

day's news from wire services and other sources.

All it takes is a little paint

The secret's out: Esther Goldberg, the popular Jewish grandmother sidekick on radio's Star 105.9 (FM), is actually a 36-year-old man.



GOLDBERG

Actor Michael Arrington has played Esther for two years, and now — in a three-hour transformation involving heavy make-up and other unnatural

help — he, er, uh, she is appearing in public.

Esther is the opening act at Zanies tonight and tomorrow.

"Glamour Shots," Esther said, "is God's gifts to trailer parks.

"In the North, we have plastic surgeons. In the South, you've got Glamour Shots."

Medicine Woman has got the fever

The doctor is ill.



Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman star Jane Seymour has come down with dengue fever in Puer to Rico.

Big screens for small films

Robert Redford is working with a theater chain to set up a network for showing independent films.



REDFORD

The name of choice for the project is Sundance Cinemas, in line with the film festival Redford founded to showcase movies made without studio money and

his new cable channel that does the same thing.

Redford and officials of General Cinema Cos. Inc. declined to disclose details.

The first theaters are scheduled to open next year.

Morsels

● Will Smith's first record promoter says he got a bad rap. Dana Goodman of Philadelphia filed a libel lawsuit this week against the rapper-turned-actor. Smith's publicist would not comment on the lawsuit.

● Too wet to golf, too nasty to jog. So the story weather has made President Clinton finally settle down to do what vacations are meant for. "The President is in relaxation mode," White House spokesman Barry Toiv told reporters yesterday in Edgartown, Mass.

You don't have to be a politi-