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BOB HERBERT

The Death of A Child

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I was reluctant to call him. The worst part of this business is the way we barge in on people nearly overwhelmed with grief. I've written about Dr. Redlener from time to time, mostly about his stalwart efforts to bring pediatric services to homeless children. Last month, when I called to interview him about a column, he told me that his son Jason, who was 28 years old, had been killed in a snowboarding accident in Oregon in March.

I was reluctant to call this week, but I called anyway. The doctor couldn't have been more gracious.

"This weekend has been so intense for us," he said. "Watching this unfold, we can't help but feel connected in a profound way. Our hearts are sick for the families, for the Kennedys because of the promise and the tragedy that have been so much a part of their lives. And then for Carolyn and Lauren's parents. Losing two children is something that is unfathomable to most people. It cannot be spoken, the amount of grief that they must feel, and the amount of sadness that we feel for them."

Jason Redlener was a remarkable youngster — smart, sensitive, good-looking and athletic. He had studied religion and philosophy in college, had worked as a contractor in New York, and then had moved with his wife, Sheareen, to Bend, Ore., where they opened a small business and enthusiastically embraced the area's outdoor sports and recreation opportunities.

"Everything was an adventure to Jason," said Dr. Redlener. "This was a kid who, like a certain group of kids in his generation, was very bold. His approach to life was exuberant. The sports that he and his wife loved the most were snowboarding and mountain biking, both of which he participated in to the max."

On March 27, as the couple was about to wrap up a few hours of snowboarding, Jason said he wanted to take one more run.

Witnesses said it was a sparkling, crystal-clear day. The mountain was covered with fresh powder.

"There were no trees or anything there," said Dr. Redlener. "He went up to the top and got into his snowboard and went down. A ski school class observed him in amazement because it was steep and difficult and he was very, very talented."

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Dr. Redlener attempted to describe the effect of such a sudden and profound loss on him, his wife, Karen, and the surviving children, David, 31, Michael, 23, and Stephanie, 19.

He said, "When someone has a presence that is so large and looming, as Jason had, and with so much charisma, and then they disappear in a fateful second, it is impossible to get a grasp on that level of absence."

He said he had experienced the grief as a "physical pain" that lasted for many days. The pain was accompanied by intense disorientation.

"I felt unsafe," he said. "I couldn't drive. I felt like it was dangerous walking across the street because you lose that much focus."

Dr. Redlener and, in a later conversation, his wife both said an extraordinary outpouring of support from relatives, friends, colleagues and even strangers had helped carry the family through its terrible crisis.

"It was a support system that I didn't quite realize existed to this extent, and it came forward to be with us," Dr. Redlener said.

He added, "Everything is changed forever when you have a loss like this. So you incorporate a sense of appreciation for what you have. We've literally told our kids to cherish each other and the times we have together, even as we're dealing with this profound grief of losing Jason."

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CDC
Surveillance
Summaries

MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY WEEKLY REPORT

Surveillance for Asthma — United States, 1960–1995

File Asthma

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta, Georgia 30333



Groundbreaking for Children's Hospital at Montefiore

Briefing prepared by Sarah Bianchi

Event Time: Saturday July 24, 1999, 11:20am – 1:00pm

EVENT

This event is to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Children's Hospital at Montefiore, which includes the Carl Sagan Discovery Center. At this event, you are unveiling a new Air Quality Index that will provide Americans critical information to protect their health, particularly children with asthma, a major problem for children served by this hospital. This event consists of about 300 people, including friends of Carl Sagan, health care and children's advocates, and friends of Montefiore. **This event is open to the press.**

LOGISTICS

- There is an extensive pre-program (see speakers attached);
- Ann Druyan, President, The Carl Sagan Foundation, introduces you;
- You speak;
- You invite Dr. Foreman, and Dr. Redlener onto the stage and cut the ribbon (being held by two students);
- You work a ropeline and return to hold;
- You proceed to the cafeteria for a photo-receiving line with seventy hospital supporters;
- You depart.

YOUR ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION

This event provides an opportunity to: (1) unveil a new Air Quality Index that provides improved information about levels of local air pollution and the precautions people should take to protect themselves on days when air pollution poses threats to public health. This index includes a new category for those with special health conditions like asthma; (2) highlight the importance of children's health, including the Children's Health Insurance Program and the Administration's comprehensive asthma initiative; and (3) celebrate the groundbreaking of Montefiore's new children's hospital and the Carl Sagan Discovery Center.

ATTACHMENTS

- Initiative you are unveiling today;
- Background on Montefiore, Carl Sagan Center, and the Children's Health Fund;
- Your Remarks;
- Pre-program speakers;
- Recent *NYT* story on Irwin Redlener, President, Children's Health Fund;
- The Air Quality Index you are unveiling today;
- List of people attending reception following this event.

INITIATIVE YOU ARE UNVEILING TODAY

At this groundbreaking ceremony, you are:

Unveiling New Air Quality Index That Gives Americans Critical Information to Take Necessary Health Precautions, Including a New Category for Those With Special Health Conditions Like Asthma. The new Air Quality Index will provide a uniform nationwide standard as well as new protections for sensitive groups, such as children with asthma. This new index will be used by local weather forecasters throughout the country to provide improved information about levels of local air pollution and the precautions people should take to protect themselves on days when air pollution exceeds health standards and poses threats to public health. This effort is part of the Administration's longstanding commitment to expand the public's right to know about environmental conditions in their communities. The new features of the Air Quality Index include:

- A new category that, for the first time, will provide specific warnings for vulnerable groups, like children with asthma and others with special respiratory conditions.
- More detailed warnings about how all people should protect themselves and their families from harmful levels of air pollution.
- Warnings based on the most modern scientific information on the known health effects of air pollution levels.

In addition to the new Air Quality Index, EPA also is making information about summer smog available on its Internet web site, which currently shows aerial maps of smog dispersion in real-time for 25 states. This Internet mapping project, as it is called, is part of a 1996 Administration initiative to provide Americans with even greater access to information about pollution in their communities. EPA expects that within the next year or two, all 50 states will be participating in the Internet mapping project, which is available at www.epa.gov/airnow. The web site also shows forecasts of local air quality for the next day.

You are also underscoring that this new Air Quality Index is part of a broad-based effort to improve children's health and today you are:

Urging Congress to Pass a Comprehensive Asthma Initiative. Over the past 15 years, the number of children afflicted with asthma has doubled to total about six million, with the most rapid increase in children under the age of five. Over 100,000 children are hospitalized each year due to asthma, making it the leading cause of hospitalization due to chronic illness for children. Asthma is also one of the leading reasons children are absent from school, resulting in over 10 million missed school days each year. Minority children are disproportionately affected by asthma: African American children experience a death rate four times higher than white children.

You are urging the Congress to pass the Administration's \$68 million comprehensive strategy to fight childhood asthma that includes: (1) implementing school-based programs that teach children how to effectively manage their asthma; (2) investing in research to determine environmental causes of asthma and to develop new strategies to reduce children's exposure to asthma triggers; (3) providing funds to states and providers to help them implement effective disease management strategies that will insure we lower hospitalizations, emergency room visits and deaths from asthma; and (4) conducting a new public information campaign to reduce exposure to asthma triggers and dust mites.

Note on US Court of Appeals' Decision on EPA's Public Health Air Standards. On May 14, 1999, in a split decision (2 to 1), a panel of the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit determined that the Clean Air Act – as applied in setting the new public health air quality standards for ozone and particular matter (soot). EPA strongly disagrees with this decision and in June filed a petition for a rehearing. In the mean time, EPA is continuing to implement strong clean air programs, such as this new Air Quality index.

Highlighting Other Critical Efforts to Improve Children's Health. You are reiterating your commitment to assuring that children have access to affordable health insurance. Uninsured children are more likely to be sick as newborns, less likely to be immunized as preschoolers, and less likely to receive treatment for injuries or illnesses, such as asthma or ear infections. The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) that you fought for in 1996 is the largest investment in children's health in a generation. You can also highlight the importance of assuring that the four million uninsured children who are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP are enrolled. The Administration has launched a massive public-private campaign to encourage families to sign up these kids. Last year, at the Family Conference in Tennessee, hosted by you and Mrs. Gore, the Administration directed Federal Agencies to implement 150 new efforts to sign up uninsured kids, such as working in Head Start Centers and through school lunch programs that reach many of these children.

Praising the Children's Hospital at Montefiore for Their Commitment to Children. You are applauding the groundbreaking of the new Children's Hospital at Montefiore that will provide critical health services for the 400,000 children in the Bronx. This hospital will include a range of services including a prevention and treatment center for asthma. The asthma hospitalization rate for children in the Bronx is five times higher than the normal rate for the United States. The hospital will also include the Carl Sagan Discovery Center that will provide innovative exhibits to engage children in science, nature, and cosmos.

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This hospital is scheduled to open in 2001 and will be the first new child health system of the 21st Century. The hospital will serve as the core of the Montefiore Child Health Network to link dozens of neighborhood-based pediatric care sites throughout the Bronx and Westchester, New York. The design of the hospital is shaped from the perspective of a family-centered care philosophy, involving parents and others from the community. Some of the innovative programs include: intensive care facilities, a full-floor day hospital, a multi-disciplinary center for communicative disorders, regional programs for children with heart disease and kidney conditions, and a pediatric asthma prevention and treatment center. This hospital will serve a community of 400,000 children.

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This Center will provide patients and their families with hands-on learning tools and exhibits to educate and engage them in the science discovery process and issues about health care. It is based on Carl Sagan's vision for how the wonders of the heavens to people all over the earth. The plans include: live links to NASA missions and stations, computer installation in patient rooms with access to the SETI homepage, live feeds from the radio telescopes of the world, and a Family Center and Discovery kiosks to orient patients and families with the programs at the Center.

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Air Quality	Air Quality Index	Protect Your Health
Moderate	51-100	Unusually sensitive people should consider limiting prolonged outdoor exertion.
Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	101-150	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion.

For more information visit EPA's web site at: **www.epa.gov/airnow**

What You Should Know About Ozone

- *Ozone is a major element of urban smog. Ozone can limit the ability to take a deep breath, and it can cause coughing, throat irritation and breathing discomfort. There is also evidence that ozone can lower resistance to respiratory disease (such as pneumonia), damage lung tissue, and aggravate chronic lung disease (such as asthma or bronchitis).*
- *Children and those with pre-existing lung problems (such as asthma) are sensitive to the health effects of ozone. Even healthy adults involved in moderate or strenuous outdoor activities can experience the unhealthy effects of ozone.*

What is ozone?

Ozone is a colorless gas that can be found in the air we breathe. Each molecule of ozone is composed of three atoms of oxygen, one more than the oxygen molecule which we need to breathe to sustain life. The additional oxygen atom makes ozone extremely reactive. Ozone exists naturally in the earth's upper atmosphere, known as the stratosphere, where it shields the Earth from the sun's ultraviolet rays. However, ozone is also found close to the Earth's surface. This ground-level ozone is a harmful air pollutant.

Where does ground-level ozone come from?

Ground-level ozone is formed by a chemical reaction between volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and oxides of nitrogen in the presence of sunlight. Sources of VOCs and oxides of nitrogen include:

- automobiles, trucks, and buses
- large industry and fuel combustion sources such as utilities
- small industry such as gasoline dispensing stations and print shops
- consumer products such as some paints and cleaners
- emissions from aircraft, locomotives, construction equipment, and lawn and garden equipment.

Ozone concentrations can reach unhealthy levels when the weather is hot and sunny with relatively light winds.

How does ozone affect human health?

Even at relatively low levels, ozone may cause inflammation and irritation of the respiratory tract, particularly during physical activity. The resulting symptoms can include breathing difficulty, coughing, and throat irritation. Breathing ozone can affect lung function and worsen asthma attacks. Ozone can increase the susceptibility of the lungs to infections, allergens, and other air pollutants. Medical studies have shown that ozone damages lung tissue and complete recovery may take several days after exposure has ended.

Who is sensitive to ozone?

Groups that are sensitive to ozone include children and adults who are active outdoors, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma. Sensitive people who experience effects at lower ozone concentrations are likely to experience more serious effects at higher concentrations.

What is an Ozone Action Day?

An Ozone Action Day may be called by your State or local air quality agency when ozone levels are forecast to reach unhealthy levels. These programs, often in partnership with local businesses, encourage voluntary actions to reduce emissions of pollutants that contribute to ground-level ozone formation.

How You Can Keep the Air Cleaner

Every day tips:

- Conserve energy—at home, at work, everywhere.
- Follow gasoline refueling instructions for efficient vapor recovery. Be careful not to spill fuel and always tighten your gas cap securely.
- Keep car, boat, and other engines tuned up according to manufacturers' specifications.
- Be sure your tires are properly inflated.
- Car pool, use public transportation, bike, or walk whenever possible.
- Use environmentally safe paints and cleaning products whenever possible.
- Some products that you use at your home or office are made with smog-forming chemicals that can evaporate into the air when you use them. Follow manufacturers' recommendations for use and properly seal cleaners, paints and other chemicals to prevent evaporation into the air.

Ozone Action Day tips:

- Conserve electricity and set your air conditioner at a higher temperature.
- Choose a cleaner commute—share a ride to work or use public transportation. Bicycle or walk to errands when possible.
- Defer use of gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment.
- Refuel cars and trucks after dusk.
- Combine errands and reduce trips.
- Limit engine idling.
- Use household, workshop, and garden chemicals in ways that keep evaporation to a minimum, or try to delay using them when poor air quality is forecast.



Northeast Ozone Forecast

FORECAST DISCUSSION FOR FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1999

Weather Summary:

Another heat wave will begin on Friday. A classic "Bermuda" high-pressure will setup off of the mid-Atlantic coast. A wind out of the southwest to west-southwest will help raise the humidity and temperatures which will strive to reach the low to mid 90's for much of the northeast.

Ozone Summary:

The combination of hazy sunshine, a southwest to west-southwest wind flow and hot temperatures will help form ozone. A trough located just off of the southern New England coast will help the ozone levels rise to unhealthy for sensitive groups in New Jersey, southern Connecticut, eastern Massachusetts and New York. In addition, generally unhealthy ozone levels are expected around the coast of Connecticut, New York City and the southern coast of Massachusetts by the Cape with ozone levels reaching unhealthy for sensitive groups in western New York and moderate levels for central New York. The levels will also reach unhealthy for sensitive groups in southern Rhode Island and the southern coast of Massachusetts with moderate ozone levels in central and western Massachusetts. Coastal New Hampshire and Maine will have moderate ozone levels with good levels of ozone in northern New England.



Groundbreaking for Children's Hospital at Montefiore

Briefing prepared by Sarah Bianchi

Event Time: Saturday July 24, 1999, 11:20am – 1:00pm

EVENT

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"I felt unsafe," he said. "I couldn't drive. I felt like it was dangerous walking across the street because you lose that much focus."

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Air Quality Guide for Ozone

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What is ozone?

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Even at relatively low levels, ozone may cause inflammation and irritation of the respiratory tract, particularly during physical activity. The resulting symptoms can include breathing difficulty, coughing, and throat irritation. Breathing ozone can affect lung function and worsen asthma attacks. Ozone can increase the susceptibility of the lungs to infections, allergens, and other air pollutants. Medical studies have shown that ozone damages lung tissue and complete recovery may take several days after exposure has ended.

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Northeast Ozone Forecast

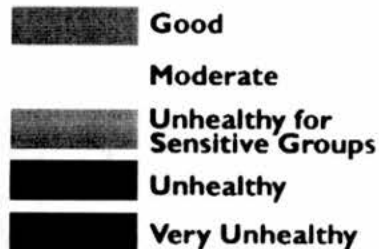
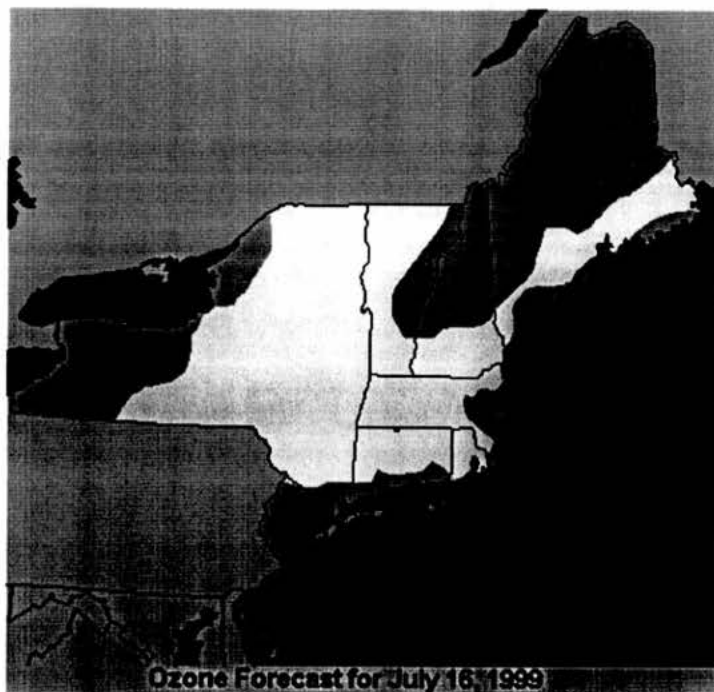
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Groundbreaking for Children's Hospital at Montefiore

Briefing prepared by Sarah Bianchi

Event Time: Saturday July 24, 1999, 11:20am – 1:00pm

EVENT

This event is to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Children's Hospital at Montefiore, which includes the Carl Sagan Discovery Center. At this event, you are unveiling a new Air Quality Index that will provide Americans critical information to protect their health, particularly children with asthma, a major problem for children served by this hospital. This event consists of about 300 people, including friends of Carl Sagan, health care and children's advocates, and friends of Montefiore. **This event is open to the press.**

LOGISTICS

- There is an extensive pre-program (see speakers attached);
- Ann Druyan, President, The Carl Sagan Foundation, introduces you;
- You speak;
- You invite Dr. Foreman, and Dr. Redlener onto the stage and cut the ribbon (being held by two students);
- You work a ropeline and return to hold;
- You proceed to the cafeteria for a photo-receiving line with seventy hospital supporters;
- You depart.

YOUR ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION

This event provides an opportunity to: (1) unveil a new Air Quality Index that provides improved information about levels of local air pollution and the precautions people should take to protect themselves on days when air pollution poses threats to public health. This index includes a new category for those with special health conditions like asthma; (2) highlight the importance of children's health, including the Children's Health Insurance Program and the Administration's comprehensive asthma initiative; and (3) celebrate the groundbreaking of Montefiore's new children's hospital and the Carl Sagan Discovery Center.

ATTACHMENTS

- Initiative you are unveiling today;
- Background on Montefiore, Carl Sagan Center, and the Children's Health Fund;
- Your Remarks;
- Pre-program speakers;
- Recent *NYT* story on Irwin Redlener, President, Children's Health Fund;
- The Air Quality Index you are unveiling today;
- List of people attending reception following this event.

INITIATIVE YOU ARE UNVEILING TODAY

At this groundbreaking ceremony, you are:

Unveiling New Air Quality Index That Gives Americans Critical Information to Take Necessary Health Precautions, Including a New Category for Those With Special Health

Conditions Like Asthma. The new Air Quality Index will provide a uniform nationwide standard as well as new protections for sensitive groups, such as children with asthma. This new index will be used by local weather forecasters throughout the country to provide improved information about levels of local air pollution and the precautions people should take to protect themselves on days when air pollution exceeds health standards and poses threats to public health. This effort is part of the Administration's longstanding commitment to expand the public's right to know about environmental conditions in their communities. The new features of the Air Quality Index include:

- A new category that, for the first time, will provide specific warnings for vulnerable groups, like children with asthma and others with special respiratory conditions.
- More detailed warnings about how all people should protect themselves and their families from harmful levels of air pollution.
- Warnings based on the most modern scientific information on the known health effects of air pollution levels.

In addition to the new Air Quality Index, EPA also is making information about summer smog available on its Internet web site, which currently shows aerial maps of smog dispersion in real-time for 25 states. This Internet mapping project, as it is called, is part of a 1996 Administration initiative to provide Americans with even greater access to information about pollution in their communities. EPA expects that within the next year or two, all 50 states will be participating in the Internet mapping project, which is available at www.epa.gov/airnow. The web site also shows forecasts of local air quality for the next day.

You are also underscoring that this new Air Quality Index is part of a broad-based effort to improve children's health and today you are:

Urging Congress to Pass a Comprehensive Asthma Initiative. Over the past 15 years, the number of children afflicted with asthma has doubled to total about six million, with the most rapid increase in children under the age of five. Over 100,000 children are hospitalized each year due to asthma, making it the leading cause of hospitalization due to chronic illness for children. Asthma is also one of the leading reasons children are absent from school, resulting in over 10 million missed school days each year. Minority children are disproportionately affected by asthma: African American children experience a death rate four times higher than white children.

You are urging the Congress to pass the Administration's \$68 million comprehensive strategy to fight childhood asthma that includes: (1) implementing school-based programs that teach children how to effectively manage their asthma; (2) investing in research to determine environmental causes of asthma and to develop new strategies to reduce children's exposure to asthma triggers; (3) providing funds to states and providers to help them implement effective disease management strategies that will insure we lower hospitalizations, emergency room visits and deaths from asthma; and (4) conducting a new public information campaign to reduce exposure to asthma triggers and dust mites.

Note on US Court of Appeals' Decision on EPA's Public Health Air Standards. On May 14, 1999, in a split decision (2 to 1), a panel of the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit determined that the Clean Air Act – as applied in setting the new public health air quality standards for ozone and particular matter (soot). EPA strongly disagrees with this decision and in June filed a petition for a rehearing. In the mean time, EPA is continuing to implement strong clean air programs, such as this new Air Quality index.

Highlighting Other Critical Efforts to Improve Children's Health. You are reiterating your commitment to assuring that children have access to affordable health insurance. Uninsured children are more likely to be sick as newborns, less likely to be immunized as preschoolers, and less likely to receive treatment for injuries or illnesses, such as asthma or ear infections. The Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) that you fought for in 1996 is the largest investment in children's health in a generation. You can also highlight the importance of assuring that the four million uninsured children who are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP are enrolled. The Administration has launched a massive public-private campaign to encourage families to sign up these kids. Last year, at the Family Conference in Tennessee, hosted by you and Mrs. Gore, the Administration directed Federal Agencies to implement 150 new efforts to sign up uninsured kids, such as working in Head Start Centers and through school lunch programs that reach many of these children.

Praising the Children's Hospital at Montefiore for Their Commitment to Children. You are applauding the groundbreaking of the new Children's Hospital at Montefiore that will provide critical health services for the 400,000 children in the Bronx. This hospital will include a range of services including a prevention and treatment center for asthma. The asthma hospitalization rate for children in the Bronx is five times higher than the normal rate for the United States. The hospital will also include the Carl Sagan Discovery Center that will provide innovative exhibits to engage children in science, nature, and cosmos.

BACKGROUND ON THE EVENT

The Children's Hospital at Montefiore

This hospital is scheduled to open in 2001 and will be the first new child health system of the 21st Century. The hospital will serve as the core of the Montefiore Child Health Network to link dozens of neighborhood-based pediatric care sites throughout the Bronx and Westchester, New York. The design of the hospital is shaped from the perspective of a family-centered care philosophy, involving parents and others from the community. Some of the innovative programs include: intensive care facilities, a full-floor day hospital, a multi-disciplinary center for communicative disorders, regional programs for children with heart disease and kidney conditions, and a pediatric asthma prevention and treatment center. This hospital will serve a community of 400,000 children.

The Carl Sagan Discovery Center

This Center will provide patients and their families with hands-on learning tools and exhibits to educate and engage them in the science discovery process and issues about health care. It is based on Carl Sagan's vision for how the wonders of the heavens to people all over the earth. The plans include: live links to NASA missions and stations, computer installation in patient rooms with access to the SETI homepage, live feeds from the radio telescopes of the world, and a Family Center and Discovery kiosks to orient patients and families with the programs at the Center.

Children's Health Fund

This foundation was established by Paul Simon, Irwin Redlener and Karen Redlener to make healthcare accessible to disadvantaged children. In conjunction with the Montefiore Medical Center and the Schering-Plough Corporation, the Children's Health Fund launched the Childhood Asthma Initiative in 1997. This initiative primarily serves homeless children and medically underserved residents of the South Bronx by providing asthma diagnosis and treatment, education, management and reduction measures for this vulnerable population. The Children's Health Fund plans to work closely with The Children's Hospital at Montefiore to ensure that the healthcare needs of the children in the surrounding community are met.

PRE-PROGRAM

There is an extensive pre-program that begins with performances by *The Scott Hesse Trio from The Bronx Arts Ensemble*, followed by the *Highbridge Voices Children's Choir*.

The speakers are scheduled as follows:

- **Spencer Foreman, MD**, President, Montefiore Medical Center;
- **Jay Langer**, Chairman of the Board, Montefiore Medical Center;
- **Lionel I. Pincus** and **Martin S. Davis**, Co-Chairmen, Steering Committee, The Children's Hospital at Montefiore;
- **June M. Eisland**, Councilwoman for the Bronx, District 11 (*TENTATIVE*);
- **Fernando Ferrer**, Bronx Borough President;
- **Jeffrey Dinowitz**, New York State Assemblyman, 81st District (Bronx County);
- **Guy J. Velella**, New York State Senator;
- **Elliot Engel**, U.S. House of Representatives;
- **Irwin Redlener, MD**, President, The Children's Health Fund;
- **Lynn Stewart**, Family Advisory Committee, Children's Hospital.

In America

BOB HERBERT

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Northeast Ozone Forecast

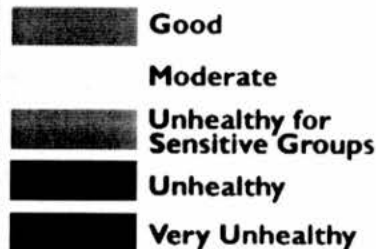
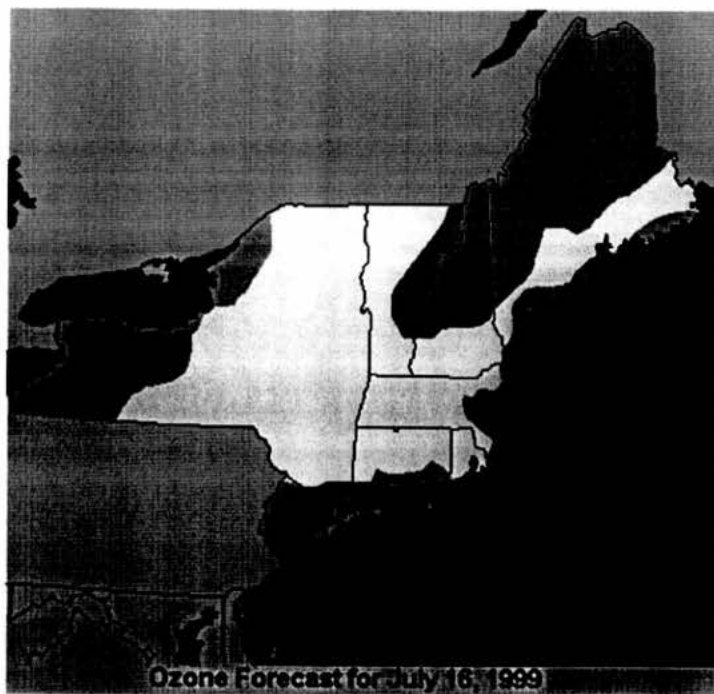
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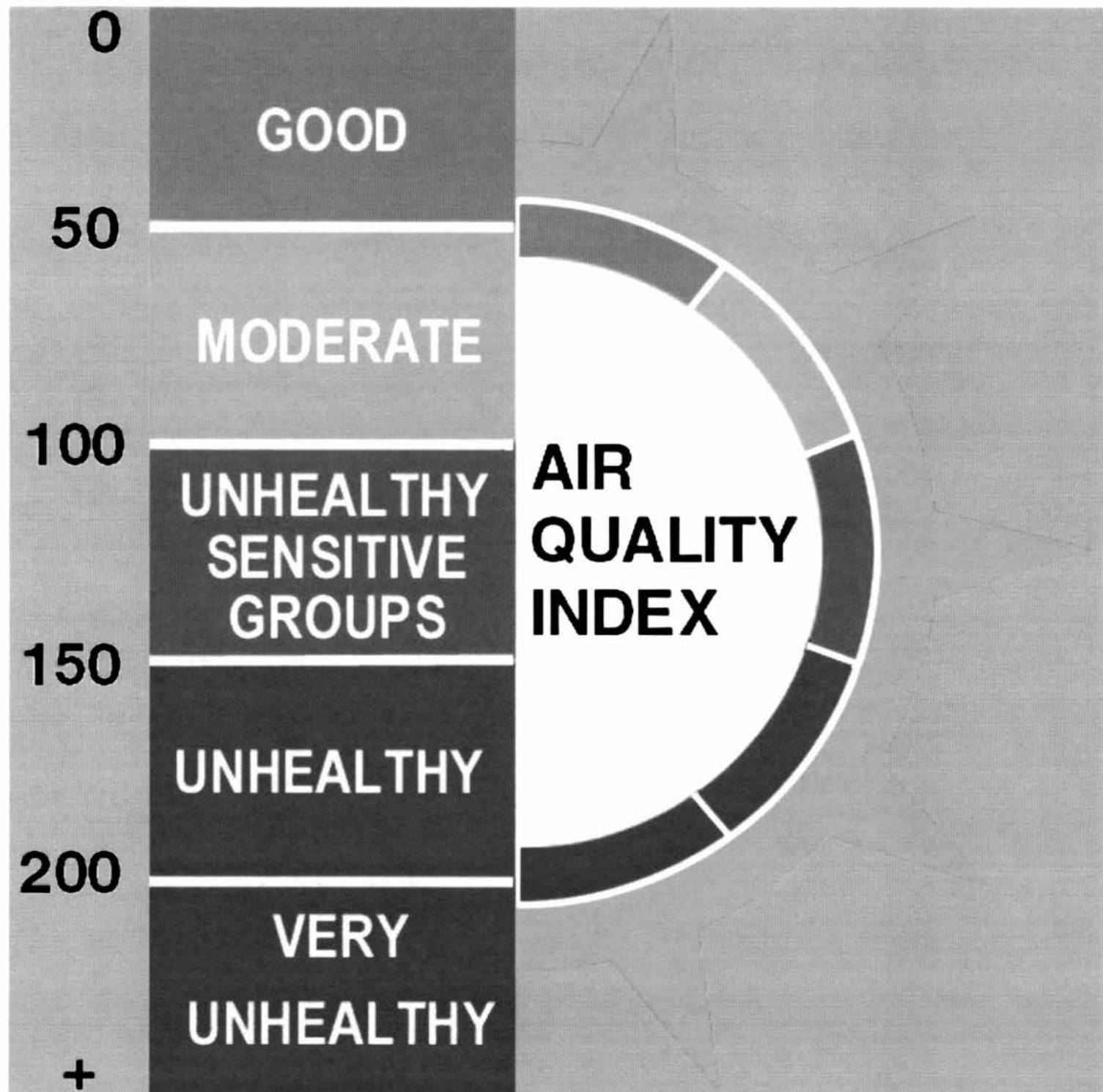
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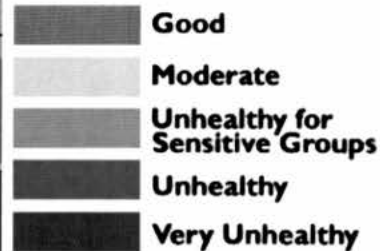
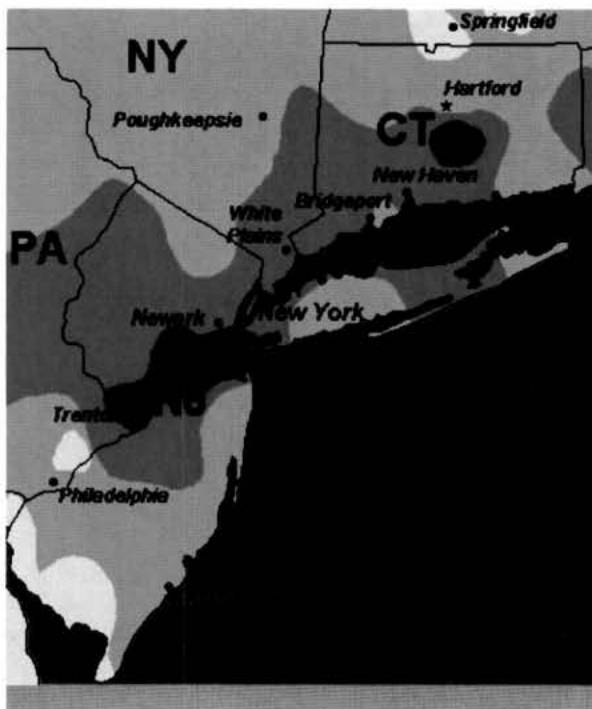




Ozone Peak Values

8-hour Average Concentration

New York New Jersey Connecticut - Friday, 16 Jul 1999



Static Ozone Monitor Location Maps

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<http://www.epa.gov/cgi-bin/airnow.cgi>

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