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Backs to the wall, Russians ask for help from American astronaut

MOSCOW (AP) — With Mir's commander potentially sidelined by heart problems, Russia's Mission Control turned to NASA on Tuesday — proposing that the American astronaut on board try to repair the crippled space station.

Tapping Michael Foale to join the difficult fix-it task would be the biggest assignment ever for an American on the Russian Mir — and the riskiest. NASA said it would take "a good, hard look" at the request.

Vital repairs on the damaged spacecraft have been delayed as long as 10 days while doctors look into Russian commander Vasily Tsibliyev's heart trouble. If Tsibliyev's recently discovered irregular heartbeat turns out to be a serious medical problem, Foale may have to don a spacesuit himself to help bring the station's energy system back up to full power.

Russian space officials also need to

get the go-ahead from the American astronaut himself.

"We haven't talked to Foale about that yet," Mission Control chief Vladimir Solovyov said. "Back on the ground, he said he would be eager to do a spacewalk."

Foale said before the flight that he would love to do a spacewalk on Mir — though he hadn't had emergency repairs in mind.

Officials still hope the two Russian cosmonauts in the three-man crew will be up to carrying out the repairs themselves after they are rested.

Tsibliyev's surprise heart trouble forced officials to postpone Tuesday's scheduled practice session for the repairs, designed to fix damage caused when a cargo ship collided with Mir on June 25, punching a hole in the Spektr module and ultimately halving the Mir's power.

The new setback pushes back the

vital repair mission from Saturday until the last week of July.

While lives aren't in danger, the Russians are eager to solve the problem before the next crew arrives Aug. 5.

"We have problems with power," Solovyov said. "If we are unable to go in the Spektr to solve it, we will have to consider how much energy will be spent when there will be two crews on board."

A successful repair job would give the Russians a chance to fulfill their goal of keeping the aging Mir manned to the end of the century — and repair some of their space program's battered credibility.

Russian doctors met throughout the day Tuesday, debating the best treatment for the 43-year-old Tsibliyev, who complained Monday of heart problems.

Igor Goncharov, deputy mission controller in charge of medical affairs,

said Tsibliyev had no previous health problems and the primary cause might be lack of sleep related to a string of Mir mishaps.

Tsibliyev, who has been on Mir since February, has faced serious problems on the 11-year-old space station, including the collision, a fire in February and numerous equipment breakdowns.

"This crew had enough stressful moments," Goncharov said. "It's natural that tension, emotions flying high, the feeling of responsibility — all of this has increased the emotional pressure and could affect his condition."

Goncharov said the commander felt no pain and his condition should improve as he takes medicine and the crew is given more rest.

Tsibliyev or Russian crewmate Alexander Lazutkin had been scheduled to make the delicate trek into the Spektr — one of six modules that make up the orbital station. The Mir's crew

hopes to hook up power cables that will allow the station to receive power from the Spektr's solar panels, which have been disengaged since the collision.

Foale now could be called in for the job. While the work doesn't involve going outside the space station, it would mean going into sections of Mir that have been sealed off since the accident.

The 40-year-old Foale — a NASA fill-in chosen because Russian officials rejected the original choice as too tall; — did a practice spacewalk outside the shuttle Discovery in 1995. He also practiced Russian spacewalking techniques at the cosmonaut training center outside Moscow.

NASA spokeswoman Eileen Hawley said NASA doesn't expect to make a decision until today — at the earliest — on whether to approve Foale's possible role.

Redford group voices worry over troop usage

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leaders from the West Texas border town where a Marine on a drug surveillance mission shot a high-school student told the nation's drug czar Tuesday that troops shouldn't be used to intercept drugs.

The delegation from Redford expressed its dismay to drug control policy chief Barry McCaffrey that Congress is contemplating sending up to 10,000 troops to the Southwest border to help control drugs and immigration.

"We have just experienced what four Marines can do on the border if they are used in the wrong manner," said Enrique Madrid, one of six Redford residents in town this week to lobby against militarization of the border.

"Then to imagine that 10,000 troops are being contemplated

after what happened in Redford, it's almost unspeakable."

In an interview, McCaffrey said he reiterated the Clinton administration's opposition to a House-passed measure that would allow the troop deployment. The Senate hasn't taken up similar language.

McCaffrey, who cut short his vacation to meet with the Texans, said, "I thought it was important to listen to them carefully, which we did, and to express sympathy for this tragic loss of an innocent young American lad."

Esequiel Hernandez Jr. was fatally shot May 20 by a Marine corporal on an anti-drug patrol in Redford, a town of about 100 people in far southern Presidio County.

The Marines contend Hernandez, who was tending to

his goat herd, fired his .22-caliber rifle twice and was about to fire again when a Marine opened fire. A four-man Marine surveillance team was watching a suspected drug route at the request of the Border Patrol.

Hernandez's family has questioned the military's version of the shooting, which is under investigation by the Texas Rangers and the Marine Corps. They said Hernandez carried the rifle to protect his goats and sometimes shot at targets.

Military anti-drug patrols have been suspended along parts of the border while authorities investigate.

The Redford contingent also met with Defense Department and White House emissaries Tuesday and have meetings on Capitol Hill and with the immigration service chief on

Wednesday.

Melvin LaFollette, a retired Episcopal priest who heads a citizens' committee overseeing the town's response to the shooting, said Pentagon officials told the Texans they are reassessing their deployment of troops along the border.

Since 1989, all branches of the military have helped civilian law enforcement agencies on a variety of anti-drug missions. The operations are coordinated by El Paso-based Joint Task Force Six after assistance is requested by a law enforcement entity.

The Redford group is asking federal officials to end all military operations along the border, hold congressional field hearings and pass a constitutional amendment prohibiting the military from policing civilians on U.S. soil.

Pathfinder finding variations in rocks on Mars, as expected

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Mars Pathfinder scientists are finding the kind of rock smorgasbord they expected with new results showing a tubby rock named Yogi is much more primitive than the quartz-rich Barnacle Bill.

A preliminary analysis of Yogi was presented at a NASA news conference Tuesday, after scientists showed video of the Sojourner rover pirouetting on all six wheels as it maneuvered into position to begin analyzing the rock.

Yogi, which was covered with soil, appears volcanic in origin, although there's a possibility it may have resulted from the impact of a meteorite, said James Greenwood of the University of Tennessee, a member of the Pathfinder min-

erology science team.

It is "a more primitive rock" that "has not gone through the cooking Barnacle Bill went through," Greenwood said.

Barnacle Bill — the first rock touched by the rover — had a lot of quartz in it, indicating it had been heated and reheated somewhere in the crust.

This is exactly the kind of geologic variety scientists expected, and hoped for, when they decided to land Pathfinder on a flood plain. All different types of rock are believed to have washed down from the martian highlands.

Meanwhile, project scientist Matthew Golombek said engineers were still processing a 3-color, 360-degree panoramic scene transmitted Monday night.

Cosby admits affair, but says he's not Autumn's father

NEW YORK (AP) — Bill Cosby, America's most beloved TV dad, testified Tuesday that he paid Autumn Jackson's mother \$100,000 over 20 years, in part because she all but threatened to go public with their brief affair.

Cosby said he also paid for Jackson's schooling and gave her a car — but drew the line there.

"I will be for you a father figure, but I am not your father," Cosby recalled telling Jackson, 22, who claims to be his out-of-wedlock daughter.

During cross-examination, however, Cosby admitted he once wanted to know so badly whether Jackson was his daughter that he proposed taking a paternity test — but backed out because he feared the media would find out.

Jackson is on trial for allegedly trying to extort \$40 million from the entertainer.

Cosby has said he does not believe he is Jackson's father, but concedes he had an affair with her mother, Shawn Upshaw.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR THURSDAY, JULY 17:
Concentrate on your daily life, with particular emphasis on work. Eliminate red tape, stay efficient and accept additional responsibilities. Though at times you feel overwhelmed, you gain professionally from your endurance. A partner is a source of solace. A business association proves lucrative. Spend on loved ones, and develop any artistic bent you might have. If you are single, you will

feel good about a relationship that enters your life. This person lends career savvy or helps you build security. If attached, you combine forces for a joint hobby, and have a good time doing it! SAGITTARIUS can be tiresome.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Make phone calls, reach out for friends and spread good news. Get a consensus about a project. Worry less, and stay focused. A flirtation or relationship sparkles. Do something special for this person. Tonight: Consider a weekend jaunt out of town.****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
You are jolted by what is going on. Others don't see life as you do. Work is a roller-coaster ride, but a partner helps you handle it. A family member supports you, both financially and emotionally. Tonight: Spend a quiet night at home.****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
Surprise news takes you in a different direction. Stay even with others. You want to tell a loved one that you are tired of his antics. If you think about it, you can come up with a more ingenious way of letting him know your limits. Tonight: Creativity counts.****

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Concentrate on work. You incorporate others' ideas and encourage their support. Finances flow because of your professional abilities. A boss makes demands, but know you can meet them. Buy a token of

affection for another. Tonight: Put your feet up.***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Your loving ways open doors with a special friend. Think through plans for expansion. A partner is right there for you. Popularity is high. Take time for a little work, in between all the socializing. Tonight: Imprint your inimitable style on all you do.****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Stay centered on work. A lot drops on you. You can handle it, if you trust yourself. A financial restriction makes you feel saddled. Share your feelings with another. You might be overly sensitive. It helps to clear the air. Tonight: You are happy at home.***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Your sense of direction and creative energy are instrumental in finding solutions. Others seek you out for answers. Keep your eye on the big picture; don't get caught up in details. You are about to hone in on a long-held goal. Timing is right on. Tonight: Join friends.****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Expenses are out of whack but you can easily rein them in. You want to spend some money on your home or a family member. Review objectives. Work needs a stronger commitment. Your ability to accept responsibilities makes you popular. Tonight: Pay bills.***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
You are overwhelmed by the amount of mail, calls and requests you have waiting for you. You can handle it, as long as you curb personal calls. If a question arises, seek out an expert. A trip could be in the

offing. Tonight: Your smile beams in a terrific fantasy.****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Squirrel away information, to enhance your security. Though it isn't like you to maintain a low profile, you find that doing so works for now. Discussions about money bring positive results. A partner wants to be helpful. Tonight: Enjoy a private tete-a-tete.***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
You have high hopes. Your enthusiasm is contagious; others tend to agree with you. Be logical, however. Take time to explain where you are coming from. A partner expresses his love in a very nice way. Tonight: Join friends, and start the weekend early.****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Bite the bullet, and focus on work. Finances demand more of your attention. Accept overtime, and be ready to do more than your share. You have the energy to surge through what others stumble on. Make time for lunch with a co-worker. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.***

BORN TODAY
Actress Lucie Arnaz (1951), comedian Phyllis Diller (1917), actor Donald Sutherland (1935)
For America's best extended horoscope, recorded by Jacqueline Bigar, call (900) 740-7444, 99 cents per minute. Also featured are The Spoken Tarot and The Runes, which answer your yes-or-no questions. Callers must be 18 or older. A service of InterMedia Inc., Jenkintown, Pa.
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Kids' eyes as well as skin need protection from sun

DEAR ABBY: While strolling on the beach recently, my wife and I noticed a young woman and her son wading. The boy was probably 3 or 4 years old. The mother was wearing sunglasses, but the child had none, and was squinting from the sun's glare.



Abigail Van Buren
Columnist

On another occasion, we observed a mother pushing a stroller as she jogged. The infant in the stroller did not have his eyes protected from the sun and was squinting.

Abby, please urge parents to protect their children's eyesight with good sunglasses that block the UV rays. — BILL FROM CORRALITOS, CALIF.

DEAR BILL: With pleasure. Almost all parents are aware that exposure to sunlight can damage a child's delicate skin. However, the danger of the sun's rays to the eyes has only recently been established. Studies have shown that permanent damage to the eyes can result from prolonged exposure without adequate protection.

According to Michael H. Marmor, M.D., professor of ophthalmology at Stanford University Medical Center: "Of greater concern than the acute damage caused by a day in the sun is the CUMULATIVE damage of REPEATED exposure that may contribute to chronic eye disease."

Long-term exposure affects not only the surface of the eye — the cornea and conjunctiva — but also the internal structures, the lens and the retina, resulting in cataracts and other conditions that may harm the child's vision later in life.

The most dangerous time for sun exposure is between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. (or even longer in areas close to the equator). High altitudes, beaches, snow fields and bodies of water significantly increase ultraviolet (UV) exposure.

Parents should teach children to never look directly at the sun, even when they are wearing sunglasses. Sunglasses cannot protect a child's eyes from potentially serious injury caused by gazing directly at the sun.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends sunglasses that screen out 99 percent to 100 percent of ultraviolet light (both UV-A and UV-B). They should carry one of the following labels: "Blocks 99 percent of ultraviolet rays," "UV absorption up to 40nm," "Special purpose," or "Meets ANSI UV requirements."

A common myth about sun-

glasses is that they have to be expensive to give adequate protection. Many \$10 glasses may provide equal or greater protection than those costing \$100.

Even infants' eyes should be protected. If necessary, the sunglasses can be secured with an elastic band.

DEAR ABBY: I always like to tell a joke to every new person I meet or correspond with. A wise man once said that a good laugh does a body as much good as five tablespoons of bran flakes.

I'd like to offer this one: An old Texas farmer climbed into his pickup truck and went to town to buy groceries. There was a stop sign at the main highway, but he just slowed down, looked both ways, then took off like a shot. Unfortunately for him, one day the sheriff saw him and pulled him over.

"Sir," said the sheriff, "that is a full-stop sign."

"Son," said the farmer, "I've been doing this for 20 years and have yet to have an accident. There's not a bit of difference between 'stop' and 'slow down.'"

"Well, sir," said the sheriff, "I'm going to show you the difference." He hauled out his nightstick and began beating the poor farmer on both shoulders.

"Now, sir," said the sheriff, "do you want me to STOP or SLOW DOWN?"

God loves you, Abby, and so do I. — LONGTIME READER, JOHN J. TUOHY

DEAR JOHN: I always thought "STOP" meant "slowly tap on pedal." (Just kidding.)

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I were married three years ago in a small ceremony. Since our wedding was small, we decided not to have bridesmaids or groomsmen. One of my husband's closest friends came to the ceremony, but claims he "got lost" on the way to the reception. Needless to say, he never made it to the reception, nor did he present us with a wedding gift.

Now, three years later, this friend is getting married. He has asked my husband to be a groomsman (requiring him to rent a \$60 tuxedo), and has already invited us to a "pantry and tool" shower.

In light of the fact that he never bought us a wedding gift, I have a problem buying him a wedding gift, much less a shower gift.

How would you handle this? — TICKED OFF IN TALLAHASSEE

DEAR TICKED OFF: If your husband accepts the honor of being a groomsman, he is obligated to buy a wedding gift. And if you and your husband attend the shower, you'll be expected to bring a shower gift. Let bygones be bygones.

DEAR ABBY: My last suitor was upset when I told him I didn't want to continue our relationship because he was a lousy lover. He said, "What do you mean I'm a lousy lover? How can you tell in just two minutes?"

If women would stop faking orgasms, Abby, maybe men would begin to get a clue that lovemaking is a partnership activity. — BEV IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR BEV: I agree. And candor is essential for that partnership to be successful.

DEAR ABBY: I think people should be reminded that:

"He who comes forth with a fifth on the Fourth

"May not come forth on the Fifth!"

— L.A. CRAWFORD, LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZ.

DEAR L.A. CRAWFORD: Thanks for the timely reminder. Your verse is a "first."

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY WOMB-MATE: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Sissy!

Abby shares more of her favorite, easy-to-prepare recipes. To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$3.95 (\$4.50 in Canada) to: Dear Abby, More Favorite Recipes, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, Ill. 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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life! Sunday deadlines
All Sunday items (weddings, anniversaries, engagements, birth announcements, Who's Who, military) are due to the Herald office by Wednesday at noon.
Birth announcement, engagement, wedding and anniversary forms are available at the Herald office.
Pictures can be used for engagements, weddings and anniversaries, and must be picked up no later than 30 days after publication or they will be discarded.

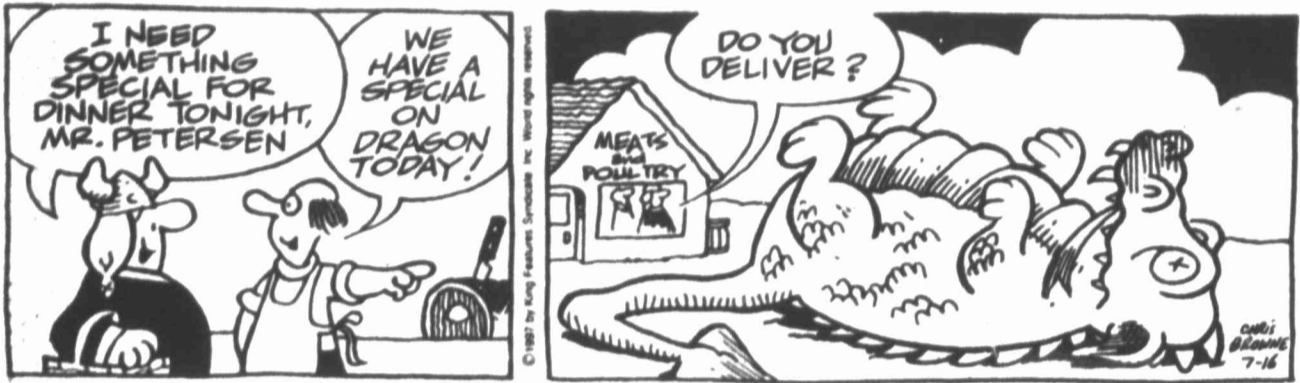
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WEDNESDAY JULY 16. TV schedule table with columns for station, time, and program name.

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B.C.



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DENNIS THE MENACE



GEECH



THIS DATE IN HISTORY

The ASSOCIATED PRESS Today is Wednesday, July 16, the 197th day of 1997. There are 168 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 16, 1945, the United States exploded its first experimental atomic bomb...

In 1862, David G. Farragut became the first rear admiral in the U.S. Navy. In 1918, Russia's Czar Nicholas II, his empress and their five children were executed by the Bolsheviks.

WIZARD OF ID



THE Daily Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

HI AND LOIS



GASOLINE ALLEY



SNUFFY SMITH



BEEBLE BAILY



BIG SPRING HERALD

Big Spring Herald advertisement with contact information and office hours.

In 1935, the first parking meters were installed, in Oklahoma City. In 1957, Marine Maj. John Glenn set a transcontinental speed record when he flew a jet from California to New York in 3 hours, 23 minutes and 8 seconds.

In 1964, in accepting the Republican presidential nomination in San Francisco, Barry M. Goldwater said "extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice" and that "moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

In 1973, during the Senate Watergate hearings, former White House aide Alexander P. Butterfield publicly revealed the existence of President Nixon's secret taping system. In 1979, Saddam Hussein became president of Iraq. In 1980, Ronald Reagan won the Republican presidential nomination at the party's convention in Detroit.

Ten years ago: Former White House political director Lyn Nofziger was charged with violating federal ethics laws in a six-count indictment. Her convictions on three counts of illegally lobbying White House officials were overturned by a federal appeals court.

Five years ago: Bill Clinton delivered his acceptance speech a day after winning the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in New York City. To the dismay and anger of supporters, Ross Perot announced he would not run for president. He later changed his mind. One year ago: President Clinton told the National Governors Association he was granting states new powers to deny benefits to recipients who refuse to move from welfare to work.

Vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page for various products and services.