



UPI wirephoto  
President Reagan said in an interview yesterday his shooting still seems unreal, although he wonders why it did not happen "27 times before." He said that although he still is in pain from the lung injury he suffered in the assassination attempt last month, his recovery is "astounding."

## Reagan reviews March shooting

By JAMES GERSTENZANG  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan says he is still suffering pain from his gunshot wound March 30, and while the episode seems unreal to this day, he wonders, too, "why this didn't happen 27 times before."  
In an interview yesterday, his first with reporters since the assassination attempt outside a Washington hotel, Reagan disclosed that his first thought when he heard the gunfire was "to take a look . . . but the Secret Service man behind me had a different idea."  
Agent Jerry Parr had propelled the president into his limousine. But as to exactly what happened in those early moments, said Reagan. "Actually, I can't recall too clearly. I knew I'd been hurt," but he didn't think he had been hit by gunfire. "It was the most paralyzing pain . . . as if someone hit you with a hammer."  
"When I sat up on the seat the pain wouldn't go away and suddenly I found I was coughing up blood," the president said. Parr has said the blood was oxygenated — evidence of an internal injury — and that prompted him to order the driver of the armored car to head straight for the hospital.

Reagan said he then believed that Parr's shove had broken a rib, which in turn had punctured his lung. "The next thing I knew I was on a cart" at George Washington University hospital, and "it was then that they found the wound and (realized) that I'd actually been shot," he said.  
The president described his near-panic while gasping for air. "The more I tried to breathe" he said, the less oxygen he seemed to get. "I almost had the feeling it would diminish to the place where I wasn't getting any" he said. "Then they shut me up" by placing a breathing tube in his throat.  
The entire affair, he said, "still seems kind of unreal."  
The president said that "you wonder in your mind when and how it's going to happen or what it would be like" to be the target of someone bent upon assassination. But he recalled that in 1976, someone pointed a toy gun at him and "Well, I never saw that. I was busy saying hello to someone and I didn't see this."  
Reagan said he continued to suffer from what doctors told him was "one of the longest-enduring discomforts" because of his type of injury.

"It doesn't go away," he said. "There is that pain."  
Wearing a blue-gray suit, Reagan walked with a steady though slightly stiff gait as he entered the Map Room in the White House for the 19-minute interview. His cheeks were ruddy and his voice showed no effect of the lung injury he received.  
In response to a quick question about how he was doing, he declared: "I'm feeling fine." But later he spoke of the continuing pain and said he was not ready "to hurdle any tables for awhile." Nonetheless, he said his recovery "is astonishing to me."  
He said his soreness was diminishing and he has resumed "at a little slower pace" his daily exercise regimen.  
The chief executive said that in watching televised reviews of his first 100 days in office — the 100th day will not occur until next week — he saw pictures of himself milling in crowds and wondered why the shooting had not happened "27 times before."  
When he once again leaves the White House for public events, "I have a hunch I'll be more alert," he said.

## Brady undergoes additional brain surgery

By DAVID ESPO  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House press secretary James S. Brady, wounded in last month's assassination attempt on President Reagan, underwent surgery last night to close a passage allowing air to seep into his damaged brain.  
"Everything is going OK," Dr. Dennis O'Leary, a spokesman at George Washington University Hospital, said. "I don't

think he's in any danger."  
O'Leary said the air was increasing pressure inside Brady's skull.  
The surgery began at 7 p.m. EST. There was no indication how long the operation would last.  
Rich Ellis, another hospital spokesman, described the operation as "non-urgent surgery."  
The surgery came a few hours after doctors inserted two needles into Brady's head to release air trapped inside his

brain, O'Leary said.  
The air passage, from Brady's sinuses into his brain, probably was the result of the bullet which pierced his skull when a gunman opened fire on Reagan and the presidential party outside a Washington hotel March 30.  
Reagan, a Secret Service agent and a policeman also were wounded but have been released from the hospital.  
Deputy White House press secretary

Larry Speakes said he was not certain whether Reagan was informed of the new developments before last night's surgery.  
Sarah Brady, the press secretary's wife, was reported to be with her husband at the hospital.  
O'Leary said inserting the needles was minor procedure that was not emergency action. He said Brady was "stable through the whole procedure."

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## Consumer Party gaining ground

By JOHN SCHLANDER  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The National Citizens Party and the Consumer Party, its Pennsylvania affiliate, are gaining support on the grassroots level, Barry Commoner, Citizens Party co-chairman and 1980 presidential candidate, said yesterday.  
At a news conference, Commoner, a prominent environmentalist, said many people are becoming disenchanted with President Reagan's policies.  
This is leading to growing support for the Citizens Party, he said, which Commoner co-founded two years ago.  
Although he and his running mate in the 1980 election, LaDonna Harris, received only 0.27 percent of the vote, many local candidates fared well, he said.  
"Wherever we ran local candidates in November, we got, on the average, close to 10 percent of the vote."  
Many people who supported Commoner voted for Carter because they did not want Reagan elected, Commoner said.  
When people had a chance to show support through financial contribution or support of local candidates, they often did so, he said.  
Consumer Party success in Burlington, Vt., where the party had its first winning candidate in the city council race, is a starting point, he said.  
"This (support) is a message of national significance," Commoner said. "This November, the local elections are going

to take on a new look."  
Commoner said he strongly supports Centre County Consumer Party co-chairman Tom Ortenberg in his bid to become State College's mayor, as well as Ray Boyle and Chris Hall for municipal council seats.  
Ortenberg's campaign for mayor "represents a very important step locally," Commoner said.  
"Clearly, this is a community that ought to reflect the interest of the students. This isn't to say there ought to be a conflict between the local residents and the students."  
Nationally, support for the Citizens Party is growing because Reagan's programs are losing support, he said.  
"Reagan has chosen a technique which is politically subversive," Commoner said.  
Commoner said Reagan was elected on the assumption that federal programs would be cut back.  
"Federal programs aren't being cut. They're being shifted from social programs to the military."  
"It's underhanded," he said.  
The Democratic Party cannot be relied on to represent liberal views, he said.  
"They are just rolling over and playing dead."  
Commoner also commented on a possible setback to the Centre County Consumer Party — the Centre County commissioners are denying the party ballot status.



Photo by Robert Hammer  
Tom Ortenberg and Barry Commoner

## Official, biologist differ on TMI affects

By JILL LAWRENCE  
Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG (AP) — A Philadelphia biologist and a Health Department official were in conflict yesterday over whether the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident affected infant deaths and birth defects.  
But the two, in testimony on the proposed restart of the undamaged TMI-1 reactor, disagreed on which way the wind was blowing after the March 28, 1979, mishap, and based their findings on analyses of almost entirely different geographical areas.

In testimony submitted to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Dr. Bruce Moholt said there is "some evidence" that enough iodine-131 leaked from the crippled Unit 2 reactor during the accident to increase the hypothyroidism rate among newborns.  
Moholt, science director of the Environmental Cancer Prevention Center in Philadelphia, said the predominant wind direction after the accident was north-east.  
The incidence of the thyroid disorder increased for six counties lying in that direction — from two cases in the nine months before the accident, to eight in the nine months following it, he said.  
There was also a statistically significant increase in infant deaths within a 10-mile radius of the plant following the accident, said Moholt.  
The biologist's statements were contradicted in testimony prepared by Dr. George K. Tokuhata, director of epidemiological research for the state Health Department, scheduled to appear this week.  
Tokuhata said wind direction within 48 hours of the accident was north and northwest, and not a single case of hypothyroidism was reported in eight counties in that direction for all of 1979.  
With the exception of Dauphin, the counties he analyzed were different from those involved in Moholt's calculations.

Tokuhata said hypothyroidism remained "within a normal range" in the state for both 1979 and 1980. An "apparent concentration" of seven cases in Lancaster County in 1979 was investigated and the department concluded the TMI accident was not a factor, he said.

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### weather

Mostly cloudy and cool today with occasional rain and possibly a thundershower late in the day. Temperatures today will hold nearly stationary in the middle 50s. Cloudy and cool tonight with a couple of showers and a low of 45. Considerable cloudiness, quite breezy and cool on Friday with a few sprinkles likely and an afternoon high of 55. Saturday should be partly cloudy and cool with a high temperature of 56.

## Identity known Donald Meyer crash victim

By REBECCA CLARK  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The body of the man who died Tuesday night when a Cessna 401 twin-engine plane crashed at University Park Airport was identified yesterday as Donald Meyer, owner of the Meyer Dairy Store, 2390 S. Atherton St., a University spokeswoman said yesterday.  
Meyer, Box 388, Boalsburg, was pronounced dead Tuesday night at the scene of the accident by Centre County Coroner Robert Neff.  
After an autopsy yesterday, Neff said the 64-year-old Meyer died of injuries he received when his plane hit the ground.  
Meyer's body was badly burned in the crash. However, Neff said the autopsy did not determine the degree of the burns that Meyer's body received because he was dead before the plane caught fire.  
"We feel that he died instantly upon impact," Neff said.  
Meyer was practicing take-offs and landings when his six-passenger plane crashed and burst into flames at about 8:05 p.m.  
A part-time employee of the airport, who was working about 500 yards from the runway, who witnessed the crash said the right wing of the plane dipped before the crash occurred.  
The witness said, however, that he did not know if the wing hit the ground before it crashed.  
The witness, whom University officials refused to identify, said it looked as if Meyer tried to take the plane up before it crashed.  
Meyer's plane was moving westbound about 200 yards from the runway when the crash occurred.  
Mary Dunkle, assistant manager of the University news bureau, said officials from the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Safety Board have arrived to investigate the crash and try to determine the cause of the crash.  
"They will be here investigating the crash for at least a week," Dunkle said.  
The FAA and National Safety Board officials would not give any indication of why the plane crashed, Dunkle said. The officials could not be reached for comment.  
Dunkle said Meyer's body was released to Koch Funeral Home, 201 S. Atherton St., after the autopsy was performed.  
Richard Crowley, assistant vice president for business at the airport, said the crash was the airport's first fatal accident since it opened in 1962.

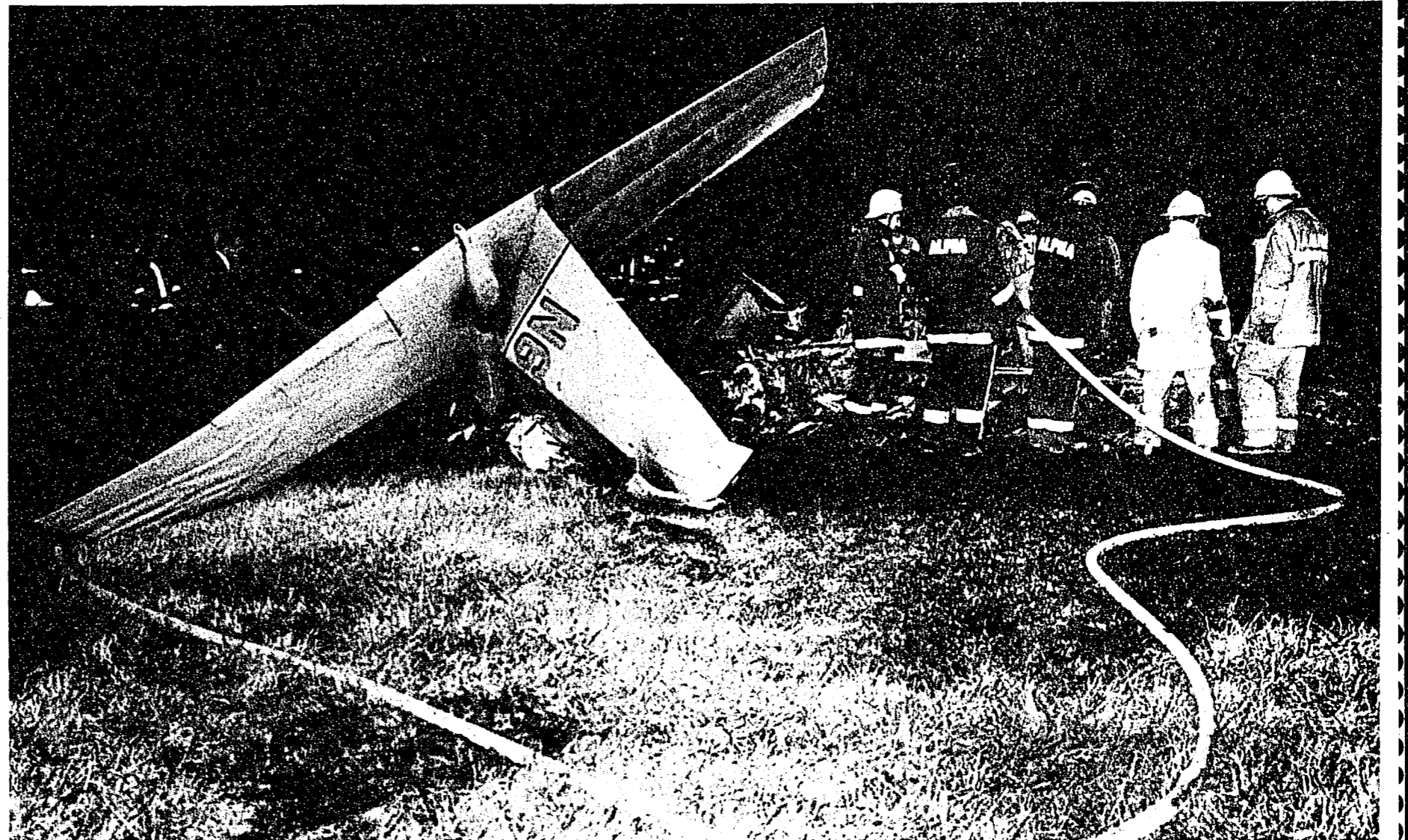


Photo by Sheila Varas  
The victim of the first fatal plane crash at the University Park Airport since it opened in 1962 was identified yesterday as Donald Meyer, 64, owner of Meyer

Dairy Store. A witness said Meyer had been practicing take-offs and landings when the crash occurred at about 8 p.m. Tuesday.