# World/Nation

# South Africans of all races vote in elections, black turnout low

oths Wednesday as South Africans of ll races, voting simultaneously for the irst time, elected segregated municipal uncils nationwide.

President P.W. Botha's National Party faced a fierce challenge from the at stake in 1,071 communities. xtreme-right Conservative Party in white communities. Many of those comocal elections after decades of Nationaldominance

The turnout was low in many black wnships where anti-apartheid activists arged an election boycott in defiance of state-of-emergency regulations.

There were scattered arson and stonewing attacks but no fatalities or maclashes, reported South African po-

In Soweto, a township near Johannes-

AP) — Security forces ringed polling live, only 4,000 people had voted by midafternoon, the state radio reported.

The radio said 20,000 of Soweto's 347,000 registered voters had cast ballots before the election. Nationwide, 7,229 council seats were

The state radio said only 905 of the are banned. unities experienced their first partisan 1,839 black council seats were being

> Anti-apartheid clergymen such as Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, winner of the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, opposed the elections and urged South Africans to fast and pray during the day.

The government spent millions of dollars on advertising to promote a high turnout, contending that the municipal

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa burg where more than 2 million blacks though blacks cannot vote in national the Conservative Party won 26 percent of

Critics say turnout percentages will have little meaning because millions of blacks were considered ineligible to

Many leading black opposition groups

Many schools in black, mixed-race and Asian townships near Johannesburg and Cape Town were virtually deserted as students stayed away to protest the

In the white elections, the pro-apartheid Conservative Party hoped to capture the city council in Pretoria, the capital, and sweep to power in most northern

Formed only eight years ago, and elections broadened democracy even never before a factor in local elections,

the vote in national elections in May

Its leaders believe they could seriously challenge the National Party in parliamentary elections expected by early

The Conservatives view Botha's gradual race reforms as capitulation to the black majority and seek to reimpose strict segregation.

Under apartheid, the 5 million whites control the economy and maintain separate districts, schools and health serv-

The Conservatives want to toughen enforcement of residential segregation and restrict the presence of blacks in ur-

### Bush confident, Dukakis intent

man counting down the hours to vicry in the race for the White House on ednesday as he renewed his pledge not raise taxes. Democrat Michael Duka- cratic deficit. vowed to work, to campaign and to

n despite the odds against him. The latest news from the pollsters was ything but good for the Democrats. A ashington Post survey in Maryland -

U.S., Soviets

break the ice

to free whales

BARROW, Alaska (AP) — Super-

power saviors were close to opening a path to the sea for two trapped whales

ednesday after Soviet icebreakers

ashed through an ice ridge and

mericans hacked iceholes toward

The whales are acting in a very exted manner, almost like they can

sense freedom, said Sgt. Ian Robertson, spokesman for the Alaska Na-

At first light, the Soviet icebreakwere a half-mile from the line of

eathing holes being cut by Amerians working in the opposite direc-

Later Wednesday, rescuers lanned to use a gargantuan, tractorike device propelled by pontoon augrs to cut the relatively thin ice re-

ining between the whales and the

Rescue coordinator Ron Morris of

e U.S. National Oceanic and Atmo-

pheric Administration said the

vhales could be free by late Wednes-

day if all went well. The weather was 5 degrees Fahrenheit, Robertson said.

The breakthrough in the effort to

ee the migrating gray whales caught

an early freeze came after more

han a week of delays and disappoint-

'We feel very good about it," said ar Adm. Sigmund Petersen of

NOAA. "The cooperation has just een fantastic. The Soviets came in ere with a very positive attitude and

On Tuesday, the Americans moved

vim around the shallow water they

When the Eskimos started cutting

e air holes, the whales followed the

ater to the end, Petersen said. They

Working in the other direction, the

oviet icebreakers reduced to rubble

nales and open water. The ridge,

rmed by colliding ice masses, was a

mble of ice blocks as big as small

ice ridge standing between the

ent to work immediately.'

ad refused to pass.

ke that deeper water.

cebreakers' farthest advance.

Russians.

onal Guard.

on, he said

Republican George Bush sounded like one of the nation's most Democratic set on Election Day states — showed Bush with a nine-point lead, on top of two national polls Tuesday that showed a double-digit Demo-

Bush's lead was back down to a single digit in an ABC News-Washington Post poll released late Tuesday in which he was ahead by 52-44.

The survey of 1,242 likely voters was conducted during seven days - a longer sampling period than in the other surveys and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points.

The vice president began his campaign day in Detroit, where he said Dukakis sounds like a man "just itching to repeal" the income tax cuts of the Reagan

The vice president also defended his call for a capital gains tax cut from Dukakis' criticism.

'It's not a tax break for the rich," he said. "It is a break for those who want to. have a job in this country."

Dukakis was in Colorado, meeting privately with Hispanic leaders who later said high voter turnout among their constituents could deliver a Democratic up-

He laid claim to strong Hispanic support and said that was due in part to his stand against drugs.

"The pollsters are not going to call this election. It's the people who are going to be voting." Michael Dukakis

They want a president who doesn't talk about the subject but who has done something about it," he said.

In Pueblo, Dukakis defended his record on gun control in a region where he has been under heavy advertising attack from the National Rifle Association.

Dukakis said he does not oppose gun ownership by hunters and sportsmen and

"I hope you'll take that word back to your friends and neighbors," he said.
"These charges are a lot of baloney and I
"These charges are a lot of baloney and I

hope you'll tell them that.'

Advisers insisted the campaign's own polling reflects a closer race than the Bush lead in national polls.

The pollsters are not going to call this election," the candidate said. "It's the people who are going to be voting. Bush optimistically looked beyond the

"If I am elected in 13 days, 8 hours and 22 minutes from now . . . I will work with Congress — got to do that — telling them the American people in electing me voted against a tax increase," he said. "Now let's sit down together, honor the people's decision, and hold spending increases to the rate of inflation

Bush also contended that there have been a "staggering" number of jobs created as a result of Reagan-era tax cuts.

"My opponent thinks they were a disaster," Bush said. "Those sound to me like the words of someone who is just itching to repeal one of the most successful economic policies in our history.

President Reagan ventured into Democratic Maryland and said Dukakis has unjustly accused Bush of running a neg-

# China enters market of satellite launching

XICHANG, China (AP) — Turbaned beasants trudge by, prodding water buffalo and lugging firewood, and taking little notice of the towering hollow structure from another time and for another

isolated corner of Sichuan province, the China's liability in case of accident. Xichang Satellite Center and its 11-story gantry is the takeoff point for China's entry into the international satellite launching market.

The base, normally closed to foreigners, is on display as China enters final negotiations with Washington on issuing

U.S. licenses for the launch of three Hughes Aircraft Co. satellites. They would be the first American satellites put into orbit by a non-Western country.

Agreement has been reached on safe-Surrounded by green mountains in an guarding U.S. technology secrets during the launch process and establishing

Officials meet again in November work out how to ensure that Chinese prices, much lower than those charged by the U.S. space shuttle or European Ariane services, won't jeopardize the American commercial launching indus-

Xichang's first commercial venture could come as early as 1989 with the launch of Westar 6, an old satellite retrieved by the space shuttle in 1984, for AsiaSat, a Hong Kong consortium

An Australian company, AUSSAT, intends to put two Hughes communica-tions satellites into orbit in the early

China decided in the mid-1970s to build a rocket base in this remote area because it is easy to defend, sparsely populated and has clear winter days well suited for launches.

## Mexico: Oil industry must adjust to lower crude prices

export committee held an emergency meeting, and the government-owned oil company Pemex said the oil industry must adjust to lower prices because there

Jornada said Wednesday.

On Wednesday, the national oil com-

industry must get used to low prices because a rapid recuperation of prices is not foreseen

to an average price of about \$10.75 per

technology, more efficient operations,

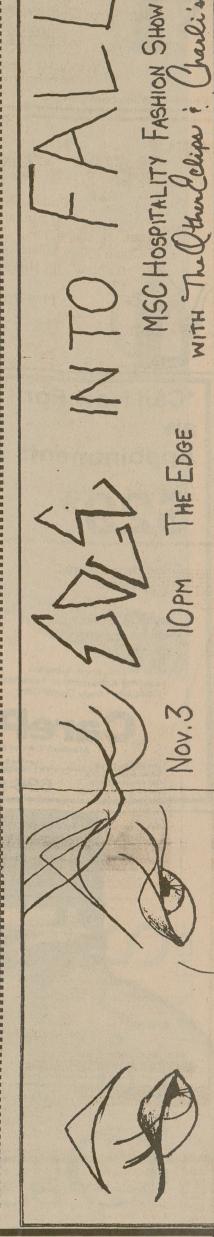
of buying and selling.

zation of Petroleum Exporting Companies, the country has closely followed its pricing and production policies, slowly reducing petroleum production.

government committee in charge of oil export policy discussed the possibility of increasing production to bring in more money at the reduced prices.



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will be no recovery soon.

The Committee on Petroleum Exports

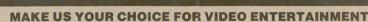
met in an emergency session Tuesday as Mexican crude oil prices continued to plunge, the Mexico City newspaper La

pany Pemex announced the petroleum exploration, development and new ways

Pemex said the average price for its Isthmus grade of crude oil had dropped

Pemex must seek alternative ways to remain competitive in the world oil mar-ket, the officials said. Those include new Though Mexico is not part of Organi-

Nevertheless, La Jornada said, the



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