

EIGHT PAGES OF COVERAGE OF THE COLUMBIA DISASTER

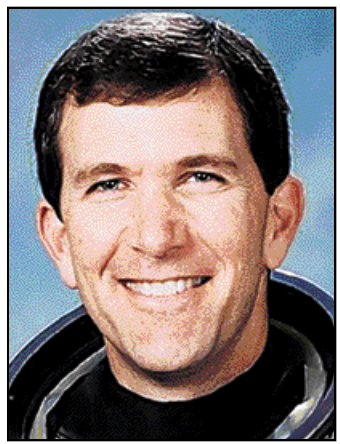
The Times

TUNE TO KSLA TV-12 FOR COVERAGE AT 6 AND 10 P.M.

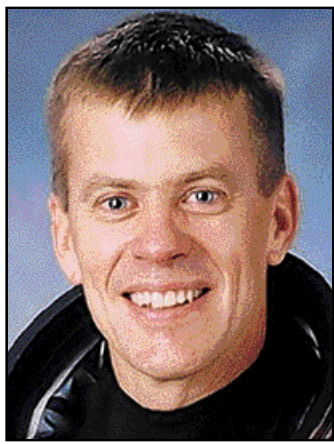
shreveporttimes.com

SHREVEPORT ■ BOSSIER CITY ■ ARK-LA-TEX

*SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2003



Rick Husband,
shuttle commander



William McCool,
shuttle pilot



David Brown,
mission specialist



Ilan Ramon,
payload specialist



Michael Anderson,
payload commander



Kalpana Chawla,
mission specialist



Laurel Clark,
mission specialist

Columbia lost

Barksdale is command post for shuttle debris recovery

INSIDE

Complex re-entry goes wrong

Graphic outlines Saturday's tragedy

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Shuttle crew risked lives in service

EDITORIAL: Event shows technology not perfect

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Reports of debris

Pieces found in area

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A look at the crew

Biographies, photos

PAGE 6A

Locals react

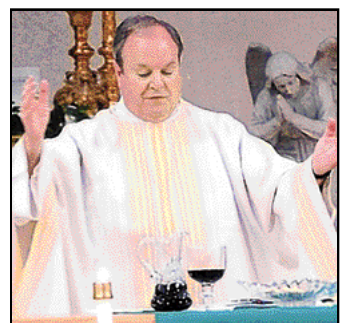
'I thought it was something celestial'

PAGE 1B

Community turns to faith

Area churches, congregations pray

PAGE 2B



Robert Ruiz/The Times
The Rev. Pike Thomas, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Shreveport, celebrates Mass on Saturday.

Spacecraft breaks apart over Texas, La.

From Staff and Wire Reports

Space shuttle Columbia exploded and broke apart Saturday morning above central Texas on its way to landing at Kennedy Space Center, killing all seven astronauts, including the first Israeli astronaut.

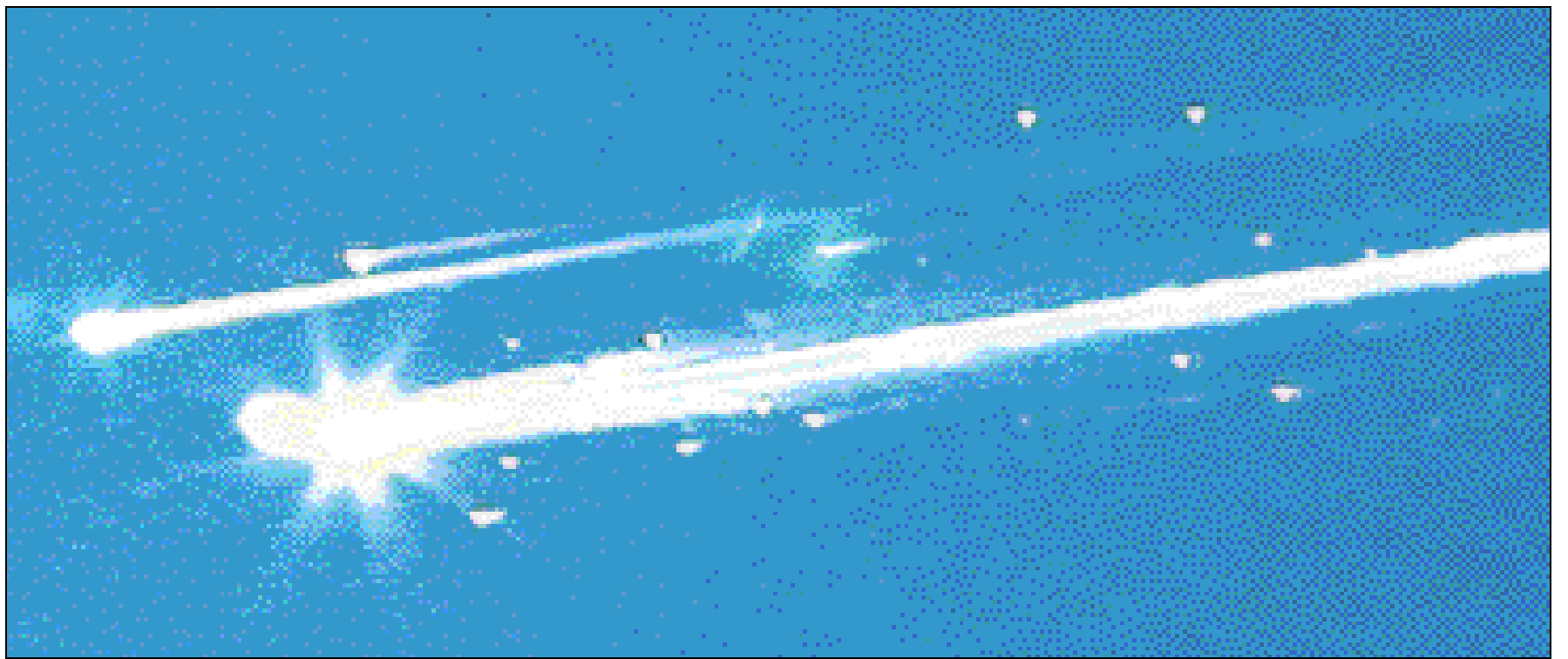
"Columbia is lost; there are no survivors," said President George W. Bush, who spoke with the families of the astronauts and declared a state of emergency in Louisiana and Texas in the wake of debris that rained down over hundreds of miles of countryside in the area. That authorizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate and prioritize federal aid for the different agencies involved in recovery and investigation.

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 space shuttle Challenger exploded.

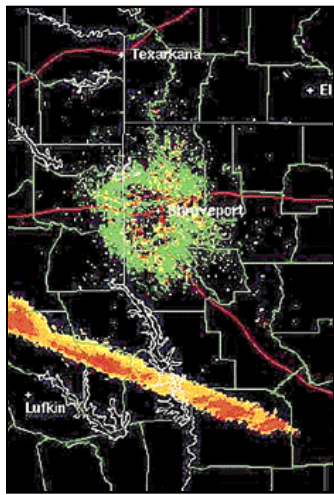
The loss of seven explorers of space's dark reaches — shuttle commander Rick Husband, Michael Anderson, David Brown, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, William McCool and Ilan Ramon — brought a new round of grief to a nation still mourning in the wake of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, on the East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

The cause of the accident was not immediately known, but NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe said there was no indication of terrorism. NASA and Congress promised separate investigations.

NASA established a command post at Barksdale Air Force Base, and a NASA spokeswoman at the news center there confirmed wreckage was being brought back to the base as part of the investigation. And the National Transportation Safety Board was



Debris from Columbia streaks across the sky over Tyler, Texas, on Saturday in this photo from a series shot by an amateur photographer. Dr. Scott Lieberman/Tyler Morning Telegraph/AP



AP
This radar image was taken at 8:15 a.m. CST on Saturday from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Shreveport station. It shows the area where the shuttle disintegrated.

Possible human remains found

The Associated Press

HEMPHILL, Texas — Among the chunks of metal littered across eastern Texas following the space shuttle's disintegration were some heart-breaking discoveries: an astronaut's charred patch, a helmet, some human remains.

The shuttle Columbia broke apart in flames 200,000 feet over Texas on Saturday morning, leaving a 500-mile swath of debris across several counties. All seven astronauts were killed just minutes before they were to glide to a landing in Florida. Mike Gibbs, an X-ray technician at Sabine County Hospital, was driving on Farm-to-Market Road 2971 Saturday and feared an object in the two-lane dirt road was an astronaut's remains.

Apparently, he was right. Gibbs said he and his friend



Jim Hudelson/The Times
Southern red carnations lie near members of the Texas National Guard standing near a piece of debris in the parking lot of Commercial Bank of Texas in downtown Nacogdoches, Texas.

saw what appeared to be a charred torso, thigh bone and skull with front teeth intact.

"I wouldn't want anybody seeing what I saw," Gibbs said. "It was pretty gruesome."

Firetrucks arrived shortly and blocked the road as authorities collected evidence. A hearse left the area Saturday evening.

Billy Smith, the emergency management coordinator for Jasper, Sabine and Newton counties, confirmed that body parts were found near apparent shuttle debris in Sabine County.

The remains found in Sabine County have been turned over to the FBI, officials said.

"We don't know where the remains are being taken," Sabine

County Sheriff Tom Maddox said.

Residents across eastern Texas reported finding chunks of metal and other shuttle parts atop roofs, in yards and on parking lots. A compact car-size piece of debris fell into Toledo Bend lake, said Maddox. A charred astronaut's patch was found in San Augustine County.

■ See DISASTER 2A

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Weather

High: 74 Low: 58 Details: 2A

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