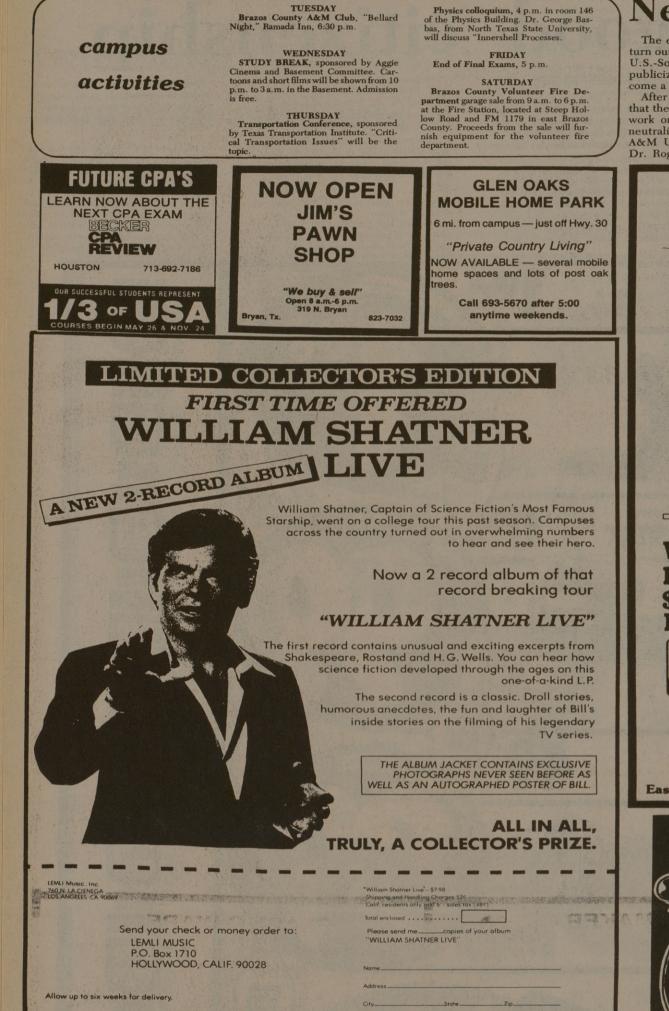
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## New Russian weapon threatens arms race

publicized ion-beam weapons become a reality.

After last week's announcement that the U.S. and Russia are hard at work on energy-beam weapons to neutralize nuclear missiles, Texas A&M University military historian Dr. Roger Beaumont said that the

The era since World War II may turn out to be the "golden years" of U.S.-Soviet relations if the newly development might make future generations look back nostalgically at the "relative stability of the thermonuclear age." The reason is that such a beam could end the nuclear deterrent, the core of the U.S.-Soviet strategic balance since 1950. Foreseeing the development of such weapons almost a decade ago, Beaumont wrote in a 1969 "Military Review" that while the Soviets had

improved on a WW II military in shielded their population from terms of manpower and design, Western military planners moved away from large manpower organizations-assuming that the Red Army was negated by the bomb

Looking at current developments, Beaumont said the major powers might resort to "superarmies, fleets and air armadas of Sec-ond World War proportions."

Such massive concentrations of men and machines, if they clash," Beaumont said, "could lay half a world in waste with conventional weapons, leaving survivors in chains or perpetually armed as nervous

The jargon of nuclear theoretics leaked into the language and nuclear fear became big box office in the West, battering the sensitized public with the fear of the bomb and reinforcing the image of perpetual thermonuclear stalemate," Beaumont said

"Yet all the while," he continued, "the Soviets maintained their large conventional ground, submarine and air forces, undertook a surface fleet construction program and allocated what was regarded by some as proportionally small nuclear delivery and defense forces. And, they said.

clear confrontation.' Beaumont said that a bom world would give dispropo power to the Soviet Union

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Europe and to China in Asia. "If tensions should produce a sort to military strength, the Na countries would be in a tight sp. because since 1945 they have lied, in general, on elitism. This cludes submariners, aviators, or mandos and special forces as well the Strategic Air Command and a

lege of The borne and airmobile forces." the Sta f the He added that many of the NAT standin countries' armed forces have b ognitio extra-c come all-volunteer with weak is serves and several are unionized pient 'The end of the bomb's roles grade I Decen slaughterer of civilians would be

step forward in the sense of rema step forward in the sense of remaining the mortgage from million people's lives," he said. "But is world would once again being the big battalions and the master the darker side of technology, m as chemical-biological warfare.

'The resulting instability in b balance of power might create and talgia for the relative stability of thermonuclear age," Beaum

## Government tells firms to prepar ment of for possible gas-to-coal switch

United Press International WASHINGTON — The Federal Energy Administration has notified 56 heating fuel users in 25 states ranging from giants of the chemical business to a college — that they may be forced to switch from oil or natural gas to coal.

The notices launched the FEA's first effort to make industrial heat-ing plants, rather than electrical power generating plants, switch

An FEA spokesman said yesterday that his agency plans public hearings on its new proposal in seven cities this month before its power to order fuel conversions expires June 30.

Based on information from those hearings and other sources, orders to some or all of the plants could be issued by early summer. FEA chief John O'Leary said the

industrial conversion drive "marks

lion barrels a year and save 23. Forcing the 32 plants now drawing board to burn nothin coal would save an additional 2 lion barrels of oil a year and inc coal demand by 5.3 million to year, the analysts calculated. The 32 installations range f



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DOS EQUÍS The uncommon import with two X's for a name. another significant step in the h ident's program to reduce des dence on oil and natural gas ad increase the use of coal, our m abundant energy resource." Earlier FEA notices were se 105 existing electrical powerph at 50 sites and to 143 planned po plants at 97 sites. Federal officials have said mo

conversions will be carried they degrade the environm Local officials where power are located, however, have doubt the environmental goal

be obtained. The FEA orders Monday cov 24 industrial plants in 17 states already are in operation an other plants in 17 states that now in the early planning stag Agency analysts said the 24 e

ing plants - mostly pape chemical company complexes can be converted to coal heat total \$276.8 million.

They estimated the con They estimated the conven-would reduce plant fuel costs \$ million a year, produce \$1.7 m a year in operating cost saving. U.S. oil consumption by 12.3 lion cubic feet of natural gas aya Coal demand would be increa 4 million tons a year, they sad

refineries to the Dartmouth Co heating plant in New Hampsh



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