

National



Staff photo by Greg Cammon

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Several Texas A&M University I.D. cards and other forms of identification have been turned in to the check-cashing desk at the Memorial Student Center. Any student who has lost an I.D. should call the desk to see if it has turned up.

Jet team leader killed in crash

United Press International
CLEVELAND — The leader of the Air Force Thunderbirds aerobatics team was killed Tuesday in the crash of his T-38 Talon jet, which exploded in a "ball of fire" on takeoff from Burke Lakefront Airport and skidded into Lake Erie.
A crewman aboard the twin-engine jet was injured and taken to a local hospital, where his condition was not immediately known.
Authorities said both the pilot, Thunderbirds commander-leader Lt. Col. D.L. Smith, and his crew chief, Staff Sgt. Dwight Roberts, ejected from the flaming jet before it crashed into the lake.
Smith, 40, of Rossville, Ga., commander of the performing squadron for three years, was dead on arrival at St. Vincent Charity Hospital at 8:45 a.m., 12 minutes after the crash, authorities said.
"The plane got about 30 to 40 feet off the ground and then came back down," said Mike Barth, airport deputy commissioner, who saw the crash. "It skidded about 1,500 feet along the runway."
"It was a ball of fire all the way down the runway. There's pieces of wreckage all over," he said.
The plane was taking off in formation with another Thunderbirds jet en route to a scheduled Wednesday air show in Texas when the crash occurred, an Air Force spokesman said.
"On takeoff, there was some type of a problem," said Capt. Jim Jannette, director of public relations for the Thunderbirds. "They both ejected. They had cleared the runway and were airborne."
The flying team had performed at Burke Lakefront during the Labor Day weekend as part of the Cleveland National Air Show.

St. Helens is quiet again, last eruption among smallest

United Press International
VANCOUVER, Wash. — Its latest bit of stretching apparently complete, Mount St. Helens has returned to its usual quiet state and the U.S. Geological Survey declared the latest dome-building eruption over.
Earthquake activity diminished throughout the day Monday and at 5 p.m. USGS officials reopened the 20-mile "red zone" surrounding the mountain.
"Observations suggest that dome growth has ceased except for small scale surface adjustments," USGS spokesman Dick Janda said.
Nervous USGS field crews ventured into the steaming crater to survey the new lobe of lava on the dome's northeast side. They were unable to determine the precise size of the lobe due to high winds and hazardous conditions, but scientists generally agreed it was smaller than that produced in five previous dome-building eruptions.
In fact, the activity Sunday was so inconspicuous that officials waited for several hours before finally announcing the volcano was actually in an eruption stage.
"It wasn't easy to say it was erupting," said Bob Norris, spokesman at the University of Washington geophysics lab. "It was such a mild eruption that it was actually going on for a while before anybody noticed it. There was extremely slow growth of the dome."
Mike Doukas, a USGS scientist, said during a night flight over the crater it appeared to him the new growth was about 300 to 400 feet wide.
Geologists have said that eventually the dome could grow to fill the crater and restore Mount St. Helens to near 9,677 feet — the mountain's height before the massive May 18, 1980, eruption blew off 1,300 feet.
The huge eruption, which had the force of an atomic bomb blast, left 60 people dead or missing and dumped up to 6 inches of ash on eastern Washington.

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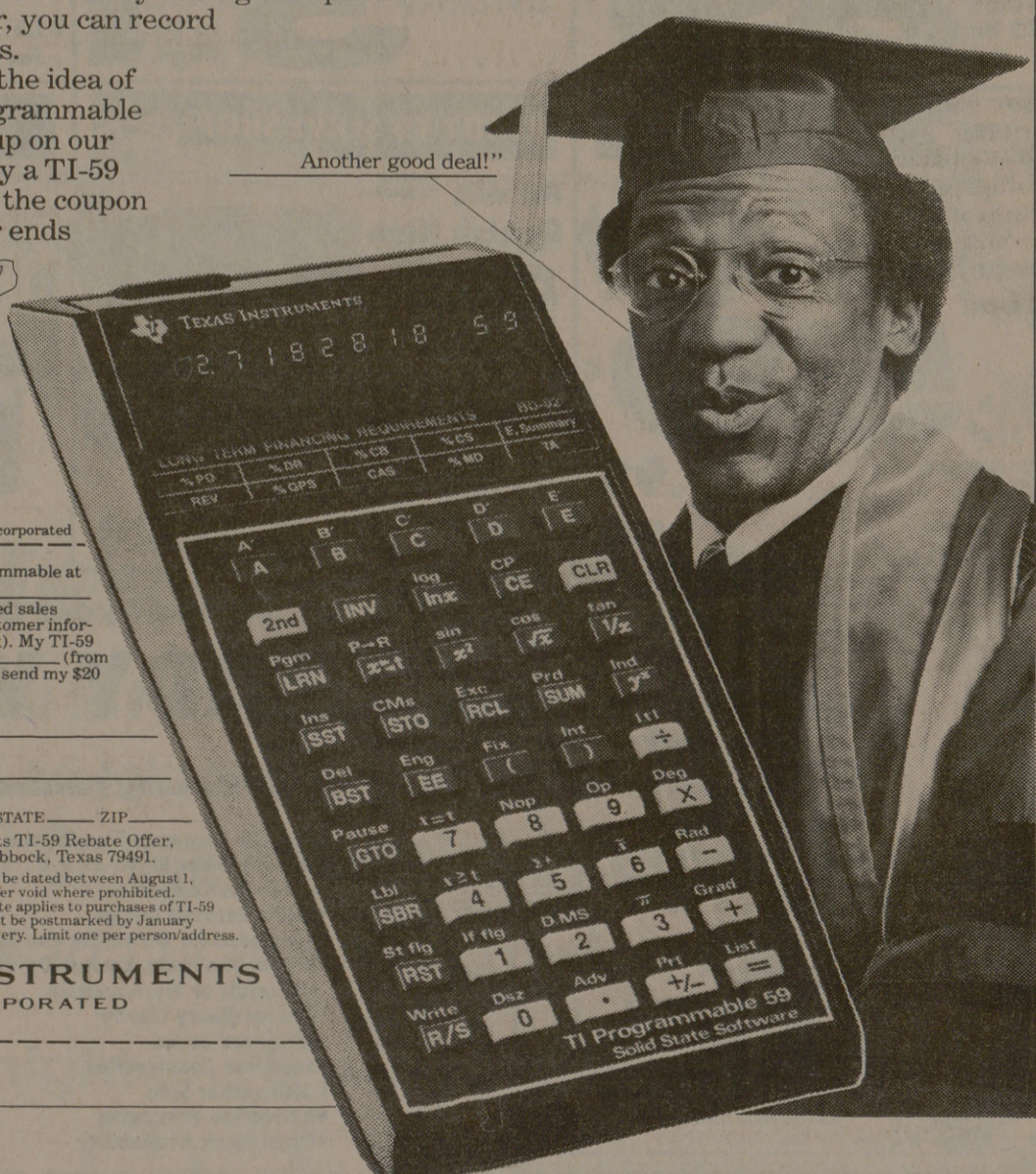
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