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The Weather

Today	Tomorrow
High	85 High
Low	67 Low
Chance of rain	40% Chance of rain

Problems delay shuttle launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A puzzling problem in the space shuttle's vital electronic brains today forced a probable two-day delay in the launch of astronauts John W. Young and Robert L. Crippen on the first orbital test flight of the Columbia.

Young and Crippen spent more than 16 hours lying uncomfortably on their backs in the shuttle's cockpit, only to learn that they will have to do it all over again.

The problem concerned one of five computers in the revolutionary spaceship, the most advanced manned spaceship ever built. The pesky computer was unable to communicate with the other computers.

The countdown had come to within nine minutes of blastoff at 6:50 a.m. EST when the computer problem developed.

Hugh Harris, the launch control spokesman, said the earliest date the astronauts could take off on the shuttle's maiden test flight was 6:50 a.m. Sunday. However, the problem must be resolved before the ship can be cleared for takeoff.

Crew fatigue was the overriding factor in the decision to call off today's launch try.

After engineers in Houston reported "no joy" in an attempt to clear up the computer problem, launch director George Page and Richard Smith, director of the Kennedy Space Center, made the "scrub" decision.

The Columbia is the world's first reusable spaceship. Its launch had been set back more than 2½ years by a variety of technical problems. Today's problems, however, were of the kind not unexpected on a new spacecraft during the final hours of the countdown to launch.

"How are you holding out up there?" Page asked the astronauts at one point.

"Just laying here, you know," replied Young, the veteran flight commander who was strapped on his back in his spacecraft seat, a position doctors have said the crew could hold for no more than six hours.

"Getting uncomfortable at all?" Page asked.

"We're getting there, George," Young replied after a long pause. "We're getting there."

The Columbia is the first manned

spaceship to rely so heavily on computers to perform critical operations. There are four redundant main computers and then the backup which could take over to perform the most critical functions if all the other units failed.

The countdown was first held because of a fuel cell generator problem that turned out to be insignificant. But there was more concern about the computer problem.

They were the first problems of any significance in the final hours of the countdown for the oft-delayed launch of the winged space freighter.

Young, 50, a veteran of four spaceflights, and space rookie Crippen, 43, crawled into Columbia's two-level cabin at 4:19 a.m., after smiling and waving to space port workers when they left their quarters.

"You wouldn't believe all the chow we have packed on this thing," Young said on a communications link to groundcontrol center shortly after entering the spaceship's lower deck where the food is stored.

"The crew is in fine shape," said George Abbey, director of flight crew operations. "They had a good rest last night. We're looking for a real good flight."

They are the first Americans to venture into space since 1975, and the first to fly a space ship not preceded by an unmanned test flight.

Successful completion of the 54½-hour orbital flight will open a new era of lower cost space travel and increased space capability. The shuttle will become the nation's orbital workhorse, hauling civilian and military satellites regularly to and from orbit.

President Reagan, who before the attempt on his life had planned to watch the blastoff in person, said in a message to Young and Crippen before launch they carried the "hopes and prayers of all Americans."

"Through you, today, we feel as giants once more," the president said. "As you hurtle from Earth in a craft unlike any other ever constructed, you will do so in a feat of American technology and American will."

The astronauts were to reach a safe orbit 44 minutes after blastoff and circle the Earth 36 times, gliding to a landing at 1:18 p.m. EST Sunday on the broad expanses of a dry lake bed at Edwards Air Force Base in Southern California.

Committee OKs defense budget

WASHINGTON — Senate budget writers Thursday approved the full amount President Reagan asked for defense, but their House counterparts spurned administration requests and pumped more money into food programs and Medicaid.

The Senate Budget Committee, dominated by Republicans, voted 11-9 to approve \$193.9 billion for the 1982 defense budget. Reagan originally asked for \$188.8 billion, but the Congressional Budget Office re-estimated the request at the higher figure.

The House Budget Committee — in voice votes that generally fell along party lines — rejected the president's proposed cap on federal Medicaid spending and restored \$1.7 billion for nutrition programs.

The Democratic-controlled committee restored \$1.1 billion to Medicaid, explaining in a budget document that the cap "could result in reduced health care services to the poor."

The House panel also put back \$650 million into the food stamp program, \$800 million into school lunches and \$300 million to fund fully a nutrition program for pregnant women and infants.

Even with the restorations, part of the Democratic budget alternative offered by Chairman James Jones, D-Okla., food stamps and school lunches will be cut substantially.

In approving the defense figure, the Senate budget panel defeated an unusual coalition of two liberal Democrats and three fiscally conservative Republicans — Don Riegle, D-Mich.; Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio; Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan.; William Armstrong, R-Colo.; and Rudy Boschwitz, R-Minn. — who sought lower amounts for defense.

The panel also quashed a motion by Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, to add \$500 million to Reagan's request.

"It would be a terrible thing when Russian troops are poised on the Polish border to reduce the president's budget," Tower said.

"This country is in enormous military danger at the moment," said Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., a vigorous opponent of cuts in social programs. "Watch the Russians strangle the

freedom of the Polish. This is a time to tell the president we're behind him on defense."

But Armstrong said, "There is no more serious threat to the defense capability of this country than inflation." He said the lower defense figures were necessary to help balance the budget by 1984, Reagan's goal.

It was clear the sentiment of the entire committee favored increases in defense spending. The smallest amount proposed — \$191.6 billion, by Riegle — was still an increase of \$32.2 billion over President Jimmy Carter's budget.

The conservative Senate budget panel decided last week to cut \$37 billion from the overall administration budget, and now is acting on funding for specific programs.

In the House, Democratic leaders arranged to meet privately to decide what defense figures to offer in the Budget Committee, which their party dominates. The panel is drafting a Democratic alternative to the 1982 budget and restoring some of the funds Reagan wants slashed.

The Senate budget panel, in a break with Reagan, said Wednesday it predicts a \$60 billion budget deficit in 1982 and 1983, and a \$51 billion shortfall in 1984. Reagan predicts a \$45 billion deficit next year, with the budget balanced by 1984.

The House Budget Committee Wednesday voted to keep alive several agencies marked for extinction — the Legal Services Corporation, which provides legal aid to the poor; the Economic Development Administration and the National Consumer Cooperative Bank.

House Speaker Thomas O'Neill, D-Mass., said Thursday Democrats have managed so far "to salvage some of the programs" they support, but he was uncertain whether conservatives would derail their effort on the House floor.

If accepted in total, the Democratic package would restore more than \$7 billion Reagan wants cut from social programs in fiscal 1982 and would reduce the defense budget increase Reagan seeks by \$4.3 billion.

Reagan's budget would slash \$48.6 billion from proposed 1982 spending.



Photos by Cindy Gee

Blind student falls into sidewalk hole

Kenneth Ballard, a blind senior psychology major, suffered bruises after falling into a 10-foot hole, dug to repair pipes, in the sidewalk in front of the Plant Sciences Building. String was tied around the

hole, but by the time Ballard felt the string he was already falling. Ironically, Ballard was on his way home Thursday night from speaking on problems blind students have on the Texas A&M campus.

74 indictments made in Brazos County drug investigation

By PHYLLIS HENDERSON

Battalion Staff

Twenty-seven adults and one juvenile were indicted for the delivery of controlled substances and delivery of marijuana by the Brazos County Grand Jury Thursday.

The grand jury also handed down 46 sealed indictments. These indictments are the culmination of an undercover operation conducted by the Department of Public Safety Narcotics Service, the Bryan Police Department, the College Station Police Department and the Brazos County Sheriff's Office during January, February and March, Sergeant Rick Stewart, with the DPS Narcotics Service, said Thursday at a news conference.

The departments spent approximately \$11,300 in

the operation, most of which was used in the buying of these drugs by undercover agents, Stewart said.

The drugs involved in the operation included cocaine, quaaludes, angel dust, hashish and marijuana, he said.

Forty people were to be involved in the arrest and booking of the suspects Thursday night, Stewart said. Seven 4-man arrest teams were assigned to bring in three or four defendants each, he said.

"Hopefully, it will go very smoothly," Stewart said. "Occasionally you do have people who react violently. Some of these people do have the potential to hurt police officers. Hopefully that won't happen."

Stewart said the purpose of the investigation was to deter the narcotics sales in the area and to make the

public aware of the drug problem in the community. "It's a very real problem," Stewart said. "I would estimate ... 40 to 45 percent usage among the young people in this community." He said drug usage had even reached the junior high school level.

Stewart said the investigation had been able to uncover some major drug suppliers and drug rings. "I think there are some major suppliers involved," he said. "Three, or possibly four, of these people are major suppliers in the Brazos County area."

Among the 28 people indicted, Stewart said, there were probably five or six groups or rings.

Stewart said the result of the indictments will be a reduction in drug-dealing for a short time. "They'll (dealers) remain fearful for a period of time," he said.

Some march to Brazos, others run

By NANCY FLOECK

Battalion Reporter

If the Corps of Cadets thought their march to the Brazos was rough, they should have been in Karl Haupt's group.

Haupt and 13 other students from Texas A&M University at Galveston ran from the Texas Clipper to the Brazos River in conjunction with the Corps March to the Brazos Saturday. The march is an annual fundraising event for the March of Dimes.

Haupt, a senior marine science major, said they reached the Brazos at 10:15 a.m. Saturday, about 25 hours after they left Galveston and an hour before the Corps arrived.

"No one was there," he said. "It was a very unglamorous entrance."

The students ran the 150 or so miles in five-mile stints; one person ran while the others rode, slept and

rested in a University-owned van.

Haupt said they averaged about 13 nine-minute miles per person.

"One guy ran 22 (miles), but everyone ran their share," he said. "Morale for everyone was tremendous."

But the runners' nerves suffered because of the slow pace, Haupt said.

However, their nervous energy had some release: "We got lost on the the Katy-Hockley exit," he said, "so that was pretty exciting."

Besides some hassle from motorists, Haupt said, the runners encountered little trouble along the highways.

"There was really no problem," he said. "We carried a baton the whole way—that was good for fending off dogs."

Once there, the students didn't participate in the Corps games, Haupt said. They left, showered and

returned to the Brazos — a little late for some of the fun.

"We just glimpsed the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders before they left," he said.

This is the third year Texas A&M-Galveston students have made the run. Haupt said only eight out of about 18 finished the first year.

Haupt said interest and support at the Galveston campus has grown since then.

"We have a lot of personal support," he said. "Everyone wanted to know how everybody did—who ran how far."

That support included the University providing the students with a van, gasoline and excused absences from classes Friday.

And pledges provided the students with over \$400 to donate to the March of Dimes.

Most importantly, Haupt said, it was fun coming to College Station and visiting and partying with friends.