

90 killed in Chinese train wreck Premier calls for increased safety measures

BEIJING — An express train derailed early Sunday in the mountains of southern China and 90 people were killed and 66 others seriously injured, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

It was China's sixth major transportation accident in a month. A total of 314 people have been killed.

The No. 80 Kunming-Shanghai express derailed and overturned at 1:35 a.m. as it traveled between Qiewu and Dengjiacun stations, 220 miles from Kunming, the capital of Yunnan province, Xinhua quoted the Ministry of Railways as saying.

The cause of the derailment was not known, Xinhua said.

The report did not say how many cars derailed, how many passengers were on the train or in which direction the train was going. It was not immediately known whether any foreigners were among the dead or injured.

Acting Premier Li Peng ordered army and police to the scene to maintain order. Army units and local medical workers took the injured to hospitals.

The accident took place in Yunnan close to its border with Guizhou province. The remote region is among China's least developed areas.

Xinhua reported the train derailment with unusual speed, about 21 hours after it occurred. It issued a story on Monday's plane crash about 12 hours after it took place, but it followed a report from Japan's Foreign Ministry.

In the past, China's state-run media often has taken days or even weeks to report accidents.

Xinhua said officials of both provinces rushed to the scene and Yunnan Gov. He Zhidiang and two other officials were appointed to head an investigation.

The derailment came six days after a domestic airliner with engine trouble crashed near Chongding, killing 108 people. Two trains collided head-on in northeast China's Heilongjiang province Jan. 17, killing 19, and 34 people died when paint thinner caught fire on a train in central China's Hunan province.

A bus fell into a stream in coastal Zhejiang province Jan. 18, killing 14 people. Forty-nine people died Dec. 30 when an overcrowded bus tumbled off a bridge into a dry river bed.

On Friday, Li issued an emergency directive calling on transportation authorities to increase safety measures.

In three weeks, China will celebrate its biggest holiday, Spring Festival or Lunar New Year, during which 750 million people are expected to travel to hometowns for the festivals.

In Brief

London AIDS summit to attract 145 countries

LONDON — Health officials from 145 countries are gathering in London this week for a world AIDS summit at which they will plan a global assault on the deadly epidemic.

The three-day conference, which opens Tuesday, will be the largest meeting of government ministers ever held on a single health problem, according to the World Health Organization.

The U.N. agency, based in Geneva, and the British government are co-sponsoring the event.

"The conference, we believe, is going to mark another critical turning point in the global Mobilization against AIDS," Dr. Jonathan Mann, the American director of WHO's Special Program on AIDS, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

University professor wins Junta-run elections

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — University professor Leslie Manigat won Haiti's presidential election with more than 50 percent of the vote, election officials said.

The junta led by Lt. Gen. Henri Namphy has promised to turn over power to an elected president on Feb. 7. The three-man junta has ruled this impoverished Caribbean nation since dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier fled to exile in France in February 1986.

Shamir says he's ready for talks with Arab leaders

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told visiting U.S. Jewish leaders Sunday he was ready to meet Arab leaders "openly or secretly" but persisted in his opposition to an international Middle East peace conference.

In the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, hundreds of Palestinian youths clashed with Israeli soldiers and one Arab was seriously wounded, the army said. But a fragile calm held in other parts of the occupied territories, seized by Israel during the 1967 Middle East war.

Shamir has said accepting an international conference would be tantamount to agreeing to a Palestinian state and Israeli withdrawal from occupied territory, which his right-wing Likud Bloc opposes.

Officer killed with own gun

DALLAS — A man seized a policeman's gun and fatally shot the officer in the face as he pleaded for his life as some spectators yelled "shoot him," authorities said.

Officer John Chase, 25, who last month switched from an evening to a day shift to spend more time with his bride of three months, was attacked Saturday as he was writing a traffic ticket.

The suspect, Carl Dudley Williams, 34, was shot by off-duty officers who responded to the call. The man died a few hours later at Parkland Memorial Hospital, police said.

A crowd of about 30 people gathered around the officer and his assailant, a homeless man with a history of mental illness, according to police and witnesses.

"The officer was saying, 'Don't

shoot me. I'll help you whatever way I can.' But the guy shot him in the head," witness Melitha Johnson said.

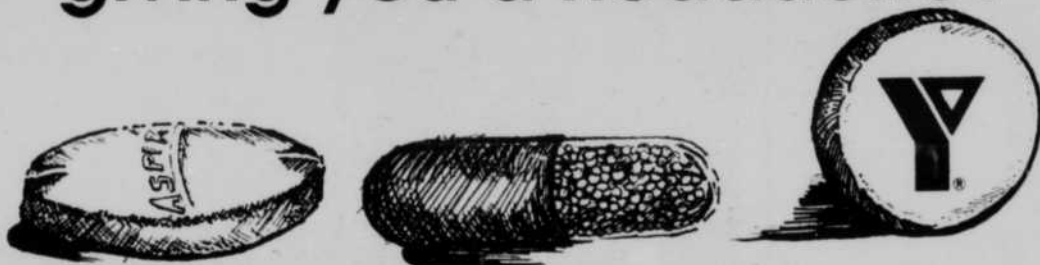
"One girl said that people in the crowd were saying, 'Shoot him, shoot him again,'" said Police Lt. Jerold Calane.

Witnesses said the attacker then strolled down the street, dangling the gun from his hand.

Investigators said they knew of no motive for the shooting, but Chief Billy Prince and some of his officers blamed recent criticism of the department by some City Council members for creating a dangerous environment for the police.

"This is very tough on the officer on the street," Prince said at a news conference. "Constant bashing" of the department created a volatile situation, he said.

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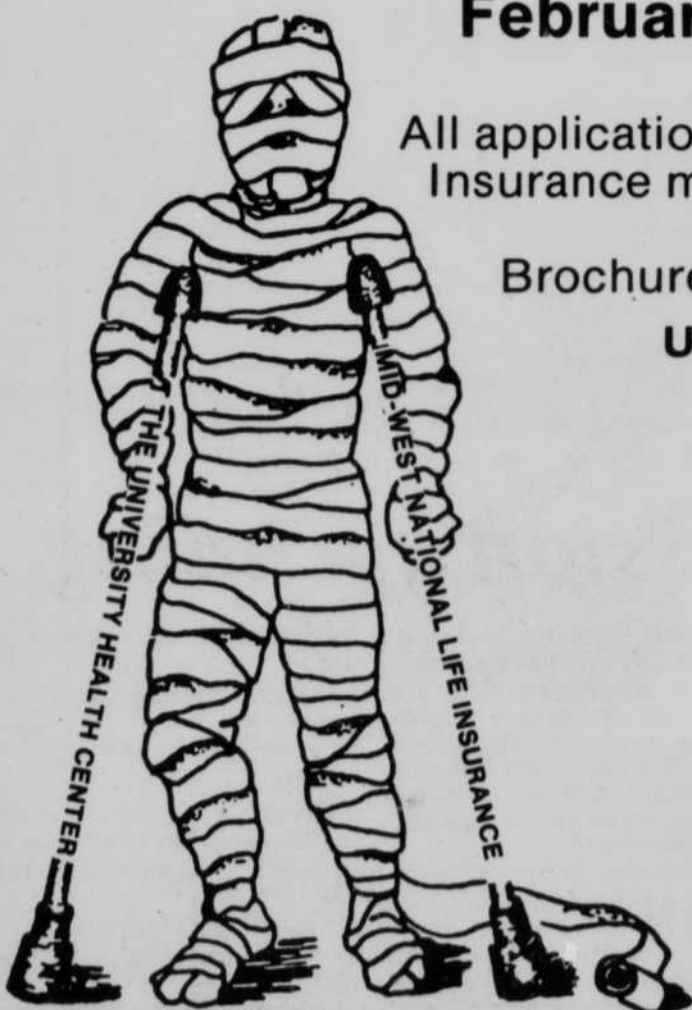
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Correction

The Daily Nebraskan incorrectly listed a dateline as coming from Durango, Calif. instead of Durango, Colo. The Daily Nebraskan regrets the error.

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