

World and Nation

NASA aiming for Tuesday launch

By WAGNER DOTTO

Staff Writer
The space shuttle Atlantis, designed to dispatch the space probe Galileo on its six-year journey to Jupiter, might be launched Tuesday if tests Saturday indicate an engine's computer problem is solved, a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) spokesman said yesterday.

An engine's computerized fuel controller, a unit that regulates the amount of fuel and oxygen that is burned by the engine, has been replaced and will be tested Saturday at noon, said NASA

spokesman Charles Redmond.
"The best estimate for the launch is Tuesday afternoon. The weather is good and there is no indication that there will be problems."

The launch of Atlantis, which will carry five astronauts, was planned for Wednesday at 1:29 p.m., but a last-minute problem with one of its three main engines made officials postpone the launch. The three-day delay will cost the government an additional \$83,000, Redmond said.

Atlantis' launch has been postponed

for years due to budget cuts and the 1986 Challenger explosion. Last month three anti-nuclear environmentalist groups — the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, the Christic Institute and the Foundation on Economics Trends — filed a lawsuit against NASA seeking a restraining order to block the launching.

The groups feared that Galileo, the plutonium-powered space probe, could cause a nuclear disaster if something went wrong during the launch.

A Federal District judge in Wash-

ington denied the motion Tuesday, saying NASA had complied with environmental requirements.

Delaying the liftoff with a restraining order probably would cause NASA to miss the launching window to Jupiter, which closes in mid-November, the judge told The New York Times. The next available launching opportunity would be in 1991 and would cost an additional \$164 million to maintain the \$1.5 billion program until then.

The groups said they would submit an emergency appeal to a higher court.

Catholic bishops denounce safe sex education in schools

From Associated Wire Reports

NEW YORK — The U.S. Roman Catholic Church should drop its qualified support for education about condoms in public schools as a way of preventing AIDS and should urge that youngsters be taught chastity instead, a committee of bishops said Thursday.

"There is no such thing as safe, or safer, sex. That's an illusion," said Archbishop Roger Mahony of Los Angeles, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the HIV Statement. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS.

The committee's draft statement revises an earlier document released by the church's 50-member Administrative Board in December 1987, which said the church could tolerate public schools' providing information about condoms as long as sexual abstinence outside of marriage was presented as the "only morally correct and medically sure way" to prevent AIDS.

The wide-ranging statement also opposes universal mandatory AIDS testing, calls for increasing federal funds for AIDS research and denounces violence and discrimination against AIDS victims as immoral.

Computer users running scared

NEW YORK — Fears that a computer virus will trash information on some portable computers are overblown, experts said Thursday, but some alarmed users have taken steps to make sure they don't wake

News in Brief

up Friday the 13th with the infection. "Our advice to people is stop worrying," said Dennis Steinauer of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. "People should make a backup copy of their files and don't call me in the morning."

But others feel the threat is real from the so-called Columbus Day virus, programmed to activate after computers' internal clocks hit 12:01 a.m. Friday and begin doing its dirty work when an operator begins using an infected program.

The Columbus Day virus, also known as Datacrime, is programmed to scramble indexing information in IBM or IBM-compatible personal computers. It would be the equivalent of zapping index cards in a library so books would be impossible to locate.

U.S. accused of coup involvement

LOS ANGELES — Panamanian officers who led last week's abortive coup were recruited and paid more than \$1 million by the U.S. government, Gen. Manuel Noriega charged in an interview published today.

Noriega also said Nicaraguan contras and Panamanian businessmen delivered money and relayed messages between U.S. officials and coup plotters, the Los Angeles Times and The Boston Globe reported.

Landslide House vote bans flag burning

From Associated Press Reports

WASHINGTON — The House voted final, overwhelming approval Thursday for a federal ban on flag burning, just four months after a Supreme Court decision allowing destruction of an American flag as political protest.

"This is the least we can do to protect the sanctity of the flag," Rep. Butler Derrick, D-S.C., said before the House voted, 371-43, to approve the bill.

However, President Bush and many Republicans say Congress must do more than pass a mere statute, and they have been pressing for a constitutional amendment to outlaw flag destruction or desecration. The Senate will take up that issue next week.

Still, 154 Republicans joined 217 Democrats in supporting the statutory ban on Thursday, while only 18 Repub-

licans and 25 Democrats opposed it. The bill passed the Senate 91-9.

House Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Wash., said he assumed Bush would sign the measure into law, despite his clear preference for a constitutional amendment.

Bush said last week that a new statute would not be adequate to get around the Supreme Court decision, which threw out the conviction of a Texas flag burner.

The bill on its way to Bush would revise existing federal law and provide up to a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine for anyone who "knowingly mutilates, defaces, physically defiles, burns, maintains on the floor or ground, or tramples upon any flag of the United States."

The one-sided votes in Congress reflected the power of the flag as a

political symbol, as demonstrated by a public outcry following the Supreme Court decision in June.

Derrick told the House that the court's decision, throwing out the conviction of Texas flag burner Gregory Lee Johnson on grounds that his right to free speech was violated, hit Americans like "a slap in the face."

Bush joined the call for a constitutional amendment, but Democratic leaders said changing the Constitution would be too drastic an action.

"Amending the Constitution as some would advance should be a last resort and not a first resort," said Rep. William Hughes, D-N.J. He said the issue should "be addressed in a much less dramatic manner."

However, House Minority Leader Bob Michel, R-Ind., said, "To those who believe we can overturn a Supreme

Court decision at this time by statute, I can only repeat the immortal words of the farmer who, asked directions, said, 'you can't get there from here.'"

Supporters of the bill said the wording had been carefully fashioned to withstand court challenges, banning flag defacement regardless of whether it involved political protest.

"It is the act of harming the physical integrity of the flag rather than any message that the action might convey that is to be punished," Judiciary Committee Chairman Jack Brooks, D-Texas, told the House.

Brooks said the bill has been framed in a "content neutral manner."

But that idea drew scoffing from some Republicans, who said that any bill to ban flag burning by simple statute would be overturned for the same reasons as the Texas case.

Stallings

make corrections based on the intentions of the 70th Congress."

Congress members also noted Thursday that the honor court's jurisdiction included only individual cases and not those of the congress. "There is never a time or place any decision of Student Congress can be questioned by the honor court," Davis said.

Rep. Matthew Heyd (Dist. 11), who voted against Beall's amendment and for the resolution, agreed. "The code is explicit on it to avoid conflict of interest. Bill had met the spirit of the law, if

not the letter of the law."

Rep. Sam Bagenstos (Dist. 14), who also voted against the amendment and for the resolution, said the congress was not in a position to strike Stallings' name from the list. "If there was a conflict, it's not up to Student Congress to tell him what he (Stallings) is not to do."

Rep. Tom Elliott (Dist. 6), said that while he saw no conflict of interest, he voted against the resolution because he could not ignore the code. "I felt that the Student Congress should be obliged

to follow their own rules, fix them if there's a problem, but follow them until then."

Congress members said they thought the controversy could have been avoided if the code conflict had been handled differently.

"It was Jeff Beall's handling of it that was lacking," Heyd said. "Bill came away feeling like he'd been had."

Bagenstos agreed. "It seemed very much like an ambush for Jeff to bring it up on the floor of the congress without discussing it with Bill beforehand."

Elliott said, "The mistakes are technical, and it embarrassed the hell out of a fine member of congress and put him on the spot."

Beall said he had been aware of Stallings' conflict since the summer but had not seen any advantage in discussing it with Stallings before Wednesday's meeting because congress members were already aware of the conflict. "They knew it was wrong. They were pulling the wool over everyone's eyes and running it through. They were relying on the good old boy network and it failed."

Court

heard cases over the summer were not legitimate members," Davis said. "Except for the honor court president and vice president, who are chosen by their own rigid method, there will be no honor court members until the bill confirming them is signed."

Grounds exist for an appeal against decisions made by illegitimate honor court members, Davis said. "Any decision made with an illegitimate member of the court serving could be brought into question."

Philip Floyd, acting attorney general, said the spirit of the instrument was more important than the literal interpretation. "Congress is basically a rubber stamp. Congress is there to confirm honor court members, not to give them a critical review."

Floyd said no more than 15 cases came before the honor court this summer.

Ruth Dowling, honor court chairwoman, said she felt comfortable with the decisions made by the unconfirmed court members.

"The summer court did its job. We had three new court members who

Shelter

animals." Many area residents also expressed their opposition concerning the septic system in the sanctuary site.

Bobby Kirk, a dairy farmer, said he had dealt with a lot of animal waste. He said he was concerned about the septic system because he thought the land did not perk. Septic waste cannot dissolve in soil that does not percolate, or is impermeable.

Hubert Morrow, a local property owner, said he had been farming for years and was very familiar with the area's land. He said the land was not good for perk soil. "I know good perk soil because I have installed several septic tanks."

Gaines said she was also concerned about the animals transmitting AIDS. "People may acquire AIDS from animals whether they believe it or not."

Bobby King, who grew up in the community, said he was concerned that animals might escape and attack people, especially children.

"The kennel may be for a good cause, but there are too many negative forces against it."

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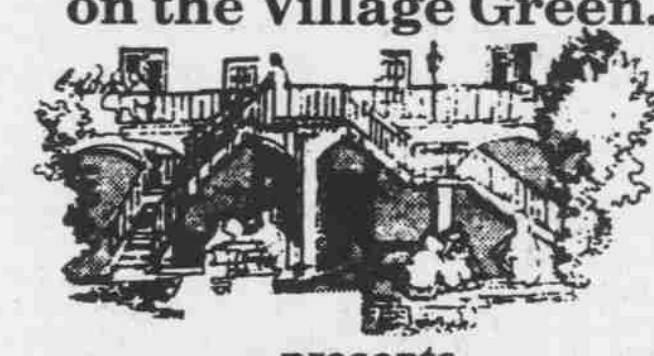
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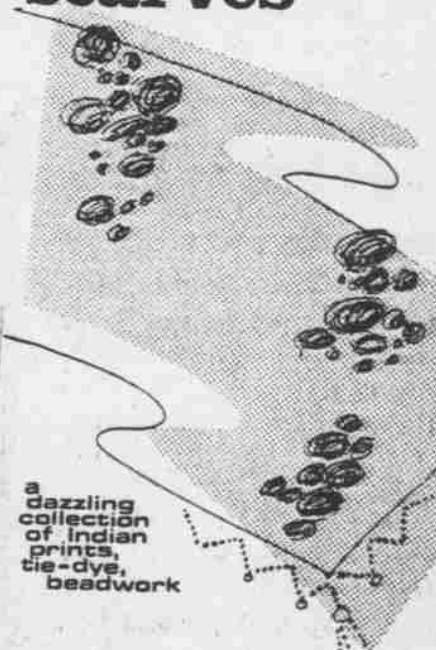
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