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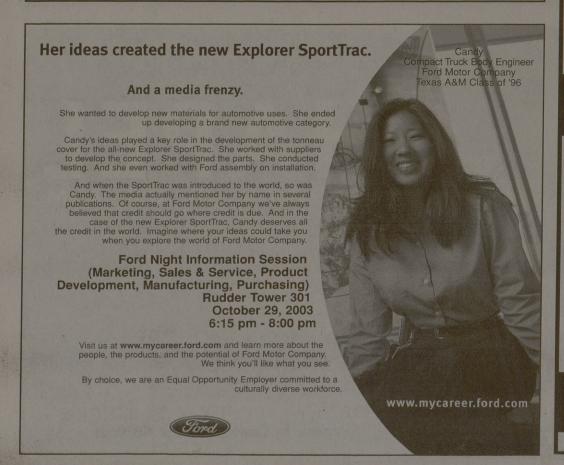
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Thursday, October 23, 2003

THE BATTALIO

Diggin' a break



Sophomore kinesiology major Tracey Bartosh enjoys the warm weather Wednesday by playing volleyball in Research Park during a study break

Ferry captain refuses to meet investigators

By Michael Weissenstein THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The city Wednesday moved to fire the Staten Island Ferry captain involved in last week's fatal crash after he refused for a second day to meet with federal investigators.

"We are drawing up charges as we speak based on his refusal to cooperate," said Iris Weinshall, city transportation

Michael Gansas, who supervised the pilot operating the ferry when the crash occurred, had refused to meet with National Transportation Safety Board investigators on Tuesday, issue a subpoena. On over his refusal to cooperate. Wednesday, Gansas' attorney,

Stephen Sheinbaum, said his client remained too traumatized to speak with investigators and was under medical care.

Gansas failed to show up at the Staten Island hotel where he was supposed to meet with NTSB officials.

"Mr. Gansas remains with that the captain would app his family as they try to deal with the tragic consequences of last week's events," Sheinbaum said. "Mr. Gansas is being unfairly vilified by those who should know better.

Sheinbaum added that Gansas plans to cooperate when he is "legally and medically free to do so.'

Hours before the scheduled meeting, Weinshall said she notified Gansas that he was susprompting federal officials to pended effective immediately

The NTSB issued a statement

late Wednesday saying it h vide documents "support their claim that the captain medically unable to appear response to a subpoena.

"As recently as Tues the appointed time and place, the NTSB said.

The captain's whereabout the time of the Oct. 15 crash probe because he could h provided backup if, as invest Smith, blacked out at the thro before the ferry plowed into pier, killing 10 people and inju

ing dozens. Smith, the assistant capta and unable to talk after attemp ing suicide, his attorney said.









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