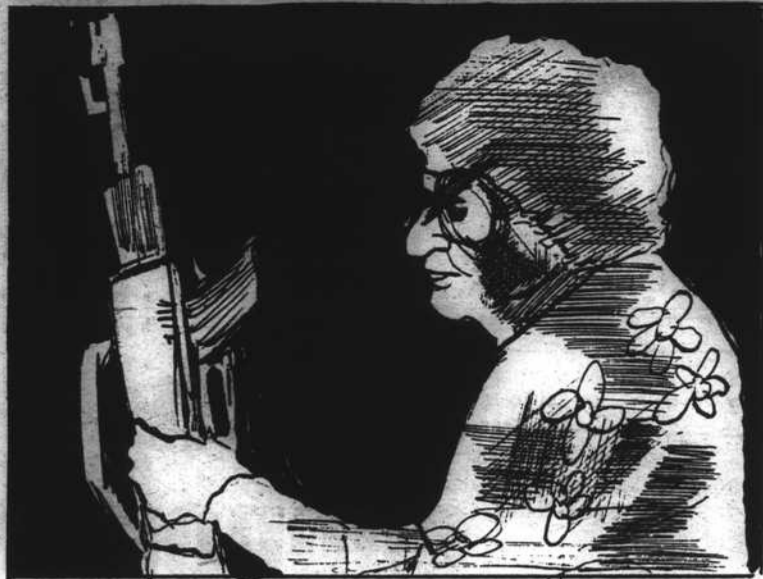


## The Lighter Side...

of The Associated Press



JIM MEHLING/DN

### 'Pistol-packing grandmas' fight off robbers

MOSES LAKE, Wash. — Two "pistol-packing grandmas" were honored for foiling the plans of some would-be robbers.

Four intruders forced their way into the home of 75-year-old Dorothy Cunningham and 61-year-old Marty Killinger late last week and demanded their car keys.

While Killinger argued and struggled with one of the intruders in the living room, Cunningham got her Luger from her bedroom and ordered the young men to head for the hills.

"I said some strong words to them that I don't usually use," she said. "I told them to get out or I'd shoot and kill them."

The men ran outside but continued taunting the two women — until Cunningham fired four shots over their heads.

"I was raised in the Tetons and whenever I wasn't herding sheep or cattle or working in the fields, I'd take a .22 rifle and target shoot," explained Cunningham. "I'm not afraid of guns and I know how to use them."

A 20-year-old and three teen-agers were arrested on suspicion of burglary and attempted robbery.

And Cunningham and Killinger got some official attention of their own.

"Henceforth, Dorothy Cunningham and Marty Killinger will be known as the Pistol-Packing Grandmas," Grant County Sheriff Bill Wiester said Friday during a ceremony at the county courthouse.

## North Korea contemplates accepting Hwang's defection

### Despite tension, South Korea will give humanitarian aid to neighbor.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea indicated Monday that it might accept the defection of Hwang Jang Yop, the high-ranking North Korean official who has been holed up in South Korea's Beijing consulate.

"Our stand is simple and clear. If he was kidnapped ... we will take decisive countermeasures," a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "If he sought asylum, it means that he is a renegade and he is dismissed."

Previously, North Korea had refused to accept the defection, accusing South Korea of kidnapping Hwang and threatening retaliation. Hwang, a key communist theoretician and former tutor of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, is the highest-ranking North Korean to seek asylum in the South.

The North Korean spokesman, who spoke on customary condition of anonymity, told Pyongyang's official Korean Central News agency that the North had asked Beijing to investigate Hwang's "disappearance."

Monday's comment was the first sign of a possible solution to the tense standoff created by last Wednesday's defection. North Korea had previously rejected the possibility that Hwang had defected.

South Korea also said Monday that it will provide North Korea with humanitarian aid and nuclear reactors, despite tension caused by Hwang's defection and a suspected North Korean attack on another key North Korean defector.

Lee Han-young, 36, a nephew of a former wife of the North Korean leader, was shot and critically wounded Saturday.

South Korean police continued their investigation Monday but said they had no definite evidence proving North Korean involvement in the shooting.

Seoul officials believe that Pyongyang ordered the attack as revenge for the defection of Hwang, 73, a member of its highest decision-making body, the Central Committee of the ruling Workers Party.

Ban Ki-moon, President Kim Young-sam's national security adviser, said his country will accept a U.N. appeal for fresh humanitarian aid for North Korea, as well as sending a team of nuclear technicians to survey a site in North Korea where two reactors

will be built under a 1994 U.S.-North Korean accord.

The tense standoff over Hwang's defection had threatened the accord. It was aimed at freezing North Korea's nuclear program, suspected of being used to build atomic bombs.

China kept silent Monday on the fate of Hwang as the Koreans fought a tense, diplomatic tug-of-war.

Heavily armed police, backed by an armored car and water cannon, guarded the South Korean consulate where Hwang has been hiding.

Challenged several times by North Koreans keeping a vigil outside the consulate, police blocked surrounding streets with their cars and tire-shredding spikes.

China faces a dilemma in deciding whether to allow Hwang to leave for South Korea. It does not want to infuriate North Korea, a longtime ally on whose side it fought in the 1950-53 Korean War. But China also has diplomatic relations with South Korea and wants to encourage growing commercial ties.

In Bonn, Germany, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Monday she is "very concerned" about tensions between South and North Korea.

## Whitewater prosecutor leaving

### White House aides speculate that Starr does not intend to indict President Clinton.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr will step down from the probe to take a job at Pepperdine University, the school said Monday.

The announcement raises questions about whether Starr's investigation of President Clinton and the first lady is at an end.

The Whitewater investigation, which Starr has led for the past 2½ years, is at a critical juncture with prosecutors weighing the evidence involving the president and Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Starr and the Whitewater prosecutor's office were silent after the announcement by Pepperdine University in Malibu, Calif.

But a lawyer familiar with the Whitewater probe cautioned against reading too much into Starr's stepping down from the investigation.

Starr will decide what, if any, action to take against the Clintons and "he will have ample time to consider all matters," said the lawyer, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The lawyer said the question of precisely when Starr will leave the Whitewater prosecutor's office has yet

to be decided.

A former presidential aide suggested indictments won't be forthcoming. "Is Starr going to indict the first lady and then leave for the West Coast? I don't think so," said the aide, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The White House had no official comment, though aides also privately speculated the prosecutor must not intend to indict the first family.

The Clintons' Whitewater lawyer, David Kendall, could not be reached for immediate comment.

In a press release, Pepperdine University said Starr would become dean of its law school Aug. 1 and founding dean of its new school of public policy.

In an interview, Pepperdine President David Davenport said Starr felt comfortable with his decision.

"My assumption from talking with Ken in the interview process is that the investigation will go forward," Davenport said.

"I think he feels confident that there is a good team of people in place who are working on it and he has several more months to be part of the investigation before he reports for duty out here," Davenport said.

Starr has faced criticism from Clinton loyalists for maintaining his private law practice and representing corporate clients who oppose the Clinton administration at the same time Starr investigates the president and the first lady.

Also, right-wing groups have accused Starr of failing to adequately address questions surrounding the

death of deputy White House counsel Vincent Foster, which twice has been ruled a suicide. Starr has not yet announced his conclusions in the death probe.

Word of Starr's planned departure comes amid other upcoming developments involving Whitewater:

■ The Clintons' former Whitewater partner, Jim McDougal, is to appear in court April 14 for sentencing on his conviction on 18 felony charges. Prosecutors may give further clues on to what extent he has been cooperating with investigators since turning against the president and first lady last summer.

■ Former Arkansas Gov. Jim Guy Tucker faces another fraud trial. He is accused of trying to avoid the payment of millions of dollars in taxes on a cable television deal which turned him into multimillionaire.

Now in private practice with the Washington office of the law firm Kirkland & Ellis, Starr was appointed a federal judge by President Bush's solicitor general — the government's chief courtroom lawyer.

Starr, 50, previously taught at Pepperdine's law school and he has served on its board of visitors since 1992 and has spoken at university events, receiving an honorary degree from the school last year.

Starr will remain a partner at Kirkland & Ellis as a resident in the firm's Los Angeles office, at the same time working full time at Pepperdine.

## Arkansas to revive memory of 1957 desegregation war

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — An old gas station with shattered windows and peeling yellow paint began a transformation Monday into a visitor's center for one of the primary battlefields in the fight against segregation.

The dilapidated building across from Little Rock Central High School will be restored to the way it looked in 1957, the year that nine black students were allowed into the all-white high school.

More than \$700,000 will be spent to put vintage gas pumps where rusted pipes now stand, replace broken corrugated tiles on the rooftop and turn a grimy interior into a plush center ready to show a slice of history.

"Having this on President's Day is significant because it was a president who ultimately let those students in,"

Gov. Mike Huckabee said at the groundbreaking. "Little Rock needs to make what was a very unpleasant memory into a reminder that something like that will never happen again."

Gov. Orval Faubus claimed he was acting in the public interest when he deployed National Guard troops to keep black students from entering the school in September 1957. President Eisenhower nationalized the Guard and sent in U.S. Army soldiers to clear a path.

Admission to the visitor's center, which opens in September, will be free. It will include rooms for showing film of the first black students entering the school and photographs documenting scuffles between students, parents and soldiers.

## Nation/World

from The Associated Press

### Virginia retires controversial state song

RICHMOND, Va. — Not a single discordant note was sounded Monday as Virginia's House of Delegates voted to retire a state song that critics say glorifies slavery with words like "darkey" and "massa."

The House voted 100-0 to make "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia" the state song emeritus. There was no debate.

"This puts the song where it belongs — in history — and it won't be troubling us any further," said Delegate William P. Robinson Jr.

The first repeal attempt was made in 1970 by then-state Sen. L. Douglas Wilder, a grandson of slaves who became the nation's first elected black governor.

Similar legislation became an annual fixture, rejected every year by lawmakers who said the song was an important part of Virginia's heritage.

This year, they were persuaded by arguments that the song is so offensive, it's no longer taught to schoolchildren and hasn't been performed at an official state function in two decades.

## Daily Nebraskan

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