



The Clarion

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Is It Safe To 'Fly The Friendly Skies'?

by Ann-Marie Pressler

Risk, in life, is real. Worrying about risk is sometimes less real, as reported by Harold Lewis of the Los Angeles Times. In the last few months there have been three major air crashes, including the largest single-plane accident in history, and they have received extensive coverage in the press, as is their due.

Delta Airlines has accused federal air traffic controllers of negligence in the August 2 plane crash that killed 135 people, an airline spokesman said. The Lockheed L-1011 crashed during a severe thunderstorm while approaching the Dallas-Ft. Worth international airport. Investigators have theorized that the jet plummeted to the ground when it encountered treacherous wind shear, but a final cause has yet to be determined.

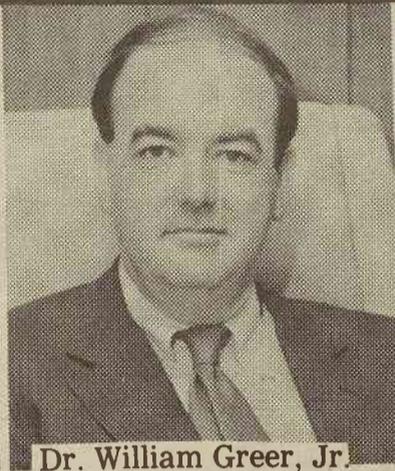
In New York, investigators are looking into the crash of a Japan Airlines Boeing 747 that slammed into a mountain last month. They have found evidence of improper rear-cabin repairs that could have led to the disaster, according to the authorities involved in the inquiry. Examination of the bulkhead after the crash last month, in which 520 people were killed, has shown that a single line of rivets was used for part of the repair instead of the double line of rivets called for in the manual, the investigators said.

From Washington, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is considering over-hauling its rules. Before a jetliner may carry passengers, the government must be convinced that a full plane can be evacuated in 90 seconds. Concern over the ability of airline passengers to escape an aircraft cabin took on added weight recently with the August 22 fire aboard a British charter Boeing 737 as it was taking off from Manchester, England. Fifty-four people aboard the jetliner were killed by toxic smoke and flames.

According to the recent record of the air travel industry, "flying is safer than ever." "There's been an astonishing reduction in fatalities over the last 50 years," said Brad Dunbar, spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board.

The chance of being in a fatal accident was more than 14 times less in 1984 than in 1948, the first year such statistics were kept, according to the board.

In 1948 the chance of being in a fatal crash was one in 380,000, with five fatal crashes in 1.9 million flights flown in U.S. commercial carriers. From 1965 to 1970, the rate fell sharply from one in 650,000 in 1965 to one in 4.8 million in 1970. Last year there was only one fatal accident in 5.4 million U.S. commercial flights.



Dr. William Greer, Jr.

The controversy over whether the FAA's evacuation plans are adequate has been going on for months--ever since the FAA quietly granted permission to the Boeing Co. to eliminate two of 10 exit doors on its 747 jumbo jets. Some foreign airlines have already sealed off the doors, but U.S. carriers have not because of the uproar.

Air travelers with questions or complaints about airline operation and safety now have a toll free number to call. The consumer hotline (1-800-FAA-SURE) is handling complaints or questions about issues such as airport security, child safety seats, baggage, and services provided by the FAA, which is operating the hotline.

More than 500 people were killed in the Japan Airline crash-aviation's worst single-plane disaster. Yet it is estimated that each day nearly 150 people die in the U.S. from smoking. This has been open season on aviation safety, and citizens are beginning to think that flying is pretty risky business. Is it?

Dr. Greer - Visible And Approachable

by Kim Ormand

This year Brevard College boasts several changes on campus, ranging from new administrators to the addition of a women's soccer team. All of the changes so far have proven positive ones, including the position of President of the College filled by Dr. William Thomas Greer, Jr.

Dr. Greer comes from Cuthbert, Georgia, where he most recently was president of Andrew College. Dr. Greer became interested in higher education when he was asked to come and teach at Andrew College. Later when the presidency was open, he was offered the job. He heard of the opening at Brevard last spring by phone and was asked to let himself be considered for the position. He said that he had "formed his initial opinion of BC based on the reputation of the college." Now that he is here, he says that his positive opinion of the college hasn't changed--in fact, he is even more impressed saying--"there are two ingredients of a successful college--a strong committed faculty and student body. Brevard has both of these."

But what exactly does a President do? Right now Dr. Greer's position is mainly listening and learning. Yet there are general responsibilities which include seeing that the philosophy and ideals of the institution are maintained, building a team to share the responsibilities, and interpreting this college to the Methodist Church. Fortunately Dr. Greer is willing to take part in campus life in order to do his job well. He says "it would be easy for me to hole up in here like it's a fort--I want to be visible and approachable."

Luckily for BC, Dr. Greer is the positive personality that will naturally become integrated into the community. He is not the type of person to sit around and do nothing. He is active in the church and community activities, saying that "church and personal recreation are my favorite things after my family and work." He is willing to go that extra mile for the college and wants the sense of unity that draws people to BC to continue. And with the long year ahead of us, Dr. Greer's enthusiasm is just what Brevard College needs.

SGA-Group Working Together

by Kim Ormand and Elizabeth Oliver

The student government Association met several times this year, planning and discussing various aspects of the school. They have been in charge of Derby Day, coffeehouses, and several movies and dances. With newly elected vice-president Chuck Shelf, a proposal was sent to Dean Wray concerning the keeping of birds on campus (that was rejected for health reasons). SGA is also working to allow students to park in front of the cafeteria.

Although right now they are simply trying to follow the schedule, several other projects are in progress such as the invitation for retarded children to visit the school on Halloween, and the Spring Formal.

Of course there are problems to be dealt with - one of which is the large group. With 40 people in one room, when the SGA meets, it is easy to let the officers run the show. But President Henning Brandt does not want it to be an "officers' game." There is a tendency for the officers to try and do everything instead of allowing input which makes it a group event. In a student government the sharing of responsibility is imperative; otherwise it will be nothing but a facade. Mr. Brandt realizes this and says "if we can get 20 people who want to be active, then it (SGA) has a purpose."

All of the SGA meetings are open meetings on Mondays starting at 6:00 p.m. and the members encourage everyone to come and listen, make sugges-

tions, and help bridge the communication gap between the students and administration.

Phone-a-thon Scheduled

Students are needed to assist with the Office of Development's Phone-a-thon scheduled for Nov. 4-14. Brevard College alumni will be called and asked to donate at least one dollar for each year since their graduation. Student volunteers will be telephoning from 7-9:30 p.m. on Monday-Thursday in the Beam Administration Conference room. Prizes will be awarded and food will be provided. All interested students should contact Sally Gunther in the Beam Administration building.

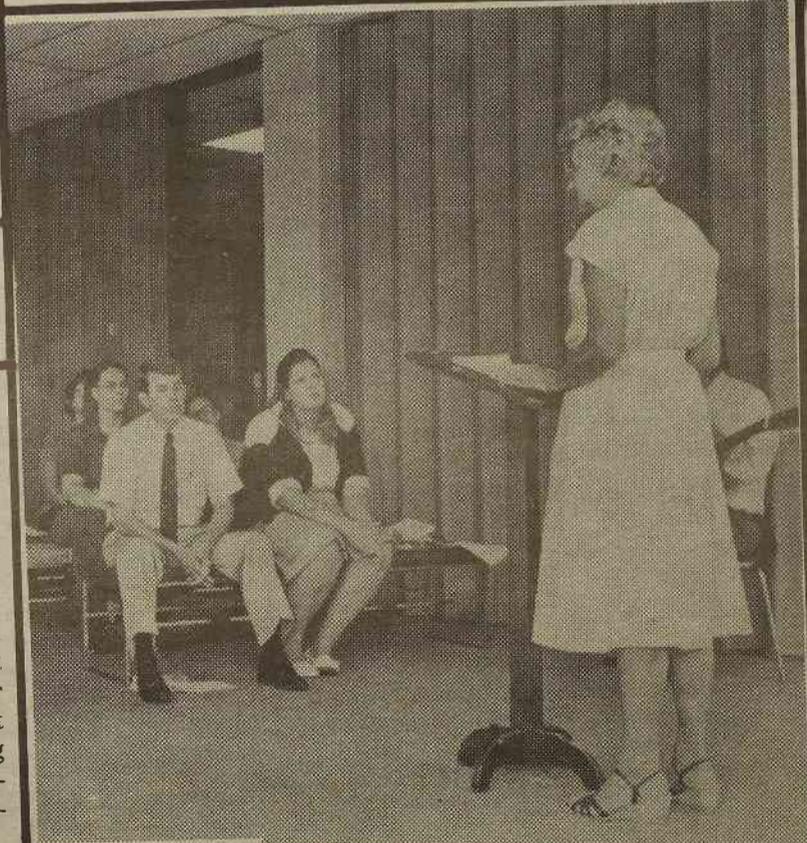


Photo By Kent Thompson

Professor Rachel Daniels leads a recent campus worship service in the S.U. Chapel is held at 11:15 each Wednesday and everyone is invited to attend.