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# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Space shuttle mission proves disastrous

### Challenger explodes 74 seconds after liftoff

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A catastrophic explosion blew apart space shuttle Challenger 74 seconds after liftoff Tuesday, sending schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe and NASA astronauts to a fiery death 56 miles out from Kennedy Space Center.

"We mourn seven heroes," said President Reagan. The accident defied quick explanation, though a slow-motion replay seemed to show a flame or other abnormality on one of two peel-away jet boosters followed by the detonation of the shuttle's huge external tank. The tank-turned-fireball proved Challenger high above the Cape. The tank's fireball was seen by SA officials watching in despair in the Cape.

Other observers noted that the shuttle continued to fly crazily through the sky after the explosion, leading to the belief that the problem might have originated in the giant tank itself.

"We will not speculate as to the specific cause of the explosion based on that footage," said Jesse Moore, NASA's top shuttle administrator. National Aeronautics and Space Ad-

ministration officials are organizing an investigating board and Moore said it will take a "careful review" of all data "before we can reach any conclusions."

It was the first in-flight disaster in 56 manned space missions. John Glenn, the former astronaut, recalled that three astronauts died in a

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launch-pad training accident 19 years ago and said the history of pioneers is often one "of triumph and tragedy."

The explosion followed an apparently flawless launch, delayed two hours as officials analyzed the danger from icicles that formed in the frosty Florida morning along the shuttle's new launch pad.

"There were no signs of abnormalities on the screens," as flight controllers monitored Challenger's liftoff and ascent, a source said. The source, at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, said the blast occurred

"unexpectedly and with absolutely no warning."

NASA said its computers showed that all communications with the shuttle broke off 74 seconds after launch, marking that as the moment of the explosion.

Mission Control reported that there had been no indication of any problem with the three shuttle engines, its twin solid boosters or any other system and that the shuttle just suddenly blew apart 10 miles high and 8 miles downrange of Cape Canaveral. Ninety minutes after the accident, controllers were still at their consoles, solemnly examining flight data.

Flags at Cape Canaveral were lowered to half-staff. The countdown clock that marks the progress of the mission continued for hours.

Reagan, in an Oval Office address after he postponed his State of the Union message because of the tragedy, reaffirmed his commitment to the shuttle program and said, "The future doesn't belong to the faint-hearted, it belongs to the brave."

"We will continue our quest in space," he said. "There will be more

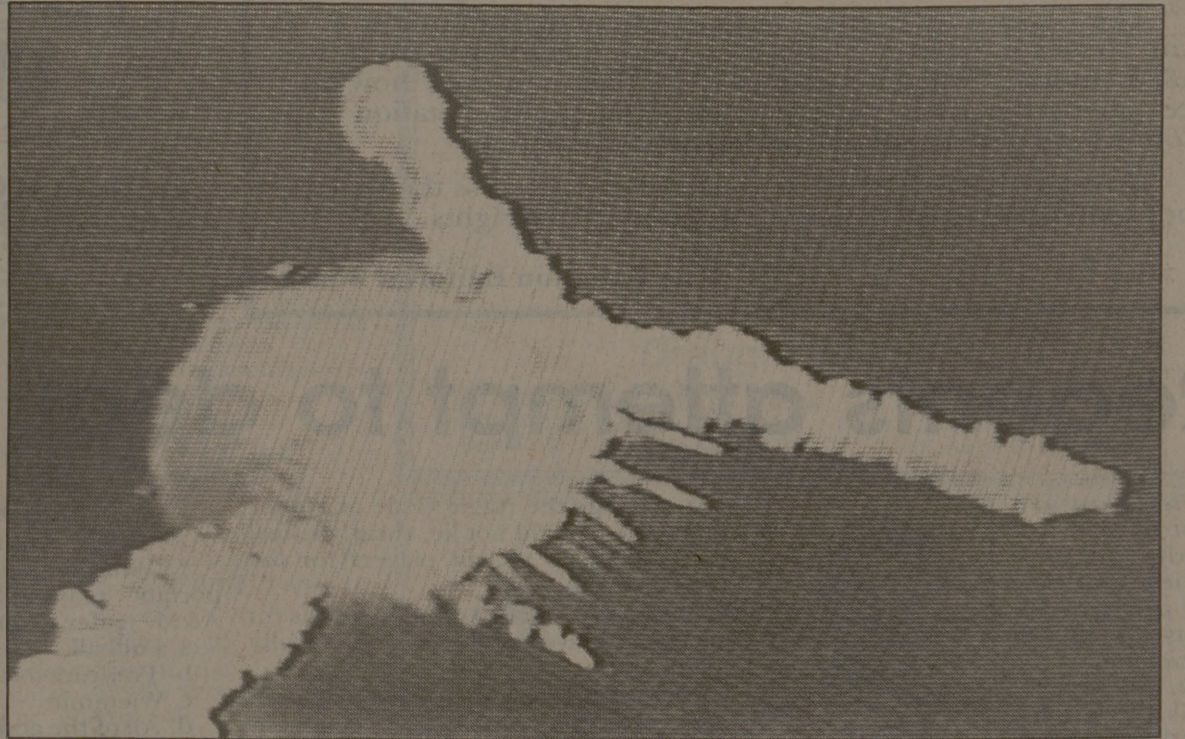


Photo courtesy of KTBX-TV

This is a picture of Challenger's explosion taken from a television monitor.

## Reagan gives praise to shuttle astronauts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan, stunned by America's first flight space disaster, abruptly postponed his State of the Union address Tuesday to praise the lost Challenger astronauts as heroes and the nation's manned space flight program will continue.

"The future doesn't belong to the faint-hearted," the president said. "It belongs to the brave."

In a nationally broadcast address less than an hour after NASA officials gave up hope that teacher Christa McAuliffe and the Challenger's six other crew members survived the explosion that destroyed their spacecraft, Reagan pledged never to forget them and promised their mission would not be America's last.

"I'd planned to speak to you tonight to report on the state of the nation," Reagan said in a five-minute blurt from the Oval Office.

But he explained he was putting off the speech for a week because today is a day for mourning and remembering.

"I've always had great faith in and respect for our space program," Reagan said, "and what happened today does nothing to diminish it."

Reagan said, "There will be more shuttle flights and more shuttle

crews and yes, more volunteers, more civilians, more teachers in space."

The Challenger Seven, Reagan said, "were daring and brave, and they had that special grace, that special spirit that says, 'Give me a challenge, and I'll meet it with joy.'"

Calling the disaster "a truly national loss," Reagan extended his sympathy not just to the grieving families but to the thousands of employees of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on the ground, paying tribute to their decades of dedication and professionalism.

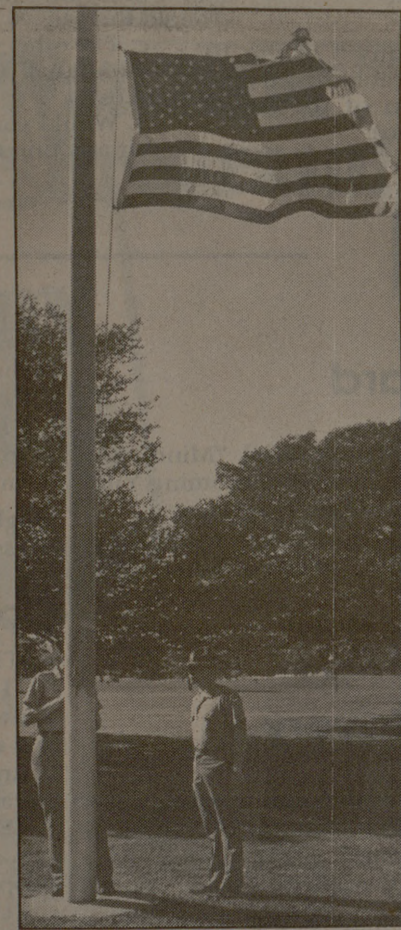
"We know of your anguish," he said. "We share it."

To school children across the country who paid special attention to this flight because a teacher was aboard and planned to lecture about the mission, the president said: "I know it's hard to understand, but sometimes painful things like this happen."

"It's all part of the process of exploration and discovery. It's all part of taking a chance and expanding man's horizons."

"The Challenger crew was pulling us into the future," Reagan said, "and we'll continue to follow."

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Flags flew at half-staff because of the tragedy.

## Scobee requested items

## Shuttle carried Aggie cargo

By CHRIS SIGURDSON Reporter

At space shuttle Commander Dick Scobee's request, administrators at Texas A&M's College of Education arranged for a casting of a medallion and a floppy disk filled with the hopes and best wishes of dozens of Aggies to be a small part of the cargo on the ill-fated flight of the space shuttle Challenger, said Dr. Dean C. Corrigan, dean of the college.

It was the second time Scobee, a member of the college's development council, had taken something from A&M aboard a space shuttle.

Another medallion and a NASA certificate of authenticity from an April, 1984 Challenger flight hang on the wall of the college's office alongside other shuttle souvenirs.

Scobee's ties to the University and the College of Education go back to 1980 when his wife, June, began working toward a doctorate in educational curriculum.

She completed her degree in 1983 and works as a consultant to A&M's Gifted and Talented Institute for outstanding young high school students, said family friend Dr. William R. Nash, director of the institute and her academic co-adviser.

Scobee was active in the institute himself, Nash said, as a guest speaker and judge for some of the aerospace contests.

Nash had been at the launch site in Florida since Jan. 21, the day before the shuttle's original launch date, at NASA's invitation, he said, but had had to leave Saturday.

Corrigan said Scobee joined the college's development council in 1983.

As a member, Scobee helped to foster and fund new programs in the college, particularly those involving math and science, Corrigan said.

The casting Scobee took on the flight commemorates the college's Math/Science Teaching Scholar Loan Program, an incentive system that will cancel one year of the loan for each year the student teaches in a high school or junior high, said Sharon Brooks, counselor for the program.

The computer disk he took was compiled by past and present students in the program, she said, and is filled with color pictures, a brief description of the shuttle's intended mission, the thoughts and aspirations of the students and a computer-sung performance of the "Aggie War Hymn."

Lana Hill, a program recipient who plans to teach mathematics and computer science, said she thought the A&M cargo would be helpful and stimulating when she began teaching.

"It wasn't just another shuttle flight," she said. "I felt that I was contributing something. The disk would personalize my field. It wouldn't be just a computer and a terminal."

Hill's contribution to the disk was a poem she wrote in defense of teaching.

Corrigan and Nash both said Scobee's contributions of time, energy and space expertise were invaluable to their respective programs.

They both expressed concern for Scobee's wife and described Scobee as a man committed to young people and education.

"He lived on the edge," Nash said. "He was a fighter pilot in Vietnam, he was hard-nosed, he had a logical mind. But he was really good with young people."

The Challenger flight was intended to honor education and educators across the nation and included schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

## Japan in love with English words

Associated Press

TOKYO — A young Japanese couple stroll down chic Omotecho Boulevard, their matching jackets bearing the words: "Fancy simple." On the platform at Shinjuku station, a young man in a punk hairstyle sports a coat with bold, stylized lettering: "ANTHRAX."

Like most other Japanese who wear English slogans on shirts, jackets, hats, even underwear, they said they didn't know what the words meant.

"Japanese Ingurisshu" (English), the form is widely called, adorns not just clothing but pencil cases, shopping bags, stationery and many other items — and much of it is incorrect, absurd or unintentionally obscene.

"Absolutely weird," is how Japanese copywriters very conscientiously and adroitly use English as Japanese," he said in an interview. "The words have no meaning but connote something."

"It doesn't matter what's written on them. It's not English, it's art, and if the colors and shapes are nice, it will sell."

— Takashi Murakami, Zen Mall's manager.

The English word "my," in fact, is widely used to convey a sense of intimacy between owner and object, such as "my home" and "my car."

"Let's" and "Do" are also favorites, especially in connection with action. "Do Sports" is a popular athletic club, and many foreigners recall the enigmatic T-shirt: "Let's Sports Violent All Day Long." Instructions for Mercotin tablets once read: "Adults: 1 tablet 3 times a day until passing away."

Some food names may sound attractive to Japanese but revolting to a native speaker of English, such as "Creap" coffee creamer and "Calpis" fermented milk drink. Supermarkets sell candy named "Bourbon Pickle," "Chocolate Sand Cookies," "Glico Pocky" and "Choco Pretch."

Among the scores of tiny clothing shops in Tokyo's trendy Harajuku area is Zen Mall, where customers can choose designs such as "Just Fit to You. King Kong," or "Do not disturb please. SCRAP!"

Takashi Murakami, Zen Mall's manager, said, "It doesn't matter what's written on them. It's not English, it's art, and if the colors and shapes are nice, it will sell. Nobody

ever asks us what they mean. We don't even know ourselves!"

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kets sell candy named "Bourbon Pickle," "Chocolate Sand Cookies," "Glico Pocky" and "Choco Pretch."

Resident foreigners regularly note down and swap slogans, especially four-letter words and other obscenities that constantly turn up on T-shirts and shopping bags. Embarrassing double entendres sometimes go undetected, said Schuefftan, who has lived here for 22 years.

Visitors encounter the bizarre English from the moment they arrive in Japan. A sign at the Skyliner express train station at Tokyo's international airport advises: "If you want to take non-smoking car, please offer to sell ticketer."

In Kyoto, a hotel warns non-Japanese guests that "Depositing the room key into other person is prohibited." Another, in Kobe, says "Guests are requested to hand over their car-key to cartaker."

The absence in the Japanese language of "L" and "V" sounds adds to confusion. Tourists can visit what one map calls the "Nara Prefectural Fork (folk) Museum."

## 124 recommended for chancellorship

By MARY ANN HARVEY Staff Writer

The Texas A&M chancellor search committee on Tuesday released the names of 124 people who are being considered for the job of chancellor of the Texas A&M University System.

The chancellor position will be vacated by Dr. Arthur G. Hansen this summer.

Regent William A. McKenzie, chairman of the search committee that will advise the board on a replacement for Hansen, said the nominated people are not necessarily applicants.

"In no instance do I intentionally mean that they have applied for the job," McKenzie said. "They have been recommended by the faculty, deans, administrators and regents."

Several names were recommended from within the A&M System, including A&M President Frank E. Vandiver; Dr. Perry L. Adkisson, deputy chancellor of the University System; Dr. Herbert Richardson, vice chancellor for engineering; Dr. Duwayne Anderson, associate provost for research; Dr. Eddie J. Davis, vice president for fiscal affairs; and Dr. Percy A. Pierre, Prairie View A&M University president.

Also included from the University were Dr. Neville P. Clarke, director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station; Dr. John E. Flipse, associate vice chancellor for engineering; Dr. Robert Stone, dean of the College of Medicine; and Dr. Robert L.

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