

National

Newsprint costs to press newspapers financially

United Press International
NEW YORK — Many American newspapers, already worried over circulation and advertising prospects in the face of a deepening economic recession, are also bracing for yet another price increase in the cost of newsprint.

The shockwave hit the publishing industry last week when Montreal-based Consolidated-Bathurst Inc., a major newsprint supplier, announced it will raise newsprint prices by 8 percent, or \$40 a metric ton, effective March 1.

The increase will bring the cost of its newsprint to \$540 a metric ton. A metric ton is 2,204.6 pounds.

No other major producers in Canada — which supplies 60 percent of U.S. newsprint needs — followed immediately, but many were said to be studying Consolidated's move.

The price increase surprised industry analysts who didn't expect a hike this soon. They also were expecting a more moderate increase than that Consolidated announced, especially in view of the fact that economic conditions have tempered newsprint demand.

"It's an unwelcome development when

there's a question mark about advertising," said Ken Noble, an analyst at Paine Webber, Mitchell Hutchins Inc.

He said the increase comes at a time when newspapers are facing a weakening economy. Although circulation and advertising lineage generally are up modestly so far this year — with the notable exception of the depressed sections of the Midwest — Noble said there are signs of advertising weakening as the recession deepens.

The latest price increase would represent a 44 percent boost in the cost of newsprint since late 1979 when it rose from \$375 a metric ton to \$440. In late 1980, another round of increases pushed the price to \$470. This past summer, a 6.3 percent increase pushed the price to \$500 a metric ton.

The 44 percent price increase would far outpace the 22.5 percent rise over the past two years in the producer price index and many other commodities. Lumber prices, for example, have fallen in the face of depressed homebuilding activity.

Consolidated-Bathurst cited higher costs for energy, labor, transportation and wood as the reason for its latest price hike. Although lumber prices have been de-

pressed, analyst Noble noted that newsprint mills often use economical "residue chips" — which are basically the scraps left from timber cut for homebuilding.

"Timber prices may be down," Noble said, "but residue chips move inversely in price to the level of homebuilding."

Noble said publishers have nevertheless been muttering about the newsprint price increases and bitterly describing the Canadian suppliers as the "OPEC of the North."

Newsprint costs can represent more than one-third of a newspaper's total operating costs.

Analysts suggest the tight supplies in recent years have made price increases easier to pass along. In addition, Noble said, the Canadian suppliers have been "benefiting from unspecified price increases" because of the U.S. dollar's strength compared with Canada's.

Within the past month, three major western Canadian newsprint producers — MacMillan Bloedel Ltd., British Columbia Forest Products Ltd., and Crown Zellerbach Ltd. — announced an 8 percent price increase for some Canadian customers, reportedly for foreign exchange reasons. The increase did not apply to U.S. customers.

Essays made punishment for trespassing students

United Press International
EAST CLEVELAND, Ohio — Four college students may have thought when they graduated from high school their days of writing 500-word essays as punishment were over.

But they learned otherwise when a Municipal Court judge ordered 500-word essays as a result of the four trespassing at their old high school.

The four students, home from college for a weekend earlier this

month, were charged with trespassing after a janitor found them reminiscing — at 3 a.m. — in the auditorium of Shaw High School.

The students, Vicki Lee Warren, Salena Butler, Walter Harriel and Alfred Head, had been members of the high school stage crew. They said they went to a football game Nov. 6 and then decided to talk over old times.

The four, all 18 and 1981 graduates, appeared Thursday before Judge James M. DeVinne, who fined them \$25 each and then im-

posed the additional penalty.

"Well, what do you think I should do with these kids, spank them and send them home?" DeVinne asked Head's mother, who accompanied them to court.

Instead, he ordered the writing assignment.

"Now hear me very carefully," the judge said. "You will submit to the court next Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, a 500-word essay on the importance of education because it is important."

Businessman arrested in poisoning deaths

United Press International
MCHENRY, Ill. — Investigators say they arrested a prominent businessman in the poisoning deaths of three relatives — including his father — because they feared for the lives of the suspect's third wife and her mother.

Authorities said they arrested Charles Albanese Wednesday, hours before he, his third wife and her mother left for a Jamaican vacation rather than risk losing one or both of the women after they got to the Caribbean.

"We certainly would have had egg on our face if one of them had died," an investigator said.

Linking Albanese to an Elkhorn, Wis., metal finishing firm that uses arsenic broke the seven-month investigation by Lake and McHenry County officials, authorities said.

A Lake County judge ordered Albanese held without bond on charges of murdering his mother-in-law and her mother by dousing their desserts with arsenic while he dined with them to win their favor in a scheme to gain control of the \$1.5 million family business, stocks options and insurance policies.

The McHenry County state's attorney said Friday he would seek the death penalty if Albanese is convicted.

Officials said the killings may have been motivated by an effort to gain control of Allied Die Cast-

ing Co., the family trophy business.

"It can't be called a crime of passion," State's Attorney Theodore Floro said. "It's not a case where somebody gets mad and shoots or hits someone on the spur of the moment."

Lake County state's attorney Fred L. Foreman said he has not decided whether to seek the death penalty in the cases which fall in his jurisdiction.

But Floro said: "It would appear that this would be an appropriate situation (for the death penalty). If he gets convicted, would I ask for it? Yes."

San Antonio has largest colony

Center breeds baboons

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — A wide-eyed baboon nonchalantly puffs a cigarette, and another calmly smokes its own blood pressure under the careful scrutiny of a group of white-smocked humans.

A few yards away, hundreds of baboons cavort in a giant feeding corral, and in yet another corner of the compound, still more screeching baboons swing from the bars and rattle their tall outdoor cages.

There are no smiling children in this place. The 2,700 baboons housed just a few feet from a busy northwest San Antonio freeway. Their home is not a zoo or a circus, but one of the biggest biomedical research centers in the country.

The animals are the products of the world's largest breeding colony for research baboons — the Southwest Foundation for Research and Education.

They have been taught their tricks — smoking cigarettes, starting their blood pressure — as

part of scientists' efforts to find cures for deadly afflictions like cancer, heart disease and high blood pressure.

"Baboons have been used in a fairly wide variety of biomedical research for a very long time," said Dr. William Goodwin, director of laboratory animal medicine at the foundation. "They're a medium-sized primate that can be maintained very easily in captivity. They're tough, and they're very close to man."

"But like other primates, they have become very hard to obtain from native habitats."

When Kenya, the prime source of research primates for years, banned the exportation of baboons last July, the foundation already had anticipated the prohibition and had its breeding program well under way.

"In 1979, we built this facility with the idea of producing baboons for the entire biomedical research community of the United States," Goodwin said.

In addition to the 2,700 ba-

boons, the foundation's menagerie of research animals includes 2,500 rats, 1,600 mice, 425 hamsters, 160 marmosets, 150 chimpanzees and 120 opossums. A sprinkling of various other monkeys, guinea pigs, rabbits and chickens also are included.

The focal point of the baboon breeding colony is a six-acre, 12-sided corral with an inward-slanting, 12-foot high metal fence. There, some 290 adult females and 40 adult males produce 350 young baboons a year.

The young primates remain in the corral until they are about 18 months old. Then, they are moved to the large zoo-like outdoor cages where they await shipment to laboratories in all corners of the country.

The research foundation itself is one of the breeding colony's biggest customers. Dr. Henry McGill Jr., the foundation's scientific director, said the animals have been invaluable in his research into atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries).

"It's a disease that's responsible for half of all deaths in the United States today," McGill said. "We're using the baboon as an experimental animal model to study some of the controversial aspects of nutrition and the disease."

He said baboons have been particularly effective in studying the relationship between heart disease and cholesterol — "Why Uncle Joe can eat a dozen eggs a day for life and never get a heart attack and why someone else eats one egg a day and dies in his 30s of a massive heart attack," the scientist said.

Behavioral anthropologists examine groups of baboons to see if their behavior can be linked to heart disease.

Other experimenters have taught baboons to smoke cigarettes in studies of lung cancer and heart ailments.

Research into genetics, premature births, respiratory illness and dozens of other biomedical studies are being done on baboons bred at the foundation.

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