

## INTERNATIONAL

## Virtual Serengeti showcases Africa

Associated Press

August for parents is when the I.B. index reaches its most dangerous levels, but computers can help.

The I.B. index is the number of times per hour a kid whines "I'm bored!" A more productive response than "Go to your room!" is available from Grolier Interactive in NATURE: Virtual Serengeti for both PC and Macintosh platforms.

Virtual Serengeti is an interactive tour of the rich wildlife of Africa's Serengeti Plain that allows users to interact virtually with the environment and wildlife, getting inside a leopard's head, for example, without risking getting inside its stomach. And it's slots cheaper than airfare to Tanzania.

Recommended for users nine years and older, the CD-

ROM is hosted by George Page of the television series "Nature," produced by WNET-New York. The premise of the software is that Page sends the player to Africa to complete some field research studies for an upcoming documentary. The player travels through the Serengeti and collects and analyzes video clips of the animals.

It isn't exactly a pulse-pounder. But what makes the software interesting and worthwhile is the collection of more than 150 animal video clips and the way the user must discover them.

The screen view is controlled by sweeping the cursor and it offers the illusion of walking along the plains with a full 360 degrees of motion. When the cursor passes over a part of the

landscape that would be appropriate for an animal, it changes to a video viewfinder and the video clip of that animal runs.

The background sound is what you would hear as you walked about - insect, bird and beast calls, wind sounds.

The software allows you to travel to seven different parts of this vast plain and includes an interactive field guide with 59 entries on various animal species, as well as maps. The field guide covers topics like animal body language, sounds and body parts. The animal videos are quite good and the cursor-driven user interface is very easy to use. The software opens with a good tutorial and installation obligingly installs Quick-Time video player.

System requirements are

relatively modest in light of today's muscle-machine approach to computing. For the PC, it's a minimum 133-megahertz Pentium, 116 megabytes of RAM, 16-bit SVGA video display capable of displaying thousands of colors, a six-speed CD-ROM, sound card and speakers. For the Mac, 120-megahertz PowerPC, 16 megabytes of RAM, OS 7.1 or higher, quad-speed CD-ROM and a display capable of thousands of colors. Grolier products are widely available at retail and this one goes for \$29.99, which you'll probably find discounted at some outlets.

Questions and comments are welcome. E-mail via the Internet to HYPERLINK "mailto:lasko@ap.org" or send regular mail to Larry Blasko, AP, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020.

## South African women mark women's day

KWATHEMA, South Africa (AP) — Winnie Madikizela-Mandela led South African women Monday in celebrating a forgotten figure in the anti-apartheid struggle, a woman who organized one of the earliest and largest demonstrations against white rule.

But the graveside ceremony marking National Women's Day was overshadowed by a major challenge still facing women in this fledgling democracy — violence against women.

About 64,000 women and girls are raped each year in South Africa, and South African women are nearly three times as likely to be raped as women in the United States.

About 14,000 of the victims are girls under 18,



WINNIE MANDELA

who are often raped by HIV-infected men who believe they will be cured by having sex with a virgin.

The National Women's Day theme — "Women United: Break the Silence" — dominated a televised speech by President Thabo Mbeki, who said the liberation of South Africans would not be complete

"unless women of our country live without fear in their houses and walk freely through all the streets and villages of our country."

Uniformed policewomen carried a banner that read "police combat violence against women," joining about 5,000 people — mostly women — assembled at the stadium in Kwatema, a black township 25 miles southeast of Johannesburg.

National Women's Day marks a 1956 march by 20,000 women who converged on government buildings in Pretoria to protest apartheid pass laws — one of the first mass demonstrations against white minority rule.

The pass laws required South Africa's majority blacks, mixed race and Asians to carry documents — or passes — that limited them to

certain racially segregated areas.

The forgotten heroine of the struggle, Margaret Gazo, spent five years in prison for (See Women's Day, Page 17)

## Plans call for new U.S. embassy in Africa

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — The U.S. government is planning the fastest embassy construction in the State Department's history, replacing the mission destroyed in last year's terrorist attack in Tanzania, a U.S. envoy said today.

Charles Stith, the U.S. ambassador to Tanzania, was speaking at a ceremony in the capital, Dar es Salaam, marking the start of a weekend commemoration of the bombing, which killed 11 people and wounded 86 others.

A nearly simultaneous attack against the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, killed 213 people and wounded more than 5,000. The United States said it thinks Islamic militants were behind both attacks.

Friday's ceremony, attended by U.S. government employees and victims of the attack, was led by prayers from Christian and

Muslim leaders, representing Tanzania's two main religions.

During the ceremony, the children of three people killed in the Dar es Salaam attack unveiled a plaque bearing the names of those killed in both Tanzania and Kenya.

The plaque is to be placed in the lobby of the interim embassy, then moved to the new embassy when it is completed. Ground-breaking for the new, \$50 million chancery is set for Saturday. The new building, to be located at the site of Tanzania's only drive-in cinema less than two miles from the bombed embassy, "is going to be one of the finest and the most quickly built structure by the U.S. Department of State," Stith said.

Citing security requirements, Stith said he was unsure when the new quarters would be ready for occupancy.

## WORLD BRIEFS

## IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED IN THE CONGO

HARARE (IPS) — For the first time in two years, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) will embark on a nationwide vaccination campaign to immunize nearly 10 million children under the age of five against polio. The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director of Africa, Dr. Ebrahim M. Samba, confirmed that all combatants in the DRC conflict had agreed to a cessation of hostilities to ensure the success of the National Immunization Days (NIDs) to be carried out in three phases Aug. 13-Oct. 24. The exercise will be conducted by officials from the Ministry of Health with support from WHO, the U.N. Children's Fund (Unicef) and Rotary International. "I am hereby appealing solemnly to all the belligerents to collaborate with us so that we can vaccinate these innocent children," said Dr. Samba appealing to all the warring parties in the DRC to cooperate, so that the vaccination teams will be safe.

## HOUSE DENIES FUNDS FOR ARMY TRAINING FACILITY

WASHINGTON (IPS) — The House of Representatives has handed human rights supporters an unexpected triumph by voting to withdraw funding from the U.S. Army's notorious School of the Americas (SOA), the premier training facility for Latin American military officers. Despite intense lobbying by the Pentagon, the House voted July 29 by a margin of 230-197 to delete all SOA funding — about \$2 million — from next year's foreign aid appropriations bill. Activists had long accused SOA graduates of being among the worst abusers of human rights in Latin America. "We're overjoyed that the Congress has voted to cut funding to the school," said Roy Bourgeois, a Catholic priest and the leader and founder of SOA Watch, an independent group which has waged a 10-year fight to have the facility shut down. The Pentagon declined comment on the vote, referring all calls to the School at Fort Benning, Ga.

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