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#### **SKYWAY TWIN**

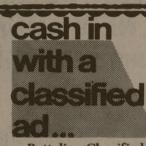
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Teen-age spaceflight controller

### aid in first shuttle flight<sup>en</sup> man tra

United Press International HOUSTON — Jackie Parker takes a lot of kidding about her age, but success as a math whiz who graduated early from college and became a teen-age spaceflight con-troller has kept her good-natured about it.

the state

She's training at Johnson Space Center to be part of the ground Center to be part of the ground

of Government Executive.

Solar power is

solution: expert

HOUSTON - One answer to the energy shortage currently being gnored is massive development of solar power satellites, the director

of Johnson Space Center said. "Inevitably, the Earth has to come to some form of the use of solar

energy," Dr. Christoper C. Kraft said in an interview in the July issue

Kraft said an orbiting platform containing solar panels could con-vert the sun's rays into electricity and microwave transmitters could beam that power back to Earth.

"I really believe they are (feasible)," Kraft said. "The route to demonstrating the feasibility is exactly the same road the space pro-gram needs to follow even if it never sends a kilowatt back from

He said the elements required for solar power development of solar power satellites are the capacity to build and assemble parts into large structures in space. Solar platforms would be miles wide. Kraft said the same skills would be required to expand observation,

communication, military and exploration capability in space

Cost estimates run into the billions for one satellite that could supply enough power for a city of 1.5 million persons, but experts say improvements in technology, particularly solar cell technoogy, could

team managing NASA's space shut-tle during its first orbital flights next

"It's all in fun," Miss Parker, 19, said of the jokes. "Besides, if it wasn't my age, they'd find some-thing else to kid me about. I think I'm just one of those people who encourages kidding." She has been the youngest in her

lege at 14, graduated at 17 and went to work for NASA at 18. Miss Parker, who keeps the exact numerical value of her "genius-level IQ" to herself, also has earned a pilot's license and intends to he pilot's license and intends to become an astronaut.

"I just want to live in space for a period of time," she said. "I'd like to construct something up there. Just to be free in a simple umbilical cord

and a spacesuit must be neat." Her father, Dr. William Dale Parker, is a retired former NASA employee who worked at JSC years ago. She credits him for rescuing port her claim. her from junior high school unhap-piness she blamed in part on the

family's repeated moves. "My father knew what was going on," she said. "He said there's a way out. You can go to college early." She went to summer school and

crammed credits to complete high school early and then applied to

small colleges, finally choosing what has become the University of Central Florida. 'When I got to college, it was so

much easier," she said. "People are more willing to meet you. There aren't many cliques. It worked out real good for me."

She took an overload 41 hours in her last two quarters to graduate early in computer science and

when she decided to finish high school in two years. She started col-She currently works as a \$17,000-a-work into a short period of time k work into a short period of time her grades lower than they of year flight controller.

year flight controller. "Flight control seems to center around a lot of information that I possible 4.0 gradepoint average. She plays what she called bet onthusiastic game have to know as an astronaut," she said. "Anything I know is going to mediocre but enthusiastic game softball, is on a volleyball team, si mossing at on Clear Lake, likes all kinds messel even help me as an astronaut." She plans to return to school for

other degrees, perhaps in biomedi-cal or mechanical engineering, which could enhance her chances of music and dates men "of varie ages" just like a lot of other wome her age. "When people see a high IQ. dz ind," Spe first thing they think is 'my Gd itina., and couldn't talk to that girl," is ge Girl we becoming an astronaut.

Parker credits her early success to hard work and good fortune and wants others to consider her smart laughed. "I don't want them to the that. I just want them to think | could do that or my daughter could but normal. Occasional giggles supdo that. She points to her "forgetfulness"

In-state vacations **OK**, says Bullock

United Press International AUSTIN — State Comptroller Bob Bullock Monday said Texas still has the lowest gasoline tax rate and encouraged Texans to vacation in the state this summer.

Bullock said Texans can save fuel and money by taking instate trips since the state only places a 5 cent tax on each gallon of gasoline. Washington has the highest

gasoline tax rate — 12 cents pergalon. The comptroler said gasoline ta ALMO

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