World & Nation

Thursday, August 8, 1991

Atlantis astronauts ignite fire to enhance future flight safety

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. 100 percent," said John Kou- the 4.3-inch-long piece of ashless (AP) - Atlantis' astronauts set a delka, the experiment's project small fire aboard their spaceship Wednesday, but don't worry. It was an experiment to enhance future flight safety.

The fire was ignited inside a sealed aluminum chamber in the shuttle crew cabin, sending teardrop-shaped flames creeping along a strip of paper before ex-tinguishing itself about a minute later.

"Everything looked like it ran

Federal judge

rules against

abortion law

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - A

clared Louisiana's strict anti-

abortion law unconstitutional,

setting the stage for appeals by abortion opponents hoping to overturn the 1973 Supreme

Court decision that established

The law would send doctors

who perform abortions to prison for up to 10 years with fines of

up to \$100,000. U.S. District Judge Adrian Du-plantier's ruling that struck down the law was unexpectedly early. He had scheduled a hear-

judge Wednesday de-

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manager.

Crewman John Adamson ignited the paper on the five astro-nauts' sixth day in orbit by flick-ing switches that sent electric current to a wire.

"Three, two, one, start," Adamson said as he hit the final switch.

Cameras recording the event showed a big flash. The flame moved slowly up each side of conducted in October and in

Money hoax 'a cruel joke'

June, are still being analyzed. paper. The paper continued to smolder, with flames shooting from the center. Then all was black.

It is only the third time shuttle astronauts have kindled flames in space. NASA's only other orbiting fire experiments were in 1974, when Skylab astronauts set fire to Mylar and polyurethane

Soviets panic over false TV report

declaring recall of U.S. \$100 bills

vestia called "a cruel joke

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviets

formed.

chief of the microgravity combustion branch at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Lewis Research Center in Cleveland.

for five more shuttle missions. Flames travel twice as slow in space as on Earth and glow a The next one is scheduled for cooler blue because less soot is

next summer; in addition to another chamber test, the astro-"All of our knowledge about flames in zero-gravity is based on theories. No one has ever ver-ified these," said Howard Ross, nauts will light a tiny candle and set fire to wire insulation and polyurethane foam. Ross said the research is de-

signed to improve safety on shuttles and future spaceships by increasing the understanding of how flames spread in weightlessness. It ultimately might help

Fire experiments are planned firefighters on Earth, too, he said.

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NASA takes strict precautions to avoid fire in space. Only fireretardant plastics are permitted aboard the orbiter, and wire insulation must be made of flameresistant material.

Rubbing alcohol and flammable solvents or cleansers are prohibited, as are matches and cigarette lighters.

U.S., Soviet representatives sign accord on energy policies

WASHINGTON (AP) -U.S. and Soviet representa-tives signed accords Wednesday that could help the Soviet Union keep its place as the world's biggest oil producer.

W. Henson Moore, deputy secretary of energy, and Ran-tik Margulov, first deputy chairman of the Soviet State Fuels and Energy Commission, signed a record of a week's meetings at which they pledged regular exchanges on energy policies and technologies.

In the first five months of 1991, the Soviets produced 10 million barrels of oil a day, compared with 7.8 million barrels for Saudi Arabia.

Margulov said at a joint news conference that the Soviets expect to produce 3.85 billion barrels this year and next, including 420 million barrels for export.

That would call for a rise in Soviet production after a sharp drop since 1988.

Oil exports have been a major earner for the Soviets of the dollars they need to buy food and equipment in the West.

"We are not going to reduce our exports of energy," Margulov said.

At current prices, the 420 million barrels would provide more than \$8 billion.

But U.S. officials are not optimistic

Publisher halts operation of seven failing magazines

NEW YORK (AP) — The publisher of Dis-cover, Health and five other magazines said Wednesday it is halting operations because of the weak advertising market and tight credit. Family Media Inc. said it will continue trying to

sell the magazines. Robert Riordan, principal owner of Family Media, told staffers in a memo that the "continual downturn in advertising and an economy which hinders the ability to borrow new money" forced the move.

"would still not allow us to continue the operation of Family Media."

Riordan failed to return calls seeking com-

nue operations. The trade journal Advertising Age reported earlier this week that Family Media was laboring under a debt load of \$60 million to \$70 million and was under pressure from lenders.

It said information circulated to potential buyers showed Discover was Family Media's only profitable magazine.

As a private company, it is not required to disclose financial figures.

The company's biggest achievement may have come in 1986 when it sold The Ladies Home Journal for a reported \$80 million more than it had paid for it four years earlier.

That reinforced Riordan's reputation in the magazine industry as someone who could re-

Security Council OKs Iraqi oil sales

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The five permanent Security Council members agreed Wednesday to authorize Iraq to

sell as much as \$1.6 billion in oil over six months to buy food, humanitarian supplies and pay war damages. The resolu-

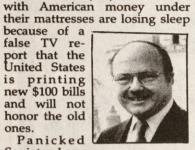
tion won general agree- Saddam Hussein ment from the United States, Britain, China, France and the

sion to sell \$1.5 billion in oil, but without conditions.

"If the draft resolution passes" as it stands now, Iraq isn't going to sell oil," said Ambassador Abdul Amir al-Anbari. "Lifting sanctions for six months on oil sales doesn't benefit Iraq," he said.

If Iraq does refuse the sales, it eventually could have grave effects on the health and nutrition of poor Iraqis, which U.N. studies have indicated are deteriorating as a result of the war and the economic sanctions imposed on

Iraq.



Soviets have **Jack Matlock** deluged the

ones.

American Embassy and the Moscow offices of U.S. companies with telephone calls since Sun-

day's television report, which that existing currency will not be

ing on the matter for next week. A copy of Duplantier's ruling wasn't immediately available, but a clerk in the judge's office who asked not to be identified said the judge declared the law unconstitutional.

The Louisiana abortion law was passed by the Legislature earlier this summer, when the state House and Senate each voted to override Gov. Buddy Roemer's veto

Roemer has long said he is opposed to abortion on demand. But he demanded exceptions in the law for victims of rape and incest.

The bill passed by the Legislature has such exceptions but Roemer said the rape exception was drawn too tightly.

It required rape victims to seek medical attention within five days of the crime, and that they report the crime to authorities

Unless he can find a buyer, the magazines will not be published again. But even if he does, he said in the memo that

denying the report in an inter-view Monday on Russian television. Nevertheless, currency exchange windows at some Soviet hotels and banks refused to accept \$100 bills on Tuesday and

the government newspaper Iz-

U.S. Ambassador Jack F. Mat-

lock Jr. took the unusual step of

Wednesday. Although there was no order against taking the bills, individual cashiers used their authority to reject them, the newspaper Moskovsky Komsomolets re-

ported. "We've reassured everyone will not be

recalled and will remain legal tender. I'm surprised to hear that some people still haven't gotten the message," U.S. Em-bassy spokesman John Ohta said Wednesday.

Treasury Department's July 25 announcement that it is making changes in \$100 bills to foil counterfeiters.

polyester thread, imbedded vertically in the paper, that bears the initials USA and the denomination of the bill. The thread cannot be reproduced by even the most advanced color photocopiers.

The panic stems from the U.S.

The changes include a tiny

within a week of its occurrence.

ment on the problems that led him to disconti- suscitate failing magazines

Airline declares bankruptcy after rebirth

NEW YORK (AP) - Living up to one of aviation's most troubled names, the latest airline flying as Braniff landed in bank-ruptcy court Wednesday, barely a month after its rebirth.

The fledgling carrier, Braniff International-Airlines, filed for protection from creditors under Chapter 11 in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Hauppauge, N.Y.

Braniff said it "remains committed to pro viding service on its various routes," including flights serving Newark, N.J.; Dallas; Orlando and Ft. Lauderdale, Fla; and Islip,

N.Y. It blamed the trouble on business disputes that it plans to sue over.

The new Braniff, based in Dallas, had been in business only since July 1 before entering bankruptcy court, where two former incarnations of Braniff had stopped flying.

'We remain convinced that our routes form the basis for a viable airline and we look foward to building on this foundation by serving the growing needs of the travel-ing public in New York, Florida and Texas," Braniff said.

Industry observers were not so sure. The

new Braniff had taken off at a time when even the industry's healthy, established carriers were reeling from the effects of the Persian Gulf crisis and the recession.

Airline analyst Raymond E. Neidl at Dillon Read & Co. Inc. said the only thing surprising about Braniff's Chapter 11 filing was the speed.

"That was quicker than I thought," Neidl said. "How'd they do it so quick?"

Braniff did not elaborate or, its troubles and would have no further comment, a spokesman said.

Soviet Union, according to Western diplomats.

A text of the proposed resolution, obtained by The Associated Press, states that the Security Council authorizes all states to permit the import of Iraqi oil and petroleum products to be sold in three installments.

Accepted by the five countries with veto power, the draft will now be passed on to the rest of the Security Council for possible amendment. Some non-aligned nations are expected to protest its restrictive terms, intended to keep the money from oil sales out of Saddam Hussein's hands.

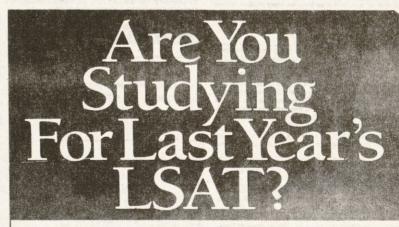
Iraq's U.N. envoy said his government will refuse to sell its oil unless the resolution is modified. Iraq had requested permis-

Western diplomats called the oil sale a one-time exception to the U.N. sanctions regime and said that sanctions were not being lifted or eased because Iraq has lied in its declarations about what weapons it has, and has not satisfied Security Council cease-fire demands.

Sweeping sanctions were im-posed after Iraq invaded Kuwait last Aug. 2.

The resolution states that each purchase of Iraqi oil must be approved by the Security Council's Sanctions Committee, which monitors the trade embargo against Iraq.

Payments will go directly into a U.N. escrow account to be administered by the secretary-general.



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