

SATURDAY



Road to Seattle

Louisville falls to Illinois

— Sports, Page 1C



New 'Generations'

Black and white soap opera

— Accent, Page 9B

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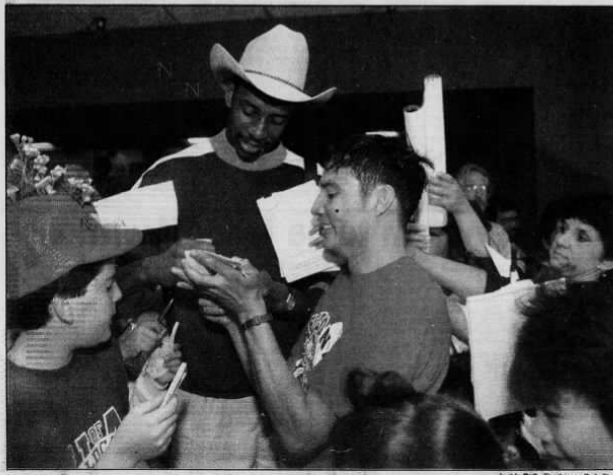
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354

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Hometown turnout



Airport welcome — Arizona forward Anthony Cook signs autographs for some of the hundreds of fans who greeted returning Wildcats as they were knocked out of the NCAA West Regional basketball tournament by Nevada-Las Vegas Thursday night. Story, Page 1C.

Democrats, GOP support Bush on Central America

Leaders unveil pact backing aid to Contras, regional peace efforts

By Bernard Weinraub

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WASHINGTON — In an attempt to forge a bipartisan foreign policy, President Bush joined Democratic and Republican leaders yesterday to announce an agreement committing the administration and Congress to aid for Nicaraguan rebels and support for Central American peace efforts.

The unusual accord, announced at the White House, was a striking break from the Central American policies of the Reagan administration, which stirred broad opposition in Congress and Latin America.

It also served as a strong signal that Bush would seek a cohesive bipartisan approach to foreign policy — although the administration made concessions to Democratic leaders to win their support and raised the prospect of deepening congressional involvement in foreign policy.

The concessions included a virtual veto power by any of four con-

gressional committees to cut off aid if the lawmakers believed that the Nicaraguan rebels were damaging prospects for peace, administration officials said.

"Today, we, the executive, and the Congress, Republicans and Democrats, will be speaking with one voice on an extremely important foreign policy issue: Central America," Bush said, standing beside Republican and Democratic House and Senate leaders, as well as Secretary of State James A. Baker III.

"We've signed today in the Cabinet Room a bipartisan accord on Central America which sets out the broad outlines of U.S. policy toward the region," Bush said.

"We're seeking the same goals as those of the people of Central America: democracy, security and peace."

(Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., announced his support for the Contra aid policy, saying "Under the circumstances, I support the accord.")

See CONTRAS, Page 4A

Crude oil spill off Alaska is area's worst

By Susan Gallagher

The Associated Press

VALDEZ, Alaska — A tanker ran aground on a reef yesterday, gushing millions of gallons of crude oil into pristine Prince William Sound.

The accident was the largest oil spill in the area's history.

The Exxon Valdez, a 987-foot tanker owned by Exxon Shipping Co. Inc., struck Bligh Reef about 25 miles from Valdez, the northernmost ice-free port in the United States.

An estimated 276,000 barrels — 11.3 million gallons — of oil spilled into the Pacific Ocean, the U.S. Coast Guard said.

"The rock they hit is definitely not in tanker lanes," said Coast Guard Lt. Greg Stewart in Juneau. He said the reef is about 1½ miles outside normal shipping lanes.

Early yesterday, the tanker initially was losing 30,000 gallons of oil per hour, but the outflow slowed to a trickle later in the day.

An oil slick soaked about five miles from the ship as the wind and tide pushed the crude oil away from the shoreline.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation said three tanks on the ship's right side and five tanks along the vessel's centerline were punctured. The tanks on the ship's left side appeared intact, the agency said.

Exxon said it was bringing in three platoons of cleanup crews from around the world.

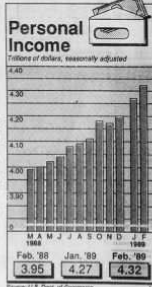
The tanker had loaded 1.26 million barrels of oil at the Alyeska Terminal Service Company's marine terminal at Valdez and left late last week.

There are a number of concerns about the spill, including the possibility of a major oil spill, said a spokesman for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

The 11-story tall Delta lifted off at 2:51 p.m. MST after a secret countdown. News media representatives received information about the launch in advance and were escorted to a viewing area, but for security reasons, were not told the exact time of liftoff.

Air Force officials said the Delta Star experiment is part of the research being done for the Strategic Defense Initiative, or "Star Wars," program to develop a space-based missile defense system.

The 3-ton satellite carried a laser radar, seven video imaging cameras and an infrared imager. A Laser II



Personal Income
Billions of dollars, seasonally adjusted

WASHINGTON — Americans' personal income shot up 1 percent last month while consumer spending advanced at a more restrained pace, boosting the savings rate to its highest level in nearly three years, the government said yesterday.

Personal income, bolstered by strong growth in employment and wages, has posted two consecutive gains, rising to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$4.22 trillion last month after surging 1.7 percent in January, the Commerce Department reported.

But when it comes to spending that money, consumers have been showing more restraint. Personal consumption expenditures rose 0.5 percent in February to an annual rate of \$3.18 trillion after advancing 0.4 percent in January.

"The consumer is still getting a lot of dollars placed in his wallet," said Robert Dederick, chief economist at Northern Trust Co. in Chicago. "But when it comes to spending, consumers suddenly have decided this income is not going to be disbursed as lavishly as it has been."

The uneven advances in income and spending resulted in a steady jump in the personal savings rate — savings as a percentage of after-tax income — to 14.9 percent from 14.4 percent in the previous month.

February's rate matched the July 1988 rate, the highest since 1982.

See INCOME, Page 4A

Cheney publicly rebukes Air Force chief

By Andrew Rosenthal

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WASHINGTON — In an extraordinary public rebuke apparently aimed at establishing his control over the military, Defense Secretary Dick Cheney took the Air Force chief of staff sharply to task yesterday for discussing with members of Congress a possible compromise on a major strategic issue.

Cheney, speaking at his first news conference as defense secretary, accused Gen. Larry D. Welch of "treasoning" after a front-page article in The Washington Post reported that Welch had discussed options for modernizing land-based nuclear missiles with influential members of Congress.

"I think it's inappropriate for a uniformed officer to be in a position where he's in fact negotiating an agreement," Cheney said, adding that

he intended to see Welch in his office to express his "displeasure" personally.

Cheney's remarks about Welch, considered a contender for chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff when the incumbent retires, marked the first time in decades that a defense secretary publicly chastised such a high-ranking officer.

Such things are normally done in private, and Cheney's comments signaled military officers at the Pentagon. It also brought into sharp public focus the tension between the civilian and military arms of the Pentagon, a longstanding problem widely seen as one of the first challenges for the new defense secretary, who recently was a House member from Wyoming.

Although a veteran of 20 years in Washington politics, Cheney is a newcomer to the Pentagon. Cheney's antagonism with Welch was particularly striking since the Defense Department ap-

pears headed toward a consensus on land-based missiles like the one that Welch discussed with lawmakers.

Moreover, senior officers routinely meet with members of Congress, although they generally keep such talks private and avoid speaking out on issues not yet resolved within the Pentagon.

The Air Force declined to comment on Cheney's remarks, and Welch refused requests yesterday afternoon for interviews.

At the news conference, Cheney avoided direct answers to most questions about military briefings, saying he was still undergoing intensive briefings.

He said he would present President Bush with a "package" of proposals for senior Pentagon appointments next week, but he declined to provide any specifics.

Pentagon officials said one senior position, See CHENEY, Page 4A

WEATHER



Warm but windy. Today should be mostly sunny, windy and continued warm with a high in the lower 80s. There will be light to southwest winds of 20 to 30 mph, with some higher gusts.

But Easter Sunday should be much cooler, with a high of about 70. It is expected to be windy with a 40 percent chance of rain.

The gray weather is expected to move out quickly, and mostly sunny and warmer weather is in tap for Arizona Monday through Wednesday.

Yesterday's high was 83, and the low was 60. Details on Page 2A.

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Builders of Palo Verde nuclear plant wasted under 2% in costs, audit says

By Larry Lopez

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The four-state consortium of utility companies that built the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station at a cost of roughly \$9.3 billion wasted about \$173 million on unreasonable costs but saved ratepayers more than \$292 million by above-average performance in other areas, auditors said in a report released yesterday.

The study, which could cost ratepayers at Arizona Public Service Co. as much as \$37 million, identified

APS shares of the questioned costs at about \$26.3 million.

If adopted by the Arizona Corporation Commission, the proposed disallowances would lower rates by about \$5 million a year over the 40-year life of the three-unit, 1,250 megawatt plant.

Officials at APS called the results of the audit by the Ernst and Whinney accounting firm a victory. Staff at the commission, which ordered the study, called it a disappointment and said they would look beyond its parameters for areas to cut from fu-

ture electric rates.

"The audit results should 'finally put to rest the myth that Palo Verde was a waste of money,'" said Jaron Norberg, APS executive vice president and chief financial officer.

"Palo Verde has been found to be not only reasonable and prudent, but an exceptional achievement."

Gary Yaquinta, head of the commission's utility division staff, said many of the audit conclusions would be based on too narrow a test, however.

There are a number of concerns about the audit, including the possibility of a major cost overrun, said a spokesman for the Arizona Corporation Commission.

'Star Wars' missile-hunting satellite launched

By Howard Benedict

The Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A Delta Star missile-hunting satellite thundered into orbit yesterday and quickly spotted a target as it began a key month-long test to develop a split-second "Star Wars" defense against nuclear rockets.

The payload's sensors passed their first trial within two hours after launch when they successfully tracked the thrusting second stage of the Delta booster rocket after separation and during its fiery destruc-

tion in the atmosphere over the Indian Ocean.

"We watched that burn with the sensors; we not only got the second stage burning, but we also got the re-entry and breakup," Air Force Col. Michael Bendine, program manager for the Strategic Defense Initiative Office, told a news conference.

"We had a perfect ride into space, and the spacecraft is operating just like we expected it to," he said.

It was a good beginning for the \$190 million mission.

Over the next several months Delta Star is to aim its sensors at a series of ground-based missile and space launchers to help perfect the technology for detecting and destroying enemy boosters within minutes after they leave their launch pads.

Researchers especially want to gather rocket exhaust data against the background of the North Pole region — an area through which anti-Soviet missiles would travel.

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