

PICTURE OF THE WEEK: American Idol at NASCAR

On Wednesday, May 25, 2004, Coca-Cola announced that 8 of the 10 finalists from the hit TV show "American Idol" will be on hand to perform at the 20th running of the Coca-Cola 600. The popularity of "American Idol" has continued to grow, so the performance of the singers will be a special treat for NASCAR fans.

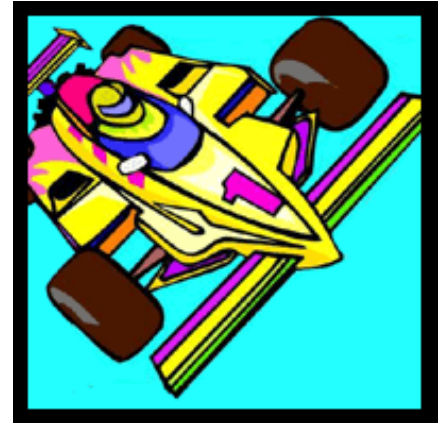
About 200,000 NASCAR fans will be ready and waiting for the performance--and the race!--at Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, North Carolina. The big event takes place on Sunday, May 30, 2004. The race starts around 5:40PM, but radio coverage will begin around 5PM. In addition, the eight "American Idol" finalists will also be in stage the night before at 8PM, so they have a busy schedule for Memorial Day weekend!

The finalists will include La Toya London from California, Jasmine Trias from Hawaii, John Stevens from New York, George Huff from Louisiana, Jennifer Hudson from Illinois, Jon Peter Lewis from Idaho, Camile Velasco from Hawaii and Amy Adams from California.

The eight finalists will perform the national anthem--The Star-Spangled Banner--which is sung prior to the beginning of every NASCAR race. The anthem was written by Francis Scott Key and is also sung before other sporting events, like baseball games.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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WEEKLY NEWS 1: Stars Donate Their Clothes

On Friday, May 21, 2004, Clothes Off Our Back made its first appearance at the 2004 Daytime Emmy Awards. The Daytime Emmy Awards go to stars, TV personalities, and behind-the-scenes crew who are involved with daytime shows, like children's programs, soap operas, talk shows and game shows. Awards are passed out for excellence in categories like outstanding actress, outstanding original song, and outstanding achievement in makeup.

Clothes Off Our Back is an organization where celebrities can donate their clothes. Why? Because people bid or buy the celebrity's castoff clothing, and then Clothes Off Our Back donates the money to charity.

The Daytime Emmy Awards auction took place at the online auction site UBid.com. The auctions ran for ten days. During that time, Clothes Off Our Back had different garments from actors and actresses available for bidding.

Lots of actors and actresses agreed to donate the clothes off their backs! Lorenzo Lamas from "The Bold and The Beautiful," Ellen DeGeneres from "The Ellen DeGeneres Show," and Laura Wright from "The Guiding Light" are among the stars who donated their clothing.

So what charities will receive the money from these auctions? The lucky recipients are the Children's Defense Fund, Smile Train, and the Cure Autism Now Foundation. These three charities will each receive a portion of the funds from the celebrity clothing auctions.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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Read WEEKLY NEWS 2: Women Rise to the Top 

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WEEKLY NEWS 2: Women Rise to the Top

The new police chiefs in four of the nation's largest cities--Boston, San Francisco, Milwaukee and Detroit--share some similar experiences. All have worked their way up the ranks, all have more than 20 years of experience under their belts, and all are women.

Some people believe that the amount of women in high-ranking positions in police forces also prove there has been a shift in the way in which officers are supposed to police--from the paramilitary style of earlier decades to a structure more reliant on communication and community relations.

"When I first came on the police department, we were trained in a more paramilitary-type environment," said Kathleen O'Toole, 50, who was named Boston police commissioner in February. "We were trained as soldiers to go out and fight the war on crime, and it was the police versus the community. We came to realize in the mid- to late 80s that that model of policing was failing miserably," she said.

O'Toole joins Detroit Chief Ella Bully-Cummings, Milwaukee Chief Nan Hegerty and San Francisco Chief Heather Fong in a unique club. Fairfax County, VA, a community of about 1 million outside Washington, has a woman--Suzanne Devlin--as its acting chief.

Women still make up an average of only 13 percent of police officers, according to the National Center for Women and Policing, a division of the Feminist Majority Foundation in Arlington, Va. Of the 18,000 police departments across the nation, approximately 200 have women chiefs--yet only four of those are in 62 cities defined as "major" by the federal government.

--Written by [Hillary Rouse](#)

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Read WEEKLY NEWS 3: National Geography Bee Winner 

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WEEKLY NEWS 3: National Geography Bee Winner

To help prepare himself for the 16th Annual National Geography Bee, 14-year-old Andrew Wojtanik created his own study guide: a 432-page world almanac, which he made himself.

His first self-made almanac helped him move on to the semifinal round of the bee last year, and that book is now in its second edition. He said that he has changed the guide very little from the original version. "It was written last year," he said. "This year I typed it."

Wojtanik said that his study guide had everything he would need to know about all the countries, including currency, ethnic groups, mountains and rivers, and "all that stuff."

Andrew, an eighth grader from Lakewood Middle School in Overland, KS, beat out 55 other contestants (age 10 to 15) to capture the number one ranking during the two day competition, which finished on Wednesday.

Andrew's winning question was: Peshawar, in Pakistan, has had strategic importance for centuries because of its location near what historic pass? He, of course, knew the correct answer: the Khyber Pass.

"I wasn't that nervous, which is probably part of the key," Andrew told reporters. For winning the Bee, Andrew was awarded a \$25,000 college scholarship, a lifetime membership to the National Geographic Society, and a week long trip to Sea World/ Busch Gardens Adventure Camp.

He clenched the first place title Wednesday after beating second place winner Matthew Wells, 13, an eighth grader from Headwaters Academy in Montana. He said that he prepared for the competition by reading National Geographic magazines and guide books. Wells won a \$15,000 scholarship. Third place went to sixth grader Eric Liaw, 12, from Punahou Junior High School in Honolulu. He won a \$10,000 scholarship.

The final round Wednesday was hosted by the host of "Jeopardy!" Alex Trebek. Unlike in years past, the top ten finalists this year were all male students. (contributing: newsday.com)

--Written by [Anna Ferguson](#)

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Read [WEEKLY NEWS 4: ESPN Launches New Program](#)



WEEKLY NEWS 4: ESPN Launches New Program

On Wednesday, May 26, 2004, Team ESPN announced a new program and website to help kids get fit. Team ESPN is the corporate outreach program of ESPN, Inc. They support ESPN's charitable sports-themed activities. The website of the new program is located at www.espnplayyourway.com.

The program is called ESPN Play Your Way, and it's designed to encourage active play by giving kids different games and places to play. ESPN gives kids the materials they need for different activities. For example, there are guidelines for physically active games, playbooks that outline the program, and posters. Parents and teachers can download startup guides to help them start physically active game clubs in their schools and communities.

The program tried to help kids overcome some of the barriers that may be preventing them from being physically active. It encourages them to be more motivated about fitness and to seek out places where they can engage in physically active games.

Lots of non-profit organizations have joined up with Team ESPN to provide their support for this new program. Among them are Project Fit America, Women's Sports Foundation, and Institute for International Sport. Even sports leagues like MLB, NBA and NFL have shown their support for ESPN Play Your Way.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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AROUND THE WORLD 1: Edible Instruments

Cucumbers, peppers, potatoes, and radishes entertained a German audience at a concert last weekend in the city of Hamburg. The Viennese Vegetable Orchestra is the name of the musical group that turns carrots into flutes and cucumbers into saxophones. Believe it or not, these nutritious instruments actually produce audible music.

The Austrian band consists of three women and six men who freshly slice and put their instruments together one hour before each performance--to enhance sound. Unfortunately for these musicians, using vegetables instead of normal instruments can be problematic. To prevent the vegetables from drying out, the nine-piece orchestra must place damp cloths around the vegetables when they're not in use.

Not only do the concert attendees get to enjoy sweet melodies produced by vegetables, they also are fed. At the end of the performance, the instruments are turned into soup and served to the audience.

--Written by [Lyssa Walker](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 2: Professor Violates Copyright Laws** 

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AROUND THE WORLD 2: Professor Violates Copyright Laws

On May 10, 2004, a 33-year-old Japanese Assistant Professor for the University of Tokyo, Isamu Kaneko, was arrested for violated copyright laws. Kaneko did so by developing file-sharing software in 2002, Winny, that allows users to anonymously swap movies and video games free of charge.

Kaneko, also known on the internet as "Mr. 47," is also believed to have helped two Japanese men disseminate movies and games on the web in November of last year. Although Kaneko is the first Japanese person to be arrested on copyright charges, just two weeks after his arrest he is one of the most popular people on the internet. Mr. 47 is gaining support from all over the world, as he has several recently launched websites devoted to him.

Winny is said to have at least a quarter of a million users to date according to the Japanese Association of Copyright for Computer Software. Kaneko faces a minimum of three years in prison for his criminal act and a fine of 3 million yen, which is about \$27,000 in United States currency. There have been no further developments in this case but donations to Kaneko's defense fund are on the rise.

--Written by [Christina Newman](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 3: Red Squirrels Need Saved** 

AROUND THE WORLD 3: Red Squirrels Need Saved

In the midst of dealing with a major war in the Middle East, foreign relations with fellow EU members, and the Prime Minister's public relations crisis, at least British Parliament has not forgotten about one crucial issue: the squirrels. On Thursday, May 27, Lord Livsey called for a bounty of one British pound (about \$1.80) for every gray squirrel hunted.

This proposed bounty, or reward, is ideally meant to cut down on the population of gray squirrels. Lawmakers are concerned with their less invasive cousin, the red squirrel, which is only about half the size of the gray squirrel. Red squirrels are protected under British law, but increasingly they have been pushed out of their natural habitats by gray squirrels. What's more, red squirrels are native to England; gray squirrels come from North America and were introduced to Britain in the late 1800s. As is often the case when a non-native species comes to a new habitat, gray squirrels have shown themselves to be almost too successful at thriving. Their population stands at 2.5 million, whereas there are merely 161,000 red squirrels.

Still, it is interesting to wonder how the squirrel situation got to be such a matter of national importance this week for the Parliament. Actually, the proposal was made in the House of Lords, which is quite different from anything we have in the U.S. The House of Commons is similar to our Congress, but the House of Lords is a second branch of Parliament in which the members, or Lords, are not elected but often appointed by the Queen. The House of Lords technically has both legislative (law making) and judicial capabilities, but really the House of Commons has most of the say where passing laws is concerned. This and the history of gray squirrel legislation may make the proposal a flop.

According to the environment minister, Britain tried something like this back in the 1950s; unfortunately, the number of gray squirrels increased during that period, opposite of the desired effect. Instead of going after grays, the government will probably focus on protecting the few remaining areas where red squirrels still thrive.

--Written by [Kari Ellassal](#)

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Read **AROUND THE WORLD 4: Storm Wipes Out Town** 

AROUND THE WORLD 4: Storm Wipes Out Town

Health officials estimate that approximately 1,000 people died in one Haitian town from floods that leveled villages across Hispaniola, an island in the Caribbean shared by two countries, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The death toll was originally set at 950 people, but the town of Mapou believes that as many as 1,000 people could be dead, as many homes in the town were completely submerged underwater as the flood swept through town. Only 300 bodies have been counted so far.

The town's population is over several thousand, and is located 80 miles southeast of the capital of Port-au-Prince. It is isolated from rescue workers by large amounts of mud that will not allow rescue vehicles through, and frequent landslides that threaten the safety of the emergency volunteers. Although the town is located in a valley that often floods when it rains, this storm has proved devastating.

U.S.-led troops have been working to recover the bodies from the two countries, and they are delivering bread, fruit and bottled water to survivors. International aid employees have also arrived on the island of Hispaniola.

--Written by [Hillary Rouse](#)

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SPORTS ZONE 1: McGrady To Skip Olympics

A huge blow was given to the United States Men's Olympic Basketball team on Wednesday as one of the NBA's top players, Tracy McGrady, told U.S. officials that he will not be playing for Team USA in Athens this summer.

"Tracy dropped out," said U.S. head coach Larry Brown.

Not only is McGrady an amazing offensive talent, averaging 28 points per game for the Orlando Magic, but he is also a tremendous defensive talent. Coach Brown was expected to play McGrady against the opposing team's best offensive player.

McGrady is not the only U.S. player that has decided not to play in the 2004 summer games. Ray Allen, Jason Kidd, Kevin Garnett, Karl Malone, Kobe Bryant, Vince Carter, and Elton Brand have also withdrawn from the team or have indicated that they are not interested in playing.

Despite missing some of the game's top players listed above, the U.S. team will still put a great team in the court. Some of those players include LeBron James, Allen Iverson, and Tim Duncan.

--Written by [Cris Sigovitch](#)

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Read [SPORTS ZONE 2: U.S. Men Out at French](#)



SPORTS ZONE 2: U.S. Men Out at French

Midway through the first week of play at tennis' second grand slam of the year, the French Open, the United States no longer has representation on the men's side of the draw. America's two biggest tennis stars, sixth seeded Andre Agassi and second Andy Roddick, have been ousted.

Agassi, the proud owner of eight grand slam titles in his illustrious career, lost on the opening day of the tournament to France's Jerome Haehnel. Haehnel, ranked 271st in the world, polished the aging Agassi off in three sets, 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Despite the loss fans still applauded Agassi loudly as he left Center Court. Asked after the match if that would be the last time fans would see him play at Roland Garros, where the French Open is played, he replied "Hard to say. You want to come back, but you just don't know, it's a year away. That's a long time for me right now. Chances get less every year, for sure."

Roddick, like Agassi, also lost to a Frenchmen. Olivier Mutis came into his match with Roddick ranked 125th in the world and had yet to win a match all season. After losing the opening set (6-3), Mutis battled back to beat Roddick 3-6, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 6-2.

Roddick looked sluggish from the onset of the match and could not get things going on the clay surface.

This is the first time in the Open Era, which began in 1968, that an American man has failed to reach the third round of the French Open.

--Written by [Cris Sigovitch](#)

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 1: Hippo Sweat Secrets

While many people work hard to avoid looking like a hippopotamus on the beach during summer, it turns out hippos actually have got beach bodies to be admired--the giant creatures produce a natural sunblock in their sweat.

Hippo sweat is red, which makes the animals look as though they are sweating blood, and gives the basking creatures a reddish tinge. Researchers at Kyoto Pharmaceutical University in Japan studied the colorful sweat to find out more about the properties of the stuff, and published the results in the journal *Nature* this week. As it turns out, the thing that gives the sweat its red color isn't blood, but rather a combination of two pigments, one red, and one orange.

The red pigment has been dubbed hipposudoric acid, and the orange has been dubbed norhipposudoric acid. When the researchers studied the chemical composition of the sweat they discovered that the pigments block out dangerous ultraviolet sunlight the way sunblock does for humans, a handy trick for hippos, which tend to spend every day the way many people would like to spend their vacations--alternating between sunbathing and swimming all day. The pigments also help fight dangerous bacteria, useful because the hippos do their swimming in mucky rivers rather than chlorinated pools.

Don't envy the hippos their layabout lifestyle or superb secretions, however; their natural, antibacterial sunblocking sweat stinks!

--Written by [Nia Williams](#)

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 2: Spider Power 

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 2: Spider Power

National Geographic Channel has announced a new show planned for Friday, June 25th. What's so special about that day? It's the night before the premiere of the movie "Spider-Man 2," and the new show will be called Spider Power.

Many people are scared of spiders because of their many long legs, their unblinking eyes, and their venomous fangs. Spiders have inspired all types of entertainment, like comic books, TV shows and movies.

National Geographic Channel's one-hour Spider Power special will explore several different types of spiders from around the world. Interesting facts about spiders will be explained and shown on film. For example, did you know that there is a type of spider that can jump 100 times its body length? Another type can spin silk so strong that it could capture a speeding truck! There are even spiders that use vibrations to detect their prey, spiders that spit a poisonous glue, and spiders that can walk on water! Spider Power will look at common spiders, like the well-known tarantula and black widow, as well as more exotic spiders like the Portia.

The show will feature Dr. Simon Pollard, a real-life "Spider Man" who has spent the past twenty-five years studying these fascinating creatures. He spent six weeks collecting the spiders that will be shown during the TV special.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 1: Hippo Sweat Secrets 

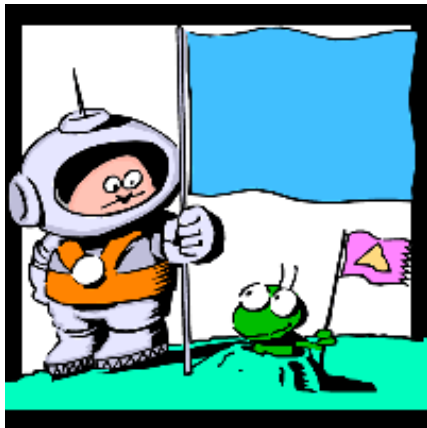
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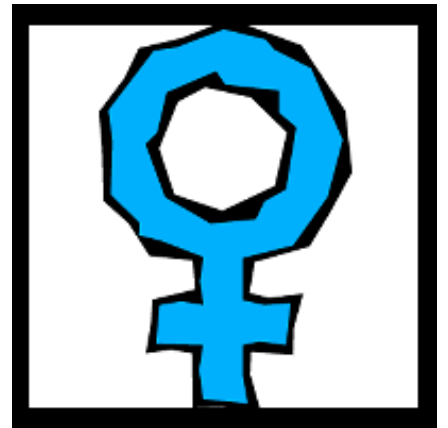
THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On June 2, 1865, the American Civil War ended. Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith signed the surrender terms that were offered by the Union. Smith commanded the last Confederate army, and his surrender formally ended the war. The Civil War lasted for four years and 620,000 soldiers died in battle.



On June 3, 1965, Major Edward H. White II became the first American to walk in space. He was 120 miles above the earth in the space capsule Gemini 4. White opened the hatch, stepped out of the capsule, and remained in space for about twenty minutes.

On June 4, 1919, Congress passed the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. This amendment gave women the right to vote. The amendment was then sent to the states for ratification. On August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment. Eight days later the 19th Amendment was made a law.



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MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 1: Modest Mouse

"Good News for People Who Like Bad News" is the brand new album from the alternative rock band Modest Mouse. The album was released on April 6th and has already climbed to the number 23 spot on the Billboard charts, and their new music video 'Float On' is presently being showcased on MTV.

In a recent interview with VH1, Isaak Brock, the group's lead guitarist and singer, commented on the recent surge in popularity, "It's nice, but I don't know what it means. I've been doing this band for so long that it doesn't really register." Despite Modest Mouse's success they still remain humble and true to their "modest" name.

Modest Mouse's music falls in the indie rock genre, but is still accessible to everyone who likes mainstream pop rock. The reason the group's songs are enjoyed by so many music lovers is the array of influence that the band has. Brock cites piano master Dr. John, the punk band The Ramones, and the jazz of Thelonious Monk as just a few of those who have inspired the group. Modest Mouse incorporates all these kinds of music to create a new and unique style of their own.

Modest Mouse plans to go on tour throughout the summer. They will first go all over Europe and then return to the United States to perform in the famous rock festival Lollapalooza. Due to the group's growing popularity, numerous shows have already sold out, but at least they can still be seen on MTV.

--Written by [Vanessa Innes](#)

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MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 2: Summer Movies

This summer it seems that there are as many movies being released as there will be ice cream in cones. To some, summer movies are as exciting as Fourth of July fireworks. Here are some of the early summer 2004 movies and their descriptions.

"Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban" is rated PG and opens June 4. It reunites Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, and adds Gary Oldman to the predominately teen cast. This anticipated third installment chronicles Harry's third year at Wizardry school. According to the actors, this is the darkest of the three movies. Convicted murderer Sirius Black has escaped from prison and is out looking for Harry.

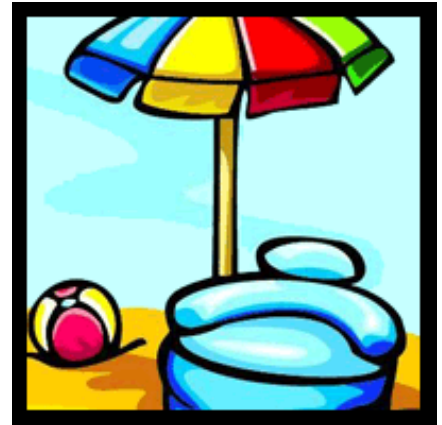
"Around the World in 80 Days" is also rated PG and opens on June 16. This remake stars lively Jackie Chan, Kathy Bates and John Cleese. This movie is about an inventor who bets that he can travel around the globe in 80 days by a hot-air balloon, elephants, boats, trains and other wacky modes of transportation.

As for dramatic movies, "Two Brothers," which opens June 25 and stars Guy Pearce, is a story of two tiger cubs, one shy, the other bold, who become separated and taken into captivity. One becomes a circus performer while the other is used for sport.

Finally, "Spider-man 2," which broke many box office records with the first edition, is PG-13 and opens on June 30. It reunites Tobey Maguire, Kirsten Dunst and James Franco. In this action-packed sequel, Spider-man faces off against Dr. Octavius, who has four extra steel-like legs.

--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: Out on the Porch, Poetry Feature

Out on the Porch

Come sit with me out on the porch in early morn,
And watch a new day struggle to be born.
A tinge of orange upon horizon's breast
And stars now tired--flicker low and rest.

Look through dark leaves to lighter skies in space,
At patterns that resemble finest lace.
So quiet hear the beating of our hearts
As slowly day arrives--and night departs.

The moon now pale high in the sky,
Watch morning birds as they begin to fly.
Tranquility abounds, air crystal clear,
A moment stopped in time, devoid of fear.

To feel the warmth of rising sun,
Another day for us begun.
Reach out your hand for me to hold.
Together, watch this day unfold.

--Written by [Patrick Joseph Hubauer](#)

This poem is featured in An Open Door, an Anthology of Poetry released by the International Library of Poetry in August 2001.

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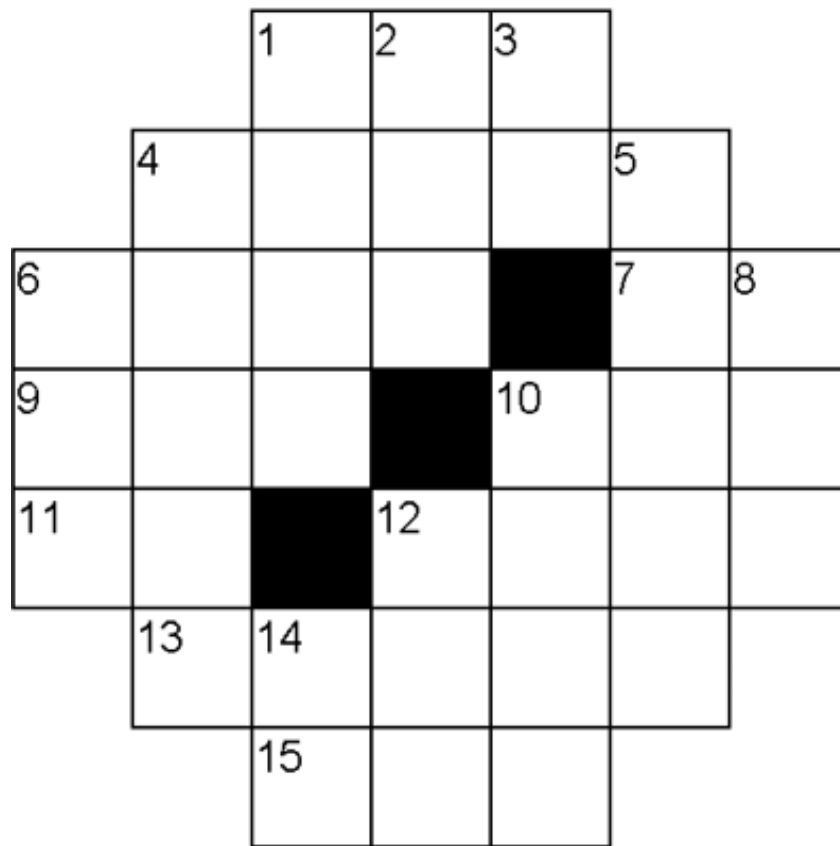
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COMICS & POEMS 3: Recycle Bee, Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Today
- 4 Put pieces of cloth together
- 6 Northwest by north
- 7 Idaho's abbr.
- 9 Toll
- 10 Bumbling insect
- 11 CA city
- 12 Reserve Officers Training Corps.
- 13 Small ducks
- 15 Type of partnership

DOWN

- 1 Northeast by east
- 2 Have
- 3 Us
- 4 Perspire
- 5 Weight watcher's need
- 6 Football assoc.
- 8 Winter mo.
- 10 Daring
- 12 Rodent
- 14 ___ Don Gato

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT 1: CA State Recycles Glass

On Thursday, May 27, 2004, California's Department of Conservation released research that found almost half of the glass purchased by Californians is going into the trash, not the recycling bin. How much glass does this equal? More than 1.6 million bottles!

Recycling glass can mean big savings for both consumers and businesses. In fact, the bottles that are sent to the landfills--instead of being recycled--are worth more than \$70 million in California Refund Value deposits. California Refund Value is 4 cents on containers less than 24 ounces and 8 cents on containers 24 ounces and bigger.

Glass can also be recycled over and over again. If recycled, those 1.6 billion bottles would save 112 million kilowatt hours of electricity--that's enough energy to power 8,500 homes for a year!

Because of this, the state of California's Department of Conservation is trying to raise awareness about recycling. They hope to encourage businesses to start recycling programs, which will save everyone resources and money. The state is working with its restaurant association to teach restaurants how to successfully recycle.

California's Department of Conservation has put a special calculator on their website, www.bottlesandcans.com, so businesses can see how much money they could make through California Refund Value if they recycled. It also shows businesses how much money they could save on their trash hauling bill.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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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. Which animal produces a reddish, sunblocking sweat?

- elephant
- flamingo
- hippopotamus
- crocodile

2. The island of Hispaniola is shared by what two countries?

- Haiti and the Dominican Republic
- Haiti and Cuba
- Cuba and the Dominican Republic
- Cuba and Jamaica

3. What percent of police officers are women?

- 34%
- 24%
- 13%
- 7%

4. What is the nickname of Japanese Assistant Professor Isamu Kaneko?

- 007
- Mr. 47
- "W"
- Mr. 88

5. What is the name of Modest Mouse's new video?

- Quiet as a mouse
- Good News
- Float On
- Lollapalooza

6. What animal is the main characters in the summer movie "Two Brothers"?

- elephants
- Pandas
- Lions
- Tigers

7. What does The Viennese Vegetable Orchestra do with their instruments after a performance?

- crush them
- make soup
- jiggle them
- make bread

8. What was the answer to Andrew Wojtanik's winning Geography Bee question?

- The Pass of Kaybo
- Jimbo's Passway
- The Coastal Causeway
- The Khyber Pass

9. Which squirrels are being protected by Lord Livsey's new bounty?

- gray squirrels
- white squirrels
- red squirrels
- black squirrels

10. How much is the California Refund Value for bottles less than 24 ounces?

- 1 cent
- 3 cents
- 4 cents
- 8 cents

11. Which basketball player will NOT join the U.S. team in Athens?

- LeBron James
- Tracy McGrady
- Allen Iverson
- Tim Duncan

12. How many "American Idol" finalists will perform at the Coca-Cola 600?

- 8
- 7
- 6
- 5

13. Who is a real life Spider Man?

- Dr. Todd Jessup
- Dr. Heather Brown
- Dr. Lola Lambert

Dr. Simon Pollard

14. In what soap opera does Laura Wright star?

The Guiding Light

Days of our Lives

Another World

General Hospital

15. What is the purpose of ESPN Play Your Way?

baseball statistics

physically active games

video games

sweepstakes and contests

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