



Stateline

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THE 2005 GOVERNOR'S STAR AWARDS

BY JULIE POSTLETHWAIT
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, DPA

The 2005 Governor's State Top Achievement Recognition (STAR) Awards was a success, with over 200 people coming out to honor state employees who excel in their service to the State and their fellow citizens. This is the one day each year that Colorado takes a minute to stop and recognize the efforts of its employees across the State.

"Our state employees continually provide quality service to the citizens of Colorado," said Governor Owens, "and I am gratified to have such a dedicated workforce. These awards remind us of our hardworking, community-conscious state employees. My thanks to this year's award winners for helping to make Colorado such a wonderful place to live and work."

The **2005 Employee of the Year** is **Cherie Brungardt** of Northeastern Junior College. Cherie is an IT Professional at Northeastern Junior College, where she configures the hardware and software for fifteen campus



Pictured Left to Right: Russell George,
DNR Executive Director, Cherie
Brungardt and 2004 STAR Employee of
the Year Jeff Byers.

servers, monitors updates and patches, and maintains all user accounts for email and network access. She has the extraordinary ability to explain a process or give instructions that "non-technical" people can understand; she is patient under

pressure and doesn't leave a job until the problem is resolved, always keeps a positive attitude. Her nominator wrote "She is dedicated, tenacious, full of energy and continually strives to update her training on new technologies. She is to be commended for her work ethic and willingness to *come to the rescue!*"

Please see STAR , p. 6



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

BY JEFF WELLS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DPA

Editors Note: This is the second in semi-regular series of articles intended to provide guidance to State employees on issues they may face during their career with the State.

As I am sure you know, all classified state employees pay into the Colorado Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA) rather than making contributions to the Federal Social Security Trust Fund. Upon retirement, state employees vested in PERA will receive monthly benefits based on earnings and years of service. Some state employees may plan to receive additional retirement benefits from Social Security either through credits earned by non-State employment covered by Social Security or through spousal, widow or widower

Social Security benefits. Employees that plan on receiving Social Security benefits need to be aware that their membership in PERA may affect their Social Security benefits.

State Employees Planning to Collect Social Security Retirement Benefits From Previous or Other Employment

State employees that spend their entire career within the state system or those that have less than 10 years of employment covered by Social Security, will not receive Social Security benefits. State employees that have worked at other jobs that paid into the Social Security fund for at least 10 years (40 quarters actually) may be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits.

Please see YOUR RIGHTS, p. 5



FY 2005-06 STATE BUDGET SIGNED

BY GOVERNOR BILL OWENS

For obvious reasons, the state budget is always of interest and concern to state employees. This year, the legislature passed and I approved a 2005-06 budget with a conservative four percent increase in spending. This is a budget that is responsible and restrained. It also is one that is hit hard by spending mandates.

The projection for the budget is that it will include about \$112 million in new dollars. It is important to note that education and Medicaid mandates alone will consume twice the amount of the new dollars available.

These fiscal realities were among the driving forces behind a bipartisan agreement, HB 1194, to help Colorado complete its economic recovery. This bill places a referendum before the voters in November, asking taxpayer's permission to retain revenue the state already collects. The legislature agreed that the revenue should be allocated to transportation, K-12 education, higher education, and health care. The plan preserves taxpayers' right to vote under TABOR on tax increases. As with all ballot initiatives, I hope that you will take the time to learn more about this issue between now and November first.

State Prepared for 2005 Wildfire Season

As we move into the hot summer months, we again must be prepared for the wildfire season. I have signed an Executive Order allocating \$3.3 million to fund various wildfire suppression efforts around the State. Resources include Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATs), helicopters, inmate fire crews from the Department of Corrections and support from the Colorado National Guard.

The funds also will be used to pre-position 10 state fire engines in the areas considered to be the most vulnerable, the so-called "red zones" where there is the greatest threat of catastrophic fire. This strategy of pre-positioning our resources has been very successful. Last year, Colorado experienced 1,826 fires with over 1,700 of those fires contained at less than 10 acres, a success rate of 94 percent.

The use of the State-contracted SEATs has also proven to be a successful strategy. The tankers are especially effective for early strikes against fires. Last year, the state tankers attacked 54 fires, with only two of them growing larger than 100 acres. Again this year, the State will have three tankers under contract.

Even an average season means some 2,000 fires will occur on non-federal lands in Colorado. While the recent moisture may mean that the start of the fire season is delayed, we have to be ready for whatever conditions prevail - and we are.

Thousands of firefighters will be on the lines again this summer, working unselfishly to save lives and property. We owe them a debt of thanks, but more importantly we owe it to them to be extremely cautious with fire. They need, and appreciate, our support.



A Firefighter hoses down a hot spot during the 2002 Fire Season.

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STATE PERSONNEL BOARD TO HOLD ELECTION

BY RICH DJOKIC, DIRECTOR

The State Personnel Board will be conducting an election to fill the seat currently held by Linda Siderius, whose term as Board member ends June 30, 2005. The new five-year term will begin on July 1, 2005. It is anticipated that voting for the election will be conducted online. Information related to the election is expected to be distributed to certified employees with their June 2005 payroll information.

The five-member Board's duties include resolving appeals arising in the state personnel system and adopting rules. Members serve overlapping five-year terms and may succeed themselves in office. Three members are appointed by the governor; two are elected by certified employees. All board members must be qualified electors in the state of Colorado. Each elected member represents certified state employees, but may not be an officer or employee of the state or of any employee organization.

The two candidates nominated have provided the following information:

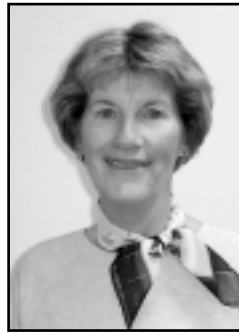


Don Mares attended Regis High School, graduated with honors from Stanford University with a Bachelor of Arts degree, and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. He most recently served as the Elected Auditor of the City and County of Denver. Having worked for several years with public employees at city and state levels, Mr. Mares has

much knowledge of, and a unique perspective on, public employees' roles, duties, and rights and responsibilities. In addition, he has always represented employees and employee organizations, both public and private, in his law practice, which is experience that he would bring to the Board with his belief that the role of state government is critical and its employees are vital to its success.

Mr. Mares currently serves on the boards of the Kempe Children's Foundation and the Latin American Educational Foundation and is Special Counsel at Fleishman & Shapiro. He has received numerous awards for his community involvement, including Colorado Children's Campaign, one of 20 Champions for Kids (2005); Junior League Legislative Champion for Children Award (1996); Labor's Community Agency's

Community Service Award (1999); Mental Health Corporation of Denver Outstanding Political Figure Award (1995); and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Government Advocate of the Year Award (2000).



Pat Robbins is a high school graduate who attended one year of college at Colorado State University. She seeks election to demonstrate her interest in community and civic affairs, in volunteer service, and in state personnel matters. She feels she is very qualified to be a member of the State Personnel Board and would be a good representative for all state employees. Because of her

many years of state service, she has many colleagues working for the State. Ms. Robbins is a retired state employee with 35 years of service, who worked for 25 years at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center and 10 years for the Department of Law, Office of the Attorney General.

As a state employee, she held positions as an administrative assistant and office manager. She received superior performance evaluations in all her positions as a state employee and was a member of the Pay for Performance Committee while employed at the Department of Law. In addition, Ms. Robbins is a member of the Optimist Club and the American Association of Retired Persons, a volunteer at Lutheran Medical Center and the Arvada Police Department, a participant in the Arvada Civilian Police Academy, a former member of the Board of Directors for her homeowners association, and an appointee to the Civil Service Commission for the City of Wheat Ridge as a district representative.

Stateside

Matt Holman



"I'm just saying, the wings seem a little redundant to me."

FIREWORKS IN COLORADO

PAUL L. COOKE, DIRECTOR

DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The American traditions of parades, cookouts, and fireworks help us celebrate the summer season, especially our nation's birthday on the Fourth of July. However, fireworks can turn a joyful celebration into a painful memory when children and adults are injured while using fireworks. Although legal "consumer" fireworks that comply with Colorado law can be relatively safe if used properly, all fireworks are hazardous and can cause injury.



leaned over the one of the tubes and lit the fuse, the fireworks immediately went off striking him in the face. He was transported to a hospital where he was pronounced dead from head injuries.

A 6-inch fountain that shot colored fireballs injured a 4-year-old girl. When the fountain tipped over, the victim was struck in the chest by a fireball. She sustained 2nd and 3rd degree burns to her chest and neck. She was

hospitalized for three weeks for burn treatment and skin grafts.

Fireworks are classified as hazardous substances under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. Some fireworks such as firecrackers, bottle rockets, and professional display fireworks should never be used or handled by consumers or children due to serious injuries and death that can and do occur from such use or handling.

The following are examples of injuries from legal and illegal fireworks:

A 33-year-old man was setting off mortar style fireworks out of a black plastic pipe while in his backyard. As he

A 15-year-old male tied together the wires of 10 sparklers. The sparklers ignited quickly and burned down very fast, finally exploding in his hand. The victim sustained a five-inch long laceration to his hand and forearm exposing muscle. Also, debris from the explosion lodged in his hand and arm. The victim had plastic surgery and has recovered.

To help prevent incidents like these, Colorado law prohibits the sale of the most dangerous types of fireworks to consumers. These include fireworks items banned by the federal government, as well as professional display fireworks, shells and mortars, Roman Candles, rockets, and firecrackers. Also prohibited is the mail-order purchase of fireworks and kits designed to build banned fireworks.

The types of fireworks that are permissible for use in Colorado are sparklers, fountains, cones, ground sprinklers, and novelty fireworks items that do not explode or are not intended to leave the ground and fly through the air, are permissible for use in Colorado. However, municipalities may further restrict the types of fireworks that can be sold or used and can ban fireworks sales and use. Most front-range cities prohibit the sale and/or use of ALL fireworks.

While fireworks are enjoyable and exciting to watch, each year they injure thousands of people and start thousands of fires. In 1999, the last year with national fireworks-related fires reported, there were 24,200 reported fires started by fireworks. These fires resulted in 12 civilian deaths, 55 civilian injuries, and \$17.2 million in direct property damage.

Please see FIREWORKS, p. 7

FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

Read and follow all warnings and instructions.

Be sure other people are out of range before lighting fireworks.

Only light fireworks on a smooth, flat surface away from the house, dry leaves, and flammable materials.

Never try to relight fireworks that have not fully functioned.

Keep a bucket of water handy in case of a malfunction or a fire, and to soak used fireworks.

Pets have very sensitive ears and the booms and bangs associated with a fireworks display can be quite uncomfortable — particularly to dogs. In fact, the noises can actually damage their ears. Leave pets inside when lighting fireworks at home or leave pets at home if you are going to a fireworks show.

YOUR RIGHTS, from p. 1

Generally, anyone born in 1929 or later needs 40 quarters to be eligible for Social Security retirement benefits. Those State employees that have also worked at other jobs long enough to qualify for Social Security retirement benefits, may be affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision, better known as WEP. Congress enacted this provision to eliminate a perceived advantage workers covered by public pension funds had that allowed them to receive full percentage of Social Security benefits in addition to their pension benefits.

Social Security benefits are calculated as a percentage of your "average indexed monthly earnings (AIME)." This amount is based on wages covered by Social Security, which were paid into the fund assuming 35 years of total employment. This amount is then divided into segments and a portion of each segment is paid as a portion of your Social Security benefit. The first segment is 90% of the first \$627 of AIME; this amount is added to 32% of the next \$3,152, and finally 15% of any remaining amount is added – this equates to your full monthly Social Security benefit.

For example, let's say your AIME is \$4,500; your monthly benefit would be \$1,681.09 calculated as \$564.30 ($\$627 \times .90 = \564) plus $(\$3,152 \times .32 = \$1,008.64)$ plus $\$108.15$ ($\$721 \times .15 = \108.15).

Members of public pension funds such as PERA, who reach age 62 or become disabled in 1990 or later ONLY receive 40% (instead of 90%) of the *initial* \$627 in the formula. So a PERA member with an AIME of \$4,500 a month would receive \$1,367.59 calculated at $(\$627 \times .40 = \$250)$ plus $(\$3,152 \times .32 = \$1,008.64)$ plus $\$108.15$ ($\$721 \times .15 = \108.15). Please remember however, that this Social Security retirement benefit is in *addition* to any PERA retirement benefit the State employee may receive.

In the rare occasion that a public pension fund member also has 30 or more years of substantial earnings under Social Security, they are not subject to the WEP provision.

The Social Security Administration has calculated substantial earning amounts for each year from 1937, a chart of which can be found on the Social Security Web Site, located at www.socialsecurity.gov.

State Employees Planning to Collect Social Security Retirement Benefits Though a Spouse, Widow or Widower's Earned Social Security Benefits

State employees that anticipate receiving Social Security retirement benefits though spousal, widow or widower benefits are subject to a different federal offset, The Government Pension Offset Reduction (GPO) Provision. At full retirement age, an individual is

potentially eligible to receive a Social Security benefit up to one-half (1/2) of their spouses' full Social Security retirement benefit. However, those of us participating in PERA may have that amount reduced by two-thirds of our PERA retirement benefit amount. Some-times this completely eliminates any spousal Social Security benefit we would have received.

For example, let's say your monthly PERA benefit check is \$3,000. The Social Security Administration takes that amount times 2/3 for an offset amount of \$2,000; they then deduct that amount from any Social Security benefit you would have received. So if the Social Security benefit you would have been eligible for falls below \$2,000 you will receive nothing, if it is above \$2,000 you will receive the difference between the two.

Become Informed Before You Retire

If you are planning to retire with both PERA and Social Security benefits, be sure you know the facts and what you can do to ensure you will have the financial resources to enjoy your retirement. The Social Security Administration has a number of calculators located on their Web site that will help you determine what benefits you are eligible for and how the provisions discussed above will affect your benefits. You can also call the Social Security Administration at **1-800-772-1213** between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on business days and ask to speak with someone about WEP or GPO.

PERA maintains a very helpful Web site located at www.copera.org, with a number of useful calculators and a wealth of information. PERA members can call Customer Service at **1-800-759-7372** for more information on their account, or make an appointment to discuss their retirement plans with a benefits counselor. Remember that your PERA benefit will not be reduced, but you should contact Social Security for specific information on how GPO or WEP may affect you in regards to any Social Security benefit you have planned on receiving.

This is general guidance only and should not be considered legal advice. For any legal advice you should always consult an attorney.

ATTEND WILDLIFE WATCH FREE

Wildlife Watch is a wildlife viewing skills workshop. **State employees and family members** (adults and children over 12) are invited to attend any workshop **free of charge!** Participants must register online at www.wildlifewatch.net or by phone: **303-291-7258**





Marva Hammonds, DHR Executive Director, and Larry Warner.

Larry Warner, the Department of Transportation's Manager for the T-REX project, received the **Manager of the Year Award**. This award recognizes individual initiative along with leadership and supervision of the work unit. Larry has a team of 80 employees including CDOT and RTD employees, and private sector consultants. This \$1.67 billion project has

been under construction for over three and a half years and is *on schedule* and *on budget*, thanks to the extraordinary leadership of Larry. On his nomination, Larry's team wrote, "His leadership is always professional, effective and thoughtful. We would follow him anywhere, to any project."

Steve Tuck of the Department of Natural Resources took home the **Outstanding Service Award**. This award honors exemplary performance throughout an individual's career with the state. The major focus of the award is on superior performance, integrity and dedication throughout the individual's career and nominees must have at least 20 years of service for the state. Steve has been a water commissioner in the Grand Mesa area for 34 years, administering water rights, measuring water flows, and interpreting very complex water court decrees and summarizing them for publication. Steve is the epitome of an honest, humble, hard-working employee who is an enormous asset to the State and to the people of the Gunnison Basin.



Steve Tuck (on left) with Don Ament, Commissioner of Agriculture.

The **Rudy Livingston Award** is a tribute to former State Personnel Director, Rudolph "Rudy" Livingston. Nominees of this award provide assistance or encouragement to fellow state employees above and beyond what is expected as part of their job. **Victoria Trujillo** of the Department of Personnel & Administration took home this award. Victoria was recognized for her patience, consistent encouragement, and assistance to each member of her team helping build morale and self-confidence.



Pictured from left to right: Dorothy Livingston, Victoria Trujillo and John Livingston.

The **The Circle of Partnerships** received the **Creativity Award**. This award honors a group of employees or a team demonstrating outstanding initiative and creativity that results in improved service to customers, greater efficiency, effectiveness, cost savings or cost avoidance.



Pictured from left to right: Ed Romero, Charles Griego, Shirley Donachy, Judith Lamb, Clyde Nash, Dr. Donna Watkins, Doug Lollar, Joe Garcia, Mary T. Dugan and Bernetta Collins.

This team worked to ensure local participation in a transportation project in the Trinidad area, and is made up of employees from the Department of Transportation, the Department of Labor and Employment, Trinidad Junior College and the Governor's Office of Economic Development. Team members include: **CDOT-Mary Dugan, Bernetta Collins, Joe Garcia, Judith Lamb, Doug Lollar, Debra Gallegos; Labor & Employment-Charles Griego, Shirley Donachy; Trinidad State Junior College-Paul Montera, Clyde Nash; Governor's Office of Economic Development-Donna Watkins.**



Pictured from left to right, front row : JoAnn Hortner, Cathy Vigil, Deena Cogmon, Angela Rubalcaba and Heidi Clift. Left to right, back row: Louanna Cruz, Gail Mahar, Valerie Toombs and Anthony Cordova.

The **Citizenship Award** honors an individual or a group of employees who have exhibited exemplary voluntary service or an act of heroism in the community. The **Business Process Group** of the Department of Human Services,

took home this honor for their community efforts. In the past year, this group has conducted a food drive, held a toiletries drive for 10 shelters across the state, sponsored and coordinated a holiday "giving tree" for adolescents and children housed in the Colorado Mental Health Institutes in at Ft. Logan and Pueblo, and hosted a "bag drive" for children in foster care. This groups members include: **Heidi Clift, Deena Cogmon, Anthony Cordova, Louanna Cruz, Leslie Hanssen, JoAnn Horter, Gail Mahar, Angela Rubalcaba, Valerie Toombs, and Cathy Vigil.**

The selection committees had a difficult task in choosing the 2005 winners, as the number and quality of nominations continues to improve. Congratulation to all employees nominated for an award and thanks to each and every state employee for the services they provide your citizens.

FIREWORKS, from p. 4

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that in 2002 about 8,800 people were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with fireworks. Over half the injuries were burns and most of the injuries involved the hands, eyes, and head. About half of the victims were under 15 years of age.

When things go wrong with fireworks, they go very wrong, very fast. For this reason, the Division of Fire Safety discourages the private use of fireworks. Instead, Coloradoans are encouraged to attend a licensed public fireworks display, which are conducted by trained and qualified operators.



In any case, before purchasing or using fireworks, make sure they are permitted in your local area and only buy those items that are legal in the State of Colorado. When using fireworks, be sure to follow these important safety tips: Fireworks should be used only with extreme caution; older children should be closely supervised, and younger children should not be allowed to play with fireworks; in Colorado, it is illegal for anyone under the age of 16 to use fireworks unless they are under adult supervision.

For further information concerning fireworks, contact your local fire department.

COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK: HELPING COLORADO STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR EDUCATIONAL GOALS

BY MISTI D. RUTHVEN

**MARKETING & SALES REPRESENTATIVE
COLORADO SERVICING CONSORTIUM**

College Access Network is the designated guarantor of student loans for the State of Colorado. You may be familiar with our previous name – the Colorado Student Loan Program (CSLP). As of July 1, 2004, the legislature changed the name of the Colorado Student Loan Program to College Access Network.

In its 25 years of service to students and schools in Colorado, College Access Network has helped more than 600,000 students achieve their educational goals. College Access Network administers the Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP), providing Federal Stafford, Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) and Consolidation Loans to students and parents through funding from private lenders.

College Access Network is a self-supporting state enterprise and receives no state appropriations. The majority of College Access Networks' revenue is received from the Federal government and from lenders for which we service and disburse loans. College Access Network:

- fully insures the loans of students and parents, canceling loan debt for death, disability, school closure, fraud and bankruptcy (lenders are insured at 98% for borrowers who default) provides "life-of-loan"

servicing of student loans on behalf of lenders who partner with us through the Colorado Servicing Consortium.

- provides default aversion assistance to lenders when a loan becomes 60 days delinquent. (We intervene on approximately 35% of all student loans when a lender reports a borrower is delinquent on payments)
- collects on defaulted loans and offers rehabilitation programs.

To assist our customers, College Access Network sponsors several on-line programs, which include applying for student loans, electronic signature of promissory notes, college admissions, and money management. We also provide training, technical support and educational publications for schools and lenders.

The agency is located at Denver Place, 999 18th Street, Suite 425, Denver, CO 80202. For more information about student loans and College Access Network see the new Web site at www.college-access.net.



MY BACK PAGES: So Predictable

BY PAUL FARLEY

I was going through one of the *many* boxes that crowd my basement the other day when I came across a book that I got (I will *not* admit to buying it) over 30 years ago. I could only speculate about why I had it to begin with, but if you had seen my basement you would certainly understand why I still have it.

The book, published in 1968, is called *Criswell Predicts Your Future From Now to the Year 2000!* Charles Jerome Criswell Konig was born August 18, 1907, and began as a newsreader at a local Los Angeles TV station in the 1950's. Once, on what they call "a slow news day," he had a few minutes to fill before the end of the show, so he made a few "predictions" about what might happen in the next day's news. When one of his forecasts came true, he became "Criswell the Incredible," and moved to his own local TV show, where he would walk on camera wearing a sequin tuxedo and speculate about future events.

In 1959 he was featured in the science fiction epic *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, generally regarded as the worst film ever made (I realize there is a lot of competition for this dubious honor - - I mean, have you seen *Gigli?*). Just to give you a small taste, Bela Lugosi (the original *Dracula*), was cast in one of the leading roles, but died just before production got underway. So they got the producer's wife's chiropractor to take over, holding his cape in front of his face throughout the entire movie. It goes downhill from there.

Criswell's big break came in March 1963 when he predicted that "President Kennedy will not run for reelection in 1964 because of something that will happen to him in November 1963." In January 1968 he predicted that a prominent civil rights leader would be assassinated later that year. Whether Criswell was merely lucky, or had some special insight, no one can say. What *can* be said is that in trying to capitalize on his notoriety afterwards, he set a new standard of inaccuracy rarely attained by even the most ambitious supermarket tabloid.

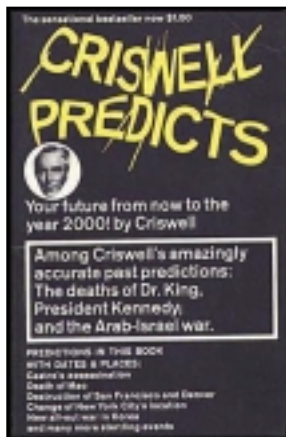
In this book of a little less than 100 pages, Criswell makes a wide range of fanciful predictions, every one of which is wrong. But what sets him apart from every other fakir, fraud, and phony is that so many of his predictions are *wildly* wrong. Stupendously wrong. Brobdingnagianly wrong. Which makes them all the more entertaining. Examples include:

- The assassination of Fidel Castro on August 9, 1970.
- The withdrawal of all coins from circulation in 1975. The draining of Lake Michigan for needed land in 1978.
- The relocation of our national capital from Washington, D.C. to Wichita, Kansas by 1983. (I am *not* making this

up) (although apparently Criswell did).

- The destruction of London, England by a meteorite on October 18, 1988.
- The first Interplanetary Convention, held in Las Vegas with delegates from the Moon, Mars, Venus, and Neptune on March 10, 1990.

But wait - it gets better (or worse, depending on how you look at it). Criswell predicted that on June 9, 1989, Denver would be destroyed by a "mysterious force from outer space." He foresaw that people "will find themselves enveloped in a jelly-like substance that was once brick, concrete, steel and lumber. They will be unable to escape for it will be impossible to cut through or tear this substance fleeing people will find themselves mired in roadways and hardly able to move." Eventually, Denver "will become a dead city and will never again be reborn."



Now, I admit that I was living in New Mexico at the time, but I would have thought it would have been reported there (I understand that now they even have cable!) In any event, I just don't recall this happening.

Well, you might be saying to yourself, this is pretty bad - but a man with Criswell's aspirations could not be content with simply wiping out a few major cities. No, he also predicted that the world would end on August 18, 1999, with the appearance of a black rainbow, "a magnetic disturbance in our atmosphere, set about by change in gravitational pulls throughout the universe." And this rainbow "will encircle the planet Earth and it will be seen from every vantage point on the face of the earth for at night it will glow with an iridescent light and during the day it will be a black streak across our sky; a rainbow; a jet-black rainbow; an ebony rainbow; a black rainbow which will signify the coming suffocation of our world. This black rainbow will seemingly bring about, through some mysterious force beyond our comprehension, a lack of oxygen. ... It is through this that we will be so weakened that when the final end arrives, we will go silently, we will go gasping for breath, and then there will be only silence on the earth."

If you missed it, it might be because, like me, you slept in that day. And did you notice that Criswell predicted that the world would end on his birthday? I am reminded of the time a couple of years ago when someone asked Dionne Warwick, who had just come off a colossal financial disaster resulting from involvement with the now defunct Psychic Friends Network, "Why didn't you see that coming?"