opinion

Reagan's gimmick explodes

(Continued from page 5)

money.

The agency's plan worked very well. People watched the shuttle take off and land, cheered the brave scientists and engineers who rode in it, and thought well of the agency.

After a while, though, the shuttle stopped being a novelty. The media stopped giving it a lot of coverage. People began to think about the shuttle as just another part of their everyday lives.

The agency started to worry. Even though the shuttle was a good weapon, the agency feared that it might be taken away because people went off to New Hampshire for scientific experiments.

So the agency came up with another plan. It would put some of the country's politicians on the shuttle, specifically the ones in charge of giving the agency money. The plan worked well, even though it meant a scientist, Gregory B. Jarvis, couldn't go when he was supposed to.

The agency then decided to put a real astronaut and a soldier or scientist or politician on a shuttle. People would be excited again. They thought they could go into space one day soon.

The president (remember him?) was also worried. He had been so close to becoming the first person to go to space. He had to find a way to make people think well of him again.

No more pressures - I can un- confronted them. My brother is going home. Love, sleep, rest, scores of forty-hour weeks have 6.111 is over. MIT has relaxed its though, at least for a month.

Christa McAuliffe, to be the first woman to go to space, instead, people learned that technology can have feet of clay and that public relations gimmicks can distract us from our goals.

The media responded to the people's hurt by presenting hours of pictures and pages of words. They showed McAuliffe's family, her students and her school. They interviewed experts. They interviewed the adults and children who had watched. They wrote hands. They missed, how- ever, the main point of the story, the lesson of the Teacher in Space.

The lesson is that reality cannot be forever obscured by im- ages, that politicians will offer images rather than substance, and that not all stories, even ones invented by public relations ex- perts, have happy endings.

And remember, folks, Strategic Defense Initiative technology is only slightly more complex than shuttle technology.

Column/Sidhu Bar

Going home: a journey that offers nostalgia

Thank God, finals are over. I hope all of you have released its dueches for a month, and I am going home. Love, sleep, rest, old friends - all went away. I had a short ninety-minute plane ride, and I still feel my heart is worn. No more pressures - I can un-

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