

# PEOPLE

Features Editor Trish Cofield — 622-8819

## Sobering thoughts

Melissa Gilbert reflects on her highs and lows

**RADNOR** — Now that her husband, actor-screenwriter-playwright Bo Brinkman, has returned home and been maintaining his sobriety, "Little House on the Prairie" star



MELISSA GILBERT

Melissa Gilbert said, everything's wonderful now.

Gilbert, whose teenage romance with actor Rob Lowe was chronicled regularly in the tabloids, said in the current (April 7) issue of TV Guide, "I guess I've hit that point in my life where it's time to examine my behavior and find out why I work the way I do and how I can change it."

Gilbert, 25, met Brinkman on a blind date, and two months after that, they were married.

"We started off fast, she acknowledged. "We've been

through so much in two years. It's been an up-and-down battle, and a baby in the middle of it all, and that shifts a relationship anyway."

According to Gilbert, her relationship with Brinkman unraveled last fall when he flew into an alcoholic rage in Hong Kong, where she was filming her upcoming movie for CBS, "Forbidden Nights." The couple had been living separately since then, with both seeking professional help.

"He's gone two months sober," she said in mid-January. "He's doing quite well. He's pulling himself together, and so am I. We're working on things as best we can."

"In mid-March, he moved back in. Our marriage counselor saved our lives and our marriage," Gilbert said. "We couldn't live apart anymore."

The actress even put her husband on the phone:

"My life had become unmanageable," Brinkman said. "I took a look at my kid and my wife and I knew that something had to change. I didn't know a sober life could be this good. It's like a new marriage."

Gilbert also reflected on her relationship with Lowe, with whom she still is friends:

"It's funny. I look back on the relationship now, and what it really was essentially was a high school romance. We did the same things that everybody does in a relationship at that age. In the press, it was, 'He's cheating on her again.' or 'She was out with another guy.' Well, that's what kids do."

"But because we were in the public eye, it was all extremely distorted. That's when I really started to develop a deep hatred for a certain part of this business."



The Duchess of York holds her new daughter, Princess Eugenie Victoria Helena as Prince Andrew beams upon leaving Portland Hospital in London.

## Little princess

**LONDON (AP)** — The Duke and Duchess of York have named their week-old daughter Princess Eugenie Victoria Helena, Buckingham Palace said today.

The baby's name was announced shortly after the royal couple stepped from Portland Hospital with the new princess, wrapped in a white blanket.

The baby slept quietly through the cheers of the crowd and the click of hundreds of cameras.

Princess Eugenie is the sixth grandchild of Queen Elizabeth II and sixth in the line of succession. She is the second daughter born to the duchess and her husband, Prince Andrew.

The 30-year-old Duchess of York, the former Sarah Ferguson, gave birth to Princess Eugenie by Caesarian section on March 23.

The baby's name surprised Britain. Bookmakers William Hill said they had thousands of bets but not one for Eugenie.

It was the name of Queen Victoria's granddaughter, the daughter of Princess Beatrice who was Victoria's fifth daughter and youngest child.

The baby's second name — Victoria — comes from Queen Victoria herself, and the third name, Helena, comes from the third daughter of Queen Victoria.

Eugenie is the French derivative of the ancient Greek word "Eugenia" meaning "nobility" and "excellence," and was made fashionable in 19th-century France by the Empress Eugenie, wife of Emperor Napoleon III, said David Williamson, co-editor of Debrett's Peerage, a leading reference book on the aristocracy.

In its classical form of Eugenia, it was first recorded as a name in England in the 12th century, he said.

Prince Andrew's elder brother Prince Charles, 41, is first in line to the throne, followed by Charles' sons, Prince William and Prince Harry. Then comes Andrew, 30, then Beatrice.

The queen's unmarried youngest son, Edward, 26, is now seventh in line of succession. Her 39-year-old daughter Anne, the Princess Royal, is eighth and has a son and daughter, Peter and Zara, who are ninth and 10th.

## Painful memories

**RADNOR** — Denise Nicholas revealed publicly for the first time in TV Guide's current (April 7) issue how painful it was to work on an upcoming episode of NBC's "In the Heat of the Night" in which her character's sister is murdered.

Nicholas' own sister, Michele, a reporter for Ebony magazine, was murdered in Manhattan, and like the series' plot, the person responsible was never prosecuted — in her sister's case, the murder was never solved.

"Carroll O'Connor called to tell me the story idea he had for 'In the Heat of the Night' and I thought, 'Oh, my God. Does he know?' I could only say, 'That's interesting.' Then I wrote him a note telling him about my sister.



CARROLL O'CONNOR

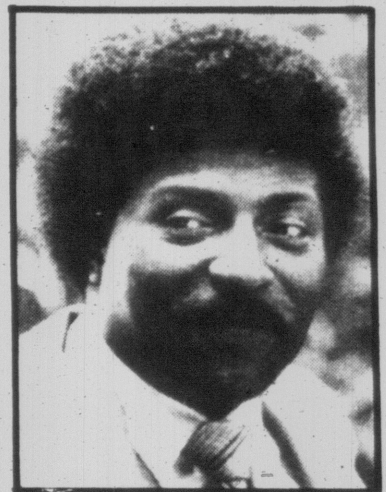
## Man who would be king

**NEW YORK (AP)** — If it weren't for skin color, Little Richard says, he — not Elvis Presley — could have reigned as the king of rock 'n' roll.

"If I was white, do you know how huge I'd be?" Little Richard asks in the April 19 issue of Rolling Stone. "I think Elvis was more acceptable being white in that period. I believe if Elvis had been black, he wouldn't have been as big as he was."

The rock pioneer, who recorded classics such as "Tutti Frutti" and "Lucille," says he can recall being upstaged only once during his flamboyant 43-year performing career. The man who did it: the late Jimi Hendrix.

"He was my guitar player, and you know, we didn't know he could play with his mouth. One night I heard this screaming and hollering, and they were screaming and hollering for him!" says Richard. "I thought they were screaming for me. But he was back there playing the guitar with his mouth."



LITTLE RICHARD