

VIA SATELLITE



Life

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1991

THE NATION'S NEWSPAPER

SECTION D



The Cure is back on tour . . . for the first time since their 1989 "Prayer" tour. This eagerly awaited world tour begins in May with two confirmed tour dates: May 15 at the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, N.Y. and June 21 at the Long Beach Arena in Los Angeles. Tickets go on sale Saturday, Call the the Land O' Lakes Holiday Baking Hot Line, staffed with home economists, through Dec. 22. Call 800-782-9606 with questions and to receive "Sugar Treats," a free brochure of recipes.



By Lupa Valdez
LINDA RONSTADT, Stars on PBS in the maraca play La Pastoral, Monday, 3D.

A HOLIDAY TRUCE WITH THE IN-LAWS

OK, SO YOU'RE NOT THE WALTONS; THERE ARE STILL WAYS TO EXTEND SOME PEACE ON EARTH TO YOUR FRACTIOUS FAMILY. 4D.
CLASSIFIED ADS
BUSINESS: 8D
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LIFELINE

A QUICK READ ON WHAT PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT

LIFE HOT LINE: 1-900-555-5555

Call 24 hours a day for movie reviews, horoscopes, soap opera summaries, and Dr. Joyce Brothers' advice. Press 4 for Life Information. See instructions, 7D. Cost: 95¢ per minute

EARLY OSCAR: The first Oscar envelope has been opened, and the winner is Saturday Ray. The 76-year-old Indiana film director will get an honorary Oscar March 30. Recognized for "the mastery of the art of motion picture making," Ray has had an indelible influence on filmmakers throughout the world. Among Ray's films are the *Apu Trilogy* series, *Devil, Chantrelle, Days and Nights in the Forest* and *The Chess Players*.

PARTY NOISE: Keep the TV remote next to the champagne glass on New Year's Eve. NBC's *The Tonight Show* goes live at 11:35 p.m. EST with host Jay Leno, Kadeem Hardison reporting from Times Square, comedians Phil Hartman, Carol Leifer and Ron Richards, singer Tracey Spencer and Rockapella. Fox counts at 11 p.m. EST with hosts Penn & Teller from Times Square, Sean and Lesi Johnny from the *Kid in the Hat*, and the *Real Housewives of New York*. *Real Housewives of New York* returns on tape, both air at the same time on the West Coast.

HEPATITIS SHOTS: The Centers for Disease Control Thursday urged that all infants be vaccinated against the hepatitis B virus. Although the disease primarily is passed by sexual contact and intravenous drug use, children also can be infected through cuts or contact with mucous membranes. Many children go on to be chronic carriers of the disease and run greater risks of liver cancer and liver failure. The vaccination is no more expensive than other childhood vaccinations, says the CDC.

MOLECULE HONORED: Buckminsterfullerene, a soccerball-shaped molecule of 60 carbon atoms, is



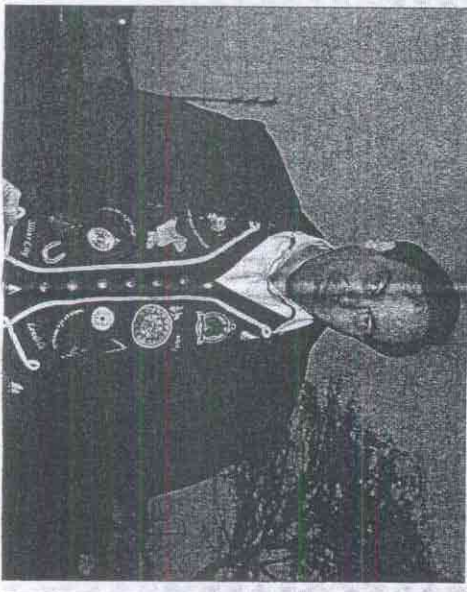
From Graham, Ltd.
HARDISON: Rings in '92 at Times Square

The tampering and temptations of 'JFK'

MIKE CLARK

Oliver Stone's JFK is 188 jet-speed minutes of our national nightmare — and a profession of tampering beyond cinematic standards. It's a movie that's been tampered with by the screenwriter, the director, the producers, the distributors, and who cares? But embellicism is a genre of its own. It's a genre that's been tampered with by the screenwriter, the director, the producers, the distributors, and who cares? But embellicism is a genre of its own. It's a genre that's been tampered with by the screenwriter, the director, the producers, the distributors, and who cares? But embellicism is a genre of its own.

Oliver Stone's truth



A widespread outbreak of respiratory ills

By Michelle Healy
USA TODAY

Three-fourths of the households in nearly all of the U.S.'s major cities are affected by colds, flu, bronchitis or pneumonia, says a national flu tracking service.

The best protection remains the flu vaccine, says Dr. James M. Hays, Department of Health and Human Services.

This week, Messer assured the public that "the flu vaccine is safe," after reports that some prospective blood donors who had the immunization have tested false-positive for the AIDS virus.

Experts recommend shots

For his part, Kevin Costner (as Garrison) gives his most persuasive performance since *No Way Out*, and in casting Chicago's own John Goodman as the path worthy of Otto Preminger, Garrison himself plays Chief Justice Earl Warren.

The film is chillingly seductive, including the assertion that Lee Harvey Oswald was a lone gunman. Oswald was a lone gunman. Oswald was a lone gunman. Oswald was a lone gunman.

Mort Sahl, still speaking out

By Jefferson Graham
USA TODAY

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Mort Sahl hasn't had a TV home since a Los Angeles TV station fired him in the 1960s.

But now, the comedian, controversial in the '60s for his outspoken views and contention that John Kennedy was murdered by the CIA and the Pentagon, (the reason KTTV axed him) finally has a TV arena where he can speak his mind, 38 years after starting his show-biz career.

Sahl now has a no-holds-barred hourlong monthly show for the Monitor Channel, *Mort Sahl Live*, airing Saturday, 9 p.m. EST/6 p.m. PST.

Sahl, 64, first gained fame for being the first comedian to deal with topical, political material with an edge (he pre-dates Lenny Bruce), as he stood onstage in his red sweater, holding the newspaper and commenting on current events.

He still has the sweater and the paper, and he still speaks out. This week he tackles the Anita Hill/Clarence Thomas hearings, Oliver North's book tour and the recession. Next month, he'll talk about Oliver Stone's *JFK* movie and the presidential campaign.

After some lean years, Sahl's career is picking up again, thanks largely to a 1988 PBS documentary about him. "It stirred everyone's conscience," he says. "It reminded people of how they once felt."

Sahl is a favorite of many comics. Woody Allen says it was Sahl who influenced him to get up onstage. "He was the best thing I ever saw," Allen told biographer Eric Lax. "Like Charlie Parker in jazz."

"Mort stood up against everybody," says comic Jonathan Winters. "Mort's a fighter, and he's as articulate today as when I met him in the '50s, standing in a red sweater at the (club) hungry i."

On Dec. 23, 1953, Sahl made his debut at that now-defunct San Francisco club.

When other comics were telling wife jokes, Sahl talked about things younger audi-



MORT SAHL: His brand of political humor and his career are on the upswing with a new cable show. By Lynn Houston

He's no fan of 'JFK' film

When Mort Sahl began questioning the Warren Commission's findings that a lone gunman killed President Kennedy, work dried up. They said he wasn't funny anymore.

But Sahl was obsessed with finding out what really happened in Dallas. He quit show business and moved to New Orleans, where he volunteered as an investigator in District Attorney Jim Garrison's case against a local businessman he said was in on a conspiracy to kill Kennedy.

That case is the subject of director Oliver Stone's new *JFK* film. But Sahl, who's read the script but hasn't seen the movie, has nothing good to say about it — even though it would appear to vindicate what he said in the '60s.

He cites a joke about a guy who comes to see Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal, and says, "The good news is that Oliver Stone wants to do a movie on your life. The bad news is that Kevin Costner is going to play Hitler." And that about sums it all up.

JFK is too fictionalized, says Sahl. "Having been there, I can tell you that the real story is so much more interesting. Why aren't the facts enough?"

ences could relate to: politics, jazz and sports cars.

Sahl's formula is "to approach people as if you were talking to them one on one, with more intimate conversations."

Time called him "Will Rogers with fangs," and Sahl became friends with John F. Kennedy, writing speeches and jokes for the new president.

His career nose-dived once he began speaking out on the

assassination conspiracy, but he feels Watergate and the Iran-contra affair vindicated his assertion that the government doesn't always tell the truth.

Now, he counts former President Reagan and President Bush among his friends, after appearing at a charity function with Reagan when he was the governor of California. Nancy Reagan invited him to dinner, and they became friends.

Has Sahl sold out?

"I stand for the same stuff today that I did then," he says, denying he's a Republican. "I'm a radical."

Sahl still makes a steady living working political functions, occasional concerts and the Monitor show.

"The thing is not to bend, keep your point of view and survive on your own terms," he says. "Look at what I went through and look at what I have now. I've got myself, and my principles were not put into escrow."

► 'JFK,' the movie, 1D

COVER STORY

Character serves as a metaphor

Continued from 1D

did not act alone — if at all — in the shooting of the president. Stone's viewpoint is the opposite of the one set forth in 1964 by the Warren Commission, which said a lone gunman did kill the president. That finding has been debated ever since, spawning a cottage industry devoted to various conspiracy theories.

JFK is easily the most controversial film of the year — so surprising, as multiple Academy Award nominations drive on controversy. The past in-your-face films (*Platoon*, *Wall Street*, *The Doors*, *Born on the Fourth of July*) invited public debate. Viewers either love his films — or hate 'em.

"You don't go unsearched when you step out, and Oliver steps out," Costner says. "He's a forward-motion guy with his subjects and storytelling."

JFK's storytelling already is making waves at previews. Garrison, as the "Stone points only — citizen to speak out about the commission. The truth is that Mark Lane's 1966 book *Rush to Judgment* came first, and comedian Mort Sahl's career came to a halt when he attacked the commission on stage. Garrison's case wasn't announced until 1967.

Problem 2: Characters are created and composite situations are invented to make a better case for Stone's contention that the military killed JFK because he wanted to withdraw from Vietnam and they wanted their war.

In a key scene, Garrison goes to the Washington Monument and meets "Mr. X," who tells why JFK was killed. It's depicted as a turning point for Garrison, who then believes, without a doubt, that the government ordered the assassination. Yet in real life, Garrison never went to Washington to meet X. Stone did, in 1968.

Stone has been labeled paranoid, which irks him. Before the USA TODAY interview, he published a letter to ask the paper's position on the Warren Commission. A few days later, Stone was encountered in a hotel lobby and said, "You're going to write that story aren't you?" a charge criticized for condensing.

changing facts, shifting things around so it would be a dramatic "No." But I think the way they give a real case in movies is "I doesn't say it but the beginning of the movie has this lie in the story," he adds. But doesn't opening the movie with reversed and TV footage imply that? "No. It says the tone."

Allyn Lichtman, who teaches history at American University in Washington, D.C., says getting history from the movies is one of the worst ways to learn. "Unfortunately, many people pick up their history from the movies and television," he says. "The movie is not the way they view the world."

JFK offers revisionist history. The '68 press portraits Garrison as a publicity-seeking buffoon, not a Frank Capra hero. Work credited to him in the movie was not all his.

"I used Garrison as a metaphor for all the research that was done in the '60s to the '80s," Stone says. "The point of the picture was why Kennedy was killed and the only way I could get there was to incorporate other researchers into Garrison's work."

Lane, whose fourth book about the assassination — *Plausible Denial* from Doubleday's Mouth Press, has just been published — salutes Stone for putting the issue back onto the front burner. "It just would have been better had he stuck to the facts."

Lane hasn't seen the film, but he read two drafts of the script and met with Stone's producer, including David Tuckman, who is producing the film. Kennedy, but the film was struck because Stone wanted the right to fictionalize it. Lane says, "I didn't make a deal with Stone, therefore it can't exist in the Hollywood version."

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One reason he may be wary of two weeks into filming, his first-draft script got leaked to the press. "We had a multi-industry devoted to destroying the credibility of this film because it came out," Stone says. "The energy of spending so much money on a picture is to protect the reputation of history in film, which it is not, why don't they devote the same energy to asking why Kennedy was killed?"

A May '91 Washington Post poll found just 19% of respondents agreed with the Warren Commission; 66% believed a conspiracy killed JFK.

So, apparently, did some in Congress. In 1976, a house subcommittee said there probably was a conspiracy. But by now, it's a conspiracy, miss Sags. Says Stone: "The greatest thing that can happen is a shift in the consciousness for the American public, as their Reagan counterparts said with the KGB, to say 'Enough. We want to see the files. With a vote in Congress,' they could be opened."

For now, the married father of two, this 37-year-old son Sean plays Garrison's son in JFK's looking forward to getting off the battlefield. The Doors and JFK were filmed back to back, there have been 18-hour days in the editing room and he's looking forward to a vacation — maybe a year. This despite commitments to produce another Vietnam movie, a film biography of slain gay rights activist Harvey Milk and a possibly American documentary about an Ashanti tribe.

He's tired of talking. "I think a movie should speak for itself," and looks forward to letting the public, instead of the media, vote on JFK.

PEOPLE

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE FAMOUS AND THE FASCINATING

Stillbirth ended Sagal's pregnancy

Married... With Children's Kaley Sagal didn't know she was pregnant in the Dec. 27 episode. She had a stillbirth. "I gave birth to a child that is not here today," she tells the magazine. "I experienced the kicking, the labor, and then... nothing."

The loss of the baby, she says, "is as real to me as any death has ever been. She was a very important person in my life, and she was here for a very short time."

Sagal had a miscarriage earlier in the year, but the second pregnancy seemed to go well.

What made things even harder, Sagal, 35, and boyfriend Jack White watched the baby's image on a monitor. "It was a girl," Sagal says.



By Scott Downie, Celebrity Photo magazine. Sagal and White: Reported miscarriage was actually a stillbirth.

Prince at his pique

PRINCETLY PREGOUGATIVE: Shunning Prince for 'January Show' inspired a bit of pique from Prince. Said Ritts, "Being a grown-up look great. You look like you with no exception, being things, Burn these magazines."



By Herb Ritts, "Vogue" magazine. Prince: "January Show" inspired a bit of pique from Prince. Said Ritts, "Being a grown-up look great. You look like you with no exception, being things, Burn these magazines."

Phillips' NBC deal

Stone Phillips is becoming NBC's rock of Gibraltar.

Phillips, as reported earlier this week in USA TODAY, is leaving ABC's 20/20 to become Jane Pauley's co-anchor on NBC's new prime-time magazine, which premieres in March.

In addition to those duties, Phillips' four-year, \$2.5 million deal calls for him to substitute for Pauley on NBC's Today and for anchor Tom Brokaw on NBC Nightly News With Tom Brokaw.

A 12-year ABC veteran, Phillips, 37, has a piece on integrating in Dubuque, Iowa, airing tonight on 20/20 (ABC, 10 EST/9ST). He also has another piece slated for next week, which could be his last appearance. After some time off, he will join NBC in mid-January. — Brian Douglas

The 'Rush' crush

LOS ANGELES: Arnold Schwarzenegger and wife Maria Shriver came late, but it was the film's star Jason Patric and his girlfriend Julia Roberts who really stole the show at Wednesday's premiere here of Rush.



At the party after the premiere, Patric and Roberts are joined by a couple playing pool — alone — in a top-drawer area guarded by security men. Other celebs who showed up at the premiere included: Raji, director Greg Allan; rocker Eric Clapton (who wrote a song for the film soundtrack); Dana Delany; Ruanaa Arquette; and Bruce and Laura Dern. — Eric Allen

Briefly...

Natalie Cole's mother, Maria Cole, tells the Dec. 20 issue of USA WEEKEND she won't attend her daughter's concert or listen to her album *Unforgettable* because, "I just feel that everything belonged to (my son) Nat King Cole." ... Soul singer Boyz II Men will receive a special Grammy nomination Music Award in January.

BORN TODAY

Address: ... 30
Actress: ...
Actress: ...
Actress: ...
Actress: ...

Jeanie Williams is on vacation. Her column will resume when she returns.