

Tuesday, December 21, 1999

A perfect launch for STS-103



Release of pelican at nearby wildlife refuge cooperative effort



▲ **LIFTOFF!** Space Shuttle Discovery successfully launched on time Sunday, Dec. 19, at 7:50 p.m. A nearly full moon was no match for the brilliant light that enveloped the Shuttle as it hurtled into the clear, starry sky. Discovery and crew will rendezvous with the Hubble Space

Telescope this afternoon for a berthing of the spacecraft in the orbiter's payload bay Tuesday night. Three space walks are planned during this mission to accomplish planned Hubble servicing efforts. Discovery returns to earth Monday, Dec. 27, about 5:24 p.m. EST.



▲ **Pelican Rescue:** Cooperation of individuals and



organizations from Indiana to Florida resulted in the rescue, rehabilitation and release of "Fisheater," a white pelican, at the Merritt Island

National Wildlife Refuge on Friday, Dec. 17. The pelican was found covered in crude oil from a contaminated ditch in northern Indiana in November, and was rescued by a local Police Department, treated, and flown to the Back to Nature Wildlife Refuge in Orlando, Fla., for care and rest. It was released at the refuge to join a flock of about 30 other white pelicans that are wintering there, some of which were nearby. Before its release, however, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service gave it a leg band issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bird Banding Laboratory.

◆ **Reminder: Aikido classes will be offered** beginning this January on Tuesdays and Fridays from 5 - 6 p.m. in the O&C Fitness Center, room 1108. There will be a demonstration before class on Jan. 4 at 5 p.m. for those who are interested in seeing what the class is all about. For more information about KSC Fitness Centers or its group exercise class schedule, please check out the Web site at <http://fitness.ksc.nasa.gov>

◆ **Did You Know? Only 3 shopping days until Christmas.**

KSC Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday.

Deadlines: 10 a.m. the day before. Send information, comments or questions to:

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Countdown on the Internet -- <http://www-pao.ksc.nasa.gov/kscpao/ksccount/1999/1999.htm>