

NASA hurt by lack of finances

WASHINGTON (AP)—NASA is finding out about the perils of private enterprise the hard way, supporting a space shuttle contractor who is having trouble finding customers, says the federal agency's inspector general.

NASA's IG is recommending that the agency stop its financial support of Spacehab Inc., which builds compartments to extend living and working room in the space shuttle.

Spacehab is supposed to pay NASA out of fees it receives from renting space in its compartments. With one exception, the only rental customer has been NASA.

The company was hailed in the Reagan administration as a pioneer of private enterprise in space.

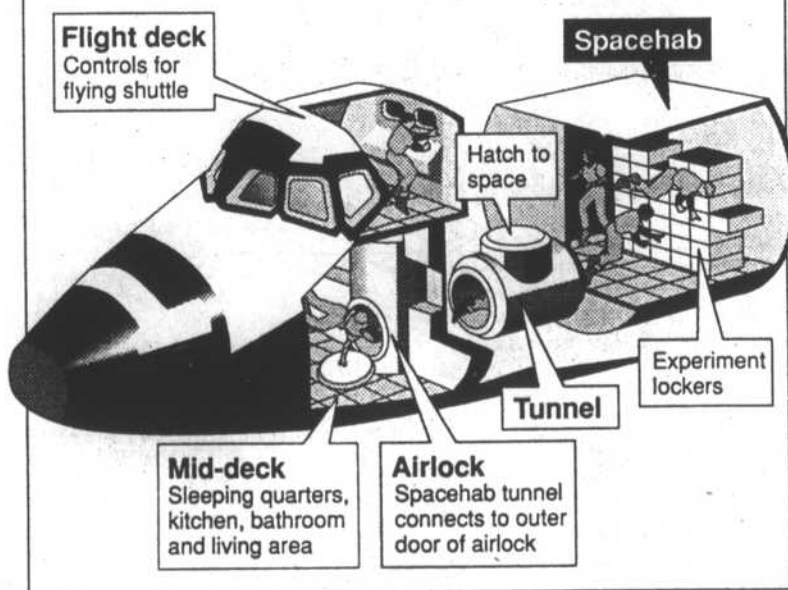
But "because commercial customers have not been secured, this private sector venture cannot succeed independent of NASA funding," said the report prepared by Robert Raspen, NASA deputy assistant inspector general for auditing.

The existence of the report was disclosed Monday by the industry publication, Space News. Spacehab's office in Arlington, Va., and government offices were closed for Columbus Day and no one could be reached for comment.

Spacehab built two compartments, each 10 feet long and 13.5 feet in diameter, and looked for customers from private industry. Only one of the Spacehabs has flown to date, in June, and its only non-NASA customer was the European Space Agency which rented one of 50 lockers; NASA paid

Spacehab module expands shuttle

The commercially-developed module provides additional room for experiments and equipment. It has flown in space only once.



Source: NASA

Earthquake hits Tokyo, registers 7.1 on scale

TOKYO (AP)—A strong earthquake jolted Tokyo and a wide area of Japan early Tuesday. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage.

The quake, centered far under the Pacific Ocean, registered a preliminary 7.1 on the Richter scale, according to the Central Meteorological Agency. The U.S. Geological Society in Menlo Park, Calif., estimated the magnitude at 6.6.

The quake, which struck at 12:55 a.m. (11:55 a.m. Monday EDT), shook Tokyo and neighboring Yokohama the strongest, but was felt as far away as Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, more than 500 miles to the north, the meteorological agency said.

The quake was centered about 270 miles southwest of Tokyo and about 250 miles below the ocean's floor, and therefore had relatively little effect on land despite its strength, the agency said.

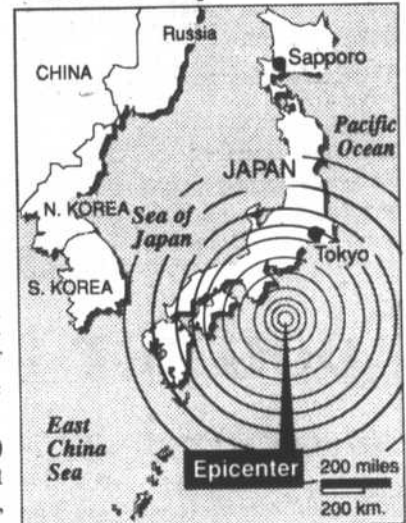
It said there was no danger of tsunami, or quake-induced ocean waves.

The Japan Broadcasting Corp. said there were no reports of injuries, damage or fires.

The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake, as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph. Every increase of one number means that the ground motion is 10 times greater.

A quake of magnitude 6 can cause severe damage in populated areas; one of magnitude 7 is considered a major earthquake, capable of widespread, heavy damage in populated areas.

Powerful earthquake shakes Japan



Richter scale

The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake, as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph.

MAGNITUDE & QUAKE DESCRIPTION

- 8.0** Considered a "great" earthquake, capable of tremendous damage in populated areas
- 7.0** Considered a major earthquake, capable of widespread, heavy damage in populated areas
- 6.0** Can cause severe damage in populated areas

for use of the rest.

Space shuttles have limited room for experiments in the crew compartment middeck. The lockers add volume for microgravity experiments and living room for astronauts.

Spacehab has a \$184 million contract with NASA to provide the equivalent of 200 middeck lockers—two-thirds of the total—in six flights through October 1996. The company has been soliciting outside customers for the remaining one-third capacity.

Space News said "Spacehab has not signed up any commercial customers for two flights scheduled for 1994. It will fly the second flight half empty—costing Spacehab millions of dollars—if NASA does not agree

to add more of its own experiments."

When Spacehab sold the idea to NASA in 1986, its announcement said "Growing private sector demand for middeck experiment space will provide a substantial market for Spacehab module services during the 1990s."

But because of the lack of a commercial market, NASA has been forced to accelerate payments to Spacehab from \$82 million to \$96 million, while NASA has collected only \$500,000 from an expected \$14 million in flight fees, Raspen's report said.

Spacehab disputed that, saying NASA originally had promised to pay more than \$96 million through 1993, Space News said.

Day opens doors for gays

By Dionne Searcey
Senior Reporter

Members of UNL's Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Student Association sat at the Coming Out Day booth Monday in the most popular hangout on campus: the middle of the Nebraska Union.

Some students glanced at the booth on their way to class. Some stopped to chat or pick up a free condom or two. Some passers-by simply passed by.

David Bolkovac, co-chairman of GLBSA, said the booth was an attempt to increase awareness in the student community of alternate lifestyles on campus.

A big part of Coming Out Day, he said, is to encourage homosexual students to let others know about their sexuality.

"They don't need to hide any longer," Bolkovac said.

Unlike other minorities, he said, gays and lesbians aren't distinguished easily from other students.

"We can blend in if we want," Bolkovac said. "We're here, and we can't be ignored."

Once students make known their lifestyle choices, he said, they can bond together and form a strong homosexual community.

Sunday was national Coming Out Day. At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Monday was Coming Out

Day, the start of Coming Out Week. University Program Council members and GLBSA members worked together to plan events for the week, including Monday's booth.

Students who stopped at the booth were offered condoms and literature about homosexual life and safe sex.

GLBSA members at the booth also offered students small stickers decorated with pink triangles in green circles. The stickers represent a "safe place," Bolkovac said.

The sticker serves as an indicator to students questioning their sexuality, he said. The person wearing the sticker will be open to discussion, he said, and will provide safety from hostile attitudes.

The UNL Affirmative Action and Diversity Office sent the stickers to all university departments and asked administrators to distribute them to faculty and staff members.

Events at this year's Coming Out Week have been scaled back because last year members were "burnt out" at the end of the week, Bolkovac said. Members instead focused on publicizing this week's activities, he said.

A dance, "Lavender Couch," will be at the Culture Center at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Pedro Ramirez II, a member of the Mexican-American Student Association who attended the retreat, said he was inspired by the weekend event.

"When we left the camp, I felt ready to go out and get some things done," Ramirez said. "I felt very, very motivated."

Ramirez said the retreat gave students a chance to get some feelings "out in the open" by learning to attack stereotypical barriers with straightforward talk.

"People found not to be scared to ask or to say something," he said.

Though the retreat produced many positive results, UNL still has a long road to diversity, Ramirez said.

"A few more eyes could still stand to be opened," he said. "So often, students fall into a comfort zone. They live in their own separate world and don't want to be part of anything different. Hopefully, we can change all that."

Retreat

Continued from Page 1

ty," had several objectives:

- to define and examine the dynamics of a community.
- to review national demographics and population trends.
- to explore ethnic, racial and cultural uniqueness, as well as shared similarities and differences.
- to create an awareness of the psychological stress and anxiety associated with being a minority.
- to explore how perception shapes attitude and behavior. Griesen said the retreat was successful in opening students' eyes to different cultures and ethnicities.

"We aim for (students) to come away with a different understanding of diversity relations," he said. "We want to get varying perceptions of campus life to help build bridges across the different groups of people on cam-

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