

## Apple sues over revealed trade secrets

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple Computer Inc. is suing people who allegedly posted secret product information on the Internet, becoming the latest company to take aim at Web gossip that provides increasingly accurate insider information.

The civil complaint, filed Wednesday in Santa Clara County, Calif., seeks an injunction against an unnamed individual or individuals against further disclosure of Apple's trade secrets, as well as monetary damages.

Apple contends that a person using a computer pseudonym posted information and images about its new dual-processor G4 PowerMac and new oval-shaped optical mouse ahead of the products' release at last month's MacWorld in New York.

It also said the offenders, which could number 25 people in total, published other trade secrets before they were made public.

The lawsuit is the latest in what are shaping up to be precedent-setting state court decisions on how far free-speech rights extend in protecting people who anonymously post information about a company on the Web.

Many companies with large followings and a large investor base often have whole Internet sites devoted to discussing developments with that company. The more authoritative sites often reveal product information weeks before a scheduled launch, and that information is sometimes reported by other news organizations.

First Amendment rights advocates

say privacy of anonymous message-writers should be protected until it is determined they have violated the

ing quiet about anything that could negatively affect their bottom line.

"There are scads of these lawsuits popping up where somebody gets angry at information published about a company, even if the information is true," said Paul Levy, an attorney for consumer advocacy group Public Citizen. "They want revenge and they want to unmask the person who did it. Hopefully, the courts will determine most of these lawsuits are absolutely about intimidation."

But companies argue they need names of individuals to serve them with complaints so a judge can determine whether they did break the law. The companies also note employees often are required to sign nondisclosure clauses.

**"They want revenge and they want to unmask the person who did it."**

— Paul Levy  
Attorney for Public Citizen,  
a consumer advocacy group

law. They argue companies are merely trying to intimidate people into be-

## Adopted woman tortured by birth mother

CAMP VERDE, Ariz. (AP) — An adopted woman was tortured and forced to live in a storage shed by her birth mother and stepfather after she spent years searching for them, police said.

Jennifer Simmons, 19, found Elizabeth M. Katrini after a long search, but what Simmons thought would be a happy reunion allegedly turned into a terrifying year of torture.

Katrini, 38, and her husband, Paul Padilla, 41, were arrested on multiple felony counts of aggravated assault and vulnerable adult abuse.

Police said the couple forced the young woman to live in a storage shed and tortured her repeatedly with

electric shocks, knives and sticks, police said. They also said Simmons was forced to eat her own feces.

Simmons contacted authorities after escaping from the shed on July 26, said Wendy Escoffier of the Camp Verde Town Marshal's Office.

"We are talking here about a continued pattern of abuse, and her being watched at all times to keep her from escaping," Escoffier said.

Paul and Mary Padilla, the parents of the stepfather, said Jennifer made up the accusations. Both Padillas said that they had seen the woman as recently as Father's Day and that she appeared normal.

"She was treated just like the rest of the kids in that household," Mary Padilla said.

Mary Ellen Simmons, the victim's adoptive mother in Mesa, said her daughter is mentally ill, which led to the charge of vulnerable adult abuse. She said she sensed all was not well while her daughter was with Katrini, but in short phone calls she was assured the young woman was doing well.

"Why didn't I go up there and knock on the door?" she said. "She (Katrini) told me, 'You had Jennifer all these years, let me have a chance.' She said the woman also threatened to have her arrested if she went near the property."

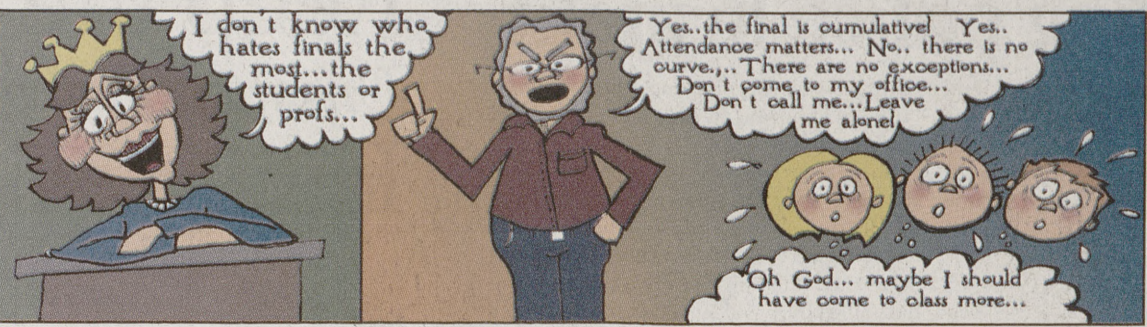
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## Guerrillas kill fifty

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Suspected Islamic guerrillas ambushed a pilgrims' camp and attacked a village, killing nearly 50 people in India's troubled Kashmir state, officials said Wednesday.

The separate attacks came as the Indian federal government prepared to talk to the main guerrilla group in Kashmir, which has been wracked by an Islamic insurgency for 11 years.

In the latest violence, the attackers raided a village late Tuesday in the Anantnag area of central Kashmir, lining up and shooting to death 18 men, the Press Trust of India reported.

Those killed were workers at a brick factory who had migrated from other Indian states for work, the agency said.



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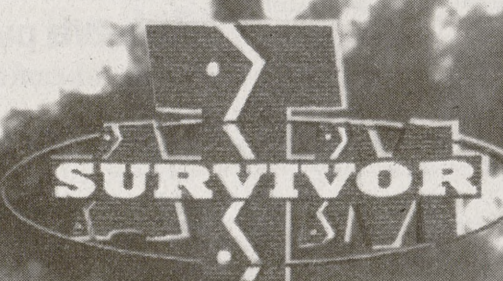
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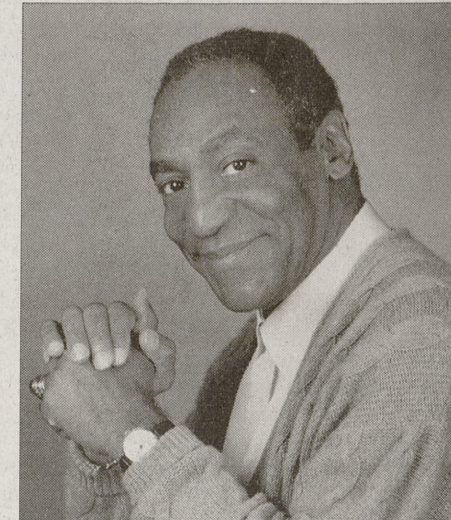
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