daily nebraskan

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# Venus probe crashes but still transmits information

Mountain View, Calif.-Five probes plunged through Venus' atmosphere Saturday, transmitting data to elated scientists monitoring the first comprehensive U.S. effort to study Earth's nearest planetary neighbor.

In an unexpected development, one of the four probes that hit the surface continued to transmit after impact. The last gave out after an hour.

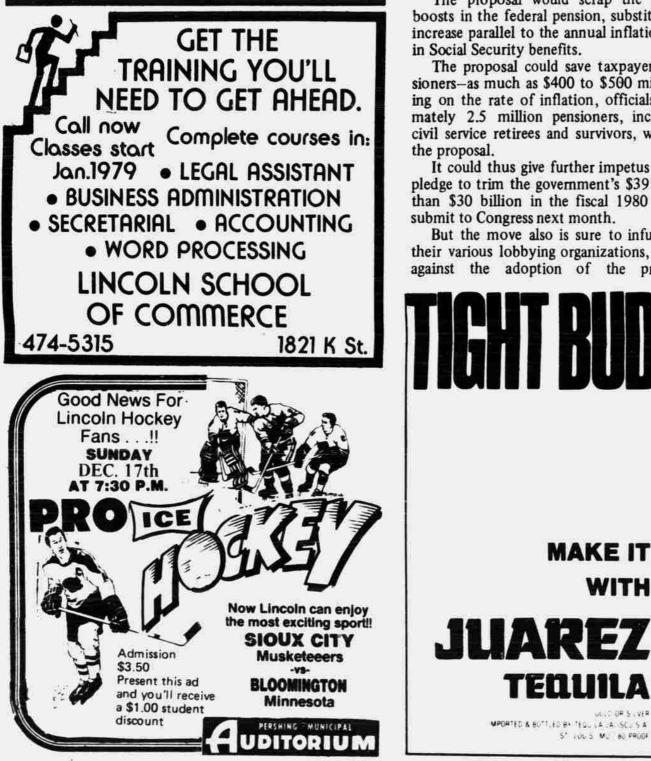
"This is a very successful mission," said spokesman Larry King at Ames Research Center. "We are receiving excellent, beautiful data. This is an accomplishment of a magnitude beyond that which has ever been accomplished before."

The four probes made the hour-long descent within minutes of each other, while the fifth, the cylindrical "bus" that carried the probes from Earth, plunged into the venusian atmosphere an hour later. It burned up within two minutes after sending back its share of data.

American scientists plan to swap information about this mission with Soviet researchers, who hope to gather

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data from two Soviet probes, Venera 11 and 12, which are to land on Venus later this month.

#### Gas price lid kept

Washington-With gasoline prices already moving up, the Carter administration is considering a delay in its plan to abolish price ceilings for gasoline early next year, administration officials say.

### associated press

The officials said Carter still is convinced that gasoline deregulation is the right move. But, they said, there is concern the timing may not be right because of the possible impact on inflation.

"It isn't a question of whether there will be decontrol. The question is when," said Energy Department spokeswoman Gail Bradshaw.

Th White House said Friday that President Carter has made no decision on whether to go ahead with ending the controls.

#### Pension cutbacks planned

Washington-As part of its anti-inflation program, the Carter Administration is considering a proposal to cut back automatic cost-of-living adjustments in military and civil service pensions.

The proposal would scrap the current twice-a-year boosts in the federal pension, substituting a single yearly increase parallel to the annual inflation adjustments made

The proposal could save taxpayers-and cost the pensioners-as much as \$400 to \$500 million a year depending on the rate of inflation, officials estimate. Approximately 2.5 million pensioners, including military and civil service retirees and survivors, would be affected by

It could thus give further impetus to President Carter's pledge to trim the government's \$39 billion deficit to less than \$30 billion in the fiscal 1980 budget that he will

But the move also is sure to infuriate pensioners and their various lobbying organizations, who fought bitterly against the adoption of the present cost-of-living



adjustment formula in place of a more generous one considered earlier.

The administration officials, who asked not to be named, said President Carter has not made a final decision on whether to seek the cutback.

But they pointed out that the move would be consistent with anti-inflation pronouncements calling on all groups in America to make sacrifices in the interest of combatting rising prices.

#### Toy accidents

Hawthorne, Calif.-Mattel Inc. says it has begun attaching warning labels to its "Battlestar Galactica" toys because of reports of three accidents involving the products.

Company officials said Friday that label will be attached to Mattel's "Colonial Scarab," "Colonial Stellar probe" and "Cyclon Raider," toy space vehicles equipped to launch "missiles."

#### Underground water shortage

Washington-A government report about the depletion of underground water supplies in the United States is being prepared for President Carter that includes criticisms of some of the most sensitive agricultural policy areas.

For example, a draft of the report says that the entire system of government price supports for wheat, corn and many other crops may be contributing directly to shortages of underground water reserves.

Support levels and acreage allotments, where applicable, may make it profitable to grow crops irrespective of the water situation in the area," the report said.

"This leads to overextension in water-short areas. Also, removal of some cropland from production may create an incentive to maximize yields on the remaining land."

One way to solve this is to reduce the federal price supports on crops, thus making it less profitable for farmers to drill more irrigation wells and pump more water for their fields, the report said.

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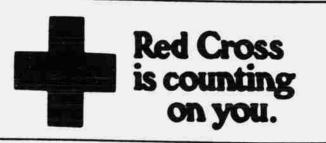
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