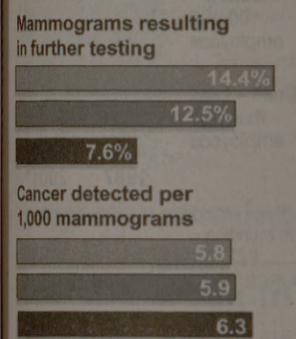


U.S. mammogram training falls short

Cancer screening

A study focusing on breast cancer screening in two U.S. programs and one British program revealed that U.S. doctors did repeat tests on twice as many women as did their counterparts, despite similar cancer rates. Researchers point to inferior mammogram training and greater fear of malpractice suits in the United States.

- Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium (U.S.)
- National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (U.S.)
- National Health Service Breast Screening Program (British)



NOTE: Sample group consisted of women ages 50 to 54 from 1996 through 1999.

SOURCE: Journal of the American Medical Association

By Lindsey Tanner
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — American doctors do twice as many tests to find the same number of breast cancer cases as physicians in Britain, reflecting inferior mammogram training and greater fear of malpractice suits in this country, researchers say.

The study found that U.S. radiologists declare many more mammogram results uncertain or suspicious, compared with their British counterparts, and that as a result, American women with and without cancer undergo at least double the number of follow-up tests, such as biopsies.

The higher U.S. "recall" rate would make sense if the overall American cancer detection rate were higher. But the study found that cancer was detected in just under six cases per 1,000 mammograms in the United States and just over six per 1,000 in Britain, nearly identical rates.

The researchers said the study illustrates the need for better mammogram training and oversight to improve U.S. radiologists' ability to interpret the results.

"Very clear and specific standards and targets need to be set for interpretation of mammography," said lead author Dr. Rebecca Smith-Bindman of the University of California at San Francisco. "Radiologists who perform outside acceptable ranges need to be told, 'That's not acceptable' and given an opportunity to learn how to better perform."

The study appears in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association. Dr. David Dershaw, president of the Society of Breast Imaging and director of breast imaging at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, said the study does not reflect all U.S. breast cancer screening programs.

He criticized the researchers for downplaying an important difference between U.S. and British cancer detection rates: More cases of early, curable breast cancer are detected in the United States.

He acknowledged that British doctors who do mammograms generally are more specialized than those in the United States, some of whom focus on

other areas of radiology.

In the United Kingdom, most mammogram specialists read more than 7,000 such tests yearly, compared with about 1,000 among U.S. doctors who do mammograms, Smith-Bindman said.

Also, fear of malpractice suits over undetected cancer is much greater in the United States, prompting doctors to go overboard sometimes in requiring additional tests, Smith-Bindman said.

Britain also has a quality control program focusing on rates of cancer detection and recall rates. Doctors who fall below a minimum standard are subject to increased scrutiny.

Britain has organized professional development training for mammogram specialists, detailing "the kinds of things you should call back for" more testing and "the kinds of things you shouldn't," Smith-Bindman said.

More than 30 million mammograms are done each year in the United States.

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MSC Arts Awareness Week

Today, October 22

1:30pm "Saxomophones" Performance by Saxophone Ensemble @ Sul Ross Plaza

7pm "Impending Presence" gallery opening Works by Ron Clark @ MSC Visual Arts Gallery

7:30pm The Pianist film discussion/performance @ MSC Forsyth Center Galleries

Brought to you by MSC Film Society, MSC OPAS & MSC VAC

Whiskey flows at Mount Vernon for first time in more than 200 years

By Nancy Zuckerbrod
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOUNT VERNON, Va. — George Washington's estate on the Potomac River hasn't been home to a working distillery for about two centuries, but that changed Tuesday as whiskey makers toiled on the Founding Father's popular recipe.

"For me, it's like standing on hallowed ground," Jim Beam master distiller Jerry Dalton said as he took a break from recreating the 18th century recipe to survey the scene, three miles from the main house where Washington lived from 1754 until he died in 1799.

Washington started his whiskey business in 1797, after leaving politics. It was a thriving enterprise that yielded 11,000 gallons of whiskey and a profit of \$7,500 — or about \$105,000 in today's dollars — in one year.

Today's top whiskey makers spent hours Tuesday mixing, heating and cooling Washington's "mash bill," or recipe, of rye, corn and malted barley. They then

ran their creation through a copper still atop an open fire.

Dalton looked relieved after sipping the creation, which he called spicy and aromatic. "I had concerns about it. I mean this is so primitive," Dalton said eyeing the outdoor flame and ancient-looking pots. "I thought it would be a little murky, but that's not the case at all."

They're planning to age the whiskey in two barrels for a couple years, and when they think it's ready, they will auction off an estimated 96 bottles of it to benefit the Mount Vernon estate.

The distillers did hit a couple of snags with their brew. A special yeast that was shipped to Virginia from the Woodford Reserve distillery in central Kentucky died en route, so the whiskey makers had to pick up ordinary yeast at a suburban Washington grocery store.

Also, the team apparently used too much heat during a test and produced a sample that "tasted like burnt toast, burnt rye bread toast," said Joseph Dangler, who makes Virginia Gentleman bourbon.

Just adjacent to the outdoor area where the distillers recreated Washington's whiskey are the rocks and bricks that make up the foundation of the first president's distillery. The Distilled Spirits Council, the industry's trade group, is spending more than \$1 million to excavate the site and rebuild the distillery. The project is expected to be completed in two years.

Mount Vernon Associate Director Dennis Pogue said officials would not distill liquor at the site but would explain to visitors how Washington did it back in the late 1700s.

As school children ran around on a class trip, Pogue talked about the careful "balancing act" of explaining Washington's life to visitors without promoting alcohol.

The association has been helpful to the industry, said Phil Lynch, vice president of Louisville, Ky.-based Brown-Forman, which makes top whiskey seller Jack Daniels.

"George Washington, he was the one that won the Revolutionary War. He was the first president," Lynch said. "It helps put into perspective that there's nothing wrong with the distilling process."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Easy-Bake mixes recalled for unlabeled ingredients

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some dessert mixes sold as refills for Easy-Bake ovens are being recalled because they contain ingredients that are not listed on the labels but could cause allergic reactions.

Recalled are Chocolate Brownie and Chocolate Frosting mixes in certain Easy-Bake refill sets and the Easy-Bake Rice Krispies Snack Shoppe. The company said the mixes contain milk, wheat and eggs that were not declared on the label. The recall was announced in conjunction with the Food and Drug Administration.

Many Texas cemeteries receive no regular upkeep

AUSTIN (AP) — Overgrown graves and garbage are unwelcome but frequent sights at many of Texas' historic cemeteries, where preservationists warn that the state's heritage is at stake.

The Texas Historical Commission is cataloging the tens of thousands of ceme-

teries more than 50 years old, considered a vital first step in preserving them. That would ensure that resting spots for thousands of Texans' ancestors aren't lost.

Exxon Mobil donates historical collection to University of Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — Exxon Mobil Corp. presented a historical collection worth an estimated \$10 million that chronicles more than 130 years of the company's history to The Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin on Monday.

The collection, which includes documents from John D. Rockefeller and Charles Lindbergh, traces the history of the company, beginning with its origins in Rockefeller's storied Standard Oil. Exxon Mobil also provided \$300,000 to catalog and preserve the collection.

Don Carleton, the center's director, said the archives of the nation's "premier" oil company will be well integrated in the center's already extensive library of the oil industry's history.

The Exxon Mobil archive collection

includes historical artifacts and documents dating back to Exxon and Mobil's earliest predecessor companies from the 1860s through the creation and operation of Standard Oil Company.

AT&T reveals improper accounting in another weak profit report

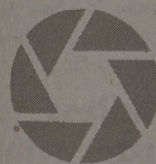
NEW YORK (AP) — AT&T overstated profits by \$125 million in 2001 and 2002 because two employees covered up a bookkeeping error, the company revealed Tuesday.

AT&T was quick to distinguish the mistake from the multibillion dollar deceptions at companies such as WorldCom, saying an outside counsel found that expenses were underestimated accidentally.

The employees then hid the error to protect themselves, Thomas Horton, AT&T's chief financial officer, said in a conference call.

"The investigation determined it was not done for personal gain," he said.

The employees and their supervisors were fired. The mistake involved understating fees owed to phone companies that connect AT&T customer calls.



SENIORS.

We want your portrait for the Aggieldand Yearbook.

Graduation portraits for the 2004 Aggieldand Yearbook will be taken Monday, Oct. 13, through Friday Oct. 24, 2003, in Room 027 of the Memorial Student Center. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, except Thursday, Oct. 16, which will be 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. There is no sitting fee required to be photographed for the yearbook. To insure being photographed you should make an appointment by calling Thornton Studio at 1-800-883-9449 or seeing the photographer beginning Monday, Oct.

13. Senior attire: For the yearbook pose, women should wear a favorite top or dress; men should wear a suit or sports jacket and tie. Graduating members of the Corps of Cadets should wear their Midnights. A Texas A&M graduation cap & gown will be provided by the photographer.

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