

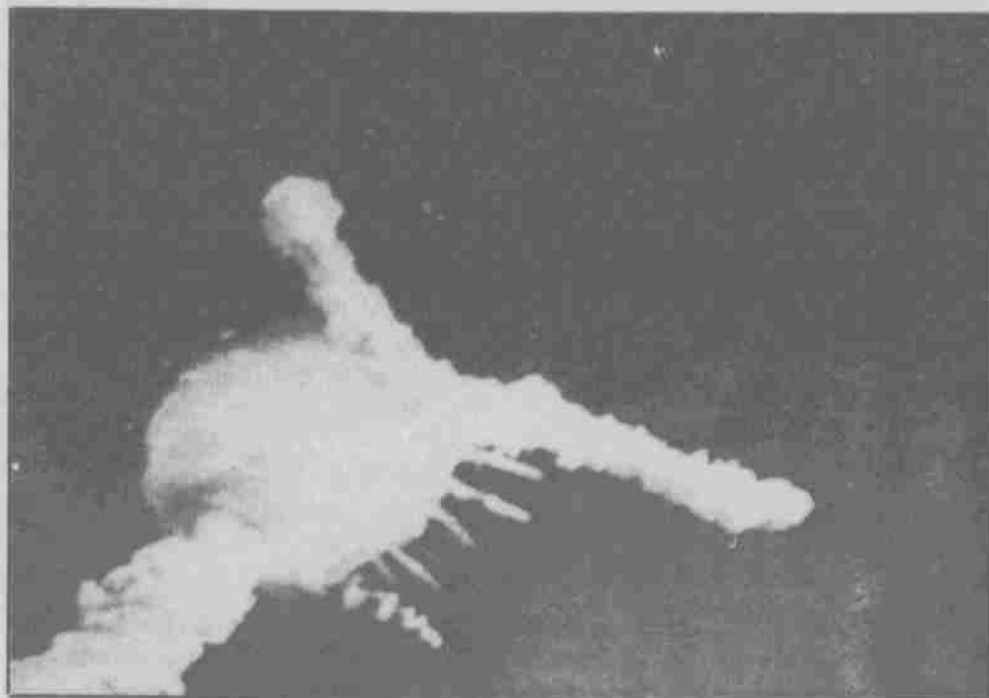
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Explosion rips Challenger



Sequence photos show the destruction of the Space Shuttle Challenger, 75 seconds into the mission from Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Tuesday.

Photos courtesy of CBS News



Mark Davis/Daily Nebraskan

Students watch as the explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger is replayed on the Nebraska Union's large-screen TV.

UNL students gather around TVs in shock, disbelief at news of shuttle

Shock and disbelief spread throughout campus Tuesday as students and faculty members rushed to TVs and radios for reports of the Space Shuttle Challenger's in-flight explosion.

Story compiled by staff reporters Diana Johnson, Kent Endacott, Jeff Apel, and Todd von Kampen.

The explosion killed seven crew members, including the first private citizen, schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe. Challenger's destruction was the first time U.S. astronauts have died in flight.

Soon after the mid-morning explosion, about 100 students clustered around TVs in the Nebraska Union to watch news reports of the tragedy.

The reusable NASA craft, speeding toward orbit at 1,977 mph, exploded about 75 seconds after liftoff, according to The Associated Press. The shuttle was 19.35 miles above the earth and 8.05 miles downrange from the launch

pad in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Gasps echoed through the union's lounge as students watched TV footage of the shuttle exploding in midair and plummeting into the ocean.

As ABC news anchorman Peter Jennings described the catastrophe, students listened to reports in astonishment, tears flowing down some of their faces.

"I didn't believe it," said David Nelson, a sophomore computer science major. "When they came in (to class) and said the shuttle crashed, I thought they were joking."

Mark Janda, a senior philosophy major, said his first thoughts were of McAuliffe and her students. The children saw their teacher die, he said.

"Imagine how they feel," Tony Coe, a sophomore business major, also said he sympathized with McAuliffe and her family.

"Astronauts know what they're getting into. It's in their contracts," Coe said. "But a teacher...this isn't sup-

posed to happen to a teacher."

Brian Harrison, an undeclared freshman, said he thinks the event will bring "much-needed attention" to the space program.

"I think it will make us appreciate the next missions a hell of a lot more," Harrison said.

Harrison said the regularity of space shuttle flights had begun to seem monotonous.

"We never knew when they were going up or coming down," he said. "In our highly mobile world, we forget little things like that."

Harrison said he noted the change from the 1960s "when people were glued to their TVs watching the rockets take off."

Harrison and other students said they think future space shuttle flights will be delayed. They also said improved security checks would lessen the possibility that similar incidents would occur.

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Orr: current budget sufficient to sustain NU

By Kent Endacott
Senior Reporter

Gubernatorial candidate Kay Orr, calling for fairness to all Nebraskans, said Monday that Gov. Bob Kerrey's current budget is sufficient to maintain UNL as a "good university."

"As governor," Orr said, "it's important to represent the whole state, not just the university. It's not just the money."

Kerrey's 1986-87 budget calls for \$165.6 million in NU's state support and \$841 million overall.

Speaking at a Collegians for Kay Orr rally held in the Nebraska Union, Orr said the university should consider cutting some programs in order to increase faculty salaries.

Orr said she would work to improve communication between the executive branch, the legislative and the NU Board of Regents if elected governor.

She also said Nebraska needs to conduct a tax study and raise taxes if necessary.

"If you need to jack up taxes, then do so," she said.

However, she said, the basic income tax structure should be maintained. The Nebraska state income tax is currently set at 19 percent of the federal income tax liability.

She said she favors abolishing Initiative 300 to encourage a more diversified agricultural economy in the state.

"Initiative 300 is supposed to save the family farm and limit corporate ownership of farms," she said. "But how many family farms has it saved?"

Seeds of yew fruit

Rest of plant bitter but not lethal, says horticulturalist

By Jonathan Taylor
Senior Reporter

The yew plant is no more poisonous than many common plants, said a university horticulturalist.

But authorities say the plant could be the possible cause of death of Robert A. Hogendorn, a UNL agriculture student who died early Friday.

Bill Gustafson Jr., an associate professor of horticulture and extension research agent at UNL, said the bad reputation that the small, shrublike plant has quickly obtained is unwarranted.

Only the seed of the plant is poisonous to humans, he said. The red fruit around the seed and the dark

green foliage of the plant are not harmful. But livestock, especially horses, can become sick and die after eating the plant, he said.

For a person to become ill or die from the plant, he said, one would have to digest the contents of a yew-fruit seed. Swallowing the seed whole may not be dangerous, Gustafson said. Even rhubarb, he said, which has poisonous leaves, is more dangerous than the yew. Leaves of tomato and potato plants are also toxic, although their fruit is edible.

There is no proof that the leaves of the yew are poisonous, Gustafson said, and there have been no known deaths caused by the plant.

Gustafson, who ate part of a yew plant leaf Monday, said the foliage

"tasted so bitter . . . that a person would have to be forced to eat it."

If a person could eat more than a small part of the plant, he said, the person probably would become nauseated and vomit.

Gustafson said he and another horticulture student tasted the plant so they could describe it to reporters and other people who had inquired about the plant.

There are between 500 and 1,000 yew plants on the UNL campus, said Bud Dasenbrock, director of UNL's grounds department. Most of the plants are small shrubs, he said, but there are several forms, varying from 2-foot-tall shrubs to 12-foot-tall evergreen-like trees.

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