 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 BEAUTY SHOP (PG13) 4:50, 7:40, 10:10 GUESS WHO (PG13) 5:00, 7:30, 10:10</p>	<p>POTOMAC MILLS 18 2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886 703-998-4262</p> <p>THE INTERPRETER (PG13) 1:30, 2:00, 4:30, 6:00, 7:30, 9:45 KING'S RANSOM (PG13) 1:50, 4:45, 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9:55 HITCH (PG13) 2:00, 4:45, 7:25, 9:55</p> <p>COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8 Courthouse and Birch Rd. 703-998-4AMC</p> <p>THE INTERPRETER (PG13) 4:10, 4:50, 7:00, 8:00, 9:50 A LOT LIKE LOVE (PG13) 4:20, 7:15, 9:40 UPSIDE OF ANGER (R) 4:30, 7:20, 9:55 BEAUTY SHOP (PG13) 5:20, 7:40, 10:00 MISS CONGENIALITY 2 (PG13) 4:45, 7:25, 10:00 THE PACIFIER (PG) 5:15, 7:30, 9:35 MILLION DOLLAR BABY (PG13) 12:55, 3:50, 7:05, 10:00</p> <p>COUNTRY CLUB MALL 6 Country Club Mall on Vocke Rd near Route 68. 703-998-4AMC</p> <p>THE INTERPRETER (PG13) 5:10, 8:10 A LOT LIKE LOVE (PG13) 5:45, 8:10 FEVER PITCH (PG13) 5:45, 8:10 SAHARA (PG13) 5:25, 8:10 SIN CITY (R) 5:10, 7:55 BEAUTY SHOP (PG13) 5:25 GUESS WHO (PG13) 7:55</p>	<p>COLUMBIA MALL 14 10300 Patuxent Parkway 410-423-0520</p> <p>THE INTERPRETER (PG13) 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15 KING'S RANSOM (PG13) 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 8:10, 10:35 A LOT LIKE LOVE (PG13) 12:30, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR (R) 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:50 FEVER PITCH (PG13) 12:00, 2:25, 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4-SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT -No passes or discount coupons please. Times for Thursday, April 28, 2005

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The Edge of Your Seat

Todd Solondz does not want his films to go down easy

UNSAFE SPACE | A typical film from writer-director Todd Solondz will feature bizarre, well-drawn characters, ranging from the dysfunctional to the depraved. He tends to sprinkle his own brand of brutal comedy over serious, often unbearable storylines.

This can blur the lines between drama and comedy, misleading some into believing he is a sadist laughing at his own characters. Such a belief cannot be further from the truth. After all, isn't it braver to dare an audience to relate to a pedophilic family man, a murderous maid and an obese woman who calmly dismembers a would-be rapist than to relate to a generic



MOTHER-TO-BE: Aviva (Shayna Levine) talks to Earl (Stephen Adly Guirgis) about wanting a baby in "Palindromes."

girl-next-door who gets a makeover and saves the day?

Solondz has said if the audi-

ence dismisses these characters as "freaks," then he is not doing his job. When you strip down

his fifth feature, "Palindromes," which he calls his most politically charged and morally complicated

film to date, it's all heart.

In the opening scene of his new fable-like dramedy, 12-year-old Aviva attends her cousin Dawn Wiener's funeral. Yes, it's the same Dawn Wiener from Solondz's "Welcome to the Dollhouse." In "Palindromes," Aviva's mother, played by Ellen Barkin, warns her daughter of ending up like her suicidal cousin.

Solondz always had a fantasy to cast multiple actors in one role, so, he used eight actors to play the part of Aviva, including Jennifer Jason Leigh, Sharon Wilkins, four adolescent girls, one 12-year-old boy and a 6-year-old girl. The result makes Aviva seem more universal and the story more poignant.

After casting talents such as Paul Giamatti, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Camryn Manheim, Dylan Baker, Ben Gazzara, John Goodman and Barkin, who's left?

"There are so many great actors that I'd love to work with, but if I don't have the right part, it doesn't make any sense." **CASSIE CARPENTER** (BACK STAGE WEST)

Indies&Arties

→ Demy Monde: The World of Jacques Demy

AFI Silver gives the late French auteur's big-hearted, candy-colored, utterly berserk romance musicals the big screens they deserve this weekend with screenings of 1969's "The Young Girls of Rochefort" and 1964's "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg," both starring a radiant Catherine Deneuve. 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring; 301-495-6720.

→ National Film Registry

The Library of Congress screens an excellent film saddled with a risible title: "The Lusty Men." Well, this two-fisted Nicholas Ray film starring Robert Mitchum sounded better in 1952. James Madison Memorial Building, 101 Independence Ave. SE; Thu., 7 p.m.; 202-707-5677.

→ 'Winter Days'

An unusual Japanese film is constructed of linked scenes by 35 different animation artists, similar to the Japanese poetry game *rinku*, in which verses by different authors are linked. Freer Gallery, 1050 Independence Ave. SW; Fri., 7 p.m.; 202-357-2700.

→ 'The Big Red One: The Reconstruction'

In honor of the late U.S. Marine Corps PFC and star of this and many other fine war films — one Lee Marvin — AFI Silver presents a screening of Sam Fuller's searing WWII masterpiece, now bigger, longer and more uncut than ever. 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring; Thu., 7 p.m.; 301-495-6720.

→ 'Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room'

The free-spending, double-talking, financial fiddlers you love to hate star, rather unwittingly, in this documentary by Alex Gibney. Landmark E Street Cinema, 555 11th St. NW; opens Fri.; 202-452-7672.



Enron CEO Ken Lay looks as pleased as punch to be the subject of a film.

Take 10

THE WASHINGTON POST'S FILM CRITICS TACKLE THIS WEEK'S BOX-OFFICE TOP 10

1 The Interpreter

As a thriller, the movie is enjoyable and stirring, but the stars fail to get much traction. **DESSON THOMSON**

2 The Amityville Horror

Before it turns into a nasty exercise in gore and stylish editing, this remake generates some chills and chuckles. **SEAN DALY**

3 Sahara

This desert adventure in which almost nothing works is a mediocrity wrapped inside a banality, toasted in cliché. **STEPHEN HUNTER**

4 A Lot Like Love

This may not be the most egregious example of a foregone romantic conclusion, but there ain't a whole lot of suspense, either. **MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN**

5 Kung Fu Hustle

A martial-arts comedy with Buster Keaton's gymnastic inventiveness, Sergio Leone's toughness and the



What studios think critics will like and what fans want to see are vastly different, judging from the unscreened "King's Ransom," this week's No. 10 movie.

Three Stooges' madness. **DESSON THOMSON**

6 Fever Pitch

Deprived of their usual set pieces involving flatulence and body fluids, the Farrelly brothers are unable to move a narrative along. **ANN HORNADAY**

7 Sin City

This piece of death-driven outlaw art is like watching someone channel Raymond Chandler while gargling Wild Turkey, but it is an icon of high decadence and high art. **STEPHEN HUNTER**

8 Guess Who

As the father of a black woman who brings home a white guy, Bernie Mac is funny, but no miracle worker, in this limp update. **MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN**

9 Robots

It has great production design, but none of the characters have personalities of their own. **STEPHEN HUNTER**

10 King's Ransom

Comic Anthony Anderson as a man with a scheme to profit from his own kidnapping. This film was not screened for critics.

Dining | WeekendPass

Eating Around

SPECIALS

Paris in the Springtime

Springtime for some of us means wandering about in a pollen-induced haze, with watery eyes and marathon sneezing fits. To **1789** chef Ris Lacoste, springtime means debuting a "Springtime in Paris" tasting menu, available from April 24 to June 21. For \$60 per person (tax and gratuity excluded; \$100 if you want your meal paired with French wines), you can enjoy five classic French courses, including escargots, duck breast with bitter orange glaze, asparagus and Moroccan couscous, and a "palette of chocolate" for dessert. Take a Claritin and experience spring like the French. KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

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GIMMICKS

What If You Sleep in A Ratty Metallica T-Shirt?

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EVENTS

Everything's Better When It Has a Theme

Your mother deserves better than mingling with the commoners, no? The **RITZ-CARLTON TYSONS CORNER** is offering a series of themed mother-daughter teas for ladies of all ages, to be held in the Presidential Suite every Saturday throughout May (sorry, the May 21 princess tea is sold out). At the first, "Glamour Girls with Saks Fifth Avenue," guests will be treated to makeovers by Saks' cosmetic team and will receive a commemorative Saks Fifth Avenue gift bag. Other themes

Continued on page E18

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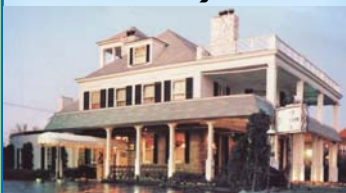
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Pick Your Poison

New Summer Ice Cream

Get ready, get set, get Lactaid — area ice cream parlors are beginning to roll out their new flavors for summer. Though many establishments are sticking to smooth, light fruit flavors, others use summer to experiment on the public with their most inventive combinations (ginger is an especially popular ingredient this year). Here's a wrap-up of coming ice cream attractions:

→ **CAFÉ GELATO** (4823 Saint Elmo Ave., Bethesda; 301-913-0050) is giving a lot of love to produce-inspired flavors this season and started serving peach, melon and kiwi during last week's heat wave. Manager Thanh Diep says banana and other flavors will join the menu each week.

Unlike gelato, the fruit flavors — called sorbetti — are almost fat free.

→ **COLD STONE CREAMERY** (10 area locations, see coldstonecreamery.com) breaks out a new "red pan" flavor each month — April is red licorice. The chain is going all out for National Ice Cream Month (aka July), with five limited edition flavors: tangerine sorbet, black licorice, ginger wasabi, oatmeal cookie batter and Froot Loops.

→ April 30 begins the University of Maryland's 150th anniversary year. And since nothing goes better with ice cream than a big old scoop of history, **THE DAIRY** at U-Md. in College Park (Turner Hall, 1115 Baltimore Avenue, 301-405-1415) is debuting the flavor "1856," named for the year the

school was founded. Vanilla with a blend of strawberries, old-fashioned beaten biscuits (they're like shortbread) and sherry, each of the ingredients represents something Maryland was famous for 150 years ago. Also new: Comet Crunch, in honor of the Deep Impact space program, in which a university rocket is set to crash into a comet on July 4 (they either have a perfectly good reason for doing this or they're still mad about the Terps not making the NCAA basketball tournament). The flavor is a base of bitter-sweet chocolate with a swirl of caramel and chunks of Nestle's Crunch and crushed Oreos. A student contest yielded

lemon-fennel and pineapple with cilantro are all new this season, as is a buttermilk sherbet for the tens of buttermilk fans out there.

→ At **GIFFORD'S ICE CREAM AND CANDY CO.** (7237 Woodmont Ave., Bethesda; 301-907-3436), expect a rotation of fruit flavors like lemon, blueberry and orange chocolate chip, starting in May. Each month will bring five new flavors, said store manager Josh Lennon. Stay tuned for banana chocolate chip, cantaloupe, ginger sorbet, pineapple sorbet, Grand Marnier, peach and honeydew melon. Argentine ice cream parlor **ISEE ICY** (1560 Wisconsin Ave., 202-333-4646) recently unveiled new tropical sor-



DANA HOWE

Gelato truffles beckon at the Del Ray Dreamery. "Eat us," they say. "Eat us now."

Campus Squirrel Crunch, which does not contain squirrels but, rather, peanut butter and chocolate.

→ **DEL RAY DREAMERY** (2130 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Alexandria; 703-683-7767; delraydreamery.com) is the proud owner of a new "super duper cold freezer," which enables owner Liz Davis to make gelato truffles — tiny scoops of gelato dipped in dark chocolate. The rabidly pro-lactose Davis, who also makes sorbets for local restaurants Eve and Vermillion, handcrafts her own artisanal flavors; tangerine coriander, West Indian lime,

bets, including fig, strawberry mint, mango, passion fruit and guayaba, or guava, with more to come as the season progresses.

→ **RITA'S ITALIAN ICE** (3312 Leonardtown Road, Waldorf; 301-645-4091) is debuting two new flavors worth the drive to southern Maryland: chocolate chip cookie dough cream ice (a cream ice is not ice cream, but a cream-based Italian ice), as well as a grape Italian ice that's sure to make your mouth feel like a really cold version of Double Bubble gum. **JAIME MALARKEY AND KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)**

Eating Around

Continued from page E17

include an etiquette tea and a crazy hat tea. Each tea includes a selection of loose-leaf teas, tea sandwiches and a three-tier "tower of sweets;" there's also a children's tea service of Ghirardelli hot chocolate, fun-shaped ham and cheese and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and

— again — a tower of sweets. Prices are \$65 for adults and \$25 for children, exclusive of tax and gratuity. All four teas are \$270 for adults and \$100 for children. **K.P.K.**

1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean; May 7, 14 and 28; 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 703-917-5498.

ROAD TRIP

Drink Tea, Break a Record

What would Jesus drink? Kim Newlen, founder of Sweet Monday, is betting it's tea. And she wants you to join Him in attempting to set the Guinness World Record

for WORLD'S LARGEST TEA PARTY.

Newlen began Sweet Monday in 1995, offering monthly gatherings tied to biblical lessons in her home. Since then, the organization has a presence in 32 states, six continents and eight countries. While the event is free, registration is required at sweetmonday.com. Iced tea will be served. **K.P.K.**

University of Richmond; Monday, May 16, 7 p.m., free.

WHAT'S EATING YOU?

Please send press releases, photos and food to dining@readexpress.com.

The SceneFOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS SEE
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Apex: Thu., "College Night;" Fri., DJ Tony Velasco; Sat., "Liquid Ladies." 415 22nd St. NW; 202-296-0505.

Aroma Company: Fri., DJ Dredd. 3417 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-244-7995.

Bar Nun: Sat., "Entre Nous." 1326 U St. NW; 202-667-6680.

Birchmere: Thu., Manhattan Transfer; Fri. Late Show, Hem; Fri. Early Show, Kate Clinton; Sat., Lowen & Navarro, Dave's True Story. 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; 703-549-7500.

Black Cat: Thu., Louis XIV, Runner and the Thermodynamics, Nic Armstrong & the Thieves; Fri. Main Stage, Ivy, Stars, Astaire; Fri. Back Stage, "Right Round;" Sat. Main Stage, DJ Rekha; Sat. Back Stage, "Razzmatazz;" Sun., Wedding Present, Crystal Skulls, Jet Age. 1811 14th St. NW; 202-667-7960.

Blue Room: Thu., "Uncle Q's Living Room" featuring DJ Dredd. 2321 18th St. NW; 202-332-0800.

Blues Alley: Thu., Steve Turre; Fri.-Sat., Tierney Sutton; Sun., Chiara Civello. 1073 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-337-4141.

Classics: Sat., Suttle Thoughts; Sun., Rare Essence. 4591 Allentown Road, Camp Springs; 301-420-5353.

Club Amazon: Thu., "Big G Project;" Fri., "International Fridays;" Sat., Lissen Band; Sun., "Flow." 1350I Baltimore Ave., Laurel; 301-210-3466.

Crossroads: Thu., "Anything Goes;" Fri., "Escape;" Sat., "Energy;" Sun., "Dancehall." 4103 Baltimore Ave., Bladensburg; 301-927-1056.

DAR Constitution Hall: Sat., Victor Manuelle; Sun., Kelly Clarkson. 1776 D St. NW; 202-628-4780.

D.C. Armory: Fri., Chuck Brown, E.U. 2400 E. Capitol St. SE; 202-547-9077.

Daedalus: Thu., "College Night;" Fri.-Sat., "Asian Night." 1010 Vermont Ave. NW; 202-347-9066.

DC9: Thu., Anousheh Khalili; Fri., "Liberation;" Sat., "Electrotease;" Sun., "Taint." 1940 9th St. NW; 202-483-5000.

Dream: Fri., Pharrell Williams. 1350 Okie St. NE; 202-636-9030.

Edge Nightclub: Sat., "Chiaroscuro." 56 L St. SE; 202-488-1200.

Five: Fri., Astro & Glyde; Sat., DJ Mandrill. 1214B 18th St. NW; 202-331-7123.

Fur: Thu., "Sex in the City;" Fri., "Ruf;" Sat., "Glow" featuring DJ Pete Moutso. 33 Pat-

LIVE ROCK | COARSE METAL

COURTESY GOD FORBID

METALHEADS REJOICE: This is the band your parents warned you about: Equal parts American and Swedish death metal, God Forbid blurs the lines of trash, hardcore, and traditional, head-banging metal. Only good ol' New Jersey could produce a band like this. God Forbid rocks out with It Dies Today and Caliban on Thursday night at Jaxx.

terson St. NE; 202-842-3401.

Galaxy Hut: Sat., Spouse; Sun., Venus Flytrap. 2711 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-525-8646.

House of Rock: Sat., Skid Row. 11445 Pulaski Highway, White Marsh, Md.; 410-335-7111.

H20: Thu., "Usual Suspects;" Fri., "Models & Bottles;" Sat., "Soul Food." 800 Water St. SW; 202-484-6300.

Improv: Thu.-Sun., Robert Schimmel. 1140 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-296-7008.

Iota Club and Café: Thu., Mary Lou Lord, Emergency Music, Andy Zipf; Fri., Sketches, Monopoli; Sat., Flickerstick; Sun., Alana Davis. 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-522-8340.

Jammin' Java: Thu., Soulys, Chris Pureka; Fri., Army of Me; Sat. Late Show, Jubeus; Sat., Early Show, Lori McKenna; Sun., John Jorgenson. 227 Maple Ave., Vienna; 703-255-1566.

Jaxx: Thu., God Forbid; Fri., Soilwork, Dark Tranquillity; Sat., Europe; Sun., Lola Ray. 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield; 703-569-5940.

Juste Lounge: Fri., "4Play;" Sat., "Mingles Saturdays." 1015 1/2 7th St. NW; 202-393-3909.

Kennedy Center: Thu., Guinga. 2700 F St. NW; 202-467-4600.

Lincoln Theatre: Thu., Mint Condition. 1215 U St. NW; 202-328-6000.

Madam's Organ: Thu., Patrick Alban & Noche Latina; Fri, Catfish Hodge; Sat., Bobby Parker; Sun., Brother Shamus. 2461 18th St. NW; 202-667-5370.

Modern: Thu., "Lionz Den;" Fri., "Scenarios;" Sat., "Groove Theory." 3287 M St.

NW; 202-338-7027.

Nation: Thu., "Alchemy" featuring Assemblage 23, Angel Theory; Sat., "DMC American Battleground." 1015 Half St. SE; 202-554-1500.

9:30 Club: Thu., Underoath, Chariot, These Arms Are Snakes, Fear Before the March of Flames; Fri. Late Show, Paul Westerberg; Fri. Early Show, Fall Out Boy, Silverstein, Academy Is..., Gym Class Heroes; Sat., Rob Thomas, Beth Hart; Sun., Audioslave, Jonny Polonsky. 815 V St. NW; 202-265-0930.

Pearl: Thu., "Pearl Jam;" Fri., "After 5;" Sat., "Suite 901;" Sundays, "Super Sex." 901 9th St. NW; 202-371-0681.

Platinum: Thu., "College Thursdays;" Fri., "Plush;" Sat., "Beautiful;" Sun., "Platinum." 915 F St. NW; 202-393-3555.

Rams Head Live: Sun., Europe. 20 Market Place, Baltimore, Md.; 410-244-1131.

Rams Head Tavern: Sun., Lowen & Navarro. 33 West St., Annapolis, Md.; 410-268-4545.

Recher Theatre: Sun., Quiet Riot. 512 York Road, Towson, Md.; 410-337-7178.

Republic Gardens: Thu., "Live Jazz Happy Hour;" Fri., "Ol' School Happy

Hip-hop violinist Miri Ben-Ari will perform at the Pantene Total You Tour—entertainment, talks and a celebration of dynamic sisterhood—Saturday at Convention Hall.

Hour;" Sat., "Remedy." 1355 U St. NW; 202-232-2710.

Royal Lee Bar & Grill: Fri., Doomtree, V.P.R. 2211 N. Pershing Dr., Arlington; 703-524-5493.

Singapore Bistro: Fri., "KrunK" featuring DJ Eurok. 1134 19th St. NW; 202-262-



JOHN GRESS/REUTERS

8950.

Smithsonian Jazz Café: Fri., Larry Willis. 10th St. & Constitution Ave. NW; 202-633-7400.

Sonar: Sat., Misfits. 407 E. Saratoga St., Baltimore, Md.; 410-783-2964.

State Theatre: Thu.-Sun., Emergenza. 220 N. Washington St., Falls Church; 703-237-0300.

Strathmore: Thu., Coasters, Drifters, Marvelettes, Orioles. 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda; 301-581-5100.

Velvet Lounge: Thu., Stereocan; Fri., Butros Butros; Sat., Organ. 915 U St. NW; 202-462-3213.

Warehouse Next Door: Thu., Uncut; Fri., Yell Country; Sat., Apes. 1017 7th St. NW; 202-783-3933.

Washington Convention Center: Sat., Yolanda Adams, Regina Belle, MC Lyte, Miri Ben-Ari. 801 Mount Vernon Place NW; 202-249-3000.

Whitlow's on Wilson: Thu., Stefan Cou-ture and the Campfire Orchestra; Fri., Soldiers of Jah Army; Sat., Domestic Violins. 2854 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-276-9693.

Wolf Trap: Thu., Roger McGuinn. 1635 Trap Road, Vienna; 703-255-1900.

University of Maryland, Baltimore County: Sat., Violent Femmes, Talib Kweli. 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, Md.; 410-455-1000.

Zanzibar: Thu., "After Work Dance Party" featuring Joe; Fri., "International Night;" Sat., "International Saturdays." 700 Water St. NW; 202-554-9100.

Zoo Bar: Thu., Big Boy Little; Sat., Flatfoot Sam + the Educated Fools. 3000 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-232-4225.

SIGHT

Anacostia Museum: On Their Own: Selected Works by Self-Taught Artists. Chris Clark, Mary Proctor, Simon Jackson, Ruby Williams are just a few of the self-taught artists on display. The Art of Charles Smith. New Orleans artist's cast-iron sculptures. In Celebration of Black Men: The Quilt. Thirteen Washington-area African-Americans created the story quilt in 1995, through June 12. 1901 Fort Place SE; 202-287-2061.

LAST CHANCE ARTFX: Functional Ceramics by Victoria Heisler, through April 30. 45 West St., Annapolis, Md.; 410-990-4540.

LAST CHANCE Conner Contemporary Art: Maria Friberg, Still Lives. Photographs of pretty people in simple, slightly upsetting stagings, through April 30. 1730 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-588-8750.

Corcoran Gallery of Art: Dutch

Continued on E20

The Scene

Continued from E19

Royal Silver: Celebrating the Silver Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Beatrix, April 30-July 4. 2005 BFA Senior Thesis Exhibition. The Corcoran School of Art and Design's graduating class puts its work on display, through May 16. **Figuratively Speaking: The Human Form in American Art.** Examines diversity in how American artists represent the body, through May 23. **48th Corcoran Biennial: Closer to Home.** Contemporary artists informed by traditional arts, through June 17. **Majolica: Italian Renaissance Ceramics.** Decorated tin-glazed earthenware from Renaissance Italy, through July 11. 500 17th St. NW; 202-639-1700.

Embassy of Finland: Pop Fantasies: Furniture Design by Eero Aarnio, through

GALLERIES | ARTISTIC ATHLETE



DEREK BLANKS/THE WRITING PUBLICIST & CO

GO DEEP: Not often does an NFL running back turn to art. But former Jet and Redskin George Nock retired to become an artist. His bronze sculptures help open the newest gallery in Brookland, Roxanne's Artiques.

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May 8. 3301 Massachusetts Ave. NW; 202-298-5886.

Kathleen Ewing Gallery: "Reflections of France," photographs by Willy Ronis, through May 28. 1609 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-328-0955.

Fraser Gallery Bethesda: Andrzej Pluta, exquisite flower photographs, through May 11. 7700E Wisconsin Ave. Bethesda; 301-718-9651

Fraser Gallery Georgetown: "Vanity Studies," works by Viktor Koen, through May 18. 1054 31st St. NW; 202-298-6450.

Freer Gallery of Art/Arthur M. Sackler Gallery: Asian Games: The Art of Contest, through May 15. In the Realm of Princes: The Arts of the Book in Fifteenth-Century Iran and Central Asia, through Aug. 7. Rusticity Refined: Kyoto Ceramics by Ninsei, through Oct. 23. Games, Contests and Artful Play in Japan, through Oct. 23. Iraq and China: Ceramics, Trade, and Innovation, through July 17. Cai Guo-Qiang: Traveler, through July 31. Smithsonian Institution; 202-633-4880.

Fusebox: "Stadia," paintings by Sylvan Lionni; "Freedom Works," paintings by Tim Rollins + K.O.S., through May 21. 1412 14th St. NW; 202-299-9220.

Goethe-Institut Washington: "The Art of Memory/The Memory of Art," artists

Horst Hoheisel and Andreas Knitz compare and contrast the ways Germans and Americans memorialize national tragedies, through May 20. 812 7th St. NW; 202-289-1200.

Hillwood Museum: Eva Zeisel: The Playful Search for Beauty. The first survey of the designer's work in 20 years, through Dec. 4. 1227 34th St. NW; 202-686-5807.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Hinckley Pottery: Student show & sale, May 1. 1707 Kalorama Rd. NW; 202-745-7055.

Hirshhorn Museum: Isamu Noguchi: Master Sculptor. Works by Japanese-American sculptor, through May 8. Independence Avenue at 7th Street SW; 202-633-4674.

LAST CHANCE Inter-American

Development Bank: Works by Pietrina Checcacci and Claudia Ravel, through April 29. 1300 New York Ave. NW; 202-623-2581.

Irvine Contemporary Art: Works by Teo Gonzalez, through May 28. 1710 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-332-8767.

National Academy of Sciences:

Visionary Anatomies. Various artists' works mimic the human body, through May 20. 2101 Constitution Ave. NW; 202-334-2415.

National Building Museum: Liquid Stone: New Architecture in Concrete.

MUSEUMS | FIT FOR A KING



ROYAL COLLECTIONS, THE NETHERLANDS

ROYALTY FOR A DAY: Even commoners can salivate at the magnificent decorative works in silver on display at the Corcoran's "Dutch Royal Silver" exhibit, a splashy public party being thrown in honor of Queen Beatrix.

GALLERY | INFORMAL



COURTESY ANN BARBIERI

COME AS YOU ARE: Ann Barbieri's "Informalities," at Target Gallery, straddles the lines of abstraction and art.

TheScene

Recent projects displaying the material's strength, versatility and potential, through Jan. 29. New Designs for Public Space. How public space can generate urban revitalization, through May 15. Tools of the Imagination. Architects' and designers' tools, through Oct. 10. 401 F St. NW; 202-272-2448.

LAST CHANCE National Gallery of Art: Drawings by Roy Lichtenstein; 13 of the pop artist's drawings, through July 24. Gilbert Stuart: more than 90 works by the early American portraitist, through July 31. Rembrandt's Late Religious Portraits, from late 1650s and early 1660s, through May 1. André Kertész. A retrospective of the photographer's 70-year-plus career, through May 15. Fauve Painting From the Permanent Collection. Matisse and fellow "wild beasts," through May 30. Cotton Puffs, Q-Tips, Smoke and Mirrors: The Drawings of Ed Ruscha. Juxtaposed words and images from the contemporary artist, through May 30. Toulouse-Lautrec and Montmartre. About 250 paintings, drawings, sculptures and more, through June 12. Jan de Bray and the Classical Tradition. Works from the Dutch portraitist, through Aug. 14. 600 Constitution Ave. NW; 202-737-4215.

National Geographic Society: Peru: Indigenous and Viceregal. The cultural and artistic achievements of the South American country, through May 30. 17th and M streets NW; 202-857-7588.

National Museum of African Art: Treasures. Highlights of the museum's pieces and private collections, through Aug. 15. Textures: Word and Symbol in Contemporary African Art. Text or graphic symbols in art, through Sept. 9. 950 Independence Ave. SW; 202-633-4600.

Continued on E22

PERFORMANCES

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John Matz, tenor
Stephen Morscheck, bass
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PERFORMANCES



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Washington Talent Agency is having an open casting call for **Singers, Musicians, Dancers & Emcees**
Sun, May 1 at 10 am
You must have reliable transportation, weekend availability and be at least 16 years old. We are looking for men and women with lots of personality, no experience is required. Qualified candidates will be offered paying positions ON THE SPOT.
For more info and to register **301-762-1800 ext. 131** or www.washingtontalent.com
You must register before your audition, walk-ins will not be accepted.

Express Art
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WeekendPass Entertainment

The Scene

Continued from E21

National Museum of American History: "Whatever Happened to Polio," through April 12, 2006. Jazz Photographs, Composed and Improvised, through May 11. World War II Photographic Perspectives, through May 30. Separate Is Not Equal, Brown v. Board of Education: Exhibit reflecting on the 50th anniversary of the integration decision, through May 31. Ralph Bunche, African-American/Global Citizen: The many identities and achievements of the U.N. diplomat, Nobel Peace Prize winner and mediator, through July 5. Ella Fitzgerald, First Lady of Song, ongoing. Duke Ellington, American Musician, ongoing. 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW; 202-633-1000.

National Museum of the American Indian: Our Universes: Traditional Knowledge Shapes Our World, ongoing. Native Modernism: George Morrison and Allan Houser, ongoing. 4th Street and Jefferson Drive SW, 202-633-1000.

LAST CHANCE National Museum of Natural History: Orchids: The Orchid Express: From Mountaintop to Tabletop. Discusses the transformation and discovery of the flower, through May 1. 10th Street and Constitution Avenue NW; 202-357-2700.

National Museum of Women in the Arts: Berthe Morisot: An Impressionist and Her Circle. More than 75 works by Morisot and her colleagues, through May 8. 1250 New York Ave. NW; 202-783-5000.

National Postal Museum: In the Line of Duty: Dangers, Disasters and Good Deeds, through Oct 7. 2 Massachusetts Ave. NE; 202-633-1000.

Numark Gallery: Works by Dan Steinhilber, through May 28. 615 E St. NW; 202-628-3810.

LAST CHANCE Octagon Museum: Doodles, Drafts and Designs: Industrial Drawings From the Smithsonian Institution. Sketches, drawings and documents of domestic and industrial icons, through May 1. 1799 New York Ave. NW; 202-638-3105.

Phillips Collection: Modigliani: Beyond the Myth, through May 29. A survey of nearly 100 paintings, drawings and sculptures by the "quintessential bohemian." 1600 21st St. NW; 202-387-2151.

Renwick Gallery: High Fiber. Fiber art from quilts to tapestries to baskets, through July 10. 17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue NW; 202-633-1000.

LAST CHANCE S. Dillon Ripley Center: Miracle Under the Waves: Undersea photography of coral reefs, through May 1.

STAGE | SCANDALOUS



HAMLET, LEND A HAND? At Arena Stage, the Washington Stage Guild presents "Humble Boy," a British play about an astrophysicist who returns home for his father's funeral to find a new lover in his mother's bed.

1100 Jefferson Drive SW; 202-633-1000.

Roxanne's Artiques: Sculptures and paintings by George Nock, through May 21. 3426 9th St. NW; 202-526-0837.

Textile Museum: Textiles for This World and Beyond: Treasures from Insular Southeast Asia, through Sept. 18. Beyond the Bag: Textiles as Containers, demonstrating the beauty and utility of textile bags, through June 5. 2320 S St. NW; 202-667-0441.

Torpedo Factory: "Informality," paintings by Ann Barbieri, April 29-June 5. 105 N. Union St., Alexandria; 703-838-4565.

LAST CHANCE U.S. Botanic Garden: Orchid Express. Up close with an exotic favorite, through May 1. Wollemi Pine. This ancient tree is inspiring botanists and conservationists, through May 28. 245 1st St. SW; 202-225-8333.

Utopia: "Details in Art," works by Jamal Sahri, through June 19. 1418 U St. NW; 202-483-7669.

LAST CHANCE Washington Printmakers Gallery: Natural Selections, etchings and monotypes by Gabriel Jules, through May 1. 1732 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-332-7757.

STAGE

Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn: Deaf West Theatre production of the award-winning musical (based on the Mark Twain classic) from Roger Miller, through June 4, \$25-\$48. Ford's Theatre, 511 10th St. NW; 202-347-4833.

The Clandestine Marriage: David Garrick and George Colman's 18th Century comedy, through May 22, \$25-\$48. Folger Shakespeare Library, 201 E. Capitol St. SE; 202-544-4600.

Comic Briefs Too: Fringe theater by Michael Green, through May 8, \$15. H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE; 202-396-2125.

Curse of the Starving Class: Woolly/U-Md. A student production, in conjunction

with Woolly Mammoth, of Sam Shepard's trip into the dark side of the American dream, April 21-May 7, \$20. University of Maryland, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, College Park; 301-405-2787.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Dave Attell — **The Insomniac Tour:** TV's favorite frat-boy tour guide gets sleepless in D.C., Fri., 8 p.m., \$35.50. Lisner Auditorium; 730 21st St. NW; 800-551-7328.

Electra: Jennifer Mendenhall stars in Sophocles' Greek tragedy, through May

29, \$32-\$38. Metro Stage, 1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria; 703-548-9044.

The Game of Love & Chance: In this 18th-century French story, lovers go undercover, through May 14, \$25-\$49. Folger Theatre, 201 East Capitol St. SE; 202-544-7077.

The Great Dinosaur Mystery: Kids help solve the mystery of a museum's suddenly lively bones, Sat., noon, \$4-\$5. Discovery Theater, Arts and Industries Building, 900 Jefferson Drive SW; 202-357-1500.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY HBO Comedy Live: Fri.-Sun., \$10. Jokes on Us Comedy Club, 312 Main St., Laurel, Md.; 800-551-7328.

LAST CHANCE Hidden: A Gender: Trumpet Vine Theater Company's exploration of two historical figures who defied gender expectations, through April 30. Theatre on the Run, 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington; \$20; 703-912-1649.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Huggy Low-Down Comedy Throwdown: Fri.-Sun., \$20. Jokes on Us Comedy Club, 312 Main St., Laurel, Md.; 410-481-7328.

Humble Boy: Washington Stage Guild's staging of a play that updates and skewers "Hamlet," through May 22, \$23-\$30. Arena Stage at 14th and T, 1901 14th St. NW; 240-582-0050.

Jane Franklin Dance: "Ridge Line" is the

local choreographer's work based on Civil War images, Sat., 8 p.m., \$16-\$30. Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington; 703-298-3235.

LAST CHANCE Life x 3: D.C. premiere of a comedy from Yasmina Reza, through May 1, \$35. Round House, 4545 East-West Highway, Bethesda; 240-644-1099.

LAST CHANCE Moby Dick Rehearsed: A monomaniac director takes on a big whale of a play in this American Century Theater staging of Orson Welles' play, through April 30, \$18-\$26. Gunston Arts Center, 2700 S. Lang St., Arlington; 703-553-8782.

Omnium Gatherum: A dinner party's worth of "types" argues and dines in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, through May 8. Olney Theatre, 2001 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Olney, Md.; 301-924-4485.

The Passion of Joni Dark: A young woman gets a message (from God?) demanding she protest the war in Iraq, Sat. & Sun., \$10. Warehouse Next Door, 1017 7th St. NW; 202-783-3933.

Perfectly Persephone: Little Greek Myth: The Greek myth staged for children, through May 29, \$10-\$15. Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda; 301-881-5106.

The Piano Lesson: Award-winning drama about race and remembrance by August Wilson, through May 15, \$45-\$59. Arena Stage, 1101 6th St. SW; 202-554-9066.

Ragtime: The Musical: The Arlington Players' production of this rousing portrait of America at the turn of the century, opens Fri., through May 14, \$18. Thomas Jefferson Theater, 125 S. Old Glebe Road, Arlington; 703-549-1063.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Robert Schimmel: No holds will be barred or punches pulled by this raunchy comedian, Thu.-Sun., \$22-\$25; The Improv, 1140 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-296-7008.

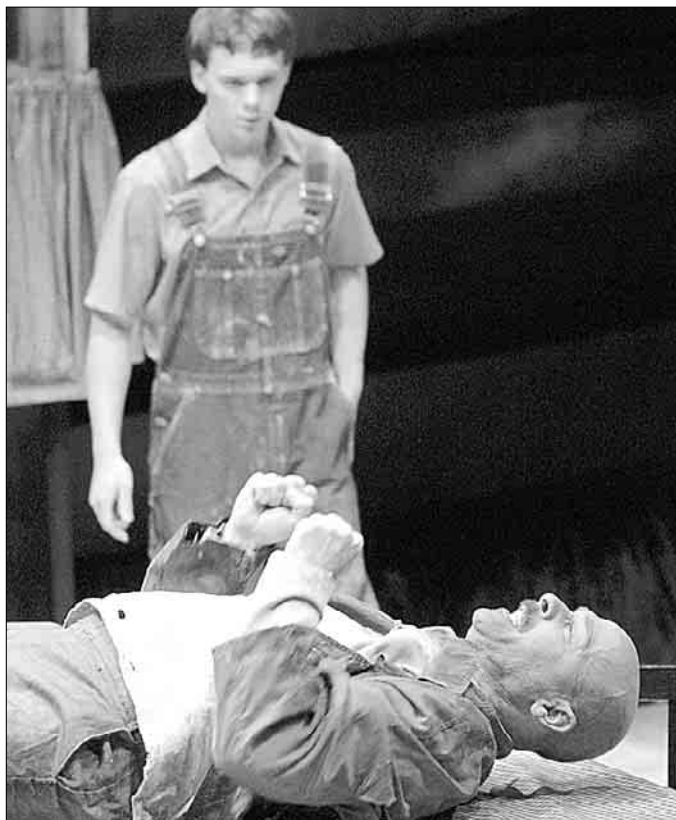
THIS WEEKEND ONLY Snow White: Virginia Dance Company brings the harrowing fairy tale to life, Fri. & Sun., \$25. Ernst Theatre, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale; 703-249-8227.

THIS WEEKEND ONLY Spring Dance Concert: Ballet, jazz and tap from the Dance Company of Montgomery College Rockville, Fri.-Sun., \$10; Montgomery College, Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville; 301-279-5301.

The Tempest: Directed by Kate Whoriskey, through May 22, \$23-\$68. Shakespeare Theatre, 450 7th St. NW; 202-547-1122.

The Ugly Duckling: A puppet show of the classic Hans Christian Anderson tale, through May 28, 12 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.), \$12. Classika Theatre, 4041 S. 28th St., Arlington; 703-824-0660.

STAGE | HUNGRY?



BREAKING POINT: University of Maryland's Theatre Department and the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company start their partnership with Sam Shepard's play, "Curse of the Starving Class," at the Clarice Smith Center.

Nightlifeagenda

WHAT DO YOU WANNA DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN AND RHOME ANDERSON

THURSDAY

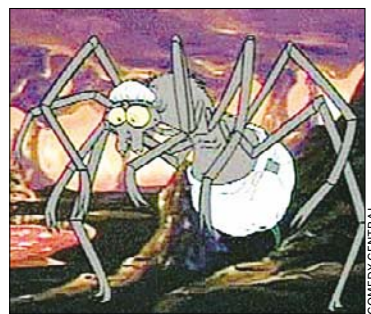
R&B singer Joe croons the songs that R. Kelly would pen if he wasn't an alleged sexual deviant. Over the past 12 years, Joe's steadily built a career with quiet storm mainstays like "All The Things (Your Man Won't Do)." You can see him tonight at **ZANZIBAR** but it isn't cheap — \$30, to be exact. Also appearing is an artist by the name of Samson; he looks like he could be a close relative of Shamar Moore. The ladies will be pleased.

Usually, Irish pubs and piano bars occupy separate spheres of the nightlife scene. **O'FAOLAIN'S IRISH PUB**, a comfortable watering hole, is now offering "Piano Bar Night" every Thursday from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. with pianist Shane McLaughlin.

FRIDAY

If you're as addicted to late-night cartoons as we are, you've probably heard the talented MC Chris (aka Chris Ward) as the voices (and rhymes) of MC Pee Pants and Sir Loin on "Aqua Teen Hunger Force." MC Chris is now on a nationwide tour to promote his album "Eating's Not Cheating," and he's stopping off at **CUBIK** tonight. Honestly, we have no idea what to expect, but it's sure to be funny.

We haven't urged reggae fans to check out the **D.C. SOUNDCLASH** in a little while, so here's a time-



Don't disturb MC Pee Pants or he'll have one of those turntable "accidents."

ly reminder. For classic Jamaican reggae, ska and rocksteady grooves (Prince Buster, Jackie Mittoo, Skatalites, etc.), the Marx Cafe's monthly DJ night is the best place in town.

In case you missed it, New Order released "Waiting for the Siren's Call" on Tuesday. You can hear a number of tracks tonight



BEATS MEET WEST: New York-based DJ Rekha spins an irresistible mix of hip-hop, techno and the Indian dance music bhangra in her booty-shaking sets.

at **SACCHARINE**, the monthly indie-meets-synthpop dance party at Zuccharbar. Get on www.medusapromotions.com for free admission, or pay \$6 at the door; either way, drinks are free from 9 to 10 p.m.

SATURDAY

Another Saturday night, another DJ on the mainstage of the **BLACK CAT** — not that we're complaining, because instead of the Smiths and Morrissey, you get to hear DJ Rekha, founder of New York's popular Basement Bhangra. The First Ladies DJ Collective has hosted Rekha's sublime mix of hip-hop, electronica and Indian dance music at its Girl Friday night, but it's time the ladies moved up to the big stage.

When Party Slave threw a James Bond-themed party at Cafe Asia a few months ago, Fritz came away impressed with the large, well-dressed crowd; the DJ; and the bartenders cranking out "shaken, not stirred" vodka martinis. There's another "Goldfinger" party at **VIDA**, and it's looking to be even better: free admission; open bar from 9 to 10 p.m.; a raffle that benefits the Red Cross. There's more information and RSVP forms at www.goldfingerdc.com.

Check out an extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" each Thursday at washingtonpost.com/nightlife

Friday in

The Washington Post | Weekend Section



Spring Fling:

Get the best out of local theme parks by beating the summer rush. | *Cover*

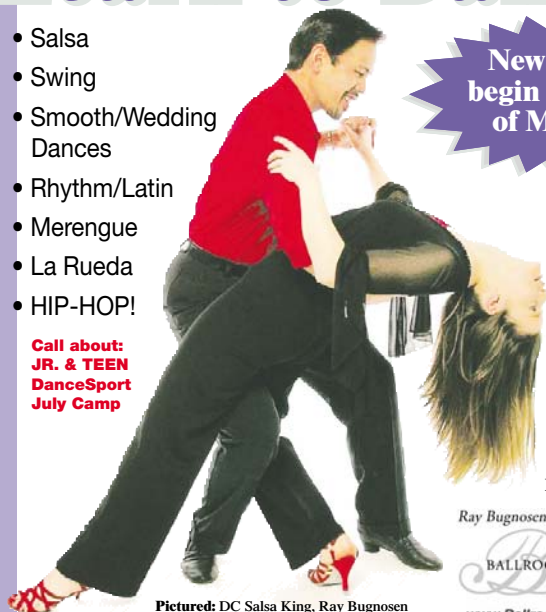
→ Also, out clubbing, non-smoking; Liz Ler-man Dance Troupe; reviews of new movies.

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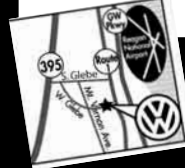
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Retta Feyissa, winner of the 2004 Marine Corps Marathon, ran as part of Catholic Charities' team.



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Call Sarah at 202-772-4392 or Dallas at 202-772-4394 or visit www.catholiccharitiesdc.org to run with Catholic Charities!

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Start Time: 9am
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