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Adventures of Huck Finn -PG 2:05 4:25

Endeavor pursues satellite, opens lab

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Endeavor's crew set up shop in the world's first commercial space lab with its menagerie of wasps, shrimp and flies Monday after the shuttle zoomed into orbit in hot pursuit of a giant satellite.

"It looks like we're open for business," astronaut G. David Low told Mission Control after entering the laboratory three hours into the flight.

David Rossi, a vice president at Spacehab Inc. of Arlington, Va., which owns the laboratory, called it "an exciting day."

"My heart was literally in my throat," he said.

Endeavor and its six astronauts raced through a cloudy sky into space Monday morning, a mere 22 seconds late because of a small plane that strayed into restricted airspace near the pad.

It was the second launch attempt. Sunday's was canceled by bad weather.

Pilot Brian Duffy was thrilled to finally be aloft. "I tell you what, it was worth waiting an extra day for that present," said Duffy, who turned 40 on Sunday.

Once in orbit, the shuttle began a 17,500 mph chase that will last

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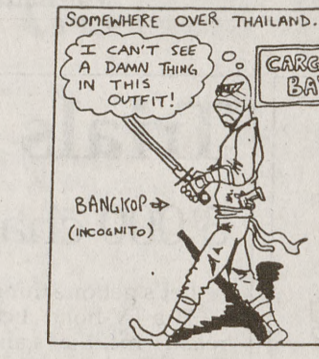
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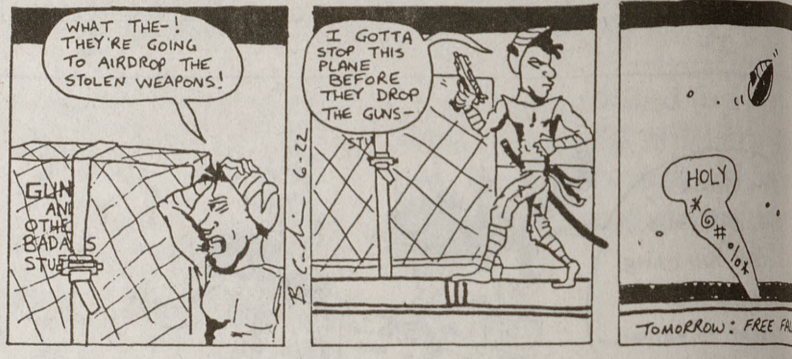
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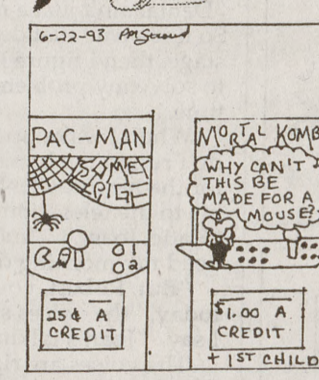
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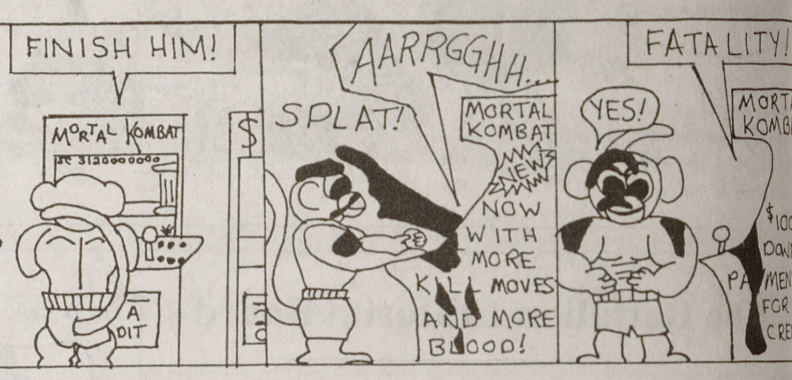
By Boomer Cardinale



ANGUS THE SERIES



By Paul Stroud



AGGIE MAN



By Sergio Rosco



What's Up

Tuesday

The Career Center: is offering a Job Search Strategies Seminar for students interested in learning how to get started with the job search at 2pm in room 110 of the Student Services Building. For more information call the Career Center at 845-5139.

The Career Center: is offering an Interviewing and Professional Im-

ages Seminar to teach students interviewing techniques and how to project a professional image. It will be held at 3pm in room 110 of the Student Services Building. For more information about the seminar, call the Career Center at 845-5139.

TAMU Cycling Team: is holding a training time trial at 6:30pm one block West of AeroFit on Villa Maria. Contact Rey Trevino at 764-9377 for further assistance.

What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Items for What's Up should be submitted no later than three days before the desired run date. Application deadlines and notices are not events and will not run in What's Up. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3313.

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HEWLETT PACKARD

Pope appoints panel to study clergy scandals

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Pope John Paul II has appointed a committee of Vatican and U.S. Catholic Church officials to study whether to make it easier to dismiss sexually abusive clergy from the priesthood.

The new committee will look specifically at whether the church's 5-year statute of limitations on dismissals can be lifted in cases involving sexual abuse of minors, church officials said Monday.

The panel also will study whether the age when individuals are considered minors can be raised from 16 to 18 and whether abusive priests can be dismissed even if their actions resulted from mental illness, said Deacon Christopher Baumann, a spokesman for the U.S. Catholic Conference.

In a letter to U.S. bishops released Monday,

the pontiff said he has become aware during the last few months how much U.S. Catholics are suffering because of clergy scandals.

"I fully share your sorrow and your concern, especially your concern for the victims so seriously hurt by these misdeeds," the pope said.

Leaders of the 55-million member Catholic Church in the United States last week established a committee of bishops to address the problem.

In personal meetings with the pope, many bishops have expressed particular concern about their ability under canon law to dismiss a priest whose moral and psychological condition precludes his return to ministry.

Archbishop William Keeler, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said Monday the pope "has taken to his own heart our concern for both the victims of abuse by priests and the priests who abuse. We join in his call for prayer, and we will indeed use the

means at our disposal to reverse this scandal.

In his letter, the pope said every sinner who repents can call on God's mercy, but there also is the question of how humans respond to clergy sexual abuse.

"The canonical penalties which are provided for certain offenses and which give a social expression for the disapproval of evil are fully justified," the pope said. "These help to maintain a clear distinction between good and evil, and contribute to moral behavior as well as to creating a proper awareness of the gravity of the evil involved."

The pope said the committee he established will study how church law "can best be applied to the particular situation of the United States."

He wasn't specific, but U.S. church officials said the committee will study the statute of limitations for sexual misconduct and the age at which individuals are considered adults.

Rebel leader in Azerbaijan declares 'absolute power'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAKU, Azerbaijan — The leader of a rebellion against the elected president declared Monday that he will take power in Azerbaijan, after winning support from government troops and Parliament.

"In connection with the power vacuum ... I will take all absolute power into my hands," rebel leader Surat Huseynov said in nationally televised comments from his base in the eastern city of Gyandzha.

"There is nobody who can stop this," he said.

Since launching his rebellion on June 4, the former army colonel has seized half the country and forced elected President Abulfaz Elcibey to flee the capital.

Late last week, army commanders told Elcibey that they would not oppose Huseynov if the rebel entered the capital. And on Sunday and Monday, government troops embraced the rebel forces, who have advanced as close as five miles to the capital.

On Monday, the 50-member Parliament in Baku declared its support for him and summoned Elcibey back to the capital to answer for the two-week-old crisis.

There were no reports of unrest late Monday around the city.

Elcibey was still held up at Ordubat in the remote Nakhichevan region and has not submitted his resignation, despite Huseynov's demands for him to step down. It was also unclear whether the president would obey parliament's orders to return to the capital.

The rebel commander has accused Elcibey of bungling the 5-year-old war with neighboring Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh territory, where ethnic Armenians are fighting for independence from Azerbaijan.

There was no immediate reaction from Parliament to his claim to power. Azerbaijani television introduced Huseynov as "a national hero" before airing his comments.

Huseynov's declaration did not make clear whether he sought immediate power or was willing to wait for Parliament's approval.

Some government leaders on Sunday accused Huseynov of attempting a coup.

Rebel spokesmen insisted that Huseynov would only assume power peacefully and was willing mainly to have control over the country's military.

Japan gives new meaning to no-frills indoor skiing

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FUNABASHI, Japan — It sounds like the perfect ski resort: virgin snow every day, no wind or rain, easy to get to and no long lines for the lift.

Perfect, that is, if you don't mind giving up mountain scenery and fresh air to do your schussing with 1,999 others inside a giant contraption that looks like an erector set made for King Kong.

Towering as high as a 25-story building, SSAWS (pronounced "zouse") will become the world's largest indoor ski facility when it opens in mid-July, its owners claim.

Two other indoor ski areas already exist in Japan, but they will be easily dwarfed by SSAWS, which stands for "Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter Snow."

Skiing is just one outdoor sport the Japanese have brought into captivity. Indoor golf practice ranges and batting cages enjoy a brisk business, and the company that manages SSAWS also runs an indoor beach facility in Yokohama, just south of Tokyo, complete with artificial waves and plastic sand.

"I've been told that only the Japanese would be nuts enough to build a thing like this," said Yasunori Inubashiri, SSAWS's senior marketing manager. "But we think it's fun."

Mitsui Fudosan, Japan's largest real estate developer, spent two years and \$375 million building the facility, which is a half-hour by train from downtown Tokyo. The owners hope to draw one million customers per year.

The slope — about one-third of a mile — is divided into sections according to level of difficulty. A powerful refrigeration system keeps the temperature just below freezing, and fresh snow is made nightly.

Mitsui claims that its equipment makes powder snow finer than any found in the wild. Even so, skiing beneath industrial girders, catwalks and valves induces the eerie feeling of being inside a huge scientific device.

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