

National Report Seeks Remedies for Senioritis

Rex Bolinger, a member of the group that compiled the report, believes the 12th grade is often a waste.

By RACHEL COTTONE
Staff Writer

A report released Jan. 17 indicates that senioritis — a term often used to describe high school students' impatience to graduate — is a real and problematic occurrence in schools nationwide.

The National Commission on the High School Senior Year released the preliminary report. The commission will now hold public meetings to discuss the findings of "The Lost Opportunity of Senior Year: Finding a Better Way."

According to the report, "one-third to one-half of high school students are undereducated or miseducated."

The report further states that, "Senior year is a lost opportunity, during which many students let one-fourth of their high school learning time slip through their fingers."

Angola High School Principal Rex Bolinger, who was on the commission that released the report, said the report will come out in two parts.

Bolinger said the preliminary report's findings will be the topic of nationwide public discussions aimed at pinpointing ways to make the senior year of high school more worthwhile to students preparing for work and college.

Bolinger said he wholeheartedly supports the public discussions on the reports findings because education involves parents, students and teachers.

"Responsibility is really a collective thing for everyone involved in education," he said. "It all can't happen within the four walls of the classroom."

And with the input of the communi-

ty taken into account, the second report will be written with specific recommendations and suggestions and released, Bolinger said. He added that some ideas to improve the quality of the senior year had already surfaced.

"Students should take AP courses at community colleges to free up teachers to teach students who need these really good teachers," he said.

But Bolinger does recognize certain problems with this idea, such as the question of transportation to community colleges.

And other solutions, like delaying student admission to college until spring semester of senior year, exist to fend off senioritis, he said. "Often colleges will admit students to college (during the fall semester)," Bolinger said. "Students fail to see the need to take rigorous courses."

He cited giving placement tests during the junior year of high school as a third possible solution. "Students need to take placement tests during their junior year to see where they stand," Bolinger said.

And Bolinger said the junior placement tests could direct students during their last year in high school and allow them to forego the remedial college courses that many take now because of a wasted senior year.

But UNC academic adviser Elizabeth Jordan said incoming freshmen differed greatly in terms of preparedness for college. "I think it's hard to characterize. Some freshmen are doing really well," Jordan said. "Some (freshmen) are struggling with academic eligibility."

She said the reasons for student performance vary as well, but solutions do exist for students seeking help. "There are lots and lots of resources, but because it is a big campus, students need to take the initiative and seek them out."

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Crash Kills 10 from Oklahoma State

A charter plane carrying men's basketball staffers and two players went down in a Colorado snowstorm.

The Associated Press

BYERS, Colo. — A twin-engine plane climbed and banked hard to the right before it crashed during a light snowstorm, killing 10 people, including two Oklahoma State basketball players, witnesses said Sunday.

Witnesses told investigators the propeller plane's engines revved and eased back several times before the fiery crash in a field Saturday night about 40 miles east of Denver.

"It sounded like he was flying full power. Then I heard a thump and saw a low glow," said Jon Carrick, who lives about two miles southwest of the crash site.

Cesar Ronquillo, another area resident, said the plane's engines were whining when he heard another loud noise.

"I saw the plane turning around, go up again but all of a sudden go straight down," he said.

As light snow fell, a team of National Transportation Safety Board investigators began looking for clues to the cause of the crash amid twisted wreckage scattered across a quarter-mile.

"We have some very detailed and painstaking work ahead of us in what are not the best weather conditions," said John Hammerschmidt, head of the NTSB crash investigation team.

Police Sgt. Craig Coleman said the

field was littered with body parts, seats, planning books, basketball shoes and playing cards, among other items.

"It's a very gruesome and grotesque scene," Coleman said.

The Beechcraft King Air 200 Catpass was one of three planes carrying the Oklahoma State men's basketball team and associates back to Stillwater, Okla., after they lost to the Colorado Buffaloes in a Big 12 Conference game at Boulder.

Jefferson County Airport officials lost contact with the plane when it was 20 miles southeast of Denver, as it was

being handed off to the Denver air-traffic control center, Federal Aviation Administration officials said.

There was no distress call from the

plane, said Arnold Scott of the NTSB's Denver office.

Visibility was about 1 1/2 miles when the plane crashed, said FAA spokesman Jerry Snyder.

The victims were Oklahoma State players Nate Fleming and Daniel Lawson, sports information employee Will Hancock, Oklahoma State Director of Basketball Operations Pat Noyes, trainer Brian Luinstra, broadcast engineer Kendall Durfey, Oklahoma City broadcaster Bill Teegins, pilot Denver Mills and co-pilot Bjorn Falstrom.

Also killed in the crash was student manager Jared Weiberg, the nephew of Big 12 Commissioner Kevin Weiberg.

The plane, tail number N81PF, was registered to North Bay Charter of Reno, Nev., the FAA said.

Greg Feith of the NTSB, interviewed by KUSA-TV, said the aircraft type "has an outstanding record. This is a solid airplane flying in these conditions if flown correctly."

Search Continues for Indian Quake Survivors

The quake was centered at the town of Bhuj and was felt as far away as Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The Associated Press

BHUJ, India — Exhausted searchers using everything from sophisticated rock-cutting tools to their bare hands clawed through rubble Sunday, hoping to find survivors lingering among the thousands believed buried by western India's massive earthquake.

More than 6,000 bodies had been found since Friday's quake, and the death toll was expected to go much higher. Some authorities estimated it would reach 10,000; others said 16,000 or more. A leading rescue official said there could be up to 30,000 dead in one town alone.

As India's prime minister appealed for help, frantic rescuers and sniffer dogs uncovered a few signs of life Sunday amid the destruction in Gujarat, the western Indian state that took the brunt of the blow.

In Anjar, 30 miles southeast of the hardest-hit town, Bhuj, a 3-year-old girl was unearthed from the rubble alive. "She was chanting some Arabic vers-

es," said a soldier who participated in the toddler's rescue. "She was totally unscathed," he said, declining to give his name.

Across town, sniffer dogs located another sign of life in a heap of rubble. After three hours of digging, soldiers found a man, only his face visible under twisted and crumpled masonry. Unable to reach him, rescuers released water from a plastic pouch, drop by drop, into his mouth.

Chipping slowly at the blocks so as not to unsettle the unstable mound, the soldiers removed the pieces of debris one by one. Three hours later, the man was free, and a cheer went up in the crowd. Too weak to speak, too exhausted to smile, the man, identified only as Maganbhai, was carried away.

In Bhuj, a desert town just miles from the quake's epicenter, workers dug for 30 hours and shouted with joy when they found a baby and her mother alive in the rubble. The digging to free the pair took hours more. When it was finished, the baby girl, 18-month-old Namrata, was

still alive, her pulse weak. Rescuers rushed her to the hospital in an ambulance. But the mother, Badrasen Aur, had died in the concrete heap.

Next door, a woman named Das had spent two days trapped in bed with the corpses of her husband and young daughter. Her head was bloated and purple from lack of circulation.

Rescuers talked to her and gave her water and a biscuit to eat as they struggled to widen the hole they had made in the wall of her sunken bedroom.

Authorities will know by Monday if any more people are alive under the rubble, Gujarat State Home Minister Haren Pandya said. The emphasis will then switch to clearing the rubble and removing the dead bodies.

Friday's magnitude-7.9 quake — India's strongest in more than 50 years — struck on Republic Day, a national holiday in India. It shook the earth for more than 1,200 miles and was felt in Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan, where 10 people were crushed in their houses. More than half the houses in Bhuj, a

city of 150,000 people, were reduced to rubble, and the rest were damaged.

In the congested old part of the city, dogs, pigs and cows foraged for food in streets made narrower by mounds of rubble.

In a newly developed portion of Bhuj, lime and chlorine disinfectants mixed with the smell of dead bodies.

People moved possessions from their homes and set up makeshift camps in two open areas using bedsheets as tents. "This is death and destruction," said a bearded old Muslim man sitting on a string cot.


He refused to talk about his family and wouldn't give his name. "I am just an unfortunate Indian. That is enough."

By Sunday, foreign aid was pouring in: Cranes, generators, cutting tools, sniffer dogs, seismic monitors and poles with long cameras attached had begun to arrive along with experienced teams of rescuers from places such as Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Turkey.

Indian Agriculture Minister Bhaskar Barua said about 750 doctors and other health workers, more than 5,000 rescue workers, dozens of bulldozers, 36,000 blankets and 10,800 tents had been sent. But Pandya said authorities urgently needed even more rescue equipment and medical supplies.

"This is death and destruction. ... I am just an unfortunate Indian. That is enough."

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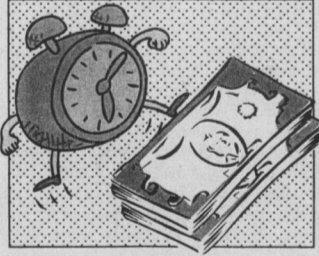
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