

➤ **YEAR OF THE RAM:**
ANTELOPE UNION HIGH SCHOOL
CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY/B1

➤ **FAMOUS DUMMIES:**
MADAME TUSSAUD'S WAX MUSEUMS
KEEP UP WITH CURRENT EVENTS/E1



THE SUN

YUMA, ARIZONA

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2003

\$1.50

GOOD MORNING

Today's weather: High expected to hit 80
 DETAILS/A10

➤ **IN QUOTES**

"They don't want to talk about it. Believe me, they know none of this adds up."

Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D. on the record deficit in the proposed budget/ A5

➤ **YUMA**

The first of two border port projects could be complete by 2005/ B1

➤ **WORLD**

Chief U.N. inspectors will return to Baghdad for talks to resolve weapons dispute/ A11

➤ **NATION**

More coverage of the space shuttle disaster/ A2-4



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With the mania over, some dot-coms are turning steady profits/ C8

➤ **SPORTS**

The AWC men's and women's basketball teams take on Pima College/ C1



➤ **ENTERTAINMENT**

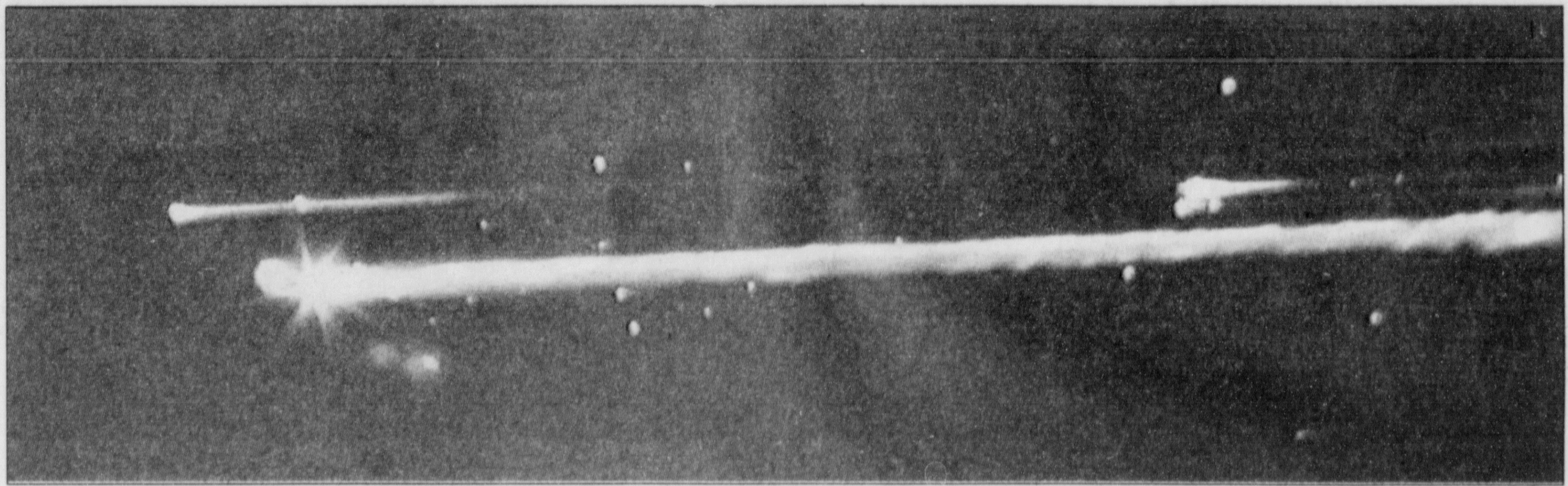
"Dragnet" returns to TV with Ed O'Neill as Joe Friday/ D4

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DEBRIS FROM THE SPACE SHUTTLE
 Columbia streaks across the sky over Tyler, Texas, Saturday. Amateur photographer Dr. Scott Lieberman shot a series of photos showing the breakup of the space shuttle from his backyard.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Columbia is lost'

➤ **Space shuttle disintegrates high over Texas, killing all seven astronauts aboard**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

High over Texas and just short of home, space shuttle Columbia fell to pieces Saturday, raining debris over hundreds of miles of countryside. Seven astronauts perished — a gut-wrenching loss for a country and world already staggered by tragedy.

The catastrophe occurred 39 miles above the Earth, in the last 16 minutes of the 16-day mission as the spaceship re-entered the atmosphere and glided in for a landing in Florida. In its horror and in its backdrop of a crystal blue sky, the day echoed one almost exactly 17 years before, when the Challenger exploded.

"The Columbia is lost," said President Bush, after he telephoned the families of the astronauts to console them.

"The same creator who names the stars also knows the names of the seven souls we mourn today," Bush said, his eyes glistening. "The crew of the shuttle Columbia did not return safely to Earth but we can pray they are safely home."

The search for the cause began immediately. One focus: possible damage to Columbia's protective thermal tiles on the left wing from a flying piece of debris during liftoff on Jan. 16.

The loss of seven explorers of space's dark reaches — shuttle commander Rick Husband, Michael Anderson, David Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, William McCool and Ilan Ramon — brought a new round of grief to a nation still in mourning after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

And again, Americans were forced to confront the risks of space, along with the glories.

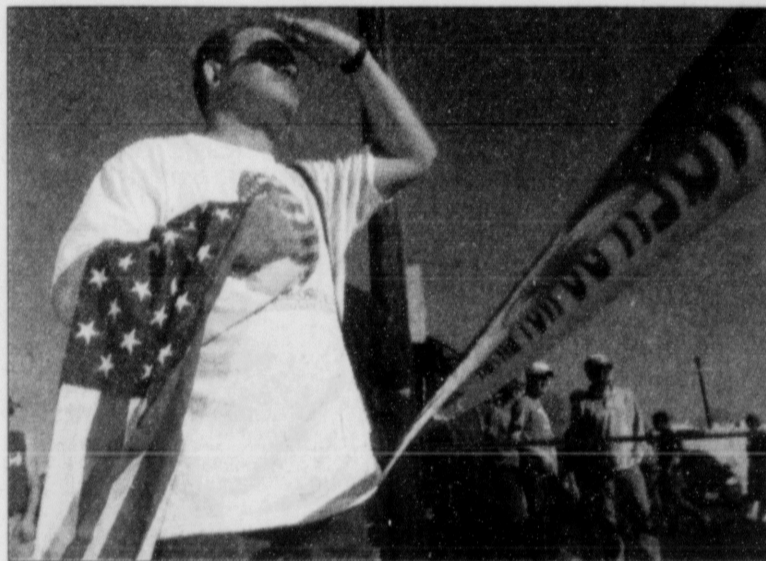
"The reality of what these people do has often escaped me," said Charlie Dillon, 52, of Denver. "But they are frontiersmen, they're out there making my life better and creating endless possibilities for my children."

NASA appointed an independent commission to investigate. The agency said the first indication of trouble Saturday was the loss of temperature sensors in the left wing's hydraulic system.

The spacecraft had just re-entered the atmosphere and had reached the point at which it was subjected to the highest temperatures.

NASA officials said they suspected the wing was damaged on liftoff, but felt there was no reason for concern. They cautioned that it may have had nothing to do with the accident.

Authorities said there was no indication of terrorism; at

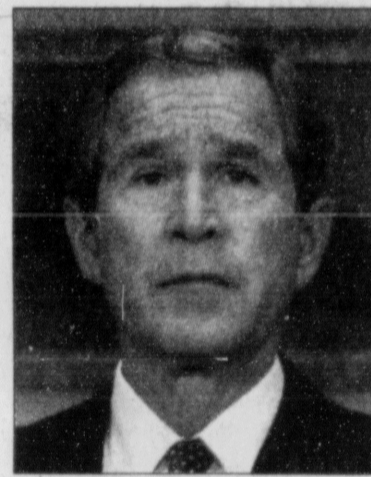


CHRIS HUDSON (above) of Whitehouse, Texas, shields his eyes from the sun as he looks at what is believed to be debris from the space shuttle Columbia that fell in a downtown parking lot in Nacogdoches, Texas, Saturday. President Bush (right) stands in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington after his televised response to the space shuttle crash Saturday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

207,135 feet, the shuttle was out of range of any surface-to-air missile, one senior government official said. Security was extraordinarily tight on this mission because Ramon, Israel's first astronaut, was among the crew members.

"We saw it coming across the sky real bright and shiny and all in one piece. We thought it was



the sun shining off an airplane," said Doug Ruby, who was driving with his father along a Texas highway, headed for a fishing trip. "Then it broke up in about six pieces — they were all balls

SEE LOST/A10

➤ **Crews deployed to search for shuttle debris**

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A PIECE OF DEBRIS sits on the ground outside Bronson, Texas, Saturday.

NACOGDOCHES, Texas — Debris plummeted from the sky over hundreds of square miles of Texas and Louisiana, smashing a rooftop, splashing into a reservoir and sending emergency crews on a far-flung hunt for bits of what was once space shuttle Columbia.

Across the city of Nacogdoches and the surrounding region of pine forest, residents found chunks of debris. A small tank rested on a runway. A steel rod with silver bolts was roped off

behind yellow police tape in a yard. A piece of metal rested in a bank parking lot.

Debris covered a terrain that ranged from the urban prairie flatlands near Dallas to the hilly pine woods of Louisiana, mostly turning up in tiny blue-collar towns that survive on farming and timber. A piece of tile fell within 75 miles of President Bush's ranch in Crawford.

Authorities urged the public to report any debris but not touch it for fear of contamination from toxic substances. The Army sent in helicopters and

soldiers to locate and guard bits of wreckage, which could be pivotal in determining the cause of the disaster.

The search halted as darkness fell. NASA newsroom secretary Diana Hunter said it would resume at daylight Sunday.

In Hemphill, near the Louisiana state line, hospital employee Mike Gibbs reported finding what appeared to be a charred torso, thigh bone and skull on a rural road near what was believed to be other debris. Billy Smith, an emergency

SEE DEBRIS/A10

Columbia astronaut once served as flight surgeon in Yuma

BY MATT RIEHL
 SUN STAFF WRITER

One of the seven astronauts killed in Saturday's space shuttle Columbia tragedy was formerly stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma.

U.S. Navy commander Laurel Clark, 41, was a mission specialist on the latest space shuttle excursion, which ended in disaster as the shuttle disintegrated upon re-entering the earth's

atmosphere after a two-week mission that began Jan. 16. The flight marked Clark's first foray into space.

Born March 10, 1961 in Ames, Iowa, Clark was a diving medical officer aboard submarines and then a flight surgeon before becoming an astronaut in 1996, according to United Press International.

From 1997 to 2000, Clark

worked in the Astronaut Office's Payloads/Habitability Branch. She had been on board Columbia to help with more than 80 science experiments.

While stationed at MCAS Yuma in the early 1990s, Clark was assigned as flight surgeon for a Marine Corps AV-8B Night Attack Harrier Squadron and made numerous deployments, including one overseas to the Western Pacific, where she practiced medicine in difficult environments, according to UPI.

From there, Clark was assigned as flight surgeon for the Naval Flight Officer advanced training squadron (VT-86) in Pensacola, Fla. In April 1996, she was selected by NASA, where she qualified for flight assignment as a mission specialist after completing two years of training and evaluation.

Over her military career, Clark was honored with three Navy commendation medals, the National Defense Medal and

Overseas Service Ribbon.

Clark graduated with a doctorate in medicine from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1987 and earned a bachelor's degree in zoology in 1983 from the same university.

Although born in Iowa, Clark considered Racine, Wis., her hometown. She was married and had one child.

Matt Riehl can be reached at mriehl@yumasun.com or 539-6851.

SEE YUMANS/A10

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