Sen. Charles Schumer told amNewYork that Rep. Porter Goss (R-Fla.), President Bush’s choice to be the new director of the CIA, is a “good man,” but that the United States needs a director of national intelligence who can control this country’s intelligence gathering.

“Your questions to Porter Goss are going to be are you for ceding your authority, or some of it, to the director of national intelligence? What’s your position on that? Why would you take this job, if you were gonna give that up? But if you’re not, I won’t support you,” Schumer said.

Schumer also demanded to know who leaked the name of Mohammed Naeem Noor Khan, the Al Qaeda computer guru captured in Pakistan.

Khan’s name was leaked to reporters last week as the administration defended the latest terror alerts that warned of strikes against financial institutions in America.

“The leak of this man’s name may have been the greatest mistake in the war on terror,” Schumer said. “The word is that no one knew this guy was caught and they were having him interconnect computers with all sorts of Al Qaeda agents and they were not yet finished. The Pakistani Interior Minister said it’s a disgrace that the U.S. leaked this. They blamed us and said that if we had more time, it might even have led to (Osama) bin Laden.”

But Schumer did defend the terrorist warning issued on Sunday, Aug. 1, saying that he also would have made the information public because it involved financial institutions, truck bombs and terrorists crossing the land borders at Canadian or Mexico — three Al Qaeda hallmarks.

“When you get that kind of information, you have no choice but to tell law enforcement,” Schumer said. “You have to tell five or six hundred law enforcement officials and once you do that, it leaks.”

Gassy Aussie
FLATULENCE ON THE SET
Naomi Watts

TRUMPED
DONALD’S CASINOS GO BANKRUPT
$400 million bailout

PRINCESS DIARIES
ROYAL ANNE HATHAWAY
G-Movie Queen

WEBPOLL
WWW.AM-NY.COM
Do you think Scott Peterson murdered his pregnant wife Laci?

AM New York exclusive

‘Toothless tiger’

Schumer slams Bush proposal for national intelligence chief

The White House “is doing a terrible job” on homeland security and President Bush’s proposal for a director of national intelligence would be a “toothless tiger,” Sen. Charles Schumer said yesterday.

In an editorial board meeting with amNewYork, Schumer said creating a new director of national intelligence without budgetary power and the ability to hire and fire department heads, including the CIA director, would not improve U.S. intelligence gathering.

“It would make it a toothless tiger,” Schumer said. “You may as well have the 9/11 commission report, wonderful document that it is, sitting on a shelf gathering dust.”

New York’s senior Democratic senator called Rep. Porter Goss (R-Fla.), whom Bush nominated yesterday to run the CIA, “a good man.”

Schumer noted that Goss has New York roots and said he didn’t have a problem with putting a Republican in that post. But he added that Goss’ confirmation hearings would provide a good opportunity to examine the 9/11 commission’s recommendation to create a national intelligence czar with real power.

“My questions to Porter Goss are going to be are you for ceding your authority, or some of it, to the director of national intelligence? What’s your position on that? Why would you take this job, if you were gonna give that up? But if you’re not, I won’t support you,” Schumer said.

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Animal report

Cat scratch

A Belgian airliner made an emergency landing after a cat got into the cockpit and attacked the co-pilot. The flight from Brussels to Vienna had been in the air 20 minutes when a passenger’s pet escaped from its cage. It slipped into the cockpit when meals were being delivered to the crew and became agitated and nervous. The cat scratched the copilot’s arm. To avoid a “cat-astrophe,” the pilot and 58 passengers returned to Brussels.

Animal Report

Webpoll

Do you think Scott Peterson murdered his pregnant wife Laci?
Feds say tech wiz ran terrorist site out of New Jersey

NEW BRUNSWICK — Federal authorities are investigating New Jersey resident Mazen Mokhtar, a technically savvy Internet whiz who they say operated a Web site soliciting funds and recruiting fighters for the Taliban and other Muslim warrior groups.

Mokhtar is listed in Internet directories as the registrant and administrative and technical contact for the Web site www.minna.com, which authorities said is an exact duplicate of one run by Barbah Ahmad, who was arrested last week in London and charged with aiding terrorists.

A neighbor, William Copprue, said plainclothes law enforcement officers searched Mokhtar’s apartment several months ago, hauling away several large black bags of items in a search that lasted about half the day.

The FBI’s Newark field office referred inquiries on Mokhtar to the New Haven, Conn., office, which declined comment yesterday.

Ahmad has not been charged with any crime, but an arrest warrant issued July 28 by a federal judge in Connecticut accuses Ahmad of running several Internet sites used to support and raise money for the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and Mujahadeen Islamic militants in other countries.

But Mokhtar’s friends paint a far different picture of a devout, peaceful Muslim who taught classes on Islam and sometimes led Friday prayer services.

“This doesn’t seem like he was involved with anything like that,” said Asim Uzmani, a board member of the New Brunswick Islamic Center, where Mokhtar volunteered to lead prayers at the small storefront mosque about twice a month.

Uzmani said he spoke to Mokhtar a few days ago.

Mosque leaders get no bail in terror case

ALBANY — A federal judge yesterday rejected bail for two leaders of an Albany mosque charged in an FBI sting involving a purported plot to assassinate the Pakistani ambassador to the United Nations.

Federal Magistrate David Homer said the government has sufficiently shown that Yassin Muhhiddin Aref, 34, and Mohammed Mosharref Hossain, 49, are a threat to the community and are a flight risk.

A 19-count indictment, unsealed Monday, charges Aref and Hossain with conspiring to launder money and promote terrorism. It did not provide details about allegations they are tied to an extremist group linked to Al Qaeda.

The indictment chronicles the government fabrications of money exchanges that authorities allege was for a fictitious missile sale. It claims that in a Feb. 12 meeting, the men believed the attack on the ambassador would take place the following week. Authorities said the men were paid $50,000 and Hossain was to disguise the source of the money by writing checks — $2,000 at a time — back to the informant from his businesses, which include rental properties.

An FBI informant who told Aref and Hossain he was an arms dealer asked the two suspects to launder money for profit from the sale of a shoulder-fired missile that would be used to kill the diplomat in New York City, according to the federal complaint.

Pakistani officials have protested the FBI’s tactics used in the sting operation, saying it was bizarre and dangerous.

“This has increased our ambassador’s and our mission’s vulnerability . . . and could have endangered the life of our ambassador,” Khan said in a statement. He said the government fabrication was an “insult to the imagination of the government.”

Yassin Muhiddin Aref, left, and Mosharref Hossain are led out of federal court after being denied bail yesterday in Albany.

Contract talks stalemate

Police and firefighters announced an impasse yesterday in their contract negotiations with the Bloomberg administration, refusing to rule out a strike or sickouts during the Republican National Convention.

“Everyone has a limit, and the mayor needs to know we’re close to our limit,” said Stephen Cassidy, president of the Uniformed Firefighters Association, at a press conference at City Hall.

For the last two weeks or so, off-duty police officers have been showing up at Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s daily public appearances and picketing outside Madison Square Garden, the site of the Republican National Convention beginning Aug. 30.

Several other city unions, such as District Council 37, the city’s largest, have already accepted a 5% raise plus $1,000 over three years with 2% coming from productivity enhancements.

A mayor’s spokesman said yesterday that the city’s last offer to the police and fire unions was a $1,000 lump sum payment plus an 8% pay hike — though 5% of the raise would come from productivity enhancements. The police and firefighter unions said they had no intention of accepting productivity enhancements, which they denounced as “givebacks.”

Police have been without a contract since July 31, 2002, and firefighters since May 31, 2002. The situation fits a pattern of retroactive contracts and negotiations that routinely ignore expiration dates and end in arbitration.

But yesterday, the police and fire union representatives said they deserve more significant raises than other city employees. The police union declared an impasse in its negotiations several weeks ago, while the firefighters said they reached the same conclusion this week.

“Mike Bloomberg says we’re no different than people that push paper,” said Cassidy. “It’s an insult to the firefighters and police officers who risk their lives every day.”
Group ditches highway, calls for protest in park

BY ADAM HUTTON
Special to amNewYork

Three weeks after accepting the city’s alternative to its planned protest of the Republican National Convention in Central Park’s Great Lawn, the anti-war group United for Peace and Justice shifted gears yesterday and said that picketing along the West Side Highway is not acceptable.

“They are not going to protest in Central Park anymore,” said Mark Zuniga, the group’s co-director. “They have made the decision to move elsewhere.”

The city Parks Department denied the group’s second application to protest in the park, this time in the East Meadow. To the protesters’ way of thinking, if what the city said was true and the Great Lawn is too small for the 250,000 people planning to protest, then the meadow should be large enough to accommodate the crowd.

“The city sees it differently,” Zuniga said. “In a letter denying the second application, the department said United for Peace and Justice was asking for a permit for ‘essentially the same event’ and therefore the department must deny your application for the same reasons.”

The new location for the protest, City Hall Park, was chosen because it is near to the site of the former this will not be happening in the Precinct where United for Peace and Justice is not a registered protest group.

“We’re shocked that the city has rejected this application without even seriously considering it,” Dobbs said. “We’re consulting with our lawyers and asking people to contact the Mayor and urge him to change his mind.”

A spokesman for Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the protest group would make better use of its time and energy by accepting defeat and focusing on planning their event along the highway.

“With less than three weeks to go, the organizers need to concentrate their efforts on making the necessary arrangements and working with the city to ensure a safe event and stop the theatrics,” said Bloomberg spokesman Ed Skyler. That attitude is the most troubling part of this situation, Dobbs said. “This is not about a lawn,” he said. “This is about pure politics.”

Budget’s moving, 4½ months later

BY JOEL STASHENKO
Associated Press Writer

Nearly 4½ months late, the state Legislature finally started passing a new state budget yesterday as lawmakers designed the much-needed budget impasse in state history.

The first of a dozen bills embodying the 2004-05 budget to pass was one boosting state education aid by $740 million in the upcoming school year. Legislative leaders said they would complete the budget adoption process by early Friday, though much of what lawmakers planned to pass hadn’t been agreed to yesterday by Gov. George Pataki. The budget was supposed to have been in place by April 1. Despite the long stalemate between the Democrat-dominated state Assembly and the Republican governor — and the seemingly endless debate about the new spending plan — many legislators as usual grumbled they did not know enough about what they were voting on when they started to see budget measures.

“We don’t know what the total cost of this budget is,” Long Island Republican Assemblyman Thomas Barraga said. “What’s the final figure and where do we get all the revenues to pay for it?”

After some confusion, state Assembly Ways and Means Committee Chairman Herman Farrell Jr. said the budget will total about $101 billion, or 3% more than the previous state budget. The Legislature has already appropriated more than half that amount through a series of short-term emergency spending bills since April 1.

Farrell said improvements such as higher education aid would not have happened in the 2004-05 budget without Assembly Democrats resisting some aspects of the spending plan. Pataki advanced in January, Queens man: I gave money, equipment to Al Qaeda network

A Queens man has admitted meeting with a high-ranking member of Al Qaeda in Pakistan in a scheme to smuggle money, night-vision goggles and other equipment to the terrorist network, officials confirmed yesterday.

The terror suspect, Mohammed Junaid Babar, secretly pleaded guilty in June to multiple charges of providing material support to a terrorist group. He is also described as a financial supporter and member of Al Qaeda official earlier this year in South Waziristan, a tribal area near the border of Afghanistan. He is accused of providing money, night-vision goggles, sleeping bags and other goods to the terrorist group beginning in 2003.

“I understood that the money and supplies that I had given to Al Qaeda were used to support the group,” Babar told a judge he met with an unidentified Al Qaeda official earlier this year in South Waziristan, a tribal area near the border of Afghanistan. He is accused of providing money, night-vision goggles, sleeping bags and other goods to the terrorist group beginning in 2003.

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Who’s that boy? Twins face to face for first time

Six days after being separated in a delicate 17-hour operation, the 2-year-old Aguirre twins emerged from sedation yesterday, waking up enough to watch TV and smile as poll workers and voting attendants glanced at each other.

The two boys from the Philippines, who were connected at the tops of their heads until last Wednesday night, were breathing on their own and propped into semisitting positions in their side-by-side beds at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. An Associated Press reporter and photographer were allowed into the twins’ room in the pediatric intensive care unit yesterday. Though still drowsy and drifting in and out of sleep, the boys occasionally looked at each other. One of the boys, Clarence, reached for a rattle held by a nurse. The eyes of both followed their mother, Arlene Aguirre, and they watched kids’ programs on the television set above their beds.

Aguirre gently coaxed them to look at each other. “Carl, where’s your brother?” she murmured at his side. “Clarence, where’s your brother?”

Until yesterday, the boys had seen each other’s faces only in mirrors and photographs. Doctors said they were extremely pleased by the boys’ progress.

“We really expected them to do well but they’ve exceeded our best expectations,” said Dr. David Staffenberg, the plastic surgeon who helped separate them with four major operations over 11 months.

“This is by far the earliest time babies like this have been able to come off that ventilator,” Staffenberg said. “They have been moving along at light speed.”

The boys’ pediatrician, Dr. Robert Marion, said, “It’s unbelievable. They’re doing better than almost any kids who’ve had craniofacial surgery alone this complex surgery.”

The coming days and weeks will bring more milestones. Now that they can sit up, Clarence and Carl will soon be able to eat by mouth instead of through a tube, Marion said. Physical therapists will teach them to walk.

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Senators pitch plans to keep the lights on

BY ADAM HUTTON
Special to amNewYork

Sens. Charles Schumer and Hillary Clinton promoted separate energy plans yesterday to prevent another blackout like last year's summer nightmare that left 50 million people without electricity.

Both proposals are meant to keep the juice flowing well enough to meet national needs and prevent economic losses, estimated to be billions of dollars in lost commerce caused by the Aug. 14 blackout.

Schumer released a 10-page report suggesting that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) should be eliminated and replaced by a new agency responsible for setting and enforcing reliability standards. He compared the nation’s power grid to its highway system and the proposed agency to the Department of Transportation.

“Last year’s blackout made it very clear: We need an office with the authority and the know-how to improve the reliability of the grid,” Schumer said. “This office is going to hold the utilities accountable for providing the quality service New Yorkers and all Americans deserve.”

Clinton, meanwhile, is still promoting the Electric Reliability Act (ERA) of 2004, which she introduced with three other senators earlier this year. Similar regulations proposed as part of the Senate’s energy bill last fall were “held hostage” by Republicans who opposed other parts of the energy package, Clinton said.

Because the blackout was caused, in part, by tree limbs hanging too close to power lines in violation of voluntary reliability standards established by the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC), what the nation needs are mandatory standards, Clinton said. The ERA would give FERC the authority to make the rules and punish the companies that don’t fall in line.

“The critical first step is to get Congress and the administration to implement mandatory standards,” Clinton told amNewYork. “If we can get those underway, then we can begin to establish a whole new system.”

The only real roadblock to progress once the standards are in place is the Bush administration, which has packed FERC with people sympathetic to electric companies’ desire to be free from regulation. But the creation of a new agency wouldn’t solve that problem she said.

“If we created a different agency that would have appointments by the President, then we’d run into the same problem,” Clinton told amNewYork.

That’s exactly the reason, however, why FERC must be eliminated, Schumer told amNewYork.

“They’re not going to be their own watchdogs,” he said.

Pigeons who flock to RNC building are in for a shock

Delegates to the Republican National Convention and reporters covering it will be able to avoid the hazard of city life that bedeviled postal patrons for years.

Pigeons and other birds that once landed on the historic James A. Farley Post Office building and sent waste hurling down have been convinced to find another outdoor roost, with the help of a few electric shocks from a New Jersey company, the postal service said.

The post office at 34th Street in Manhattan will be the media center for the GOP gathering, which is to take place across the street at Madison Square Garden starting at the end of the month.

In June 2002, a half-year before New York was chosen for the convention, the post office awarded a contract to Bell Environmental Services of Parsippany to get rid of the birds, postal service spokesman Gary Ferrari said recently.

“We did it to avert a safety and health hazard,” Ferrari said. Work was completed in early 2003.

“It’s been very good,” he said.

Bell founder and president Phil Waldorf said solar-powered strips his crew installed along ledges and columns delivered a nonfatal shock to birds who land on them. After enough shocks, birds learn to avoid the building, Waldorf said.

The high-voltage, low-ampere current is similar to that used in wires on ranch fences to keep cattle off, he said. He uses strips about an inch and a half wide, with insulated wires on either side carrying the current.

“It can be made the color of the building,” Waldorf said.

He said the contract was worth about $100,000.

Crowds walk home over the Brooklyn Bridge during last summer’s blackout, which left 50 million people without power. Sens. Chuck Schumer and Hillary Clinton proposed plans yesterday to enforce energy reliability standards that would prevent such massive blackouts from happening again.

Arab Bank in the hot seat

Five families of U.S. citizens killed in terrorist attacks in Israel added their names to an $875 million lawsuit filed last month against Arab Bank, accusing it of channeling money to Palestinian terrorist groups.

The amended complaint, filed in federal court in the Eastern District of New York early yesterday, claims the Texas-based Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development used the New York branch of the Arab Bank to transfer money to Hamas, a Palestinian terrorist organization blamed for dozens of attacks in Israel.

The U.S. Justice Department last week indicted the Holy Land Foundation for providing millions of dollars in support to Hamas.

The lawsuit, Lande vs. Arab Bank, also claims that Arab Bank made insurance payments to beneficiaries of suicide bombers.

The new plaintiffs include a Westchester family, a Florida family and three families living in Israel, bringing the list of families represented to 10.

“We’ve made some detailed allegations and intend to prove that the Arab Bank is used to help finance terrorist groups and that its New York branch is helping to launder the money,” said Mark Webner, the lead counsel for the families, in a statement.

Officials with Arab Bank, based in Amman, Jordan, have denied the allegations, calling them “completely false and totally irresponsible.”

“Arab Bank is a globally respected and admired financial institution with a deserved reputation for sound, ethical operations,” the bank said in a statement last month. “This litigation is unfortunate and baseless and will be forcefully defended in the courts.”

Mold problem grows at New Jersey schools; families file health suit

TRENTON — Bonnie Tuttle watched her adolescent son go from healthy to seriously ill during the school year. Now she and the parents of nine other students are suing the public school district over mold contamination they say made their children sick.

The lawsuit, filed Monday in Superior Court in Woodbury, accuses the Washington Township Board of Education of mishandling a chronic mold problem at two middle schools in the Gloucester County community.

The suit contends that the district educate the plaintiffs’ children elsewhere, until it can rid their schools of mold. It also wants to make the district pay for medical monitoring for affected students and seeks a new evaluation of the schools’ air quality. It also demands the school district allow any student who becomes ill after classes resume to transfer.

Students and teachers at Orchard Valley and Chestnut Ridge middle schools have complained of headaches, rashes, fatigue, difficulty breathing and other symptoms, the lawsuit says, with toxic conditions in the schools reaching “epic proportions” last school year.

Tuttle says her son, Jordan, showed symptoms on the third day of sixth grade last fall and that by March a doctor certified him too sick to attend school. By that point, he had missed 33 days, she said.

The mold problem surfaced shortly after the schools were built in 1988. Louis Gianascio, the Moorestown lawyer representing the parents and children, said yesterday the district’s remediation effort has been slipshod.

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Pigeons, beware of Midtown: Pigeons, beware of Midtown: Pigeons who flock to RNC building are in for a shock
Scott’s mistress takes the stand

Scott Peterson’s one-time mistress testified yesterday that their first night together included slow dancing to karaoke and a hotel room tryst — but no mention of the pregnant woman who prosecutors say he later murdered.

Amber Frey, the government’s star witness, described a relationship that quickly developed from sex to a serious relationship. A single mother, she quickly trusted Peterson with her young daughter.

Frey said Peterson did not wear a wedding ring when they met on Nov. 20, 2002. He poured champagne in his hotel room, putting a strawberry in her glass, and they had sex later that night. On their second date, he carried her 22-month-old daughter as they went hiking. Later that day, he gave the girl a children’s book. Then, he cooked seafood lasagna with wine before they had sex again.

“He made the comment that there would be many more corks . . . many more bottles to share,” Frey testified.

The next day, Dec. 3, she gave Peterson a car seat and the key to her house, and asked him to pick up her daughter at day care.

Prosecutors have spent much of their case trying to establish that Peterson’s affair with the massage therapist, and hopes for financial gain, were his motives for killing Laci Peterson.

“Scott’s selection of a politician — any politician from either party — is a mistake,” said Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee.

“Having independent, objective intelligence going to the president and the Congress is fundamental to America’s national security.”

Former CIA chief Stansfield Turner, a supporter of John Kerry’s bid for the presidency, called Goss’ selection “a terrible appointment” and said it was intended “to help George Bush win votes in Florida.”

More broadly the nomination reinforced Bush’s efforts to keep the nation focused on the war on terrorism. Bush tried to put Democrats on the defensive about intelligence changes, telling a campaign audience in Pensacola, Fla., “Reform is never easy in Washington. You’ve got a lot of entrenched interests there.”

The CIA nomination could put Goss in line to become the nation’s first national intelligence director, if Congress follows the Sept. 11 Commission’s recommendations to create that position, administration and congressional officials said.

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Fewer people killed on U.S. highways

WASHINGTON

Fewer people were killed or injured on U.S. highways last year, a decline that regulators said owed much to an increase in seat belt use and a decrease in accidents involving drunken drivers.

Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta said yesterday that 42,623 people died in traffic crashes in 2003, down 362 from the previous year. The drop is more striking for the fact that people did more driving in 2003.

When measured by the estimated miles driven, the number of deaths per 100 million miles traveled fell to 1.48, the lowest level since record-keeping began in 1966.

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Istanbul bomb attacks kill 2, injure 11; 2 separate groups claim responsibility
Opinion by Marsha Shyer

Holding back progress

This week marks the third anniversary of George W. Bush’s “compromise” decision to limit federal funding for embryonic stem cell research. Under this compromise, the government would only support research on stem cell lines derived before Aug. 9, 2001. Three years later, we are faced with the reality that only a fraction of the stem cell lines Bush envisioned are available for distribution.

Meanwhile, the promise of stem cell research has never been greater. It holds much hope for the development of therapies for diseases like diabetes, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s. Several recent studies underscore the importance of this research as a basis for critically needed therapies for type 1 diabetes. Insulin-producing cells have already been created in stem cells from mice as well as in preliminary studies using stem cell lines from humans.

This hope and promise pushes the stem cell debate beyond party lines. Nancy Reagan and son Ron Reagan publicly support increasing availability of embryonic stem cell lines for use by federally funded researchers.

In May, Nancy Reagan spoke at a Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation event, asserting that stem cell research “may provide our scientists with answers that have so long been beyond our grasp. I just don’t see how we can turn our backs on this — there are so many diseases that can be cured, or at least helped.”

At the Democratic National Convention, Ron Reagan spoke of a 13-year-old girl with type 1 diabetes and the complications she may face, including “blindness, amputation, diabetic coma.” He asked the question “what excuse will we offer this young woman should we fail her now?” In addition, bipartisan groups of more than 200 House members and 58 senators have petitioned Bush to lift the restrictions on stem cell research.

For many people whose children and family members face financially draining, debilitating chronic illness, the case for expanding federal funding of stem cell research is so obvious that it does not necessitate defending. A mix of politicians and moral consternation has been imposed on the basis of murky, non-scientific reasoning. This has stymied many researchers, some of whom have found it necessary to pursue their research in labs in other countries.

In fact, Bush’s “compromise” has impeded, not advanced progress, although the stated purpose was to create an environment where stem cell research could flourish within a framework of scientific, ethical and practical guidelines.

If stem cell research is to be developed to its fullest, the federal limitations must be lifted, making additional, viable human embryonic stem cell lines available to scientists. These lines would need to reflect a widely diverse background necessary for research impacting a range of diseases and disorders.

When is a compromise not a compromise? When you look at a 13-year-old girl with type 1 diabetes and her mother has Alzheimer’s.

— Pres. Bush on Rep. Porter Goss, his nominee for new director of the CIA

 LETTERS

Are you kidding?

I have heard some pretty silly things in my life, but the Aug. 10 letter “Thank Pakistan” by Jeannie Reed has got to top the list. Is this the same Pakistan that is allowing militants to be trained within its borders and sent to fight American soldiers in Afghanistan? Maybe it’s the same Pakistan that allows its nuclear scientists to sell bomb-making technology to rogue regimes. Either way, thanking Pakistan is the last thing I feel like doing.

— Jacob W. Biddle

Erasing freedom

In his Aug. 8 letter “On the watch list,” Tim Caravello suggested that the FBI should “start knocking on doors” of so-called extremist mosques because they preach “Islamic Extremism” and are a “factory of hatred” that produce terrorists. Should the FBI knock on doors of churches and synagogues because someone believes they preach and spew extreme rhetoric? During the Crusades and the Inquisition, people were stigmatized, tortured and slaughtered due to their so-called extreme religious beliefs. Mr. Caravello, would you sacrifice the freedoms that this country is founded due to the words of one man?

Just because a terrorist may be Islamic does not mean that all Islamic mosques are terrorist breeding grounds. Should we all start wearing our nationalities or religions on our sleeves so that the FBI does not need to knock on the doors of sacred dwellings?

— Jennifer Fleischman

Don’t label

Re the Aug. 6 front page headline “Missile Mosque”: It’s so shocking, disappointing and totally irresponsible for amNewYork to brandish an insensitive writer or news papercut such a provocative headline, blaming a whole community for the misguided actions of some lured individuals.

Ayo A. Adeodoja

State Island

Stand Up!

Before it’s too late; before more illusions are splashed onto our TV screens and throughout our media; and before we become enemies to still more countries, let’s rise up and reclaim our national dignity!

Let’s get smart again and stand up for what’s right, and be the nation that sets the example once again. We need leaders that put things in the right direction.

We the people must choose a new Administration now that represents a proud “us” and doesn’t try to strong arm people. Let’s start creating a less hostile future, for us and our children. People, it’s time. Wake up!

Bob and Susan Velasquez

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Fed bumps key rate up quarter of a point

The Federal Reserve boosted its key short-term interest rate by a quarter-point yesterday as the central bank continued its campaign to keep inflation under control.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues on the Federal Open Market Committee, the panel that sets interest rates, boosted the target for the federal funds rate to 1.50%.

The funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, had been at a 46-year low of 1% just six weeks ago when the Fed raised it to 1.25%, the first increase in four years.

The Fed action this week had been expected as analysts predicted the central bank would continue with its campaign to raise rates even in the face of last Friday’s report that showed job creation slowed to a near-standstill last month.

Analysts said that if the Fed had decided to forget its widely expected rate hike it would have raised concerns in financial markets that the central bank was worried that the current economic slowdown, which Greenspan has termed a “soft patch,” was threatening to become more severe.

In explaining its action, the Fed noted that economic growth had moderated somewhat in recent months and the “pace of improvement in labor market conditions has slowed.” It blamed this economic slowdown on the jump in energy prices this year but predicted that the economic weakness should be temporary.

Donald Trump may be most closely associated with his casino business, which announced bankruptcy plans Tuesday, but he maintains the casinos are less than 2 percent of his net worth.

In addition to his hotel-casino and real estate businesses, Trump has had a hit TV show, best-selling books and is a co-owner of the Miss USA, Miss Teen USA and Miss Universe beauty pageants.

Google’s gonna close IPO sign-up

Google Inc. will close the registration process for its IPO auction tomorrow, setting the stage for the online search engine leader’s hotly anticipated stock market debut.

The Mountain View-based company posted an online notice yesterday announcing plans to end the registration process at 5 p.m. EDT tomorrow. Google plans to launch an unusual auction to sell 25.7 million shares shortly after closing the registration, the company said yesterday. No further details were provided.

Most market observers expect the auction for the initial public offering to be completed next week, clearing the way for Google’s shares to begin trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market under the ticker symbol “GOOG.”

But Google hasn’t spelled out a precise timetable for the auction. In its IPO prospectus, the company stresses it can close the auction “at any time.” The prospectus does note the possibility that the auction could last two or three weeks, noting that bidders will be asked to reconfirm their bids if the process lasts for more than 15 business days.

Once Google is prepared to close the auction, the company must ask the Securities and Exchange Commission to give its final approval of the IPO process. After the SEC signs off on the deal, bidders will have a final opportunity to withdraw their bids. The winning bidders in the auction will be notified by e-mail within 24 hours of SEC approval.

To participate in the auction, bidders need a 16-digit registration number to present to one of the 28 participating banks. Google’s $3.3 billion IPO. The company has been distributing the identification numbers since July 30 when it opened a special site, www.ipo.google.com.
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Princess plays with big boys

Anne Hathaway scored big with the unexpected hit “Princess Diaries,” and is hoping the sequel will do just as well. But that doesn’t mean the 21-year-old star plans on building her carrer around roles that cater to the bubble gum and braces set.

“I’m a 21-year-old in a G-rated movie,” she recently told the AP. This isn’t exactly the kind of artistic choices that I want to be making right now, but at the same time, I’m grateful to be able to make them.”

Grateful enough to give up playing the dramatic and musical roles Hathaway spent all those years training for as a singer. After all, she turned down a role in a film version of “The Phantom of the Opera” to finish the Princess sequel.

But now she is on to more adult subjects. “Brokeback Mountain” is filming now with Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger, and Hathaway plays Gyllenhaal’s angry and bitter wife. A big difference from the sweet Princess Mia.

Apparently director Ang Lee of “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon fame” liked sweet Mia, because he hired the cute redhead for “Brokeback Mountain” without so much as an audition.

And which one of these roles is the real Anne Hathaway?

“I’m not any of these characters that I play. I’m an actor, and if I can say so without sounding arrogant, I think I’m a very good actor.”

We know the kids agree with you. Now let’s see how the adults feel.

A scholar and a pimp

Nelly is a pimp! At least that’s what the rapper would have us believe and that’s the word he has chosen to brand his image. His Red Bull-like energy drink that hit stores in June is called “Pimp Juice,” and now two students will be selected for the P.I.M.P. scholars program.

That’s P.I.M.P. for Positive Intellectual Motivated Person, not a man in a purple fur coat who makes wads of cash with his stable of working girls. The P.I.M.P. scholars programs is sponsored by Pimp Juice” and will award $5,000 two students who have “broadened their horizons through leadership roles in extracurricular activities of all genres.”

Advice for applicants: demand the cash upfront. Although Pimp Juice stands to tap into the very lucrative energy drink market, community and religious groups are responding like they did when Ice-T encouraged his fans to shoot police officers.

“We’re calling for a national boycott of Nelly’s Pimp Juice,” said Najee Ali, Executive Director of Project Islamic Hope.

“We feel betrayed by Nelly. He’s someone who’s trying to make money by using and marketing an energy drink that’s supposed to be healthy. But there’s nothing healthy about using the name pimp. It’s a vile name that’s really demeaning and insulting to women.”

For more information on becoming a P.I.M.P. scholar, email scholarship@letitloose.com. Entries are due in December.

Got gas?

Six Feet Under’s Peter Krause played a real, ahem, gentleman to Naomi Watts when the stunning and cunning Aussie let loose a flagrant fragrance on the set of “We Don’t Live Here Anymore.” “We were shooting a scene in bed and Naomi had put the fart machine in the bed,” says Krause, who plays her cheating husband in the film. “At some point I think I started caressing her shoulders and she pressed the button. The sound ensued. I didn’t know whether or not to apologize on her behalf, say sorry and blame it on myself.” Once Watts revealed her remote controlled electronic fart machine, it wasn’t Krause doing the apologizing.

Got hot dish?

Give us a buzz thebuzz@am-ny.com

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The BoDeans

The BoDeans have made a career out of simply being slightly better-than-average roots-rockers, a consistency that continues on “Resolution” despite 20 years on the road. For a band with average roots-rockers, a consistency like this is all that is. Still, there’s something to be said for a band that can take a corned-out love song, but to make it ache is proves its mettle; anyone can crap a cliché and make it emotionally sound.

On “Heaven” and “Sleep,” the band makes its case further. The former is a song that continues on “Resolution” despite all of life’s possibilities coursing through the album’s 14 tracks. If that sounds simplistically square, well, it is. Still, there’s something to be said for a band that can take a corned-out cliché and make it emotionally sound. “On Heaven” and “Sleep,” the band proves its mettle; anyone can crap a cliché and make it emotionally sound.

(Eds. Note: Rolling Stone contributor James Doolittle, Morning Call)

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Living Room

9:00pm The Roots, at tonight’s 2004 Guitar Center Spin Off Grand Finals. What the heck is that, you ask? Why a DJ competition, of course. Sponsored by Guitar Center?

Talib Kweli

The rapper performs, along with The Roots, at tonight’s Guitar Center Spin Off Grand Finals. What the heck is that, you ask? Why a DJ performance, of course. Sponsored by Guitar Center?

Detour

This film, a story of a Colombian soccer fan’s obsession with his country’s upcoming World Cup match against Argentina, screens as part of the Queen’s Culture Fest at Socrates Sculpture Park tonight.

“La Pena Maxima”

This film, a story of a Colombian soccer fan’s obsession with his country’s upcoming World Cup match against Argentina, screens as part of the Queen’s Culture Fest at Socrates Sculpture Park tonight.

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**AT THE MOVIES**

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**BY JOHN BLACK**  
**DANNY DECKCHAIR**  
**RATING** ★★★★☆

Directed by Jeff Balsmeyer, screenplay by Balsmeyer  
Starring Rhys Ifans, Miranda Otto, Justin Clarke

“Danny Deckchair” is a fresh, funny and utterly charming romantic comedy about a small-town construction worker who gets a chance to reinvent himself when one of his crazy inventions — which consists of a lawn chair and a lot of helium-filled balloons — actually works better than he ever expected.

The film stars Rhys Hans — who first came to fame, at least in America, playing Hugh Grant’s quirky room-mate Spike in “Notting Hill” — in the role of Danny Morgan, a man who dreams of better things than the day-to-day routine he’s been living for most of his adult life. When the winds of change blow him, literally, to a town far away from his own, Danny makes the best of his anonymity to become the man he always knew he could be if the people around him didn’t already assume he was the man they’ve always known. The results are very funny and, thanks to some great screen chemistry between the two leading characters, quite romantic.

Ifans has built a respectable career out of playing quirky sidekicks in films like “The Replacements,” “Little Nicky” and “Formula 51.” And although he starts out playing just another variation of his crazy inventions — which consist of a lawn chair and a lot of helium-filled balloons — actually works better than he ever expected.

The film’s co-star, Miranda Otto — who shot to global fame playing Eowyn in the “Lord of the Rings” movies — proves there’s another side to her, too. She plays Glenda, a timid traffic cop whose backyard Danny crash-lands in.

Watching her character come out of her shell is one of the highlights of the film, particularly in the way she avoids all the clichés of a role could have been propped up with.

The rest of the cast does a great job supporting Hans and Otto as they are and how those people fit together, and writer/director Jeff Balsmeyer does such a great job of keeping it rooted in enough reality to make even the more fantastic aspects of the story feel true.

The end result is a joyful film that will stay with you long after you leave the theater.

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The Clean Show, 10:00pm The Dirty Show; $5, $5 min (includes both shows).  
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“Danny Deckchair” — complete with scrappy beard and long, stringy hair — the plot gives him a chance to clean up his act and prove that he can carry a film on his own.

His co-star, Miranda Otto — who shot to global fame playing Eowyn in the “Lord of the Rings” movies — proves there’s another side to her, too. She plays Glenda, a timid traffic cop whose backyard Danny crash-lands in.

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The end result is a joyful film that will stay with you long after you leave the theater.
Gimmicky ‘Diaries’ is a royal mess

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**BY JOHN BLACK**

**THE PRINCESS DIARIES 2: ROYAL ENGAGEMENT**

RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Directed by Garry Marshall, screenplay by Meg Cabot and Gina Wendkos
Starring Julie Andrews, Anne Hathaway, Hector Elizondo, Heather Matarazzo

“The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement” is an annoying movie that, in a summer marked by great sequels (“Spider-Man 2,” “The Bourne Supremacy”), stands out as a shining example of just how foul a follow-up to a hit can be.

For those who missed the original film when it was released in 2001, “The Princess Diaries” told the tale of Mia Thermopolis, a San Francisco teen who, unbeknownst to herself, was the crown princess of the tiny European country of Genovia.

Now, five years later, Princess Mia (Anne Hathaway) finally arrives at her new country to be crowned queen, only to find out there is an ancient law in Genovia that declares a princess can only be a queen if she is married.

With a script that plays like it wasn’t so much written as copied out of a Cliff Notes much written as copied out of a Cliff Notes, this offer cannot be combined with any other offer.

“Gimmicky ‘Diaries’ is a royal mess” seems to be “I’ve never met a cliché I wouldn’t use,” seems to know he’s got nothing in terms of plot with this one, so he fills the film with lots of inappropriate sight gags, like a poodle chasing a cat and a footman dancing in the hallway. The gags are almost distracting enough to keep the audience from being bored while waiting nearly two hours for this silly bit of fluff to reach its predictable conclusion. Almost.

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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2004

Graham Nash

Bests
- Brothers Spandex Circle 7:00pm, FREE.
- “Eye in Eye” gathers for the first time more than 100 photographs by rock musician Graham Nash. While best known as a founding member of the rock band Crosby, Stills, Nash, and (sometimes) Young, Nash also developed a parallel career as a photographer, collector and pioneer of digital imaging.
- Time Warner Building, 2nd Fl
- One Columbus Circle (1, 9 to 58th St-Columbus Circle) 212-623-9775

Nora Johnson

Bests
- Barnes & Noble 7:00pm, FREE.
- A young girl deals with her parents divorce and comes of age in 1940-50s in Johnson’s “Coast to Coast.”
- “1972 Broadway at 66th St (1, 9 to 66th St-Lincoln Center) 212-595-6859

Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child

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- Barnes & Noble 7:00pm, FREE.
- The authors read from “Brimstone,” a thrilling tale of murder.
- 675 Sixth Ave, between 21st and 22nd St (G, V to 23rd St) 212-707-1057

Poet to Poet

Bests
- Barnes & Noble 7:30pm, FREE.
- Kathryn Fiano is the featured poet. Her reading is followed by open mike.
- E. 10th Street Shopping Center, 23-81 10th Blvd, Bayside, Queens (7 to Flushing-Main St, then Q101 bus to shopping center) 718-224-1083

continued from page 17

Kenji Jasper

Bests
- Barnes & Noble 7:00pm, FREE.
- The author reads from “Seeking Salamanca Mitchell.”
- 106 Court St, between Schermerhorn and State Sts, Brooklyn Hts (A, C, F to Jay St, Borough Hall, M, R to Court St, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 to Borough Hall) 718-245-4996

Bests
- The Raven Cafe 6:30pm; $5 Suggested Donation.
- A fundraiser for the New York City Pagan Pride Project. Calling all pagans, witches, druids and pagan friendly people to come out and join us for a nice relaxing mid-week viewing of the 1973 classic film “The Wicker Man.”
- 194 Ave A at 12th St (L to First Ave) 212-561-0491

Bests
- The Wicker Man.

Bests
- The Wicker Man.
**THEATER**

**4th Interval's Dark Night Series**

**4th Street Theatre 7:30pm, $15-$25.**

“Described as follows: “The world has gone mad. All his friends and acquaintances, except for one, have turned against him. The remaining friend has deserted him. His wife has deserted him. Just when he is about to despair of the world, nine people come into his life. They become his friends.”

Joe Orton’s one-act classic plus a new play titled “Theme and Variations.”

212-868-4444

Bob Hope, Jackie Gleason, Red Skeleton

917-568-1555

TICKETS: FREE

**120 E 14th Street**

(between 2nd & 3rd Ave.) New York, NY 10003

**THEATRE**

45th Street Theatre 7:30pm, $15-$25.

The Maids

One-act psychological drama by Jean Genet.

45 Bleecker St at Lafayette St (6 to Bleecker St, 94 St. Mark’s Place (N, R to 8th St-NYU)

212-868-4444

**SPAIN**

$189

MOW/IST

$249

MEXICO

$149

SIN/HKG

$299

INDIA

$449

**THEO**

120 E 14th Street

(between 2nd & 3rd Ave.) New York, NY 10003

**TICKETS: FREE**

*After $120 rebate.*
More than a garnish

BY RUSS PARSONS
The L.A. Times

Round and red and crisp, they’re casually tossed on the plate at your favorite taco stand or jumbled in a jar at the salad bar, full of color and crunch but ultimately signifying nothing. But hold on — there’s more to the radish than you might think.

The simplest way to prove it is to set out a chilled bouquet of them on a plate with a tub of softened butter and some coarse salt. Smear a radish in the butter and then dip it in the salt. Take a bite.

Quarter radishes lengthwise and sprinkle them with lemon juice and salt for a quick nibble. Slice the radish in the butter and then dip it in the salt. Take a bite.

Remarkable and early summer we get to meet the rest of the family. The so-called “Easter Eggs” aren’t actually a single type of radish, but a seed assortment of various round radish varieties in colors including white, pale pink, purply pink, red and crimson.

The long, tapering “French Breakfast” has a mild bite and a red and white color scheme that brings to mind strawberries dipped in cream. Another radish that pops up in the summer is the pure white, very thin “White Icicle,” which is nearly sweet.

You might also find the last of the winter varieties, like the black radish, the Central European favorite with a powerful bite, and the Asian radishes, such as the giant daikon and the smaller “shimirimi” (often called watermelon radish in the West due to its pale red heart).
Serve Greek whites for the games

The wines of Greece have made amazing strides in quality, especially in the last decade, and are finally getting the international recognition and respect they deserve. Of course, this sounds ridiculous if you consider that Greece has been making wine for, oh, 3,000 years. Despite the fact that in antiquity Greek traders and colonists pollinated the entire Mediterranean with their wine culture, many wine drinkers today dismiss Greek wine as little more than thin, bitter reds or pineconcentrated Santorini; rhoditis, assyrtiko (ahs SEER tee koh), and savatiano, a grape grown throughout the country. Retsina, by the way, is a traditional wine made with Savatiano to which pine resin is added, giving it a woody flavor.

BY ANTHONY GIGLIO Special to amNewYork

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Serve your shrimp ceviche with radishes in an elegant martini glass for a quick and easy way to dress up your dish.

Shrimp and radishes

**RECIPE**

**SHRIMP CEVICHE WITH RADISHES**

**Serves:** 8 to 10

**Ingredients:**
- 1 pound large raw shrimp, peeled and deveined
- ⅛ cup chopped green onions
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ⅛ cup freshly squeezed lime juice (about five to seven limes)
- 2 bunches radishes, tops removed, roots trimmed
- 2 ears corn
- 1 avocado, ripe but still firm
- 12 mint leaves

Cut the shrimp into one-inch pieces and combine it in a bowl with the onions, salt and lime juice. Cover tightly and refrigerate until the shrimp is firm and white, about three hours. Cut the radishes into half-inch wedges and add to the ceviche. Cut the corn kernels from the cob and add to the ceviche. Peel and pit the avocado, dice the flesh and add it to the ceviche. Tear the mint leaves into quarters and gently stir everything together. Serve in juice or martini glasses or in a bowl with tortilla chips.

**THE WEEK IN WINE**

Seven sippers for the games:
- **Thursday:** 2003 Boutari Santorini $10
  - **Friday:** 2003 Estate Hatzi Michalis Chardonnay, Naoussa Valley $11
  - **Saturday:** 2002 Gaia Thalassitis, Santorini, $11
  - **Sunday:** 2003 Boutari Moschofilero $15
  - **Monday:** 2002 Boutari Kalisti $16
  - **Tuesday:** 2003 Boutari Herakles Fil $15
  - **Wednesday:** 2002 Estate Hatzi Michalis Domaine White, Opuntia Locris $8

**Prices provided by Grand Wine & Liqueurs, 30-05 31st St. (30th Avenue), Astoria, (718) 728-2520, which delivers throughout New York City; www.grand-vat.com**

Meet the author and sample some of the delicious recipes on August 19th between 7:15 and 8:30 at Barnes & Noble, 1940 Route 10 West, Morris Plains, N.J.

**Tastes and Tales from Russia** (America House, $19.95 ISBN 1-4137-2320-9)

A good cookbook is a priceless addition for food connoisseurs. This one-of-a-kind cookbook consists of recipes rich in Russian culture and tales of old Russian folklore. Each page features a unique recipe, along with a folklore tale. The whole family can enjoy the taste with the tale. Beef Stroganoff and Chicken Kiev will take the reader back to the glamour and decadence of Czarist Russia.

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**Cheerio and a pip pip**

A tip of the hat for old England for big chunks of BATTER FRIED FISH AND CHIPS as good as found anywhere.

**From Our Own Heartland**

An authentic Creole favorite, this New Orleans JAMBALAYA boasts a delectable mix of andouille, shrimp and rice. Excellent for parties too. Rain not included.

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fax: 718-222-9070

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**EXOTICEATING WELL**

**Figs**

What they are:

Figs have a plump teardrop shape, a satiny pulp punctuated by the jolt of hundreds of tiny seeds and a honeyed sweetness.

How to pick and to store:

Steal a quick squeeze — a reliable indicator of readiness. It shouldn’t be too mushy or too hard.

How to prepare:

It seems obvious what to do with the perfect ones. (Eat them unadulterated or spoon them up with yogurt and honey.) Classic pairings include assertive flavors and creamy textures: Fig and arugula salad with balsamic vinegar and figs wrapped in paper-thin slices of cured prosciutto or creamy textures: Fig and arugula salad with balsamic vinegar and figs wrapped in paper-thin slices of cured prosciutto or

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**WINE TASTINGS**

**WINE TASTINGS**

**Wednesday, Aug. 11:**

Best Cellars
5 PM to 8 PM
1291 Lexington Avenue; 212-989-2540

**Thursday, Aug. 12:**

Astor Wines & Spirits
5 PM to 8 PM
12 Astor Place; 212-674-7500

Best Cellars
5 PM to 8 PM
1291 Lexington Avenue; 212-989-2540

**Friday, Aug. 13:**

Astor Wines & Spirits
5 PM to 8 PM
12 Astor Place; 212-674-7500

**Saturday, Aug. 14:**

Astor Wines & Spirits
3 PM to 6 PM
313 Columbus Avenue; 212-877-4040

**Sunday, Aug. 15:**

Wijn, Wijn & Wijn
5 PM to 8 PM
1291 Lexington Avenue; 212-989-2540

**Tuesday, Aug. 17:**

Best Cellars
3 PM to 6 PM
1291 Lexington Avenue; 212-989-2540

**EVENTS**

**Wednesday, Aug. 11:**

Macy’s Herald Square
1 PM @ The Cellar Kitchen
Executive chef Abraham Jimenez of Citrus will give a demonstration.

**Thursday, Aug. 12:**

Macy’s Herald Square
1 PM @ The Cellar Kitchen
Lara Zautner, author of “I Am Almost Always Hungry: Seasonal menus and Memorable Recipes” will give a presentation.

**Tuesday, Aug. 17:**

Macy’s Herald Square
1 PM @ The Cellar Kitchen
Personal Chef Steven Roberts will give a demonstration.

---

**GUILTY PLEASURES**

**RECIPE**

**TART SHELLS**

Fill these up with creme and fruit for a delicious dessert

Serves: 32

**Ingredients:**

- 6 tablespoons butter
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons cake flour

Cream the butter and sugar. Add the egg and vanilla and mix. Sift the flours together. Add the flours to the butter mixture and mix. Form the dough into a flat disk and wrap in plastic. Let it rest in the refrigerator for 20 minutes.

Roll the dough out on a lightly floured surface to one-eighth-inch thick. Using a 2 ¼-inch round cookie cutter, cut circles. Press the dough circles into mini muffin tins to form tart shells. Chill. Fill with cream or custard and berries to serve.  

**EXECUTIONS**

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**Astor Wines & Spirits**

Free Cocktail Tasting Tonight 5 – 8 PM

Mixologist Pam Govinda will be mixing up her own gin creation.

High and Dry

Pam actually created this for the British recording artist Jamie Cullen. It is named after the Radiohead song of which Jamie Cullen does a cover on his latest album Twentysomething, just released in the US in May. This is aptly named since the drink is dry and is bound to leave you feeling high because of its alcohol content.

Join us and receive a sip and a recipe.

Many gins are on sale, including Beefeater, Bombay, Tanqueray and Bombay Sapphire.

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Join us and receive a sip and a recipe.

Many gins are on sale, including Beefeater, Bombay, Tanqueray and Bombay Sapphire.
A cold front will bring a chance of afternoon showers and thunderstorms to the area today, with a better chance of showers and thunderstorms overnight. Expect scattered showers and thunderstorms to continue Thursday and Friday due to the slow movement of this storm system. High pressure will return this weekend and provide some sunshine along with dry and sunny conditions.

**TODAY’S WEATHER**

**REGIONAL TEMPS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
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**SUN & MOON**

- **Sunset** today: 7:59 p.m.
- **Sunrise** tomorrow: 6:03 a.m.
- **Moonrise** today: 1:29 a.m.
- **Moonset** today: 5:34 p.m.

**INTERNATIONAL FORECAST**

- Statistics through 6 p.m. yesterday
- **Temperature**
  - High/Low Tuesday: 84/71
  - Normal High/Low: 84/69
  - Record High: 98 in 1949
  - Record Low: 55 in 1879
- **Precipitation**
  - Total Tuesday: 0.07
  - Monthly to date: 4.07
  - Normal yearly to date: 3.04
- **Cooling Degree Days**
  - Yesterday: 13
  - Month to date: 94
  - Year to date: 635
  - Normal yearly to date: 750

**ALMANAC**

- Statistics through 6 p.m. yesterday
- **Temperature**
  - High/Low Tuesday: 84/71
  - Normal High/Low: 84/69
  - Record High: 98 in 1949
  - Record Low: 55 in 1879
- **Precipitation**
  - Total Tuesday: 0.07
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  - Normal yearly to date: 3.04
- **Cooling Degree Days**
  - Yesterday: 13
  - Month to date: 94
  - Year to date: 635
  - Normal yearly to date: 750

**FORECAST**

- Sun: 75% chance of afternoon showers and thunderstorms.
- Mon: Scattered showers and thunderstorms.
- Tue: Partly cloudy and seasonably warm.
- Wed: Partly cloudy and seasonably warm.

**TODAY’S BIRTHDAY**

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
A budget is not something you generally will get into if you’re looking for a good time. Finances will be more enjoyable now, though, so you might want to give it a try.

**YESTERDAY’S SOLUTION**

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YESTERDAY’S EQUINOXIA PICTURE

- 1: Bank watchdog org.
- 2: Post-mark currency
- 3: Juice a grapefruit
- 4: Airline regulatory agency
- 5: Ready parlor
- 6: Musical residents
- 7: Swit of "M*A*S*H"
- 8: Hurky-dory
- 9: Radio noise
- 10: Big spender
- 11: Done on
- 12: Wading bird
- 13: Kemo __
- 14: Luau n
- 15: Rubber ducks
- 16: Dote on
- 17: Superior
- 18: Nature trails
- 19: Stet uposite
- 20: Loose-fitting dress
- 21: Luau n
- 22: Furbers
- 23: Notion
- 24: Muscat
- 25: Patsies
- 26: Mother of 27 Down
- 27: Greek god of war

**TODAY’S CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

Edited by Stanley Newman
www.StanXwords.com

1. Flowerless plant
2. Post-mark currency
3. Juice a grapefruit
4. Airline regulatory agency
5. Ready parlor
6. Musical residents
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25. Patsies
26. Mother of
27. Greek god of war

**YOUR HOROSCOPE**

By Linda Black
To get the advantage: check the day’s rating. 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

**CANCER** (June 22–July 22)
Your sense of confidence is growing stronger. You’re taking on more authority, yet your sense of confidence is growing stronger. This time, however, be forewarned. You’ll be headed to a higher standard.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)
The pressure’s rising, and a deadline’s coming closer. Strangely, you feel more calm. You focus carefully, breathe deeply and walk away with the prize.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23–Sept. 22)
A minor setback occurs when you think you don’t have everything you need. Don’t let a sense of panic set in. Your friends are coming to your aid.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You like to make a good impression, and generally, that’s easy. This time, however, be forewarned. You’ll be headed to a higher standard.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Over the next few days, you’ll have a hidden advantage. Rely on someone who loves you instead of someone who has what you want.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
A budget is not something you generally will get into if you’re looking for a good time. Finances will be more enjoyable now, though, so you might want to give it a try.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Somebody who knows more than you do about a specific subject can teach you. This way you won’t have to learn everything the hard way. Listen.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
If you stick to the schedule, you’ll get an awful lot done. It could even turn out to be enjoyable, a nice fringe benefit.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19–March 20)
It’s nice how your new commitment can actually make you feel better, instead of more confined. Go ahead and do it.
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Terms and conditions:
• No purchase/test drive necessary
• Obtain official entry blanks in amNewYork until 8/15/04 or on WB11.com until 8/15/04
• Bring this entry form to your local tri-state Saturn Retailer on or before 8/15/04
• The Sweepstakes is open to legal residents of CT, NY, and NJ who are licensed drivers aged eighteen (18) and over as of 8/2/04.
• Grand prize – A 2004 Silver Saturn Ion™ 2 Sedan (4 cylinder automatic – 140 HP)
• Runner-up prizes – A pair of tickets to a New York Mets home game
• Complete rules and list of Saturn retailers available at WB11.com

Contest Entry Form
Bring this entry form to your local Saturn Retailer for your chance to win.

Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________
City, State, Zip Code ________________________________
Email Address ________________________________
Daytime Phone __________________________ Evening Phone ____________________
Age __________________________ Date of Birth __________________

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4801 Northern Blvd.
L.I. City, NY 11101
718-711-1300
Saturn of Roslyn
1043 Northern Blvd.
Roslyn, NY 11576
516-365-5055
Saturn of Bronx
271 East 233rd Street
Bronx, NY 10470
718-324-9000
Saturn of Brunswick
1500 US Route 1
N. Brunswick, NJ 08902
732-418-1888
Saturn of Eatontown
67 Highway 36
Eatontown, NJ 07724
732-389-8822
Saturn of Freehold
4039 Route 9 North
Lakewood, NJ 08701
732-303-8700
Saturn of Livingston
Rte 10 Livingston Circle
Livingston, NJ 07039
973-992-0600
Saturn of Morristown
108 Ridgedale Avenue
Morristown, NJ 07960
973-538-2800
Saturn of Mt. Olive
480 Route 46 West
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
908-979-3030
Saturn of Paramus
101 Route 4 West
Paramus, NJ 07652
201-291-6800
Health Quote:
“When health is absent, wisdom cannot reveal itself, art cannot manifest, strength cannot fight, wealth becomes useless, and intelligence cannot be applied.” - Herophilus

Lower cholesterol without drugs?

By Dean Ornish
The Washington Post

Reducing cholesterol levels saves lives. A recent report by a panel of experts from the American Heart Association and the government’s National Cholesterol Education Program recommended more aggressive treatment of people with elevated cholesterol levels. I agree.

The diagnosis is right, but the prescription is incomplete. Millions more Americans will be prescribed cholesterol-lowering drugs that many, perhaps most, could have avoided by making bigger changes in diet and lifestyle than this panel recommended. Since about $20 billion was spent on these drugs in the U. S. last year (almost $10 billion on Lipitor alone), a lot is at stake.

Statin drugs such as Lipitor are effective ways of lowering cholesterol levels. I prescribe them for patients when indicated.

Several large-scale trials have demonstrated that these drugs can reduce heart attacks and premature death and that they may have additional benefits. Clearly, though, it would be better to accomplish the same goals by changing diet and lifestyle, since all drugs have costs and side effects, both known and unknown.

As tens of millions of people begin taking these medications for decades, more long-term side effects are likely to become apparent; the statin drug Baycol was taken off the market in 2001 because of toxic side effects. In contrast, it costs nothing additional to eat a healthful diet, walk, meditate and quit smoking, and the only side effects of these behaviors are beneficial.

The panel recommended diet and lifestyle changes as a first step for some people. But the diet it recommended has little effect on cholesterol levels, because it doesn’t go far enough; for most people, cholesterol levels decrease only 5%. The authors advised that adults with LDL-cholesterol levels above 100 mg/dL (which includes most adults in the United States) or even above 70 mg/dL (high-risk patients) be treated with drugs right away before finding out if diet and lifestyle changes are sufficient.

The writer is clinical professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco and president of the nonprofit Preventive Medicine Research Institute.

For Your Health:
Local 338 Blood Drive Schedule
August 13 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Waldbaum’s, 133-11 20th Ave.,
College Point, NY
August 16 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Waldbaum’s, 213-15 26th Ave., Bay
Terrace, NY
*Special Note: NYC Councilman
Tony Avella will be attending*
August 27 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Waldbaum’s, 40 Great Neck Road,
Great Neck, NY
Sept. 14 11:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Local 338 Headquarters, 67-45
Queens Blvd., Rego Park, NY
*Special Note: These activities will
commemorate those lost on 9/11*

Free Men’s Health Screenings
Spike TV to offer “Check Up or Check Out” National Men’s Health Initiative
August 15 12:00 p.m. – 6 p.m.
West 135 St., between 5th Ave. and
Malcolm X Boulevard.
•Screenings will include blood pres-
sure, weight, body fat percentage,
glucose testing, and spirometer tests.

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Boo-boos all better

BY CAROLE GOLDBERG
The Hartford Courant

It used to be so simple. When you fell down, Mom or Dad came to the rescue, washed off your wound and applied hydrogen peroxide or mercurochrome. Then, depending on the extent of your boo-boo, you got a wide bandage, a skinny little one or a dot.

But today’s bandage choices go far beyond just size and shape. The consumer market for adhesive bandages has exploded, driven by technological advances in hospitals.

Lisa Corbett, a nurse at the Center for Wound Healing and Hyperbaric Medicine at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut, says the improved treatment of chronic non-healing wounds, those that persist longer than 30 days, has spun off products now available to the public.

As a result, store shelves are jampacked with products like liquid and spray-on bandages, ionized-silver bandages, waterproof bandages, moist-environment-promoting bandages and easy-to-remove bandages. Then there are the anti-itch, anti-bleeding and anti-bacterial bandages. Not to mention bandages shaped to fit fingers or knuckles or medicated to minimize scars or cushioned to heal blisters. And don’t forget the eye-catching bandages for kids, decorated with cartoon characters or tattoo designs, and clear ones that appeal to adults because they don’t catch the eye.

At first, it seems like a challenge to navigate among all these choices, says Todd Andrews, a spokesman for CVS Corp. “But it’s a real benefit to consumers.”

As hospital stays grow shorter, he notes, postoperative wound care is increasingly being managed at home. “Our customers have told us, through studies, that they want these products,” Andrews says.

Michael Sweeney, a spokesman for 3M’s Nexcare line, says liquid-bandage products are among the newest to catch the interest of consumers. Although they may be more expensive per application, he says, they last longer, which helps bring their cost closer to that of strip bandages. Further refinements will make such innovations more convenient and affordable, Sweeney says.

Fred Twelv, product director for Johnson & Johnson’s Band-Aid Brand Adhesive Bandages, says older consumers, a growing group, are buying bandages that are gentle to the skin, such as the liquid-type or Band-Aid’s Hurt-Free line.

We’ve come a long way from the birth of the first Band-Aids, which company lore says were invented in 1920 by Earle Dickson, a cotton buyer for Johnson & Johnson.

By now, more than 100 billion Band-Aids have been used on children, and those with licensed images account for 15% to 20% of the market.

Healthy meals put issues on the table

BY KELLY YOUNG
Los Angeles Times

A family meal, whether it’s loaded with Brussels sprouts or carrots, might provide more than just nutrition. It might also improve teenagers’ emotional health.

“The family mealtime could provide kind of an informal check-in time, a little reminder that you’re part of a group of people that care about you,” said Marla Eisenberg, an epidemiologist at the University of Minnesota and the lead author of a new study on the effect of dining as a family.

Adolescents who ate five or more meals a week with their families were 7% to 24% less likely to smoke cigarettes or marijuana, drink alcohol, get lower grades, show signs of depression or think about or attempt suicide than teens who had three or four family meals a week, the study found. The more meals the teens ate with families, the less likely they were to have these problems.

Family meals appeared to have a more positive effect on girls than boys. Girls who said they ate more than seven meals a week with their families were almost half as likely to report attempting suicide as girls who said they never sat down to eat with their families. Boys who ate more family meals did not have a significantly different risk of suicide than those who ate fewer.

Previous studies have shown that family meals were associated with how much children felt their parents cared about them. Children who feel close to their parents have a reduced risk of drug use, emotional problems, violence and sexual activity.

In the study, conducted in 1998 and 1999, researchers at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis surveyed 4,746 11- to 18-year-olds in the Twin Cities about their families’ eating habits, their grades, drug use and mental health. Meals didn’t have to be in the evening nor be home-cooked to qualify as family meal.
Trapeze New York: The only way to fly

BY MARY MCGUIRE-WIEN
Special to amNewYork

New Yorkers are taking fit-
ness out of the gym and
finding fantastic new chal-
lenges outdoors. On Hudson
River Drive and Vestry
Street, there is an incredible,
only-in-New York way to take
the strength and agility
from pumping iron or
yoga class out to play.
Warning: You will need to be
in reasonably good shape to
begin with!

When I first walked into
Trapeze School New York I
saw a low practice swing,
which naturally I envisioned
as the place for my first les-
son. But when I heard the
instructions, my jaw dropped
and my heart quickened.
Climb 23 feet high, grab a tra-
peze and swing, then loop
knees over the bar, let go and
swing upside down, then grab
the bar with your hands and
let go, tumbling down to the
net below. The dumbfound-
ed and incredulous look on
my face went completely
ignored by the three instruc-
tors, Frederique Jacquot, Paul
Cannon and Jason Corkum.
High on the platform,
Frederique hooked me up to
the safety rope and handed
me the trapeze. Down below,
the no-nonsense Paul shout-
ced commands for timing
while pulling me around with
the safety rope. On another
trapeze, the upside-down
Jason waited to catch those of
us who qualified for this
experience. Terrified on my
first try, I gained confidence
with each successive attempt.
Even so, I didn’t achieve the
precision required for the
coveted catch. In the mean-
time my arms, shoulders and
whole body felt completely
toned and alive. Not to men-
tion my soaring spirit. This is
the only way to fly.

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Using the ‘f’ word will help you heal

BY GARRETT CONDON
The Hartford Courant

Forgiveness isn’t always easy, but it’s simple, right?

Not really, as it turns out. A number of psychotherapists and academic psychologists have championed the healing power of forgiveness. But the trend also has bred a group of unrepentant critics.

On one side is the “forgiveness movement,” a two-decade effort to study the health effects of forgiving. Proponents of therapeutic forgiveness, especially psychologist Robert D. Enright of the University of Wisconsin, have proposed that injured parties can learn to forgive their offenders — with or without an apology from them. Studies show that forgiving those who trespass against us can reduce stress-promoting anger and improve mental, emotional and physical health.

On the other side are critics of the movement, such as Jefferie G. Murphy, a professor of law, philosophy and religious studies at Arizona State University. Murphy and other contrarians aren’t against forgiveness itself, but against a theory of forgiveness that they see as, well, unforgiving. Murphy, the author of last year’s “Getting Even: Forgiveness and Its Limits,” has no doubt that, for some people, forgiveness brings healing and allows them to move on.

“But sometimes,” he said “getting mad and getting even brings closure.”

One Connecticut psychotherapist, who asked that her name not be used, found herself consumed by anger and violent revenge fantasies when she discovered that her husband had been having sex with prostitutes — sometimes in the couple’s home while she was away with the children. She was not only betrayed but infected with a sexually transmitted disease.

“I thought, ‘I don’t want to live with this anger,’” she said. Following the writings of Enright, other psychotherapists, Buddhist teachers and one-on-one therapy — she was able to forgive her husband and let go of much of her anger.

As a therapist, she said, she better understands the power of forgiveness and the importance of not trying to push patients into forgiving. As a result of her own experience, she said, “I think I have more tolerance for people to be angry for a very long time.”

Q/A: Protect your eyes

BY JENNIFER MARTIN
amNewYork Staff Writer

It’s summer, and the sun has been shining quite brightly.

It’s always nice to enjoy a sun-filled view, but if you’re looking without your sunglasses, there may come a day when you won’t enjoy any views. That’s why, all fashion reasons aside, amNewYork talked to Dr. Brian G. Brazzo, MD, of Cornell Medical University Center about the real reasons why it’s cool to wear sunglasses.

AMNY What are UV rays?

BRAZZO UV, or ultraviolet rays, are a type of energy that is emitted by the sun.

AMNY Exactly how do they affect the eyes?

BRAZZO It has been suggested by researchers that high doses of UV light can cause problems with the eye, including macular degeneration, one of the leading causes of blindness in the U.S.

AMNY Do UV rays become harmful to the eye as you age or do they affect you from birth?

BRAZZO Most of the damage caused by UV light is caused early in life and tends to be the cumulative effect of exposure to UV light over many years. It is good from an early age to protect your eyes with sunglasses with UV filters and wear a hat with a brim.

AMNY When buying sunglasses, is there a difference in quality between glasses from your local drugstore and those from a specialty store?

BRAZZO When you buy a high quality lens, you know that it has the UV filters in it. Most sunglasses bought at department or drugstores, if they have the filter stamp on them, are reliable, but it’s tough to say for sunglasses sold on the street, even if they may have the stamp on them. And contact lenses, as far as I know, do not provide UV protection.
AIDS drugs OK’d  

West Nile vaccine  

Breast cancer  

AIDS drugs OK’d  

TRENTON  

Rapid HIV tests that give results in minutes rather than days are now available at 18 publicly funded counseling and testing sites in New Jersey, state officials said last week. The new blood tests give results in about 20 minutes. (AP)

WASHINGTON  

Two new AIDS drugs, each of which combines two medications within a single tablet, have been approved by federal regulators, the Food and Drug Administration said last week. They are Emtriva and Viracept. (AP)

LOS ANGELES  

As public concern about West Nile virus has intensified, so has the push to create a vaccine. Several drug companies are considering developing new medical protections against the virus, including Calit-based Chiron Corp. (L.A. Times)

HARTFORD  

African-American women are four times more likely than white women to have a genetic mutation that makes breast cancer tumors more deadly, a new study by researchers at the Yale School of Medicine shows. (Harford Courant)

HOSPITAL’S QUALITY  

WASHINGON  

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations has launched qualitycheck.org, a Web site that lets consumers compare patient care at hospitals statewide and nationally.

(AM Times)

White wheat bread  

OMAHA  

Everyone knows whole-grain bread is healthier. But try getting a kid to eat it. ConAgra Foods says it has a solution: flour that retains whole-grain fiber nutrition while delivering the sort, sweet texture of white flour. (AP)

Do you have erectile dysfunction?  

Do you also have any of these symptoms when you urinate?  

- Weak or intermittent stream  

- Sensation of not emptying your bladder completely  

- Increased frequency or urgency of urination  

- Getting up multiple times during the night to urinate

We are conducting a research study to evaluate the safety and effects of an investigational drug used to simultaneously treat Erectile Dysfunction and lower urinary tract symptoms. Men with both these conditions who are age 45 or older and in an active sexual relationship may qualify to participate.

Qualified participants will receive study-related medical exams, laboratory tests and study medication at no cost.

If you are interested or for more information, please contact:

University Urology Associates  

212-686-9015 ext 15

Psychotherapy treatment at the NYU Child Study Center Institute for Trauma and Stress for adolescent girls (aged 14-21) and adult women who have experienced childhood physical/sexual abuse. Women and girls with symptoms such as anxiety, irritability, sleep problems, difficulty with trust, may be eligible for a research-based psychotherapy treatment at no cost.

For info call:  

212-263-2786 (adolescents)  

or 212-263-2481 (adult women).

Clinical research studies are available at New York University Department of Dermatology for the following diseases:

- Psoriasis  

- Alopecia Areata, Totalis or Universalis Men Only  

- Molluscum Contagiosum (2-12 years old)  

- Eczema (Male Only)  

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New York University School of Medicine  

Department of Dermatology  

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Mood Swings?  

Have you experienced:  

- Elevated, excitable or irritable mood?  

- Racing thoughts?  

- Loss of sleep and need for sleep?  

- Feeling hopeless, worthless, down in the dumps?  

- Loss of interest in usual activities?  

- Fatigue, loss of concentration?  

Free research study related treatment available for eligible patients with bipolar disorder (‘Manic Depression’). Call for more information.

To find out about additional clinical trials at The Mount Sinai Medical Center visit  

www.mountsinai.org  

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We are conducting a clinical research study of an investigational drug for difficult-to-treat depression. You may be eligible if you’ve experienced symptoms of depression and have not responded to medication your doctor has prescribed. Symptoms of depression may include:  

- Feeling sad or depressed  

- Losing interest  

- Feelings of hopelessness  

- Worthlessness or guilt  

- Sleeplessness or lack of energy  

If you are eligible and are enrolled, you may receive study-related investigational drug and medical evaluations at no charge. To learn more call us now.

I’m Sad All The Time, Will I Ever Feel Good Again?  

ARE YOU SUFFERING FROM DEPRESSION?  

IS YOUR MEDICATION NOT WORKING FOR YOU?

To advertise in the Medical Research Studies section, please contact Matt Parisi at 212-239-5453 or email mparisi@am-ny.com

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Needed to Study the Effect of  

High Carb vs. High Fat  

Diets On Weight Loss

You may qualify if:  

- you are between the ages of 30 and 65  

- you are generally healthy  

- you are overweight

Potential Benefits:  

- Comprehensive physical exam at no cost  

- Meals • Weight loss

To learn more about this study, please contact:  

212-327-7445  

www.rucares.org

Rockefeller University Hospital  

Healthy Overweight Men & Women 30-65  

Needed to Study the Effect of  

Low Calorie  

High Carb vs. High Fat  

Diets On Weight Loss

To the right is a black-and-white photograph of a woman smiling. The text provides information about a study that is recruiting healthy overweight men and women aged 30 to 65 to participate in a research study comparing low-calorie diets high in carbohydrates versus those high in fat. The potential benefits of the study include comprehensive physical exams at no cost and meals to support weight loss. Interested participants can call 212-327-7445 or visit the website www.rucares.org for more information.
Biking as activism

BY ALEXANDRA CHANG
amNewYork Staff Writer

Time’s Up! Bike Space for biker activists to meet up and volunteer, the organization is presenting a Bike National Convention this month. With the Republican National Convention coming to the city, Time’s Up! is planning on hosting several events to highlight the importance of finding non-polluting methods of transportation and spotlighting the need for elected officials to work on legislation that promotes the well-being of the environment.

Past events that the group have participated in include the Critical Mass bike tour that meets up at the end of each month en masse, as it were, for a ride across the city. The Critical Mass tours have become a huge underground phenomenon in the city.

If you are looking for a bike yourself to participate in the Bike National Convention, you can always rent bikes, such as at Gotham Bikes (112 W. Broadway, 212-732-2453), or you can try some more unconventional tactics and swing by the 10th Street Bazaar at 10th Street and Avenue A on Saturdays. You can pick up a good old fashioned one-speed Schwinn cruiser for just $35. Get there early for the best selection.

For more information, see the Web site www.times-up.org. Times Up! is located at 49 E. Houston St. between Mott and Mulberry, 212-882-8222.

**KEEP THE BODY TONE**

This is a popular exercise to target the muscles in your upper body and shoulders. It adds shape and firmness to your back muscles and develops strength that is especially valuable to swimmers or rock climbers who need powerful upper bodies.

1. Lie on a sturdy bench or position your head and shoulders on top of a Bosu trainer. Bend your knees with your feet hip-width apart and flat on the floor. Holding a dumbbell in each hand, bend your elbows with the dumbbells close together and just above your chest. Pull your abdominals and keep your back straight.
2. Keeping your elbows in the bent position, inhale and move the dumbbells behind your head. On an exhale, squeeze the muscles in the outer sides of your back as you slowly bring the dumbbells back over your upper chest. Pause for a moment and repeat 12 times. Rest for 20 seconds and repeat for a total of three sets.

(1) Las Vegas
**Mets snap skid**

Mets pitcher Tom Glavine lost his two front upper teeth in an automobile accident yesterday while going from LaGuardia Airport to nearby Shea Stadium in a taxi cab.

Glavine, who is 8-10 with a 2.92 earned run average, also got stitches for a cut lower lip. He was to be released from a hospital last night and miss his scheduled start tonight against Houston. Matt Ginter will take his place.

The accident occurred at 2:15 p.m., as Glavine headed to the ballpark for New York’s game against the Astros. The left-hander had spent Monday’s off day with his family in Atlanta, where he used to play.

Glavine was leaving LaGuardia in a taxi that collided with a sport utility vehicle on the overpass of the Grand Central Parkway as he left the airport grounds, the Mets said.

Police responded to the crash, and the Emergency Medical Service took Glavine by ambulance to a hospital in Manhattan.

Glavine, who was conscious, was treated by Mets oral surgeon Dr. Robert Glickman. He was resting comfortably and was to go straight to his home in Connecticut, the Mets said.

Growing up in Massachusetts, Glavine was a two-sport prep star and was picked by the NHL’s Los Angeles Kings in the fourth round of the 1984 draft. Once asked why he picked baseball over hockey, he joked, “I had all my other teeth and I wanted to keep it that way.”

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**Giambi cleared to play**

A smiling and upbeat Jason Giambi arrived yesterday at the Yankees’ spring training complex to start working himself back into playing shape after being diagnosed with a benign tumor.

“Definitely, I’m feeling better,” Giambi said when departing the complex.

Wearing sweat pants and a white T-shirt, Giambi said he would talk about his situation Wednesday afternoon at a news conference.

“Jason Giambi has been cleared to resume baseball activities immediately,” Yankees physician Dr. Stuart Hershon said after consulting with doctors at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

The first baseman, who has felt weak for most of the season, has not played since July 23. The Yankees at first diagnosed him with an intestinal infection, but then said July 30 that he had a benign tumor, without disclosing where it was located.

Giambi had difficulty keeping food down for much of June and July, Giambi struggled before going on the disabled list, batting just .221.

---

**Crash costs ace 2 teeth**

Houston’s Jeff Kent was safe at home on this play last night, but the Mets snapped a three-game losing streak with a 7-3 win over the Astros. David Wright homered, and Jose Reyes hit a two-run triple Mike Piazza and Kaz Matsui sat out with injuries for the third straight game.
Tisch is fighting tumor

Giants co-owner Robert Tisch has been diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor.

New coach Tom Coughlin informed the team of Tisch’s illness after the morning practice, the Giants said.

“Very few of us in the organization knew there was any issue with Mr. Tisch,” Coughlin said. “We are very, very upset about the news. The team is upset. Mr. Tisch is a wonderful guy.”

Neither the Giants nor Howard Rubenstein, a Tisch family spokesman, would give specifics about the tumor.

Tisch bought half of the team in 1991 from Wellington Mara’s nephew, Tim Mara, The 78-year-old is the chairman of Loews Corp. He served as postmaster general of the U.S. from 1986-88.

Since buying a share in the NFL team, Tisch has attended most games. He also has made almost weekly visits to Giants Stadium to watch practice and talk to players.

“It’s a jolt,” Pro Bowl defensive end Michael Strahan said. “It’s a jolt. We’re praying for him.”

Free agent forward Michael Nylander

Nylander’s best season was in 2000-01 with the Rangers yesterday, a day after David Boston had season-ending knee surgery. A former Pro Bowler and once Brett Favre’s No. 1 target in Green Bay, Freeman, 32, caught just 14 passes for 141 yards in 15 games with the Packers last season. He could be more help to the Dolphins, who have little experience opposite Chris Chambers at the receiver position. But the Dolphins were still considering whether to sign Freeman, who has spent his entire career in the West Coast offense, which the Dolphins don’t use. Boston tore a tendon in his left knee Friday, moving Derrius Thompson back into a starting role. Thompson was a disappointment in his first season with the Dolphins.

Nylander signs with Rangers

Free agent forward Michael Nylander signed a three-year deal with the Rangers yesterday worth $8.9 million.

Nylander will earn $2.9 million next season, and $3 million in each of the next two years of the deal that also includes an option for the 2007-08 season.

With a lockout that threatens next season looming, the Rangers — the NHL’s biggest spenders — had been quiet since the free-agent shopping season began July 1. But general manager Glen Sather decided to bring in the 31-year-old center, who has averaged almost a point per game during his 11 seasons.

“Michael is a highly skilled, versatile player who we feel will play a significant role on our team,” Sather said. “He is a very intelligent player who will be an integral part of our special teams play.”

Nylander, who earned $2.675 million last season, is joining his third team since March, having been dealt by Washington to Boston at the NHL trade deadline. He was limited to only one goal and 13 assists in 18 games last season because of a broken leg in the preseason that ended his streak of 310 consecutive games played — the league’s longest active run.

The native of Sweden scored more than 20 goals twice with the Chicago Blackhawks and had more than 50 points in the four seasons before breaking his right leg.

Nylander’s best season was in 2000-01 when he posted career highs of 25 goals and 64 points while playing for Chicago.

Boston acquired him from Washington for a sixth-round pick in the 2006 draft, and the Bruins were believed to be interested in re-signing him after he had three goals and three assists in a first-round playoff loss to Montreal.

Steve McNair is one win away from matching Warren Moon’s total for career wins (70) with the Titans’ franchise.

Winning an MVP award usually translates into commercials, magazine covers and appearances on the front of cereal boxes. Not for Tennessee quarterback Steve McNair.

McNair has had offers since sharing the NFL’s 2003 prize with Peyton Manning. It’s just that he prefers staying out of the spotlight and enjoying the quiet life with his family on his 643-acre Mississippi ranch when he’s not on a football field trying to improve.

McNair led the NFL with a 100.4 passer rating and was the AFC’s Pro Bowl starter.

He threw for 3,215 yards with 21 touchdowns and nine interceptions in just 14 games.

Manning’s brace scares teammates

El Manning raised a couple of eyebrows yesterday when he showed up at the Giants’ morning workout with a brace on his left knee. “We asked him in the locker room if he was all right,” quarterback Kurt Warner said. “He said he had it worn in the past and it was something that he felt comfortable with.” Manning, who’s competing with Warner to be the team’s starting quarterback, said he wears the brace in games. He said he wore it yesterday because it was a new one and he wanted to get used to it. Manning started wearing a brace in his junior year at Mississippi. The Giants, coming off a losing season, are counting on Manning, the top pick in the 2004 draft, to turn around the team’s fortunes.

Manning, the top pick in the 2004 draft, to turn around the team’s fortunes.

Brown reunites with former coach

Tim Brown signed yesterday with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, a move that reunites the former Oakland receiver with ex-Raiders coach Jon Gruden and general manager Bruce Allen.

The 38-year-old, nine-time Pro Bowl receiver will be looking to shut him down this season.

McNair, 31, is healed from February surgery to remove a bone spur from his left ankle. The injury caused him to miss two games last season and left him hobbling at the end of a playoff loss at New England.

A bigger concern is the loss of Frank Wycheck and Eddie George, his longtime tight end and running back. With those two gone, McNair and left tackle Brad Hopkins are the only Titans who played in the locker room if he was all right,” quarterback Kurt Warner said. “He said he had it worn in the past and it was something that he felt comfortable with.” Manning, who’s competing with Warner to be the team’s starting quarterback, said he wears the brace in games. He said he wore it yesterday because it was a new one and he wanted to get used to it. Manning started wearing a brace in his junior year at Mississippi. The Giants, coming off a losing season, are counting on Manning, the top pick in the 2004 draft, to turn around the team’s fortunes.

FOOTBALL BRIEFS

Desperate Miami turns to Freeman

Receiver Antonio Freeman worked out for the Miami Dolphins yesterday, a day after David Boston had season-ending knee surgery. A former Pro Bowler and once Brett Favre’s No. 1 target in Green Bay, Freeman, 32, caught just 14 passes for 141 yards in 15 games with the Packers last season. He could be more help to the Dolphins, who have little experience opposite Chris Chambers at the receiver position. But the Dolphins were still considering whether to sign Freeman, who has spent his entire career in the West Coast offense, which the Dolphins don’t use. Boston tore a tendon in his left knee Friday, moving Derrius Thompson back into a starting role. Thompson was a disappointment in his first season with the Dolphins.
Tense day ends with U.S. victory

U.S. 80
TURKEY 68

By the time U.S. Olympic basketball players finished an 80-68 victory over Turkey in front of a jeering and whistling crowd yesterday, they had pronounced themselves ready for Athens — but still jittery from the events of an anxious day.

The Americans’ final Olympic tuneup was similar to many others during an up-and-down tour through Europe. They were unable to dominate an opponent that figured to be vastly overmatched, but they got the job done in the end.

What made this day different was a major off-the-court event that tested their focus. The team learned early in the morning that bombs had exploded at two tourist hotels a few miles from their hotel, but team and U.S. government officials reassured them it would be safe to go ahead with the game.

After failing to shake Turkey for three quarters, the U.S. team hit its stride in the fourth — but not before the crowd gave them an earful.

The play that turned the fans against them came when LeBron James swiped at the ball and hit Turkey guard Ibrahim Kutluay in the eye. Kutluay, who scored 26 points, lay writhing on the floor before walking off. He eventually returned.

Another Turkish player went down moments later, and the whistles and shrieks from the crowd reached earsplitting levels when Kutluay scored.

The 20-year-old woman accusing Kobe Bryant of rape filed a federal civil lawsuit against the NBA star yesterday, seeking unspecified damages for pain, suffering and “public scorn, hatred and ridicule” she has suffered as a result of the alleged attack.

The attorneys asked for a jury trial and compensatory damages of at least $75,000, with punitive damages to be determined later.

The woman was identified only as Jane Doe. The team learned early in the morning that bombs had exploded at two tourist hotels a few miles from the hotel, but team and U.S. government officials reassured them it would be safe to go ahead with the game.

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Another Turkish player went down moments later, and the whistles and shrieks from the crowd reached earsplitting levels whenever the U.S. had the ball thereafter.

Coach Larry Brown directs the U.S. men’s basketball team through its final game before the Olympics.

Accuser files civil lawsuit against Kobe

Florida authorities are investigating charges that four coaches of an elite Tampa soccer team let their players, ages 13 and 14, have sex with prostitutes while on a recent trip to Amsterdam.

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The gold, silver and bronze medals have a new look for the Athens Olympics — a redesign that’s unique, Greek and even a little chic.

For the facade, the first for the Summer Games in 76 years, organizers asked artists to submit proposals that included two distinctly Greek elements: a depiction of Nike, the goddess of victory, and the Panathinaiko, the Athens stadium where the first modern Olympics were held in 1896.

Even since the 1928 Olympics, Nike had been shown on the medals, seated on a chariot holding a wreath and an ear of corn, symbolically honoring winning athletes. Next to the goddess was usually a stadium that looked like a Roman amphitheater.

Medals get chic & Greek

New Summer Olympic medals

This Olympics will see the first change to the front side of the Summer Olympic medal since the Amsterdam Games in 1928.

The Arcropolis of Athens

The Excerpt from Pindar's Eighth Olympic Ode (460 B.C.)

Nike, goddess of victory

Panathinaiko Stadium, held the first modern Olympic Games in 1896

BY MIKE WISE

The Washington Post

As rough stereotypes go, America’s greatest swimmers were born privileged while children who grew up on cul-de-sacs sandwiched between California and Florida. Maritza Correia did grow up in Florida, “but that’s about it as far as the regular path goes,” she said.

“Let’s see,” she continued. “I was born in Puerto Rico and my parents are Guyanese. I was diagnosed with scoliosis at 6 years old and my doctor said I should take up the sport for my back problems. And then I just started getting serious about it.”

Sleek and powerful in the water, “Ritz,” 22, has already broken freestyle sprint records held by Olympians Amy Van Dyken and Jenny Thompson.

And though six world records were set at last month’s U.S. Olympic trials in Long Beach, Calif., Correia made another bit of history: She became the first black woman to swim for the U.S., qualifying for the 400-meter freestyle relay, a year after winning a gold medal for the U.S. in the same event at the 2003 world championships.

Maritza began swimming as a child after doctors told her it would help her avoid surgery to repair a 15-degree curvature of her spine. Growing up in Tampa, Maritza’s classmates kept encouraging her to join them socially after school. She always ended up at the pool.

“I got a lot of, ‘Ohmigosh, you gotta go to swim practice again!’” Correia said. “But I just kept swimming. It was important to me.”

She won a scholarship to the University of Georgia, where she set American records in the sprint freestyles and won multiple NCAA championships.

Correia said she doesn’t want to be known merely as the “girl from the hood who took up swimming.”

But if her inclusion into an almost all-white sport inspires a minority child to swim competitively, “I’m OK with that. It’s a little bit of a shame more minorities aren’t involved.”

Correia knows the gnawing of race-related questions is soon to follow, but she is embracing it. “I think there will be a little bit of pressure on me,” she said. “But I’m ready to handle it. I know the public eye is coming, and I’m ready.”

Stereotypes don’t apply to U.S. swimmer Correia

Coach is alone in Athens

As tears welled up in Mike Candrea’s eyes, he slowly removed his glasses. His voice choked up, and the words about his wife came out.

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Maritza Correia, above, is the first black woman to swim for the U.S. Olympic team. In 2000, Anthony Ervin, whose mother is white, became the first black male swimmer to represent the U.S. He shared the gold medal in the 50-meter freestyle with Gary Hall Jr. before retiring earlier this year.

U.S. softball coach Mike Candrea discusses his grief at a news conference in Athens yesterday. His players, two-time defending gold medalists, have dedicated their 2004 effort to his wife’s memory.

OLYMPIC BRIEFS

Rockefeller, oldest U.S. medalist, dies

James Stillman Rockefeller, the oldest known U.S. Olympic medal winner and the former head of the bank that became Citigroup, died in New Haven yesterday, his family said. Rockefeller, who was 102, had lived in Greenwich.

Rockefeller captained an eight-man crew with cowswain from the Yale University rowing team to win gold at the Paris Olympics. Another member of the crew was Dr. Benjamin Spock, the renowned pediatrician. Rockefeller was a grandson of William Rockefeller, who founded Standard Oil with his brother, John D. Rockefeller.

Protestors honor 13 dead workers

Anti-Olympic protesters gathered in central Athens yesterday to hold an open-air memorial service for 13 workers killed during round-the-clock construction of venues for the Olympics. About 500 demonstrators stood in silence as the names of the workers were read out and olive wreaths placed on 13 crosses erected outside Greece’s parliament three days before the games’ start.

Women’s soccer team plays today

Women’s soccer will kick-start Olympic festivities today, two days ahead of everything else. The U.S. faces against Greece today on the island of Crete, one of eight games two days before the opening ceremony for a sport that has to start early to squeeze everything in.

Capriati pulls out, Raymond steps in

Jennifer Capriati was forced to pull out of the Athens Games with a hamstring injury and was replaced by Lisa Raymond, a team spokesman said yesterday. Capriati won a gold medal at the 1992 Barcelona Games, but missed the 1996 and 2000 Olympics. She told coach Zina Garrison on Sunday she couldn’t play in the Olympics because of the injury, which she sustained in July.

Raymond, who was to play doubles with Martina Navratilova, was picked for the singles spot vacated.

Javelin thrower ignores torn ACL

Breaux Greer would never let a little thing like a torn knee ligament keep him out of the Athens Olympics — especially since he has a decent chance to become the first U.S. javelin thrower in more than a half-century to win a gold medal. Greer tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee, the one he plants hard to the ground as he lets go of the javelin, on June 11. But he said yesterday that he’ll compete anyway.

Kenyan boxer is first official doper

In the first doping case of the Athens Olympics, a Kenyan boxer was barred from the games yesterday after failing an out-of-competition drug test in the athlete’s village. Bantamweight David Munyasia, 24, tested positive for the banned stimulant caffeine, the International Olympic Committee said.

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