World

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Here

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House panel questions $109.7 million billed by Pentagon contractors

The House Armed Services Committee said yesterday that auditors had found inexcusable bills in audits of one-year billing periods by seven large defense contractors. The billings included $10,713 to cover operating losses of an executive barber shop, and $929 for a golf outing.

Natural gas explosion in Kentucky kills five

A natural gas line explosion in the small community of Benton killed five and seriously injured three. The explosion ignited fires visible for 20 miles and left a crater 100 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 20 feet deep.

Challenger starts seven-day scientific mission

The space shuttle Challenger and its seven man crew were launched on a new mission today, only nine days after the shuttle Discovery ended its seven-day mission. Shuttle activities are going well, despite traditional toilet troubles and potatoes by animal rights groups over the fate of 24 rats that are to be killed, and autopsies performed, after the flight.

Local

Rain twists BU plans

BU's Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity sponsored an attempt to break the record for the world's largest twister game. That record, set at the University of California at Galeta, is 1297.7 meters across.

Massachusetts to have $171.8 million surplus

Five months ago the Dukakis administration estimated a surplus of $229 million by July. The forecast has since been raised three times. What will be done with the money, as well as just how much there is, is expected to be a subject of debate when the House begins to consider the 1986 budget next week.

Sports

Yankees fire Yogi Berra; Billy Martin back — Here we go again... George Steinbrener fired Yogi Berra after the Yankee White Sox. With the loss the club's record reached 10 losses in 16 games. Back for the third time in the not-so-secure job is Billy Martin.

Flyers defeat Islanders — The Islanders beat the Flyers over the weekend after falling behind three times, something that is as common as a blue moon. But yesterday Philadelphia won their fourth game of the seven game NHL playoff series, 1-0.

Nets defeat Pirates — On Sunday the New York Mets, in their longest game since 1980, beat the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 18th inning, 5-4. The win brings their record to 11-6. Darryl Strawberry contributed with a grand slam in the first inning.

Celtics defeat Pistons — The Boston Celtics destroyed the Detroit Pistons, 133-99. Sunday, Robert Smith led all scorers with 27 points and 16 rebounds. The teams will meet again Tuesday for the second game of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Weather

A nice day in the making — Today will be sunny with highs near 70-74. Temperatures will drop to 46-50 tonight, but it should remain clear and dry through the end of the week. Tomorrow's highs will be even higher than today's; 76-80.

Sam Osofsky

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