



Superconducting super collider

Finances and projects finally take shape for the scientific tool.

State & Local Section page 3

De Klerk raises emergency state, lifts restrictions

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — President F.W. de Klerk on Thursday ended the 4-year-old national state of emergency that had included some of the harshest political restrictions ever imposed by the country's white rulers.

The end of the national emergency helps pave the way for black-white negotiations on dismantling apartheid. But de Klerk said violence-torn Natal Province will remain under emergency rule.

"The net result of the lifting of the state of emergency is that one of the main stumbling blocks (to constitutional negotiations) has been removed," de Klerk told Parliament in Cape Town.

In Paris, African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela said de Klerk's action was "a victory for the people... both black and white."

But he said he would continue to urge Western governments to maintain economic sanctions against South Africa, and he criticized the retention of the state of emergency in Natal.

The White House welcomed de Klerk's move, calling it a sign of "the remarkable progress" in recent months in South Africa.

Right-wing whites, who have opposed recent reforms, criticized the action.

During the state of emergency, more than 30,000 activists, most of them black, were detained without charge for varying lengths of time.

Thousands more went into hiding after former President P.W. Botha imposed the restrictions on June 12, 1986.

About 300 activists were being held under the emergency regulations as of Thursday, most of them in Natal.

In announcing the end of the state of emergency, de Klerk also held out the prospect for other reforms.

He said the government was considering changes to security laws that "could possibly inhibit the free conduct of peaceful politics" and said he was taking unspecified actions that would allow thousands of exiles to return home.

The ANC says it has more than 15,000 exiled members.

De Klerk also said that as a "good will gesture" he would release 48 prisoners convicted of politically motivated crimes.

The ANC has said the lifting of the emergency, the release of political prisoners and the return of exiles are the main obstacles to full negotiations.

De Klerk defended the decision to keep Natal under emergency rule, saying the violence there "cannot be countered with the ordinary laws of the land."

More than 4,000 blacks have been killed in factional fighting in Natal since 1986, including some 500 who died in the first three months of this year.

Running to win



Photo by Thomas J. Lavin

The Rugby Club perfects its skills on the Polo field Thursday afternoon. Members of the club also play for the A&M Rugby Team.

Cable TV system considers removing channels, adding FOX

By KEVIN M. HAMM
Of The Battalion Staff

TCA Cable TV is considering adopting two new channels into its cable family, but to avoid a rate increase they must disown two others.

The new channels are a FOX network channel, KWKT-FOX 44 out of Waco, and 20-Vision KTXH out of Houston.

FOX 44 would probably replace CBS affiliate KHOU of Houston (cable channel 7), which is unnecessary because of the local CBS affiliate, KBTX Channel 3 in Bryan.

Houston's 20-Vision would probably replace cable channel 10 KHTV of Houston, both of which are distant independent stations.

Any changes will be implemented July 1. TCA General Manager Randy Rogers estimated 70 percent of KHTV's programming is available on other cable channels.

He said five and one-half hours of KHTV's programming is available in the same time slots on Dallas' KTVT, cable channel 2, both of which are owned by the

same company. Rogers said other duplicated programs were available on other channels also.

"That's certainly a factor in why we're looking at this (KHTV) channel," he said.

In June 1989, Cooke Cablevision,

then the cable company in the area, dropped 20-Vision from its ranks. Many viewers were angered at the deletion. According to a survey conducted in July 1989 by the local newspaper, The Press, 99.2 percent of respondents wanted 20-Vision back. Cooke, however, stood by its decision.

TCA Cable bought the local system from Cooke in July 1989.

On May 31, TCA sent out its own survey asking subscribers if they would like to see 20-Vision replace KHTV. The results are still being tabulated.

TCA also surveyed consumers in late

"The possibility of adding te channel by dropping a channel of similar cost would allow TCA to get 20-Vision back without a rate increase."

— Randy Rogers,
TCA general manager

April, including the form with the May bills, about the possibility of adding a FOX network channel to its lineup. More than 84 percent of the respondents were in favor of the addition.

Rogers estimated 20 percent of TCA's subscribers are students. Although subscriptions fluctuate, he said TCA currently serves about 28,000 subscribers.

"We got quite a few student opinions," he said. "I think we got a real good cross section on our FOX survey."

Rogers said the new distant independent station, 20-Vision, must replace an existing distant independent station or the cost to

subscribers would increase.

"The prohibitive copyright costs associated with 20-Vision have not changed since Cooke Cablevision dropped the channel in June 1989," Rogers said. "But the possibility of

dropping a channel of similar cost would allow TCA to get 20-Vision back without a rate increase."

The three distant independent stations TCA currently carries are Houston's KHTV, Chicago's WGN and Atlanta's TBS. "Those are definitely the most expensive channels we have," Rogers said. "It's a substantial cost for us."

He added the copyright costs are the result of a Federal Communications Commission regulation.

Rogers said it makes more sense to replace KHTV rather than drop WGN or TBS, neither of which have duplicate pro-

gramming. "Both of them look to be more popular than the Houston channel (KHTV)," he said.

Since the FOX network channel out of Waco is replacing one of two CBS affiliates on TCA's lineup, few programs will be lost if they are switched.

But he estimates 30 percent of KHTV's programming will be lost if it is replaced by 20-Vision. Rogers said, however, that many of those programs are reruns and late-night shows.

TCA has received some negative feedback from subscribers about the loss of KHTV's "Star Trek: Next Generation." He said cable channel 5 sometimes carries the show and it could be picked up by another station at a later date.

The FOX network airs such shows as The Simpsons, Married With Children and 21 Jump Street.

"We're trying to provide as much diversity as we possibly can," he said. TCA Cable is accepting customer comments through today. A final decision on any changes will be made by Monday.

Geosciences dept. creates storm map

By ELIZABETH TISCH
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M geosciences department has created a computer program that finally can outfit Mother Nature during hurricane season.

The program is called HAZMAP (Hazards Mapping) and is designed to turn a numerical analysis of a storm search into an "aesthetically pleasing" graphical map.

Dr. Kenneth White, an A&M associate professor who specializes in computer software packages called geographic information systems, said the average citizen can interpret the graphics.

"The American public seems to respond more to pictures than the written or spoken word," he said.

One aspect of the program is its ability to simulate, in a matter of minutes, a hurricane's progress during a three-day period.

Emergency planners can program a model of a three-, four- or five-force hurricane and receive a graphical picture estimating how high waters will get in specific areas at specific times during a hurricane, White said.

"The geographics system should be a pretty powerful tool for disaster planning and emergency management," he said.

Conforming to this, a Galveston evacuation procedure during

a hurricane takes 28 hours.

"The best advanced warning from the National Hurricane Weather Service Bureau out of Miami gives us 24 hours; so we are looking at four hours of when people are stuck on Galveston Island during a hurricane," White said.

With the information from HAZMAP, disaster planners can organize both physical and human resources and redirect them, he said.

The HAZMAP program was designed in 1986 and 1987 by Laura Schornick, a systems engineer for Digital Equipment Corporation.

White and Dr. Earl Hoskins, associate dean of the College of Geosciences, helped Schornick with information she borrowed from Dr. M. Bunnapong while she was working on a master's degree at A&M.

Bunnapong, an oceanographer, created a numerical model defining the variable heights of a storm surge. Schornick took Bunnapong's data and created a way the data could be read through graphic pictures.

Although HAZMAP has been tested only on data from historical hurricanes, the program promises valuable information for future weather disasters, White said.

"We would like to fine tune it before we test it on a real basis."

Bush appoints A&M professor to board

By SEAN FRERKING
Of The Battalion Staff

Dr. Patrick A. Domenico, a geology professor at Texas A&M, is President Bush's first appointment to the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board.

Domenico is the ninth member to join the board after its creation in 1987. Members are first nominated by the National Academy of Sciences, and after an extensive investigation a select few are appointed to the board by the President. Domenico, who will serve four years on the board, was one of 22 nominated applicants.

According to the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act, 11 members are appointed by the President to evaluate the scientific and technical work at Yucca Mountain at the Nevada test site, which is 80 miles north of Las Vegas.

The project is the potential site for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste. The Nevada test site, an area larger than the state of Rhode Island, has

been used for nuclear testing since the late 1940s.

If the Yucca project is completed on schedule in 2010, over 72,000 metric tons of high-level nuclear waste from civilian nuclear power plants will be stored over 1,000 meters below the surface of the mountain.

Domenico said the board's main responsibility is to see if the site at Yucca is suitable for safe storage of nuclear waste.

"We are basically now reviewing the scientific validity of the investigations that they are making to say if this thing (the Yucca project) is good or not," Domenico said.

He said the board also meets as specific panels several times during the year to consult with government contractors at Yucca and to make suggestions to improve the management of the project and the safety of the site.

Although the board does not have any formal power to tell any contractor what to do, Domenico said the NWTRB is still very powerful because it reports directly to Congress

every six months.

"They (the contractors) don't have to listen to us, but they usually do because we report directly to their bosses," Domenico said. "We report everything to Congress. If they don't listen, we report that, too."

"Then Congress jumps on the Department of Energy, who is in charge of the construction at Yucca."

Domenico said the board also has to deal with many political realities that often conflict with scientific facts. For example, he said the site at Yucca is not the best place in the United States to store nuclear waste.

"It is already a contaminated area, and the rock we are working with (volcanic tough rock) is not the best for nuclear disposal," Domenico said.

He said salt or granitic rock more adequately controls radioactive waste, but the states where this type of rock is located are politically against the construction of nuclear disposal sites.

Domenico said over \$1 billion has been spent on the Yucca project. He said the site has had many problems including the state of Nevada refus-

ing to work on the site. However, he said work and study must continue to deal with the nuclear waste disposal problem.

"It's not going to go away," Domenico said. "We have to deal with it, and the sooner the better."

"We've got our jobs cut out for us, and hopefully we can better organize the project and determine if Yucca should be the site for our national nuclear waste," Domenico said.

Domenico is an authority on ground-water hydrology, the study of the properties of water and its underground sources. He was officially appointed to the agency on April 27. However, he had been doing consulting work for the board for over a year before joining the NWTRB.

Domenico has been a professor at A&M since 1982 and is widely published in the field of hydrology. He is the recipient of several scientific awards including the O.E. Meinzer Award for distinguished contributions to hydrology and the Distinguished Teacher Award from the College of Geosciences at A&M in 1986.

Companies react to bookstore leasing proposal

By JULIE MYERS
Of The Battalion Staff

Proposals for the privatization of the Texas A&M University Bookstore are due Monday, A&M's director of purchasing and stores, said.

Rex Janne said there has been a good response so far to the idea of leasing the bookstore.

"There have been a lot of good questions raised, and we have responded to them," Janne said.

In the May 4 Battalion, Robert Smith, A&M's vice president for finance and administration,

said requests for proposals were sent to private companies April 27 to "test the waters" and determine if enough interest existed in the private sector to lease the bookstore.

Requesting proposals, however, is a "far cry" from discussing a future lease, Smith said.

"We will review and carefully assess any offer made," Smith said. "Any proposal would have to provide an advantage over what we are doing now. If it's not in our best interests, we won't do it."

Don Powell, director of business services at A&M, said a proposal is not a bid.

"A proposal is simply asking what they would

do if they had the opportunity to operate the store," he said.

"Even if we sent one (request) out, it would not be a sure thing that we were going to lease it," Powell said.

By privatizing the store, A&M could contract out the day-to-day operations of the bookstore to a private firm and still retain profits. The bookstore profits presently help support student activities.

"If somebody came in, they'd have to guarantee an amount of money that would enable us to continue providing this support," Powell said.