

# NEWS

## National and world news in brief

By Patrick Webster and Ashley Bressler

### Bird Flu sweeps Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia: Indonesian officials are prepared to declare a state of national emergency after the H5N1 strain of the bird flu was discovered to have spread to almost the entire country's bird population.

The bird flu, also called the avian flu, is dangerous to humans but does not yet pass easily from person to person. The current epidemic in Indonesia has killed 63 people so far, with a growing risk of infection due to the amount of birds affected.

"It has become an epidemic," Indonesian government official Paskah Suzetta told reporters on Wednesday. "The president has indicated he will declare it a national disaster so money can be allocated from the state budget's disaster fund."

International health officials are concerned that the virus has become endemic to the entire chicken population in Indonesia, where many families domestically raise chickens in their back yards as a source of meat and eggs. The large chance of exposure to humans may cause the virus to evolve into a form that is more easily transmittable between humans, possibly causing a plague that could kill millions. To prevent this from happening, the Indonesian government is ordering the mass slaughter of every domestic bird in the country.

"I will show no tolerance," said Jakarta Governor Sutiyoso after a meeting with other officials to discuss an eradication plan. "Chickens found running loose will be immediately killed, the sick ones thrown into a fire and the healthy ones given to owners to be fried and eaten."

### Miss USA enters rehab, promises change

NEW YORK: After almost losing her Miss USA title, Tara Conner claims she will give up her hard partying lifestyle. There has been continuous speculation about how Conner was spending her nights, and questions of alcoholism and drug addiction caused the 21-year-old to seek rehab.

"I didn't think I had an issue -- but I was willing to do anything to save my job. ... I've realized that I suffer from the disease of alcoholism and addiction," says Conner. She entered a 31-day rehab program at the Caron Foundation in Wernersville, Pennsylvania for treatment for drugs and alcohol abuse. Conner was recently interviewed for the upcoming issue of People magazine saying, "I was an equality-opportunity (user) - I would try anything once. Cocaine was one of the drugs that I did use."

Donald Trump, owner of the Miss USA pageant was also involved in the public dispute, and unlike most of the pageant community, Trump encouraged her to seek help in order to keep her title. Conner says it was Trump's request the convinced her to enter rehab.

Conner left the Caron Foundation for the first time to do the interview with People magazine, where she admitted to using cocaine. However, her most common drug of choice was alcohol, which she said became a need for her. "I'm an alcoholic. It was a craving thing -- once I put it in my body, I would start craving more," says Conner. She was seen drinking so much that she would become belligerent and dance on tables.

Alcohol and cocaine were not the only subjects of great dispute; the question of Conner's promiscuity has also raised great concern. Conner says, "I would talk to more than one guy at once -- it doesn't mean that I was sexually active with every one of these people." The downward spiral began when Conner moved to New York City from her home in Kentucky. Conner does not blame the problems on her move to New York City, but credits wanting to fit in, in her new setting. "I thought I needed to be around people, that I needed that acceptance," she says. Fortunately, Conner seems to be regaining control of her life and her addictions. She still lives in New York City, but she is no longer completely alone, as a chaperone has moved in with her. Conner says this will hopefully make her feel more comfortable and decrease her desire to go out during the night.

Currently Conner's main goal is to get back to fulfilling her Miss USA duties and enjoying her life as a responsible 21-year-old Kentucky native living in New York City. Conner says, "I just can't wait to get back to work -- 'I'm Miss USA, my name is Tara Conner, and I'm happy to meet you,' you know? Life is good."



Source: CNN.com, Yahoo! News

## Mooninites cause Boston bomb scare

By Patrick Webster  
managing editor

BOSTON, Massachusetts: Small electric devices bearing images of the "Mooninite" characters from the Cartoon Network Adult Swim program "Aqua Teen Hunger Force" as part of a marketing campaign were mistaken for bombs, causing citywide transportation stoppages.

The advertisements, which are about one foot square in size and less than an inch thick, use four batteries and a simple light sensor to light up the pattern of small LEDs plugged into a black plastic board as soon as light levels drop at nightfall. They were placed in various public high-traffic areas such as tunnels, bridges, overpasses, and public buildings to ensure that a large quantity of people saw them.

The two men who had put the signs up, employees of the third-party advertising firm Interference, Inc., have both been arrested and held on charges of placing hoax devices in the intent of causing panic and

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-New York resident  
Todd Venderlin

disorderly conduct. They are fighting the hoax charge on the grounds that there was no hoax or intent to cause panic.

Road and river traffic screeched to a halt in the city as bomb squads were dispatched to find and remove the signs from public property.

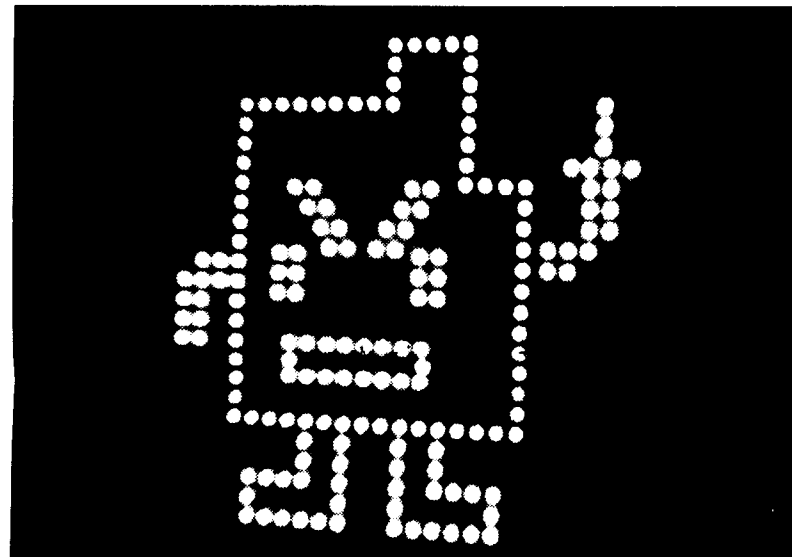
Law enforcement officials of other cities were apathetic to the situation, as the signs in all the cities had been up for nearly three weeks, had not caused a problem anywhere else, and were located on free public property.

"We haven't had any calls to 911 regarding this," Seattle police spokesman Sean Whitcomb told AP reporters on Wednesday.

"At this point we wouldn't even begin an investigation, because there's no reason to believe any crime has occurred," Portland Police Sergeant Brian Schmautz said. He also noted there were no plans to remove the signs.

"It's so not threatening -- it's a Lite-Brite," said New York resident Todd Venderlin to a Boston Globe reporter. "I don't understand how they could be terrified. I would if it was a bunch of circuits blinking, but it wasn't."

Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"Mooninite," an animated character caused an extreme bomb scare in Boston after being advertised for the Aqua Teen Hunger Force movie.

made repeated statements regarding how dangerous the lightboard looked.

"It had a very sinister appearance," Coakley told reporters. "It had a battery behind it, and wires."

The signs, part of a marketing campaign for an upcoming Aqua Teen Hunger Force movie, were placed in Boston, New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, Seattle, Portland, Austin, San Francisco, and Philadelphia.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Thirty-two statues of Punxsutawney Phil decorate the streets of Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, which is the official town of Groundhog Day.

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but there are always some brave individuals who can be seen walking along the narrow road leading to Gobbler's Knob.

All who gather at Gobbler's Knob can be found bundled up in winter coats, scarves and gloves, trying to keep warm in the early hours of the morning while they wait to see Phil. There are campfires, concession stands and festive music to keep the crowd occupied during their wait. Finally at 7:30 a.m. Phil is brought out of his of his heated hole and on to the stage. According to the official Groundhog Day website, www.groundhog.org, Phil sees his shadow approximately

90% of the time, leaving the chance of a short winter very slim.

The entire day is one big party in Punxsutawney. There are activities like a pancake breakfast, a scavenger hunt, groundhog cookie decorating contest, a story telling festival, woodchuck whittle carving show, and a showing of the movie "Groundhog Day". Groundhog Day is a strange holiday with very unique traditions, and loyal celebrators who turn one small central Pennsylvania town in to the nonstop Punxsutawney party, making the holiday on February 2, one of the Pennsylvania's best kept secrets.

For more information about Groundhog Day, Punxsutawney or for directions to the festival, go to www.groundhog.org.

### Penn State to develop domestic violence program

By Jessica Samol  
staff writer

A silent epidemic known as domestic violence affects the lives of victims everywhere. To address the growing concern of domestic violence, Penn State plans to develop a comprehensive domestic violence educational program. Penn State will use a \$300,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation to fund the program. The program will be available to all University students and employees at every Penn State campus.

Domestic violence affects victims at home, at work, and even at school. According to a study by the Family Violence Prevention Fund, 74 percent of employed battered women were harassed by their partners at work. In the United States, more than 5,000 cases of workplace violence are reported everyday. Furthermore, according to a National Domestic Abuse Study, one out of three women around the world will be a victim of domestic violence during their lifetime.

To address the growing concern of domestic violence, Penn State Public Broadcasting (PSPB) in corporation with The Centre County Women's Resource Center (CCRWC) plans to develop a multi-media project called, "The Penn State Community at Work: Workplace Responses to Domestic Violence." Penn State President Graham B.

Spanier says, "The program will provide all Penn State employees and students with accurate and helpful information about the dynamics of domestic violence and the resources available to assist victims."

Vital to the project is a three-hour workshop consisting of three sections: The Dynamics of Domestic Violence, Workplace Responses, and a video case study of a recent domestic violence homicide in Centre County. The workshop will provide basic information about the dynamics of domestic violence, address specific issues relevant to domestic violence in the workplace, and give examples of domestic violence incidents. The project plans to also include an interactive Web site containing information about domestic and relationship violence.

According to Ted Krichels, the general manager of PSPB, there are high hopes for the project, saying, "We believe that this critical project has the potential to reach a wide audience and create a greater understanding of domestic violence." The project aims at creating a greater understanding of domestic violence by the community.

"The Penn State Community at Work: Workplace Responses to Domestic Violence" program is projected to reach the community this fall. Penn State will then enter the fight against domestic violence, serving as a model to the community and supporting those who are victims of domestic violence.

### Quotes on Civility

"It is strangely absurd to suppose that a million of human beings, collected together, are not under the same moral laws which bind each of them separately."

- Thomas Jefferson

Janet Neff Sample Center  
for Manners & Civility

