



Rodeo ride

"Bull Bash '95" pits 80 riders against some pretty mean critters
Sports, Page D1

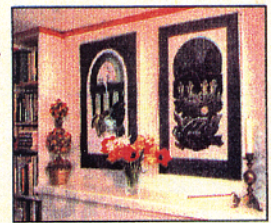
Salmon relief

It looks like ocean sports anglers will get a bit of a break this summer
Sports, Page D1

Home is where the art is

Buy art for love, not money

At Home, Page E1



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Clinton tells activists to pipe down

□ His first words drew chants of 'no retreat' from sign-waving, affirmative action activists

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — President Clinton told a Democratic audience including many vocal affirmative action activists on Saturday that the party must be sensitive to grievances of "so-called angry white males" and be prepared to abandon minority preference programs that don't work.

Jumping into the battle for public opinion for the next 100 days, Clinton gave the strongest defense yet of his decision to order a top-to-bottom review of such programs — already under fierce assault from the Republican majority in Congress.

"We have to realize that there is a real problem out there. We can't deny that," Clinton said.

Clinton had been expected to focus his speech, to a meeting of the state Democratic party, on a repetition of his problems with remaining items in the GOP "Contract with

America," and his vow to veto programs that make large cuts in education, environmental and other social programs.

He did that at first. But, confronted with hundreds of activists in the audience waving green signs proclaiming "No Retreat — Stand up for Affirmative Action," Clinton launched into an impassioned defense of his decision to review affirmative action programs.

"We don't have to retreat from these programs. ... But we do have to ask ourselves — are they all working? Are they fair?"

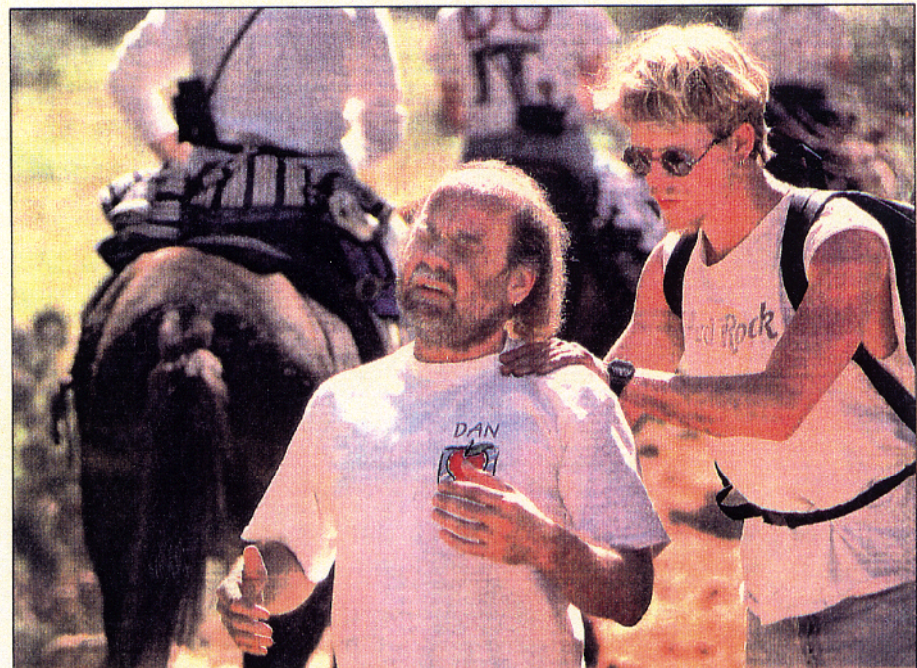
"This is psychologically a difficult time for a lot of white males, the so-called angry white males ... most of them are working harder for less money than they were making 15 years ago."

His words at first drew chants of "no retreat, no retreat" from the sign-waving activists.

"Don't scream, let's talk," he said at one point. "That's just what they want us to do. They want to get this country into a screaming match. ... We have to lower our voices."

As he spoke on, making his case.

Please see Clinton, Page A12



Dan Mack, tired and in pain, gets a shoulder massage from his son, Jon, on the Bright Angel Trail in the Grand Canyon.

'It's going to be a long trip'

County reports 2nd meningococcal case

HILLSBORO, Ore. (AP) — A second meningococcal infection case reported in Washington County within a week is an isolated case and few people are at risk of developing life-threatening meningitis, a top health official says.

"Instances where people get really sick are really very rare," said Dr. Alan L. Melnick, the county health officer. "Although we may be a little ahead of last year, we are not in the middle of an epidemic here."

Five cases of meningococcal disease have been reported in Washington County this year. The county had 14 cases last year, up from seven in 1993 and five in 1992.

Statewide, the illness has

returned to levels not seen since the 1940s, with more than 35 cases and at least three deaths reported this year. The last death was a 17-year-old Reynolds High School student in March.

The latest Washington County case, diagnosed Tuesday, involved a 17-year-old Beaverton High School girl who had the meningococcal bacterium in her blood.

The case was not technically meningitis, Melnick said, because the bacteria was not found in her spinal fluid.

However, James "Scotty" Neil, 6, of Tigard, who became ill Monday, did have full-blown meningococcal disease.

Zoo hails 1st giraffe birth in 16 years

PORTLAND (AP) — The first baby giraffe born at the Washington Park Zoo in the past 16 years needed only about half an hour to learn to walk.

But the birth took more than five hours as the baby's long neck and nose appeared about an inch at a time, according to zoo spokesman Steve Cohen.

The 150-pound female calf was

up and walking within 34 minutes after seven attempts.

The calf was born at 11:25 p.m. Friday.

The mother, Johari, stands 13 feet tall and weighs 1,700 pounds. Father Akeem is more than 16 feet tall and weighs 2,200 pounds.

Normal gestation for giraffes is between 420 and 450 days. The baby was born after 445 days.

Courage in the canyon

Dan Mack's journey of determination

GRAND CANYON, Ariz. — Dan Mack pulled at his sticky white T-shirt, peeling it from his damp lower back. Choosing one out of a fine selection of pointy rocks, the 46-year-old sat down about a quarter-mile below the south rim of the Grand Canyon and again asked himself why he was doing this.



Mack rubs lotion on his blistered leg.

visualizing for more than 14 years.

"I'm handicapped. I've got problems, but I can accept it," Mack said. "I want to show people that they can overcome anything, no matter how bad things may seem."

Mack was visiting the canyon to prove that point. He wasn't going to let a little discomfort or even throbbing pain stop him. He pledged to march the perilously rough trail to Indian Garden, an oasis of green trees and cold water nearly 4,000 feet below the rim of the canyon. The path, zigzagging over some nine miles of rugged terrain, is labeled "very strenuous" — the most difficult rating — even to hikers in good physical condition, according to the National Park Service. During a three-year period, more than 700 visitors couldn't make it back to the rim from the Bright Angel and Kaibab trails. They had to call park rangers for help.

Mack wasn't going to call the rangers, he said. He wasn't going to fail.

"We've had people hike on prosthetic limbs, and we've had blind people hike it before," said Maureen Oltrogge, a National Park Service spokeswoman. "With both? Not to my knowledge. That's a terribly unfortunate condition, but what an amazing thing to do. He must be a pretty remarkable person."

Please see Mack, Page A7

Mack tightened a strap on his right prosthetic leg and then removed the left one before starting through unseeing eyes down Bright Angel Trail. His large hands rubbed diaper-rash lotion on a blistering stub.

"It feels like a nail is being driven into my knee," he said.

As redness from exertion and a skin-baking sun began to color his flesh, he muttered, "It's going to be a long trip."

It already had been.

After taking a flight to Las Vegas and being driven to the Grand Canyon a week ago, the Camas resident was trying to finish a journey he had started many years before.

Surviving a kidney transplant and missing his legs, eyesight and most of his hearing due to diabetes, Mack has always prevailed over his afflictions by believing in himself. This time would be no different, he vowed.

On this unseasonably warm Monday afternoon, he put his titanium leg back on, grabbed the arms of his companions and continued down a path he had been

Story by Brett Oppgaard and photos by Troy Wayrnen of The Columbian

McNamara: 'We were terribly wrong' about Vietnam

□ In his soon-to-be published memoirs, former defense secretary breaks 25 years of silence

NEW YORK (AP) — As defense secretary for two presidents — one of John F. Kennedy's "best and brightest" — Robert McNamara

helped draw the United States deeply into the Vietnam War.

Now he admits: "We were terribly wrong."

With the upcoming release of his memoirs, McNamara is breaking his quarter-century public silence on the war that left 58,000 Americans dead and bitterly divided the country — a conflict, he notes ruefully, that some called "McNamara's

War." The memoirs of other officials, along with declassified documents and other reports, have described

□ An Associated Press correspondent remembers the fall of Saigon

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how dissension grew in the Johnson White House over Vietnam policy as the war worsened.

McNamara, whose internal criticism led Johnson to replace him in 1968, is the highest-ranking former U.S. official to say publicly and unequivocally that pursuing the war was a mistake.

"We of the Kennedy and Johnson administrations acted according to

what we thought were the principles and traditions of our country. But we were wrong. We were terribly wrong," the 78-year-old McNamara told the AP Radio Network's "Newsweek on Air" program.

"We were just wrong, both military leaders and civilian leaders, in failing to recognize the nature of the conflict and failing to recognize early on that the strategy we were

following would not accomplish our objective," McNamara said.

McNamara's book, "In Retrospect: The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam" (Times Books), is due out this week. The April 17 Newsweek, on newsstands Monday, has excerpts.

McNamara writes that he and

Please see Memoirs, Page A12

FROM PAGE A1/LOCAL

Mack...

From Page A1

Restless nights

Early Monday morning, Sue Mack stood in darkness under the cover of a hotel hallway, smoking and pacing, pacing and smoking.

A cold wind bit into her cheeks, but she wasn't ready to go back to bed. Afraid and unable to sleep, she knew her nervousness would bother Dan.

Unbeknownst to her, her husband was just as restless. He hadn't slept well for several nights, and it had been especially tough the evening before his hike.

Within hours, the Camas couple and a handful of companions would be climbing down one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

An unforgiving, twisted trail awaited them.

Hiking Bright Angel

Dan did see the canyon once in 1981, before he lost his sight. Even then, he wanted to be on this path, inside these walls.

Nausea, which later turned out to be kidney failure, kept him from exploring the area on that first visit.

"I would take out my guitar, sit on a rock and watch the sunset over the railing," he said. "I always wanted to see the rest of it."

A year later, he was blind.

Now he was less than an hour—and more than 1.5 miles—down the Grand Canyon. He picked up the scent of a mule train moments before hearing their hooves clapping.

"It feels just like I remember," he said. "The air is fresh. I can picture everything in my mind. It's beautiful."

He smiled broadly, even though his legs were starting to drag.

At the three-mile point, the dragging had turned to stumbling. Dan was kicking nearly every rock and drainage log in the trail. His companions, who walked alongside guiding him, were being pushed into rocks. Once, his son, Jon, fell.

"Dan! Hurts like hell," Sue whispered.

After collapsing near the second rest area, Dan recalled, "In Alaska, (before my health failed), I could throw an 80-pound pack on my back and hike 20 miles. No problem."

"These legs have no push. It's all with the hips and the upper body. I'm basically pulling myself."

Dan's face had become a grimace. His eyes fixed straight ahead.

"What do you guys think?" he asked. "Three miles is pretty good. Not what I wanted, but not bad either."

No one responded. Only Dan could make this choice.

The silence was interrupted by a long-haired man moving up the trail.

"How much longer until the garden?" Dan asked.

"Not far at all," he responded. "Maybe 30 minutes. There's cold water there."

The man glanced at Dan's legs, smiled and said, "You can make it."

That was all Dan needed.

"I'm not going to get any better," he said after the man passed. "Let's go."

Dan stood up and started walking. The group reached the 4.6-mile turnaround at 12:15 p.m. After eating lunch, the climb to the canyon rim began.

Going up

Even though it was obvious Dan was suffering again, he remained somewhat oblivious to the pain. As his grunts became progressively louder and more frequent, his jokes became sharper.

On the way down, he had walked about 25 minutes for every five-minute break. Going up, the time between rests began to decline—15 minutes of effort, 15 minutes of rest.

More than 40 people passed by as Dan struggled upward; most gave encouragement and shook their heads in disbelief.

At the three-mile marker, Jon

left for flashlights.

Sue and Jon's girlfriend, Sandra Schaad, took over as guides and the climb continued.

Jon was back with the group by 5:40 p.m., still more than an hour away from the 1.5-mile marker.

Sue took the children—the Macks' 12-year-old daughter, Fawn, and her friend, Kendra McCallister—to the top. She had no choice. They were hungry and tired.

"If he falls, it will be my fault," Sue said as she was leaving. "I'll never forgive myself."

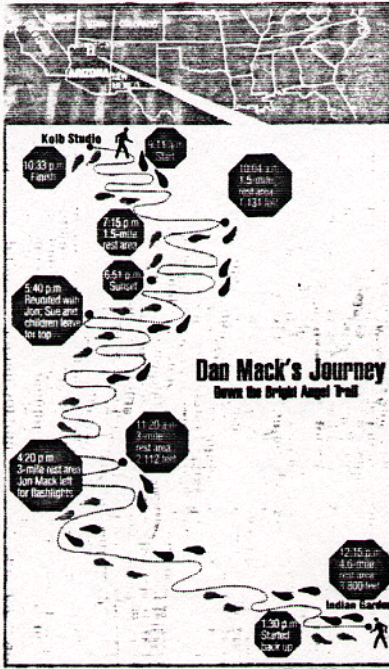
All the way up, we were complaining about how bad we hurt," Sue said later. "Then we'd stop and say, 'Dan's hurting a lot worse than we are.'"

By 6:51 p.m., it was dark, and the group was alone in the canyon.

Hours passed as Dan shuffled along under a star-stuffed sky. Around 9 p.m., pressure on a nerve near his kneecap became unbearable. Dan sat for several minutes without saying a word.

"I'd like to keep going, but my body wants to stop," he said.

Jon said, "C'mon Pop, we'll drag

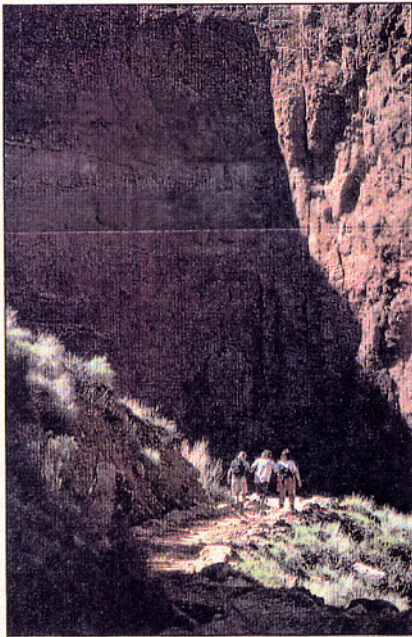


One step at a time



Blind, half-deaf and missing both legs, Camas resident Dan Mack took on the Grand Canyon.

His goal: to walk the Bright Angel Trail from the south rim to Indian Garden, more than nine miles. Did he make it? Read The Columbian's report, Page A1.



(Above) The Grand Canyon's walls dwarf the trio of Dan Mack, Schaad and Sue Mack as they continue down the trail. Several people passed Dan during his hike, and their comments ranged from "We're praying for you" to "There's a lot of people a lot younger with two legs that can't make this hike."



Hitching a ride: Mack rests on a rock alongside the trail as a mule rider passes.

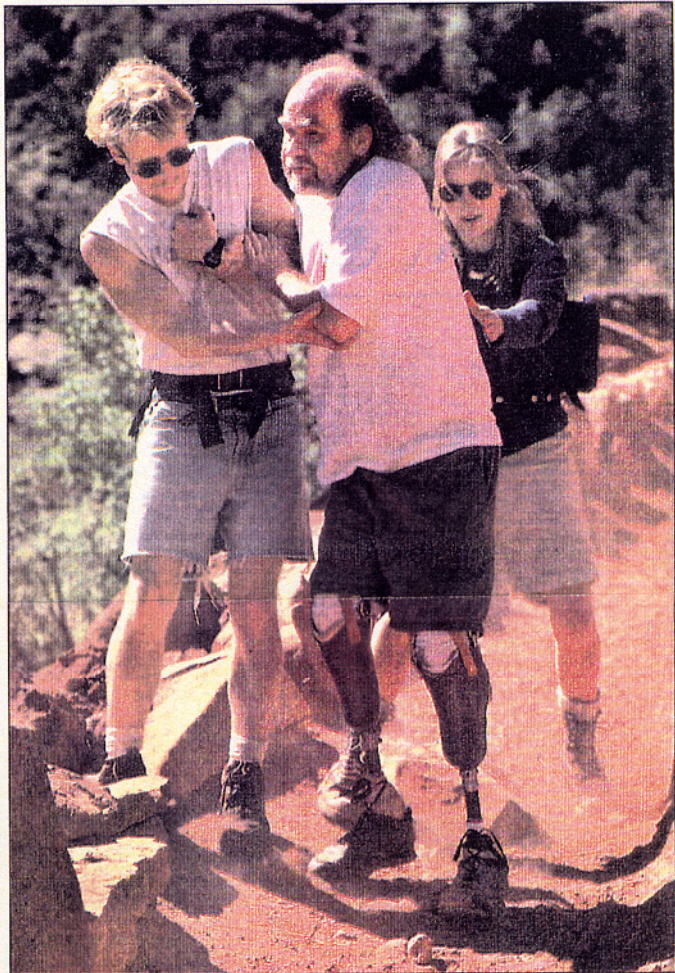
"You got any empty ones?"
"Nope. Sorry."
"Well, at least I won't have saddle sores."

— Dan Mack, talking to a mule-train driver



Mack adjusts his leg sock during a break with Schaad, center, and his wife, Sue. Mack's prosthetic legs, made of titanium and worth \$15,000, were

Mack is helped by his son, Jon, and Schaad as the three hike by flashlight on the Bright Angel Trail. The trip ended in the dark after more than 13 hours on the trail.



In the heat of the desert sun, Dan Mack is helped by his son, Jon, and his son's girlfriend, Sandra Schaad, after losing his balance on a Grand Canyon trail.

donated by the Oregon Artificial Limb Co. Other donations helped make the trip possible for Mack, who lives on disability. Sue works as a housekeeper.

Photos by
Troy Wayrynen
of The Columbian