

## Around the industry

### Travel agency mergers

The consolidation of the travel-agency business is picking up steam—which may help corporate travelers but not vacationers, according to The Wall Street Journal (3-1-89). USTravel System, Inc, said it plans to join with 70 smaller agencies, making it the nation's third-largest travel agency. The announcement follows several recent mergers that are sharply increasing the influence of a handful of agencies. That trend, say travel experts, will undoubtedly benefit corporate America. Most mega-agencies specialize in handling travel for companies, and their size puts them in a better bargaining position to negotiate low airline and hotel rates for companies.

### Chili Bowl X

The 10th Annual Airlines of the World Chili Cookoff at Shoreline Aquatic Park in Long Beach, CA, fires up May 13, 1989, when domestic and international airline employees gather together to compete for \$1,000 in prize money. Chili Bowl sponsors United Airlines/Aspen Airways estimate more than 25,000 will attend at this year's one-day event. For information and a cookoff application, contact Harold Mallet at United Express at FAX 805/252-6598.

### Air freight up

Air freight was up 9.8 percent in January over the same month a year ago for 22 airlines reporting cargo data to the Air Transport Association. Domestic air freight registered a gain of 5.1 percent; the air transportation of mail decreased 0.1 percent; and total domestic air cargo, including freight and mail, rose 3.9 percent. International air freight of the U.S. carriers increased 15.2 percent, mail rose 3.8 percent, and total cargo had a gain of 14.1 percent.



### Galileo's new partners

Galileo, the European computer reservations system affiliated with United Airlines' Apollo system, reports that six U.S. and one European carrier recently signed letters of intent to participate in the system. They include USAir, United, Eastern, Continental, Delta, Pan Am, and Iberia. Continental and Eastern, through the System One CRS, are already working with the rival Amadeus system in Europe, and Iberia is a founding partner in Amadeus.

### American at San Jose

American Airlines will stop flying its oldest, loudest jetliners into San Jose International Airport by the end of 1989, a year earlier than planned according to Knight-Ridder Newspapers (2/21/89). American inherited the jets it is retiring, 15 old Boeing 737-200s, when it bought AirCal in 1987. It has agreed to sell those aircraft and one newer plane to Braniff Airlines, which does not fly into San Jose. American will replace the old planes with McDonnell Douglas MD-80 and Boeing B767 jetliners.

## Team USAir/Piedmont readies for WalkAmerica

Employees of USAir and Piedmont are joining together to fight birth defects through the March of Dimes Defects Foundation by participating in WalkAmerica, a nationwide fundraising event for the March of Dimes.

WalkAmerica, the nation's largest walking event, will take place in more than 1,200 communities in all 50 states. Last year, more than 600,000 walkers, including more than 20,000 corporate teams such as the USAir/Piedmont team, helped to raise \$37 million for the prevention of birth defects.

All USAir/Piedmont employees and their families and friends are invited to join the WalkAmerica team. For more information, contact your department head or the individuals listed for the following cities: CLT-Fred Carley, passenger services; PIT-Pat Oliffe, M&E; SAN-Jane Foster, personnel; DCA-Angie Kozlowski, employee benefits; INT-Tammy Cooksey, pilot crew scheduling.

WalkAmerica team walks will be held in April with most walks taking place April 29 and 30. Ask your March of Dimes coordinator for details.

## Stock purchase plan deadline is March 15

The Board of Directors of USAir Group has approved the ninth offering under the company's employee stock purchase plan. The offering will commence on April 1, 1989, and end on March 31, 1990.

A preliminary prospectus with related details has been distributed to employees of all USAir Group subsidiaries at their home addresses.

To participate, employees must meet certain eligibility requirements described in the preliminary prospectus, and must complete and return a payroll deduction form no later than March 15, 1989.