

ress on the couch. In the meantime, you could help by saying: "I am upset that you hid this from me. Have I made it difficult for you to tell me the truth?"

**Dear Carolyn:** I placed a baby for adoption when I was in college, 10 years ago. The adoptive parents were very sweet and understanding and promised to send pictures and letters about their son any time I wanted them. Well, I was too busy — and selfish — for the next few years to ask. Then I got married and now I have a son, and I find myself thinking about my other son every single day.

Did I give up my right to care about him by not checking on him sooner? — **Texas**

**Dear Texas:** No, you didn't. Write the parents a nice letter along the lines of what you wrote here (think "selfish," not "busy"). See what they think. You've traveled a legitimate path and you're making a legitimate request.

■ READ CAROLYN HAX EVERY DAY IN THE FREE PRESS. WRITE TO HER CARE OF THE WASHINGTON POST, STYLE PLUS, 1150 15TH ST., NW, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20071 OR E-MAIL TELLME@WASHPOST.COM.

## Coming Tuesday

- Seniors face conflicting advice on cancer tests.
- Patricia Montemurri's Work With Me column.

and Fredrik are portrayed by Leslie Uggams and Ron Raines in the Stephen Sondheim musical.



Photos by JOHN GRIGAITIS

# 40-plus, plus young children

## 'The truth about motherhood after 40' on the Web

By JORY JOHN  
SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

In 2001, Angel La Liberte and her husband had a serious discussion. Both had been married before, but neither had children. The pair decided that they would like to conceive. La Liberte was 40 years old at the time.

"Basically, the attitude toward us was that it would be nothing short of a miracle," she said.

Against the odds, La Liberte's son was born in 2003. Three years after that, she had a daughter. Both were natural conceptions. And both babies were healthy.

La Liberte realizes that she

is on the forefront of mothers having children when they're older than 40. And because she wants to form a community around the issue, La Liberte launched [www.flowerpowermom.com](http://www.flowerpowermom.com), "the truth about motherhood after 40."

La Liberte chose the name Flower Power Mom because of what it evokes.

"It brings home an understanding of where I'm coming from, and that is an era of acceptance, of embracing change and of the upheaval of social norms," she said. "And over-40 moms are upheaving the social norms."

La Liberte, a Watsonville, Calif., resident, said she started Flower Power Mom to talk openly to mothers about the aftermath of having a baby in their 40s. She said that when Web sites and magazines discuss the topic, they tend to fo-

cus primarily on fertility.

"Newsweek did a piece on over-40 moms, how trial-and-error it was," she said. "I thought it's great that they're bringing awareness to it, but here's another piece, talking about getting pregnant. They're not talking about what we do after pregnancy and how we're raising our kids.

"Let's talk about the long-term implications for our kids. Let's talk about what we bring to the table for our kids in terms of what we offer them as older parents. And let's start sharing the skills and the knowledge needed to do it effectively, to their benefit. That's not happening, yet."

Flower Power Mom, which launched last month, is a compendium of humorous articles, interviews, personal stories and reference material.

example. The extended sextet "A Weekend in the Country" is an extraordinarily mélange of intricately cascading lines, alluring melody, verbal dexterity and multiplicity of meaning. Who but Sondheim can make cynicism sound like so much fun?

I wish I could be as enthusiastic about the production. The troubles

maid Petra and captured the ambiguity of "The Miller's Son." Finally, Kevin Thomas Campbell was an effectively angst-ridden Henrik, Fredrik's son, who is in love with his father's wife, Anne, played with bubbly girlishness by Jennifer Giudice.

■ CONTACT MARK STRYKER: 313-222-6459 OR STRYKER@FREEPRESS.COM



SHMUEL THALER/Santa Cruz Sentinel

Angel La Liberte works on her Web site for over-40 moms.

Such categories as "Blast from the Past" serve to unify mothers of a certain age through nostalgia, La Liberte said.

"My intention is to inform, with humor, with my inner Er-

ma Bombeck very much in place," she said.

The Web site ultimately will be devoted to her day-to-day life, La Liberte said, focusing on the profound changes of mid-life motherhood.



TONY DING/Associated Press

### MARK SNYDER

A new twist on the old-school rivalry of U-M and Ohio State

SPORTS, 3B

### THE BREAK ROOM

It's tough to be a parent in today's flu-phobic world

JEFF SEIDEL, 2A

### CASH WANTED

School boosters

# IN LOSS, STAFFORD PROVES TOUGHNESS

VIKINGS DO NOT RATTLE ROOKIE, A GOOD SIGN FOR FUTURE

MICHAEL ROSENBERG, 1B



## Detroit Free Press

Monday 11.16.2009

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On guard for 178 years

# GM to repay U.S. early

IMPROVED SALES, LOWER COSTS PUSH TIMETABLE AHEAD 4 YEARS

## TEACHERS ON BRINK OF RADICAL DEAL



Automaker is to pay \$1 billion each quarter, finishing up in 2011

By GREG GARDNER and TIM HIGGINS  
FREE PRESS BUSINESS WRITERS

General Motors Co. is expected to fully repay the \$6.7 billion in U.S. government loans on its books by 2011, four years earlier than required, because its sales have exceeded expectations and its costs have been lower than