Internat'l

DC-10 crashes in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Investigators are examining cockpit recordings to determine why a Western Airlines DC-10 from Los Angeles touched down on the wrong runway and crashed at Mexico City's fog-shrouded airport Wednesday, killing 71 of the 88 persons aboard, officials said.

Three persons also were reported killed on the ground as the jetliner skidded out of control and smashed into a truck and two buildings.

Red Cross and U.S. consular officials said 63 bodies were recovered and there was no hope the eight missing persons would be

Some of the bodies were terribly mangled, and they're still searching the wreckage for others," one Mexican official

U.S. consular officials initially reported there were 19 survivors. but Western Airlines officials in Los Angeles listed 17. Reporters checking the three hospitals where the victims were taken also found only 17, and some were in critical condition.

An airline spokesman said the pilot, Capt. Charles Gilbert, 53, of Rolling Hills, Calif., was among those killed.

He reported there were 75 passengers and 13 crew aboard Flight 605 on its regular early morning run to Mexico City.

Polar expedition vessel is lost

COPENHAGEN (AP) - A Soviet ship carrying scientists and equipment for a polar expedition was lost in flames yesterday after it collided with another Soviet vessel while sailing in the wrong sea lane of a busy Danish strait, officials said. One man was killed, three were missing and 95 were saved by a swarm of rescue craft.

Two Soviet crewmen suffered

critical burns and four others less serious burns, officials said. All seven women aboard were saved. There was no indication if the missing persons were crewmen or part of the 41-member polar expedition and none was immediately identified.

The Danish naval command said the ships were the 14,000-ton Olenek, carrying the scientists, and the 21,000-ton bulk tanker General Shkodunovich, which was carrying molasses from Holland to Denmark. The tanker was not seriously damaged and continued on to Aabenraa.

National

Laser weapon possible in future

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Air Force research chief said yesterday the United States probably could develop a workable laser beam weapon against some Soviet satellites within about four years.

But Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Staf-ford said "we decided not to push it." Instead, he said, "we would hope to negotiate a treaty" with the Soviet Union that would ban such weapons.

A high-intensity laser generates a concentrated beam of light that scientists say could burn out a satellite's electronic circuits and key equipment, thus disa-bling it. The United States also has explored the possibility of using lasers against hostile missiles and planes.

Stafford, who commanded the first Apollo spaceflight around the moon more than 10 years ago, spoke with reporters on his final day at work before he retires. He said he plans to return to his native Oklahoma and go into

Stafford said laser weapons could become a reality long before what some people call "killer rays," which use charged-particle beams. The problem of translating laboratory research on charged-particle beams into usable hardware is a "tough one," he said.

Birmingham votes in black mayor

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) -In the most racially plagued election in its recent history, Birmingham voters turned out in record numbers to elect the first black mayor of this Southern in-

"All the eyes of the nation were on the city of Birmingham," President Carter told Dr. Richard Arrington, educator and son of a sharecropper, in a telephone call moments before unofficial tallies showed Arrington had defeated attorney Frank Parsons by a vote of 44,798 to

By pulling an unofficial 51 percent of the vote Tuesday, Arrington became the third black mayor of a major Southern city, joining Ernest Morial of New Orleans and Maynard Jackson of Atlanta.

"I believe that the decision of the voters in this city says more about how far Birmingham has come," said Arrington. "I think the votes will show that we were able to get support from both blacks and whites and I'm very proud of that fact," he said. "I'm proud of the voters because they put aside racial fears. They looked at the campaign based on issues.'

Americans say make nukes safe

NEW YORK (AP) - Americans disagree with a major finding of the president's commission on Three Mile Island, saying that no more nuclear power plants should be built until safety issues are resolved, an Associated Press-NBC News poll shows.

Majority sentiment for a moratorium on nuclear power plant construction is not a result of the accident at the Three Mile Island plant earlier this year. At most, the accident appears to have intensified the existing support found for such a moratorium in an AP-NBC News poll late last

Immediately after the March

28 accident at the Three Mile Island plant in Pennsylvania, an AP-NBC News poll in April found a surge of support for a morator-ium. But most of the surge did

Oh, those dizzy, dizzy heights...

KINGS MILLS, Ohio (AP) - Carl Eichelman certainly had his ups and downs this summer.

In fact, he rode up and down on 'The Beast,' the new roller coaster at Kings Island 530 times.

The 38-year-old computer operator for the Internal Revenue Service estimated that he waited in line for a total of about 260 hours to ride The Beast.

Once he got on, Eichelman, who often came early in the morning to avoid the crowds, estimates that he went up, down and around for a total of about 795 miles.

I'm sure my body is completely rearranged now," Eichelman said.

Regional

Nerve gas too close for comfort

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Gov. Vic Atiyeh said yesterday he wants the Pentagon to destroy its stockpile of nerve gas at a depot near Hermiston in northeastern Oregon. Hermiston is located about 200 miles southwest of Pullman.

He also asked the state Emergency Services Division to draft a plan to evacuate the area should a major leak occur at the depot, officially called U.S. Army Depot Activity Umatilla.

"I don't see why this country needs nerve gas," Atiyeh said. "It should be destroyed."

Atiyeh said he asked U.S. Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., to contact the Department of Defense and 'seek ways of eliminating this hazard from the state."

Gay will appeal Army discharge

FORT LEWIS, Wash. (AP) Pvt. Roger Cutsinger, the 21year-old Battle Creek, Mich. soldier who admitted his homosexuality, will be honorably discharged by the Army, a Fort Lewis spokesman said yesterday.

Cutsinger's commanding officer, Col. Arch H. Ely Jr., agreed Tuesday with an earlier administrative board recommendation that Cutsinger should be discharged because he is a homo-

"I would imagine he will be out of the Army by Friday," said Maj. Ralph Paduano, a base spokesman.

Cutsinger said today he would appeal the discharge through civilian courts and file a \$3 million to \$5 million suit against the Army for sexual discrimination.

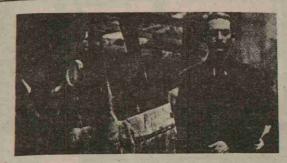
Army regulations say homosexuals are incompatible with the service. That's wrong. Nobody can deny that I am compatible with the Army," he said.

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