

# Nuclear war film is center of controversy

by Rusty Roberts  
Battalion Staff

The controversial airing of the made-for-TV movie "The Day After" has area psychologists and military scientists wondering whether the program should be shown during prime time — if at all.

"The Day After" depicts what happens to the mid-America heartland around Kansas City, Mo., after a quick exchange of nuclear missiles by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Because of the graphic depiction of death and destruction in the movie, some psychologists fear it may cause extremely adverse effects on children and adults who watch the program.

"The Day After," which will air Sunday at 8 p.m., is preceded by disclaimers for parents with children under the age of 12. ABC has drawn much criticism

for the gruesomely realistic film, which cost more than \$7 million and took three years to make.

In the program, which director Nicholas Meyer calls "punishing," viewers are introduced to several middle class families in the first hour, and then watch them vaporized in the final 68 minutes.

The carnage is excessive and the make-up grotesque, yet Meyer says his intent was not to make the picture so horrifying that it would be unwatchable.

But it is the explicit scenes that are causing area psychologists to seriously question the affects the program could have on its viewers.

Dr. Lenore Boyd, associate professor of educational psychology, says regardless of the numerous disclaimers, kids are going to watch it anyway.

"Kids have a strange mix of

fantasy and reality," Boyd says, "and this could cause some problems in how they interpret what they're seeing. I'm not real sure if they'll get a shock like adults think they will. It'll depend on how the program is presented."

Dr. Emily Davidson, a Texas A&M psychology professor says, "Kids have a hard time separating fantasy and reality, even if their parents tell them that it's all just make-up."

Davidson says only those children 12 and older will be able to follow the logical flow of the two-hour program and understand that it isn't real. But, she said, that's no guarantee these children won't still become emotionally upset.

"Even if it hasn't happened," she says, "many young kids may think it'll happen in the next few

days. Their sense of immediacy is much more intense than that of adults.

"Children think the future is the next two weeks, whereas adults are able to plan years in advance. Most kids even have trouble thinking a few months ahead."

Davidson predicts some uncomfortable after-effects for those who watch the program. She says both adults and children who watch probably will suffer from nightmares and high anxiety.

Davidson says the other alternative is not to watch the program or to simply turn it off if it becomes unbearable.

Both Davidson and Boyd say they'd rather the program not air in a prime time slot because of the harmful effects it could have on children.

However, Dr. Michael Ash, head of the educational psychology department, says he doesn't think the program will be a particularly strong draw for children.

Dr. Roger Beaumont, a Texas A&M history professor who specializes in military affairs, says the prime time slot doesn't concern him as much as the political implications the picture could have.

Beaumont used the examples of the 1938 crisis in Munich and the 1945 bombing of Hiroshima to illustrate today's concerns about nuclear arms.

"It's been 40 years since Hiroshima," he says, "and its taken that long for public concern about nuclear war to catch up with the general public's understanding of the problem."

Beaumont says too much irony surrounds the question of

nuclear arms. He says America is a short distance from making plans to construct bombs that are equal in power to nuclear weapons, yet don't emit the harmful radiation. But, he says, making the transition from the nuclear realm to the non-nuclear realm is causing a problem.

He also says the idea of nuclear weapons as deterrents is ironic because the weapons themselves are so deadly and so crazy, they act as their own control. He says if the deterrents slack up, then the shield drops and nuclear struggles continue.

Beaumont says the logic of international nuclear rivalry is that one side's defense weakens and eventually collapses allowing the opposing side to "roll back" to the use of conventional weapons.

So were does this lead? Beaumont referred to the famous scientist whose experiments redefined the word obliteration. He is Robert Oppenheimer, who's considered "the father" of the atomic bomb.

Oppenheimer once likened the nuclear struggle to two scorptions in a bottle. Each stings the other and they both die.

## Greyhound reschedules with non-union drivers

by Maria Gautschy  
Battalion Reporter

Greyhound buses began running on a limited service basis in Bryan and College Station Thursday.

Although 12,700 members of the Amalgamated Transit Union have been on strike since Nov. 2, six Greyhound buses driven by non-union drivers will serve Bryan and College Station.

Jack Weatherford, part owner of the Bryan Greyhound bus terminal, says that although partial service has been restored, it will take a while for people to begin traveling by bus again.

Since the beginning of the strike, Weatherford says he has lost 80 percent of his revenue because people stopped traveling and sending packages by bus.

Owners of the Bryan and College Station bus terminals make their money on commission through freight shipping and the sale of passenger tickets. Both have contracts with Arrow Trailways and Greyhound Bus Lines.

Although the 10 Greyhound buses have not been running, he said, the five Arrow buses have been running as usual. Arrow can provide more buses if needed, but Weatherford says passenger travel has been low and that the buses have not been full.

"Most people identify bus travel with Greyhound and just assume that no buses have been running," Weatherford said. "Some people in the area have even gone so far as to pick up their packages in Houston, rather than have them sent by bus."

Before the strike began, he

said, 65 percent of the freight shipped to Bryan was from Houston. He said that since the strike, shipping has decreased to 15 percent.

"Something had to happen," he said. "I've just been waiting for Greyhound to call me and tell me the buses are back in business."

The company is losing money because employees must be payed even if no commission is made, he said.

"The money is going to have to come from somewhere and it is going to be money we have saved for something else, or will have to borrow," he said.

Two employees were layed off at the Bryan terminal and one employee was layed off at the terminal in College Station.

"Believe me, no one ever wins in a strike," Weatherford said.

## Turkey trot set for Thanksgiving

by David Manning  
Battalion Reporter

The health and physical education department will host the 14th annual Turkey Trot race on Thanksgiving Day at 8 a.m. beginning in front of G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Dr. John Chevrette, a physical education professor, said the run is a family-oriented event.

"In the past, people have brought their dogs, baby carriages, and grandparents," he said. "It's a fun race."

He said the Turkey Trot race can be run, walked or a combination of both.

This is not a competitive run, but a run open to everyone, Chevrette said.

No prizes will be awarded,

but certificates of completion will be given to all participants, he said.

No registration or entry fee is required to run in the three mile race.

The emphasis of this race is to start the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays off right, Chevrette said.

"This is the time of year when people eat a lot of food," he said. "The Turkey Trot will hopefully give them a chance to burn off some calories before they eat."

He said several hundred people are expected to run in the race — an increase over last year since the Texas A&M-Texas football game will be at Kyle Field.

Chevrette said participants should come already dressed to run because the campus locker rooms will be closed.

### LET YOURSELF GO

The atmosphere is different — perfect for your favorite cocktail. And what food! The menu is pure temptation with a variety of selections. Popular prices, too. Discover Julie's Place soon

607 Texas Avenue  
(across from Texas A&M)  
696-1427

# RED LINE SALE

## MEN'S & WOMEN'S SKIWEAR

1 / 3 Off

- Bibs
- Pants
- Jackets
- Sweaters (Including children's)

1 / 3 Off

- Men's Cord pants
- Sundeck
- O.P.
- Stubbie
- Also sundeck blue jeans

- Selected men's long & short sleeve shirts
- Hang ten
- Hobbie
- O.P.
- Off Shore

Ladies 1/3 off Sweaters

Pat Magee's  
O.P.

Also Selected ESPRIT

Vest  
Tops  
Pants  
Warm ups

Layaway for Christmas

Post Oak Mall

COLLEGE STATION

