

# NEWS BRIEFS

## Space Shuttle Disaster

The Space Shuttle Challenger burst into flames only minutes after taking off. All seven members on board, including a school teacher from New Hampshire, were killed Tuesday, Jan. 28. A flame in the rocket booster is thought to have sparked the explosion. Further investigations are being conducted.

The flight had been rescheduled several times prior to its taking off on Tuesday. NASA reported they do not know what caused the explosion.

## Voyager 2 Satellite Discovers Another Uranus Moon

Pasadena — Scientists reported Saturday that Voyager 2 had discovered yet another small moon surrounding the planet Uranus. The satellite also produced photographs that showed another faint ring of unknown particles orbiting the planet, and a tilt in the Uranian magnetic field. The spacecraft flew past the planet Friday, Jan. 24, and transmitted new photographs which showed mountains, craters and deep trenches. Voyager, which is now 700,000 miles beyond Uranus, is traveling at 33,000 miles an hour. The discovery of another moon estimated at 32 miles in diameter, makes the fifteenth moon discovered around Uranus.

## Reagan Seeks Support Of Economic Policies

Washington — In a speech Saturday, Jan. 25, President Reagan asked for bipartisan support for economic policies he says can make 1986 "a year of opportunities." During his weekly radio address from the Oval Office, President Reagan told the public that he has been doing last minute adjustments to his State of the Union address

and asks for Republican and Democratic support of his policies. Reagan said, "We look ahead with high hopes that we can build on our success and work in bipartisan spirit to make 1986 the year of opportunities for America."

## N.C. Governor Martin Lists Priorities In Public Address

Raleigh — In his statewide address on Saturday, Jan. 25 Governor James G. Martin said that he will soon unveil a 10-year plan to relieve crowding in state prisons by building new facilities and providing other alternatives for those convicted of non-violent crimes. In a 30-minute speech, Martin outlined some of his administration's plans for 1986. Some of the issues and problems Governor Martin has placed at the top of his list of priorities are:

- An attempt to feed more money into the state's highway construction program.
- An economic bill to emphasize rural development and regional growth centers.
- Emphasis on increasing the salaries and quality of teachers.
- A distinct effort to minimize prison overcrowding.

## Latest Soviet Defector Proves Useful to U.S.

Washington — A high level KGB officer fled the USSR last year and sources reveal that he may be the most valuable defector to the U.S. in years. He is providing much valuable information because he was apparently high ranked in the KGB. He was described as a senior Soviet officer who escaped by helicopter last year from East Germany and has assumed a new identity here in the United States. The CIA would not report on the defector because they have gone to great lengths to keep the new defector's identity from being disclosed to avoid further estrangement from the Soviet Union and soviet premier Mikhail Gorbachev.

# CAMPUS CURRENTS

## Closed Meetings At Meredith Cause Question

"Everyone Welcome" on the bottom of many flyers on the Meredith Campus does not apply to all campus organizations. Many Meredith students are not aware that some of the meetings are closed or "invitation only."

"The Student Life Committee is a closed meeting. Any student may petition to appear. If you would like to attend a meeting, call (Renee Godwin)," said Dr. Sandra Thomas, Vice-President for Student Development.

Although the SLC's primary function is to "direct attention and study to the concerns and welfare of the students," according to the 1985-86 Student Handbook, students are unable to attend all the meetings to ensure that their welfare is being determined justly.

"Sometimes there are things which are very sensitive, and do not want them to be in the open," said Thomas.

"... We will try to fit you in, if there has been no request to make the meeting confidential," said Renee Godwin, SLC Chair.

The Executive Committee of the Student Government also closes its meetings to the students, as well as the Honor Council. However, a student may waive her right to a confidential meeting at any time she is to appear before the court.

## Fort Lauderdale Prepares For Spring Break

National On-Campus Report — A ban on public drinking along Fort Lauderdale's famed "Strip" is now in effect, and police hope voluntary cooperation becomes the rule before college students arrive for spring break.

Officers are giving the new law a test-run before the influx of college students in March and April, according to Fort Lauderdale Police Chief Ron Cochran.

Police will ask anyone drinking in public — including in cars — to empty their drinks into the street. Drinkers who refuse to cooperate will be arrested.

The city is posting signs publicizing the ban at Intracoastal Waterway bridges and at the north and south entrances to the city.

Not everyone agrees, however, that the ban will work. Managers of bars along the Strip say they will try to prevent customers from leaving their establishments with drinks, but that it won't be easy.

"What are you going to do, run after every guy who's walking out with a plastic cup?" asked John Cunningham, manager of the Elbo Room.

"How are you going to enforce it?" asked Carl Smith, a junior at Bowling Green U. and a veteran of two spring break trips to Fort Lauderdale. "Are they going to call in the National Guard when 600 kids on the beach are drinking?"

## Fraternity Students Get Off The Hook

National On-Campus Report — In an unusual move, a university president has asked a district attorney to reconsider his decision not to file felony rape charges against three members of a fraternity. A San Diego State U. student says she fell unconscious after being tricked into drinking a mixture of Kool-aid and Everclear at a Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity party, and that three fraternity members raped her while

she was unconscious. The district attorney had decided that the woman had been "taken advantage of" but not raped — which prompted outraged SDSU students to ask what the difference was.

## Who's To Blame?

National On-Campus Report — In a recent *Parade* magazine survey of teachers, almost 90% blamed parents for the problems of the country's education system. The teachers say parents do not instill discipline and other qualities in their children that would motivate them to learn, and that it is difficult to find parents interested in creating a home environment conducive to learning or willing to discuss their child's problems in school.

## Black Students Stay in College When Integrated

National On-Campus Report — Black students educated in integrated elementary and secondary schools are more likely to stay in college than students from segregated schools, according to a new study by the Rand Corp. "Blacks need the experience in dealing with whites," says researcher Robert Crain. Robert Mitchem, of the National Council of Educational Opportunity Associations, says "Integration does a lot for (black students') confidence. They realize they are the same as whites."

## The Rewards of Liberal Arts

National On-Campus Report — A well-rounded education prepared students for life, not merely for final exams, according to a study at Hood College.

After four years of liberal arts learning, students are less interested in material gains, and place much greater values on having a philosophy of life, participating in the community, promoting racial understanding and keeping up with current affairs.

The positive effects of a liberal education were confirmed by comparing Hood's 1985 graduating seniors' survey responses to the answers they gave to the same survey as incoming freshmen in 1981. (The survey is given to every freshman class.)

Students "seem to have gained self-confidence and the idea that they can make a difference," says Dr. Barbara J. Hetrick, dean of academic affairs. "The value categories appear to indicate the students are more aware of the world, the community and social issues."

Sylvia Turner, dean of students, says she is impressed with the survey results.

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