

National

Columbia's bionic arm functions as planned

United Press International
HOUSTON — The space shuttle's mechanical arm worked so well during its first orbital test that engineers say it is ready to grapple with a hefty payload on the Columbia's third mission.

"It's a remarkable machine and it's doing exactly as we hoped and expected," astronaut Dick Truly said after putting the \$100-million Remote Manipulator System through a limited series of tests Friday.

Truly, lead test pilot on the arm, used one of two television cameras mounted on the 50-foot bionic arm to show the world a "Hi Mom!" sign he flashed through a flight deck window.

"This will allow us to use the arm on STS-3 (the next mission)," said Clay McCullough, manager of payload deployment and retrieval at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

McCullough said plans for the third shuttle mission, tentatively scheduled for March, call for the arm to grab and maneuver

or two environment monitoring units — one weighing 1,000 pounds and the other 500 pounds while on the ground.

The arm was financed by the National Research Council of Canada, built in Toronto by Spar Aerospace Ltd. and donated to the space agency in exchange for a \$75 million purchase of three more like it.

Truly raised the arm from its cradle, flexed it, bent it, moved it along preplanned paths to measure its accuracy, then re-cradled it. Afterward, he told mission controllers it worked "really smooth."

Because the mission was shortened due to a power problem, Truly and astronaut Joe Engle were able to conduct only 4 1/2 of the planned 13 hours of testing on the arm.

But Karl Doetsch, assistant project manager of the National Research Council of Canada, said it worked "perfectly."

"The really important thing is to show that the arm can operate properly in each of its con-

trol modes and each of those has been tested by now," Doetsch said. "We'll be down to one-third in terms of time, but they got in two-thirds of the work in terms of importance."

The arm, which weighs only 900 pounds and cannot lift itself outside the weightless environment of space, is designed to load and unload shuttle payloads that would weigh up to 65,000 pounds on Earth. It is a key to the future of the space shuttle program.

Truly looked through the flight deck's rear windows and used hand controls to maneuver the arm, which has brushless electric motors in each of its joints. He also tested the arm's grapple without a load and proved it could grip a payload.

Television pictures of the arm Friday showed it arching away from the spacecraft, bent almost 90 degrees at the elbow and wrist joints. At one point, it looked like a giant sky hook, backgrounded by space and cotton-like clouds over Earth.

'Obstructive bargaining' is charge

AFL-CIO may boycott firm

United Press International
NEW YORK — AFL-CIO leaders Saturday called for a nationwide boycott of Procter & Gamble soap products, charging the corporation with "obstructive bargaining" tactics.

The action could ignite the largest boycott by organized labor since the successful action brought against the J.P. Stevens textile firm that eventually led to an agreement.

The boycott includes Tide, Cheer, Oxydol and Bold powder detergents; Camay, Zest, and Ivory bar soaps, and Dawn liquid detergents.

The federation's Executive Council, which will meet before the biennial convention of the 15 million-member AFL-CIO Monday, also adopted a resolution reiterating its call to President Ronald Reagan to rehire air traffic controllers who went on strike against the government.

"It is time for the president's demeaning vendetta against the air controllers to stop," the resolution said.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland refused to discuss any of the council action with reporters. He will open the convention with a keynote address expected to touch on major issues facing the labor movement.

The federation refused to invite Reagan or any other administration official to address the convention, but several leading Democrats, including former Vice President Walter Mondale and Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., will speak.

The Procter & Gamble boycott involves alleged tactics by the company that have led to the failure of the Steelworkers union to obtain an initial contract at its Kansas City, Kan. soap plant. The union was certified on Nov. 6, 1980 by the National Labor Relations Board as the bargaining agent at the plant.

"Today, a year later, the workers are still without a contract because of employer delaying tactics

and obstructive bargaining designed not to reach fair agreement, but to wear down the workers and their union," the council said in a formal statement.

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Baby switching surprises mom

United Press International
GREEN BAY, Wis. — Cindy Blasier had a surprise awaiting her when she returned home from the Algoma Memorial Hospital and opened the diaper of her newborn baby boy, the new mother said Saturday.

The baby was a girl. The baby was not Ryan Robert Blasier but Jessica Ann Holland, the daughter of David and Judy Holland of Maplewood.

Cindy and her husband, Terry, of nearby Brussels, bundled the baby back into the car and took it back to the hospital. And sure enough, there in the crib of Jessica Ann Holland was Ryan Robert Blasier.

"We thought something like

this could only happen on TV or in a big city," Blasier said.

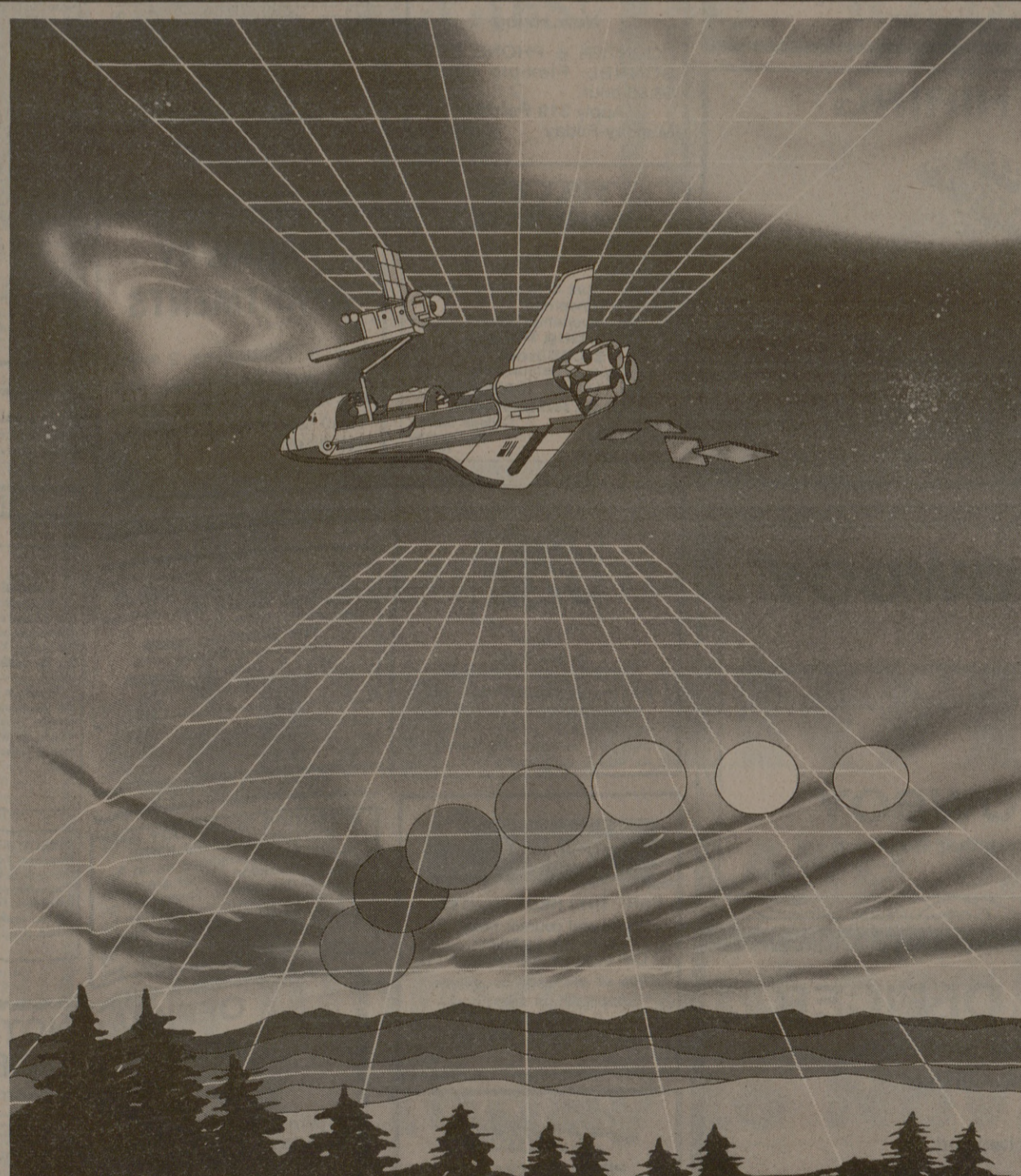
Tom Thomas, a spokesman for Algoma Memorial Hospital, said the switch apparently took place when a nurse hurriedly put the two babies back into the nursery after they spent time with their mothers.

Holland, a high school classmate of Blasier, was not due to check his wife and baby out of the hospital Wednesday for several hours, so the Hollands took the correct baby home, officials said.

The Blasiers said there were no hard feelings and they held no grudge against the hospital. Apparently no disciplinary action was taken for those responsible for the mixup.

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