

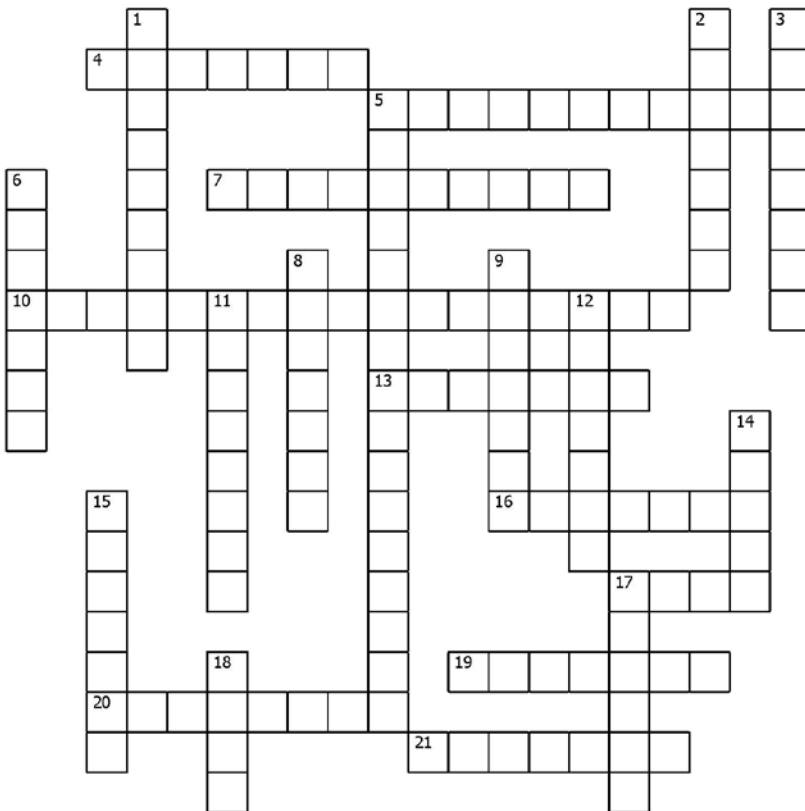
American Hero



In case you don't happen to watch E! (seriously, who doesn't watch E!?), The Clarion will quickly fill you in on the most talked-about entertainment story of the week. Miss California USA (AKA Michael Phelps' part-time flame Carrie Prejean) was awarded runner-up status in the Miss USA contest this week, and many people are saying it is because she actually offered an opinion with her answer instead of just spouting out the usual quips about happiness and gumdrops and puppies and whatnot. Here's what happened: in the interview portion of the show, celeb blogger Perez Hilton, an openly gay man, presented Prejean with the following query: "Vermont recently became the fourth state to legalize same-sex marriage. Do you think every state should follow suit? Why or why not?" Okay, a little unusual to require Miss USA candidates

to, like, think and stuff, but whatever. Prejean's response was all follows: "Well I think its great that Americans are able to choose one or the other. We live in a land where you can choose same-sex marriage or opposite marriage. And you know what, in my country, in my family, I think that I believe that a marriage should be between a man and a woman. No offense to anybody out there, but that's how I was raised and that's how I think it should be between a man and a woman." Note to Prejean: probably should have just said "World Peace." Considering your standard audience at a Miss USA pageant, it really is no surprise that a chorus of boos followed Prejean's reply and that she lost the contest to Miss North Carolina (woot woot!). For having the hutzpah to go in front of a hostile audience and take an unpopular position on some strange concept of "Opposite Marriage"—and do so in a most articulate manner, Miss California, you are this week's Miss American Hero.

Where Crossword Happens



NBA season...err, wait...NBA Playoff season is finally here, meaning that in only 5 months or so the league will crown its champion! Just in case they aren't already become over-exposed by being on ABC, TNT and ESPN daily, The Clarion would like to commemorate the start of this grueling quest for momentary fame by giving you a basketball-centric crossword puzzle this week. Good luck, and if you can't complete it, you're just a jive turkey.

ACROSS

- 4 Denver's hometown hero
- 5 Scored 100 points and 10,000 women
- 7 Oklahoma State/Vancouver Grizzlies glass-shattering center
- 10 Poet Jim Carroll's drug memoir; DiCaprio film
- 13 Newest NBA franchise
- 16 Flint squad in "Semi-Pro"
- 17 Owned by Jay-Z; having a hard-knock existence
- 19 Muessear's cinematic debut
- 20 Abdul-Jabbar's original surname
- 21 He's not my vydas, not you vydas, he's

DOWN

- 1 AK47
- 2 All-American hoopster; Rhodes scholar; Former Presidential candidate
- 3 Bugs "Space Jam" opponents
- 5 Darryl Dawkins' nickname
- 6 Former Late Late Show host who hooped at Montana
- 8 Sir Drunk-driving TNT hoops analyst
- 9 Hobbled Celtic center
- 11 Michael J. Fox's bearded baller
- 12 Over-the-hill Piston point
- 14 Ray Allen's film character
- 15 Hugh-flying former heroine addict Nugget's nickname
- 17 "Boom-Shaka-Laka" arcade hoops game
- 18 Hick from French lick