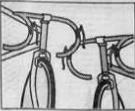


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The Arizona Daily Star

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Spacecraft's find backs 'big bang'



Universe map from satellite data shows wispy matter left by 'big bang' — evidence of how stars, galaxies evolved.

Spacecraft has discovered the largest and oldest structures in the universe, wispy clouds that show how creation's 'big bang' led to formation of stars and galaxies, scientists said yesterday.
If you're religious, it's like looking at God...
The discovery was made by NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer satellite, during its \$400 million mission to study the universe's origins.
Researchers say more than 300 million measurements by the spacecraft answer a question that has long vexed scientists: How did matter that was uniformly spread out in the newborn universe start clumping together to produce stars, galaxies and clusters of galaxies?
If the research is confirmed, it's one of the major discoveries of science, said physicist Joel Primack of the University of California at Santa Cruz.
Smoot and his team presented the findings at an American Physical Society meeting in Washington, D.C. NASA also issued an announcement.
We have observed what we believe are the largest and most ancient structures in the universe, extremely thin clouds or ripples that represent the earliest stages of matter starting to clump together in the newborn universe, Smoot said during a Washington news conference.
He said the clouds were formed only about 300,000 years after the big bang, the primordial blast scientists believe created the universe 15 billion years ago.
Smoot described the primordial cosmic texture as the "largest and most ancient structures in the universe." The largest of the wispy clouds of matter stretches 10 billion light years, or 50 billion trillion miles. The smallest span is 500 million light years, about 2.5 billion trillion miles.
The scientists detected faint temperature fluctuations in microwave radiation echoing from the supposed instant of creation. Though the temperatures fluctuate by no more than a hundred-thousandths of a degree, they signal primeval variations in the universe's topography.

See 'BIG BANG,' Page 13A

Salinas wants quick answer



Surrounded by devastation, Guadalajara police officers stand guard on a street reduced to rubble by Wednesday's explosions; more blasts were feared.

Gives 3 days to fix blame in Guadalajara

By Eloy Aguilar
The Associated Press
GUADALAJARA, Mexico — Fearing more explosions, authorities yesterday evacuated a neighborhood near a working-class district wrecked a day earlier by sewer-line blasts. The government said at least 176 people had died, half of them children.
Moving quickly to control potential political damage, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari gave his attorney general 72 hours

Devastation and grief are all that remain. Page 13A.

to determine who was at fault for Mexico's deadliest explosion since 1984. The Jalisco state governor blamed three city officials for taking no action on residents' complaints of leaking gas.

The governing Institutional Revolutionary Party suffered severe political repercussions after its inadequate response to the 1985 Mexico City earthquake that killed 10,000 people.

Guadalajara's sewer system chief, Alberto Limon, stepped down, the state government announced late yesterday. The governor earlier blamed Limon and two other city officials for taking no action on residents' complaints of leaking gas.

Authorities said the likely cause of the blasts was either volatile benzene leaked by La Central cooking-oil company or spilled gasoline from the national oil company.

See BLASTS, Page 13A

94 indicted, 34 arrested in narcotics crackdown

By Tessie Borden
The Arizona Daily Star
Ninety-four people were indicted on drug charges in Tucson yesterday in what federal authorities called the biggest such sweep in recent memory. Authorities arrested 34 of them.
A Tucson federal grand jury returned sealed indictments of the 94 on charges of possession and conspiracy to distribute 445 pounds of cocaine and about 15 tons of marijuana, according to a news release from the U.S. Attorney's Office in Tucson.
I think in the past we had a group of about 80 people, but that was in a few indictments over about two years, Assistant U.S. Attorney David Kern said.
Those indicted are part of a drug organization based in Agua Prieta, Sonora, that has operated during the past five years, the release said. But the organization also involved members from Arizona, California and Ohio, authorities said.
The organization attracted seven groups in Tucson that distributed cocaine and marijuana, authorities said.
Agents seized more than \$1 million in assets in addition to 445 pounds of cocaine and 3,000 pounds of marijuana during the 16-month investigation conducted by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the U.S. Customs Service, with help from state agencies and other federal agencies.
Prosecutors said they expect testimony to show that the amount seized was only part of what moved regularly through the area.
Kern said the investigation had yielded records that showed amounts of 2,000 and 3,000 pounds of marijuana going through a single house in a day.
He said the drugs would have a combined street value of \$74 million in a city like Phoenix. But illegal drug cost less than he said they are to the border, he said.
As you move East they go up in price, Kern said. In some Eastern cities that price would more than double.
See INDICTED, Page 2A

WEATHER
90s kind of day. Today is expected to bring variable high clouds and northwest winds of 5 to 10 mph. Look for a high of 92 to 97 and an overnight low from 54 to 59. Yesterday's high was 93, the low 56. Details on Page 17A.

Geronimo Hotel owners fall behind on city loans

By Joe Burchell
The Arizona Daily Star
The owners of the Geronimo Hotel office and shopping center are more than a year behind in payments on two city loans used to restore the historic 73-year-old complex, and are in danger of defaulting.
Steve Fenton and William Viser are \$43,144 behind in payments on the two loans, which total \$57,500, according to city documents.
The documents also say property taxes for the Geronimos, at North Pacific Avenue and East University Boulevard, haven't been paid in three years and are about \$100,000 in arrears.
Fenton and Viser have asked the city to write off the past due payments and to excuse them from almost \$31,000 in payments for the rest of this year and part of next year.
On Tuesday, City Finance Director Kay Gray sent a letter to the owners rejecting their request to cancel almost \$4,000 of the debt and giving them until next Thursday to agree to a new repayment plan. She said no decision has been made on what the city will do if they refuse.
Gray is dealing with the owners because Kendall Bert, the city's economic development director, who arranged both city loans in 1984, is a business partner with Fenton on another real estate investment.
Bert, whose job includes overseeing the loans, was out of town yesterday and could not be reached for comment.
Fenton declined to comment yesterday.
The Geronimo closed as a hotel in 1985, after fire inspectors condemned it as unsafe. Fenton and Viser bought it a year later for \$400,000.
The city agreed to finance the redevelopment to make sure the historic complex was restored, rather than destroyed and to ensure that development was compatible with the politically powerful West University Neighborhood in the west. In 1983, Bert persuaded the city

L.A. tremors after nagging fear of Big One

Compiled from wire reports
LOS ANGELES — Hundreds of aftershocks sent ripples of anxiety through Southern California yesterday, hours after a strong desert earthquake caused isolated damage and dozens of injuries.
Earthquake experts cautioned there was a slight chance Wednesday night's magnitude 6.1 tremor could be a precursor to the long dreaded Big One.
We're long overdue for one — a 7.0 or greater... so we're watching communities... to be on their toes, said Lt. Ben Nottingham, spokesman for the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management.
Authorities estimated damage from the quake at up to \$1 billion in the Morongo Basin, which includes the communities of Joshua Tree and Yucca Valley about 100 miles east of Los Angeles.
There are no two-story buildings out here and that could contribute to the low damage figure, he said.
See QUAKE, Page 6A

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Brutality deliberations
King case goes to jury
Jury sequestered in an undisclosed hotel begin deciding the fate of four policemen charged in the homicide of insurance executive King. Page 16A.