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**headliners** by The Associated Press

**Ronstadt inspires Cher to be actress**

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Cher, after nearly 20 years as an entertainer, decided to become an actress when she saw Linda Ronstadt in "The Pirates of Penzance."

"Watching her I thought, 'If Linda can do this, what am I doing wasting my time? If the studio people won't take me seriously, then I'll go to New York and try my luck,'" the raven-haired singer said.

Cher had never acted on the stage in her life, not even in school. She turned to acting because she felt her career had begun to peak and was in the doldrums.

The first thing she did was star on Broadway in "Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean." Then she did the movie version. The critics gave her good marks. She also stars with Meryl Streep in "Silkwood."

**Runny makeup plagues Hoffman**

NEW YORK (AP) — Dustin Hoffman, who dresses up as a woman in order to land a role on a daytime soap opera in his new movie, "Tootsie," says that wearing all the makeup required for the role was no easy task.

"We had to refrigerate parts of the set and shoot in the winter because my makeup would melt under the hot lights after several hours," he said.

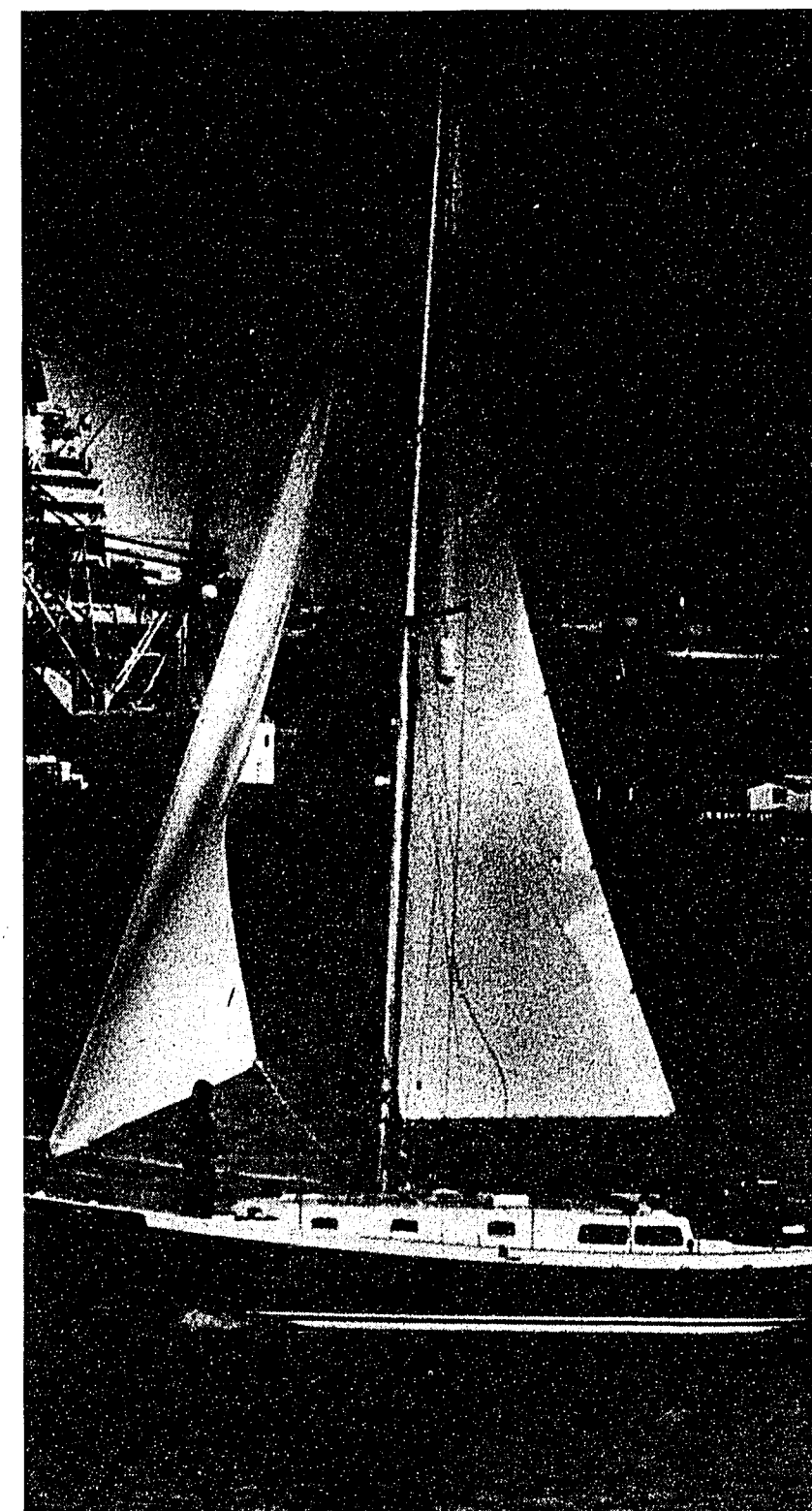
"In fact, after a few weeks of shooting, my skin turned out to be Appalachian."

Makeup artist George Masters was responsible for the transformation.

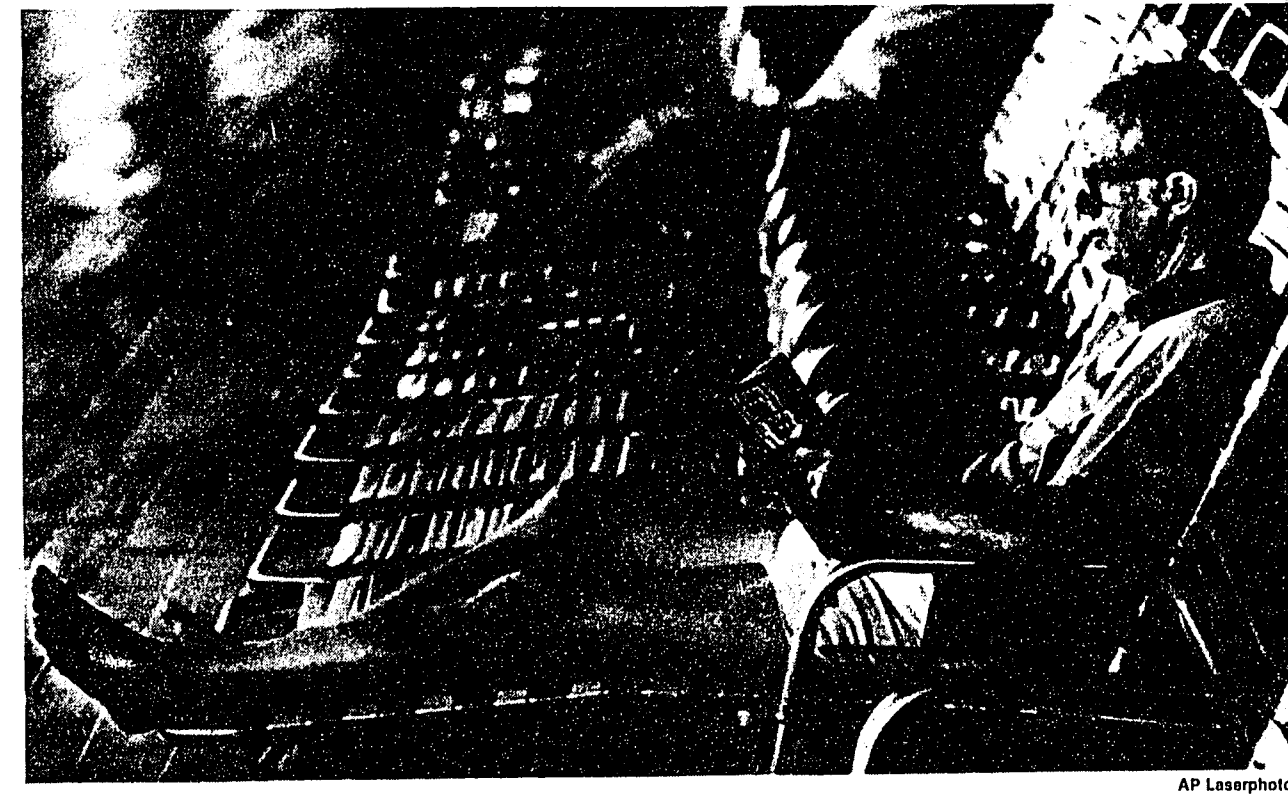
**U.S. tourist in Arthur's Court?**

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — Malcolm McDowell plays the title role in "Arthur the King." Candice Bergen is the witch, Morgan Le Fay. And Dyan Cannon? Oh, she's an American tourist who drops in on Camelot.

Cannon is visiting Stonehenge, England, when she accidentally drops into a time warp and ends up in the days of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. Those Druids are tricky.



**Around the world**  
Marvin Creamer and N. Jeffrey Hardell, visible at the stern, navigate their 35-foot sailboat past the aircraft carrier Saratoga in the Philadelphia Navy Yard yesterday. The waters of the Delaware River are the first to see the boat, which is beginning a 30,000-mile voyage around the world.



**Presidents prefer . . .**  
Former President Jimmy Carter runs himself aboard the Song of America, as the ship sails throughout the Caribbean. Carter and his wife visited Nassau, San Juan and St. Thomas on the seven-day trip.

**Study discusses age of 'Lucy'**  
Suggests not as old as discoverers believed

By PAUL RAEBURN  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The fossil skeleton known as "Lucy" suggests it is not as old as its discoverers believed, according to two studies that could lead to a new picture of the evolution of human ancestors who lived more than 3 million years ago.

The leader of one study, Noel Boaz of New York University, said yesterday that the studies challenge the evolutionary family tree proposed by Lucy's discoverer, Donald Johanson of the Institute of Human Origins in Berkeley, Calif., and his colleague, Tim White, of the University of California at Berkeley.

The studies, to be published today in the British scientific journal Nature, suggest that Lucy, whose partial skeleton was found in the deserts of Ethiopia in 1974, lived between 2.8 million and 3.2 million years ago. Johanson and White put the skeleton's age at 3.7 million or 3.8 million years.

Johanson and White have concluded that Lucy and her kindred, found in Ethiopia and at an area called Laetoli in Tanzania, are a new species of human ancestor, one they have named Australopithecus afarensis.

They believe the species has a pivotal role in evolution, as the common ancestor of humans and the so-called australopithecines, extinct human cousins who had characteristics of both humans and apes.

Boaz said the new studies, one led by him and the other by the geologist Francis Brown of the University of Utah, argue that Lucy does not represent a new species, but instead is related to other human ancestors found in South Africa called Australopithecus africanus.

The studies show that Lucy lived at the same time as the South African ancestors, he said, and are structurally similar to them. The fossils found in Laetoli (in Tanzania) might be a different species, but he said that will not be known for certain until more fossils are found.

"You have two hominids (human-like creatures) that are at the same time period, and they look exactly the same," he said. "I think they (Johanson and White) would have to change their theory."

Johanson, reached at his office in California, took issue with the methods used by Boaz, but said that the re-dating would not affect his interpretation of the fossils.

"We've demonstrated beyond anybody's doubt that the Hadar and Laetoli collections are the same," Johanson said. "There are lots of species that have existed for long periods of time unchanged. An example is Homo erectus (an early human) which you find from 1.5 million years ago to half a million years ago."

Johanson and White argue that Lucy's physical makeup shows that she and the other Ethiopian fossils are clearly different from the South African fossils.

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**UNIVERSITY CALENDAR**  
Thursday, December 16  
Holiday Festival Noontime Entertainment, Phi Mu Alpha Brass Ensemble, 11:30 a.m., Kern Lobby; Bread and Chocolate, 8:30 p.m., HUB Ballroom  
CDPC seminars, "Resume Preparation," 5th period, Room 312 Boucke; "Interview Skills," 6th period, Room 312 Boucke.  
PSU Students for Life meeting, 6:30 p.m., Room 318 Willard.  
Eco-Action general meeting, 6:30 p.m., Room 308 Willard.  
Kern Classics, Journey to the Center of the Earth, 7 and 9 p.m., Room 112 Kern.  
Campus Crusade lecture, 7 p.m., Room 311, 312 and 314 Boucke.  
Student Performance Organization meeting, 7 p.m., Room 323-324 HUB.  
College of Science Student Council meeting, 7 p.m., Room 307 HUB.  
IFC Dance Marathon meeting, 7 p.m., Room 102 Forum.  
Common Cause meeting, 7 p.m., Room 308 Boucke.  
Liberal Arts Student Council general meeting, 7 p.m., Room 124 Sparks.  
College Republicans meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 169 Willard.  
Microbiology Club meeting, 7:30 p.m., Room 305 HUB. Dr. James Smith, USDA, on microbial injury in the food industry.  
Hum. Dev. Honor Society organizational meeting, 8 p.m., S-209 Hum. Dev.  
Percussion Ensemble concert, 8:30 p.m., Recital Hall.

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