

# Radio promotion leads fans to pursue concert that wasn't

From Associated Press reports

BALTIMORE — The town is non-existent and some of the star performers are dead — but people were roaming the hills of western Maryland looking for a rock concert being broadcast "live" by a Baltimore radio station.

A radio station, WGRX-FM, sponsored a "fantasy" rock concert over the weekend in the fictitious Livestock, a la the legendary Woodstock.

The concert featured headliners such as Jimi Hendrix, Led Zepelin, the Eagles and a reunion of the Beatles. Who wouldn't skip the traditional Memorial Day weekend picnic for a chance to witness rock history? Especially if the concert sponsors could bring Jimi Hendrix back among the living.

One man stopped at the State Police barracks in Hagerstown to ask directions. "He came into the barracks, right to the front desk. 'I'm up here for the concert. Can you direct me to Livestock?'" Sgt. Kenneth Frick said.

Livestock doesn't exist, Frick told the man, who sheepishly got

## News in Brief

back into his car and drove away.

### Woodchips fly in West Virginia

WEBSTER SPRINGS, W. Va. — You've got to wield a hefty hatchet to win the woodchopping championship of the world, and you've got to do it in Webster Springs, where sideshows to the annual timber titles include tobacco-spitting and ax-shaving contests.

Arden Cogar, 54, a veteran logger who founded the Webster County Woodchopping Festival in 1960, estimated there are "about 50 to 60 woodchopping shows held each year in the United States now."

The festival included nine categories of woodchopping, in which the winners are determined by how fast they fell their trees. This year's winner of the all-around grand champion title was Melvin Lentz of Oregon.

# 'L.A. Law' star courts big success

From Associated Press reports

PITTSBURGH — After just one season on NBC's "L.A. Law," Blair Underwood has carved out a tidy niche for himself in the hit show's ensemble cast as brash, young attorney Jonathan Rollins.

"I couldn't ask for anything better, and that's an understatement," said Underwood. "To be out of college three years and to have a job and be working as an actor is part of it. And then working with scripts like the quality of 'L.A. Law.' I mean working with the cast.

"These actors, all of them, will give you something to play off of, and I think that shows on camera. And then the icing on the cake is that the public and critics alike enjoy the show."

Underwood, 23, was in town recently to pick up a belated fine arts degree from Carnegie Mellon University. He entered Carnegie Mellon's prestigious drama department in the fall of 1982 as a musical theater major, but dropped out midway through his junior year.

He joined the cast of the high-rated, Emmy-winning series last season as a sophisticated fresh out of Harvard Law School whose mega-ambition occasionally pushes him across the lines of decorum and even ethics.

"He's been real well-received," said Rick Wallace, the show's co-executive producer. "He seemed to fit in. There didn't seem to be any difficulty making him a part of the


ensemble."

"The difference between someone like Jonathan Rollins and myself is Jonathan has a type of arrogance and extreme confidence in himself, and that's it. Period. I think it's a difference between that and having faith and confidence that you can accomplish what you believe in," Underwood said.

His fast track to stardom is testimony to that kind of deep belief. Underwood auditioned last

summer for "L.A. Law." The show's producers, including executive producer Stephen Bochco, a Carnegie Mellon alumnus, decided to add a black attorney to the cast at viewers' request.

"I don't feel as if he is window dressing because . . . they are creating a full, fleshed-out character (who) happens to be black," Underwood said. "As opposed to writing a black character who's going to say, 'Yo, yo, yo, we're gonna go to court now,' you know, stereotype."



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# Science not taught well in schools

From Associated Press reports

NEW YORK — Visitors from elementary P.S. 29 in the Bronx felt the slimy back of a bullfrog for the first time in their lives — after some coaxing from zoo instructor Nikki Schulak.

The classes, conducted by the Bronx Zoo, are among 13 local science education programs cited as exemplary in a new U.S. Department of Education publication.

But the program is a rare bright spot in an otherwise dismal landscape of elementary school science.

Critics from U.S. Education Secretary William Bennett on down say science as taught in many U.S. elementary schools manages to replace children's innate fascination with nature's wonders with predict-

able textbook exercises masquerading as "experiments."

In a recent critique of nine commonly used elementary science texts, Davis Elliott and Kathleen Carter Nagel, private textbook consultants in Berkeley, Calif., concluded that

science programs relying on such texts "teach students to think of science mainly as a collection of conclusions to be memorized."

"School science," they concluded, "is too often simply the pursuit of the known."

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