

World and Nation

Soviets vote in landmark election

From Associated Press reports
MOSCOW — For the first time in more than 70 years, Soviets had a choice of candidates when they voted Sunday for a new parliament in an election Mikhail Gorbachev hailed as a triumph for his vision of democracy.
 However, maverick candidate Boris Yeltsin, running to represent Moscow in the new 2,250-seat Congress of People's Deputies, claimed many Soviets were worried about vote fraud and said the election wasn't completely democratic.
 Polling stations in Moscow, festooned with red banners and Soviet flags, opened at 7 a.m. Eleven time zones to the east, in the Kamchatka and Chukotka regions of Siberia, polls closed as Muscovites were still voting.
 The millions of voters elected 1,500 deputies to the congress, which will choose the country's president and elect about 400 of its members to a new full-time legislature, the Supreme Soviet.

The Communist Party, labor unions and other officially sanctioned organizations have already directly elected 750 members of the congress, which will meet once a year.
 Hundreds of races were contested for the first time in more than seven decades. The election marked a revolutionary change in Soviet politics, where the party has allowed only one approved candidate to run for each seat since the days of Vladimir Lenin.
 The official Tass news agency reported brisk to heavy voter turnout nationwide. At one precinct in Moscow's Krasnopresnenskaya district, 84 percent of those eligible cast ballots, according to a Soviet television report.
 Final results may not be known for several days.
 Unofficial results given to Western reporters at three Moscow precincts showed Yeltsin leading his opponent, auto plant director Yevgeny Brakov by 4,069 votes to 532, a margin of

better than 7.5-to-1.
 Yeltsin campaigned against privileges afforded high Soviet officials and called for speeding the pace of reform to improve living standards for all.
 Gorbachev is already assured of a seat in the new congress, and the elections are unlikely to produce any major upheaval in the present power structure, which is dominated by the Communist Party.
 The last elections in which most Russians had a choice occurred weeks after the November 1917 revolution that swept Lenin and the Bolsheviks to power.
 In June 1987, two or more candidates competed in 4 percent of the races for municipal offices in what amounted to a test for greater democratization.
 But Sunday marked the first such balloting on a nationwide scale. In 74 percent of the districts, there were two or more competing candidates, the Central Election Commission said.

However, according to the weekly Moscow News, 82 percent of those running in Sunday's races are Communist Party members, guaranteeing the country's ruling political party will dominate whatever assembly emerges from the voting.
 Gorbachev, who with his wife Raisa voted at Moscow's Institute of Chemical Physics, told reporters the occasionally boisterous campaign caused by the multicandidate election was just what the Kremlin leadership wanted.
 "The electoral law that we passed has justified our hopes," Gorbachev said, as Mrs. Gorbachev, holding a blue umbrella, stood beside him under a light rain. "It has advanced the political thought and social activity of the people, and this is what we wanted to achieve."
 The 58-year-old Gorbachev, already elected to the congress by the Communist Party, picked up a paper ballot, walked to a wooden voting booth and voted.

Former Israeli prime minister criticizes U.S. talks with PLO

From Associated Press reports
JERUSALEM — Former Prime Minister Menachem Begin broke his silence on political affairs Sunday by using the 10th anniversary of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty to criticize the United States for opening talks with the PLO.
 Begin and the other surviving architect of the historic treaty, former President Jimmy Carter, praised the pact but expressed regret that it did not lead to a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.
 Islamic fundamentalists opposed to the pact assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat four years after he signed it.
 There were no official ceremonies marking the occasion, reflecting the chilly relations between the two former Middle East adversaries, mainly over the lack of a solution to the Palestinian problem.

News in Brief

"The more sensationalistic coverage led the public to believe that Yellowstone simply burned up, that there was nothing left," said Yellowstone spokeswoman Joan Anzelmo. "That's very far from the truth."

Brady to present debt plan

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration's heralded plan to relieve the staggering Third World debt burden faces its first big test this week when Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady tries to sell the proposal to finance ministers from around the world.
 The sales talk will come at the spring meeting of the 151-nation International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the two major lending organizations, and at a separate strategy session attended by officials from the seven largest industrial countries.

Fire destroys performer's studio

WENTZVILLE, Mo. — An early-morning fire destroyed a recording studio on the farm of rock 'n' roll star Chuck Berry, including a tape with some Berry songs, officials said.
 Authorities said the fire in the unoccupied building several miles south of Wentzville was reported early Saturday. The one-story concrete block structure is one of several buildings on Berry's 160-acre farm west of St. Louis.
 The cause of the blaze was not immediately determined, but officials discounted arson.

Fishermen meet to discuss oil spill effects

From Associated Press reports
VALDEZ, Alaska — Fishermen fearing lost income from the nation's biggest oil spill gathered Sunday to seek compensation while efforts continued to clean up the crude oil floating in wildlife-rich Prince William Sound.
 "We're not ready to absorb any loss," said Riki Ott, spokeswoman for United Fishermen of Alaska. "We expect full compensation."
 Exxon Shipping Co. scheduled a meeting Sunday between fishermen and a company claims officer.
 Meanwhile, the toll on the sound's wildlife started to mount. Department of the Interior spokeswoman Pamela Bergmann said a wildlife specialist sailed in the sound Saturday and observed 75 ducks and two otters coated with oil. They could not be captured for cleaning, she said.
 The 987-foot tanker Exxon Valdez, carrying 1.2 million barrels of North Slope crude oil loaded at Valdez, ran onto a reef 25 miles from the port early Friday after swinging out of a traffic lane to avoid ice. Valdez is at the southern end of the 800-mile Alaska oil pipeline.

Estimates put the spill at 240,000 barrels of oil, or about 10.1 million gallons, making it the biggest U.S. spill on record. The only larger oil-related accident in U.S. waters was the spilling and burning of up to 10.7 million gallons of oil when two ships collided in Galveston Bay in 1979.
 The Coast Guard said the slick and patches of oil separated from it were spread over 50 square miles.
 More than four miles of floating boom had been placed in an effort to contain the oil, the Coast Guard said Sunday. An additional 3,000 feet was to be deployed at Galena Bay at the request of fishermen. Skimming boats worked to remove the oil.
 The transfer of oil remaining aboard the Exxon Valdez to the Exxon Baton Rouge resumed late Saturday. The Coast Guard said about 84,000 gallons of oil an hour were being transferred; at that rate, the unloading could take seven days.
 About 11,000 barrels of oil were removed Saturday, but pumping was halted quickly because more oil was leaking.
 Tests were under way to determine if dispersal chemicals should be used

despite the potential for environmental damage. The agents need wave action to help break up the thick crude oil. Weather had been calm since the accident, but the National Weather Service said the wind was expected to increase to 25 mph and stir up a 5- to 6-foot chop on the sound.
 However, the wind and waves may make it more difficult to skim oil off the water, said Coast Guard Lt. Ed Wieliczkiwicz.
 An experiment to assess the possibility of burning off the oil was completed early Sunday and the Coast Guard said Exxon officials were "cautiously optimistic."
 Environmentalists, the governor and other top state officials have accused Exxon and Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. of responding too slowly to the spill. Alyeska operates the terminal at Valdez that loads tankers with North Slope crude.
 Both companies said they were satisfied with the handling of the problem.
 "We're proceeding cautiously," said Exxon spokesman Tom Cirigliano. "We want to make sure we don't make any mistakes in cleaning up the spill."

Bush officials seek to clear up argument

From Associated Press reports
WASHINGTON — The Bush administration's top two foreign affairs officials sought to smooth over an apparent internal squabble Sunday, but denied they had surrendered any authority to Congress by reaching an agreement last week on aid to Nicaraguan guerrillas.
 Secretary of State James Baker and White House national security adviser Brent Scowcroft said they did not agree with published remarks attributed to the White House counsel, C. Boyden Gray, that the deal encroached on the power of the president to conduct foreign policy.
 "If you look at the accord carefully, you will see that the leadership of the Congress acknowledges the president's primary responsibility for implementing foreign policy," Baker said.
 "This is a voluntary agreement," he said. "You do not have the question

arise here with respect to constitutional powers and prerogatives because the Congress is not imposing its will, in effect, through legislation."
 While disagreeing with Gray's reported assessment, Scowcroft and Baker were careful not to criticize the White House lawyer.
 A television interviewer noted that it was Gray who "a few weeks ago embarrassed you publicly by calling attention" to stock Baker held in a bank that has major outstanding loans to foreign countries.
 "Now he is complaining that you have made a deal that is wrong," the

reporter said. "Is there room for both of you in this administration?"
 "Nice try, Sam," replied Baker. "The fact of the matter is, the president, the chief of staff, the national security adviser to the president and I all discussed this particular provision. So, good try."
 President Bush, appearing at the White House with congressional leaders from both parties to announce the deal last Friday, hailed it as a return to a bipartisan foreign policy.
 The previous administration repeatedly failed to reach accord with Congress on Central America.

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AM I

Amendment

Amendments specifying sexual and racial harassment as violations were also approved by the three bodies.
 The primary objective of the date rape amendment to the Instrument is to focus attention on the problem of date rape on campus, often left unreported by victims, Hardin said.
 "I hope this type of incident will not occur often," he added.
 Jeffrey Cannon, assistant dean of students, said a charge of date rape can now be brought to court if it occurs after July 1, but the first step will be to train the student court members for these cases. The members will receive training from professionals from rape action centers and Student Health Service.
 The only kind of cases that will be heard under the date rape clause are those in which the attacker is a student, Cannon said.
 "We only have jurisdiction over students," he said.
 A student convicted of date rape by the Undergraduate Student Court could face possible expulsion or suspension, he said.

Parking

The BOT approved the final design plans of the deck in December.
 The 500 students who now hold parking permits in the Craige lot will be reassigned spaces in a new lot during construction of the Craige deck. When the deck is completed, 350 spaces will be set aside for students in the Craige deck and 300 spaces in the new lot, which is now being built at the Horace Williams Airport.
 After the deck opens, students will have approximately 350 fewer spaces on campus and will have an overall net loss of 50 spaces, according to the report.
 As one of its recommendations for improving parking, the committee suggested in its report that the University reduce the number of spaces allotted to students by 235.

Ruth Dowling, chairwoman of the Undergraduate Student Court, said she realizes the court could hear cases as soon as July, but she feels hesitant about the court's preparation.
 "I'm concerned with training members of the court," she said.
 But Dowling said she feels confident in the chancellor's decision to approve the amendment.
 "He had a lot of experience in judicial systems in the previous university he worked at."
 Robert Byrd, chairman of the Faculty Council Committee on Student Conduct, presented the amendment from Student Congress to the Faculty Council. He said he thinks the members of the court will not have to participate in any legal training.
 "It won't necessarily entail any more intensive training than what they have, because it deals with credibility and circumstantial evidence," he said.
 If the court passes a guilty verdict and sentences the defendant, but in civil court the defendant is found innocent, the University cannot be punished for its actions, Byrd said.

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