



“She chose the bag and shoes. I let her pick all of it.”

— Sarah Michelle Gellar, on how her 2-year-old daughter picked out her Golden Globes ensemble, according to People

# FULL SPEED AHEAD

IT'S NOT JUST COFFEE ANYMORE.

FROM DRINKS TO INHALERS,  
THE RACE IS ON TO FEED  
AMERICA'S CAFFEINE ADDICTION



By PATRICK HRUBY

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**W**hen future talking-monkey archaeologists sift through the detritus of postapocalyptic America, they would do well to ignore the usual cultural Rosetta Stones — the Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore, seven seasons and counting of “The Real Housewives of Orange County.”

They should focus instead on a single artifact: the AeroShot caffeine inhaler.

Sleek and plastic, the size of a lip-balm tube, the AeroShot is the brainchild of David Edwards, a Harvard professor of biomedical engineering who also invented breathable chocolate. (Don't ask.) The AeroShot contains a puff of lime-flavored caffeine powder; one squeeze, and it dispenses about 40 mg of the drug in your mouth, like an asthma inhaler.

A startup product recently released in the Boston area, the AeroShot already has drawn the ire of Sen. Charles E. Schumer. In December, the New York Democrat expressed concern that the inhaler would be used as a “party enhancer” and asked the Food and Drug Administration to review the safety and legality of selling it to children.

In doing so, Mr. Schumer overlooked the obvious: When it comes to the nation's predilection for energy-boosting enhancement — at parties, at the office or anywhere in between, for young and old alike — the horse has long since left the barn, if only to lap up a double espresso at the neighboring Starbucks. (Speaking of which, the coffee-bar chain briefly pilot-tested its own caffeine inhaler in 2006, one with mint flavor instead of lime.)

“At the time we came up with the AeroShot, we were looking at breathable coffee, breathable vitamins, the most high-value ingredient the product could have,” Mr. Edwards said. “We came up with energy. There is a big demand for energy in the United States.”

## One nation under a buzz

America, the land of the free. America, home of the amped. From the 24-ounce Cafe Americano to the 64-ounce Mountain Dew Double Gulp, from ubiquitous coffee shops to the widespread use of the prescription drug Ritalin (read: legal speed) as a campus study aid, we are one nation under a buzz, indivisible from our next fix, with 5-Hour Energy shots and caffeine-spiked chewing gum for all.

To understand the depths of our perked-up desire, consider:

- The average American ingests as much as 300 mg of caffeine a day, equal to three No-Doz pills;
- From June 2010 to June 2011, amid on-going economic malaise, energy-drink sales rose a whopping 31.6 percent.
- At an Army lab in Natick, Mass., military scientists reportedly have taken time out from developing Global Positioning System-guided helicopters to test and develop — caffeinated meat.

Or, just visit a Starbucks.

Once upon a time — say, the 1950s — there was the standard, 5-ounce cup o' Joe, containing about 70 mg to 100 mg of caf-



feine. Quaint. In the here and now, the standard 16-ounce cup of regular Starbucks coffee contains 330 mg of the same substance.

“There are two dark, black liquids that run this country,” said Robert Thompson, director of the Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture at Syracuse University. “Oil and coffee. Walk down the street in any major city at lunch hour. You just see coffee and cellphones.”

It has always been thus. The American Revolution began with the symbolic — and physical — dumping of English tea, which ultimately was usurped in the national diet by coffee, which means our Founding Fathers essentially traded one caffeinated drink for another, more strongly caffeinated drink.

According to historian David T. Courtwright, American per capita coffee consumption rose from 3 pounds per year in 1830 to 8 pounds per year by 1859. Today, the National Coffee Association reports that the number of 18- to 39-year-olds who drink coffee daily jumped almost 10 percent year-over-year in 2011.

Remember, that's in a country where about 90 percent of the adult population already ingests caffeine on a daily basis. A country where all of the coffee sold at our 10,000-plus Starbucks locations amounts to less than 4 percent of the domestic market for brewed coffee.

Is it any wonder that coffee is the world's second-most-valuable commodity, behind only oil?

Beyond java, we have caffeinated lip balm. Caffeinated sunflower seeds. Caffeinated soap. We have caffeine mixed with gobs of sugar — that tasty Frappuccino isn't sweet on its own — and with all sorts of other chemicals, energy-drink mystery ingredients like taurine, guarana and L-carnitine. We even have something called the “5150 Juice Syringe,” available online, which basically allows you to squirt an extra helping of liquid caffeine into whatever you're already drinking.

The surest cultural signs our fair republic has become akin to a coffee-and-greenie-fueled Major League Baseball clubhouse, circa 1975?

(a) Vice-free, clean-living Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow endorses an energy drink.

(b) Elite Northwest Washington private school Sidwell Friends — where the Obama daughters go to school — has its own coffee bar.

(c) We don't just drink vodka. We drink vodka mixed with the up-all-night energy drink Red Bull — because even our downers need uppers.

“In the 1960s, a lot of families, and mine was one of them, wouldn't let their kids drink soft drinks before noon,” Mr. Thompson said. “I remember as a child being at a friend's house for a sleepover. The next morning, he gets a Coke out of the fridge at 8:30 a.m. It seemed almost criminal. And now we have caffeine inhalers.”

## The Big C

In the books “World of Caffeine” and “The Caffeine Advantage,” co-author Bennett Weinberg dubs the titular compound the “hallmark drug of our time.” Lauding caffeine's ability to help us work harder, think more clearly and even feel a greater sense of well-being, he sounds a bit like pumped-up former baseball slugger Jose Canseco discussing anabolic steroids.

This is no coincidence.

Caffeine works in the body by blocking a chemical called adenosine, which signals tiredness to the brain. Less adenosine, less fatigue. Blocking adenosine also causes the body to release more adrenaline, producing

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### Keith Urban reschedules 'All For The Hall' benefit

Keith Urban has rescheduled a benefit concert for April 10. He had to postpone the third annual "All For The Hall" Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum fundraiser in Nashville originally set for Wednesday because he's still recovering from having a polyp removed from a vocal cord late last year.

His first return to the stage since mid-November is expected to be on Feb. 3 at the Grand Ole Opry.

Hall of fame members Vince Gill and Alabama, and Lady Antebellum, Miranda Lambert's Pistol Annies, Rascal Flatts, Alison Krauss & Union Station, the Band Perry, Thompson Square and others will perform in the benefit concert along with Mr. Urban.

Tickets go on sale Jan. 27. He's raised about \$1 million so far.



Garth Brooks

### Garth Brooks sues hospital over donation dispute

Country music star Garth Brooks is suing an Oklahoma hospital that he says reneged on a promise to name a building after his late mother in exchange for a \$500,000 donation.

Mr. Brooks' lawsuit against Integris Canadian Valley Regional Hospital in Yukon seeks the return of the December 2005 donation. The trial at the Rogers County District Court begins Tuesday.

Mr. Brooks said hospital officials

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showed him mock-ups of buildings bearing Colleen Brooks' name and told him his donation was earmarked for such a project.

The hospital denies any wrongdoing and in court filings said Mr. Brooks' donation was "anonymous and unconditional."

### Literary festival organizers hope Rushdie will attend

Organizers of an Indian literary festival said Tuesday they hope Salman Rushdie will attend, despite calls by Muslim clerics to ban the British-Indian author from the event.

Mr. Rushdie's planned appearance at the Jaipur Literary Festival has sparked an outcry among some Muslims who consider his 1988 book "The Satanic Verses" blasphemous.

Last week, Darul Uloom seminary leader Maulana Abdul Qasim Nomani urged the government to bar Mr. Rushdie from the five-day event that starts Friday. The 150-year-old seminary preaches an austere form of Islam that has inspired millions of Muslims, including the Taliban.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot of Rajasthan, where Jaipur is based, said protesters' feelings should not be ignored and that Mr. Rushdie should stay away due to security concerns.

The 64-year-old author has attended the annual festival previously without incident. He has said he does not need permission or a visa to enter or travel within India.

Mr. Rushdie, who won the 1981 Booker Prize for his novel "Midnight's Children," spent years in hiding after Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini urged that he be killed for blasphemy because of "The Satanic Verses." The book also was banned in India.



### Taylor Swift promises new album on heartbreak

Should Jake Gyllenhaal be worried?

Taylor Swift graces the cover of Vogue's February issue and tells the magazine her next album will be about an "absolute crash-and-burn heartbreak" she experienced.

The 22-year-old singer doesn't name names, but she did date Mr. Gyllenhaal for a few months in 2010, and he broke up with her.

Miss Swift said writing songs about her relationships helps her to "feel better" and gain "clarity."

She also said she now has a list of "red flags" for if a relationship won't work: If a guy falls in love with her based on her Wikipedia page, is

threatened that she needs security, puts her down or is obsessed with privacy, he's not for her.

The February issue of Vogue magazine goes on sale January 24.

### Kid Rock apologizes for smoking cigar

Kid Rock has apologized after a man complained that the musician smoked a cigar at a nonsmoking venue in the Detroit area.

Randy Snell said Kid Rock lit the cigar while attending country singer Travis Tritt's show Friday at Andiamo Celebrity Showroom in Warren.

Spokesman Nick Stern told the Detroit News that Kid Rock offered his "most sincere apologies" to patrons he may have offended. He said he had been drinking alcohol.

The 58-year-old Mr. Snell, of Trenton, has asthma and said he plans to file a health department complaint. Michigan law prohibits smoking at workplaces including bars and restaurants.



Kid Rock

● Compiled from Web and wire service reports.

**"When caffeine swept over Europe, it changed the nature of society. It gave people a way to control and harness their energies, helped to initiate the industrial economy. That requires a different kind of discipline and mental focus than agrarian work."**

— "World of Caffeine" and "The Caffeine Advantage," co-author Bennett Weinberg

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the famed caffeine buzz.

In other words, the Big C is a performance-enhancing drug — albeit one that's just as useful for office workers as professional athletes.

"Suppose you're working in computer technology," Mr. Weinberg said. "Caffeine ramps up spatial reasoning. It relieves boredom at repetitive tasks. It's a mental booster, helping us accomplish the things that more and more are demanded of us in life."

The history of caffeine consumption is more or less the history of the modern world, according to Mr. Weinberg and co-author Bonnie Bealer. Prior to the 1700s, Europeans drank copious amounts of beer — even for breakfast — because water was largely unsafe.

With the widespread adoption of coffee and tea, however, Western civilization swapped its daylong, semi-drunk alcoholic stupor for energy, alertness, attentiveness and sociability. One result? Intellectuals gathered in coffee shops, spawning (among other things) the Enlightenment and the French Revolution.

"Visit churches in Europe, and the tour guides will constantly point out that so-and-so fell off the rafters," Mr. Weinberg said. "The reason they fell off is that they were drunk all the time."

"When caffeine swept over Europe, it changed the nature of society. It gave people a way to control and harness their energies, helped to initiate the industrial economy. That requires a different kind of discipline and mental focus than agrarian work."

As for today? We're stressed and squeezed by economic turmoil in a hypercompetitive global economy that places a premium on knowledge and mental-task completion. We're surrounded by round-the-clock entertainment, stimulated at every turn. We're a nation of working fathers and mothers, strapped for family time. We're an older generation of baby boomers who refuse to dodder into our golden years and a younger cohort of millennials who keep our smartphones bedside.

In short, we need caffeine — and other energy boosters — more than ever. The rise of Starbucks corresponds with the rise of the Internet.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The standard 16-ounce cup of Starbucks coffee contains 330 mg of caffeine — the equivalent of three No-Doz pills.

"What's really boosted this up in the past 20 years is that now everybody is connected to a portable transmission and reception device, expected and available to be working all the time," Mr. Thompson said. "It used to be you went home at 5:30, then got into the office the next morning and had messages. Now,



you're constantly checking email. Our lifestyles need stimulants to keep up with things."

Without caffeine, Mr. Weinberg argues, modern life would be slower. Sluggish. Altogether drearier. Collectively, we would drag a lot more and accomplish a lot less. And that, in turn, raises a question.

Are we hopelessly hooked?

Consider an executive X who gets up at 5:30 a.m. every day, proposes Mr. Thompson. "Could she or he not do their job without a certain dosage of caffeine a day? If the answer to that is no, that's an interesting thing to consider."

### Upper madness?

In 2009, a man who claimed to have found a mouse in his Mountain Dew can filed a lawsuit against PepsiCo, which owns the brand. As part of its defense, attorneys for the company recently argued that the soft drink — a favorite energy-booster among exam-cramming students and

up-all-night video-game players everywhere, a neon-green liquid countless Americans willingly and happily pour into their stomachs — would have dissolved the dead rodent's carcass into a "jellylike substance."

Yuck. Such is the downside of perking ourselves up.

A recent report from the White House Office of Drug Control expressed concern about college students illegally taking prescription stimulants such as Adderall and Ritalin to remain awake and ultra-focused while studying. News reports anecdotally suggest that similar drug abuse is taking place among young professionals.

Moreover, too much caffeine can be bad for you. While every individual has a different tolerance for the drug, experts agree that ingesting more than 500 mg a day can result in anxiety, irritability, headaches, sleeplessness, diarrhea and other health problems. In some cases, it can cause

abnormal heart rhythms, which can be dangerous for people with cardiac conditions.

According to Dr. Mary Claire O'Brien, an associate professor at Wake Forest's Baptist Medical Center, the medical community is concerned about increasing caffeine consumption among children and adolescents, particularly via energy drinks. A report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found that emergency room visits related to adverse reactions to energy drinks increased tenfold from 2005 to 2009. (A caveat: 44 percent of the visits involved patients combining energy drinks with drugs or alcohol.)

A 2011 report from the American Academy of Pediatrics said that energy drinks have "no place in the diet" of children.

"If you suggested putting an espresso machine in a middle school, people would think you are out of your mind," said Dr. O'Brien, who is on the editorial board of the Journal of Caffeine Research. "But people don't think twice about them consuming energy drinks and soft drinks."

"There is concern about caffeine being a stimulant, and that it's not clear what the long-term effects of high levels of caffeine on the pediatric and adolescent brain will be. The human brain is not effectively hard-wired until the age of 25."

Echoing Mr. Schumer's concern about the AeroShot's potential use as a party drug, the University of New Hampshire considered banning on-campus energy-drink sales this year, fearing students were mixing the drinks with alcohol. In the face of student displeasure, however, school administrators backed down.

Mr. Weinberg said some things never change.

"There's been a constant back and forth over this since the beginning, a moral panic," he said. "It goes back to the beginning. When the first coffee shops opened in Yemen [in the early 1500s], they were banned. Right away. And then the Sultan of Cairo overturned that ban."

Of course he did. Almost 500 years before the introduction of the caffeine inhaler, the sultan had something in common with contemporary Americans. He was a coffee drinker. He needed his fix.





“It’s going to be a waist-up situation, if you know what I mean.”

— Dad-to-be Nick Lachey, explaining on “Live! With Kelly” where he plans on being stationed in the delivery room when his wife, Vanessa Minnillo, gives birth

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★ SECTION C

Out of ‘hobby’ class, pilotless aircraft lifting off for personal, commercial use

## DO-IT-YOURSELF DRONES

By **PATRICK HRUBY**  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Jordi Munoz had no training. Scant schooling. Little money. He also had a video-game console and nothing else to do.

So he built his own drone.

A Mexican native, Mr. Munoz married an American citizen and moved to Riverside, Calif., in 2007. While waiting for his green card, the 21-year-old was marooned in his apartment, unable to work, attend school or obtain a driver’s license.

On the other hand, he had an Internet connection. A Nintendo Wii, and a radio-controlled toy helicopter his mother had given him to help kill time.

Tinkering with the Wii’s control wand and a \$60 gyroscope he had purchased on eBay, he modified the helicopter to fly itself, just like the \$5 million Predator unmanned aerial vehicles deployed by the U.S. military.

Five years later, Mr. Munoz is co-founder and CEO of 3D Robotics, a San Diego-based company that has 18 employees and earned more than \$300,000 in revenue in December producing components for hobbyist drones.

“The first time I was able to successfully fly with my autopilot was one of the happiest days of my life,” said Mr. Munoz, now 25. “The whole thing cost less than \$200. Believe me, that was a lot of money for me at the time.

“When I started this, it was only for fun. But now I see many applications.”

Mr. Munoz’s vision is hardly unique. Once the stuff of science fiction, autonomous aircraft are on the verge of widespread commercial and personal use, with pending federal regulations set to integrate drones into American airspace by 2015.

Soon, experts predict, drones will be used to transport air cargo. Assist with search-and-rescue, perform police surveillance, inspect oil pipelines and sprawling vineyards, and follow and photograph tabloid targets such as Lindsay Lohan.

Increasingly capable and affordable, as large as jetliners and as small as oversized Frisbees, drones also raise serious questions about privacy and safety.

“I think we’re going to see many commercial applications and much more civilian development than in the military,” said Missy Cummings, director of the Humans and Automation Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. “In 15 years, you could look up in the sky and see UAVs [unmanned aerial vehicles] doing window washing and building inspections. You also could see every jealous ex-husband or wife following their significant other around. For good or bad, we are on the cusp of a new era.”

### The future is soon

Ms. Cummings saw it coming. As a Navy pilot, she experienced the technological jump from old-school, hand-flown A-4s — the jets used as the pretend enemies in the film “Top Gun” — to newer, more computerized F-18 fighters.

“The F-18 was like a video-game environment,” she said. “You’d get a lock on a target, and it would literally say, ‘shoot, shoot, shoot’ on the screen. That was a leap.”

A second jump occurred in the mid-1990s, when self-guided Tomahawk cruise missiles entered widespread deployment and Navy fighters began making automated landings on aircraft carriers.

“The two things that always made Navy pilots better than everyone else, at least in our minds, were our bombing accuracy and landing on the carrier,” said Ms. Cummings, who left the military to get a doctorate in systems engineering from the University of Virginia. “Well, if



Jordi Munoz in a picture (left) taken from a drone he made himself. Below, he holds one of his creations, and at bottom he works on a model in his garage. A drone designed to mimic a hummingbird (top) weighs less than a AA battery.



PHOTOGRAPHS PROVIDED BY JORDI MUNOZ



the computer can do those things better — and always do them better — it’s like, ‘Whoa.’ I jumped out of the service and got into the UAV business right away.”

Today, drones largely are confined to the military, which reportedly has more than 7,500 vehicles in service, and hobbyists such as Mr. Munoz, who are flying roughly double that number. Current Federal Aviation Administration rules mostly prohibit commercial drone use, and amateurs are subject to strict guidelines: no flying above 400 feet, near populated areas or outside the operator’s line of sight.

A federal law passed in February, however, compels the FAA to allow drone use by police and emergency services later

this year and allow “safe” commercial UAV use by September 2015.

“When the [FAA] opens things up, some of the robotics companies describe it for them as being the same as what the Internet did for desktop computers,” said Peter W. Singer, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and the author of “Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century.”

“I was talking with an executive at one company about this. They already do a good business, but their primary client is the Department of Defense. Add in state, local and federal law enforcement agencies, and the marketplace potentially has something like 21,000 new clients.”

California-based drone manufacturer

AeroVironment produces a series of smaller UAVs for the military — some of them backpack size, hand-launchable and as light as 4.2 pounds, able to provide real-time video surveillance day and night.

Already in limited use by the U.S. Geological Survey to perform soil erosion studies, the smaller drones cost around \$50,000 and could become popular with police departments that need aerial-surveillance capability but can’t afford manned helicopters, which cost in the millions.

“Think of a toddler wandering away from home, or an elderly person with Alzheimer’s wandering off in a city,” said Steve Gitlin, a spokesman for AeroVironment. “Think of an office hostage situation where exits and entrances need to be watched, or a hazardous-material incident at a chemical plant where it’s too dangerous to send in people.

“Think of traffic accidents. How useful would it be to have a system that can fly 100 feet above and piece together a picture of what happened? These systems can be kept in the trunk of a car and deployed in five minutes.”

Commercial drone use has greater potential still. Chris Anderson, a drone hobby enthusiast and the editor-in-chief of Wired magazine, said civilian UAVs likely will be deployed first to perform tasks that are “dull, dirty and dangerous” for humans.

**“The first time I was able to successfully fly with my autopilot was one of the happiest days of my life. The whole thing cost less than \$200. When I started this, it was only for fun. But now I see many applications.”**

— Jordi Munoz, CEO of 3D Robotics,





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Katy Butler, a 17-year-old high school junior from Ann Arbor, Mich., has gathered nearly 300,000 signatures on a petition to give the teen-focused documentary “Bully” a PG-13 rating.

Depp, Streep join call for lower ‘Bully’ rating

More Hollywood heavyweights are joining the call for a lower rating on the teen-focused documentary “Bully.” The Weinstein Co., which is releasing the film March 30, said Tuesday that Johnny Depp, Meryl Streep and New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees have signed on to support the film, the Associated Press reports. Lee Hirsch’s documentary on bullying in American schools has been rated R, which restricts children younger than 17 from seeing it without an adult. The Motion Picture Association of America, which oversees movie ratings, cited language as the reason for the R rating. Distributors appealed the decision, but it was upheld by the MPAA. That prompted a Michigan teenager who was bullied in middle school to start an online petition calling for a lower rating for the film so more

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young people can see it. She met with MPAA officials last week and delivered the 200,000 signatures she collected, but the group declined to change the rating. Katy Butler, a 17-year-old high school junior from Ann Arbor, now has nearly 300,000 signatures on her petition on Change.org. MPAA spokesman Howard Gantman did not address the possibility of a PG-13 for “Bully” in his response Tuesday to the growing call for a revision of its rating.

Slash staying mum on Guns N’ Roses reunion

Will Guns N’ Roses reunite for their induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame? Behind his dark glasses, hat and big hair, the group’s former guitarist Slash is staying non-committal on the subject. The hard rock group enters the Hall of Fame in Cleveland on April 14, an event at which honored acts often perform as part of the celebration. But the group’s original lineup fell apart in 1996, so fans hoping to see the band reunite may be disappointed. “It’s definitely an honor and I have no idea what’s going to happen on that day,” Slash told the Associated Press. “It’s more like going into it with blinders on and just see what happens.” Guns N’ Roses blazed onto the rock scene in 1987 with their official

debut “Appetite for Destruction.” Fronted by bandana-wearing singer Axl Rose, the band also featured Slash and Izzy Stradlin on guitars, plus bassist Duff McKagan and Steven Adler on drums. Since leaving, Slash has had success with various projects, such as Slash’s Snakepit and the group Velvet Revolver. He’s also appeared alongside artists such as Michael Jackson, Rihanna and Bob Dylan. He’s in the U.K. to promote his new solo album, “Apocalyptic Love,” which comes out May 21. “I had a really good time, the whole process, from the inception of the record, you know the creating, the writing and so on all the way up through the recording,” he said. “I’m really looking forward to the tour.” His U.S. tour starts May 3 in Baltimore.



Slash

Lindsay Lohan’s driving back in the news

Lindsay Lohan’s black Porsche was surrounded by paparazzi when her sports car grazed the knee of a man outside a Hollywood club early Wednesday, police said. Miss Lohan drove off and a police report wasn’t taken because the Hookah Lounge employee wasn’t hurt, Los Angeles police Sgt. Mark Ro said. The 25-year-old “Mean Girls” star was trying to make a U-turn outside the club at about 12:30 a.m., the Associated Press reports. “Space was tight,” the sergeant said, adding that Miss Lohan may have nudged the lounge employee’s parked car. “He came out and said, ‘Don’t hit my car,’” Sgt. Ro said. “She was making a multipoint U-turn and photographers were in her way.” The sergeant said he didn’t know who called police, but the lounge employee, whose name hasn’t been released, told officers that Miss Lohan’s Porsche grazed his knee. There was no injury and the man’s car wasn’t damaged. “We did not take a report for hit-and-run,” Sgt. Ro said. “We didn’t go looking for her.” TMZ.com first reported the incident. During a court hearing last month, a judge praised Miss Lohan on her progress in a long-running drunken-driving case. The former Disney star has been under strict probation guidelines, including therapy sessions and weekly stints working at the morgue. She is due back in court March 29 for what could be her final court appearance if she stays out of trouble.



Christopher Plummer

Plummer’s ‘Barrymore’ moves from stage to screen

Christopher Plummer’s haunting portrayal of John Barrymore is being given a new audience. Producers said Tuesday that the film “Barrymore” will be shown at cinemas in Canada beginning in May and throughout the United States, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and other countries in October, according to the Associated Press. “Barrymore” — a two-person play exploring the life of famed actor John Barrymore — earned Mr. Plummer a Tony in 1997. Last year, the actor recreated his performance for multiple high-definition cameras. It was filmed over seven days on location and on the stage at the Elgin Theater in Toronto. Based on the play by William Luce, the film is directed and adapted for the screen by Erik Canuel. ● *Compiled from Web and wire service reports.*

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Cases in point? Crop-dusting and agricultural monitoring. Inspecting pipelines and offshore oil rigs. Ms. Cummings thinks that within 10 years, shipping companies such as FedEx and UPS will transport packages via autonomous jumbo jets. “Israel has a UAV the size of a 737 that can take off and land and do everything itself,” she said. “It’s packed with cameras right now. Take those out, and you have a cargo airplane. “These companies are chomping at the bit, and there’s no technical reason we can’t do this now. The only reason we don’t is regulatory issues.” University of Nebraska journalism professor Matt Waite spent nearly two decades as a reporter, often covering natural disasters. Last summer, he was attending a digital-mapping conference in San Diego when he came across the GateWing X100, a small UAV. The drone could fit in the back of a sport utility vehicle. It was hand-launchable. It came equipped with a downward-facing high-resolution camera and a tablet computer controller — just pull up a map and touch the screen to tell the vehicle where to fly.

“My jaw dropped,” Mr. Waite said. “I thought of every single fire, flood, hurricane and tornado I had covered. I went to the sales guy and said, here, take my money, how do I take this thing home? “He said it’s \$65,000 and it’s illegal in the U.S. So I put my credit card away. But it was amazing, and I could not shake the thought of it.” Four months later, Mr. Waite founded Nebraska’s Drone Journalism Lab, the first of its kind in the country. In January, his brainstorm was bolstered by an inadvertent proof of concept: An amateur drone pilot in Texas captured aerial footage of a “river of blood” flowing from a Dallas-area meatpacking plant, prompting public outrage and a criminal investigation. “That’s investigative journalism, and you don’t need something like a Predator for it,” Mr. Waite said. “A small [four-rotor] copter with a video camera will let you cover a house fire, a local flood. ... All I need is to be able to do this for a commercial purpose — change the law, and I’m in the ballgame.”

Eyes in the sky

Ms. Cummings is on sabbatical in the Washington, D.C., area. Back on MIT’s Cambridge, Mass., campus, however, she makes a habit of closing her office blinds. “My students want to drop a drone out of their [class] window and have it fly up to my window and peek in,” she said with a laugh. “They haven’t done it yet, but there’s no question in my mind that they could. And I’m not nearly as worried about that as a little robotic bird that sits on a branch outside my window. That is much more subversive.” In December, the American Civil Liberties Union released a report on law enforcement drone use that called for updated privacy laws and warned



PHOTOGRAPH PROVIDED BY AEROVIRONMENT, INC.



MESA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

that the nation was on the verge of moving “a large step closer to a ‘surveillance society’ in which our every move is monitored, tracked, recorded and scrutinized by the authorities.” Mr. Singer said he recently spoke with a federal district judge who believes there soon will be a Supreme Court case involving drones and Fourth Amendment rights. “This is very powerful technology, and can be very useful for the police and emergency workers,” said Jay Stanley, the co-author of the ACLU report and senior policy analyst with the organization’s Speech, Privacy & Technology Project. “But it also has big privacy implications. Communities need to discuss and decide what kind of balance they want to strike here. It should not be decided by procurement policymaking in which the police just buy [drones] and start flying them around. “We think police drone deployment should be limited to emergency situations, or when they have reason to believe they will uncover evidence of wrongdoing. We’d also like to see limits and protections placed on how images of innocent people going about noncriminal business are handled and processed.” Safety is another concern. Two years ago, the Navy briefly experienced a loss of communication with a 3,000-pound robotic helicopter that was flying toward the nation’s capital; when the drone did not immediately

return to its airfield according to programming, military officers reportedly considered shooting it down. And a prototype drone being tested by Houston-area police last fall crashed into a SWAT team armored vehicle during a planned photo-op. No one was harmed and the impact reportedly caused about only \$90 of damage — but generated a slew of embarrassing national headlines. “What can go wrong?” Mr. Waite said. “Well, there’s a very basic principle called gravity. And it always wins.” Like manned aircraft, drones pose a potential security risk. A 26-year-old Massachusetts man was arrested last September and charged with plotting to attack the Pentagon and the Capitol with a remote-controlled model aircraft rigged with explosives. At a security conference held in Las Vegas last August, researchers demonstrated a lightweight quad-rotor drone that was designed to automatically detect and compromise wireless Internet networks — in short, an autonomous airborne hacking platform — and it cost less than \$600 to build. Another presenter demonstrated a drone that flew silently and identified and tracked human targets by locking in on their cellphone signals. “With the man who wanted to fly a drone into the Capitol, his challenge wasn’t getting the robot,” Mr. Singer said. “It was getting the C-4 explosive. That’s the era we’re entering. “Very early in the history of the au-

The hand-held Wasp drone needs no runway. Drones can be the size of jetliners or Frisbees. A Draganflyer X6 drone (left) lent to the Mesa County, Colo., Sheriff’s Department in 2009 is used in search-and-rescue, finding suspects and identifying fire hot spots.

tomobile, it was turned into a car bomb. So with terrorism, the question goes to licensing. Who gets to utilize drones and how? Each one of these new applications creates huge, huge policy questions. As drones become smarter and more autonomous, we move into a legal world that we are not ready for.”

Drones ‘R’ Us?

Mr. Anderson never planned on becoming a drone hobbyist. On a weekend in 2007, however, he brought home a Lego toy robotics kit and a remote-controlled airplane, hoping to interest his children in science and technology. “The robot just runs into a wall, backs up and runs into the wall again,” Mr. Anderson recalled. “My kids were unimpressed. Then we built the plane and immediately flew it into a tree. My geek dad weekend was a bust.” Irritated, Mr. Anderson went for a run. A former physics major at George Washington University, he pondered the sensors in the Lego kit — gyroscopes, accelerometers, Bluetooth — and upon returning home created a crude autopilot. While Mr. Anderson’s children quickly lost interest in favor of video games, Dad was hooked. He founded a website for amateur drone enthusiasts, DIYDrones.com, that counts defense and aerospace engineers among its 23,000 members and averages 1.4 million page views a month — numbers Mr. Anderson expects to double by the end of the year. The Internet also is where Mr. Anderson saw a YouTube video of Mr. Munoz’s Wii-controlled drone helicopter. The two quickly struck up an online correspondence that became a friendship; the friendship led them to co-found 3D Robotics in Mr. Munoz’s apartment after

Mr. Anderson asked Mr. Munoz to make some avionic circuit boards. According to both men, Mr. Munoz made 40 boards — and sold them all in one day. Three years later, his company is selling components to employees of Boeing and NASA and hobbyists in Germany and China. “In 1977, [Apple founders] Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak make a computer,” Mr. Anderson said. “Everyone said, ‘What is that for?’ They said, ‘Well, you can program it.’ That’s where we are with drones right now. Users do it because they can, because it’s cutting-edge robotics and awesome. “How long did it take before the first killer computer app? We don’t know what that will be with drones. But if we make the technology cheap, easy and ubiquitous, regular people will figure it out.” Mr. Anderson has a point: Personal drones can be purchased for as little as a few hundred dollars. Computer chips and batteries become smaller, more capable and less expensive every year. If the regulatory drone future brings to mind the introduction of the automobile — as Mr. Singer suggests — then the cultural outlook may be closer to the spread of computers, with hobbyists leading the way. Mr. Munoz recently heard from a civil engineer in Mexico who is using a drone to help build an airport, saving thousands of dollars on hot air balloon rental costs. Mr. Anderson currently is working with an accomplished windsurfing friend to design and program a drone that doubles as a personal, one-robot film crew. Then there’s Mr. Munoz himself. One windy day, the Internet connection in his offices stopped working. He suspected a problem with a rooftop antenna — problem was, the upstairs access door was locked, and off-site management had the only key. Solution? Mr. Munoz sent a drone to check on things. “It turned out the antenna was fine, and the issue was something else,” he said. “That’s the only time I’ve used a drone for a personal use that way. But it’s really up to your imagination.”





**“I like strange people. A lot of the parts I’ve played have been strange people.”**

— “Seven Psychopaths” star Christopher Walken, who has played at least 13 psychopaths over his film career, according to Entertainment Weekly



The Race for the White House produces two things: lots of attack ads and unwitting overnight celebrities. Think Sister Souljah. Joe the Plumber. Clint Eastwood’s empty chair. The little boy who spelled “potato” without an “e,” only to have Vice President Dan Quayle helpfully

## FRANK FAHEY

*“correct” him. With election season again upon us, The Washington Times continues its series remembering some of our favorite campaign one-hit wonders and asking: Where are they now?*

**Then:** At a 1988 campaign event, Mr. Fahey, a New Hampshire high school teacher, asked Sen. Joseph R. Biden, Delaware Democrat, about his law school performance. An irritated Mr. Biden responded that he probably had a higher IQ than Mr. Fahey and that he had earned three degrees as an undergraduate, gone to law school on a full academic scholarship and finished in the top half of his class — none of which turned out to be true. Mr. Biden later dropped out of the presidential race.

**Now:** A 69-year-old retired teacher and principal, Mr. Fahey still has a keen interest in politics and attends New Hampshire presidential primary candidate town halls and rallies. Following a 2007 event held by Mr. Biden, Mr. Fahey approached the politician and introduced himself. “He immediately recognized my name, shook my hand and said, ‘I am so sorry for what I caused to happen that day,’” Mr. Fahey said. “I said, ‘You need to know I supported you and had no evil intent.’ He said, ‘I know you didn’t. I was younger and you were younger. I overreacted. I apologize for what I said.’ I thought that was very, very nice.”

**Quotable:** “I’m very, very pleased to see [Mr. Biden] where he is,” said Mr.



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Fahey, who noted that he asks the same credentials question of his doctors. “He clearly misunderstood the question I asked at the time, and my intent. I was a supporter of him back then and I’m even more a supporter today.”

—Patrick Hruby

Jean and Frank Fahey (left) listen to Sen. John McCain in Claremont, N.H., in 2007 during a campaign stop. Mr. Fahey had a memorable encounter in 1988 with Sen. Joseph R. Biden, who was running for president.

## Even Hollywood can’t make this up

‘Argo’ recounts the incredible CIA rescue of six Americans in Iran

By PATRICK HRUBY  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**T**he situation was dire. Unbearably tense. Three months after the late-1979 takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran by Iranian revolutionaries, six American diplomats who had secretly escaped the compound were attempting to flee the country.

Through the capital city’s airport. Disguised as a flashy, oblivious Hollywood film crew.

Led by an undercover CIA officer. The building was crawling with Iranian security, both regular Mehrabad International Airport police and militants from the Revolutionary Guard. Foreigners were viewed with intense suspicion. Discovery and capture would have been an international fiasco — at best, the Americans would rejoin the rest of the embassy’s staff who were being held hostage; at worst, they would be killed.

As the group’s airplane idled on the windy tarmac, the CIA officer felt a familiar pit in his stomach: Did I miss something? Have I blown cover?

As he watched a dramatic recreation of that moment during a recent screening of the new film “Argo,” he felt the uneasiness all over again.

“Oh, absolutely, it brought back the emotions,” said Tony Mendez, a retired disguise specialist in the CIA’s Office of Technical Service. “I went to screenings in [Los Angeles] and Toronto, and it was just like

being there again. Both times.

“There’s nothing so final as ‘Wheels up.’ [On missions], we always were waiting for that wheels-up feeling before we broke out the bloody marys.”

### Unbelievable but true

Based on a top-secret, too-unbelievable-to-be-true story that went largely unrevealed until the CIA declassified some of its role in the caper in the late 1990s, “Argo” recounts how the United States and Canada hid and then sneaked the six diplomats out of Iran during the 444-day hostage crisis.

Much of the planning and execution of the escape fell to Mr. Mendez, who served in the agency for a quarter-century and traveled to Russia, Vietnam and places he can’t reveal while specializing in cover identities and “exfiltration” missions — in other words, getting friendly assets out of hostile environments.

Few environments were as hostile to Americans as revolutionary Iran, where real and perceived enemies of the uprising led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini were hanged from construction cranes in the streets of Tehran.

With the American diplomats hiding out in a pair of safe houses — specifically, the residences of Canadian Ambassador Ken Taylor and diplomat John Sheardown — the rescue effort faced a ticking clock. The Iranians had been examining embassy records, using teams of carpet weavers to reassemble shredded documents, attempting to identify

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THE WASHINGTON TIMES



WARNER BROS. VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tony Mendez, a retired disguise specialist in the CIA’s Office of Technical Service, consulted with the screenwriter for “Argo” and took Ben Affleck, who portrays him in the movie (left), to spots where espionage moments occurred and discussed the inner life of a CIA operative.

### MUSIC

## Guthrie gave life to protest songs he wrote, sang

By CHRIS KORNELIS  
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON TIMES

As a teenager growing up outside Denver, Judy Collins and a few friends used to hike up Lookout Mountain to listen to musicians play folk music. It was there where she saw a man wearing overalls and an engineer’s hat named Martin Hoffman singing a song called “Deportee (Plane Wreck at Los Gatos).” It was the first Woody Guthrie song she ever heard, and for a kid whose home echoed with the works of George Gershwin and the American songbook, hearing the music of Guthrie

from folkies up on the mountain was a revelation.

“It was like going up and getting an injection of this culture that I knew zero about,” Miss Collins said in a recent phone call.

She picked up the guitar and began writing songs. Hoffman moved to Arizona, taught school in the desert, and committed suicide. Miss Collins was so moved by his death that she wrote “Song for Martin.” Released in 1973 on “True Stories and Other Dreams,” she claims it as “a classic Judy Collins song.”

Recently in Brooklyn N.Y., Miss Collins and several colleagues who have

celebrated and poached from the Guthrie songbook for decades performed in one of many celebrations commemorating what would have been Guthrie’s 100th birthday this year. There, she was handed a published copy of “Deportee” sheet music that said “Lyrics by Woody Guthrie, music by Martin Hoffman.”

“You could have bowled me over,” she says, “I never knew that that was his melody. Of course, Woody didn’t write a bunch of [his] melodies.”

Guthrie wrote something more impressive: social commentary that leverages the possibilities of song to bring a message beyond its base audience. One

reason people are still listening to, talking about and employing the songs of Guthrie is because in addition to coming with substance, the songs are actually good, unlike most of the social diatribes that pass for protest music today (see Neil Young’s “Living With War,” or “Election Special,” the latest from Ry Cooder).

It is ironic that while Guthrie’s 100th birthday is being celebrated across the country — culminating with “This Land Is Your Land: The Woody Guthrie Centennial Celebration Concert” Sunday

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

Woody Guthrie’s protest songs are memorable because he “was able to impart the human experience of the people,” says a historian.





INVISION VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Members of Led Zeppelin (from left) John Paul Jones, Robert Plant, Jimmy Page and Jason Bonham say there is no reunion tour for the band anytime soon.

### Led Zeppelin quashes rumors of band reunion

Led Zeppelin will not be reuniting anytime soon. That message came through loud and clear Tuesday with sarcasm, stoic silence and even the occasional barb at reporters who dared to ask. Just the mention of the topic set off lead singer Robert Plant at a news conference for the band’s upcoming concert film, “Celebration Day.” But at the film’s premiere later in the evening, guitarist Jimmy Page set the record straight, sort of,

about a reunion. “I think it’s disappointing for people when the answer is no,” Mr. Page said, according to The Associated Press. But he later added: “That’s what it is now.” “Celebration Day” covers their 2007 reunion concert at London’s O2 Arena. Original members Mr. Plant, Mr. Page and John Paul Jones, as well as Jason Bonham, the son of John Bonham, played the one-time tribute concert to honor Atlantic Records founder Ahmet Ertegun. Since the death of Bonham in 1980, the band has played only a handful

## TAKING NAMES

of gigs, with the 2007 tribute concert being the last time. On the red carpet, Jason Bonham said he understands why the fans want something more from the band, but he feels there’s good reason to put it to rest. “I think it’s probably frustrating to the public when they see how good it is, and they go, ‘Why won’t you do any more?’ They don’t get it,” Mr. Bonham said. “But you know what, there’s a time, and for me it’s when John Bonham was in Led Zeppelin.” Mr. Jones, the band’s bassist, said all the band’s energy went into that performance. “We focused on the show and that was it. Fortunately, it was on film,” Mr. Jones said. Mr. Page was conscious of Led Zeppelin’s uninspired performance at the Atlantic Records’ 40th anniversary concert in 1988. So the band rehearsed for about six weeks before the London show.

“You have to understand, any other group would be a doing a warm-up gig, and then they would have like two or three concerts in a row. We could have done more than one, with the demand, but we only had one shot and we had to be super-duper confident on it, and it went well,” Mr. Page said. During a news conference earlier in the day, the band became uncomfortable with a question about “anticipating something bigger for the band.” As the questions mounted about anything to do with their future, the band members responded with silence. At one point, Mr. Page mentioned that the reunion concert was five years ago, and that if there was a chance they were reuniting, people would have heard about it. “Celebration Day” will be released worldwide Wednesday on 1,500 screens before its release on DVD on Nov. 19.

### Mike Tyson granted visa for Australian tour

Australia granted Mike Tyson a visa Wednesday, one week after New Zealand barred the former heavyweight boxing champion from

entering that country because of his 1992 rape conviction. Officials carefully weighed the pros and cons of his visit and of his character given his criminal past before making the decision, said Cian Manton, a spokeswoman for Australia’s Department of Immigration and Citizenship. She said it was the first time Mr. Tyson had applied for a visa to Australia and he was warned the privilege could be revoked if he broke any laws. “Given the purpose of his visit and the short duration, we considered the risk of him re-offending to be very low,” Ms. Manton said. The entertainment visa he was granted covers the duration of Mr. Tyson’s five-city Australian tour starting next month. He was scheduled to visit Australia and New Zealand on the “Day of the Champions” tour to give inspirational talks about overcoming adversity in his life. New Zealand immigration authorities initially granted him a visa before a charity withdrew its support and officials reversed their decision. Mr. Tyson served three years in prison for rape.

## MENDEZ

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CIA officers. They likely would realize eventually that six employees were unaccounted for. American and Canadian officials settled on providing six fake Canadian passports. Coming up with plausible cover identities was more difficult: Though many Westerners remained in Tehran, they already were known to and monitored by Iranian security forces. The State Department suggested disguising the American diplomats as teachers. Problem was, all English-language schools were closed. The Canadian government reportedly considered having them pose as agricultural nutritionists — that is, until Mr. Mendez asked, “Have you been to Tehran in January? There’s snow on the ground.” Stumped, Mr. Mendez came up with a seemingly preposterous but surprisingly plausible idea that went against the standard practice of crafting mundane, unassuming cover identities: He would disguise the six Americans as a film preproduction crew, scouting Iranian locations for a sci-fi blockbuster. Who else but Hollywood types would be fearless — read: clueless — enough to traipse around Iran in the middle of a revolution stoked by anti-Western sentiment? In “Argo,” Mr. Mendez’s character, portrayed by Ben Affleck, brainstorms the idea while watching “Battle for the Planet of the Apes,” a nod to the CIA’s real-world relationship with Academy Award-winning makeup artist John Chambers, a friend of Mr. Mendez’s who later was awarded the Intelligence Medal of Merit. To make the cover story plausible, Mr. Mendez and Mr. Chambers had to create a fake movie and production company. They set up an office in a space previously used by actor Michael Douglas during the filming of “The China Syndrome,” printed fake business cards, held a party at a Los Angeles nightclub and took out film ads in Variety and The Hollywood Reporter. They also selected a script for a previously canceled film that was based on the science-fiction novel “Lord of Light” and required Iran-like location shooting. Mr. Chambers suggested that they call the film “Argo,” like the mythical ship captained by Jason during his daring quest to obtain the Golden Fleece. In the real film, characters use the catchphrase “Argo, [expletive] yourself” — a detail that Mr. Mendez said was true to life. “We seriously used it many times as our battle cry,” Mr. Mendez said.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



THE CANADIAN PRESS

“Sometimes in a tight spot, you break the tension by telling a joke.”

### Reel life versus real life

In “Argo,” the scenes of the Mendez and Chambers characters — the latter played by John Goodman — setting up a phony film production in Los Angeles largely are played for laughs, particularly during a media event at the Beverly Hilton hotel in which actors in outlandish makeup and costumes read from a ludicrously hackneyed script. Mr. Mendez said the reading never transpired in real life. Still, the fake film’s essential silliness proved important when Mr. Mendez arrived in Tehran and briefed the six Americans on their cover identities. “It was very helpful to them,” Mr. Mendez said. “It broke the tension. They understood the seriousness of the situation, but it allowed them to

be more nonchalant in their covers.” Mr. Mendez spent nearly a week consulting with “Argo” screenwriter Chris Terrio. He also met with Mr. Affleck in Washington, taking the actor to spots where espionage moments occurred and discussing the inner life of a CIA operative. While Mr. Mendez often says that the ideal spy resembles “the little gray man” in the back of the room — someone unmemorable and unremarkable — he felt the tall, handsome Mr. Affleck did a good job portraying him. “Nobody is good-looking enough to play me,” Mr. Mendez said with a laugh. “But really, he did a fine job. A lot of the things I told him he took to heart. Especially those moments where you have concern, those 15 seconds of reviewing your plan internally. “Your gut tells you if it’s going to be OK or not — and if you ignore that,

A crowd at the State Department embraces Robert G. Anders, one of the six diplomats spirited out of Teheran in 1980 under the guise of a Hollywood crew member and with the help of Canadian Ambassador Ken Taylor (left).

you probably will get into trouble. I saw Ben do that on the screen. The audience just sees him not talking, but I knew exactly what he was doing.” Like many movies based on actual events, “Argo” takes a number of dramatic liberties. In the film, the rescue mission is called off the night before the six Americans leave Iran; the group makes a nerve-wracking, in-disguise visit to a crowded and noisy Tehran bazaar; Iranian police cars and a truck full of rifle-wielding militants chase the getaway plane on the tarmac. Though those scenes make “Argo” more suspenseful, that kind of action didn’t happen. In the film, Mr. Mendez has a single son, while in real life, Mr. Mendez had three children: Ian, Toby and Amanda. In an early draft of the script, the son of Mr. Mendez’s character was named “Michael.” “When I got the script, I called Toby and Amanda in and said, ‘Well, they wrote you out of your own life — how do you feel about that?’” Mr. Mendez said. “They said that was OK. But who in the hell is Michael? “So we went back and asked if Michael’s name could be changed to Ian, since Ian had passed away a couple of years ago. Ben Affleck agreed to do that.” In the film’s final scene, Mr. Affleck’s

character hugs his son in the boy’s bedroom. “Those pictures in the bedroom on the nightstand were of the real Ian,” Mr. Mendez said. “And at the end of the movie, it says, ‘In memoriam Ian Mendez.’ That was amazing.” **Belated recognition** Mr. Mendez always thought that the real-life caper would make a much better movie than the epic drama. Still, he figured that the CIA’s involvement in the rescue forever would remain classified. After all, he received the agency’s highest honor, the Intelligence Star, for his work, but couldn’t keep the award because the mission was secret. That changed in 1997. As part of the CIA’s 50th anniversary celebration, Director George J. Tenet honored 50 “Trailblazers,” people whose extraordinary intelligence work stood out. Mr. Mendez’s name was on the list. To his surprise, the agency didn’t want to just honor him at a ceremony at CIA headquarters — it wanted him to go public and tell the world about the rescue in Iran. Mr. Mendez first recounted some of the story in a television interview with Dan Rather and an autobiographical book titled “The Master of Disguise.” He reveals more details in the book “Argo: How the CIA and Hollywood Pulled off the Most Audacious Rescue in History,” with Matt Baglio as the co-writer. Mr. Mendez’s award is displayed at the International Spy Museum in Washington. Meanwhile, “Argo’s” release has served as a kind of belated victory lap: After a recent preview screening in Los Angeles, Mr. Affleck addressed the audience and dedicated the film to Mr. Mendez. “I was in the middle of the audience, and Ben asked me to stand up,” Mr. Mendez said. “People were applauding even harder. It was kind of awkward having a huge crowd applaud you on and on. You wonder what you are supposed to be doing.” Also attending the screening was Bob Anders, one of the six American “houseguests.” Mr. Anders and Mr. Mendez subsequently took the same flight from Los Angeles to Washington, where the Canadian Embassy and the Spy Museum are hosting “Argo” events this week. As their airplane taxied on the runway, Mr. Anders approached Mr. Mendez. “He said, ‘The last time I went to the airport with you, you know what happened,’” Mr. Mendez said. “I said, ‘Yeah, we brought the bloody marys out.’ So we ordered them as we were taking off.” Mr. Mendez laughed. “He saluted me with a bloody mary,” he said. “And I yelled, ‘Argo!’”

## GUTHRIE

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at the Kennedy Center featuring John Mellencamp, Donovan, Ani DiFranco, Mr. Cooder and many others — the modern protest canon is on life support. The George W. Bush years provided ample material for the left, and President Obama’s tenure has been met with a chorus of jeers from the right, but neither side’s musical sympathizers have produced an enduring anthem to rival the best of the Vietnam era — such as Creedence Clearwater Revival’s “Fortunate Son” or Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young’s “Ohio” — to say nothing of Guthrie’s “This Land Is Your Land.” This decline was noted in last year’s “33 Revolutions Per Minute: A History of Protest Songs, From Billie Holiday to

Green Day.” In the book, author Dorian Lynskey writes: “During the Vietnam War, a handful of antiwar songs gained such cultural traction that it seemed as if everyone was making them. During the Iraq War, the opposite happened: many people wrote them, yet it seemed like nobody was. Instead of snowballing into a movement, myriad individual protest songs lay on the ground like flakes in a mild spring snowfall: frail, scattered, quick to melt away.” The current state of the protest song makes Guthrie’s talent for slipping politics — or a call for a decent wage — into a listenable folk song seem all the more impressive. “He had the knack, you know?” Miss Collins says. “He could put [commentary] into something that was palatable and also very, very political.” Joel Rafael — a noted Guthrie historian and musician who has recorded

several albums of the artist’s music and is performing at the Kennedy Center show — says that Guthrie’s songs have endured not just because they are singable tunes about critical issues, but also because Guthrie wasn’t an armchair pundit. He lived his life in the field — even at the expense of his relationship with his family. “He kind of took the personal experience of the people in the story and was able to impart the human experience of the people who were actually there,” says Mr. Rafael. “He really finds a human element, so we relate to it more than just reading about what happened.” To this day, Guthrie’s songs — in particular his immigration story “Deportee” and “This Land,” which was an Occupy Wall Street favorite — are employed at political and social events. Nora Guthrie, Guthrie’s daughter and the organizer of Sunday’s show, says

her family is OK with the songs being played by people who share her father’s values, but she draws the line at any political party co-opting his most famous song as a campaign tool. “It’s not for governments,” she says of “This Land.” “It’s for the people. It’s different if you have a song like ‘Deportee,’ because that song has to do with immigration. People who are concerned about that issue will sing that song, whether they’re Republicans or Democrats.” In lining up artists for the tribute to her father at the Kennedy Center, Ms. Guthrie says, she went with musicians who have a long history of celebrating her father’s music — not just star power that will sell tickets — regardless of their political affiliation. But most of the headliners — such as Rage Against the Machine’s Tom Morello and Jackson Browne — have a long history with

the far left. “If the scales are tipped toward progressives or Democrats, then that’s the way it is,” she says. “I didn’t ask everybody to sign a letter.” One notable exception, however, is Woody’s son, Arlo, a registered — albeit somewhat erratic — Republican of libertarian bent who endorsed Ron Paul for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination. “We had enough good Democrats,” Mr. Guthrie explained to The New York Times in 2009. “We needed a few more good Republicans. We needed a loyal opposition.” “In our clan, we have members of all parties,” Ms. Guthrie said. “And we like to party. Arlo might have joined the Republican clan recently. He might change it again. We kind of move around a lot because we try and focus on the issues.”