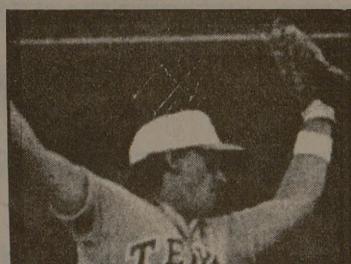


Democratic hopeful Briscoe optimistic about campaign

— Page 3



A&M hopes to keep respect in final season series with TCU

— Page 9

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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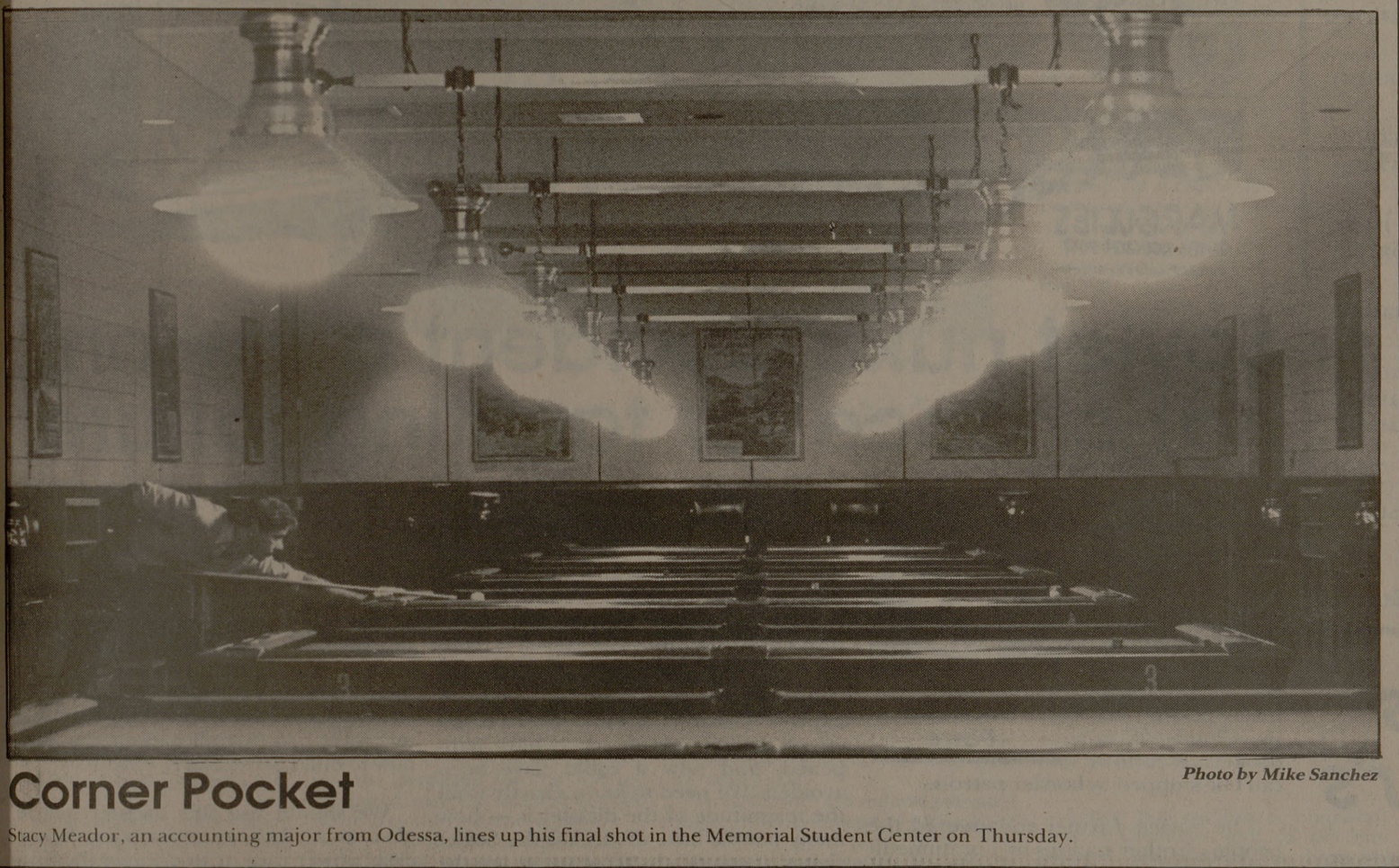


Photo by Mike Sanchez

## Corner Pocket

Stacy Meador, an accounting major from Odessa, lines up his final shot in the Memorial Student Center on Thursday.

## Soviet Union says radiation is decreasing

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union told a nervous world Thursday that radiation from the nuclear plant disaster was abating, but one of its diplomats said other countries should not relax because the "accident is not over."

The Kremlin presented a calm face, rejecting offers of help from the United States and other countries, but an international bone-marrow transplant organization said its offer to aid victims had been accepted.

Traditional May Day parades were held as usual, including one in Kiev, the Ukrainian city of 2.4 million only 80 miles from the Chernobyl power plant where a reactor caught fire Friday. State television showed colorfully dressed folk dancers performing there.

The cause of the accident has not been revealed, but Soviet radiation expert Pavel Ramzaev said when asked Thursday if it was a meltdown of the reactor core: "I suppose that is so."

There were conflicting reports about whether the reactor fire had been extinguished. U.S. intelligence sources had said Wednesday in Washington that it still raged and could burn for weeks.

The U.S. Agriculture Department said shifting winds were carrying a radioactive plume from the stricken plant over the rich farmland of the western Ukraine and into Romania, Hungary, eastern Czechoslovakia and Austria. Poland reported less fallout than in previous days, but

See related stories, page 8

said radioactivity levels in water and soil remained high.

The Soviet government said only: "Efforts to implement a complex of technical measures continued at the Chernobyl nuclear power station (NPS) in the duration of April 30. The radioactivity on the territory of the NPS and the NPS' settlement dropped 1.5-2 times."

"Work is under way to deactivate the contaminated areas adjacent to the NPS territory."

"Medical assistance is administered to those affected, of whom 18 people are in serious condition. There are no foreign citizens among those affected."

A Foreign Ministry official in Red Square for the parade said a news conference would be held when more information became available, but added that he could not predict when that would be.

Officially, the casualty toll is two dead and 197 injured, but Secretary of State George P. Shultz said it was higher "by good measure."

An Israeli amateur radio operator in Tel Aviv said a Soviet ham told him there were 300 casualties, but how many were dead was not clear.

David Ben-Bassat said the Soviet ham operator told him Wednesday that he lived 30 miles north of the

See Disaster, page 12

## Regents' reason not to divest 'ridiculous'

By Mona Palmer  
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M Board of Regents could divest its holdings in South African-related companies for moral reasons, says state Rep. Wilhelmina Delco, chairwoman of the House Committee on Higher Education.

Board Chairman David Eller denied Students Against Apartheid's request for a meeting to discuss divestment, saying it was not within the board's purview to make moral statements.

Delco disagrees with the premise. "That's a ridiculous argument," Delco says. "I would certainly hope they'd have some moral sense of integrity in their investments."

Students Against Apartheid had asked the regents to make a moral statement by divesting the \$2.9 million A&M has invested in South African companies.

Eller's objection to the meeting came in a Jan. 14 letter to Chancellor Arthur G. Hansen.

But Delco says the decision to divest South African holdings is no different than any other investment decision the board might make.

"Every investment has a moral as well as financial implication," Delco says.

The governing bodies of institutions such as A&M should set a moral tone for the institution, she says.

The attitude that anything goes as long as it maximizes investments is not an acceptable premise, she says.

Bill Presnal, executive secretary for the board, declined to discuss Delco's comments.

Section 11, Article VII of the Texas Constitution sets the guidelines for state university investments.

Section 11(a) states that the regents shall operate under the prudent man rule — exercising the judgment and care under the prevailing circumstances, which men of ordinary prudence, discretion and intelligence exercise in the management of their own affairs.

## Accident hasn't canceled students' trip

# Aggies still plan to visit Soviet Union

By Nancy Feigenbaum  
Reporter

The Soviet nuclear accident at Chernobyl comes at the dawn of the 1986 summer tourist season, an important consideration for nine Texas A&M students and the owner of a College Station travel agency.

According to Hugh Hughes, a Ph.D. candidate in the department of adult education who heads the A&M section of the trip, the state department has issued a travel advisory for a radius of 100 miles around Kiev.

"They said we should not be concerned about Moscow or Leningrad," Hughes says. "Moscow is 500 miles north. They said we should be more concerned about Poland or Austria."

So far, none of the "Aggies in Russia" who plan to stay in the Soviet Union from May 19 to July 7 have withdrawn from the trip, Hughes says.

"You know Aggies aren't easily scared," he says.

Kayla McMahan says the crisis in the Ukraine makes two months of study in the Soviet Union all the more interesting to her.

McMahan says she is most interested in the dissemination of news in the Soviet Union, such as news about the American raid on Libya and the nuclear accident in the Ukraine.

"We really don't know exactly what they know," she says.

McMahan says she does not believe the Soviet government would let her into the country if the situa-

## Prof criticizes U.S. rhetoric on Chernobyl

By Nancy Feigenbaum  
Reporter

A Texas A&M professor says the Soviet nuclear accident at Chernobyl has caused a pattern of hysteria in the United States similar to that caused by the crisis at Three Mile Island in 1979.

Dr. Chester Dunning, associate professor of history, points to a spate of rhetoric coming from American government officials, many of whom he says are not qualified to discuss complicated problems in nuclear physics.

"We don't have enough information to be making the kinds of gross generalizations that we are," Dunning says.

The official Soviet count of two dead and almost 200 hospitalized contrasts sharply with rumors of more than 2,000 dead, as reported by the media.

But some of the most alarming figures about casualties in the Soviet Ukraine stem from unconfirmed rumors, Dunning says, often from the same source.

Dunning points out that the Soviets may have had an opportunity before the meltdown to evacuate most of the people who would have been endangered.

An evacuation during an early stage of the crisis would explain the government's low casualty figures, he says.

Dunning, who teaches Russian and Soviet history, says that in the past when the Soviet government has been willing to give precise figures, they usually turn out to be close to the truth.

Dunning says he expects the government to quarantine any contaminated food that passes through official channels.

The biggest likelihood of contamination will be from family gardens, which are not regulated by the agricultural ministry, he says, especially if people are not fully informed of the dangers.

"I hope it makes them more forthright among their allies and their own people," Dunning says. "I'm not holding my breath."

Dunning says reports from analysts in Europe differ significantly from statements by U.S. officials, but coincide with reports from individual American analysts. Individual American analysts, he says, can't confirm a second meltdown.

"If there's any possibility to help them (the Soviets), we blew it by our own rhetoric," he says.

tion were dangerous, for fear of later reprisals.

Dr. Michal Barszap, owner of a local tour company that organizes student tours to the Soviet Union, says he has not been able to get through to his relatives in Kiev but that a family friend in Philadelphia succeeded in making a call earlier this week.

Barszap says his relative in Kiev

said he had heard about the crisis through official news reports but paid little attention because the reports were short and much like other news.

Barszap's company, ITS Tours & Travel, is split into two businesses, one of which sells tours of the Soviet Union.

Barszap says that about 40 of the 250 people traveling to the Soviet

Union with his company in May and June have called to cancel.

"Relatively speaking, I am really surprised that there is such a small number of cancellations," Barszap says.

Of that number, more than half represent an Oregon high school group which canceled Wednesday

See Travel, page 12

# A.P. Beutel may change its after-hour services

By Brian Pearson  
Senior Staff Writer

The A.P. Beutel Health Center probably will alter its after-hour services due to potential liability problems involved with physicians on call, said Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services.

Koldus said Wednesday that part of the problem involves the unavailability of physicians in the community who are supposed to be on call after the center's regular hours.

Health center regular hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays and 8 p.m. to noon on Saturdays. Health center staff on weekdays will attend to waiting patients until 5 p.m.

"You can't get a physician to come out to stay (after hours), so you have to get one on call and pay a retainer

for that individual," Koldus said. "They've (center staff members) got some real problems in terms of getting physicians to be able to be on call and come out here and handle emergencies...."

The emergencies involved include illnesses or injuries needing immediate attention by a physician but not requiring special facilities and attention provided by community hospitals such as St. Joseph, Koldus said. He said campus patients with severe illnesses or injuries now are referred automatically to a community hospital.

The physician retainer costs about \$75 a night, according to a health center official.

Koldus said community physicians hired on retainer never have refused to come to the center for an

emergency, but "they have been hesitant."

"The physician is the one that decides whether he comes out or not, or whether to give the nurse instructions in regard to how to handle the situation," Koldus said.

"That's one of our problems in the sense that the nurses feel like the responsibility should sometimes be assumed by a physician rather than the nurses that are on duty.... You're never sure about the severity of the thing. The difficulty is that you can't ask a nurse."

Texas A&M, Koldus said, could be responsible if a case is mishandled.

Koldus said a recent situation, in which a question arose over whether

a physician should handle the case, prompted health center officials to consider after-hour service alternatives.

"I don't remember the particu-

lars," Koldus said, "but I know the nurse was concerned and worried."

Koldus said health center changes may be made by next fall.

Changes in the center probably

will not include closing it down completely after regular hours.

"There are a lot of things to work

See Health center, page 12

## Registration will open Monday at A&M

Students can register and drop-add for Fall 1986, first summer session and 10-week summer session Monday through May 16, says Willis S. Ritchey, assistant registrar.

Registration headquarters in the Pavilion will be open from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

While the Fall Schedule says no academic advising will be available, Ritchey says students should check with their departments.

The first summer session and 10-week session will begin June 9. Students also can register for these ses-

sions June 2 and 3. Ritchey says students should check with their department to see if advising will be available these days. Academic advising will be available:

- June 4, students with last names beginning with H-O.
- June 5, students with last names beginning with P-Z.
- June 6, students with last names beginning with A-G.
- June 7, open registration.