

Plane smashes house; six killed

BERKELEY SPRINGS, W. Va. — Milton Barnhart was sitting at his kitchen table Wednesday morning when an Air National Guard transport plane crashed into his house in a huge fireball, killing all six people on board.

Barnhart's house was destroyed, but he escaped without serious injury, with his hair singed.

Witnesses said one wing or engine on the four-engine plane appeared to be on fire before the crash.

The turboprop C-130E was part of the 167th Tactical Airlift Group based at the Eastern West Virginia Regional Airport at Martinsburg, 20 miles east of Berkeley Springs in the state's Eastern Panhandle.

Air National Guard Maj. Edward Dockeney Jr. said an Air Force investigation board will convene to determine the cause of the crash. He would not discuss possible causes.

Barnhart, 77, a retired railroad worker who lives alone, said the plane slammed into his two-story, frame farmhouse outside Berkeley Springs about 9:30 a.m.

"I ran out and got out of there," he

said. "It was a fire inside and outside. It took the whole roof off the house and half of the first floor... The whole porch was on fire. The yard was on fire."

Only his chimney was left standing. Also destroyed were a shed and a pickup parked nearby.

Barnhart said he only saved a charred photograph of a grandson, and he clutched it as he talked to reporters. He could not immediately find his three dogs, he said.

He was shaken up but not seriously hurt. The heat from the fire singed his eyebrows and hair, and melted the vinyl siding on a house 50 feet away.

"It's just unbelievable, as big as the plane was, there is just nothing left," said C. Mike Coates, a Martinsburg firefighter. The C-130

has a wingspan of about 130 feet.

Judy Youngblood, 30, who lives about 100 feet from Barnhart, said she "heard a huge explosion and the house just shook."

"There was an extremely loud roar," she said. "I can't describe the sound. The next thing I knew there



was just a huge explosion and the balls of fire were just hundreds of feet in the air."

Her husband, Dale, said authorities told him the plane carried 6,000 gallons of fuel when it crashed. He said they ordered residents of a couple of houses near the crash site to stay away until the fire was out.

Betty Yost, who lives a quarter-mile away, was driving down the road when the plane crashed.

"I looked up and saw all the fire in the sky and I thought, 'Oh my God, what's going on?'" she said.

Advisers hope debates can push Bush ahead

WASHINGTON — With a cache of hard-edged television ads and high hopes for the debates, President Bush's advisers are clinging to the hope they can find a silver bullet to slay Bill Clinton's campaign.

The Bush team is struggling to catch up in the campaign's final weeks by making Americans doubt Clinton's character and judgment and by spreading fear that the Democrat will increase everyone's taxes.

But in the political community there is a growing belief — though not unanimous — that the president faces certain defeat.

"I think it's too late," said Reagan White House political director Lyn Nofziger.

"The election's over," said Colorado College political scientist Tom Cronin, echoing sentiments of many Republicans and Democrats. "This is a referendum on economic leadership and he (Bush) has lost it."

"It's time for the Hail Mary," said GOP strategist John Sears. "I don't know if there is anything he can do."

Sears said the person who can elect Bush is Clinton, by making mistakes — "and he shows no sign of doing that."

However, Jody Powell, press secretary to President Carter, said the combination of the forthcoming debates, television ads and Ross Perot's big-money campaign all make the outcome uncertain.

"I'm not one who thinks the thing is over," Powell said. "Most people will be getting more information from paid ads than from the media, and that always takes the campaign into a different phase."

Bush's advisers hope the debates, in particular, will sharpen

— "It's clearly an opportunity for us to kick out of the stall we've been stuck in and overtake him."

— Lake
senior Bush campaign
adviser

negative impressions of Clinton.

"Bush has always done well in debates," said James Lake, a senior adviser to the president's campaign.

"Bush's style is temperate, it is careful and it is based on experience. Bill Clinton's style is flashy, it is slick and it is based on the kind of person he is," Lake said.

"It's clearly an opportunity for us to kick out of the stall we've been stuck in and overtake him," Lake said.

Bush's campaign will run tough ads at a furious pace throughout the debates and until the end of the race. They'll be poised to seize on any Clinton miscues in the debates and turn them into television spots, Lake said.

Charlie Black, another senior adviser, said Bush's campaign has used only about 15 percent of its \$30 million-plus advertising budget.

"The most important thing is, people do not know a lot about Bill Clinton. Hopefully the debates and the campaigning and the advertising will cause people to focus on the differences in their economic plans."

Leaders hail trade pact

3 heads of state highlight agreement at Texas meeting

SAN ANTONIO — President Bush participated in a high-profile ceremony in a must-win state Wednesday to highlight the successful negotiation of an agreement creating the world's largest free trade zone.

With Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari looking on, Bush hailed the 2,000-page North American Free Trade Agreement that was negotiated last August.

"This meeting marks a turning point in the history of our three countries," Bush told a crowd of dignitaries. "We are creating the largest, richest and most productive market in the entire world."

Bush defended the pact against criticism that it will result in the loss of U.S. jobs from companies being lured across the border to lower wages in Mexico. Bush said the removal of trade barriers would expand U.S. exports to Mexico, which is already America's third largest market.

"If anyone doubts the importance of trade for creating jobs, they should come to this great state," Bush told the crowd saying that exports from Texas alone totaled \$47 billion last year with \$15 billion of that amount going to Mexico.

Salinas told the crowd that "we can all win with this agreement" while Mulroney called free trade "the pathway to prosperity."

The nations' trade ministers initiated the completed text in what was largely a symbolic ceremony. Under U.S. law, Bush cannot actually sign the agreement before Dec. 17.

Calling the event "pure political theater," Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont. said, "If the Bush administration spent

Controversial abortion drug works after sex, study says

BOSTON — A controversial French-made abortion drug is also a highly effective morning-after pill, preventing all pregnancies in women who have unprotected sex, a study found.

The drug, RU486, has not been approved for use in the United States.

A study conducted in Scotland and published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine, concluded that making the drug available for use after intercourse could reduce the need for abortions.

The drug is available only in France, where it was introduced in 1988, and in Britain, Sweden and China.

The drug acts on the hormonal system to trigger abortions early in pregnancy. It causes the embryo or fetus to become separated from the uterine wall and be expelled.

When used as a morning-after pill, RU486 is believed to prevent implantation of the fertilized egg in

the wall of the uterus.

In the study, doctors from the University of Edinburgh compared RU486 to high doses of the birth-control pill, now the standard morning-after approach, but one that frequently causes nausea and doesn't always work.

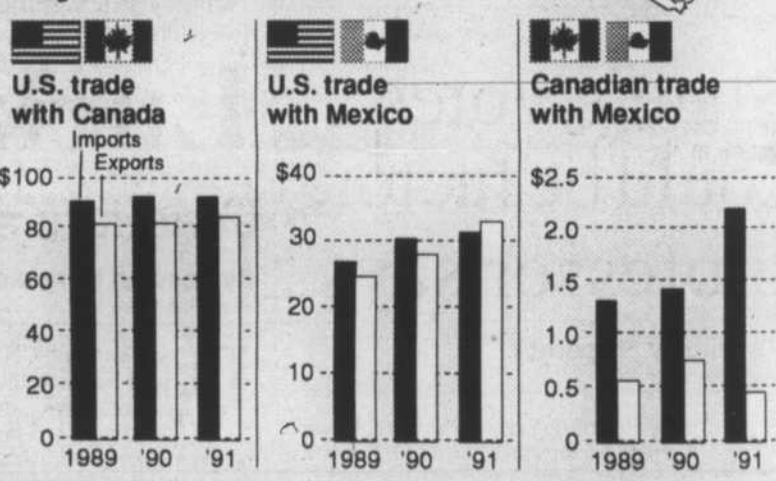
"People are trying to find a highly effective form of post-coital contraceptive that is easy to use and free from side effects," said Dr. Anna Glasier, who directed the study. "It would seem that RU486 meets those requirements."

The research was conducted on 800 women who sought emergency contraception within three days of having unprotected intercourse.

Half the women were given RU486 and half got birth control pills. None of the women taking RU486 got pregnant, compared with four pregnancies among those receiving birth control pills. RU486 was also less likely to cause nausea.

Merchandise trade between pact partners

All figures in billions of U.S. dollars



Source: U.S. Trade Representative, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Statistics Canada as much time and energy negotiating the NAFTA as it spends holding campaign events built around it, we would have a far better NAFTA."

If approved by lawmakers in all three countries, the trade agreement is scheduled to go into effect on Jan. 1, 1994, beginning a process of removing all tariffs and other barriers to trade, services and investment between the three countries over a 15-year period.

The pact is designed to create the world's largest and richest free trade zone, covering 360 million people.

American labor unions and many environmentalists strongly oppose the pact, charging that it will cost up to a half-million American jobs as more companies move their operations to Mexico to take advantage of low wages and lax enforcement of environmental laws.

The administration disputes that

view, arguing that the agreement will end up creating more jobs than it loses as U.S. companies are able to boost their exports to Mexico.

"This is a very positive issue for us and the president," said Bush campaign spokeswoman Torie Clarke.

Democratic candidate Bill Clinton on Sunday came out in support of the free trade agreement although he said additional steps should be taken to protect American jobs and the environment.

He said his objections could be met without re-negotiating the pact.

The Bush administration has seen the NAFTA agreement as a cornerstone of its free-market philosophy, arguing that the best way to bolster the U.S. economy is to remove foreign barriers to the sale of American products.

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Marketing experts praise Perot's salesmanship

WASHINGTON — Political operatives may scoff at Ross Perot's campaign methods, but marketing experts say the Texas billionaire is using classic business sales techniques.

"The first step of persuasion is making people painfully aware of how much they need what you are selling," says Tom Reilly, a suburban St. Louis consultant who advises companies on how to improve marketing techniques.

In his 30-minute ad Tuesday night on CBS-TV, Perot gave viewers a detailed version of what he thinks is wrong with their economy and President Bush's handling of it. In doing so, "he paved the way for selling the solution" during a second 30-minute spot Friday night on ABC, Reilly said.

That could be a tough sell, since Perot's recommendations include higher taxes and deep

cuts in popular government programs.

Jack Trout, a Greenwich, Conn., advertising consultant, said Perot has cleverly sugarcoated the bitter pill he is asking Americans to swallow by calling his program "shared sacrifice."

"That does a good job with some bad news," said Trout, coauthor with his business partner Al Ries of the book, "Marketing Warfare."

The experts said Perot brings to the political stump the same skills that made him a legend on the IBM sales force, where he once took only a month to fill a sales quota for an entire year.

"All of persuasion is built on a simple model; obviously he understands that model," said Reilly.

With its avalanche of facts and figures on charts and graphs that viewers often had difficulty reading, Perot's first broadcast didn't

have the polish of a state-of-the-art political production.

He hammered away with a simple message: The economy is in trouble because the government is burdened with an intolerable debt the country can't afford to keep accumulating.

"It is like having a guy coming into your office with a little pile of flip charts and taking you through the selling deal," Trout said.

"In the medium of television, he should have spent a few more dollars on the production, since in reality the chart was critical to the selling," the consultant added. Still, overnight Nielsen ratings showed that Perot's broadcast commanded a large audience.

In a survey of 17 markets where the program was shown live, it ranked second in its time slot to ABC's "Full House" and ahead of NBC's "Quantum Leap."