

PICTURE OF THE WEEK: Valuable Cello Recovered

A nurse discovered a 320-year-old cello, made by famous craftsman Antonio Stradivari, next to a trash bin. The instrument, worth \$3.5 million, was returned to the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association after sitting for several days in the home of 29-year-old nurse Melanie Stevens. She found the cello approximately a mile from where it was originally stolen while on her way to visit a patient. It was still inside a silver-coated plastic case. Stevens had asked her boyfriend to either repair the cello or convert it into a CD holder. She didn't know how important the instrument was until she heard a news report on May 7th.

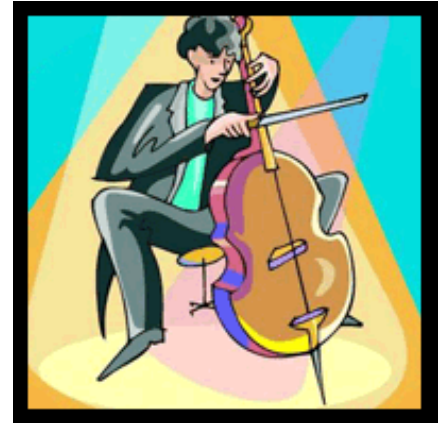
Daniel Rothmuller, the philharmonic's associate principal cellist who has played that cello for more than 25 years, said, "It's an incredible miracle that somebody actually found it and returned it. Can you imagine it going into a garbage truck?"

The cello was actually lost by philharmonic principal cellist Peter Stumpf, who accidentally left the cello outside his home where a bicyclist stole it on April 25. Stumpf is relieved that the cello had been found as it had been an enormous worry on him for the last three weeks. Detectives are still looking for the thief and are planning an investigation. They still have not decided whether or not to give Stevens the \$50,000 reward that was offered by an anonymous donor.

The cello, which was one out of 60 made by master craftsman Stradivari in his Italy workshop, dates back to 1684. The instrument was nicknamed "General Kyd" after the man who brought it from Italy to England towards the end of the 18th century. The philharmonic association bought it about 30 years ago. The cello is cracked on the front, and back and upper rib. However, there is no damage to the critical rear soundpost. The cello is expected to be ready to play by October.

--Written by [Renee Clara](#)

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WEEKLY NEWS 1: Gorilla Dies After Operation

Kubi, a male gorilla, died after having a lung removed in an operation to save his life. The sick gorilla passed away on Tuesday at San Francisco Zoo, where he attracted attention for undergoing such an unusual operation. A team of volunteer surgeons and veterinarians operated on Kubi for 12 hours at the University of California San Francisco medical center and removed his 422-pound diseased lung. The gorilla died 11 days after the procedure, which was the first of its kind. His death was a result of internal bleeding from complications that were caused by an infection.

Kubi had developed lung infections, which did not respond to drugs, and he suffered from a chronic cough in recent years. His lung infections developed into pneumonia and doctors said he would need surgery or else he would not survive. When the medical team operated on Kubi, they found that his right lung was almost completely infected and nonfunctional.

During the surgery, the silverback gorilla had a 30% chance of dying while after the surgery, he had a 50% chance of dying. "We always said the first 10 days to two weeks would be critical. Kubi was doing very well, very energetic and progressing really well. It's very sad," said Nancy Chan, a spokeswoman for the zoo.

Kubi, officially named M'Kubwa, was born on May 1, 1975 at the San Francisco Zoo. He had one mate for 22 years and was the father of three gorillas, two males and one female. At 29 years old, Kubi was approaching the end of the average lifespan for silverbacks, which is 35 years. In human years, Kubi was estimated to be 60 years old.

--Written by [Renee Clara](#)

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Read WEEKLY NEWS 2: Iowa Farms Pollute 

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WEEKLY NEWS 2: Iowa Farms Pollute

On Wednesday, May 19, 2004, a report release by the Environmental Integrity Project found that the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) does not have the resources to properly enforce the federal Clean Water Act at its state livestock operations. The Environmental Integrity Project is a nonprofit organization that tries to make sure environmental laws are enforced. The federal Clean Water Act is a law that requires large farms to obtain the proper permits, monitor their cleanliness, and prevent manure discharges.

What does this mean? Iowa does not have the authority or money to regulate its state farms. This means that many of the farms--which are large operations involving chickens, pigs and cows--are not following the rules when it comes to keeping water clean. Many of the farms are not obtaining the proper permits for pollution control.

Unfortunately, by not following the rules, these farms have a negative impact on the environment. When big manure spills reach water, fish and aquatic animals are destroyed. Between 1992 and 2002 the IDNR documented at least 329 manure spills from farms. Most of those spills reached the water and resulted in the death of more than 2.6 million fish. Mishandling of manure can also result affect the drinking water.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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Read WEEKLY NEWS 3: [Girl Wins Scarf Suit](#) 

WEEKLY NEWS 3: Girl Wins Scarf Suit

Baseball caps are not allowed in most schools; neither are cowboy hats, ski caps or any other type of head gear. However, a female student in Oklahoma challenged this longstanding rule.

The sixth grade girl, Nashala Hearn, who is a Muslim, sued her school district in order to be able to wear a scarf on her head, as is the practice in her religion. Hearn and her family said she wore the head scarf as part of her observance of Islam.

However, she was suspended twice by the Muskogee Public School District for wearing the scarf, also called a hijab, to class. School officials claimed that Hearn was violating the dress code, which bans hats and other head coverings. After her two suspensions, the government filed suit on her behalf in March. The complaint charged that the school district was discriminating based on religion.

The suit between the school district and the Justice Department was settled Wednesday, and Hearn is now allowed to wear her head scarf to school. The six year agreement, filed in U.S. District Court in Oklahoma, states that the school district is required to change its dress code to allow for exceptions for religious reasons. Those students who want an exception must apply to the district.

The settlement also requires that the school district train teachers and administrators about the new dress code, and they must also publicize the dress code change.

"This settlement reaffirms the principle that public schools cannot require students to check their faith at the schoolhouse door," said R. Alexander Acosta, assistant attorney general for civil rights, told reporters.

The initial complaint from school officials to Hearn occurred on September 11, 2003, Acosta said, even though Hearn had worn the scarf for several weeks. This is exactly two years after the terrorist attacks in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania. The school officials were "frightened" by the girl's scarf, Acosta said. "It is un-American to fear and to hate," he said. (contributing: The Associated Press)

--Written by [Anna Ferguson](#)

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Read [WEEKLY NEWS 4: Travel Unaffected by Gas Prices](#)



WEEKLY NEWS 4: Travel Unaffected by Gas Prices

Rising gasoline prices that have recently soared above \$2 a gallon will not affect summer travel plans according to travel industry experts.

"We don't think gas prices in and of themselves are going to keep people at home," Suzanne Cook, vice president of research for the Travel Industry Association of America, said during a national tourism forum Wednesday.

The Travel Industry Association has predicted that summer travel will increase 3.2 percent over last summer, resulting in 334 million personal trips during the summer months of June, July and August.

The prediction is a result of the increase of reservations being made at popular attractions, such as theme parks and resorts, across the U.S. Additionally, they have reported a rise in air travel, hotel occupancy and theme park attendance since last winter.

This increase in travel will get the United States' \$552 billion travel industry off to its best summer start since the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

However, industry executives have warned that gas prices could force motorists and airline travelers to pay more money for their trip. People flying by airplane might see more expensive airline tickets this summer to help cover the cost of oil prices rising past \$40 a barrel. Higher gas prices also could lead travelers to take shorter trips closer to home or use more fuel-efficient vehicles, but the prices won't be that much of a drag on motorists.

--Written by [Hillary Rouse](#)

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AROUND THE WORLD 1: Students Protest in Nicaragua

The small central American country of Nicaragua has been the scene of major protests over the past week. The protests were organized by Nicaraguan students, most of which are at the university level of their education. The students are dissatisfied with the funding that their universities receive and they are holding protests to draw attention to their needs.

The students claim that, according to the Nicaraguan constitution, 6% of the national budget must be spent on higher education. That means that the government should plan to spend 6% of its money on resources for the universities. This would be approximately 59 million dollars. The government has not done this, and since it is instructed to do so in the constitution, the students feel that their rights have been violated.

As for the position of the government, it claims that there is simply not enough money in the country to budget spending in this way. The government did get special permission from the Supreme Court of Nicaragua to spend only 46 million dollars because of the economic situation. Nicaragua is historically a very poor country, which has suffered repeated economic hardships caused by natural disasters and political turmoil.

Neither the students nor government officials want the protests to continue, because they have already turned violent. The students said the police started the violence by trying to forcefully disperse the crowds, however the police say that they did this in response to threats of violence from the protesters. It is unclear how to reach an agreement, but the government is calling on university officials, such as professors and administrators, to calm the students' unrest.

--Written by [Betsy Mesard](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 2: Indian Politics** 

AROUND THE WORLD 2: Indian Politics

India, the largest democracy in the world (in terms of population), has been in the spotlight over the past couple of weeks, during elections and the formation of a new government. The country, in southern Asia, voted last week for a new political party to take the lead in governing the country. Now, a new prime minister will take office and other changes are likely to take place in India.

Before the election, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had the most power and their leader, Atal Behari Vajpayee was the prime minister of India. Mr. Vajpayee and his party were enjoying a third term in power, and most of the country expected for Mr. Vajpayee to serve a fourth term after the elections. In fact, it was even Mr. Vajpayee's decision to hold the elections last week, because he was so confident that his party would be reelected.

Surprise spread through the world, however, when the BJP was voted out and another party--the Congress party--was voted in. Mr. Vajpayee had succeeded in bringing many Indian political parties together to realize the needs and desires of a diverse nation. Under Mr. Vajpayee's leadership, the country's economy improved and huge numbers of Indian families enjoyed comfortable middle class lifestyles. Furthermore, Mr. Vajpayee helped India to make progress in solving its ongoing conflict with the neighboring country of Pakistan. The BJP promised to continue with all of these initiatives if they were elected to another term, however there was an important factor that they did not account for: the even larger number of Indian citizens living in poverty who did not benefit from the recent changes in India's economy.

Most people agree that it is the large numbers of poor people living more traditional lifestyles outside of India's major cities who are responsible for electing the Congress party to power. The Congress party is a very old and influential party in India, which has been led by the Gandhi family for many generations. Thus, when the Congress party was elected last week, many people expected that a member of the Gandhi family would become the new Prime Minister. That person should have been Sonya Gandhi--a woman who was born in Italy, but who married into the Gandhi family and became quite influential. However, Mrs. Gandhi turned down the opportunity to become prime minister, sending yet another shock wave through India and the world.

In what seems to be a final resolution to the whole political ordeal, the Congress party has chosen Mr. Manmohan Singh to lead. Mr. Singh is promising to move forward with the peace process between India and Pakistan and to continue to reform the economic system in order to help the people in poor and working classes.

--Written by [Betsy Mesard](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 3: Prime Minister Pegged With Powder** 

AROUND THE WORLD 3: Prime Minister Pegged With Powder

Wednesday, May 19, was like any other day in Britain's House of Commons – that is, until someone threw purple powder on Prime Minister Tony Blair, arguably the most important man in England. As he was passing by the public gallery, Blair was hit on his left shoulder by a rubber package of the purple substance and the House was immediately evacuated by security. After the anthrax and ricin scares in the United States, people do not take unidentified powders lightly.

At first, no one knew what the purple powder was; people thought it could have been a terrorist attack meant to seriously harm Blair. Later they learned that the powder was only cornstarch, a completely harmless substance your parents might use in everyday cooking. Still, security officials said the attack alerted them of possible ways to improve the House of Commons safety. Just recently they put up a transparent, bullet-proof screen, but that apparently did not cover the whole gallery area.

The man who attacked Blair is 44-year-old Ron Davies, a member of a group called Fathers 4 Justice. The group focuses on children and custody rights, and Davies was angry at the political system that he blames for keeping him from seeing his children for five years. Davies colored the cornstarch purple because that is supposedly the international color of equality. Security guards hauled him away after the powder hit Blair's shoulder.

This isn't the first time Fathers 4 Justice has pulled a wacky stunt. In November, one member dressed up as Spider-Man and climbed up a crane next to the famous Tower Bridge in London, stopping traffic and causing a huge commotion. Later, in February, four other members of the group pulled out the superhero antics yet again. Dressed as Spider-Man, Superman, Batman, and Robin, the four men climbed a bridge in Bristol and caused similar traffic problems. The costumes aren't going in the closet anytime soon; members use them regularly at protests and other places because they like to be thought of as their children's greatest heroes.

--Written by [Kari Elassal](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 4: Ancient Mummies in Peru** 

AROUND THE WORLD 4: Ancient Mummies in Peru

An ancient graveyard--possibly 1,000 years old--was discovered during an archeological dig near Lima, the capitol city of Peru. The archeologists were digging in hopes to find ancient artifacts belonging to the Incas, when they came across this pre-Incan burial ground on Wednesday.

Archeologists came away from the site with the remains of 30 ancient humans, 19 of which were perfectly preserved as mummies. The remains have been dated to have lived somewhere in between 1000 and 1500 A.D., making them some of the oldest mummies ever found in Peru.

Although archeologists from the Brussels Free University, who led the excavation project, have not yet determined from what cultures the mummies belonged, they have stated that it is likely the people were farmers who lived before the great Incan empire over 5 centuries, or 500 years, ago.

Archeologists have uncovered thousands of mummies in recent years that mostly date from the Inca culture, including about 2,000 unearthed from under a shantytown near the capital in 2002. In February, two mummies predating the Incas were found under a school in southern Peru.

--Written by [Hillary Rouse](#)

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SPORTS ZONE 1: Olympic Stamp Issued

On Thursday, May 20, 2004, the United States Postal Service announced it will issue a stamp to honor the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. The stamp will be issued on June 9, 2004 at a special ceremony in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The ceremony will be free and open to the public. It will take place at the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Philadelphia will be the only city where the stamp will be available on that day. On June 10, the commemorative stamp will be available at post offices nationwide.

The stamp features a Greek runner and is similar to the artwork on ancient Greek black-figure vases. The top and bottom of the stamp are bordered by a classical design, and the Olympic rings are printed on the stamp. Print along the bottom reads, "2004 Olympic Games Athens, Greece." Seventy-one million of these stamps have been printed, and they will be available in denominations of 37-cents.

Why are the Olympic Games so important? The first Olympic Games took place at Olympia in 776 B.C. That's a long time ago! This year, thousands of athletes will be returning to Athens, Greece. They'll participate in hundreds of competition events in 28 sports, including things like running, boxing and discus.

The United States Postal Service is an independent federal agency. Since 1932, the postal service has issued stamps to honor both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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Read **SPORTS ZONE 2: Summer Sports** 

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SPORTS ZONE 2: Summer Sports

On Thursday, May 20, 2004, the National Alliance for Youth Sports (NAYS) released an advisory for summer sports safety. NAYS is the nation's leading sports educator, and its advisory is designed to provide guidance for parents and kids. Last summer, 5.5 million kids were hurt playing sports. The NAYS advisory will help prevent injuries this year.

Eleven volunteer coaches from across the country helped develop these safety guidelines. Together, these coaches had more than 100 years of experience in medicine, safety, nutrition and psychology. The tips outlined by NAYS spell the word "SAFE."

Safety gear: Wear protective gear when playing sports, and make sure the gear fits properly. For example, wear a properly fitting helmet when riding a bike and wear shin guards if you play soccer.

Apply sunblock: Use a sunblock with SPF 15 or higher to protect yourself from the sun's harmful rays. Waterproof is best, and be sure to reapply it regularly. Hats and sunglasses can also help protect against the sun's rays.

Fluids: Drink plenty of water or sports drinks to make sure you are properly hydrated. If you'll be playing hard for a long period of time, drink fluids before, during and after the activity.

Enjoy the game: Having fun is one of the most important things about summer sports!

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 1: Dog Breed DNA Decoded

Dog experts can tell what breed a dog is by looking at the dog, but scientists have gone one better--they can tell the breed just by looking at its DNA, a group of researchers reported in the journal Science this week.

The researchers, geneticists at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Seattle, Washington, spent the last few years studying doggie DNA in hopes of making breakthroughs in medical research for humans. Since dogs have so many inherited diseases in common with people--several kinds of cancer, for instance--knowing what genes cause certain diseases in dogs could make it easier for doctors to find disease-causing genes in people.

During their study, however, the researchers discovered some other interesting things about pooches. They found out that dog breeds can be divided into four categories: modern guarding, hunting and herding dogs, and a fourth group of ancient doggies whose ancestors were closer to wolves than dogs in the modern groups. Surprisingly, those ancient dogs weren't all as frightening as ancient wolves might have been; while the ancient group includes wolf-like dogs such as huskies and akitas, it also includes the diminutive (little) Shih Tzu and Pekingese! On the other hand, dogs once thought to be ancient, like the pharaoh hound, which looks just like the dogs depicted on the walls of Egyptian tombs, were actually not that old, and may have been bred in the 1900s to look like ancient dogs.

The fact that it is so easy to tell what breed a dog is by looking at its DNA also told the researchers that dog breeds are more different from each other than people are from each other. In other words, even people from totally different parts of the world who look very different, like a person from Africa and one from Asia, are more genetically alike than two dogs that might look similar, but are different breeds.

In all, the researchers took mouth swabs from 414 dogs representing 85 dog breeds to get their findings. The process, which involved rubbing a cotton swab in the inside of the dogs' mouths, allowed the scientists to get the genetic material without hurting the pups.

--Written by [Nia Williams](#)

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 2: [Global Dimming](#) 

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 2: Global Dimming

For years, scientists have warned that the Earth may face dangerous climate changes due to global warming. Now, according to Australian scientists presenting research results at the Joint Assembly of the American and Canadian Geophysical Unions held in Montreal last week, we may soon hear more about global dimming, too.

That's right, global dimming. Apparently, for the last 50 or so years, our planet may have been getting darker. Scientists have found that Earth is getting about 10 percent less radiation from the sun than 50 years ago, and are trying to figure out why. The answer, many believe, is global dimming, a situation created when clouds and pollution particles increase, blocking out or scattering sunlight, preventing some solar radiation from reaching the planet's surface.

The pollution particles in question come from burning chemicals and fossil fuels that environmentalists have long declared dangerous to our protective ozone layer--certain chemicals create holes in the ozone that dangerous solar radiation can slip through, while others hold the heat that slips through in, which in turn causes global warming. While air pollution is not a good thing, some scientists think it may, in the long run, actually help counteract global warming. The pollution particles in the atmosphere can reflect sunlight and help create more cloud cover, which may cause an overall reduction in the amount of sun, and thus heat, that reaches the surface.

Still, environmental experts don't want people to get excited about this research and start polluting and using up lots of fossil fuels. Global dimming and its side effects have not been thoroughly studied, and even if it does prove to reduce the amount of sunlight that causes global warming, pollution does still affect the planet in lots of other ways, like when it falls back to Earth as acid rain!

--Written by [Nia Williams](#)

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On May 29, 1848, the state of Wisconsin became the 30th state to join the Union. The people of the territory had voted against joining the Union four times previously, because they feared higher taxes. The people finally voted to join when they realized the benefits of federal programs.



On May 29, 1736, patriot Patrick Henry was born. Henry was a famous public speaker dedicated to freedom and patriotism. He was the first to speak publicly against England's taxation, and his famous "Give me liberty or give me death" speech became a battle cry during the Revolutionary War.



On May 30, 1806, Andrew Jackson won a duel against Charles Dickinson. Jackson had challenged the man to the duel after Dickinson had made statements against Jackson's wife. Although Dickinson was



known as one of the best pistol shots in the area, Jackson mortally wounded him from 24 feet away

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MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 1: Prom Surprise

Imagine if an award-winning singer/songwriter put on a concert during your school's dance? For students at Pennsbury High School in Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania, they don't have to imagine.

Twenty-six-year-old John Mayer, who makes the ladies swoon with his soft voice and meaningful lyrics, surprised Costa and peers when he gave a three song concert for the students at PHS. President of Pennsbury High, Bob Costa, had been working on getting Grammy winner Mayer to perform at his high school prom for the past two years--one of Mayer's songs is the theme song for PHS seniors.

Costa's relentless request and a book by Michael Bamberger influenced Mayer's publicist to book the show for the teens. "Wonderland: The Story of a Prom," was written about PHS and describes their longing to have Mayer sing at prom.

Songs and advice were presented to the group of students. After the performance, Mayer told the students to "Go and be amazing people and I'll see you again."

--Written by [Lyssa Walker](#)

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Read MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 2: Seeing Green 

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 2: Seeing Green

With the release of "Shrek 2," all you see when looking around the stores that have been promoting the much anticipated sequel is green. Many shoppers have noticed the overload of "Shrek" merchandise.

Many chain stores like 7-Eleven are catering to "Shrek" fans with "Shrek Slurpees," "Shrek" color-changing Cheetos and "Shrek Bellywasher Swamp Juice." Baskin-Robbins has also jumped on the "Shrek" bandwagon and created "Shrek's Swirl," which consists of grape sherbet and green apple sherbet topped with palate-pleasing, popping candy.

Many could go a whole day eating just "Shrek" food. For example, start with a hearty breakfast of "Shrek" Waffle Sticks, covered in "green swamp syrup." For a small lunch, maybe you desire green "Shrek" popcorn and a little bit of "Shrek" yogurt to satisfy your hunger. By dinner, your sweet tooth has kicked in and all you want is dessert. "Shrek" M&Ms and Skittles are considered, but you're in the mood for cookies. Luckily, you have your "Shrek" baking kit and bake up a batch of "Shrek" cookies covered with green icing and gummy worms. With all this unhealthy food consumed in one day, you might end up weighing as much as the oversized ogre!

Although this isn't the healthiest diet, you get the point. "Shrek" is everywhere! The next time you go into a store, count how many times you spot Shrek, Fiona or Donkey.

--Written by [Lyssa Walker](#)

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Read MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 3: Actress Turned Rock Star 

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 3: Actress Turned Rock Star

The pop music group Wicked Wisdom, formed by actress Jada Pinkett-Smith about a year ago, is accompanying singer Brittany Spears on her Onyx Hotel Tour through out Europe. In their first big concert tour, Wicked Wisdom will be the opening act for Spears.

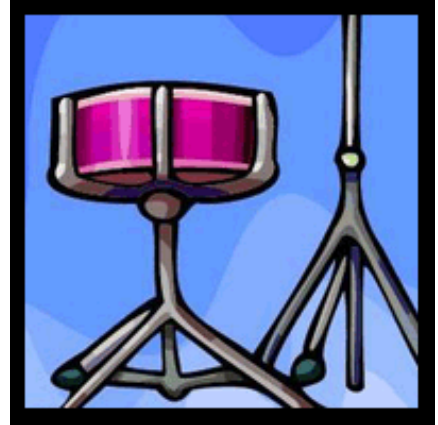
Wicked Wisdom is an R&B rock fusion group with Pinkett-Smith providing the lead vocals. The band experiments with some slightly metal rock and funk songs, in the recently released debut album 'My Story.' The Onyx Hotel Tour is a great opportunity for the band to promote their new album.

Although Pinkett-Smith is most well known for her acting, she has been singing for her entire life. Pinkett-Smith has been performing in the L.A. club circuit for the last year in order to perfect her musical performance and gain some popularity. Pinkett-Smith's strong vocal talents and performance ability have paid off, winning Wicked Wisdom a place in Spears' tour.

Pinkett-Smith has starred in numerous films. Her most recent films are Ali, The Matrix Reloaded, and The Matrix Revolutions. Although Pinkett-Smith has added music to her repertoire, she continues to keep acting as her top priority. She will take a break from Wicked Wisdom to work on the action-thriller "Collateral" also starring Tom Cruise and Jamie Foxx, and the animated feature "Madagascar." So if you don't get a chance to see Pinkett rock the stage, you can still catch her lighting up the silver screen.

--Written by [Vanessa Innes](#)

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COMICS & POEMS 1: Aford Turtle, Comic Strip



--Written by [Aaron Riddle](#)

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Read [COMICS & POEMS 2: Matter of Time, Poetry Feature](#)



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COMICS & POEMS 2: Matter of Time, Poetry Feature

Matter of Time

I bend to place the hand-painted sign
On the shoulders of this small son of mine.
"My Generation Wants Peace" it reads.
I walk barefoot and wear Love Beads.
Three decades have seen time can really fly.
Sadly, the bombs are still splitting the sky.
My son, now a man, no longer small,
Stands ready to answer his country's call.
"I leave in two weeks, Ma, to parts unknown,
But as soon as I can, I'll call on the phone"
War slithers from place to tragic place,
Patiently watching for my sons' face.
I bend to pick a flower for my hair.
My shoulders ache, worn with wear.
"Peace Will Come" the Good Book reads.
I walk barefoot and wear Love Beads.

--Written by [Vallorie Jeanne Sharpe](#)

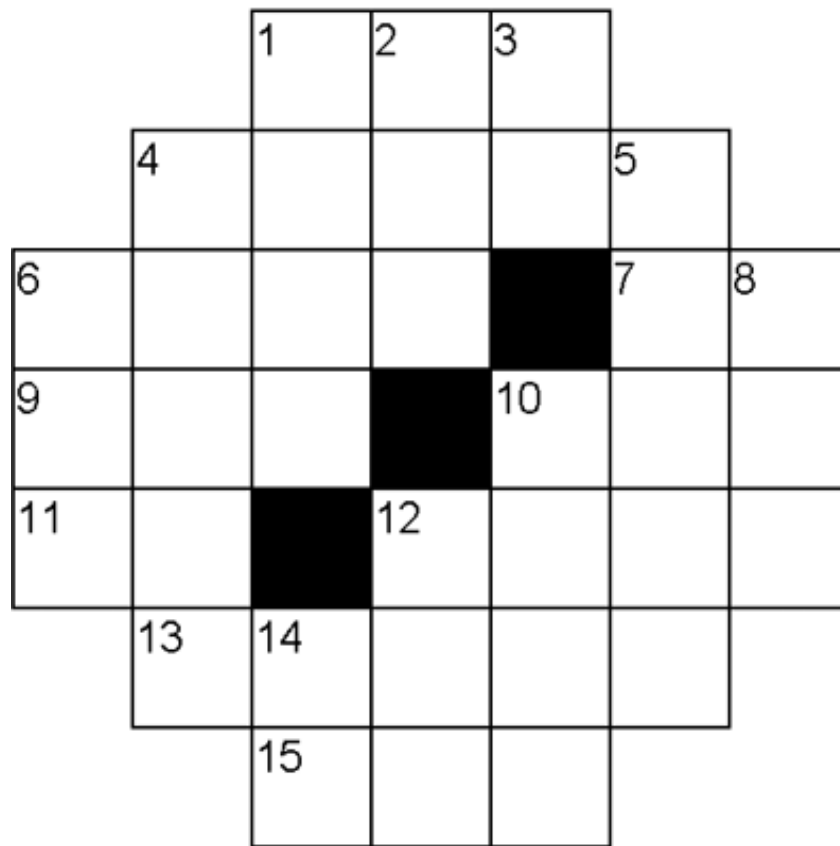
This poem is featured in [Tumbling into Tomorrow](#), an Anthology of Poetry released by the International Library of Poetry in January 2003.

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Read COMICS & POEMS 3: Scarf Breeding, Crossword 

COMICS & POEMS 3: Scarf Breeding, Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Deoxyribonucleic acid (abbr.)
- 4 Shrek, eg.
- 6 Fresh
- 7 Near
- 9 Jigsaw
- 10 Newsman Rather
- 11 Kilowatt (abbr.)
- 12 Dictionary (abbr.)
- 13 Impress
- 15 Lyric poem

DOWN

- 1 Traced
- 2 Novel
- 3 United Arab Emirates, eg
- 4 Chew like a rodent
- 5 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- 6 Question
- 8 Dynamite
- 10 Ten cents
- 12 Old man
- 14 Toward

U.S. GOVERNMENT 1: Search for Weapons Continues

Last week two American soldiers in Baghdad were subject to a roadside bomb explosion that officials believe contained an illegal and deadly nerve gas called sarin.

The two soldiers were slightly injured and were treated for symptoms of low-level nerve agent exposure. The bomb was caused by a 155-milimeter artillery round with two chambers inside containing the deadly gas sarin. Although officials kept their discovery in Baghdad under lock and key, stating that the bomb most likely did not come from a recent production, it probably was not some big secret.

Officials have not found any other weapons of mass destruction near the location of the bombing. However, they are still investigating despite the report by the United Nations that states that most of the sarin in Iraq was used in war or destroyed, and that the existing sarin, if any, is very little and in poor quality.

However, sarin was a large constituent in Saadam Hussein's collection of banned weapons, and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld believes that "We have to be careful." Therefore the search for weapons of mass destruction continues.

--Written by [Christina Newman](#)

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U.S. GOVERNMENT 2: Lawsuit Against Bush Administration

U.S. GOVERNMENT 2: Lawsuit Against Bush Administration

Last month President Bush denied nineteen democratic law makers the right to view documents that contained the estimates for last year's Medicare Legislation. In response, a federal lawsuit was filed on Monday in a United States District Court in Los Angeles against the Bush Administration.

According to the democrats, last year the Bush Administration and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson said that the Medicare Legislation would cost \$395 billion over the next decade. However, Medicare analysts say that the legislation will cost \$100 billion dollars more than what Bush and Thompson originally said.

Last week Los Angeles Democrat Representative Henry Waxman told the Bush Administration and Thompson in a letter, "If you continue to refuse to provide these documents, I and my colleagues on the Government Reform Committee will initiate legal action."

Although Waxman believes that the Bush Administration is going against a law set forth in 1928--the law states that seven lawmakers who serve on the same committee have the right to obtain information from the administration--HHS says that the Government Reform Committee has no rights in this matter. Thompson states that the HHS has nothing to hide. An investigation of the matter is being conducted.

--Written by [Christina Newman](#)

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U.S. GOVERNMENT 1: Search for Weapons Continues

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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. Who will likely become the next prime minister in India?

- Manmohan Singh
- Sonya Gandhi
- Bharatiya Janata
- Atal Behari Vajpayee

2. How old was the Stradivarius cello?

- 200 years old
- 300 years old
- 310 years old
- 320 years old

3. What is the name of Pinkett-Smith's next action-thriller movie?

- Madagascar
- Collaborate
- Collateral
- Wicked Wisdom

4. The purple powder thrown at British Prime Minister Tony Blair turned out to be:

- sugar
- sand
- cornstarch
- baking soda

5. The mummies found in Peru are approximately how old?

- 100 years old
- 1,000 years old
- 10,000 years
- 100,000 years

6. Who started the violence in Nicaragua?

- Police
- Students
- Professors

Each side blames the other

7. What religion is Nashala Hearn, the girl who won the lawsuit permitting her to wear a scarf in school?

Catholic

Muslim

Jewish

Buddist

8. What do experts predict will happen to travel this summer?

It will decrease

It will stay the same

It will increase

No one has a guess

9. What "Shrek" food is NOT being sold in stores across America?

"Ogre Oats"

"Shrek Slurpees"

"Shrek Bellywasher Swamp Juice"

"Shrek" Waffle Sticks with "green swamp syrup"

10. What do scientists think global dimming causes?

more sunlight reaches earth

less sunlight reaches earth

less rain falls on earth

more trees grow on earth

11. How old was Kubi (in human years)?

60 years

50 years

40 years

30 years

12. What was the deadly nerve gas that injured two American soldiers in Baghdad?

anthrax

ricin

sarin

silent night

13. What Grammy award winning singer performed for Pennsbury High School's Prom?

Elton John

Faith Hill
Jason Mraz
John Mayer

14. What did researchers do to get dog DNA to study dog breeds?

took mouth swabs
took hair samples
drew blood samples
took nail clippings

15. Where will the 2004 Summer Olympic Games be held?

Athens, Greece
Rome, Italy
Madrid, Spain
Paris, France

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