

February lift-off likely for delayed shuttle

United Press International
WASHINGTON — February appears the most likely time for the oft-delayed maiden flight of the space shuttle Columbia, the head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration told a Senate subcommittee Thursday.

Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., reminded NASA administrator Robert Frosch that in March 1979 he was saying December 1979 was the

most likely launch date. And last October Frosch told the appropriations subcommittee that July 1980 was the best date.

"I think this is a better estimate because we are an awful lot closer in completing the things we have to do," Frosch said.

The first orbital test flight from Cape Canaveral, Fla., is two years behind the original schedule.

The mission has been delayed by a

variety of problems with the latest one centering on the ceramic tiles that will shield the ship from the heat of re-entry into the atmosphere.

Frosch said modification and re-installation of thousands of the tiles is now expected to be completed this summer with the Columbia moving from its testing hangar to the Kennedy Space Center vehicle assembly building in early fall.

The shuttle's main hydrogen-oxygen engines also have encountered a number of developmental troubles, but Frosch said ground tests should be completed on the engines in time to proceed with the launch.

Astronauts John W. Young and Robert Crippen will pilot the Columbia on its initial orbital flight which is to last 54 hours with the Columbia scheduled to land at Edwards Air Force Base in California's Mojave Desert.

nation

Refugees find Big Macs, cigarettes, Penthouse, Oui

United Press International
KEY WEST, Fla. — For some of the Cuban refugees who had just left the crowded squalor of the Peruvian Embassy in Havana, the first taste of their new homeland was an American cigarette or a Big Mac.

A group of men who arrived Wednesday aboard the Big Baby waited for processing on the dock outside the Truman Annex on the Key West Naval Base, thumbing avidly through copies of Penthouse and Oui magazines furnished by helpful Americans.

Nothing like that in Cuba, they said.

Another group smoked American cigarettes and noted that cigarettes cost \$1.60 a pack in Cuba.

"There aren't any entertainments in Cuba," said Victor Cosst, 23, a hairdresser at the Havana's famed

Tropicana nightclub, whose lavish, glittery shows have been tamed considerably since pre-Castro days.

When the boat arrived late Wednesday night with 80 refugees aboard — bringing to over 500 the number who arrived in the United States Wednesday — the crew immediately sent out for McDonald's hamburgers and handed them out.

The boat is part of a flotilla put together by Cuban exiles to pick up the refugees.

Vilified as "degenerates" and wished good riddance by the official communist press while they waited in the embassy for exit from their country, the refugees were receiving warm welcomes in the United States.

Crowds of Miami Cubans lined up outside a chain-link fence in a processing area set up by immigration

officials in Miami. As refugees were processed, their names were called out over a loudspeaker and friends and relatives rushed to embrace them.

Many refugees said their arrival in the United States seemed like a dream after the treatment they received when they left the embassy.

Elias Moreno, 23, a construction worker and secondary school teacher, said after he returned home from the embassy on a safe conduct pass April 12, "insulting" post cards began appearing on his door and the walls of his house.

"Counterrevolutionary, gusano (worm), he sells out his homeland," they read.

"They (pro-Castro Cubans) tried to beat me, but I hid in my house. It was like living as a prisoner in my own house," said Moreno.

Imelfadel Hernandez de Morales, who arrived with her husband and young son, said people insulted her on the street when she returned home on a pass. "They called me prostitute and lots of worse things," she said.

Their entry into the United States was not painless. Hardpressed immigration officials lined them up outside the annex and gave them papers to fill out by flashlight. Later, officials abandoned processing in Key West altogether and bused the arrivals directly to Miami.


For Hugo Landa, 27, a technical translator, the red tape was worth it. "I think this country is so large, there are so many opportunities," he said. "Perhaps I will clean the toilets or be a millionaire. I just don't know but I'm full of hope."

Sun Theatres
333 University 846-9808
The only movie in town
Double-Feature Every Week
10 a.m.-2 a.m. Sun.-Thurs.
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Fri.-Sat.
No one under 18
Ladies Discount With This Coupon
BOOK STORE & 25c PEEP SHOWS

**Want To Get Involved?
HERE IS YOUR CHANCE!**
Join a University Committee —
For the whole scoop, see the
**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES
INFORMATION GUIDE**

Check with your
**Resident Advisor
Off Campus Representative
Corps Outfit Commander**

Applications and
Information in
216C MSC



Re-introduction bill calls for greater handgun control

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Peter W. Rodino, D-N.J., has re-introduced his 1979 handgun control bill in the House of Representatives — this time with 42 co-sponsors and more determination to get it passed.

In first introducing the measure last November, Rodino said his goal was to reduce handgun slaughter without setting up expensive federal

enforcement and regulatory machinery.

"I want to stress that this bill will not interfere with Americans' right to bear arms," Rodino said. "Instead, it seeks to protect the fundamental right of every American to live in a peaceful society without the threat of personal harm."

After re-introducing the bill, Rodino took part in a brief ceremony staged on the Capitol steps by Handgun Control Inc. — a lobby formed by victims of handgun violence.

Board Chairman Pete Shields — whose son Nick was slain by a handgun during the 1974 Zebra killings in San Francisco — presented Rodino with a scroll listing 8,124 victims of

fatal handgun shootings in 1979.

During the Vietnam War years, in which 40,000 American soldiers were killed in combat, Shields said, 50,000 civilians were killed by handgun violence.

Rodino's bill would ban outright the manufacture, importation, assembly and sale of easily concealed handguns and would tighten controls over other handguns.

The measure calls for creation of a federal commission that would decide which weapons are to be declared easily concealed. Other major provisions include:

— A 21-day waiting period for handgun purchases to enable dealers to verify the buyer is 21-years-old,

and has no record of criminality, mental illness or drug abuse.

— A dealer would be allowed to sell a person no more than three handguns a year unless he is a collector or obtains a federal waiver.

— Victims of criminal use of a handgun would have a right to receive compensation from the perpetrator upon his conviction.

— Importers, manufacturers and dealers would have to keep records for 10 years to help police trace stolen weapons.

— There would be a civil penalty for failing to report the theft or disappearance of a handgun, and a criminal penalty for the second offense.

'75 rice sold

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Agriculture Department has sold \$2.3 million worth of government rice stocks as part of an effort to get rid of stocks left over from the 1975 crop, officials said Thursday.

The department's Commodity Credit Corp. sold 209,592 hundredweight of rice for a weighted price of about \$11.07. The CCC announced a month ago that it wanted to sell 5.5 million hundredweight of 1975 rice.

The rice came from warehouses in Louisiana and Texas.

HAVE LUNCH ON US . . . FREE!
A&M Apartment Placement is once again giving away free lunch to everyone who leases thru us.
Apartments • Duplexes • All Types Of Housing
Call for appointment or come by
A&M APT. PLACEMENT SERVICE
693-3777
2339 S. Texas, C.S.
"Next to the Dairy Queen"

Goodyear cuts back

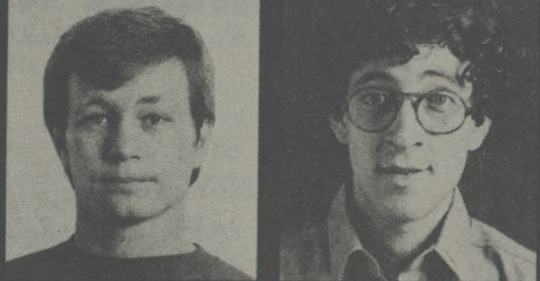
United Press International
AKRON, Ohio — Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. announced Thursday production cutbacks at seven plants, including the layoffs of 750 employees at its Topeka, Kan., plant and 200 workers at its Lawton, Okla., facility.

The nation's largest tiremaker said the layoffs were necessary due to the auto industry slump.

The Topeka and Lawton layoffs, which the company said will begin "over the next several weeks," bring the total number of Goodyear employees on layoff to some 4,700.

In addition, Goodyear will close its Jackson, Mich., plant for one week beginning Monday and will have short work weeks in effect at tire plants in Gadsden, Ala.; Danville, Va.; Union City, Tenn.; and Madisonville, Ky.

The giant tiremaker reported Wednesday first-quarter profits of \$50.7 million, down from \$54 million for the same period a year ago.



Finals. A 26-page thesis. Speeches. More speeches. Now we bust loose with Cuervo & Schnapps.



Bust loose with Cuervo Gold. Dash it on the rocks and add a splash of Schnapps. Your mouth's been waiting for it.



Cuervo Especial™ Tequila. 80 Proof. Imported and Bottled by © 1980 Heublein Inc., Hartford, Conn.

MSC recreation

ED BLOESE Memorial 8-Ball Tournament

Women's Divisions Men's Divisions

3 out of 5 Double Elimination

Starts Thursday April 24, 1980 6 p.m.
Starts Friday April 25, 1980 6 p.m.

Registration and Tournament at MSC Bowling and Games Area

Entry Fee \$3 (Prizes awarded for 1st and 2nd, both divisions)

BILLIARDS
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Battalion Classifieds Call 845-2611