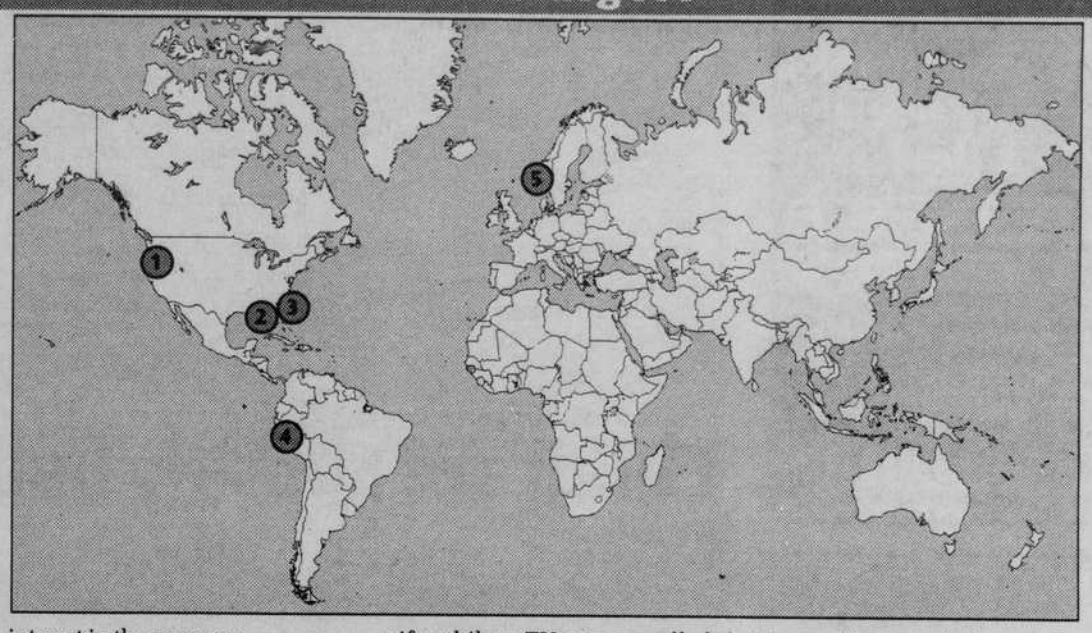
News digest



Phony weight loss company ordered to pay restitution

1 SALEM — The Oregon attorney general's office is accusing a New Jersey hypnosis service of making misleading claims by its weight loss seminars.

Hardy Myers' office on Tuesday ordered the New Jersey company A. Goen Seminars Institute and its chief executive officer, Alex Goen, to comply with Oregon's Unlawful Trade Practices Act.

The company claimed that the "Goen Method" would enable people to lose "20-60 pounds in three months, up to 120 pounds in one year" and that Goen's hypnosis would make one-time group seminar attendees feel "full twice as fast on half the food."

It also claimed the seminar would "destroy attendees' cravings for fattening junk foods."

Consumer protectors said no evidence supports those claims.

Under the terms of Tuesday's assurance, Goen must give full refunds to hypnosis patients if they are requested within 90 days of the seminar. Goen also must pay $5,000 to the Department of Justice consumer education account.

Schwarzenegger ends Planet Hollywood contract

2 ORLANDO, Fla. — Arnold Schwarzenegger said Tuesday he is ending his contract with Planet Hollywood International.

As an investor, the actor was the public face of the troubled restaurant chain, along with fellow box-office heavyweights Bruce Willis, Demi Moore and Sylvester Stallone.

The actor said he has sold his interest in the company.

"It was lots of fun and very challenging to come up with and develop the celebrity restaurant concept on an international level," he said in a statement. "Of course, I am disappointed that the company did not continue with the success I had expected and hoped for."

The company last week emerged from federal bankruptcy court. The company closed nine poorly performing restaurants just before entering bankruptcy three months ago.

CEO Robert Earl said last week he plans to announce a new set of celebrity investors who will appeal to the youth market.

Man convicted of murder captured on film

3 FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A man who fatally shot his ex-wife while a TV camera rolled was found guilty of murder.

A jury took just more than an hour Tuesday to convict Emilio Nunez, 40, in the slaying of Maritza Martin.

Broward Circuit Judge Daniel Andrews sentenced Nunez to life in prison with a minimum of 25 years before he can be considered for parole. Nunez was given credit for the seven years he has already served while awaiting trial.

A reporter for the Spanish-language network Telemundo was interviewing Nunez in 1993 at the grave of his 15-year-old daughter, who had killed herself. Nunez's ex-wife arrived unexpectedly, and he accused her of causing their daughter's suicide by slapping the girl because she was pregnant.

Nunez then pulled a gun, shot Ms. Martin in the head and fired 11 more times as she lay on the ground.

The reporter, Ingrid Cruz, and her cameraman ran for cover, but not before filming much of the shooting. The tape was shown in court.

Defense attorney Reemberto Diaz told the jury that Nunez was angered by the reporter's questions. The attorney said Cruz had asked questions designed to get an emotional response.

Telemundo spokesman Ted Guefen countered last week: "It is irresponsible to suggest that Telemundo or Ingrid Cruz are in any way responsible for this terrible tragedy."

Peru's top drug trafficker caught, president says

4 LIMA, Peru — President Alberto Fujimori said Tuesday that police had captured the chief of Peru's top drug cartel in the Amazon jungle.

Adolfo Cachique was arrested early Tuesday in the central jungle province of Contamana along the banks of the Ucayali River, 355 miles northeast of Lima.

Fujimori described Cachique and his brothers as leading "the most important narcotics gang operating in Peru" and said the alleged drug boss was a major supplier of cocaine to the United States.

Norwegian teen faces charges in DVD security case

5 OSLO, Norway — A 16-year-old boy and his father on Tuesday faced charges and a battle with the U.S. film industry after the boy helped develop a computer program for cracking DVD video security codes, then distributed it.

Jon Johansen and his father, Per, were charged with copyright violations after police seized computers from their home and interrogated the boy into the early hours of Tuesday morning. Norwegian news reports said they were the first in the world to face criminal charges in such a DVD case.

"The charges concern whether Johansen developed a cracker program that breaks the [DVD] copying code and distributed it on the Internet through his father's home page," Inger Marie Sunde of the Norwegian police's economic crime unit said.

Johansen said he and friends made a program to crack the code on the discs so they could be copied to computers for viewing. He denied breaking any laws.

The Associated Press

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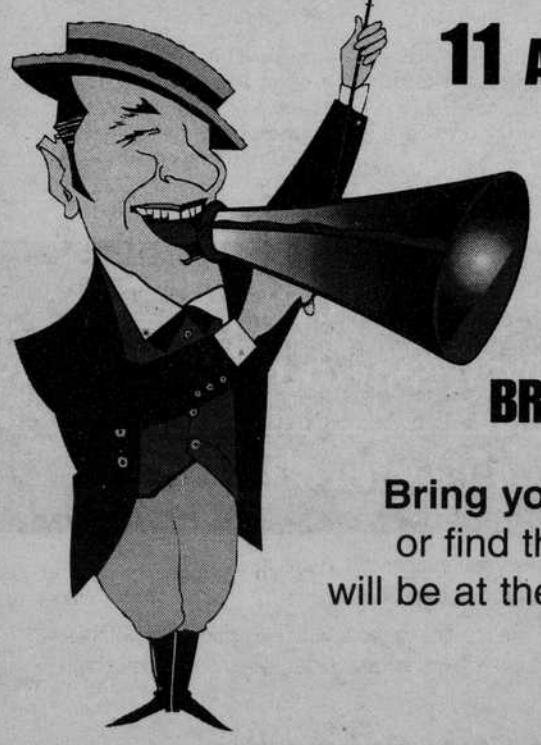

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