



October 24th - October 31th, 2003



PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Can you guess what this picture is?

- [Click here to find out.](#)

- [Read Readers' Responses](#)

[This Week's Issue in PDF](#)

Top Young Scientist of the Year

- [Change Your Clock, Your Battery](#)
- [Smucker's: Not a 100% Fruit](#)
- [Plunging over Niagara Falls](#)

AROUND THE WORLD

- [George's Tour of Asia](#)
- [Demonstrations in Saudi Arabia](#)
- [Snake Charmers on the Decline](#)
- [Ecuador Sues Oil Company](#)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- [Texas Fish On Drugs](#)
- [Fish Census Reveals New Species](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

- [October 24th - October 31th](#)

SPORTS ZONE

- [Pat Riley Departs Miami Heat](#)
- [The Steroids Controversy](#)

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

- [The Little Wizard Will Be Back!](#)
- [The Olsen Twins: Columbia Blue?](#)
- [Indiana Jones Delivered, Finally](#)

COMICS & POEMS

- [Aford Turtle, Comic Strip](#)
- [Adventures in Poetry, Poetry](#)
- [De Plane Boss, Crossword Premier](#)

U.S. GOVERNMENT

- [Easing Cuban Travel](#)
- [Rumsfeld Memo Leaked!](#)
- [The New Twenty-Dollar Bill](#)

[\[Site Map\]](#)

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

PICTURE OF THE WEEK: The Final Flight of the Concorde

Shortly after 7:30 AM on the morning of October 24th, the Concorde, the world's only supersonic jetliner, departed for the final time from JFK airport in New York. Scheduled to arrive at London's Heathrow airport at just past 11 AM EST, crowds of up to 100,000 are expected to view the aircraft's final landing, bringing its 27-year history to a dramatic close.

Commissioned in 1976 in a joint venture by the French and British governments, the Concorde's top cruising speed exceeds twice the speed of sound, or 1350 miles-per-hour. Equipped to carry 100 passengers, the supersonic jet burns over 1.5 gallons of fuel per *second*, and ascends to an altitude just on the edge of space. Boeing's top inter-continental plane, the 747, takes nearly twice the time to make the same trip as the Concorde, while still burning 2/3's the amount of fuel.



Faced with rising oil costs, a poor economy, and more competitive--more economical--market trends, the Concorde has fallen victim to the nuances of the era. Although no other supersonic commercial flight solution exists, many commercial jets flying inter-continental routes carry two-to-three times as many passengers as the Concorde, thus making the costs associated with keeping the Concorde in service unattractive, at best.

British Airways and NBC auctioned the final pair of Concorde tickets on October 18th, on eBay. The three-day affair concluded with an American winning the tickets; his final bid exceeded 37,000 pounds-sterling: over 60,000 US dollars!

During its time the Concorde was unmatched in vision and technology; its scope and ideals may remain unmatched for years to come.

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

[\[Site Map\]](#)

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

WEEKLY NEWS 1: Top Young Scientist of the Year

On Wednesday, October 22, 2003, thirteen-year-old Joseph Stunzi was named "America's Top Young Scientist of the Year." The Georgia teen was chosen from a group of 39 middle school students by the judges of The Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge (DCYSC). Second place was awarded to Elizabeth Monier from Texas, a fifteen-year-old girl. Third place went to fourteen-year-old Elena Ovaitt.

The winners were based on the presentations of their projects at Science Service fairs around the country, as well as their participation in a team challenge. The challenge focused on flight and aviation in honor of 100 Years of Flight. The students tested rocket cars and experimented with spy helicopters.

A total of 7,300 students were nominated to participate in the competition, and there were 40 finalists. The combined prizes equaled \$100,000 in scholarships and prizes. The final events involved a lot of teamwork during the three days of the competition.

Discovery created DCYSC in 1999. Their goal was to help American kids improve their skills in math and science. The DCYSC recognizes America's top middle school student who shows the best skills in leadership, problem solving and teamwork. The student must also be able to talk about science.

More than 6,000 kids have entered this competition since it began. Winners have received more than \$400,000 in scholarships. That's a lot of money! DCYSC is sponsored by GMC and Leapfrog.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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



[Read WEEKLY NEWS 2: Change Your Clock, Your Battery](#) 

[\[Site Map\]](#)

[kidsnewsroom.org](#)

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

WEEKLY NEWS 2: Change Your Clock, Your Battery

On Sunday, October 26, 2003, the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), Energizer and more than 5,400 fire departments are urging the public to make one simple move. What is it? They want you to change the battery in your smoke alarm!

Approximately 1,000 children die in house fires every year. But this number could be much smaller if more homes had a working smoke alarm. That's why in 1987 the IAFC and Energizer joined forces to start the "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery" program. Their message reaches millions of people nationwide. It's an important message, since 20% of smoke alarms in American homes do not work or are missing their batteries.

Research has found that most home fires occur at night when people are sleeping. A working smoke alarm can alert the family and give everyone time to escape from a burning house. Changing the batteries regularly is an important part of keeping a smoke alarm working.

Every autumn, folks turn back their clocks because of daylight savings time. So the "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery" program reminds people to change the batteries in their smoke alarms at the same time they set back their clocks. So when your parents are changing the clocks in your house, remind them to replace the batteries in their smoke alarms, too.

--Written by [Carla Shives](#)

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



[Read WEEKLY NEWS 3: Smucker's: Not a 100% Fruit](#) 

[\[Site Map\]](#)

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

WEEKLY NEWS 3: Smucker's: Not a 100% Fruit

A lawsuit has been filed against the J.M. Smucker Company claiming that the label is misleading since its jams are less than 50% fruit. The class-action lawsuit was filed last week in Los Angeles Superior Court on behalf of anyone who bought the Smucker brand within the last four years.

The lawsuit claims that Smucker's "100 percent fruit" claim is false advertising and violates deceptive practice laws. Tests conducted on the strawberry jam showed that the spread contained less than 30 percent actual strawberries and the blueberry jam contained less than 43 percent berries. The "simply 100 percent" jam also contained fruit syrup, lemon juice concentrate, fruit pectin and natural flavors.



Attorney Allan Sigal anticipates that thousands of customers could expect to be refunded at least a dollar or so if the lawsuit is successful, or the company could be forced to contribute to charity. The company had no immediate comment on the lawsuit.

The Smucker brand has since come a long way and become the market leader in fruit spreads and peanut butter in North America. The company began in 1897 when its founder began selling apple butter from a horse-drawn wagon.

--Written by [Renee Eng](#)

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

[Read WEEKLY NEWS 4: Plunging over Niagara Falls](#)



[\[Site Map\]](#)

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

WEEKLY NEWS 4: Plunging over Niagara Falls

A man survived a plunge over the 180-foot Niagara Falls and miraculously survived. Witnesses saw the man float by Monday and go headfirst over the churning waterfall and then pull himself out of the water onto the rocks below.

Water rushes over the falls at a rate of 150,000 gallons per second. This man was wearing only the clothes on his back and is the first person known to have survived the falls. Witness Brenda McMullen described, "He just looked calm. He just was gliding by so fast. I was in shock really that I saw a person go by."



No one has ever survived a trip over the rocky American falls. Officers would not release the man's name and would not comment on why the man went over the Falls. About a dozen daredevils have taken the plunge in barrels and other contraptions since 1902 and only approximately half have survived.

Suicides are not uncommon at Niagara Falls and it is possible that the man was attempting to take his own life. Niagara Parks Police, however, said in a written statement, "At this point, there does not appear to be any evidence of foul play." Rescuers reached the man by taking a tourist elevator to an observation deck and reaching him from there. He was taken to the Greater Niagara General Hospital for medical treatment.

--Written by [Renee Eng](#)

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

 [Read WEEKLY NEWS 1: Top Young Scientist of the Year](#)

[\[Site Map\]](#)

kidsnewsroom.org

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

AROUND THE WORLD 1: George's Tour of Asia

Last week, the president of the United States, George W. Bush, made a trip through six nations in the Asian continent. His itinerary was limited to countries in south eastern Asia. During the trip, Bush addressed a wide range of topics, including trade, the war on terrorism, the reconstruction in Iraq and the nuclear weapons in North Korea.

The tour began in Tokyo, Japan, on October 17. Bush met with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, and the two leaders discussed Japan's role in helping the United States in Iraq. Japan recently decided to offer money and possibly peace-keeping troops as well. The leaders also talked about the nuclear situation in North Korea, because Japan is an influential country in the region and is also a neighbor of North Korea on the Pacific Ocean.



Bush's second stop was the city of Manila in the Philippines on October 18. Bush met with the president, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. Bush spoke to the Philippine congress, but his speech was almost an hour late because protestors were creating problems near the building. Although the Philippine president has supported Mr. Bush and his administrations efforts in the war on terrorism, the Philippine people have been very opposed to many United States policies, especially the war on Iraq. The Philippines, however, have also had problems with terrorism on their own soil.

Bush's third stop was also his most important. On October 19, he traveled to Bangkok Thailand and met with the leaders of Thailand, China, Mexico, and South Korea. He also attended the meeting of a group known as the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, which includes twenty-one countries in Asia, North America, and South America. The group made a number of commitments together, including a commitment to fight terrorism and to end the development and spread of weapons of mass destruction.

After Thailand, Bush traveled to Singapore for a short visit. Singapore is one of the wealthiest nations in the region and is also an important trade partner of the United States. Bush met with Singapore's prime minister, Goh Chok Tong. Then, for his fifth stop, Mr. Bush went to Bali, Indonesia. Bush only spent four hours in this country, but it was significant because Indonesia is the largest Muslim country in terms of population, and because Bush visited the site of a major terrorist attack which killed almost 200 people last year.

For the final leg of the trip, President Bush traveled to Canberra, Australia. There, Bush gave a speech in the Australian parliament. During his speech, a couple of parliamentarians interrupted him and criticized him for his policies and actions in Iraq and elsewhere. The interruptions did not stop Bush for very long and he still offered a great deal of praise to the country and it's Prime Minister, John Howard, for helping in the war on terrorism. Australia was part of the coalition in the war against Iraq, and it continues to offer support of United States' efforts.

Overall, Bush's trip was a success. Even in the face of protests, Bush acknowledged disagreement and praised free speech. Mr. Bush arrived back in the United States on Thursday.

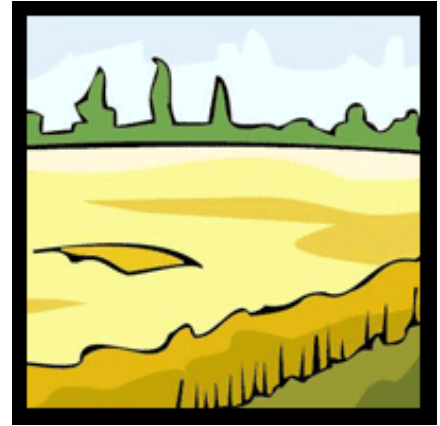
--Written by [Betsy Mesard](#)

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

AROUND THE WORLD 2: Demonstrations in Saudi Arabia

Over the past couple of weeks, Saudi Arabia has witnessed a rare event: protest. The country, located in the Middle east, has a reputation for not allowing free speech and other basic rights. Saudi Arabia is a monarchy, which means that the royal family has ultimate control over all rules and laws. For centuries, the royal family has maintained a strict code of behavior for its citizens, especially women. There is limited opportunity to complain, not to mention opportunity to make changes.

Many Saudis are well-adapted to this way of life, and prefer to focus on daily lives, family, and religion. Yet, in the recent past, the people there are becoming more aware of the contrast between their abilities and opportunities and those of people in other parts of the world. Many young people travel to other countries to attend universities, and gain experiences that are denied to them in Saudi Arabia. They are able to read literature, watch movies, and mingle with people of the opposite sex. All of these activities are under tight control in Saudi Arabia. When people return from visits abroad, they begin to long for changes and freedoms in their own country. Other people in Saudi Arabia have moved to other countries permanently, while still hoping to return one day, when things change.



In Great Britain, there is a group of Saudi Arabian people who are very active in bringing reforms to their home country. They use the freedoms that they have in Great Britain to encourage change and reform back in Saudi Arabia. Last week this group, headed by a man named Saad al-Faqih, organized a protest in several Saudi cities. Two weeks ago, a group gathered in Riyadh--the capital--to call for political reform. This week, protesters gathered in Jeddah and other smaller cities, again calling for change.

The government was quick to respond and they arrested dozens of people. This was no surprise, and observers of the protests believe that many more people would have joined in and spoken out had they not feared large scale arrests.

The Saudi government recognizes the unrest of the people and they are concerned. Although they are reluctant to give up power and do not want to change the traditions that they enforce (such as making women cover their heads), they know that they will have to make the people happier somehow, or eventually they will be overthrown. Therefore local elections were planned, to give the people a feeling of input and influence in the affairs of their lives. Still, many Saudis do not believe that the elections will be fair or that the candidates will be representing the feelings of the majority of people.

Change is not coming quickly. The protests only involved a few hundred people, and they did not cause any large disturbances for the royalty. However, the occurrence of protests at all, in a country as tightly controlled as Saudi Arabia, is evidence that change may be inevitable.

--Written by [Betsy Mesard](#)

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

Read AROUND THE WORLD 3: Snake Charmers on the Decline



AROUND THE WORLD 3: Snake Charmers on the Decline

India is known for many things: the Taj Mahal, elephants and tigers, and its spicy food. But there is another symbol of India that is fast disappearing: the snake charmers. Snake charmers, or saperas, are famous for their talents of playing the flute as the snake arises from its basket and dances to the music. However, because of a government ban on the possession of snakes, many snake charmers are losing their sole method of income.

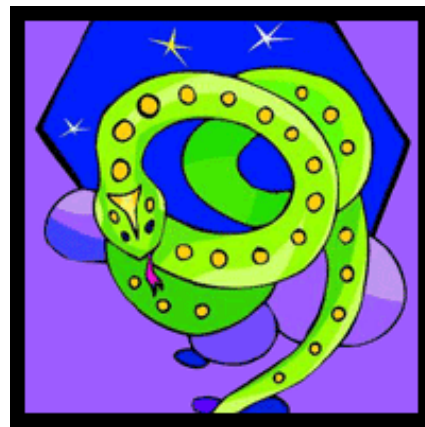
Wildlife activists claim that the snake charmers abuse the snakes by breaking the fangs off or selling the snakeskins on the black market. However, the snake charmers deny this. One said that after using the snake for his trick for 40 days, he releases the snake back into the wild.

Snakes themselves are often revered within the Hindu tradition, which pays homage to many of earth's creatures. During the 1970s and 1980s, many snake charmers went abroad and performed their tricks for foreign audiences. However, the majority of saperas perform in high tourist areas or on the roadside. They earn about 50 rupees a day (\$1.10).

The snake charmers gathered in the village of Charkhi for the festival of Dusshera and also to organize strategies for lobbying against the government. The snake charmers want some alternative form of employment available to them, since the new crackdown on snake ownership has taken away their main source of income. Some are proposing working for the government itself, in the forestry offices where they can help to treat snakebites and provide their own personal knowledge about the snakes. Many have understood the reality that they no longer can perform snake charming. A small percentage still hopes to keep on performing.

--Written by [Reena Vadehra](#)

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



Read [AROUND THE WORLD 4: Ecuador Sues Oil Company](#)

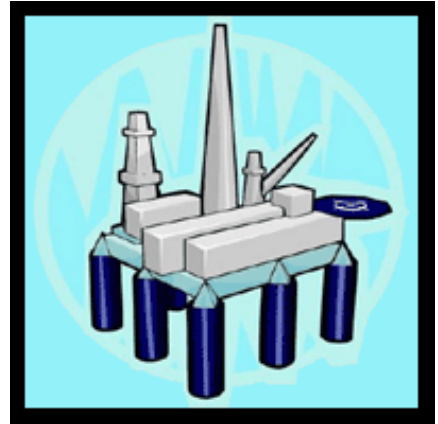
[\[Site Map\]](#)

kidsnewsroom.org

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

AROUND THE WORLD 4: Ecuador Sues Oil Company

Over 300 people - many of which were native Indians of Ecuador - gathered outside the Supreme Court for a case that is suing ChevronTexaco for environmental damage. The lawsuit speaks for over 30,000 Ecuadorians who claim that the oil giant has for the last 20 years caused pollution, medical problems, and eroded the jungles of the country. Estimates for reversing the damage and paying for medical costs could reach up to \$1 billion.



According to the lawsuit, instead of burying the waste underground, the company dug open pits and dumped the waste into them. Those that live in the area often complain of medical problems, such as cramps, rashes, and sore throats. Many of the jungle's swamps and rivers have a thin layer of oil floating on the top. In fact, according to local pollution tests, some of the water is so contaminated that it is classified as a carcinogen.

ChevronTexaco, however, is not taking the case lightly. They argue that ChevronTexaco, a merger of two oil companies, cannot be responsible for the work of Texaco 20 years prior. However, Supreme Court Justice Alberto Wray thought otherwise. He felt that the company should assume Texaco's obligations. ChevronTexaco also maintains that it spent \$40 million in 1995 to cleanup the area and that the Ecuadorian government certified such a clean up.

This is the first time an oil company has been sued in Ecuador. American lawyer for the Ecuadorians, Steve Donziger, believes that this case will serve as a lesson for other multinational giants to respect the environment and the peoples of the Third World.

--Written by [Reena Vadehra](#)

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

 [Read AROUND THE WORLD 1: George's Tour of Asia](#)
[\[Site Map\]](#)

[kidsnewsroom.org](#)

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 1: Texas Fish On Drugs

Blue gill fish in the Dallas area are on Prozac, but they aren't depressed--they are victims of a kind of people pollution.

A science professor at Baylor University in Texas has discovered that the active ingredient in the anti-depression drug Prozac, called fluoxetine, is making its way into local waterways and fish, probably from waste water treatment facilities.

Drugs can get into waste water in different ways. Often, when people take medicine, the body uses some of it, but not all. What isn't is excreted when you use the bathroom. That is flushed down the toilet and goes to a sewer and then to a waste water treatment facility. The dangerous bacteria and chemicals are removed before the treated water is pumped back into the environment--like lakes, rivers or streams. Unfortunately, these facilities do not usually have the means to remove traces of medicines like Prozac. The fish that live in these waters are then exposed to the drug, and it builds up in their bodies.

Apparently, the drug, which makes people relax, can have the same effect on fish, but the amount in the water is probably not high enough. The scientists in the study are not yet sure how the drug will affect the fish in the long run, and how that in turn can affect humans.

The scientist, Bryan Brooks, has also helped research the effects of the female hormone estrogen on other fish, which got into waterways from medicines the same way the Prozac did. It was determined that some male fish were being negatively affected, and that could lead to a long-term decrease in the fish population.

Brooks reportedly said that the results of the recent study shows people need to pay attention to the different ways our waste affects the environment.

--Written by [Nia Williams](#)

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



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 2: Fish Census Reveals New Species

[\[Site Map\]](#)

kidsnewsroom.org

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 2: Fish Census Reveals New Species

How many fish are really in the sea? For the past three years, over 300 scientists and several science organizations have been working together to take a census of life in the oceans, and they have found that there are quite a lot.

The study, which will run through 2010, has already discovered an average of three new fish species a week since it began. The scientists involved think that as many as 5,000 new species could be discovered by the time the census ends in 2010.

Over 200,000 species of fish, plants and animals are known so far, and the scientists expect that may only be about 10 percent of the species of life in the oceans.

The study, which costs about \$1 billion, is being conducted to help scientists gain a better understanding of evolution, climate and the environment as well as to learn about more marine species. More than two-thirds of the earth's surface is covered with water, and researchers know much more about land life than aquatic life.

The study was started after a report by the National Academy of Sciences revealed that the growing number of people on the planet was causing changes in the ocean environments and species. Scientists need to know as much as possible about the existing life in order to understand and deal with whatever changes may come in the future.

--Written by [Nia Williams](#)

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



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY 1: Texas Fish On Drugs



[\[Site Map\]](#)

kidsnewsroom.org

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

On October 26, 1984 a baby received a baboon heart in the first baboon-to-human heart transplant. The 14-day-old infant known as "Baby Fae" had a defective heart, so doctors replaced it with the baboon's heart. The surgery took place at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California.



On October 27, 1904 America's first rapid-transit subway system opened in New York City. The original route ran from City Hall, under Lafayette Street and Park Avenue to Grand Central Station, west along 42nd Street to Times Square, then north on Broadway to 145th Street. At 2:35 in the afternoon, the first subway train emerged from the City Hall station, with Mayor McClellan at the controls. The mayor liked his job as engineer so much that he stayed at the controls until the train reached Broadway and 103rd Street. At 7 p.m., the subway opened to the general public, and more than 100,000 people paid a nickel each to take a ride beneath Manhattan. Today, the New York subway system is the largest in the world.

On October 30, 1963, the first Lamborghini debuted. The Lamborghini 350 GTV, designed by Italian sports car maker Ferruccio Lamborghini, was presented to a crowd at the Turin auto show. The car-maker had not finished the vehicle completely, so the car was shown with cermaic tiles in place of its engine.



[Click here to tell us what you think about these stories!](#)

[\[Site Map\]](#)

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

SPORTS ZONE 1: Pat Riley Departs Miami Heat

In one of the most shocking moves of the young 2003-2004 NBA Season, Pat Riley, coach and President of the Miami Heat, announced his departure from the franchise: assistant head coach Stan Van Gundy is slated to replace him.

Riley, one more the NBA's most successful personalities and head coaches, steps away with 1,085 wins: second all-time. Before taking the position with the Miami Heat, Riley served as head coach for the Los Angeles Lakers, where his powerful work-ethic and graceful demeanor guided them to four NBA Championships.

While he gave no reason for his decision to step aside, Riley did state that the Heat's rebuilding was going very well; well enough, in fact, for him to turn over the reins. The off-season loss of several key players, including Penny Hardaway, hand the coach optimistic about the future--not downtrodden. Riley has faith in Van Gundy, who while only coaching in the head position on the college level, has distinguished himself on the sidelines numerous times will in the employment of Riley.

Regardless what Riley chooses to do next, NBA fans will remember him most fondly for his thoughtful good-bye present to Michael Jordan during Jordan's final visit to Miami last season. During the pre-game ceremony, Riley unveiled upon the rafters of the American Airlines Arena a jersey bearing Jordan's name and number, half of it red, half of it blue--both Wizard and Bull. Riley announced that no one for the Miami Heat would ever wear the number 23 again.

Having been with the Heat for seven season, as both President and Head Coach, Riley steps away from a team still looking to regain its competitive edge. During his tenure he won 329 games and four division titles.

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



Read SPORTS ZONE 2: The Steroids Controversy



[\[Site Map\]](#)

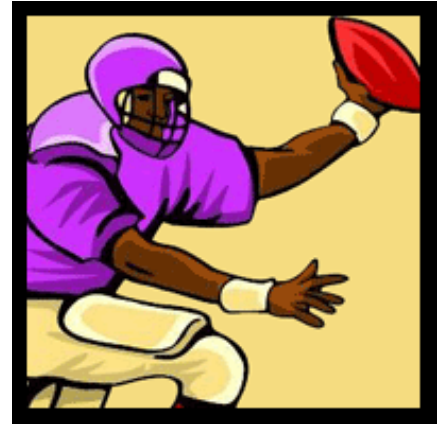
kidsnewsroom.org

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

SPORTS ZONE 2: The Steroids Controversy

Bill Roe, President of USA Track & Field, announced sweeping changes to the current drug enforcement policy imposed upon runners and other track and field athletes, Friday. The announcement ushers in lifetime bans for first-time offenders, fines of up to 100,000.00 and new, more direct, educational efforts.

The plan, slated to be one of the least forgiving among professional sports, is aimed at curbing steroid and other performance-enhancing drugs among American runners and athletes. Nevertheless, even with many revolutionary new provisions, Roe calls the plan simply a first step in the long process of athlete education and safety.



Major League Baseball, known best for its century-long efforts to combat gambling in a sport espoused to chance, currently has no strong provisions against steroid use. Indeed, such baseball icons as Mark McGuire and Jose Canseco have admitted to using over-the-counter steroids. With players like Bonds and Sosa hitting long-balls like some eat foot-long hot dogs, many are left to ponder the wisdom in such an oversight.

Steroids have been prevalent in professional sports since the early 1960s, with perhaps the most notable use of that era coming among football players who were, for lack of a better phrase, coerced to take the drugs before games. Such steroid use didn't become pejorative until it entered the track and field arena; indeed, steroids subtle use among (former) Olympic Champions has cause much uproar over the legitimacy of such events. In the current era, steroid use continues; for some, it is safer than it was in the past, with new treatment paradigms and systems of checks-and-balances; for others, however, it is far more dangers, as additions and competitive needs-to-win often drive athletes into a darkness from which few return.

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

 **Read SPORTS ZONE 1: Pat Riley Departs Miami Heat**

[\[Site Map\]](#)

kidsnewsroom.org

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 1: The Little Wizard Will Be Back!

The original Potter is back to defeat "he who should not be named," otherwise known as Voldamort. That's right, Daniel Radcliffe is back and better than ever playing Harry Potter. At first no one knew if he was going to come back as Harry Potter to star in the fourth movie of the Harry Potter series, "The Goblet of Fire".

Daniel Radcliffe is currently filming the third adventure, "Prisoner of Azkaban," and rumors have been circulating around the world that since the mega-star had been growing up so fast (he is now 14), that he would be too old to accurately portray Harry in the next movie. "I will certainly make "Goblet of Fire," Radcliffe averred to the media. He does not know, however, if he, or his co-stars, Rupert Grint and Emma Watson, will be coming back for the fifth movie, "The Order of the Phoenix." Rupert Grint and Emma Watson play Harry's beloved friends and fellow wizards, Ronald Weasley and Hermione Granger.



If Daniel Radcliffe chose not to be in the next Harry Potter Adventure, he said he would just go about life as a normal teenager. He said he'd go back to school and hang out with his friends, which he does do when he is not filming the series. When not filming, he likes going to the movies the most.

Needless to say, Harry Potter movies would not be the same without Radcliffe; indeed, sequels aren't truly sequels when they lose the drive, adventure, or spirit of the lead character, especially when that lead character is a wizard!

--Written by [Tami Saslo](#)

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

Read MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 2: The Olsen Twins: Columbia Blue?



[\[Site Map\]](#)

kidsnewsroom.org

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 2: The Olsen Twins: Columbia Blue?

Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen, perhaps the world's richest and most powerful teenage twins, are high school seniors this year. And, like high school seniors across the country, they are making college plans. Despite a flurry of internet rumors this January, the girls haven't yet made their choice. Like most kids their age, they're still applying. Kidsnewsroom has an exclusive scoop on one of their top-choice schools: Columbia University.

The twins have definitely sent in applications, according to an unidentified source inside admissions, and have been spotted at a Columbia football game. Ashley is even rumored to be dating a Lions Quarterback. The Olsens, coincidentally, are shooting a college-admissions caper set at Columbia: "New York Minute." The movie is being made in Toronto to save costs, but several sequences, including one filmed with a helicopter, are being shot on campus. Current undergraduates are amused. "Why write an admissions essay," one writes on her weblog, "when you could just make a major motion picture about why you should get in!"

If the twins pick Columbia, they will join a host of other young celebrities. Julia Stiles, Anna Paquin, Rider Strong (of Boy Meets World) Katie Holmes and Cristina Ricci all attend or have attended the Ivy League school, which is highly competitive. Will Mary Kate and Ashley be among the 10 percent who get in? Only time will tell, but the chances seem good. The girls, heads of a multi-million-dollar entertainment and product brand, have some great extracurricular activities on their resumes.

--Written by [Reina Hardy](#)

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



[Read MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 3: Indiana Jones Delivered, Finally](#)

[\[Site Map\]](#)

kidsnewsroom.org

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 3: Indiana Jones Delivered, Finally

After much anticipation, Steven Spielberg's "Indiana Jones" trilogy debuted across America on DVD. The four disc collection features the three original films starring Harrison Ford, 1981's "Raiders of the Lost Ark", 1984's "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" and 1989's "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade" plus an additional DVD which includes more than three hours of documentaries, interviews and other features.

Digitally re-mastered and restored frame-by-frame, the picture is remarkably sharp, with every scream, holler and cheer resounding well beyond the television speakers. Nearly every major cast member and much of the studio crew offers his or her thoughts on the various "Indiana Jones" films and/or the making of the trilogy, on the fourth DVD; indeed, even the deceased have their film-time, represented by proxy: interviews from the past.



It is arguable that few writers, directors and actors have had as much impact on the film world as George Lucas, Stephen Spielberg and Harrison Ford; while each continue to add to their own legacies, few will debate that some of Hollywood's biggest productions came when their minds met.

Lucas, at least partially responsible for the whole "digitally re-mastered" movement, saw his most famous film "Star Wars", re-released into theatres worldwide a few years ago. While doing absurdly well for a re-release, the idea, as well as the method employed, was to become much more proliferated in the years to come. In fact, most fans of movies will tell you that the re-release of Indiana Jones is long overdue.

But for fans, the wait may have been worth it. The Indiana Jones trilogy exceeds expectations--a task not easy to do when it comes to someone who uncovered the Lost Ark of the Covenant, and nearly swiped the Holy Grail from its two-thousand year hiding place.

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

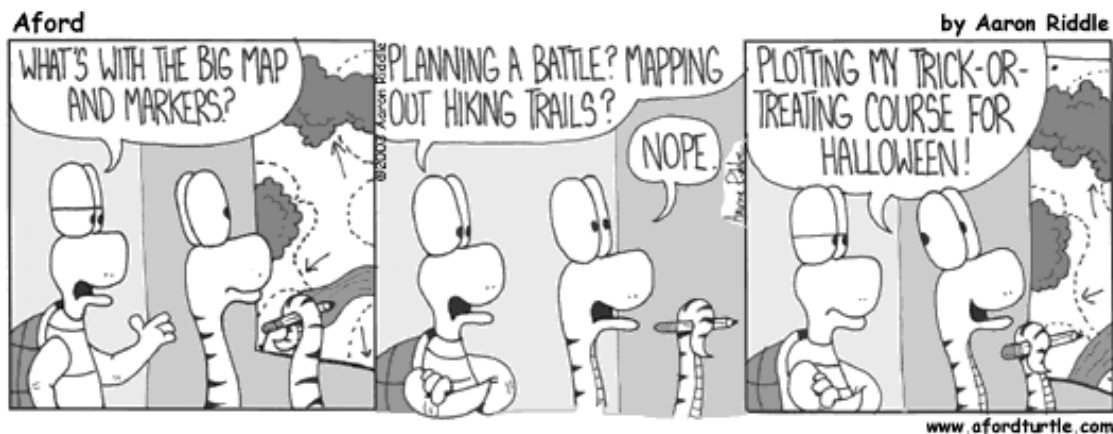
 **Read MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT 1: The Little Wizard Will Be Back!**

[\[Site Map\]](#)

kidsnewsroom.org

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

COMICS & POEMS 1: Aford Turtle, Comic Strip



--Written by [Aaron Riddle](#)

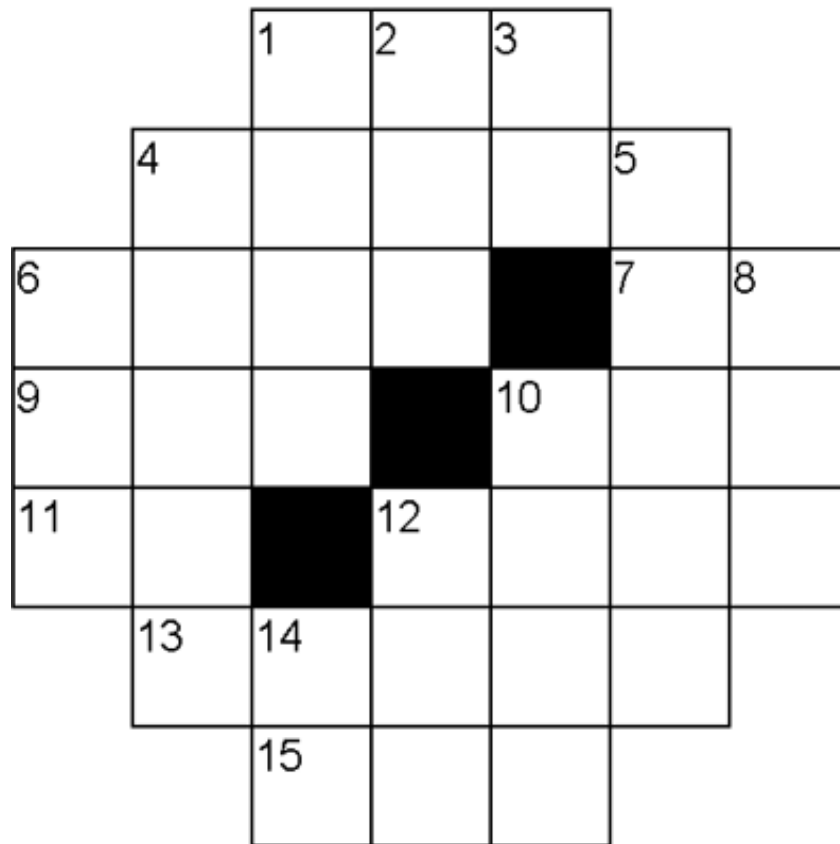
[Write your own story telling us what you think about this comic!](#)

Read **COMICS & POEMS 2: Adventures in Poetry, Poetry** 

[\[Site Map\]](#)

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

COMICS & POEMS 3: De Plane Boss, Crossword Premier



ACROSS

- 1 Part of a min.
- 4 Stop
- 6 Male parent
- 7 Low frequency (abbr.)
- 9 Dynamite
- 10 *Made by Smucker's*
- 11 Alaska (abbr.)
- 12 Make music vocally
- 13 Foot joint
- 15 *Produced in the Middle East*

DOWN

- 1 September (abbr.)
- 2 Airport abbr.
- 3 Copper, symbol
- 4 Sri __
- 5 *Concorde, eg.*
- 6 School group
- 8 Madagascar franc (abbr.)
- 10 Tim's wife on "Home Improvement"
- 12 Winter sport
- 14 Said to halt, expression

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

COMICS & POEMS 2: Adventures in Poetry, Poetry

Adventures in Poetry

Poetry is an adventure that can take you near or far
To places so exciting,

but yet never leave the place where you are.

Exotic countries with cultures grand
or a simple little mountain stream.

Romantic sighs 'neath deep blue skies
provide such a beautiful dream.

Trees and flowers release a fragrance
that flows through country air.

Birds sing their beautiful songs
to all that listen there.

You can also take a trip to a very mysterious place
That stirs your soul with fear and puts a frown on your face.

You can climb a fence and sit on a log,

but you may be taking quite a chance,

For that mean old watch dog may take a bite
from the seat of your pants.

There are other places you can go
that fill your heart with laughter.

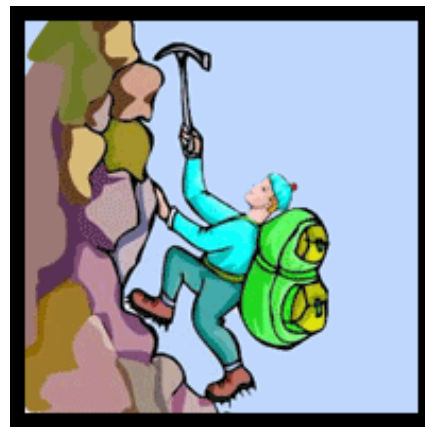
Where all the while you wear a smile,
not worrying what comes after.

You can look toward heaven to see the moon and stars above.

You can hear the angels sing
as they tell of God's wonderful love.

You may be in your home sipping coffee at the bar.

Adventures in poetry can be yours in whatever you see, wherever you are.



--Written by **Manervia Herrington**

This poem is featured in As Seasons Change, an Anthology of Poetry released by the International Library of Poetry in March 2001.

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

Read COMICS & POEMS 3: De Plane Boss, Crossword Premier



[\[Site Map\]](#)

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

U.S. GOVERNMENT 1: Easing Cuban Travel

On Thursday, October 23rd, an important vote was passed in the United States Senate. The vote was about whether or not United States travel restrictions to Cuba should be eased. Even though Cuba is an island nation of 11 million people, and is located less than 100 miles away from America, for decades the American government has not allowed Americans to trade with or travel to Cuba. The reason for this is that Cuba is ruled by Fidel Castro, a repressive dictator who does not let Cubans in Cuba exercise their natural freedoms like freedom of speech. However, while not allowing American money to flow into Cuba makes it so that Castro does not get more money, it also means that Cubans are denied the benefits that American trade and tourism could bring. Furthermore, many people argue that when there is no trade, there is also no exchange of ideas, so by cutting off relations with Cuba, the United States is also cutting off Cubans from other forms of American aid. But, the United States government argues that any trade or tourism money going into Cuba would end up going directly to Castro, and would not reach the Cuban people at all.



Two weeks ago, President Bush said that he wants to make restrictions on trade and tourism to Cuba even stricter. He wants to try to prevent every American from being able to travel there. However, on September 9th the House of Representatives voted to ease travel restrictions to Cuba, and on October 23rd, the Senate also voted 59-38 to ease travel restrictions to Cuba. This vote shows an important split in the Republican Party. On one side there are the Republicans from farm-states (states that depend a lot on trade and farming), which are against trade restrictions because they want to be able to trade their goods with Cuba. On the other side, which includes President Bush, are Republicans who need the support of Cuban-Americans (who overwhelmingly want the United States to take more action against Castro) in order to stay in office.

It is believed that President Bush will veto this bill. This means that every decision that comes out of the Senate and the House of Representatives goes to the President. The President either OKs the decision, or vetoes it. When it is vetoed, it is sent back to the Senate for another vote. During the first vote, the bill only had to pass by a majority (over half of the votes) in order to pass, but this second time the bill has to pass with over two-thirds (67 or more votes) of the Senate agreeing to it.

--Written by [Angela Schutte](#)

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT 2: Rumsfeld Memo Leaked!



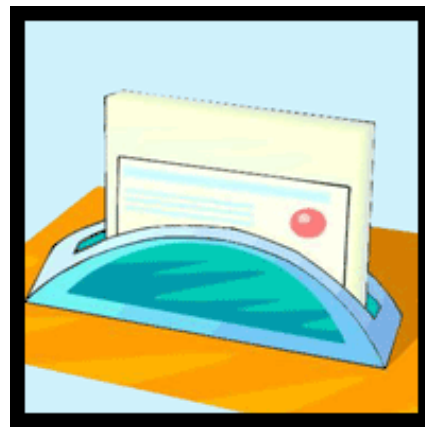
[\[Site Map\]](#)

kidsnewsroom.org

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

U.S. GOVERNMENT 2: Rumsfeld Memo Leaked!

An internal Department of Defense (DoD) memorandum leaked to the USA Today newspaper this week showed a substantial amount of pessimism and concern from the Defense Secretary regarding the United States ongoing global war against terrorism. Rumsfeld attempted to downplay this leak but some political analysts view this as a key rift in the Bush Administration.



The memo in question was written by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, and was intended to be seen by only Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (the highest ranking officer in the United States military) General Richard Meyers, and two of their deputies.

However, an unknown person leaked this memo to the press on Tuesday. In the letter, Rumsfeld writes that while "reasonable progress" has been made in capturing officials from Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's regime except Saddam himself), he also said that the U.S. has made "somewhat slower progress" in efforts to hunt down Taliban and al-Qaeda leaders. The Taliban was the government in charge of Afghanistan that harbored al-Qaeda (the terrorist group which carried out the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and that was ousted last year by American military forces. But perhaps most notable about Rumsfeld's memo is his harsh criticism of his boss--President George W. Bush-- strategies in waging the global campaign against terror: "We have not yet made truly bold moves; although we have made many sensible, logical moves in the right direction, are they enough?"

The individual responsible for leaking this memo remained unclear Friday, as do the political ramifications of this document going public. It is unlikely that Rumsfeld, a key member of the Bush Administration, would be fired over the incident, but some political fallout in the following days seems inevitable.

--Written by [Lincoln Gaffney](#)

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT 3: The New Twenty-Dollar Bill



[\[Site Map\]](#)

kidsnewsroom.org

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

U.S. GOVERNMENT 3: The New Twenty-Dollar Bill

Which president is green, peach, and blue all over? The answer would be Andrew Jackson, or more specifically, the new twenty-dollar bill that features the former president with a whole new look, designed by the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Last week, the Federal Reserve issued the updated currency into circulation, but it may take a while before everyone gets the chance to see a new twenty-dollar bill. Although it may look strange at first, it can be used just like any other type of dollar bills. The government has launched a \$32 million dollar campaign to publicize the redesigned twenty-dollar bill and its colorful new appearance.



Many of the updates to the twenty-dollar bill are easily noticeable. To the left of Andrew Jackson's image, you can find a blue eagle in background. To the right of Jackson, there is a green symbol of an eagle resting on top of a shield. However, there are other modifications that are much harder to detect. To discourage counterfeiters, the current design has many security features that cannot be reproduced. One security feature is the watermark, which can only be seen clearly when you hold it up to the light. Another feature is the color-changing number "20" in the bottom corner of the bill. From various angles, its color may appear to look copper or green.

This is not the first time that United States currency has received a makeover. Just a few years ago, bills ranging from five dollars to one hundred dollars were given new designs. In the next few years, expect to see more colorful versions of the fifty-dollar and hundred-dollar bills. But hold onto your old twenty-dollar bills because they are still worth every penny!

--Written by [James Peng](#)

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



U.S. GOVERNMENT 1: Easing Cuban Travel

[\[Site Map\]](#)

kidsnewsroom.org

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)

Answer all of the questions on the quiz, then select the Score button to grade the quiz.

There are 15 Questions total.

1. Why are Ecuadorians suing US oil company ChevronTexaco?

- They are trying to cheat the company for money
- The oil company dumped waste in the country causing environmental and medical problems.
- The company does not hire local workers.
- Ecuador does not get the profits from ChevronTexaco.

2. What kind of fish have been affected by Prozac in the water?

- male fish
- depressed fish
- blue gill fish
- flushed fish

3. How many species of life are currently known to live in the oceans?

- about 20,000
- about 200,000
- about 2,000,000
- about 20,000,000

4. What country has the American government not allowed people to travel to for decades?

- Columbia
- Cameroon
- Costa Rica
- Cuba

5. Which of the following is *not* an update to the new twenty-dollar bill?

- Presence of a modified watermark
- Color-changing number 20
- Increased overall bill size
- Image of a blue eagle

6. What does the ban on snake possession mean for India's snake charmers?

They will have to charm some other animal.

They will have to use fake snakes.

That the snakes have been vicious to the snake charmers.

Snake charmers are out of a job and their skills will disappear over time.

7. Smucker's strawberry jam was found to contain less than what percent of real strawberries?

30

20

10

5

8. What type of science was the focus of The Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge 2003?

chemistry

aviation

biology

astronomy

9. What battery company joined forces with the International Association of Fire Chiefs for "Change Your Clock, Change Your Battery?"

Duracell

Rayovac

Energizer

Everready

10. Why is the Concorde being decommissioned?

No one wants to fly on it.

It is unsafe, and may crash if it continues to fly.

Rising oil costs and a bad economy make it too expensive to run.

Other planes fly faster.

11. Which country was not included in President George W. Bush's visit to Asia last week?

Japan

China

Australia

Indonesia

12. Which stop was the most important on Bush's tour of Asia?

Japan, because of its proximity to North Korea
Australia, because of their help in the war in Iraq
Thailand, because of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting
Singapore, because it is such a wealthy country

13. Saudi Arabia is:

a monarchy
a dictatorship
a republic
without government, because of huge protests

14. Which group has the least amount of freedom in Saudi Arabia?

foreigners
Arabs
artists
women

15. Who leaked the "Eyes-Only" DOD Memo to the USA Today, this week?

General Richard Meyers
Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld
Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz
None of the above.

[\[Site Map\]](#)

kidsnewsroom.org

[\[Cool Schools\]](#)