

U.S. spacewoman breaks record

BY STEVEN YOUNG

Shannon Lucid's mission to the Russian Mir space station entered the record books on Saturday as the longest space flight by a woman.

It was a record Lucid was not expecting to break.

Her tour of duty aboard the orbiting outpost was supposed to have ended in early August, but shuttle booster problems, scheduling conflicts and Hurricane Fran have delayed her ride home by more than six weeks.

"We had not planned on this (record) happening on this mission and it was sort of a confluence of the elements of the universe that it did,"

said former astronaut Frank Culbertson, who heads NASA's shuttle-Mir programme.

"I'm happy that she has it, because I think she's done a terrific job up there," he added. Lucid has been aboard Mir since March and has already shattered the record for the longest mission by a U.S. space flyer.

Her latest record breaks that set by Russian Elena Kondakova, who completed a 169-day stay aboard the station in March 1995.

Kondakova, who is now training in Houston for a shuttle mission to the Mir station next May, offered Lucid her congratulations.

"I will only be happy for Shannon

Lucid," said the 39-year-old engineer. "It again proves that women can work in space as long as men."

Lucid, only the third woman to staff the Mir station, was probably enjoying her time away from the pressures of home, suggested Kondakova.

"Life is easier on board because you don't have to do laundry there, you don't have to cook there, so I think that for a woman being in space is kind of a vacation," she said.

This week NASA had to delay Lucid's homecoming another two days when Hurricane Fran forced shuttle Atlantis off its launch pad.

The shuttle is expected to blast-off

for Mir on September 16 and dock with the station a few days later.

Lucid, a veteran of four previous shuttle missions, appeared to be taking the latest setback in her stride.

"As long as Atlantis is in good shape, then I'm in good shape," she said. "Whenever they're ready, they'll come get me."

NASA is hoping Saturday marks Lucid's last entry in the record books. She would have to stay in space another 38 weeks to break the human space flight record of 438 days set in 1995 by Russian Valeri Polyakov.

"She's been away a long time," said Culbertson. "I'm sure she's ready for the job to end."

Simpson faked look of surprise at verdict

O.J. Simpson knew he would be cleared of killing his ex-wife the night before the verdict was announced and faked his look of surprise in court, according to the author of a new book on the criminal trial.

New Yorker magazine writer Jeffrey Toobin told a television interviewer Simpson learned in advance from a jail guard of the jury's decision to find him not guilty.

"One of the things I've learned since the trial is that one of the most famous moments in television history, which is that shot of O.J., is fundamentally a fraud," Toobin said in excerpts of an interview released before broadcast on NBC News' "Dateline Sunday" on Sept. 8.

A Los Angeles jury found Simpson not guilty on Oct. 3, 1995 of stabbing to death his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her

friend Ronald Goldman in June 1994 but he still faces a wrongful death civil trial starting Sept. 17.

The former football star is being sued by the families of the murder victims, who allege he is responsible for their deaths.

Toobin, whose book is called "The Run of His Life," said the jurors reached their verdict on the night of Oct. 2 and had a party during which they told Los Angeles sheriffs guarding them that the verdict was not guilty.

One of the sheriffs called a friend who was guarding Simpson and told him, Toobin said in the interview.

"One of the sheriffs came up to him (Simpson) and said 'I want your autograph tonight because you're going home tomorrow,' Simpson said 'what?'," Toobin said. He quoted the sheriff as saying "We know. Jury voted to acquit."

Senator receives leadership award

U.S. Senator Mark O. Hatfield was recognized for his years of leadership and public service at the 1996 SOLV Citizenship Awards Banquet sponsored by Bank of America.

The event served as a special Oregon tribute and homecoming for Senator Hatfield as he retires from the U.S. Senate.

Senator Hatfield has served Oregon and the country as a U.S. Senator since 1966.

His many contributions include construction of the Interstate Highway System in Oregon; creation of

the Oregon Graduate Institute and the state-wide community college system; expansion of the state park system and Oregon's wilderness areas; creation of the public defender system; and development of Oregon Health Sciences University and local and regional facilities throughout Oregon.

"The Senator is honored to be presented with this award as he returns to Oregon after 31 years in Washington. SOLV epitomizes the coming together of Oregonians to keep our beautiful state livable and

Senator Hatfield is very pleased to be recognized by a group that supports volunteerism and stewardship so effectively," said Ede Schmidt, State Director of Senator Hatfield's office.

SOLV Citizenship Awards will be presented to Oregonians from around the state at the event.

Winners were selected in four categories to recognize outstanding volunteers who inspire others by promoting an awareness of livability issues; help build a stewardship ethic by example; or provide resources to

help keep Oregon livable.

Individual-Bill Naito, Portland. To be presented posthumously in honor of a lifetime of visionary contributions that have enhanced the livability of Portland.

In addition to the rehabilitation of historic buildings and the vintage trolley project, Mr. Naito developed the Japanese Memorial in Waterfront Park.

He served on numerous committees and boards throughout his lifetime that helped make Portland and Oregon better places to live.

Burning ban lifted

A ban on burning in Clark County has been lifted due to the return of cooler and wetter weather.

Clark County Fire Marshal David Lynam said today that outside burning may resume subject to the necessary permits and regulations.

Individuals who wish to burn a small yard fire should contact their local fire departments. For larger

fires, people should contact the Clark County Fire Marshal's Office.

Note: In some areas of the county, burning is always prohibited. The removal of the burning ban does not pertain to these areas.

For more information about this non-attainment area, please contact the Fire Marshal's Office.



Happy Birthday
Marion
Johnson

Iraq air defense engages U.S. target

Iraq said its air defense units engaged a U.S. warplane violating its air space Sunday but missed, although the intruder was forced to flee.

"Our air defense weapons engaged at 13:03 hours (5 a.m. EDT) a hostile air target, which they missed causing it to flee," Iraqi state television, quoting a military spokesman, said.

The spokesman said the U.S. and allied warplanes had flown 111 sorties in northern and southern Iraq "violating our air space."

Saturday, Iraq said it had fired

missiles at U.S. planes but Washington could not confirm that Baghdad had fired against its planes policing no-fly-zones in northern and southern Iraq.

A senior Iraqi official said Sunday that his country's air defense systems would shoot at U.S. planes.

"Now we have announced that their areas (zones) are null and void and we will take every opportunity to shoot U.S. planes in the whole area," said Hamed Youssef Hummadi, head of culture and information committee at the Iraqi National Assembly.

Shakur wounded in Vegas

Rap music star Tupac Shakur was critically wounded and a record company executive slightly injured when a gunman opened fire on their car in Las Vegas, authorities said Sunday.

Shakur, a 25-year-old singer-actor with a history of violence and trouble with the law, underwent emergency surgery and was listed in critical condition following the Saturday night attack, hospital officials said.

It was the second time in less than two years that Shakur has been shot.

Marion Knight, 31, co-founder of the controversial music label Death Row Records, was riding with Shakur and suffered a minor head wound, Las Vegas police said.

The attack occurred while Shakur, one of the most notorious performers of hardcore "Gangsta" rap, was headed for a nightclub with friends in a convoy of 10 cars after watching the

Mike Tyson-Bruce Seldon heavyweight boxing title fight.

A white Cadillac with four people inside pulled up next to Shakur's black BMW and one of them opened fire, police said.

Dozens of stunned witnesses looked on in horror, according to broadcast reports.

Shakur was hit three times in the chest and rushed to the hospital, officials said. Knight, who produces the work of Shakur and other top rap stars, was listed in fair condition and was expected to be released later Sunday.

The Cadillac sped away, and the suspects were still being sought, police said. Investigators said the motive behind the shooting was not known.

Shakur is no stranger to trouble. He has spent much of the last 2 1/2 years either in court, prison or a hospital.

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