

FAIRBANKS

# Daily News-Miner

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OUTDOORS page 17



Refuge on McKinley

VOL. LXXXIX, No. 277

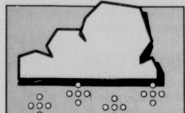
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, FRIDAY-SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3-4, 1989

\$0.07 per copy

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32 Pages

## WEEKEND Newswatch



**WEATHER:** Snow diminishing this evening with the low around 5-10. More snow Saturday, Page 2.

### Nation

#### Judge Nixon impeached

WASHINGTON—The Senate today removed U.S. District Judge Walter L. Nixon of Mississippi from the bench on impeachment charges stemming from a perjury conviction.

Nixon was the second judge in two weeks removed from office.

With Nixon watching from his seat on the Senate floor, lawmakers sealed his fate by voting 89-8 to convict him on the first of three articles of impeachment. Senators quickly followed by approving a second charge, 78-19, but acquitted him on a third.

#### Lawmaker pay hike

WASHINGTON—The White House said today President Bush will support a new attempt on Capitol Hill to get a pay raise for members of Congress, federal officials and judges.

"We're just waiting for them to give us a package," press secretary Martin Fitrwater said. "We'll be supportive if the Congress produces any reasonable proposal."

#### Jobless rate steady

WASHINGTON—Unemployment held steady at 5.3 percent last month as the economy added 233,000 jobs, the government said today in a report that showed continued troubles in the industrial sector.

#### North pension restored

WASHINGTON—The Senate late Thursday acted to restore Oliver North's \$23,000-a-year military retirement pay, which had been revoked after he was sentenced in July for illegally shredding government documents.

### World

#### Sandinistas attack

MANAGUA, Nicaragua—Sandinista army troops backed by helicopter gunships attacked about 500 Contra rebels in the mountainous central province of Chontales, a newspaper reported today.

The Sandinista party newspaper Barricada said helicopter troop carriers were being used to "persecute the criminals" in La Pinuela and La Cusaca, 170 miles east of here.

#### Marcos backers protest

MANILA, Philippines—Thousands of people pushed past police barricades today and rallied outside a military post, demanding that the body of former President Ferdinand Marcos be buried on Philippine soil.

A crowd estimated by police at about 25,000 gathered to denounce President Corason Aquino for blocking the return of Marcos' body.

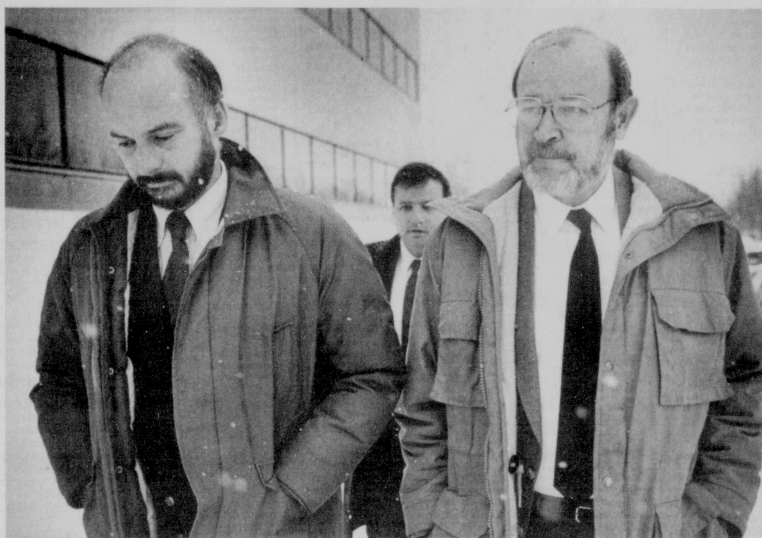
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**Sourdough Jack**  
Sez: "If I were that seal, I'd complain to my haberdasher."

## Judge rejects Hazelwood's immunity bid



**COURT DATE**—Joseph Hazelwood (left), former captain of the Exxon Valdez oil tanker, arrives in federal court in Fairbanks this morning. His attorneys say that state charges against Hazelwood are a violation of his civil rights. At right is Dick Madison, one of Hazelwood's lawyers.

### Fired tanker captain in Fairbanks court

By BRIAN O'DONOGHUE and SUSAN FISHER  
Staff Writers

The fired captain of the Exxon Valdez appeared in federal court in Fairbanks today, as a judge rejected arguments that the state should be prohibited from pressing charges against him.

Defense attorneys for Joseph Hazelwood argued that he earned immunity under federal law when he notified authorities that the tanker was leaking oil on the morning of March 24.

"He called the Coast Guard and he said, 'We're aground and we're leaking oil' as the government wanted him to. The point is that he helped the government and that help is being used to help convict him," said Richard Friedman, one of Hazelwood's attorneys.

Hazelwood appeared in U.S. District Court in Fairbanks for the 10 a.m. hearing before Judge Andrew Kleinfeld. He did not speak during the hearing, which ran slightly less than two hours.

Hazelwood's attorneys sought a preliminary injunction to stop the state from prosecuting him in connection with North America's largest oil spill.

Kleinfeld said that questions of whether Hazelwood has immunity should be addressed in state court. A hearing is set in Anchorage later this month.

The defense argued that the prosecution was based on self-incriminating evidence—Hazelwood's initial call on the spill. Kleinfeld questioned that approach.

"It seems like a real possibility someone might have noticed an oil spill the size of Rhode Island when it wasn't called in," Kleinfeld said.

The state prosecutors compared Hazelwood's case to that of a nuclear power plant operator who might survive a devastating accident and then call in to report it. It would not make sense to grant the power plant operator immunity since there would be countless witnesses to the accident and its effects.

Hazelwood listened to the argu-

ments with his fist on his chin. The trim, bearded captain was dressed in a dark blue suit jacket, striped shirt and red tie.

His attorneys say that three state felony charges and three misdemeanor charges against Hazelwood amount to a violation of his rights under federal law.

Hazelwood's lawyers have said a state regulation designed to encourage self-reporting of oil spills by those involved in such accidents assures immunity to those who notify authorities. At today's hearing, they said that federal law also provides that protection.

The defendants in the case heard today were the district attorney in Anchorage and three of his assistants. Named in the action were: District Attorney Dwayne W. McConnell, and Brent R. Cole, Mary Anne Henry and Leonard M. Linton Jr.

Hazelwood, 42, was fired a few days after the Exxon Valdez struck a reef in Prince William Sound, spilling nearly 11 million gallons of crude oil March 24.

Fairbanks attorney Dick Madison, who represents Hazelwood, said last week that Hazelwood was not expected at the hearing today. But Thursday Madison said that he had been unable to get in touch with the former tanker captain to tell him not to come.

Hazelwood lives on Long Island in New York, about 50 miles from Manhattan. He was not expected at the hearing today because the state has the facts wrong.

Hazelwood did not turn the tanker over to an unqualified third mate, according to the lawyers. They alleged that the Coast Guard waived the rule that would have made the third mate ineligible to pilot the tanker near Bligh Reef. The Coast Guard has denied that the rule was changed.

Another allegation of recklessness centers on whether Hazelwood tried to rock the tanker off the reef. Madison said ship logs would show that the tanker's engine was not placed in reverse.

## Alyeska spill plan remains incomplete

ANCHORAGE (AP)—The Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. has the beginnings of a good oil spill response plan, but some critical chapters remain unfinished, the state says.

Environmental Conservation Commissioner Dennis Kelso said Thursday that Alyeska has until Dec. 31 to complete an acceptable plan. That's a month sooner than Alyeska wanted.

But Kelso said if Alyeska was not finished by the end of the year, the state would complete the plan and

force the company to comply with it.

Alyeska has been trying to get state approval for specific parts of the plan as they are written rather than wait until the whole plan is submitted.

Kelso has given his blessings to the stockpiling of absorbent boom and other cleanup material in Whittier and Cordova and at vulnerable fish hatcheries. The training of local residents in spill response and enlisting a fleet of 50 or more

fishing boats as response vessels also has been endorsed.

Earlier, the state praised Alyeska's new policy of requiring vessels loaded with cleanup equipment to escort tankers from the time they leave Valdez until they leave Prince William Sound at Hinchbrook Entrance.

But the DEC said Alyeska has yet to develop a realistic worst-case scenario, such as the rupture of the giant oil storage tanks at the Valdez terminal or the sinking of a tanker. And the state wants details on

how Alyeska intends to deal with spills during stormy winter weather.

Nick Mitchell, manager of Alyeska's contingency planning, said just assembling the equipment for a worst-case scenario would take seven months.

"What we don't want to do is fall flat on our faces or make false promises," Mitchell said.

Promises of a prompt response with state-of-the-art technology weren't kept when the Exxon Val-

(See SPILL, Page 6)

## Trucker protest slows traffic to North Slope

By BRIAN O'DONOGHUE  
Staff Writer

Claiming they are being asked to do twice the work for the same pay, angry independent truckers are engaged in an escalating dispute with the seven major trucking firms responsible for hauling materials to the North Slope.

"A major disruption of service to the North Slope is in progress," said Steve Sepolcha, public affairs director of Teamsters Local 959, after sitting in on an informal meeting of the owner-operators in Fairbanks Thursday. "About 90 percent of the owner-operators are standing down as of today."

The dispute is between the owner-operators of the big rigs and Alaska Pacific Transport, Alaska West Express, Four Star, Frontier Transportation, K&W Trucking,

Lynden Transport and Sourdough Express, the big seven North Slope freight carriers.

"I noted that with my traffic count that this week the trucks going north were down," said Sonja McManus, supervisor for weigh stations in the Fairbanks area. "It maintained until about Monday. Then Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday it was real slow, very slow. Then yesterday afternoon around 2:30 or 3 o'clock it picked up again and we started seeing those big pipe loads."

At issue is compensation for transporting loads back from the slope, a practice known as back-hauling.

"Back-hauling used to be an occasional thing and a driver would be paid for it," Sepolcha said. (See TRUCKERS, Page 6)

## Beaten jogger makes 'remarkable recovery'

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
NEW YORK—The jogger who was raped, beaten and left for dead in Central Park on April 19 has made a "remarkable recovery" and is now given a chance of recovering virtually all her mental and physical capacities, one of her doctors says.

"We're hopeful, but not certain, of a 100 percent recovery," said the doctor, who asked not to be identified.

A report prepared by Gaylord Hospital in Wallingford, Conn., where the woman is undergoing physical and neurological rehabi-

litation, was made available Thursday by the prosecution to the lawyers representing the six youths charged with rape and attempted murder.

At a pretrial hearing in State Supreme Court in Manhattan, defense lawyers are trying to suppress incriminating videotaped and written statements by several defendants.

Neither prosecutors nor a spokesman for the hospital, Gerald Main, would comment on the 29-year-old woman's condition. The police and the physicians (See JOGGER, Page 6)



### Its fate is seal(ed)

A seal in one of the basins of the Maritime Research Institute in Kiel, West Germany, sports a transmitter which it will carry to the open sea upon its release soon. The institute has equipped three seals with transmitters to study their migration.

## Colombia judges go on strike

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Judges and other court workers shut down the nation's justice system today and said they would not return to work unless the government gives them more protection from drug traffickers.

Medellin judges, who began a strike a day earlier, handed in their resignations today, reported the Colombian radio network RCN. The resignations are viewed as largely symbolic gestures that are not likely to be carried out.

Drug thugs who have waged a bloody campaign since a government crackdown began 11 weeks ago were blamed for a car bomb explosion Thursday night in the capital of Bogota. Three members of a family and a soldier were killed and two people were injured.

Three other small bombs exploded in the capital and one was deactivated, the police said in a communique.

The strike by 17,000 members of the National Association of Court Workers began Thursday and was to last through Wednesday. It was sparked by the signing of a federal judge in Medellin on Wednesday, the third federal judge killed by drug traffickers in the last three months.

But this morning, union leader Helmut Romero told the Caracol radio network that the strike will go on indefinitely until the government gives protection to the courts.

The judges want bullet-resistant cars and vests, bodyguards, guns, weapons training and metal detectors at entrances to their offices. This is the third strike by judges in the last three months, but this is the first one where the courts have been closed down indefinitely.

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# The Post-Standard

Fairbanks Daily News Miner, November 03, 1989, Pg. 1, Fairbanks, Alaska, US

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