

# People-land squeeze affects climate attitude



## WEATHER REPORT

By DIETER KRIEG

**EDITOR'S NOTE** - This is the fifth article in a continuing series.

**STATE COLLEGE** - The place was buzzing with activity, and for good reason.

Just off the Atlantic coast and heading straight for New York City was Hurricane Belle.

The room I was sitting in - trying to get a glimpse of what

it's like within a weather service's office - was that of Accu-Weather, a privately owned weather service headquartered here. Elliot Abrams, whose voice is often heard on Accu-Weather broadcasts carried by a number of radio stations all across the country, explained that things were getting a little hectic.

The assessment held true for what was going on in the Atlantic as well as within the rooms of this aged building. The walls were pinned full of maps. Phones rang almost constantly. A teletype machine clicked off reports of meteorological conditions. People were calling in wanting to know what Hurricane Belle might have in store for them and Abrams and his associates were trying frantically to give each caller a custom-made answer.

Accu-Weather forecasts are tailored for specific areas and specific needs, which explains in part why the service has become so well accepted in just a few years. Abrams claims the firm has a renewal rate of 96 per cent. The service is sold on an every day basis for anywhere from \$200 to \$300 per month.

As has been brought out in previous installments of this series, the weather is nothing to sneeze at. It's a fantastically powerful force which man is not likely to be able to change much. Says Abrams: "Anything that man can do is practically meaningless in comparison to the weather's power." Each thunderstorm, for example, contains the energy of an atomic bomb. To this Abrams adds: "There's as much energy of in the top three feet of ocean surface to equal that of the entire atmosphere." He believes that a better understanding of the oceans may be the key to improved weather forecasting in the future. In his words, it "may improve forecasting tremendously."

But that's not to say that weather forecasting is all that bad today. Abrams cites his renewal rate as one good indicator of the faith subscribers have in his service. The general public also seems to be favorably impressed. The best forecasts are made for periods of three days or less, Abrams said, noting that beyond that the accuracy factor drops significantly.

Most of Accu-Weather's clients are businesses and radio

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Thank God that people have to eat lunch — for were it not for hunger pains, the many maps on the wall in this picture would hardly have been visible. The photo was taken early last month while Hurricane Belle was unleashing its fury out in the Atlantic and threatening New York City. Activities

at the modest State College headquarters of Accu-Weather might easily have been compared to those of a bustling beehive. Phones were ringing almost constantly as people from all over the East Coast anxiously awaited news of the storm.

## York County Council news posted

**YORK** - The York County 4-H Council recently elected officers for the coming year. The officers are as follows: Tim Eisenhart, president; Linda Ebaugh, vice-president; Brooke Palmer, secretary; Christy Waltersdorff, assistant secretary; Paul Myers, III, treasurer; John Mummert, assistant treasurer; Laurie Dobrosky, song and game leader; Megan Shaub, assistant song and game

leader; Bonnie Wire, news reporter; Susan Dettler, assistant news reporter; Charla Janney, historian; and Jonathon Myers, assistant historian.

Outgoing president, Karen Hemminger, conducted the installation of the new officer

Cookies for club sales will be arriving September 23, at 3:30 p.m. at the 4-H Center. Help is needed for unloading. Cookies may be picked up

that night and every Wednesday night for the following four weeks. Prizes will be awarded to the top 50 salespersons.

The achievement day program for York County 4-H members has been rescheduled for 2 p.m., October 10, at the 4-H Center. A talent show by 4-H members will be featured. Auditions will be held September 30 at the 4-H Center. Cash prizes will be awarded

to performers participating in the show.

The theme for National 4-H week, October 3-9, is "Room to Grow".

Future activities include the York Fair on September 10-18, the old and new officers meeting on September 22 at 7:30 at the 4-H Center, and the teen leaders banquet on October 2 at 7 p.m.

The next County Council meeting will be October 6. Standing committee assignments will be made.

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