

The Post-Journal

Southwestern New York's Leading Newspaper
The Jamestown Evening Journal
The Jamestown Morning Post
The Post-Journal
James C. Austin, Cristie L. Herbst

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down

Thumbs up to the Lucy/Desi Museum and William and Mary Rapaport for keeping the Rite Aid building at Third and Main in Jamestown on the tax rolls by renting it instead of buying it. The Rapaports have put up the \$500,000 needed to buy the I Love Lucy 50th anniversary traveling exhibit and put it on display in Jamestown. Thanks to them, the Rite Aid building will be transformed into the Desilu Playhouse — a terrific addition to downtown.

Thumbs down, down, down to New York state using taxpayer money to cover pay raises for members of private sector and politically powerful labor unions — including doorman and security guards at apartment buildings in New York City.

Thumbs up to all of the young athletes representing our area this weekend in statewide football, public high school baseball and softball tournaments, in state track and field championships, and in golf and in tennis.

Thumbs down to changes in immigration rules that have forced the Salvation Army to reassign Majors Les and Bonnie Bussey to Toronto. The two Canadians have been ably serving in Jamestown the past two years, but problems having visas approved means they have to return home. They surely will be missed.

Thumbs up to the board of directors of Lake View Cemetery for starting to plan now for an expansion of Soldiers Circle to plots on the other side of Marvin Parkway. Sixty burial sites are still available in the main cemetery, but by starting now to talk about an expansion, veterans groups can help decide what sort of a memorial will be appropriate when, sadly, the time comes to move.

Your nominations for weekly thumbs-up and thumbs-down recognition are welcome. E-mail them to: cherbst@post-journal.com. Or mail them to: Cristie Herbst, editor, The Post-Journal, Box 190, Jamestown, NY 14702-0190. Or visit the virtual newsroom at www.post-journal.com and enter them under the letters to the editor category.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Today is Saturday, June 4, the 155th day of 2005. There are 210 days left in the year.
Today's highlight in history:
On June 4, 1942, the Battle of Midway began during World War II.

- On this date:
In 1812, the Louisiana Territory was renamed the Missouri Territory.
In 1878, Turkey turned Cyprus over to the British.
In 1892, the Sierra Club was incorporated in San Francisco.
In 1896, Henry Ford made a successful pre-dawn test run of his horseless carriage, called a "quadricycle," through the streets of Detroit.
In 1940, the Allied military evacuation from Dunkirk, France, ended.
In 1944, the U.S. Fifth Army began liberating Rome during World War II.
In 1947, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved the Taft-Hartley Act.
In 1954, French Premier Joseph Laniel and Vietnamese Premier Bao Loc agreed to treaties in Paris according to "complete independence" to Vietnam.

In 1986, Jonathan Jay Pollard, a former Navy intelligence analyst, pleaded guilty in Washington to spying for Israel. (He is serving a life prison term.)

In 1989, hundreds, possibly thousands of people died as Chinese army troops stormed Beijing to crush a pro-democracy movement.

Ten years ago: At the Tony Awards, Sunset Boulevard won best Broadway musical while Love! Valour! Compassion! by Terrence McNally was chosen best play.

Five years ago: President Clinton and Russian President Putin ended their summit by conceding differences on missile defense, agreeing to dispose of weapons-grade plutonium and pledging early warning of missile and space launches. A powerful earthquake struck the Indonesian island of Sumatra, killing at least 100 people. Copenhagen was chosen best play, Contact best musical and Kiss Me, Kate best musical revival at the Tony Awards.

One year ago: A powerful bomb blast ripped through a crowded outdoor market in central Russia, killing at least 11 people. President Bush nominated former Missouri Sen. John Danforth to be America's U.N. ambassador.

Today's Birthdays: Former Senator Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio) is 88. Actor Dennis Weaver is 81. Actor Bruce Dern is 69. Country singer Freddy Fender is 68. Musician Roger Ball is 61. Jazz musician Anthony Braxton is 60. Singer Gordon Waller (Peter and Gordon) is 60. Rock musician Danny Brown (The Fixx) is 54. Actor Parker Stevenson is 53. Actor Keith David is 49. Actress Julie Holston is 47. Actor Eddie Velez is 47. Singer-musician El DeBarge is 44. Tennis player Andrea Jaeger is 40. Actor Scott Wolf is 37. Actor Noah Wyle is 34. Rock musician Stefan Lessard (The Dave Matthews Band) is 31. Comedian Horatio Sanz is 31. Actress Angelina Jolie is 30. Rock musician Jolo Garza (Los Lonely Boys) is 25.



Kathleen Parker
I Don't Want To Be A Hilton

Nostalgia is probably premature for times as recent as 2003. Still, it is easy to miss the days when Hilton meant a second-rate hotel and Paris was a city of slender women and tiny dogs. Now we glance across the breakfast table and mutter to our mates, "Remember when we didn't know who Paris Hilton was?" These days, the invariably dubbed "socialite" is as inescapable as dust. She's everywhere: on the Net, on TV, on everyone's lips. A prospective intern appears at my office door wearing a micro-skirt displaying bronzed legs, her pretty face framed in a blunt, platinum coil. "Don't you look fabulous," I say in my best motherly voice, whereupon she sees my ante and raises me several chips of self-awareness. "Oh, thanks, I'm a big fan of Paris Hilton."

"Oh, How nice." I haven't quite put my finger on the moment when Paris Hilton became a household word — whether it was her 2003 TV reality series, The Simple Life, in which she and co-star Nicole Richie (daughter of Lionel) made fun of the rural poor by dressing down to "play" farm, or whether it was her debut on the World Wide Web, the star of a home video in which she and her then-boyfriend, shall we say, share their love. Nor do I have the nauséa tolerance necessary to pin it down. Suffice it to say Paris is here, there and everywhere. A Google search produces more than 10 million links.

Most recently, she's the buzz star of a Carl's Jr. TV commercial in which the barely swimsuit-clad Paris suds up and slithers around on a Bentley before chomping into a big 'ol barbecue sandwich. The commercial has caused a predictable stir, especially among adults-with-children.

The Parents Television Council (PTC), which monitors programming and organizes campaigns to thwart inappropriate content during child-friendly hours, has targeted Carl's Jr., whose CEO, Andy Puzder, has declined to apologize for his taste in icons.

Puzder urged the PTC to "get a life" and to buy someone else's burgers, if they must. He also noted that "there is (sic) no sex acts" in his commercial, and that he had shown the ad to his own children, ages 12, 9 and 7, who seem to have escaped corruption.

It's hard to guess what one might expect to see as an immediate response to Paris' cavorting, but my parenting experience suggests that the family car wash won't be

the same for a while. Teenyboppers envious of the attention Paris is getting won't want to miss their fair share.

At least when the voluptuous tease in the 1967 classic Cool Hand Luke scooped a car for the amusement of critics on what detail, we weren't confused about what we were witnessing. The Girl, as she's dubbed in the credits, was what we amiably used to call a "tramp" — fun for a romp, but no one to bring home to momma. As long as we're feeling nostalgic, remember when a tramp was a tramp? In these liberated times, there's no such thing. Yesterday's trash is today's socialite, a jet-setting culture creature who just wants to have a little fun. What's so wrong with that?

Moral relativism makes explanation nearly impossible. Instead, we resort to a few simpler truths: sex sells, money doesn't equate to class, and — while we're wallowing in clichés — the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Throughout her so-called career I've often wondered, where are Mom and Dad? Born in 1981, Paris was barely out of diapers before she was publicly shed of her panties. Now, unfortunately, we know. Later this month, Kathy Hilton (mom), is starting in her own reality show, I Want to Be a Hilton, with Rick Hilton (dad) co-producing.

In yet another display of material fecundity, the Hilton family promises to teach the less-privileged how to be "cultured" (pronounced "CUU-ched," honey), though Webster surely will want to consider amending current definitions. Viewers will watch 14 wannabe learn about haute couture, etiquette and, yes, even how to handle the media.

Each week one poor slob will be eliminated for failing to meet the Hiltons' high standards. The winner will be awarded a year of high life in "glamorous Manhattan" and a \$200,000 trust fund.

That may be too much to hope. Alas, one can only teach what one knows.

Kathleen Parker, a syndicated columnist for the Orlando Sentinel, welcomes comments via e-mail at kpark@kpark.com, although she cannot respond to all mail individually.

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Bill O'Reilly
Drawing The Line On The Border

One of the problems with demanding that the feds enforce immigration law is that you will immediately be branded a mean guy or gal. If you want to stop poor people from illegally coming to the land of milk and money, the USA, some of your fellow citizens will define you as insensitive, selfish, racist, ghastly and downright anti-Christian. Those are tough charges to digest.

A co-worker at Fox News caught me in the hallway and said: "You don't like immigrants very much, do you, Bill?"

I gave my usual answer, which is if there were a poor man with a family in Mexico, I'd jump the border as well. I don't blame the aliens. I blame the corrupt Mexican government, which cannot build an effective economic infrastructure, and a cowardly U.S. government, which will not enforce immigration laws.

Then I asked the guy: "so it's OK with you that we pretty much let anyone into this country who can get to the border?"

The man said it was OK with him. Immigrants are good for the USA and how could any feeling person deny them entrance.

And so it goes, the compassionate want the doors to the nation left wide open, the mean people would like some order to the immigration process.

Cardinal McCarrick of Washington has also weighed in on this from a theological view. He says that true Christians must treat illegal immigrants with compassion because that's what Jesus would do. And the

Brent Bozell III
Believing The Worst

There is an unspoken but real impulse in today's media to see themselves as "independent" of America, even above America, not so much because they are superior to America but because America is so egregiously flawed. It is their role to shed light on America's failings. They're not keen at being seen as Americans. They chose the ideal of wearing flag pins. ABC boss David Westin tried so hard to be above America that he wanted to stay neutral on the question of whether our Pentagon is a legitimate target for terrorists.

It explains why so many reporters are willing to believe the absolute worst about our current government and its motives. So disdainful have they become that they are silent when fellow journalists claim — without a shred of evidence — that American soldiers are engaging in targeting and assassinating journalists hostile to America's foreign policy aims.

When CNN Vice President Eason Jordan "exploded" earlier this year at a conference in Davos, Switzerland, in objection to liberal Congressman Barney Frank calling the death of journalists "collateral damage" in Iraq, there were no glaring mainstream-media specialists in Jordan's remarks. When Jordan resigned, there was a tiny blip on Feb. 12 Saturday "Today" show on NBC, a tiny blip on the Saturday night CBS Evening News, and no mention on ABC until it was mentioned in passing on March 5 Nightline.

The weirdest mention came on Feb. 20, when the CBS show Sunday Morning ran a commentary on weblogs by David Gergen, who was a central figure in the Jordan controversy since he was moderating that discussion in Davos. It was Gergen who recalled Jordan "exploding" in anger about journalist assassination, and then "walking back" the evidence-free allegation. But there on CBS, just weeks later, was commentator Gergen, with no mention from anyone of his role in the Jordan fracas, declaring the "dark side" of the Internet, where bloggers "act like vigilantes, hanging a public figure without a fair trial. Others disagree, but I believe that happened in the Eason Jordan case at CNN."

But Eason Jordan wasn't the only journalist to make this scurrilous charge. Linda Foley, the leader of the Newspaper Guild, echoed the Jordan line at a leftist conference in St. Louis on May 13. She charged that the U.S. military "target and kill journalists from other countries, particularly Arab countries" and, in the case of Al-Lazera, "they actually target them and blow up their studios with impunity."

The evidence presented? None. But outside of Fox News and Thomas Lipscomb of the Chicago Sun-Times, the major media are taking a holiday on Foley's remarks.

When blogger Hawatha Bryn contacted Foley, he was told only that Foley said "I am not going to discuss this with you on the eve of Memorial Day weekend." How would Ms. Foley's guild react if politicians were to take this attitude in response to every reporter inquiry? How would she respond to how she's mangled the Guild's mission statement to "raise the standards of journalism and ethics of the industry?"

Just as bloggers discovered that Eason Jordan had made this journalist-assassination charge more than once, a weblogger called the Dusty Arctic found that Linda Foley didn't make this mistake just once, either. Two days earlier, at another leftist media conference, this one in Champaign, Ill., Foley repeated allegations of "targeting journalists, um, both physically, in places like Iraq, where a record number of journalists have been killed, um, 63, it was wastelastcount." She complained, "You can't keep targeting reporters and news people and expect them to do their jobs in a way that is conducive to public discourse."

Joining Foley on that Champaign panel was Orville Schell, dean of the graduate school of journalism at Berkeley, who expressed the dominant media ethos well: "What we need is a news service that doesn't belong to any country." They were America's Republic of Mediatland, a stateless organization of anti-war activists — the journalistic equivalent of the United Nations Amnesty International, and the World Court of Public Opinion rolled into one.

I have heard from many soldiers who have seen the way the American media have ignored their medal-winning heroes while they made household names of the silver of sicks at Abu Ghraib; who have seen the media spend weeks laboring over the minutest "misstatement" of the Koran; who have seen their rebuilding deeds and anti-insurgent victories ignored while media outlets tout the efficiency and the organized nature of insurgent violence.

I suspect that if you were to ask them about the proposed People's Republic of Mediatland, they would respond: Yes, please leave and form your own country. And who would you find to defend you when some insurgents decided to overtake you by force? Probably us.

L. Brent Bozell III is the president of the Media Research Center. To find out more about Brent Bozell III, and read columns by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate Web page at www.creators.com.

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