Engine trouble for Space Shuttle

By Hans von Spakovsky

The launch date of NASA's Space Shuttle may be postponed until January 1980, at the least. The date is currently the first week in November 1979. This information came from reliable sources associated with the shuttle program who requested anonymity. The source reported that the date has already been unofficially delayed.

Although there have been reported problems with the shuttle main engines, NASA news releases and recent reports have been very optimistic, and have seemed to downplay the significance of these problems.

With a manned launch less than a year away, the program is behind schedule, according to the source, and is not in the state of readiness that the Saturn program was at this same time (all major tests having been completed). To obviate this has not been a single completed test of the three main shuttle engines. Each full test has been cut down prematurely due to some malfunction or another. With a goal of 502 seconds of burn, the longest test so far has run for a duration of only 100 seconds.

Some of the problems with the engines, manufactured by Rockwell Corp., have been with cracked or broken blades in the high-pressure fuel turbo-pump turbines and fires in the outer shell. The Space Shuttle Enterprise nips piggyback on a modified 747. Photo courtesy of NASA.

As for the source, making it very difficult to anticipate and correct.

Concerns about these problems have led NASA to appoint a special shuttle task force to oversee the program, to look at the entire program and make absolutely certain that there is no possibility of anything going wrong in the future, besides trying to solve present difficulties. The eighty members have been handpicked for the job. The source is one of those.

Almost all of this, however, is denied by official NASA sources. Mary May, deputy director of the main shuttle office at the George Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Alabama, said that the November launch date still stands—"if there is no possibility of anything going wrong in the future." She refused to yield to pressure and accept the existence of these problems.

The waste of time and money involved in these problems is considerable. One suspected problem is that of a "catastrophe." In A 16-0 Victory over Wheaton A 3-2 defeat over Brown, dispelling the notion that it could not beat Ivy League school. Page 12.

The Space Shuttle Enterprise rides piggyback on a modified 747. Photo courtesy of NASA.

The council has long been known to have a majority to pass the legislation.

The source seems to be "in the know" and if the case appears in court he will "move to intervene." The ordnance making a seventh affirmative vote necessary. The council sustained by a 5-4 majority an order by Councillor Mary Ellen Preussner.

The council’s actions have been consistent in that it has not yet taken up the ordinance limiting to 110 feet the height of new buildings in Harvard Square.

The council is the only state that has such a provision. Preussner believed that the customary two-thirds majority is sufficient to pass the zoning ordinance. According to the state statute, the City Manager seek a "declaratory judgment" from the courts affirming the "validity" of the zoning amendment.

On January 23, the council voted 5-2 (Councillor Frisioli voted present) in favor of Preussner’s ordinance limiting to 110 feet the height of new buildings in Harvard Square. Two major property owners, Harvard University and Louis DiGiovanni, a private developer, opposed the ordinance making a seventh affirmative vote necessary.

Sunday H. Rudman, counsel to DiGiovanni, told The Tech on Wednesday that the Cambridge City Council "could not correct its previous vote by a motion." Rudman said he certainly would not accept it and if the case appears in court he will "move to intervene." Douglas Randall, a legal advisor to the city, told the council he believed it should "proceed to deal with the motion on its merits." He said the motion only wants to correct the record, not change the rules.

Randall said the three-fourths majority provision has never been tested in the courts. Massachusetts is the only state that has such a provision.

Preussner heralded the council’s decision as “one of the most significant things that have ever happened to this council in recent history" and she "was pleased to be a part of it." Councillor Kevin Crane said he opposed the ordinance because "it aimed at some once private developer" and added that he "will never get in the way of jobs and taxes in this city."
Mountaineering, as all but the chronically misinformed know, is the skill, the science and the art of drinking Busch Beer. It begins by heading for the mountains (i.e., a quick jaunt to your favorite package emporium or wateringhole) and ends by downing the mountains (i.e., slow slaking swallows of the brew that is Busch).

However, between those two points lies a vast area of personal pecadillos sometimes called technique and sometimes called methodology (depending on your major). Hence, this ad. Sipping vs. chugging. Both have their merits, of course. But generally speaking, except for cases of extreme thirst or a leaking glass, sipping is the more prudent practice for serious, sustained mountaineering. Next, the proper position. Some swear by sitting; others by standing. Suffice it to say that the most successful mountaineers are flexible, so you'll find both sitters and standers.

(Except on New Year's Eve, when it's almost impossible to find a sitter.) Which brings us to additives. Occasionally a neophyte will sprinkle salt in his Busch; others mix in tomato juice; and a few on the radical fringe will even add egg. While these manipulations can't be prohibited (this is, after all, a free country), they are frowned upon. Please be advised that purity is a virtue, and the natural refreshment of Busch is best uncompromised.

Finally, there's the issue of containers. Good taste dictates a glass be used. But bad planning sometimes prevents that. If you find yourself forced to drink from the can, you should minimize this breach of etiquette. Be formal. Simply let your little finger stick out stiffly (see Fig. 4). Happy Mountaineering!

Don't just reach for a beer. Head for the mountains.
News Roundup

World

Terrorists attack American ambassador — Adolph Dubs, the American envoy to Afghanistan, was abducted by a group of right-wing Moslem terrorists and later killed when government forces stormed the Kabul hotel where he was being held last Wednesday. It is uncertain whether Dubs was shot to death by his kidnappers or by the government agents during the storming.

US Embassy in Teheran attacked by guerrillas — An unidentified group of urban guerrillas trapped Ambassador William H. Sullivan and his staff for over two hours on Wednesday until Khomeini peace-keeping forces arrived in answer to Sullivan's telephone plea for help. There were no American fatalities, but two Iranians were reportedly killed. In reaction, the Carter Administration is planning to evacuate most Americans remaining in Iran when the Teheran airport reopens.

Nation

Florida lake found rich in fossils of ancient life — A 240-foot deep cavity behind Little Salt Lake in southwest Florida has been found to contain dozens of 12,000-year-old fossils of human, animal, and plant life, as well as artifacts. Scientists have found what appears to be the oldest known hunting boomerang, of a type never before found in the Western Hemisphere. Also found were the remains of an extinct four-foot tortoise which had been killed by human hunters, as well as what was either a mammoth or a mastodon.

Government reports mild flu season — A government disease surveillance specialist reported early this week that influenza is widespread but relatively mild this year. He said most flu cases so far are similar to the type of Russian flu which was prevalent last year. However, this type of flu has not yet been detected this season in thirteen states, including Massachusetts.

Social Security Administration acknowledges inequities — For the first time, the federal government has formally recognized that the present social security system is unfair to women in some ways. Joseph Califano, Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, said the social security structure needs to be changed to guarantee fair and adequate benefits for both women and men. Such basic changes, he said, will require either increased funding or reduction of other benefits. "The nation must begin to make this difficult choice," he remarked.

Massachusetts House passes drinking age raise — A bill to raise the legal drinking age from 18 to 19 was passed on the first vote in the Massachusetts House of Representatives last Monday. The legislation would raise the age from 18 to 19 in bars, restaurants, and package stores. It would go up to 20 one year after the bill's passing, and to 21 a year after that, so that people who are now 19 years old or more will not be affected. The original bill called for would have raised the age to 19 for six months, and then immediately to 21. The State Senate has passed (31-3) a bill raising the drinking age to 19 as of March 1.

—Richard Daffy

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Campus Interviews:

Our recruiter will be at Massachusetts Institute of Technology on Thursday February 22, 1979. If you are working towards a BS or MS in Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering or Chemistry, come and see us.
How long can oil grease the works?

Last week, Secretary of Energy James Schlesinger testified before Congress that the current cutbacks in oil production due to political unrest in Iran were "presumptively more serious" than the Arab oil embargo of 1973-1974. In response to his testimony, gold hit $257 per ounce for the first time ever, and the anemic British pound climbed above the two dollar mark in spite of widespread strikes in the U.K.

Oil inventories dwindling

According to Schlesinger, the US had a 70-day supply of oil in commercial inventories (i.e., not counting strategic reserves). He felt that if inventory levels dropped below 60 days, the nation would have serious problems; the US had a 54-day supply in October 1973, before the Yom Kippur war that prompted the Arab oil embargo. With the current oil deficit, the 60-day figure will be reached in 13 months; with the additional demands imposed by oil-sharing, the 60-day reserve would be reached in eight months.

Carter's press conference Monday called on Americans to voluntarily conserve energy during this shortfall period. However, Americans have not notably lax in response to calls for self-restraint. Carter's "moral equivalent of war" fell on deaf ears; in fact, most Americans have forgotten the long lines and the government’s pleas to save oil. I personally recall the period vividly: getting up at 6 am to go down to the gas station was not what I’d waited 16 years to get a license for.

Should the cartel fail, as it invariably will, Carter has a stick -four proposals to cut down on energy usage. One would be to order Sunday or weekend closings of gas stations; another would be to force employers to reduce commuter parking. Of course, the latter is the method that the EPA has been employing to reduce urban pollution: the morning parking ban on Memorial Drive by the MDC is to discourage commuters from driving into work and parking there.

Even LA will have mass transit

In the long run, however, there are only the unpleasant solutions. Eventually, oil will become unconsumable as an energy source when world petroleum reserves have dwindled down to the last 10 billion barrels, petroleum will be far too valuable for its vast array of industrial uses to be wasted on internal combustion engines. Even Los Angeles will have to come up with a mass transit system.

In the meantime, some actions, public and private, can forestall this disaster. The American auto industry can develop cars that are as efficient as the Volkswagens and Hondas being sold today; where available, the second is that if and when Iranian oil shipments to the US resume, they will not be on reasonable terms as supplied by our "ally" the Shah, who personally favored large increases in the OPEC oil market standard.

In the near future (5 to 20 years ahead), the one bright spot in our energy picture is Mexico. The US has largely ignored our Latin neighbors, but recently because the US government has ordered the Carter administration to attempt to undo this damage, in addition to the damage Schlesinger himself did last year.

Even LA will have mass transit

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Joyce is one of the more important twentieth-century authors, as has been shown by many critics and historical figures. Theoretically, his work is one of the we are more interested in, and the world is interested in. Large numbers of his novels have been translated into many foreign languages, and are widely read.

Just then a short, gray-haired man in a suit sat down on the 100 aisle.

"Stop, stop, Wall, you traitor. You betrayed the classic, you’re a traitor to the classics and letters.

Professor Wall couldn’t believe it. It was his old mentor from Slippery Rock, Dr. Wittenwimmer. And he was right; the professor realized then that he had no choice but to accept the offer and return to the classics and letters.

The moral of the story is:

"When under the domes..."
Stop GAMIT board vandalism

To the editor:

Recently the GAMIT bulletin board has been vandalized. I consider this objectionable because of what that board represents and what perforce vandalizing it must represent.

Love is one of the most universal of human experiences. Throughout human history it has remained humanity with its curses and inspired humanity what perforce vandalizing it must consider that objectionable because to life I support the right of gays to love one another and implore them that they not sacrifice this aspect of their lives to satisfy common opinion.

In closing I ask all persons who oppose gay rights, "Would you condemn any man or life at that meaningless void which perforce never loving another during one's life must make this life be?"

If you condemn gay rights this is perhaps the very hell that you would condemn your friends or loved ones to endure.

Name withheld by request

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Friday, February 16, 1979

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Shuttle launch postponed by engine malfunctions

(Continued from page 1)

end of the summer.

Jerry Thompson, manager of the main engine project, also in Huntsville, stated that there had been several problems in the past year, and admitted that the longest full test so far has been only about 100 seconds. However, he said that the problems were being solved, and that the shuttle program was about parallel to where the Saturn development had been at this same time.

Thompson was also certain that the engines would be certified by the end of the summer. He denied that the problems were so serious that a special shuttle task team had been appointed to study past, and anticipate future, problems.

Contrary to these statements, a NASA memo not only establishes this "special" team and its purpose, but shows that Thompson is in charge of the investigation.

MIT DRAMASHOP presents AUGUST STRINDBERG'S A DREAM PLAY directed by ROBERT N. SCANLAN sets by WILLIAM FREGOSI lighting by EDWARD DARTA costumes by MINA VANDERBERG LITTLE THEATRE, KRESGE AUDITORIUM, MIT FEB. 16, 17 at 8 p.m.

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Notes

Announcements

Graduate Students Applications for advanced degrees in June 1979 must be returned to the registrar by Friday, February 23, 1979.

The Federal Summer Intern Program is seeking outstanding students for positions in the following federal agencies this summer: The Army, Defense Department, Export-Import Bank, HEW, HUD, Department of Interior, Department of Labor, NASA, Office of Personnel Management. Application forms are available from Jane Wells in Career Planning and Placement, 12-170.

Two $2,000 scholarships are offered through the Mass State Federation of Women who are Massachusetts residents and Women's Clubs (MSFWC) Memorial Education Fund in this coming year for graduate study in the fields of Marine biology or Business Administration. In addition, two $500 scholarships are offered through the MSFWC International Affairs Dept. for study abroad. These can be used either for a Junior year abroad program or for graduate study. Completed applications must be received before March 1, 1979. Further information and application forms can be obtained from Dean Jeaneese Richard in the Graduate School Office, Room 3-136.

Activities

Activities & clubs: If you would like a listing in the 1979 Freshmen Handbook and have not already received a memo from the OPA, please stop by 7-408 by Friday, Feb 23.

Arts

On Monday, Feb 10, LSC will present the fourth annual silent movie, The Hunchback of Notre Dame starring Lon Chaney. John Riley will accompany on the Kregge organ, 8pm in Kregge. Admission $5.

Sports

The women's fencing team is seeking the support of the student body in finding the team mascot. It is about six inches high, light brown with a yellow apron and black and looks like a beaver. It fell from the equipment bag of a team member somewhere between duPont and Burton House.

Four members of the MIT fencing team will participate in the National Junior Olympics this Saturday, Sunday, and Monday at the Palmer Dixon Building, Harvard University, in Brighton. All events begin at 8:30am.

(Continued from page 1)

The proposal which will receive the most attention will be the pass/fail question. This proposal, if approved by the faculty, will enable upperclassmen to register for any number of electives on pass/fail. This will be a change from the present system which allows only two electives to be taken pass/fail. According to Hakala, this type of program is working successfully at such major institutions as Stanford, Brown, and Harvard.

The SCEP will now submit these results to Professor of Physics Robert Hulsizer, Jr., chairman of the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP). Together Hulsizer and the SCEP will discuss the results and prepare a list of recommendations which will be submitted at the next CEP meeting. The CEP will then decide which of these proposals should be submitted to the faculty for a vote. Hakala says he expects about half of the student mandates will actually be submitted to the CEP. In any case, he expressed hope for faculty approval within a year.

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...
Drinking controversial topic at MIT during 1930’s

The Tech, Friday, February 16, 1973

Drinking is one of the most controversial topics in society. It has been a subject of debate for centuries, with arguments on both sides of the issue. Some people believe that alcohol should be freely available to adults, while others argue that it should be strictly regulated or even banned.

The debate around alcohol consumption is not new. In 1930, the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States was ratified, leading to a nationwide ban on the production, transportation, and sale of alcohol. This period, known as Prohibition, lasted from 1920 to 1933.

Prohibition was motivated by the belief that alcohol was a moral evil and that it led to向社会 problems such as crime, family breakdown, and public safety issues. The argument was that by banning alcohol, society could improve and enforce moral behavior.

However, the reality proved to be more complex. Prohibition created a large underground market for illegal alcohol, leading to an increase in crime, corruption, and violence. Additionally, the belief that alcohol would be managed by the government proved to be misplaced. The Eighteenth Amendment was repealed in 1933, largely due to public pressure and the failure of the enforcement of the law.

The debate around alcohol consumption continues today, with arguments on both sides regarding the benefits and drawbacks of moderate or strict regulation. It is clear that alcohol is a complex issue, with no easy solution.

This Friday, The Tech is hosting a panel discussion on the topic of alcohol consumption. The panel will feature experts from various fields, including law, economics, and psychology, to provide a comprehensive view of the issue.

The event is open to the public and will be held in the Tech auditorium. Attendees are encouraged to participate in the discussion and share their opinions on the topic.

The Tech encourages all readers to consider the issue of alcohol consumption and to engage in thoughtful dialogue about the matter.
Harris’ return sparks gymnasts

By Lucia Chen

Editor’s note: Lucia Chen is the manager of the women’s gymnastics team.

Last Tuesday night the women’s gymnastics team gave a solid performance on their way to victory over Smith and Mt. Holyoke. Competition was keen throughout the meet, with MIT gaining the edge with its showing on the uneven bars.

On vault, Cindy Reedy ’80 did a lay-out squat, which earned a 5.4. Linda Dolby ’80 and Elain Sears ’79 had a 5.7 and a 6.2, respectively. A handspring vault gave Leslie Harris ’81 a 7.6, bringing MIT’s total to 24.90. Mt. Holyoke had a very small lead with 24.95, while Smith was not far behind with a 24.0.

On the uneven bars, senior Susan Lui ’79’s fine performance resulted in a 5.55. Harris again did a stunning routine that scored an 8.35. MIT’s event total, 22.6, gave them a lead which they never lost. Mt. Holyoke and Smith scored a 12.2 and an 18.7, respectively.

Mt. Holyoke’s strong showing on the beam, highlighted by Jody Pinilli’s routine, which earned a 6.55, gave them an even total of 23.55. The Tech squad was not far behind with a 20.85. Harris gave an excellent performance as usual with an 8.25. Smith came in right behind MIT with a 20.5.

The final event, floor exercise, saw some outstanding routines by Wendy Myers ’81, who earned a 6.65, and Harris, with a 7.5. Smith’s Erika Pearsall had a very nice dance in her routine, as well as a good tumbling performance and earned a 7.05. Event totals were Smith 26.7, MIT 24.85, and Mt. Holyoke 23.0.

The final score was MIT 92.4, Smith 89.9, and Mt. Holyoke 83.7. This was the last home meet of the season, with seniors Lui, Sears, and captains Mary Beth Ward ’79 winning up their college careers.

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Fencers beat Brown, Wheaton

By Amelia Phillips

Editor's note: Amelia Phillips is a member of the women's fencing team.

Several fencing meets have occurred in the past week, the first on Thursday, February 8th, against Brown University at Brown, which the women's varsity won 11-5.

Saturday afternoon, the varsity suffered a slight embarrassment when they unexpectedly demolished Wheaton College 16-8. Each person on the varsity lineup that night had a strong point and put it to good use. Several fencing meets have occurred in the past week, the first on Thursday, February 8th against Brown University at Brown.

Foray also made good use of the evening as she exploded on the court with her strong determination.

The next meet will be at home in the fencing room at Dupont. It will be a four-way meet with the MIT team going against Stevens Institute of Technology, Brandeis, and Wellesley. Starting time is 1pm, this Saturday.