

The list of appointed ASUO Staff for 1999 - 2000, under Chen/Aroushiravani

"We have an absolutely diverse staff, and they are extremely enthusiastic," Aroushiravani said.

Public Relations Director: Laura Pallin, journalism, junior
Federal Affairs Coordinator: Amanda Connor, unlisted major, sophomore
Computer Technology Advisor: Steve Lyons, CIS, junior
Marketing Director: Claudia Ciobanu, journalism and psychology, sophomore
Community Outreach Director: Marian Fowler, political science

and romance languages, sophomore
University Affairs: J.R. Fitzpatrick, political science and PPPM, junior
Programs Administrator: Sydney Abbate, sociology and PPPM, junior
Controller(1): Tracy Fisher, business admin., junior
Controller(2): Heather Moyer, accounting, junior
Controller(3): Komaki Tekekoshi, accounting, junior
Controller(4): Caroline Lau, accounting, junior
Programs Outreach Director: Greg

Danielson, journalism, sophomore
Computer Technology Associate: Harris Zafar, CIS, sophomore
Outreach Director: Peter Larson, CIS, junior
Multicultural Associate: Rebecca Wilson, journalism, freshman
State Affairs Coordinator: Matt Swanson, political science, junior
International Student Advocate: Viviane Forny, business admin., junior
Elections Coordinator: Ken Best, mathematics, junior
Multicultural Advocate: Hong

Tran, unlisted major, junior
Outreach Associate: Lindsay Schray, marketing, junior
Safety Advocate: Jennifer Eliot, English, freshman
UO Housing Advocate: Matt Lieallen, political science, freshman
Non-Traditional Student Advocate: Kathleen Workman, CIS, sophomore
Executive Council(1): Robin Miller, political science, freshman
Executive Council(2): Arlie Adkins, political science, freshman

Experimental method of nuclear waste disposal a failure

By H. Josef Hebert
 The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After spending nearly \$500 million, the Energy Department acknowledged Wednesday that a crucial stage in the disposal of millions of gallons of highly radioactive waste is a failure and should have been abandoned years ago.

The failed process involves attempts by scientists to find a way to separate the most highly radioactive material from less radioactive liquids in 35 million gallons of waste now being stored in drums at the Savannah nuclear weapons facility in South Carolina.

Scientists found that the separation process, when handling such large amounts of waste, produces large amounts of explosive benzene gas, making it too dangerous.

Last week, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson directed that the contractor for the project, a subsidiary of Westinghouse Corp., be replaced and that outside scientists be enlisted to help select an alternative separation technology.

Over the objections of the contractor, Westinghouse Government Services, the Energy Department quietly pulled the plug on the waste separation project more than a year ago. Since then, a number of alternative technologies have been proposed and will be pursued under a new contractor, officials said.

Nevertheless, the problems could add years to a \$20 billion, 30-year program to dispose of more than 35 million gallons of highly radioactive liquid wastes at Savannah River. The idea is to convert the sludge and the most radioactive materials floating in the liquid into as many as 6,000 glass logs for eventual storage or burial.

About 650 such glass logs, using sludge waste, already have been produced at the \$2 billion vitrification plant at Savannah River. But separating cesium and other highly radioactive materials in the liquid is crucial if the overall vitrification process is to work, officials said.

In 1983, scientists began pursuing so-called in-tank precipitation to separate the material. While it became apparent as early as 1992 that the process produced large amounts of explosive benzene gas, the technology continued to be pursued. In 1995, a separation plant was constructed.

Ernest Moniz, undersecretary of energy and Richardson's top science adviser, said Wednesday there were "clear warnings" from a review panel in late 1992 or early 1993 that the technology would not work with such large amounts of waste.

"It was quite frankly mischaracterized. ... They kept looking for solutions," said Moniz in a telephone interview. "They continued to try to find engineering solutions" instead of shifting to alternatives.

A study released Wednesday by the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, said the search for a substitute method for separating the liquid could take eight to 10 years and cost from \$1 billion to as much as \$3.5 billion.

"Mismanagement [of the program] ... led to an extraordinary and pathetic waste of taxpayer money," said Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., who had ordered the GAO report. "All we have to show for \$500 million is a 20-year delay and the opportunity to risk another \$1 billion to make a problematic process work."

Moniz said that since the department directed a halt in the

program in January 1998, it has spent \$25 million on developing a number of alternative technologies. Among them involves using the failed technology but in much smaller batches of waste to reduce the buildup of benzene gas.

A decision on what technology to pursue will be made by

this fall.

Moniz said the waste separation problems could delay the overall vitrification program. "We will have some delay depending on how fast we can get this new technology," he said. "But it will allow us to go forward in the most expeditious way."

Dark of the Moon

by Howard Richardson & William Berney

Directed by Joseph Gilg



A Robinson Theatre Production

May 21, 22; 27, 28, 29;
 June 4, 5, 1999
 8:00 P.M.

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Today's Events

Thursday, June 3

■ Dru Gladney from the University of Hawaii at Manoa will discuss "Contested Identities: Muslims, Minorities and Other Subject Peoples of China" as the final speaker in a series on "Discovering Multiethnic Asia." The event will take place at 7 p.m. in Willamette Hall, Room 110. For information, browse <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~caps/> or call 346-4816.

■ As part of the University Choral Ensemble Concert series, The University Singers and UO Chamber Choir will perform at 8 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall. Tickets are \$5 for general admission and \$3 for senior citizens and students. For information, browse <http://music1.uoregon.edu/> or call 346-5678.

■ Registration for summer workshops on fiber arts, jewelry, ceramics, woodworking, photography, stained glass, bike repair, drawing, painting and other topics begins at the EMU Craft Center, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For information, browse <http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~craftctr/> or call 346-4361.

■ The Retirement Recognition Reception honors 31 University employees for their many years of service to the University. The event will run 3:30-5 p.m. in the Alumni Lounge, Gerlinger Hall. For information, call 346-3159.

■ The Crux Rock Gym will have a rock climbing wall on hand today from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is part of a sports marketing project and will be free. Everyone older than 18 will be able to participate.

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Financing and Layaways Available



(Reported from May 25 to May 31)

■ May 25: Theft II, 1100 block of Franklin Boulevard, Lawrence Hall, item stolen.

■ May 26: Criminal Mischief II, 500 block of East 13th Avenue, tire slashed.

■ May 26: Reckless Burning, 1000 block of Patterson Street, light diffuser burned.

■ June 1: Reckless Endangerment, 600 block of East 12th Avenue, window broken.

■ June 1: Theft II, 1000 block of Patterson Street, item stolen.

■ June 1: Reckless Burning, 1000 block of Patterson Street, elevator ceiling damaged.