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, '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
Rec facility proposal is big issue: learn about it

The best opinion is an informed one. Students will be asked to vote on Feb. 5 and 6 whether or not they support the construction of a $10.8 million recreational facility.

An informative panel discussion will be held in the University Union Plaza tomorrow at 11 a.m. President Baker will attend to present opening remarks. Students will be welcome to ask questions during the discussion.

Information booklets are also available and can be found at the UU Information desk, the Recreation Sports Office and other areas around campus.

The proposed recreational facility would provide a variety of sporting facilities. It would also increase fees.

To understand the complexities of the proposal, we urge students to attend the panel discussion and to research the issue thoroughly before making a decision.

Landlords not bullies: they provide a service

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 "did 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.

GREG MCKENNEY
Landlord says costs exceed tenant income

Editor — In regards to 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 it out. The lease was for $470 per month (about $50 per month higher than average for a home of that type in that area).

My monthly mortgages total $370.34, including insurance, taxes, water, and repairs. My average total is $475-$480 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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
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? Afterwards, this year's ASI Student Senate has agreed three-quarters of the time. 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, rare among any persons, especially among students, residents said. But there were no other reports of racial unrest that led to the deaths of more than 1,000 people, trouble, and the fragile accord appeared to have opened the door to classes for the new academic year on the strength of a pact ended two years of school boycotu Tuesday and streamed back to normalizing the long-troubled black schools.

COOLEY SAID.

Elizabeth, where boycotts cut attendance for much of 1984 and 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 14-6 to extend debate five minutes on the matter.

Sweeney added that some controversial issues such as abortion are generally attended by the public. 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 Duxton is a regular columnist for Mustang Daily.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drunk driving arrest report is insensitive

Editor — I just can't get over the insensitivity of your reporters in an article you published. It's one thing to read an article about events happening on campus or something happening to a group or club, but when you focus on the mishap of a single college guy, that's outright embarrassing.

A friend of mine got arrested a couple of nights ago. He's been really down and feels like he really messed up. Tuesday the story of him being arrested was in Mustang Daily for every college student to read. How degrading! His friends care, but those who are just his acquaintances or maybe have just heard his name, now really have something to talk about. It wasn't just a corner, but you printed it in the center of the page with a box around it. Students are individuals, not just subjects to write about!

LYNDA CORNELL

Editor's note: It is the policy of Mustang Daily to print the names of students arrested on campus for drunkenness, theft, rape and murder. Such notices are not intended to imply guilt; that is something that is left to the courts. 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.

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Looking for the right answers?"

Be sure to check the "Personals" 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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**Entry coupons available at Bookstore.**
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 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.

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 was 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," said Dietrich. 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 spent as much time 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.

Cal Poly students
Heather Banks and DeDe Dietrich flank Cal Poly alumnus Richard Johnson. The trio took a 100-day voyage around the world as part of the Semester At Sea program.
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 Baillie.

IBI Group recommended that two sites be developed with smaller two or three-level deck lots.

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

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 $18,200 per space, Baillie said.

The council requested that all interested parties submit written comments regarding the IBI to start in July 1986.

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

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The proposal for bike lane

the curb, their wheels could get caught. Repairing the road would cost about $10,000, said Oerard. "It's not unsafe now because bike riders see those areas and avoid them," he said.

Oerard suggested that students should be encouraged 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 practically 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 administration is doing nothing about this safety problem," Swanson said.

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S E M E S T E R

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. Seastickness 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 aisways, and the closeness of the cabins didn't help any either," said Dietrich.

Sponsored by the University of Pittsburgh and the Institute for Shipboard Education, the Semester At Sea program requires that students take between 12 and 16 semester units of general education courses such as political science, psychology, economics and business.

All credits earned while on the trip are supposed to be transferable, but Dietrich said she did have some trouble with the acceptance of her credits by Cal Poly.

"It was a struggle, that's for sure," she said. "But eventually everything worked out all right, and it didn't put me behind in school."

The base cost for the trip starts at around $9,000 for the semester. Any other personal or travel expenses must be met by the student.

Banks and Dietrich agree that despite the sometimes less-than-ideal living conditions, the trip was well worth the cost. "It was really worth 10 times that much," said Dietrich. "I feel I gained a new sense of social responsibility. It made me realize that we're just such a small part of the world as a whole. There's so much more out there than people don't even think about."

Both said the voyage gave them a greater appreciation for all the things they have. Dietrich said one experience that helped her put her own life into perspective and made her realize just how good she really has it, happened in Sri Lanka.

"We visited an orphanage of all handicapped children. The conditions were so filthy and the children so destitute that it made me realize just how insignificant my problems really are," she said. "It's funny, but I think that was my best experience on my trip. It was the most depressing, but also the best."

Banks said her most memorable experience was when she and some friends sneaked out and climbed the pyramids in Egypt.

"It was so awesome to be up there in the pitch black darkness with all this desert surrounding us, and to think that we were on something that was over 5,000 years old," said one experience that helped Dietrich accept the fact she really has it, happened in Sri Lanka.

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.

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 withdrawals,” he said.

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

“If I say way from ultimate frisbee too long, I go through withdrawals,” 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.
Ciaated

AIR CONDITIONING CLUB MEETING: First Tues. of month in CSU Union. Phone 543-3479.

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SHUTTLE

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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 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."

The president watched video replays 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 Reid, 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.

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 off the ground. The shuttle, he pointed out, is not very 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.

"I regret that I have to report that based on the 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 sympathy 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 tele-

vision 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.