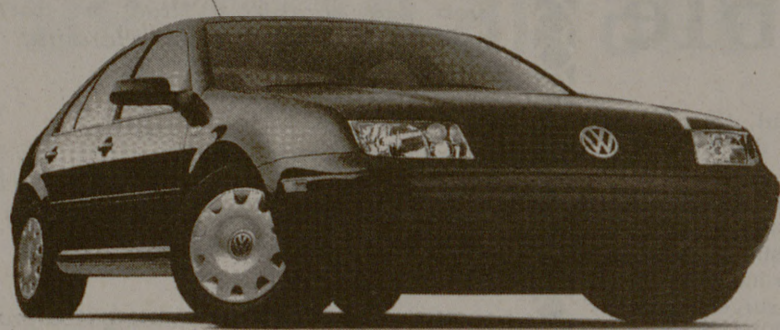


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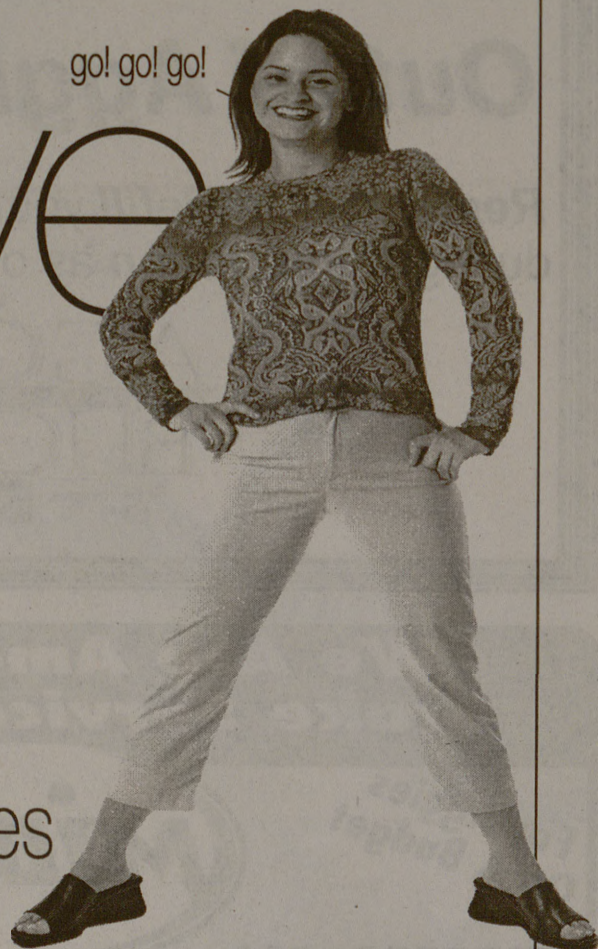
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Just starting to heat up

Global warming may be worse than predicted

(AP) — Global warming by the end of the century could be noticeably worse than a U.N. panel has predicted, according to two new studies.

Last year, the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicted that average global temperatures could rise as much as 10.5 degrees Fahrenheit over the next century as heat-trapping gases from industry and other sources accumulate in the atmosphere.

The new studies, conducted separately by Swiss and British researchers, suggest that temperatures could rise by as much as an additional two degrees. Their reports are published in the current issue of the journal *Nature*.

Benjamin Preston, a senior research fellow at the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, said the U.N. report has been criticized because it did not attempt to quantify the uncertainty in the projections.

Climate models are enormously complex programs run on supercomputers. They attempt to

simulate how the planet's climate will change over decades as more carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases build up in the atmosphere. Among their shortcomings: the role of carbon absorption by vegetation and an incomplete understanding of natural climate changes over the years.

"We are more likely to underestimate future warming than overestimate."

— Benjamin Preston
Pew Center on
Global Climate Change

In the first study, climate modelers at the University of Bern in Switzerland projected temperatures would rise 7.7 degrees by 2100 with a 40 percent chance that global average temperatures will be higher by 2100 than projected by the IPCC.

Antibiotic resistant strep throat outbreak

(AP) — For the first time, doctors have documented a large-scale U.S. outbreak of antibiotic-resistant strep throat — an episode involving at least 46 Pittsburgh schoolchildren.

Until now, antibiotics have easily killed group A streptococcus, the bacteria that cause strep throat and life-threatening septic infections, so doctors at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh were startled by its sudden, widespread resistance to widely used erythromycin. The drug is commonly given to people allergic to penicillin and other patients.

Doctors suspect the strep bacteria also are becoming resistant to other popular drugs in the same antibiotic family, the

macrolides. Their use is growing because they require only one dose a day, compared with three for many other antibiotics.

The jump in resistance began early last year at a Pittsburgh private school, where roughly half the strep throat cases were found to be untreatable with erythromycin. All the children were successfully treated with other drugs.

"It definitely went from one kid to another in the school and it also spilled over into the community," said lead researcher Dr. Judith M. Martin of the hospital's Division of Allergy, Immunology and Infectious Disease. "Where it started, I don't know."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stem cell therapy slows MS effects

DENVER, Colo. (AP) — Stem cell therapy has helped delay multiple sclerosis symptoms in some patients with severe form of the disease, researchers say.

Stem cells are the body's master repair cells. They can develop into a wide variety of different cell and tissue types.

At a neurology conference this week in Denver, University of Washington Medical Center researchers reported initial success with an experimental therapy in which they filtered stem cells from the blood of patients with MS using a magnetic method.

Hea

BOSTON

Summerlike heat in eastern third of state again Wednesday as more records are broken outside in southern relief.

"Whatever it is, it's out the door," Fingold, a co-coordinator of the Philadelphia-based Philadelphia High School for the Gifted, said. "I felt like it was a relief."

April. As Phoenix hit a record high of 95 degrees, San Antonio all-time high of 95 degrees and St. Louis hit 95.

Portland, Maine and New York and both had a record high of 95.

Philadelphia hit a record high of 95.

The unseasonably warm weather stretched from southern Maine to southern California.

Portland beach people in swimwear and shorts. Along the Lakes, snow under the heavy clouds.

Leona Wilcox, 70, of Philadelphia, said she was enjoying the weather.



CURIOSUS?

Come hear Dr. Hargrove's story about how he was kidnapped and held for ransom for eleven months. Listen as CNN's The Capital Gang discusses what the U.S. Government does and does not do to protect you and your family as you travel abroad.



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