

TUESDAY



TV news comedy 'Switching Channels' clicks

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March Madness

Pac-10 Tournament special

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Israeli anti-terror squads storm a commuter bus after Palestinian hijackers fired at Israeli civilians on board

Bus hijacking in Israel leaves 6 dead

3 Palestinian rebels, 3 Israelis are killed

By Dan Izenberg
The Associated Press
DIMONA, Israel — Three Palestinian guerrillas seized a commuter bus yesterday and held nuclear plant workers hostage, killing three Israeli civilians and wounding nine before police shot the hijackers to death, officials said.

of "escalating military action" against Israel.
The statement said the guerrillas launched the attack from within Israel, and did not infiltrate from a neighboring country.
Israeli army officials said the guerrillas infiltrated from Egypt and held 18 women and one man hostage for about three hours. The bus was set on fire as it started workers of the top-secret Dimona nuclear plant.

In the occupied territories, meanwhile, at least 12 Arabs were shot yesterday in clashes with Israeli troops, and the army said Palestinian protesters hurled a grenade at troops, wounding one soldier slightly in the West Bank village of Idna.
Also, more than 20 Arab tax collectors in the Gaza Strip volunteered mass resignations after underground leaders called for Palestinian-taxi workers for Israel's military administration. An army official says the resignations are not final.

Israeli analysts said escalating violence could barter the position of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the right-wing Likud bloc, which has not accepted the peace initiatives of U.S. Secretary of State George P. Shultz.
Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin told Israel's Knesset, or parliament, that yesterday's bus victims "were killed for nothing else but for their being Jewish, residents of Israel."

Voters hit polls today in the South

Bush may gain long GOP lead

By David E. Rosenbaum
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ATLANTA — In what amounts to the final regional primary, voters across the South today could give Vice President George Bush a long lead in the race for the Republican presidential nomination and narrow the Democratic field.



Vice President Bush

In a final appeal for support, candidates stamped the South yesterday and attacked one another in television commercials.
Never before have so many delegates been at stake in one day of nominating contests — 753 Republican and 1,307 Democratic delegates.

Primaries will be held today by both parties in 14 Southern and border states. In addition, Republicans will hold primaries or caucuses in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Washington. Democrats will hold caucuses in those states and also Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada and American Samoa.

Bush projected to gain most
Bush's strategists predict he will win more than 400 delegates today, and many politicians believe that estimate is intentionally low. Some put the figure as high as 600.

and used a satellite link for interviews in those states and in Maryland and North Carolina.
His staff believes those are the only states where Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas stands a chance of overtaking Bush. The vice president is expected to sweep the two largest states, Texas with 111 delegates and Florida with 82.

Dole expected runner-up
"If I get your support in Oklahoma tomorrow," Bush told a crowd in Tulsa, "and if I do well in my home state of Texas, as I think I am going to do, you are looking at the next president."

The prevailing view is that Bush will emerge from Super Tuesday with more than half of the 1,139 delegates needed to clinch the nomination.
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Mecham angrily ordered DPS to hinder inquiry, Milstead says

No immunity for Watkins, Senate says

By Susan Carson
The Arizona Daily Star

PHOENIX — State senators yesterday unanimously rejected a proposal to grant immunity to a key witness in Gov. Evan Mecham's impeachment trial.



Leo Watkins

At the urging of Attorney General Bob Corbin and attorneys for the House's prosecuting board of managers, the Senate Committee on Impeachment decided against granting Leo Watkins immunity. Watkins is the former head of state prison construction who allegedly made a death threat against a former Mecham staffer.

Senators also unanimously rejected a motion by attorneys for Mecham and Watkins to suppress records connected with a polygraph test Watkins allegedly took after the incident.
Mecham attorney Jerris Leonard argued that the test was irrelevant.
But Paul Dickerson, a prosecutor in the case, said the records

By Melissa Rigg
The Arizona Daily Star
PHOENIX — The last order Col. Ralph Milstead said he expected to hear from the governor was to hinder a state investigation into an alleged death threat, he testified yesterday.

Milstead, who called Gov. Evan Mecham on Nov. 12 about the threat, said he was "not expecting an angry response," which is what he got. Instead, he thought Mecham would say, "Do what you have to do."

The director of the Department of Public Safety was the only witness to testify yesterday during the sixth day of Mecham's Senate impeachment trial.
He wore a gray suit and a red tie in a sharp contrast to the full DPS uniform, complete with a revolver strapped to his hip, that he wore during testimony in January's House impeachment hearings.

Senators are currently hearing testimony on charges that Mecham obstructed justice when he ordered Milstead not to cooperate with the state Attorney General's Office investigation of an alleged bribe made by Mecham fundraiser Leo Watkins.
On Nov. 12, Watkins, the head of prison construction at the time, allegedly said that Donna Carlson, a grand jury witness and Mecham's former legislative liaison, would be harmed if she continued testifying about the governor.

Milstead testified yesterday that he didn't know Mecham felt the Attorney General's Office was out to get him until the Nov. 12 conversation. At the time, he thought the relationship between the two offices was just strained, Milstead said.
Under questioning from William



Pensioners in Panama go on rampage after benefit checks are not cashed

By Guy Gugliotta
Washington Post

PANAMA CITY, Panama — Thousands of pensioners, enraged yesterday by government delays in cashing benefit checks, barricaded streets, hurled stones, jeered police and demanded the ouster of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Opposition groups announced a "government of national reconciliation" and endorsed the efforts of deposed President Eric Delvalle to fire Noriega as chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

"We want U.S. intervention! What do we have against the gringos? They don't pay!"

300 people showed up. Shortly after the demonstration started, the National Bank began to cash some pension checks at the nearby Ministry of Public Health.
The government virtually ran out of cash last week and closed Panama's 130 banks Friday after the United States halted money transfers to Panama. The United States supports Delvalle and has refused to extend diplomatic recognition to his Noriega-appointed successor.

In New York yesterday, a federal judge extended his order that freeze \$50 million in Panamanian deposits for another 10 days.
Government officials failed to prosecute the Panama City's Parque Porras, but only 200 to

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WEATHER

Breezy. Today will be partly cloudy and breezy, with northwest winds of 10 to 20 mph. Temperatures will be a little cooler. The high will be in the mid-70s. Tonight will be fair and breezy at times. The overnight low will be near 40. The high yesterday was 78. The low was 49. Details, Page 3A.

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