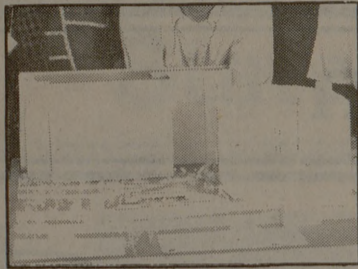


Architecture students design model for outpatient facility

— Page 3



A&M's Carpenter winning by 'short-changing' hitters

— Page 9



Texas A&M The Battalion

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West urges foreigners to pull out of Ukraine

MOSCOW (AP) — Up against a wall of Soviet secrecy, Western governments urged their citizens Wednesday to leave the stricken Ukraine where a nuclear fire spewed more radiation across Europe and touched off a storm of world outrage.

The Kremlin claimed radiation levels were dropping at the devastated Chernobyl nuclear power plant. But a Soviet diplomat was quoted as saying the inferno was "out of control," and U.S. sources in Washington agreed.

In its most detailed casualty report, the Soviet government Wednesday said two people were killed in the accident and 197 others

were hospitalized. But unofficial, unverified reports spoke of higher casualty tolls.

Those reports did not speak of potential long-term casualties, but the London-based Greenpeace environmental group estimated 10,000 Soviets would develop cancer over 30 years as a result of what many consider history's worst nuclear disaster.

Some of Kiev's 2.4 million people were fleeing the Ukrainian capital for Moscow, 450 miles to the northeast, West German sources said.

Radioactive clouds, meanwhile, spread as far west as the Swiss Alps and Norway, borne on mile-high winds.

European health officials reassured the public that radiation levels presented no major danger. But anger built up against the Soviets, who kept word of the deadly nuclear event from the rest of the world until Monday, three days after it happened.

The Soviet government has thrown a wall of near-total secrecy around what happened last week at Chernobyl, a four-reactor complex 60 miles north of Kiev.

A Ukrainian Health Ministry official, in a typical statement, said Wednesday, "I am not authorized to tell you anything."

Later in the day, the official news media carried a 300-word statement

by the Soviet Council of Ministers saying remedial measures had reduced the radioactivity spilling from the damaged reactor, and "the radiation levels in the area of the atomic power station (had been) lowered."

It said the chain reaction had been shut down and specialists were cleaning up "polluted sections" around the plant.

Of the 197 people hospitalized, 49 were discharged after a checkup, it said. The statement also criticized Western news agencies for "spreading rumors" that thousands had been killed.

See Disaster, page 14

U.S. sources say damage, fire spreads to 2nd reactor

WASHINGTON (AP) — A disastrous accident at a Soviet nuclear power plant, three days in the making, has spread fire and damage to a second nuclear reactor, Reagan administration sources said Wednesday. But officials differed on the extent of the catastrophe.

Some sources, offering a detailed assessment of the accident at the Chernobyl complex, said U.S. intelligence agencies are convinced a second of the four reactors at the site either has already experienced, or is experiencing, a meltdown of its core.

Late Wednesday, however, another administration official said the evidence of a second meltdown was not so clear cut.

This official said it was "too early" to reach a conclusion based on existing evidence.

Another official said after attending an intelligence briefing that the notion of a second meltdown was "dead wrong."

A meltdown definitely occurred within the first reactor, however, said officials who spoke to reporters under strict ground rules of confidentiality.

These sources said a fire at that first reactor still was burning out of control Wednesday, spewing smoke,

See related story, page 13

vapors and radiation into the atmosphere.

The officials flatly refused to discuss how U.S. intelligence agencies had pieced together a chronology of the Chernobyl disaster.

It appeared certain, however, the officials were referring to an assessment based on photo reconnaissance from American spy satellites as well as on data from other satellite sensors, such as infrared detection devices.

The sources stressed, however, they had no independent assessment of how much radiation had been released into the air — only that such radioactive fallout was continuing.

In Indonesia, President Reagan said Thursday that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev had contacted U.S. officials about the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster but that there was no response on an American offer of humanitarian and technical aid.

Asked if Gorbachev had accepted the U.S. offer of assistance, Reagan said, "No. We've heard from him but he apparently had not received our offer yet."

5 reactors in U.S. lack domes

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five large U.S. reactors used to produce nuclear weapons lack thick containment domes to trap escaping radiation if other safety systems fail in an accident, and one of them has been deteriorating for years, officials said Wednesday.

The absence of such a protective steel and concrete shell around the Chernobyl reactor believed to have melted down in the Soviet Union is blamed by U.S. officials for the release of massive amounts of radiation in the worst nuclear power accident in history.

In response to a suit from environmental groups, U.S. officials considered building a containment dome around one of four weapons reactors near Aiken, S.C., two years ago.

They concluded, though, that the \$850 million project was unnecessary.

The concrete and steel domes at U.S. commercial plants are six feet thick.

In addition, according to Energy Department documents, officials have been concerned for years about the warping graphite core and emittled and bowing process tubes in the N-weapons reactor at Hanford, Washington.

The Hanford plant is the U.S. plant closest in design to the Soviet reactor where the accident occurred.

Like the Chernobyl plant, the N-reactor is cooled with water and uses graphite to control the fission reaction inside but has no containment dome.

Energy Department officials maintain that differences between the Washington and Soviet plants — the fuel used, structural design and operating conditions — are sufficient to make any comparison unwarranted.

See Containment, page 14



The Clash

Residents of Moses Hall leap into the air as they try to keep a Hacky Sack off the ground.

Photo by Molly Pepper

NCAA won't interpret rules for college newspapers

By Mike Sullivan
Staff Writer

The NCAA recently adopted a policy blocking college newspapers from obtaining official NCAA interpretations of possible infractions unless they channel their requests through university administration.

Debbie Shoemaker, a secretary in the legislation services department of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, said she isn't allowed to transfer calls from college newspapers to NCAA officials.

"I can't put you through to anyone," she said, "and I can't give you an interpretation (of an NCAA rule)."

However, she did say the policy applies only to NCAA schools.

High school newspapers and professional newspapers, as well as private individuals, can get NCAA interpretations directly from NCAA officials, Shoemaker said.

She said the policy helps the NCAA remain organized and helps

athletic departments keep up with interpretations.

Shoemaker said college newspapers must get interpretations of NCAA rules from their school's chief executive officer, athletic director, faculty athletics representative or primary woman administrator.

A&M's faculty athletics representative, Dr. Tom Adair, was the only NCAA-designated University representative available for comment Wednesday afternoon.

Asked if he was one of the people *The Battalion* could use to get an NCAA rule interpretation, Adair replied, "You can try me."

Although newspapers also can go through their primary woman administrator, neither President Vandiver's office nor Chancellor Hansen's office could identify A&M's primary woman administrator.

The other NCAA-designated representatives are Vandiver and Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill.

133 students may lose Pell Grants

By Kim Roy
Reporter

As many as 133 Texas A&M students may lose Pell Grant funding if President Reagan's proposed budget cuts are approved by Congress, says Taft Benson, director of student financial aid.

Some of the 2,900 current recipients could find their aid cut or taken away, Benson says.

"There's a lot of uncertainty because of the (federal) budget," he says.

President Reagan has proposed cuts in funding for higher education, Benson says, but Congress is trying to maintain current funding levels.

The Pell Grant, named after its originator Sen. Claiborne Pell D-R.I., was established in 1965 to provide federal money to needy persons while they earn an undergraduate degree.

"Since 1981 it's been a struggle

Budget cuts threaten financial aid

"I don't think we'll see any increases (in funding) in the near future. It's a very political area. Spending on education depends on political support."

— Taft Benson, director of student financial aid

just to maintain current funding levels," Benson says.

"I don't think we'll see any increases (in funding) in the near future," he says. "It's a very political area. Spending on education depends on political support."

"Everything depends on the priorities of people in office."

If federal grants are cut, there would be no way to pick up the slack, Benson says.

State funds aren't scheduled to increase.

A&M has no plans for helping students who find their Pell Grants cut, other than established means

Long-term costs of nursing homes hurt elderly in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of elderly Americans face eventual poverty from the devastating cost of long-term nursing home care, but most are not even aware they have a problem, an administration task force was told Wednesday.

They erroneously believe they're already covered for nursing home care by Medicare or by the so-called Medigap private supplemental insurance policies many of them purchase, witnesses and members of the task force said.

One task force member cited an American Association of Retired Persons study that found 79 percent of more than 1,000 association members surveyed believed they would be covered by either Medicare or Medigap policies if they eventually had to enter a nursing home.

In fact, Medigap policies ordinarily deal only with hospital costs Medicare does not cover. Under government programs, long-term nursing home care is covered only by Medicaid, the state-federal health program for the poor.

And to qualify for Medicaid bene-

fits, the elderly first must cash in virtually all their assets — for the single elderly, that usually includes selling their home — and spend that money on their care until they are impoverished.

It doesn't take long. A Harvard study released last year of a sample of single 75-year-olds in Massachusetts found that 46 percent would be impoverished within three months of entering a nursing home, and 72 percent would be broke within a year.

"The majority of older people need catastrophic insurance not to insure against the cost of a long hospital stay, but against the uncovered expenses of nursing home care, community-based services and chronic illnesses requiring long-term care," William R. Hutton, executive director of the National Council of Senior Citizens, told the task force.

The comments came Wednesday as the Reagan administration task force began its study of how to protect Americans from the cost of catastrophic illness.

an education," he says. "The system we use to determine if a student is eligible for aid is very rigid."

It's difficult to find alternative means of raising money for school, Benson says.

"More often than not a student is forced to leave school," he says.

Shane Warr, a freshman from Port Neches, says if his Pell-Grant money is cut, he'll have to move back home.

"I won't be going to school at A&M because I pay for everything," Warr says. "My parents don't pay for anything."

Warr says he is on a four-year academic scholarship as well as being a Pell Grant recipient, but the scholarship is not enough.

A&M's policy is to try to give a needy student 50 percent of the necessary money through gift aid such as grants and 50 percent from self-help programs, loans or work study, Benson says.