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MX is defeated but not yet dead

United Press International
Washington — The House dealt President Reagan the biggest setback to date on his drive to re-arm America when it voted against the MX missile, but both sides say the weapons system is not yet dead.

They also agree the Pentagon must now try to erase the deep concerns that produced Tuesday's 245-176 vote to delete nearly \$1 billion in MX production funds from a \$231.6 bil-

lion defense appropriation bill. Opposition primarily focused on the dense-pack basing mode, in which the missiles would be placed in underground silos in Wyoming, as well as the price tag — \$26 billion.

Reagan immediately called the House's action "a grave mistake" and urged the Senate to reverse the decision. Although Republicans have a 54-46 margin in the Senate, foes say they have the votes to stop production

funds — at least for now.

Rep. Joseph Addabbo, D-N.Y., who led the House fight against the MX, said afterward: "No one knows the future of the MX. It's far from finished. We won the battle, but we haven't won the war."

With the lame-duck session of Congress scheduled to end in less than two weeks, the president may have to try again next year for the MX production funds. But next year, he will

face a House with 26 more Democrats.

The margin in the House against the MX funds was surprisingly wide, with 50 GOP lawmakers deserting Reagan's cause. Foes of the nuclear weapon argued it is time to show Congress is willing to hold down the Pentagon budget.

Reagan, in a statement issued by the White House, promised to do everything he could to take his case for

the MX and its controversial dense-pack basing system to the people.

When the House finishes work on the overall defense bill, it goes to the Senate.

Both chambers, however, are expected to approve the \$2.5 billion provided in the bill for continued research and development on the missile and on the much-criticized, dense-pack basing system recom-

mended by Reagan.

The dense pack basing plan calls for 100 MX missiles, each carrying 10 warheads, to be placed in closely spaced superhardened silos near Cheyenne, Wyo. The plan is based on the unproved theory the first enemy missile to strike the area would produce debris and radiation that would divert or destroy following enemy missiles and leave the MX safe for its own launch.



It's time to think snow

Staff photo by Irene Mees

Cindy Bowers from Cleveland, Ohio, hangs one last line of snow in front of her door in Haas Hall. Cindy and her southern friends, Beth Love from Ruston, La., Helen Hensen from New Orleans and a friend from Conroe, Janice Jaeger, wanted

love to have a white Christmas and so they created the snowman out of cardboard boxes, buckets, newspaper, cotton batting, and other materials in about 12 hours.

List of graduates posted

To avoid surprises, graduating seniors should confirm their eligibility to graduate before commencement exercises this weekend.

A list of seniors who have been cleared for graduation is posted today in front of Heaton Hall. The list in-

cludes the names of all students who submitted a degree application. A red dot beside a name indicates that there is a block or other problem with graduation. Problems usually involve academic deficiencies, financial aid obligations or University Police matters, such as outstanding parking

tickets. Seniors have until 5 p.m. Thursday to clear up any conflicts. Senior rings that were ordered at the end of the summer session have arrived and are available for pick-up from the ring clerk in Heaton Hall. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Death supporters say injection too easy

United Press International
Opponents to the death penalty claim it is a farce to promote lethal injection as a more humane method of execution, but supporters say it is too easy a way to die.

Several vigils were held in Texas and cities across the nation as Charlie Brooks Jr., 40, was injected with lethal doses of drugs early Tuesday for his part in the slaying of a Fort Worth, Texas, used car mechanic.

"Lethal injection is just as much murder as electrocution and it was a farce for anyone to say lethal injection

was a more humane way to murder someone," said Cathy Ansheles of the Women Prisoners' Project for the Alabama Prison Project.

Spokesmen for the group said they feared the Brooks execution would lead to three or four executions nationwide annually by 1984.

"Charlie Brooks has now become the first person in history ever to have been executed by the hi-tech method of lethal injection," said Henry Schwarzschild, director of the capital punishment project for the American Civil Liberties Union. "The process is

altogether reminiscent of the methods used in the mass extermination camps of the Nazi Holocaust."

A noisy crowd of about 200, most of them college students from nearby Texas A&M and Sam Houston State universities, gathered outside the Texas Department of Corrections' Walls Unit in Huntsville, late Monday and debated the death penalty.

Some students carried signs saying "Lethal Injections Too Easy; Let's Bring Back the Hangman's Noose," "Justice Finally Prevails" and "Kill Em in Plain View."

Israelis kill soldiers in attack on ministry

United Press International
Israeli soldiers today tried to force their way into the Lebanese defense ministry east of Beirut, starting a gun battle with Lebanese army units that left two Lebanese soldiers dead and one Israeli soldier wounded, a Lebanese army spokesman said.

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli military command, apparently reporting on the same incident, said an Israeli patrol was attacked near a Lebanese army roadblock east of Beirut and that two Lebanese army soldiers died in the ensuing shootout.

The Israeli command said Israeli troops were investigating to determine if the Lebanese soldiers had been hit by cross-fire between the

Israeli patrol and the attackers. But the report did not clarify who had attacked the Israeli patrol.

Israeli military sources had no comment on the Lebanese charges.

The Lebanese army spokesman said the shootout, outside the defense ministry compound just east of Beirut, took place less than a mile from the Baabda presidential palace.

President Amin Gemayel was meeting at the palace with Egyptian Foreign Minister Butros Ghali, who arrived unexpectedly earlier in the day.

The Lebanese army spokesman said the Israeli soldiers tried to drive a jeep into the defense ministry, but the Lebanese regulars prevented them.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin wrote a letter to the official Jerusalem commission defending his tacit approval of the entry of Lebanese Phalange gunmen into two Beirut refugee camps, a report said today.

The Yedioth Aharonot newspaper said Begin was "probably" sending a three-page answer to the panel in response to charges he and eight other top officials failed to prevent the massacre of hundreds of civilians.

The commission two weeks ago ordered the nine top officials to respond by today to allegations of "non-fulfillment of duty" in failing to prevent the Sept. 16-18 massacre but Tuesday granted a one-week extension.

Heart recipient doing well after tears in lung repaired

United Press International
SALT LAKE CITY — Small leaks in the lungs of artificial heart recipient Barney Clark have healed, allowing doctors to remove a drainage tube from his chest for the second time.

Doctors say Clark, 61, a retired Seattle-area dentist, is responding well to an exercise program designed to help him regain strength and fight off pneumonia and other postoperative problems.

Clark remained in serious but stable condition late Monday in a special recovery room at the University of Utah Medical Center where he received the first permanent artificial heart last Thursday.

Clark felt well enough Monday to listen to a recording of Handel's "Messiah" performed by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. Nurses also changed the recovery room routine to give him more sleeping time.

"For the first few days, he never got more than a couple of hours sleep at a time," said intensive-care nurse Jane Stetich. She said Clark showed his appreciation for the extra sleep by starting to snore.

Dr. Chase Peterson, vice president for health sciences at the university, said at a news briefing surgeons had removed the drainage tube from Clark's chest. The tube was inserted after emergency corrective surgery Saturday to repair tears in the patient's lungs.

"The chest tube has been taken out, which is further evidence the leaks in his lungs have sealed themselves," said Peterson.

Clark was rushed back into surgery Saturday for repair of his lungs, in which small tears had been leaking bubbles of air into chest tissue. The bubbles began to swell the chest after the drainage tubes inserted during the original surgery were removed.

Chief surgeon William DeVries stapled several of the tears but others were so small they were left to heal themselves.

Clark's exercise program includes dangling his legs over the edge of the bed and swinging them back and forth four or five times a day.

inside

Holidays can prompt suicide attempts

by Ann Ramsbottom
Battalion Reporter

December is synonymous with holiday festivities, end-of-the-semester finals, and often, stress.

"There's no doubt in my mind that the level of stress is especially high at this time of the year," said Wade Birch, director of the student counseling service. "Suicides and suicide attempts are one of the many ways students deal with their pressures."

Anxiety can be caused by finals and a build-up of last-minute projects and homework assignments.

But the problems don't end when the last final has been taken.

Dr. Claude Goswick, director of the A.P. Beutel Health Center, said: "Most people think of holidays as happy occasions. For many they're not."

Birch explained some of the

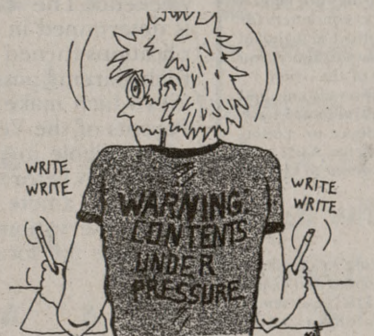
reasons behind holiday depression.

"Many people have high expectations for the holidays," he said. "Students go home only to find that the same family conflicts exist. Social pressures insist that you're supposed to be happy. But health problems, old family strains and a lack of finances often make happiness impossible."

Depression often results from these problems and some people turn to suicide, Birch said.

Common symptoms exhibited by suicide-prone people include statements of futility, hopelessness, helplessness and self-devaluation, Birch said. They show signs of guilt and alienation and feel as if they have no support during a crisis. Potential suicide victims often are unaware of options and can see no way out of their situation, he said.

Other problems behind suicides or



suicide attempts include loss of significant relationships, the inability to achieve one's goals, severe medical problems and the feeling that events are out of control. Committing suicide is an exercise of final control, he said.

A high number of suicide attempts are made during holidays; however, those aren't necessarily the most prevalent times for suicide. Counseling service suicide statistics indicate that there were 15 suicide attempts and one suicide at Texas A&M in 1981. The annual average for Texas A&M is 21 attempts and one suicide.

But statistics show that September and April were the worst months, with four and five attempts respectively.

"One must keep in mind (that) there are many attempts that we never hear about," Birch said. "Also, an attempt is defined only as an occurrence in which the victim can show some evidence of physical harm."

The counseling service has no record of the number of students who come in just to talk about the possibility of attempting a suicide.

"In our eight years of service, we've saved many, many lives," Birch said. "The old wives' tale that says 'people who talk about it don't do it' is just not true. In some recent psychological autopsies, it was found that prior to a suicide, victims usually communicate in some way that they are going to commit suicide. It's their final cry for help."

Statistics show that suicide is a serious problem among younger people — it's the second leading cause of death in people between the ages of 15 and 24.

Statistics also show that college students make 50 percent more suicide attempts than non-college students of the same age.

Among college students, the higher up the academic ladder a student is, the greater the chance he will commit suicide.

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forecast

Today's forecast: Cool front coming in later today. The high is expected to be in the upper 50s. Thirty percent chance of rain.