

Tour of shuttle reveals health research equipment

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Columbia's astronauts exposed a "stowaway" and discussed the ins and outs of space dieting Wednesday as the shuttle zipped around the world for the eighth day.

The biomedical research mission is scheduled to end Friday morning.

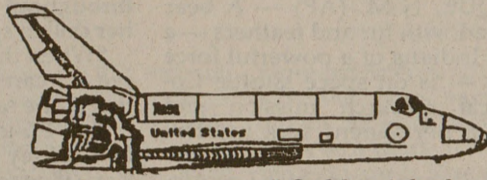
"You oughtn't tell NASA, but we heard a lot of noise back in this end of the Spacelab when we first got on orbit," astronaut-physician M. Rhea Seddon confided during a recorded tour of

the cargo bay laboratory.

"Lo and behold, we had a stowaway," Seddon said as she unzipped a garment bag and introduced Resuscitation Annie, a blond mannequin. "Annie is serving as a patient on this flight to help us better evaluate and operate an examining table that might someday be used on space station."

One of the next stops on the tour was a Spacelab freezer.

"Unfortunately, when we got up here, we discovered that they forgot to



pack our ice cream," Seddon joked as she opened the freezer. It was stocked with blood and urine samples.

Pilot Sidney Gutierrez focused on food during his presentation of the middeck, the shuttle's main eating and

sleeping area. The tour was videotaped Tuesday, a light workday for the crew, and beamed down to Mission Control on Wednesday.

Gutierrez demonstrated how the seven astronauts record everything they eat and drink in orbit, using one of his favorites — freeze-dried asparagus — as an example. The four men and three women have been keeping track of their diets for months as part of the experiments.

Scientists expect the research to im-

prove their understanding of people's adaptation to space. Such knowledge is vital as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration plans longer excursions, including trips to the moon and Mars.

Gutierrez's tour was thorough.

"Over in this corner of the middeck is what most people wonder about but very few people are willing to ask about. It's our WCS — waste containment system or space bathroom," Gutierrez said.

Cast of characters confronts Roemer in upcoming race

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — If Hollywood were to make yet another movie about Louisiana politics, it could find no better cast than the candidates in this year's governor's race.

There's the incumbent, Democrat-turned-Republican Buddy Roemer, fighting for his political life. There's the former Ku Klux Klansman with the box office looks; the Cajun charmer who was turned out of office four years before; and the late entry who's trying to become the state's first woman governor.

Many of the candidates hoping to win at least a runoff spot in the Oct. 19 election want to do what Roemer did in 1987 — come from behind and sweep into office on the strength of fiery rhetoric condemning the political status quo.

Louisiana holds an open primary, with candidates of all parties thrown into a single race. In the event that one candidate gets a majority, he or she would become governor. Otherwise, the top two finishers go head-to-head in a runoff.

At a recent forum in Baton Rouge, the newest candidate, Kathleen Blanco, called for a convention of delegates from around the state to revamp Louisiana's constitution.

"We need to throw all of government on the table," shouted Blanco, a former state representative and current public service commissioner. She's the unknown quantity in the governor's race right now, having entered it late last month.

But her rhetoric is time-honored and similar to that employed by:

□ State Rep. David Duke, the former Ku Klux Klan leader still dogged by reports of past neo-Nazi ties. He's often taunted by other candidates for having employed plastic surgeons to give him his Hollywood good looks.

□ Aaron Broussard, mayor of the New Orleans suburb of Kenner, who hopes to use his good relations with parish and municipal leaders throughout the state to build a name for himself.

Congress scolded

Bush speech blames political maneuvering for inaction on crime, transportation bills

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush scolded Congress Wednesday night for failing to move swiftly on crime and transportation legislation. "I'm disappointed but not surprised," he said.



George Bush

Democrats accused Bush of turning his back on the nation's domestic problems, which are certain to move center stage as the

presidential campaign draws near.

"It is hard for the American people to understand why a bill to fight crime cannot be enacted in 100 days or why Congress can't pass a highway bill in 100 days," Bush said, referring to a challenge he set for lawmakers March 6 at the end of the Gulf War.

Bush leveled his charges in a speech prepared for delivery at the White House. Democrats countered with speeches and prepared statements.

In his remarks, Bush noted

that he had asked Congress "to tackle the urgent problems on the home front with the same energy we dedicated to tackling the crisis on the battlefield." Bush said the 100-day deadline he proposed for the crime and transportation bills was reasonable but "it is now clear that neither will be on my desk by Friday."

The White House invited more than 1,000 people involved in domestic policy programs across the country to see Bush's speech on the South Lawn.

Utility seeks rate increase

TU Electric Company wants \$442 million

AUSTIN (AP) — Public Utility Commission administrative law judges recommended Wednesday that Texas Utilities Electric Co. be granted an annual revenue increase of \$353.8 million.

TU Electric, the state's largest electric utility, is seeking a rate increase of \$442 million.

The utility's service area stretches from far West Texas to near Louisiana, and from the Oklahoma border south to Central Texas, the PUC said. It has 2.1 million customers.

Under the judges' recommendations, residential customers using an average of 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity would pay \$78 a month in the summer.

That is \$8.33 more than before August 1990, when TU Electric's proposed rate increase was

put into effect under bond. The recommendation would be \$2.01 less than the bonded rates.

The three-member PUC, which will make a final decision in the case, is scheduled to deliberate the matter July 15. The bonded rates are subject to refund if the PUC finally approves a lower amount.

TU Electric's rate increase proposal is meant largely to recover costs associated with operating Unit 1 of the Comanche Peak nuclear power plant at Glen Rose, west of Dallas.

The 659-page examiner's report prepared by administrative law judges Stephen Davis, James Brazell and John Renfrow calls for a finding that \$472.5 million of the Comanche Peak plant investment resulted from imprudent management and so should not be charged to customers.

FBI investigates recording of Wilder's phone calls

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — The FBI and Virginia State Police are investigating allegations that Gov. L. Douglas Wilder's phone calls were illegally recorded, state officials said Wednesday.

The federal-state investigation moves a political feud between Wilder and Sen. Charles S. Robb, the state's top Democrats and two men considered potential presidential candidates, into the law enforcement arena.

Robb on Tuesday suspended

three top advisers while he investigates his office's conduct in the controversy. The senator, long at odds with Wilder, has said his office anonymously received a tape recording of a Wilder telephone conversation and held it for 2½ years before recently destroying it.

The senator met with reporters Wednesday and pledged his cooperation with any investigation. He also defended his deci-

sion not to tell Wilder or authorities about the tape and said that in hindsight he probably should have destroyed it immediately.

"It didn't seem to be that important," said Robb, a lawyer himself, who likened his decision not to tell Wilder or police to a motorist not calling police to report seeing another car speeding. The senator said he recently was told that someone on his staff obtained a legal opinion

Countries negotiate free-trade market

TORONTO (AP) — Negotiations to create a vast, three-way North American market for free of tariffs and other trade barriers open here Wednesday.



Michael Wilson

Canadian Trade Minister Michael Wilson, U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, and Mexico's secretary of commerce, Jaime Serra Puche, kick off what is expected to be a long series of negotiations to open up a market containing 360 million people with a combined output of nearly \$6 trillion.

The Canadian government does not expect the benefits of a

trilateral agreement to be as significant as those obtained in the bilateral deal with the United States that went into effect in January 1989. But it believes it will be a positive element and will position Ottawa for future deals with a growing Mexico.

Canadian opponents of a North American free-trade agreement, foremost among them the labor movement, fear it could lead to a loss of jobs to Mexico where wages are lower. Canada's unemployment rate was 10.3 percent in May.

"Canada is building a strong North American continental base, not so that we can close out the world but so that we can compete with it across the board," Prime Minister Brian Mulroney said recently. "There will be no fortress America."

A&M economist urges appeals process reform

Continued from page 1

by 13.7 percent.

The situation in Texas, however, was much different, Reynolds said. While the prison population of Texas increased by 39 percent, the crime rate increased by 20.7 percent.

Reynolds said one way the state could improve its penal system would be to alter its present judicial structure.

She said the state could save money by eliminating the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and

not paying the court costs of appeals by death row inmates.

She also said Texas has to increase prison space at least two times and reduce the cost of construction by allowing the private sector to bid on jobs before the crime situation in Texas will improve.

She added that prisoners could be leased out for work, decreasing the costs of prison therapy.

University Police officials could not be reached for comment.

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