

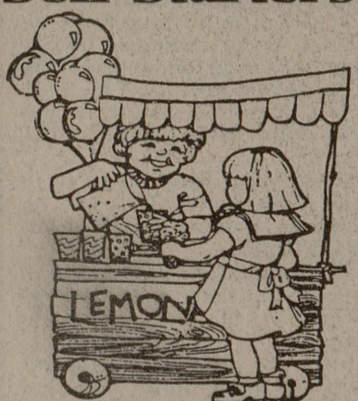
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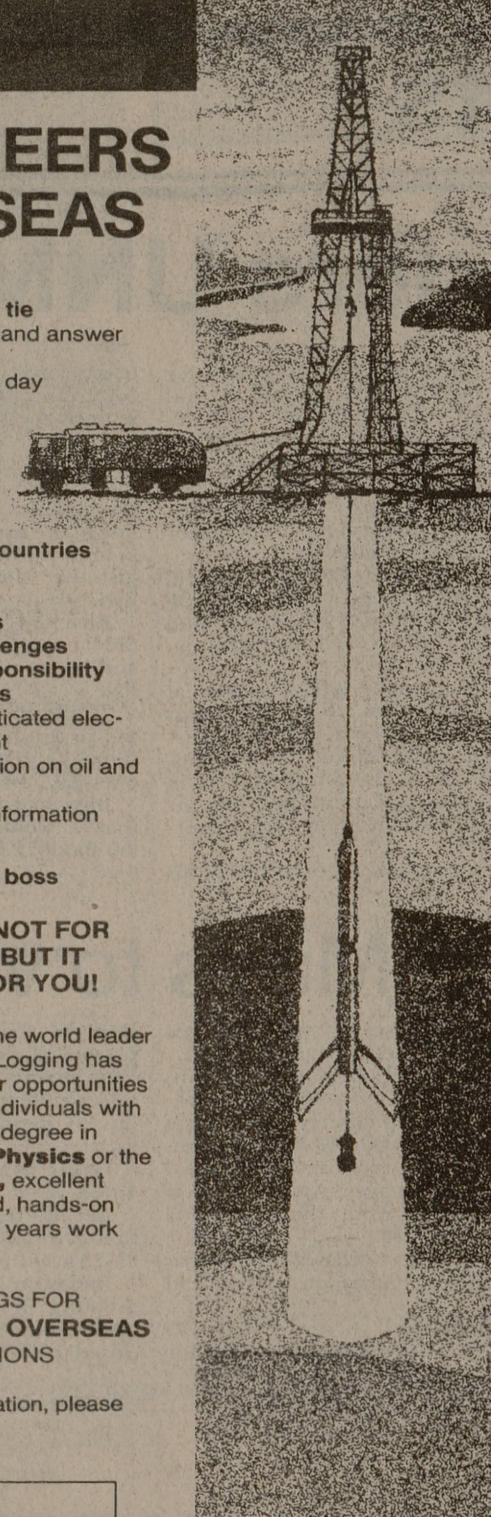
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Job opportunities open for chemical engineers

By Alan Sembera
Staff Writer

This will cause a shortage of chemical engineers, he said.

He said now is a good time for students to enter the chemical engineering field.

Freshman enrollment at A&M in chemical engineering has increased 5 percent this year, he said, the first

Chemical engineering graduates are having an easy time finding jobs this year. At Texas A&M, all the chemical engineering students who graduated this May found jobs if they wanted them, said Dr. Ray Flumerfelt, head of the Department of Chemical Engineering.

The improvement in job opportunities was partly caused by a recent surge in the traditional chemical processing industry, Flumerfelt said. But he attributes much of the graduates' success to a new outlook being taken by chemical engineering students in the past five years.

Flumerfelt said chemical engineering students now enter areas such as ceramics, biotechnology, the food industry and the environment.

He said cleaning the environment is the major new challenge chemical engineers face.

New applications such as this will increase the job openings for chemical engineers, he said, but the number of chemical engineering graduates is decreasing.

"Before the Arab embargo of '74, we were graduating about 3,500 chemical engineers," he said.

"We were very comfortable then in a sense of students getting jobs.

"Then the energy crisis hit—a lot of students came into chemical engineering, as well as petroleum engineering, and our enrollment skyrocketed... we were overinflated; not just here but elsewhere.

"In '81 when the price of oil went down and the energy industry was hurt, the demand went down and we were caught with a large number of students. As soon as the students picked up on this... they stopped enrolling in chemical engineering."

Flumerfelt said in the 1987-88 school year about 4,500-5,000 chemical engineering graduates in the United States and Canada. That's down from 8,000 four years ago.

He said that in two years there only will be 3,500-4,000 graduates in the field.

increase since the oil economy lapsed.

"We expect to see an increase in the fall, but the word still has gotten completely into the schools that the job situation is favorable," he explained. "Likely by the fall of '89 before we see a big jump in our freshman enrollment."

National Briefs

Official: U.S. used drug traffickers

WASHINGTON (AP) — A House subcommittee chairman said Tuesday he has evidence that the Reagan administration used known drug traffickers to secure guns for the Nicaraguan Contras.

Rep. William Hughes, D-N.J., who chairs the House crime subcommittee, said he would air the allegations — which he acknowledged were unproven — at public hearings next month.

Hughes said the subcommittee has been tracking a 3½-year "pattern" of administration officials either ignoring or encouraging

criminal activity on behalf of the Contra rebels.

Hughes said the crime program has uncovered repeated allegations of federal agents recruiting or coercing criminals to work on behalf of the Contras, who are trying to overthrow the left Sandinista government. Hughes said the criminals may have been recruited as part of a plea bargain.

Hughes said allegations include possible abuse of the criminal justice system in the Contra

Explosion hits Soviet production plant

WASHINGTON (AP) — A production plant in the Soviet Union that makes the main rocket motors for Russia's newest long-range nuclear missile suffered a major explosion last week and is now shut down, Pentagon officials said Tuesday.

In a statement released in reaction to a report broadcast by NBC News, Pentagon officials said the explosion occurred May 12 and "destroyed several buildings at a Soviet propellant plant in Pavlograd."

"Apparently, this will delay Soviet solid-propellant missile programs," Pentagon officials added.

The Pavlograd plant, located about 500 miles southwest of Moscow in the Ukraine, is the only facility the Russians have for manufacturing the main rocket motors for the new SS-24 intercontinental ballistic missile, administration officials said Tuesday.

That missile is a large 10-metric-ton head weapon that can be launched from either underground silos or rail cars.

Senate delays OK of Pentagon budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate, hung up over a fight on the death penalty, delayed final approval Tuesday of a Pentagon budget bill that has become a vehicle for anti-drug proposals and a condemnation of administration proposals to cut a deal with Panama's military ruler, Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega.

The dispute involves an amendment that would permit the death penalty for drug dealers convicted of killing people.

At the White House, spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said President Reagan will talk about the drug problem in a commencement address Wednesday at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. He said the president wants the bill "to depoliticize the drug debate."

The bill authorizes Pentagon spending of \$299.5 billion in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 and includes a trio of anti-drug provisions overwhelmingly added by senators who contend the U.S. public welfare action to halt illegal drug trafficking.

Meese explains firing of Eastland

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Edwin Meese III said Tuesday he fired chief spokesman Terry Eastland because "it was time for a change in leadership" and that the dismissal did not revolve around a question of aggressively defending Meese.

Meese made the comment to reporters after President Reagan reiterated his confidence in Meese and said in reference to Eastland's firing that "there is more than meets the eye with regard to this latest departure."

Meese said "I suspect" what Reagan "had in mind" concerning Eastland's departure was "that I determined it was time for a change in leadership."

Eastland, Meese's public chief since April 1985, said in a Monday that the attorney general had told him Friday he was someone "willing to aggressively defend you against... any and all criticism." He said Meese had concluded "my efforts have sufficed."

Meese flatly contradicted a portion of Eastland's letter Tuesday afternoon, telling reporters that Eastland's departure "had nothing to do with a defense of me. Actually, ... defending me is not one of Terry's tasks."

Senate set to open debate on pact

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate was ready to open debate Tuesday on the U.S.-Soviet medium-range missile treaty, one week before President Reagan leaves for the Moscow summit.

The White House is appealing for quick action to permit Reagan to go to Moscow with a ratified treaty. Senate Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., said he too hopes the president can take to the summit "the treaty with a blue ribbon on it."

But there is no guarantee the Senate will be able to act before

Reagan meets Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev in the Kremlin on May 29. The president is to leave Washington next Wednesday for a rest stop in Finland before going on to Moscow.

The Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty requires the destruction of certain ground-launched medium-range missiles.

The ground-breaking arms control pact has been under consideration by three Senate committees since the beginning of the year.

Graduate

(Continued from page 1)

lost its edge to foreign markets. Our technological edge is essential to our national security. There is hope, though, and I'm looking at it to 14018610night."

Dr. James H. "Red" Duke Jr., a physician and surgeon, spoke Friday to graduates receiving doctorates in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

He warned graduates that they now will face decisions that will determine the shape of their personal and professional lives for years to come.

"Each of you is going to concoct your own recipe for your way of life, and it's not going to be easy," Duke said. "You've got a long way to ride."

He also cautioned them not to lose track of their humanity.

"It's important to try to learn to be honest with yourself about who and what you are, and to be able to share it with others," Duke said.

"We're here; it's time to stop and take a deep breath of fresh air. The fun is just beginning."

In a brief welcome speech at every ceremony, David Eller, chairman of the Board of Regents, told students to remember their memories.

"Some of you may be remembering trying to learn the subjunctive tense of Spanish... or some of you engineering students may remember passing Math 152," Eller said.

"Some of you here are graduating with a straight 4.0," he said. "Unfortunately, you don't know the thrill of getting a 'C' in a tough course. However, I'm sure there are some of you graduating with an equally-straight 2.0, and you do know the thrill."

During the ceremonies, four former students were honored as Distinguished Alumni. James H. "Red" Duke, Class of '50; J.B. "Dick" Hervey, Class of '42; Ormond R. Simpson, Class of '36; and Harwood K. Smith, Class of '35, were all given citations by the Association of Former Students.

The Brown Foundation Outstanding Student of the Year Award, in honor of former A&M president Earl Rudder, was presented to James Michael Jumper, a biochemistry major, and Kristen Allen, a finance major.

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