

## PICTURE OF THE WEEK: Gyroplane World Record

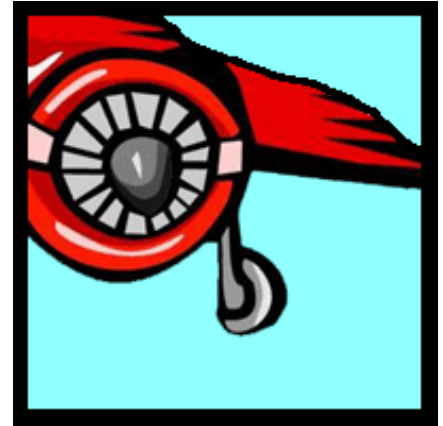
Barry Jones wants to set a new world record flying around the world in an autogyro. He is now two weeks into his flight after taking off from Hampshire, England, and expects few difficulties even though an autogyro has never circumnavigated the globe before.

An autogyro is a tiny aircraft. It is barely 15 feet long and 8 ft tall. While this craft is tiny and can only carry one person, it easily travels at 115 miles per hour. This speeding bullet is like a miniature helicopter because it does have blades for lift. The difference between a helicopter and an autogyro is that the autogyro also uses an engine-powered propeller to move forward. The autogyro was made famous by a James Bond movie.

Barry Jones, a Warrant Officer and pilot in the Army Air Corps of Britain, wants to make the autogyro famous by circumnavigating the globe. His travels will last approximately 3 months and take him over about 25 countries for a total distance of 25,000 miles. Although the entire expedition costs about \$350,000, Officer Jones hopes to raise money for the Dyslexia Foundation as well.

--Written by [Katheryn Troyer](#)

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## WEEKLY NEWS 1: Freedom Tower

The birth of the Freedom Tower will coincide with our nation's birthday. Last Wednesday Governor Pataki of New York announced the groundbreaking of the Freedom Tower will occur on July 4th. Governor Pataki's original construction plans entailed a date in late summer; however, the Freedom Tower and other WTC projects are on their way.

The Freedom Tower will be built in the northwest section of the World Trade Center site. It is not attempting to replace; its purpose is to inspire. The Freedom Tower will be the tallest building in the world, topping off at 1,776 feet. At this height, it will contain 70 floors of offices and even generate energy. The upper floors will contain windmills that will operate as a power source.

If this is not enough to inspire excitement, the Freedom Tower is scheduled for completion in 2009. Imagine a 1,776 foot building being finished in only five years. And the entire World Trade Center site will be in business in 2013. The future holds great expectations in Lower Manhattan.

--Written by [Katheryn Troyer](#)

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## WEEKLY NEWS 2: CA Promotes Electric Mowers

Southern California has long been known for its smog-infested air, caused in large part by automobile exhaust fumes. Apparently, also contributing to this air pollution problem is the use of gas powered lawn mowers, which also expel smoke into the air.

To help combat this problem, people in Southern California are being encouraged to toss out their smog-causing mowers for newer, more environmental friendly ones. These new mowers are electric powered and are being sold at drastically discounted prices to help encourage the purchase of them.

Four thousand new electric mowers are being sold in the region this spring at a fourth of the market price in hopes that people will buy them instead of the smog-spewing gas versions. People purchasing the electric mowers must give up their gas-powered ones in order to be able to purchase the electric ones for \$100.

Sam Atwood, spokesman of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, said that by eliminating the old gas mowers, nearly 20 tons of smog-forming emission will be cut a year in the Los Angeles region.

"Nowadays, even eliminating one ton of pollution is difficult," said Atwood on Wednesday. "All the very large reductions in emissions have been made and it's getting tougher and tougher."

Orange County and parts of L.A., Riverside and San Bernardino counties are all included in the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

The average gas mower can pollute almost as much as 43 new cars in one year, according to L.A. district officials who have been trying to reduce the number of machines for a long time. A similar program conducted last year encouraged about 3,500 people to trade in gas mowers for rechargeable versions of electric mowers.

Vehicles such as cars, trucks, planes, trains and ships are responsible for 75 percent of the air pollution in the Southern California region. District officials, however, think that the gas to electric mowers trade-in is a good incentive in making progress to cut back on the smog rates in L.A. (contributing: Newsday.com)

--Written by [Anna Ferguson](#)

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[Read WEEKLY NEWS 3: Bullied Child Fights Back](#)



## WEEKLY NEWS 3: Bullied Child Fights Back

Bullying is more than a dilemma in schools across the country. From elementary to high school, children are being picked on by their peers or kids older than them. The "zero tolerance" rule that was supposed to be put an end to the problem is not stopping kids from bullying other kids. According to a study by the Kaiser Family Foundation, 68 percent of students between ages 12 and 15 say that teasing and bullying is of the biggest troubles in school for children their age, and 55 percent of students between ages eight and 11 say the same thing.

But one bullied kid decided to fight back. Daryl Gray, a middle school student from Jonesboro, Georgia, has been bullied every school day of his life for the past two years. And now Daryl has been charged with aggravated battery.

One day Daryl could not take being bullied anymore, so he decided to fight back. He hit another male student in the face with his pencil. With the charge of aggravated battery came a possible five year sentence in jail.

On Thursday morning, partly due to Daryl's innocent character and the situation behind the crime, he received a lesser sentence of 90 days probation and a \$322 fine.

Daryl and his mother Jeanette Gray, had protested to school officials prior to his "fighting back," and as a result he was moved to a different class. However, the move did not help because even after the trial was over he was still being bullied. Daryl and his mother believe that this is so because the other students know that if he gets into trouble again he will be expelled from school. Although Daryl Gray committed a delinquent act, he is said to be a admirable child who has never been in trouble before and whose Jehovah faith teaches him to shun violence.

--Written by [Christina Newman](#)

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## WEEKLY NEWS 4: Most Beautiful People Announced

Every year People magazine makes a list of the "50 Most Beautiful People in the World" and celebrity-watchers everywhere look forward to seeing who is on top. This year Jennifer Aniston is "the most beautiful person" and appears on the cover of the special issue. Her husband, Brad Pitt, is on the list for the fourth time. Another married couple, Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey, famous both as singers and stars of the reality show "Newlyweds," are also on the list.

Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen made the list just in time for the start of "New York Minute," their first movie released in theaters since 1995. Halle Berry was named to the top 50 for the eighth year. Nicole Kidman makes her sixth list appearance, and like Brad Pitt, it's the fourth time for Hugh Jackman.

Kwame Jackson, the first runner-up from "The Apprentice," is a new face this year as he makes the most of his fame from the business reality show. And not all of the "most beautiful people in the world" come from TV and movies. Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees and NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. also made the list.

--Written by [Lorie Witkop](#)

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## AROUND THE WORLD 1: SARS in China

Three suspected SARS cases in China have been confirmed in Beijing. All three highly contagious cases are linked to the first SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, case in Beijing when a medical student, who was researching the respiratory disease at the Institute of Virology, became infected in March. These new cases are limited to the people that worked with SARS samples at Beijing's Institute and those who came in contact with the workers.

There are now a total of nine confirmed SARS cases in China: six in Beijing and two in Anhui province. Out of the confirmed SARS cases, only one has been fatal. After being confirmed with SARS 11 days before her death, a 53-year-old woman died on April 19 in Anhui. She contracted the disease from her daughter, a Beijing lab worker, who is in stable condition with the syndrome. The other Beijing SARS cases are related, including a nurse who was treating an infected person from Anhui province.

Between November 2002 and July 2003, SARS has affected more than 8,000 people. Almost 800 of those who contracted SARS died from it. Areas that were hardest hit include Vietnam, Hong Kong, and China.

--Written by [Renee Clara](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 2: Greek Police Station Bombed**



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## AROUND THE WORLD 2: Greek Police Station Bombed

Three bombs hit an Athens police station as Greece began a 100-day countdown to the Olympic Games. Parts of the building were damaged but nobody was injured by the timed blasts that went off early in the morning. An Athens newspaper received a phone call from an anonymous caller which led to officials emptying the building and blocking off the area. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack but police believe the bombs, which hit an area near hotels that will be used by Olympic officials, were intended to claim lives.

The attack coincided with the first day of a 100-day countdown to the beginning of the Olympic Games. Greek authorities are under pressure to protect the summer Games, which run from August 13-29, due to fears that the Games might be the target of political violence. As a result, security forces have been put on high alert.

In addition, major work must be finished at some venues, such as the main Olympic stadium which is not yet finished. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has given Athens organizers until May 20th to mount a roof on top of the stadium or the plan will be scratched.

--Written by [Renee Clara](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 3: Vietnam Celebrates** 

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## AROUND THE WORLD 3: Vietnam Celebrates

May 7th was an important anniversary in the South East Asian country of Vietnam. On this day fifty years ago, Vietnam won a major battle against France. Vietnam was a French colony, which means that it was occupied and controlled by France. This colonial occupation came to a sudden end fifty years ago, when the Vietnamese people fought the French in a famous battle known as Dien Bien Phu.

The entire battle of Dien Bien Phu was 56 days long--that's almost two months! The Vietnamese people, fought under the leadership of the legendary Ho Chi Minh. Ho Chi Minh is a national hero, and in fact the capital city in Vietnam is named after him. He led the fight and defeated the French army, against all odds. The French military had more weapons, however the Vietnamese used a military strategy that was considered by many to be brilliant.

This military strategy was formulated by a partner of Ho Chi Minh, a general named Vo Nguyen Giap. Although Ho Chi Minh has died, General Giap is a living legend and he has been describing the battle and the history of Vietnam--at age 92, he has witnessed more of it than most people.

General Giap explains that the victory at Dien Bien Phu is still celebrated by the Vietnamese people as a symbol of national unity and pride. In fact, this great battle was celebrated around the world, because at the time, many other countries were struggling for independence and calling for an end to France's colonial rule. Less than a decade later, of course, the United States began to challenge Vietnam and the newly independent nation found itself fighting a foreign force again. Again, Ho Chi Minh and his general Giap fought tirelessly. The United States eventually also left Vietnam after many soldiers died.

Vietnam is still independent today, and the anniversary of Dien Bien Phu serves as a time for celebration and a time for reflection. The Vietnamese people, proud of their history, their leaders, and their country, use the determination of Ho Chi Minh as an example for their current efforts to make Vietnam a prosperous country.

--Written by [Betsy Mesard](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 4: Religious Violence in Nigeria** 

## AROUND THE WORLD 4: Religious Violence in Nigeria

Nigeria, a large country in the center of Africa, has been the scene of major religious violence over the past week. The conflict is between Christian farmers known as Taroks and Muslim cattle herders known as Fulani. Different religious and ethnic groups have been fighting in different parts of Nigeria ever since Nigeria had its first elections in 1999.

The latest round of fighting took place in the town of Yelwa and it involved the killing of more than 300 Muslims by Christian militias. Muslim leaders are calling the attacks genocide. Genocide is when one group tries to destroy another group based on their identity. In this case, the Muslim leaders claim that the Christian militias were targeting women and children in an effort to destroy Fulani communities.

In the past, the violence has been committed by the other side. In fact, in the same town earlier this year, Muslim militants killed a number of Christians. Both sides have committed atrocities and contributed to a devastating cycle of violence in Nigeria.

To deal with the current outbreak the president of Nigeria, Olusegun Obasanjo, has asked for a large police force to keep peace in Yelwa. Although this may stop the fighting for now, experts say that the conflict between the enemy groups is explained by bad farming and land policies in Nigeria. There is not a good system for distributing land and regulating land-ownership, which means that different groups must fight for the right to do what they want with the land.

Until these policies are changed, the violence is likely to continue. Already thousands of Nigerian people have been displaced and forced to flee their hometowns to avoid the fighting. If president Obasanjo and the Nigerian people can figure out a way to resolve land issues, the country has a great potential to prosper, because they have many valuable oil reserves. Unfortunately, resources and wealth do not guarantee prosperity, if the country is torn by violence. This has been illustrated in many other countries around the world.

--Written by [Betsy Mesard](#)

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## SPORTS ZONE 1: USA Hockey Secures Olympic Bid

During the past two weeks the United States National hockey team has been competing in the 2004 World Hockey Championships in Prague, Czech Republic. After finishing a disappointing 13th out of 16 teams in last year's event, the U.S. has been on a mission to make up for last year's debacle.

To date they have done just that. Team USA's 2-2-1 record in the qualifying round was good enough to earn them a spot in the quarterfinals against a team that has won this championship 4 of the last 10 years--the Czech Republic.

Going into their match with Team USA the Czech's had yet to lose. With players like Jaromir Jagr, Martin Ruchinsky and Radek Dvorak, the Czech's lineup was far superior to any of the other 16 nations that are in the tournament.

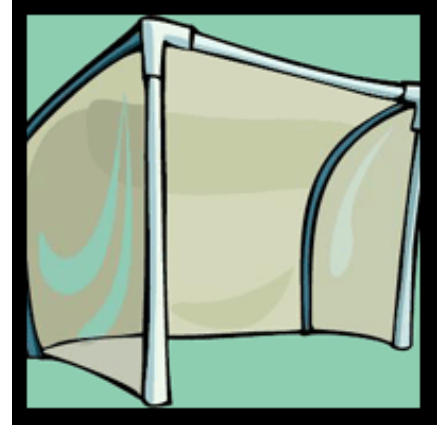
The Czech's win streak came to a screeching halt on Wednesday night as Team USA shocked the Czech's with a 3-2 win in a shootout. The win was a huge upset; something that no one except the U.S. players thought was possible.

The U.S. will next play in the semi-finals, the first time they have done so since 2001, against Sweden on Saturday night at the Sazka Arena in Prague.

Making the win even more special is the fact that the U.S. has secured a spot in the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy.

--Written by [Cris Sigovitch](#)

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Read **SPORTS ZONE 2: Piazza Breaks Catcher's HR Record** 

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## SPORTS ZONE 2: Piazza Breaks Catcher's HR Record

On Wednesday night New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza broke Carlton Fisk's all-time home run record for catchers with his 352nd career blast. The home run came in the first inning off a 3-1 pitch from San Francisco Giants pitcher Jerome Williams.

After making his circle around the bases, Piazza got a huge greeting from his teammates in the dugout and then took a curtain call for the 19,974 fans that showed up at Shea Stadium in New York.

'I am so proud to be in that company with the great catchers that played this game,' Piazza said after the game. 'It just kind of reaffirms the fact that nothing has come easy in my career.'

Perhaps when he said that Piazza was referring to the fact that he was drafted in the 62nd round (1,390) overall in the 1988 MLB draft.

Making the record setting night even sweeter was that Piazza's Mets beat the Giants 8-2 and extended their winning streak to three games.

--Written by [Cris Sigovitch](#)

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 [Read SPORTS ZONE 1: USA Hockey Secures Olympic Bid](#)

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 1: NASA's New Astronaut Class

NASA announced that it has selected a class of 11 individuals to join its corps of astronauts, and presented the newest members of the lucky group at a Space Day celebration at the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center in Virginia on Thursday.

The new group of astronauts-in-training includes two pilots, six mission specialists made up of engineers, doctors, and members of the armed forces, and three school teachers, called mission specialist-educators. The newest members of this elite group were chosen from more than 1,000 applicants. They will begin their training this summer at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

According to a press release on NASA's website, [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov), their training will include "land survival training, T-38 jet ground and flight training, Shuttle orbiter systems training, Space Station systems training, science and engineering briefings, and orientation tours at all NASA centers, including the Kennedy Space Center and Marshall Space Flight Center."

The eleven people selected were: MS-E Joe Acaba, a teacher from Dunnellon Middle School in Florida; MS-E Ricky Arnold, a teacher from the American International School in Bucharest, Romania; MS-E Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger, a teacher at Hudson's Bay High School in Washington; pilot Randy Bresnik, of the Marine Corps; Jim Dutton, an Air Force pilot; MS Chris Cassidy, a Navy Seal; MS Jose Hernandez, a NASA engineer; MS Shane Kimbrough, an Army major and NASA flight simulation engineer; MS Tom Marshburn, a NASA flight surgeon; MS Bobby Satcher, Jr., an orthopedic surgeon; and MS Shannon Walker, Ph.D., a manager at NASA's Johnson Space Center. They will first become eligible to fly in a shuttle mission in about 5 years.

--Written by [Nia Williams](#)

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## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 2: The Cicadas Are Coming

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 2: The Cicadas Are Coming

Residents of several eastern U.S. states will be plugging their ears and watching where they step in the next few weeks, because a massive swarm of periodical cicadas are set to emerge, experts warn.

Cicadas are dark-colored, red-eyed, winged insects that devour treetops and give out a loud, rattling mating call that can drive listeners loony. Periodical cicadas appear, well, periodically, after a certain number of years. Some appear every 13 years, while others appear every 17 years. The cicadas expected to appear in the next few weeks are of the 17 year variety.

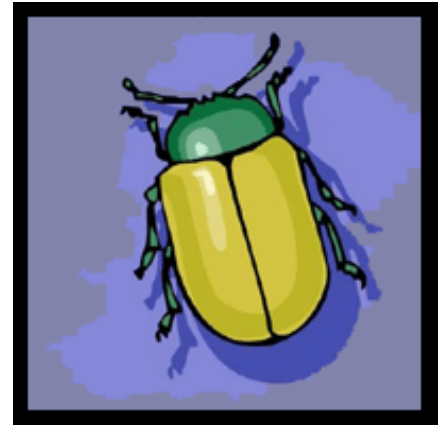
These cicadas live underground, eating tree roots, for most of their lives, which are exceptionally long by insect standards. Then, in their final year, they all emerge from the ground on a spring evening and start climbing anything upright and stationary (don't worry--you probably wouldn't stand still long enough, and they really prefer trees). When they first emerge, they are soft, light-colored cicadas in their nymph, or juvenile stage. They molt, or shed their nymph skins, and emerge as the winged adults. Over the course of the next few hours they harden and turn dark. If they make it through that transformation without being gobbled up by predators--like birds, dogs, cats, lizards, snakes, and even people--they head for the treetops, where they mate and lay their eggs in tree branches. When they finish, they die. When the eggs hatch, the nymphs drop to the ground, dig in and start the cycle all over again. In all, they only spend a few weeks of their lives above ground.

Smaller broods, or groups, of cicadas appear pretty much every year, but this year, states along the eastern seaboard will play host to a swarm believed to be one of the largest ever. Entomologists, the scientists who study insects and spiders, have dubbed this latest group Brood X (Brood Ten). Brood X is expected to number in the billions, and to span states from New York down to Georgia, and west to Illinois.

The bugs are pretty large (up to two inches long) and with their beady red eyes, huge numbers and eerie call, tend to give lots of people a case of the willies. Other people get annoyed with the creatures because they feed on beloved trees, and sometimes can destroy whole branches or young trees. Some people confuse them with locusts, swarming creatures which tend to devour any greenery in sight. But cicadas shouldn't be feared. They don't sting or bite, and pose no danger to people, so they make great insects to observe up close if you want to get a good look at a big bug!

--Written by [Nia Williams](#)

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 1: NASA's New Astronaut Class 

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On May 13, 1846, the U.S. Congress granted President James K. Polk permission to declare war on Mexico. The Mexican-American War began with an argument over Texas, which had won independence from Mexico in 1836. The war lasted for almost two years until February 1848, when the U.S. and Mexico signed a treaty that ended the war and recognized Texas as a part of the U.S.



On May 14, 1796, English doctor Edward Jenner gave the first shot to protect against smallpox. Up until that time, the smallpox disease had killed millions of people. Jenner made the vaccine from the liquid in a cowpox blister, which was a different disease. Doctors all over Europe soon began using Jenner's vaccination, and fewer people contracted smallpox.

On May 17, 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education* that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. Up until that point, some children were not allowed in certain schools because they were not Caucasian, or white. The Supreme Court decided that this went against the Constitution and said that all schools should begin allowing children of all races to attend.



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## MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 1: Pet Programming

What do pets do all day while their owners are working or going to school? This question obviously went through the minds of those working for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) when they came up with the idea for television programming that pets can enjoy.

BBC is calling the programming "Pet TV." The show will find out what sounds and images animals respond to. The programming will consist of balls rolling across grass-like material, Frisbees flying through the air, cat toys and animal cartoon characters, all for the enjoyment of British dogs, cats and other domesticated animals.

According to the BBC, "Pet TV" can be tried out on dogs, cats, birds and even fish. British pet owners can also figure out just how smart their precious pooches or fantastic felines are by putting them through one of six IQ tests that BBC's website offers. Also, the BBC claims that "Pet TV" is a unique opportunity to find out if pets are really television addicts, and if so, what their favorite shows are.

The idea of television programming for pets hasn't yet reached American television, but if it is a success in Europe, look out for Spongebob Square Pooch or Lizard McGuire.

--Written by [Lyssa Walker](#)

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Read **MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 2: The Hottest Young Stars** 

## MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 2: The Hottest Young Stars

For the past seven years, Teen People Magazine releases one issue a year that celebrates the hottest stars under the age of 25. The stars can be almost any type of celebrity, but most of them are musicians and actors. In this year's edition, there are familiar names as well as some fresh, new faces.

So who were named as the Hottest Stars by Teen People Magazine? Singers over the age of twenty included Christina Aguilera, Norah Jones, Nick Cannon, Usher and Vanessa Carlton. Other musicians twenty and over were Justin Timberlake, Good Charlotte, Britney Spears, Chingy and Jessica Simpson. Beyonce Knowles and Alicia Keys also made the list.

A few teenage singers were named Hottest Stars, too, including Hilary Duff and Avril Lavigne.

As for actors, the stars age twenty and over included Kirsten Dunst, Jake Gyllenhaal, Bam Margera, Josh Hartnett, Chad Michael Murray, Anne Hathaway and the cast of "The O.C."

The teenage actors who made the list included Scarlett Johansson, Lindsay Lohan, Keira Knightley, and Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen.

--Written by [Lyssa Walker](#)

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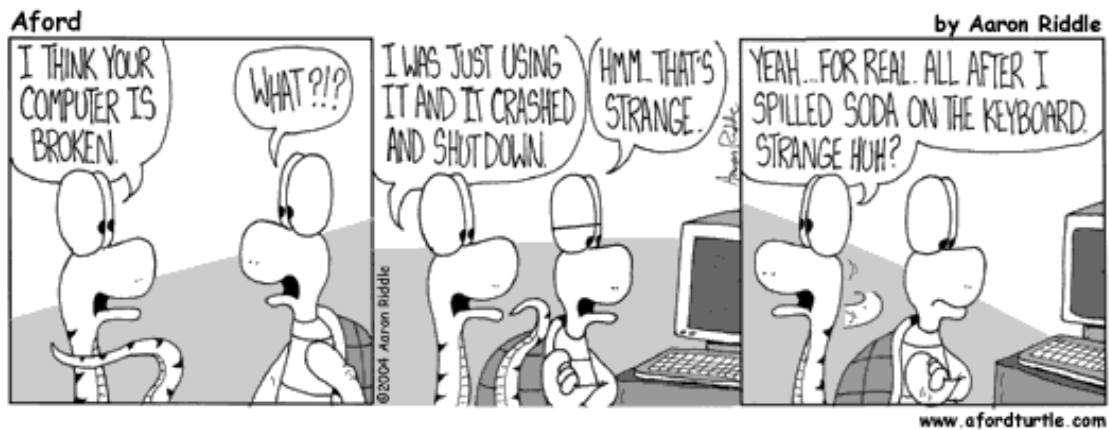
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## COMICS & POEMS 1: Aford Turtle, Comic Strip



--Written by [Aaron Riddle](#)

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## COMICS & POEMS 2: Realty, Poetry Feature

### **Realty**

Realty comes sneaking in to steal joy,  
an uninvited guest who, with unwelcome ploy,  
latches like a leech to such whatever it can  
and Merlin like change child to youth to man.

Why must an infant's toys be abandoned in the dust  
or youth's first paycheck be rifled by the tax man's lust?  
When certain drugs can restore health again  
why must those drugs cause death like pain?  
If cheese souffle is nearing oven time  
must anxious telephone decide to chime?

When dreams and expectations fill life with hope  
why must reality swoop in to prove it all a hoax?

--Written by [Harold Corey](#)

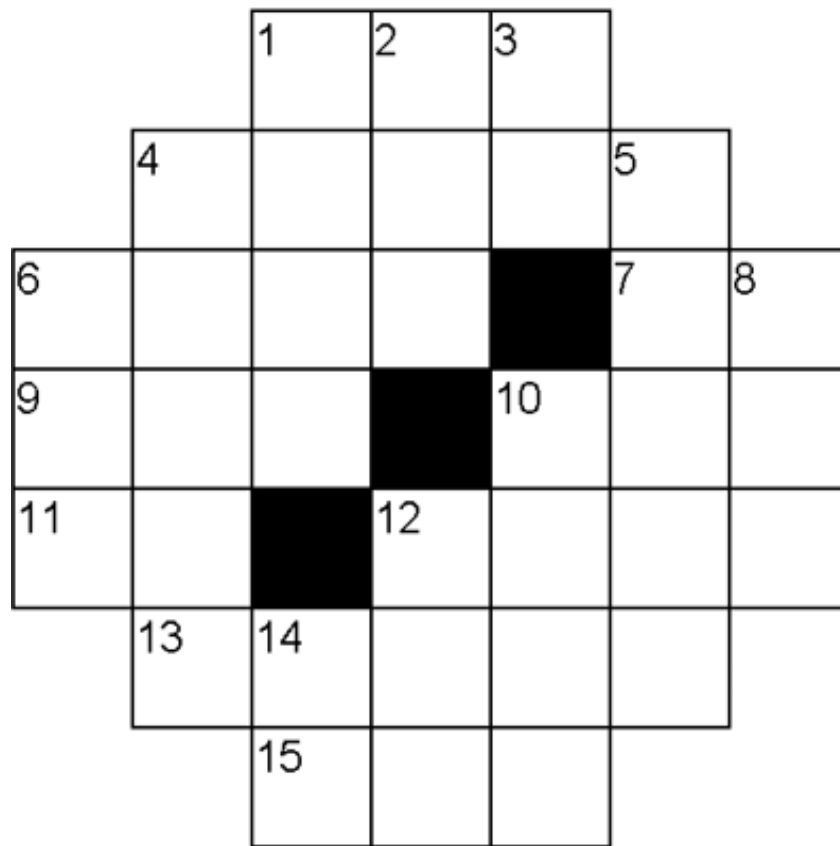
This poem is featured in [Touched By Grace](#), an Anthology of Poetry released by the International Library of Poetry in May 1999.

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Read [COMICS & POEMS 3: Winds of Change, Crossword](#) 

## COMICS & POEMS 3: Winds of Change, Crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 Fall mo.
- 4 Recesses
- 6 Space ship builders
- 7 Spielberg's alien
- 9 Single
- 10 Looked
- 11 North Dakota (abbr.)
- 12 Tropical edible root
- 13 Puts on clothing
- 15 Hades

### DOWN

- 1 Recess
- 2 North American country
- 3 Popular appliance brand
- 4 Root beer brand (3 wds.)
- 5 Large department store
- 6 Not (prefix)
- 8 li
- 10 Virus, abbv.
- 12 Thai
- 14 Mr. \_\_\_ (tv horse)

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## U.S. GOVERNMENT 1: Congress Clashes on Iraq

The two chambers of Congress may be headed for a showdown on the issue of the number of U.S. troops committed to the war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter, a California Republican, has said that his committee's Defense Authorization bill will call for an additional 39,000 troops in Iraq over the next three years. Duncan says that his bill will also authorize funding for additional equipment to match the increased troop commitment, and that cuts in other nonessential operations outside of the war efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan will offset these spending increases.

However, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John Warner of Virginia does not see eye to eye with his House counterpart. Warner has publicly stated that he will defer to the Bush Administration's insistence that there is currently no need for a permanent boost in troops in Iraq. The Pentagon has already exercised emergency powers to add an additional 17,000 troops above the authorized level, and Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and President Bush have indicated their intention to increase the number of Army soldiers by 30,000 on a temporary basis in the wake of increased attacks in April by Iraqi insurgents.

In another disagreement between House and Senate leadership over Iraq, Chairman Duncan has also said that he intends to add \$20 billion to the House Defense Authorization bill for fiscal year 2005 in order to replenish diminishing operating funds for the efforts in both Iraq and Afghanistan, despite the fact that the President has not yet requested such funding. Senator Warner said this week that he would wait for a request from the White House before considering the inclusion of any such additional funds. The whole debate over dollars may be moot--while the authorization bills approve levels of funding for the military and can include legislative mandates (for example, setting troop levels), the Defense Appropriations bill, written by the Appropriations committees in the House and Senate respectively, actually decides the levels of funding for the military.

Meanwhile, despite an approval rating approaching an all-time low, President Bush maintains a narrow edge over Democratic hopeful John Kerry in his bid to retain the White house this Fall. According to a Quinnipiac poll conducted this week, 46 percent of registered voters approve of the President's overall job performance, while 47 percent disapprove. Nonetheless, the same survey, published this week in the New York Times, showed that if the election were held today, Bush would still beat Kerry with 43 percent of the vote to Kerry's 41 percent. Third party candidate Ralph Nader garnered 5 percent of the vote. Perhaps equally important for Bush is the fact that the poll showed he enjoys a comfortable 13 point edge over Kerry among white women--a critical demographic and one which many consider critical to victory.

--Written by [Lincoln Gaffney](#)

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U.S. GOVERNMENT 2: Bill Allows Killing of Birds 

## U.S. GOVERNMENT 2: Bill Allows Killing of Birds

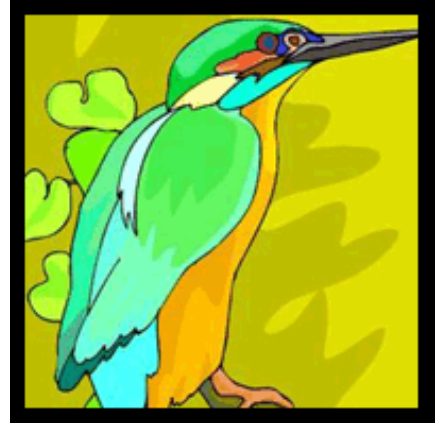
On Thursday, May 6, 2004, three of the United State's largest and oldest animal protection groups urged the House of Representatives to reject bill H. R. 4114. Why? This bill would remove federal protection of at least 94 species of birds, including some storks, pelicans, swans, cranes and cardinals.

The bill weakens the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which was intended to protect birds that move from country to country. The bill would end protection for "non-native" species of birds. According to the bill, any bird that was not present in the U.S. in 1918 or earlier is not considered to be a native species--and, therefore, is not protected from being killed.

H.R. 4114 has already passed the House Resources Committee and is being pushed through Congress. The three organizations fighting against this bill are The Fund for Animals, The Humane Society of the United States, and the Animal Welfare Institute. According to a representative from the Animal Welfare Institute, some species of birds that will no longer be protected--like the Nicobar Pigeon and the Luzon Bleeding-Heart--need global cooperation to survive. If H.R. 4114 passes and becomes a law, these birds can legally be killed while they are flying through the United States.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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## U.S. GOVERNMENT 1: Congress Clashes on Iraq

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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 NASA's Johnson Space Center located?**

- Nashville, Tennessee
- Vienna, Virginia
- Cape Canaveral, Florida
- Houston, Texas

**2. How many new cases of SARS were confirmed in China?**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4

**3. How many home runs does Mike Piazza have as a catcher?**

- 1,390
- 352
- 252
- 52

**4. Who did Team USA upset this past week in the World Hockey Championships?**

- Canada
- Sweden
- Czech Republic
- Italy

**5. What magazine annually releases a list of the hottest stars under the age of 25?**

- Teen People Magazine
- ESPN Magazine
- Star Magazine
- National Enquirer

**6. How big is an autogyro?**

- Exactly 5 ft long
- About 10 ft long
- About 15 ft long

A little over 20 ft long

**7. Who has People magazine called "the most beautiful person" of the year?**

Jessica Simpson

Halle Berry

Jennifer Aniston

Brad Pitt

**8. The British Broadcasting Corporation is now making television programming for what group?**

Infants

Pets

Basketball Players

Soccer Players

**9. How many bombs exploded outside an Athens police station?**

1

2

3

4

**10. How tall will the Freedom Tower be?**

1,776 feet

776 feet

1,000 feet

2,001 feet

**11. How many people traded in their gas mowers for electric mowers in last year's program conducted to reduce air pollution in L.A.?**

35

3,500

350

35,000

**12. What creatures make up Brood X, expected to emerge from the ground in the billions in the eastern United States this May?**

locusts

earthworms

cicadas

potato bugs

**13. Vo Nguyen Giap is...**

The capital of Vietnam

Vietnam's battle for independence  
A famous general in Vietnam  
The leader who led the fight against France

**14. Where is Nigeria?**

North America  
Africa  
Australia  
Asia

**15. What animals can be killed if bill H.R. 4114 becomes a law?**

dogs  
birds  
cows  
snakes

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