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WRPD by Scott McCullar

I'M NOW GOING TO LOOK OUT AND SEE WHAT THE HUBBLE TELESCOPE SEES...
...IF IT WAS WORKING, THAT IS.
WHOOOPS!
THERE IT IS AGAIN! WHAT THE HELL DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT IS??
AN ASTEROID??
NASA CONTROL
NASA

IN FULL EFFECT By Eric V. Lewis

MAN, WHAT IS THAT SMELL COMING FROM THE APARTMENT.
DID GIBBS LEAVE HIS SNEAKERS INSIDE AGAIN?
NOPE IT'S NOT THE GARBAGE CAN
CHITLINS!!!

Investigators spread blame for oil spill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal investigators spread blame widely for the Exxon Valdez oil spill Tuesday, citing the captain, his third mate, the Coast Guard and local authorities as well as Exxon Corp. for failing to provide "a fit master and a rested and sufficient crew."

The National Transportation Safety Board voted unanimously in assessing probable causes for the nation's worst oil spill, the March 24, 1989, accident that dumped 11 million gallons of crude oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound.

The board said the third mate failed to properly maneuver the vessel, the alcohol-impaired captain failed to give proper supervision, Exxon failed to provide a crew up to its task, the Coast Guard failed in traffic control and local authorities failed to provide effective piloting services in the Alaskan port where the vessel originated.

The board, concluding a 16-month investigation, criticized Exxon Valdez Capt. Joseph Hazelwood for leaving his third mate at the helm before the ship ran aground.

Nerd House By Tom A. Madison

HERBERT FOLLOWS HIS MOTHER'S ADVICE AND SIMPLY IGNORES THE BULLY.

Hearing loss plagues city Anti-noise activist discovers earfulls of N.Y. screeches

NEW YORK (AP) — New Yorkers may not have heard the news over the screech of subway trains, the boom of oversize car stereos and the wail of firetruck sirens, but the nation's noisiest city is getting even LOUDER.

"We're losing our hearing and we don't even know it!" says anti-noise activist Arline Bronzaft, a Lehman College psychology professor who's conducted research on the effects of noise.

On a recent morning she stood at an Upper East Side intersection, decibel meter in hand, trying to be heard over the rumble of trucks and buses.

"We're getting 90 decibels, and this isn't even Broadway," she shouted.

She crossed the street to where a jackhammer was pounding a sidewalk. The meter hit 100.

"Noise is where cigarette smoking was 30 years ago," Bronzaft says. "Everybody knows it's bad for you, but a lot of people don't do anything about it."

Prolonged exposure to 85 decibels or more can damage your inner ear and cause permanent hearing loss, increase your blood pressure and cholesterol and give you ulcers and indigestion.

Even on a side street with no traffic Bronzaft's noise meter ranged between 70 and 75, like a room with a loud air conditioner or a quiet vacuum cleaner.

Although there is no scientific evidence that New Yorkers are particularly hard of hearing, studies have indicated that people living in rural settings tend to lose less hearing over a lifetime than those who live in cities.

Samuel Stempler, director of the city's Bureau of Air Resources, says New York is considered the nation's noisiest because of its population density — fourteen times that of any other city. And it's getting noisier because of increased traffic and construction.

Such increases and new sources of noise boost the average noise level in the city by as much as a decibel a

year, according to some experts.

Noise seems to beget noise. Dr. Thomas Fay of Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center says that as the city gets louder, so must fire engine sirens to be heard over the din. Firefighters lose more of their hearing, and demand even louder sirens.

And there's always a new earache, such as "boom cars" — vehicles equipped with huge speakers, sometimes filling the rear floor space of hatchback cars.

Bronzaft was visiting her mother the other day when one drove past. "Suddenly the whole house shook," she recalls. "I thought someone had turned on the radio full blast in the next room."

"Noise is where cigarette smoking was 30 years ago. Everybody knows it's bad for you, but a lot of people don't do anything about it."

—Arline Bronzaft, anti-noise activist

However, boom cars still rank behind the three airports, rush hour traffic, air conditioners, discos, car alarms and horns, construction and elevated subway tracks.

The city's noise code, which prohibits casual honking and construction noise between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m., is one of the nation's strictest; the problem is enforcing it.

New Yorkers file more than 16,000 noise complaints a year. Bronzaft notes that last year the city Department of Environmental Protection issued citations in response to only about 20 percent of complaints.

Stempler says his office has only 42 agents to cover noise and air pollution complaints seven days a week, and police have other things to do.

Besides, he says, noise is "a relative thing. What I perceive as noise might be music to your ears."

Murder toll rises due to arms, drugs

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's murder toll may break a decade-old record this year, the Senate Judiciary Committee said Tuesday in laying the blame on rising stockpiles of assault weapons and shrinking supplies of cocaine.

If the pace of killing continues, the committee projected that 23,220 people will be murdered this year, making it, in the words of the panel's chairman, Sen. Joseph R. Biden, "the bloodiest year in American history."

The panel said murders are projected to top last year's total of 2,000 and even exceed the record of 23,040 in 1980.

The current murder rate of 10.5 per 100,000 people makes the United States "the most murderous industrialized nation" in the world, the panel said. In Great Britain, the rate is 0.8 per 100,000; in Japan, 1.0; in West Germany, 1.2.

As reasons for the soaring murder toll, the committee cited:

- dwindling supplies of cocaine in major cities, which it said have ignited drug turf wars.
- A growing arsenal of assault weapons in the hands of drug dealers and other lawbreakers.

"These firearms have become the weapons of choice for drug dealers and the weapons of doom for law enforcement personnel," the committee declared.

- A fresh wave of jobless crime-prone teenagers.

The nation's murder total fell 18 percent from 1980 to 1985 but has risen 22 percent since then.

The hearing room fell silent as Dr. Lynn Richardson, associate chief of emergency services at New York's Harlem Hospital Center, told of a young woman who rushed in several weeks ago. The right side of her head had been blown away by a high-power rifle in an apparent drug-corner shootout.

Doctors managed to save a five-month-old fetus, "the ultimate innocent bystander," she said. The child is clinging to life.

Philadelphia Police Commissioner Willie L. Williams told the panel that 35 percent of his city homicides last year were linked to drugs.