

## DAILY NEWS

August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006

### **National Underwear Day**

Two years ago, Charles Perez wasn't looking at his then-new WABC/Ch. 7 anchor job as a short-term affair but wanted to be here for the long haul.

Well, the long haul has turned into a quick trip.

Perez will leave Ch. 7 the weekend of Sept. 9 and head to a Miami outlet, according to station sources.

He's leaving two years into what was a four-year deal that gave the station an out now. "He was, inarguably, an enormous flop here," said a source.

When he joined Ch. 7, Perez anchored the weekend news with Sandra Bookman and reported weekdays at 11 p.m. But he was soon dropped from the 11 p.m. show and put on the early-evening newscasts.

Sources said he never caught on with colleagues or with the reporting aspect of the job.

And from this end, he seemed too laid-back and too detached to make viewers care about what he was saying.

He did not return a message left on his station voice mail yesterday.

Perez, a former talk-show host, anchored in Miami before landing at Ch. 7.

His departure opens an anchor spot on the top-rated station. Potential candidates include reporter Joe Torres - who anchors weekend mornings - and Jeff Pegues, who subs occasionally for Bill Ritter and does an excellent job every day in the field.

Corning has 'Good Day'

Jodi Applegate has a full-time partner on WNYW/Ch. 5's "Good Day New York."

Ron Corning, who will leave ABC News today as anchor of its overnight newscast, will join "GDNY" later this month.

"I've been a fan of the show since I came to New York," Corning said. "I follow opportunities as they come along, and see how they fit into what I want to do in my life."

Corning was drawn to "GDNY" because of its connection with local viewers.



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"I just see they have such a commitment there to providing a great local product and an alternative to the national shows," Corning said.

Before ABC, he was a co-host of the syndicated series "The Daily Buzz" and hosted shows on HGTV and E!. He also has worked at stations in Seattle, St. Louis and West Virginia.

"This so fits into what I want to do with my career," Corning said. "I just couldn't say no."

### Random observations

Lots of readers miss the old CBS 2 crew in the morning, but it's good to see a real morning news program when serious news breaks, such as yesterday's terrorist activities.

With lines backing up at local airports, Ch. 2's morning show stayed on the air until 10 a.m. - longer than any of the local broadcast stations. To that end, WNBC/Ch. 4 also added a brief report at noon yesterday, following Mayor Bloomberg's press conference, and WABC/Ch. 2 extended its noon newscast to an hour.

Is anyone paying attention? Ch. 7's E-mail updates to viewers yesterday led people to its Web site for live video of Bloomberg's press conference on the terror plot. But before the video, users were forced to watch a promo for the film "World Trade Center." Kind of an uncomfortable placement.

Just a question. Given WPIX/Ch. 11's success in drawing viewers and, more importantly, capitalizing on its attractive female staffers - Sukanya Krishnan, Jill Nicolini, Emily Frances, Linda Church and Lisa Mateo, to name a few - why was Larry Hoff the only one getting wet on "Water Week," which had him at local water parks? Don't think the show capitalizes on the women in other ways? Just watch how the camera dips when Frances wears a low-cut shirt.

Whoever thought of National Underwear Day is a genius. Ch. 11 did an in-studio spot Wednesday morning and

Ch. 7's Lauren Glassberg did a piece from a Times Square underwear show. And, not to be remiss, we here at the Daily News also ran a picture.

How long before Hallmark launches a line of cards?

Ch. 5 on Wednesday touted an "exclusive" from Lisa Evers showing what was described as an "armored train car hidden deep under midtown Manhattan." It was exclusive Wednesday on Ch. 5 but was old news to anyone who had seen the February 2004 edition of Jane Hanson's "Jane's New York," which had a segment on the train - with video - reportedly used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to get to a hotel.



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