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Tobacco war

AMA wants ban on cigarette ads, vending machine sales

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Stepping up its anti-tobacco fight, the American Medical Association on Monday weighed new efforts to ban all cigarette ads, halt vending machine cigarette sales, put health warnings on chewing tobacco and snuff, and bar smokeless tobacco television commercials.

Doctor after doctor argued during a public hearing that more than physicians' counseling is needed to stop or even to slow what Dr. Robert McAfee, who presented the anti-advertising proposal, called "the ravages of this social habit."
Physicians argued that tobacco

and cancer are linked and that the medical profession has a duty to do something about it.

The AMA's House of Delegates, a 360-member policymaking body, will vote today and Wednesday on the anti-tobacco proposals.

Asked for comment, Anne Browder, assistant to the president of the Tobacco Institute, the industry's lobbying organization, objected that a ban on print advertising would violate the industry's right of free speech, and said such bans in other nations haven't worked anyway.

"Advertising doesn't create smokers; it creates brand loyalty," she said.

However, several doctors contended at the hearing that advertising can indeed have an effect, especially on young Americans.

U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, representing the Public Health Service at the hearing, didn't comment on the anti-advertising resolution, but he did say efforts should be increased to alert young people to tobacco-related health dangers.

"Many people, especially boys, are committed to smoke at age 8," although they don't generally begin that early, he said.

The proposed advertising ban was praised by nearly a dozen doctors, including A. Stuart Hanson of Min-

nesota, who called smoking "the No. 1 public health hazard that is preventable."

Raising one voice in opposition, Dr. D.E. Ward Jr., representing doctors in tobacco-rich North Carolina, said they, too, see tobacco as a health hazard but believe "manufacturers of legally produced tobacco products have the constitutional right to advertise their products in a competitive manner."

McAfee, of South Portland, Maine, said he was "not going to get into the First Amendment" argument, but "we feel this is the No. 1 public health right... the greater national good that we can do at this time."

Give the gift of a Soviet magazine

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The Kremlin has a Christmas suggestion for Americans: Give Soviet Life magazine.

"Prices are going up, but if you act now..." says a subscription card in the Life-size magazine, just like its capitalist counterparts. "Give year-long gifts that are truly unusual, and save you money, too!"

Distribution in this country of Soviet Life and in the Soviet Union of Amerika Illustrated is part of a cultural exchange arrangement that's been going on for almost 30 years

and that was renewed at last month's superpower summit at Geneva.

So what are the Soviets reading about Americans and what do Americans get to read about Soviets?

The December issue of Soviet Life — \$1.75 at the newsstand, \$9.35 for the first subscription — begins ponderously with the text of Mikhail Gorbachev's big recent speech in France.

But it livens up with a potpourri section called "Panorama," which includes this item, headlined "Coin Cache":

"A tractor driver on the Rossiya State Farm near Gorky, Volga Re-

gion, was plowing a field. After making several rounds, he noticed a box made of birch bark. He stopped his tractor to take a closer look.

"As soon as he touched the box, it burst open, spilling out copper coins. The coins turned out to be five-kopek pieces that were minted from 1763 to 1795. The old coins are now on exhibit at the local museum of history."

Not much of a punch line there. What follows is a serious article on the stakes in relations between the USSR and the United States that warns against playing "Nuclear Russian Roulette."

The 66-page magazine is handsomely illustrated, but it is no match for Amerika, which sells at kiosks for 50 kopeks — 65 cents.

Overt propaganda is out, but authors of this magazine obviously think beautiful pictures make enough of a pitch for the American way of life.

Amerika is published by the U.S. Information Agency and printed in Manila. (There had been a Beirut plant — much closer, but now inaccessible.) Amerika is sold in 87 cities, from Arkhangelsk to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and USA says the 60,000 copies are snapped up.

Tropical storm expected to drop heavy rains

Associated Press
MIAMI — Forecasters said Monday that heavy rain in Central America will likely be the main impact of a late-season tropical depression, only the seventh such December storm recorded in the Atlantic in 100 years but the second in two years.

"The satellite information right now suggests that the main problems

are going to be heavy rains over Costa Rica and parts of Nicaragua, most likely the southern portions," meteorologist Mark Zimmer said Monday at the National Hurricane Center in Coral Gables.

"The winds are not strong enough to cause any significant problem" when the storm moves inland over western Panama and southern Costa Rica by early Tuesday, he said.

The depression, which formed Saturday, was not expected to develop into a tropical storm before then and was expected to dissipate once inland, Zimmer said.

At midday Monday, the storm was centered in the Caribbean Sea about 150 miles west-northwest of Balboa, Panama, and was drifting west-southwest at about 5 mph.

"It's very weak right now and it

appears on our satellite pictures to be becoming somewhat more disorganized," Zimmer said. The maximum sustained winds ranged from 30 to 35 mph.

If the depression surprises forecasters by strengthening into a storm with maximum sustained winds of 39 mph, it will be named Tropical Storm Larry.

Experts says AIDS fear often exaggerated

(continued from page 1)

• The pentagon is exploring plans to screen personnel for exposure to AIDS. Some private companies are doing that already.

• People who are friends of AIDS victims have been fired from jobs in cafeteria work.

In an Associated Press story, Washington lawyer Leonard Schneiderman said laws in Texas are ambiguous about civil rights protection for AIDS victims.

The article also reported that in Atlanta earlier this month, a U.S. Court of Appeals recognized civil rights protection for AIDS victims under federal laws barring discrimination against the handicap.

And William Hale, the director of Texas' Commission on Civil Rights, says he is prepared to take action against any firm, government organization that discriminates against AIDS victims.

Hale told *The Dallas Morning News* that his agency feels homosexuals deserve protection under a Texas Human Rights Act which prohibits discrimination against the physically handicapped.

Although Hale says he hasn't had any cases of AIDS discrimination reported, he feels that inevitably there will be plenty.

"Sooner or later we are going to have to deal with it," he says. "And when we do, it's going to be a very hot potato."

Meanwhile, Texas health officials are considering a maneuver which would enable them to isolate AIDS victims from the community at large.

Last week, Robert Bernstein, Texas Health Commissioner, said he favors a quarantine of certain AIDS cases. Bernstein says the quarantine would be used infrequently and only when the patients are deemed a public health threat.

Bernstein planned to submit his proposal to the State Board of Health in its Nov. 16 meeting.

But partly as a result of opposition from Gay Rights Groups and the Texas Civil Liberties Union, Bernstein decided to postpone the presentation until the December board meeting.

Bernstein says he is pleased that his proposal has drawn so much attention and public discussion. When he does go to the board, Gov. Mark White says he will support him.

In the meantime, Bernstein says he plans to solicit input from local public health officials.

Dr. Ted Rea, a Bryan gastroenterologist, says people with AIDS aren't out spreading AIDS.

"Anybody who has AIDS is too sick to be out spreading AIDS," Rea says.

Meanwhile, lab workers are concerned that lab workers may be in danger by handling blood products.

Concern was increased last month when three San Francisco nurses became infected after accidentally injuring themselves with needles used in AIDS blood tests. The situation was made worse after doctors learned one of the nurses had passed the disease to her boyfriend.

Dr. Oscar Beck, owner of Beck Biomedical in Bryan, says his workers are following careful parameters to protect against mishaps. Beck's firm does blood tests for local physicians and health clinics.

An article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, says increased care in the handling of blood samples and blood sampling equipment will greatly reduce the chances of spreading the disease beyond the laboratory.

But another article in the *Journal* says it is too early to tell what risks clinic workers are taking.

Dr. William W. McClendon says AIDS lengthy five-year incubation period will keep researchers guessing about the risks clinic workers face in contracting the disease.

At Wadley Blood Center in Dallas this incubation period is causing even more problems for scientists.

AIDS incubation period means the virus can lie dormant in the body for up to five years. Ooster says that when tested, infected blood in incubation will not show HTLV-III antibody.

Dr. Kurt Ooster says even the greatest care can't prevent some AIDS contaminated blood from reaching hospitals and clinics.

What's up

Tuesday

CO-OP STUDENTS REGISTRATION: Students scheduled to work on co-op in Spring 1986 must register now for their co-op course in the Central Co-op Office (107 Harrington). For students who do not yet have their co-op job assignments finalized, co-op registration will continue through Dec. 15.

MSC HOSPITALITY: Pictures with the Aggie reindeer and Christmas elves 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. by Rudder Fountain.

MSC HOSPITALITY: Christmas Car Drive for needy families in B-GS. Bring cars to 216 MSC through Dec. 13.

FRESHMAN EMERGING LEADERS SEMINAR: Applications available in 208 Pavilion through Dec. 11, due Dec. 12.

MSC HOSPITALITY: Kappa Pickers will be performing as part of the Christmas program at 12:30 p.m. in MSC Main Lounge.

CLEMENTS' SPEECH CANCELLED: The speech by Bill Clements originally scheduled for 7 p.m. has been cancelled.

INTRAMURALS: Entries close for outdoor soccer at 6 p.m. in 159 Read.

MSC HOSPITALITY: CAMAC presents a Posada and Luminarios at 6 p.m. as part of the Christmas Program.

TAMU HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in Dick Freeman Arena. Demonstration of "Hitching and Driving Mules."

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERS: will meet at 7 p.m. in 208 Zachry to hear Jack Whiteside speak on "Engineering Contracting."

AGGIE DEMOCRATS: will meet at 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES: will meet at 8 p.m. outside 145 MSC to go caroling.

AMERICAN WATER RESOURCES ASSOCIATION — STUDENT CHAPTER: will meet at 7 p.m. in 110 C.E. Bldg. Speaker: Dr. Wayne Jordan.

RHA FRESHMAN LEADERSHIP PROGRAM: will meet at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder to hear a speaker on finals preparation.

COLLEGIATE FFA: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 208 Scoates Hall for officer elections.

Wednesday

AGGIE SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: will meet at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder.

SADDLE-N-SIRLOIN: will have its Christmas formal 8 p.m. to midnight in Kleberg lounge. Tickets \$6 per person. Make reservations.

MSC HOSPITALITY: TAMU Women's Chorus is performing as part of the Christmas program at noon in MSC Main Lounge.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to *The Battalion*, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

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