

Mosaic

LAW

Repatriation of prisoners. As of July 1985, Canadian prisoners jailed in Europe are now able to serve out their sentences at home. Canada along with five other countries have, to date, ratified the Council of Europe Convention. 74 Canadians were serving sentences in West European jails.

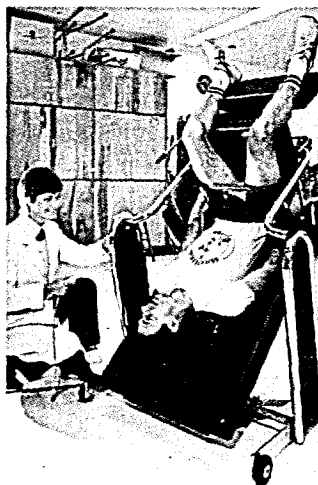
20 000 refugees have arrived in Canada over the past three years. In April, 1985, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that oral hearings are required for all aliens seeking refugee status. Thus, to eliminate the unmanageable backlog that would ensue, the federal government is putting together a plan that would streamline many of these refugees into the landed immigrant status process.

Manitoba laws are constitutionally invalid — so ruled the Supreme Court of Canada on June 16, 1985. To prevent chaos, however, the unanimous judgement stated that the "English only" laws could stand only for the "minimum period" needed to have them translated. "The judgement is a significant victory for linguistic minorities across Canada, clearly confirming our linguistic duality," said Michael Goldbloom, president of Alliance Quebec and English-rights group in Quebec.

HEALTH

Back aches. Experts say that 80 % of us will be afflicted by acute bouts of back pain at some point in our lives. Worn joints, pinched nerves, and protruding or compressed discs, are the usual culprits and numerous and varied methods of treatment are constantly being tried. One device that is presently being studied by physiotherapists at the National Defence Medical Centre, is the Inverchair. Invented five years ago by former Canadian professional wrestler Walter Siever, to treat his own back ills, it

does seem to work, but exactly how, must now be determined. Dr. James Batean, founder and director of the Orthopedic and Arthritis Hospital in Toronto, is the only other Canadian researcher who has studied the chair's effectiveness and he found about 85 % of his patients benefited from this type of therapy. To date about 100 chairs have been sold to chiropractors, doctors and athletes. Each costs about \$5 000. Michael Fazzari, vice president of Inverchair Marketing Inc., in Toronto, said the chair, approved by Health and Welfare Canada, is "still in its infancy".



The Inverchair designed to relieve back aches.

Senior citizens — over half live below the poverty line. So concluded a five year study conducted by United Senior Citizens with help from the Ontario Secretariat for Social Development. 42 % of the respondents (846 seniors between the ages of 62-98) indicated that they receive less than \$9 429 annually. Ms. King, president of United Senior Citizens, says that "the major concern revealed by the study is the number of senior citizen who fear being prematurely put in institutions because they cannot afford the market prices for home care. We hope the government will look long and hard at the home support and home care services offered".

A new heart drug that dissolves blood clots and thus is twice as effective as other drugs in preventing heart attacks, has been used in clinical trials in Canada since January 1985. The new treatment generated excitement when the New England Journal of Medicine took the unusual step in June of publishing an editorial and preliminary report on the findings of a study being conducted at Hamilton General Hospital. 14 patients with blood clots in their legs have been treated so far with the new drug in combination with heparin (a standard anticoagulant). Researchers now want to determine if the new drug prevents permanent damage to the heart muscle and allows heart attack victims to live longer. That study is to begin this summer. One major advantage of the drug is that it has no side effects.

PEOPLE

Angela Hewitt from Ottawa emerged the grand winner. 160 applications were received, 40 candidates were selected by a screening committee and the four finalists included a Canadian, an American, a West German and a Russian. The event was the 1985 International Bach Piano Competition which was held in Toronto to honor the memory of the late Glenn Gould. "It's a terrific break," Hewitt said upon winning. "A concert performer can't get exposure any better way. I'm thrilled."



Angela Hewitt



The Festival of Spring

NEWS

Premiers Peter Lougheed from Alberta and **René Lévesque** from Quebec have both announced their retirements. The leadership races are on.

Old-age pensions will not be de-indexed as was originally announced in the federal budget of May 23, 1985.

A \$1 coin has been approved by a special House of Commons committee and will likely be circulating in Canada by the fall of 1986. The Federal Cabinet will make the final decision. Each \$1 coin would cost 17 cents to produce and should last 20 years. A dollar bill costs between three to five cents but lasts an average of one year. Petitions, however, are being circulated urging that the \$1 bill be kept.

