

Health & Science

Cigarettes Can Cause Death

The chief executive at Philip Morris is on record as saying cigarettes can cause death. Geoffrey Bible was questioned today in Florida's lawsuit aimed at recovering the state's costs of treating smoking-related illnesses. During the 90-minute session, Bible was asked if he believes it's possible that one person a year could die from cigarette smoking. He replied "yes," according to his attorney. When asked whether 1,000 or 100,000 people could die from smoking, Bible replied "possibly." The state is seeking \$12.3 billion in damages from the tobacco industry.

Clinton Met With FedEx Chief
President Clinton reportedly held an unusual White House meeting last year with Frederick Smith, the chairman of Federal Express Corp. and a Democratic Party donor, to discuss a problem costing the company \$100 million a year in lost revenue. The Washington Post reports that Smith pressed Clinton to impose sanctions on Japan, which has refused to let Federal Express deliver cargo from Japan to other lucrative Asian markets. The Post says the Smith meeting was opposed by White House National Economic Council head Laura D'Andrea Tyson.

Clinton Fights Tobacco Credit

The White House says President Clinton will insist that the tobacco industry pay an extra \$50 billion in any tobacco settlement, to negate the \$50 billion credit that Republicans included in balanced budget legislation Clinton signed earlier this month. The credit was aimed at reducing the cost of big tobacco's tentative \$368.5 billion settlement with dozens of states. The Clinton administration reluctantly agreed to it, to gain congressional approval of a 15-cent-per-pack cigarette tax hike to fund children's health care. A tobacco industry spokesman says Clinton's new demand "could very well be the end" of the settlement. A White House spokesman says Clinton will not change his mind.

AMA

The American Medical Association said today it is reviewing a controversial agreement to endorse health care products made by Sunbeam Corp. The nation's largest doctors' group was hit with a wave of criticism, some of from its own membership, since announcing last week that it would allow its name to be used on certain Sunbeam home health care products such as blood pressure monitors and vaporizers. It also agreed to provide health care brochures to be included with the products. In return, the AMA was to get royalties from Sunbeam, the potential amount of which has never been disclosed.

Meat Plant to Close

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman says Hudson Foods will recall and destroy all products produced at a suspect Nebraska meat-packing plant and temporarily shut down the facility. The USDA said last week that Hudson would recall 1.2 million pounds of hamburger due to possible contamination with a deadly strain of the E.coli bacteria. Glickman says the firm also will cease operations until "far more stringent safety standards" are adopted. Sixteen people in Colorado became sick in July from eating apparently tainted hamburgers made at the plant. Inspectors found the plant had a practice of reusing raw material from one day to the next.

YOUR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE MEDICATION IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE THINGS YOU LOVE AND THE THINGS YOU'LL MISS.

Northwest Forecast 1998 is drier

Oceanographic phenomenon El Nino is predictor for Earth's climate.

Ask any meteorologist what the weather's going to be like next month, and all you're likely to get is hand-wringing.

But next year? Why, that's easy!

The forecast for early 1998: Wetter than usual in the southern and southwestern United States, with higher than normal temperatures along the West Coast and drier weather in the Pacific Northwest. Southern Australia and Africa's Sahel region are expected to be warmer than usual. Wetter than normal conditions are forecast for southern Africa and the Amazon basin, but northern Brazil should be relatively dry.

So how do they know all that? Simple: Just by looking at the ocean.

In recent years, meteorologists have discovered that much of the year-to-year variation in the Earth's climate is controlled by a single oceanographic phenomenon - the

famed "El Nino" of the tropical Pacific.

El Nino is a warming of the waters off equatorial South America that develops every few years, reaching a peak in November or December. Its effects propagate around the world, influencing the weather in Australia, Africa, South Asia and the tropical parts of the Americas.

This year, for example, meteorologists can already see a whopper of an El Nino developing. They expect it to be the biggest in 15 years.

"The physics behind El Nino are fairly well understood," says Lisa Goddard, a project scientist at the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction in La Jolla, Calif.

Unfortunately, the physics of the rest of the world's oceans are more mysterious. But if they can understand the Atlantic, Indian and Southern oceans as well as they do the tropical Pacific, perhaps scientists can forecast things like droughts, heat waves and cold snaps a year ahead of time.

"You can't say it's going to be rainy on August 10, but you can say over next season - August, September, October - there's an increased likelihood for rain in a particular area," Goddard explains.

Scientists discovered in the mid-1980s what makes El Nino tick, and have spent the last decade learning to predict months ahead of time whether one will develop. The big problem, however, is that El Nino doesn't significantly affect the weather in many parts of the globe.

So meteorologists have turned their attention to those other parts, especially the Atlantic. By determining how the Atlantic evolves over months and years, they can estimate how many hurricanes will develop in an upcoming season or tell Europeans if they're facing an unusually cold winter.

Who cares?

Well, farmers for one. Peruvian cotton growers switch to rice in El

Nino years, because rice likes the rain the weather pattern brings. In north-eastern Brazil, they plant drought-resistant varieties of corn and beans when El Nino rears its ugly head. And in Africa and Colombia, an impending El Nino year prompts stronger malaria prevention efforts.

In more temperate parts of the world, cities could choose to invest in new snowplows if the coming winter looks cold and snowy.

Coastal residents might buy more insurance if a stormy hurricane season is forecast. And maybe their insurers would raise their rates.

El Nino predictions have succeeded because researchers went beyond describing how winds and waves move around in the tropical Pacific.

They noticed a pattern to the interactions of the ocean and atmosphere in that part of the world, and were able to simulate that behavior with a computer model.

Foster Grandparents Receive a Tax-Free Stipend for Helping Children

The Foster Grandparent Program is recruiting older adults on limited incomes to help children with special needs in the Tri County area. They provide the individual attention and personalized care needed to help children grow academically, socially and emotionally.

Some of the opportunities are talking and listening, tutoring students with reading, playing games or helping with craft projects. But mostly, Foster Grandparents act as role models and direct children in positive ways through nurturing and love.

Qualifications of a Foster Grandparent are: you must be 60 years of age or older, on a limited income (less than \$806 per month) and committed to spend 20 hours a week helping children.

Foster Grandparents receive a monthly stipend of approximately \$200 (tax exempt), paid training, transportation reimbursement, a daily meal while in service and paid vacation and sick time.

Mobile classroom to visit local school



The Amazing Yellow Adventure is stopping Tuesday at the Portland YMCA summer youth program at Richmond Elementary, 2276 S.E. 41st. The bus then stops Saturday, Sept. 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at OMSI. The bus is sponsored by GTE Directories to give kids across the country a hands-on experience exploring the internet.

SPECIAL ALL DAY EVENT
Queen B Productions presents
1st Annual
P-Town Throw Down
WE BEEN SLACKIN LET'S GET CRACKIN
WHEN: SEPT. 1, 1997
LABOR DAY
WHERE: BLUE LAKE PARK
NAIL CAR HAIR COMPETITION
FOOD & DRINK
Free to the Public
For sign-up info. call Lu at 460-9414

We're more than a power company. We're your neighbors, too. That's why it's important for us to actively support education, the arts, community and business development and other events that enhance quality of life and enrich the entire community.

Sheila Holden
SHEILA HOLDEN
GENERAL BUSINESS MANAGER

Carl Talton
CARL TALTON
GENERAL BUSINESS MANAGER

A PARTNER IN THE COMMUNITY

Some of the most important energy provided by Pacific Power doesn't travel along utility poles, flow through power lines or pass through any meter. It's our power to make a difference—something we do year-round by actively supporting programs and special events unique to our community. True, this kind of energy can't illuminate a single light bulb. But over time, it could help our entire community shine.



PACIFIC POWER
A PacifiCorp Company

Visit Pacific Power's website at <http://www.pacificorp.com>