

# Polish reforms end Communist rule

*Editor's note: This is the first article in a two-part series about what happened in Poland and why. The second article will deal with what to expect from Poland in the future.*

## Poland in Transition

By STACI COX  
Staff Writer

Almost 50 years of Communist control of the Polish government was reversed in a wave of reform this summer as the Communist Party agreed to share power with the previously illegal Solidarity worker's union.

"It's simply remarkable," said Robert Rupen, UNC professor of political science. "That's not to say it's automatically going to work. It's a really sticky situation right now, but at the same time you have to realize how amazing this much change is."

Years of economic strife brought Poland to the brink of starvation. Repeated strikes by members of Solidarity, the Polish worker's union, finally forced Communist Party officials to begin earnest negotiations with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and his supporters.

"The Communist government was very much a joke," said Josef Anderle, UNC professor of history. "The Communist Party, which claims to be the worker's party, could not represent or negotiate with the workers. Someday

somebody will write a comedy about it."

Round Table negotiations that included Communist, Solidarity and Roman Catholic Church officials began in the fall of 1988 and were completed in April, with Solidarity winning stunning concessions. Solidarity was legalized, and Parliament elections were made partially free, opening the door to a pluralistic government.

"Watching these things happen on the television, my mouth was open," Anderle said. "It is wonderful and impossible that all this has happened. None of us really expected this, not even President (George) Bush."

The Communists were crushed in the June elections, with Solidarity candidates taking 99 percent of the Upper House and all the seats they could run for in the Lower House, Anderle said. The Communists were assured 65 percent of the seats in the Lower House.

But the only non-Solidarity position held in the Senate belonged to a member of the United Peasant Alliance party, one-half of a two-party duo that also

includes the Democratic Alliance party that served as a rubber stamp for Communist party decisions.

"I think many people were surprised the vote went the way it did," said Madeline Levine, UNC professor of Slavic languages. "There was a lot of hatred towards the Communists, but the lagging economy made many people apathetic. It seems the terrible state of Poland and its economy was enough to polarize that kind of response."

The sudden presence of Solidarity representatives and the defection of the Peasant and Democratic parties to Solidarity loyalty created a power struggle for leadership and cabinet posts. Negotiations were resumed — often with bitter fighting — until both sides agreed to share power.

The first major position of president was filled by Communist Wojciech Jaruzelski, the general who held almost dictatorial powers in the early 1980s and imposed martial law across Poland, imprisoning many of the Solidarity leaders with whom he must now work.

"Walesa and the others scammed around to work it out, so Jaruzelski was elected by only one vote," Anderle said. "It was an insult. It is a joke."

Selection of the prime minister led to renewed arguing, with the Soviets stepping in to try to solidify the position for

a Communist.

But the Communist Party was forced to give in. One of Walesa's closest supporters, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, a Polish lawyer and journalist, was elected prime minister almost unanimously last week. Only a few die-hard Communist Party members voted against the Solidarity representative.

Terms of the compromise making Mazowiecki prime minister require two Communist Party members to fill the cabinet ministries of defense and internal affairs, essentially leaving the Communist Party in charge of the army and police.

"It's hard to say what that combination could mean, but it's potentially quite dangerous," Rupen said. "What it may mean is the Soviets are only willing to let these changes go so far, that there may be some limit."

But there are no stated limits and no indications the Soviets will interfere in the developing government. For now, the new government must find some way to conduct business and begin the struggle to stabilize the Polish economy, he said.

"The Poles know they don't have enough consumer goods — enough of anything," Anderle said. "They need good economic leaders, good conditions and some luck."

# Police nab Auburn students for painting giant tiger paw

## Across the Campuses

Members of Auburn University's Student Government Association Spirit Committee may face charges for painting a 400 square foot tiger paw on a public intersection.

When the committee finished painting the paw at Toomer's Corner, a large intersection used for pep rallies, Auburn police arrived and took committee chairman Butch Parson and eight committee members to the police station for questioning.

Charges have not yet been filed by the city or the Alabama Highway Department.

"It took nearly 35 minutes and about five gallons of paint," Parson was quoted as saying in The Auburn Plainsman. "We'd just finished when two police cars approached. It was like fate, like destiny."

### Athletic council started at SMU

After serving a two-year probation for playing for monetary rewards, Southern Methodist University's (SMU) Mustang football program returned this fall.

A new football team means a new concept at SMU — an athletic council. The council has 15 members, eight of whom are faculty members and administration officers. Students and alumni fill the remaining positions.

"We hope that the scandal is behind us and we can serve as a model to others who want to put their shop back together," said Doug Single, SMU athletic director.

An athletic council is not required by the NCAA, but SMU President Ken Pye initiated the program and appointed council members.

Responsibilities of the athletic council include reviewing the athletic budget, determining which sports programs should be eliminated, checking academic standings of athletes and heading the admissions process for future athletes.

### Communication is key to success

Housing officials at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) in

Cleveland, Ohio, are addressing a major campus issue — roommates.

Communication, or the lack of it, often determines if a rooming situation succeeds or fails, so CWRU students will have access to a "Roommate Starter Kit" to help break the ice.

The activities in the pamphlet promote detailed conversations about roommates' backgrounds. The main goal is to help the two people begin to find common ground.

"This pamphlet is not intended to mislead," said Jef Sellers, director of university counseling. "(Roommates) will need to continue to build their relationships over the semester. The reason we developed it is due to surveys (taken from) roommates who went through room changes. It was found that communication is the most important thing between roommates."

### UNC-G gets new message center

Remember the pet rocks of the 1970s — the rocks you took care of in return for some entertainment? Well, a 1980s' version of the pet rock can be found on the UNC-G campus.

The rock, which is three feet high and five feet long, sits near the campus library and is used for graffiti notes among UNC-G students. As a courtesy, students are requested to wait 24 hours to paint over a previously sprayed-on message.

"It's interesting to walk by and see how people decorate it," said Tracy Swing, a UNC-G sophomore.

Some campus staff members are also amused by the rock.

"I think it adds a little bit of pizzazz to the campus," said Bob Clair, library supervisor.

— compiled by  
Emilie VanPoucke

# N.C. waste site announcement delayed

By GLENN O'NEAL  
Staff Writer

An announcement of possible sites for a low-level radioactive waste facility in North Carolina has been delayed until the end of the year because of lengthy negotiations with potential builders, said Bill Furney, spokesman for the N.C. Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management Authority.

The announcement was due at the beginning of August.

The authority selected Chem-Nuclear Systems Inc. as the company that will select the site and build the facility, Furney said.

The South Carolina-based company is the same group that operates the Barnwell, S.C., waste facility, said

Chrystal Stowe, director of public information for the authority.

The estimated cost of finding the site and building the facility is \$41.8 million, said Judy Karlewiz, community relations specialist for Chem-Nuclear.

The N.C. General Assembly requested that the authority negotiate the terms of constructing the site before the contract was awarded, Stowe said. The General Assembly wanted the authority to negotiate the selection for the state to get the best deal, she said.

Some states pick the company first and then negotiate the contract, which usually doesn't work to the state's advantage, she said.

Westinghouse was also considered as a possible contractor, Furney said.

The delay will not set back the Jan. 1, 1993, deadline for beginning the facility's operation, Furney said. The two possible locations for the waste facility will be chosen by the end of the year, he said.

The site selection is based on extensive selection criteria composed of state and federal statutes, as well as technological considerations, Furney said. The two main considerations are water and geological concerns.

Chem-Nuclear will make at least two recommendations to the authority for possible sites, Stowe said. The two sites will be the subjects of a year-long study before one is selected in late 1990, she said. The company will then recommend a disposal technology to

be used at the site.

The company will submit an application for a license and will construct a facility once the license is approved, she said. The company will also operate the facility for 20 years, beginning in 1993. Following the 20-year period, the company will conduct a five-year post-closure period during which it will stabilize the facility, she said.

The host community of the facility will decide what to do with the site after the closure period is over.

Choosing a contractor is the latest development in the selection of a site for low-level radioactive waste since North Carolina was chosen as the host state for the Southeast Interstate Compact in September 1986.

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