

July 18, 1968
Allan Jackson

NAMATH

Joe Namath bowed to pressure and agreed to sell his interest in a swinging eastside bar and restaurant so that he can return as quarterback of the New York Jets. The decision came after a near all-day conference with Commissioner Pete Rozelle - in the National Football League Headquarters.

HOUSTON

Less than three days into its flight - and still a long way to go - the U.S. Apollo-Eleven pays its first big dividend. The announcement today - from Houston. Telling of a phone call from Colonel Frank Borman - to President M.V. Keldysh of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. The veteran U.S. astronaut - just returned from Russia - asking fuller details on the flight of Russia's own Luna-Fifteen. Receiving in return precise information - on the Russian moonship's trajectory, rate of speed and so on. Along with assurances that the Soviet craft - will not interfere in any way with the flight of Apollo-Eleven. All of which adds up to the first big breakthrough - in Soviet-American space cooperation.

By the way - Buzz Aldrin was looking back at the earth today - observing: "Everything's getting smaller and smaller - as time goes by." Except if he looks the other way - then, of course, it's just the opposite.

SPACE FOLLOW HOUSTON

Meanwhile, the Apollo-Eleven itself - sails on and on through the black void of space. Clearing the three-quarter mark today - in its race for the moon. Still "right on the book" - in the words of space officials. So much so - that another scheduled course correction was found unnecessary.

Later, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin - checking out their lunar lander - the "Eagle." Finishing up in plenty of time for their TV performance tonight - along with command ship pilot Mike Collins. En route to final preparations for descent into lunar orbit) - ~~set for~~
~~One Twenty-Six tomorrow afternoon.~~ And that manned landing on the moon - now less than two days away.

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GULF STREAM

While the Apollo-Eleven is hurtling through the heavens - another perhaps equally risky voyage of exploration is underway here below; way below - as a matter of fact. The new research submarine Ben Franklin - under the command ^{of} famed oceanographer Jacques Picard ¹³ - attempting to probe ^{under seas} the secrets of the remarkable Gulf Stream. Indeed, the Franklin ¹⁵ now five days into its shakedown cruise - following the Gulf Stream up the Florida coast; where it was decided today ^{that} the vessel has already proved itself sufficiently - to permit a full thirty-day probe all the way to Boston.

What makes it so risky ¹⁴ - the fact that the Franklin is operating at depths approaching seventeen hundred feet. Whereas the limit for best available rescue equipment - is only six hundred feet. Which means, in short, they're on their own - same as ~~the~~ the Apollo-Eleven.

WHITE HOUSE

Getting back to earthly problems - another special message to Congress today. In it - President Nixon urging establishment of a new - "Commission on Population Growth and the American Future." With its assigned task - that of formulating an expanded Federal program of birth control and family planning. One that will provide such services within five years - for all who want them but cannot ^g now afford them.

In support of his planned program - the President rd noting forecasts that America's population will reach three hundred million by the year two thousand. "We can be sure" - said he - "that society will not be ready for this growth - unless its begins its planning now."

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PENTAGON

Confirmation at the Pentagon. Defense officials admitting today - a "mishap" ten days ago on the island of Okinawa. A "mishap" that resulted in twenty-four persons being placed under medical observation - for a period of about six hours.

Next question: What about published reports - that the incident involved a leakage of nerve gas? To which a Pentagon spokesman replied: "This is all we will say about it."

EAST COAST

Here in the East - the ^{4th} ~~third~~ day of a near-record-breaking heat wave. With heavy use of air conditioners and fans - causing sporadic power failures in the New York, Philadelphia, Washington areas. Raising fears of another "great Northeast blackout" - such as the one that occurred back in Nineteen-Sixty-Five.

End result - ^{The} affected ^{Power} companies appealing ^{ed} to their customers - to turn off all non-essential appliances. At least, pending a break in the weather - ~~hopefully, sometime~~ ^{which has since} ~~Attended~~ ~~Thank goodness~~ ~~tonight.~~

SENATE

From the American Medical Association - a recipe for instant longevity. Put forward today by Dr. Frederick Swartz - chairman of the AMA's Committee on Aging; who told a Senate subcommittee that Americans can add ten years to their average life expectancy - within the space of a single generation. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{they} Can do this - ^{he} said he - if they will merely exercise regularly - keep alert - stay slim - stop smoking - and submit to periodic check-ups.

In all - little enough to pay for an extra ten years - noted one Senator. But will it really work? - he asked. To which Dr. Swartz replied, in effect: "You bet your life."

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CHICAGO

This next - a brief item from Chicago; telling of good news tonight - at the famed Lincoln Park Zoo. Good news courtesy of a female gnu - that's gnu spelled with a "g"; a female gnu who has just given birth - to a new baby gnu. There at the zoo - news of the newborn gnu calling for cigars all around.

And now, Warren - what's g-new - or new - with you?

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51.20

CORBY

(35)

^{They hold the}
IN Corby, England - finals of the World's Porridge

Eating Championship. ~~With~~ thirty-six contestants at the
starting gate - and they're off. ^{were} Irishman Johnny Coyle / at
the head of the pack. Using a Gaelic free-style ^{he} ^{ed} - downing his
first bowl of porridge in a matter of seconds. Then another -
and another; until / twenty-three in all in a ^{Time-limit} ~~matter~~ of ten
minutes. A new record / and a new titleholder.

Peas porridge hot,

Peas porridge cold.

To Johnny Coyle it matters not,

With that, my tent I fold.

(Just in time, I suspect.)

2nd for Lowell - so far - until Monday

6:53:10

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