

PICTURE OF THE WEEK: Ladybug Mania

They are tiny little beetles with red wings and black spots, and they are everywhere. Well, at least they are everywhere in New Hampshire, Tennessee, Ohio, Delaware, and Massachusetts. The plethora of ladybugs that have moved indoors in these states may have contributed to the ladybug being the state insect of every one of these areas.

Imagine a cute little ladybug on a flower; then take away the flower. Imagine your ceiling, carpets, and furniture covered in ladybugs. Tens of thousands of ladybugs are not as cute, and if you accidentally crush one while you're walking down the hallway, it creates an unpleasant odor. In the aforementioned states, the ladybugs don't go away. They come into the homes during winter and try to leave in the spring.

The Asian variety of ladybug is the only one of 4,000 species to prefer the indoors. How did they get all the way from Asia to New Hampshire? The Asian ladybug was brought to America to control (eat) smaller annoying insects that were destroying trees and shrubs. So when they finally get outside in the spring, these ladybugs do us a huge favor by protecting our foliage. So if you're struggling with a few thousand tiny houseguests, they should all move out very soon to enjoy spring.

--Written by [Katheryn Troyer](#)

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WEEKLY NEWS 1: Tornado Hits Illinois

A twister left a path of destruction in Utica, a small town 90 miles southwest of Chicago on Tuesday. Home and businesses were reduced to splintered wood and mere bricks as the tornado claimed the lives of at least 8 people. The tornado tore roofs off buildings and insulation from homes. A metal silo was toppled while bricks from the wall of a downtown bar fell onto a car.

Some residents found shelter at the local watering hole, a two-story tavern, but also fell victim to the twister. Authorities reported that five people were pulled alive from the rubble while of the Millstone Tavern.

"It was like my brain wasn't comprehending what my eyes were seeing," said John Devore, who rushed his family into the basement.

Governor Rod Blagojevich declared four counties disaster areas after visiting Utica and other nearby areas. On Thursday, Federal Emergency Management Agency officials also plan to visit to see if these areas qualify for disaster relief. Officials checked houses for injuries and indicated "OK" in orange and pink spray paint. The twister was one of several that tore through the Midwest and hit states such as Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

--Written by [Renee Clara](#)

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Read WEEKLY NEWS 2: [New Fuel for Cars](#) 

WEEKLY NEWS 2: New Fuel for Cars

Gasoline becomes more expensive almost every month. Some experts worry that one day we'll run out of gas. Many people wonder how we'll travel when that happens. But there may be a new fuel for cars soon. What is it? Is it electric, hydrogen, or solar? One limousine company in California believes the answer is natural gas.

EVO, or Environmental Vehicle Outfitters, wants to create luxury cars that do not harm the environment. Natural gas limos contribute 80% less to smog than other gasoline-fueled vehicles. While other car companies are creating more compact hybrid vehicles, EVO started big, with a Chevy Suburban SUV, to attract some of the most influential and affluent people to the environmental movement--Hollywood. And it worked! EVO's popularity is spreading, which means that the popularity of environmentally safe vehicles is also spreading. Many Hollywood stars have converted their vehicles to natural gas and EVO hopes to continue converting SUVs in the future.

The added benefit is that natural gas only costs \$.80 a gallon unlike the soaring prices of gasoline--which may reach as high as \$3.00 a gallon this summer! The new fuel, natural gas, is less expensive and creates an environmentally friendly car.

--Written by [Katheryn Troyer](#)

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Read [WEEKLY NEWS 3: Recycle Your Cell Phone](#)



WEEKLY NEWS 3: Recycle Your Cell Phone

Do you use a cell phone? Maybe your parents, older brother or sister, or best friend has one. Well, when it's time for a new one, remind them to recycle!

By 2005, as many as 130 million cell phones will be "retired" each year. That's a lot of phones! On Thursday, April 22, 2004, Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) released a survey that reported more than 70% of the people who responded to their poll were unaware that cell phones are recyclable. In fact, only about 1% of cell phones are recycled.

But recycling cell phones can make an old item useful again! It also helps prevent them from filling our landfills and leaking battery chemicals into the ground.

RBRC's Call2Recycle(TM) is giving Americans a chance to recycle their cell phones. They have more than 30,000 locations across the country where anyone can drop off an old phone--whether it works or not! Any rechargeable batteries will be recycled, and then the phones will either be refurbished, recycled, or resold.

There are other ways to recycle an old cell phone, too. Sprint, Verizon Wireless and BestBuy collect old phones at their retail stores. Even non-profit organizations, like March of Dimes and Veterans Advantage, recycle phones. Some charities will give the phones to people in need.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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[Read WEEKLY NEWS 4: Rare Right Whales Spotted](#)



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WEEKLY NEWS 4: Rare Right Whales Spotted

Panama City Beach is usually known as being a site for Spring Breakers, but it is now also the place where two right whales have been sighted.

This is the first sighting of right whales in over 20 years. The two mammals were captured in a photograph taken by Chris Cramer, a student at the University of Florida, on Friday April 9th as they swam off the Florida Panhandle in the Gulf of Mexico. Cramer's photographs were reviewed by whale experts, who confirmed, along with scientists, that the animals were in fact the endangered right whale. The experts think it was probably a mother whale and her calf.

"One was about twice as big as the other," Cramer noted. "They were moving at a good clip, too."

Right whales are considered to be one of the world's most endangered species. It is estimated that there are only 300 to 350 of them remaining worldwide. According to the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF), the whales were added to the endangered species list in 1935, when they received full protection from hunting by an agreement passed by the League of Nations.

The WWF states on their Web site (www.wwfus.org) that female right whales tend to migrate to an area off the coast of Georgia and Florida to give birth between the months of December and March. The whales then swim back north to feed off the coasts of New England and Nova Scotia.

The last right whale sighting was in the 1970's. Amy Knowlton, a research scientist with the New England Aquarium in Boston, said that a right whale sighting is uncommon because the whales do not favor warm water.

"It's very rare," she said. "They don't really like warm water, but they can handle it." (Contributing: www.newsday.com)

--Written by [Anna Ferguson](#)

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AROUND THE WORLD 1: The Wise Men's Gold

The "Council of Wise Men" sounds like something you might find in a Harry Potter book, but it exists here in our own world. It was set up by Japan and Russia last October to bring the two countries closer and give each a chance to discuss issues concerning them.

Sometimes they discuss economics or culture, but the main focus of the Council seems to be the Russo-Japanese Peace Treaty. Interestingly enough, this treaty does not exist! It is an idea that has been floating around ever since the end of World War II, when Soviet troops seized lands known as the Kuril Islands, which spread from the top tip of a Japanese island up to the bottom of a Russian peninsula. Japan says the islands are part of its Northern Territories, and as proof they say you can see them drawn on very old maps of Japan.

But this month, the Council of Wise Men may have a different quandary to tackle. In 2000, a professor at Russia's Diplomatic Academy found evidence that Russia gave Japan nearly \$80 billion--in gold--to buy weapons during World War I. Shortly afterwards, the revolution that had been sweeping Russia quickly ended, and the weapons never arrived from Japan.

Eighty billion dollars' worth of gold is not just pocket change, especially for a country like Russia that has a slow economy and a lot of important (and untapped) resources, such as oil. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said they would, of course, like to politely raise the issue with Japan. The Mayor of Moscow and the Prime Minister of Japan lead the Council of Wise Men.

--Written by [Kari Ellassal](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 2: Train Wreck in North Korea** 

AROUND THE WORLD 2: Train Wreck in North Korea

On Thursday, April 22, 2004, two fuel trains collided at a North Korean railroad station near the Chinese border. A South Korean television channel is reporting that as many as 3,000 people might have been killed in the explosion.

North Korea is ruled by a communist government, which immediately cut international telephone lines to ensure that the details of the crash were not leaked to international sources. North Korea is one of the world's most isolated countries and rarely allows visits by outside journalists. News events within its borders are difficult to confirm independently, and the state-controlled media is unlikely to provide quick confirmation of such an accident.

The communist country's infrastructure (roads, highways, train stations, railroads) was badly damaged during the Korean War and following conflicts, and is in major disrepair. As a result, the infrastructure is accident-prone. Defectors (people who have fled North Korea) say that passenger cars are usually packed with people, and that trains frequently break down.

The rail line on which Thursday's accident supposedly occurred, the main railroad between North Korea and China, was laid during the Japanese occupation of the country more than 60 years ago.

The North Korean leader, Kim Jong II, had ridden through the exact station where the explosion occurred only nine hours earlier on his return from meetings in China. It is not known whether the crash was related to Kim's journey, but it is assumed that the collision was an accident. Kim had been visiting Chinese officials in the nation's capitol, Beijing, to discuss North Korea's nuclear program.

The collision reportedly took place at 1PM in Ryongchon, a small town 12 miles from China. One train had been transporting liquid petroleum gas and the other was carrying oil, South Korean media reported.

--Written by [Hillary Rouse](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 3: Troop Removal by Spain** 

AROUND THE WORLD 3: Troop Removal by Spain

With much deliberation on the United States' restoration of Iraq and the question of how long it would take to accomplish that goal, an announcement was made last Sunday that may slow the development even more. Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero declared, moments past the swearing in of his new regime, that he would be removing his troops from Iraq in the near future.

Spain is one of the contributing nations to Poland's 23-multi-nationed force, sending 1300 troops to the aid of Iraq. Zapatero does not observe any course of action that ensures a sufficient amount of improvement in Iraq by the deadline he originally proposed of June 30.

On the one hand, some nation leaders such as soon to be Slovakian President Ivan Gasparovic, believe that the absence of troops will hinder the reconstruction process and that the greater triumph is doing "everything possible to stop terrorism from spreading" as opposed to running away and letting it persevere. On the other hand, nation leaders deem that it was respectably Spain's decision and that other measures would have to be taken in order for the force to carry out their responsibility to Iraq.

Fear that other nations may follow in the footsteps of Spain surfaced and, just as hypothesized, Honduras announced that its 300 plus troops would be removed along with the Spaniard troops. Also, there is talk that the Europeans have decided to go against cooperating and withdrawing their troops, due to a guaranteed offer of security against the harming of their people in return. This offer is said to be made by members of Al-Qaeda. Polish General says that the "pullout of the troops is a military operation which needs time and planning," and that he hopes other countries will contribute more of their troops. Necessary measures to be taken include the transfer of jobs in that military division to other troops as well as the possible reorganization of divisions in the entire multi-national force.

--Written by [Christina Newman](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 4: Basra Bombings** 

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AROUND THE WORLD 4: Basra Bombings

Five suicide car bombings went off in Basra on Wednesday and killed at least 68 Iraqi people. The bombings occurred after 7AM during the height of the rush hour in the southern Iraqi city and wounded about 100 people. Most people were hurt in three bombings, one near Basra police stations and two near the Regional Police Academy at Az Zubayr.

A car blast with a bomber dressed as a policeman in Az Zubayr went off first. As people gathered around the scene, a second bomb went off in the same location 30 minutes later. British forces and Iraqi police immediately began an investigation.

Basra is currently under the control of British coalition forces. Coalition authorities, Basra governorate coordinator Henry Hogger and regional coordinator Patrick Nixon, issued a statement and denounced the attack, stating "On behalf of the Coalition Provision Authority, we wish to express deep shock and revulsion at the murderous attacks on Iraqi police forces this morning and the loss of so many innocent Iraqi lives." British Foreign Minister Jack Straw denounced the attack and blamed "insurgents who are trying to disrupt the [June 30] handover of sovereignty to the Iraqi people."

--Written by [Renee Clara](#)

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SPORTS ZONE 1: Heat Greeted Marathoners

A temperature of 83 degrees greeted the group of 35 elite female runners who began this year's running of the Boston Marathon. Twenty-nine minutes later the top 64 runners on the men's side and the recreational field of more than 20,000 runners began their quest to win the race that starts in Hopkinton Commons and finishes in Kenmore Square in downtown Boston. It was the first time in the history of the 108-year-old race that the women started before the men.

The good news for the runners was that the course leads them east to toward water and the cooler temperatures. By the 6-mile mark the temperature had fallen to 81 degrees.

Race officials prepared for the heat with extra water stations along the course and additional medical personal throughout the course.

"With 107 years behind us we've had everything," spokesman Jack Fleming said. "We've had snow, sleet, ice, high cloud cover, low cloud cover, driving rain." The average temperature for Boston on race day is 57 degrees.

The heat slowed down the entire field including the winners, Catherine Ndereba and Timothy Cherigat, who are used to the heat in their home country of Kenya. Ndereba finished with a time of 2 hours, 24 minutes, and 27 seconds-- just 16 seconds ahead of the next female runner. Cherigat finished the race in 2 hours, 10 minutes, and 37 seconds to complete the Kenyan sweep.

--Written by [Cris Sigovitch](#)

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Read [SPORTS ZONE 2: Taurasi WNBA's #1](#)



SPORTS ZONE 2: Taurasi WNBA's #1

Less than two weeks after leading the Uconn Huskies to a National Championship, point guard Diana Taurasi became the first pick in the WNBA draft. Taurasi, who was drafted by the Phoenix Mercury, became just the second guard to be drafted first overall in the WNBA. Former Connecticut teammate Sue Bird, the 2002 top pick, is the only other guard to have been selected first.

Taurasi was a dominant point guard at the college level since her freshmen year at Uconn. During her four years as a Husky she averaged 15.0 points, 4.5 assists and 4.3 rebounds.

With her jump to the WNBA came many changes for Taurasi. One plus is that she will be much closer to her hometown of Chino, California than she was in Storrs, Connecticut. On the negative side of things, Taurasi goes from being on three championship teams in four years to the Mercury, who was the worst team in the WNBA last season.

Teams will open training camp April 25, exhibition games will begin May 4 and the season starts May 20.

--Written by [Cris Sigovitch](#)

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 1: Meteors and Dinosaurs

A giant meteor that collided with Earth 65 million years ago may have caused a temperature change that produced too few female dinosaurs, leading to their extinction, say scientists at the University of Leeds, England, this week.

Scientists have speculated for years about what may have caused dinosaurs' extinction, and have considered temperature change as a factor, since a dramatic climate change would affect the creatures' habitats. The researchers who authored the new study, however, have another suggestion: the temperature shift could have resulted in too few female dino babies.

Dinosaurs, the ancestors of our present day reptiles, laid eggs, like modern reptiles do. For some modern reptiles, the temperature at which the eggs are kept affects whether the babies in the eggs will become male or female. The scientists at the University of Leeds suggest that the dinos may also have laid eggs that were affected by temperature in this way.

According to the researchers, the meteor's impact would have cooled earth's environment, resulting in more male dinosaurs than females. That in turn would have resulted in a faster extinction, since there would not be enough females to lay the eggs and sustain the dinosaur population.

Not all scientists think this theory will prove correct, especially since some of our present day reptiles, like crocs and turtles, survived the temperature changes, even though their eggs are affected by temperature, too. According to the Leeds researchers, that may be due to the fact that those crocs and turtles lived in aquatic environments that were somewhat more protected from drastic temperature shifts. If the theory about the temperature change is true, future climate changes may affect the survival rates of some present-day reptiles. The results of the study are published in the journal Fertility and Sterility.

--Written by [Nia Williams](#)

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 2: Earth-Friendly Improvements

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 2: Earth-Friendly Improvements

On Wednesday, April 21, 2004, the Pacific Research Institute and the American Enterprise Institute released the ninth annual Index of Leading Environmental Indicators. What does that mean? This report showed that Americans have made some very big eco-friendly improvements.

For example, the vehicles we drive are getting cleaner, and emissions from them have dropped 10%. Our water is getting cleaner, too. Ninety-four percent of Americans have water systems that meet cleanliness standards. We're even releasing fewer toxins in the air from our factories and manufacturing plants.

The report also shows that the U.S. government has improved their reporting of environmental issues, and they've also improved the quality of their water monitoring. Even efforts by private organizations, like Ducks Unlimited, have been more successful recently.

One interesting part of the report showed that U.S. air quality is the same, if not better, than European air quality. This part of the report was presented in a special section.

The report wasn't all good news, unfortunately. The quality of public land has decreased, and the cause of this reduction in quality seems to be rooted in political management.

The release of this report coincides with Earth Day, celebrated April 22, 2004. Many people celebrate Earth Day by trying to do eco-friendly actions in their homes and workplace.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 1: Meteors and Dinosaurs 

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On April 30, 1804, officials from the United States and France signed a treaty approving the Louisiana Purchase. The huge amount of land bought by the U.S. more than doubled the size of America at that time. It cost the U.S. about 4 cents an acre for the 828,000 square miles of land.



On May 1, 1931, the Empire State Building officially opened. At that time it was the tallest building ever built at 102 stories high, and President Herbert Hoover pushed the button that turned on the lights for the very first time. Today it is one of the top ten places for U.S. tourist travelers to visit.

On May 2, 1972, J. Edgar Hoover, the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), died of heart failure. The FBI is a branch of the U.S. Justice Department, and under Hoover's administration the FBI was expanded.

Hoover helped the FBI fight gang crime and stop government spies. [Click here to tell us what you think about these stories!](#)



MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 1: New Success for Singer

When people mention Britney or Christina, there's no doubt which pop singers they're talking about. But what about Anastacia? You might have seen her in a Dr. Pepper commercial in 2003 next to Cyndi Lauper, a singer from the 80s. Other than that, you've probably never heard of her. But if you lived in Europe, you'd probably own all of her CDs and hear her on the radio all of the time. When her latest CD, "Anastacia" was released on March 29, it was number one on the European charts. One and a half million copies have been shipped to stores in the past three weeks. In comparison, her two other CDs sold less than half a million copies combined in the United States.

No one is quite sure why American music listeners haven't been as interested in Anastacia as those in other countries, but when "Anastacia" is released here this summer, she's hoping for that to change. She's added some rock to her pop sound this time, and she calls it "srock" for the mix of soul, pop, and rock.

Anastacia has been in the news some in the past year when she started talking about her battle with breast cancer, hoping that she could help others learn about the disease. While her label wants to focus on her music as a selling point, of course they're hoping that this extra publicity will help sales. Anastacia begins a three-month European tour in September, but only time will tell if she can make a breakthrough in her home country.

--Written by [Lorie Witkop](#)

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[Read MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 2: Teen Girls Tops Best-Seller List](#)



MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 2: Teen Girls Tops Best-Seller List

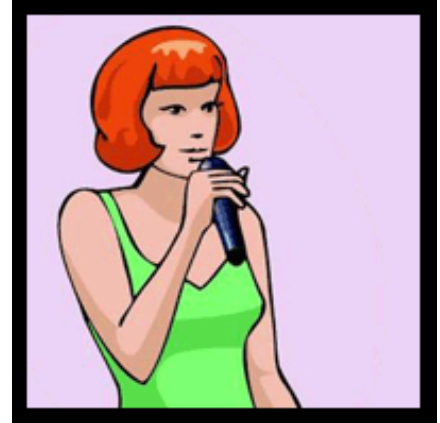
One of Europe's best-selling authors is a 15-year-old girl from Paris. Flavia Bujor is the teenager who is selling more books than people three times her age. Bujor started writing her novel at 12, and at 14, she had her book published. Her best-seller is titled, "The Prophecy of Stones."

"The Prophecy of Stones" is about a hospitalized girl who imagines another world where three heroines band together to save their land with magical stones. So far, Bujor book has sold 20,000 copies in France and Italy and 30,000 in Germany. The Parisian teen is currently promoting her book in New York for the American release.

Bujor says that "writing is her passion" but she still enjoys being 15. She takes piano lessons and like hanging out with friends. The down-to-earth teen plans to spend the money she earns from her book sales on her college education.

--Written by [Lyssa Walker](#)

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



Read MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 3: Flying (and Singing) High 

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 3: Flying (and Singing) High

Hip folk-singer, Sheryl Crow, will put on a concert for the birds. On May 4, Crow will perform during a flight on United Airlines from Chicago to Los Angeles. The purpose of this concert is to launch United's partnerships with Sony's new Connect Music Service.

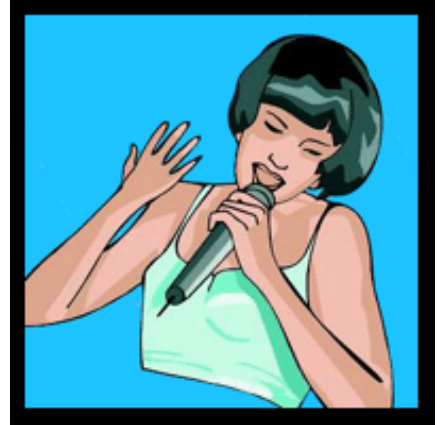
Sony Connect, like Apple iTunes, will offer 500,000 songs for 99 cents each, or \$9.95 per album. The service will be available internationally, with versions in the U.K., Germany and France. The "Music for Miles" program lets frequent fliers earn music with every trip they take by plane. Also, frequent flier miles can be earned with every song that is downloaded.

The website will provide a lot more than downloadable music. It will also feature articles, interviews and recommendation lists. The new services will launch before summer.

Some of Crow's fans and invited guests will witness the 40 minute concert in the air. She'll be playing an acoustic concert in the air. Crow also intends to perform at a party to launch Sony's digital walkman, but that performance will take place on the ground.

--Written by [Lyssa Walker](#)

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COMICS & POEMS 1: Aford Turtle, Comic Strip



--Written by [Aaron Riddle](#)

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COMICS & POEMS 2: Hob-Goblin Night, Poetry Feature

Hob-Goblin Night

Come--Come follow me,
Into the void of eternity,
Where no one grows older.
Come follow and be led,
Into the land of the dead,
Clasp my hand as it grows colder.
I'll lead you down a path,
Deep steeped in a darkness bath
And show you many an evil sight.
For I'm the spirit of Halloween,
A more horrible sight you've never seen,
Guaranteed to keep you awake at night.
I wear a grizzly-gruesome disguise,
That will widen your innocent eyes,
My cloak is a stark white bed sheet.
And the darkness of night is my fate,
While my average age is about eight,
And I have the horrible voice of a ghost,
That screams--TRICK OR TREAT!

--Written by [Ace C. Young](#)

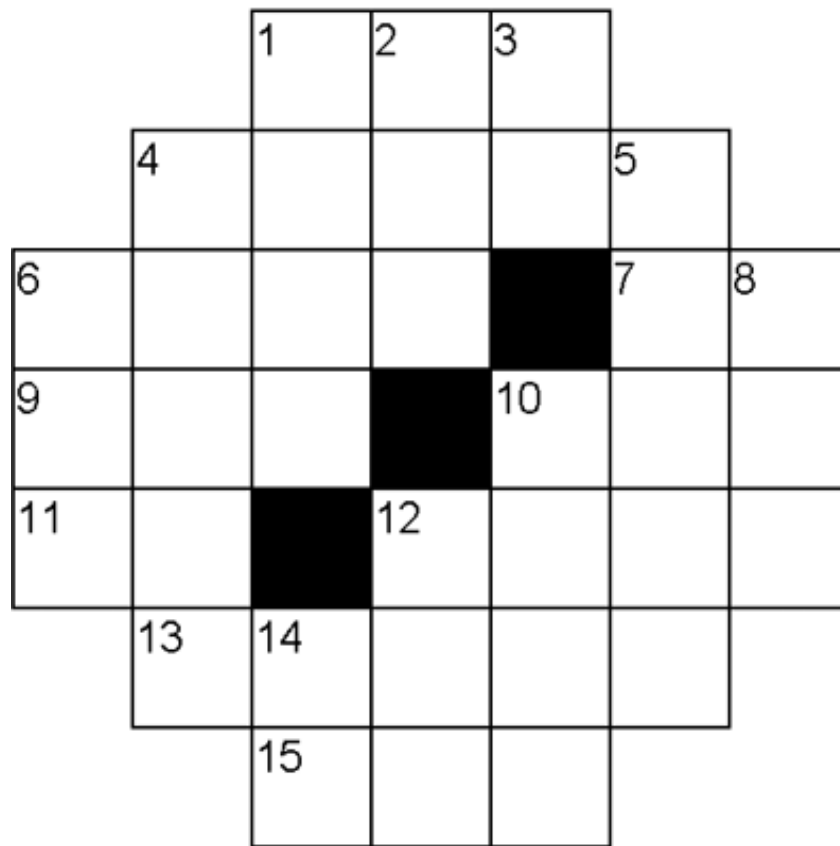
This poem is featured in Awaking to Sunshine, an Anthology of Poetry released by the International Library of Poetry in June 2000.

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



Read **COMICS & POEMS 3: Earth Wreck, Crossword** 

COMICS & POEMS 3: Earth Wreck, Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Beverage
- 4 Wreck in North Korea
- 6 Runners' Bane
- 7 Ohio (abbr.)
- 9 Official
- 10 Brew
- 11 Doctor
- 12 Cheese
- 13 Important person
- 15 Surface to air missile

DOWN

- 1 Catch
- 2 Consume
- 3 Artificial intelligence (abbr.)
- 4 Bait
- 5 Mr. Ryan
- 6 Squeeze
- 8 Dress edge
- 10 Eden dweller
- 12 Terminal abbr.
- 14 State of being

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 [Read COMICS & POEMS 1: Aford Turtle, Comic Strip](#)

U.S. GOVERNMENT 1: Bush Praises Patriot Act

President Bush was in Buffalo, NY this week to tout the renewal of the USA Patriot Act, which gives the federal government more discretion in terms of information sharing between various agencies and loosens restrictions on doing surveillance on terrorist suspects. The legislation, which was passed quickly and easily in the weeks following the September 11, 2001 terror attacks, has since been hotly contested by civil right groups such as the ACLU, claiming the act to be unconstitutional and overbroad in infringing on an individual's reasonable expectation of privacy as afforded by the 4th Amendment (which states that no individual shall be subject to unreasonable or illegal searches and seizures).

The President's choice of Buffalo as the point from which to deliver his message on the Patriot Act was a calculated one--it was in this city that the so-called "Lackawanna Six" case was cracked, in large part due to the increased latitude afforded to federal law enforcement agencies by the Patriot Act. The Lackawanna Six were a group of Buffalo-born Arab-Americans accused and ultimately convicted of aiding Osama Bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network. Hence, Bush chose this location in order to highlight the effectiveness of the Patriot Act in bringing terrorists and those who aid terrorists to justice for their crimes.

Democrats, however, feel that Bush has other political motives for using Buffalo to deliver this message--namely, to campaign for Republican Rep. Thomas Reynolds, who is facing a tough challenge from businessman Jack Davis. "There is no other reason for the president to come here. This is a (Democratic) state, and it's not in play," says Len Lenihan, the Erie County Democratic chairman. Indeed, Bush trails Kerry by some 20 points in New York. He lost the state to Gore in 2000 by 25 percentage points. However, the Patriot Act expires this year, and showing tangible results to the community from which these criminals came may well strengthen the chance of its renewal by Congress. Some 500 anti-Bush, anti-war protesters showed up to voice their discontent with the conflict in Iraq.

A recent poll suggested that Americans are rather pessimistic in their nation's war against terror. An Associated Press poll indicated that about half of Americans feel that terrorists may be winning the war, and a full two-thirds consider another terror attack in the U.S. before November's presidential election likely. And the percentage of those polled that feel the war in Iraq is increasing the chance of a terror attack increased from 40% last year to 54%. These figures underscore the deep psychological trauma inflicted by the 9/11 terror attacks in 2001. Despite more than two and a half years without a major incident on U.S. soil, the majority of Americans still are very uneasy.

--Written by [Lincoln Gaffney](#)

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U.S. GOVERNMENT 2: Ambassador Supports Outsourcing



U.S. GOVERNMENT 2: Ambassador Supports Outsourcing

One of the hottest topics in business today is outsourcing. Outsourcing allows companies to open the door for change by transforming other areas within their business. Many believe that outsourcing is the new destruction of the future, others believe that it is the "new wave" of the same. Apparently United States Ambassador (India) David C. Mulford is ready to ride the wave, so to speak. Unsupportive of the proposal to ban outsourcing in over 30 states, Ambassador Mulford believes that it could backfire and pose a threat to the economy.

Outsourcing jobs overseas is a way for any company to cut back on some of its expenses. It allows companies to cutback on high-paid workers in the U. S. and replace them with lower-paid workers overseas. This saves the company money.

If a company takes the jobs in one department and outsources them overseas, in the long run it could affect the strength of the American economy because that leaves hundreds of people in United States work force without a source of income.

Ambassador Mulford believes that the story would turn out just the opposite way. Parallel to recent statistics which show that over one-third of jobs lost in the past three years, 104,000, were reimbursed in the last year alone as one result of outsourcing, Mulford has faith that outsourcing will take care of itself with a positive outcome.

All in all, outsourcing jobs overseas can either make a company or break the economy. On the downside outsourcing is a bad way for the economy to grow. Regardless of what any business chooses, outsourcing seems to be the immediate future.

--Written by [Christina Newman](#)

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U.S. GOVERNMENT 1: Bush Praises Patriot Act

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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 right whales are estimated to be left in the world?

Between 3000 and 3500

About 50

None

Between 300 and 350

2. What is the name of the town in Illinois that was hit by a tornado?

Chicago

Springfield

Utica

DeKalb

3. How old is one of Europe's best-selling authors, Flavia Bujor?

13 years old

14 years old

15 years old

16 years old

4. What tech gadget can you drop-off at Sprint stores for recycling?

PDA's

Cell phones

Notebook computers

Digital Cameras

5. What type of government does North Korea have?

Democracy

Republic

Socialist

Communist

6. In which state was the "Lackawanna Six" case cracked?

New York

New Jersey

Pennsylvania

Maryland

7. Which one of these states has the ladybug as its state insect?

- Virginia
- Oregon
- New Hampshire
- North Carolina

8. What kind of vehicle has been converted to use natural gas as its fuel?

- Minivan
- Car
- Truck
- SUV

9. Which of the following singers is much more popular in Europe than in the U.S.?

- Anastacia
- John Mayer
- Avril Lavigne
- Clay Aiken

10. Which singer will perform for 40 minutes on a flight from Chicago to Los Angeles?

- lymphoma
- heart disease
- pneumonia
- stroke

11. Why do cats purr?

- Mandy Moore
- Sheryl Crow
- Ruben Studdard
- Joss Stone

12. From what country was the woman winner of the Boston Marathon?

- U.S.
- Brazil
- Costa Rica
- Kenya

13. David C. Mulford is the U.S. Ambassador of what country?

- Japan
- Italy
- India

Egypt

14. What country intends to remove its troops from Iraq in the near future?

US

Spain

France

Britain

15. Who was the first pick in the 2004 WNBA draft?:

Taurasi

Bird

Franklin

Todd

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