

Space shuttle Discovery swoops into California

By Matthew Fordahl
The Associated Press

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — Space shuttle Discovery and its seven astronauts landed in California's Mojave Desert on Tuesday after dangerously high wind prevented a touchdown in Florida for the third day in a row.

The shuttle swooped through a clear sky and touched down on the runway at Edwards Air Force Base about 2 p.m. PDT, ending a 13-day flight during which the astronauts got the international space station ready for the arrival of its first full-time residents next week.

The desert landing, the first for a shuttle since 1996, will be expensive for NASA. Ferrying Discovery back to Florida, done piggyback on

a modified Boeing 747, is expected to cost close to \$1 million.

The mission was NASA's 100th shuttle flight. The shuttle zoomed across the Pacific and right over Los Angeles, then northward into Edwards on the final approach.

"Welcome back to Earth after a super-successful mission," Mission Control said after Discovery rolled to a safe stop.

"Great to be back," replied Cmdr. Brian Duffy.

Gusts of close to 30 mph forced NASA to pass up a landing attempt at Cape Canaveral, Fla., earlier in the day. The wind also kept the shuttle from landing in Florida on Sunday and Monday, while rain clouds at Edwards on Monday scuttled landing plans there.

To the astronauts' relief, the weather was ideal at Edwards on Tuesday.

As Discovery flew over metropolitan Los Angeles, about 80 miles south of Edwards, two sonic booms blasted through the atmosphere. Minutes later, the shuttle touched down on a runway, not far from desert scrub.

"We had a terrific mission," Duffy said two hours after landing. "While we were there, we knew that we helped the future of the International Space Station and so doing we helped the future of the space program."

During the flight, Duffy and his crew installed two new segments on the outside of the space station and also spruced up the inside for the three men who will be moving in for four months. They conducted four

spacewalks on four consecutive days, an exceptional — and exhausting — amount of work.

The astronauts toiled from morning to night, from the time they rocketed into orbit on Oct. 11 until their departure from the space station on Friday. A broken antenna and a short circuit made their work even more difficult.

Shuttle program manager Ron Dittmore gave the astronauts an "A-plus" for their efforts. "This one's going to be hard to beat," he said at a news conference after landing.

Now the spotlight shifts to Russia and Kazakhstan.

Astronaut Bill Shepherd and two cosmonauts are scheduled to lift off aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket from Kazakhstan on Oct. 31. They will ar-

rive at the 240-mile-high space station two days later.

The next shuttle flight is a trip to the space station by Endeavour in early December, to carry up giant solar panels. Discovery, meanwhile, is supposed to return to the space station in February, to pick up Shepherd and his crew and drop off their replacements.

The retrieval mission remains on track, even though technicians may have to work over the Christmas holidays to get the shuttle ready, Dittmore said. Work will be delayed about a week as Discovery is ferried back to Florida.

Space shuttles have landed 45 times before at Edwards. Until the early 1990s, it served as NASA's main touchdown site.

Federal government puts college crime statistics online

By Liz Sidoti
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The government is putting campus crime statistics for 6,700 colleges and universities on the Internet, but making realistic comparisons among schools may be nearly impossible.

While the Education Department forced all institutions of higher education that receive federal funds to turn in crime figures, there is no national set of standards for how crimes are compiled or even defined.

For example, the Internet report on Ohio State University shows the

Columbus campus reporting 179 burglaries in 1999. Arizona State University's main campus in Tempe is about the same size but reported 355 burglaries in 1999.

Is the Arizona school nearly twice as burglary prone as the one in Ohio? No one knows for sure, said department spokeswoman Jane Glickman, because there are no national standards for campus crime reporting. Beyond that, she said, the department assumes, without checking, that reports are correct.

Reports from the Pratt Institute in New York City shows it is nearly crime-free, with no assaults, rob-

beries, auto thefts or arsons in 1999. Fordham University, also in New York City, also reported no robberies.

The Department of Education has required campuses to report crimes for the past 10 years. It stipulates schools must disclose violent crimes, burglaries and auto thefts on campus and arrests for liquor, drug and weapons violations. The law was amended in 1998 to require the reports be available on the Internet.

As of Tuesday, the deadline for schools to submit statistics for the last three years, information from 4,200 schools was posted, and data from

other schools was in the process of being entered, Glickman said.

Corye Barbour, the U.S. Student Association's legislative director, acknowledged data was not consistent, but praised the Web site for making information available in one place.

Previously, students had to contact schools individually seeking the numbers.

"Statistics aren't foolproof, but reporting these numbers is a step in the right direction," Barbour said. "We really haven't come up with a way to quantify how much violent crime students are experiencing,

but this is a start."

The disclosure law was prompted by the 1986 murder of 19-year-old Jeanne Clery at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa. Fellow student Joseph M. Henry, who entered the dorm through security doors propped open by pizza boxes, was convicted and sentenced to death.

Clery's parents later learned that 38 violent crimes had not been made public in the three years before their daughter's murder.

In 1998, Congress toughened the law because of spotty compliance. Colleges now can be fined \$25,000 for each unreported crime.

Mail-in

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dence," Southwell said. "There were concerns about fraud, and that a vote-by-mail might favor one party or another ... A lot of people find it difficult to vote [and vote-by-mail] makes it easier."

She found that 76.5 percent of the 1,225 respondents favored vote-by-mail elections over the traditional polling place elections. Respon-

dents said vote-by-mail was more convenient and less time-consuming.

Many of the inconveniences of poll place voting have been neutralized by the ability to vote in your own home, ASUO Student Affairs Director Brian Tanner said.

"With the number of ballot measures and candidates, voting out of the convenience of your home allows you to fully digest the info at your own pace," he said.

To help students take advantage

of the convenience vote-by-mail election provides, the ASUO made voter registration their primary goal for the fall term. The efforts of the campaign contributed to the more than 5,500 University students registered.

"One of the difficulties is that college students move so much, it handicaps students from getting their voter registration filled out on time," Tanner said. "That's why it was such an intense campaign on this campus."

Speakers

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Jed McGuire, co-chair for College Democrats, said Bradley is scheduled to speak sometime between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., but the time hasn't been confirmed.

"There's a possibility he might not come at all because of conflicts with other speaking arrangements," McGuire said.

If Bradley can't make it Thursday, McGuire said he hopes the for-

mer New Jersey senator will speak at the "Get Out and Vote Tour" stop on Friday. That event will begin at 10:30 a.m. in the EMU Amphitheater, and will feature speeches from Sen. Ron Wyden and Everclear frontman Art Alexakis, as well as a free performance in the amphitheater by the band.

McGuire added that the College Democrats are working to reschedule an appearance by the Rev. Jesse Jackson, possibly for Oct. 31 or Nov. 1. Jackson canceled an engagement earlier this month so he could stand on the picket lines with striking transit workers in Los Angeles.

But before the band takes the stage on Friday, Patterson will speak at 4 p.m. Thursday in Room 175 at the Knight Law School. Besides being co-chair of the Pacific Green Party — the local chapter of the national Green Party — Patterson is also the treasurer for Victory 2000, a group working to support the Nader campaign.

Holly Harris, co-director of Land, Air, Water, the law society sponsoring the event, said Patterson will give a brief introduction and then field questions from the audience.

Land, Air, Water also brought Kathleen McGinty, environmental advisor for Gore, to campus in September for a similar town hall meeting. At that time, the group gave an open invitation to the Nader and Bush campaigns to also send representatives. So far, Harris said, the Bush campaign has not responded to the invitation.

Political speakers coming to campus:

Gloria Steinem

6 p.m. Wednesday in the EMU Ballroom.

Sponsored by Voters For Choice and the Hillel Jewish Women's Collective

Bill Bradley

Between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday in the EMU Amphitheater.

Sponsored by College Democrats

Xander Patterson

4 p.m. Thursday in room 175 in the Knight Law School

Sponsored by Land, Air, Water

Everclear and Sen. Ron Wyden

10:30 a.m. Friday in the EMU Amphitheater

Sponsored by College Democrats

All events are free

OUS 1999 budget

Voting by mail

1. Preferred method of voting:

- Voting by Mail 76.5% [930]
- Polling Place 15.4% [187]
- Doesn't Matter 8.1% [99]

2. Why do you prefer voting by mail to a polling place? [Multiple responses coded].

- Easier, more convenient 78.5%
- Less time-consuming 27.5%
- More time to read ballot 18.0%
- Bad weather not a concern 12.5%
- Constraints of job 10.8%

1996 survey of 1225 people in the vote-by-mail senate election, conducted by the Oregon Survey Research Laboratory.

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SKI SWAP

Lane County Fairgrounds
October 26 - 28

- * Thursday: Consign Equipment 9am-9pm
- * Friday: Consign Equipment 9am-5pm
Sale 6pm - 9pm
- * Saturday: Sale 9am - 6pm

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