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World and Nation

177 bodies found in South African gold mine shaft

Black union accuses industry of ignoring safety standards

Weary rescue crews on Wednesday collected the bodies of miners sprawled along a mile-deep shaft turned into a deathtrap for at least 177 men by a raging fire.

It was South Africa's worst gold

mine disaster.

Five miners were still missing and believed dead after the fire at Kinross Gold Mine released lethal clouds of chemical fumes Tuesday in the No. 2 shaft where about 2,400

men were working.

Survivors told of being trapped, unable to breathe, of clouds of smoke and of their desperation as they watched their friends fall dead. 'Only about seven of us made it to the surface," said Komiti Mmereko, a black driller with one mining crew.

Officials said 235 of the miners were hospitalized with burns, injuries and chest pains from inhaling the fumes that filled the mine after a fire was accidentally started by a welding machine.

The miners didn't stand a chance, according to Dick Grenfell, a 38-year-old Briton who survived the

fire.
"They just ran into a wall of smoke and must have dropped like flies," he said.

Most of South Africa's miners are black and the union representing black miners called the accident "a clear indictment of the industry." A statement said, "It has required tragedy after tragedy and the loss of many lives before the industry and government pay attention to safety

Most of the bodies were found

EVANDER, South Africa (AP) — along a mile-long horizontal tunnel, some in groups and some alone — men who perished as they frantically sought a way out.

From his bed at the Winkelhaak Mine Hospital, Bedron Siphoso said, "The smoke started coming in. Then the oxygen was gone. I couldn't breathe

Trucks drove in and out of the mine compound, and men with hoses washed dust from the hoist cage that brought bodies to the sur-

Jacobus Olivier, general manager of the mine 62 miles southeast of Johannesburg, gave the official casualty figures. He said that of the dead, five were white and 172 were black migrant workers from tribal homelands and neighboring black

He said government engineers were removing samples of the materials that had burned in the fire to determine which one spewed the killer gases. Olivier said the source could have been a polyurethane foam used to help seal structural bracing in the tunnels

Workers were welding a broken rail used by small trains to transport ore when the fire broke out. Olivier said an acetylene gas cylinder caught fire, and the blaze spread to the walls covered with the polyurethane

The fumes killed all the victims, he said.

The accident occurred just days after the Chamber of Mines, the association of mining companies, reported its best safety figures ever for gold mines.

Meese seeks new law on immigration, links aliens to drug trade

WASHINGTON (AP) - Attorney General Edwin Meese III, pressing Congress to overhaul the immigration law, on Wednesday linked drug smuggling with the in-flux of illegal aliens across the Southwest border.

Border Patrol narcotics seizures, largely in the Southwest, now top 1,000 a year and are worth \$150 million, a 15-fold increase since 1981, Alan C. Nelson, commissioner of the

Immigration and Naturalization Service, said at a news conference with Meese.

Meese said, "The reality is that illegal immigration is contributing to sis. the drug problem.'

He said drug smugglers "get lost in the crowd" of aliens crossing the border and that in some cases the gration.

traffickers are pressing aliens to carry drugs.

The fewer illegal immigrants you have, the less you're going to have them involved in illegal drug traf-ficking," the attorney general said in urging passage of immigration over-haul legislation lying dormant in

Meese said "my concern . . . is that we have an historic opportunity to tackle these two critical problems in America and that this opportunity may slip away during the next three weeks (before Congress adjourns) if action is not taken on an urgent ba-

The legislation would fine employers who hire illegal aliens to discourage a new wave of illegal immi-

Evangelist sets rules for presidential bid

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Rev. Pat Robertson said Wednesday that he will run for president if 3 million registered voters show their support for him during the next 12 months with their work, prayers and

At a news conference before he was to address a rally at Constitution Hall, the television evangelist said, "If that many people were truly active in support of any candidate, it would virtually guarantee victory."

Robertson refused to set any financial goal for his effort, but said he would be "reluctant, if I can possibly avoid it, to accept federal funds."

He said that if elected, "I would become president of all the people and as such could not judge any of the people on the basis of their reli-

In remarks prepared for delivery to the rally, Robertson concluded by

"If by Sept. 17, 1987, one year from today, 3 million registered voters have signed petitions telling me that they will pray — that they will work — that they will give toward my election, then I will run as a candidate for the nomination of the Republican Party for the office of president of the United States of

Dow Jones closes mixed: average drops 9.14 points

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock prices turned in a mixed showing for the third straight session Wednesday as the market continued its struggle to pull out of last week's nosedive.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials dropped 9.14 to 1,769.40, while most other, broader market measures posted gains.

Volume on the New York Stock Exchange came to 141.04 million shares, against 131.18 million in the previous session. With the Dow Jones industrial av-

erage as a gauge, it was the market's weakest session this week, after gains of 8.86 on Monday and 10.96 on Tuesday.

But by many other standards, it was the best day on Wall Street since the selling rush that hit last week. More NYSE issues posted gains than losses for the first time since Sept. 4, when the Dow stood at a record closing high of 1,919.71.

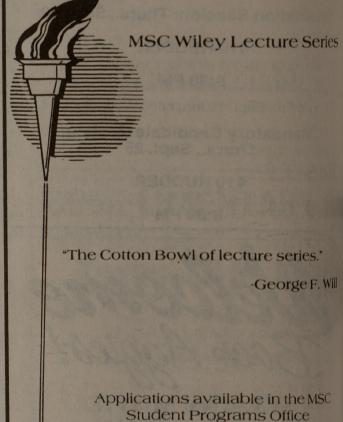
Analysts said the market was benefiting from some tentative "bargain-hunting" by traders.

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