

THE BATTALION

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The Weather

Today	Tomorrow
High 97	High 97
Low 76	Low 75
Chance of rain 20%	Chance of rain 20%

Reactor closes after small leak

The Texas A&M nuclear reactor was shut down briefly Tuesday when a small amount of radioactive gas escaped inside the reactor building, said the director of Texas A&M's Nuclear Science Center.

Dr. John Randall said the shutdown occurred at 9:55 a.m. as part of the reactor's automatic emergency procedure when a leak is detected. The incident is not significant enough to require a report to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, he said.

There were no radiation exposures as a result of the incident and no radiation escaped from the facility. The reactor building was reopened by 1 p.m.

"About 10 one-millionth of a Curie escaped from an aluminum tube that was holding a sample being irradiated," Randall said. "That is about the amount of radiation in a wristwatch."

"We never want to see any radiation event Monday, but privately I'm glad to see this reactor nor incident happen because we are able to test our emergency procedure at 9:30 a.m. under actual conditions and found it work very well."

The one mega-watt reactor was built in 1960 and is located on University property in an isolated area about three miles from the campus. A standard nuclear power reactor is about 3,000 megawatts.

Ship back Thursday after search

Texas A&M's research vessel Gyre, trying what searchers hope are photographs of at least part of the wreck of the Titanic, is scheduled to arrive in Boston at 8 a.m. Thursday.

The 174-foot ship loaded with sophisticated underwater detection equipment left the North Atlantic Sunday after retrieving the cameras used to photograph "several hundred tons" of the Titanic resting on the bottom at about the site of the Titanic was believed to have gone down in 1912.

Adventurer Jack Grimm of Abilene attracted the oceanographic research vessel operated by Texas A&M University in his personal hunt for the Titanic. University officials connected with the ship said they were excited about the discovery of the debris two miles east and about 200 miles south of Newfoundland.

The Gyre will only be in Boston long enough to drop off Mr. Grimm and his crew and refuel the ship," said T.K. Caldwell Jr., oceanographer and chief instructor for the ship.

"The ship will leave immediately for Woods Hole, Mass. to pick up another group of scientists and then back out to sea to continue the scientific research at the Gyre is normally involved in."

Hearing in first conflict to be Friday

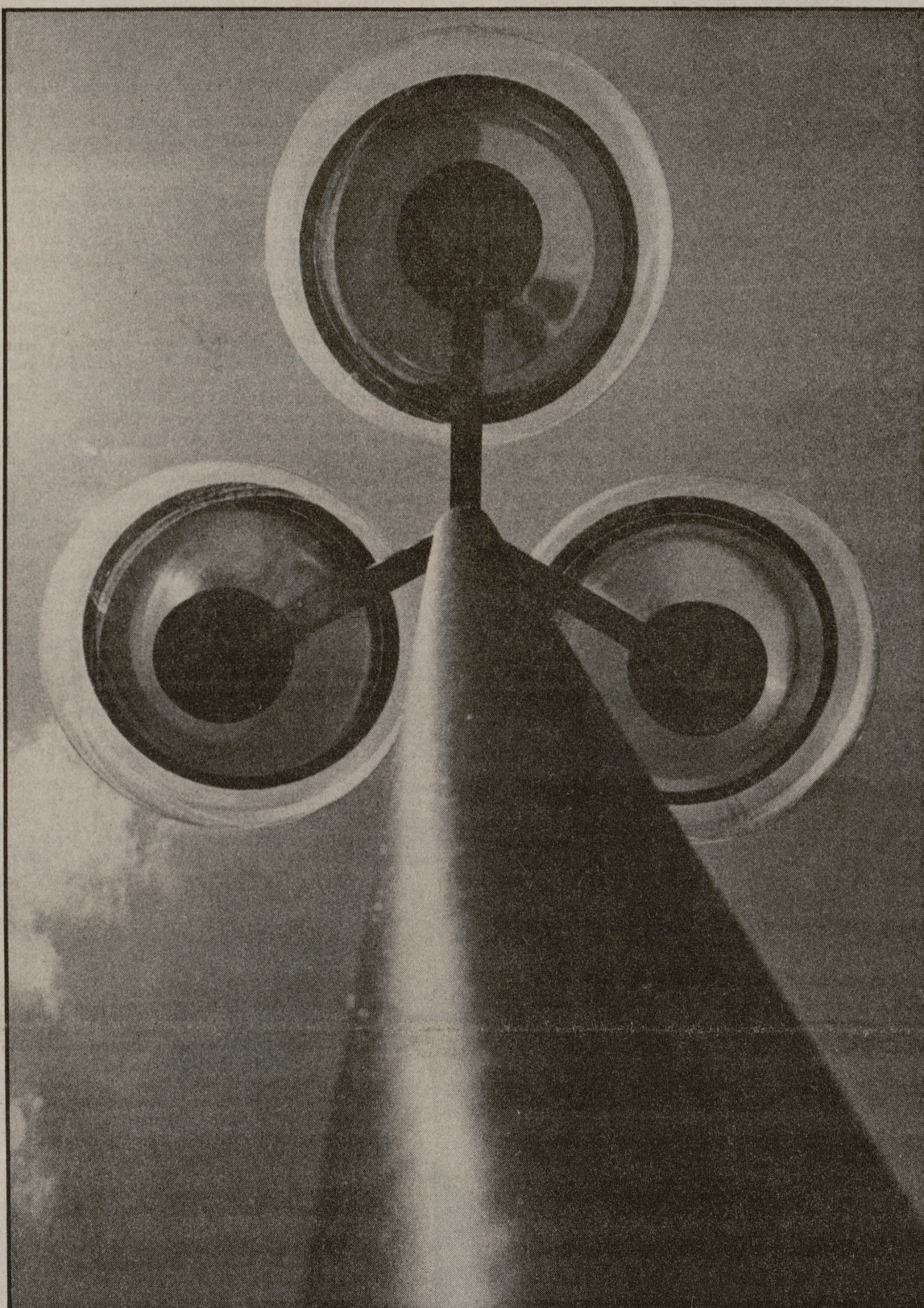
A hearing for the writ of mandamus sought by the Bryan-College Station Eagle to obtain the list of candidates for the Texas A&M University presidency has been set for 9 a.m. Friday in 85th District Court.

The Eagle applied for the writ when the University refused to release the list of candidates. Attorney General Mark White determined the list was a public record. Eagle Publisher John Williams said he believes the law is clearly on the newspaper's side in this case.

Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs James B. Bond said the University has agreed to release the information because it is feared some of the individuals named may bring invasion of privacy suits against the University if the names are made known to the public.

Williams said the Eagle will continue to seek the list of candidates even if a president is chosen before the dispute is settled in court.

Bond said if the court finds in favor of the Eagle, the University will appeal the decision.



Alien invader

Texas A&M University students beware! This three-eyed monster from a different, outer-space planet has landed. Although this photograph looks like a scene from a science fiction movie, this robot-like structure is actually only a wide-angle view of a light pole on Ross street.

Staff photo by Greg Gammon

California seeks court action against quarantined states

LOS GATOS, Calif. — California went to the nation's highest court to stop five Southern states from enforcing quarantines on its \$14 billion fruit and vegetable crop because of the Mediterranean fruit fly infestation.

Deputy California Attorney General Gregory Wilkinson asked the Supreme Court Tuesday for a restraining order against Texas, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina, which slapped quarantines on all California produce this week.

Chief Justice Warren Burger and

Justice Lewis Powell, in turn, asked the defendants and the U.S. Agriculture Department for responses to the suit by Friday.

Of the five states that imposed quarantines this week, only Texas and Florida have turned back truckloads of ripening California fruit. Texas lifted its roadblocks Tuesday on the orders of a federal judge, but Florida continued to turn back truckloads of pears, plums and peaches suspected of harboring the voracious fruit fly.

Gov. Jerry Brown Jr. emphasized Tuesday California's Medfly infestation had affected only three counties south of

San Francisco, where a massive air and ground war has been launched against the pest that destroys 200 varieties of fruits and vegetables.

"I'm confident Florida will back off either under pressure of the U.S. government and the Department of Agriculture, or the federal courts," Brown said.

But in Tallahassee, Fla., Gov. Bob Graham said the state would not lift its embargo on California fruits and vegetables without a court order. On Monday and Tuesday, Florida inspectors rejected 14 trucks from California.

GNP growth slows in 2nd quarter

WASHINGTON — The gross national product surged ahead during the first three months of this year, but tentative figures have led analysts to believe it shifted into idleness for April, May and June.

The Commerce Department was scheduled to release the official second-quarter GNP figures today at 9:30 a.m. EDT.

A recent unofficial preliminary measurement, known as the "flash" GNP, showed about a zero increase from April through June. That contrasts to a first quarter in which the GNP rose at an annual rate of 8.6 percent.

Late last year, most experts predicted no growth or a slight decline for the first three months of 1981, believing last year's recession would hold down the GNP for at least the first part of this year.

But if the "flash" GNP proves accurate, the projected slowdown has arrived.

Economists generally consider GNP growth above 4 percent to be enough to reduce unemployment. But the first-quarter growth of more than twice that rate left the unemployment rate unchanged at about 7.4 percent.

Last week, the Reagan administration projected the GNP would average about 2.5 percent this year.

That's less optimistic than the private forecasters. Chase Econometrics sees the year's GNP up 2.7 percent and Data Resources, Inc., projects a 2.9 percent expansion. Wharton sees 3.8 percent yearly expansion.

Supply-side oriented Claremont Economics, on which the administration has leaned for many of its calculations, is more pessimistic than the White House. It projects growth of just 2.1 percent.

But considering the first quarter's high growth, all the forecasters agree the second-quarter economy, as well as the rest of the year, will turn out to be nearly motionless.

Within the overall GNP figures are several other important economic benchmarks, including corporate profits and the pace of inflation throughout the economy.

After-tax corporate profits for the first quarter rose 2.3 percent, recovering to slightly above the level before the recession.

Prices, measured within the GNP figure, were up 9.8 percent at an annual rate for that first three-month period.

Postal contract may raise stamps to 20-cent level

WASHINGTON — The tentative contract between the Postal Service and two major unions would give 500,000 workers an estimated 10.5 percent pay hike but may expedite the arrival of a 20-cent, first-class stamp.

Rank-and-file members of the American Postal Workers Union and the National Association of Letter Carriers are being urged by their leaders to ratify the three-year pact reached Tuesday after a marathon negotiating session.

The proposed \$4.8 billion accord averted a threatened nationwide mail strike and had union leaders predicting a jubilant celebration.

"Letter carriers will be dancing down the highways and the byways," said Letter Carriers President Vincent Sombrotto.

"By 1984, everybody will have what they want," said Moe Biller, president of the Postal Workers Union.

The contract calls for raises and bonuses totaling \$2,100 over the three years, plus cost-of-living increases. Postal employees now average \$19,915 annually.

Postmaster General William F. Bolger said the pact's cost could be met with a 20-cent, first-class stamp rate. Earlier this year, the first-class rate rose from 15 to 18 cents.

Biller and Sombrotto initially announced a settlement at 4 a.m. EDT Tuesday. But a few hours later, after saying some terms had been switched, they retracted their statements and returned to the bargaining table.

The previous contract expired at midnight Monday, but despite the strike threat, the mail never stopped moving. Members were told by union leaders to "hang in, stand fast, wait again for our voices."

The word came down at 4 p.m. EDT, when Sombrotto, Biller and Bolger told a news conference at a Washington hotel a tentative agreement had been reached.

Sombrotto and Biller said the settlement was a good one and urged rank-and-file approval. They also gave Bolger credit for intervening and resolving last-minute deadlocks.

Bolger twice has asked the independent Postal Rate Commission for permission to raise the cost of a first-class stamp to 20 cents. The commission rejected both requests, but the Postal Service again is seeking such authority.

The postmaster general has warned without higher rates now, he may seek an increase to 23 cents by September 1982.

The tentative contract, to be approved within 45 days, includes a \$300 wage increase each year, plus a \$350 bonus. The first year also includes an additional \$150, bringing the first-year pay hike to \$800.

It also maintains cost-of-living increases without a limit — a hotly contested issue during the talks.

Under the contract, overtime would be restricted to not more than 50 hours a week mandatory and 10 hours a day for five days in a service week.

New valve may help heart researchers

A computerized model of a common heart valve disorder — mitral valve prolapse — has been developed by researchers at Texas A&M University to gain a better understanding of its causes.

The mitral valve allows passage of blood from the upper left chamber of the heart, the atrium, to the left ventricle and then closes to prevent blood from returning to the atrium. During prolapse, the valve suddenly balloons back into the atrium.

In extreme cases, the ballooning ruptures, allowing oxygen-rich blood that should be pumped to the rest of the body to flow back into the atrium.

Working under a grant from the U. S. Air Force, a team of researchers from the Texas Engineering Experiment Station has developed a mathematical model to simulate normal and irregular actions of the valve.

Dr. William Lively, a computer specialist who worked on the project, said the computer model can simulate millions of actions per second that normally might take hours to occur within the actual human heart. By developing a system of coordinates to track the positions of the leaflets of the valve in va-

rious phases of action, researchers can better define exactly when prolapse occurs.

"Numerous articles describing the phenomenon have been published in the past 15 years and recent advances in ultrasound (sonar-like) instrumentation have greatly aided in the detection of this condition," he said. "However, considerable controversy still remains regarding the causes, criteria for diagnosis and significance of mitral valve prolapse."

"Ultimately this model may improve our understanding of the multiple factors involved," Lively said.

Most information on the mitral valve must be obtained from autopsies and other clinical data. It is difficult to visualize minute changes in the valve with radiological techniques, Lively said, thus making the model an important tool.

"We can generate a graphic output that shows the various positions of the leaflets of the valve," Lively said. "With the computer, we can change various properties of the valve mechanism — such as stretching the leaflets or causing irregular contractions — to see if the changes do in fact cause prolapse."

Schools should cut programs, says Hubert

College and University administrators meeting at Texas A&M University have been challenged to trim the deadwood from their academic offerings and to be prepared to accept change.

Dr. Frank W.R. Hubert, chancellor of the Texas A&M System, urged participants in the 15th Annual Seminar on Academic Administration to scrutinize their institutions for courses and programs that are no longer valid.

"There is not an institution represented in this mixture that doesn't have some deadwood courses in its catalog," Hubert said.

The four-day seminar attracted about 30 top level higher education officials from throughout the state.

The chancellor also offered several suggestions on how administrators can

take charge in a new position or situation.

He urged new administrators to conduct a thorough reconnaissance of the "territory" covered by the position. He also encouraged the group to compile a detailed personnel file and to keep their faculty informed of what is going on in the department or college.

"Faculty and department heads can make decisions that are no better than the information they have to act upon," he said.

Also speaking at the seminar was Dr. Haskell M. Monroe, president of the University of Texas at El Paso.

Monroe warned administrators about resistance to change. "An administrator at any level has the opportunity to make changes and should never hesitate to do so," he said. "Nostalgia cannot substitute for progressive change."