

People

Catwoman finds roots at age 70

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Eartha Kitt received more than a welcome from a college dance troupe — she got some personal history back. Benedict College students found her long-lost birth certificate showing she was born in the small town of North in 1927, the daughter of a poor cotton farmer. They presented it to her Wednesday.

"I've gone through life wondering who I am," said Ms. Kitt, 70, who until now was unable to find any information on her immediate family. "I had no idea how I would feel coming home."

Her father disappeared a few years after she was born and her mother died when she was 6. Kitt then lived with neighbors, picking cotton and cleaning houses to earn her keep until an aunt in New York sent for her two years later.

The cabaret songstress, who poured her way through the original role of Catwoman on the *Batman* TV show, was preparing for a Friday night production with the student dancers.

Mamma D'Amato reveals recipes

NEW YORK (AP) — After years of counting on his mother to feed him, Sen. Alfonse D'Amato suggested that she write a cookbook.

"He was on my back long enough so that I said OK," said Antoinette D'Amato, author of *Cooking and Canning With Mamma D'Amato*.

The recipes aren't gourmet, but timesavers for working people, she said Wednesday.

And they come in handy when a certain Republican senator from New York stops by.

"I never know when he's coming in," Mrs. D'Amato said. "He just calls an hour before and says, 'Mom, I'm hungry,' and Mom cooks."

Country singers go separate ways

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (AP) — Country music star Vince Gill and his wife are splitting up.

Janis Gill, who performs in the duo Sweethearts of the Rodeo, filed for divorce in Williamson County Chancery Court, said her lawyer, Rose Palermo.

"This is a private and personal matter," Gill, 40, said Thursday. "And, with all due respect, I would like to keep it that way."

The Gills have been married for 17 years.

Gill's 1992 hit "I Still Believe in You" was written for his wife after an argument.

Mrs. Gill, 43, will seek custody of the couple's daughter, 14-year-old Penny, Palermo said.

Kennedys decide on amicable split

BOSTON (AP) — Another Kennedy marriage is on the rocks.

Michael Kennedy, son of the late Sen. Robert Kennedy, said Thursday that he and his wife, the daughter of sportscaster Frank Gifford, will separate after 16 years of marriage.

"We have reached this decision amicably," the couple said in a statement. "Out of respect for our families, we hope the press and public will understand our wish to decline further comment on this personal matter."

Kennedy, 39, and 40-year-old Victoria Gifford Kennedy, have three children, Michael Jr., 14; Kyle, 12; and Rory, 9.

Kennedy ran the re-election campaign of his uncle, U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy, two years ago. He now runs the nonprofit Citizens Energy Corp., which was founded by his brother, U.S. Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II.

Rep. Kennedy and two of his other siblings have been divorced.

MONDLOCK

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"Even best friends would get sick of each other after spending a month and a half together in a mini-van," Mondlock said. "Carol jokes that sometimes she has to send me alone to a 'guy movie' like *Casino* or *Goldeneye*. Usually things are fine after that, though."

Mondlock said he and Elliott are looking forward to spending a few vacation days in Texas. The last time they passed through the state, they visited Corpus Christi and spent some time on the beach at South Padre Island.

"What could be better than hanging out on the beach with your girlfriend?" Mondlock said. "It sure does beat hanging on the beach with the guys in the band."

LEFTY

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Big business needs to end its moratorium on goods made for left-handed people. In Europe and other open-minded countries of the world, scissors for lefties can be found right next to regular scissors.

People laugh at *The Simpsons*, but the political agenda of the producers needs to be followed. In one episode, Ned Flanders founded the Leftorium, a store devoted to items designed for left-handed people. The Leftorium eventually closed, a sad reminder of the tyranny of the right-handed.

A report a few years ago showed lefties live a shorter life, on average. The main reason is that left-handed people die in car accidents more often. This is irrefutable evidence of the conspiracy of the right-handed regimes of the world to eliminate their superior counterparts.

Left-handed people need to fight for their rights. Demand a left-handed desk in your class. Force curriculum changes that instruct teachers on how to teach left-handed children to write cursive. The next time a lefty wants to shake someone's hand, they should offer the left one and watch as confusion reigns in the brains of the right-handed.

BLUE BY NATURE

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Bennett said, although Texas has always been a large market for blues performers, many people do not realize the significant increase in popularity of blues music in recent years. He said there is a widely held misconception that blues music is always slow and melancholy.

"A lot of people think that the blues makes you sad, but really, it is just the opposite," Bennett said. "The reason people started singing the blues in the '40s and '50s was because people were trying to get rid of the blues. It is not all sad tunes — a lot of it is upbeat and very danceable."

"Everybody likes the blues, and we're definitely not your typical blues band."

Karen Lawrence
lead singer and songwriter
Blue By Nature

Although this is the first time Blue By Nature will perform in Bryan-College Station, Lawrence said the band is expecting a positive response from the audience. She said the performances are unique because everyone can partake in the excitement of the music.

"Everybody likes the blues, and we're definitely not your typical blues band," Lawrence said. "From an old lady in a rocker to her grandson with a stud in his tongue — everybody likes the blues."

Polish sparks nail shades war

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — In the modern world of cosmetics, battle lines have been drawn over a collection of shades with names like "Rust," "Bruise," "Roach" and "Plague."

Fledgling makeup company Urban Decay and industry giant Revlon are headed for a courtroom to decide who owns the rights to the modern shades. Similar tones now are sold by both companies under different names.

Urban Decay was founded in late 1995 by Sandy Lerner, now its chief executive, and David Soward, now its president. Their products include eye shadow and lipstick in such grunge favorites as "Frostbite" and "Pallor."

Revlon's "Street Wear" line debuted in August 1996, and Urban Decay plans to argue in court that Revlon's products are a direct knock-off of its offerings.

Lerner was anything but flattered by the similarity.

"It's becoming accepted that everybody knocks everybody off in the industry," she said. "It may be accepted, but I don't think it's respected."

Urban Decay nail polish, retailing for about \$11, is sold in trendy stores and boutiques in California and New

York, including Nordstrom, Rolo, Urban Outfitters and Villians.

Revlon's Street Wear nail polish, selling for \$4, is found at Walgreen and similar mass-market stores.

After the release of Revlon's Street Wear, Lerner defended that sense of style with a tersely worded letter to Revlon President Kathy Dwyer earlier this year.

Revlon's remarks had appeared in a December issue of *Women's Wear Daily*, in an article titled: "Revlon Plans Street Expansion." Revlon implies superior research and development capabilities, as well as better quality control standards than the smaller company — and that's trade libel, Urban Decay warned.

The New York-based cosmetics giant countered by filing a complaint in U.S. District Court in New York. It asked the court to rule that the name "Street Wear," the color names and packaging do not violate Urban Decay's trademark rights.

"It was like shooting flies with a Howitzer," said Lerner. "There could have been some discourse."

There wasn't.

Urban Decay, based south of San Francisco in Mountain View, subsequently filed a counterclaim for damages equal to triple Street Wear's sales, which totaled about \$4.5 million through February.

Revlon officials did not respond to requests for an interview regarding the pending litigation. But the company issued a statement, accusing Urban Decay of "using shock tactics as part of its marketing and public relations strategy."

The statement also calls the letters from Lerner and Urban Decay's attorney "threatening" and the trademark infringement claims unfounded.

The resolution to the nail war dispute could end amiably. Revlon could back off, or it could even buy the smaller company. Lerner said she's willing to listen.

"I don't want to be in the makeup business my whole life," Lerner said. "But I think we're so far out on the edge that it would take quite a bit of corporate soul-searching."

"I think some people take fashion way too seriously," said Lerner. "I do not."



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Loose Diamonds

Marquise Cut

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.38	I/J	SI3	\$4692 ⁰⁰
1.21	K	SI3	\$4150 ⁰⁰
.94	K	SI1	\$2915 ⁰⁰
.83	H	SI1	\$3465 ⁰⁰
.73	G	SI3	\$2365 ⁰⁰ EGI CERT
.63	H	SI1	\$2200 ⁰⁰
.49	F	SI1	\$1736 ⁰⁰
.49	J	SI2	\$1155 ⁰⁰
.44	F	VS2/SI1	\$1250 ⁰⁰
.31	I	SI1	\$475 ⁰⁰

Pear Shape

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.83	F	SI3	\$5900 ⁰⁰
1.02	J	SI1	\$3575 ⁰⁰
.92	K	VS2	\$2550 ⁰⁰
.76	E	VVS2	\$2900 ⁰⁰
.79	K	SI1	\$1850 ⁰⁰
.49	H	SI1	\$1375 ⁰⁰

Princess

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.93	H	VS2	\$3520 ⁰⁰
.65	H	SI2	\$1340 ⁰⁰
.52	G	VS1	\$1638 ⁰⁰ EGI CERT
.51	H	SI2	\$1050 ⁰⁰

Round Diamond

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.04	E	SI1	\$4900 ⁰⁰
1.03	H	SI3	\$3900 ⁰⁰
.93	J	SI2	\$3070 ⁰⁰
.91	J	SI2	\$3250 ⁰⁰
.84	J/K	VS1	\$2520 ⁰⁰
.77	K	II	\$1500 ⁰⁰
.71	H	VVS2	\$2985 ⁰⁰ LAB CERT
.52	H	VVS2	\$2075 ⁰⁰ LAB CERT
.44	J	VVS2	\$1056 ⁰⁰
.40	G	SI1	\$880 ⁰⁰
.34	G	VVS2	\$995 ⁰⁰
.31	H	VVS2	\$750 ⁰⁰ LAB CERT

Emerald Cut

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
2.12	K/L	VS1	\$7900 ⁰⁰

Oval

Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.74	G	I2/SI1	\$3800 ⁰⁰
.93	I	SI2	\$3146 ⁰⁰ UGA CERT
.66	K	VVS2	\$1439 ⁰⁰
.32	H	SI1	\$550 ⁰⁰

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