

# Man plans to build next wonder of world

United Press International  
QUEBEC — Jean Saint-Germain plans to dwarf the Great Pyramid of Egypt with one of his own that will be the biggest in the world, with room for 2,000 coffins, one million urns — and a restaurant on the top.  
Now all he needs to build his own wonder of the world is the sleepy village of St. Simon, 33 miles outside Montreal, is permission from the Quebec Province zoning board.  
Saint-Germain says his idea for the 49-story pyramid which in effect, would be a mausoleum — “has nothing to do with mysticism.”  
“I just think it's a practical idea,” said the man who he is a “thinker” when asked his occupation. “It would be convenient and a tourist attraction as well.”  
Saint-Germain said he was upset that his pyramid had leaked out because he wanted to keep them secret until he found out whether the zoning board would allow him to build the 534-foot-high structure.  
“The area where I want to build is zoned agricultural. I've applied for permission to build,” the 43-year-

old father of 12 said. “I should have an answer by Nov. 14.”  
“If they say no, I'll take my idea to Ontario or the United States,” he said, adding that the pyramid — which would house a museum of inventions on the ground floor and a restaurant on top — would cost between \$40 million and \$60 million to build.  
Saint-Germain, who claims to hold the patent on many inventions, including the Playtex nursing bottle, has already built a so-called “Aerodium,” a building which resembles a silo where customers can become weightless through what he terms a “vertical air pressure system.” He said he has already sold the patent of the Aerodium to a Japanese company for an undisclosed fee.  
The world's largest pyramid is actually not in Egypt, but is the Quetzalcoatl, 63 miles southeast of Mexico City. It is a mere 177 feet tall; its base covers nearly 45 acres, and its volume of 4.3 million cubic yards is almost 1 million cubic yards bigger than Egypt's Pyramid of Cheops.

# Supreme Court will decide if sign language interpreter must have interpreter

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court has agreed to consider whether colleges accepting federal aid are required by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to pay for an interpreter for a deaf graduate student.  
The justices will hear an appeal from the University of Texas at Austin, which has asked the court to rule that the school must pay for a sign language interpreter for a deaf student.  
The case was brought in March, 1978, by Walter Camenisch, a student at the University of Texas at Austin, to require the university to pay for a sign language interpreter to assist in his classwork.  
He argued he needed the interpreter to complete work for his mas-

ter's degree by the end of the 1978 summer term in order to keep his job as acting dean of students at the East Campus of the Texas School for the Deaf.  
The Rehabilitation Act provided that “no otherwise qualified handicapped individual” could be denied the benefits of any program receiving federal financial assistance, he argued.  
At the time, the University of Texas received some \$31.4 million in federal aid. However, the school denied Camenisch's request on grounds he did not meet the university's criteria for financial assistance to graduate students. The decision forced him to pay for his own interpreter.  
Several months after he filed his suit, a federal district court held

Camenisch had the legal right to bring suit under the Rehabilitation Act without first exhausting administrative channels.  
The court also required him to file an administrative complaint with a federal agency before initiating a suit.  
The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed, finding Camenisch had a right to bring suit under the Rehabilitation Act. However, the court refused to require Camenisch to file an administrative complaint first.  
Texas appealed to the Supreme Court, arguing a 1979 Supreme Court ruling barred the courts from imposing the financial and administrative burdens of providing interpreters.

# FTC streamlines antitrust case

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — A Federal Trade Commission move to streamline its antitrust conspiracy case against eight major oil firms for alleged, pre-1973 crude oil price fixing contains almost nothing new, Exxon attorneys say, but it could cut years off the time needed to finish the case.  
An Exxon spokesman said the company was still studying FTC staff documents, although Exxon attorneys detected “nothing more than a restatement of the broad range of still unsupported allegations.”  
“While the FTC appears to have dropped or modified some prior contentions, the thrust of the case remains generally the same,” the spokesman said.

The FTC staff's new 394-page case document, although it deletes some issues, still accuses Exxon and seven other firms of “a powerful inference of conspiracy” before 1973.  
A commission attorney said the document was significant because it simplified the case and removed an industry complaint about vague charges.  
“You can't read that document and not know what you are charged with — violating sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act,” he said.  
It charges the firms with “a tacit conspiracy with regard to raising crude oil prices to artificially high levels.” It also says they cooperated to “maintain a non-competitive market” in downstream operations — marketing, refining and pipelines — to keep independents from undercutting crude prices.  
The attorney said only an effort to sustain crude prices could explain decisions by the majors to continue with marginal or unprofitable downstream businesses. He said the control of crude oil prices dictated other moves because it is easier to shield those upstream profits from taxes.

Restatement of the staff antitrust complaint could cut as much as a decade from the time it would take to obtain a court verdict in the massive pre-1973 crude oil price conspiracy case. It saves time mainly by drastically chopping the number of evidentiary company source documents to half a million.  
The FTC attorney said the staff's decision to steadily narrow the issues draws on a procedure adopted by the judge in the celebrated American Telephone & Telegraph Co. antitrust case. As a result, he said, “it's not out of the question that the trial could begin in two years and the trial itself might not take that long.”  
“The last remedy available would be divestiture,” he said, but “we have not focused on any particular remedy at this time.”

Two issues dropped from the case document dealt with anti-competitive effect of interlocking corporate directorates and alleged efforts to weaken independent rivals.  
Respondents include Exxon, Texaco, Gulf, Mobil, Standard of California, Standard of Ohio, Atlantic Richfield and Shell.

# U.S. draws Europeans

United Press International  
LONDON — From this side of the Atlantic, America never looked so inviting.  
Europeans in ever increasing numbers are visiting the United States. While bargain air fares and a cheap car are primary reasons, returning tourists and travel agents say there is more to it than saving cash.  
Americans, they say, have earned high marks for friendliness and fairness, for providing good service in a minimum of hassles, for welcoming tourists as if they were old friends.  
“I've spoken to a lot of people and I must confess that everybody has said they've had a marvelous time,” said Anderson of Thomas Cook Travel Ltd. “You don't think that someone would have something negative to say about it.”  
There is an infatuation among French people for the American way of life, “one Paris travel agent said. “They see it as a country 10 years ahead of Europe. Also, they are not so reserved as in France. They are always ready to talk to you, particularly in small towns.”  
“I think it's important to have been there,” said Waldemar Leber, 25, a Bonn school teacher who spent six weeks in California. “So much of what we have comes from there and you can understand it much better if you know the background.”  
He said she liked Americans because they were friendly “and paid absolutely no attention to appearances. You could wear what you liked, do what you liked, in contrast to here.”

In Miami, the average price of the same Holiday Inn room is \$42.  
At \$56 a night, the Holiday Inn near the Vatican is cheaper than New York City's \$73, but the Big Apple is still less than Paris (\$97) or Cologne (\$80).  
U.S. Travel officials trace the tourist boom to the Bicentennial year of 1976.  
“We saw a concerted effort by the United States to promote itself for tourists aboard,” said Roger Fenning, public relations consultant to the U.S. Travel Service in London. “That coincided with the lower air fares being offered by operators like Freddie Laker and Jetsave.”  
This winter, economy seats on all the major airlines will sell for about \$220 one way from London to New York, with comparable prices to other destinations.  
But perhaps more important are the cheap package vacations, which combine air fare, hotels and usually breakfast.  
One of the largest package tour operators in Britain is Jetsave, and its most popular destination is Florida. A Jetsave spokeswoman said that next year a 14-day Miami vacation will sell for 280 pounds — \$675.  
“Florida,” said Fenning of U.S. Travel, “is not like other patterns: it is an example of sudden, explosive growth. The thousands of tourists who used to frequent the Mediterranean picked themselves up en masse and went to Florida for a good time.”  
Miami's Dade County reported 192,615 European visitors in the first six months of 1980, 124,615 from Britain.  
“Each month, without fail, the figures rose in occupancy and resort tax collections,” said Dade County Tourism Director Lew Price.  
In the Bicentennial year, tourism from Britain leaped 32 percent. “It's been growing by between 25 and 42 percent annually every year since then,” Fenning said. “This year we feel confident it will grow another 40 percent.”

Let no matter how much foreign visitors may love New York, California or Florida — the three big destinations — low air fares and good value for their francs, marks or pounds remain the cornerstones of the boom.  
Consider this:  
A McDonald's Big Mac, small french fries and milk shake costs about \$2.20 in Miami and Los Angeles and about \$2.60 in New York.  
In Stockholm, the same meal costs about \$4.80 and in London and Hamburg, about \$3.75. Other food prices are comparable: In London any cheeseburger with the ketchup costs \$5. In Bonn, a cup of coffee and a slice of cake fetches \$3.40 and a can of beer \$1.70.  
“Cheapness of food and good service are mentioned often by returning tourists,” Anderson of Thomas Cook said.  
The same applies to hotels.  
In London, a Holiday Inn room for two people ranges from \$110 to \$152 a night.

The same holds true for other European countries.  
In 1975, the Central German Tourist office reported 297,964 Germans visited the United States, compared with 485,000 in 1979 and a projected 600,000 this year.  
French tourist officials estimate 350,000 Frenchmen will visit America this year, 13 percent more than in 1979 and 32 percent above the 1978 figures.  
“For many people it is a dream trip,” said Jeannette Howl of the U.S. Travel Service in Frankfurt, West Germany. “And now they can afford it.”

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