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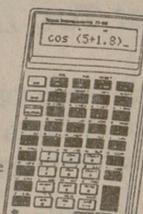
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Mother of disabled child subject of talk program Radio show accused of bigotry

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Aaron James Lampley was only a few hours old when a local radio station dedicated a second program to the circumstances of his birth.

Last week's show on KFI-AM refueled a dispute that pitted the station against activists for the disabled and raised questions about freedom of speech and society's treatment of the disabled.

Aaron was born Wednesday with ectrodactyly, a hereditary condition in which the bones of the feet and hands are fused. His mother, KCBS-TV anchorwoman Bree Walker Lampley, also has the syndrome and knew the child had faced a 50 percent chance of inheriting it.

Her other child, a daughter, also has the disability.

KFI had outraged Mrs. Walker

Lampley and advocates for the disabled with a July 22 call-in show in which host Jane Norris asked if it was fair for the anchorwoman to give birth when the child had a "very good chance of having a disfiguring disease."

Critics of the show said it smacked of bigotry and illustrated societal prejudice and lack of understanding toward the disabled. KFI said the matter was handled properly and that radio talk shows are appropriate forums for controversial issues.

In KFI's second visit to the subject, Ms. Norris accused Mrs. Walker Lampley of orchestrating a campaign to discredit her and contended she had a First Amendment right to discuss the issue.

Mrs. Walker Lampley and her

husband, KCBS anchorman Jim Lampley, hired a media consulting firm, which has sent tapes of the Norris show to disability rights groups and is helping to file a complaint to the Federal Communications Commission.

"I was supportive of Bree's decision," Ms. Norris said on the show. "All I did, and have done, is voice my opinion of what would be right for me. I thought I handled the topic sensitively, but all (she has) seen fit to do is slander me."

Ms. Norris' statements did nothing to cool the controversy.

"They came on the air supposedly to set the record straight. In our view, she set the record even more crooked," said Lillibeth Navarro of American Disabled for Access Power Today.

Poland wants power to push progressive economic plan

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The government said Sunday it will ask parliament for the power to rule by decree to help push through an economic austerity plan blocked in parliament by communists and their allies.

Government Spokesman Andrzej Zarebski said Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki also thinks constitutional amendments are needed "to strengthen the position of the executive power in the political system of the state."

Bielecki convened a special meeting of the Cabinet Sunday after winning a vote of confidence Saturday in the Sejm, or lower chamber.

The ministers on Sunday decided decrees were needed to effectively regulate the economic sphere, Zarebski said. He said the decrees would be valid until a new parliament is elected.

The government will submit its proposals to parliament Monday and will ask the Sejm to hold a special session on them Tuesday or Wednesday, Zarebski said. Since assuming office Jan. 4, Bielecki has moved to accelerate the selloff of state-owned industries and to reform post-Communist Poland's economy to a market-oriented system.

But several deputies have strongly criticized the government's tight fiscal policies and demanded changes in the economic reform plan.

The powerful Sejm is dominated by former Communists and their allies, who occupy 65 percent of the 460 seats under a 1989 election plan approved by the then-ruling Communists.

Voters will choose the first freely elected parliament in Poland since World War II in elections Oct. 27.

Town sheds light on grisly secret involving U.S. labor movement

CENTRALIA, Wash. (AP) — After seven decades of bitter silence, this "town with a secret" is shining light on one of the American labor movement's darkest days.

Schoolchildren are learning and historians are officially noting an event that until a few years ago was rarely even whispered about in Centralia, even as it became the stuff of legend and song elsewhere.

On Nov. 11, 1919, members of the radical Industrial Workers of the World shot dead four young veterans who bolted from an Armistice Day parade to help beat up the "Wobblies" and wreck their union hall in the center of this logging and farming community about 90 miles south of Seattle.

That night, after arranging a power outage, a mob of townspeople dragged Wobbly member Wesley Everest from jail and hanged him from a bridge outside town.

Everest, who some historians believe was castrated before his hanging, had been mistaken for the leader of the I.W.W. local.

Eight of his comrades, including the leader, were convicted in 1920 of second-degree murder and sentenced to 25 years in prison. The lynch mob members never were identified.

The violence was stirred by bitter strikes and other labor unrest in the Northwest timber industry, and

also by growing enmity toward the Wobblies, seen as fellow travelers of the revolutionary Russian Bolsheviks.

The "Centralia Armistice Day Riot," also called "the Centralia Massacre," gave the community "a reputation as a city of violence and transformed the community into a town with a secret," historian Robert R. Weyeneth said.

"Well into the 1950s, for example, the Centralia Public Library was not allowed to keep books or clippings" about the riot and aftermath, Weyeneth said.

"The shared silence is as much a part of the story of the Armistice Day Riot as the event itself," he said.

"When I was growing up, you couldn't get people to tell you about what happened that day," said Ron Breckenridge, a junior high school teacher in Centralia. "I more or less had to beg grandpa to tell me what happened, and even he wouldn't tell me a lot."

Now, Weyeneth and Breckenridge are helping Centralia confront and accept its past.

Breckenridge and fellow teacher Joe Flink wrote a textbook and are teaching eighth-graders about the riot.

"We started doing it in 1985, and we've had a lot of support from the district and from the town," said Breckenridge, whose grandfather was a Wobbly.

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Demise of Communist Party reflects roots

MOSCOW (AP) — Vladimir Ilych Lenin's political party emerged in intrigue and suspicion in 1903 as a band of ideologues, hounded by police and constantly threatened with arrest.

Eighty-eight years and generations of omnipotence later, it is returning in many ways to those roots.

Despised by the majority, abandoned by its chief and many of its faithful, stripped of newspapers, offices, and its pervasive network of functionaries, the party has crumbled.

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union — which emerged from the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party — is dying of the corrupting power it has guarded

jealously since 1917.

The Communists, who proclaimed themselves the "leading and guiding force" of Soviet society, are paying for where they led people.

The failed coup against Mikhail S. Gorbachev brought on the final crisis in a long decline.

Now the party's activities have been suspended. Moscow officials have formed a commission to investigate the party's holdings nationwide, which they estimated at more than \$9.3 billion at the official exchange rate, said commission spokesman Alexander Muzykantski.

They include luxury hotels, hospitals, food processing plants and fleets of cars, said commission

spokesman Alexander Muzykantski.

Vladimir Sindrin, a 43-year-old engineer in the Moscow suburb of Podolsk, is one of millions who have quit the party in recent years. He left in January after 16 years.

The society created by Soviet communism already has made people his age a "lost generation," he said.

The air and water are dirty, the shops are empty. The struggle to survive amid industrial squalor often makes people mean-spirited. Before the coup, the Soviets were approaching the 21st century, glued to a 19th century philosophy.

"In 70 years, we've had it up to here with Lenin," Sindrin said,

making a slashing motion across his throat.

Viktor Telegin, a Supreme Soviet deputy and party member from Volkinsk, estimated the party would get 2 percent to 3 percent of the vote if elections were held now.

Gorbachev's faith in Marx and Lenin remains unshaken, but the coup shocked him out of a lifelong belief that the party could represent his ideals.

His forward-looking advisers Alexander Yakovlev and Eduard Shevardnadze were among those who gave up earlier.

Urging the policy-setting Central Committee to disband on Aug. 24, Gorbachev acknowledged its cowardice and decay.

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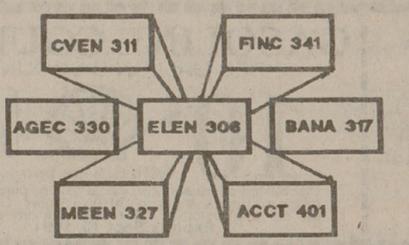
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