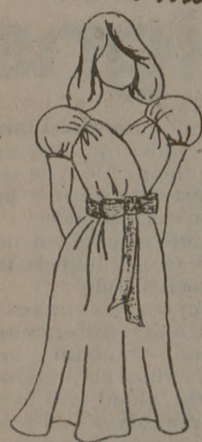


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Is hibernation possible for people?

United Press International
 LA GRANGE, Maine — Deep in a silent cedar forest, a biologist dug through snow, brush and earth to poke a hole into the den of a hibernating mother bear.
 He reached in and jabbed the sleeping bear with a tranquilizer-filled syringe. As he waited for the drug to do its work, the muffled squeals of suddenly awakened cubs rose from the den.
 Moments later, the biologist plucked out four yapping baby bears. He crawled halfway into the darkened space and pulled out a shiny, 108-pound black bear, the claws of her limp paws

dragging through the snow. So began a 90-minute intrusion upon the winter sleep of a bear family to gather valuable information aimed at unlocking the mystery of hibernation.
 Researchers believe a better understanding of the chemical changes that allow bears to sleep for five months without eating, drinking or excreting waste can be applied to treating such human ailments as kidney disease, anorexia nervosa and gallstones. It may also help them send astronauts on long space journeys.
 For nearly a decade now, state biologists have gathered information about Maine's estimated 10,000 black bears for routine game management.
 About 50 of the animals have been outfitted with "radio collars" that send out a beeping signal, allowing wildlife experts to track them down.
 At least once a year, the bear are captured and a long list of information is recorded about their age, size and physical condition. Blood and other tests are performed.

This year, the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department began forwarding that information to researchers interested in possible medical applications.
 Scientists are most interested in female bears, which give birth and nurse their cubs while in hibernation. At the same time, the mother bears, or sows, never eat or drink. They feed off their fat and shed up to one-third of their weight during the five-month hibernation period.
 Most intriguing, however, is that the bears generate waste while in hibernation but don't excrete it. Nor does the buildup of waste poison their systems, as it would in human beings.

The human kidney filters poisonous waste out of the bloodstream. For those suffering from kidney ailments, the buildup of unfiltered waste material can be fatal. The best treatment developed so far is hemodialysis, a mechanical process for removing impurities from the blood.
 Bears are much different. While in hibernation, they metabolize their fat and urine trickles into the bladder. But the bladder never gets full. Instead, the protein-rich fluid is somehow recycled into the animal's system.
 "I think this has a direct application for people with kidney problems, who can't control the buildup of poisonous waste," said Dr. Ralph A. Nelson of the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Urbana, Ill.

Nelson has been analyzing information gathered from wildlife officials in Maine, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Colorado. His study indicates sex hormones are a key factor in the process that allows bears to reabsorb waste material into their systems.
 Nelson said it may one day be possible to change the sex hormone level of kidney patients — either artificially or through a change in diet — to induce the body to reabsorb waste. This would alleviate the need for frequent and costly hemodialysis.
 Such a breakthrough also might be helpful in treating anorexia nervosa, a nervous disorder that causes people to eat. In some cases, the ease results in kidney failure, triggering a potentially deadly buildup of waste.
 Harvard University also requested information for research into treatment of kidney stones, said George J. Nelson Jr., biologist and big game project director for the Wildlife Department.
 Matula said hibernating bears have an extremely low cholesterol level, a condition that in humans often causes gallstones. But hibernating don't get gallstones, he said.
 As for space, Nelson's science can figure out how to induce hibernation in astronauts shuttling to the ends of the galaxy could sleep for a good part of the trip.
 "If the Russians can't get bears so that they can go to hockey, NASA or other organizations can teach them to rigate a spacecraft," Nelson wrote in a paper published in Modern Medical Physiology.

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Vidal Sassoon 'official hair care consultant' for Olympics

United Press International
 NEW YORK — Christopher Brooker likes to paraphrase a quote from a psychiatrist that when you feel good about yourself you perform better.
 He believes the quote originally came from Sigmund Freud. Whatever the origin, Brooker and a squad of hairdressers-beauticians plans to see that the estimated 15,000 international athletes who will compete in Los Angeles July 14 to Aug. 15 look their best.
 The Olympic Organizing Committee has designated Vidal Sassoon Inc. as "official hair care consultant." Brooker, partner in the salons and schools and the creative director, said Sassoon will open two salons right in the Olympic Villages. The regular Beverly Hills salon also will be available.
 All this is complimentary, said Brooker, as will be pack-

ages of Sassoon products when the competitors arrive at the villages. Different sports call for different hairstyles, he said in an interview.
 "It's very important for a judo competitor, for instance, not to have a lot of hair his opponent could grab," he said. "But a girl gymnast could wear her hair in a ponytail during competition; she has to keep the hair out of her eyes. But when not competing she can have a long, pretty look."

The British-born Brooker and his aides have made a number of studies of hair behavior during competition. They were observers at the National Sports Festival last summer in Colorado Springs and, most recently, at the McDonald's American Cup for gymnasts in New York.
 "You can't generalize on styling," Brooker said. "It's a very personal design for them and the events. It's the way I wouldn't advise the same hair-

cut for a banker as I would a rock singer."
 There are different needs for different sports. In gymnastics, for instance, there's a lot of head turning from side to side and the hair must not fall into the eyes.
 Brooker cuts the hair in a "C" shape around the temples with a graduated back if it's short, and a layered look if it's long.
 A whole group of competitors calls for another trend. Brooker said long "Ratons" around the shoulders which gives a heavy, mischievous look to the back, in sports as running, cycling, rowing, skating, soccer and handball.
 He softens the front (undercutting shorter underlayers), taking away the solid at the back with graduated length. He also does something he calls "racing lanes" in which the hair is free but looks as if you had just run your fingers through your locks.
 For swimming, diving, sailing and rowing the motion is up and flat, the stylist said. It works with a "C" shape on the nape of the neck and radiating that clears cheekbones and eyes. He also does ponytails for the girls.
 Aerobics, tennis, the trap line, soccer and handball need a lot of movement of the hair up and down. Brooker said cut that's all one length down swing and flare. So he gives graduated cut which is layered or beveled, giving a more bouncy bounce.
 Brooker has been styling since the 1950s when he joined the Sassoon organization in London.

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