

World and Nation

Marcos, Aquino finish campaign on bitter note

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand E. Marcos, at his last rally before the election Wednesday, accused his opponents of sowing hatred and revolution during the bitter presidential campaign. Opposition candidate Corason Aquino called him an old dictator whose time has passed.

Speaking in a Manila park during a heavy rain, Marcos addressed these remarks to Aquino and her supporters: "Slow down, you children of little brains, you're no match for the administration."

"I ask my opponents to stop what they have begun. You have sowed an atmosphere of hatred, anger and revolution. Now I say to you, the government of the Philippines is not defenseless," Marcos said on the last day of campaigning allowed by law for Friday's presidential election.

The city was plastered with posters calling Aquino "empty-headed." Aquino, 53, told a crowd in her home province of Tarlac: "Marcos is my only enemy." She blames him for the 1983 assassination of her husband, Benigno, who had been the president's main political foe.

She said in a final campaign message issued by her headquarters that her campaign of "people power" had won, "and as the old dictator lurks in his palace with his dwindling band of cronies . . . I warn him: Do not cheat the people on Friday."

Marcos, 68, has been in power since 1965 and ruled by martial law for eight years beginning in 1972.

An official U.S. observer delegation of 20 members is here, led by Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., and Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa. Lugar said before leaving Washington that they would feel free to criticize any election abuses they found.

Marcos had called the early election in an effort to show critics at home and in the United States that he is still popular and has the strength to deal with a growing communist insurgency.

The president's party projected that he would win with 56 percent of the vote. Aquino has said she needs 65 percent to provide a cushion against vote fraud she predicts will occur.

Cardinal Jaime L. Sin, spiritual leader of the predominantly Roman Catholic community, refused to attend a prayer rally at the presidential palace. He cited Election Commission ruling against church interference in the campaign.

Reporters and observers estimated Marcos' final rally crowd at 150,000, less than one-third of total that cheered Aquino Tuesday night in the same government park.

Crew's families push manned exploration

SPACE CENTER, Houston — The families of the Challenger crew Wednesday urged Americans to "keep the dream alive" by continuing the manned exploration of space.

The joint statement was offered to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration by June Scobee, widow of Challenger commander Dick Scobee.

The statement reads: "The 51-L crew families want to thank the people of our country and all the countries of the world for their thoughts, their feelings and words of encouragement."

"Space flight serves as an outlet for our human need to learn and expand. What's out there will make our lives better on Earth and help satisfy mankind's natural curiosity to explore and push the borders of the known universe."

"So that their lives were not lost in vain, we must rededicate ourselves to the exploration of space and to keep the dream alive."

Others killed in the explosion of Challenger last week were pilot Mike Smith; mission specialists Ellison Onizuka, Ronald McNair and Judy Resnik, and payload specialists Gregory Jarvis and Christa McAuliffe.

Second ship sent by NASA to search for rocket booster

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA sent a second ship Wednesday to an area 30 miles from Challenger's launch pad to search for an object that could be the ill-fated shuttle's suspect right rocket booster.

There have been strong sonar "hits" in that area, indicating that the booster may be there in 1,100 feet of water. The Independence, a booster recovery ship, was steaming in that direction to join another such ship, the Liberty Star.

The Independence carried a robot submarine capable of photographing the object but NASA said plans for its use were undetermined because of a choppy sea.

Sources reported, meanwhile, that ships had recovered 17 feet of explosives from a "destruct package" that was on the side of Challenger's main fuel tank when it lifted off. The explosives had not been detonated, the sources said, removing them from the list of possible causes of the catastrophe.

Meanwhile, television networks showed a dramatic photograph made just after Challenger exploded which clearly shows two distinct smoke trails spurring from the ship's right booster, indicating that fire somehow was coming from the side of the booster.

The fact that only a fraction of the shuttle and its cargo has been recovered — about 10 percent — was underscored dramatically in a videotape showing the wreckage laid out on a grid pattern of yellow lines in a NASA warehouse.

The huge room was mostly empty with items placed here and there. Most prominent were two large sections that appeared to be remnants of wings. There was nothing in the area where the crew cabin would be.

The crew cabin and its voice recorders have not been found, NASA said.

The officials in charge of NASA's in-house investigation of the accident were in Washington, preparing to disclose for the first time what they think caused the shuttle to explode in flames.

Members of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's interim review board are to be witnesses in Washington Thursday when a presidential investigating commission holds its first hearing.

The still picture aired on television, made by an employee of a Kennedy Space Center contractor, shows the two boosters flying off on their own, with twin columns of smoke emerging from the one on the left.

Bankrupt farmer, 67, commits suicide

Associated Press

WAYNESBORO, Ga. — A 67-year-old farmer shot and killed himself moments before his property was to be auctioned for unpaid debts, the latest in a series of violent incidents linked to the farm crisis.

"He just couldn't stand to see his whole life go on the steps of the courthouse," Deborah Jennings said after her father, L.D. Hill III, shot himself Tuesday at his Georgia home.

The shooting occurred about 20 minutes before the 700-acre farm was scheduled to have been sold on the steps of the county courthouse,

Burke County Sheriff Greg Coursey said Wednesday.

"He wanted to stop the sale, which in fact he did," Coursey said.

Hill owed \$62,000 on the land, Jennings said.

She said the family was proud that Hill had tried until shortly before the auction to repay the debt.

David Morgan, president of the Federal Land Bank of Central Georgia and the Farmers Production Credit Association, a federal agency that held the note on the farm, said, "It just tore us up."

The association had loaned Hill money through the Federal Inter-

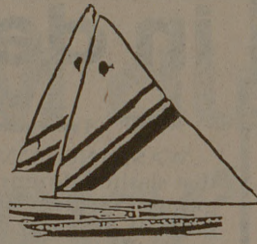
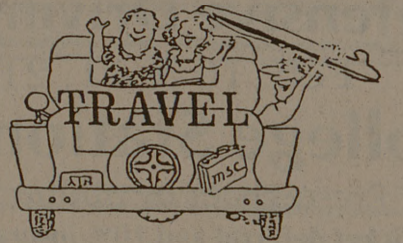
mediate Credit Bank of Columbia, S.C., Morgan said.

Hill had visited FPCA officials in Waynesboro before the auction to see if he could sell part of his property to relieve the debt, Morgan said.

Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvin said he was not surprised by the death.

"I'm anticipating more of this, especially as foreclosures pick up in the next three or four months," he said. "It's a traumatic experience for farmers to feel they're a failure, even when most of the time the failure is beyond their control."

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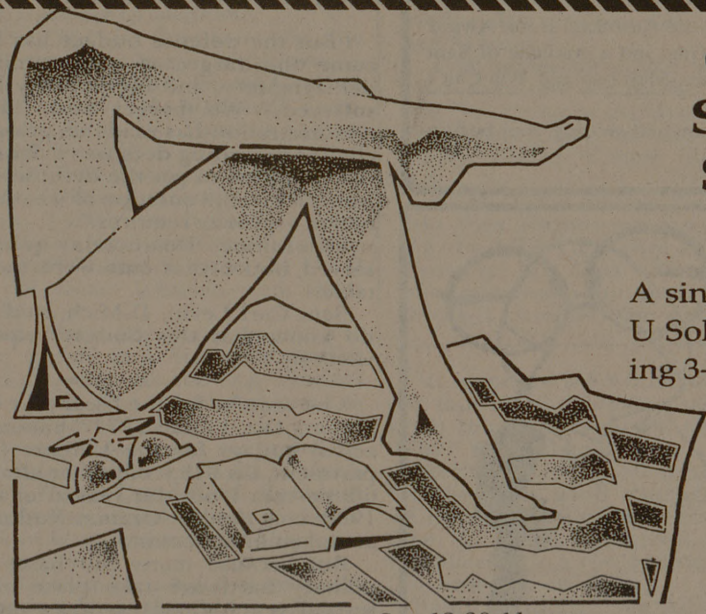


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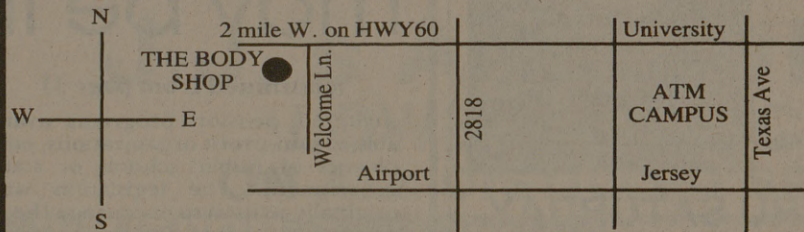
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