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## Study: Internet not socially damaging

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Concerns the Internet revolution has dehumanized America may be unfounded.

Nearly two-thirds of all Americans have ventured online, and the majority of them deny that the Internet creates social isolation, according to a study released Wednesday by the University of California in Los Angeles.

For instance, more than 75 percent said they do not feel as if they are being ignored by relatives and friends as a result of chatroom activity. In fact, the majority of Internet users said email, Websites and chat rooms have a "modestly positive impact" on their abilities to make new friends and communicate more with family.

But the Internet has only been a popular communication tool for the past five years, cautions UCLA researcher Jeffrey Cole. Cole, the lead researcher of "Surveying the Digital Future," believes the Web will have profound long-term effects that most users cannot yet detect.

"The Internet changes everything from our values to communication patterns and consumer behavior," Cole said. Spending long hours surfing the Web "can even change how many neighbors we recognize by their faces," he added.

The study focused on the opinions and online

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— Jeffrey Cole  
 researcher  
 University of California in Los Angeles

As opposed to shopping online. Lack of privacy was the greatest concern. About two-thirds of Internet users agreed that people who go online put their privacy at risk, the study showed.

"What we've found is that almost no one is afraid of the government monitoring us," Cole said. "They're afraid corporations are watching what they do."

Cole said he hopes to continue the study in the next 10 to 20 years in an effort to address issues relating to the technology.

Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Internet and American Life Project, said the report supports his own findings that the Internet is a tool that connects more people than it isolates.

"There is some evidence that people make and sustain long distance friendships online," Rainie said.

The UCLA study was funded by the National Science Foundation as well as America Online Inc., Microsoft Corp., the Walt Disney Co., Sony, but Cole said no questions were influenced by the sponsors. Researchers said the survey has a margin of error of 2 percentage points.

habits of 2,096 respondents — both Internet users and nonusers — who mirror the nation's ethnic, economic and geographic makeup.

More than 70 percent said children's grades are neither helped nor hurt by Internet activity. Nearly two-thirds said they now buy less from tradi-

## Former baseball star Strawberry arrested, tests positive for drugs

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Former baseball star Darryl Strawberry was jailed Wednesday after he allegedly left a drug treatment center for a weekend drug binge with a friend.

The 38-year-old slugger was taken into custody after testing positive for drugs, said Joe Papy, a probation case supervisor.

Strawberry, who was serving house arrest at the rehab center, left for about four hours Saturday night, and later admitted smoking crack and taking 10 Xanax, a mood-lifting prescription drug, with a woman, Papy said.

Papy said Strawberry blamed emotional difficulties for the drug binge. The former baseball star also is fighting colon cancer.

"Needless to say we are always disappointed when an addict relapses," Papy said.

Papy said Strawberry's probation officer will recommend a judge hold him in jail for 30 days and then fit him with an electronic monitoring device.

Prosecutors and Joseph Ficarrotta, Strawberry's attorney, did not immediately return calls for comment.

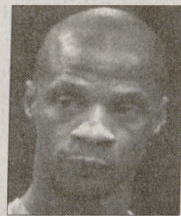
Strawberry was on probation for drug and solicitation-of-prostitution offenses when he was arrested for allegedly driving under the influence of medication and leaving the scene of an accident. For that probation violation, he was put under two years' house arrest at the private drug treatment center, its location kept secret by officials.

He is now charged with two violations of house arrest, violating curfew and using drugs.

The arrest is the latest in a string of legal run-ins for the 1983 Rookie of the Year and eight-time All Star, who played on World Series championship teams with the New York Yankees and Mets.

In February, Strawberry was suspended from baseball for at least a year, his third cocaine-related suspension in five years.

In 1998, he had surgery and chemotherapy for colon cancer. In August, he underwent surgery to remove a tumor in his stomach.



STRAWBERRY

## Judge rejects plea in embassy bombing

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge rejected a guilty plea of a defendant in the U.S. embassy bombing case after the man said he was innocent but wanted to plead guilty to avoid the humiliation of a lengthy trial.

Wadih El Hage is one of 19 people charged in the 1998 multi-tiered bombings on U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which killed 224 people, including Americans. Eight of those indicted are fugitives.

U.S. District Judge Leonard Sand asked El Hage on Tuesday if he offered to plead guilty because he believed he is guilty. Hage replied, "No, some other legitimate reasons."

El Hage, charged with conspiracy, said he saw no chance to win the case and dreaded daily trips to court, stints in cold holding cells and regular strip searches.

Prosecutors refer to El Hage as an associate and former personal secretary of Osama bin Laden, the Saudi millionaire accused of masterminding the attacks.

### News in Brief

#### Gas experiment conducted in Salt Lake City

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — In what sounds like something out of "The X-Files," scientists are releasing gas on downtown Salt Lake City in experiments aimed at preparing for the possibility of a terrorist attack. By releasing tiny amounts of a

safe gas called sulfur hexafluoride, they are trying to understand the risk of chemical or biological attacks on urban areas. The gas is released on a street corner from a pressurized cylinder with a fan.

The experiments could be useful for security during the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City.

Scientists chose Salt Lake City because its mountain-rimmed basin is vulnerable to weather inversions that trap pollutants near the ground.

That could make a chemical attack even more dangerous.

Scientists funded by the Energy Department have been joined here by members of the Pentagon's Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

Sixty environmental experts from government labs and universities are using portable weather stations to measure the tracer gas as it blows over and around the city's tallest buildings.

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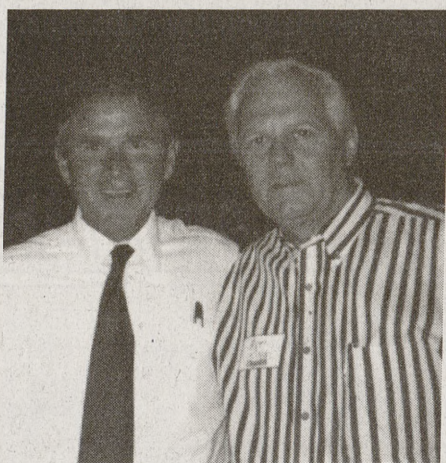
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	SUN Oct 29	MON Oct 30	TUES Oct 31	WED Nov 1	THUR Nov 2
2-4 PM	Chem 227 Ch. 6				
4-6 PM	Chem 228 Ch. 19	Chem 228 Ch. 20	Chem 102 Ch. 19	Chem 102 Ch. 20	Chem 102 Ch. 20
6-8 PM	BICH 410 Harrison Prac Test	Chem 227 Ch. 7	Chem 227 Ch. 8	Chem 101 Ch. 10	Chem 101 Ch. 11A
8-10 PM	Phys 201	Phys 201 Katt, Walt Prac test	Phys 201 Ford Prac test	Phys 218 Ch. 8	Phys 218 Ch. 5
10-MID		Chem 107 Ch. 9	Chem 107 Ch. 9,12	Chem 228 Prac test Belle	