



SPORTS

Horse racing draws new scrutiny after filly's death

BASEBALL: A's top Orioles 2-1 in 10

BUSINESS



Yahoo stock plummets after Microsoft pullout — shareholder revolt brews

DATEBOOK

TV pioneer Barbara Walters opens up to discuss her book about her own life



San Francisco Chronicle

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Is any Web site safe? No way to be sure

Security experts say thieves are gaining ground worldwide, stealing information from even big, well-known destinations

By Deborah Gage
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Criminal attacks against major Web sites have grown so common that Internet users have no reliable way to know which sites are safe to visit, no matter how well known those destinations are, security experts say.

News of the latest attack comes from Finjan, an Israeli security firm, which is reporting today that last month it found a large cache of information — including confidential medical records, financial records and business e-mails — sitting unprotected on a computer network server in Malaysia.

The data came from more than 40 major financial

companies around the world, including the United States, and was stolen from computers belonging to doctors and home users conducting online banking and, in some cases, from machines inside corporate networks that the hackers managed to penetrate and infect. Finjan has notified the companies, which it declined to identify, as well as law enforcement agencies in several countries.

Included in the stolen information were medical diagnoses and insurance details, Social Security numbers, the recorded keyboard strokes of online shopping

► **HACK:** Page A10

Seeking peace of mind

Computer users often can't tell whether a Web site they're visiting is compromised. While none are foolproof, there are a number of things you can do to help protect yourself, such as:

- Keeping browsers up-to-date to make use of the latest security features.
- Downloading free Web plug-ins that help block malicious sites.

For more detailed tips, see story on A10

Burma cyclone killed 10,000 in one town alone

Though tens of thousands are homeless, junta insists on holding constitutional vote

To help

To donate to relief efforts, contact:

Burmese American Democratic Alliance: badasf.org

Burmese American Women's Alliance: bawalliance.org

U.S. Campaign for Burma: uscampaigforburma.org

Doctors Without Borders: doctorswithoutborders.org

UNICEF: unicef.org

CARE: care.org

Church World Service: churchworldservice.org

American Red Cross: redcross.org

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICES

RANGOON, Burma — Burma's official media said today that 10,000 people were killed by a powerful cyclone in just one town, confirming fears of a spiraling death toll from the storm's 12-foot tidal surges and high winds that swept away bamboo homes in low-lying coastal regions.

Burma's struggle to recover from the aftermath of Saturday's disaster came as its military leaders planned to proceed with a constitutional referendum on Saturday that would cement their grip on power.

If the latest tally is accurate, the death toll would be the highest from a natural disaster in Asia since the tsunami of December 2004, which devastated coastlines along Indonesia, Thailand and other parts of South Asia and claimed 181,000 lives.

Tens of thousands of people were homeless after the cyclone, and food and water were running short.

Witnesses and residents said the military had been slow to respond to the devastation of the cyclone, and some suggested that the government's performance could affect the vote in the referendum.

"Stories get worse by the hour," one Rangoon resident, who did not want to be identified for fear of government retribution, wrote in an e-mail. "No drinking water in many areas, still no power. Houses completely disappeared. Refugees scavenging for food in poorer areas. Roofing, building supplies, tools — all are scarce and prices skyrocketing on everything."

Officials said they would open the doors of their closed and tightly controlled nation to international

► **BURMA:** Page A11

NATION / WORLD



Refugees living at a camp in Kenya

KENYAN REFUGEES CAUGHT IN A TRIBAL CROSS FIRE

A power-sharing agreement has been reached among politicians — but still unresolved is what to do with thousands of people afraid to go home. **A7**

FINAL APOLOGY FROM 'MADAM'

In her suicide note, "D.C. Madam" Deborah Palfrey apologizes to her mother and sister and calls her conviction a "modern day lynching." **A5**

Proposed chain-store ban

Supervisor Tom Ammiano is working on legislation to ban chain stores along stretches of some streets.



The Chronicle

CHAIN REACTION

Supervisor's move to block chain stores in the Mission reflects increasingly hostile climate for them in S.F.

By Robert Selna
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

A paint company and a landlord in San Francisco's Mission District thought they had a good deal when they signed the lease for a paint store to move into a former video rental shop earlier this year.

But the plan had a problem: The paint company, which owns the Glidden brand, is considered a chain store and therefore was not a popular choice. The Planning Commission stopped the move, even though the company wanted to occupy a vacant spot abandoned by bankrupt Hollywood Video, another chain.

The fight illustrates how San Francisco — a city that values homegrown companies and neighborhood character — is increasingly hostile to chain stores and restaurants, even if the businesses want to move into empty stores.

And although the San Francisco Board of Supervisors is expected to reconsider the paint store's request at its meeting today, the push to stop chain stores from opening in the city is unlikely to ease soon.

► **RETAIL:** Page A10

To get involved

Hearing: The Board of Supervisors will hear an appeal by ICI Paints, which wants to move into a Mission District store. The hearing begins at 2 p.m. today at City Hall in the supervisors' chambers.

Contact: To contact Supervisor Tom Ammiano about his proposed ban on chain stores in parts of the Mission District and Bernal Heights, call (415) 554-5144 or e-mail Tom.Ammiano@sfgov.org.

This empty store at South Van Ness and Cesar Chavez Street in the Mission is caught in a fight over chains.



KATY RADDATZ / The Chronicle

Democrats' hopes on line today in Indiana, North Carolina

By Carla Marinucci
CHRONICLE POLITICAL WRITER

Primaries in Indiana and North Carolina today could be the last chance for Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama to show whether either has the upper hand in the three M's of presidential politics: message, momentum and math.

Just hours before voters were set to go to the polls in the Tar Heel State and the Hoosier State, Obama and Clinton clashed over

economic issues like the gas tax holiday while hoping for a game changer to bolster their cause, boost their delegate count and persuade crucial superdelegates to put them over the top.

Both have blanketed the two states with carefully planned events that underscore what has been called their "Bubba" appeal to rural and working-class voters — sipping Budweiser with veterans (Obama), frequenting gas stations (Hillary Clinton) and riding in pickup trucks (Bill Clinton).

CAMPAIGN 2008

► **Registration:** Increases found all over the U.S. **A6**

SFGate.com

► **Politics Blog:** Latest observations on the presidential campaign at sfgate.com/blogs

Polls suggest that the must-win contests for 187 delegates are virtual toss-ups as Obama and Clinton seek to prove their political resilience and electability against presumptive GOP nominee John McCain in the fall.

The Illinois senator is running around five points behind Clinton in neighboring Indiana, according to an average of polls, despite his campaign's early predictions of a big win there.

And his lead in North Carolina has been

cut in half to about seven points, polls show. For Obama, wins in both states would give him a needed shot of front-runner energy and take away the perception that he's off his game. It also would put up a formidable roadblock to Clinton's drive to win the endgame with superdelegates.

Oakland attorney Tony West, a leading Obama fundraiser and volunteer, said Monday from Indiana that the Obama campaign has gotten a tangible new boost since

► **CAMPAIGN:** Page A6



BRONSTEIN AT LARGE: Restaurant surcharges sizzle. sfgate.com/blogs/bronstein

AFRICA CALLING: A California doctor moves to Tanzania to heal the poor. sfgate.com/ZDGG

BEIJING OR BUST: Olympic hopefuls share stories of sacrifice. sfgate.com/ZDGR



WEATHER
Patchy fog.
Highs 61-79.
Lows 45-54.

B8

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