

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Notice anything different about this morning's Salt Lake Tribune compared to last Sunday's edition? Changes in heart-and-soul stuff, such as style, types of stories, news judgment, editorial stands or bylines?

Don't bother searching. There is nothing tangibly or philosophically different from a week ago.

But change has occurred and, along with it, a fairy-tale outcome.

Instead of being owned by direct descendants of the late U.S. Sen. Thomas Kearns and employees, The Tribune today is nestled in the bosom of Tele-Communications Inc., the nation's largest cable-TV company.

Don't look for us to be delivered on a premium channel quite yet. And The Tribune Building, the homely downtown Salt Lake City structure with the five flags out front, remains geographically outside TCI's cabling capacity.

Kearns-Tribune stockholders exchanged 178,000 shares of their stock for 47.2 million shares of TCI common stock, thereby becoming a wholly owned subsidiary of TCI, at least for the next five years.

But, for better or worse, you won't notice in your Tribune much heart-and-soul difference that was not already in the works.

The deal mandates that total control of The Tribune be left to a local management company made up of eight former owners and directors who contractually are permitted to buy back the paper in 2002.

The management group even has a direct newroom voice, Tom McCarthy, one of my three deputy editors, and whose family has been a principal owner of Kearns-Tribune. That he is scheduled to write this column next week reflects the fact I am on vacation rather than a bloodless, pre-dawn coup.

TCI is a company made up of bright, futuristic, aggressive executives whose primary focus is the cable industry. They could give a fiber optic about our stand on light rail.

I asked Executive News Editor Tim Fitzpatrick what might his late grandfather, the legendary Tribune publisher John P. Fitzpatrick, have to say about all this. Though the grandson:

"In his 38 years as publisher, my grandfather made it The Tribune's mission to unite this community for common good. It is a mission subsequent publishers have carried on, and there is no reason to believe that vision won't



Tribune Publisher Dominic Welch addresses stockholders. He remains the paper's CEO under the merger.

be continued under the new management team to the benefit of all Utahns." There is yet another reason why I am comfortable with the merger: experi-

ence. In the early 1980s, I was editor and publisher of a daily newspaper owned by TCI. Kearns-Tribune Corp., which has had a financial relationship with TCI since the latter's embryonic days in Elko, Nev., leaned on the much-flusher TCI to jointly purchase three newspapers in Idaho and Washington and one in Nevada.

My paper and the others came under TCI's corporate umbrella in the form of a shell company called NewsCo. The only frustrating part, as I recall, was that our newspapers rated a mere asterisk in TCI's annual reports. Reading down the massive list of its assets, one finally came to the small-type line:

"And several newspapers in Idaho, Washington and Nevada."

Kearns-Tribune eventually bought out TCI's interest and those four newspapers joined The Tribune family.

You would think that the merger might produce some long faces in a forever-suspicious newroom. To the contrary, for a unique reason the atmosphere was almost giddy.

In 1978, Kearns-Tribune created an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) for its employees. After the first full year of employment, the company would contribute the equivalent of up to 15 percent of an employee's sala-

ry annually toward the purchase of Kearns-Tribune stock which could be redeemed upon leaving employment. It was that ESOP stock that TCI paid a premium of \$4.087 a share Thursday, the stock whose worth six short years ago was \$900 a share.

When the final price-per-share was announced, there were 24 instant millionaires in our midst, for the past quarter of a century co-laborers in journalistic vineyards, who just moments before were paycheck-to-paycheck reporters, photographers, artists and desk editors.

Not every employee has been around long enough to reap a seven-figure reward. But, except for a handful of people who hadn't been with the company long enough to qualify for an ESOP contribution, everyone got a windfall of some degree.

Talk in the break rooms and elevators, around journalistic watering holes and in the hallways centers around investments, the stock market, mutual funds, taxes, portfolios, and the like. And who says journalists are leftists?

James E. Sheldy Editor

INTERNATIONAL BRIEFINGS FROM THE TRIBUNE WORLD DESK

LATIN AMERICA/CANADA

Leader Details Cuban Support of Leftists

CUBA: Commander Manuel Pineiro Lozada, former head of the Communist Party's Americas Department, has provided details of the country's past support of leftists throughout Latin America. Pineiro — known as "Red Beard" — showed up Thursday for the presentation of an article in the magazine Tricontinental in which he told how leftist leaders from throughout the hemisphere traveled to Havana to ask advice from Che Guevara, among them the late Chilean President Salvador Allende. Others helped by Cuba include Carlos Fonseca and Tomás Borge of Nicaragua's Sandinista movement and Pablo Monsanto of Guatemala's leftist guerrillas.

PERU: President Alberto Fujimori's speech Monday, Peru's Independence Day, was remarkable mainly for what he did not say. He did not announce whether he will seek an unprecedented third term. He did not mention the heads of the intelligence service and the military, who are facing allegations of corruption. And Fujimori did not address charges he may have been born in Japan and constitutionally ineligible to be president. A crisis could flare, said analyst Santiago Pedrago, because of public concerns about the influence of the military and intelligence service and about efforts to change the law to allow Fujimori a third presidential term in 2000.

CHILE: President Clinton on Friday scrapped a 20-year ban on the sale of sophisticated weapons to Latin America. The decision cleared the way for two major U.S. defense contractors to advance their bids to sell a squadron of high-tech fighter planes to Chile.

CANADA: The leader of a band of armed Indian militants who confronted hundreds of policemen during a monthlong standoff in 1995 was sentenced Wednesday to 4 1/2 years in jail. Twelve other defendants also received jail terms. The charges originated from a dispute over private ranch land in British Columbia's Cariboo region. The natives said the land was sacred territory and refused orders to leave.

ARGENTINA: A group led by Argentina's Macri family said it would pay \$3.1 billion over the next 30 years to operate the country's postal service, becoming one of the world's few private investors to run a national post office. In an auction, the group offered to pay \$51.6 million every six months for a 30-year contract.

GUATEMALA: A court handed down prison sentences Thursday against a former interior minister and four other high-ranking officials for the 1994 shooting death of a university student. The ruling marks the first time high-ranking officials have been convicted of human-rights abuses in Guatemala, where such killings were common during a 36-year civil war ended by peace accords signed in December.

HAITI: The United Nations General Assembly

EARTHWEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

By Steve Newman

Glacial Retreat

North America's largest glacier is melting rapidly, and scientists say that global warming linked to the use of fossil fuels is the likely cause. Greenpeace announced that the Borning Glacier in Alaska has shrunk by up to 7.4 miles in length during the past century. "This is further evidence that weather patterns and changes in climate will become far more serious, affecting people's lives in greater ways, such as rising sea levels," said spokesman Jon Walker in Amsterdam. The environmental group reported that U.S. scientists have found sections of the glacier, which originates in Canada's Yukon Territory and terminates near the Gulf of Alaska, have thinned by up to 540 feet—20 to 25 percent of its total thickness.

Tropical Storms

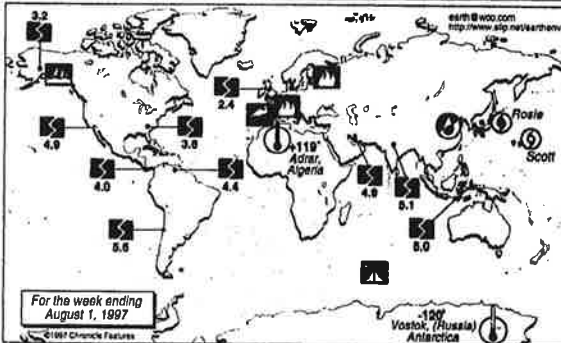
Typhoon Rosie's 80 mph winds killed at least two people on land in southern Japan, as huge waves generated by the storm were sent smashing into the country's coastal islands. A 25-foot wave crashed through the windows of a fishing trawler off western Japan, killing three crew members. The storm later drenched parts of Korea, before doubling back and passing again over parts of Japan. Tropical storm Scott passed over the open waters of the western Pacific, threatening shipping lanes.

New Volcano

Australian scientists announced the finding of a new volcano on one of the country's sub-Antarctic islands in the southern Indian Ocean. Located on remote McDonald Island, it's the first new volcano to be discovered in the Southern Hemisphere for at least 100 years. Geologists believe it shares the same magma source as nearby Big Ben, Australia's only other active volcano.

Wildfires

Hurricane-force winds and extremely dry conditions in southern France sparked a large wildfire in pine forests and brushland around the Mediterranean port of Marseilles. Winds gusting to 90 mph helped spread the blazes through more than 5,000 acres to the north of the city, forcing



Sino Drought

A severe drought and heat-wave in eastern China's Shandong province has killed 200 people and forced factories to close. It has left cities with water shortages and caused more than \$1.2 billion in economic losses. Three inches of rain have fallen since June 1st, the lowest amount recorded since 1916.

Earthquake

Powerful aftershocks of the devastating July 8 Venezuela earthquake rumbled through the country's Sucre state. The strongest seismic shock registered a magnitude of 4.0, but caused no further damage or injuries. Earth movements were also felt in central coastal Chile, Costa Rica, Indonesia's North Moluccas province, northern India, southern Iran, Scotland, Southern California,

1,000 people from their homes. The blazes are in sharp contrast to the near-record flooding that has occurred for a month in northern Europe.

Extremely dry weather and near records high temperatures around the Russian city of St. Petersburg are responsible for more than 75 forest fires. The largest broke out in the Volkhov district east of the city, where nearly 3,000 acres were blackened.

Central Alaska and in eastern parts of Kentucky and Tennessee.

Hundreds of storks have set up home in the Spanish city of Malpartida de Caçarea, building half-ton nests on rooftops and leaving their droppings just about everywhere in town. The gregarious, long-necked birds have built 38 nests on the roof of the city's 16th-century church, and some have nested on residential TV sets, blocking out reception for the homeowners. Since becoming a protected species, the number of storks has quadrupled to approximately 16,000 in Spain during the past decade. It's believed that the discontinuation of farming and use of dangerous pesticides around Malpartida has caused the birds to return to the city in such numbers.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center; U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.

PACIFIC/FAR EAST/MIDDLE EAST

Arab Rights Group Cites Violations Under Arabs

EGYPT: Most Arab governments are guilty of serious human-rights violations that include arbitrary executions, torture, disappearances of dissidents and even slavery, the Arab Organisation of Human Rights said last week in its annual report. The Cairo-based group said that free expression, participation in politics and access to an independent judiciary remain difficult, if not impossible, to find.

HONG KONG: A court rejected a challenge to the territory's legislature Tuesday. Opponents say the ruling means China's parliament, which installed the body, can override Hong Kong's constitution, or Basic Law, which says the legislature must be elected. The government's lawyer said there are limits to the "high degree of autonomy" promised by China and noted that under British rule, Hong Kong courts could not challenge decisions by Britain's Parliament. "You can't give up [rights] you don't have, and that's the bottom line," he said.

AFGHANISTAN: The Taliban government wants the United Nations seat still held by the administration it drove from Kabul nearly a year ago. But diplomats say the chance may not come any time

India had no plans to develop nuclear weapons, but the government previously has said it wants to retain a nuclear option for the future.

JAPAN: Once a worldwide symbol of the horrors of industrial pollution, Minamata Bay was declared free of mercury Tuesday, 40 years after contaminated fish from its waters were first blamed for deaths and birth defects. Kumamoto state Gov. Joji Fukushima declared the bay clean and said a huge net that has kept Minamata's fish in the bay since 1974 would be lifted.

NEW ZEALAND: Lawmakers are moving to ban live delicacies such as "screaming prawn" — named after the sound the fish makes when it is doused with brandy or liqueur and set on fire — and "dancing crayfish," a dish in which a live crayfish's tail is stuffed with rice and noodles, and diners break off and eat its legs as the animal limps around the table. One activist said the bill would put New Zealand at the forefront of animal rights without going too far.



JENNIFER SKORDAS

TURKEY: The prime minister said he intends to

EUROPE/AFRICA

War-Crimes Court Lifts Evidence Rule

HOLLAND: The Yugoslav war-crimes tribunal in The Hague has suspended an order requiring Croatia to release war-crimes evidence pending a final appeal from Croatia, the U.N. court announced Friday. The case may help define the jurisdiction of a future permanent international war-crimes court. Meanwhile, in an update on last week's item, Croatia won the battle of soccer titans in former Yugoslavia on Wednesday in a match in Zagreb, Croatia. After being beaten in Belgrade 1-0 the previous week, Croatia crushed its Serb rival 5-0 in Zagreb on Wednesday to advance in European competition.

BRITAIN: The government is setting up a public inquiry into the murder four years ago of a black teen-ager by a white gang, and into the policing of racially motivated crimes. No one has ever been punished for the death of 18-year-old Stephen Lawrence, who was stabbed April 22, 1993, as he waited for a bus in southeast London.

FRANCE: John Travolta's line in the movie "Pulp Fiction" about not eating at Burger King when he was in Paris may have been ominous. Burger King is getting out of France, where its 16 restaurants are overshadowed by its arch-rival McDonald's. Burger King France said Tuesday it is working out a plan to sell its restaurants and franchises by year's end. Most of the restaurants are in Paris.

CONGO: U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Friday named two prominent Africans to a joint investigating charges that President Laurent Kabila's troops massacred thousands of Rwandan refugees in eastern Congo. Atau-Koffi Amega, a former chief justice of the Togo supreme court, was named to lead the probe into charges that rebel forces massacred the Hutus during Kabila's seven-month rebellion that deposed Mobutu Sese Seko in the country formerly known as Zaire.

SIERRA LEONE: In a broadcast on state radio Wednesday, the leader of the country's ruling military junta announced a return to civilian rule — in more than four years. Maj. Johnny Paul Koroma said presidential elections would be held in November 2001, after which the junta would hand over power to the civilian leaders. The democratically elected government of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah was overthrown in a May 25 coup by rebel factions within the armed forces led by Koroma.

ALGERIA: A powerful car bomb exploded in front of a bar in Algiers on Wednesday evening, killing five people and wounding at least 86, hospital officials said. The attack broke the headlines of Muslim militants. More than 500 people have been killed in attacks attributed to Islamic insurgents since early June, when the military-backed government swept the country's first ever multiparty elections. Meanwhile, government forces killed eight suspected Islamists in a separate attack.

PETER LOZANCICH and BRIAN MAC INTYRE