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### The Battalion

# WORLD & NATION

Thursday, April 27, 1989

## Shuttle countdown 'squeaky clean'

### Mission to mark rebirth of U.S. planetary exploration program

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The countdown for the launch of the space shuttle Atlantis was "squeaky clean" Wednesday and some work was ahead of schedule, a NASA official reported.

Six hours after Atlantis rockets into orbit Friday, the astronauts are to release the Magellan probe from the cargo bay to start it on a 450-day journey to Venus, marking the beginning of a big year for the planetary program, a project official said. "In August the Voyager spacecraft will fly by Neptune and in Oc-

tober we'll launch Galileo to Jupiter," John H. Gerspheid of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., told reporters.

"So after an 11-year gap in the planetary program, we're anxious to get started," he said. "We have our team in place... and the butterflies are soon to arrive."

The last planetary mission launched by the United States was the Pioneer-Venus probe in 1978. Voyager 2, launched in 1977, will take the first close-up look at distant Neptune in August after earlier ex-

ploring Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus.

The countdown began Tuesday at Launch Pad 39B and was on time Wednesday for a launch at 2:24 p.m. Friday. The main task Wednesday was fueling the spaceship's electricity-producing fuel cells.

"The countdown during the last 24 hours has been squeaky clean," test director Albert Sofge reported. "We have no significant open items. ... Some work is actually ahead of schedule."

The 7,600-pound Venus probe is to orbit the cloud-veiled planet and

map up to 90 percent of its surface with high resolution radar.

Its images should reveal details as small as 100 yards across, about the size of a football field. This is 10 times sharper than any previous pictures of the planet.

"All our previous data from Venus has been low resolution and about all that data has done is tell us basically there are continent-size mountain masses on Venus and that there are extensive rolling plains," Magellan project scientist Joseph Boyce said Friday.

## Bush, Quayle give themselves A's so far

CHICAGO (AP) — In back-to-back appraisals, Vice President Dan Quayle and President Bush issued their own report cards on their first 100 days. Not surprisingly, the marks were excellent.

Bush said his administration is off to a good start in confronting problems that demand "urgent attention and decisive action," and in setting a steady course for long-term progress.

Quayle said the United States is disproving "the so-called declinists," who see signs of national retreat. The vice president said his message on a 12-day mission to the Pacific is one of optimism, with alliances flourishing, trade booming, U.S. political and economic principles ascendant.

However, there are other measures of the first semester of the new administration.

For example, while Bush boasted of a bipartisan budget agreement that kept "my no new taxes pledge intact," the deal does not deliver the decisive deficit curbs he also promised during the 1988 campaign. Indeed, some critics have called the deal a sham that simply puts off the day of budget reckoning until next year. Bush said it was "a strong first step."

Quayle, then Bush, addressed members of The Associated Press in Chicago on Monday, two hours apart. The vice president's speech was, in his phrase, a "pre-trip briefing" on his trip to Australia, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand. The Bush script was an assessment of the first 100 days.

His staff also turned out a 17-page back-

ground summary on accomplishments but skipped setbacks like Senate rejection of John Tower's nomination to be secretary of defense.

Quayle said his biggest surprise was how much he enjoys foreign travel. The vice president answered questions from AP member publishers and said he senses a change in the way he is viewed and covered after a season of constant criticism.

"Now in the position of approaching the 100 days, I think the people of America are going to judge me on my job performance and that's the way it should be," Quayle said. "And I believe that's the way the news media is and will continue to cover me as the vice president of the United States and I believe that's fair."

## Bush approves of shake-up in Communist Party

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration came down Wednesday on the side of the changes Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev has engineered in the Communist Party leadership and said it hoped the result would be a strengthening of democratization and openness.

In a statement, the administration described Gorbachev's purge of 74 Central Committee full voting members and the promotion of several of the Soviet leader's proteges as dramatic and stressed they were a matter of internal Soviet policy.

But the administration then went on to express hope that "whatever changes occur, their effect is to strengthen and promote the reform process in the Soviet Union toward greater democratization and openness."

The statement was read by Margaret Tutwiler, the State Department spokesman, in response to questions at the department's daily press briefing. Secretary of State James A. Baker III will hold talks in Moscow May 10-11 with Gorbachev and Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze.

They are expected to set a date for a resumption of U.S.-Soviet negotiations to reduce long-range nuclear missiles and to discuss prospects for Arab-Israeli negotiations. Baker also may make preliminary preparations with Gorbachev and Shevardnadze for a summit meeting

between President Bush and the Soviet leader.

Baker last week praised the economic reform program Gorbachev has undertaken but said the Soviet leader could be in trouble unless "there are consumer goods on the table and in the markets."

Baker told the American Society

of Newspaper Editors that the risk to the Soviet leader could come from opponents of change, entrenched elements of the bureaucracy and from "sources of nationalistic discontent."

He said Gorbachev's economic program, known in Russian as perestroika, was in the best interest of

the United States and the world because it would lead to a more secure and stable Soviet Union.

"We very much want perestroika to succeed," Baker said in response to a question after a speech. "We very much want the general secretary to succeed."

## Biggest lottery jackpot ever hits \$100 million

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Players drove, flew, took the train and walked to the nearest Pennsylvania lottery ticket counter Wednesday with dreams of winning the North American record jackpot of at least \$100 million.

In an average week, the state usually sells about 4 million or 5 million tickets, but on Tuesday alone about 24 million tickets were sold, deputy Revenue Secretary Karl Ross said. Between 6 a.m. and 11 a.m. Wednesday, about 7 million tickets were sold. Players came from all over the country.

But lottery officials considered the nightmarish possibility that no one would win Wednesday night's Super 7 drawing.

The odds of any one ticket bearing all seven numbers is one in 9.6 million. With more than 74 million tickets sold in the last week, and the jackpot rolled over because of no winner in six previous drawings, Ross said the odds are about 4,000-to-1 against another rollover.

Although a winner or winners could come forward, lottery officials said that because of the high volume of sales they wouldn't know for certain until sometime Friday if a winning ticket had been sold or how many had been sold. They said the computer would give them a preliminary indication Thursday afternoon, but that it would take another day to complete backup reviews of

ticket numbers.

If there is a rollover, next week's jackpot could approach \$200 million, payable over 26 years, and some lottery agents would run out of tickets.

"We couldn't handle another week like this, selling all these tickets, without having spot shortages," Ross said in a telephone interview. As a precaution, he said, the lottery was lining up vendors to do emergency printing runs if necessary.

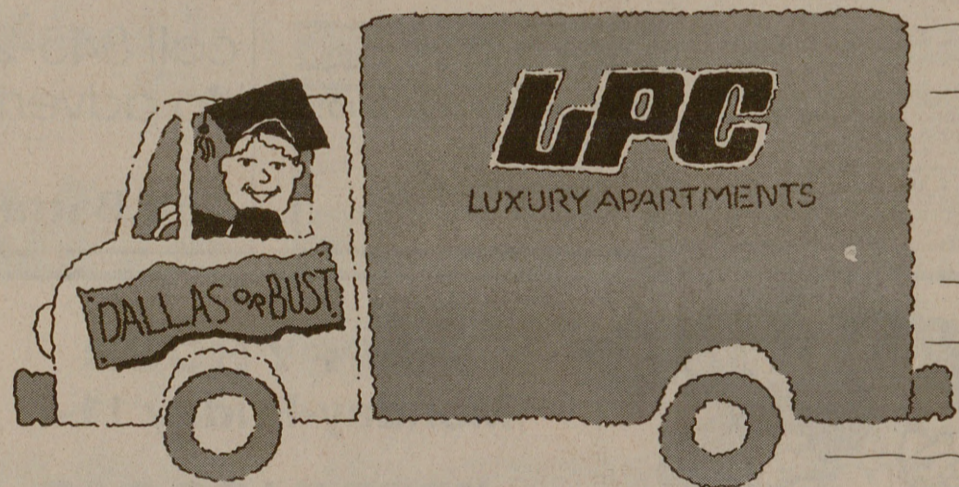
"We're in a brave new world, uncharted waters," Ross said. "If a rollover occurred and the jackpot soared beyond \$150 million, he added, "I think the atmosphere would be even weirder."

At least one vendor also hoped against another rollover.

"I've already told my customers not to come in if there isn't a winner tonight," said Theresa Donawick, owner of Theresa's Cards and News in Burgettsville, near the Pennsylvania-West Virginia-Ohio border.

"I'm locking the doors and I'm leaving town until after next Thursday," she said. Vendors receive 5 cents for each \$1 ticket they sell.

She said a constable and police officer were posted in the store because of the extra money on hand due to ticket sales.



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By Keith Spera

REVIEWER

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"Alcoholic"



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Molly Campb ville Unit of t tions, shows