

# NEWS DIGEST

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1999

PAGE 2

## Investigators probe S.D. crash

### Tissue samples from victims' remains collected from the wreckage

MINA, S.D. (AP) — Investigators returned Tuesday to the site where a jet carrying golf champion Payne Stewart nose-dived into a field, taking samples of victims' remains but cautioning there would likely be no quick explanation why the plane flew pilotless for 1,400 miles across the country.

Five others also were killed.

A six-member National Transportation Safety Board team walked through the crash site Monday evening, hours after the Learjet crashed, and returned to the task Tuesday.

The wreckage is "fairly contained," NTSB Vice Chairman Robert Francis said. "It looks the aircraft was pretty much vertical when it hit. The ground is soft, and it went in fairly deep."

The investigation will take some time, he said.

Some tissue samples from the victims' remains had been removed from the scene.

Stewart, 42, had won 18 tourna-

ments over his career, including two U.S. Open titles. He also was part of the team that helped the United States stage a historic comeback to beat Europe last month for the Ryder Cup.

Also killed were Stewart's agents, Robert Fraley and Van Ardan, and the two pilots, Michael Kling, 43, and Stephanie Bellegarrigue, 27. Francis said officials believed a sixth person also died. The family of Bruce Borland, 40, was sure he was on board.

The jet was operated by Sunjet Aviation Inc. Company officials told The Wichita Eagle it had been inspected twice in the previous three days, including just before the doomed flight.

The Lear 35 left Orlando, Fla., at 9:09 a.m. and was headed to Texas, where Stewart was to attend a meeting on a proposed golf course near Dallas and the Tour Championship in Houston.

Air traffic controllers soon lost contact with the chartered, twin-engine plane. It may have suddenly lost cabin

pressure soon after taking off for Dallas, government officials said.

The plane had no flight data recorder, just the voice recorder, which normally erases conversations after a half-hour to reuse the tape, Francis said. The occupants of the plane presumably were already unconscious or dead by the last 30 minutes of the flight.

Planes that fly above 12,000 feet are pressurized, because the air at altitudes above that lacks enough oxygen for people to breathe comfortably. If a plane loses pressure, those aboard could slowly lose consciousness.

Once reaching a cruising altitude, pilots often switch on the autopilot. If they pass out, the plane could continue on until it ran out of fuel.

Fighter jets sent after the Learjet followed it for much of its flight but were unable to help. The pilots drew close and noticed no structural damage but were unable to see into the Learjet because its windows were frosted over,

indicating the temperature inside was well below freezing.

The plane, apparently on autopilot, cruised 1,400 miles straight up the nation's midsection. Authorities say the plane was "porpoising," fluctuating between 22,000 and 51,000 feet.

Stewart's Australian-born wife, Tracey, tried to reach her husband on his cellular phone while she followed the drama on television, her brother said.

"She was trying to ring him on his mobile and couldn't raise him. It's just really bad for my sister to be watching it on CNN, knowing that it was her husband on board," Mike Ferguson told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

The plane presumably ran out of fuel four hours after it took off, then crashed in the field in South Dakota.

"The plane in trouble started flip-flopping around and turning somersaults," said Ken Dunn of Mina, one of the first to arrive at the crash site. "When it came down, it came down."

## Russian tanks near Grozny

### Most of the fighting occurred east of the Chechen capital.

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Exploding artillery shells rattled windows and spread fear in the Chechen capital, Grozny, Tuesday, as the heaviest fighting in weeks brought Russian tanks and soldiers near the city limits.

Chechen fighters battled the Russians within two miles of Grozny's northern edge, while more fighting raged to the east of the city. There were unconfirmed reports that elite Russian reconnaissance troops had entered Grozny.

Russian jets and artillery elsewhere bombarded at least seven

towns and settlements across Chechnya on Tuesday, officers on both sides said.

Up to 200 Russian tanks and self-propelled artillery pieces led the fiercest assaults in the Terek Ridge area, the strategic heights northwest of Grozny's airport, said Gen. Mumadj Saidayev, a top Chechen military official.

The Chechens claimed they had knocked out several tanks and inflicted heavy losses on a Russian column advancing from the south-east, but no independent confirmation was available.

Residents of the battered Chechen capital were gripped with fear and hopelessness ahead of the region's harsh winter season.

"Many of those who have stayed

in Grozny feel doomed," said resident Asya Lalayeva, complaining that officials in both the Russian and Chechen governments "see them as raw material."

Russian officials have given mixed signals about whether they plan to storm Grozny in their campaign to wipe out Islamic militants based in Chechnya. After early successes, the Russian military now appears to be trying to occupy all of the republic and end its de facto independence.

Casualties in the latest fighting are unknown. The Russians say they have lost some 200 soldiers and killed 2,000 militants overall, while the Chechens claim to have lost far fewer fighters and killed many Russians.

## Chinese protesters arrested

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese police detained dozens of Falun Gong spiritual movement members on Tuesday, pulling them into police vans after they staged a second day of civil disobedience in Tiananmen Square to protest a government ban on their group.

The low-key protest, which participants knew assured their arrests, showed that the Communist government's three-month crackdown and its campaign of vilification against Falun Gong leaders has yet to eradicate the popular movement.

A New York-based spokeswoman for the group claimed that police have arrested about 1,000 members over the last few days — a report that could not be independently verified.

On Tuesday, police took at least 36 people from the square, often in batches of six or more. They included middle-aged or older women and a middle-aged man who was forced into a van along.

By gathering in clumps amid the throngs of tourists on Tiananmen Square, the protesters hoped to highlight their disapproval of a proposed law against Falun Gong and other groups China's communist leaders view as dangerous cults.

The national legislature is reviewing the law this week at the Great Hall of the People beside Tiananmen Square.

Police in street clothes distinguished the Falun Gong adherents from Chinese tourists in the vast square by quietly asking people if they came to protest. Those who answered "yes" were quickly detained.

Gail Rachlin, the New York-based spokeswoman for Falun Gong, said the protesters "just want to have the government understand them."

"All they want to do is meditate," she said.

Without directly addressing the allegations of mistreatment and mass arrests, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue defended the crackdown on Falun Gong as lawful.

"It is an illegal organization that constitutes a cult," Zhang said. "The organization has upset social order and has damaged the health of practitioners."

## U.S. sends inquiry to South Korea

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army is sending an investigative team to South Korea to begin the field inquiry into allegations of a Korean War massacre of civilians by U.S. soldiers.

The investigators, headed by the Army's inspector general, Lt. Gen. Michael Ackerman, plan one day of talks with their South Korean counterparts on Friday, defense officials said. They will leave for Seoul today.

Kenneth Bacon, spokesman for Defense Secretary William Cohen, said the meeting will mark the start of the information sharing that Cohen promised President Kim Dae-jung in an Oct. 8 letter. Cohen told Kim the U.S. investigation would seek to uncov-

er the truth "no matter where it leads."

On Sept. 30, The Associated Press reported accounts by American veterans and South Korean villagers that U.S. soldiers killed up to 400 civilians under a bridge at No Gun Ri, South Korea, early in the war. A subsequent AP report said that in addition to the No Gun Ri incident in late July 1950, the Army a short time later destroyed two strategic bridges as South Korean refugees streamed across, killing hundreds of civilians.

The Pentagon has said it will take a broad look into the matter, although it has not spelled out the scope, timing and guidelines of its investigation.

Prior to publication of the AP sto-

ries, U.S. officials said previous examinations of military records found no evidence of a massacre. The earlier inquiries were the basis for U.S. and South Korean rejections of requests from victims' families and survivors seeking acknowledgment of the killings and compensation. The South Korean government already has conducted some interviews with survivors.

The Pentagon has begun reviewing historical records, but Friday's talks in Seoul will mark the first step in the field investigation. Last week Cohen announced the creation of a special group of Defense Department officials, plus some nonmilitary advisers, to guide the Army's investigation.

# Daily Nebraskan

Questions? Comments?  
Ask for the appropriate section editor at (402) 472-2588  
or e-mail [dn@unl.edu](mailto:dn@unl.edu).

Fax number: (402) 472-1761

World Wide Web: [www.dailynebraskan.com](http://www.dailynebraskan.com)

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-260) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 20, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during the summer sessions. The public has access to the Publications Board.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling (402) 472-2588.

Subscriptions are \$60 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 20, 1400 R St., Lincoln NE 68588-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1999

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

Editor: Josh Funk  
Managing Editor: Sarah Baker  
Associate News Editor: Lindsay Young  
Associate News Editor: Jessica Pargen  
Opinion Editor: Mark Baldrige  
Sports Editor: Dave Wilson  
A&E Editor: Liza Holtmeier  
Copy Desk Chief: Diane Broderick  
Photo Chief: Lane Hickenbottom  
Design Chief: Melanie Falk  
Art Director: Matt Haney  
Web Editor: Gregg Stearns  
Asst. Web Editor: Jennifer Walker  
General Manager: Daniel Shattil  
Publications Board: Jessica Hofmann, (402) 477-0527  
Chairwoman: Don Walton, (402) 473-7248  
Professional Adviser: Nick Partsch, (402) 472-2589  
Advertising Manager: Asst. Ad Manager: Jamie Yeager  
Classified Ad Manager: Mary Johnson



### Washington

#### Law restricts loans to some students with records

WASHINGTON (AP) — Students convicted of drug offenses will be barred from receiving federal college tuition aid for one year from date of conviction and, in some cases, permanently under rules taking effect next summer.

The regulations are based on a law enacted last year to reduce waste in the student loan system. They do not apply to juvenile records, and some students will be able to retain eligibility by completing drug rehabilitation or by having their convictions overturned.

Students must report any drug convictions on forms for federal financial aid, including Pell grants and student loans.

### Indonesia

#### Indonesia president moves to restrict military power

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — In a move to sharply reduce the military's political dominance, Indonesia's new president took the radical step Tuesday of appointing a civilian to run the Defense Ministry.

President Abdurrahman Wahid, whose election by parliament last week marked Indonesia's transition to democracy, announced a Cabinet filled with political neophytes, Islamic party politicians and fewer military officials than ever before.

Juwono Sudarsono, Indonesia's first civilian defense minister in four decades, faces the huge task of reforming a military widely accused of human rights abuses and meddling in politics and of keeping restive parts of the country from trying to break away.

### Wyoming

#### Defendant enacts panic defense in Shepard case

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — The alleged ringleader in the beating death of college student Matthew Shepard has adopted a "gay panic" defense, a somewhat risky strategy that has had little success in the past.

In opening statements on Monday, Aaron McKinney's lawyer argued that McKinney snapped after a sexual advance from Shepard triggered memories of a homosexual assault by a childhood bully. The lawyer also contended McKinney was under the influence of drugs and alcohol at the time.

The defense is hoping to save McKinney's life by convincing the jury that he is guilty of manslaughter instead of murder.

### New York

#### City plans to require work for place in shelters

NEW YORK (AP) — Homeless people looking for a place to sleep in New York shelters will have to work for it under a policy beginning this winter — a move condemned Tuesday as "a throwback to the days of Dickens."

New York is believed to be the only major U.S. city to impose a work-for-shelter requirement.

On Tuesday, Republican Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said the city will extend the policy in about 60 days to the 4,600 families and 7,000 single adults staying in city-run shelters.