

the nation

### Airline prices soaring high as CAB OKs new increase

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Braniff International and Frontier Airlines Wednesday were first to file for a 9.5 percent fare increase with the Civil Aeronautics Board to go into effect this week.

The 9.5 percent increase is the third increase the CAB has allowed airlines this year. The board allowed a 4 percent increase in May and a 6.6 percent increase in July.

This increase is more than twice as much as in each of the three previous years.

The CAB voted to allow domestic airlines to increase fares as much as 9.5 percent to meet rising fuel costs.

United Airlines, American Airlines, Trans World Airlines, and five other airlines also have permission to ask the CAB to impose the fare increases this week, the spokesman said.

The board said it approves the latest increases because aviation fuel costs in July rose 6.5 cents, the highest jump this year.

### Sailplane damaged by buffalo

United Press International  
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Practice maneuvers against fictitious foes are one thing, but Air Force Academy Cadet Paul Fulton found out a confrontation with an irate buffalo to be another matter entirely.

Fulton was participating in a Labor Day weekend sailplane meet at the Black Forest Gliderport Sunday when his training flight dropped into a pasture dominated by a herd of buffalo.

The uninvited guest irritated one of the shaggy animals, who trampled the sailplane's plastic canopy, mangled the cockpit and then charged the plane after goring the nose cone.

As Fulton's crew drove up to reclaim the tattered remains the buffalo made a farewell charge, butted the plane's side and punched a hole in the fuselage.

Undaunted by the massive amount of damage, Fulton and his crew hauled the torn vessel back to the gliderport and put in a marathon repair session to ready the craft for Monday's final day of competition.

The sailplane flew. Fulton lost the race.



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

### Shower of sparks

A construction welder cuts through a section of ironwork in the Mechanical Engineering Shops on the Texas A&M campus. The shops, used for many years to teach the "dirty hands" side of engineering, are being renovated.

### If it's only a game where did he go?

United Press International  
EAST LANSING, Mich. — A thumbtack-studded bulletin board, unusually neat dormitory room and a bogus suicide note are the only clues police have in the strange disappearance of a 16-year-old computer genius.

"I just hope he's playing a game with us," one investigator said of Michigan State University sophomore James Dallas Egbert III, who has been missing for three weeks.

Campus authorities said most of the search effort has been concentrated on Egbert's dorm bulletin board and its possible connection with the complex fantasy game Dungeons and Dragons.

Egbert was active in a campus group also called "Dungeons and Dragons." Police said they hoped the club members could help reveal the meaning of the pattern of thumbtacks and colored pins on Egbert's board.

The number of different pins indicates the beginning of the game. "We believe it could be a maze or a map to his whereabouts," said Bill Dear, a private investigator hired by Egbert's family.

Police flew over the MSU campus from an aerial view which might link campus geography with the design on Egbert's dorm room bulletin board.

Hazy weather prevented them from making any connections, Dear said.

"We didn't see anything that resembled anything that looks like the word," Dear said investigators had found a second flight Thursday.

Dear said handwriting experts have concluded Egbert, a native of Dayton, Ohio, did not write what was suspected to be a suicide note and that he was cremated if his body was found.

Dear said he believes Egbert

might not have left his usually cluttered dormitory room by choice.

"His room was neat. His clothes were folded in a military style right down to the socks," he said.

Campus police are not yet certain foul play was involved, he said.

### Some Demos like Mondale, Times says

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Vice President Walter Mondale is being considered by some influential Democrats as a replacement for President Carter if Carter falters in his re-election try, the New York Times reported Thursday.

According to the Times story, Mondale in coming under pressure to run for the presidency and has, in fact, privately voiced dissatisfaction with the administration's handling of important political moves recently.

Specifically mentioned were the cabinet firings in late July, UN Ambassador Andrew Young's resignation and the subsequent internal dispute over Middle East policy.

The Times said that a political associate who saw Mondale recently described him as "fairly disgusted with the politics in the White House — the amateurism of it, the mistakes, the whole confluence of events beginning with the President's return from Japan in early July."

A second associate said Mondale was "very low" about the political outlook while a third said "the problem is that he's not in the inner circle."

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