

## Petty's years of rage



Tom Petty was an angry young man, said Josh Eells in *Men's Journal*. In the late 1970s, the rock star regularly raged in the press against his record label, MCA, and once punched a studio wall, breaking his left hand and jeopardizing his guitar playing. Where did that anger come from? "Probably from having the s--t beat out of me all my life," says Petty, 63. His father, Earl, was a violent drunk who often stumbled back to the family's Gainesville, Fla., home and thrashed Petty, his mom, and his younger brother. Petty sought sanctuary at a local music store, where he learned to play guitar. But that hobby only made Earl angrier. One night, he got drunk and smashed his teenage son's records. "Maybe he thought I was gay. I was really into the arts. I didn't have any interest in sports. I really liked clothes. And to him that probably seemed gay." His father's brutality, Petty says, left him unable to trust anyone in a position of power. "Any authority I didn't agree with could just make me go crazy. I could really go ballistic." A friend eventually persuaded Petty to go into therapy. "I grew out of [my anger] with a lot of work. I forgive anyone. That's where I've arrived. And if I'm not successful at that"—he smiles—"I forgive myself."

## The last pickpocket

Wilfred Rose is one of a dying breed, said Joseph Goldstein in *The New York Times*. The 58-year-old pickpocket has spent four decades studying the pants and jackets of fellow New Yorkers, looking for the outline of a bulging wallet or a wad of folded bills. "When they are wearing a suit or nice pants, you can visualize it," says Rose. "You know it's there." Rose has made a decent living through thieving. He once took advantage of a riot at a boxing match in Madison Square Garden to lift several thousand dollars from an unsuspecting Japanese tourist. Another time, he helped a man with his luggage at an airport carousel, and the victim never noticed Rose snatch an envelope containing \$5,000 and a diamond ring from his jacket pocket. But as people have switched from cash to credit cards, and men have traded loose pants for tighter jeans, such payoffs have become increasingly rare. "We're disappearing," says Rose. "Young people, they aren't interested in this. It takes too much patience." Rose, who was recently sentenced to three years in jail after being caught in the act, is now considering giving up pickpocketing. "I'm too old for this. I used to think of it as a game. But jail makes you think of it as stealing."

## Gossip

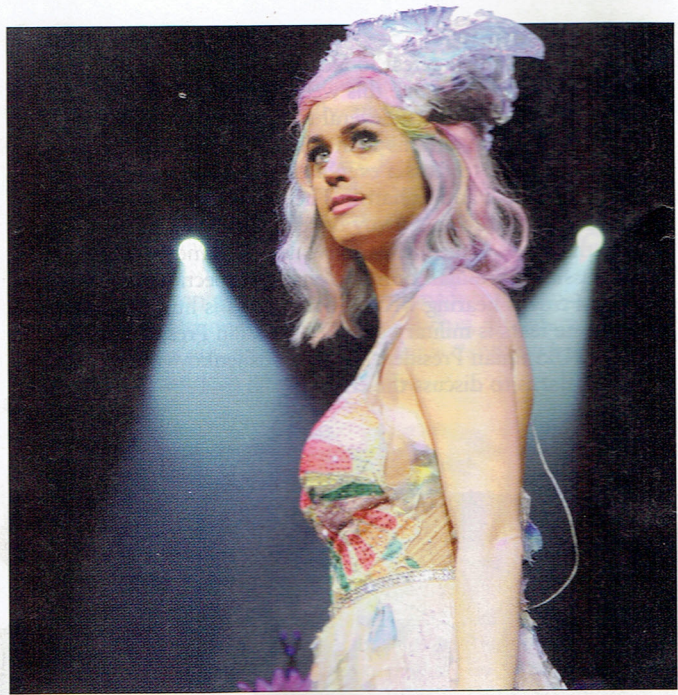
■ **Chris Martin** is rebounding nicely from his split with **Gwyneth Paltrow**—he's dating actress **Jennifer Lawrence**, says *The Sun on Sunday* (U.K.). The pair have been secretly seeing each other since the 24-year-old actress split from on-and-off boyfriend Nicholas Hoult six weeks ago. A source tells the newspaper that Martin, 37, has been enjoying catching up with "everything he's been missing out on in the past 11 years" while married to the earnest and health-obsessed Paltrow. While Paltrow wouldn't allow meat, gluten, alcohol, coffee, or sugar in the house,

Lawrence smokes, loves pizza, and is light-hearted. "Jennifer doesn't take herself too seriously," said a source. "She just wants to hang out and have a good time." Paltrow, meanwhile, is reportedly dating *Glee* executive producer Brad Falchuk.

■ **Meet the Press** anchor **David Gregory** is feeling "angry and humiliated" after being dumped from the NBC political show, says *Politico.com*. Gregory cut short a Nantucket vacation and flew back to Washington, D.C., after hearing rumors he was about to be replaced by the network's White House correspondent, **Chuck Todd**. NBC executives confirmed it was true, citing the 43 percent drop in the program's viewership during Gregory's six years as host. They gave Gregory a \$4 million severance package that includes a "non-disparagement" clause

prohibiting him from criticizing the network. Gregory tweeted that serving as the show's moderator "was the highest honor there is." He's now negotiating with CNN.

■ ABC News anchor **Elizabeth Vargas** has checked back into rehab to receive treatment for alcohol dependency for the second time this year. The *20/20* co-host, who is 51, first sought help with her alcoholism last fall, admitting she had abused alcohol in an attempt to deal with the anxiety and panic attacks she'd experienced since she was a child. Vargas said in a statement this week she was "ashamed and sorry" for letting her family and co-workers down by relapsing while on vacation in California. "As so many other recovering alcoholics know," said Vargas, "overcoming the disease can be a long and incredibly difficult process."



## Perry's alternative worldview

Katy Perry holds herself together with the help of New Age therapies, said Brian Hiatt in *Rolling Stone*. Twice a day, the pop star does 20 minutes of Transcendental Meditation, which she says helps her cope with stress. "My ex-husband actually introduced me to it," she says, referring to British comedian Russell Brand. "It was the best thing I got from that whole situation. When I do it, I feel like I'm opening up holes in my brain, like—what do they call it—neural pathways." While on tour, Perry, 29, undergoes a range of treatments to help ease the aches from her choreography-battered body. "It's like I'm a Kobe beef cow. I get acupuncture, massage, cupping, cranial sacral work, which connects the energy through your spine." Perhaps because of her alternative beliefs, online conspiracy theorists claim that Perry belongs to the Illuminati—a mythical secret society that controls the world. She's even said to give signals to fellow conspirators in her videos. "These weird people find, like, strange triangles in your hand motions. I guess you've made it when they think you're in the Illuminati. But listen, I believe in aliens, so if people want to believe in Illuminati, great."