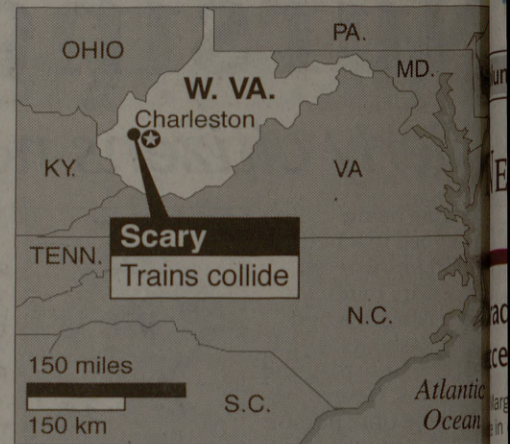


# 6 Train wreck leaves town ailing

SCARY, W.Va. (AP) — People who ran from a fiery crash of a train carrying hazardous chemicals have returned home and some have complained of headaches, dizziness and chest pains. Hundreds of people hid in their homes and others ran for safety when the train rear-ended a coal train and burst into flames late Saturday. An engineer on the train carrying chemicals was killed and two workers received minor injuries. Thirteen cars and two engines derailed because of either human error or a broken signal, investigators said. The collision created a huge fireball and cloud of chemical smoke, causing some in Vintroux Hollow to flee. "We were just sitting there watching TV and there was a big boom, like thunder," said 18-year-old Lisa Cash. "We were waiting for a ball of fire to come in

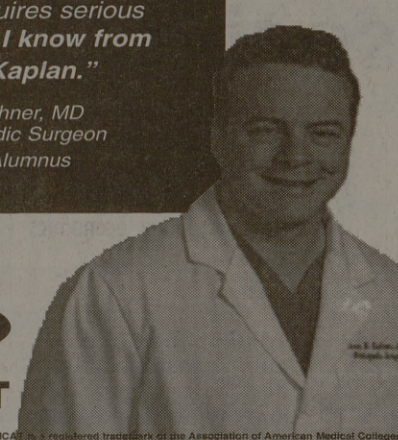
and get us," Beverly Post said. A third train coming from the opposite direction on an adjacent track nearly smashed into the derailed cars, stopping 500 feet shy of the wreck. Hundreds were asked to leave their homes because the tank that exploded contained roughly 20,000 gallons of acetaldehyde, which is used in the manufacture of acetic acid and perfumes. The chemical can substantially weaken the central nervous system when inhaled, according to reference books. Residents were allowed to return home — or emerge from their houses — by Sunday afternoon. Some residents crawled through thick smoke and under rail cars to escape. People who fled were told to discard their clothes because they might have been contaminated. Some complained of headaches and dizziness more than 12 hours after the wreck.



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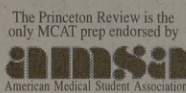
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# Irish Prime Minister Bruton loses election

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Prime Minister John Bruton, who led Ireland through a period of unprecedented economic prosperity, conceded narrow defeat Sunday in national elections. His loss means that opposition leader Bertie Ahern, a 45-year-old populist Dubliner who has vowed to bring peace to Northern Ireland, will likely be tapped to head a new coalition government. The election result is a bit-sweet end for Bruton, though hardly an unexpected one. Ahern was more successful at connecting with the voters and ran a more aggressive campaign. Bruton was the underdog throughout. Though they have different styles, Bruton and



Bruton

Ahern concur on the big issues of the day — cutting crime, taxes and unemployment — and the country's course is not expected to change markedly under the new leadership. With all but one seat decided from Friday's election, Ahern's Fianna Fail, traditionally the largest party, won at least 77 seats in the 166-seat Dail, the lawmaking chamber of parliament. That gave him four seats more than Bruton's three-party coalition, which has governed since December 1994. The reversal fits a trend dating to 1969 in Ireland: No administration, regardless of record, has been re-elected. Fianna Fail, however, will not on its own be able to reach the 84-seat plateau needed to govern. It will require support from its campaign partners, the small Progressive Democrats, who fared badly with just four seats, and a few loose-cannon independents with Fianna

Fail sympathies. Bruton's conservative Fine Gael party won more than 50 seats, but support for his principal ally, the Labor Party, collapsed. He wished Ahern "the best of luck." "It looks as if the Fianna Fail-Progressive Democrat combination has a better chance of getting the majority when the Dail meets," Bruton said on national radio. Even when Bruton became prime minister in 1994, he was considered an improbable choice given that his party had fared worse than expected in 1992 elections. He found himself thrust into the job when a Fianna Fail-Labor coalition collapsed in acrimony. His administration wasn't around long enough to get any real credit for the booming economy dubbed the "Celtic Tiger," which in the past year grew by 5.5 percent — tops in the European Union.

# EU finance ministers downplay latest currency threats

LUXEMBOURG (AP) — European Union finance ministers insisted Sunday that the EU's common currency will start as scheduled on Jan. 1, 1999, despite fresh doubts about the ability and willingness of France and Germany to stick to the monetary union plan. Election promises by France's new leftist government and Germany's failure to plug a \$11.8 billion budget shortfall are fueling speculation that the EU will have to postpone the launch of the euro, as the currency is called, or risk having its new currency emerge as a financial weakening. Ministers arriving for a specially arranged dinner on the eve of their

"I've received not the slightest indication that a postponement is being contemplated, absolutely not."

Ruairi Quinn  
Irish European Finance Minister

regular monthly meeting Monday moved swiftly to dispel those doubts. "The euro will be launched on Jan. 1, 1999 and France and Germany will be members," said Luxembourg's Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, who also serves as

finance minister. "I've received not the slightest indication that a postponement is being contemplated, absolutely not," added Ireland's Ruairi Quinn. The ministers were looking to their new French colleague Do-

minique Strauss-Kahn to use his European debut to confirm Paris' commitment to the single currency. Strauss-Kahn declined to answer journalists' questions. His Socialist-led government says it still wants the euro to start on time. But it won elections last week on pledges not to impose unpopular tax hikes and spending cuts considered essential for France to cut its budget deficit to levels required for entry into the EU currency bloc. Instead, Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin has called for a "flexible" interpretation of the criteria for joining European Monetary Union.

# Private militia makes advances in Congo capital; foreigners flee chaos as anarchy overcomes city

BRAZZAVILLE, Republic of Congo (AP) — Foreigners fleeing fighting in the Republic of the Congo said Sunday that a private militia had gained the upper hand after four days of street clashes with government forces. What began Thursday as an attempt by government forces to disarm members of a 5,000-strong private militia has evolved into anarchy and a full-scale battle for control of the capital, Brazzaville, the witnesses said. Fighting and looting raged Sunday, as the militia loyal to former leader Gen. Denis Sassou-Nguesso seized radio and television stations in the capital and expanded their control to the city center from their strongholds in the northern districts of the capital. At least one French soldier and two government soldiers have died in the violence. The clashes also forced the U.S. Embassy early Sunday to suspend attempts to rescue American citizens. In Washington, the State Department on Sunday ordered the departure from Brazzaville of all non-essential embassy employees and dependents of U.S. Embassy personnel, adding that it "strongly urges" all U.S. citizens in the Congo to depart.

Americans who took the five-minute shuttle to nearby Kinshasa aboard private planes hired by the U.S. Embassy described artillery exchanges in the streets of Brazzaville and its residents covering in their homes. Jennifer Rikert, a Peace Corps volunteer, remained holed up in her bedroom above an electronics shop in the suburb of Poto-Poto after fighting broke out Thursday. From her window, she said she watched tanks roll by and saw an unarmed man shot dead in cross-fire. At one point, fearing that soldiers would find her, she hid in a closet in her bathroom. "The combination of not eating, not sleeping and being the scariest I've ever been in my life means I'm very glad to be out," said Rikert, 24. Since Friday, soldiers loyal to President Pascal Lissouba have been arming citizens and looting homes, witnesses said. Joseph Harvey, an American missionary, watched from a window as a stream of people ran past his home with television sets, furniture, "even kitchen sinks" balanced on their heads. "It seemed everybody had a gun," Harvey said.

TTAG  
Continued from Page 1  
Obenhaus said students spoke at finance committee hearings and with individual senators. "When they (legislators) get to see the students' faces and see they are affected," she said, "it makes a big difference." Reed said A&M students had more of a presence in Austin this year than in previous years, which helped the process of getting more funding move more quickly. "The legislature could actually put a face with the program," Reed said. There currently are 13 A&M students on the tuition assistance grant program. Although more students will benefit from the program, it is not known how many eligible students will attend A&M.

# Police investigate death of cow forced to drink whiskey

MADRID (AP) — A cow died after it was forced drink four bottles of whiskey at a village festival, prompting a police investigation and threatened lawsuit by animal rights activists, newspapers reported. Police are questioning a group of men witnesses say physically restrained the cow and forced alcohol down its throat in the village 125 miles northwest of Madrid, El Pais reported. Villardefrados Mayor Mateo Perez said the men didn't intend to cause the cow's death, and that when they saw it was in pain they tried to revive it with penicillin, The New York Times reported. Animal rights activists announced plans to file a lawsuit against those responsible under Spanish law protecting animals. Critics complain that some Spanish village festivals are brutal to animals, such as town where geese hung upside-down so passing horseback riders can tear their heads off another event where a live goat thrown from a church bell tower.

## WHAT'S IT LIKE AT THE PLASMA CENTER?

To the staff of the Plasma Center,

I would like to start by saying thank you to each and every employee for making the past three years enjoyable in a professional, efficient and courteous environment. As a donor since 1993, I have been more than satisfied with every aspect of your operation, which allows myself and others to contribute what we can to community service, all the while being serviced by diligent, but relaxed, workers. Everyone at the Plasma Center, from those behind the front counter to the phlebotomists to the supervisors, have made great efforts to insure that each donor feels hygienically safe, as well as keeping the atmosphere light.

Like most, I started coming to the Plasma Center for monetary reasons, but I soon developed acquaintances that appealed to me almost as much as the original need for money, enabling me to look forward to each donation, not only for my wallet's sake but also

to see my friends. Like I commented to someone recently, talking to people at the Plasma Center was like getting mail from a far-off friend that you don't get to do much with, but who you can talk to as often as you write. For those acquaintances and for your continual services. I would like to thank all of those I've come to know and appreciate over the past three years - Emily, and Tracy, Heath, and Marty, Ada and Josie, etc... more I can't remember or those who have gone on to better things.

So, as I graduate from this great University, I bid you all a fond farewell and strong commendations on such a successful blend of quality medical practice and friendly service. Thank you all and have a great summer. Thanks, C.F.

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