

the nation

More moon rocks may be missing

United Press International
WASHINGTON — An internal memorandum charges the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is missing a much larger quantity of moon rocks and soil samples than space officials are willing to admit.

The document also charges a space program official told NASA auditors moon materials were being stolen, but the case was not investigated further.

The memo said more than 24 percent of the samples sent to various research scientists for analysis and study, under a \$41 million grant program, were either unaccounted for or missing.

Last week auditors found "substantial quantities" of the lunar samples brought back by Apollo astronauts were missing. But NASA officials said the missing soil samples amounted to only 17 ounces.

Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., whose subcommittee handles NASA's budget, immediately asked for a written response from NASA and for an investigation of the lunar material program by the General Accounting Office.

Meanwhile, a private memorandum sent last Friday to NASA Inspector General Eldon Taylor by Claude Lynch, director of the agency's southwest regional Office of Audit, strongly disagrees with NA-

SA's response to the audit's findings.

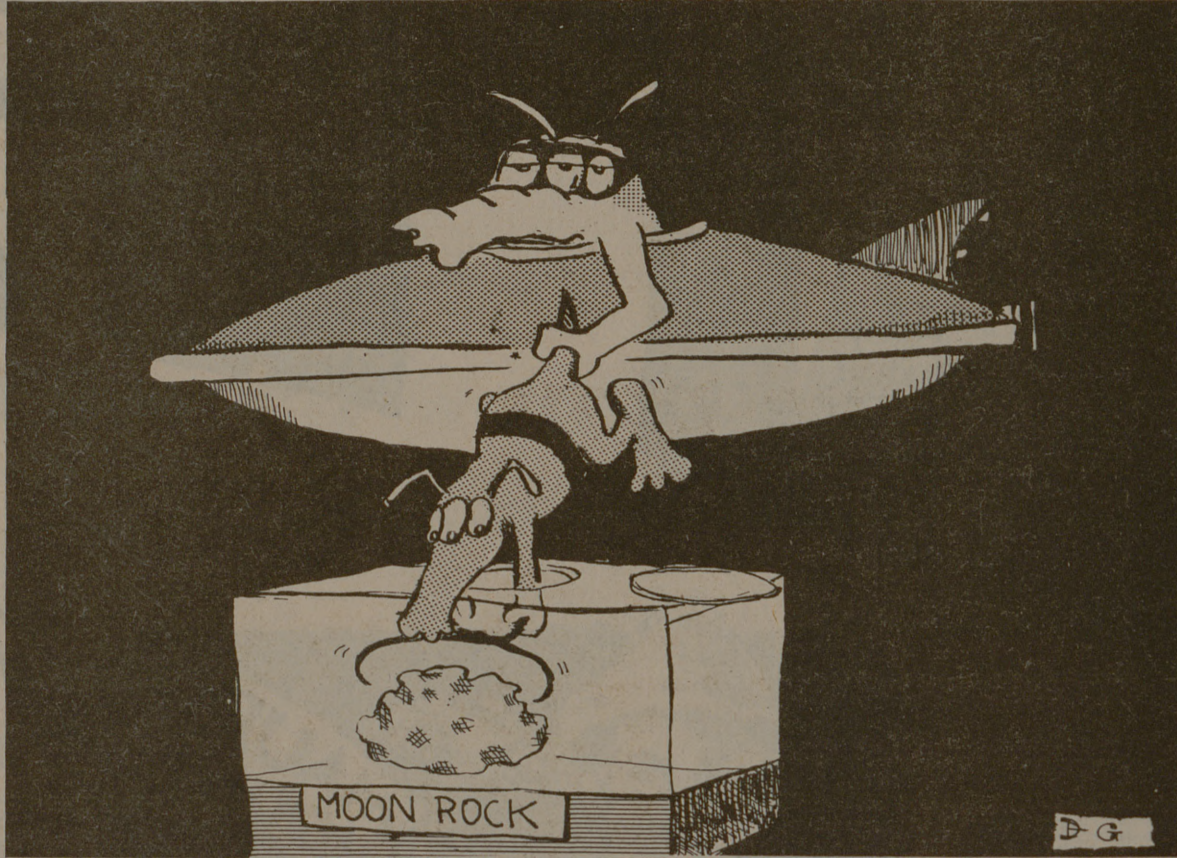
Lynch said his office's audit found 24.87 pounds of moon samples were "in the uncertain category" — either unaccounted for or missing. That represents 24.6 percent of the quantity given to researchers for study and analysis.

"I cannot understand how anyone can say an uncertainty factor of 24 percent is not substantial when we are dealing with a unique product," Lynch told Taylor.

Lynch's memorandum also said one auditor "was informed by a JSC (Johnson Space Center) Security Office person that an employee working in the Curatorial Facility had reported to the NASA inspector a person was stealing moon material samples and how it was being accomplished."

"Allegedly the inspector replied, 'I do not believe it.' Because we did not want to be accused of internal strife, we did not develop this point," Lynch said.

He also said that with the exception of a 1 percent per year audit, the remaining moon rocks and soil samples, totaling 745.31 pounds, that remained "untouched" by the study program have never been fully verified by NASA since being weighed originally after the Apollo flights.



National briefs

Credit card financed sniping spree

United Press International
SAN FRANCISCO — Police say the sniper who hanged himself from a jail cell Monday used an American Express credit card to finance a 23-hour shooting spree that terrorized downtown last weekend. Inspector Bruce Lorin said Wayne Cullinane, 22, purchased weapons and ammunition in San Francisco with travelers checks bought with an American Express credit card under the alias of Gary McLean. Cullinane took one woman hostage and fired intermittently from the 16th floor of an office building until he was captured late Sunday.

House maintains Carter's control phaseout

WASHINGTON — The House, upholding action by President Carter, Thursday rejected a proposal to continue price controls on domestic crude oil.

After three hours of debate, the House in effect told Carter to continue his gradual phaseout of price controls, which end Sept. 1, 1980.

The House defeated 257-135 an amendment by Reps. Tom Moffett, D-Conn., and Bob Eckhardt, D-Texas, which would have frozen controls at their present level for a full year.

The amendment was offered to a bill authorizing \$6.9 billion for the Department of Energy and various energy programs. Moffett said that U.S. oil companies have taken advantage of the price increases to raise the price of oil already being pumped on the ground from \$6 to \$23 a barrel while production costs remain constant.

However, opponents led by Rep. Timothy Wirth, D-Colo., argued that the extra money is needed to spur domestic production. "The era of cheap and abundant oil is over," Wirth said.

Phony priest cashes in on couple

NEW ORLEANS — A man posing as a priest entered the home of an elderly couple Thursday, blessed them and their dwelling and stole \$110, police said.

The man, dressed in a blue shirt and dark trousers, introduced himself as a priest to Jessie Walls, 65, and his wife Dora, 70. Invited inside, he asked for a glass of water and proceeded to "bless" Mrs. Walls and the home, authorities said.

Drama prop too real; fake bomb fetches cops

United Press International
OKLAHOMA CITY — The drama class' props at Northwest High School were realistic enough to require an evacuation of the school.

A teacher Thursday reported to the principal's office that something looking like dynamite wired together with a timer had been found on a stage.

The 1,800 students were evacuated and the police demolition squad was called, said Glen Bow-

man, the school's assistant principal and safety director.

What police found was "a Lincoln Log set tied together with wire with a little old timer off a washing machine or something tied to it," Bowman said.

"We finally got the information from the drama class that some props had been used in a drama production and had been inadvertently not placed back in the prop room," he said.

Marines ready for Guantanamo drive

United Press International
MOREHEAD CITY, N.C. — Support equipment for a Marine amphibious force of 1,800 men Thursday was being loaded aboard Navy ships for a landing exercise next week at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

A Navy spokesman said officers were hoping the convoy would be able to depart today.

The departure of the fleet was delayed Wednesday because of strong, shifting winds that slowed the loading of equipment assigned to the 38th Marine Amphibious Unit, ordered on maneuvers last week by President Carter in response to the continued presence of a Soviet combat brigade in Cuba.

About 250 vehicles and several loads of cargo remained to be loaded on the helicopter assault ship USS Nassau and the USS Plymouth Rock, two ships that remained anchored offshore while loads were ferried out by barge.

Most of the 1,800 combat-ready Marines boarded the three ships Wednesday, the spokesman said, but the drivers of the vehicles left on shore overnight.

One ship, the USS Spartanburg County, left Morehead City Wednesday to pick up additional landing craft at Camp Lejeune about 60 miles away.

The loading operations continued under cloudy skies and cold temperatures, but 25 mile per hour winds that hampered Wednesday operations had died down by time the first cargo barges left docks at 7 a.m. Thursday.

The bulk of the assault which will storm the beach at Guantanamo Bay Oct. 17 and continue maneuvers on the square mile base for a month assigned to the Nassau, an 800-long, 106-foot wide ship designed to handle helicopter operations.

A Marine spokesman said the landing exercise at Guantanamo Bay. About 200 were assigned to Plymouth Rock and the rest to Spartanburg County.

Time's up on sentence for grandma who sold grass

United Press International
SIMI VALLEY, Calif. — "Grandma Marijuana" says she is doing just "splendidly" in jail and has used her time to meditate, thinking up a way to cash in on her notoriety.

Lois Faulkner, 68, says she plans to go on a college campus speaking tour and "make a fortune from Grandma Marijuana T-shirts, pants, hats, caps, belts and other paraphernalia."

Faulkner will be released from the Ventura County Jail Oct. 28, after serving a 53-day jail sentence for selling and giving marijuana to school children. She said she distributed the pot because it was for the children.

The woman disclosed her plans in a letter to the Simi Valley Enterprise.

Writers have been contacted about book and movie rights to plans on a lecture tour of college campuses, campaigning for the abolition of marijuana, she said. Faulkner has promised to sell marijuana again.

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