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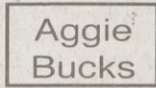
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SHOPPING 101 EXAM

THE SOURCE FOR THE LATEST FASHIONS IS: _____

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WORLD

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THE BATTALION

Friday, May 5, 2000

Exporter wins battle against Coca-Cola

TORONTO (AP) — Mushi Pardhan had a can't-miss business plan — buy Coca-Cola wholesale in Canada and ship it to the Far East, where it sells retail for much higher prices.

Coca-Cola took exception to the small Canadian exporter, and the ensuing legal battle reached Canada's Supreme Court before Pardhan won an improbable victory Wednesday over one of the world's most powerful corporations.

The David vs. Goliath case underscores the thorny global issues that also are confronting courts in the United States and Europe — a clash between estab-

lished business practices and a growing entrepreneurial spirit exploiting tighter economic ties between nations.

For Pardhan, an immigrant from Tanzania, exporting Coke was good business, with annual sales reaching \$4.8 million.

He bought more than 50,000 cases of Coca-Cola a week, then shipped them to Hong Kong and Japan. He paid about \$4.25 a case along with a transport charge of \$1 each, then sold it for more than \$6 a case.

But in 1995, Coca-Cola sued, claiming Pardhan's practices violated its trademark protection and won a court order to shut

down the business.

A federal judge in Canada eventually ruled in favor of Pardhan, saying that he had bought and sold the product legally, and an appeals court agreed. The Supreme Court on Wednesday refused to hear the final Coca-Cola appeal.

Scott Jolliffe, one of the lawyers representing Coca-Cola, was disappointed Canada's highest court turned down a chance to consider issues involved in court cases "going both ways right now" in the United States and European Union countries.

"The law in this area is very much up in the air," he said Thursday.

News in Brief

Country apologizes for sheltering Nazis

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — President Fernando de la Rúa has said Argentina must seek forgiveness for sheltering Nazis following World War II.

De la Rúa, who spoke at an event late Tuesday to mark the 57th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising by Jews, said the time had come for Argentina to come to grips with its past.

"We have to seek forgiveness because Nazi criminals fleeing justice entered our country and hid among us for a long time," he said. "Some were discovered, others perhaps not."

Researchers working in Argentina have said presidential papers from former President Juan Peron indicate he may have encouraged Nazi war criminals to come to Argentina.

Over the years, several former prominent Nazi officials sought

refuge in Argentina, including Adolf Eichmann, considered by many to be one of the chief architects of the Holocaust, Josef Mengele, a concentration camp doctor, and Erich Priebke, a former Nazi captain.

Rescued hostages beaten, tortured

ISABELA, Philippines (AP) — The 27 children and teachers spent six weeks as hostages in half-buried windowless rooms on a mountaintop before 15 were rescued in a hail of bullets.

The hostages were tortured by their Muslim rebel captors, and at least four were killed — executed by gunshots to the back of the head. They were forced to walk barefoot on mountain trails. They often ate only one meal a day, according to accounts from freed captives Thursday.

"We were treated like pigs," said Renaldo Rubio, a teacher.

New test for West Nile Encephalitis

LONDON (AP) — A new test to diagnose encephalitis caused by mosquito-borne West Nile virus has been developed by researchers at the University of California at Irvine.

Scientists at the University of California at Irvine report in this week's issue of The Lancet medical journal that the test, which looks for the genetic material of the virus in spinal fluid, also could spare some people the invasive brain biopsies performed on some encephalitis patients.

West Nile virus, transmitted by mosquitoes, is commonly found in Africa, Eastern Europe, West Asia and the Middle East. It had never been documented in the Western Hemisphere before last August when it surfaced in New York.

In that outbreak, 62 people came down with severe encephalitis and seven others died. No reliable estimates are available for the number of West Nile encephalitis cases that occur worldwide.

Several viruses and bacteria can cause encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain. Medication is available for some types of encephalitis, but not others, such as West Nile virus.

To determine whether encephalitis was caused by the West Nile virus or another virus that can be treated, doctors send blood samples to a laboratory to be tested for antibodies, a process that takes days. If they suspect the illness is caused by the West Nile virus, they also might cut out some brain tissue for testing.

The new test, adapted from similar ones used for other diseases, diagnosed West Nile encephalitis in victims of the year's New York outbreak within five hours, said the study's leader, Dr. Dan Lipkin, director of the emerging diseases laboratory at UC-Irvine.

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