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Photo by Anthony S. Casper

Students Against Censorship

Members of the newly formed Students Against Censorship protest against the Southland Corporation's decision to ban Penthouse and Playboy. Group spokesman David Jansen, a senior electrical engineer-

ing major from Dallas, said the group was formed last week solely for the purpose of the protest. The demonstration was held at the 7-Eleven at the corner of University Drive and Boyett St. Thursday afternoon.

3.3 percent of teachers fail TECAT

AUSTIN (AP) — Only 3.3 percent of Texas teachers failed a statewide competency test, the State Board of Education was told Thursday.

Under school reform laws enacted last year, teachers must pass the test to keep their jobs.

Officials earlier had predicted that about 5 percent of the more than 200,000 teachers would fail the test.

The total number of educators who failed one or both portions of the test was 6,579, or 3.3 percent, State Education Commissioner William N. Kirby told the board. They will get a chance on June 28 to retake the test.

Less than 1 percent, or 1,597 people, failed the reading portion; 1.7 percent, or 3,514 educators, failed the writing portion; and less than 1 percent, or 1,468, failed both parts, Kirby said.

Ethnic breakdowns showed that 98.9 percent of Anglos, 94 percent of

Hispanics and 81.6 percent of blacks passed both sections.

Legislators decided to require the Texas Examination of Current Administrators and Teachers — or TECAT — after a study committee said it found some Texas teachers were inadequately prepared to teach.

Charles Beard, president of the Texas State Teachers Association which opposed the exams, said, "These tests underscore the fact that we have just wasted some \$4.7 million of taxpayers' money. We do not know any more about teacher competency in Texas than we did two months or two years ago."

Al Bookman, associate communications director of the Association of Texas Professional Educators, said, "We're elated but not surprised. It's a big hurdle for everyone. Now we need to sit down with the 6,500 and see if we can help them out."

1st radiation checks at Chernobyl low

KIEV, U.S.S.R. (AP) — No one was evacuated immediately from the Chernobyl nuclear plant area because initial radiation checks after the reactor explosion and fire showed "nothing to fear," the Ukrainian premier said Thursday.

Alexander Lyashko said the evacuation order for the immediate area was given April 27, the day after the accident, and that people more than six miles away were not told to leave until a week after the disaster.

Reports Thursday said changing winds had carried higher levels of radiation to Kiev, the Ukrainian capital of 2.4 million people 80 miles south of the Chernobyl plant.

Health precautions were imposed in the city and thousands of people were reported fleeing.

Lyashko told a visiting group of Western reporters that the reactor fire was "practically stopped" and radiation was "stable with a tendency downward."

The reactor core meltdown at Chernobyl spewed a cloud of invisible radioactivity over Europe, but the Soviet Union did not report it until high levels of radiation were reported in Scandinavia two days after it happened.

Lyashko said the explosion that caused the fire resulted in a "small radioactive emission" and "the measurements at first showed that there was nothing to fear."

An order was issued April 27 to evacuate people within 6.2 miles of

Safety experts call for teamwork

WASHINGTON (AP) — International nuclear safety experts said Thursday they expect a renewed drive for worldwide cooperation, including mandatory notification of nuclear emergencies, in light of the Chernobyl disaster and its far-reaching radioactive cloud.

Allen Mendelowitz, author of a General Accounting Office study on international nuclear safety, said, "Circumstances are changing because of Chernobyl. It's a propitious time to raise the issue of a convention again."

There is no international agreement governing the reporting of nuclear accidents now, nor provisions for

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mutual emergency assistance among nations. Neither are there requirements for preventive measures such as reactor inspections and information sharing.

The United States led a campaign for such an agreement in 1981, but ran into opposition from other countries. Guidelines on reporting events, information exchanges and mutual assistance were adopted instead.

"How do you take sovereign nations who jealously guard their

sovereign prerogatives and impose upon them international obligations that are legally binding?" Mendelowitz asked the Senate Government Affairs subcommittee on energy, nuclear proliferation and government affairs.

"We can only hope that the Chernobyl accident will serve as the impetus for that assessment," he added.

Meanwhile, a founder of a volunteer organization that coordinates information sharing among U.S. utilities using nuclear energy said Thurs-

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the plant, he said, but the zone was not broadened to 18 miles until six days later. Evacuation "was completed by May 4" — last Sunday, he said.

Soviet officials said earlier this week that evacuation of the 25,000 people in the plant town of Pripjat did not begin until 36 hours after the accident because Chernobyl personnel did not realize how serious it was.

Boris N. Yeltsin, chief of the Moscow Communist Party, said Monday

that the original "danger area" was 18 miles, later reduced to 12. He said livestock in the zone were slaughtered.

The order for additional evacuations and other steps apparently resulted from a visit to the area May 2, six days after the accident, by Soviet Premier Nikolai I. Ryzhkov and Yegor Ligachev, No. 2 man in the Kremlin.

Lyashko, the Ukrainian premier, said officials in Moscow were advised

of the explosion when it happened, but the full gravity of the situation was not relayed until Monday, April 28, because the situation "was constantly developing." The Soviet Union acknowledged the accident Monday after Sweden demanded information.

According to Lyashko, 84,000 people have been evacuated and the 204 people officially reported injured were workers at the power station, not members of the general public.

Officially the death toll is two, but the official Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said in a dispatch from Moscow that a third person died in a Kiev hospital.

The Ukrainian premier said the temperature in the burning No. 4 reactor had gone down to 572 degrees Fahrenheit.

Western experts have said for days that the graphite core of the reactor was probably afire and would burn itself out slowly. Helicopters and ground workers have dumped thousands of tons of sand, lead, and boron on the reactor to reduce emissions.

The journalists, who provided a pool report, arrived Thursday on a visit organized by the Foreign Ministry. There has been no indication that independent travel will be permitted soon by other reporters who have sought permission.

In a report on Kiev, the government newspaper Izvestia said Thursday that children were ordered not to play outside, the school term may be ended early, and children evacuated from "danger areas" near the reactor were given priority for summer camps. Street sales of ice cream, pastries and juices are prohibited, food in farmers' markets is checked for radiation, and food and clothing of passengers is scanned at railroad stations, airports and bus depots, Izvestia said.

Death Act eases doctors' decisions

Editors Note: This is the second installment of a two-part series on amendments to the Texas Natural Death Act.

By Mona Palmer
Senior Staff Writer

The amended Texas Natural Death Act clarifies the legal responsibilities of terminally ill patients, their doctors, and families and makes the decisions involving terminally ill patients easier, says Dr. John Hall, a member of the Medical Ethics Committee at St. Joseph Hospital.

Previously, the law only recognized treatment directives written in a specific form. But under the new act, patients can write directives in various forms.

In addition, terminally ill patients now can express their wishes verbally.

A second change gives guardians

and family members the legal authority to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining procedures for a comatose or mentally incompetent patient who has not provided a directive.

The amendment also allows specific persons to carry out the wishes of patients who are under 18.

Hall, a Bryan physician, says the act and its changes won't affect 99 percent of the medical profession.

But it does help physicians feel more comfortable making decisions for that 1 percent, he says.

In making these decisions, Hall said he tries to put himself in his patient's shoes.

"My feeling is when the patient says, 'No, I don't want my life prolonged just to have more needles, more machines and more pain shots' — certainly I think you should go along with the patient's wish," he says. "And that's what I'd want for myself."

"I cannot, however, allow the patient . . . to commit a so-called mercy death if he is not in the act of dying. But you do not have to maintain a person's blood pressure or maintain respiration artificially if he says, 'No, I don't want it.'"

Hall has been practicing in Bryan for 26 years and says he has dealt with many terminally ill patients.

Conflicts are rare, he says, but in those rare instances, the amended act makes it easier for the physician to make a decision.

"You feel . . . the state is backing you in your decision, as long as you follow those guidelines," he says. "Most of these cases are not as dramatic as they show on television and most cases are quite clear-cut. For example, the older person who has a stroke or heart attack."

"You don't have to go through a lot of medical tests. You can say, 'This

person is dead,' and nobody will question that kind of diagnosis."

Hall says the conflict with terminally ill patients is that they aren't brain dead yet.

In fact they're very much brain-alive, he says — even a comatose person who shows little or no response, in most cases, is not brain dead.

He explains that the state has multiple definitions of a person being alive. One definition relies on brain waves.

The patient is given two brain wave tests, 24 hours apart, Hall says, and if both are flat lines, then the doctor can declare the person legally dead.

Another test looks at the flow of blood to the brain, he says, and if a test reveals no circulation, then the doctor can declare the person legally dead.

Two physicians must agree on

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Small fire at A&M building

About 30 people were evacuated from the Reed McDonald Building for about 45 minutes Thursday after a small fire was discovered in the building's basement.

A spokesman for the College Station Fire Department said an electrical motor burned up in a room in the basement and filled six rooms with smoke. He said the firefighters received the call on the fire at 6:26 p.m. People were allowed to return inside at about 7:15 p.m.

No injuries or other damages were reported.

Shultz: New aid to Filipinos unlikely

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — George Shultz said Thursday there will be no U.S. aid increases to the debt-ridden Philippines beyond those already made, and the new government's priority should be to get the economy re-arranged.

The secretary of state also said Congress was in a mood to reduce foreign aid requests, and "it is not in the interest of the United States to have the kind of cuts that seem to be in the offing."

Shultz arrived in Manila from Seoul, where he met with South Korean President Chun Doo-hwan.

On the flight from Seoul, Shultz said the administration would not go beyond the \$200 million request for additional economic and military aid to the Philippines announced last month.

He is here for talks with President Corazon Aquino, and has also scheduled a meeting with politicians from the government of Ferdinand E. Marcos, who fled the country Feb. 26 after two decades as president because of a military-civilian rebellion.

Shultz said the "assertion of democracy" in Manila had earned worldwide respect and admiration. "Americans are interested in knowing how we can help resolve your economic problems," he said in an arrival statement.

Supporters of Marcos have a right to demonstrate, the secretary said, provided they do not use violent means.

Marcos loyalists have held street demonstrations and public rallies demanding his return.

Shultz's 26-hour visit is intended to demonstrate the Reagan administration's support for the new government and inform Aquino and her ministers about events at the seven-nation economic summit meeting in Tokyo that ended Tuesday.

Aquino's government must cope with a \$26 billion foreign debt and lower investment caused by a steady decline of confidence in Marcos' government before he left.