

Space. . .

Launch of space shuttle behind schedule

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The space agency announced Monday that it will launch the space shuttle on its first orbital test flight on Sept. 28, 1979, six months behind schedule for the important mission.

John Yardley, associate space agency administrator, announced the tentative launch date in testimony to a House subcommittee reviewing the status of the nation's next major space endeavor.

"If unforeseen problems arise or the tests are not entirely successful, this schedule could be further delayed," Yardley said.

"However, NASA believes there is a good probability of flying the first shuttle flight during 1979."

Yardley said the new schedule aims toward a February 1981 date for the first operational shuttle mission. That means NASA hopes to carry out six orbital test flights in 16 months.

The initial test flight will be piloted by astronauts John Young and Joe Engle.

The space shuttle is the key to the nation's future in space. It will carry unmanned satellites to and from orbit and will replace virtually all the nation's expendable rockets. It will be able to

carry up to seven persons into orbit on research missions using a Spacelab module.

The shuttle, a reusable space-ship with a wing as wide as a DC-9 jetliner, originally was scheduled for launch from Cape Canaveral, Fla., next March 31. But persistent problems with the ship's three main hydrogen-oxygen engines were responsible for the delay.

Yardley told the committee that significant progress is being made with the shuttle engines but he said engine development "remains a top concern." Nevertheless, he said NASA believes the current testing prog-

ram will be able to support a shuttle launch in 1979 "while allowing some time to solve unanticipated problems."

The engine difficulties, along with efforts to reduce the shuttle's weight and other problems, will force NASA to seek additional money to support the project in fiscal year 1979, Yardley said. He said NASA wants to defer \$80 million from fiscal 1978 funding to the next year.

The space agency estimates the shuttle development program will cost 8 to 9 percent more than the original estimate of \$5.2 billion in 1971 dollars.

Aggies have 'bang-up' time; Fridays, hurrying blamed

By SUSAN SHILLINGS
Accidents on the Texas A&M University campus occur more often on Fridays as a result of carelessness, according to an investigation conducted by the University Police.

The police investigated a total of 294 accidents which occurred from Sept. 1, 1977, through Aug. 31, 1978.

improper backing accounted for 94 of the accidents.

The majority of these accidents took place in parking areas. "Carelessness is the main cause in nearly all these accidents," said

McDonald.

As for light conditions, 234 accidents took place during the daylight hours compared to the 41 accidents which occurred at night with the time of 19 accidents unknown.

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NASA approves plan for cloud research

United Press International
LARAMIE, Wyo. — A proposed experiment by a University of Wyoming scientist has been accepted for execution aboard a special laboratory stationed in zero gravity above the earth.

Atmospheric science Prof. Gabor Vali submitted and won approval for his project by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the university announced in Laramie. NASA is planning experiments to be conducted in a self-contained

laboratory launched into space aboard the space shuttle craft Spacelab.

Vali said his project deals with the growth of ice crystals within clouds. Researchers will observe water droplets subjected to various conditions, including temperature and pressure.

The work "will significantly improve man's understanding of cloud formation, cloud condensation and other related formula," the professor said. "This will

allow the potential for improved weather forecasting, weather modification and new knowledge on the effect of atmospheric pollutants."

Experiments will be conducted within the Atmospheric Cloud Physics Laboratory, a separate unit to be housed in the space shuttle craft. Numerous projects will be carried out in the laboratory, Vali said.

Vali said he expects the experiment to be conducted in mid-1982.

"We have one shot to make everything work," he said. "Everything must be thought out in advance. We have to anticipate all possible problems and supply the cloud laboratory with necessary materials to deal with all possible occurrences."

"We'll train the payload specialists in advance of the mission. I will be in Houston during the experiment period to talk with these men via radio communications and keep up with the experiment."

Freshmen aware of health, fitness; P.E. profs say no Concepts needed

By LIZ BAILEY
Battalion Reporter

This year, incoming freshmen at Texas A&M found something different in the required Physical Education program than 10 previous freshmen classes found.

Beginning this fall, students were no longer enrolled in Concepts of Physical Education.

"The course, Concepts, as we had it, is out," said Emil Mamaliga, chairman of the Required and Elective Activity Program and associate professor of Health and Physical Education.

Each fall semester since the course began in 1968, the Physical Education Department's staff had channeled freshmen directly into the course without allowing them to take other physical education courses.

A spokesman in the registrar's office said that Concepts is not required for graduation and never was, but many freshmen thought it was.

Mamaliga said that the need for a course like Concepts no longer exists at Texas A&M.

dents during that time influenced the public's desire for fitness. This desire led many universities, including Texas A&M, to begin health and hygiene courses for their incoming freshmen, Mamaliga said.

Also during this time, instead of merely doing their activities in physical education class without question, Mamaliga said students began wanting to know why their professors were telling them that they should be physically fit.

In the mid 1970s, Mamaliga said,

public schools began teaching more health and hygiene.

Because of this, freshmen entering Texas A&M during the last one or two years adequately knew the material taught in Concepts prior to taking the course, Mamaliga said.

A course similar to Concepts will be taught starting this spring.

It is tentatively called Physical Fitness Evaluation and Aerobic Conditioning. The course outline has not been determined yet, Mamaliga said. The course is practically oriented and students will

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Mamaliga said that he and Dr. Carl Landiss, head of the Department of Health and Physical Education, decided last spring that Concepts should be dropped from the curriculum.

He said its purpose was to "make people more knowledgeable of themselves."

Last year, approximately 3,950 students took the course. About 3,000 were enrolled during the fall semester 1977 and about 950 during the spring semester 1978.

Mamaliga said that prior to the mid 1970s, very few public schools had health and hygiene courses. As a result, he said, incoming freshmen had been "woefully neglected" in being taught about about their physiology.

Mamaliga said he noticed a change in public opinion concerning physical fitness in the mid-1960s. He said the public changed from being apathetic about physical fitness and became very interested in it.

Mamaliga said he thinks that the activeness of the American presi-

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