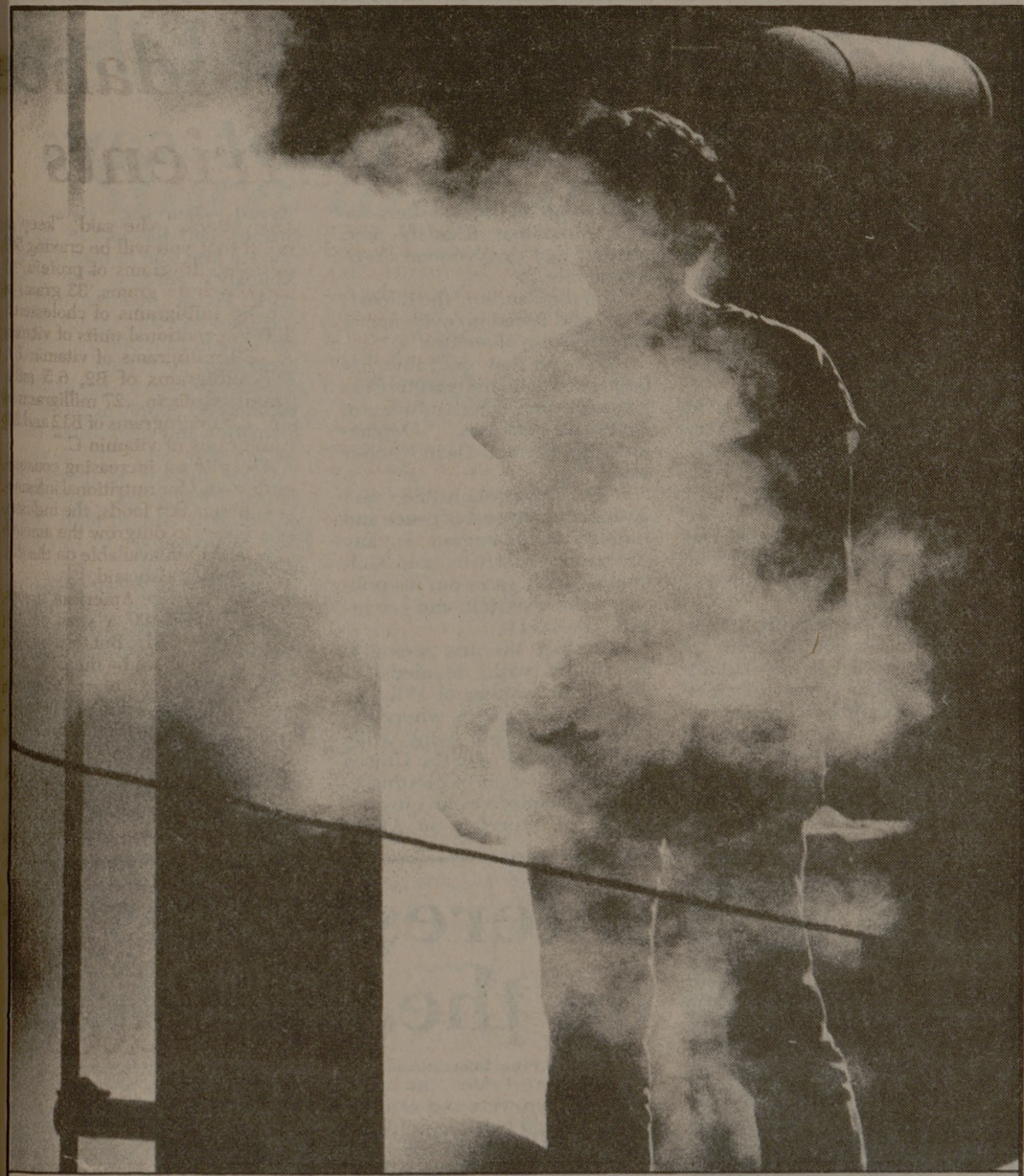


National



The exorcist?

No, this is not the exorcist. Craig Murphy is walking along a catwalk by the Physical Plant.

The cooler weather has caused steam to be more prominent to passers-by.

Staff photo by Daniel Sanders

Reagan, Hussein continue talks

Peace process major topic

WASHINGTON — Jordan's King Hussein paid a final call on President Reagan Tuesday amid administration hopes that the monarch's visit will produce new and better military cooperation with the United States in the Middle East.

Hussein met with Reagan and top administration officials Monday to discuss the Middle East peace process and other issues.

According to an official account of the session Monday between Reagan and Hussein — also attended by various aides — the conversation was very general but touched on the Middle East peace process, Palestinian autonomy and a threat to the region posed by the Soviet Union.

The king and the president remained divided on the question of the Camp David accords as the road to peace in the region, but managed to establish a warm personal relationship that aides said was lacking during the presidency of Jimmy Carter.

Relations between Jordan and the United States had chilled following Hussein's refusal to join the Camp David process of negotiations.

Administration officials hope the two days of talks will succeed in dissuading Hussein from turning to the Soviet Union for his supply of arms.

Hussein is also known to look with favor on an eight-point Middle East peace plan offered by Saudi Arabia as an alternative to the Camp David accords. The plan implies recognition of the state of Israel, but also demands creation of a Palestinian state.

President Reagan acknowledged that the path ahead is fraught with both danger and

opportunity. But he said now that he has had a chance to discuss the issues with Hussein he is certain "we will walk the path as friends."

Hussein returned Reagan's toast and said: "I can only say, sir, that having had this privilege, I feel more encouraged than I have felt for a long, long period of time."

Earlier Monday, when asked by a reporter whether he would be prepared to join the Camp David negotiations, Hussein remained non-committal.

"Our position is well known to you," he said. "The objective, as far as we are concerned, has always been a comprehensive total

peace for the entire area, one which future generations can accept, protect and live with. This has not changed."

Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, accompanied by Gen. David Jones, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, met with the king at Blair House for more than an hour late Monday afternoon.

Secretary of State Alexander Haig also met with the king and said after his meeting with Hussein: "I am personally encouraged by the tone of these discussions."

Hussein's visit, following hard on the Senate's acceptance of the \$8.5 billion Saudi arms package, is

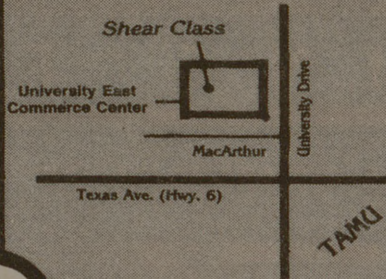
seen as critical to Reagan's plan for bringing moderate Arab leaders into the Middle East peace process.

But to achieve extensive Jordanian participation in that process, Hussein made it clear there should be movement toward resolution of the Palestinian problem. The king supports creation of a separate Palestinian state.

Reagan chose not to address the Palestinian question, officials said.

Instead, in his welcoming remarks, the president urged Hussein to be mindful of the role of external powers in aggravating problems of the region.

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Pony express gallops over Postal Service

HARPERS FERRY, W.Va. — In a race Buffalo Bill Cody would have enjoyed, a senator's version of the Pony Express handily defeated the U.S. Postal Service.

The horse got the mail to Harpers Ferry in a little more than nine hours Monday. The letter that was mailed was not expected to arrive until today.

Sen. Steven Symms, R-Idaho, set up the race to dramatize a bill he has introduced that would authorize private companies to deliver first class mail.

"The mail delivery business needs to be injected with a stiff shot of competition," Symms said. In Washington, Symms mailed a letter to Harpers Ferry Mayor Bradley Nash.

At the same time, he handed a letter to Valerie Kanavy, 35, a prize-winning endurance rider, who was riding Ramequa Kaffara, the current national 100-mile champion.

Kanavy and the horse, escorted by two motorcycle policemen, made the 63-mile trip in less than

nine hours. The letter Symms mailed will not arrive until today because Harpers Ferry is in a second-day delivery zone, a Postal Service spokesman said.

Symms said the race showed the need to end the government's mail monopoly: "The key to increased efficiency and lower costs in the delivery of mail is not in a government-sustained monopoly, but in the competition of private enterprise."

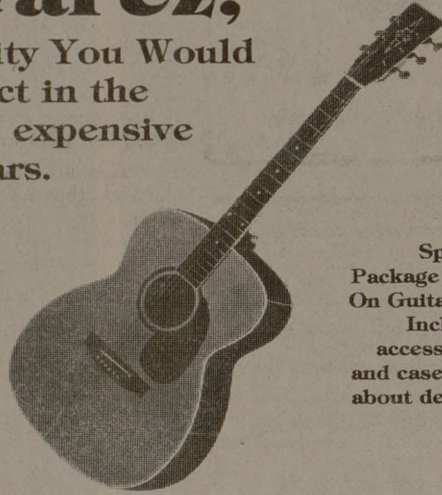
A Postal Service spokesman was not impressed with Symms' race, calling it "just a stunt that generates a lot of horse dung."

The Postal Service has opposed any move to allow private carriers to deliver first class mail, arguing that carriers who deliver mail for profit would focus on profitable areas, leaving the federal agency with less resources for serving outlying areas.

The Postal Service also discounts the legend of the Pony Express, pointing out that it charged up to \$5 to deliver a half-ounce letter.

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