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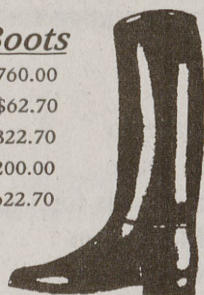
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AGGIELIFE

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THE BATTALION

Wednesday

ABC going ahead with DiCaprio interview of President Clinton

NEW YORK (AP) — ABC has decided to broadcast portions of an interview with President Clinton conducted by Leonardo DiCaprio that had raised questions about why a movie star was fulfilling a role usually handled by a journalist.

The network announced its decision in a terse news release on Tuesday, a day after ABC News executives screened the March 31 interview.

DiCaprio, chairperson of the Earth Day 2000 celebration committee, talked to Clinton about global warming. The interview will appear as part of an Earth Day special produced by ABC News on Saturday, April 22 at 8 p.m. ET.

"It was an editorial judgment made here with many senior management peo-

ple involved," said ABC News spokesperson Eileen Murphy. "Everyone is comfortable with the decision. But we're not going to discuss our editorial process."

It's still not clear how much of the reported 20-minute chat between the *Titanic* star and Clinton will make it on the air. Murphy said the final product "will meet with ABC News editorial standards."

"In the end," she said, "we'll be judged by what is on the air."

Many journalists within ABC,

particularly in the Washington bureau, were angered when they heard DiCaprio was granted the interview.

There was some dispute last week between ABC, the White House and DiCaprio's representatives over how it was set up. ABC News President David Westin said DiCaprio was visiting at the White House's request, with the understanding that the president might appear on film walking through the White House with the actor.

The White House said ABC had requested an interview and DiCaprio's spokesperson, Ken Sunshine, said the actor was prepared to conduct one.

Westin had told ABC News staffers in an Email that there was a chance Di-

Caprio's White House footage be used at all. He was not available about Tuesday's decision to Murphy said.

Sunshine said that "we've always assumed that the would be included." He said will be consulted during the process of the special.

"He's perplexed that this is a big deal," he said. "All he wants is for lots of people to hear about global warming."

The special, with "20/20" host Chris Cuomo as host, includes on coral bleaching off the coast, urban sprawl in Atlanta and facts of global warming on Alas-



DICAPRIO

People in the News

Actress Bening gives birth to baby girl

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Annette Bening and Warren Beatty have an American beauty to boast about: a baby girl.

The name and weight of the child, as well as where and when she was born, were not disclosed.

"Everybody's doing well," Bening's publicist Nancy Seltzer said Tuesday.

The *American Beauty* star and her husband have three other children. They were married in 1992.

A very pregnant Bening attended the Oscars on March 26. She lost to Hilary Swank in the best-actress category.



BENING

New candy named after 'I Love Lucy' actress

DURANGO, Colo. (AP) — "I Love Lucy" fans will soon be able to buy sweet reminders of the famed episode in which Lucille Ball gets a new job at a chocolate factory and can't quite keep up with the assembly line.

Durango-based Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory is introducing a line of candies next month called Lucy's Chocolate Factory Candy.

It's based on the episode in which Ball tries to box chocolates on an assembly line but can't keep up, so she shoves the candy in her mouth.

The terms of the deal announced Monday with Rocky Mountain, the estates of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, and CBS Worldwide Inc. were not disclosed.

"To put Lucy together with chocolates and create a lasting tribute to my parents and 'I Love Lucy,' their legendary television show, has been a dream of mine for over a decade," Lucie Arnaz said in a statement.

Rev. Jackson supporting closings on MLK Day

WALLINGFORD, Conn. (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson will come to Wallingford this month in support of a bill that would force the town to close government offices on Martin Luther King Day.

Wallingford is the only Connecticut municipality that does not close for the civil rights leader's birthday, which has been a state holiday since 1986.

Last week, a state legislative committee voted 39-6 in favor of the bill.

Jackson will speak at the Capitol and attend a church service honoring King on April 26. He said he also plans to travel to Wallingford.



JACKSON

Smashing Pumpkins' new album falls in album sales

CHICAGO (AP) — Smashing Pumpkins leader Billy Corgan says the band remains upbeat even though its latest album has been dropping on the charts.

"Machina/The Machines of God" debuted at No. 3 on Billboard magazine's pop album chart but in five weeks has slipped to No. 54, selling 340,000 copies so far.

"I'm very happy with it. I'm just glad we still have a pulse," Corgan told the *Chicago Sun-Times*. "I don't mean the record — I mean the band in general. We're just happy to be alive."

Judge Clarence Thomas admits to isolated life

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas says he doesn't socialize with fellow members of the court, spending most of his

time reading, writing and thinking.

"It's a sedentary life, it's an isolated life," Thomas, who spoke Monday at the University of Kansas School of Law. "It's a good life."

Thomas, confirmed to the court in 1991, round of grueling hearings that focused on allegations of sexual harassment against him, also said he was surprised by the cordial nature of his colleagues — in contrast to the rough and tumble Washington politics.

"I found it hard to believe myself," he said. "I am not a raised voice, no huge egos, no cabal. People get together in a team to beat another team. I still have not heard the first unkind word since conference."

Singer Houston attends tribute to Clive Davis

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A smiling Whitney Houston showed up amid heavy scrutiny Monday for Arista Records' 25th anniversary tribute to her mentor, Clive Davis.

"She looks fabulous," Dionne Warwick, one of Houston's, said backstage.

Houston was scheduled to sing a medley of some of the biggest names in the label's catalog gathered to perform for Arista founder David signed Houston when she was 19. The tribute special was taped to air May 15 on NBC.

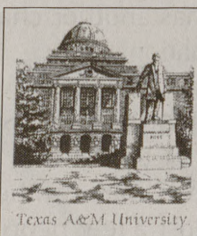
Rumors about Houston have swirled in the drug abuse allegations, a much-discussed album last month's Oscars and a disjointed magazine view. Houston has denied abusing drugs in the past.

Three weeks before the Oscars, Houston appeared at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame dinner she was scheduled to help induct Davis.

And in January, airport security in Hawaii found a half-ounce of marijuana in Houston's luggage. Rather than wait for police to arrive, the 36-year-old Houston boarded her flight and left the island.

Houston has not been charged in the incident.

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