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**Bryce Dallas Howard and dad Ron to collaborate?**

**Q** Has Ron Howard ever directed his daughter Bryce Dallas Howard?—*Ed Ward, Syracuse, N.Y.*

**A** "I've never made a movie with my father, but I'm desperate for him to direct me," the 28-year-old actress tells us. "I'm just waiting for him to hint that he has a part for me." Meantime, she stars in the long-delayed *The Loss of a Teardrop Diamond*, coming out soon, and, next year, in the third installment of the *Twilight* saga, *Eclipse*.

**Q** You recently listed stars who've served in the armed forces but left out Karl Malden, Lee Marvin, Elvis Presley, and—most grievously—Audie Murphy. How could you?—*R.L. Paylor, Alexandria, Va.*

**A** This item triggered an avalanche of responses, many of them especially aggrieved about our omission of World War II hero Murphy. With our apologies for having offended anyone, we want to emphasize that we were trying to honor living veterans. We were also taken to task for the way we referred to the bestowal of military decorations, many writers pointing out that medals are awarded, not won.

**Q** How many women are on Letterman's, Leno's, and Conan O'Brien's comedy-writing staffs?—*Betty Albert, Bozeman, Mont.*

**A** Zero. And Jimmy Kimmel and Craig Ferguson each employ just one (in Ferguson's case, it's his sister). "My best guess is that it has some relationship to Newton's Law—an object in motion stays in motion," veteran (female) comedy writer Merrill Markoe says. "It's a pernicious pattern that has set in over the years and needs to be interrupted somehow." A notable exception is the E! Network's Chelsea Handler, whose 10-person writing staff is half men and half women.

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**Kitt: Ever candid**

**Q** Why didn't Eartha Kitt ever get the recognition she deserved? And why wasn't she included in Oprah's Legends celebration?—*Sandra Brown, Tucson, Ariz.*

**A** We can't speak for Ms. Winfrey, who honored 25 extremely worthy African-American women at her 2005 Legends Ball. But Kitt was always a rebellious and problematic figure—her anti-war statements to Lady Bird Johnson at a 1968 White House luncheon caused an uproar that hurt her career for a decade. Kitt continued being politically outspoken, and wowing audiences with her ferocious presence, until her death in 2008. Listen to her "Santa Baby" and remember.

**Q** After winning his recent fight, Manny Pacquiao got his welterweight belt and another belt studded with diamonds. Why?—*Rick Digno, Jamaica, N.Y.*

**A** Pacquiao, who has won an unprecedented 7 weight-class titles, fought Miguel Cotto at a catch weight—boxing terminology for a subdivision within a weight class—of 145 pounds. The diamond belt was a special award for the catch-weight title. Some skeptics saw the bout as a way for the World Boxing Council, the promoters, and HBO to make extra money. We're thinking they might have a point.



**Pacquiao: Lord of the ring**

**Q** Is the star of ABC's *SuperNanny* married with children?—*Barb H., Fort Wayne, Ind.*

**A** "I am not married, and I don't have any personal children of my own," Jo Frost tells us with a laugh. "I take care of America's children right now." And how did the 38-year-old Londoner get so super? "I think everything I did was innate," she says. "I had this very strong intuition when working with children. The families I used to work for said, 'You're a white witch. You just know.'"



**Frost puts kids first**

**Q** Some late-night hosts have joked that O.J. Simpson is counseling his fellow prisoners on anger management. Too good to be true?—*Jim Davis, Mesa, Ariz.*

**A** A wee bit. "He's not doing counseling specifically," Simpson's promoter and movie-producing partner Norman Pardo tells us. "What he's doing is, he meets people who maybe don't like blacks, or maybe don't like whites, and tries to get them to like each other. He just wants to be peaceful, and he wants everybody to stop fighting." He might also want some time off for good behavior.



**Handler: The equalizer**

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