

Swimming test:

By CHRISTINE MURRAY
Collegian Staff Writer

Louis D. MacNeill, University aquatic director and head coach of the men's swimming team, plans to launch a one-man crusade to reinstate the University's swimming test.

But without the students' help, he admits, the optional test may not be reinstated. "Students do not realize their potential," MacNeill said. "Ten thousand students could change this University."

Full semester orientation represented the first time in almost 50 years that the University did not offer the test, MacNeill said. The test was ended because one student did not want to be forced to take an optional swimming test, he said.

Before former Undergraduate Student Government Senator Darryl Daisey successfully challenged the test in 1982, it was widely believed to be a graduation requirement.

If students realize the clout they have, they could have the test reinstated, MacNeill said. "One kid did this and he made this fantastic change," MacNeill said. "The administration is very concerned with the thoughts of one student."

When the test was implemented, the University Faculty Senate never approved the test as a

Coach wages campaign to make it mandatory

required physical education course, said James C. Thompson, acting head of the physical education department.

If a student failed the test, the physical education department recommended a beginner's swimming course, he said. No student was ever prohibited from graduating because he did not take the test, he said.

MacNeill said the swim test was a source of pride for him when he was re-creating students. He said he used to tell students and their parents that the University was one of only two schools that provided its students with the opportunity to have instructors test their swimming proficiency.

"I'm trying to let the student body know how important it is," he said. "Maybe it will make the students aware of their inability to swim."

Thompson said the University announced the test was voluntary two years ago and since then the number of people taking the test has steadily declined.

MacNeill stressed that the test was not mandatory and most of the time a student who could not swim just signed up for the basic swimming course. "We had an aura of understanding about the swim test."

MacNeill said he is concerned about the people

who think driving is something that will never happen to them.

He said 8,000 people drown every year and chances are good that those people had the opportunity to learn how to swim and did not take advantage of it.

MacNeill also said that in the past 19 years, 19 to 20 percent of the students who took the test did not pass it. During various orientation periods, between 5,000 and 7,000 students took the test, he said.

Thompson said the results of a survey conducted last year showed that 70 percent of the students surveyed thought a required swim test was a good idea.

The test required students to dive into the deep end and swim around the pool using any stroke. They were then required to tread water for a few minutes, MacNeill said.

The entire test takes 10 minutes because "if you can swim in the water for 10 minutes you could probably survive for hours," he said.

MacNeill said he wants to make students aware that they cannot swim and he hopes they will sign up for a course in introductory swimming.

"We think our students are valuable and we don't want them to drown after they get their degree," he said.

USG Senate picks Laura Morrison as new president

By CHRISTINE MURRAY
and LORI MUSSER
Collegian Staff Writers

The Undergraduate Student Government Senate elected a new senate president after the resignation of former Senate President Bill Kraftow in its first meeting of the Fall Semester last night.

Due to personal reasons, most notably my failure to obtain adequate funding to remain a University Park student, I must resign from the senate," Kraftow said in a resignation letter.



Town Senator Laura Morrison defeated town Senator Kelli Chestnut in elections for the position.

Morrison said she gave the position a lot of thought when she found out Kraftow had resigned. "I'm excited about (assuming office)," Morrison said. "Now I'll be able to get a lot more things done than I want to get done."

As senate president, Morrison said she would like to conduct private caucuses — without The Daily Collegian present — with senators prior to senate meetings. The senate would use this time to discuss bills that appear on the agenda, answer questions and avoid accidental outbursts that would be quoted.

Morrison said these caucuses would shorten senate meetings and eliminate excessive arguments.

"We'll only have these caucuses when there is a need, like when there are a lot of bills," she said.

Morrison wants to have administrators and USG department heads attend meetings at least once a month.

In other action, Kelli Chestnut was elected roles committee chairwoman, replacing Morrison.

Chestnut held that position last year.

"I think I'll have the experience to improve upon last year's performance," Chestnut said.

Chestnut spoke with Head Football Coach Joe Paterno earlier this summer about the Beaver Stadium concert proposal. Paterno told her he has no objection to the proposal if she can guarantee that the field will be protected, she said.

"In the past it was said that he was against the proposal," Chestnut said. "That's not correct. His primary concern is protecting the field."

USG originally planned to donate the proceeds from the concert to Stone Valley Recreation Area. However, tentative plans have been made to donate the proceeds to the Second Mile Program.

Chestnut explained that because the Lion Ambassadors are requesting graduating seniors to donate their general deposits to Stone Valley Recreation Area, USG decided to look for another charitable organization.

"I think our money would be best sent to Second Mile, but nothing's definite yet," Chestnut said.

Also, the USG transportation advisory committee chairman, Lawrence Niland, said he would like to get involved in improving Campus Loop services.

USG President Emil Parvovsky told the senate in addition to the decrease in Loop services and the elimination of free rides after 9 p.m., Loop passes were increased from \$15 a term to \$40 a semester.

Parvovsky said he would like to see USG play a "direct role" in looking for ideas and solutions.

Parvovsky also told the senate that off-campus students can no longer purchase on-campus overnight parking permits.

Launch flawless despite weather

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL
Associated Press Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Riding a brilliant pillar of fire that turned night into light, Challenger thundered away from Earth early Tuesday, carrying America's first black astronaut and four crewmates into orbit.

The space shuttle was soaring more than 100 miles high at 17,400 mph after a stunning liftoff, a magnificent display of sound and light that shook buildings three miles from the pad and made the sky bright enough to read a newspaper at that distance.

"We can see the stars real lovely," said Commander Richard Truly as the ship headed toward orbit over the Atlantic Ocean.

"Everything is normal," Mission Control in Houston reassuringly told the crew.

The dazzling departure began 17 minutes late, at 2:32 a.m. EDT as Challenger's engines flashed to life with a light twice as bright as the sun, sending a cascade of flame rushing like a waterfall over the launch pedestal.

NASA delayed the launch to allow thunderstorms and low clouds to clear out of the area, in case the shuttle had to abort its mission and make an emergency landing on a runway near the launch pad.

But the craft performed flawlessly. Swiftly,

riding nearly seven million pounds of thrust, the 100-ton shuttle rose from its floodlit pad and pierced the dark sky, trailing a fountain of fire 500 feet long and 100 feet wide. It remained visible in the Cape area as a bright orange glow for 2 minutes and 42 seconds after launch.

A severe thunderstorm sent crowds scurrying for cover three hours before launch, but their wait was rewarded by perhaps the most spectacular liftoff in the 33-year history of this spacecraft.

Cheers of amazement erupted from thousands who gathered on the Kennedy Space Center and along highways, beaches and riverbanks to watch the first after-dark launch of a space shuttle.

Only once before had there been such a sight: in 1972 when the Apollo 17 left for the moon in the middle of the night from the same pad.

Truly, 45, was making his second shuttle journey. His pilot is Daniel Brandenstein, 40. The three mission specialists are Guion Bluford, the black astronaut, Dale Gardner, 34, and Dr. William Thornton, at 54 the oldest person ever to fly in space.

Their main tasks on a six-day mission are to deploy an Indian satellite, test the shuttle's robot arm and run checks on a communications satellite critical to future shuttle missions.

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parachute landing in the Atlantic where ships were to recover them for re-use.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration had estimated that if clouds did not interfere, Challenger's flame could be seen in various degrees of brilliance 450 miles away.

Bluford, 40, an Air Force lieutenant colonel with a doctorate in aerospace engineering, is making the trip just two months after Sally Ride rode in the same ship as the first American woman in space.

On board for the six-day voyage around Earth were a communications and weather satellite to be put into orbit for India, an experiment for making pure drugs, 260,000 stamped envelopes for collectors, and six rats whose travel comfort is of interest to scientists.

During the flight the astronauts will test the ability of the shuttle's 50-foot mechanical arm to move heavy payloads, maneuvering a 7,460-pound package around the cargo bay.

The early-morning liftoff time was dictated by the need for Challenger's crew to release the Indian satellite into a precise "keyhole" above the equator within radio range of a tracking station at Hassan, India.

Challenger is scheduled to land, also in darkness, at 12:23 a.m. Pacific time, at Edwards Air Force Base in California next Monday.

Rush begins for fraternities and sororities

By FELICIA ROSEN
Collegian Staff Writer

Fraternity rush at the University has been a tradition for 95 years; sorority rush for 57 years. Today this tradition begins again.

"For sororities, Rush Recruitment Week begins today and will last until Friday, with rush officially starting Sept. 9, said Chris Naida, rush chairwoman.

Women who want to rush must complete a form by Thursday and pay a \$5 registration fee, she said. Forms can be obtained at the Panhellenic Council Office, 203B HUB, and at tables set up in the dining halls, Naida said.

Fraternity rush also begins tonight with a Rush Mixer in the HUB Ballroom. Four representatives from each fraternity will be on hand to answer questions about the University's fraternities and greek life, said Adam Levinson, Interfraternity Council president.

At the mixer, interested parties can

sign a general rush list, which is distributed to all fraternities, Levinson said. A preference rush list, if a person is interested in a particular fraternity, may also be signed, he said.

'Freshmen shouldn't be scared to rush. It's a way to become involved in a University activity right away.'

Chris Naida, rush chairwoman

After the rush mixer, the individual fraternities, not IFC, are active in rush.

During sorority recruitment week, a slide show presentation and a question and answer session about sorori-

ty life will be conducted in each of the dormitory areas.

The presentation will be shown at 6:30 in Pollock and 8 in Findlay Lounge, East Halls tomorrow night.

The presentation dates for the remaining dorm areas are pending and will be posted later in the week, Naida said.

"Women interested in rushing will have two opportunities to meet sorority representatives," Naida said. In addition to the slide presentation, Naida said women interested in becoming sorority members can attend an Ice Cream Mixer on Sept. 7 at the HUB Gallery.

Rushes will have the opportunity to meet their rush counselors Sept. 8 and learn the procedures of rush, Naida said.

During the first round of parties, Sept. 9, 11 and 12, women will be taken by their rush counselors to each of the 17 sororities for 20-minute parties, she said.

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sept. 13, post office will be held in 301 HUB. At post

office, rushes will receive invitations to the sororities for second rounds. Second rounds consist of 30-minute parties with a rushee visiting a maximum of 12 sororities.

On Sept. 16, a second post office will be held and women will receive invitations from six sororities. These invitations make up third rounds, from Sept. 19 and 20, which include six 40-minute parties.

"During the third round, rushes should be looking very seriously at which sorority they would like to accept membership," Naida said.

The last post office and preference parties — parties that last one hour at three sororities — will be held Sept. 21.

After the preference parties, the rushes return to their specified area and sign bid cards, listing their preference for sorority membership.

"Freshmen shouldn't be scared to rush," Naida said. "It's a way to become involved in a University activity right away."

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Alumnus Bluford is aboard shuttle

By CHRISTINE MURRAY
Collegian Staff Writer

Early this morning, University alumnus Guion S. Bluford took a bit of Penn State with him on the space shuttle Challenger, which lifted off from Kennedy Space Center.

Bluford, a 1964 University graduate with a bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering, is the first black astronaut in space.

Two Penn State football jerseys with Bluford's name and the year he graduated on them, and a cassette of Penn State fight songs to be played as a wakeup call were awaiting Bluford's arrival at Kennedy Space Center.

In an interview with The Daily Collegian earlier this month, Bluford said the gifts from the University were sent to the space center instead of his home in Houston, Texas.

Bluford said he was pleased to receive the gifts from the University and would play the cassettes, "if I have something to play them on."

He is participating in the first night launch of a shuttle mission. Bluford said he was scheduled to be flight engineer or mission specialist between commander Richard Truly and co-pilot Dan Brandenstein.

Bluford will launch an Indian communications satellite and operate a space medicine test that will test live proteins during the mission.

Bluford has known about his mission aboard Challenger for four years, but he said he is still excited and hopes to fly on other shuttle missions.

"It's something that everyone looks forward to," Bluford said referring to his colleagues in Houston.

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