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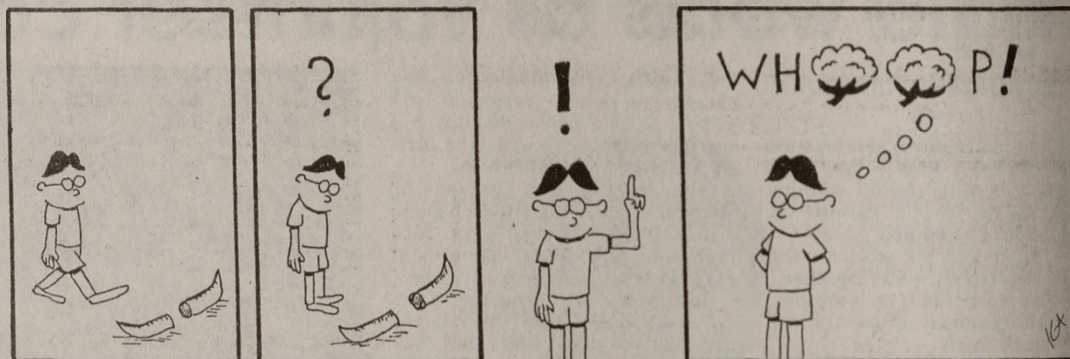
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Wife of Russian dissident is granted visa for treatment

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Yelena Bonner, wife of dissident physicist Andrei Sakharov, is booked to leave Moscow today for medical treatment in Italy and the United States after a 19-month exile during which sources say she spent months isolated from her husband and friends.

Bonner has promised Soviet authorities she will not meet the news media during her three-month stay in the West.

Unarmed guards have kept watch on her Moscow apartment since she returned to the Soviet capital Tuesday.

Sources, who spoke on the condition they not be identified, said the 62-year-old looked very tired and in poor health after she returned from internal exile in Gorky, 250 miles to the east.

Bonner, who suffers from heart and eye ailments, had not been in Moscow since the spring of 1984, when she was held in Gorky on charges of anti-Soviet slander. She later was convicted and sentenced to five years' exile.

Sakharov, 64, once one of the nation's most prominent and decorated scientists, has staged at least three hunger strikes to win permission for his wife to get medical treatment abroad.

Sources said that while Sakharov was hospitalized, Bonner was kept isolated from him and from any friends and relatives.

She reportedly was closely watched in her apartment and followed whenever she went out on to the street.

The couple apparently were reunited in late October, when Soviet authorities reversed their previous stand and said Bonner would be allowed to leave for three months.

She told relatives in Newton, Mass., by telephone Thursday that she had received an exit visa for Italy and the United States, and planned to leave today for Italy, where she will receive treatment for the eye ailment glaucoma.

Later, she will travel to the United States for a coronary bypass operation.

Bonner traveled abroad for treatment of glaucoma in 1977 and 1979 and was also allowed to go to Oslo, Norway, in 1975 to receive the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of her husband.

Sources quoted Bonner as saying that Sakharov, although weak from his fasting, is in good spirits now that she has been allowed to go abroad.

Unbelted drivers to be penalized

continued from page 1

usage rate of the 12 sampled areas.

Nancy Hatfield, a TTI program manager working in Austin, said the survey, which included the observation of 36,441 vehicles state-wide, only monitored vehicles covered by the law. She also said the observations were limited to the use of shoulder belts.

"For one thing, it's (usage of shoulder belts) easier to spot, but also the year the three-point lap/shoulder belt system became required equipment was in 1968," Hatfield said. "So really there aren't too many cars that are out on the road today that would not come equipped."

"The way we check for that (whether the car is equipped with belts) is that, in the same year headrests also became required safety equipment. So if we limit ourselves to vehicles that have the headrests we know a shoulder belt is available."

"The main point was that we were trying to get at observation sites in these cities that we can replicate again in the coming year so that we'll have some comparisons that we can make between the year before the law and the year after."

Hatfield added that another survey will be conducted in the same areas between January and June of 1986.

"We wanted to wait until after Dec. 1 for sure just so that the law would be enforced," she said.

Ann Streetman, public affairs manager of the Texas Safety Association, said older model cars which were produced before seat belts became part of standard equipment are exempt from the law.

"But you would be in non-compliance if you had a car which came with safety belts and you had taken them out," she said. "That would be a violation."

Streetman also said the enactment of the law has resulted in a financial break for Texas drivers.

"Late last month the State Board of Insurance had several hearings on rates," she said. "And they made a decision to reduce automobile rates based solely on the safety belt law."

"Furthermore, that was based on the assumption that 65 percent of the motoring public would buckle up... Usage is certainly coming up. You can tell if you just look."

Streetman added that Texas is one of 16 states which has a mandatory seat belt law. The District of Columbia also has a seat belt law.

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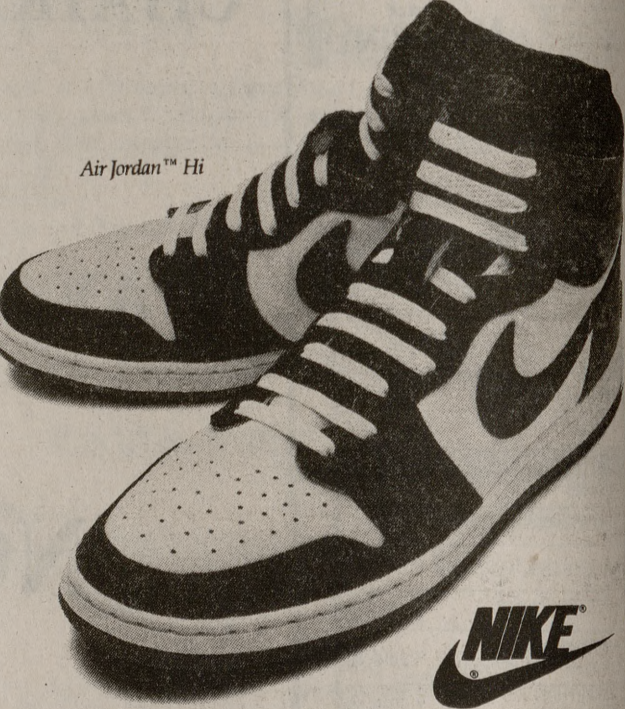


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