

Scientists rally to save super collider

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. physicists fanned across Capitol Hill on Monday, knocking on lawmakers' doors to tout the merits of the imperiled super collider.

More than 500 scientists, business leaders and others will be in town this week to lobby for the giant atom smasher in advance of a critical Senate vote later this month.

Dozens of physicists, includ-

ing a handful of Nobel laureates, kicked off the week's sales pitch with a collider conference at George Washington University. The event, organized by a division of the American Physical Society, drew hundreds of college and high school students.

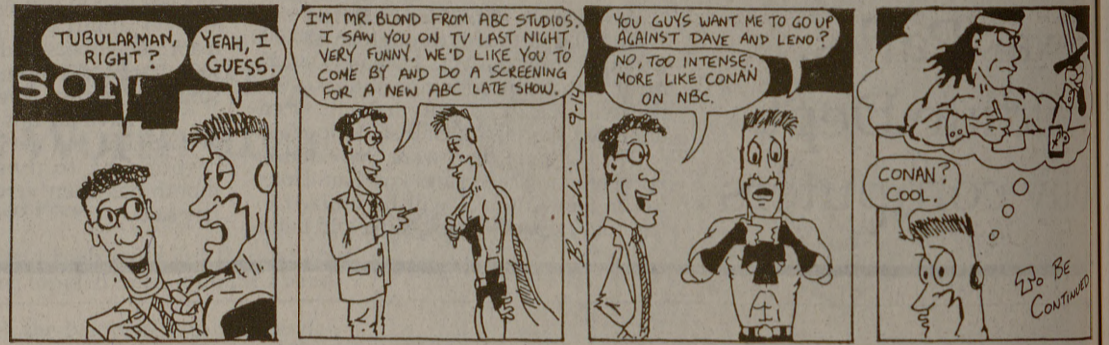
The focus on youth is part of the campaign to save the Texas-based project, which was knocked on the ropes earlier this year by a decision by the U.S. House to terminate funding.

"We must use the SSC to encourage young Americans to see the value of education," said James Gates, a University of Maryland theoretical physicist and president-elect of the National Society of Black Physicists.

Harvard experimental physicist Melissa Franklin, who was 17 when she opted for a career in physics, said she would be reluctant to recommend a similar job path to others if the massive experiment is axed.

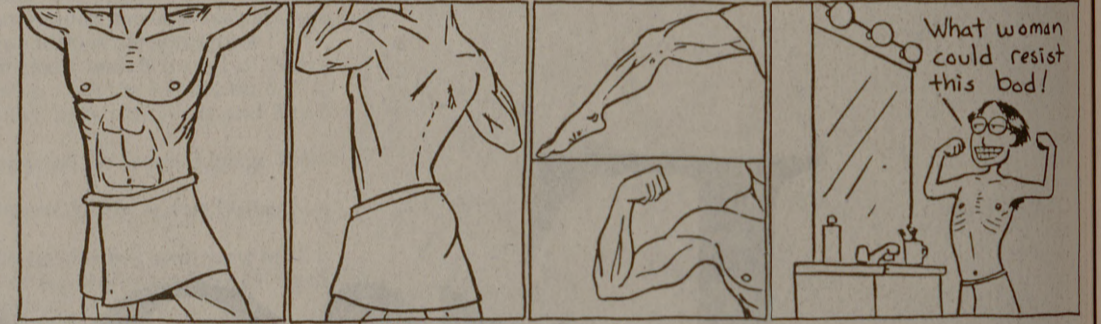
Tubularman

By Boomer Cardinale



Fritch

By Critch



Discovery crew releases telescope to study stars

The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Discovery's astronauts successfully pitched an ultraviolet telescope into orbit Monday after a delay caused by yet another communications problem.

It was the crew's second satellite release in two days and another major objective of the 10-day shuttle mission.

"Two days, two deploys. Couldn't ask for more than that," Mission Control's Jay Apt told the crew as the retrievable research satellite drifted away.

Astronaut Daniel Bursch couldn't release the telescope from the end of Discovery's 50-foot robot arm until ground controllers finished sending up commands. The controllers got behind because of intermittent communications interruptions caused by radio interference, and Mission Control delayed release 11/2 hours, or one orbit.

Sunday's release of an experimental communications satellite just hours into the flight also was delayed by one orbit. For nearly an hour, Mission Control could not contact Discovery because of interference from the payload radio system.

NASA spokesman Kyle Herring said the two problems were

JUST THE BEGINNING



By Jason Brown

unrelated. Once the telescope satellite was free, commander Frank Culbertson Jr. carefully backed Discovery away. The 31/2-ton satellite — an ultraviolet telescope and spectrograph mounted on a platform — is to trail 35 miles behind the shuttle for about a week before being retrieved by Bursch for the trip home Sept. 22.

The telescope and spectrograph are to focus on cold interstellar

clouds that might be breeding new stars as well as the scorching atmospheres of stars up to 10 times hotter than the sun's.

The approximately \$80 million project is funded largely by Germany's space agency.

Moments after the telescope was released, an IMAX camera on the platform beamed back stunning views of Discovery, cargo bay side up, against a cloud-studded blue backdrop.

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