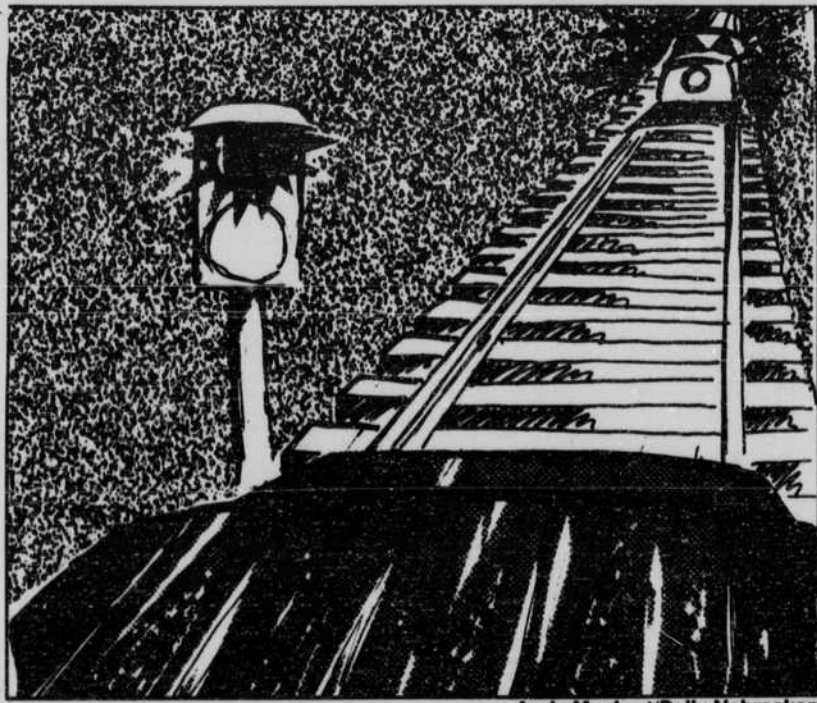


## No sabotage caused crash, official says



Andy Manhart/Daily Nebraskan

LONDON -- The driver of a passenger train that hit another train and killed five people said Sunday he ran through a red light before the collision, but there is evidence he tried to stop, a British Rail official said.

Gordon Pettitt, general manager of British Rail's Southern Region, said investigators found signs of "severe brake application" by David Morgan before his train rammed the other train Saturday.

Morgan was one of 94 people injured when his train, traveling from Littlehampton to London, hit a London-bound train traveling from Horsham. Authorities said the Horsham train was crossing from the slow track onto the main line when it was struck from behind.

Thirty-one victims were hospitalized Sunday, 10 in serious condition, Scotland Yard said.

Morgan "has told us that the signal at the end of the platform at Purley Station was red, yet he went through it," Pettitt told a news conference.

"He has not been able to offer any explanation for that."

"The safety of our signaling system does obviously depend on drivers stopping at red lights. It did not stop," Pettitt added. "We have a system of multiple signaling where a driver gets an indication of a red light three sections back."

"We have quite a lot of evidence that a severe brake application was made prior to the collision and long before the signal," Pettitt said.

Pettitt said investigators were looking for anything that might offer an explanation for the crash. He said there was no evidence of sabotage and that the signaling equipment at Purley Station, outside London, appeared to be working properly.

He was asked whether driver error was being looked at as the cause of the accident.

He replied: "It is not uppermost in my mind at the moment, though it is obviously a main area of inquiry, as is the signaling which we have, though

there is no evidence that the signaling was defective."

He said the braking system of the Littlehampton train was being examined.

British Rail's board has accepted responsibility for the accident, Pettitt said, and "any claims will be sympathetically dealt with as soon as possible."

"It is right that we should say this to people because I am satisfied there has been nothing going on externally such as sabotage which might be involved in this accident."

Crews worked through the night to repair the tracks and remove six coaches that rolled down a 60-foot embankment after the crash.

It was the second serious accident on British Rail in the last three months. Thirty-five people were killed in December in a three-train collision at Clapham in South London. That crash was blamed on malfunctioning signaling equipment, but an inquiry is still going on.

## Girls attempt suicide to help little brother

SEOUL, South Korea -- A suicide pact by four girls who took rat poison so their parents could lavish everything on their brother has shocked Koreans and raised questions about male chauvinism and the plight of the poor.

The girls, aged 6 to 13, were found unconscious Feb. 27 after they took the poison. The youngest died immediately, but doctors said the other three would recover.

Yang Soon-mi, the eldest daughter, told police the girls made the suicide pact because they wanted to save their parents money and ensure their 3-year-old brother would have the best education possible.

The incident has shocked South Koreans, who have sent toys, dolls and more than \$15,000 worth of donations to the hospital where the three surviving girls were taken.

A social organization vowed to pay the girls' school expenses through college, and Kim Ok-sook, the wife of President Roh Tae-woo, sent a letter asking the girls "not to lose hope."

Newspaper editorials blamed public policies they said do too little for the poor in a nation of growing prosperity.

Education in South Korea is free up until the end of the sixth grade, and the oldest daughter was due to enter seventh grade. Educating four daughters would have been a major expense, especially since most Korean women have little hope of finding good jobs in the male-dominated soci-

ety. "It's regrettable and shocking that the male-first idea was planted deep inside the minds of such young girls," said Lee Kye-kyung, publisher of the weekly Women's News, a leading advocate of women's rights.

"We still live in a society dominated by men, despite our economic success," she said. "This is a typical case that gives us a lesson. It may lead to a movement against prejudice and restrictions on women's rights."

Opposition politician Kim Dae-jung visited the girls' parents at the hospital and said, "I am grief-stricken. I feel a great burden as a politician, and I will focus on ways to promote the livelihood of alienated people."

The girls' father, Yang Tae-bun, 44, is a factory worker who supports the family on the equivalent of \$362 a month. Police said the family lived in a small two-room apartment.

"The deprivation of these children forced to resort to suicide contrasts sharply with their affluent peers whose birthdays and graduation from school are often celebrated at posh hotels by expensive feasts," said an editorial in the Korea Herald.

It said the incident "has turned into a socially and politically explosive issue."

Financial donations to the family included \$700 from a grieving father whose daughter was killed recently in a traffic accident and \$3.60 from a first-grader.

## Emergency U.S.S.R. supplies reach Kabul

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- Soviet truck convoys carrying emergency food and fuel reached the Afghan capital on Saturday, Radio Kabul said.

The relief convoy had been stranded at Hairatan, an Afghan village on the border with the Soviet Union, after bad weather closed the 250-mile Salang Highway, said the radio monitored in Islamabad, Pakistan.

It did not say how long the convoy had been stuck or when the snow hit the highway, which is Afghanistan's

key overland link to the Soviet Union. Avalanches periodically shut the highway, which cuts through the Hindu Kush mountains.

It was along the Salang Highway that Moscow moved the remainder of its troops out of Afghanistan on Feb. 15, after nine years of military intervention.

In a bid to preempt Afghan rebel attacks on departing Soviet soldiers, Soviet and Afghan fighter jets bombed both sides of the highway in the last week in January.

As many as 600 civilians died in

the bombing raids, said a publication distributed by the Jamiat-i-Islami guerrilla group, which operates extensively along the highway.

Afghan Moslem guerrilla fighters, called mujahedeen, have besieged the capital, Kabul, and blocked most roads into the city since late last year. The fighters are backed by the United States, Pakistan, China and several Arab states.

There are serious food and fuel shortages in Kabul, caused as much by an unusually bitter winter as by the rebel siege.

## Arafat will visit Pakistan soon

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan -- PLO chairman Yasser Arafat will visit Pakistan for two days this week, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday. His visit is expected to focus on Middle East peace and laying the foundation for a Palestinian Embassy.

The Palestine Liberation Organization leader is scheduled to arrive Wednesday and leave Friday on his first official trip to an Asian country

since the declaration of a Palestinian state in November.

Pakistan, a Moslem nation of 107 million, is staunchly anti-Israel and pro-PLO. Islamabad and several other Moslem and Arab capitals immediately recognized the Palestinian state as the previous Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River.

Arafat will meet with Prime Min-

ister Benazir Bhutto, but most of his itinerary will not be announced in advance for security reasons, a foreign office spokesman told reporters.

Arafat is expected to lay the foundation stone of a new Palestinian Embassy in Islamabad and possibly discuss recognition of a newly formed interim government of Afghanistan headed by Moslem guerrillas.

## Report: Icebreaker averts nuclear disaster

MOSCOW -- Scientists averted a meltdown aboard a nuclear-powered Soviet icebreaker by a matter of minutes last fall, a newspaper reported.

Vodny Transport, a newspaper that covers Soviet shipping, said the incident occurred Nov. 11 aboard the Rossiya while it was docked at Murmansk, 1,000 miles north of Moscow in Kola Bay.

It was there for routine changing of a filter in a reactor, the newspaper said.

The reactor was shut down, and cooling water was supposed to be drained before changing the filter, the newspaper explained. But a chief physicist aboard the ship gave incorrect instructions to an operator who opened a drainage valve on the ship's other reactor, which was in operation, Vodny Transport said in its Saturday edition.

The main supply of cooling water was drained off mistakenly. Just 30 or 40 minutes' worth of backup water was left in a reservoir before the reactor would have melted down and released radiation, the newspaper said.

Within four minutes, the "situation was liquidated," according to Dmitri Tarakanov, the newspaper's Murmansk correspondent. He did not provide details of what action was taken to control the situation.

Radiation could have spread from the ship to the city of 440,000 people, Tarakanov indicated.

Vodny Transport comes out three times a week. There was no explana-

tion for the four-month delay in reporting the incident.

A meltdown, the worst possible nuclear accident, occurs when the reactor core overheats to such a degree that the fuel begins melting, as occurred at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania in 1979.

If the fuel penetrates its protective housing, radioactive materials are released into the environment.

The Rossiya was launched from the Baltic Yard in Leningrad in 1983 and went into operation in 1986, according to Jane's Fighting Ships. It is one of five ships in the Arktika class run by the Soviet Merchant Marine Ministry.

Two pressurized water reactors drive the Rossiya's steam turbines to generate a total 75,000 horsepower, according to Jane's.

On Thursday, the government daily Izvestia quoted a nuclear power official as saying there have been no accidents aboard the Rossiya or four other nuclear-powered icebreakers. A. Zhuravkov also said the reactors on board the ships are a different design from those at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the Ukraine, where a reactor exploded and caught fire April 26, 1986, killing at least 31 people and spewing radiation worldwide.

"An operator cannot race it to a critical state, as happened at the Chernobyl atomic power station," Zhuravkov told Izvestia.

The article quoted M. Rabkanov, chief of the Vladivostok port in the

Soviet Far East, as saying safety of nuclear-powered vessels is "very reliable."

There was no indication the people quoted by Izvestia had heard about the Rossiya incident.

## Car explosive injures seven near barracks

BELFAST, Northern Ireland -- A bomb hidden in a car exploded outside a north Belfast military barracks, injuring four police officers and three soldiers as they walked nearby, police said Sunday.

The Irish Republican Army, the mainly Roman Catholic organization fighting to drive the British out of Northern Ireland, claimed responsibility for Saturday night's blast. It said the bomb contained 500 pounds of explosives.

Police said the blast damaged Girdwood military barracks and nearby houses off north Belfast's Antrim Road.

A joint army and police unit had just left the barracks to patrol on foot when the bomb exploded, said a police press officer who declined to be identified further.

Most seriously injured was a police officer whose leg was broken, he said.

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