



By Rick Osentoski, US Presswire

Coach Tom Izzo: "Our backs are against the wall."

## NCAA HOMESTRETCH

As Big Ten tips off today, Michigan State needs a win for NCAA consideration, 1, 4C

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AP

# CAN'T ESCAPE THE '80S

Charlie Sheen is big again; so is greed and anti-government feeling. Why do the '80s still resonate? (Hint: "The past is never dead.") 1D

"The Cosby Show," 1984 NBC photo

USA TODAY

Life SECTION D

LIFE.USATODAY.COM

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011

SKYLAR GREY ON FIRE, ON 'IDOL,' 6D



By Dan MacMedan, USA TODAY

ONLINE ELDERS KIDS SHOW THE WAY, 5D



By Sam Ward, USA TODAY

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Lifeline

For entertainment news as it happens, visit the Lifeline Live blog at life.usatoday.com.

'Idol' finals, Week 1: Personal idols



For the first finals night, American Idol's 13 honored their idols. Karen Rodriguez sang Selena; Casey Abrams channeled Joe Cocker. The country teens stayed in their wheelhouse — Lauren Alaina with Shania Twain, Scotty McCreery with Garth Brooks. Surprisingly, metalhead James Durbin picked Beatle Paul McCartney. Jacob Lusk (R. Kelly) and Pia Toscano (Celine Dion) had the judges searching for superlatives. Haley Reinhart (LeAnn Rimes) and Stefano Langone (Stevie Wonder) hit personal highs, and Naima Adedapo closed with a wild reggae Rihanna. Thia Megia (Michael Jackson) and Rodriguez were clearly worried, but Ashthon Jones (Diana Ross) and Paul McDonald (Ryan Adams) probably should be as well. Results tonight (8 ET/PT, Fox); the latest news, idolchatter.usatoday.com.

Adele's '21' is No. 1 album for 2 weeks

British soul singer Adele's 21 held on to the top spot of Billboard for the second straight week, selling 168,000 copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan. Former Floetry member Marsha Ambrosius' Late Nights & Early Mornings sold 96,000 copies to enter the chart at No. 2. Also new to the top 10 are Celtic punk band Dropkick Murphys, whose Going Out in Style is No. 6 with 43,000, and Staind frontman Aaron Lewis, whose Town Line is No. 7 with 38,000.

By Cindy Clark with staff reports E-mail USATCMLifeline@usatoday.com



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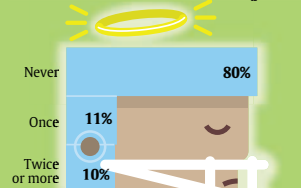


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USA TODAY Snapshots®

High-schoolers say they've bent rules or cheated to win at sports:



Note: Does not total 100% because of rounding. Source: Josephson Institute of Ethics survey of 40,600 high school students, Oct. 2010

By Michelle Healy and Alejandro Gonzalez, USA TODAY

Past is present: David Sirota's bedroom at his childhood home in Huntingdon Valley, Pa., is filled with memorabilia from the '80s. To this day, the author says, people are "still looking through an '80s mind-set."

The '80s are alive and, well . . .

Not going anywhere any time soon

By Craig Wilson USA TODAY

PHILADELPHIA — David Sirota is tooling around his hometown, giving what he calls "his '80s tour." He points out a billboard for the Philadelphia 76ers that boasts the basketball team's logo. One recycled from the 1980s.

COVER STORY He then swings by the steps in front of the city's famed art institute.

"There's '80s synergy right there," he says, nodding to the 1980 statue of boxer Rocky Balboa of Rocky fame.

The tour continues, right down to the white-tiled men's room at the city's 30th Street train station where an Amish boy saw someone murdered — in the movie Witness (1985).

To Sirota, 35, a syndicated columnist, author and radio talk-show host based in Denver, the '80s are where it all began. And where it all continues to be. For better or worse.

He makes his case in his book Back to Our Future: How the 1980s



By Eileen Blass, USA TODAY



By Jacob Kohl, The O and M Co., via AP

Opening delayed again: Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark is now set for early summer.

'Spider-Man' director steps aside

Taymor will have smaller role as revisions are made

By Elysa Gardner USA TODAY

It's official: Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark has lost its (offstage) leading lady — or at least reduced her role.

Producers of the \$65 million Broadway musical announced Wednesday night that the show's opening would be postponed a sixth time, to early summer, for revisions. "The additional time commitment . . . will make it impossible" for director, co-creator and librettist Julie Taymor to continue with day-to-day duties, the statement said.

Reports of the Tony Award winner's imminent departure have rocked the theater world in recent days.

Producers specify that Taymor "is not leaving," but director Philip William McKinley and writer Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa are being added "to help implement new staging and book rewrites, respectively."

The shakeup is the latest in a string of setbacks for Spider-Man, ranging from scathing reviews to federal safety violations after cast injuries.

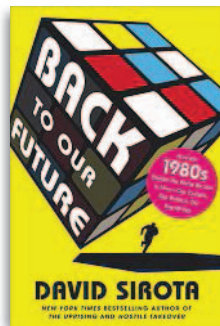
Spider-Man ranks among Broadway's highest-grossing productions, but insiders say it is still commercially vulnerable.

"With changes and extra rehearsals, costs go up," says veteran Broadway producer Liz McCann, whose Nick & Nora held the record for most previews of a musical (71) before Spider-Man. She understands the desire for a fresh creative perspective: "You reach a point where it's hard to have objectivity about what needs to be fixed."

BroadwayWorld.com editor Robert Diamond notes that the cast supported Taymor's vision, "but some acknowledged that there was confusion in the plot. The question now is how much of an overhaul they can do" in the time remaining.

New York Drama Critics' Circle president Adam Feldman agrees that Spider-Man will need "big changes" to fly. But those challenges could bring opportunities.

"They came in as the really big show and got slapped down," Feldman says. "This is a chance to turn the narrative around — to be the underdog. If they can work out their problems, they'll have a great comeback story — and everyone loves that."



Please see COVER STORY next page ▶

# 'Big Hair, Big defense budgets. Big tax cuts.'

Continued from 1D

Explains the World We Live in Now — Our Culture, Our Politics, Our Everything (Ballantine, \$25). It arrives Tuesday.

Remember the '80s? Greed. Narcissism. Size.

"Everything was big — really big," Sirota writes. "Big hair, Big defense budgets, Big tax cuts, Big shoulders, Big blow-up dresses, Big movies, Big sports stars, The Big Gulp."

Returning to his childhood home in Huntington Valley, a Philadelphia suburb, Sirota becomes even more animated as he sits on his old bed, covered with *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980) sheets, taking notes, unbothered since he left for college in 1994.

He's wearing his Save Ferris (Bueller) T-shirt (1986), showing off his set of *It* (1982) bedding, playing with a Rubik's cube (American debut: 1980), and pointing out a pair of basketball shoes signed by Charles Barkley, the '80s basketball superstar.

**'The past is never dead'**

Sirota (who was born in 1975) says the '80s speak to us today for one simple reason: "Because it's still the '80s. The calendar doesn't say '80s, but we're still living through an '80s mind-set." Think Charlie Sheen, Think Lehman Brothers. Think McLannons.

As William Faulkner said: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

The '80s set the stage for our lives today, Sirota says, and he explains it best in his introduction: "Almost every major cultural touchstone is rooted in the '80s. ... The Sopranos was an update of an '80s Sopranos flick (*Raging Bull*) and later *Goodfellas*. The *Wired* was Baltimore's own *Cosby*. *Club Your Entourage* is a Los Angeles twist on *Seinfeld*. *American Idol* is *Star Search*." And so on.

TNT is even planning a remake of the over-the-top '80s hit show *Dallas*, Larry Hagman in tow.

While Sirota's investigation of the '80s is more academic, the decade is ripe for the picking from a kitsch standpoint.

VH1's *I Love the '80s* was a huge hit in 2002, with 10 episodes taking viewers on an amusing pop culture tour of each year and covering everything from Michael Jackson's wardrobe to Spicoli from *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, yet another '80s film that has inspired today's filmmakers.

"The reason you see so many remakes is not just because nostalgia resonates," Sirota says, but because '80s movies are still culturally relevant."

The just-released *Take Me Home Tonight*, for instance, is a movie set in 1988 that *The New York Times* calls a period piece and which plays of the coming-of-age themes in many of John Hughes' Best Pack films of the '80s, including *The Breakfast Club* (1985).

"A lot of the changes that happened (in the '80s) weren't good," Sirota admits. "The deification of celebrity, for instance. The individual, Michael Jordan could soar above all the rest. It wasn't about the team anymore. That wasn't so good."

But he believes the fact that race was being publicly discussed and black cultural figures were who were born in the early '80s — "You saw more African Americans in entertainment, Bryant Gumbel, Bill Cosby, Oprah Winfrey."

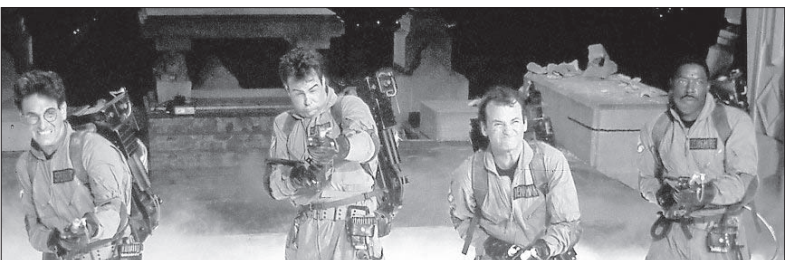
**Who you gonna call?**

But what rings most true today is the '80s trend of activism. Sirota led by President Reagan, Sirota cites the hit movie *Ghostbusters* (1984), in which three professors set up a shop dealing in "ghost-busting" services.

"You needed to have the private corporation to solve any problem. The police can't do it. Government can't do it. The FBI can't do it."

But ghostbusters could. Being rogue became vogue. Sound familiar?

The guy working on the inside for the common good," Sirota says. He says that trend translated to sports, pointing to a poster of



**Ghostbusters:** Harold Ramis, left; Dan Aykroyd, Bill Murray and Ernie Hudson try not to cross the streams.



**The Cosby Show:** Bill Cosby, Phylicia Rashad and a sweater of many colors.



**Air Jordans:** Best-selling sneakers pushed the idea that we can each be superstars if we "just do it."



**The Cosby Show vs. NBC:** Remember by TriStar Pictures



Watch a video of author David Sirota as he looks back at the 1980s, at life.usatoday.com.

bad-boy Barkley. "He broke the rules but he was a good guy."

As for '80s greed, the examples are endless both then and today.

He cites Michael J. Fox's *The Secret of My Success* (1987) as glorifying the '80s goal of "working your way up to huge sums of money."

But another 1987 movie perhaps summed up the era best, *Wall Street* (which co-starred Sheen) lives on because of three

**"ALMOST EVERY MAJOR CULTURAL TOUCHSTONE IS ROOTED IN THE '80S. ... AMERICAN IDOL IS STAR SEARCH."**

— From *Back to Our Future*

famous words uttered by Michael Douglas: "Greed ... is good." The sequel, *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*, was released last year. Still relevant. Bernie Madoff, anyone?

"The young of the '80s didn't want to save the world," Sirota says. "They wanted to get rich. It became the norm, and it's the norm today."

"The 'we want more' mantra spilled over into the music world. Anthony DeCurtis, a contributing editor at *Rolling Stone* magazine, says the '80s were the beginning of what he calls a "blockbuster mentality," with Jackson leading the charge. Remember, BIG is the operative '80s word.

The idea was that every album was supposed to have six singles and a smash video, he says. *Thriller*, *Born in the USA*, *Purple Rain* come to mind.

**Living in a lyrical world**

But DeCurtis says a certain Madonna lyric — "Living in a material world, and I am a material girl" — sums up the decade best. "You can beat the '80s down to two words, he says: 'big' and 'bouncy' — it had a dark side, too. The Cold War loomed.

Denning, who is reading an early copy of Sirota's book, says the 1983 TV movie *The Day After*, about nuclear war, kept her awake at night for weeks after she saw it as an 11-year-old.

"So, why the fascination?" "Overall, the '80s were a time of change," Denning says. "Exploding technology, Women joining the workforce in droves, leaving latchkey kids like me alone. There was a lot of change, and change is scary. But the '80s faced it head-on as an 11-year-old."

Her favorite '80s song? *The Future's So Bright I Gotta Wear Shades* by Timbuk3.

She likes the fact that people decided not to let the Cold War get them down and defied the dark cloud with big hair and a commitment to partying like it was 1959. "There's something to be said for that."

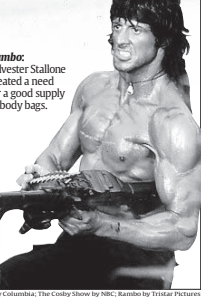
Sirota understands well what Denning is saying. Looking around his bedroom — an '80s "museum" that his mother has allowed to remain intact — he, too, is wistful.

"In some ways, I'm hanging on here," he says. "When this is all gone, a piece of my childhood will be gone."

## Here's the beef behind '80s icons

What made the 1980s "the '80s"? Here are 10 icons from the decade, along with their cultural significance, according to author David Sirota:

- ▲ **Mark** Best-selling videos *Misille Command*, *Combat* and *Space Invaders* sold 10 million units.
- ▲ **Rambo:** Embittered yet reformed America's wars and "gets to win" this time.
- ▲ **Ghostbusters:** The movie's lesson: When government fails, these private security contractors saved us from interdimensional "terrorsities."
- ▲ **World Wrestling Federation:** Theatre-sport in which American good guys like Sgt. Slaughter body slammed foreign bad guys like the Iron Sheik.
- ▲ **Mr. T:** No matter what character this Mohawk-wearing strongman played, he represented racial stereotyping and threw it back in our faces.
- ▲ **The Cosby Show:** The pre-Obama image of the "post-racial" brand, the Huxtables were the black family to dominate TV.
- ▲ **Ferris Bueller:** John Hughes' cheeky trait glorified "going rogue" years before *The Fast and the Furious*.
- ▲ **Air Jordans:** Best-selling sneakers pushed the idea that we can each be superstars if we "just do it."
- ▲ **The Uppity:** Upward mobility: wealth-obsessed Alex P. Kotarski rejected '60s idealism for modern materialism.
- ▲ **"Green is Good":** Gordon Gekko's line from *Wall Street* became the decade's most famous phrase — and its most enduring ethos.



**Rambo:** Sylvester Stallone created a need for a good supply of body bags.

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**NOTICES**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

Case No. 11-38103 (US) Chapter 11

PAUL HARBOUR HOLDINGS, INC., et al., Debtors.

**NOTICE OF THE DATE FOR FILING OF PROPOSALS TO CLAIM GENERAL ABANDON TO ALL PERSONS AND ENTITIES WITH CLAIMS AGAINST ANY OF THE DEBTORS.**

The United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware, in Case No. 11-38103 (US), has entered an order appointing the Debtors' Chapter 11 Trustee, David S. Goff, to administer the Debtors' Chapter 11 reorganization. Pursuant to the order, the Trustee is required to file a report of abandonment and a schedule of abandoned property with the Court. The Trustee is required to file a report of abandonment and a schedule of abandoned property with the Court on or before the date specified in the order. The Trustee is also required to file a report of abandonment and a schedule of abandoned property with the Court on or before the date specified in the order. The Trustee is also required to file a report of abandonment and a schedule of abandoned property with the Court on or before the date specified in the order.

**Corrections & Clarifications**

USA TODAY is committed to accuracy. To reach us, contact Standards Editor Roseanna Jones at 202-462-6080. Please include address, phone number and e-mail address. We will respond to you as soon as possible. Corrections will appear on a story Friday on 10 great places to go dog sledding, the name of the Outward Bound dog-sledding course in Ely, Minn., was incorrect. The contact information also corrected; it is 856-846-7745 at outwardbound.org.

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE OF CLASS ACTION CONCERNING BEST BUY'S PRICE MATCHING POLICY PLEASE READ - YOUR RIGHTS MAY BE AFFECTED**

**What Is This Notice About?** This Notice is about a lawsuit which has been filed in the United States District Court, Southern District of New York, entitled "Thomas v. Best Buy Stores, L.P." On March 19, 2009, the Court certified this case as a class action on behalf of all New York State citizens and residents who, from January 10, 2007 through the present, made a purchase at Best Buy and within 30 days after the purchase (14 days for computer monitors, notebook computers, printers, camcorders, digital cameras and radar detectors), found a lower price from an entity qualifying under Best Buy's published price match guarantee on an available product of the same brand and model, and provided verification of the lower price to Best Buy, but were denied the benefit of Best Buy's price match guarantee. There is a subclass of persons whose claims are being asserted under the New York General Business Law as intangible because their injury occurred prior to January 10, 2005.

**What Is This Lawsuit About?** The lawsuit alleges that Best Buy Stores, L.P. uses false and deceptive trade practices in advertising and applying the company's well-known "price match guarantee" policy. The lawsuit also alleges that Best Buy uses its "price match guarantee" policy as a ploy to lure unsuspecting consumers into its stores and to induce them to purchase its merchandise, while allegedly having an undisclosed policy pursuant to which employees aggressively deny and discourage consumers' legitimate price match requests. Best Buy denies these allegations and asserts that its actions and business practices have been lawful and appropriate. The Court has not ruled on the merits of the claims.

**Do I Need To Do Anything?** If you wish to remain in the Class, you are not required to do anything at this time. If you remain in the Class, you will be bound by any judgment that may be entered in this action, whether it is favorable or unfavorable. This means that if there is a recovery, you may be required to share in the proceeds of that recovery. However, if there is no recovery, you may not pursue a lawsuit on your own involving any of the same issues in this lawsuit.

If you wish to be excluded from the Class and forgo any benefits, you must send a written request for exclusion to the National Administrator at: Best Buy Price Match Class Action, c/o Berdon Claims Administration LLC - Exclusions, P.O. Box 9014, Jericho, NY 11753-8914 in accordance with the directions set forth in the long form Notice available to download at either [www.BestBuyPriceMatchClassAction.com](http://www.BestBuyPriceMatchClassAction.com) or [www.bestbuyclaims.com](http://www.bestbuyclaims.com). Requests for exclusion must be postmarked by April 18, 2011.

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