

# Astronauts ready for liftoff

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL  
Associated Press Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — With their second-chance countdown moving easily to a launch target tomorrow, astronauts Joe Engle and Richard Truly arrived yesterday and said, firmly and hopefully, "this is the real thing."

Countdown began at 8 a.m. yesterday and on launch pad 38A, work was going good, said spokesman Hugh Harris said. "They're making it look easy." Crews powered up Columbia's electrical system fuel cells and prepared to roll back the main servicing structure.

The undercurrent to the rosy progress and optimistic forecast was the knowledge that everything was glass-smooth, too, until the final minutes of last Wednesday's countdown.

Engle said he was "thoroughly convinced that we were just about ready to lift off" when the countdown clock stopped cold at 31 seconds before ignition. No one was more surprised "than Richard and I when we heard we had to call a scrub," he said. "Technicians found dirty oil and clogged filters in two of Columbia's hydraulic units and made weekend repairs to ready tomorrow's second try."

Upon their arrival, the astronauts made brief remarks to the same knot of reporters and photographers who greeted them last week. They spared no optimism.

"OK now, we want you to know this is the last time you're going to get to do this," Engle said. "You've had four practice and this is the real thing." Truly said, "Columbia is ready, and Joe and I are ready and we're really going to do it this time."

The weather forecast for a 7:30 a.m. EST liftoff was fine: A few clouds, a modest wind, no rain.

If events had followed last week's script, the astronauts would have landed Columbia Monday and undergone debriefing on Tuesday. Instead, they flew T-38 jets to Patrick Air Force Base, near the Cape — an 800-mile trip that takes 90

minutes in the 575 mph trainers. Tomorrow, the shuttle will take them once around the world at 17,000 mph in the same amount of time.

The astronauts skipped afternoon aerobic maneuvers yesterday and drove to Kennedy Space Center 35 miles away — Engle at the steering wheel, first-flight commander John Young beside him and Truly sitting in the back.

After 83 circuits of the globe, Engle and Truly are scheduled to land next Tuesday at 8:40 a.m. PST — 11:40 a.m. EST — at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

Yesterday, leaving their Johnson Space Center training base, Engle and Truly were "in a terrific mood . . . hugging everybody in sight," said spokesman John Lawrence of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The astronauts' last night's sleep at home was disrupted about 4 a.m. yesterday by an incoherent caller who insisted on telling them about needles in his head and imploring them to talk to Vice President Bush about it.

Lawrence said he does not know who the man, calling from California, got the astronauts' home telephone numbers. Truly hung up on him, but he called back.

Engle, responding to the man's protestation that he is a patriot, said: "I wonder about your patriotism if you disturb our sleep before such an important flight."

Truly, who will celebrate his 44th birthday along with the launch, received a huge birthday card from the art class at the Carver-Jones elementary school at Baytown, Texas.

It was a drawing of a shuttle launch with the legend: "Have a blast on your birthday."

And, in small letters near the bottom: "Say good luck to Joe Engle too."

Asked about the launch date coinciding with his birthday, Truly said: "I'm going to have the biggest birthday candle I ever had."



Astronauts Richard Truly, left, and Joe Engle give the thumbs up sign as they arrive at Patrick Air Force Base yesterday to prepare for the space shuttle launch scheduled for tomorrow.

# state/nation/world

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## Israel still silent on jet encounter with Saudis

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel kept silent yesterday on the reported encounter between its planes and Saudi jet fighters over Saudi Arabia.

The Israeli news media gave prominence to Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's denunciation that he views Saudi Arabia as "a hostile confrontation state."

The military command was still refusing to confirm or deny the report of the encounter nearly 24 hours after the Saudi news agency announcement Monday.

At a news conference four hours after the incident was said to have occurred — but before it was reported — Sharon said Israel had decided "to treat Saudi Arabia the way we treat any hostile confrontation state."

With those words, Sharon appeared to be placing the kingdom among its more traditional battle-field foes — Syria, Jordan, Iraq and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Sharon said his decision was prompted by Riyadh's opposition to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, and the \$5.5 billion package of sophisticated American weapons Saudi Arabia is to receive.

He said Saudi Arabia had sent troops to fight in three wars against Israel. These have been generally regarded as gestures of Saudi solidarity with the Arab cause, and not a major battle factor.

The U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv declined to discuss the matter, saying only that "we are in contact with the Israeli government."

Others jailed were Akram Hanjya, editor of the radical A-Shaab newspaper, and Azami Shuabli, mem-

## Israel cracks down on West bank unrest

By ARTHUR MAX  
Associated Press Writer

RAMALLAH, Occupied West Bank (AP) — Israeli military authorities jailed three influential Palestinians, confined others to their towns and dispatched troops to patrol streets of this restive Arab city yesterday.

Military authorities imposed a curfew on Qalqilya, a town 15 miles northeast of Tel Aviv, after two Israelis were injured by an exploding bottle thrown into their car, Israel Radio said.

The actions came after a week of scattered demonstrations challenging Israel's occupation of the West Bank of the Jordan River and Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's policy of replacing military authorities with civilian administrators.

Despite the show of force, striking shopkeepers and students shut down Arab East Jerusalem, which unlike the West Bank is under police rather than army jurisdiction. The strike was in response to a call by West Bank unions.

Police made no attempt to reopen the Jerusalem shops, but reportedly arrested Ibrahim Daqqa, head of the West Bank Engineers Union.

Others jailed were Akram Hanjya, editor of the radical A-Shaab newspaper, and Azami Shuabli, mem-

ber of the El Bireh town council, said Defense Ministry spokesman Danny Weinreich. The Al-Fajr newspaper was closed earlier this week for 10 days for publishing allegedly inflammatory material.

Sharon told a news conference Monday that his new policy was "to make life as easy as possible for the local population (while) we will be very firm and strong on terrorist activity or any other violence or disorder."

In Ramallah, 10 miles north of Jerusalem, army jeeps and soldiers with truncheons cruised streets to forestall the threatened strike.

Troops wheeled a metal-cutting machine through the city center, an implied threat to shopkeepers that the army would break open their locks if they followed the strike call.

Brother Joseph Loewenstein, chancellor of the Vatican-sponsored Bethlehem University, said the 1,200-student school has been unable to hold classes this month because of unrest. A minor demonstration was reported in Bethlehem yesterday.

In Jerusalem, Israel Radio reported that Arab youths stoned a bus, injuring the driver and a woman passenger with glass splinters.

Demonstrations were sparked last week at Bir Zeit University near Ramallah, the area's main Palestinian university where students threw stones and barricaded

## Sweden accused of spying

MOSCOW (AP) — Tass yesterday quoted the Swedish pacifist magazine Pax as saying neutral Sweden has "long been engaged in electronic espionage against the Soviet Union."

The charges came four days after the Swedes released a Soviet submarine they said probably carried nuclear-tipped torpedoes when it ran aground while carrying out "illegal activities" near a main Swedish navy base.

Soviet authorities said the vessel was on a routine voyage and lost its way because of a failure of its navigation system.

The timing of the report by the Soviet news agency appeared designed to minimize adverse publicity stemming from the submarine incident.

It quoted Pax as saying that Swedish intelligence "maintains close cooperation with Western intelligence services, first of all the NATO countries." Sweden is not a member of NATO.

From a listening station on Laveo Island, near Stockholm, Tass said, Swedish intelligence officers eavesdrop over "areas deep inside Soviet territory, determine the location of military bases, control and communications centers, and monitor the flights of aircraft."

The Pax article, Tass said, "points out that it is probable that the station is connected with a network of NATO's listening stations in Europe designed first of all against socialist countries."

Actress supports home care

WASHINGTON (AP) — It is little things like not being able to go to the refrigerator and get a snack that elderly people miss most when they no longer can live at home, Helen Hayes told a Senate hearing yesterday.

"It may not be much, until all the small decisions are taken out of your hands and you find that your great age has reduced you to a child," said the 81-year-old actress. "That was the one last independent gesture they could make — going to the refrigerator when they wanted to eat and eating what they wanted to."

Hayes testified in support of a bill to encourage home health care programs for the elderly, in part by providing grants to train people to care for the elderly and a tax credit for people who take in elderly relatives to care for.

"The changes demanded by old age are tough enough to accept," she said.

Recounting how she had to yield gracefully to change, Hayes recalled "how difficult it was when my doctor told me my health would not permit continued appearances on the stage. I had spent my whole life in the theater and wanted to go on, but I could not."

Crops may supply own food

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — In about 10 years, crops will be developed that will supply their own nutrients, making costly, energy-consuming fertilizer unnecessary, a biologist said yesterday.

Frederick Auzubel, a professor at Harvard University, said genetic engineering of plants will yield crops that supply their own nitrogen. Many crops, such as wheat, corn and rice, now cannot do so, and the nitrogen needed for healthy growth must be supplied in fertilizer.

Auzubel calls the genetic manipulation of plants the "greener revolution," a reference to the so-called green revolution of the 1960s, which marked the first large-scale use of fertilizers.

# Reagan stands behind budget

By MAUREN SANTINI  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan said yesterday the nation faces "hard times for the next few months" but vowed to stand fast on his economic program and veto any bill that exceeds his budget.

Reagan, assailed by Senate Democrats as a president promoting the "Hoover nonsense that prosperity is just around the corner" said recovery would come by spring or summer. And he shrugged off those critics as politicians trying to blame him for the mess they created.

The president, in his fifth nationally broadcast news conference, said it is unlikely that he can meet his goal of a balanced budget by 1984.

But he said he was determined to keep the government headed toward the elimination of deficit spending, saying it "must stiffen its spine and not throw in the towel."

On that score, he said that "federal spending is still rising far too rapidly" despite the \$5 billion in budget cuts approved earlier in the

year by Congress. And he promised to veto any bill that exceeds his spending targets and "abuses the limited resources of the taxpayers."

Reagan said he would delay until January the \$3 billion in tax increases and \$2 billion in benefit cuts that he had sought this year, but will ask Congress to make them effective in late 1982. Reagan said he still wanted Congress to pass the 12-percent cuts in non-defense spending that he proposed in September.

Noting that his economic program has been in effect for 40 days, Reagan said, "You can't cure 40 years of problems in that short time." But he said he had set the foundation for recovery in 1982.

"Though some of Reagan's advisers have urged him to raise taxes to make up at least some of the deficit, the president said he will not decide that issue until January."

The president also said there may be some changes ahead in the Medicaid program, saying that levying a charge on those who use the program may discourage "overuse."



President Reagan speaks to reporters during his White House press conference yesterday.

# Parliaments criticize British, Irish leaders

LONDON (AP) — Members of their own parliaments criticized the prime ministers of Britain and Ireland yesterday for actions aimed at improving Anglo-Irish relations. In Northern Ireland a former Protestant militiaman lost his life in the 12-year-old sectarian conflict.

In the House of Commons, Protestant hardliner the Rev. Ian Paisley of Northern Ireland called Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher a "traitor and a liar" when she said a new Anglo-Irish council "involves no change whatever in the constitutional position." She and Irish Prime Minister Garret FitzGerald agreed to the council in a summit here last week.

In the Dail, the Irish Parliament in Dublin, former Prime Minister Charles Haughey of the opposition said FitzGerald showed too much optimism about the council, which Haughey said had not altered the Northern Ireland problem "one iota."

Police in Northern Ireland's Armagh city said a former member of the Ulster Defense Regiment was shot to death at nightfall in the fourth attack in two days on the predominantly Protestant militia.

The victim, identified as 56-year-old Charles Neville, father of six, was the 11th UDR member or former member killed since the regiment was formed in 1971.

A police spokesman said at least two attackers stormed the victim's car, throwing a hand grenade and firing automatic weapons. The man was hit several times and the car, its windshield shattered, struck a lamppost.

In other attacks in the British province's border region with the Irish Republic, two UDR men were shot and seriously wounded Monday and yesterday the teenage son of a third was killed Sunday by a booby-trap bomb in his father's car. All the attacks were blamed on the mainly Catholic Irish Republican Army, which is fighting to drive the British out and unite the northern six counties with the republic.

In Dublin, FitzGerald told the Dail that his London talks with Thatcher brought the two governments close to agreement. He said the key achievements were the setting up of the Anglo-Irish council to develop relations and a new pledge by Britain on the eventual unity of Ireland if a majority in the north agrees.

Haughey said a proper approach would be creation of a more broadly based council, and he claimed the agreement with Britain "can only lead to further frustration and continuing violence."

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# TMI hearings investigate cheating scandal

By RICH KIRKPATRICK  
Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG (AP) — New hearings, triggered by a cheating scandal, opened yesterday on whether the management at Three Mile Island can safely operate the damaged TMI-1 nuclear reactor.

A lawyer for a Pennsylvania woman who asked to participate in the hearing said he expects testimony will show widespread cheating by TMI operators on qualification tests.

"There will be a lot of other evidence of cheating," said John Clewett, attorney for Marjorie Amodeo of Coatesville, Chester County.

The hearings were ordered by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board after the Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that two TMI operators cheated on NRC licensing examinations.

Previously, the board had taken eight months of testimony and issued a preliminary finding that the plant owner, General Public Utilities Corp., was qualified to operate the reactor. But the board said its final recommendations will be contingent on the outcome of the hearings.

Unit 1 has been closed since the March 1979 accident crippled the adjacent Unit 2 reactor.

Clewett said at a press conference before the hearing that two college professors who studied test answers will testify about "possible instances of collusion."

In addition, Clewett said, a former TMI guard, Harry Williams, will tell the hearing board about crib sheets on company letterheads he said were used during tests for radiation work permits.

But Robert Arnold, chief TMI executive, said the company investigated and found no additional evidence of extensive cheating.

Consultants hired by plant operators found some test answers that were similarly worded, Arnold said, adding that some could not be explained.

"There were a very, very limited number of instances, considering the number of operator examination questions answered in the course of the last 2½ years," Arnold said in an interview.

Most of the near duplicate answers stemmed from operators memorizing the training materials and then repeating them on the tests, he said.

"We do not believe it indicates there was additional cheating," he said.

The hearings, expected to last two to three weeks, are being conducted by Gary Milhollin, a special master appointed by the safety and licensing board. He is a professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School at Madison.

Meanwhile, an evaluation team from the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations in Atlanta has concluded that TMI-1 can now safely be returned to service.

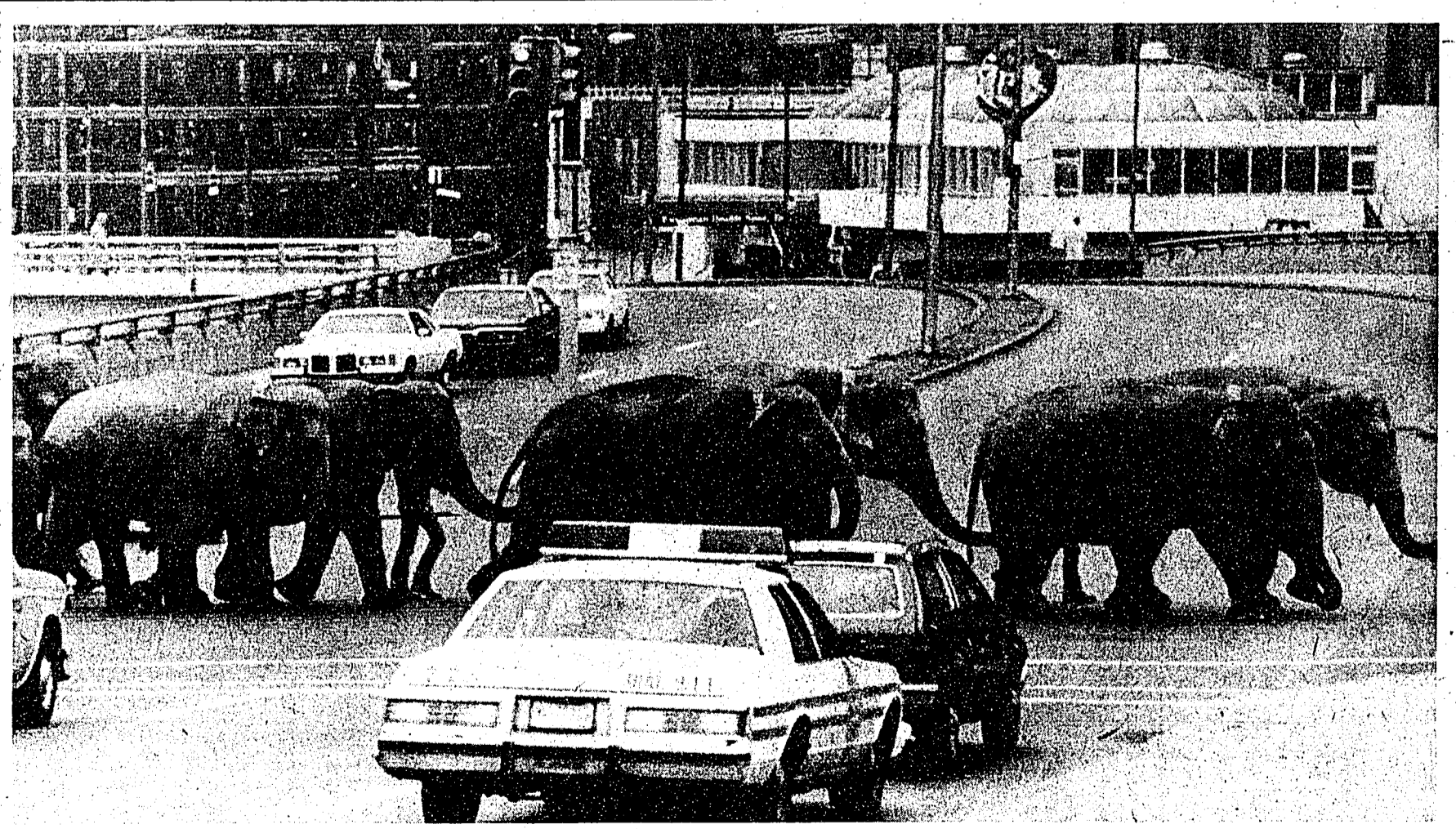
But the team also listed 31 criticisms that it said should be corrected. According to the review, the company needs:

• Better maintenance programs. The review found shortcomings in parts procurement, inventory, preventive maintenance and non-safety related operating manuals. GPU differed with some recommendations, but promised changes within the next six months.

• Stricter employee compliance with radiation protection safeguards.

• More training for GPU middle management.

The institute is an \$18 million-a-year operation financed by 50 member nuclear utilities and formed after the accident at Unit 2.



Elephant crossing

A group of elephants from the Ringling Brothers Circus stroll across an intersection in downtown Pittsburgh on their way to the Civic Arena yesterday.

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