

More delays for NASA launch

Space shuttle Endeavour is grounded for additional repairs.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space shuttle Endeavour's science mission, already delayed by O-ring repairs, was put off for another week Thursday when an electricity-generating unit overheated hours before liftoff.

NASA said the problem was probably caused by a stuck valve in one of the shuttle's three fuel cells, which burn liquid hydrogen and oxygen to generate electricity used by the spacecraft throughout a flight.

"There are times when the hardware's going to stick its tongue out at you."

— Bob Sieck
shuttle operations director

The 255-pound cells are so critical that the failure of even one in orbit would force NASA to order a shuttle back to Earth as soon as possible.

Endeavour had not yet been fueled and the five astronauts had not yet boarded when the launch was scrubbed with 7 1/2 hours to go.

"There are times when the hardware's going to stick its tongue out at you. The problem you find it, you fix it and you get on with what the mission is all about," said shuttle operations director Bob Sieck.

NASA will try again Sept. 7 to launch Endeavour after replacing the failed unit with a used, \$3 million spare.

The mission to release a pair of science satellites already was nearly a month late because of work to replace the thermal insulation surrounding O-ring seals in the solid rocket boosters.

Hot rocket gas singed O-rings in the boosters of two other shuttles earlier this summer, forcing the repairs to Endeavour.

Second woman aims to join The Citadel

A North Carolina high school senior wants to enter the military institution in Fall 1996.

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — The next woman who wants to march in the all-male corps at The Citadel is a military academy student and star athlete who has a brother in the college and a father who is an alumnus.

Nancy Mellette, a 17-year-old senior at a North Carolina military boarding school, is asking to intervene in the Shannon Faulkner case, according to federal court papers filed Thursday by lawyers who also represented Faulkner in her quest to become a cadet.

Mellette wants to join The Citadel in the fall of 1996.

"I think she could do the physical part of it ... but I'm not too sure how they would treat her," Katherine Mellette, her twin sister, said outside the family home in suburban Columbia.

Her mother, Connie, said she admired her daughter for "having the courage to even try to take this step."

Faulkner fought a 2 1/2-year court battle to become a cadet at the state-supported military college. She became ill during a day of rigorous training during what is known as "hell week" and quit five days later. She said the stress of the court battle and her isolation at the college threatened her health.

South Carolina Attorney General Charles Condon said he would fight Mellette's bid.

"Obviously they're very adept at public relations," he said of the women's lawyers. "They've taken a bath in public relations and they've gotten a new and improved model."

Mellette is a second lieu-

tenant in the Oak Ridge Military Academy corps of cadets, court papers said. She is on the cross-country, track, basketball and softball teams. Calls to Oakridge administrators to get comment from her were not returned.

Lawyer Val Vojdik originally said two women wanted to join the corps, but she said only one is pursuing the matter for now. She would not elaborate.

Vojdik would not say whether Mellette had approached the lawyers or they approached her after Faulkner dropped out.

Mellette has not yet applied to The Citadel, the school said. Her brother, a senior and captain at the college, did not return a call to his barracks room. It wasn't immediately known what year her father graduated from the school.

Mellette must intervene to have a say in the November trial of a women's leadership program that South Carolina has proposed as a way to prevent women from breaking the all-male tradition at The Citadel, Vojdik said.

Twenty-two students arrived at private Converse College in Spartanburg on Wednesday to begin the first year of the South Carolina Institute of Leadership for Women.

In Virginia, the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has approved a similar program set up by the Virginia Military Institute, the nation's only other state-supported, all-male military college. The women's program began last week at Mary Baldwin College.

The Justice Department, which is challenging all-male admission policies at The Citadel and VMI, has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to declare the separate-but-equal program at Mary Baldwin unconstitutional.



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