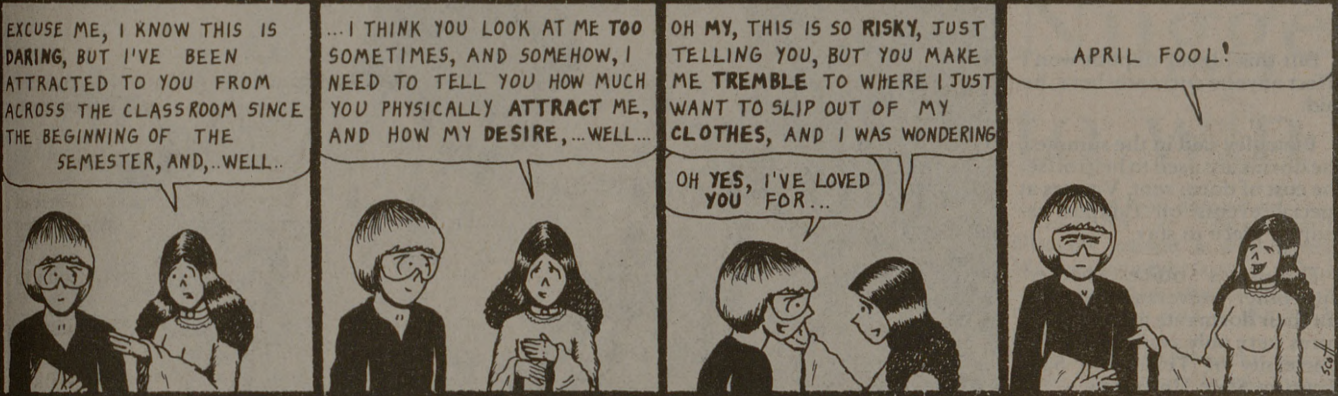


Warped

By Scott McCullar

Faulty control led to four-plane crash



United Press International
LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE, Va. — A jammed stabilizer in the tail of the lead aircraft caused four Thunderbird pilots to crash almost simultaneously into the desert during a practice session Jan. 18, the Air Force said Wednesday.

Gen. Wilbur Creech, commander of the Tactical Air Command at Langley Air Force Base, told a news conference that the Thunderbirds will continue to fly, but will use newer F-16 fighter jets instead of older, smaller T-38 Talon training planes.

tion that included the examination of a videotape taken of the exercise as part of routine Air Force procedure.

The three pilots, trained to mirror their leader, followed Lowry into a fiery crash in the desert 40 miles north of Las Vegas.

The Jan. 18 accident was the worst in the group's history and brought the number of team pilots and crew members killed in accidents to 19.

The other pilots killed in the Jan. 18 accident were: Capt. Willie Mays, 31, Ripley, Tenn.; Capt. Joseph "Pete" Peterson, 32, Tuskegee, Ala., and Capt. Mark E. Malancon, 31, Dallas.

March winds destructive

Weather beats Northeast

United Press International
Rain, snow, tornadoes and March winds roaring at more than 100 mph snapped power lines, endangered bridges and demolished buildings in the Northern Plains and the West. A house collapsed on an Illinois family, and a Wisconsin woman and her son were blown out of their home.

A tornado ripped through southern Illinois, damaging 20 homes and trailers, and at least three twisters skipped across central and southern Wisconsin in the midst of powerful thunderstorms that dumped hail and torrential rains Tuesday.

Three Northern Illinois University students at DeKalb received minor cuts when strong winds blew out a sixth floor window at Grant Towers South residence hall. A faculty member also sustained minor cuts when a window of her car was blown out.

heavy snow snapped nine poles leading to the city's power substation.

"I've asked all residents conserve on water because we can't pump any more in," Faith Mayor Lavonne Butler said. "We have a certain amount in the tower, but if the tower should go empty, we are out of water."

Spring storms swooped through the north and central sections of Indiana, dumping almost an inch of rain and producing high winds that demolished a barn and downed utility lines near Lafayette and Frankfort.

Cherry growers in the Sierra foothills and California's San Joaquin Valley feared damage from hail and cold rain, but said it would be about a week before an assessment could be made.

Police in Ina, Ill., said Gene Kidd, in his 30s; his wife Nancy, 30; son Bradley, 4, and daughter Becky, 12, were injured when their house collapsed on them in a tornado. Mrs. Kidd was in critical condition with head injuries.

Marcia Polkowski, 33, and her son, Chad, 4, were sleeping on the second floor of their frame home in Armenia, Wis., "when they were blown out of the building," witness Roland Huebner said. Both were in stable condition.

"I saw parts of the house flying through the air. Two unoccupied trailer homes nearby were picked up and dropped about 60 to 70 yards away," Huebner said.

March appeared determined Wednesday to leave the way it came in — spawning tornadoes in Wisconsin and Illinois, fierce thunderstorms in Minnesota and Indiana and shattering windows and closing bridges in wind-whipped northern California.

"I've lived in the East Bay for more than 20 years and I've never seen anything like this," said Bob Schinauer, production manager at Svenhard's Swedish Bakery in Oakland, Calif.

More freak storms that dumped up to 5 feet of snow in the western mountains were in the forecast.

Court orders killer jailed

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Dr. Jeffrey MacDonald, whose conviction for murdering his wife and two daughters was reinstated by the Supreme Court, was arrested by FBI agents Wednesday morning.

Hoos said he was not sure whether MacDonald would appear before a federal judge, or immediately be transferred back to the federal prison at Terminal Island.

FBI Special Agent John Hoos said MacDonald had been arrested at his home in Huntington Beach and was being transported to the federal courthouse in Los Angeles, where he was to be turned over to U.S. marshals.

MacDonald, who has been practicing medicine at St. Mary's Hospital in Long Beach since a circuit court freed him last year has steadfastly maintained his innocence through the long years of court battles.

In a 6-3 decision, the Supreme Court Wednesday struck down a ruling that had found McDonald was denied his right to a speedy trial because five years had lapsed between the time of his arrest by the Army in 1970 and his indictment by a federal grand jury in 1975.

The former Green Beret captain claimed drug-crazed hippies burst into his Fayetteville, N.C., home and stabbed his family to death in the early morning hours of Feb. 17, 1970. MacDonald sustained stab wounds, including one that collapsed his right lung.

Quirks in the news

United Press International
STANFORD, Calif. — A computerized joke collection containing dirty, racist and sexist humor has been removed from Stanford's computer system.

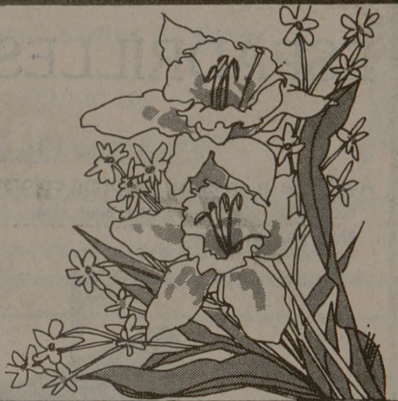
erate the university's computers. "There were jokes in there to offend just about everybody," admitted project manager John Sack. "Hindsight makes us wonder why we didn't clean it out a long time ago."

The collection of more than 13,000 jokes in categories ranging from "clean" to "sick" was purged from the system after an administrator complained about them.

Other files in the system contain recipes and wine reviews and they will be used to train young computer experts, Sack said, but he admitted the joke file had been the most popular.

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