

Airline warned to check age of young passengers

SPOKANE (AP).— Horizon Air has been warned to check the age of passengers who receive liquor after three Pasco high school students bound for a series of anti-drug and alcohol rallies were given miniature bottles of champagne.

Horizon Air received the written warning Monday after an investigation into complaints that an attendant distributed snack baskets containing alcohol to the youths, said Carter Mitchell, a spokesman for the Washington State Liquor Control Board.

"The flight attendant passed out the little baskets and apparently did not verify age before giving them to the three passengers who were under 21" on the Nov. 30 flight to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Mitchell said.

The students accepted the

bottles, but turned them over to a Washington State Traffic Safety Commission staff member who met them at the airport.

The three ages 16, 17 and 18 participated with about 100 other Washington and Oregon students in a two-day train trip from Seattle to Eugene, Ore., stopping at seven cities to warn teenagers not to drink or use drugs.

The traffic safety commission, which sponsored the train trip and paid for the flight, notified Horizon and the Liquor Control Board about the incident.

The Portland-based attendant, who was not identified, "was formally notified that she went against policy," Horizon spokeswoman Nancy Hamilton said. "She had no previous reprimands. She is of a very high caliber."

Oregon has 'average' child care

PORTLAND (AP).— Two national studies say the care Oregon children receive is average, at best.

The Center for the Study of Social Policy ranked Oregon 21st among the 50 states and District of Columbia on the basis of 10 indicators of child health, education and social and economic status. Washington ranked 19th and Idaho was 31st.

The Children's Defense Fund gave Oregon and 12 other states a 25 percent grade on 20 factors affecting children. Thirty states received better grades, with the highest being Vermont's 65 percent. Washington was among the top 16 with a 40 percent grade. Idaho had 15 percent, placing it among the bot-

tom five.

The two studies were issued Monday in Washington, D.C.

John Ball, executive director of the Oregon Community Children and Youth Services Commission, said the state already was attempting to improve in many of the areas listed but "we need to do better."

He and three other top-level state administrators have been meeting to look at state programs affecting children. They are trying to analyze how the programs fit together, how they can be improved and how they are financed. Commissions also are being set up in each county to improve programs for children.

The Center for the Study of Social Policy is a non-profit re-

search and policy analysis organization. It did its "Kids Count" study for the Annie B. Casey Foundation, which deals with children facing problems of poverty, poor education or mistreatment.

Its study said Oregon's infant mortality rate dropped 15 percent to 10.4 per 1,000 live births despite increases in the percentage of children born to women who received no early prenatal care and the percentage of babies with low birth weight.

The number of Oregon children living in poverty jumped by 47 percent to 17.7 percent. At the same time the total of welfare grants and food stamps was dropping to just under 73 percent of the poverty level.

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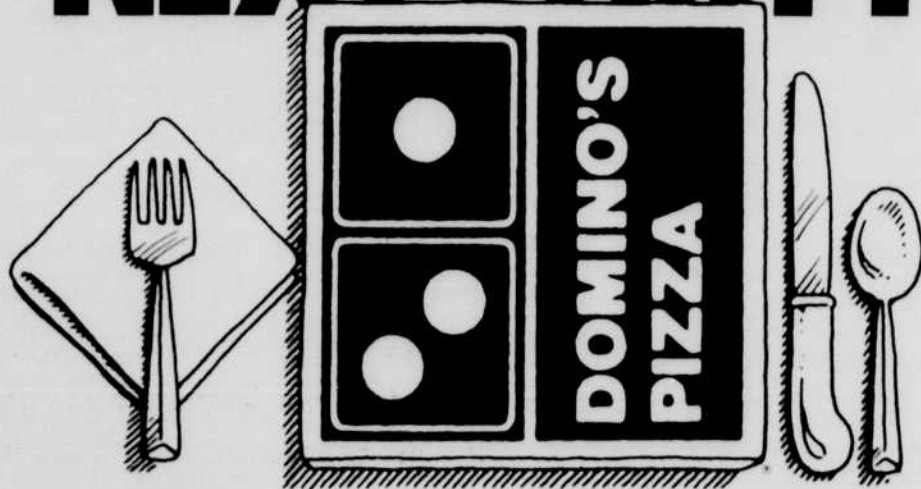
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