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Happy
Valentine's
Day

Shuttle Disaster Claims the Lives of Crew members

By A. Joildon
U.S.A. Today

The heavens promised to become a classroom as the space shuttle Challenger blazed majestically towards the stars.

Millions of students and teachers, primed to watch and learn from the first teacher in space, waited in awe and wonder Tuesday morning. Students gathered around model space shuttles. Teachers switched on TVs to show the often-delayed countdown.

Children from astronaut Christa McAuliffe's hometown of Concord, New England, stood on rivers near the Cape Canaveral launch pad, red and white visored caps craned upward as their teacher-heroine headed for space.

Then, in a searing, white flash, a science lesson tragically exploded into a human lesson. Seven lives disappeared in the beautiful blue sky over Florida.

Teachers, students, and an entire nation began learning the unplanned lesson of Challenger's last flight. The cost of unlocking the secrets of the universe is high, the risks great.

"One minute there was the anticipation, the laughter, the dreams and the next minute there was a horrible, horrible explosion," said Gordon Corbett, a Yarmouth, Maine, science teacher. "God, this is awful, this is the worst thing that has ever happened."

The explosion silenced classrooms, put school flags at half-staff and sent grief through the ranks of USA teachers who were so proud that one of their colleagues had suited up for the mission.

All 1,200 Concord High School students were cheering the launch when a teacher asked them to be silent. Some murmured, "This can't be real...we can't be watching this." The students were sent home early, tearful heads bowed.

In Spring Valley, Ill., Superintendent Walt Westrum's students were "ecstatic. They counted down in unison with NASA, and when the ship lifted off, huge applause erupted. Then all of a sudden..."

Westrum had set up the 2,000-school "Classroom Earth" network of 2.5-million students to receive lessons broadcast from the spacecraft. "The teacher would have looked out her window and seen her whole classroom-Earth."

In Cheyenne, Wyo., Michael Pearson, one of more than 100 finalist for the teacher-in-space spot, shared the tragedy with 450 students in a high school auditorium, then went home where he found this note form his students:

"Dear Mr. Pearson. We know how badly you feel. Please don't cry. If you feel you need to talk to someone come to us."

Marie Ishee, science teacher at Houston's Northbrook Senior High School, said, "I saw the flash but paid no attention to it. I had the same feeling when John F. Kennedy was shot. I couldn't believe it. There was dead silence when I told my students about it."

Students at Royal View Elementary School in North Royalton, Ohio, a Cleveland suburb, had built a miniature shuttle on a school bus. Todd Jacobs, 10, said, "Most everybody was sitting there, just staring."

Allen Barwick was teaching physics at Wilson Senior High in Washington, D.C., when he was told the shuttle had exploded. Crying "No, no, no, it's not true!" he fell to the floor, crying.

With the first in-flight tragedy to strike the USA's space program, parents and educators worried about

the children who witnessed an incident unmatched except by film or video fiction. It could have been their teacher.

Salem, Conn., mathematics teacher David H. Wordell, another finalist, said, "It will scar them. It will take a long time to get over such a personal tragedy."

Pediatrician T. Berry Brazelton of Harvard Medical School said putting a teacher in space makes the tragedy more personal to the young.

"They took a mother of small children and school teacher. They opened everybody's hearts and minds to it. Now it's going to be extra hard."

But psychologist Joyce Brothers said children can learn from this to "not be afraid of their future" and realize pursuing knowledge "outweighs the tragedy of those who have taken a risk and lost."

Some students' reaction reflected world tensions. A sixth-grader at Chinook Middle School in Bellevue, Wash., Brian Schielke, said, "I was scared. I thought maybe it had been shot down by the Russians." And Elizabeth Costello, principal of St. Rose of Lima School in Denver, Colo., said a first-grader asked if a terrorist sabotaged the craft.

The tragedy could mark adults just as deeply - if not more deeply. George Hamilton, Philadelphia planetarium director, said space flights are routine for children. "Adults will be more shocked."

Wordell said after he heard the news, "I couldn't teach. I couldn't talk to anyone. It's still a shock. I could have been that person. It comes home."

Some schools canceled classes for the day. But Washington, D.C., biology teacher Nancy Cooks said, "I wanted to stay here. I deal with things best

when I deal with them through my students."

The Challenger disaster seems fated for a place beside the Kennedy assassination in the nation's memory. People will always remember where they were and what they were doing and the catastrophe will shape the thoughts, and lives, of the millions watching.

Paul Castelli, 10, fifth-grader at Immaculate Conception Monastery School, Queens, N.Y.: "I always wanted to be an astronaut, and still do. One explosion doesn't mean there's going to be one every time." Debbie Bauer, 12, a seventh-grader: "I thought it would be great to send a teacher in space. Now I think you don't know what can happen there."

David Hoff, a high school physical science teacher in Velva, N.D.: "A lot of hopes and dreams of a lot of people blew up with that shuttle."

President Reagan, speaking to the nation's schoolchildren, said "sometimes painful things like this happen," but added, "It's all part of taking a chance and expanding man's horizons. The future doesn't belong to the fainthearted. It belongs to the brave."

Of all the brave crew members, said Brothers, McAuliffe was special because "she was risking her life and was willing to do so to bring back to children her first-hand knowledge of space."

In classrooms and hallways, the words of Christa McAuliffe, a smiling New Hampshire mother and teacher who carried her son's stuffed frog aboard the shuttle, will be remembered. "Go for it," she said after being selected. "Go ahead and push for something."

Selective Service to Obtain Names of Aid Applicants

By Christopher Connell
Associated Press

The Department of Education will give the Selective Service System computer tapes with the names of 5 million student aid applicants in a move aimed at uncovering young men who have failed to register as potential draftees.

William J. Bennett, the secretary of education, and Maj. Gen. Thomas K. Turnage, director of selective service, announced the agreement today at a news conference.

It is the latest step in government efforts to carry out a 1982 law called the Solomon Amendment, which bars student aid from males who fail to register with the Selective Service System.

The draft was abolished in 1973, but following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, the Carter administration and Congress began requiring young men to register at age 18. While their names are kept in a central file, they cannot be conscripted unless Congress passes new legislation reinstating the draft.

The Education Department will share the computer tapes from its Pell Grant program each year with Selective Service. More than 2 million students receive Pell Grants each year and 5 million apply for them through the College Scholarship Service and the American College Testing program.

The Solomon Amendment—named for its sponsor, Rep. Gerald B.

Solomon, R-N.Y.—requires male students to register or be denied federal grants and loans. Student must sign a statement that they have complied with the registration law.

Bennett said the new arrangement "will not only protect the federal taxpayer, but also fulfill our obligation to those millions of fine young men who have registered to serve their country if ever needed."

He quoted Theodore Roosevelt as saying "the first requisite of a good citizen in this Republic of ours is that he shall be able and willing to pull his weight."

"One of the ways in which college students can pull their weight and fulfill their responsibility of citizenship is by standing ready to defend their country in time of need," Bennett said.

Turnage said, "Over \$8 billion of the taxpayers' money support the federal student aid programs, and I am happy that technological advances gives us the capability to monitor these most important programs."

Men are required to register at any U.S. Post Office within a month of their 18th birthday. Government officials say 98 percent have done so, with 15 million registered since 1980.

The penalty for failure to register is up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

FEBRUARY IS

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Wild Boars Charging At Swan-Hunting Trio Get Their Goose Cooked

Nancy Webb
The Charlotte Observer

The two wild boars looked like registered Republicans to Hyde County Sheriff Roland Dale because "they were really charging us."

And N.C. Supreme Court Justice Burley Mitchell Jr. tended to agree.

"They just may have been (Republicans)," Mitchell said. "They were certainly mean enough to be. But we treated them in a nonpartisan fashion."

The sheriff and the justice, both Democrats, recalled in telephone interviews Friday that moment earlier in the day when they were charged by two wild boars—each weighing 200 to 300 pounds—while hunting swan at Mattamussett Farm in a remote area of coastal Hyde County.

Their guide, Bryan Schmitt, Residence Director in Simons Hall, who happened to be carrying the only loaded gun, saved the day when he shot and killed the first boar. In the meantime, Mitchell and Dale quickly loaded their guns and brought down the second animal, Dale said.

No one was hurt.

One of the animals will be dressed and eaten at a pig pickin'. Schmitt, also a democrat, plans to mount the other, Dale said.

Despite the interruption, the swan hunt went on, with the judge and the sheriff bringing home what Mitchell called the "the most meat I've ever seen come out of a duck pond."

Soaring Education Costs May be Eased Through CFI

Parents of junior and senior high school students currently may be facing a greater financial dilemma than how to pay off holiday bills. They are staring straight ahead at ever-mounting costs of financing their children's college educations.

Along with the how-to-pay dilemma, they often face questions on where to turn for information on available funds for higher education. In North Carolina, that place is College Foundation Inc. (CFI), a private nonprofit corporation which serves as the central lender in the state for educational loans. North Carolina banks and special investors provide the funds for these loans.

CFI advises parents and students to explore with the college they are considering all aspects of financial assistance from grants to work programs to loan funds.

Probably the least well known of such loans, according to communications coordinator, Mary Bland Josey, is the N.C. PLUS Loan Program which is open to parents of dependent undergraduates and graduate students.

This program is not tied in any way to family's demonstrating financial need. Unlike the North Carolina Insured Student Loans, for which a student must show financial need, N.C. PLUS is available regardless of income level, as long as the borrower can demonstrate the ability to make the required monthly payments on the PLUS Loans.

Under this program, loans may total up to \$3,000 per academic year for each qualifying student.

Josey points out that the advantages of the N.C. PLUS Loan are low monthly payments over a long repayment period, a more even "cash flow" while the student is enrolled in college, and the opportunity to accelerate payments at any time without penalty.

The interest rate is 12%, based on daily unpaid balance, with an insurance fee of 1% deducted from the loan proceeds. Unlike the Insured Student Loan for which repayment is delayed until after the education is complete, repayment on a PLUS Loan begins within 40 days of the date the loan is issued; but the monthly payments may be lower.

Prejudice is defined in the dictionary as "preconceived judgement or opinion." They could have added "without regard to facts."

Although prejudice may be for something, it is usually against something, or worse, some person or class of persons.

Prejudice is an old word, which defines an old and bad habit.

The world's great religions unanimously preach brotherhood and regard for one another. But one of the world's commonest sins is prejudice.

Prejudice blocks clear thought. It blocks understanding. And it blocks progress toward peace among men.

Prejudice is local. Prejudice is global. It exists in many forms and manifests itself in

many ways.

And never does prejudice do any good for anybody, any nation, or any people.

There have been many fighters against prejudice, and occasionally they accomplish some movement in breaking down barriers which exist principally because of prejudice.

Not long ago the nation honored a fighter against prejudice who did accomplish something for victims of prejudice.

But until all mankind sees each other as individuals without reference to color, religion, or nationality prejudice will unfortunately still present problems.

When prejudice disappears from the face of the earth the era of peace on earth will be at hand!

Wednesday Night
Film Festival
Wednesday February 26
Easy Rider
8:00 p.m. Turner Auditorium