

Donations accepted for aid to Ethiopia

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Silver Taps tonight starting 10:30 at Sully

Cougars, Hoyas stay on top of NCAA polls

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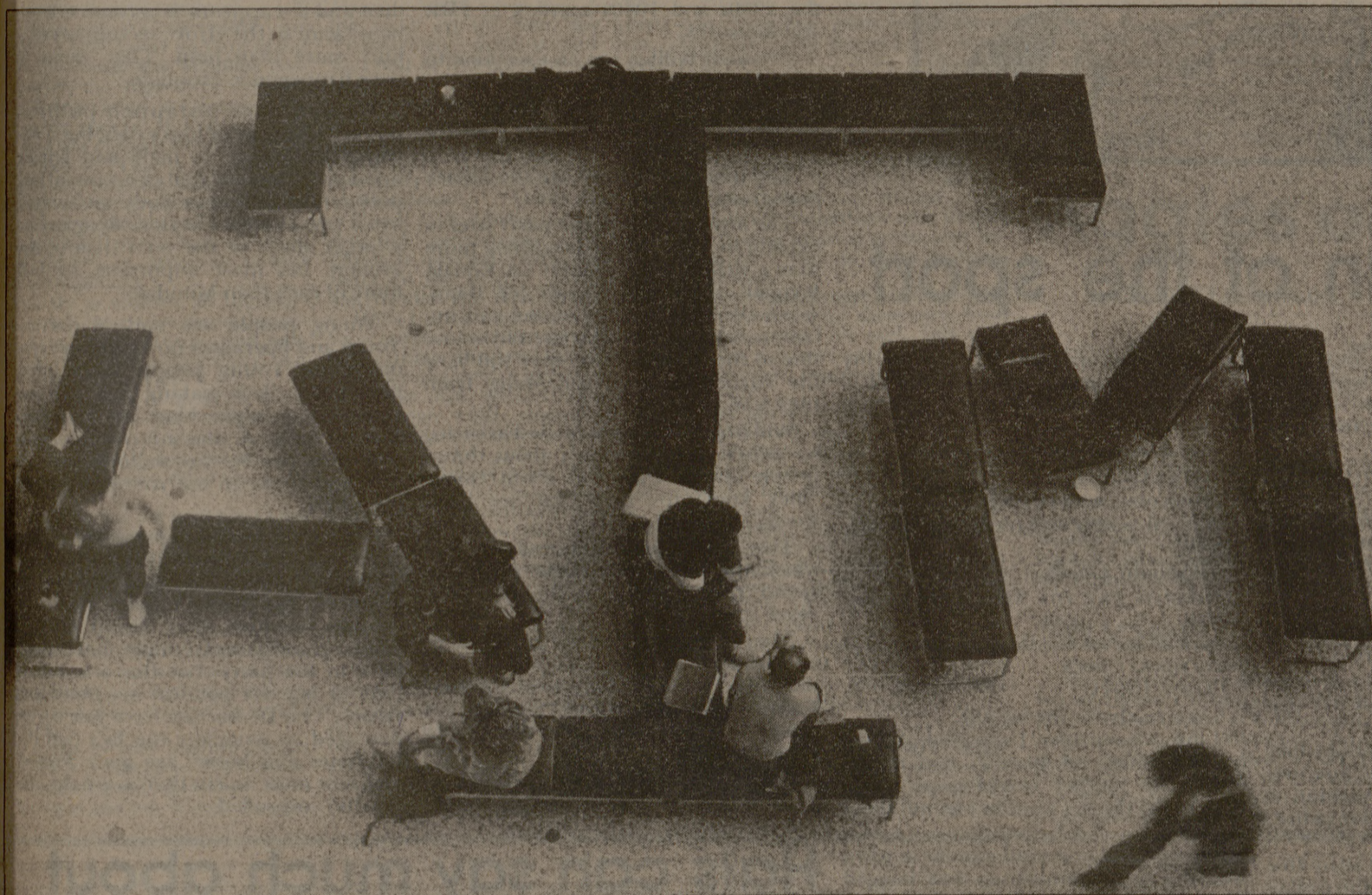
Texas A&M The Battalion

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Spirit of Aggieland

Photo by DEAN SAITO

Lounge chairs in Zachry Engineering Center were placed in a little different arrangement from the usual Monday in honor

of the Aggie football team's 37-12 win over Texas this past weekend in Austin.

Indian plant leaks poison over 20,000

United Press International

NEW DELHI, India — A cloud of poisonous gas spewed from a U.S.-owned pesticide plant and enveloped the sleeping city of Bhopal Monday, killing at least 375 people and injuring more than 20,000 others in one of the worst industrial accidents in Indian history.

Authorities said they feared the death toll would rise because 2,000 of the injured were in serious condition. Officials said most of the dead were children and old men.

The fumes of methyl isocyanate descended on the city of 628,000 about 2:30 a.m., sparking mass panic as sleeping residents jolted awake and fled their homes to escape the blinding, choking gas.

"Women with babies in their arms and children clinging to their saris were seen moving out of the city by all modes of transport," one witness said.

The gas escaped from a pesticide plant owned by the Danbury, Conn.-based Union Carbide Co. on the outskirts of Bhopal, the capital of Madhya Pradesh state, 360 miles southwest of New Delhi, the Press Trust of India said.

The corpses of sacred cows and other animals littered streets around the plant, which Union Carbide said has been in operation for five years.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Arjun Singh and other state and city officials put the death toll at 375. They said it was one of the worst industrial accidents in the history of independent India.

Singh closed the facility, called for a judicial inquiry and ordered the arrest of five officers of Union Carbide, India Ltd., the U.S. firm's Indian subsidiary. The five, all believed to be Indian citizens, were charged with causing death by negligence and placed under house arrest, officials said.

Most of the dead were taken to Hamidia government hospital and Jayaprakash hospitals. Seven bodies were counted at Kaju Hospital and

20 more bodies were found in the railway station area, officials said.

Hospitals, able to admit only 2,000 of the most seriously injured, set up makeshift treatment centers on their grounds to treat some 18,000 others suffering from eye inflammations, vomiting and breathing difficulties.

Doctors from the police, military and nearby towns were rushed in to help the injured.

Rumors of a new gas leak during the day triggered a mass panic and "a number of women and children were hurt in a stampede" that followed, the United News of India reported.

Singh appealed in a radio broadcast for people to remain calm.

"I am shocked and deeply grieved at the terrible tragedy in Bhopal," said Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, faced by the first major industrial mishap since succeeding his mother, Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated Oct. 31 by Sikh members of her bodyguard. "The huge toll that it has taken is horrifying."

The government pledged \$500 to the families of each person killed by the gas leak and \$100 to each of the injured.

Plant officials said the methyl isocyanate leaked from an underground storage tank containing 45 tons of the gas and was stopped within minutes. No plant employees were injured.

S. Kumaraswamy, regional manager of Union Carbide India Ltd., said the leak occurred when pressure suddenly rose inside the storage tank and a valve ruptured.

He said a safety system designed to neutralize the gas with caustic soda failed to operate properly because of the huge pressure buildup.

A statement released by Union Carbide in Danbury called the accident "unprecedented," pointing out the firm has manufactured the same gas at a plant in Institute, W.Va., for more than 25 years without mishap.

Future of health shown in models

By DAINAH BULLARD
Staff Writer

Environmental design students at Texas A&M are presenting their visions of futuristic health care with a display of 33 models depicting the Health Facility of the Future: The Year 2000.

The models will be displayed tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the second floor gallery of the Langford Architecture Center. More than 100 professionals from architecture and health care fields will attend the display and discuss the projects with the 33 students who designed the models. The display is open to the public.

Among the models which will be displayed are an eye hospital aboard a DC-10, a medic-space unit, a birthing development center, a hospice and a retirement complex.

The models are the result of a semester-long project assigned to students enrolled in Environmental Design 403, Architectural Design V. The students developed their designs after interpreting ideas presented in a day-long brainstorming session with representatives of health care facilities from across the United States.

"What we did was to present a problem that's relevant to the en-

vironment of the United States," said George Mann, a professor of environmental design and of architecture and director of the project. "Then we let the students use their imagination and creativity to solve it (the problem)."

Besides constructing scale models of their projects, the students had to prepare posters with photographs or drawings and a program which explains the idea behind their projects. Each student's project represents a different concept of health care in the year 2000.

Keith Fleming, creator of the Alief Emergency Clinic/Diagnostic Center, designed his project with the premise that health care will become more specialized in the future.

"In the future, as medical technology increases, the general hospital isn't going to be able to take care of the patients as well," Fleming said. "The clinic/diagnostic center will be the first place anyone who's sick or has an accident will go. They'll be treated, stabilized and have diagnostic tests. Then they'll be taken to specialized facilities, like burn centers."

Other students concentrated on specialized facilities, such as

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Faculty Senate to consider changes

Curriculum worries students

Editor's note: This is the second article in a two part series on the question of core curriculum at Texas A&M.

By BARBARA BROWN
Reporter

The core curriculum issue at Texas A&M has student leaders worried about the way the Faculty Senate will arrive at its decision as well as what that decision will be.

Sean Royall, student government representative to the Faculty Senate core curriculum committee, said student government is taking a campus survey on several issues — one of which is the core curriculum.

"My position on the committee is to relay information and voice student concerns," Royall said. "It's not me that's making the decisions but my opinions should be representative of the students as a whole."

Royall said the idea of a core curriculum is not limited to Texas A&M.

"It's a national movement about what the baccalaureate degree should be," he said. "The liberal arts people aren't getting enough technical background and vice-versa. Most of the people I've talked to are pro-core curriculum. I was surprised that a number of engineering students I've talked to thought they needed a broader education. But that doesn't necessarily represent the opinion of the entire College of Engineering."

"There are students who say, 'Who are you to tell me what I need

to take?' but the University is offering something to the students and if they don't like it then they can go elsewhere. So the University does have a say."

But Royall said he is concerned that the Faculty Senate will press to get the final proposal through by February, which is the University deadline for changing policies.

"That's what happened with the issue of seniors taking finals," he said. "They rushed through with it."

"The main concern I've voiced with them (the committee members) is that I'm leery of adding hours, and that is what they're talking about. In theory, most people, including me, would be in favor of a core curriculum, but in practice, I just don't know. If they (the committee members) in any way disenfranchise the students then it won't work."

Charles Stegemoeller, president of the Student Engineering Council, said, "The initial opinion is that the preliminary proposals seem to be more lenient for liberal arts and more rigid for engineering and science."

Stegemoeller said engineering degrees already average 130 to 136 hours and the drafts he has seen would add several hours, pushing the total number of hours close to 150. Stegemoeller said that if this happens, the number and quality of students will drop.

"What the Senate decides will seriously affect students in the future," Stegemoeller said. "And it's impor-

tant that it is given more consideration than the location of a bell tower (the recently completed Albritton carillon), or the pettiness of the colleges fighting over whose curriculum is the best."

Although the core curriculum will affect only those students entering the University after the proposal takes effect, Stegemoeller said that it's important to use the student society's position to influence the future and not let important issues drown in bureaucracy.

"There are lots of good points about a core curriculum," Stegemoeller said. "It would bring everyone (in the University) up to the same level. But nothing has been decided yet so we are holding off until it has."

Perry Cortese, a member of the Student Agriculture Council, said the College of Agriculture has always been progressive and competitive and that it has a curriculum to match.

"We have to in order to be marketable," Cortese said. "I have to have a basis in agriculture. I need economics and math, but I need it to relate to my field. I go over and take classes in business but I do this because I know I need it. However, nothing's good when it's mandatory."

Dr. Donald McDonald, former interim dean of the College of Engineering, said he recently gathered opinions from former civil engineering students about the needs of undergraduates.

Grenada has first election in 8 years

United Press International

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada — Grenadians elected a new Parliament Monday in the island's first elections in eight years, held 13 months after a U.S. invasion toppled a radical Marxist government.

Voters were standing in lines at many of the 197 polling stations when they opened at 7 a.m. local time, despite a downpour that muddied dirt paths throughout the lush,

133-square mile island. The polls closed at 5 p.m.

A light but steady late turnout was reported in rural areas.

The island's residents chose 15 representatives to Parliament who will replace an interim governing council that has ruled since the overthrow of the Marxists.

Sir Paul Scoon, the island's governor-general, will ask the winning party to form a government.

There were 48,000 people registered to vote. Grenadians were allowed by law to take time off from work to vote.

Some 200 police and troops from neighboring Caribbean states enforced security throughout the island, maintaining a low profile with intermittent jeep patrols.

The major contenders were the New National Party, a moderate coalition led by former Chief Minister

Herbert Blaize, 66, and the right-wing Grenada United Labor Party led by Sir Edward Gairy, the island's last prime minister.

Both major parties have called for a continued U.S. presence, but Blaize has said the 250 U.S. support troops who remained on the island after the invasion should stay only until Grenada can take care of its own security.