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Atlantis releases Eureca satellite

European spacecraft wanders too low

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Atlantis' astronauts released a European satellite Sunday after an anxious day's delay, but the spacecraft ran into more trouble and was left wandering too low with its load of crystals, seeds and shrimp eggs.

Unless the \$213 million Eureca satellite is raised to a higher altitude, its orbit will decay to the point where the craft cannot be retrieved by astronauts next spring as planned. The satellite would plunge through the atmosphere and burn up.

Engineers at the European Space Agency's control center in Darmstadt, Germany, struggled to understand the latest problem, which involved the satellite's steering system.

The solution may be as simple as sending up a computer program correction, said Eckart Graf, a program manager for the European Space Agency, which owns the satellite.

Eureca managers hoped to fire the satellite's on-board thrusters as early as Monday, provided the problem can be resolved by then, and boost the craft to its proper altitude of 320 miles.

"We consider it as a glitch in the procedure, as a delay. It's a very unfortunate one," Graf said. "However, we are optimistic and very confident that we will have a solution at hand very soon."

Eureca's ascent was interrupted shortly after Swiss astronaut Claude Nicollier freed the satellite from the end of the shuttle's robot arm 264 miles above Earth. The thruster burn was halted when the satellite appeared to be in the wrong position.

Eureca only got as high as 276 miles as a result of the six-minute burn, which was supposed to last four times that long.

The reusable satellite, a box-shaped structure with solar wings, contains brine shrimp eggs, bacteria and fungi spores, seeds, a crystal-growing furnace, a telescope, solar monitors and a cosmic dust catcher.

At 9,900 pounds and 66 feet across, it is the largest satellite ever built by the European Space Agency.

Graf said the biological samples would not be damaged at the current altitude. But the scientific studies cannot begin until the satellite is in a stable orbit. The jostling of thruster firings would ruin the experiments.

"We are taking all the time necessary to do trouble-shooting and find the solution," Graf said. "We are not under pressure."

Graf said the positioning problem was unrelated to the communications trouble with Eureca that arose just before the satellite was to be released Saturday.

Delay creates new sighting opportunities

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The one-day delay in releasing a European science satellite from Atlantis has created more shuttle viewing opportunities for people in Texas.

NASA revised its shuttle sighting schedule after the release of the Eureca satellite slipped from Saturday to Sunday, and delayed an orbital lowering of Atlantis. Overall, there are more than four times as many viewing opportunities as before.

Atlantis, launched Friday, is flying at the usual 28-degree inclination, the angle of the orbit to the equator. That path will take the shuttle only as far north as the Kennedy Space Center in east-central Florida and as far south as southern Brazil.

The shuttle will be visible to the naked eye in parts of Florida, Texas and Louisiana as Atlantis circles Earth this week.

Technology, hospital bills boost outpatient surgery

DALLAS (AP) — People facing the prospect of lengthy, expensive hospital stays are more often choosing the cheaper option of outpatient surgery and at-home care, medical professionals say.

That, coupled with new technology that enables more serious operations to be performed outside the hospital, is providing new business opportunities for companies that specialize in outpatient care.

"Medicine will turn upside down in the next four years," said Donald Steen, chief executive officer of Dallas-based Medical Care International, which operates 84 surgical centers. "The escalation of health-care costs cannot continue unabated."

Medical Care International will perform about 350,000 outpatient surgeries this year, Steen said.

When the company was founded in 1981, he said, only about 15 percent of surgery was outpatient. Today, 13 million surgeries — about 55 percent of all surgery — is done on an outpatient basis.

About one in five outpatient surgeries is performed in a surgical center.

But obstetrician-gynecologist Dr. Max McGinnis of Richardson said his patients had to be convinced the quality of care would equal that offered by a hospital.

"In the beginning, it took a good explanation from me to the patient, because they were apprehensive about not having the security of a major hospital's back-up facilities in the event of a cardiac arrest or a major complication," McGinnis said.

Podiatrist Roy Ashton needed less persuasion to accept outpatient surgery centers, which he termed "one stop shopping."

"When my office needs to schedule a surgery, it's one phone call," Ashton said. "If you have to call a hospital, you have to schedule anesthesia, the admitting office, the surgery department."

Baylor Medical Center in Dallas figures that removing a cataract costs \$1,400 on an outpatient basis, compared with \$2,074 at a major hospital. A breast biopsy is \$900 vs. \$2,323; and myringotomy (putting drainage tubes in a child's ears) is \$700 vs. \$1,704.

Storms bring rain, tornado to Texas

(AP) — Rolling clouds and spectacular lightning crossed over much of the state Sunday, dumping heavy rain in some areas.

A tornado briefly touched down in central Montgomery County near Lake Conroe, where it tore the roof off a house. The thunderstorm that spawned this tornado was 7 miles west of Conroe at 7 p.m. moving to the south-east.

The National Weather Service late in the afternoon issued thunderstorm warnings for counties including Dallas, Grayson and Wichita. A flash flood watch was in effect for eastern portions of the state.

Rainfall totals to near three inches caused low-level flooding in Upshur County. Dime-sized hail was reported north of Commerce.

Strong and variable winds were found in and near the thunderstorms.

Skies were partly to mostly sunny over most of West Texas except for cloudy skies over part of the Concho Valley.

The Central South Texas remained under partly to mostly cloudy skies. Showers and thunderstorms, some with heavy rain, developed Sunday afternoon in the northern and coastal sections.

Temperatures at 3 p.m. varied from 70s in rain-cooled North Texas to near 100 in the lower valley.

Norwood

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a smaller amount of business produced from advertising during those games.

Maybe the Cubs' real fear is competition from their American League counterparts on the south side. As the Cubbies have floundered the past three years trying to decide if they are good, bad or indifferent, the White Sox have developed one of the most exciting teams in the game. Granted, most Sox games are shown on the cable outlet SportsChannel, but the Pale Hose have found themselves on WGN more and more lately. That's a trend that could continue and grow next year if realignment takes hold.

If a successful attempt to block realignment does come about, however, the consequences might be more than the Cubs can handle. Atlanta general manager John Schuerholz has already expressed his relief over moving to the East, and hopefully Marge Schott knows enough about the game to feel the same way. If their teams are forced to stay in the West, their trips to Chicago might spark a few fireworks, to say nothing of the war of words that would come about.

Israelis bomb Hezbollah base

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli aircraft blasted a Shiite Muslim guerrilla base in south Lebanon Sunday, the military command said.

The base belonging to the pro-Iranian fundamentalist Hezbollah, or Party of God, was located in the village of Al Qalaylah, just north of Israel's self-proclaimed security zone and south of Rashideyah, the command said in a statement.

All aircraft returned safely to base, said the statement, without mentioning casualties.

Lebanese police in Tyre said a 60-year-old woman was wounded when two Israeli helicopter gunships fired rockets at the village, which is monitored by U.N. peacekeeping forces.

The raid was the fifth Israeli air strike against Hezbollah targets since July 23 and the 24th this year, according to Israel's count. In all, 37 people have been killed and 91 wounded, according to Lebanese police count.

Byington

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John Jaha. For Byington, the new mix is an appealing one. "They (the Milwaukee organization) really do a good job of hiring people," Byington said. "They get quality guys. The organization is really good at that aspect." Although his future is bright, Byington faces a tough struggle to get to "The Show." Hundreds of minor leaguers never even make it past Single-A, much less advance to the majors. But Byington's faith has been strong enough to put him at the top in college and at Double-A. And that might be enough to complete the joyride to Milwaukee.

"I'd just like to give Jesus Christ credit," Byington said. "He's swinging the bat for me. I can't do anything without him."

Health tips

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Finally, after this distancing process is completed, it takes a concerted effort to learn how to "live and love" again. This can be a long process that is often preceded by great personal pain. The depression that often follows the decision that you need to distance yourself from the addict to make yourself happy, can often be very severe. However, by making goals for yourself, and slowly but constantly working forward, a happier and healthier lifestyle can be obtained.

Freshmen

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"We have four to five years with these guys, so that will give us the opportunity to either take weight off some guys and put weight on other guys," Slocum said. "Even if some of the guys do not play this year, we will not write them off yet."

The veterans officially report today which gave the A&M coaches five days to spend exclusively with the freshman. Slocum said he felt this was a great chance for the new-arrivals to make an impression by showing their work ethic.

"We do not know how they are going to react to playing a new offense or defense until we can instruct them ourselves," Slocum said. "This is an equal opportunity for each one to improve across the board by working hard without any pressure from the upperclassmen."

"But we will not make any judgments until they actually put on some pads and play for us."

Wyatt knows today's practice will be different from any of the previous ones.

You might be surprised that some of the behaviors mentioned at the beginning of this article could be in the long run, have such serious ramifications, but they are often just the proverbial tip of the iceberg. In order to avoid serious later life difficulties, be able to recognize these behaviors for what they are, dependency, and address them immediately. If you would like more information on this subject or other health-related topics, please contact the Health Education Center (845-1341). For counseling to help you with a problem, contact the Student Counseling Service on the third floor of the YMCA Building for an appointment. For information on alcohol-related concerns, contact the Center for Drug Prevention and Education (845-0280).

"This will be definitely a different type of atmosphere," Wyatt said. "Practice has been at a slower pace because the coaches have been instructing us but now it will get faster."

The soft-spoken Wyatt could make a serious push for playing time this season in a defensive backfield that was trimmed down by graduation. Former All-American Kevin Smith, Chris Crooms, and Karl Vincent have taken their talents to the National Football League while Marlin Haynes and Ramsey Bradley have gone to pursue other ventures.

Wyatt was a little gun-shy when discussing possible action on Kyle Field, though.

"Coach (Trent) Walters has not indicated anything about playing time," he said. "It is up in the air about time right now but I am going to give a try as best as I can."

"If everything goes right then hopefully I can contribute to this team."

But for Wyatt there was one overriding factor that persuaded him to make a final decision to attend Texas A&M.

"It came down to one point," he said, "and that was I wanted a degree from this school and the coaches seemed to really care about me."

"Of course a few Southwest Conference championship rings would be nice also."

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