

Longer library hours
to go into effect soon

See page 3

Entertainers perform
at Madrigal Dinners

See page 3

Brown lifts Aggies
past Oral Roberts

See page 9

Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol. 80 No. 69 USPS 045360 14 pages

College Station, Texas

Thursday, December 6, 1984

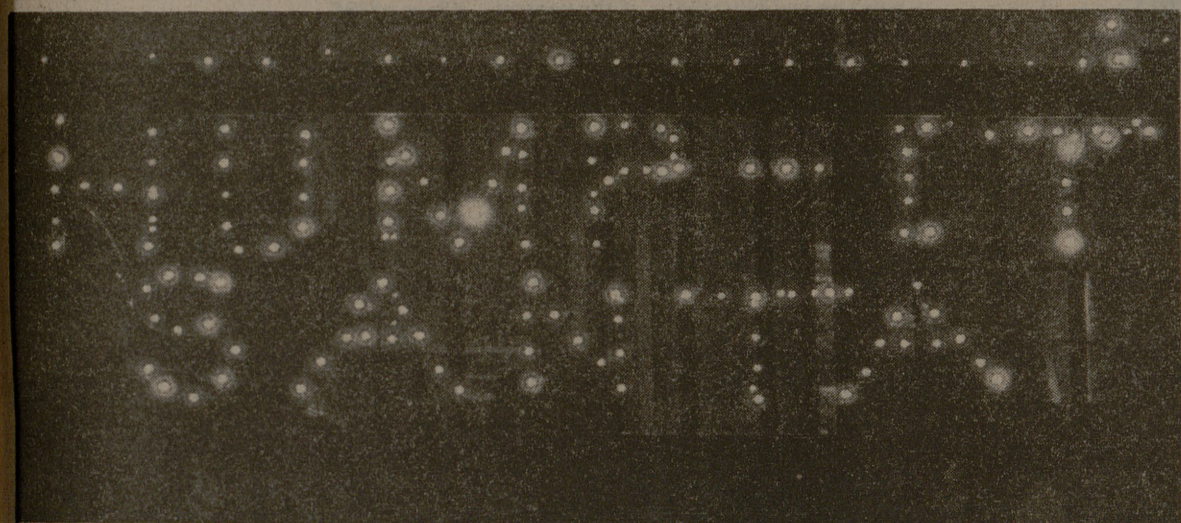


Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Hump it Santa?

Students get into the Christmas spirit by Parkway Circle Apartments on Southwest decorating with lights. This balcony, in Parkway, shows a little Aggie spirit too.

Death toll exceeds 1,600 in gas disaster

United Press International

BHOPAL, India — The death toll from a poison gas cloud climbed past 1,600 Wednesday amid fears of epidemics from hundreds of decomposing bodies and warnings of long-term health problems among the thousands injured in the world's worst chemical disaster.

A preliminary investigation determined that 25 tons of deadly methyl cyanate spewed out of a U.S.-owned pesticide plant and engulfed Bhopal Monday, after a "runaway chemical reaction" caused a pressure buildup in an underground tank.

Local government officials accused the Union Carbide Corp., headquartered in Danbury, Conn., of failing to warn them of the dangers posed by the plant and said they would prosecute any plant officials found to have violated safety regulations.

"We are still afraid," said Ram Narain Nagar, 42, a resident who returned to a slum of hovels to look for missing relatives. "We feel we have no protection living here."

Reports compiled by the Press Trust of India showed more than 1,600 people were killed by the cloud of choking, blinding fumes that enveloped Bhopal and a 15-square mile area.

Arjun Singh, chief minister of Madhya Pradesh state, told reporters the government's official count was 620, but acknowledged it was incomplete, saying it did not include bodies cremated or buried by families who did not report the deaths.

The delayed effects of the gas continued to claim more victims with more than 1,000 people still hospitalized with blinded or inflamed eyes, seared lungs and vomiting.

More than 50,000 people treated for less serious injuries have been released since the cloud of white gas mushroomed over the central Indian city, 360 miles south of New Delhi.

People continued to seek help at overflowing hospitals, which had to set up makeshift treatment centers outside.

City streets were dotted with flaming funeral pyres for a second day as Hindus cremated their dead but corpses piled up at cremation facilities and the city morgue because of a shortage of gasoline to burn them.

Officials said the collection of human bodies and thousands of animal carcasses was being hampered because the lower caste people who normally handled such tasks in India were among the worst affected by the accident.

Teams of volunteers searched for bodies left in the stricken slum and carted them away along narrow, muddy paths as medical teams assessed environmental conditions and watched for any outbreak of disease.

Dr. N.R. Bhandari, director of the Hamidia hospital, said he feared many of those exposed to the gas might suffer long-term kidney problems. State health director M.N. Nagu warned that corneal ulcers suffered by many victims could cause permanent blindness.

The Bhopal gas leak was the worst disaster of its kind on record.

Union Carbide Corp. President Warren Anderson was due to arrive in India Thursday with a team of technical experts and medical personnel from the United States.

An initial investigation showed that "a runaway chemical reaction of unknown origin" caused pressure in one of three underground tanks "to rise suddenly," Union Carbide spokesman Vijay Avasti said in an interview at the plant.

A technician with Avasti said a safety valve failed to close and the flow of gas had to be stopped manually.

"Some 25 tons of MIC (methyl isocyanate) were released through a safety valve," Avasti said, adding the volume "overwhelmed a scrubber meant to neutralize the gas."

Singh said officials were checking for safety violations and vowed to prosecute any Union Carbide officials found to have circumvented regulations. Five management officials were arrested Monday on charges of negligence.

"I don't think we were ever warned by the company (of the potential danger)," he said, reiterating a vow that the plant "is never going to start functioning here — never again."

Singh said legal officers were examining the possibilities of suing the company to secure "compensation commensurate with the enormity of the tragedy."

Graduation this weekend

By SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

An estimated 2,600 students are expected to receive degrees from Texas A&M during the fall graduation ceremonies Friday and Saturday in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Rice University President Dr. Norman Ackerman will speak to the graduating seniors at the Friday evening ceremony, and A&M President Frank Vandiver will speak at the Saturday morning commencement.

Fifty-six members of the Corps of Cadets will be commissioned into the Armed Forces in separate ceremonies at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. A&M traditionally commissions more military officers each year than any other institution except the military academies.

Commodore Jack A. Garrow, chief of information for the U.S. Navy Office of Information, is the guest speaker for the commissioning ceremony. He is the first public affairs specialist chosen to wear the one-star rank of commodore.

During the commissioning ceremony, the prestigious Doherty Award will be presented. The award is given annually to a corps member

who is receiving a military commission and has proven himself an exceptional student leader.

All graduate degrees will be awarded in ceremonies Friday beginning at 7:30 p.m., in addition to undergraduate degrees in the Colleges of Business Administration, Geosciences, Agriculture, Architecture and Texas A&M University at Galveston.

Bachelor's degrees will be awarded at 9 a.m. Saturday in the Colleges of Liberal Arts, Engineering, Science and Veterinary Medicine.

Mondale, FEC resolve dispute

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The "tainted money" controversy that dogged Walter Mondale's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination ended Wednesday with his agreement to pay the government nearly \$400,000.

The Federal Election Commission, which had been investigating the use of funds from delegate committees that backed Mondale in the 1984 primaries, announced the case had been closed by approval of a conciliation agreement on a 4 to 2 vote.

The former vice president's

campaign will pay the U.S. Treasury \$379,640, representing donations from the controversial delegate groups, and an \$18,500 penalty for accepting excessive donations, the FEC disclosed.

In turn, the divided commission agreed to take no action against the Mondale campaign or the delegate committees, many of them labor affiliated, or individuals involved in the financing arrangement that sparked a major controversy in the final months of Mondale's drive for the Democratic nomination.

See MONDALE, page 14

Executive, service jobs subject of job-related stress programs

Editor's note: This is the second article in a three part series on stress.

By RENE HARRELL
Staff Writer

"For the stress that comes with success..."

That familiar advertising line conjures up a business executive sitting back in a chair and plopping two Alka-Seltzers into a glass of water. But top executives aren't the only people suffering from the "stress of success" or on-the-job stress.

Dr. Barbara Clark, a College Station psychologist, said stress differs for people in executive positions and those in "helping professions."

"Helping professions" or service-

oriented jobs include policemen, firemen, psychiatrists, psychologists, physicians, nurses, hospital workers and ambulance drivers.

"Those in helping professions are more susceptible to a deeper level of stress because it's repeated over and over," Clark said. "Any profession where there is a crisis involved and immediate action needs to be taken of some sort, I consider a helping profession. These professions are more susceptible to burn out."

Clark defines burn out as a combination of physical, emotional and mental exhaustion.

"It's the result of constant or repeated emotional arousal associated with an intense involvement with

people over long periods of time," Clark said. "This would include anyone in a profession that's required to deal with people and their problems over and over."

When some people experience burn out they may want to get out of that job, Clark said.

"I work with them, helping them to recognize their stress and deal with it on a daily basis, so they won't have burn out," Clark said.

Fire fighters are good examples of high stressed individuals. Dr. Lowell Krokoff, a Texas A&M psychologist, did research at Station 7 in Houston last spring. Part of his research involved going with firemen to put out fires.

"Fire fighting is the most dangerous job," Krokoff said. "More people are killed or injured in that job than in any other each year." He said more than half of these injuries or deaths are caused by heart disease.

Krokoff said that if the fireman is sleeping when he is called out to a fire it can be a great strain on the heart.

Another one of Krokoff's speculations is that some firemen are more susceptible to stress than others because of their perception of the job.

"The way the firefighter perceives the job is an important prediction of

See STRESS, page 14

Building costs delay alumni center

By LYNN RAE POVEC
Staff Writer

Construction on the new headquarters for Texas A&M alumni has been delayed until the spring of 1985 because cost estimates were higher than expected, the alumni organization's director said Wednesday.

Randy Matson, executive director of the Association of Former Students, said cost estimates on the building exceeded the organization's original estimate of \$5 million to \$6 million.

"In a building that size there's just a little here and a little there, and it starts adding up," Matson said.

Although the group had hoped to start construction this fall on the Clayton Williams Jr. Center, putting construction on hold isn't a cause for concern, Matson said. Delays are not unusual in the construction industry.

The association's offices currently are located in the Memorial Student Center, but Matson, in his fifth year as director, said the group has almost outgrown its space.

The organization moved into the MSC in 1973 when its membership numbered 60,000. Now, about

120,000 alumni are in the association.

The new 30,000-square-foot building, to be erected on campus at Jersey and Houston streets, will include office space for the group as well as meeting rooms, smaller board rooms and an office where students will order and pick up their senior rings.

It was named for Midland oilman Clayton Williams Jr. after he donated \$2.5 million for its construction. The rest of the center's cost will be met by private funds from former students, said Matson, Class of '67.

Besides building materials, the addition of a basement and the building's semi-circular shape have contributed to the higher-than-estimated cost.

"It's hard to know how much money (the building's shape) adds," Matson said.

Scaling down construction costs means redesigning the building, he said, but changes won't leave the structure visibly different from the one depicted in artist's drawings, released earlier this year.

"Most of (the changes) are ones that you wouldn't even notice if you look at the building," Matson said.

There are various grades of carpet, wall coverings and doors, and the association could save \$25 to \$30 a door by simply choosing a different grade, he said.

Although he named no specific part of the structure as a target for cost cuts, Matson said lowering the structure's ceiling is another of the association's options.

Dropping the ceiling six feet could save \$400,000, including glass expenses of about \$75,000, he said.

Another cost the former students are facing is that of relocating the part of the jogging track, south of the floral test gardens, that runs through the building's site. The association is cooperating with the intramural department in redesigning it.

Association officials originally planned not to disturb the track, Matson said, but later realized that the track would cross curb cuts for the center's parking lot.

Cars coming out of the 75 to 100-space lot could be a hazard to joggers, he said.

Matson, who uses the track about three times a week, said the association hopes to keep the track the same length.

The track would be shortened only if keeping it a mile long would require too many twists, he said. Joggers who run several miles at a six or seven-minute pace might be hampered by too many turns.

"If you put a lot of twists and turns in it, it may slow you down," Matson said.

However if the track is redesigned, it will lose the long, straight stretch along Jersey Street.

The association hopes to have the modified designs for its headquarters approved next month by its committee of former students, and working drawings may be ready by April.

Matson estimates construction time at about a year. Since there is no deadline for completion, the association wants the time to do the job right.

Because of the building's semi-circular shape, adding a wing is impossible, he said, and the association wants to anticipate as many of its future needs as it can.

"It's going to be here a long time, and we've been here a long time without it," Matson said. "We don't want to get in a hurry and make mistakes."



Illustration of the proposed Texas A&M Alumni Center.