

SUNDAY JOURNAL

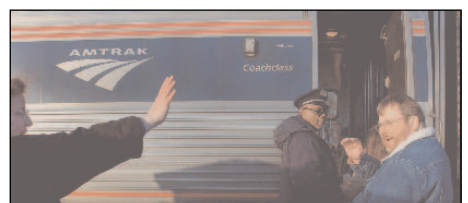
Following his heart: Producer rejects L.A. for a backyard studio in Kernersville. **PAGE 1D**



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No. 2 UConn frustrates the No. 1 Blue Devils and Iciss Tillis, 77-65. **PAGE 1CC**

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WORK & MONEY



home, with long commutes but with a short commitment, to make ends meet. **PAGE 1E**

Trade-off: Job seekers accept positions far from

CITY & STATE

Commissioner: Former Wake sheriff comes in second for Vernon Malone's post. **PAGE 1B**

'The same creator who names the stars also knows the names of the seven souls we mourn today. The crew of the shuttle Columbia did not return safely to Earth; yet we can pray that all are safely home.'

PRESIDENT BUSH



Michael Anderson Payload Commander
David Brown Mission Specialist
Kalpana Chawla Mission Specialist
Laurel Clark Mission Specialist
Rick Husband Commander
William McCool Pilot
Ilan Ramon Payload Specialist

'Columbia is lost'

EXPLOSION ON RE-ENTRY

HIGH OVER TEXAS AND 16 MINUTES FROM HOME, SHUTTLE BREAKS APART, KILLING ALL SEVEN ASTRONAUTS ABOARD.

INVESTIGATION BEGINS

SPECULATION ABOUT WHAT CAUSED THE TRAGEDY FOCUSES ON DAMAGE TO THE HEAT-ABSORBING TILES ON LEFT WING.

NATION MOURNS

AMERICANS GASP IN DISBELIEF AT A DISASTER MUCH TOO REMINISCENT OF THE CHALLENGER ACCIDENT 17 YEARS AGO.



Columbia streaks in flames across the morning sky over Tyler, Texas, in a disintegrating fireball witnessed by people from California to Louisiana.

PHOTO BY DR. SCOTT LIEBERMAN VIA AP

Heroes' reach inspires

Those who gathered Saturday in Raleigh's Capitol Square to salute North Carolina's wartime missing in action were no strangers to grief and loss.

Yet, as word of the Columbia disaster reached them, combat veterans who have seen humanity at its most savage and most noble embraced tightly in the weak winter sun. Some wiped tears while others stood

apart, alone and guarded in a sadness they could not share. There were kids, too, spit-shine sharp in their Young Marines uniforms, leading the Pledge of Allegiance. There were vets who have maintained a monthly vigil at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial for more than 15 years and leather-clad bikers from Rolling Thunder who fly the somber POW/MIA colors. Vietnam helicopter pilots, wives, girlfriends, sons and daughters and curious passers-by had all gathered to attend the somber roll call of North

SEE **ROGERS**, PAGE 18A

As investigators gather evidence from a debris field hundreds of miles across, the president and NASA administrators promise the space program will go on.

FROM WIRE REPORTS

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Shuttle Columbia, a space cargo ship carrying a cross-section of America's human treasure and the first Israeli astronaut, disintegrated in flames Saturday over Texas.

All seven astronauts died. They never had a chance. Astronauts have no way to escape a shuttle as it glides toward a landing without power at 13,000 mph.

Initial speculation about what caused the accident focused on possible damage to the left wing during blastoff 16 days earlier.

"This day has brought terrible news and great sadness to our country," President Bush said. "The Columbia is lost. There are



Source: News reports

The News & Observer

no survivors. ... "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; yet we can pray that all are safely

home. May God bless the grieving families."

The astronauts aboard Columbia were Rick Husband, 45, the shuttle's commander and an Air Force colonel; pilot William McCool, 41, a Navy commander; Michael Anderson, 43, the payload commander; mission specialists David Brown, 46, a Navy captain; Kalpana Chawla, 41, who was born in India; Laurel Clark, 41, a flight surgeon; and Ilan Ramon, 48, a colonel in Israel's air force.

Saturday's mission was the shuttle program's 113th flight and its second major disaster,

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THEORIES

Investigators will be looking into several possible explanations for what went wrong on Columbia:

HEAT SHIELD: The shuttle's insulation — a system of ceramic-like tiles over fluffy blankets — was hit on the left wing by falling fuel-tank insulation at blastoff, which might have caused problems during the fiery re-entry.

EXPLOSION: The shuttle's fuels and oxidizers are under high pressure. Suspicion could fall on the hydrazine tanks.

STRUCTURAL COLLAPSE: The 22-year-old Columbia was the oldest shuttle, and concerns about the maintenance of NASA's fleet were raised last year.

EXPANDED COVERAGE

Pages 16A through 22A

'LEARN FROM IT': An NCSU scientist doesn't think heat shields failed; a Beaufort man recalls his brother's death on Challenger. **►17A**

LOCAL REACTION: After a week of tragedies, 'everybody's a little bit on overload.' **►18A**

ONE OF THEIR OWN: Indians mourn for Kalpana Chawla. **►19A**

For the world, another day to mourn



Eighth-graders, a science adviser and a teacher at an Israeli school react to the news of the space shuttle disaster.

AP PHOTO BY HERZL SHAPIRA

BY TODD S. PURDUM
THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — For sleeping Texans who heard the "boom-boom," it was the sound of the sky falling.

For the clinical-voiced controller at NASA's Mission Control, it was a "contingency."

For Americans already grappling with a confluence of threatening events, the instinctive reaction was, "What next?"

Like the space shuttle Challenger disaster 17 years ago and the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the disintegration of the Columbia unfolded in real time before a nationwide television audience,

sparking many of the same unsettled feelings. Only because the breakup began about 40 miles above the earth could the instinct to think of terrorism be repressed.

But to a nation still struggling with the aftermath of the most devastating terrorist attack in its history and the abiding threat of another, plus a sluggish economy, nuclear tension with North Korea and the prospect of war with Iraq, the disaster Saturday was an especially harsh blow.

"The cause in which they died will continue," President Bush said in remarks to the nation

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