

(Possible acceptance speech: "I'd like to thank all the little particles...") The journal cited the molecule's many electronic properties and chemical interactions with other atoms. Runners-up for the highest honor a molecule can aspire to include stratospheric ozone and major histocompatibility complexes. Last year's winner was buckminsterfullerene's carbon-cosin, the diamond.

BLOOD SHORTAGE WORRIES: The American Association of Blood Banks is warning that blood donations will fall because some people will dread the AIDS virus. "We are concerned about... shortages" in communities where significant numbers have had no shot, the group's president, Dr. Shannon Cooper, said Thursday. The American Red Cross says it's too early to know whether the problem of false test results would affect the amount of blood available during the holiday season. Both organizations emphasized there is no risk to the safety of blood supplies.

BRAIN GAMES: Mensa, the organization of people with high IQs, has graciously agreed to share its choices for the best word and strategy games with us. The games: *Primeur* (AbeBooks, Corp., Grand Haven, Mich.); *Clue* (The Great Minds, Inc., Fawcett, N.J.); *SETE* (Seti, Inc., East Lansing, Mich.); and *Master Labyrinth* (International Playthings, Riverdale, N.J.).

THEY'RE NO CHUCK & DI: Democracy and monarchy aren't an especially good mix, and a Spy reader survey demonstrates why. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Elizabeth Taylor were voted king and queen in the survey, sponsored by Spy and Crown Royal Canadian whiskey. John F. Kennedy Jr. was named prince, and Madonna and Anita Hill tied for princess. The rest of the royal court: Norman Schwarzenegger, knight; Dan Quayle, jester; Peewee Herman and the Brady Bunch girl voted in each category.

By David Landis

Inside LIFE

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USA SNAPSHOTS®

A look at statistics that shape our lives

How to live longer
People can extend their lives by changing their lifestyle, experts say. Average years of life gained by:

- Quit drinking heavily: 4 Years
- Stop smoking: 3.4 Years
- Exercise: 3 Years
- Stop smoking 1 pack per day: 4 Years
- Which diet: 2.3 Years

Source: Kenneth Manton, Ph.D., Duke University; by Ely A. McClam, USA TODAY



Top photo by Melissa Ryan; Left photo by William Brink

Sweat can't transmit the AIDS virus

By Mike Snider
USA TODAY

People who are infected with HIV, the AIDS virus, cannot transmit it through sweat, a new study confirms. Experts had believed that risk of infection by sweat is very low or nonexistent. In a two-year study, Dr. Gary Wormser of New York Medical College and others found no HIV in sweat from 50 people who had AIDS or were infected with HIV. The report is published in January's *The Journal of Infectious Diseases*. The results might be of particular interest to athletes, because of the Magic Johnson story. Wormser says, "We have seen that HIV is not in sweat. The American Association of Public Health Schools of Public Health Wednesday announced that will reach all players by the league's Feb. 9 All-Star game. Players weren't unduly worried about sweat, says Johns Hopkins' Dr. Alan Goldberg, but "the press had brought it up so it had to be addressed. It's nice to see another report that confirms our current understanding."

History his to interpret in new film

Comedian Mort Sahl, fired for his JFK theories, speaks about the movie, 3D

By Jefferson Graham
USA TODAY

HOLLYWOOD — Oliver Stone is on the hot seat. Accused of twisting history in *JFK*, the filmmaker's new movie about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, he is being fired for his JFK theories, says a source. Stone took him to task for creating characters that key elements of the story. But like a man on a crusade, twice-wounded Vietnam vet Stone, 45, passionately believes that he is right and they are wrong. Defenders, he contends, are members of the East Coast media establishment that reported Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing John F. Kennedy. To support Stone's view, he has written a book, *JFK: The American Tragedy*, and he has a weekly column in *Newsweek* and *Time* that he uses for creating characters that key elements of the story. But like a man on a crusade, twice-wounded Vietnam vet Stone, 45, passionately believes that he is right and they are wrong. Defenders, he contends, are members of the East Coast media establishment that reported Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing John F. Kennedy. To support Stone's view, he has written a book, *JFK: The American Tragedy*, and he has a weekly column in *Newsweek* and *Time* that he uses for creating characters that key elements of the story.

Stone's three-hour version focuses on trouble-free New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, portrayed by Kevin Costner as a Jimmy Stewart-like good guy who fights the world virtually alone in a quest to prove that the government (CIA, military) killed the president, and that Oswald was a lone gunman. Stone's version focuses on trouble-free New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, portrayed by Kevin Costner as a Jimmy Stewart-like good guy who fights the world virtually alone in a quest to prove that the government (CIA, military) killed the president, and that Oswald was a lone gunman. Stone's version focuses on trouble-free New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison, portrayed by Kevin Costner as a Jimmy Stewart-like good guy who fights the world virtually alone in a quest to prove that the government (CIA, military) killed the president, and that Oswald was a lone gunman.

1,000 doctors in the USA's top 50 cities, located in 33 states, plus the largest metropolitan areas, surprised findings in the continuing study. Denver is the largest city added to the tracking service's "alert" list, meaning "roughly three-fourths of households have someone with respiratory illness," Kress says. While the findings don't directly indicate the number of influenza cases, they are nonetheless significant.

Steve Martin, 'Bride' a happy marriage

By Matthew Rothen
MSS FOR LUCK: Steve Martin jokes father of bride Kimberly Williams.

Back when Steve Martin used to prance about with a phony arrow through his cranium, who would have thought he would end up the embodiment of Every Dad?

That the title role in *Father of the Bride II* (Speicher Trading Co., New York) would slipper turns his role into a laugh-fueled walk down the aisle.

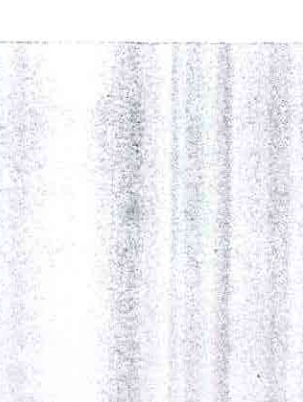
Those who'd rather see something old than something new will find *Bride* irresistible as Martin agonizes over losing a daughter and gaining an "independent communications consultant" as a son-in-law. The updated bride (Tommy Lister Jr.) and groom (newer role Elizabeth Taylor) never get divorced, but his career, finances, and his a shot, and wears, incoherent smiles under her gown. But rather than shake up an institution (like Robert Altman's *The Wedding Bride*), *Bride* is content to tick off the timeless platitudes.

Diatribe Keaton, nicely refrained as the mother of the bride, and Martin impetuous comedy and tragedy masks.

Meeting the in-laws. Many snoggers in their best-man suits, in the pool, then fails in himself.

Trimming the guest list. Cost-conscious Martin is elated to learn that one invitee is actually dead.

But it's Martin Short who



By Matthew Rothen
MSS FOR LUCK: Steve Martin jokes father of bride Kimberly Williams.

Father of the Bride
Steve Martin..... George Banks
Kimberly Williams..... Elizabeth Taylor
Diane Keaton..... Mrs. Banks
John Goodman..... Mr. Duvall
A Touchstone Pictures release
Produced by Nancy Meyers, Carol Bart
Directed by Howard Zieff
Casting by Frances Goodrich, Albert Heisler
Music by Marvin Hamlisch
Edited by Robert Trueman
Production Designer: Robert Trueman
Director of Photography: Robert Trueman
Executive Producers: Robert Trueman
Producers: Robert Trueman
Screenplay by Robert Trueman
Story by Robert Trueman
Based on the play by Robert Trueman
© 1994 Touchstone Pictures
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takes the cake (or, as he would say, "ca-ack") as Franck, the wedding coordinator with a Euro-weird accent you could hang the guests' coats on. A few hits — like Martin's superranked "Hable over your pants come by the damn while he's here" — are in English, but those who would rather laugh than cry at weddings (hence bring a handy anyway) will say "I do" to *Bride*.

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12/20/91

Mort Sahl, still speaking out

By Jefferson Graham
USA TODAY

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Mort Sahl hasn't had a TV home since a Los Angeles TV station fired him in the 1960s.

But now, the comedian, controversial in the '60s for his outspoken views and contention that John Kennedy was murdered by the CIA and the Pentagon, (the reason KTTV axed him) finally has a TV arena where he can speak his mind, 38 years after starting his show-biz career.

Sahl now has a no-holds-barred hourlong monthly show for the Monitor Channel, *Mort Sahl Live*, airing Saturday, 9 p.m. EST/6 p.m. PST.

Sahl, 64, first gained fame for being the first comedian to deal with topical, political material with an edge (he pre-dates Lenny Bruce), as he stood onstage in his red sweater, holding the newspaper and commenting on current events.

He still has the sweater and the paper, and he still speaks out. This week he tackles the Anita Hill/Clarence Thomas hearings, Oliver North's book tour and the recession. Next month, he'll talk about Oliver Stone's *JFK* movie and the presidential campaign.

After some lean years, Sahl's career is picking up again, thanks largely to a 1988 PBS documentary about him. "It stirred everyone's conscience," he says. "It reminded people of how they once felt."

Sahl is a favorite of many comics. Woody Allen says it was Sahl who influenced him to get up onstage. "He was the best thing I ever saw," Allen told biographer Eric Lax. "Like Charlie Parker in jazz."

"Mort stood up against everybody," says comic Jonathan Winters. "Mort's a fighter, and he's as articulate today as when I met him in the '50s, standing in a red sweater at the (club) hungry i."

On Dec. 23, 1953, Sahl made his debut at that now-defunct San Francisco club.

When other comics were telling wife jokes, Sahl talked about things younger audi-



MORT SAHL: His brand of political humor and his career are on the upswing with a new cable show. By Lynn Houston

He's no fan of 'JFK' film

When Mort Sahl began questioning the Warren Commission's findings that a lone gunman killed President Kennedy, work dried up. They said he wasn't funny anymore.

But Sahl was obsessed with finding out what really happened in Dallas. He quit show business and moved to New Orleans, where he volunteered as an investigator in District Attorney Jim Garrison's case against a local businessman he said was in on a conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

That case is the subject of director Oliver Stone's new *JFK* film. But Sahl, who's read the script but hasn't seen the movie, has nothing good to say about it — even though it would appear to vindicate what he said in the '60s.

He cites a joke about a guy who comes to see Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal, and says, "The good news is that Oliver Stone wants to do a movie on your life. The bad news is that Kevin Costner is going to play Hitler." And that about sums it all up.

JFK is too fictionalized, says Sahl. "Having been there, I can tell you that the real story is so much more interesting. Why aren't the facts enough?"

assassination conspiracy, but he feels Watergate and the Iran-contra affair vindicated his assertion that the government doesn't always tell the truth.

Now, he counts former President Reagan and President Bush among his friends, after appearing at a charity function with Reagan when he was the governor of California. Nancy Reagan invited him to dinner, and they became friends.

Has Sahl sold out?
"I stand for the same stuff today that I did then," he says, denying he's a Republican. "I'm a radical."

Sahl still makes a steady living working political functions, occasional concerts and the Monitor show.

"The thing is not to bend, keep your point of view and survive on your own terms," he says. "Look at what I went through and look at what I have now. I've got myself, and my principles were not put into escrow."

ences could relate to: politics, jazz and sports cars.

Sahl's formula is "to approach people as if you were talking to them one on one, with more intimate conversations."

Time called him "Will Rogers with fangs," and Sahl became friends with John F. Kennedy, writing speeches and jokes for the new president.

His career nose-dived once he began speaking out on the

► 'JFK,' the movie, 1D

COVER STORY

Character serves as a metaphor

Continued from 1D

did not act alone — if at all — in the shooting of the president. Stone's viewpoint is the opposite of the one set forth in 1964 by the Warren Commission, which said a lone gunman did kill the president. That finding has been debated ever since, spawning a cottage industry devoted to various conspiracy theories.

JFK is easily the most controversial film of the year — so surprising, as multiple Academy Award nominations drive on controversy. The past in-your-face films (*Platoon*, *Wall Street*, *The Doors*, *Born on the Fourth of July*) invited public debate. Viewers either love his films — or hate 'em.

"You don't go unscathed when you step out, and Oliver steps out," Costner says. "He's a forward-motion guy with his subjects and storytelling."

JFK's storytelling already is making waves at previews. Garrison, as the "Stone points only — citizen to speak out about the commission. The truth is that Mark Lane's 1986 book *Rush to Judgment* came first, and comedian Mort Sahl's career came to a halt when he attacked the commission on stage. Garrison's case wasn't announced until 1987.

Problem 2: Characters are created and composite situations are invented to make a better case for Stone's contention that the military killed JFK because he wanted to withdraw from Vietnam and they wanted their war.

In a key scene, Garrison goes to the Washington Monument and meets "Mr. X," who tells why JFK was killed. It's depicted as a turning point for Garrison, who then believes, without a doubt, that the government ordered the assassination. Yet in real life, Garrison never went to Washington to meet X. Stone did, in 1988, but he says he never had the critical thinking the movie dramatizes.

"What can I say? It's been done in movies." Stone says. "Missile, Rock, Silwood. The Killing Fields, they were all criticized for condensing."

changing facts, shifting things around so it would be a dramatic "X." But I think the essence of a real-life movie is they give a real perspective. "I doesn't say all that begins the movie but this is a beginning of the movie that he begins the story," he adds. But doesn't opening the movie with reversed and TV footage imply that? "No. It says the tone."

Alan Lichtman, who teaches history at American University in Washington, D.C., says getting history from the movies is one of the worst ways to learn. "Unfortunately, many people pick up their history from the movies and television," he says. "The movie is not the way they view the world."

JFK offers revisionist history. The '68 press portraits Garrison as a publicity-seeking buffoon, not a Frank Capra hero. Work credited to him in the movie was not all his.

"I used Garrison as a metaphor for all the research that was done in the '60s to the '80s," Stone says. "The point of the picture was why Kennedy was killed and the only way I could get there was to incorporate other researchers into Garrison's work."

Lane, whose fourth book about the assassination — *Plausible Denial* from Doubleday's Doubt Press, has just been published — salutes Stone for putting the issue back onto the front burner. "It just would have been better had he stuck to the facts."

Lane hasn't seen the film, but he read two drafts of the script and met with Stone's producer, including David Perlen, who killed Kennedy. But he says he was struck because Stone wanted the right to fictionalize it. Lane says, "I didn't make a deal with Stone, therefore I don't exist in the Hollywood version."

PEOPLE

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE FAMOUS AND THE FASCINATING

Stillbirth ended Sagal's pregnancy

Married... With Children's Kaley Sagal didn't know she was pregnant until the 28th week. She had a stillbirth. "I gave birth to a child that is not here today," she tells the magazine. "I experienced the kicking, the labor, and then... nothing."

The loss of the baby, she says, "is as real to me as any death has ever been. She was a very important person in my life, and she was here for a very short time."

Sagal had a miscarriage earlier in the year, but the second pregnancy seemed to go well.

What made things even harder, Sagal, 35, and boyfriend Jack White watched the baby's image on a monitor. "It was a girl," Sagal says.

For now, the married father of two, this 3-year-old son Sean plays Garrison's son in JFK's role on the battlefield. The Doors and JFK were filmed back to back, there have been 18-hour days in the editing room and he's looking forward to a vacation — maybe a year. This despite commitments to produce another Vietnam movie, a film biography of Alan gay rights activist Harvey Milk and possibly an American documentary about Tom Brokaw.

He's tired of talking. "I think a movie should speak for itself," and looks forward to letting the public, instead of the media, vote on JFK.

"My heart is beating," he says. "I'm looking out across the Rubicon there. I see the enemy forces all drawn out. It is the day, and I look forward to battle. There's some blood in there and a lot of hurt, but at the end of the day, the film will get to the other side and stand the test of time."

Prince at his pique

PRINCETLY PREGROGATIVE: Snapping Prince for January 1992, the prince and his partner, Sherry Ruffalo, parted on the edge of a photo. You look great. You look like you're in a groove. Prince walked off the set with no explanation, telling this, Burn these negatives.

By Herb Trim, "Vogue" magazine, Prince and Sherry Ruffalo parted on the edge of a photo. You look great. You look like you're in a groove. Prince walked off the set with no explanation, telling this, Burn these negatives.

The 'Rush' crush

LOS ANGELES: Arnold Schwarzenegger and wife Maria Shriver came late, but it was the film's star Jason Patric and his girlfriend Julia Roberts who really stole the show at Wednesday's premiere.

At the party after the premiere, a couple playing pool — alone — in a top-doff area guarded by security men.

Other celebs who showed up at the premiere included: Raji, director Greg Allan; rocker Eric Clapton (who wrote a song for the film soundtrack); Dana Delany; Ruanaa Arquette; and Bruce and Laura Dern.

Briefly...

Nanette Carter's mother, Maria Cole, tells the Dec. 20 issue of USA WEEKEND she won't attend her daughter's concert or listen to her album *Unforgettable* because, "I just feel that everything belonged to (my son) and Val Hall (Cole)... I don't see how you can receive a special Grammy or Music Award in January."

Address: Jeannie Williams, 1500 W. 15th St., Los Angeles, CA 90024. Her column will resume when she returns.

BORN TODAY: Grammy Award-winning actor John Hillerman, 59.

Address: Jeannie Williams, 1500 W. 15th St., Los Angeles, CA 90024. Her column will resume when she returns.