



Winter's wrath wrecks vehicles

By MARTIN KEARNS

MANCHESTER — This morning's unexpected snowstorm caused two major multi-car accidents along Interstate 86 in Manchester and Vernon, stalling traffic for miles but resulting in only minor injuries. State police phones were jammed this morning with reports of accidents along area highways, and a spokesperson said time didn't allow her to detail the 30 accidents she estimated had occurred east of the Connecticut River. The first major accident was reported at about 9 a.m. today, when the Eighth District Fire Department was dispatched to a 10-car pile-up in the westbound lane of I-86, between exits 94 and 95.

Nearly an hour later, at 9:40 a.m., a second report that a jackknifed tractor trailer truck had pinned a European compact car beneath it — prompting a 12-car accident — was radioed in to the district dispatcher. With two of its rescue trucks already committed to the first calamity, the district requested and received the cooperation of the South Manchester Fire Department, which also sent units to the tangled east-bound lane of I-86. When fire personnel and apparatus arrived on the scene, a person who had earlier been reported pinned beneath the trailer had already been taken by ambulance to a local hospital. Information was incomplete this morning, and the victim's condition was not known.

On town roads, a corresponding number of minor accidents resulted in the damage of one police cruiser and tied up police personnel for most of the morning. Officer William Daley was taken to Manchester Memorial Hospital this morning after he sustained minor injuries to his head and elbow in a two-car accident along East Center Street. Capt. Henry Minor this morning was awaiting a report on the incident, and information was not yet complete. Although the suddenly slippery roads caused a drastic increase in the number of accidents, Capt. Minor said most were "fenderbenders," and had not accounted for serious injuries.

This morning's unexpected snow storm caused hazardous driving conditions on Interstate 86 and as a result, more than 20 autos were involved in a chain reaction accident. The cars piled up on I-86 westbound near Exit 93. (Herald photo by Pinto)

Grasso not awake long

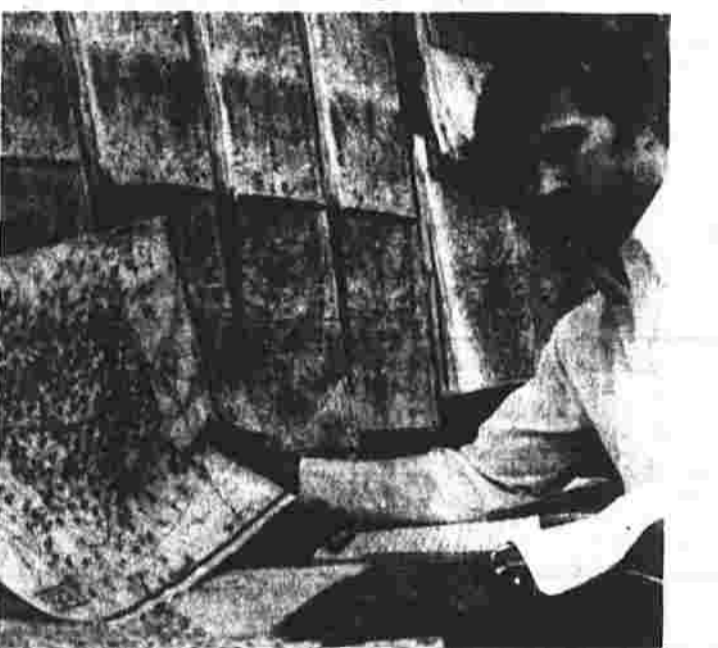
HARTFORD (UPI) — Advanced liver cancer has left former Gov. Ella Grasso comatose "only for minutes at a time" for a second day, says a Hartford Hospital spokesman. Spokesman James Battaglio said Mrs. Grasso regained consciousness twice Monday. "She was alert, sharp, recognized people, talked, but she's not awake long," Battaglio said. "She wasn't awake for 20 minutes or anything. It was only for minutes at a time." Battaglio said at 10 a.m. today that Mrs. Grasso was still slipping in and out of consciousness, was fully aware when awake, but was only conscious for five to 10 minutes at the most. "She makes a lot of sense, she recognizes people," he said. He said this was "definitely" her

worst condition since she was admitted to the hospital Dec. 8. "There are states that are worse," he said. "Fully comatose, for instance." He said doctors could give no prognosis on her chances of regaining consciousness for any length of time. "We don't have a beat on that, as far as how likely that is," he said. Mrs. Grasso, 61, who is suffering from cancer of the liver and intestinal tract, had been fully alert since entering the hospital, but became semicomatose Sunday morning. Battaglio said the loss of consciousness was caused by the liver malignancy and led doctors on Sunday to downgrade her condition from

serious to critical. "It throws off the metabolism enough so it creates an unconscious effect," he said. "The overall illness has just deteriorated to where she's comatose. She is comfortable. There's no pain." Mrs. Grasso was scheduled to undergo a fifth phase of chemotherapy this week but Battaglio said her condition would determine whether she was given the treatment. "If, at the scheduled time, she is conscious and capable of taking this, if she's strong enough and if she still wants it then obviously the patient's request will be met," Battaglio said. "Her hope is our hope that the chemotherapy will arrest some of this tumor and ultimately sustain life," he said.

Cartographer's dream spawns flourishing career

BRUNSWICK, Maine (UPI) — When he was 7 years old, Wayne Mahar started drawing weather maps like those he saw the late Bob O'Neil display on Portland television. And then he dreamed about being a television forecaster. Today Wayne Mahar and Associates provides up-to-date weather information to customers ranging from radio station WLVC in the remote northern Maine town of Fort Kent to West Mountain, a ski resort in Glen's Falls, N.Y.



The Boston Globe, Bath Iron Works, Central Maine Power Co. and 13 municipal highway departments are among his clients. Last March, the 26-year-old Mahar realized his dream of being a television weatherman, becoming weekend forecaster for WGAN-TV in Portland. He started very young. At age 7 and for the next three years Mahar spent his paper route earnings on weekend bus tickets to the National Weather Service forecasting station in Portland. At 11 he was forecasting the weather for a Bath radio station. Five years later Mahar and some high school friends started the state's first private forecasting company. By the time Mahar graduated from Brunswick High School, the forecasting service, housed in an old barn in Brunswick, boasted 63 clients.

When he was seven years old, Wayne Mahar started to draw weather maps. Now 24, Mahar has a private forecasting service run from the basement of his home in Brunswick, Maine. (UPI photo)

Scope of austerity is the big question

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The scope of the budget austerity President Reagan will announce to the nation Thursday night remains unclear, but administration officials say the whole process still is undergoing intensive review. While some proposed cuts have been leaked to reporters, budget planners insisted Monday no final decisions have been made. Indeed, they said the process is undergoing its 12th review in preparation for Reagan's televised address Thursday night and the more specific State of the Union speech he will deliver Feb. 18. Reagan was to meet with members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors this morning at the White House, with economics expected to dominate the discussion. A meeting with the Congressional Black Caucus was scheduled for afternoon.

In advance of Reagan's 20-minute speech on the economy, one official described the decision to go public in such a high profile, prime-time manner as an exercise in "consensus building." He pointed out the Washington's Birthday congressional recess falls between the two speeches, giving members a chance to get constituent reaction to the first speech and funnel it to the White House before the second, with its spending cuts and tax reductions, is set in concrete. On Monday, deputy press secretary Larry Speakes turned aside questions about how specific Reagan plans to be. The president, he said, has made some decisions "in his own mind," but is not yet willing to share them.

"Basically," said Speakes, "Thursday night's speech will be an overview. It will be an appeal to the American people. It will contain some of the things he wants to do. On the 18th, there will be more specifics. This will be the economic program the president announces." Reagan, said Speakes, believes he must "go to the American people and call on them to do their part." On foreign matters, the president Monday welcomed South Korean President Chun Doo-hwan to the White House. Reagan said he promised not to withdraw U.S. troops from the Korean Peninsula. "I hope you understand the United States will remain a reliable Pacific partner and we shall maintain the

Country divided on taxes, budget

NEW YORK (UPI) — A large majority of Americans prefer a balanced budget to a large tax cut, but there is less enthusiasm for cuts in many federal programs, according to a CBS News-New York Times poll published today. Only 25 percent want decreases in benefits for college students, 24 percent want cuts in unemployment compensation, 18 percent in pollution controls, 17 percent in mass transit, 16 percent in highways and 8 percent in Social Security cost of living benefits.

One exception is food stamps. The nationwide poll of 1,512 adults interviewed last week showed that 47 percent of the Americans want a decrease in food stamps spending. More than half of those polled — 52 percent — indicated they want increases in Social Security and 31 percent wanted increases in pollution control spending. The poll said 70 percent of the people interviewed prefer a balanced budget over tax cuts; 58 percent think the economy is getting worse and only 4 percent say it is getting better.

strength of our forces in the Pacific area," Reagan told Chun. A senior State Department official later said the two men did not discuss Korean political dissident Kim Dae Jung. Reagan, as president-elect, appealed to Chun to commute Kim's death sentence to life imprisonment. Although the announcement of Chun's U.S. visit roughly coincided with commutation of Kim's sentence, the State Department official said the two developments were unrelated. Reagan also met briefly with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who recently traveled to the Middle East, said he told the president the situation is "extremely volatile."

Tuesday

Poor in water	Whalers bow in Quebec. Los Angeles Kings bid for No. 1 spot in NHL. Page 14.
Layoffs due?	Two top legislators say layoffs may be included in Gov. William O'Neill's budget proposal Wednesday. Page 2.
In sports	Attractive scholastic basketball slate tonight. Georgetown lands prebud high school player. Page 15.
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College sports officials crack down on dumb jocks

By United Press International
 Jokes about dumb college jocks may be the latest endangered species — the result of new action by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Jocks on campuses from coast to coast no longer will be as dumb as they once were. The National Collegiate Athletic Association has cracked down on the "dumb jocks" who once were a staple of college sports.

Such staff has been the meat and potatoes of charges about athletic scandals along the academic trail. But delegates to the NCAA convention in Miami for the first time recently voted to require college

athletes to complete 12 bona fide college credits each term to stay eligible for varsity sports.

As a result, only genuine students will be cast as varsity sports players.

The action has been described as the centerpiece of new NCAA rules. Other parts of the get-tough, stay-clean NCAA rules for member institutions:

—Steer schools from using grade inflation to ease impact of the requirement. The colleges and universities are required to publish standards for measuring progress in class.

—Put college officials on the line. College presidents and chancellors are to be responsible for certifying that athletes on their varsity teams

are academically eligible.

—Forbid use by college athletes of extension and credit-by-examination courses from other schools.

—Rule out athletes escaping tough policies by taking fall courses during summer at some easy school. The new rule requires athletes to get approval of academic officials from their school before taking summer courses at other colleges.

—Require junior-college students with a grade point average of less than 2.0 in high school to graduate from the junior college before becoming eligible for varsity sports in a four-year institution.

Walter Byers, executive director of the NCAA, said the rules were in response to the scandals that in-

cluded evidence of fraud on transcripts — such as grades for courses never attended.

The NCAA, worried about image problems in an era of increasing reports of scandals, last year considered commissioning a \$70,000 independent probe of the problem nationwide. That never came about.

Insiders say the mood of delegates to the convention was that the NCAA should do its own study.

In a related development, this week's "Chronicle of Higher Education" reports on eight instructors at Los Angeles Valley College who were suspended for up to 30 days without pay for permitting student athletes to enroll in more than one class at the same time.

The "Chronicle" said: "An investigation by the Los Angeles district attorney's office showed that the grading and attendance irregularities occurred during the summer of 1979, mostly within the physical education department."

The eight instructors, whose identities were not disclosed, also will not be allowed to teach summer school this year, and the students involved will lose credits for some of the classes.

Among motions defeated at the NCAA convention were these:

—A motion that called for payment of \$50 a month to all athletes. For "incidental expenses."

—A motion to put a lid on athletic scholarships, paying only for

student's tuition costs. Other money to athletes would be in the form of grants and awarded strictly on the basis of need, according to the motion. Those arguing against such a policy said it is unmanageable and unfair.

On another of the college sports fronts, the traditionally all-male NCAA voted to set up — for the first time — women's championships for institutions with the largest sports programs, the "division 1" institutions.

The NCAA also voted in a four-year plan to establish policies to govern both men's and women's sports programs.

Chaplain to desperate awaits calls that he fears

JAMESTOWN, R.I. (UPI) — Before he goes to sleep, the Rev. Joseph Coleman prays he won't get any middle-of-the-night calls, because the ringing telephone often means just one thing.

Someone is perched atop the Newport Bridge or the Jamestown Bridge. Coleman's job is to talk him out of it.

"From the moment I get the call, I pray to God," he said. "I pray to God to let me say the right words. I still get very tense when I'm called, and I'm still afraid."

Coleman, who is the pastor of St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church, began working as a chaplain for police departments in the mid-1960s. In one of his first experiences, he

convinced a Providence man to surrender two children taken hostage.

That was the beginning of a sometimes rewarding, sometimes unpleasant duty. Coleman has climbed bridges one or two dozen times since moving to Newport, and subsequently Jamestown, more than 10 years ago.

He offers what may be the last glimmer of hope to people who are lonely, isolated and depressed — people so alienated that they are willing to plunge from a lowering bridge into deep waters, hoping that their drop will erase the pain, sorrow and loneliness of a life gone bad.

"Each person is different," Coleman said. "Hopelessness. That's the one general thing they share.

They are cut off and isolated. They need someone to talk to, to reach out to."

Coleman, a bespectacled man, carries a bulky, powerful frame that almost belies his gentle demeanor. Around Jamestown they call him "Father Joe." One resident described him as "a man you can call anytime to talk about what's on your mind."

And people do. During a recent 45-minute interview, Coleman seemingly answered as many calls as a New York City switchboard operator. People called to keep in touch with a man they consider a friend.

Coleman's friendly, compassionate personality has helped bring some people back from the brink of

desperate self-destruction. He has been able to clasp beefy arms around the shoulder of a potential suicide victim and paint an optimistic picture — a picture of a life worth living.

Newport Police Chief Frederick Newton praised the work of his close friend.

"He's been our chaplain for several years," Newton said. "He's a great humanitarian. You might say he's a cop. If cop means 'Care Of People,' that's what he is."

"He helps the people we serve and the policemen. We often have stress situations. There are 23 policemen and he has 22 friends here."

Since he began assisting in rescue attempts, Coleman has taken psy-

chology courses to better understand the suicidal personality. But when the police call, the textbooks are replaced with quick, on-the-spot conversation.

"There is no real training," he said. "You play it by ear. You can't be judgmental. You don't tell them they'll go to hell."

"You don't condemn them or moralize to them. This is another human being you are dealing with."

Coleman often keeps in touch with the people he helps save. There are many success stories. Unfortunately there are also failures, those who never ease back into the mainstream of life.

"I do know of one who did later commit suicide," he said.

Despite years of perilous conversations at the edge of bridges, Coleman laughingly admits: "I'm afraid to even climb my mother's step-ladder at home. I have a great fear of heights."

But when he goes out onto the bridge, the adrenalin surges at a fever pitch. The fears are somehow quashed. He credits the police with keeping distracting crowds from the scene.

Smart shopping
 Smart shoppers read the Supermarket Shopper column Wednesdays and Saturdays exclusively in your Manchester Evening Herald.

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and PARKADE HEALTH SHOPPE

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 OF VERNON
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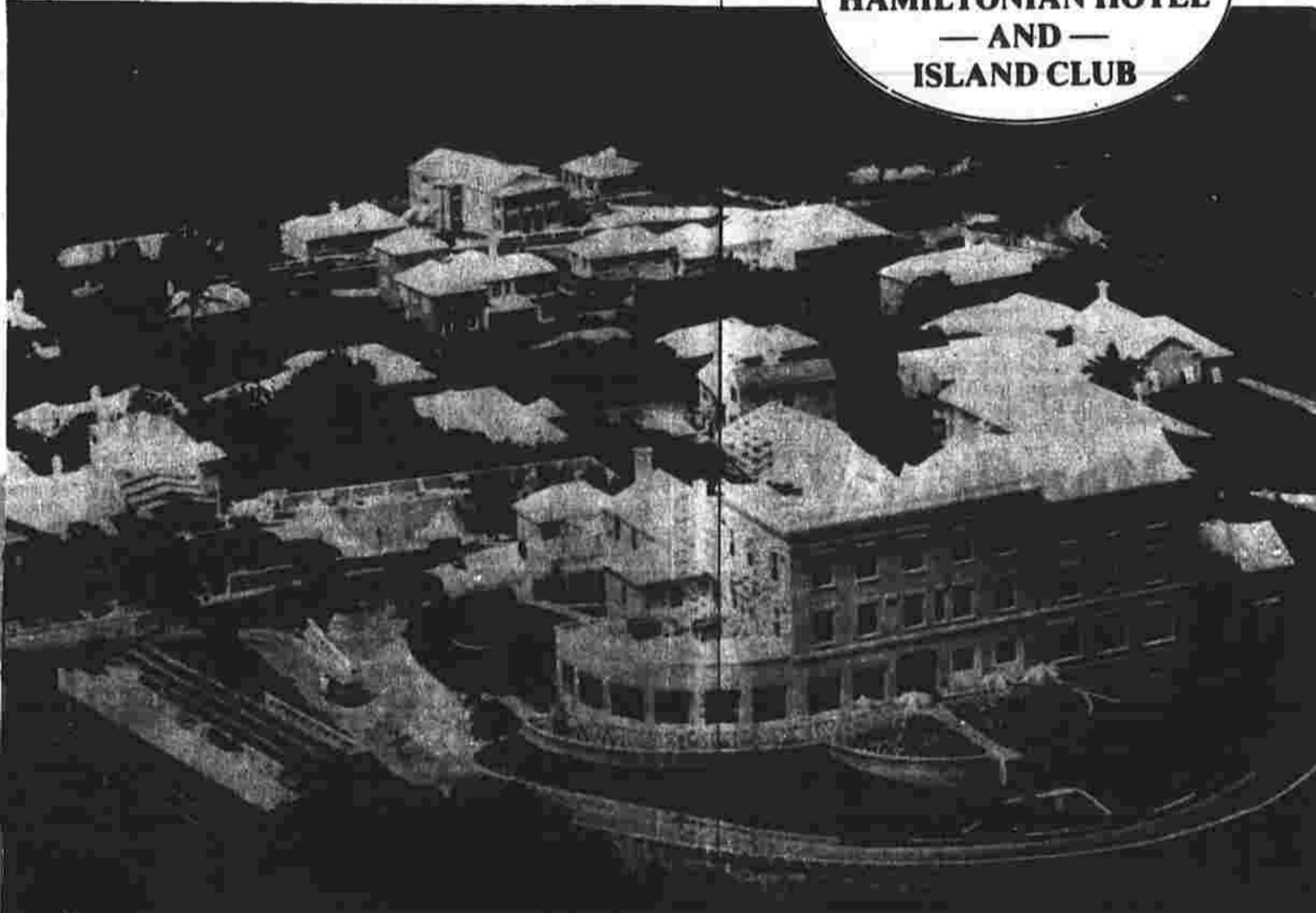
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HERE'S HOW YOU ENTER: To enter simply deposit the "Vacation Trip" coupons at the store listed on the coupon. Coupons left at The Herald will not be accepted. You may enter as many times as you wish. The winner must be at least 18 years of age. A Coupon will appear in The Herald Jan. 22, 23, 24, 27, 29, 31, Feb. 3, 5, 7, 10, 12 and 14. Coupon entries will be picked up weekly after noon on Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16. A weekly drawing will be held and two winners from each store will become eligible for the final drawing to be held on February 23 at LaBonne Travel. Winners of all weekly drawings except for the last will be announced in The Herald. The winner of the trip will be announced February 23. *The Herald reserves the right to be sole judge of the contest. Employees and families of participating stores and The Herald not eligible.

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 w/mint sauce, potato & vegetable
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495 HARTFORD ROAD
 MANCHESTER 643-8230

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 Address _____
 Town _____ Phone _____

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 Address _____
 Town _____ Phone _____

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 DEPOSIT WHILE SHOPPING AT:

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MANCHESTER
 728 EAST MAIN STREET

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 Jewelers

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3
 FEB
 3

People



Some call Kate Braverman the "queen of the new wave of poets..."

Unusual wine merchants Good grape helps schools

NEW YORK (NEA) - The Christian Brothers selling wine? Surely that's a conflict.

Not at all, says Brother Timothy, tall, authoritative vice president and cellar master of the Christian Brothers winery...

Dizziness disturbs doctor

LAWRENCE LAMB, M.D. - I get dizzy when lying head down and when I turn on my side...

It's Potato Lover's Month

By BETTY RYDER February is the shortest month of the year, but it's just full of events...

Betty's Notebook

In 16th century England, the potato was served as an "exquisite luxury" on the tables of Queen Anne...

Clubs

GAMMA CHAPTER MANCHESTER - Gamma Chapter of ADK will meet Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the First Federal Savings Bank...

Dental Health Month says smile, America

The theme "Smile, America Take Care of Your Teeth...Head First" has been chosen for National Children's Dental Health Month...

Dean's list

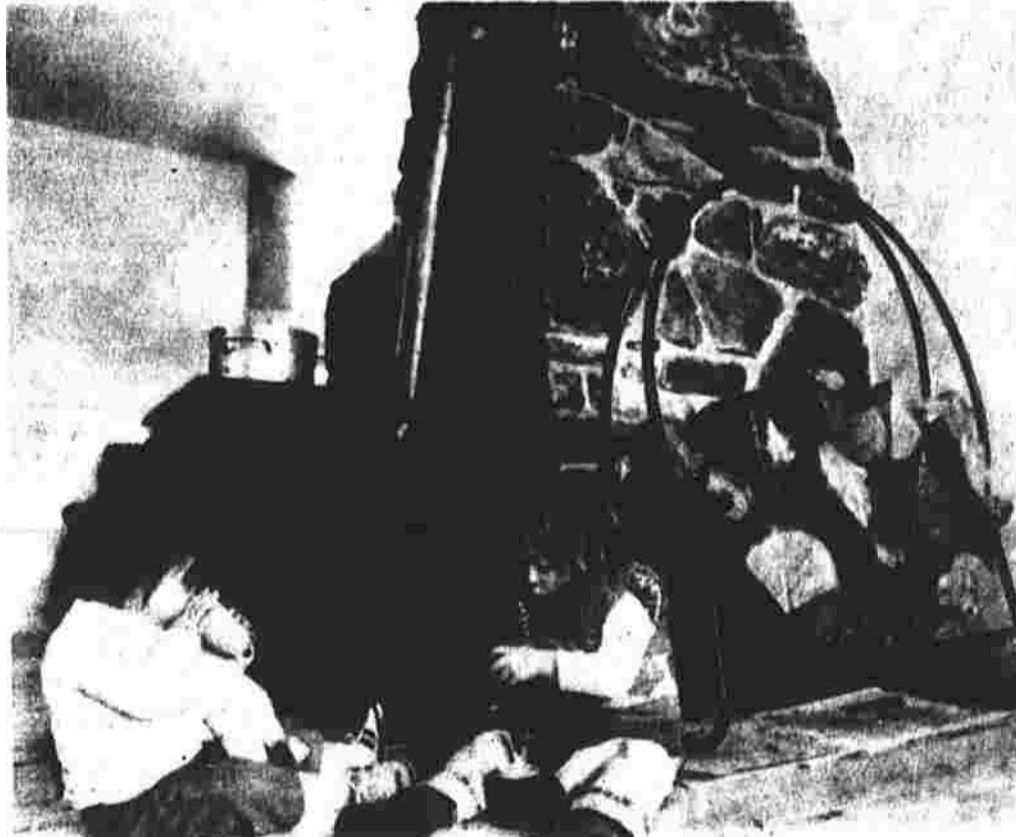
Among the area students are: At the University of Connecticut to be included in the 1981 edition of 'Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges...

Home

Wood, coal stoves often mean big savings

JERICO CENTER, Vt. (UPI) - The time was 2 a.m. The outside temperature was 25 below zero. The woman in the bathrobe and parka by the backyard wood stove was me...

lifestyle of some families. A coal stove - like a wood stove - needs stoking two or three times a day. Ashes have to be removed daily...



Sara Davis (right) and playmate Gina Coggio, both 2, sit in a room heated by a wood stove hooked to an existing fireplace during cold winter months in Jericho Center, Vt. (UPI photo)

For safety's sake

Why you should avoid installing it yourself

NORWOOD, Mass. (UPI) - This is a do-it-yourself story with a twist: The stoves supposedly heat a worst of jobs that often promise to heat an entire house on "just a few logs."

Wood stoves can kill

By United Press International Wood stoves and coal-burning stoves can kill. Perhaps the best way to make sure your stove is safely installed is to ask the local fire department to inspect the installation before the stove is lit for the first time...

Sunlight access becomes an issue

By United Press International - When Grace Siu heard about the nine-story apartment building to be built near her home in Hawaii, she was not pleased. It was not the architecture of the proposed building that bothered her, but its shadow over her four solar water heater collectors. So she went to court - and lost.

Heart to Heart Talk

Advertisement for Michael's Plumbing Supplies featuring a heart graphic and contact information for 988 Main St., Downtown Manchester.

Towntalk

Obituaries

Rosemary E. Barr

VERNON - Rosemary E. Barr, 44, of 91 South St., died Monday. She was the wife of Charles Barr. Mrs. Barr was born in Jersey City, N.J., and formerly had lived in Gloucester. She leaves her mother and stepfather, Edward and Marielle Coderre of Gloucester.

Morris C. Halpern

HEBRON - Graveside services were conducted today for Morris C. Halpern, 86, of 185 East St., who died Monday at Winham Memorial Community Hospital in Willimantic. He was the husband of Pauline (Weiner) Halpern.

Lester A. Barnett

SOUTH WINDSOR - Lester A. Barnett, 72, of 72 Kent Road, died Monday at Manchester Memorial Hospital after a long illness. He was the husband of the late Lillian (Holloway) Barnett.

Paul H. Stomps

VERNON - Paul H. Stomps, 79, formerly of Regan Road, died Monday at Manchester Memorial Hospital. Mr. Stomps was born in the Netherlands and had lived in the Vernon area for many years. He was a retired electrician.

Edith M. Fielding

VERNON - Edith (Milton) Fielding, 86, formerly of Wankenshaw Road, died Monday at a local convalescent home. She was the widow of Maurice L. Fielding.

Mrs. Palma G. O'Meara

MANCHESTER - Mrs. Palma (Pam) Gindon O'Meara, 51, of 128 West Vernon St., Manchester, died Monday at her home. Mrs. O'Meara was born in Grosvener Dale, and she had lived in Manchester for the past 15 years. She was employed as a life underwriter for Phoenix Mutual Insurance Company in Hartford.

Mrs. Patricia A. O'Meara

MANCHESTER - Mrs. Patricia A. O'Meara, both of Manchester, one brother and five sisters. Funeral services will be on Thursday at 8:15 a.m. at the John P. Hervey Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester, with a mass at St. James Church at 9 a.m. Burial will be in the St. James Cemetery. Calling hours are Wednesday from 2

When School Superintendent James Kennedy jokingly gave his method for determining class size as "X minus five you have the most trouble with," he must have realized his comment would start a rash of new formulas. At the board meeting on Monday, James Harvey presented a new "administrative theory" as "X plus 5" or "the number of seats

in the classroom plus the five you haven't figured out what to do with yet," Kennedy added. "Those are the ones in the hall," he quipped.

Vernon Mayor Marie Herbst had appointed two members of the Town Council to represent that group at Budget Committee meetings of the Board of Education.

tion but neither was able to show up at a recent meeting. So the mayor attended herself. Deputy Mayor Baum, chairman of the Budget Committee, commented, "It's nice today we have the cannon here instead of the small guns."

During a discussion of the Board of Education's Budget Committee on possible elimination of sports programs at the Middle School, or the hockey program, two committee members present couldn't seem to agree. This led Devra Baum, committee chairman, to comment, "Since neither one of us feels strongly enough about cutting sports, to go to the mat on it ... She drew some groans from those attending the meeting."



Motorists found the driving hazardous on Route 86 this morning during an unexpected snowstorm. Several autos were damaged in a chain reaction accident involving more than 20 vehicles on Route 86, westbound, near Exit 93, Manchester. Here motorists survey the damage as the result of the massive pileup. (Herald photo by Pinto)

Manchester

Zinsser urges tax revamp

By MARY KITZMANN
HARTFORD - A proposal to replace the property tax formula with a set amount of state aid per student for funding education has been introduced by Sen. Carl Zinsser, R-Manchester.

Cheney zone nears reality

MANCHESTER - Zone regulations designed especially for the Cheney Historic District have been formulated by the staff of the Planning Department for approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Suds close reservoir

MANCHESTER - The warm rain which put a little more water in Manchester's reservoirs Monday also should break down completely in a few days. The chemical is sodium lauryl ether sulfate, used in the making of industrial detergents.

Girder job moves road

VERNON - The state Department of Transportation plans to start installation of 11 girders on Route 83 in the Talcottville area as part of the highway expansion program. The work, weather permitting, is scheduled to start Wednesday.

MS group to meet

HARTFORD - The regular monthly meeting of Greater Hartford Area MSers will be Feb. 20 at the East Hartford "Y", 770 Main St., E. Hartford.

Sports

John Cook wins up one spot in playoff

CCIL bout; 1-6, 3-10 Gastonbury High enters 5-3, 7-6 Bloomfield High in a COC affair; and 1-10, 1-12 North Hartsford 9-4, 8-4 Cromwell High in a COC engagement.

Manchester, with a full game lead in the loss column over its closest pursuers, Simsbury and Windham, puts its 11-1, 12-1 marks against neighboring 8-4, 8-5 Penney High in a COC encounter at Clarke Arena.

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Three years ago Stephen Robertson, 33, walked away from 10 years in prison. He speaks to students at Hope High School in Providence, R.I., sparing no details about the existence behind bars in hopes of steering high school students away from trouble. (UPI photo)

Ex-con hopes students will avoid trouble

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (UPI) — Three years ago Stephen Robertson walked away from a 10-year prison stint, but he relives that dark period over and over in hopes of steering high school students away from trouble.

"Three electric doors clang shut behind you. You're not told too much initially. You're given a blanket and a mattress and shown to your 4-by-10 cell," said Robertson, 33, recalling his introduction to Rhode Island's Adult Correctional Institutions.

"It's dehumanizing. The institution is dull, drab and dreary and the food is gross and bug-infested," Robertson said. "You may get used to the physical conditions. But you never get used to your freedom being taken away."

The one-time honor student and Boys Club director was sentenced to life in prison in 1967 for shooting two sailors to death in a Newport bar after he saw them picking on an old man.

Paroled in 1977, Robertson works as a state mail clerk. For the last year, he has been making the rounds at Rhode Island high schools with other ex-convicts telling students the truth about prison.

"We try to give an insight on prison life in an attempt to deter anyone headed in that direction. We show them the bleakness of the place," said Robertson, who spares no details in describing life behind bars.

He smiles shyly when talking about his successful efforts to win furloughs, a work release program and other reforms for Rhode Island prison inmates. But the smile fades and his tone becomes serious when he talks about prison life.

"Like a lady being pregnant, you have to experience it to know what it - really like," Robertson told 60 seniors at Providence's Hope High School recently.

The young men and women were sprawled across the large classroom, some sitting behind desks, others on top and others leaning against windowsills chomping gum.

No heckles interrupted Robertson. They paid him the respect of quiet and asked about prison violence, homosexuality, drugs and racial unrest.

Six students stayed beyond the closing bell for a half-hour to ask even more questions of Robertson, who promised to give them straight answers.

"You have to be on guard. Everybody is tested by the guards, by the other inmates. You have to learn to represent yourself properly. You do your own time and mind your own business. It's life on the installment plan," Robertson said.

The former inmate who survived 10 years without being "shanked" (stabbed) or beaten, is 5-foot-10, moderately built and looks more like his former boys' club charges than a convicted murderer.

Robertson's straight blond hair is beginning to pull away from his forehead, but his blue eyes show a look of innocence and trust, and a quick grin occasionally flashes through his more serious manner.

For him prison is a "city within a city" governed by its own rules where an atmosphere of "tension to terror" pervades.

"People in prison have very little, so if you take something away they really feel it. I've seen a man stabbed to death for \$15 worth of reefer (marijuana). I've seen a man stabbed for taking someone's place in line," he said.

Inmates fashion knives and weapons from the metal used to make license plates. Switchblades and drugs can be bought from guards and other drugs come in with visitors or "over the wall," Robertson said.

Life is worse for convicted child molesters and inmates who turn over information about others to prison officials.

"By snitching you sell your manhood. You can never go back into population. The guards can't assure or guarantee your safety. Some of them are on the take," he said.

Robertson was described as a model prisoner and was one of the first "lifers" ever to win parole after serving the minimum requirement of 10 years. The Legislature restored his voting rights last June.

He warned students that the best technique for surviving prison is staying out of it.

"The bottom line is this: anyone can go to jail. I got involved in a bet and shot two men to death. I was trying to do something positive, but I went about it in the wrong way."

"Realistically there is no way you can equate an 'X' amount of years with a human life," Robertson said.

"I am trying to pay back society and I never can. But if I can prevent one person from staying out of the ACL, to me it's worth it."

Center names director

HARTFORD—Robert H. Butler, former risk manager and corporate safety director of the Travelers Insurance Cos., has been appointed director of the University of Connecticut Center for Insurance Education and Research.

Butler succeeds Dr. Darwin B. Close, who held the position from 1976 until his resignation in 1980.

Latest innovation aids special students

HARTFORD — Federal and state law require the identification of children who have special needs from birth to twenty-one years of age — and Connecticut Child Find is an outreach program for designed to do that.

Early intervention is considered vital in reducing or eliminating the potential for learning difficulties. Many handicapped children in Connecticut are receiving the help they need through special education services offered by their local school systems. However, some of the state's handicapped children remain unserved by an educational program.

Lack of information about available services is often the reason.

To deal with this situation the Connecticut Department of Education and the special education resource center are conducting, the fourth consecutive year, a statewide public service campaign called Child Find.

The campaign is geared to parents who suspect that their child may have a developmental, physical, learning or emotional problem. Some indicators include: slow development; sight, hearing or motion problems; long-term health problems; speech development delays or

difficulty in getting along with others.

Child Find provides information to parents to assist them in obtaining the necessary screening and evaluation for their child's suspected problem.

The evaluation is provided at no cost to the parent. If a need is determined, then Child Find staff will direct a parent to special education and related services that could benefit the child.

Education Commissioner, Mark R. Shedd, is quite pleased with the response to Child Find.

Since 1976, more than 3,000 persons have responded to this call and though not all of

the children identified were in need of help, the desire to lend a helping hand was there," he said.

"Child Find begins a very important process by helping us identify and locate children who may need diagnosis and placement into school programs," Shedd remarked. "We hope that this year's awareness effort will assure more children of opportunities that they have a right to expect from the public school system."

The information provided to Child Find is confidential. The service includes the toll-free number: 1-800-842-8672.

UConn hospital turns patients away

FARMINGTON — An upsurge in patients which came with the new year means the University of Connecticut's hospital here has been running at capacity for weeks and has turned patients away on occasion.

James M. Malloy, director of the John N. Dempsey Hospital which is part of the UConn Health Center, said today the census for the first three weeks of January averaged about 180 patients, nearly 90 percent of the hospital's 201 staffed beds.

Most hospitals consider 80-85 percent

capacity, since there is a need to keep a few beds empty to serve the patient "mix" of varied problems.

He noted that the hospital has, for months, been hoping to add staff nurses to allow opening more of the hospital's 232 beds but the area's nursing shortage, state budget cuts, and hiring prohibitions have combined to hamper these efforts.

Several hospitals in the area have announced they are in a similar bind, at capacity and having to postpone elective inpatient visits.

The university hospital is gradually developing into a "tertiary care" institution, concentrating on difficult diagnostic or treatment problems.

This has been a long-term expectation, and was stated as a goal in a program developed by a legislative "Blue Ribbon" committee which studied the Health Center and submitted its report in early 1978.

Malloy said that as the institution's reputation has grown since it opened in early 1975 with about 55 beds, the inpatient

census has shown a gradual rise.

He said it is possible the unusually cold weather which has been a feature of the 1980-81 winter may be a factor but there is little evidence to support that.

The general inpatient census rise at the hospital since 1975 was a factor underlying the institution's recent announcement that it broke even financially on operations for the first time for a "hospital" fiscal year for the 12 months ended Sept. 30, 1980.

Phone service gives education ideas

HARTFORD — Where can a person get news on issues relating to education just by dialing a number 24 hours a day? By calling the Education Newsline. That's a service developed by the state Department of Education which has been in existence since October.

By calling 566-5754, a person will connect with a two-minute, recorded message about topics ranging from the announcing of the Connecticut Teacher of the Year to adult program offerings in the state's 17

regional vocational-technical schools.

Mark R. Shedd, commissioner of education, indicates that "the newsline is a service geared most directly to the needs of the radio stations in the state, but we find that local educators and other media people call it regularly, too."

"We are so pleased with the response to the Newsline from those sources, that we want the general public to be aware of the number so that they can get up-to-date information on education matters," he

adds.

In the 16 weeks that Newsline has been in operation, the phone line has averaged 70 calls a week and the range has been from a high of 113 to a low of 30.

"We have found that when something of significance takes place, such as a state Board of Education meeting, or the release of statewide proficiency test results, the number of calls increases," Shedd said.

Those calling on Monday, January 26 to

get a report on the latest proficiency test, numbered over 100.

The Newsline has a question and answer format involving those within the state Department of Education who are directly involved with a specific topic. Usually three questions are asked and a number is given for further information.

Shedd indicates that he is aware of only one other state Department of Education which employs this communications technique.

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