

National



Staff photo by Jeff Kerber

Brrrrr!

Lisa Kaufmann, a freshman from Portland, Texas, is adequately bundled up for the cold weather. Temperatures were in the 40s Monday and are expected to warm up slowly towards the end of the week.

May show Saturn's origin

Voyager sends new photos

United Press International
PASADENA — Scientists say parting shots of Saturn and its satellites from the Voyager 1 spacecraft, combined with radio tests of its rings, may show the mustard-colored planet evolved like a small, separate solar system.

At midnight Sunday, Voyager was 3.7 million miles from Saturn and 944.7 million miles from Earth, traveling at 35,000 mph.

The craft clicked off stop-action photos every four minutes, beaming them Earth-ward at the speed of light. The pictures, which take about an hour and 25 minutes to arrive, will be incorporated into a film of Saturn and its rings, Jet Propulsion Laboratory scientists said.

New photos from the space probe have revealed that some of Saturn's rings are serene and some are chaotic, and subject not only to the gravity of the planet, but the influence of its moons.

Scientists said spaces or gaps in the complex ring system may be caused by the irregular orbits of Saturn's moons, called resonances. Such gravitational influence may explain the eccentric rings and strange "braided" appearance of the ring particles.

JPL spokesman Alan Wood said scientists were waiting for the results of a radio experiment to determine more closely the size and compositions of the ring particles.

Once the rings' history is determined through photographs and tests, scientists believe they will know more about the evolution of Saturn and its moons, and may find it similar to a small solar system in itself.

A billion miles from the sun,

Saturn couldn't be colder according to our temperature scales. Voyager scientists said the whirling cloud tops range from Absolute Zero to only a little warmer.

The Voyager cameras have also detected some cloud features in the yellow planet which show it is different in many ways from its neighbor, Jupiter.

The cloud-top winds of Saturn are almost twice as fast as those of the larger planet and apparently move mostly in one direction.

Dr. Garry Hunt of the Voyager science team at JPL said the spaceprobe's instruments also measured wind jets near the equatorial region at 935 mph.

On Earth, heavy winds that caused a rash of destructive brush fires in Southern California early Sunday also periodically threatened the Goldstone receiving antenna, one of three that gathers data from the spacecraft.

Goldstone's huge dish is in danger when winds reach 45 mph, Wood said, and it can withstand gusts up to 60 mph. That was about the wind force early Sunday and the antenna was "stowed," or put in a straight-up position to offer less wind resistance.

The receiving chores were turned over to another in the network of antennae, in Australia. The third dish is in Madrid, Spain.

Reagan invited to China

United Press International
BOSTON — China's senior leader has congratulated Republican Ronald Reagan on his election to the White House and invited the president-elect to visit China, the Christian Science Monitor said Monday.

In his first public comment since the Nov. 4 election, Vice Chairman Deng Xiaoping said in a Peking interview: "It is our hope that during the presidency of Mr. Reagan the Sino-U.S. relation will develop more, not just mark time or retrogress, because this is required by global strategy," the Monitor reported.

"Quite a number of people who are involved in the decision-making process on the part of Mr. Reagan can be considered our old friends," Deng added. "For instance, Mr. Bush (vice president-elect and former ambassador to Peking) is one."

Chinese leaders during the election campaign had expressed their concern about statements made by Reagan, which they felt indicated he favored upgrading relations with Taiwan.

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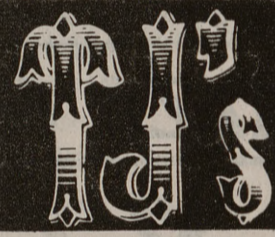
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