news roundup

World
Andropov dies; Chernenko chosen as successor — Konstantin U. Chernenko, who narrowly lost the appointment as President of the Soviet Union and head of its Communist Party to Yuri V. Andropov in 1982 was chosen as Andropov's successor by the Central Party. Andropov died Thursday following an illness that had kept him out of public eye for over five months of his fifteen-month tenure.

Lebanon may cancel security agreement — Syrian officials warned Saturday that Lebanese President Amin Gemayel may find it politically expedient to cancel the security pact Lebanon signed with Israel last May, calling it "the only way he can survive.

US evacuates civilians from Beirut — United States helicopter forces last weekend removed 884 civilians and dependents, mostly American citizens, from Beirut to Cyprus. Syria and the Soviet Union have conditionally agreed to accept a United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon while US, French and Italian forces are being evacuated from Syria as planned.

Nation
Democratic candidates criticize Reagan in Iowa debate — In the second nationally-television debate of the 1984 presidential campaign, the eight major Democratic contenders were unanimous in their condemnation of President Ronald W. Reagan's policies. Sen. John H. Glenn, D-Ohio, called Reagan's Lebanon actions "morally bankrupt," declaring Reagan had led the US into "an undeclared war with an unknown enemy.

Space shuttle makes perfect landing — The eight-day mission of the space shuttle Challenger ended Saturday with a flawless touchdown at Cape Canaveral, Fla. This marks the first time a space shuttle has landed at the same base from which it was launched. The crew also performed the first completely unfettered space walk outside a spacecraft.

Government to offer legal status to Cuban aliens — Over 100,000 Cubans who sailed to the United States from Cuba since the revolution of Fidel Castro have conditionally agreed to accept a United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon while US, French and Italian forces are being evacuated from Syria as planned.

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Local
Massachusetts Democrats hold caucus — Democrats across Massachusetts gathered Saturday to choose candidates for the party's state convention June 9 in Worcester. Preliminary analyses of the caucuses indicate the competition for US Senate Paul Tsongas's seat will be keen, with US Representatives Edward J. Markey and James M. Shannon, Lieutenant Governor John F. Kerry and former House Speaker David M. Bates, now a schoolteacher, making strong showings.

Alleged meter thief given no quarter — Boston Traffic and Parking Department officers arrested Paul W. Polinchak Sunday for breaking into parking meters. He allegedly fashioned a pass key from a small silver spoon. Department officials first became suspicious when meter receipts from a section of Back Bay dropped from $1700 to $180 on consecutive weekends. Polinchak reportedly had 456 quarters on his person at the time of the arrest.

Sports
US figure skaters win silver medal — Kitty and Peter Carruthers, a brother-and-sister team from Wakefield, Massachusetts 10193, won a silver medal in the Olympic pairs figure skating competition yesterday at Sarajevo. This is the first medal won by American athletes in this year's Olympics.

Weather
Warm and wet Valentine — Clouds and drizzle with highs 48-52. Rain, heavy at times, beginning in the evening and continuing into tomorrow. High Wednesday will be between 50 and 54.

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