

Three Mile Island vents krypton

MIDDLETOWN, Pa. — Monitors around Three Mile Island detected krypton-85 in the environment after the radioactive gas was deliberately vented from the crippled nuclear power plant last weekend, the Environmental Protection Agency said Monday.

EPA analyst Frank Grossman said the levels were so small they pose no threat to public health.

"It's nothing significant," Grossman said.

Engineers for plant operator Metropolitan Edison Co. eliminated a bug in the radiation monitoring system and continued releases Monday, at a rate of 2,000-4,000 curies of krypton-85 per day.

Four minutes into Saturday's venting, the plant's radiation monitors (designed to detect abnormal releases of radioactive dust particles, like cesium and cobalt) falsely set off the alarm and halted venting.

Hundreds of people fled their homes during the weekend, but Gov. Dick Thornburgh toured the plant's control room nerve center Sunday and said area residents had no cause for worry.

"I advised all residents of the area to do what I intend to do — and that's go about my daily business," Thornburgh said.

Harold Denton, chief of reactor operations for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, called Three Mile Island — site of the worst nuclear accident in U.S. history on March 28, 1979 — "a star-crossed plant."

A total of 1,240 curies of the 57,000 curies of the gas that became trapped inside the nuclear reactor containment building during the 1979 accident were vented over the weekend, Met-Ed said.

The EPA said the most krypton gas its monitors detected in the environment was 0.14 curies — at the Met-Ed company gate almost a mile away from the 160-foot venting chimney — a level the EPA said was one-hundredth of the level allowed by federal health standards.

Three of EPA's five krypton monitoring stations registered no radioactivity, Grossman said.

Engineers hoped to maintain their original daily venting rate, which will take two weeks.

what's up at A&M

TUESDAY

JOHN ANDERSON ELECTION COMMITTEE: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 350 MSC.

MSC DINNER THEATRE: Auditions for "Who's on First," the dinner theater production for next summer session, will be held in 137 MSC at 7 p.m.

THE GROVE: Will present "Casablanca" at 8:45 p.m. Admission is 25¢ with an A&M I.D.

WEDNESDAY

THE GROVE: Will present "Kelly's Heroes" at 8:45 p.m. Admission is 25¢ with an A&M I.D.

FRIDAY

FACULTY/STAFF/STUDENT HOLIDAY

HILLEL CLUB: Services at 8 p.m. at 2208 Quail Hollow Drive, Bryan.

PICNIC AT THE POOL: MSC and the Intramurals Department present a day of entertainment at Wofford Cain Pool, beginning at noon and going until dark. "Picnic at the Pool" is free for all holders of pool passes and for students and their families. Admission for guests will be \$1 and 50¢ for children.

MONDAY

INTRAMURAL DEPARTMENT: Entries for second summer session open today.

Willie's picnic heats up

AUSTIN — Willie Nelson's annual Fourth of July picnic was on as scheduled Friday despite scorching heat wave that has hit the state into an oven, press said Monday.

"The picnic is still on. Even there is some rumor about it being called off. We've been getting a number of calls from radio stations in Houston and San Antonio and Texas," said Wallace Selman, coordinator for the annual outdoor picnic hosted by the popular singer.


Selman said the show will go on, however, and predicted attendance will total 30,000-40,000 despite weather predictions for about 100-degree plus temperatures.

Promoters said 20,000 people attended last year's picnic when it fell on a weekday.

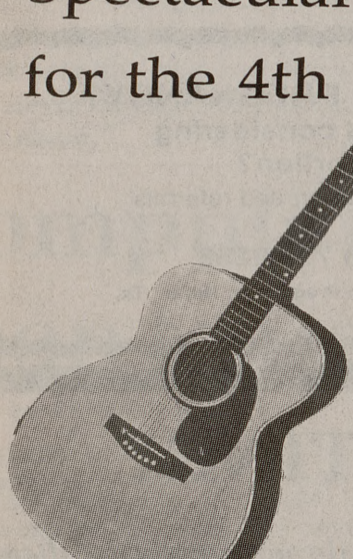
Selman said emergency medical services will be available for anyone overcome by the heat and that ambulances and helicopters will be hand for any serious problems.

"We'll have ample equipment facilities for anyone who gets a stroke," he said.

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The band gets its news from the Batt.

State move called 'vindictive'

Execution stay challenged

ATLANTA — Attorneys for Georgia, in an admittedly unusual move, turned to the Supreme Court Monday to vacate a stay of execution and allow the state to send convicted murderer Jack Potts to the electric chair today.

Attorneys for Potts, who remained in a "deathwatch" cell only yards from the execution chamber Sunday night, have called the state's appearance before the Supreme Court "unusual and vindictive."

State Attorney General Arthur Bolton said normally his office would "terminate any appellate procedures under such circumstances pending argument before the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals" in New Orleans.

However, because Potts has twice asked his execution be carried out so he could "die in peace" — and twice changed his mind — "my staff shall

immediately attempt to have the Supreme Court of the United States terminate the stay order in order that the judgment of execution may be carried out on schedule next Tuesday," Bolton said.

Ralph Goldberg, an attorney for Potts, said he thought the high court would rule in the condemned man's favor.

"I doubt the Supreme Court would be willing to disturb the status quo enough to kill someone," he said.

"I think Jackie Potts is in the appeal process for good now," said Joe Nursey, another attorney for Potts.

State Attorney Don Langham seemed to agree with Potts' two attorneys about the Supreme Court's disposition. "The appeal is being made, but I am not sure whether they will consider it."

This is the second time Potts has been freed and held for a time before the state attorney general has ordered his execution.

Late last year, he fired his lawyers and asked all appeals on his behalf be halted. But, on the eve of his scheduled execution June 3, he changed his mind and filed an appeal, winning a stay from District Judge William O'Kelley within hours.

Two days later, Potts wrote O'Kelley and said he wanted to die. The group — which included Potts, his attorney and a friend — changed his mind and requested that O'Kelley's court order be rescinded.

Saturday a three-judge panel in New Orleans overruled O'Kelley's stay and Potts was executed within 2 1/2 hours.

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Adkins sees 'miracle' presidential bid

DALLAS — A presidential candidate who is the only member of his party says God has promised him a victory in the November election, despite laws in 15 states that prohibit write-ins.

Gordon Adkins criticized Texas and the other non-write-in states violating U.S. Supreme Court rulings he said require election officials to provide for write-ins.

"It's been ruled unconstitutional in every case not to have write-in privileges," Adkins said Sunday. "The courts have declared the laws unconstitutional."

In many states the advent of voting machines to replace paper ballots made writing in candidates and their votes tallied logistically difficult. In some precincts write-in are not even counted until days after the election — usually well after the candidate has been declared a winner.

Adkins said he viewed the election between President Carter, Ronald Reagan and John Anderson as a race at all, citing polls that show Americans would like additional choices.

In a news conference last week in Austin he said it would take a miracle for him to get elected, but he thought he would get one.

"He has told me He will deliver me the popular vote of the American people, and He will bring about something in the way of a miracle say the least," Adkins said.

He said states whose governments refuse to allow write-ins are refusing to give voters the right to vote for whom they prefer.

"There are 35 states that do allow write-ins and there are enough elector college votes in those states to elect me," he said, naming New York and California as major states whose write-ins are accepted.

"But I think people in all states should at least have the opportunity to vote for someone not listed on a ballot."

Adkins, 43, said he is the only member of the People's Party who is not concerned about his lack of organization or broad financial support.

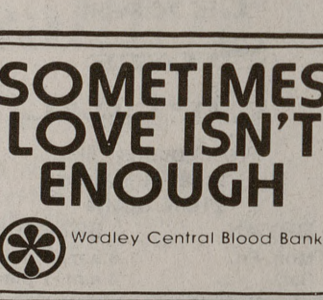
"Just recently I've seen my candidacy light a spark (in increased interest and financing) and I wake every day and work like mad to get that spark into a flame," he said.

Although in theory Adkins still has two weeks to come up with 40,000 petition names that would qualify him for the Texas ballot, he is actively soliciting signatures.

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