

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I'm all for selecting our instructors when we register for a course, if we can keep the instructors from selecting their students!"

No passengers inside

TWA airliner explodes on ground

By LEE GOULD
LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP)—Despite two searches and the presence of armed guards, a bomb exploded inside an unoccupied Trans World Airlines Boeing 707 jetliner here today. It apparently was part of an extortion scheme which has triggered a worldwide bomb threat against TWA jetliners, authorities said.

The bomb, planted in or near the cockpit, exploded at 3:55 a.m., about seven hours after the plane arrived nonstop from New York with 10 passengers and a seven-member crew. It ripped a huge hole in the front fuselage, hurling debris for 100 feet at McCarran International Airport.

Law officers and TWA officials said they felt the bomb was one of those a mysterious extortionist has said he planted on TWA jetliners in order to get \$2 million in ransom from the airline.

Trained dogs sniffed out a bomb Tuesday in a cockpit of a TWA jetliner en route from New York to Los Angeles after the plane returned to New York. No other bombs have been reported found.

No one had any idea how the bomb got aboard the plane here. It had been searched from nose to tail before leaving New York and upon landing in Las Vegas, said Charles Wyre, TWA general manager in Las Vegas.

In addition, two deputies guarded the four-engine 707 and three other TWA jetliners, of which were parked together in a loading area about 300 yards from the main terminal. The other planes were not damaged by the blast. One deputy was inspecting the plane from the outside when the bomb exploded and he said, "It sounded like dynamite."

Wyre said some TWA workmen had been in the plane to clean it but discounted any speculation one of the men or an imposter planted the bomb. "They all knew each other and work together and they wear identification badges," he said. FBI and sheriff's department investigators refused to talk about the bomb. But Wyre said, "We don't know exactly where the bomb was but it appeared to have been in the back of the cockpit or close behind the cockpit."

There are two restrooms behind the cockpit on the righthand side, the same side of the explosion. Wyre said the door to the cockpit apparently was unlocked after landing.

The deputy who witnessed the blast, Lanis Mills, said: "It sounded like dynamite. I could see pieces of the plane flying through the air. There was a small fire inside the plane but it burned itself out within a minute or so."

A TWA spokesman said the \$7-million plane would be repaired at a cost of "several million dollars."

After the blast the three other TWA jetliners were checked again. A trained dog that can smell out explosives was used. It wasn't used in the earlier search. Nothing turned up.

Air traffic to McCarran was not halted by the explosion, but the airport was sealed off for 90 minutes from the public.

The TWA 707 was scheduled to leave the Las Vegas airport at 7:45 a.m. bound for Kansas City, St. Louis, Cleveland, New York and then London.

TWA made the worldwide bomb search of its jet fleet after receiving the mysterious ransom demand.

Half a dozen planes made unscheduled landings for searches after the discovery of the powerful plastic explosive Tuesday and scores of travelers canceled reservations. Delays of two hours or more were reported in flights.

An anonymous telephone caller had warned of the bomb and directed officials to an airport locker where they found a note declaring that four TWA planes would be blown up at six-hour intervals unless the ransom was paid. But the succeeding deadlines passed without incident.

A TWA spokesman said the money was assembled but there was no further word from the FBI, TWA or local authorities on negotiations with the extortionist or whether any money had been paid.

"The guy who did this knows what he's doing," commented Detective William F. Schmitt of the police bomb section, who defused the device at Kennedy 12 minutes before it was set to detonate at 1 p.m.

The bomb consisted of 5 to 6 pounds of the plastic C-4, a putty-like military explosive "would have blown the apart," Schmitt said.

The plane had arrived at night shortly after midnight on a flight from Los Angeles and remained until 11:30 a.m. off with 45 passengers and a crew of seven for a nonstop flight to California.

The warning call came to headquarters at 11:30 a.m. the time it had been assessed a bona fide threat the plane in the air and 100 miles west of Kennedy.

Telling the passengers only there was mechanical trouble, pilot, Capt. William Motz, sharply and headed back.

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Apathy

Almost 3,000 students turned out to vote in the referendum Tuesday. Judging from reactions to it, the turnout was just this side of great.

This isn't quite the case. This university has reached a sad state of affairs when 3,000 voting out of a potential 14,000 is considered good.

Everybody on this campus has a potential say in what is going on. The method is by voting.

Sure, the Student Senate is regarded as a rubber stamp outfit by many students, and they may even be right. But if it is, the problem lies more with the students than with the senate itself.

Students have to show support for their organizations by voting. By voting wisely they can exert quite a large amount of influence on such bodies as the Student Senate. They can control just who is going to be on it, assure him that he or she is being watched and control the kind of constitution he will work under.

But do they seem to care? Hardly.

Get out and vote. You've blown it this time, but general elections are coming up and there you can make yourself felt. Get up off your apathy.

Judgment shown

The Student Senate showed rare good judgment Tuesday night when they tabled action on censuring the vice-president for business and approved the resolution calling for required search warrants to enter students' rooms.

The senate realized that they had not the information necessary to decide just who was to blame, if anybody was, in the increase in the Memorial Student Center Complex fee.

Several questions were either going unanswered or only partially answered during the debate. By waiting to get more information and thinking a while longer, the senate showed more intelligence than usual.

Something as powerful and personal as a censure should not be approved of lightly. That becomes all the more so when there are still questions unanswered and only hearsay evidence on other points.

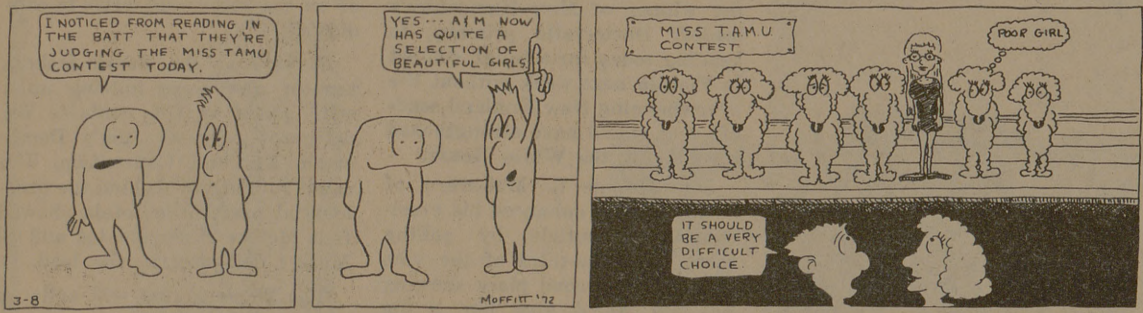
Also to be commended is the senate's judgment in calling for required search warrants to enter rooms and search personal belongings of students.

Though the policy is already in effect campus-wide, by getting it into University Rules and Regulations, the student is protected from variances in personal opinions of those enforcing the rules.

Protection of student rights should be the prime consideration on our rapidly expanding campus. The Student Senate should become a leader in seeing to it that they remain intact.

AARGH!

... John R. Moffitt



The Battalion

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