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THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Former Somalia President Dies

The former president of Somalia, Mohamed Siad Barre, has died in Nigeria. It was Barre's dictatorial rule and the military coup which ousted him in 1992 that were in part responsible for the famine which gripped Somalia and the country's current civil war. Barre had diabetes and had suffered a heart attack. He was around 80 years old.

Gumbel To Stay With NBC

Bryant Gumbel and NBC aren't giving out details, but it looks like he wasn't prepared to bolt from the "Today Show" and NBC wasn't prepared to lose him. "I'm happy it's done," Gumbel says of the extension of his contract with the network for one year. Gumbel, has been the "Today" anchor for 13 years.

O.J. Line Could Make Millions

A new 900 telephone number could make O.J. Simpson a lot of money. Callers dialing the number will hear messages from Simpson and his pal, Al Cowlings. Mike Gilbert, Simpson's business manager, says the number could generate profits of \$20 million. The line will continue throughout Simpson's trial on murder charges and beyond dependent upon the results, appeals, public sympathy, etc. Callers will pay \$2.99 for three minutes and 300,000 calls are expected per hour.

Panel Finds Bias At Military Bases

The House Armed Services Committee reports that overt cases of racism and subtle forms of discrimination pervade some military facilities. The findings of a one-year bi-partisan study show "a complex web of good news and bad news," says the committee's former chairman Ronald Dellums. The report said overt forms of racism and jokes were common at four of the 19 U.S. and overseas facilities surveyed.

Jackson Blasts Right Wing Christians

Conservative Christians are denouncing national political leader Jesse Jackson for his views on one of their political organizations. Jackson blasted the Christian Coalition, last month, for having "an ideological kinship" with slave owners, white supremacists and Nazi Germany. He said conservative white Christians have never fought against injustices aimed at blacks and other minorities.

Elders Back To Work In Arkansas

Fired Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders is back to work in Arkansas as a teacher and medical researcher following her firing by President Clinton. During her tenure as the nation's chief medical officer, Elders had angered conservatives with statements ranging from support for homosexuality and calling for a study on the legalization of drugs.



King Birthday Celebrated

Children learn about the civil rights legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during ceremonies at area schools. Fifth graders Shania Price-Hale (clockwise from top) and Russell Starks, perform at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School, while Itrelle D. Lambert addresses an assembly at Humboldt Elementary School.

(Photos By Donn Thomas)



'I'VE BEEN TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP'

...We have been forced to a point where we're going to have to grapple with the problems that men have been trying to grapple with through history, but the demands didn't force them to do it. Survival demands that we grapple with them. Men, for years now, have been talking about war and peace. But now no longer can they just talk about it. It is no longer a choice between violence and nonviolence in this world, it's nonviolence or nonexistence.

That is where we are today. And also in the human rights revolution, if something isn't done, and in a hurry, to bring the colored peoples of the world out of their

long years of poverty, their long years of hurt and neglect, the whole world is doomed.

...If I lived in China or even Russia, or any totalitarian country, maybe I could understand some of these illegal injunctions. Maybe I could understand the denial of certain basic First Amendment privileges, because they hadn't committed themselves to that over there. But somewhere I read of the freedom of assembly. Somewhere I read of the freedom of speech. Somewhere I read of the freedom of the press. Somewhere I read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for right. And so, just as I say, we aren't going to let any injunction turn us

around. We are going on.

...Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days, of challenge, to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make a better nation. And I want to thank God, once more, for allowing me to be here with you.

...I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountain top. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life; longevity has its place. But I'm not

concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to look over the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land. And I'm happy tonight, I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

(The preceding was from a speech delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on April 3, 1968 in Memphis, Tenn., just one day before he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.)

Hate Campaign Cited

An atmosphere of hatred and violence is being created by the distribution of bigoted literature, according to the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission of Multnomah County and the city of Portland.

Recently a group calling itself the Heralds of Truth widely distributed a 16-page publication throughout Multnomah County entitled "Earth's Final Warning," an anti-Catholic tabloid which alleges that the papacy is posed for a forceful takeover of the world.

"While the commission upholds both freedom of speech and freedom of religion, it abhors the message promulgated by this group because it promotes an atmosphere of hatred and fear within the community," commission members said.

The human rights group said Oregon, sadly, has a history of anti-Catholic violence and discrimination.

Listed as examples were claims

made about Catholic beliefs and practices in the 1920s, saying they would corrupt children and destroy families. Catholics were called "foreigners" and "papists," fanning the flames of suspicion and hatred to such an extent that Catholic churches and convents were attacked.

At the time, Oregonians even voted, via the Oregon School Bill, to outlaw Catholic Schools in Oregon. The U.S. Supreme Court rejected this amendment to Oregon's constitution, reminding the people of Oregon that the human rights of a despised minority are not subject to the whims of the majority vote.

The Metropolitan Human Rights Commission is urging citizens to critically analyze any literature or other message which attacks a particular group and to work to promote tolerance and unity within diversity, thus creating a peaceable community in which to live.

Parent-School Workshops Deal On Human Rights

A series of workshops have been scheduled to help parents and guardians of children attending Portland public high schools better understand their rights and responsibilities.

The sessions, sponsored by the Metropolitan Human Rights Commission, will also focus on how to effectively interact with school administrators to create a better learning environment for their children.

Topics include parents rights and responsibilities, laws that prohibit discrimination in schools, student discipline and procedures, communicating with school administrators and ways to get involved.

The first Parent-School Involvement Workshop, for those with children attending Grant or Benson high schools, will be held Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Beaverton Middle School, 4043 N.E. Fremont.

The sessions are open to the public, but space is limited. Anyone interested is asked to contact Jamae Hilliard at the Metropolitan

Human Rights Commission at 823-5136.

The workshops for other schools, also scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., are on the following dates:

- Feb. 8 at Warner Pacific College, Eggtved Hall, 2219 S.E. 68th, for Franklin and Marshall high schools.
- Feb. 15 at Abernathy Community School, 2421 S.E. Orange, for Cleveland High School.
- Feb. 23 at Northwest Service Center, 1819 N.W. Everett for Lincoln High School and the Metropolitan Learning Center.
- March 7 at the King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 N.E. Seventh Ave. for Jefferson High School.
- March 29 at Rose City Park Grade School, 2334 N.E. Prescott for Madison High School.
- April 20th at St. Johns Community Center, 8427 N. Central for Roosevelt High School.
- April 26th at the Northeast Policing Precinct, 449 N.E. Emerson for Wilson High School.