

## And the Crowd Goes Wild!

**Instructions:** Photocopy this page and cut apart these four true news stories. Give each to a student volunteer to read aloud to the group.

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### **The Manly Matadors**

The Matadors are likely the most devoted Chicago Bulls fans ever. This “dance team” of 14 men, trained by professional choreographers, performs during Bulls basketball games. These overweight performers wear wigs and bare midriffs or go topless during their choreographed dances and chants—jiggling, belly-bouncing, and performing cheerleader-like moves to songs like “YMCA” and “Maniac”—and the crowds go wild.

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### **Phish Heads**

When the band Phish played its last concert in 2004, about 65,000 “Phish heads” braved terrible weather to see the concert held in rural Vermont. Most had traveled from around the country to get to the small farming community. Due to roadblocks, about 6,000 fans had to walk miles in rain, fog, and mud to get to the show. Some fans paid over \$900 per ticket.

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### **President Hides From Fans**

When Andrew Jackson was inaugurated, he had to flee from his fans. A mob of 20,000 Jackson devotees celebrated like crazy, trashing the White House in the process. To lure the mobs out of the White House, presidential aides put bathtubs on the lawn and filled them with juice and whiskey to appeal to the drunken crowds. Things were so out of control that the president himself had to hide in a nearby hotel.

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### **Wal-Mart Brouhaha**

When Jessica Simpson readied to sign autographs at a Wal-Mart store in Massachusetts, she didn't know what she was getting herself into. They expected about 500 fans. Instead, over 5,000 fans arrived, causing traffic jams, mobbing Simpson's limo, and massing around store entrances. The police had to shut down highways and escort Simpson out of the store because of the chaos. Several teenage fans were arrested, one of whom scratched a police officer's face in her desperate effort to see Simpson.

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