THE BATTALION

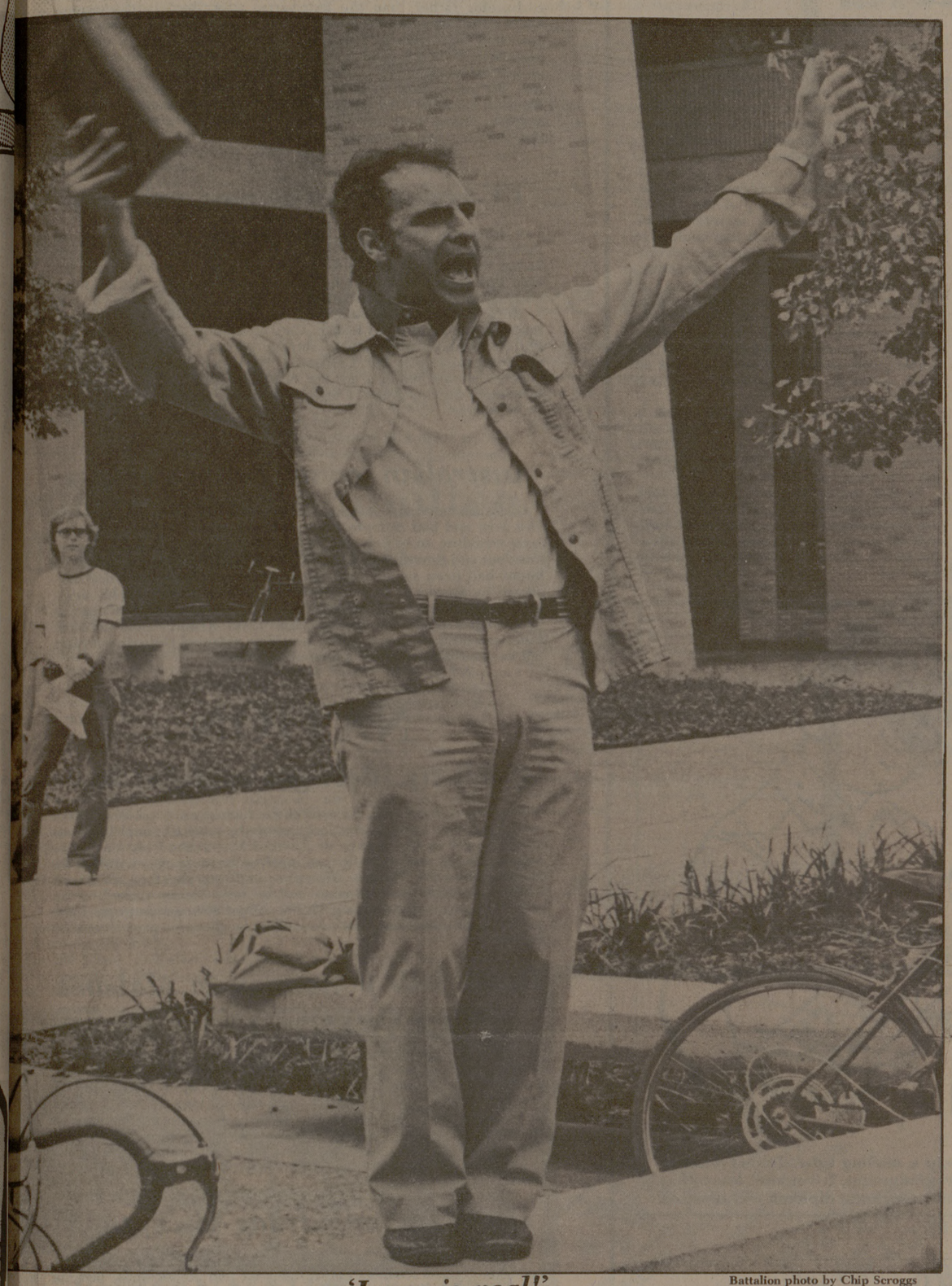
Vol. 72 No. 149
20 Pages in 2 Sections

Thursday, May 3, 1979
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611

Nearly unique

Effie Harrison, 82, practices a disappearing art: midwifery. As midwives disappear, the poor are turning to much more expensive hospital deliveries of babies. **See page 10.**



Battalion photo by Chip Scroggs

'Jesus is real!'

Jim McCotter, a national campus lecturer from Ames, Iowa, takes to the open air to present his ideas about Jesus Christ to Texas A&M University students outside of M.T. Harrington Education Center Wednesday. He is one of the original founders of *Today's Student*, a weekly newspaper distributed on the Texas A&M campus. McCotter will be speaking again tonight in room 601 Rudder.

Nuclear workers' risk of cancer high

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Naturally caused radiation accounts for most of the exposure Americans receive, but a National Academy of Sciences committee said Wednesday 30,000 nuclear power plant workers receive six to eight times the natural dose annually.

Cancer and birth defects are the main adverse effects from radiation exposure. But the panel's long-awaited report on the effects of low-level radiation said not enough is known to determine whether low doses are detrimental.

The average annual natural radiation dose is about 100 millirems per year, or about the equivalent of three chest X-rays. By comparison, the theoretical maximum dose a person standing outside the gate around the clock would have received from the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident was slightly less than 100 millirems.

Nuclear power industry workers receive the highest doses of any Americans on a regular basis — ranging from 600 to 800 millirem a year.

The panel, called the Committee on Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation, said it was clear that women and children are more susceptible to radiation-induced cancer than men.

Although leukemia stands out because it is relatively rare, cancers of the breast, thyroid and lung are the dominant forms of malignancies caused by radiation, it said.

The committee calculated the increased risk of developing cancer from a lifetime exposure beginning at birth of 1 rem annually — about 10 times the annual exposure from natural background radiation — is somewhere between 8.4 to 32.6 percent for females and 5.2 to 17.9 percent for males.

The corresponding estimates for increased risk of fatal cancers is 16.9 percent for women and 2.7 percent for males, the committee said.

The panel said background radiation from radioactive materials in the earth and rays from space vary greatly by location in the United States.

People living in the Atlantic and Gulf coastal plain areas receive the least exposure from natural radiation and those living in the Colorado plateau area the most, due to variations in radioactive materials in the ground.

"Although mankind has produced many sources of radiation, natural background remains the greatest contributor to the radiation exposure of the U.S. population today," the report said.

The greatest man-made contributor to radiation exposure comes from the medical use of X-rays, the report said. X-rays result in an average dose rate of about 100 millirems annually.

The report estimated that 200,000 Americans who operate medical X-ray equipment receive an average dose rate of 300 to 350 millirems a year. It said an approximately equal number of people who operate dental X-ray equipment receive a dose of about 50 to 125 millirems a year.

The 35,000 people exposed occupationally to naval nuclear reactors receive an average of 130 to 330 millirems a year.

The report said 100,000 people who work in national laboratories or for Energy Department contractors receive doses similar to the naval workers.

The committee, updating a report initially issued in 1972, cautioned its risk estimates were based on incomplete data and "may well change as new information becomes available."

Saudis study special police courses here

By LEIGH McLEROY
Battalion Reporter

Believe it or not, there are Aggies who aren't studying for finals this week, and won't next week either. They're not seniors, and their GPR's are not past the point of no return.

Before you get too envious, consider this: their "semester" is 22 months long, they attend class an average of six hours a day and it is almost impossible for them to get lost in the crowd and skip a class now and then.

Forty-nine Saudi Arabian students have been attending special police and traffic control courses here since April 1, through the International Training Division of the Engineering Extension Service.

The students are split into groups and take classes in areas such as terminology and transportation. When they complete the program they should be competent in most areas of road and traffic control.

Dr. Fred Koestler, head of the training division, said the Arabs were chosen for the program on the basis of tests administered by their own government, and that they will return to their homes in about a year and a half to teach what they have learned here.

The costs for students enrolled in the program is absorbed by Saudi Arabia, including a stipend for food and housing costs.

The Arabs live in various apartment complexes in the Bryan-College Station area.

Koestler hopes this first class of foreign students training under the department's 35-year-old law enforcement division will not be the last. "We hope to establish similiar programs in the future with other OPEC nations," he said.

He added, however, that this class was not a "test" group, with future arrangements depending on its success. "Those others we are trying to solicit will come about because of the well established program that we have here, not because we are 'experimenting' on the Saudi Arabians."

Koestler did recognize the importance of this initial class, though. "We have to act cautiously, of course, because this is an enormous undertaking. It's not just a short-term program, so we are acting as cautiously as possible, making sure that everything that is provided to the students is correct."

To help insure this, the Arabians studied English for six months in Chicago before coming to Texas A&M to begin their schooling.

Their transportation needs are taken care of by the extension service which has special buses to pick the students up, bring them to campus and take them back home again when they are through with classes for the day.

Koestler said he feels the Saudi Arabians are getting expert instruction. "They have a very favorable impression of both Bryan-College Station and Texas A&M," he said.

He hopes, however, that the University will come away with more than tuition payments from a foreign country. "We hope that it will cement a very long-lasting relationship with the government of Saudi Arabia as well as other governments."

Senate OKs change of Q-drop period

By MERIL EDWARDS
Battalion Staff

In its last meeting of the semester, the exas A&M University student senate assed an honors revision resolution Wedesday with two divisions for distinguishg students.

The first division is the "President's lonor Roll," which will consist of underraduates who complete a minimum of 15 ours while posting at least a 3.5 grade oint ratio with no grade less than "C".

The second division is the 'Dean's Honor oll" which will include undergraduates ho complete a minimum of 15 hours while osting a 3.25 to 3.49 grade point ratio with o grade less than "C."

If the academic council approves the seate's honors resolution, the system will go to effect in the fall.

In other action, the senate passed a resotion to adopt a University-wide policy hat a student may drop a class as late as the 2th class day of the semester without recd and up to the 25th class day with no striction as to the student's status in the ass. A symbol of "Q" will be given to dicate a drop without penalty, and the umber of permissible Q-drops will not be mited.

Present policy allows a student to Q-drop class up to five class days after midmester grades are posted.

The senate also passed a recommendaon submitted by the Residence Hall Asociation and Student Government Visitaon Committee to extend visitation hours Texas A&M residence halls.

The proposal called for hours to begin as rly as 10 a.m. on weekdays and end as te as 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday. would also allow 24-hour visitation on eekends starting at 10 a.m. Friday and nding at 11 p.m. Sunday.

The other bill passed was the financial aid practices investigation act which sets up an ad hoc committee to investigate the Texas A&M financial aids program.

Brad Smith, vice president for student services, said the committee will start next fall looking into the quality of information received on aid recipients, the availability of that information, the quality of counseling and the quality of administrative services.

Smith reported that his committee is checking into the possiblity of a campus escort service. He said they looked at the escort service at the University of Texas at Austin.

"We're going to try to work out the details this summer," Smith said. "The service would begin around 8 p.m. each evening. We're hoping to get vans that would carry about 12 passengers, and run two routes."

During the open session, John Calhoun, vice president for academic affairs, gave senators a hand-out on a new suggested grading system. He said the system was worked up by J. A. McIntyre, a Texas A&M physics professor.

Calhoun received mainly negative feedback from the senators. He admitted the system needed some more work, and said he would be in touch with McIntyre over the summer.

In other business, newly elected speaker of the senate Robert Van Winkle appointed Becky Haynes as the new recording secretary.

Student body president Ronnie Kapavik also made appointments. The senate approved these students appointments by Kapavik to student government positions: William Altman, judicial board chairman; Jerry Fox, comptroller; Cheri Leavitt, director of information; Debbie Walker, executive vice president and Danny Weinbaum, refrigerator manager.

Grad designs 'powerless' hospital

By DIANE BLAKE
Battalion Staff

Your mission, should you decide to accept it, will be to design a functional medical clinic to be built in an area with no electricity for lighting or ventilation. You will make two trips to the area — a jungle infested with sand flies and malarial mosquitoes — and will spend 200 hours in three weeks slaving over a model of the clinic. And you will do it for free.

Curtis Haynes, a grad student in architecture, accepted this assignment last semester as part of his master's thesis. The clinic he designed will be built in Las Cruces in the jungles of northern Guatemala.

Haynes has been working since October on the project funded by Health Talents International, a medical missionary organization based in Birmingham, Ala. and affiliated with the Church of Christ.

Though the research grant covers all Haynes' expenses, including travel, the grad student from Baton Rouge is laboring por gratis because he has another job on campus. He teaches in the building construction department.

George J. Mann, associate professor of environmental design, said this project was different from most that students work on because it's the real thing, not just a hypothetical problem. "It gives Curtis a chance to rub shoulders with medical people like he would in a job," Mann said.

The clinic, designed to handle 150 patients per day, will have a health education section, a labor and delivery room, a dental lab and a large laboratory. The location is so isolated that a large inventory must be kept, hence the big lab.

The facility will house three medical doctors, two dentists and six nurses in addition to administration personnel and lab technicians. The clinic will also provide some jobs for the people in the area.

In overcoming the architectural problems caused by lack of electricity, Haynes used operable jalousie windows — glass louvers opened with cranks — to provide natural ventilation and lighting. He also had to take into consideration the area's culture in the design.

"The idea is to reflect the architecture of the area," Haynes said. "You can't put a stainless steel building in the jungle. The people wouldn't come.

"That's why this building here has the pointy roof," he said. The waiting area is a hut with a cone-shaped thatched roof so local people can identify with the building, Haynes said. The clinic will be built with locally available masonry and wood.

Construction's due to begin in early 1980, after the rainy season ends. Site work has already started, Haynes said. Progress will be slow, though, because materials must be brought from Guatemala City, a 20-hour drive away.

A Guatemala building company will do the work.

The architecture student said there hasn't been much construction in the area yet. But five years ago only 500 people lived in Las Cruces. Now there's 10,000.

The migrants are mostly Indians from the mountains looking for more land and fleeing the earthquakes of the southern part of the country, Haynes said.

The research group funding the project is a non-profit organization with three purposes: medicine, evangelism and training for both medical students and local residents.

The medical services will not be free: the people will have to pay for what they can afford, Haynes said.

Battalion photo by Clay Cockrill

Curtis Haynes, a graduate architecture student, proudly displays the hospital model he designed for a remote area of Guatemala which has no access to electricity. The hospital will have natural lighting and ventilation. Haynes designed it as part of his master's thesis.