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College Station, Texas

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Shuttle flight moved ahead

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The final test flight of the space shuttle Columbia went so well the space agency has advanced the date for the ship's first satellite-launching mission by two weeks — to Oct. 29.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials made the decision Monday after making sure the two commercial communications satellites to be launched would be ready for the earlier date.

The Columbia will be manned by a crew of four for the first time, and the first spacewalk from the shuttle is tentatively planned for the five-day mission.

In a change from early planning, the Columbia will land at Edwards Air Force Base in California again. The plan originally was to have the Columbia land at the Kennedy Space Center launch site at Cape Canaveral, Fla., on this mission.

Officials opted for a California landing because the ship has not yet demonstrated it can land in a cross wind — a common condition at the Cape — and the Columbia will be returned to its Palmdale, Calif., assembly plant for modifications after the landing.

The Columbia is still at Edwards from its July 4 landing. It is scheduled to be flown to the Cape Friday on the back of NASA's special 747 jumbojet. Already at the Kennedy Space Center is the second shuttle, the Challenger, scheduled to fly in January.

Vance Brand, a veteran of the Apollo-Soyuz spaceflight in 1975, will command the Columbia's upcoming mission. Robert F. Overmyer will be the copilot. Two mission specialists being carried for the first time are Joseph Allen and William Lenoir.

Train wreck leaves 23 dead

United Press International
TEPIC, Mexico — A train heading south from the Arizona border derailed and crashed 800 feet down a mountain gorge in western Mexico, killing at least 23 people, including one American, and injuring 100 others.

Railroad officials, giving conflicting reports on the number of dead ranging from 23 to 35, said 13 cars of the 26-car train carrying 1,560 passengers toppled to the bottom of the gorge.

Jesus Valenzuela Corrales, the Ferrocarril del Pacifico official spokesman at headquarters in Guadalajara said Monday rescue teams had found 23 people dead at the crash site.

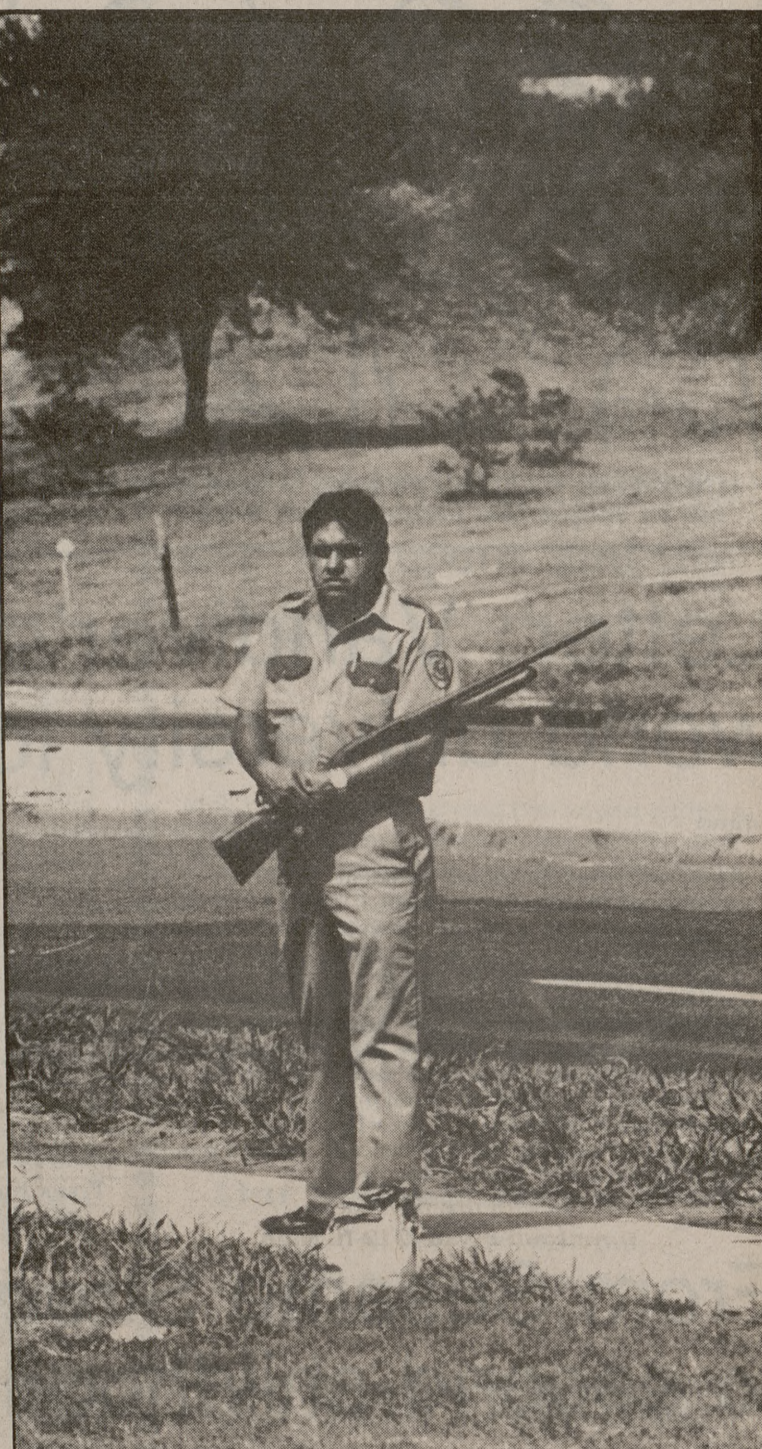
He told a news conference 10 of the dead had been identified, and

said the dead American was Peter Joseph Houbel, 31, hometown unknown.

A Red Cross spokesman in Tepic, capital of the state of Nayarit, said 115 to 120 injured people, including two Americans, were hospitalized in Tepic and Guadalajara.

Manuel Barraza Chavez, in charge of Ferrocarril del Pacifico's rescue operation in Tepic, said earlier at least 35 bodies had been recovered from the wreckage, although he denied reports 50 people died in Sunday's accident.

The 26-car train was traveling from Nogales on the Arizona border to Guadalajara when half of it derailed and toppled 800 feet to the bottom of the gorge, 11 miles outside of Tepic and 400 miles northwest of Mexico City.



Yes, it's loaded

staff photo by David Fisher

Prisoners from the Texas Department of Corrections are tearing down the Quonset Huts by the Veterinarian school complex on Agronomy Road. The prisoners are a group of third class trustees from the Central Air &

Maintenance department of the Ellis Riverside Unit. One inmate pries nails out of a sheet of plywood before taking it to the prison. Officer Hernandez of the Goree Unit stands guard by the side of University Drive.

Registration numbers top last year's figures

Through the first class day, 12,295 students had registered for second summer session classes at Texas A&M University. Friday's figure reflects an increase of 12.6 percent over last year's figures, Associate Registrar Donald Carter said.

"We felt like probably a good portion of the increase was due to the new entrance requirements going into effect in September, but there's no way to tell the exact figures," he said.

Today is the last day to enroll or add new classes for the second summer term.

Wednesday is the last day to drop courses with no record and pay fees. Students not paying fees by Wednesday at 5 p.m. will be dropped from University rolls.

Other important dates and deadlines include the following:
Friday — Last day for seniors graduating in August to apply for degrees.

July 21 — Last day to drop courses with no penalty (Q-Drop) for the second term.

August 11 — Last day of 11-week semester classes. Beginning of 11-week semester final examinations at 7 p.m.

August 12 — Last day of second term classes. Final exams for second term classes begin.

August 13 — Final exams for second term classes.

August 14 — Commencement.

College Station Fire Chief:

Firefighters hired, equipment needed

by Rebeca Zimmermann

Battalion Staff
The hiring of six new firefighters and the College Station City Council's approval of \$122,000 for salaries to hire an additional six for the College Station Fire Department are only part of what is needed, Fire Chief Douglas Landua said.

A third fire station, which was approved in a bond election and an aerial ladder truck are needed in this growing community, he said.

"We are short-handed," Landua said, "and we have been short for a year and a half."

Landua requested money last July to hire 12 new firemen and the city council set aside the money in the general contingency fund to be used as the fire department found people to hire.

Landua said he had hired six of the requested 12 firemen by May of this year. Thursday the council approved funds for the salaries of the additional six.

He said he has a number of promising applications from prospective recruits for the six positions.

The fire department has enough manpower now, he said, but 15 members of the current firefighting force have not completed their one-year training period in which they learn firefighting and emergency medical procedures.

Hiring recruits will allow the fire department to start a training program, Landua said. The department wants to hire new people now so in a year the recruits will be ready to staff the third fire station, which is included in the 1983-84 budget. The

site for the third station will depend on residential and business expansion in the eastern part of the city and where the station would be most needed, he said.

State guidelines require recruits to spend 335 hours in a firefighting training school and 120 hours in emergency medical training school.

But Landua said the College Station Fire Department tries to give recruits more training than the state requires. Before their training begins, recruits learn about firefighting equipment and become familiar with all the city's streets, he said.

Landua said his next request to the council will be for a fire truck with an aerial ladder. He said the longest ladders in the department only reach 35 feet, or about as tall as a three-story building.

As a result, any fires in buildings over three stories tall would have to be fought from the inside, he said. The firemen would have to enter the burning building, dragging equipment with them.

He said an aerial ladder, which would reach 100 feet, is needed for rescue work in apartments and tall office buildings. He said the ladder also could be used to spray large volumes of water on a fire from above and protect surrounding areas.

A 100-foot aerial ladder truck will cost about \$400,000 to \$500,000, he said. But in light of the increase in high-rise buildings in College Station, the city's growth and Texas A&M's growth, Landua said the fire department is hurting without such equipment.

San Antonio mayor wants agricultural extension center

by Terry Duran

Battalion Staff
San Antonio officials are making their second bid in a decade for establishment of a Texas A&M University System agricultural research and extension center in that city.

A delegation including San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros visited College Station Friday to discuss a proposal for the center with System officials. However, even if the idea is approved at the next Board of Regents meeting July 25, officials say it will probably have to wait a while.

San Antonio had been considered in 1971 as a possible location for such a center. However, that center was established in Uvalde, 75 miles west of San Antonio.

The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Agricultural Extension Service now jointly operate 14 of the centers statewide.

Dr. Neville P. Clark, director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, said Monday that nothing has been finalized.

"It's all wild blue yonder thinking right now," he said.

"We want to wait and get the Board's reaction. From our standpoint, it's another opportunity to provide service to the state and its people. We hope to get the Houston center underway before we get started on anything else."

Clark said Monday that plans for an agricultural research and extension center in Houston are "in the early planning stages," primarily locating a site for the center.

Bexar County Commissioner Tom Vickers has reportedly made land available in San Antonio adjacent to Texas A&M's South Central Training Center, which is operated by the Texas Engineering Extension Ser-

vice. Cisneros, a 1968 Texas A&M graduate, along with Aggie construction magnate H.B. Zachry and former San Antonio mayor Lila Cockrell, also talked with Dr. Perry Adkisson, deputy chancellor for agriculture for the Texas A&M University System.

"They just came over to determine our interest" for locating the center in San Antonio, Adkisson said.

"We are interested, but we don't want to jeopardize the Houston operation."

TAES Director Clark said the regents would have to make two decisions about the San Antonio proposal: "whether to do it or not, and if so, when."

"There's a great deal of pressure on the Board on how to distribute the resources we have, and this will have to go in the hopper with everything else," Clark said.

CS school board elects president

by Hope E. Paasch

Battalion Staff
The College Station school board elected a new president at Monday night's special session, following the resignation of former president William Wasson.

Dr. Bruce Robeck, Wasson's successor, is a political science professor at Texas A&M University and a past school board president.

Wasson will remain a board trustee for the rest of his elected term.

Also during the session, the board discussed the search procedures for a new superintendent. Current Superintendent Bruce Anderson has resigned effective in January.

Several board members suggested speeding up the process as much as possible, while still conducting a thorough search for candi-

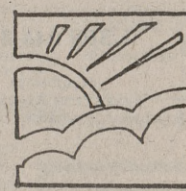
dates. The search committee will make a formal recommendation for a calendar at the next regular session.

At least one trustee said the board should attempt to find a new superintendent from within the district. Dr. Charles Giammona urged the board to listen to members of the community who want to promote someone from within the system.

Action on an employee fringe benefit package was postponed until some formal written bids are received. The insurance package, which was originally supposed to be acted on Monday night, is intended to enable all employees to have some level of coverage. The board has set aside \$50 per month in employee benefits for all teachers and is in the process of finding an acceptable package.

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forecast

Partly cloudy and warm today and Wednesday. High today in the mid-90s; low in the mid-70s.