

# Today's Observer

## National/World 2A-14A

**Status quo**  
A new census report says the rich are getting richer, and the poor and middle class are making about the same. **4A**

**Immigrant education**  
Bob Dole backs a bill in Congress that would allow California and other states to bar the children of illegal immigrants from public schools. **5A**

**20 million years older**  
Scientists in Thailand say they have found the earliest fossils of a tyrannosaur, now known to be 20 million years older. **7A**

**Yeltsin in better position**  
Zhirinovskiy says he will not support Zyuganov in next month's presidential runoff, thereby helping Yeltsin. **14A**

## Local 1C-7C

**Bonds could speed roads**  
A Wednesday vote in the state House means N.C. voters will get to decide in November whether to borrow \$950 million to speed up highway loops around Charlotte and other big cities. If voters agree, Charlotte would get enough money to finish its 63-mile outerbelt as early as 2004. **1C**

**Ex-officer sues chief, city**  
A Newton police officer fired for refusing to stop witnessing about his Christian beliefs while on duty filed a federal discrimination lawsuit Wednesday against the city and its police chief. **1C**

## Business 1D-6D

**Saks looks at Charlotte**  
Saks Fifth Avenue is interested in entering the Charlotte market, possibly as an anchor for an uptown mall project. **1D**

**New Hampton Inn coming**  
A Hampton Inn and Suites hotel will be part of the \$75 million Phillips Place mixed-use development on Fairview Road near SouthPark. **1D**

**3 bond traders out**  
Three bond traders leave First Union after officials discover "improper" trades on an issue of securities underwritten by the bank and Merrill Lynch. **1D**

## Sports 1B-8B

**Going rate**  
Shaquille O'Neal, one of several high-profile players who will be free agents July 1, gets a 4-year, \$55 million offer from the Orlando Magic, a newspaper reports. **1B**

**Carolinas connection**  
Seven of the 16 players on the U.S. Olympic women's soccer team played for the North Carolina Tar Heels. "They have the best women players coming out of college," says coach Tony DiCiccio. **1B**

## Living 1E-6E

**When a pet dies**  
Writing, drawing, getting sympathy cards can help grieving owners cope with a very real loss. **1E**

**If you can't stand the heat**  
There was life before air conditioning. Mary Curtis reveals childhood secrets of coping with summer weather. **1E**

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# Inside Report



Bob Nixon, executive director of Earth Conservation Corps, holds a bald eagle chick during a news conference in Washington on Wednesday. ECC will transfer four eagles from an indoor way station pen to a tree-supported box in the National Arboretum in Washington.

## Urban eagles on the way

### National symbol will soar over capital if program works

By **HEATHER DEWAR**  
Knight-Ridder Newspapers  
**WASHINGTON** — Four homeless Great Lakes eaglets moved into new digs here Wednesday — a riverfront "crib" in a tall poplar tree, within eagle's-eye view of the marbled Capitol dome and the city's most ravaged slums.

The 8-week-old chicks, crowded out of their wild Wisconsin nests by greedy siblings, are part of a five-year program to bring back the bald eagle to the District of Columbia.

Though the once-endangered bird is on the rebound nationwide, experts say there hasn't been an eagle's nest in Washington since 1945.

"Fifty years is too long for our nation's bird not to be nesting in our nation's capital," said Bob Nixon, executive director of the nonprofit Earth Conservation Corps, a wildlife restoration program in its second year.

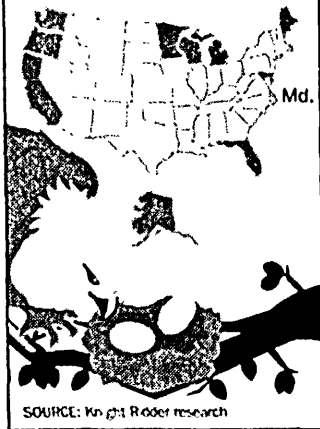
Nixon, a falconer trained in England, hopes to rebuild the link between humans and wildlife in a tough city's most neglected corner: Anacostia, home to more than its fair share of industrial decay, unemployment and poverty.

Unlike the famous Potomac, the Anacostia River flows through eastern Washington, separating the gleaming city of monuments from all-but-forgotten streets of boarded-up housing projects. There are peaceful blocks and strong families here, as everywhere, but you don't hear much about them.

In Washington, the river's name and its neighborhood are synony-

### BALD EAGLES REBOUNDING

States where bald eagle populations are thriving due to efforts of conservationists:



SOURCE: Knight-Ridder research  
Knight-Ridder Tribune

mous with blight; its banks are a barrier seldom crossed.

Under rain-spattered, ragged skies, Nixon and four young people from Anacostia's public-housing projects ferried the eaglets upriver, past floating rafts of plastic bottles and used syringes, past a hunting egret, past junkyards and green meadows.

From now until October, the four Anacostia residents will earn \$100 a week and \$1,700 of college tuition credits by caring for the eaglets.

The river is tainted with sewage

and city trash, but its banks are lined with woods belonging to the National Park Service.

Beavers inhabit its murky waters; great blue herons nest on its shores. Five decades after the last eagle pair abandoned its nest on one of the islands, biologists think the river is once again healthy enough to keep the big birds supplied with fish.

"The Anacostia is thought of as being a horrible river, as is the community where these people live, but there's a lot of good in both," Nixon said. "It's not Alaska by any stretch of the imagination, but the food base is there and the habitat is there, so we ought to try to reintroduce this missing piece of the original ecosystem."

The first quartet of fledglings arrived last year from the University of Minnesota-affiliated Raptor Research Center in St. Paul. Three are still in the area, Nixon said, and one has been seen fishing near the Jefferson Memorial.

Experts from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service say Earth Corps is the only program attempting to introduce eagles into an American city.

Their more diminutive relative, the peregrine falcon, was successfully transplanted into the concrete canyons of Manhattan, Boston, Charlotte and Akron, Ohio, and a dozen other places in the 1980s.

But it takes a powerful love of symbolism to tussle with a flapping, squawking young eagle, its wingspan already approaching 7 feet and 300 pounds of thrust in its long, curved talons.

On Wednesday, Earth Corps

*"Fifty years is too long for our nation's bird not to be nesting in our nation's capital."*

BOB NIXON  
EARTH CONSERVATION CORPS

workers used a cherry picker to hoist four more young birds into a cage made of wooden dowels, 60 feet above the river's bank in the National Arboretum.

To keep the birds from becoming too accustomed to humans, the caretakers will hide in a clump of bushes, using a rope and pulley to hoist up thrice-daily feedings of day-old fish donated by local markets. The cage will open in the fall and the fledglings will gradually begin to fend for themselves.

Though it's too soon to tell whether the young transplants will ultimately nest here, the project's supervisors at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service already consider it a success.

"The bald eagle is making an excellent recovery, so it's not as though their survival depends on this project," said Paul Nickerson, an eagle expert with the wildlife service.

"People are the ones who really benefit. It gives the public an opportunity to see what wildlife restoration is all about and to enjoy these magnificent birds."

## News Makers

### At book signing, Fabio cuts a dashing (literary) figure

They came for his biceps. Fabio hopes they'll buy his books.

Hundreds of swooning women swarmed the Fitzsimons Army Medical Center grounds in Aurora, Colo., Tuesday to catch a glimpse of the brawny, long-haired model and pseudo-author, who was autographing his latest (ghost-written) literary effort.

"He is such a babe," said Christine Fresquez, as she waited in line. "I'm hoping I don't faint, or fall on him in a mad frenzy."

Fabio's book, "Dangerous," is published by Pinnacle Books and is the sixth story under his name.

"Women are God's greatest gift to man. ... That is why I never grow tired of them," he said. "I am not like other celebrities. ... I don't keep a distance between me and the fans."

### Jackson says he hit bottom, bounced back from crack

"Pulp Fiction" star Samuel L. Jackson, a crack addict in "Jungle Fever," has played the role in real life, too.

The actor's crack habit got so bad he thought he was going to die at one point.

"I was tired. I just wanted to lay down and just give up," said Jackson, who entered rehab seven years ago and has been clean ever since.

"They talk about you reaching your bottom and I guess that's exactly what happened to me," Jackson told "Entertainment Tonight" in an interview for broadcast today. "I actually had never performed without some substance in me until that time that I got clean."

### Dean says shotgun story is pure pork sausage

A college student stranded by a snowstorm says country singer and sausage baron Jimmy Dean was less than neighborly.

Christopher Dallaglio of Old Dominion University sued Dean for \$125,000 this week in Richmond, Va., for allegedly pointing a shotgun at him without just cause.

Dean's lawyer, Stephen Conte, said the lawsuit is groundless.

Stephen Bricker, Dallaglio's lawyer, said his client was trying to return a friend's truck in a January snowstorm when he got stuck. Bricker said someone Dallaglio took to be a caretaker at the Dean home let him use the phone.

Dallaglio was unable to reach



**THEY'LL PLAY SELENA:** Becky Lee Meza, 10, (left) and Jennifer Lopez will portray Selena in an upcoming film about the life of the slain Tejano music star. They were among 20,000 girls and young women who responded to a national casting call in San Antonio, Los Angeles, Miami and Chicago.

the friend and returned to the truck. When he did, Dean pointed a shotgun at him and told him it was loaded, Bricker said.

### 2 future voters born to Arkansas representative

Rep. Blanche Lambert Lincoln is giving up her congressional career to meet the demands placed on her by her two newest constituents: twin sons born Wednesday.

The 35-year-old Arkansas Democrat gave birth at Regional

Medical Center in Memphis, Tenn.

She won't seek a third term this fall.

"Babies don't understand having to fly to Washington twice a week or having to say goodbye to a parent for weeklong absences," she said.

Lincoln said she and her husband, Dr. Steve Lincoln, "believe that the best place for our family is being together at home in Arkansas."

# Eye on Medicine

## Premie lung treatment aids more whites

A breakthrough lung treatment for premature infants has dramatically improved the survival statistics of white babies but not black ones.

The treatment — surfactant replacement therapy — appears to have had the unintended effect of widening the racial gap in infant mortality.

Respiratory distress syndrome is a common problem among premature babies. Their lungs often lack surfactant, a substance that keeps their air sacs open so they can breathe. In 1990, the Food and Drug Administration approved replacement surfactant to treat this problem.

However, respiratory distress syndrome is much more common among white babies than blacks, so whites have experienced most of the benefits of the new treatment.

A study in St. Louis illustrates this: The death rate among white babies of very low birth weight immediately dropped 41% when surfactants came on the market, but deaths among premature blacks the same size did not change.

Prematurity is the leading underlying cause of infant deaths. Blacks are about three times as likely as whites to be born prematurely and about twice as likely to die in infancy. The reason for blacks' higher risk of premature birth is unclear, although genetic differences, smoking and other poor habits during pregnancy and less prenatal care are all suspected.

The study, published in today's New England Journal of Medicine, reviewed all babies between 1 and 3 pounds born in St. Louis between 1987 and 1989 and 1991 through 1992.

### Scientists discover how AIDS gets in cells

In a burst of research that could lead to new AIDS treatments, scientists have identified one and possibly three chemical footholds the virus needs to infect a person's cells.

Unlike a similar discovery announced just last month, the new work involves HIV strains commonly spread from person to person.

Scientists have long known that to get inside cells, HIV attaches itself to a structure on the cell surface called CD4. But it has also been clear that HIV needed another foothold.

Last month, government researchers reported that for some strains of HIV, this second foothold is a cell protein called fusin. But fusin does not appear to be used by HIV strains that are most commonly transmitted between people and which predominate early in the course of a person's infection.

Now, five teams of scientists say they have identified a foothold for these strains. It's a protein found on blood cells, and it normally acts as a docking site for chemokines. Chemokines are chemical messages that summon blood cells to the sites of inflammation.

Research last year showed chemokines could virtually stop HIV from reproducing in the test tube. The new work shows that chemokines keep HIV from even entering blood cells, a necessary step for HIV reproduction.

Chemokines may shut the door by blocking HIV's access to their docking sites, called receptors, researchers said. So designing drugs to do the same thing may provide a new route of therapy.

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