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GLOBAL NEWS TODAY

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Monday February 9, 2009

Televisions 'to be fitted in contact lenses within ten years'

Televisions could be fitted into contact lenses within ten years, according to analysts.

The sets would be powered by the viewer's body heat, according to Ian Pearson, a so-called "futurologist" who has advised leading companies including BT on new technologies.

Mr Pearson told the Daily Mail he believed that channels could be changed by voice command or via a wave of the hand.

Meanwhile "emotional viewing" could be another development in television technology, according to a report commissioned by the technology retailer Comet.

A "digital tattoo" fitted to the viewer would pick up on the feelings of characters on screen and create impulses causing them to feel the same way.

The development could see James Bond fans become able to feel the thrill of a high-speed car chase or sports fans allowed to share the joy of elated players, it said.

"We could even get to the point where we'll be able to immerse ourselves in a football game, making it feel like you're running alongside your favourite player or berating the ref," the report added.

Miriam Rayman, of the Future Laboratory consultancy, which compiled the report, said the basic technology needed for the developments already existed.

She said: "The technology is getting smaller and smaller and people are trying to work out how to make it more immersible. They are trying to bring it closer and closer to the eye."

Not everyone cheers as Wi-Fi takes to the skies

By *Micheline Maynard*

For all the annoyance of being crammed into an aluminum tube at 35,000 feet with a bunch of strangers, air travel has offered one benefit: the ability to tell bosses and colleagues, "I'll be on a flight, so you won't be able to reach me."



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So much for that excuse. Wireless Internet service is starting to spread among airlines in the United States — Delta and American have installed it on more than a dozen planes each, and several other carriers are planning to test it.

For the airlines, always desperate for new sources of revenue, offering the service — about \$10 for three hours and more for longer flights — was an easy call. And many passengers will cheer the development as an end to Web withdrawal.

But this new frill is hardly as benign as a bag of pretzels. It may be a new source of tension between passengers on packed planes. A flight attendants' union has even expressed concern that terrorists could use it to plot attacks.

And there is the inescapable fact that one of the last places on earth to get away from it all can now be turned into a mobile office.

Brent Bigler, a financial planner living in Los Angeles, said he paid the \$12.95 fee on a recent American Airlines flight to New York, and spent several hours reading e-mail and searching the Internet. When his plane was delayed, he was able to reach a friend to say he would be late for dinner.

Even so, Bigler said he worried about the downside.

"This could be the same thing as what happened with cellphones and BlackBerrys," he said. "Once it's cheap and ubiquitous, employers might expect employees to participate. I may feel guilty if it were a Monday and I napped or read and didn't use the Internet to do work."

Airline executives said they were aware that the new service had the potential to raise issues beyond the bottom line. "We want to be respectful of the fact that an airplane is a public place," said Ranjan Goswami, director of product development at Delta. "You're in close intimacy with other passengers and the cabin crew."

Delta has told its flight attendants to treat overly enthusiastic users of Wi-Fi — who might, say, forget to mute the volume on YouTube videos of skateboarding dogs — like people who imbibe too much. In other words, cut them off if they start bothering others around them.

"It's just like alcohol," Goswami said. "The flight attendants understand how to interact with that."

But the Association of Flight Attendants, which represents 55,000 employees at 20 airlines, though not Delta, views Wi-Fi as a potential threat to flight attendants' ability to keep order in the cabin, said Corey Caldwell, a union spokeswoman.

"Our duties involve securing the safety of the cabin, not acting as censor police," Caldwell said. "It just adds another layer of duties inside the cabin, which take away from the main requirement that flight attendants are on board for."

Caldwell said the flight attendants' union also feared that terrorists plotting a scheme on a plane could use Wi-Fi to communicate with one another on board and with conspirators on the ground.

"Right now, their ability to do that on board is limited," she said. "But we can see an instance in which this becomes a potential threat."

The Federal Aviation Administration bans the use of cellphones aboard planes because they may interfere with a jet's navigation system. But Wi-Fi, as most technophiles know, offers a way around that ban, since the wireless connections can be used to tap into Skype and other programs that offer telephone service via a computer.

Clarel Thevenot, vice president for sales at Xtellus of Jersey City, said that during a flight from Stockholm he donned a headset with a microphone to call a friend in Paris. "I made the call brief and pretty much said, 'I'm at 35,000 feet and I'm calling you,'" Thevenot said.

Both airlines are using Wi-Fi service provided by Aircell. For now, American is offering its service on 15 Boeing 767 jets, said September Wade, a spokeswoman. If the test is successful, American will consider offering the service on its entire domestic fleet, but it has not decided yet whether to do so.

On Delta, service is \$9.95 for a flight of three hours or less, \$12.95 for a longer flight. American-based carriers do not yet offer the service on their international flights, although Delta is exploring it.

If all 150 passengers on a typical domestic flight were to buy three hours of time, that would mean an extra \$1,500 or so in revenue per trip — equal to selling several extra seats per flight. Delta said its service was too new to accurately gauge its popularity, and American would not say how many travelers were using the service.

FXDaily® - Daily table of currency exchange rates

Base Currency: Mexican Peso, MXP on Monday, February 9, 2009

USD 14.2206 / 0.07053
GBP 21.0351 / 0.04772
EUR 18.4097 / 0.05453
CAD 11.6669 / 0.08605
AUD 9.6006 / 0.1046

GLOBAL NEWS TODAY

By offering the service, airlines in the United States are catching up to many foreign carriers, like Lufthansa, which has offered the service for the past several years.

Travelers who have used it say the service works well for video clip sites like YouTube, although it isn't quite fast enough for streaming live events or television programs. They say, however, there is enough bandwidth to download a TV show from iTunes and watch it afterward.

"The name of the game is to give customers choices, and let them vote for their own desire," said Goswami of Delta, which plans to have Wi-Fi available on 330 planes by the end of 2009.

Mexico City plans for greener trash

By MARY CUDDEHE, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY -- Mexico City wants to turn one of the planet's biggest and messiest waste management systems into the greenest in Latin America, if not the developing world.

A newly formed Waste Commission is working to build four state-of-the-art processing centres in the next four years to recycle, compost or burn for energy 85% of Mexico City's trash -- compared with about 6% recycled today.

If it works, it would put this sprawling, polluted metropolis in a league with San Francisco, The Netherlands and other top recyclers, and first among developing cities, where the recycling rates mostly hover around 10%.

"The whole concept of recycling is very new in Latin America," said Atiliano Savino, president of the International Solid Waste Association.

While many places are good at recycling one thing, such as aluminum, Savino said, he's never seen a city revamp its recycling program on this scale in so little time.

U.S. and European cities that now have recycling rates over 50 per cent began decades ago.

But Mexico City has no choice.

The federal government proposed to close the city's main landfill this month, saying the 50-million-ton dump has become too full and leaches contamination.

Scientists dispute that, and the closing has been delayed by a city appeal in federal court for an extension.

Yet waste management officials know that soon much of Latin America's largest metro area will be forced into expensive, temporary alternatives for dumping trash.

Goswami said the airline will keep track of how customers use the Wi-Fi technology, then decide whether to set limits on how customers can use the Internet. Airlines can and do block access to pornography sites, for example, and Delta, like American, is blocking access to sites that offer Internet voice services.

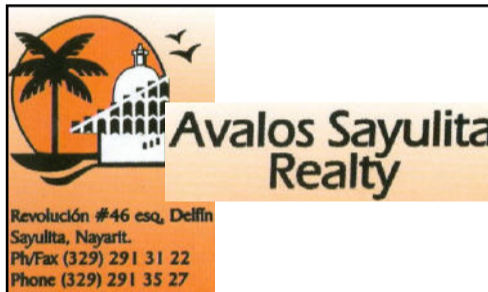
"A lot of it will be self-policing," Goswami said. "If you're not aware of it, your seatmate will make you aware."

But rather than fighting with their seatmates, more travelers will probably be wrestling with themselves about whether to use the service. After all,

MEXICO

It will take more than technology to recycle most of the 12,500 tons of trash the mega-city produces daily.

As in much of the developing world, Mexico City residents aren't accustomed to separating their garbage.



But Fernando Menendez, the dapper, silver-haired Waste Commission director, says naysayers need only look at the success of his other major environmental project.

No one thought he could get Mexico City residents out of their cars to cut air pollution, either.

But his "Hoy No Circula" campaign now idles at least 1.6 million cars a week.

"Nobody has ever done anything like this," Menendez said of shutting down what he calls the world's biggest landfill.

"But it has to work. There's no other option."

Donovan among stars called home for US clash with Mexico

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AFP) -- US coach Bob Bradley is pulling out all the stops as America hosts arch-rivals Mexico on Wednesday to open the final phase of regional qualifying for the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

guilt is common in today's pressure-filled workplaces, said Gayle Porter, professor of management at Rutgers University in Camden, New Jersey

"We want excuses to relax instead of making a conscious decision to relax," Porter said. "We don't want to put ourselves in the position of saying, 'That's my choice.'"

Michael Gross, an author who lives in New York, said he, too, had mixed feelings about the availability of Wi-Fi on planes, although he has used it to send e-mail messages and write a post on his blog. "One of the great things about getting on an airplane," he said, "is that it's life out of time."

Bradley named a 20-man squad on Sunday packed with European-based talent, including forward Landon Donovan, midfielder DaMarcus Beasley, defender Oguchi Onyewu and goalkeeper Tim Howard.

Donovan, who has 105 caps, is the United States' all-time scoring leader and is one goal shy of tying Brian McBride for the most career goals in World Cup qualifying (10).

He is currently on loan from the Los Angeles Galaxy to Bayern Munich in Germany.

Also included are US captain Carlos Bocanegra, a defender with Rennes in France, the midfielder Jose Francisco Torres (Pachuca of Mexico) and striker Josy Altidore (Jerez, Spain).

Sacha Kljestan, who plays for Major League Soccer's Chivas USA, is in the squad after scoring three goals in the US victory over Sweden in a friendly in Los Angeles in January.

The match is the first of the final-round which also includes Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Trinidad and Tobago.

Three countries will advance directly to the World Cup finals, and a fourth team will play off for a berth against a team from South America.

It will be the third straight time that the Columbus Crew stadium has hosted a home match against Mexico in the final round of World Cup qualifying in the North and Central America and Caribbean region.

Tickets for the clash sold out within 90 minutes of going on sale.

USA Squad

Goalkeepers: Brad Guzan (Aston Villa/ENG), Tim Howard (Everton/ENG)

Defenders: Carlos Bocanegra (Rennes/FRA), Jonathan Bornstein (Chivas USA), Danny Califf (FC Midtjylland/DEN), Frankie Hejduk (Columbus Crew), Oguchi Onyewu (Standard Liege/BEL),



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Heath Pearce (Hansa Rostock/GER), Marvell Wynne (Toronto FC)

Midfielders: DaMarcus Beasley (Glasgow Rangers/SCO), Michael Bradley (Borussia Moenchengladbach/GER), Ricardo Clark (Houston Dynamo), Sacha Kljestan (Chivas USA), Robbie Rogers (Columbus Crew), Jose Francisco Torres (Pachuca/MEX)

Forwards: Jozy Altidore (Jerez C.D/ESP), Brian Ching (Houston Dynamo), Charlie Davies (Hammarby IF/SWE) Clint Dempsey (Fulham/ENG), Landon Donovan (Bayern Munich/GER).

Mexico voodoo promo gets new partner, Blockbuster

By PETER ORSI

MEXICO CITY (AP) — After Radioshack dropped out, a Mexican newspaper has found a new U.S. corporate sponsor to help put a voodoo

hex on the U.S. national soccer team — and end Mexico's decade-long losing streak.

Blockbuster stores in Mexico City began trading Record newspaper coupons for voodoo-doll likenesses of U.S. soccer players Friday. The back of the dolls' jersey reads, "Gringos."

They should be used to wish for a Mexico goal during the World Cup qualifier Wednesday in Columbus, Ohio, according to the instructions.

Mexico has not beaten the Americans on U.S. soil in 10 years.

"Hold a needle firmly between your thumb and index finger and prick slowly the part of the doll where you want to affect the opponent," the instructions say.

Electronics retailer RadioShack, of Fort Worth, Texas, dropped out as a distribution partner last week after learning details of the campaign.

But Record merely had to go to Dallas to find another co-sponsor, DVD and video game rental chain Blockbuster Inc. A phone message left with the company's public relations office was not returned Friday.

But Record spokesman Daniel Paz said the promotion is lighthearted.

"In soccer, training and practice are what determine the results. The best team will win," he said. "But without any doubt, this little doll can help the good vibes of the Mexican fans to change the history of Mexico and turn things around."

Mexico fan Mauricio Munoz, picking up one of the Blockbuster dolls, said he doesn't believe black magic will have any effect on his team or the winless streak.

"But in any case," he said, "it's a good way to have fun."

An Inconvenient Truth by Al Gore Wins GRAMMY for Best Spoken Word Album

(Broadway.com)An Inconvenient Truth by Al Gore has won the 2009 GRAMMY Award for Best Spoken Word Album.

An Inconvenient Truth is read by Beau Bridges, Cynthia Nixon and Blair Underwood.

With wit, smarts and hope, AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH ultimately brings home Gore's persuasive argument that we can no longer afford to view global warming as a political issue - rather, it is the biggest moral challenges facing our global civilization.

The 2009 Grammys recognize albums released between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008.

The 51st Annual GRAMMY Awards are produced by John Cossette Productions in association with AEG Ehrlich Ventures for The Recording Academy. Ken Ehrlich and John Cossette are executive producers, Walter C. Miller is producer/director, Tisha Fein is the coordinating producer, and David Wild and Ken Ehrlich are the writers.

Musical directors for the telecast and pre-telecast are Rickey Minor and Larry Batiste, respectively.

Established in 1957, The Recording Academy is an organization of musicians, producers, engineers and recording professionals that is dedicated to improving the cultural condition and quality of life for music and its makers. Internationally known for the GRAMMY Awards - the preeminent peer-recognized award for musical excellence and the most credible brand in music - The Recording Academy is responsible for groundbreaking professional development, cultural enrichment, advocacy, education and human services programs. The Academy continues to focus on its mission of recognizing musical excellence, advocating for the well-being of music makers and ensuring music remains an indelible part of our culture.

Canadian athletes serve notice with big weekend

CBC Sports

USA+CANADA

Canada owned the podium over the past four days in venues from B.C. to Bulgaria, France and Norway, raising expectations for next year's Winter Olympics.

By the time the weekend finished, Canadians had collected 28 medals, more than half of them gold.

Can we fast forward a year?

The Own the Podium initiative developed by the Canadian Olympic Committee and its partners has targeted the No. 1 overall medal position for Canada at the Vancouver Games.

While it's true that not every competition over the weekend featured all of the international elite, it's also true that the notion of Canada in the top spot doesn't seem so far-fetched.

At the very least, Canadians can confidently expect the upward trajectory of the country's medal haul over the past 20 years to continue in Vancouver-Whistler. Canada won seven gold and 24 medals overall at the 2006 Torino Olympics.

Canada's athletes excelled at both world championship and World Cup events over the last few days. Calgary's John Kucera provided the biggest surprise, the first-ever world championship downhill gold medal by a Canadian male, in Val D'Isère, France.

Closer to home, international competitions at planned Olympic venues led to encouraging results for Canadian athletes.

Here's a recap of Canada's big winners since Thursday:

Gold

Alexandre Bilodeau, Rosemere, Que., moguls
Patrick Chan, Toronto, figure skating
Aleisha Cline, Squamish, B.C., ski cross
Chris Del Bosco, Sudbury, Ont., ski cross
Jessica Gregg, Edmonton, short track speedskating, 500 metres
Kristina Groves, Ottawa, speedskating, 1,500 m
Jennifer Heil, Spruce Grove, Alta., moguls
John Kucera, Calgary, downhill skiing
Jon Montgomery, Russell, Man., skeleton
Denny Morrison, Fort St. John, B.C., speedskating, 500 m

Christine Nesbitt, London, Ont., speedskating, 500 m
Steve Omischl, Kelowna, B.C., aerials
Francois-Louis Tremblay, Montreal, short track, 500 m
Men's short-track relay team
Women's short-track relay team

Silver

Jessica Dube, Drummondville, Que., and Bryce Davison, Cambridge, Ont., pairs figure skating
Stanley Hayer, Edmonton, ski cross
Kaillie Humphries, Calgary, and Heather Moyse, Summerside, P.E.I., bobsleigh
Ashleigh McIvor, Whistler, B.C., ski cross
Christine Nesbitt, speedskating, 1,500 m
Joannie Rochette, Ile-Dupas, Que., figure skating
Tessa Virtue, London, Ont., and Scott Moir, Ilderton, Ont., ice dance

Bronze

Davey Barr, Vancouver, ski cross
Charles Hamelin, Ste-Julie, Que., short track, 1,500 m
Pierre Lueders, Edmonton, and David Bissett, Lethbridge, Alta., bobsleigh
Jeff Pain, Calgary, skeleton
Katrina Roberge, St-Étienne-de-Lauzon, Que., short track, 1,000 m
François-Louis Tremblay, short track, 1,000 m

Fishermen Return To Ice Floe To Get ATVs, Snowmobiles

Ohio ice fishermen salvage equipment from ice

PORT CLINTON, Ohio -- Many of the 134 fishermen rescued from Lake Erie ice returned to the miles-long floe Sunday using rented air boats to retrieve left-behind snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and other equipment.

About 300 ventured onto the risky ice to fish for walleye not far from where the crack formed in the ice Saturday.

A pack of helicopters and air boats rescued the stranded fishermen on Saturday after the ice crack widened, stranding the fishermen about 1,000 yards offshore. One man fell into the water and later died of an apparent heart attack.

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A Coast Guard helicopter flew over the area to survey how much abandoned equipment remained on the ice, but fishermen were responsible for recovering their own belongings.

Ottawa County Sheriff Bob Bratton called for authorities to reconsider when it assesses civil penalties for stranded ice fishermen.

Poll finds Obama more popular than his stimulus package

By Paul Steinhauser
CNN

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- A new national poll suggests that three out of four Americans approve of the job Barack Obama is doing as president, but the economic stimulus package he's trying to push through Congress is not nearly as popular.

Seventy-six percent of those questioned in a CNN/Opinion Research Corp. survey released Monday gave Obama a thumbs-up on how he's performing his duties, while 23 percent disapproved.

As the poll was released, Obama was on the road, in Elkhart, Indiana, to help promote his plan to jump-start the economy. Later in the day he's holding a prime-time news conference from the White House to pitch the plan.

While the president puts on a full-court press, the debate over the \$800 billion-plus bill -- which includes increased government spending and tax cuts -- appears to have split the public. A slight majority, 54 percent, favors the bill; 45 percent are opposed.

Cannabis linked to testicular cancer

Scientists find heavy use of marijuana can double risk of tumours among men

By Jeremy Laurance, Health editor

The soaring rate of testicular cancer in the UK and other Western countries is linked today to the increased popularity of cannabis. Testicular cancer has more than doubled over the past 30 years and its rise parallels that of the use of cannabis, Britain's most popular illegal drug.

Researchers in the US have found that men who regularly smoke cannabis have a 70 per cent increased risk of testicular cancer. The risk was highest -- twice that of those who never used the drug -- in those who smoked it at least once a week or had a long history of use, beginning in adolescence.

The study is based on findings from 369 men with testicular cancer who were questioned about their history of cannabis use. The results were compared with 979 men who did not have cancer. Cannabis was linked with testicular cancer independently of smoking, drinking and family history.

Experts from Cancer Research UK said it was the first time a link had been suggested and the size of the study was small. More than three million people smoke cannabis and only a tiny proportion develop the cancer.

The results, published today in the journal *Cancer*, showed a link between cannabis use and one type

of testicular cancer, called nonseminoma, which is aggressive, tends to strike younger men and accounts for 40 per cent of testicular cancer.

"Partisanship is alive and well, not just in the House and Senate, but in the rank and file as well," said CNN polling director Keating Holland. "The partisan split that has been a staple of American public opinion for decades is alive and well."

An \$819 billion version of the stimulus bill passed the House of Representatives two weeks ago, with no Republican support. The Senate is expected to vote Tuesday on a different version of the bill, which would include more tax cuts and less government spending. Democrats support the bill, while all but three Republican senators appear to oppose the legislation.

Sixty-four percent of those polled said the current bill being debated in the Senate would help the economy a lot or somewhat, while 36 percent felt that the package would not help the economy much or at all.

"The public may be lukewarm on the stimulus package because they only see limited benefits from it," Holland said. "Sixteen percent say it would help the economy a lot, but 48 percent foresee only some improvements if the bill passes."

Many Republican lawmakers argue that the bill is too expensive. It appears that argument may be working with Americans. Fifty-five percent of those questioned felt the price tag for the stimulus plan is too big, while three in 10 said the bill would spend the right amount of money and 13 percent felt not enough money is in the legislation.

EUROPE

of testicular cancer, called nonseminoma, which is aggressive, tends to strike younger men and accounts for 40 per cent of testicular cancer.

Stephen Schwartz, an epidemiologist at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Centre in Seattle, Washington, who led the research, said: "Our study is not the first to suggest that some aspect of a man's lifestyle or environment is a risk factor for testicular cancer but it is the first that has looked at marijuana use."

There were 2,109 cases of testicular cancer in Britain in 2005 and 78 deaths. In 1975 there were 850 cases. Unlike other cancers, it is most common in young men with a peak incidence between the ages of 20 and 40.

The more common, slower growing type, called seminoma, was not linked with cannabis use, even though both types have been growing by 3 to 6 per cent a year since the 1950s in the US, UK and other developed countries.

Although testicular cancer is normally curable when caught early, some patients are not diagnosed until the disease is advanced. Undescended testes in childhood and a family history of the disease are known to increase the risk.

The disease is thought to begin in the womb when germ cells in the foetus (those that will eventually make sperm in the adult) fail to develop properly. Exposure to male hormones in adolescence is thought to trigger development of cancer in the affected cells. Chronic cannabis use is known to reduce sperm quality and increase impotence, which are linked with testicular cancer.

hotline@globalnews2day.com

The survey indicates, however, that Obama and the Democrats in Congress do have some advantages in this political battle over the stimulus. Three out of four poll respondents said that Obama is doing enough to cooperate with Republicans in Congress, but only 39 percent feel that congressional Republicans are cooperating enough with the president.

Six out of 10 approved of the way Democratic leaders in Congress are handling their jobs. But only 44 percent of those questioned approved of the way Republican leaders in Congress are performing. Overall, only 29 percent said they like the way Congress is handling its job, with 71 percent disapproving.

That's far below Obama's 76 percent approval rating, which is higher than other recent national surveys by other organizations.

"Other polls have shown Obama's approval rating in the mid to high 60s, but those polls also have 10 to 20 percent saying that they don't have an opinion on Obama. We have only 1 percent saying that they are undecided about Obama," Holland said.

Ninety-seven percent of Democrats approve of the way Obama is handling his duties as president, the CNN/Opinion Research Corp. poll found. That drops to 76 percent for Independents and 50 percent for Republicans.

The survey was conducted Saturday and Sunday, with 806 adult Americans questioned by telephone. The survey's sampling error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for the overall sample and plus or minus 6.5 percentage points for the breakdowns by party preference.

The testes have receptors for tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main psychoactive ingredient in cannabis, and the male reproductive system is known to naturally produce a cannabinoid-like chemical that is thought to protect against the disease.

The researchers speculate that cannabis may interfere with this anti-tumour effect, increasing the risk of the cancer developing.

Janet Daling, a member of the research team, said: "It has been suggested that puberty is a window of opportunity during which lifestyle or environmental factors can increase the risk of testicular cancer. This is consistent with the study's findings that the elevated risk of nonseminoma-type testicular cancer in particular was associated with marijuana use prior to age 18."

German leader calls pope about Holocaust denier

(AP)BERLIN -- The German chancellor called the pope Sunday, days after she demanded he clarify the Vatican's stance on the Holocaust after it lifted the excommunication of a bishop who denies six million Jews were killed.

Chancellor Angela Merkel initiated the "good and constructive conversation" and it was characterized by "common deep concern about the perpetual warning of the Shoah for humanity," said a joint statement with German-born Pope Benedict XVI. Shoah is a Hebrew word for the Holocaust.

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On Tuesday, Merkel made a rare public demand for clarification after the Vatican lifted the excommunication of traditionalist British Bishop Richard Williamson, who has said he does not believe any Jews were gassed during the Holocaust.

A day later, the Vatican demanded that Williamson recant his denial of the Holocaust before he can be admitted into the Roman Catholic Church as a bishop. Merkel welcomed that stance.

The pope's action revived strains in relations between the Vatican and Jews. Jewish groups have previously criticized Benedict's decision to restore what they see as an offensive prayer for the conversion of Jews in Easter Week services of the old Latin Mass.

Some Jews accuse World War II Pope Pius XII of not speaking out to try to prevent the Holocaust; and Israeli officials recently took offense when a senior cardinal said Gaza under the Israeli offensive seemed like a "big concentration camp."

Williamson is one of four bishops from the ultra-conservative Society of St. Pius X whose excommunication was lifted by the Vatican last month.

He has apologized to the pope for having stirred controversy, but has not repudiated his comments, in which he also said only 200,000 to 300,000 Jews were killed during World War II.

Williamson does not plan to immediately comply with the Vatican's demand that he recant, and has rejected a suggestion that he might visit the former Auschwitz death camp, the German weekly *Der Spiegel* reported Saturday.

Williamson said he would correct himself if he is satisfied by the evidence, but insisted that examining it "will take time," *Der Spiegel* reported.

Several efforts by The Associated Press to reach Williamson at his home in La Reja, Argentina, have been unsuccessful.

WORLD NEWS

Indian woman has football-sized tumour removed from jaw

(AFP) An Indian woman has had a tumour as big as a football removed from the side of her face, 25 years after it first developed.

Doctors who performed the operation believe 67-year-old Lakhmani Devi's parotid gland tumour, which weighed nearly two kilogrammes, may have been the biggest ever removed from a human.

"It was made of solid tissue and was the largest I have come across in all the medical books," K.K. Handa, the operating surgeon at New Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences, told AFP on Monday.

"The patient was told by doctors in her village that she would die if it was removed so she coped with it for decades. But she is now eating well and should make a full recovery."

Devi, from the eastern state of Jharkhand, is expected to be discharged from hospital 10 days after the surgery on February 4.

Her son, Lallan Singh, said that the operation would give his mother a new lease of life.

"The tumour kept on increasing," he said. "She felt uncomfortable and embarrassed and stopped going out of the house. We can't thank the doctors enough."

Seeing color in sounds has genetic link

By Elizabeth Landau
CNN

(CNN) -- When Julian Asher listens to an orchestra, he doesn't just hear music; he also sees it. The sounds of a violin make him see a rich burgundy color, shiny and fluid like a red wine, while a cello's music flows like honey in a golden yellow hue.

Asher, a researcher in the department of genomic medicine at Imperial College London, has a rare condition called synesthesia, a neurological condition in which people experience a mixing of their senses. People with the condition may see colors and movement in numbers, words or sounds.

As many as 1 percent of people have the most recognizable form of synesthesia, studies say. Acclaimed Russian-American author Vladimir Nabokov, who wrote "Lolita," famously had the disorder, as did physicist Richard Feynman and composer Franz Liszt.

"Since a subtle interaction exists between sound and shape, I see q as browner than k, while s is not the light blue of c, but a curious mixture of azure and mother-of-pearl," Nabokov wrote in his memoir "Speak, Memory."

Psychologists have known for more than a century that synesthesia runs in families -- Nabokov's mother and son Dimitri also displayed forms of it -- but the specific genes have not been found.

Now, Asher and colleagues in the United Kingdom have done what they say is the first genetic analysis of synesthesia. Their findings are published this week in the *American Journal of Human Genetics*.

Researchers collected DNA from 196 people from 43 families in which there were multiple members with synesthesia. They looked exclusively at auditory-visual synesthesia, the kind where sound triggers color, which is easier to diagnose than other possible forms. Visit CNNhealth.com, your connection for better living

They expected to find a single gene responsible for synesthesia, but they found that the condition was linked to regions on chromosomes 2, 5, 6, and 12 -- four distinct areas instead of one.

"It means that the genetics of synesthesia are much more complex than we thought," Asher said.

Brain scans have shown that people with synesthesia seem to have "cross-wiring" between brain regions, said V.S. Ramachandran, director of the Center for Brain and Cognition at the University of California, San Diego.

"Nobody really had the evidence pinning it down to specific genes in specific chromosomes, and I'm delighted to hear somebody's done that," Ramachandran said.

"Cross-wiring" was shown in a study led by J.A. Nunn at Goldsmiths College, London, which found that the visual areas of the brain were activated in response to sound in people for whom sound triggers color.

Given that a normal infant's brain has excess connections between brain regions, one hypothesis is that synesthesia results when the genes that "prune" these connections away are mutated, Ramachandran said. In other words, people with synesthesia may have brain connections that would normally disappear at an early age.

Genes found in the areas of Asher's study have been connected to other mental disorders. For ex-

ample, genes on chromosome 2 have also been linked to autism, Asher said.

The link between synesthesia and autism is controversial and speculative, but one of Asher's previous case studies suggests a connection. The man he examined had Asperger's syndrome -- a mild, high-functioning form of autism -- and also had an extraordinary memory capacity for numbers. In fact, he memorized 22,000 digits of the number pi.

The man's process of remembering these numbers is not simple rote recall. Instead, it is as though he were navigating a landscape, Asher said. "He says it's like walking along a path," Asher said.

The man's ability to focus intently on a dry subject is associated with Asperger's, but it's also synesthesia that helps him memorize numbers, Asher said. In fact, in this sense, synesthesia is a form of photographic memory.

One suggestion is that synesthesia and autism in a single person may make him or her a savant, someone with a singular and extreme intellectual ability.

Children with synesthesia will often show signs of it in school, because it slows down reading for some kids and makes lectures difficult to absorb for others. As awareness of learning differences grows in schools, more children are coming forward and explaining that they have trouble, leading to more diagnoses, Asher said. Interventions may include written notes or books on tape for those whose synesthesia interferes with, respectively, listening or reading.

To what extent do children with synesthesia grow up to become artists and poets? The connection is controversial, in spite of prominent examples such as Nabokov, Asher said it's a misconception that most synesthetes go into creative disciplines. His database of 900 people with the condition does not have a disproportionate number in artistic professions.

In Asher's own case, nonverbal noises such as a fire alarm or a piece of music will trigger visual sensations.

When he was a child, Asher would go to the symphony with his parents and assumed that the lights went down so that everyone could see the colors better. "I mean, why else would they do it?" he said.

"My parents asked something, and I said, 'Oh, they turned the lights off so you could see the colors,' and they had no idea what I was talking about, and that's when I realized that they didn't see what I saw," he said.

He never knew that his condition had a name until he happened to be researching the genetics of perfect pitch, which has been anecdotally linked with synesthesia.

"Even to this day, I'll run into people who study neuroscience for a living, and they've never heard of it," he said. There are organizations that promote

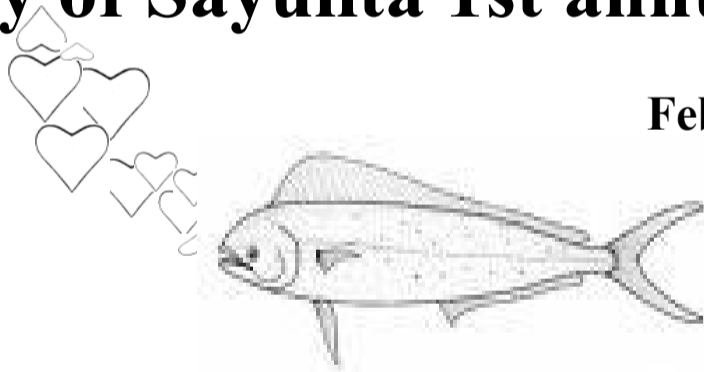
awareness, but still a lot of people don't know about it, he said.

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