

Home > Top News > Columnists

Classifieds

- Jobs
- Real Estate
- Cars
- Apartments
- Pets
- Event Tickets
- Place an ad

News

- Long Island
- New York City
- State/Region
- Nation/World
- AP Top News
- Health/Science
- And in other news...
- Columnists
- Special reports
- Photos & Multimedia
- Local Videos
- Opinion

Sports

High School Sports

Entertainment

Explore Long Island

Community Guide

Business

Travel

Blogs

am New York

Newspaper Services

Resources

- Weather
- Local Tides
- Multimedia
- Restaurant reviews
- RSS
- Mobile
- Newsday archives
- E-mail newsletter
- Corrections
- News Obituaries
- Death Notices
- Newsday job conference



Partners

- am New York
- Metromix

# The climate is right for Al Gore's Nobel Prize

Ellis Henican  
October 14, 2007

Compared to the U.S. presidency, it might feel like a consolation prize.

But take a bow, Al Gore. You have every right to bust your buttons over this shiny new Nobel.

I know a thing or two about prizes. Like almost anyone who's worked in the news business for 15 minutes or more, I've won an armload of them. Hardly any are worth the brass, glass, crystal or wood they're made of.

You write a 10-inch puff piece about a Boy Scout or a four-eyed engineer. Pretty soon, you'll be clutching an

ornate "Friend of Scouting" plaque or a "Golden Slide Rule."

We never get tired of giving prizes in my field. Some days, all we do is sit around, giving prizes to each other.

In my learned opinion, there are only three prizes worth showing up at the awards dinner for. The Pulitzer, which is the big back-pat in journalism. The MacArthur, which has the greatest nickname of any prize ("The Genius Grant") and comes with a couple of hundred thousand dollars in cash. And the Nobel. Any Nobel. Although - not to get choosy here - I always thought Peace would be better than Literature, even though Faulkner won Literature and made a very cool speech when he did.

The Nobel Peace Prize! No one ever says, "I'm sorry, I can't turn up in Oslo for that!"

Please, don't bore me with talk of Oscars, Emmys, Grammys and whatever the Internet people give each other these days. I've met winners in all those categories. Believe me, they're no brighter than you and I.

So let the debates continue about Al Gore and global warming and that movie he made about the earth getting hotter and the polar bears losing their ice caps and Manhattan about to be underwater one day.

Gore missed out on the White House. But he got one heck of a consolation prize. It's way better than a "Golden Slide Rule." And he didn't have to write any puff pieces about tiresome engineers.

**HOT AIR:** It's great the delay-plagued airlines at JFK have called a "delay summit" with federal aviation officials. Now which airline will be first to reduce its jam-packed flight schedule? Hello? Hello? This is your captain speaking! Anyone?

**RED, WHITE AND SLINKY:** It's made of plastic now. It comes in neon hues. But the beloved, low-tech Slinky can still walk down the stairs. And it's still made in America - Plymouth, Mich., to be exact. Isn't that saying something in this year of Chinese toy recalls?

**BOO!** The Center for Nursing Advocacy is pleading with Party City and other Halloween retailers to pull those sexy-nurse costumes off the shelves. "The stereotype that nurses are sponge-bath sex zombies has bedeviled real nurses for decades," the group purrs.

Article tools

- E-mail
- [Share](#)
- [Print](#)
- [Single page view](#)
- [Reprints](#)
- [Reader feedback](#)
- Text size:

EDITORIAL CARTOONS



**Walt Handelsman**  
Newsday's Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist.

[Cartoon archive](#) [Cartoons](#)  
[Animations](#) [Multimedia](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

VIDEO

<http://video.newsday.com/global/v>

Latest

Show All

Page cannot be crawled o  
due to robots.txt.

SEARCH CLASSIFIEDS

JOB	SHOP	CARS	HOMES
<b>City and Long Island jobs by category, company or industry</b>			
Keyword(s):	Zip Code:	Within:	<input type="button" value="GO"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	30 miles <input type="button" value="▲"/> <input type="button" value="▼"/>	
<b>Listings, directories and deals</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apartments</li> <li>• Items for Sale</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dating</li> <li>• Pets</li> <li>• Travel Deals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grocery Coupons</li> <li>• Events</li> </ul>	
<b>Classifieds get results! - Place an Ad</b>			

Popular stories

Most viewed | Most e-mailed

[Huntington grapples with diversity](#)

- Parents & Children
- Weddings
- Hamptons Travel
- Guide
- Wellness
- Star Community
- Publishing

ASKED AND UNANSWERED: What? Judith Giuliani was so busy during the last debate she couldn't find a minute to call? ... If Joe Torre's yanked out of pinstripes, will Yankees broadcaster Suzyn Waldman be the only one shedding tears? That's hard to believe ... Are Long Island nursing homes really the new singles bars? Isn't it time for some senior-class sex ed? ... Why all the nooses suddenly? ... Anyone still opposed to GPS devices in Islip town cars? Fuel use is plummeting without all those "I'll-just swing-by-home" trips during the work day ... How could the three Newsday Pulitzer medals have been stolen without some high-level inside help? Any ex-execs have anything to confess? ... What exactly have federal immigration-enforcement officials learned from last month's botched-raid debacle? They're still claiming they did nothing wrong ... Can anyone top "Chickaboomer" blogger Marty Davis' nappy nickname for the returning Don Imus? To Marty, the I-man's now "Don 'Ho'" ... If prices keep falling and foreclosures keep skyrocketing, will Long Island real estate ever reach the point of just being "overpriced?" You know, instead of "outrageously, ridiculously, insanely overpriced?" ... Will Barbara Corcoran have to change the name of her new CNBC show, "Millionaire Broker?" "Thousand-aire Broker," anyone? ... Does anyone find irony in the fact that double-dipping pension hog (and Suffolk County personnel director) Alan Schneider is the Suffolk County personnel director? ... Is Britney's new record really called "Blackout?" ... Why is New York City launching a new \$30 million ad campaign? Because so few people have heard of New York City? ... What about all those people sent to prison on ex-narc Bernie Kerik's uncorroborated testimony? Shouldn't prosecutors be taking a fresh look at those convictions? ... Do all those Hamptons-bound helicopters really have to buzz residential neighborhoods? Why can't they fly over the water? ... Maintenance is important, but do the George Washington, Throgs Neck, Bronx-Whitestone, Cross Bay and Henry Hudson bridges plus the Lincoln and Holland tunnels all need traffic-clogging repairs the very same weekend? ... Now that Sri Chinmoy's gone, what are the poor Guinness people going to do? The Queens-based spiritual leader held and inspired more world records than anyone.

NOBEL WAR PRIZE

- 1 Dick "Greeted as Liberators" Cheney.
- 2 Paul "The Oil Will Pay" Wolfowitz.
- 3 Alberto "Torture Memo" Gonzales.
- 4 Donald "Unknown Unknowns" Rumsfeld.
- 5 Tony "I'll Have What He's Having" Blair.

more in /news/columnists

Copyright © 2007, Newsday Inc.

Would you recommend this?

Rate it: ☆☆☆☆☆

**Dog survives Farmingville fire by hiding in bathtub**

**Former N. Hempstead building commish accused of fraud**

**Warm Winter Expected**

**Medical school in the works at Hofstra**

More most viewed

ADVERTISEMENT

PARTNERS



**Cat Show crowns champ**

Top cat beat out hundreds at MSG championship as felines take center stage.

Photos

**Look back at Westminster dog show**



**Metromix: New York**

Your guide to New York City events, bars, clubs and restaurants.

TRAVEL



**Where have you been?**

Submit your travel photos.

**Travel headlines:**

- Caribbean primer
- Ansel Adams in D.C.
- Scranton's hot

**Travel resources:**

- Latest travel deals
- Check flights
- Check forecasts

**Travel search:**

Destinations

Northeast Travel

Travel Topics

THE KATIE TREBING STORY

WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR

**Popular features**

- Famous deaths
- Obituaries
- Lottery Results

**Find Stock Quotes**

Symbol or Name

Go

IBM HAPCO SP500

- Comics
- Op Ed/Letters to the editor
- Offbeat News
- Horoscopes
- Sudoku
- Crossword



**FEATURED LINKS**

[Mesothelioma Lawyer Lung Cancer Personal Injury Law Firm](#)  
[Buy Mets Tickets Buy Yankees Tickets Wicked Tickets](#)  
[Hamptons Travel](#)

---

[New York News from amNY.com](#) | [Island Publications](#) | [Parents & Children](#) | [Weddings](#) | [Hamptons Travel Guide](#) | [Wellness](#) | [CW11](#) | [Metromix](#)

[CareerBuilder.com for Jobs](#) | [Cars.com for Autos](#) | [Apartments.com for Rentals](#) | [Homescape.com for Homes](#) | [Open Houses](#) | [Houses for Rent](#) | [ShopLocal.com](#) | [Discount Shopping](#) | [FSBO](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Newsday](#) | [Terms of Service](#)