

# The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

Number 109A

★ Remember September 11, 2001 ★

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March 15, 2006

## Our Mission

*In the Spring of 2000, the Archives continued the original efforts of Captain Roger Pineau and William Hudson, and the Archives first attempts in 1992, to gather the papers, letters, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese/Oriental Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS/OLS instructors and graduates to the War effort in the Pacific and the Cold War, to the creation of East Asian language programs across the country, and to the development of Japanese-American cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.*

## Pioneer media critic Reed Irvine JLS 1944, dies at 82

Journalist and media critic Reed Irvine, who relentlessly exposed the foibles of a biased press for more than three decades, died Tuesday from complications of a stroke he suffered late last year. He was 82.

Mr. Irvine was a pioneer in his field, founding the nonprofit watchdog group Accuracy in Media (AIM) in 1969 during an era when the content and ideological underpinnings of TV and newspaper stories went largely unquestioned.

Oxford educated, a Fulbright scholar and a former economist with the Federal Reserve System, Mr. Irvine cheerfully took on the credibility of press giants — inaugurating a full-blown "Can Dan" campaign against CBS newsman Dan Rather 16 years ago.

"We've fought the good fight," Mr. Irvine once said. "Someone had to start pointing out there were serious errors being made

in the media — and a lot of them were the fault of the ideological biases of the reporters and editors."

He took on dozens of news organizations and high-profile scions of the so-called liberal press, mounting cases against the New York Times, CNN, NBC and The Washington Post, prompting former Post editor Ben Bradlee to call him a "miserable, carping, retromingent vigilante," comparing Mr. Irvine to an animal that urinates backward.

Mr. Irvine responded by sending Mr. Bradlee a trophy, courtesy of the Miserable Carping Retromingent Vigilante Society. Mr. Bradlee sent it back. The intrepid but good-humored Mr. Irvine got his point across.

"It sticks in my craw, but I'll say it: Irvine and his AIM are good for the press," Post ombudsman Charles Seib said at the time.

"I feel like you're an absolutely legitimate group, and I personally have a lot of respect for you, Reed," CNN founder Ted Turner once told him.

"Though he wasn't trained as a journalist, he became one and was better at it than most journalists themselves," said Cliff Kincaid, editor of the AIM Report.

"But it was a shock to many of them that he used the tools of their trade to analyze their work. He bought up shares in big media companies so he could attend their stockholders meetings and ask unpopular questions — and it all ended up in his report to the public," Mr. Kincaid said.

Mr. Irvine wielded words with the best of them, penning hundreds of columns and joining in spirited debate with foes on CNN's "Crossfire" and ABC's "Nightline," among other broadcasts.

In addition, Mr. Irvine founded Accuracy in Academia in 1985 to monitor political bias in education and authored two books chronicling media

deception. Accolades for his efforts included the "Ethics in Journalism" award from the World Media Association and the "Friend of Freedom Award" from the Gielow Family Foundation, which cited Mr. Irvine's "tireless dedication to the search for truth."

Born in Salt Lake City, Mr. Irvine graduated from the University of Utah before joining the U.S. Marines as an intelligence officer during World War II. While serving as a Japanese interpreter for the allied occupation force in Japan, he met Kay Araki, a survivor of the Nagasaki atomic bomb attack. The couple married three years later.

Mr. Irvine is survived by his wife, son Donald, and three grandchildren of Gaithersburg. Friends are invited to call from 6 to 8 p.m. tomorrow at the DeVol Funeral Home, 10 East Deer Park Drive, Gaithersburg.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 17700 Old Baltimore Road, Olney, with interment at Parklawn Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to Accuracy in Media.

By Jennifer Harper  
The Washington Times  
November 18, 2004

[Ed. Note: Again, I am sorry for the delay, but my habit is to print no more than one or two obits per issue and this obit. was a long one as Mr. Irvine had obviously caught the attention of the media during his career. After having met him at the 2002 Reunion, I was sad to get the news. I have been sent several other obituaries from different newspapers, should any one wish to read them.]

## Condolences

This is the first obit for a JLS veteran I've seen in the LA Times for some time. Reed's entry date at Boulder was 12/42, so he probably graduated in late 1943 or early '44. I only met him once — at the Pomona Meeting in 4/00. He raised his hand

frequently and asked pointed questions. The Rolphs are still creaking along, holding our own. Julia will be 82 on 11/21/04.

We continue to enjoy *The Interpreter*, Bravo!

Ham Rolph  
JLS 1944

I am sorry to report that another JLO, Reed Irvine, has died. I enclose his obituary.

Reed was commissioned into the Marine Corps and served with one of the divisions. He attended the 2002 Boulder alumni group gathering, as you may remember.

I served, at Reed's request, in a volunteer capacity as Accuracy in Media's first treasurer and as a director for 17 years.

Reed was the real spark plug in the organization and built up a remarkable operation with real clout. As the obituary notes, he was the first to start a group focused on bias and inaccuracies in the media.

John McLean  
JLS 1944

Sorry to have to report the passing of Boulderite Reed Irvine, but I think you ought to know right away. He was a truly great guy. All the best.

William Hudson  
JLS 1944

## Rumors of My Demise

(Continued) At the hospital in Brisbane, at which I had arrived in a coma, strange things began to happen. As soon as I began to recover, my nurse confronted me with a "curriculum vitae" and said, "Since you've come back from the dead, you have to fill this out so you can get a new assignment." Two days later, half awake, I noticed a lot of gold braid beside my bed and heard a British accented voice say to someone, "Got to have someone from the old 'col' about," (i.e. Trinity College, Cambridge University, England). Two days after this, my doctor

told me that Commander Holmes-Hopkinson, RN, had telephoned for further information about my recovery and it was thus I learned the identity of the gold braid.

Later, when I wished to get dressed for a recommended convalescent stroll in the hospital garden, I found I had no clothes; only my dog tags, my watch and my wallet. When I'd arrived, the nurse explained, "Everything else I had on had been burned to prevent hospital contamination by South Pacific larvae." I had no gear.

But since I had been revived

carrying a white cloth. He had gone from our view about 20 briefly by medics at the Brisbane airport, who had taken my temperature, painted an X on my forehead, tied a casualty tag on my shirt and then stowed me and my gear in an ambulance for hospital transport, I decided not to stroll in the garden, but went instead to search for my missing gear. I found it in a locker reserved for "effects of the deceased", about to be shipped to the US. This was not to be the last intimation of my mortality.

In 1947, I received a letter addressed to "The heirs of Lt. S.P. Kramer". "Did we wish,"

rifle. The riflemen decided that I should have it, and I still do. the letter asked from an Effects of the Deceased Depot in Utah, "the contents of a footlocker belonging to the late Lt. S.P. Kramer sold at auction for the benefit of Navy Relief, or sent to the heirs?"

All this confusion over my mortality, however, had a happy ending. My orders at the hospital had me report to Commander Holmes-Hopkinson for temporary duty at ATIS in Brisbane and this Temporary Duty was continued into the Occupation of Japan. My last assignment was ship's company,

after 1980, as I recall Hart's description, a successive bondholder made inquiry to the for submarine duty aboard AS 17, a submarine tender where I received not only my base pay, but also per diem, plus 10% overseas pay, plus 50% more for sub pay. So I think all of this must have made me just about the highest paid member of the JLS class of '44. Thus did my presumed mortality pay off in a big way, and the money finally became "the ease of my burdens, the staff of my life" (Cervantes).

*S. Paul Kramer  
JLS 1944*

## POW Incidents

On Peleliu, a sad one. A POW told us of a dozen sheltering at the base of a limestone cliff. Without air support or naval support, cut off from other Japanese forces and from supplies of food, water and ammunition, and facing our flame-throwers along with the other armor, they were doomed. The POW agreed to carry the word to them that the Americans promised good treatment. The distance was perhaps 400 yards, open ground. He went alone,

minutes, then reappeared, heading back to us. He was about half way back when someone on their side shot him. Sorry to say, we didn't send a Navy Corpsman to try to save him.

On Okinawa, triviatta. Three Marine riflemen looked me up with a prisoner in tow. Among the questions was what he had done with his weapon. Left it hidden under a bush, he said, and offered to show us the bush. The heavy fighting had swung southward and we could move around freely. There was his

*Harry T. Foote  
JLS 1943*

*[Ed. Note: A call has gone out to Roger Hackett for details. He was present at the first incident and spoke with the POW.]*

## Too Many Obits (Cont'd)

Some years after Japanese takeover of the company and its power plant, with bondholder and stockholder holdings deemed forever worthless, the corporation, seemingly only a name, was sold. Some time

corporate owner of the SPCs as to whether any SPC assets existed, and the question was referred to the Brobeck law firm and to Hart. One might guess that it was with some of the same concentrated diligence Hart used to learn Japanese and meet other challenges, that he somehow found some forgotten SPC assets in the U.S., which provided some surprise payments to bondholder clients. Hart's humor, genuineness, skills, and friendship are missed, by so many personal and professional

friends and organizations, plus  
his all-important family. **Cont'd**  
*Dan Williams, JLS 1943*

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