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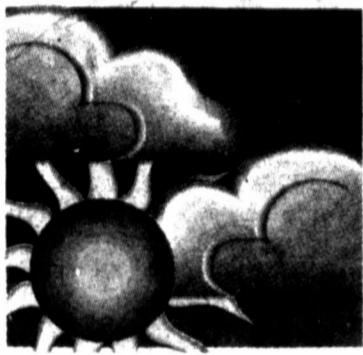
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Pampa

Vol. 90 No. 272 • Pampa, Texas
50¢ Daily • Sunday *1



High today mid 50s.
Low tonight mid 30s.
For weather details see page 2.

PAMPA — Pampa Police officers are now working on their annual fundraiser and will be calling residents at every home and business for donations, said a PPD spokesperson.

LUBBOCK — Young actors who can sing or singer who can act are being encouraged to try out for the 1998 play at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tenn. The play is called "Bye-Bye Love," the story of the Everly Brothers.

Actors in their late teens to early twenties will play the brothers, with two younger boys to play them as children. Two older males and some young females will be needed for supporting roles.

All characters need to be able to sing and act; playing guitar is a plus. The tryouts in Lubbock are Feb. 16. For more information call 615-251-6265.

One ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Saturday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated \$4 million.

The ticket was sold in Laredo.

The numbers drawn Saturday night from a field of 50 were: 1-2-3-8-26-34.

Wednesday night's draw:

- Gladys Anglin, 86, homemaker.
- Clata Cook Hoobler, 82, former teacher, club woman.
- Bertie Lee Smith, 84, services pending.
- Inez Vititow, 89, retired nurse at Plainview Hospital.

Classified 8
Comics 6
Editorial 4
Sports 7



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Agenda: Lefors marshal will resign tonight

Lefors City Marshal Rocky Stewart is scheduled to ask the City Council to accept his resignation as city marshal at tonight's regular meeting.

Items to be considered at tonight's city council meeting, as listed on the agenda, include the following:

- Mayor's, City Superintendent's and Marshal's reports
- Proposals regarding rural development from Clyde Jenkins with U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
- Proposal from Kevin S. Sparks, CPA, in regard to performing municipal audits
- Second and final reading of Ordinances No. 98-101, 102 concerning weed/grass height and

abandoned vehicles

• First reading of Ordinance No. 98-103 concerning abandonment of the alley-way running in an east-west direction between Blackwell Street and Skyline Drive through Block No. 6 of the Blackwell Addition Unit II of the City of Lefors

- Determine method of reimbursement for City Secretary's usage of personal vehicle in performing city business
- Acceptance of the resignation of Rocky Stewart, City Marshal
- Declare any vacancies which might exist within the government/employ of the City of Lefors and take any action necessary to fill those vacancies if so desired.

Oprah trial now in fourth week

By KATIE FAIRBANK
AP Business Writer

AMARILLO (AP) — The lead plaintiff cattleman suing Oprah Winfrey for slander testified today that he was "shocked" at the "false statements" made about U.S. beef's risks of becoming tainted by mad cow disease on her talk show in April 1996.

Paul Engler, chief executive officer of Cactus Feeders Inc., one of the largest cattle feeders in the world, took the stand as the civil trial against Ms. Winfrey, her production company and vegetarian activist Howard Lyman began its fourth week.

"There was an inference throughout the show that beef was unsafe," Engler said. "This is a product that I've taken pride in producing for over 50 years."

The cattlemen are seeking more than \$10.3 million over an April 1996 show. It suggested U.S. cattle could spread mad cow disease to people in the United States and make AIDS look like the common cold.

They contend Ms. Winfrey

edited the show to eliminate pro-beef statements in favor of more alarming statements by Lyman, a former rancher who said that feeding ground-up cattle parts to cattle in America — a practice that now is banned — could spread mad cow disease. Ms. Winfrey declared: "It's stopped me cold from eating another burger."

Last week, Ms. Winfrey testified for most of three days, charming the jury and occasionally growing frustrated by redundant questions. She has been attending every day of the trial, which results in lines outside the courthouse from fans hoping to view the proceedings.

The audience's behavior was complimented by the judge as court wrapped up on Friday. But U.S. District Judge Mary Lou Robinson scolded lawyers for both sides, telling them one thing they've got to do differently this week: Stop making faces in front of the jury during testimony.

Jurors had just been dismissed for the weekend when Judge

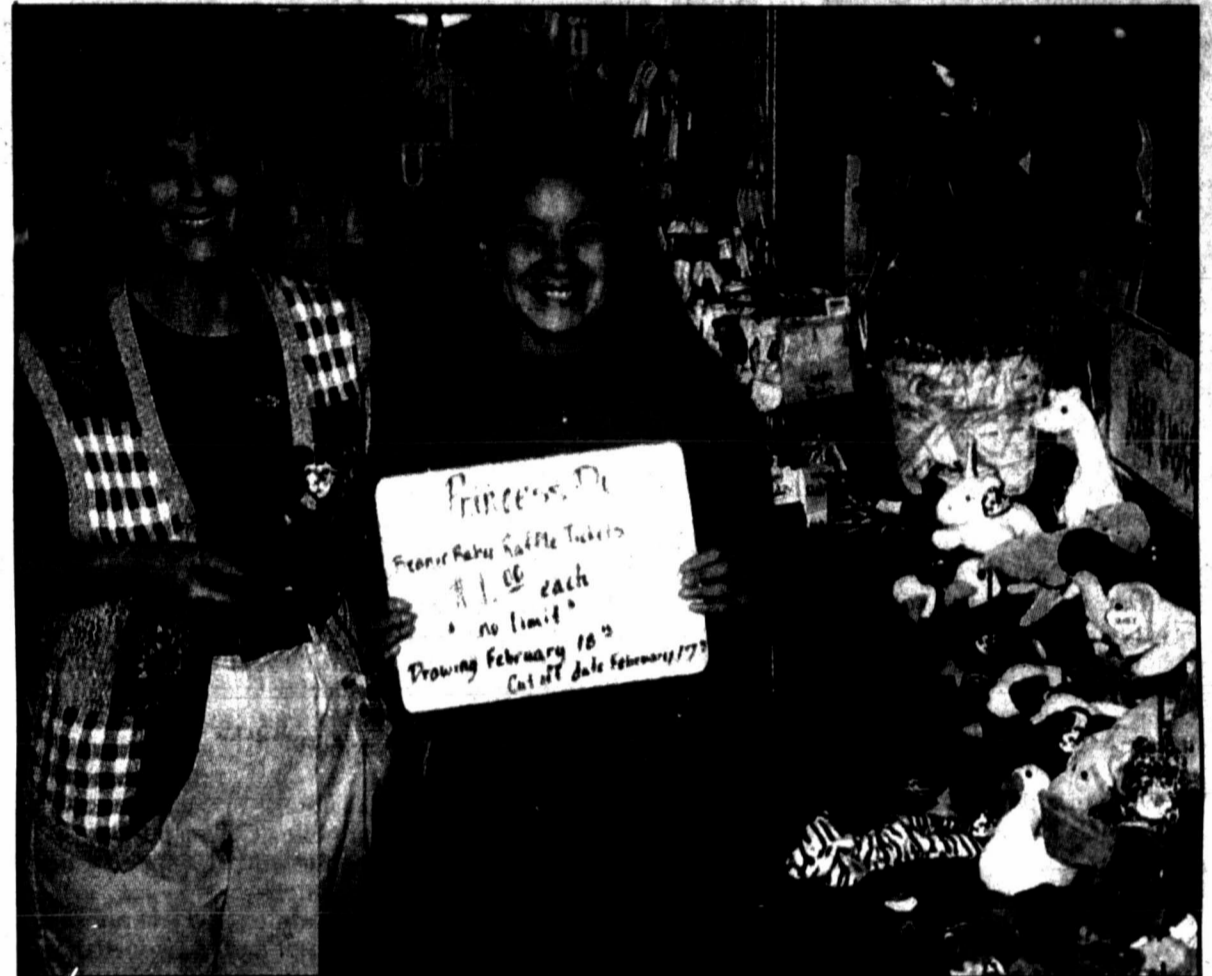
See OPRAH, Page 2



(Pampa News photo by Miranda Bailey)

PISD Gifted & Talented students submitted drawings last year that were just recently published in the "Texas Register" in Austin. Teacher Kay Harvey received notification last week that eleven of the students' works were published. Tanna Stowers (left) and Kay Harvey show off one of the works. The other students published will be listed and pictured in another edition of the paper this week.

Beanie Babies madness ...



(Pampa News photos by Miranda Bailey)

Robyn Franklin (left) and Zelda Martinez at Kids Stuff on Cuyler Street prepare for the big raffle.

Raffling of Princess Diana Beanie Babies next week

By MIRANDA G. BAILEY
Staff Writer

Beanie Babies — they're hot and they're in Pampa.

But only eight lucky people next week will be the proud owners of hard-to-get, first generation Princess Diana Beanie Babies.

Kids Stuff, on Cuyler Street, is raffling off the rare toys and selling the tickets at \$1 a piece. All proceeds are going to Pampa's Big Brother/Big Sister organization.

Now what in the heck exactly are Beanie Babies?

It's a collector's dream come true. It's the Ty toy company's biggest dream come true. It's a small, stuffed animal — and there are a variety of animals to choose from — with a price tag between \$6 and \$10.

But the price depends on the "generation" of the toy. See, they have their own lingo, too.

Remember the Cabbage Patch Dolls in the early 1980s? Similar to that. But the Beanie Babies phenomenon that has swept the country is just now really hitting the Texas panhandle, explained Kids Stuff employees Robyn Franklin and Zelda Martinez.

One gentleman, who came into the store, said he had sold some of his baseball card collection to get more money to collect Beanie Babies, Martinez said.

Beanie Babies have been around since about 1993, Franklin said. Kid Stuff has been selling them since November.

The Princess Diana baby, a purple bear with a little white rose on it, is the "first generation" of future Princess Di babies that are sure to come out in the next few years.

As a first generation baby, it's going to be worth the most, Franklin said.

She and Martinez said they've heard the first generation Princess Di baby is so rare that collectors on the Internet are trying to sell them for hundreds of dollars ... try anywhere between \$500 and \$700.

Kids Stuff, a chain store with four locations in the panhandle, was allotted a certain amount of first generation Princess Diana Beanie Babies from the Ty (toy) Company, Franklin said.

The Pampa store received eight. The other locations — in Perryton, Spearman and Guyton, Oklah. — have already had their raffles.

But this hasn't stopped the residents of those communities from calling the Pampa store and buying tickets, Martinez said.

Although she wasn't sure exactly how many tickets had been sold yet, Franklin said they are selling well and the calls keep coming in. The furthest inquiring call so far has been from Bartlesville, Oklah. and Kids Stuff only began selling the raffle tickets Thursday, she said.

Tickets will be sold at the Pampa Kids Stuff, owned by Jackie Pearson, Susan Pearson and Ginger Pitman until Tuesday, Feb. 17.

City commissioners set to call a general election

First day to file for commish election is Feb. 16

In the season of elections, the Pampa city commission is set to order one more.

The city commission will hold its regular meeting Tuesday and is set to call a general election for city commissioners wards two and four. After the election is called, the first day to file to run is scheduled for Feb. 16 with May 2 as election day.

Also to be considered is approval of the Lovett

Library Renovation plans. While the actual cost of the renovation will be paid by the Lovett Library

Foundation, any changes to city owned buildings must be approved by the commission. The architect will be at the 4:30 p.m. work session to answer any questions they might have.

The commission will also consider bids for several non-emergency vehicles. Of the six bids, Culberson

Stowers has offered the low bid on five and West Texas Ford offered the lowest price on one bid.

The commission will also consider re-appointing Jim Erwin to the electrical board for a two year term and have a second and final reading of an ordinance to raise some fees at Hidden Hills Golf Course.

The work session will begin at 4:30 p.m. Feb. 10 and the regular session begins at 6 p.m.

TEXAS ROSE STEAKHOUSE

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Art for publication



(Pampa News photo by Miranda Bailey)

Approximatley 30 Gifted and Talented students from PISD's Austin Elementary School last year submitted art work to be published in the Austin "Texas Register" publication. Eleven works were selected and published this year. The works chosen were those of: Shane Willet, Clayton Young, Natasha Bailey, Logan Langford, Christopher Smith, Morgan Ketchersid,, Claire Elizabeth Boyd, Dock Mackie, Tanna Stowers (sixth graders, not pictured) Megan David and Anna Johnson.

Chamber Communique

Pampa Chamber of Commerce welcomes new member Eyecare Plus. Dr. Randal Jentzen's eye care center is located at 1916 N. Hobart.
 Amarillo Council on Drug and Alcohol Abuse will sponsor the Chamber luncheon Feb. 17 in the M.K. Brown Room of the Pampa Community Building. Sirloin Stockade will begin serving at 11:45 a.m. Dr. Jerry Lane, CH, LCDC will present the program.
 The public is cordially invited to attend. Lunch will be \$6.50 per person. For more information or for reservations, call the Chamber office not later than 9 a.m. the 17th at 669-3241.
 •Meetings:
 Tuesday - 10:30 a.m., Chamber Executive Committee meeting, Nona Payne Room.

Restoration of battleground begins

HOUSTON (AP) — When it comes to landmarks, the state wants a battlefield to look like a battlefield.

And when it comes to the San Jacinto Battleground, where Texas won its independence in 1836, officials like a \$47 million plan to recreate the authentic look, without parking lots and other evidence of the modern age.

Last month, Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved the multimillion-dollar restoration of the San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park. The restoration plan will recreate the way the area looked when Sam Houston's troops wrestled control of Texas from the Mexican army.

"The site where Texas independence was won is without question a priceless piece of our cultural heritage," said Andrew Sansom, executive director of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

But fundraising for the project has been left up to the San Jacinto Museum Association. Although the San Jacinto Monument is already undergoing a \$10 million facelift, no one knows yet how the battleground plan will be financed.

The museum association is currently studying statewide funding possibilities.

After Texas troops loss the San Antonio mission known as the Alamo, they defeated Mexican forces at San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. The site became a historic park in 1897.

Soybean meeting to be in White Deer

The first of two soybean meetings will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12 at the White Deer Community Center in White Deer, according to Danny Nusser, Gray County Extension Agent - Agriculture. All interested persons should R.S.V.P. by 5 p.m. today.

The program will feature Dr. Brent Bean discussing Soybean Production Practices including soybean inoculation, field preparation, variety selection, planting rates, and fertility. Dr. Clay Salisbury will talk about weed control, and Leon New

will discuss irrigation practice. For more information or R.S.V.P., call the Gray County Extension Office at 669-8033.

CINEMA
665-7141

| | | |
|-------------------|------|------|
| Titanic | 7:30 | (PG) |
| Good Will Hunting | 7:15 | (R) |
| Spice World | 7:15 | (PG) |
| Hard Rain | 9:00 | (R) |
| Mousehunt | 7:15 | (PG) |
| Phantom | 9:15 | (R) |

New - Saturday & Sunday Matinees
 Matinee Doors Open At 1:30
 Monday - Saturday Doors Open At 7:00

Zamora trial: Defense seeks to show midshipman lied in her confession

FORT WORTH (AP) — Defense attorneys will try to show that former Naval midshipman Diane Zamora lied in her confession to police as the capital murder trial continues this week.

The Zamora defense got its chance to present a case starting today, and attorneys say their top goal is to cast doubt on her written confession to the December 1995 murder of Adrienne Jones.

Prosecutors say Ms. Zamora helped then-fiance David Graham kill Miss Jones because of a one-time fling she had with Graham, who will be tried separately.

Several of Ms. Zamora's friends have testified that the accused admitted to helping in the crime, but each witness gave a slightly different version of her role. And the stories

differ from the one Ms. Zamora told police after her arrest.

Defense attorneys hope those variances help their case.

"We're going to show that the statement Diane made to police could not have been accurate and was given under duress," lead defense attorney John Linebarger said last week. "She did not commit capital murder."



MEDICAL DIRECTORY

A guide to Health Care Businesses and Services in the Panhandle Area. This Medical Directory is published every Monday.

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VIEWPOINTS

THE PAMPA NEWS

EVER STRIVING FOR THE TOP O' TEXAS
TO BE AN EVEN BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

Let Peace Begin With Me

This newspaper is dedicated to furnishing information to our readers so that they can better promote and preserve their own freedom and encourage others to see its blessings. Only when man understands freedom and is free to control himself and all he possesses can he develop to his utmost capabilities.

We believe that freedom is a gift from God and not a political grant from government, and that men have the right to take moral action to preserve their life and property for themselves and others.

Freedom is neither license nor anarchy. It is control and sovereignty of oneself, no more, no less. It is, thus, consistent with the coveting commandment.

L.W. McCall
Publisher

Kate B. Dickson
Associate Publisher/Editor



Inside the
Beltway
with
Sen. Hutchison

Texans open up on proposed utility deregulation

Most of us think about our electricity supply on only two occasions: when we get the bill, and when we flick the switch and nothing happens.

But a proposal before Congress to deregulate the industry is shining a spotlight on the issue of how America's electric utilities operate and serve their customers. Some analysts suggest that deregulation could cut electricity rates by as much as 25 percent for the average family. There would be, however, certain operational costs to be borne by each electricity consumer.

In my annual questionnaire, I asked Texans if they believe electricity deregulation would be beneficial to them. Your answers were, so to speak, illuminating — 48 percent of you said this is a good idea, 52 percent turned thumbs down.

Here are some of your comments:

From Fredericksburg: "Deregulation of the electricity industry would be beneficial to me if the transitional and operational costs are not set at such a rate as to offset the savings. But in the past, when a deal like this has been cut and the taxpayer thinks he is getting a break, it turns out not to be the case. Somehow the public pays more, not less, and the companies enjoy greater profits."

From Center: "I can't see an electric utility (or any energy company) giving up its stockholders' margin of profit. Perhaps utilities shouldn't be privately owned. Dividends are the name of the game. I figure they will get their profit one way or another, and those 'transitional' costs will go on forever — or they'll think of something else."

From Brenham: "Deregulation in any industry is a plus. Free enterprise has been lost to governmental interference. Competition keeps prices fair and companies honest."

From Wichita Falls: "I'm a little leery of this. Remember when they deregulated the cable TV industry? This was supposed to encourage competition and keep prices reasonable. My cable bill hasn't gone down, it continues to get higher every year. I think we're being sold out again."

From Perryton: "I believe deregulation would be beneficial to everyone if it is done correctly. Why should anyone but the investors in a utility company pay for the costs of starting a project? Aren't they the ones who will be receiving the profits?"

From Pharr: "Deregulation is a desirable goal, but we should move slowly and carefully to avoid creating a mess like we did with the telephone industry. I have been 'slammed' twice (long distance access provider changed without the customer's permission) and had another attempt while I was writing this. My telephone bill hasn't gone down and my service isn't any better. The utilities have no real experience in a truly open market and perhaps this is the problem."

From Hempstead: "I don't believe Congress will deregulate electricity. I do believe Congress will remove current regulations and replace them with new ones that will not be to my benefit."

From Waxahachie: "I hope Congress doesn't 'deregulate' in a way that results in a longer law than the one that's currently on the books."

From Gilmer: "If the costs of deregulation turn out to be excessive, this won't do consumers a bit of good. I expect that if there is any benefit to be had, consumers won't enjoy it anytime soon."

From Crockett: "Deregulation would be of benefit to everyone. The current system lacks a competitive element — you can't shop around."

From Blanco: "Deregulation is a good idea. But the way we convert to a deregulated energy market needs to be closely monitored so that investments in existing systems are not lost."

The advocates of electricity deregulation claim it will lower prices, lower business operating costs, increase reliability of service and help the environment.

Several states already have enacted some form of deregulation. The Texas Legislature attempted to pass such legislation last term but the move was narrowly defeated.

I support increased competition in the market and less government regulation. However, it is important to ensure that rural areas continue to receive quality service. In addition, utility companies should not be left with substantial unreimbursed investments. I will continue to monitor this legislation closely.



WHAT BILL CLINTON MEANS BY CONSIDERING "ALL OPTIONS AGAINST IRAQ"

Town belongs in horror classic

I have reported on a number of cases of adults charged with child sex abuse in day-care centers and with their own children. In most of these prosecutions, rampant violations of due process, have included manipulation of child witnesses by therapists and official interrogators.

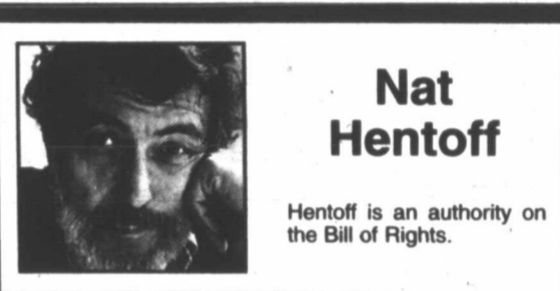
Finally, after much suffering by the defendants, including periods of imprisonment, an increasing number of convictions have been reversed with, of course, no apologies from the authorities.

Of all these mockeries of justice, the most horrifying have taken place in the town of Wenatchee, Wash. As Mike Barber reports in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, "Nearly 50 people were arrested and more than 50 children were taken from their homes" over a two-year period. By and large, those of the accused with money to retain their own lawyers have been acquitted; but others, dependent on court-appointed attorneys, have been imprisoned.

The state has a strong American Civil Liberties Union affiliate, but it did not get involved in the cases. When I asked them why back then, I was told the ACLU affiliate was studying the matter.

At last, to its credit, last October the affiliate issued a list of guidelines for Child Protective Services, the legislature and others in authority — "When Child Protection Investigations Harm Children: The Wenatchee Sexual Abuse Cases." I will write about those guidelines in a later column because they ought to be taken seriously by prosecutors and journalists around the country.

But even now, when a number of appeals of these grotesque Wenatchee convictions are in the courts, one of the overburdened defense lawyers tells me that the state ACLU still has



Nat Hentoff

Hentoff is an authority on the Bill of Rights.

not provided legal help. The result, as before, is that those defendants in prison who are poor may lose their opportunity for reversal.

Throughout this national epidemic of witch hunts, ACLU affiliates around the country have remained silent. "Well, we can't take every case," said one.

The atmosphere in these courtrooms and in the towns themselves recall what Justice Louis Brandeis warned against in *Whitney vs. California* (1927). Writing of "the bondage of irrational fears," Brandeis reminded us of the times when "men feared witches and burned women."

The North Carolina "Little Rascals" day-care cases; the Kelly Michaels case in New Jersey; the imprisonment for five life terms (!) of Harold Grant Snowden in Florida are not just ordinary cases to be ignored by the ACLU of all institutions.

A new book, available in February, illuminated in stark detail what can happen to a town when it fears witches and imprisons human beings while taking their children away from them. Kathryn Lyon, a lawyer who has followed these bizarre events closely, has written "Witch Hunt: A True Story of Social Hysteria and Abused Justice" (Avon Books).

"Dozens of men and women have been

charged," she writes, "with swapping children for sex with an ever expanding group of relatives and friends and neighbors and strangers." Some, according to the accusations, would stand in line to have sex with children at a church where the pastor "raped children at the altar during services and then cried out 'Hallelujah, there goes the devil!' A woman (who, like most witnesses, later recanted) said that entry to the orgies was conditioned on swapping a child or paying admission at the door."

The prepared testimony of children sent townspeople to prison. Now — as some convictions are being reversed and new trials may be held — some of these fantasies are being dispelled. An appellate court has strongly criticized a Child Protective Services supervisor who was present when Det. Bob Perez — the chief orchestrator of the charges and arrests — interviewed children:

"The conduct included telling them the other children had already disclosed abuse by the parents, and identifying the parents as under suspicion, instead of asking open-minded questions about abuse."

To ask for open-minded questions in Wenatchee might have created suspicion that the questioner had engaged in child abuse. For only the innocent had true faith in the need to purge the town of the predatory agents of the devil who had invaded the children. Wenatchee was enveloped in the sinister mists of a Stephen King novel.

Thanks to a few diligent lawyers still working on appeals, Wenatchee may yet recognize what it has allowed to happen to it. Then, perhaps, the victims will be redeemed and their official abusers will pay for what they have done.

Today in history

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Feb. 9, the 40th day of 1998. There are 325 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 9, 1943, the World War II battle of Guadalcanal in the southwest Pacific ended with an American victory over Japanese forces.

On this date:

In 1773, the ninth president of the United States, William Henry Harrison, was born in Charles City County, Va.

In 1825, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams president after no candidate received a

majority of electoral votes.

In 1861, the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States of America elected Jefferson Davis president and Alexander H. Stephens vice president.

In 1893, Giuseppe Verdi's last opera, "Falstaff," was first performed, in Milan, Italy.

In 1942, the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff held its first formal meeting to coordinate military strategy during World War II.

In 1942, daylight-saving "War Time" went into effect in the United States, with clocks turned one hour forward.

Time to stop sanctimonious bleating

You might think, beholding the trash that has been dumped on David Brinkley of late, that journalism is a priesthood from which, once one is inducted, it is impossible to abdicate.

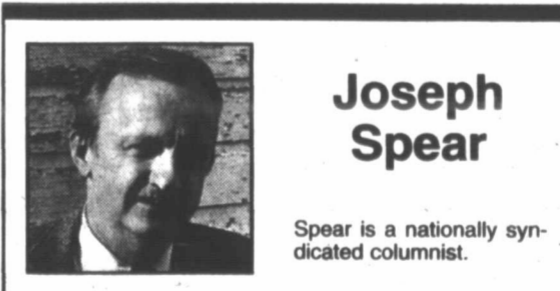
Well, I have news for the five people in America who don't already know it: Journalists are not holy folk. Not even close.

What happened is that Mr. Brinkley, a giant of broadcast journalism, retired from a 54-year career last September. For the previous 16 years, he moderated the best talk show on television, ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley." Three months after he drew the final curtain, he showed up on the same Sunday morning gabfest as a pitchman for the politically active Archer Daniels Midland company, which had sponsored "This Week" for many years, and which in 1996 had been found guilty of price-fixing and had paid a fine of \$100 million.

"I've moved," he said in one spot. "Since television began, I have brought you the news. Wars, elections, victories, defeats. The news. Straight and true. I will speak straight and true. I'll never change that, but now I will bring you information about food, the environment, agriculture, issues of importance to the American people and the world."

Whereupon the journalistic community, in spasms of wrath and paroxysms of sanctimony, began casting stones upon him.

Maureen Dowd, resident termagant at the New York Times, avowed that Brinkley had blown his "splendid reputation" and under-



Joseph Spear

Spear is a nationally syndicated columnist.

gone a "sad transformation from revered to scuzzy."

National Public Radio commentator Daniel Schorr shared his grief with Howard Kurtz of the Washington Post: "I frankly cannot understand it ... I was dismayed and shocked."

Andy Rooney of CBS's "60 Minutes" allowed that Brinkley's new ADM job was "as sad as the death of a friend." He went on to say he "didn't think David Brinkley could ever be bought," and he implored Brinkley to "say you made a mistake."

Well, if I may do a little imploring of my own: Shut the hell up, please. There are few things more nauseating than the howls of hypocrites, so do us all a favor and just stifle it.

What Brinkley chose to do was disappointing to that minuscule band of hopelessly romantic news people who cling to the belief that they toil in a principled trade. I myself will acknowledge that Brinkley's decision got me down for a while. He is one of two or three people in broadcast news who I implicitly trust and for whom I have had deep and abiding respect.

But really, people, where are the boundaries these days in the news business? Pat Buchanan and David Gergen are polls one day, journalists the next. Diane Sawyer is a Nixon tack one day, a network luminary the next. John McLaughlin is a priest one day, a yak show loudmouth the next. Daniel "Dismayed and Shocked" Schorr has played roles in at least two movies.

Indeed, it could be argued that every anchorperson and correspondent works for networks owned by Disney, Time-Warner and General Electric skills for corporate America day in and day out. It could be argued that journalistic "buckrakers" who lecture before forums that are sponsored or subsidized by corporations are riding the same gravy train that Brinkley has hopped aboard, if, indeed, that is what he has done.

Pitchpersons? NBC's Linda Ellerbee hawked coffee. ABC's Kathleen Sullivan peddled weight loss programs. There's nothing new or different about it, either. The newsman that Chet Huntley and David Brinkley succeeded on NBC in 1956 was John Cameron Swayze. Anchor of the Camel News Caravan. Later Mr. Timex. Mr. "Takes a Licking and Keeps on Ticking."

David Brinkley is 77-years-old, for heaven's sake. He is retired. He has paid his dues. He has performed honorably. When he goes to his reward many years hence I hope — he will have a lot less to answer for than the majority of his critics.

He can sell anything he wants. I will admire him anyway.

MEDICAL

Usher syndrom most prevalent in Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Already deaf, Danny Delcambre was 14 years old when he learned he also was going blind.

He was relieved. Finally, he knew what was wrong: He had Usher syndrome, a genetic disease that generally causes deafness from birth, a loss of balance and a gradual decline of vision beginning in adolescence, the teen years.

He is one of 800 Louisianians with the syndrome — the largest population of deaf-blind people in any state.

Researchers have linked it to the close-knit Cajun world of southwest Louisiana, where the genetic defect has been passed down through the generations after long-distant intermarriage.

If one person carrying the gene has a child with another carrier, the disease can surface in the child.

"In general they have no idea that they are related. It's only when they have a child with a recessive disease that they will look into it and find that they have a number of ancestors in common," said Bronya Keats, a geneticist at Louisiana State University Medical Center who has identified the gene that causes Usher.

The defect is most prevalent in the Cajun region, renowned for its spicy food, Zydeco music and French heritage. The Cajuns — a corruption of the word "Acadians" — are descendants of Catholics who were expelled from Nova Scotia by British Protestants in the mid-1700s, an exile made famous in Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's epic poem "Evangeline."

Mary Kay Pelias, an LSU genetics professor who has researched Usher for 17 years, counsels possible carriers about the risks.

Marrying outside the community is a fairly reliable way to avoid passing the disease on to children, she said. But many won't.

"I think it's fair to say most (of the Cajuns) will stay in the community," Pelias said. "Among the families that we have talked to, many regard far away as 20 miles away."

Many of Louisiana's deaf-blind have achieved relatively independent lives. Delcambre, now 38 and living in Seattle, secured a \$50,000 loan to open his own Cajun-style cafe there in 1993. Now

he delivers motivational speeches around the country. Topics relate to his experiences overcoming obstacles and coping with change.

While Delcambre's achievements have earned him a celebrity-like status among those with Usher, others have mastered tasks that usually rely on eyesight and hearing.

"I love sewing," said Della Mae Childress, a 70-year-old Cajun with Usher. She explains that she uses her hands to replace her eyes and ears.

She also scrubs the house, cooks and applies her own make-up — even though she doesn't remember what her face looks like. It usually goes fairly well except when she mistakes the eye shadow for blush.

But crossing the street unassisted can be life threatening for those with Usher, said Kristi Mora, deaf-blind program manager at Resources for Independent Living in New Orleans. She said a few have been struck by cars.

Many of the afflicted communicate with tactile sign language, in which the deaf-blind cups his hands over the hands of a person using sign language.

Technology also helps. Childress chats via e-mail with her friends and children. A special board at the bottom of the keyboard translates the text into Braille. Another device translates phone conversations into Braille.

Gadgets are available that, like a pager, vibrate when there is a phone call, someone at the door or when the house is on fire.

Still, the deaf-blind often face fear and depression, said Ilene Miner, a social worker who specializes in working with people with Usher. "They're ultimately afraid of being abandoned — facing being totally deaf, blind and left in a community that doesn't provide for that."

That's something Childress struggled with. "I cried a lot. I grieved for about six years," she said.

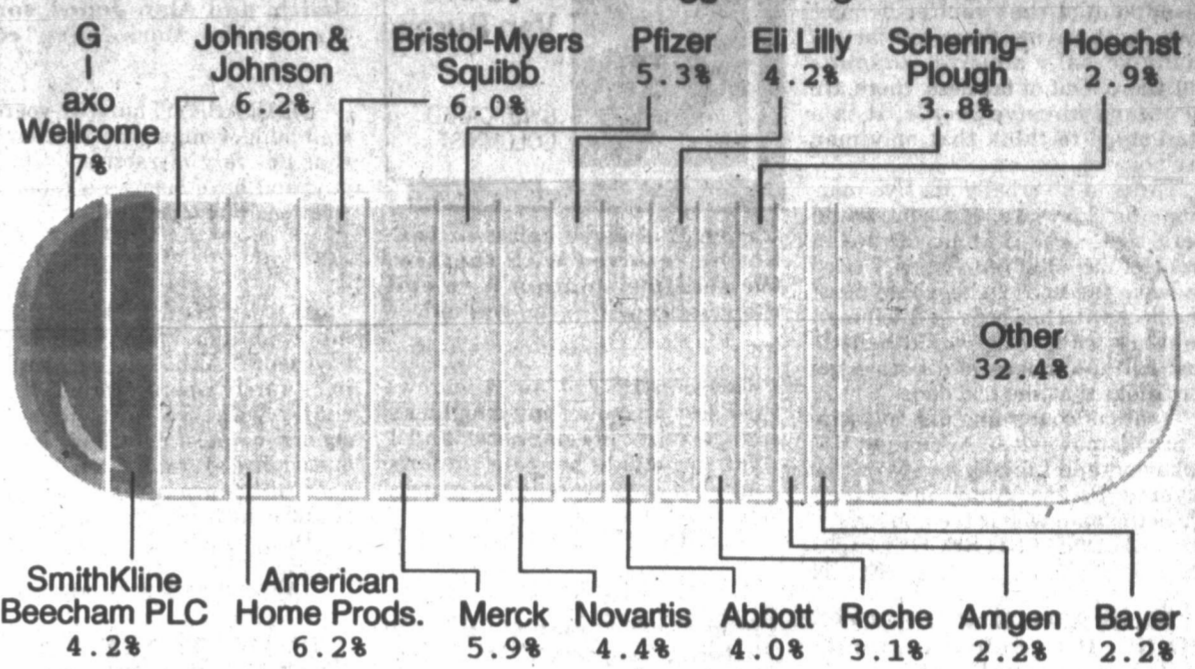
By teaching herself Braille, taking computer classes and memorizing her house, Childress said she regained her independence and happiness.

Aside from tripping over things, Delcambre says his largest frustration lies with people's attitudes: "A lot of people don't realize that we're just like everybody else, and we can succeed."

Drug merger

Talk of a merger between SmithKline Beecham PLC and Glaxo Wellcome has raised speculation that deals between other big drug companies may be in the offing.

1996 U.S. market share held by the 15 biggest drug makers:



Source: Gruntal & Co., L.C.C.

APIC, Tovar

Study focuses on Lyme disease

BALTIMORE (AP) — Doctors should not immediately order blood tests and prescribe antibiotics when people bitten by ticks express fears of contracting Lyme disease, according to a study published today.

The study by the University of Maryland School of Medicine said some doctors don't know what questions to ask to determine if people are at risk of contracting the nonfatal disease.

Or physicians simply order the tests and prescribe the antibiotics without considering if such measures are necessary, according to the study, published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Physicians may be caveing into demands from patients for immediate drug treatment, Dr. Alan G. Barbour of the University of California, Irvine, said in an editorial accompanying the study.

"Although patients may have many facts about Lyme disease — perhaps more than their physician — many of those 'facts' may be inaccurate or need to be placed in the right context," Barbour wrote. "Doing so requires straight talking from the physician, rather than reaching for the lab order sheet or prescription pad."

Researchers examined 142 people on Maryland's Eastern Shore who reported tick bites but no symp-

toms. Two-thirds underwent blood tests for Lyme disease and 55 percent received antibiotics, the study showed. None of the 142 developed Lyme disease.

"The use of serologic tests makes little if any contribution to the management of patients with tick bites and is not a small issue in light of the costs," the study said.

The average cost per patient was \$205. Dr. Anthony Lionetti, a Lyme disease expert in Hammonton, N.J., said it is better to treat patients even if they don't have the symptoms.

"It is important to get a jump," Lionetti said. "Testing may not become positive for five weeks. The window for treatment may be in the first week."

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention received more than 98,000 reports of Lyme disease cases from state health departments from 1982 through 1996. Symptoms include fatigue, chills, fever, joint pain and a bulls-eye rash around the tick bite. Without treatment, it can cause arthritis, numbness, paralysis of the facial muscles and an irregular heartbeat.

Peggy Sturmfels, 48, of Jackson, N.J., got the disease in 1981 but wasn't diagnosed until 1987. By then, the damage had been done, she said.

Daily walk shown to keep elderly healthy

BOSTON (AP) — All those mall walkers are onto something: A major study found that a daily stroll keeps older people living longer.

The research suggests that for folks in their 60s, 70s and 80s, walking is powerful medicine. Over a 12-year period, the study found that covering just two miles a day cut the risk of death almost in half.

Clearly, the legions of elderly folks who take time for a daily stroll through the shopping center or around the park already believe this.

Yet among fitness professionals, the subject is surprisingly controversial. Some have questioned whether leisurely paced exercise does much good at all. And there is virtually no carefully done research to show that walking, gardening and such keep senior citizens healthier.

The new study provides evidence of this benefit in older people. Amy A. Hakim and others from the University of Virginia calculated that every extra mile

they walk per day lowers their death rate by 19 percent.

"The message is that we should become active and remain active," said Robert D. Abbott, one of the researchers. "Walking is easy, and it can be quite enjoyable with friends on a nice day."

Despite walking's obvious popularity, especially among older people, most Americans have not gotten the message about this or any other kind of exercise.

Dr. Jody Wilkinson, medical director of the Cooper Institute for Aerobics Research in Dallas, noted that 60 percent of Americans don't get enough regular activity to improve their health. And the numbers are probably even worse for the elderly.

The latest study shows "it doesn't take that much," Wilkinson said. "Two or three miles at a moderate pace is within the ability of almost everyone."

The research, published in Thursday's issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, was based on the Honolulu Heart Program, which has followed the health of 8,006 men of Japanese

ancestry living on Oahu since 1965.

In this analysis, the researchers looked at 707 nonsmokers who were all fit enough to walk if they wanted to. They were questioned about their walking habits between 1980 and 1982.

In all, 208 of the men died over the following 12 years, but the amount of walking appeared to make a big difference. Twenty-four percent of those who walked more than two miles a day died during this time, compared with 41 percent of those who walked less than one mile daily.

The walkers' risk of death was especially lower from cancer. Those who walked infrequently were about 2 1/2 times more likely to die of cancer than were the two-mile-a-day men.

Walking and other kinds of exercise probably protect the heart and circulatory system by raising HDL, the good cholesterol, and keeping weight down. Experts suspect it may help prevent cancer by beneficial effects on the immune system and hormone levels, among other things.



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Counseling Can't Always Save Marriage To Abusive Spouse

DEAR ABBY: I read with interest the letter in your column from "I'd Rather Be Alone." I agree with what you and she said, but I was disappointed that you let her get away with saying there are far too many verbally abusive husbands out there. Out of fairness, there are too many abusive people. It is a stereotype to think that only men are abusive.

I was in a verbally abusive marriage for 11 years. My wife would yell, scream and swear at me in front of our children. When I tried to leave the house, she would block the door with her body and tell me I couldn't leave. She would belittle me, call me names and berate me for things that she had done.

Years of counseling did not help. She was powerless to change her behavior, and I finally had to file for divorce. Please, Abby, it's not always the man who is the abuser.

ALONE AND RECOVERING IN OREGON

DEAR ALONE AND RECOVERING: If I implied that only males are verbally abusive, I apologize, for that was not my intention. A pattern of verbal abuse is far more serious than an occasional lapse of temper; it's about controlling one's partner. It's intended to drain the victim of confidence, and its volume increases so that the victim is thrown off balance and reeling from emotional bat-

Abigail Van Buren
SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

tering. If abusive behavior cannot be resolved with therapy, the sensible solution is to end the relationship — as you did.

DEAR ABBY: I am a widow. How do I announce my daughter's engagement? My daughter and I want to include her late father's name, but are unsure if it is proper. Is there a correct form for this?

ASKING IN OLYMPIA, WASH.

DEAR ASKING: According to Emily Post's "Complete Book of Wedding Etiquette," the wording for the newspaper announcement of your daughter's engagement should be: "Mrs. Bob Smith announces the engagement of her daughter, Miss Roberta Smith, to Alan Jones, etc. Miss Smith is also the daughter of the late Bob Smith."

When it is time to send the wedding invitations, use this

wording:

"Together with their families, Roberta Smith, daughter of Alice Smith and the late Bob Smith, and Alan Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Jones," etc.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 32-year-old, well-built woman who is often told that I'm very attractive. I am also gay, and have been in a committed relationship for six years.

At work, men frequently hit on me and ask, "Do you have a boyfriend?" Although the town I live in is fairly open-minded, I don't really want to "out" myself to clients, because not all of them are open-minded, and I don't want to cost my company any business because some clients may be bigoted. How should I rebuff such verbal advances?

ANONYMOUS IN MICHIGAN

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Say, "I'm flattered — but I'm already involved with someone."

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)



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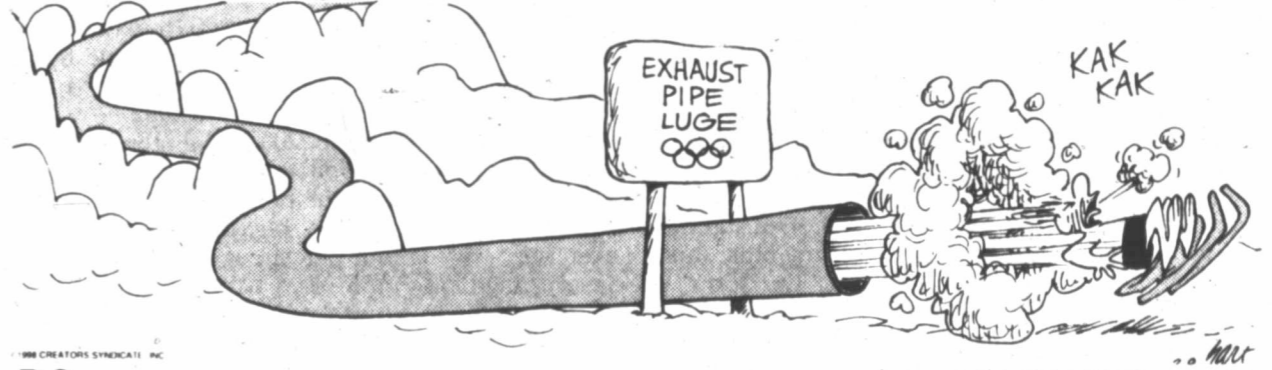
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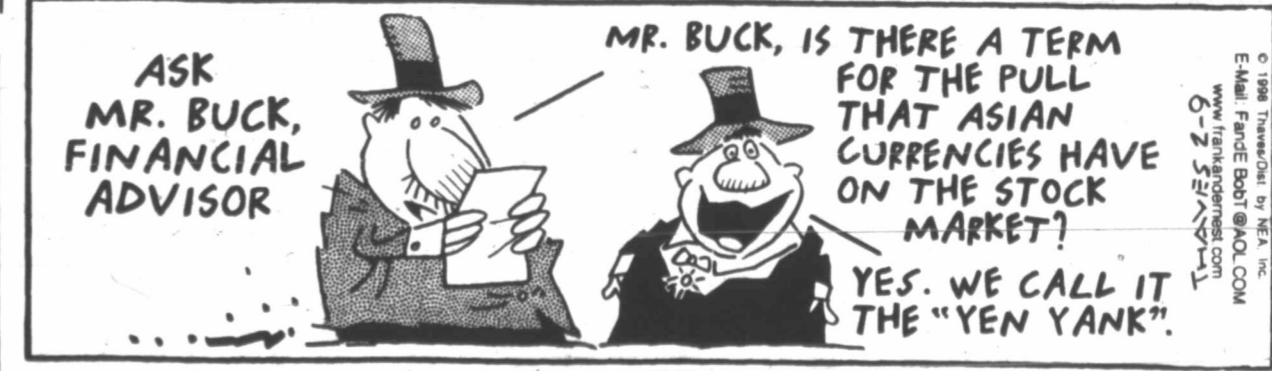
B.C.



Eek & Meek



The Born Loser



Frank And Ernest



Mallard Fillmore

Horoscope



Your Birthday

Tuesday, Feb. 10, 1998

Your chart indicates a busy, productive year ahead. Chances for fulfilling your ambitions look good, but be sure not to neglect enjoyable aspects of your life in order to achieve mundane goals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Strive to plan your moves in advance today instead of attempting to make quick revisions. Your judgment is reliable when you take time to think things through. Trying to patch up a broken romance? The Astro-Graph Matchmaker can help you understand what to do to make the relationship work. Mail \$2.75 to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 1758, Murray Hill Station, New York, NY 10156.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Real

accomplishments are possible today if you don't let self-doubts enter the picture. If you don't believe in yourself, you'll find reasons not to try.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A close friend who has a flair for making waves might try to draw you into something sticky today by pretending to support your positions. Be on guard.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) If you have problems today with the outside world, be mindful not to bring your troubles home and take them out on innocent family members.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Your opinions and those of someone you like might be in opposition today. Do not let insignificant issues put a valued relationship in jeopardy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You may have to deal with someone today who uses strong-arm tactics and acts as though he or she has the upper hand. Do not let this bluffer intimidate you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Even though you'll strive to be logical and responsible today, you could have a tough time get-

ting support from your mate, especially on a touchy issue.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You will be willing to assist people who truly need your help today, but you may not be too concerned about individuals who take you for granted.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Today, it's best to avoid groups that attract those with whom you've had problems. Plan your activities to include only those with whom you feel at ease.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) There could be a big difference today between your priorities and those of a close friend. This may create waves that aren't beneficial to either of you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Things you usually overlook in others could be extra irritating to you today. Relationships will go smoother if you avoid nit-picking.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Obstacles and frustrations might impede your attempts to conduct business today. If this becomes evident, forget things for a day and relax.

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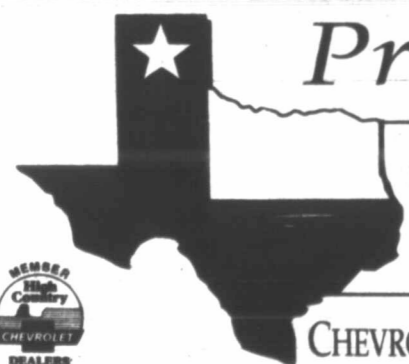


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