



Agence France-Presse

Union man: Ford donates \$100,000.

tion to aid union members who have been without work during the five-month strike by the Screen Actors Guild. Variety says other donations have come from Jay Leno, George Clooney, Britney Spears and 'N Sync. SAG and the American Federation of Television & Radio Artists launched the strike against the advertising industry May 1, seeking changes in the way they are paid royalties.

Miss America pageant gets techno edge

The 80th annual Miss America pageant, airing on ABC on Oct. 14, is being revamped into an edgier show this year "to please both the MTV and baby-boomer crowds," pageant officials announced Friday. The word "pageant" has been dropped from the show's title. The set has been redesigned to resemble a nightclub. The show's music will be "pulsating, club-style electronica." Contestant introductions will resemble a Web page (though, curiously, the show itself is not Webcast). The one-by-one swimsuit category parade by the 10 finalists is out; a musical production featuring all 51 swimsuited contestants (one-piece or bikinis; no thongs allowed) is in. The familiar *There She Is*, Miss America musical salute will remain, but the song has been recorded in a techno style. It will be sung by the show's hosts, Donny and Marie Osmond.

Who wants to be Regis' urologist?

"There's more sexual tension between me and my urologist than there was between me and Kathie Lee," — Talk-show and game-show host Regis Philbin in his book *Who Wants To Be Me?* (Hyperion, \$22.95, out Sept. 26), as excerpted in *Us Weekly*.

By César G. Soriano from staff and wire reports
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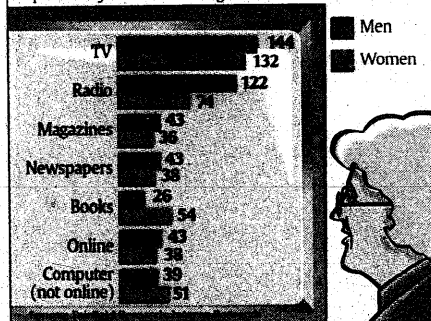
Corrections: Miss Saigon will close Dec. 31. Friday's Weekend Life reported that the Broadway musical had closed. In an accompanying story, Gore Vidal was misidentified as Jacqueline Kennedy's half-brother. They were stepsiblings.

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USA TODAY Snapshots®

Older adults are TV viewers

The average number of minutes adults ages 55 and older spend daily on the following media:



By Cindy Hall and Marcy E. Mullins, USA TODAY

Each page lists dozens of the medical problems Feied and his colleagues could encounter. This year, he says, U.S. emergency departments are likely to treat patients with 18,000 different

Cover story

diagnoses. From sprained ankles to ankylosing spondylitis (a type of arthritis), emergency departments see it all.

Given their time constraints, emergency doctors must know by heart how to deal with the most common ills. As Peter Valco of Monmouth Medical Center in Long Branch, N.J., says, "Our cerebral hard drive is geared to what we see on a regular basis."

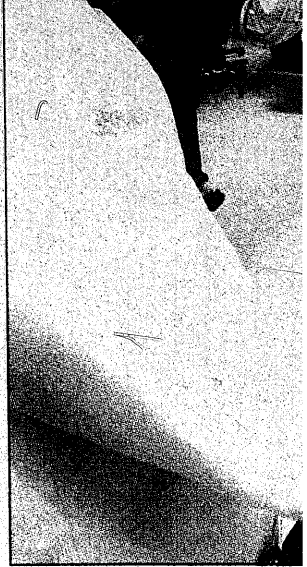
Now, increasingly, their computer hard drives are geared to the Internet. Emergency doctors are beginning to catch up with their patients and recognize that the Web can provide invaluable information quickly. Like the best antibiotic for a lung infection. Or whether it's always necessary to culture sore throats.

Surveys suggest that the number of U.S. emergency rooms with Internet access has doubled since 1998. And the number is expected to double again over the next year.

ER doctors can't memorize all 18,000 diagnoses that could cross their paths, let alone how to treat them. They usually don't have the luxury of time to run to the medical library or read through a voluminous medical chart.

"I'm looking at a shelf right now with about 30 books," says Jerald Ward, speaking from the emergency department at Gifford Medical Center

See COVER STORY next page ►



Plugged in: Craig Feied's emergency bottom to the top in patient survey:

Take your medicine

Three Web sites that are particularly medicine practitioners are free to access:

► **Medline** — The National Library of Medicine's base of thousands of medical journals has been free since 1997 at www.PubMed.

(Both *ER* and *Chicago Hope* have department doctors accessing Medline.)
► **www.eMedicine.com** — Launches offers online medical textbooks. Alt

People who need Stre

The woman who created the archetype for the modern pop diva recently announced that she plans to retire from public performance after a series of farewell concerts. Barbra Streisand's fans may seek solace in recalling how Frank Sinatra, another music legend, also announced his retirement at fifty-

Music review

By Elysa Gardner

something, only to return to the stage later. But La Streisand was never as prolific a live performer as Ol' Blue Eyes in the first place, and given her interest in other artistic pursuits, it's entirely feasible that her shows at Los Angeles' Staples Center on Wednesday and Thursday and at New York's Madison Square Garden Sept. 27 and 28 will be her last. So the timing couldn't be better for *Timeless — Live in Concert* (★★★½ out of four), a two-CD set that captures

Streisand's performances in Las Vegas on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day and, more generally, her unique niche as an artist who has delivered masterly, often definitive versions of pop standards that span nearly a half-century.

Granted, few of the live vocals here match the pristine perfection of Streisand's recordings. And some aspects of her delivery — her long personal asides, her duets with young singer who is brought onstage to represent Streisand as a girl (the gift Lauren Frost) — tip the scales on the schmaltz meter.

But even at her most self-indulgent Streisand always defers to the song. Her warm, supple readings of classics such as *Cry Me a River*, *A Sleepin'*



By Fred...

Diva...

singer...