

could involve four teams,  
13 players, 1, 10C

By Ed Betz, AP

## Baseball braces for free agent race, 1, 5C



role • 1D  
Jerry O'Neill, Warner Bros

Tuesday, August 22, 2000

# Newsline

■ News ■ Money ■ Sports ■ Life

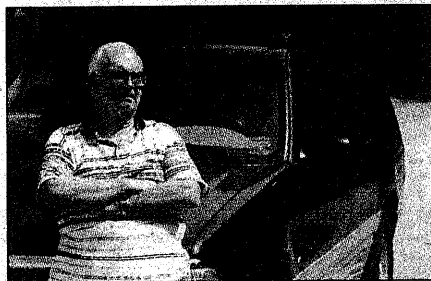
## ■ Interest rate outlook pushes up markets

Dow Jones industrial average jumps 33.33 points to 11,079.81; Nasdaq index climbs 22.81 to 3953.15; 30-year Treasury bond yield rises 5.71% to 4.48%.

- ▶ USA TODAY Internet 100 rises 2.49 to 158.68, 4B.
- ▶ Japan's Nikkei is up 157 points, 1.0%, to 16,197 at 1 a.m. ET today; yen is 108.45 per dollar. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index is up 109 points, 0.6%, to 17,611.

## White House travel tab tops \$292 million

The Pentagon has spent \$292.4 million shuttling President Clinton, the first lady, Vice President Gore and others to foreign lands since 1997, congressional auditors say. Clinton had been critical of President Bush in the 1992 presidential campaign for spending too much time on foreign affairs. 5A.



By Shawn Spence for USA TODAY

## More deaths linked to tires

At least three people have died while riding in vehicles with recalled Firestone tires since the recall started two weeks ago. Like many who have the tires on their automobiles, George Meissner, above, of Indiana, says he worries about driving. 1-3B.

## Bush assails state of military

Texas Gov. George W. Bush says the Clinton administration has let the military decay, and reiterates his pledge for a \$5 billion infusion during speech at Veterans of Foreign Wars convention in Milwaukee. 5A.

## Western wildfires threatening tourism

Closed hiking areas, streams and park entrances along with smoked-out wilderness vistas have visitors scrambling and businesses suffering. Montana and Idaho have been hardest hit. 2A.

## ■ Today's debate: United Airlines merger

In USA TODAY's opinion, "Poor on-time records raise merger red-flag for fliers." 14A.

▶ "We can — and will — do better to win back our customers' confidence and to repair our battered reputation, United's James Goodwin says. 14A.

## ■ Money: Air summit aims to end gridlock

Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater unveils plan to ease gridlock in skies and airport. Critic calls summit with airlines, labor unions and FAA "a sham." 1B.

▶ Struggling shares of business software maker MicroStrategy get lift from deal with IBM. 1B.

## ■ Sports: NFL tackling football players

The new NFL is sending contracts to 410 players in the NFL's Arena League who have signed letters of intent. They'll get \$40,000-\$50,000 for 10 games. 1C.

## ■ Life: Animal cruelty 'real sickness'

"Astronomical rates" of animal abuse by partners of battered women underscore link between domestic violence and cruelty to animals, research shows. 9D.

▶ In eWorld: Island nations capitalize on rush to mine their country codes for domain names. And, buying marijuana is almost a click away. 3D.

## Friday: College football bonus section

From Division I-A to Division III, the stars are ready to run. Preview the new season.

By John O. Buckley

## Nomination blocked



By Rudy Gutierrez, El Paso Times

**Moreno:** Nominated to the 5th Circuit appeals court Sept. 16, 1999. Republican Texas senators blocked his nomination May 5.

## Confirmed after 1½ years



By Hyungwon Kang, Los Angeles Times

**Morrow:** Nominated June 25, 1996, to a federal district court in California. Confirmed by the Senate on Feb. 11, 1998.

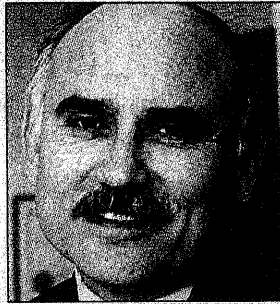
## Confirmed after 2 years



By Stephanie Turner, The Porterville (Calif.) Recorder

**Berzon:** Nominated to the 9th Circuit appeals court Jan. 27, 1998. Confirmed by the Senate last March 9.

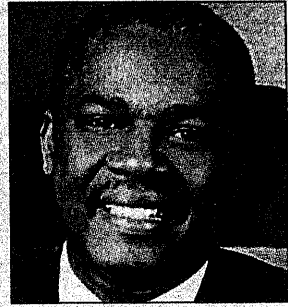
## Confirmed after 4 years



By Hugh Williams, Daily Journal (Los Angeles)

**Paez:** Nominated to the 9th Circuit on Jan. 25, 1996. Confirmed by the Senate last March 9, more than four years later.

## Nomination rejected



By Linda's Studio

**White:** Nominated to a federal district court seat in Missouri on June 26, 1997. Rejected by the Senate on Oct. 5, 1999.

## Nomination withdrawn



By Paul Iverson, Corpus Christi (Texas) Caller-Times

**Rangel:** Nominated to the 5th Circuit appeals court July 24, 1997. Withdrew his name Oct. 22, 1998, after Senate failed to act.

# School rolls 1 record

By Tamara Henry  
USA TODAY

This fall, 53 million children will enter public and private elementary and secondary schools, the highest enrollment in U.S. history and further evidence that school crowding and teacher shortages will be top issues in localities nationwide.

The growth trend is outlined in a Department of Education report released Monday, which estimates that school enrollment will continue to grow, to reach 53.5 million in five years.

"We need to figure out where we will put these children and who will teach them," Education Secretary Richard Riley says.

The report casts light on the ability of communities to handle the influx of students:

▶ Crowding is hampering sizes. Some elementary classrooms, more than double what

▶ About 2.2 million teachers next decade to meet rising en-

tiring teachers. The highest co-

is in the age range of mid-40

will be retiring within 10 year

▶ School construction is fa-

in many communities, and po-

creasing in popularity. Riley a

growth — an increase of 8 mil

years — to the influx of immi-

gren and grandchildren of bal

By 2020, the number of wi-

to decrease, while the numbe

The number of Hispanic chi-

from 7.9 million to 12.7 milli

The greatest enrollment in

Over the next decade, the nur

uates will increase nationwide

— Arizona, California, Flori

North Carolina — will see th

graduates jump 20% or more

The Los Angeles Unified Sch

largest in the country, proje

# Politics snares court hopes of minorities and women

Federal judges are more diverse, but minority nominees still twice as likely to be rejected

By Joan Biskupic  
USA TODAY

Nearly eight years after President Clinton pledged to appoint more minorities and women as federal judges, the bench is more diverse than ever: 15% of the judges are minorities and 20% are women, up considerably from 1993.

However, the numbers mask an appointment system that continues to favor white men significantly and is so dominated by politics and pay-backs that minority nominees are twice as likely to be rejected as whites.

A review of Clinton's nominees reveals that though he has diversified the bench more than any other president, the nomination process — flowing from the Democratic White House to the Republican-led Senate — has become a political meat grinder, especially for African-Americans, Hispanics and women.

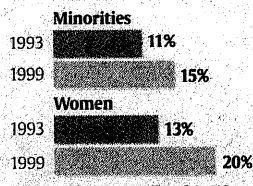
▶ 48% of Clinton's 374 picks have been women or minorities, compared with 28% by George Bush and 14% by Ronald Reagan.

▶ But 35% of Clinton's minority nominees have not been confirmed by the Senate, compared with a 14% failure rate among whites, says Citizens for Independent Courts (CIC), a non-partisan group.

▶ On average, it takes about eight months for minorities and women to get through the confirmation process; the average for white men is five months, according to a CIC study of the 1997-98 congressional term and a USA TODAY review covering 1999-2000.

## Federal judge profile

Among federal judges, percentages who are minorities or women:



Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts

By Quin Tian, USA TODAY

## Cover story

# Russia says there are no survivors from sub d

## Admiral asks for forgiveness

By Vivienne Walt

In a live televised address from the deck of a cruiser, fleet commander Adm. Vyacheslav Popov asked his countrymen for forgiveness for not rescuing the sailors.

in tiny air pockets disappeared when the Norwegian-led team of divers, working for more than 24 hours at a depth of 350 feet, pried open rear escape hatches and found the inner

of radioactive leakage from the sub's two nuclear reactors, which apparently had shut down safely. Russian officials said they are not sure what caused the initial explosion

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Please see COVER STORY on 11A ▶

▶ Schools cope with short

November 3, 2000