

Lifestyle



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Lifeline

CELEBRITYWATCH

NEW YORK — "Desperate Housewives" star **Eva Longoria** has shrugged off being snubbed by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in this year's

Emmy nominations. "I'm new. I just arrived. I didn't expect at all to be in the minds of the Academy," she tells syndicated TV show "Extra" in an interview Friday night.

Three of the ABC show's stars, **Teri Hatcher**, **Marcia Cross** and **Felicity Huffman**, were nominated for best comedy series actress. "Desperate Housewives," a dark satire about life in suburbia, cleaned up with 15 nominations. The show asked to be considered in the comedy series category, usually home to half-hour sitcoms.



Clay Aiken makes a surprise delivery to Jackie Gaddois, and her daughter, Rachelle, left, of Camarillo, Calif.

NEW YORK — Clay Aiken lurked outside a house. **Emmylou Harris** stopped by a university. **Nick Lachey** worked in on a stranger's workplace and **Moby** played with dogs while making special deliveries in honor of online retailer Amazon.com's 10th anniversary.

Over 10 days, 23 Amazon customers received a surprise visit from a celebrity associated with their order: "American Idol" runner-up Aiken dropped off his memoir, "Learning to Sing." Lachey delivered all three seasons of MTV's "Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica" on DVD, while musicians Moby and Harris showed up with their CDs.

The moments were captured on tape and the videos are available to view on Amazon.com.

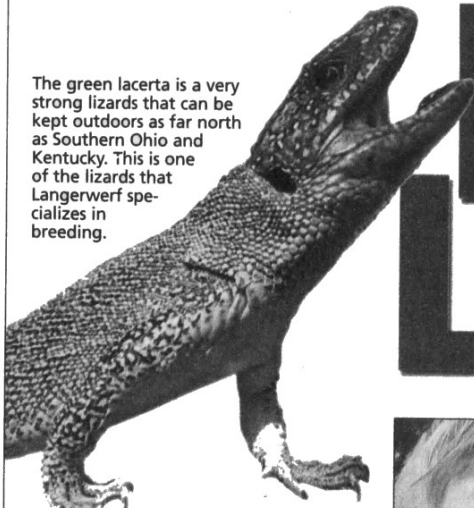
LOS ANGELES — **Michigán J. Frog**, once an icon of a changing TV world, has become Hollywood road kill.

The WB Television Network, which was born with Frog a

decade ago, has quietly evicted him from his lily pad.

"In my opinion, the frog is dead and buried," Garth Ancier, the network chairman, told TV critics attending the Television Critics Association's semi-annual

The green lacerta is a very strong lizards that can be kept outdoors as far north as Southern Ohio and Kentucky. This is one of the lizards that Langerwerf specializes in breeding.



Hester and Bert Langerwerf, standing in one of their outdoor terraria, display two of the lizard breeds they raise. Bert holds an Argentine Tegu, and Hester holds a small Australian Water Dragon.

Montevallo man makes his living with lizards

By Nick Thomas
Special to the Advertiser

If lizards came with labels, lizards all over the world would bear "made-in-Alabama" markers — even those that are not native to the state. The reason is a man named Bert Langerwerf.

You may never have heard of Langerwerf, who lives in Montevallo. But those who know their lizards probably have.

Langerwerf, through his company, Agama International, sells thousands of lizards worldwide each year — lizards he has raised at his seven-acre property in Montevallo.

"I've bred more than 150 species so far," said Langerwerf, "many of them for the first time in captivity."

The 61-year-old is not originally from Alabama, but came here because he said it is the ideal climate in which to raise most species of lizards.

Langerwerf, who is from the Netherlands, worked as a physics teacher after graduating from the University of Amsterdam. He traveled with his wife, Hester, studying and breeding reptiles throughout Europe, the Canary Islands and New Zealand before eventually settling in Montevallo in 1988.

But Langerwerf's achievements go beyond just breeding.

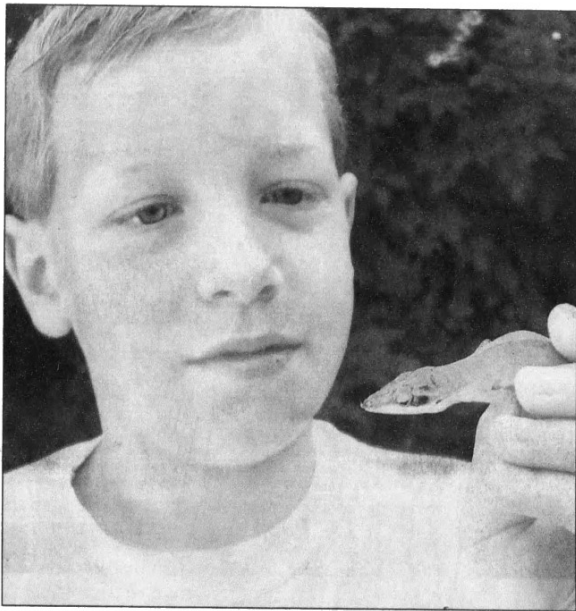
Ken Marion, chairman of the University of Alabama at Birmingham biology department, said Langerwerf is responsible for some of the field's most important scientific discoveries.

While he was in his early 30s, Langerwerf determined that the sex of many lizards is determined by the temperature of the incubating eggs.

"For all turtles, most lizards and some snakes, sex is not determined by genetics or inheritance," said Marion. "This phenomenon is now called temperature-dependent sex determination."

For example, for some species, only males will be born in cooler temperatures and only females will be born in warmer ones; a middle-range of temper-

Lizard LOVE



Contributed photos

Twelve-year old Jesse Thomas, a budding herpetoculturist in Millbrook, studies a green anole. "I only keep them for a little while," says Jesse. "Then I release them back to their habitat."

Find out more about lizards native to Alabama, as well as some interesting lizard facts, on our Web site.

Online extra
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This is one of Langerwerf's Argentine Tegus.

atures produces both. In other species, it may be just the opposite.

"This means the placement of the nest is critical," said Langerwerf. "Otherwise, a species might only produce offspring of one sex."

Langerwerf also made a major discovery about lighting requirements for lizards that has helped change the way zoos nurture and maintain them.

"In the 1970s I also realized that lizards kept indoors were not receiving the full spectrum of light like lizards in the wild," he said. "This was because window glass filters out UV light."

Ken Naugher, the conservation and enrichment manager at the Montgomery Zoo, said this was an important discovery for all lizards in captivity, including the 25 or so currently kept at the zoo's reptile house.

"Lighting is very important for a reptile's health," said Naugher. "They need the full-spectrum of light in order to make vitamin D3, which is necessary for calcium production."

Without calcium, Naugher says the eggs will develop soft and thin shells. The animals can also develop weak bones,

TELEVISION



Cybill Shepherd reprises the role of Martha Stewart for the fall TV movie "Martha Behind Bars."

Actress once again takes on 'Martha'

By Gary Levin
USA TODAY

LOS ANGELES — Cybill Shepherd feels for Martha Stewart.

The actress, who plays her in a second TV movie this fall, ticked off the comparisons: Both are blondes. Both began their careers as models. And both were "judged by the press in many outrageous ways."

Having said that, Stewart probably would not appreciate Shepherd's portrayal of her in CBS' "Martha Behind Bars," due Sept. 25. "If she came in the room now, I might make a fast exit," Shepherd told TV critics.

"Bars" is actually a misnomer. Only a small fraction of the made-for-TV movie takes place at the prison in Alderson, W. Va., where Stewart is seen finishing second in a Christmas decorations contest.

Instead, the movie opens the day her company makes a public stock offering, and it details the legal hot water she got into after she lied to investigators about the circumstances surrounding her sale of stock in ImClone, a company run by friend Sam Waksal.

Shepherd played a manic, over-the-top version of Stewart in NBC's 2003 "Martha Inc.: The Story of Martha Stewart," and for that, she makes no apologies.

"Rageaholism is an aspect of Martha Stewart's history of taking it out on people," Shepherd says. "The first (movie) covered a whole crazy era of her life when she was first becoming so successful. With the second movie, it wasn't needed."

The new movie — scheduled for May but shelved to capitalize on Stewart's new "Apprentice" and syndicated series — covers a more sober period.

Producer Tom Patricia urged restraint: "We thought if we portrayed her as someone who was exploding all the time, it would be tiring."

Shepherd calls Stewart a "Shakespearean" character who is "enormously complicated ... capable of the greatest things in the world and like all of us, we have our failings." She says the role gave her "a tremendous amount of admiration" for Stewart.

Lizard ...

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Most of the lizards Langerwerf breeds, such as Australian Water Dragons and the giant Argentine Tegus, are not native to the U.S. But both are popular species with herpetoculturist — those who raise and breed lizards — around the world. The babies generally hatch around July, and sell for \$40-\$50 each.

Langerwerf also raises many smaller lacerta, a colorful lizard native to Europe and Asia.

Although Langerwerf doesn't sell any of the dozen or so lizards that are native to Alabama, he says we have some interesting species that are frequent visitors to local back yards. And he is fond of reminding people how beneficial our native lizards are because they eat insects.

Before acquiring a lizard, especially the exotics that Langerwerf breeds, he advises inexperienced owners to educate themselves about the animal's requirements and consult a knowledgeable veterinarian.

"Reptiles have different requirements to dogs and cats," said Montgomery veterinarian Tom Makowski, who sees several hundred reptiles a year at the Pet Care Center on Wallace Drive.

"We see many that are improperly kept," he said. "Problems range from vitamin deficiency, malnourishment, and being kept at improper temperatures. Many require live food and correct lighting, which they don't always get."

Nicole Russell, who recently relocated to Wantage, N.J., has an Argentine Tegu, one of seven reptiles she has purchased from Langerwerf during the past 10 years.

Recently, Russell said the creature startled the cable man.

"He was drilling holes and getting us set up when he suddenly saw my 4-foot lizard roaming the house," she said. "He literally ran from the house in fear."

She said he was not around long enough to discover that he was mistaken about her pet.

"He loves children," she said. "And is really the most docile, sweet animal in the world."

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