Associated Press Writer

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — Nicaragua denied yesterday that its forces shelled and killed two American journalists near the Nicaraguan border, and implied that Honduran gunners or U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels were responsible

An air force helicopter flew into the capital with the bodies of the two — identified by military authorities as Dial Torgerson, Los Angeles Times bureau chief for Mexico and Central America, and free-lance photographer Richard Cross who had been on assignment for U.S. News & World Report. Honduras accused Nicaragua of a crossborder attack, but the Sandinista govern-

ment said "at no time has there been an The Sandinistas accuse the U.S. and Honduran governments of supporting anti-government Nicaraguan insurgents and allowing them to use Honduras as a base.

A statement from the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry said "The false accusation made

by the government of Honduras lies in the

plans for escalation made by the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States. which has as its objective justifying greater aggression against Nicaragua.' Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto appeared at a news conference and said the Honduran charges are "the most

reprehensible cynicism.' 'Everyone knows that it is the Honduran army, which supports the mercenaries directed and financed by the CIA to provoke Nicaragua, and I hold the governments of

the United States and Honduras responsible for the death of the journalists," he said. Foreign Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica said Torgerson and Cross were killed around 5 p.m. EDT Tuesday by anti-tank fire from Nicaraguan troops across the border. He said an anti-tank shell shattered

The road runs between the villages of Cifuentes and Las Trojas, about 75 miles ' directly east of Tegucigalpa — but 215 miles by car because of the winding, mountainous

road to the region. Fellow reporters said the newsmen left Tegucigalpa early Tuesday in a car that did not carry any of the "international press" or other precautionary signs that journalists use in El Salvador. President Reagan was informed of the

incident Tuesday night and said he "deeply regrets the loss of life of two outstanding journalists who were carrying out their professional responsibilities in a very difficult situation." White House spokesman Larry Speakes said. He added, "The president joins with all

who believe in a free press in paying tribute to these professionals who were the tragic and unfortunate victims of violence." The Hondurans originally said Time magazine reporter William McWhirter also was killed because they thought he was traveling justification. Because of that, we are going

learned later that McWhirter had flown to Miami Monday night, and Honduran officials retracted the report. Twelve foreign journalists, including two

other Americans, have been killed since revolution brought violence to the region in The army declared the area where the reporters were killed a zone of high danger

sterday and sent officials to warn people that it is dangerous to go there. A protest note from Honduras said "the Honduran government . . . holds the government of Managua responsible for whatever incident that may occur as a consequence of the constant harassment by the Sandinista

A brief ceremony was held at the air base, where military chief Gen. Gustavo Alvarez Martinez said. "The situation with Nicaragua is extremely serious. The Sandinistas are attacking us constantly without any

army against the territory and population of

The bodies were taken to a funeral home to be turned over to relatives arriving from Mexico and the United States.

Torgerson was born April' 19, 1928, in

Southport, N.C., and was graduated from the University of Southern California in 1951. He had worked for The Los Angeles Times since 1967 and was named bureau chief for Mexico and Central America in March 1981 after foreign assignments in Africa and the Middle East. He worked for The Associated Press in Los Angeles from

Cross, 33, was born in Kansas City and worked through the photo agency Black Star Newsweek. He lived in Mexico City and had gone to Honduras last weekend on assignment for U.S. News & World Report. Cross was a free-lancer for the AP during the 1978-

Banks sentenced to death

By LEE LINDER **Associated Press Writer**

WILKES-BARRE — George Banks, a former prison guard convicted of killing 13 people, including five of his own children, was sentenced to death yesterday by the jury that had found him guilty.

After jury foreman Thomas Boory read the death sentence for each of 12 first-degree murder verdicts, the defense asked that the jury of eight men and four In all, the word "death" was spoken 156 times. One

Banks then cried out to the juror, "It's not your fault, Banks, who turned 41 yesterday, had said in pretrial interviews that he expected to receive the death senstand to testify that he shot all 13 people, but that

juror, Nancy Young, cried as she pronounced it.

someone else had fired at least nine of the shots that

other people related to a former girlfriend.

gunning down bystander Raymond Hall, 24, in the street after shooting eight of the victims in his Wilkes-Barre home last Sept. 25. The third-degree conviction means the jury felt the death was not premeditated.

Banks he had 10 days to file a motion for a new trial and for arrest of judgment. Otherwise, the verdicts and sentences will stand, he said. District Attorney Robert Gillespie Jr. had sought the death penalty, telling jurors earlier in the day that

victims. Show him no sympathy, no mercy." Banks was insane, and defense attorney Al Flora Jr. said he was disappointed that the jury didn't vote for

Smith died for the rape and murder of a young girl. Pennsylvania dismantled its electric chair before the He was convicted Tuesday of 12 counts of first-degree U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1972 that the death penalty murder for the premeditated slayings of the children, was being applied unequally. Banks was sentenced

Luzerne County Court Judge Patrick Toole told

Banks had shown "no mercy, no sympathy for his The defense had failed to convince the jury that

ages 1 to 6, the four women who bore them and three under a capital punishment law approved by the state Legislature in 1978.

Truce offered to PLO chief by rebel leader Abu Mousa

By FAROUK NASSAR Associated Press Writer

er Saed Mousa offered Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat a truce yesterday, saying the mutiny could be resolved by "democratic dialogue."

man for the mutineers, Jihad Sa- Arafat, leh, charged that Arafat was regrouping his forces in northern

action that will result in violence." local civil war between pro-Syrian vein throbbing in us." Alawite and anti-Syrian Sunni Moswounded in fighting from midnight

In southern Lebanon, an Israeli rut-Damascus highway through the mutiny.

Both Abu Mousa and the Syrian After the attack Tuesday, the government news agency denied pro-Arafat majority on Al Fatah's

bushed a border patrol near the Khalil Wazir, told a news confer-

Tripoli already is the scene of a leave Lebanon as long as there is a ply routes. We threw them back

guard was killed and three were central Bekaa Valley. wounded when guerrillas am- But Arafat's top military aide,

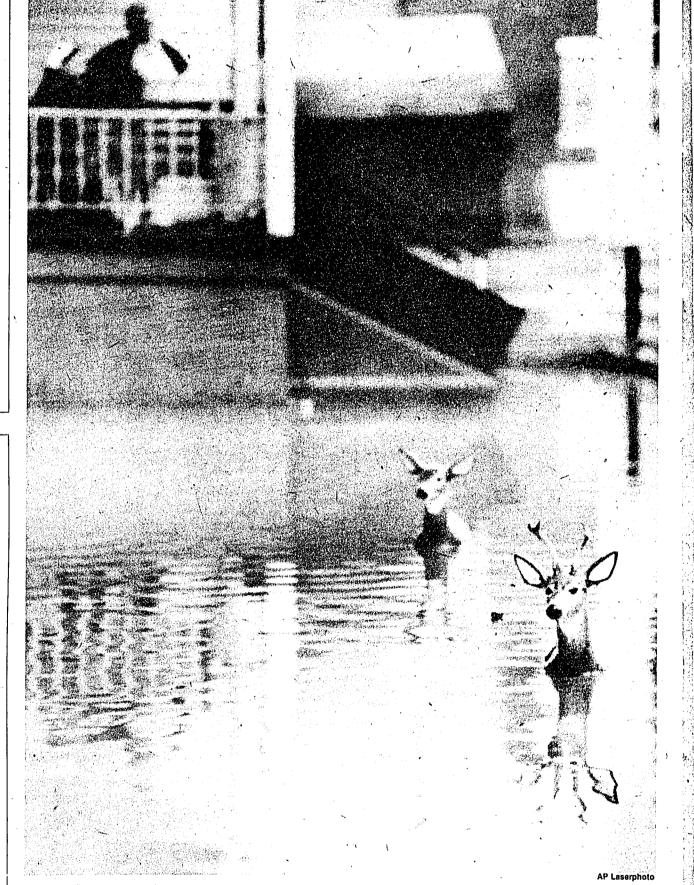
There was no immediate re- in the Bekaa Valley, "there is no an officer." sponse from Arafat at his new need for more fighting" between

port of Tripoli. But another spokes- of the PLO and those still loyal to tions," Abu Mousa said. "He then "We advocate continued warfare ply routes and began an advance against Israel," he declared. "We toward our positions, so we staged Lebanon in preparation for "some advocate continued Palestinian a counterattack, throwing his presence in Lebanon. We will never forces back and reopening our sup-

village of Arab Salim. It was the ence in the Bekaa Valley town of fourth attack on Israeli forces in Baalbek the local Syrian army Mousa, better known by his code support for the mutineers' attack name of Abu Mousa, told reporters and told him it was "the result of at his headquarters in Hammara, the individual behavior of one Syri-"Arafat was preparing his forces

headquarters in the north Lebanese the mutineers in the Fatah faction to attack and overrun our posipositioned forces to block our sup-

Lebanon's second largest city. Po- Arafat's charge that Syrian tanks Revolutionary Council authorized lice reported 10 people killed and 27 led the mutineers early Tuesday Arafat and the other 12 members of when they seized the positions held the Fatah central committee to do by pro-Arafat forces along the Bei- whatever was necessary to end the



Antlers up! Two plastic reindeer statues hold their ground yesterday as flood waters rise to three-foot levels in Gayland Brock's back yard in Garrett, Pa. Twenty-five homes were flooded but no one was injured in the rising waters.

Foundation gives progeriacs a chance to share childhood

Associated Press Writer HENRYVILLE, Pa. — Thirteen children who suffer from progeria, a rare premature aging condition with no known cure, are enjoying a vacation in the Pocono Mountains where they are forging friendships to ease the loneliness of the disease. "Being brought together brings a closeness. They are one big family unit. They live now as a group,"

said Bill Sample, a Philadelphia policeman who founded the Sunshine Foundation, a non-profit group that is sponsoring the weeklong stay at a mountain resort in northeastern Pennsylvania. "For the first time in their lives, they are allowed to be kids. They're having a ball," said Meg Casey, 27, of Milford, Conn., the oldest proge-

"I represent someone who's been

there and gone through it — people

riac at the conference.

pressure. It's important for the how proud they are of them," Casey said in an interview session

terminally ill children, brought eight progeriacs together for the first time. there are only 18 reported cases of progeria in the world and only about 100 have been identified since the first case was reported in 1886. Victims of the genetic mutation die at an average age of 13. They display characteristics of aging

and many have heart trouble and

hardening of the arteries. They also

characteristics, such as dwarfism,

wrinkled skin and baldness

show similar and unusual physical

"It changed his whole life. He can look the world in the face. He's not ashamed. Before, he was too shy to go to school," said Herman Geringer, holding his son on his shoulders during an interview. Six of the eight children who attended last year's first conference are here this year

Bill would prohibit teachers' strikes

state news briefs

HARRISBURG (AP) - The right to strike for public school teachers would be severely limited under legislation introduced vesterday in the House.

The seven-bill package is designed primarily to prevent teacher strikes. State employees would also be affected by some of the Reps. Stephen Freind, R-Delaware County, and Joseph M.

Gladeck, R-Montgomery County, said they "completely and unequivocally oppose" giving public employees the right to strike. The legislation introduced yesterday would: • Amend the state constitution by permitting contract settlements for all public employees by final, best-offer arbitration.

school board has been bargaining in bad faith. Impose strict fines on striking teachers. • Make such issues as class size, school calendars, reductions in force and teacher evaluation matters of managerial policy, not subject to collective bargaining.

Prohibit teachers from striking unless a court has ruled that a

Floods cause \$10 million damages

REDFORD (AP) - Bedford County officials yesterday estimated flash floods caused more than \$10 million in damage, including at least \$2 million in damage to the grounds of the historic Bedford Springs Hotel south of this Allegheny mountains commu-

nity.

Officials asked state and federal governments to declare parts of Bedford County as disaster areas following cloudbursts that dropped more than four inches of water on central Pennsylvania before dawn Tuesday, according to National Weather Service

Rainfall in the Bedford area was measured unofficially at 5.26 No one was injured in the downpour and subsequent floods.

nation news briefs

AMA questions danger of dioxin CHICAGO (AP) — There is no scientific evidence that dioxin

contamination poses imminent danger to people, the American Medical Association said yesterday as it approved a publicity campaign to counter news reports about the chemical. "The news media have made dioxin the focus of a witch hunt by disseminating rumors, hearsay and unconfirmed, unscientific reports," says the resolution approved on a voice vote by the AMA's 151-member House of Delegates.

The campaign is intended "to get accurate information before the public to prevent irrational reaction and unjustified public fright," it said.

However, one of the resolution's sponsors, Dr. George Bohigian, said dioxin's longterm effects on humans are not known. Dr. Paul Wiesner, an assistant director of the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, said that while he couldn't comment on the AMA resolution because he hadn't seen it, "evidence is increasing that there is an association with a rare form of tumor called soft tissue sarcoma after occupational exposure (to dioxin.)" Wiesner also said studies clearly show that dioxin is poisonous to

animals and that this suggests caution in human contact with it.

Possible herpes cure investigated

WASHINGTON (AP) - A New York pharmaceutical company said yesterday it will seek government clearance to sell, over the counter, a possible cure for genital and oral herpes. But at least one herpes researcher greeted that announcement with caution. Arthur Colon, president of Dalin Pharmaceutical Co. of Farming-

dale. N.Y., said that the product, known only as herpes formula

1423A, had been successful in treating the disease and preventing its recurrence when tested on more than 1,800 persons in the Dr. Gregory Mertz, a researcher at the Herpes Research Clinic at the University of Washington, said he could not offer an evaluation of such a drug without having more specific information

world news briefs

Public health doctors continue fast

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Nearly half of Israel's 4,500 public health doctors were reported fasting for higher pay yesterday, and there was speculation that the army would put them on reserve duty to keep hospitals from shutting down. The protesters said four of the 17 major hospitals — in Tel Aviv.

Jerusalem, Haifa and the Galilee — were rapidly closing departments as almost 2,000 of the nation's public health doctors observed a water-only fast. Some began their hunger strike eight days ago. Israel radio reported that the director-general of the Health Ministry, Dr. Baruch Modan, met with the directors of the nation's hospitals and the head of the army medical corps, stirring speculation that the army would order the doctors onto reserve duty to

staff the hospitals. The doctors vowed to go on fasting until the Treasury offered a substantial pay raise. Prime Minister Menachem Begin met with Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and a delegation of doctors during a heated debate in Parliament on a no-confidence motion over the strike that the government easily defeated.

South American storms rage on

RIO DE JANEIRO. Brazil (AP) — Unprecedented storms and drought have taken hundreds of lives and left millions without

homes or jobs across South America. Weather experts say they cannot predict when the freakish "This pattern could continue until the end of the year, or even longer," said Meteorologist Vernon Kousky of Brazil's Space

The mixture of cold air and warm water south of the jet stream unleashes punishing rain storms, and to the north little precipitation can break months or even years of drought. Most of the damage in southern Brazil has been to agriculture. The grain crops are hard hit, and produce prices are rising sharply

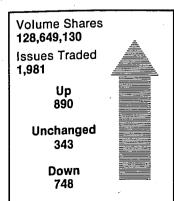
Research Institute. "There is simply no way to tell."

stock report

Market shows

heavy trading NEW YORK (AP) - The stock market turned in a mixed performance in heavy trading yesterday as broad indicators continued to shatter records while the Dow Jones average retreated from new

Analysts said yesterday's seesaw session indicated that traders still remain wary about the course of the economy, despite a series of glowing reports that the recovery from recession is broa-



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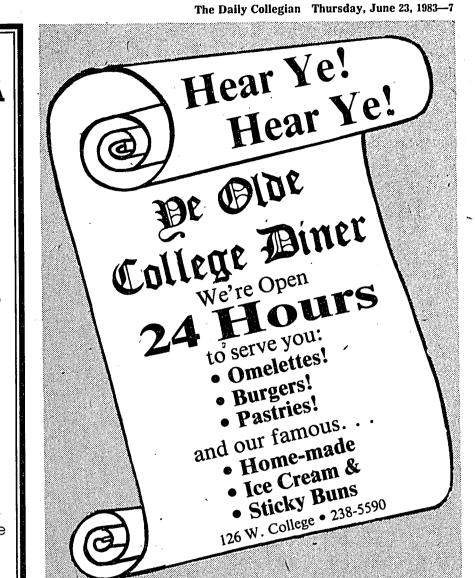


Cabin and lodge rentals

Fishing

Picnicking

Ride the Bus every Tuesday and Thursday from the front of Rec Hall at 11:00.1:00.3:00, and 5:00. Round trip tickets are \$3.00 for info. 238-5872.



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 Aluminum Cast Cookware 1 qt. Covered Sauce Pan, Reg. \$35, Sale 21.99 YOUR PRICE 23.19 2 qt. Covered Sauce Pan, Reg. \$45, Sale 28.99 YOUR PRICE 25.59 51/2 qt. Dutch Oven, Reg. \$50, Sale 31.99 ...

*Our Winter Coats and Our Foundation Sale are not included in this sale.

DOWNTOWN STATE COLLEGE: Shop Thurs., Fri. 10-9, Sat. 9:30-5. FREE parking every Thursday evening.

NITTANY MALL: Shop Thurs. thru Fri. 10-9, Closed Sunday.

BELLEFONTE: Shop Thurs. 10-5, Fri. 10-9, Sat. 10-5

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1983 Swimwear

Three-year-old Lonnie Carney from Andover, N.Y., takes a few minutes yesterday to enjoy his toys. Lonnie and 12 other victims of progeria are vacationing in the Pocono Mountains courtesy of the Sunshine Foundation.

of the week as they wanted, was a reunion for some old friends in mal as possible and to tell the kids addition to being an opportunity to meet new ones.

Fransie Geringer, 10, of Orkney, South Africa, renewed his friendship with Mickey Hays, 11, of Last year, the Sunshine Foundation, which fulfills the wishes of Hallsville, Texas. But Hays had to leave the conference yesterday. "I don't want to go," he said before a tearful farewell with his friend. "Stay in touch." The two originally met after news

> stories appeared about their illnesses.