

14-year-old tries to design ultimate jet

United Press International
BETTENDORF, Iowa — Fourteen-year-old Scott Braddock spends his free time at his drafting table in his bedroom — researching, poring over blueprints, calculating and re-drafting.

Top design engineers from across the nation advise him on his work through phone calls, letters and tape recordings.

The eighth-grade student knows it will take long hours to reach his goal: To design the fastest and most fuel-efficient business jet airplane in the world.

But if he has his way, his single-engine jet will fly — on paper, at least.

Scott decided last September to design the aircraft for a class assignment in the gifted and talented program of Bettendorf Middle School. Each student was asked to think of an idea for a long-term project.

"At first I didn't know what to do. But then I thought, 'Why not go all the way, so to speak,'" Scott said, adding he always has been interested in flying. "I guess it was just a long

shot, but I wanted to be different."

He mailed his ideas and a preliminary design to 11 major airplane manufacturing companies and asked for assistance and information. Scott said he was doubtful even one would respond. But five agreed to become advisers for his project.

"At first, some of them were more enthusiastic than me," Scott said. "For a while I was worried I was putting a burden on them. But one guy said it was an educational experience for him. No one has designed

anything like this before."

Design engineers advising Scott said they decided to help the boy because they were impressed with his design and his ability to communicate his ideas.

"We thought Scott was a unique young man and we wanted to help him," said George L. Huggins of Cessna Aircraft Co. "We're proud of him having the courage to undertake such a project. If Cessna Aircraft was doing it, it would take years of design."

"A lot of people his age show an

interest in doing something like this, but it's often on a superficial level," said Richard D. Christian of Rockwell International Inc. "He goes way beyond that."

The engineers said Scott's model is unique because it has one engine — a high bypass ratio turbofan, known for fuel efficiency. Similar aircraft of that size have at least two engines.

The 55-foot-long jet — dubbed the Brad 3X-1 — would weigh about 21,200 pounds with fuel, have a

range of about 3,400 miles, carry two pilots and 10 passengers and fly 600 mph at an altitude of 55,000 feet.

"It's the highest and fastest jet in the world besides the supersonic," Scott said proudly.

Scott subscribes to aviation magazines and makes weekly trips to the library to update his design with the latest technology.

"I don't want to build an airplane that might be obsolete before it ever goes into production," he said. However, both Scott and his

advisers acknowledge the Brad 3X-1 may never get off the ground. They simply want it to fly theoretically.

"We are finding out why it's never been done before. We're running into problems," Scott said.

But the expected snags only make Scott work harder. Scott hopes his efforts may land him a scholarship to a technical college and a future with one of the airplane manufacturers.

He also is thinking about becoming a pilot for the Air Force or a commercial airline.

Docs say pot eases nausea

United Press International
CHICAGO — For some chemotherapy patients, marijuana appears to be just what the doctor ordered.

A group of Duke University medical researchers has recommended the easing of restrictions on the use of marijuana for cancer patients because of a new study showing THC, the principal ingredient in marijuana, eases nausea and vomiting brought on by chemotherapy treatments.

The Duke Medical Center researchers found nearly 75 percent of 53 patients tested received relief from nausea and vomiting when treated with THC. The researchers said each of the 53 patients had experienced severe nausea and vomiting from chemotherapy and had not responded well to medication to control vomiting.

In this week's issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association, the researchers said they found 10 patients had no further nausea and 28 patients reported a reduction of at least 50 percent in nausea and vomiting after receiving THC.

Man admits setting fire

United Press International
HOUSTON — Arson investigators said Tuesday they would seek murder charges against a man accused of setting a fire that killed five members of his family sleeping in upstairs bedrooms.

Lee Arthur Bryant, 38, had told investigators and reporters outside his charred duplex Sunday he tried in vain to rescue his wife, two daughters, stepdaughter and grandson after returning home at 1:30 a.m. to find it ablaze.

Bryant was jailed on \$50,000 bond.

"He had been drinking," investigator Otis Owens said. "We don't know how much alcohol he had in him. He said he had been drinking, celebrating his birthday."

Owens said Bryant was charged after "he had made a statement that he admitted setting the fire. He confessed to definitely setting the fire on purpose."

Owens said Bryant had told inconsistent stories about how the blaze began and eventually failed a polygraph test. Plans to place him under hypnosis were canceled after he confessed, Owens said.

"He gave no reason for setting it," Owens said. "He knows definitely he set the fire but does not know why. He admitted he set the fire in two places. He just told us he set the fire but has no memory of what he used, but he knows he went in and started it."

The fire early Sunday trapped Bryant's wife, Erma, 36, her daughters Lisa, 3, Tiffany, 8 and Debra Jean, 19, and grandson Derrick Strawder, 1, in an upstairs bedroom where investigators said the children ran in fear of the smoke.

On Sunday Bryant appeared dazed as he talked to reporters, saying he had been out, "just out," prior to discovering the fire.

Parole veto is questioned

United Press International
AUSTIN — The national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens asked Gov. Bill Clements Tuesday to reconsider his decision vetoing a parole for prison inmate David Ruiz.

LULAC president Ruben Bonilla said Clements' veto of Ruiz' parole was a destructive act, and asked Clements to explain his reasons for the action, and to explain why he did not rely on his staff recommendations, as he usually does in parole cases.

"While I do not condone in any way the crimes that David Ruiz committed, I do believe that this time he should have received parole from the governor. David has credit for almost four-fifths of a 25-year sentence for armed robbery and has been up for parole 10 times," Bonilla said. He said Ruiz has become a symbol for prison reform after educating himself.

Bonilla said Ruiz has had to fear physical reprisals from the Texas prison system since he filed a federal suit in the early 1970s challenging the legality of conditions in the prisons.

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