

20 dead, 100 hospitalized as germ search continues

HARRISBURG (AP) — Teams of medical detectives worked with microscopes and needles yesterday as they hunted for the tiny disease-causing organism that has killed 20 persons since an American Legion convention in Philadelphia 10 days ago.

More than 100 persons have now been hospitalized.

At laboratories in Philadelphia and Atlanta, the scientists tested and checked samples taken from the bodies of the dead and sick persons from across Pennsylvania.

"This is the freakiest thing I've ever seen," said Karen Schectman, a state micro-biologist working at the laboratory in Philadelphia.

The researchers said they are confident of finding the cause of the disease. State officials readied plans for a mass inoculation program should it be needed.

State Health Secretary Leonard Bachman suggested at a news conference that the disease is similar to viral pneumonia and also said the much-publicized swine flu is a possibility, but another state health official said bac-

teria could be the cause.

A virus enters a body cell and attacks from the inside while a bacteria attacks from the outside.

Meanwhile, representatives of the 41st International Eucharistic Conference, a week long gathering in Philadelphia of 1 million Catholics from around the world, said they planned no changes in any activities. The White House announced President Ford still planned to attend the conference on Sunday.

The 100 state and federal researchers working nonstop on the problem still don't know what causes the flu-like disease. Its symptoms include fever, congested lungs and chest pains.

Bachman admitted that it still isn't known how the disease was transmitted, but he said food or drink were not likely possibilities. Researchers were at a loss to explain why only the people at the convention contracted the disease. The ages of the dead ranged from 39 to 82.

Whatever the disease, Bachman said, the state is readying the machinery for a mass inoculation program once the agent is isolated. State officials said last

week they could begin a swine flu inoculation program on short notice...

"Let's hope it's not something new," said Dr. Jay Satz, head of the State Health Department's immunology division. If it is a new type of disease, it could take several weeks to develop a serum, he said.

Bachman said officials think the disease was confined to the estimated 10,000 persons who attended the state American Legion convention in Philadelphia July 21-24, but cautioned that "it is too early to discount the possibility" that conventioners who didn't get sick may spread the disease.

There are no documented cases of people getting the disease who did not attend the convention, Bachman said.

Bachman said state officials became aware of the problem when state American Legion officials notified them Sunday of a series of deaths of legionnaires. About the same time, a hospital in Williamsport, in the central part of the state, reported several similar cases.

The first reports of illness were reported July 26, but many of those who became sick were thought to simply have a post-convention cold. The first death occurred last Friday and it was on Saturday, when legion officials received several reports of deaths across the state, that they began checking a number of legion posts.



High as an elephant's eye?

Well, maybe it isn't, but this corn surely seems to be reaching for the sky, as seen through a photographer's red filter used to enhance the sky.

Photo by Barry Wyshinski

Swine flu vaccine program makes progress in House

WASHINGTON (AP) — Concerned that a type of influenza may have caused the deaths of 20 persons in Pennsylvania, a House health subcommittee late yesterday voted to break an impasse over lawsuit liability coverage for President Ford's massive swine flu vaccine program.

The committee by voice vote approved an administration proposal to make the federal government liable for injury or death claims arising out of the

inoculation program.

Earlier, the subcommittee met with Health, Education and Welfare Secretary David Mathews to discuss what to do about the stalled program in light of the deaths of persons who attended the state American Legion Convention in Philadelphia July 21-24.

The administration presented a draft of its proposal, which spokesmen said had been put together Monday night and yesterday morning.

Campus Crusade members die in Colorado flash flood

LOVELAND, Colo. (UPI) — Searchers slogged through waist-high mud and debris yesterday to recover more flash flood victims in Big Thompson Canyon where authorities feared the death toll might reach 200.

As the sun broke through the clouds for the first time in a week, "sniffer" dogs were brought in by Army engineers to help search teams locate bodies buried in the quagmire of the weekend catastrophe.

Officials confirmed 88 deaths, with 78

bodies in a makeshift morgue in a Loveland hospital and 10 others in a garage at the Estes Park coroner's home.

With the break in the weather, helicopter pilots maneuvered their craft through the twisting canyon — so steep oxen were used in the 1920s to pull Model-T Fords up its 35-mile length — aiding ground teams in the body recovery.

The increase in air traffic also brought new hazards. Officials said a helicopter being used by searchers "had a near miss" over the narrow canyon with a private aircraft apparently flown by sightseers.

The primary morgue remained in Loveland at the eastern or downstream end of the canyon. Since few of the badly battered and dismembered bodies had been identified, officials brought in two refrigerated meat trucks to try to keep the bodies from decomposing in the 75-degree weather.

A White House aide telephoned searchers about four of President Ford's friends missing in the canyon, Colorado State Police said. Ford vacations each year at the Rocky Mountain ski resort of Vail about 100 miles away.

On Monday Ford declared Larimer County a disaster area, making it eligible for federal help. Gov. Richard Lamm said he planned massive aid for homeless and jobless survivors.

Two women associated with the Penn State Campus Crusade for Christ were drowned in the recent flood near Loveland, Colo., according to Darrell Barr, acting director of the Penn State CCC. They are Cathie Loomis and Carol Rhoad.

Loomis, 29, was a senior staff worker at the Penn State CCC for the past five years, Barr said. Rhoad, 23, was graduated from the University in 1974 and had been working in California as a secretary.

The women were in Colorado for a staff training session for the Crusade and were caught by the flood with 28 others. Twenty-three were found alive afterwards and four of the remaining seven were found dead. The other three are missing and presumed dead, Barr said.



Signing off

A sign requesting students to keep off the freshly planted grass in front of Old Main is now history. The wire fence was cut early Sunday morning by vandals. Erected by the Office of Physical Plant, the barrier was to be removed at the beginning of Fall Term.

Photo by Millard Brown

Occupancy in bars to be limited

By JOANNE KOLLAR
Collegian Staff Writer

After months of consideration, the enforcement of maximum restaurant and bar occupancy limits was approved by State College Municipal Council Monday night.

In a 6-0 vote with Council member Dean R. Phillips abstaining, the Council approved the Department of Labor and Industry occupancy standards. These standards require three square feet per person at the bar and 15 square feet per person at tables.

This state standard is stricter than the federal code that allows an additional seven square feet per person at fixed seating areas. For example, under the state standards, the Phyrst would be allowed 118 occupants and under federal standards, with fixed seating, 195. The Tavern, under the state standard, would be allowed 182 occupants, while under the federal standards, this figure rises to 385.

Later this month the Council will hold a special public hearing to determine the details of the ordinance.

In large part that ordinance probably will be based on the report on local bars given to Council by Council members Allen Patterson and Richard Kummer. That report was based on Patterson and Kummer's visits to five bars on July 30 between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m.

In their report, Patterson and Kummer recommended the following amendments to the building code:

- (1) enforcement of the code by code enforcement officers and also by uniformed police officers;
- (2) a written notice to the owner or lessee of a bar on a first violation of the occupancy or building regulations; a \$100 fine for the second violation and a \$300 fine for the third and all subsequent violations;
- (3) application of the code to establishments with occupancy limits of 50 or more persons;
- (4) posting in a prominent place by

fire officials the maximum number of persons allowed in a bar according to the code and maintenance of that sign by the bar owner;

(5) permitting more persons than allowed will be construed as a code violation.

Patterson said, "It is not our intention to interfere with the ongoing business of the bars but simply to issue a first warning and subsequent fines."

After inspecting the bars, identified as "Bars A" through "E," Patterson and Kummer concluded that safety was questionable. Only one bar, A, most nearly met building standards, according to their report. Exits were marked and occupancy was such to allow quick exit if necessary. The only question was whether emergency lighting and fire extinguishers were available.

In the other four bars, Patterson and Kummer said they observed various problems, particularly with the illumination and location of exits. Three of those bars, B, C and D, are located below street level.

According to their report, there is no panic bar on the main exit door at Bar B.

A second exit was blocked by the band, and a third exit is not marked. In Bar C, both exits are on the same wall. One of the exits, unmarked and blocked by heavy tables filled with customers, was difficult to find, according to Patterson and Kummer.

In Bar D, the report pointed out that one exit opens onto a courtyard, but a second exit could be found only if one is familiar with the bar's layout. In Bar E, Patterson and Kummer said they found the "exit" unmarked, unlighted, locked and located in a narrow passageway near the toilet.

Patterson said, "Only good luck could prevent a serious accident in four of these bars."

In addition to their suggested amendments to the building code, Patterson and Kummer also formulated the following requirements for public establishments:

- fire extinguishers;
- panic bars on all exits; locks or chains would be forbidden on any exit;
- two means of exit as far apart as possible;
- emergency lighting with an independent power source;

— exits marked with illuminated lights at all times.

They also recommended unannounced fire safety inspections and spot lighting of the areas immediately outside the exits.

In the discussion following the report, Council member Arnold Addison said he agreed that code enforcement should be expanded. But he said he disapproved of using policemen for code enforcement. He said the police should only be involved in arson cases or disturbances in bars.

"It would be a waste of the taxpayers' money to have police officers, trained as they are, bar-hopping five nights a week," Addison said.

Kummer pointed out that most problems in the bars occur between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m.

Council member Ingrid Holtzmann said that she could see code enforcement problems easing as the code took effect.

Council member Mary Ann Haas said she was concerned about the safety problems in the bars.

"I don't think we should nickle-and-dime this at the start," Haas said. "I think it's a serious matter."

Backs denial of resort area

Council endorses PLCB

The State College Municipal Council went on record Monday night against classifying State College as a resort area.

Based on Council Solicitor Robert K. Kistler's report that the borough's concern would be "admissible testimony" in court, council approved the motion 5-1. Council members Richard Kummer opposed the motion and Dean R. Phillips abstained.

Kistler will now present the motion to the attorney for the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB). Further action on the motion will depend on the PLCB.

At its July meeting, Council requested Kistler to determine what action, if any, Council could take concerning the requested designation of State College as a resort area. This request was made by the Penn State Faculty Club in its efforts to obtain a liquor license.

The PLCB denied the request that would have permitted the issuance of more liquor licenses in the area. The current allotment of 28 licenses is filled. The club appealed the ruling, and a hearing has been set for Aug. 26 by Centre County Judge R. Paul Campbell.

Kistler said, "The borough could probably not intervene as a party to the court action."

But Kistler said the borough could probably be a witness in court for either the PLCB or the faculty club in order to express its views.

"I think the court would hear the borough testimony for whatever it is worth," Kistler said.

Phillips asked Kistler for a definition of a resort area.

Kistler said it is an area in which the periodic or seasonal influx of a large number of persons requires additional liquor licenses. He said the classic example is the Poconos where the

off-season population of 50,000 becomes 200,000 in the summer.

Phillips said that the issue of the resort classification should be kept separate from the bar occupancy limits in the borough's presentation to the court.

Some Council members were concerned with the connotations connected with a possible resort area designation. They said that it might alter the academic character of the town.

Council member Allen Patterson said, "I don't think six football games equals a resort area."

Council member Mary Ann Haas said, "I resent that six football games will change this academic town into a resort area."

Kummer, the one dissenting vote, said he was not upset by the resort area terminology. He pointed out that State College, with some 35,000 students, has a unique population base.

Council member Arnold Addison said he was disturbed that the University did not inform the borough about its intended application for resort classification. He pointed out that it will affect the borough greatly.

Kistler reminded Council that even if the resort designation is approved, each subsequent license application must be approved on an individual basis.

"I don't think the PLCB would be approving bars at every other storefront," Kistler said.

Council also approved an amendment to the code of ordinances prohibiting the tying or fastening of dogs on any public areas in the borough if unattended by the owner. Such a dog will be considered running at large, according to the amendment.

— Joanne Kollar

Bus routes to be reduced

Beginning Sept. 1, four or possibly five runs will be eliminated from Lemont to the Nittany Mall on the X route, according to William Barrett, manager for the Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA).

Barrett said the cuts were made because the Nittany Mall Merchants Association has reduced the subsidy for the bus from \$4,200 to 2,400 for the coming year.

Currently the bus leaves Schlow Memorial Library every hour from 9:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. The bus goes to Lemont and then to the Nittany Mall, but the

service cuts will eliminate the Lemont to Nittany Mall run until 1:15 or 2:15 p.m. on weekdays, according to Barrett. Saturday runs will continue to run from 9:15 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. in the fall, Barrett said.

Barrett said the morning trips to the mall were eliminated because ridership is higher in the afternoons. However, Barrett said that if the ridership figures indicate a morning bus is needed, CATA will consider it.

The operating committee will decide today whether to begin service at 1:15 or 2:15 and whether increased buses to Toftrees can be started, because some

time will be freed by eliminating the portion of the X bus that goes from Lemont to the Mall and back.

Weather

Great weather for anything but studying! Becoming sunny and warm after early morning fog, high of 82. Clear and not as cool tonight, low of 60. Sunny tomorrow morning; increasing cloudiness during the afternoon; chance of a shower or thundershower in the evening. High tomorrow again near 82, low tomorrow night around 64.