



**HAROLD L. MCDONALD**  
**BASF**

After months of anticipation, Southeast Texas was chosen as the site for the construction of the largest single-train steam cracker in the world. The \$900 million project is a partnership between BASF and FINA with construction to commence in September.

Harold McDonald, Executive Vice President, Corporate Services for BASF Corporation, will detail the determining factors that led BASF to join forces with FINA, why the partnership chose Southeast Texas for the site of the cracker, and what the \$900 million project will mean to our area.

Mr. McDonald has served in his current capacity for BASF since July, 1997. His responsibilities include Corporate Engineering and Construction, Human Resources, Technical Purchasing, Corporate Communications, Ecology and Safety, and Corporate Security. He joined BASF in 1972 at their Freeport, Texas site and has worked in various manufacturing, purchasing and engineering assignments.

In 1985, McDonald was named Plant

Manager for the Caprolactam and Polycaprolactam complex and was named General Manager for the Freeport site in 1987. He served as Vice President, Ecology and Safety from 1989 to 1992. Prior to his current assignment, he served five years as Senior Vice President, Human Resources for BASF.

A native Texan from Center, McDonald received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. He is married and has two daughters and is the proud grandfather of one grandson born August 22, 1998.

This week's program was arranged by Mark Viator.

**PROGRAM REVIEW..**

Last week's program was introduced by both LARRY BEAULIEU and Oprah Winfrey. Mr. Charles "Chip" Babcock successfully defended Ms. Winfrey in her much publicized freedom of speech lawsuit from the Cattle Raisers Association.

Her lawsuit was brought due to a program that was aired which discussed the mad cow disease that was affecting Great Britain. The question Ms. Winfrey posed was, "Can it (mad cow disease) happen here?" She had a three person panel discuss various areas of this serious medical problem. During the program one panelist and Ms. Winfrey made comments that the Cattle Raisers Association deemed to be disparaging to their business. These remarks seemed innocent to panelists and Ms. Winfrey, but caused an uproar and eventually a lawsuit.

Ms. Winfrey was stunned that she could be held liable for these statements. Some Rotarians have also found that legal action can be brought against you for reasons that do not seem warranted. At issue was Ms. Winfrey's and her panelist's right to freedom of speech.

The trial was in Amarillo, Texas, and initially Mr. Babcock felt they had only a

20% chance of winning. This venue was believed to be extremely harsh to his client and the ability to have a fair trial was questioned numerous times. But, during the process Ms. Winfrey gained a greater appreciation for the legal system and how it works to insure rights are protected. Also, Ms. Winfrey was noted for her professionalism in being a strong witness. Mr. Babcock commented on the strong work ethic she has and brought to this case.

In his closing comments to the jury, Mr. Babcock gave his "hang-up speech" asking that strong members stay true to their beliefs and allow for fairness to occur. An unsuspecting ally was on the jury. A gentlemen who had roots to the cattle industry actually provided meaningful insight to this case. In a speech he made to the jurors he indicated that during his lifetime he has seen numerous rights taken away from people. These include freedom of religion. He believed the only right left is freedom of speech and with this remaining right we still have the opportunity to regain our other rights. Without freedom of speech we will be left without any defense. It is not known exactly how this played on the jury, but in a town strongly supported by the cattle industry Ms. Winfrey's right to comment on a serious issue was allowed and she won her lawsuit.

According to Ms. Winfrey the legal system in the United States is an incredibly good system. People who stand up and demand to defend our right to freedom of speech should be applauded.

**RAMBLINGS**

Last week at Rotary BRIAN ALTER was seen doing his best "Mr. Mom" impersonation by bringing his youngest daughter, Sophie, to lunch. This allowed his wife, Lori, to have a brief break from the kids and celebrate her birthday (21st +/-) with several of her friends.

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# CLUB NEWS

In the food line **DR. TURCO** was convinced that the Hilton had to be in its annual contract renewal negotiations with Rotary. No other reason could explain the change in cuisine...the mystery was cleared up somewhat by the introduction of the newest Rotary member, **TIM KENNEDY**, Hilton Hotel manager.

Judge **MIKE BRADFORD** is going to take a break from his TV appearances and go on a brief vacation. The location is undisclosed at this time to avoid the press. It does, however, involve a lot of golf.

**PAUL DAVIDSON** is gearing up for another year of Red Raider football. According to Paul this may be the year that the Red Raiders go all the way. He had no comment on former Raider Quarterback Billie Joe Toliver being cut from the pros.

**CHUCK MASON** was commiserating that because of his heart surgery he missed his planned vacation to the Cayman Islands. His kids, however, did not want their Dad to lose his deposit so they were kind enough not to cancel the trip. These six college kids, alone in a rented house, on a desert island, did their best to deal with the fact that the only two adults couldn't come...it was a burden I'm sure.

## QUOTABLE QUOTES

*To change and to improve are two different things.*

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*Tact is the ability to raise your eyebrows instead of the roof.*

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*You can't do much about the length of your life, but you can do a lot about its depth and width.*

## It's out of the park!



*We're on our way to breaking the record!*

Recruited a new member?

**Countdown • 4 Weeks**

**Home Run Streak**

THE YEAR OF THE HOME RUN

## QUIGLEY FIELD SCOREBOARD

Quigley's Cleanup Hitters	23
Laurel's Lizards	7
Membership Wiz	6
Stanton's Sultans of Swat	6
Beaulieu's Bandits	4
Floyd's Flock	4
The First Team	4
Ray Riley	3
Barbara's Bodacious Batters	0
The Chosen Ones	0

**IMPORTANT:** Do not be discouraged by the scores as you see them now. Remember, every membership application is worth up to 4 points; 1-submission, 2-passed membership & classification, 3-passed Board, 4-inducted. Many of your applications are on first base at this time. Don't give up! Keep those membership proposals coming!!!

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## POORLY WORDED ADS....

Get rid of aunts: Zap does the job in 24 hours.

Stock up and save. Limit: one.

For Rent: 6-room hated apartment.

Man wanted to work in dynamite factory. Must be willing to travel.

Used Cars: Why go elsewhere to be cheated? Come here first!

Christmas tag-sale. Handmade gifts for the hard-to-find person.

Wanted. Man to take care of cow that does not smoke or drink.

3-year-old teacher needed for preschool. Experience preferred.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Sep 2 - 9

09/02	JAMIE DISHMAN	Beaumont
09/02	MAURINE GRAY	Galveston
09/03	SHAREN KIRKSEY	Dayton
09/03	WAYNE RHODES	Detroit
09/04	GEORGE BUSCEME	Beaumont
09/05	CHESTER WEBER	Beaumont
09/07	BECKY AMES	Newport News, VA
09/08	BENNY HUGHES	Beaumont
09/09	DAVE STORY	Houston
09/09	MARK THEOBALD	Beaumont

## NEAR-BY MAKE-UPS . . .

### MONDAY

So. Park	12 N, Holiday Inn-Midtown
N. Port Arthur	12 N, Holiday Inn-Hwy 69
Vidor	12 N, Old Faith Chapel

### TUESDAY

West Bmt.	12 N, Beaumont Hilton
Port Neches	12 N, Pompano Club

### WEDNESDAY

Groves	12 N Pompano Club
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### THURSDAY

Port Arthur	12 N, Ramada Inn
Bridge City	12 N, St. Paul Methodist Ch.

### FRIDAY

Nederland	12 N. Schooner
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