

**America's Prolonged Drought** ..... 1  
By Thomas E. Ollerman, Ph.D.

**The Idea Incubator** ..... 3  
By Frank Helton

**Innovative Health Discoveries** ..... 4  
By Thomas E. Ollerman, Ph.D.

**Create Your Dream** ..... 6  
By Chris Pritchard

**Kids Ask The Hardest Questions** ..... 6  
By Thomas E. Ollerman, Ph.D.

**Can We Really Inspect Iraq?** ..... 7  
From: The Week, October 4, 2002

**Animal Whys?** ..... 8  
By Jocelyn Little

**High School Essay Excerpts** ..... 8  
From: Sean Hunziker

## **America's Prolonged Drought.... Any Innovative Suggestions?**

By Thomas E. Ollerman, Ph.D.

A prolonged drought has caused severe water shortages throughout much of the nation. Are the dry rivers and barren farmland a short-term problem or the shape of things to come?

Half the states have imposed water-use restrictions, and in parts of the Southeast and Southwest, it's nearly as dry as it was during the Dust Bowl crisis of the 1930s. In Arizona and Colorado, massive fires have roared through forests transformed into kindling by a lack of rainfall. Farmland in the Midwest is being lost to creeping desertification. Western Nebraska, the state's governor says, "looks like the moon." Water is so scarce in Colorado that an ad campaign urges Denver residents to "Only Wash the Stinky Parts." In Atlanta, water pressure fell so low this summer that when thousands of people turned on their taps, they got only a tea-colored trickle.

Droughts are a natural phenomena, and even terrible ones, like the Dust Bowl, eventually end. But scientists are very worried that global warming may be creating long-term changes in rainfall patterns. Computer models suggest that higher temperatures will bring more extremes in weather - longer and deeper droughts, and spells of torrential rains that will cause floods. Weather extremes already seem to be more common. The Colorado River, which provides water to two-thirds of California, is currently running at 14 percent its normal capacity - the lowest level it's been measured at in 150 years. The Colorado is fed primarily by melting snow pack, and with warmer temperatures, there is now less snow. By 2050, scientists project, the high elevations of the

### **Executive Trivia Question...**

What company built the first portable radio?

Published monthly by:  
Thomas E. Ollerman, Ph.D.  
INNOVA, Inc.

**1749 S. Westwood  
Mesa, AZ 85210**

480-838-4854 • Fax 480-897-6180  
<http://www.innovainc.com>  
email: [tom@innovainc.com](mailto:tom@innovainc.com)  
\$21.95 Annual Subscription

Sierra Nevada and Cascade mountains will be 11 degrees warmer than past averages. That would reduce the snow pack by 13 feet. California's population, meanwhile, will grow by 20 million people in the next two decades.

America actually uses less water per capita than it did in 1980, due to conservation measures. But overall demand is up, as our population grows and migrates to sunny states in the south and west, where there's already too little water. Texas, for example, is growing so fast that its population is expected to double by the year 2050. Already, demand on the Rio Grande is so great that the fabled river now runs dry before it reaches the Gulf of Mexico. Sprawl compounds the shortages: As sub-developments and strip malls expand across vast swaths of Sun Belt desert and prairie, concrete covers land once open to the rain. That keeps nature from recharging aquifers, streams, and rivers.

"Sprawl development is literally sending billions of gallons of badly needed water down the drain," according to environmentalist, *Betsy Otto*. All the new lawns don't help either. Grass and bushes are not natural to many of the new sprawling desert cities, but people like them. Keeping them green requires a lot of water. The government estimates that a third of all residential water, in fact, now goes to lawn watering.

In the older cities of the Northeast and Midwest, the primary problem is not supply - it's waste. In cities like New York and Boston and Chicago, leaky pipes

laid decades or a century ago are dripping up to one-half of their contents enroute to users. Leaks also invite contamination, threatening catastrophic public health problems. More than 200,000 water mains now burst every year. "We are at the dawn of an era when utilities will need to make significant investments in rebuilding or replacing their underground delivery assets," says *Thomas Curtis* of the American Waterworks Association told U.S. News and World Report. Estimates of the cost range from the EPA's \$151 billion to an industry group's even trillion.

#### **Who will pay for it?**

It probably won't come from strapped state and federal governments. Private companies have moved into the breach, and many analysts expect that much of the country's water will be supplied by a hybrid of private companies and government entities. New Orleans and Atlanta have already privatized water delivery. In the United Kingdom, most water is now delivered by private companies. Privatization sets up what promises to be one of the new century's major points of contention, as global conglomerates take control of water supplies and the ability to pay determines who gets the bulk of what's available. "This will lead to a world water elite," say *Maude Barlow* and Tony Clarke, authors of *Blue Gold*. Currently, 7 percent of the world's fresh water is controlled by private companies; that is expected to increase to 17 percent by 2015.

#### **Some Suggestions and Ideas**

In one of the U.S.'s wettest states, Tampa city officials are now so desperate for water they're building two plants to desalinate the Gulf of Mexico. In California, a businessman has proposed filling 850-foot bladders on snow-swollen, northern California rivers and shipping billions of gallons south to aid Los Angeles. Booming Las Vegas is interested in piping water across the Rockies, all the way from Wyoming. Throughout the world, humanity's growing thirst is giving rise to solutions that once would have seemed fanciful, or even absurd. Water, in many regions, has become more precious than oil; as its value rises, businesses and scientists scheme to move it hundreds or even thousands of miles, to millions of thirsty mouths. A private company, Cadiz Inc., for example, hopes to drain water from the aquifer under the Mojave Desert and sell it to Los Angeles during droughts. "Storing and selling aquifer water will be the key to California's future," according to *Mark Liggett*, Cadiz's vice president, tells U.S. News & World Report. Perhaps the most imaginative solution comes from Chile: There scientists are already "harvesting" the dense fogs that wrap the country's coast. Using vast, tightly meshed polypropylene nets, Chileans catch these moisture-rich clouds, trapping enough water to supply entire villages.

The picture is far gloomier for the rest of the world than it is for the U.S. There's a lot of water on this planet, but less than 1 percent of it is fresh. The supply, moreover, is unevenly distributed.

More than 1 billion people have limited access to clean water, a number that could triple by 2017. Each year 12 million people die from lack of clean water, and conditions are apt to worsen. Global consumption of water is doubling every 20 years, twice the rate of population growth. By 2025, the

demand for water will exceed supply by 56 percent - assuming that supply remains at current levels. But in fact, supply is declining: More than half the world's rivers are either polluted or drying up. Great rivers like the Yellow, the Colorado, and the Ganges no longer reach their tra-

ditional endpoints. "If the wars of this century were fought over oil," said World Bank Vice President *Ismail Serageldin*, "the wars of the next will be fought over water."

Send us your creative ideas and/or solutions and we will print them in future issues.

## The Idea Incubator

By Frank Helton

### How can we kill cancer with more T-cells?

For 25 years, *Dr. Steven A. Rosenberg*, chief of surgery at the National Cancer Institute, has been trying to prod the immune system into seeking out and killing cancer cells. Early on, he discovered that the body does manufacture killer T-cells aimed at tumors, but the response is far too feeble to beat back the cancer. So Rosenberg tried extracting such killer cells from tumors, growing them in large numbers, and putting them back into the body. Unfortunately, the cells typically last for only a few hours, not long enough to make a difference.

Now, Rosenberg has developed a more radical - and promising - approach. Before adding back billions of the tumor-fighting cells, he uses drugs to temporarily eliminate the body's normal immune system. The reinfused killer T-cells then divide and spread like wildfire in the body, creating a powerful army against the tumor. "This is a technique for generating staggering amounts of tumor-fighting cells," he says.

In the first results, 6 of 13 patients with advanced metastatic

melanoma had dramatic or noticeable tumor regression. One patient, 16 years-old at the time of treatment, is cancer-free two years later. Rosenberg's lab is now trying to figure out why three of the patients had no response - and is working on ways to boost T-cells further.

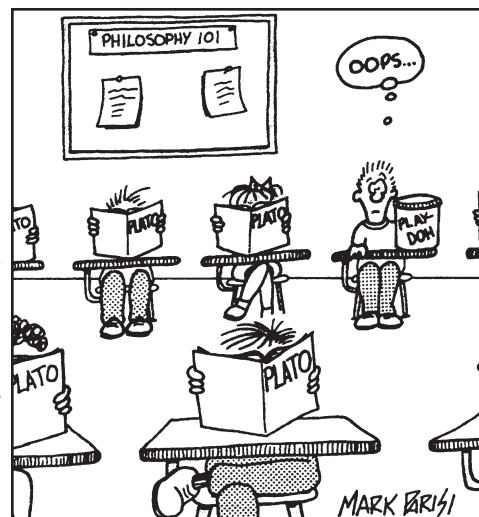
### How can jet trails affect climate?

Scientists have long wondered whether the fluffy white vapor trails airplanes streak across the sky affect temperatures on earth. It's difficult to study the effect of the contrails because there are always planes in the sky. But when all commercial aircraft were grounded for three days after Sept. 11, researchers finally had the chance to see what a contrail-free climate looked like. Jet contrails, they found, provide enough extra cloud cover to keep days cooler and nights warmer by about 3 degrees; clouds block sunlight during the day and trap heat at night. "When we put it all together we were shocked," claims climatologist *David Travis*. "We've created our own regional climate change in the

United States with jet aircraft." The changes are not global but affect the sky over the United States, where there is heavy jet traffic. Sky congestion is expected to increase by 5 percent a year.

### How can we prevent migraine headaches?

An epilepsy drug may help prevent migraines, says new research. And it has potentially welcome side effect - weight loss. *Dr. Stephen Silberstein* of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia told a recent migraine meeting that the Johnson & Johnson drug Topamax quieted over-excited brain cells, which sensitize pain centers. In a study of 400 patients, about half of those given Topamax saw the number and length of their headaches halved. The patients also lost an average of 3.8% of their body weight.



## Innovative Health Discoveries

By Thomas E. Ollerman, Ph.D

### End Migraine Pain in 7 Minutes - Without a Prescription

Getting rid of migraines is a real headache - but a new oral spray is changing that. The exciting herbal product is providing fast relief in many patients - and in some cases, it even prevents the painful attacks from occurring.

What's more, MigraSpray has been shown to be safe, with no side effects, say experts. "I am very excited about this new migraine treatment," declared **Dr. Cathleen London**, an assistant professor at Tufts University School of Medicine.

"It is safe, very promising, and I believe it can help millions of people who suffer from these debilitating and painful headaches," said Dr. London, who has been treating migraine patients with MigraSpray for nearly two years.

An estimated 32 million Americans are affected by migraines that can last from four to 72 hours. MigraSpray fights the problem with a combination of natural ingredients, including feverfew, which has anti-inflammatory effects. Feverfew has been used for centuries in the treatment of a variety of ailments and rheumatic aches, abdominal pain and headaches.

At the onset of a headache, use 10 sprays under the tongue. It is important to hold it for at least 30 seconds, longer if possible, before swallowing. If you have not experienced relief within 10 minutes of your first dose, repeat the same

dose a second time. The treatment is administered in a spray form to help speed absorption, allowing for fast relief of symptoms.

"If you're using it against oncoming migraines, use only five sprays per day instead of 10. I have been advising my patients to use MigraSpray as a preventative and so far half have had favorable results."

**Alan Udin**, vice president of operations for NatureWell, the company that produces MigraSpray, reports that nearly 88 percent of the 41 people who completed the company's clinical study "received some degree of relief from their migraine headache symptoms within an average of fewer than 7 minutes." Student Sara Skoog suffered from agonizing migraines for more than 10 years, experiencing approximately six a month. During a terrible migraine that lasted for three days, Sara was given a sample of MigraSpray by a friend.

"Since then I have been using MigraSpray every night before bed, and have not had a headache. I recommend it to anyone who has migraines," she said.

One of the reasons Dr. London says she likes MigraSpray is that it does not have the potential side effects of other treatments. "MigraSpray is well tolerated but I always encourage people to check with their doctor before using any medication. "If your doctor is not enthusiastic about homeopathic remedies such as this one, find a doctor who has done research on it and can advise you."

For more information on the

treatment, visit the Web site [www.migraspray.com](http://www.migraspray.com) or call toll-free 1-800-711-8357. MigraSpray is already available in many pharmacies across the country. It costs \$10 to \$13 for a 10-ml bottle.

### Lorenzo's Oil

The remedy made famous by the 1992 movie "Lorenzo's Oil" has finally been proven to work. Seventeen years ago, Augusto Odone's son Lorenzo was diagnosed with adrenoleukodystrophy, a disease that causes the progressive loss of movement, hearing, speaking, and finally, breathing. Told that their son had two years to live, Odone and his wife studied neurology and biochemistry to come up with Lorenzo's oil, a mixture of oleic and erucic acids. Skeptics called the oil worthless, but 10-year study led by neurologist **Hugo Moser** at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, in partnership with European scientists, prove otherwise.

When the oil was given to boys with the genetic defect that puts them at risk of developing adrenoleukodystrophy, they were much less likely to develop symptoms. At the end of the study, 76 percent of the 68 boys getting the oil were still healthy. Of the 36 boys who did not get the oil, only a third remained well. "Give the oil as soon as you know your son carries the genetic defect," says Odone. "We're not sure the oil is useful after symptoms have developed." Lorenzo, who didn't receive the oil until he was symptomatic, is still alive, but unable to move.

## Put on a Happy Face

Talking about your problems could do more harm than good, new research suggests. Israeli researchers studied 116 patients suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after a serious heart attack, and compared them with 72 healthy people who had not had heart attacks. "The damage to the heart, with its symbolic meaning as the essence of the human being, may shatter the patient's sense of wholeness and safety," **Dr. Karni Ginzburg** tells the journal, *Psychosomatic Medicine*. He and his colleagues at Tel Aviv University found that patients who tended to repress their anxiety had the lowest levels of post-traumatic symptoms. These patients were also the most likely to see them-

selves as competent and in control of their lives. "A repressive coping style may promote adjustment to traumatic stress, both in the short and longer term," says Ginzburg. His findings confirm recent Dutch analyses of seven studies on the effects of counseling for trauma victims. They found that therapy actually had a "detrimental effect" and failed to help patients.

## Coffee Kills Pain

A double shot of espresso could increase women's pain tolerance, a new study says. Scientists at Goldsmiths College in London tested the pain tolerance of 50 men and women by submerging their arms in buckets of icy water. Overall, men could keep their arms in the water longer than

women. But when women were given 250 mg of caffeine - the amount in two shots of espresso - their tolerance increased significantly. Caffeine had no effect on men's tolerance. Lead researcher **Ed Keogh** says that caffeine may reduce pain by increasing blood pressure. "The effect may not last for very long, but a quick double espresso probably would make the pain of something like leg waxing more bearable." He doesn't know why men don't benefit, and suggests that more research is needed on the differences between how men and women experience pain.

## Your Brain on Ecstasy

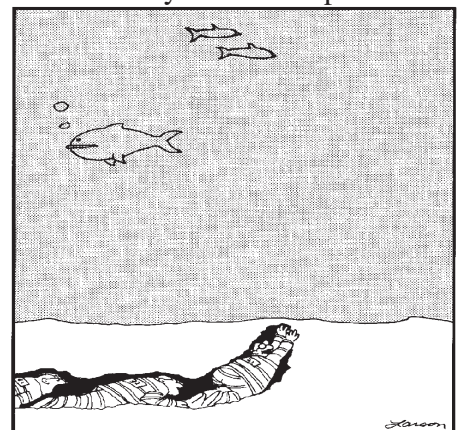
Partygoers who use Ecstasy for even one night may be increasing their risk of brain damage and Parkinson's disease. **George A. Ricaurte** and colleagues at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, gave the drug, also known as MDMA, to squirrel monkeys and baboons, in the amounts and at the intervals that all-night clubbers would use. The drug severely damaged dopamine-producing neurons. These neurons, crucial for movement, speech, and cognition, are the ones Parkinson's disease attacks. The brain damage was still evident six weeks later, researchers say. Because brain dopamine declines with age, a person whose dopamine cells are damaged at a young age "may be at greater risk of Parkinson's" later.

Critics say that humans don't necessarily react to Ecstasy the same way monkeys do. "The dose that he gave killed 20 percent of the animals immediately," says psychiatrist **Julia A. Holland** of

New York University. "Clearly these animals reacted to the drug differently than humans, because not one out of five Ecstasy users drops dead."

## Heal, Fido

Stressed out? Consult your pet. Dogs and cats are more effective at reducing stress than friends or lovers, according to researchers at the University of New York at Buffalo. They studied 240 married couples, half of whom had a pet, as they performed stress-inducing tasks such as mental arithmetic or sticking their hand in cold water. Subjects performed the same tasks while alone, with a pet or a friend, with a spouse and a pet, or with a spouse and a friend. People with pets present had lower resting heart rates and blood pressure, had less of a reaction to the stressful tasks, and were less likely to call the tasks "challenging" or "threatening." Pet owners also made fewer mistakes. "Social support can indeed cross species," says lead researcher **Karen Allen**. "Support from a spouse or friend may be perceived as judgmental even if it isn't, whereas people don't feel that way about their pets."



"We're almost free, everyone!  
I just felt the first drop of rain."

## Create Your Dream

By Chris Pritchard

Who says, "No man is an island"? Richie Sowa's built his very own tropical island - out of old bottles.

The sun-lover's plastic paradise boasts real palm trees, three white-sand beaches, a rain reservoir for fresh drinking water and a comfortable beach house.

Richie's two pet ducks, Peace and Love, even enjoy their own scenic pond.

The 48-year-old former carpenter constructed his real-life "Waterworld" off Mexico's Yucatan peninsula and now happily proclaims: "I haven't died - but I've gone to heaven!"

Richie left his native England nearly five years ago - and soon after, the brilliant concept dawned on him.

"I was sitting on a Mexican beach watching a plastic bottle bobbing in the water" recalled Richie - a strong advocate of recycling.

For years, he had dreamed of living on his own tropical island, and then it hit him: What if I can build an island of discarded bottles? I could get rid of unwanted plastic and also build my getaway.

Working up to 12 hours a day, Richie spent most of the next four years gathering thousands of plastic bottles and putting them in sacks made of strong fishing net. He then wove the sacks tightly together.

As the project took off, local youngsters helped collect the bottles.

"Slowly my island took shape" he said. "It's now 30 yards by 20 yards - and still growing.

My goal is to increase the size four-fold and perhaps have some other people living on it.

"As well as expanding the edges, I'm working on increasing the depth of the base. My island now floats on about five feet of bottles - probably a quarter-million of them crammed into thousands of woven-together sacks. "I scuba dive so I can check the underside regularly".

The floating bottles are topped by a floor of bamboo and plywood. On top of that, Richie spread a two-foot thick layer of soil, and brought sand from the mainland to build his beaches.

Now his sunny isle - moored off the town of Puerto AvenVaras - is covered in lush vegetation, and he plans to grow all his own food. He ferries himself 40 yards to the mainland each day in a handmade raft.

Richie, who earns his living as a musician and artist, sometimes takes tourists to his island, and their donations help to cover his costs.

He dubbed his little patch of paradise Spiral Island because the bottle-filled sacks are linked together in spirals.

He hopes his engineering feat will inspire others. "This proves you can use the garbage from consumer overspill to create land for people to live simple lives in great surroundings."

Local authorities gave permission for the enterprising environmentalist to build his retreat in order to encourage awareness of responsible trash disposal.

Richie's heavenly haven is remarkably sturdy - it's even survived two hurricanes.

Says Richie's proud mom Dorothy: "When he first said he was building an island, I thought, 'The boy's finally gone completely mad!' But he actually did it — he built his dream."

## Kids Ask the Hardest Questions

By Thomas E. Ollerman, Ph.D.

**If water is heavier than air, why do clouds stay up in the sky?**

They don't. They are constantly dropping water. Luckily for us, cloud drops do not fall at the same speed as a water balloon. In fact, cloud drops are really quite slow. They drop at about 0.3 centimeters per second. And cloud drops are so tiny, 0.01 centimeters in diameter, that their descent is not even noticeable to the human eye.

**What is the circle next to the batter's box on baseball fields?**

This is the area known as the fungo circle. Coaches stand in the fungo circle during pre-game practice and hit balls to infielders and, more frequently, outfielders. Why? So he won't wear out the grass on the field.

## Thought to Ponder...

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys.

## From the Institute for Collaborative Alliances Can We Really Inspect Iraq?

From: The Week, October 4, 2002

Hussein has a proven record of aggression, deceit, and willingness to kill his enemies with unconventional weapons. His regime has twice invaded neighboring countries - Iran in 1980 and Kuwait in 1990. Iraqi troops killed tens of thousands of Iranians with mustard and nerve gases; in 1988, Saddam used poison gas on Kurdish villages who were rebelling against his rule, killing more than 6,000 men, women, and children. In 1990, Saddam's troops and tanks overran neighboring Kuwait and took over its oil fields. When the U.N. ordered him to withdraw, his son-in-law later reported, Saddam fitted 25 Scud warheads with anthrax and botulinum toxin; if enemy troops rolled into Baghdad to depose him, his doomsday plan was to fire these special Scuds at Israel and Saudi Arabia.

After Iraq was crushed in the Gulf War, his regime claimed to have destroyed nearly all of their Scuds and biological and chemical weapons. But the U.N. didn't take his word for it, and sent in the United Nations Special Commission, known as UNSCOM, to inspect suspicious sites. The inspectors found that Saddam had been lying. They discovered a cache of 12,747 artillery shells filled with mustard gas, as well as equipment used for making biological, chemical, and nuclear weapons. In 1995, experts received intelligence reports of "mind-boggling" quantities of biological growth material - used for brewing deadly bio-weapons - and confirmed the regime. said Iraq expert **Laurie Mylroie** in the Middle East Intelligence Bulletin. Iraq denied even having a biological weapons program. Then Saddam's son-in-law **Hussein Kamil** defected.

Kamil, who was in charge of Iraq's unconventional weapons program, told the U.N. what Saddam was making and where he was making it. Based on his

tips, inspectors destroyed several plants used for making biological weapons. But Kamil warned that Saddam had already hidden away stockpiles of lethal biological agents - including aflatoxin, which causes liver cancer; the Ebola virus; and anthrax. Iraq also hid and upgraded 20 al-Hussein rockets, which could deliver chemical and biological weapons over a 400-mile range - including Israel and most of the Middle East.

U.N. inspectors complained that their Iraqi handlers routinely phoned ahead to warn officials at suspicious factories and warehouses. While the U.N. motorcade approached, Iraqi workers were busily "moving stuff out the back door," a British diplomat said.

In 1995, Iraq admitted having produced 3.3 tons of VX, a highly lethal nerve gas, but claimed to have destroyed it. When UNSCOM demanded proof, Iraqi officials assured them the documents simply didn't exist. One Western diplomat said Iraqi leaders shrugged their shoulders say if to say, "We're sorry, but we're a Third World country and the dog ate it."

In 1996, the International Atomic Energy Agency concluded that Iraq only needed 35 pounds of enriched uranium to make an atomic bomb. U.N. inspectors destroyed some precision machinery that could have been useful in making a bomb, but **Rolf Ekeus**, UNSCOM's first chairman, warned that it was only a matter of time before it would be replaced. "Saddam will get a bomb." "Every day, they are more advanced. British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** said that Iraq has tried to purchase uranium in Africa, and U.S. officials say Iraq has tried to smuggle in equipment for enriching uranium. The head of German intelligence, **August Hanning**, warns, "Iraq will have an atomic bomb within three years."

The inspectors left in December 1998, frustrated that the Iraqi regime was blocking their work. Shortly after the team was safely out of Baghdad, the U.S. and Britain blasted suspected weapons sites with cruise missiles in a three-day assault dubbed Operation Desert Fox. Saddam refused to let the monitors back in for nearly four years, despite a withering U.N. embargo.

The U.N.'s new team consists of 220 experts from 44 countries. After UNSCOM's expulsion, the Security Council created this group to be more palatable to Saddam's regime. Unlike their predecessors, who worked with tips from U.S. and Israeli intelligence, the members of United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, known as UNMOVIC, won't be allowed to have contact with outside intelligence agents. Instead, they will have to search known pharmaceutical factories and military sites, and hunt for evidence of weapons materials.

The best the U.N. can hope for is to slow Saddam's progress on rebuilding his arsenal. Iraq is a large country, with 168,000 square miles - about the size of California. Most experts say inspectors cannot possibly search out all weapons of mass destruction in a nation of that size, especially if Hussein is playing cat and mouse games, moving his deadly caches from place to place. "I don't want to knock the new inspection regime or my successors' efforts or abilities," said **David Kay**, a former inspector who led the initial nuclear inspections in Iraq in the early 1990s, "but their task is damn near a mission impossible." **Parisoula Lampsos**, a defector who claims to have been Saddam's mistress for 30 years, recently backed up that view in an interview with ABC News. Lampsos said the strongman laughed at the inspectors the U.N. sent in from 1991 to 1998. "Let them come," he said. "They will not find anything."

# High School Essay Excerpts

From: Sean Hunziker

## Animal Whys?

by Jocelyn Little

• *James Wide* was a signalman on the Port Elizabeth line near Uitenhage, South Africa, in the late 1800s. He lost both legs in a railway accident. From then on, his pet chacma baboon, Jack, kept house, pumped water from the well, and cared for the garden. In the mornings Jack would lock up the shack and push Wide to work in a little trolley. Jack operated the levers that set signals, and he worked so well the railroad company put him on the payroll. The baboon earned 20 cents a clay and half a bottle of beer on Saturdays. After nine accident-free years on the job, Jack died in 1890.

• Baboons have been used with great success as goatherds on the Otjiruse farm in Southwest Africa, in the late 1950s and early 1960s. *Dr. Walter Hoesch*, the internationally known German zoologist, did a thorough study of a baboon named Ahla that worked for the Aston family on that farm. Ahla was raised from the age of two in the company of goats and fed goats' milk. She was never trained, but accompanied the goats all during the day, rounded up strays, reunited kids and ewes, and knew all eighty goats by sight. The only thing Mrs. Aston had to teach Ahla was not to carry the young kids up trees under her arm for fun. Otherwise she behaved in an exemplary fashion and enjoyed riding on the backs of the big goats.

Her face was a perfect oval, like a circle that had its two other sides gently compressed by a Thigh Master.

Sue Lin Chong, Washington

His thoughts tumbled in his head, making and breaking alliances like underpants in a dryer without Cling Free.

Chuck Smith, Woodbridge

He spoke with the wisdom that can only come from experience, like a guy who went blind because he looked at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it and now goes around the country speaking at high schools about the dangers of looking at a solar eclipse without one of those boxes with a pinhole in it.

Joseph Romm, Washington

She caught your eye like one of those pointy hook latches that used to dangle from screen doors and would fly up whenever you banged the door open again

Rich Murphy, Fairfax Station

The little boat gently drifted across the pond exactly the way a bowling ball wouldn't.

Russell Beland, Springfield

McBride fell 12 stories, hitting the pavement like a Hefty bag filled with vegetable soup.

Paul Sabourin, Silver Spring

From the attic came an unearthly howl. The whole scene had an eerie, surreal quality, like when you're on vacation in another city and Jeopardy comes on at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30.

Roy Ashley, Washington

Her hair glistened in the rain like nose hair after a sneeze.

Chuck Smith, Woodbridge

Her eyes were like two brown circles with big black dots in the center.

Russell Beland, Springfield

Her vocabulary was as bad as, like, whatever.

Unknown

The hailstones leaped from the pavement, just like maggots when you fry them in hot grease.

Gary F. Hevel, Silver Spring

The politician was gone but unnoticed, like the period after the Dr. on a Dr Pepper can.

Wayne Goode, Madison, AL

They lived in a typical suburban neighborhood with picket fences that resembled Nancy Kerrigan's teeth.

Paul Kocak, Syracuse NY

John and Mary had never met. They were like two hummingbirds who had also never met.

Russell Beland, Springfield

The thunder was ominous sounding, much like the sound of a thin sheet of metal being shaken backstage during the storm scene in a play.

Barbara Fetherolf

The red brick wall was the color of a brick-red Crayola crayon.

Unknown

He fell for her like his heart was a mob informant and she was the East River.

Brian Broadus, Charlottesville

**Executive Trivia**  
**Answer... Zenith.**