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U.S. prison population doubles over 12 years

By ANNE GEARAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The number of American adults imprisoned has more than doubled over the past 12 years, reaching its highest level ever last year, the Justice Department said Sunday. The United States now may surpass Russia as the country with the highest rate of incarceration. At mid-1998, jails and prisons held an estimated 1.5 million people, according to a Bureau of Justice Statistics report. At the end of 1985, the figure was 744,208.

Viewed another way, there were 668 inmates for every 100,000 U.S. residents as of June 1998, compared with 313 inmates per 100,000 people in 1985. In Russia, 685 people out of every 100,000 are behind bars, according to The Sentencing Project, a U.S. group critical of the general trend toward harsher sentencing of American criminals. A planned amnesty of 100,000 prisoners in Russia and the expectation of continued increases in the U.S. inmate population means the United States prob-

ably will become the world's leading jailer "in a year or two," said Jenni Gainsborough, a Sentencing Project spokeswoman. The number of people imprisoned in the United States has grown for more than a quarter century, helped by increased drug prosecutions and a general get-tough policy on all classes of offenders. More criminals serving longer sentences led the inmate population to top 1 million in 1996. It has continued to rise. About two-thirds of the nation's inmates are in state and federal prisons, while the re-

maining one-third are in local jails. Prisons generally hold convicted criminals sentenced to terms longer than one year, jails typically keep those awaiting trial and those sentenced to 12 months or less. In the June 1998 Justice Department survey, 1.2 million people were held in prisons, while local jails held about 600,000 men and women. Local jails also supervised more than 72,000 people under various outside work, treatment or home detention programs. The survey showed the total

number of people behind bars grew by 4.4 percent from June 1997. Between the end of 1990 and mid-1998, the incarcerated population grew an average 6.2 percent annually, said the report's author, statistician Darrell Gilliard. Although the total growth rate was slower last year, Gilliard said the difference is not statistically significant. "The numbers have been pretty steady throughout the 1990s, with a pretty steady increase every year," he said.

— IN MONTANA —

Montana had about 3,200 men, women and juveniles incarcerated at the end of 1998. Male inmates make up the largest portion of that population. Montana has 2,750 men behind bars, about 150 more than two years ago.

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This is Part 2 of the third installment of a monthly, yearlong series about Montana's drug choice.



Sunday: One mother tries to atone for damage her drinking did to baby
Last month: Battling lifelong addiction
Next month: The effect on families

Fetal alcohol syndrome leaves mark Woman struggles daily with damage inflicted in womb

By ERIC NEWHOUSE
Tribune Projects Editor

Melissa Clark, a 22-year-old victim of fetal alcohol syndrome, recently learned a painful lesson about trust. She was home alone in Great Falls when a man rang the doorbell, although she didn't know him, she let him in. He walked to her bedroom, started to undress, and told her to do the same. She did. When it was all over, she called her foster mother, Johnnie Howanach, who called the police. But officers wrote it off as consensual sex. Not so, insisted Howanach. Clark's brain was damaged as a result of her birth mother drinking during her pregnancy, and she didn't know that having sex with a stranger is wrong.



Tribune photo by Larry Beckner

Melissa Clark, 22, a victim of fetal alcohol syndrome, plays the violin for students in a life skills class at Paris Gibson Middle School. Clark visits schools, talking about her symptoms and trying to keep future parents from making the same mistake her mother did.

"People with fetal alcohol syndrome just don't have these boundaries," said Marilyn Kind, a friend who works with the developmentally disabled. "They are easily victimized," agreed Bill Hayne, a professor of education at Lewis and Clark College in Lewiston, Idaho. "They are eager to please, very friendly, and it leads to non-boundaries," said Hayne, who was raised on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. "They don't know the difference between a friend and a stranger because they can't remember." Learning boundaries is one of Clark's current tasks. "I have learned to say no to a lot of things," agreed Clark, "but I need someone to tell me when someone is not safe. I don't want to go out with anyone unless my mom is there because guys can take advantage of you big time real quick." Clark wants desperately to be independent, but she knows that's not likely. "I jump in to do something, but I don't know what I'm doing," she said, "and it always turns out to be a disaster." One of the first children in Montana to be diagnosed

"I jump in to do something, but I don't know what I'm doing, and it always turns out to be a disaster."

— Melissa Clark, explaining how she longs to be independent

with FAS, Clark combines an impulsive nature with impaired judgment. She gets tremendously frustrated when she can't do what she wants, when she can't do what others seem to do so easily. "I'm tired of people telling me what to do or putting words in my mouth," she exploded at Howanach during a recent interview. "I have my own opinions,

and people aren't going to change my mind by putting words in my mouth," she snarped. But under Howanach's questioning, Clark admitted she lies at times. "A lot of these kids are tired of being 12, 15, 20 steps behind anyone else and they'll lie to make themselves look better," explained Hayne. Clark also admitted she has stolen money. "If there's not a definite physical connection to somebody, they think it's OK to take it," said Hayne. "It's not stealing. It's like me taking a newspaper off a chair in an airport — it isn't mine, but I assume it was left behind so it's OK to take it." And Clark worries about what will happen to her when Howanach is no longer around to guide and protect her.



Tribune photo by Larry Beckner

Tom Cochran, right, and Kyle Woolley are intent as they listen to Clark talk about fetal alcohol syndrome in their life skills class.

See STRUGGLE, 4A

Peace talks for Kosovo begin today

From Tribune wire services

In one way or another, the outcome of peace talks aimed at ending the conflict in Kosovo is almost certain to increase American involvement in the strife-torn area of the Balkan peninsula. Sporadic violence continued Sunday as Serbian and ethnic Albanian delegates gathered in France to prepare for a second round of talks aimed at ending the war in the southern province of Serb-dominated Yugoslavia. The talks resume today. The death toll from three bomb attacks Saturday rose to seven after one man died overnight.

The job of the peacekeepers would be to oversee the phased disarmament and withdrawal of Yugoslav and ethnic Albanian military forces, and maintain a peaceful environment in Kosovo. The force would be in Kosovo at least until free elections could be held to determine the future of the province. The estimated cost to U.S. taxpayers would be \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion a year. No time limit for the troops' war has been set. U.S. peacekeeping troops went into Bosnia on a "one-year" mission in late 1995. They are still there. If a negotiated settlement is not reached in France, Clinton and NATO are expected to renew threats of air strikes against Serbian military targets.

If a settlement between the separatists and the central government is reached, President Clinton has committed 4,000 U.S. troops, mostly an elite Marine strike force in the initial phase, to a NATO peacekeeping contingent of 28,000 troops. The force would be deployed quickly once both sides accepted the terms of the agreement proposed by the United States and key Eu-

ropian allies. The force would be to oversee the phased disarmament and withdrawal of Yugoslav and ethnic Albanian military forces, and maintain a peaceful environment in Kosovo. The force would be in Kosovo at least until free elections could be held to determine the future of the province. The estimated cost to U.S. taxpayers would be \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion a year. No time limit for the troops' war has been set. U.S. peacekeeping troops went into Bosnia on a "one-year" mission in late 1995. They are still there. If a negotiated settlement is not reached in France, Clinton and NATO are expected to renew threats of air strikes against Serbian military targets.

See KOSOVO, BACK PAGE

Officials say victim died of asphyxiation

By KARL PUCKETT
Tribune Staff Writer

Authorities ruled Sunday that Michael John Paul, pronounced dead Saturday, officially died of asphyxiation from some form of trauma to his neck.

Cascade County jail. Light said Ford was cited again at the jail with the new charges when Paul died. The county attorney may seek a higher bail today after reviewing additional reports of the suspect's past.

Also on Sunday, Cascade County Attorney Brand Light said charges against Eugene Melvin Ford, who is being held on \$100,000 bail in connection with the death, automatically were upgraded to deliberate homicide when news of Paul's death came. Paul, 57, was attacked at Cloud 9 Apartments, 725 So. Ave. S., Friday evening, according to police. He died early Saturday. Ford, 45, his roommate, reported the injury to the apartment manager and later was arrested and booked into the

Sgt. Tim Wong of the Cascade County Sheriff's Department, said the cause of death was "asphyxiation due to blunt force trauma of the neck." "Until he had seen the autopsy, Light said, he couldn't clarify whether the official description means strangulation, or if the assault involved blunt force similar to the one at this point, he said, it doesn't appear that a weapon was involved. "I know there was damage to the larynx area, which caused the asphyxia," Light said.

Berger concedes that China benefited in Los Alamos spy case

By ART PINE
The Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration conceded Sunday that the Chinese have reaped significant technological gains from the secrets they stole from the Los Alamos nuclear weapons laboratory but insisted it has tightened security adequately. Appearing on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press," presidential National Security Adviser

Sandy Berger said there's no question that they have benefited from the espionage allegedly carried out in recent years at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. And Energy Secretary Bill Richardson, whose department oversees the U.S. nuclear weapons program, admitted that the administration has not been able to control the e-mail that scientists at Los Alamos send to their foreign

counterparts — a suspected source of some leaks. But both men asserted that the administration acted swiftly in dealing with the suspected spy. Berger dismissed as "outrageous" suggestions that it had sought to cover up the scandal for political reasons. Critics say — the Clinton White House walked several years before acting on espionage reports that it received in 1996 and 1997.

A week ago, after newspaper articles disclosed the Los Alamos case, Richardson fired Wen Ho Lee, a University of California contract worker at Los Alamos, who officials say they suspect may have leaked some secrets to the Chinese. They have not charged him with any crime, however. Berger's concession that China, unquestionably has benefited from the technology leaks marked the strongest admission by the administration

that the damage is serious. Richardson said last week that the CIA still was assessing the impact. The two men also defended the administration for having waited three years to fire the scientist. "When you do an investigation like this... you have to develop the information, you have to analyze it," Richardson said on ABC's "This Week" program. "You don't want to tip somebody off, by

dismissing them. We didn't have strong evidence to take the action that I took." Meanwhile, Republican lawmakers offered suggestions for what should be done next, from appointing an independent investigative commission to firing Berger — a step President Clinton already has refused to take. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the entire issue — including possible Chinese espionage and interference in U.S. political campaigns — should be aired by a blue-ribbon panel similar to the one that probed the Iran-Contra scandal in the 1980s. "It's very serious, and it needs to be investigated," McCain said of the allegations involving Chinese activities in the United States over the last 15 years. But he stopped short of linking that Clinton had changed policy decisions on China to campaign contributions.

WEATHER ▶ Great Falls today
High: 58 — Low: 30
Some clouds

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Class Act Classified-Comics

Class Act Classified-Comics

CLASSIFIED

Alcohol

Cradle to grave

Series exploring alcohol's reach

Alcohol is woven into the traditions and daily life that are Montana. It provides jobs, contributes taxes and supports community events.

But when it is abused, it wracks our marriages, leaves our partners battered and retards the futures of Montanans yet to be born.

The Tribune is taking a yearlong look at alcohol in Montana and exploring how it affects lives, from cradle to grave.

Staff members are analyzing the far-reaching problems of alcohol abuse and will report on solutions that offer hope for bringing that abuse under control.

The series began Jan. 31 in a special, four-page section. The second installment appeared February 21. The third installment ran as two parts — Sunday and today.

If you are interested in reading past issues, they are available at the library, or you can purchase issues at The Great Falls Tribune. For more information on back issues, call 791-6525.



A special education teacher at Chief Joseph Elementary School, Carolyn Erickson, helps one of her students with a reading lesson.

Many say they believe cases of fetal alcohol syndrome undiagnosed

By ERIC NEWHOUSE
Tribune Projects Editor

Of the 1,334 special education students in Great Falls schools, only eight have been diagnosed with fetal alcohol syndrome.

Gail Cleveland, who's in charge of the school district's special education program, suspects that fetal alcohol syndrome is frequently goes undiagnosed.

"It requires mothers to admit that they've been drinking during pregnancy," she said. "So they deny it, and the physicians don't press the issue."

"Many physicians don't want to stigmatize these children by labeling them, and others do not want to anger affluent clients whose alcohol consumption is considered legal and socially acceptable."

—Carole Kenner,
University of Cincinnati

"ADD can run in the family, but it also can have an environmental component," McCann said. "It can occur independently or it can occur in conjunction with alcohol."

Dr. Robert Hackford, a behavioral pediatrician at the Great Falls Clinic who deals frequently with ADD children, said it's tough to diagnose the effects of fetal alcohol exposure.

"On a rare occasion, I might make that diagnosis," he said, "but my main approach is to try to identify the problems relating to treatment."

"If a child has signs of attention deficit disorder, the child should be treated," he added, "and I would do that whether there was a diagnosis of FAS or not."

In Great Falls schools, there is no specific category for ADD children. Instead there are three categories — emotionally disturbed, learning disabled, and other health impaired — into which ADD students may be categorized.

In the past nine years, the number of children in those categories has increased by 42 percent — from 513 in 1989-90 to 727 in 1997-98. Classroom teachers currently provide medication, generally Ritalin, to 577 students, said Cleveland.

While there are many causes of attention deficit disorder, some doctors believe that fetal alcohol children are among those diagnosed with ADD.

"If you look at FAS behavior — hyperactivity, impulsivity, poor judgment and inability to learn from past experience — it's the same criteria for diagnosing ADD," said Dr. Robert LaDue, a clinical psychologist in Seattle who works with the fetal alcohol syndrome unit at the University of Washington.

"A lot of us feel that ADD is greatly over-diagnosed," added LaDue.

One major difference, she noted, is that fetal alcohol syndrome requires a doctor to prove, or a mother to admit, alcohol use during pregnancy, whereas ADD focuses solely on the symptoms.

Doctors say ADD can stem from causes other than prenatal exposure to alcohol.

Cathy McCann, genetics counselor with Shastah Hospital in Helena, said ADD can be connected to a number of factors.

Struggle: Years of hard work have turned Clark into a success story

FROM 1A

For all her problems and worries, Clark is an amazing success story.

When she was born Nov. 5, 1976, she was two months premature and weighed less than 3 pounds, 2 ounces.

She remained in the hospital for 39 days. On Feb. 3, 1977, Clark's doctor noted: "This patient was a markedly premature child. Mother was an alcoholic, drank a lot. This may have something to do with the child's condition at the present."

At a year and a half, Clark was diagnosed with what was then called fetal maternal syndrome.

Social workers placed the child with Howanach in 1982, but said it wasn't likely she would be able to absorb an education.

"She had an attention span of no more than a minute," said Howanach. "She was a truly hyperactive person — she was just swinging from the chandeliers."

But after years of hard work, Clark graduated from C.M. Russell High School and reads at about a sixth-grade level, according to her foster mom.

"That was hard," said Clark. "My reaction time was different. I was in a special education class, but it seemed that all the kids were two or three steps ahead of me."

"They always seemed to have the answers when I didn't."

Some of Clark's progress was because her foster mom worked with her, using simple teaching tools. FAS children do better with art, music and tactile sensations than with concepts like English and math.

Howanach emphasizes structure, going over each step of a simple process: how to cook spaghetti, answer a phone, do laundry.

Having fetal alcohol syndrome makes you feel like an animal all penned up in a big cage with a chain around its neck.

—Melissa Clark

Stress is particularly hard for Clark to handle, as she found out when she got a job as a dishwasher.

"I couldn't keep up with my job, and I broke two or three dishes," she said. "I was hanging in there for a while, but I kept getting behind and behind and finally I just crash bombed."

Clark has made contact with her birth mother in telephone conversations that were painful to both. "It was a lot more than I could handle," said Clark. "When she started to talk to me about her drinking, I went over the edge and had to give myself space to deal with my emotions."

"And she was crying so hard I couldn't really understand her."

Now Clark has started her own business — she walks dogs for a small fee.

And she uses the money to further what has become her life mission: To educate the public about fetal alcohol syndrome.

Her message? "Having fetal alcohol syndrome makes you feel like an animal all penned up in a big cage with a chain around its neck," said Clark.

"When she opened the cage door is opened and the chain drops off your neck, you're afraid to go too far from the cage," she said. "At least it's safe in there."



Clark, left, and her foster mother, Johnelle Howanach, operate a walk-a-dog service, Wacheelsta's. Clark uses the money to pay expenses for her crusade to educate the public about fetal alcohol syndrome.

Study finds babies whose moms smoked while pregnant may end up criminals

By TAMMY WEBBER
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — Babies whose mothers smoke during pregnancy could be at a higher risk of growing up to be criminals, new research suggests.

Although such links have been studied in children and teenagers, researchers say a study published in this month's Archives of General Psychiatry is the first to examine the relationship between

mothers who smoke and their children's adult behavior.

While stopping shots of saying that babies whose mothers smoked while pregnant will become criminals, researchers say their findings are significant.

"Our results support our hypothesis that maternal smoking during pregnancy is related to increased rates of crime in adult offspring," the authors write, adding that the results "suggest an additional critical

reason to support public health efforts aimed at improving maternal health behaviors during pregnancy."

However, an expert not involved in the study said there is not enough research to say that prenatal smoking can be risk factor for adult crimes.

The researchers from Emory University in Atlanta, the University of Southern California and the Institute of Preventive Medicine in Denmark based their findings on

data for 4,169 males born in Copenhagen between September 1969 and December 1961 and studied the men's arrest histories at age 34.

The number of cigarettes their mothers had smoked during the third trimester of pregnancy affected the men's arrests for nonviolent and violent crimes as adults, even after factoring out other possible causes such as alcohol use, divorce, income and home environment, researchers said in

the study, which was released Sunday.

Only one other risk factor — delivery complications — was found to be significant.

Researchers found that more than a quarter of the men whose mothers had the highest levels of smoking and delivery complications were arrested for a violent crime as an adult.

Further study should be aimed at determining the effects of smoking on the brain of developing fetuses and to

see if specific agents in tobacco smoke can be more directly linked to anti-social behavior, they said.

A spokeswoman for Patricia Brennan, the study's lead author and a researcher at Emory's Department of Psychology, could not be reached for comment Sunday.

But David Fergusson, a psychiatric epidemiologist at the Christchurch School of Medicine in New Zealand, said there is not enough research to add prenatal smoking to the

list of established risk factors for adult crime.

Fergusson, who wrote an editorial accompanying the article, said the study did not rule out the possibility that genetics — not smoking — caused behavior problems.

"Mothers who smoke during pregnancy are often young women who have previous misconduct problems and there is quite an inheritability of misconduct problems," Fergusson said in a telephone interview Sunday.

How to get help

If you or someone you know need help fighting a drinking problem, here are some suggestions:

Alcoholics Anonymous

AA has more than 60 meetings a week in Great Falls. You can find a listing in the Tribune's Business Board, which is published in the Montana section on Mondays. Hotline: (406) 482-1234

Beneficial Healthcare

The Benville addiction treatment center treats alcohol dependency on an inpatient or an outpatient basis, depending upon need. Call: (406) 486-4367

Gateway Recovery Center

This center, 401 3rd Ave. N., provides alcohol treatment. Its counselors also perform diagnostic for public health services, including treatment at state facilities. Call: (406) 727-2512 Web: gatewayrecovery.org

Rocky Mountain Treatment Center

This center, 900 4th Ave. N., provides inpatient and outpatient alcoholism treatment. Call: (406) 727-8632

The Montana Chemical Dependency Center

This state hospital, 2500 Continental Drive in Butte, provides inpatient and outpatient treatment for those certified by a counselor as being chemically dependent. Call: (406) 486-9400

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