

Dr. Laura keeps going and going ...

Radio personality still draws fans with one-woman show, new book. She's in Irvine this weekend.

By PETER LARSEN
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Think back five or six years and recall how often Dr. Laura Schlessinger crossed your pop-culture radar screen.

Her radio show was one of the top two or three shows in the nation - with as many as 18 million listeners - and her self-help books sold millions.

When she opened her mouth, she made news, from her radio relationship advice - no-nonsense or scolding, depending on your point of view - to her controversial comments on everything from gays and lesbians to the allegation that a South Coast Plaza shop was leaving porn out where kids could see it.

But today? Well, if you're not a fan of her long-running midday show on KFI-AM/640, you'd be forgiven for wondering what she's been up to lately.

Just don't ask Schlessinger - who comes to Irvine for three shows this weekend - if she's slowing down now.

SEE RADIO • PAGE 2

FROM THE FASHION FILES



EDRESSME INC.

Edressme.com is selling copies of Charlize Theron's Dior.

Replicas ready

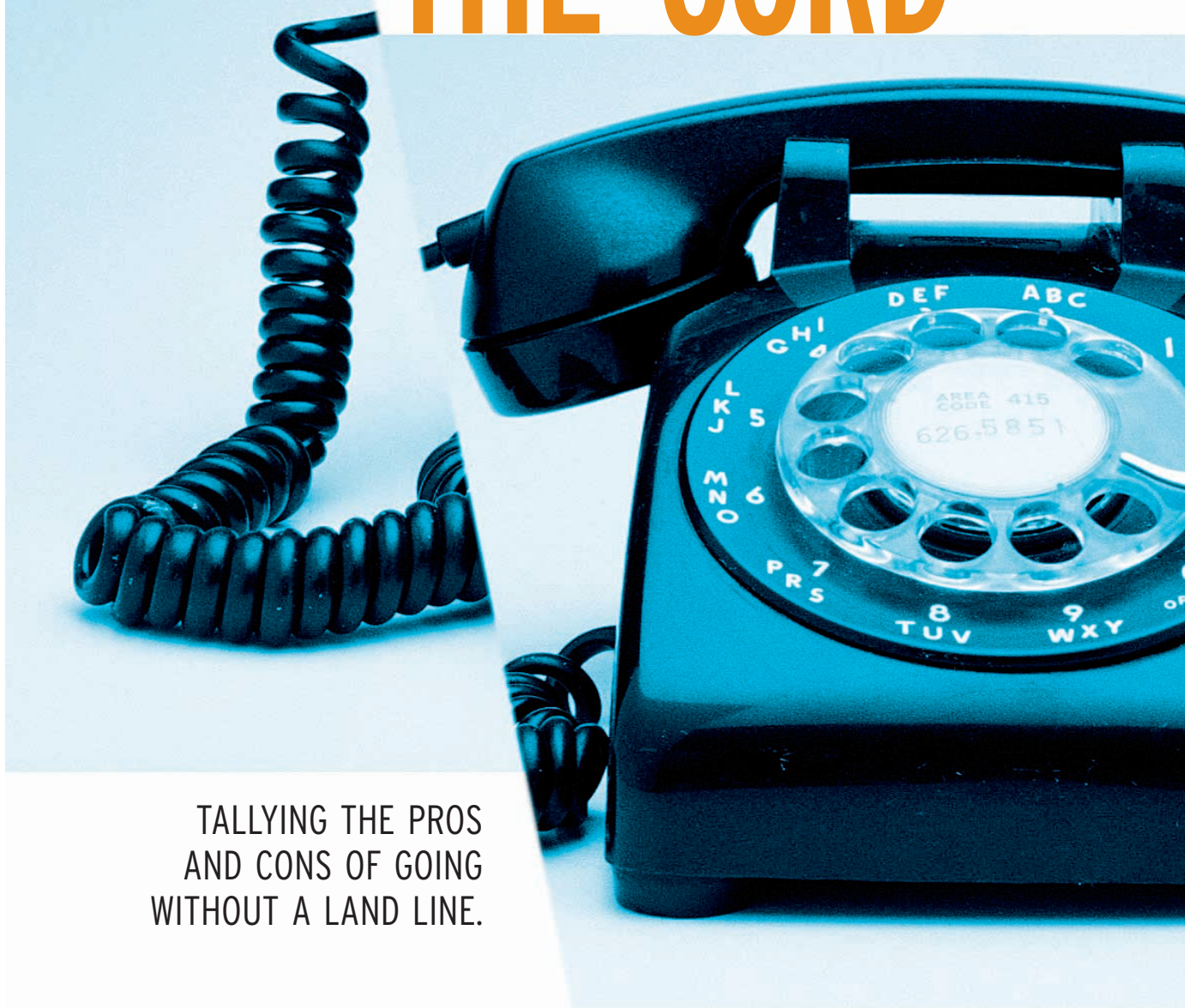
The designer known for his replicas of red-carpet gowns is at it again.

Just days after the Golden Globe awards, Allen B. Schwartz and his team of designers have already re-created six of the glamorous frocks worn by the celebrities. Among the replicated dresses that will be sold at A.B.S. boutiques later this spring, including South Coast Plaza: Keira Knightley's strapless white Valentino, Marcia Cross' coral Grecian-style Marc Bouwer, Felicity Huffman's goddess white Marchesa, Reese Witherspoon's metallic Chanel, Charlize Theron's black-lace Dior and Evangeline Lilly's emerald Elie Saab.

Over at edressme.com, CEO Joanne Stoner will also be selling three versions of the Golden Globes gowns. Look to buy copies of Kate Beckinsale's white Dior frock, as well as Huffman's and Theron's.

Katherine Nguyen, The Register

CUTTING THE CORD



TALLYING THE PROS AND CONS OF GOING WITHOUT A LAND LINE.

By TOM REGAN
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

When I decided to work from home as a freelance writer last fall, I knew that I'd need a second phone line.

We had one phone, a land line, that handled most of the family needs. But I needed a line for work-related calls. I wasn't all that enthused about getting another "regular phone" - appointments waiting for service people to come, holes drilled into my house, yet another way for telemarketers to contact me.

So I went to the local mall and bought a cell phone instead. Now I had a phone number that was all mine; I could carry the phone wherever I went; people could reach me when they needed me; and I had access to e-mail, text messaging and the Web. And all for a price that was less than what I paid every month for my land line. Hmm, I wondered: Why do I need that land line again?

Turns out, plenty of people are considering this option. According to a Harris Inter-

active Technology Research poll taken last spring, 9 percent of Americans have already switched from land lines to cell phones, 5 percent were considering it within the next year, and 47 percent of Americans had given the idea some thought. Last summer the Federal Communications Commission released a report showing that the number of cell phones in the United States had surpassed the number of land lines - 181.1 million cell phones vs. 177.9 million land lines.

Jim Grier, a consultant in mobile technology, wrote recently on TechBuilder.org that even with advances in technology, land lines have not become obsolete - yet. Land



CON: 911 can't pinpoint you by cell phone.

lines never need to be recharged in the middle of a call (unless you're using a cordless phone). The way most land line agreements work, it's pretty hard to "go over your minutes" and get billed extra. Some users find their cell phones have poor reception. And then there's the 911 situation.

Most cell phones don't have global positioning, so 911 operators can't pinpoint a caller's location if there is a medical emergency, Grier wrote. "With land line phones, however, the 911 operator receives the exact address of the caller automatically."

Respondents in the Harris Interactive Poll also cited two other reasons for not switching to mobile phones only: the

need for Internet access (high-speed DSL service or dial-up) and lack of plans with good pricing.

So how do you decide if you should make the switch? Much of that answer depends on your personal situation. Single people or couples without children will find it easier to switch to cell phone-only service. Younger people who have grown up with a sense of mobility will appreciate the extras that come with a cell phone, such as text messaging, a way to take and store personal photos, and even a way to listen to music.

Families will probably want to have at least one land line in their homes for the safety reason mentioned above. And if you make a lot of international calls, in most cases you receive a much better rate on a land line.

For now, most people see cell phones as a realistic choice as the "second phone" in the house, or for a small business.

MORE ON LIFE 9
CELL-PHONES - Blurring the line between home, work.

TELEPHONE TIMELINE

By MICHAEL DOSS
THE REGISTER

1876: Alexander Graham Bell invents and receives patents for his "electrical speech machine," the telephone. (Several other inventors create similar technology around the same time, but Bell gets credit historically.)

1878: The first telephone exchange opens in New Haven, Conn. (Within a few years, licensed telephone exchanges open in every major U.S. city and the age of the party line begins. Largely using hand-cranked phones and a shared line for whole towns, the brand-new technology quickly becomes popular.)

1889: The automatic telephone exchange is invented by Almon B. Strowger, replacing the operator for local calls.

1890s: The pulse rotary tele-



Hand-cranked phone

phone, using a rotating finger wheel to dial numbers, is invented. (Widespread use begins in 1919, when Bell Telephone starts using Strowger's systems.)

1950s and 1960s: Various companies and individuals claim to invent the cordless telephone. (Widespread use doesn't become practical until the early 1980s.)

1963: Touch-tone dialing is introduced in some cities, with a keypad replacing the traditional telephone dial. Telephone systems throughout the United States slowly begin switching to the new technology, which allows for faster dialing, as well as direct dialing of long-distance numbers.

1980s: The first cordless telephones come into widespread use. They allow people to wander around their homes while on the phone, but early models suffer



Touch-tone phone



BlackBerry

from limited range and poor sound quality. Later models using FM frequencies to solve these problems, making the phone very popular in both homes and offices.

1980s: Video telephones, long the stuff of science fiction, come into use, mainly in corporate settings. While stand-alone models for home use don't become com-

monplace, similar technologies using computers and Web cameras over the Internet prove popular in the 1990s and today.

1993: Congress lifts price and other economic regulations on wireless services, resulting in increased competition and more widespread use of cell phones. Cellular towers providing coverage begin to go up in more cities, and advances in phone technology encourage frequent upgrades.

1999: Mike Lazaridis' company, Research in Motion Ltd. (RIMM), introduces the BlackBerry, which doubles as a phone and wireless e-mail device.

2002: Most phones in the world are cell phones, and more and more people also use their cell phones as organizers, cameras and handheld computers.

Sources: Associated Press, AT&T, Verizon

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COMING TOMORROW

Make festive lanterns for Chinese New Year - the 'Year of the Dog.'

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