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a birthday party!
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Disaster kindles speculation among University faculty

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

The Soviet Union's nuclear reactor accident, and the subsequent radioactive cloud, has sparked speculation among some University faculty about the effects the disaster might have upon health, politics and nuclear energy.

Thursday's reports showed the cloud covering a large part of Eastern and Northern Europe, and possibly arriving in the United States within the week.

Accurate information on the exact nature of the accident is essential for a complete analysis of the possible health effects, said Bill James, a health physicist at the University's office of environmental health and safety.

As of now, however, the official word coming from the Soviet Union has been criticized as slow, incomplete and undetailed.

European political leaders and the Western media have chastised the Soviets for failing to immediately inform the world about the accident.

But the Soviets' reluctance to immediately release details of the accident is very understandable and practical, said Joseph Austin, instructor of the University's SEARCH course, "War in the Nuclear Age."

"The first priority is to get people out of the immediate area, and that's exactly what it appears they did," Austin said. "Had they announced how terrible things were before they got them out, there would have been such a panic they wouldn't have been able to save those people."

"Supposing they had told everybody just what had happened, what would those governments in Europe do to head off those radioactive winds?" Austin asked.

But the Soviet Union was negligent in the

sense they were not frank with their own people or their allies, said professor Joseph Fiszman, a University political science professor. Fiszman has spent many years traveling in the Soviet Union.

"Like always, the Soviet people are the last to know and the least to know," Fiszman said.

It is the fault of a system that does not divulge its information that we hear rumors and analyses of the situation that are contradictory, Fiszman said.

The Russians generally tend to take chances," Fiszman said. "They are daredevils, there are no real safety indications. When you travel on Soviet airlines, they are doing things that from a safety point of view ought to be taboo."

The Russians have less experience with technology than we do, and we have accidents, so imagine the problems they have," Austin said.

American offers of assistance in fighting the nuclear reactor fire have not been accepted, and it is unlikely that the Soviets will accept the offer, Fiszman said.

The U.S. has a natural instinct to offer help in a disaster situation, but the Soviet Union will reject it," Fiszman said.

Some European political leaders called for the Soviets to shut down all their nuclear plants until international inspections could be carried out. But the Russians are not likely to agree with this, Fiszman said.

The Soviet Union has some economic problems and has increasingly put their future stakes in nuclear energy," he said.

Obviously their scientific community came to the conclusion that nuclear power was a step into the future. They put good money and confidence in it," Austin said.



Writing on the wall

Blood-red handprints on an anti-apartheid banner displayed at Wednesday's GTF rally symbolize the oppression of blacks in South Africa. An anti-apartheid rally, originally scheduled for Thursday but canceled because of rain, will take place Tuesday at 12:30 in the EMU Courtyard.

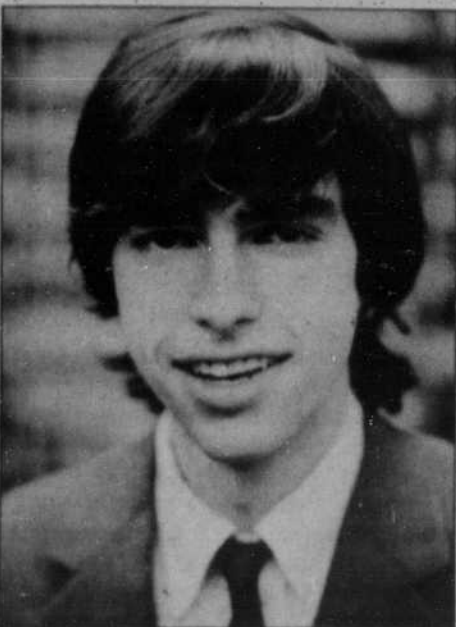
Photo by James Marks

Emerald editor chosen

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

The Oregon Daily Emerald will undergo some significant changes in the way it reports the news next year, said new editor Paul Sturtz. Sturtz's selection as editor for the 1986-87 school year was announced by the Emerald board of directors Thursday night.

"I would like to have a perfect blend between a newspaper that can carry late-breaking news but also has



Paul Sturtz

the flexibility to explore issues in a more comprehensive way," Sturtz said.

"No one but the Emerald can cover campus news as thoroughly," he said. "It is our responsibility to take advantage of that distinction. As a school newspaper, the Emerald should not be afraid to challenge the powers that be, and call them on their bluffs."

Lengthier, in-depth news features will be the major emphasis of the paper next year. Other major changes in the paper will include a reduction in the number of stories from syndicated news services and a more creative graphic design.

Writers will have more freedom to experiment with style next year, he said.

"I would like to see the paper have more spunk," Sturtz said. "I would like to have people open up the paper in the morning and be surprised."

Sturtz is presently the associate editor of community and political news at the Emerald and has four years of experience as a freelance reporter for the paper. He also has worked as an intern research assistant at Mother Jones magazine and was formerly a contributing editor to Big Talk magazine, a now-defunct music and issues magazine that was based in Eugene.

Fee committee refuses funding for another EMU staff position

By Stan Nelson
Of the Emerald

In a move to make the EMU more of a student-run operation, the Incidental Fee Committee eliminated funding of one staff position and denied funding for a second at an EMU budget hearing Thursday. The committee also approved a Club Sports trainer position.

The IFC approved a 5 percent increase that will give the EMU about \$1.3 million in student incidental fees.

The Cultural Forum consultant position was eliminated despite EMU Board and staff objections that the change would cause disarray.

Many ASUO and EMU programs provide similar services and could be consolidated, said Mary Kay Menard, ASUO assistant finance coordinator.

The \$26,978-a-year position at the Cultural Forum is under contract for an additional three years and will have to be funded or bought out, EMU staff members said.

IFC members rejected an Outdoor Program request for a half-time GTF stipend of \$8,328 to coordinate program safety and outings.

After three years of requests, Club Sports was appropriated a \$3,565 stipend for a part-time trainer. The stipend replaced a lodging stipend received by athletes in prior years. Club Sports was budgeted \$4,878 to subsidize 1985-86 lodging costs.

In other business, the committee

discussed University President Paul Olum's proposal to use surplus incidental fee monies for loans to GTFs who are subject to recent tax withholdings on tuition waivers.

"The proposal has the support of Chancellor William Davis and Chairman of the Board of Higher Education, Al Batiste. The State System offices have requested advice as to the legality of this use of the Incidental Fee reserve, and we are quite hopeful that this use will be approved," Olum said in a letter to the committee.

The proposal still needs the approval of the State Board of Higher Education and the IFC, he said.

The biggest problem with the proposal is there is no guarantee the loans will be paid back, said IFC Chairman James Randall.

If one group is allowed to request an emergency loan, it could start a precedent so that any struggling group of individuals could request loans, said Armando Morales, an IFC member.

IFC member Ka-yin Siew called the proposal "an outrageous attempt by Olum, the administration and the State Board of Higher Education to deflect the heat they ignited when they decided to withhold the pay in the first place."

Olum will meet with Randall, the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation President Chuck Hunt and ASUO President Lynn Pinckney on Friday to discuss the matter further, Randall said.