

Weather

Today: Partly sunny, breezy, warm. High 85. Low 62. Wind 6-12 mph. Tuesday: Mostly cloudy, showers. High 82. Wind 10-20 mph. Yesterday: Temp. range: 55-87. AQI: N/A. Details on Page D2.

The Washington Post

FINAL

Inside: Washington Business Detailed index on Page A2

114TH YEAR No. 124

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1991

Prices May Vary in Areas Outside Metropolitan Washington (See Box on A4) 25¢

Emergency Spacewalk Is a Success

Atlantis Astronauts Free Stuck Antenna To Save Observatory

By Kathy Sawyer
Washington Post Staff Writer

Two astronauts made America's first successful emergency spacewalk yesterday from the shuttle Atlantis, saving a \$617 million astronomy observatory by freeing a stuck antenna.

The 4½-hour orbital ballet took place 280 miles above Earth at 17,000 mph, beginning at about 2:40 p.m. EDT yesterday. It was the first U.S. spacewalk since December 1985 and the second "unplanned" outing prompted by a crisis.

Air Force Lt. Col. Jerry Ross, 43, performed the equivalent of kicking a balky vending machine when he gave a shake to the stuck boom of the high-gain communications antenna, freeing it to swing out as planned from one end of the massive Gamma Ray Observatory (GRO). At 6:36 p.m., at a point midway between Japan and Houston, the GRO was released in space.

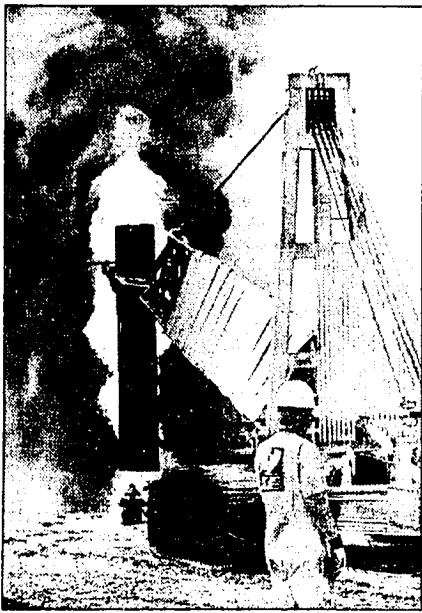
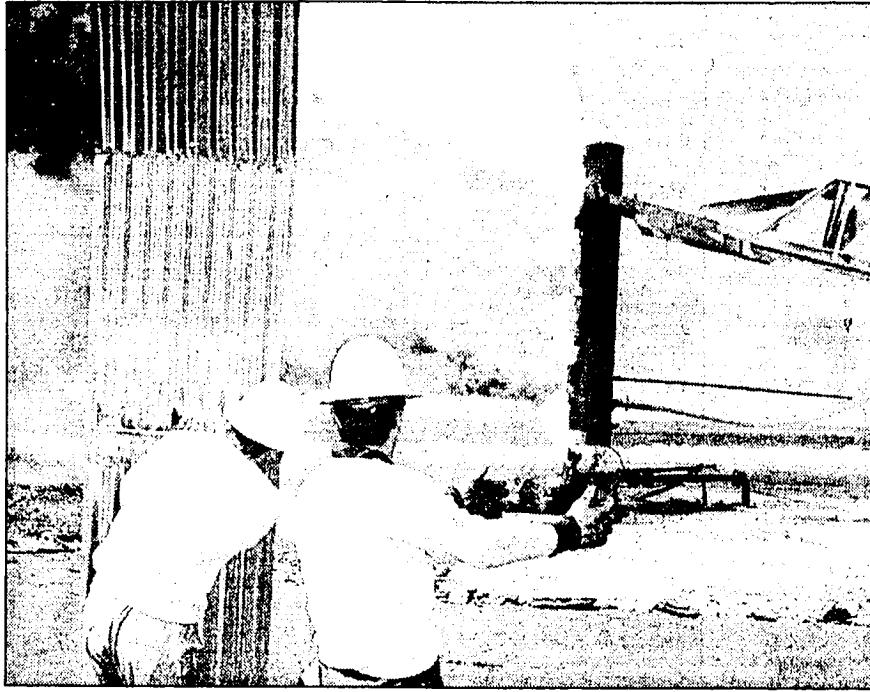
The "Jay and Jerry Show," as Mission Control billed it, resulted from remote cameras aboard the shuttle that provided stunning live television images of the drama, which at times turned into a happy romp.

NASA officials have long argued that this is the advantage of having a manned shuttle and that it balances the risks and costs: Humans can cope with the unexpected in a way that robots cannot. For this reason, they say, the shuttle is the safest launcher for top-priority payloads of increasing complexity.

Ross broke the boom free 19 minutes after he had floated out of the Atlantis airlock to begin what NASA refers to as EVA (extravehicular activity). He was assisted during the outing by mission specialist Jay Apt, 41, a physicist.

See SHUTTLE, A6, Col. 1

SMOTHERING THE FLAME



Firefighters from Houston firm of Boots & Coots doused the first of more than 500 blazing wells in Kuwait's Burgan Oil Field yesterday by placing fire-proof tube over pillar of fire and injecting liquid nitrogen, depriving flames of oxygen. Top and left, workers move tube into position; right, smoke rises from tube after fire is snuffed.

U.N. Buffer Zones In Iraq Suggested

Cheney Offers Idea to Safeguard Refugees

By Bill McAllister
Washington Post Staff Writer

Bush administration officials, responding to mounting concern about the plight of Iraqi refugees, suggested yesterday that the United Nations could establish buffer zones in northern and southern Iraq to protect the hundreds of thousands of people fleeing from President Saddam Hussein.

Defense Secretary Richard B. Cheney raised the possibility of having U.N. peace-keeping forces establish the safe zones inside Iraq, which has been torn by civil war since shortly after Iraqi forces were ousted from Kuwait by a U.S.-led coalition in February. But Cheney conceded that U.S. officials have not addressed how such an area could be created inside northern Iraq, where thousands of Kurdish rebels and their supporters were reported to be on the move.

Because U.S. forces still occupy a large section of southern Iraq, where an estimated 40,000 Shiite refugees have fled, American officials have said the refugees could be easily protected by the U.N. forces that are expected to replace the U.S. troops there.

"We will not abandon those people," said Brent Scowcroft, the president's national security adviser, on NBC's "Meet the Press." Scowcroft attacked Saddam for killing the rebels and described their plight as "a real tragedy. There's no question about it, and it's horrible to see the pictures of innocent people being savaged or even killed."

Both Scowcroft and President Bush reiterated that the president and U.S. officials have never suggested the United States would support a rebellion against Saddam. "I went back and reviewed every statement I ever made about this, every single one, and there was never an implication that the United States would use force beyond the objectives which we so beautifully achieved," the president said at a Houston news conference.

Bush's remarks contrasted with a statement by Barham Salih, a spokesman in London for the Iraqi-Kurdistan Front. On ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley," Salih repeated the rebels' assertion that the Bush administration had implied it would help them.

"When President Bush made his call for the Iraqi people to rise against the tyranny of Saddam Hussein, people interpreted that as a policy statement by President Bush that the Iraqi people were to be supported in their struggle for democracy and human rights against the tyranny of Saddam Hussein," Salih said.

"We are not going to expand the use of U.S. forces," Bush said later. "Indeed, I want them to come out." See GULF, A12, Col. 6

■ Kuwaiti emir promises elections, says Iraq still a threat. Page A10

Baker Trip To Mideast Has 2 Goals

Regional Peace, Kurds on Agenda

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Staff Writer

ANKARA, Turkey, April 7—Secretary of State James A. Baker III returned to the Middle East today in an effort to address two painful problems for the Bush administration in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War—the killing and flight of Iraqi Kurds and a regional peace process that has yet to get off the ground.

The flood of Iraqi refugees into Turkey and Iran, as well as new signs of Israeli intransigence on the Palestinian issue and Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, have cast a pall over the start of Baker's mission. The mood differs from that of his visit three weeks ago, when he was riding high on the gulf war victory.

Baker, speaking to reporters en route, responded defensively to questions about why the United States had encouraged Iraqis to rebel against the government of President Saddam Hussein and then stood by as they were crushed by Iraqi helicopter gunships after the gulf war ended.

Baker also indicated that, in contrast to his relatively conflict-free visit to Israel last month, he now plans some tough talk with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. [In Jerusalem, Shamir said Sunday that he has "new ideas," including a regional peace conference, to present to Baker, the Reuter news agency reported.]

Baker's trip appears to have a dual purpose—to try to breathe some life into the Middle East peace process and to display sympathy for the fleeing Iraqis and show that the Bush administration is doing something to help them.

The United States and other nations, including Britain, today began airdrops of food and other humanitarian supplies to refugees inside Iraq to aid them in their own country and stanch the exodus to Turkey and Iran.

A Western diplomat here said tonight that Turkish military forces are still in the area. See BAKER, A12, Col. 1

Bush Pledges Major Effort On Trade Pact

'Fast Track' Wanted For Mexico Accord

By John E. Yang
Washington Post Staff Writer

HOUSTON, April 7—President Bush today pledged a major effort to win the congressional authority he wants in order to negotiate a free-trade agreement with Mexico.

"I am going to work tirelessly," Bush told reporters during a joint news conference with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari. "The credibility of the United States as a trading party is on the line here."

Bush and Salinas met for about a half-hour this morning at a nearby military airfield where Salinas's plane made a refueling stop on its way from Mexico City to Ottawa. Salinas is to meet with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to discuss dropping trade barriers with his nation as well.

Bush will stay here overnight to attend a memorial service Monday for former senator John G. Tower and his daughter, who were killed in a Georgia plane crash Friday.

The United States and Canada agreed in 1988 to remove all tariffs and other barriers by 1998. A similar accord with Mexico—and one between Mexico and Canada—would fulfill President Ronald Reagan's 1985 call to create the world's largest free-trade zone stretching from "the Yukon to the Yucatan."

But Bush wants to prevent Congress from being able to amend whatever U.S.-Mexican trade agreement may be reached, in order to keep lawmakers from inserting special provisions for home-state products.

That requires Bush to make sure congressional "fast track" procedures that bar amendments are exercised. See PRESIDENT, A8, Col. 4

War's Oil Spill Still Sullies Gulf Shore

Flow Continues as Saudi Cleanup Effort Described as Late, Little

By William Booth
Washington Post Staff Writer

QURMAH ISLAND, Saudi Arabia, April 7—An estimated 3,000 barrels of oil are still pouring into the Persian Gulf each day from several sources in Kuwait, part of the lingering aftermath of the ecological warfare Iraq waged during the Persian Gulf War, according to a U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientist.

The spill along a 250-mile strip of the northern Saudi Arabian coast is estimated by U.S. and Saudi researchers to be at least 1.5 million

barrels, and according to Saudi officials and foreign advisers, it may eventually prove to be between 4 million and 7 million barrels, making it the world's largest.

By comparison, the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska totaled about 260,000 barrels. Each barrel contains 42 gallons.

While early Pentagon estimates that the spill totaled 11 million barrels proved high, scientists in Saudi Arabia say the spill is the largest ever in the Persian Gulf, and will probably turn out to be the world's largest. Mexico's 1979 spill is put at 4.2 million barrels.

"The amount of oil is staggering," said Roy Nichols, head of the London-based International Maritime Organization, which is helping the Saudis coordinate oil recovery. "You have to see it to believe it."

While hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil have been skimmed from the gulf and dumped into huge pits, observers here say early efforts to clean up the spill were plagued by limited funding and equipment and a slow-moving bureaucracy overwhelmed by the task of containing a spill in a war zone.

More than a month after the See SPILL, A13, Col. 1

St. Mary's Weekly: Black and White and Dread All Over

By Eugene L. Meyer
Washington Post Staff Writer

CALIFORNIA, Md.—The owner of an auto cleaning and detailing shop used to be an avid reader of and advertiser in the weekly tabloid that some people here in St. Mary's County affectionately call "the rag."

But then Ron MacRea's name and picture appeared in a report that the newspaper, St. Mary's Today, published about his arrest on a charge of drunken driving. He cut off his advertising and stopped reading the paper.

"I wish him nothing but the worst of luck," said MacRea, referring to editor and publisher Ken Rossignol, whose sensationalist publication is the paper that folks in these parts love to hate.

Rossignol, 43, regularly prints the names of those arrested on drunken driving charges in a "DWI Hit Parade" column. Since July 31, when he started the paper, Rossignol has run the photographs of 149 people arrested on charges of drunken driving, some of them on the front page. His paper, with a claimed weekly circulation of 7,000, regularly splashes photographs of mangled wreckage, the bitter fruits of driving under the influence, across its pages.

"We're accused of being a single-dimension paper," said Rossignol, whose younger brother was killed while hitchhiking in 1972 when a drunk driver picked him up and later drove off the road.

But he also runs stories about drug arrests under the heading, "St. Mary's Today Hit Parade on Drugs." Another column, "Breaking and Enterings This Week," catalogues other



St. Mary's Today publisher Ken Rossignol photographs arrest of a drug suspect, a staple of his weekly.

affronts to the public peace and tranquility in a county of 76,000 located an hour's drive southeast of Washington.

Rossignol reserves some of his most pungent descriptions for common criminals who prey upon the innocent.

In his pages, they are "dirtbags," "low-life

creeps," "local scumbags," "evildoers" and "heathens."

"Showing the true colors of a coward," he wrote in the March 26 edition, "local county dirtbags again picked on an elderly citizen and broke into their home, damaged appliances,

See NEWSPAPER, A8, Col. 1

INSIDE

Easter Draws Muscovites
■ Hundreds of thousands yesterday turned out for the Russian Orthodox Easter, including Boris Yeltsin, the Russian republic's leader. Page A13

Rangers Rout Capitals, 6-0
■ The Washington Capitals returned home last night but the New York Rangers routed them, 6-0, to take a 2-1 lead in NHL playoff series. Page B1

Nancy Reagan Biography
■ Kitty Kelley's long-awaited, much-hyped biography of Nancy Reagan provides titillation, but little revelation. Page C1

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■ Annual survey of region's top public companies in Washington Business finds Fairfax-based Mobil Corp. atop the list.



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