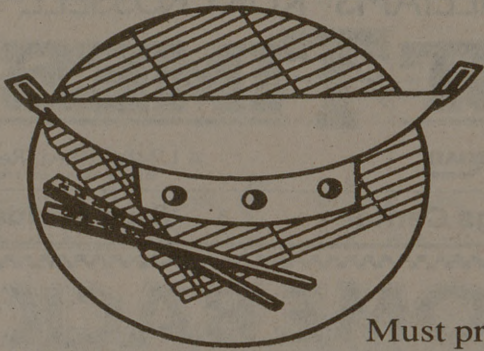


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After the explosion

Scientists questioning use of manned flight

Associated Press
SPACE CENTER, Houston — The disaster of space shuttle Challenger, in contrast to the stunning success of Voyager's fly-by of the planet Uranus, will sharpen the argument that the U.S. should abandon manned missions and instead send robots to explore the universe, scientists said Wednesday.

Unmanned space travel costs far less than manned missions and can probe much deeper in space with no risk to humans. Yet it remains the poor stepchild to the high-flying manned space program, experts said.

It's a debate that has raged in the scientific community since the first days of exploring the heavens.

"Nobody wants to say 'I told you so' the day after seven people have died," said Gordon Pettengill, a planetary astronomy professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "I wouldn't be surprised if this did cause some re-examination. It would be strange to me if it didn't."

While experts are hesitant to revive the debate so soon after Tuesday's tragedy, in which seven crewmembers were killed, concerns are surfacing over the impact the Challenger accident will have on unmanned probes.

John W. Freeman, a Rice University space physicist, said, "I don't want to sound callous, but one of the things we always worry about in a

tragedy like yesterday is the money that it's going to take to correct (the problem) is likely to come out of the hide of unmanned (projects)."

Dr. Edward Ney, a University of Minnesota professor of physics and astronomy and a shuttle critic, said, "The thing that strikes me is that this happened four days after the successful Voyager rendezvous with

"The public doesn't always appreciate what has been learned from unmanned missions."

— John W. Freeman, a Rice University space physicist.

Uranus, a planet we've never even had a photograph of."

Data recently radioed back by Voyager 2 have given scientists new photographs of the five major moons of Uranus. The moon Miranda emerged as an icy world unlike any other ever seen in the solar system.

In a recent issue of Scientific American magazine, Dr. James Van Allen, a longtime shuttle critic, argued that manned flights were diverting important resources from unmanned probes.

"It's been an uphill battle," Free-

man said. "The public doesn't appreciate what has been learned from unmanned missions. It stands right now, manned flight is budgeted much greater than unmanned."

Many scientists argue a greater balance should be struck between the use of humans and machines in space.

Machines cannot perform functions an astronaut can, proponents note. And the space station program may yield told benefits, they argue.

William Graham, acting director of the space agency, "NASA has always given weight to both the manned and unmanned part of the program. We'll continue our program of people and machines working together."

At the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., which America's unmanned space program under contract to NASA, Voyager 2 expert said the shuttle program is needed to complement unmanned probes.

Ellis Miner, JPL's deputy scientist for Voyager 2, said he would feel very badly now would try to abandon the program. "We have no way of launching anything to the planets except the space shuttle."

Groups concerned about flight suspension

Associated Press
SPACE CENTER, Houston — Commercial and scientific organizations that counted on the space shuttle to deliver their satellites face new uncertainties after the catastrophic loss of Challenger and the indefinite suspension of all shuttle flights.

Marvin Goldberger, president of California Institute of Technology which operates the famed Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said "The U.S. space program has been planned for many years on the assumption that the shuttle would be the launch vehicle of choice."

JPL is managing two major science probes, the Ulysses and the Galileo, which are scheduled for launch on separate missions this May.

NASA acting administrator William Graham said the shuttle will not fly again until investigators know what caused Challenger to blow up and measures have been taken "to make sure it doesn't happen again."

The most immediate loss of the Challenger disaster is to studies of Halley's Comet.

Challenger was carrying a satellite designed to take unprecedented photos and instrument readings on the comet. A mission scheduled for March also was to conduct a Halley study, but that now, too, is lost.

There won't be another chance for 76 years.

A delay in the launch of Ulysses and Galileo will push their missions

back into 1987 at the earliest.

A JPL spokeswoman said, "If we miss the May launch dates for the satellites, then we would have to wait for 13 months for another launch opportunity."

Both Ulysses and Galileo are to be launched toward the planet Jupiter. Ulysses is to use Jupiter's gravitational boost to soar over the top of the

"If we miss the May launch dates for the satellites, then we would have to wait for 13 months for another launch opportunity."

— An unidentified spokeswoman for the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

sun and become the first known object to orbit the solar poles. Galileo is to be sent to a permanent orbit of Jupiter for a concentrated study of that massive planet and its moons.

The delay of shuttle launches may erode the profit picture of some commercial satellite users and affect NASA's international competition with other launch services.

Warren Bechtel, a spokesman for Western Union, said his firm planned to launch a communications

satellite called Westar-7 in the and the cost of delay would be dear."

Western Union's last successful satellite was placed into orbit in 1984. A satellite delivered to space in 1985 failed to achieve the proper orbit and was returned to the ground on the shuttle.

"We will continue to serve our customers (with existing satellites) but we may not be able to bid over new business," Bechtel said. He added that it is too soon for his company to consider seeking out of services elsewhere, such as using the French Ariane rocket.

A launch delay might also help NASA's space telescope program.

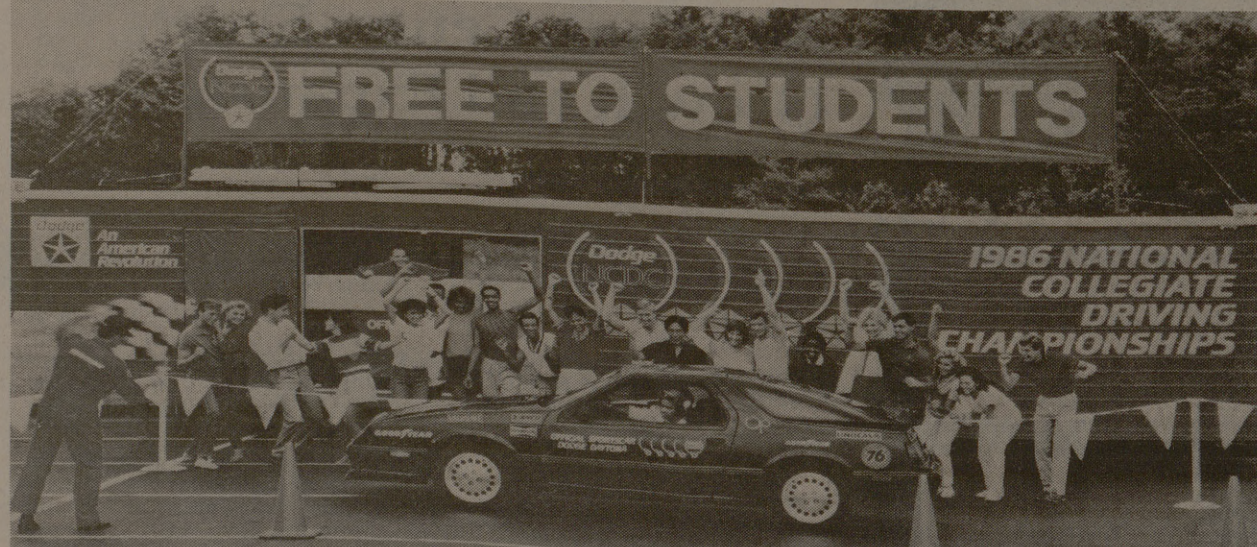
Mark Littmann, a spokesman for the project, said scientists are planning to prepare a new program for the Hubble Space telescope. A delay would assure the work is completed.

Scientists, though, would be disappointed if the launch is delayed much past its planned Oct. 27 date.

"The whole scientific community is very anxious to get it into space," Littmann said.

The telescope was designed as the beginning for launch and maintenance by the space shuttle. Scientists planned for the instrument to be deployed and mounted for a time by orbiting shuttle.

Without a shuttle, the whole \$1 billion telescope program would be seriously handicapped.



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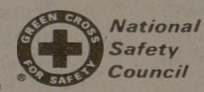
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