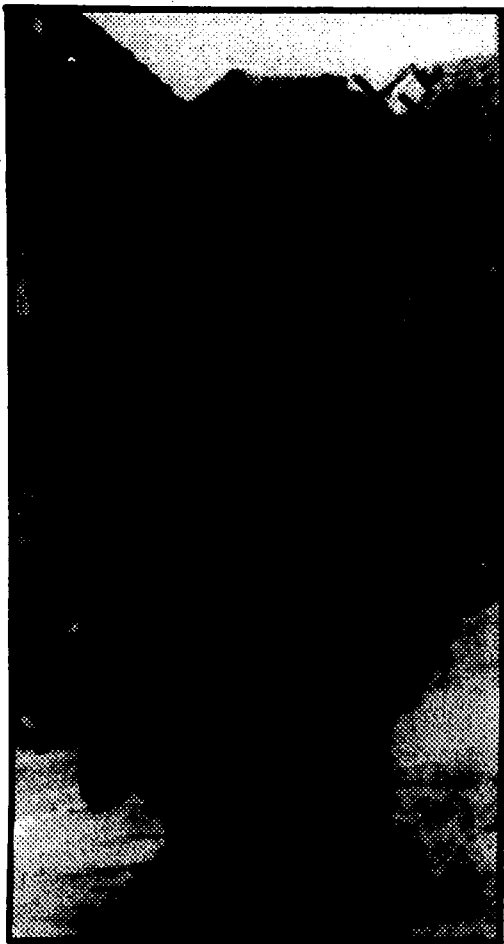


AT A GLANCE



A woman carries her belongings in a wheelbarrow as she leaves the war-ravaged city of Vukovar, Yugoslavia, on Sunday. See story on Page 9.

Radioactive gas released

Workers at a South Carolina nuclear plant released slightly radioactive gas into the air so they could safely enter the containment building and investigate a spill of radioactive water.

— Page 4

Report backs female cadets

An independent panel has found that female members of the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets were subject to "pervasive" harassment and discrimination.

— Page 5

Condoms for youngsters

The nation's first youth brand condom hits stores next year, targeting buyers as young as 14 years old, but critics say they could encourage teens to have sex.

— Page 7

HDTV too costly to watch

Japan began the world's first full-scale high-definition television broadcasting Monday, but only about 200 HDTV sets reportedly have been sold because the price is simply too high — even for wealthy Japan.

— Page 17

INDEX

Abby, Ann Landers	20
Comics	18-20
Commentary	13
Faces 'n' Places	10
Letters	12
Money matters	17
Sports	21-28
TV listings	27
Weather	11

correction

Because of a source error, the chart on Page 3 Saturday listed the wrong time for the USAFE band's scheduled Dec. 3 concert at the enlisted club at Hahn AB, Germany. The correct time is 7 p.m.

Mercury dies of AIDS day after revelation

LONDON (AP) — A day after announcing he had AIDS, rock singer Freddie Mercury died of pneumonia brought on by the disease, his publicist said. He was 45.

Mercury, lead singer of the rock group Queen, died peacefully Sunday at his home in Kensington, west London, said his spokeswoman, Roxy Meade.

On Saturday, Mercury said he had kept quiet about his illness to "protect the privacy of those around me."

"However, the time has now come for my friends and fans around the world to know the truth, and I hope that everyone will join with me, my doctors and all those worldwide in the fight against this terrible disease," his statement said.

His publicity company said Sunday Mercury's death "was the result of bronchopneumonia brought on by AIDS."

Born Frederick Bulsara in Zanzibar, now Tanzania, the son of a government accountant, Mercury grew famous as the bravura singer for Queen, whose elaborate and occasionally bombastic songs made the group one of the favorites of the 1970s.

Their hits included *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *We Are the Champions* and *Crazy Little Thing Called Love*. Mercury later released solo albums such as *The Great Pretender*, which also sold well.

Mercury's flamboyance on stage was equaled offstage with

after-show parties that went on for days.

In recent years, he had lived a secluded life and resisted responding to persistent rumors that he had contracted AIDS. After speculating for weeks that Mercury might have acquired immune deficiency syndrome, British tabloids gave his confirmation big play.

Photos published Sunday showed that the disease, which attacks the body's immune system, had left him looking frail and gaunt.

Mercury joined Brian May, John Deacon and Roger Taylor to form Queen in 1971. Their debut album was *Queen* in 1973, followed by *Queen II* a year later with the single *Seven Seas of Rhye*, which made the British charts.

The *Sheer Heart Attack* album gave them a big hit with *Killer Queen*, but it was *A Night at the Opera* which gave them a No. 1 hit with *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

After he retreated into a quieter lifestyle, the rocker insisted that reflected the genuine Freddie Mercury.

"I'm so powerful on stage that I seem to have created a monster. When I'm performing I'm an extrovert, yet inside I'm a completely different man," he once said.

A private cremation is to be held this week. Details on survivors were not available.

BILL

From Page 1

ate," Paul J. McNulty, a Justice Department spokesman, said Sunday night.

The House, which had passed a seven-day waiting period for handgun purchases last May, accepted the Senate's five-day version. That bill requires police to conduct background checks of would-be buyers.

House conferees, however, refused to accept a Senate-passed ban on 14 types of semiautomatic assault weapons, noting strong opposition on the House floor to a broader prohibition. The House rejected a proposal by Rep. Charles E. Schumer, D-N.Y., to ban more than 20 assault-style weapons when it passed crime legislation last month.

Conferees rejected a Senate provision imposing sharp new limits on appeals that state prisoners — particularly awaiting execution — can file in federal court. Instead, the conferees favored a tough but less re-

strictive version passed by the House.

Bush had made reform of so-called habeas corpus petitions a hallmark of his anti-crime proposal.

The bill also would apply the death penalty to about 50 federal crimes, including terrorism, political assassinations and drug trafficking on a large scale even if no murder results.

Democrats called it a tough crime bill, civil libertarians said it was Draconian and Republicans said it would make it harder to convict wrongdoers.

"This is not a crime bill, it's a pro-criminal bill," said Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., who repeatedly objected during the three-hour conference to procedures Democrats used for considering various provisions.

Thurmond raised the possibility of a Republican filibuster to stop passage in the Senate before Congress adjourns this week.

"Every avenue will be taken to stop this bill, and if that fails, I think the president will veto it," Thurmond said.

"I just can't believe Republicans would

kill a death penalty bill," said Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "For the Republicans to vote against capital punishment — I'd like to see it."

Biden and other Democrats accused Republicans of trying to stop enactment of the crime package this fall to give Bush an election-year issue in 1992.

"The president would be happy if we didn't get anything... so he could have a political victory," Biden said.

Schumer predicted that "if this bill reaches the president, he will sign it. He doesn't want to veto a tough crime bill."

But Schumer said the administration wants an issue, and "word went out to the Republicans: Stop this bill at any cost."

Schumer said Democrats planned to bring the crime bill up for a vote on the House floor on Monday as Congress raced to complete its business in time for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Dropped from the House-Senate compromise was a Senate-passed provision that would make street handgun murders a federal crime punishable by death.

LAUNCH

From Page 1

new guidance system was installed, but engineers still have not found the problem in the old one.

"You all certainly earned your Thanksgiving," launch director Bob Sieck Sieck told ground workers after liftoff.

The spacecraft's journey 224 miles above Earth is NASA's sixth and final shuttle flight of the year.

It was the seventh night launch out of 44 missions and the first liftoff in darkness in a year.

The mission is the ninth military shut-

tle flight. Everything was classified for the first seven; even the liftoff time was not divulged until nine minutes before launch. The Pentagon lifted the secrecy to save tens of millions of dollars spent on security.

However, secrecy still surrounds the Defense Support Program network, whose first satellite went up in the 1970s. Pentagon officials will not say how many DSP satellites are in orbit.

The satellite network was used to warn of Iraqi Scud attacks during the Persian Gulf War. But the Pentagon has refused to comment on its performance.

Atlantis' crew will conduct medical tests and radiation-monitoring experiments for the rest of the mission. The

crew will also use a telescope, cameras and binoculars to observe U.S. military installations because the Pentagon wants to know how much detail astronauts can pick up from space.

Besides Voss, the crew consists of Air Force Col. Frederick Gregory, shuttle commander; mission specialist Story Musgrave; Air Force Col. Terence "Tom" Henricks, pilot; Navy Lt. Cmdr. Mario Runco Jr.; and Army Chief Warrant Officer Thomas Hennen.

Hennen was chosen because of his expertise in photo reconnaissance. The others are full-time astronauts.

Atlantis is scheduled to land Dec. 4 in Florida.

GI gets 15 years for rape of neighbor

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — An Army sergeant was sentenced to 15 years in prison and given a dishonorable discharge in connection with the rape of a neighbor while her husband was deployed to Turkey, according to a report by the 21st Theater Army Area Comd public affairs office.

Carlos Balderas, 31, was found guilty of rape, forcible sodomy and violating a lawful order in his general court-martial Nov. 19 at Panzer Casern in Kaiserslau-

tern. He is assigned to the 191st Ord Bn in Miesau.

According to the report, Balderas was convicted of raping and sodomizing the wife of an Air Force sergeant on May 17 after she and a mutual friend had helped Balderas with his English homework the previous evening.

The 11-year Army veteran, from Brighton, Colo., entered the victim's home under the guise of retrieving his homework, according to the report. Balderas

then attacked the 24-year-old mother of two and forced her to perform oral sex before raping her on the living room couch, the report said.

After the incident, Balderas harassed the victim by repeatedly returning to her building despite an order from his commander to avoid the area pending disposition of the case, the report said.

During his sentencing, Balderas was reduced to the lowest enlisted rank and forced to forfeit all pay and allowances.