

## Editorial

# The promise of Columbia

During two historic days last week the majority of the American population was looking up. Millions watched the maiden voyage of NASA's Space Transport System (STS), the Space Shuttle Columbia.

Americans were filled with a renewed feeling of accomplishment and joy. As Columbia astronaut Robert Crippen said last week, "America needs the Space Shuttle. Our country has had few things to be proud of in the last decade. The Space Shuttle is going to remoralize America."

The manned Columbia orbiter that circled the earth 36 times marks one of the finest achievements of American science and technology. Following the Voyager tour of the planets, it was the second great achievement of NASA in the past two years. And it was the first manned flight into space since the joint U.S.-Soviet Apollo-Soyuz flight in 1975, offering an entire new generation of American children the opportunity to see man traveling into space.

The Columbia is the first reusable vehicle ever to leave the earth's atmosphere; it can be relaunched for dozens of further voyages. The most technologically complex machine man has ever launched into space, the Columbia opens up a vast new frontier of flight travel and exploration for humanity. The Space Shuttle Columbia—and three more orbiters now in production—will open up space as the railroad opened up the American continent in the last century.

In space, the STS will enable man to work, to service already existing labs and satellites, to transport new structures, and to carry out continuous scientific work and experimentation.

It is this potential that so sparked that old sense of American pride and dedication to science and progress. And the magnificent precision of the voyage brought forward great joy in the human potential to control the universe for mankind. In short, the awesome achievements of the Columbia voyage include delivering a sharp black eye to the zero growthers

dedicated to convincing the American people that the American dream of conquering limits is a thing of the past.

The *New York Times* and other leading proponents of zero growth in general and NASA budget slashes in particular snarled like proverbial dogs in the manger at the nation's exhilaration. The morning after Columbia's triumphant precision landing, the *Times* editorialized: "Some dream of space colonies and mining enterprises on other worlds. . . . The danger of the Shuttle's success is that it will tempt America to contrive tasks for it simply because it exists. We had best let the euphoria subside. . . ."

Indeed, the Columbia opens the way to rally the citizenry behind a rededication of the nation to the moral purpose for which it was founded—the extension of human progress.

Now there is a job to be done. We must tap the reawakening of the American dream, and ensure that the 10 percent cut that OMB director David Stockman has slated for the NASA budget is turned around.

The day Columbia took off, launch director Frank Page was asked by a reporter, "How many more launches like this one before we get the fifth orbiter?" The orbiter was produced for the Space Shuttle fleet, but has been stricken from the budget. "That is something you should be asking the senators and congressmen," said Page appropriately.

It is now time for some new-style "shuttle diplomacy." The challenges of the 21st century are before us. The Columbia mission proved without a doubt that nearly two decades of zero-growth propaganda, the near destruction of our educational system, and the drug plague have not yet wiped out this nation. We must use the great potentials of Columbia to end once and for all the budget-slashing and high-interest policies designed to ensure a "postindustrial age." Let's get America back to work in the business we know best—the business of progress.



**“The environmentalist-terrorist groups are merely infantry divisions deployed by some of the most powerful political forces in the United States.”**

— Robert Greenberg  
Editor, Investigative Leads

Over the last decade, the United States and other industrialized countries have been under all-out attack by the forces of the so-called environmentalist movement. Radicalized youth, “social-activist” lawyers of the Ralph Nader variety, and “expert studies” have all been combined to convince many that growth and prosperity are things of the past.

Now, *Executive Intelligence Review* is making available a comprehensive study on the environmentalist movement, showing how the movement is controlled from top to bottom by some of the most prestigious power centers in the United States: New York-based foundations and law firms, and federal agencies, under the umbrella of the Council on Foreign Relations.

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