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Workers prepare shuttle

United Press International
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Shuttle commander Henry Hartsfield and co-pilot Michael Coats practiced touch-and-go landings at the Kennedy Space Center Monday while workers readied Discovery for its third launch try Wednesday.

America's third billion-dollar shuttle is scheduled to blast off on its revised first flight at 7:35 a.m. for a six-day mission ferrying a record three communications satellites into orbit.

Discovery's six crew members arrived at the Cape on Sunday to begin final preparations for their twice-delayed mission. The countdown began six hours later at 11 p.m.

Flying a business jet modified to mimic the handling of an orbiter, Hartsfield and Coats roared aloft in the early morning light Monday, repeatedly diving toward the spaceport's 3-mile-long runway at the shuttle's particularly steep 20-degree glide angle.

Passenger jets typically dive at about three degrees for landings. For added realism, half of the shuttle training aircraft's cockpit is an exact duplicate of Discovery's controls.

Three miles away at its ocean-side pad, Discovery stood surrounded by the steel latticework of launch complex 39-A where the early stages of the 43-hour countdown ran smoothly.

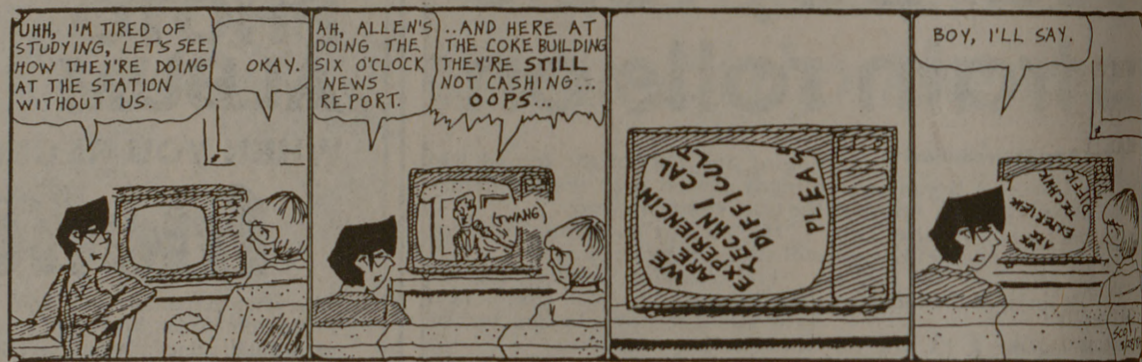
The carefully orchestrated procedure, including 14 hours and 35 minutes of planned "holds," began right on time and engineers powered up Discovery's electronic systems and started checking its on-board computers.

They began loading the three main engine computers with flight programs about 8 a.m. Monday. During a practice countdown two weeks ago, an engine controller failed to accept its program and prompted a three-hour delay.

But the space agency later traced the problem to a programming error and the controller was cleared for flight.

While Hartsfield and Coats practiced shuttle landings, the rest of Discovery's crew — Judy Resnik, Steven Hawley, Richard Mullane and Charles Walker — brushed up on the details of their complicated flight plans.

Warped



by Scott McCullar

Moslem gunmen fuel tension

Lebanese snipers kill girl

United Press International
BEIRUT, Lebanon — Snipers killed a girl in the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli Monday, and Moslem gunmen fueled tensions in Beirut by fighting in the streets and attacking an army post with hand grenades.

Sniper fire also swept the mountains southeast of the capital and a car packed with explosives blew up in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon, killing two men, the official National News Agency said.

The violence in the Moslem western half of Beirut came less than a day after Moslem militiamen clashed with army units in the center of the capital. It was the most serious breach of a Syrian-backed peace plan that has been in effect in the city since July 4.

Amid what Lebanon's main Christian militia called "the obvious anarchy prevailing in west Beirut," sev-

eral Lebanese newspapers speculated Syria would take new steps to ease tensions in the city.

The respected An Nahar newspaper said Syrian Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam might visit Beirut this week to set the stage for a proposed summit meeting between Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and Syrian leader Hafez Assad.

Official Beirut radio reported that sniper fire killed a girl in Tripoli, the northern port where about 100 people were killed and 300 more were wounded last week in three days of heavy fighting between rival Moslem militiamen.

The shooting in Tripoli followed Prime Minister Rashid Karami's announcement Sunday that government officials expected to put a new security plan into effect in the city 42 miles north of Beirut.

The plan under consideration calls for Lebanese army units to take

up key positions in Tripoli in hopes of stopping the fighting. Syrian troops based in northern Lebanon for the past nine years also might be called on to move into the city as a buffer force.

In west Beirut, a brief gunbattle erupted in late afternoon near the commercial Hamra district. Security sources said the fighting pitted Druze Moslem militiamen against gunmen of the little-known Arab Socialist Party, a leftist Moslem militia.

There was no report of casualties and no immediate explanation of what started the clash.

The National News Agency said two brothers were killed in the bomb explosion near Nabatieh, which appeared to be aimed at Israeli occupation troops who have been in Lebanon since their 1982 invasion drove Palestinian guerrillas from the country.

Arabs ask for ban on rally

United Press International
ACRE, Israel — Representatives of Israel's largest Arab town asked police Monday to ban American-born militant Rabbi Meir Kahane from holding a demonstration there because it could cause violence.

The leaders of Umm el-Fahm said they could not be responsible for the reaction of the town's 22,000 Arab residents at the demonstration, scheduled for Wednesday. Umm el-Fahm is the largest Arab town inside Israel proper and for four years has been governed by the left-wing Democratic Front for Peace and Equality.

Kahane, who founded the mili-

tant New York-based Jewish Defense League, was elected to the Knesset, Israel's parliament, last month with a promise to seek the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel.

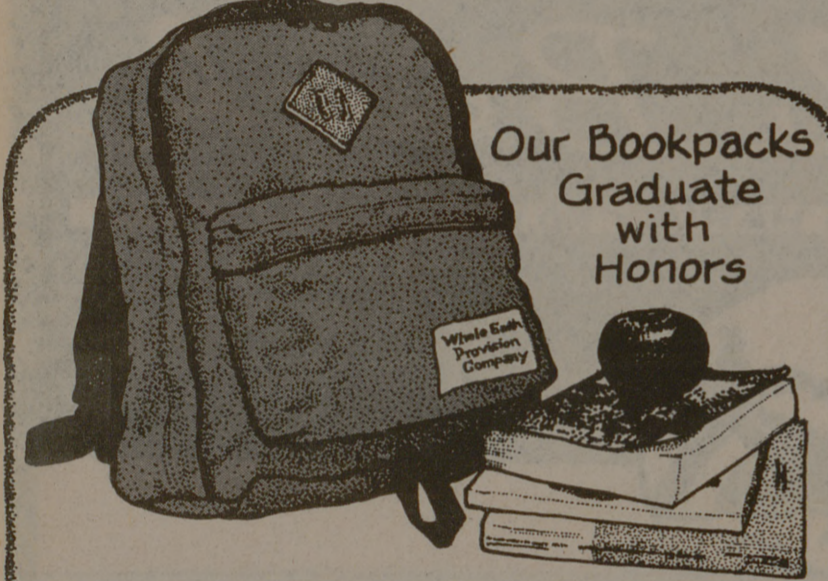
"Good evening, Jews. Good evening, Arab dogs," Kahane said at a rally in Acre Sunday attended by 500 Jews and 300 Arabs, who were staging a counter-rally. He repeated his policy by calling for expulsion of the 10,000 Arabs from Acre.

"If the local residents attack Rabbi Kahane we will put him out of the village in an attempt to calm the tense atmosphere," a senior police officer told United Press International.

Abdul-Wahab Darawshi, a Labor Party member of the Knesset, said the demonstration in Umm el-Fahm would be clear provocation and would hurt the feelings of all Arabs in the area.

Hundreds of residents from Umm el-Fahm and neighboring villages will organize a counter-demonstration to prevent Kahane from entering the town, police said.

A senior police officer, who asked to remain anonymous, acknowledged the visit would be a clear provocation but said authorities could not legally prevent Kahane from entering Umm el-Fahm.



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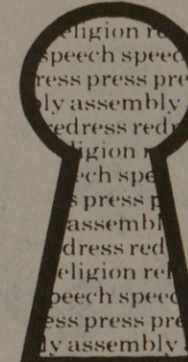
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