

Q&A ON THE NEWS; Q&A ON THE NEWS

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

February 24, 1998, Tuesday,, ALL EDITIONS

Copyright 1998 The Atlanta Constitution

Section: NEWS; Pg. 02A; Pg. 02A; Colin Bessonette

Length: 840 words

Byline: Colin Bessonette

Series: Metro Final Today's News

Body

Do you have a question on the news - local, national or international? Colin Bessonette will try to get an answer. Call 404-222-2002 and follow the instructions or e-mail: q&a@ajc.com Q: How does a crew of a bomber bail out, like the four Air Force officers did before their B-1B bomber crashed in Kentucky last week? --- George Randolph, Tucker A: As you probably suspect, they don't just open a window and leap out with their parachutes. This is how the process worked aboard the B-1B, called the Hellion: The crew members used their ejector seats to catapult themselves from the plane. Propelled by rockets, the ejectors pushed the crew members --- still strapped into their seats --- through the roof of the plane after openings were created by a metal spike at the top of the seats. A parachute canopy then opened. "You pull the handles, and out you go," said Col. Tony Przybyslowski, commander of the 7th Operations Group at the doomed aircraft's home, Dyess Air Force Base near Abilene, Texas. "You're out of there fast." Q: Now that 10-digit dialing has become mandatory in metro Atlanta because of the addition of area code 678, have any telephone numbers been issued in the new area code? --- Thomas Moore, Norcross A: Yes. The 10-digit numbers began to be issued within a few days of the announcement of 678 implementation, said BellSouth spokeswoman Lynn Bress. They're being issued by BellSouth and competing companies.

Q: I understand that a cemetery in Halifax, Nova Scotia, holds the graves of many people who died in the Titanic disaster. True? --- Regina LaBudde, Smyrna A: In fact, there are three cemeteries in Halifax with bodies of Titanic victims, said Dan Conlin, historian at the city's Maritime Museum of the Atlantic. As was the custom at the time, the bodies were segregated according to religion. Fairview Lawn, the Protestant cemetery, has about 120 bodies from the Titanic sinking; about 30 more are divided between Baron De Hirsch Cemetery, the Jewish area, and Mount Olivet, the Catholic cemetery. More than 300 bodies were recovered, with "a fair number buried at sea," Conlin said, because only those bodies that were embalmed were allowed into port. Of the 209 or so bodies that did come to Halifax, about 50 were claimed by relatives and shipped by train all over North America and by steamer back to Europe.

All three cemeteries are open to the public, Conlin said. Families of some victims paid for markers telling the story of the person buried, such as a steward who died at his post. The Grave of the Unknown Child, containing the body of an unidentified 2-year-old, often has flowers and notes placed on it by visiting schoolchildren, Conlin said. **Q: An** article about license plates quoted an official as saying the number 666, the Biblical mark of the beast, is an automatic denial for prestige plates and is even eliminated from the three-number progressions that appear on regular Georgia license tags. Not so, because my tag has 666 on it. I was told I could not decline it. Can you explain? --- Jessie Aukes, Monroe A: Drivers normally aren't allowed to turn down the tag number they are issued, but 666 is an exception. County tax commissioners have been told that if a taxpayer finds 666 objectionable for display on a vehicle, he or she can have a different one, said Douglas Hooper, assistant director of the Georgia Department of Revenue's Motor Vehicles Division. So if you were told by the county issuing your tag that you had to

Q&A ON THE NEWS;Q&A ON THE NEWS

accept 666, even if you didn't want it, that information was incorrect, Hooper said. You can exchange it for a different number. Q: There are five rings of different colors in the Olympics logo. What do they represent? --- Roland S. Heard, Atlanta A: The International Olympic Committee's Official Olympic Companion says the rings symbolize the five parts (or continents) of the world. World Book Encyclopedia specifies that they represent Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe and the Americas. Q: In an interview, Frank Carroll, ice skater Michelle Kwan's coach, mentioned a plane crash in 1961 that killed a team of U.S. skaters . Do you have any details? --- Mary Erickson, Carrollton A: On Feb. 15, 1961, a Sabena Airlines Boeing 707, en route from New York to Brussels, crashed at Berg, Belgium, near the Brussels International Airport. All 72 people aboard the plane, and one farmer on the ground, were killed. Among the dead were 18 members of the U.S. ice figure skating team, including national champions Laurence Owen, 16; her sister, Maribel Owen, 20; their mother, Maribel Vinson Owen, 49, a former nine-time U.S. figure skating champion; Bradley Lord, 21, who had won the men's senior title two weeks earlier at Colorado Springs, Colo.; and Diane Sherbloom, 18, who with Larry Pierce had won the dance pairs title at Colorado Springs. The team was on its way to compete in a championship meet in Prague, Czechoslovakia. The International Skating Union in Davos, Switzerland, canceled the meet as a sign of mourning for the U.S. team.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: CHRISTIANS & CHRISTIANITY (90%); BOMBINGS (77%); HISTORY (61%); CATHOLICS & CATHOLICISM (60%); RELIGION (60%)

Company: AT&T SOUTHEAST (54%); AT&T SOUTHEAST (54%)

Industry: CEMETERIES (89%); TRAINS (72%); MUSEUMS & GALLERIES (65%)

Geographic: ATLANTA, GA, USA (74%); NOVA SCOTIA, CANADA (77%); TEXAS, USA (75%); GEORGIA, USA (69%); NORTH AMERICA (79%)

Load-Date: February 25, 1998

End of Document