

Storm damage counted

United Press International
WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. — A shaken Gov. Ella Grasso took a dawn flight Thursday over a tornado-ravaged section of her state only a mile from her home, then said she would ask President Carter to declare it a major disaster area.

"It's every bit as bad as we thought," she said after her tour in one of the few Air National Guard helicopters still operable after the sudden Wednesday storm which ransacked Bradley International

Airport and a nearby business and residential area, killing at least one person.

"I've never seen anything this bad," she said. "The storm struck without notice. When you see the devastation, you marvel that it was contained even to the extent that it was. This certainly is a tragedy of considerable proportions."

The tornado struck so close to the weather service station at Bradley International Airport that there was no warning other than darkening

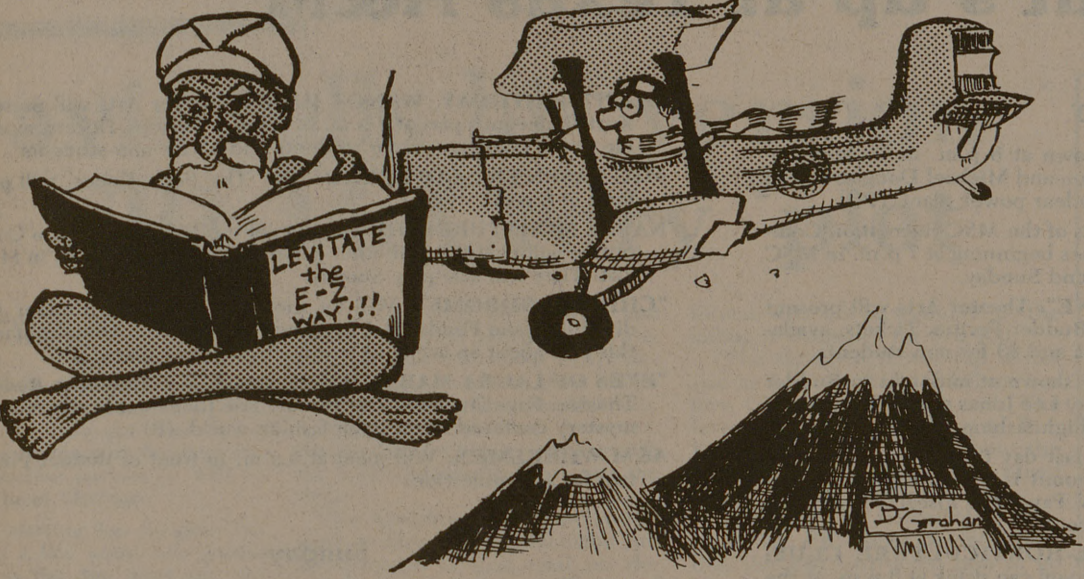
skies Wednesday afternoon. Within moments, one person was dead and 418 others were injured, according to State Health Commissioner Dr. Douglas Lloyd.

He said 300 persons were treated and released at emergency stations and nine area hospitals. Another 118 people were hospitalized, including 10 in critical condition. A search was underway for a woman believed to have been in her home when the storm struck.

Grasso estimated the freak tornado caused more than \$214 million

damage to the business-residential area along the east side of Bradley International Airport, which sustained about \$100 million in damage itself. The Connecticut Air National Guard sustained about \$50 million damage to its aircraft.

Winds measured as high as 100 mph flattened buildings and tossed heavy airplanes and trucks around like so much paper throughout the four-square-mile area less than a mile from the governor's personal home. She said more than 100 buildings were damaged.



Program explains TM benefits to Ags

By LAURA HERTENBERGER
 Battalion Reporter

A transcendental meditation program can improve a person's grades, outlook on life and physical well-being for only \$150.

The International Meditation Society presented step one of its course on beginning transcendental meditation Tuesday night in the Memorial Student Center.

Edgar Blackledge, a Texas A&M University industrial technology graduate, now a part-time TM instructor, explained the basic concepts and requirements of becoming a meditator to about 30 interested Aggies.

Transcendental meditation, based on the teachings Marishi Mahesh Yogi, involves taking the mind from the level of awareness used in daily activity and transcending it to a level of pure consciousness and meditation, Blackledge said. A person who does this for 20 minutes, twice a day, should see results within 2 months, although many

feel its effects immediately, he said.

He said transcending is a perfectly natural ability of the nervous system.

"The reason a person has to be taught to meditate is that even though it's something natural, it's something outside the normal range of activity," he said. "It's like speaking in a way. Speaking is very natural, but a person has to be taught."

He compared learning meditation to learning speed reading. In both cases, he said, a person learns to use his in a new way, although the benefits of meditation are not as marked and specific as those of increased reading speed.

Using himself as an example, Blackledge said he began meditating in 1971, and went from a "B" and "C" student to an "A" and "B" student as a result of his daily meditation.

He said meditating improves the quality and creativity of a person's intelligence and allows an outward

expression of his new enlightened sense of consciousness. A meditator has a better outlook on life and he said this enlightenment improves the quality of his day.

The long-term benefits of meditation are seen in a person's ability to deal with stressful situations.

"A meditator is more aware of the conflicts that are a part of his everyday life, but doesn't let things get to him," Blackledge said.

Blackledge teaches TM in a seven-step course. Step one is the introductory lecture he gave Tuesday night. Step two, is a preparatory lecture dealing with specific mechanics of meditation. Step three is a personal interview with Blackledge. Step four is the beginning of the student's actual meditation. Steps five through seven are group meditations.

The next course will begin on Nov. 6.

Suicide attempt misses, hits in Rio

United Press International
RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — A young woman who jumped from a 10th floor in a suicide try landed atop a newspaper vendor and survived, police said. The vendor was seriously injured.

Rosa Santos Prata, 22, leaped and landed on Jose Carneiro, 42, a newspaper vendor in Rio's Copacabana beach-front district Tuesday.

Carneiro was hospitalized and in a coma with severe internal injuries. Santos Prata suffered light injuries.

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Governors displeased by energy department

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — Southern governors have ended their annual meeting with an unanimous message to Washington and the Department of Energy: Produce or get out of the business.

Energy dominated the four-day conference of the 19-member Southern Governors Association that ended Wednesday with the adoption of four energy-related resolutions, and a vow to continue to try to influence federal energy policy.

The boldest resolution called on Congress to abolish the \$11 billion Energy Department if the agency did not move quickly to stimulate domestic production of all forms of energy, and to resolve conflicting policies that delay conversion from oil and gas to other sources of energy.

It was adopted without discussion or dissent less than 24 hours after Energy Secretary Charles Duncan told the governors he wanted to work with them toward a successful energy policy.

"We're going to continue to address energy as a major concern of this region," said Virginia Gov. John Dalton, the incoming SGA president, "because when you consider

coal and all the other energy sources, we've got about 60 percent of America's energy resources coming out of these 17 states."

The SGA is made up of 17 Southern and border states, as well as the island territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The 17 member states produce 60 percent of America's oil, 80 percent of its gas and 50 percent of its coal.

Only 10 governors were on hand at the final business session that had a peak attendance of 13 state chief executives.

The association also called for removal of regulatory obstacles to the transportation and use of coal and endorsed President Carter's proposal to provide federal dollars to help low-income persons pay their utility bills.

Governors Bill Clements of Texas and Edwin Edwards of Louisiana failed in an effort to replace a resolution by Oklahoma Gov. George Nigh that supported President Carter's oil deregulation policies.

The Nigh resolution was identical to one adopted by the National Governors Association endorsing Carter's oil decontrol program, with its provision to use some of the windfall profits tax for the energy assistance program.

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