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# BUS

## IN BRIEF

Palm Beach Post Staff and Wire Reports

### Boca IBM's Simon snares top honor

**LAS VEGAS** — An office-in-your-pocket device developed by IBM in Boca Raton received a top industry honor here Wednesday.

Simon, a combination phone, fax, pager and notepad, was named best product at COMDEX/Fall, the showcase for information technology that has drawn 170,000 conventioners from around the world.

The award is highly coveted in an industry where the perception of a product is important to keep pace in a competitive, fast-changing market.

Simon was developed by a team of 40 Boca Raton IBMers. BellSouth has exclusive rights to market the 18-ounce device in the United States, and will start selling it next month for \$899.

The award is given by The Interface Group, the COMDEX producer, and *Byte* magazine.

### FDA: Dialysis cuts not needed

**BOCA RATON** — W.R. Grace & Co.'s National Medical Care unit has been told by the Food and Drug Administration that possible cutbacks in kidney-dialysis treatments aren't warranted.

The Grace unit had said it might scale back the treatments after the FDA last spring prohibited the company from importing equipment made at its foreign plants. The government is investigating possible labeling, pre-market approval and manufacturing violations.

Grace has issued six recalls for dialysis items this year because of possible contamination with fever-causing chemicals, mislabeling and other problems.

### Lender sues jai alai owners

**WEST PALM BEACH** — SunBank/South Florida on Wednesday sued Fronton Inc. and other companies associated with Palm Beach Jai Alai, claiming the bank is owed \$418,000 on a mortgage.

According to the Palm Beach County Circuit Court suit, the bank assumed the mortgage when it merged with Flagler National Bank of the Palm Beaches last year. The loan was to cover property and fixtures at the fronton on

## Business lea

### State agriculture interest

By LISA SHUCHMAN  
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

Florida business leaders welcomed passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement on Wednesday, while farmers accepted the news stoically, determined to meet the challenges the trade pact may bring.

"Our growers have the management skills and capital resources needed to ensure they remain competitive," said Reggie Brown, director of marketing for the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association. "This business has always been a challenge and now we will just have to redouble our efforts so we can remain competitive in the next 10 to 15 years."

Florida industry leaders help protect. An administration the state vegetable lead to Florida's Thirty members pact. A State next few "The cliffhanger the Florida was a trade loopholes

## Union se

### Negotiators continue talks into night

The Associated Press

**DALLAS** — American Airline flight attendants held candlelight vigils at airports while their union negotiated with the carrier in hopes of averting a strike today.

Negotiations went down to the wire Wednesday as the two sides tried to resolve differences over pay and staffing.

American said it intended to fly its normal schedule, using replacement workers if the Association of Professional Flight Attendants walked off the job at 7 a.m.

Key negotiators for the airline

**Get if Am**  
American at 6 a.m. American be cancel there just

**Credit**  
Some credit issuers will passenger alternate aments and requests. won't gene holder's loss some reas

**Double booking**  
Passenger who bought