

NEWS BRIEFS

McVeigh conspiracy trial gets underway

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — A grand jury investigating allegations of a larger conspiracy and government coverup in the Oklahoma City bombing will hear testimony from witnesses who say they saw Timothy McVeigh with others the morning of the attack.

Among those subpoenaed to testify Monday is Kyle Hunt, a banker who has said he saw a Ryder truck followed by a light-colored sedan driven by McVeigh near the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building about 30 minutes before the explosion. Hunt has said two passengers were in the car.

State Rep. Charles Key and Glenn Wilburn, an Oklahoma City accountant who lost two grandsons in the blast, believe that others besides Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols participated in the April 19, 1995, bombing that killed 168 people. They also allege agents of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms had prior knowledge of a bombing plot.

Federal officials have said they doubt a larger conspiracy and vehemently deny any foreknowledge of the attack.



PHOTOGRAPH: Rony Angkriwan

Investigators will attempt to recreate Flight 800 events

Board says chance of another Boeing 747 explosion is small

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chance of another deadly Boeing 747 explosion could be reduced even before test flights are completed to determine what ignited the center fuel tank on TWA Flight 800, a top aviation investigator said Sunday.

"On a short term, they could take what was a very serious situation, which is the daily flights of 747s, and eliminate even this remote possibility of explosive vapors," said Hall, chair of the National Transportation Safety Board.

The NTSB has recommended either adding cooling to 747s or monitoring temperatures inside fuel tanks to avoid accidents like the deadly explosion of flight 800 shortly after it left New York for Paris a year ago.

“Our agency takes very seriously our responsibility as the eyes and ears of the American people at an accident site.”

**Jim Hall
NTSB Chair**

But the agency has complained that the Federal Aviation Administration has been too slow to implement preventive measures.

"Our agency takes very seriously our responsibility as the eyes and ears of the American people at an accident site," Hall said Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

Though 747s have flown millions of flights, the NTSB has investigated only two explosions in the center fuel tank: flight 800 and a plane in the Philippines that exploded on the ground. In both cases, the weather was hot and the plane's engines had been operating for some time.

Investigators will conduct 10 test flights this week from John F. Kennedy International Airport with a 747 similar to the one used in flight 800, Hall said. They will try to recreate conditions that led flight 800 to explode in a fireball, killing all 230 people aboard.

The aircraft has been set up with monitors to examine six scenarios that could have led to the explosion, Hall said. Four involve mechanical problems, and two could have been intentional.

Team reprograms Pathfinder computer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — NASA scientists trying to eliminate a software bug that briefly disconnected Pathfinder from Earth have reprogrammed the spacecraft's computer in hopes of avoiding a similar glitch.

The NASA team determined that a system overload caused the spacecraft's computer to reset last week, which left the team unable to communicate with the craft for a short time.

Over the weekend, the team reprogrammed Pathfinder to keep working if similar problems recur unless the problems persist. The change should prevent the team from losing contact with Pathfinder in the event of future overloads.

"What we've done is set a parameter (telling it) don't reset if you have problems, the first time," said Brian Muirhead, project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in suburban Pasadena.

Pure Refreshment

FORCE

Continued from Page 1

Boykin also said Bruce encouraged recruits to attend religious services and was kind to them.

"He was just a good man," he said.

Leonard received a Medal of Honor posthumously for bravery under enemy fire in a battle at Komerscheidt, Germany in November 1944.

Boykin said Capt. Marion C. Pugh, Leonard's company commander and Class of '41, said that Leonard was the bravest man he ever saw.

Dorm 7 is named after Leonard.

Although Boykin never met Leonard, he said that Leonard is remembered as a great leader.

"He (Leonard) was active, forceful and had all the leadership qualities

Nikki Rhame, 12, takes a break from the heat at the softball state championships at Central Park in College Station Sunday afternoon.

you could ever find," he said.

Joe Fenton, curator of the Sam Houston Corps of Cadets Center, said the light armor of the vehicles and their speeds of 40-60 mph made them faster than the German tanks.

"They (the tanks) were very mobile," he said, "and they would hide in a position where they could ambush the German tanks."

The tanks used in the Force were four different half-track vehicles: the M-3, with a 75-mm gun; the M-10, with a naval 3-inch gun; the M-18, with a 76-mm gun; and the M-36, with a 90-mm gun.

Fenton said that although the tanks on the Tank Destroyer Force were technologically advanced for the time, Leonard and Bruce used the weapons successfully.

"[They were] very brave, courageous, fantastic leaders and skilled in their field of being able to fight battles with unconventional types of things," he said.

On the monument at Fort Sill, the names of the eight Medal of Honor winners (including Leonard) are displayed with the names of the three men who created the Force: Lt. Gen. Bruce; Gen. George C. Marshall, the Army chief of staff; and Lt. Gen. Leslie J. McNair, the Army ground force commander.

The Tank Destroyer Society was formed Nov. 8, 1995, in Georgia. Boykin and French said the Society aims to get the Force the recognition and honor it deserves.

A monument at Fort Hood was erected in 1983 honoring the founders of the Tank Destroyer Force.

One national monument and twenty Battalion monuments are at Fort Knox, Ky.

Microsoft Corp. chair tops Forbes' list of billionaires

NEW YORK (AP) — Microsoft Corp. chair Bill Gates topped Forbes magazine's list of the world's top billionaires for the third straight year, and he's pulling away from the pack as his software empire rides the stock market's record-setting wave.

Gates' net worth doubled to \$36.4 billion over the past year. That put him nearly \$9 billion ahead of the second-place Walton family, the \$27.6 billion heirs to the Wal-Mart fortune, Forbes said in its 11th annual rankings, released Sunday.

Gates' personal wealth has swelled as investors more than doubled the stock price of Microsoft, whose Windows operating system is the most popular for running personal computer functions.

Forbes says in its July 28 issue that it limited the list of billionaires this year to the top 200 because the rapid rise of the global economy and stock markets has produced nearly 500 billionaires worldwide. There were 447 on last year's list and just 96 when the magazine started the rankings 10 years ago.

Wall Street's bull market also helped American billionaires double their spots in the top 10 ranking, with six slots. Last year, Asians made up half the top 10 list but this year only two were members: Hong Kong real



Gates

estate magnates Lee Shau Kee, No. 4 with \$14.7 billion, and the Kwok brothers, No. 8 at \$12.3 billion.

Of the American entries, investor Warren Buffett was No. 3 at \$23.2 billion and Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen stood at No. 6 with \$14.1 billion.

The other Americans in the top 10 were the Haas family of Levi Strauss, seventh with \$12.3 billion, and the Mars candy family, at No. 9 with \$12 billion.

In fifth place were the Oeri, Hoffman and Sacher families of Switzerland, heirs of the Swiss pharmaceutical group Roche, with \$14.3 billion. Rounding out the top 10 was the Quandt family of Germany, which owns half of BMW and is worth \$11.7 billion.

Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, the Japanese real estate and transportation mogul who was once the world's richest businessman, slid to No. 22 from seventh last year as his country's property market continued to falter.

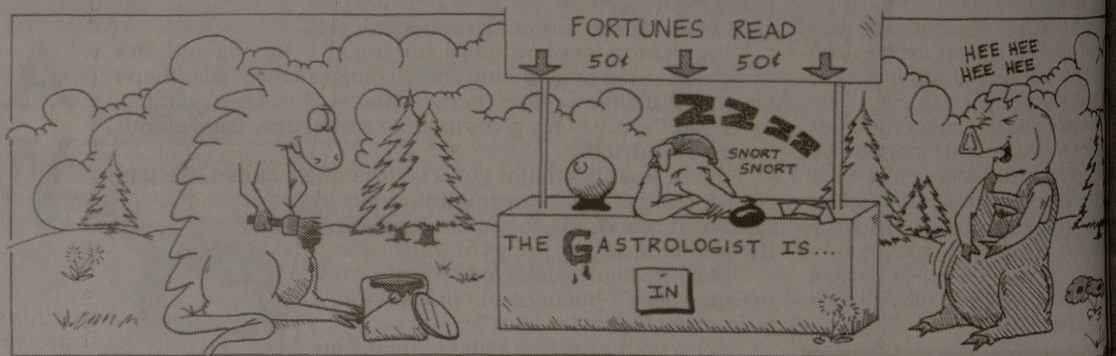
Hong Kong, which this month returned to Chinese control after 156 years of British rule, placed seven billionaires on the list, including Nina Wang, the world's second richest woman. Her net worth of \$7 billion from running the Chinachem real estate empire ranks second behind Lilliane Bettencourt, the \$8.4 billion heiress to the L'Oreal cosmetics fortune.

Forbes provided a separate ranking of dictators and royalty, excluding them from the global billionaires list since they have no direct role in managing businesses.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly Cloudy High: 98° Low: 75°	Partly Cloudy High: 97° Low: 75°	Partly Cloudy High: 98° Low: 75°

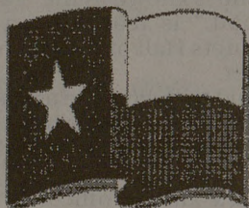
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By Quatro

Political Ethics and Open Government

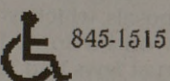
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Suzy Woodford, Executive Director
Common Cause of Texas

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