

TMI Remembered

PSH, her children had been bussed there. Most of her family lived in Ohio, she said, and the phone lines were so tied up they couldn't get through for two days.

Those who did get through to relatives or friends in other areas often heard reports that conflicted with what they were being told here. Rumors abounded, South said, and the media gave conflicting information.

"My sister kept calling and saying it was bad," Camasi said. "The news here didn't give the whole picture."

Mary Wells, from the public relations staff at TMI, admitted that at the time of the accident, officials there were not aware of the value and importance of communicating with the public. The public relations staff consisted of one person, Wells said, and now has been increased to 20, who go to schools, government meetings, and organizations to explain how the reactor works. In addition, a visitor center is open to the public.

On the PSH campus, Aleksy said, the radiation level is monitored every day with a radiation sensitive device that security personnel can wear while going about their duties. The device is sent to

University Park for evaluation every three months, he said, and everything is "A-OK."

During the accident in 1979, Aleksy said, security personnel remained on campus taking readings with instruments from the Office of Emergency Management. They were never above average, he said.

Wells said that many changes have been made, and much money spent to prevent such accidents. There is much more management/employee interaction, she said.

According to a TMI information packet, more than 900 employees are now supporting the safe operation of Unit One, up from about 320 employees prior to the Unit Two accident. Control room operators are on a six-shift rotating work schedule which enables each crew to participate in training one week out of every six.

Students on campus now did not express much concern about a similar accident in the Unit One reactor, although Andrea Abolins, a Communications major, said that she would be nervous if TMI is given permission by the Nuclear Regulatory Authority to begin the evaporation of an estimated 2.3 million gallons of water that was contaminated during the accident.

Ann Senft, a junior majoring in Secondary Education, expressed confidence that the plant is being closely watched. "I think it's checked more closely than any other plant," Senft said.

TMI's dedication to at least some types of information was evident when Wells responded to a request for information by sending a packet out express mail. A call to the Federal Express office revealed that the cost to mail such a package was \$23.

Dance Marathon Benefits Arthritis Foundation

by Victoria Cuscino

Dance, dance, dance--is the way some participants spent twelve hours March 18 at the dance marathon in the CUB.

Although there was not a large turnout for the marathon, Hess said the goal of the marathon was to raise money for the charity, which the dancers did. Later in the evening the marathon was opened to the public.

The cheerleaders sponsored the marathon and donated the proceeds to the arthritis foundation. Deann Hess and Erin Jablonski of the cheerleaders organized the event and collected approximately four hundred dollars.

WPSH provided the music and a news team from Channel 21 covered the event. All the dancers received free T-shirts and wore them when the news team arrived to interview dancers and film the marathon.

Local fast food and pizza restaurants donated trays of pizza for the participants to eat during lunch and dinner breaks, and awarded free food coupons to the dancers.

Awards Convocation set for April 23

By Lucille Corto-Palmer

The first Awards Convocation at Penn State Harrisburg will be held on Sunday, April 23, at 2 p.m., said Dr. Diana Dunn, Convocation Committee chairperson.

About 30 awards normally given during commencement exercises to students, faculty and staff for outstanding achievements will be presented by sponsors, she said.

"University Park's convocation inspired us to start one.

"Our commencement exercises were lasting too long because the amount of awards presented increased," Dunn said.

Provost Ruth Leventhal will speak and Dick Ammon's Brass Quintet will perform at the ceremony.

The convocation will be held outdoors in the Sculpture Garden, weather permitting. Otherwise the ceremonies will be held in the Olmsted auditorium and the Gallery Lounge.

Child care task force probes need

By David A. Blymire

Child-care questionnaires were mailed to Penn State students recently to help a university-wide task force measure the need for child-care facilities.

The questionnaires were sent to all students, faculty and staff members over age 25 at campuses across the state, said Jo Ann Darrow, a representative of the task force.

The questionnaire will help determine which campuses need child care facilities and which don't, said Darrow.

The large cost of on-campus facilities must be justified by student need, Darrow said.

Timely return of the questionnaires will help speed up the process, she said.

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Have you ever wondered when driving on the road past Meade Heights what "Jednota" was? Come to the Gallery Lounge on Monday, April 3, at noon to find out

To all Capital Times Staff:
The next Capital Times staff meeting will be held Monday April 3, at 2:00 p.m.. Top of the agenda for this meeting will be electing a new editor in chief for next year. Think seriously about your choice, and come vote!