

Earthquake devastates Central Mexico

By ELOY AGUILAR
Associated Press Writer

MEXICO CITY — A devastating earthquake struck central Mexico yesterday morning, toppling buildings, triggering fires and trapping hundreds in rubble in the world's most populous capital. Police said at least 170 were dead and thousands injured, but a far higher toll was expected.

Hours later the army and police patrolled ruined streets against looters as fires still smoldered in Mexico City, 250 miles northeast of the quake's center on the Pacific Coast. President Miguel de la Madrid, declaring a national disaster emergency, toured stricken neighborhoods and appealed for people to remain calm and stay indoors.

"Unfortunately there appear to be many dead," de la Madrid said on Mexican television. "All of the hospitals are on a state of alert to take care of the injured. The army is in a state of alert."

Dozens of aftershocks rattled the area through the day. Reports on the Mexico City TV station Televisa said buildings continued to collapse and debris from others was falling into streets hours after the quake.

By nightfall half the city lacked electrical power. Local telephone service had been restored but international telephone lines were still down.

Mexico's Channel 2 monitored in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa reported 770 people, including 140 children, had died. The report was not attributed and did not say how many of the victims were in Mexico City.

At least 60 were dead in Mexico City, a city of 17 million people, where schools, hotels, hospitals and high-rises were flattened and snapped gas and power lines touched off dozens of fires.

In the state of Jalisco, 100 miles to the northwest, 110 to 150 people were killed and about 1,500 injured. Lt. Juan Manuel Sanchez said from the fire department's headquarters in the state capital of Guadalajara.

'In Atentique a part of a mountain slid away, falling on several peasants who were just getting up to go to work'

Lt. Juan Manuel Sanchez

The Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C. reported damage in the states of Guerrero and Michoacan, which lie to the south of Jalisco along the coast.

Only minor damage was reported in the cities of Acapulco and Guadalajara.

In Jalisco, most of the dead were in the towns of Guzman and Atentique, Sanchez said in a telephone interview broadcast live by the Bogota radio station Caracol.

"In Atentique a part of a mountain slid away, falling on several peasants who were just getting up to go to work," Sanchez said.

In other Jalisco towns "the streets split open as people ran in pan-

ic...And many people died, crushed inside churches," he said.

Televisa said that in Guzman 25 people celebrating Mass in the cathedral were killed when the church collapsed.

In Ixtapa, a resort just north of Acapulco, two tourists reported their 10-story hotel was shaken and "the damage was just massive."

"Huge chunks of cement and glass started crashing down and people ran out into open lobby," said Dale Zolnai, 45, a Defense Department staff specialist, who returned to Dallas yesterday with his wife P.J.

"We just ran for our lives. We managed to get a taxi and get to the airport. Trees, boulders and cars littered the highway.

"Waves were hitting the hotel; the water is usually at least 80 feet away," Zolnai said.

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City was undamaged and that communications with the embassy had been restored.

In Washington, D.C., the U.S. Senate gave voice-vote approval to a nonbinding resolution calling upon the administration to provide emergency "humanitarian assistance and relief required to help deal with this tragedy."

U.S. Ambassador John Gavin, who was vacationing in Europe when the quake hit, headed back to Mexico City.

De la Madrid met with his cabinet this afternoon and said that his government is concentrating its immediate effort on the restoration of services such as water, electricity and communications, according to Televisa.

The army has cordoned off the most severely damaged area in the city to prevent looting and prevent people from getting close to buildings that might collapse at any time, Televisa said. The network said the army has 10,000 men taking care of this task.

First reports of the quake, which occurred during rush hour at 7:18 a.m. or 9:18 a.m. EST, came from the U.S. Geological Survey, which said it measured 7.8 on the Richter scale of ground motion. The survey put the epicenter on the Pacific Coast, 150 miles northwest of Acapulco and about 250 miles southwest of Mexico City.

The center of the city appeared to be hardest hit. Dust clouds surrounded collapsed buildings; broken glass and concrete chunks littered the streets everywhere, and people gathered in crowds on the streets, many weeping and some fainting. Rescue workers were digging through rubble as panicked citizens searched for friends and family on the streets.

Interviews seen on government-owned Channel 13, were sometimes drowned as people screamed out the names of loved ones. Men, women and children could be heard crying and wailing as they wandered through rubble-strewn streets.

A mobile radio helicopter flying over the Gustavo A. Madero neighborhood downtown said 30 collapsed buildings were sighted there alone.

Natural gas from broken lines mixed with smoke from buildings still burning nine hours after the earthquake, Channel 13 said. The television coverage showed firemen with handkerchiefs tied across their noses and mouths.



AP Laserphoto

Rescue workers evacuate one of those injured in the damaged area of downtown Mexico City after yesterday morning's earthquake.

USEC to close meeting with Jordan

By W.T. HOLLAND
Collegian Staff Writer

University Student Executive Council Chairwoman Laurie Maser announced last night that Thursday's monthly meeting with University President Bryce Jordan will be closed to the public.

When asked if the meeting was closed at his request, Jordan said he was not aware of the closing.

"I have said in the past that there are some items I would prefer not to be discussed in public. . . I have no further comment at this time."

Jordan would not say if a discussion of the University's general education requirements scheduled for next week's meeting is the reason for closing the meeting.

Maser tried to close a portion of last

week's USEC meeting to discuss "a personnel issue." She maintained that it was not in reference to a proposed membership review process, which would periodically re-evaluate USEC's composition and voting rights.

Maser added that she would invite Faculty Senate President Donald C. Rung, or some other representative of the senate, to address USEC with a faculty perspective on general education.

Maser said she will consult with Faculty Senate representatives to discuss general education and would close a future meeting to allow faculty representatives to speak.

She added that USEC plans to submit a written statement to Jordan conveying its opinion on general education.

In other business, USG President Dave Rosenblatt initiated discussion on a proposal to review and evaluate USEC's membership and objectives.

"We have the opportunity in front of us to look at ourselves honestly and to see whether this body is affecting student life the way it should and to make changes," Rosenblatt said.

Commonwealth Campus Student Governments Coordinator Lynn Duffner said she was concerned that a self-evaluation would be difficult and recommended that as an advisory board, USEC should ask for outside help from the administration.

USEC co-chairwoman Mary Weaver was elected to draw up alternative procedures for reviewing current membership and objectives for possible change.

Coal: State losing dominance in industry

By ANTHONY NEWMAN
Collegian Science Writer

Almost 30 years ago, Pennsylvania lost its position as the nation's number one coal-producing state, and the state is expected to lose its fourth place position to Illinois this year.

Why have other states succeeded in squeezing Pennsylvania out of the coal market?

William Spackman, University professor of paleontology, said the decline can be traced to the size and distribution of Pennsylvania mining operations and the quality of the region's coal.

"We have hundreds of small coal mining operations distributed throughout the state, while Idaho — with only about 30 mines — is a leading producer," Spackman said.

"The question arises: Are hundreds of mines desirable?" he said.

Tony Ercole, executive vice president of the Pennsylvania Coal Mining Association, said 80 percent of the 610 surface mining operations in Pennsylvania are considered small by the state Department of Environmental Resources because they produce less than 100,000 tons of coal a year.

Many smaller companies cannot afford to install and maintain cleaning plants needed to remove polluting sulfur from Pennsylvania coal before selling it to coal-burning utilities, Ercole said.

When the coal producer cannot afford these "coal washing" facilities, the company must pass the responsibility onto its buyers. This forces miners to sell their coal at lower prices, Ercole said.

Utilities, however, may choose to buy a higher-quality, low-sulfur coal from out-of-state or foreign miners rather than clean the coal themselves, he said.

"Smaller (coal producers) have a hard time. There's no reason why a utility should invest in scrubbers when they can get (low-sulfur coal) cheaper from somewhere else," Ercole said. Scrubbers are machines that remove sulfur from utility smokestacks.

Charlie Van Ness, staff geologist with Pennsylvania Power and Light Co., said shipping low-sulfur coal from distant mines may not be more economical.

However, Van Ness said washing would probably double the utility's cost for using Pennsylvania coal while the cost of shipping imported coal would not result in such a large increase.

"(Utility's washing coal) would not be in the consumer's best interest," Van Ness said.

Electrical utilities purchase about 70 percent of Pennsylvania's coal, Van Ness said. Pennsylvania Power and Light, which purchases nine million tons of coal each year, buys only from Pennsylvania mines that clean the coal before selling it, he added.

Another issue promoting the decline of the Pennsylvania mining industry is proposed acid rain legislation, Ercole said.

"More acid rain legislation will knock out more Pennsylvania (coal mining jobs)," he said. Pennsylv-

nia coal companies employ 22,500 workers — the lowest number since 1877, Ercole said.

"Pennsylvania's coal is considered to have a high to medium sulfur content. Acid rain legislation at its toughest could really wipe out the coal industry here," he said.

However, William Sharpe, University assistant professor of forest hydrology, said most legislation sponsors consider the coal industry when calling for a decrease in sulfur emissions.

"Good acid rain legislation is written to prevent utilities from switching their coal suppliers if their coal has a high-sulfur content," Sharpe said. "(The idea) that acid rain legislation will result in massive layoffs for the coal industry is just not correct."

For example, the proposed Waxman-Sikorski bill would prevent utilities from switching coal suppliers by forcing them to install scrubbers, taking the burden for removing sulfur out of the miners' hands, Sharpe said. The proposed bill also allows utilities to charge customers to recover expenses.

Careful legislation will prevent consumers in the Northeast — where acid rain is most concentrated — from paying higher costs than consumers in other parts of the country, Sharpe said.

"The utilities and mining industries have to realize that unless we do something, the acid rain problem is going to get larger and larger," he said.

"Legislative attempts will try to minimize the impact to everyone. There will be an impact, but everyone can be accommodated if (legislation) is carefully done," he added.

Besides the high sulfur content, Pennsylvania's coal is characterized by thin seams, or layers, and a thick overlying rock, or overburden, that is costly to remove, Ercole said. Wyoming has developed its industry quickly because its coals' seams are thicker and are covered by less overburden, he said.

"What it comes down to is price," Ercole said. "A lot of medium coal costs more to mine and more to clean. Anything that adds costs to a product makes it less competitive."

Many coal mining operations are forming cooperatives to offset cleaning costs and employ careful land management, Spackman said. The Bradford Coal Co. of Clearfield is an example of such a centralized coal organization made up of several small mining sites.

The company has an advantage over most competitors because it can afford coal-washing systems and can staff its company with engineers and geologists to improve site management, Bradford President Alan Walker said.

"It's a big investment, but most Pennsylvania miners will find that they are going to have to affiliate with someone or go out of business," Walker said.

Ercole said although he does not predict a sudden turnaround in the industry, coal has a place in the nation's energy future.

"I don't believe the oil glut can last, and the future of nuclear facilities is questionable," he said. "Future electrical growth must come from coal."

Friday

fyi

The Centre Area Transportation Authority will implement several detours on all Saturday home football games. Route H-Tofrees and Route W-Park Forest will travel through West College Heights via Hillcrest Avenue and North Allen Street all day. No service will be provided on Park Avenue or at the corner of Arbor Way and Route 322.

On Route B-Boalsburg, buses will not stop on University Drive or at the stops at East College Avenue and High Street, and East Beaver Avenue and Garner Street. Instead, passengers should board at Schlow Library, 100 E. Beaver Ave.

Route X buses will not provide service on campus or at Garner Street and Calder Way before 6:30 p.m. Instead, passengers should board the X bus at East Beaver Avenue and Garner Street, or East College and High Street.

weather

Today a return to summer with sunny skies and a high of 85. This evening, clear and comfortable. The low will be a mild 55.

.....Heidi Sonen

Survey: 1 in 3 women report sexual advances

By JEANETTE KREBS
Collegian Staff Writer

One out of every three female University clerical workers faces some type of sexual harassment, a University sociology professor told Nittany 9 to 5 members yesterday.

Michael Johnson surveyed 237 female clerical workers and clerical typists at University Park in Spring 1983 to find out how much sexual harassment takes place.

The lecture was given at a meeting of Nittany 9 to 5, the local chapter of the National Association of Working Women.

Johnson said 31 percent of the women surveyed said they had been sexually harassed, some by more than one person. More than 500 incidents of sexual harassment were reported during the survey interviews.

The women were asked face-to-face about four different types of sexual harassment, Johnson said: 18 percent reported being physically touched by an employer; 20 percent reported being asked for dates; and 31 percent reported dealing with suggestive behavior, including suggestive jokes or statements and staring at body parts.

"We're talking nearly one out of five women working here at Penn State have had some type of handling," Johnson said.

Johnson compared the survey to a survey of federal workers in 1981 that showed that 42 percent of male and female workers have been sexually harassed within a two-year period.

University clerical workers were asked about the entire time they worked at University Park, he said.

"The good news is that two out of three of you won't be harassed," he said.

Reasons that more sexual harassment does not take place at the University may be that most of the work areas are open and that, besides female clerical workers, there is a large number of young female students.

The survey also revealed the perpetrators of most of the incidents: 40 percent were faculty members, including instructors; 28 percent were administrators, including department heads; and 7 percent were technical service employees.

About 40 percent of the offenders were supervisors, or someone who controlled a worker's daily work load or payroll.

The University has a policy against sexual harassment that was included in the clerical workers' handbook in January.

Johnson said the survey results will be given to the women who participated, to University personnel and to University President Bryce Jordan.