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Fans continue to place flowers by the Siegfried & Roy statue outside the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas. Roy was injured while performing with his white tigers.

Lawyers for sniper suspect, Lee Malvo (18) are expected to mount a brainwashing defense. Malvo and John Muhammad (42) were arrested after a 3-week killing spree that left 13 dead in the Washington DC area. Police believe Malvo, not Muhammad, was the shooter, but was the teen brainwashed by Muhammad?

Food importers must notify the government 2 hours prior to shipment arrivals. This will enable officials to act quickly if terrorists have contaminated food coming into the U.S.

Beware of online identity theft. It works like this. You are lured to a phony website, give your name, password, and credit card. The site records your key strokes and Bingo-the bad guys can start spending your money.

The number of Americans without insurance is rising at the fastest pace in history. Why is this a big deal? High medical bills are the most often cited reason people file for bankruptcy.

National

Researchers say many teens become obese after high school. Reasons include the many changes that occur: college, marriage, jobs, and having babies. Solutions: Exercise and watch those big portions!

A Newsweek poll found that 50% of registered voters don't want Pres. Bush reelected. Americans are frustrated by the high cost of the war in Iraq and they are taking it out on the Pres.

Liquor stores are beginning to use fake ID busters to catch underage drinkers. The devices can read driver's license bar codes and magnetic strips. Fake ID's are usually confiscated.

Horse racing jockey Bill Shoemaker (72) died last month. He won 8,833 races and is remembered by many as one of the best athletes of the 20th Century. Shoemaker's gift with horses? Under him they felt like they were running free.

The Whitney Museum in New York City is planning a contemporary art show. Curators say it will feature the top 108 painters and sculptors from across America.

Responding to environmentalists' concerns, the Navy has agreed to limit the use of a sonar system employed to detect enemy submarines. The system is harmful to marine mammals and fish—especially whales. A different system was blamed for causing 16 whales to beach themselves in 2000. Eight died.

Federal investigators have documented 1,300 cases of lost or stolen radioactive matter in the U.S. over the past five years. Officials say there is a significant risk terrorists could get enough for a dirty bomb. The FBI received an unconfirmed report that al-Qaeda terrorists sought to buy radioactive matter in Canada.

South Carolina authorities were criticized after they conducted a drug raid at Stratford High School. Police drew guns and scared students. No drugs were found in the early-morning sweep that included 14 officers and one dog.

National

Heirheads. America's young, bored, super-rich kids have invented a new way to deal with the nation's outrage over their lavish lifestyles. They have learned to humiliate themselves on TV. Next up, Paris Hilton, heir to the Hilton Hotel fortune will appear on "The Simple Life," which will follow her exploits while living on a farm.

The government has begun testing a huge screening machine that scans truckloads of cargo for explosives before they are placed aboard planes. The machines will help make flights safer.

A record number of Alaskan bears lost their lives this season. Six were hit by cars, two were shot. Bear hunting was banned 10 years ago.

Florida schools are replacing soda machines with flavored milk machines. Critics argue flavored milk has more sugar and fat than sodas.

Critics are blasting KFC's treatment of chickens. The birds spend their lives crammed in dark sheds that stink of ammonia from waste. They routinely suffer broken bones from careless handling, and from having their legs snapped into shackles at slaughterhouses. They are often fully conscious when their throats are slit or when they are dumped into tanks of scalding hot water to remove their feathers.

American track and field officials were shocked last month to discover steroids use by half-a-dozen U.S. athletes.

Florida. The nation's first 150-mph jet-train has begun operating in Florida.



Tidbits

London. Three spaniels wait by their skateboards for a photo shoot. They are starring in a new UK show called "Discover Dogs," which is both entertaining and educational. Its purpose is to promote responsible dog ownership.



A Korean woman tried to help her six-year-old son's future by cutting 1/2 inch off his tongue. Mom thought it would help him lose his Korean accent when speaking English—the global language of business people.

A Tanzanian man cut off his genitals in an attempt to win sympathy from creditors after squandering millions of their money on prostitutes and alcohol.

Mount Holly, NJ. New speeding signs read: "Free Speeding Tickets Ahead" and "Meet Our Judge—Exceed 25 mph."

China is testing the use of corn fuel to run her cars. Corn fuel burns cleaner than oil and therefore cuts pollution.

Students at Northwestern U. protested a spate of hateful graffiti on school walls by wearing black and refusing to speak during classes. Vandalism included swastikas, an anti-Semitic phrase, racial slurs and a depiction of a lynching.

When asked to identify their parents' worst trait, four in 10 of the 16,000 British teenagers polled said it was their unpredictable moods.

Tired of feeling morally and ethically challenged about downloading music? Looking for a place to legally download music? Check out Apple's free iTunes (www.itunes.com) for Mac or Windows. Windows users can also download tunes at Napster for .99 ea. Napster will also allow you to stream music for \$9.95 a month.

Researchers who study family life say that couples who live together and raise kids without marrying are doing a disservice to their kids.

One out of six prisoners in the U.S. is considered mentally ill.

Taiwan is now the home of the world's tallest skyscraper. The building stands 110 stories tall. Called Taipei 101, it tops the previous record held by the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

An alligator escaped from its crate while aboard an American Airlines flight from Miami, Florida to Newark, New Jersey. The gator was recaptured when the plane landed.

Special Forces and their dogs often use helicopter transports when traveling into hot spots.

THE WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BUILDING IN THE WORLD?

Last month, the new Walt Disney Concert Hall opened in Los Angeles, California. Some people who have seen the \$274 million WDCH have called it "the most beautiful building in the world." From the street, the Hall looks like a giant ship made of stainless steel. The Hall weighs 162 million pounds. Its skin is made up of 12,500 pieces of steel, each cut to a different shape. People come to the building just to touch it. Inside, the hall will seat 2,265 people. The sound is so perfect that people will have to be careful not to sneeze during concerts because everyone will hear the sound! Lillian Disney helped make the building possible by donating the first \$50 million for the hall. Six years ago, before her death at 98, Mrs. Disney donated another \$25 million to help build the Hall. Mrs. Disney's husband, Walt Disney is the genius who created Disneyland. He also created our friends Mickey Mouse, Pluto, and Donald Duck. His company has made tons of famous movies, including Snow White, 101 Dalmatians, Lion King, and Brother Bear. Now, Mr. Disney will also be famous for the building which bears his name. Billionaire Eli Broad, who raised millions to help build the WDCH, predicts that the Walt Disney Concert Hall will be just as famous as the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Parliament Buildings in London, the Taj Mahal in India, and other well-known buildings.

International

those killed since Pres. Bush declared an end to hostilities last Spring. Each day, we hear about another ambush or truck bomb killing our troops. Who is behind these attacks? Former Saddam supporters? Foreign fighters who have entered the country? Members of Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda terror network? No one seems to know for sure. Meanwhile, no weapons of mass destruction have been found, Saddam still remains at large and Americans are asking when this war will end.

The skies over Iraq will soon be filled with cameras. U.S. troops are about to use unmanned balloons and tiny airplanes to look for bad guys who are fighting against us.

While one might argue that America made a mistake waging war in Iraq, it is hard not to agree that life was hell for Iraqis. Last month, CNN aired horrifying videos found in Iraq. The videos showed Saddam's henchmen cutting off people's heads, hands, and tongues. Other clips showed victims being thrown off three-story buildings. What is more disturbing is images of nearby people cheering while witnessing the carnage.

Saudi Arabia became the latest target of a suicide attack this month when a compound housing Arab Muslims was struck. Osama bin Laden is believed to be behind the bombing.

Most Iraqis are glad Saddam is out, but they want their nation to return to normal. Pres. Bush says that if we leave too quickly, the bad guys will come back again. Iraqis are not the only people frustrated by the ongoing fighting. Many U.S. soldiers say that the mission in Iraq is too difficult and is taking too long.

Iraq. The number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq has surpassed

All 130,000 U.S. troops in Iraq will soon be wearing ceramic body armor which can stop bullets fired from assault rifles.

According to two intelligence reports, N. Korea and Iran have made surprising progress in their efforts to build nuclear weapons.

Tons of unguarded ammunition is scattered throughout Iraq. Much is being used to fight our troops.

A small wooden boat carrying 28 people—15 alive, 13 dead—was found drifting off the coast of Italy. 57 others who had died were pushed overboard. The group ran out of fuel, food, and water trying to make it from N. Africa to Europe. The story of Africans trying to enter Europe for a better life is similar to Mexicans who risk everything to enter the U.S. illegally. Europeans feel guilty about keeping them out, but blame African nations for not stopping the boat people.

Vida Samadzai, 25, was the first Afghan woman in 30 years to enter a beauty contest. She won the "Beauty for Cause" award at the Miss Earth 2003 contest in Manila. Vida was condemned by her country. Many said she should lose her citizenship for posing in a bikini. The uproar reminded the world that only two years ago, Afghan women were not allowed to leave their homes, work, or attend school. Today, Afghan women are still struggling with how to carry out the Muslim woman's obligation to hide her physical beauty from men to whom she is not related. The teens below each have different ideas about what is required.

Sci-Tech

Surgeons in France, Britain, and the U.S. are racing to be the first to transplant a dead person's face onto someone with a severe facial disfigurement. One question being asked—how will the recipient feel about using another's face?

New cell phone/cameras may threaten privacy. Fearing that people may be taking photos in gym bathrooms and other private places, some towns are passing laws prohibiting where cell "calls" can be made.

Researchers at Duke U. have taught monkeys to move a robotic arm with their minds. The monkeys' brains have been implanted with devices which send signals to the arm. Scientists hope such experiments will allow paralyzed people to use electrical brain activity to move man-made arms and legs.

China has become the 3rd nation on Earth to send humans into space. The Chinese name for astronaut is taikonaut.

Two Chinese tiger cubs were flown to S. Africa for hunting lessons before being released into the wild to have babies. The cats are endangered. There are only 90 remaining in the world.

For \$300 drivers can now purchase infrared transmitters which send a signal that will change a traffic light from red to green. Don't rush out and buy one—analysts predict they will soon be illegal.

While the Europeans are banning U.S. meat that has been treated with growth hormones and food that has been genetically modified, the U.S. is deciding whether it will be legal to sell cloned meat for human consumption.

Gadgets used to be designed for men, but now designers are creating stuff that will appeal to women also. By cooling the "power" I o o k,

new designs now appeal to both sexes. Examples: Nokia's new cellphones and Sony's Cyber-Shot.

People

Hundreds of New York women showed up at Grand Central Station at 3 in the morning last month to help photographer Spencer Tunick's latest human art installation. Tunick's famous nude photos have been shot using hundreds of volunteers in cities around the world. The NY volunteers arranged themselves into formations imitating NYC's streets and skyscrapers. Grand Central was closed for the shoot. Bob Dylan, Bono, and Bruce Springsteen were among the rockers who performed at a Johnny Cash memorial concert in Nashville. New 10: Willie Nelson, Steve Earle and Sheryl Crow, who sang at Cash's funeral were also onstage along with Kris Kristofferson, Hank Williams Jr., Larry Gatlin and Cash's daughter Rosanne. Emma Thompson has been cast to play the mysterious Sybill Trelawny, Professor of Divination in the film "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." Garry Oldman will play Sirius Black. Monterey, Mexico. Dozens of Bible-wielding Mexican evangelical Christians prayed for the soul of Marilyn Manson, infamous for ripping up Bibles and invoking Satan on stage. They gathered in a protest against a planned concert by the shock rocker. "We are praying for him so that he can know God and become transformed," said demonstration organizer Chastepoly, a board game based on Monopoly, has been denounced as racist. The new game portrays inner-city blacks as pimps, hustlers and ho's. Instead of moving top hats and thimbles, players move little pimps, machine guns and rocks of crack cocaine around the board. Some critics are outraged by the game, while others are gripped by the hip-hop culture which glorifies street crime, violence and disrespect for women. Hundreds of butterflies are currently being displayed in "The Butterfly Conservatory." Alive in Winter, at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Last June, Eggplant censors banned "The Matrix Reloaded." Now they have banned "Bruce Almighty." Censors claim the movie "harms the Almighty by daring to have him incarnated by an actor."

BOOKS CD'S

BEST SELLING BOOKS (FICTION)
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Shakespeare's Amazing Journey
The Lone Drive (Forgotten Realms: The Heart of Blood) Tracy Hickman
Book #1 in the Series
Love Tom Morrison
Sally: Second Great Adventure
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