Lithotripsy new wave in medicine

Collegian Science Writer

extracorporeal shock-wave lithotrip- tract without much difficulty.

gery and chief of urology at the that patients receive transfusions, said. used to treat kidney stones at a semi-infection, Rohner said.

"High power is then needed to warm-water bath and a computerized tients, Rohner said.

removed with forceps," Rohner said, "and aimed at a reflector, which procedure would be very painful if Two new techniques, ultrasonic and enough to pass through the urinary of the stones."

adding that the pieces are then small directs the waves toward the location the patient were fully awake. "The number of shock waves gen-

sy, provide better, safer, and less
As with any medical procedure, erated per minute corresponds to the painful ways to treat patients with however, complications might occur. patient's pulse," Rohner said. Penn State linebacker. The most common commplications "Usually 1,500-2,000 shocks are re-Thomas Rohner, professor of sur- are bleeding, which often requires quired to break up the stones," he the size and number of stones. "The University's Hershey Medical Cen- and the development of a fever, John Vastyn, Hershey spokesman, to the number of shocks needed to ter, explained the latest techniques which indicates the patient has an said 184 extracorporeal shock-wave break it up," Rohner said. "Multiple nar Wednesday sponsored by the Extracorporeal shock-wave litho- done since the procedure was first being stone free after treatment."

bioengineering department. tripsy differs from ultrasonic litho-During ultrasonic lithotripsy, a tripsy because no probe is inserted used at the medical eenter. The procedure is much safer the Ultrasonic lithotripsy is not used surgical treatment, Rohner said. probe is inserted through the urethra into the patient's body, Rohner said. much anymore because ESWL allows According to an article published in Instead, the patient is lowered into a shortens the hospital stay for pa- the Morbitity and Mortality Weekly transfer vibrational energy through the probe to the stone to break it up

X-ray machine locates the stone.

During ESWL patients must rethe 10,000 patients treated, and two ceive anesthesia when the shock patients lost kidneys."

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Chernobyl repeat not possible in U.S.

The accident that occurred at the Chernobyl Unit Four Reactor in the Soviet Union last April could not happen at nuclear reactors in the United States, said Lawrence Hochreiter, a consulting engineer for Westinghouse Electric Corp. Hochreiter said he bases that opinion on information he received from a task force that was in direct contact with the Soviets during a Vienna conference held after the accident. He said Westinghouse "has several individuals with first-hand knowledge of Soviet design and operational philos-

Hochreiter, who spoke on campus last month, said that during the Vienna conference, the Soviets

their proposed changes would improve the plant's changes they had promised."

However, Hochreiter said the proposed changes are like "putting a Band-Aid on cancer." Herrington told the Senate Subcommittee on Energy and Nuclear Proliferation, that the Soviet Union might have restarted the Chernobyl plant without completing their promised changes. According to an article in The Philadelphia Inquirer, Herrington said he had "no way of knowing" whether the Soviets had made the improvements or had restarted the plant too soon to

of the accident, Hochreiter said, adding that the

tween the Soviet and American plants. An important difference between the Soviet and clear engineering), is that, unlike the American plants that have a negative temperature coefficient, the Soviet-designed plants have a positive



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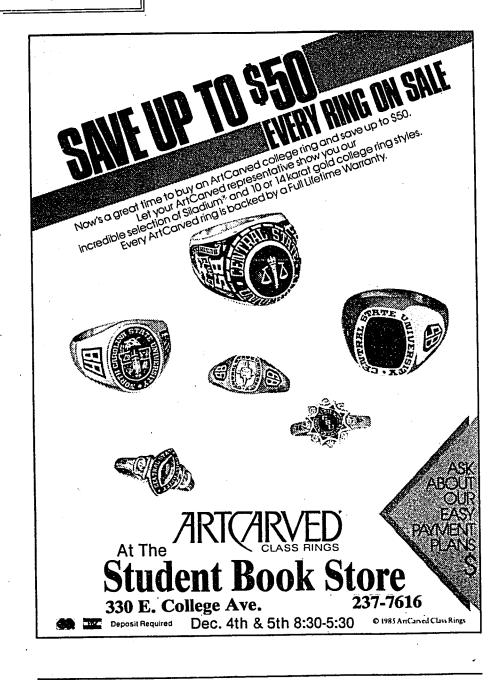


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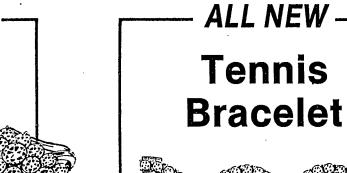
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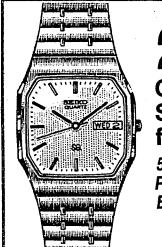
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