

# Gossip

NYDAILYNEWS.COM

DAILY NEWS

GET HOME DELIVERY

Click  
here!

DAILY  
NEWS



Rush & Molloy

## Henry K takes heat on MIAs

Friday, June 22nd 2007, 4:00 AM

Good thing for **Henry Kissinger** that he won't be in the States today when **President Bush** meets with Vietnam's President **Nguyen Minh Triet**.

A White House spokesman confirms to us that "a high U.S. priority" during the historic Oval Office summit would be "accounting for Americans still missing since the war."

But while Bush says he's eager to pry open the painful issue of prisoners of war, Kissinger tells us he has no interest in revisiting the subject.

The former secretary of state recently received a copy of "An Enormous Crime." The new book, by former **Rep. Bill Hendon** and **Elizabeth Stewart**, contends Kissinger and President **Richard Nixon** secretly promised \$4.75 billion in aid to North Vietnam in exchange for the return of all POWs.

According to the book, the North Vietnamese returned half the POWs in 1973. But when Watergate came crashing down on Nixon, he sought a quick end to the POW mess and chose

not to pay the money or to press for the unaccounted soldiers. Former Queens congressman **John LeBoutillier**, who sent Kissinger the book, included a letter telling him that it "proves beyond a shadow of doubt that Hanoi purposely kept 700 U.S. POWs behind as insurance."

LeBoutillier told Kissinger: "Hundreds of U.S. pilots and servicemen remain alive in captivity ... You need to address your mistakes - and the fact that the North Vietnamese 'took' you at Paris. ... You are directly responsible for this tragedy. It is still not too late for you to help ... bring these men home."

Kissinger calls the book's allegations "irresponsible" and "insupportable."

"There was some discussion [during the Paris peace talks] of economic aid that we might give [the North Vietnamese]," Kissinger told us this week before leaving for Asia. "But [the aid] didn't have anything to do with the prisoners. The prisoner release was supposed to be finished in April 1973. The economic aid question didn't arise till after that." He added, "We didn't pay them because they never carried out the agreement."

Kissinger argued that "if the Vietnamese held prisoners back in order to get more money, why didn't they ever say they had [the extra 700] prisoners?"

As for the book, "I'm not going to read it." Despite the authors' assertion that it draws on thousands of pages of declassified documents, "I would be amazed" if there was anything new, he said. "Congress went through all of this in the hearings [chaired by Sen. John Kerry in 1991]," said Kissinger. "I testified for two days then. ... There's no other subject on which my colleagues and I worked as hard."

Says LeBoutillier: "Of course the guy's not going to admit he got duped. He won a Nobel Prize for this. What a weasel!"

## **Surveillance**

**Paris Hilton**'s friends are ready for the heiress' imminent release. "I am praying for her and I love her to death," **Kim Kardashian** told us at Monday's N Network party at Marquee.

Those drag queens heading into City Hall Wednesday evening were on their way to City Council Speaker **Christine Quinn**'s Gay Pride party.

**Ryan Green** became obsessed with Brazilian music while doing Broadway shows, and on Sunday evening, the singer interprets Gilberto, Jobim and Veloso with master guitarist **Scott Anderson** at Piola at 48 E. 12 St., kitty-corner from the Strand. Not one to miss.

Lots of Democratic lawmakers turned out for Wednesday's D.C. premiere of **Michael Moore**'s "Sicko" - but not one of the invited Republicans. **Sen. Frank Lautenberg** and almost 20 congressmen (including White House hopeful **Dennis Kucinich**), former Defense Secretary **William Cohen**, AOL co-founder **Steve Case** and producer **George Stevens Jr.** congratulated Moore, who, by the way, is determined to slim down. He just got a copy of "The Martha's Vineyard Diet Detox."

## Side Dish

**Matthew Knowles** has fired **Beyoncé**'s longtime 400-pound bodyguard, "Shortie." Papa Knowles thinks his daughter should be protected by a younger and more buff sentry, sources told the newsletter Atlanta Gossip. Word is Knowles did right by Shortie - paying out the remainder of his \$500,000-plus contract and a \$100,000 bonus.

Billy Baldwin turned out to congratulate talk-show host Lisa Birnbach on her Gracie Award - given for positive portrayals of women in media - for her startup women's radio network, GreenStone Media.

"Rescue Me's" **Patti D'Arbanville** and **Adam Savage** of "Mythbusters" will reign over tomorrow's Coney Island Mermaid Parade. Carny kings **Dick Zigun** and **Todd Robbins** invite all undersea denizens to the Childs Building for the Mermaid Ball, to aid Coney Island USA (info

at mermaid paradeball.com.).

We hear **Barack Obama** posed for the cover of Vibe on Wednesday. The issue hits stands later this summer. Now all he needs is a hit single to lock in those coolness points. Meanwhile, **George Clooney** is on board the Obama bus, but worries whether his celebrity could hurt the candidate in the heartland. "I don't want to be a hindrance," he tells the L.A. Times.

**Britney Spears'** rep Leslie Sloane Zelnick told Life & Style yesterday, "I put her on hiatus. Brit's album is pushed until '08. ... Let's go on hiatus until we have a campaign to do."

What married mogul has persuaded his mistress to deny that he's the father of her newborn baby? Behind the scenes, he's said to be providing handsomely for the infant.

Anti-rape activists piled on **Jerry Seinfeld** yesterday after we reported his quip that "bees have the only perfect society ... They have no crime ... no rape. A little rape, but it's not that bad." Karen Baker, director of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, told Radaronline.com: "I don't find anything funny about rape." Seinfeld tells us, "I was only referring to the insect world. I'm sorry if anyone got upset."

Comic **Jimmy Kimmel** is trying not to laugh too hard after an emergency appendectomy Wednesday in L.A. Girlfriend **Sarah Silverman** was at his side during the ordeal. Tapings of ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live" are canceled until he's back on his feet.

**Seal** and one of the lovely ladies in his life, daughter **Leni**, took a stroll sans his wife, **Heidi Klum**, in NYC Wednesday.

Let's hope **Josh Henderson** — this season's hot boy on "Desperate Housewives" — enjoyed the attention at LG's Mobile TV party. We've got two words for ya, buddy boy: Jesse Metcalfe.

Duchess of York **Sarah Ferguson** got a big hunk of change on Wednesday when **50 Cent** performed at the Cipriani Wall Street Concert Series. The event benefited Fergie's

foundation for families and children in need.

Don't call **Zoe Kravitz** a wild child. The Hollywood progeny (she's the daughter of rocker Lenny Kravitz and Cosby kid castoff Lisa Bonet) and budding actress (she appears with Jodie Foster in this fall's "The Brave One") tells the new issue of Trace magazine that she has her act together — despite those naughty photos of her drinking a 40-ounce beer that were splashed all over the Internet. "I was 17 in those pictures, and I'm sorry, but find me a 17-year-old who has not had some beer," she tells the mag, out July 1. "I'm not an alcoholic, I go to school, I'm not a crazy kid, and I don't do hard drugs. My dad wasn't mad, but he was like, 'You can't put your s— out like that.'"

"Ocean's Thirteen" star **Matt Damon** hit a river in Hawaii on Wednesday to take some lessons in paddle surfing. The actor was joined by best pal **Ben Affleck's** wife, **Jennifer Garner** — but not to worry, his own little missus, **Luciana**, was along for the fun.

[rushmolloy@nydailynews.com](mailto:rushmolloy@nydailynews.com)

With Patrick Huguenin; Edited by Lance D. Debler.