#### **Business Travel Today**

By Rhonda Richards

**Caribbean flights:** American Eagle commuter flights into St. Thomas resume today from San Juan, Puerto Rico. American Eagle and American Airlines are flying into St. Croix and San Juan; limited service into St. Martin. Beginning Friday, American will make one daily flight from Miami and one from San Juan into St. Thomas. USAir has canceled service into St. Thomas through Saturday and



service into St. Martin through mid-October. There is regular service into San Juan. Hurricane coverage, 1A. Weather watch: Rain across the Plains, parts of Midwest. Expect mostly sunny conditions on the East and West coasts. Details, 14A.

Metro Traffic: In St. Louis, restricted lanes in both directions on the Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge will cause major delays into downtown.... In Denver, major delays on the I-25 southbound ramp to I-225 northbound.

Call 1-800-201-1467 with tips for this column. Traffic info by Metro Traffic Control; for more, see its Internet page at http://www.metronetworks.com.



# SkyTel takes two-way paging nationwide

By Kevin Maney USA TODAY

SkyTel today unveils the first nationwide two-way paging system, launching a cheap mobile-messaging industry that will involve companies such as Sony and AT&T. Even major automakers will build messaging devices into cars.

"This is a breakthrough," consultant Jeffrey Kagan says. "A year from now you'll see so many new paging services, you can't even imagine them."

SkyTel's system will be up and running today in 150 metropolitan regions. By year's end, the system will cover 225 metro regions, says Bernard Tuckett, CEO of Mobile Telecommunications

Technologies. SkyTel is an Mtel division.

How it works: A caller dials an 800 number and leaves a message with an operator, who types the message into the system. Or, a PC user could send a message to the pager using electronic mail. The pager can receive text messages of up to 500 characters and display them on a tiny scree

play them on a tiny screen. Encoded in the devices are a number of ready-made replies, such as "OK" and "Be there in 15." Users pick a reply and hit a button to send it. Or they can



PAGER: SkyTel's twoway communicator.

a user to receive unlimited messages in a region and send 100 replies a month for \$24.95. The top level allows unlimited messages nationwide and 200 replies a month for \$74.95.

But SkyTel's service is only the begin-

plug the pager into a lap-

top PC and type a reply of up to 95 characters.

Replies can travel back

several ways, including

to another pager or via

Users can buy the Sky-

Tel 2-Way device for

\$399 or rent one for \$15 a

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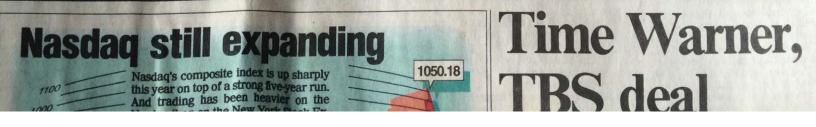
lowest level would allow

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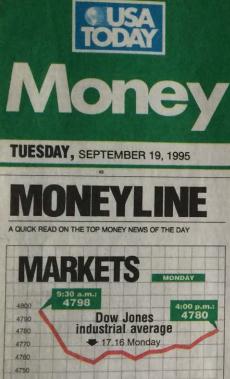
ning, analysts say. Competitors AT&T and MobileComm are rushing to get into two-way messaging. That should drive down prices, creating "the next hot application — cheap, wireless email," says Bill Bane of Mercer Management Consulting. Also coming:

▶ Portable PCs with built-in, two-way messaging. Cards that slide into the PCs will be ready in a year, CEO Tuckett says. Chips that put the capability inside the machines will come after that.

▶ The devices, built into cars and combined with satellite positioning devices, will offer security. If your car gets stolen, call the pager and tell it to turn off the car. Then tell the pager to send a return message saying where it is.



#### VIA SATELLITE



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SUPREME COURT STORY: McGraw-Hill, parent of Business Week, said Monday that it may ask the Supreme Court to review a judge's ruling that blocked publication of a story in that magazine. A U.S. district court last Wednesday issued a restraining order to keep Business Week from printing information from sealed court docu-ments in a story about Procter & Gamble's lawsuit against Bankers Trust New York over losses in derivatives. The next day McGraw-Hill asked a circuit court to overturn that order. A three-judge court of appeals panel heard McGraw-Hill's argument Monday but took no action by the close of

DOCKET

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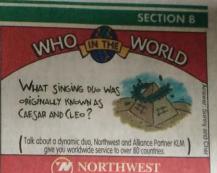
#### U.S. hotel occupation January to June: 64.8% 61.6% 60 12 55

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