Weather causes closings, floods

Howling winds, at times reaching hurricane strength, - blew across Pennsylvania Thrusday, turning rain to blinding snow as temperatures dove toward zero.

"If you must go outside, dress as if your life depended on it," the National Weather Service warned residents of Erie, its landscape erased after daybreak by a Great Lakes blizzard the weather bureau called the worst in the city's history.

Winds peaking at 77 miles per hour knocked over mobile homes and ripped roofs off barns and stores,

flesh will freeze in one minute," said the weather bureau.

At Pittsburgh, the barometric pressure, one factor determining the intensity of a storm, tumbled to 28.49 inches Thursday morning, the lowest since records began in 1870.

Airlines canceled most flights at Pittsburgh's only airport, stranding thousands of travelers, some for as

long as 24 hours.
"The airport is technically open," Tom Hayes, a

riving the wind chill factor to 50 below zero. "Exposed control tower supervisor, said at midmorning. "We have the visibility if they are crazy enough to handle the

quarter winds . . . Wind gusts, some packed in snow squalls, downed

trees and power lines throughout the state.

At one point Duquesne Light Co. in Pittsburgh said it was getting emergency calls at the rate of 3,000 an hour. The cold snap ended a brief but balmy January thaw that began early Wednesday, driving temperatures into the 50s and melting old snow, over a foot in many areas. Torrential rains compounded the problem.

Cosmetics found to have cancer-causing substance

lotions and other cosmetics have been found to contain substantial amounts of nitrosamine, the same cancer agent detected in crispy bacon and other cured meats, a scientist testified Thursday.

Dr. David Fine told the House Commerce subcommittee on oversight and investigations the amount of one particular type of nitrosamine called NDELA found in cosmetics is 50 to 100 times what the human exposure would be through food.

Fine is head of cancer research for the Thermo Electron Corp., Waltham

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Mass., which is under contract to three government agencies to do research on nitrosames

"NDELA is of concern because it has been shown to cause cancer in two animal species, rats and hamsters," Fine said. "In a German study dating back to the mid-60s rats were fed high doses of NDELA, and liver tumors were produced.

"In cosmetics, human exposure to NDELA would be by absorption through the skin. However, the amount of NDELA absorbed by the skin is

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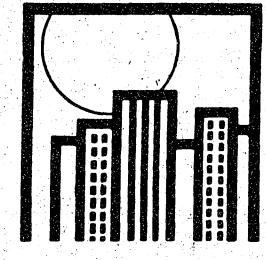
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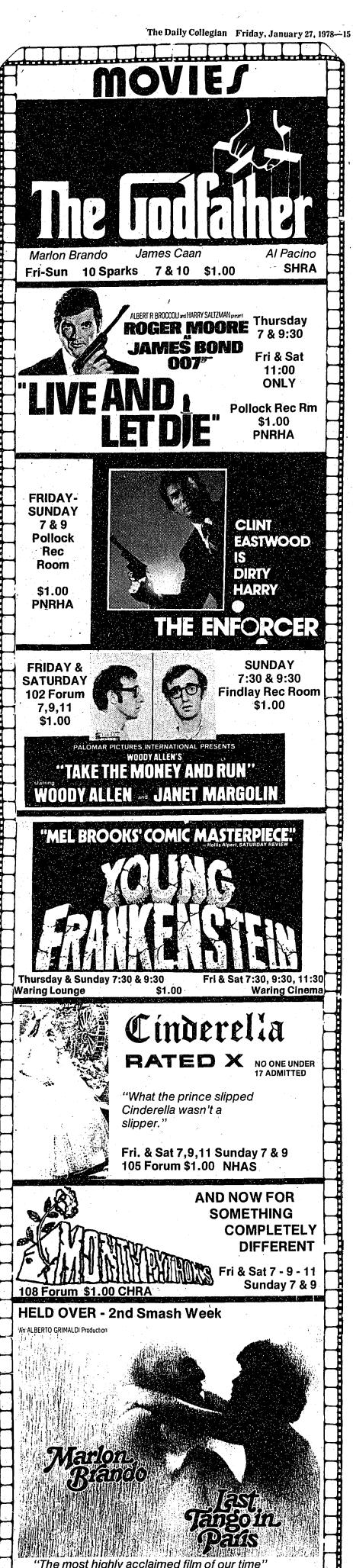
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