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Coast Guard pulls metal, tiles from ocean

Associated Press
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The Coast Guard pulled 600 pounds of metal and tiles from Challenger out of the Atlantic Ocean Wednesday, and experts impounded every bit of data for clues to the death of seven people in the world's worst space disaster.

NASA said the five men and two women aboard the 100-ton shuttle probably had no warning of the impending explosion. The debris collected by Wednesday afternoon did not include any clothing or personal effects of the astronauts.

A cone-shaped object, possibly from the nose of one of the shuttle's solid rocket boosters, was spotted, but it was too big to put aboard the small cutter ship Dallas. A buoy tender was sent to the area.

The largest piece of debris found after a full day of searching was 15 feet by 15 feet. Other pieces were 12 feet long and 10 feet long. Most

Reagan to attend Houston memorial service

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — President Reagan will fly to the Johnson Space Center in Houston Friday to lead the nation in a tribute to the seven Challenger astronauts killed in the worst accident in the history of space exploration, it was announced Wednesday.

Accompanied by his wife, Nancy, Reagan will attend mid-day memorial services in the community that was home to all of the crew members except school-

teacher Christa McAuliffe of Concord, N.H., and mission specialist Judith A. Resnik of Cleveland, Ohio.

The president sent a written message of condolence to students and staff at Concord High School, where McAuliffe has taught history since 1982. The White House said contents of the message would not be released until the children returned to school Thursday.

As the American flag flew at half-staff over the White House,

Reagan telephoned McAuliffe's husband Steven and extended condolences to him, his son Scott, 9, and daughter Caroline, 6.

Reagan also talked by telephone with relatives of the other six crew members. He spoke with June Scobee, wife of mission commander Francis R. Scobee; Marvin Resnik, father of the only other female member of the crew; Marcia Jarvis, wife of payload specialist Gregory Jarvis; Jane Smith, wife of pilot Michael Smith; Cheryl McNair, wife of

mission specialist Ronald McNair; and Claude Onizuka, brother of mission specialist Ellison Onizuka.

Presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said Vice President George Bush reported to Reagan on his trip to Cape Canaveral to meet with families of the victims, relaying the request of June Scobee, wife of shuttle pilot Francis R. Scobee, to "please do not let this stop the shuttle program."

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nario you can possibly imagine," he said. "There was nothing anyone could have done for this one. It just stopped."

He described the mood in the control room as "extremely professional under the circumstances, very somber, there was not much said."

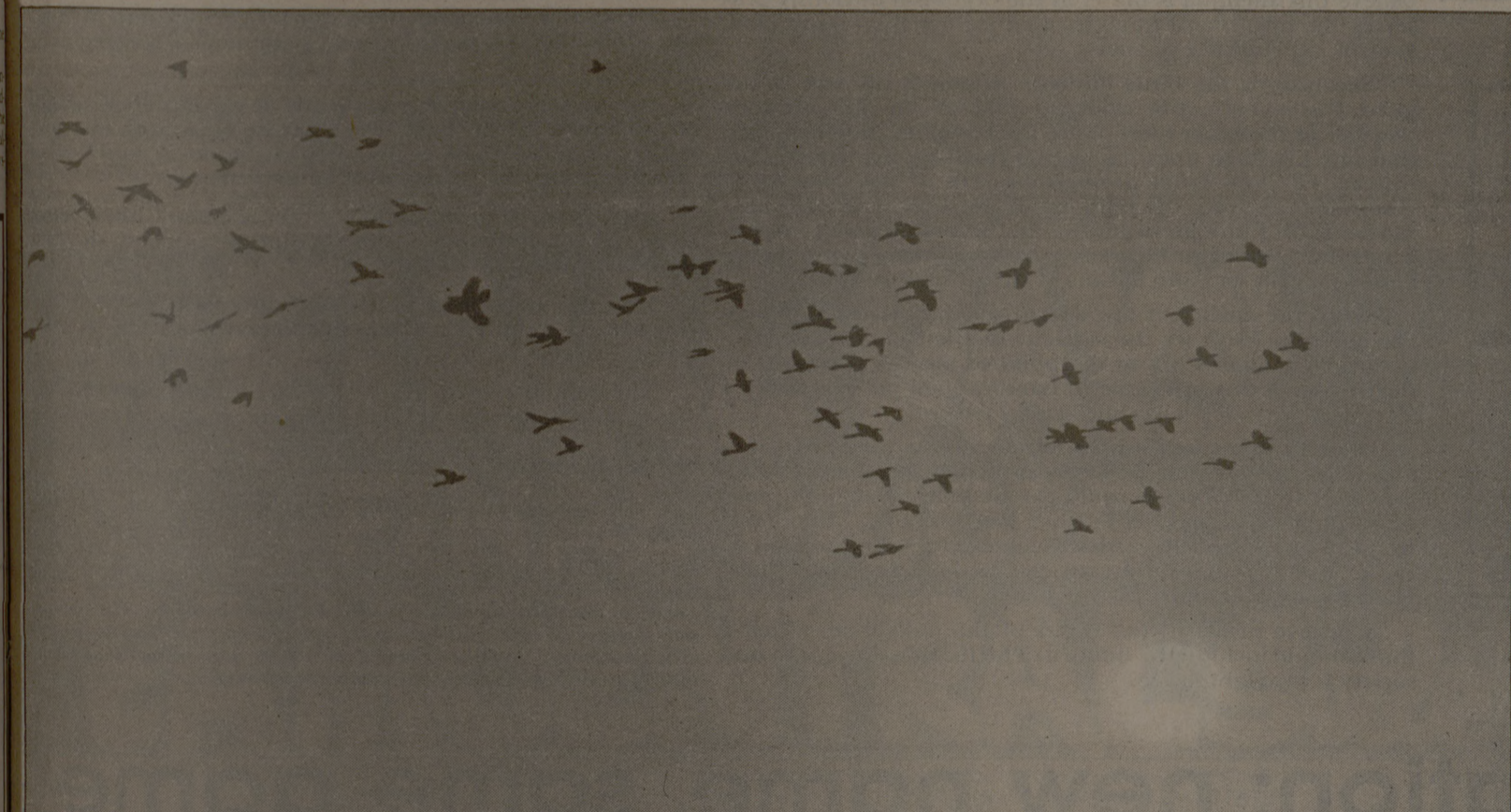
When computer screens showed no more data was coming in, he said, engineers watched the views from television cameras.

"We were hoping something better would come out of it," he said. After a while, we resumed gathering data, put it all up and called it a day."

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Free As A Bird

Birds fly by the sun en route to their night roosts Wednesday. This was taken from a field near Beef Cattle Road.

Photo by DEAN SAITO

21 die in plane crash near port in Mexico

Associated Press
LOS MOCHIS, Mexico — An AeroCalifornia airliner DC-3 carrying 21 people crashed Wednesday on a hill near the fog-covered airport of this Pacific port, and an airline spokeswoman said all aboard were killed.

"There were no survivors," said Mara Castellon, spokeswoman for the airline's main office in La Paz on the Baja California peninsula.

She said the two-engine propeller plane was flying from Ciudad Constitucion on Baja California to Los Mochis, carrying 18 passengers and three crew members.

Ernesto Zavala Valdes, the spokesman for AeroCalifornia in Los Mochis, said all aboard were Mexican citizens.

He said the plane crashed because "of lack of visibility."

Associated Press reporter Cam Rossie, who was flying above the Los Mochis airport in a six-seater Cessna at the time of the crash at about 10:15 a.m. EST, saw the accident.

"It burst into flames, and from the air you could see the tail section was separated," she said in a telephone interview.

"And it looked like the plane was totally destroyed," she added.

"We were approaching," Rossie said.

"Our pilot said we were not going to land in Los Mochis because of fog and the airport was closed," she said. "Then he changed his mind and said we would go ahead and go to Los Mochis and see what it looks like."

"We were in the air, and this DC-3 was in the air."

"He said we'll wait and see if it lands, see how it does."

"It (the AeroCalifornia plane) made an attempt at the landing strip, partially covered with fog."

"We were circling the hill by the airstrip, and the DC-3 plane couldn't land on its first attempt and so it came back around and it started to climb over the hill."

"Its wing went down and it crashed on the side of the hill."

A man answering the telephone at the AeroCalifornia office in Los Mochis said there were 18 passengers and three crew members aboard.

Travel information guides in Mexico City list AeroCalifornia as a regional airline.

It is based in La Paz on the Baja California peninsula, directly across the Gulf of California from Los Mochis.

CS Council approves change

Cable rates to increase Feb. 1

By CRAIG RENFRO
Staff Writer

The College Station City Council Wednesday night unanimously approved an ordinance which will allow McCaw Cablevision to increase cable service rates effective Feb. 1.

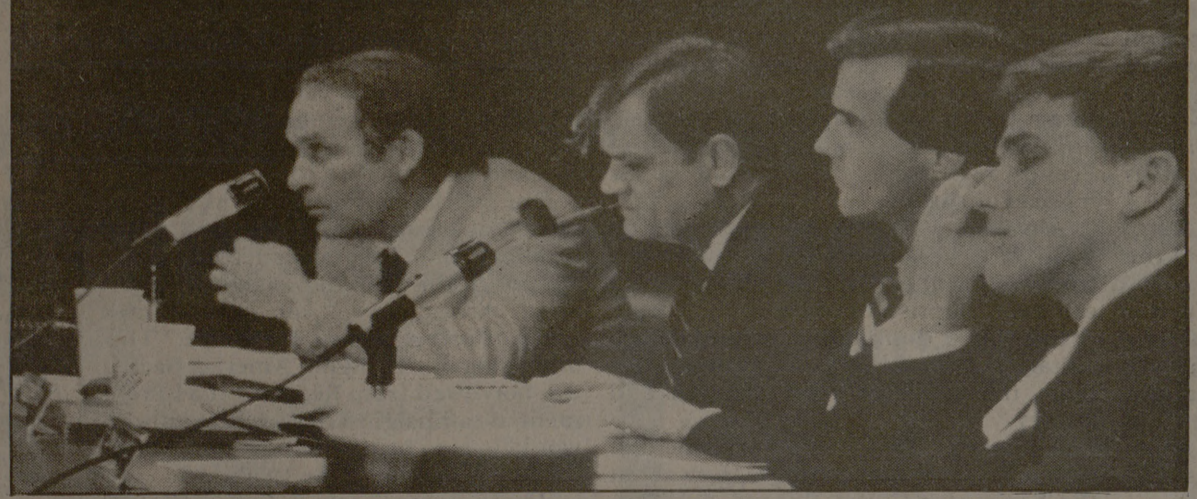
Under the ordinance, the cable rates for the 30-channel package will increase from \$12.50 per month to \$15.

Joseph DiBacco, regional vice president for McCaw, said increased expenditures in operations, increased programming and copyright costs, and the need for additional capital to make cable service improvements are reasons for the increase.

The franchise agreement McCaw has with the city states that the cable company must notify the city 30 days in advance of a rate increase. After notified, the city can do nothing, and let the company set the rate, or the city can set a rate that allows McCaw a reasonable rate of return on their investment.

McCaw notified the city of its plan to increase the rates on Oct. 31. Both College Station and Bryan suspended the rate increase and hired Jack Hopper, a rate consultant from Austin, to analyze the proposed hike.

Hopper's report made no specific



From left to right, Mayor Gary Halter, Council Members James Bond and Fred Brown, and Texas A&M Student Government representative Mike Hachtman at the City Council meeting.

Photo by RANDY MERRILL

recommendations but stated McCaw is entitled to an increase — though not the full amount requested. The report also said the company may need increased revenues to bring its performance to long-run expectations.

To determine if McCaw's request was justifiable, the city manager of

fices of B-CS constructed a rate of return analysis, which said McCaw ran an efficient operation and said McCaw was entitled to the full increase.

According to the analysis, cable industry indicators said McCaw maintained a desirable level of operating expenses but was not receiving a fair rate of return on investment.

William Cole, College Station city manager, said both cities worked extensively on the analysis.

"McCaw must be in the business for the long-haul," Cole said. "Because if they are operating in the short-run, they are in for a loss, but in later years their rate of return will be very good."

Texaco loses bid to remove judge who upheld order

Associated Press
HOUSTON — Texaco Inc. has lost its bid to remove a Texas judge who ordered the nation's third-largest oil company to pay a record \$11.1 billion for its role in thwarting Pennzoil Co.'s merger with Getty Oil Co.

Second Administrative Judge Thomas Stovall Jr. said Wednesday he rejected Texaco's request to disqualify State District Judge Solomon Casseb Jr., who presided over the last eight weeks of the 4½-month trial.

"I see no need for further hearings on this matter," said Stovall, adding that Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice John Hill signed a certificate of Casseb's retirement in May.

Stovall appointed Casseb to the case in October after the original trial judge, Anthony Farris, became ill.

Texaco spokeswoman Anita Larson in White Plains, N.Y., said the company had no comment on Stovall's ruling. Pennzoil spokesman Bob Harper also declined to comment.

In its motion for a new trial,

Texaco alleged Casseb was not legally qualified to serve as a "retired judge" because he had not served enough time on the bench to qualify for state retirement benefits.

Upon resuming work as a retired judge, Casseb failed to take the oath of office, Texaco argued.

A hearing on the request for a new trial has not been set by Casseb.

Texaco purchased Getty Oil in January 1984 for \$10.1 billion, the second largest merger in U.S. corporate history.

But a state district court jury in Houston ruled in November that Texaco should pay Pennzoil \$10.53 billion in damages for wrongfully interfering in a previous Pennzoil-Getty Oil merger.

Casseb upheld the damage award — the largest in U.S. history — and added \$600 million in interest.

Texas law requires that Texaco post a bond of \$12 billion — the amount plus interest and court costs — before it can appeal.