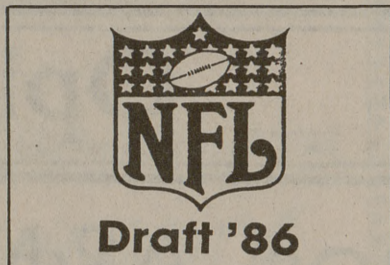




Student Aggie Club gives endowment to health center

— Page 3



A&M's Toney goes to Eagles, Williams selected by Jets

— Page 9

Texas A&M

The Battalion

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Nuclear reactor continues to burn

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. intelligence sources reported that the Chernobyl nuclear reactor complex in the Soviet Ukraine experienced a meltdown Saturday, was still billowing smoke Tuesday and threatened another reactor at the same site.

Arms control administrator Kenneth Adelman, meanwhile, told Congress that Soviet claims only two deaths were preposterous and called the incident "the most catastrophic nuclear disaster in history."

Related stories:

- Page 8
- Soviets keeping quiet
- Foreign aid requested
- Experts call it a meltdown

- Page 12
- U.S. set to monitor radiation

He said temperatures reached as high as 7,232 degrees Fahrenheit at the graphite-cooled reactor and melted. "The graphite is burning and

will continue to burn for a good number of days."

It was understood that much of the U.S. intelligence information was gathered by a spy satellite, but no officials confirmed this.

A ranking administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that officials evaluating recent intelligence "don't believe there was a nuclear explosion per se," at Chernobyl. "But there was clearly a meltdown."

However, a group of physicists said they did not believe a meltdown was possible. Dr. William W. Havens Jr., executive secretary of the American Physical Society, said it would take temperatures of about 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit to melt the low-grade uranium oxide fuel. It would be hard to reach temperatures of even 3,000 degrees in a graphite carbon fire, he said.

"There was no fuel meltdown," said Allan Bromley, a physics professor at Yale. But he added, "As long as the fire continues, there will be a continued release of radiation."



As of early Tuesday morning, "smoke was still billowing from the site. The roof had been blown off

See Meltdown, page 12

U.S. said to be safe from radiation

By Brian Pearson
Senior Staff Writer

The drifting radiation cloud caused by the possible meltdown at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Soviet Ukraine will not pose a health problem for the United States, said Donald Feltz, director of the Texas A&M Nuclear Sciences Center.

Feltz said the slight increase in radiation levels caused by the cloud might be detected in the United States within a week.

"It's not going to be a threat, but scientists (in the United States) will be able to detect it," Feltz said.

He said that although Finland, Denmark and Sweden, which are about 800 miles away from the damaged reactor, have experienced an increase in radiation levels, the increases are not dangerous.

He added that natural levels of ra-

diation in other spots around the world exceed the increased levels detected in the Scandinavian countries.

The people in the most serious danger of radiation poisoning, Feltz said, are those within one to two miles of the reactor.

He said the accident would not have been as severe if the reactor had employed better containment facilities.

"The experts are considering that they're suffering a meltdown," he said. "The real emphasis has been placed on the fact that the Russian nuclear program does require the installation of a containment facility that could control a radiation release of this magnitude."

"That's basically their whole problem. This (Chernobyl) reactor has no containment. When the accident occurred, the radiation went right out of there."

Feltz said an adequate containment facility would include a confinement building, such as ones required for reactors in the United States, which would prevent most of the radiation from escaping the plant.

The nuclear accident, Feltz said, probably was caused by a failure within the reactor cooling system. The loss of cooling, he said, allowed the nuclear fuel to reach temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit, causing it to melt through the metal fuel containers called "clads." If the clads fail, the fission fuel products, such as radioactive gases, can be released to the surrounding area.

Feltz said release does not cause an explosion, but does cause a cloud of radioactive gas.

"All that came out of this one was a big puff of radiation," he said.



The Polls Are Open

Students cast their votes Tuesday for their favorite pair of legs at the Mosher Hall Leggs Contest table by Rudder Fountain. The contest

supports the Christian Children's Fund and voting will continue through Thursday.

Photo by Anthony S. Casper

Reagan begins Indonesian visit

BALI, Indonesia (AP) — President Reagan, bearing a "message of freedom" for Asian allies, arrived to a lush welcome in the Orient on Tuesday, but Indonesian authorities promptly expelled two Australian journalists in Reagan's entourage.

A third reporter, Barbara Crossette of The New York Times, who had come on her own, was also ordered out of the country, allegedly because she had written stories critical of Indonesian President Suharto.

Richard Palfreyman and James Middleton, Washington-based correspondents for the Australian Broadcasting Corp., were ordered

off the press plane accompanying Reagan, detained briefly in the airport terminal here, then told to leave the country on the next plane to Tokyo.

Suharto banned all Australian journalists after a Sydney newspaper published an article alleging corruption in his government.

Reagan and his wife Nancy were greeted by Suharto and his wife Tien and led down a red-carpeted receiving line as young girls in native costume tossed flowers in their path.

Under extremely tight security, the Reagans were escorted through the large ornate stone Gates of Bali, the symbolic entry point to the island.

Hundreds evacuated in landmark library fire

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Fire tore through the landmark, 60-year-old downtown library Tuesday, consuming thousands of books, collapsing parts of the building's interior and forcing the evacuation of hundreds of patrons and employees.

At least 22 firefighters were injured as more than 250 battled the blaze in the three-story building, which contains more than 2 million books, periodicals and photographs.

Historic murals, photographs and U.S. patents were believed destroyed along with tens of thousands of volumes, some of them rare and irreplaceable.

The fire in the neo-classical building, which is listed on National Register of Historical Places, started around 11 a.m. and continued to burn Tuesday evening. There were

no reported injuries to the public or employees.

Fire Chief Donald Manning called the blaze "very treacherous — the worst fire to contain I've seen in my 31 years" as a firefighter.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known, city fire Inspector Ed Reed said.

Councilman Gilbert Lindsay, who went to the scene, said the library would probably have to be rebuilt.

Flames started in the sixth tier of the building's eight-tier central book stacks and pushed their way into the attic. Tier six corresponds with the second floor.

The fire began before 11 a.m. and part of the third floor collapsed about two hours later.

90,000 expected at Memorial Stadium

FarmAid II set for July 4 in Austin

AUSTIN (AP) — Country music star Willie Nelson said Tuesday that FarmAid II in Memorial Stadium, scheduled for July 4, has no monetary goals but could be more successful than FarmAid I, which raised approximately \$9 million.

FarmAid I was held Sept. 22 on the University of Illinois campus at Champaign, Ill.

Nelson appeared with Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower at a news conference at Me-

morial Stadium on the University of Texas campus.

Asked what the goal of the FarmAid II concert was, Nelson said, "We have no goals money-wise — \$100 billion would be nice but we'll take anything up to that."

Nelson said a crowd of nearly 90,000 is expected for the concert.

Hightower said Nelson "is not only a superstar in the music world but the last couple of years we have found him to be a true friend of the

family farmers and ranchers of this country."

Hightower said University of Texas regents and legal officials had agreed in principle to allowing use of the stadium, and the state agriculture department would be the official state sponsor of the program.

Nelson traditionally has July 4 concerts in Texas, and Hightower said, "There were other states vying for this (FarmAid). Mississippi wanted to have it, Nebraska wanted

to have it but it belonged in Texas.

"Having Willie Nelson on the Fourth of July in Mississippi is just as silly as moving the State Fair (of Texas) to Mississippi, and we thought it belonged right here."

Hightower was asked how the artificial turf in the stadium would be protected, and he said it would be covered by plywood and an "exotic material that doesn't burn, doesn't melt, doesn't scorch and doesn't allow anything bad to happen to it."

Town Hall to try promoter-oriented shows

By Jeanne Isenberg
Staff Writer

Concerts and Broadway shows saw some dim days at Texas A&M this year, but MSC Town Hall hopes to change that by bringing promoters into the selection process for next season's concerts and shows.

Jim Hurd, Town Hall's faculty adviser, said 1985-86 was the worst year financially for the committee. The projected deficit of the committee for 1986 is about \$61,000, he says.

Hurd attributes the loss to several factors. On the concert scene, he says the two major moneylosers were the two country-western acts which came to A&M in February.

"Lee Greenwood and the American Music Tour are the two that really put us out of business," Hurd says. "We're still not sure

why both failed, but we relearned a lesson of three years ago — don't book another show until the one you're working on is over with."

On the Town Hall/Broadway front, the problem wasn't losses from a show, Hurd says, but rather from a drop in season ticket sales. With a major production such as *42nd Street* this year, he says prices of season tickets rose.

Next season, Town Hall won't be bringing any large scale musicals that could inflate the price for the tickets, he says, but instead is bringing a wider variety of shows such as *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Romeo and Juliet* and *Of Mice and Men*.

Hurd says Town Hall is hoping to try a new approach to programming next year. While the committee historically has gone

on its own to the acts it wanted, it is now gearing toward promoter-oriented shows.

In this circumstance, he says a major promoter pays for the privilege of coming in and doing a show. The advantage is that the promoter takes the risk, he says, but if the show does well, the promoter takes most of the profit.

If Town Hall can establish good relationships with promoters, Hurd says it may be able to rebuild its reserves and its reputation with the market by getting people interested in local concerts.

Hurd says that with the lack of diversity in entertainment in College Station, Town Hall will work next year to expose the A&M community to a wider diversity of entertainment and to help in the development of new, lesser-known artists instead of restricting programs to the big-name concerts.

"This (community) is a hotbed of up-and-coming talent and we want to provide a venue for that talent," he says.

James Randolph, senior associate director of the MSC and adviser of Town Hall from 1973-80, says another problem the committee has had to face is a radical change in the market for concerts.

Artists have moved into a "bigger is better" mode, Randolph says, and A&M just can't afford to bring a lot of them here. Aside from artist fees, Town Hall also would have to pay for technical costs such as lighting and staging.

"Given the facilities available and the environment in which we function, the big-name concert is a thing of the past," Randolph says.

He also says artists no longer need cities such as College Station or places like A&M.

While artists used to be anxious to play concert dates everywhere to promote their records, they can accomplish more now by broadcasting on channels such as Music Television instead of going on tour.

Hurd says Town Hall had talked to John Cougar Mellencamp, whose asking price was \$75,000. That figure didn't include the band, promotional or technical costs, Hurd says.

"The most expensive show we've done to my knowledge was \$35,000," he says. "Bob Hope was \$50,000, but he wasn't a concert and there were no extra fees (band or technical)."

"Town Hall used to bring the up-and-coming acts for \$10,000-\$15,000. They're just not out there anymore. The prices are more than our market is willing to support."