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Astronauts to test 2 million spacesuits

United Press International
APE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Two le astronauts prepare to walk in today to test the \$2 million suits that thwarted a similar veninto an open cargo bay five

he spacewalk, first stroll of icans into the silent vacuum in ears, is considered a key step d a bold mission planned for April when two space-walking nauts attempt to repair a crip-sun-watching satellite.

ight engineers Story Musgrave onald Peterson expect to spend ours floating about in the 60ong freight compartment, reng to Challenger's airlock at 7:45

he long-awaited spacewalk is the big goal of Challenger's maiden ion. Musgrave, Peterson and

pilots Paul Weitz and Karol Bobko are tion that ripped away from a maneuvscheduled to wrap up orbital opera-tions Friday and glide to a landing Saturday in California's Mojave De-

The two spacewalkers got ready Wednesday night for their adventure. They put on the white, 250pound spacesuits and gave them a thorough checkout. Musgrave, a spacesuit expert, pronounced them

ready to go.

The suits provide everything a person needs on his own in space — oxygen pressurization, cooling, communications, drinking water, a food snack and urine collection.

Today's operation was designed to see how well men can move about in the suits in the cargo bay, and how much mobility they have for future repair work. It also gave the astronauts a chance to inspect some insula-

ering rocket pod during Monday's blastoff.

Television from Challenger Wednesday showed the empty payload bay and one of two safety wires that run the length of the hold for the spacewalkers to snap tethers to so they won't float away from Chal-

One minor mystery developed Wednesday when Weitz asked to speak to a flight surgeon. It was the first private medical conference since Monday's launch, and it suggested one of the crewmen might be ill.

Under a new NASA policy, the nature of the problem is not reported unless it threatens to affect the mission's plans.

"I can assure you there is no mission impact," said flight director Gary

tate senate approves ending fuel adjustments

STIN — The Texas Senate reto heed Gov. Mark White's for statewide election of the Utility Commission, but temd the snub with the approval of a at supporters said would make PUC more responsive to con-

On a voice vote Wednesday, the te approved and sent to the se a bill that would abolish the oversial fuel adjustment clause ility bills and create an indepenublic counsel to represent conrs in utility rate cases.

However, senators four times whelmingly rejected proposals to PUC commissioners, who now ppointed by the governor.

jection of the election proposals een as the first major defeat of egislative session for White, who ed intensively for the proposal

and hinted he might call a special session to push for an elected PUC.
"I understand that considerable pressure has been brought to bear on the Legislature by the utility lobby on this issue," White said in letters to legislators.

"Your vote in favor of an elected utility commission would be a statement that the will of the people is greater than the influence of narrow interests asserted by the utility indushe said.

Four amendments proposing various schemes for electing the PUC never attracted more than 10 positive Senate votes.

Sen. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, a sponsor of the PUC bill that won Senate approval, described the reforms as "modest" and warned that the bill should not be weakened in the House.

"Much of the changes we are mak-

don't think it is one where we can claim even modest reforms if it is further diluted."

In addition to abolishing the fuel adjustment clause and establishing the public counsel, the bill would:

•Authorize the PUC to conduct management audits of utilities to determine if their expenses were warranted and management decisions

•Limit utilities' abilities to earn a return on their investment in power plants that are under construction and not yet producing power. A re-turn on investments for construction work in progress would be considered

"exceptional" rate relief.

•Require the PUC to create a statewide energy plan detailing Texas' energy needs in the coming years.

•Disallow certain utility expenses, including lobbying efforts and the ing today are correcting mistakes we made years ago," Doggett said. "But I cost of making refunds to consumers.



Is it over yet?

staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

Jeff Graeber, a junior philosophy major from Spring, lets out a yelp while giving blood Wednesday at one of the Wadley

Blood Bank mobile units. Wadley units have been on campus all week and will be taking blood donations through today.

Ocean drilling project obe directed by A&M

by Karen Schrimsher

Battalion Staff xas A&M has been selected to ta new deep-sea drilling project will provide scientists with data e nature and evolution of the

exas A&M officials said Tuesday the University will become a manter for scientific ocean drilling, ting research operations for the sciences community during the decade.

he project will be a continuation ecurrent Deep-Sea Drilling Pro-which has been operated since by Scripps Institution of mography in California.

oint Oceanographic Institutions manimously selected the Texas I proposal March 31. The corion manages the program for National Science Foundation.

Two project advisers from the Department of Oceanography, Dr. Philip D. Rabinowitz and Dr. William R. Bryant, said they are enthusiastic about what the project will mean to the University and geoscience students.

Rabinowitz said the project will attract a large number of scientists from all over the world, and that the visiting researchers will benefit the

Bryant said the project will shift the attention of marine geoscientists toward this part of the country and toward Texas A&M.

The program will employ about 100 persons, including master's and doctoral degree candidates from the departments of geology, geophysics and oceanography. Some degree candidates will do part of their graduate research in connection with the proA deep-sea drilling ship capable of reaching depths of 20,000 feet below the ocean surface will be leased for the project. The ship will take samples, called cores, from beneath the ocean floor in all parts of the world. The samples will be transported back to Texas A&M to be analyzed and

The ship should be in operation by October 1984, so planning and building must begin immediately, Rabinowitz said. The University has agreed to build a refrigerated core storage building, a drilling operations center and laboratories here.

The project has a projected budget of about \$30 million, and will be funded by the NSF and several foreign governments.

Rabinowitz said the proposed length for the project is 10 years, but that it could continue indefinitely.

Yell leader race settled

by Kelley Smith

leader elections were made official and posted Wednesday after a request by candidate James C. Becker that the election not be rerun.

from Round Rock, and Terry Hlavinka, an agricultural economics major from East Bernard, won the elec-

Joseph received 27.7 percent of the vote. Hlavinka received 20 per-

Becker, a management major from Lake Jackson whose name was added to the ballot after elections opened, came in fifth with 11.5 percent of the vote.

When election officials discovered

that Becker's name was not on the ballot, 516 votes already had been cast for junior yell leader. Becker said that if his name had been on the ballot he probably only would have received 300 of those votes. Becker was 800 votes away from second place.

A reasonable the vote would have been 300 votes,'

When the votes were counted, Election Commissioner Les Asel was unable to contact Becker to discuss the outcome. Asel gave Becker a 1,000 vote margin and decided to rerun the election.

"I felt that was unfair and excessive," Becker said of the 1,000-vote margin. "I felt the victory was decisive enough that it was a real victory."

He added that it would be unfair to

Joseph and Hlavinka to rerun the

Other candidates were: Darrell Pickard, a psychology major from San Antonio, who received 13.3 percent of the vote; Tom King, an accounting/ finance major from Houston, 11.82 ing major from Arlington, 11.4 percent; Frank Reister, an agricultural economics major from El Paso, 2.3 percent; and Gregory W. Simank, a mechanical engineering major from Houston, 1.8 percent.

Other candidates in the race still may appeal until 2 p.m. Friday — 48 hours after the posting, Asel said.

The two other races where names were left off the ballot — engineering senator at-large and sophomore en-gineering senator — will be rerun Tuesday during runoff elections.

Poison found in Easter toy

SHREVEPORT, La. — A federal consumer protection agency has been placed on nationwide alert to investigate the sales and distribution of imported stuffed chicks and ducklings ossibly laced with enough arsenic to kill a 200-pound man.

Some of the chicks tested contained arsenic levels high enough to kill an adult, but the person would have to eat the stuffed bird to ingest an immediately fatal amount of the poison, a toxicologist said.

Dan Sowards, chief of Hazardous Products Control for the Texas Department of Health, said enough arsenic was found in the chicks, imported from China, to kill a 200pound man.

Louisiana officials began gathering the stuffed birds Wednesday to test for the toxic substance, and a large wholesale-retail firm in Texas removed the chicks and ducks from shelves in two stores.

The Texas wholesale-retail distributor, Marshall Pottery Inc., said thousands of the chicks in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

Texas health officials said the agency's regional office in Dallas was canvassing the product's distribution.

There have been no reports of

arsenic poisoning from the birds, which distributors said were stuffed after hatching dead at China hen farms. The birds were designed for use in floral arrangements and not as toys, but some were used to decorate Easter baskets.

26 campuses competing

Talent acts to be filmed

by Pamela Haisler

Battalion Reporter Art Linkletter Productions will be re Sunday to film a 10-act talent ow to be shown on Disney Cable

Karen Snow, chairman of the SC Variety Show Committee, said at 7 p.m. Sunday, Linkletter oductions will film the talent show he main lounge of the Memorial

Jim Hurd, Variety Show Comee adviser, said Jack Linkletter be the host of the show — "Com-on" — and Snow will be the host. "Coming On" will feature ent competition from 26 college mpuses nationwide. Each campus Il have its one-hour talent show adcast on the Disney Cable Net-

rk, he said. Hurd said the 10 acts being prented for filming were chosen by a ent scout from Linkletter Producs. Three of the acts that will be med also will perform at the MSC

Variety Show on April 15. Those acts are the Kappa Pickers, a sorority singing group; the Stacked Deck, a barbershop quartet; and a come-

Although the date that "Coming On" will be aired has not been set, anyone can stop by the MSC Sunday night and see it live. Linkletter Productions requested that a crowd of at least 250 persons be present for the filming.

For those who can't make the filming, the fourth annual Variety Show will be held at 7:30 p.m. April 15 in Rudder Auditorium.

Snow said 11 acts, ranging from "cloggers"—folk dancers—to comedians and vocalists will vie for

trophies and cash prizes. Jeff Dunham, a professional ventriloquist and student at Baylor University, will serve as master of ceremonies, Snow said. Dunham recently won first place in the All America Collegiate Talent Search contest held in Las Cruces, N.M.

The Stacked Deck, last year's Variety Show winners, will provide entertainment at the show. The group was first runner-up to Dunham in the All America Collegi-

ate competition. Snow said the present Variety Show began in 1951 as a talent competition. The winner went on to compete in a regional talent show. In 1966, the talent show ended, but returned in 1979 as a Variety Show

sponsored by the MSC Any Texas A&M student is eligible to compete in the talent auditions held in February, she said. This year, 48 acts auditioned for the Variety Show. The 11 finalists will compete for first, second and third places and the winner will go on to compete in the All America Collegi-

ate Talent Search competition. Tickets for the variety show are on sale at the MSC Box Office and cost \$3 for students and \$3.50 for non-students. All seats are reserved.

Arab leaders called to emergency meeting

United Press International Arab leaders have been summoned

to an emergency meeting next-weekend in Morocco where Palestine Liberation Organization officials want to forge a united stand against President Reagan's Middle East peace

Moroccan envoy Ahmad Bin Suda announced the April 16 summit in Fez, Morocco after meeting PLO chief Yasser Arafat in Kuwait Wednesday, the Kuwaiti News Agency reported.

The planned summit follows a PLO request for a decisive and speedy stand (by the Arab world) on the prevailing situation in the region," Suda

On Tuesday, Arafat refused to give Jordan's King Hussein the go-ahead to enter talks with Israel on behalf of the Palestinians as contemplated by Reagan's Sept. 1 peace in-

'We will ask the next Arab summit to adopt a unified Arab stand against American Middle East policy which is hostile to us and our rights," top PLO official Yasser Abd Rabbo told reporters in Kuwait.

PLO officials said they wanted the Arab summit to reaffirm the main points of an Arab League peace plan that calls for an independent Palestinian state and declares the PLO the sole representative of the Palestinian

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torecast

Cloudy to partly cloudy skies today with a 20 percent chance of showers and a high of 63. For tonight, a 50 percent chance of thunder-storms with a low near 49. Cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thundershowers Friday morning, and a