

Eclipse seen by many; causes accidents, talk

United Press International
The shadow of the moon swept across most of the United States today, dimming the morning sunlight as the last solar eclipse over North America in the 20th century. Millions using various viewing devices checked the progress of the eclipse in those areas not obscured by clouds as the moon passed between the earth and the sun in the awesome spectacle that once brought terror to primitive peoples.

But in modern-day America, police in Los Angeles reported a number of fender-bender traffic accidents involving motorists preoccupied with the eclipse. In Salem, Ore., they joked about it taking an act of God to silence the politicians, who joined other state workers in watching the one minute and 34 seconds of total eclipse.

In Portland, Ore., the largest city in the path of the total eclipse, the sky became darker than night, because none of the usual night street lights was turned on. In Sacramento, Calif., state workers atop buildings waved to one another.

In Boise, Idaho, a state legislative committee turned on the lights in the committee room in observance. Residents lined streets in downtown Salt Lake City to watch the solar show.

At Goldendale, Wash., where thousands gathered at the only public observatory in the path of the total eclipse, the event was obscured by dark clouds except for a few spectacular seconds. But all who shivered together on a cold hillside there agreed it was worth it. The spectators cheered, clapped and yelled, "Move clouds! Come on sun!"

"I thought it was exciting," William Yantis, observatory director, said. "I was disappointed about the clouds, but we got to see it." Many other cities in the path of the eclipse reported heavy overcast and could not see the moon blocking the sun. But even in the areas of only partial eclipse, there was a noticeable dimming of the morning sun's usual brilliance and shadows became softer.

Firing called result of torture disclosure

United Press International
WASHINGTON — "I knew when it would break, I would be sneered, and I was."

Alexandra Johnson made that statement in a clipped, unemotional voice as she described having reported to the State Department her discovery of "systematic" Israeli torture of Palestinian security prisoners in the occupied territories.

Not long ago, she was eminently successful and publicly praised for doing what she likes doing best: being a State Department bureaucrat. Then, in the course of visa investigations in Jerusalem, Ms. Johnson's carefully ordered life was turned upside down.

Johnson said she discovered systematic Israeli torture of Palestinian security prisoners, reported it to the State Department and then was dismissed from the Foreign Service.

The State Department said her dismissal last month had nothing to do with the allegations, but it would not reveal the reason. Israel categorically denied the torture charge.

Johnson acknowledged having been engaged briefly to a Palestinian — one of those making torture charges. She said it happened after the bulk of her evidence was collected.

She told of investigating visa requests in Jerusalem of 29 ex-prisoners who insisted Israeli interrogators — are responsible. She said some prisoners described being tortured by "electrical apparatus, or tape recorders and loud speaker systems."

She said the State Department eventually granted visas to 22 of the Palestinians — a development she described as de facto U.S. recognition the men had been convicted on coerced confessions, since U.S. law bars immigrants who have been "meaningful" members of organizations on the attorney general's list, such as the Communist Party or the PLO.

Johnson says there's no doubt in her mind that Israeli authorities — not just a few wayward interrogators

The prisoners also repeatedly told her of being beaten in the same way with the same kind of instruments — a yard-long stick for the chest and a footlong club for the genitals.

Several former members of the Israeli armed forces compared the situation of Israeli security forces in occupied Arab territories to the role of American soldiers in the nastier days of U.S. involvement in Vietnam.

U.S.S.R. Soyuz 32 links with space lab

United Press International
MOSCOW — The Soviet Union's first manned space flight of 1979, the Soyuz 32, Monday successfully linked up with the mothballed Salyut 6 space lab, Tass reported. The news agency said Soyuz 32, manned by rookie commander Lt. Col. Vladimir Lyakhov and flight engineer Valery Ryumin, docked safely with Salyut 6 at 4:30 p.m. The pair then transferred to the space lab. The Soyuz 32 spaceship had lifted off at 2:54 p.m. Sunday Moscow

time from the Baikonur Cosmodrome. Moscow Radio said earlier all the spaceship's systems were functioning normally and both cosmonauts felt fine as they began the final run toward docking with the space lab.

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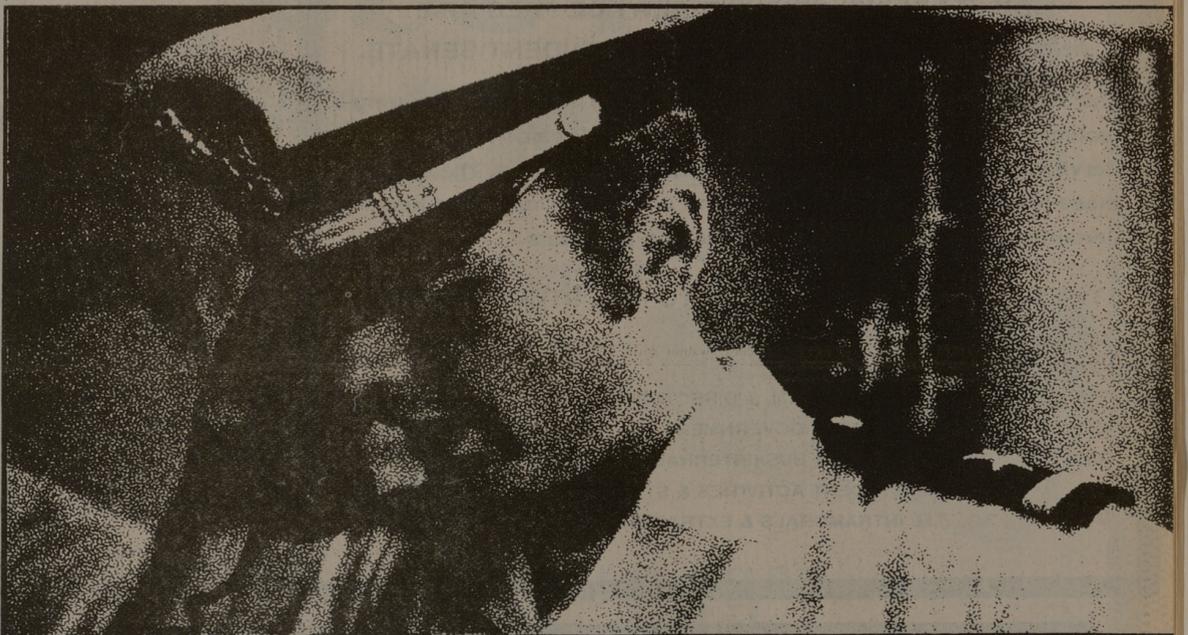


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