

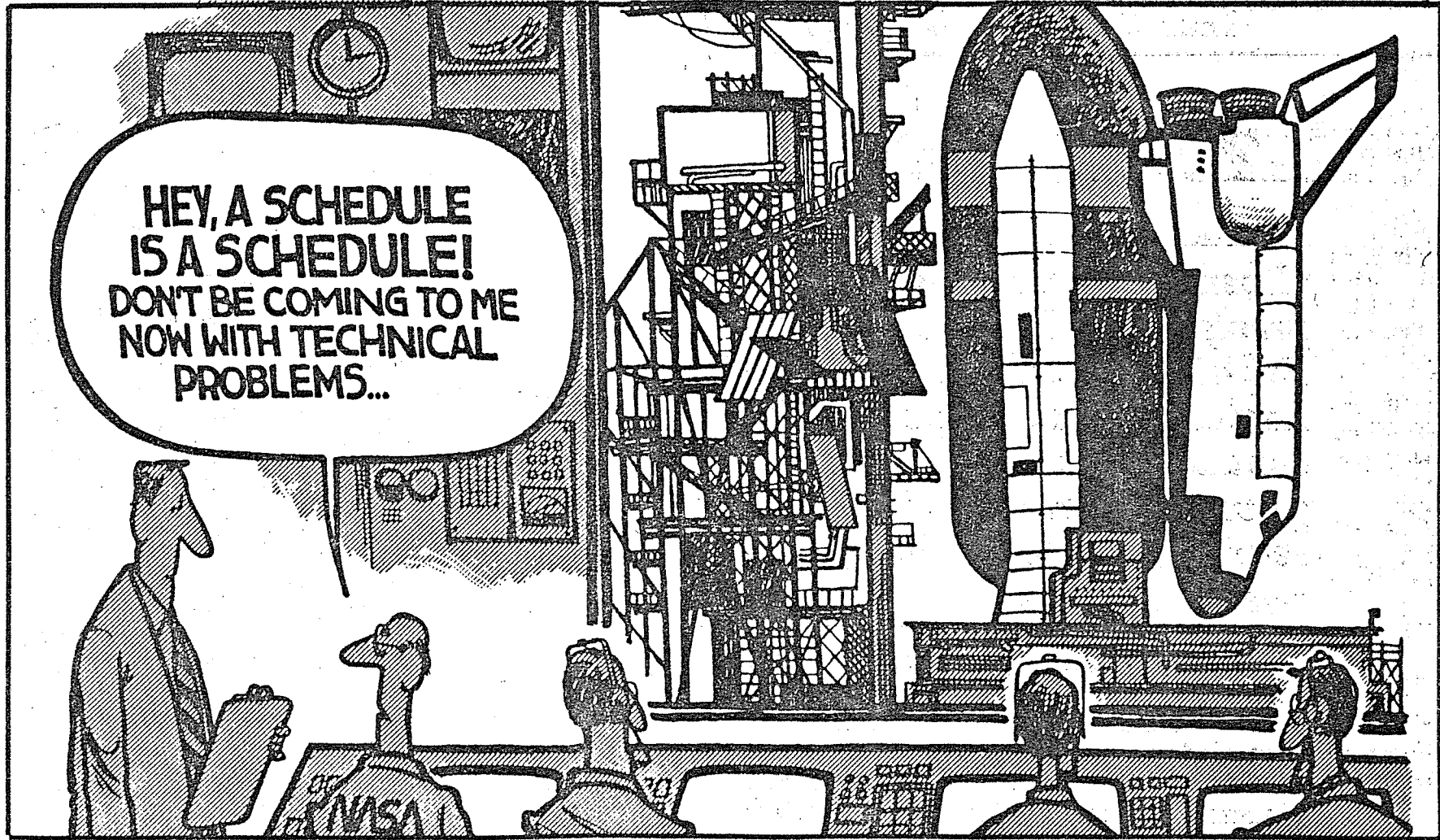
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more difficult by the massive destruction of the shuttle vehicle itself. Most of the evidence gathered to date, however, points to a failure of the O-rings on the right solid rocket booster.

These O-rings serve much as do gaskets in an automobile engine. They keep hot gases working under control inside the vehicle. There is significant evidence that these O-

than-normal temperatures present at Cape Canaveral during the hours leading up to launch.

Everyone understands that no shuttle launch can be made 100 percent safe. Indeed, space travel today still is very much in its infancy. Compare it, for example, to the first 25 years of airplane travel, when there were many accidents and lives lost.

room must be filled by another "teacher in space." Her lessons must yet be taught. She would be the first to tell us that. And she would be right.

But first the shuttle must be made as safe as possible, for civilians as well as for the engineers, pilots and other traditional space technicians. We must set no separate safety standard for any of these pioneers. If shuttle