New weapon against heartburn goes down

By Lauren Neergaard
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Aline Humphrey was losing a 10-year battle with worsening heartburn. Medications didn’t help, and she had resorted to eating only easy-to-digest baby food.

Then doctors snaked a tiny tube down her throat to fix the faulty valve causing the problem. The California nurse celebrated several months later with an eight-course French meal and a bottle of Dom Perignon — no more antacids, no more heartburn.

Now other sufferers can try it, too. The Food and Drug Administration has approved the first non-drug treatments for acid reflux — two different medical devices that send a tube down the throat to fix the actual cause of chronic heartburn instead of just suppressing painful stomach acid as medications do.

The hourlong, outpatient procedures could significantly change the way heartburn is treated.

One device is like a tiny sewing machine that puts a few stitches in the faulty valve causing heartburn, creating little pleated gathers to strengthen it. The other device, which Humphrey tried, zaps the faulty valve with radiofrequency energy. beams of heat.

“Both rely on the fact that we think fixing the valve is a good long-term option rather than staying on medications for the rest of your life,” explained Dr. Neil Stollman of San Francisco General Hospital, who tested the radiofrequency device. Curon Medical Inc.’s Stretta system.

“I still practice medicine, and I know a lot of patients who are going on drugs and having heartburn.”

Police chief of Colma is fired

By Laura Linden
STAFF WRITER

COLMA — City Manager Linda Pappas-Diaz has fired Police Chief Paul Ingram, marking the second ouster of the town’s top police official in less than two years.

Ingram’s last day was March 24. The reason for his termination is confidential, said Pappas-Diaz, who hired Ingram last year.

Ingram had led the 17-officer force since July 15 of last year. When he arrived, he was a 25-year-veteran of the San Mateo County Sheriff’s Office.
San Mateo County Times

NATION & WORLD INSIDE SPORTS
A.M. EDITION

Microsoft macro-miffed
Software giant attacks Fed plans to break up company

WEATHER:
Mostly sunny
High: 80s
Low: 50s

Shark showdown
San Jose faces St. Louis tonight in winner-take-all playoff game

San Francisco Chronicle

weapon against heartburn goes down easy

A familiar and ubiquitous sight in my office — a bottle of acid reflux diet. The California nurse celebrated several months later with a small French meal and a bottle of Dom Perignon — no more antacids, no more heartburn.

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"I still practice medicine, and I know a lot of patients who are going to benefit," said Dr. Brian E. Harvey, the FDA senior medical officer who reviewed Stretta and competitor C.R. Bard Inc.'s Endoscopic Suturing System. The FDA approved both earlier this month.

Some 14 million Americans suffer chronic heartburn, called

Please see Heartburn, NEWS-7

Netting relics

County worker charged in theft

Employee allegedly sent funds to fake kids
The scramble to save Web history

By Jeanne Harlick

Obsolete equipment poses challenges for Internet historians

Olde Web pages don’t die, they just fade away.

In fact, web pages are blinking away so fast that the very history of these pioneer Internet years is threatened with extinction. That’s why a small group of scientists and students is racing to find ways to archive web pages, just as paper documents like the original Declaration of Independence have been preserved.

The difference, said archivist Jean Dekker, is that paper persists and, so far, objects in the digital world don’t.

“They don’t give any warning they’re going to corrupt. They simply very quietly pass out of usefulness,” said Dekker, who is with the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center.

A few years ago she found herself trying to electronically chase down the nation’s first Web page, which was born in 1991 in a SLAC physicist’s office.

No record of the page existed. Plowing through old backup tapes, the center’s Web master found it, a page of plain text that made virtual history.

If the pair had waited one year, the page would have been lost forever, trapped in a file created by obsolete software no current hard drive can read.

It’s too late, however, for the first e-mail ever sent. Too late, as well, for countless original World Wide Web pages and other documents stored electronically.

Confronted with voluminous electronic records, storage media that is obsolete within a few years and employers who delete documents before anyone realizes they’re important, some fear future historians will look back on this time as a “digital dark ages.”

“The chronicle of our entire pe...
Paul Kunz, an experimental physicist at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center in Palo Alto, posted the nation's first Web page in 1991. At top, Joan Winters, Web master for SLAC, had to plow through backup tapes like the one she's holding to find a record of the nation's first Web page.

### The scramble to save Web history

**Obsolete equipment poses challenges for Internet historians**

**By Joanne Hartlick**

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"The chronicle of our entire pe

Please see [History, NEWS-7](#)

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**Elian raid now focus of debate**

**By Adam Clymer**

WASHINGTON — In three minutes on Saturday morning, the national debate over who should have custody of Elian Gonzalez was replaced by a much more intense dispute over whether Attorney General Janet Reno had acted unwisely in ordering the 6-year-old boy seized by armed agents in a pre-dawn raid.

On Monday that dispute was intensified by comments from the White House and from Congress, and by the release of documents from both

Please see [Elian, NEWS-7](#)

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**Supreme Court may kill ‘blanket primaries’**

**By Richard Caroli**

WASHINGTON The Supreme Court appeared close to scuttling "blanket primary" systems in which California and two other states let voters cast ballots for any candidate regardless of party affiliation.

But the justices were warned Monday that protecting political parties rights with a ban on such crossover voting will endanger the open primaries in about half the states. Those states let voters choose which party's primary they want to cast ballots in.

"The very essence of the party's right is to define its own message and decide its own candidates," Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said while criticizing California's blanket primaries that are under attack from four political parties.

Justice Antonin Scalia warned aloud about letting voters "with absolutely no commitment to a political party, not even for a day", help nominate a party's gubernatorial candidate.

"What about the party that doesn't want to follow the crowd?" he asked before warning of "the tyranny of the majority."

George Waters, a lawyer representing the political parties, argued that California's system is "a wholesale assault on" their ability to "choose a standard-bearer who best represents their views." A blanket primary "makes ideology irrelevant," he said.

But Thomas Gede, California's lawyer, countered that a state's primary election "belongs to the voters," and not to the various political parties.

The court's decision is expected by late June.

Among the friend-of-the-court advice the justices received was a pre-blanket primary brief from Sen. John McCain of Arizona, who relied heavily on Democrats and independents in his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination this year.

McCain got strong boosts from victories in New Hampshire and Michigan, states with open primaries, but in California he finished third behind Democrat Al Gore and Republican George W. Bush.

Waters noted after the hearing that the primary affected two assembly races in

Please see [Primary, NEWS-7](#)
First Web page created for research

In 1990, Tim Berners-Lee and Robert Cailliau created the first web server, which was called the 'World Wide Web'. This was a system that allowed people to search for information on the internet and then view the results in a user-friendly way. Berners-Lee and Cailliau's work laid the foundation for the modern web, which has revolutionized the way we access and share information.

This is a research paper discussing the impact of the web on society. It examines how the web has changed the way we communicate, work, and learn. The paper also considers the social, political, and economic implications of the web.

The author of the paper is trying to explain how the web has changed the way we access information. They argue that the web has made it easier for people to find the information they need, but they also raise concerns about the quality of the information available on the web.

The author of the paper concludes that the web has had a profound impact on society. They argue that the web has changed the way we access and share information, and they suggest that it will continue to have a significant impact in the future.
First Web page created for research

Joanne Harlock
STAFF WRITER

All Paul Kunz wanted when he posted the nation's first Web page one day nine years ago was an easier way to research.

He had no idea he was about to make virtual history.

The Stanford Linear Accelerator Center physicist launched the site alone in his Palo Alto office Dec. 12, 1991, and then e-mailed it to Tim Berners-Lee, the Web's inventor, that the site was up.

And that was that.

"I didn't consider it brilliant or anything," Kunz said. "I just felt we were making an incremental improvement in our ability to do science. It was just an obvious thing to do."

Almost a decade later, the SLAC site is now referred to as the "killer application" — the one that finally raised the red curtain to reveal the Web in all its majesty.

"SLAC was the first Web server that had real meaningful content people wanted to get to," Kunz said. It was the one thing that made the Web grow.

When Kunz first heard about the Web through Internet use groups in August 1991, he shrugged it off and paid it no heed. Then, that winter, while teaching in Sweden, Kunz visited the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN. There, Berners-Lee caught up with Kunz and insisted the physicist watch a demo of the new browser he'd created, which he called the World Wide Web.

Using an IBM mainframe as a server, Berners-Lee clicked on hyperlinks that transported him to different locations in the file he'd opened. Kunz was unimpressed, because such Internet commands were standard. But then Berners-Lee clicked on a link that took him to a different server than the one they were using, and Kunz snapped to attention.

"Kunz had one thing in mind: SPRES-HEP, a high-energy physics database run by SLAC that researchers throughout the world used. But users had to log in from their computers through a complicated process that was cumbersome.

"I immediately saw what Tim was doing would be a much better interface to the database than what SLAC had currently," Kunz said. "What Tim added was the fact you could click on a line and get a document on another computer. It was one small step but made a huge difference.

Berners-Lee had invented Web surfing.

Back in Palo Alto, it took Kunz just one day to write the page that helped boost Internet usage from 100,000 in 1991 to over 100 million today. The simple, text page was only a few lines long and gave users access to SPRES-HEP with just a click of the mouse.

A few months later, Berners-Lee demonstrated the Web publicly for the first time to a roomful of physicists all used to SPRES-HEP's awkward log-in process — at a conference in France.

"He was sitting down and talking to the grand finale was connecting from CERN to SLAC," Kunz said. "That stunned everyone. I saw the page that was the interface to SLAC, and you could do a database search that answered immediately. That impressed everyone.

"How's that for an understatement.

Kunz says he's been asked to address events by one of existing conferences. They give a personal mandate. It's a personal mandate. I have a personal mandate. I have a personal mandate. I have a personal mandate.

Because the Linear Accelerator Center is funded by the Department of Energy, it is required to send National Archives documentation of big projects like GLAST, the gamma-ray telescope the lab is now building.

Currently, Deken and Web master Joan Winters deal with the problem by sifting through backup tapes — which take periodic snapshots of the center's Web pages — every year to find important records. It's a time-consuming and inefficient process, and one Deken hopes will soon change.

Deken said organizations like the Linear Accelerator Center need a computer program that somehow automatically archives important Web documents as soon as they're created.

Change, change, change

The second challenge is the instability of electronic media.

Floppy disks are easily erased by stray magnetic fields or simple material decay.

But the more vexing problem is that hardware used to create documents and software used to interpret them are obsolete within five years, according to a National Media Lab study. Archivists are left with a disk or CD, or whatever future records are stored on — full of ones and zeros as impossible to translate as hieroglyphics before the Rosetta Stone.

For example, eight-inch floppy disks — the standard storage media for e-files in the 1980s — are now unrecognizable. It's like trying to find a place to play that old eight-track of Willie Nelson's greatest hits.

At the Linear Accelerator Center, they created their first Web pages using an operating system called IBM Virtual Machine (VM). Five years later, when Web master Joan Winters went looking for them, the VM was being phased out and replaced by Unix. If Winters had waited until October 1995, when the center's VM machines were hobbled, the pages would have been trapped in a virtual man's land.

What's the solution

The Internet Archive, a non-profit organization in San Francisco, started recording the World Wide Web in 1996. Using Web crawlers that automatically collect pages from public servers, the organization gets a complete snapshot of the Web every two months. So far, 14 terabytes, or one billion pages, have been collected.

It could be the world's first virtual museum, but in this case it's co-location facilities instead of climate controlled rooms that are preserving historical documents. Fort Knox-like buildings full of humungous servers, the facilities are located throughout the Bay Area.

"We took a look around and we could see that the Internet, and the Web in particular, was full of an enormous amount of valuable scientific and cultural data," said Maristina Kahn, managing director. "It disappears almost as quickly as it appears. We didn't want it to go the route of television," for which no archives exist.

Historians, researchers and scholars can access the archives for free. The Internet Archive Research Center recently used the snapshots to study Web surfing behavior and formulate a mathematical model that says Web traffic follows predictable patterns.

But though the Internet Archive is helping tackle the challenges posed by the Web's ephemeral nature, its information is still being stored on hard disks that will soon be defunct.

Within the past year, however, programmers have dreamed up a face that could solve the obsolescence issue.

The most noteworthy is a record system created by the San Diego Supercomputer Center that converts digital documents into XML (Extensible Markup Language), a computer language that is gaining dominance online.

Unlike HTML (HyperText Markup Language), XML separates a document's content from its appearance, allowing it to be displayed as it originally looked when run with the appropriate XML style program.

In less than two days, the Supercomputer Center converted a one million White House e-mail messages into this universal format. The center also converted other federal documents like maps and Census data, proving their system could permanently preserve diverse and large volumes of electronic records that would be accessible decades hence, regardless of future technology.

In March, Carlin announced the NARA and the National Science Foundation will study using this "major technological break-through" to build an electronic records archive. Carlin estimated it will take $130 million and five years to build such a facility.

Although the final solution to digital storage remains to be hammered out, one thing is certain: it will only be found if computer geeks, politicians and librarians unite, said Brian Cooper, a Stanford University computer science doctoral student also researching the problem.

Cooper's proposed solution involves saving records on a computer that is linked via the Internet to other institutions, which then back up each others' archives in case corruption occurs.

"What we [computer scientists] do now has the potential to really revolutionize how people learn and remember," Cooper said. "Today they're something you just use but can't really rely on, but what we're working on is looking at making them into a sort of a collective memory of the human race."
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...the name, the authorization allegations, 1 friend church still is not processed is the embezzlement and misappropriation of public funds by a public employee. Lynch said. He said that only Adams was a County employee, and that the rest face similar charges for aiding in the alleged embezzlement.

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...Curon’s Stretta has electrodes on an endoscope threaded down the throat. The electrodes burn spots on the muscle controlling the faulty valve. A flexible scar-like tissue forms. Doctors aren’t sure if that tightens the valve, or if the heat zaps overactive nerves that made the valve malfunction. Regardless, in a study of 47 patients, six months after the procedure, 70 percent had quit taking all heartburn medicines.

...Primary: State laws fall into four categories

...Orange County, where voters oppose the Republican primary March 7 because non-Republican voters voted for them. He said the...for a Republican candidate for governor, a Democrat for Congress and a Libertarian for state attorney general. California, Louisiana and Washington state have blanket primaries.

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**Primary: State laws fall into tour car

City to talk anti-growth

Heathens: Length of officers still

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Continued from NEWS"