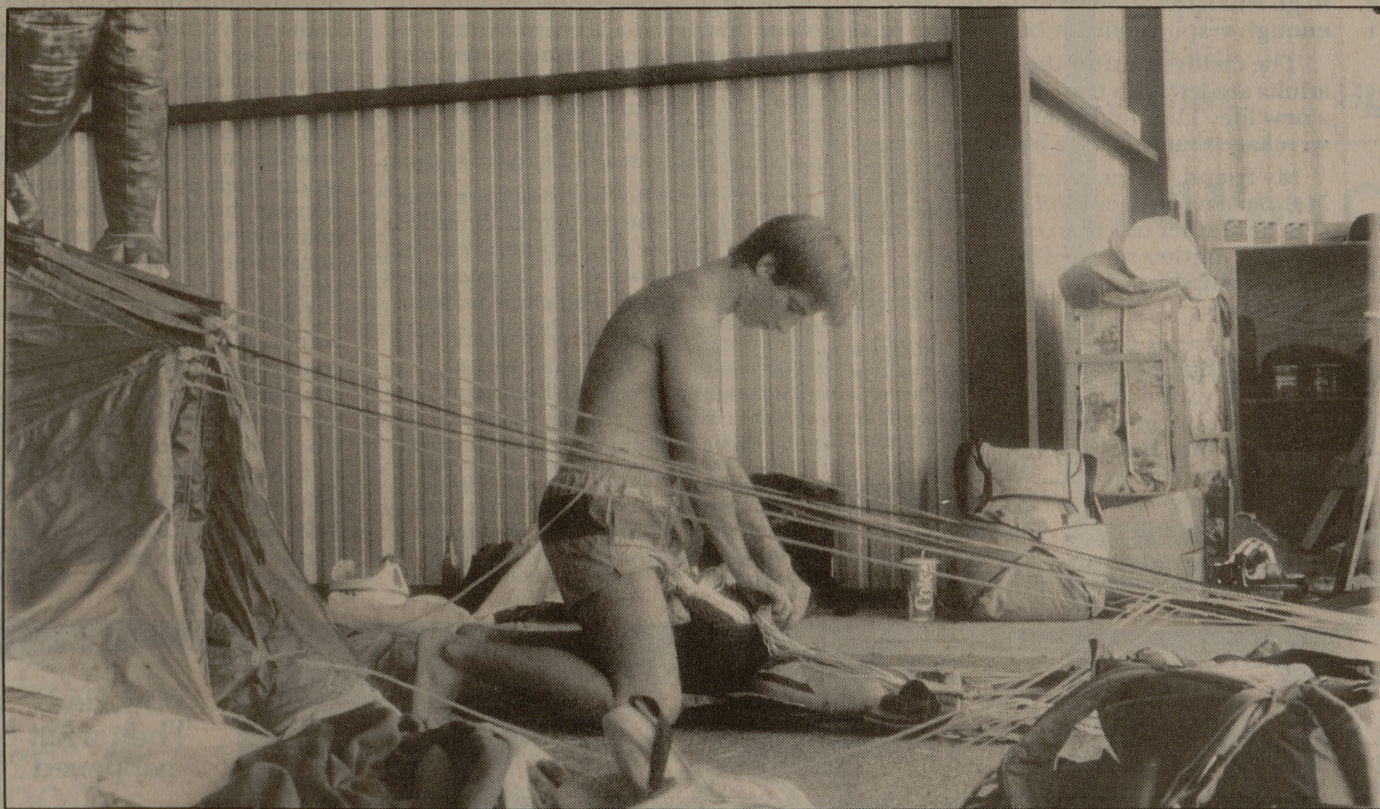


# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Pack Rat

Don Griffiths, a sophomore electrical engineering major, packs a parachute after a skydive at the Aggies Over Texas Inc. skydiving center

at Coulter Field. Griffiths has been jumping from airborne airplanes for about a year and has logged close to 70 jumps.

Photo by Rodney Rather

## Investigators comb wreckage for clues to jetliner's fatal crash

ROMULUS, Mich. (AP) — Teams of federal investigators crisscrossed the scorched crash site of a Northwest Airlines jetliner Tuesday, while grieving families began the process of identifying the bodies of up to 157 people killed in the crash.

One man marveled that his 4-year-old granddaughter was the lone passenger to survive Sunday's fiery tragedy, while relatives of other passengers were warned that some of the mutilated bodies might never be identified.

"If you have a mass of body parts and none of them have an identifiable item on them it's going to be impossible to identify," said Inspector Richard Stover of the Wayne County Sheriff's Department's emergency management division.

No official death toll had been issued Tuesday, but unofficial tallies placed it at 157.

That was 154 of 155 people on the plane and at least three killed on the ground.

A team of 100 investigators, including experts from the federal government and the companies that made the plane and engines, worked at the crash site for the second day, plotting the position of large pieces of wreckage and bodies.

John Lauber, one of five members of the National Transportation Safety Board, refused to theorize about the cause of the crash, saying "we haven't ruled out anything at this point."

The flaming plane skidded under

## FAA records show airplane had earlier engine problems

WASHINGTON (AP) — The ill-fated Northwest Airlines jetliner that crashed near Detroit was plagued with engine problems on at least three previous flights that forced pilots to turn back, Federal Aviation Administration records show.

But in two of the incidents, involving turbine blade failures, the problem engines were replaced for repair and likely were not involved in Sunday's crash that killed at least 154 people, the records indicate.

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board, meanwhile, began backing away from the possibility that a catastrophic engine failure caused the crash.

NTSB board member John Lauber said there is no physical evidence of an uncontained engine failure, but a less-severe engine problem has not been ruled out. An uncontained failure means engine parts break free of the engine's outer skin and potentially damage critical parts of the plane such as the control system.

In each of the three earlier inci-

three viaducts, two freeway overpasses, and a train trestle Sunday night after taking off from Detroit Metropolitan Airport on a flight to

dents, which occurred between November, 1985 and last January, the troubled engine was shut down and the plane landed safely on the remaining engine.

The plane, a twin-engine McDonnell Douglas MD-80, was designed to be able to fly on one engine.

The MD-80 that crashed seconds after takeoff from Detroit Metropolitan Airport was purchased in 1982 by Republic Airlines, which merged with Northwest Airlines last year.

Records at the FAA's Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City show a total of eight in-flight incidents involving the plane since 1984, including two engine turbine blade failures in the Pratt & Whitney JT8D 200-series engines and one incident involving low engine oil pressure.

Other incidents reported to the FAA included a blown tire and a malfunctioning sensor on the main landing gear.

Redmond Tyler, a spokesman for Northwest Airlines, emphasized that the previous engine problem likely had no bearing on Sunday's accident because the engines involved in those incidents had been replaced.

Phoenix, Ariz., and suburban Los Angeles.

The lone survivor, Cecilia Cichan, of Tempe, Ariz., was listed in critical

condition at an Ann Arbor hospital with third-degree burns over 29 percent of her body. She was identified by her grandfather, Anthony Cichan, of Maple Glen, Pa., who recognized her chipped tooth and purple nail polish.

"Her mother shielded her, and that is what saved her," Cichan said.

Rescue workers found her under what was believed to be her mother's body. The girl's parents and 6-year-old brother were killed in the crash.

Northwest, based in the Minneapolis suburb of Eagan, Minn., flew in the last of the victims' relatives Tuesday and put them up in airport hotels, where they gathered together and talked to clergymen while awaiting identification of the bodies.

"What we're mainly doing is being sensitive to what's happening," said the Rev. Lowell Lawson, one of about a half-dozen chaplains consoling the families. "We do a lot of listening."

A Northwest official, who declined to be identified, said the company had brought in about 300 victims' relatives from the United States and Canada.

Interstate 94, a major Detroit artery, was closed after the crash and the Michigan Department of Transportation said the freeway should be closed for two to three days until the crash site is surveyed and the debris removed.

Police took six people into custody Monday night for entering the crash site.

## U.S. journalist gets freedom out of Beirut

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — American journalist Charles Glass said he locked up his snoring Moslem kidnappers in a Beirut apartment before dawn on Tuesday and escaped to freedom after two months' captivity.

Syrian troops, whose government claimed a hand in Glass' freedom, whisked him from Beirut to Damascus, the Syrian capital, where he was handed over to U.S. Charge d'Affaires David Ranso.

Glass, 36, left Damascus in a chartered jet for London at 8:48 p.m. to be reunited with his wife, Fiona, and five children, official sources at Damascus airport reported. Reporters were barred from the airport when the plane, provided by the American ABC television network, took off.

"I feel good," a beaming Glass said when he was turned over to Ranso by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa. "The people who really suffered were my wife and children. All I want to do now is get home, see my wife and children."

The tall, dark-haired reporter, originally from Los Angeles, looked tired but in good shape after his 62-day ordeal.

Hours earlier, he had fled from the south Beirut neighborhood of Bir el-Abed, a stronghold of pro-Iranian Shiite Moslem militants.

Sharaa said the Syrians had a hand in getting Glass out of captivity, but he gave no details.

A Syrian source, who is closely connected with the Syrian military based in Lebanon, said Glass' Shiite Moslem kidnappers allowed him to get away "so they would not appear to have bowed to Syrian pressure" to free the American.

The source spoke on condition of anonymity and there was no independent confirmation of his version of the escape.

However, presidential spokesman Jibrane Kourieh told the Associated Press that Gen. Vernon Walters, the United States' special envoy and U.N. ambassador, had telephoned President Hafez Assad "and expressed his thanks and the thanks of the U.S. administration as to the Syrian effort to obtain the release of journalist Charles Glass."

Walters also "expressed his deep gratitude and pleasure as to the results obtained by Syrian diplomacy in this field," Kourieh said.

Glass said he had escaped by his own devices.

Glass, on leave of absence from ABC to research a book on Lebanon, was kidnapped June 17 with Ali Osseiran, son of Lebanon's defense minister, and his bodyguard-driver by 14 gunmen in south Beirut.

## Captors release former student held as hostage

From Staff and Wire Reports  
HOUSTON (AP) — A former Texas A&M student held hostage for more than three months by rebel forces in Mozambique was freed Tuesday morning, aides of U.S. Rep. Tom DeLay, R-Sugarland, said.

Kindra Bryan, a Houston nurse kidnapped by RENAMO rebels along with six other people May 13 from a rural missionary clinic in Mozambique, was in the custody of the U.S. State Department after being freed Tuesday, the aides said.

The aides said the rebel forces walked Bryan across the border between Mozambique and Malawi Tuesday morning. But Bryan's mother, Mary Jo Free, said the State Department told her a Christian group may be responsible for Bryan's release.

Free also said she spoke with Bryan briefly by telephone.

"She says she's fine," Free said in a telephone interview from her home in Wellborn. "She said they'd been walking about 12 hours a day the last

few weeks. Altogether they'd walked about 300 miles.

"She said she hadn't brushed her teeth for three months. She sounded pretty good but the connection wasn't very good."

Free said the State Department told her just last week that the release of her daughter in the near future wasn't promising.

"We were a little discouraged," she said. "We felt it might be a while."

Bryan graduated from Bryan High School in 1978 and attended Texas A&M for two years before transferring to the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, where she graduated with honors in 1983.

RENAMO rebels had earlier denied that the seven were kidnapped, saying instead that the guerrillas evacuated the group to safety from an area of heavy fighting.

The rebels also had said she was captured in order to keep the Mozambique government from abducting her and blaming it on the rebels.

## Health officials set to conduct first human trials

# Scientists announce possible AIDS vaccine

WASHINGTON (AP) — In what they called a first step on the long road to a vaccine to prevent AIDS, health officials announced Tuesday the first human trials in this country of such an experimental vaccine.

Scientists said they have begun soliciting the 81 volunteers who will take part in the test, which will run from six months to a year, and that the first subject could be vaccinated as early as next month.

The prototype vaccine, made by MicroGeneSys Inc., a drug and biological products firm in West Haven, Conn., is the first of several similar candidate agents to win approval from the Food and Drug Administration for clinical trials.

The tests, which will be conducted at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center in Bethesda, Md., are designed solely to determine the safety of the potential vaccine and whether it raises any kind of immune response against the virus that causes AIDS, officials said.

The question of whether the preparation, derived from an inert pro-

tein from the virus which causes AIDS, will prevent people from getting the disease will be addressed in future studies, said Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the NIH unit sponsoring the trial.

Vaccines made from inactive proteins of the virus are safe for volun-

*"It will be a considerable time, probably the mid-1990s, before any (AIDS) vaccine, including this one, will be ready for general use."*

— Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, National Institutes of Health director

teers and it is impossible for such a preparation to give anyone AIDS, he added.

Fauci told a briefing that the first test will involve 81 healthy volunteers, including 75 homosexual men, who are not infected with the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

Homosexual males are one of the groups at highest risk of contracting

AIDS, and Fauci said they would be asked to volunteer because homosexuals eventually will be prime candidates for a vaccine if one is developed.

The volunteers, who must agree to follow safe sexual practices and other AIDS-avoidance behavior dur-

ing the trial, will get various doses of the vaccine, and some will get booster injections later, scientists said. Some of the participants will be in control groups and get injections of another type of protein.

Of the six heterosexuals in the trial, three will get a maximum dose of the vaccine and three will receive the control protein, they added.

"This is the first step in what will

be a long process toward developing a vaccine to prevent AIDS," Fauci said in an interview. "It will be a considerable time, probably the mid-1990s, before any vaccine, including this one, will be ready for general use."

AIDS is a contagious and incurable disease that attacks the body's immune system, rendering it incapable of resisting other diseases and infections.

The condition is believed caused by an unusual virus, called human immunodeficiency virus or HIV, that is spread through contact with blood and semen from infected persons. Its chief victims so far have been homosexual men and intravenous drug users.

As of Aug. 10, AIDS had been diagnosed in 40,051 Americans, of whom more than half, or 23,165, have died since 1979, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control. No one is known to have recovered from AIDS.

"Although education is a powerful public health tool for limiting transmission of AIDS, in order to

halt the global AIDS epidemic we must have an effective vaccine," said Robert E. Windom, the assistant Health and Human Services secretary for health, in a statement about the human tests.

Windom oversees the Food and Drug Administration, which approved the testing, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the NIH unit which will oversee the trials.

Franklin Volvovitz, president of MicroGeneSys, said scientists at his privately held company have eight potential AIDS vaccines in various stages of development and plan to be involved in other human tests.

MicroGeneSys scientists reported immunizing hundreds of animals, including mice, guinea pigs, monkeys and two chimpanzees, with the prototype vaccine to be used in the trial and that all responded with good antibody levels.

When the antibodies were tested in laboratory cultures, they neutralized the strain of the AIDS virus used to make the vaccine, researchers reported.

## British say Hess killed himself in jail

BERLIN (AP) — Rudolf Hess, the last member of Adolf Hitler's inner circle, apparently strangled himself with a length of electrical cord after nearly half a century in prison, British officials said Tuesday.

Hess died Monday in a British military hospital in West Berlin at the age of 93. He had been in prison since a bizarre "peace flight" to Britain in 1941 and, for 21 years, the sole inmate of cavernous Spandau near the hospital.

Eugene K. Bird, once the top American officer guarding Spandau, told the Associated Press the one-time Nazi deputy führer tried to commit suicide on four other occasions.

Hermann Goering, commander of the Luftwaffe and one of Hitler's closest confidants, poisoned himself after the Nuremberg war crimes trials in 1946, two hours before he was to be executed.

Soldiers of the four World War II allies took turns guarding Hess for a month each, and Americans were on duty during August.