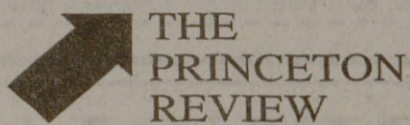


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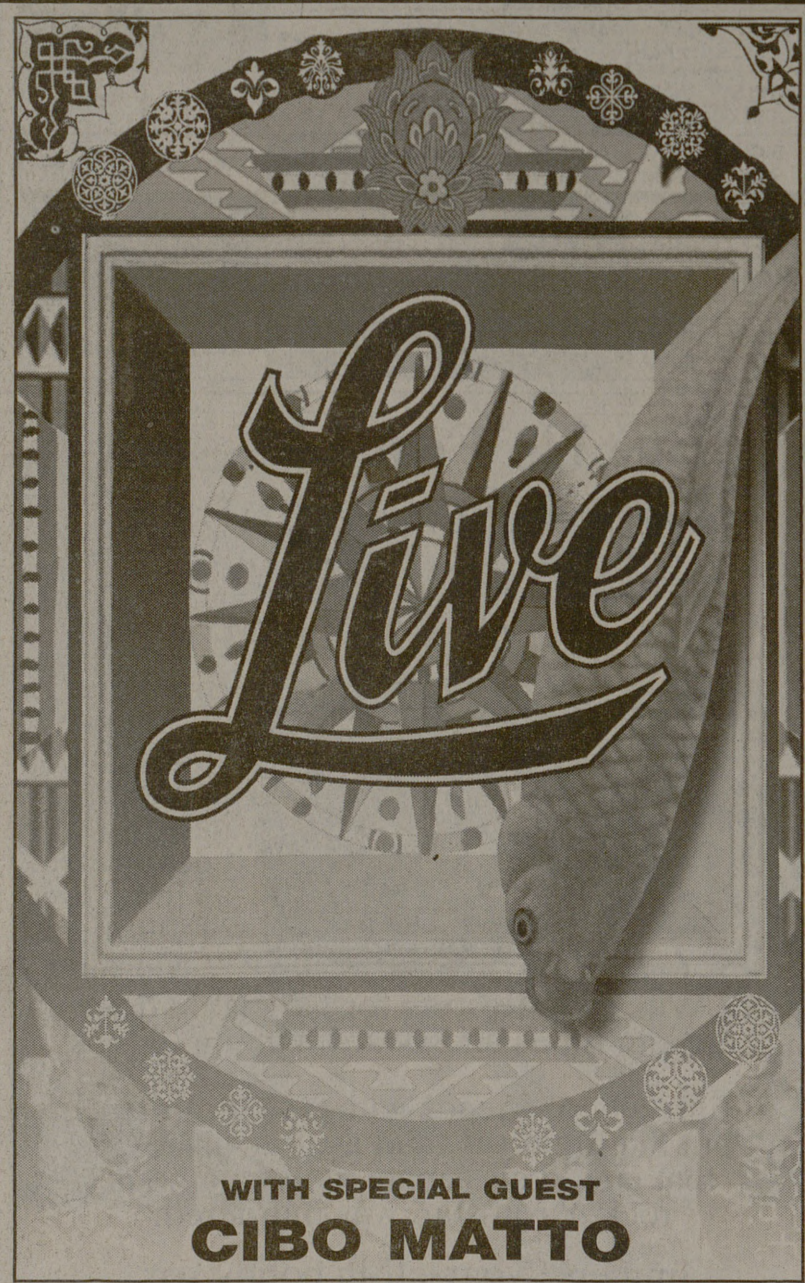
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Court reverses decision against ABC in fraud case

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A federal appeals court yesterday reversed a jury verdict that Food Lion supermarket chain committed fraud in a hidden-camera expose of unsanitary conditions at Food Lion's supermarkets.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, with a 2-1 ruling, threw out a \$315,000 judgment against ABC, a 1992 "Prime Time Live" program. Two ABC reporters used disguises to get jobs at a Food Lion store, then secretly videotaped employees for a story on food-handling practices that accused the grocery chain of selling rancid cheese and rotting meat.

The report alleged Food Lion employees ground out-of-date beef along with new beef and added rank meat to remove the date-labeled redated products before their expiration date. The jury that found Food Lion guilty of fraud under state law awarded the supermarket chain \$5.5 million in punitive damages, but that was cut to \$315,000 by a federal judge. Food Lion was also awarded \$1,402 in compensatory damages by the court for the cost of hiring the two ABC employees.

"ABC intended to benefit the consuming public by letting it know about Food Lion's food-handling practices."

— Judge M. Blaine Michael
4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

media and hidden-camera journalism that did not center on the veracity of the story.

The appeals court disagreed with the jury's finding that ABC engaged in a business deception in violation of the North Carolina Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act (UTPA).

"However, the deception did not harm the consuming public," the opinion by Judge M. Blaine Michael read. "Presumably, ABC intended to benefit the consuming public by letting it know about Food Lion's food-handling practices."

"Moreover, ABC was not competing with Food Lion, and it did not have any actual or potential business relationship with the grocery chain," so the law could not be used in this case, Michael wrote. A spokesperson for ABC News did not immediately return a telephone call for comment.

Clinton to meet Barak, Arafat
President, Middle East leaders to conclude terms of agreement

WASHINGTON (AP) — Resuming Middle East diplomacy, President Clinton will meet next month in Norway with Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to spur talks on an overall settlement.

The aim is to conclude an agreement on the future of Jerusalem, Palestinian statehood aspirations and several other thorny issues by next September — four months before Clinton leaves office. "There is no greater priority for this president," Sandy Berger, his assistant for national security, said yesterday in announcing Clinton would meet separately and then together with Barak and Arafat on Nov. 2 in Oslo.

Clinton has suffered a number of foreign policy setbacks of late. Among them were the Senate's rejection

of a treaty to ban nuclear-weapons tests and passage of a foreign-aid bill that sharply cut several overseas programs. He vetoed it this week and denounced conservative Republicans who engineered his defeats as "new isolationists."



CLINTON

The three leaders will be in Norway to commemorate the 1993 Oslo accords, which put Israel and the Palestinians on the negotiating track.

Berger said talks between the two sides had reached "a moment of truth," and while he seemed cautiously optimistic they would reach a settlement, Berger pointed out the clock is ticking.

One marker is the pledge Barak and Arafat took to complete the framework of an accord by February.

Clinton is planning to spend only a day or two in Oslo, which contrasts with the nine mostly sleepless nights he needed last October to hammer out a West Bank accord between then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Arafat in Maryland.

Cancer prevalent in A-bomb participants

WASHINGTON (AP) — Soldiers exposed to radiation during atomic tests in Nevada in the 1950s have had higher-than-normal death rates for leukemia and for prostate and nasal cancer, a new study reports.

The increased death rates for nasal and prostate cancer had not been reported before, but the higher leukemia rates have been reported in other studies, according to the

report from the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine.

"These leukemia findings do not resolve the debate over whether participation is associated with leukemia mortality," study director Susan Thaul said.

"However, the set of leukemia findings is consistent with the results of other studies of military participants in nuclear tests

and is broadly consistent with a hypothesis that these are radiation effects."

Comparing a group of servicemen who took part in the tests in Nevada and the Pacific with similar service members who did not participate, the analysis found no difference between the two groups in overall death rates or in total deaths from cancer.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Student threatens Columbine attack

GOLDEN, Colo. (AP) — Columbine High School student has been arrested for threatening to "finish the job" of the two teen-age gunmen who died out the bloodbath last year.

The 17-year-old student whose name was withheld because he is a juvenile, was arrested and jailed Tuesday on charges of inciting destruction of life or property.

A student reported that the teen-ager had remarked that he would "finish the job" started by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, Sheriff John P. Stone said.

O'Connor returns after hospital stay

NEW YORK (AP) — Capt. John J. O'Connor returned to duty yesterday after being hospitalized for two days with side effects from radiation treatment.

The spiritual leader of the New York's 2.2 million Catholics missed Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral the last two days. His spokesperson, Michael Zwilling, said he did not know when O'Connor would resume his public schedule.

School suspends for spiking water

MONROE, Mich. (AP) — A 17-year-old middle school football player got sick after two teammates allegedly spiked their water bottles with the chemical coolant in instant ice packs.

Two of the students drank the water during practice Oct. 12 were hospitalized. One suffered headaches, stomach pain, vomiting and burning their throats.

Motorists killed in log-truck accident

ESPANOLA, N.M. (AP) — Forty-two logs fell off a logging truck, crushing two women to death as they waited in a car at a traffic light.

Annette Gonzales, 39, and Emily Baca, 29, were killed. The logs tumbled from the logging rig after its rear axle broke, officials said.

The Clothesline Project:
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