

PRESS

“warm and illuminating... told with deftness and emotion...priceless” – *Richard Sandomir, The New York Times*

“fantastic” – *Bill Littlefield, host of NPR's “Only a Game.”*

“Like heartwarming stories? There are 9 of them here...Shaq, among other things, tries to teach his mom how to ride his Harley. Possibly the best segment features blind mountain climber Erik Weiheymayer and his father...” – *Larry Stewart, Los Angeles Times*

“Worth a replay – “Apple Pie” a Mother’s Day show on ESPN... included Buffalo’s Drew Bledsoe teaching his mom to throw spirals. She spit on her hands first, explaining she’s “seen that done one TV.” – *Michael Hiestand, USA Today*

An Entertainment Weekly Recommended Pick

“this is an excellent documentary... our bosses don’t like it when we recommend other networks, but tune in to “Apple Pie” on ESPN and then come right back to CNN...” – *Miles O’Brien, CNN Sunday Morning*

“this is one for you...It’s filled with material that doesn’t come out of locker room interviews; Mazzio tells the stories that come out only when a skilled interviewer visits the family home and people talk comfortably...” – *Bill Griffith, The Boston Globe*

“Fanatics with tunnel vision on the big games for the Celtics...and the Red Sox on ESPN tonight would be well advised to take a TV timeout for mother. Mary Mazzio, a richly talented producer... provides a special tribute with star athletes and their moms...” – *Jim Baker, The Boston Herald*

“The power of moms is the subject of this slice-of-life documentary, which focuses on star athletes and the women who raised them...” – *Today’s Picks, TV Guide*

“a wonderful documentary film” – *Mark Ockerbloom, NECN Sports Anchor*

“This beautiful piece of work is unlike the games-laden fare usually found on ESPN. And what a nice break to hear sensitive interview with the matriarchs, many of whom have had to overcome obstacles far tougher than losing a playoff game.” – *Cablefax Daily*

“Mazzio never does anything halfway. Passionate, visionary, and bent on social change... – *Helen Graves, Boston Herald Women’s Business*

“What Smokes... “Apple Pie,” an ESPN Original Production saluting the moms of star athletes...” – *Tom Hoffarth, LA Daily News*

“a winner... it’ll bring you to tears” – *Bob Lobel, Channel 4 Sports Anchor and host of Sports Final ESPN Classic features*

“Mother’s Day may be two weeks away, but our neighbors in Bristol already are arranging the flowers....ESPN...will profile real moms of prostars in a documentary “Apple Pie.” Sweet. No wonder ESPN got a great big hug Tuesday, winning seven Sports Emmy Awards...” – *John Howell, The Hartford Courant*

“Sarah Fisher may have been clocked at 227 mph at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, but on a public highway? She confesses to no more than 80 mph — with her mother, Reba, tugging at her sleeve, telling her to slow down. That is among the surprises at 11 a.m. today on “Apple Pie,” an ESPN special that takes a look at some famous athletes and their moms. Mary Mazzio, who wrote, directed and produced the 90-minute show, said Sarah’s lack of highway experimentation, shall we say, was one of the biggest surprises she uncovered while working on the program. “I’ve gone more than 80 miles an hour on a highway,” Mazzio said... But you may be surprised to learn the obsession with speed and adventure started even before then. Sarah’s grandmother was one of the first female aviators in Ohio... Mazzio—an Olympic rower at the 1992 Barcelona Games — said she wanted to do a show that would inspire children by showing them the obstacles the athletes had to overcome, and how their mothers had helped them do that.” – *John O’Neill, Indianapolis Star*

“heartwarming...sweet...at the show’s end, we hear Shaq say he will work in law enforcement when his basketball days are over. That must be terrifying news for crooks – and their mothers, too...” - *Jerry Greene, Orlando Sentinel “Mother’s Day Salute” – Jim Sarni, Sun-Sentinel*

“Guaranteeing the weekend some sugar is “Apple Pie,” a documentary on athletes and their moms (7:30pm Sunday, ESPN Classic). Artificial sweetener? Well, producer Mary Mazzio acknowledges

she looked for positive stories. “These athletes got to where they are from strength and inspiration from their mothers,” says Mazzio, a former Olympic rower. The one you haven’t heard of provides the best tale. Erik Weißenmayer became the first blind climber to stand atop Mount Everest after losing his sight...also, in a twist of like-mother, like-daughter, Lark Chastain does a Brandi impression...” – *Mike Tierney, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Other television/radio/web/print coverage included CNN Headline News with Sashi Koto and Mary Mazzio; CNN Sunday Morning with Miles O’Brien, Grant Hill, Janet Hill, and Mary Mazzio; NECN with Mark Ockerbloom, Mac Bledsoe, and Mary Mazzio; Sports Final with Bob Lobel and Mary Mazzio; NPR’s “Only A Game” with Bill Littlefield, Barbara Bledsoe, and Mary Mazzio; TALK 96.6 with Gary Tanguay and Mary Mazzio; ESPN Radio; Sports Center (ESPN); Baseball Tonight (ESPN); NPR’s “She Got Game;” *The Dallas Morning News*; *The Arizona Republic*; *New York Daily News*; *The Ventura County Star*; *The Beacon Journal* (Ohio); *The Riverside Press-Enterprise*; *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*; *The Buffalo News*; *The Press-Enterprise* (CA); *The Improper Bostonian*; Detroit WWJ.50 News Radio; ESPN.com; NFL.com; IndyRacingLeague.com; MotorsportsTV.com; DrewBledsoe.com; GrantHill.com; SarahFisher.com; RulonGardner.com; GirlsOnTheRun.com; TouchTheTop.com; and NewBalance.com.

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SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2002

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SPORTS MEDIA/Richard Sandomir

Mothers Are the Wind Beneath Their Wings

When Mary Mazzio acted in a school play, became a cheerleader or rowed doubles in the 1992 Summer Olympics, she said her mother was always referred to as "Mary Mazzio's mother."

Paula Mazzio's anonymity to the public struck Mazzio as unfair, but it helped inspire her new film, "Apple Pie: Raising Champions," a warm and illuminating tribute to athletes' mothers on ESPN Classic at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow. Her first film, "A Hero for Daisy," chronicled a protest in 1976 at Yale over the shabby facilities for female rowers.

"My mother taught me not to quit," Mazzio said by telephone from Wellesley Hills, Mass. "I was the kind of athlete who was cut from every national team possible. Coaches told me I was too weak or too short and she told me, 'Hang in, Mary.' She helped me be tenacious."

Mazzio added, "The real heroes are often sitting on the sofa next to you."

Fathers usually get credit for their children's athletic success, "but that's not always the case, and that stunned me," said Mazzio, whose mother raised her alone. Her exploration of maternal influences on athletes as diverse as Mia Hamm, Rulon Gardner, Kenny Lofton and Shaquille O'Neal reveals deep lodes of love and steely strength.

Her 11 stories are told with deftness and emotion that is never cloying. She chose her participants wisely — all are articulate in different ways — and used the narrative device of having each mother introduce herself by telling capsule versions of her life. Another strategy is to have the athletes try to teach their mothers an athletic skill. Watching Gardner, the 2000 Olympic Greco-Roman wrestling gold medalist, show how he would take his mother down, or Natalie Granato, the mother of the hockey players Cammi and Tony, in a goaltender's uniform is priceless.

"I thought the most difficult thing was to get the athletes to participate," said Mazzio, who discovered it was easy when she told them that she wanted to know the impact their mothers had on their lives.

Virginia Gardner regards her 286-pound son as "my baby" — he is the youngest of nine — and she helped him overcome a learning disability by reading with him until 2 in the morning some days on their remote Wyoming farm.

As with Virginia Gardner, Paula Mazzio's influence did not come by teaching Mary to row, but by developing her character.

But, Mazzio said, "What I didn't know until he died was that my grandfather was captain of his rowing team at M.I.T., so it must have been in the genes."

Lofton, who was born when his mother was 15, was raised by his grandmother, Rosie Lou Person, who is blind.

"When she came to watch me play," said Lofton, the Chicago White Sox center fielder, "she was so loud. She had a whistle!" (Styles of maternal spectating is a theme here.) "The proudest day of my life," he said, "was when I bought my grandma a house."

The race car driver Sarah Fisher's mother, Reba, was a Go-Kart racer (her mother was an airplane pilot) who says in the film, "I love Sarah for putting the pedal to the metal" — not your basic Hallmark card sentiment.

Drew Bledsoe and his mother, Barbara, clearly have a close relationship. He did not inherit his quarterbacking skill from his mother, but she contributed an inestimable physical attribute. "I got my arm from my mom," said Bledsoe, who was traded last month to the Buffalo Bills.

Among Natalie Granato's six children are four hockey players. One night, Cammi told her mother, "When I grow up, I want to be a Blackhawk." The reply?

"Cammi, a girl can't be a Blackhawk." Cammi, who would win a gold medal at the 1998 Winter Olympics, cried at her dream's rejection, a reflection of the limited opportunities in the sport for women at the time.

"I was devastated," Natalie Granato said, "that I could say such words to her." Still, she supported Cammi's dream, yelled at misguided referees and showed her daughter that "she can be a lady, no matter she's doing."

The one segment that comes closest to a tear-jerker — the one without a mother or grandmother to tell her story — is that of the blind mountain climber Erik Weihenmayer. He lost his sight at 13; his mother, Ellen, died three years later.

"I had just learned to live with the blindness and then my mom died," he said. "It was a thousand times worse than going blind." With his father and brothers, he found an outlet on mountains he could not see. Last year, he became the first blind climber to reach the peak of Mount Everest. And it is in the tactile sensations of climbing that he thinks of his mother.

"Where I look for her," he said, "is when I touch granite warmed by the sun, or she's the crunch of snow beneath my feet."

WhattoWatch

A day-to-day guide to notable programs. Times are Eastern daylight and are subject to change. BY DALTON ROSS

SUNDAY May 12

SEASON FINALE

7-8PM
KING OF THE HILL (Fox, TV-PG-L) Cotton is a full-blown killing machine! At least he was in World War II, so now the old man travels all the way to Japan to apologize for all those body bags.

7:30-9PM
APPLE PIE (ESPN Classic) Star athletes like Shaquille O'Neal and Mia Hamm show off their moms...and vice versa.

8-8:30PM
THE SIMPSONS (Fox, TV-PG-LV) Bubbles—fun to blow, not so much fun to live in, yet that's exactly where Bart finds himself after getting bitten by a pesky mosquito.

8-9:45PM
MEET THE PARENTS (Cinemax, TV-PG-13) It's an easy joke, and one that's repeated ad nauseam, but I still can't help giggling every time someone yells "Focker!"

8-9:15PM
DUE EAST (Showtime, TV-PG-DL) Robert Forster pumps gas and tries not to make his daughter feel like the loner-loser she really is. He also tries to score some action with Cybill Shepherd, figuring what's good enough for Elvis is definitely good enough for him.

himself (George Lucas) puts in an appearance.

SEASON FINALE

8:30-9PM
MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE (Fox, TV-PG-LV) When Craig gets himself a helper monkey, it can mean only one thing: Pray for Mojo.

9-10PM
SIX FEET UNDER (HBO, TV-MA) Nate and Brenda pay a visit to a rappin' rabbi. Actually, that's not really true—she doesn't rap in the slightest. The rabbi part is spot-on, though, I swear.

SEASON FINALE

9-10PM
ALIAS (ABC) Curiosity killed the cat, and it may get Will, too, unless Sydney and Vaughn save his snoopy ass.

SEASON FINALE

9:30-10PM
JKX: THE JAMIE KENNEDY EXPERIMENT (The WB) We'd rather rearrange our sock drawers or make ice than sit through most hidden-camera prank shows, but this guy *is* pretty damn funny. Still, that's no excuse for letting Jim Belushi on the program. No excuse at all.

10-11:30PM
TELLING NICHOLAS (HBO, TV-PG) HBO's weekly docu series examines the painful process a father must go through telling his 7-year-old son that Mommy (who was killed on Sept. 11) is not coming home.

10-11PM
THE PRACTICE (ABC) Justice speaks, but Lindsay doesn't particularly like what it has to say.



MAN, I COULD STARE AT MYSELF ALL DAY LONG



11:30AM Noon **Saturday**

(ESN) Apple Pie—Documentary 1:30 251810
Examining the bonds between athletes and their moms. See the Close-up on this page.

(ES2) Horse Racing (CC) 2:30 3259013
Kentucky Derby undercard races in Louisville. Also: a preview of the Derby. (Live)

(FAM) Go for It!—Teenagers 457487 **E**

(FNC) Fox News Live 1:00 2051988

(FSN) You Gotta See This! (CC) 167520

(FX) M* The Last of the Mohicans (CC)**—Adventure 2:00 4099988
(1992) Michael Mann directed this remake of James Fenimore Cooper's tale about Hawkeye (Daniel Day-Lewis), a scout in the French and Indian War. Cora: Madeleine Stowe.

(H&G) This Old House Classics 6148926

(LIF) Golden Girls (CC)—Comedy 357433 **E&D**

(MTV) Ultra Sound—Documentary 1:00 145592

(NES) Junior Motorsports 19810

(NIK) ChalkZone—Cartoon 271029

(QVC) Linea by Louis Dell'Olio 2:00 4526094

(TBS) M* Troop Beverly Hills**
—Comedy 2:00 646051 **E&D**
(1989) A housewife (Shelley Long) takes charge of her daughter's Wilderness Girls troop. Freddy: Craig T. Nelson.

(TCM) M* Apache (CC)**—Western 1:35
(1954) Stereotypes are absent from this rug-

CLOSE-UP SPORTS

APPLE PIE SAT. 12 noon (ESN)

The power of moms is the subject of this slice-of-life documentary, which focuses on star athletes and the women who raised them. Among those offering perspective on the mother-child relationship through personal recollections, family photos and home movies are:

■ QB Drew Bledsoe and his mother Barbara, whom he credits for his strong throwing arm.

■ NBA star Grant Hill and his disciplinarian mom Janet.

■ Hockey players and siblings Tony and Cammi Granato and their mother Natalie, who says she's been to more

than 11,000 hockey games.

■ Soccer's Mia Hamm and her mom Stephanie, whom Mia credits for her athletic abilities.

■ Baseball's Kenny Lofton and his blind grandmother Rose Lou Person. (1:30)



Mia and Stephanie Hamm

TV GUIDE/97

Boston Sunday Globe

MAY 12, 2002

This 'Apple Pie' is a slice of life about moms

SporTVView

BILL GRIFFITH

"My mother always was Mary Mazzio's mom." I always felt she never got enough respect for the lessons she taught me and my sisters."

— Mary Mazzio, Olympic rower and president/CEO of 50 Eggs Inc., an independent film production company in Wellesley Hills.

Mom, and that's mom as in "Everymom," this one is for you. "Apple Pie," a 90-minute documentary on the relationships between star athletes and their

mothers, airs on ESPN Classic to-night at 7:30.

It's filled with the material that doesn't come out of locker room interviews; Mazzio tells the stories that come out only when a skilled interviewer visits the family home and people talk comfortably.

Maybe it's because so much background work was done that the stories come out easily on film. "We had unprecedented access," Mazzio said. From that came a trust and familiarity that is a key ingredient in the finished version of this 10-month project.

"We learned that no one has a perfect mother," she added. "This isn't about perfect people, but real people facing real issues in their

lives. These moms may not have been perfect but they taught their children some damn good lessons."

Mazzio hopes that children — and parents — will learn from this.

"Kids quit so easily," she said. "They think you're born as Michael Jordan or Drew Bledsoe. They don't understand it's all about work ethic, and the real heroes aren't on television, they're around you in daily life, in your family, and in many instances, your mother."

The athletes are both the familiar — Bledsoe, Grant Hill, Mia Hamm, Shaquille O'Neal, Sarah Fisher, Rulon Gardner, Tony and Cammi Granato — and the not-so-familiar — triathlete Molly Barker, blind mountain climber Erik Weihenmayer — but one thing is clear, says Mazzio: "None would have gotten where they are now without the lessons taught by their

mothers. All were encouraged, but not pushed, by their moms. They let the kids make their own mistakes and learn from them."

And that seems to be "Apple Pie's" recipe for success.

When Mazzio wrote "A Hero for Daisy" four years ago, she never dreamed the Title IX-based story of the Yale women's crew and its protest for adequate facilities would touch so many people.

"It went from the West Newton Cinema to the Museum of Fine Arts [a nine-month run], to Oxygen, to ESPN, to classrooms everywhere," she said. "The New York Times called it 'a landmark film.' Sports Illustrated called it 'fantastic.'"

Before turning to filmmaking, Mazzio had what many would consider an ideal life. She'd gone from Needham High School to Mt. Holyoke College to Georgetown Law School. She'd competed in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona in women's doubles rowing. She was a lawyer at the prestigious Boston firm of Brown Rudnick.

"It was the ultimate Yuppie lifestyle," she said. "But when I came back from the Olympics, I said I have to do something to change my piece of the world. It came down to either politics or doing something creative."

Mazzio wrote some screenplays about "kick ass" women and went to film school.

"A Hero for Daisy" was named for Mazzio's daughter, now 4.

"When it took off, I knew we were onto something," she said.

She has the same feeling about "Apple Pie."

"I knew from the quality of the interviews that this was something very, very special," she said. "I don't know if it's going to be a hit, but it's special."

ESPN thought so, signing on at the beginning of the project. So did New Balance. The Boston-based company underwrote the cost of the project because CEO Jim Davis found it "positive and uplifting, that leaves people inspired as well as entertained."



MARY MAZZIO
A lesson in stories

Hot dogs on menu

Eddie Andelman's 13th annual Hot Dog Safari will run from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Suffolk Downs next Sunday. One hundred percent of ticket fees — \$15 for adults (\$13 if purchased in advance at Tedeschi's, Lil Peach, Eastern Bank, or Suffolk Downs), \$50 for VIP tickets — go to Cystic Fibrosis and the Joey Fund. The event has raised more than \$1 million since its inception, and more than 30,000 people attended last year.

The 125,000 hot dogs are only the centerpiece of what has become one of the best family experiences in New England — and one that is starting to be copied around the country.

Andelman will make the rounds of Boston's media outlets this week promoting what is a labor of love.

Former Bruin great and Liver Foundation benefactor Terry O'Reilly will be one of the Safari's grand marshals; Long's has created a \$35,000 gold hot dog; and Andelman has a laundry list of raffle items, topped by a football Sunday at ESPN with Chris Berman. If you want to co-host one of his weekend Red Sox shows, it'll cost you \$1,000 for charity.

WWZN will broadcast from Suffolk from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., with virtually all the station's hosts working the microphones. One of the highlights will be the New

York vs. Boston hot dog-eating contest.

Channel 56 will do a live four-hour show from the Safari.

"Guys like Frank Deford, Joe O'Donnell, and Boomer Esiason have raised tens of millions in the battle against this disease," said Andelman, who is hoping to top the \$250,000 mark this year.

Not bad for an event that started as a few busloads of listeners heading to a Bridgeport, Conn., eatery to see if it indeed had the best hot dogs, as a caller once claimed.

ESPN on location

ESPN's Jon Miller and Joe Morgan should have some fun with Pedro Martinez and the "K Zone" technology tonight with the Sox facing the Mariners in the 8 p.m. "Sunday Night Baseball" matchup... ESPN Classic's "SportsCentury: Roger Clemens" made its debut last Monday night on ESPN. It airs again tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN Classic. Channel 4's Alice Cook is quoted in the show, "People cannot get over what he did," said Cook. "It's like a divorce situation, a messy divorce. And the fans in Boston almost feel betrayed. He left town. He went to Toronto — and then he went to New York to a prettier team, a team that had more money, a team that had much more success. And like a jilted lover, the fans of Boston just feel betrayed and bitter. And they'll never get over it."... NESN has the Pawtucket-Durham game tomorrow at 6 p.m.... The US men's soccer team faces Uruguay in Washington today (Channel 5, 2 p.m.) as the May 31 start of the World Cup looms... Celtics-Pistons (Channel 7, 3 p.m.) is the second game of NBC's NBA playoff tripleheader today... If Indianapolis 500 time trials are your thing, ESPN has coverage from 1-4 p.m., with ESPN2 picking it up from 5:30-7.

Bill Griffith's e-mail address is griffith@globe.com

A TV timeout to honor good ol' mom

Fanatics with tunnel vision on the big games for the Celtics on NBC today (3 p.m.) and the Red Sox on ESPN tonight (8) would be well advised to take a TV timeout for mother.

Mary Mazzio, a richly talented producer who grew up in Needham and now runs her Fifty Eggs

Co. in Wellesley Hills, provides a special tribute with star athletes and their moms on ESPN Classic's "Apple Pie" at 7:30 p.m.

Drew Bledsoe and mother Barbara, whom he credits for his strong throwing arm, naturally drew the most attention. But the most moving story revolves

around Boston College product **Erik Weihenmayer**, the first blind mountain climber to reach the summit of Mt. Everest.

Erik's mother, **Ellen**, refused to send him to a special school after he lost his eyesight at age 13. He speaks of wrestling "to come to terms with my blindness" and be-

coming a climber at 16 to fill the void left by Ellen's death in an auto accident.

There's **Grant Hill's** mom, **Janet**, one of six African-American women in her Wellesley class who, with NFL-star husband **Calvin Hill**, so instilled the importance of school and integrity, Grant calls

her "general."

Kenny Lofton was raised by his blind grandmother, **Rosie Lou Persson**, who helped him overcome severe stuttering. He was most proud when he could buy her a house. And there's **Shaquille O'Neal**, whose mom, **Lucille**, was on welfare when he was born. She worked two jobs to support him, now attends college and gets 50 roses from Shaq every birthday.

Mazzio was on the 1992 U.S. Olympic rowing team and is the mother of two. She finds two interesting trends among her 11 stories.

"Five or six of the moms (including Bledsoe's) married high school or college sweethearts," she said. "And we had three or four who lost children."

Mazzio also spoke of Bledsoe "almost quitting" the Patriots last season. What did he tell her away from the camera at his Montana hideaway? "We had so many off-the-record conversations and I need to be very careful," she said. "We were delving into very personal matters."

When the day comes that the ex-Patriot wants to tell all, Mazzio will be ready.



**Jim
BAKER**



MAY 12, 2002 ■ \$1.75

Los Angeles Times

FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2002

TV-RADIO LARRY STEWART

Walkin' and Rollin' to the Mike

When the Lakers begin the second round of the NBA playoffs Sunday, **Chick Hearn**, as he has been doing lately, will use a walker to get to his broadcast position at Staples Center.

And **Marv Albert** more than likely will use a wheelchair.

Hearn, who will be there to do the KLAC (570) broadcast, has been using a walker since returning to work after first heart surgery and then hip surgery.

Albert, who will be announcing the game along with **Bill Walton** and **Steve "Snapper" Jones** for NBC, is returning to work this weekend for the first time since being injured in a limousine accident April 18.

Albert will be in Sacramento Saturday for Game 1 of the Kings' series against Dallas, then fly to Los Angeles.

There may be some snickers from fans when they see Albert in a wheelchair Sunday, and Walton may get in a few playful jabs, but what happened to Albert and his TNT broadcast partner, **Mike Fratello**, was no laughing matter.

"Really, we're very fortunate to be alive," Albert said Thursday from his home in New York. "If you've seen the pictures, you know the stretch limo was totaled."

The two broadcasters had done a game between the Indiana Pacers and Philadelphia 76ers in Indianapolis for TNT and flown to Philadelphia on the 76er charter. They were traveling to New York by limo when the accident occurred at 3 a.m. The limo struck a delivery truck that had stalled along the freeway.

"We were both asleep," Albert said. "I don't remember a thing about the accident. I was knocked unconscious and must have been out for about 45 minutes. I came to in the ambulance."

Albert is wearing a cast on an ankle that was broken in three places. Because of painful chest and back injuries, he's unable to use crutches. Therefore he needs a wheelchair to travel any kind of distance.

"I can hobble around a little, but I'm pretty sure I'll still need a wheelchair Sunday," he said.

Albert and Fratello will be back together for Tuesday's Game 2, which will be televised nationally by TNT but shown locally by Fox Sports Net.

New Fox Lineup

As expected, Fox announced Thursday that **Joe Buck**, **Cris Collinsworth** and **Troy Aikman** will make up the network's new No. 1 NFL announcing team, replacing **Pat Summerall** and **John Madden**.

Also, the legendary producer-director tandem of **Bob Stenner** and **Sandy Grossman** will be moved to the No. 2 team. Stenner and Grossman came to Fox from CBS with Summerall and Madden.

Moving up to the No. 1 team will be producer **Richie Ziyontz** and director **Artie Kempner**. Fox said it wanted to give the new No. 1 broadcast team a fresh start.

Buck, who will continue as Fox's No. 1 play-by-play announcer on baseball, will take time off from football to announce the playoffs and World Series. **Dick Stockton** will move up from the No. 2 team to fill in on those weekends.

Fox probably won't replace Collinsworth on the pregame show. **Cris Carter** and **Shannon Sharpe** had auditions, but at least initially Fox plans to go with just **James Brown**, **Terry Bradshaw** and **Howie Long**.

A Spot for Fouts

Dan Fouts, who got bumped out of the "Monday Night Football" booth after the arrival of Madden, will be paired with **Keith Jackson** on Pacific 10 Conference football telecasts next season on ABC. Fouts and Jackson have worked together before.

Tim Brant, who had been working as an analyst with Jackson, will go back to play-by-play.

Reality TV Flavor

NBC's coverage of Saturday's Kentucky Derby will have less taped features than usual, according to producer **David Michaels**, the younger brother of ABC's **AI**.

NBC will be using more live action in an attempt to capture the pageantry and excitement of being at Churchill Downs.

Michaels said that television fails to capture the true essence of the Derby.

"It's an experience that is larger than the small eye of television. Television, it's almost like you really have blinders on, and when you're there you have a full panoramic view of everything. So finding a way through this peephole to feel and see the things you do when you're there, that's extremely difficult."

Michaels said seven cameras will be used to isolate seven horses. Which seven will be determined at a production meeting tonight.

"This could be the longest production meeting in the history of horse racing coverage," Michaels said.

Race coverage begins at 2 p.m., and post time is 3.

This is the second year NBC will be televising the Triple Crown, having taken over the series from ABC. The crew includes co-hosts **Tom Hammond** and **Bob Costas**, analyst **Charlsie Cantey**, race caller **Tom Durkin**, contributing analysts **Mike Battaglia** and **Bob Neumeier**, reporter **Kenny Rice** and on-track reporter **Donna Barton Brothers**.

Passing

Jay Craven, 40, who worked in sales for KXTA (1150) and other Clear Channel sister stations and occasionally was on the air on KXTA as part of a team called "The Third String," died of cancer late last week. The funeral was Thursday.

No Sugarcoating

Former Laker coach **Del Harris**, a guest of **Chris Myers** and **Bob Golic** on KMPC (1540), said the relationship between **Jerry West** and **Jerry Buss** was strained at times the past two years. Harris said there was a "total break in trust" because West believed Buss was listening to his kids more than he was to him.

Recommended Viewing

Like heartwarming stories? There are nine in a 90-minute Mother's Day special, "Apple Pie," that will be on ESPN this Saturday at 9 a.m. before airing on May 12, Mother's Day, on ESPN Classic at 4:30 p.m.

Nine athletes and their mothers, including **Shaquille O'Neal** and his mom, **Lucille Harrison**, were interviewed for the special. Shaq, among other things, tries to teach his mom how to ride his Harley.

Other athletes and their moms on the show include **Drew Bledsoe**, **Kenny Lofton**, **Grant Hill**, **Mia Hamm**, **Brandi Chastain**, Greco Roman wrestler **Rulon Gardner**, Indy race driver **Sarah Fisher**, and Ironman triathlete **Molly Barker**. Possibly the best segment features blind mountain climber **Erik Weißenmayer** and his father. Weißenmayer's mother died in a car accident when he was 16, which was three years after he lost his eyesight.

NORTH STATION BUSINESSES: BETTING ON A BIG BOOM

THE IMPROPER BOSTONIAN

METRO-BOSTON'S VIVID GUIDE TO ENTERTAINMENT, CULTURE AND CAREER CHANGES

improper speaking SEEN, OVERHEARD OR OTHERWISE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION

We're Not Making This Up... If you recently saw some buxom, scantily clad women carrying towels and romping around your favorite watering hole, you weren't dreaming and you weren't on the set of *American Pie III*. The **Old Spice Cool Contact Girls** were in town to promote the company's new refreshment towels for men to help remove odor as well as wetness. In the words of their press release, the Contact Girls are "driven by their love of clean guys" and were here "to wipe guys down."

Who Needs Virgil?... Those looking for help navigating the treacherous waters of Boston's nocturnal demi-monde have found succor: A company called **Night-life Maps** is selling maps that show



the location of more than 100 bars, night-clubs and restaurants in Boston and Cambridge. This is no Zagat's—there are no reviews, advice or other editorial content. And once you get to your destination, you're on your own in figuring out how to hide the guide so you don't look like a dork.

Ch-ch-changes ... There are certain things we take for granted: The sun will rise in the East, the Sox will break our hearts, and the beautiful and talented **George Makkes** will always work the room at **29 Newbury**. Not so fast. We've learned that our favorite waif has a new address. He'll be the head waiter at the new **33**, opening soon at that sought-after spot on Stanhope Street. We imagine the regulars at 29 now know how the folks at the Gardner felt when they lost their masterpiece.

IMPROPER Parties... The IMPROPER is sponsoring a few events coming up: The first is the 25th annual **Boston/New England Emmy Awards** ceremony, hosted by Kiss 108 DJ Billy Costa at the Seaport Hotel May 5. The New England chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences will bestow the honors upon local recipients. Also at the event, PBS documentary filmmaker Ken Burns will be on hand to receive the 2002 Governor's Award. The second event we hold dear to our hearts: our annual **Boston's Beloved Bartenders** bash at The Rack May 7. Come on down and raise your glass to the bartender you love best. The IMPROPER's own Jonathan Soroff will entertain the crowd, along with music by Central Basement.

Virtual R-E!-ality... The E! Network, home of the cultural high-water marks

Talk Soup and *True Hollywood Story*, is on the prowl for a new host for their *Wild On* series that once filmed at The Rack. They'll be in Boston on the May 11 at LaBoom for a cattle, um, casting call. We're just trying to get this out as quickly as possible so potential candidates will have time to get breast implants and chop a few points of their IQs in time for the search.

Will the Circle Be Unbroken?... Wellesley Hills-based production company 50 Eggs, in association with New Balance and ESPN, has produced a film called *Apple Pie*, which features athletes and the moms that reared them. To be shown in prime time on



Mia Hamm hugs her mom, Stephanie.

ESPN, the film features freshly minted Buffalo Bill **Drew Bledsoe**, Nomar's gal and World Cup star **Mia Hamm**, and Providence College and Olympic hockey stand-out **Cammi Granato** with her brother (NHL'er

Tony), and their respective mothers. At least we hope they get the pairings correct. We'd hate to see **Tom Brady's** mom replace Mrs. Bledsoe.

—Peter Cipriani

Got scoop?

Got an inside tip? Overheard some juicy news? Clue us in by sending an e-mail to theword@improper.com.

MIKE TIERNEY

► Guaranteeing the weekend some sugar is "Apple Pie," a documentary on athletes and their moms (7:30 p.m. Sunday, ESPN Classic). Artificial sweetener? Well, producer Mary Mazzio acknowledges she looked for positive stories. "These athletes got to where they are from strength and inspiration from their mothers," says Mazzio, a former Olympic rower.

The one you haven't heard of provides the best tale. Eric Weihenmeyer became the first blind climber to stand atop Mount Everest after losing his sight at age 13 and his mother to an auto accident at 16.

Also, in a twist of like-mother, like-daughter, Lark Chastain does a Brandi impression and removes her shirt.

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR – May 4, 2002

By John O'Neill

Moms and 'Apple Pie'

Sarah Fisher may have been clocked at 227 mph at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, but on a public highway?

She confesses to no more than 80 mph — with her mother, Reba, tugging at her sleeve, telling her to slow down.

That is among the surprises at 11 a.m. today on "Apple Pie," an ESPN special that takes a look at some famous athletes and their moms.

Mary Mazzio, who wrote, directed and produced the 90-minute show, said Sarah's lack of highway experimentation, shall we say, was one of the biggest surprises she uncovered while working on the program.

"I've gone more than 80 miles an hour on a highway," Mazzio said.

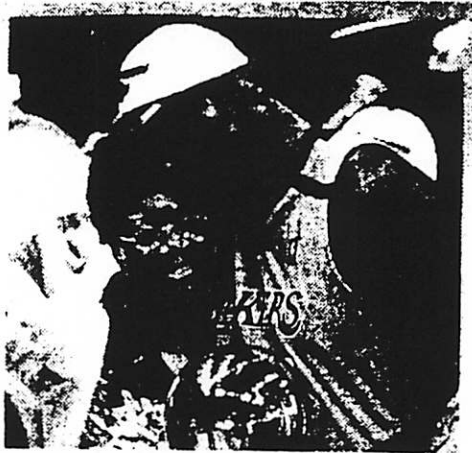
Fans of Fisher will recognize some of the footage here, like the many moments of a tiny Sarah piloting a tiny motorized kart.

And you may know, her parents met at a race track.

But you may be surprised to learn the obsession with speed and adventure started even before then. Sarah's grandmother was one of the first female aviators in Ohio. She met her future husband when she went to apply for her pilot's license.

Mazzio — an Olympic rower at the 1992 Barcelona Games — said she wanted to do a show that would inspire children by showing them the obstacles the athletes had to overcome, and how their mothers had helped them do that.

Others on the show include Kenny Lofton, Mia Hamm and Shaquille O'Neal. It repeats May 12, Mother's Day, at 7:30 p.m. on ESPN Classic.



MOTHER'S DAY

Today, 7:30 p.m., ESPN Classic
Apple Pie

Ever wonder what Shaquille O'Neal's mom looks like?

Well, you're probably not alone in being curious about where the Lakers' behemoth got his absurdly large body, but this Mother's Day special on ESPN Classic focuses on more than just genetics.

O'Neal and many other athletes are featured in this 90-minute program that gives stars a chance to talk about where they got their skills and the family history behind their accomplishments. Shaq will tell you about how he ended up at L.S.U., Kenny Lofton will talk about how his grandmother helped him get over his childhood stuttering and Mia Hamm explains that her deft soccer moves originated from her mother's dancing prowess.

Plenty of lesser-known athletes appear on the show, including Olympic wrestling champion Rulon Gardner and Sarah Fisher, who was the youngest woman to qualify for the Indianapolis 500 and credits her interest in racing to her mother — who gave her a pink Barbie car when she was five years old.

Star athletes, their moms share stories

Virginia Gardner has eight children, so Mother's Day has always held a special meaning for her. This year, it means even more.

Her youngest son, 2000 Olympic wrestling gold medalist **Rulon**, survived a frightening ordeal in 25-below-zero weather in February. He got lost and separated from his friends after his snowmobile didn't negotiate a ridge in the Wyoming wilderness.

Gardner's story and those of 10 others — including **Brandi Chastain**, **Shaquille O'Neal** and **Kenny Lofton** — will be told Sunday on *Apple Pie*, a 90-minute ESPN Classic special that will be shown at 4:30 p.m. Arizona time. Each one, while sharing the common bond of the mother-child theme, is unique.

"My mom (affected) me in so many different ways," said Gardner, who nearly froze to death after his body core temperature fell to 80 degrees. "She taught me the importance of having a strong mentality. The sport of wrestling, what I've been through sports-wise, helped me survive that experience."

Gardner said he and his mother, a Tucson native who graduated from the University of Arizona in 1959, watched the show this week.

"Me and my mom both started crying," he said.

Gardner said his brothers and sisters tease him about how much support he gets in his endeavors from his mother. It's amazing, he said, how individuals develop as family members and how each child shares a different bond with his or her mother.

"I have an older brother," he said, "and I didn't become varsity on my high school team until my senior year, when he graduated. He still feels to this day that she favored me more than him."

The show's producer, **Mary Mazzio**, found striking similarities among the families she profiled — five of the 11 mothers married high school sweethearts, four lost children and a few of the mothers were twins.

She said she was surprised to find out that early viewings have evoked a nice response beyond a target audience.

"A 16-year-old boy came up to me after he had watched it, and he started to rattle off the things he liked," she said. "The film has greater appeal than what I anticipated."

Mazzio, a member of the U.S. Olympic rowing team in 1992, is a mother of two and said she learned a lot while talking to the athletes' mothers.

"Let them make mistakes; encourage them, but don't push them," she said. "By and large, all these athletes were enormously talented, but they were not pushed."

"They weren't like those (Little League) parents. They were supportive, let their child make mistakes and learn from them, and at the end of the day respected their children's opinions."

Brandi Chastain's mother, **Lark**, said as the years have gone by that she has learned a lot from her daughter.

"I'm proud of her accomplishments not only as an athlete but also as a person," she said. "Hearing her talk about my relationship with her almost brought me to tears."

Brandi Chastain thinks viewers will like the show because it gives them a nice view of the inner workings of a star athlete.

"What people want to hear from you is what's inside, what motivates you to do things," she said. "We want to get people out of their chairs, get them moving and make them take action as opposed to being passive."

Reach the reporter at
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Self-esteem is at the finish line for Girls on the Run

By Virginia Linn
Post-Gazette Staff Writer

Participating in Sunday's Komen Pittsburgh Race for the Cure will be a team of 70 young girls who are running not just for exercise, but to reclaim their spirits and their voices.

They've been learning life lessons as they've trained for the 3.1-mile run. It's all part of the national Girls on the Run program that encourages a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living.

And their experiences will be all the more inspired by program founder Molly Barker, the four-time Hawaii Ironman Triathlete who comes to Pittsburgh tomorrow to speak.

The 41-year-old former high school teacher from Charlotte, N.C., began the program six years ago following her own rocky experi-



ences during adolescence that led to drinking problems in adulthood.

"We're a lot more than a running program," she said in a telephone interview last week. "That's the excuse to get the girls involved to celebrate who they are."

The nonprofit programs — Girls on the Run, for girls age 8 to 12, and Girls on Track, for those age 12 to 14 — now operate in 60 cities, including several sites in the Pittsburgh area. It's based here at Magee-Womens Hospital in Oakland, where Barker will speak about what she calls "girl box" issues.

When girls enter middle school and high school, she believes, a box is placed over a spark in their spirit, limiting who they are. Her programs encourage girls to live peacefully and happily outside this box.

Barker herself struggled with the pressures of adolescence as her

parents were divorcing. For a time she lost her spirit and her voice. The way she coped with this "girl box" was through drinking, which she started at age 15.

"It started as just a mild party thing. But then it got into some scary, dark places," Barker said.

Her drinking continued into adulthood, through the end of earlier careers and a first marriage. Running was the one thing that

"Thanks to all those girls,
I'm finally beginning
to accept myself
the way I am."

Molly Barker

brought her peace.

On July 7, 1993, she had an awakening during a run. "I knew I had to stop drinking."

Her mother, Mary, who died a month ago, was a 30-year recovered alcoholic.

"I got to see her make it. That was a gift. Without seeing her I would not have known there was another way to live."

The two are featured in a Mother's Day tribute, "Apple Pie: Raising Champions," a 90-minute movie on ESPN this weekend that celebrates the relationships between star athletes and their moms.

Building her program around sports helps the girls naturally develop and set goals, develop self-awareness and leadership skills and encourage cooperation. It also provides physical benefits and a healthy body.

Running, in particular, is "when everything is just in sync. Everything is flowing."

In addition to overseeing the running programs, Barker is training for another Ironman Triathlon and cares for her two children, Helen, 3, and Hank, 6, from a second marriage.

With former participants, she's developing a mentoring program for high school students who would work with the younger girls.

She's also hoping to have a study conducted that would follow program graduates for several years to

see if the Girls on the Run experience made a difference.

The programs have been satisfying to her on many levels.

"Thanks to all those girls, I'm finally beginning to accept myself the way I am," she said.

"On a bigger scale, I really believe we're getting to a turning point and we're really going to make some changes. There's a momentum building to create a real change in the way girls view themselves."

VENTURA COUNTY STAR – May 3, 2002

Jim Carlisle

At 9 a.m. Saturday, ESPN will show "Apple Pie," a Mother's Day special looking at how the mothers of star athletes contributed to their success. Included are Shaquille O'Neal, Grant Hill, Mia Hamm, Drew Bledsoe, Rulon Gardner, and Tony and Cammi Granato. The show will be repeated on ESPN Classic at 4:30 p.m. Mother's Day, May 12.

BEACON JOURNAL – MAY 1, 2002

R.D. Heidenfels

Kenny and his mom

Former Indians star Kenny Lofton is among those showcased in *Apple Pie*, a special about athlete and their mothers that will air at noon on ESPN and at 7:30 p.m. on May 12 on ESPN Classic. Other participants include Shaquille O'Neal, Mia Hamm, Grant Hill, and triathlete Molly Barker.

RIVERSIDE PRESS-ENTERPRISE- MAY 3, 2002

A week before Mother's Day, ESPN looks at the maternal figures of some top athletes -- including Shaquille O'Neal and Mia Hamm -- on "Apple Pie" (9 a.m. Saturday).

THE BOSTON HERALD – MAY 3, 2002

Jim Baker

Drew Bledsoe is aboard ESPN's "Apple Pie" special about star athletes and their mothers at noon tomorrow...

LA DAILY NEWS – May 10, 2002
TOM HOFFARTH

WHAT SMOKES

"Apple Pie," an ESPN Original Production saluting the moms of star athletes. Included in the 90-minute tribute that airs Sunday (ESPN Classic, 4:30 p.m.) is a piece on the Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal and his mother, Lucille Harrison, who gave birth to her son when she was 17 (O'Neal is her maiden name). She's a "quiet spectator" when she watches him play, but she didn't used to be. "I used to yell at the refs quite often because it seems like they were seeing a different game," she said. "Shaquille gets beat up a lot in the paint. Of course, I don't like what I see, but I learned how to be quiet because it doesn't change."

HARTFORD COURANT – May 10, 2002

**"Apple Pie," an ESPN Classic
Mother's Day salute, features
Drew Bledsoe's mom Sunday at
7:30 p.m.**

SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL – May 10, 2002
JIM SARNI

MOTHER'S DAY SALUTE

ESPN honors Mother's Day on Sunday with *Apple Pie*, a 90-minute special featuring star athletes and their mothers. The show, which aired last Saturday on ESPN, runs on ESPN Classic at 7:30 p.m. (It also airs on ESPN2 Saturday at

1:30 a.m.)

Athletes profiled include NBA stars **Shaquille O'Neal** and **Grant Hill**, soccer player **Mia Hamm**, NFL quarterback **Drew Bledsoe**, baseball player **Kenny Lofton**, Olympic wrestler **Rulon Gardner**, race car driver **Sarah Fisher** and hockey-playing siblings **Tony** and **Cammi Granato**.

Hamm claims she inherited her athletic ability from her mother, **Stephanie**, a former dancer, and her grandmother, a former ballplayer for the Irish Maidsens.

CABLEFAX DAILY- MAY 3, 2002

Worth a Look: "Apple Pie," tomorrow, noon (repeated in prime time on Mother's Day), **ESPN**. What's that old saying? Behind every successful man, is a disbelieving mother-in-law. Well, in this case, it's the mothers and grandmothers behind athletes, such as *Shaq*, *Drew Bledsoe*, *Kenny Lofton*, and *Mia Hamm*, to name a few. This beautiful piece of work is unlike the games-laden fare usually found on ESPN. And what a nice break to hear sensitive interviews with the matriarchs, many of whom have overcome obstacles far tougher than losing a playoff game.

THE HARTFORD COURANT – APRIL 26, 2002

John Howell

Mother's Day may be two weeks away, but our neighbors in Bristol already are arranging the flowers.

On May 12, ESPN Classic plans a warm "Sports Century" tribute to "Athletes Only A Mother Could Love" including "Albert Belle, Lawrence Taylor, Pete Rose, Bob Knight, and John McEnroe. ESPN also will profile real moms of pro stars in a documentary, "Apple Pie."

Sweet. No wonder ESPN got a great big hug Tuesday, winning seven Sports Emmy Awards, including its third straight for Sports Century.

**“Everybody Hurts, Sometimes”
Mothers’ Day Sunday, May 12, 2002
Preached by David Johnson Rowe**

Scripture: Psalm 126 (OT)

In yesterday's New York Times in the Sports section, there was a wonderful article about the role of mothers in the success of great champions. Mary Mazzio was an Olympic rower, and she's made a film about these mothers, including her own. She tells, "I was the kind of athlete who was cut from every team possible. Coaches told me I was too weak or too short or too slow, but my mother always told me, "Hang in, Mary, hang in," so I realized sometimes the real heroes are often sitting next to you on the sofa."

So today's sermon is a tribute to those people who have sat on the sofas in our lives and have always given us hope. Our Scripture lesson may not seem like Mothers' Day material, but you'll see the connection in a minute. Our Scripture lesson was inspired by a song by the great rock 'n' roll group REM, titled, "Everybody Hurts."

The video that accompanies the song shows a huge traffic jam. The traffic is just stopped dead in all directions. As the song progresses, we get a glimpse into the lives of the people in the video, isolated in their cars—cars overheating, emotions overheating, memories overheating, relationships overheating—each person, in each car, a story. Each story tinged with loss or sorrow or doubt. But the song gives us this hope:

"Everybody hurts, sometimes.
When the day is too long,
And the night is yours alone,
When you think you've had too much of this life,
Hang on ... hold on,
'Cause everybody hurts, sometimes."

As the song unfolds and the story unfolds, the screen is filled with Christian religious imagery of crucifixion and resurrection, of doubt and resignation, of faith and inspiration. That's the promise of faith. If we hold on, don't give up, then God has a final chapter to every story, where it all turns out right. The video of the song also includes words superimposed on the video, including Scripture verses like Psalm 61:2, "Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I," plus the Scripture we just heard from Psalm 126, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy ... they who go out weeping, carrying seeds to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them."

That's a powerful statement right there: "Those who go out weeping, carrying seeds to sow, return with songs of joy." You carry the seeds of your own joy; they are already with you!

I bet a lot of us grew up singing this old Gospel hymn:

"Bringing in the sheaves,
Bringing in the sheaves.
We shall come rejoicing,
Bringing in the sheaves."

Obviously, someone in the REM band grew up singing Gospel and knew Psalm 126: "They who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy."

That's "mother-talk." If ever there was a verse of Scripture that summarized the mothering experience, that would be it. The birth experience itself brings tears to our eyes, to mothers and even fathers and grandparents—tears to all who share in the delight, the relief, the miracle, even the agony and anxiety. And the tears of mothering continue: the first boo-boo, the first knee scrape, the first broken heart, the first disappointment, the first failure or rejection ... but God is saying, "I know that feeling. I have a mother's heart, too. I am a mothering spirit."

The Bible is clear: all the qualities we associate with mothering, all the strength we affirm in the feminine, all of that is Godly: meekness, gentleness, kindness ... all Godly ... nurturing, patience, peacefulness, love, endurance ... all Godly.

And if all these qualities which we so proudly proclaim in mothering are also Godly, well, that says something pretty profound about the nature of God and about all of us: that a mother's heart should be our heart, that mothering spirit should be our spirit. This is so comforting because those REM verses of Scripture all end with hope. "Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I," the Bible says. That's an admission that things can be better than they are today, that things should be better than they are today, and that God is the one to lead you there.

Think about this! Think about your life ... if you're unhappy with it, or uncertain about some part of it, if life could obviously be better, the promise is: God agrees with you and wants a better life for you and will help you to it. And if your life is wonderful now, if life is good and solid and right, dare to imagine it even better! "Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I; take me to places and directions and experiences greater than I ever thought possible!" That's a mothering attitude. The mothering people in our lives always believed in us before we believed in ourselves. Am I right? That's why the other REM verse is so "motherful."

"They who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy." The purpose of faith is that the end of every story is never the bitterness or sorrow of tears. Somewhere, sometime, somehow, songs of joy are waiting to be sung. "We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves."

That's an agricultural, harvest image, isn't it, again tied into the creative energy of God and the creative imagery of motherhood. There's a lot of hard work involved, a lot of sacrifice, heartache, backache, headache. You plant, you grow, you nurture, you protect, you till the soil, you water, you weed, you give birth, you watch, you worry, you hover, and then you bring in the harvest, then it all pays off, then it's all worthwhile. "We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves."

I know this Scripture, and I know this rock 'n' roll song, and I know this video, because we used it at our women's retreat, led by one of our women's fellowship groups called Women @ Work. The retreat and the fellowship that night and the discussions were all so powerful, we wanted to share the heart of it with you this Mothers' Day Sunday, recognizing that culturally and historically and theologically, it is the women among us, the women around us, maybe even

the woman within each of us, who most understood the depth of sorrow and the height of joy. But it doesn't come naturally to all of us. For some of us it is all too easy to ignore the hurt around us.

The one time my son came to me for medical attention ... he had gouged his inner thigh on a piece of twisted metal, jumping into a convertible to 5 A.M. on the way to a math competition (how's that for a story?). Anyway, he comes to me for care, and I assure him it's all fine. "Work it out," I tell him, "bandage it, suck it up, go away and have a good time!" When he came back 12 hours later and we saw the cut, all the way down, I mean down, we went to the hospital and they were horrified! I think they wanted to investigate me for child abuse. Fortunately, my kids were raised with great mothering and survived my overactive masculine side, and we laugh about it today!

But God's intention that the wisdom and practice of motherliness be in abundance, spread all around us, balanced within us, so that the fear of today can become songs of joy tomorrow. That was the #1 teaching of our spring retreat with Women @ Work.

The past year has not been easy for anyone. Every aspect of our personal, spiritual, national, business, and economic life has been challenged. Terrorism and war have taken their toll, but the Scriptures refuse to let us stay down for long. The Bible beckons us to "the Rock that is higher" than we've ever been before! The Bible promises us that men such as we "sow in tears." We can start humming the songs that we will sing as we "reap in joy."

That's why I'm so proud of this Dogwood Festival—the decision to break out the red, white, and blue, to revel in nostalgia, to kick back and have a grand old time, with a fife- and-drum corps playing on the lawn and the smell of hotdogs and kids playing baseball on the grass, and dogwood blossoms miraculously in bloom and sweet dispositions from one end to the other. Forget the rain today. To the Women's Guild and Dogwood Tri-chairs, "well done, well done!"

And that's why, at our Women @ Work retreat we dared to ask ourselves: how do we hang on, hold on when "everybody hurts, sometimes ..."? How do we get to the "Rock that is higher than I"? How do we move from "sowing with tears" to "reaping in joy"?

And, like the Olympic rower, we discovered that the best advice, the truest wisdom is right next to you. So we shared some stories, some poems, some laughter and some tears, some prayer and some Scripture. And then at the close we made use of a beautiful altar display that Marcia had created, like the one she recreated for us today, filled with objects of spring and devotion and beauty and piety: mothering things, mother-like things—seashells and flowers and religious symbols and candles—things that take us higher, things that make for joy, and we were invited to go to the altar, find something, take it, and let it inspire us to joy.

That's God's invitation to us. Every day. The altar is our world. Find something, take something from it, make it your own, let it lift you higher, and teach you new songs! Take some life experience: a friendship, a new grandchild, a sunset, a verse of Scripture, a piece of music, a work of art, a surprise, a burst of creativity, an answered prayer—something happening just right, just in time, a word, a thought, an encouragement. God's presence, God's push ... let God lead you to the Rock which is higher ... God, teaching you songs of joy even as the tears are wiped away, God, making every day Mothers' Day.

V I E W E R R E V I E W S

“the work you do is a treasure to behold...” – *Michele Norris, ABC News/NPR Host*

“a very well done piece... you should be proud..” – *Richard Deitsch, Sports Illustrated columnist*

“another great production” – *Barbara Huebner, former Boston Globe columnist*

“I have to thank Mary Mazzio for what she has created... amazing...” – *NFL Quarterback Drew Bledsoe at the 2002 Parenting with Dignity Foundation Dinner*

“we are all jammed into a conference room laughing and tearing up over LEMONADE and APPLE PIE. thank you! – *Derrick Wood, VP/Creative Director, Staples*

“Mary Mazzio was an Olympic rower and she’s made a film about these mothers, including her own. She tells [in *The New York Times*] “I was the kind of athlete who was cut from every team possible... Coaches told me I was too weak or too short or too slow, but my mother always told me ‘hang in, Mary, hang in,’ so I realized sometimes the real heroes are often sitting next to you on the sofa.” Today’s sermon is a tribute to those people who have sat on the sofas in our lives...the best advice, the truest wisdom is right next to you... let God lead you to the Rock which is higher... – *Rev. David J. Rowe, in a sermon on Mother’s Day, May 12, 2002, at Greenfield Hill Congregational Church, Fairfield, CT*

“excellent” – *Janet Hill, consultant and mother of Grant Hill*

“it was great” – *Grant Hill, NBA All-Star, over satellite phone, courtesy of CNN*

“I will never be able to thank you enough nor will I ever forget what you have created, Mary...” – *Barbara Bledsoe, former English teacher and co-chair of Parenting with Dignity Foundation*

“I was getting ready to go to the airport when the show came on. Next thing I knew, I was in tears, to hear my boys talk about how much they love their mother...we did something right. It reminded me that I am the luckiest man alive to have married a woman like Barbara.” – *Mac Bledsoe, husband of Barbara Bledsoe and father of Drew Bledsoe, Parenting with Dignity Foundation Dinner*

“wonderful” – *Reba Fisher, ex go-kart racer and mother of Sarah Fisher*

“Wow...fabulous!!!” – *Ed Weihenmayer, former Vietnam fighter pilot and father of climber Erik Weihenmayer, first blind climber to summit Mount Everest*

“wonderful...we thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the special...we will cherish it always.” – *Natalie Granato, mother of former NHL All-Star Tony Granato and Olympic Hockey Gold Medalist, Cammi Granato*

“my mother and I cried through the entire thing” – *Rulon Gardner, Olympic Champion*

“EXCELLENT! Outstanding, moving, and creative... thought it was pretty cool to see the likes of Shaq talking about how important his mom is to him...a refreshing change of pace...” – *Ali Segal, Committee of 200, Chicago, IL*

“Words of encouragement for women and men need to be offered on a regular basis from the church... [In] *Apple Pie: Raising Champions*...Mary Mazzio focuses on the real heroes in the life of an athlete...Lofton is the center fielder for the Chicago White Sox...“The proudest day of my life,” he said, was when I bought my grandma a house.” ... [Erik Weihenmayer] lost his sight at age 13; his mother, Ellen, died three years later. With his father and brothers, he found an outlet on mountains he could not see. Last year he became the first blind climber to reach the peak of Mount Everest. This is what he thinks of his mother: ‘When I look for her, it is when I touch granite warmed by the sun, or she’s the crunch of snow beneath my feet.’ Wow! What an image of strength and warmth. We need to shout words of encouragement, because Christ encourages us to seek a glory that is beyond us!” – *Rev. Dr. K. Edward Brandt, in “A Reflection from Red Clay Creek Presbyterian Church,” Wilmington, Delaware*

“great” – *Bill Becklean, gold medalist (1956 Olympics)*

“The movie was marvelous. You gave me hope that I can become a better athlete if I work hard enough. I am sure other kids feel the same way.” – *Sharon Roth, 5th grader*

“My mom loved *Apple Pie* ...we were ballin’ our eyes out...” – *Matt McIntosh, Screenwriter*

“I was overwhelmed with emotion and found it very inspiring. Thank you for your fantastic work...” – *Cheryl Vince Whitman, Educational Development Corporation*