



Isn't he a knockout?

staff photo by Bill Schulz

Rick Gibson, a contestant in the Mr. Aggie contest, walks down the runway with the grace of a professional model.

The contest, held Monday, was a spoof competition to promote the Miss Texas A&M Scholarship Pageant.

Authorities resume talks

Hijackers make demands

United Press International. VALLETTA, Malta — Three heavily armed Libyans demanded food, medicine and enough fuel Tuesday to fly a hijacked jetliner to Morocco but warned they would retaliate against more than 160 hostages if their demands were not met.

The Libyan Arab Airways jet sat Tuesday isolated in a corner of Luca airport, more than 24 hours after it landed on Malta, a small Mediterranean island nation between Sicily and Libya.

After an overnight lapse, Maltese authorities Tuesday resumed negotiations with the hijackers.

Maltese government negotiators were demanding that the hijackers free the more than 30 children on board the plane before considering the hijackers' requests for fuel to allow them to fly to Morocco.

The hijackers identified themselves as Libyans, said they were not terrorists, and added that they wanted to go to Morocco to seek political asylum.

The negotiations were being followed closely by six Libyan government representatives who flew to Malta during the night, officials said.

Meanwhile, the Libyan news

media was ignoring the hijacking of one of its government airliners as if it was not happening. Neither the Libyan news agency Jana nor Libya's government radio have mentioned the incident.

A Maltese official said all the passengers were believed to be Libyan but a voice speaking Italian was heard over the radio.

The official said the hijackers threatened unspecified violence if they did not receive food, medicine and fuel to fly to Morocco.

"If you do not give us fuel without any conditions, you will be held responsible in front of the whole world for what will happen to the plane and passengers, which has never happened before," the hijackers said in a message relayed Monday by the pilot.

The pilot advised officials in the control tower, including Maltese Prime Minister Dom Mintoff, not to order a raid on the plane because the hijackers were heavily armed.

Mintoff, aided by three Cabinet ministers, told the hijackers through an Arabic interpreter that he would not consider their demands for fuel to fly

to Morocco until they freed the children on the plane.

During the night, most of the airport lights were turned off and the white and red three-

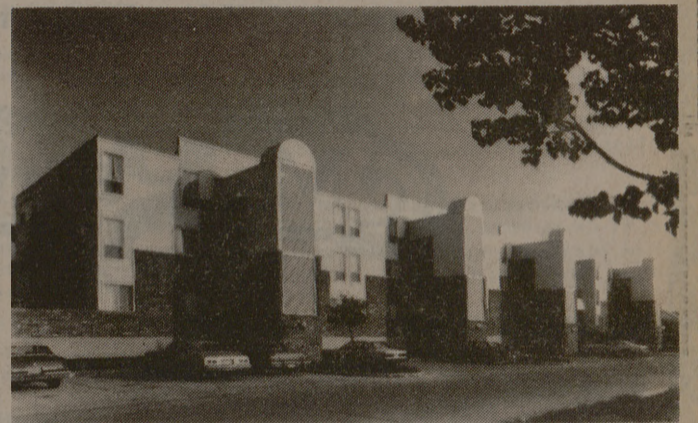
enged Libyan airliner was illuminated by powerful spotlights. The plane was surrounded by police and Maltese soldiers in riot gear.



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Gandhi urges end to violence

United Press International. NEW DELHI, India — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi appealed Tuesday for an end to the acrimony and violence in the northeastern state of Assam, where the death toll in 22 days of anti-election rioting rose above 1,300, officials said.

"Our country is more important than any party, any movement or any one of us here," Gandhi said, interrupting a parliamentary debate on the violence.

Gandhi returned Monday from a one-day tour of villages in Assam where tribesmen slaughtered at least 800 people during the weekend.

Eighteen more people were butchered by marauding tribesmen Monday including one person found hacked to death in Assam's capital of Gauhati bringing the death toll to 1,304 in 22 straight days of violence, official sources said.

Urging the restoration of an atmosphere of peace and brotherhood, she pleaded for an end to acrimony and violence to enable the government to carry out a relief program for tens of thousands of people affected by the unrest.

During her visit to Assam Monday, Gandhi refused to accept moral responsibility for the violence sweeping the oil-rich state.

Covering part of her face with her green sari and visibly shaken, Gandhi visited ravaged villages and toured hospitals where wounded and weeping survivors told her horror stories of the carnage.

The victims of the massacre Friday and Saturday in the village of Nellie and 14 surrounding hamlets were mainly women and children, many of whom were found decapitated or mutilated by spears.



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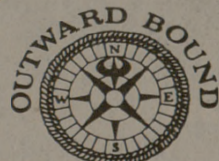
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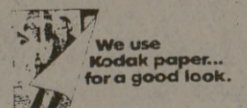
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