Country mourns Challenger crew

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A catastrophic explosion blew apart the space shuttle Challenger 75 seconds after liftoff Tuesday, sending schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe and six NASA astronauts to a fiery death in the sky eight miles out from Kennedy Space Center.

"We mourn seven heroes," said President Reagan.

The accident defied quick explanation, though a slow-motion replay seemed to show an initial explosion in one of two peel-away rocket boosters igniting the shuttle's huge external fuel tank. The tank burst into a fireball that destroyed Challenger high above the Atlantic while crew boosters continued to fly crazily through the sky after the explosion, apparently under full power, indicating that the fatal explosion might have originated in the giant tank itself.

"We will not speculate as to the specific cause of the explosion based on that footage," said Jesse Moore, NASA's top shuttle administrator. National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials are organizing an investigating board and Moore said it will take a "careful review" of all data "before we can reach any conclusions."

Never before in 36 manned space missions had Americans died in flight. John Glenn, the former astronaut, recalled that three astronauts died in a launch-pad training accident 19 years ago and said the history of pioneers is often one "of triumph and tragedy."

The explosion followed an apparently flawless launch, delayed two hours as officials analyzed the danger from icicles that formed in the frosty Florida morning along the shuttle's new launch pad.

"There were no signs of abnormalities on the screens" as families and NASA officials watched in despair from the Cape.

Other observers noted that the

News interrupts classes; Poly flag flown half-staff

Reaction to the space shuttle Challenger disaster varied from disbelief and shock at Cal Poly Tuesday. President Baker ordered flags on campus to be lowered to half-staff and students and professors gathered around classroom television sets for updates on the catastrophe.

"I got a knot in my stomach," said Laura Douglas, a graduate business student. "All I could think about was the teacher's daughter who was on television the other day saying, 'I think it's great that Mommy's going into space.'"

Douglas said, "After 10 minutes the teacher turned the set off and said, 'Now let's get back down to Earth.'"

Another student said his younger brother from Grass Valley had a teacher who had campaigned to be the first teacher in space. "The teacher fortunately didn't get a good recommendation from city supervisors," said Bill Henry, a junior natural
In Memoriam

Francis R. Scobee, 46, commander
Michael J. Smith, 40, pilot
Christa McAuliffe, 37, schoolteacher
Judith Resnick, 36
Ronald E. McNair, 35
Ellison S. Onizuka, 39
Gregory B. Jarvis, 41

Editor — In his Jan. 27 editorial, Peter Irwin described a forbidden world in which evil, greedy, lazy landlords threaten poor, defenseless students with outrageous policies and rental rates. The bullies, he says "do nothing to deserve their income except own ability to threaten."

I propose that most of those property owners not only work extremely hard for their incomes but are providing a valuable service to low-income residents. First, landlords are entrepreneurs — they take risks. They risk lawsuits, unstable real estate values and loss of income during vacancies.

And when they are not repairing the damages left behind by negligent tenants or scraping to meet loan and property tax obligations, many have to reinvest profits to keep their properties attractive, because landlords know that property is a marketable commodity, and they must compete with hundreds of landlords for our business.

Lastly, landlords provide a great service to low-income individuals. How many students could possibly afford to buy their own homes in San Luis Obispo? Without rental property students would have to live in tents, hotels or the dorms.

I agree with Peter Irwin's article on Jan. 27, he should check his facts before making accusations. I own a home in San Luis Obispo and I have just leased a home in Tehachapi which I have just leased out. The lease was for $470 per month (about $90 per month higher than average for a home of that type in that area). My monthly mortgages total $370.34, excluding insurance, taxes, water, and repairs. My average total is $475-$490 a month.

As you can see, no one is lining my wallet! When the house is empty, the bills must be paid regardless. When the last family moved out, over $6,000 had to be spent on repairs. (This does not include the time value for labor.) Most of the $6,000 was to repair damage caused by the renters — then there's always new roofs, leaky pipes, old wiring, faulty furnaces, repainting and the list goes on. I am not making a profit from the sweat of someone else's labor and I don't think I'm a bully. Most of the other owners of rental property are operating under conditions similar to mine.

CYNTHIA BRIGGS
Student Senate needs more public debate

How often do you think 23 student senators can agree on anything unanimously?

Never? One quarter of the time? Half of the time? Interest­ingly, this year's ASI Student Senate has agreed three-quarters of the time. Out of 62 votes (not counting adjournment and approval of minutes) the senate has voted unanimously 46 times.

Such agreement would seem rare among any 23 people, rarer still among supposed politicians.

I asked ASI Vice President John Sweeney about this apparent conformity and lack of controversy in the senate.

"There's been some debate, sometimes even heated debate," Sweeney said.

He cited as an example a recent resolution which called on the library to set up a separate study space for graduate students. In the second-closest vote this year the senate voted 14-8 to approve the resolution. (The closest vote occurred when they voted 12-9 to extend debate five minutes on the matter.)

Sweeney added that some controversial issues such as abortion are purposely avoided. "We deal with issues where we can be most effective," he said.

Another reason for this apparent lack of dissension is the senate workshop. Senators meet informally on Monday prior to their formal Wednesday meeting to discuss issues and hash out difficulties. Although these workshops are open, they are not generally attended by the public.

The workshops are effective in resolving problems and answering questions on issues before they come to a vote on the senate floor. More than one senator has remarked how fast and efficient the workshops have made regular senate meetings.

Unfortunately, the only item missing from the senate workshop is the most important one: the public. Although I'm all for efficient government, I'm also for open and responsive government. I remember the first time I spoke before the Student Senate as a concerned student four years ago. It wasn't as a Monday night workshop but at an official Wednesday night meeting. I hope if some concerned students speak before the senate tonight they won't find the senators had already made up their minds two days before.

Steve Dutton is a regular columnist for Mustang Daily.
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Be sure to check the “Personal Ads” on Monday to see if you’re the winner of our Wednesday drawing. El Corral Bookstore will be having a Wednesday sale on selected merchandise, and will hold a drawing for free prizes. The winner will be announced in Monday’s Personal Ad section.

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Students hit high seas aboard float campus

By Sandy Bradley

A new perspective on life and a tolerance of cockroaches are just two things gained by a pair of Cal Poly students on the Semester At Sea program last September.

Heather Banks, a senior dietetics and food administration major, and DeDe Dietrich, a senior graphic design major, joined nearly 400 students from all over the United States on the S.S. Universe to sail around the world.

Banks and Dietrich visited 10 countries during the course of the 100-day voyage. Ports of call included Kobe, Japan; Busan, Egypt; Istanbul, Turkey; Piraeus, Greece; and Cadiz, Spain. Also, when the ship was in Hong Kong, special trips to the People's Republic of China were sponsored.

Both said the trip was such an intense experience that they are still trying to absorb everything that happened to them.

"We saw so many cultures that were all so different in such a short time, that it's impossible to take it all in," said Dietrich.

"Here we are, nearly a month later, and we still can't believe we went through that much," Banks added.

Banks and Dietrich said they spent half of their time at sea and the other half was spent on shore at the various ports of call.

Classes met six days per week, while at sea. While in port, classes didn't meet formally, but class-oriented field trips and optional pay trips were planned.

Before docking in each country, the students had to be briefed on proper behavior and dress. For instance, in Korea and India, students were warned not to wear shorts in public because it is considered rude.

"A couple of girls went out in India wearing those long Bermuda shorts," said Dietrich.

"and men were actually splitting at them just for that.

"Everywhere we went, we stood out like sore thumbs," she said. "We walked around in our Ray-Bans with our cameras, and backpacks — everyone laughed at us, but it was good in a way because it made us learn to laugh at ourselves and how ridiculous we were.

"I think a lot of kids missed out by only going to department stores and staying at nice hotels," she said. She said she tried to haggle with street vendors, mingle with the local people and stay at provincial hotels to expose herself to the culture and people of each country.

Some sacrifices had to be made to get a feel for each culture.

Dietrich found that every country had more than its share of cockroaches.

"I made my friend sleep with the lights on every night," she said. "Those cockroaches were huge — between one and three inches long — and they didn't care about anything. They'd walk right over your face while you slept. After dealing with them, I know I could live with anything."

The living conditions on board ship were another thing which required adjustment. Two to three people shared a room about half the size of a Sierra Madre dorm room.

"It was really cramped," said Dietrich. "The showers were so tiny, and our room didn't even have a porthole. Everyone slept as much as possible on deck.

To escape the feelings of claustrophobia in their cabins, students swam in the ship pool, exercised in aerobics classes, played volleyball and basketball — anything to keep active, Banks said.

Food was served by a Taiwanese crew in a cafeteria something like a small version of the Cal Poly Dining Hall.

See SEMESTER, page 8
Initial step taken in city parking structures

By Susan Harris

The first step in building multi-level parking decks was approved Monday by the San Luis Obispo City Council after reviewing a feasibility report on six downtown sites.

The council voted to approve the first phase and start the next with the cost estimates and preliminary designs on recommended sites.

A private consulting firm, IBI Group, was retained by the City of San Luis Obispo in August 1985 to recommend sites for the construction of the parking decks.

The six sites were selected by the council and reviewed and evaluated by IBI Group for optimum location, design, cost, and efficiency.

The downtown core and the area surrounding the government buildings have the critical parking problems, said the senior associate to IBI Group, Alastair Bailie. IBI Group recommended that two sites be developed with smaller two or three-level decked lots.

One recommended site is on Palm and Morro streets and this lot would help alleviate the parking problem surrounding the government buildings, Bailie said. The decks would be two and three stories high and contain 407 spaces. The estimated cost per parking space is $10,900, said Bailie.

The second site IBI Group recommended is downtown on Marsh and Broad streets next to the San Luis Obispo Beauty College. This parking design is three levels and would provide 332 spaces. The cost of this site is higher due to the necessity of property acquisition and costs $18,200 per space, Bailie said.

The council requested that all interested parties submit written comments regarding the IBI study, but due to problems with delays with design, IBI Group announced that currently San Luis Obispo has a parking deficiency of 916 spaces and forecasts by 1995 the deficiency will rise to 1031.

Assuming the continued approval by the council and no delays with design, IBI Group forecasts construction on one site to start in July 1986.

We had as many as five or six designs per site. Our goal was to make each one convenient for the users, said Paul Zajfen, IBI Group director.

IBI Group announced that the safety hazards posed by the strip of road the resolution.

“I agree there's a problem,” said Dean Douglas Gerard, “I don't agree it is a painted bike lane.”

Gerard said the area between the Plant and the Science Building is 24 ft wide enough to install a safe bike lane. He added there was an additional safety because parts of Inner Perimeter Road are in condition next to the curb where the lane is installed. If bicyclists were required to
The proposal for bike lane

must be decided around Inner Perimeter Road. Jon would be narrowed.

Resolution falls with the fea­

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Swanson said

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the curb, their wheels could get caught. Repairing

road would cost about $10,000, said Oerard.

"It's not unsafe now because bike riders see

those areas and avoid them," he said.

Gerard suggested that students should be en­
couraged to walk their bikes along high-traffic

areas such as Inner Perimeter Road. "From our

point of view it's the safest way," he said. The

administration currently has no such rule.

"It's impossible both philosophically and prac­
tically for the administration to say, 'Walk your

bike,'" he said. Such a rule would be seen as just

another administration edict and would be hard to

enforce, he said.

Swanson said he is bothered by the committee

decision because he had consulted with members

before writing the resolution. Swanson said he

spoke with Public Safety Director Richard Brug

and Plant Operations Director Ed Naretto, as well

as with Gerard.

"In fact, he (Gerard) asked for the resolution," 

Swanson said. "It took us about four or five weeks

to get the thing out, and we had his support. His

manner was favorable."

"The thing that really bothers me is the ad­

ministration is doing nothing about this safety

problem," Swanson said.
SEASON

From page 1

Dietrich said they ate so much Chinese food, rice and tea that now she doesn't want to have to eat Chinese food for a long while. Seasickness also presented a problem. Dietrich said they encountered rough seas twice on the journey.

"Oh, everyone was so sick! The crew literally had to line barf bags up and down the aiseways, and the closeness of the cabins didn't help any either," said Dietrich.

Sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh and the Institute for the Sea program realized that going to sea was the most depressing, but also the best," said Banks. "But so many Americans don't even think about that. We have so much here to take advantage of that people in other countries only dream about. We have so much here."

Both students said they've developed a sense of social responsibility and new awareness of what is happening in the world.

"Everywhere we went, we'd meet people who knew all about what was happening in the United States," said Banks. "But so many Americans don't even bother to worry about things outside of their own little world."

"I feel I'm a lot more motivated, too," added Dietrich. "We have so much here to take advantage of that people in other countries only dream about. We have so much here!"

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Ultimate club gains respect

By Chris Coates

After finishing fifth in the nation last year, the Cal Poly Ultimate Frisbee Club unquestionably gained the respect of their opponents. Unfortunately, gaining the respect of Cal Poly students hasn't been quite as easy. Club president James Tucker, though, refuses to blame students for the lack of recognition.

"It's our own fault," Tucker said. "You only get out of something what you put into it and we've done very little conscious public relations." One of Tucker's objectives as club president is gaining respect on campus for a sport about which most students know little. But at least the club has the respect of its opponents.

A dark horse in last year's national collegiate finals, which were held Memorial Day weekend at Stanford, Cal Poly upset western regional favorite University of Oregon to finish fifth in the tournament. The tournament, which featured the 12 top-ranked college teams in the country, was sanctioned by the Ultimate Players Association. Affectionately dubbing themselves the "Mudprinu," Cal Poly donned t-shirts decorated with mud-stained footprints, handprints, and pawprints in the tournament.

Started in 1977 as the Frisbee Club, the team is self-supporting. Travel expenses are subsidized through fundraisers. The team changed its name to the Ultimate Frisbee Club in 1984. At first glance, ultimate frisbee resembles football. Confined by boundaries similar to those of a football field, two teams of seven players each attempt to score goals by passing a frisbee into an end zone. Tucker, though, believes such a definition is limited. "Ultimate frisbee is an incredibly fun game," he explained. "It combines basketball, football, soccer, and baseball. It's exciting."

Chris Pratt, also a member of the club, agreed with Tucker, adding that the sport is addictive.

"If I stay away from ultimate frisbee too long, I go through withdrawal," he said.

Pratt, a self-described frisbee fanatic, encourages everyone to try ultimate frisbee.

"If I say away from ultimate frisbee too long, I go through withdrawal," he explained. "You don't have to be a great athlete to play."

Pratt also praised the sport as a great way to keep in shape.

"An ultimate frisbee player runs six to seven miles a game," he added. "You can get into tremendous shape playing the game."

The Ultimate Frisbee Club practices on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 3 p.m. on the women's softball field. The club will participate in the Winter Crystal Ultimate Frisbee Tournament Feb. 15-17 at UC San Diego.

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Where There's Light There's Power.
Student Barbara Flogera watches television in Bishop Lounge in the University Union for news of the shuttle.

### SHUTTLE

From page 1

flight controllers monitored Challenger’s liftoff and ascent, a source said. The source, at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, said the blast occurred "unexpectedly and with absolutely no warning."

“We have a report from the flight dynamics officer that the vehicle has exploded. Flight director confirms that,” said NASA’s Steve Nesbitt.

Mission Control reported that there had been no indication of any problem with the three shuttle engines, its twin solid boosters or any other system and that the shuttle just suddenly blew apart 10 miles high and 8 miles downrange of Cape Canaveral. Ninety minutes after the accident, controllers were still at their consoles, solemnly examining flight data.

Flags at Cape Canaveral were lowered to half-staff. The countdown must go on.”

President Reagan watched video replays in the Staff Dining Room at noon in the White House and fought back tears. Americans had chosen to make a space flight, screamed a search armada of helicopters, and fought back tears. Americans everywhere watched in disbelief as large screen television sets to get the latest news on the disaster. Extra chairs were brought in to accommodate the crowd. Vicki Miller, a senior electrical engineering student whose professor mentioned the disaster in her 9:30 a.m. class, came to the lounge to find out more about the accident. "It's harder when you know there was a teacher on board,” Miller said.

Kevin Piper, a senior natural resources management student, said his professor came into the lab class quietly and made the announcement. "There was definitely a moment of silence. I think people were shocked.”

In a 10 a.m. botany class the professor, according to student Leslie Howard, said, "It just goes to show you—you have to stop and smell the roses because you never know what's going to happen.”

A former Cal Poly professor gave another view of the shuttle disaster.

Retired aeronautical engineering professor Frank Hendel, scheduled to speak Thursday at noon in the Staff Dining Room on "The Next 100 Years in Space," said he will have to respond to questions about the explosion of Challenger.

Hendel said he was critical of present space shuttle designs when he was an Air Force consultant from 1974-1975.

"The main shortcomings were that the solid rocket boosters were inefficient. The rocket boosters use liquid oxygen, which is very heavy, Hendel said.

"Brutal force pushes the rocket. Solid boosters are not as effective in pushing the space shuttle, he added.

"I would like to hear what NASA says tonight (on the news),” Hendel said. When he criticized the shuttle designs, NASA officials told Hendel to "leave it to the contractors,” he said.

—Duffy Carolan

and Craig Andrews

### REACTION

From page 1

resources management major. According to Henry, the teacher in his 9 a.m. statistics class said if this accident can happen in the space shuttle program, Reagan should take note with regards to his "Star Wars” program.

Blake Reed, a senior recreation major, heard the news on the 8:45 a.m. bus to school. "A guy — who just barely made the bus — explained to the bus driver he was late because he was watching the space shuttle,” Blake said. "I asked, 'What about the space shuttle?’ He said, ‘It blew up.’”

"I saw the interview with the family (of the teacher on board the shuttle, Christa McAuliffe) beforehand. I just couldn’t believe it,” said senior journalism student Laura Rosenblum. At 11 a.m. Bishop Lounge in the University Union had more than 50 students crowded around the large screen television set to get the latest news on the disaster. Extra chairs were brought in to accommodate the crowd. Vicki Miller, a senior electrical engineering student whose professor mentioned the disaster in her 9:30 a.m. class, came to the lounge to find out more about the accident. "It's harder when you know there was a teacher on board,” Miller said.

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—Duffy Carolan

and Craig Andrews

NASA astronauts: commander Francis R. Scobee, 46; pilot Michael J. Smith, 40; Judith Resnik, 36; Ronald E. McNair, 33; Ellison S. Onizuka, 39; and Gregory B. Jarvis, 41.

I regret that I have to report that based on very preliminary searches of the ocean where the Challenger impacted this morning, these searches have not revealed any evidence that the crew of Challenger survived,” Moore, NASA associate administrator, told a midafternoon news conference.

Col. John Shults, director of Defense Department contingency operations here, said a search armada of helicopters, ships and planes had spotted several pieces of debris floating in the Atlantic.

"We have seen several pieces, what looked to be about five or 10 feet long and a couple feet wide,” he said. The debris will be recovered and brought to a hangar at nearby Patrick Air Force Base.

The president watched video replays in "stunned silence," and sent Vice President George Bush here to convey his sympathies to the families of the crew.

"It's a terrible thing,” Reagan told reporters, "I just can't get out of my mind her (Mrs. McAuliffe) husband, her children, as well as the families of the others on board.

"Oh, my God, no!" exclaimed first lady Nancy Reagan, who was watching the launch in the White House family quarters.

New Hampshire schoolchildren, drawn to this launch because of the presence of McAuliffe, the first "common citizen" chosen to make a space flight, screamed and fought back tears. Americans everywhere watched in disbelief as television networks replayed the shuttle explosion.

Addressing schoolchildren who watched this flight more closely than others because a teacher was aboard and many special projects were planned for them, Reagan said:

"I know it's hard to understand, but sometimes painful things like this happen. It's all part of the process of exploration and discovery. It's all part of taking a chance and expanding man's horizons.” Earlier he had said, "You have to be out there on the frontier taking risks. Make it plain to them that life must go on.

"I guess we always knew there would be a day like this,” said Glenn. A congressional investigation was immediately announced, but many lawmakers were quick to express support for the nation's manned space effort.