

Helicopter crashes at NU Med Center

OMAHA — A medical helicopter crashed just after taking off from the University of Nebraska Medical Center and burst into flames Wednesday, injuring the pilot and a nurse.

"He started going up, then he started to fly all over the place," said witness Leo Rognlie. "Maybe the wind just caught him."

The injured pilot and male nurse, the only people aboard the SkyMed helicopter, were in fair condition at the hospital just after the 5 p.m. accident, said spokeswoman Mary Asher.

There were no injuries on the ground. Dave Ogden, another hospital spokesman, said the pilot suffered facial burns and that the nurse

was shaken up.

"They both walked to emergency," Ogden said. "We could not determine how they got out."

Ms. Asher said the chopper was taking off for nearby Clarkson Hospital to make room for another medical helicopter operated by St. Joseph Hospital that was about to land at the Medical Center.

Rognlie, 24, who was dropping off a friend at the hospital, said he saw the SkyMed Helicopter lift off the helipad, veer toward the hospital and then fly erratically before crashing about 15 yards from the helipad.

The helipad is near the main entrance to the

hospital complex.

Rognlie said he ran to the chopper and saw a man he believed to be the pilot crawling from the wreckage. Rognlie said he and another person pulled the man away from the helicopter.

The helicopter was in the air for less than 30 seconds, he said.

Ms. Asher said the names of the pilot and the nurse were being withheld pending notification of relatives.

The SkyMed helicopter is owned by Rocky Mountain Helicopter Service Co. and leased by the hospital, Ogden said, adding that he did not know where the company was based.

Chambers introduces media legislation

Sen. Ernie Chambers of Omaha introduced a bill Wednesday that would erase certain privileges given to the news media.

Under LB1150, the media would no longer be exempt from police search warrants and the option of not revealing sources in an article.

Chambers said the media should not be placed in a privileged position.

Under current law, a newsroom cannot be searched unless the individual is believed to be involved in the crime. The shield law permits a reporter to not disclose sources unless the disclosure would lead directly to a verdict.

Chambers said editorializing by certain newspapers prompted the legislation. He said they have said that state senators should be granted certain arrest immunities.

If the senators do not deserve the privileges, Chambers said, then neither do the media. Under the bill, the media would be no more privileged than the ordinary citizen.

"It wouldn't cripple it any more than it cripples me if someone searches my home, which is my kingdom," Chambers said.

In Brief

Stock market plunges to early 1988 low

NEW YORK — The stock market tumbled to an early 1988 low Wednesday as a barrage of selling hit many of the high-technology issues.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrials fell 57.20 points to 1,879.14 — its lowest close since it stood at 1,867.04 on Dec. 11. Declining issues outnumbered advances by about 4 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, with 333 up, 1,329 down and 335 unchanged.

Reagan: U.S. must support Nicaraguan rebels

WASHINGTON — President Reagan said Wednesday that Congress will commit "one of America's most tragic mistakes" if it refuses to give more money to Nicaraguan rebels.

House speaker Jim Wright, D-Texas, accused Reagan of pursuing a military victory and the overthrow of the Sandinista regime.

There was a sharpening of rhetoric on both sides as supporters and opponents of rebel aid tried to marshal forces for a showdown vote next month that will sustain the Contra force or effectively put it out of business.

White House officials angrily rebutted charges that the administration was trying to sabotage the peace process in Central America.

Murder suspect used teller machine in California

COLUMBUS — A Columbus man accused of murdering his wife used an automatic teller machine in San Diego during the weekend, according to Police Chief David Purdy.

Kuntzelman used the machine to withdraw from his Columbus checking account, Purdy said. The chief said he didn't know how much cash was taken from the account.

Kuntzelman, 29, named in a warrant charging him with first-degree murder, is accused of killing Hazel Kuntzelman.

More shots fired from homestead of polygamist

MARION, Utah — A barricaded clan of polygamists opened fire at police floodlights early Wednesday for the third time in 14 hours, as officers surrounded the mountain compound for a fifth day, authorities said.

No one was injured and police did not return fire.

Six to eight rounds were fired about 6 a.m. from the log house on the group's homestead, officials said. About 30 rounds of gunfire greeted police as they turned on floodlights late Tuesday, and officers said they crawled 15 to 20 yards through the snow to safety.

Israel warns of curfews in Arab sector

JERUSALEM — Israel said Wednesday it might use curfews for the first time to quell riots in Arab east Jerusalem, where a police jeep stoned by children ran down a protester and crashed, injuring two officers.

Increasing numbers of Jerusalem's Arabs have been caught up in the nationalist fervor generated by six weeks of violence in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Shiites end siege of camps

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Shiite Muslim militiamen withdrew Wednesday from all positions ringed Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut, ending a nearly 3-year-old siege.

Syrian troops immediately rolled into buffer zones around the Chatilla and Bourj el-Barajneh shantytowns to enforce the newly established peace between guerrillas of Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization and militiamen of Lebanese Justice Minister Nabin Berri's Amal.

Reporters saw Amal irregulars pull away in trucks and jeeps from sandbagged positions and earthmounds

surrounding the two camps, home for an estimated 30,000 refugees.

The move came to enforce a decision declared by Berri on Saturday to lift the military blockade in what he called a unilateral initiative to end the so-called "camp war" that had killed more than 1,600 people and wounded 3,600 by Lebanese police count.

Berri said his move was a gift to the "heroic people" who have been protesting Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Shiite withdrawal brought the two Beirut refugee camps under the direct control of the Syrian army.

Eight killed in plane crash

DURANGO, Calif. — A commuter plane carrying 17 people crashed in a mountainous area near Durango Tuesday night, killing eight and forcing survivors, including one carrying a toddler, to wade through waist-deep snow to summon help.

The plane's nose was demolished and most of the survivors were seated near the rear of the plane, officials said. The pilot and co-pilot were among those killed, authorities said.

The nine survivors of the crash were taken to Mercy Medical Center with injuries that ranged from lacerations, frostbite and hypothermia to head and internal injuries, said hospital spokesperson Jane Brown.

Two people, including a 23-month-old girl, were treated and released. Five were in good condition, one was in serious condition and one was critically injured, she said.

Rescuers were led to the twin-engine, turboprop's wreckage by the footprints of one survivor who walked about 1 1/2 miles through snow measuring up to 4 feet before reaching a road, authorities said.

Snow tractors and a bulldozer were used to cut a trail through the scrub oak and brush along the rolling hills.

Four people trapped inside the wreckage were alive when rescuers arrived, but two died as they were being brought out, said Keith Rousch,

a member of the sheriff's volunteer search and rescue team. The other seven survivors walked from the plane.

He said rescuers talked to all four of those trapped.

"I don't recall any discussion of the crash," Rousch said. "They were more cold and hurt . . . but they managed to hang on under very difficult conditions."

Greg Feith, a National Transportation Safety Board investigator who was at the crash site before dawn, said it was hard to learn much about the crash because of darkness and snowfall.

Official says Nebraskans need balanced info on nuclear waste

KEARNEY — The filament in a camping lantern gives off more radiation in seven hours than a low-level nuclear waste disposal facility would release in a year, a Nebraska Public Power District official said.

NPPD spokesman Wayne Jacobson told the Kearney Rotary Club that Nebraskans are exposed to various forms of background radiation daily.

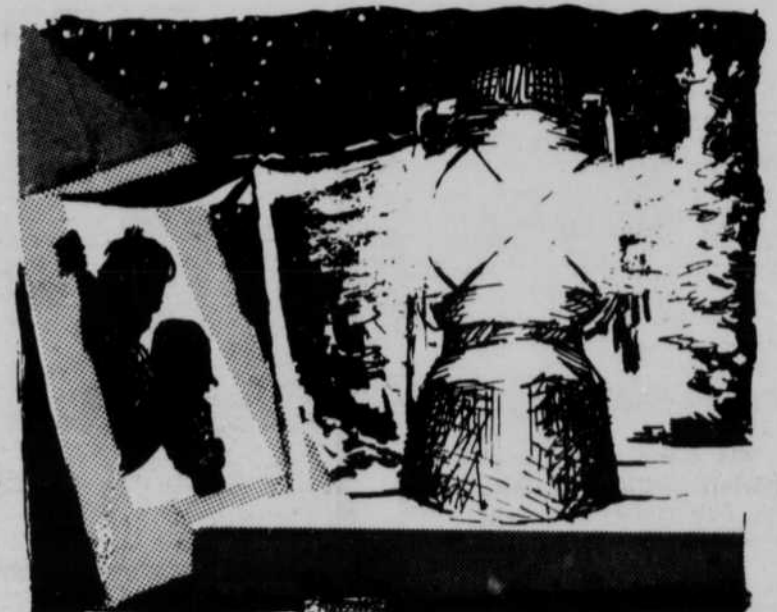
"Practically everything in this world is radioactive to a degree," he said. "It does not necessarily have to do with man tinkering with the atom. It's part of the earth's natural environment, so you can't totally avoid exposure."

NPPD's interest in the regional low-level nuclear is tied to the waste material produced by the 800-kilowatt Cooper Nuclear Station on the Missouri River near Brownville.

The state's other nuclear power plant is the Fort Calhoun plant operated by the Omaha Public Power District.

Although NPPD produces 90 percent of the low-level nuclear waste material in the state, Jacobson said other sources include hospitals, which use radiation for diagnosis and treatment programs and some industries.

"We're trying to knock down some of the fears people have about this site . . . trying to present a balanced program of information



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

so people can later make a judgment if they are asked to sign a referendum," he said.

Jacobson would not comment on Gov. Kay Orr's guidelines that will allow communities to vote on whether or not they will accept the waste facility.

"We shouldn't consider it only a troublesome byproduct," he said of low-level nuclear waste. Nebraskans need to consider the uses of radiation in hospitals, industries and power plants.

Nebraska has been chosen to

host the facility, in part, because it produces the most nuclear waste of the states in the five-state compact, Jacobson said.

The design of the above-ground storage facility, plus a multitude of monitoring devices can nearly ensure environmental safety, he said.

"I don't think you'll ever find a reputable scientist who could say this could never happen . . ." he said about damage to the environment, "but it would be very, very unlikely."

Daily Nebraskan

Editor Mike Reilly
472-1766
Managing Editor Jen Deselms
Assoc. News Editors Curt Wagner
Chris Anderson
Editorial Diana Johnson
Page Editor Bob Nelson
Wire Editor Joan Rezac
Copy Desk Chief Jeff Apel
Sports Editor Charles Lieurance
Arts & Entertainment Editor Geoff McMurry
Asst. Arts & Entertainment Editor Tom Lauder
Entertainment Editor Jody Beem
Graphics Editor Mark Davis
Asst. Graphics Editor Joeth Zucco
Photo Chief Scott Harrah
Night News Editors Brian Barber
Art Director
General Manager Daniel Shattil
Production Manager Katherine Policky
Advertising Manager Marcia Miller
Asst. Advertising Manager Bob Bates
Publications Board Chairman Don Johnson,
472-3611
Professional Adviser Don Walton, 473-7301

Potato farmer harvests gem

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — A potato farmer dug up one of the largest diamonds ever found in this mineral-rich country, a government official said Wednesday.

The stone was broken into three pieces, after the farmer and a friend argued whether the stone was genuine.

The unidentified farmer found the 307-carat gem Friday while digging up what he thought was a stone in his potato patch in the eastern Kono district.

Officials of the National Diamond Mining Corporation confirmed it was a diamond. The pieces were deposited in the central bank in the capital, Freetown, while government officials tried to sort out the ownership claims.

The corporation said the stone belonged to them since it was found on their leased property. The farmer and a third party, a group calling itself "supporters" of the farmer, both claimed they were the rightful owners.

Assessors from the Government Gold and Diamond office did not put a monetary value on the pieces.

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448, weekdays during academic year (except holidays), weekly during the summer session.
Subscription price is \$35 for one year.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, Neb. 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.
ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1988 DAILY NEBRASKAN