

# Charles and Camilla feed the photo frenzy

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles made their first public appearance together Thursday night in a blitz of photo flashes and clicking cameras, at last giving Britain's photographers the picture they've been seeking for years.

The two had arrived separately at the Ritz Hotel in central London for the 50th birthday party of Parker Bowles' sister Annabel Elliott, after days of speculation that this would be the night they went public as a couple.

Masses of photographers, many of whom had staked out their positions the day before, waited eagerly across the road from the hotel steps.

Two minutes before midnight, the prince and Parker Bowles walked down the stairs together, and hesitated briefly at the curb as their car pulled up. She climbed into the back seat on the left side, he went around

to the right and climbed in beside her, and the car drove them away. There was no posing for the cameras, and no comment.

The romance, once the worst-kept secret in Britain, is out in the open. The pair visit each other's homes, have met each other's children, and have even issued a news release together.

But until now they had eluded the cameras, arriving and departing separately at social events, and photographers were determined to get a picture of them as a couple.

"I cannot recall being so excited and nervous about taking a picture for long, long while," said Arthur Edwards, veteran royal photographer for The Sun tabloid, as he awaited the big picture. "I cannot remember the last time I felt this keyed-up."

"It's an archival shot that's going to be shown in magazines and newspapers around the world," he said.

# Guard looks to attract students

## Bill would up tuition reimbursement to 100 percent

BY JESSICA FARGEN  
Senior staff writer

The Nebraska National Guard is receiving competition from an unlikely place — Mexican fast-food restaurant Amigos.

But under a bill that would double tuition reimbursement for participating college students from 50 percent to 100 percent in Nebraska, the Guard is hoping to gain the upper hand against businesses such as Amigos that entice students with their own tuition programs.

Membership in the National Guard has taken a downturn in recent years, which has resulted in a cut in federal funding and the closings of three Nebraska armories in the last five years, said the bill's sponsor, Nickerson Sen. Ray Janssen.

"Hopefully we'll get more because that's what we want to do is get recruit-

### Legislature

ment up because we lose federal dollars if the recruitment falls below," Janssen said.

In 1988, the Guard had 5,000 members. Last year, membership was down to 3,700 — 188 of whom were University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, said Lt. Robert Ford of the National Guard Association of Nebraska.

Since the Guard reduced its reimbursement from 75 percent to 50 percent in 1992, Ford said more students are opting for businesses that offer higher tuition reimbursement.

Although this year's fiscally tight Legislature may be reluctant to dole out additional funds, Janssen said, money from this bill would be given back to Nebraska.

"That's money that stays in the state of Nebraska and only Nebraska schools," he said. "Tuition goes back to the schools. It's a big circle, and it keeps going 'round and 'round."

Under LB243, about \$500,000 extra would be needed to increase reimbursement to 100 percent next year, and about \$600,000 more the following year.

Two members of the Army Reserves testified Thursday that, although they were not against the increase for the Guard, the Reserves should be included too, Janssen said. Amending the bill later to include the Reserves is possible, he said, but would require more money.

Dana Rasmussen, a UNL senior

marketing major, has been a member of the Air National Guard since 1995. The National Guard's 50 percent tuition reimbursement was one thing that drew her to the Guard, she said.

"I would say my first reason for joining the Guards was kind of for the tuition reimbursement," she said. "After that, once I learned more about it, I realized it was something that would help my career development."

Rasmussen said because she gets tuition reimbursement as well as about \$250 a month from the federal G.I. Bill, she has more time for school and Guard duties.

Although 100 percent tuition reimbursement would give students more time for military duties, it could also draw people to the Guard strictly for a free education, she said.

"Tuition reimbursement is of course a great incentive to join, but there are so many other things involved with it," said Rasmussen, who plans to graduate in July.

But Ford said the stringent requirements of the Guard leave no room for slackers.

"You still have to go to basic training," he said. "You still have to attend drill."

"We really think that somebody who's looking for a free education is going to find that too much is asked of a National Guard soldier."

Ford said he was optimistic about LB243 adding to the ranks.

"We think that when you look at the economics of putting in 100 percent tuition (reimbursement) they far outweigh the required money spent to fund it."

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