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watches. James Rinaldo Jackson, 39, pleaded guilty to 29 counts of conspiracy and credit card, mail, wire and bank fraud. Among the victims were John Alm, president of Coca-Cola Enterprises; Richard Fuld Jr., CEO of Lehman Bros.; Stephen Bollenbach, CEO of Hilton Hotels; and Gordon Teter, former CEO of Wendy's.

Corning looks to buy piece of Pirelli

Corning is in talks to buy part of the fiber-optics telecommunications business of Italian cable company Pirelli for about \$3.5 billion in cash, sources familiar with the situation said Tuesday. Pirelli's assets would give Corning additional production facilities and expand its reach into Europe at a time of exploding demand for its products. The deal could be announced as early as this morning in Italy.

Aetna to pay \$82.5M to shareholders

Aetna agreed to pay \$82.5 million to a group of disgruntled shareholders, settling claims that the health insurer misled investors three years ago over the progress of its merger with U.S. Healthcare. The settlement will lead to a \$5 million charge against third-quarter earnings, Aetna said.

Crude oil inventories fell last week

American Petroleum Institute reported Tuesday that U.S. stockpiles of crude oil fell last week by 2.24 million barrels to 284.34 million barrels. Analysts had expected a rise of 1.4 million to 1.8 million barrels. Inventories of heating oil are at two-decade lows.

Consumer confidence close to record high

The consumer confidence index rose in September to 141.9, from a revised 140.8 in August, holding close to the all-time high hit in the first half of 2000.

Clarification

A Chicago-based company doing business as Venture One and Creative Ventures, which was described in a Sept. 22 story, is not related in any way to VentureOne, a San Francisco research firm that tracks the flow of venture capital.

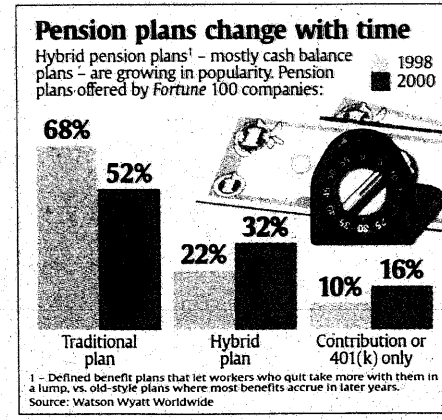
By Sara Nathan from staff and wire reports

Coming Thursday: Debt Buster Hotline

Having trouble getting control of your debts? Get free help Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET. Professional credit counselors will answer your questions during USA TODAY's Debt Buster Hotline.

USA TODAY Get business & financial news as it happens. Visit us on the Web at <http://money.usatoday.com>

USA TODAY Snapshots®



Cover story

U.S. refineries can't match demand for fuel

New plants haven't been built in 30 years - and no one wants them here, anyway

By Dina Temple-Raston
USA TODAY

MARCUS HOOK, Pa. — The Greek supertanker *Sifnos* is docked at berth No. 3 beside the Marcus Hook oil refinery on the shores of the Delaware River. Its crew, in orange fire-retardant jumpsuits, strolls around its vast decks as giant hoses siphon 500,000 barrels of West African crude into the bowels of the 800-acre refinery.

The plant, a tangle of shiny and rusted metal pipes, domed processors and cinder block buildings, stretches as far as the eye can see. The operation runs around the clock, processing 175,000 barrels of crude every day. As refineries go, it is running flat-out, company officials say.

On Friday, however, the plant's furious activity will slow to a crawl. Every fall, Marcus Hook and scores of plants like it across the nation begin regular scheduled maintenance, a process that significantly reduces production.

In any other year, that might not be a concern. But this year, the repairs come at a time when heating oil, diesel and

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Experts see rash of hack

Recent costly hits show 'more brazen' criminals preying on companies

By Deborah Kong and Jon Swartz
USA TODAY

PALO ALTO, Calif. — Last week's hacker attack on computers at Walt Disney World is the latest sign that cyber crimes are becoming more common and serious. Security experts anticipate a new round of denial-of-service attacks like the ones that paralyzed Yahoo, eBay and Amazon.com in February.

Criminals "are becoming more brazen," says hacker-turned-consultant Peter Shipley. "Before, it was about exploring a site for weaknesses and information. Today, it's about bringing it down for days."

Almost \$266 million will be lost to computer-related crime this year, more than double a year ago, says an FBI-Computer Security Institute survey.

And the number of attacks is way up:

8,836 security incidents were reported in the first half of 2000 vs. 9,859 in 1999, according to the Computer Emergency Response Team, a research group based at Carnegie Mellon University.

Most computer networks have defenses, and it can be difficult to find the origin of an attack. Plus, the Internet is becoming more and more active, with inexperienced users making mistakes that "makes it extremely difficult to find the culprits," says Peter N. A senior analyst at SRI International.

What's more, the growing number of online attacks could intrigue the FBI. The Internet offers mischief-makers a place to follow instructions on how to break into and damage Web sites.

Among the recent hacking hits: An unauthorized person accessed the Walt Disney World database with addresses and photos of 1,200 Epcot visitors last week, says spokesman. Disney discovered the breach during a routine computer check and notified the FBI. It also sent e-mails to 1,200 people, who paid \$35-\$3