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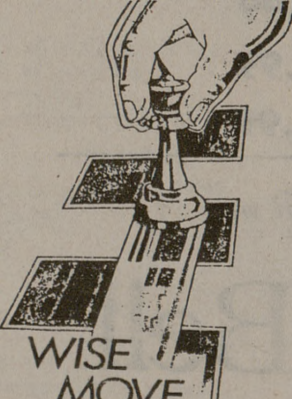
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WISE MOVE

Stock prices show gain in trading

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market rode out alternating waves of buying and selling to post a small gain Wednesday in stepped-up trading.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials, up about 30 points and down about 15 at its midsession extremes, closed with a gain of .91 at 2,353.61.

Volume on the New York Stock Exchange reached 197.44 million shares, up from 164.18 million in the previous session.

Interest rates dropped in early activity, giving stock prices a lift.

Treasury Secretary James Baker said the economic summit that concluded in Venice Wednesday had produced "real progress" on a variety of issues.

Brokers also said expectations are running high for second-quarter earnings reports, which will start coming out less than a month from now.

That helped prompt some investing institutions to step up their buying in order to show increased stock holdings when they make their mid-year reports to clients at the end of June, analysts said.

But the bond market gave up most of its gains as the session progressed. That, in turn, touched off a wave of afternoon selling in the stock market, which left prices fluctuating erratically just before the close.

With all its fits and starts, the market managed to post its third straight gain this week. The Dow Jones industrial average shows a net advance of 27.46 points since last Friday's close.

Warped



Scientist finds clotting of blood more likely to occur in morning

BOSTON (AP) — People's blood is more likely to clot shortly after they get out of bed, a discovery that may explain why heart attacks are most common in the morning, a study concludes.

One researcher speculated that the clotting phenomenon could be an evolutionary result of animals beginning their day fighting for food and needing protection against the risk of being cut.

The new study found that the tendency of blood to form clots — known as platelet aggregability — is highest between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m.

Two years ago, Dr. James E. Muller of Harvard Medical School published a study showing that heart attacks are most common in the morning. They are three times more likely to happen at 9 a.m. than at 11 p.m.

Usually a heart attack occurs when a blood clot blocks an artery that feeds the heart. The heart muscle is starved of oxygen, and some of it dies.

Muller and colleagues theorized that blood cells known as platelets, which clump together to form clots to plug holes in blood vessels, might play a role in the daily rhythm of heart attack.

The latest research, directed by Dr. Geoffrey H. Tofler, a member of Muller's research team, confirms that idea. It found "a marked increase in platelet aggregability" in the morning.

"We have, I think, at least part of the explanation for the morning peak in heart attacks," Muller said. "It may not be the only event in the morning that predisposes to thrombosis (clotting), but it's likely to be one of them."

The researchers believe that clotting power is influenced by the sympathetic nervous system, which oversees the production of epinephrine and other hormones that help people deal with stressful situations. The body begins pumping out these hormones as people awaken.

"Morning is a time of activation of the sympathetic nervous system, which in evolutionary terms is a system that prepares an animal for fight or flight," he said. "If the blood becomes more coagulable, that would have evolutionary advantage for animals because they would be better off if they clotted more readily when they got cut in a fight."

Finding the underlying cause of morning heart attacks is important, Muller said. "If we can understand why they are increased in the morning, we have a better shot at preventing these disorders," he said.

He said the findings reinforce the belief that an aspirin tablet can ward off heart attacks by slowing blood's tendency to clot.

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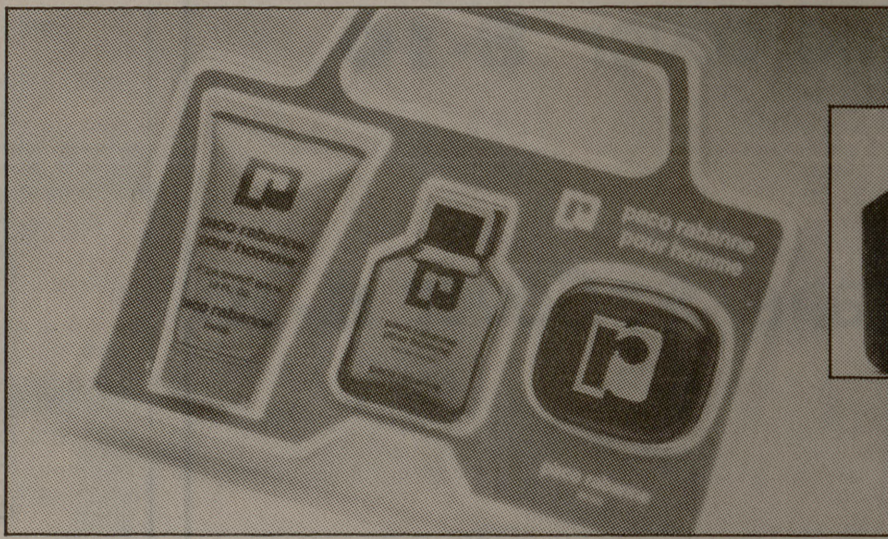
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