

nation

Three Mile residents show stress symptoms

United Press International
HARRISBURG, Pa. — Over 10 percent of the residents near Three Mile Island experienced abdominal pains, rashes, insomnia, irritability and other stress symptoms after the plant's nuclear accident, a new study reports.

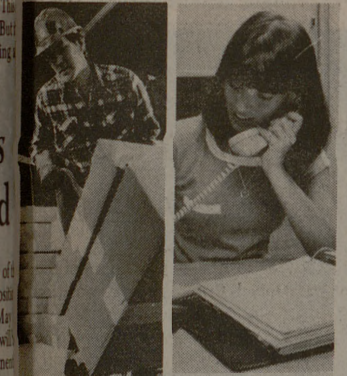
The stress symptoms have per-

Board states credit uses

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve Board, the nation's chief money manager, Wednesday re-

vised the credit controls established in March to curb America's credit-hungry consumers. The board said its credit controls will apply not only to open-ended credit, but also to open accounts. Open-end accounts allow a consumer to pay off his balance in installments. Under an open account, the consumer may make new purchases and obtain new credit advances, but is expected to pay the full amount of his bill when it arrives.

The board said its controls do take precedence over all other limitations, such as those set by the Department of Energy to govern oil company credit cards.



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sisted in some cases for almost a year since the March 28, 1979 accident and the situation has become "chronically disturbing" for many residents, said a Pennsylvania Health Department study released Wednesday.

The findings — taken from interviews with some 2,200 people living within 55 miles of the plant — also showed local citizens relied more heavily on sleeping pills, liquor and cigarettes to ease the tension during the weeklong nuclear crisis.

A 112.5 percent increase in the use of sleeping pills was reported during the crisis, while drinkers said they drank 31.9 percent more alcohol and smokers smoked 13.6 percent more cigarettes.

Immediately after the accident — and continuing at least until January 1980 — over 10 percent of the local population experienced such physical stress symptoms as headaches, diarrhea, constipation, abdominal pains, sweating spells, stomach trouble, frequent urination and rashes, the study reported.

The study also found similar numbers in the population experiencing behavioral stress symptoms, such as loss of appetite, insomnia, shaky feelings, lack of clarity in thought, irritability or extreme anger.

In addition, the report said various incidents at Three Mile Island since the 1979 mishap — including the continuing release of low-level radiation and the well-publicized debate over the plant's future — has made the situation "chronically disturbing" for many people.

Between 50-60 percent of the people living within a 10-mile radius of the plant indicated they opposed the proposed reopening of Three Mile Island.

The Health Department's findings indicated stress diminished among citizens further away from the stricken plant.

Nearly 30 percent of those within the 10-mile radius reported being "quite upset" following the accident — compared to 10-20 percent within 15 miles.

Oil profits rise while others fall

United Press International
WASHINGTON — While oil company profits are increasing by record amounts, those of most other industries are falling.

The Commerce Department reported Tuesday that corporate profits overall, based on current production, fell at an annual rate of \$4.4 billion during the fourth quarter of 1979, October-December.

This was a substantially larger drop than the \$1.2 billion decline the department had estimated earlier.

During the quarter, oil company profits increased at an annual rate of \$6.5 billion, the report said, the biggest dollar increase ever.

In most other industries, profits either declined or stood still. On a percentage basis, oil company profits rose 30 percent in the fourth quarter alone and were 65 percent higher in 1979 as a whole

than the year before. Overall corporate profits rose only 8 percent during the year.

Government and private economists said soaring energy costs and interest rates are squeezing the profits of most industries in the same way they are cutting into the real income of individual Americans.

Rising oil prices, caused both by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and the beginning of domestic decontrol, account for a quarter of recent U.S. price inflation.

Analysts said, therefore, it is not surprising oil companies benefited while other profits are squeezed.

The Council on Wage and Price Stability reported in February most of the increase in oil company profits prior to October had come from their overseas operations.

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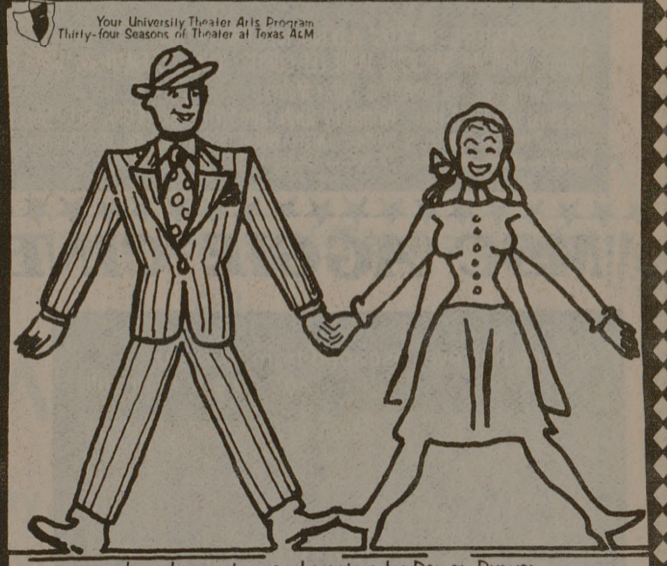
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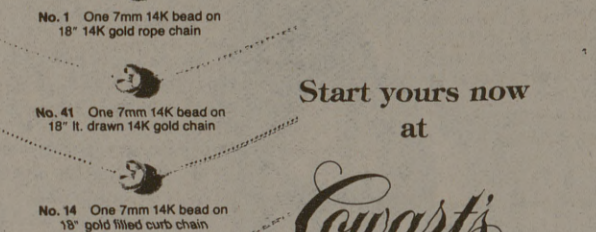
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