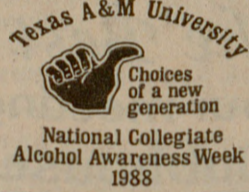


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World/Nation

Ugandan airliner crashes near Rome

ROME (AP) — The pilot of a Uganda Airlines jetliner tried at least twice to land in thick fog before it crashed into houses and trees early Monday, killing 30 of the 52 people aboard, officials and passengers said.

Authorities said the fog and a possible misunderstanding between the pilot and the control tower at Leonardo da Vinci Airport may have caused the crash, which also injured the 22 others aboard the Boeing 707.

Many of the injured were in critical condition with burns, fractures and shock. Wreckage was strewn for a half a mile. Only one of the seven crew members, the steward, survived.

Among the survivors was a British passenger who said he and his wife, holding their 8-month-old son, jumped from the wreckage moments before it went up in flames.

The jet missed the runway by several hundred yards. It tore through a wooden house, clipped a garage, demolished a brick house under construction and plowed through the parking lot of a car rental agency, destroying 75 cars, authorities said.

Only one injury was reported on the ground in the town of Fiumicino, 21 miles southwest of Rome. An occupant

of the wooden house, Carlo Satta, 30, was hit on the nose by a beam as he slept in bed.

The majority of those aboard were Ugandans. The British Embassy in Rome said the passenger list included the names of seven or eight Britons, including a dual national. Two Nigerians were listed among the injured.

By early evening, airport authorities said they did not have all the names and nationalities of the dead.

Flight 775 began at London's Gatwick airport late Sunday and was headed for Entebbe Airport in Uganda after a scheduled one-hour stopover in Rome.

The Italian news agency ANSA said the jet was making its third attempt to land at the seaside airport when it crashed at 12:31 a.m. It did not cite any source.

But one survivor said a flight attendant told him shortly before the crash that the aircraft made one attempt to land, was forced to circle because of the fog, and was about to try another landing.

The passenger, John Harigye, former Ugandan ambassador to the Vatican, told reporters from his hospital bed that he next felt a violent collision and found

himself upside down in his seat and still strapped in by his seatbelt.

The commander of Rome Province's fire department, Guido Chiucini, who helped coordinate the rescue, said the control tower and the pilot might have misunderstood each other since the landing was begun at a very low altitude. He did not elaborate.

But the air traffic controller said there was no misunderstanding, also provided no details.

A spokesman for the airport administration said on condition of anonymity that tape recordings of conversation between the tower and the crew were turned over to authorities.

Authorities also reported retrieving flight data recorder.

World Briefs

Pact assures U.S. of Pacific military bases

WASHINGTON (AP) — Final agreement was reached today on a military pact between the United States and the Philippines that ensures continued U.S. use of crucial Pacific air and naval bases while boosting American aid to the Asian nation.

"It is a very important achievement," Charles E. Redman, the State Department spokesman, said.

Negotiators for the two governments worked on final details until a few hours before the ceremony. "We have reached basic agreement," Red-

man said, saying no details would be left over for negotiators to agree with later.

The agreement covers use of the two largest U.S. military outposts abroad — Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Navy Base — and four smaller installations.

On Sunday, Mangus said the pact included \$481 million in annual payments, other U.S. concessions, an agreement on nuclear weapons and U.S. backing for a bond program aimed at reducing the Philippines' \$28 billion debt.

Rescuers make final effort to save whales

BARROW, Alaska (AP) — Three young whales trapped by ice were battered and bleeding and appeared to be weakening Monday, while a huge military helicopter prepared to tow an ice-breaking barge hundreds of miles in a last-ditch effort to free them.

Rescuers used chain saws to keep two small breathing holes open in the 6-inch thick Arctic Ocean ice, but freezing temperatures threatened to close them. The whales became trapped nearly two weeks ago while migrating south to warmer waters.

The endangered California gray whales, about 24 to 30 feet long,

were bleeding and battered from continually bashing into the jagged ice and were exhausted from swimming against the ocean current to remain in place.

"They don't look as spry, and movements are diminished," Morris of the National Marine Fisheries Service said Monday.

The whales were trapped about 100 miles northeast of this Inupiat Eskimo village. They were only a few hundred feet offshore in 45 feet of water with their largest breathing holes 10 feet by 20 feet.

240 arrested in peace demonstration

WASHINGTON (AP) — About 1,000 demonstrators created a commuter nightmare Monday but failed to achieve their goal of blockading the Pentagon during a boisterous protest of American policies toward El Salvador.

Authorities said about 240 men and women were arrested and reported scattered episodes of fights between police and demonstrators.

The demonstration, sponsored by a coalition of six peace groups, began at 5 a.m. EDT and extended into early afternoon. The protesters succeeded in forcing Defense Department workers to abandon the huge parking lot south of the Pentagon — which normally accommodates 3,700 cars — and to run a human gauntlet through selected entrances to get to

their offices.

Glenn Flood, a Pentagon spokesman, said, "They didn't shut down the building; they just created a lot of inconvenience and long walks."

Police arrested several protesters when they sat in a road to block an itinerary bus from entering the parking lot.

One demonstrator sprayed paint across the front of a bus. Protesters then pushed one Defense Department vehicle to the ground when he tried to arrest the demonstrator and beat the officer before other officers rescued him.

Other protesters went to a parking area used as a helicopter field at the Pentagon, where they set up crosses bearing the names of protesters who had died in El Salvador.

Supreme Court may convict man for burning flag

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court agreed Monday to consider reinstating a criminal conviction in the freedom-of-expression case of a protester who burned an American flag at the 1984 Republican National Convention in Dallas.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals last April threw out the conviction of

the distribution of literature, anyone who observed (Johnson's) act would have understood the message that (he) intended to convey. The act for which (he) was convicted was clearly 'speech' contemplated by the First Amendment."

The state court said the Texas law against flag desecration is too broad because it seeks to curb expression likely to cause "serious offense."

Police officers who arrested Johnson said they were seriously offended by the flag burning.

There also was testimony that the charred fragments of the flag were collected by an employee of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who was so upset that he later buried the flag's remains in his backyard.

But the state court said seriously offending someone is not the same as inciting to riot — an activity that permits restraints on free speech.

"One cannot equate 'serious offense' with incitement to breach the peace," the state court said.

The state court also rejected arguments by law enforcement officials that the anti-desecration statute legitimately preserves the flag as a symbol of unity.

See related story, page 1

Gregory Lee Johnson, who had been sentenced to one year in jail and fined \$2,000.

Johnson was arrested on Aug. 22, 1984, while participating in a demonstration against the Reagan administration and the Republicans.

The protest had culminated with a rally in front of Dallas City Hall that included political chants and the flag burning.

Johnson was convicted by a jury of violating a state law banning the desecration of a venerated object.

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals said, "Given the context of an organized demonstration, speeches, slogans and

Workers find large cracks in jet

WASHINGTON (AP) — A foot-long crack and 29 smaller cracks were discovered by chance on a Continental Airlines Boeing 737 recently in roughly the same area where a similar Aloha Airlines jet broke apart in flight last April, officials said Monday.

Metallurgists from the National Transportation Safety Board were examining the 30-inch section of the aircraft where the cracks were found along a "lap joint," or section where the outer metal skin overlaps, near a window of the first-class section.

NTSB Chairman James Kolstad said the chilling discovery was made by Continental workers Oct. 5 when they began stripping paint from the 19-year-old Boeing 737 to prepare it for repainting.

Kolstad, in a speech delivered to an aviation group in Montreal, called the discovery frightening in part because the cracks were found by chance and because they were in the same general area where the Aloha plane broke apart.

But Federal Aviation Administration officials cautioned against comparing the

Aloha incident and the cracks found on the Continental plane.

One FAA official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the cracks on the Continental jet were found at a point lower on the aircraft near a window and where there apparently had been repair work performed by a previous owner of the plane.

The Aloha incident, which remains under investigation by the NTSB, is widely believed to have involved cracking caused by corrosion, but corrosion does not appear to have been a factor in the cracks on the Continental aircraft, this official suggested.

An FAA spokesman, Bob Buckhorn, said the agency expects to issue a new directive soon to airlines broadening the inspection requirements on older Boeing 737s in search of cracks including increased use of testing by high-frequency electronic equipment. The new rule also will require that the planes be stripped of paint when being inspected, he said.

A spokesman for Continental said the airline inspected all 42 of its older Boe-

ing 737s within 72 hours after the foot-long crack was discovered when the plane was being prepared for repainting at the airline's Los Angeles repair facility.

He said no cracks were found in any of the other planes.

"This appears to be an isolated incident," Continental spokesman Ned Walker said in Houston.

Walker said the plane, which was built in 1969, had undergone a visual inspection for cracks last May 20 in accordance with a directive from the FAA and no cracks were found then.

According to the safety board, the Continental plane had about 55,446 takeoffs and landings. This was considerably fewer than the 89,000 cycles attributed to the Aloha Boeing 737 involved in last April's incident in which a 20-foot section of the plane's roof ripped away during flight.

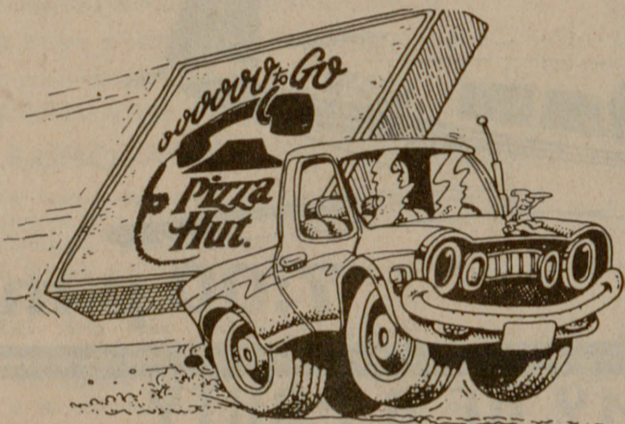
A flight attendant was swept to her death, but the plane miraculously landed safely with passengers and flight atten-

dants clinging to their seats or being sucked through the gaping hole.

The Aloha 737 was the 152nd Boeing assembly line, while the Continental jet was No. 170. Both were built in 1969 and were among the 200 oldest aircraft in the fleet, which was used to fix sections of the fuselage.

Shortly after the Aloha incident, FAA required airlines to conduct inspections of more than 200 other aircraft with more than 200 takeoffs and landings were required to be visually inspected for cracks, with more than 50,000 takeoffs and landings were to undergo inspection with high-frequency electronic equipment.

Although the Continental plane's foot-long crack was found on more than 50,000 cycles the electronic inspection was not required on the aircraft where the crack was discovered, Walker said. The visual inspection of that section of the plane showed no cracking in the



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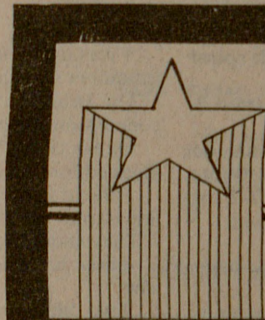
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