

Seattle is 3-0

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THE VOICE OF THE NORTHWEST SINCE 1863

A HEARST NEWSPAPER

Wednesday morning • February 10, 1999

Olchefske named to city's top school job

He vows to carry on with Stanford's vision

By RUTH TEICHROEB
PI REPORTER

Praising Acting Superintendent Joseph Olchefske's "grace under pressure," the Seattle School Board voted 6-1 last night to name the former investment banker to the top job left vacant by the late John Stanford.

In an emotional moment after the vote, the 40-year-old Olchefske, hugging his 4-year-old daughter India and vowed to carry on Stanford's vision of improving education for all of the district's 47,600 students.

"I had trouble not having a few tears up there, wishing John were here," Olchefske said.

"It's a bittersweet moment." Stanford, a charismatic Army general, served as superintendent from August 1995 until his death in late November after an eight-month battle against leukemia.

Olchefske, characterized by one board member as a "sentimental favorite" because of his close relationship with Stanford, was hired in 1995 by Stanford to be the district's chief financial officer. He was appointed chief operating officer in January 1998, and then stepped in to run the district when his boss became ill.

"We have a lot of work to do," Olchefske told the board. "We are in fact far from done... I want a great school system for my daughter."

See OLCHEFSKE, Page A6

You can live afloat, but only in boat, city decides

Settlement spells out what vessels are legal

By STEVEN GOLDSMITH
PI REPORTER

Brian Zderic traded a landlubber's cozy comforts seven years ago for the tang and sway of life aboard a boat.

So when Seattle authorities tried tooust his boy Blue Heron as an illegal dwelling on Lake Union, Zderic took the city to court.

"Seattle has had live-aboards since Day One," said Zderic, 32, a Boeing engineer. "It'd be a shame if this type of lifestyle died."

Zderic and two other Lake Union live-aboards prevailed last week in a legal settlement that allows them to stay on their boats as long as their dwellings really are boats capable of leaving the dock.

"As long as the vessels are fitted out to be navigable, they will be acceptable to the city," said the trio's attorney, Jeffrey Eustis.

That could remove a legal cloud over as many as 50 or so live-on barges and scows scattered around Lake Washington, the Duwamish River and especially Lake Union.

Those often-ungainly, sometimes custom-made vessels floated in uncertain legal waters between Seattle's strictly limited fleet of permitted floating homes and barges, and traditional sailboats and power yachts, which are obvious watercraft that federal law doesn't allow cities to regulate.

"Certain things are clearly built to be boats, and certain things are built to be houses," said Alan Justad, a city attorney. "It's those things that are

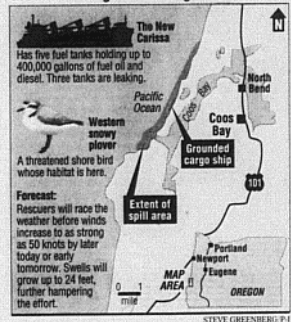
Race to head off oil disaster

■ Tar coats beaches in Oregon ■ Storm menaces grounded ship



Cleanup crews rake up oily sand on the beach near the entrance to Coos Bay, Ore. The oil has been spilling from the freighter New Carissa, which ran aground on Thursday.

Grounded freighter leaking fuel



STEVE GREENBERG/PI

'We expect it to move north' to Washington

By ROB TAYLOR
and SCOTT SUNDE
PI REPORTERS

COOS BAY, Ore. — Salvage crews will race time, weather and a goopy mess befouling a pristine coastline today to protect a beached freighter from a fierce storm expected tonight.

Three fuel tanks on the New Carissa continued to leak oil slowly yesterday, spreading the thick tar on six miles of sandy beaches. The tanks may hold as much as 140,000 gallons.

Today, the rescue tug Salvage Chief will try to turn the freighter's bow into the sea to better protect it from worsening weather.

Heavy waves have pushed the ship sideways, causing it to rock 15 degrees side to side.

Winds of 50 knots and gusts of 60 knots are forecast.

"The intent is to put the bow into the sea, so we don't incur anymore more

structural damage," said Gene Maestas, a chief petty officer with the U.S. Coast Guard.

But the weather will provide a brief window to do that. "We have one good day, then it gets worse," said Alan Hoffmeister, a spokesman for the Bureau of Land Management.

Preparations also will begin today that could lead to pumping oil out of the ship and into containers on the shore.

In Washington, environmental officials set in motion preparations to deal with the spill on the state's beaches and bays. Surveys of bird populations were begun and an advance team from Washington state was dispatched to Coos Bay.

Even though the freighter is 200 miles from Washington, officials worried that the northerly currents and southern winds that are typical this time of year may push the heavy oil to the north.

"We expect it to move north," said Steve Hunter, who supervises spill response at the

Washington Department of Ecology. "Just how and where it will move is hard to tell. But in the past in winter spills, it has moved north."

The best guess is that tar balls from the New Carissa could come ashore in Washington in three to five days, Hunter said.

Noting that the freighter carries as much as 400,000 gallons of fuel, Hunter said the beached vessel has "tremendous potential for a major spill." Officials in Coos Bay said they did not know how much oil the vessel was carrying when it beached.

Most at risk are bird populations wintering on the Washington coast, coastal razor clams and oyster beds in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor, said Dick Logan, who assesses spill damage for the Ecology Department.

In southern Oregon, Coast Guard officials said they were doing everything possible to contain the oil seeping from the

See OIL SPILL, Page A7

Refocused Boeing delivers a 777 without any defects

By BRUCE RAMSEY
PI REPORTER

Last year it was the Dog of the Dow, according to the upcoming edition of Fortune magazine.

Investors were unhappy about the performance of its stock. Customers voiced displeasure with manufacturing defects and delivery holdups.

But last week, Boeing did something one of its best customers could not remember ever happening before. On Feb. 3, the company delivered a 777 to United Airlines with no defects.

"It was a perfectly clean airplane,

with the ground checks and the flight checks," said United's vice president for engineering and technical support, Lou Mancini.

No "squawks."

Mancini, who has been taking delivery of Boeing airplanes for 14 years, said he could not remember it happening before. And he would know. He has an inspection team at Boeing that goes over every new plane before the airline accepts it.

"They're up there to make sure our interests are protected," he said.

See BOEING, Page A9

Senate closes doors for debate

'Bipartisan acquittal' of Clinton possible by end of the week

By DAVID ESPO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Senate shut its doors yesterday to debate its verdict on the impeachment of President Clinton, with the outcome so evident that one Republican said "bipartisan acquittal" was possible by week's end for the second president in history to be put on trial for his job.

After a month and a day spent listening in silence to opposing legal arguments, senators spent four hours in private deliberations in a Senate chamber cleared of House prosecutors, presidential lawyers and gallery spectators.

The first senator to speak in the closed session, Slade Gorton, R-Wash., told colleagues he would vote to remove Clinton because "it is clear that he obstructed justice." Gorton released his remarks following the session.

Gorton said he would vote to



The Senate rule book is scrutinized by Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, left, and Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., during yesterday's session.

■ 'Yes' and 'no': Gorton to split his vote on Clinton. Page A3

■ Starr inquiry: Now prosecutor will be investigated. Page A3

before lawmakers adjourned until today.

Republican Larry Craig of Idaho said there was relatively little give and take, although occasionally one senator would interrupt another to ask: "Why do you believe that?" or "Where did you find that?" in the trial record.

There was no indication that any Democrats had announced plans to vote to convict Clinton or that any

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WORLD

Germans establishing huge fund for victims of Nazis

Briefs

CHILE
FBI did some of Pinochet's dirty work, files now show

The FBI tried to track suspected associates of Chilean leftist in the United States in the 1970s on behalf of the government of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, the Chilean dictator, newly declassified documents show.

The FBI sent agents in New York and Dallas to search for two people whose names were found in the address book of a courier for an underground Marxist group in Chile. The courier was arrested in Paraguay in 1975, and Paraguayan police passed on the information to American officials, the records show.

"The FBI initiated an investigation in the United States of the aforementioned people and addresses," the FBI's legal attaché in Buenos Aires, Argentina, wrote to a senior Chilean official in June 1975. "I will inform you of the results of an investigation as soon as I have them in hand."

Nothing came of the FBI investigations detailed in the documents. The bureau could not find the people it was looking for and closed the case. Nationalities and whereabouts of those investigated are unknown.

Still, the records show that the FBI worked in liaison with the Pinochet government during the mid-1970s, when thousands of Chileans were rounded up and killed.

Pinochet, now 83 and in London, is awaiting a ruling by Britain's highest court on whether he may be extradited on a Spanish judge's warrant to face charges of crimes against humanity committed during his rule from 1973 to 1990.

UNITED NATIONS

Plans submitted to check Iraq for nuclear program

The International Atomic Energy Agency has submitted plans for long-term monitoring of Iraq that call for "intrusive" inspections and assume that Baghdad might try again to produce nuclear weapons.

In a report to the United Nations Security Council Monday, the agency director, Mohammed el-Baradei, said the monitoring would cost at least \$10 million a year.

The report concludes once again that Iraq is denying the agency documents and material it has requested, including, for instance, documentary evidence that Iraq has abandoned its nuclear weapons program. And the agency said it could not verify that Iraq had not hidden away banned nuclear equipment or materials.

The agency has therefore concluded that any long-term monitoring must be "comprehensive, rigorous and, as a result, intrusive."

INDONESIA

East Timor leader moved from cell to house arrest

East Timor's separatist leader was moved out of a prison in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, today and placed under house arrest.

The transfer of Jose Alexandre Gamao came the day after U.S.-sponsored talks in New York over the former Portuguese colony, which was invaded by Indonesia in 1975 and annexed.

Gamao raised his fist in a rebel salute and smiled while being driven out of the grounds of Jakarta's Cipinang Prison.

Gamao will be confined to a house next to another jail in Jakarta, Indonesian Justice Minister Muladi said on hand to welcome Gamao.

Gamao has said the move will allow him to participate more easily in peace negotiations between Indonesia and Portugal.

Arrested in 1992, Gamao is serving a 20-year sentence for fighting Indonesian forces in his homeland. Separatist guerrillas there have been active for years, and the Indonesian military has been accused of widespread human rights abuses.

ELSEWHERE

London: Seven weeks after he ditched a balloon in the Pacific Ocean, British tycoon Richard Branson said yesterday that he will make another attempt to be the first to circumnavigate the world in a balloon. Branson said his teammates from the December attempt - American millionaire Steve Fossett and two British military men - will also join him in the voyage beginning in the southern hemisphere in late spring.

■ P-I News Services

By DAVID E. SANGER
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON - The German government said yesterday that it had agreed in principle to establish a huge fund, financed by the biggest names in German industry and banking, to compensate victims of Nazi horrors.

The proposal, announced here by a top aide of Germany's new chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, appears to be an effort to short-circuit a wave of lawsuits in American courts against German companies that made use of slave labor and forced labor during World War II or profited from the seizure of assets belonging to Jews and other victims.

German officials said that the size of the fund is still to be determined. They have made it clear that they want to avoid the kind of international brushing that Switzerland suffered for nearly two years as the government fought off legal and diplomatic actions against Swiss banks.

Ultimately, the two largest banks in Swit-

zerland reached a \$1.25 billion settlement, which was formally signed last month.

At a news conference here yesterday, Schröder's chief-of-staff, Bodo Hombach, said that it would take some time before the German government, its major corporations, Jewish groups and lawyers representing Holocaust victims settled on the size of a fund to resolve outstanding claims against German companies.

Nonetheless, participants in the talks said they thought the amount paid by the Swiss banks would be a starting point and that the German settlement - which is likely to include Deutsche Bank, Daimler-Benz, Volkswagen, Siemens and others - could easily reach into the billions.

What the German concerns want in return is exactly what the Swiss got: a "global" agreement that ends virtually all suits. Hombach also suggested yesterday that Germany had concluded, after watching the Swiss experience, that a prolonged fight was not in the interest of the country or its companies.

Hombach noted on Monday that, since

Germany's surrender in 1945, the government has already paid 140 billion marks, or about \$80 billion at current exchange rates, in war reparations and aid.

But there has never been a settlement by German companies, including those that forced East Europeans to work in German war factories for little or no wages.

Other individuals were slave laborers in the death camps, working for the government, and one of the unresolved questions is whether the German Parliament will create a fund of its own or contribute to the one financed by industry.

The German announcement, which came after lengthy negotiations on Monday at the State Department, was praised from the World Jewish Congress, which pressed the Swiss case and has been a central player in the negotiations with Germany.

But lawyers for the plaintiffs in the suits - who have often been at odds with the World Jewish Congress - were far more cautious. Several plaintiffs' lawyers who are involved in class-action lawsuits against German companies

over Holocaust-related claims said that a meeting here Monday night with Hombach had marked the beginning of a dialogue but that it was premature to say any kind of agreement was in the offing.

The German government is apparently hopeful that U.S. State Department officials, led by Stuart Eizenstat, the undersecretary for business and economic affairs, will find a mechanism that allows the Holocaust-related claims to be resolved outside the courtroom.

One possibility is a bilateral treaty between the United States and Germany terminating the claims once the new fund is established, an issue that Hombach said would be discussed at the White House tomorrow in a meeting between Schröder and President Clinton.

But it is unclear that a bilateral treaty would completely protect the German companies. Many of the claims are being brought on behalf of former forced laborers from countries such as Poland, who would not be affected by any bilateral agreement between the United States and Germany.

Mediator of Kosovo talks sees progress

But both sides remain at odds on autonomy

By JEFFREY ULBRICH
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RANBOUILLET, France - The American mediator at the Kosovo peace talks pointed to progress yesterday despite a deadlock over distracting demands from rival Serbs and ethnic Albanians.

Each side, fearing that it will come up a loser, is trying to jump ahead to more difficult issues before some of the basics are settled.

"This is not easy, and frankly it's not a lot of fun ... but we are making progress," said Christopher Hill, who heads the team of three mediators shuttling between Serb and ethnic Albanian delegations.

The talks aim to reach a three-year interim settlement for Serbia's southern province of Kosovo, where more than 200 people have died and about 300,000 have been driven from their homes in a year of fighting between Yugoslav forces and ethnic Albanians who want independence.

The warring parties were pushed to the table by the threat of NATO attacks on Serbia, which makes up Yugoslavia's largest and the smallest, Montenegro.

Foreign Ministers Hubert Vedrine of France and Robin Cook of Britain, co-hosts of the conference at the magnificent 14th century Chateau de Rambouillet, returned here yesterday after three days after the opening of talks, in an apparent effort to move them along.

They met with mediators Hill, Wolfgang Ischinger of Austria and Boris Mayorsky of Russia.

"You should not think it is always a crisis when we come here," Cook told reporters.

But the Albanians and Serb delegations remained deadlocked on the third full day of talks over Serb demand to keep Yugoslavia's borders intact and Albanian demands for a referendum on independence, a formal basis for NATO guarantees for the eventual interim settlement.

Representatives of the Kosovo Liberation Army, the rebel group battling for independence, have said they would accept only independence.

Serbia has rejected freedom for Kosovo, where 90 percent of its 2 million people are ethnic Albanian.

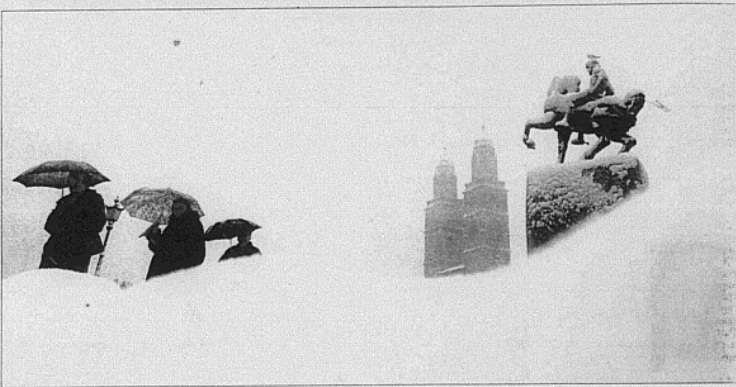
Mediators want the Albanians to give up their demand for independence in exchange for a three-year interim period.

The six-nation Contact Group - the United States, Russia, France, Britain, Germany and Italy - drafted the interim settlement. Topics that have not been broached here yet include how such a settlement will be implemented or the eventual deployment of NATO troops into Kosovo.

NATO generals are working on plans to dispatch 25,000 to 30,000 troops to Kosovo, including up to 4,000 Americans, to enforce the peace agreement.

Russia strongly opposes the NATO threat of force and Western military source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said yesterday that discussion of a NATO deployment is being put off until the end of the talks to avoid a diplomatic dispute with the Russians.

Europe skids to a standstill in snow



Pedestrians in Zurich walk through drifts near the Hans Waldmann memorial yesterday as heavy snow wreaked havoc on transportation.

Avalanches kill 5; alpine villages evacuated

By IAN PHILLIPS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANNECY, France - Heavy snow brought parts of Europe to a standstill yesterday, causing major avalanches in the French Alps that killed at least five people, roads and airports were shut down, mountain villages were evacuated and thousands of tourists were stranded at ski resorts in Switzerland and Austria.

In two villages just north of the popular French ski resort of Chamonix, 200 rescue workers, using sensors, searched for the Italian and Swiss borders. Chamonix is about 30 miles south of Geneva.

No details were immediately available about the fifth person killed.

French President Jacques Chirac, who was meeting with German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder in Strasbourg, France, said he felt "infinite sadness."

Peter Borgard, the owner of the Hotel les Becs Rodages in Montroc,

of the annual French school winter holidays. Rescue efforts in Le Tour and Montrou-le-Franet for at least nine people still missing were continuing through the night, despite the falling snowfall.

The main police department in the Haute Savoie region in eastern France where the avalanches took place said a 4-year-old girl had died as well as a man in his fifties.

Rescuers discovered the bodies of another man and a woman yesterday evening in the region, which is located near the Italian and Swiss borders. Chamonix is about 30 miles south of Geneva.

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Peter Borgard, the owner of the Hotel les Becs Rodages in Montroc,

said he saw a giant wave of snow crashing down toward his building. "My first aim was to evacuate the customers," he said. "My biggest fear now is that some of my friends are trapped under the snow."

The injured and shocked gathered in Borgard's hotel, turning the lobby into an impromptu emergency ward.

Bernice Smith of Reading, Pa., who was vacationing a mile from the avalanche, telephoned her family to let them know she was safe, albeit stranded at her hotel.

"The road is buried under 30 feet of snow," said Smith, 51. "We can't go anywhere. We can't do anything. At least we have electricity."

Train services were canceled between Chamonix and St. Gervais because of fear of avalanches. Several highways as well as the Mont Blanc Tunnel were also closed.

In Switzerland, 20 inches of snow came on top of the five feet that had fallen Friday. Authorities in Switzerland and

Austria sounded an acute avalanche alert yesterday and evacuated dozens of people from villages most at risk. Others were told to stay in buildings safe from avalanches.

In Austria, helicopters struggled against the weather to deliver emergency food and medical supplies to cut-off areas. More than 3,000 tourists remained stranded by snow for the fourth straight day in the resort of Galtür in the popular Tirol region.

In the central Swiss resort of Wengen, a local couple were killed Monday when an avalanche crushed their restaurant.

Those going to work yesterday faced incredible traffic problems.

In Germany, a mass plebe force police to close the main highway between Munich and Salzburg, Austria. Four people were killed in road accidents late Monday and early yesterday in Germany.

Trains crossing Europe were also disrupted by snowdrifts and avalanche threats.

Jordan's new king greets his toughest skeptics

By BRIAN MURPHY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AMMAN, Jordan - Before the red throne that his father held for nearly five decades, King Abdullah accepted condolences yesterday from those he now must convince of his ability to rule: common Jordanians, who streamed to the palace from desert camps and distant villages.

Their embraces, kisses and handshakes were more than just additional scenes in the mosaic of grief since King Hussein's death.

The new monarch hopes to quickly cement the deep loyalty and popular support enjoyed by his father, especially among the Bedouin clans - bonds that are essential to the desert kingdom's stability.

Even his father's funeral could not keep the 37-year-old Abdullah from being drawn into the regional political pressure cooker. He met briefly Monday with leaders from all sides in the Middle East peace process: Palestinians, Israelis and Americans.

A 90-minute talk with Syrian President Hafez Assad dominated his attention. Although Jordanian officials gave no details, some analysts interpreted the visit as an attempt to counter speculation from Israel that Syria would seek to undermine the peace process and Jordan's new king.

"He undercut all these claims by showing up," said Labib Kamhawi, a political science professor at the University of Jordan. "It was a master stroke."

At the gates to Raghdan Palace yesterday, crowds began forming before the first orange tints of daybreak.

The mourners, shivering in Bedouin robes and ill-fitting dark suits, were a distinct contrast to the array of presidents, prime ministers and kings who paid their respects to Hussein the day before.

Mournful Koranic chants washed over the crowds as the gates opened.

Women - barred from official mourning events - watched the men stream toward the palace, then went to offer condolences to Hus-

sein's American-born widow, Queen Noor, at another palace.

Among the first to meet Abdullah were Bedouin tribe leaders - their robes scrubbed clean, their sandals dusty. A few read prayers to the king in the throne chamber, where Hussein's body lay the day before.

"The backing of the Bedouins is essential to the Hashemite kingdom. Hussein had assiduously courted their favor, bringing electricity and development to all corners of the poor country."

"It is going to be difficult without Hussein among us, but we believe Abdullah will be fine. This cub is from the lion king," said Sheikh Samir Aroumi, the 57-year-old leader of a 5,000-strong Bedouin clan.

Still, Abdullah faces a more difficult task in winning the trust of the entire nation - especially the Palestinians and conservatives, who oppose Jordan's Western tilt. As a military commander, Abdullah led an army crackdown in February 1998 on pro-Iraq demonstrations in the southern city of Maan.

Yeltsin rebounds, goes to the office for a while

By ANNA DOLGOV
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW - Boris Yeltsin sought to demonstrate yesterday that he is still in charge, going to work at the Kremlin a day after he abruptly returned from King Hussein's funeral in Jordan.

Doctors insisted the ailing president was fine, and spokesman Dmitry Yakushin denied Jordanian officials' reports that Yeltsin had received unspecified medical aid before his sudden departure Monday evening.

outside Moscow to continue recuperating from an ulcer.

Yeltsin was scheduled to go to the Kremlin again today for a meeting with Defense Minister Igor Sergeev, the Interfax news agency reported.

Chief Kremlin doctor Sergei Mirnov, who leads the team of doctors that cares for the president, said yesterday that "everything was normal" with Yeltsin, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency.

Yakushin said the trip had been difficult for Yeltsin, but he was in good health.

py about the president's trip to Jordan and the attention he received from other foreign leaders.

In a television appearance Monday, Yuzanov called for "restrictions to be put on the autonomy of the president's press secretary."

Interior Minister Sergei Stepashin and Justice Minister Pavel Krashinsky responded yesterday by appealing to Russia's prosecutor general to take action against Yuzanov for the "inadmissible, defamatory and ... insult" comments.

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INSIDE: Window washing business fined \$67,200 for ignoring safety. **B2**

■ Lottery **B2** ■ Funerals **B4**
 ■ Weather **B3**

SEATTLE & THE NORTHWEST

SECTION

B

Where the truck drivers brake for free speech



Susan Paynter

At Wild West Trucks, men are men and sheepish drivers may be nervous. Anybody who has buzzed by the pie-shaped spread of blacktop on Seattle's Lake City Way in the past year has no doubt noticed that this is auto-selling with attitude. There's the cocky, neon cowboy hat sign, of course. And more trucks, SUVs and used autos crammed into one fenced corral than you might reckon possible. Even the turquoise and rose ranch-style office is eye-catching. A wooden cigar store front and a carved cowboy survey the passing scene from behind the railing of the wide front porch. But it's the lighted reader board that's probably grabbed your attention, and maybe even gotten your dander up.

"Obstruction of what? Let's get on with the people's business!" it said on one side last week. On the other, "Let's vote and get it over with!"

Let owner Nick Blackburn be not itchin' for a fight. The affable Reagan Republican and former generous contributor to the GOP just sees his sign as free speech.

Newcomers to these parts may buy Seattle as the mealy-mouthed, purse-lipped place it's labeled in national magazines. But the Northwest has long been a magnet for mavericks. Maybe it's Puget Sound that makes us so salty and apt to spout off. Whatever the reason, there has always been plenty of elbowroom for opinion here. So this particular auto entrepreneur feels comfy posting the same message that got Richard Llamas in a peck of trouble last Thursday. Llamas was arrested for shouting pretty much the same words from the balcony of the Senate chamber at the impeachment debate drolled on. More impressively, Blackburn doesn't run much risk of turning prospective buyers away. In fact, last Saturday, a customer on a test drive told Blackburn he had found the same car at a South End lot. But he appreciated Blackburn's signage chutzpah, so, if offered a similar deal, said he'd buy from Wild West.

Not everybody traffics in such tolerance.

"Oh, boy! Sometimes we have people call and say some pretty brutal things, then hang up," Blackburn says. "But that's America. I say don't agree with us, just appreciate us."

Especially unappreciated were a couple of signs on abortion and "choice." Callers asked if Blackburn favored murdering babies. He said no, but he does favor everybody having a right to make their own decisions without being labeled bad or having their lives threatened. Blackburn doesn't mind if others disagree. And he doesn't argue when contrasting signs occasionally spring up along the street. One nearby private home posts notices that "the end is near." And signs on another open lot preach tax cuts.

But Blackburn did call up KIRO Radio's Dave Ross the other day. Blackburn likes Ross all right, but says he was "way out there" to defend as free speech a hit list of Web site wanted posters against doctors who perform abortions.

"I mean, I'm in the used car business," Blackburn said. "We're looked down on. People say we're deceitful. So what if you start collecting personal information on us and put us up on a Web site with our home addresses and the names of our kids?"

Blackburn and his salesmen and co-authors change the reader board twice a week. He's been doing it for years, starting at a former car lot and limo business he ran farther north on the same highway.

Not all his messages are political. Far from it. Yesterday, the board said, "Welcome back, Kathi Goertzen" in honor of the KOMO 4 News anchor's return from brain surgery. On the other side, the sign said, "King Hussein: In death, still the peacemaker."

Previous postings warmly welcomed new Husky coach Rick Neuheisen and Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren. They thanked the late Seattle Public Schools Superintendent John Stanford and saluted Metro bus drivers after one was shot on the Aurora Bridge. Once, the sign served as an all points bulletin for the driver of a truck in a hit-and-run death.

The aim is individuality and self-expression, Blackburn says. At a time when city arteries are

Tech-savvy getting music for a song

Industry frustrated that Internet makes free music simple

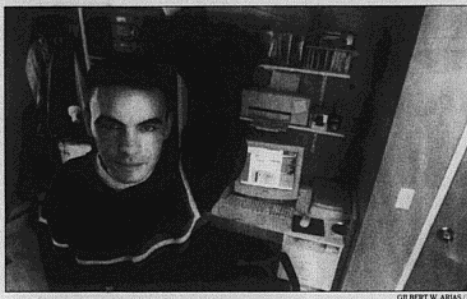
By RUTH SCHUBERT
 PI REPORTER

The John Belushi poster and Old Milwaukee sign aside, Mike Schierberl's cramped frat room is a storehouse of technology, the centerpiece a Pentium II 400 loaded with 128 megs of ram and an 11-gigabyte hard drive. "It's real big," Schierberl says. "But half of it's music right now."

Schierberl, a junior at the University of Washington, has crammed his computer with 1,435 CD-quality music files downloaded from the Internet using a compression technology known as MP3.

To techno-literate fans like Schierberl, MP3 has made the World Wide Web a candy store of tens of thousands of free songs. To the big record labels, the technology is an open invitation to pirate music that's protected by a copyright and that listeners rightfully should pay for.

The Recording Industry Association of America has launched an assault on the free flow of copyrighted music over the Internet, but it faces a tough battle — particularly on college campuses, where dorms are wired to



For college students like Mike Schierberl who have the technology, downloading music off the Internet is a breeze using MP3 compression technology.

the Internet through connections much faster than a T-1 line.

At a place like the UW, students can create a 100-title music library in an hour, drawing from hundreds of sites that offer MP3 files of popular — and protected — songs.

Using the most popular software, Winamp, it's simple to create custom CDs for parties

or roommates. And the files are so compressed that a standard CD will hold 200 songs.

The "wow, cool" factor is high enough that many students shrug off the niceties of copyright law.

The UW has no way to estimate how much the university's Internet capacity is used to download MP3 files. But ask a typical student.

The Recording Industry Association of America has launched an assault on the free flow of copyrighted music over the Internet.

"Everyone who has a computer here at the UW at least knows about it and probably has downloaded a bunch," said Kirk Lenstrom, a UW sophomore who lives in one of the university's most massive dorms, McMahon Hall. "I mean, I got into this late."

Three weeks ago, Lenstrom's guitar teacher asked him to practice a Blues Traveler song, "Hook." Rather than buy the CD or find someone to make him a copy, Lenstrom logged onto the Internet and found it within minutes. He has since loaded 97 songs into his music library.

Most of the songs are classic rock, some are pop tunes from the '80s that have great nostalgia value but that Lenstrom would never go out and buy, such as "Let's Hear It for the Boy" by Deniece Williams.

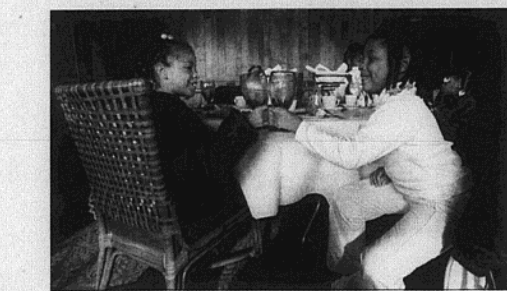
"The reason the recording industry is having a fit is because it's CD-quality sound, and I can just download it for free and they can't do anything about it," Lenstrom said. "Not in

See RECORDINGS, Page B2

Here's looking at good manners



Julius Phelps, 7, above, gets a pointer on remembering which fork to use for salad yesterday at Elliott Bay Marina's Palisade Restaurant. Julius was one of 25 Zion Preparatory Academy students who were "celebrating their manners" after completing two months of training with teacher Laura Nuemiller. At left, Yonnie Redmond, 8, and Jannea Loyd, 7, show perfect form as they toast each other with water glasses.



LEGISLATURE '99

Senate urged to home in on aiding homeless teens

By LISA STIFFLER
 PI CAPITOL BUREAU

OLYMPIA — Heroin was Jody's escape from the physical abuse she suffered at the hands of her seven brothers, who were continuing the cycle of abuse started by their father.

When she was caught shooting up at the age of 12, her mother kicked her out on the streets in the Tri-Cities, where she had to fend for

one day. Yesterday, sporting a pierced lip, heavy mascara and a defiant look, Jody told the Senate Committee on Human Services and Corrections that teens like her need Senate Bill 5557. The legislation would provide a minimum of 200 beds in temporary and long-term housing for homeless 16- to 18-year-olds.

For older teens, Jody and others testified, alternatives to street life are few, and on any given night

Republicans can't agree on transportation work

By THOMAS SHAPLEY
 PI CAPITOL CORRESPONDENT

OLYMPIA — House and Senate Republicans are sending mixed signals about the urgency of starting some crucial state transportation projects.

Senate Republicans yesterday called for an aggressive construction program that tackles Puget Sound-region congestion, but doesn't overlook the rest of the state.

Priority should go to projects ready to go, rather than frittering away money on studies and preliminary engineering, said Sen. Don Benton, R-Vancouver, ranking Republican on the Senate Transportation Committee. He said the Legislature may be able to finance a larger construction budget than Locke has proposed. "People are fed up with traffic congestion and when they approved Referendum 49, they were saying, 'Go out and fix it, right now!'"

Refugee agency's chief still on the job

Resignation report a 'misunderstanding'

By ANDREW SCHNEIDER
 and RON REDMOND
 PI REPORTERS

The Refugee Federation Service Center says Kim Long Nguyen remains its executive director despite earlier statements from the board chairman and a state official that he had submitted his resignation.

Kim Long has headed the Refugee Federation, the state's largest provider of social services for refugees, since 1984.

Gov. Gary Locke on Friday ordered an independent audit of the federation following a two-day Post-Intelligencer report in which refugees, former staff and official documents revealed questionable practices at agencies run by Kim Long. They included falsified records, improper billing, concealed funds and services said to be done that weren't performed.

Friday, federation board chairman Johnny Shek and state Department of Social and Health Services official Jeff Kibler told the P-I that Kim Long had submitted his resignation and that it would be considered by the board over the weekend.

Monday, however, a lawyer hired

See AGENCY, Page B2

Olchefske substitutes for book on gay teens

By RUTH TEICHHORF
 PI REPORTER

Acting Superintendent Joseph Olchefske decided yesterday to ban a controversial 1983 book about gay and lesbian teenagers from three Seattle high school libraries and replace it with a revised second edition.

Olchefske said the 1994 edition of the book "Two Teenagers in Twenty: Testimony by Gay and Lesbian Youth" is more appropriate for school libraries because an explicit chapter describing an adult-minor homosexual relationship has been removed.

"I was troubled by the broad sexual explicitness and adult-minor relationship in that chapter," Olchefske said. "But 24 of the 25 chapters in the book were very supportive and positive essays about the struggles facing gay and lesbian teens."

Olchefske last week pulled the

Window washer fined \$67,200 for safety violations

By JOHN IWASKI
 P-I REPORTER

The state has fined the owner of a Tukwila window-washing business \$67,200 for worker safety and child labor violations discovered during an investigation into the death of a 15-year-old boy last summer.

Jeffrey W. Rogers, who does business as Olympic EBM, willfully violated state laws by not providing certain training or ensuring that worker lifelines were properly secured, the Department of Labor and Industries said yesterday.

Brian Schwartz, a Tukwila teen-

ager, died Aug. 17 after a fourth-floor scaffolding collapsed at the Northgate Medical Center at Northgate Mall in Seattle, dragging him off the roof. An adult worker, Douglas Copeland, was seriously injured.

The two largest fines, each for \$28,000, were levied for the willful violations by Olympic, which had not been investigated by Labor and Industries before. The state said Olympic failed to provide training related to scaffolding anchoring, harnesses and personal protective equipment, and failed to ensure that lifelines were

securely attached to the building rather than to the portable roof scaffolding.

Labor and Industries also levied three \$2,400 fines for failing to ensure that the scaffolding was rigged correctly and not moved laterally while in use, and for not developing and carrying out a formal written accident prevention program.

A second state investigation fined Olympic \$4,000 for hiring Schwartz, another teen, to perform work prohibited by child labor laws. The state does not allow minors to work

more than 10 feet above ground or floor level.

Olympic was cited — but not fined — for three violations relating to the company's lack of a safety committee, trained first-aid personnel, or plan and certification of a workplace hazard assessment.

Olympic had operated as a painting contractor without a license, but no penalty was assessed after a license was granted.

Olympic declined to comment yesterday on the state investigation. He has 15 days to appeal the violations

and penalties.

State records show that no deaths of window washers had occurred in Washington since at least 1991, according to Jim Ripke, a Labor and Industries spokesman.

However, 17 youths 18 and younger died on the job in other occupations in the state between 1991 and 1997, he said.

■ P-I reporter John Iwaski can be reached at johniwaski@seattlepi.com or 206-448-8096.

Northwest briefing

SKYKOMISH
2 killed when sport utility vehicle broadsides tour bus

Two men were killed yesterday when their sport utility vehicle slid into a tour bus on state Route 404 near nine miles east of Skykomish.

The highway, covered with compact snow and ice, was closed in both directions for hours after the accident at 2:05 p.m.

Two of the 23 passengers on the Northwestern Tour Bus suffered minor injuries and were taken to Valley General Hospital in Monroe, said Lt. Walt Fisch of the State Patrol. One passenger had a broken nose, another had back and neck pain, he said.

The two dead men appeared to be in their 30s, Fisch said, but the patrol did not release their names last night.

The driver of the eastbound sport utility vehicle lost control, and the car slid sideways across the centerline, Fisch said. It slammed broadside on the driver's side into the front of the westbound bus. The sport utility vehicle was crushed by the collision.

The accident occurred about five miles west of the Stevens Pass summit. The highway there is normally three lanes, Fisch said, but it was narrowed to two lanes yesterday by walls of snow created by snowplows.



Brush with a bear
 Suzanne Wagner of Eatonville brushes a mounted Alaskan brown bear at the International Sportsmen's Exposition yesterday in the Kingdom. Her family's booth is one of 300 at the exposition, which continues through Sunday. Admission is \$8 adults, \$5 seniors and youths 7 to 12, and free for 6 and younger.

Book: Critic calls switch 'a very cowardly decision'

From Page B1

lesbian teens face when dealing with their sexuality.

"In every case, those references are set in a larger context, like a student describing how difficult the coming-out process is," Olchefske said. "These were passing references to activities we don't necessarily endorse but that are part of their experiences."

He also said his desire to become superintendent had not influenced his decision.

"If that were a concern, I wouldn't have dove into this issue," he said.

Olchefske said he reviewed the books from a father's perspective and asked himself what he'd want his daughter to read if she were struggling with her sexual identity.

He said the committee that reviewed the books agreed that replacing it with the second edition was a good solution.

A four-person committee, which included the district's supervisor of library services, a librarian, a principal and a parent, responded in late January with a letter saying the book "has merit remaining in a high school library. It was written to give support to gay teens."

UW gets \$500,000 gift from the heart

By CAROL SMITH
 P-I REPORTER

A little over a year ago, Lester LeRoss got a heart transplant that saved his life. Now he's making a donation that comes from the bottom of his new heart.

LeRoss and his wife, Connie, have donated \$500,000 to the University of Washington School of Medicine to establish the LeRoss Endowed Professorship in Cardiovascular Surgery.

"I'm very fortunate to be alive," said LeRoss, 53, who suffered a massive heart attack in November 1997, shortly after selling his Kirk-

land-based technology consulting practice in preparation for retirement.

His search for travel was sidetracked by the heart attack and a series of subsequent health catastrophes, including a stroke.

Fortunately, however, he received a heart in time.

"I've sent the family (of the donor) a letter through the university, thanking them for this gift of life," said LeRoss, who received his new heart in December 1997. "But words kind of don't tell the whole story."

LeRoss and his wife decided to endow the professorship out of gratitude for the care he received at the

Search to resume for missing hikers

By PHUONG LE
 P-I REPORTER

King County rescuers will resume their search today for two snowshoos who are three days late returning from a weekend hike near Snoqualmie Pass.

A 35-year-old Redmond man and a 29-year-old Seattle man set out Friday and were expected to return from their hike Sunday, said John Ur-

quhart, King County Sheriff's Office spokesman.

When the hikers didn't come back as expected, their friends alerted the sheriff's office late yesterday, Urquhart said.

At daybreak yesterday, a team of more than 40 rescuers combed the area in search of the men, who are believed to be in danger because of recent avalanche conditions.

The county's search and rescue

Highways: House leader advises patience

From Page B1

money — in the supplemental budget that carries the state through June 30.

The House plans to include the 11 projects in the main 1999-2001 budget still being written.

House Transportation Committee co-chair Rep. Karen Schmidt, R-Bainbridge Island, said week greeted the supplemental spending plan with a written statement saying "there is nothing in this latest budget proposal that really needs to move forward at this time. The decision can wait until we have a comprehensive statewide package."

House GOP reluctance to move on the supplemental transportation budget will mean improved projects won't get done this summer, House co-Chairman Frank Chopp, D-Seattle, complained last week.

"Certain projects are going to get delayed or not done and the congestion will get worse — period," he said.

Locke has proposed \$2.9 billion in transportation spending in the next two years, up from \$2.3 billion in the current biennium. The proposal in-

cludes about \$623 million from R-49, which is a six-year program.

The GOP senators didn't release an actual budget proposal yesterday. They instead detailed their priorities for what will be the biggest highway construction boom in state history.

■ **Congestion relief:** Each project would be tested to determine how congested the local roads are — the effects of traffic versus the number of vehicles the roads were designed to handle safely.

■ **Economic development:** Each project would be tested to see how it would diversify the economy, get goods to market and to ports, and attract new business.

■ **Propriety:** A proposal would move up on the list if it were ready to go to bid — a reference to the 11 projects in the supplemental budget.

■ **Geographic fairness:** The Puget Sound area has the worst problems, but many parts of the state deserve a share of the new money, Benton said.

"The governor doesn't put enough into Southwest Washington or Eastern Washington, for instance," Benton

Agency: Kim Long 'on leave with pay'

From Page B1

by the federation, Dan Dubitzky, said Kim Long had not submitted his resignation, and Shek said he had been "misunderstood."

"Kim Long is still on administrative leave with pay, as far as I know," Shek said.

Last Friday, Shek told the P-I "We have Kim Long's resignation but it will be decided by the board on Sunday."

Kibler on Friday said the federation had "stepped forward and removed Kim Long and are bringing in outside professionals to look at staffing and service delivery."

Kibler, who is responsible for refugee programs in Western Washington, said yesterday he didn't know what the board was doing with Kim Long's resignation.

"I was told last week that the board had Kim Long's resignation and was going to vote on it over the weekend. Apparently, something happened," said Kibler.

"Our interest at this point still remains to separate allegations surrounding Kim Long from the business at hand at the federation," Kibler

SEATTLE

Low cost housing activists demonstrate for ordinance

A small but spirited group of protesters picketed in front of City Hall yesterday to call for legislation to maintain affordable housing.

The Seattle Tenants Union, the advocacy group that organized the picket, protested rising rents and loss of affordable housing.

About 10 picketers said they support a proposed city ordinance that maintains low-income housing by allowing tenants the first chance to buy a building or find a buyer if their apartment building is sold.

City Councilman Peter Steinbrueck, who drafted the new ordinance, said it would preserve low-income housing by allowing tenants or non-profit groups to buy subsidized units when they are sold. Any buyer would have to maintain low-income housing units, he said.

Yesterday's protesters support the ordinance, but want it to apply to privately owned apartment buildings as well as subsidized ones.

SEATTLE

Gates Foundation gives grant to Fremont group

For more than a decade, Bill Gates' aunt and uncle, Merridy and Heustin Williams, help staff bags of groceries at the Fremont Public Association's food bank as volunteers.

Their commitment has led to a \$400,000 grant from the William H. Gates Foundation.

"The Gates Foundation gift has lifted our campaign and our organization to a new level," said Cheryl Cobbs, FPA acting executive director. "We are deeply grateful for this tremendous contribution."

The donation comes just days after the foundation received a \$3.3 billion endowment from Bill and Melinda Gates. The money is earmarked to help the FPA retire debt on its new Community Resource Center, which opened last June in Wallingford.

SEATTLE

Man arrested after wife is found bludgeoned to death

They grew up together in high school and their marriage had lasted more than two decades. But everything ended early Saturday morning when police officers called to the Wayman slain in her South Seattle home, and arrested her husband.

Police believe he bludgeoned Wayman, 46, in the head with a sledgehammer and stabbed her in the chest with a knife in a killing so brutal it shocked even veteran officers.

Seattle police homicide detective Mike Ciesynski said there had been no documented reports of domestic violence between the couple. He said he and his partner were still investigating the motive and interviewing family members.

At 2:36 a.m. Saturday, patrol officers went to the couple's home in the 2400 block of South Irving Street. After one of the couple's adult children called 911 from another home.

Wayman, who worked at Regence Blue Shield, was dead at the scene. Her husband, who is 46, surrendered without a fight and was booked into jail for investigation of murder. He is scheduled to appear in court today.

SEATTLE

Port authorizes acquisition of 9 homes for 3rd runway

Port of Seattle commissioners yesterday authorized the purchase or condemnation of nine homes east of Seattle-Tacoma International Airport to make room for construction of a third runway.

Commissioners advised port staff to pursue agreements with the property owners for acquisition of the parcels before seeking condemnation.

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Lottery numbers

- Daily Games: 2-7-6
 - Quinlot Winning "cards" from the last drawing were
- No winner. Tonight's jackpot is \$500,000.
- Kenos: Yesterday - 2-7-8
 - 9-17-18-27-30-34-35

Recordings: Industry calls it theft, artists the victims

From Page B1

the least bit do I feel guilty, because I think the recording industry has such a corner on the market."

It's exactly that attitude that has the recording industry scrambling to find ways to control the MP3 monster.

A statement on the Web site for the Recording Industry Association of America reads: "Unfortunately, the Internet culture of unlicensed use means that theft of intellectual property is rampant, and the music business and its artists are the biggest victims. Unauthorized Internet music archive sites using compression technology such as MP3 provide illegal sound recordings online to anyone with a personal computer."

Industry groups have contacted UW administrators in an effort to get them to crack down on MP3 traffic, said Oren Sreebny, assistant director of computing and communications at the UW.

Written policies prohibit the duplication of materials that carry copyrights, but UW officials say tightening the reins on MP3 files is impossible.

Nov. 23.

Diamond Multimedia won't release sales figures, but company representatives say they're backlogged.

"I think the primary message so far has been the PC enthusiast market, people who want the latest and greatest technology," said Lorraine Combs, chief marketing officer and communications director at Diamond Multimedia. "There's a huge market for legitimate content out there."

To isolate their "legitimate content" claim, Diamond recently created www.r10port.com, a Web site that purports to carry only legal MP3 files.

MP3 also is a potentially potent tool for independent record labels and bands that don't have the promotional muscle of a major record contract behind them.

"We think a lot of MP3 traffic is legitimate and there are a lot of legitimate uses for (it)."

— UW's Oren Sreebny

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SEATTLE & THE NORTHWEST

Tech-savvy getting music for a

Industry frustrated that Internet makes free music simple

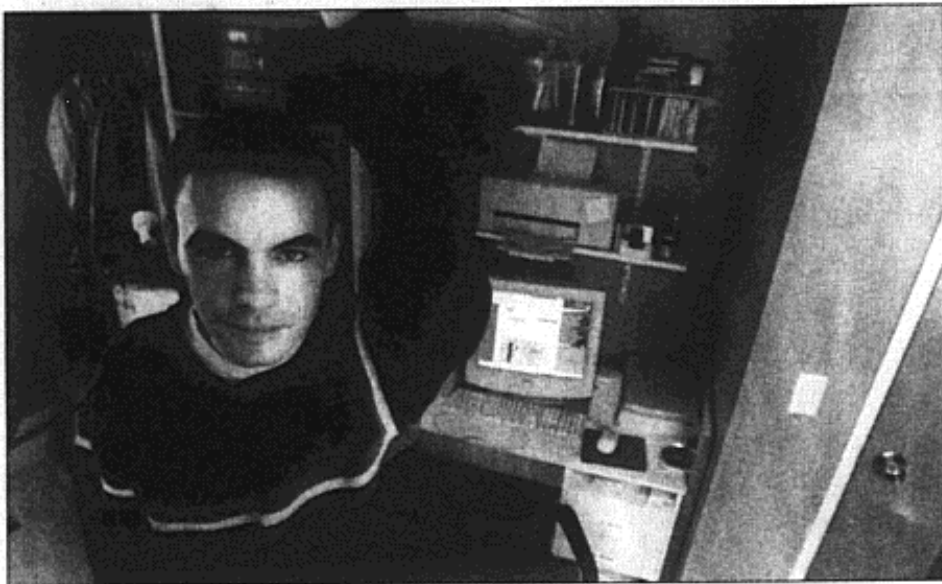
By RUTH SCHUBERT
PI REPORTER

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GILBERT W. ARIAS / P-I

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