

U.S.-Soviet space mission possible

CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"I've never expected to get much mail, but this bothers me! My letter home came back unclaimed and a "no forwarding address" stamp on it!"

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — The director of the Manned Spacecraft Center said Tuesday that the chances are three out of four that there will be a joint U.S.-Soviet space mission, probably in 1975.

Christopher Kraft said in an interview that technical discussions are progressing smoothly with the Soviets on flying a joint docking mission. He estimated the

Indian missionary to speak tonight

A local program on the first successful contact with the primitive Motilone Indians of Columbia will be repeated tonight at A&M, this time featuring the Methodist missionary who worked with the South American natives.

Bruce Olson will discuss the St. Augustine Methodist church's missionary work, show slides and artifacts and answer questions about his 1961 trek into the South American wilds.

The 8 p.m. public-free program will be in Room 102 of the Zachry Engineering Center, according to James P. Hicks, TAMU graduate student who made a survey trip in the area.

Bulletin Board

Thursday

The Aggie Cinema will meet in the Art Room of the MSC at 7:30 p.m. A picnic and new movies will be discussed.

The Cepheid Variable Science Fiction Club will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 305 of the Physics building. Convention planning and amendments will be considered.

Voting change good

The change in Texas' residency law is a big one but a necessary one if a citizen's rights are to be guaranteed.

The most obvious defect in having only a one month residency requirement is that some people will be voting in local elections that have no idea of the issues involved. But this defect isn't as big as it may seem.

It is doubtful that many recently arrived persons would get out and vote in an election they know nothing about. Most people are reluctant to vote anyway and to expect droves of strangers to show up at the polls is illogical.

Besides, it would not make that much of a difference with all the unintelligent voting going on right now. How many people actually vote for a particular person, but instead vote a straight ticket, or for the first name on the ballot, or for someone that has a nice sounding name? Quite a few, so many, in fact, that the newly enfranchised voter probably won't even make a dent.

By lowering the residency requirement, however, the government has enfranchised those who would have not been able to vote simply because they had not lived in one area long enough. Previously a person lost his right to vote because he had moved.

That is over now. We hope that those in local authority both here and throughout the state and nation will soon be allowing everyone to vote.

Pot laws

Amidst all the talk about following a national commission's recommendation that criminal penalties for private marijuana use be ended, one question has not been considered to the extent that it should be.

That question is this, even if such penalties are removed, will the inequalities of enforcement of such laws that exist today be ended?

This is one of the most important aspects of the question. This nation can endure without legalized marijuana, it has for some time, but how long can it exist without fair and equal treatment under the law being accorded each citizen?

There is now a gross and criminal situation in our courts. It is the great variability that marijuana laws are enforced or not enforced. Depending on one's social, economic or local situation so depends the punishment meted out.

It doesn't take much thinking to come up with examples. Remember Lee Otis Johnson, a Houston black, who made the mistake of harboring certain ideas and then being "caught" with one joint of pot on his person. Thirty years in jail Johnson got.

But in certain courts in this country the judges refuse to return convictions. And we don't have to say just what the chances of say a rich, young, white citizen has of getting convicted if "Daddy" has just the slightest bit of pull.

If such were the case and the penalties involved were only those of a misdemeanor it would not be so terrible. Unforgiveable but still not so terrible.

But what is now involved is a felony. This is a crime, that, if convicted, carries the same penalties as a murder or robbery conviction. No equivalent of a minor in possession this!

This is what needs to be changed immediately. We can later debate the effect of marijuana on the human body and society. We cannot afford to delay any longer about such criminal law enforcement.

The Battalion

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Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

MEMBER

The Associated Press, Texas Press Association
The Associated Collegiate Press

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 6% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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odds of such a mission being approved at 75-25 in favor of doing it."

Kraft cautioned, however, "I don't think we're ready now to make a full commitment."

The official said it is already too late to make the flight by the earlier predicted date, June of 1974, but that there is time to build the equipment needed for a 1975 launch date.

"If we are going to fly in 1975," he said, "we'll have to get agreements from both countries within six months."

Agreement on technical details, he said, could come as early as this summer.

The National Aeronautic and Space Administration has spent about \$700,000 on a technical

study about the flight. Kraft estimated all additional hardware would cost \$100 to \$200 million.

He said the Russians have not yet produced such a study, but said they are devoting a similar amount of resources and time to the proposed mission.

"They have some of their best people working on this job," he said.

The preliminary study, produced by North American Rockwell Corp., calls for a 14-day U.S. earth orbit mission with two days of joint Soviet-American space activities.

Under the plan, the Russians would launch a Salyut spacecraft, which is an orbiting laboratory, and then a Soyuz spacecraft, which is the Russian version of

a command and service module. The two Soviet craft would link up in space.

Then an American command

and service module would be launched. A day later it would rendezvous and dock with Soviet craft.

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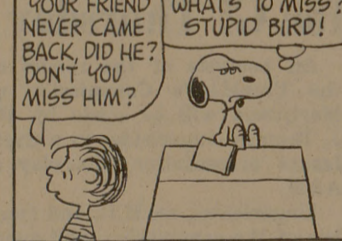
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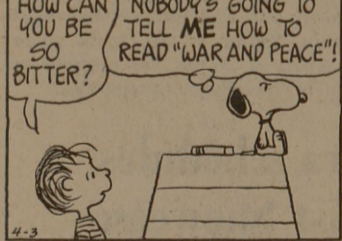
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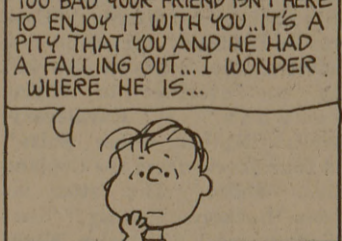
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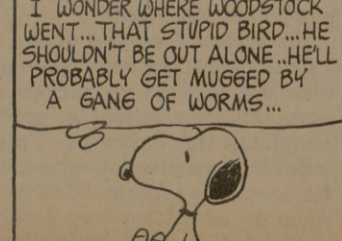
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