

Group wants nuclear evacuation drill

By RACHEL STIFFLER
Staff Writer

A local group opposed to the Shearon Harris nuclear plant has sent a petition to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Washington, D.C., to voice concern about the effectiveness of the plant's emergency evacuation plan.

Dan Coleman, media coordinator for the Coalition for Alternatives to Shearon Harris, said the document was actually a compilation of several petitions that were signed by more than 20,000 people during May, June and

July.

"Some of the petitions addressed the adequacy of emergency planning, while others addressed the more general concern for the safety of the plant," Coleman said.

In a cover letter accompanying the petition, Sandy Stewart of the Chatham County CASH group asked the NRC to require Carolina Power & Light, the company building the reactor, to conduct a full-scale emergency evacuation drill before the plant is licensed, Coleman said.

The NRC requires a drill within one

year of a plant's licensing. CP&L has asked the NRC for an exemption from the requirement.

CASH used the petition to show the NRC the degree of support in requesting the commission not to give CP&L an exemption, Coleman said.

CASH is not convinced that CP&L's evacuation plan will work, and a drill is necessary to determine the plan's effectiveness, he said.

Coleman added that although a drill was conducted in May 1985, "new questions about the safety of the plant have been raised since then, and the plant was not subject at that time to the scrutiny that it would be now within one year of its licensing."

In case of an emergency, he said, "some people may not be adequately informed on what to do. It may not adequately address the needs of the disabled, and there may be a large number of people out on Jordan Lake who might not hear the alarm."

Roger Hannah, a CP&L company

spokesman, said the plant requested exemption from the drill requirement because a similar test evacuation of the plant's on- and off-site personnel in May 1985 proved to be successful.

Hannah said it would be impossible to get everyone to participate in the type of full-scale evacuation drill that CASH wants.

"Ideally, that's the way it's supposed to be, but we can't require people to participate in an exercise," he said.

Hannah said the company has made a strong effort to inform the public about the emergency plan by sending out safety information calendars to residents within a 10-mile radius of the plant.

He said the elderly and disabled could return special cards that were included with the calendar to the County Office of Emergency Management. The office has compiled a list of their names and has made arrangements for their transportation in the event of an emergency.

Boaters on Jordan Lake would also be notified, Hannah said. "The sirens in the area can be heard very well, as residents in the area will attest."

Claire Miles, public affairs officer for the NRC, said that she did not know when the commission would act on either CP&L's request for exemption or CASH's petition.

The NRC never requires a full-scale evacuation drill, she said, only one involving plant personnel like the one conducted at Shearon Harris last year.

According to the latest information the NRC has, Shearon Harris is striving to be licensed by early September, Miles said.

Overhaul of tax code gives break to pensioners, retirees

From Associated Press reports

WASHINGTON — The tax bill awaiting final congressional approval contains a bonanza for millions of Americans who will be eligible for private pension benefits after working five years instead of 10.

The pension provisions also may translate into higher benefits for retirees, particularly low-wage people, and would discourage workers from cashing out their pensions before retirement.

Because of the changes in the tax overhaul bill, the association said, it is expected that the number of Americans covered by private pensions between the years 2001 and 2020 will be 17 million more than under the existing system. And their benefits would be 22 percent higher.

State & National

Probation program revamped

RALEIGH — The 2.7 million dollar expansion of the N.C. Department of Corrections probation program should be in place by mid-November and could divert 1,215 people a year from crowded prisons, a probation official said Monday.

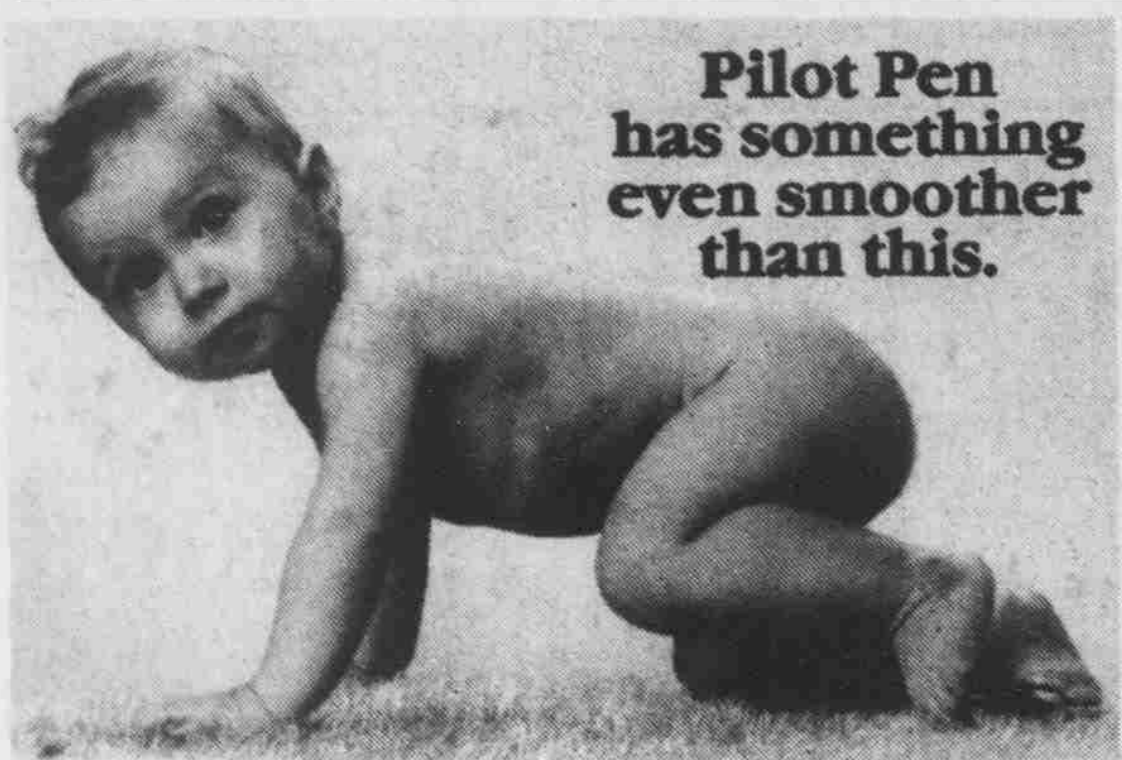
In the current fiscal year, about 600 people will be channeled through the expanded system, said George Barnes of the Div-

Soviets back nuclear safeguard

WASHINGTON — If the proposed summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev develops later this year, one issue that could be a key part of the agenda is a proposal for nuclear risk reduction centers.

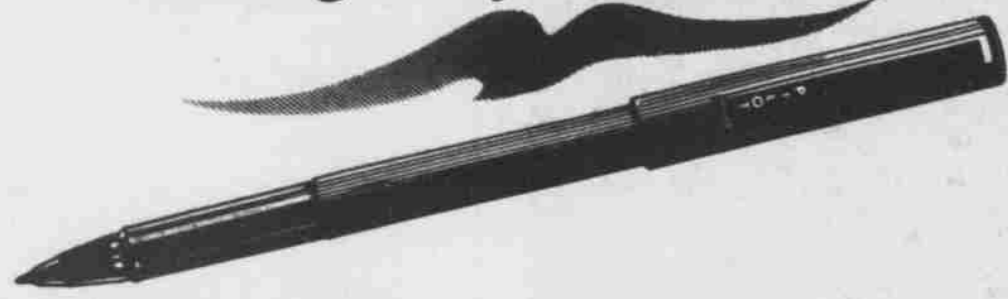
When the centers first were proposed in 1983 by a task force, the Soviets rejected the idea, calling it a propaganda ploy designed to obscure the fact that no progress was being made on the larger arms control issue.

But Nunn, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in an interview last week that the Soviets have changed their position because they now see the proposal as one that could produce an agreement between the two superpowers in the arms control area.



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UNC Student Stores

For the Record

In Monday's "Taylor gives hot show," the song, "Only One" from James Taylor's album, "That's Why I'm Here" was incorrectly identified "You Are My Only One." The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

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Long hours affect congressmen

From Associated Press reports

The midnight oil was burning and the Senate and the House were churning toward a three-week vacation.

The hour was late, near four in the morning on Saturday, Aug. 15, and Congress was finally close to wrapping up an 18-hour day and going home, ending a two-week marathon of late-night sessions.

In the Senate, Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, R-Minn., was asleep, slumped in his chair on the Senate floor as debate droned on around him. It took a roll call vote to wake him up.

In the House, which recessed for hours waiting for the long-winded Senate to complete work on a debt ceiling bill, Rep. Clarence E. Miller, R-Ohio, complained about procedures.

The House leadership wanted unanimous consent to order the House into recess "subject to the call of the chair." But Miller wanted the

recess to end at a "time certain."

It was all too much for House Republican Leader Bob Michel of Illinois.

"Some of us want to get our bags packed and get out of town tomorrow," he said. "If the gentleman is tired he can go back to the office and poop out and we will call the gentleman."

The leadership prevailed and the House waits out the Senate. Some members napped in their offices. Others abandoned Capitol Hill altogether and went home to bed.

Finally, at 3:30 a.m., the word came that the Senate had acted and House members were called for a roll call vote.

It was obvious that some House members had come to the floor straight from their slumbers, a haste that put some in violation of the dress code that requires the wearing of a coat and tie on the Senate floor.

While Rep. Timothy Wirth of Colorado, a Democrat, walked onto

the floor he was tieless. And Republicans, observant of the rules at any hour, shouted, "Tie! Tie! Tie!"

Democrats had their revenge a few moments later when Republican Rep. E. Clay Shaw of Florida walked in clad in a dark suit and tie.

One fellow member noticed that although Shaw was wearing shoes, he had neglected to put on socks.

So the cry went up from the Democratic side of the aisle, "Socks! Socks! Socks!"

Back in the Senate, Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., and Minority Leader Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., assessed the situation.

"We were forced into this spurt of frenetic activity, having frittered away a great deal of time in the period immediately prior to this two-week mad dash toward the recess," Byrd told the Senate.

Campus Calendar

Tuesday

- 3:30 p.m. Career Planning and Placement Services presents "Job Hunt 101," an orientation workshop, in 210 Hanes Hall. For more information, call 962-6507.
- 4:15 p.m. Career Planning and Placement Services presents "Job Hunt 102," a workshop on resume writing, in 210 Hanes Hall.
- 7 p.m. Maranatha Campus Ministry presents "A Life Changing Message by Rusty Russell," in Manning Hall.
- 7:30 p.m. Real Life Fellowship will have its first Bible study in the sixth floor lounge of Granville West. Call 942-7735 for more information.

Items of Interest

1985 Yackety Yacks are available. Come by Room 106 in the Student Union if you ordered a yearbook.

"Women in American Physiology, 1890-1940," an exhibit of women's photographs, will be displayed in the Health Sciences Library.

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