

# Government eyes 'airborne' ships

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — With oil prices so high these days, the government plans a new study on whether sailing ships could effectively replace some oil-guzzling vessels in the American merchant marine.

The United States is not alone with the idea of returning to the age of sail. Both the Japanese and British also are studying ships powered at least in part by the free and plentiful wind.

The U.S. Maritime Administration, which plans soon to issue a con-

tract for a 14-month study of wind-powered commercial vessels, says the renewed interest in sailing was sparked by the skyrocketing price of oil.

Before the 1973 Arab oil embargo, oil to power ships sold for less than \$21 a barrel. When oil prices rose to \$111 a barrel, the Maritime Administration sponsored an \$18,000 study of commercial sailing vessels at the University of Michigan.

That study, completed in 1975, concluded that wind power would not be an "economically feasible alternative" to conventional ships in

the near future but that this could change if energy costs continued to rise.

Since then, the cost of fuel for ships has soared to more than \$20 a barrel.

According to Lloyd Bergeson, of Norwell, Mass., a yachtsman for 50 years who recently sailed his 42-foot yawl alone across the Atlantic, this means wind power now makes commercial sense.

He proposed to conduct a further study of sail power for the Maritime Administration. The government liked the idea but decided to put a

\$140,000 study contract out for competitive bids. It now is in the final stages of selecting a winner from several bidders, including Bergeson.

Bergeson and fellow sailing enthusiasts, meanwhile, have formed the Windship Development Corp., which plans to develop sail-powered commercial vessels on its own.

"We've been talking to a lot of shipping people," Bergeson said in a telephone interview. "Nobody is laughing at this. They can't afford not to consider it."

If sailing ships do make a commercial comeback, they may not resemble their predecessors. The government wants both square and fore-and-aft sail rigs considered in the study as well as rigid airfoils and windmills.

All agree such ships probably would have auxiliary engines, just as many pleasure sailboats do. The government thinks they might be good for bulk cargoes. Bergeson says they also could carry general cargo and passengers.

## Mormon church court ERA backer to be tried

United Press International  
STERLING, Va. — A Mormon tribunal decided Saturday to formally try in a church court a Mormon feminist on charges her national campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment is undermining the church and spreading "false doctrine."

Sonia Johnson, a fifth-generation Mormon and mother of four, appeared before a three-man bishops' court at her local church in what she said amounted to a pre-trial session. It culminated in an 18-hour series of events that, she said earlier, had been intended to "railroad me" out of the church.

Johnson had undermined faith in the church and its leaders and had "knowingly preached false doctrine," Johnson said. "Maybe I can come out of this with my membership intact. I am feeling optimistic; they were pretty fair."

Excommunication would not only bar Johnson from active participation in church activities but also nullify all ceremonies — such as her marriage — that were performed under the church's auspices.

Bishop Jeffrey Willis, who headed the three-man board, said the session determined what the issues in Johnson's trial would be. He would not elaborate.

"I didn't have very much hope be-

ing around the country for ERA, Johnson said she was optimistic the disagreement may be resolved in her favor.

Johnson originally was scheduled to go before the court Dec. 1, but late Friday night she was told she was to appear Saturday morning — too soon, she said, to give her time to gather witnesses or evidence in her defense.

After the 4½ hour session Saturday, Johnson emerged with a smile and said the court had just invented a new type of proceeding — a pre-trial session.

She said the session had focused on the church's charges against her. Essentially, they involve the church's feelings that in campaign-

## Yellow submarine disappears

United Press International  
NEWPORT, Ore. — A homemade yellow submarine believed to be carrying one man has disappeared after leaving Depoe Bay a week ago.

The State Police and Coast Guard said Friday a search of the coast from Depoe Bay to Cascade Head failed to turn up a trace of the 15-foot vessel.

Troopers said it was believed James Ringrose was the owner and the occupant of the sub. They said there were reports he was searching for a "research buoy."

Authorities said they were trying to determine whether Ringrose owns a controlling interest in the Oregon Offshore Public Power Supply System.

The private company tethered an experimental power generator off the coast near Depoe Bay. The buoy, which generates electricity from winds and wave motion, disappeared during an early autumn storm.



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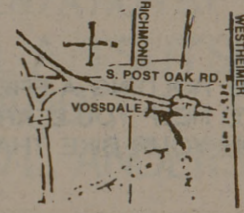
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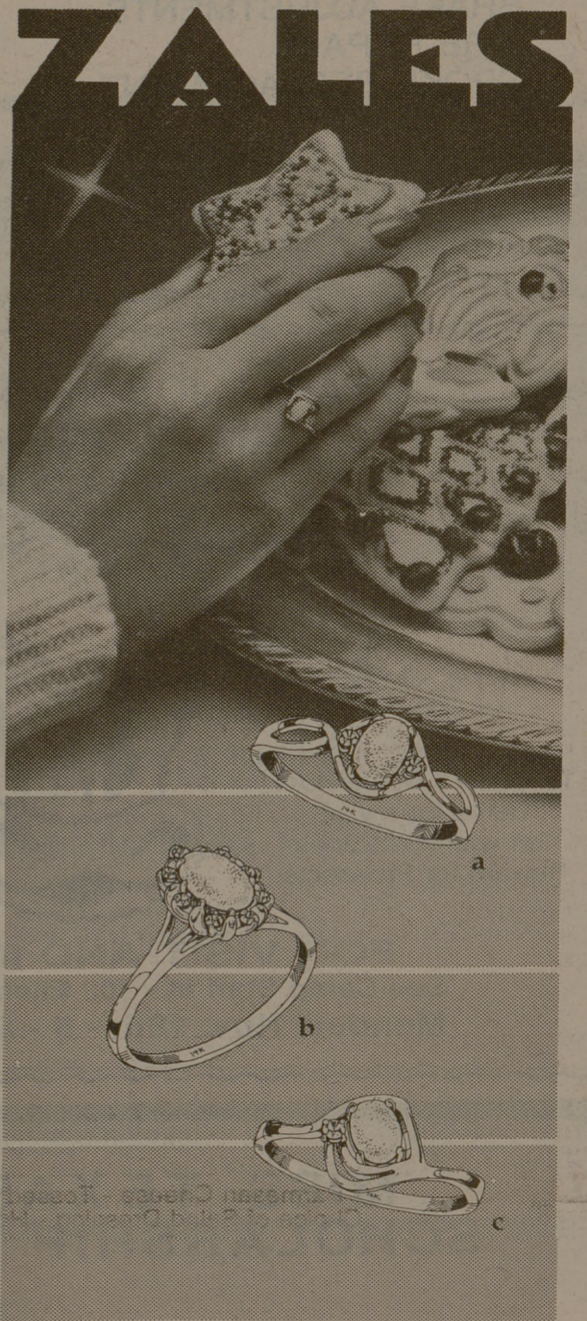
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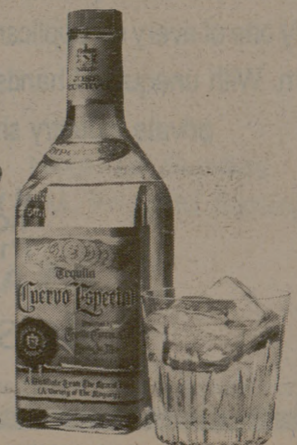
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