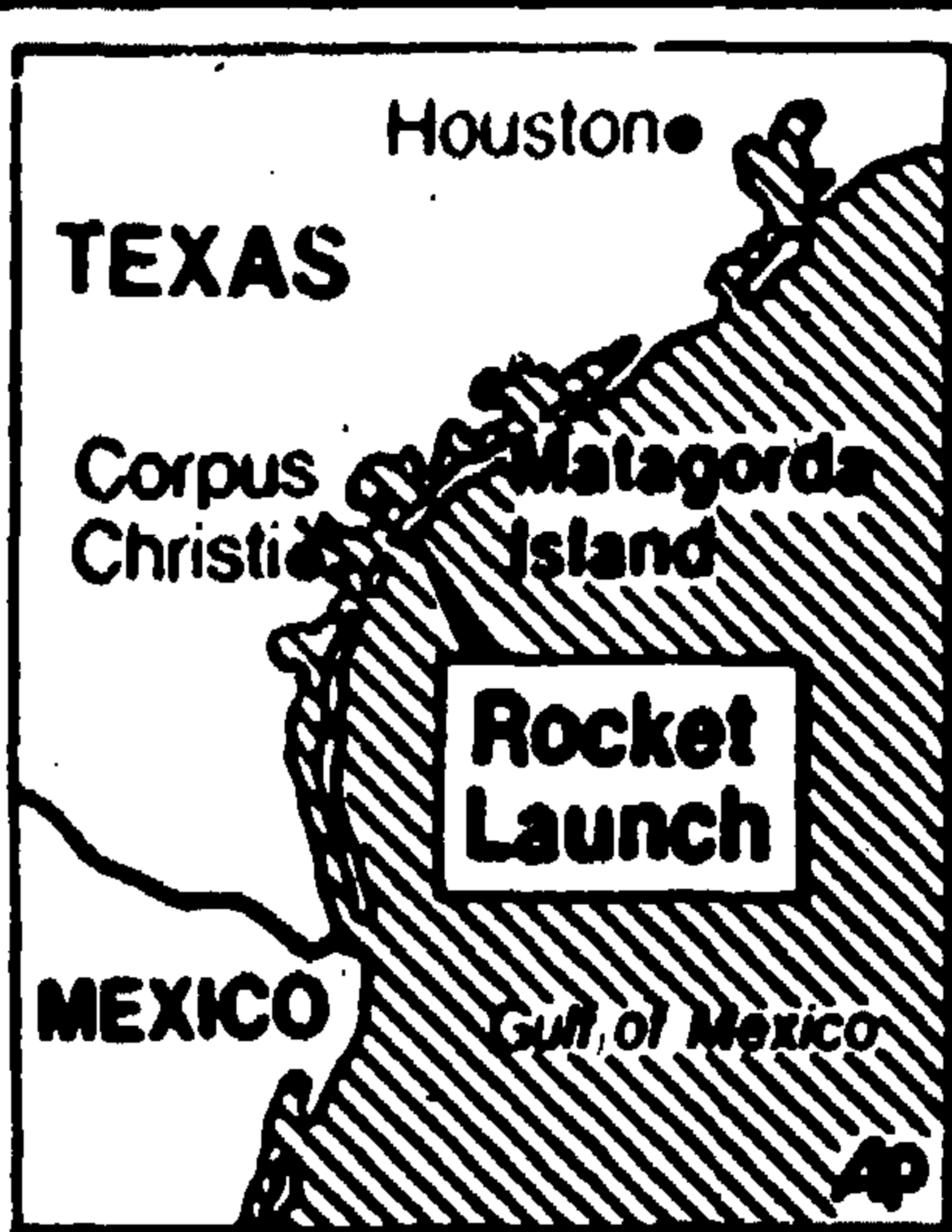


Launching Of Rocket May be Off

TAGORDA ISLAND, Texas (AP) — A cracked battery threatened to delay the launching this morning of the first privately financed and assembled U.S. space launch rocket, officials said Tuesday night.

The bad battery was discovered during final preparations for the 10 a.m. CDT launch of the Conestoga I, according to a spokesman for Space Services of America Inc. Mission director Donald K. Slayton was trying to determine if the mission



would have to be delayed. Space Services, a Houston firm, purchased, assembled and prepared to launch the 37-foot rocket from a primitive launch pad scratched out of the sand on this Gulf of Mexico island.

Murder Suspect Caught

GAINEVILLE, Fla. (UPI) — A suspect in the ritual murder of the University of Florida's popular "junk food professor" was captured Tuesday in a high-speed chase through the streets of New York and police said they had solved the case.

The murder of nutrition professor Howard Appledorf, 41, who suffocated slowly in his apartment last weekend while his killers watched, was an act of revenge, said Gainesville Police Capt. Richard Ward.

"At 8 a.m. today a number of sealed murder warrants were issued for the arrest of individuals we believe we have enough evidence on to arrest," Ward said at a news conference. "The case is solved. We know who committed the homicide."

However, he would not say how many warrants had been issued, nor identify the suspects other than Gary McNichol, 21, who was chased down early Tuesday after police spotted him driving Appledorf's car in midtown New York.

Ward said he expected all the suspects would be arrested within 24 hours.

A spokesman for the district attorney's office in New York said McNichol was cooperating with police, but Ward would not say whether information from McNichol led to the other warrants.

Ward said Gainesville officers were headed not only to New York to pick up McNichol, but to Lumberton, N.C., where he said suspects had tried to charge purchases on Appledorf's credit cards. He also said police believe some of the suspects were in Boston.

Ward said none of the killers, apparently, was a student.

A professor at the university for 15 years, Appledorf was separated from his wife and lived alone. He gained national attention for his studies of fast foods in the 1970s and was nicknamed "the junk food professor" when he touted the nutritional value of McDonald's hamburgers.



Boston Herald American reporter Paul Corsetti has his handcuffs removed by a deputy sheriff Tuesday prior to a hearing before the Governor's Council to commute his 90-day jail sentence. The council voted 6-0 to accept Gov. Edward King's request to commute the term. Corsetti served eight days in jail rather than testify about a story he wrote involving a murder case.

Injured Actresses Improving

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — Award-winning actress Janet Gaynor, in "severe condition" from a fatal taxi-van crash that also injured Broadway star Mary Martin, waded to nurses and doctors Tuesday and showed signs of improvement, a surgeon said.

The legendary stage and screen stars and injured producer Paul Gregory received get-well cards from around the world and personal calls from Bob Hope and Elizabeth Taylor.

Miss Gaynor, 77, who can't speak because of a tube feeding air to her lungs, was in "good spirits" in the intensive care unit at San Francisco General Hospital, said Frank Lewis, assistant chief of surgery.

"She's waving back and forth to the nurses and physicians," he said, letting them know if she

needs anything. He said Miss Gaynor would remain in intensive care for three or four weeks and then need several months of recuperation for a severely fractured pelvis and broken ribs.

Miss Martin, 68, was told she might be able to leave this week, although she won't be able to walk for about three weeks because of a pelvis injury and fractured ribs.

Gregory, 66, husband of Miss Gaynor, suffered fractured ribs in the Sunday night accident which killed press agent Bill Washer, 76.

The show business group was headed for a dinner in Chinatown when a van ran a red light and smashed into their taxi. The van's driver, Robert Cato, 36, was jailed and released on \$3,500 bail after being booked on vehicular manslaughter, drunk driving and speeding.

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Across The Nation

Indiana Rep. Benjamin Found Dead in Home

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Rep. Adam Benjamin Jr., a Democrat from northwestern Indiana, was found dead in his Capitol Hill home Tuesday after he failed to appear for a doctor's appointment. He

was 47. The three-term congressman, who headed the House transportation appropriations subcommittee, died during the Labor-Day weekend of "natural causes," aides said.

It was not known exactly when he died, but an aide found the body when Benjamin failed to show up at his doctor's office. An aide in his Gary, Ind., office said he died of a heart attack.

The Metropolitan Police Department was investigating and said an autopsy was being ordered.

Volunteers Continue Search For Missing Paper Boy in Iowa

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (UPI) — Haggard searchers riding mules and rough terrain vehicles criss-crossed ditches, river banks and wooded areas Tuesday looking for signs of a 12-year-old newspaper carrier who vanished while making his early morning rounds.

The widening search included areas along the Raccoon River known by police to be a hideaway for youths. But authorities remain stumped by the disappearance Sunday morning of John Gosch and neighborhood parents expressed fear for their

children. "They know they have us over a barrel," said Noreen Gosch, who, with her husband John, assumed their son was kidnapped. "You are never more vulnerable."

Bush Pledges Arms Talks, Help for Nation's Needy

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — To a cheering convention of fellow Episcopalians, Vice President George Bush pledged on Tuesday the Reagan administration's commitment to helping the poor and to negotiating a nuclear arms reduction with the Soviet Union.

"We will stay with them at the negotiating table for however long it takes in order to reduce nuclear arms in a verifiable way," he said. He urged the churches to insist that both sides be willing to show they are living up to their word about it.

"We will go the extra mile," he said. "But movement requires the Soviet Union to open up to permit total verification."

Bush said the administration opposes a nuclear freeze, as advocated by many church people, but instead wants "real verifiable reductions in nuclear weapons."

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