

## PICTURE OF THE WEEK: America's Mermaids

If you've never seen a mermaid or believe that they don't exist, then you should go visit them in Florida. Florida is the only home of mermaids in America and there are less than 20 of them right now. Sounds like an endangered species, right?

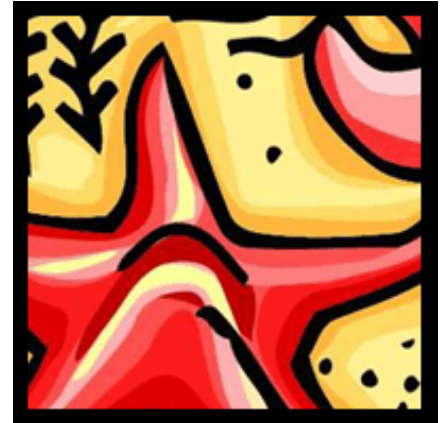
So are these real mermaids? Actually, they're women who dress like mermaids and perform underwater. The mermaids are devoted to their work and love performing in the Weeki Wachee Springs outside of Tampa, Florida. The park has survived a lot of changes since it opened in the 1940's; however, the park is plagued by many political and financial troubles.

But one thing has remained the same. The mermaids at Weeki Wachee Springs breathe underwater. That's right! They breathe through air hoses while performing in the fresh water with turtles, fish, and manatees. One mermaid can hold her breath for a record 6 minutes!

While breathing underwater, they turn into aquatic dancers and storytellers. They perform choreographed routines. Sometimes turtles or fish will swim with them. The park is built right into the Springs, so the audience is watching just on the other side of the glass. This wonderful and creative display of athletic and respiratory skill is a treasure of mermaid legend come true.

--Written by [Katheryn Troyer](#)

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## WEEKLY NEWS 1: Five Planets Align

The five closest planets to us--Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn-- will be aligned in the sky for the next two weeks. Along with the moon, the five planets should be visible at dusk about an hour after sunset. This rare stargazing opportunity will not occur again for three decades.

"It's semi-unique. They're all on the same side of the sun and stretched across the sky and that's what is kind of pretty," said Myles Standish, an astronomer at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California. The spectacular lineup will be visible to the naked eye after sunset from around the world. The same five planets will also align for a week at the end of the year, but only in the pre-dawn hours.

The orbits of the five planets allow them to coincide on the same side of the sun every few years, but Mercury is often hard to see from Earth. The conditions must be just right in order for all five planets to be clearly visible at dusk or dawn, and this particular grouping of planets may offer the best views until 2036. Alignments in which the planets are clustered together in the sky are even more rare, which is not the case this time.

Interested stargazers should look towards the western horizon just after sunset. Mercury, Venus, Mars and Saturn will be lined up in the sky with Jupiter close to the eastern horizon. The planets will span about 135 degrees and Saturn will be almost directly overhead.

--Written by [Renee Clara](#)

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Read WEEKLY NEWS 2: [Keep Your Pets Safe](#)



## WEEKLY NEWS 2: Keep Your Pets Safe

Do you have a dog, cat or other pet in your home? This week, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center issued a statement encouraging all pet owners to keep their animals safe from poisons. The safety guidelines were released in honor of National Poison Prevention Week, which occurs during March 21-27.

Thousands of cats and dogs get poisoned each year in the United States. This can make an animal very sick. But many of the illnesses aren't caused by things you would normally think of as poison--like cleansers or detergents. Instead, many pets are poisoned by household plants, medications we take, or even the food we eat! Some of the most common causes of pet poisoning are painkillers, cold medications and diet pills.

You may not realize it, but things like chocolate and onions can be very harmful to dogs. And many cats like to eat plants and grass, but they'll get very sick if they eat Lilies. So what can you do to keep your pet safe?

Make sure to close cabinet and cupboard doors so that animals can't get to the contents. Even vitamins could be harmful to your pet. Also, read the label before giving your pet any type of flea treatment. When it comes to medications and treatments, you should use what your veterinarian recommends.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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[Read WEEKLY NEWS 3: Dangerous Ocean Currents](#)



## WEEKLY NEWS 3: Dangerous Ocean Currents

Dangerous rip currents have occurred along the coast of Florida during the past week. These currents have led to dozens of ocean rescues and, even though it's the middle of spring break for many high schools and colleges across the country, have forced lifeguards to issue an unpopular warning: stay out of the water.

Rip currents are rushing channels of water that can carry away even the best swimmers. Although the currents do not drag swimmers under water, many people panic, which wastes a lot of important energy, and then they become too tired to swim back to the shore.

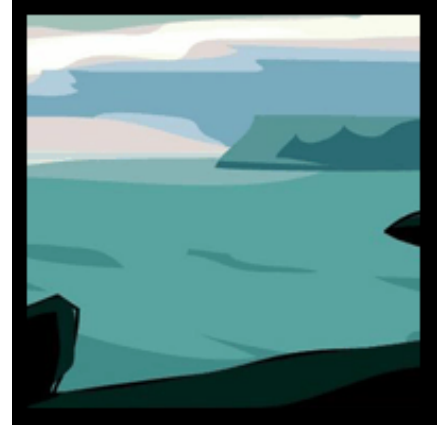
Rip currents also occur along the Pacific Coast and the Great Lakes. They are more dangerous to swimmers than either sharks or hurricanes, and were responsible for 16,300 rescues in 2003, according to the U.S. Lifesaving Association.

Rip currents, often incorrectly called riptides, pull water in one direction, seaward. They can be especially dangerous because the water's surface remains smooth, so you do not know that they are there!

March typically is the worst time for rip currents in Florida because it brings more wind--and more tourists--than any other month. Tourists and spring breakers who planned to soak up some rays and cool off in the ocean this week also are being warned: Do not go in deeper than your ankles, and if you can't swim, don't go in at all. Swimmers caught in a rip current are urged to try to swim parallel to shore to get out of it.

--Written by [Hillary Rouse](#)

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Read WEEKLY NEWS 4: Military Thank You Campaign 

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## WEEKLY NEWS 4: Military Thank You Campaign

On Thursday, March 25, 2004, students at Lutheran High School in Orange, California began a new campaign to collect "thank-you" notes for current and past military members. The students are doing this as part of National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM), which will be celebrated in May.

The campaign was started by a Freshmen student named Shauna Fleming. Her father challenged her to collect one million "thank-you" letters for the military. That's a lot of letters! Shauna's father started the annual Valentine's For Troops campaigns, and over the past two years he has helped distribute more than a million and a half valentines to U.S. troops.

Shauna decided to enlist the help of her entire school as a school service project. The school plans to keep things organized to help handle all the mail they hope to receive. Some students will be opening the letters, others will be sorting them, and others will be packaging them. The "thank-you" letters will then be mailed to military bases, USO's, VA hospitals, and other military groups and facilities.

Do you want to send a "thank-you" letter to a member of the U.S. military? If so, send it to: A Million Thanks c/o Lutheran High School of Orange County, 2222 North Santiago Blvd. Orange, Ca 92867. Their website is [www.AMillionThanks.org](http://www.AMillionThanks.org).

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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## AROUND THE WORLD 1: British Explorers Trapped

Six British explorers, who have been trapped in a flooded cave for a week, are scheduled to be rescued by divers from the British Royal Navy. The divers will decide whether it is possible to rescue the trapped explorers or simply bring them extra food and supplies until the water recedes. If a rescue is attempted, divers will bring extra scuba equipment to help the trapped people swim out of the cave.

Part of a Royal Geographical Society of Great Britain expedition, four British military personnel and two citizens were attempting to map out the Mexican caves. The trip was also designed to boost the morale and self-esteem of members of the military. The explorers intended to take a two-day trip but heavy rains triggered flash floods, which blocked the exit. After discovering they were trapped, the six retreated to an underground camp that is stocked with food, sleeping bags, a first aid kit, and a radio. Expedition leader Steve Whitlock said he was in touch with the group once a day using a two-way radio. He also noted that there is no immediate threat to their safety because they have enough food to get them through the weekend.

The flooded area blocking the cave exit is approximately 100 yards long and reaches to the top of the cave, which is about six feet high. The good news is that flood waters are slowly beginning to recede. The rescue divers arrived in Mexico City earlier this week and are expected to begin their dive Wednesday in Cuetzalan, about 180 miles northeast of Mexico City. Major Gordon McKenzie, a spokesman for the Ministry of Defense, said the explorers are getting bored and that there is no point in keeping them there [in the cave] forever.

With more than 60 miles of caves, the Mexico cave is believed to be among the five biggest in the world. Although numerous teams have devoted over a decade to mapping out the caves, the current team has been in the area since February 28.

--Written by [Renee Clara](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 2: China and Japan Argue Over Island** 

## AROUND THE WORLD 2: China and Japan Argue Over Island

A small protest broke out in the city of Beijing, the capital of China. The protesters were rallying outside of the Japanese embassy, because the Japanese government arrested seven Chinese men on an island located between the two countries, in the East China Sea. Japan and China both claim that they own this island and the cluster of islands that surrounds it. China calls the islands the Diaoyus while Japan refers to them as the Senkakus.

The island is rocky and barren and nothing has been built on it or any of the islands surrounding it. However, both China and Japan want to have control over the cluster because they want to be able to go fishing in the surrounding waters. Additionally, there may be valuable oil reserves in the area. Taiwan also claims the islands, but they are not directly involved in the current situation.

Japan has placed officials on boats around the Islands in order to patrol the waters and monitor the area. Somehow, the seven men who were arrested managed to sneak past Japanese authorities and land on the island. At that point, the Japanese government informed the Chinese ambassador in the Japanese capital of Tokyo that the men had to get off the island immediately. The Japanese government then sent a group of police to the island to arrest the Chinese men and bring them to Japan.

According to China, this is a violation of Chinese sovereignty. In other words, since China claims that it owns the island, it is as though the Japanese government arrested Chinese citizens on Chinese soil. However, the situation is complicated because Japan also claims to own the island. Therefore, in the eyes of Japan, it is as though the men came onto Japanese soil without permission.

The men who were arrested are not in danger. They will be questioned and released back to China very soon. However, the argument over who owns the island is likely to go on for a while. Japan has been focused on controlling the island cluster since 1895. China only developed a serious interest in the islands in the 1970s. Although Japan has claimed the islands for a longer period of time than China, the islands are still considered to be disputed territory and both sides will continue to seek official control over the surrounding waters. In fact, the recent arrest of the Chinese men will probably only make the dispute more intense, unless another country or international organization helps to mediate.

--Written by [Betsy Mesard](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 3: Earthwatch Announces Projects** 

## AROUND THE WORLD 3: Earthwatch Announces Projects

Earthwatch Institute recently announced their plans for new conservation projects. The non-profit volunteer organization has dozens of new expeditions planned for its 2004 Earthwatch Expedition Guide.

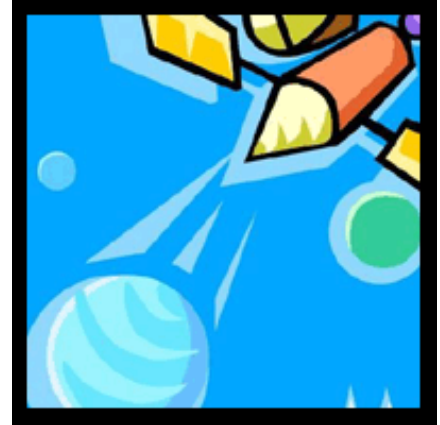
Almost 4,000 people have volunteered to help Earthwatch with their projects. The volunteers come from all 50 states in the United States, and a total of 79 countries!

So what types of projects are being planned? New projects include a study of endangered zebras in Kenya, an examination of gray whale migrations on the coasts of Mexico and Canada, and a close look at the Three Gorges Dam in China. The volunteers will also try to save more endangered sea turtles in many places, including Costa Rica and Malaysia. Doesn't that sound exciting? Earthwatch also has expeditions planned for the United States, including an archaeological exploration in New York and research involving Maine's seagulls.

Earthwatch Institute was founded in 1971. Its goal is to join people together for the research and study of our environment. They also try to educate people so that smart choices regarding the earth and our resources can be made, especially by our politicians and the general public. The organization works with other groups and associations to try and conserve our national resources and protect our environment.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 4: Microsoft Fined by European Union** 

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## AROUND THE WORLD 4: Microsoft Fined by European Union

The European Union slapped the Microsoft Corporation with a \$613 million fine on Wednesday, March 24, 2004, for abusive use of its Windows software monopoly. A monopoly happens when there is only one seller of a certain good or product, and so the seller is able to have almost total control over the prices of that product.

Microsoft called the EU's decision "unwarranted and ill-considered," and attorneys for the software company said they were planning on asking the judge to suspend the order until they can file an appeal, which is the transfer of a case from a lower to a higher court of law so that the defense (Microsoft) can get a new hearing and trial.

The EU antitrust office said it is coming down hard on Microsoft because, after five years of investigating the company, the office found that the software giant was openly trying to keep other competitors from being able to compete in Windows-related software markets.

The office gave the company 90 days to give European computer manufacturers a version of Windows that does not require the sole use of the company's digital media player, which software that allows the user to view videos and listen to music. Previously, all Windows operating systems would only play multimedia (videos and music) on a Windows Media Player. The EU also gave Microsoft 120 days to release "complete and accurate" information to competitors in the office server market so their products can work more smoothly with desktop computers running Windows. The EU said it was concerned that a stranglehold on media players could let Microsoft dictate future standards for how digital music and video files are encoded, distributed and played.

The EU is an economic and political organization of European nations that is responsible for a common foreign and security policy and for cooperation on justice and home affairs. Fifteen countries--Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden--are full members of the organizations of the EU.

--Written by [Hillary Rouse](#)

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## SPORTS ZONE 1: Devils Goalie Youngest to 400

Last Tuesday night, New Jersey Devils goalie Martin Brodeur became the youngest goalie in NHL history to win 400 games. He did so in dramatic fashion when teammate Scott Neidermeyer scored the game winner for Brodeur and the Devils with 1:05 to go in overtime against the Florida Panthers.

Brodeur, who does not turn 32 years of age until May 6, reached the 400 win milestone quicker than any of the all-time great goalies in NHL history. This list of net minders includes--and certainly is not limited to--goalies like Grant Fuhr, Tony Esposito, and the all-time NHL leader in wins with 551, Patrick Roy.

Brodeur has been a picture of success since he first put on a Devils jersey 12 seasons ago. During those 12 seasons, Brodeur has posted a 400-215-105 record to go along with a 2.17 goals-against-average. He has also been a workhorse for the only team he has ever played for, playing in no fewer than 70 of his team's 82 regular season games of the past seven seasons.

With the win, New Jersey Devils clinched an Eastern Conference playoff spot, making the win that much sweeter for Brodeur.

--Written by [Cris Sigovitch](#)

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Read [SPORTS ZONE 2: On to the Sweet Sixteen](#) 

## SPORTS ZONE 2: On to the Sweet Sixteen

In just one week the NCAA national basketball championship went from 65 teams vying for the win to just 16--the Sweet 16, that is. In last weekend's first round of battles, there were only two major upsets. In the East Rutherford region, twelfth seeded Manhattan ousted the fifth seed Florida Gators 75-60. University of the Pacific became the second 12 seed to knock off a 5 seed when they beat Providence College 66-58 in their St. Louis Region game.

Other than those two games there were no other major surprises in the first round of play, but there were some close calls. Fourth seeded Wake Forest squeaked by VA Commonwealth 79-78 after the boys from Wake Forest trailed by three at the half. Maryland also survived a close call by evading UTEP 86-83 despite being outscored in the second half.

It was the second round of games that provided the action for the first weekend of tournament play. Stanford became the first number one seed to be bounced from the tournament when they lost to eighth seed, the Crimson Tide of Alabama 70-67. Down by two points at the half Alabama tightened their defense, holding Stanford to just 29 second half points to earn the win. The very next day, Sunday March 21, the Kentucky Wildcats became the second number one seed to be beaten when they lost to UAB. The Wildcats could not overcome the nine point halftime deficit.

With two number one seeds already gone from the tournament, things are wide open.

--Written by [Cris Sigovitch](#)

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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 1: Poor Nutrition Affects IQ

Lack of certain vitamins and minerals in the diet, even if there is enough food to eat overall, can result in a lower IQ, say experts in a report released by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Micronutrient Initiative.

The report released this week, titled "Vitamin and Mineral Deficiency: A Global Progress Report," was compiled after researchers examined the impact of vitamin and mineral deficiency on the populations of 80 developing countries. The researchers found that, due to such deficiencies, almost a third of the world's people are not growing to their full intellectual or physical potential, which in turn affects the potential of entire nations.

According to the report, many citizens of poorer nations fail to get adequate amounts of nutrients like iron, vitamin A, iodine and folic acid in their regular diets, and such deficiencies can translate into significant gaps in IQ development, illness, or even death. A child who doesn't get enough iodine in her diet growing up, for instance, may suffer a loss of 5-7 IQ points; if the child also suffers a lack of iron, her intellectual potential may be hampered even more. The report notes that many of the people studied suffered from multiple deficiencies, not just one.

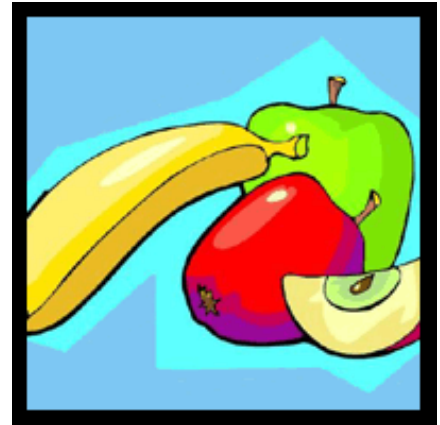
The report also indicated that vitamin and mineral deficiencies can lead to weakened immunity to illness and disease, resulting in problems like anemia and blindness. Damage from deficiency can even affect people before they are born, because when pregnant women don't get enough vitamins like folic acid, the chances of having a baby with birth defects increases a lot.

Overall, experts warn, such deficiencies, which occur on a large scale in poor countries, can have an impact on the whole world. When a nation's people are not as healthy as they could be, they do not produce as much, or as well, as they could, which negatively affects the wealth of the nation.

People in wealthy, developed countries are not at as much risk as people in poorer, developing nations. Besides the fact that it is pretty common for parents to send their kids off to school every morning with the taste of cartoon-character vitamin supplements fresh in their mouths, food manufactured in developed nations is often "enriched"--which means nutrients you might not get easily are already added--like your vitamin enriched A&D milk, niacin-enriched sandwich bread, and iodine-enriched salt. Enriched products are not as common in developing nations. The report indicated that many of the problems could be corrected by supplying people at risk with dietary supplements and getting local food manufacturers to produce nutrient-enriched foods.

--Written by [Nia Williams](#)

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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 2: New Eyes for Butterflies

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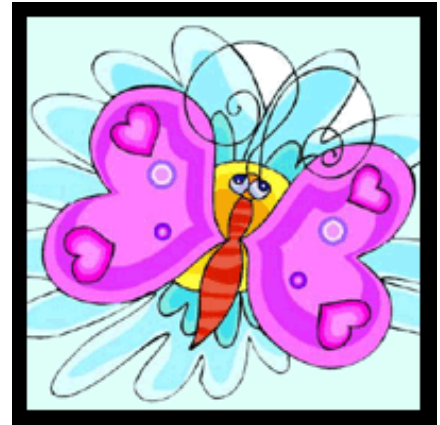
One old Spring saying is "April showers bring May flowers," but what comes with the flowers? Butterflies. Butterflies drift through the warm spring air and enjoy the flowers as much as we do. Usually, the colorful wing designs are their most noticeable characteristic, but have you ever seen a butterfly with green eyes?

You can with ultraviolet (or blue) light. Scientists in New York and Kentucky have recently altered one variety of this lovely insect, a brown African butterfly, so that its eyes can glow green. Humans can change their eye color with contacts, but insects' genes are permanently changed.

Genes are internal directions, a very small part of you that determines your natural physical characteristics such as hair color, height, and eye color. The scientists changed the African butterfly's brown eye genes by adding jellyfish genes to butterfly eggs. Now, their eyes can glow green. Changing, adding, or splicing genes is a very delicate process, and this is the first time that a butterfly's genes have been successfully changed. Scientists soon hope to be able to understand the mystery of butterflies' wing colors and designs and work with those genes as well.

--Written by [Katheryn Troyer](#)

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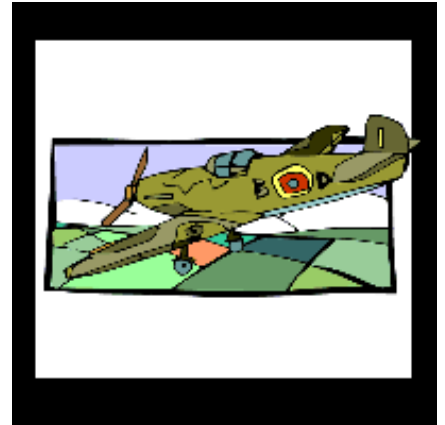


SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 1: Poor Nutrition Affects IQ



## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On April 1, 1945 the Battle of Okinawa began. During World War II, the U.S. Tenth Army under Lieutenant General Simon Bolivar Buckner began the invasion of Okinawa, a Pacific island. Located between Japan and Formosa, Okinawa was large enough to provide a base for an invasion of Japan itself. Over the next month, the U.S. and Japan were at war.



On April 2, 1513, Ponce de Leon discovered Florida. Near present-day St. Augustine, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon came ashore on the Florida coast, and claimed the territory for the Spanish crown. Although other European navigators may have sighted the Florida peninsula before, Ponce de Leon is credited with the first recorded landing and the first detailed exploration of the Florida coast.

On April 2, 1805, Hans Christian Andersen was born in Odense, Denmark. At age 11, Andersen's father died, and the boy was left alone. He developed a strong interest in reading and began writing at an early age.



Prior to his death in 1875, Andersen wrote many books. Today, Andersen is known as one of the most famous authors of children's books. Some of Andersen's most popular works include The Ugly Duckling and The Emperor's New Clothes.

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## MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 1: A Colorful Birthday

This past week, a very colorful and an extremely entertaining technology celebrated its 50th birthday.

In the March of 1954, the Radio Corporation of America manufactured the first colored television sets in a factory in Bloomington, Indiana. Because color televisions at the time were too expensive, no one was interested in buying the high-priced product. After some much needed improvement, colored sets quickly gained popularity and 13 years later, outsold black and white television sets for the first time.

Colored televisions, which were once a hard product to sell, now reside in 98 percent of American homes. These days, households in the US have an average of 2.4 televisions that are tuned in to watch popular shows like "American Idol" and "Survivor."

Television is so extremely popular in the US that adults watch 1,669 hours of it a year. This number means that adults spend three out of twelve months in front of the tube. Happy 50th Birthday to all color television sets!

--Written by [Lyssa Walker](#)

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Read [MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 2: A Very Beefy Book](#)



## MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 2: A Very Beefy Book

Flying meat is the subject of Jay Leno's new children's book.

The late night talk show host is well-known for his humorous stories, so when a publishing company asked him to write a book, he agreed to do so. "If Roast Beef Could Fly" is the name of the book that made its way onto shelves last Tuesday. The story is based on a real family cookout from Leno's childhood.

"Little Jay" is the main character of the book and it is illustrated by S.B. Whitehouse. "Little Jay" is so fascinated by the roast beef going around the spit in his backyard, that he sticks his plastic comb into the slab of beef when no one is looking. Pretending like nothing happened, Jay walks away from the spinning beef.

His father soon finds out about his son's mischief when he cuts up the roast beef and a big piece of plastic falls from it. "Little Jay's" father gets so mad that the meat hadn't fully cooked and a plastic comb fell from the beef, he tosses the roast beef right out the window.

Leno says that the story has a happy ending, but you have to read the book to find out. "If Roast Beef Could Fly" went on sale Tuesday and has a CD of Jay Leno reading the story in each book.

--Written by [Lyssa Walker](#)

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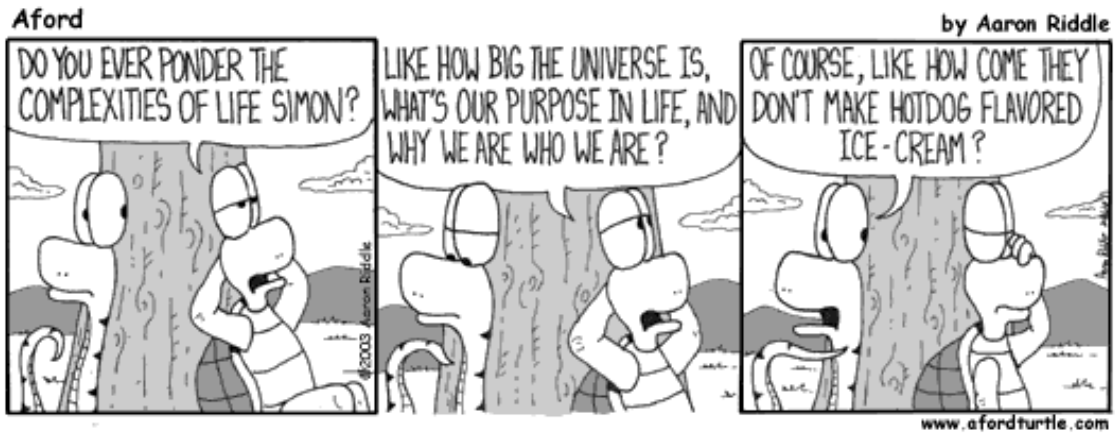
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## COMICS & POEMS 1: Aford Turtle, Comic Strip



--Written by [Aaron Riddle](#)

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## COMICS & POEMS 2: A Summer Day, Poetry

### *A Summer Day*

It was early in the morning,  
The grass was wet with dew;  
The morning sun was still in bed  
Wrapped in clouds of pink and blue.

Slowly the clouds were pushed away,  
They drifted out of sight;  
Everything looked fresh and new,  
The sun was shining bright.

And as the day grew longer,  
The song birds filled the air;  
You could hear them singing,  
Their songs floated everywhere.

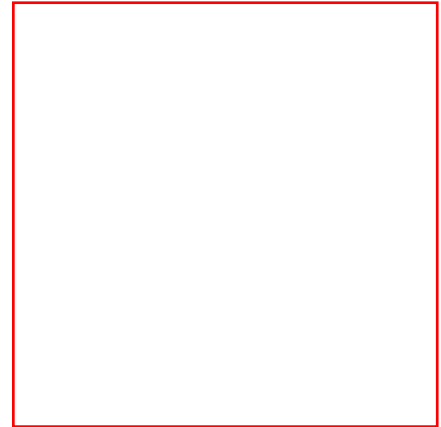
The sweet perfume of flowers  
Added to their colorful array;  
And the animals were happy,  
As they kept busy at their play.

And as the sun sank slowly,  
Mother Nature left a clue;  
She wished and made a promise,  
Tomorrow, I'll be up ahead of you.

--Written by [Luella Potts](#)

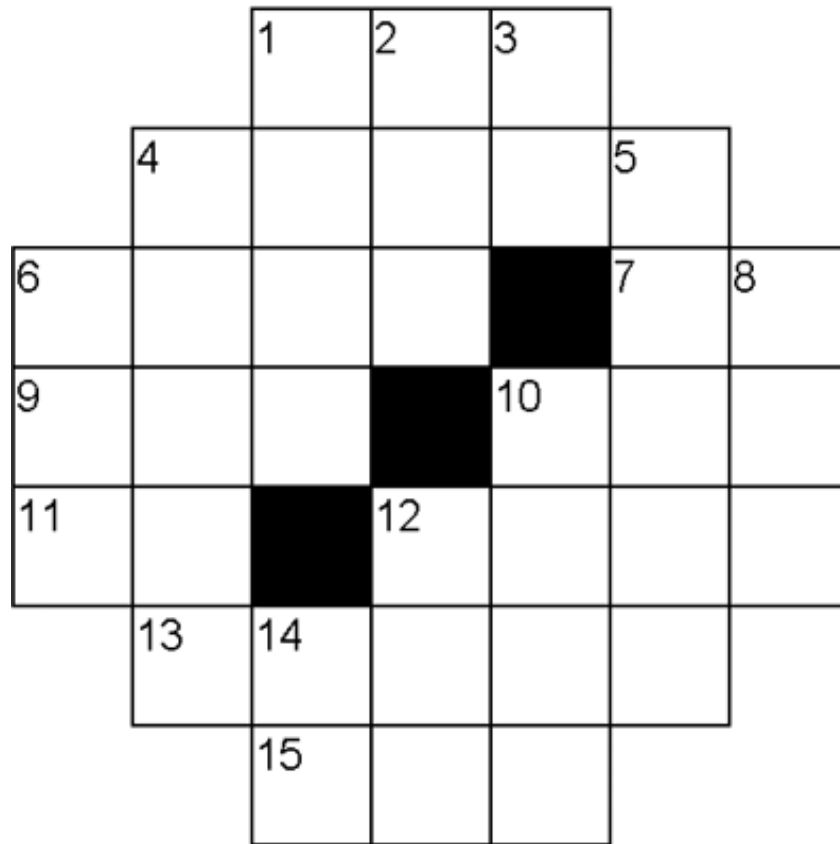
**This poem is featured in A Budding Joy, an Anthology of Poetry released by the International Library of Poetry in September 2001.**

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Read **COMICS & POEMS 3: Beefy Explorers, Crossword** 

## COMICS & POEMS 3: Beefy Explorers, Crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 Ruby
- 4 Burlly
- 6 Chime
- 7 Spielberg's alien
- 9 Snacked
- 10 Damage
- 11 Pronoun
- 12 Christ's mother
- 13 Tree product
- 15 Type of partnership

### DOWN

- 1 Heredity component
- 2 Electroencephalograph (abbr.)
- 3 Medium frequency
- 4 Chomper
- 5 Long
- 6 Dit's partner
- 8 Stress
- 10 Hotel room cleaner
- 12 Mountain Standard Time
- 14 Railway

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

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## U.S. GOVERNMENT 1: U.S. Uses Their Veto

On Thursday, March 25, the United States used their power of veto in the United Nations Security Council to reject a resolution. The proposed resolution would have denounced the Israel's admitted assassination of Ahmed Yassin.

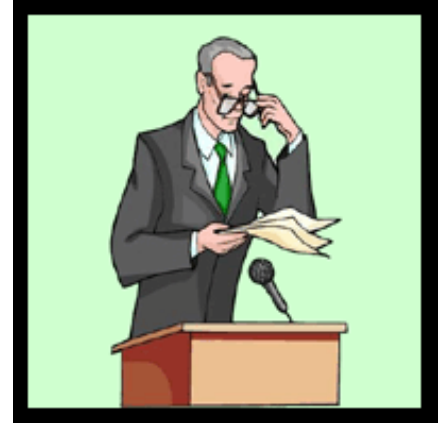
Yassin was all over the news on Monday, the 22nd, when he was killed in a missile strike on the Gaza Strip, a small area in Israel right next to Egypt. Israel admitted to killing Yassin because he was a leader of a spiritual group named Hamas. Hamas is an acronym that means "enthusiasm", "zeal", or "fanaticism". For at least the past 3 1/2 years, Hamas has been responsible for dozens of bombings targeting Israelis, and is considered the most prominent terrorist group in Israel fighting for an independent Palestinian state.

Other countries objected to Israel's targeting of Yassin because there was no attempt to arrest him, try him in the courts, or execute him legally. According to many critics, this is a violation of international law. In addition, Israel says that it may even target other members of Hamas in similar attacks. Although the U.N. Human Rights Commission overwhelmingly voted to condemn Israel's assassination of Yassin, a vote from the Security Council to do the same would have a lot more worldwide influence.

The U.S. is one of only five countries on the U.N. Security Council with the power to veto, or reject, resolutions. It used the veto in this case because U.S. officials complained there was nothing in the resolution that would also condemn Hamas and other militant groups in the area that have committed violent acts in the past. Three other countries with the power of veto--Russia, France, and China--voted for the measure, and the fourth--Britain--abstained from voting. This may strain relations between the U.S. and the U.N., especially since the U.S. has lately been known to veto many Security Council resolutions regarding Israel.

--Written by [Kari Ellassal](#)

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U.S. GOVERNMENT 2: Nutrition Legislation Approved 

## U.S. GOVERNMENT 2: Nutrition Legislation Approved

On Wednesday, March 24, 2004, the House of Representatives approved the Child Nutrition Improvement and Integrity Act, H.R. 3873. The final vote was 419 to 5. That means a really big majority of the House of Representatives voted to approve the Act.

So what's the meaning behind this? The Act makes changes and improvements to school lunch programs and education about nutrition. The American School Food Service Association (ASFSA) has worked with many nutritional experts to try and create a healthier environment for kids, so the association was very glad to hear that this new legislation was approved by the House of Representatives.

The Child Nutrition Improvement and Integrity Act would require school districts to create policies to improve the wellness of students and promote physical fitness. The purpose of the legislation is to try and combat obesity and boost kids' nutrition--while still working within a federal budget.

This Act would introduce Team Nutrition Network, which is a program that would help kids make healthier choices. These types of programs can teach kids like you about foods that are high in vitamins and minerals, so you can make them a regular part of your meals and snacks.

The Child Nutrition Improvement and Integrity Act will next move on to the Senate, so that our country's Senators can vote for or against it. But so far, it looks as if both Republicans and Democrats support this bill.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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## U.S. GOVERNMENT 1: U.S. Uses Their Veto

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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. How many British explorers were trapped in a flooded cave for a week?**

- 2
- 4
- 6
- 8

**2. How many planets will be aligned in the sky for the next two weeks?**

- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8

**3. A rip current is:**

- rushing channels of water
- a riptide
- a big gust of wind
- a huge ocean wave

**4. How many seasons did it take Martin Brodeur to win 400 games?**

- 6
- 9
- 12
- 15

**5. Which is a possible result of a nutrient deficiency:**

- boils
- lower IQ
- freckles
- improved memory

**6. How old are color television sets?**

- 10 years
- 20 years
- 40 years
- 50 years

**7. Who has claimed the islands in the East China Sea for the longest period of time?**

- China
- Taiwan
- Japan
- Korea

**8. What was the score of the Manhattan/Florida game?**

- 75 to 60
- 85 to 80
- 75 to 80
- 85 to 75

**9. What is the name of Jay Leno's new children's book?**

- If Roast Beef Could Fly
- Little Jay
- The Young Comedian
- Late Night Superhero

**10. What kind of butterfly has eyes that can now glow green?**

- American
- Mexican
- African
- Brazilian

**11. Where are America's mermaids located?**

- Hawaii
- California
- Virginia
- Florida

**12. How many countries on the U.N. Security Council can veto resolution**

- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

**13. How many "thank-you" letters does a California school hope to collect for the military?**

- 100,000
- 10,000
- 1,000,000

1,000

**14. Which of these can be harmful to dogs?**

rice

chocolate

beef jerky

liver

**15. Which bill was recently approved by the House of Representatives?**

Child Nutrition Improvement and Integrity Act

Child Fight Obesity Act

American Nutrition Improvement Act

Child Safety and Health Act

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