Cosby criticizes parents, teachers fornot doing enough for kids

Continued from page 7B

"We've got parents who won't check the bedrooms of their children to see if there's a gun," he said.

He chided teachers for not offering clear explanations to children who ask why courses such as English and algebra are necessary.

"If you teach English and you can't answer this child, then you're in trouble, and we've been in trouble," Cosby said. "We can't answer these children, because nobody's given them any goals."

In the past, Cosby has criticized some black children for not knowing how to read or write, said some had squandered opportunities the civil rights movement gave them and said whites are unfairly blamed for problems in the black community such as teen pregnancy and high dropout rates.

Parental OK needed to marry Somali Muslims

By Mohamed Sheikhnor
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOGADISHU, Somalia - Islamic leaders Monday banned youthful Somalis from marrying without the consent of their parents, saying such unions violate Islam.

"It is against the teaching of our religion and parents do not approve of it," said Sheik Mahad Mohamed Sheik Hassan, chairman of the regional Islamic court in Wanlawien.

The edict was the latest step to impose strict religious rule as this chaotic nation emerges from more than a decade of anarchy.

Islamic leaders already have banned women from swimming at the main beach in Somalia's capital, live music, the viewing of films and sports, and the use of qat, the leafy semi-narcotic plant.

The marriage practice of "masaafo" - roughly equivalent to eloping - is common in Somalia because it allows young couples to wed without their parents scuttling the union because they deem the dowry too small.

Mohamedek Ali, a 21-year-old Somali, said the costs of a wedding were prohibitive for average Somalis and would prevent many marriages.

"They cannot ban what our forefathers practiced," he said.

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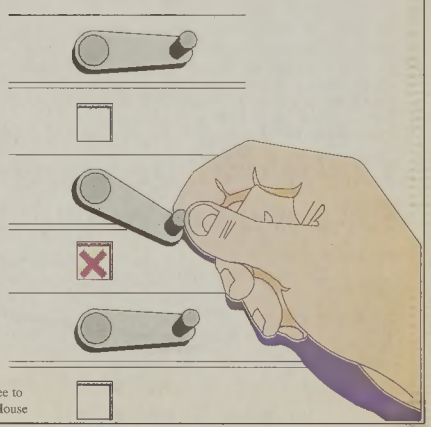

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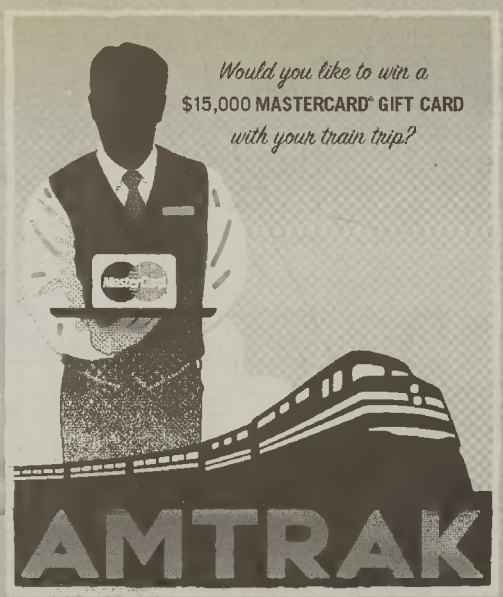

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