

MORE INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS SMOKE-FREE, SECRETARY PENA NOTES

From U.S. Dept. of Transportation

■(WASHINGTON) As a result of actions by the Clinton administration and both U.S. and foreign airlines, approximately 80 percent of non-stop scheduled U.S. airline flights between the United States and foreign destinations will be smoke-free as of June 1, Secretary of Transportation Federico Pena said last week. This complements the ban on smoking on domestic flights, which are 100 percent smoke-free.

By comparison, smoking was permitted on virtually all domestic and international flights as recently as eight years ago. In April 1988, smoking was banned on scheduled domestic U.S. airline flights of two hours or less.

The Secretary added that the Department of Transportation, in order to better serve customers seeking smoke-free travel, plans to establish a site on the Internet's World Wide Web listing countries served by non-smoking flights.

Secretary Pena said, "The Department is committed to the goal of achieving smoke-free travel in all modes of public transporta-

tion. Now, due to the efforts of DOT and voluntary bans by airlines, it is possible to fly from the United States to every continent in the world without breathing tobacco smoke.

"We applaud the continuing commitment of the airlines to improving the environment for their passengers and employees," the Secretary added. "We will continue to work with carriers and other governments to expand smoke-free air travel."

Secretary Pena said that at an April 10-12 meeting in Santiago, Chile, Western Hemisphere transportation ministers agreed to strive to achieve the goal of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to ban smoking on all international flights by July 1, 1996. He also noted that Continental Airlines recently banned smoking on all of its flights within the Western Hemisphere.

In November 1994, the United States, Canada and Australia agreed to ban smoking on flights operated by their airlines among the three countries. In January 1995, the department granted antitrust immunity

to eight U.S. and foreign airlines to discuss a mutual smoking ban on transatlantic flights.

Delta Air Lines has adopted a worldwide smoke-free policy and Trans World Airlines recently decided to ban smoking on flights to France, Germany and the United Kingdom. As of June 1, the following carriers will introduce no-smoking flights as follows:

USAir will prohibit smoking on all flights.

American Airlines will ban smoking on all of its flights to and from Europe, the Caribbean and a number of destinations in Mexico.

United Airlines will prohibit smoking on all of its flights across the Atlantic and within Europe except for those between Washington's Dulles Airport and Milan, Italy. United also will provide smoke-free services to all of its destinations across the Pacific and within Asia, except for selected flights through Tokyo.

In addition, Lufthansa German Airlines recently prohibited smoking on flights between Germany and the United States and Finnair on all U.S. — Finland services.

TORNADO AUTHOR TO GO ONLINE

From Gilco Publishing

■(NORMAN, OK) Author Richard Bedard will be the guest for an interactive talk about tornadoes and storm chasers on America Online on May 17 at 7 p.m.

Bedard, the author of *In the Shadow of the Tornado*, plans to discuss the real motivations and stories of storm-chasing meteorologists, whose fictional exploits are depicted in the recently released movie "Twister."

He is also prepared to answer any of a number of questions about tornadoes from those in the "audience." AOL subscribers who want to attend should go to AOL Live. Bedard's talk will be held in the News Room.

In the Shadow of the Tornado (Gilco Publishing, April 1996) visits Oklahoma for a look at nature's most terrible storm. The book features a gripping recreation of the Woodward tornado of 1947, the deadliest in state history, and traces the history of the severe weather warning system and the sudden rise in popularity of the hobby of storm chasing.

Bedard lives in Norman, and is a 1984 Harvard College graduate and a former daily journalist whose freelance work has ap-

peared in the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Popular Science*, and *Oklahoma Today*. His article "Hail to the Storm Chasers," published in the May 1996 issue of *Oklahoma Today*, is a wide-ranging treatment of this dramatic outdoor pursuit.

For more information, call (405) 447-3005.

MISS AMERICA TO CARRY OLYMPIC TORCH

From Yale News

■(YALE, OK) Miss America 1996, Shawntel Smith, will carry the Olympic Torch in her home state May 18 as a segment of her national speaking tour across the nation.

A Muldrow native, Shawntel Smith has expressed her enthusiasm over being invited to this rural community to participate in the Olympic Torch run.

"I am delighted to serve as a catalyst to emphasize the significance of this gathering in Atlanta, GA of the world's greatest athletes," she said.

She will serve as Grand Marshal of a 2:00

p.m. Western Day Parade through downtown Yale and later carry the torch past the Jim Thorpe Home, the only property ever owned by the 1912 Olympian.

Other activities will include a luncheon sponsored by Yale's Volunteer Fire Department, an arts and crafts fair, softball tournament and baby pageant.

Formal ceremonies will begin at 5:45 p.m. in Jim Thorpe Park. Miss Smith, Sen. J. Berry Harrison, D-Fairfax, and Rep. Dale Wells, D-Cushing, will headline a welcoming ceremony that will include the 145 Oklahoma National Guard Band and Oklahoma Parachute Club.

The Olympic Torch, accompanied by an 18-vehicle caravan, will arrive in Jim Thorpe Park at 6:30 p.m.

Following a formal presentation of the torch, Miss America will carry the torch through Yale until the entourage leaves for an observance scheduled at Stillwater.

"One of the conditions for reading what is good is that we must not read what is bad; for life is short and time and energy are limited."

Schopenhauer