

OSU players, staff killed in plane crash

Investigators search for clues in Colorado accident

BYERS, Colo. (AP) — The crew of a twin-engine plane that crashed during a snowstorm was told ice could form on the wings, but conditions were not harsh enough to keep the plane grounded, investigators said Sunday.

The crash Saturday evening killed 10 people, including two Oklahoma State basketball players and six team staff.

The advisory the crew was given before takeoff about the possibility of ice forming on the wings would not have kept the plane from flying, National Transportation Safety Board investigators said.

"This group wants to see if de-icing was performed on this aircraft before it took off," said John Hammerschmidt, head of the NTSB crash investigation team.

Witnesses said the plane climbed and banked hard to the right before it crashed. They told investigators the propeller plane's engines revved and eased several times before the fiery crash in a field about 40 miles east of Denver.

"It sounded like he was flying full power. Then I heard a thump and saw a low glow," said Jon Carrick, who lives about two miles southwest of the crash site.

Cesar Ronquillo, another area resident, said the plane's engines were whining when he heard a loud noise.

"I saw the plane turning around, go up again but all of a sudden go straight down," he said.

Visibility was about 1 1/2 miles when the plane crashed, said Jerry Snyder, a spokesman for the Fed-

eral Aviation Administration.

There was no distress call from the plane, said Arnold Scott of the NTSB's Denver office.

As light snow fell, an NTSB investigation team looked for clues to the cause of the crash amid twisted wreckage scattered across a quarter mile.

"We have some very detailed and painstaking work ahead of us in what are not the best weather conditions," Hammerschmidt said.

The victims' bodies were removed Sunday and taken to the Adams County Coroner's Office.

The engines, de-icing boots and other pieces of the plane are to be taken over the next few days to a hangar in Greeley, where investigators planned to create a mockup of the plane.

The Beechcraft King Air 200 Catpass was one of three planes carrying the Oklahoma State men's basketball team and associates back to Stillwater, Okla., after they lost to the Colorado Buffaloes in a Big 12 Conference game in Boulder.

The victims were Oklahoma State players Nate Fleming and Daniel Lawson, sports information employee Will Hancock, director of basketball operations Pat Noyes, trainer Brian Luinstra, broadcast engineer Kendall Duffey, broadcaster Bill Teegins, pilot Denver Mills and co-pilot Bjorn Falstrom.

Also killed in the crash was student manager Jared Weiberg, the nephew of Big 12 commissioner Kevin Weiberg.

Texas A&M offers support to fellow Big 12 campus

BY MAUREEN KANE
The Battalion

The grief that Oklahoma State University (OSU) is experiencing following the crash of a plane carrying students and staff is well understood by the Texas A&M student body.

The plane carried three Oklahoma State University students, two of whom were OSU basketball players, and five staff members. The plane crashed about 80 miles northeast of Denver during the OSU basketball team's return trip to Stillwater, Okla., Saturday night.

Texas A&M President Dr. Ray M. Bowen, who served for a year as interim president of OSU, said he has talked to OSU administrators to express A&M's sympathy.

"I have spoken to Dr. Halligan (OSU President) and expressed our condolences and offered any assistance," Bowen said. "He is greatly appreciative."

The same message was also sent to OSU basketball coach Eddie Sutton and his assistant coach.

Hundreds of miles from the site of the tragedy, at Reed Arena Sunday,

See OSU on Page 6A.

UPD to enforce a no-skate state law

BY TAMRA RUSSELL
The Battalion

The University Police Department and Research Park administration will soon begin enforcing the state law that prohibits skaters and unauthorized vehicles on public streets.

John Millhollon, director of Research Park, said growing traffic in the park is a reason for the stricter enforcement.

"We didn't have a lot of traffic here before, but the traffic has come to the point that for the safety of everyone, we need everyone to use the sidewalks and stay off the street," Millhollon said. "We're not doing it to be mean; it's just that the safety of the people using our facilities is our main concern."

Bob Wiatt, director of University Police Department (UPD), said Research Park has a series of problems with all the skates, bikes and motor vehicles in the park.

"We're not going to run out and start issuing citations."

— Bob Wiatt
UPD director

"You have to behave in a proper manner and being on the street is dangerous for everyone, so we're asking skaters to stay on the sidewalk," Wiatt said. "People can enjoy the facilities, but they need to be safety conscious."

Wiatt said UPD has responded to a few accidents involving skaters and bicyclists at Research Park, but all the accidents were minor.

Millhollon said he did not know of any accidents at Research Park, but added he will not wait for someone to be hurt before enforcing the appropriate laws.

The Research Park administration plans to distribute fliers around campus and take out an advertisement in *The Battalion* alerting students to the stricter enforcement.

"We don't know when we'll begin enforcing this; we have to get approval," Wiatt said.

Wiatt said final approval must come from Charles Sippial, vice president of administration. Once Sippial gives the OK, UPD and Research Park officials will begin educating students about the change.

Wiatt said the department does not plan on immediately writing citations. He said educating the public is the first step.

"We're not going to run out and start issuing citations," Wiatt said. "We're going to start with the pamphlets, the advertisements and telling people personally, then we'll start writing citations."

Larva's in the air



BERNARDO GARZA/THE BATTALION

Dr. Ligia Fuentes, a visiting ecologist from Costa Rica, examines a butterfly larva. Dr. Fuentes has set up a butterfly habitat area

at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History in Bryan. The project is funded entirely by Fuentes and through donations.

Quake in India kills thousands

BHUJ, India (AP) — Exhausted searchers using everything from sophisticated rock-cutting tools to their bare hands clawed through rubble Sunday, hoping to find survivors lingering among the thousands believed buried by western India's massive earthquake.

More than 6,000 bodies had been found since Friday's quake, and the death toll was expected to increase. Some authorities

estimated it would reach 10,000; others said 16,000 or more. A leading rescue official said there could be up to 30,000 dead in one town alone.

As India's prime minister appealed for help, frantic rescuers and dogs uncovered a few signs of life Sunday amid the destruction in Gujarat, the western Indian state that took the brunt of the blow.

In Anjar, 30 miles

Indian students call for help from Aggies

BY SHANNON GALARY
The Battalion

Thousands were killed and many more injured when an earthquake measuring 7.9 on the Richter scale rocked the state of Gujarat, India, Friday. Although the disaster hit halfway around the globe, emotional aftershocks reached as far as Texas A&M's international students.

"A lot of our members have been affected," said Saji Raju, president of the Indian Students Association (ISA) and a senior management information systems major. "A lot of people just stayed home waiting for news and did not go out on Friday."

Some Indian students who have family residing in India may have packed up on short notice and gone home to help their friends and families sort through the tragedy. Raju said ISA plans to sponsor relief efforts but "nothing is set in stone."

"Over 20,000 people have died in Gujarat in what has been termed as the most devastating earthquake in 50 years," said Anuradha Mukherji, a graduate student in the Department of Architecture.

See QUAKE on Page 6A.

Committee plans study on cheating

BY SOMMER BUNCE
The Battalion

In a Spring 1997 survey of Texas A&M students, more than 88 percent of students reported having cheated at least once while at A&M, and another survey is in progress to determine if academic dishonesty has increased.

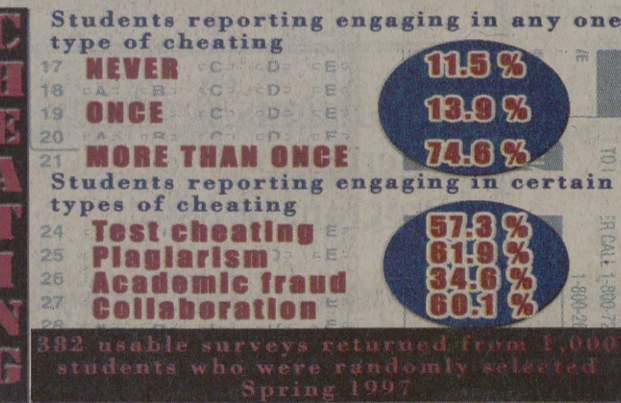
The Academic Integrity Survey, conducted by Dr. Bill Kibler, associate vice president for student affairs, put A&M's cheating rate on par with other large public universities in the U.S.

But the result also put the

Aggie Code of Honor in question.

"We like to brag about A&M being unique, but, in truth, we are all-too typical," Kibler said. "Although A&M has an honor code, it's like we don't have an honor system. And it turns out, we're a pretty typical university — with lots of cheating."

The survey stares in the face of recent student-initiated attempts to promote academic integrity. During Fall 2000 final examinations, the "Know the Code" campaign was in full force, with student volunteers hanging posters and handing out pencils with



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

the Aggie Code of Honor written on them.

"Cheating is definitely a problem here on campus, and it's getting bigger," said Christine Adamson, a Student Government Association member and a leader of the "Know the Code" initiative. "In relation to other major campuses, we're about average, but that's not something we want to be. This isn't what Aggies are."

Adamson, a junior accounting major, said freshmen are presented with fun versions of the Code of Honor during Fish Camp.

Instead of being taught that "Aggies do not lie, cheat or steal," many new students are told that Aggies "elaborate, collaborate and borrow," Adamson said.

"From Fish Camp on, students are almost taught not to take [the Code] seriously," she said.

This spring, Kibler will lead a 12-man Academic Integrity Assessment Committee in a reassessment of instances of academic dishonesty committed at A&M. A survey similar to the

See CHEATING on Page 6A.

Theft on campus remains constant

UPD encourage safety awareness

BY AMANDA SMITH
The Battalion

While there is a sense of security in hearing the Aggie Code of Honor that states "Aggies do not lie, cheat or steal," statistics show that members of the University community are affected by those who do, according to crime prevention specialists at the University Police Department (UPD).

Since the beginning of the 2000-'01 academic years, theft and alcohol have accounted for the greatest percentages of violations, according to an academic year-to-date report from the UPD.

Other crimes committed on campus include reports of assaults, criminal trespassing, weapons violations, disorderly conduct, harassment violations and sexual offenses.

Bert Kretzschmar, crime prevention specialist for UPD, said the Texas A&M campus has shown no significant increase in the number of crimes committed on campus, but advised students to remain aware that crimes do happen on campus.

"General safety and security around campus is important," Kretzschmar said. "More people get into trouble because they let their guard down. A lot of the crimes happen in broad daylight, not at night."

During the 2000-'01 academic year, approximately

See SAFETY on Page 2A.