

WORLD AND NATION

Syncom 3 'pushed away' from shuttle

Associated Press
 SPACE CENTER, Houston — With a mighty heave and a weightlifter's grunt, spacewalker James "Ox" van Hoften sent a repaired satellite spinning off on its own Sunday, successfully completing a daring salvage project in space.
 "Good spin, Ox," called fellow spacewalker Bill Fisher as the 7½-ton Syncom 3 satellite whirled away from the space shuttle Discovery at three revolutions per minute. "Ahhhh, that's great."
 "Well done, Ox," said mission commander Joe Engle, who watched from Discovery's cabin.
 Van Hoften pushed the satellite away from the shuttle while standing on the end of Discovery's 50-foot robot arm, 230 miles above the Pacific Ocean.

The hand launch was the final act of a complex repair job that energized dead electrical circuits inside the Syncom 3 and gave the \$85 million communications craft a chance to climb out of its uselessly low orbit and become a working satellite.
 About an hour later, Mission Control told the astronauts that a ground station had contacted Syncom 3 by radio and that the satellite had responded to commands.
 "The status (of the satellite) looks good," said Mission Control.
 "That's good news," replied Engle. "If you've got any other satellites that need fixing, we'll be glad to take care of them before we come down."
 Steven Dorfman, president of Hughes Communications Inc., owner of the satellite, called the repair project "the most remarkable salvage mission in the U.S. space program."
 But he warned that there was still no final assurance that Syncom 3 had survived intact its long exposure to the deep cold of space that could have caused damage to the satellite's rocket engines and propellant.
 Hughes officials earlier had given only 50-50 odds for success and Dorfman said that despite the spacewalk success, "the betting windows are closed and it's too late to change the odds."
 Syncom 3's first rocket firing is set for Oct. 29, following weeks of testing and warming of the 11,000 pounds of propellant on board. If successful, the craft will soar to its working station, 22,300 miles above the Earth.
 Fisher and van Hoften worked in the vacuum of space for four hours and 34 minutes to complete the job

started in a record seven-hour, eight-minute spacewalk Saturday.
 With the salvage work finished, Discovery's mission goals were completed. In addition to fixing Syncom 3, the astronauts also launched three other satellites.
 Engineers at Hughes Communications Co., which owns the satellite, said its 11,000 pounds of rocket fuel had been chilled during its more than 2,000 lifeless orbits. The propellant must be allowed to slowly warm up in sunshine before the engines can be fired. If successful, the rocket firings will place the satellite on station 22,300 miles above the Earth.
 Officials said it will be at least two months before they know for sure if Syncom 3 has been saved.

Symbols may link murders, suspect

Associated Press
 LOS ANGELES — Symbols of devil worship were found in the homes of some victims of the "Night Stalker," believed responsible for 16 slayings, and the prime suspect was obsessed with a heavy-metal song about a "Night Prowler," news reports said Sunday.
 The suspect, Richard Ramirez, was arrested Saturday after he was chased down and beaten by a group of residents in East Los Angeles when he allegedly punched a woman and tried to steal a car.
 Ramirez, 25, was being held without bail Sunday after being booked for investigation of one unspecified count of murder and for attempted auto theft and assault.
 "He's being housed in one of the maximum security cells at central jail," said Deputy Rick Adams, a Los Angeles County sheriff's spokesman. "It's for his own safety and the safety of the deputies."
 Police identified and released a photograph of Ramirez, who grew up in El Paso, on Friday

night. They identified him as the prime suspect in the Night Stalker series of 16 slayings and at least 21 assaults that has terrorized California since Feb. 8. The victims were shot, bludgeoned, stabbed or had their throats slashed by an assailant who sneaked into darkened homes through unlocked doors or windows.
 Pentagrams, five-pointed stars associated with witchcraft and devil worship, were painted on walls in the homes of some of the Night Stalker's victims, said unidentified sources quoted by the Los Angeles Times and Los Angeles television stations KABC and KCBS.
 Ray Garcia, 27, a former classmate of Ramirez who just moved to the East San Francisco Bay community of El Sobrante from El Paso, told the San Francisco Examiner that Ramirez was obsessed with satanic themes in the rock band AC-DC's 1979 album, "Highway to Hell."
 Garcia said Ramirez' favorite song was "Night Prowler." The song says in part: "Was that a

noise out your window, or a shadow on your blind? And you lie there naked, like a body in a tomb, suspended animation as I slip into your room."
 The Times and the San Francisco Examiner said that in investigating one of the slayings, authorities found a baseball cap bearing AC-DC's logo.
 Police refused to confirm or deny the reports.
 "I'm not going to make any comment about it," Los Angeles police spokesman Lt. Dan Cooke said. "I have no idea where the information came from."
 Saturday's arrest relieved the fears of many California residents, who had begun to keep doors locked and outdoor areas well-lighted.
 "Relieved?" Sandra Steele, a medical secretary in Arcadia, where two slayings were attributed to the Night Stalker, said, "You bet I'm relieved. We can open the windows again. Do you know how hot it's been with everything all closed up at night?"

History Today

Associated Press
 Today is Monday, Sept. 2, the 245th day of 1985. There are 120 days left in the year. This is Labor Day.
 Today's highlight in history: Forty years ago, on the morning of Sept. 2, 1945, Japan formally surrendered to the United States in ceremonies aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. World War II was over.
 On this date: In 1666, the Great Fire of London broke out. The fire claimed thousands of homes, but only a few lives, in the several days it burned.
 In 1901, Vice President Theodore Roosevelt said in a speech at the Minnesota State Fair, "Speak softly and carry a big stick."
 In 1935, a hurricane slammed into the Florida Keys with 200 mph winds, claiming 423 lives.

Gorbachev: USSR must concede in order to maintain world peace

Associated Press
 NEW YORK — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev, in an interview with Time magazine, predicts the United States will take a hard line in the November summit meeting and expects the Soviet Union to make all the concessions.
 In his first interview with a Western news organization since assuming power, Gorbachev said of the Geneva summit: "It looks as if the stage is being set (by Washington) for a bout between some kind of political 'supergladiators' with the only thought in mind being how best to deal a deft blow at the opponent and score an extra point in this 'bout.'
 "... It appears that even the slightest headway depends exclusively upon concessions by the Soviet Union."
 An account of the Aug. 26 interview, released Sunday, is contained in Time's Sept. 9 issue. Gorbachev made his comments in response to written

questions submitted in advance, and also talked to Time newsmen at his Kremlin office.
 He reiterated the Soviet position that the United States' "Star Wars" space-based defense shield poses an insurmountable obstacle to arms-control agreements.
 Unless the United States agrees to stop work on the project, Gorbachev said, "It will not be possible to reach an agreement on the limitation of weapons."
 But he added: "... Surely God on high has not refused to give us enough wisdom to find ways to bring us an improvement in... relations between the two great nations on earth."
 The Soviet leader said he harbors "disappointment and concern" over recent Reagan administration actions, including the rejection of the Soviet proposal for a moratorium on nuclear weapons testing, complaints about human rights violations in the Soviet Union, and Star Wars.

He said the Reagan administration has unjustifiably blamed the Soviets for a host of problems.
 "That is a scenario of pressure, of attempts to drive us into a corner, to ascribe to us, as so many times in the past, every mortal sin — from unleashing an arms race to 'aggression' in the Middle East, from violations of human rights to some scheming or other even in South Africa."
 "This is not a state policy, it is a feverish search for 'forces of evil,'" he said, in a reference to President Reagan's description of the Soviet Union as an "empire of evil."
 "We hope to leave Geneva with the U.S.-Soviet relationship on a more stable footing," said department spokesman Pete Martinez. "At the same time, we have no illusions. We realize that our problems with the Soviets are numerous and deep. It will take time to overcome our difficulties and we will have to be both patient and determined."

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