Lobby Zachry 6:40 p.m. Lunes 3 de Febrero de 1986

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ham, said Sunday in an interview on NBC that the boosters were at first heavily instrumented to monitor their performance.

Page 10/The Battalion/Monday, February 3, 1986

SPACE CENTER, Houston — For the first 20

years of the space age, solid rockets were consid-

ered too risky to use on manned flights. But they proved so successful early in the shuttle pro-

gram that NASA confidently removed all but

gram that NASA confidently removed all but four sensors to measure their performance.

Now a failure of the right booster is considered a major candidate for the cause of the Challenger explosion that killed the crew of seven and brought to a temporary halt America's manned spaceflight program.

Suspicion focused on the right booster after photographs, clearly showed flame burst.

buspicion focused on the right booster after photographs clearly showed flame burst through the side of the rocket casing. It was speculated that the 6,000-degree heat from the solid fuel could have impinged like a blow torch against Challenger's fuel tank, which contained a half-million gallons of explosive fuel. It was

Problems with a booster nearly caused a disas-

Astronaut Dan Brandenstein reported that a

ter during the eighth shuttle mission in October

nozzle on a rocket motor came within a fifth of an inch of burning through. Had it burned through, he said, the result would have been "catastrophic," with the craft going into a pinwheeling motion. He believed the five astronauts on board would have been killed.

NASA's acting administrator, William Graham, said Sunday in an interview on NBC that

Confidence led to removal of most sensors

But he said the rockets worked so successfully that there were "no credible failure modes that we could identify" and most of the sensors were removed early in the program. Only four sensors remained on the boosters used for Challenger, and officials said there was no data monitored during liftoff at Mission Control to indicate a problem.

Solid rockets have history of unreliability

Solid rockets have a history of unreliability dating to ancient China, when they were pro

pelled by charcoal, potassium nitrate and sulfur.
Unlike rockets fueled with liquids such as kerosene, solid rockets cannot be throttled and thus are uncontrollable. Once a solid is ignited, it will burn until the fuel is exhausted. It cannot be shut down and, often, it cannot even be calmed

By the time the shuttle program was in its design phase, however, engineers had found they could design solid rockets that burned reliably at

a set rate, giving a predictable thrust.

NASA decided to team two solid rockets with the three powerful liquid-fuel main engines to give the shuttle the 4 million pounds of thrust it needed to leave Earth.

Thiokol Chemical Corp. of Brigham City, Utah, which has long experience making solid rocket fuels, was given the contract to design and build the boosters, each one 149 feet long and 12 feet in diameter.

During launch, the main shuttle engines ignite first. These engines can be shut down in the event of a problem. When they have burned up to full thrust, about five seconds, then an electronic cal signal is sent to the solid boosters.

The solids immediately start burning, pr ducing 2.9 million pounds of thrust. The power is instant and for this reason, the shuttle seems to leap away from the pad, instead of the slow, majestic rise typical of the all-liquid-fueled Apollo spacecraft.

After 50 seconds, thrust from the solids is reduced by a third. This is accomplished because of the shape and chemical mixture, not as a result of throttling. The boosters fall away from the shuttle and are parachuted into the ocean, recovered by ship, and returned to the Kennedy Space Center. There, they will be taken apart, reloaded and flown again.

Under NASA rules, once the solids are ignited, the astronauts are required to ride them until they have burned out. Should the shuttle go out of control and become a danger to a popular.

go out of control and become a danger to a po ulated area before then, an Air Fore range safety officer is under instructions to blow up the vehicle, including the orbiter and the astronomy.

Such a signal was sent to Challenger, but or after the external tank had exploded and pulve rized the orbiter. The result of the signal wa that both boosters blew up, destroying evidence in the investigation.

NASA officials said destruction of the stray boosters was necessary because one was streaking toward a populated beach area.

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Historical Philadelphia hotel plans closing

this fuel tank that exploded.

PHILADELPHIA — Emotional opposition and a 60-day reprieve saved the Bellevue Stratford from closing Sunday, but the city's bestknown hotel seems sure to shut down after a history of prestige and the first known fatal outbreak of Le-gionnaire's disease.

It was the hotel of choice for celebrities ranging from Elvis Presley to Sophia Loren. Every president since Theodore Roosevelt has stayed in the Bellevue, and the late Princess Grace chose the hotel when she left her palace in Monaco to visit her The principal owner, Rubin & As-

sociates, said Jan. 22 that mounting debts would force the 82-year-old hotel to close Sunday. A lawsuit Sunday changed this. lawsuit Sunday changed this.

Attorney David Girard-diCarlo called the opposition "a political circus," but said the 565-room hotel ticipation of closing.

Every president since Theodore Roosevelt has stayed in the Bellevue, and the late Princess Grace chose the hotel when she left her palace in Monaco.

would remain open until April 2. He acknowledged some of its restaurants might close and some of the 450 employees might lose their jobs before then.

Plans for the next two months remained unclear Sunday. General manager Ray Sylvester said Friday the Bellevue canceled all bookings after Saturday and helped convention sponsors find other bases in an-

Girard-DiCarlo said Rubin & Associates and Westin Hotels, which owns 49 percent, would entertain "reasonable" proposals to keep the ornate building open as a hotel. But the previous day, Rubin & Associates spokeswoman Judith Morse had said the company still planned to renovate it into shops, offices, high-class restaurants and a smaller hotel. restaurants and a smaller hotel.

The hotel hasn't made a profit since it reopened in 1979, three years after closing in the aftermath of the deaths of 29 conventioneering Legionnaires and their spouses, lending the name to what is now

known as Legionnaire's disease.

Irving Anderson, president of the city's Hotel-Motel Association, said the Bellevue became a victim of eral problems plaguing Philadelphia's hotel industry — a glut of high-priced rooms and a delay in construction of a downtown convention. struction of a downtown convention

Ullmann honored with award

Liv Ullmann was honored Sun-day by The West German Society for the United Nations for her work with UNICEF.

The private Berlin-based group presented Ullmann with its Dag Hammerskjold medal at a Berlin ceremony attended b West German Foreign Ministe Hans-Dietrich Genscher and other officials.

Ullmann said she accepted the biennial award "in the name of the world's children."

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AT YOUR SERVICE

Approximately two-thirds of the Aggie student population lives off campus. Many off-campus students tell us that they don't know about campus events and express the need for a "connection" between themselves and campus life.

This connection is provided for you in the "Off Campus Connection." This column is sponsored by the Off Campus Center in the Department of Student Affairs and Loupot's Bookstore. The "Off Campus Connection" will contain articles and tips regarding off-campus living such as information on security deposits, preleasing, apartment security and roommates. The column will also provide off-campus students with information concerning campus events and

to submit any questions, comments, or ideas that you may have. We invite you to bring your ideas by the Off Campus Center in Puryear Hall, directly across from the YMCA Building, or give us a call at 845-1741. Feel free to call or come by Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

As you read the "Off Campus Connection", we would like to encourage you

A WINNING COMBINATION



Laurel and Hardy, Laverne and Shirley, Cheech and Chong-combinations like these are hard to find. Selecting a compatible roommate is also a difficult task. Although roommates do not have to be best friends or share every aspect of college living, they do need to learn how to tolerate one another's differences without infringing on individual freedoms. Mastering this task can lead to productive relationships by preventing unnecessary conflicts.

In choosing a roommate there are several areas of discussion which should be explored prior to making a final commitment. In getting acquainted, each prospective roommate should discuss his or her background-hometown, family, age, major, and reason for coming to A&M. A second area which should be discussed concerns the individual's preferences and habits. This includes such things as how much sleep you need, what your study habits are, and how you feel about your possessions. A third area relates to the roommates' emotional styles. Annoyances, things which get you down, and times you would prefer to be alone are important factors which contribute to your individuality. A fourth area which should be discussed by potential roommates concerns personal values. Being open and honest is the key to success. For example, look at Laverne and Shirley. Everyone knows their values are as different as night and day, but their relationship as roommates is great. By communicating about differences, roommates can become more aware of potential problem areas.

Once potential roommates have discussed personal characteristics and preferences, it is always a good ideal to establish "house rules." By discussing such issues as cleaning duties and study times in the beginning, problems may be alleviated later. Follow these steps in selecting a compatible roommate — learn to be part of a winning combination.



Schedule of Events for February

OCA General Meeting-Wednesday, February 5, 1986 7:00 p.m. 206 MSC
Guest Speaker-Lynn Hickey-Director of Women's Athletics
Off Capus Week-February 10-14, 1986
Look for Domino Tournament, Valentines Day Sock Hop at Deware Field
House, and other related social activities.
Cross-Dine with the Corps of CadetsSign up in the MSC during Off Campus Week

Sign up in the MSC during Off Campus Week

Come by our office or give us a call! 223 Pavilion 845-0688/823-2553

We would like to congratulate our Fall '85 Apartment Council Presidents for a job well done. Below is a list of ourACP's. We are now accepting applications for those complexes not already represented. Stop by our office for more information.

AGGELAND ARBOR AQUARE AUTUMN HEIGHTS BRIARWOOD CASA SEL SOL CASA VERDE

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The Off Campus Connection is sponsored monthly by Loupot's Bookstore as a service to Texas A&M students. Articles and artwork are provided by the Off Campus Center

FOLEY'S **EXTENDS** CONGRATULATIONS

Foley's 1986 Summer Interships have been awarded to:

Laura Karrenbrock **Elizabeth Mitchell Diane Jones** Jack Volkenburg

Foley's extends a warm round of silent applause and our best wishes to each Texas A & M Intern.

A commitment to excellence has once again been demonstrated.

