state news briefs

Legionnaires' disease cases reported

BETHLEHEM (AP) — Three confirmed cases and two suspected cases of Legionnaires' disease have been reported by health officials from a group of 90 people who went to Vermont two weeks ago to see the fall foliage.

Other people who went on the trip, sponsored by a Bethlehem group, have become ill, mostly with respiratory ailments. Bethlehem Health Director Glen Cooper said other members of the tour were contacted and it appears "most of the people who went became ill."

"Whether it's all the same illness. I wouldn't want to generalize." Cooper said. But the symptoms were right, he said.

Legionnaires' disease is a bacterial infection that causes pneumonia. It can be successfully treated with antibiotics. A noninfectious disease, it cannot be passed between people, said Dr. Jeffrey Jahre, an infectious diseases specialist at St. Luke's Hospital.

Trolley crashes into office building

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A trolley carrying dozens of commuters slammed into an office building after losing its brakes yesterday, injuring 37 people, four seriously, authorities said.

"You could hear it screeching and then, 'Wham. Bam. Bam.' The whole building shook," said Karen Lane, 23, a receptionist who had just arrived at work.

The streetcar's brakes failed as it was going downhill through a tunnel at 8:15 a.m. The driver ordered the passengers to the back of the trolley as it picked up speed.

Some of the passengers blessed themselves as they moved back and dropped to the floor.

"We knew he meant business," said Todd Erlich, 34. a passenger bound for jury duty. "Everybody moved to the back ... Very orderly. The only screaming was pretty much after it stopped."

The streetcar sideswiped a city bus and a truck, ripped out a utility pole and fire hydrant, then slammed into the Gatehouse, a six-story, brick office building.

nation news briefs

'Greenhouse' may affect future

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The long-debated "greenhouse" warming of Earth could become noticeable in the next decade, a climate expert said yesterday.

While weather varies naturally from year to year, "the greenhouse effect should rise above the level of natural variability by the 1990s," said James Hansen, director of the Goddard Institute for Space Studies.

He was among speakers at the opening session at the First North American Conference on Preparing for Climate Change.

Many scientists have warned in recent years that Earth's atmosphere is being changed into a greenhouse-like environment, trapping more heat from the sun than can escape into space and thus raising the temperature of the planet.

They said this is a result of adding carbon dioxide and other gases to Earth's atmosphere, largely through burning fossil fuels and wood.

A warming of the planet over the last century has been blamed on the use of such fuels, and there have been warnings in recent years about the results if this trend continues or accelerates.

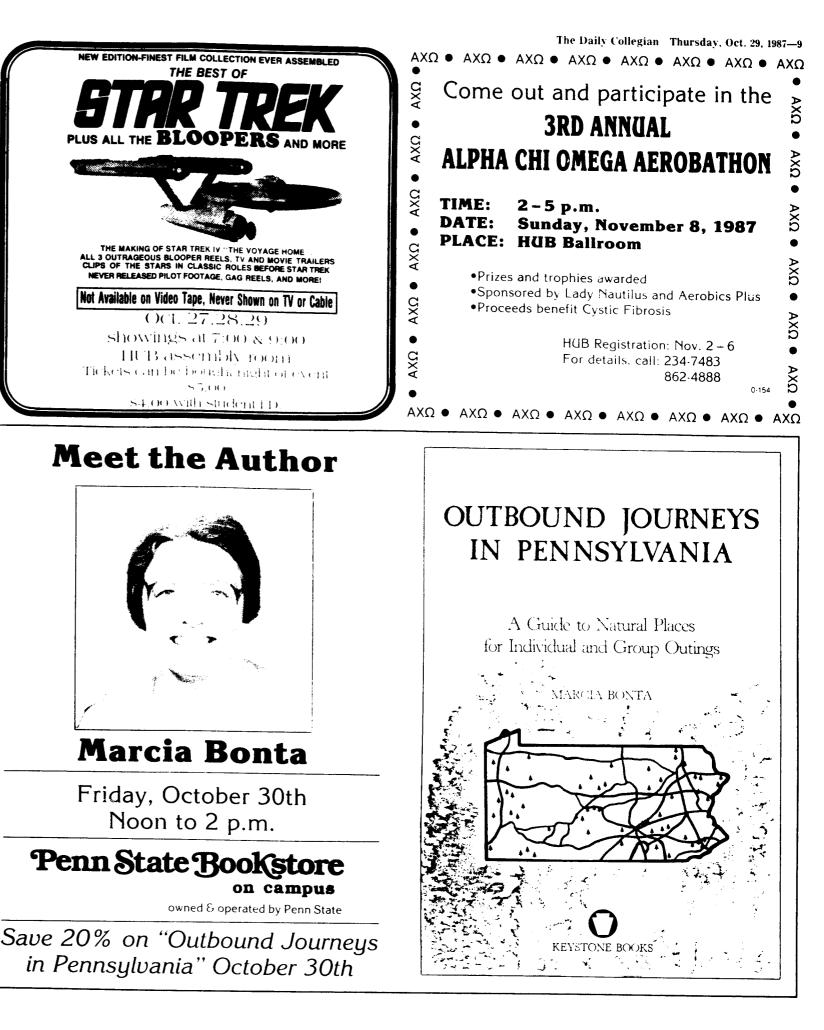
There is no debate over the warming occurring, only over the amount and the results, Stephen Schneider of the National Center for Atmospheric Research told the weather and environmental experts.

"It's clear now that there are changes coming," added Alan Hecht, director of the U.S. National Climate Program Office, and "we're going to have to face up to some ways of dealing with it in the coming decade."

Most studies of the greenhouse effect have concentrated on the results of doubling carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, a long-term outlook that extends into the next century, said Hansen, adding that the problem is more immediate than that.

New vaccine may prevent typhoid

BOSTON (AP) - A new penny-a-dose vaccine can largely prevent typhoid fever, one of the world's most common diseases without causing side effects that have undermined earlier efforts at controlling the illness, researchers say. In tests in Nepal, the vaccine was 75 percent effective in stopping the disease, which is a major cause of fever and death in many underdeveloped parts of the world. According to one estimate, the disease strikes 50 million people annually. Dr. Julie Parsonette of the division of bacterial disease at the Centers for Disease Control said the risk of typhoid is greatest in Asia, South America and Africa. Between 1982 and 1984, Peru reported the highest incidence of the disease, with 173 cases reported per million residents. The thing I find exciting is the possibility that one could go into a defined population and, if not eradicate, at least enormously reduce the amount of typhoid fever, even without addressing issues like safe water supply," said Dr. Charles U. Lowe, who organized testing of the vaccine.





Senate OKs funds for airports

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate yesterday authorized \$15.6 billion for the nation's airports and air traffic control system, a measure aimed at easing congestion in the skies that is expected to only get worse.

The legislation would guide federal spending over the next three years for improving airports and modernizing aircraft-tracking equipment. It would also help pay the government's 15.400 air traffic controllers, its 1.900 aircraft inspectors and other workers.

"There's a lot of frustration with what's going on in relation to lateness of flights and luggage not arriving on time." said Sen. Wendell Ford. D-Ky., chairman of the Senate aviation subcommittee. "But the important thing is you as a flying passenger arrive at your destination safely."

world news briefs

Soccer fan dies of brain hemorrhage

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) - A soccer fan died of a brain hemorrhage after he shouted for joy over a goal scored in a championship soccer game and collapsed, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Mizanur Rahman, 20. a Dhaka University student, shouted and collapsed while watching the Mohammendans Sporting Club break a scoreless tie with the Abahani Club on television Tuesday, the independent Bengali-language newspaper Itefaq said.

The Mohammendans went on to a 2-0 victory, winning the national first division championship, the paper reported.

Rahman's friends in a university dormitory took him to a hospital, where he died Tuesday night of a brain hemorrhage, the paper said.

Frogs plague Iranian village

NICOSIA. Cyprus (AP) — Millions of frogs have invaded a village in southwestern Iran. prompting villagers to dig channels and deploy mechanical equipment to stem the amphibious onslaught. Tehran television reported yesterday.

Frogs began descending on the village of Miangiran in Khuzestan province on Tuesday, reported the TV, monitored in Nicosia.

It quoted provincial officials as saying that by creating channels and employing mechanical equipment, the flow of frogs has been controlled. But the TV said rain could cause another invasion.

The report gave no other details.





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