

# World and Nation

## Shuttle readied for morning liftoff

From Associated Press reports  
**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.** — Discovery's five astronauts, anxious to break an agonizing 32-month drought in American space flight, studied flight plans Wednesday as the shuttle was readied for a Thursday midmorning launch. NASA officials were nervous, but confident.  
 "The space shuttle is ready to fly," said shuttle administrator Richard Truly, adding, "Even the weather is looking good."  
 "This has been a long 2½ years," he said of the difficult period since the Challenger accident in 1986. Liftoff was scheduled for 9:59 EDT, with a 2½-hour window to take care of weather or technical delays.  
 After launch officials gave preliminary go-ahead for overnight fueling of Discovery, Truly passed the news

to Frederick Hauck, the shuttle commander. "The best way to describe him is elated to be headed for space," Truly told reporters.  
 Around the Kennedy Space Center area, excitement was mounting. Campers and recreation vehicles found good viewing places across the Indian River. Souvenir sellers set up shop. NASA's Visitor Center sold out of the commemorative envelopes that feature the crew patch.  
 NASA's deputy administrator Dale Myers exulted that "we have been working 2½ years to put the shuttle back in business and tomorrow is the day we plan to do that." He said "it's really the beginning of the future for our space program."  
 Arnold Aldrich, director of the shuttle program, said jubilantly,

"tomorrow the shuttle should return to its proper place in the sky and launch us into a new era."  
 Hauck and his four-man crew had an easy day, relaxing at the crew quarters seven miles from launch pad 39B. Their wives were there, too.  
 They were to be awakened at 5 a.m. for breakfast, a last-minute weather briefing, and time to get into their cumbersome flight suits.  
 Hauck's colleagues on the flight are pilot Richard Covey, and mission specialists John Lounge, Dale Hilmers and George Nelson.  
 The four-day Discovery mission will be the first shuttle flight since Challenger exploded in a fireball 73 seconds after liftoff from the same launch pad on Jan. 28, 1986. The accident ceded manned space to the Soviet Union, which has put 16

cosmonauts into orbit since then, aboard six flights.  
 As a result of investigations since the accident, the shuttle fleet and NASA's management have undergone major changes. The shuttle itself has had 210 modifications, including the addition of an escape system that would enable the crew to bail out if the ship had to ditch in the ocean. The escape system would not have saved the Challenger crew.  
 The shuttle booster rockets, blamed for the Challenger tragedy, have undergone an \$800 million redesign.  
 Because of the many changes, Hauck said the mission is considered a test flight. "We'll probably see some surprises, but I don't think they'll be life-threatening surprises," he said.

## Communist Party leaders to make changes in USSR

From Associated Press reports  
**MOSCOW** — The Communist Party's policy-making body will meet Friday to overhaul the country's political structure and make high-level leadership changes, Soviet officials said Wednesday.  
 The plenary session of the 300-member Central Committee had been expected by October to discuss amendments to the Constitution and expanding elections with multiple candidates.  
 The changes are key to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's goal of taking the 20 million-member Communist Party out of the day-to-day management of the economy and having it focus on ideology and policy goals.  
 The Central Committee session had been planned for a long time, but the specific date had not been set.  
 When the announcement was made, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and other Soviet officials rushed home from trips abroad.

**News in Brief**  
 had initially been ordered sealed by U.S. District Judge William Hoeweler at the request of prosecutors. At the time, Deputy Chief U.S. Attorney Richard Gregorie said he feared the motions might contain information that could be used to influence the U.S. presidential election.  
 Noriega has claimed previously he has information that would hurt George Bush's electoral chances.  
 The document mentions several Reagan administration figures, chiefly in citations of news accounts about the indictment, but Bush is never mentioned.  
**Trial begins in hostage case**  
**RALEIGH** — Three witnesses to the Feb. 1 hostage-taking at a Lumberton newspaper testified Wednesday that they believed they would be killed when two men drew sawed-off shotguns from under their long coats and chained the doors.  
 "I really thought we'd had it," said Joanne Manns, a receptionist who was seated near the front door of the newspaper when two gunmen entered.  
 "My heart just leaped," said Rita Parker, who said she was starting for the back of the office when she saw Eddie Hatcher with a shotgun at reception desk. "I was just terrified."  
 Parker said she ran for the back and escaped with six others before the building was sealed by the gunmen.  
 Hatcher, 31, and Timothy Jacobs, 20, are being tried on charges of conspiracy to take hostages, hostage taking, using firearms in a crime of violence, two counts of making an illegal firearm, possessing an illegal firearm and conveying false information on explosives.

## Grand jury dismisses teen abduction case

From Associated Press reports  
**NEW YORK** — A months-long investigation of an alleged rape and abduction that led to repeated charges of racial discrimination and several protest demonstrations began with a teenager's fabricated tale. The New York Times reported Wednesday.  
 A special state grand jury decided not to indict anyone after finding overwhelming evidence that 16-year-old Tawana Brawley of Wappingers Falls lied and helped create the conditions in which she was found dazed, wrapped in a garbage bag and smeared with excrement, the Times reported.  
 The black teenager claimed she had been kidnapped by a gang of white men on Nov. 24 and subjected to four days of sexual abuse.

But the grand jury, in Poughkeepsie, concluded after more than 100 witnesses and a variety of evidence that she had chosen not to return home and hid for four days in an apartment from which her family had recently been evicted, the Times said.  
 The grand jury speculated she may have feared punishment from her mother's boyfriend for her late nights out, and that drugs and her relationships with shady characters may have played a role, the Times said.  
 Brawley's story attracted national attention, especially when she refused to testify on the advice of family lawyers and advisers, who then repeatedly accused the state of a cover-up and leveled charges against public officials and the news media.  
 The grand jury subpoenaed Brawley but eventually abandoned hope

of ever hearing her story firsthand and rescinded its vote to subpoena her, the Poughkeepsie Journal reported Tuesday.  
 Prominent people who spoke sympathetically of her plight included heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson and actor Bill Cosby, who put up a \$25,000 reward.  
 One of Brawley's advisers, the Rev. Al Sharpton, said Tuesday that he would not be surprised if the grand jury concluded, as reported, that Brawley fabricated her claim.  
 "We said from the beginning the grand jury would not come back with anything," he said.  
 Sharpton said the Times article was "nothing but a whole series of reckless speculations by someone who cannot back it up with one iota of fact."  
 The black activist repeated charges

that the criminal justice system does not treat minorities fairly.  
 He said Brawley, her mother Glenda, who claimed sanctuary in churches after she was sentenced to 30 days in jail for defying a subpoena to testify on the case, and their attorneys would appear at a news conference in New York within 24 hours to respond to the report.  
 In addition to Sharpton, Brawley and her family have been represented by attorneys Alton Maddox and C. Vernon Mason.  
 The grand jury was not expected to comment on the Brawley advisers' tactics, but Attorney General Robert Abrams, who was appointed special prosecutor in the case, has said he will file a separate complaint against the lawyers when the grand jury report is released.

## Homecoming

look."  
 The group will put up balloon arches in and around the area, he said. In addition, merchants will be asked to stay open late and offer special sales and promotions.  
 "We want to say to the town, if we work together with students to plan an activity like this, we can have a celebration downtown without the problems like property destruction we have had in the past," Humphreys said. "We want to present an alternative to a negative takeover by students."

Some of the celebrations in the past few years have been marred by violence and gigantic crowds, causing damage to the area.  
 Humphreys said the two groups are hopeful that the Thursday night meeting of the town council will bring approval for the event.  
 But so far, the only word out of the town has been a recommendation by the town manager's office to deny the petition, Humphreys said. The town has a policy against closing Franklin Street.  
 "We've not really had any negative

feelings from them," Humphreys said. "It's understandable that they do not like to close Franklin Street. There are no alternative routes, and once you close it, you are re-routing traffic for a five-hour period."  
 There are some alternate plans being worked out if the town will not give its blessing to the celebration.  
 "If they deny the petition, we'll try to go ahead with the celebration, and move it to a parking lot," Humphreys

said. "That would limit the number of people we could handle and we would probably have to cut down on the number of activities planned."  
 According to Humphreys, all the downtown merchants seem excited about the event.  
 "I have heard no negative comments from them. I'm just hopeful the council sees this event the same positive way," he said.

## Noriega defense revealed

**MIAMI** — Defense motions unsealed Wednesday in the case of Panama's military ruler Gen. Manuel Noriega charge that his indictment on drug charges was part of a scheme to renegotiate the Panama Canal Treaty.  
 That treaty, signed during the Carter administration, turns over control of the canal to Panama at the end of this century.  
 "There were attempts to modify aspects of the treaty," Noriega's attorney, Neal Sonnett, said Wednesday. "We argue that it was one of the circumstances leading up to a decision to attempt to get Noriega out of power."  
 The 65-page motion requesting dismissal of the indictment accuses the government of selective prosecution and questions its authority to indict the head of a sovereign nation.  
 The document, dated Sept. 14,

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## Bill

are dumb enough to do it again."  
 Democratic Rep. David Price of Chapel Hill believes the bill will help fight drugs.  
 "The bill is an effective weapon on the war with drugs, because it aims at continuing education and drug enforcement," said Rachael Perry, Price's press secretary.  
 Eleanor Morris, director of student aid at UNC, said the bill will give her staff more paperwork.  
 "I'm concerned about the administrative aspect," Morris said. "We already have to do so many things

when processing federal aid loans and grants. It's the burden of one more regulation being placed on us."  
 UNC has its own policy on illegal drugs that went into effect Aug. 24. Established by the Board of Governors of the 16-campus UNC system, the policy is meant to help all members of the University community avoid involvement with illegal drugs.  
 "It's a national crisis we're dealing with, and UNC has its own strict local drug policy," said Susan Ehringhaus, assistant to the chancellor.

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## Downtown

part of his building in the past, has experienced both sides of the issue.  
 House agreed that some building owners were trying to maximize the rent potential of their buildings at the expense of small businesses that would have been assets to the downtown area.  
 "Some of the landowners are willing to sell to the highest bidder and aren't cognizant of what type of tenant will produce the best mix downtown," House said. "This caters to the chains and big businesses that have staying power to maintain until their business catches on. Specialty shops can't afford the 'wait and see' period."  
 These chains are willing to pay

more, so rent usually increases each time a new store enters the block. Other owners see these increases and charge more when their leases come up for renegotiation.  
 But although some landowners are taking advantage of the higher rents chains are willing to pay, House attributes part of the rent increase to Chapel Hill's rapid expansion, which has increased taxes and the cost of insurance and building maintenance.  
 "New owners have to charge more to cover their costs," he said. "Buildings are now carrying higher price tags. Landlords have to increase rent to finance the building's purchase and to receive some return on their investment."

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**For the Record**

The caption for the photograph of Tom Verlaine accompanying Wednesday's review of The Church concert mistakenly identified him as Steve Kilbey of The Church. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

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