

Focus



Rhythm and blues entertainer Bo Diddley records on a 125-year-old wax cylinder phonograph on Capitol Hill. His backup band is, left to right, Rep. Joseph Crowley, D-N.Y., Rep. Mary Bono, D-Calif., John Conyers, D-Mich., and Rep. Linda Sanchez, D-Calif. (AP photo)

Bo Diddley Jams with Congress

(AP)—Bo Diddley did what he does best, singing and playing his guitar. Five members of Congress did the best they could, playing his backup group.

Last Wednesday's jam session on Capitol Hill commemorated the birth of recorded sound 125 years ago, when Thomas Edison invented the phonograph.

In a green coat, gold shirt and black hat, Diddley entered the room in what he called his "wheelchair Cadillac" that he sometimes uses

for a bad back. "I'm kind of in a good mood," he said as he fiddled with his guitar.

Phonograph collector Peter Dilg of Baldwin, N.Y., set up the antique recording system - an 1898 Edison recorder with a zinc horn and a tin-horned phonograph from around 1903 - and inserted the wax cylinders that record sound.

The cylinders can handle about two to four minutes, so the performances were brief.

The 74-year-old bluesman

strummed his guitar as five House members tried to keep the beat, with varied levels of success. Tapping their feet and bobbing their heads behind Diddley were Reps. Mary Bono, R-Calif., John Conyers, D-Mich., Joseph Crowley, D-N.Y., Mel Watt, D-N.C., and Linda Sanchez, D-Calif.

The wax cylinders will go into a time capsule for the Edison National Historic Site in West Orange, N.J.

Radio Host, Gospel Singer Compete

Gospel singer Kirk Franklin (right) hooks up with Portland 105.1 morning show host Nelson during music week on the "Pyramid." The TV broadcast is scheduled Friday, Sept. 26 on ABC affiliate Channel 2 at 4 p.m.

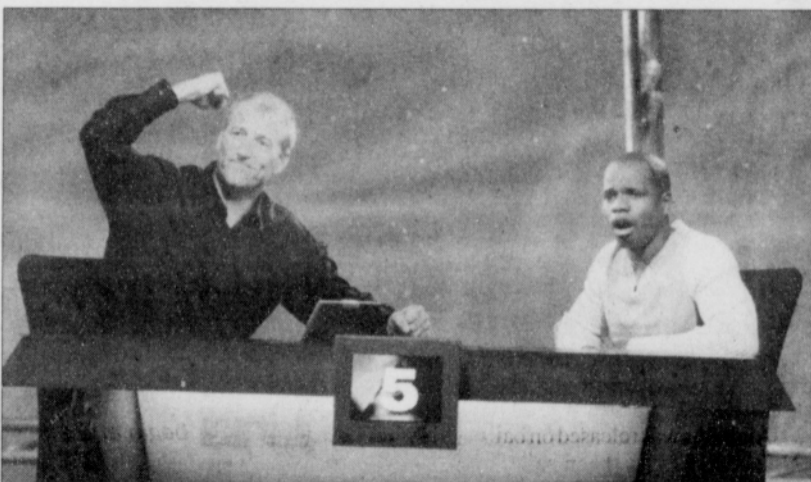


PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES TELEVISION

Housekeeper Sues Will Smith

(AP)—Will and Jada Pinkett Smith's former housekeeper is suing the celebrity couple for allegedly failing to pay her about 1,640 hours of overtime pay and firing her after she complained to them.

In a lawsuit filed Sept. 11 in Ventura Superior Court, Marilu Cooley said she worked for the Smiths and lived on their estate for 4 1/2 years. She said during that time she often worked more than 40 hours a week and received overtime pay during her first two years of employment.

But starting in March 1999, Cooley alleged the Smiths stopped paying her overtime and instead promised to pay her a \$25,000 annual bonus.

Cooley said she never received the bonus and, after she complained about it, the Smiths fired her in October 2001.

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CHEETAH LESSON

A world-renowned cheetah expert will lecture at the Oregon Zoo's Cascade Crest Banquet Center at 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 19. Lecturer Laurie Marker, director of the Cheetah Conservation Fund, will be joined by Kamau and Kgos, two extremely rare cheetahs. Tickets are \$8. For more information, call 503-226-1561.



Zoo News Multicultural Kingdom



Facepainting is one of the ways kids will learn about cultural traditions at the World Animal Festival at the Oregon Zoo.

The Oregon Zoo's World Animal Festival showcases how animals have been feared, revered and celebrated throughout the world. The event is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 20 and 21 and 27 and 28. This year, the

event's focus is on the animals and cultures of Africa.

Local cultural groups present their version of animal folklore through storytelling, performing art and live music. The Multicultural Resource Center will provide infor-

mation about different cultures at its exhibit.

The zoo's African animals collection includes rhinos, giraffes, zebras, meerkats, primates and many more.

For more information, call 503-226-1561.

Spike Lee Gets Serious



Spike Lee

(AP)—Spike Lee, whose movies often have a political edge, says Americans need to think more about important issues and lay off the fluff.

"We as a people are more concerned with J.Lo and Ben Affleck than these so-called weapons of mass destruction," he told 750 people who gathered at the University of Redlands.

The director of "Do the Right Thing" and "Malcolm X" also criticized the country's intervention in Iraq.

North Korea poses a greater threat to the United States "but they don't have resources" the country wants, he said. "We've got all the rice we need. We don't have oil."

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