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Project to benefit future environment

Continued from Page 1

the high level radioactive elements from the low level - because they're treated in different ways."

Paul Sylvester, a research assistant working on the project, believes the process is vitally important to the future of the environment.

"However you feel about the nuclear industry, whether you're pro or against it, whether it continues or is phased out - whatever

happens - you've got a hell of a lot of waste to deal with; both in this country, Europe, and the far East," Sylvester said. "You've got to find some way of encapsulating it safely for thousands of years."

Clearfield said he began working on the separation process in the mid-1960s.

"No one got excited about it then," he said. "The United States likes to defer problems, rather than handle them right away."

Now, with the nuclear waste problem mounting and the politi-

cal climate more attuned to environmental problems, Clearfield believes that this project's time has come.

"The Department of Energy has asked people for ideas on how to solve this problem," he said. "We're now in the process of getting funding from them to apply these techniques."

The process, if widely accepted, could impact many areas of environmental concern.

"Any heavy metal that is discharged into the environment is a

pollutant," he said. "These materials can take out most heavy metals as well as radioactive materials."

Clearfield said an enormous amount of money could be generated by this project.

"The money would initially go to my group," he said. "I have about ten graduate students, eight post-doctoral students, and one undergraduate student working in my group. We need a lot of care and feeding."

International students take part in talent show

Continued from Page 2

"Some people got nervous and said their introductions a little early, but basically it went very well," she said.

There were 400 international students who performed from 21 different countries.

A judging panel of eleven judges selected the five best performances. The judges included A&M faculty members and community leaders.

The best five performances were handed to Indonesia, Korea, India, Mexico and the Philippines.

Indonesian students performed a welcoming dance called "Saman" and Indian students performed a folk dance called "Bhangra."

Korean students decided to let

their children take the spotlight as 20 small Korean children danced to "Children in the Spring."

Mexican students performed a polka dance called "Evangelina" and Philippine students performed a synchronized dance with large bamboo sticks.

For the grand finale, all 400 international students sang "Put a Little Love in Your Heart" in front of a display of 60 different flags.

"It was very colorful," Koestoeer said. "Everyone seemed to enjoy it (the finale)."

Koestoeer said everyone practiced hard for the talent show and dress parade.

"It's more than just entertainment," she said. "The international students carefully plan their acts so the audience can really catch the spirit."

Following the talent show and dress parade, an awards ceremony was held at the College Station Conference Center, complete with refreshments and dancing.

In addition to the talent show awards, five awards were presented for the MSC cultural displays. The most hospitable display went to Saudi Arabia and the Most Informative Display was presented to India.

Sri Lanka won the Most Creative Display award and Brazil won the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) display award for raising the most money for UNICEF.

Pakistan won the award for best relation to this year's International Week's theme, "Hope in a Changing World." Pakistan's display featured the changing roles

of women.

Two awards were also presented for the international buffet held Wednesday night. Saudi Arabia won the Most Enthusiastic Award and India received the Most Popular Award.

In addition, Texas A&M Executive Associate Provost Dr. Jerry Gaston presented the Eppright Outstanding International Student Award to Ranjan Natrajan, a graduate student in agricultural engineering. Gaston also presented the Outstanding Community Volunteer to Melinda Hallmark, director of Discovery.

Discovery is an organization of 50 local women who volunteer their time to help wives of international students adjust to American culture.

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Economists forecast steady climb in economy

Continued from Page 1

were not as sharp as previously thought. They were revised upward to 0.2 percent for each month from the 0.3 percent declines originally estimated last month.

For the year, the Bush administration and many economists are forecasting growth of just 1.5 percent compared with an average 6 percent during the first year of recovery from other post-World War II recessions.

In a second report, the departments of Commerce and Housing and Urban Development said sales of new homes shot up 12.5 percent in January, the steepest advance in a year. It was the third increase in four months and more than wiped out a 4.6 percent decline in December.

Except for the Northeast, all regions posted advances including a huge 63 percent gain in the Midwest.

Analysts said the report was another sign the housing industry had assumed its traditional role of leading the economy out of the recession with its spillover effect on sales of appliances and other home furnishings.

Greenspan cited the big jump in housing activity as one reason he too believed the economy was beginning to show promise of mounting a sustained recovery.

He cautioned there was "an exceptional measure of uncertainty to the current picture" because of unusual forces such as high consumer and business debt burdens which were holding back growth.

Greenspan said the Fed's past rate cuts were "clearly working. What is not clear is whether what we are seeing at this stage will create a self-sustaining economic recovery."

Greenspan once again said the central bank stood ready to do more if the expected economic rebound does not materialize. He said he was not convinced that "we may not need some insurance" in the form of further rate cuts.

Besides stock prices, other indicators boosting the leading index were increased orders for new plants and equipment, increased building permits, rising prices for raw materials suggesting increased demand, rising orders for consumer goods, stronger growth in the money supply and fewer initial claims for unemployment insurance.

Those were offset somewhat by a shorter work week, a decline in an index measuring consumer confidence, faster delivery times and a decrease in unfilled factory orders that suggested slack demand.

The various changes left the index at 146.5 percent of its 1982 base of 100. The index had risen 0.6 percent from August through January, compared to 4.9 percent the previous six months.

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