

Hydrogen

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about 200 times more expensive than silicon. That's the point of our work."

Despite Bockris' modesty about the discovery, media reaction to the announcement was swift. Two separate press conferences had to be held Thursday to accommodate press representatives, who arrived from all over the world.

United Press International and the Associated Press had representatives on campus — as did Newsweek and the London Times.

ABC, CBS and NBC covered the story as well as television stations in Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth and Austin.

The University's Office of Public Information was in telephone contact with the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, the British Broadcasting Corp., Reuters, USA Today, Science Magazine,

Popular Science, the Australian News Service and radio stations from across the country.

The daily routine in the Chemistry Building laboratory, where the discovery was made, was disrupted as Szklarczyk and Contractor were besieged by reporters and photographers throughout the day.

Contractor jokingly told one reporter that he was going to give up research and go to Hollywood.

Contractor received his undergraduate and doctoral degrees from the Indian Institute of Technology and did post-doctoral work at Carleton University of Canada. He is married and has one child.

Szklarczyk received his doctorate from the University of Warsaw.

Bockris, 59, is a native of South Africa. He received his undergraduate degree from Brighton Technical College and his doctoral

degree from the British Imperial College of Science and Technology.

Bockris came to Texas A&M in 1978 as a professor of chemistry. He is the director of the University's Hydrogen Research Center.

He has taught and conducted research at various foreign universities, including the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa and the University of South Australia. He was the director of the Electrochemistry Laboratory of the University of Pennsylvania for 10 years.

He has been a leading advocate of hydrogen power for several years. In 1980, he wrote: "The most essential point is for people to realize there is an alternate to atomic power."

Bockris has been an American citizen since 1962.



staff photo by David Fisher

National coverage

NBC camera man Scott Berwer gets a shot of Dr. Marek Szklarczyk while audio technician Bob Alorahama gets the sound.

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Critics claim U.N. ineffective, impotent

United Press International
NEW YORK — The United Nations is anything but united. Its two main bodies — the General Assembly and the Security Council — are roundly disrespected and universally ignored.

Critics say the United Nations is nothing more than a carnival of slick jugglers and self-serving sideshow-men who come to New York City to eat in posh restaurants, illegally park their limousines and shamelessly chase tall blondes.

Its elite 15-member Security Council is characterized as an angry therapy group that meets periodically and succeeds only in exposing 15 rather ugly egos rather than settling international conflicts.

And after 37 years of negotiating, talking and resolution passing, world peace remains an unfound chalice buried somewhere under a desert waste of words.

U.N. defenders claim the world body is necessary because it keeps the would-be shooters talking instead of shooting; its detractors say the U.N. doesn't even know about the shooting until the Security Council finds itself knee-deep in spent rifle cartridges.

Even the person in charge of the 157-member world organi-

zation concedes the U.N. is impotent and ineffective.

In a frank year-end appraisal, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said the U.N. had failed to prevent or halt war.

"The Security Council, the primary organ of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security, all too often finds itself unable to take decisive action to resolve international conflicts, and resolutions are increasingly defied or ignored by those that feel themselves strong enough to do so," said Perez de Cuellar.

"Too frequently, the Council seems powerless to generate the support and influence to ensure that its decisions are respected, even when these are taken unanimously."

International brush-fire wars could erupt anywhere, Perez de Cuellar said.

"We are perilously near to a new international anarchy."

Critic Juliana Geron Pilon of the Heritage Foundation in Washington says the U.N. does the opposite of what its charter advocates by politicizing issues rather than solving them.

"The United Nations has done practically nothing. It has done very little in the area of peace keeping and for that matter in other areas as well," she said.

"Even in human rights it has promoted a double standard. The U.N. has been a failure even according to some of its supporters."

She advocates selective funding of U.N. programs and that the United States should fund programs "contrary to interests like UNESCO."

She has little hope that the U.N. will change and become an effective peace-keeping body.

"I won't call the illness afflicting the U.N. a cancer, but it is a very serious illness which indeed not be curable," she said.

During the Falkland Islands crisis, U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Jeane Kirkpatrick said the U.S. was "impotent" and "amateurish" in its dealings with the U.N. and saw a bleak future for the U.S. at the United Nations.

Former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Daniel P. Moynihan went even further in his criticism and railed against what he called the George Orwell 1984 state of the General Assembly.

In a speech at the U.N., he decried the sham that he characterized U.N. deliberations.

"The General Assembly is coming the Theater of the Absurd. We pretend seriousness to an audience that by no means understands that is all pretense," Moynihan said.

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