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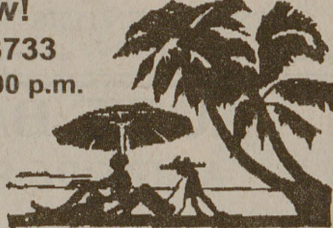
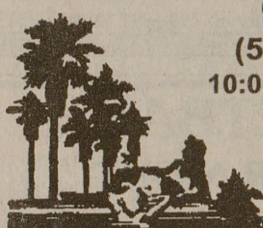
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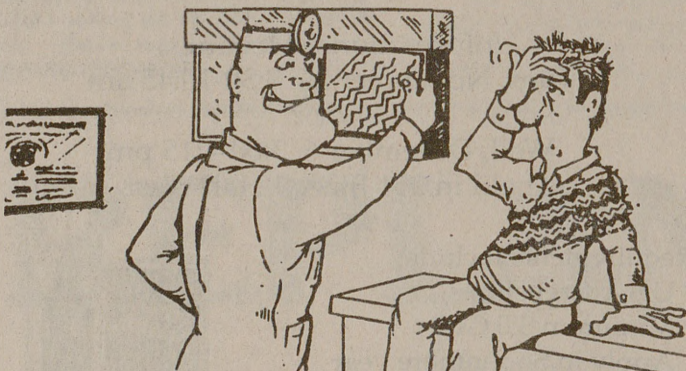


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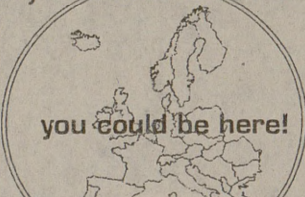


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NASA succeeds in nighttime liftoff

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Atlantis pierced the night sky and roared into space Sunday with six astronauts and a military satellite that will scout for missile launches from a perch thousands of miles high.
The 100-ton spaceship rumbled off its seaside pad at 6:44 p.m. EST. The shuttle lit up the sky for hundreds of miles as it headed eastward over the Atlantic Ocean and was swallowed up by the night.
It was a spectacular, and rare, after-hours show. The last shuttle departure in darkness was a year ago.
Two minutes into the flight, Atlantis' twin solid rocket boost-

Atlantis carries military satellite capable of missile launch alerts

ers dropped empty into the ocean as planned. The shuttle continued upward on the thrust of three main engines.
An oxygen fuel leak on the launch platform forced a 13-minute delay.
Three workers rushed to the pad and successfully tightened the leaky valve, but the job put crews behind in their work to replenish the fuel supply.
The astronauts were eager to get going.
"Atlantis is ready," said Air

Force Col. Frederick Gregory, the shuttle commander. "We're ready to burn paint."
Earlier in the day, the launch team had feared that strong wind and low clouds might thwart its second attempt to send up Atlantis. But the weather proved perfect for liftoff.
The spacecraft's long journey 224 miles above Earth is NASA's sixth and final shuttle flight of the year. It would be only the seventh time in 44 launches that a shuttle

has blasted off in darkness.
NASA's first countdown to the 10-day military mission ended abruptly Tuesday, just before liftoff, when the steering system of the satellite booster malfunctioned.
All that was put behind the day with final testing of the installed guidance unit. The team passed a critical three-hour calibration and was cleared for flight.
Engineers still had not identified the problem in the national unit that was removed a week from the satellite's ascent. But program managers were confident the trouble was isolated to that component.

Anti-abortion rally concludes; police arrest six more protesters

DALLAS (AP) — A weeklong protest touted as the start of a national campaign against abortion ended this weekend with the arrest of six more protesters.
The demonstrators were arrested Saturday as Operation Rescue National ended a week of rallies, prayer and picketing in Dallas.
Local protest leaders called the effort a success.
Rev. Flip Benham said the group's pickets outside various women's clinics dissuaded several patients from entering.
Benham cited a stout show of force by the Dallas police as proof of Operation Rescue's effectiveness.
About 125 protesters turned out Saturday — fewer than half the number who began the initial protest Nov. 16. The six arrested were charged with criminal trespass, obstructing a passageway, disorderly conduct or interfering with an arrest.
Dallas police arrested eight protesters during the first day of rallies.

AG expands probe of hospitals

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas Attorney General Dan Morales has expanded the state's investigation into private psychiatric hospitals to include three more of the nation's largest hospital chains.
The three chains are Charter Medical Corp., of Macon, Ga., which has 11 Texas hospitals; Hospital Corp. of America, of Nashville, Tenn., with 13 hospitals in Texas; and Community Psychiatric Centers, of Laguna Hills, Calif., which has five hospitals in the state.
The move comes at the request of the Texas Department of Mental Health-Mental Retardation, said Gray McBride, spokesman for the attorney general.
"We wish we could find a shiny, sparkling, clean, pure set of institutions that are dedicated to

one thing — treating patients," McBride said. "We're finding, unfortunately, too many institutions where there's a lot to be checked out."
Several state agencies including MHMR have been warned by Gov. Ann Richards to investigate better regulation.
Morales has sued Psychiatric Institutes of America, charging that PIA and its Psychiatric Institute of Fort Worth violated Texas law against paying "bounties" or "headhunter fees" to obtain patients.
His probe centers on fraudulent billing of state and federal dollars, including funds for worker compensation and crime victim compensation, McBride said.

Hearing begins on closure of state schools

DALLAS (AP) — An agreement that would shut down two of the 13 state schools for the mentally retarded gets a court hearing beginning Monday as a 17-year-old lawsuit apparently nears its end.
The closures, endorsed by Gov. Ann Richards, would be the first time a state school for the mentally retarded has been closed since the system began in 1917.
Lawyers for the Texas Department of Mental Health-

and about 2,000 state school residents are scheduled to provide arguments and evidence in support of the agreement Monday before U.S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders.
But one group of the four attached to the suit — the Parent Association for the Retarded of Texas — is expected to argue against the plan because the group's members are against the proposed closures.
PART's members have been

staunch supporters of institutional-based treatment of the retarded and have been long opposed to community care.
If any schools are closed, several hundred residents would be placed in smaller care settings in many Texas communities.
The settlement also calls for the gradual end of federal court monitoring of state schools, a practice since 1983 that has cost the state nearly \$4 million.

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