

# Celebrities fight for privacy

By Donna Freydkin, USA TODAY, 7/7/2004

Britney Spears' shopping trip escalates into a paparazzi mob scene. Courteney Cox pleads with the press to leave her newborn daughter alone. And Jennifer Lopez refuses to confirm that she tied the knot with crooner Marc Anthony.



Courteney Cox Arquette opted to release a photo of baby Coco rather than risk being stalked by photographers.

**AP photo/People Magazine**

With celebrities feeling assaulted day in and day out by the paparazzi, the tabloids and even the mainstream media, they're building walls and trying to restrict access to their personal lives so they can maintain some semblance of privacy.

Stars' need for seclusion collides with the public's hunger to know every little detail about them. And the tug of war is being played out in the media as celebrities become increasingly guarded in the face of the onslaught:

- Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie, who have rarely met a camera they didn't love, are suddenly sealing their lips about their off-screen lives. In a USA TODAY interview, *The Simple Life 2: Road Trip* stars addressed Richie's previous drug problems but refused questions about the Hilton sex tape and their boyfriends.
- Lindsay Lohan, whose family scandals and breast implant rumors have rocked the tabloids, refuses to discuss her personal dramas with the press. Several major media outlets, including this one, recently turned down interviews with Lohan after being instructed to refrain from asking personal questions about her father's legal problems. (Michael Lohan appeared in court twice last month on charges of assaulting his brother-in-law in May and a sanitation worker in December.)
- Popster Spears is so relentlessly pursued by paparazzi that a visit to a pet store June 20, with mom Lynne and sister Jamie Lynn, turned into a melee when photographers circled Spears' car as her mother tried to drive away. One photographer said he was struck by the car, but it's unclear what really happened. Says Spears' spokeswoman: "The paparazzi brought it upon themselves by surrounding the car in a dangerous situation."
- Upon releasing a photo of their newborn daughter, Coco, Cox and David Arquette issued this statement: "It is our wish that by making this photo available, we will protect the privacy of our daughter by discouraging the unwanted pursuit by photographers."