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Sally K. Ride Papers - KidSat Publicity Articles

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>the KidSat program, including Samuel Gompers Secondary School in San
>Diego, Calif., Buist Academy in Charleston, S.C. and the Washington
>Accelerated Learning Center in Pasadena, Calif. Each year, additional
>classrooms in these areas will be added to the pilot program, as will
>new schools in Omaha, Houston, and Baltimore school districts. By
>the end of the pilot program -- when the KidSat information
>superhighway has been set up, the KidSat curriculum has been
>developed
>and tested, and a payload has been installed on the space station for
>continuous accessibility to space -- the programs will be open to any
>school district in the country.

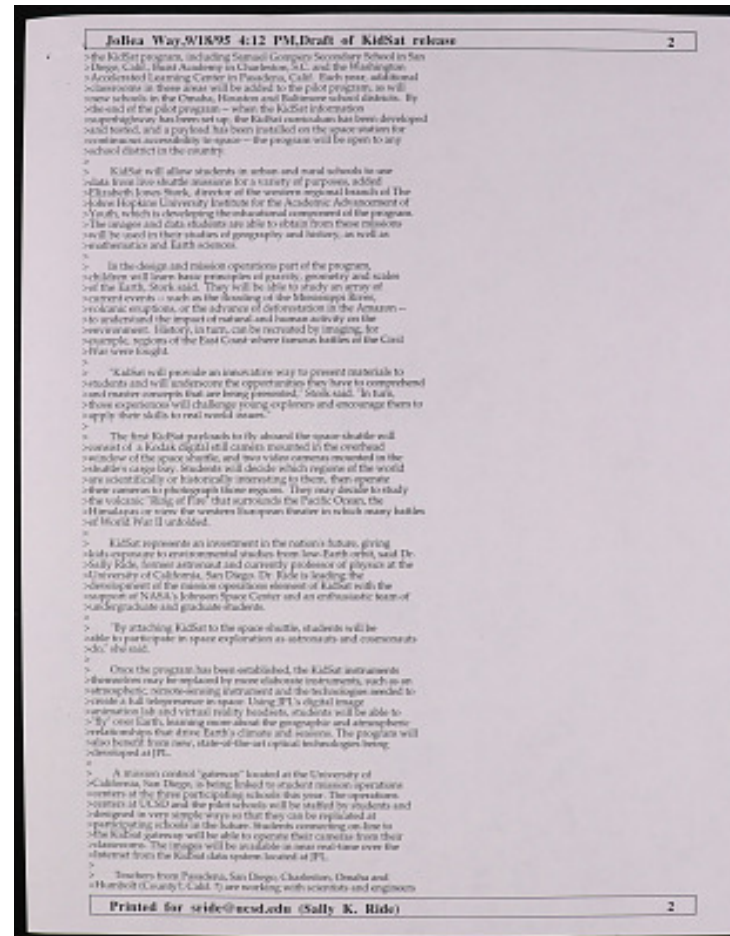
- > KidSat will allow students in urban and rural schools to use data from live shuttle missions for a variety of purposes, added
- > Elizabeth Jones Stork, director of the western regional branch of The Johns Hopkins University Institute for the Academic Advancement of Youth, which is developing the educational component of the program.
- > The images and data students are able to obtain from these missions will be used in their studies of geography and history, as well as mathematics and Earth sciences.

- > In the design and mission operations part of the program,
- > children will learn basic principles of gravity, geometry and scales
- > of the Earth, Stork said. They will be able to study an array of
- > current events -- such as the flooding of the Mississippi River,
- > volcanic eruptions, or the advance of deforestation in the Amazon --
- > to understand the impact of natural and human activity on the
- > environment. History, in turn, can be recreated by imaging, for
- > example, regions of the East Coast where famous battles of the Civil
- > War were fought.
- >
- > "KidSat will provide an innovative way to present materials to
- > students and will underscore the opportunities they have to
- > comprehend
- > and master concepts that are being presented," Stork said. "In turn,
- > those experiences will challenge young explorers and encourage them
- > to
- > apply their skills to real world issues."

- > The first KidSat payloads to fly aboard the space shuttle will
- > consist of a Kodak digital still camera mounted in the overhead
- > window of the space shuttle, and two video cameras mounted in the
- > shuttle's cargo bay. Students will decide which regions of the world
- > are scientifically or historically interesting to them, then operate
- > their cameras to photograph those regions. They may decide to study
- > the volcanic "Ring of Fire" that surrounds the Pacific Ocean, the
- > Himalayas or view the western European theater in which many battles
- > of World War II unfolded.

- > KidSat represents an investment in the nation's future, giving kids exposure to environmental studies from low-Earth orbit, said Dr.
- > Sally Ride, former astronaut and currently professor of physics at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Ride is leading the
- > development of the mission operations element of KidSat with the support of NASA's Johnson Space Center and an enthusiastic team of undergraduate and graduate students.

> "By attaching KidSat to the space shuttle, students will be



>able to participate in space exploration as astronauts and cosmonauts
>do," she said.
>
> Once the program has been established, the KidSat instruments
>themselves may be replaced by more elaborate instruments, such as
an
>atmospheric, remote-sensing instrument and the technologies needed
to
>create a full telepresence in space. Using JPL's digital image
>animation lab and virtual reality headsets, students will be able to
>"fly" over Earth, learning more about the geographic and atmospheric
>relationships that drive Earth's climate and seasons. The program will
>also benefit from new, state-of-the-art optical technologies being
>developed at JPL.
>
> A mission control "gateway" located at the University of
>California, San Diego, is being linked to student mission operations
>centers at the three participating schools this year. The operations
>centers at UCSD and the pilot schools will be staffed by students and
>designed in very simple ways so that they can be replicated at
>participating schools in the future. Students connecting on-line to
>the KidSat gateway will be able to operate their cameras from their
>classrooms. The images will be available in near real-time over the
>Internet from the KidSat data system located at JPL.
>
> Teachers from Pasadena, San Diego, Charleston, Omaha and
>Humboldt (County?, Calif.?) are working with scientists and engineers

Printed for sride@ucsd.edu (Sally K. Ride)

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