

## Japanese set to study wet

TOKYO (AP) — Tens of thousands of Japanese have scooped up copies of a waterproof English vocabulary book that turns time spent in the bathtub into study hall.

The book, entitled "Remembering English Vocabulary in the Bath," looks like just another of the hundreds of English primers available here.

But its waterproof paper, made of the synthetic polypropylene, sets it apart — as do the booming sales it's racking up in bookstores.

Daiichi Nakagawa, a spokesman for the book's publisher, Kyogakusha, said 100,000 copies — at \$7.50 each — have been sold since last year.

Nakagawa said the key to success was market research. A company survey showed around 15 percent of English-language students said the bathtub was their favorite place to study.

Since millions of Japanese need to learn English for college exams or to get ahead at work, that 15 percent represents a sizable potential market.

Japanese traditionally settle into a hot bath at the end of the day,

although the custom is usually explained as providing rest from the day's toils, not an opportunity to bone up on English vocabulary.

"At ease in the bathtub — that's the kind of feeling we'd like you to have as you memorize," the book's preface says.

Besides the synthetic paper, the book uses special rustproof staples to substitute for adhesive bindings that can't stand up to water.

"It doesn't look so hot," Nakagawa said of the staples, "but you can't have everything."

A test dunking of the book revealed that it is indeed waterproof, although the pages tend to stick together when wet.

According to Nakagawa, the special paper costs six times as much as normal paper. He said the company kept the price of the book low "with a view toward the future."

That future — for Kyogakusha — includes just-published waterproof volumes on Japanese history and English composition. The company may expand the line to general-interest books.

## Bosnian presidential palace hit on eve of international meeting

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Serb rebels ringing Sarajevo blasted Bosnia's presidential palace and military headquarters with rockets and mortar shells Tuesday, while loyalist troops claimed gains in their drive to break the siege.

Meanwhile, NATO leaders postponed a decision on sending 6,000 soldiers to guard relief shipments to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The U.N. General Assembly passed a Muslim nations-supported resolution that urges using force to end the fighting, but the Security Council is not expected to approve the measure.

The European Community's chief peace negotiator, Lord Carrington, resigned Tuesday on the eve of an international conference on Yugoslavia sponsored by the EC and United Nations. All the truces reached during Carrington's year of peace efforts collapsed.

The presidential palace and the adjacent military headquarters took two direct hits each in fighting that erupted after a relatively quiet night in Sarajevo. Officials said an unde-

termined number of people were wounded in the fighting.

U.N. spokesman Yusuf Khalef said five U.N. peacekeepers near the western suburb of Lukavica suffered shrapnel wounds that were "not serious." The British Broadcasting Corp. reported that one of its correspondents, Martin Bell, also was wounded but said his life was not in danger.

Bosnia's Muslim-led government ordered civilians off Sarajevo's streets in an attempt to reduce casualties. But power blackouts in much of the city prevented officials from broadcasting an announcement of the 48-hour curfew, which took effect at 1 p.m. Tuesday.

"This is horrible," said Zaim Hakovic, deputy commander of loyalist forces, as he looked at scores of people sitting in front of their apartment building. "We want to save them, but we can't get the message across."

Sefer Halilovic, commander of government forces, told The Associated Press that his soldiers were pushing forward northwest of the city and had captured part of the strategic suburb

of Ilidza.

"It is very slow going, it is house to house, but we are taking territory," Halilovic said.

His claims could not be independently verified.

Bosnia's Muslims and Croats, who together form a majority, voted for independence Feb. 29. Ethnic Serb militias then seized control of a large chunk of territory that they want to remain united with the smaller Yugoslavia, which is dominated by Serbia.

At least 8,000 people have died in the fighting and more than 1 million have fled their homes.

Radio Sarajevo said Yugoslav air force planes dropped napalm and cluster bombs in three air raids Monday on the besieged eastern town of Gorazde.

"First reports speak of enormous suffering," but Serb troops failed to break through Gorazde's defenses, the report said.

There was no way to independently confirm the report on Gorazde, which is the last city held by Bosnian government forces.

## Clinton tax record misrepresented, officials say

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — The latest Republican lines of attack on Democrat Bill Clinton fault the Arkansas governor for raising taxes 128 times. In fact, the real figure is much smaller.

The Clinton campaign itself admits to 49 tax increases, including more than \$260 million in tax increases for a \$2 billion state budget in 1991.

The Bush-Quayle campaign's list of alleged Clinton tax increases counts four tax boosts twice. Clinton supporters say it also includes items the average voter would not consider a tax or an unreasonable fee.

Two of the 128 entries on the Bush-Quayle list are increases in the percentage of bets the state gets from dog- and horse-racing tracks.

Another lengthened the dog-racing season, which is a tax hike only in the sense that a longer season increases the state's take from wagers.

Most of the fees on the list raise little money or target a specific audience.

President Bush said Clinton had boosted taxes 128 times and "enjoyed it every time." Vice President Dan Quayle tossed out the same figure on Tuesday as he campaigned in North Carolina, depicting Arkansas as a state of high taxes and low incomes.

Arkansas ranked 13th among the states in a study of state tax bills, and it ranked 45th in local tax burden, according to the 1990 report of the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

"The list is totally misleading," Betsey Wright, a top aide in Clinton's campaign said of the Bush-Quayle list. The campaign acknowledges 49 "actual taxes" increased under Clinton, the

biggest earmarked for education, health care and roads.

Wright, Clinton's former chief of staff, said Republicans also fail to mention that Clinton supported 48 tax-reduction measures.

Records kept by the Legislature's staff show that fewer than 30 tax increases supported by Clinton generated more than \$100,000 a year.

Clinton did support more than \$260 million in tax increases in 1991, the year of his most recent legislative session.

A \$150 million sales tax increase is paying for a host of education programs. About \$80 million in new gasoline taxes are being levied to improve roads. Health-care professionals agreed to pay \$30 million in taxes to keep the Medicaid program afloat and get higher reimbursement rates.

A 1991 increase in the corporate tax rate went to vocational education schools.

Brownie Ledbetter, a political activist who has criticized Clinton's tax policies, said the governor didn't push hard enough to lift long-standing tax exemptions for big business and agriculture before raising sales taxes.

"Some of it could be hung on Bill, but most of the blame can be hung on the ... big agricultural corporations that have exploited the state since it was a territory," she said. "My criticism of Bill has been to not reverse that pattern more."

"He had to raise taxes to move this state forward," Ms. Ledbetter said. "I just didn't always like the way he did it."

Arkansans shoulder the 33rd-highest tax burden in the country, according to a recent Money magazine study that included property taxes. Clinton aides disputed the study, saying it is based on a "typical family" earning of \$73,000, a figure too high for Arkansas.



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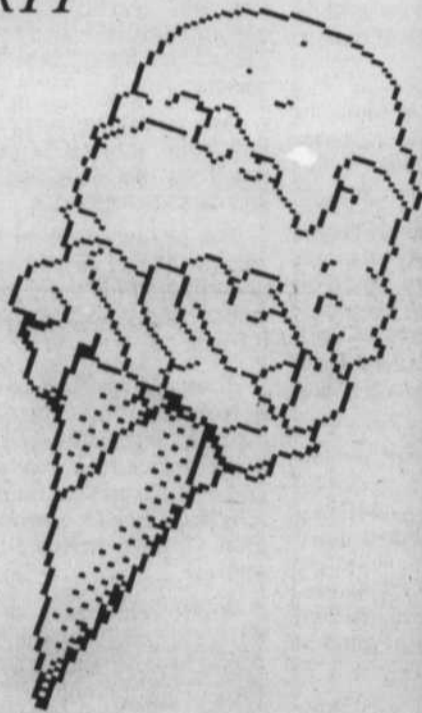
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