

THUNDER SHOWERS

For details on today's weather and the forecast, see Page 2A.

Holy war

Battle between TV evangelist is waging war in hearts of viewers.

Page 1B

205 final cancelled

broke Post 205's final game was cancelled because of weather, leaving hopes up to other teams.

Page 2B

Rally

20,000 students rally in S. Korea today, chanting anti-government slogans.

Page 8B

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Air Force tank drop aborted Thursday

FORT BRAGG (AP) — As flags flew at half-mast to honor five servicemen killed in a military exercise, crewmen unsuccessfully tried the same maneuver one day later, but without the tragic results.

“Our business does not allow us to stand still,” said Capt. Brian Irving, a spokesman for Pope Air Force Base. “We recognize that we have to go on.”

The same maneuver that ended with Wednesday’s crash before 4,000 spectators was attempted again Thursday as part of a demonstration, but the tank drop was aborted when a parachute failed to open.

The airplanes successfully dropped about 600 paratroopers and dropped lighter equipment, but not a Sheridan tank.

Air Force officials said a parachute that is supposed to pull the tank from the open rear door of a C-130 cargo plane was cut loose after it failed to open. The cargo plane roared past 4,000 fatigue-clad college ROTC cadets in bleachers without dropping the tank.

In the Wednesday accident, the Lockheed C-130 Hercules plane passed within feet of the bleachers before it skidded off a dirt landing strip and into the pine trees, exploding into an orange ball of flames.

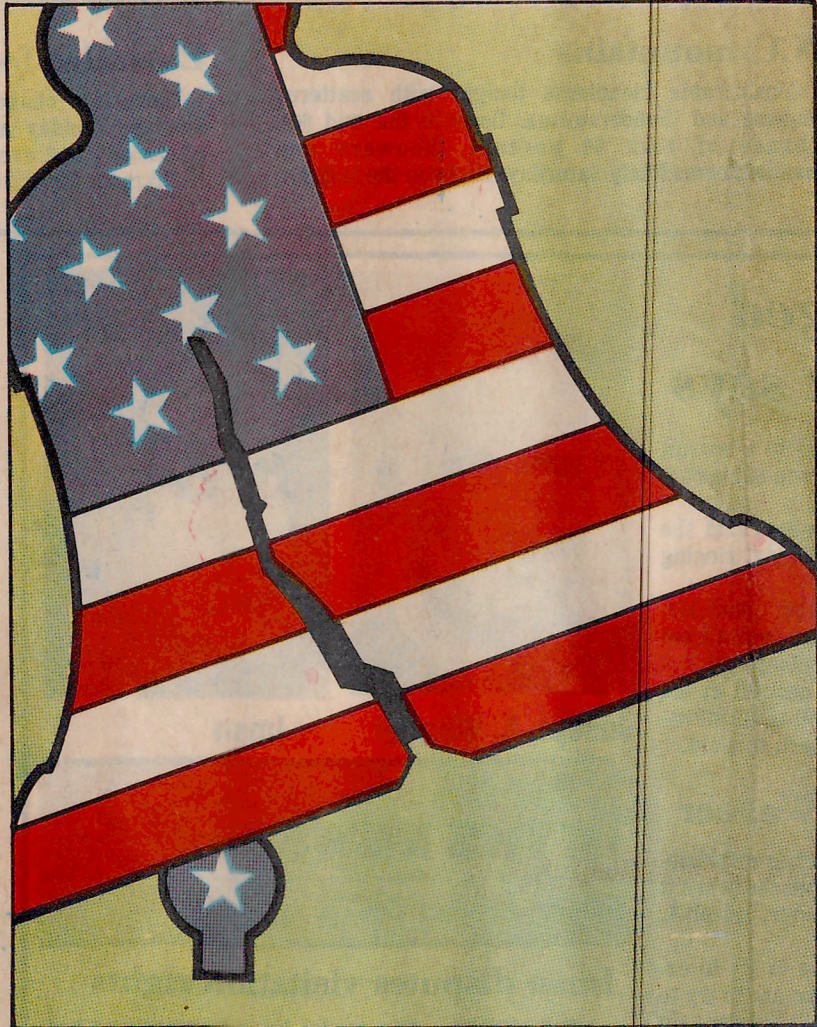
The accident occurred as the plane was dropping a 17-ton M-551 Sheridan armored reconnaissance vehicle in a LAPES, low-altitude parachute extraction system, during the annual display of Army and Air Force airborne capability.

Four of six Air Force crewmen on the plane Wednesday were killed, as well as an Army soldier on the ground, Irving said.

On Thursday, five Air Force officers from around the nation began arriving at Pope Air Force Base to investigate the crash. Officials said names of the members of the investigation board would not be released until their leader arrived.

Air Force officials said the flight recorder of conversations between the crew and control tower, commonly known as the “black box,” was found in the debris on Sicily Drop Zone where the crash occurred.

Master Sgt. R.C. Barnes of the public affairs office at Pope Air Force Base identified the dead as Capt. Garry M. Bardo Jr., 31, the pilot, born in Bloomsburg, Pa.; 1st



Happy July Fourth!

Trapped in boxcar, 18 Mexican aliens die

Related stories, page 3A, 8B

SIERRA BLANCA, Texas (AP) — Eighteen illegal aliens trapped in a locked steel-walled boxcar “started to get crazy” and fought each other in 130-degree heat as they died “little by little,” the lone survivor says.

Border Patrol agents on a routine inspection of a freight train near this city 87 miles east of El Paso found the bodies — some with their tongues chewed — inside the blood-splattered boxcar.

The car had been locked from the outside, apparently by the smuggler who brought the 19 into the country, and was littered with a bag of animal crackers, six cans of corn, bags of toiletries and six empty jugs, the officers said.

The men, ranging in age from about 21 to 35, had clawed at the wood-lined door as the temperature rose as high as 130 degrees, according to Border Patrol agent Stanley Saathoff.

The aliens had boarded the train late Wednesday afternoon at El Paso, authorities said.

The only person found alive inside the car Thursday, Miguel Tostado Rodriguez, 21, of the Mexican state of Aguascalientes, survived by breathing through an opening pun-

ched in the floor of the boxcar with a railroad spike, Saathoff said.

“People started dying little by little, little by little,” Tostado said.

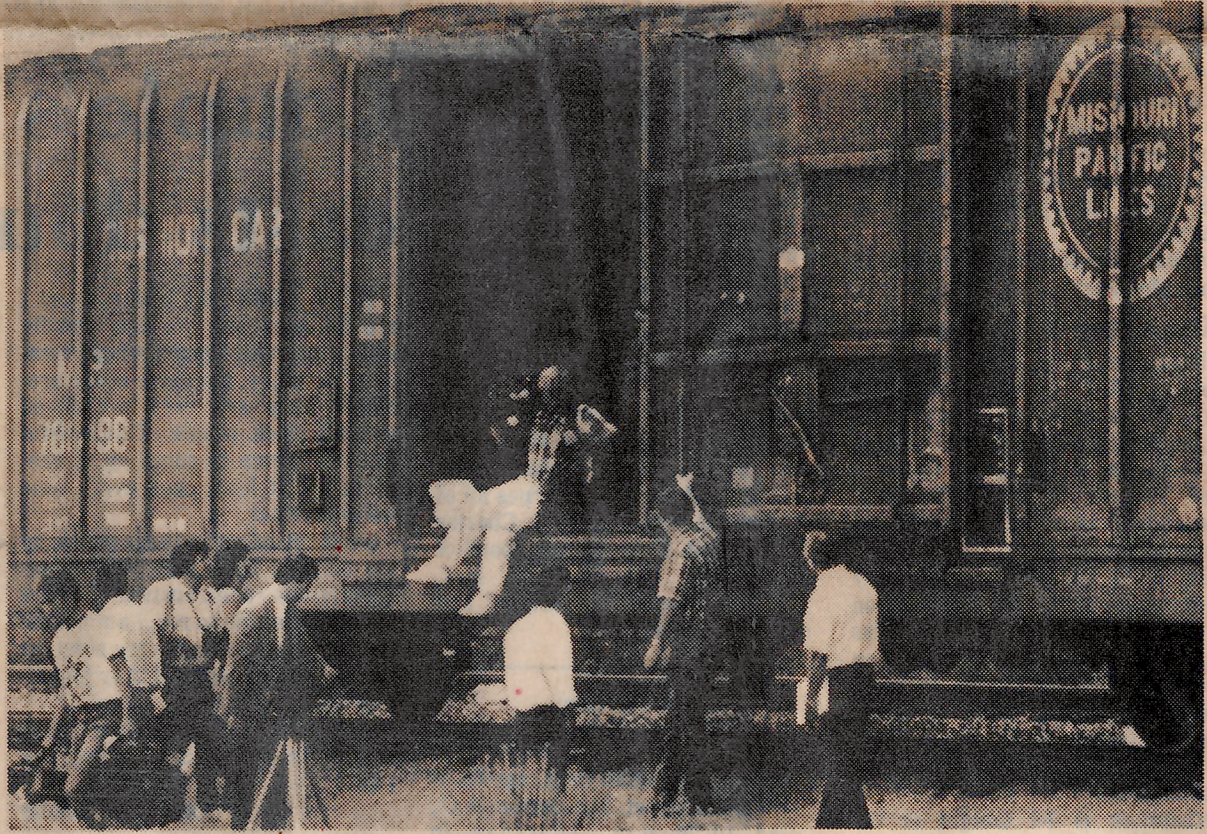
“They started fighting with each other because they were desperate to breath and (for) water,” he said. “They didn’t have any water. So they started to get crazy and fight each other. They didn’t have any oxygen so they started fighting each other.”

Tostado spent the night at an illegal alien detention center in El Paso, and was to undergo further questioning today, the Border Patrol said.

Tostado said that in desperation the men tried to get air by jabbing the spike into the floorboard, but that it was much too late for the rest of them. “We all took turns, but as the water ran out, the others lost strength,” he said.

“With the darkness inside, I couldn’t tell about the others,” he said. “I thought some of them would be alive, but when the doors were opened, they were all dead.”

Two of the dead apparently were part of a smuggling ring and were guiding the others to the Dalhs-Fort Worth area for \$400 to \$500 per per-



Cameramen look over the boxcar in Sierra Blanca, Texas

The bodies of 18 male Mexican aliens were found early Thursday morning in the car

Ex-embassy Marine guard faces charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — Another Marine who once was a security guard at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow is facing charges, this time for allegedly failing to report contacts with Soviets, copying classified documents and dealing on the black market.

Kenneth J. Kelliher, 32, of Hinsdale, Ill., was not charged with espionage, the Pentagon said Thursday.

But he faces a hearing Monday at the Marine Security Guard Battalion at Quantico, Va., to review the charges against him stemming from his tour of duty at the U.S. embassies in Moscow and Bern, Switzerland, the Pentagon said.

The investigation against Kelliher continues, it said, and he is “not confined or on restriction.”

While Kelliher is not technically under arrest, said Marine spokeswoman Maj. Kathy Robbes, the hearing against him is the military equivalent of a grand jury and could lead to a court-martial.

Kelliher’s Moscow assignment overlapped with those of three other Marines who have been under investigation: Staff Sgt. Robert S. Stufflebeam, Sgt. Clayton Lonetree and Cpl. Arnold Bracy.

Kelliher was assigned to the

Moscow embassy from September 1984 to March 1986, and to the Bern, Switzerland, embassy from March 1986 to March 1987. He went to Quantico on a routine reassignment in April, the Pentagon said.

Lonetree, 25, who faces espionage charges, was in Moscow from Sept. 27, 1984 until March 10, 1986.

Bracy, 21, against whom all charges have been dropped, was in Moscow from July 26, 1985 until Sept. 18, 1986.

Stufflebeam, 25, has been charged with failing to report his contacts with Soviet women.

While in Moscow, the charges said, Kelliher failed to report contacts with “Oleg”, “Sasha” and “Ina,” identified only as “citizens of a communist controlled country.”

It was not clear whether Sasha was the same as “Uncle Sasha,” or Alexei G. Yefimov, identified as Lonetree’s alleged KGB handler. Sasha is a nickname which is as common in Russia as Jim or Joe are in the United States.

Kelliher also is charged with engaging in blackmarket currency and goods transactions with Anna Novikoff during his stay in Moscow, but officials did not identify her further.



On the move

It took a truck, two tractors and 42 wheels to move this 100-year-old, 72-ton church building into the town of Winside, Neb. The Winside Museum Committee will use the old Theophilus Church as a museum.

Charged with conspiracy, LaRouche faces extradition

WASHINGTON (AP) — Presidential candidate and extremist Lyndon H. LaRouche, who once vowed “I will not submit passively” to arrest, faces extradition from West Germany if he does not turn himself over to authorities next week, federal prosecutors say.

LaRouche, 64, the four-time fringe presidential candidate whose bizarre politics enraged the Democratic Party regulars with whom he tried to associate, was indicted Thursday on a charge of conspiracy to obstruct a federal grand jury.

He is accused of conspiring to block an investigation into an alleged \$1 million credit card scheme by his followers as part of his 1984 presidential campaign.

LaRouche left the country shortly before the grand jury in Boston handed up the indictment. He had returned only days before from seven months in Europe to testify before the grand jury.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Markham said in court papers filed with the indictment that LaRouche was in West Germany and that his attorney had offered assurances he would surrender voluntarily in time for an arraignment next Wednesday.

Dana Scanlon, LaRouche’s spokeswoman, said in a news conference Thursday across the street from the White House that LaRouche

“absolutely” would return.

“Soon — that’s all I can say,” she added. “We intend to go full steam ahead with the LaRouche presidential campaign. We will not fold.”

Should LaRouche not surrender, the Justice Department said in a written statement, the United States has an extradition treaty with West Germany which provides for extradition on the charge of conspiring to obstruct justice.”

The indictment accuses LaRouche of participating in a conspiracy by ordering followers to flee the country, shredding documents, stalling federal agents with false statements, discussing ways to “fix” the grand jury and plotting a “vicious personal attack” on a federal prosecutor.

Some of the allegations were based on evidence revealed earlier in court proceedings to have been obtained by federal agents during a massive raid last Oct. 6 on LaRouche headquarters in Leesburg, Va. More than 400 heavily armed state and federal agents seized the offices under warrants.

Immediately following that raid LaRouche issued a statement he said he had sent by telegram to President Reagan, declaring: “I have committed no crime. Any attempted arrest, or arrest, would be an attempt to kill me. I will not submit passively to such an arrest, but, in such a scenario, I will defend myself.”

LaRouche lawyers later argued in court he did not mean those words.



LaRouche

July 4th might be wet

Local weather readings
The past 24 hours through 8 a.m. EST.

LUMBERTON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT	
High Temperature	n/a
Low Temperature	n/a
Temperature at 8 a.m.	n/a
Precipitation	n/a

FEDERAL PAPER BOARD	
High Temperature	n/a
Low temperature	n/a
Temperature at 8 a.m.	n/a
Precipitation	n/a

THE SKIES
Sunrise tomorrow6:03 a.m.
Sunset tomorrow8:35 p.m.

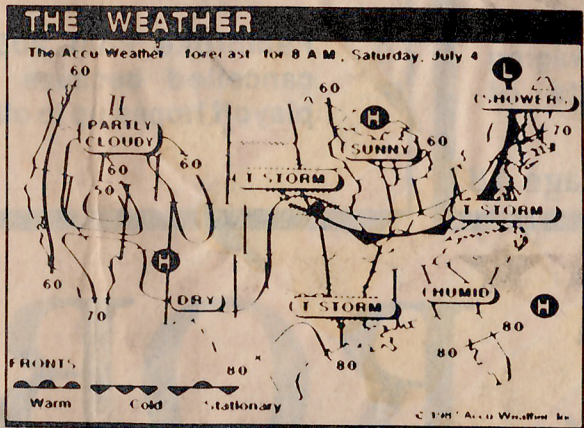
THE RIVER
Lumber River level7.65 feet

Radio weather reports are broadcast from Fayetteville at 162.475 mhz and from Wilmington at 162.55 mhz.

Good afternoon,
The airmass over North Carolina continues to be moist and unstable, which will bring scattered showers and thunderstorms through the long holiday weekend, the National Weather Service says.
As the temperatures this afternoon climb into the 80s to low 90s, there will be an increased chance of showers and thunderstorms. An upper-level disturbance moving across Tennessee will be an additional trigger for precipitation.
Skies will be variably cloudy through Sunday, with highs in the 80s to lower 90s. Lows at night will be in the 70s, with 60s in the mountains, the weather service said.

Area weather
Variable cloudiness tonight and Saturday, with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 70s. Highs in the low 90s. Chance of rain 30 percent tonight and 50 percent Saturday.

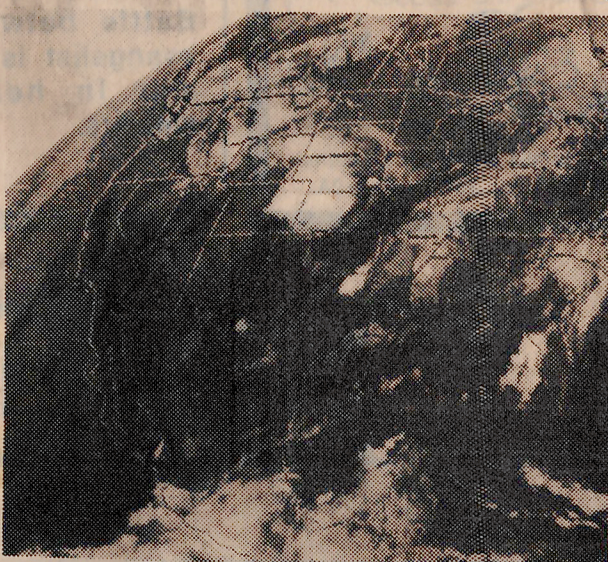
N.C., S.C. beaches
Variable cloudiness tonight and Saturday, with



The Accu-Weather forecast for Saturday indicates thunderstorms or showers for the northeast Plains, in the Southeast and from North Carolina to New England.

scattered showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 70s. Highs in the low 90s. Chance of rain 30 percent tonight and 40 percent Saturday.

N.C. mountains
Considerable cloudiness tonight with scattered showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 60s. Chance of rain 50 percent. Showers and thunderstorms likely Saturday. Highs in the mid 80s.



Today's weather satellite picture shows thunderstorm clouds over eastern Colorado and western Kansas. Shower and thundershower clouds cover eastern Idaho and parts of central Montana.

Extended forecast
There is a chance of showers or thunderstorms Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Mainly during the afternoons and evenings. Lows in the 60s and 70s. Highs in the 80s and lower 90s.

AREA DEATHS

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Mrs. Alice Burns Stuart
Mrs. Alice Burns Stuart, 73, of Dillon, S.C., died Wednesday. The funeral was today at Blanton Funeral Home. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery.

Surviving are three sons, Joe Stuart, Frank Stuart, and Burns Stuart, all of Charlotte; three brothers, Bob O. Burns of Rosland, Frank Page of Elm City, and Preston Page of Raleigh; three sisters, Mrs. Louise Nye of Fairmont, Mrs. Betty Summerland of Goldsboro, and Ann Tarkenton of Cocomo, Ind.; and six grandchildren.

Taft Brooks
Taft Brooks of Charlotte, formerly of Pembroke, died Thursday. Arrangements will be announced by Revels Funeral Home, Pembroke.

Mrs. Nellie L. Gregory
Mrs. Nellie Lashley Gregory, 73, of 1120 E. First St., Lumberton, died today at Southeastern General Hospital, following an extended illness. The funeral is Sunday at 4 p.m. at Floyd Mortuary, the Rev. Norman Wheeler officiating. Burial will be in New Hollywood Cemetery.

Surviving are a sister, Carey Kivett of Lumberton; a nephew, the Rev. George Lashley of the home; and two nieces, Mrs. Anne Prevatt and Mrs. Mary Holder, both of Lumberton.

Visitation is Saturday, 7-9 p.m., at Floyd Mortuary.

Miss Cathy N. Jackson
Miss Cathy N. Jackson, 22, of Route 1, Red Springs, died Saturday. The funeral is Saturday 3 p.m. in the McCormick's Chapel Church in Duffy, the Revs. Dennis Caldwell and Thomas McNeill officiating. Burial will be in the Center Grove Church Cemetery.

Surviving are her parents, Leroy Jackson and Mrs. Mary Lee Jackson of the home; three sisters, Miss Gladys Jackson, Miss Mary Ann Jackson, and Miss Sandra Jackson, all of the home; three brothers, Michael Jackson and Marty Jackson of Raeford, Roy Lee Jackson of Fort Benning, Ga.

Visitation is 7-8 tonight at the Butler Funeral Home in Red Springs.

Samuel Jones
Samuel Jones, 44, of Route 3, Maxton, died Thursday. The funeral is 3 p.m. Sunday in the Harpers Ferry Baptist Church, the Revs. Steve Jones and Horace Oxendine officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Helen V. Jones of Maxton; four sons, Earl R. Jones Sacramento, Ca., Sam D. Jones, Darius Jones and Jamie Jones of the home; one daughter, Miss Renice Jones of Red Springs; his mother, Mrs. Annie Bell Jones of Pembroke; five brothers, Larry Jones of Concord, Donald Jones of Pembroke, Melvin Jones of Clarksville, Tenn., Ron Jones and Jeffery Jones of Pembroke; nine sisters, Miss Annette Jones of Pembroke, Mrs. Barbara Beachum of Hoffman, Joyce Locklear of

Gastonia, Betty Oxendine of Rowland, Linda Lowery of Pembroke, Janice Hunt of Maxton, Teresa Hunt of Lumberton, Marie Van Slooten Bowling Green, Ky., Bonita Lowery of Pembroke; and a grandchild.

Visitation is Saturday, 7-9 p.m., at Locklear & Sons Funeral Home in Pembroke.

Mrs. Beverly Mandel
Mrs. Beverly W. Mandel, 80, died Thursday in Southeastern General Hospital. Memorial services are tonight at 6 at Locklear & Sons Funeral Home, the Rev. Harvey officiating.

Surviving are a son, Sanford Mandel of Chicago, and four grandchildren. Internment will be later in Illinois.

William F. Floyd
William F. Floyd, 80, of 2101 Shaw Ave., Lumberton, died Thursday morning in Southeastern General Hospital following an extended illness. Graveside services are 11 a.m. Saturday in Meadowbrook Cemetery.

He is survived by a sister, Mrs. J.B. (Ellen Ruth) Bruton of Isle of Palms, S.C.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to a favorite charity.

Visitation is tonight, 7-9, at Biggs Funeral Home.

Earl R. Barnes Sr.
Earl R. Barnes Sr., 57, of Fayetteville, formerly of Lumberton, died Wednesday in Cape Fear Valley Hospital following a short illness. The funeral is Saturday 2 p.m. in the Jerrigan-Warren Memorial Chapel, Fayetteville. Burial will follow in Cumberland Memorial Gardens with full Military and Masonic rites. The Rev. James Seales will officiate.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Bernice Cox Barnes; four sons, Earl Ray Barnes, Steve Barnes, Billy Barnes, and Shawn R. Barnes all of Fayetteville; two brothers, Charles Barnes and Fred Barnes, both of Lumberton; and a sister, Mrs. Evelyn Rowan of Lumberton; and seven grandchildren.

Paid Notice
Mrs. Helen Small Britt
Mrs. Helen Small Britt, age 63, of 1108 E. 8th Street, Lumberton, N.C., died 10:36 p.m. Thursday in Southeastern General Hospital following an extended illness. Funeral services are 11:00 a.m. Saturday, Biggs Funeral Home. Burial following the services in Meadowbrook Cemetery.

Surviving are her husband, former Lumberton Police Chief Mr. H.C. Britt Jr., of the home; a son, Mr. Edwin L. Britt Sr. of Lumberton; a daughter Mrs. Theresa Brazil of Golden, Colo.; a nephew, Mr. Luke Blanton of Wilmington; a brother, Mr. George A. Small of Lumberton; four grandchildren, Mr. Edwin L. Britt Jr. of Wilmington, Miss Elizabeth (Betsy) Britt and Miss Kareis Britt both of Lumberton, and Miss Lindsey Brazil of Golden, Colo.

The family will receive friends at Biggs Funeral Home Friday 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Hearing damaged at concert, suit says

LOS ANGELES — A woman charged in a lawsuit against rock star David Lee Roth that one of his concerts damaged her hearing.

Linda Duke, who filed the suit Thursday, said she suffers from muffled hearing and cracking, ringing and popping in her ears.

"I can't function like a normal person," said Ms. Duke, 24. "I have to protect my ears from sound from now on. I have to wear ear muffs to protect my ears."

Ms. Duke said she attended Roth's concert at the Forum in suburban Inglewood on Dec. 20 at the invitation of a friend. It was her first rock concert, she said.

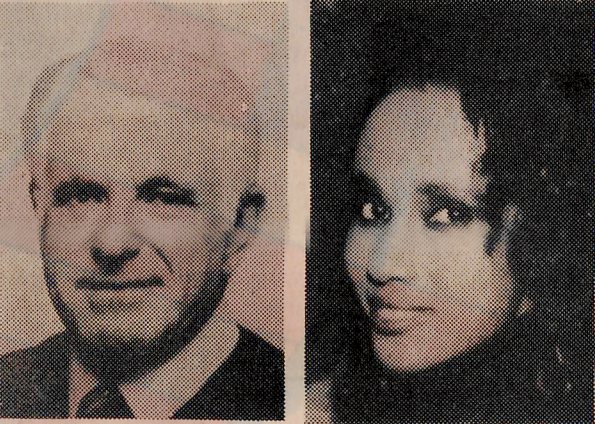
Show puts burden on Wapner

NEW YORK — "The People's Court" is entertainment for millions of TV viewers, but from the bench it is serious business, says the presiding judge, Joseph A. Wapner.

"It puts a tremendous burden on me to try to exemplify what a good judge should be like and to try to enunciate what I consider the law to be," Wapner said in an interview in Sunday's Parade magazine.

Wapner said that because his TV courtroom influences viewers' perception of justice, he is strict about law, order and etiquette.

"I won't allow any monkey business," he said. "This is a court, and I'm trying a case. If somebody comes in chewing gum, Rusty, my baliff, goes over with a piece of paper and makes him take it out. If somebody is wearing a hat, he makes him take it off."



Joseph A. Wapner Iman

NAMES IN THE NEWS

FROM AP REPORTS

Iman disputes visitation rights

NEW YORK — Top model Iman has accused her ex-husband, former basketball star Spencer Haywood, of taking their daughter from her home without permission.

But lawyers for both sides said Thursday that they are working to resolve the dispute without going to court.

Haywood took his 8-year-old daughter Zulekha to lunch and a doctor's appointment June 10 and did not bring her home that day, Iman said.

Couple's racial prejudice casts doubt on friendship

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are 29 years old. We are friendly with a married couple whose company we enjoy, but there is one problem: They are very prejudiced against black people. This hateful attitude seems to come up in conversation at least once every time we're together.

I was raised not to judge people by the color of their skin, and consequently this racist attitude of theirs is very upsetting to me. I am not the type of person to argue my point, as this would be rude, and may jeopardize our friendship.

Should I continue to ignore their comments, or should I tell them how I feel?

Oklahoma Reader

DEAR READER: Silence implies agreement, so speak up and let them know that their bigotry exposes their ignorance, then try to encourage them to adopt a more enlightened attitude. Of course, it may jeopardize your friendship, but perhaps you should ask yourselves if these are the kind of people you really want for friends. Speaking up in defiance of prejudice and bigotry is not rude; it's the right thing to do. Those who choose silence are guilty of the sin of omission.

* * *

DEAR ABBY: My ex-fiance and I were madly in love. He asked me to marry him, I said yes and he gave me a ring. Then his mother told him she would disown him if he married me. We saw each other behind his mother's back, then he left for Japan (he's a U.S. Marine). Before

DEAR ABBY

ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

he left, he said he loved me but he doesn't feel right going against his mother's wishes, and I should forget him.

Well, it's been six months and I haven't heard from him. His close friend, who is a friend of mine, told me that "Neil" is trying to forget me. I've tried to forget Neil, too, but I can't.

I'd like to know who was wrong — Neil, or his mother, who caused my broken engagement, canceled wedding, broken heart and endless tears?

Still in Love

DEAR STILL: You're hurt, which is understandable. You'd probably feel less hurt if you could blame Neil's mother, but look at it this way: How would you like to be married to a fellow who was old enough to be a Marine but had to date the girl he loves behind his mother's back? Rejoice! And try harder to forget him. He's not a man — he's just a mama's boy in a man's uniform.

* * *

DEAR ABBY: I was glad to see that letter from a minister who ob-

jected to screaming kids at church weddings. The kids are not at fault; they're tired, bored and cranky, and shouldn't be expected to sit still and be quiet during a long wedding service.

We had our lovely wedding videotaped. One screamer ruined the video because his voice could be heard during the entire service — even above the voice of the minister.

Please print this to forewarn others. It's too late for us, but not for them.

Video Ruined

DEAR VIDEO: A couple in Ashland, Ore., sent me the card they enclosed with their wedding invitations:

"Because the ceremony will be videotaped, a sitter will be provided for children under 6 years of age in the church nursery. Children are welcome at the reception."

* * *

(For Abby's booklet, "How to Have a Lovely Wedding," send a check or money order for \$2.50 and a long, stamped (39 cents), self-addressed envelope to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054.)

N.Y. ignored engineer's comments on bridge

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — An engineer says officials ignored his recommendation to dump more rocks as erosion protection around footings of the New York State Thruway bridge that collapsed April 5, killing 10 people.

The testimony came on the last of three days of hearings by the National Transportation Safety Board on the collapse that spilled cars and a tractor-trailer into the swirling, rain-swollen Schoharie Creek.

Much of Thursday's session focused on the state's renovation of the bridge in 1980.

Barton Colwell, an engineer with the firm of Setson-Harza of Utica, N.Y., testified he examined the bridge in 1977 and recommended to New York State Thruway Authority officials that 600 cubic yards of 600-pound stones, or riprap, be placed around the bridge piers.

When the state issued the renovation contract, the recommendation for the stones was missing.

CORRECTION

The Robesonian makes every effort to report the news accurately and fairly each day, but occasionally errors are made. All corrections and clarifications except those on Page 1A will appear in The Robesonian on this page. Those appearing on Page 1A will be corrected on that page. If you have a correction or clarification you wish to be printed, please phone Sheri Chance, Donna Pipes or Bob Horne with the information.

IN MEMORY OF KEITH POWELL
7/3/60 10/7/85

God called you away from us to live inside his home. But even though you're not here, we know you're not really gone. Your birthday is here, and we'll remember it forever more. We'll also continue loving you the way we did before.

We love you and God Bless You.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THE POWELL FAMILY

BIGGS FUNERAL HOME
PHONE 738-2211

Mr. William F. Floyd
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11:00 A.M. Saturday
Meadowbrook Cemetery

Mrs. Helen Small Britt
11:00 A.M. Saturday
Biggs Funeral Chapel
Meadowbrook Cemetery

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U.S. delays sending minesweeping helicopters to Kuwait

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Reagan administration is postponing plans to dispatch helicopters to Kuwait while Saudi Arabia tries to marshal an Arab flotilla to handle mines apparently laid by Iran in the Persian Gulf, Pentagon sources say.

The Navy had planned to send a squadron of minesweeping M-5E Sea Dragon helicopters from Norfolk, Va., and sonar equipment from Rota, Spain, to deal with the threat, according to the sources, who spoke Thursday only on condition of anonymity.

Those plans were delayed because Saudi Arabia has four U.S.-made minesweepers and is "trying to organize a force from the other Persian Gulf states, rather than introduce a lot more U.S. or Western equipment," one Pentagon source said.

Holland also has offered the use of a minesweeper in the gulf, but those arrangements were under negotiation, as well, according to officials in the Defense and State departments.

An 18-member U.S. "Explosion Ordnance Disposal" team, operating from small craft, continued to patrol off the main Kuwaiti port of Al-Ahmadi to locate new mines and either remove or mark the 11 mines already found.

There were conflicting reports on how many mines actually had been removed, with some sources saying all or most were gone and others saying only one had been detonated and another removed by American divers.

"We don't really want the Iranians to know how we are taking them out, or how quickly," one Navy officer said. Removing mines with divers is much more dangerous than using ships or helicopters with minesweeping ca-

abilities, the sources said.

Examination of the mines showed them to be Soviet-made Mark-08s, apparently sold to Iran by North Korea, which has been one of the major arms suppliers in the Iran-Iraq war.

The mines float just beneath the surface, moored to the bottom by tethers, and are designed to explode on collision, said one source, describing them as "rather primitive" devices. More sophisticated mines can be triggered by magnetism or pressure created by passing ships.

The Pentagon is moving ahead with plans to bolster its naval presence in the gulf, and to make sure that all the U.S. warships there are equipped with Phalanx gatling guns, designed to fire up to 3,000 rounds per minute as a last defense against anti-ship missiles.

The cruisers Reeves and Worden, which had been assigned to the Indian Ocean fleet, joined the force in and around the Persian Gulf this week, Navy sources said.

The destroyers Coontz and Conyngham and the frigate Stephen W. Groves were scheduled to leave the gulf with the frigate Stark, which was struck by French-made Exocet missiles fired by an Iraqi fighter on May 17. Iraq apologized for the attack, which killed 37 U.S. sailors.

Taking the place of those ships will be the destroyer Kidd and the frigates Klakring and Flatley.

Later this summer, the Navy plans to send the battleship Missouri and the carrier Constellation to the region, according to Pentagon sources.

Iran declines peace talks in Moscow

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union offered to help settle the Persian Gulf war between Iran and Iraq with a peace conference in Moscow, but Iran has refused to participate, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin says.

The Soviet deputy foreign minister, Yuli M. Vorontsov, made the offer during a visit to Tehran early last month.

"The Iranians refused," Rabin said. "Their demand is the head of Saddam Hussein," the Iraqi president. Iraq, meanwhile, realizes it cannot defeat Iran, and would end the 7-year-old conflict under pre-war conditions, Rabin said.

Rabin said Iraq has about 6,000 tanks and Iran about 1,000 and that Iraq holds a similar edge of 600 to a little more than 100 in jet fighters.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley refused to say whether Rabin's report on the Soviet peace offer came as a surprise. Another U.S. official, who demand-

ed anonymity, said "I've been told there was an offer and that the Russians were also pushing a cease-fire in the (Persian) Gulf."

For weeks, the United States has been seeking to get a United Nations Security Council-imposed cease-fire and an arms embargo on Iran if it does not comply.

U.S. Ambassador Vernon Walters ended talks Thursday in Moscow and planned to hold meetings with government leaders in China and Japan.

Rabin suggested the Soviets wanted to host a peace conference as a way of reversing setbacks in their Middle East policy, which he said is in disarray. He said the war has drawn Israel and Egypt closer, isolated Syria in the Arab world as the sole supporter of Iran, and pushed Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, closer to Egypt and Jordan.

Syria and the Soviets are military allies, while Arafat had strong ties to Moscow in the past.

Rabin said the Soviet Union is the only outside power that has the capability of ending the Persian Gulf war because it can talk to both sides.

"It's a unique period in the Middle East, a relaxed one for Israel," he said.

Rabin said that despite Soviet support for Iraq, Vorontsov "received red-carpet treatment" in Tehran.

As for Israel, the defense minister said, "we are interested in one thing — there be a no-win situation. Both countries are bitter enemies of Israel."

In reply to a question, Rabin strongly defended Israel's cooperation with the United States in secret arms shipments to Iran.

He said Israel wanted to open "lines of communication" with Tehran and possibly help gain the release of American hostages.

Hearing will look at Meese, Wedtech

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Edwin Meese III faces new criticism from Congress because he neglected, apparently for more than a year, to disclose his financial ties to a businessman now involved in the Wedtech scandal.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., is scheduling a congressional hearing for next Thursday to look into, among other things, a May 24, 1985, memo by Meese on his own finances in which he failed to mention that on the previous day he had invested \$60,000 with W. Franklyn Chinn.

Levin, chairman of the Senate subcommittee on oversight of government management, on Thursday released copies of the internal Justice Department memorandum in which Meese listed his holdings for department officials "to assist you in identifying matters from which I may be disqualified."

In testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee during his confirmation hearings in 1985, Meese promised that in order to avoid potential conflicts of interest he would disqualify himself from Justice Department matters pertaining to companies in which he held stock.

The 1978 Ethics in Government Act says that once a public official makes such a promise to Congress, he must list in writing the holdings from which he will excuse himself.

Justice Department spokesman Patrick Korten denied Meese had failed to meet any legal requirements regarding disclosure of his financial holdings.

Meese "has not ever participated in any decision that would involve a matter in which he had a financial interest and that includes" the Chinn partnership, Korten said.

At the time Meese invested his money with Chinn, the attorney general says he knew the San Francisco businessman was a consultant to Wedtech. Chinn, who subsequently became a director of the Bronx, N.Y., defense contractor, is now the subject of federal and state criminal investigations. Meese formally severed his business ties with Chinn on Tuesday.

Levin asked the Justice Department two weeks ago to state whether Meese amended his May 24, 1985, memo shortly after writing it to notify other Justice Department officials of the Chinn investment. But, he said, "to date, I have received no response."

The Chinn investment was not listed publicly until mid-1986, when it appeared as a three-line notation on Meese's financial disclosure form.

The Justice Department criminal investigations of Wedtech began late last year, but Meese did not disqualify himself from the case until the second week of April.

Korten said he didn't know when the department first learned of the Chinn partnership and that he doesn't know if Meese will accept Levin's invitation to appear before the subcommittee.

Levin also criticized the Office of Government Ethics for not discovering until three months ago that Meese's limited blind partnership with Chinn hadn't been approved by the ethics office. The investments Chinn made with Meese's money have been hidden from public view, although the attorney general's lawyers say none of the money was invested in Wedtech.

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Merger of buslines gets tentative OK

WASHINGTON — Greyhound will begin operating financially crippled Trailways next week under temporary government approval that Greyhound's top officer says "is really good news for users of low-cost transportation."

The Interstate Commerce Commission gave the go-ahead Thursday after the Justice Department advised the ICC that Trailways qualified as a "failing company" under federal antitrust laws and, therefore, the merger would not violate those laws.

Justice Department attorneys, economists and financial analysts found Trailways "on the brink of bankruptcy" with "virtually no chance of being restructured as a viable entity" and there are no other potential purchasers for the company, the department's antitrust division said in a filing with the ICC.

Under the temporary approval, GLI Acquisition Co., which controls the Greyhound bus system, will operate Trailways Lines Inc. under a lease agreement. Greyhound characterized the temporary order as permitting a purchase of Trailways' assets, subject to reversal if the ICC decides not to make the merger permanent.

Greyhound announced June 19 it wants to purchase Trailways for \$80 million.

Syphilis up 23% this year

ATLANTA — The largest increase in syphilis cases in the United States in two decades has researchers fearing more illness in newborn babies and possibly more cases of AIDS.

The national Centers for Disease Control reported Thursday that 8,274 syphilis cases were reported in the United States in the first three months of this year, up 23 percent over the 6,725 cases in the comparable period a year earlier.

U.S. BRIEFS

FROM AP REPORTS

Stark crew in test when hit

SAN DIEGO — The USS Stark's crew was conducting a demanding test of the ship's engines at the time of the Iraqi missile attack, putting the frigate in a state of reduced alert, a newspaper reported today.

The test, ordinarily performed in peaceful waters, was conducted seven weeks ago while the Stark was patrolling the war-torn Persian Gulf. The San Diego Union said, quoting Navy sources it did not identify.

Navy spokesmen refused to comment on the possibility, the newspaper said.

Thirty-seven men were killed May 17 when the frigate was hit by two missiles fired by an Iraqi warplane in what was called a case of mistaken identity.

USA Today has lost \$233 million

WASHINGTON — The nationally circulated newspaper USA Today lost about \$233 million since it was launched by Gannett Co. in September 1982, according to a company statement.

Total investment in the 1.55-million circulation newspaper "is less than" the \$305 million that Gannett paid for the 323,000 circulation Louisville Courier-Journal in 1986, the company statement said Thursday.

Last month, Gannett declined to confirm speculation that the paper's cumulative operating losses had exceeded \$300 million but promised to disclose details on the investment before USA Today's fifth anniversary on Sept. 15.

The newspaper reported its first monthly profit in May, earning \$1.09 million. It had reported April losses of \$899,999. The profitable month occurred six months ahead of schedule, Gannett said at the time.

Aliens

Continued from page 1A

son, said Hudspeth County Sheriff Dick Love.

"We do know someone had to close the door and lock it, and we know it had to be a smuggler," said Michael G. Wheat, an attorney for the Border Patrol's El Paso sector.

The boxcar was of a type "that once the door is closed, it automatically locks. You cannot open it from the inside. Whoever closed that door knew that," said Border Patrol agent M.S. Dudley.

Some of the men had been dead for several hours when the gruesome discovery was made at 7:20 a.m., six miles east of this town of 700 people, said Wheat. Tostado told investigators others were breathing up to an hour or two before, the attorney said.

Crash

Continued from page 1A

Lt. John B. Keiser III, 28, the navigator, born at Plattsburg Air Force Base near Clinton, N.Y.; Technical Sgt. Timothy A. Matar, 32, loadmaster, born in Mansura, La.; and Airman 1st Class Albert G. Dunse, 23, born in Savannah, Ga., additional loadmaster.

The airmen were assigned to 40th Tactical Airlift Squadron, 317th Tactical Airlift Wing, at Pope Air Force Base.


The Army soldier killed on the ground was identified Thursday as SSgt. Douglas L. Hunter, 25, of Charlotte, Tenn. He was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 73rd Armor Regiment at Fort Bragg.

"Hunter was not part of the LAPES team," said Carol Jones of the public affairs office at Fort Bragg. "He was just watching."


Those injured were 1st Lt. Marc A. Lenke, co-pilot, and Sgt. Tony T. Holmes, flight engineer.

Lenke, 26, and Holmes, 28, had burns on 20 percent to 50 percent of their bodies and were in the intensive care unit at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, where they were listed in critical condition.

A memorial service for the airmen was scheduled Thursday for 2 p.m. Monday at the base theater on Pope Air Force Base.



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