

## STAR GAZER\*\*

By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Stars According to the Stars

To develop message for Saturday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

ARIES MAR. 21-20	1 Listens	31 Promise	61 Ideas
Taurus APR. 20-19	2 Affairs	32 Achieve	62 Pressure
2-17-24-34	3 Let	33 Your	63 Much
7-14-23-32	4 Corrupt	34 You	64 Desires
5-11-20-29	5 Others	35 Be	65 Block
6-10-19-28	6 Joint	36 Ones	66 A
7-9-18-27	7 Your	37 Could	67 Items
8-8-17-26	8 Temper	38 And	68 Effort
9-7-16-25	9 Talk	39 Moves	69 Promise
10-6-15-24	10 Timely	40 Acquiring	70 Them
11-5-14-23	11 Relax	41 Fall	71 Money
12-4-13-22	12 Events	42 To	72 So
13-3-12-21	13 If	43 Might	73 Or
14-2-11-20	14 And	44 Good	74 Indicated
15-1-10-19	15 Allow	45 Some	75 Today
16-12-31-49	16 You're	46 Hard	76 Tired
17-11-30-48	17 Of	47 Good	77 The
18-10-29-47	18 Efforts	48 Associates	78 Pursuit
19-9-28-46	19 Events	49 Fulfillment	79 Heart's
20-8-27-45	20 Opportunity	50 For	80 If
21-7-26-44	21 Plans	51 Crystallized	81 Pace
22-6-25-43	22 Make	52 To	82 Are
23-5-24-42	23 To	53 Cost	83 Accented
24-4-23-41	24 Dear	54 You	84 Possible
25-3-22-40	25 Con	55 Under	85 Desire
26-2-21-39	26 Will	56 By	86 Be
27-1-20-38	27 Will	57 Of	87 Of
28-1-19-37	28 The	58 Patient	88 Today
29-1-18-36	29 For	59 Someone	89 Pleasure
30-1-17-35	30 Inspire	60 Cooperative	90 Cooperative
31-1-16-34	31 Good	61/13 Neutral	91/13 Neutral

## The Inquiring Mind

This series of articles, on many different subjects, results from work by senior students at the school of journalism at the University of Oregon. Each is a condensed version of a full-length thesis written as partial requirement for graduation at the school.

**BABIES FOR SALE**  
By Jo Ann Shore

Cautiously hiding under the skirts of respectability, black and gray marketeers are supplying the country with a commodity unknown as such, a century ago. The commodity is babies.

In those pioneer days of the adoption movement (1851 to about 1875) no one could predict that a baby "business" would spring up decades later. Today, black marketeers do "business" among an estimated one million childless couples who each year attempt to adopt children.

Business is profitable, too. Last year one ring located in Florida cleared \$50,000 profit. But cheaper services are offered through gray markets, which are essentially respectable doctors or lawyers who place children at reasonable service fees. The gray marketer is unlike the black marketer, in that he is usually sincere in his efforts to place children in good homes.

**Eager Couples**

Both the black and gray marketer have a large group with which to operate. For there are about ten eager couples for every adoptable infant.

What causes the black and gray market in babies? The major problem is that there are simply not enough infants to adopt. Antiquated state adoption laws, strict requirements, and a maze of red tape, are what the baby seller thrives on.

Waiting lines are long at adoption agencies—too long—and the requirements too rigid and exacting. So, the black or gray market offers a quick service to an impatient couple.

Slow and unsympathetic agencies often follow the law to the letter, insist on matching parents and children to the last minute detail concerning religion, coloring, and other inherited qualities. Adoptive parents must meet strict financial, social, age and physical requirements. While many of these pre-adoption scrutinies are necessary, too much attention is paid to minor details; and few exceptions are made.

Therefore, some prospective parents who either cannot fulfill all the requirements, or desire to speed up the process, resort to the black or gray market.

**Red Tape Eliminated**

The usual red tape required of reputable agencies is omitted in black markets, and qualifications of adoptive parents need be only enough ready cash.

This quick, simple way often leads to trouble. Black market operators do not have the time, freedom, nor the inclination to investigate the real mother's background or physical condition, nor that of the adoptive parents. The racketeer's main supply of babies comes from unwed mothers whose only desire is to be rid of their children as soon as possible, thus making investigation difficult, if not impossible.

Couples in a hurry to adopt may regret their haste if they proceed without the aid of a legitimate agency. In a study of 200 adoptive homes made at the Clinic of Child Development at Yale a few years ago, the late Dr. Catherine Amatruda showed that of 100 independent placements, only 46 rated good (where parents and child were well-adjusted to each other), 26 rated fair, and 28 bad. The 100 agency-matched placements scored much better. Dr. Amatruda rated 76 good, 16 fair and 8 bad.

Another study, made by the California Citizens' Committee on Adoption gave evidence that one of every five children obtained through black or gray markets was never legally adopted or was shunted to several couples before finding a permanent home. In contrast, only one agency baby in 100 was not adopted by the couple who first received him.

Although the facts show that "purchasing" a baby is not the easy way out, the practice continues. Why? For one thing, in 1957 black and gray markets were not against the law in 34 states. All of these —Oregon included—would grant a decree that makes the adoption legal. And even in states where baby-selling is a criminal offense, prosecution is difficult. Many of these cases involve interstate transactions and there are no federal adoption laws.

Oregon is an example of a state where laws are lax. Oregon's present laws make "baby selling" illegal, but they are not effective in preventing private individuals from engaging in child-placing. In the 37 years since the law against child-selling was passed only one conviction has been recorded. That was in the case of a Portland woman who was said "punishment wasn't enough."

Legislative action would help alleviate the "black market" problem. A public adoption agency—established by state law—would afford an answer. Funds allocated by the state would make it possible for the State Public Welfare Board to place youngsters for adoption.

(Editor's note: Legislation along these lines was passed this year. The article was written prior to the legislator's adjournment.)

A public adoption agency would serve the whole state, and not just a special group, such as Protestants, Catholics or Jews, as is the case now with some agencies. In addition, state control of a public agency would cause private agencies to re-examine their standards.

Legislators, aided by social workers, would be in a position to evaluate outmoded state laws controlling child placement, and to make compromises which would result in better placements in a shorter length of time, if a public agency were established.

Laws that are too lax are allowing black and gray marketing to exist. The most obvious evidence of the laxity of the laws is in the few actual convictions of persons engaged in black marketing babies. To prevent incessant black market operations, laws should be passed in states which do not already have them, prohibiting the act of selling babies and making it a felony instead of a misdemeanor.

Along the same line, laws should be enacted which prohibit gray marketing of babies. Few states currently have such a law. Oregon has a law prohibiting black marketing of babies, but not gray marketing. Because gray marketing has not been deemed as dangerous as black marketing, little emphasis has been placed upon it. However, statistics have shown this practice to be on an increase and surveys indicate that placements of this nature are likely to be unsatisfactory and heart-breaking.

## Old Tree Harbors Spark for Months

Springfield — (UP) — Timber fallers for Weyerhaeuser Timber Co., here have received a startling lesson in the wily nature of forest fires.

They felled an old cedar on the firm's tree farm and the tree shattered and burst into flame when it hit the ground.

Company foresters discovered that the tree had been harboring a spark from a nearby slash fire late last year — more than five months — and the spark had slowly burned the tree into a hollow shell without betraying its existence.

At a nearby log landing, a spark from the same fire crept into rotten wood and bark and burned underground until it reached the surface.

## Sledge Hammer Blow Kills Man

Silverton — (UP) — Archie Goodwin, a 50-year-old turkey farm employee, died here Thursday of injuries received when he was hit with a sledge hammer in a backyard of his home Monday afternoon.

Marion County District Attorney Hattie Kermen said Goodwin's wife, Josephine, 35, might have charges filed against her depending on the outcome of psychiatric examination at the State hospital.

Mrs. Goodwin, a former mental patient, has been committed to the hospital for examination.

Marion County Chief Criminal Deputy John Zbinski said Mrs. Goodwin orally admitted the beating.

Goodwin was found in his backyard suffering a crushed skull. He did not regain consciousness.

## Woman Killed By Freight Train

Canby — (UP) — A berry picker, Mrs. Goldie Thompson, 45, was instantly killed north of here Thursday when struck by a Southern Pacific freight train.

Police learned later that the woman was deaf and did not hear the warning whistle.

Officers said she had just finished picking berries at the De Forge berry patch near here and had decided to walk back to town on the tracks.

## Willamette Labor Dispute Spreads

Salem — (UP) — The month-long labor dispute between Willamette valley sand and gravel operators and Teamsters local 324 has spread to other crafts.

Carpenters, electricians, plumbers and other craft workers walked off three construction jobs here in a "sympathy" move.

Pat Blair, who represents cement contractors, said "it is now apparent that this will have to be settled in the federal courts."

He said an injunction would be sought to prevent picketing of jobs involving cement.

Salem Building Trades Council Representative Charles Westergard said his craft employee "won't work on jobs where 'rat' cement is used."

Employers Wednesday sent an ultimatum to the Teamsters telling them to return to work or risk losing their jobs.

## Reconsideration Of SP Case Asked

Salem — (UP) — The Interstate Commerce commission has been petitioned to reconsider its May 6 decision which allowed Southern Pacific company to curtail its Portland-San Francisco passenger schedules during off-season periods, Public Utility Commissioner Jonel C. Hill said.

Oregon's PUC and the California Regulatory commission had filed similar requests.

Under the ICC order, SP is permitted to operate its Shasta Daylight schedules three times a week from Jan. 15 to May 28 and from Sept. 16 to Dec. 14 of each year.

Hill maintained the ICC's finding that operation of the Shasta Daylight "on other than a tri-weekly schedule" is not required by the public convenience and necessity during off-peak periods "is not supported by the evidence."

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## Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A QUICK-DRAW COP in Texas emptied his pistol at a bad man, missing him completely. Finally, however, he hurled his empty revolver at the thug—and laid him out cold!

In New York an editor opened a manuscript that consisted of nudes of a darling young model who wanted to sell a new "manual of photography." The editor's report consisted of a single line: "I see nothing in this manuscript except the model."

"If, in going down an incline," proposed a physics instructor, "I gain four feet per second, describe my situation 25 seconds later."

"That's easy, prof," insisted one student. "You'll be a centipede."

This is a story of a man who may be the stingiest in all New York. His doctor told him his wife must get some sea air—so he fanned her two weeks with a herring.

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