

Mercury over 100 from Texas to N.D.

By MARYANN MROWCA
Associated Press Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - People sought air-conditioned relief in the library, did their laundry at night and sweated through the fifth day of a heat wave Wednesday that pushed temperatures over 100 across the Plains.

"It's hotter than hell."

VICTOR BASSETT
Omaha

At least two heat-related deaths were reported: a roofer pouring tar in Texas, and a man in Omaha whose cancer death was hastened by heat stroke.

Several states reported cases of heat-induced illness, including 100 people who sought first aid during Tuesday's All-Star baseball game in Arlington, Texas. More than 1,000 cattle have died in the heat in Iowa.

The heat wave is expected to linger in the region until the weekend, when temperatures are expected to drop into the upper 80s or lower 90s, and then move into New York and southern New England.

"I ain't looking forward to it, not when I got to work in it," said Junior White of Pittsburgh, who works on a delivery truck with no air conditioning.

Forecasters blamed the sweltering weather on an enormous high-pressure system over Kansas and Nebraska that shunted the jetstream north, making a big chunk of the central United States feel like the desert Southwest.

Temperatures climbed past 100 at almost every weather reporting station in Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska on Tuesday, with Hays and Salina, Kan., hitting 112 degrees.

In Omaha - where Wednesday's high was forecast to be 105, the same as Phoenix - people sought relief in the 72-degree comfort of the downtown library.

"These last four days have been scorches," said Robert Hunt, who read a magazine before going to work at Omaha Steaks. "I figure the best way to beat the heat is to get out of it."

Librarian Lynn Sullivan said she did her laundry and her dishes at night so she would not have to use the dryer or the dishwasher during the sweltering afternoon.

The heat wave also is forcing more of the homeless into shelters.

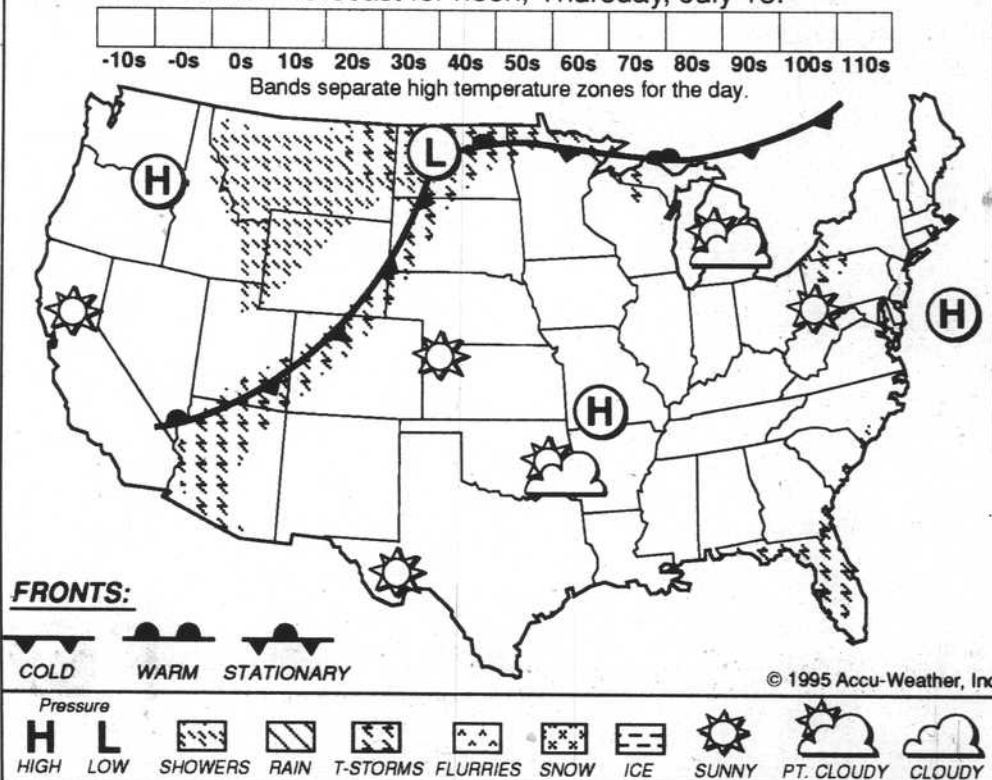
"We've been full almost every night," said Dan Hovanec, director of family services at Open Door Mission. "We're bunking them on the floor and on the couch."

"It's hotter than hell," said Victor Bassett, an Omaha man who was in a downtown park because the shelter where he had been living was too crowded.

The Omaha Housing Authority gave away more than 40 fans in the past two weeks, and the state Social Services Department helped the poor buy fans and air conditioners.

NATIONAL Weather

The Accu-Weather® forecast for noon, Thursday, July 13.



© 1995 Accu-Weather, Inc

Via Associated Press

Heidi Fleiss prostitute names Charlie Sheen

By JOHN HORN
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A prostitute working for Heidi Fleiss named names Wednesday, saying she had sex with Charlie Sheen in the most direct link yet between the Hollywood madam and the entertainment industry.

Judy Geller, testifying with immunity from prosecution, said her clients also included former Denver Nuggets owner Sidney Shlenker, who admitted it when he testified earlier in Fleiss' federal money laundering, bank fraud and tax evasion trial.

Geller, under questioning from a prosecutor, said she couldn't remember if she had sex with "The Last Action Hero" producer Steve Roth. Prosecutors mentioned Roth's name in a list of people they believe were Fleiss' clients.

"I wouldn't even know who these people are," Roth told a reporter later.

Fleiss' client list was suspected of including actors and studio executives, but names never went beyond the rumor stage.

Sheen, co-star of "Wall Street,"

had admitted to being a client but denied it in recent days. He is scheduled to give sworn testimony to lawyers on Saturday.

Fleiss faces five years if convicted on all 14 counts. She already has been sentenced to three years for pandering.

Geller said she had sex about 50 times with about 20 Fleiss clients between 1991 and 1992. She said she almost always gave 40 percent of her sex income to Fleiss.

She said Fleiss told her she was making \$60,000 a month in 1992 from her 20 high-priced call girls. In 1992, Fleiss listed income of \$33,000 on her federal income tax return, which prosecutors say was fraudulent.

The government believes Fleiss used a series of transactions - including the accounts of her pediatrician father, Paul, and sister Shana - to launder her prostitution receipts.

Fleiss' lawyers said that Geller, who was convicted for possessing cocaine for sale last year, had a grudge against the 29-year-old Fleiss and had boasted she was going to send her to jail.

Geller insisted she did not want to testify against Fleiss.

Clinton closes bases slowly

By JOHN DIAMOND
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton has decided "reluctantly" to accept a military base closure list despite the heavy blow it would deal to politically important California, officials said Wednesday. But the White House said Clinton was still pondering how to save jobs in that state and Texas and would make his decision Thursday.

Clinton spent the afternoon with aides in the Oval Office examining a plan to shift jobs at two major Air Force bases in those states to the private sector. Both states, particularly California, are major prizes in next year's presidential election.

Gen. Josue Robles Jr., a member of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, said senior defense officials had informed the commission staff that Clinton would approve the recommended closures.

"The basic thrust was he reluctantly will forward the list to the Congress," Robles said in a telephone interview. "That although he didn't agree with all the decisions, as a package, as a whole, he had no choice because of the impact on the Department of Defense." His account was confirmed by another defense official who declined to be identified.

But at the White House, spokesman Mike McCurry suggested Clinton

wanted to look at the figures a little longer before announcing a decision.

"He's got to work through it," McCurry said. "We'll wrap it up tomorrow."

Of concern was whether the military could convert some of the aircraft maintenance jobs at the California and Texas bases to the private sectors in those states.

"The main issue is privatization," McCurry said. "You've got to be able to prove it. ... He wants real employment numbers."

Of Robles' statement that Clinton would "reluctantly" accept the base closure list, McCurry said: "Reluctance is an accurate characterization" if Clinton accepts the list.

A decision to accept the base closure list and ship it to Congress could reverberate to Clinton's re-election campaign, which hinges on his fate in California.

The commission estimates that California stands to lose 19,372 military and civilian jobs as a result of the closures. An additional 22,898 "indirect" jobs would be lost; those include the dry cleaners, fast food restaurant workers and other service providers that depend on base business. Texas would lose 13,381 civilian and military jobs as a result of closures and realignments and 19,476 indirect jobs.

Nationwide, this fourth round of base closures would result in a net loss

of 43,742 military and civilian jobs at bases and 49,823 indirect jobs for a total loss of 93,565 jobs.

The privatization plan is designed to soften the economic impact on Sacramento, Calif., home of McClellan Air Force Base, and San Antonio, Texas, home of Kelly Air Force Base. These were the two Air Force maintenance centers recommended for closure by the commission; Clinton had wanted to keep them open.

Aides said Clinton privately accused the commission of being too political, but feared rejecting the list would open him to charges of playing politics.

California lawmakers made last-minute pleas to Clinton to reject the list, arguing that under government competitive bidding rules, there is no way to ensure that the aircraft maintenance jobs would go to a private facility in California.

The independent base closure commission recommended that 79 bases be closed and 26 others realigned, saving \$19.3 billion over 20 years. The commission says its plan saves \$323 million more than Clinton's initial base-closing plan.

Clinton has until Saturday to decide whether to accept or reject the commission's latest recommendations. He is not allowed to amend the package. Congress must vote to reject the list or it automatically takes effect.