Clinton tours Johnson Space Center, reaffirms commitment

HOUSTON (AP) — President Clinton reaffirmed his dedication to the nation's space program, and reiterated commitment to space exploration and got a taste of an astronaut's life—food and all—during a tour of Johnson Space Center on Tuesday with the nation's newest and

Led by 76-year-old Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, who is preparing for a space flight in October, Clinton chatted with astronauts and toured life-sized mockups of the space shuttle.

With only the slightest crinkle of his nose, the president even braved a taste of space food — a mash of green beans and mushrooms that Glenn rehydrated and served.

"I thought this was a good chance to let the president sample a little space food that I might be eating a little bit later on," Glenn said in broadcast interviews after the tour.

During his visit, Clinton also made a video call to the crew of the space shuttle Columbia, which is scheduled to launch Thursday from the Kennedy Space Center for a 16-day flight focusing on the human nervous system and how it functions in space. 'The space program has enormous potential to

change life here on earth for the better," Clinton told the The president then addressed some of Johnson's

15,000 employees before heading 30 miles to downtown for an evening town hall meeting on race and sports. Clinton thanked the space center workers for their his support of their mission.

"I am committed to maintaining a strong, stable, balanced space program," he said. "We cannot imagine our future without a vigorous, comprehensive and consistent commitment to our mission in space."

Citing ongoing congressional fights over funding for the International Space Station, the multibillion-dollar venture scheduled to begin construction later this year. Clinton said future Americans would wonder why it ever

was the subject of debate. "It was a fight for a while and there were those who thought we should abandon it, but we did not abandon it," he said. "We will all, before long, be thanking our lucky stars that we had the vision ... to set up the International Space Station in the sky.'

The president's remarks were welcomed by Johnson employees, who would like to see more congressional support for space exploration and research.

'It seems like he's a big proponent of the space program. Hopefully, he'll stick by those words," said Drew Nash, a co-op student from Iowa State University who works for the center.

Local leaders also used the president's visit to make a pitch for increased spending on space.

"It's crucial, Mr. President, that we make NASA's budget a priority," U.S. Rep. Nick Lampson, D-Texas, a member of the House Space and Aeronautics Subcommittee, said in a speech to the JSC audience. "Your presence here is certainly an indication of your commitment and your

Study estimates drug reaction kill more than 100,000 a yelarv

"...what we're arguing is

that there should be in-

creased awareness also of

side effects..."

Dr. Bruce H. Pomeranz

neuroscience professor at

University of Toronto

CHICAGO (AP) — Bad reactions to prescription and over-the-counter medicines kill more than 100,000 Americans and seriously injure an additional 2.1 million every year — far more than most people realize, researchers say.

Such reactions, which do not include prescribing errors or drug abuse, rank at least sixth among U.S. disease, strokes and accidents, says a report based

"We're not saying, 'Don't take drugs.' They have wonderful benefits," said Dr. Bruce H. Pomeranz, principal investigator and a neuroscience professor at the

that there should be increased awareness also of side effects, which until now have not been too well understood.'

to stomach bleeding from fre-

quent doses of aspirin, Pomeranz said. The study, by Pomeranz and two other colleagues at his school, Jason Lazarou and Paul N. Corey, did not explore which medications or illnesses were involved.

The authors analyzed 39 studies of hospital patients from 1966 to 1996. Serious drug reactions affected 6.7 percent of patients overall and fatal drug reactions 0.32 percent, the authors reported in Wednesday's Journal

In the study, serious injury was defined as being fering permanent disability.

The most surprising result was the large number of deaths, the authors said. They found adverse drug reactions ranked between fourth and sixth among leading causes of death, depending on whether they

In 1994, between 76,000 and 137,000 U.S. hospital patients died, and the "ballpark estimate" is 106,000, Pomeranz said. The low estimate, 76,000 deaths, would put drug reactions sixth. The ballpark estimate would put them fourth, he said. An additional 1.6 million to 2.6 million patients

were seriously injured, with the ballpark estimate 2.1

More than two-thirds of the cases involved reactions outside hospitals rather than in hospitals, the

Dr. David W. Bates of Partners Heal which treat sicker than average patien

small hospitals ... a heterogeneous san Wolfe said by telephone Tuesday from Wa

such as those being prescribed by two tors - can be more carefully avoided, h

many older patients, who lack the drug younger adults because their kidneys

cause patients were given too much n their weight and kidney function.

tients' kidney function daily. It has redu

sive computers are," that other hospit

Coke pulls tab on curvy test can

Clinton

new curvy can is being pitched into the recycle bin.

The company pulled the contoured, red 12-ounce can from four of five test markets as it tries to resolve problems and come up with a can that repeats the success of its curvy bottles that lit up sales four

Consumers liked the cans, but not enough to pay extra for it, company officials said. There also were problems fitting the cans into some vending machines.

This is just a natural part of the

testing (and) learning," company spokeswoman Polly Howes said Tuesday. "We continue to work

The company had tested the cans for about a year in Terre Haute, Ind.; Tucson, Ariz.; Las Cruces, N.M.; and Brownsville, Texas. The cans are still available in El Paso, Texas, as development continues.

One problem to work out is the cost of production. Mike Harris, sales manager at Coca-Cola Bottling in Tucson, said some consumers balked at paying the extra 10 percent to 12 percent it added to

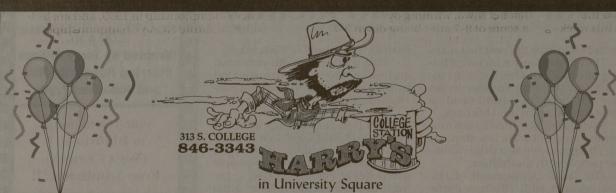
"It was pretty good for just kind of a test," Harris said.

The contoured can was used only for Coca-Cola Classic in the test markets.

John Sicher, publisher of Beverage Digest, said he expects testing of curvy cans to continue because Coke's contoured bottle has been so popular. He said production costs will eventually come down.

"Coke's test was just that — a test. When and wherever we see the shaped can again is dependent upon an awful lot of variables.

GRAND OPENING WEF



pool tables • full bar • two dance floo

THIS THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Come Home To Melrose



Private bedroom/bathroom suites, in furnished or unfurnished 2-, 3-, and 4-bedroom/bathroom apartments. Individual leases. Your rent includes no utility deposits, cable TV, local phone service, 24-hour monitored intrusion alarm, entrance gate video screening from your apartment, full-size washer and dryer, and all kitchen appliances including microwave.

Enjoy unparalleled amenities: resort-style swimming pool, fitness center, sports facilities, computer lab, fully fenced perimeter and gate

> "Come out today!" 409 • 693 • 9432

Redeem your coupon at 201-B Holleman

601 Luther St. West • College Station, TX 77840 • www.melrose.com

うらうらう はっとうとうとうとうとうとうとうとう Parents' Weekend Special



Redeem this coupon at Melrose for your keycard and your chance to win

6 Months Free Rent

Saturday, April 18 only

Where the grads with great jobs got their interview suits.

"Bridal and Tuxedo"

Don't let an average appearance be the difference between you and the next person. Because when it comes down to it, every last detail counts. And that's what we've staked our reputation on. The Suit Club has been serving the Bryan, College Station area since 1974 and provides the finest suits at prices that are unbelievably affordble. Come see how looking your best can be the difference between the job you want and the job you have to take.

*maximum value: \$50

Buy any suit, get a shirt and tie free.

THE SUIT CLUB at shellenberger

520 University Drive East, College Station