

# News Digest

By The Associated Press

## Thiokol: NASA ignored warnings against liftoff

WASHINGTON — Top NASA officials who gave the go-ahead to launch the ill-fated Challenger mission were never told of a low temperature reading of 7 to 8 degrees on the shuttle's right booster rocket prior to liftoff, according to the space agency.

Jesse Moore, head of the space shuttle program and the top-ranking official involved in the launch decision, told a Senate hearing Tuesday that if he had known of the reading "I would have asked more questions."

The temperature on the morning of the Jan. 28 launch has been a focus of a presidential commission's investigation into the shuttle accident because of concern that the cold might have affected the performance of critical O-ring seals between segments of the shuttle's two

rocket boosters.

At the time of the launch the air temperature had risen to 38 degrees, but a dramatically lower temperature on the surface of the booster might have been an indication that super-cold liquid hydrogen was leaking from the huge external fuel tank, investigators say.

Richard Feynman, a physicist on the presidential commission, said he does not believe the low temperature readings were caused by a cold hydrogen leak. In Wednesday's editions of the Washington Post, he said the readings could have been a result of breezes blowing past the cold external fuel tank onto the booster rocket.

The Post also said that, "at the urging of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration," officials of booster manufacturer Morton Thiokol

agreed to the cold-weather launch on the eve of liftoff after twice recommending against it.

"Even at that point, however, a senior Thiokol official at Cape Canaveral refused to endorse the recommendation," the Post quoted an unnamed commission member as saying "This shook us to the socks. We were unprepared for it. . . . It changed the whole tone of the investigation."

The Post source said after hearing about that last week in a closed session at the launch site, "We threw everybody out of the room and . . . decided we had to tell the president."

Rogers called Donald T. Regan, the White House chief of staff, and said he was "appalled" to learn that key information about the shuttle's condition hadn't reached top NASA officials, according to the Post.

Moore told the space subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee that the reading was recorded on a hand-held infrared scanner used by workers examining the shuttle for ice contamination on the morning of the launch. No word of the low temperature reading was ever relayed to officials charged with deciding whether to go ahead with the launch, he said.

"Would that have caused you to have a material concern?" asked Sen. Donald Riegle, D-Mich.

"I believe I would have asked some more questions about what the reading indicated," Moore responded.

But Moore cautioned several times that the instruments making the low temperature readings are difficult to operate and he said the likelihood of error could be "quite substantial."

## Anti-Marcos bureau chief shot to death

GLENDALE, Calif. — An executive of the Philippine News, a newspaper opposed to the regime of Ferdinand Marcos, was shot to death at home Wednesday after receiving a threatening note, authorities said.

Several shots were fired in Oscar Salvatierra's bedroom at his single-story Chevy Chase Canyon home, police Sgt. Randy Tampa said.

Salvatierra's elderly mother, who speaks no English, was in the house about 10 miles north of downtown Los Angeles and called police to report the crime after she heard gunshots, he said.

Police fanned out through the

neighborhood, but no immediate witnesses were found, Tampa said.

Chris Lopez, a spokeswoman for Sen. Alan Cranston, said the senator was notified by the San Francisco headquarters of the Philippine News.

Salvatierra, 38, a naturalized American citizen with four children, had received a written warning Tuesday, said Ben Aniceto, Los Angeles editor for the Philippine News. Salvatierra was Los Angeles bureau manager of the newspaper.

"Philippine News is a disgrace to the Filipino community in the U.S.," Aniceto quoted the note as saying.

"Through your paper your unwarranted accusations and lies have attacked your own countrymen. You should be ashamed to call yourselves Filipinos. So for your crimes, you are sentenced to death by execution."

Cranston said in a statement that he had asked FBI director William H. Webster to investigate "this atrocity." Cranston said he also asked Webster to protest Philippine News publisher Alex Esclamado in San Francisco and the paper's sales representative, Stan Aragon, and members of their families after they received similar threats. A letter to Aragon said: "You are going to be next," Ms. Lopez said.

## Caller claims Israeli soldier killed

TYRE, Lebanon — An anonymous telephone caller claimed Wednesday night that Moslem extremists had killed one of two kidnapped Israeli soldiers after the Israeli army ignored a warning to stop searching for the victims in south Lebanon villages.

The man, saying he spoke for the Islamic Resistance Front, said in a call to the leading Beirut independent newspaper, An-Nahar, that the group would release a polaroid photograph of the slain Israeli today.

About 1,000 Israeli soldiers scoured south Lebanon for the third day Wednesday, searching Shi'ite Moslem villages for the two soldiers who had been kidnapped in a Monday ambush on a checkpoint in the Israeli "security

zone" in south Lebanon.

Guerrillas of the Islamic Resistance, an alliance of fundamentalist Shi'ite Moslems, had said one of the Israeli soldiers would be killed Wednesday unless the Israelis pulled back across the border.

Maj. Gen. Ori Orr, Israel's northern commander, said his men would continue the search.

The guerrillas, who had said in anonymous communications that both Israelis were being treated for serious wounds, also vowed to shell settlements in northern Israel.

"In confirmation of the pledge we made earlier...the Islamic Resistance carried out the death sentence on one

of the two Israeli hostages at 9 p.m. this (Wednesday) evening," the anonymous caller to An-Nahar said.

There was no way to determine whether the caller was telling the truth and he did not say which of the two Israelis had been killed.

Copies of the Israeli identity cards made public by the Islamic Resistance identified the captives as Yossi Fink, a British-born immigrant, and Rahamim al-Sheikh, both 21.

Israeli units moved by helicopter and on the ground behind tanks, with the support of jets and clattering gunships overhead. Israeli patrol boats moved up the coast, occasionally shelling highways to keep Moslem guerrillas in Beirut from moving south.

## WSU students, faculty rap repairs

WICHITA, Kan. — Some faculty members and students at Wichita State University are upset over administrators' decision to spend it nearly \$100,000 to remodel a boardroom where administrators meet.

"We seem to be putting a lot of money into, shall I say, image-making instead of substance," associate history professor John Dreifort said of the \$94,500 Morrison Hall boardroom remodeling plan.

Roger Lowe, the university's vice president of administration and finance, said the room has not been remodeled since the hall was built in 1962 and needs to be modernized.

**'We seem to be putting a lot of money into, shall I say, image-making instead of substance.'**

— Dreifort

"The room itself was extremely unattractive and really poor for a meeting room," Lowe said. "It will be used for fundraising. And if you're going to entice people to provide money to give to you, you don't

bring them in and try to sell them in a room that has deteriorated to the point it does not provide the image the institution needs."

The \$94,500 was approved by the Legislature as part of Wichita State's operating budget, but not earmarked for a specific project. University administrators decided to spend it on the boardroom, which is used on the average about three days a week.

But some faculty and students question how administrators can justify the expense when money is so tight across campus.

Some faculty and students said it would have been better to spend the money on a one-time allocation to each of the university's colleges to help pay for materials and travel costs.

"None of us in student government are happy about this," said Steve DesMarteau, ombudsman for the university. "The students I've talked to think it's very stupid. The point is we keep getting told that there's no money for research and all sorts of things. Yet they decide to spend all this money to remodel one room."

### Daily Nebraskan

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## February 28, 1986 is the Deadline!

All applications for the Student Health and Accident Insurance must be received by February 28, 1986.

Brochures and information are available at:

UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER  
or call 472-7437

### Check these points:

- Am I still eligible for coverage under my parent's plan?
  - A. Is there an age limit? Most policies limit the age for dependent coverage to age 23.
  - B. Are you thinking of marriage? Most policies exclude a dependent after he becomes married.
- Have I declared financial independence from my parents by receiving financial aid, and no longer eligible as a dependent under their plan?
- Would a medical emergency deplete funds set aside for my education?

