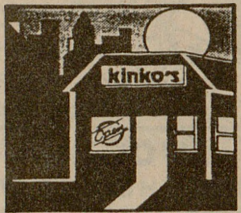


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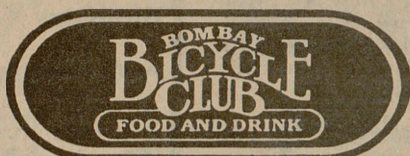
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# World and Nation

## Couple claims hospital switched babies at birth

BALTIMORE (AP) — A couple who raised a girl until she died of a congenital heart ailment last month at age 9 have filed a \$100 million lawsuit claiming the child was swapped at birth for their own healthy baby.

In the lawsuit filed Wednesday, Ernest and Regina I. Twigg allege their child was put up for adoption nine years ago after hospital workers changed identifying bracelets and altered records so the adoptive couple could have a well baby. They hope to eventually find their own child and gain custody.

Tests on blood and tissue samples taken from Arlena Twigg before she died showed she was not related to either parent, their attorney, Marvin Ellin of Baltimore, said.

The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Tampa, Fla., names Hardee Memorial Hospital in Wauchula, Fla., three physicians and a nurse, charging them with fraud or negligence, or both.

A woman who answered the telephone Thursday at the Twiggs' home in Langhorne, Pa., referred calls to Ellin.

"We're totally devastated," Mrs. Twigg told the *Baltimore Sun*. "Our lives have turned into a nightmare. We've not only lost our Arlena... but also where is our own daughter? We're very much interested in tracking down our own child."

The lawsuit said that after the baby was born, the Twiggs were originally told that she was healthy but three days later were told she had congenital heart disease that could eventually prove fatal.

They didn't suspect the swap until May, when a routine test showed that Arlena, who was facing heart surgery, had a blood type of B-positive. The Twiggs said

their baby had been born with a blood type of O, and they both have type O blood.

On the basis of the differing blood types, Ellin would be all but impossible for Arlena to be the child. Additional tests on Arlena's tissues conducted by Ellin concluded the same thing, he said.

The Twiggs never told Arlena, who died in 1978, of their doubts about her parentage, Ellin said. The couple have seven other children.

Efforts to reach the defendants — Dr. Ernest I. Twigg, a family doctor; Dr. William D. Black, an obstetrician; Dr. Adley Z. Sedaros, a pediatrician; and Dr. Spieth, a nurse — were unsuccessful Thursday.

Messages left at the offices of Black in Springs, Miss.; and Palmer in Wauchula, Fla., immediately returned Thursday. There was no answer at midday Thursday at Sedaros' office in Melrose, Fla., or at the Wauchula home of Spieth.

Palmer told the *Sun*, "I certainly wouldn't swap babies on anyone, but I guess you can be sued by a Harold Connelly, hospital administrator, said he had no knowledge of the lawsuit and was surprised by the allegations.

The lawsuit said the unknown adoptive parents wanted a healthy baby but it gave no reason for the medical personnel might have gotten around switching two babies. Ellin said some defendants have been only negligent, but that at least one must have deliberately switched the two babies.

The lawsuit seeks records of payments to defendants that might give insight into motives and indicate where the other child is living, he said.

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## Astronauts ready for future launch by simulating flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Discovery's astronauts donned orange pressure suits and threw switches in a successful practice countdown Thursday, and NASA officials said they hope to launch the first space shuttle since the Challenger tragedy before September ends.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration plans to announce a launch date Wednesday, following a two-day flight readiness review here.

Officials have been discussing a date from Sept. 26 to 29.

"We clearly demonstrated that we're ready to pick up the count for real; I hope that by the end of the month," Kennedy Space Center Director Forrest S. McCartney told the launch team after the test.

"You have a feeling this train is about to leave the station and we're about to get on board," astronaut Mike Lounge said.

"The enthusiasm around here is obvious," McCartney said. "It seems to me like we've finally got it put back together."

He referred to the long recovery, with its many setbacks and milestones, from the Challenger explosion that killed seven astronauts on Jan. 28, 1986.

Thursday's practice countdown was the last of those major milestones, and it was completed with only a few minor communications glitches.

It began Wednesday, and the five-man Discovery crew boarded the shuttle Thursday to participate in the final two hours, throwing switches, testing communications and monitoring systems, just as they will on launch day.

The commander is Navy Capt. Rick Hauck. The pilot is Air Force Lt. Col. Dick Covey, and the mission specialists are George Nelson, Lounge and Marine Maj. David Hilmer.

For the test, they wore bright orange pressure suits, the first time a crew has not worn comfortable flight coveralls since the fifth shuttle mission in 1982.

"We clearly demonstrated that we're ready to pick up the count for real; I hope that by the end of the month."

— Kennedy Space Center Director, Forrest S. McCartney

The pressure garments, which all shuttle crews will wear on launch and re-entry, would be needed in case of trouble during an emergency landing attempt and the astronauts had to bail out by blowing an explosive hatch, sliding down a telescoping pole to avoid hitting the wing, and parachuting to Earth.

This emergency escape system has been added since the Challenger explosion. It would not help in a Challenger-type accident, in which the shuttle blew up 73 seconds after lift-off.

The communications problems, in ground equipment, delayed some practice countdown activities and the test ended 34 minutes late.

A computer stopped the count at six seconds before a mock liftoff, just as it would if there were an engine problem on an actual launch, giving the launch team experience in handling such a situation.

The test concluded three days of training here for Discovery's crew. Afterward they returned to their base at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Hauck and Lounge will be back here next week to represent the crew at the flight readiness review which will determine a launch date.

Hauck said the meeting, on Tuesday and Wednesday, is an in-depth review that all elements of the program will have a requirement to sign on the dotted line to say that their part of the program is ready for us to fly.

## Bush, Dukakis set schedule for debates

From Associated Press  
Tentative agreement was reached Thursday for Sept. 25 to be the first of two presidential campaign debates between Michael Dukakis and George Bush. While top aides working out details, the candidates were emphasizing delicacy during appearances in Kentucky.

Dukakis told the American people that "a mountain of debt up during the Reagan administration was endangering national defense, while Bush, observing every destruction of U.S. money comply with a new treaty, had day the United States began to reverse the arms race.

The tentative debate schedule was announced by Dukakis campaign chairman Paul Brown said the two candidates would meet on Sept. 25 at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C. Bush said the second presidential debate would be Oct. 14 or depending on the baseball schedule.

Vice presidential nominees Bentsen and Dan Quayle will debate during the first week in October.

Bush was at Longhorn Army ammunition plant in Karnack, Texas, to join other U.S. and Soviet leaders in witnessing the demolition of Pershing missile engines.

He said the occasion was those unique moments in the life of a man, a moment when the history turned, that a new dawned.

The engines were among 850 weapons to be destroyed under the U.S.-Soviet treaty that eliminated intermediate range missiles from Europe.

"The missile stages we destroy are just a beginning," Bush said. "It is a moment we will be able to show our children and grandchildren about — this was the day we began to reverse the arms race; this day we began destroying the weapons of destruction."

Sheila Tate, Bush's campaign spokeswoman, said the vice president now favors an increase in the minimum wage, which has been \$3.50 an hour for the past eight years.

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