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# NASA chief observes final launch

## Departing administrator Richard Truly 'loved every minute' of reign at agency

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA Administrator Richard Truly, who resigned under White House pressure, watched his last shuttle launch as chief of the space agency and said the job has "been a thrill."

"I wish I was on this flight," said Truly, 54, who flew in



Richard Truly

space twice. "I think I'm going to put myself on the new astronaut selection list that we're going to announce in a few days."

He leaves the agency April 1; the next shuttle mission is set for early May.

Truly had waged a losing battle with the National Space Council, which had grown impatient with NASA's reliance on manned spaceflight and caution with trying new approaches. The council is headed by Vice President Dan Quayle.

"But I've loved every minute of it. It's been a thrill," Truly said

less than an hour after Atlantis began an atmospheric research mission Tuesday.

Truly noted there have been 21 shuttle launches since the 1986 Challenger disaster and all have been safe.

The Aerospace Safety Advisory Panel reported last week that Truly made the space program safer than his predecessors.

"My hopes for the shuttle program is the kind of performance I've seen in the last three years," Truly said. "This is a risky business, and it's still going to be risky after I'm gone."

"These missions are going on a steady pace, and it's safe that frankly is very comfortable."

Truly became NASA administrator in 1989, eight years after serving as pilot of the second shuttle flight.

He announced his resignation in February, and President Bush this month nominated a successor — aerospace executive Daniel Goldin.

Truly warned these are "turbulent times" for NASA because of budget-slashing by Congress and changes in the agency's administration.

# Soldiers file complaint against Guard

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — The American GI Forum has filed 20 complaints on behalf of Hispanic soldiers accusing the Texas National Guard of racial discrimination.

A report released by the organization's Corpus Christi chapter also calls for public hearings, restructuring the Guard, and recommends removing the adjutant general and suspending the Guard's chief of staff.

Gilbert Jasso, civil rights chairman for the Corpus Christi chapter of the GI Forum, said Tuesday that the complaints stem from "systematic, statewide, racial discrimination."

Many of the complaints come from Hispanic

soldiers who say they have been, or are being, pushed out of service because of their ethnic background. They also include affidavits from Anglo whistleblowers who say Hispanic members have been dismissed for minor offenses or for no reason.

Capt. John Stanford, a National Guard spokesman, referred inquiries to the governor's office, where the documents were filed. "There wouldn't be anybody here" who has seen them, he said.

The GI Forum previously filed complaints in August on behalf of six Corpus Christi soldiers who said superiors subjected them to

racial slurs, denied them promotions or left them without sufficient cause. Some complained weight-control and physical fitness programs were administered more harshly to Hispanics.

An internal Guard investigation completed last month found no evidence of discrimination, but did find mismanagement of the weight-control program at the Corpus Christi armory.

The latest complaints were submitted to the governor and the attorney general, and the state House Mexican-American Caucus and the Senate Hispanic Caucus, Jasso said.

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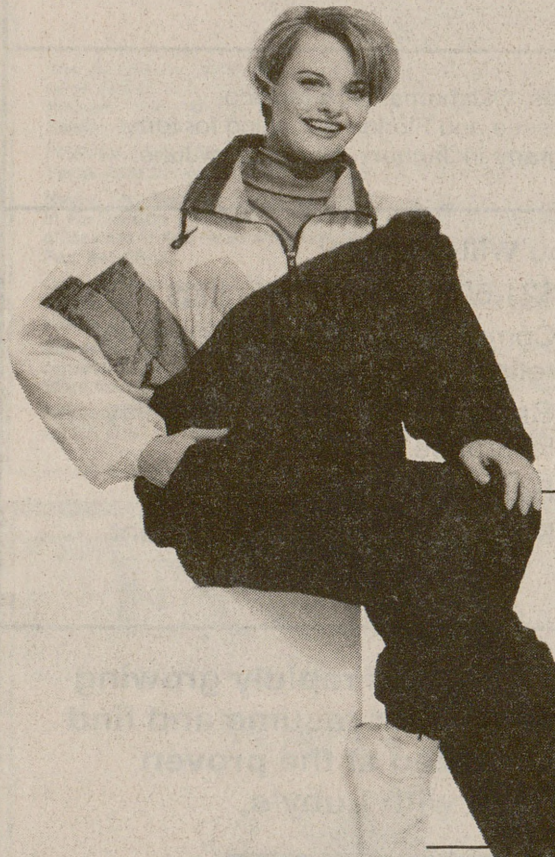
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## News In Review

### Authorities identify abandoned patient

POST FALLS, Idaho (AP) — An Alzheimer's patient abandoned at a dog-racing track has been identified as a retired company worker whose daughter checked him out of an Oregon nursing home last weekend, police said Tuesday.

John Kingery, 84, was left behind at the Coeur d'Alene Greyhound Park on Saturday night with a bag of diapers and a no identifying him as an Alzheimer's patient. His plight elicited hundreds of calls from people away as Europe offering advice and clothing.

"There's not many people that haven't been touched by Alzheimer's," said Mike Regan, spokesman at the hospital where Kingery is being looked after. "People understand. They're coming out of the woodwork."

Detectives hoped to talk with the man's daughter, Sue Gilliam of Portland, who checked him out of a nursing home Saturday.

### Students receive AIDS information

BOGATA, Texas (AP) — Students at a Northeast Texas high school rocked by reports of AIDS virus infections will get awareness packages on the disease in a presentation Wednesday, their principal said.

The packages, including pamphlets and audiotapes, will be distributed to Rivercrest High School's 197 students during a short program, Principal Paul Miller said Tuesday.

He said he was contacted recently by Ken Pierce, director of operations for Advantage Life Products Inc., who said he wanted to distribute the product, called SAFE, free to each student.

"Since we received so much publicity a month or so ago, they wanted us to be the first school to distribute to," Miller said.

### Bentsen: Health care reform on slate

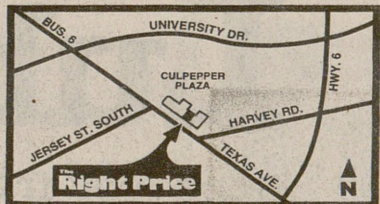
WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress later this year will consider a package of health reform to improve access to medical care and lessen the burden on small businesses, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee said Tuesday.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, said he and Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, have agreed to act on Bentsen's legislation later this session.

The provisions, which include a 100 percent deduction of health insurance premiums for the self-employed, were approved this month by the Senate.

But Bentsen's package, included in the tax bill, was jettisoned last week to make it easier for the tax legislation to pass Congress prior to President Bush's March 20 deadline. The tax bill was approved Friday and promptly vetoed by the president.

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