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What's up

Monday

MSC CAMERA: will meet at 7 p.m. Check the monitor in Rudder Tower for location.

LIBERAL ARTS SOCIETY: will meet at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder.

ATHEISTS, AGNOSTICS AND FREE-THINKERS SOCIETY: will conduct an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. in 333B Zachry.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS: will conduct a mandatory meeting at 8 p.m. in 200 Heldenfels.

Tuesday

AMERICAN ETHNIC COALITION: will conduct a panel discussion on "Why Should English be the Official Language?" at 7 p.m. in 701 Rudder.

MSC GREAT ISSUES: David G. Eller, Gary Mauro and Dr. Steve H. Murdock will discuss the economics of Texas agriculture at 3:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION: Dr. Dave Olyphant will speak on "Texas Poetry: A Double Feature" at 2 p.m. in 204C Sterling C. Evans Library.

SOCIETY OF MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS: Bob Vernier will speak on statistical data analysis at 7 p.m. in 209 HECC.

TRI BETA BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY: Thane Wibbels will speak at 7 p.m. in 105 Heldenfels.

PHILOSOPHY COLLOQUIUM: Zhu Ximmin of Fudan University in Shanghai, China, will speak on "Contemporary Chinese Philosophy" at 3:30 p.m. in 302 Rudder.

HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION: Jim Kubiab will speak on foaling at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.

POLITICAL FORUM: will sponsor speakers from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the lounge of the Memorial Student Center.

TAMU NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN: will host a speaker on abortion and nominate officers at 8:30 p.m. in 404 Rudder.

ART FILM SOCIETY: will show "Mickey One" at 8 p.m. in the auditorium of the Langford Architecture Center.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS: will conduct a mandatory meeting for all volunteers at 8 p.m. in 200 Heldenfels.

COWBOYS FOR CHRIST: will meet at 7 a.m. at The Kettle.

STUDENT COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN: will conduct officer elections at 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder.

WOMEN IN COMMUNICATIONS INC.: will meet and elect officers at 12:15 p.m. in 215 Reed McDonald.

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION: will elect officers at 7 p.m. in 201 Veterinary Medical Sciences.

TAMU ONE-WHEELERS: will meet at 6 p.m. in front of G. Rollie White Coliseum.

STUDENT "Y" - AGGIE FRIENDS: will meet at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder.

EL PASO HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 302 Rudder.

STUDENT "Y" ASSOCIATION: applications for chairmen are available through April 22.

AGGIE BAR ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP: Applications are available through today in 103 Academic for seniors planning to enter law school in the fall.

CHANCELLOR'S STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD: applications are available in the office of the Vice President for Student Services, office of Student Affairs, Student Activities office, Corps Commander's office, MSC Director's office and Student Government office. Applications are due at 5 p.m. Friday in 110 YMCA Building.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days prior to desired publication date.

Physician: Effects from Chernobyl not yet realized

By Melanie Perkins
Staff Writer

An Austin physician told a group of about three dozen people gathered at the College Station Community Center Friday evening that the gravest consequences of Chernobyl have yet to come.

Dr. Wes Wallace, founder and chairman of the Austin chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, spoke on the Chernobyl nuclear disaster as seen through the eyes of a physician.

The Chernobyl nuclear power plant suffered an explosion and subsequent radiation leak on April 26, 1986. Wallace blamed the disaster on an unauthorized experiment involving an intentional override of multiple safety systems, and said it was similar to the experiment that led to the 1979 Three-Mile Island accident in Pennsylvania.

Wallace called the disaster "the most significant nuclear event in history since the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

"Chernobyl is a real double-edged sword," he said. "It's a terrible tragedy, but on the other hand, we're going to learn a lot about radiation from it."

On a recent visit to the Soviet Union, Wallace was able to examine and interview victims of the Chernobyl disaster.

He described radiation sickness as being somewhat like AIDS — the body's ability to produce white blood cells is damaged to a large degree. Without white blood cells, the body is unable to fight even the simplest infections, and those exposed can easily become victims of common diseases.

Physicians can try to protect victims of radiation sickness from infection by predicting which kinds might strike, he said. But in acute cases, people don't recover. Most die after their immune systems cease to function. The severity of the case de-

pend on the amount of radiation a victim is exposed to and the victim's tolerance to it.

Wallace compared the relative safety of small levels of radiation most are exposed to throughout their lives — like X-rays — to the massive doses required to cause illness. About 450 rads of radiation is generally accepted as the mean lethal dose, he said. Half of 100 healthy adults exposed to this amount would die. In comparison, the average chest X-ray uses only about 12 millirads of radiation.

"(Chernobyl is) a terrible tragedy, but . . . we're going to learn a lot about radiation from it."
— Dr. Wes Wallace

Wallace said the number of deaths directly linked to the accident pale in comparison to the projected deaths from resulting cancer. Much of the data has been manipulated, he said, but estimates range from 5,000 to 200,000 deaths. No one will be sure for at least a generation, he added.

The world needs to learn two lessons from Chernobyl, Wallace said, the first about nuclear weapons and the second about man's inability to control them and other technologies.

While in the Soviet Union, a top member of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences told Wallace that caring for just 300 people had overwhelmed the Soviet health care system. One nuclear device of 100 megatons would create 300,000 such casualties. "What then?" he asked.

"We know it is true," Wallace said. "We know in this country and the Soviet citizens I talked to know, that if we continue to build and have nuclear weapons, we will someday use them. I will remind you that there has never been a weapon that has not been used on a substantial scale."

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The Battalion

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Ads that get action

Campus and community news

The Battalion
216 Reed McDonald
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