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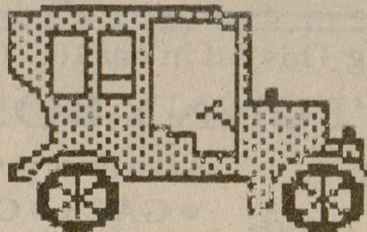
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World and Nation

Air Force general claims pilot did all he could to avoid crash

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The military pilot whose flamed-out jet exploded into the lobby of the Ramada Inn Airport Hotel in Indianapolis, killing nine people, "did everything he could" to avoid the disaster, an Air Force general said Wednesday.

"It's tragic, and I understand the anguish," said Brig. Gen. Joel T. Hall of Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., which serves as the home base of Maj. Bruce L. Teagarden, 35, the pilot who ejected safely before Tuesday's crash.

"But he did the best he could," Hall said. "Air Force policy is to minimize the loss of life in a crash, and as best we can determine that's what he did."

Allan McArtor, administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, said Teagarden acted "rather courageously."

"This is a very tragic accident, and it happened after a pilot rather courageously tried to bring in a crippled jet under adverse weather conditions with a clear attempt to try to avoid loss of life and property and simply was not able to do so," McArtor said.

"When he popped out of the over-

cast, which was only 800 feet, he that he was in a populated area, ejected at the very last moment," McArtor said.

A six-member Air Force crash investigation team spent Wednesday scouring the Ramada Inn where the jet hit.

The last of the nine victims — Ramada Inn employees — was identified Wednesday.

Catholic priest says Contras held him, friend for 11 days

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — A Roman Catholic priest said Wednesday that he and another clergyman held by the U.S.-supported Contras for 11 days were free, and that they had been threatened and treated poorly during their captivity.

Managua, and near Waslala, where Blandon and Tiffer live.

Blandon, in the radio call heard by several journalists, said they were kidnapped by a rebel chief who called himself "Cantinflas."

are cooperating with the Sandinista government... that they have no reason to be in military zones," she said. "It's a dangerous situation."

The U.S.-backed Contras originally denied that it was holding Blandon and Tiffer, who were with a local peace commission when they disappeared Oct. 10.

In Miami, the rebels said Paul Alan Fisher, an American being held since Saturday, would be freed "as soon as there are secure circumstances."

The Rev. Enrique Blandon, a Roman Catholic priest, radioed the Witness for Peace office from Waslala, 118 miles north of Managua, and said he and the Rev. Adolfo Tiffer, a Seventh-day Adventist pastor, had been released Wednesday.

"He threatened us with death and told us we would be in their power because we are dangerous people," he said.

"They did not treat us well," he said. "To walk between six and seven hours a day on roads and paths was true torture."

The Sandinista government has declared a unilateral, partial ceasefire in four small areas of Nicaragua, including a region near Waslala. The dozens of local peace commissions it has set up in the zones have instructions to seek out and discuss truce terms with rebel field commanders.

Contra spokesman Marta Sacasa said in Miami the two were freed in front of several witnesses at a home in El Ocote, about 124 miles north of

The Contra spokesman denied that the two and Fisher, a member of Witness for Peace, had been kidnapped.

"We have advised foreigners who

Contras have rejected the ceasefire and rebel radio broadcasts have warned that the commissions would risk detention if they made contact with rebels.

Scientists find drug that spurs cold defenses

NEW YORK (AP) — A substance that appears to trigger immune defenses against some of the viruses that cause colds demonstrates the feasibility of a vaccine, says a report to appear today.

Researchers found that a synthetic chemical constructed to mimic a portion of a certain virus induced rabbits to produce antibodies against the cold virus.

About 60 percent of 48 cold viruses tested were recognized and attacked by the antibodies, said Joseph McCray and Gordon Werner of the Sandoz Science Institute in Vienna, Austria. A report of their research will appear in Nature, a British scientific journal.

Company gives 'miracle drug' to Third World

WASHINGTON (AP) — Merck & Co., a New Jersey pharmaceutical giant, said Wednesday it will give away what Sen. Edward M. Kennedy called a "miracle drug" to virtually rid the world of a disease threatening to blind millions in the Third World.

fast-flowing rivers, to millions of people in more than 30 developing countries.

"This miracle drug... will restore and preserve the joy of sight for million of human beings," Kennedy said.

Merck Chairman P. Roy Vagelos said the drug, bearing the name Meclizan, was approved Wednesday for human use by French drug officials, clearing the way to begin making it available worldwide.

The company's announcement on its discovery, ivermectin, was hailed by senators and the head of the World Health Organization. The drug was said to offer a cure for "river blindness," spread by blackflies, which thrive near

The sickness causes intense itching, weight loss, disfiguring skin irritations and blindness.

Dr. Halldan Mahler, director-general of the World Health Organization, said "It is no small problem."

Scientists say as little as a single oral dose of Meclizan a year can prevent the growth of the organisms that foster river blindness. Merck experts said the drug all but eliminates severe effects from earlier treatments.

Enrollment

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Errol Cage, associate dean of the veterinary medicine college, said all professional veterinary schools have seen a drop in enrollment over the past few years. He said reasons for this include, thinning out of students caused by new schools that have opened up recently, the high cost of eight years of school and a growing popularity in the business and computer science areas.

University's third highest amount in research funding, \$30.5 million, in 1986, and has the largest number of students, 9,336, enrolled at A&M.

increase of 0.7 percent, losing 143 students.

The agriculture college had the highest amount of research funding, \$61.3 million, in 1986.

"Our professional reputation and quality standards have kept us up in enrollment," Cage said.

The College of Engineering also boasts a quality reputation. Enrollment in the engineering college increased 0.7 percent this year with 65 new students.

Maybe not the largest college, but perhaps unique, is the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, which had an enrollment decrease of 0.2 percent — a loss of three students this year.

Dr. Harriott Kunkel, dean of the College of Agriculture, said a delay in the dispersment of their research funds caused a drop in graduate enrollment.

Kunkel explained the direction many agriculture students are moving.

"The reason a lot of students come to the engineering college is because they think they can find good paying, stable jobs with our degrees," said Dr. Ken Hall, associate dean of the engineering college. "And it's true."

The engineering college had the

"Our college is the most unique on campus because of our mix of students," said Melynda Cloud, undergraduate counselor for the architecture and environmental design college. "We have creative students and technical students. And we have the only majors, barring theater arts or journalism, where students are encouraged to show their creative abilities."

"Production agriculture students are dropping," Kunkel said, "while students interested in feeding people and environmental care and beauty are increasing. Courses concerning social issues are becoming more popular like horticulture, wildlife and fisheries, recreation and parks and forestry."

The plight of the farmer will turn around soon, Kunkel said.

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