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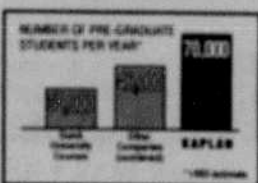
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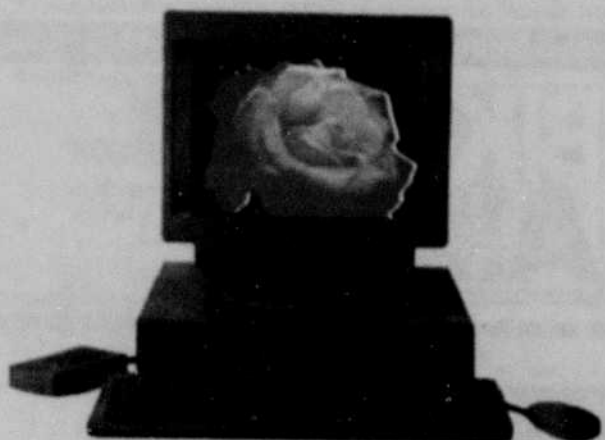
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NATIONAL

NEWS FROM AROUND THE COUNTRY

Corps empties water from reservoirs to make room for forecasted rainfall

PORTLAND (AP) — With Northwest reservoirs already full and rivers still running high and muddy, the last thing people wanted to hear was that more rain was on the way.

But that was the word Tuesday from the National Weather Service, although the agency offered assurance that the wet weather expected to begin late Saturday will be nothing like the deluge of a week ago.

To make room for the new rainfall, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began making adjustments to the more than 60 reservoirs around the region, pushing as much water as possible out of the rivers without adding to the flooding.

The two biggest reservoirs, behind Grand Coulee and John Day dams on the Columbia River, were at least 90 percent full after the corps held back as much water as possible to lessen the flooding last week.

This week of sunny, dry weather should allow enough time to clear some river room for the coming storm, said Gen. Russell Fuhrman, the corps' division commander.

"If we had a storm of the magnitude of the one we just had, which is highly unlikely, we would be in trouble," he said.

"But if it's an inch or so, just the typical wet weekend of a couple of days' duration, we can handle that."

The biggest problem would be heavy rain in areas already hit by flooding and without any dams to control the runoff, Fuhrman said.

President Clinton planned a day trip to the Northwest today with stops in Portland, Woodland, Wash., and Boise.

He will find a region well on its way to drying out but facing a monumental cleanup and rebuilding challenge.

Along the Nehalem River in the coastal mountains northwest of Oregon, people returning to their homes and farms were stunned by the devastation that they found.

"It's so emotional; it's just incomprehensible," said Sue Norman, who owns a feed store in Jewell.

Neighbors helped neighbors move livestock or begin the tedious job of removing layers of mud that the river left behind.

Ranchers in central Oregon sent a caravan of trucks loaded with 500,000 pounds of hay to Tillamook County, where dairy herds and their pastures were severely damaged.

"It means a lot to us that

someone as far away as you folks care as much as you do," Dale Smith, manager of the Tillamook County Creamery Association Feed Store, told the ranchers.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency turned a vacant two-story building in Salem into its busy command center. It received more than 3,000 applications for assistance in its first day of operation.

"Once they apply, they will be contacted by a FEMA inspector within seven days," spokeswoman Barbara Yagerman promised.

The agency will provide emergency rent money, grants and low-interest loans, even psychological counseling.

On the Columbia and Willamette rivers, shipping resumed after coming to an abrupt stop five days earlier. A ship loaded with wood products headed out to sea, while a line of cargo ships that had been waiting outside the Columbia's mouth was to begin heading upriver today.

The city of Portland lifted all water restrictions because its supply from the mountains east of town had cleared enough to be used again.

CompuServe reinstates sex-related newsgroups

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Reversing course, CompuServe is allowing its subscribers to reach all but five of some 200 sex-oriented portions of the Internet it had declared off-limits under pressure from German prosecutors.

But the online service has also given parents the ability to block offensive material for free, adopting a practice already used by America Online and Prodigy.

"The idea is to put control in the hands of the user. We think that's something the industry can get behind," CompuServe spokesman Jeff Shafer said Tuesday in announcing the company's reversal.

The five newsgroups that are still beyond the reach of CompuServe's 4.3 million subscribers contain child pornography, Shafer said. The more than 200 reinstated newsgroups include topics such as bestiality and fetishes.

The Internet allows people around the world to post and exchange text and pictures on thousands of electronic discussion forums called newsgroups.

Free speech advocates welcomed CompuServe's reversal.

"CompuServe made a big mistake when it caved in to the government censors in Germany," said Marc Rotenberg, director of the Electronic Privacy

Information Center in Washington.

CompuServe blocked its subscribers from reaching sex-oriented newsgroups in December after state prosecutors in Bavaria warned that it was investigating Internet distributors of sexually explicit material.

CompuServe, a Columbus-based unit of H&R Block Inc., said it did not have the technology to block access to only its 220,000 German users, so it barred all its subscribers.

Gerhard Zierl, spokesman for the Bavarian Justice Ministry in Munich, said the investigation is still open.

"It certainly will be CompuServe's responsibility if these newsgroups with content that is illegal under German law are made available again," he said. "What the prosecutors will do then, I can't say."

The controversy demonstrated the potential difficulties of doing business in cyberspace, a borderless technology in a world of borders.

"Companies that want to do business internationally are at a loss to deal with the political and cultural differences," said Gary Arlen, president of Arlen Communications, a Bethesda, Md.-based research company that specializes in interactive services.

Seven times a month? You're an average guy

PHILADELPHIA (AP) —

You're a guy. You spend \$46 a month at the local convenience store, have sex seven times a month (10 minutes at a time) and sleep 7 1/2 hours a night.

Congratulations. You, my friend, are average.

Citing "reports, surveys and reams of marketing data," the March issue of *Men's Health* magazine highlighted, in excruciating detail, the life of the average American guy. The article also offered tips from experts on how to rise above the middling masses.

Few men will admit to being an average Joe, but just about all of them want to see where they stand in the grand scheme of things, said Greg Gutfeld, who wrote the article.

"I think guys are always ... in some kind of friendly competition," he said. "We're always trying to find ways to massage our egos, and maybe this is just another way. You want to mark yourself against others."

"We're trying to show that maybe your perceptions aren't exactly what you think, and maybe you have an edge that you didn't think you have."

So take a gander at the *Emmaus*, Pa.-based magazine's numbers — varying in their scientific reliability — and start comparing yourself to the average guy, who:

- Is 5-feet-9 and weighs 172 pounds;
- Has 70 to 80 pounds of muscle;
- Can run a mile in 12 min-

utes, but that's for true couch potatoes. The active average guy can do it in 7 1/2 minutes;

—Can do 33 1/2 situps in a minute;

—Loses his virginity at 17 and is married by 26;

—Lives for 72.8 years;

—Has sex with 5 to 10 partners during his lifetime;

—Spends 44 minutes a day arranging his hair and clothes;

—Watches 28 hours of television a week;

—Buys a frozen pizza four times a month;

—Drank 11 beers in the last seven days.

—Saves less than \$3,000 for retirement each year;

—Earns \$29,533 annually;

—Spent \$447.25 on jewelry last year;