



**Island Trips
Whale Watching
Sport Fishing
Awesome Cocktails**



**Av. El Anclote
Punta de Mita
Nayarit
01(329)291-51-16**



**BRING THIS COUPON IN FOR 1 FREE
MARGARITA OR CERVEZA
(with purchase of food)**

GLOBAL NEWS TODAY

Volume Two, Issue Forty

YES. EVERYDAY.

Tuesday February 10, 2009

Exotic smell key to greasy chip's success

(stuff.co.nz) Scientists say they may have found out why the great British chip smells so irresistible: a complex blend of scents that includes butterscotch, cocoa, cheese and flowers.

The aroma has been unpicked by food scientists at Leeds University.

"Whether oven-cooked or fried, the humble chip doesn't smell of just chips – the aroma is much more complex and probably explains why chips are everyone's favourite," said Dr Graham Clayton, who led the research for National Chip Week that started on Monday.

"Aromas including butterscotch, cocoa, onion, cheese and would you believe. . . ironing boards, all combine to help make chips one of Britain's iconic dishes," he said.

The Leeds scientists collected the aroma from cooked chips, then separated the different compounds for analysis by an "aroma-meter" machine.

Those that could be detected by the human nose were sniffed, and the type and strength of smell recorded.

The findings showed that chips that are cooked twice have more complex aromas, comprising bitter cocoa, butterscotch, cheese, earthy potatoes, onions, and flowers.

"Perhaps these findings will see chips treated like wine in the future – with chip fans turning into buffs as they impress their friends with eloquent descriptions of their favourite fries," Clayton said.

Fears of impostors increase on Facebook

From John Sutter and Jason Carroll
CNN

(CNN) -- Without his input, Bryan Rutberg's Facebook status update -- the way friends track each other -- suddenly changed on January 21 to this frightening alert:

"Bryan NEEDS HELP URGENTLY!!!"

His online friends saw the message and came to his aid. Some posted concerned messages on his public profile -- "What's happening????? What do you need?" one wrote. Another friend, Beny Rubinstein, got a direct message saying Rutberg had been robbed at gunpoint in London and needed money to get back to the United States.

So, trying to be a good friend, Rubinstein wired \$1,143 to London in two installments, according to police in Bellevue, Washington.

Meanwhile, Rutberg was safe at home in Seattle.

Rubinstein told CNN he misses the money, but it's perhaps more upsetting to feel tricked by someone who impersonated his friend on Facebook, a social-networking site where millions of friends converse freely online.

"It's an invasion of your whole privacy, who your friends are," he said. Watch Rutberg talk about his Facebook page being hacked »

While reports of extortion and false impersonation have been common in phony phone calls and fake e-mails, similar fraud hasn't been reported on Facebook until recently. Now a number of complaints are surfacing.

In response to the trend, the Better Business Bureau in late January issued a warning on its Web site, intended for Facebook's 150 million users: know who your friends are and keep your sensitive information private.

In the Seattle case, a hacker appeared to steal Rutberg's identity to get money from his friends by toying with their emotions.

In Wisconsin, police accuse an 18-year-old man of posing as a woman on Facebook to get high school boys to send him naked photos of themselves. Watch 18-year-old accused in Facebook case »

Anthony Stancl, of New Berlin, Wisconsin, allegedly used the naked photos he had solicited to force the young men into sex acts with him, according to a criminal complaint.

Stancl was arrested on 12 felony complaints, including sexual assault of a child younger than 16 and possession of child pornography, the complaint says.

CNN left multiple messages for Stancl's attorney but did not receive a response.

Stancl is being held in lieu of \$250,000 bail and has no previous criminal record, according to CNN affiliate WISN.

There are primarily two ways to stay safe on Facebook, said Jim Lewis, director of the technology and policy program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. First, make sure your computer anti-virus programs are up to date; and tell online companies you want better privacy protection, he said.

In a statement, Facebook spokesman Barry Schnitt told CNN that impersonation schemes affect fewer than 1 percent of Facebook's 150 million users. He would not comment on whether the rate of such incidents is increasing, but said any increase in the total number of impersonations could be due to the fact that the site is growing by 600,000 users per day.

"In many cases, the scammer has added a new contact e-mail to attempt to maintain control of the account," Schnitt said in a prepared statement. "To combat this, we're instituting changes that will better notify users when their account is modified and empowering them to reverse these changes."

Rutberg, the Seattle man who had his Facebook page hacked, said he worked with the site to shut down his profile within a day. It was back up in a week, he said.

All Internet users should be aware their identities can be compromised, and "every user of the Web should be better educated," Rutberg said.



10% DISCOUNT ON TOURS
With this advertisement



Sayulita Sailing Explorations

sayulitasailing@yahoo.com
Cell: 322-1089597
Home: 29-13462

GO SAILING TODAY!

Experience our 50 ft. Custom Trimaran Full day exclusive tours to Las Marietas Islands

Trips Include: Breakfast, Lunch, open bar, snorkling, kayaks and we now do SPINAKER FLYING! Discover the Bay of Bandaras in a sleek, tranquil way. Just lie back on one of our many comfy deck cushions and

RELAX.....



MEXICO

Mexico to fingerprint phone users in crime fight

(Reuters) - Mexico will start a national register of mobile phone users that will include fingerprinting all customers in an effort to catch criminals who use the devices to extort money and negotiate kidnapping ransoms.

Under a new law published on Monday and due to be in force in April, mobile phone companies will have a year to build up a database of their clients, complete with fingerprints. The idea would be to match calls and messages to the phones' owners.

Hundreds of people are kidnapped in Mexico every year and the number of victims is rising sharply as drug gangs, under pressure from an army crack-down, seek new income.

Lawmakers who pushed the bill through Congress last year say there are around 700 criminal bands in Mexico, some of them operating from prison cells, that use cell phones to extract extortion and kidnap ransom payments.

Most of Mexico's 80 million mobile phones are prepaid handsets with a given number of minutes of use that can be bought in stores without any identification. The phones can be topped up with more minutes via vendors on street corners.

The register, detailed in the government's official gazette, means new subscribers will now be fingerprinted when they buy a handset or phone contract.

The plan also requires operators to store all cell phone information such as call logs, text and voice messages, for one year. Information on users and calls will remain private and only available with court approval to track down criminals.

It was not clear whether the government would provide any funding to aid in the logistics of the register.

Billionaire Carlos Slim, who controls Mexico's No. 1 cell phone operator America Movil (AMXL.MX)(AMX.N), said the law would be more useful if it tracked the movements of cell phone users. "What needs to be done is another type of more effective measures," Slim told reporters.

Former Finance Minister Francisco Gil Diaz, head of the local unit of Spain's Telefonica (TEF.MC), has criticized the law, saying it will only create more bureaucracy for operators. Telefonica is Mexico's No. 2 mobile operator behind America Movil.

Lawmakers say phone users must immediately report lost or loaned phones to avoid being held responsible for a handset used in a crime.

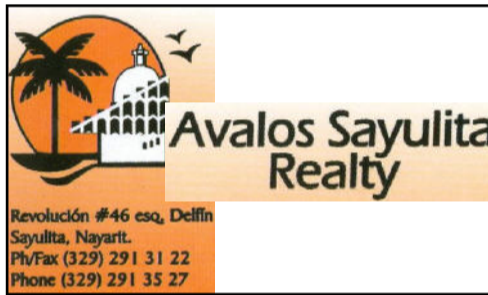
Salamander losses in Mexico, Guatemala cause worry

Many salamander species in Mexico and Guatemala have suffered dramatic population declines since the 1970s, driven to the brink probably by a warming climate and other factors, U.S. scientists said on Monday.

(REUTERS) The salamanders' fate provides the latest evidence of striking losses among the world's amphibians, a phenomenon some experts see as a harbinger of doom for many types of animals.

Biologist David Wake of the University of California Berkeley and colleagues tracked about two dozen species of salamanders at several sites in Guatemala and southern Mexico.

They put a special emphasis on the San Marcos region of Guatemala, boasting one of the most thoroughly studied and diverse salamander populations in the tropics.



Compared to levels measured in the 1970s, the population of half of the species in the two countries declined markedly. Four species were apparently completely gone and a fifth virtually wiped out, Wake said.

The cause is probably a complex combination of factors including climate change -- with warming temperatures forcing salamanders to higher and less hospitable elevations -- as well as habitat destruction and a fungal disease, Wake said.

"We have documented what has long been feared -- that tropical salamanders are being hit hard by something and are disappearing," Wake, whose findings appear in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, said in a telephone interview.

The species that formerly were the most common were the ones hit the hardest, Wake said.

Many scientists worry that climate change will have a terrible impact on animal populations, with those in the most sensitive places, like polar bears in the Arctic, hit first.



Some experts view today's amphibians, whose ancestors were the first land vertebrates, as sort of a canary in the coal mine, warning of future disaster for the animal kingdom.

"If we are convinced there is something going wrong and these are canaries in the coal mine, what are you going to do about it? This is a problem," Wake said. "One major avenue is global climate change. That is clearly a factor."

While not included in this study, Wake said similar losses are occurring in salamanders in Costa Rica.

A lot of the research into amphibian losses had focused on frogs. This study adds valuable data on salamanders.

The various species in this study ranged from about 1.5 inches to 5 inches long. Ground-dwelling salamanders were found to be the hardest hit, as opposed to those living in trees and other types of vegetation.

Mexico peso holds intervention gains; bonds slip

MEXICO CITY, Feb 9 (Reuters) - Mexico's peso currency strengthened on Monday as investors expected the country's central bank would keep up with last week's landmark currency intervention in coming days.

The peso <MXN=> firmed 0.09 percent to 14.197 per dollar.

The central bank sold dollars directly to banks last week for the first time in a decade, which helped pull the peso back from a record low hit last Wednesday.

While the bank did not enter into direct sales on Monday, Finance Minister Agustin Carstens last week said it would continue to defend the battered peso.

Investors were also uncertain about the success of plans in Washington to shore up American banks and a congressional vote on a stimulus package to boost the U.S. economy.

Mexico's peso has lost around a quarter of its value since last August as investors dumped emerging market assets and Mexico's economy slowed due to falling demand in its chief export market, the United States.



**FINE DINING IN PUNTA MITA
AMAZING SUNSETS
KILLER FOOD & DRINKS ON THE
BEACH**

TRY US TODAY!

BRING THIS COUPON IN FOR A FREE COCKTAIL



LOCATED NEXT TO THE ARTISAN HOTEL.

GLOBAL NEWS TODAY

"If the U.S. economy doesn't turn around so that it helps our economy it will be very difficult for these interventions to stop capital from flowing out," said Juan Carlos Lopez, a currency trader at brokerage Intercam in Mexico City.

Traders said the market will be monitoring the central bank's reserve level, which will be posted on Tuesday.

Evidence of a big sell-off in reserves could alarm investors, said Gabriel Casillas, an economist at UBS in Mexico City.

The bank has spent nearly \$17 billion since October in regular dollar auctions to support the peso, but last week it became more aggressive.

Carstens suggested that traders had been gaming the predictability of the dollar auctions for profit.

Mexican bonds slipped as some investors pared bets on how much the central bank could lower borrowing costs this month.

The government's benchmark 10-year peso bond <MX10YT=RR> fell 0.562 of a point in price, pushing its yield up to 8.06 percent.

A report on Monday showed annual inflation slowed in January, possibly giving the central bank more room to lower interest rates. For more see [ID:nN09367278].

In the equities market, the IPC stock index .MXX closed up 0.48 percent at 20,537.10 points, led by a 1.61 percent gain in shares of top retailer Wal-Mart de Mexico (WALMEXV.MX) ahead of its earnings report later this week.

Shares in Walmex, as the company is known, rose 0.48 centavos to 30.31 pesos.

USA+CANADA

Calif. artist sues AP over image of Obama

By **LARRY NEUMEISTER**
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - An artist who created a famous image of Barack Obama before he became president sued The Associated Press on Monday, asking a judge to find that his use of an AP photo in creating the poster did not violate copyright law. The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Manhattan said street artist Shepard Fairey did not violate the copyright of the April 2006 photograph because he dramatically changed the nature of the image.

The AP has said it is owed credit and compensation for the artist's rendition of the picture, taken by Mannie Garcia on assignment for the AP at the National Press Club in Washington.

Lawyers for Fairey acknowledged that the artist used the photograph. But they said he transformed the literal depiction into a "stunning, abstracted and idealized visual image that creates powerful new meaning and conveys a radically different message."

AP spokesman Paul Colford said the company would have no immediate comment until its lawyers reviewed the lawsuit. The AP had said in a statement last week that it was in discussions with Fairey's attorney and hoped for an amicable solution.

The AP has not taken legal action against Fairey. But the lawsuit noted that the AP had threatened twice to sue Fairey, possibly as early as Tuesday, and that it considered all works that incorporate the imagery of the "Obama Hope" poster to be infringements of its copyrights.

The lawsuit said the purpose of the photograph documented the day's events while Fairey's art, titled "Obama Progress" and "Obama Hope," was meant "to inspire, convince and convey the power of Obama's ideals, as well as his potential as a leader, through graphic metaphor."

Fairey's image became popular on buttons, posters and Web sites. It showed a pensive Barack Obama looking upward. It was splashed in a Warholesque red, white and blue and underlined with the caption HOPE.

The lawsuit noted that Fairey first began distributing his Obama images in early 2008 and that Obama thanked him in a Feb. 22 letter for his contribution to the presidential campaign.

When asked Monday about AP's position, Fairey said: "It's a suppression of an artist's freedom of expression." His attorney advised him not to say anything else.

The lawsuit was brought on Fairey's behalf by the Stanford Law School's Fair Use Project and a San Francisco-based law firm.

"There should be no doubt about the legality of Fairey's work," said Anthony Falzone, executive director of the Fair Use Project. "He used the photograph for a purpose entirely different than the original, and transformed it dramatically."

The lawsuit was filed on the same day that Fairey appeared in two different Boston courtrooms, where he pleaded not guilty to charges he tagged property with graffiti.

He allegedly vandalized a Massachusetts Turnpike Authority building last month as part of one of his street art campaigns. Fairey also pleaded not guilty Monday to a charge of placing a poster on a Boston electrical box in September 2000. Boston police said he had failed to appear in court in the 9-year-old case days after his arrest.

The 38-year-old Los Angeles resident was arrested Friday when he was in Boston for an event kicking off his exhibit at the Institute of Contemporary Art. At the time of the arrest, detectives were aware that Fairey had failed to appear in court in 2000, said Jake Wark, a spokesman for the Suffolk County district attorney's office.

Fairey was ordered to return to court on the Boston charges for pre-trial hearings on March 10 and 11.

"I'd love be able to feel like the culture of Boston continues to encourage freedom of expression," Fairey said after Monday's hearings. "If that's not going to be the case, I'll deal with that."

Huge study boosts disappointment on multivitamins

By **LINDSEY TANNER**

CHICAGO (AP) - The largest study ever of multivitamin use in older women found the pills did nothing to prevent common cancers or heart disease. The eight-year study in 161,808 postmenopausal women echoes recent disappointing vitamin studies in men.

Millions of Americans spend billions of dollars on vitamins to boost their health. Research has focused on cancer and heart disease in particular because of evidence that diets full of vitamin-rich foods may protect against those illnesses. But that evidence doesn't necessarily mean pills are a good substitute.

The study's lead author, researcher Marian Neuhouser of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, offered this advice: "Get nutrients from food. Whole foods are better than dietary supplements," Neuhouser said.

The study appears in Monday's Archives of Internal Medicine.

Co-author Dr. JoAnn Manson said despite the disappointing results, the research doesn't mean multivitamins are useless.

For one thing, the data are observational, not the most rigorous kind of scientific research. And also, it's not clear if taking vitamins might help prevent cancers that take many years to develop, said Manson, chief of preventive medicine at Harvard's Brigham & Women's Hospital.

She said multivitamins may still be useful "as a form of insurance" for people with poor eating habits.

The study involved an analysis of data on women in their 50s and up who participated in long-running government studies on postmenopausal women. Almost 42 percent of the women said they used multivitamins regularly.

After about eight years, roughly equal numbers of vitamin users and nonusers developed common cancers, heart attacks and other cardiovascular problems. Overall, there were 9,619 cases of cancer, including cancers of the breast, lung, ovary, colon and stomach; and 8,751 cardiovascular ailments including heart attacks and strokes. In addition, 9,865 women died, also at similar rates in multivitamin users and nonusers.

Alice Lichtenstein, a Tufts University nutrition professor who was not involved in the research, said the study is important because it involved so many women.

"All the evidence keeps pointing in the same direction," Lichtenstein said.

Eric Jacobs, an American Cancer Society epidemiologist, said while his group doesn't advise vitamins to prevent cancer, it does recommend maintaining a healthy weight and eating at least five servings of fruits and vegetables daily while limiting red meat. Similar habits are also thought to help reduce heart disease risks.

Einstein, in robot form, smiles when you do

Albert Einstein looked around, made eye contact and smiled.

Of course, the renowned scientist has been dead for more than 50 years but he was reincarnated this week in the form of a so-called empathetic robot that pushes the boundaries of automation by being able to interact with people using emotional nuances.

GLOBAL NEWS TODAY

The rubberized rendition of Einstein's head and shoulders with piercing movable eyes, a shock of white hair and distinctive mustache dazzled a crowd of 1500 at the Technology, Entertainment and Design conference that seeks to foster creativity among entrepreneurs, scientists and designers.

The robot Einstein follows people with his eyes and smiles or frowns as appropriate. Even up close, it looks surprisingly real. "It's machine empathy," roboticist David Hanson told the audience. "This is a robot that can understand feeling and mimic.

Einstein got his personality two weeks ago when Hanson's contraption was married to software from the Institute for Neural Computation at the University of California, San Diego.

Einstein's creators believe that one day computers will be able to relate to people – listening and responding at a level not yet seen.

Some of the same computer techniques were used in "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button." Ed Ulbrich, the movie's digital visual effect producer, showed the TED audience how Brad Pitt's expressions were imposed on a computer-created version of him as an old man. It was a task that involved 155 people.

The latest version of Einstein, which is the fourth evolution of the robot, was created two months ago. Earlier Hanson robots are at museums, research institutes and universities around the world.

Hanson, an artist/roboticist based in Dallas, designed Einstein to mimic all of the face's roughly 48 facial muscles. It uses 32 motors that are in

some cases more versatile than the muscles they mimic. Two hidden cameras look out its life-like eyes.

Nicholas Butko, a graduate student at UC San Diego who accompanied Hanson to TED, said the goal is "to make computers that have basic perceptual capabilities – things that your brain does effortlessly that you never even think about."

The robot's software tracks 13 parameters, everything from the blink of an eye to the raise of an eyebrow or the wrinkle of a nose. More is in the works.

"One of our goals is to make a computer that can reliably tell how sincere someone's smile is," he said

EUROPE

French honour for 'barefoot diva

Cape Verde's "barefoot diva" Cesaria Evora is being awarded France's highest civilian honour, the Legion d'Honneur.

The 67-year-old, whose nickname comes from her habit of performing without shoes, is picking up the gong in Paris.

French Culture Minister Christine Albanel will present the award to the contralto vocalist at the ministry.

Evora learned to sing as a child at an orphanage in her island home off West Africa and won worldwide fame with her fourth album Miss Perfumado in 1992.

Music critics hail her as the best performer of morna, a genre often compared to blues and widely considered the national music of Cape Verde.

The hard-working singer was laid low for several weeks after suffering a stroke while performing in Sydney, Australia, in March 2008 but recovered to take to the road again weeks later.

Paris airports close for storms

France has been put on storm alert with the three Paris airports closed and ferry services suspended.

Air France said it had cancelled 210 flights, with the Charles de Gaulle, Orly and Bourget airports not due to reopen until 1000 (0900GMT) on Tuesday.

The storm was expected to hit France's Atlantic coast hardest, with winds of up to 100km/h (60mph).

Services between Brittany and nearby islands have been suspended, operators Oceane and Penn Ar Bedd said.

Brittany Ferries also postponed the inaugural sailing on Tuesday of its service from Roscoff to Plymouth, in southern England.

The French navy has put three rescue vessels on stand-by to help any shipping in difficulty. Sand bags have been deployed on sea-fronts exposed to possible flooding.

Scottish freeze

In Paris, travellers were asked not to head to the city's airports, which closed at 2000 (1900GMT).

Flights had been disrupted for two hours before the closures. Charles de Gaulle is one the busiest airports in Europe.

Forecasters predicted however that the storm would not be as bad as the one that lashed France and Spain on 24 January, leaving 11 dead and causing widespread damage.

In England, heavy rain sweeping across the country has left many councils on "full alert" in preparation for floods.

The UK saw the heaviest snowfall for 18 years last week and forecasters warn more snow is on the way over parts of Wales and the Midlands.

Forecasters are also predicting another freezing night in the Scottish Highlands, after temperatures on Sunday night dropped to -18C (-0.4F), which the Met Office said was the lowest temperature since January 2003.

German police hunt escaped zebras

German police had to spend hours chasing four zebras through the streets of the southern city of Augsburg, after they escaped from a visiting circus.

The black-and-white-striped fugitives broke free from their handlers while the circus was being packed up.

One escapee gave itself up quickly after being cornered by locals nearby, but it took 45 minutes to corral the others into a paddock outside the city.

While being loaded onto a trailer, one zebra managed to escape yet again.

After another two hours of pursuit, the animal had to be shot with a tranquiliser dart so that it could be transported back to the circus.

Police spokesman Robert Goeppel told the Associated Press that there had been no injuries, either to

humans or zebras, during the breakout. However, two police vehicles were reportedly damaged.

This was the first time "anything like this has happened here", Mr Goeppel said.

King's BOE Should Print Money, Change Mindset, Fathom Says

By Svenja O'Donnell (Bloomberg)

Bank of England Governor Mervyn King should print money now and abandon economic assumptions that have failed to save the U.K. from its worst recession since World War II, a group of former central bank economists said.

King and his colleagues are too reliant on an economic model that doesn't pay enough attention to credit and housing bubbles, said Danny Gabay, director of Fathom Financial Consulting and a former author of the bank's quarterly inflation report. Ignoring these key drivers of the downturn bears "some responsibility for the current malaise," he said.

The Bank of England has so far stopped short of increasing the supply of money even after cutting its benchmark rate to a record low of 1 percent this month. Officials should now cast off the mindset of "the Threadneedle Street establishment" in favor of faster action and "bold, fresh thinking," Fathom says, referring to the central bank's address.

"The bank should be printing money by now, and should have started doing it some time ago," said Gabay, who will present an alternative approach to the crisis in London today. "The framework at the Bank of England is based on an economic nirvana. If you assume, as we feel they did, that it represents reality, you end up in the kind of mess we're in now."

Buying homes on the verge of repossession to add money to the economy may prove an effective tool to fight the recession, Fathom says. U.K. economic prospects may be even "bleaker" than those released in the Bank of England's quarterly inflation report tomorrow, it forecasts.

The Bank of England's inflation-targeting approach, which King helped draw up in the 1990s, is

GLOBAL NEWS TODAY

showing cracks after successfully helping policy makers keep consumer prices under control for most of the past decade. Inflation breached the Bank of England's upper 3 percent limit last year after a surge in oil prices. The credit crisis has now sparked fears among policy makers that inflation will turn negative in coming months.

"The Bank of England's analytical framework worked well in terms of anchoring inflation between 1997 and 2007 but its inability to respond to the housing bubble and the subsequent crisis of the last 18 months has exposed its shortcomings," said Gabay.

U.K. gross domestic product will drop 2.8 percent this year, the most since 1946 and more than any

other industrialized country, the International Monetary Fund said on Jan. 28. The Bank of England said last week there's a "substantial risk" inflation will undershoot its central 2 percent target.

Purchases of homes by the Bank of England would help put a bottom on the decline in the housing market and help fight deflation by pumping money into the financial system, Fathom says. Housing sales in Britain dropped to the lowest level since at least 1978 in the quarter through January, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said today.

"The underlying problem in the economy lies in falling asset prices, notably housing," Fathom said in the report. "The government should buy houses

directly and instruct the Bank of England to print the money to pay for them."

The Bank of England on Feb. 5 cut the benchmark rate to 1 percent, the lowest level since the bank was founded in 1693. The Treasury last month granted it unprecedented powers to buy assets, as rates head towards zero, forcing the bank to adopt less conventional monetary policy tools.

"The framework at the Bank of England assumes markets clear, markets are efficient, consumers are rational and housing markets are not prone to bubbles," Gabay said. "Over-reliance on this has contributed to the economic mess that the U.K. now finds itself in.

WORLD NEWS

China dragon dancers riot: police

At least three police officers and 10 civilians were hurt in China in a riot sparked by dozens of traditional dragon dancers angered over being banned from performing, police and state media said Monday.

The disturbance occurred Sunday in rural Guizhou province in southwestern China after police banned the dance, part of traditional Lunar New Year celebrations, out of safety concerns, Xinhua news agency said.

The dancers then went to the local government headquarters in Dejiang county to stage a protest dance but were stopped by police. Clashes ensued that drew in crowds of more than 2,000 people, it said.

However, the Hong Kong-based Information Centre for Human Rights and Democracy quoted local sources saying the incident stirred up crowds of more than 10,000 people, some of whom joined the clashes against police.

The centre, which regularly issues reports on social disturbances in China, said at least 50 people were injured, and that two police cars and some property at government headquarters was smashed.

An official with Dejiang's Public Security Bureau reached by phone said the crowd numbered in the hundreds and that "some" policemen were injured, declining to give a figure.

"For public security, the dragon dance is forbidden in some areas this year. So the dragon dancers went to the county government asking for an explanation," said the official, who refused to give his name.

He added that dragon dancers in Dejiang traditionally wear fireworks on their costumes and consume alcohol, creating a risk to themselves and the public.

China sees thousands of cases of violent social unrest each year, typically as people lash out over illegal seizures of their land, environmental degradation, corruption or perceived police and government abuses.

Will recession dull hip-hop's bling?

By John D. Sutter

(CNN) -- Gold teeth, luxury cars and diamond chains heavy enough to slump a bodybuilder's shoulders have been ubiquitous symbols in hip-hop music for years, if not decades.

But -- as you may have noticed at the Grammys on Sunday -- there are signs that the genre's high-dollar bling may not survive the economic recession.

Many rappers came to the annual music awards show wearing sleek suits; their famous jewels were conspicuously absent. Artist Lil Wayne, who accepted two of rap's biggest awards -- Grammys for best solo rap performance and best rap album -- performed wearing a T-shirt. Only a modest necklace dangled from his neck.

Like everyone these days, rappers are feeling the effects of the country's economic meltdown. But industry commentators are split on whether they think financial woes will cause rappers to give up their hefty jewels.

Some experts contacted by CNN said the bling era soon will come crashing down. See an interactive on the end of bling »

"We just came out of the 'bling era,' where everything was about wealth and what you could attain, and I'm starting to see artists being more socially conscious," said Amy Andrieux, a senior editor at The Source magazine, which covers hip-hop.

President Obama's election has inspired some of the change, Andrieux said, but rappers also "just can't afford what they used to" because of the recession.

Top artists such as Lil Jon, who once made about \$80,000 per track, now are grappling with the fact that they may get half that sum if they're lucky, said Bryan Leach, senior vice president of urban music for RCA Music Group.

And while most Americans may not weep over the fact that famous rappers may make only \$35,000 per song, the price cuts -- and layoffs -- are sending shocks through the recording industry, Leach said. "Every major label has been laying people off," he said.

Adding to the uncertainty is the fact that hip-hop record sales are declining relative to other genres, according to a recent report from the Nielsen Co.

Last year saw rap album sales decline nearly 20 percent compared with 2007. While other genres also took dives, only classical, Latin and country music fell by a greater percentage than rap, according to the report.

Leach said the signs of hip-hop's move away from bling may not be apparent yet, but that listeners will see more of the trend soon.

"This is not about just popping bottles and buying jewelry," he said, also attributing some of the trend to Obama's election. "Everyone's got to be responsible and mature."

If financial woes don't dull hip-hop's diamond-encrusted image, then perhaps reactions from audiences and record labels will.

"I don't see concrete stuff yet, you know, but I imagine you will see more rappers doing some less-gaudy things just because it would be out of step with the audience," said Touré, an author and television personality. "The audience is struggling and striving, and then you're like, 'Look at my four diamond iced-out chains.'"

Last year, Young Jeezy -- an Atlanta, Georgia, rapper who wore an Armani suit to the Grammys -- put out his third album, "The Recession," which seemed to foretell the financial collapse.

In the track "My President," Jeezy says feeding and clothing the kids are giving him a headache; he also expresses worry that his son is "addicted to Polos," referring to the brand of designer shirts.

"It's about keeping it simple," he told CNN at the awards show Sunday.

The idea that musicians reflect on money in their lives and in their communities is not new. Throughout music history, poverty and wealth have influenced lyrics and musical styles.

The blues were born from tough times. And early hip-hop artists documented the ills they associated with President Reagan's economic policies in the 1980s and the crack epidemic, said Guthrie P. Ramsey, an associate professor of music at the University of Pennsylvania.

In the Clinton era and beyond though, the economy has been good to hip-hop listeners, and the genre has been less focused on social commentary and more intent on bragging about its commercial success, Ramsey said.

It's unclear exactly what will happen to hip-hop's bling now that times are tough, several experts said, but it's unlikely that bling will go away completely.

That may be because some brands of hip-hop promote an alluring fantasy -- whether or not it exists.

"In times like these people are looking for escapism, which is what I think that bling thing is all about anyway," Ramsey said. "It's just like a trend in movies: bigger and better, louder and stronger. ... The people for whom it's supposedly intended are never going to be able to attain those lifestyles, but just like little Shirley Temple and Bojangles, we want to fantasize about the life we could never have ourselves."

Some artists will continue to tout they can afford the luxury promoted in some hip-hop music videos regardless of the economic situation, said Leach of the RCA Music Group.

Those efforts have given birth to a new term in the hip-hop world: "recession-proof."

"Now when they are able to spend money and buy cars, they call themselves recession-proof," he said.

Andrieux, the editor at The Source, said more rappers will start following Young Jeezy's lead by commenting on the economic slump.

"There's still rich people regardless of the recession," she said. "And people want entertainment. At the end of the day, they want to escape ... but I think artists are going to move more toward lyricism again, where they're talking about real-life subjects, real-life topics."

FXDaily® - Daily table of currency exchange rates

USD	14.187 / 0.07072
GBP	21.0581 / 0.04766
EUR	18.4076 / 0.05452
CAD	11.6082 / 0.08648
AUD	9.5602 / 0.105
NZD	7.5668 / 0.1327

I♥FISHING

Dia St. Valentine

City of Sayulita 1st annual

Febrero 14, 2009



Dorado Grande Fishing Tournament

6 A.M. SHOTGUN START FROM SAYULITA
2 P.M. WEIGH IN

ENTER NOW

CONTACT NOE TO REGISTER 329 291 3887/ 322 42 93256

CASH PRIZE

BIGGEST DORADO WINS JACK POT
2500 PESO ENTRY FEE PER PONGA

PARTY TO FOLLOW ON THE PLAYA

hotline@globalnews2day.com

