



PHOTOGRAPH: Associated Press

The rover Sojourner is seen still latched to a lander. Before the computer overload Monday, Pathfinder had successfully transmitted an image of the Sojourner touching Yogi, a rock being analyzed.

Data overloads Pathfinder computer

Transmission of panoramic shot caused equipment to shut down

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The computer aboard the Mars Pathfinder over-loaded and reset itself early Monday for the second time in just over three days, interrupting the transmission of a full-color panoramic scene.

No data was lost, but controllers will have to go back to where they left off.

Transmission of the panoramic shot "takes a lot of processing power," said Mary Beth Murrill, a spokeswoman for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. She likened the data overload to what happens with a personal computer "when we ask it to do too many things at once."

To prevent a recurrence, controllers will schedule activities one after another, instead of at the same time, project manager Brian Muirhead said.

It was the second time the Pathfinder's computer reset itself while trying to carry out several activities at once.

The previous reset occurred Friday night. It delayed the chemical analysis of a tubby rock named Yogi.

In response, controllers reprogrammed the computer over the weekend to slow down the rate of activities and avoid another reset. But on Monday, about an hour into a two-hour transmission session, it happened again.

Muirhead said that before the problem hit, Pathfinder had successfully transmitted an image of its Sojourner rover touching Yogi, as well as the first part of the 360-degree panorama. At the same time the spacecraft was sending down images, it also was collecting atmospheric and weather data and taking more pictures.

The next available attempt to go back and receive the rest of the color panorama data was Monday night. Controllers could not do it immediately

Monday morning because the Earth-based stations that relay the information were busy with Galileo spacecraft visiting Jupiter.

Controllers on Monday night hoped to retrieve data from Sojourner's analysis of Yogi's chemical makeup.

If the analysis was good, the rover could be instructed on Tuesday for another rock nicknamed Sojourner Doo.

Sojourner's examination of Yogi had been waylaid for several days, but analysis first was postponed after the rover's wheels rolled up the rock and got stuck.

The spacecraft and rover were sent again Thursday when a human error resulted in no instructions being sent to the spacecraft. Then on Friday, the computer reset itself and cut short communications with controllers on Earth.

State sues aviator for nursing home death

AUSTIN (AP) — Linda Finch, the San Antonio businesswoman who flew around the world in Amelia Earhart's path, has been sued by the state in connection with the death of a resident at an Austin nursing home she owns.

Responding to the lawsuit filed Monday concerning Austin's Pecan Grove Care Center, Finch said, "We did absolutely nothing wrong." She said the nursing home followed instructions from the patient's personal doctor.

It is the second lawsuit filed by Attorney General Dan Morales involving a nursing home owned by Finch. The first alleges Dublin Nursing Center near Stephenville was operated under life-threatening conditions, based on problems inspectors said they found three years ago.

In that case, Finch has denied life-threatening conditions existed. She said deficiencies were cleared up within days, long before the lawsuit was filed.

The Dublin Nursing Center case had been expected to go to trial in

September, but the attorney general agreed to a continuance. A trial is expected next February or March, said attorney general spokeswoman Sonya Sanchez. The potential total fine could range from \$500,000 to \$50 million.

Pecan Grove was investigated this February by the Texas Department of Human Services, which regulates nursing homes. The agency's report concluded that an elderly male resident received improper treatment that eventually contributed to his death, according to Morales' office.

State investigators said the facility didn't properly monitor the resident's blood sugar levels in accordance with a doctor's orders when he was admitted. The patient later died in the hospital from respiratory failure and shock, secondary to a severe urinary tract infection, according to Morales' office.

The lawsuit alleges that excessive blood sugar was a contributing factor in the patient's death, although not a direct cause.

A&M student dies following car accident

Tiffany Lynn Hunnicutt, a speech communications graduate student from Fort Worth, died of injuries sustained in an automobile accident Sunday night.

Texas Department of Safety Trooper Brian Hall said Hunnicutt was driving north on Texas Highway 6 when her car fishtailed, and she lost control of the vehicle. The vehicle swung into a southbound lane and was struck by a Jeep driven by Joseph Martinez Jr., Hall said.

Hunnicutt was transported to Columbia Medical Center in College Station, where she later died, Hall said.

The accident occurred between 9:30 and 9:45 p.m. about 6.6 miles south of College Station, Hall said.

Kristin Sayre, associate director of the Department of Student Life, said Hunnicutt's family has been notified of her death. Funeral arrangements have not been made.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Tuesday

TAMU Waterski Team: There will be a general meeting at 8:30 p.m. at Fitzwilly's. For more information call Mike Coyle at 268-2076.

The Writing Center (Department of English, Texas A&M): The Writing Center in 249 Blocker will consult with any TAMU student who needs help with his or her writing projects for Summer II. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Come by or call 862-4181 for more information.

Aggie Roadrunners: There will be a daily run of 2-3 miles beginning at 7 p.m. in front of G. Rollie White. Runners of all levels are encouraged to attend. For more information call Hank Bullinger at 821-6339.

Aggie Wranglers: Dance lesson sign-ups will be held from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. in MSC Flagroom.

Wednesday

The Writing Center (Department of English, Texas A&M): The Writing Center in 249 Blocker will consult with any TAMU student who needs help with his or her writing projects

for Summer II. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Come by or call 862-4181 for more information.

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Texas A&M Women's Rugby: There will be practice from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the TAMU Rugby Field. No experience is necessary. For more information contact Wendy at 696-9012.

Thursday

The Writing Center (Department of English, Texas A&M): The Writing Center in 249 Blocker will consult with any TAMU student who needs help with his or her writing projects for Summer II. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Come by or call 862-4181 for more information.

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Friday

The Writing Center (Department of English, Texas A&M): The Writing Center in 249 Blocker will consult with any TAMU student who needs help with his or her writing projects for Summer II. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information call 862-4181 or come to the Writing Center.

Sunday

TAMU Chess Club: The TAMU Chess Club will be playing chess in 308 Blocker from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information contact Scott Griggs at 696-3879 or griggs@myriad.net.

What's Up is a Battalion series that lists non-profit student and faculty events and activities. Items should be submitted later than three days in advance of the desired run date. All event deadlines and notices are not events and will not be published. What's Up. If you have any questions, please call the newsroom at 845-3313.

Attorney: Industry lies about smoking research

MIAMI (AP) — A \$5 billion lawsuit by flight attendants who say passengers' smoke harmed their health went to trial Monday with an attorney accusing the tobacco industry of singing a "phony song" about the dangers of cigarettes.

Stanley Rosenblatt, a lawyer for the 60,000 current and former flight attendants represented in the class-action case, opened the landmark trial by accusing the industry of trying to mislead the public into believing the hazards of smoking and secondhand smoke are still disputed.

Rosenblatt begged jurors to tell the industry: "The game is over."

In their lawsuit, nonsmoking flight attendants blame cigarette smoke in airline cabins for lung cancer, respiratory problems and heart disease.

Smoking has been banned on domestic flights since 1990, and four-fifths of U.S. airline flights to and from other countries are now smokeless.

This is the first tobacco class-action case to reach trial, and the first secondhand-smoke trial. It could prove to be the only class-action tobacco case to be decided by a jury, because the proposed \$368 billion nationwide settlement — if approved by Congress and White House — will limit such suits.

So far, in at least 20 other tobacco liability suits, the industry never paid a cent in damages.

Tobacco lawyers will have their chance to address the jury on Tuesday. The industry denies cigarette

smoke causes any ailments and says flight attendants can't prove they suffer any higher rate of illnesses than the general population.

Rosenblatt said those defenses followed a pattern of four decades of lies, deceit, manipulation and denial of unfavorable research and damaging government reports.

"They hid and they distorted and they lied about this information," he told the six-member jury. "The evidence will show it is a phony song. There is no more research needed."

Rosenblatt promised to give jurors a historical overview starting from a 1953 report in the medical journal Cancer linking cigarette tar to cancer in mice.

He cited depositions in April from executives of the four biggest cigarette makers denying tobacco addiction, despite a Brown & Williamson memo from 1963 calling nicotine an addictive drug.

Rosenblatt also charged that the tobacco industry used its political might to get what it wanted after Jesse Steinfeld, President Nixon's surgeon general, expressed worries about secondhand smoke.

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. wrote Nixon to congratulate him on his re-election in 1972, remind him of his campaign contributions and ask why Steinfeld was still on the job, Rosenblatt said. He was gone a short time later.

More recent government reports saying 435,000 smokers and 3,000 nonsmokers die each year from the effects of smoke are denied by the industry, he said.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly Cloudy High: 97° Low: 75°	Partly Cloudy High: 98° Low: 75°	Sunny High: 99° Low: 75°

Sketch



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Political Ethics and Open Government

A nonpartisan review of Texas legislation on finance reform, conflict-of-interest, and open government.

Suzy Woodford, Executive Director
Common Cause of Texas

Wednesday, July 16, 1997
4:00 p.m. 230 MSC
FREE Admission

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