

Antenna won't stop Columbia

United Press International
SPACE CENTER — Troubles with an antenna which transmits data between the shuttle Columbia and Earth will not delay its planned Nov. 28 launch, space agency officials said Thursday.

One of two relay antennas on Columbia's KU-band was found to be "seriously degraded" about two weeks ago, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said.

On Wednesday, technicians switched to a backup antenna system, which also failed to work.

Workers then removed the KU-band antenna from the orbiter and shipped it to Hughes Aircraft Co. for repairs. The antenna is ex-

pected to be re-installed on Columbia within a week.

Despite the problem in the antenna system, NASA said the system will be able to function properly for the mission.

The antenna is crucial for the successful operation of the upcoming nine-day mission, in which scientists conducting 70 experiments plan to use the KU-band antenna to transmit scientific data from the shuttle to the \$100 million Tracking and Data Relay Satellite (TDRSS) for relay to Earth.

A NASA spokesman said the cause of the antenna problem was under investigation.

Columbia, with its Spacelab cargo, is scheduled to be launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Vesco suspected in smuggling

United Press International
BROWNSVILLE — A federal prosecutor charged Thursday that fugitive Robert Vesco is masterminding the smuggling of banned goods from the United States to Cuba from his beach front home in Cuba.

Federal officials said that Vesco, wanted in the United States in connection with \$300 million mutual fund swindle, is orchestrating a scheme to thwart the American economic blockade of Cuba by routing technology through Canada and other nations that trade openly with the Fidel Castro regime.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Wolfe made the allegation at the trial of a man who is charged

with attempting to ship — despite the U.S. technology bans on trade with Cuba — sugar processing machinery to the communist country. The man is charged with two others under the Trading with the Enemy Act.

Wolfe told a U.S. District Judge that attorney Richard Silvio Bettini flew to Cuba by way of Mexico and met with Vesco after the three were charged. Vesco arranged for the cash bonds for the defendants, Wolfe said.

The prosecutor said that a New York man later brought \$240,000 across the border from Matamoros, Mexico, and provided the money to post the

cash bonds for the three defendants.

Only one defendant, Salvador Ramirez Preciado, appeared for the trial which opened this week. Another defendant, Alejo Quintero Peralta, reportedly died in Mexico. The third defendant — Albert Anthony Volpe, a Canadian with organized crime links — jumped his \$50,000 bond.

Wolfe requested to show the connection between Bettini and Vesco. The jury was ordered out of the courtroom and Wolfe continued his allegations.

"Mr. Bettini is a lifelong acquaintance of Mr. Vesco and they went to school together in Detroit," Wolfe said.

"Vesco needed a warehouse in Houston and he instructed Bettini to procure it for him. In the end, Vesco did lease the warehouse."

The three were arrested July 10 at the Harlingen International Airport where U.S. Customs officials seized 31 crates of machinery that were being loaded onto an airplane.

The machinery was to be used to turn the waste products of the sugar cane crops into fuel to run the Cuban sugar mills.

In the case on trial, prosecutors said the three men paid a charter airline \$30,000 to fly goods to Merida, Mexico. From there, they charge, a Canadian air freight company was to have

transferred the cargo to Canada, where it would be picked up by a Cuban plane.

The Brownsville Herald quoted government sources Thursday as saying the FBI, CIA and other national security organizations were compiling a file on the case.

The report that Vesco may be in Cuba was the first clue to his whereabouts since the U.S. officials requested his extradition from Guatemala.

Vesco lived in Costa Rica until he was expelled in 1978 for getting involved in internal politics. He then went to the Bahamas where he also was expelled.

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Grammar 'hotline' available

United Press International
EDINBURG — Businessmen and women, take heart: Pan American University is keeping up its "Writer's Connection" for instant help over the telephone with undangling your participles and recasting your run-ons.

Pan Am introduced the service last year, keeping a roster of English professors on stand-by for business and professional people who screw up the language.

"Last year we helped several hundred people with their subjects, verbs, pronouns and adverbs," said Dr. Paul Mitchell, who founded the service. "So we decided to keep it going for another year."

Mitchell said the service is aimed at business people because students have their own teachers to consult. He said the service pays off for those who use it.

"Clear and effective communication is good business," Mitchell said.

The telephone service workload is divided up among the English faculty's 30 members, who sign up for a set periods during the week. People who telephone in to the English department are directed to the "Writer's Connection professor" on duty.

Dr. William L. Davis observes there has been a general drop in the number of English majors in the past few years, making for a shortage of communications skills.

"We may not be attracting any English majors, but we're making people realize English professors are accessible," Davis said.

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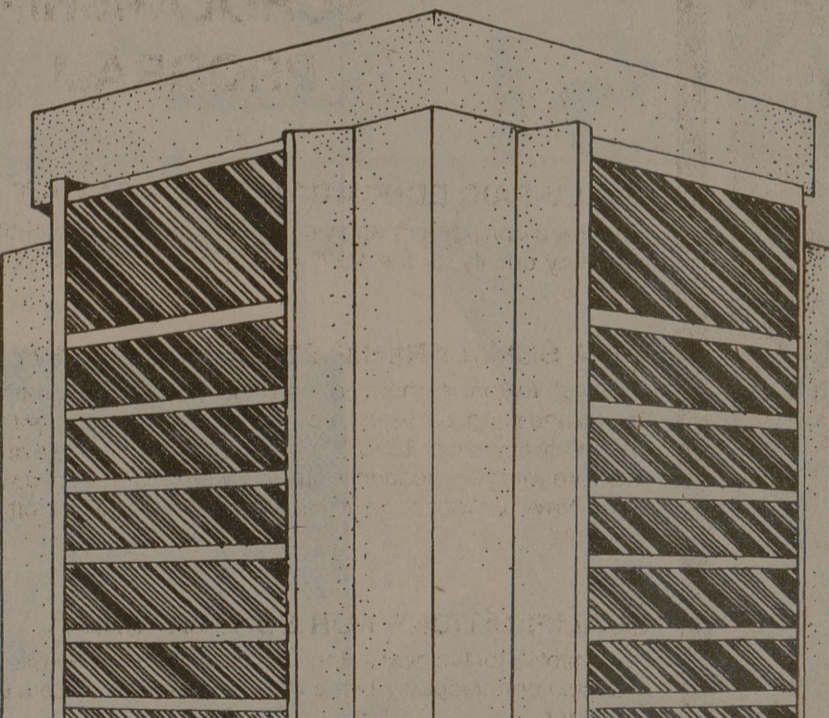
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Don't forget to have your pictures taken before Thanksgiving for the yearbook!

Yearbook Associates, located at 1700 S. Kyle behind Culpepper Plaza, will be taking pictures Nov. 11 and Nov. 14-18 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information call 693-6756 or 845-2681.

Yearbook Associates will also be taking Junior and Senior pictures at their office Nov. 28-Dec. 2 and at the Pavilion Dec. 5-9. No more pictures will be taken after Dec. 9.



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