



HUMAN INTEREST

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Miss. school prom off after lesbian's date request



JACKSON, Miss. – A northern Mississippi school district will not be hosting a high school prom this spring after a lesbian student sought to attend with her girlfriend and wear a tuxedo. The Itawamba County school district's board decided Wednesday to drop the prom because of what it called recent distractions but without specifically mentioning the girl's request, which was backed by the American Civil Liberties Union. The student, 18-year-old high school senior Constance McMillen, said the cancellation was retaliation for her efforts to bring her girlfriend, also a student, to the April 2 dance. "A bunch of kids at school are really going to hate me for this, so in a way it's really retaliation," McMillen told The Clarion-Ledger of Jackson. Calls to McMillen by The Associated Press late Wednesday went unanswered. School policy requires that senior prom dates be of the opposite sex. The ACLU of Mississippi had given the district until Wednesday to

change that policy, arguing that banning same-sex prom dates violated McMillen's constitutional rights. Instead, the school board met and issued a statement announcing it wouldn't host the event at Itawamba County Agricultural High School in Fulton, "due to the distractions to the educational process caused by recent events." The statement didn't mention McMillen or the ACLU. When asked by The Associated Press if McMillen's demand led to the cancellation, school board attorney Michele Floyd said she could only reference the statement. "It is our hope that private citizens will organize an event for the juniors and seniors," district officials said in the statement. "However, at this time, we feel that it is in the best interest of the Itawamba County School District, after taking into consideration the education, safety and well being of our students." Kristy Bennett, legal director for the ACLU of Mississippi, said the district was trying to avoid the issue.

Woman gives birth, didn't know she was pregnant



Kentucky -- The mother claims she didn't even know she was pregnant! A Kentucky mother of 2 has a remarkable story to tell about her youngest child. She delivered the baby herself at home. But that's not the most amazing part of her story. Kelly Bottom says she didn't know she was pregnant until she went into labor. Kelly says her stomach started hurting so she went to the bathroom. And it didn't stop there. Kelly says she cut the umbilical cord herself and then drove herself and her new bundle of joy to the hospital. Kelly says she and her new miracle baby are doing just fine. ([Watch Video](#))

Promoter Has One-Track Mind About Eight Tracks



DALLAS—Last fall, more than 200 people crammed into one of this city's premier contemporary art galleries for a three-day show. The white walls, accustomed to paintings that sell for thousands of dollars, were home to less rarified fare. The show? Eight Track Tapes: The Bucks Burnett

Collection. "It was packed," says gallery owner Barry Whistler. Presiding over the affair was James "Bucks" Burnett, a portly fellow with long gray hair and a white beard. He wore a tailored brown suit covered with images from the album cover of Led Zeppelin's 1973 *Houses of the Holy*. Strangers showed up offering boxes of eight tracks, which Mr. Burnett happily pawed through, plucking out dusty rarities and putting them on display. The positive response "led me to think maybe I'm not insane," says Mr. Burnett. But it also helped him realize that a brief gallery show simply can't contain his vision for the hard plastic tapes, one of the clunkiest and most short-lived music formats of all time. He wants to open an eight-track museum. "There are only two choices. A world with an eight-track museum and a world without an eight-track museum," he says. "I choose with." Shortly after the show, the planners of a music conference in Denton, a music-loving college town about 40 miles north of Dallas, made Mr. Burnett an offer. They would find him a vacant space and pay \$4,000 to build a temporary museum for a one-month run beginning Friday. Mr. Burnett accepted and is readying his collection for another display, this time in a former lingerie factory in Denton. He plans to showcase and play a few hundred tapes, including a baby-blue copy of The Who's "Tommy," a copy of the "Easy Rider" soundtrack with sun-bleached cover art signed by Peter Fonda and a rare copy of Lou Reed's 1975 avant-garde homage to noise called "Metal Machine Music." ([Full Story and Slideshow](#))

Scientists solve half-cock chicken mystery



Researchers say they've solved the mystery of why some chickens hatch out half-male and half-female. About one in every 10,000 chickens is gynandromorphous, to use the technical term. In medieval times, they might have been burned at the stake, as witches familiars. But now these chickens are shedding important new light on how birds, and perhaps reptiles, develop. It used to be thought that hormones instructed cells to develop in male or female-specific ways.

That's what happens in mammals, including humans, and it leads to secondary sexual characteristics like facial hair for men or breasts for women. But scientists at the Roslin Institute and the University of Edinburgh say they have discovered that bird cells don't need to be programmed by hormones. Instead they are inherently male or female, and remain so even if they end up mixed together in the same chicken. It means a half-and-half chicken will have totally different plumage, body shape, and muscle structure on the two halves of its body. It even affects the wattles on the bird's head, and the spurs on its legs. They will be larger on the cockerel half, and smaller on the hen half, of the same bird. Dr Michael Clinton of the Roslin Institute led the research, which has just been published in the scientific journal Nature. ([Read Full Story](#))

Woman Robs 11, Gets \$6



THERMAL, Calif. — They say crime doesn't pay. For one robber in California, it did – but not much. Authorities in Riverside County say a woman with a gun robbed 11 customers at a market and got away with \$6. A Sheriff's Department statement says the woman was armed with a semi-automatic pistol when she went to La Chicanita Market in the town of Thermal on Tuesday afternoon. Deputy Herlinda Valenzuela says the woman confronted 10 customers in the store and also demanded money from one person who was entering the market. She then fled in an old car. Nobody was hurt.



Marion Cotillard Unveils New Accessory For Women

Oscar-winner Marion Cotillard knows what it's like to have men avoid your gaze in order to stare at your cleavage, so she was the perfect choice to unveil the new product aimed to get colleagues to look you in the eye: The Forehead

Tittaes. Simply stick the plastic breasts to your head and wait for your boss to take you more seriously.
This should definitely work. [\(Video\)](#)

Central Talent Booking