Hotel collapse death toll raised to 17

By BRENT LAYMON
Associated Press Writer

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — Cold rain and the discovery of buried hazardous materials hampered rescue workers in their search yesterday for 11 men missing in the ruins of a collapsed apartment building.

The body of Herbert Goeldner, 37, of South Hadley, Mass., was pulled from the rubble of the L'Ambiance Plaza project body shortly before 1 p.m., raising the official death toll to 17.

Rescue workers burrowing into the mass of shattered concrete and mangled steel had said they found pockets with enough air circulating in them to sustain life, but hopes were as clouded as the skies.

"One void went down quite a way. We felt the condition was too dangerous to put anyone in there," said Jonathan Best, the city's director of emergency management. "We looked around with a camera. We haven't seen anything."

Mayor Thomas Bucci had said that the search for possible survivors would continue until Saturday. Yesterday, however, he said officials won't set a deadline.

"There have been survivors in other catastrophes when all hope seemed to be gone and a survivor has been found. So we're grasping at that bit of hope, that there is some individual still down there who has survived this catastrope," Bucci said.

No one has been pulled alive from the wreckage since the concrete slabs fell from a height of six stories Thursday, trapping 28 men.

Funerals for three victims were held yesterday, and two more were planned for today.

Dr. Wayne H. Carver, deputy state medical examiner, said autopsies have shown workers died from massive physical injuries or compression of the chest so breathing is quickly stopped.

"All the information that has been assembled so far indicates death was very rapid in each case," Carver said..

Investigations into the cause of the collapse are expected to center on the conditions of soil beneath the structure, the complicated construction process called "lift-slab," and other factors such as weather conditions during the pouring of the building's concrete slab floors.

These slabs are poured at ground level in a stack and then raised into place by hydraulic lifters set onto the support columns. The process of hoisting these floors into place requires great precision, because if part of the slab is raised faster than another section, it could pull the support columns down.

Salvage crews Monday recovered a power unit that supplies hydraulic fluid to the jacks and controls the lifting process.

David Wonder, an engineer with the Texstar Construction Corp. of San Antonio, Texas, the subcontractor that handled the hoisting of the slabs, said there was little chance the collapse was the result of the lifting operation.

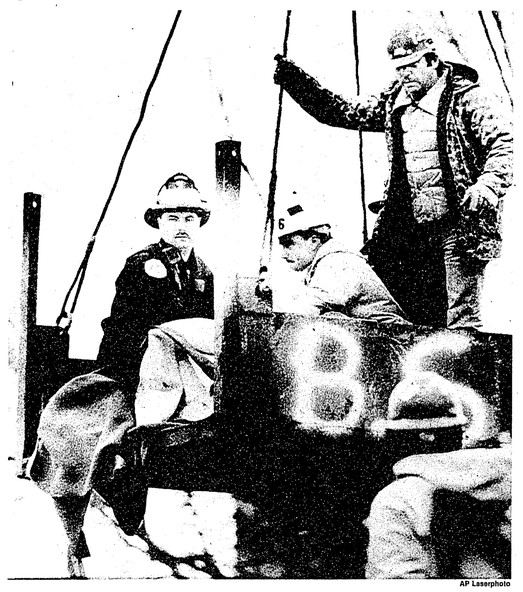
The developer of the L'Ambiance Plaza said the ground at the site was solid enough to support the building and rock had to be blasted out.

William F. Lone, executive vice president of Delwood Development of Davie, Fla., was responding to reports on file in City Hall that described the ground at the site as "broken rock and earth in a loose state."

"We dynamited for 30 days in rock to prepare the site," Lone said.

Frank Zamecnik, a structural engineer retained by The Associated Press to review the records, said such blasting may have gone too deep. He questioned whether broken rock and earth could support the weight cited in the design drawings.

Carpenters at the fenced-in site erected shelters of wood and plastic sheets around Salvation Army mobile canteens and the rescue command post.



AP Laserphoto

Rescue workers use a crane-carried platform to lift a body from the remains of the collapse of a building under construction in Bridgeport, Conn.

notes

● The **Undergraduate Student Government's Academic Assembly** will meet at 7 tonight in 307 HUB.

● The **Anthropology Promotion and Enrichment Sodality** will meet at 7:35 tonight in 107 Carpenter.

● The **Penn State Writers Club** will meet at 8 tonight in 203 Willard.

● The **Committee For Justice In South Africa** will hold a vigil at noon today on the steps of Old Main for those who have died in the struggle against apartheid. The committee will also hold a candlelight vigil for South African railroad workers at 9 tonight on the Old Main steps.

● The **Returning Adult Student Center** will sponsor a brown bag lunch on managing stress at noon today in 102 Boucke.

● The **Order Of Omega** will meet at 9 tonight in the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority suite in Wolf Hall.

● The **Nittany Chemical Society** will meet at 6:30 tonight in 151 Davey Lab.

Ronnie waiting for 4th liver

PITTSBURGH (AP) — A desperately ill Ronnie DeSillers, who underwent three unsuccessful liver transplants, was "holding his own" yesterday as the search continued for a fourth donor liver, hospital officials said.

"Doctors are still hopeful an organ will become available. And when it does . . . they're still optimistic right now that they can do" the operation, said Sue Cardillo, a spokeswoman at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

"Ronnie is just a very strong little boy. He's holding his own right now. Doctors are still calling his need urgent," she said.

The 7-year-old, whose continuing battle for liver transplants drew nationwide support, was in critical condition in the hospital's intensive care unit and was on a respirator, Cardillo said.

He was becoming increasingly jaundiced as the hours passed without a properly operating liver and he also was swollen, which hospital officials said could be due to his medication.

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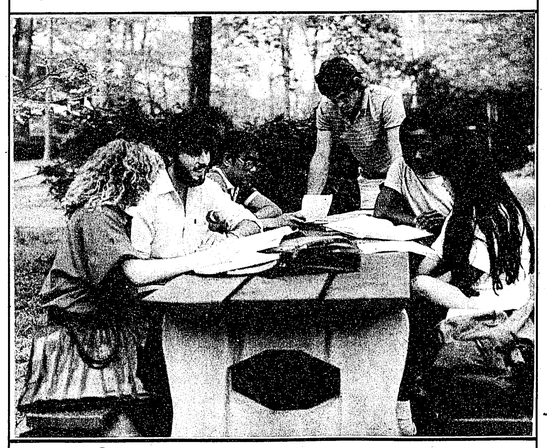

PENNSTATE

Penn State enters the travel business

By CHRISTINE BELLUOMINI
Collegian Staff Writer

Travel and tourism, Pennsylvania's second largest industry, has arrived at University Park.

The Center for Travel and Tourism Research at Penn State celebrated its grand opening last Wednesday in Rec Hall, the center's location.

A study conducted by the department of recreation and parks and the College of Business Administration concluded that tourism is a rapidly growing industry with economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects.

In addition, many University research projects have been conducted on tourism recently.

Because of this, center Director Richard A. Gitelson said, a "systematic effort" by those doing tourism research would be a success. "The whole University is involved," he said.

The center will also serve as a source of data on tourism and travel in Pennsylvania as well as the rest of the world.

The center's research includes studies of tourism promotion, evaluation of tourism marketing campaigns, and analysis of the economic, cultural, social and environmental impacts of tourism.

Still in its initial stages, the center's primary customers are the state and tourist promotion agents. "It is a slow process," Gitelson said, but with some hard work he believes it has the potential to expand.

Eventually, he hopes this expansion would include doing international research and having customers from around the world.

The center now employs Gitelson and a graduate student. However, it will draw upon people from around the University because of the broad range of subject matter involved, Gitelson said, adding that using faculty members' skills is important.

From an academic standpoint, the center will offer some, but not many, opportunities for undergraduates.

"By and large it will focus on graduate students doing research work," said Frank B. Guadagnolo, acting chair of the recreation and parks department. He did not know whether a major in tourism will be offered.

The center has conferences and seminars planned, and has put together the *Directory of Tourism Scholars*, which helps identify the members of the University faculty who have expertise related to tourism and travel.

Penn State is not the first university to open such a unit. Michigan State University, Clemson University and the Rochestor Institute of Technology are some universities that have similar research centers.

Near collisions now commonplace in the sky

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The head of the National Transportation Safety Board expressed alarm that near-collisions involving commercial jetliners are becoming commonplace after four more such incidents in one day came to light yesterday.

In an interview with The Associated Press, NTSB Chairman Jim Burnett called on the Federal Aviation Administration to make "a more realistic assessment" on how many flights air traffic controllers are capable of handling.

He said the number of flights during peak periods and in busy airspace should be cut back by the FAA to increase the margin of safety, especially during this summer's busy travel season.

"In my view we're already in a situation of concern even before having reached the summer period," said Burnett, suggesting that the government "level out the peaks and valleys" of airline activity.

FAA Administrator Donald Engen, speaking through a spokesman, rejected suggestions that any new restrictions are needed.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that pilots of three commercial jetliners reported incidents last Saturday in which their planes came within 500 feet of unknown smaller aircraft. Another pilot reported an incident with a military plane that came within 1,500 feet.

The incidents — confirmed by the FAA — were:

● Near Fort Meyers, Fla. the pilot of an American Boeing 727 reported an unknown glider passing within about 300 feet.

● A Continental DC-9 reported leveling off to keep an unidentified Piper aircraft "in sight as they passed within several hundred feet" at 3,000 feet near San Jose, Calif.

● An Air California Boeing 737 which pulled up to avoid an unidentified Cessna aircraft "several hundred feet" below over Santa Monica, Calif.

● An Ozark DC-9 reported a military jet passing a quarter mile away and "200 to 300 feet" near DesMoines, Iowa.

It was the third time in less than a month that at least three near-collision reports were filed in one day by the pilots of commercial airliners. Last year less than one such report a day, on average.

police log

● A $500 bike was reported missing Monday from a chain-link fence at Hamilton Hall by Bradford Mason, 6 Hamilton, University Police Services said.

● A $370 mountain bike was reported missing Monday by Dean Gekas, 780 Bellaire Ave., the State College Bureau of Police Services said.

● Unknown persons cracked a glass door pane Monday at West Penn Power Co., 2800 E. College Ave., causing $200 damage, State College police said.

● Unknown persons caused $200 damage to a University vehicle in Parking Lot Brown A Monday, University police said.

● A $100 "Road Closed" sign was reported missing from the corner of East Fairmount Avenue and Fraternity Row Monday by C&W Construction of Bellefonte, State College police said.

● Thirty-four gallons of gasoline were reported missing from the gas tank of a truck owned by the State College Area Water Authority while the truck was parked at 1201 W. Branch Road Monday, State College police said.

● Unknown persons damaged the top of a convertible owned by Shawn Gill, 304 Packer, while the car was in Parking Lot 83 North Monday, University police said.

● A $10 wallet containing $50 cash was reported missing Monday from Phi Mu Delta Fraternity, 500 S. Allen St., by Ray Schneider, A-15 Hamilton, State College police said.

—by Mike Lenio

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