

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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In his opening statement to the Aviation/Space Writers Association press conference in Bldg. 2 April 9, John Young quipped, "People stop me on the street all the time and ask what is STS-1."

He and Bob Crippen then went into details of the 54-hour, 150-mile orbital altitude mission of the first Space Transportation System flight.

Young is the commander and Crippen is the pilot for STS-1.

The first mission will confirm whether the vehicle will perform "the way we want it to," Robert Thompson, manager of the Shuttle Program Office, had said earlier in the briefing.

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President Bush announced Wednesday his intention to nominate Rear Adm. Richard H. Truly to become the next NASA administrator.

Truly, a former astronaut at JSC, has been NASA associate administrator for space flight since February 1986. He led the recovery team following the *Challenger* accident in January of that year and headed the return to flight effort that culminated in *Discovery's* September 1988 launch.

"This marks the first time in its distinguished history that NASA will be led by a hero of its own making," Bush said, "an astronaut who had been to space, a man who has uniquely experienced NASA's tremendous teamwork and achievement."

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Images from the Space Radar Lab-1 instruments are already providing scientists with puzzles and surprises as the Earth-looking radar mounted in Endeavour's cargo bay makes its maiden flight.

At press time Wednesday, both the orbiter and SRL were performing flawlessly, and all of the planned observation sites around the world had been observed at least once, with many more planned before landing next week.

Early on, scientists were ecstatic with an image of the Sahara desert in Egypt and Sudan, Africa, which looked below the shifting sands to reveal an extensive network of ancient riverbeds.



Guidoni to escort first Italian station element to orbit

EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY ASTRONAUT Umberto Guidoni, Ph.D., will be on board *Discovery* when it delivers one of the Italian Space Agency's contributions to the International Space Station on a mission targeted for April 2000.

Guidoni is the first astronaut named to shuttle flight STS-102, which will carry one of three multi-purpose logistics modules (MPLM) scheduled for launch to the International Space Station. Named "Leonardo," the 21-foot-long, 15-foot-wide module was built by ASI under a bilateral agreement with NASA that included a flight opportunity for an Italian astronaut for the first MPLM mission.

Leonardo can carry up to 10 tons of cargo housed in standard space station equipment racks. For this flight, Leonardo will carry equipment and supplies to outfit the U. S. laboratory module, "Destiny," which is scheduled for a March 2000 launch. Leonardo, and its follow-on modules Raffaello and Donatello, is designed to support dual functions, initially carrying cargo to orbit and then serving as on-orbit space station modules.

Guidoni has one previous shuttle mission to his credit. He flew as a payload specialist on board STS-75 in 1996. During that 16-day mission, he and six other astronauts supported numerous experiments comprising the United States Microgravity Payload, and also demonstrated the ability of the NASA/ASI's Tethered Satellite System to generate electricity.

The remaining crew members will be named at a later date. ■



Umberto Guidoni

JSC Photo S96-00284

For information on Guidoni, or any astronaut, see the NASA Internet biography home page at URL: <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/>

Dialing for disaster

By Mary Peterson

IT WAS NIGHT, on a road not heavily traveled. A man on his way home, when suddenly his car smashed into a bridge, injuring the driver seriously. It would have been just another wreck and may have gone little noticed, except the driver was famed country singer George Jones, and the cause of the wreck was believed to have been, at least in part, the result of his talking on a cellular phone.

In still another incident, reported by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a woman was driving her minivan on a rural road near her home when she became startled by the ring of her cell phone. As she reached over to retrieve the instrument from its bracket, she drifted off the road to the right, sideswiping a tree. Her child, in the right front passenger position, died as the result of head injuries received in the collision.

There are countless, similar stories. Even JSC has not been immune. A Close

Call was reported when a car driving on 2nd Street, adjacent to the Bldg. 17 parking lot and heading toward the Saturn Lane exit, narrowly missed hitting a pedestrian in the crosswalk. The pedestrian, at midpoint, had looked both ways and, thank goodness, was paying attention. The driver, who was busily talking on a cell phone, did not stop, and never appeared to notice.

What was once thought of as a novelty used primarily by business has now become commonplace among the masses, with the NHTSA estimating the current number of cell phones in use nationwide at 54 million – a number that could double by the year 2000. And the road hazard is expected to get worse.

"As cars more and more become an extension of the home and office, we're creating a whole new array of potentially hazardous distractions," says NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez. It is, admittedly, hard to practice defensive driving when you're talking on the phone.

"But, to increase concentration and cut your risk, there are things you can do," suggests Barb Buchholz of the AAA.

Below is a list of safety tips to follow while driving and using a cellular phone:

- ◆ Place calls while stopped, or have someone dial for you.
- ◆ Use the cell phone in the "hands-free" mode.
- ◆ Avoid intense, emotional, or complicated conversations.
- ◆ Use "memory dial" to minimize dialing time.
- ◆ And always give driving your full attention.

Even the Texas Legislature has recognized the spiraling liability posed by cell phone use. House bill 994, authored by Paul Moreno, D-El Paso, was introduced on February 10 of this year. The bill, if passed, would prohibit the use of car phones unless the vehicle is stopped or unless the phone can be used without applying either of the operator's hands. The proposed effective date would be September 1, 1999. And, while this might not be an inexpensive solution, most would agree it would be better than having their cell phones taken away. ■

TICKET WINDOW

Exchange Store hours

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

All tickets are non-refundable.
Metro tokens and value cards are available.
For more information, please call x35350.

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
Fiesta Texas	.....adult	\$18.25
	.....(child under 48")	\$15.50
Astroworld Early Bird (valid through May 31)	.....	\$17.75
Astroworld One-day Admission	.....	\$21.00
Astroworld Season Pass	.....	\$54.75
(valid at all Texas Six Flags Theme Parks and Water World)		
Water World	.....	\$10.75
Moody Gardens (2 of 6 events)	.....	\$9.75
Sea World	.....adult	\$27.25
	.....child (age 3-11)	\$18.25
Schlitterbahn Water Park	.....adult	\$20.75
	.....child (age 3-11)	\$17.50
Space Center Houston	.....adult	\$10.25
	.....child (age 4-11)	\$6.50
(JSC civil service employees free.)		
Splash Town Water Park	.....adult	\$14.50 (child 48" and under)
	.....	\$11.50