

At a glance

A brief look at our world

State

Plane rudder system to test cause of crash

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Federal investigators hope a Boeing 737 jetliner that has been taken out of service will help them determine why a USAir plane crashed 1½ years ago, killing all 132 people aboard.

The National Transportation Safety Board plans to conduct a series of rudder tests starting later this week on a 737-200. That is an earlier model of the Boeing 737-300 that crashed Sept. 8, 1994, as it approached Pittsburgh International Airport.

Flight 427's rudder moved to an extreme left position, causing the plane to turn sharply and then roll over. What caused the rudder to move has not been determined.

All the tests will be conducted on the ground in Seattle.

The rudder tests were among 15 actions NTSB Chairman Jim Hall said would be taken after a second set of crash hearings concluded in November.

Du Pont suspicious, refuses examinations

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Millionaire murder suspect John E. du Pont is so suspicious of his jailors that psychiatrists can't examine him, his lawyers told the court.

In a petition filed Monday, du Pont's attorneys said "it is necessary that the examination be conducted at a place other than (prison) because Mr. du Pont believes he is being 'bugged.'"

Prison officials have complained that du Pont refused to submit to a blood test and an intake interview by sheriff's deputies, both standard steps in inmate admission. Delaware County District Attorney Patrick Meehan decided to allow du Pont to sidestep the procedure.

After the murder, dozens of reports said du Pont's behavior had grown increasingly bizarre in the months prior to the shooting. One estate employee said du Pont saw Nazis in the trees and ghosts in the walls.

Nation

Military policy on gays may be getting violated

NEW YORK (AP) — Despite its "don't ask, don't tell" policy, the military is still investigating the sexual orientation of some troops, The New York Times reported yesterday.

Pentagon documents and interviews show the military is not only continuing to ask troops about their orientation, but also is asking their parents, friends and therapists, the newspaper reported.

The documents suggest that the Clinton administration policy, adopted two years ago, has led to wide-ranging and formal probes in cases that might otherwise have been handled quietly and without punishment, the Times said.

That may explain why the number of troops discharged from the Army, Navy, and Marines for being homosexuals rose 17 percent in the year ending Oct. 1, with 488 service members discharged, the Times reported.

World

Belgium freeway fog causes fatal accident

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — In the second massive pileup in Europe in two weeks, at least 15 people died and over 60 were injured yesterday after 120 trucks and cars crashed in thick fog on a busy freeway.

Eight hours after the accident, rescue workers were still looking for survivors in charred, mangled, soot-covered wrecks near the northern city of Ghent.

The mid-morning accident apparently started when a truck slammed into a car, blocking the road in the thick fog.

A roaring gas-fueled blaze ignited after the pile-up, hampering rescue efforts.

A final casualty figure was not yet available, but one official said at least 15 people had died.

U.N. deplures Cuba for downing planes

By ROBERT H. REID
Associated Press Writer

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council early yesterday strongly deplored Cuba's downing of two American-owned planes after a marathon session in which China tried to delay a decision until Cuba's foreign minister could arrive in New York to present his country's case.

Before adopting the "presidential statement," the 15-member council heard Cuban acting Ambassador Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla defend his country's action Saturday in shooting down the two unarmed Cessnas operated by a Cuban exile group. The four Cuban-Americans on board are presumed dead.

"International peace and security is not what is threatened today," Rodriguez said. "It is the peace, sovereignty and security of Cuba which have been endangered for

more than 35 years because of those in a position of strength who promote action against my country."

Cuba claims the planes were shot down over its territorial waters and has accused Cuban exile groups in the United States of committing acts of terrorism.

The council "strongly deplures the shooting down by the Cuban air force of two civil aircraft... which has apparently resulted in the death of four persons."

The statement recalled international covenants banning the use of weapons against civilian aircraft and requested the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal to conduct an immediate investigation.

The statement, which carries less weight than a legally binding resolution, was adopted after 16 hours of intense diplomatic wrangling, during which a frustrated American official, briefing

reporters on condition of anonymity, described China's delaying tactics as "one Communist country supporting another."

Throughout the session, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright insisted that the council act without delay to condemn Cuba for Saturday's attack. Albright agreed to soften language in a proposed statement, submitted Sunday night, which had branded Cuba's "unlawful use of force" as a "threat to international order."

The original draft was watered down and references to international threats and "unlawful use of force" were deleted. The phrase "the Security Council condemns" the attack was softened to the body "strongly deplures" the downing.

"It is important to the United States to get action on this heinous crime and to have the international community make clear this is a major breach of international law," Albright said. "It is a criminal act."



Taken to safety

A fireman rescues a boy from an apartment fire in Taichung, central Taiwan. The fire killed 13 people yesterday.

Bomb victim buried in N.J.

A young American couple were among the victims of a deadly bus bombing in Jerusalem.

By JEFFREY GOLD
Associated Press Writer

TEANECK, N.J. — They came to Sara Duker's funeral in her hometown yesterday with tears, prayers and memories.

Memories of an honors graduate, fluent in three languages, who hoped to pursue a doctorate in environmental science.

Memories of a sister who liked to wear purple sneakers.

Memories of a daughter who returned to Israel because she was devoted to Judaism and a young man, Matthew M. Eisenfeld.

Duker, 22, and Eisenfeld, 25, died together Sunday when a bomb ripped apart a crowded bus in Jerusalem, killing 25 others.

Their coffins traveled together from Tel Aviv aboard an El Al Israel Airlines jet, arriving early yesterday morning at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York.

Rabbi Kenneth Berger led services for Duker at Congregation Beth Shalom.

Nearly 900 people crowded into the synagogue and about 200 others stood outside listening on loud speakers to the service. Gov. Christie Whitman and Colette Avital, counsel general of Israel in New York City, attended.

Before the service, Duker's two younger sisters and her mother read a statement to reporters. The Duker family was flanked by Eisenfeld's parents and their daughter.

Duker's mother said she knows both her daughter and Eisenfeld would condemn all hate and violence and encourage acts of peace.

"Their lives were filled with blessings. Their deaths were tragic and senseless," she said.

The family was comforted that the couple was where they wanted to be, doing what they wanted to do, pursuing their dreams together, she said.

"The Duker and the Eisenfeld families hope the beautiful way our children lived will be remembered much more than the way they died," Duker's mother said.

The rabbi chose a passage from the prophet Amos that he said represented Duker's life: "Seek good and not evil so you may live." Berger added that Duker "chose life in everything she did."

Tal Weinberger, a friend of Duker's, said Duker was not just concerned with Israel and the Jewish faith, but about homelessness and environmental issues.

"She always helped no matter how hard it was," he said.

Services for Eisenfeld are to be held 1 p.m. today at Beth El Temple in West Hartford, Conn. Duker and Eisenfeld will then be buried in adjoining plots at a cemetery in Avon, Conn., the Weinstein Funeral Home said.

NASA's problems continue

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The plot thickened yesterday: NASA managed to communicate with the escaped satellite-on-a-cord and discovered it had a dead computer and an empty gas tank.

"There has been an event on the satellite that we do not understand yet," Mission Control told the astronauts aboard space shuttle Columbia.

NASA officials said they were uncertain whether the satellite problems were connected to Sunday night's break in the 12-mile cord.

All data indicated the satellite was fine when it broke loose from Columbia and for at least 30 minutes afterward. Stray voltage or circuitry trouble may have caused the satellite systems to malfunction, NASA said.

"It's a very interesting puzzle," said NASA's Anthony Lavoie, chief engineer for the satellite. "We don't have all the answers right now."

Engineers at Johnson Space Center in Houston sent radio commands to the satellite as it soared overhead, hoping to find clues as to what caused the copper, nylon and Teflon cord to snap without warning.

NASA was surprised to find that one of the main

computers and a gyroscope were not working and that valves on both nitrogen-gas thrusters were open. All 100 pounds of gas had spewed out.

Controllers later managed to turn on that gyroscope and closed all thruster valves on the wobbly craft, which was dragging 12.2 miles of cord. They also activated all four science instruments on the satellite to monitor surrounding electrical and magnetic fields as well as the motion of the satellite and the tether.

The fact that it's working at all is "extraordinary despite all that it's been through," said astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman.

The half-ton satellite — the heart of what was a \$400 million-plus experiment to generate electricity in orbit — has enough battery power to allow communication for another one or two days.

After that, it will be an expensive piece of space junk. NASA said it is too perilous to send the shuttle after the satellite — its dangling cord could wrap itself around the spaceship, endangering the seven astronauts.

NASA expects the satellite to re-enter the atmosphere and burn up in three to four weeks. Until then, the satellite and cord will be visible to the naked eye at times from the southernmost portions of the United States, Hoffman said.

Middle-class economy arouses debate

By DAVID ESPO
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Republican and Democratic leaders offered contrasting prescriptions yesterday for the economic anxiety afflicting the middle class, signaling an election-year debate in Congress on an issue that has helped Pat Buchanan rise in the GOP presidential race.

"I lay the blame for America's anxiety at the feet of this administration," said House Majority Leader Dick Armey, who said workers are victimized by a "Clinton crunch."

He said his party would push for tax cuts for families with children, a reduction in capital gains taxes, less government spending and fewer regulations.

For his part, House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri said both parties were to

blame for ignoring the issue too long. "The era of deficit politics is over," he said. "But the era of income politics is about to begin."

He said the Federal Reserve should permit the economy to grow faster, rather than limit growth "even when there is no legitimate fear of inflation."

Gephardt said other measures are needed to make international trade fairer to American workers, give workers greater access to benefits, education and training, and force corporations to take responsibility for "people as well as profits."

The two men spoke as lawmakers returned to Washington after a break of three weeks, ready to pick up the unfinished business of the first Republican-controlled Congress in 40 years.

White House was possible within a couple of weeks.

He and other GOP leaders met to discuss whether to attach a tax cut, welfare reform or other legislation to a bill needed to avert a government default next month.

Other senior lawmakers met in the Capitol with White House chief of staff Leon Panetta for talks centering on a bill needed to head off a partial government shutdown on March 15. Republican officials said the White House asked for \$8 billion more in domestic spending than the GOP favors.

Armey and Gephardt delivered their speeches in a political atmosphere that has been transformed since lawmakers left town. In the interim, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas, long the front-runner, has stumbled in the presidential race, acknowledging that he underestimated the importance of jobs-related issues.

Bosnian Serb sanctions lifted

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC
Associated Press Writer

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina — The United Nations and Serb-dominated Yugoslavia lifted sanctions against Bosnian Serbs yesterday as a reward for accepting peace.

The U.N. suspension was announced in New York by the Security Council president, U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright. It came after the council received a letter from NATO certifying that the Bosnian Serbs had withdrawn their forces from buffer zones established under the Dayton peace agreement.

The Yugoslav move, announced by the official news agency Tanjug, aimed to ease tensions between the Bosnian Serbs and President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, Yugoslavia's most powerful politician.

The sanctions, imposed at Milosevic's behest 18 months ago, marked a formal end to Serb-dominated Yugoslavia's support of the Bosnian Serb war effort. Milosevic turned against the war in an effort to get U.N. sanctions against his own country lifted.

The U.N. sanctions on Yugoslavia were lifted in November, after Milosevic initialed the

Bosnian peace plan. But all U.N. members except Russia kept their sanctions on Bosnian Serbs in place. Moscow lifted them last week.

Nikola Koljevic, the No. 2 man in the Bosnian Serb hierarchy, said a suspension of U.N. sanctions was "important for the strengthening of peace."

Koljevic has been one of the main Serb contacts for international organizations ordered to shun Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic because he has been indicted on war crimes charges. NATO troops are supposed to arrest him and other indicted suspects if they encounter them.

But international mediators and Bosnian politicians gathered in Banja Luka's city hall yesterday at the same time Karadzic was in the building. Heavily armed British troops from the NATO-led peace force even sealed the building as a security measure for the meeting. They appeared unaware of Karadzic's presence.

An end to the sanctions was delayed after the Bosnian Serbs began boycotting the NATO-led Bosnian peace force and other international organizations several weeks ago to protest the arrests of two Bosnian Serb officers on suspi-

cion of war crimes. NATO officials say ties with the Bosnian Serbs have been restored.

Brig. Gen. Andrew Cumming, a senior NATO spokesman, said any new defiance would lead to the resumption of sanctions.

Tensions in Sarajevo remained high yesterday, with Serbs continuing to leave suburbs they held during the war rather than submit to the authority of their wartime foes. Thousands of Serbs have fled over the past week, partly out of fear of reprisals.

Their evacuation has also been caused by pressure from Serb leaders who are intent on showing that Bosnia's ethnic groups cannot live together.

The mass movement was spawning another humanitarian crisis, the International Red Cross warned, announcing an emergency program to assist up to 25,000 of the neediest refugees.

The Serb exodus from Sarajevo marks the latest of the population shifts that have been the hallmark of Bosnia's war.

The northwestern suburb of Vogosca came under control of Muslim and Croat police on Friday. Nearby Ilijas is to be transferred by Saturday in the plan to reunify the capital by March 19.



A Bosnian Serb woman is comforted by a neighbor. The woman learned yesterday that she does not have a seat on the bus sent to evacuate Serbs in the suburb of Ilijas.