

Bush Signs Do-Not-Call List Into Law

-- President Bush signed legislation to ratify the Federal Trade Commission's authority to set up a national do-not-call list that could lead to fines for telemarketers. --

BACKGROUND:

The National Do Not Call Registry gives you an opportunity to limit the telemarketing calls you receive. On October 1, 2003, when the National Do Not Call Registry will be enforced, most telemarketers will be required to remove the numbers on the registry from their call lists.

The National Do Not Call Registry is managed by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation's consumer protection agency. It will be enforced by the FTC, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and state law enforcement officials.

The registry was created to offer consumers a choice regarding telemarketing calls. The FTC's decision to create the National Do Not Call Registry was the culmination of a comprehensive, three year review of the Telemarketing Sales Rule, as well as the Commission's extensive experience enforcing the Rule over seven years. The FTC held numerous workshops, meetings and briefings to solicit feedback from interested parties and considered over 64,000 public comments, most of which favored creating the registry. You can review the entire record of the Rule review at www.ftc.gov/bcp/rulemaking/tsr/tsrrulemaking/index.htm.

STORY:

AP - While court fights continued, President Bush on Monday signed legislation to ratify the Federal Trade Commission's authority to

set up a national do-not-call list that could lead to fines for telemarketers.

Businesses that solicit people on the list for telemarketers could face fines. Federal Communications Commission Chairman Michael Powell said earlier Monday his agency would enforce the penalties because the FTC was prevented from doing so by a federal judge's order.



"The public is understandably losing patience with these unwanted phone calls, unwanted intrusions," Bush said. "Given a choice, Americans prefer not to receive random sales pitches at all hours of the day. The American people should be free to restrict these calls."

The FCC's intervention was the latest twist involving the list containing more than 50 million telephone numbers sent in by people who say they don't want to be bothered by telemarketers. U.S. District Judge Lee R. West ruled in Oklahoma City early last week that the FTC lacked authority to run the registry. That prompted Congress to quickly pass a bill clarifying the agency's role.

Bush signed the measure at a White House ceremony Monday afternoon. However, the legislation did not address other court fights that have thrown the list into legal limbo. Despite rulings against the FTC, the FCC still has the power to penalize telemarketers who call listed numbers, potentially fining them as much as \$120,000 depending on their industry, FCC spokesman David Fiske said. Before the court challenges, it was uncertain whether the FCC would have a role in enforcing the list.

Powell noted that in yet another court ruling related to the list, a three-judge panel of the

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Denver appeals court on Friday denied a request from telemarketers who wanted to block the FCC's role in the registry. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer refused to block that decision, but the telemarketers could renew their request with another justice. If the Supreme Court grants the request to temporarily suspend the FCC's rules, both agencies would be blocked from enforcing the list. On Thursday, U.S. District Judge Edward W. Nottingham ruled that the do-not-call list is unconstitutional on free-speech grounds because it applies to calls from businesses but not charities. That decision effectively blocked the FTC from enforcing the list.

The FCC joined last summer with the FTC, which operates the registry, to ensure the list applies to all industries. The FCC's do-not-call regulations mirror and expand upon those of the FTC, which have been put on hold.

Adding another wrinkle to the bewildering situation, the FTC on Sunday shut down the service that allows telemarketers to obtain the list so they can know who not to call. So not all telemarketers have the list. Many of those that do have it say they will comply despite the legal confusion. The Direct Marketing Association, representing more than 70 percent of the telemarketing industry, asked its members last week to abide by the list. Nearly 200 of the largest members have voiced no objection to the request and some have actively pledged to comply.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The FTC says people can still sign up for the list and file complaints about telemarketer violations at www.donotcall.gov or by calling 1-888-382-1222. FCC officials said complaints will be forwarded to their agency for enforcement. Consumers can also file complaints directly with the FCC by calling 1-888-225-5322.

If you have already registered on your states no call list you may not have to re-register.

It depends on where you live. Most of the 27 states that currently have active do not call lists will transfer numbers from their lists to the National Do Not Call Registry. A few will not. You can find out which states are transferring their do not call lists to the National Do Not Call Registry at www.ftc.gov/donotcall. If you live in a state that is transferring its do not call list to the national registry, you do not need to re-register. On the other hand, if you live in a state that has its own do not call list, but the state is not transferring numbers to the National Registry, then you need to register your own number on the National Registry.

Giorgio on Wheels: Armani Makes a Car

-- Monday he unveiled the very first Mercedes-Benz CLK Giorgio Armani design car, a super-powered, undeniably chic set of wheels created in collaboration between the German automotive company and the Italian designer. --

BACKGROUND:

The Armani Group is considered one of the leading fashion and luxury goods groups in the world today with 4,700 direct employees and 13 factories. It designs, manufactures, distributes and retails fashion and lifestyle products including apparel, accessories, eyewear, watches, jewellery, home interiors, fragrances and cosmetics under a range of brand names: Giorgio Armani, Armani Collezioni, Mani, Emporio Armani, AJ Armani Jeans, A/X Armani Exchange, Armani Junior and Armani Casa. The Group's exclusive retail network currently comprises: 56 Giorgio Armani boutiques, 12 Armani Collezioni stores, 121 Emporio Armani stores, 67 A/X Armani Exchange stores, 11 AJ | Armani Jeans stores, 6 Armani

Junior stores, 1 Giorgio Armani Accessori store and 13 Armani Casa stores in 36 countries.

Giorgio Armani S.p.A. was founded in Milan on July 24th, 1975 by Sergio Galeotti and Giorgio Armani - the company's current President, Chief Executive Officer and sole share holder - and later that year, the first Giorgio Armani Borgonuovo 21 ready to wear collection was presented.

After a successful first year of operations, Giorgio Armani S.p.A. began to broaden its portfolio of clients and expanded its European presence. 1978 marked an important turning point in the company history when it established a licensing agreement with GFT (Gruppo Finanziario Tessile), giving Giorgio Armani S.p.A. the opportunity to invest in a new headquarters that included showrooms and press offices.

In 1979 the business started its overseas expansion by establishing the Giorgio Armani Corporation in the United States. By the end of the 70's Giorgio Armani S.p.A. had emerged as one of the leading international fashion house and had launched several new lines: Le Collezioni, Mani, Armani Junior, Giorgio Armani accessories, underwear and swimwear.

In the early 80's Giorgio Armani S.p.A. established an important licence agreement with L'Oreal (formerly H.Rubinstein) for fragrances and also launched the Emporio Armani and Armani Jeans lines. In the same period Giorgio Armani S.p.A. opened the first Emporio Armani store (Milan) followed the next year with the opening of the first Giorgio Armani boutique (Milan). The company also began to strengthen its commercial and marketing divisions, while building the values of its brands and the philosophy of management, which continue to be an important focus today.

In the second half of the 80's, Giorgio Armani S.p.A. continued the overseas expansion by opening Giorgio Armani Japan through a joint venture with Japanese Itochu Corporation and the Seibu Department Store in 1987, followed by a

licensing agreement for eyewear with Luxottica Group Spa in 1988.

As part of its strategy to maintain control over product quality and distribution, Giorgio Armani S.p.A. initiated a series of share investments, which today include Intai Spa (100%), Antinea Srl (100%) and the manufacturing company Simint Spa (100%), which complete acquisition was finalized in 2001.

In 1999, a new Accessories Division was created, and the first e-commerce presence initiated with armaniexchange.com in the US.

STORY:

He's already corrected the aesthetic of our clothes, homes, and even a few boats, insisting that less is more, but now Giorgio Armani has pointed his discerning eye on what we drive. Monday he unveiled the very first Mercedes-Benz CLK Giorgio Armani design car, a super-powered, undeniably chic set of wheels created in collaboration between the German automotive company and the Italian designer.

Whereas a Cavalli automotive effort might have included a backseat Jacuzzi, this four-seat convertible, like all things Armani-ized, is a study in carefully constructed subtlety. Which is precisely the reason that Mercedes zeroed in on the designer for the project.

"We both share a joint passion for design and style," said Dr. Joachim Schmidt, executive vice president of the Mercedes Benz Group, who stood next to Armani in his Via Bergognone theater before the unveiling. "And both brands have very similar attributes: timelessness, elegance, charm and sensibility."

"I never thought about designing a car before," admitted the designer, who just finished lining the interiors of his gigantic yacht with Armani Casa. "But once we got to know each other through our other projects, I realized it would be a great idea."

Mercedes first teamed up with Armani earlier this year by sponsoring the designer's Guggenheim Museum retrospective in Berlin. The exhibit will soon travel to London, Rome, Tokyo and Los Angeles.

Now, the two companies have created a joint cooperative venture, the launch of the design car being the first of several fashion-related activities.

This fact has a few Fiat-loving Italians crying foul play, especially in light of the Italian carmaker's disastrous economic situation. When asked why he would jump camp to a major international competitor, Armani coolly -- and correctly-- replied: "I'm very sorry, but first come, first served."

This first effort, the result of four months spent with Daimler Chrysler Advanced Design studio in Como, was a dandy.

The designer chose "sabbia," his preferred shade of sand, which graces thousands of Armani jackets the world over, as the anchor for his palette, casing the exterior in an impossibly cool, sandy gleam and using a slightly darker shade for the removable top. For the inside, Armani eschewed wood and metal, opting instead for all-natural, mahogany colored leather.

"The car had to be the ultimate in luxury," explained the designer, "so I wanted to bring back the sensation of an antique car by using the natural leather and contrasting it with modern fabrics and details."

Best of all are the tires, which the designer says are "military green," although they appear as quiet as midnight blue.

The car, of which only two prototypes have so far been made, will go on tour as Mercedes promotes the project as its latest fashion forum, a strategy which goes hand in hand with the more youthful, fashionable "cuts" of cars they have produced in the last several years.

"We've been attracted to the fashion industry for quite some time," said Schmidt, referring to several overtures made to the fashion industry, including sponsorship of fashion weeks in New York, Los Angeles and Australia. "Everyone knows the unmistakable style of Giorgio Armani, while we started down this road just in the last 10 years."

A limited edition of the car is planned, which will be made available by special order.

SIGNIFICANCE:

From the Armani Web-site:

Mr. Armani's foresight and vision regarding elegance and style together with his entrepreneurial ability have been central to the success of Giorgio Armani S.p.A. He is actively involved in key management and strategic decisions, overseeing all aspects of design, marketing and the company business. Other than working on the collections, a significant portion of his time is devoted to meeting with the media and staying in contact with business licensees throughout the world.

Under Mr. Armani's leadership, Giorgio Armani S.p.A.'s mission is to continually create clothes and accessories that aspire to a kind of perfection that transcends fashion. Armani's clothing ignores the constant demand for novelty and possesses an elevated character, a quality that conveys a sense of permanence in a world infatuated with the temporary. Now, Giorgio Armani is poised for the future with a vision that crystallizes his approach to fashion as timeless, and yet always timely. Giorgio Armani is committed to the long-term view, reflected by his creation of new lines and divisions, and in his investment in new technology and infrastructures.

Giorgio Armani revolutionized the fashion world with the creation of the unstructured jacket, the demystification of the evening dress - by pairing it with low-heeled shoes or even sneakers - and the translation of oriental designs into an accessible style, as opposed to simply theatrical.

SPORTS:

2003 MLB Playoffs

 <p>Boston Red Sox vs. Oakland Athletics (AL)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wed, Oct 1 -- at Oakland, 10:05 pm EDT (ESPN) 2. Thu, Oct 2 -- at Oakland, 4:05 pm EDT (ESPN2) 3. Sat, Oct 4 -- at Boston, TBA 4.* Sun, Oct 5 -- at Boston, TBA 5.* Mon, Oct 6 -- at Oakland, TBA
 <p>Minnesota Twins vs. New York Yankees (AL)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tue, Sep 30 -- at NY Yankees, 1:05 pm EDT (ESPN) 2. Thu, Oct 2 -- at NY Yankees, 8:15 pm EDT (FOX) 3. Sat, Oct 4 -- at Minnesota, TBA 4.* Sun, Oct 5 -- at Minnesota, TBA 5.* Mon, Oct 6 -- at NY Yankees, TBA
 <p>Florida Marlins vs. San Francisco Giants (NL)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tue, Sep 30 -- at SF, 4:05 pm EDT (ESPN) 2. Wed, Oct 1 -- at SF, 4:05 pm EDT (ESPN) 3. Fri, Oct 3 -- at Florida, 4:05 pm EDT (ESPN2) 4.* Sat, Oct 4 -- at Florida, TBA 5.* Sun, Oct 5 -- at San Francisco, TBA
 <p>Chicago Cubs vs. Atlanta Braves (NL)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tue, Sep 30 -- at Atlanta, 8:15 pm EDT (FOX) 2. Wed, Oct 1 -- at Atlanta, 7:05 pm EDT (ESPN) 3. Fri, Oct 3 -- at Chi Cubs, 8:05 pm EDT (ESPN) 4.* Sat, Oct 4 -- at Chi Cubs, TBA 5.* Sun, Oct 5 -- at Atlanta, TBA

<http://sports.yahoo.com/mlb/playoffs>

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:

September 29, 1988

American Woman Climbs Everest

Stacy Allison of Portland, Oregon, becomes the first American woman to reach the summit of Mount Everest, which at 29,035 feet above sea level is the highest point on earth. Allison, a member of the Northwest American Everest Expedition, climbed the Himalayan peak using the southeast ridge route.

Mount Everest sits on the crest of the Great Himalayas in Asia, lying on the border between Nepal and Tibet. Called Chomo-Lungma, or "Mother Goddess of the Land," by the Tibetans, the English named the mountain after Sir George Everest, a 19th-century British surveyor of South Asia. The summit of Everest reaches two-thirds of the way through the air of the earth's atmosphere--at about the cruising altitude of jet airliners--and oxygen levels there are very low, temperatures are extremely cold, and weather is unpredictable and dangerous.

In May 1953, climber and explorer Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay of Nepal made the first successful climb of the peak. Ten years later, James Whittaker of Redmond, Washington, became the first American to top the peak, reaching Everest's summit with his Sherpa climbing partner Nawang Gombu. In 1975, Japanese mountaineer Junko Tabei became the first woman to conquer the mountain. Three years later, Reinhold Messner of Italy and Peter Habeler of Austria achieved what had been previously thought impossible: climbing to the Everest summit without oxygen. In 1988, American Stacy Allison successfully scaled Everest. About two dozen climbers died in attempts to reach the top of Everest in the 20th century.

www.thehistorychannel.com

ENTERTAINMENT:

Bride, 12, Storms Out of Romania Wedding

(AP) SIBIU, Romania - It was billed as the Gypsy wedding of the year. But the ceremony, launching a three-day party, got off to a bad start: The 12-year-old "princess bride" — daughter of a self-proclaimed king — stormed out of the church in protest in front of 400 guests. "Leave me



alone!" Ana Maria Cioaba screamed at reporters Saturday, swearing at them as she sought shelter in a nearby house. Her bridesmaids chanted slogans against the groom.

She returned to the church minutes later and — though she would hardly look at him — was duly married off to her 15-year-old groom, a sign of the persistence of the ancient practice of child weddings in the Gypsy, or Roma, culture. Though the legal age for marriage in Romania is 18, the country generally tolerates the Gypsy tradition of arranged child weddings.

Ana Maria's marriage was performed by her father, Florin, who claims the title of king of the Gypsies that his late father took and made an immense fortune trading in scrap metal and other items. After the ceremony, the bride stalked out and refused to look at the groom, who walked uncomfortably two steps behind.

The bride's family presented a dowry worth tens of thousands of dollars, the wedding feast included suckling pigs and thousands of bottles of wine, and the bride's Italian wedding gown cost \$4,000.

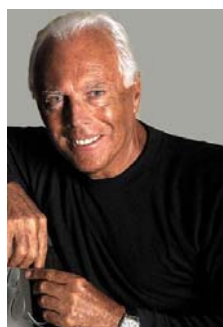
Her father arranged for a horse-drawn carriage to carry the bridal couple through the city of Sibiu, 190 miles northwest of Bucharest.

Official figures say more than 550,000 Roma live in Romania, but the real number is believed to be more than 1 million, out of the country's total population of 22 million.

BIOGRAPHY:

Giorgio Armani

Giorgio Armani is the Chairman of the Board and the sole shareholder of Giorgio Armani SpA, one of the leading fashion and design houses in the world today. For the fiscal year of 2001,



Giorgio Armani S.p.A. had consolidated net revenues up 23% to Euro 1,272 million employed 4.702 people.

Born on July 11, 1934, Giorgio Armani, his sister and his brother grew up in the northern Italian town of Piacenza. Mr. Armani attended school in his home town and spent two years at the medical university. He did not become interested in the world of fashion until 1957 when he dropped out of Piacenza University to accept a job as a buyer at La Rinascente department stores. Thereafter, Armani worked as a fashion designer for Nino Cerruti, and then as a free-lance designer for various companies, all resulting in an exceptionally rich and varied evolution of his style. After several years as a freelance designer, Mr. Armani was ready to devote his energy to his own label and followed his partner Sergio Galeotti's suggestion to open a company together. On July 24, 1975, they founded Giorgio Armani SpA and launched a men's and women's ready-to-wear line.

During his career he has received local and international awards such as the Gran Cavaliere della Repubblica, Commendatore dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica (Italy's highest government award), Award for Best International Designer given by the CFDA, Lifetime Achievement Awards for men's wear, and for the Arts and Fashion (CFDA). He has also been awarded an Honory Doctorate from the Royal College of Art of London, the Man of the Year Award (GQ), he has also named UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador and many others.

FEATURE:**What is DIABETES?**

CURRENT RESEARCH At present no cure exists for diabetes, and scientists are unsure of the exact cause, although researchers are investigating a combination of genetic and environmental factors. So far researchers have identified 20 genes involved in Type 1 diabetes, and they are working to determine each gene's role in causing the disease. The inheritance patterns of Type 1 diabetes are complicated, with many different genes influencing a person's risk. For instance, a gene known as DR plays a role in Type 1 diabetes. Two forms of this gene, called DR3 and DR4, are present in 95 percent of people with Type 1 diabetes. People who inherit DR3 alone have antibodies that destroy insulin-producing beta cells. Those who inherit DR4 tend to develop diabetes earlier in life and have antibodies that destroy insulin.

In 2000 researchers were surprised to find that a variation of a gene called Caplain-10, which is not involved in glucose metabolism, is associated with the development of Type 2 diabetes. One form of this gene produces a small amount of protein, and researchers are studying how this decrease in protein increases a person's risk for diabetes. Other genetic studies indicate that certain genes cause a variation of Type 2 diabetes called maturity onset diabetes of the young (MODY), which develops in people under the age of 25.

Other scientists hope to identify the environmental factors that trigger Type 1 diabetes in people with a genetic predisposition for the disease. If they can determine what causes the immune system to attack the cells that produce insulin, they may discover how to prevent the condition from developing. For instance, studies suggest that certain viruses, such as coxsackie B, rubella, and mumps, may trigger an immune reaction against beta cells or in some cases directly infect and destroy these cells.

Researchers attribute most cases of Type 2 diabetes to obesity. Studies show that the risk for developing Type 2 diabetes increases by 4 percent for every pound of excess weight a person carries. Researchers are investigating the exact role that extra weight plays in preventing the proper utilization of insulin and why some overweight people develop the disease while others do not. Research also focuses on transplanting a healthy pancreas or its insulin-producing beta cells into a person with Type 1 diabetes to provide a natural source of insulin. Some patients who have received pancreas transplants have experienced considerable improvements in their health, but positive, long-term results with beta-cell transplants have not yet occurred. In both types of transplants recipients must take drugs that suppress their immune systems so the body will not reject the new pancreas or cells. These drugs can cause life-threatening side effects because the patient's body can no longer protect itself from other harmful substances. Scientists are also studying the development of an artificial pancreas.

New methods for accurately measuring blood glucose levels may improve the quality of life for many individuals with diabetes. New techniques include the use of laser beams and infrared technology. For example, a tiny computer using infrared light can be used to measure a person's blood sugar level. The computer automatically delivers the reading to an insulin pump carried on the diabetic's body that injects the appropriate amount of insulin.

Other advances include new drugs that control blood sugar. In April 2000 the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved glargine, an insulin drug that needs to be injected only once a day. Sold under the brand name Lantus, this drug can be used by people with Type 1 diabetes, as well as by those with Type 2 diabetes who require insulin injections. A number of drugs have been developed to help people with Type 2 diabetes. An example includes acarbose, (brand name Precose), which controls blood sugar by slowing the digestion of carbohydrates.

Quote of the Week:

Politeness costs nothing, but gains everything.
-Lady Mary Wortly Montagu

Fact of the Week:

The average American receives 300 telemarketer calls each year.

Word of the Week:

gauche (gosh), a. Tactless; lacking in the social graces.

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And
Have a Great Week!

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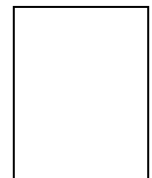
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