



ANY THOUGHTS?

E-mail Senior Writer Karl B. Hille at khille@baltimoreexaminer.com.

THE BUZZ

Baltimore Brain Bee ends in 'sudden-death' runoff

By Karl "Bee" Hille
Examiner Staff Writer



Home-schooler Ami Parekh took the top prize, winning the Brain Bee competition. She stands next to third-place winner Scott Butler, of Franklin High School, and second-place winner Cara Paul, of Mount de Sales Academy. - Courtesy photo

A "sudden-death" runoff decided the winner of last week's 10th annual Baltimore Brain Bee neuroscience competition at the Maryland Science Center.

Home-schooled champion Ami Parekh took first place when the dust cleared, winning \$150 and the chance to compete in the national competition March 14 and 15.

The USA champion will go on to represent the USA at the International Brain Bee Championship in Montreal in May.

Last year the trophy went to Thomas Jefferson High School, but this year students from Dulaney, Notre Dame, Franklin, Digital Harbor, Towson, Mount de Sales and others took a shot at unseating the champion.

The competition tested their understanding of the human brain, including memory, emotions, sleep,

vision, hearing, sensation, movement, brain imaging, addictions, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disorders.

MAKING A SPLASH

Aquarium's 'Planet Earth' movie sprays and pleases

Marika Brown
Special to The Examiner

The Baltimore Aquarium brings you into the ocean with its new 4-D show "Planet Earth," designed to teach kids a thing or two about marine life while making them laugh and jump.

"Not only do the children want to learn, they want to have fun," said Charles Myer, director of visitor service at the aquarium.

Eight-year-old Emmet Sheehan and his mom traveled from Darien, Conn., just to see the show.

"It was pretty cool, water kept spraying me, and the pole on the

plane looked like it was right in my face!" Emmet said, referring to an airplane strut protruding into one scene.

The show opens to the hissing of snakes, then you feel the vibration of honeybees through your seat and almost feel like you can touch the gigantic Tyrannosaurus rex clawing at your red 3-D glasses.

The film tells a story of underwater animals including humpback whales, coral reefs, starfish and sea snakes, complete with splashes of water, vibrations, soap bubbles and electrifying lights.

"I learned about how whales took a long journey for 70 years. I didn't know that before," Emmet said.

marika.brown@baltimoreexaminer.com

A E F H I K L M N T V W X Y Z
B C D G J O P Q R S U

BRAINBENDERS

Kids' Clubhouse presents Brainbenders — fun and interesting mental exercises to make you think and go "hmmm ..."

Last week, Kids' Clubhouse asked:
A farmer has 17 sheep. All but nine ran away. How many are left?

The answer:

Nine are left. Because it said ALL BUT NINE ran away.

New Brainbender:
Why are some letters above the line and some below it?
A E F H I K L M N T V W X Y Z

B C D G J O P Q R S U

Get the answer in next week's Kids' Clubhouse.

NATIONAL AQUARIUM IN BALTIMORE



2008 | YEAR OF THE FROG

CELEBRATE FROGS AND HEAR WHY THEIR CHORUS IS FADING.

LEAP DAY WEEKEND
February 29 - March 2, 2008 • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Hop online to aqua.org for more details.

HALF-PRICE CHILD'S ADMISSION

FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 2, 2008 ONLY



This coupon is good for one half-price child's admission with the purchase of one full-price adult admission to the National Aquarium in Baltimore. One discount per coupon per person. Not to be combined with any other offer. Admission packages for adult and child must be the same. This discount may not be sold, reproduced, or redeemed through Ticketmaster, and may not be used with tickets purchased via aqua.org. Offer valid Friday, February 29 - Sunday, March 2, 2008 ONLY. For hours and prices, visit aqua.org.

YOTF

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY » FEB. 26 TO MARCH 3

02/26/1919 - The historic beauty of the Grand Canyon was recognized with a national park designation. A decade later, the Teton Mountains would be named Grand Teton National park.



02/27/1992 - Tiger Woods was 16 when he played in his first PGA tournament.

02/28/1984 - Michael Jackson's album "Thriller" won an unprecedented eight Grammy awards.

02/29/46 BC - The first leap day was added to the Roman calendar by the Roman



Emperor Julius Caesar.

03/01/1872 - Yellowstone became the world's first national park.

03/02/1904 - On this day, a doctor was born like no doctor before. Theodore Seuss Geisel, known as Dr. Seuss, with a pen and a brush, let his mind loose.

03/03/1887 - Anne Sullivan began tutoring 6-year old Helen Keller, who was born deaf and blind.

- Karl B. Hille
Sources:
history.com
infoplease.com

CHILDREN'S CHUCKLES

Q: What kind of cats like to go bowling?
A: Alley cats.

Q: Why do golfers take along an extra

pair of socks?
A: In case they get a hole in one.

Q: Why are tennis games so noisy?
A: Because the players are always raising a racket.