

Rain quenches Southeast fires

By DENISE BRAZIEL
Associated Press Writer
Severe weekend thunderstorms pounding the eastern Gulf Coast finally quenched a 600-mile line of forest and brush fires that have destroyed more than 500,000 acres of timber and brushland from Louisiana to Florida so far this year.

Storms moving off the Gulf of Mexico dumped heavy rains on the Florida Panhandle yesterday morning and later moved across central Florida. Earlier yesterday the storms hit the central Gulf Coast, destroying 795 acres of timber.

More than half a million acres have gone up in flames in the Southeast this year as the result of a severe drought. Dried debris from 1979's Hurricane Frederic and arson.

Officials in the fire-ravaged Southeast have issued stern warnings to arsonists as this year's forest fires destroyed more than a half-million acres in four states, far surpassing the total damage from fires in 1980.

Fires raged Saturday in thick pine timberland, brushland and marshes of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Florida, Louisiana and Alabama despite rains on open-air burning.

At least a half-dozen people have been arrested on arson charges in Florida, and officials said "several arrests" were possible in connection with fires on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

"It was as bad as they've been telling, and worse in some cases," said Dwight Munday, a pilot for the Mississippi Forestry Commission. "If you can imagine, I could see from the airplane a line of fires about 15 miles from the coast, from Alabama to Louisiana."

"Many of these fires are arson... around half are deliberately set," said Paul Wills of the Florida Division of Forestry. "Some are set through bad motives and some through curiosity."

An average of 100 new fires started in Florida each day last year, more than half of which are believed to have been deliberately set, Wills said.

"Throughout the state (on Saturday), 103 new fires broke out in different places and burned 3,312 acres prior to the rain moving in," Wills said. "Fifty-three of these 103 were thought to be deliberately set with malicious intent to burn, to see the firefighters scramble. It's been true all week long," Wills said.

Fires earlier this week destroyed Jacksonville threatened buildings and homes, as did the fire that nearly

"overran" the small Panhandle town of White City in Gulf County, Wills said. He said White City residents were moved out of danger and no injuries were reported.

Along the Mississippi Gulf Coast rains brought forest fires under control yesterday while authorities continued to search for people they say are responsible for setting many of the blazes.

Forestry commission firefighters, National Guardsmen, U.S. Forest Service personnel and volunteers battled 217 fires in Mississippi on Friday which destroyed 795 acres of timber.

Munday, the chief pilot for the Mississippi Forestry Commission who was responsible for plotting the hundreds of fires in the area last week, said yesterday that all the coast fires had been brought under control.

Unofficial figures showed that only 500 acres burned in the coastal district on Saturday, said Bill Colvin, spokesman for the state Forestry Commission.

Forest fire alerts were canceled yesterday morning in Alabama as heavy rains and thunderstorms dumped up to two inches of rain over parts of the state, including the southwest corner, which was under an emergency drought order.

Forestry Commission spokesman Frank Seago said, "Fires since Jan. 1 have burned more than 213,000 acres, far above the total for all of 1980. The fires have an economic impact of more than \$87 million dollars."

Despite the widespread destruction of commercial timberland valued in the millions of dollars, an industry spokesman said the fires have had little impact on the lumber business because housing starts are down.

More than 205,000 acres in Alabama have burned so far this year, already topping 1980's year-long total of 116,000 acres.

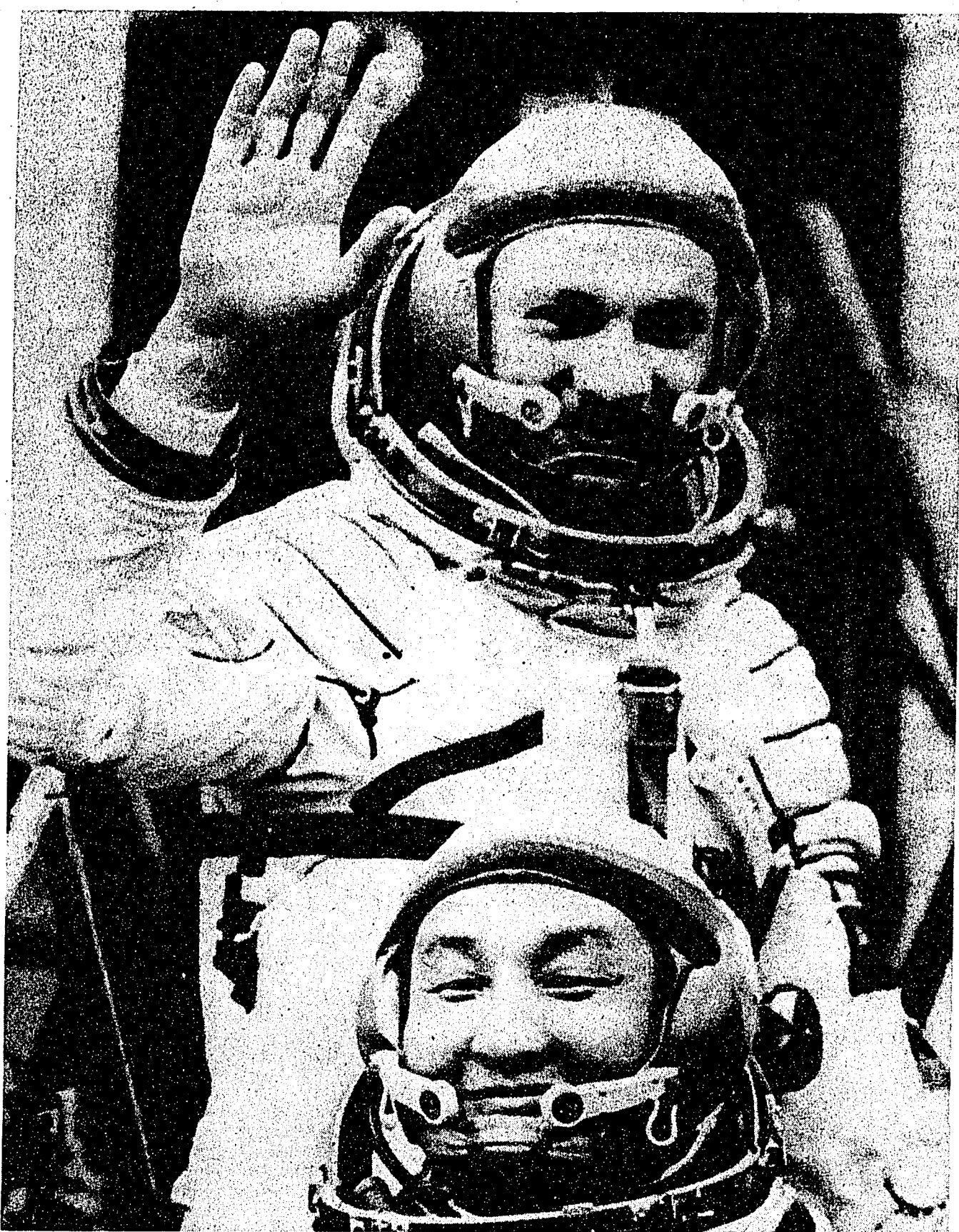
While the northeast part of the state is under a fire alert, nine counties in the south have been declared drought areas. The declaration means penalties will be imposed against open-air burning in forests, grasslands, wildlands, marshes or trash. Setting campfires and bonfires also is punishable by a maximum fine of \$50 and six months in jail.

In Louisiana, during the first 19 days of this March, 1,366 fires burned 24,833 acres.

Cosmonauts take off

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union sent a Mongolian cosmonaut and his Soviet commander into space yesterday aboard the Soyuz-29 capsule. The new team will link up with two Soviet cosmonauts launched March 12 who are circling the earth aboard the Salyut-6 space station.

The new travelers to Salyut-6 were identified as Vladimir Dzhanibekov, the 35-year-old commander on his second space mission, and 32-year-old Jugderdemidyn Gurragcha, a Mongolian who had been training for the space shot since 1978.



state/nation/world

Chicago mayor to move to ghetto high-rise

By BRENDA INGERSOLL
Associated Press Writer
CHICAGO (AP) — Mayor Jane M. Byrne says she and her husband are moving from their posh Gold Coast apartment to live in another high-rise — a crime-plagued, gang-infested public housing project called Cabrini Green. The mayor says she will live there for "as long as it takes to clean it up."

In a nine-week period this year, 10 people were killed, at least 35 were wounded and over 100 firearms were confiscated at Cabrini Green, where police say rival gangs are warring for control of drug trafficking and prostitution. And where gangs routinely shake down tenants for "protection" money.

"Delivermen, cab drivers and many citizens avoid Cabrini Green, a sprawling, 70-acre housing project on the Near North Side that is home to 15,000 people. Last week, a 29-man police task force was assigned to the troubled complex of 11 high-rise brick buildings and rowhouses, where gunfire is a frequent occurrence."

The mayor announced Saturday night that she and her husband and political adviser, Jay McMullen, will move temporarily to Cabrini Green within two weeks.

Byrne's announcement, which apparently took police by surprise, said: "I really can't believe that 10 blocks from me is any different from the people who live in the high-rise here."

The mayor routinely has full-time protection by several police officers.



"I'm not doing this for votes. There are people out there who have a right to a decent living." — Jane M. Byrne, mayor of Chicago

Atlanta patrol protests arrest of its supporters

By RICHARD T. PIENCIAK
Associated Press Writer
ATLANTA (AP) — Fifty protesters occupied the lobby of the city jail for 90 minutes yesterday after a fourth armed man was arrested in connection with a confrontation between police and vigilantes guarding a housing project against Atlanta's child killers.

Earlier yesterday only 50 people had showed up for a rally at the Techwood housing project in support of the "self-defense" patrols, started after the bodies of 20 black children were found in the Atlanta area in the last 20 months. 5,251 households now at the project, 518 do not receive public aid, Social Security or pensions, according to the Chicago Housing Authority. Median household income is \$4,500, and rent, after subsidies, averages \$57 a month.

Police say most tenants live in fear because of some 75 to 100 troublemakers who are among an estimated 600 gang members at Cabrini Green. There has been a resurgence of gang warfare, police say, over narcotics and prostitution. Police intelligence reports say the largest gang at Cabrini is the Black Gangster Disciple Nation, led by a convicted murderer now in prison.

Cooper, also known as Modibo Kadalie, was charged with carrying a concealed weapon, possession of a pistol without a license, reckless conduct, impeding traffic and disorderly conduct, according to a police spokesman at the jail.

Cooper, who was being held in lieu of \$2,500 bail, is due in court today along with the other three arrested at the housing project during the weekend, police said.

"After the arrest of Cooper, police generally kept their distance during the afternoon meeting at the 5,500-resident Techwood project.

The session had been designed to drum up support for the baseball bat and gun patrols that city officials have characterized as a vigilante group. Meanwhile, black ministers from across the state participated in a 50-car procession through the city. The procession, which included 15 hearses, was followed by a memorial service for the slain children at the Salem Baptist Church, with 1,000 people attending.

Israeli Green, head of the Techwood Homes tenants association and organizer of the patrols, barred reporters from the meeting, which took place indoors.

News Briefs

W. Germany warns of U.S. trade wars
PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — West Germany cautioned the Reagan administration on Saturday that blocking imports of foreign cars could touch off a trade war among the allied countries.

The German minister suggested combined industries rely on private initiative "instead of crises for government intervention."

He said they should be willing to accept risks instead of requesting subsidies.

Abortion operation induces baby's birth
PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) — An infant girl born while doctors unwittingly tried to perform an abortion on a woman about eight months pregnant was "stabilized and... doing fine," hospital officials said yesterday.

The unnamed baby was transferred from Doctors Hospital to St. Joseph's Hospital after she was born Friday afternoon.

The woman had told doctors she was 19 weeks pregnant, and the only examination she received before the abortion failed to reveal how advanced the pregnancy actually was.

Violations reported in genetic research
LOS ANGELES (AP) — A National Institutes of Health panel has concluded that a "serious" violation of federal guidelines on genetic research was carried out by a former biology professor at the University of California, San Diego, the Los Angeles Times reported yesterday.

According to the Times, the special panel reported after a five-month investigation that the work of microbiologist Ian Kennedy had

"several deviations from accepted laboratory practice," and involved cloning of a rare African virus last year in violation of a ban on such work in the recombinant DNA field.

NBC offers apology for Piscataway slur
PISCATAWAY, N.J. (AP) — The mayor of Piscataway says NBC has apologized that his town will never again be mentioned on "Saturday Night Live" in skits depicting it as a chemical disaster area.

Mayor Bob Smith said he had spoken to Alan Baker, a network vice president, and was told he would receive a letter this week containing an "abject apology as well as a promise the township would never again be a target on the late-night comedy show."

Smith demanded an apology after seeing the March 7 show, which featured a sketch starring Joe Piscopo.

Polish politburo warns of threats

By THOMAS W. NETTER
Associated Press Writer
WARSAW, Poland (AP) — The Polish Communist Party Politburo met yesterday and warned that Poland faces "a very serious threat" because of social tensions that have emerged in the past few days, Warsaw Radio reported.

The statement came as independent unionists in Warsaw prepared to lay down their tools for a new warning strike and government and labor leaders adjourned talks on police beatings of union activists. The Solidarity labor federation called an emergency meeting of its leaders.

In Bydgoszcz, where police on Thursday beat unionists who refused to leave a meeting with government officials, local Solidarity leaders presented a sweeping list of demands to a government commission set to investigate the incident that put three unionists in the hospital.

Warsaw Radio reported the appointment of a new governor of Bydgoszcz province. The report said Bogdan Krolewski was named after consultation with the province's Political People's Council. It did not say

if the previous governor had resigned or been removed.

In its dispatch on the Politburo meeting, Warsaw Radio quoted the statement as saying, "Results achieved so far thanks to the intensive efforts of party and state and all sensible and responsible patriotic forces to overcome social tensions and stabilize the country's life have been disrupted." It did not elaborate on the warning of the "very serious threat."

Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, Roman Catholic primate of Poland, issued a call for "calm, self-control and responsibility."

Warsaw Pact military exercises, meanwhile, continued in Poland and neighboring Soviet bloc countries.

Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and Deputy Premier Mieczyslaw Rakowski discussed the Bydgoszcz beatings in talks here and Polish television said the talks would resume Wednesday.

Walesa said Solidarity's national leadership, which declared a nationwide strike alert Friday to protest the violence, would hold an emergency session here today.

Thousands of people gathered outside the Solidarity office in Bydgoszcz, 170 miles northwest of here, and cheered wildly as a local union official read a list of demands.

The Bydgoszcz local's demands were presented to a government commission led by Justice Minister Jerzy Bafia. Talks between Bafia's delegation and union representatives failed to materialize yesterday.

Members of an unofficial independent union of farmers, meanwhile, continued their week-old sit-in at the Bydgoszcz headquarters of the pro-Communist United Peasants' Party.

Officials in the intensive care unit of the Bydgoszcz hospital said two of the injured unionists, Jan Rulewski and Mariusz Labentowicz, were in good condition but would remain in the hospital for a week. Both suffered head injuries.

Rulewski, 37, is the Bydgoszcz Solidarity leader and a member of its national presidium.

A third injured man, Michal Bartoszko, 68, was in a Warsaw neurological clinic after regaining consciousness Saturday. PAP said he was having heart trouble.

The union has alerted its estimated 10 million members to the possibility of a general strike, but Walesa in recent days has counseled moderation.

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Civil liberties weakened under Carter, group says

By MIKE SHANAHAN
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — Under former President Jimmy Carter, there was a slide away from concern over protection of civil liberties spawned by Watergate and the Vietnam War, a liberal research organization said yesterday.

The Center for National Security Studies said that on a number of issues including secrecy, the surveillance of citizens, the military draft and protecting the rights of aliens, the Carter administration was more concerned with national security than individual freedoms.

The center, headed by onetime White House aide Morton Halperin, also said the Supreme Court struck a major blow at traditional libertarian ideas by holding former CIA official Frank Snepp to a requirement that he should have submitted the manuscript for his book "Descent Into Hell" to the agency for republication approval.

In its examination of Carter's record, the study was sharply critical of orders to start deportation proceedings against 6,500 Iranian students following seizure of the American Embassy in Tehran. A State Department official said Sunday that some Iranian students had been deported as a result of the order, but he was not sure of the exact number.

In addition, attempts to block demonstrations by Iranian students were clear violations of First Amendment rights by Carter, the report said.

Only the Congress did a good job in upholding restraints on security agencies, a new report by the center said.

The study did not examine the first months of the Reagan administration, which has already stirred controversy with a proposed executive order to loosen CIA restraints on surveillance of individual Americans.

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UNIVERSITY CALENDAR SPECIAL EVENTS
Monday-Wednesday, March 23-25
Monday, March 23
Late registration deadline.
Add deadline.
Dept. of Theatre & Film, creative drama classes for children, 865-7586 to enroll for April 6-May 20 program.
Commons videotape, "Austin City Limits," noon, Kern Lobby.
Geography Dept. Coffee Hour, 3:45 p.m., Room 319 Walker, Kenneth Corey, Univ. of Maryland, on "Neighborhood Grantsmanship: An Approach for Grass-Roots Self-Reliance in the 1980's."
Franco Cinema, "To Forget Venice," 7 and 9 p.m., Room 112 Kern.
Hotel and Rest, Society, 7 p.m., Room 117 Henderson.
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, 7 p.m., Eisenhower Chapel.
Eco-Action lecture, 7:15 p.m., HUB Main Lounge, Dr. Chauncey Keptford on "The Economics of Nuclear Power."
History of Photography lecture, 8 p.m., Room 101 Kern. Gillian Greenhill, grad. student, art history and the Quest for the Third Dimension."
Barbara Hawman, horn recital, 8:30 p.m., Music Bldg. Recital Hall.

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