

state/nation/world

Shuttle joint blamed for explosion found

By HOWARD BENEDETT AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A salvage ship has recovered a two-ton piece of Challenger rocket debris with a 2-foot-square hole burned through the steel casing at the joint blamed for the explosion of the space shuttle, the Navy said yesterday.

The 10-foot-by-20-foot piece, which could be vital to the investigation, was pulled from the floor of the Atlantic Ocean about 40 miles northeast of here by the Stena Workhorse after a robot submarine attached lift lines to it.

The retrieval was made at 5 a.m. Sunday in 560 feet of water, the Navy said. Lt. Cmdr. Deborah Burnette, a Navy spokeswoman, said the hole burned in the joint and casting by a plume of escaping flame measured 1-foot-by-2-feet. The surrounding area was badly scorched.

The recovery was announced earlier by the presidential shuttle commission, and a member of the commission was coming here to inspect the piece.

A statement by commission Chairman William P. Rogers said, "One of the two sections of critical interest" was recovered and that it was from the joint area where a leak in the right booster rocket is thought to have occurred, causing the shuttle's explosion on Jan. 28.

"A burnt out area of the joint tang at about the 300 degree position is evident," the statement said.

The other key piece, the bottom of the joint, has not been located but is believed to be in the same area. Investigators have said the accident that killed seven astronauts was caused by a failure in this joint. But they don't know exactly how it failed, and they feel that by recovering the

part containing the joint they may find out.

Experts believe a leak in the joint allowed flame to escape, eventually severing the bottom rocket attachment and causing the top of the booster to swivel into the large external fuel tank, setting off the explosion.

J.R. Thompson Jr., vice chairman of a NASA task force working with the commission, said last week the investigation is focusing on possibly defective O-rings designed to stop hot gases from escaping through the joint; on the effect of the rotation of the joint when subjected to ignition pressures; on characteristics of the putty intended to put pressure on the rings; a possible joint alignment problem; and the effect of the freezing temperatures and high winds aloft on launch day might have had on the rings or the putty.

Recovering the two pieces of the joint have been high priority items of the salvage team.

But Thompson said last month that even if they were not recovered, he believed there was sufficient evidence to pinpoint the cause of the accident.

More recently, commission member Richard P. Feynman said testing of sub-scale models designed to recreate the conditions on the day of the explosion would never be able to find the exact cause.

Feynman said, however, that a new joint could be built to prevent all possible causes.

The man in charge of redesigning the joint, James Kingsbury, head of engineering at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., said last week that 70 engineers are working on 10 possible alterations in the joint.



Send In The Clowns A group of clowns gathers for the Clowns of America International annual convention in Washington, D.C. The clowns, from the U.S., Mexico and Puerto Rico, were mostly people in funny business as a sideline to their regular jobs.

Yale police arrest 78; shanties go

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Seventy-eight demonstrators were arrested at Yale University yesterday before college employees leveled a shanty village erected to protest Yale's investments in South Africa.

Afterward, more than 700 people shouted anti-apartheid slogans at a rally where protesters promised to keep up pressure on the school to divest at least \$50 million in stocks.

"We are not going to let them get rid of us," Jonathan Piper, a second-year law student, yelled at the rally, where shouts and applause echoed off buildings surrounding Beineke Plaza, former site of the shantytown.

The shantytown, opposite the office of Yale President A. Bartlett Giamatti, symbolized the homes of poor blacks in South Africa, where a white minority rules a black majority under a system of racial separation known as apartheid.

The shanties were torn down by Yale supervisory workers after the students were warned to leave the site, then arrested by campus police when they refused.

Members of Local 35, the custodial union, had said last week that they would not obey university orders to dismantle the shanties.

Unisex insurance rates crash

HARRISBURG (AP) — Legislation allowing sex-based auto insurance rates to continue in Pennsylvania finally won approval yesterday when the Senate voted overwhelmingly to override Gov. Dick Thornburgh's veto of the bill.

The 43-6 vote marked a major victory for the insurance industry, which mounted a massive lobbying campaign for the bill. The vote also marked a rare override of a Thornburgh veto during the governor's nearly 7½ years in office.

Without any debate, the Insurance Department will not be allowed to force insurers to implement unisex rates on June 1.

Under a unisex insurance system, rates for young women in Pennsylvania would have increased while those for young men would have dropped.

But David Snyder, a Nationwide Insurance lobbyist, applauded the Senate's action and said he doubted the effectiveness of any legal challenge.

"This legislation prevents rate increases for more than 1.1 million Pennsylvanians," Snyder said. "That involves 600,000 young women, older women who now have a 10 percent discount and older drivers male and female who would have had to subsidize young males," he said.

The 78 arrested were charged with criminal trespass and were scheduled for arraignment April 21, said university spokesman Walter Littell. Four others were charged additionally with disorderly conduct.

Five of those arrested were not students, including a leader of two Yale labor unions, John Wilhelm, and a former city alderman, Martin Krivlov.

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"THE SECOND AMENDMENT AND GUN CONTROL" an informal program with JOHN TURNER, Ph.D., Professor of History at West Chester University. WEDNESDAY (4/16) 8PM HUB FISHBOWL. Presented by the OFFICE OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES.

PEACE CORPS For Information & Discussion — Contact: Barbara Porter, Coordinator Office of International Agriculture — 863-0249. Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 2:30 to 5 p.m.

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License fees for bed and breakfasts decrease

The health license fees required for homes operating as bed and breakfast establishments have been reduced from \$50 to \$25 to coordinate the fees with the time needed to inspect the homes, State College health officer Mark Henry said.

The \$50 fee was too high for the short time needed to inspect the establishments, Henry said.

A health officer, zoning officer and code enforcement officer provide the licenses and permits required for people who want to operate their homes as bed and breakfast establishments.

The health officer ensures a home's kitchen meets all health standards and that all food and cooking materials are within the office's health guidelines.

The zoning office checks for adequate room size, while the code enforcement office looks at whether the proposed area has the proper electrical wiring and ventilation.

Three area homes are designated bed and breakfast establishments but the addresses of these homes are not available, said Ernest Dabiero, zoning officer.

People are particularly interested in these establishments when visiting State College for the annual Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts and for football games, he said.

Dabiero said single family dwellings are typical of bed and breakfast establishments, but fraternities are atypical because of their multiple occupancy.

Fraternity's fees for overnight lodging and food service to non-members will remain at \$50, Henry said.

A small caliber pistol was found on Logan Avenue Sunday afternoon and turned over to police, State College police said.

Two signs worth \$200 were taken from Nittany Valley Winery, 724 S. Atherton St., between Thursday evening and Friday morning, State College police said.

Richard Weachock, New York, reported his \$225 watch missing from an apartment at 340 E. Beaver Ave. Saturday, State College police said.

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Program praises region's cultural diversity

By ERIC SCHMIDT Collegian Staff Writer

The Academic Assistance Programs Council launched a program to celebrate the expanding racial and ethnic diversity in the Centre Region, the publicity director for the program said.

Kevin Perry said the program has no plans for future events.

"(The show) is called 'Strut n' Roar,'" Perry said. "It's a multi-ethnic vaudeville with local performers to represent the diversity in the region."

The program will raise community awareness in the Centre Region and celebrate the diversity, which he regard as a strength to the area, Perry said.

The committee has distributed posters with photos of people representing the ethnic and racial groups in the region, he said. It has also distributed bumper stickers showing the logo: joined, shaded hands.

The program will culminate in a variety show later this month, Perry said, but the "We are Community" program will continue afterwards.

James H. Hoskins, assistant professor of theatre arts and director of "Strut n' Roar," said the program's acts will include a Chinese tambourine dance, juggling, an Indian dancer, an Indonesian sword dance and a comedian.

The last hour of the program will be a period of interaction between the performers and the audience, giving the audience a chance to become involved, Hoskins said.

He said John Franceschina, one of America's most promising classical composers, wrote a jingle for the "We Are Community" program.

Franceschina, a professor at Florida State University, was the guest musical director last year for Penn State's "History of American Film" production. This year, Hoskins said, Franceschina was musical director for "Nobody's Heart," a program about American composer Lawrence Hart.

The program will be held April 20 at the State College Area Intermediate High School, Perry said, and will last from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

USEC to students: Call your congressmen

University students will be asked this week to call their senators and representatives and urge them to co-sponsor an inflation adjustment measure for higher education, which would protect the nation's colleges and universities from the expected Gramm-Rudman cuts.

Edith Raphael, chairwoman of the Washington, D.C. governmental relations committee — the University Student Executive Council's lobby — will coordinate a phone drive today and tomorrow aimed at getting Pennsylvania's Republican U.S. Senators Arlen Specter and H. John Heinz III to co-sponsor the measure.

"Everyone who enters the (Undergraduate Student Government) office, whether or not they're in student government, will be asked to make a phone call," Raphael said.

Students can also call on their own. Heinz's Washington phone number is (202) 224-6324 and Specter can be reached in Philadelphia — 1-800-222-2752 — as well as in Washington — (202) 224-4254.

Known as the Andrews Amendment, the Democratic-sponsored bill would provide higher education with \$1.2 billion in federal appropriations this year and guarantee the same appropriations, adjusted for inflation, in the future, Raphael said.

The phone drive is aimed at getting co-sponsors for the bill, not necessarily urging its passage, Raphael said. Proponents of the bill want to make it a bi-partisan effort, making Heinz and Specter important players because they are both Republicans.

"The more co-sponsors you have and the more bi-partisan a bill is, the likelier it is to pass."

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The phone drive will be held nationwide and is sponsored by the United States Student Association, a national student lobby for student aid and higher education funding.

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