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**Battalion Classifieds** Call 845-2611

## Strikers' bid fails; Eastern near collapse

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Machinists on strike against Eastern Airlines failed to win appellate court permission Wednesday to shut down commuter railroads in the New York City area, an effort apparently aimed at forcing federal intervention in the 5-day-old walkout.

Eastern, in a desperate attempt to lure back customers to its shuttle service, said it will slash one-way fares to \$12 on weekends, from \$69-\$99, and \$49 weekdays, down from \$99.

And pilots at other airlines continued strictly adhering to safety rules, but for a second day there was little evidence of a backup on runways.

The dispute rested Wednesday with courts in New York and Philadelphia, and Eastern was expected to go to court in Atlanta to appeal a judge's refusal to order pilots back to the cockpits.

Eastern contends it is near collapse, losing at least \$2 million a day. Its lawyer said in court Tuesday that the nation's seventh-largest carrier cannot survive the week if its pilots maintain their support for the Machinists.

The airline is running just 4 percent of its flights and says it will con-

sider bankruptcy court as a last resort. It sent 9,500 workers home this week and has just a skeleton staff of 1,500 remaining.

The 8,500-member Machinists union walked out on their jobs Saturday, and with the support of pilots and flight attendants nearly shut down Eastern.

Eastern is seeking \$125 million in concessions; the union wants \$50 million in raises.

The Machinists also threatened to disrupt commuter rail traffic with

secondary boycotts, which it contends are legal under the 1926 Railway Labor Act.

But the union held off when a federal judge in New York over the weekend temporarily barred rail workers from honoring Machinists picket lines.

In other developments, the Machinists Union asked Trans World Airlines Chairman Carl C. Icahn to seek control of the carrier, and he said he is willing to talk with them.

"I would be willing to speak to the

unions only if Eastern permits me because I do not want to be accused by Eastern of interfering with collective bargaining process," Icahn said in a statement.

Icahn had mulled a bid for Eastern a few months ago, when its Texas Air Corp. Chairman Fred Lorenzo, was considering selling. But Icahn and the unions could agree on terms for a worker stakeholder merger of TWA and Eastern, talks broke off.

## NASA says 5 days until space shuttle launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA unveiled "5 Days To Launch" signs at space center gates Wednesday and said space shuttle Discovery would lift off Monday with five astronauts and a \$100 million communications satellite.

Such signs usually show up about three weeks before a launch but were displayed much later this time because suspect or faulty equipment delayed the launch four times past its target date of Feb. 18.

The latest setback came Monday with the failure of a system that commands separation of the two booster rockets and external fuel tank from the spaceship in flight. The problem prevented a Saturday launch.

The faulty unit was replaced with one from space shuttle Columbia on Tuesday and was successfully

tested overnight, NASA spokesman Lisa Malone reported.

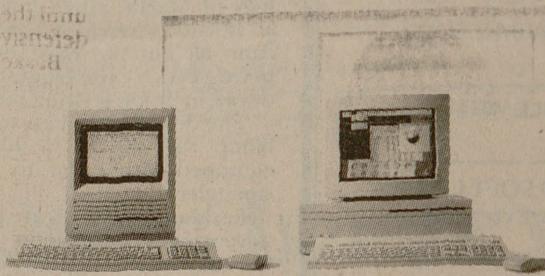
"The Kennedy Space Center is pressing on toward Monday liftoff," she said.

The countdown for the 28th shuttle launch, the third since the Challenger accident, was scheduled to start at 12:01 a.m. Friday, with liftoff set for 8:07 a.m. Monday.

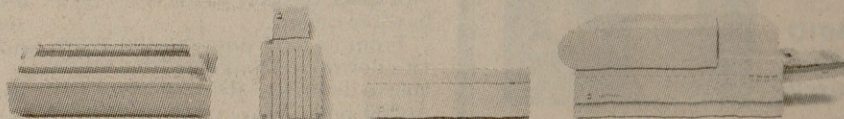
Discovery's crew, commanded by astronaut Michael Smith, was to arrive Friday from the astronaut training base in Houston. The others are John Blaha, James B. Smith, James Buchli and Bob Springer.

During five days in orbit they will deploy a communications satellite and conduct numerous medical and other scientific experiments.

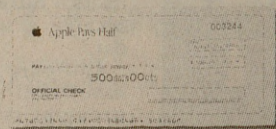
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