America's Space Program Taking on 'Human Element;' Many Shots Slated

Cape Canaveral, Fla.—(UPI)—America's multi-dollar space program is getting a new flavor – the "human element."

The day when space was a "purely scientific" property is gone. U.S. research is swinging toward finding out more what space can do for man and what man can do in space.

This shift is reflected in the jammed schedule of American space shots for the remainder of 1960. Rockets will carry tons of machinery into the skies to explore new ways of weather forecasting, communications, navigation and national defense.

The headliner is the project named Mercury—America's first attempt to send a man to the edges of and then into space. The pressure is on because Russia too stands on the "man-in-space" brink.

U.S. scientists hope to send the spaceman's capsule on a short hop with a Redstone missile and then into orbit with an Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile here early this summer.

If all goes well, the first Astronaut will ride a Redstone 80 miles above and 160 miles across the Atlantic in July or August. The first orbit attempt is slated for late 1961.

Stars Get Brothers

Two of the nation's most successful satellites—Tiros I, to take weather pictures, and Transit 1-B, forerunner of a "radio star" for navigators to guide by—will get brothers within the next few months.

Tiros II and Transit 2-A, two of the first satellites to hold promises for man in his everyday life, are expected to be fired toward an orbit around earth by September. Operational systems are predicted for the next two years.

Echo II, a 100-foot balloon, will be launched during the same period. The first Echo shot failed earlier this month. Operational Echo balloons will open the door to world-wide television, telephone and telegraph communications.

In a more secret area of communications, the Army hopes to send up two protypes of its Courier satellite, the first within one month. Courier will enable American military headquarters to send taped messages to overseas bases.

The Air Force has three satellite systems in the works to protect the nation—Midas, to warn against missile attacks; Samos, to take reconnaissance pictures; and Advent, to relay Midas and Samos information instantaneously to the ground.

The three systems will be fired from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., into polar orbits, the first Midas prototype is in orbit, although plagued by troubles. Samos will get its first shot around August. Advent test models will be launched next year.

Scientific Satellites

Project Discoverer, the Vandenberg — launched satellite that serves as a basis for Samos and Midas, will get several more trials this year.

Satellites for strictly scientific purposes—and prestige value—dot the rest of this year's schedule. Atlas-Able rockets will launch a pair of satellites toward the moon—the first around August or September and the second about November.

One lunar probe will take pictures of the far side of the moon's surface and relay them to earth via television camera. But the pictures probably will be crude compared to the shots made by Lunik III, the earth-moon orbiter launched by Russia last October.

The nation's first chance to equal the payload weights of Russia's Sputnik and Lunik rockets will come late this year, when the Air Force gives its Titan intercontinental ballistic missile its initial space job.

June Shots Planned

Titan probably will try to throw a large payload into orbit around earth. Sources said it could orbit up to 11,000 pounds, of which 5,000 pounds would be working payload.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration will fire several Juno II rockets to study radiation and meteor dust, starting around September.

The solid-fueled Scout rocket is expected to break into space research within a month. It will be fired to an altitude of more than 25,000 miles for radiation studies.

Civilian scout rockets will be launched at Wallops Island, Va., and military models from here.

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Family Council

Lydia T. – They should give Mike a second chance.

Mrs. R. T. – We don't think he deserves it.

* * *

Lydia T. – I am 16 and having a feud with my parents over a particular boy I want to date. They don't like him.

I used to go out with Mike about a year ago. One day my father saw him driving down town and bawled him out for going too fast. Mike said something fresh and my father refused me permission to go out with him anymore.

I saw Mike after school a few times and now he has asked me to go out with him again. He says he is willing to apologize to my father if he will just let us date again. I feel Mike has matured a lot in the past year and my parents would like him if they would just give him another chance. Dad had no right to bawl Mike out anyway.

* * *

Mrs. R. T. – My husband and I have talked this over pretty carefully and we don't see any good coming out of giving in to Lydia on this point. There are plenty of nice boys around for her to date. Why must she choose a boy who has treated her father disrespectfully?

I have tried very hard to reason with her and explain that a really nice boy doesn't lose his temper to the extent where he actually yells at an adult – especially when he is in the wrong and the adult happens to be his girl friend's father.

I am also very annoyed that Lydia has seen Mike after school. I thought she wouldn't look at him again. We don't want to be unfair, but we don't think this boy deserves a second chance.

* * *

The Council: Sorry Lydia, we have no sympathy for your cause.

A young man who hasn't better control of his temper than Mike is not a desirable friend for a young girl.

Even if we were to try to be extremely understanding about this incident and say that Mike had probably gotten out of bed from the wrong side that morning, we would have to ask why it has taken him a whole year to decide to apologize.

Now he claims he is willing to apologize "if" he is granted a certain privilege – that of dating Lydia. Apparently, Lydia is flattered that Mike has made this overture. But it is not flattering. It is insulting. He is bargaining for her. He has also extracted from her, in effect, a statement that his insulting behavior toward her father was not terribly serious.

Why does Lydia favor this boy whom she has every reason to dislike? Possibly she is feeling a little rebellious at this stage of her life. She would like to show her parents she is a grown, independent woman, but she knows quite well she is far from that. Perhaps she would like to assert herself more at home, but doesn't dare. Secretly she may admire Mike just because he had the nerve to talk back to her father.

It is also likely that Lydia enjoys the feeling that two men are battling over her. The fact that one happens to be her father doesn't take away any of the fun.

We think the R.T.'s should stand firm and refuse to discuss the matter after they have fully explained their attitude.

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