

FREE INFORMATION TESTS AMERICANS' KNOWLEDGE OF FIREWORKS

Because most Americans don't know that fireworks could blind them, Prevent Blindness America is offering FREE information that may save people's vision this Fourth of July.

"We developed a simple Fireworks Safety Test that quizzes people about these hazardous devices. Hopefully it will increase their awareness of the dangers," says Tod Turriff, safety director of Prevent Blindness.

Fireworks blind, maim or kill more than 11,000 people each year. More than half of the injuries are to children. Fireworks not only injure users, but they also assault bystanders. Nearly 40 percent of fireworks injuries impact bystanders.

The three types of fireworks that keep hospital emergency rooms busy during this holiday period are bottle rockets, firecrackers and sparklers. "Bottle rockets and firecrackers are miniature explosives," notes Turriff. "They can fly and blow up in any direction. Sparklers burn at temperatures hot enough to melt gold. Giving these devices to young children could mean sentencing them to time in hospital emergency rooms."

One of the reasons fireworks injuries continue to occur is because people just don't know how dangerous these devices can be. "Often they don't realize - until they are injured - that the risk of blindness or loss of life outweighs the excitement of watching fireworks explode," says Turriff.

Prevent Blindness America wants everyone to understand the hazards fireworks pose to both life and sight. That's why the Fireworks Safety Test is being offered FREE to anyone who calls Prevent Blindness at 1-800-331-2020.

TRUE OR FALSE ANSWERS

- 1. FALSE.** While most fireworks injuries do occur during the July 4th holiday, many injuries also happen during Labor Day, New Year's Eve, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Mardi Gras.
- 2. FALSE.** Sparklers are the second highest cause of fireworks injuries requiring hospitalization. Most of these injuries occur among preschool-age children. Sparklers are dangerous because they burn at a temperature hot enough to melt gold (1,800°F).
- 3. TRUE.** Most fireworks contain gunpowder, which causes these devices to explode.

- 4. FALSE.** Because fireworks are unpredictable, injuries can occur even if the person is careful or is under supervision. The best way to avoid injury is to not use fireworks.
- 5. FALSE.** When it comes to fireworks, no one is safe! Prevent Blindness estimates that nearly 40 percent of fireworks injury are to bystanders.
- 6. TRUE.** Men and boys are

Fireworks Safety: Test Your Knowledge

Fireworks are thrilling and spectacular when part of a public display. But in the hands of amateurs and children, they often bring tragedy. What are the chances that you could be one of thousands who'll suffer a serious fireworks injury this year? Take this test, then give it to a friend. It could help save someone's sight.

	CIRCLE	CIRCLE
1. Fireworks injuries only occur during the Fourth of July.	TRUE	FALSE
2. Sparklers are safe fireworks and can be given to children.	TRUE	FALSE
3. Gunpowder is a major ingredient in most types of fireworks.	TRUE	FALSE
4. Only people who are careless or unsupervised are injured from fireworks.	TRUE	FALSE
5. Only people who set off the fireworks risk injuries.	TRUE	FALSE
6. Males are more likely to get hurt from fireworks.	TRUE	FALSE
7. Bottle rockets are not dangerous because they're just firecrackers tied to a stick.	TRUE	FALSE
8. Homemade fireworks are safer than store-bought fireworks.	TRUE	FALSE
9. Using fireworks is an inexpensive way to celebrate the Fourth of July.	TRUE	FALSE
10. My state bans fireworks.	TRUE	FALSE

the most common users of fireworks. That's why four out of every five fireworks injuries happen to males. Men between the ages of 22-44 and boys ages 12-14 are the most common victims.

7. FALSE. Bottle rockets are among the most dangerous fireworks available today. They account for the majority of all fireworks injuries that lead to permanent eye damage. Bottle rockets can move as fast as 200 miles per hour, explode in midair and fly in any direction.

8. FALSE. Homemade fireworks are often more hazard-

ous. Those who make their own fireworks tend to combine the chemicals from other devices to create a bigger — and more dangerous — explosion.

9. FALSE. The cost of treating a fireworks injury far outweighs the cost of a single fireworks package, which is about \$2. The average hospital emergency room charges approxi-

mately \$80 for one visit. This price does not include the cost families must pay for possible surgery, physical therapy or unnecessary blindness.

10. TRUE and FALSE. The answer to this question depends on where you live. Only 12 states

ban all types of fireworks; 7 states allow sparklers and/or snakes; 29, including the District of Columbia, allow Class C fireworks; and two have no fireworks laws at all. If you don't know where your state stands on fireworks, find out!

A Kid's Opinion

By Anika Jones



On June 12, 1994, Nicole Simpson and Ronald Goldman's bodies were found brutally murdered.

Nicole Simpson is the former wife of the Buffalo Bills #32, O.J. Simpson. Ronald Goldman was a very good friend of Nicole Simpson.

At the scene of the crime, there was a black leather glove with blood all over it. The Los Angeles Police Department suspects Simpson dropped it.

I think all people should be treated equally. And just because you're a star doesn't mean you are better than anyone or you have different rights than

others.

I also think O.J. might have killed them, but can a man kill the woman he loves, and the mother of his two kids???

R.I.P. (Rest In Peace) Nicole

HILTON
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five events of the 20th century. And many college men of African descent will be there.

HILTON: HIGHER EDUCATION is designed to dialogue with college and world readers. Education is ongoing and certainly not limited to classroom study. Let's talk. (909)899-0650 (bus. & fax).

SIX AFRICAN-AMERICANS RECEIVE MACARTHUR FELLOWSHIPS; 20 NEW FELLOWSHIPS NATIONWIDE

Six African-Americans are among the 20 new MacArthur Fellows announced recently by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

They are Jeraldine Blunden, artistic director and choreographer at the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company; Anthony Braxton, musician and composer; Ornette Coleman, jazz musician and performer; Bill T. Jones, artistic director of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zame & Company; Joseph E. Marshall, executive director of the Omega Boys Club in San Francisco; and Arthur Mitchell, artistic director of the Dance Theater of Harlem.

The new MacArthur Fellows will receive stipends ranging from \$235,000 to \$375,000 over five years, or \$45,000 to \$75,000 annually, depending on the age of the recipient. Along with their five-year stipend, the Fellows are offered full health insurance. Blunden will receive \$320,000; Braxton will receive \$300,000; Coleman will receive \$372,000; Jones will receive \$265,000; Marshall will receive \$290,000; and Mitchell will receive \$355,000. MacArthur Fellowship are "no strings attached" awards, and recipients are free to use the awards as they wish. The MacArthur Foundation imposes no reporting requirements or restrictions of any kind on MacArthur Fellows.

"The creative person is at the heart of a society's capacity to improve the human condition," said Adele Simmons, MacArthur Foundation president. "By supporting these Fellows, highly talented

individuals working in a wide range of fields, the Foundation means to honor creative persons everywhere."

Catharine Stimpson, director of the MacArthur Fellows Program, said "These greatly gifted people are as diverse as the United States itself. However, their talents have a common thread. They renew our hope in human possibility."

Until Stimpson notified them, these six people had no idea they were about to become MacArthur Fellows. Individuals cannot apply for MacArthur Fellowship. Instead, names are proposed to the Foundation by a group of more than 100 designated nominators in a variety of professions and areas of the country. They serve anonymously for one year. Their nominations are reviewed by a 12-member selection committee, which meets eight times a year. Final approval for MacArthur Fellowships comes from the Foundation's Board of Directors. There is no annual quota of Fellows and no predetermined time for naming them.

Including today's group, a total of 434 Felloes, including 46 African-Americans, have been named since the program began in 1981. They have ranged in age from 18 - 82. As of today's date, the number of active Fellows — individuals currently receiving fellowships support — is 180. In the 13 years since the Program began, the Foundation has invested over \$130 million in the Fellows Program.

RITES OF PASSAGE

The dynamic role of "rites of passage" or "transition rites" has long been recognized in transmitting cultural, pro-social values to young people. To become fulfilled and productive members of society, adolescents must know what is expected of them as adults. This requires caring involvement from adults, careful preparation for adulthood and a formal recognition when such status has been achieved. A companion "Rites of Passage" series for females ages 12-18 is currently being scheduled for programming at West Las Vegas Library. Everyone is welcome as audience to observe the participants and learn from the discussions.

Participants who attend at least seven programs receive a Certificate of Completion. Fill out and submit sign-up sheet to West Las Vegas Library by June 26. Free admission

Tuesday, June 28	I. "Positive Self Esteem"
Thursday, June 30	II. "Peer Pressure"
Tuesday, July 5	III. "Dealing with Racism."
Thursday, July 7	IV. "Positive Role Models."
Tuesday, July 12	V. "Conflict Resolution."
Thursday, July 14	VI. "Sexuality and Relationships."
Tuesday, July 19	VII. "Parenthood Responsibilities."
Thursday, July 21	VIII. "Male and Female Roles."
Tuesday, July 26	IX. "Employability Skills" and techniques to land a job.
Thursday, July 28	X. Short and long term "Goal Setting."
Tuesday, August 2	XI. "The Family Unit in Africa."
Thursday, August 4	XII. "Higher Education."
Tuesday, August 9	XIII. "Politics in Black America."
Thursday, August 11	XIV. "Black History" in America.
Saturday, August 13	XV. Rites of Passage Closing Ceremony / C.O.D.A.M.E. Performance Dr. Al Gourrier discusses "The Seven Principles of Kwanzaa." Certificate of Completion awards Performance by Children of Diaspora African Musical Ensemble. Conf. Rm., 1 pm - 2:30 pm



Simba Wachanga
—Swahili for "Young Lions."

Drawing by Barry Ventus
Green Valley High School

West Las Vegas
Library
951 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
647-2117

All Sessions
held in the
Conference Rm.,
4 pm - 6 pm.

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