

Collecting all the bits & pieces

MAURICE Tunick, WOR VP: "Amazing. In Jersey, the second it rains my cable service goes out. In Baghdad, they can't knock out the damn TV with 20 cruise missiles a night."

SALE Johnson, socialite: "You know the world's gone nuts when the best rapper is a white guy, the Swiss hold the America's Cup, France is accusing the U.S. of arrogance and Germany doesn't want to go to war."

HILARY Swank, now out in the film "The Core" and now out of the play "The Miracle Worker," says the stage show "was more challenging than I ever expected. It included learning sign language, learning how to bite people, getting my hair pulled, getting my face slapped."

A problem with the birth of this Broadway play was that the two principals involved — director and star — were both neophytes in terms of stagecraft. The brilliant Hilary, accustomed to short takes in films, was so slow in getting the lines memorized that she once even apologized to the producers: "Please ... don't worry ... I promise I won't let you down."

ACTRESS James a.k.a. **Jaime King** did months of training in kung fu, taekwon do, Hong Kong street fighting, wire work and strenuous physical feats for her role opposite Chow Yun-Fat in MGM's action-adventure "Bulletproof Monk." Some was potentially dangerous cat-fighting with **Victoria Smurfit's** character. Says James:

"Once Victoria whipped out her baton to hit me and came thisclose to impaling my eye. The scene took three 15-hour days of fighting, hair-pulling, being

Cindy Adams



thrown into walls, shoving, punching, kicking and running up the wall repeatedly then jumping off doing back-spinning kicks."

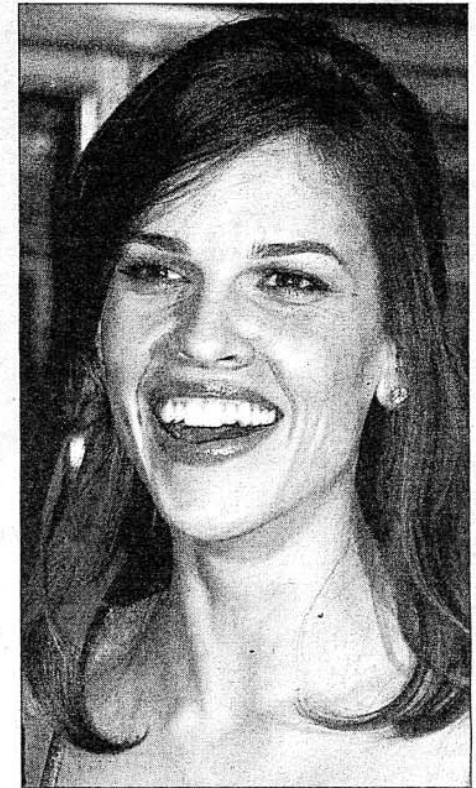
Kiddies, Confucius say: Luck is the end product of a hell of a lot of hard work. And if Confucius didn't say it, he would have if he'd made this picture.

SPEAKING of hard work: Yesteryear hangout Cafe Nicholson is up for \$10 mil and Corcoran Group broker **Katsuko Suzuki** had an open house. She stayed up all night preparing sushi for the prospects.

GEORGE W's niece **Lauren Bush** and dog **Angel** strut the catwalk May 1 at Eugene. It's Animal Fair's Paws for Style benefit for the Humane Society ... Speaking of animals, thanks to **Joan Jeddell** for putting mine on the cover of her Hampton magazine ... You know **Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg's** working for the private sector of public schools for \$1 a year. What you may not know is that Chancellor **Joel Klein** offered her some \$90,000 per annum. Rather than fill out the paperwork she OK'd the buck a year ... Famously secretive about the title, plot, dialogue of any of his future movies, **Woody Allen** allowed film-critic pal **Judith Crist** to show his coming "Anything Else" at a Tarrytown film festival. Two guards made sure it was never out of their sight.

SEAN P. Diddy calls mom, **Mama Combs**. Could be a may be line of senior fashions coming down under this name ... So, at a crowded event, who did a quick-turning photographer boff smack in the head with her heavy camera bag? **Joan Collins** — who let photog **Bettina Cirone** know in no uncertain terms what she thought of it and her ... Model **Iman**, so skinny in her orange tighttighttight sheath that she looked like a lipstick brush: "I gained five pounds since the baby." She then downed a hamburger ... **Viggo Mortensen** of "The Lord of the Rings": "One day the work on this film will end for us all." ... **Richard Gere**, when I asked if he'd ever actually been to the city of Chicago: "Yes. But I can't remember when. I think when we were casting 'Unfaithful.'"

LONGTIME banjo player **Steve Martin** was given a rare banjo by his "Bringing Down the House" co-star **Queen Latifah** ... **Crispin Glover** of the flick "Willard" and Penthouse model sexy **Alexa** a happy twosome ... Joe Franklin's Memory Lane restaurant in Times Square had a third birthday ... **Matthew McConaughey's** earnings from "How to Lose a Guy in Ten Days" got him a house in the Hollywood Hills ... **Britney Spears' boots** are made by Russian shoemaker **Uriel** on West 26th Street. If you care they're \$800 ... **Anna Kournikova's** new tattoo is just above The Crack. I, naturally, haven't seen it but I hear it's a sun sign ... **Lauren Hutton** to a cameraman: "Lift the angle of your lens so my jowls don't show." ... At NBC studios at 30 Rock a guy held up this sign: "Impeach **Martin Sheen**."



Fred Prouser/Reuters

HILARY SWANK
Couldn't get used to biting people.

A 6-year-old at her birthday party inquired of those who gave her a present she didn't like: "Do you have the receipt for this gift?"

Only in New York, kids, only in New York.