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Risky Mars mission to study climate

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — After two NASA missions to Mars over the past six years ended in sudden failure, the stakes are especially high today for the Mars Polar Lander, and the list of things that can go wrong is long.

"It's about as do-or-die an event as they come," flight operations manager Sam Thurman said.

The Polar Lander is set to touch down this afternoon roughly 500 miles from the Red Planet's south pole. Scientists hope to learn about Mars' climate by studying layers of dust and possibly ice during the 90-day mission.

Instruments will measure vapor in the atmosphere, while a claw on the spacecraft will collect samples to be cooked and analyzed for water.

But there are many mission-ending scenarios: The spacecraft's parachute or descent thrusters could fail. It could land on a rock that causes it to tip over. Or it could touch down into the quicksand-like permafrost in the never-explored south polar region.

In September, NASA's \$125 mil-

lion Mars Climate Orbiter vanished as it approached the Red Planet. Investigators blamed the loss on scientists' failure to realize that English-style units of measurement — feet and inches — had not been converted to the metric system.

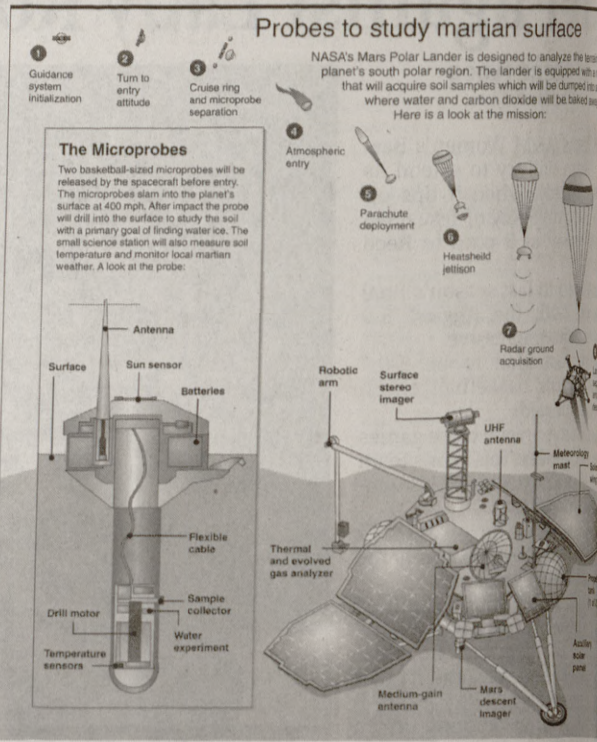
And in 1993, the Mars Observer, a \$1 billion NASA spacecraft, disappeared just before going into orbit around the Red Planet. It is believed to have exploded as its fuel lines were being pressurized.

"The tension on the team is up by several factors because of what happened," Richard Cook, spacecraft operations manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said.

In the weeks since the Mars Climate Orbiter's failure, controllers for the \$165 million Polar Lander mission have reworked and reviewed plans to deal with the myriad of things that could go wrong at the end of the 157-million-mile voyage.

They have put together hundreds of contingency plans for nearly every possible glitch.

"When we're working on contingency plans, we're thinking gory details about everything that can go wrong," Thurman said.



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World trade protests become peaceful rallies

SEATTLE (AP) — Billed as a "festival of resistance," World Trade Organization (WTO) protests for the first time seemed more like a party than a pitched battle with police yesterday.

"These people are standing up for a good cause."

— Sylvia McDaniel
Market spokesperson

After a Pike Place Market rally, at least 1,000 people marched to the King County Jail at the south end of downtown to express support for those arrested this week.

Motorcycle police escorted protesters to the site, which is blocks away from the WTO meetings. A huge puppet on wheels, with a gag across his mouth, also led the throng.

"We're here because there are over 100 non-violent protesters [inside] who were arrested for

exercising their right to free speech," one man said on a bullhorn.

Most of those arrested are being held elsewhere. "The guards are telling them they have no support."

"Free the Seattle 500," read one sign. "Let them go!" chanted the crowd. People inside the jail waved to the cheering protesters.

Police were acting differently, David Roman, 26, an organizer with the umbrella group Direct Action Network, said. Where Wednesday some were "out of control," they were cooperative yesterday, he said.

The rally at the market was one of the first peaceful demonstrations since Tuesday's vandalism downtown and police response Wednesday with tear gas and rubber bullets.

"These people are standing up for a good cause," market spokesperson Sylvia McDaniel of the 2,000 or so who gathered peacefully in noon sunshine said.

Activists were wary of renewed police efforts to distinguish between vandals and criminals and those engaged in peaceful protest and civil disobedience.

"It's never too late to say you're sorry," Lofton, 25, of Portland, Ore., said, walking with about 300 other demonstrators as the crowd dispersed into smaller groups.

But then she added of police: "Many of them should be punished. An apology is not enough."

For activists concerned about WTO efforts to override national laws protecting the environment and workers, this week's meeting was supposed to be a historic showdown between civil society and the forces of corporate globalization.

Instead, the battle has been between protesters and police, with concerns about the rights, labor and the environment taking a seat to allegations of police brutality.

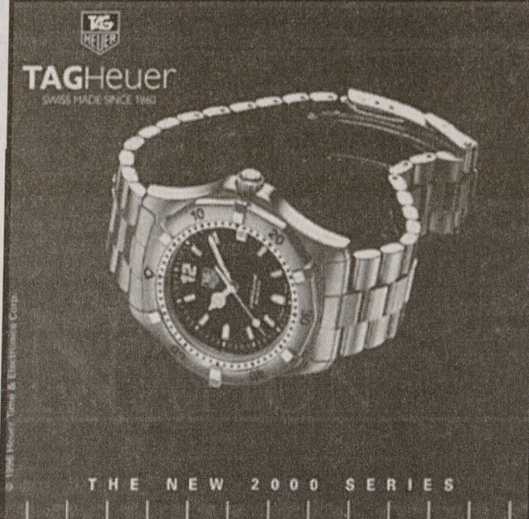
More than 570 people have been arrested since Tuesday, when tens of thousands of protesters took over the city's core and smashed entire blocks of storefront windows, spray-painted buildings and slashed police tires causing an estimated \$2 million in property damage.

Loose Diamonds

Round Cut				Pear Shape			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price	Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.77	G	SI3	\$5750 ⁰⁰	.92	K	VS2	\$2550 ⁰⁰
1.08	I	VS2	\$3750 ⁰⁰	.79	K	SI1	\$1850 ⁰⁰
1.03	H	I1	\$1995 ⁰⁰				
.89	F	SI2	\$3100 ⁰⁰				
.76	G	SI2	\$2700 ⁰⁰				
.70	H	SI2	\$1850 ⁰⁰				
.57	I	SI2	\$1175 ⁰⁰				
.52	E	VS2	\$1250 ⁰⁰				
.50	G	VS1	\$1450 ⁰⁰				
.33	H	VVS2	\$790 ⁰⁰				
.31	H	VVS2	\$790 ⁰⁰				
.26	G	SI1	\$275 ⁰⁰				

Marquise Cut				Oval			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price	Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.21	K	SI2	\$3950 ⁰⁰	.66	K	VVS2	\$1439 ⁰⁰
.94	K	SI1	\$3150 ⁰⁰	.54	H	SI2	\$1050 ⁰⁰
.70	G	SI1	\$2650 ⁰⁰	.32	H	SI1	\$ 550 ⁰⁰
.49	F	SI1	\$1736 ⁰⁰				

Emerald Cut				Princess Cut			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price	Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.53	I	VS2	\$6900 ⁰⁰	.73	F	SI1 / VS2	\$2875 ⁰⁰
.71	F	SI1	\$2150 ⁰⁰	.72	E	VS2	\$3700 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert
				.27	G	SI2	\$275 ⁰⁰



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END OF DAYS (R) 11:00 1:40 4:20 7:30 10:15 12:35

SLEEPY HOLLOW (R) 11:10 1:30 4:30 7:00 9:30 12:00

DOUBLE JEOPARDY (R) 11:40 2:10 5:00 7:50 10:20 12:50

ANYWHERE BUT HERE (PG-13) 11:15 2:00 4:35 7:35 10:15 12:40

POKEMON (G) 10:30 12:40 2:55 5:15 7:15

THE SIXTH SENSE (PG-13) 12:00 2:45 5:10 7:45 10:15 12:45

HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL (R) 11:50 2:20 4:55 7:40 10:30 1:00

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