

PSU student, 3 others die in crash

Plane hits backyard swingset

By MIKE LENIO
Collegian Staff Writer

A University student and a family of three were killed when a Cessna 172 Skyhawk II piloted by the student crashed into the back yard of a Ferguson Township home at 10:55 a.m. Saturday.

Steven R. Gizzi, 22, a senior from Pittsburgh majoring in finance; Terry C. Chrobak, 27; his wife, Sandra Chrobak, 24; and their son, Brant Hemphill, 3, were pronounced dead on arrival at Centre Community Hospital, Ferguson Township police said. The Chrobaks lived at 523 Marjorie Mae St. in Patton Township, police said.

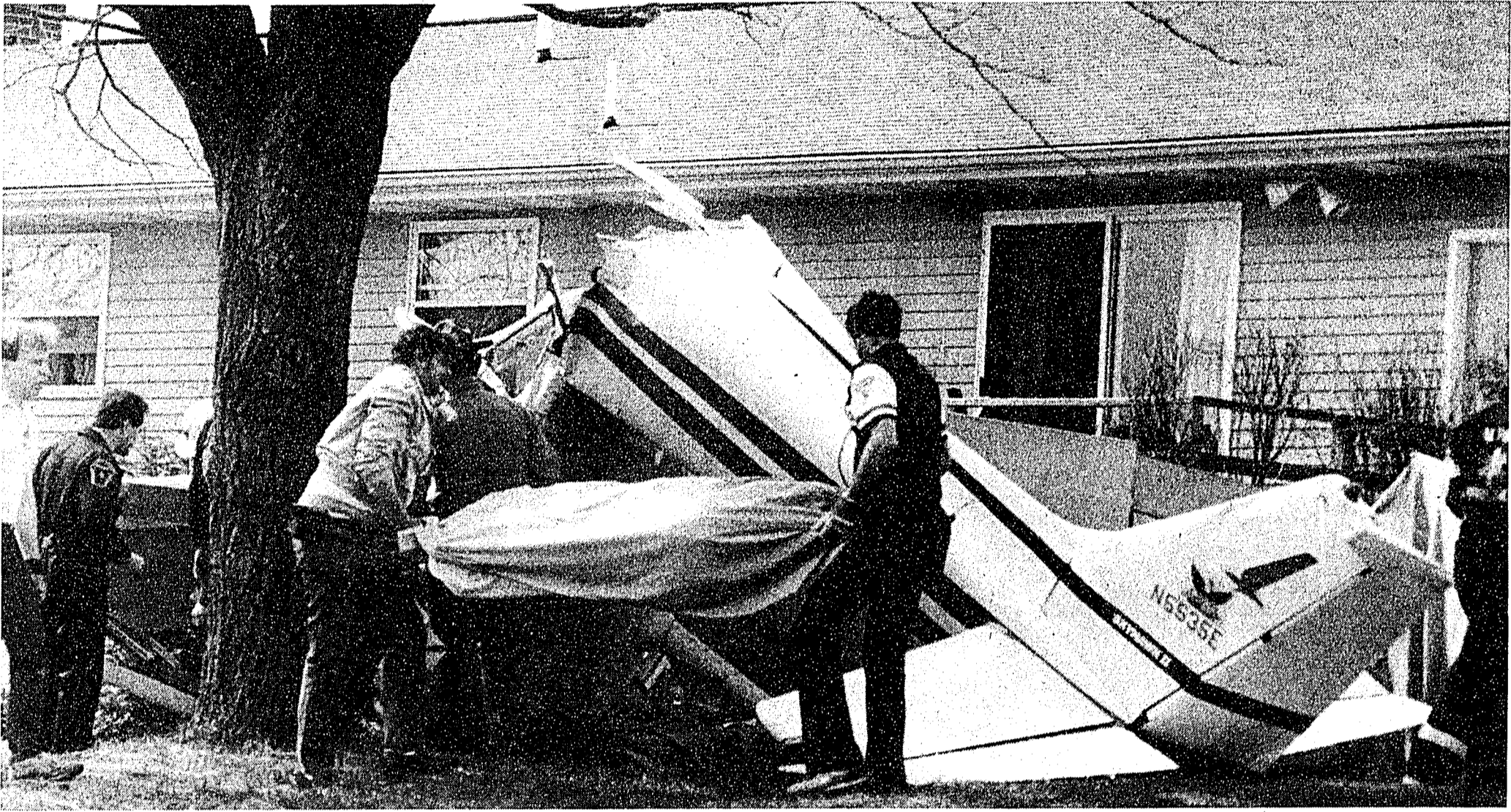
The plane crashed into a swing set in a back yard about 20 feet from the home of John LeClair, 20 Holly Circle, police said. No one on the ground was injured by the crash, police said.

Gene Maylock, a Collegian photographer who lives next door to the crash site, said he was walking out his back door when he heard a plane's engine roar above.

"Instantly I could tell it was too low," Maylock said. "I said to myself, 'Something's wrong.' It was heading for our place."

He said he had run to the phone to call police when he heard the crash. "The neighbor screamed simultaneously when the plane hit," Maylock said. "I'll never forget the woman's voice. . . . I know they have several kids and they have a swingset in the back yard."

Maylock said he ran out with his camera. Meanwhile, neighbors began running toward the plane. "There were some guys working on the roof" nearby, he said. "The plane buzzed right over them. They didn't even know what was happening until it was on top of them."



Collegian Photo / Gene Maylock

Rescue workers take a body away from the wreckage of a Cessna 172 Skyhawk II plane, which crashed outside a Ferguson Township home, killing pilot Steven R. Gizzi, a University student, and

three passengers. Collegian photographer Gene Maylock witnessed the accident and was one of the first individuals on the scene.

Another resident of the housing development said: "When I saw the plane, it was coming in low, close to the rooftops. Then it nosedived, veered to the right, and the right wing hit the ground."

The neighbor said he was working in his yard at the time, about three houses from the site of the crash. He added that another neighbor was walking his dog nearby and children were playing in the yards of neighbor-

ing houses in the development.

"I don't see how it missed hitting either the homes or the kids playing nearby," he said, adding that he and the other neighbors were "very fortunate."

The plane was owned by the Nittany Aero Club, a University flying organization of which Gizzi was a member, police said. Gizzi had taken off from the University Park Airport shortly before the crash, police said,

but they said the cause of the crash had not been determined as of yesterday.

Gizzi was the third club member to be killed in a plane crash in the past two months. Club members John Houtz of State College and Marie Gebura of Buffalo, N.Y., were killed Feb. 22 when their plane crashed in a field in Halfmoon Township.

Ron Spicer, a line service employee at the airport, said Federal Aviation

Administration investigators were expected to complete their probe of the crash site yesterday. However, the FAA investigation report with the cause of the crash will probably not be available for about a month.

Deputy Coroner Kerry Benninghoff said Gizzi's autopsy was scheduled to be performed yesterday at Centre Community Hospital. He said he did not know about funeral arrangements for Gizzi.

The Walter E. Beezer Funeral Home, 719 Spruce St., Philipsburg, will handle arrangements for the Chrobak family, Benninghoff said. No other funeral information was available yesterday.

Sandra Chrobak is the daughter of Darrell and Mona Wood of Philipsburg. Terry Chrobak is the son of Rudolph and Shirley Chrobak, also of Philipsburg, a representative for the funeral home said.



Collegian Photo / Alan Klein

Tug, tug, tug

Local children, their big brothers and a member of Delta Upsilon fraternity participate in a game of tug-o-war on the fraternity lawn Saturday afternoon. The children, matched with their big brothers through the Centre County Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program, were attending Delta Upsilon's third annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Engineering students protest over sophomore evaluations

By CHRISTINE NICHOLAS
Collegian Staff Writer

Sophomore engineering students are banding together to fight against mid-fourth semester evaluation for entrance into their majors, contending that faculty and advisers had led them to believe they had longer to meet grade requirements.

The students are writing letters to administrators and signing petitions to protest the early evaluations.

Two such students — Mike A. Miller and John Hricko — hoped to raise their grade-point averages to meet the 2.68 requirement for industrial engineers. But as a result of the early evaluation, in which the students' fourth semester grades do not count, they received their next choice — environmental engineering.

Because they are upset about not getting their desired majors, Miller and Hricko have spoken to faculty advisers in the Engineering Advising Center, visited College of Engineering Dean Carl Wolgemuth, and set up an appointment with Carol Cartwright, dean for undergraduate programs and associate provost, to discuss their dilemma. They are also

considering legal action against the University.

They plan to show that administrators are "changing the rules when the game is almost over."

Sophomore engineers who did not get their choice of major can sign up to be reconsidered, Wolgemuth said. As of Friday afternoon, 54 engineers had signed up for reconsideration.

He said that if the students get their grades up after this semester, they may get a space in their chosen major — provided that space opens up. Students with the highest grade point averages will be accepted into majors first.

Miller and Hricko said faculty advisers in the Engineering Advising Center have told them to "buckle down" and get their fourth semester grades up, since those grades would count toward evaluation for their majors.

Engineering advisers and faculty last week also expressed concern that students were led to believe — often by advisers — that they would have four full semesters to meet requirements.

In addition, the students cited letters from Wolgemuth saying that

engineering students "will not be admitted to a major until after the end of the Spring Semester, when your Spring Semester grades can be included in your grade-point average."

The students will use the letters and their advisers' statements as evidence to persuade administrators — through the letters and petitions — that the implementation of the enrollment policy is different from what administrators said it would be.

The letter will include what students have been told about their evaluations, what has actually been done, and how they believe administrators should reconcile the problem.

Hricko and Miller want the University to add a "grandfather clause" to its evaluation policy, so that only incoming engineers would be affected by the early evaluation.

Also, students have approached Joe Scoboria, president of the Undergraduate Student Government Senate, to ask for the USC's support.

In contrast to the students' opinions, University administrators believe the interpretation of their enrollment management policy has

Please see ENGINEERS, page 3

Campus groups escalate search for prof

By LISA NURNBERGER
Collegian Staff Writer

Several University international groups say political oppression and torture — problems that students may feel snugly removed from in State College — have hit home with the December 1984 disappearance of University Professor Boris Weisfeiler.

According to a Chilean police report, Weisfeiler, who went to Chile on a hiking trip, drowned while attempting to wade across the Nuble and Los Sauces rivers.

But U.S. officials, the former Chilean judge who initially investigated the case, and the Chilean Mathematical Society, which asked for the case to be opened last year, think otherwise.

A petition requesting a congressional investigation of the math professor's disappearance will be circulated this week by the Penn State Undergraduate Amnesty International Campus Network in conjunction with the Undergraduate Student Government's Department of International Affairs.

The groups are calling for an investigation because "there are too many mysterious circumstances surrounding (Weisfeiler's) disappearance," said David Tubbs, former president of the University's Amnesty International chapter.

Critics of the Chilean police raise these questions:

- Since Weisfeiler had already crossed the river with a guide the same day he was declared missing and knew it was dangerous, why would he try to cross it again?
- Why was Weisfeiler's body never found?
- Why were police who investigated the case transferred to another area several months after the disappearance?
- Why did Cofre Vega, the chief of the Reten El Roble police post, hide the fact in his original testimony that his patrol had prevented Weisfeiler from using a cable car to cross the river because he was not a registered traveler?

According to *Analisis*, a Chilean magazine, the patrol had been sent to search for the professor after a native reported seeing a stranger who appeared to be wearing Army fatigues.

The patrol confronted Weisfeiler and he turned back without crossing the river.

But Cofre's testimony contradicted that, claiming that the patrol never found the professor but saw his footprints on the beach near the river,

according to the magazine.

Critics ask that if that were the case, why wouldn't Weisfeiler have used the cable car, which was only feet from where police said he tried to cross.

The most widely held theory by disbelievers of the Chilean police is that the professor, a Soviet Jew, is being held captive in a Chilean colony the United Nations has accused housing a torture center.

Tubbs said there is a chance Weisfeiler is being held because the colony "may be embarrassed to release him if they abducted him with no reason." Stanley Shephard, spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Chile, said the colony, called Colonia Dignidad, was founded by German immigrants allegedly connected to the government and involved in extracting information.

Shephard said last year that he suspected foul play in the disappearance.

According to a 1976 United Nations report, "In Colonia Dignidad, prisoners have allegedly been subjected to different 'experiments' without any interrogation . . . to 'tests' on the limits of resistance to different methods of torture, such as

Please see MISSING, Page 4.

monday

happy birthday

Break out the cake and the candles, everybody — this is it. The *Collegian* celebrates its 100th birthday tomorrow, with a special 24-page pullout section that tells the who, what, when and where of the first century of Penn State's student newspaper.

inside

• In 1961, John F. Kennedy formed the Peace Corps to send Americans to help people in foreign countries. Today, the legacy of that dream remains. . . . Page 3

index

comics 18
sports 11
state/nation/world 6

weather

Today through Tuesday, mostly cloudy with showers of rain and wet snow. Highs near 40, low tonight 34. . . . Ross Dickman