

## Near Three Mile Island,

### A College Fights To Stay Alive

CARLISLE, PA (CPS) — The news, according to one administrator, arrived some 24 hours after the initial, disabling incident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant near Harrisburg on March 28.

Thus began a four-day effort by administrators at Dickinson College, a small liberal arts school that sits some 26 miles away from the power plant, to keep its students calm and its campus open. After repeated radiation readings by nuclear physicists on the faculty, regular reminders to the students, several all college meetings, and constant reassurances all around, the administrators eventually lost their battle.

John Ross, Dickinson's public information director, announced on Sunday, April 1, that classes would, after all, be suspended through April 9. The suspension came despite readings that indicated that, according to Ross, "there is no danger to students on the campus." Evacuation plans extended in a 10-mile radius from the power plant. Carlisle — and Dickinson — are 26 miles away.

Nevertheless, student — and later, parental — anxieties were difficult to restrain. On Friday, March 30, Sarah Snyder of *The Dickinsonian*, the school paper, reported that "parents are driving up here and taking their kids away. A lot of people are on the roads hitchhiking out of here."

Ross suggested only that "a lot more people left for home for the weekend than would normally do so." By Sunday, the school administration received "many, many" calls from students and parents wanting to know if they should return to campus for classes.

After two all-college meetings Friday and Saturday night, the administration gave students the option of leaving cam-

pus, assuring them that they wouldn't be penalized if they fled until the crisis in Harrisburg was over. "But a lot of students," Ross reflected, "felt that the statement was somehow pressuring them to stay." On Sunday, President Sam A. Baker released a new statement, suspending classes without officially closing the campus for those who wished to stay.

"We suspended classes because we didn't want the students to feel pressured into staying. And, it wouldn't be feasible to carry on normal classes anyway. I think it'd be hard to sit through a lecture on Caesar's march through Gaul, when all you really want to do is talk about Three Mile Island."

Those students staying on campus — Ross estimates "about 40 percent" of the 1600-member student body remains — will get an especially-developed diet of classes during the suspension. Each department has concocted unofficial seminars and discussions. There'll be, of course, a series of what Ross calls "nuclear teach-ins," about measuring radioactivity, the ways reactors work, and how radiation is spread by the winds. The classics department, on the other hand, is holding a seminar on "The Last Days of Pompeii."

How did the administrators respond to the crisis so quickly? Dickinson's might have been better prepared than others. President Baker used to teach a course on crisis management at the University of Florida med school. Dickinson, moreover, holds semi-annual administrative seminars. Last fall's seminar was devoted to planning and the lab session, according to Ross, was "an exercise in emergency planning. Nobody believes it when I tell them now, but it's true."

## Second in "Saturday Seminars"

### to be held April 28 at M.H.C.

The second of Mars Hill College's "Saturday Seminars," a series of non-credit classes dealing with special interests or contemporary issues one Saturday each month, will be held April 28.

The seminars are part of the college's community service and continuing education effort. This Saturday's seminar concerns estate planning and will be taught by Edward B. Krause, a partner of the law firm of Pitts, Huginschmidt, and Krause, with offices in Asheville and Mars Hill.

Registration and a coffee hour will be held from 9:30 - 10 a.m. in the lobby of Belk Auditorium, adjacent to Wren College Union. The seminar costs \$5 and will begin at 10 a.m. A lunch break is scheduled from noon to 1 p.m. at which time the class will resume and is scheduled from noon to 1 p.m. at which time the class will resume and is scheduled to last until 3 p.m. The seminars are open to the general public.

Most public officials and lawyers

agree that proper estate planning is now more important than ever. Important changes in state and federal inheritance tax laws can cost an estate's beneficiaries much of what is left to them through ignorance. This class will examine seven main topics including the definition of what assets to include in an estate; what happens to an estate without a will (the N. C. interstate laws); what can be done with a will; the revocation of a will; the legal requirements of a will; and the administration of an estate with the duties and problems of an executor will be covered during the morning session. Following lunch the topics will include N. C. inheritance taxes and new changes in the federal estate tax.

Additional information about the seminar may be obtained from the law firm of Pitts, Huginschmidt, and Krause at their Asheville number, 258-0220, or from Raymond C. Rapp, Coordinator of Programs for Continuing Education, Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N. C. 28754, telephone 689-1166.

# Elderhostel

## To Begin June 3

Elderhostel, an idea that combines education and travel, was inspired by the youth hostels and folk schools of Europe but guided by the needs of older citizens for intellectual stimulation and physical adventure. The program, which has a minimal age requirement of 60, provides one-week experiences that combine on-campus living activities and academic classes on some of the state's and nation's finest campuses.

The program began four years ago on five campuses in New Hampshire. In the ensuing years, phenomenal growth has resulted in a national network of over 350 colleges and universities in 38 states. In four years, over 15,000 participants have shown that older adults, most of whom are retired, are not withdrawn but rather are ready to take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy new experiences.

Nine campuses in North Carolina are part of the Elderhostel network this summer. Four of these schools are located in the mountains of Western North Carolina. They are Appalachian State University in Boone, Mars Hill College in Mars Hill, UNC-Asheville, and Western Carolina University in Cullowhee.

The combined programs of the four schools will sponsor an Elderhostel session every week of the summer beginning June 3 and ending August 11. Mars Hill will begin the summer's activities when the first of their five weeks begins June 3. Three courses will be offered each of the five weeks, including Appalachian Music and Folklore, Appalachian Natural History, and Appalachian History and Contemporary Social Issues. According to Raymond C. Rapp, Program Coordinator for Continuing Education, the five weeks of Mars Hill's Elderhostel are June 3-9, June 17-23, June 24-30, July 8-14, and July 22-28.

UNC-Asheville will begin its schedule next with two weeks of Elderhostel on June 17-23 and June 24-30. According to Alice Wutschel, Associate Dean for Continuing Education, three courses will be offered including Western Religions, Solar Energy, and the Life and Literature of Thomas Wolfe.

Western Carolina University will be the third school to begin activities when they host the older citizens for five weeks beginning June 24-30. The other dates are July 1-7, July 8-14, July 15-21, and July 22-28. Eleven courses are available to the participant states Hal Salsbury, Director of Continuing Education at the Cullowhee campus. These courses include Appalachian Literature; Appalachian Music and Dance; Art: Studio Introduction to Imitationalism, Formalism, and Expressionism; Domestic Political Affairs; Ecology for the

Non-Scientist; Jewelry Making; Modern Discoveries in Biblical Archeology; Southern Appalachian Culture; Improving Investment Timing; and Three of Shakespeare's Best Plays.

Appalachian State will host six weeks of the Elderhostel program beginning July 1-7 and continuing July 8-14, July 15-21, July 22-28, July 29-August 4, and August 5-11. In a statement made by Tony Gray, Summer School Director for the Boone campus, the courses scheduled include History of the Appalachian Region; Southern Appalachian Religious Philosophy and Beliefs; The American West; Myth and Reality; Search for Man; The terrestrial Life; Weather and Man; The Role of Women in the 1980's; Television Production (limited enrollment); and the Many Sides of Thomas Jefferson.

Those who attend the Elderhostel session will live on campus in residence halls normally occupied by students during the regular school year. Sheets, towels, blankets, and pillows will all be provided by the participating colleges. Meals will be taken in the campus cafeteria and are included in the fee. Past hostellers have reported being pleasantly surprised at the quality and variety of college meals.

In addition to the academic courses, Elderhostel offers its participants a wide range of extra-curricular activities. College campuses are havens for performing artists, so musical concerts and evenings at the theatre are common. The physical facilities of the colleges, such as the gymnasium, swimming pool, tennis courts, libraries, and special collections, will also be available to the hostellers. Tours to nearby historical or cultural sites are being planned as well as nature walks and scenic tours.

The total cost, exclusive of travel to and from the school, is \$115.00 per person per week. All efforts have been made to keep this cost within the range of persons on fixed incomes and the participating schools have all agreed to offer the program on a non-profit basis.

Additional information on specific times and courses is available from the program director of each institution. They are Tony Gray, Summer School Director, Appalachian State University, Boone, N. C. 28607, Telephone 704/262-3045; Raymond C. Rapp, Program Coordinator for Continuing Education, Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N. C. 28754, telephone 704/689-1167; Alice Wutschel, Associate Dean for Continuing Education, UNC-Asheville, Asheville, N. C. 28804, telephone 704/258-0200; and Hal Salsbury, Director of Continuing Education, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, N. C. 28723, telephone 704/293-7397.

THE HILLTOP

VOL. III

Mars Hill College  
N. C. 28754