

National

Space shuttle to try again; launch set for Thursday

United Press International
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has decided

to try to re-launch the space shuttle Columbia Thursday to see if a used spacecraft works as well as a new one.

The two hydraulic system engines that developed oil pressure trouble seconds before blastoff Wednesday will be fixed by draining contaminated gearbox oil, flushing the system and installing new filters.

"Getting to a Thursday launch is a very tight schedule, but one which the mission management team feels can be made," a NASA announcement said.

The abbreviated countdown is scheduled to begin at 7 a.m. Tuesday and head for a 6:30 a.m. blastoff two days later, a delay of eight days from the first try.

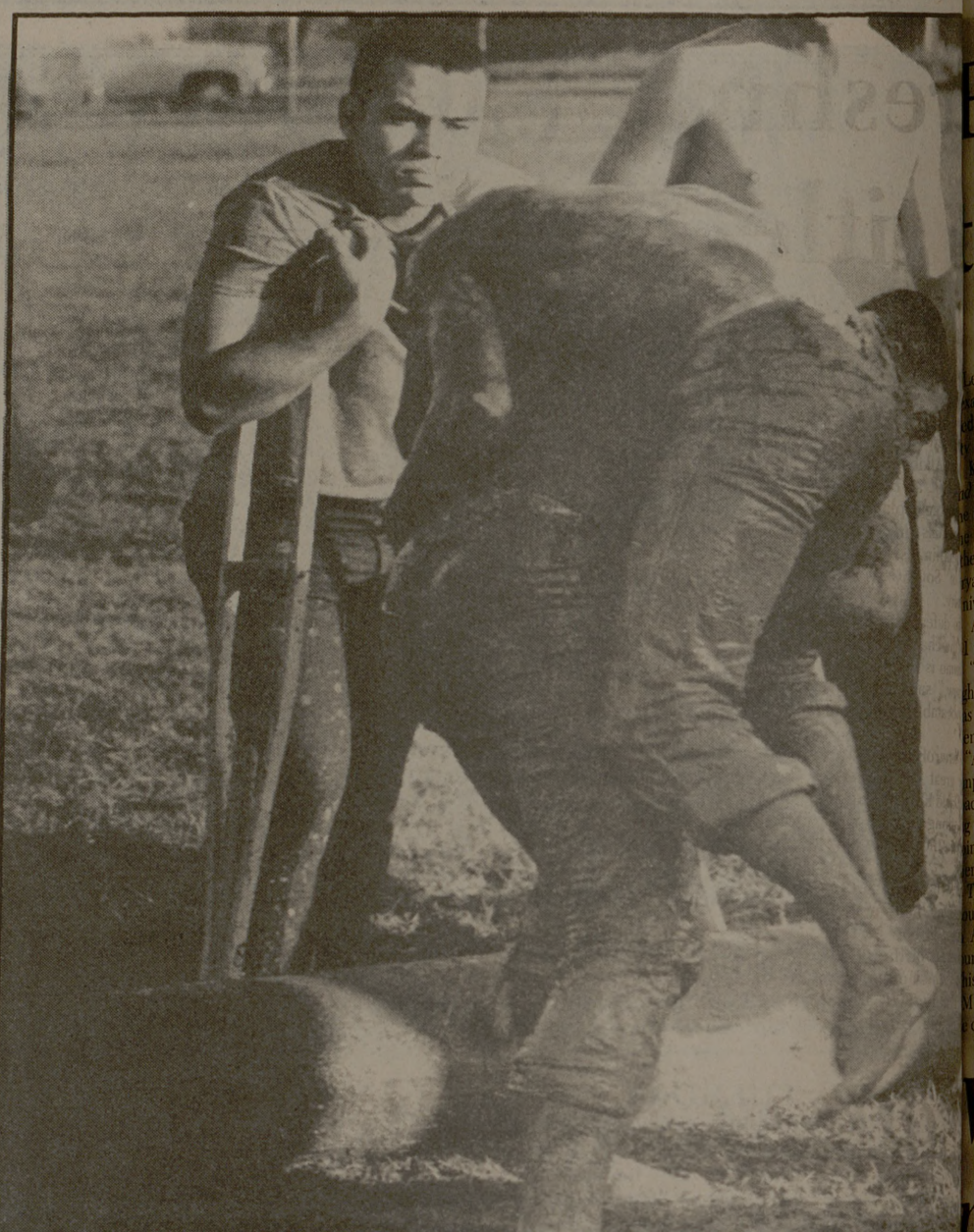
Launch control spokesman Hugh Harris said the "gunk" in the lubrication oil that clogged gearbox oil filters in the auxiliary power units was a compound produced by a chemical reaction between the oil, hydrazine fuel and a small amount of water normally found in the oil. The fuel leaked

through two screens into the oil. The problem developed in two hydraulic pump engines that had not been serviced since the Columbia's first flight last April.

Horace Lamberth, chief of fluid systems at the Kennedy Space Center, said the problem showed that the auxiliary power units in the spaceship would have to be checked after each flight. Project officials had hoped to keep such servicing to a minimum in order to reduce work time between launches.

The Columbia is designed to make 100 round-trips to orbit. The five-day, 83-orbit flight of Astronauts Joe Engle and Richard Truly is considered important because it will demonstrate whether a spacecraft can make at least two flights.

A successful flight would give the United States a significant space first and it would enhance the ship's credibility as a reusable space vehicle. No spaceship has flown in orbit more than once.



Staff photo by Dave...

Muddy competition

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Husband wanted: men rush to phone

United Press International
WICHITA, Kan. — Wichita telephone operators are busy handling requests for the address of a "slender and sporting" blonde who's made a public plea for a husband.

Regina Leitner, a 26-year-old West German, wrote a letter eventually found its way to the office of Wichita Mayor Brown. In the letter, she asked the mayor's help in finding an American husband, so she could live in this country.

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"I'm sure there is a man out there for me," she said in her letter addressed to "Major Office, Wichita, Kansas."

Miss Leitner, 5-foot-6, describes herself as "slender, sporting," and liking music, sports, and honest people. She said she prefers country life on a ranch or a farm.

Brown said he gave the letter to Wichita City Commission Secretary Alvena Lyon and told her to find somebody to handle it.

The story about the German woman's search for a husband was published Friday, and Southwood Bell Telephone Co., operating Wichita were besieged with 300 calls — all requesting Leitner's address.

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