

## PARENTS TALK BACK

# Helping your children deal with rejection

Rejection season is nearly upon us. While it used to be a rite of passage for 17- and 18-year-old high school seniors, younger and younger children are now facing the admissions process.

Parents have pushed for more choices in education, and there's a growing number of magnet and charter schools to serve public school students. With these choices comes greater responsibility for parents to research the options, maneuver through the maze of alternatives and then handle the application process.

But there's a trickle-down effect of constantly competing. Welcome to today's high-stakes childhood, where children as young as third and fourth grade are enrolled in private test-prep classes to give them an edge on standardized test scores. Fifth- or sixth-graders apply to middle schools. Eighth-graders try for the best high schools. Seniors wait for college decisions, many of which should be arriving in the next several weeks.

Families with the time and resources to compete for selective institutions have always done so. With the rise of competitive public school options and a greater willingness to invest in childhood enrichment, that pressure is not just confined to elites. Meanwhile, a third of teens reported feeling overwhelmed by stress, and just as many expected their stress to increase, according to a recent survey by the American Psychological Association.

Children navigate social rejection almost daily: Someone doesn't want to play with them on the playground or sit with them at lunch or invite them to their party. It's an essential part of life to learn to cope with the feelings those moments provoke.

What is the right age to face institutional rejection? Does it make more of an impact at a younger age, or are young kids impervious to the expectations we create in our heads as we get older?

For those who might be facing their first serious setback in the coming weeks, it's good to keep such stumbling blocks in perspective.

Annie Fox, author of "The Girls' Q&A Book on Friendship: 50 Ways to Fix a Friendship Without the Drama," says rejection can be character-building if parents deal with it in a positive way.

"Acknowledge what (children) are feeling," she said. A child may feel hurt, "less than" or that the decision isn't fair. "Be empathetic. Share a story when you may have experienced the same," Fox said. Maybe there was a time when you didn't make a team, get a part or a promotion that required a lot of hard work. It's helpful to talk about how those disappointments opened doors to other opportunities.

Setbacks create chances to do things that would not have been possible if a first-choice plan had worked out.

For children who have access to a good-enough education, having a positive attitude and resiliency have been proven to pay off in long-term success. And, unlike a social rejection, which is intensely personal, an institutional rejection may often have to do with factors completely outside the control of an applicant.

You may think once you're established in your career, you're done with the rejection gauntlet. But then you have children, and face those agonizing choices and waiting games all over again. Somehow, these decisions feel even more fraught and stressful than those you made for yourself. You're responsible for giving another person their best opportunities.

It's useful to remember and appreciate the roadblocks we faced on our own journeys.

I started kindergarten in public school and graduated from the same public school system, blissfully unaware of high-stakes testing until I showed up for the SAT one Saturday morning. I only applied to two universities, remarkably similar ones. I didn't feel the sting of a significant rejection until I was either 19 or 20. Back in those heady days of print journalism, scoring an internship at a daily metro newspaper was harder than gaining admission to either college to which I applied.

I tried for internships at papers throughout the country, so I received my share of coast-to-coast rejection letters. But you know what happens when you cast a net wide enough. Eventually, something turns up.

It's the way you chase those rare triumphs through the rejections that changes the direction of your life.

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AISHA SULTAN  
Parents talk back

# Pawscars honor top animal actors

By SUE MANNING  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Honoring actors brings out red carpets, couture and — sometimes — creatures.

A monkey who's starred in 25 movies over two decades was top dog at the sixth annual Pawscars, the animal version of the Oscars. Waving a statue over her head in triumph, a beaming Crystal accepts the "lifetime diva achievement award" looking every bit the part in a pink, floor-length gown and necklace during the show streaming online Wednesday.

The Capuchin monkey, who played a Ben Stiller-slapping, key-stealing primate in "Night at the Museum" and a drug-dealing monkey in "Hangover Part II," is "the Angelina Jolie of animal stars," said "NCIS" actress Pauley Perrette, who is hosting the show with teen actor Lou Wegner.

Holding her tiny hand, Perrette asks the prolific primate: "So Crystal, you have starred with some of the top leading men of all times — Bradley Cooper, Ben Stiller, Matt Damon, Robin Williams — did you have a favorite?"

Crystal nods and chitters as her "answer" appears on screen: "Robin did call me his favorite leading lady, but my favorite leading man has to be my trainer Tom Gunderson."



This 2008 photo provided by Stacy Gunderson shows Crystal, a 1-foot-7-inch female Capuchin monkey, painting in her home in Los Angeles. Crystal, an animal actor who has starred in more than 25 movies over nearly two decades, has received a lifetime diva achievement award as part of the 6th annual American Humane Association Pawscars.

AP Photo/Stacy Gunderson



AP Photo/Twentieth Century Fox, Barry Wetcher

This photo provided by Twentieth Century Fox shows Rocco, a pit bull puppy, being held by actress Noomi Rapace in the film "The Drop." Rocco is one of three puppies used to portray a dog in the film. The trio of pups were awarded an American Humane Association Pawscar award for best young animal performer.

The show airs four days before the Academy Awards and honors other animal actors in categories such as best puppy under pressure and best supporting equine.

As pets become more important parts of everyday life, including on film and TV, animal award shows have grown in popularity. Pets already took the limelight at the World Dog Awards, the Puppy Bowl and Kitten Bowl on Super Bowl Sunday, and the Westminster dog show.

Like the Oscars, the Pawscars wrap up awards season but are far more low-key. The hosts announce the awards from armchairs in Perrette's Hollywood guest house, while Crystal perches on a nearby ottoman. Other winners are sent an official Pawscars certificate and special treat.

Praise for animals on set doesn't come without detractors: People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals says live animals don't belong in film and TV work. The American Humane Association, the group hosting the Pawscars, has a 75-year-old program that ensures the safety of animal actors and gives its approval by allowing the familiar "No Animals Were Harmed" tagline to roll in movie credits.

Other Pawscars include:

## Best young animal performer

A trio of pit bull puppies won for their work in the late James Gandolfini's last film, "The Drop." It took T, Puppies, Ice and a makeup

artist to bring to life Rocco, a dog that appears in the mob drama. Puppies grow so fast that the film needed three and non-toxic makeup to make them match.

## Best supporting equine

The award goes to Dale, a horse in "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" who carries the apes' leader. It looks like the apes ride bare-back, thanks to special-effects markers on the saddles that are removed in post-production, Perrette said. In scenes where the horses appear to be jumping over fire, they are actually jumping over a foot-high bar with flickering lights.

## Best aquatic performance

The honor goes to Savannah, who plays a dolphin that dies in "Dolphin Tale 2," but she avoided having to learn a death scene thanks to animatronics. As for the other marine life, the American Humane Association made sure no animal worked more than an hour without a break.

## Best ensemble

The animals of "Wild" prevail: Muffet the horse, Dharma the fox, Fred the rattlesnake, Tess the dog, Sport the rabbit and Taiga the llama. In the film about a woman's solo hike along the Pacific Crest Trail, 40 frogs cover a sleeping Reese Witherspoon, but a foot-high barrier surrounding her meant no single frog was lost, Wegner said.

## OUT OF THE VAULT

# Echo cagers return from championship to empty town

The Echo High School boys basketball team emerged victorious in the Oregon State Class B basketball championships on March 14, 1953, beating the Elgin Huskies 67-42 in front of a huge home crowd at Willamette University. So many Echo residents attended the game that when the basketball team rolled back into town Sunday afternoon, the only people there to greet them were a handful of babysitters and Coach George DeLap's wife.

The coach estimated between 400 and 500 people from Echo (population 457 in the 1950



RENEE STRUTHERS  
Out of the vault

at the tournament. One man asked, "Where is this Echo?" A bystander replied, "Three fourths of it is in Salem now."

The victorious teammates had

played basketball together since they were in grade school, except for latecomer Jim Tolan. Bud Graham, Leward Collinsworth and Gary Dorn earned a place on the all-state first team. And Collinsworth was named tourney high scorer with 56 points, 21 of which were scored in the Saturday championship game.

The Echo squad won each game of the tournament decisively, beating Drain 58-42 and Chiloquin 57-36 on the way to the title game, capping their season with 30 consecutive wins. In the final tilt, DeLap pulled the first-stringers in the fourth

quarter when the Cougars' lead was 20 points with a minute to go; the second string widened the lead by 5.

At the end of the game, the team hoisted Coach DeLap on their shoulders, and Echo residents flooded the court in celebration of the first state championship in Umatilla County since Pilot Rock's six-man football team landed on top of the heap in 1951.

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## ODDS & ENDS

### Woman seeks world record for catching bridal bouquets

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A Utah woman says she has smashed the world record for catching bridal bouquets at weddings and now is seeking recognition for it.

Salt Lake City's Jamie Jackson submitted an application Wednesday to Guinness World Records, saying she has caught 46 bouquets since 1996 and has the documentation to prove it.

The current record of 11 bouquets caught by Stephanie Monyak of Pennsylvania has stood since 2004.

Jackson said she has attended as many as 100 weddings over the years because of her family's connections to musical theater and their church. She jokes that what started out as a hobby has turned into "her sport."

"It is something that you have to plan for and you have to be very strategic where you place yourself," she told KSL. "My strategy is to be right up in the front because a lot of time the brides don't know how far they are going to throw it."

"A lot of times it will hit a ceiling, it'll hit a chandelier ... I've had many, many catches where I've had to jump for it. And I've hit little kids by accident."

Before she could apply to Guinness, Jackson had to track down all the brides whose bouquets she caught to obtain documentation and photos.

She said she was happy to

learn 44 of the 46 brides were still married. "I consider myself a good luck charm," she said.

Jackson has dispelled the myth that a woman who catches a bouquet will be the next to get married. She said some people joke that she's purposely staying single to catch more bouquets, but she assures them that is not the case.

"It's just been a fun process over the years," she said.

### Bill would repeal last reference to dueling in Idaho law

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A 151-year-old state law that reportedly drew its inspiration from the legendary duel between former Vice President Aaron Burr and former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton might soon be taken off the books.

The House Judiciary, Rules and Administration Committee voted Friday to consider ridding Idaho of the rule on jurisdiction for out-of-state duels. The law was passed during Idaho's very first territorial legislature in 1864.

Currently, the law states that Idaho has jurisdiction if a person dies in the Gem State after getting injured in a duel out-of-state.

Republican Rep. Thomas Dayley joked that some lawmakers may want to take advantage of the statute before its repeal would take effect in July.

Michael Kane from the Idaho

Sheriffs' Association had been tasked with finding outdated laws to repeal from Idaho code, he said. "Needless to say, this is obsolete," he told lawmakers.

The rule has been untouched for most of its tenure, but it was amended in 1986 as part of a larger change to grant jurisdiction to the entire state rather than a specific county.

The 1986 amendment passed the Senate unanimously, but it passed the House by only one vote because of a disagreement over whether Ada County should host the trial if it wasn't clear which county should.

The bill has its roots in an 1804 duel between former Vice President Aaron Burr and former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton, Kane said.

The duel took place in New Jersey, but Hamilton died in New York. Both states charged Burr with murder.

### Man creates black ice to mask drunken-driving crash

SPARTA, N.J. (AP) — A man poured water onto a freezing road to try to fool police officers into thinking the cause of his drunken car crash was black ice, authorities said.

Bryan Byers hit a guardrail after running a stop sign in a BMW early Saturday morning, police said. Shortly after the crash, they said, a friend, Alexander Zambenedetti, showed up in his own car and they then dumped 5-gallon buckets of water onto the road to

create black ice, a thin film of ice that's transparent enough for the roadway to be seen through it.

An officer on patrol in the area saw Byers walking in the road and Zambenedetti sitting in his car with two buckets of water in the back seat at around 2:45 a.m., police said. Zambenedetti wasn't wearing a shirt despite a wind chill of 15 below zero, they said.

Byers, who lives in Sparta, confessed to the plan, which left skid marks visible under the thin layer of ice at the intersection, authorities said.

Byers was arrested Saturday and was charged with drunken driving and other offenses.

His friend also was charged with drunken driving.

Byers could not be reached for comment by telephone Tuesday. Zambenedetti didn't immediately return a phone call. Both men are due in court Thursday.

Police said it took a half-ton of salt to melt the ice and make the road passable.

"I've seen a lot of dumb stuff," police Sgt. Dennis Proctor said. "But not this dumb."

The officer who initially saw Byers running toward his friend's car, also a BMW, believed that he was a deer or maybe a bear on the road, Proctor said.

He said Byers drove his car to his home, about a half-mile from the crash, after hitting the guardrail before returning. But the officer said Byers' car's license plate was still on the road.