

it's about times ^{may '79} abalone alliance newsletter

S.F. APRIL 7 RALLY



photo by Jessica Collett

In the wake of Harrisburg, 25,000 people gathered in San Francisco with homemade banners and picket signs to express outraged opposition to nuclear plants in general and the Diablo Canyon nuke in particular. It was the largest anti-nuclear rally in the history of the United States. Crowds spread over the grass of the Civic Center and spilled into the nearby streets while the music reverberated over the downtown traffic on Market Street.

While the sun blazed overhead, people paid rapt attention to speakers and musicians alike, and occasionally burst into a loud chant of "No Nukes." A blue-ribbon line-up on stage included Ralph Nader, Dennis Banks, long-time Abalone activist Raye Fleming, I.L.W.U. President Dave Jenkins, a trio of supervisors from SF and San Luis Obispo and numerous others. Musicians Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt, and Mimi Farina kept the energy going.

But the stage was by no means the only focus of attention: An alternative energy fair with solar panels, a windmill and a solar cooker drew many to sign up for classes. Abalone Alliance booths were inundated. Bumper stickers and buttons disappeared early in the afternoon. People signed up in droves for nonviolence training, filled collection buckets to overflowing and promised to come to the May 5 demonstration at the Livermore Labs.

Ranged around the square, other groups spread their wares: one could read about the latest UFW pickets, buy a soy-milk ice cream cone, or sign a petition to stop further high rise development.

Creativity blossomed in the crowd. There were Gays Against Nukes and Nurses Against Nukes, housewives from Menlo Park at their first demonstration, and a couple dressed in mutant masks burying their mutant baby (a dead and bloody rabbit) in a drama of anguish at human self-destruction.

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RANCHO SECO ACTIONS

News of the similarities between the crippled Three Mile Island nuclear plant in Pennsylvania and the nuke in their backyard caused those living in the shadow of Rancho Seco to rise to action. People from Placerville to Modesto rallied to tell the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) to shut it down.

On Friday, March 30, 300 gathered in front of the gate at Rancho Seco for a candlelight vigil. The next day there was a die-in, and balloons with attached cards warning of wind-carried radiation were released. Thirteen people went over the gate and sat down to blockade the entrance to the plant. There were arrested and dragged away by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department as 500 stood outside the gate shouting "shut it down."

A petition requesting an immediate shutdown of Rancho Seco with 6000 signatures, along with copies of *Radioactive Times*, was presented to a meeting of the SMUD Board of Directors. Fifteen hundred people showed up for the meeting. 107 signed up to speak and seven hours of heated public testimony were given. But only two of five Board members voted to close Rancho Seco.

On April 8, hundreds again rallied at the plant gates and participated in educational workshops on the dangers of low-level radiation, the similarities between Rancho Seco and Three Mile Island, and non-violent direct action. Task forces were formed on recalling SMUD Board members, rallies, teach-ins, publications, fundraising, a rate-payers' strike, and Rancho Seco 13 defense.

A number of peace, environmental and anti-nuclear groups in the Rancho Seco area are uniting to form "Citizens to Close Rancho Seco." For more information contact Sacramento People for a Nuclear Free Future, 2219 G Street, Sacramento, CA 95816, 916-443-6043 or 446-1629.

--By Ed Lang

NO DELAY ON DIABLO LICENSE

Now is the time to mobilize for civil disobedience at the NRC and for the Diablo blockade. According to the NRC, Diablo could be licensed as early as June 10. PG&E has said that they will put Diablo on line immediately after a license is granted.

The intervenors are asking the NRC to delay Diablo Canyon's operating license pending a thorough study of the Three Mile Island accident and any necessary design modifications that may be needed at Diablo. The NRC has not responded.

A number of conflicting statements have been issued by PG&E and the NRC concerning the licensing of Diablo. Just after the Three Mile Island accident, a report came across the AP wires indicating that the NRC decision would be delayed by one to three months. Jim Hanchett of the Western Regional NRC in Walnut Creek denies that this is the case.

Members of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board were all busy at Three Mile Island, so they were a week late in submitting their findings and recommendations on Diablo. But their report was filed April 10. NRC policy is to issue a decision in 60 to 90 days. That brings us to June or July--so get your nonviolence training now.

We probably won't like the news, so let's get ready to make some our own.



photo by Jessica Collett

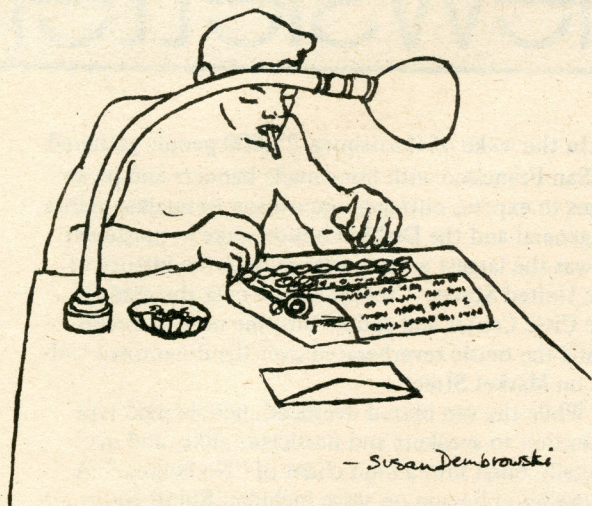
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LETTERS



DON'T BEG FOR MERCY

Dear Abalone Alliance,

Try and imagine how I felt. I was lying on my back at the die-in, just two days after Harrisburg. Inside the PG&E building the execs were laughing at the "crazies," but I didn't mind. I knew that this time the laugh was on them. The sun felt fine.

Then what should I hear but the pompous strains of Joan Baez singing "Let's get down on our knees together and pray," etc. I was furious. I hate simpering Christianity and I hate being misrepresented.

I stood up and was about to protest when someone near me (I was by no means the only one who was angry) yelled out, "The point is to stand on our feet and fight back!" So I confined myself to muttering under my breath. As if it all wasn't bad enough, the guy next to me tried to calm me down with, "Look, man, I'm an atheist too, but this is what sells."

If we can't get our message across without media super stars, that's bad enough. But at least let's refrain from begging for mercy from the boys in the monolith.

One dead Abalone,
Tom Athanasiou

POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT

Dear Abalone Alliance,

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$70.00. We are a retail stationery and gift store in Oakland. This amount represents 15% of our sales on Saturday, April 7. It was in this way that we felt we could participate and support your valued work.

Many customers came in when they saw our signs and some told us they bought a little extra. Many positive words were shared. Thank you again for your efforts.

Elizabeth M. Hertz
Julianne Hertz
Verbatim
5940 College Avenue
Oakland, CA 94618

THIS ISSUE AND NEXT...

It's About Times invites your contributions—letters, essays, reports, netwe ita and money. The deadline for the June issue is May 12. For this and subsequent issues we need editors, production folk and typists. If you can help, please leave a message for Liz Walker at 415-752-7766.

This issue of *It's About Times* was brought to you with love dedication and many cups of coffee by the following people: Marcy Darnovsky, Mark Evanoff, Connie Freed, Bonnie Munnell, Becky Rees, Dan Ross, Liz Walker and Richard Weiss. Many thanks to Cindy Cloud for typesetting and Jon Katz for fixing the composer.

NUCLEAR POWER: THE DOMESTIC EQUIVALENT OF WAR

The Three Mile Island disaster raises questions that go beyond the matter of personal safety and ecology. Why is it that despite its transparent dangers nuclear power is still being pushed by the governments and authorities worldwide?

Nuclear energy production is a direct mutant of the military apparatus. It was born in the weapons labs and is the same strategic apparatus in civilian clothes. The Cold War has been internalized and nuclear power is now a vehicle for spreading military ways and means throughout the social fabric.

Back in the fifties this fusion of civilian and military seemed warranted by the prospects of extraordinary profits. By now, the competitive economic position of nuclear power is in serious doubt and there are signs that some of the major investors are pulling out. Of course the corporations already in the business must do everything possible to protect their investments; they will violently oppose shutdowns of existing nuclear plants. But the decision to continue the nuclear venture is also made at a strategic level which cannot be fully explained by the profit drive. No nuclear research is carried out without the financial support of the state somewhere along the line, suggesting that another kind of investment must be protected. In this context, some points to think about:

--Formal democracy in the political sphere and the management of terror in everyday life. The population is kept at safe levels of fear and anxiety, so that disasters provide an opportunity to legitimate the command structure that already functions in the factories, schools, prisons and hospitals. Disciplinary procedures allow the authorities to administer an interchange between panic and boredom.

--The subordination of science to the ends of domination. No science is tolerated that is not in harmony with the economy of stupidity (consumer gadgets,) disease (cancer, industrial malaise,) and death (the production of means of destruction.)

--The militarized treatment of information. For example, Carter's special "general" is the only source of facts, reminiscent of the Saigon press conferences. There are information officers throughout the corporate, government and military apparatus.

Such an intensified injection of discipline and hierarchy can produce something quite different. Already it has intensified resistance almost to the point of rebellion.

Claudio Albertani and Robert Hurley

MOTIVATED TO ACTION

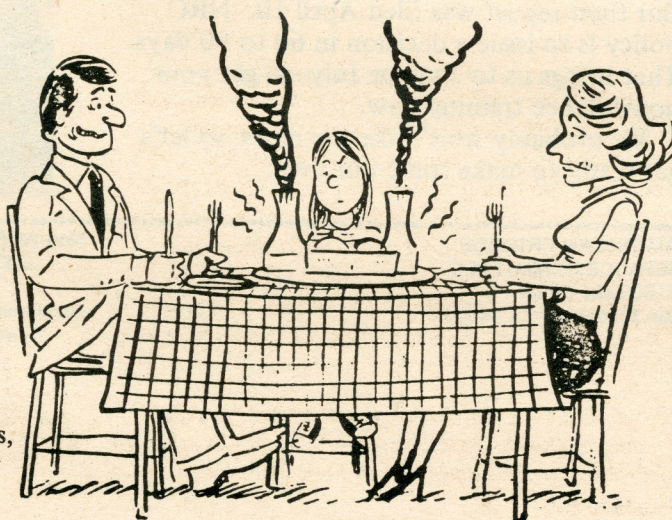
Dear Friends,

The work of the Abalone Alliance is the most important issue in the history of the human race. This is because the threat of nuclear pollution is the most deadly threat ever faced by the human race.

The seventh of April is an important day because it shows that a lot of us are not afraid to show that we are informed, involved and serious enough to gather in the square and talk to the world about the problem.

Please send me any materials I may use to convince my friends, acquaintances and relatives that this is a just and necessary cause. I am a registered voter and would be proud and happy to circulate petitions to develop any kind of legislation to limit or stop nuclear proliferation. We need to get the limiting of nuclear power on the ballot as an initiative.

Sincerely,
Mark A. Newby



statewide office opens

You're asking yourself "Whatever happened to the statewide office?" It is finally coming together and the new staff people are Susan Mesner and Steve Leeds. Our recently acquired office is at 944 Market, Room 307, San Francisco, 94102 and the phone number (which already seems to have leaked out) is (415) 543-3910. We will soon send a letter to all groups listing specific tasks, office hours, etc.

A great deal of concern and enthusiasm has been generated in the last few weeks, new groups are sprouting up suddenly and we are all realizing what a tremendous job we have ahead of us. One of us will be at every coordinating committee meeting and an advisory group is being set up to aid us in staffing this burgeoning organization. We will be getting out packets to each of the local groups once or twice a month with minutes from CC meetings, taskforce meetings and other information that comes our way. But it's important that the information flow be two-way, so please keep us posted on how you're doing and what we can do to help. We welcome all suggestions, criticism, and support.

--Susan Mesner

MARIN OPPOSES TRANSPORT OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS

On March 20, Norman Gover, speaking for the Abalone Alliance of Marin, suggested to the Marin County Board of Supervisors that they ban the transportation and storage of nuclear materials and waste in the County.

Although one newspaper in the County termed the suggestion "astounding and incredible," the Marin group had backed up its ideas with months of research and documentation. In his speech, Gover covered the gradual development of nuclear acceptance in this country from the days of the Manhattan project and "Atoms for Peace." Facetiously describing the "Atoms for Peace" program as one of "scientific benevolence," Gover went on to show that its acceptance allowed the undeterred research and development of nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons led to nuclear power plants which generate radioactive waste and waste must be disposed of... but not in Marin County, if the membership of the Abalone Alliance of Marin can help it.

Gover detailed the difficulties of storing waste. The same materials that leak into rivers from present storage containers are shipped around the country. Drawing heavily upon federal and California state reports, he cited statistics showing that in 1975, 2.5 million packages of radioactive materials were shipped in the United States. Over the 5 years ending August 1978, 328 accidents were reported, with 118 accidents involving releases of radiation into the biosphere. That means that three radiation-shipment accidents occur every two weeks in the U.S.

A number of other cities, counties and municipalities, including New York City, have already banned the transportation of waste. At the end of the morning, the Marin Supervisors voted 4 to 1 in favor of our request. They ordered County Counsel to draft legislation using the strongest possible language. On May 8, the supervisors will meet to vote on the legislation. This may be just the first of many such victories in California.

--Abalone Alliance of Marin

GOVERNMENT OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR POWER GROWS

Opposition to nuclear power and to Diablo Canyon is appearing in governmental bodies throughout California.

The City Councils of San Luis Obispo and Berkeley, along with Boards of Supervisors from San Francisco and Marin Counties, have passed resolutions opposing the licensing and operation of Diablo.

Jerry Brown, State Assembly Speaker Leo McCarthy, Assembly Minority Leader Paul Priolo and State Senate President James Mills have all called for the closure of Rancho Seco until doubts about its safety are resolved. Twenty members of the Assembly have signed a petition circulated by Tom Bates calling for its shutdown and opposing the operation of Diablo.

Assembly members Terry Goggin and John Garamendi have introduced legislation giving the State Energy Commission jurisdiction over radioactive emissions from existing nuclear power plants. The 1977 U.S. Clean Air Amendment gives states the right to regulate all types of emissions into the atmosphere.

Harrisburg Cover-up

Dr. Ernest Sternglass is a professor of radiological physics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He is the author of Low-Level Radiation and of some early, important studies on its health effects. Thanks to Dr. Sternglass and to Pacific News Service for the following article.

The accident at the Harrisburg nuclear power plant may have exposed about a million people to up to 130 times more radiation than the government has so far reported. The health effects of this exposure will be far more serious and long-lasting than the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has so far acknowledged.

The NRC reported only the external gamma radiation doses received from passing clouds of radioactive gases. It failed to calculate the total dose received by critical organs and bones from inhalation of fission gases—which produce the greatest biological damage.

The NRC's claim that pure xenon and some traces of iodine 131 were the only radioactive gases released is misleading and certainly unproven by information available to the public.

The government had no instrumentation in place to measure the precise composition of the radioactive steam that escaped into the atmosphere at the start of the Harrisburg disaster. The only instruments present were simple thermo luminescent dosimeters, which cannot distinguish between different chemical elements that give rise to the gamma radiation they register.

However, there is every reason to believe that this steam contained many of the radioactive chemicals normally produced in the fission process, of which the NRC's Dr. Allen Brodsky, an expert in the field, lists 21.

Gases inhaled when fission products pass by in a cloud of steam produce a dose about 130 times greater than the dose absorbed by the body from external gamma radiation, according to Dr. Brodsky's estimates.

Although the NRC has cited maximum accumulated doses as being 80 millirems in the course of a week following the Harrisburg accident, the true maximum doses to the lung may have been as large

as 10,000 millirems. The doses to bones from elements including Strontium 89 and 90, which are decay products of the rare gas krypton, are about 30 times greater than what is absorbed by external gamma radiation.

Strontium 90 was not only released during the accident, it is emitted during normal operations of nuclear power plants, as are cesium 137, berium 140 and larger amounts of xenon and other chemically inert gases. Official publications of the NRC clearly list these elements among annual radioactive releases into air and water.

Krypton and xenon are the most common radioactive fission products. The NRC has told the public the emissions contained mostly these inert gases which do not necessarily produce the greatest biological damage. However, official statements have generally failed to point out that these elements decay into other more biologically hazardous materials including cesium, berium and strontium.

Strontium 90 has been regarded by the scientific community as the most toxic of all fission products produced during nuclear testing. It collects in the bones and can cause cancer and leukemia. It has a half-life of about 30 years and, like other radioactive isotopes produced in the fission process, lingers and builds up in soil. It may present a hazard in food grown near the Three Mile Island plant.

In the past few months, however, the NRC has issued new regulations that will no longer make it necessary to routinely report the level of strontium 90 in local soil and milk.

Failure to consider strontium 90 and other decay products emitted during the Harrisburg accident is tantamount to a coverup of the seriousness of the damage done. It is, I believe, further evidence that the NRC is primarily concerned with protecting the nuclear industry.

The health hazard has also been discounted by other federal officials. Joseph Califano, secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, told the Senate health subcommittee that so far, radiation that had leaked was not expected to cause a single cancer death among the people living within 50 miles of the plant.

Yet even using only the external dosages that the

NRC has reported—2 millirems to a population of about a million within 50 miles of the plant—between 0.5 and 50 cancer deaths can be expected, according to Dr. Karl Z. Morgan, professor of health physics at Georgia Institute of Technology and former director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory's health physics division.

But if, in addition to the reported external doses, the unreported exposure from inhalation is considered, the number of cancers that may develop in the next 10 to 20 years might be 300 to 2,500, depending on what risk estimate one adopts. Other health effects can be expected to include genetic defects, and physical and mental retardation among the newborn.

Repeatedly, officials have compared radiation doses at Harrisburg to those received during dental x-rays. This is a completely deceptive attempt to minimize the true nature of the exposure. A dental x-ray is confined to a couple of inches of relatively insensitive area. At Three Mile Island, the whole body is exposed. Furthermore, the dental x-ray is over in a fraction of a second while the inhalation of strontium 90 will irradiate the bone and bone marrow for many decades after the individual has been exposed. It will also affect an infant developing in the mother's womb, possibly years later. This is not true of dental x-rays.

The Harrisburg health hazard is far from over. There will be continued emission of radioactive gases from the plant over many months and possibly years as radioactivity is removed from the plant. The NRC has admitted this is unavoidable.

To protect the population we can insist that all animals that produce food or milk be fed imported seed and hay until the full extent of the contamination is established. This should continue for some time while rain washes radioactive elements deeper into the soil and into rivers and the ocean and diminishes the level in grass that serves as local feed. Despite the economic impact of such a course it is one of the consequences we will have to face.

By and large, however, the only real protection is to prevent such accidents from recurring. We should work to convert nuclear power plants to conventional gas, coal or oil power plants. This was done in Sioux Falls, S.D. in 1968, when the Northern States Lights and Power Company converted a leaking experimental nuclear plant into a natural gas plant. All but a fraction of the total cost of a plant can be saved in conversion.

RATEPAYERS STUCK AGAIN

Utility customers across the United States as well as American taxpayers in general will be stuck with most of the insurance claims resulting from the accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant.

Thousands of claims probably running into the hundreds of millions of dollars are expected to be filed by persons who will allege health or property damage resulting from the radiation escaping from the plant.

A group known as the "American Nuclear Insurers," a pool of 140 insurance companies, has insured the Three Mile Island plant up to a maximum of \$140 million. Any damages exceeding that figure—up to \$480 million—will be shared by the other nuclear plants operating around the nation. The money to meet this obligation will be tacked on to the monthly electric bills of utility customers.

If damages run even higher than \$480 million, the U.S. taxpayer will step in. Under the Price-Anderson Act, the American government has agreed to cover additional losses up to a maximum of \$560 million. If the damages run even higher than that, the people in Pennsylvania claiming the losses will simply be out of luck.

--Zodiac News Service

RUN ON HARRISBURG BANKS

The emergency at the Three Mile Island plant caused many people to demand their money from local banks. Pennsylvania banking officials had to publicly urge the residents of the Harrisburg area not to remove their money from their bank accounts if they decided to leave the area.

The State Secretary of Banking assured the residents that "all banks maintain carefully updated duplicate records at bomb-proof shelters in deep mines at little-known points throughout the state."

The residents were also told that the accounts were each insured by the government for up to \$40,000 and that they could become the targets of "professional criminals" if they were to withdraw large amounts of cash.

--Zodiac News Service

We All Live in Pennsylvania

In the fallout of Three Mile Island, tens of thousands of demonstrators shouted this slogan in Hanover, West Germany to protest the construction of a \$7 billion complex to process and store nuclear wastes. While the U.S. media reported 50,000 demonstrators, organizers of the event contacted in Germany estimated that the true number was closer to 100,000. (Similarly, the *New York Times* and other major media counted 7000 at our April 7 rally in San Francisco --which makes it hard to explain what happened to the 20,000 leaflets that were distributed in the crowd. Other estimates ranged from 25,000 to 35,000.)

In Chooz, France, where the government is planning to enlarge a nuclear power station, the women of the town locked up the mayor in City Hall as a protest. The Three Mile Island accident came just as the French government was preparing to launch a major expansion of its nuclear power program, which is already the most ambitious in Europe. The government-controlled television network lost no time in broadcasting a documentary film purporting to show that French reactors are much safer than those in the United States.

On February 18, a nuclear referendum was held in Switzerland. A massive propaganda campaign by the government and the nuclear industry led to the narrow defeat of a proposal that would have given persons living within 20 miles of a proposed or existing nuclear plant the final say over its operation. Forty-nine percent of Swiss voters said "yes" to this proposal; those who voted "no" are undoubtedly having second thoughts in the light of the Three Mile Island accident.

This article is a compilation from several sources. Thanks to David Chatfield, International Coordinator of Friends of the Earth and to Fred Murphy of The Militant

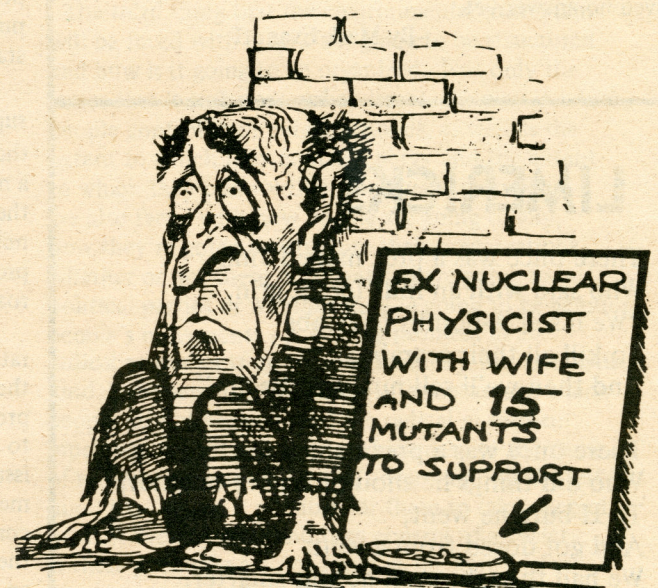
NUKE STOCKS DOWN

One group of Americans that took the nuclear accident in Pennsylvania quite seriously last week are the people who buy and sell stocks.

A check of the New York Stock Exchange indicated that the value of the common stocks of most companies involved in the nuclear industry dropped in value from 10 to 15 percent within 48 hours of the mishap.

There was some good news on the stock market, however: Columbia Pictures reported that its stock zoomed up by more than two points on the Exchange within a 24-hour period after the accident was reported. Columbia credited the jump to the fact that its movie about a nuclear accident, *The China Syndrome*, is a smash success at the box office. The film racked up a non-holiday season record of \$12.5 million at the box office in its first 14 days after being released.

--Zodiac News Service



ABALONES MEET PG&E

Eight members of the Abalone Alliance paid a visit to PG&E executives to "begin a dialogue"--although we are opposed to all nuclear power and PG&E's position is precisely the opposite.

The proposal to send a delegation to visit PG&E policy makers came out of the March 3 Abalone conference. A letter was sent to all members of the PG&E "executive team," requesting a meeting. A follow-up phone call was made the day after the Harrisburg accident. That afternoon, while members of PANP were making anti-nuke signs for a demonstration, a man in a three-piece suit walked into the office. He checked out the Abalone scene, looking a bit nervous as he told the people in the room "not to worry, PG&E had accepted the offer to meet." He brought an invitation from Barton Shackelford, PG&E Executive Vice President, who would become President of the utility in June.

We had less than 24 hours to round up a delegation. Calls went out around the state. We met first in San Francisco to plan strategy for the meeting with PG&E. Should we be antagonists or people wanting to help PG&E cope with their 1.4 billion dollar white elephant?

We gathered at 7:30 a.m. outside the PG&E offices in San Rafael. Our neck ties were already interfering with our breathing. Sam Tyson, one of the men who spent over two months in the SLO County Jail for occupying Diablo, drove up from the Central Valley to be a part of the delegation. He was joined by Diablo 20 defendants Barbara Levy and Ron Pomerantz. Others attending the meeting were Karen Green from Sonoma, Arlene Feng from the East Bay, Steve Leeds from the state office and Dave Troup and Mark Evanoff from PANP.

Parking attendants in business suits stood by every driveway of the PG&E parking lot greeting employees as they drove in. We're not sure if that is normal practice.

We were invited in but were required to show I.D. Ron didn't have any and was denied entrance because he could not prove who he was. He insisted that he was both Ron and a PG&E stockholder. After we had attested that Ron was indeed Ron, we were ushered into the board room and greeted by members of the PG&E delegation: Barton Shackelford; Malcolm Furbush, an attorney; John Hoch, a nuclear physicist from Diablo; Owen Davis, a health physicist from Washington, D.C. and Deacon Anderson, a PR man who never said a thing during the entire meeting.

Admiring the paper, pencils and ashtrays that were provided, we stated our position on nuclear power. We cautioned that the decisions made on nuclear power affect all of us.

In planning nuclear plants, "the effects on people are one of the many things weighed in making a decision," Davis responded.

Furbush stated that there is a safe threshold of radiation exposure and that he was a living example. He himself had visited Hiroshima after the bombing and had had radiation treatments to his face--all without ill effects.

Shackelford told us that after examining Three Mile Island closely, PG&E had identified nothing that would affect a change in the Diablo time-line. "The licensing is in the hands of the NRC. We've had no communication with them respecting Diablo."

We talked about converting the plant to a safe energy source. The response was that the turbine generators would make it "economically unjustifiable." The turbines were built with nuclear fuel in mind. It remained unclear why this should matter.

What would happen if Diablo is never put on-line? The rate impacts would be worked out by the PUC. If the plant does go on line, its life span will be 30 to 35 years. No information on decommissioning has been submitted to the PUC, Shackelford admitted.

As the meeting drew to an end, we were offered words of wisdom: "We live in a variable environment. People have choices. People choose to drive the highways even though there is proof that driving the highways is dangerous."

After the meeting, as we rode down in the elevator, Furbush stated that he believed that both hard and soft energy paths could be pursued at the same time. He seemed nervous alone with us, with only the elevator operator as guard, and hurried away when we reached the ground floor.

We invited the PG&E officials to meet with us again, in our offices this time. The matter was taken back to their executive committee and we have received no answer yet.

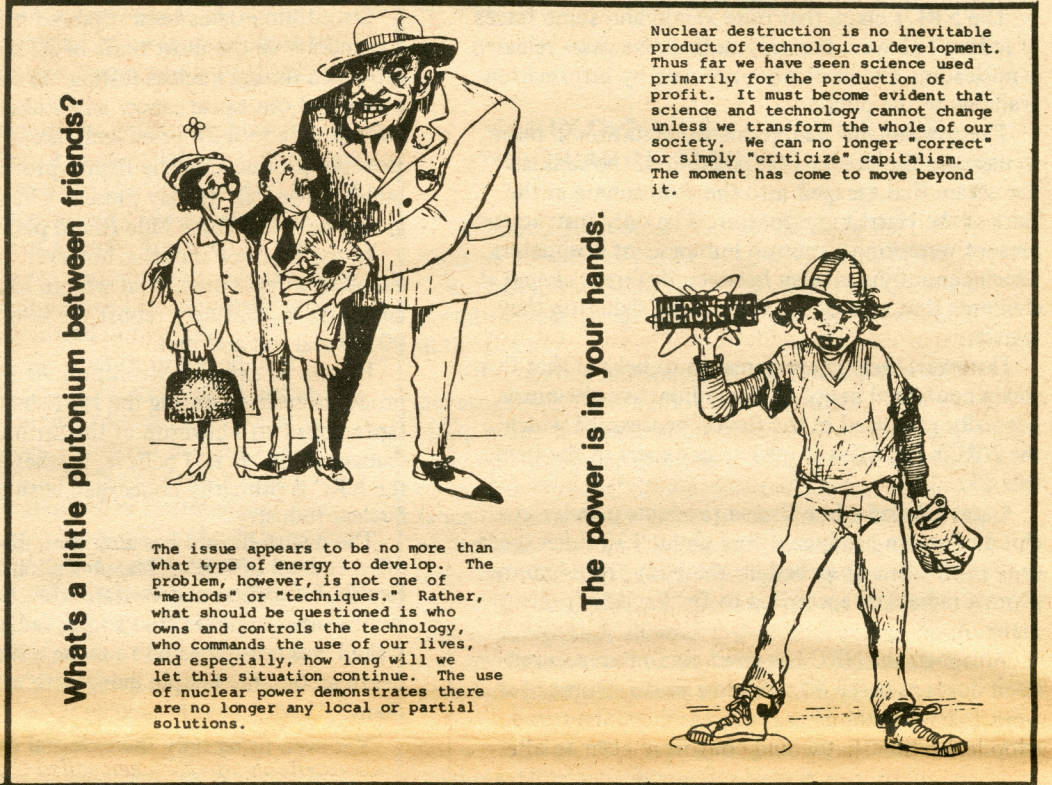
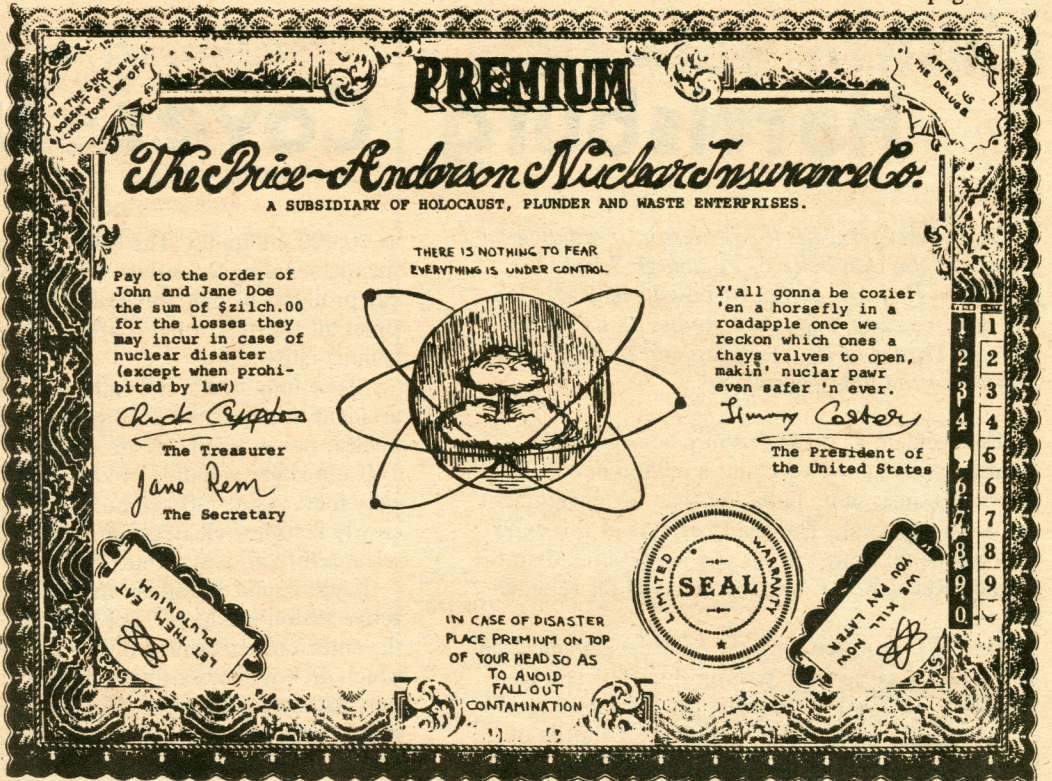
--By Mark Evanoff

LIMERICKS

There once was a prez named Jim,
Who said with an indifferent grin,
"We'll sell A-bombs to Arabs
To kill all their scarabs,
And then we'll sell nukes to Begin."

There once was a prez named Carter,
Who did things he shouldn't have oughter,
To H-burg he went,
And got dosed from a vent,
We had thought even he was smarter.

--Ted Oleari



BAY AREA POLL

A public opinion survey conducted in late February--before the Harrisburg accident--shows that Bay Area residents opposed the Diablo Canyon nuke by a margin greater than two to one. The poll results also indicated that 76% of all those favoring development of nuclear power oppose building a nuclear plant within five miles of an earthquake fault.

The study was commissioned by the Abalone Alliance and conducted by the San Francisco Study Center. Complete results are available from the Abalone office. Here are some interesting excerpts from the report:

DIABLO CANYON: Respondents were asked whether they were aware of the nuclear power plant at Diablo Canyon. 51% had heard of the Diablo Canyon issue, 46.9% of respondents indicated that they oppose having an operating nuclear power plant in Diablo Canyon; 23% were in favor of the plant, and 29.2% were unsure.

NUCLEAR POWER: 47.6% of the respondents oppose the development of nuclear power; 32.3% favor it, and 20.2% remain undecided. A substantial number of respondents, 48.5%, feel that "nuclear power is too complex and technical an issue for the public to decide on." 42.5% disagreed with that statement, and 8.7% were unsure.

Most nuclear power supporters said they would support the development of nuclear energy even if their electric bills were raised to pay for it. However, a majority (75.8%) indicated they would not approve the construction of a nuclear power plant within five miles of an earthquake fault. 52.1% would not approve the transportation of nuclear wastes on public roads in California.

ENERGY ISSUES: Respondents were asked to rate several major American institutions in terms of the accuracy and reliability of the information they provide on energy issues. When asked on their own to name reliable sources of information on energy issues, respondents most frequently named environmental groups (23%), the news media (19.6%), power companies (7%) and government (6%). 18.6% of the respondents indicated that they didn't know of an accurate and reliable source of information on energy issues and 12% said they didn't think such sources existed.

SAFEGUARD LAWS OVERTURNED

On March 6 federal district Judge William Enright overturned the constitutionality of one of California's Nuclear Safeguard Laws. In the decision issued from San Diego the judge acknowledged that the arguments of the defendants "are indeed weighty and not lacking in appeal." Nevertheless he found the Safeguard Laws to be inimical to the Congressionally stated objective to develop and utilize nuclear power.

The State Energy Commission and four environmental intervenors (the Natural Resources Defense Council, Californians for Nuclear Safeguards, the Environmental Defense Fund and the Sierra Club) argued that the Safeguard Laws are simple matters of State land use planning powers. The plaintiffs (the American Nuclear Society, the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council, the San Diego Coalition--an 'ad hoc' citizens' group financed by SDG&E and set up during the Sun Desert struggle--and one individual) argued that the Safeguard Laws "are preempted by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, because they stand as an obstacle to the accomplishment of the Congressional objective of developing nuclear energy."

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has resorted to what Roger Beers, attorney for the NRDC, has termed "unusual logic" to rationalize why reactor licenses should not be made contingent on a demonstrated means to deal with their wastes. In its administrative proceedings the NRC only considers whether there are proposed methods to store spent fuel on site. The NRDC has challenged this procedure before the NRC and federal courts, and each time the long-term waste storage issue has been buried under the "Congressional intent" logic.

Judge Enright has only affirmed these irrational arguments. Energy Commission lawyers are now asking him to reconsider his decision in light of recent events at Three Mile Island. Assuming that Enright denies the motion to reconsider, the Commission will appeal the case to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

--By Stephen Buckley
Community Energy Action
Network

ABALONE LABOR CONFERENCE

Where might the anti-nuclear and labor movements cooperate? One hundred anti-nuclear activists listened to unionists and coalition organizers suggest answers at the Abalone Labor Conference in San Francisco on March 17.

In the first Abalone Alliance event of its kind, both pro- and anti-nuclear unionists described a worsening climate of wage freezes, runaway shops, an unfriendly press and other attacks on their unions, and asked for support. A growing faction of anti-nuclear activists, too, would like to join forces with labor, rather than "rub up" against them as during the unsuccessful 1976 Nuclear Safeguards Initiative.

The conference revealed both common interests and difficulties. Several unionists supported nuclear power, saying the alternatives by themselves could not contribute enough energy before the year 2000 to keep the economy growing and producing desperately needed jobs.

Furthermore, workers see nuclear jobs, while they don't see solar jobs. Tony Ramos of the California State Council of Carpenters pointed out that construction workers accept jobs even when working conditions endanger their own life and limb, so you can't expect them to reject jobs for dangers that seem to them nebulous and down the road. Debbie Farson of Union Women's Alliance to Gain Equality, while supportive of Abalone, said, "It's wrong to treat workers as backwards if they cross your picket line because they need the jobs. . . the point is, why are we being forced to make these unnatural choices between jobs and a healthy environment?"

Recognizing labor's dilemma, some anti-nuclear activists hope to get pro-nuclear unions to be also pro-solar, a strategy they argue would help undermine the demand for nuclear electricity and nuclear jobs. A Mack truck autoworker in the audience suggested unions could lobby for federal aid to solar development and also invest their pension funds in it.

Dave McFadden of the Mid-Peninsula Conversion Project challenged the anti-nuclear movement to develop legislation that would convert nuclear to alternative energy sources, yet which would provide for workers' security, retraining, and help for communities whose economies depend on nuclear reactors.

One selling point for solar, says McFadden, is that it can still be unionized. Many environmentalists might object to that, said an Abalone member in the audience. But a sheetmetal worker cautioned, "You aren't going to get union people to support you guys making jobs for non-union people. That undercuts everything labor fought for. I don't know if any of you've ever worked in a non-union shop, but it's awful."

Unionists frequently suggested cooperating for workplace health and safety. In the past they have felt stung by environmentalists who were more concerned with the effects of industrial poisons on endangered birds than on workers. But Ramos thinks those attitudes are changing.

Safety for nuclear workers is a natural link between the anti-nuclear and labor movements. Demands for safety raise the market cost of nuclear power closer to its true social cost. But unionists emphasized radiation isn't an isolated killer: asbestos,

cotton dust in textile mills, pesticides, construction hazards all kill. Health hazards to white collar workers are being discovered, including ozone from copying machines and soft X-rays from video display terminals. Farson said to reach workers you have to realize that the whole system, not just the nuclear industry, in its compulsion for profit "disregards people."

Another difficulty in cooperating may be the question of lifestyle, or as Ramos put it, "How much is enough standard of living. . . and who's going to decide?" Louise Billotte of Northern California Coalition for Full Employment warned against expecting workers to adopt an austere alternative lifestyle. At one point a sheetmetal worker stood up, brimming with emotion. "Your newspaper [*Creating Solar Jobs*] says 'Unions will have to be sensitive to cost problems and not make demands which will cripple the fledgling solar industry.' Why do we always have to pay for it? Why don't you get the corporations to pay for it?"

The Mack truck autoworker suggested cooperating against "common enemies," such as Westinghouse which both promotes nuclear power and runs away from unions to "right to work" states.

Unionists frequently asked for solidarity on issues unrelated to nuclear power, such as using union printing for literature and supporting strikes.

By the end of the day people were exhausted and buzzing with information. Jane Weed of the Abalone Labor Task Force called this conference an "important step for Abalone." Organizing it was the task force's first activity. One of the task force members reflected on the unionists' humanness and concern for the environment: "If nothing else we learned that labor is not a monolithic pro-nuclear blue meanie."

--By liv



--By Richard Weiss

BOOKCHIN'S OUTLOOK

Murray Bookchin has been called the granddaddy of the radical ecology movement. His book, Our Synthetic Environment came out before Rachel Carson's Silent Spring. Others of his books include Post-Scarcity Anarchism, The Limits of the City, and The Spanish Anarchists. Currently, Murray teaches at Ramapo College, directs the Social Ecology Institute at Goddard College, publishes Comment, A Journal of Libertarian Thought, and is active in the Clamshell Alliance.

During a recent visit to California, some of the Anarchist Abalones got together with Murray. We asked him what he saw facing the anti-nuclear movement in the months and years ahead.

Murray Bookchin comments.....

I really think that we have reached a kind of historic crossroads. The environmental movement is faced with critical issues and it will either commit itself to the wrong direction or it will find its way to a much more humanistic and truly radical solution to the problems we face.

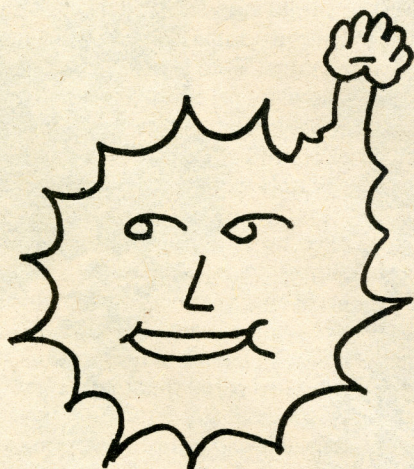
On the first level, if we try to look exclusively for a technological solution there is no reason why the present society--centralized, dehumanized, even anti-ecological in character, will not use solar energy to foster a corporate type and totalitarian type of society. This purely technological approach would make it possible to use 10% of the desert area for solar collectors with long transmission lines going out to all different parts of the country run by utilities, organized on a corporate multinational basis, bureaucratic in structure, in which people would have no more control of their lives than they would if they were living with nuclear reactors. There are even people who have suggested People's Banks. They're not going to replace Chase Manhattan. They'll turn into Chase Manhattan or the Bank of America . . .

The second very important problem that I think the environmental movement will face is its ability to look beyond single issues. This is crucial. Is "No Nukes" enough? Can we just unite on the idea that we want to abolish certain things and without thinking about the technology we want to replace them with make it perfectly possible for someone like Jerry Brown or for that matter even Jimmy Carter to become an environmental spokesman?

The real problem as I see it is to look at the source of energy, it is the derivative of a very sick

anti-ecological society. And it's not enough to say that the cause of nuclear power is capitalism or that pollution is profitable. That is nonsense--not because it isn't true but because it's not radical enough and isn't searching enough. Ultimately the real source of nuclear energy and the source of much of the environmental crisis is the attempt to dominate nature. And that attempt to dominate nature stems from the domination of human by human. It begins with the domination of the young by the old, of women by men, and finally of man by man. And it is not simply a matter of the class structure or the profit structure that we have to abolish. We certainly have to abolish these--but we have to go much deeper. We have to abolish the hierarchical structure that produces the hierarchical mentality toward nature. The domination of nature is the product of the domination of human by human and that begins in the family and not in the factory. The factory is a later development of that form of domination and the great lack of modern socialist theory today is that it does not reach into the nature of hierarchy itself. The mythology that a classless society will produce a free society is exploded by the fact that you can have a classless society in which women are still dominated by men and men and young people dominated by older people, as well as bureaucrats dominating people in the name of a free society, and an efficiently run society . . .

The third thing that the environmental movement will be faced with is how's it going to be structured and how is it going to be organized. Not only the issues that it embraces--urban issues, the way in which people control their neighborhoods, as well as the extent to which they control energy and the extent to which they control their food resources. We are also faced with how people are going to ally, how they're going to structure their organizations, whether or not these organizations are going to be political parties or whether they're going to be genuine people's movements . . . The big problem in all radical movements up to now, certainly the socialistic kind, have been the formation of structures in which people do not even control the radical movement much less the society and in which despite the name of self-management they don't even develop the selfhood that makes it possible for them to take control of their everyday lives and take control of a society. If these problems are not faced in the anti-nuclear movement and in the environmental movement generally, what we're going to wind up with are all the mistakes that were made in the 1960's.



PG&E Rally

The date is March 29. The NRC fears that the Three Mile Island plant will melt down. At the People Against Nuclear Power office in San Francisco, the phones are constantly ringing. Those who call are frightened and angry. "What are you going to do about this disaster?" they want to know. "We've got to do something."

In the office we realized that the action was organizing itself and decided to hold a march and rally at PG&E the following day. Our old anti-nuclear signs were pulled out of storage and new ones were made. Phone calls went out around the Bay Area inviting local groups to the action. Television and radio got the word and began deluging us with inquiries. On the evening news, the television station that a month earlier had called us "Robots Against Nuclear Power" now advertised our march.

The next day at Union Square, our rally began with songs and a few brief statements. The crowd marched down Geary and Market Streets to the PG&E executive offices, chanting and handing out flyers to passers-by. Employees working in the financial district came to their windows in the high-rises to watch and some joined the march.

The group of several hundred gathered on the steps of PG&E for more speeches and songs. Joan Baez made a surprise appearance and led the "die-in." Meanwhile, Abalone spokespeople attempted to meet with PG&E representatives, but all were "out to lunch." The rally ended with a march around the PG&E building.

--by Mark Evanoff

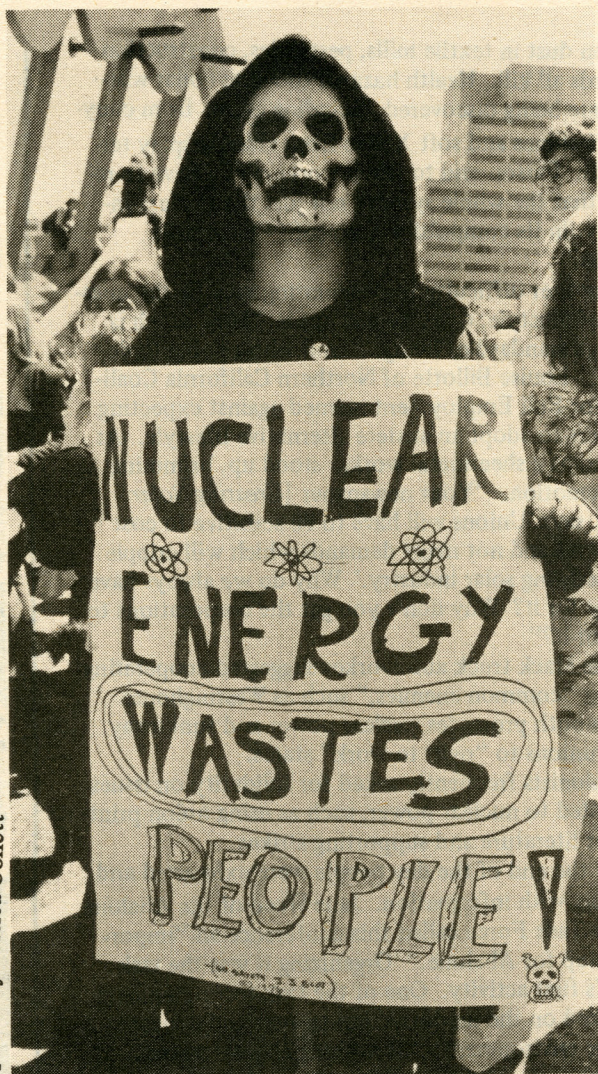


photo by Jessica Collett

Vigil

page six

A group of Abalones held a 24-hour vigil at P.G.&E., April 6. The ratepayers didn't want to be reminded of the dangers of nuclear power. P.G.&E. didn't want it known. Uniformed officers kept their eyes on these campers at the feet of the P.G.&E. monolith.

But we did more than "camp out". We sang; we danced. Ward auctioned off Diablo (cheap), Terri smiled, quietly preaching the P.G.&E. investments blues and Sara gave them a piece of her mind. And when the quiet settled, when dusk came, Josh and others leafletted passing cars. A banner read, "Honk If You Hate Nukes" and brought the noise of horns from the streets.

Restaurants donated food for us and people donated their Coleman stoves. Everyone brought their candles and at midnight we held a candlelight vigil. At its peak sixty-five made a personal and an Abalone statement with the vigil; about forty-three slept at P.G.&E.'s feet and marched the next day to the April 17 Rally.

It seems the press feels that equilibrium can be returned to our daily lives if reminders of THREE MILE ISLAND was not as serious as it was once thought to be" and that the NRC "left no stone unturned in its inquiry as to the cause." But radioactive emissions still float even as the seriousness is played down and the cause is found. It is left to us to keep the hazards of nuclear power in the public's mind.

An on-going vigil in front of P.G.&E. has been suggested. We should start developing ideas and organizing soon. A Post-Harrisburg Strategy/A.A. Alliance planning meeting is being organized by SoNoMore Atomics for May 12 at 714 C Street in San Rafael at noon.

--By Dennis Burgess

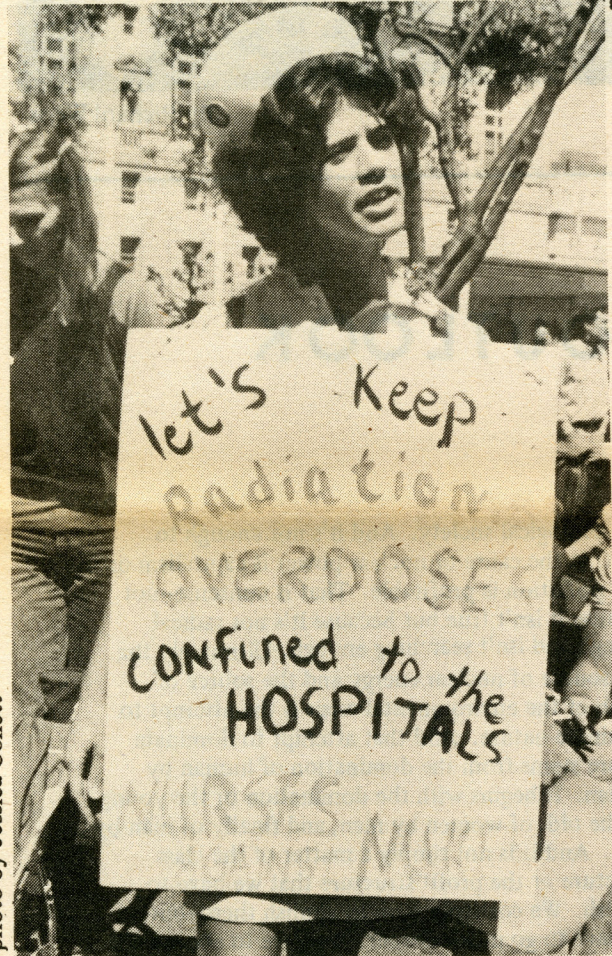


photo by Jessica Collett



photo by Jon Katz



photo by Jon Katz

APRIL 7th RALLY



photo by Jessica Collett

Raye Fleming

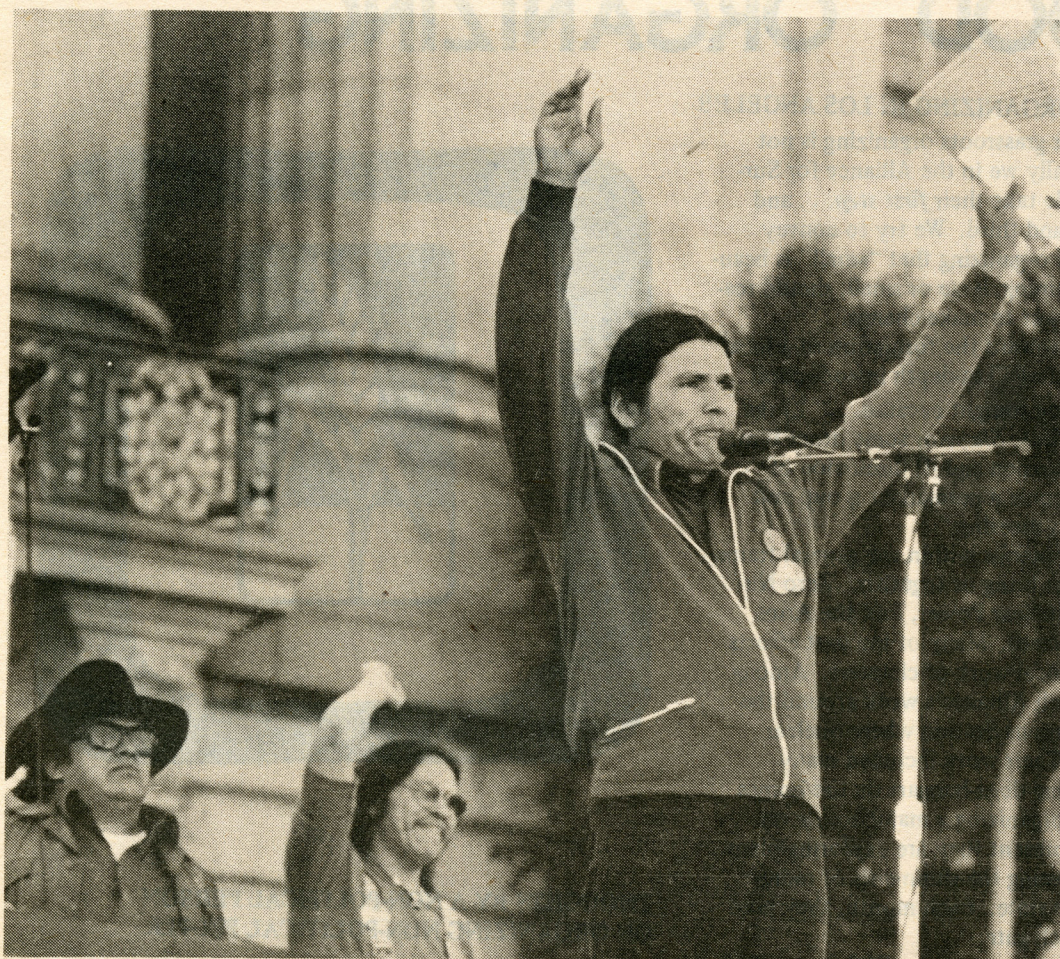


photo by Jessica Collett



photo by Richard Weiss

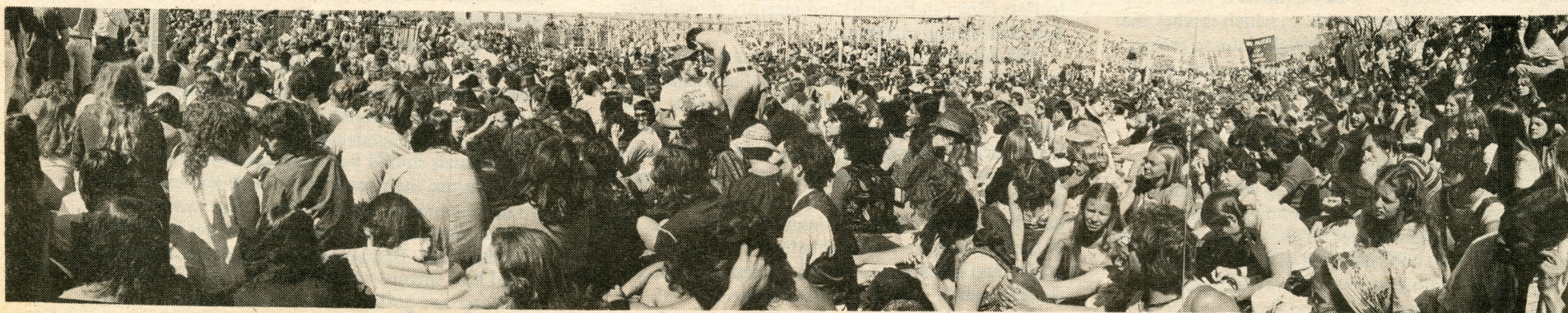


photo by Richard Weiss

Meanwhile . . . back in Pennsylvania

As a child in southeastern Pennsylvania, I canoed and picnicked in parks kindly provided by the local electric companies. My fifth grade class was taken on field trips to a bakery, the Hershey Chocolate factory and the Peach Bottom Nuclear Power Plant. The visit to Peach Bottom was particularly fun since it involved a long bus ride and a picnic at the information center. We learned all about how safe, cheap electricity was being generated to run our television sets and electric football games.

Twenty years later, I am very bitter over the brainwashing of local residents living near all nuclear power plants. It seems to be standard procedure—I have seen Rancho Seco "Park" where picnic grounds were still being frequented by local families during the March 31 demonstration and CD action. Americans have been lulled by PR into a feeling of false security. I never considered the possibility of any danger from either of the two nuclear plants near my home town of Lancaster. The fifth grade field trip took care of that.

Working on the April 7 rally helped me stay calm while we almost lost Pennsylvania. I heard through the grapevine about family and friends in Pennsylvania who had evacuated. I was still feeling high from the rally when I began making calls to find out just what impact the accident had had on local residents.

I spent two and a half hours on the phone talking with three people of different backgrounds in different towns: Carl Melhor, 63, a factory worker living 5¼ miles from Three Mile Island in Mt. Wolf; Barbara Haverstick, 32, a pregnant housewife with two small children living in Washington Boro, 18 miles downriver from the plant; and Jerry Hershey, 29, an artist from Lancaster, 25 miles away.

All three were anxious to tell me of their experience. Before the accident, neither Jerry nor Carl had considered themselves to be endangered by either of nuclear plants in the area. Barbara had thought about possible dangers if radiation leaked from Three Mile Island, but it had not kept her from buying a nearby home. All three had heard of the accident through the local news media, and all felt extremely confused and angry over conflicting local news coverage.

Barbara had evacuated with her husband and children on Friday, returned home on Sunday, and left again on Monday since the situation was still critical. She felt she received more accurate information from the media outside the affected area. Carl agreed: "You knew you weren't getting the facts." Jerry

spoke of people in Lancaster buying all the out-of-town newspapers they could get their hands on. At the same time the local newspaper was reporting that the crisis was easing, he said, the *Washington Post* was calling the situation extremely critical.

Both Carl and Barbara felt that the person who really kept the panic down was Harold Denton, operations chief for the NRC. Barbara believed that Denton had "the perfect personality for the crisis" and "decided that he was the person I was going to trust." Carl said, "It seemed that as soon as Denton arrived on the scene, that hydrogen bubble started shrinking. I don't know if it really was or not, but that's the way it seemed." All three lost faith quickly in anything that Met-Ed officials reported, believing that the company was trying to minimize the situation. When Carter came to the plant, people calmed down more.

It had been a scary week in all of their lives, but I got the impression that it would be forgotten very soon. Carl believed that most people felt that "if I can't hear it, see it or smell it, why should I worry about it?" According to Carl, "It's on the back page now."

Employers had been very unsympathetic to workers who evacuated and Jerry knew three people who were fired as a result. Both Barbara and Carl had complete faith that there would have been an evacuation if the situation had been really critical. Barbara knew that "the governor wouldn't take chances with people's lives."

What of the future of nuclear power? Carl and Barbara expressed their belief that nuclear power was unfortunately a necessity in light of the energy crisis, but they were sure that it could be made safe. Barbara believed that conservation could be a key to avoiding nuclear power usage, but felt that the American people would never be willing to make any sacrifice to conserve energy. No one wanted to see the Three Mile Island plant reopened, but felt powerless to stop it and unmotivated to try. Carl did say that he signed a petition against the cost of the accident being passed on to the ratepayers. Jerry had signed a couple of anti-nuke petitions, but "I'm not willing to go out and wave a placard." Barbara had doubts about nuclear power, but told me that the local newspaper reported that in a survey taken at Elizabethtown College, about 10 miles from Three Mile Island, 62% of the respondents were still in favor of nuclear power.

And so life around Three Mile Island goes back to normal. A Lancaster newspaper I saw reported 50 demonstrators at an anti-nuclear rally, and a thousand at a demonstration in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania's capitol. I felt very depressed and deflated after talking with these people about their trust in the governor, the president and the NRC, and their faith in a safe nuclear-powered future. I felt angry. I had barely been able to eat and sleep during the week of the crisis, had worked hard at the rally, and thought that Three Mile Island would be the fuel to light an anti-nuclear fire in Pennsylvania and around the country. Why must it take a major accident with visible deaths to bring people to action?

A personal analogy comes to mind. Sitting in a sheriff's office after escaping a knife attack, I remember the D.A. propping his feet up on the desk and saying, "Well, little lady, it's nice you weren't hurt, but it's too bad in a way you weren't raped or maimed a little. It's so much easier to bring charges." Visible hurt—visible action.

But perhaps I should not be too discouraged. I thought that 50 demonstrators in Lancaster sounded so pitiful compared to the thousands in San Francisco until an old friend jolted my memory and I remembered what a conservative area that is. Had I forgotten that it was a major event when five people demonstrated in the town square against the Vietnam War? Fifty people is a crowd in Lancaster, home of the Pennsylvania Dutch and the Amish who ironically use no electricity, telephones or power machinery, and who never involve themselves in politics. Even the Elizabethtown College survey can be seen as a triumph. For almost 40% of those polled in a conservative Republican community to feel strongly against nuclear power is a victory. And perhaps I had spoken to the wrong people. A friend from Harrisburg told me that his parents had evacuated and were extremely bitter and aroused against nuclear power and had sent a donation to the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Having been raised in a conservative Pennsylvania Dutch family, I was taught to trust in God, government and anyone in authority. I changed. And the Three Mile Island accident does seem to have broken down at least some of this blind trust within other Pennsylvanians.

--By Connie Freed

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZING

page eight

INSIDE THE ABALONE SHELL: An Overview of Neighborhood Groups

Einstein suggested that we take the problem of energy choice to the village square. Since village squares are hard to find these days, the city neighborhood seems to be a logical extension.

"What can we do on a small group level?" Start by studying the issues together, reading pamphlets, books, sharing ideas and leaving plenty of time for discussion. One useful process to follow is to have each member take a book or article to read and then report to the group. Or the group might take different topics to study for a couple of weeks at a time, i.e. radioactive waste disposal, alternative energy technologies or jobs and energy. Either way, a lot of information can be transmitted and hashed through in a short period of time. PANP is putting together a packet of information for new neighborhood groups to study.

"But we don't want to be just another study group. We want action." Great! After boning up on the facts, neighborhood groups are in an ideal position to mobilize more people. Some ideas include: literature tables at local shopping centers, teach-ins and films at community centers, articles for neighborhood newsletters. A speakers' bureau can be organized to visit schools and clubs. A vigil at the local utility office could become an ongoing event. Classes in solar energy could organize the neighborhood. The possibilities are endless.

"Isn't that awfully isolated? How can one small group affect anything?" It can't, unless it joins with other groups to form a network. . . which is what the Abalone Alliance is all about. Neighborhood groups can be a valuable unit to take on specific work tasks for local or statewide actions. To maintain our identity as an alliance, it is important for any new group to accept the Abalone Declaration of Resistance.

There will be some kinks to work out of this system. For instance, what relationship will neighborhood groups in the same city have to each other? How will they communicate? If the answer is through a local office, who will fund that office? Will a cluster of neighborhood groups replace a local group, such as SF People Against Nuclear Power or will that group exist independently? We're looking for ideas on this topic. Meanwhile, enjoy that intimate feeling you get when you only have to walk down the block to your next meeting.

--By Liz Walker

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZING IN LOS ANGELES

Our philosophy for grassroots organizing is not complicated. Essentially we in the Alliance for Survival try to help people take their *first step*. . . and perhaps their second and third. We try to convey at the start of all local organizing that "small" is beautiful and that any grouping, large or small, should realize that they have power to make change.

The first meetings toward the formation of a local chapter usually consist of 1) in-depth introduction. . . "I came to this meeting tonight because. . ." 2) the showing of *The Last Slide Show* or some other film, 3) some informal discussion and 4) discussion of whether or not to become a permanent group and the setting of the next meeting.

Chapters are autonomous within the general framework of the issues that bring us together: Zero Nuclear Weapons, Ban Nuclear Power, End the Arms Race, Fund Human Needs. Many of the best efforts have come from the local work of chapters. Among them is the Long Beach Alliance's work around the Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station where nuclear weapons are stored. Their work included many house meetings, putting door-hangers on the homes around the base and organizing a major action on August 5, 1978. At present they are exploring plans for conversion and tracing the shipments of radioactive materials in the state. Each month, they hold a vigil at the Seal Beach gate.

Our new East L.A. chapter exemplifies how a few organized and energetic people can do a tremendous amount. They are producing their own bilingual leaflets (Spanish-English) and recently showed *The Last Slide Show* in Spanish.

The Alliance gained strength, energy and organizing skills from the affinity groups that formed in preparation for the CD at Diablo last August. It was truly incredible to see some whose first anti-nuke experience was Survival Sun Day in May going over the fences at Diablo in August. Local artists formed another kind of affinity group. Artists for Survival had their first *No Nukes* art exhibit April 1 - 22. One of their goals is to inspire chapters to use more poetry and music in their work. These are only a few examples. . . there are many more.

In conclusion, we have real confidence in the future of the Alliance. We have all the problems related to rapid growth in an alienated environment. But there is a real sense of community in the Alliance, while the environment around us is often devoid of it. Since the future of all of us depends on winning the nuclear "issue" we will continue to organize and learn from each other along the way. . . at least till there are no more nukes anywhere.

--By Ruth Sarnoff



THOUGHTS BY A NON-POLITICAL PERSON ON ORGANIZING NON-POLITICAL PEOPLE

I'm a political sloth myself, occasionally goaded into fits of activity by terror, anger, and guilt. Since these emotions themselves are counter-productive and contribute to rapid burn-out, I've given some thought to alternative motivations and methods to involve non-political people in the fight against nuclear power. Here are the results of my brainstorming, hopefully applicable to upcoming neighborhood organizations.

Individuals should be encouraged to consider how they can use their particular talents and experience to make a unique contribution to the movement, and to integrate their political activities with other activities they find enjoyable. Musicians and singers could lead sing-ins and play-ins in front of utility company and government office buildings. Senior citizens with extensive parenting and grandparenting experience could run childcare booths at rallies. Social butterflies can throw anti-nuke parties and potlucks, invite the neighbors, and pass out pamphlets and petitions with the potato chips. Finally, those individuals who do not wish to be directly politically active could find creative ways to support busy full-time activists. (And activists should not be embarrassed to ask for this support--Liz Walker already got herself a weekly massage this way!) A support person could do your shopping or laundry, childcare, fix your dinner, fix your car, fix your head.....

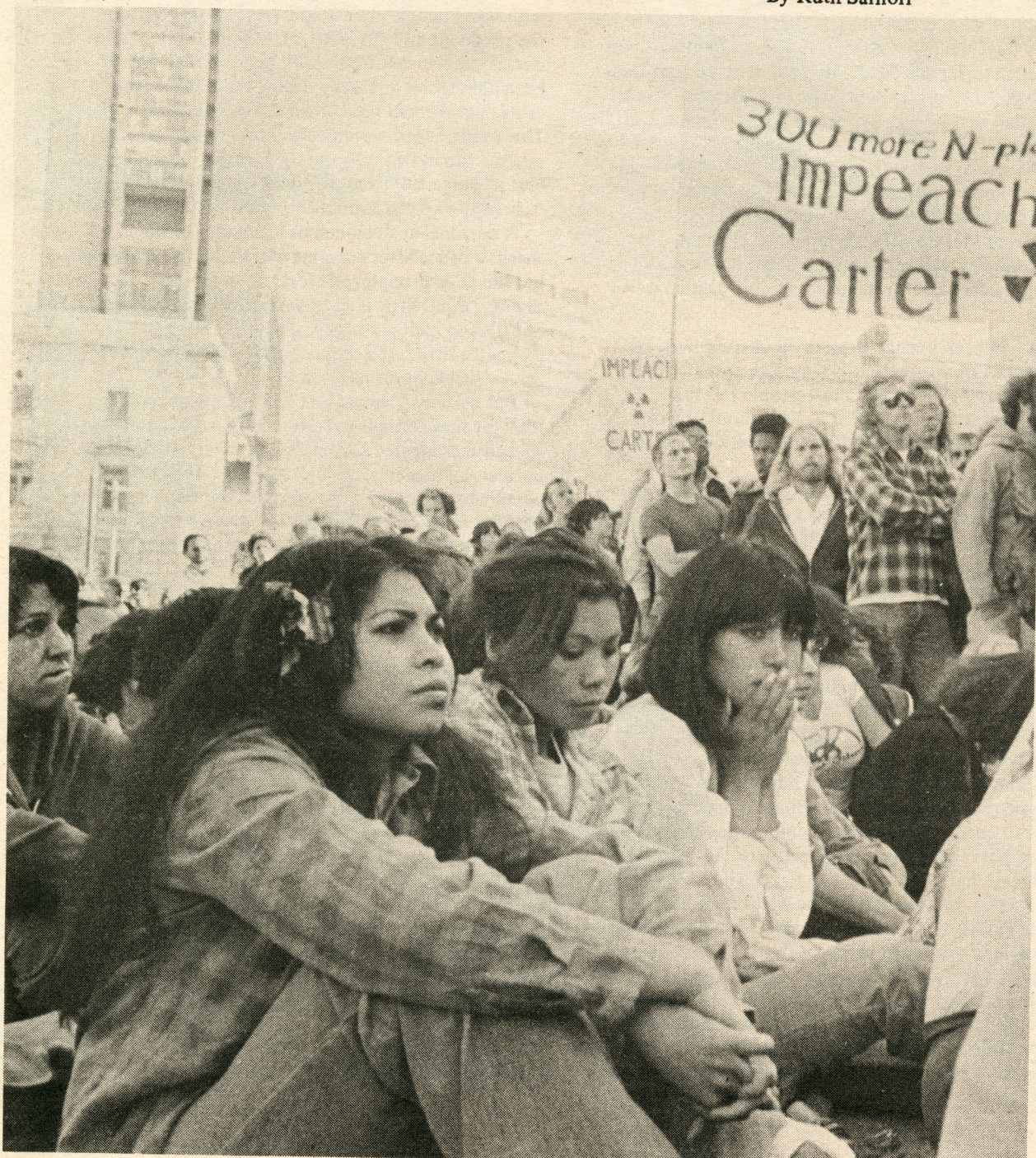
We should encourage the participation of two large population groups whose time and talents are currently underutilized in our society--senior citizens and housewives. Housewives, regrettably, are often viewed primarily as consumers by our society, but they can turn this role to their advantage by becoming the chief organizers of boycotts. Mothers can also focus around their role of caretakers of the young. Since cancer is the biggest childhood killer, and babies and children are the most susceptible victims of radiation induced cancers, it would be most appropriate--and dramatic--to have a movement centered around the health rights of children. Indeed, since one in three Americans now dies of cancer, the last, and most grim, special interest group that could be organized is Cancer Victims Against Nuclear Power. (I'm not sure if I'm going too far here--or not far enough.)

We should utilize the power of community groups already in existence. The local feminist community and gay community are already turning their attention to the nuclear power issue, for example. Many religious and ethnic groups already have a strong sense of community and can quickly and effectively organize themselves, as did the black church in the Southern civil rights movement. At the Hiroshima Day rally at Diablo last year, the procession of white-robed Japanese Buddhists marching silently to the slow beat of the drum provided an impressive note of solemnity. The Indian community is already demonstrating its power in many ways, including the upcoming fire ritual to protest uranium mining in Red Wind.

We may be too much in the thick of the battle to realize it now, but nuclear power is dying--at least in part due to our efforts. A widespread grassroots resistance could finish it off and become a turning point for our nation. The sense of personal and community power generated by this crucial issue is alive and can continue to grow in creative new directions.

--Becky Rees

photo by Jessica Collett



SHORT CIRCUITS

MISHAP AT VALLECITOS

In March 1978, during a scheduled shutdown at the Vallecitos nuclear plant, engineers cut a portion of the suction line in the spent fuel pool's cooling system so that they could relocate a pump. It was necessary to temporarily seal this break in the suction line to keep sufficient water over the spent fuel, capsules, and other radioactive material in the pool. A deflated "regulation basketball," wrapped in rubber tape to increase its diameter by two inches, was inserted into the suction line and inflated. With the line successfully parted, work on relocating the pump began.

No sooner had this work started when kaboom! The basketball seal was a seal no more, rebounding off the walls of the containment with a static water head of 500 pounds and 14,000 gallons of water behind it. In five minutes the reactor spent fuel pool water level dropped to the level of the suction line, increasing the dosage rate around the pool by a factor of 130 to 2 rem/hour. Had the second gate been removed and sealed by the same method before the first basketball left its position, the water in the pool would have dropped to a level below the fuel rods.

"A more conventional seal. . . was substituted for the basketball," read the inspection report. "Where the risk of fuel melting and personnel safety are involved, consultation with knowledgeable people should be made prior to questionable operation."--*The Nugget File*, edited by Bob Pollard, published by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

MISHAP AT RANCHO SECO

In March of 1978, a light bulb accidentally fell into an open light assembly on the control console at the Ranch Seco Reactor. That created a short circuit in the power supply to pressure, temperature, flow, and level sensors in the reactor. The readings on the control gage went haywire, sent conflicting signals to the automatic controls, and forced the baffled reactor operator to scram the plant. Smart as this was, scrambling the plant didn't help the confusion, since most of the instruments were not working. All sorts of things happened without their knowledge. For example, the reactor coolant returned to service.--Peter Cleary, staff physicist of Citizens for a Better Environment in a letter to *Science* magazine, 26 January 1979.

MISHAP AT MIDLAND MICHIGAN

A multi-million-dollar nuclear plant under construction near Midland, Michigan, is slowing sinking into the ground.

The plant's diesel generator building has sunk about three-quarters of an inch since the end of January, and a total of five inches since construction began in 1977.

Construction has been halted because the plant's safety specifications allow it to sink a total of only three inches during its lifetime. The consumers power company, the builder of the plant, has been pouring sand around the building as a "remedial action," but--so far anyway--the plant just continues to sink.

--Zodiac

NRC RECOMMENDS PERMIT DENIAL

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission recommended that a permit to build a nuclear power plant at Cementon, New York in the Hudson River Valley, be denied because it would destroy one of the most scenic vistas in the U.S. This is the first NRC opposition to a nuclear power plant on aesthetic grounds.

--Calypso Log

APPLICATION FOR PLANT DENIED

Wisconsin Public Service Commission voted 2 to 1 to reject an application from Northern States Power to build the 1,100 megawatt Tyrone nuclear power plant, and directed the utility to build a 500 to 600-megawatt coal plant instead.

FRENCH WANT CANADIAN URANIUM

A French government/Rothschild owned multinational corporation, AMOK, has been given full permission by the government of Saskatchewan to develop one of the richest known uranium deposits in the world. Both the government and AMOK are ignoring the existence of the Dene Indians, who have treaty rights to the land, by refusing to consult or negotiate with them. Citizens of Saskatoon are organizing letter writing campaigns and financial help for the Dene struggle.

--WISE

FORTUNE OUT OF LUCK

And why do you imagine *Fortune Magazine* pulled the fourth part of its series on nuclear power after the Three Mile Island accident? The article was to cover the economics of nuclear power.

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BOOK REVIEWS

SHUTDOWN: Nuclear Power on Trial
By the Farm Legal Project
The Book Publishing Company, \$4.95

In the fall of 1978, Jeannine Honicker, a Nashville businesswoman whose 19 year old daughter had contracted leukemia, took the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to Nashville District Federal Court "to seek an order restraining you from violating my civil rights and damaging the public health" by continuing licensing of nuclear power plants. This book is a transcript of the evidence presented to the court.

Detailed and horrifying testimony on the dangers of nuclear power was presented by Dr. John Gofman, founder of the Biomedical Research Division of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory and Dr. Ernest Sternglass, Professor of Radiation Physics and author of *Low-Level Radiation*. Dr. Gofman cited a British study proving a 50% increase of cancer during the first ten years of life in children born of mothers who had only small doses of diagnostic x-rays during pregnancy. (One wonders how the unborn children of Harrisburg will fare.) Dr. Sternglass cited his study of cancer mortality changes around nuclear facilities in Connecticut. Seven years after the plant began operating, he found a 30% increase in the cancer rate in the surrounding counties and an 180% increase in the cancer rate in the town one mile from the plant. Dr. Sternglass, a former Westinghouse consultant, also stated that for 12% of the cost of the plant, a nuclear reactor could be converted to fossil fuels. This has already been done in South Dakota and in Sweden.

In January, 1979, Judge Morton dismissed the case against the NRC for lack of jurisdiction on the peril radiation poses to life and health. In April, the Supreme Court refused to hear the case. But despite the dead-end on this particular legal front, the issue remains. As Dr. Gofman says,

the point "is to question the constitutionality of those standards that permit the killing of people." This book, and a more detailed book from which it is drawn, *Honicker vs Hendrie: A Lawsuit to End Atomic Power*, are available in bookstores or from The Book Publishing Company, 156 Drakes Lane, Summertown, TN 38483. For a mere \$4 they will send a copy of *SHUTDOWN* to the local, state, or federal official of your choice, with your card enclosed. Send somebody an un-birthday present.

--Becky Rees

NO NUKES: Everyone's Guide to Nuclear Power
By Anna Gyorgy and friends, \$8.00, 478 pp., available from PANP, SF or from South End Press, Box 68, Astor Station, Boston, MA 02123.

Although the size of *No Nukes* is enough to intimidate the average scanner of articles, this book may well be the best one to introduce the topic. Written in easy language, it runs through a fairly comprehensive series of chapters on the history of nukes, the economics, some alternatives and a peek at the national and international anti-nuclear movements.

Anna Gyorgy has done a remarkable job of picking out important events and highlighting them. The book's greatest strength is also its weakness--it strives to be an all-in-one book which saves readers from picking up the facts over a period of time from different sources. At the same time it is unlikely that many people will pick it up and read straight through. Instead I recommend it as a very good reference source for beginners and old-timers alike. When you need to bone up on uranium milling and enrichment or give a talk on conservation, it's all there. Likewise it would be a good study guide for new groups.

One last comment: due to the ever-changing nature of the movement, many sections are already

out of date. For example, the Rasmussen Report has now been discredited and many of the "Seafood Alliances" have already gone on to bigger and better actions. *No Nukes* can serve as a yardstick to measure how fast we are growing as a movement.

--By Liz Walker

NUCLEAR MADNESS: A Tool, A Warning

Dr. Helen Caldicott is a pediatrician at Boston Children's Hospital. Born and raised in Australia, she helped in educating Australians about the dangers of uranium mining and in inspiring them to protest and halt French atmospheric testing in the South Pacific.

Now a U.S. citizen, Caldicott is reminding Americans of the medical and moral implications of the use of nuclear energy--either in bombs or in power plants. The thesis of her new book, *Nuclear Madness* (Autumn Press, 1978, \$3.95), is simple: "As a physician, I contend that nuclear technology threatens life on our planet with extinction," she says.

In concise, easily understood terms, Caldicott explains the cancer-causing, gene-altering effects of nuclear radiation. She discusses the workings of nuclear bombs and reactors, the dangers of nuclear wastes, and the relationship of the U.S. military-industrial complex to nuclear energy, and, finally, offers practical suggestions for protest and change. *Nuclear Madness* is a frightening book; Caldicott paints a grim picture. But she also insists: "We must awake from our false sense of security and commit ourselves to using democracy constructively to save the human species. . . . Each of us must accept total responsibility for the earth's survival. The power of an aroused public is unbeatable."



--photo by Dan Farber

Simultaneous to the S.F. rally, a large crowd turned out in Los Angeles for an afternoon rally in MacArthur Park. A bigger one is planned for June 10. San Luis Obispo also got in on the post-Harrisburg actions with a march which carried a coffin from the local theater showing *The China Syndrome* to the offices of PG&E.

appeal begins

The "Diablo 20", convicted last December of criminal conduct charges stemming from their August actions at the Diablo Canyon inert nuclear facility, have begun the appeal process. Only now they are the "Diablo 20+" because approximately 130 additional defendants chose to forego a municipal court jury trial and have joined the appeal.

The *Diablo Appeal Committee* is co-ordinating the appeal effort. DAC first had to make the transition from the municipal court level to the higher court levels. Besides keeping current with in-transition legal responsibilities, they have concentrated on three tasks:

- 1) locating and establishing communication with appellants and the other Diablo defendants
- 2) raising money from appellants to fund the appeal
- 3) searching for and obtaining legal counsel

DAC interviewed four lawyers and selected a team of two. Ephraim Margolin is known for his excellent work in the realm of the public interest. He is affiliated with the *ACLU*, among others, and first became involved with the non-nuclear cause in 1976 when he came out in favor of California's Proposition 15, the proposed nuclear facility construction ban. Nick Arguimbau specializes in environmental law. He has been working with *Friends of the River* in an effort to prevent the damming of the Stanislaus River in Northern California.

The lawyers have received the "Diablo 20" trial transcripts and must file a brief in mid-May with the SLO Appellate Division of the Superior Court. The brief will contain the grounds on which the appeal will be pursued. The following is a list of the court levels through which the appeal could travel:

Appellate Division of Superior Court SLO
State District Court of Appeal Fresno
State Supreme Court Sacramento

Many of the 487 defendants of the August actions have not yet declared their desired legal course of action. A final pre-trial hearing for this purpose is scheduled for June 29, though it is possible to take action before then. These defendants have the following legal choices: probation and fine, jail and fine, a trial date, or the "Diablo 20+" appeal.

If you are a defendant and the status of your case is unresolved, please contact: Barbara Levy, 1824 Lake St., San Francisco 94121.

rally

continued from page one

Someone passed out a certificate from the "Price-Anderson Nuclear Insurance Company" (in case of disaster, place premium on top of your head so as to avoid fallout contamination.) The silkscreen table was mobbed by people wanting their T-shirts emblazoned with "Smash Capitalism, Not Atoms" and "PG&E, NRC, Get Your Hands Out of My Genes."

Now that we can mobilize this many people, the challenge to the Abalone remains in ensuring that we successfully put the post-Harrisburg burst of energy to work. Otherwise the crowds may fade as the news coverage cools. Right now though, we're running to keep up with what we started.

--By Liz Walker

marin sun day

Saturday May 5 is Marin Sun Day at the Marin Civic Center Complex. A morning panel (9 a.m. to noon) will explore energy options and their implications for the survival of life on earth. Participants will include Dr. Laura Nader, UC Berkeley anthropologist; Huey Johnson, State Secretary of Resources; Sim Van der Ryn, former State Architect and originator of the Office of Appropriate Technology; and Richard Hubbard, nuclear/energy risk assessment engineer and technical consultant for *The China Syndrome*.

In the afternoon, the Abalone Alliance of Marin is coordinating two action-oriented workshops. One is *The Uneconomics of Nuclear Power* and aims to prepare participants to do outreach and leafletting particularly on May 25 in conjunction with the statewide Abalone action at PG&E offices. The second workshop is for letter-writing to elected and other wise public officials. Typewriters, paper, envelopes and stamps will be provided.

Other events: energy exhibits, entertainment, afternoon speeches by Marin County supervisors, an energy conservation award, energy futures workshops. Everything is free.

Marin Sun Day is being coordinated by Marin Citizens for Energy Planning; co-sponsors include three Abalone member groups--Marin Abalone Alliance, Bolinas Against Nuclear Destruction and the Pelican Alliance. Contact them for more information.



nonviolence training

Right now we are in a peculiar state of kinetic energy. We have more trainers than people trained for the Diablo blockades. Ninety energetic people were trained as trainers in two weekend sessions in March. But training coordinators Roy Gesley and Wanda Michalenko report that sessions scheduled in the next few weeks will shift the balance of trainers to trainees as close to 200 people show up to try out role plays and learn about nonviolence theory and affinity groups.

It was exciting to see people waiting in line at the rally to sign up for nonviolence training sessions. Everyone seemed ready to sink their teeth into the issue of nukes and ready to act now.

The training network produced over 200 monitors for the S.F. April 7 rally. Many of those people will participate at the May 5 demonstration at Lawrence Livermore Lab.

Liz Walker is hard at work revising the direct action handbook to reflect lessons learned from last August 6. It should be out by mid-May. But don't wait around to read it. Sign up for a training session with your local contact now. See details on page 11.

bits and pieces

UC REGENTS TO MEET

May 17 is the date of the last meeting of the UC Regents before summer break. This is an opportunity for a strong show of student and public disapproval of the University's role in "legitimizing the arms race."

The meeting is being held at the UC Extension Center at 55 Laguna Street in San Francisco from 9 a.m. Thursday, May 17 through Friday afternoon May 18. The Conversion Project will be there continuously, but others will be most needed on Friday, when the Regents will address the subject of their ties with the weapons labs. For more information, contact Berkeley Students for Peace, 642-7783.

148 CRABSHELL PROTESTORS RELEASED

The accident at Three Mile Island has resulted in the dropping of all charges against 148 anti-nuclear protestors who were arrested in the state of Washington last summer.

The protestors, members of the Crabshell Alliance, had been arrested last June when they occupied the site of the proposed Satsop nuclear plant near Elma, Washington. However, the prosecutor in the case, Curt Janhunnen, now says it would be nearly impossible to find an objective jury as a result of the Pennsylvania mishap.

The Crabshell Alliance hailed the decision as a "victory for anti-nuclear sentiment." However, a lawyer for the group said that the people of the county would be the losers because they would not have the opportunity to hear the case against nuclear power argued during an open trial.

--Zodiac News Service

PAUL JACOBS & THE NUCLEAR GANG

This excellent hour-long anti-nuclear documentary film shown on public television last month is available for rent by anti-nuclear groups for public outreach, education and fund-raising efforts.

To schedule the film or for more information contact Scott Kennedy, People for a Nuclear Free Future, PO Box 2324, Santa Cruz, CA 95063, 408-423-1626 or 425-1275.

DRAMATIZATION OF DIABLO PROTEST & TRIAL AVAILABLE TO ANTI-NUKERS

The script of a three-act play, *The Trial of the Diablo 20*, is available to any groups wishing to present it. *The Trial* reenacts the protest of August 6-7, 1978 and the ensuing representative trial. Written for a Readers' Theater production, the play is simple to perform and effective in the messages about nuclear power that it communicates. Effectiveness does not depend on the use of professional actors or actresses.

A copy may be obtained by writing or phoning its author, Lea Wood, at 1745 Cox Road, Aptos, CA 95003, 408-684-1333.

ABALONE ALLIANCE DIRECTORY

A handy reference for Abalone addresses and phone numbers is forthcoming. The AA Directory will include names, addresses, phone numbers and contact persons for all AA local groups and affinity groups, AA task forces, committees, collectives and allied groups. Anyone wishing to submit information for inclusion and anyone wishing a completed copy of the directory should contact Steve Mulford, Route 1, Hilltop Rd., Smartville, CA 95977, 916-272-4848.

TYPEWRITER NEEDED FOR MEDIA OFFICE. . . call 495-6577.



SPIRITUAL/POLITICAL AFFINITY GROUP

Jim Morrison said, "They've got the guns but we've got the numbers." I say, "They've got the guns but we've got the Spirit." I would like to form or join an affinity/action group that incorporates meditation, affirmations, and a nonsectarian spiritual context into our group meetings and our action in the world. Contact Becky Rees 668-0341.

CALENDAR

may

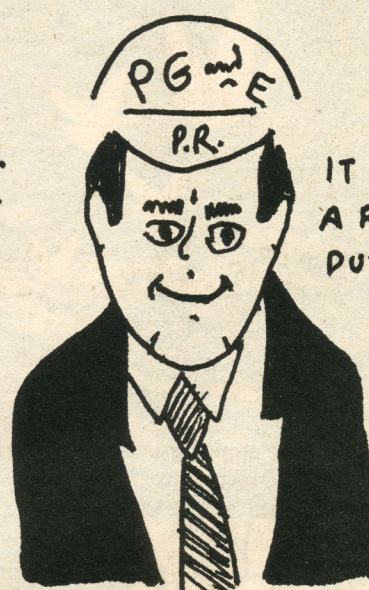
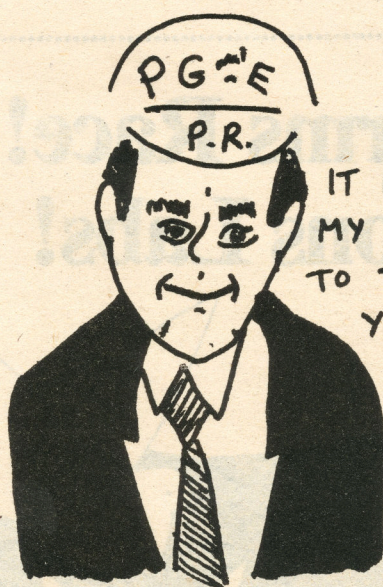
- 1 CONTINUOUS VIGIL at PG&E offices (Beale & Market) during office hours begins. Leafletting will focus on conversion of Diablo Canyon.
- 2 SUN WEEK LECTURE, "Wise Use of Water and Energy," 7:30 p.m., Fort Mason, Marina View Gallery, Building 310.
- 3 SPREADING SOLAR SERVICES FAIR. Speakers and exhibits. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., S.F. Civic Center.
- 5 RALLY AND CONVERSION FAIR, Lawrence Livermore Laboratory (near Visitor Center.) Information, 415-982-5578. Also see page 12.
- 5 MARIN SUN DAY, Marin Civic Center, sunrise to sunset. Speakers include Dr. Laura Nader and Richard Hubbard, technical consultant to *The China Syndrome*. Action-oriented workshops in p.m. Information, 415-456-3091. Also see page 4.
- 5 SLIDE SHOW ON WIND POWER, 10 a.m., California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, S.F.
- 6 TEACH-INS AND STRATEGY SESSIONS, Lawrence Livermore Lab conversion project. 10 a.m., Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley campus. Information, 415-982-5578 or 642-7783. Also see page 12.
- 8 MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPES MEETING re: request for ordinance banning transport of nuclear waste in Marin. Board of Supervisors Chambers, Marin Civic Center. Call 479-1100 after 3 p.m. May 4 for meeting time. Also see page 2.
- 12 POST HARRISBURG STRATEGY MEETING to plan the next Abalone statewide conference and activities after spring/summer. Noon, Abalone Alliance of Marin, 714 C Street, San Rafael. Contact Tom Keller, 707-795-6692 or 829-1864.
- 12-13 NON-VIOLENCE TRAINING FOR TRAINERS for Spring actions to stop Diablo. 9:30 a.m., AFSC, 2160 Lake St., S.F. Information, Dave or Liz, 415-752-7766.
- 18-19 MEDITATION AND NON-VIOLENCE IN OUR NUCLEAR AGE workshop. No previous meditation needed. Preregistration requested. Suggested donation, \$8-15. Information, Peter Klotz-Chamberlin, Santa Cruz Resource Center, 408-423-1626.
- 19 COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND SPRING/SUMMER ACTIONS PLANNING MEETING, noon, Resource Center, 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz.
- 24 ARGUING THE ECONOMICS OF NUCLEAR POWER, 7:30 p.m., La Pena, Berkeley. Information, EBANG, 415-655-1715.
- 25 STATEWIDE DEMONSTRATIONS AT PG&E OFFICES' Information, Resource Center, John Raz, Kitty Miller or Liz Paul, 408-425-1275.
- 9 NONVIOLENCE TRAINING FOR WALNUT CREEK NRC ACTION. 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., AFSC, 2160 Lake St., S.F. Information, Rusty Frank, c/o PANP, 415-781-5342.
- 10 SURVIVAL SUNDAY, 2 - 6 p.m., Hollywood Bowl, L.A. Program includes Arlo Guthrie, Holly Near, Daniel Ellsberg, Daniel Berrigan, Flo Kennedy. Information, Alliance for Survival, 213-937-0240.
- 30 RALLY IN SAN LUIS OBISPO. Information, People Generating Energy, 805-543-8402.

june

THROUGHOUT MAY AND JUNE: NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS IN MARIN. Information, Diana Kronstadt, 415-924-9693 (Corte Madera, Larkspur, Novato, Ross Valley, Santa Venetia, Terra Linda) or Connie Glaser, 415-383-2536 (Fairfax, Mill Valley, Muir Beach, Central San Rafael, San Anselmo, San Geronimo Valley, Sausalito, Belvedere, Tiburon.)

SOMETIME IN JUNE OR JULY (IF/WHEN DIABLO LICENSE IS APPROVED): PROTEST AT WALNUT-CREEK NRC HEAD-QUARTERS. Non-violence training required. Information, Ricky Jacobs, Rusty Frank, Henry Minermullen c/o PANP, 415-781-5342. Southern California: Wanda Michalendo, 213-968-2886. LAND AND SEA BLOCKADES AT DIABLO CANYON. Information, People Generating Energy, 805-543-8402.

july



nonviolence training

Anyone who wants to participate in a civil disobedience action planned by the Abalone Alliance must first take a nonviolence training session. These 8 hour sessions include role plays, theory and history of nonviolence, a scenario of the action and many other important points.

If you are interested, please call your local contact person for details and sign up for the session ahead of time. These sessions will focus on an action at NRC headquarters in Walnut Creek and on a land and sea blockade of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, if it is licensed.

If there is no contact person listed for your area, but you know of at least 10 people who would like to take a training session, ask Roy Gesley (first name on the list) to arrange a session in your area.

NON-VIOLENCE TRAINING COORDINATORS

ROY GESLEY (Overall Northern California coordinator)
180 Cortland, SF 94110, 647-9137.
WANDA MICHALENDO (Southern California coordinator)
6688 Picasso Rd., Apt. H, Isla Vista 93017, 805-968-2886.

EAST BAY: Dennis Burgess, 1041 Miller, Berkeley 94708, 524-0236 or 548-2292.
MARIN: Eli Jaxon-Bear, Toni V., 2 Ocean Parkway, Bolinas 94924, 868-0159.
PENINSULA: Tony Moy, 407 Bay Rd., Menlo Park 94025, 327-0429 (w) or 326-3420 (h).
SAN JOSE: Leo Cauchon, 336 North 2nd St., San Jose 95112, 408-294-5642.
SONOMA: So No More Atomics office, Loren Gordon, 138 S. Main St., Sebastopol 95472, 707-829-1864.
SACRAMENTO AND DAVIS: Ed Lang, 2723 D St., Sacramento 94816, 916-446-1629.

AA Groups

ABALONE ALLIANCE OF MARIN
714 C Street No. 6
San Rafael, CA 94901
415-456-3091

ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL
5539 West Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90019
213-937-0240

ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL
944 Market St., Room 808
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-982-6988

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE
COMMITTEE
2160 Lake St.
San Francisco, CA 94121
415-752-7766

BOLINAS AGAINST NUCLEAR
DESTRUCTION
c/o Greta Goldenman
Box 361
Bolinas, CA 94924
415-868-1120

CHICO MOBILIZATION FOR SUR-
VIVAL
708 Cherry St.
Chico, CA 95926
916-345-8070

CITIZENS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO
NUCLEAR ENERGY
3680 Bryant St.
Palo Alto, CA 94306
415-494-0363

COMMUNITY ENERGY ACTION NETWORK
P.O. Box 33686
San Diego, CA 92103
714-236-1684 or 295-2084

EAST BAY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP
585 Alcatraz, Suite A
Oakland, CA 94609
415-655-1715

GROUP OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR ENERGY
300 South 10th St.
San Jose, CA 95112
408-297-2299

MODESTO PEACE/LIFE CENTER
631 15th St.
Modesto, CA 93354

MOTHERS FOR PEACE
1415 Cazadero
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

MOUNTAIN PEOPLE FOR NUCLEAR
FREE LIFE
260 Desear Way
Felton, CA 95018

PELICAN ALLIANCE
c/o Sharon Mooney
Box 573
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956

PEOPLE AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER
944 Market St., Room 808
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-781-5342

PEOPLE AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER
Gathering Place
312-1 E. Sola St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805-969-2437

PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE
FUTURE
c/o 870 Linden Lane
Davis, CA 95616
916-753-3148

PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE
FUTURE
515 Broadway
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
408-425-1275

PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE
FUTURE
2219 G Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
916-443-6043 or 446-1629

PEOPLE GENERATING ENERGY
452 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
805-543-8402

PEOPLE FOR SAFE ENERGY
c/o 2069 E. Harvey
Fresno, CA 93761
209-268-3109

REDWOOD ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 293
Arcata, CA 95521

SO NO MORE ATOMICS
138 South Main St.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
707-829-1864

VENTURA SAFE ENERGY
1441 Greencock
Ventura, CA 93003
805-643-2317

Stop the Nuclear Arms Race! Convert the Weapons Labs!

Schedule of Events

MAY 5 Livermore 11:00 am

March: bring signs, banners, etc.

Rally: with Dan Ellsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, and other speakers and entertainers

Peace Conversion Faire: exhibits demonstrating possible alternate uses of the lab (exact times to be announced)

MAY 6 U.C. Berkeley Campus

10 - 5: *Workshops and Strategy Sessions*
A chance to share information and plan followup activities

APRIL 29 - MAY 4

April 29: *Peace Conversion Sunday* in California Churches.

April 29 - May 4:

Fasting at the lab gates

Outreach to Livermore and California

Local Rallies, Teach-ins.

Caravans, walks to Lab from all over California

LIVERMORE SPRING ACTION OFFICE:

944 Market Street, Room 508
San Francisco CA 94102

(415) 982-5578

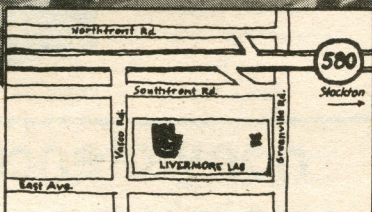
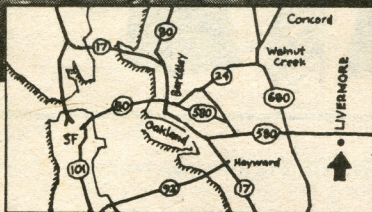
BERKELEY OFFICE:

C/o Berkeley Students For Peace
608 Eshleman Hall, UCB
Berkeley CA 94720

(415) 642-7783

COME TO LIVERMORE

May 5&6



Where the Bombs Begin

Like nuclear power plants, facilities for the development and manufacture of nuclear weapons necessitate the routine transport, use, storage--and emission--of highly toxic radioactive materials such as plutonium. The U.S. weapons program was created 80% of existing nuclear waste and is responsible for some part of the current cancer epidemic.

The Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, just 40 miles east of San Francisco, is one of the two facilities responsible for developing every nuclear weapon from the Hiroshima bomb to the neutron bomb. The U.C. Nuclear Weapons Labs Conversion Project released a major study calling for the conversion of LLL to "basic research in alternative, non-nuclear energy development".

Dr. Helen Caldicott, author of *Nuclear Madness*, challenged James Schlesinger to a debate on the health effects of the nation's nuclear program. All of this on the tail of Three Mile Island will doubtless bring many thousands to the gates of LLL on Saturday, May 5 for a march, rally, and conversion fair.

During the past two weeks, public hearings on the lab's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) were held in Livermore.

One of the star witnesses at the DEIS hearings April 12, was Dr. Carl Johnson, Health Department director of the Jefferson County Colorado, home to the Rocky Flat Nuclear Weapons Facility. Dr. Johnson has just completed study showing hundreds of excess cancer cases in the area around the Rocky Flats, with the higher rates having a direct relationship with increasing levels of plutonium soil contamination. Similar studies to determine the effect

of emissions at Livermore Lab on the surrounding population have not yet been done. In fact, a study on skin cancer rates among lab workers and another on overall cancer incidence in the five adjacent counties have been postponed again and again because of inexplicable "bureaucratic tangles."

Dr. Johnson's experience at Rocky Flats enabled him to catch some of the hedges and dodges in the Livermore DEIS. He flatly disbelieved the report's statement on the efficiency of filters used to cleanse exhaust air of plutonium. And he charged that the method of choice for measuring plutonium levels in soil around the lab significantly diminishes the amount that is found. Tests of surface dust show plutonium levels as much as 285 times greater than the "whole soil samples" dug down to five centimeters that are currently used by the government. It is the surface dust, of course, that is inhaled.

Dr. Johnson's conclusion is that "nuclear installations should not be located near or upwind of major population centers." This seems particularly understated in the case of the Lawrence Livermore Lab, since it is threatened by 13 active earthquake faults. Ten of the thirteen faults pass through Livermore Valley and three run beneath critical laboratory buildings. Earthquake damage could expose the 4.5 million inhabitants of the Bay Area to huge amounts of radioactive materials.

Dr. Kenneth Miller of Physicians for Social Responsibility testified at the hearings that despite intimations in the DEIS of "mutual aid" agreements with nearby hospitals, there is no medical solution

for a major disaster. Even for minor accidents, "there are no proper facilities for doing emergency surgery on a contaminated patient. And there's no trained physician in Alameda County at an emergency room that knows anything about it or has taken any course in radiation emergencies."

The Weapons Labs Project calls not for the relocation of the lab but for its conversion to "socially constructive uses." There are no technical obstacles to such a plan. In fact the conversion study shows that only a third of the lab's 7000 employees are scientists and engineers, and presumably not all of them would have to be retrained.

By some accounts the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory is the largest research facility in the world. But all the talent and resources there, by Department of Energy decree, must explicitly enhance weapons work.

Lloyd Dumas, professor of Industrial and Management Engineering at Columbia University and co-author of the McGovern-Mathias Defense Economic Adjustment Act, points out that 30 years of concentration on military production has completely distorted the American economy. "We can and do build highly accurate missiles and high-performance nuclear submarines, but we have forgotten how to build a decent railway system or even a decent railway car. We can and do build high-performance rocket engines, but we can't develop new techniques for the production of steel." And so on.

According to Dave McFadden, co-author of the Livermore Lab conversion study, "Dealing creatively with the energy crisis is really a security question. We're trying to get people's conception of what national security is all about changed and expanded away from such a narrow focus on the military."

Both the conversion study and the McGovern-Mathias bill propose the establishment of Alternative Use Committees, composed of equal representation from labor, management and community to do the detailed advance planning that will make it impossible for defense contractors to argue that cuts in defense [spending will cost jobs. This is seen as a critical firststep toward a demilitarized economy. "If you get a committee that gives workers at the labs and community people an equal say about what happens there," says McFadden, "that's a foot in the door in terms of real change and who makes the decisions." When people realize that there are alternatives, he goes on, "then you get to the political problems of what is preventing them from happening and who has the power."

--By Marcy Darnovsky

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