

# Decaying Capitol always a problem

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — The U.S. Capitol may be falling down, but the longest running Washington battle — what to do about it — continues.

Americans have been fighting about the place ever since Pierre L'Enfant, the French military engineer who planned the city that was to be Washington, chose Jenkins Hill, which he called "a pedestal waiting for its monument," for the Capitol.

The opening shot in the latest skirmish came last Wednesday night, when a 6-foot by 15-foot section of sandstone slabs on the Capitol's oldest remaining portion fell from a wall into a courtyard.

Construction started 190 years ago, and ever since the Capitol has attracted the passionate attention of politicians who thought they were architects, architects who thought they were politicians and a variety of other arsonists, bombers and demolition experts.

One vice president wanted an outdoor restaurant on the terrace. A former architect of the Capitol, a title more often honorary than professional, wanted to dig up the front yard for an

underground garage and build a bus station under the back steps.

Through it all the Capitol has remained, along with the Washington Monument, an instantly recognizable symbol of the United States all over the world.

The Capitol, which is really five connected buildings, is the property of a whole nation that does things the hard way, under the rules of democratic procedure.

The recent collapse, officially blamed on "normal weathering," exposed the original foundation of the building that was started about 1800. It did not endanger the building, which houses Statuary Hall, where the House of Representatives met between 1807 and 1857.

The incident coincided with action by a House Appropriations subcommittee recommending \$73 million be spent to expand that area of the Capitol. Included in the project would be the old Senate section, built in 1793-1800, burned by the British in 1814 and rebuilt in 1815-1819; the center section supporting the great cast iron dome, completed in 1865; and

the old House section.

The expansion plan would add 147,000 square feet of space by filling in the open courtyards between the existing building and the broad terraces on the west or Mall side of the Capitol. The outer walls of the new construction would be exact copies of the originals, leaving the exterior of the Capitol looking much as it has for more than a century.

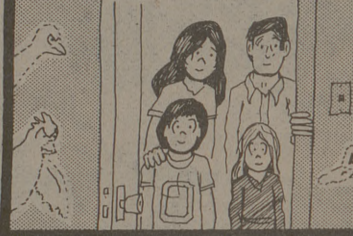
This same method was used to extend the east side of the Capitol by 30 feet in the 1950s, a project that also had people yelling at each other. But that project was ram-rodged by the last of the speaker-pharaohs, Sam Rayburn, D-Texas.

No sooner was that job finished than agitation began to extend the west front, which was said to be rapidly deteriorating. When a chunk of stone fell off the roof in the 1960s, the response was to shore up the entire building with huge timbers, the remains of which still stand in the center section.

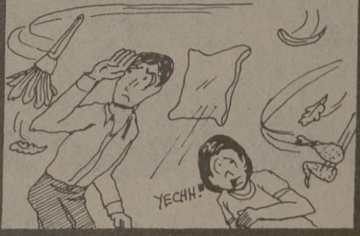
That was followed by a plan to expand the building out over the brow of the hill so that the entire system of terraces built in 1874-1892 would have to be relocated. One great feature of this plan, according to Vice President Hubert Humphrey, was it would make room for an outdoor cafe with a view down the Mall toward the Washington Monument.

## Warped

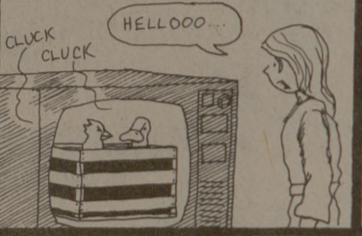
THE FREELINGS HAVE JUST MOVED INTO THEIR NEW SUBURBAN HOME. THEY ARE UNAWARE IT WAS CONSTRUCTED ON THE SITE OF A PROCESSING PLANT FOR VARIOUS KINDS OF CHICKEN, DUCK AND GOOSE MEAT.



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...THE SOUNDS OF PECKING AND SCRATCHING WERE CONSTANT, AND EVERY HOUR A SPECTRAL ROOSTER CROWED FROM OUT OF NOWHERE. BUT IT WAS LITTLE 8 YEAR OLD CAROL ANN THAT FINALLY REALIZED...



## Compute

(continued from page 1)  
quired 19 microcomputers within the past year, he said. This has enabled the college to add two new courses and to restructure another course so students can use the microcomputers.

One of the new courses is

computer literacy, and is offered to undergraduates. In the course, students are taught how to write computer programs in a variety of computer languages. Clark said the course is instruction-oriented and geared toward students who will teach in schools.

The computer-related classes are filled quickly during registration, he said, and many teachers from local public schools take the courses at night.

Clark said the potential for computers in education is great, and he believes that within five years most teachers will know

how to use computer teaching.

James R. Scoggins, head of the meteorology department, said the department has added a course in meteorology — a class in weather analysis and forecasting.

# Hijacker stays in Cuba; airplane returns to U.S.

**United Press International**  
MIAMI — A Capitol Air jetliner hijacked by an elderly Latin man who said he had a gasoline bomb and wanted to go to Cuba arrived safely Monday with 209 people on board.

The Capitol Air DC-8 arrived at Miami International Airport at 6:18 a.m. EDT after a 50-minute flight from Havana, allaying fears of frantic relatives that some of the Cuban-born passengers might be detained.

The Cuban government held only the hijacker and allowed the other 199 passengers and 10 crew members to leave after a mechanic fixed a jammed emergency door.

It was the first domestic hijacking to Cuba in more than a year. In February, a small airliner en route to Dallas from Kil-

leen, Texas, was commandeered to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. No one was injured.

Mariel Lugones, 9, said she was terrified during the flight to Cuba.

"I thought the plane would blow apart and everybody would die. I was crying and praying," Mariel said. "I had a feeling in my heart that something terrible would happen."

The hijacker, who was not identified, was described by passengers as being thin, Latin, 5-foot-5, and between 60 and 65 years old.

Capt. Jeff Miller, 34, the pilot, said Cuban authorities did not find a bomb or a weapon aboard the jet.

The 11-hour ordeal of Flight 236, en route from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Miami and Chi-

cago, began at 7:08 p.m. EDT Sunday 70 miles west of Grand Turk Island when the man said he had a gasoline bomb and would blow up the plane if the pilot did not fly to Cuba, authorities said.

Passengers said the hijacker then locked himself in a bathroom and left a handful of printed written notes in the aisle which said in Spanish: "I have a bomb. Hunger, unemployment, poverty and destitution forced me to hijack this plane to Cuba. I have a bomb on board, enough gasoline and a firearm, a gun. If you land in Miami, I will explode the bomb. I believe in the philosophy of Fidel Castro."

Boyd Mesecher, 50, of Fort Lauderdale, an aircraft company employee on the plane with his wife and two children,

said a stewardess then asked all passengers to sit in the plane until it landed at Marti Airport in Havana, p.m. EDT.

During the flight to Miller said the hijacker quietly opened the bathroom door and tossed out Spanish. One note, Miller claimed the man had set a bomb.

"I never heard the hijacker speak," Miller said. "He wanted to go to Cuba. I guess man may have been upset not getting work."

When the plane landed, passengers slid down emergency chutes and Cuban guards machine guns whizzed and hijacker, unloaded the plane and inspected the plane.

## Letter little latte

**United Press International**  
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Republican Party recently sent a letter to late President Harry Truman, asking him to contribute to the GOP's 1984 congressional campaign and to urge President Reagan to run for reelection.

The letter, sent to Truman's Missouri home, was forwarded to the Truman Library.

It was one of 1.5 million letters mailed by the National Republican Congressional Committee to potential contributors on a computer list, said Steve

Lotterer, the committee's secretary.

"It went to people we might be potential Republicans," Lotterer said. "Mr. Truman was probably on the list because we would like to be publicans. We just were a few years late."

Truman, a Democrat, ascended to the presidency in 1945 when Franklin Roosevelt died. Roosevelt's policies the Republican sought to overturn with the letter.

## DIETING?

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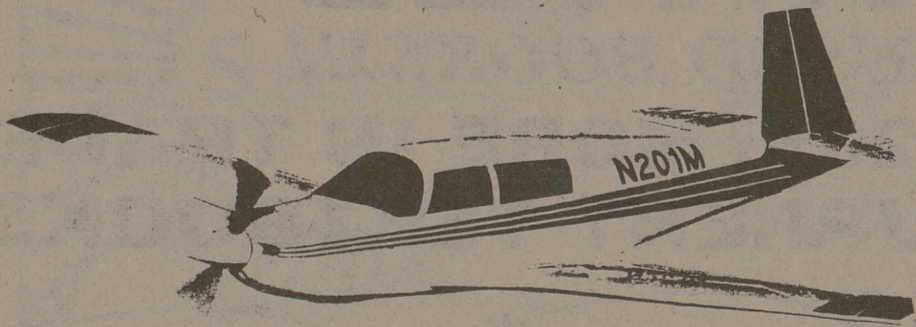
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### SPECIAL NOTICE 1st SUMMER SESSION OPTIONAL BOARD PLAN

Students, on campus, off campus, and graduate, may dine on a meal plan during the 1st Summer Session at TAMU. Students selecting the 7-day plan may dine three meals each day, except Sunday evening; those selecting the 5-day plan may dine three meals each day, Monday through Friday. Meals will be served in Commons. Fees are payable to the Controller of Accounts, Fiscal Office, Coke Building.

Notice dates: Commons will be open for cash business on Registration day, May 30. Meal plans will begin on the first day of class, May 31.

Fees for each plan are as follows:  
7 Day \$195.00 May 31 through July 1  
5 Day \$176.00 and July 5 and 6  
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Meal plan validation will begin at 7:30 a.m., May 31, in the Commons Lobby. Fee slips will be required.



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