

THE CHASER

March 1998

Fort Worth Chapter / Society of Professional Journalists

*"If it happened in Fort Worth ...
it's news to us!"*

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'Free speech rocks!'

So what's Oprah Winfrey really like? Her lawyer knows. Next time you see him, ask him.

When Oprah Winfrey proclaimed after her Feb. 26 victory in the Amarillo beef defamation trial that "Free speech not only lives, it rocks!," she might also have been talking about Fort Worth SPJ's next speaker.

Chip Babcock, a nationally acclaimed specialist in media law, will address the next chapter meeting Tuesday, March 10. Tentative working title of his talk: "Reflections on Oprah." Bring plenty of questions.

Babcock headed the talk-show host's legal defense against an \$11 million lawsuit filed by a group of Texas cattlemen who blamed a drop in prices on a 1996 episode of her show that they said falsely warned that American beef could spread mad-cow disease to people.

"Mr. Babcock could have put us on hold until the trial ended, but he told us three weeks ago that he'd join us," said SPJ President Kay Pirtle. "Now that's class." The trial lasted five weeks.



CHIP BABCOCK

- member, Dallas and Houston bar associations, Freedom of Information Foundation board of directors
- received Distinguished Pro Bono Service Award in 1986, Meritorious Pro Bono Service Award in 1988
- three-year appointee to the Texas Supreme Court Advisory Committee

not a complete list, not by a long shot

A former broadcaster and a sportswriter for The Philadelphia Inquirer and The Miami Herald — prior to earning his law degree — Babcock has more than 20 years experience representing a variety of clients in media and communications law. He is a partner in the Dallas law firm Jackson Walker L.L.P.

RSVP 257-5059

(by Friday, March 6)

where:

Water Street Seafood, University Park Village shopping center, a block south of I-30 on University Drive

when: Tuesday, March 10

board 5:30 p.m., mingling (cash bar) 6:30, dinner at 7

cost:

\$12, which includes tip; \$6 students

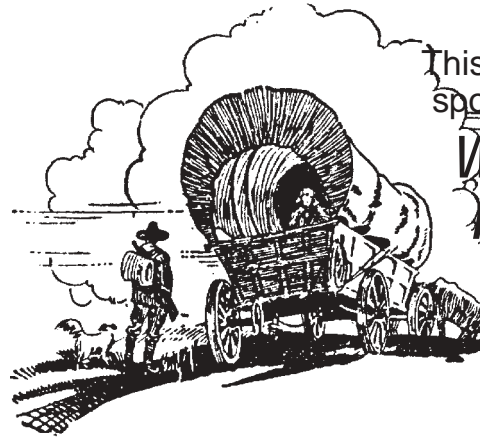
on the menu:

8-ounce mesquite-grilled chicken breast, 4-ounce brandy mushroom trout filet, mesquite-grilled shrimp-k-bob or fettuccine with fresh tomatoes, basil and garlic, all except the fettuccine served with a salad, rice pilaf, vegetable, fresh-baked bread and tea, soft drink or coffee.

Do you have an e-mail address? We'd like to include it in the directory. Can your e-mail system accept attachments? We are considering sending the newsletter electronically (saves money, time). Please send any changes to your phone number or address(es) to Janis Gary, phone/fax 460-2609, e-mail jgary@flash.net.



Joanna Wolford with Overton Bank and Trust will update the directors on the scholarship endowment at the 5:30 p.m. board meeting March 10 prior to the regular meeting ... **Kay Pirtle, Dorothy Estes** and **Bill Stone** (with a special guest appearance from ex-prez **Doug Jumper**) will represent the chapter at the SPJ Region 8 Conference next weekend in San Antonio.



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