

News notes

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[The New Cool Kids](#) (*boston.com*)

Part of a rising counterculture, smart, black teenagers are flexing their intelligence instead of hiding it.

Bill Rhiley found these websites and says these are worth the 30 minutes of listening to learn more about Autism.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=5165123>

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4278538>

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1142532>

<http://www.templegrandin.com/templehome.html>

Thanks to Jim Lambert at Fredonia for the Hutchinson News Article. Special Olympics: End word's use of the word "retard".

Gillian Gaynair - Associated Press Writer WASHINGTON - The Special Olympics launched a campaign Tuesday to banish the word "retard," a casual insult that derives from an out-of-favor medical term and has long been considered inappropriate.

People signed pledges not to use the word and students gathered to denounce its use at rallies from Florida to Alaska. Over the long term, organizers hope to change attitudes about people with mental disabilities, who number more than 190 million worldwide, according to the World Health Organization.

"It's insulting, it's painful and it hurts people," said actor Eddie Barbanell, who has Down Syndrome and appeared in the movie "The Ringer." "Get that word out! End the word! Bury it!"

While "retard" itself was never a medical term, it derives from the phrase "mental retardation," which by around 1900 was commonly used by scientists and doctors, said Peter Berns, executive director of The Arc of the United States, a nonprofit advocate for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Even though Berns said its pejorative connotation was established in the 1960s, the phrase "mental retardation" is still used in many state and federal laws, much to the dismay of those trying to stamp out its use.

"People with intellectual disabilities themselves really mounted a movement that they did not want to be referred to with the word 'retarded,'" he said.

As such, the American Association of Mental Retardation changed its name in 2007 to the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities after its members pleaded for the organization to do so. In another sign that the formal use of the term "mentally retarded" had lost currency, The Associated Press replaced it in its stylebook in 2008 with "mentally disabled."

Still, those seeking to end the term's use face a difficult battle.

"This word is deeply ingrained in our psyche. It comes up in a lot of different contexts," said Andrew Imparato, president and chief executive officer of the American Association of People with Disabilities. "We have to kind of call it out and start a conversation about why it's not OK to use the word."

Among the signatures collected Tuesday were several that belonged to governors: In California, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger - whose mother-in-law founded Special Olympics - signed a proclamation to stop using the word, as did Oklahoma Gov. Brad Henry, while Iowa Gov. Chet Culver issued a certificate of recognition in support of the campaign.

But the manpower behind the "Spread the Word to End the Word" campaign comes from the students who devised the campaign last month during a Special Olympics youth summit in Idaho and organized rallies around the country.

In Florida, 16-year-old Noah Gray organized a rally for some 600 students at Miami Palmetto Senior High School that featured a rap performance and a speech by Barbanell about his experiences of being called a "retard."

"Like many other high school students and adults, I used to use the word 'retarded' all the time," said Gray, who was invited to speak at last month's youth summit. "Since coming down from the Special Olympics, I have not used that word once ... and I'm discouraging other people" from using it.

At Bowie High School in Maryland, 18-year-old Shannan Barksdale helped gather 861 pledges that will be sent to the Special Olympics organization. During the school's lunch periods, Barksdale yelled, "Say no to the

Tri-County Secondary Programs—J. Margo Buscher
R-word!" and urged students to sign pledges.

"The word should be eliminated from everyone's vocabulary," she said.

Special Olympics has enlisted actor John C. McGinley of the TV show "Scrubs" as a spokesman for the campaign. McGinley, whose 11-year-old son has Down Syndrome, said many people don't realize the word is hateful.

"It is saturated in the vernacular, and this will take awhile. And it's OK," he said Tuesday. "But it's important to get under way."

Associated Press photographer Jacquelyn Martin and writers Nafeesa Syeed in Washington, Ron Jenkins in Oklahoma City, Mike Glover in Des Moines and Juliet Williams in Sacramento contributed to this report.



We have a new student that was VERY interested in participating in the SO (Special Olympics). In fact, in his mind he moved from OK to here in order to participate our SO. He brought his SO medals from previous years in school to show Coach Boldra and his weight lifting class. Our C of F's Club (CIRCLE OF FRIENDS) made posters this week to take with us to show support to our fellow Bulldogs. We stood down on the track at Pitt State close to the action, so that we could clap and yell as our Indy Bulldogs ran in the 50 and 100M dashes. We recognized our middle school participants by their orange gear, so we cheered them on too. We got to see two of our participants receive their medals, and we hooped and hollered again! I can't tell you how excited our SO participants looked when we were supporting them, calling out their names and giving them high fives. It truly was a memorable day. At lunch, the C of F girls all sat at one table, the C of F boys all sat at one table, and Whitney and I sat separately. I know that this was the first time for some of our kids to eat out with "friends" only. How fun! All of the C of F Club had a great time, and I hope to make an annual trip to the SO to cheer or volunteer. At least a week before a scheduled C of F event, I have kids coming in EVERY day to ask about the details of the trip. After it is over, they start asking what we are doing next. A big thanks goes out to our Tri-County and 446 Administrations for introducing us to Val Wall and the Circle of Friends.

Kerri Stevens and Whitney Chism

Subject: Prom 2009 Fredonia Mali is such a special young lady (she is one of my Pom Squad girls and an outstanding student). When I asked her if she'd be Jordan's date to the Prom, she didn't hesitate to say, "Yes". Jordan will remember this day forever!



Congratulations to Special Olympics Athletes



High School

Joshua Tanner received - 2 -1st place, 2 -2nd place medals in the track and -field events

Christina Powell received - 2 1st place, 1 -2nd place and 1 -3rd place -medals

They were cheered and encouraged to do their best by their friends in the Circle of Friends Club.

Middle School

JS received 3 - 1st place and 1 2nd place medals in the track and -field events

Brandon Moody received several medals in shot put, baseball throw, 50 meter -and 100 meter runs.

Destiny Bullock received a 1st place medal in shot put and medals in baseball throw, 50 meter and 100 meter runs.