

## EPA imposes asbestos ban on products

**Associated Press**  
 WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency is calling for an immediate ban on some products made with asbestos, and a phase out of the manufacture and import of many other items using the cancer-causing material, an agency spokesman said Wednesday night.

The sweeping EPA plan, to be formally announced by agency chief Lee Thomas on Thursday, contains three separate proposals for restricting and banning a wide range of asbestos products, spokesman Dave Ryan said.

"Asbestos is a definite human carcinogen, with no qualifiers, in both short-term or long-term exposures," Ryan said in a telephone interview. "We just can't let this situation continue."

Many scientists say asbestos fibers, when breathed, can cause lung cancer, other lung disorders and a cancer of the lining of the chest or abdominal cavity as long as 40 years after exposure.

The EPA proposal caps years of efforts for an asbestos ban. The agency says its proposal would prevent 1,900 cancer deaths a year.

The first alternative in the agency's proposal calls for an immediate ban on asbestos clothing, asbestos cement pipe and fittings, vinyl asbestos floor tile, and asbestos roofing and flooring felt. Felt is a thin, paperlike backing material used to prevent corrosion and to help insulate.

Another alternative would immediately ban asbestos construction products, including asbestos cement sheets and shingles, and would outlaw some asbestos friction products, such as brake drums, in five years.

# NASA discovers moons orbiting planet Uranus

**Associated Press**  
 PASADENA, Calif. — Voyager 2, racing toward the climax of its historic sightseeing cruise to Uranus, has found clouds and winds in the planet's atmosphere and discovered two more moons, NASA said Wednesday.

The newly discovered satellites raise the total of known Uranian moons to 14. They are the first "shepherd moons" found orbiting Uranus, Voyager imaging team leader Brad Smith said.

Shepherd moons are so named because their gravitational forces are believed to herd the planet's nine known rings into their narrow shapes.

Clouds swirling in the Uranian atmosphere also were discovered by the Voyager spacecraft, said Ed Stone, Voyager project scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

crete (distinct) clouds have ever been

"This is the first time that any detected in the atmosphere of Uranus," Stone said during a Wednesday news conference.

"In other words, there are winds there," Stone said.

JPL astronomer Richard Terrile said the each of two shepherd moons measure 12 to 18 miles in diameter. They were discovered Monday in photographs taken by Voyager, said Smith, a University of Arizona astronomer.

The two moons were found "inside and outside the epsilon ring," the outermost and widest of the nine rings, and were designated as 1986U7 and 1986U8 until they are formally named, he added.

Seven other moons have been discovered by Voyager since late December, and the planet's five major moons were discovered earlier by telescopes on Earth. None of those

12 moons are shepherd moons. Scientists expect Voyager will find up to 18 shepherd moons around the solar system's third-largest planet, with one on each side of each of the nine rings.

If 16 more shepherd moons are found, the planet will have 30 satellites, more than any planet in the solar system. Saturn now has the most with 20.

Voyager 2, launched in 1977, explored Jupiter in 1979 and Saturn in 1981. It began the near-encounter phase of its Uranus exploration late Tuesday, project manager Dick Laeser said. It is the first spacecraft ever to visit the seventh planet from the sun.

The probe will make its closest approach to the planet and its five major moons Friday, swooping within 51,000 miles of Uranus' cloud tops and gathering more information about the gaseous planet than has been learned since its discovery in 1781.

## Sea-Land Corp. wants to avoid proxy fight

**Associated Press**  
 MENLO PARK, N.J. — Sea-Land Corp. said Wednesday it would nominate financier Harold C. Simmons to its board of directors so as to avoid Simmons' plan to wage a proxy fight for control of the board.

Two of Simmons' representatives also would be nominated to the board according to the "understanding" reached between the container shipping concern and Simmons, a Dallas-based investor, Sea-Land said.

Sea-Land's common stock skyrocketed from \$2.25 a share to \$21.75 on the New York Stock Exchange after the company's announcement.

Simmons, who currently owns just under 40 percent of Sea-Land's common stock outstanding, offered

last fall to acquire the stock he did not already own for \$25 a share, but was rebuffed by Sea-Land.

Sea-Land also adopted a "poison pill" anti-takeover provision that is triggered once a bidder acquires 40 percent or more of its stock. The provision gives stockholders, other than Simmons, special rights to buy Sea-Land stock at half price and is aimed at making a takeover attempt prohibitively expensive.

Earlier this month Simmons announced that he would stop accumulating Sea-Land stock until the poison pill could be repealed or declared invalid, but that he would instead try to control the company by winning a majority of seats on its board through a proxy contest.

Joseph F. Abley Jr., Sea-Land's chairman and chief executive, said

in a statement Wednesday that the company "is mindful of the disruptive effect that a proxy fight can have on the ability of a company to manage its business in the best interests of its shareholders."

He said Sea-Land moved to avoid such a fight by proposing that Simmons and his representatives be elected for three-year terms on Sea-Land's board. The election of directors will occur during Sea-Land's annual meeting, which is scheduled for April or May, said Sea-Land spokesman Stanford Erickson.

However, Sea-Land said its current board decided to retain the company's poison-pill provision "to protect the interests of all shareholders."

## Excommunication

### Planned Parenthood head undaunted by church's ruling

**Associated Press**  
 PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The head of the state's Planned Parenthood organization said Wednesday that her excommunication from the Roman Catholic Church for what it called activities causing "the sinful termination of human life" would not affect her work or her religious beliefs.

"I am a Catholic and I will always be a Catholic," Mary Ann Sorrentino said. "Whether they give me communion or bury me in their church isn't going to change that. ... I can sit in my living room and talk to my God. I don't need to go to their church."

The Diocese of Providence excommunicated Sorrentino in June, saying in a letter that her efforts had "resulted in the sinful termination of human life." The Vatican City liaison in Washington supported the move.

"It is incomprehensible that you cannot per-

ceive that you are an accomplice when you direct an agency where ... about one-sixth of the state's 7,000 abortions a year are performed," the June 14 letter said.

Sorrentino, 43, has been executive director of Planned Parenthood of Rhode Island for nine years. The organization provides counseling on birth control and pregnancy and performs abortions.

She said she did not disclose her ouster from the church because of publicity that would follow.

Word of the excommunication came during an anti-abortion program broadcast Tuesday on several cable television outlets. The show's narrator, the Rev. John Randall, made the disclosure, calling her "public enemy No. 1 of all babies being killed in the womb in Rhode Island."

Randall's program is not sanctioned by the diocese.

"I consider it is a discriminatory attack," Sorrentino said. "I don't see that I represent anything that (U.S. Sen.) Ted Kennedy hasn't represented, that (former U.S. Rep.) Geraldine Ferraro hasn't represented, that a lot of people in this country with a lot more national prominence and influence haven't represented."

The Rev. Salvatore Matano, vicar of administration for the diocese, said the church's ouster of Sorrentino "is a logical consequence of her position. None of those (national figures) is the head of an agency which in fact performs abortions."

Sorrentino also accused the diocese of hypocrisy, saying it had not dismissed three priests who were accused of sexually assaulting young boys.

Matano said "There is no priest who has been found guilty of any crime who is still performing as a priest. The law says one is innocent until proven guilty."

## Eleven convicted in Chicago Medicaid fraud

**Associated Press**  
 CHICAGO — Eleven people, including pharmacists and physicians, were convicted of participating in a Medicaid fraud that dispensed cough syrup to drug addicts and billed the state out of almost \$20 million, it was announced Wednesday.

Pharmacists Morton Goldsmith and Vito Sblendorio were found guilty of operating a fraud that prosecutors said involved 22 clinic-phar-

macies selling sedatives and cough syrup with codeine to drug addicts in poor Chicago neighborhoods.

The two were convicted of the most serious of the charges: operating a continuing criminal enterprise, which carries a penalty of 10 years to life in prison and a fine up to \$100,000.

Goldsmith, said to have been the ringleader, also was convicted of 86 counts of racketeering, obstructing justice, perjury, illegal drug distribution and mail fraud.

Sblendorio, who prosecutors said assisted Goldsmith, also was convicted of 11 counts of racketeering, illegal drug distribution and mail fraud.

Five doctors, three pharmacists, two medical technicians and a secretary were defendants in the trial, which lasted two months.

All of the defendants were found guilty of racketeering, which carries a penalty of up to 20 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine, prosecutors said.

Defendants besides Goldsmith and Sblendorio were found guilty on various other counts of the perjury, illegal drug distribution and mail fraud counts.

Jurors later decided Goldsmith should give up 80 percent of the \$10 million prosecutors had asked for, Sblendorio should forfeit 80 percent of the \$2.7 million the government sought, and four others should pay amounts ranging from about \$27,000 to about \$189,000.

## 10,000 feared dead in South Yemen fighting

**Associated Press**  
 DJIBOUTI — Rebels moved through South Yemen's capital with tanks and rocket launchers Wednesday, and the president called in loyal tribesmen to a "last-ditch battle" for control of the Soviet-allied Arab state, diplomats here reported.

The Arab diplomats in Djibouti, which faces South Yemen across the southern entrance to the Red Sea, said the struggle between rival

Marxist factions had brought the Soviet Embassy in Aden under fire. They said they did not know which side was shooting at it.

No direct reports from Aden are available because regular communications have been cut.

Arab diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, estimated the death toll at 10,000 and the wounded at twice that number in the fighting that started Jan. 13.

Both President Ali Nasser Mohammed and the rebel leaders support Moscow, but Mohammed's recent overtures to pro-Western Arab nations apparently inspired the coup attempt. The Soviet Union has two military bases in South Yemen.

"The battles are vicious, and the confrontation lines are all overlapping," said a diplomat who was in touch with his country's embassy in Aden, the South Yemen capital. "In

some suburbs the fighting has been raging from house to house. Decomposing corpses are everywhere, and almost all houses in Aden have either collapsed or are pockmarked with bombs and bullets."

Maki al-Galat, a Kuwaiti evacuee who arrived in that Persian Gulf emirate, said he saw combatants "using corpses as barricades. It's a sight that I will never forget."

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