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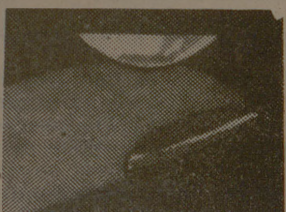
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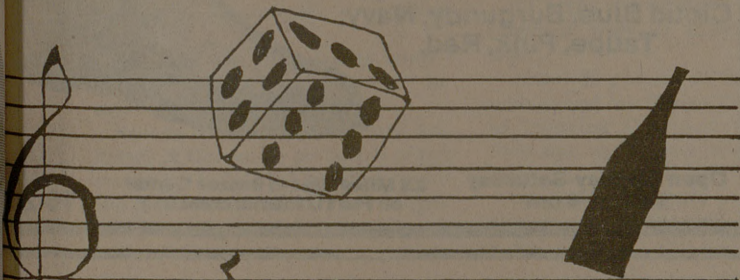


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NASA estimates \$1.4 billion lost in shuttle blast

Associated Press

The cost of seven human lives lost in the Challenger tragedy can never be measured, but the explosion also wiped out a \$1.4 billion investment and reduced the nation's manned spaceflight capability by a fourth.

Accountants can't add up the cost in affection, companionship and parental guidance that was snuffed out when Challenger exploded last Tuesday. Challenger's crew left behind 11 children, six spouses and large extended families.

The accident also removed from our society some of the brightest, best-educated minds and most highly specialized skills that can be developed. Among them, the seven held 17 college degrees, 39 years of astronaut training, 500 hours of spaceflight experience and, for Christa McAuliffe, 15 years of teaching experience.

But NASA can put a cost on the training of an astronaut — about \$500,000 each. There were five full-time astronauts on board for a total training cost of about \$2.5 million.

Challenger had a value in the potential it represented for exploration and utilization of space. Without it, the nation's accomplishments in orbit will be diminished and goals will be pushed back.

For instance, Challenger and Atlantis were the only two shuttles capable of carrying into orbit two deep space probes, the Ulysses and the Galileo spacecraft. Both were scheduled to be launched toward Jupiter in June. With Challenger gone, a JPL scientist said only one of the science craft could be launched this year.

According to NASA, replacing Challenger would cost about \$1.2 billion and it would take at least two years.

In addition, Challenger was carrying into orbit one of the most sophisticated communications satellites ever built, the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite. The TDRS was to be used to relay information to Earth from orbiting spacecraft, including the shuttle. Teamed with a TDRS already in orbit, the satellite would have provided immediate communication for 85 percent of every orbit. This would have enhanced significantly the scientific return of each spaceflight.

Replacing the TDRS satellite will cost NASA about \$100 million.

Challenger also carried on board a satellite called Spartan-Halley. It was a satellite bearing sophisticated instruments that would gather unprecedented views of Halley's Comet.

Replacing Spartan-Halley will cost \$10 to \$13 million, according to NASA.

There also were hundreds of other pieces of reusable hardware lost in the explosion. These include relatively small items, such as television cameras and special tools, and some large items, such as two of NASA's 25 complete spacesuits, which cost \$2.3 million each. A total for these smaller hardware losses has yet to be calculated.

Additionally, there are the non-recoverable costs of the mission itself. Each mission costs NASA about \$100 million. Much of this cost is already spent by the time a shuttle leaves the ground.

At least one item can be specifically valued. Among the things carried on Challenger were two sets of freshly-minted U.S. Liberty coins which have been produced to honor the centennial of the Statue of Liberty.

First man in space remembers dead, looks toward future

Associated Press

As friends and families in New Hampshire, South Carolina and Ohio remembered the dead from the space shuttle Monday, America's first man in orbit challenged the living to "fix it and get on with it."

Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, recalled the last words from shuttle commander Dick Scobee — "Roger, go at throttle up" — before the Challenger exploded last Tuesday.

"These are far more than just their courageous epitaph," Glenn said at a memorial service at Firestone High School in Akron, Ohio, where Judith A. Resnik was valedictorian in 1966.

"They are America's history, and they are America's destiny, and they will turn tragedy into triumph once again," said Glenn, who put the U.S. manned space program in orbit in his Friendship 7 capsule in 1962.

"Judy would be the very first person to say, 'Let's fix it and get on with it,'" he said.

Monday's other tributes included a private Mass in Concord, N.H., for the family and friends of teacher-in-space Christa McAuliffe and a public memorial service in the tiny farm town of Lake City, S.C., for mission specialist Ronald McNair.

"There's nothing much I can say except thank you for your caring and sympathizing in our loss," Dr. Marvin Resnik told the crowd of students, astronauts, politicians and Akron residents.

Black balloons and black ribbons along McNair Boulevard symbolized the community's grief for a native son.

The street had been named for

McNair after his first shuttle flight in 1984 — a flight distinguished by his saxophone solo from orbit. On Sunday, a crowd of more than 1,000 overflowed the Wesley United Methodist Church for a religious memorial service.

Vance Brand, commander of McNair's shuttle flight two years ago, told 2,000 people gathered for Monday's observances that the crew loved McNair as a brother.

"Somewhere in heaven, Ron will be having new accomplishments and will want us to continue his journey toward the stars," Brand said.

Schools were closed in Lake City for the day, and school district officials announced they would be closed every Feb. 3 in McNair's honor.

The priest who officiated at Christa McAuliffe's wedding in 1970 celebrated a private funeral Mass for her Monday, with husband Steven McAuliffe and the couple's two children, Scott, 9, and Caroline, 6, in attendance.

Steven McAuliffe had requested that his wife's cousin, the Rev. James Leary of St. Joseph's Church in Bristol, Conn., officiate at the Mass. Leary was not reached until this weekend. Bishop Odore Gendron, leader of New Hampshire Catholics, and Cardinal Bernard Law of Boston were prepared to conduct the service if Leary had not been reached.

Barbara Morgan, the alternate teacher-in-space astronaut from McCall, Idaho, who trained with Christa, and Christa's parents, Ed and Grace Corrigan of Framingham, Mass., also attended.

In Advance

Events for the "able-bodied"

By SUE A. KRENEK

Reporter

Texas A&M Student Council for Exceptional Children has planned a weeklong series of events aimed at those the handicapped call "the able-bodied."

Wheelchair basketball, a parents' panel and a free movie showing are a few of the activities planned for the week. Organizers say the week promotes awareness at A&M and in the surrounding community of the needs, abilities and potential of exceptional children and adults.

Judy Foster, co-chairman of the planning committee, says the council hopes to get a message across to the community.

"Exceptional people are just as regular — and just as special — as so-called regular people and they deserve the same kind of consideration as everyone else," Foster says.

Jodie Peters, co-chairman of the planning committee, agrees, saying that while A&M has done a good job of making facilities accessible to the handicapped, many people still have misconceptions about the handicapped.

Peters says activities planned for the week deal primarily with physical handicaps, but she says the group hopes to promote awareness of all the exceptional people it deals with, including the mentally retarded, and the gifted and talented.

Today the council will have a panel discussion about all exceptional children at 8:30 p.m. in 510 Rudder.

Panel members will include parents of exceptional children and professionals who work with the children. Dr. Jean Kueker, a visiting assistant professor of educational psychology at A&M and the mother of a special-needs child, will be the panel's moderator.

Peters says the discussion will focus on the experiences of parents of exceptional children and the rewards involved in working with the children.

"I think there's so many more blessings than burdens when it comes to working with exceptional children, and we really want to get that across," Peters says.

Council members will be at the Memorial Student Center Wednesday and Thursday to allow students to check out wheelchairs for 30 minutes. Peters says this will allow students to discover firsthand the frustrations of being in a wheelchair and, she hopes, develop a new respect for those who must deal with handicaps everyday.

A wheelchair basketball game will be held Wednesday afternoon at a time and place to be announced later, Foster says. She says the game will involve members of the Student Council for Exceptional Children, able-bodied students and paraplegic students. Anyone interested in playing can call her at 693-9442.

Thursday night the council ends the week's events with a free showing of the movie "The Other Side of the Mountain" at 8:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder.

Rumours having grand opening

By KIM ROY

Reporter

It's no rumor that the new Rumours Snack Bar, located behind the Memorial Student Center post office, is open.

Rumours, which was open for a short time at the end of the fall semester, is celebrating its official grand opening today.

The grand opening celebration will feature free ice cream and yogurt samples, free beverages and a drawing for a 10-speed bicycle at 2 p.m.

Debbie Robison, manager of Rumours, says the snack bar's menu includes baked potatoes, chef salads and grilled hamburgers.

Robison, who has worked as a manager in the Food Services Department for almost seven years, is Rumours' first full-time paid manager.

Rumours was previously run

by the MSC but now is operated by food services.

Jay Maynard, A&M's assistant director for auxiliary dining, says food services took over the operation of Rumours and decided the first step would be a new look.

The snack bar, which sports new green carpet and oak trim, is open from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Because food services is self-supporting, Rumours is expected to return a profit within three years, Maynard says.

Maynard says Rumours will offer night entertainment and can be reserved for private parties.

Robison says she is confident that Rumours will be a success despite its out-of-the-way location.

"I think we have already overcome the location," she says. "I already have steady customers."

Seminar to aid working couples

By LINDA K. SIPPOLA

Reporter

Trying to balance two careers and maintain an intimate relationship creates new problems that today's adults often aren't prepared to handle.

Beginning Tuesday, the problems unique to this type of relationship will be the topic of a five-week workshop sponsored by the Student Counseling Service.

A dual-career relationship involves two career people who have a commitment to each other too, says Sue Lucas, counseling psychology intern at Texas A&M.

The couple involved isn't necessarily married but must have a strong commitment to each other, Lucas says.

The workshop sessions will include sex role expectations, parenting and career issues, communication skills and decision making.

Dr. Michael Myszka, counseling psychologist, says conflicts in relationships aren't restricted to any age group, and everyone benefits from the experiences that are shared.

The workshop will help older couples dispel some of the stereo-

types they have about younger couples and vice versa, Myszka says.

Both members of the relationship don't have to attend the workshops, but one of the two must be an A&M student.

Myszka says each partner in a dual career relationship has different problems, and communication and decision-making skills are areas that require special attention. Also, deciding where to live and how to spend leisure time must be planned more carefully, he says.

Also, parenting and career issues cause particular problems, she says. Myszka says parenting responsibilities must be decided with both careers and people in mind.

Today, many men want to be more active in raising their children, he says.

Career decisions should be made with consideration for their partner's career too, Myszka says.

Separation problems are more likely in the university setting, he says, because many couples don't graduate at the same time but wish to continue their relationship.

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