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COLUMBIA TRAGEDY



Michael Anderson
PAYLOAD COMMANDER



David Brown
MISSION SPECIALIST



Kalpana Chawla
MISSION SPECIALIST



Laurel Clark
MISSION SPECIALIST



Rick Husband
COMMANDER



William McCool
PILOT



Ian Hamon
PAYLOAD SPECIALIST

'GREAT SADNESS'



Debris from the space shuttle Columbia streaks across the sky over Tyler, Texas, in this photo, one of a series of showing the shuttle breakup shot by amateur photographer Dr. Scott Lieberman from his back yard.

Disaster takes place just before landing

By David E. Sanger
THE NEW YORK TIMES
WASHINGTON — The space shuttle Columbia broke up Saturday morning on re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere, killing all seven astronauts aboard and sending fiery debris over Texas in the second loss of a space shuttle in 17 years.
There was no immediate explanation of what caused the disintegration of the oldest shuttle in NASA's fleet, but there were some tantalizing clues. By late Saturday afternoon, space agency engineers were describing a cascading series of failures of sensors on the left side of the craft.
That led to speculation that some kind of structural damage took place — perhaps caused by insulation that fell loose when the Columbia lifted off 18 days ago, perhaps from some other

cause — that triggered a catastrophic failure about 7 a.m. (Texas time).
President Bush, informed of the disaster at Camp David by his chief of staff, Andrew H. Card Jr., rushed back to the White House, his motorcade speeding down the mountain and then racing through suburban Maryland.
He appeared drawn and stricken as he addressed the nation five hours after the shuttle broke up.
"The day has brought terrible news and great sadness to our country," he said from the Cabinet room.
"The Columbia is lost. There are no survivors."
But as President Ronald Reagan did 17 years and four days ago, when the shuttle Challenger was launched, he said the shuttle was "one of our great achievements."



Margary Brown, mother of astronaut Laurel Clark, says she feared a disaster of this sort. "It was due for this. ... I knew it could happen."

Mom recalls a child who beamed energy

By Mitch Tobin
THE NEW YORK TIMES
As she orbited Earth in space shuttle Columbia, astronaut Laurel Clark e-mailed her mother in One Valley to describe the "incredible sights" below.
Send kisses in Africa. The "small bump" of Japan's Mount Fuji. A peninsula in Lake Michigan near the Wisconsin town where she grew up.
"I hope you could feel the positive energy that I beamed to the whole planet as we glided over our shared planet," she wrote to her mother and others.
Hours after the tragedy, Clark's mother, Margary Brown, said she could still feel that energy even though her daughter was gone.
"It was due for this. I knew it could happen," said Brown, 68, a retired nurse who spends winters in the Rancho Viejo area.

Clark, who was married and had an 8-year-old son, would come to the Tucson area every year to visit her mother and stepfather. She'd take hikes in nearby Catalina State Park. A pair of her hiking boots are still at her mother's house. And she'd go to the Starline astronomy store on North Oracle Road to peer through telescopes and into the heavens where she'd one day die.
Although fearful at times, Clark's mother appeared remarkably composed for someone whose personal loss had played out on television screens around the globe.
Saturday's shuttle disaster was the second time a historic tragedy has struck the family. One of Brown's nephews, 41-year-old Timothy Haviland,

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Qwest pledges to improve service

But admits it will be a long-distance haul
By David Wichner
MONEY DAILY STAR
Now that Denver-based Qwest Communications has returned from the brink of bankruptcy,

the phone company's new management has vowed to improve customer service and polish its tarnished image.
Qwest officials acknowledge the makeover will take time and that the promise of improved service has been heard before by customers.
The last pledge came in mid-2000 when telecom high-flyer Qwest Communications International bought US West and its

new management promised to improve service that was so poor that some employees were uneasy about wearing their uniforms in public.
Because of that, the new effort will be watched closely in Arizona where more than 50 percent of residents — with some 2.8 million phone lines — depend on Qwest for phone service.
While service complaints began to drop in recent years,

IN TODAY'S STAR

Weather
Sunshine and light breezes
High 72 / Low 39
Saturday: High 86 / Low 50
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