

Ripped from the ROUNDUP

Ripped straight from the pages of old Space News Roundups, here's what happened at JSC on this date:

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The Gemini spacecraft in which Astronauts Virgil I. Grissom and John W. Young will make the nation's first two-man flight this spring arrived at Kennedy Space Center Monday.

The spacecraft was moved from McDonnell Aircraft Corp., St. Louis, to the Kennedy Space Center for final flight preparation. Delivered to the Cape Kennedy skid strip by a C-124 aircraft, the spacecraft, designated GT-3, was moved by a special transporter to the pyrotechnic installation building on Merritt Island.

Three orbits are planned for the first manned Gemini flight. Recovery will take place near Grand Turk Island in the Bahamas. The manned flight will follow GT-2, an unmanned Gemini spacecraft which will be launched on a ballistic flight down the Eastern test range this month.

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NASA and the U.S. Air Force have agreed to delay the first shuttle launch from the West coast until January of 1986. This follows a review conducted in December which focused on the launch schedule for 1985. Elements considered in the decision were the readiness of the Vandenberg Air Force Base launch site, the Department of Defense payload to be flown on that mission and the recent problem with softening of the screed which underlies tiles on *Challenger*. After the review, both parties jointly decided to delay the launch.

The decision was based primarily on the importance of maintaining the current shuttle manifest for 1985 and on insuring adequate margin in the development of the DOD payload for the initial VAFB launch.

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Some 30 engineers, technicians and glaziers spent the better part of Christmas week replacing the irreplaceable in the Mission Control Center.

They installed two new 10-by-20-foot half-inch thick glass screens for the world-famous orbital tracking displays in Flight Control Rooms 1 and 2. The 25-year-old screens had become difficult to clean.



1999-2000 Combined Federal Campaign draws record

JSC employees have once again demonstrated their generosity and for the third year in a row exceeded \$500,000 in contributions to the Combined Federal Campaign. Contributions through January 3, 2000, totaled \$554,296 which is \$44,296 above the JSC goal and \$40,000 above last year's total contributions. Sixty-six percent of our employees (1,913) participated in this year's "Working Together for a Better Tomorrow" CFC.

Contributions will continue to be accepted from those employees who have

not had the opportunity to participate. Employees may either contact their coordinator or Teresa Sullivan at x31034.

Although contributions are still coming in, the Engineering Directorate has given the most to date, (\$138,122), and the Mission Operations Directorate has given the second largest amount (\$87,154). Twelve other organizations exceeded their goal and five organizations had 100 percent participation.

JSC employees are making a difference in the lives of many

people through the CFC. Your contributions will go a long way in helping those who need it most. ■



NASA offers *Essentials of Biology* course

Ever wished you knew a bit more about biology? At the request of NASA Administrator Dan Goldin, a unique training event focusing on biology will be offered at JSC on Feb. 16-17, 2000, for civil servants and contractors. Entitled *The Essentials of Biology*, the training will be a fast-paced, informative course that will integrate video, slides, and presentations.

In the next century, biology will influence our lives, the environment, and developing technologies to an unprecedented extent. Knowledge of life's biological processes is especially significant to NASA for advancing human exploration of our solar system and for influencing our search for life on other planets. NASA's *Essentials of Biology* course will provide NASA employees with an increased understanding of biology's role in tomorrow's world.

"Think of this as an opportunity to watch a live episode of the *Discovery Channel*," said Mike Kincaid, chief of the JSC Human Resources Development Branch. "The speakers are great at keeping the presentations lively, informative, and interesting."

The Essentials of Biology course is a two-part multimedia presentation. Four speakers, all specialists in their fields, will present 20-40 minute segments using computer-generated slide shows and videotapes on subjects ranging from the origins of life to the human body to the Earth's ecosystems. The presentations are designed for those with little or no background in biology while illustrating cutting edge research and technology.

"The class is aimed at people who may not have had a biology class since high school," explained Stephen Wiggins, an employee development specialist in the

Human Resources Office. "Whether you're an engineer or a secretary, we hope you'll make plans to attend."

The eight-hour course is broken up into two four-hour blocks. Part 1 will be offered on Wednesday, February 16, and Part 2 on Thursday, February 17. Each day employees may select from either a morning session beginning at 8 a.m. or an afternoon session beginning at 1 p.m. The course will be offered in the Teague Auditorium and employees will be seated as long as there is space available. Guests will have the opportunity to ask questions and interact with the presenters throughout the course, with longer question and answer sessions at the end of each day. ■

For more information about the course, please contact Stephen Wiggins in the Human Resources Development Branch at x33078.

GILRUTH CENTER NEWS

Open from 6:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 6:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday, and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Contact the Gilruth Center at (281) 483-3345. <http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/ah/exceaa/Gilruth/Gilruth.htm>

Nutrition intervention program: Six-week program includes lectures, a private consultation with the dietitian and blood analysis to chart your progress. Program is open to all employees, contractors and spouses. For details call Tammie Shaw at x32980.

Defensive driving: One-day course is offered once a month at the Gilruth Center. Pre-registration required. Cost is \$25. Call for next available class.

Stamp club: Meets every second and fourth Monday at 7 p.m. in Rm. 216.

Weight safety: Required course for employees wishing to use the Gilruth weight room. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$5. Annual weight room use fee is \$90. The cost for additional family members is \$50.

Exercise: Low-impact class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$24 for eight weeks.

Step/bench aerobics: Low-impact cardiovascular workout. Classes meet from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$32 for eight weeks. Kristen Taraszewski, instructor.

Yoga: Stretching class of low-impact exercises designed for people of all ages and abilities in a Westernized format. Meets Thursdays 5-6 p.m. Cost is \$32 for eight weeks. Call Darrell Matula, instructor, at x38520 for more information.

Ballroom dancing: Classes meet Thursdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. for beginner, 8:30-9:30 p.m. for intermediate and 7:30-8:30 p.m. for advanced. Cost is \$60 per couple.

Country and western dancing: Beginner class meets 7-8:30 p.m. Monday. Advanced class (must know basic steps to all dances) meets 8:30-10 p.m. Monday. Cost is \$20 per couple.

Fitness program: Health-related fitness program includes a medical screening examination and a 12-week individually prescribed exercise program. For details call Larry Wier at x30301.

Aikido: Martial arts class for men and women meets 5-6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. No special equipment or knowledge is needed to participate. Aikido teaches balance and control to defend against an opponent without using strength or force. Beginning and advanced classes start each month. Cost is \$35 per month.

Sign up policy:

All classes and athletic activities are on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign up in person at the Gilruth Center and show a yellow Gilruth or weight room badge. Classes tend to fill up two weeks in advance. Payment must be made in full, cash or by check, at the time of registration. No registration will be taken by telephone.

Gilruth badges:

Required for use of the Gilruth Center. Employees, spouses, eligible dependents, NASA retirees and spouses may apply for photo identification badges from 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Cost is \$10. Dependents must be between 16 and 23 years old.

TICKET WINDOW

The following discount tickets are available at the Exchange Stores

General Cinema Theaters	.....	\$5.50
Sony Loew's Theaters	.....	\$5.00
AMC Theaters	.....	\$4.75
Moody Gardens (2 events) (does not include Aquarium Pyramid)	.....	\$10.75
Moody Gardens (Aquarium only)	.....	\$9.25
Space Center Houston	..... adult .. \$11.00	child (age 4-11) ... \$7.25
(JSC civil service employees free.)		
Space Center Houston annual pass	.....	\$18.75
Clear Lake Coupon Books	.....	\$30.00

Please bring your driver's license to pay by personal check.

Exchange Store hours

Monday-Friday
Bldg. 3 7 a.m.-4 p.m.
Bldg. 11 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

- All tickets are nonrefundable.
- Metro tokens and value cards are available.

For additional information, please call x35350.