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NASA reports remains of shuttle crew found

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Researchers have found remains of Challenger's astronauts in the debris of the shuttle's crew compartment 100 feet down on the Atlantic Ocean floor, NASA announced Sunday. "Family members of Challenger's crew have been informed," a statement said. "In deference to family wishes, NASA will not make further comments until recovery operations and identifications are complete."

"I would not want to characterize its importance," Weinberg said. "That's to be determined. Clearly all pieces of evidence are important."

A search ship using sonar about 25 miles northeast of Cape Canaveral made a possible identification of the compartment late Friday, and divers Saturday positively identified compartment debris and crew remains, the NASA statement said.

Recovering the compartment wreckage and remains could take several days depending on weather and sea conditions, NASA said.

Operations were secured during the night for safety reasons, the statement said, and Saturday morning work was begun by the USS Preserver, whose divers are thoroughly briefed on debris identification.

"Subsequent divers provided positive identification of Challenger crew compartment debris and the existence of crew remains," it added.

NASA said depending on the weather and sea conditions, the task of recovering the compartment wreckage and remains could take several days.

Seven crew members died when Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff Jan. 28.

They were commander Richard Scobee, pilot Michael Smith, Ellison Onizuka, Judith Resnik, Ronald McNair, Gregory Jarvis, and Christa McAuliffe, a New Hampshire schoolteacher who was flying as NASA's first citizen in space.

NASA said when the remains are recovered they will be taken to a hospital at Patrick Air Force Base, about 25 miles south of Cape Canaveral.

"Local security measures are being taken to assure that recovery operations can take place in a safe and orderly manner," it said.

NASA spokesman Hugh Harris said he could provide no additional information on the condition of the crew or the remains.

Eleven ships and two small manned submarines have concentrated their search in recent days in a 350-square miles area about 20 to 40 miles northeast of here. The effort includes three robot submersibles, seven sonar rigs and 41 divers.

In the days after the accident, 12 tons of Challenger debris was picked up from the ocean surface. Then searchers turned to the ocean bottom where recovery is more difficult. About 5 tons have been retrieved from the depths, including a 4,200-pound piece of the shuttle's left booster rocket, which was brought into port Saturday.

The left booster was retrieved from 210 feet of water as a practice session for retrieving parts of the right rocket from 1,200 feet down.

The right rocket is the chief suspect as the cause of the tragedy and investigators want to retrieve its debris for possible clues. Some officials have said the cause may never be found unless the booster can be examined.

Photographs show a puff of black smoke spewing from the rocket milliseconds after ignition and a spurt of flame pouring from the same area 15 seconds before the explosion.

The smoke and flame appeared near a joint between the bottom two segments of the solid fuel rocket.

NASA engineers last week told the presidential investigation committee that they have concluded the explosion was caused by a failure in the right booster, but they did not know why it failed.

Marcos appointees could be forced out

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — President Corazon Aquino is considering proclaiming a revolutionary government to force out officials appointed by her deposed predecessor Ferdinand E. Marcos, her spokesman said Sunday.

Spokesman Rene Saguisag said in a telephone interview, "That's all under study. She's still weighing things."

He was responding to reports that Political Affairs Minister Antonio Cuenco said at a news conference: "In a few days, President Aquino will declare that indeed there is a revolutionary government."

Aquino, who assumed the presidency in a nearly bloodless "people's power" revolution that toppled Marcos Feb. 25, has been pressured by some of her advisers to proclaim a revolutionary government through which she could oust Marcos-appointed officials who have questioned the legitimacy of her power.

In a statement published Sunday in Manila newspapers, Marcos' New Society Movement party urged Aquino's government to "reconsider its reported plan to constitute itself as a revolutionary government."

The New Society Movement said it recognized her as president and pledged to support her in the National Assembly, in which Marcos' party holds two-thirds of the votes.

Saguisag said Aquino will move her office to the Malacanang presidential palace grounds Monday. Since taking power, Aquino has worked out of a building owned by her family in the Makati financial district. She has said she plans to work but not live at the palace.

Earlier Sunday, the Philippine News Agency also quoted Cuenco as saying Aquino plans to draft a new constitution to be submitted to voters for ratification at the same time elections for provincial governors and town and city mayors are held next November.

The constitution would replace one enacted by Marcos in 1973.

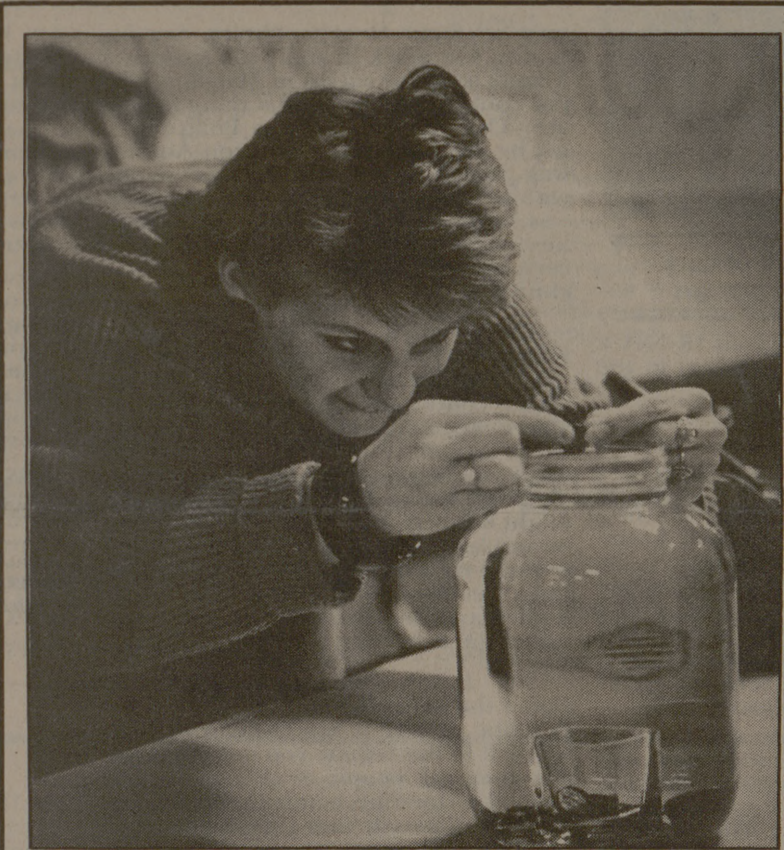


Photo by MICHAEL SANCHEZ

Penny Pincher

Jodi Weiss, a senior speech communications major from Dallas, tries her hand at penny dropping at the MSC All-Nite Fair. The object of the game is to get the pennies into a small glass inside a large jar of water.

Abortion-rights group marches in Washington

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tens of thousands of women from across the country converged on Washington Sunday for an abortion-rights march that took them past the White House to a rally on the steps of the Capitol.

"The numbers game is over," declared Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women, NOW, which sponsored the march. "The silent majority will be silent no longer."

In January, anti-abortion groups staged a national demonstration in Washington, which drew 37,000 people.

Police estimated the crowd Sunday at between 80,000 and 85,000, according to District of Columbia police officer Steve Langford.

But Molly Yard, a NOW leader, estimated the crowd at 125,000, declaring it "the largest demonstration for women's rights in the history of the United States."

Langford said one anti-abortion demonstrator was arrested in front of the White House and charged with disorderly conduct when he broke through police lines and ran into the midst of protesters, holding what he claimed was an eight-week aborted fetus.

To chants of "Not the church, not the state, women must decide their fate," the marchers walked almost three miles through city streets before a rally on the steps of the Capitol.

The march was part of a larger effort by women's rights groups to counter what they describe as a Reagan administration attempt to reverse the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

On Monday, hundreds of women are expected to launch a congressional lobbying campaign to remove an anti-abortion rider from the proposed Civil Rights Restoration Act. Next Sunday, a similar demonstration is planned in Los Angeles.

Earlier in the day, Judie Brown, president of an anti-abortion group, the American Life League, announced plans for a campaign aimed at pressuring the Catholic Church for the excommunication of Catholics supporting abortion rights, beginning with Smeal.

and the production of those forms." Carter said the University will save several hundred dollars by not mailing out midterm grades.

He said he is not sure if the new policy will be permanent. Final grades, however, will still be mailed.

Students can pick up midterm grades in the Pavilion Wednesday, Thursday and Friday between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. A student I.D. is required.

Midterm grades won't be mailed

By MARY ANN HARVEY Staff Writer

Procedures for distributing midterm grade reports at Texas A&M will be changed slightly as the University tries to cut unnecessary expenses to comply with Gov. Mark White's ordered 13 percent budget cut.

Don Carter, A&M associate registrar, said in order to save money, midterm grades will not be mailed this spring.

"There are approximately 28,000 undergraduate students enrolled this year," Carter said, "and a very high percentage of those students' parents receive grades through the mail."

"We have decided not to mail the grades in order to save on the money for postage, special mailer forms

Where's the beef? It could be in your chicken

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The chicken, fish and french fries served at some fast-food restaurants are fried in beef tallow, a fat high in artery-clogging cholesterol, according to a magazine report released Sunday.

Tests commissioned by Science Digest found high levels of beef tallow, the fat trimmed from meat cuts and rendered into shortening. It is the type of substance many cholesterol-conscious Americans are trying to avoid when they eat fish or chicken, the magazine said.

Science Digest said it commissioned Dr. Frank Sacks of the Harvard Medical School to analyze chicken, fish and french fries served at McDonald's, Burger King, Howard Johnson's and Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurants.

Sacks concluded that the "fatty-acid profiles" of McDonald's Chicken McNuggets and Filet-O-

Fish and Burger King's Chicken Sandwich and Whaler resembled beef more than chicken or fish.

"The favorable fatty-acid content in chicken and fish is destroyed by the cooking process, which involves the addition of beef tallow," he said. "Eating chicken or fish in a fast-food restaurant is almost as bad as eating beef."

Burger King's Chicken Sandwich contained as much fat as 1½ pints of Sealtest ice cream, he reported.

Beef tallow is "highly saturated," a chemical classification for fats that lead the body to produce cholesterol and decrease its ability to break down and excrete unused cholesterol. Cholesterol is a leading cause of heart disease.

Neither Howard Johnson's nor Kentucky Fried Chicken used beef tallow. But Howard Johnson's fries were made with palm oil, which is more highly saturated than tallow, and Kentucky Fried Chicken used a heavily saturated vegetable oil, the magazine said.

Science Digest quoted McDonald's spokeswoman Terri Capastosto as defending the company's frying technique.

"We use the highest quality of beef and vegetable shortening, and the reason we use that shortening is because it produces the highest quality finished product and the best-tasting one," she said.

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Four A&M students killed in car wreck

By CRAIG RENFRO Staff Writer

Four Texas A&M students were killed and two injured when their car collided with an eighteen-wheeler near the intersection of Highway 21 and FM 2818 at 4:30 p.m. Sunday.

Bryan police officer Chris Dunbough said Arthur J. Strom, a freshman from Dallas, John L. Thornton, a sophomore from College Station, and David R. Hedegard, a sophomore from Tomball, were pronounced dead at the scene.

Richard N. Walker, a junior from Bryan, Mitchell Smithwick, a sophomore from College Station, and Glenn M. Butterfly, a

freshman from Ft. Worth were taken to St. Joseph Hospital for emergency treatment. A hospital spokesman said today that Smithwick died at about 10:40 p.m. Sunday. Walker is currently listed in critical condition and Butterfly is in stable condition.

Leonard Blue, the driver of the truck, was unhurt, Dunbough said. He said the accident was not alcohol-related.

Dunbough said the car was eastbound on Highway 21. The driver attempted a U-turn after missing the FM 2818 exit into College Station. The truck was eastbound in the lane beside the car and struck the vehicle when it turned.

Soviets' Vega 2 survives encounter

Satellite crosses Halley's path

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Clouds of comet dust chipped away at instruments aboard the Soviet satellite Vega 2 as the space probe streaked across the path of Halley's comet Sunday in the closest encounter ever with the celestial body.

Despite the loss of 40 percent of its power from damage to the probe's solar panels, American scientist Carl Sagan praised the Soviet Institute for Space Research for the "brilliant success" of the mission.

Three instruments on board were also knocked out by the micro-meteoroids that surround the comet, hazards that have officials at the Euro-

pean Space Agency in West Germany worried.

The Giotto satellite probe sent up last July by ESA is scheduled for an even closer rendezvous Thursday, when it is scheduled to fly within 310 miles of the comet's center.

Vega 2 rocketed by the comet at 50 miles a second and made its closest pass at 2 a.m. EST Sunday from a distance of 5,125 miles. Sister satellite Vega 1 passed within about 5,500 miles of Halley's last Thursday, transmitting, to the jubilation of scientists gathered at the Soviet institute, what were then the closest images ever received of the famed comet.

About 100 of the world's top space scientists gathered at the institute Sunday to watch Vega 2's electronically produced images of the comet as they arrived on Earth, taking nine minutes to travel from space to the Moscow complex.

The Vega probes have relayed information through the use of spectrographs, which show the elements composing the comet core, dust-collecting instruments and a radiometer, which produces photometric contours based on the intensity of reflected sunlight.

The comet's nucleus has drawn the greatest attention. Most scientists agree the Vega missions have confirmed there is a solid core to the comet, although no one is sure how big it is.

The diameter of the nucleus is about 3.75 miles, and shaped like an ellipse. But exact measurements of the solid core within the traveling dust cloud remain unknown.

Among the casualties from the dust collisions was a microprocessor that directs the Vega 2's camera, so images transmitted Sunday were not of as high a quality as expected. Scientists said, however, that better images can be produced later through computer-enhancement.

"The damage to the power system was not substantial," said Georgy Golitsyn of the Moscow Atmospheric Physics Institute.