

## PICTURE OF THE WEEK: Robot Legs Walk for You

If you're running a mile, aching legs and an annoying stitch in your side might thwart your steps. You may wonder when the torture will end. When? The answer can be found in Berkeley, California where new robotic legs have been developed.

BLEEX, Berkeley Lower Extremities Exoskeleton, makes walking or running amazingly easy, even with a heavy burden. Imagine being able to walk around carrying 170 pounds and not even feel it! This exoskeleton can revolutionize rescues and the military. Firefighters and disaster crews would be able to carry heavy loads, like a human, for long distances without feeling tired.

An exoskeleton is a skeleton that is on the outside of the body. Human skeletons are inside the body, but some animals, like lobsters and crabs, have exoskeletons--their shell. BLEEX is an extra exoskeleton for humans that is powered in a backpack and has leg braces that attach to boots. The leg braces are flexibly attached to the outside of the person's legs and have many sensors that adjust the weight, so it can respond quickly just like normal walking.

Next time you have to run that mile, remember that BLEEX would make it much easier.

--Written by [Katheryn Troyer](#)

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## WEEKLY NEWS 1: New Family Abduction Bill

On Thursday, March 11, 2004, a new bill was introduced to the House of Representatives. The bill will help combat family abductions, and is called the Family Abduction Prevention Act of 2004.

Many parents are concerned that their children might be abducted by stranger, but a recent poll found that 81% of Americans underestimate the real risk of abduction. Approximately 262,000 children are kidnapped each year, mostly by family members. Most parents don't realize that the bigger danger may be from members of their own family--not strangers.

The Family Abduction Prevention Act of 2004 will help provide federal funds to support training for local law enforcement agencies. Most police departments don't have any type of policy in place for handling family abductions. This bill would help make a change. The federal money would also be use to help raise awareness across the nation.

The Polly Klaas Foundation offers its support for this bill. The foundation is the first, national non-profit that helps find missing children. It also takes steps to try and prevent child abductions, such as educating parents and promoting the changes of laws. The foundation was established after the kidnapping of 12-year-old Polly Klaas in 1993.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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Read [WEEKLY NEWS 2: Comedians Help Fight Disease](#)



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## WEEKLY NEWS 2: Comedians Help Fight Disease

On Thursday, March 11, 2004, the Scleroderma Research Foundation announced that many famous comedians will be taking the stage to raise money for their cause.

The event, which will take place on March 26, will feature performances by stars like Jon Lovitz, Tim Allen, Bob Saget and Robin Williams. The event is called "Cool Comedy - Hot Cuisine." Gourmet dining and today's hottest comedians will combine to try and raise money for the Scleroderma Research Foundation. The evening will begin with John Rzeznik of The Goo Dolls singing the song "Iris."

Each of the comedians will perform on stage at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel. Guests will get a five-course meal prepared by famous chefs from award-winning restaurants.

So what is Scleroderma? The disease affects mostly women, although some men and children are affected. It can be life-threatening. The disease becomes most serious when it reaches the internal organs. It affects as many as 300,000 Americans.

The money raised from this event will help the people at The Scleroderma Foundation find a cure for the disease. The foundation supports medical and scientific research. It was created in 1987. The event "Cool Comedy - Hot Cuisine" first launched in 1988 and has raised millions of dollars for Scleroderma research. Tickets for the event cost \$500.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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Read WEEKLY NEWS 3: Guilty as Charged 

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## WEEKLY NEWS 3: Guilty as Charged

Guilty or innocent? Forty-three year old John Allen Muhammad was sentenced to death Tuesday, March 9, for his participation in the October 2002 sniper shootings. The shootings kept millions of people from Baltimore, MD to Richmond, Va. indoors for fear of being the next victim.

Although his lawyers continue to proclaim his innocence, Prince William County Circuit Judge Leroy F. Millette Jr. imposed the jury's recommended death sentence. In a last-ditch effort to spare the sniper's life, Muhammad told jurors: "Just like I said at the beginning of the trial, I had nothing to do with this."

Judge Millette set October 14, 2004 as Muhammad's execution date, but lawyers expect this date to be pushed back, as the accused sniper's appeals in the Virginia Supreme Court and other federal courts is expected to take years.

Although the sniper attacks left ten people dead and three people wounded, Muhammad's conviction is specifically for the death of Dean H. Meyers, a 53-year-old civil engineer who was killed outside of a gas station in Manassas, VA.

Muhammad's accomplice, 19-year old Lee Boyd Malvo, was sentenced to life in prison on Wednesday, March 11. He was convicted in the killing of FBI analyst Linda Franklin outside a Home Depot store near Falls Church, Va.

**Written by Mrs. Billingsley's Fourth Grade Class at South Anna Elementary**  
***Thank you Mrs. Billingsley's Fourth Grade Class for this wonderful article!***

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Read [WEEKLY NEWS 4: Dedication of WWII Memorial](#)

## WEEKLY NEWS 4: Dedication of WWII Memorial

On Thursday, March 11, 2004, it was announced that 117,000 tickets have been sold for the May 29th dedication of the National World War II Memorial. This is America's first national memorial to honor the Americans who fought in World War II.

More than 60% of the people who purchased tickets are from the World War II generation. People without tickets might be able to view the dedication from a non-ticketed viewing area. Also, the memorial will be open sometime in mid-April, so visitors can view it before the dedication.

Many veterans have been waiting for this moment, but they are unable to travel to Washington D.C. for the dedication. So many communities across the nation are planning special ceremonies on that day. Various events will be held in local American Legion and VFW halls.

A special broadcast of the dedication will be available via satellite to the people who are celebrating. It will also be broadcast live over The History Channel and C-SPAN. The dedication ceremony will take two hours and will start at 2PM.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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 [Read WEEKLY NEWS 1: New Family Abduction Bill](#)

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## AROUND THE WORLD 1: Suspicious Activity in Africa

This story could be straight out of a Hollywood spy movie. The plot is complicated, but it begins with a plane in the southern African country of Zimbabwe. Last Sunday, authorities in Zimbabwe took control of a plane which had landed in the capital city of Harare. The plane was said to be carrying military equipment and security guards, and it would be stopping in Harare's airport on the way to take several other African countries. However, when the authorities in Zimbabwe checked the cargo, they were surprised to find strange items, such as camouflage uniforms, inflatable boats, radios, tools, and other survival equipment. Soon, the Zimbabwe authorities gathered other information and realized that they had intercepted a group of people who were on their way to overthrow the leader of another country.

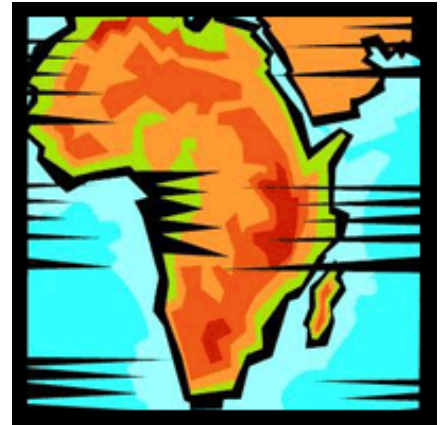
All the people on the plane were arrested and are now in custody in Zimbabwe. The group is composed of people from Angola, South Africa, and Namibia. The Zimbabwe government is accusing them of plotting to overthrow the president of another country on the other side of the African continent, Equatorial Guinea. The president of Equatorial Guinea, Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, was very grateful to the Zimbabwean government for stopping the people before they could get any closer to his country. Mr. Nguema was also grateful to the government of South Africa had warned him of the plot. The men on board the airplane will face charges and may even be executed.

This story is complicated enough already, with members of countries all over Africa involved. However, it gets even more complicated. The plane which was carrying the suspected plotters was owned by an American company and registered as an American plane. Zimbabwe is accusing the United States of being involved in the plot and they also say that Britain and Spain were involved in the planning also. The United States, Spain, and Britain are accused of sending spies to help with the plot to overthrow Mr. Ngueme. The United States has denied any involvement and claims that the airplane had been sold several weeks earlier. Still, Zimbabwe believes that the U.S. and these two other powerful countries were involved.

The United States and Zimbabwe do not have very good relations, because the United States has made accusations against the president of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe. Mr. Mugabe has been in power since 1980 and he is known for unfair and sometimes abusive policies inside his own country. There have been many calls in the past to overthrow Mr. Mugabe. Perhaps this is why he is so sympathetic and eager to protect the leader of Equatorial Guinea. Still, the accusations against the men on the plane have not been proven, and this complicated story will continue to unfold.

--Written by [Betsy Mesard](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 2: The Blame in Spain** 

## AROUND THE WORLD 2: The Blame in Spain

On March 11, Spaniards experienced the worst European terrorist attack in more than fifteen years. More than ten bombs were hidden in backpacks on trains in the country's capital and biggest city, Madrid. Ten bombs exploded quickly, one after another, blowing four trains apart and killing at least 190 people--maybe more.

Spaniards were shocked and alarmed, and there was an official minute of silence to mourn those killed. Surviving witnesses to the explosion described a chaotic scene, with bodies sprawled everywhere and cell phones ringing as family members called their relatives to make sure they had not been hurt. Not all train passengers were killed, but an estimated 1,200 were wounded. Police found and took care of three other bombs that hadn't even gone off yet.

Only hours later, many were quick to ask who was responsible for this attack. Authorities are keeping all possibilities open, but right now it looks like two main groups are the most likely choices: an Arab terrorist group acting for al-Qaida, and ETA.

One group, the Brigade of Abu Hafs al-Masri, claimed they did the bombing in the name of al-Qaida--so why is there even a question as to who did it? Well, not all the evidence points to them. The Brigade has been known to claim responsibility for things it hasn't done, such as causing blackouts last year in the U.S. and in London.

Still, there are bad feelings against Spain from some Arab terrorist groups, partly because Spain helped the U.S. by sending in troops to Iraq. Some people feel the timing was important--the train bombing happened exactly 2 1/2 years after the attacks of September 11, 2001. Spanish police also found a stolen van with detonators and an Arabic language tape inside, which may have been connected to the bombings.

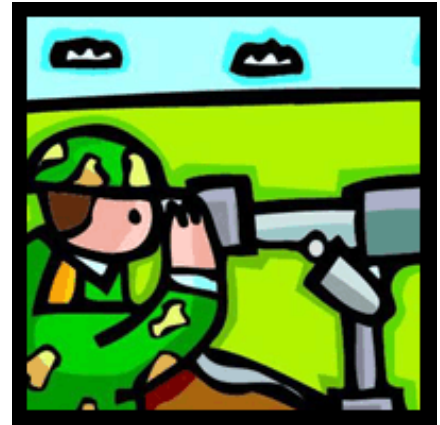
But most Spanish officials are saying it is more likely to be the work of ETA, a Spanish terrorist group that tried a similar bombing last Christmas Eve. ETA stands for Euskadi ta Askatasuna--if that doesn't even sound like Spanish to you, it's because it is a different language within Spain called 'Basque.' The Basque region sits in the northeastern part of the country, and for many years has wanted to be its own country, separate from Spain's government. ETA is a group of terrorists trying to get Pais Vasco (the Basque area) liberated.

Spain was set to have their general elections on Sunday, March 14, and the Basque region was a big political issue. However, a Basque politician says ETA didn't have anything to do with the bombings. ETA usually targets individuals, especially politicians, and hasn't killed a group of over 20 people since 1987.

Senior officials say there is no way to know who did this at this point, and that more evidence is needed. In the meantime, the international community is offering its support and sympathy to Spain.

--Written by [Kari Ellassal](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 3: Trumpeting Toyotas, Singing Sonys** 

## AROUND THE WORLD 3: Trumpeting Toyotas, Singing Sonys

Toyota Group, the Japanese company that produces the ever-popular Toyota cars, this week revealed a four-foot tall robot that can play the trumpet.

Yes, the trumpet. The robot, which does not have a name and which can not only play the trumpet, but wave and bow to its appreciative audience, was created as a response to Honda's--yes, Honda, the carmaker--walking robot Asimo, which has been making a tour of the world (not all walking, of course) since its unveiling in 2000.

And between the Asimo's release and the Toyota trumpeter's first concert was the 2003 unveiling of Qrio, Sony's--you guessed it, makers of, well, anything and everything with wiring--robot, which can dance and sing, and even jog.

Japan has a large robotic entertainment industry, which includes everything from humanoid bots to the \$1000+ pet puppy bot AIBO, made by Sony. The robots made by Toyota and Honda, however, are not intended for sale to the public. They are actually developed as walking, or trumpeting, publicity campaigns, designed to show the world about the kinds of technological designs and advances the companies are capable of producing.

Toyota hopes to develop additional musician robots to play in a Toyota robot band at the 2005 World Exhibition in Aichi, Japan.

--Written by [Nia Williams](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 4: World's Fastest Swimsuit** 

## AROUND THE WORLD 4: World's Fastest Swimsuit

On Tuesday, March 9, 2004, Speedo launched a new swimsuit designed to help make competitive swimmers even faster. The suit is called FASTSKIN FSII and Speedo says it may be the world's fastest swimsuit.

The suit is supposed to increase speed and decrease passive drag by 4%. That doesn't sound like much, but it can make a big difference for a serious swimmer, like those who compete in the Olympics. In fact, Speedo believes the suit might make a difference between a gold medal and fourth place.

FASTSKIN FSII was under development in Speedo labs for four years. That's a long time for a swimsuit! The researchers started by examining the skin of a shark, since sharks can swim so fast through the water. Then Speedo took the findings from the research and created different fabrics. Most importantly, the designers of the new suit were interested in the flow of water around the body. All this research helped Speedo create one fabric for men and one for women, because men move through the water differently than women. The fabric is designed specifically for the strokes of each gender.

Speedo has also worked with elite athletes worldwide to develop the suit. Leading swimmers and coaches have had a part in the development of this new, advanced swimsuit.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 1: Suspicious Activity in Africa**

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## SPORTS ZONE 1: Security at Greek Olympics

Several hundred U.S. troops are beginning a secret Athen Olympics security operation. Although news of the operation, codenamed "Hercules Shield", is being carefully guarded, sources say the operation will involve U.S. troops commanding and controlling 2,000 Greek troops.

The operation started on Wednesday and will last for two weeks. It will take place over a stretch of the country, from Athens to the southern Greek island of Crete. Some of the cities involved include Thessaloniki, Volos, and Olympia--the birthplace of the Games where the Olympic Flame will be lit on March 25. Some practice scenarios include a home-made nuclear "dirty bomb" and ship hijacking.

Greece plans to spend 650 million euros (\$792 million) on the security plan due to a heightened terrorism alert after the September 11, 2003 attacks on the U.S. Security planners believe that a global effort is necessary in order to protect the summer Olympic Games. "If you want to tackle international terrorism, it can only be achieved through international collaboration," said chief police spokesman Colonel Lefteris Economou.

Protest groups, however, are planning a demonstration at the U.S. embassy later this week to protest the U.S. involvement.

--Written by [Renee Clara](#)

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Read [SPORTS ZONE 2: Alaskan Dog-Sled Race](#)



## SPORTS ZONE 2: Alaskan Dog-Sled Race

Mush! Mush! The Last Great Race on Earth began last Tuesday in Anchorage, Alaska when teams of men and dogs began their 8 day journey into the frozen trails of mountains and blizzards on the way to Nome. The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race covers the distance of 1,100 miles between the two Alaskan cities. The race consists of men or women called mushers who are pulled on a sled by a team of excellent and trained athletes: dogs. These dogs are more than fast competitors--they are their musher's best friends.

The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog race celebrates the life-saving value these dogs hold in Alaska's history. The race has been held for over thirty years, but the heroic actions of dog-sleds began in 1925. In January of that year a deadly disease, diphtheria, threatened the people of Nome, Alaska. The suffering townspeople were 1,000 miles away from the cure, which was in Anchorage. To save the town, 20 volunteer dog-sled drivers combined their efforts and relayed the serum in about 5 days. The dogs and their drivers rescued the town's children!

The commemorative Sled Dog race now takes anywhere from 8 to 32 days to complete. The first team to reach Nome earns a monetary prize and the last team to finish receives the Red Lantern Award. The challenges of extremely cold weather, sometimes below zero, blizzards, and dangerous mountain trails have not changed with time making the Iditarod, indeed, the Last Great Race on Earth.

--Written by [Katheryn Troyer](#)

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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 1: Rover Unsuccessful in Drilling Rock

On Sunday, the rover Opportunity tried unsuccessfully to drill into a Martian rock. Scientists are hoping to learn more about the chemical composition of rocks on Mars by studying the scrapings from the exterior, specifically from a formation named "Flat Rock". They planned to run tests on the rover on Monday in hopes of making another attempt on Flat Rock this week.

On the other side of Mars, Spirit (Opportunity's twin rover), made progress toward a large depression scientists have named the "Bonneville Crater" by advancing 72-feet. Spirit, which managed to maneuver around several obstacles, will use its scientific tools to take measurements of its surroundings.

NASA's rover mission, which costs \$820 million, is designed to find out whether or not Mars had enough water to support life on its dusty surface. NASA announced this past week that both Spirit and Opportunity rovers found geological evidence of past water. In a region called Gusev crater, Spirit reportedly found signs that water may have altered a volcanic rock. On the other side of the planet, Opportunity discovered evidence that suggested its landing site previously contained water.

--Written by [Renee Clara](#)

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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 2: Carbon Dioxide Hurting Rainforest?

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 2: Carbon Dioxide Hurting Rainforest?

Increased levels of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere caused by forest burning, automobiles and industrial emissions has led to rapid changes in even remote, untouched portions of Amazonian rainforest, say scientists in the journal Nature this week.

The amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has risen by 30 percent in the last 200 years, experts say. This increase has led to a change in the growth rate and composition of plants in rainforests not touched by man. Carbon dioxide is part of the process of photosynthesis, the process by which organisms convert sunlight into energy. The higher level of carbon dioxide, the scientists believe, is causing some trees in the Amazonian rainforest to grow faster and die sooner.

The scientists, American and Brazilian researchers working together on the Biological Dynamics of Forest Fragment Project, also said in the report that the changes in the trees may be causing changes in the species composition of the rainforests. Rainforest species of plants and animals are very often highly specialized to occupy a particular niche, or type of place, in their environment. Therefore, a change in the environment, like trees that grow faster or die sooner, is likely affecting the survival of the specialized species that live in their shadows.

The study has been underway for two decades now, so the scientists have had a good deal of time to observe the changes that the forests have undergone, and are very concerned about the changes, for it appears that even when humans have not actually gone into these forests to hunt, cut down or burn trees, our actions have a lasting effect.

--Written by [Nia Williams](#)

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 1: Rover Unsuccessful in Drilling Rock



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On March 17, 1762 the first parade honoring the Catholic feast day of St. Patrick was held by Irish soldiers who served in the British army. The celebration took place in New York City.



On March 18, 1959 President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the Hawaiian statehood bill into law. That bill approved Hawaii's entrance into the United States. The electorate of the Pacific Ocean island chain later approved the bill, and Hawaii became a state. On August 21, 1959, Hawaii formally entered the Union as the fiftieth state.



On March 19, 1831 the first U.S. Bank Robbery occurred. The robbers used an extra set of keys to open the doors of the City Bank on New York City's Wall Street. The thief escaped with \$245,000. Edward

Smith was arrested and charged with the crime.



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## MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 1: Ratings Up In Smoke

If Stanton Glantz had his way, you would need parental supervision the next time you saw a movie like "Holes" or "102 Dalmatians." Why the call for stricter limits on who sees movies like these? Because characters in these otherwise family-friendly films smoked cigarettes.

In a study of 775 movies released in the past five years, Glantz found that 50 percent of G and PG rated movies show characters smoking, while nearly 80 percent of PG-13 rated movies contain tobacco use. He thinks that so much smoking in movies glamorizes smoking as children and teens see their favorite stars and fun characters like the "Men in Black" worm aliens doing it.

So what's the solution? Glantz says the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) should treat tobacco use like inappropriate language when assigning ratings to movies. If PG movies became PG-13, and PG-13 movies were rated R, it would hit the movie studios where it hurts--box office receipts--since many young people would have to stay away. Eventually, movie creators would think twice before allowing a character to smoke if they knew it could make them lose money.

The MPAA hasn't responded to the study, so it doesn't seem like smoking aliens or Cruella DeVille's trademark cigarette will keep you away from movies quite yet, but keep it in mind the next time you see a character light up--is it really necessary?

--Written by [Lorie Witkop](#)

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[Read MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 2: Girl Scouts Cook with Oprah's Chef](#) 

## MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 2: Girl Scouts Cook with Oprah's Chef

On Saturday, March 13, 2004, a group of Girl Scouts from Girl Scouts of Southeastern Pennsylvania will have a brush with fame. They'll participate in a cooking demonstration by Oprah's personal chef. Doesn't that sound exciting?

The demonstration is for children between the ages of 8 and 12 years old. Ten girl scouts, as well as children from The Food Trust, will be participating in the event.

Oprah's personal chef, Art Smith, is holding the event to support his new charity, Our Common Threads. The charity strives to teach diversity through food, the arts and family. He wants families to come together and enjoy the emotional and physical aspects of food.

Art Smith also wrote a bestselling cookbook titled "Back to the Table: The Reunion of Food and Family." The cookbook features foods with a bit of a southern taste, as that is where Smith was raised. Many of the recipes Smith will demonstrate on Saturday are from his cookbook. He will also be signing his cookbook for people who want an autograph.

So what will he be cooking for the crowd? He'll whip up lots of tasty food, including baked cod, buttermilk fried chicken and red velvet cake with chocolate frosting.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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## COMICS & POEMS 1: Aford Turtle, Comic Strip



--Written by [Aaron Riddle](#)

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## COMICS & POEMS 2: The Key, Poetry Feature

### *The Key*

Can you tell me why  
when you stand on the  
tips of your toes  
you can't touch the sky,

That when you  
smile at someone passing your way  
that one smile can  
travel around all day,

Or what when you're  
feeling blue,  
and you feel like  
there is nothing you can do . . .  
the sun will still  
come shining through?

It's because when  
you constantly strive  
for your shining star,  
You'll be able to  
go exceptionally far!

--Written by [Lisa J. Fazio](#)

This poem is featured in [Chasing the Dawn](#), an Anthology of Poetry released by the International Library of Poetry in December 2000.

[Write your own story telling us what you think about this poem!](#)



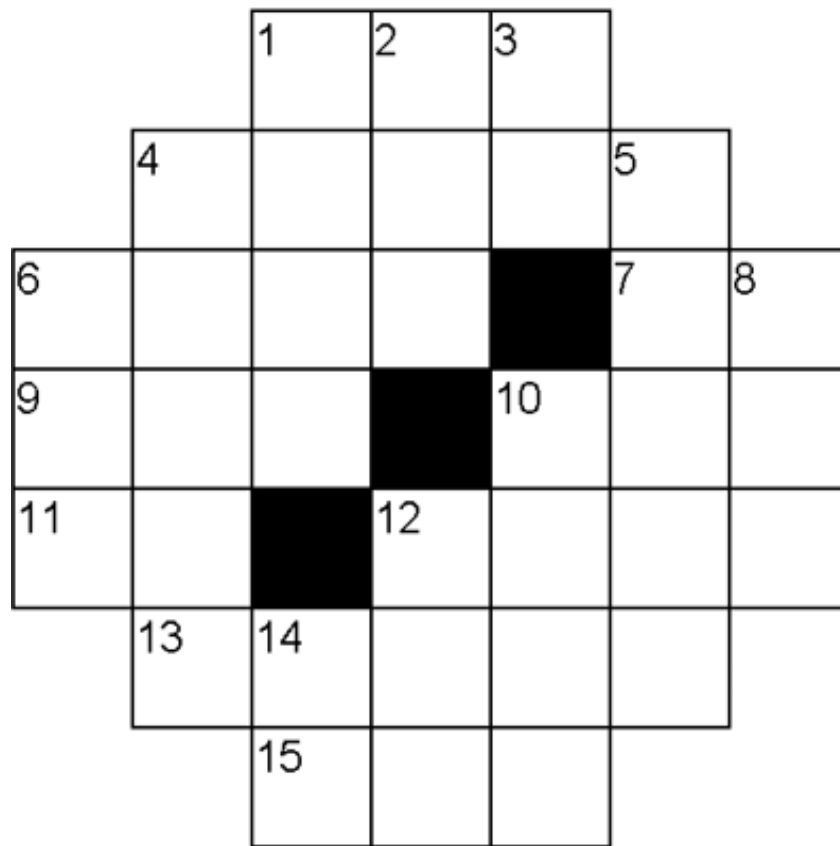
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## COMICS & POEMS 3: Local Dogs, Crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 Madagascar franc (abbr.)
- 4 Berkeley Lower...
- 6 Cat's cry
- 7 Tv show
- 9 Compass point
- 10 BB association
- 11 Statue of Liberty locale
- 12 Little boy's name
- 13 Abraham's son
- 15 Rate

### DOWN

- 1 Ice sheet
- 2 Kitten's cry
- 3 Popular appliance brand
- 4 Tv dog
- 5 Small Mediterranean boat
- 6 Males
- 8 Shaft of light
- 10 Biblical prophet
- 12 Japanese (slang)
- 14 Saskatchewan (abbr.)

[Click here to tell us what you think about this crossword!](#)



## U.S. GOVERNMENT 1: McCain for Vice-President... as a Democrat?

Senator John McCain, a Republican from Arizona, has always been regarded as the maverick of his party. However, surely he wouldn't consider running on a Democratic ticket...or would he? In a national television interview Wednesday morning, McCain said that if Democratic presidential hopeful John Kerry offered him the Vice Presidential slot, he would at least give it some thought. "John Kerry is a close friend of mine. We have been friends for years. Obviously I would entertain it." McCain said this week on ABC's "Good Morning America" when pressed on the topic of a Kerry-McCain ticket. At the same time, however, McCain stressed how unlikely such an offer from across the political isle was, saying "It's impossible to imagine the Democratic Party seeking a pro-life, free-trading, non-protectionist, deficit hawk." In an allusion to the recent scandal surrounding baseball, McCain wryly added "They'd have to be taking some steroids, I think, in order to let that happen." Mark Salter, Senator McCain's longtime Chief of Staff, acted quickly that same day to douse the flames of speculation surrounding his boss' potential defection from the Republican Party saying "Senator McCain will not be a candidate for vice president in 2004" and adding that he spoke on behalf of the Senator.



Despite the Senator's insistence that such a scenario was extremely unlikely and his Chief of Staff's hasty efforts at spin control, the mere fact that McCain would consider such an offer has to be considered an uneasy proposition to Republicans and President Bush with the general election less than 8 months away and the summer campaign season just around the corner. Such a move would be unprecedented in modern American politics, and McCain would be a very attractive proposition for Democrats as they seek to regain the White House. The Arizona Republican was Bush's main foe in the 2000 Republican primaries, even winning early in New Hampshire and following up with victories in Michigan, Arizona, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont before eventually bowing out to Bush.

Generally speaking, the electoral base is comprised of approximately equal number of Democrats and Republicans, with the remaining 10-20 of voters not traditionally identifying with one party or another. Thus, these independents are critical to winning a national election. McCain, regarded as an independent despite his long-time affiliation with the Republican Party, would be attractive to these swing voters and could well out Kerry over the top in his bid to topple President Bush. Polls still have a statistical dead heat between Bush and Kerry, and experts figure that the race will remain very close until the two parties hold their conventions and debates begin this summer.

--Written by [Lincoln Gaffney](#)

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**U.S. GOVERNMENT 2: American Woman Arrested for Conspiring with Iraq**



## U.S. GOVERNMENT 2: American Woman Arrested for Conspiring with Iraq

Susan Lindauer, an antiwar activist from Takoma Park, MD, was arrested on Thursday, March 11 on charges that she worked as a paid agent for the Iraqi government. Ms. Lindauer is accused of acting as a spy for Iraq and for accepting money from Saddam Hussein.

Ms. Lindauer is a journalist who has worked at Fortune, US News and World Report, as well as several other high profile publications. She has also worked as a political publicist for Congress representatives. From 1999 to 2002, she made multiple visits to the Iraqi mission at the United Nations in New York. Allegedly, she met with several members of an Iraqi intelligence service that has played a role in many terrorist operations. It is estimated that she has received a total of \$10,000 from Iraq in addition to a trip she made to Baghdad in March 2002.

Receiving money from Iraq violates a law that prohibits transactions with a government that sponsors international terrorism. If convicted, Ms. Lindauer faces up to ten years in prison. She maintains that her actions were part of her anti-war activism and that her work has greatly contributed to stopping terrorism in the United States.

--Written by [Meg Austin](#)

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## U.S. GOVERNMENT 1: McCain for Vice-President... as a Democrat?

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Answer all of the questions on the quiz, then select the Score button to grade the quiz.

**There are 15 Questions total.**

**1. Where is the birthplace of the Olympic games?**

Olympia, Greece

Washington, D.C.

Rome, Italy

Paris, France

**2. What is the name of the NASA rover that tried unsuccessfully to drill into a Martian rock?**

Pancake

Happiness

Opportunity

Canine

**3. Senator John McCain is from which State?**

Alaska

Alabama

Arkansas

Arizona

**4. What are two of the things Toyota's new robot can do?**

walk and jog

sing and dance

talk and smile

wave and bow

**5. Where have scientists been tracking the effects of increased carbon dioxide on rainforests?**

the Amazon

Indonesia

China

Mexico

**6. A new study suggests the MPAA should give stronger ratings to movies that include what?**

swearing

alcohol use

smoking/tobacco use

child abuse

**7. The people taken from the plane in Zimbabwe were accused of plotting to overthrow\_\_\_\_\_.**

Equatorial Guinea

Zimbabwe

South Africa

Namibia

**8. Spanish terrorist group ETA fights for the liberation of which region in Spain?**

Catalunya

Madrid

Andalucia

Basque Country

**9. How long is the distance between Nome and Anchorage, Alaska?**

100 miles

1,000 miles

1,100 miles

10,000 miles

**10. What does BLEEX stand for?**

Body Length Extra Exoskeleton

Bold Look Elevates Extras

Berkeley Lower Extremities Exoskeleton

Berkeley Last Extreme Exoskeleton

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