

Skylab touchdown completed; NASA officials exhilarated

United Press International
HOUSTON — Skylab's fall into the Indian Ocean Wednesday wasn't quite like the tree falling unnoticed in the forest, but was close and that suited Johnson Space Center officials just as well.

The more anticlimactic, the better," spokesman Jack Riley said after tracking data suggested the 77-ton abandoned space station fell into one of the least traveled areas of the globe.

Skylab's last day began at 1:23 a.m. CDT at an altitude of 80 nautical miles when controller Mike Hawes relayed to the Santiago, Chile, tracking station the commands that sent Skylab into its final tumble.

At 2:51 a.m., Santiago sent Skylab into that tumble and at 3:00 a.m. the Madrid, Spain, tracking station confirmed it. Controller Cindy Major confirmed shutdown of Skylab's control systems and tooted a left-over New Year's Eve party horn for old time's sake. "After that it was just a matter of waiting. It couldn't have gone better," Hawes said, grinning.

"We felt good about it," JSC Skylab operations manager Charles Harlan said. "We knew we were on a good revolution. We decided on its own where it would enter. We could not have chosen a better track."

Six orbits later at 11:07 a.m., on its 34,981st orbit, Skylab's solar panels flew off, and it began disintegrating over its last tracking station, Ascension Island in the South Atlantic Ocean. Harlan was surprised at the slowness of disintegration.

"After we had the Ascension pass, I got to thinking you

couldn't kill this spacecraft," he said. "We were frankly amazed at the toughness of the spacecraft in holding together."

Harlan said the projected sequence of disintegration was that the flimsy solar panels would fly off first. Then the solar telescope mount separated from the laboratory and living areas and those two large pieces descended and disintegrated separately.

At 11:38 a.m., Norad trackers tentatively confirmed splashdown of all pieces of Skylab — with the closest pieces to Australia estimated to have fallen 900 miles out to sea.

"We're in the process of determining the real impact point," Harlan said. "That's the area I would have picked."

It was midnight in western Australia when Skylab fell and an airline pilot reported he had been flying at 29,000 feet over southwest Australia when he saw it break up into pieces," Harlan said. "He described a blue glow that turned to orange and finally disappeared."

After she tooted her party horn, Major climbed atop Building 36 at dawn to watch Skylab — a bright but fading speck in the half-lighted southern sky make its final pass over JSC.

"It was kind of sad," said Major, 27, who has spent her first year with NASA wrestling with Skylab. "When you've spent a year of your life babying something, you kind of hate to see it come down."

But others at JSC were simply glad it was all over.

"It seems like Americans really wanted a disaster and we've gone and disappointed them again," spokesman Kay Ebeling said. "Where's the party?"



Home, sweet home

Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

Grady Harman, Jim Hisne and Grant Darnell form a welcoming committee at 307 Timber in College Station while they wait for the arrival of Skylab.

The three were still waiting in the early evening for a piece of Skylab to fall in their front yard so they could start celebrating its arrival.

THE BATTALION

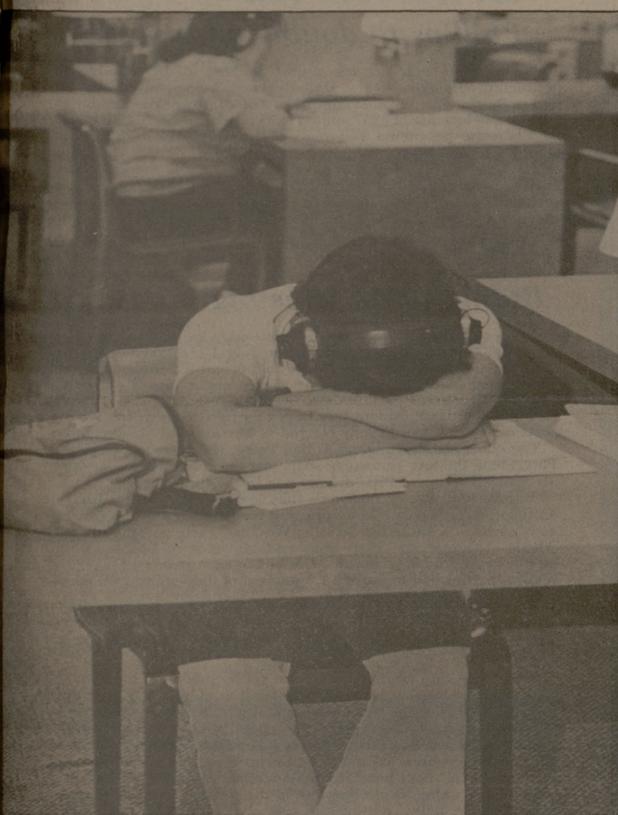
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Thursday, July 12, 1979
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611

Weather

Fair to partly cloudy. Warm with a high in the mid-90s with a low in the 70s. Possibility of thunderstorms this afternoon.



Too tired to party

Finals take their toll on everyone and Constantino Romero, a sophomore in chemical engineering, is no exception. Battalion photographer Clay Cockrill caught Romero as he "studies" for his American history final in the MSC browsing library.

Battalion photo by Clay Cockrill

Texas farmers advise wheat trade in exchange for OPEC oil supplies

United Press International
AUSTIN — A Florida attorney and a group of Texas farmers Wednesday announced formation of an organization they said will push to cut off food exports to OPEC countries until the OPEC price of oil is reduced.

Ellis Rubin of Miami, who earlier initi-

ated a move to boycott Shell Oil stations during July because that company was the first to reduce gasoline allocations to its dealers, called Wednesday for an embargo by the International Longshoremen's Association against loading or unloading any goods shipped to or from OPEC countries.

Rubin said the new "United Stand" or-

ganization wants a bushel of wheat priced at the same level as a barrel of oil.

"I call upon the 10,000 members of the International Longshoremen's Association to place an embargo on our shipments to and from the OPEC countries, and without our food they cannot exist because you can't drink oil," Cubin said in a news con-

ference.

"Refusing to load or unload OPEC shipments would be the rallying point for Americans. The sooner the better."

Travis County Commissioner David Samuelson, who joined Rubin in announcing formation of the group, said its members will include farmers, independent truckers and "plain old American citizens."

The two urged farmers to organize a wheat cartel — called the Organization of Wheat Exporting Countries, or OWEC, to bargain against OPEC nations in exchanging food for oil.

"For every hike in crude, we've got to hike the price of food," Rubin said. "Iran would starve without our exporting rice to them; the other Arab crude oil producers need another kind of oil — the huge amounts of corn oil that only the United States can supply."

He said until such time as a bushel of grain sells for the same price as a barrel of oil, the \$80 billion in investments in U.S. banks, stocks and bonds should be frozen by the U.S. government.

Carter rules out decontrol; asks nation's leaders for aid

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Carter, having ruled out decontrol of gasoline prices and, apparently, a tax cut, Wednesday brought business, labor and urban leaders to Camp David for their ideas on how to help the economy.

Heading the guest list were the board chairmen of some of the nation's largest corporations and unions, civil rights leaders and Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall. Also on hand was the chairman of the Senate Employment Committee, Sen. Gaylord Nelson, D-Wis.

Press secretary Jody Powell said Tuesday Carter believes removal of price controls would be too inflationary.

He also said the prominent non-government economists invited to the presidential retreat Tuesday agreed that Carter should not heat up the economy now with a tax cut, even though a recession is in sight. Some of the economists said the nation is in a recession now.

There were indications Carter would return to the White House Thursday afternoon, and it was understood that some of his speechwriters already are at work on a major report to the nation.

Winding down the conferences, the President invited employment experts and later state and local officials to huddle with him at the mountaintop retreat Wednesday.

He also planned to interrupt the morning session for a brief talk with Zimbabwe Rhodesian Prime Minister Abel Muzorewa, who is seeking U.S. diplomatic recognition and a lifting of sanctions against his nation.

Searching for broader solutions to the malaise that he believes has spread throughout American society, Carter conferred Tuesday night with 10 or so of the nation's most prominent religious leaders from all faiths.

Carter's cloistered probing for new ideas from a spectrum of experts and outside of government is viewed by many observers as the watershed of his presidency. He believes the deliberations have had a "sobering effect" on the country, and he is developing a much needed consensus for

programs he will present.

Many observers believe the president's political future will ride or fall on the results.

He has been out of the public eye since last Tuesday. White house official photographs depict him in casual togs with his wife Rosalynn at his right hand, taking notes in the conference room at Laurel cottage.

From campus to war and back

Vietnam veterans at A&M adjusting and questioning

By ROBIN THOMPSON
Battalion Staff

Most people have forgotten that only a little over five years ago, 18-year-old male high school students were registering for the draft. The Vietnam war was over for the most of the people of the United States in 1973, but it still isn't forgotten by the ones who were involved in it.

One of those people is Jeff Bogert, a junior philosophy major at Texas A&M University. Bogert was a nuclear engineer in the Navy for six years during the Vietnam era. When asked about those years, he said, "As far as I'm concerned, if I could forget six years of my life, that would be fine."

Bogert is bitter about being drafted out of college. He was attending Texas A&M when he was called on to enlist.

"It really bothers you," he said, "because you're thinking, 'I'm minding my own business. What do I want to go out on a rice paddy and shoot people for?'"

Even today, after finishing his stint with the Navy, Bogert still has trouble accepting the facts of the war.

"I still think about it. Did I do right or did I do wrong?" he said.

In all the time he has been back from the war, he said no one has answered these questions for him. Nor has he adjusted to the fact that he may never know the answers, he said.

He went through what he calls the post-Vietnam syndrome when he left the Navy. Its symptoms are, he said, inability to concentrate and face reality.

"You get so used to living in a very tense situation with stress on you that when the stress is removed, you can't handle it."

He said this is because "subconsciously you realize that you can't handle the real world."

Bogert, 26, said another problem he faces coming back to A&M is that most of the students and even some

of his professors are younger than him.

The thing that bothers him most about this, he said, is that not only do people not know much about the war, but "they don't care."

"You come back and its kind of like being in the twilight zone," he said. "Nobody wants to admit you've been there."

All these things; lack of recognition, realization that his effort was wasted, and tension caused by stress, Bogert said, make him bitter about his involvement in the war.

"Any way you look at it, the veteran is the victim of the war," he said.

All Vietnam veterans are not as bitter as Bogert. Dr. N. D. Shipman, a physician in Bryan who served in the Navy's sea-air rescue team during 1967 and 1968, said he did not agree with the war, but he did learn something from it.

"It makes me appreciate life and it makes me want the most out of the time I have," he said.

"You know that the next morning you may get up and instead of your buddy's face that turns to mush when it gets hit by a bullet, it may be your face."

Shipman, like Bogert, is bothered by the fact that he thinks Vietnam was a political war.

"The only thing that is really upsetting about the whole war is that instead of being a war, it was a political battle that was really fought over here while we got shot at over there," he said.

As for dealing with the stress, physical injuries, and other problems associated with veterans, Shipman said it is a matter of having a positive attitude toward reality.

"If you take an 'I can't or defeatist attitude, you've lost your battle before you ever started," he said.

Veterans administration offers help to veterans here

Vietnam veterans are faced with many problems, but they can turn to the Veterans Administration for help with some of them.

Jim Moore, Veterans Counselor and Advisor for the Handicapped at Texas A&M University said that 457 students took advantage of the G.I. Bill during the first summer session.

Of those students, he said, 358 were active during the Vietnam era.

The bill benefits those who were active between January 1, 1955, and January 1, 1977 and did not receive a dishonorable discharge.

It authorizes payment by the Veterans Administration to the veteran while he goes to school.

For example, a veteran with no dependents going to school full-time receives \$311 a month. There are different rates for

veterans with dependents and those going to school part-time.

Other benefits under the G.I. Bill are home loans and dental and medical care along with vocational and educational counseling.

Moore said, for those with mental problems, the V.A. provides help through the Veterans Outreach program although he said "I have people with a lot more physical problems than mental problems."

The Veterans Outreach program includes assistance with drug and alcohol abuse.

There is also a Vietnam Veterans Civic Council which meets monthly in Waco. Its purpose is to keep communication between Vietnam-era veterans and provide a forum where they can present complaints and suggestions to the V.A.

Hurricane Bob hits; one fatality reported

United Press International
GRAND ISLE, La. — Hurricane Bob spared the populated area of the southeast Louisiana coast Wednesday but unleashed strong winds that killed one man as it moved inland and damaged buildings, trees and power lines.

The storm lost its hurricane classification at 2 p.m. (CDT) Wednesday as it moved into southwest Mississippi more than 100 miles inland. Its map coordinates were latitude 31.0 north, longitude 90.5 west.

Continued weakening and further downgrading to tropical depression status was forecast by Wednesday night, the National Weather Service said.

However, forecasters said tornadoes and flooding could still occur.

The hurricane's top winds were

75 mph when it crossed the Louisiana shoreline soon after daybreak.

Hurricane Bob had startled weather forecasters Tuesday with its rapid growth from a minor tropical depression to a full-fledged hurricane in less than nine hours. But Bob failed to reach the giant proportions commonly associated with killer hurricanes of the past.

Thermostat controls set; Congress' offices exempt

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Starting Monday and lasting for at least the next 90 days, public buildings may not be air-conditioned cooler than 78 degrees and hot water cannot be heated above 105 degrees.

President Carter, declaring the existence of an energy emergency, Tuesday activated the standby regulations on summer and winter thermostat settings in public and commercial buildings to conserve power.

If the emergency persists into winter, the buildings may not be heated above 65 degrees and the hot water thermostat limit

would remain in effect.

Carter said in a proclamation he had been advised by Energy Secretary James Schlesinger that continued reductions in crude oil supplies have resulted in a national energy supply shortage.

Exemptions in the thermostat plan cover elementary school buildings, hospitals and buildings in which climate and water temperature are governed by health regulations.

But government buildings are even harder hit. With few exceptions, they must be cooled no lower than 80 degrees.

The Capitol and Congressional office buildings are not covered.

Tradition upset

United Press International
Hurricane Bob, the first Atlantic tropical storm to carry a man's name, breaks a tradition that dates back to 1953 when U.S. government agencies began using women's names for identification purposes.