

# The Pampa News

25c Daily 75c Sunday

## Tuesday

March 15, 1994

**PAMPA** — Drivers traveling Hobart Street will have a little more room to maneuver on one stretch beginning this afternoon, according to a representative of the Texas Department of Transportation.

From Hobart and Alcock Street north to the intersection of Hobart Street and Lincoln Avenue, all four lanes of the thoroughfare and the center turning lane will be open for traffic.

**PAMPA** -- The American Association of Retired Persons is calling on its membership to urge members the U.S. House of Representatives, including Rep. Bill Sarpalius, to vote against a proposed constitutional amendment for a balanced federal budget, according to Earlene Davis, a member of the organization from Pampa.

AARP has come out against the proposed amendment, fearing cuts in Social Security and Medicare. The organization is conducting a mailing to its membership to raise opposition to the amendment.

A vote on the amendment is scheduled to take place in the House this week. The decision is essentially non-binding since the Senate defeated the measure earlier this year.

**NASHUA, N.H. (AP)** — President Clinton, trying to shift attention from Whitewater to the major themes of his presidency, is back in the state where in early 1992 he proclaimed himself the "comeback kid."

This time, Clinton is trying to make a political comeback that will enable him to get his domestic legislation back on track.

So he was immersing himself in one of the things he does best — a frenetic campaign-like schedule. He planned three stops in New Hampshire today: a town hall meeting, a stroll through a town square and a factory tour. Then, he flies to an army base in New York state to greet soldiers recently returned from duty in Somalia.

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Locked in the toughest race of his 36-year career, Rep. Dan Rostenkowski drew on some of his legendary clout in hopes of beating back a challenge in today's primary.

Rostenkowski called on friends in high places. From President Clinton to Republican Gov. Jim Edgar, all said Illinois — and the country — can't do without the Chicago Democrat leading the powerful Ways and Means Committee.

And he brought more pork to his district, most recently in the form of a job-training center and an emergency rescue helicopter for the city.

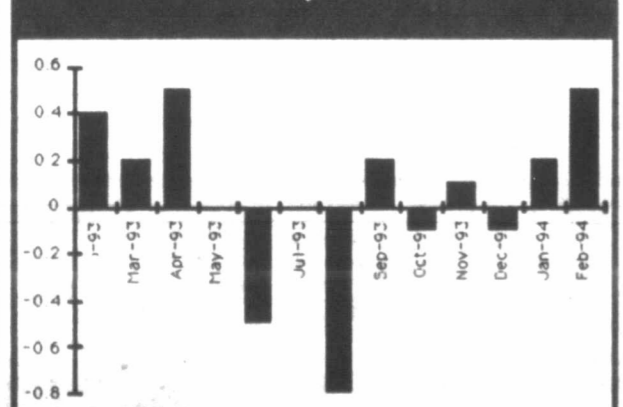
That may be enough to win him re-election, particularly if turnout is low, as forecast, because the ballots of Democratic machine voters will count more heavily in Rostenkowski's favor, pollster Richard Day said.

**DETROIT (AP)** — No consensus on a new initiative for attacking worldwide unemployment appeared in sight as top economic policy-makers from the world's richest countries wrapped up a two-day jobs conference.

Still, the Clinton administration sought to put the most favorable spin on the gathering, calling it an unqualified success.

"This will be looked back upon, I am convinced, as one of the most important turning points in postwar dialogue between the United States and other industrialized nations," Vice President Al Gore said.

### Producer price index



**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Wholesale prices shot up 0.5 percent in February, the biggest jump in 10 months, the government said today in a report reflecting the effects of the winter freeze on heating costs. The Labor Department said the increase in its Producer Price Index was the largest since a similar 0.5 percent advance last April.

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## Energy industry's woes chronicled at Senate hearings

By MICHELLE MITTELSTADT  
Associated Press Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Oklahoma Sen. David Boren says President Clinton will meet with some 120 members of Congress who are worried about the future of the battered domestic oil and natural gas industry.

Boren, who chairs the Senate Finance Committee's taxation subcommittee, said Monday that he was assured by White House chief of staff Mack McLarty that "the president definitely will receive us."

The commitment for an ener-

gy summit comes just days after the Democratic and Republican lawmakers, representing one-fifth of Congress, sent Clinton a letter urgently requesting a meeting.

"We must respond to this crisis promptly and aggressively," Boren said Monday during a hearing of his subcommittee.

Energy industry lobbyists and others crowded into the committee room Monday to hear witnesses recite the grim statistics in which the sector is mired and the proposals by some on Capitol Hill to turn the situation around.

Since oil prices slumped last October, 13,600 jobs have been lost in the industry — which already was reeling from the almost half million jobs that vanished in the last decade.

Last year, the nation posted its lowest domestic oil production since 1958, averaging 6.8 million barrels a day. The nation's oil imports rose to 6.7 million barrels per day last year — accounting for 49.5 percent of U.S. oil consumption.

Industry officials estimate that if oil prices remain around \$14 a barrel, some 50,000 marginal wells will be plugged and abandoned this year. The

nation's 450,000 marginal wells account for 14 percent of domestic production.

Sen. John Breaux, D-La., said cheap gasoline prices and the availability of oil have kept the American people from thinking an energy crisis is imminent.

But, Breaux added: "We're on the brink of a national crisis in America today with regard to energy."

Deputy Energy Secretary Bill White testified that the administration is examining several proposals to provide relief to the industry, including royalty relief for offshore drilling.

"The administration does rec-

ognize the strategic importance of this critical industry," said White, who was a Texas energy lawyer before joining the administration. "This is an industry that we must preserve."

White conceded that energy policy initiative unveiled by the administration last December doesn't address the sector's current difficulties — a complaint many in the industry have raised. "It admittedly was incomplete and left a lot to do," he said.

"The fact is, those are long-run solutions and we have a short-run problem."

## Drug raid nets three



Brown, Hair and Prentice, clockwise from lower left, were arraigned today after their arrests late Monday, above, on drug related charges. (Pampa News photos by Cheryl Berzanskis)

## Gray County grand jury hands down sealed indictments in drug case

By CHERYL BERZANSKIS  
News Editor

Two men and a woman remain in Gray County jail today on charges of delivery of crack cocaine as a result of an undercover drug investigation conducted by the sheriff's office and office of the district attorney.

Arrested Monday evening were three Pampans who were the subject of five sealed grand jury indictments handed down Monday by a Gray County grand jury.

Taken into custody were Nicholas Marcel Prentice, 18, of 534 Harlem, who is charged with three counts of delivery of a con-

trolled substance; Tetta Etta Brown, 44, 512 Harlem, who is charged with one count of delivery of a controlled substance; and Roger Dewayne Hair, 19, 1018 Neel Rd., who is also charged with a single count of delivery of a controlled substance. In all indictments it is alleged the trio sold crack cocaine to undercover officers.

They were arraigned today and a \$10,000 bond set on each drug charge. Prentice and Brown, both on probation for prior offenses, were denied bond on violation of probation.

The investigation which spanned several weeks was funded through the office of the district

attorney and individual members of the Sheriff's Office, said Stubblefield. About \$305 was spent on the investigation for drug buys and to pay informants, he said. The drugs were purchased during a two-hour period on a single day by members of the Sheriff's Office and other undercover agents.

Stubblefield and District Attorney John Mann said Monday that they expect more indictments as a result of undercover drug efforts in Gray County.

Delivery of a controlled substance is a first degree felony with a range of punishment from five to 99 years or life in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.

## Water talk flows at commission

CHERYL BERZANSKIS  
News Editor

Gray County commissioners today voted to urge Pampa to refrain from endorsing the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority plan to buy water rights in Roberts County.

Farmer John R. Spearman told commissioners his concerns about the CRMWA's proposal to buy water rights to 42,000 acres in Roberts County to increase quality and quantity of water to 11 cities of the authority.

The court agreed to attend the March 22 Pampa City Commission meeting to voice their concerns that the plan will drain not only water reserves in Roberts County but in surrounding land, closing the door to agriculture and industrial development.

"I think this will be the most detrimental thing to agriculture and future development of our area," said County Judge Carl Kennedy.

In other action, the court accepted a proposal from

Brown, Graham and Co. for a county audit. The Amarillo accounting firm, which has offices in Pampa, estimated their fee for auditing the county books for the years of



Spearman at today's meeting

1992 and 1993 at \$15,250. The 1994 county budget provides for \$7,000 to be spent on a two year audit. The commissioners agreed that any funds needed above the budgeted amount would be paid from Highland General Hospital funds.

Commissioners voted to pay bills and salaries of \$265,445.57.

They recessed at about 11:30 a.m. so Kennedy and Precinct 2 Commissioner Jim Greene could visit with Texas Department of Criminal Justice representatives about moving the metal building purchased from Hoechst Celanese to the Rufe Jordan Unit.

## Health care topic of chamber luncheon

Restructuring health care delivery, identifying community needs and universal coverage and access are among health care reform proposals made by Texas Hospital Association President Terry Townsend.

"We need to go from a illness-based system to a wellness-based system," he told the Pampa Chamber of Commerce today at its monthly luncheon. "For every dollar we can spend on prenatal care...we can

save three dollars on expensive neonatal care." When such care is uncompensated, hospitals usually absorb the costs and shift patients with compensation.

Townsend said Medicare fails to cover 100-percent of expenses, costing Texas hospitals \$1,600 per case on average in 1993. Rural areas with an older population generally have a higher percentage of Medicare patients.

## Researchers say photo is a fake



**LONDON (AP)** — Loch Ness researchers say the famous 1934 photograph of Nessie with a hump back and long neck is a fake. Alastair Boyd and David Martin of the Loch Ness Project at Drumadrochit on the shores of the Scottish Highlands lake say the photograph is of a model made from a toy submarine fitted with a neck and head built from plastic wood to resemble a sea serpent.



## Astronauts testing new shuttle arm

By MIKE DRAGO  
Associated Press Writer

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Two astronauts competed to see who could maneuver Columbia's 50-foot robot arm with greater precision today as they tested a new magnetic grappling system.

The system could make it easier — and safer — for shuttle crews to capture satellites or build a space station.

Astronauts Marsha Ivins and Pierre Thuot today were testing the guidance system, which uses mirrors and cameras to line the arm up with its target, when a friendly rivalry started between them.

Working from inside the shuttle, Ivins used the arm to pick up a 5-foot metal bar with a tapered pin on one end. She moved the arm away from the bar's storage box in the shuttle's cargo bay, then back toward it, lining the pin up with a small target hole in the side of the box.

With only 12-hundredths of an inch clearance, Ivins slid the pin into the hole on her first try. Then she tried a smaller hole with half the clearance, again flawlessly.

"I don't want to do it again. I want to retire now," Ivins joked before turning the arm over to Thuot. "He can only match. He can't do better."

Thuot conducted the same tasks and reported the same results, crediting NASA workers who designed the system.

"Kudos to the guys ... who really got those things aligned really well," he said. "It's really making the task very easy."

The two astronauts also reported good results with a device that measures how much force is applied by the arm. Data from torque and temperature gauges in the end of the arm are displayed on a shuttle computer screen, giving arm operators a better sense of touch while they handle cargo.

Checking out the new grappling system is one of the crew's chief remaining jobs before the two-week mission ends on Friday. The tests will continue through Wednesday.

Currently, the robot arm captures objects with a mechanical snare in its tip. In order to be plucked from space or lifted from the cargo bay, satellites must have a protruding foot-long post.

Although the old method has worked during 13 years of shuttle flight, there's always a chance the mechanical snare could fail and jeopardize the success, and even safety, of a mission.

With the new system, an object could easily be cut loose from the arm by stopping electricity to the magnets.

## Hantavirus studied in death of student

FORT WORTH (AP) — It will take at least two weeks to determine if a Tarleton State University graduate student died from hantavirus, officials say.

C. Kelly Kirk, 24, who worked part time at a dairy near Stephenville, had been treated since March 1 at Harris Methodist Hospital in Fort Worth.

He died Friday and was buried Monday in Decatur.

Kirk, a graduate of Chico High School and Tarleton State, had won numerous agricultural awards at the State Fair and at livestock shows in San Antonio and Houston.

He had been hospitalized for an undiagnosed respiratory illness and had been treated against the possibility of hantavirus.

His father, James Kirk of Decatur, said the death may be related to arthritis medications that his son had taken for years. The medication contains steroids, which can offset antibiotics administered to fight pneumonia.

## Gardening time



Four-year-old Destinley, left, watches as her grandfather, Ernest Mathis, adjusts his tiller as he takes advantage of the spring-like weather Monday afternoon to begin preparing his garden at 533 Harlem. Mild temperatures are expected for this week, enabling many Pampa area residents to begin thinking about their gardening projects with spring due to arrive officially this coming Sunday. (Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

## Lotto mania arrives with \$75 million jackpot

By LINDA LEAVELL  
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Officials with state lotteries in California, Florida and Pennsylvania are looking longingly toward Texas, where \$75 million worth of Lotto mania is spreading across the state.

Spokesmen for lotteries in those states, which have posted some of the biggest lottery jackpots on record, report Monday that it has been a while since they've enjoyed the craze associated with gigantic pots.

"We've been in somewhat of a dry spell in terms of mega-jackpots," said Bob Taylor, spokesman for the California Lottery, which had an all-time record pot of \$118.8 million in April 1991. "Seventy-five million dollars is indeed an exciting situation."

Mark Schreiber with Pennsylvania's lottery said his state hasn't had a decent pot since October. But he added that Pennsylvania has offered games of chance since 1972, so it takes some time for the excitement to build and the jackpots to grow.

"It's funny the way the game works," he said. "So enjoy it while you can."

The \$55 million Texas Lotto jackpot that was up for grabs Saturday night would have been a record, besting two \$50 million prizes awarded last year. But no one correctly picked all six numbers, so the pot is now estimated at a new high of \$75 million.

Lotto officials say the fever starts spreading

through their states when the jackpot reaches \$20 million to \$30 million.

Ed George, spokesman for the Florida Lottery, knows about Lotto mania. Florida's jackpot reached a whopping \$106.5 million in September 1990.

"We get excitement anytime we get over \$30 million, but it really goes crazy over \$50 million," George said. "Schreiber agreed. 'It starts at \$20 million and it just continues to build. By the time it gets to where you are right now, it's insanity.'"

When the pot gets really big in California, would-be millionaires start pooling their money with friends and co-workers and waiting on long lines to get their tickets. Retailers report their sales double, triple or even quadruple, Taylor said.

"It's a heck of a lot of fun," he said.

George said that like Texas, Florida attracts buyers from neighboring states when the prize gets big. And folks from other states who are wintering in Florida also make good customers.

"People really swarm over the borders. We're a tourist state — so is Texas — we try to market to those folks while we're here," he said.

While they're not caught up in the mania themselves, the spokesmen said they could identify with what Texas Lottery officials are experiencing this week.

George offered some guidance to his Texas counterparts: "My advice would be pace yourself, take vitamins, drink lots of fluids, get rest whenever you can and hang on. It's going to be a wild ride."

## TB found in thousand-year-old Peruvian remains

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of American Indians died of tuberculosis after Europeans settled in the Americas. But researchers who found genetic markers of TB in the body of a 1,000-year-old woman in Peru say their findings prove that the disease was there long before Columbus.

Dr. Arthur C. Aufderheide, leader of a University of Minnesota team, said that a genetic study of lung and lymph specimens from the ancient corpse proves that tuberculosis was a health problem in the Americas for hundreds of years before Columbus arrived, not a plague brought over from Europe.

A report on the study is published today in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Just what role the European migrations played in outbreaks of TB has long been debated.

"It has been thought that tuberculosis became epidemic among native Americans only after contact with Europeans," said Aufderheide. "It was thought that the native Americans had no immunity to TB and that this led to the epidemics."

Wilmar L. Salo, a member of the

Minnesota team, said that though the finding shows TB existed in pre-Columbian America, the harsh treatment of the Indians doubtless contributed to the American epidemics of the disease.

"The arrival of the Europeans and the change in living conditions forced on the Indians made it much more favorable for tuberculosis," said Salo.

TB is a "herd disease" that can spread easily among malnourished people crowded together. Some actions by Europeans forced these conditions on the American Indians, leading to a rapid spread of TB, said Aufderheide.

George Armelagos, a physical anthropologist at Emory University, said there is a risk the specimens examined by the Minnesota researchers were contaminated by TB bacteria in the laboratory, despite careful precautions.

"They are good scientists, but it's hard to keep things from being contaminated," said Armelagos. "It is imperative that they do an analysis with other specimens before their conclusions are accepted."

In the study, researchers found the

genetic signature of TB in encapsulated lesions in the lungs and lymph nodes of the woman. Salo said the lesions were healed and that TB was probably not the cause of death for the woman.

The woman was estimated to have died at age 40 to 45. She had been entombed at the burial site and the body had mummified, Aufderheide said.

It was one of 650 ancient human remains unearthed by a University of Chicago team in 1990.

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## Officials investigate case of Air Force cadets facing expulsion near graduation

By MICHELLE MITTELSTADT  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force Academy's attempt to oust five cadets less than three months before their graduation has drawn the ire of a Texas congressman and the attention of Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall.

Rep. Charlie Wilson on Monday asked Ms. Widnall to block the proposed expulsion of the five cadets, including one nominated by Wilson to the Colorado Springs, Colo. academy.

The Lufkin Democrat also is seeking a House Armed Services Committee hearing on the academy's student review policy that led to the proposed expulsions.

The recommended sanctions resulted from a review of the senior class initiated by the cadet commandant. A committee of Air Force officers decided to drum out the five cadets because of a lack of "military aptitude."

The five posted academic records and military aptitude scores that qualified them to be commissioned as officers, *The Lufkin Daily News* reported Monday. In fact, the cadet from Lufkin currently is on the dean's list.

Wilson, who sits on the House defense appropriations subcommittee, is perturbed that the five students are being judged by new standards that weren't explained to them before they went into effect.

"The basic tenet of military life is that it's made very clear to you what's expected of you and you either fulfill what's expected of you or you don't," said Wilson, a 1956 U.S. Naval Academy graduate who served four years in the Navy.

The students continue to attend class pending the resolution of their case.

The academy's superintendent, Lt. Gen. Bradley Hosmer, will give his

recommendation to an academy board that meets Wednesday. An academy spokeswoman said Hosmer wouldn't have any comment on the possible expulsions because it "would taint the process."

"The academy will have a range of options, everything from disenrollment to return to full cadet status," said Capt. April Jackson. "It doesn't end here. It's a process. And we are not asking these cadets at this point to pack their bags and leave."

All expulsion orders must be reviewed by Air Force headquarters and the service's secretary.

Wilson aired his concerns in a telephone call Monday with Widnall, who will have the final say in the budding controversy.

"She was extremely concerned," he said in an interview Monday. But, he added: "That does not mean she gave me any assurances at all, because she did not and I was pushing for them."

Wilson said Widnall did promise him that she wouldn't make a final decision on the cadets' future without a face-to-face meeting with him.

Lt. Col. Connie Custer, a spokeswoman for Widnall, said Monday that the secretary had not received anything from the academy to review.

An Air Force lawyer who is representing three of the cadets, Capt. John P. Taitt, said in a five-page memo to Hosmer that the recommended expulsions are "legally and morally wrong."

"If these cadets truly failed to meet standards, nobody told them so," Taitt wrote in a March 8 memo obtained by the Lufkin newspaper.

"Replacing the old, published standards with new, unwritten, unquantifiable standards weeks before graduation and then applying them retroactively to first-class cadets defies any concept of fairness or due process."

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## Judge dismisses capital murder charges in 1992 disappearance of 17-year-old girl

GILMER (AP) — At the surprise request of state Attorney General Dan Morales, a state district judge has dismissed capital murder charges against a police sergeant and seven others in the 1992 disappearance of a 17-year-old Gilmer girl.

"The evidence is insufficient to support the indictment(s)," said the dismissal motions, filed Monday by Assistant Attorney General Shane Phelps and special prosecutor Scott Lyford.

Visiting State District Judge James B. Zimmermann, a retired state district judge, granted the motion at a hearing.

"These are highly unusual times and highly unusual cases," said the judge, who said he had no inkling until Monday morning that Phelps intended to ask him to dismiss the indictments.

At the center of the investigation is James York Brown, 35, a veteran police officer and the chief investigator in the Wilson case until his indictment in January by an Upshur County grand jury.

Gilmer residents were shocked when on Jan. 21 a grand jury indicted Brown on charges of kidnapping, sexually assaulting and imprisoning Miss Wilson before she was stabbed to death. She disappeared Jan. 5, 1992.

Lyford, a Galveston civil attorney and former child abuse prosecutor, was hired to investigate charges of

ritual sexual abuse of children against a Gilmer family. Lyford's handling of the case has been criticized by others in law enforcement, including the FBI, which had worked with Brown on the Wilson case.

In addition to Brown, the defendants included five members of the Kerr family of Gilmer — Wendell, Wanda, Danny, Eugene and Geneva — and two family acquaintances, Roger Don Holeman and Tammy Jo Smith.

All except Brown were previously indicted on multiple counts of child abuse, charges that included allegations of satanism and ritual murder. Their own children were among those they were alleged to have abused. The child abuse charges remain in place.

Law enforcement officials said the indictments Lyford obtained from the grand jury rested on statements of witnesses who lacked credibility with little or no physical evidence to substantiate them, *The Dallas Morning News* reported in its editions today.

Lyford's chief witness in the murder case was Connie Martin, wife of Danny Kerr, who was indicted in the child abuse case. She avoided prosecution on murder charges by cooperating with Lyford.

Sources familiar with her statements said she gave prosecutors different versions of the crime at different times.

Morales said Monday that his office will take over special prosecutor duties in the investigation of Miss Wilson's disappearance and in the prosecution of individuals originally implicated in the child abuse.

Brown, who has been on suspension without pay since his indictment, called Monday's developments "the best news I have had in a while." But he said in a prepared statement that more is needed.

"While I feel exonerated by today's action, I will not feel totally vindicated until this investigation comes to an end or I am acquitted," he said.

He has been living recently at an undisclosed location in East Texas.

An attorney for the city said Brown's status was under discussion. But Brown's wife said she wouldn't want to return to Gilmer.

Ron Dusek, a spokesman for Morales, said the defendants could be re-indicted on capital murder charges "if that is where the investigation leads us."

In another development Monday, state prosecutors served a subpoena summoning Gilmer Police Chief Al McAllister before the Upshur County grand jury next week. McAllister said the grand jury that indicted Brown and the others "was told some things that weren't true."

McAllister said he did not want to speculate on why he was summoned but hoped it was to help clear up the case.



Martin Buser, current leader in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, drives his team through a crowd of well wishers from the Bering Sea coastal village of Unalakleet, Alaska, Sunday. Buser is heading toward his second victory in three years. (AP photo)

## Buser closing in on victory in Iditarod sled race

By T.A. BADGER  
Associated Press Writer

KOYUK, Alaska (AP) — Martin Buser is rapidly closing in on his second victory in three years in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, and in record time.

Late last night, in clear cold conditions in western Alaska, Buser passed through the checkpoint at Elim, 125 miles from the finish line in Nome, more than three hours ahead of his nearest rival, Rick Mackey.

If Buser can hold his current pace, he will pass under the burlled arch on Front Street late tonight, shattering the race record of 10 days, 15 hours and 38 minutes established last year by Jeff King.

King's 1993 run over the 1,100-mile route from Anchorage to Nome topped Buser's 1992 mark of 10:19:17.

Also awaiting the winner is a \$50,000 payday from a total purse of \$300,000.

Buser said breaking King's record wouldn't mean much to him, but becoming the third musher to win more than one Iditarod would be special.

"That's a pretty elite group," he

said, referring to five-time champion Rick Swenson and Susan Butcher, who has four Iditarod wins.

Buser arrived in this Bering Sea coastal village, about 50 miles before Elim, early Monday morning, and as he fed and rested his team, he said the only thing he worried about down the stretch was keeping his dogs enthusiastic about the trail.

"The only thing that would slow me down is a gang mutiny," he said, "and I fully intend to not have that happen."

Mackey, who won the 1983 Iditarod and placed third last year, pulled into Koyuk at about 3 p.m. Alaska time, an hour after Buser and his dozen dogs had left for Elim.

Buser rested his dogs here for five hours, but after only 1 1/2 hours, Mackey repacked his sled, roused his 15 weary dogs and set out across the Norton Bay ice in pursuit.

By cutting short his break in Koyuk, Mackey chopped Buser's five-hour lead in half. It also gave him more of a cushion against a late charge by King, who was third.

Mackey on Monday all but conceded the race. He said the ideal conditions along the coast — good trail and no wind — would make it almost impossible to slow Buser down, and that his own team wasn't going to go any faster.

In fact, he said his prime concern was protecting his second-place position, worth \$41,000.

"I've got to stay on my toes — I'm not as far out of reach from them as Martin is from me," Mackey said. "I'm kind of in a hot spot here — Martin can relax a bit, but I've gotta keep moving."

King left Koyuk at 7:28 p.m., three hours after Mackey. Neither had reached Elim as of late Monday.

Bill Cotter was fourth out of Koyuk at 9:42 p.m., and in the next 10 minutes followed by Doug Swingley, Charlie Boulding and Swenson.

Still in Koyuk were DeeDee Jonrowe and Tim Osmar.

Butcher was in 10th place, which would be her worst Iditarod finish since she came in 19th in her first attempt in 1978. She was on the trail from Shaktolik to Koyuk, at least three hours behind Jonrowe and Osmar.

## Principal suspended after interracial prom comments

WEDOWEE, Ala. (AP) — The high school prom is on, and the principal who talked of banning interracial couples is out, at least for now.

Hulond Humphries was suspended Monday by the Randolph County School Board while it investigates complaints he told a mixed-race student she was a "mistake" and said there would be no prom if blacks and whites showed up as dates.

About 500 people jammed the Randolph County High School auditorium amid heavy security for the hearing. Civil rights leaders spoke on behalf of the mixed-race student, ReVonda Bowen.

Humphries' supporters said his comments were misinterpreted and were a result of his frustration with racially motivated fights at the 680-student school, which is 62 percent white and 38 percent black.

Four white school board members and the only black member voted to suspend Humphries with pay pending an investigation. The board's two other white members dissented. It was not known how long the investigation would take.

Neither Humphries, who is white, nor Ms. Bowen attended the hearing. Humphries had no comment, his wife said early today.

Many blacks at the hearing said the episode was just the latest in a long history of biased acts by Humphries.

A 1989 review by the U.S. Department of Education criticized Humphries for encouraging black and white students to ride separate buses. It also charged that Humphries disciplined blacks more frequently and more harshly than whites.

"They should have gotten rid of him a long time ago," said City Councilman John Bailey, who is black. "Blacks are not going to give in. This stuff has been going on for 20 years."

The Rev. Joseph Lowery of Atlanta, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was cheered by the black contingent when he said principals "are not charged with dictating the private lives of individuals."

"Our school must set examples," Lowery said. "We've got to get along in this country."

The high school was closed today after a bomb scare Monday at the middle school in this rural east-central Alabama county of 20,000.

Humphries, 55, who has been principal for 25 years, told juniors and seniors at a Feb. 24 assembly that the prom in April might be canceled if mixed-race couples showed up.

Ms. Bowen, president of the junior class, has a white father and a black mother. She said she asked Humphries, "Who am I supposed to take to the prom?"

She said he responded: "That's just it. Your mom and dad made a mistake having you as a mixed child."

She burst into tears at the remark. Some students said Humphries tried without success to explain himself and apologize in the uproar that followed.

As word of his comments reached parents and school officials, Humphries met with students the next day and said the prom was on but did not mention his racial remarks. He has not commented on them since.

## Britain returns flag from War of 1812

LONDON (AP) — A huge American flag captured during the War of 1812 is going home.

The garrison flag from Old Fort Niagara, N.Y., is leaving a Scottish castle this afternoon to begin its journey back to America. It is expected to be back in its original home by Wednesday night.

"It's an amazing flag," said Bob Rieger, president of the Old Fort Niagara Association. "The star pattern is unique among American flags."

The flag has 13 stripes and 14 stars. The stars are arranged in a comet pattern, with a cluster of stars in the right corner of the blue field with stars shooting out to the left. Each star is about one foot across, Rieger said.

The flag has been housed in Megginch Castle in Errol, Scotland, about 30 miles north of Edinburgh in the home of the Baroness Strange.

It was Lady Strange's great-great-grand-uncle Maj. Gen. Sir Gordon Drummond, commander of the British forces in Upper Canada during the War of 1812, who captured the flag. It was given to the prince regent, later King George IV, and returned to Drummond sometime before 1850.

The Old Fort Niagara Association learned of the flag's existence about eight years ago, Rieger said.

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## Don't smoke, don't drink, don't charge

By DAVE SKIDMORE  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Connie Bedell of Springfield, Va., sent her twin daughters to college, she offered them the standard advice: Don't drink, don't stay out too late and buckle up. In retrospect, she wishes she had offered one more admonition: No credit cards.

The daughters, Michele and Diana, now seniors at Radford College in Virginia, both got into debt trouble after obtaining credit cards as sophomores.

Neither had a job or a regular income beyond what their parents provided. They did not need their parents' co-signatures to obtain their Visa and Discover cards. Yet when both daughters fell behind, their creditors turned to their parents to repay the more than \$4,000 they owed.

According to Rep. Joseph P. Kennedy II, D-Mass., college students and credit cards are becoming an increasingly bad mix thanks to the card companies' aggressive marketing campaigns and easy standards for granting cards.

"Why in God's name would they say students don't need a job or a co-signer?" asked Kennedy, whose district includes Harvard, MIT and other major universities.

"There's an underlying presumption the parents are on the hook," he answered.

Credit card companies say they make extensive efforts to educate younger card users and that students seem to handle them at least as well as older adults.

"College students are some of the most responsible credit users in the market today," said Susan Murdy, a vice president at Visa U.S.A. Inc. "College students pay their balance in full more than half the time, and when they do carry a balance, the amount is about one-third that of the average for other consumers."

Gary Flood, senior vice president for MasterCard International Inc., said his company's educational campaign includes free videos and teacher's guides on sound financial practices.

Bedell and her daughters told their stories recently to the House Banking consumer subcommittee, which Kennedy chairs.

Like hundreds of other parents, she is facing a choice: Pay off debts she didn't know were accruing or see her children's credit rating ruined for the crucial seven years following graduation when they are buying their first cars, renting apartments and, per-

haps, buying their first homes.

"I'm going to have to pay these bills over my own. It's going to be hard. All of our savings for tuition are gone," said Bedell, whose fourth child plans to enter college this fall.

Ruth Susswein, executive director of Bankcard Holders of America, a consumer advocacy group, said an estimated 61 percent of the nation's eight million college students have at least one credit card. And card issuers are pushing aggressively, with giveaways and promotions, to sign up even more.

"Students are one of the very few untapped markets left," she said. "Some of the largest issuers ... are now targeting college-bound high school seniors. ... However, too many students have no idea what they're getting into."

Most don't understand they lose the 25-day, interest-free grace period unless they pay off their accounts in full every month and most don't know that by paying the minimum balance each month it will take twice as long to pay off their debt as it did to earn their diploma, she said.

Ken McEldowney, executive director of the San Francisco-based Consumer Action, said the 1,600 community credit counseling agencies his group works with report "a marked increase in the number of young clients ... who have large debts."

"A common statement we hear is that the bank must be making a mistake, because, 'I make the minimum payment each month but the balance I owe hardly goes down,'" he said.

Michelle Lopopolo, a lab technician in Worcester, Mass., and a 1992 graduate of Emmanuel College in Boston, said she resented the implication that young adults can't be trusted to be financially responsible.

"Just look at the newspapers and see how many foreclosures there are on houses. Are you going to say we shouldn't be giving out loans to 40-year-olds?" she asked.

Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney, D-N.Y., has suggested that minors might be denied cards unless their parent co-signs.

Kennedy said a less Draconian way of tackling the problem may be requiring lenders to grant students no more credit than they can repay with their own incomes.

Connie Bedell offers her own solution: "Along with the instructions, 'Don't talk to strangers' add, 'Don't take a credit card.'"

## Republicans hope for Senate majority leader

By JOHN KING  
AP Political Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Working two shifts, 30 researchers comb transcripts and news clippings looking for controversy and contradictions, all part of a singular mission: to make Bob Dole the next Senate majority leader.

It's a project that has been under way for 13 months at the National Republican Senatorial Committee, in a building named after the man who was president the last time Dole had that title: Ronald Reagan.

That was in 1986, before dramatic Democratic gains in the midterm elections of Reagan's final term. As the first midterm elections of the Clinton administration take shape, it is the Democrats on defense, holding 21 of the 34 Senate seats in play and hoping to hold their majority.

History suggests Republicans will pick up at least two seats, and the spring outlook gives the party decent odds of gaining even more.

The man who now holds the job Dole covets, Sen. George Mitchell of Maine, scoffs at talk of a Republican majority. "The numbers may change one or two, but it's now 56-44 and it's going to be very close to that at the end of this election."

But any Republican gains would hurt Clinton in the Senate, where wiling party loyalty already makes the Democratic margin more fragile than numbers suggest.

"If they gain two or three seats and also gain 15 to 18 in the House, it will very significantly change things," said conservative analyst Kevin Phillips. "It would be the largest number of Republicans in Congress facing a

Democratic president since 1951-52 with Harry Truman."

Mitchell, ironically, now figures prominently in the Republican takeover strategy. His surprise decision not to seek re-election turned a solid Democratic seat into another tossup race.

The openings for Republicans begin with the five seats held by Democrats in which the incumbent is not running — in Maine, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee and Arizona. Republicans are viewed as competitive in the first four and are favored in Arizona.

In the three open races for Republican-held seats, the GOP has the edge in Missouri, and so far at least in Wyoming, where Democrats are trying to recruit Gov. Michael Sullivan. The third such race is in Minnesota, where Democratic prospects are brighter.

After those contests, the burden of blocking major GOP inroads rests with vulnerable Democratic incumbents.

Like Sen. Charles Robb of Virginia. A former Marine who married Lyndon Johnson's daughter and rebuilt his state's Democratic Party while governor, Robb for much of the 1980s made every list of presidential prospects. But in the days leading up to his Sunday re-election announcement, Robb wrote a letter to supporters acknowledging being "clearly vulnerable on the question of socializing under circumstances not appropriate to a married man."

Robb's troubles alone make Virginia's one of 1994's most celebrated contests and it could get even more notoriety: Oliver North, the former Marine and White House aide of Iran-Contra fame, is the likely

Republican nominee.

Robb once had more company on the list of vulnerable Democratic incumbents. One reason that list is shorter now is the retirements of Sens. Donald Riegle of Michigan and Dennis DeConcini of Arizona.

Also, several Democrats have worked tirelessly to shore up their standing and fund-raising, including six-term Sen. Edward M. Kennedy.

But the improved outlook for some Democratic incumbents is also attributable to disappointing Republican recruiting.

Massachusetts Gov. William Weld declined requests that he challenge Kennedy, and former New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean said no to challenging Sen. Frank Lautenberg, who remains a prime GOP target.

Democrats have had some recruiting woes, too, especially for races against three Republicans who won last time with 52 percent or less: Sens. Conrad Burns of Montana, Slade Gorton of Washington and Connie Mack of Florida. While Democrats believe Burns and Gorton are vulnerable in any event, they privately concede little chance of toppling Mack. His Democratic challengers include Hillary Rodham Clinton's brother, Hugh Rodham.

Looking to offset Republican gains elsewhere, Democrats are eyeing Delaware, where Democratic Attorney General Charles Oerby is challenging five-term GOP Sen. William Roth.

Democrats also think a conservative primary challenge might soften up Rhode Island Republican Sen. John Chafee, but Chafee's high profile in the health care debate assures an election-year spotlight.

## Nixon gets warmer reception from Russian lawmakers

MOSCOW (AP) — Spurred by Russia's president and premier, Richard Nixon got a warmer reception Monday when he told legislators their country remains a great power with a right to set its own foreign policy course.

The former president urged the foreign affairs committee of the Duma, the lower house of parliament, to work out any differences with the United States despite recent "profoundly disturbing developments" in the two countries' relations.

Refused a meeting with President Boris Yeltsin or Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Nixon showed no hard feelings in his remarks and was applauded by the lawmakers.

Committee chairman Vladimir Lukin, the former ambassador to the United States, hailed him as a "highly interesting and desirable visitor" and a longtime proponent of strong U.S.-Russian relations.

But pleasanties aside, Nixon said the two countries must more frankly address their "profound differences."

"After the euphoria of 1991 and 1992, and after summit meetings, there has been too much of a tendency to assume that everything is going smoothly between our two countries," he said.

"That is not true. Because if you look at the situation in Russia and in America, there are some profoundly disturbing developments."

Nixon said there has been a resurgence of anti-Russian attitudes in America because of an "exaggerated" reaction to a recent CIA spy scandal. He said many Americans fear Russia will revert to an aggressive foreign policy.

The 81-year-old Nixon, making his 10th visit to Moscow, said his Russian friends have shown a profound change in outlook and have become much more pro-Russian, even since last year.


"I understand this. Russia is a great power, and Russia as a great power must chart its own course in foreign policy," he said.

But he said in response to a question

that even though "it is not for somebody from the United States to try to judge Russia as to how it is handling its minorities, etcetera ... it is important for those in Russia to recognize that people are watching."

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# The Pampa News

## NEA Crossword Puzzle

### ACROSS

- 1 Can. prov.
- 4 Twitch
- 12 Type of bean
- 13 Egg-shaped
- 14 Part of the eye
- 15 A rose — rose
- 16 Actor — Andrews
- 17 Comedian
- 18 Putting a barrier across
- 20 Soft leather
- 21 Legal matter
- 22 Apply gently
- 23 Mrs. Truman
- 25 Animal's limb
- 30 Wide shoe size
- 31 Singer — Judd
- 33 Even (poet.)
- 34 Guido's high note

### DOWN

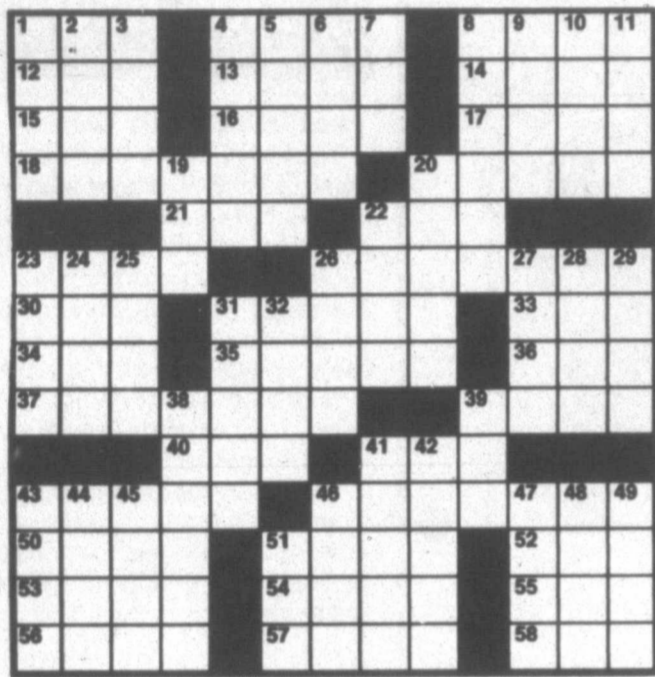
- 1 — pro quo
- 2 Bear constel.

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

DDAY YIP ROA  
 GERMS UNICORN  
 ELATE PENANCE  
 ROC REPRESS  
 ENOS BIT STIR  
 ALBEIT ANA  
 GEODE AIRDRY  
 ORDEAL DOTES  
 IND KISMET  
 NEIL VEE SEME  
 TELERAN FAA  
 CUISINE ELLIS  
 PRESSES MEALY  
 AES PDT OATS

- 35 Water -encircled lands
- 36 Epoch
- 37 Egyptian tomb
- 39 Black bird
- 40 Gazelle
- 41 Status —
- 43 Onion roll
- 46 Small ravines
- 50 Disappointed man
- 51 Unite
- 52 Grain
- 53 Willow
- 54 Site of Taj Mahal
- 55 Eternally (poet.)
- 56 Serene
- 57 South African Dutch
- 58 Opp. of NNW

- 8 Chewy candy
- 9 Revelers' cry
- 10 Long grass
- 11 Actor — Danny —
- 19 Married woman's title
- 20 Hindu garments
- 22 Rounded roof
- 23 Paging signal
- 24 Slippery
- 25 Scorch
- 26 Pleat
- 27 Sly, sidelong look
- 28 Finnish first name
- 29 Chew on
- 31 Actor — Leonard —
- 32 A continent
- 38 Glowing
- 39 Mountain pass
- 41 Paper measure
- 42 Of arm bone
- 43 — a-brac
- 44 Tiny amount
- 45 Author Jean M. —
- 46 Lively (sl.)
- 47 Angers
- 48 Organs of sight
- 49 Withered
- 51 Poke



### WALNUT COVE



By Mark Cullum

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** Make a sincere effort to be more philosophical than materialistic today. If you place too much emphasis on the latter, it might cause you to appear extremely selfish. Pisces, treat yourself to a birthday gift. Send for your Astro-Graph predictions for the year ahead by mailing \$1.25 and a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Astro-Graph, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 4465, New York, N.Y. 10163. Be sure to state your zodiac sign.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** Some adjustments may be required today in an arrangement where you are sharing something of value with another. Don't expect more than that to which you're entitled.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** It might be wise to steer clear of an associate today who always tries to impose his/her opinions and views on you. Your tolerance level is very low.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** Serious matters should be treated with the respect they deserve today and not handled indifferently. If you don't do it right the first time, you'll have to go back and do it again.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** There's a possibility your priorities might be out of order today. Don't place more attention on casual interests than you do on critical circumstances.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** Strive to be thoughtful today and don't bring problems into the household that have nothing to do with the family. You could get everyone stirred up over nothing.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** It could make a bad, lasting impression today if you're caught telling fibs, even small ones. Keep this in mind if you feel inclined to tell a tall tale about your exploits.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** Try to keep a poker face if you are doing some hard horse trading today. Don't let the desire in your eyes for what you want betray you.

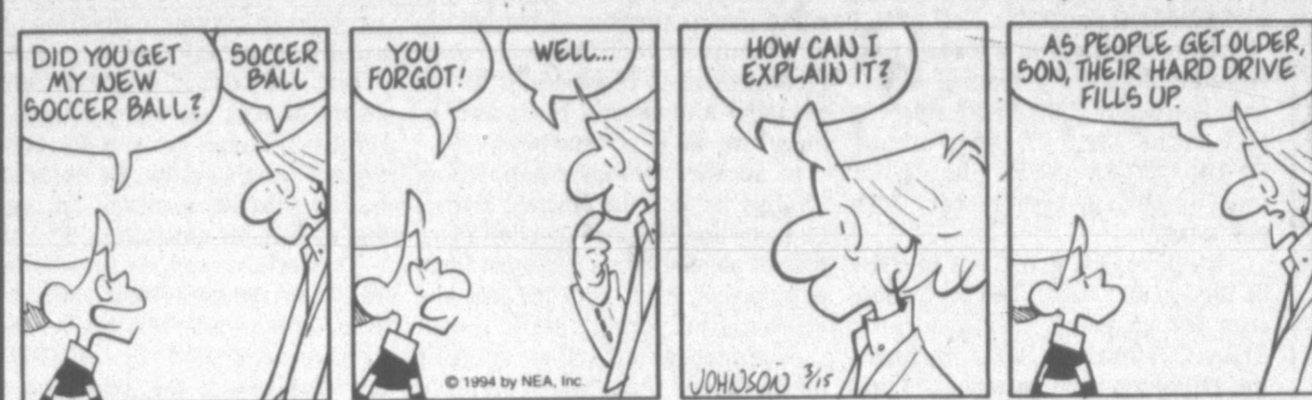
**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** Today you might be tempted once again to follow the advise of someone who advised you poorly in the past. You'd be better off thinking for yourself.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** Don't talk about one co-worker to another today unless you have some favorable comments to make. The person you're discussing may later find out everything you said.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Your social inclinations might be quite strong today and you'll be eager for companionship, yet you might have a troubled feeling of not being in harmony with persons with whom you've involved.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** There is a possibility today you might strive very hard for something only to discover after it is attained that it isn't really what you wanted after all.

### ARLO & JANIS



By Jimmy Johnson

### EEK & MEEK



By Howie Schneider

### B.C.



By Johnny Hart

### MARVIN



By Tom Armstrong

### MARMADUKE



By Brad Anderson

### KIT N' CARLYLE



By Larry Wright

### ALLEY OOP



By Dave Graue

### BEATTIE BLVD.



By Bruce Beattie

### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



By Bil Keane

### WINTHROP



By Dick Cavalli

### THE BORN LOSER



By Art and Chip Sansom

### FRANK AND ERNEST



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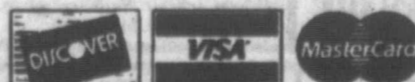
HOMELAND	FOOD KING
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