

www.reversephonedirectory.com

In a time of caller ID and cellular phones, it's not unusual to have a phone number but no name to go with it.

The question arises quickly of who called and why.

The Reverse Phone Directory can answer one of the two questions. It offers one place to look up a phone number using six different search engines.

The information one can learn through the search is who called and their address. It's the same information one can find in an ordinary phone book, only the Web site does all the work.

However, finding the information wanted is not guaranteed. Searches for cellular phone numbers and unlisted numbers will not yield results.

Also, the layout of the site can be frustrating as it is covered in banner ads and links to similar sites.

The flashing ads clutter the Web site and keep it from being aesthetically pleasing. It makes users want to get the job done and get off the site as quickly as possible.

Visitors should proceed with caution when exiting the site.

Closing the browser window or just navigating to another site brings up a pop-up ad.

While the Reverse Phone Directory is a helpful tool, it can't guarantee results and it isn't somewhere one wants to spend any more time than necessary.

—Denise Schoppe

www.ethnologue.com

With countless races and cultures in existence, language is a major part of our daily lives. Dozens of languages are spoken in the United States alone.

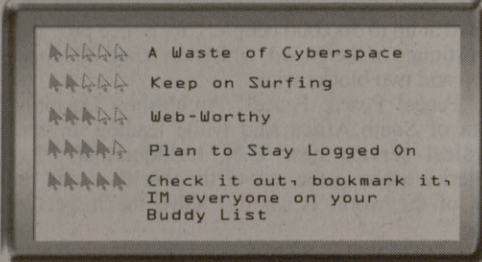
Ethnologue.com documents the hundreds of languages spoken around the world, including those that are nearly extinct. The Web site is exhaustive in its research of languages, and it provides language history, the number of people speaking in the language and where it is spoken.

All of the site's information is backed by documented research, and a complete bibliography features who did the research, publication dates and scientific journals or books in which the data can be found.

Ethnologue is easy to navigate, and finding anything one could want to know about a language is quick and simple. However, because many of the documents on the Web site are large and take time to download, the site's data is available in hardcopy or CD for a reasonable price.

Ethnologue is a fascinating Web site that tells visitors everything they could want to know about languages. It is not only educational; it's interesting.

—Denise Schoppe



—Denise Schoppe

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Yoko Ono celebrates 70th birthday

NEW YORK (AP) — More than 30 years after the breakup of the Beatles and on the brink of her 70th birthday, Yoko Ono has become philosophical about the days when she hated her and blamed her for the band's demise.



"I think that through that kind of incredible, strange confrontation, people started to understand me," the widow of John Lennon told the New York Post for a story in Sunday's editions. Ono turns 70 on Tuesday and more than 200 guests are expected to attend a cocktail reception in her honor at a Manhattan restaurant, the Post said.

Ono keeps busy these days managing the legacy of her late husband and producing dance mixes of his music and her own. She is about to release a dance mix of "Walking on Thin Ice" — the song Lennon was working on the night he was murdered in 1980.

"If he's observing me from up there, I'm sure he's proud of me," Ono said. "It's going to go on and on. This is what I love now, so it's great."

Prominent poets hold poetry reading

MANCHESTER, Vt. (AP) — Poet Jay Parini said he was disgusted when the White House indefinitely postponed a literary symposium after learning some

poets planned to express their opposition to a war with Iraq.

It was naive for organizers to think he and other poets would check their politics at the door of the event sponsored by first lady Laura Bush, he said.

Parini and other prominent poets and writers with ties to Vermont gathered at a church Sunday for "A Poetry Reading In Honor of the Right of Protest as a Patriotic and Historical Tradition."

Before an overflow crowd of about 600, poets read works of their own and other poets who were to be featured at the White House event. Organizers said the Bushes were invited, but did not respond.

"For poets to remain silent at a time of national crisis is unconscionable," said Parini, a Middlebury College professor who had planned to read an anti-war poem at the White House event. "Poets from the time of ancient Athens have raised voices in protest."

"Why be afraid of us, Mrs. Bush?" said Julia Alvarez, reciting a poem she wrote about the "disinvitation." "You're married to a scarier fellow."

Aerosmith drummer levels his mansion

Mass. (AP) — Aerosmith drummer Joey Kramer knows a thing or two about bringing down the house.

The 52-year-old rocker has taken the bulldozer to his 15-room mansion south of Boston to build cozier quarters in its place.

Kramer had put the 1910 Georgian colonial on the market in 2001 for \$3.75 million but opted to downsize the residence instead after it failed to

sell, The Patriot Ledger of Quincy reported.

Kramer's new seven-room home is half the size of the old one, but he and his wife, April, will be able to host friends at a new pool house and offer plenty of parking in two garages that can hold 10 cars.

Elizabeth Taylor attends AIDS benefit

DANA POINT, Calif. (AP) — A nasty cold and a broken foot that put her in a wheelchair couldn't keep Elizabeth Taylor from attending an AIDS benefit for research.



TAYLOR

After all, Gov. Gray Davis had declared it Elizabeth Taylor Day for her work in support of the cause. The actress made her planned address at the Feb. 8 gala, although she missed a dinner preceding it — disappointing some 70 partygoers who'd paid \$2,000 each to dine with her and other celebrities including Warren Beatty, Annette Bening, Carrie Fisher, Penny Marshall and Tom Petty.

"Every day is filled with threats ... but the reality is, we are in the middle of one of the worst threats, global AIDS," Taylor told about 600 people at Orange County's St. Regis Hotel after gingerly making her way to the stage. "As of January, 42 million people worldwide are affected. In 1984, I made a vow to myself and a vow to God to do something. Together, we will!"

The benefit raised \$230,000 for AIDS Services Foundation Orange County and the Laguna Art Museum.

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\*non-member cost. Registration forms on-line or at the Student Rec Center.

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recsports.tamu.edu

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