

Clinton nominees show activist traits

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — President-elect Clinton is turning to a diverse group of activists to shape his administration's labor, social and environmental policies a day after naming an economic team dominated by Washington and Wall Street insiders.

The president-elect called an afternoon news conference today to make his second major round of personnel announcements. Transition and Democratic sources said Clinton would tap:

—Harvard professor Robert Reich, a key architect of Clinton's economic plan, for labor secretary.

—University of Wisconsin Chancellor Donna Shalala, a former Carter administration housing official, to lead the Department of Health and Human Services.

—Carol Browner, Florida's top environmental official and a close associate of Vice President-elect Al Gore, to head the Environmental Protection Agency.

—University of California, Berkeley, economist Laura D'Andrea Tyson to head the White House Council of Economic Advisors.

All four are vocal activists in their specialties. And in placing a top economic adviser in the labor post, Clinton signaled that department, which has jurisdiction over many of the president-elect's education and training ideas, would enjoy a much higher profile than in the Reagan-Bush years.

The Labor and HHS jobs are Cabinet posts; Clinton has not committed to raising EPA to Cabinet level,



Sen. Lloyd Bentsen

a step favored by Gore and environmental groups.

Today's appointments were the second installment in what aides said will be a flurry of personnel announcements over the next few weeks, although a brief lull was expected after today. Clinton is resigning as Arkansas governor on Saturday and is host for a two-day economic retreat Monday and Tuesday.

With three women among today's appointments, and one among those announced Thursday, Clinton was making progress on keeping his pledge of a Cabinet and administration that "looks like America."

Black and Hispanic groups, however, were still waiting to see how they would fare.

Former San Antonio Mayor

Henry Cisneros was a leading candidate for housing secretary, according to transition sources, but he also could be a candidate for the Texas Senate seat being vacated by Lloyd Bentsen, Clinton's choice Thursday for treasury secretary.

Among blacks in the running for senior administration posts are Democratic National Committee Chairman Ronald H. Brown, a leading prospect for ambassador to the United Nations, and Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who figures in speculation for secretary of state.

Each of the four selections to be made today bring activist credentials to Clinton's team that are in line with his campaign promises.

Reich, for example, is an ardent backer of "investing" in the economy in the form of education and training and spending on roads, bridges, high-speed rail and high-tech communications systems.

The Harvard professor, 46, is often referred to as an economist but holds no degree in that area. He was a Clinton classmate at Oxford when both were Rhodes scholars. The AFL-CIO had no objection to Reich.

Shalala, 51, has been at the University of Wisconsin helm for five years. Like Reich, she has a personal connection to the Clintons: she succeeded Hillary Clinton as chairwoman of the Children's Defense Fund.

At HHS, she would be a leading advocate of Clinton's health and family policies, including his promises to develop a universal

health care plan and seek significant welfare reforms.

Browner, 37, is a Miami native who was working as Gore's top legislative aide when Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles tapped her as the state's environmental regulation secretary two years ago.

In Florida, her record included spearheading legislation strengthening standards for underground storage tanks. As a Chiles aide during his Senate tenure, she helped win a federal moratorium on oil drilling off the Florida Keys.

The Tyson appointment had been expected as part of Clinton's economic announcements Thursday, but she was not on hand.

Tyson, 45, is known for her activist approach to trade and manufacturing, arguing that the government should support high-tech and other cutting-edge industries.

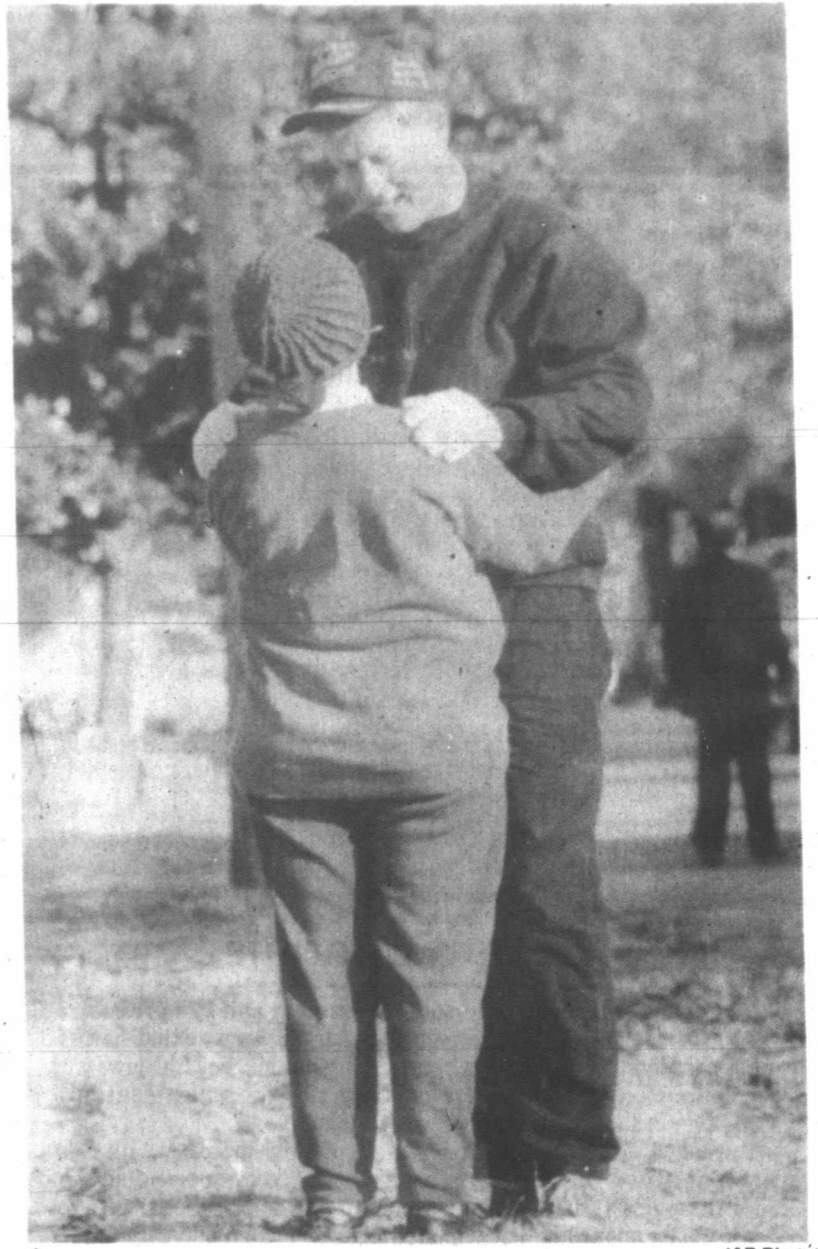
As part of his Thursday announcement, Clinton tapped Robert Rubin, co-chairman of Goldman, Sachs & Co., as assistant to the president for economic policy, charged with coordinating a new National Economic Council.

In addition to Bentsen and Rubin, Clinton on Thursday named:

—Rep. Leon Panetta, chairman of the House Budget Committee, director of Office of Management and Budget.

—Roger Altman, a Wall Street investment banker, as Bentsen's top deputy at treasury.

—Economist Alice Rivlin, former director of the Congressional Budget Office, as Panetta's OMB deputy.



President-elect Clinton talks to an unidentified woman after his run in Little Rock, Ark., Thursday

Elder suicide: The old talk about it more and do it less, experts claim

NEW YORK (AP) — Elderly Americans have the highest suicide rate of any age group, and few of them talk about killing themselves before they do it, according to a Gallup survey.

Most of those suicides are men; women, who keep up their social contacts in old age, account for only 20 percent of post-65 suicides, the survey found.

Speaking Thursday on the findings, Robert Schussel, a marketing researcher for Empire Blue Cross and Blue Shield, said: "There's a huge generational gap in the attitude about suicide. Teen-agers talk about it a lot, there are a lot of attempts, often not successful."

But for the elderly, "Suicide is really a taboo subject. They don't talk about it, they don't talk to their friends about it, they just go-out and do it," Schussel said.

In the survey of 802 Americans ages 60 and over, only 1 percent said they had thought about committing suicide within the last six months.

One reason few older people talk about committing suicide is the fear that such talk will land them in a nursing home, said Esther Dyer, an

executive with Empire Blue Cross.

Suicides among the elderly are drastically underreported, said Nancy Osgood, a Virginia Medical College professor specializing in the ills of the aged. She said many suicidal old people take a slow, indirect way out by starving themselves or not taking life-sustaining medicine.

National statistics show older people, 26 percent of the U.S. population, commit 39 percent of the officially recognized suicides. Their rate, 20.1 suicides per 100,000 people, is 65 percent higher than the nation as a whole, Dyer said.

The rate also is nearly twice that of Americans at the other end of the age scale, said George Gallup Jr., comparing the findings with that of his organization's survey of teen suicides last year.

A typical old-age suicide is a white man who lives alone in one of the mountain states and uses a gun to kill himself, Dyer said.

She said suicide rates in Nevada, Montana, New Mexico, Arizona and Wyoming generally were two or

three times higher than in New York. Mid-Atlantic states have the lowest rates in the country.

Those elderly women who do kill themselves usually use drug overdoses or poison.

David Clark of the psychiatry department of Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center in Chicago called unrecognized psychiatric illness, rather than living conditions, the major contributor to old-age suicide.

Three-quarters of elderly suicides saw a doctor within a month of killing themselves, many within a day, and studies indicate "they resisted psychological inquiry," Clark said.

Gallup warned that the survey, conducted by telephone last month, could not be generalized for the total U.S. population. About 90 percent of the 802 people polled were living independently at home.

Aged people who are institutionalized or unable or unwilling to answer a phone were underrepresented.

Beatles plan TV reunion

NEW YORK (AP) — It's not the reunion fans hoped for before John Lennon's death, but Paul McCartney says the three surviving Beatles will get together for a TV series and may play some music while they're at it.

"Rather than put a big pressure on us and say, 'the Beatles are re-forming,' probably it will happen a bit more naturally and we'll get together for this (series) and that will just be the three of us probably," McCartney said Thursday.

He spoke in New York at a news conference for Australian media announcing his own plans to kick off a world tour in Australia next year.

The TV series will definitely include George Harrison and Ringo Starr, McCartney said.

"There is a chance that we might actually do a little bit of music for (the series)," he said.

McCartney, 50, did not say when the TV series would begin production.

The Beatles broke up in 1970. Lennon, who together with McCartney wrote most of the group's songs, was murdered Dec. 9, 1980.

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Road kill fashionable in Northeast

By PAUL TOLME Associated Press Writer

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — The pelts and carcasses of bear, moose, mink, wild turkey and other animals smacked on New Hampshire roads went on the block during the state's annual road kill auction.

Bidders Thursday ranged from people looking for spare pelt to finish a fur coat, to big-game lovers hoping to pick up a moose head to adorn the den.

Leslie Sullivan drove away with

a 200-pound frozen black bear in the backseat of her car. Sullivan, of Braintree, Mass., paid \$100 for the carcass, which she wants to have made into a rug for her husband.

"It's an interesting collection of people and an interesting collection of reasons," Judy Silverberg, an education specialist with the state Fish and Game Department, said of the auction.

About 150 bidders browsed through more than 115 animal furs, carcasses and pelts spread on the floor of a state warehouse. The

selection included a grouse, bobcat, beaver, coyote, fox, fisher, mink, muskrat, otter, a weasel and a mole "just for humor," said Eric Orff, a state wildlife biologist.

New Hampshire law requires the hides and carcasses be saved and auctioned, even though the state usually loses money on the event. Highway crews scoop up and store valuable or salvageable remains in state freezers.

Silverberg estimated Thursday's auction brought in \$4,500.

The high bid was \$300 for a bobcat.

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Camarena trial allegations make Mexico uncomfortable

By LAWRENCE KOOTNIKOFF
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Charges in a Los Angeles courtroom that three former Cabinet members were involved in drug trafficking and in the 1985 murder of a U.S. drug agent have shaken the Mexican political establishment.

Prosecutors and witnesses have accused the politicians of planning agent Enrique Camarena's kidnapping and accepting bribes to protect the drug ring that allegedly killed him.

The Mexican government has angrily rejected the charges, accusing prosecutors of buying witnesses and of acting "irresponsibly and immorally."

The allegations made front-page headlines here.

On trial in Los Angeles federal court for conspiracy in the murder are Mexicans Dr. Humberto Alvarez Machain and businessman Ruben Zuno Arce.

The biggest name to crop up is Gov.-elect Manuel Bartlett Diaz of Puebla state, Mexico's interior minister from 1983 to 1988 and a strong contender for the governing party's presidential nomination in 1988.

Links between Bartlett and drug traffickers have long been rumored, never proven. He denied the charges at a news conference Tuesday as "false and calumnious."

Also named were former Attorney General Enrique Alvarez del Castillo, governor of Jalisco state when Camarena was killed, and former

Defense Secretary Juan Arevalo Gardoqui.

Jorge Godoy, a former bodyguard for Mexican traffickers, testified he delivered suitcases full of cash to these two men.

Prosecutors also said all three took part in meetings with members of the Guadalajara drug cartel that plotted Camarena's kidnapping.

Camarena, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent, and his Mexican pilot were tortured and killed after being abducted Feb. 7, 1985.

"There is a great deal of nervousness in the government," said political columnist Raymundo Riva Palacio of the business daily El Financiero. "These are three very high-level people."

Mexico calls the trial illegal because Alvarez Machain was kidnapped and smuggled to the United States to stand trial.

Political commentator Sergio Sarmiento said, "It would be very serious if the accusations prove true, and I doubt the prosecutor would present the charges without some proof."

Riva Palacio says President Carlos Salinas de Gortari fears the allegations could damage the free-trade deal Salinas negotiated with the United States and Canada.

Some of the allegations surfaced at Zuno Arce's first trial in 1990. A new trial began Dec. 1 after his earlier conviction was overturned.

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ing the Nov. 8 gubernatorial election in Puebla.

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Margulis was fired last week after writing stories about the charges.

He said, "There is only one story coming out of this trial — that top-level Mexican officials are involved in drug trafficking, that the drug trade exists because these people protect them."

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that Camarena was even injected with anything," Rafeedie said as prosecutors concluded their case. "The only evidence we've had is that Alvarez was on the premises."

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By CARLOS CISTERNAS
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The plane crashed into a garden in the neighborhood, crowded with high-rise apartment buildings about 2 1/2 miles from the airport.

The cause of the 6:45 p.m. EST crash was not immediately known, but the building did not have warning lights and fog was settling

in around the city of 1.4 million people.

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Religion



(Staff photo by Cheryl Berzanskis)

Shepherds David Stidham and Wilbur Hapeman look over baby Jesus in practice of the performance "Meet Him at the Manger" at Calvary Baptist Church. Performance is scheduled for Sunday and Monday.

Music and drama create 'Meet Him at the Manger'

Calvary Baptist Church drama ministry performers began practice for their production of "Meet Him at the Manger" Dec. 3.

"The choir has been working for two months on the music for the production," said Director Gary Jameson.

"I knew about my part three weeks ago," said a wise man Jim Bennett. "My wife made my costume. I don't think we have to say anything."

Twelve performers will act out the production while the music ministry portrays the birth of Jesus, beginning with His crucifixion on the cross and then moving back in time to His birth.

"What they are doing is portraying what the music is saying," said Sandy Crosswhite who is assisting with the drama. "It makes it just that much more special when you put the two together."

Some of the characters have dialog back and forth, she said.

Jameson said, "The production will be worth while for people."

The church sanctuary will be transformed to the Bethlehem of Jesus life.

Crosswhite said some people react to the music while there are others who react to the drama of the production.

"I think it's going to be beautiful," Crosswhite said. "Anytime you add drama with the music you see it come alive."

The choir and cast will be fully costumed.

The stage will also have professional lighting and scenery designed by members of the church.

Three soloists, Pam Fowler, Dicky McGahen and Karen McGahen, will perform with the choir.

The performance is scheduled for 6 p.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Monday at Calvary Baptist Church, 900 E. 23rd.

Admission is free and a nursery will be provided.

Hi-Land plans Christmas service

Hi-Land Christian Church, 1615 N. Banks, will hold a special Christmas service at 10:45 a.m. Dec. 20 entitled "A Celebration of Jesus".

"The service will feature more than 20 of our members doing solos, readings and prayers," said Minister Mike Sublett.

A special telling of the Christmas story will be presented for those in attendance.

"We are excited about this special tribute to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ," he said.

"For the children we will feature a unique telling of the Christmas story. We hope that the different approach will help Jesus be even more significant to the children."

The rest of the service will revolve around six of Michael Card's songs on the pre-existence and birth of Jesus Christ. Many of the traditional Christmas hymns will also be featured.

The ministers invites the public to come and share in the celebration.

Man claims he has seen Virgin Mary

HOUSTON (AP) — First it was angels. Now it's the Virgin Mary.

Hundreds of people have showed up three times a week at a northeast Houston church in the wake of a report that Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, has been appearing to a 31-year-old man.

The new vision comes two months after a reported sighting of angels hovering outside a young girl's bedroom window in southeast Houston. Thousands of folks showed up there, too.

Augustine Halverson, a member of St. Philip of Jesus Catholic Church in the El Dorado subdivision, was walking a dog near the parish prayer garden on Nov. 7 when his first vision occurred, said the Rev. Peter Mastrobuono, the pastor.

Halverson claims that he saw the Virgin Mary clothed in a white dress and a blue mantle with a visible heart. The apparition appeared the next day, saying it would appear to him on Monday, Wednesday and Friday if rosaries were said.

Since then, about 200 people have gathered with Halverson at the 500-family church to recite Hail Marys and the Our Father three times a week. Others meet nightly at the church to pray — one of Mary's reported requests. The apparition has appeared five times so far to Halverson in a church crying room, according to the priest.

The visions last 15 to 20 minutes, he said.

"I think he's seeing a true vision," said Mastrobuono, who does not allow Halverson, a college student, to be photographed or interviewed outside church settings. The 53-year-old priest led daily prayer sessions in September at the so-called Angel House on the city's southeast side where a 9-year-old girl had said two angels hovered.

Both angels have now reappeared there with the Virgin Mary, Mastrobuono said.

Both visions have a deeper meaning, he said. "The Blessed Mother has chosen Houston as one area of the world where she wants her messages to be heard," he said. Mary has called for more prayer, fasting and penance, the priest said.

Mastrobuono has reported the events to Galveston-Houston Diocese officials. Monsignor Daniel Scheel said Thursday that Halverson's visions would be deemed an unofficial "private revelation" like others at this time.

Halverson, who is single, was raised in the subdivision of brick, 3-bedroom homes. He is highly regarded by parish and community members. "I believed him immediately. It didn't come as a surprise," said Dolores Salazar, 49, who has been inside the church during each reported vision.

Unverified apparitions often draw thousands of visitors. In August 1988, one such apparition drew about 20,000 people to St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Lubbock where a sign from heaven was predicted to occur.

People stared into the sky and some said they saw visions of Jesus and Mary.

Bible Church youth sets Christmas Mission



(Special photo)

Jennifer Fatheree is Mary, one of 30 cast members of "A Very Extraordinary Christmas Mission."

"A Very Extraordinary Christmas Mission" presented by the youth choir of the Bible Church of Pampa, 300 W. Browning, is set for 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Approximately 30 children will tell the message of Christmas through song and drama.

Sarah Bruce will play the part of Lady Sarah, Alison Piersall is Angelica, Jennifer Fatheree is Mary, Chester Hutchison is Joseph, Matt Piersall is Sir Michael, Hulsey Smith is Harold and Valerie Lee is the doctor.

It is directed by Sue Fatheree, Ronna Raber and Danina Kennedy. A nursery is provided.

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Monday, December 14
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First Baptist Church
Pampa

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669-1155

Monthly sing set for Sunday

The First Pentecostal Holiness Church, 1700 Alcock, will host a gospel singing from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The singing includes congregational numbers and special numbers by individuals and groups.

This is a monthly event held on the second Sunday and a popular activity said Pastor Albert Maggard. He and the congregation welcome everyone to attend.

'Shine The Light of Christmas'

First Assembly of God Church, 500 S. Cuyler, will be presenting the musical, "Shine The Light of Christmas" by Dave and Jan Williamson at 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

The presentation includes the adult and childrens music department of the church. It is directed by Carol Shugart.

Pastor Charles Shugart cordially invites the public to attend.

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A royal pain



(AP Photo) Some of the inside pages of the British newspapers on Thursday which report separation of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The couple have agreed to separate but not to divorce.

Government proposes alcohol tests for transportation workers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six million truck drivers and almost a million other airline, railroad and mass transit workers would be subject to random tests for alcohol under proposed federal regulations.

The Transportation Department unveiled the overdue proposal Thursday and estimated its deterrent effect on drinking would save 1,200 lives over the next decade and prevent at least 21,000 traffic injuries.

Anyone with a blood alcohol level of 0.02 — one and a half glasses of beer or wine for a 160-pound man — or greater, as determined by a breath test, would be removed from safety-sensitive duties for eight hours or until retested below 0.02.

In addition, random drug tests that now cover some 4 million interstate transportation workers would be expanded to include 3 million other truck, school bus and commercial bus drivers who don't cross state lines.

The regulations were required by a law enacted in 1991 and were due to be completed in October. The issues, however, proved more complex than envisioned, said Transportation Secretary Andrew Card.

"We wanted to design a system that was a deterrent but that was not overly intrusive and that would not be a burdensome cost to industry," he said, acknowledging that the final version won't emerge until after the Clinton administration takes office.

Still unresolved is how much to test. Enough random drug tests for transportation workers in safety-sensitive jobs are performed to assure that covered workers stand a 50-50 chance of being tested at least once a year.

The proposal Thursday said the alcohol testing could range from that level to as few tests as are needed to assure that a worker stands only a 1-in-5 chance of being required to blow

into a breath analyzer in any year.

Another undecided issue is whether employers should conduct all tests or state agencies should do some, possibly at truck weigh stations along highways.

The regulations are expected to cost industry between \$1.5 billion and \$3 billion over 10 years, including leasing or buying the breath-testing machines, which cost \$1,000 to \$8,000 each.

An airlines spokesman claimed no commercial aviation accident has ever been caused by employee drinking and complained that the proposed rules would force their workers "to wear a scarlet letter because of the problems of other transportation modes."

"Our pilots do not drink in the cockpit, and the implication of the proposal will only serve to frighten passengers," said Air Transportation Association President Jim Landry.

The Teamsters union, which represents hundreds of thousands of truck drivers, said it would not have a reaction until it exam-

ined the proposed rules more.

Joel Dandrea, assistant safety director for the industry's American Trucking Association, said it supports the rules in general but prefers random roadside testing by state agencies over employer testing as a more effective deterrent.

In addition to the random breath tests, the regulations would prohibit drinking alcohol on the job or working within four hours after drinking alcohol. Flight crews and airline attendants would be prohibited from working until at least eight hours after their last drink.

Workers testing between 0.02 and 0.04 would not be in violation of the prohibitions but would have to be removed from any safety-sensitive duties for at least eight hours or until they retested under 0.02.

Those who register 0.04 or above could not return to work until they are retested and undergo rehabilitation if necessary. They also would be subject to at least six follow-up random tests in the first 12 months after they return to the job.

Surgeon General: Smokeless tobacco addicting the young

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States faces an epidemic of oral cancer in coming decades because more and more young people are addicted to snuff and chewing tobacco, Surgeon General Antonia C. Novello says.

Novello blamed complacent parents, chewing baseball players and the aggressive smokeless tobacco industry for an eightfold increase over the past 15 years of boys aged 17-19 who chew or dip tobacco.

"The majority of our experts predict an oral cancer epidemic beginning two or three decades from now if the current trends in spit tobacco use continue," the government's chief public health officer said Thursday.

A Health and Human Services Department report, "Spit Tobacco and Youth," released by Novello at a news conference, found that nearly 20 percent of high school boys surveyed in 1991 had used smokeless tobacco — snuff or chewing tobacco — in the past 30 days.

The report said 75 percent of the 30,000 new cases of oral cancer in 1992 result from cigarettes and smokeless tobacco, and only half of those people will be alive in five years.

The Smokeless Tobacco Council, an industry trade group, contends there is no scientific evidence that the products cause oral cancer or any other disease.

Oral cancer victim Rick Bender of San Diego said he started chewing when he was 12 or 13 and used tobacco for 14 years before undergoing surgery that removed his right jaw and part of his tongue. "I tried to quit 10 or 15 times," he said, and still smokes because "I can't get along without the nicotine."

Reginald Ho, president of the American Cancer Society, said he was most disturbed by the 4 percent

annual increase in the use of snuff since 1986. Smokeless tobacco, he said, "is one of the most efficient delivery systems (for nicotine) known to man."

HHS figures show that while U.S. cigarette consumption dropped from 640 billion cigarettes in 1981 to 510 billion in 1991, use of moist snuff jumped from 30 million pounds to nearly 50 million pounds during those 10 years.

Novello said parents and even schools let children use smokeless tobacco because they mistakenly think it's a safe alternative to cigarettes. And 45 percent of major and minor league baseball players, "a powerful model for young males" used snuff in 1991.

New York Yankees head trainer Gene Monahan estimated that one-third of the 700 major league baseball players use smokeless tobacco, and one-third to one-half of those are addicted.

The Yankee dugout after a game is "a sea of spit," he said. "It smells; it's ugly; it's gross, and it's just not comfortable."

Monahan acknowledged that children "want to emulate the big stars, and the big stars chew."

The health experts assailed the smokeless tobacco industry for boosting advertising and promotions by 15.4 percent in 1991, to \$104 million, and for targeting youngsters.

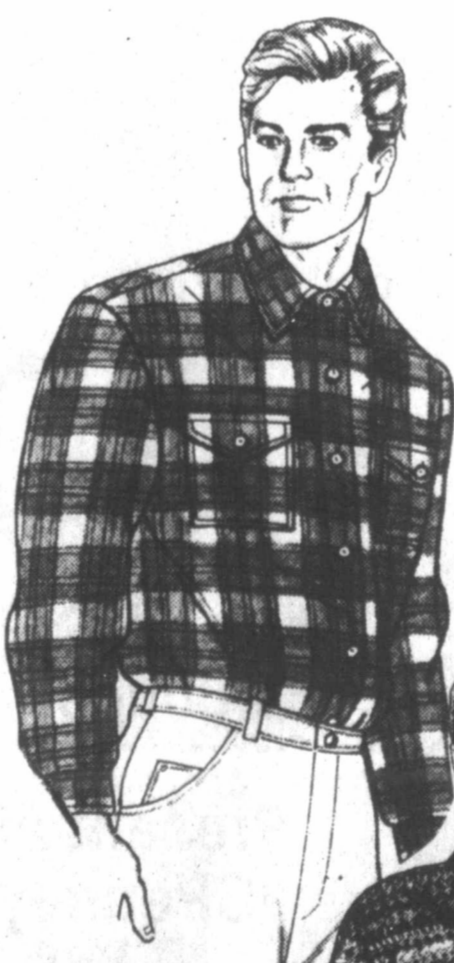
Novello urged Congress to provide money for a smokeless tobacco education act passed in 1986 but never funded. She also said federal and state laws that limit minors' access to smokeless tobacco need to be enforced.

"We can no longer treat the crisis of spit tobacco with kid gloves," Novello said. "Because it's our kids who are in peril."

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Lifestyles

Gift of frankincense was as good as gold

By DONALD J. FREDERICK
National Geographic

Despite centuries of belief, gold probably wasn't among those first Christmas gifts of the three wise men.

Some scholars think that biblical translations of "gold and frankincense and myrrh" were somehow garbled over time. The gold mentioned as one of the three gifts of the Magi was actually a type of frankincense. Valued at least as much as the precious metal, it had a strong sandalwood-like aroma.

"Biblical scholars have suggested that the word gold doesn't refer to the metal. It means 'golden frankincense,' the highest-quality aromatic at the time," says anthropologist Juris Zarins of Southwest Missouri State University. "I think that's exactly the right answer. I don't believe the Magi brought the baby Jesus gold. They brought him three types of incense."

To the three kings, frankincense symbolized divinity, an offering that ranked with myrrh, another prized Arabian incense.

Both frankincense and myrrh come from small, scraggly trees. Several scrapings of the bark produce the desired gum-resin droplets. Even today, the best frankincense trees grow in southern Arabia in Oman's Dhofar region and in eastern Yemen.

At the time of Christ, more than 3,000 tons of frankincense may have been exported annually from southern Arabia to consecrate temples, mask the odor of cremations, make cosmetics and treat an array of ills, from gout to a "broken head."

In Rome, frankincense was extremely popular among the wealthy. Emperor Nero supposedly lavished the equivalent of a year's Arabian production on funeral ceremonies for his consort Poppaea.

Zarins' preliminary excavations a year ago of two "lost cities" in the Dhofar area — Ubar and Safara Metropolis — have shown the

impact of frankincense trade at the time of the Nativity, and long before.

"Investigations in an area like this are bound to turn up other new settlements and towns," predicts Raymond D. Tindel, an archaeologist at the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute.

"This is like getting the door open to Ali Baba's cave. What Zarins has got is the first chest of jewels, but I think there's a lot more to come."

Most likely serving as both fortresses and storage centers, Ubar and Safara Metropolis were surrounded by massive stone walls 2 feet thick, ringed with 30-foot-high towers. "A large building in the middle of each settlement probably served as a sanctuary," says Zarins.

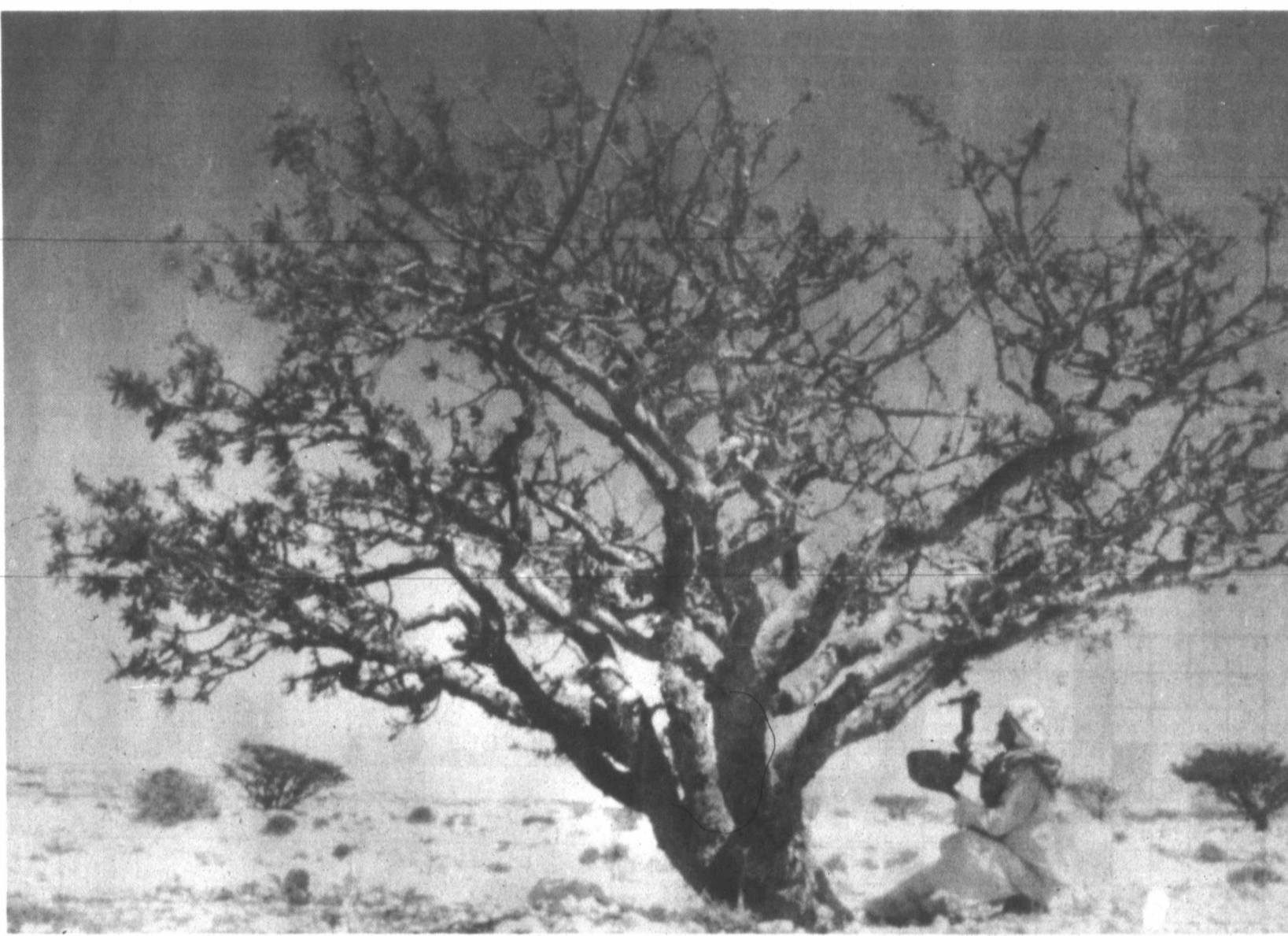
Neither city could accommodate the large number of people who wandered in and out. "About 1 or 2 miles away from Ubar, there's evidence of a whole series of encampments," Zarins tells National Geographic.

"They were probably filled with hundreds of people waiting to load or offload goods connected with the frankincense trade."

Ancient maps and space-age imagery enabled a team of explorers led by Nicholas Clapp, George Hedges and Ranulph Fiennes to find Ubar. Satellite images showing traces of ancient camel-caravan routes helped lead them to the city on the edge of the Arabian Peninsula's Empty Quarter, near the Qara Mountains.

Ubar likely served as a staging area for camel caravans that ventured across the forbidding landscape bound for Mesopotamian markets.

Local tribesmen steered the scientists to the legendary location of Safara Metropolis, about 45 miles away, on the other side of the mountains, near the Arabian Sea. Frankincense processed there went by boat down the coast to Yemen or to India. From Yemen it went by sea, or overland by camel, to Egypt and northern



(AP Photo)

A frankincense tree offers its treasure to a tribesman in southern Arabia. Biblical scholars think that Christmas gifts from the Magi may have included prized "golden frankincense" instead of gold.

Arabia. From there it could be sent on to Greek and Roman markets.

At the time of the Nativity, the civilized world sought incense for religious purposes. South Arabia controlled the source. The cartel that developed in the region has been called "an OPEC of its time."

"People have known that the material flowed from southern Arabia to the eastern Mediterranean. But until recently, the questions of when this trade began, the mechanisms of how it was done and the routes used have eluded most people," says Zarins. "I'm pushing for the idea that the frankincense trade began as early as 5000 B.C."

The disintegration of the Roman Empire — the largest market for aromatics — and the rise of Christianity dulled the sweet smell of success. Trade started to fall apart in the fifth century. The seventh-century rise of Islam, whose rituals seldom required incense, virtually put an end to it.

As for Ubar, part of the city collapsed into a limestone sinkhole, probably in the fifth century. About the same time, Safara Metropolis was abandoned.

The sands of time buried both cities, but Ubar was never forgotten. The famed T.E. Lawrence, known as Lawrence of Arabia, called it "the Atlantis of the sands."

By any name, blue and white are beautiful

By BARBARA MAYER
For AP Special Features

It might be the appeal of blue sky and white clouds or blue water and white sands, but the color combination is a perpetual pleaser with the decorative set. This year, it's not only pleasing, it's wowing.

Mary Gilliat has just come out with "The Blue and White Room." (Bantam Books), Victoria magazine is featuring the two colors in an upcoming issue, and a color authority refers to it as THE combination of the 1990s.

None of which should come as a surprise. Blue has been cited as America's favorite color in surveys of the past 50 years, according to Margaret Walch, associate director of The Color Association of the United States in New York.

"Blue and white best represent the new age of ecology," Walch says. "Together, they have associations of water, sky and fluidity."

Claire Whitcomb, editorial director of Victoria magazine, says it's always been a strong combination "but we've noticed

it even more so lately." So instead of the usual preponderance of white in its June issue, she says, "this year we decided to do blue and white."

Gilliat says she generally spurns fashion in colors. "I think people should pick what they like," she says. "But it's nice that blue and white is popular because it is such a decorating asset. The colors tend to make even a dark room seem more light-filled and airy."

The two colors blend well even when shades differ and pattern and scale vary.

"Practically any blue goes with any white," Gilliat says. "The combination is both fresh and elegant. It produces clean lines and is easy to work with...."

There are endless variations on the theme of blue and white print fabric, blue and white striped or checked wallcovering and blue and white tiles, Gilliat says. A smidgen of another color — the tawny tone of wood furniture, the green of a house plant or a touch of pink or lilac — adds warmth.

If you don't have the resources for a complete re-do, a little bit can go a long way to enliven a

room. Display blue and white china against a white background, a dark blue background, or a blue and white stripe or check to create a fresh look, Gilliat suggests.

She regards the colors as historically the most popular decorative combination, perhaps because of their religious and philosophical association. White stands for purity and blue represents godliness. A number of cultures revere blue, including the Chinese and ancient Egyptians.

The arrival in Europe in late 17th century of blue and white porcelain from China appears to have been the start of the color combination's popularity in western culture. A passion for the costly porcelains stimulated European artisans to find less expensive substitutes. Thus evolved the blue and white Staffordshire pottery, known as the poor man's porcelain, and the famous willow pattern of English pottery. Today, we esteem these substitutes, including blue and white Delft tiles from Holland, almost as highly as the Chinese originals.

Desk clerk at hotel takes offense at requests

DEAR ABBY: I am a front desk clerk at a resort hotel, but please don't say which one because I am writing on behalf of hotel and motel desk clerks throughout the world.

I would like the public to know that we are not maintenance men. We cannot repair television sets or break into their automobiles when they have locked their keys inside the car. We do not unplug toilets or change light bulbs, and we can't repair the telephone if it isn't working.

Also, we are not in "housekeeping," so we can't bring them extra washcloths, towels, pillows, blankets or toilet paper. We are not bellmen either, so please don't ask us to carry luggage or run errands.

Now I will tell you what front desk clerks are paid to do: greet and register incoming guests, and make sure that outgoing guests see the cashier about paying their bill and turning in their key before departing. Thank you.

FRONT DESK CLERK

DEAR FRONT DESK CLERK: I doubt that you can speak for all hotel and motel desk clerks throughout the world. In the name of good customer relations, you should be prepared to handle all questions and complaints to the satisfaction of the guests so they will want to return to your establishment.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are getting a divorce. What is the



Dear Abby
Abigail Van Buren

proper thing to do with my wedding and engagement rings?

How should I relate to his family when my ex-parents-in-law die? Do I sit with the family? Do I stay away?

I need to know the proper thing to do. Or should I just follow my heart?

I NEED GUIDANCE

DEAR NEEDS GUIDANCE: The fact that these questions have occurred to you, and you want to do the "right thing," says a great deal for your sensitivity.

You did not say how long you were married, but your questions lead me to believe that you were married for a long time. By all means, follow your heart. If you had a good relationship with your in-laws, sit

with the family should there be a death in the family.

The rings are yours to do with as you choose. (If they are your husband's family heirlooms, it would be gracious to return them — but you are not obligated to.) After the divorce is final, do not wear your wedding rings, and consider having a jeweler reset the stones into another piece of jewelry.

DEAR ABBY: In your column on Nov. 8, you said that the shortest poem you had ever read was:

"If called by a panther,
"Don't anther." — Ogden Nash
May I submit another, also by Ogden Nash? It's slightly shorter:
"Fleas:
"Adam had 'em."
PHIL MAERSCH, HOUSTON

DEAR PHIL: It was not until I published the Nov. 8 item that I learned that "If called by a panther, don't anther" was part of a much larger poem by Ogden Nash ... so your submission may very well be the shortest poem I have ever read. Thanks for sending it!

For Abby's favorite family recipes, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby Cookbooklet No. 1, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054.

Newsmakers

Navy airman apprentice Charles D. Jones, son of Robert and Janet Jones of Pampa, recently deployed with Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron-30, Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Wash, to the Mediterranean for six months as part of the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy battle group. He joined the Navy in July, 1992.

Alan Thompson (computer science technology), Pampa, was named to the Texas State Technical College's President's honor roll.

Thomas Grays (electronics technology) and Richard Palmer (aviation maintenance technology), Pampa, were named to the Dean of Instruction's honor roll.

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Named to the 1993 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges were Michael Hudson, senior, White Deer, and Penny Pollart, Pampa. Both are students at West Texas State University.

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Amtrak demonstrates new tilting-car train

By BILL STIEG
Associated Press Writer

ABOARD THE X2000 (AP) — The train rocketed around a curve at 100 mph, blowing past Amish farms in a swirling snowstorm.

Inside, all was calm. The cup stayed on the smooth pear-wood table. The coffee stayed in the cup.

The trip Thursday was a glimpse into Amtrak's future — a demonstration of a Swedish train that the national passenger railroad hopes can become competitive with air shuttles without billion-dollar track improvements.

The X2000 train has wheels in a flexible frame that turn with the tracks, unlike conventional rigid-frame wheels. The cars tilt during turns to keep riders comfortable.

Amtrak wants a train that can handle its existing curvy tracks, a far cheaper alternative to building new, straighter track for the type of high-speed trains found in Japan and France.

For the past several weeks, Amtrak has been running the six-car X2000 between Philadelphia and Lancaster and elsewhere. The train is made by the Swedish and

Swiss company Asea Brown Boveri.

The X2000 has been used for two years between Stockholm and Gothenburg, Sweden. The curvy tracks there are virtually identical to the route between New York and Boston, said Lutz Elsner, president of American subsidiary ABB Traction Inc., which would build Amtrak's trains if it wins the bid.

Swedish State Railways says it cut travel time from 4 1/2 hours to under three hours and boosted its share of the air-and-rail market from 38 percent to 52 percent.

Amtrak, which is anxious to speed up the four-hour trip between New York and Boston, believes an X2000-type train could make the trip in less than three hours once the lines north of New Haven, Conn., are electrified, due in 1997.

Amtrak has about 12 percent of the air and rail market between the cities. It hopes a three-hour trip would boost that share to the 42 percent it enjoys between New York and Washington, a relatively straight three-hour shot.

The curves between Philadelphia and Lancaster are very simi-

lar to those on the New York-Boston route, said Joe Siliu, who is in charge of testing for ABB Traction Inc.

On Thursday, the blue-and-silver train streaked around curves near Bird in Hand at 100 mph, where a regular train goes 70 mph. A normal 50 mph curve near Gap was taken at 70 mph.

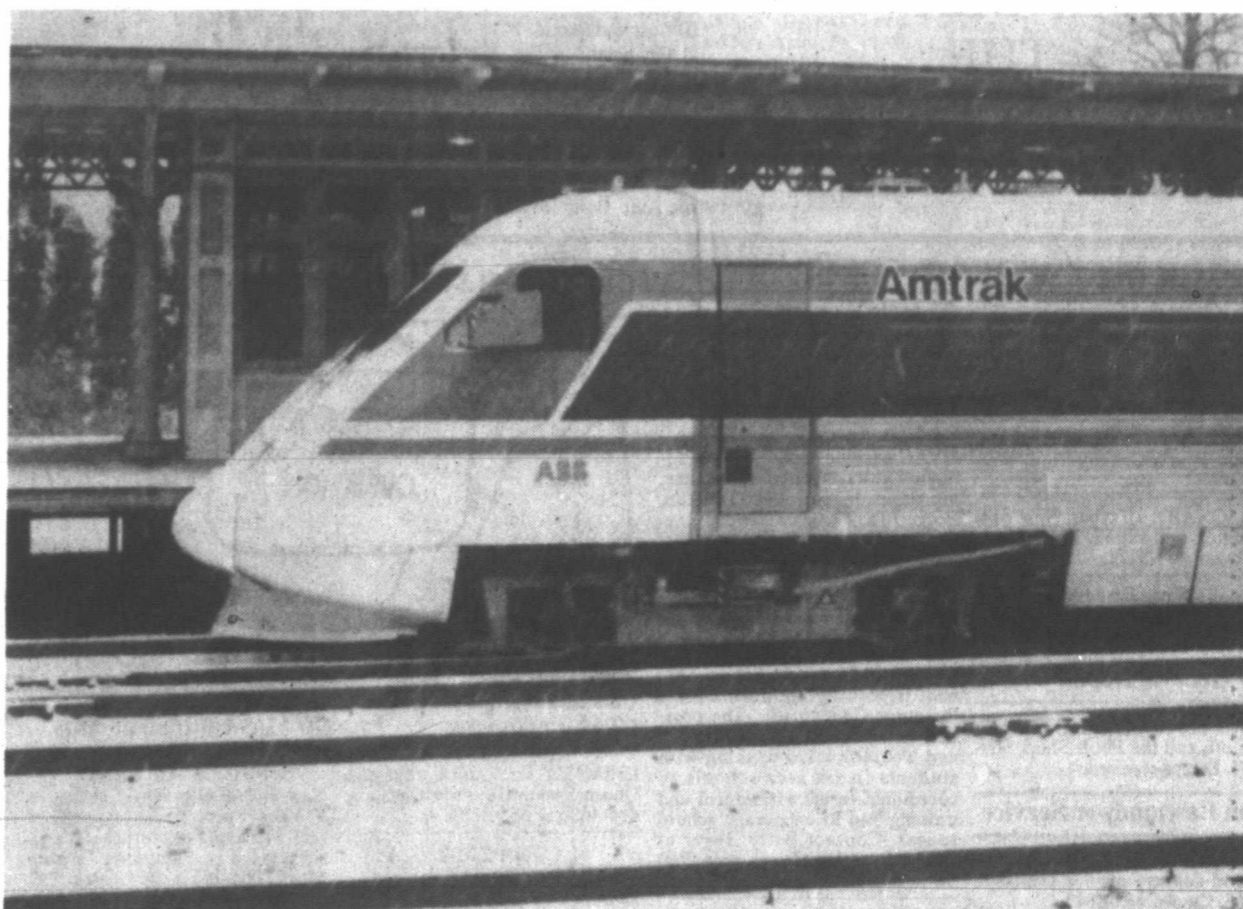
Inside the sleek cabins — with wood tables, trays and trim, wide contoured seats outfitted with audio jacks, phones and faxes in each car — the 100 mph curves were restfully smooth.

"I went on another test run and left some cups on the counter," said Julie Byrne, who was working the club car. "And there was no spilling at all."

University of Pennsylvania professor Vukan Vucich, a mass-transit expert, said the train was a better alternative than gambling on ultra-expensive super-trains.

In February, Amtrak plans to start running the test X2000 between Washington and New York, extending in April to New Haven and in May to Boston, using a diesel engine.

Amtrak plans to spend \$400 million on 26 trains by 1997.



The Swedish-built high speed train X-Two Thousand sits in the Lancaster, Pa., train station during a test run Thursday. (AP Photo)

Storms strike Northwest, Northeast and in between

By MARGARET LILLARD
Associated Press Writer

Winter hit two corners of the country and blanketed states in between, dumping snow from Washington state to Washington, D.C., and covering roads as far south as Georgia with a layer of ice.

Troops heading to Somali famine relief posts were delayed Thursday by deep snow in upstate New York. Winds blew down trees and power lines along the southern Oregon coast, but heavy rain there raised hopes a seven-year drought may be ending.

More of the same was forecast for today, again mainly for the Northeast, Northwest and far northern central states.

Forecasters warned winds gusting to 60 mph could cause heavy snowdrifts, beach erosion and coastal flooding from Virginia to Massachusetts. Up to 10 inches of snow was forecast in New York state; more rain was on tap in the Pacific Northwest.

At Fort Drum, near Watertown, N.Y., soldiers heading to Italy on their way to Somalia were delayed Thursday by snow. When a convoy from the 10th Mountain Division finally left, it was led by a snowplow.

A second contingent that was to leave at midnight departed four hours late.

The heavy precipitation — if not the high wind — was somewhat welcome in Oregon, where residents hoped it was a sign of wetter times ahead.

"It's not over, but we're chipping away at this drought thing," said Dave Williams, National Weather Service meteorologist at Klamath Falls.

Gusts of up to 110 mph were reported at Humber Mountain near Port Orford, Ore., and a 60 mph gust was measured at the airport in Reno, Nev., but damage was limited.

In Nevada, residents around

Lake Tahoe were warned to get ready for their third major storm of the season.

"Many folks are having trouble getting out of their driveways now," Press Clewe, Washoe County emergency management administrator, said Thursday. "The storm that is expected tonight and tomorrow will only make snow removal that more difficult."

Winter storm warnings continued this morning in West Virginia, where more than 2 feet of snow in some areas closed roads and schools and snarled traffic Thursday. Twenty-five inches fell at Mount Storm in the state's eastern leg, and more than 15 inches fell in several other towns in that region.

A blizzard warning was in effect in western Virginia, where up to 8 inches had fallen by Thursday night.

Residents scurried to markets in Pennsylvania, where forecasters predicted the storm could be the biggest in more than a decade in parts of the state.

"They've been picking up bread, milk, candles, stuff like that. Anything they might need for a few days," said Joe Kelly, a market manager in Clearfield.

The storm dumped up to 20 inches on parts of Maryland on Thursday.

"There's just no way to travel," said Lt. Paul Pratt of the Garrett County sheriff's office. "Most people are using snowmobiles, horses, whatever they can. Even four-wheel drives are bogging down."

Skiers were hitting the slopes at Wisp Resort near Cumberland. "It hasn't stopped snowing since early morning," said resort spokeswoman Joanne McNulty. "Needless to say, we're happy campers."

Freezing rain and snow fell in the mountains of Georgia and South Carolina on Thursday; more of the same was predicted today.

Rehoboth Beach, Del., City Manager Greg Ferrese worried Thursday night that heavy coastal winds could damage the beach. Streets in Atlantic City and Ocean City, N.J., were heavily flooded.

Wind gusts of 90 mph were reported in Wildwood Crest, N.J., and 80 mph in Wildwood, N.J., around midnight. Tides early this

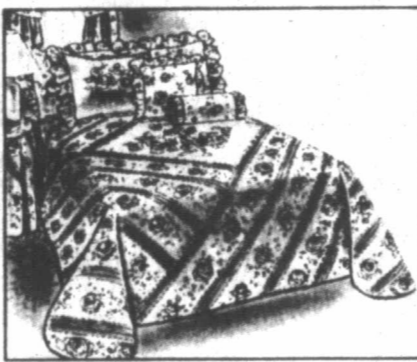
morning were 5 1/2 feet above normal.

"This is a dangerous storm," Jay Krieger, of the National Weather Service in Pomona, N.J., said Thursday. "The barrier island will probably be impassable Friday morning." The island contains Atlantic City and three other towns.

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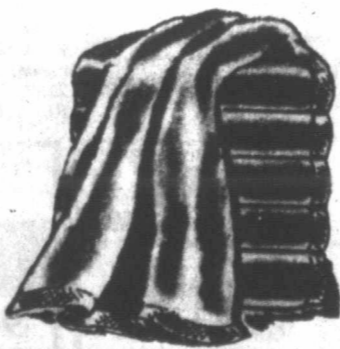
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