

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 83 No. 101 USPS 075360 10 pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday, February 19, 1986



Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Sun Break

Students near the Langford Architecture Building enjoy Tuesday's warm weather, which broke records across much of Texas. Temperatures were

in the 80s across most of the state and the 90s in South Texas. Forecasts call for temperatures in the area to remain in the upper 80s until Friday.

NASA: No report of low temperatures given

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — NASA executives told Congress Tuesday senior officials responsible for the decision to launch Challenger on its ill-fated mission were never told temperatures on the surface of the shuttle's right booster rocket had plunged to below 10 degrees.

At an often contentious hearing before the Senate science subcommittee, space agency officials also said the manufacturers of the rocket booster approved a decision to launch after initially expressing concerns about the impact of low temperatures on flight safety.

NASA shuttle director Jesse Moore said technicians had found temperature readings in the range of 7 to 9 degrees Fahrenheit on the right hand rocket booster a few hours before launch.

Asked about reports that top officials responsible for the launch decision were never told of the readings, Moore replied that was a "correct assessment as we understand it now."

Under questioning from Sen. Donald Riegle, D-Mich., Moore said if he had known of the low readings, he would have asked for more information.

But Moore said the "ice team," which recorded the data, did not relay the information to top launch officials.

The reason, he said, was the technicians were there to check for ice

that could damage the shuttle's fragile tiles during ascent.

But Moore and Dr. William Graham, the acting NASA administrator, stressed that the readings were made with hand-held infrared de-

vices that have large bounds for error — and are thus subject to doubt. The air temperature was 38 degrees at launch.

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July shuttle launch faces more delays

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Air Force still hopes to launch a shuttle from the West Coast in July, but the much-delayed event is likely to be again postponed by the investigation into the Challenger's Jan. 28 explosion and doubts about the safety of new, lighter boosters.

Vandenberg spokesman Capt. Rick Sanford said workers at the \$2.8 billion launch complex at Vandenberg Air Force Base expect to start late this week assembling the lightweight boosters.

A statement issued by Vandenberg last week said preparations for a mid-July launch continue as planned, dependent on findings by the presidential panel looking into the Challenger disaster.

Seymour Himmel, a retired National Aeronautics and Space

Administration official and now a consultant to its Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel, said, "Until the causes of the disaster are understood and corrective action taken, obviously the system is not ready to fly."

Vandenberg's debut as America's second spaceport has been postponed twice because of construction delays, manpower shortages, problems in preparing military payloads and launch facilities and troubles with NASA's overall shuttle schedule.

Even before the Challenger accident, it was doubtful that the July launch target would be met.

Because Vandenberg's fixed, steel-and-concrete launch pad is less flexible than the mobile launch platform at Florida, joints between booster segments may be subject to more severe stresses.

A&M System unveils plans to meet 13 percent budget cut

University News Service

The 13-percent reduction in general revenue spending ordered Tuesday by Governor Mark White translates into a proposed cutback of more than \$68 million for the Texas A&M University System for the current fiscal year and next.

Responding to the governor's executive order, A&M System Chancellor Arthur G. Hansen Tuesday afternoon called together the presidents of the four universities and heads of the eight state agencies that comprise the statewide institution. They were told to initiate a plan that would achieve the governor's proposed reductions and to have the plan ready for implementation by March 1.

"The governor has issued this ex-

ecutive order, and it is up to all of us to comply. . . ." Hansen said. "Quite simply, there is a \$1.3 billion shortfall that the governor has asked all of us to cover."

More than half of the proposed cuts — more than \$38 million — would come out of the budgets for Texas A&M if the 13-percent reduction were to be applied proportionally throughout the system.

In addition to \$38.6 million earmarked for cuts for A&M, 13-percent reductions would mean drops of other parts of the system over the two-year period ending Aug. 31, 1987: Prairie View A&M University, \$3,243,382; Tarleton State University, \$2,363,125; Texas A&M at Galveston, \$1,166,015; Texas Agricul-

tural Experiment Station, \$9,421,474; Texas Agricultural Extension Service, \$8,117,321; Rodent and Predatory Animal Control Service, \$574,966; Texas Engineering Experiment Station, \$1,353,145; Texas Transportation Institute, \$260,653; Texas Engineering Extension Service, \$682,965; Texas Forest Service, \$2,185,995; Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, \$483,377; and TAMUS administration, \$96,280.

Hansen pointed out that the governor's executive order does not call for an across-the-board 13-percent cut, but rather for an overall reduction of that size.

Hansen pointed out that White's executive order specifically states that salary increases mandated by

the appropriations bill for the current biennium will be honored. The mandated increases for state employees, including staff personnel at public universities, total 3 percent for the fiscal year that begins Sept. 1.

Hansen said the system's current budgetary guidelines for the next fiscal year were to allow for increases averaging 4.5 percent, but the only provision now is for the mandated three percent increase.

All faculty raises are considered merit increases and not part of the mandated increase included in the appropriations bill, but Hansen said that all the universities within the A&M System should keep faculty salary increases on the same level as for other employees. He said faculty

salary increases will thus average 3 percent.

He also cited White's directive that essentially calls for a hiring freeze.

Hansen said a governor's office representative indicated, however, that the filling of a position that is critical to the operation of an agency would be permitted with a letter of justification to the chancellor.

Other provisions of the executive order, all effective immediately, include:

- All out-of-state travel shall be limited to functions involving the direct delivery of services or that which is absolutely required to perform the statutory mission of the agency and must receive the prior written approval of the chief executive officer of the agency.

In addition, all state agencies and universities shall develop and implement procedures to reduce in-state travel expenditures by at least 20 percent for the fiscal year 1986-87 biennium.

- No promotions or merit pay increases will be given without the prior approval and written justification of an agency's chief executive.

- No purchases of non-essential supplies, motor vehicles and capital equipment shall be made, except those for which documented savings can be clearly demonstrated during this biennium.

- Review the operation of equipment and facilities and implement energy and water conservation measures to achieve maximum savings in utility expenditures.

Britain's Charles honors Perot

Associated Press

DALLAS — At a banquet fit for a king, Britain's Prince Charles presented Texas billionaire and computer magnate H. Ross Perot with the Winston Churchill Award Tuesday night in Dallas.

In presenting the award to the 55-year-old businessman, the Prince of Wales praised Perot as a man of "bold imagination, pioneering spirit and dynamic leadership," attributes which, he said, were exemplified by the man in whose name the award was presented.

Guests at the presentation included first lady Nancy Reagan.

The prince's trip to Texas is billed as a kickoff for the Sesquicentennial.

"I seem to be becoming a professional Sesquicentennial celebrator, that is with Western Australia, Victoria, and others," he said during a luncheon speech at City Hall. "What have I done to deserve it? Am I that prematurely aged?"

Racism in America

Speaker says attitude toward prejudice can be changed only by whites

By YVONNE DEGRAW
Reporter

Dr. Charles King, director of the Urban Crisis Center in Atlanta, emotionally bruised an audience of about 300 at Texas A&M Tuesday night to prove that everyone is racially prejudiced.

And although King later repaired the injuries, he continued to stress that "we are all prejudiced."

King said the cause of racism in America is white people and that they are the only ones who can change things.

When King tried to convince the audience of this, the first of many shouting matches began.

During the program, King distributed marshmallows and asked people to throw them at anyone they felt had made a racist statement.

Jody Weiss, one of 20 panel members representing a cross-section of society, was the first victim when King asked the panel, "Have you ever gone up to a person and not seen what color he or she is?"

When Weiss answered yes, she was marshmallowed by the audience. But Weiss wasn't the only target. By the end of the program, marshmallows littered Rudder Theater.

The audience's emotions ranged from angry to amused to ashamed, and King never lost its attention.

Several of the blacks, who comprised about 75 percent of the audience, said it felt good to have someone to speak for them, showing whites how racism feels.

King, who has been conducting similar seminars for 17 years, attacked, bullied and insulted panel and audience members until they became angry.

He later explained that he has tried many other techniques but none of them has related his message as well.

Near the end of his presentation, King asked an audience member, who had criticized him for calling people fools and liars if the student finally understood his method.

"Yes sir, you were trying to shake us loose from some of our hypocrisy," the student replied.

"I apologize for the method, but not for the message," King said.

He spent the first part of the seminar attempting to get both blacks and whites on the panel to admit that whites cause racism.

"Stop playing games!" he shouted. King asked the blacks in the audience how they felt when dealing with white society.

One student said she felt frustrated because she knows she will have to deal with being looked at differently all her life.

Other students said they feel as if

they must accomplish more because they are always being watched.

King quoted a survey, which said that blacks are angry at whites and whites are fearful of blacks.

King said whites feel threatened when they are faced with interracial relationships such as when they meet a black and white couple or live next door to a black family.

King diagrammed a process, which he said, leads to the problems blacks have.

He said because white employers will not hire blacks, they have an unemployment rate double that of whites. Many blacks go on welfare because of this, he said.

He said poverty leads to other problems — broken homes, juvenile crime and low life expectancies.

In all these categories, he said, blacks fare worse than whites. "This problem will never be solved as long as we act polite," he said. "We are all prejudiced. It's when you act upon your prejudice that it is wrong."

By the end of his program, King convinced at least one panel member that everyone is prejudiced.

Asked what she had learned, Weiss said her opinions had changed.

"I learned that I'm lying to myself about the way that I wish it could be," she said, earning herself a round of applause.

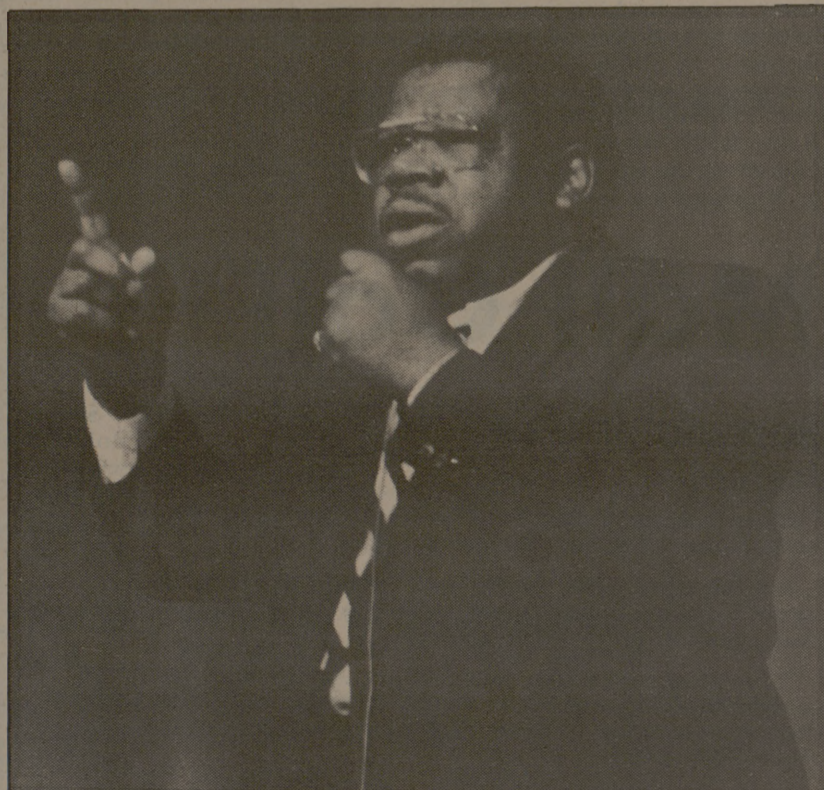


Photo by TOM OWNSBEY

Dr. Charles King speaks in Rudder Theater.