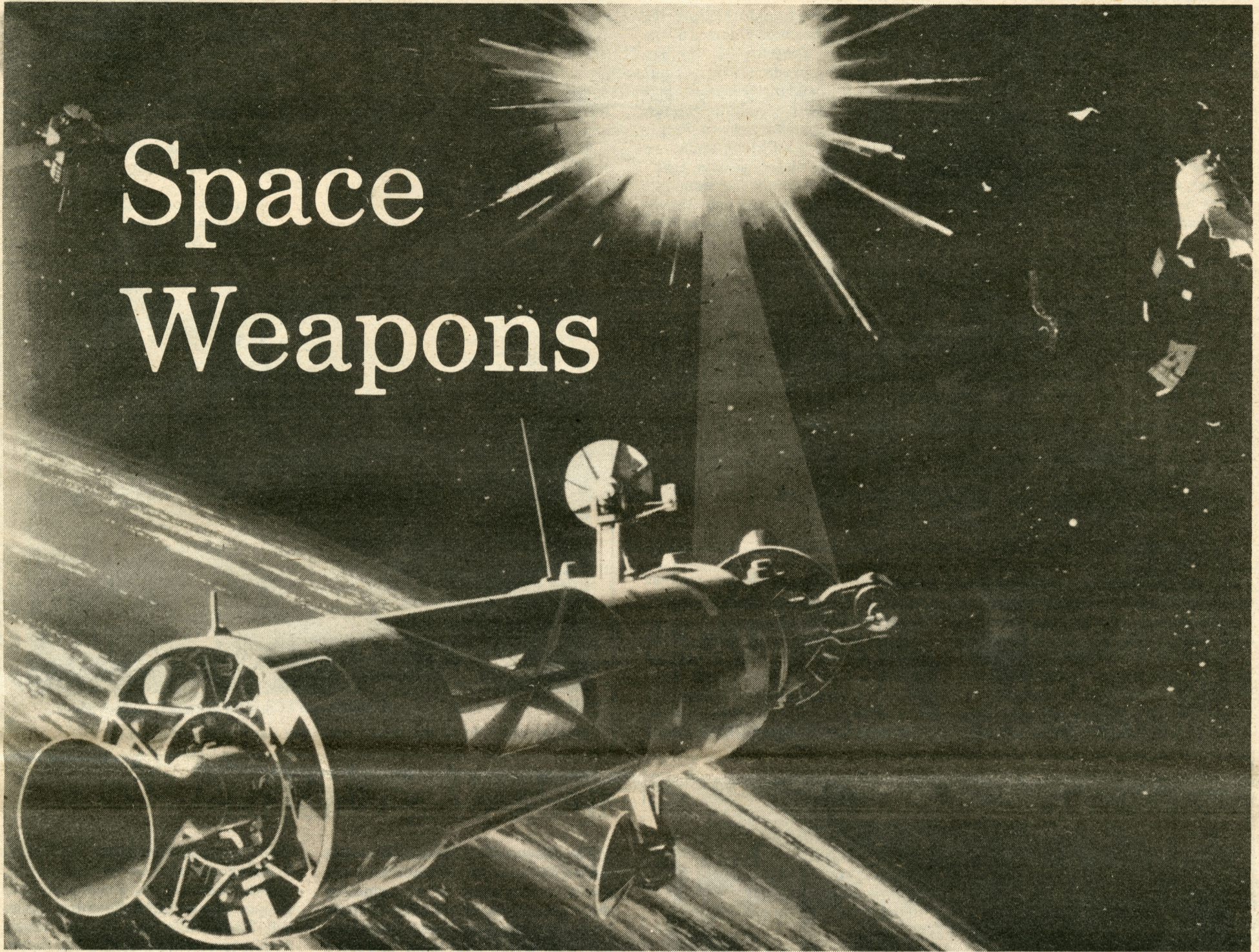


It's About Times

March — April 1981



Space Weapons

A brand new space weapon, beyond even the dreams of Luke Skywalker, was successfully tested by the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory at the Nevada nuclear test site sometime in the past few months. The laser device is powered by X-rays from a small nuclear explosion. It is designed to be launched into orbit as a laser battle station.

The February 23 issue of *Aviation Week and Space Technology* announced the "technological breakthrough scored" by the laboratory, surprising even those who monitor space-based weapons systems. "We knew it was on the drawing boards, but had no idea it was so far along," said Jim Heaphy of Citizens for Space Demilitarization. Public relations officials at Lawrence Livermore had no comment on the test or on the lab's role in the weapon's future development.

The X-ray laser produces a pulsed beam of very high intensity — several hundred terawatts (trillions of watts) lasting for a few billionths of a second — and destroys its targets by shockwave.

continued on page 6

The great MUSE escapade

Over \$3.6 million has been raised by Musicians United For Safe Energy (MUSE) to promote anti-nuclear work. But as of March, 1981 only \$412,000—less than 12 percent—has actually reached anti-nuclear groups. MUSE still owes \$60,000 in grants promised nine months ago. And \$180,000 in debts incurred in making the film *No Nukes!* have yet to be paid off.

What happened to the rest of the money that was raised in the name of "a nuclear-free future?"

Hundreds of thousands of dollars "were wasted by people getting on power trips," Lorna Salzman, a MUSE director, told *It's About Times*. "[The staff] always wanted to expand into new projects of influence."

According to Tom Hayden, another MUSE director, "MUSE became an organization completely different than what was proposed in the beginning. I had thought our function was to channel money in the least expensive way to anti-nuclear groups and then dissolve."

"It was a collective fuck-up," said MUSE director Richard Pollock, editor of *Critical Mass Journal*. "You can construct a case to show how everyone is a bastard. You can have a field day. But if you only see white hats and black hats, you're missing the point of the story."

MUSE is a story of people with high hopes and grandiose schemes getting carried away with their pet projects. It is a story of an organization plagued by changing definitions of purpose and poor accountability among its staff and directors.

MUSE started out in the summer of 1978 when musicians John and Johanna Hall got together with writers Howard Kohn and David Fenton to discuss bringing musicians into the anti-nuclear movement. A series of concerts was planned to raise money for the movement and to bring attention to safe energy issues.

In September concert producer Tom Campbell was pulled into the meetings. Campbell, working with the Pacific Alliance, had been producing anti-nuclear benefit concerts since 1976. His contacts with musicians had made him a buffer between them and anti-nuclear groups.

The original MUSE plan evolved into an ambitious project. In September of 1979 five major concerts at Madison Square Garden and a large rally were staged. A record and a movie of the events were produced.

In order to give away the large sums of money that were anticipated, the MUSE Foundation was formed. It was composed of sixteen people from various backgrounds and regions of the country. The musicians set up a legally separate

organization, MUSE Inc., and retained the authority to make production decisions.

MUSE's structure was confused, with many people playing multiple roles. The Foundation board and the production board each had its own staff. Some production staff members were members of the production board and some production

continued on page 8

If there is an * on your label, your subscription expires with this issue. See page 12.

Inside

- Germans clash over nuke2
- Biggest PG&E hike ever3
- Diablo timeline3
- Coal scheme stumbles.....4
- Reaganomics.....5

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100,000 converge on German nuke

Despite icy cold weather and a court injunction, 100,000 demonstrators turned out on February 28 to protest renewed construction of the Brokdorf nuclear power plant near Hamburg in northern Germany.

The West German government called out 10,000 police, paramilitary border guards and anti-terrorist police, its largest mobilization since World War II. Beginning in the early morning hours, police set up roadblocks where they stopped and searched those they deemed suspicious. Every road leading into the area was jammed with buses and cars, and of the 100,000 people who got as far as Brokdorf, only 40,000 succeeded in reaching the construction site.

The *New York Times* reported that "hundreds of demonstrators armed with gasoline bombs, sticks, stones and high-powered slingshots fought for hours with police." But the anti-nuclear World Information Service on Energy (WISE) said that "in contrast to other demonstrations at Brokdorf and in spite of

jump into the icy canals which surround the site. Official reports said 128 police and an unknown number of demonstrators had been injured. About 240 were arrested, but most were released a short time later.

A court injunction forbidding the demonstration had been obtained by the government on February 22. The ban was reversed by an administrative court on February 27 and then reinstated by a higher court late that night, only a few hours before the demonstration. Preparations continued all along under the slogan, "Legal, illegal, scheiss egal?" ("Legal, illegal, who gives a damn?")

The German anti-nuclear movement had succeeded in stopping construction of the 1300-megawatt plant at Brokdorf for four years by means of large and often violently suppressed demonstrations. The new construction permit, granted in December, was the first given to the German nuclear industry since 1977. The West German government, slipping from a mild recession into a

has threatened to leave the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and to take many rank-and-file members along with him. He and others have been challenging Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and the SPD leadership not only on nuclear power, but also on West Germany's arms shipments to the Third World, its leading role in providing aid to the Turkish junta, and its uneasy willingness to station NATO nuclear missiles on its territory.

A few days after the most recent protests, four of Germany's eleven operating nuclear reactors were ordered shut down for safety reasons by the Minister of the Interior. The order came after the Bonn Reactor Safety Com-

mission found corrosion and cracking in the primary circuits of the boiling water reactors at all four plants. The huge steam pipes that link the reactors to their turbines will have to be replaced, at a cost of up to \$160 million per plant. Nuclear engineers say the reactors will be closed for two to three years, putting almost half of the country's nuclear generating capacity out of commission.

WISE notes that almost no mention of the closures has been made in the German press, probably because the news would lend support to opponents of the Brokdorf plant.

—compiled from WISE, Newsfront International (#246) and *The New York Times* (3/1/81)

The government called out 10,000 police — the largest mobilization since World War II.

police predictions, this demonstration was relatively quiet and nonviolent."

Both sources agree that thousands of police at the plant site's main gate showered the demonstrators with water cannons and tear gas. According to WISE, police chased demonstrators with helicopters as they were leaving, flying so low that they forced some to

deeper one, has come to see nuclear power as the solution to dependence on imported oil.

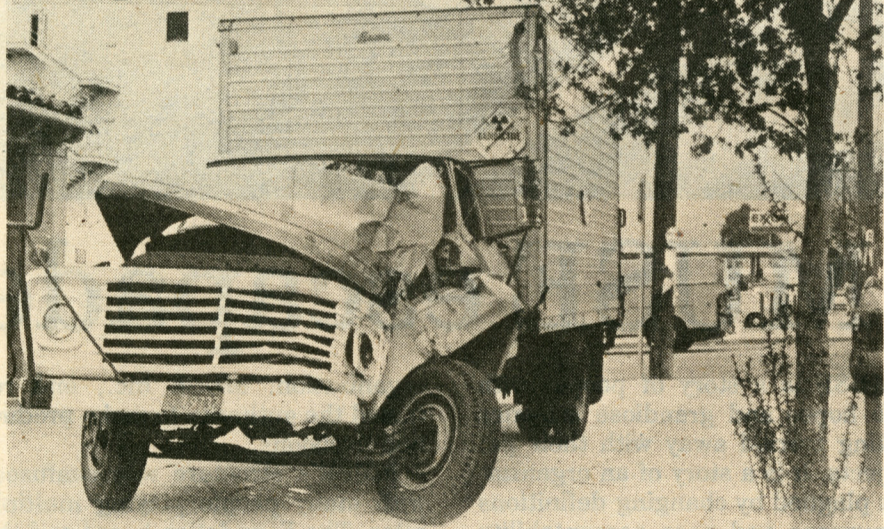
At a meeting held amid strict security in early February, the city of Hamburg's Social Democratic government voted to cancel its financial participation in the Brokdorf plant. Hamburg mayor Hans-Ulrich Klose



German police raid an occupiers' village on the site of the Gorleben nuclear power plant in June 1980. Similar tactics were used last month in Brokdorf.

Die Tageszeitung

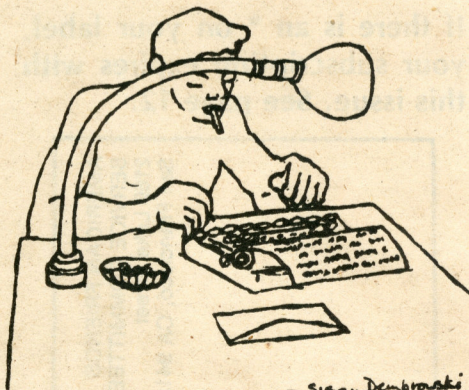
Keep on trucking



This fine example of nuclear transportation safety was found at the University of California, Berkeley's garage on Oxford St.

photo by Steve Stallone

Letters



— Susan Debrafski

Dear Friends:

I am wondering if you are aware of the untapped potential force our movement could gain if we utilized the media properly. As a talk show monitor, I am painfully aware how isolated anti-nuclear callers are.

I have been calling the Larry King show to ask for guests like Dr. Helen

Caldicott and Sidney Lens and it would help if you could echo that request, as well as keep the nuclear opposition in the forefront. The Larry King show has seven to eight million listeners a night.

The program runs from midnight (earlier on the west coast) to 5 a.m. To find out specific times and stations which air the program write: Larry King c/o Mutual Broadcasting System, Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.

After the first three hours of guests, Larry accepts calls from across the US on any issue. People should call 1-703-685-2177. Since the station does not pick up the phone (usually a 20 to 30 minute wait) until it is the caller's turn on the air, even long-distance calls usually cost only \$.40-.80.

Irene Brown
Safe Energy Coalition
Detroit, MI.

Right-wing vibrations

The Beach Boys have been put under 24-hour surveillance and the steely supervision of a shrink by their managers, ostensibly to cure their acknowledged nasty drug habits. But when the band endorsed ex-CIA director George Bush last summer, the situation began to take on sinister overtones.

Then came their "I Love America" concert at the Washington Monument on July 4. ABC taped the event, edited out the thousands of people smoking pot, and aired it in October as a vision of a new, cleaned-up youth culture.

Widespread suspicions that the deliberate hand of counter-insurgency was behind the new Beach Boys hardened to certainty when they just happened to throw a concert ten miles from the Black Hills Survival Gathering. Jackson

Browne and Bonnie Raitt had hoped to bring a crowd to the Gathering, but the Beach Boys fixed it so that people who would have come out to the Black Hills just for the music ended up staying in Rapid City to see the Beach Boys instead.

Then, when roadies for Jackson Browne and the Beach Boys ended up in the same bar in Rapid City after the two concerts, the truth came out. The Beach Boys are so isolated by bodyguards and shrinks that they had no inkling of the political effects of the July 4 concert or the one in Rapid City. To them it's all just another commercial gig. Only the management knows what's going on, and they're only too happy to put the Beach Boys Cult to work to foster a patriotic, straight-arrow youth culture for the '80's.

— Overthrow, January 1981

Abalone Alliance Newspaper

It's About Times



It's About Times is the newspaper of the Abalone Alliance, a California anti-nuclear/safe energy organization consisting of over 60 member groups. (See page 11.) The opinions expressed in *IAT* are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Abalone Alliance.

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Typesetting: Graphic Intervention, Cindy Cornell, William Meyers.

Production friends: Katy Anderson, Greg Dunnington, Jon Katz, Steve Markell, Tom Price and Gary Rouge.

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It's About Times / 944 Market Street, Room 307 / San Francisco, CA, 94102... (415)543-3910.

Diablo defenses down

A seasonal storm on January 28 destroyed about 230 feet of a protective breakwater designed to withstand tidal waves at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant. Two 1000-foot breakwaters protect the plant's four massive cooling water intake tunnels and, according to NRC spokesperson Frank Ingram, are also supposed to protect the plant from tidal waves.

Ralph Larison of Conally Pacific Co., a California firm which specializes in building breakwaters, says it is "up for grabs" whether the damage will affect the plant's intake system. "All they need to do is lose a piece of the intake or outfall... they'll never hear the end of it. I wouldn't leave myself open for that situation." Larison explained that high seas might create greater conditions of turbidity inside the damaged breakwater. Sand mixed with the water would quickly settle out inside the intake pipes and clog the intake.

The breakwater is not considered safety related by PG&E or the NRC and it is unlikely that the damage will delay licensing hearings or even require NRC inspection. PG&E is currently uncertain whether it will attempt to repair the breakwater.

PG&E's consultant Omar Lillevang designed the breakwater in the late sixties. A source who asked to remain anonymous told *It's About Times* that the design attracted only one bid because of its poor quality. Armed with a cost-plus contract, Granite Construction Co. began building the breakwater in late 1969.

For at least the first six months of the project, the ocean simply swallowed load after load of rock dumped



A quarter of the outer protective breakwater at the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant was leveled by a seasonal storm.

photo by Rolick Montbanc

to make a platform on which the breakwater would rest. Conflict arose between the project manager, Mr. Davis, and PG&E and between Davis and his superiors at Granite. At about the same time that Davis left the project, Granite hired an outside consultant in breakwater

construction who, according to the company's Karl Pauce, "made the work possible. He showed us how to protect our work with huge rocks."

Pauce claims that the original design was followed. But other sources maintain that PG&E's original design was faulty and that the

breakwater was redesigned by Granite's hired consultant. These sources told IAT that the original pricetag of the project was \$2 million. PG&E's final cost upon completion in 1972 was \$12 million.

—Ward Young
IAT Staff

PG&E asks biggest rate boost ever

PG&E customers got an extra shock when they opened their bills last month. An enclosed announcement set forth the company's plans for the largest rate hike in utility history, amounting to nearly \$1.5 billion. The proposed 40% boost in electric rates would increase the average residential electric bill by \$12 a month to a total of \$37.86. Gas rates would rise substantially also.

The new boosts will take effect in January of next year if approved by the state Public Utilities Commission (PUC). Combined with large hikes in 1980, they will bring the average electric bill next year to more than double what it was in 1976.

PG&E's traditional scapegoat for rate hikes is the rising price of oil. But this time the company is citing the need to maintain its "financial health" as the justification for the increases. It may seem strange that a company that brings in profits of

over \$1 million a day would suffer from monetary hypochondria. The explanation for these anxieties may involve the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant.

Under state law, PG&E can't bill ratepayers for Diablo-related expenses until the plant is running. Those expenses, mostly interest charges, are now \$500,000 per day — which must be paid out of money that would otherwise be profit. PG&E engineer Harold Frank told an interviewer recently, "There's no

question that it's affecting our cash flow, that it's a significant problem." From the company's standpoint, that "problem" could be solved by operating the plant.

According to a rate request filed with the PUC in 1979, PG&E plans a \$280 million rate boost when Diablo is licensed, supposedly to be offset by the lower cost of nuclear fuel. But if the plant turns out to be a lemon, ratepayers will still foot the bill while PG&E profits on the \$2 billion investment.

Until and unless the plant is licensed, however, it remains PG&E's financial headache instead of the public's. Since it is unlikely that a license will be granted before next year, the company seems to be looking for a backdoor way to get ratepayer money to help with its Diablo bills.

—Bob Van Scoy
IAT staff

Sources: *San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune*, 2/17/81, and *SF Chronicle*, 3/8/81

License unlikely til '82

NRC sets Diablo timeline

PG&E will have to wait at least another year to fire up its two billion-dollar Diablo Canyon nuclear plant as a result of a February 13 decision of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. The ASLB agreed to look into five of 40 contentions raised by opponents of Diablo. According to John Ahearne, chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), this process will delay a final decision on Diablo licensing until February of 1982. The eight-year legal battle over Diablo is already the longest in nuclear power history.

All of the issues the ASLB will investigate were raised by the near meltdown at Three Mile Island. Two concern the lack of an emergency evacuation plan. The third questions if Diablo's emergency power supply system could be overloaded by new equipment required by the NRC after Three Mile Island. The fourth involves the lack of a direct means of monitoring water levels in the reactor core.

PG&E spokesperson Sue Brown commented that the utility is obviously unhappy with the ruling. "We think we can handle [these matters] without a long public hearing," she said. The utility claims that these issues should have been submitted for consideration during the original round of hearings, which ended in February 1979 — a month before the TMI accident.

The NRC staff also differs with the ASLB, implying that the events at TMI happened too late to affect Diablo Canyon. Ellen Weiss of the Union for Concerned Scientists remarks, "That is precisely one of the faults the Kemeny Commission put its finger on. The NRC routinely exempts all plants under construction and generally even all plants which have just applied for a permit from its new safety requirements. This 'business as usual' led to TMI in the first place."

When the NRC first issued its post-TMI requirements for operating licenses in August 1980, it planned to allow only the utility to challenge the

"necessity for and sufficiency of" the new safety measures. Under this policy, opponents could not challenge the proposed rules. The Union of Concerned Scientists and five other groups sued the NRC, and five months later a second policy statement was issued allowing both applicants and intervenors to file challenges.

But according to Ellen Weiss, the ASLB's acceptance of only five of the intervenors' 40 contentions about Diablo virtually resurrects the NRC's first policy statement. "It's saying the intervenors can't argue that the NRC's safety measures don't go far enough," she said.

The most recent ASLB decision will almost certainly be appealed by all parties — the intervenors, PG&E and the NRC staff — each for their own reasons. This will push back the beginning of the low-power license hearings, now scheduled for May 19, and could add even further delays to the whole licensing process.

—Ward Young
IAT staff



LIFE'S THREE CERTAINTIES

Coal scheme stumbles

In 1978 Jerry Brown's administration proclaimed its intention to make coal the main source of new electric supply in California. One massive proposal for coal plants after another sprung up overnight. And wilted before morning.

On February 11 the biggest boondoggle of all—the five billion dollar Allen-Warner energy system in Nevada and Utah—became the latest scheme to bite the dust when the project's biggest sponsors, PG&E and Southern California Edison, abruptly halted their efforts to gain approval for their plans. A year after the state Energy Commission recommended that 5000 megawatts of coal be built in California, 4100 megawatts have been cancelled or deferred.

The postponement of Allen-Warner has been called a victory for alternative energy. But PG&E and SCE haven't necessarily given up on coal or on the worst aspects of the Allen-Warner project. "The utilities made the right move by ducking out before any decision was made," warned Charles Rixford of the Public Utilities Commission Allen-Warner task force.

It's possible that in the future the utilities will try to push through essentially the same project. And

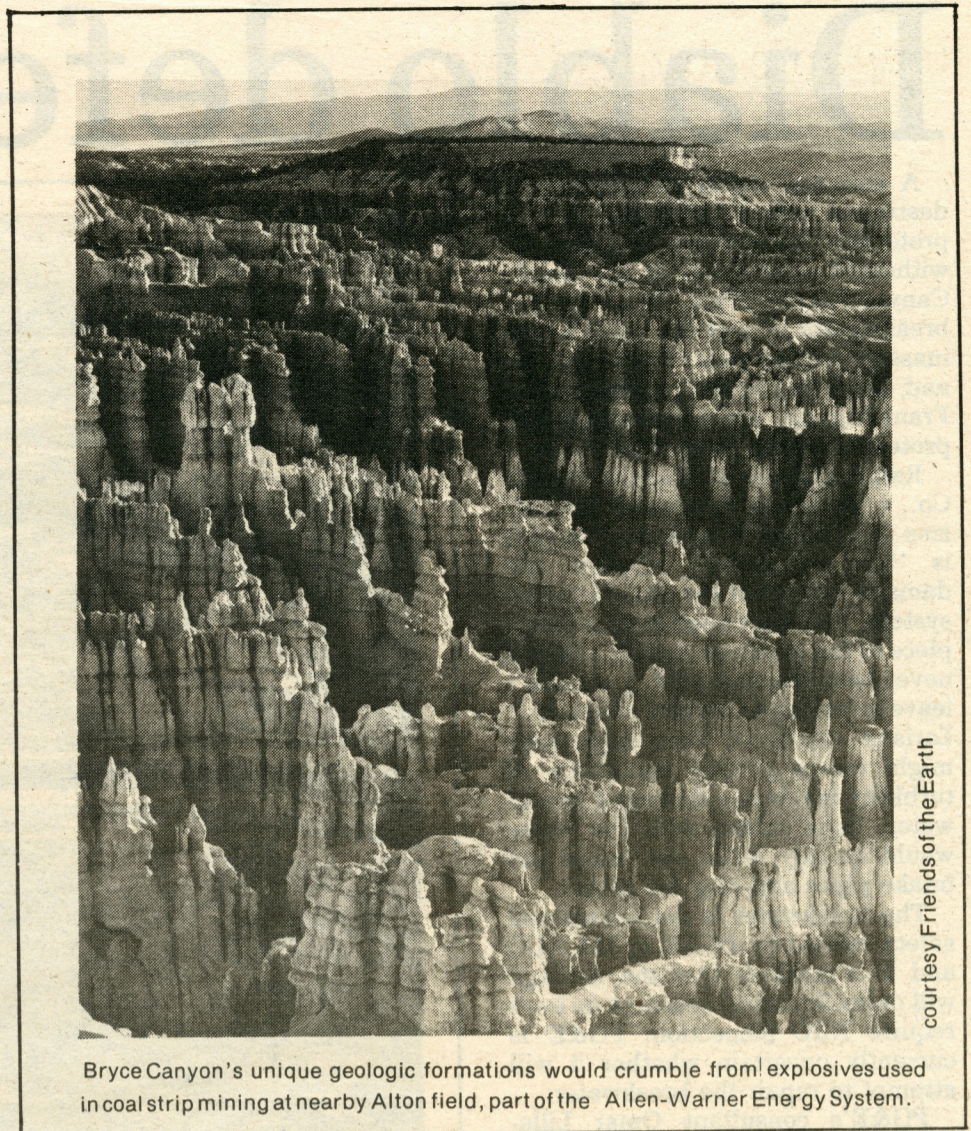
though Brown is once again coming out for alternatives and against centralized power sources, there is no telling which way the winds will be blowing next time the utilities put coal on the agenda.

The Brown administration began its flirtation with coal after the governor and the Energy Commission infuriated California's utilities by lobbying against the Sundesert nuclear power plant in 1978. One observer of recent regulatory battles commented that when Sundesert was canned, Brown "looked around for something ingratiating to do for the utilities."

According to the Brown bandwagon theory, the governor enticed utilities with schemes for coal that he knew were half-baked. And if there ever was a half-baked scheme, the Allen-Warner Valley Energy System is it. The idea is to develop one of the largest strip mines in the country (the Alton coal field), two large power plants (the 500-megawatt Warner Valley plant and the 2000-megawatt Harry Allen project near Las Vegas), two coal slurry pipelines connecting the mine to the power plants, and a reservoir to provide cooling water.

Groundwater tables in water-short Kane County, Utah would be drawn down by the proposed coal slurry pipelines. And the planned reservoir threatens two endangered species, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service. This water project has been repeatedly turned down in Congress since the early part of the century and the state has admitted that it would be made economical only by the power plant. But Utah Governor Scott Matheson, Bechtel and Utah International had hoped to have California ratepayers pick up the tab by buying cooling water for the power plant.

Mining at the Alton coal field would be seen, heard and probably smelled at Bryce Canyon National Park just three miles away. In December Interior Secretary Cecil Andrus ruled that part of the strip mine was "unsuitable" in response to a petition filed by environmentalists



Bryce Canyon's unique geologic formations would crumble from explosives used in coal strip mining at nearby Alton field, part of the Allen-Warner Energy System.

courtesy Friends of the Earth

and local landlords. This alliance was a new phenomenon for the area—in 1976 the locals hung Robert Redford and figures representing Friends of the Earth and the Sierra Club in effigy when the nearby 3000-megawatt Kaiparowits power plant was halted.

A California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) task force assigned to investigate the Allen-Warner project was surprised three quarters of the way through when PG&E announced that it didn't want its full share of Allen-Warner and the SCE president revealed a dramatic corporate shift toward "power sources which are renewable rather than finite." The California Energy Commission pulled a bombshell of its own late in the proceedings by recommending against any more coal power for California. At this point PG&E and

Southern California Edison withdrew their application to avoid having the Energy Commission or PUC go on record in opposition to the project.

But PG&E and SCE haven't given up on their coal plant schemes. Last October the Environmental Protection Agency found that the Warner Valley plant would violate air standards in Zion, but recently caved in and accepted a 250-megawatt plant. And they left the door open for a 500-megawatt plant at Warner Valley in the future. This year the Allen-Warner task force recommended PUC acceptance of a scaled down version of the project. Caged utility managers continue behind-the-scenes machinations and the coal plant story will have further chapters.

—Ward Young
IAT staff



How the natural gas shortage became a glut

Remember the natural gas crisis of winter 1977, when sudden shortages forced the closing of factories and schools all over the Eastern US? Government officials proclaimed that the age of domestic natural gas was over, that only about ten years' worth of the fuel remained, and that we now had no choice but to switch to coal, synthetic fuels and nuclear power.

Four years later, the natural gas "crisis" has disappeared without a trace. Veteran geologists such as Dr. Paul Jones estimate that at least 50,000 trillion cubic feet of gas may lie in one massive field under the Texas-Louisiana coast — about 2,500 years supply at current consumption rates. Even ultra-conservative studies acknowledge that there is at least 100 years worth of gas in US reserves.

How did the great natural gas crisis of 1977 turn into the glut of 1981? Energy industry supporters say it's just a matter of economics. It was too expensive, they explain, to drill for the deep new deposits until gas price regulations were eased in 1978. Given a "fair" profit, the energy corporations went to work and produced the present bonanza.

True, many new gas fields have been discovered since 1978. But federal officials knew in 1977 that there was no shortage, and simply chose to tell the public otherwise. This is perhaps best illustrated by the tale of two senior government geologists who were fired

from their jobs for finding too much gas, too soon.

In 1977 Energy Secretary James Schlesinger was touring the country saying that natural gas should be considered "gone." But that same year the director of the US Geological Survey, Dr. Vincent McElvay told a Boston audience that natural gas reserves were so big that they amounted to "about ten times the energy value of all [previous] oil, gas and coal reserves combined." McElvay was fired shortly after making the speech, ostensibly because he was "too old" for federal employment.

Another geologist who ran afoul of the "scarcity" line was Dr. Charles Knudsen. In January of 1977, Knudsen was so highly regarded in government circles that he was presented with an "outstanding performance" award and appointed to head a scientific team being assembled at President Carter's request to evaluate the nation's energy reserves. The team was given the name "Market-Oriented Program Planning Study" (MOPPS).

Knudsen came up with a natural gas estimate of 500 trillion cubic feet, more than double the figure being claimed by Schlesinger and enough to last well into the next century. He was soon in trouble.

In a move reminiscent of earlier nuclear coverups, the Energy Department commissioned another study to

refute Knudsen's findings. Knudsen later testified before a Senate Committee that he was never allowed to see the data on which the second study was based.

Others involved with the MOPPS project also found their optimism unwelcome. James Gray, former head geologist at Kerr-McGee, said, "They absolutely fumed when you said, 'Let the good times roll.' I told them I thought energy was here to stay, and it would be better than ever because it would be cheap, pollution-free gas. I'd never seen such disappointed faces in my life."

Knudsen was summoned to an Energy Department meeting on April 15, three days before a scheduled Carter speech on the seriousness of the energy crisis. He was summarily fired as director of MOPPS, and the study was rewritten to support administration claims of a natural gas shortage.

One can only speculate about the motives behind this attempt to mislead the public about gas supplies. But there is little doubt that the main beneficiaries were the energy corporations.

The grim predictions about gas, coupled with temporary but disruptive shortages, helped create the illusion that there were really no alternatives to coal development and nuclear power. Plans for synthetic fuels plants, which would have been rejected in calmer times on cost and environmental grounds, were

moved a step closer to reality. Terminals to receive costly and hazardous liquified natural gas from abroad suddenly seemed justifiable.

Gas producers reaped the biggest benefits of all. In the gas-short winter of 1977, consumers would have been furious if they thought producers were withholding natural gas from the market in order to manipulate prices. But if the gas was running out, then it seemed reasonable that the price would have to go up. Few complained when some gas prices were allowed to rise the following year. (Perhaps this episode will be remembered the next time a "shortage" is invoked to justify a hike in the price of gas.)

Even though the good news about natural gas has taken years to reach us, it is welcome indeed. Used widely and sparingly to supplement renewable energy sources, the gas already discovered could stretch into the distant future. All that gas will do us little good, however, if the energy companies are allowed to treat it as their private possession and dole it out to the rest of us for whatever the market will bear.

—Bob Van Scoy
IAT staff

(Based on articles in *The Nation*, 7/12/80, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*, 11/23/80.)

Reagan's budget plans

So long, New Deal — Howdy, raw deal

"The people are watching and waiting. They don't demand miracles, but they do expect us to act."

Ronald Reagan, February 18, 1981

As if he were still playing the hero in one of his old B-Westerns, Ronald Reagan is heading off government spending and slashing taxes while giving free rein to the planners and the spenders in the Pentagon. And he is letting Brezhnev know that there ain't room enough for the both of them in Central America.

When Reagan first presented his budget it seemed as if it would steamroll its way through Congress. But now opposition to various bits and pieces of the plan has emerged, although few in those hallowed halls dare call it what it is — austerity for the working class, a boon to business and the rich, and a massive re-arming program to prepare the US for war.

invested in productive capacity to create jobs, ease inflation and make American goods more competitive. Whether or not this has any chance of working, a close look at the highly-publicized "across-the-board" 10% tax cut reveals a curious problem.

Before you start making plans for what you can do with all the tax money you'll save, you should realize that it does not mean a 10% reduction of your total tax bill, but a 10% reduction of the percentage of your income you must pay in taxes. For example, if you are like the average person who pays about 20% of your income in taxes you'd get a 10% break in that percentage, and wind up paying 2% less, or 18% of your income in taxes. On the other hand, wealthy people who pay 50% of their income in taxes would get 5% taken off that.

After a few years of this fair, across-the-board tax break, the progressive tax system will have been

After a few years of this fair, across-the-board tax break, the progressive tax system will be eroded.

It's all done with mirrors

Reagan's forecast for the economy is incredibly optimistic. Next year inflation is supposed to fall from its current double-digit pace to 6½%, then to 4½% in 1983 and 3% in 1984.

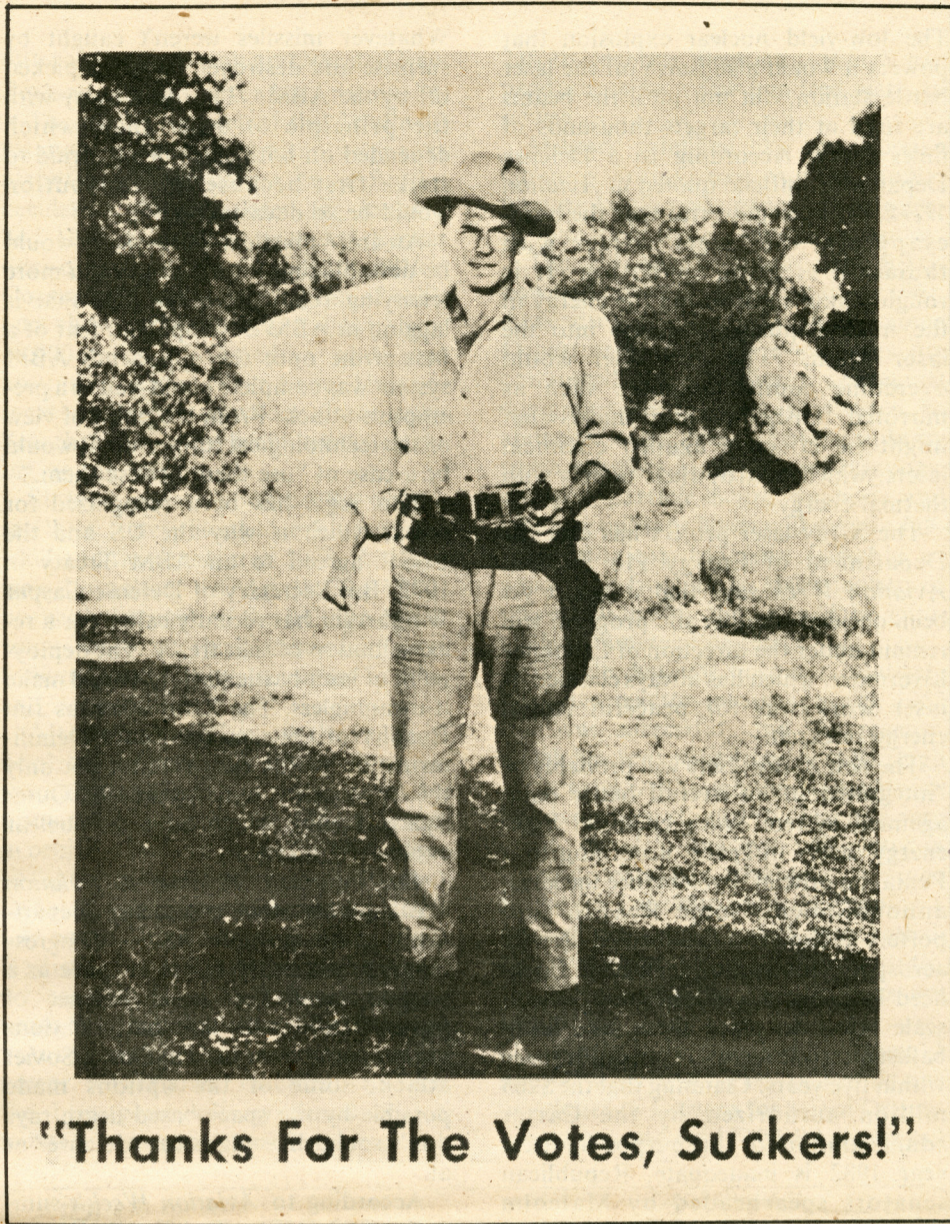
Though he is allowing military expenditures to rise to the highest peacetime level in US history at the same time he is reducing government income by tax cuts, Reagan expects to balance the budget by 1984.

The Reagan tax cut is the cornerstone of his "supply side economics." The idea is that the money that would have gone to taxes will be saved and

considerably eroded. This set-up will allow only the rich to save enough to invest. The rest of us will probably wind up piddling away our "tax relief" on higher food and utility bills and on the services that government once paid for.

The end of the Great Society

Reagan's new budget — balanced or unbalanced — does away with almost all the social programs developed by Democratic presidents from Roosevelt to Johnson to placate a discontented and rumbling underclass. Reagan has made the political decision to write off the marginal sections of the population. The



"Thanks For The Votes, Suckers!"

contrived media hype about Reagan "saving" certain social services is a classic case of double-think, since they weren't endangered until his budget hacks went on the prowl. Even so, only the most essential programs have survived, and these are being whittled down.

Some examples: The monthly Social Security benefit (\$122) would be abolished. Eligibility for Disability Insurance, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Food Stamps and federally funded meals for school children would all be cut down. Social Security payments to students between 18 and 21 whose parents are dead, retired or disabled would be eliminated.

Reagan would reduce federal grants to states for the Medicaid program by \$1 billion in 1982. Eligibility for coal miners' benefits from the Black Lung Trust Fund would be restricted.

Reagan would require workers receiving unemployment benefits, after 13 weeks of their initial 26-week collection period, to take any job that would pay at least the sum of the benefits and the minimum wage. He would eliminate a "trigger" that automatically extends unemployment benefits to 39 weeks when the national unemployment rate reaches 4.5%.

In short, all the programs that made it a little easier to get by when times were tough are now going to be eliminated — just as times get tougher.

Energy Policy — All power to the capitalists!

Reagan's energy policy is a strange mix of government subsidies and free market incentives — the former for nuclear and the latter for everything else.

The Department of Energy (DOE) will make deep cuts in nearly all

programs except nuclear energy and atomic weapons development. Energy Secretary James Edwards wants to start reprocessing spent reactor fuel, burying nuclear wastes, building a commercial breeder reactor and licensing more conventional reactors.

Reagan's first attempt to bring "free market" policies to the energy field was the decontrolling of oil prices. This brilliant move was part of the plan to control inflation by reducing government spending and to free up oil company money for investment. But in practice it increased inflation by allowing gasoline prices to skyrocket.

Other cuts in the energy budget include a program to promote residential energy conservation and subsidies for investment in solar technologies. The DOE will shift its solar energy activities away from near-term development projects that are too risky for private concerns. In other words, the federal government will only support projects that prove that the sun won't be ready for another half century.

The military state

The only branch of government to escape budget slashing is the Department of Defense. Reagan has requested increases in military spending from \$196 billion to \$222 billion for fiscal year 1982. After that, Reagan's military budgets are projected to rise about 7% a year above inflation for the next four years. These boosts would enlarge the military's slice of the federal budget from 24% to 32% over the next three years.

The Pentagon has grand plans for this new rush of funds. It's About Times will be detailing them in next month's issue.

— Steve Stallone
IAT staff

THE REAGAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY PROGRAM



Weapons in space: t

Laser battle stations (from page 1)

The low-yield nuclear explosion that powers it would also finish off the laser battle station, but not until the beams are fired at their targets thousands of miles away. According to a Defense Department official quoted in *Aviation Week*, "It is so powerful that the beam evaporates the target surface with radiation creating spallation. It is roughly akin to directing the energy in the nuclear pumping device into the laser beam." The new laser would overcome countermeasures such as mirrored finishes or heat shields that might be effective against chemical lasers, which destroy their targets with thermal energy.

The X-ray laser project has cost the Department of Energy \$10 million. *Aviation Week* says that it hasn't yet been decided whether the program will remain under the direction of Lawrence Livermore, which has always claimed its laser work was for peaceful fusion energy research.

The new X-ray lasers will probably be "integrated in an overall battle management system" with chemical high-energy lasers in space, according to a Pentagon official. Even before the latest announcement, some Reagan supporters in Congress had teamed up with aerospace companies including Lockheed to demand a Manhattan Project-scale effort to place these laser anti-ballistic missile (ABM) systems in space within five years. Claiming that the \$263 million authorized by the Carter administration for this purpose in fiscal year 1982 is inadequate, Republican senators spearheaded by Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming are clamoring for a budget amendment sharply hiking this amount. Advocates of the five-year plan say it would cost \$10 billion.

Lasers that can zap intercontinental or submarine-launched ballistic missiles out of the sky will be sold to the public as defensive necessities, but anti-ballistic missile systems — in space or elsewhere — are actually part of the hardware necessary for a first-strike capability. The side that gets the ABMs first could launch an attack against a nuclear opponent without fear of retaliation.

Whatever missiles weren't caught by surprise and destroyed could be picked off by the ABMs. This does away with the principle of deterrence, which depended on both sides being afraid to strike first because the retribution would be so devastating.

An anti-ballistic missile system would be destabilizing for another, even more terrifying reason. On the side that is lagging in ABM development, fear of a first strike once the opponent's ABM system was complete could lead to a preemptive attack. From the point of view of the technological runner-up, it would be a case of "use them or lose them."

This logic has been recognized for years, which is why the US and the USSR agreed to an ABM Treaty in 1972. But Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger has recently called for a re-examination of that treaty. The deployment of laser battle stations would make it meaningless. The X-ray laser, as Jim Heaphy of Citizens for Space Demilitarization points out, violates not only the ABM treaty, but also the 1967 Outer Space Treaty, which bans all nuclear explosives in space.

The February 16 issue of *Aviation Week* reports that a Defense Department study soon to go to Congress recommends ABM lasers in space as a way to "alter the world balance of power." Though the laser battle stations are supposed to be used against a Soviet attack, some of the options made possible by the space-based death rays don't sound like plans for "defense" at all.

According to *Aviation Week's* summary of the Defense Department report, lasers in space would provide a "choice of engagement conditions that make maximum use of laser capability. Suppression of airborne air defense radar and interceptor aircraft just before friendly bomber penetration is an example. Another is destruction of all low-orbit satellites within seconds to achieve space superiority. Lasers also could interdict airlift operations worldwide and support ground forces and air forces to achieve local air superiority."

The Defense Department under-

stands quite clearly that their plans would accelerate the arms race. "US deployment of space-based laser systems would demand a Soviet response, with two responses expected immediately — hardening strategic systems... and developing weapons to destroy laser battle stations."

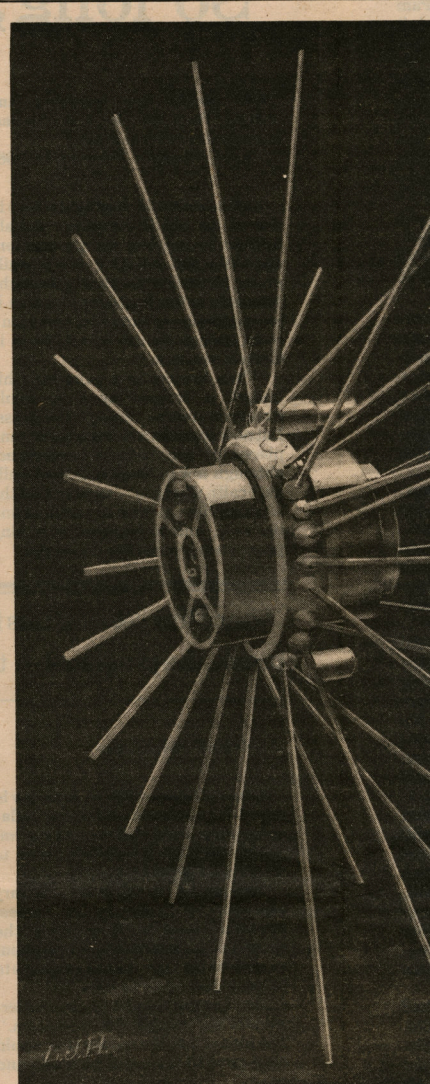
The scope of the space laser project is being debated in Congress, the Pentagon and the defense industry. On the low end, the Defense Department report suggested, a 5-megawatt/4-meter-diameter chemical laser could be ready by 1985 and launched three years later. The report also offers the option of a 25-megawatt/15-meter-diameter weapon that would be placed on 100 satellites. This system would take between 20 and 25 years to build and would cost over a hundred billion dollars.

Rockwell, TRW and Bell Aerospace are already developing the technology for lasers that will fit into the Space Shuttle cargo bay. Chemical lasers would depend on the Space Shuttle to transport the large amounts of fuel they consume. A full laser ABM system in space would mean that the military would completely take over the Space Shuttle program.

Killer lasers are by no means the only goodies in the outer space arsenal. There are navigation satellites that assure the accuracy of weapons, spy satellites, communications satellites and early warning satellites. And "SATWAR" isn't far behind. The Russians have been interested in satellite warfare for some time, though as usual they are lagging behind the US. Hundreds of millions of dollars are now being poured into the US air-launched anti-satellite weapon project, which is approaching its operational stage.

As Robert Aldridge, author of *The Counterforce Syndrome*, warned a few months ago, "The Pentagon is not only updating present systems, it is probing far into the future to discover exotic new approaches to this aspect of war."

—Marcy Darnovsky
IAT staff



Artist's conception of a space laser powered by a nuclear explosion

A history of laser weapons

Lasers are highly concentrated beams of light with parallel photon energy. The name is an acronym for Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation. The stronger the stimulating source, the more concentrated the beam and the more destructive it is to matter. Focusing sunlight with a magnifying glass to char wood is a crude example of how highly concentrated light affects matter. In the area affected, the damaging energy applied by a killer laser surpasses that of a nuclear explosion.

In 1960 the first laser beam was fired and two years later the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) was looking for military uses. The discovery of the flowing-gas laser in 1968 opened the door for high-energy (killer) lasers and by 1970 there were three types: gas dynamics, chemical, and electrical discharge. A demonstration at China killer lasers could cause structural damage to an airplane. In 1978 a laser prototype was tested against much smaller and faster antitank missiles with a reported high rate of success.

After the 1975 test, DARPA reoriented its stepped-up laser program toward small, pulsing chemical lasers with ultraprecise aiming and tracking schemes for deployment in space. Chemical lasers are particularly suited for space because they require no electrical energy, take advantage of the low temperatures to simplify cooling and release the highly toxic byproducts where they are unlikely to cause harm. In addition, the vacuum of space allows the beam to travel thousands of miles without being scattered; thus, the

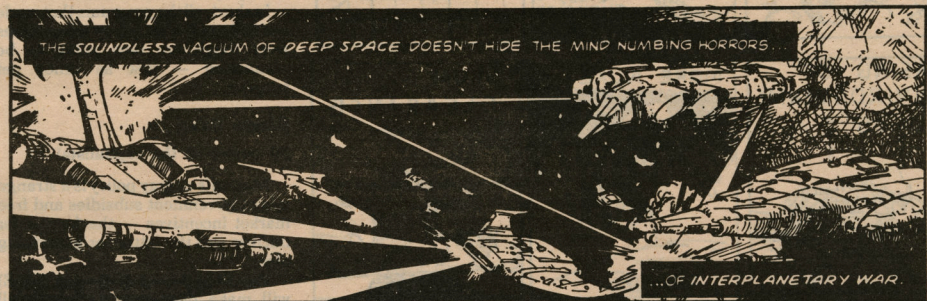
unique properties of a laser—its ability to precisely concentrate vast amounts of energy at extreme distances with the speed of light—can be fully exploited.

Death rays made up of subatomic particles such as protons or electrons are another breed of directed-energy weapon which the Pentagon has studied off and on since 1960. These beams are analogous to a lightning bolt and have an advantage over terrestrial lasers in bad weather. They may also have a longer range in the atmosphere if the problem of beam

scattering can be overcome. Such beams are, however, deflected by the earth's magnetic field, which makes it hard to aim them over long distances in space.

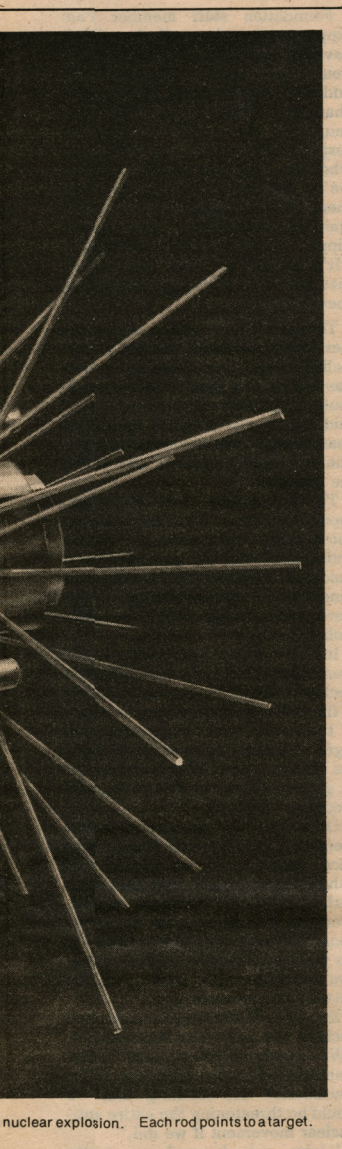
To overcome that problem, the Army is now pursuing research on a neutral particle beam which can be mounted in space to destroy ballistic missiles in flight. Originally called Sipapu (an American Indian name for "sacred fire"), but later renamed White Horse to avoid ethnic offense, this neutrally charged beam will not be affected by the earth's

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the final frontier

Nukes in orbit



nuclear explosion. Each rod points to a target.

About fifty nuclear power devices have been launched into space by the US and the Soviet Union, and many more are likely as the "last frontier" is colonized by the military. But already there have been three serious accidents.

The first nuclear disaster in space — and by far the most serious — has been all but forgotten. In early 1964 the launch of a US nuclear-powered satellite called SNAP-9A went awry, dispersing 17,000 curies of plutonium-238 into the upper atmosphere. Over the next several years government scientists carefully charted the plutonium as it drifted to earth, but could do nothing about it. This single accident put almost three times as much plutonium-238 into the environment as had all atmospheric weapons testing. In their typically reassuring fashion government agencies have explained that the amount of plutonium-238 from the SNAP-9A accident is small compared to the plutonium-239 released by weapons tests.

In April of 1970 the US Apollo 13 mission suffered an on-board explosion en route to the moon. The astronauts managed to get the crippled spacecraft back to earth but had to jettison their nuclear-powered lunar lander in the earth's atmosphere, causing it to burn up. The lander's 8.36 pounds of plutonium-238 was sealed in a cask protected by a heat shield capable of surviving re-entry (NASA had learned a lesson from SNAP-9A), but it plunged

into the Pacific Ocean northwest of New Zealand and has never been recovered.

The nuclear aspect of the Apollo 13 mishap received almost no press attention, in contrast to a Soviet accident eight years later. On January 24, 1978 a nuclear-powered Soviet ocean surveillance satellite called Cosmos 954 came hurtling out of orbit and showered radioactive debris over 18,000 miles of Canadian wilderness around the Great Slave Lake. The top-secret American Nuclear Emergency Search Team spent many weeks cleaning up the mess.

Sixteen nuclear-powered Soviet spy satellites were placed in orbit between 1967 and the accident in 1978. Another was launched on April 29, 1980, probably because of the buildup of US naval forces in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean during the crises in Iran and Afghanistan.

Although the Soviets have used nuclear reactors in their Cosmos satellites, solar panels have been the primary source of energy for spacecraft in orbit around the earth. In the shadow of the earth, spacecraft use batteries and fuel cells. But probes of the outer planets rely on small nuclear power packs called Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators (RTG's) because the intensity of sunlight at the distance of Jupiter and Saturn can't provide enough solar power. RTG's aren't reactors. They use the heat given off by the decay of radioactive materials such as plutonium-

238 to generate electricity. RTG's can produce up to a few hundred watts of power.

Military satellites like the Russian Cosmos series, use nuclear power because fragile solar panels are extremely vulnerable to anti-satellite weapons.

The US has launched eight RTG-powered military satellites since 1961. According to *Aviation Week*, some Department of Defense planners are convinced that "military spacecraft designers need to be motivated to abandon solar cells." Future military space missions such as laser weapons, charged particle beam weapons and manned military bases will require full-scale nuclear reactors capable of generating from 10 to 100 kilowatts of power. Basically, they would be miniature commercial nukes.

The US has put only one relatively primitive reactor into space. The 1965 test was successful, and the reactor, which has been shut down, is still in high earth orbit. Although the Soviet Union has launched at least 17 reactors into orbit, the US has not completed a second test. But the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratories is developing a nuclear reactor the size of a basketball that could generate about 100 kilowatts. Its potential military applications are endless.

(This article is based on Volume 1 number 3 of *Space For All People*, the newsletter of Citizens for Space Demilitarization, and on 1974 EPA hearings.)

Stopping space wars

Advocates of space exploration come in many varieties, from Star Trekkies to military-industrial tycoons. Citizens for Space Demilitarization, a California-based group, is as pro-space as they come, but thinks that war is bad enough when it's earthbound.

CFSD wants to keep the space program under civilian control and favors "international cooperation in outer space for the benefit of humanity." The group supports the international treaties that aim to prevent the resources of space from being gobbled up by the same countries that monopolize raw materials on earth. Many CFSD members think that the virtually limitless mineral and energy resources in space could be the basis for a post-scarcity society where war and poverty are obsolete.

CFSD has all the trappings of a fledgling grassroots movement: bumper stickers, a newsletter, rallies at the Civic Center and an agenda that puts them on a head-on collision with a powerful sector of the ruling class. In the first weeks of the Reagan administration, budget cutters announced a 10% slash for NASA, the civilian space agency. If these cuts are approved, says CFSD, "America will have essentially only a military space program."

The military space effort, of course, is being dramatically boosted by Pentagon planners. CFSD has recently announced a national campaign to oppose one particularly ambitious Reagan regime proposal to put laser battle stations in space.

The CFSD newsletter, *Space For All People*, is available for \$8.00 from 1476 California Street #9, San Francisco, CA 94109. Full membership is \$10.00.

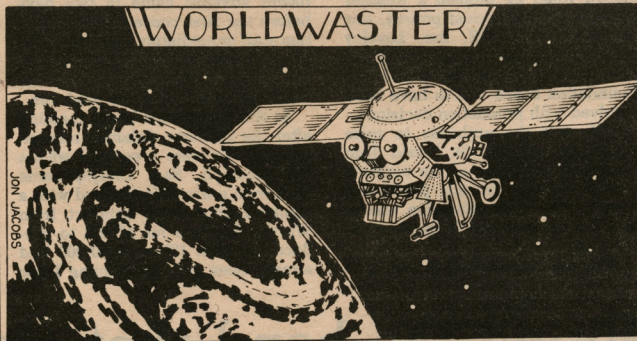
—Marcy Darnovsky

magnetic pull. The Air Force is also interested in White Horse for anti-satellite warfare, and a small space-based nuclear reactor is being developed to provide the necessary power. In addition to that, the very precise pointing system being developed for the "civilian" satellite astronomy observatory will have military application in aiming particle beams and killer lasers.

Soviet scientists are also pursuing research on directed-energy weapons, and there have been numerous allegations that the Russians are ahead in that field. Defense Secretary Harold Brown put these arguments to rest, however, in his 1981 fiscal posture statement when he said, "Although the Soviets may be investigating the application of high-energy lasers and even charged particle beams... severe technical obstacles remain in the way of converting this technology into a weapon system that would have any practical capability against ballistic missiles."

—by Robert Aldridge
reprinted from *The Nation*
with permission of the author

BE THE FIRST COUNTRY TO OWN THIS BEAUTY. BURN UP A CITY WITH LASER OR BLOW UP ONLY THE PEOPLE WITH MICROWAVE. THE KILLER SATELLITE BY **WORLDWASTER**



"IF IT'S A 'WORLDWASTER' YOU KNOW YOU'LL WIN."

The Space Child's Mother Goose

The Hydrogen Dog and the Cobalt Cat
Side by side in the Armory sat.
Nobody thought about fusion or fission,
Everyone spoke of their peacetime mission,
Til somebody came and opened
the door.

There they were, in a neutron fog,
The Codrogen Cat and the Hybalt Dog;
They mushroomed up with a terrible roar
And Nobody Never was there
—Nomore.

—Frederick Winsor

MUSE and its millions:

Escapade

continued from page 1

board members were also Foundation board members. Foundation staff sometimes worked as production staff.

As a result, everyone involved in MUSE wound up with a different idea of the lines of responsibility among the boards and staffs. During the confusion, major money commitments were made without the consultation of all the board members.

Additional concerts were scheduled and contracts for a record and a movie were signed in ways that many Foundation board members considered unilateral and improper. Loans bearing high interest charges were taken out to cover cash flow problems, again without full consultation.

Musician John Hall was both president of the MUSE Foundation and a member of MUSE, Inc. He explained to *It's About Times* that the Foundation was legally responsible for the money. MUSE, Inc.—the production board—was legally the agent of the Foundation.

But Foundation director Lorna Salzman explained, "The musicians [on the production board] didn't want to be told what to do. When we tried to exert authority we ran into problems."

It was the non-musicians sitting on the production board, however, who ended up making most of the important decisions. According to Tom Hayden, "The power was in the production board, Sam Lovejoy and the staff. They made the decisions. Hayden felt that some of the musicians got 'a bum rap.'"

Clamshell Alliance organizer Sam Lovejoy, who became nationally known when he toppled a weather tower as an anti-nuclear protest, was president of MUSE, Inc. Lovejoy believes that the artists would not have worked with MUSE at all if the Foundation board was to have been involved with production decisions.

"We had the authority to raise money as we saw fit," said Tom Campbell, producer of the concerts and a member of the production board. "Our only obligation was to give the net proceeds to the Foundation board."

When asked whether it was right



that the staff had made major financial decisions without consulting the Foundation board, Campbell replied, "Decisions must be made quickly. The creditors don't wait."

But grassroots groups that have been promised money by MUSE have had to wait almost a year already.

There is no mention in the minutes of the Foundation board of a decision to film the MUSE concerts or to produce a movie. But when a \$750,000 record advance came in two days before the first concert the production staff immediately spent \$460,000 of it on people and equipment to film the events. They planned to sell the film clips to a Hollywood producer.

At the Foundation board meeting after the concerts, Salzman remembered, "We were presented with a fait accompli. Sam Lovejoy came back from a trip to Hollywood with a signed million-dollar contract from Warner Brothers for MUSE to produce the film. [Since \$460,000 had already been spent on filming] this

meant that we had only \$540,000 to complete the film if we were to break even." The Foundation board was compelled to go ahead with the film in order not to lose the hundreds of thousands of dollars already invested.

Warner Brothers had agreed to pay for the film in four installments as different phases were completed. According to another Foundation board member, Kitty Tucker, this meant that MUSE didn't have the cash on hand to cover MUSE's second funding cycle. A cash flow problem had already developed anyway and the Foundation board had previously approved borrowing funds to cover the first funding cycle.

As work on the movie proceeded, money was being spent at a rapid clip. "We [the Foundation board] demanded financial reports, and none came through," Salzman said. "Meetings were scheduled and we planned to put our foot down. But the staff kept canceling the meetings."

Biting the hand that won't feed us

What happened to MUSE and all the millions of dollars it expected to raise for the anti-nuclear movement? And why do we feel it's important to publicly discuss it?

We have been warned not to run this story. One concert promoter told us, "It's not a question of right or wrong. You just have to weigh the importance of printing the article against what you could do with the money you might get" from the funding sources the story will offend.

We felt this particular threat was an empty one, since the source in question had no intention of funding us anyway. But the fact remains that *It's About Times*, like so many others in the anti-nuclear movement, chose not to look too closely or talk too loudly about MUSE until it was apparent we'd be getting no money from them.

Many MUSE directors supported the writing of this story. Though they didn't want to go to the established

media, they had decided to answer questions from the movement press if and when they were asked. On the other hand, some connected with MUSE feel that there is nothing to be gained by "airing dirty laundry."

There were other cautions and concerns, some of which we share. We're not interested in participating in or promoting in-fighting among the anti-nuclear movement. But neither do we feel that fundraisers, film producers, rock stars or their managers should be immune to scrutiny and criticism.

We are certainly not suggesting that there was any dishonesty, personal monetary gain, or evil intentions involved in the MUSE story. Even those who come out smelling somewhat less sweet than a rose have indicated by their words and many of their actions that they are interested in stopping nuclear power and weapons and in the survival of the planet. But the notion that if the

motivations are pure all else is forgiven, destines us to repeat past mistakes.

We were also warned that this article could jeopardize future benefit concerts for the entire anti-nuclear movement by souring musicians on the process altogether. But we suspect that musicians, like other reasonable people, want to improve their work rather than stay stuck in the same old ruts. In fact, some musicians have already incorporated the MUSE experience into a different style of working. MUSE has also been widely discussed in foundation circles.

We feel that grassroots anti-nuclear groups should participate in the discussion—that the alternative is to perpetuate the monopolization of information and power that have so much to do with the very things we are all fighting.

Foundation staff member Pam Lippe said that the staff often didn't have the accounting information the Foundation board demanded. In addition, the financial picture was changing all the time. "We were caught in the middle. It was our responsibility to do the work, and when the decisions had to be made, we're the ones that had to make them. It's not possible to control spending all the time." According to Lippe, bad feelings soon developed. "It's hurtful to work with board members who think you're out to rip them off," she said.

Throughout the spring and summer Lippe and staff member Susan Kellum were aware that no money was left to give away. There was a continuing clamor for meetings, they said, but it cost \$4000 to fly all the board members to the same location. The staff didn't think it was worth the expense.

The Foundation board members, especially those who had doubts about what was going on, didn't understand why the meetings were canceled. "People not involved in canceling the meetings thought they were being trifled with," recalled Kohn.

In June 1980, Foundation board members Hall, Tucker and Salzman decided to bring the rate of spending to the attention of the other members of the board. John Hall, using his legal authority as president, froze the checking account and attempted to get control of MUSE's financial records.

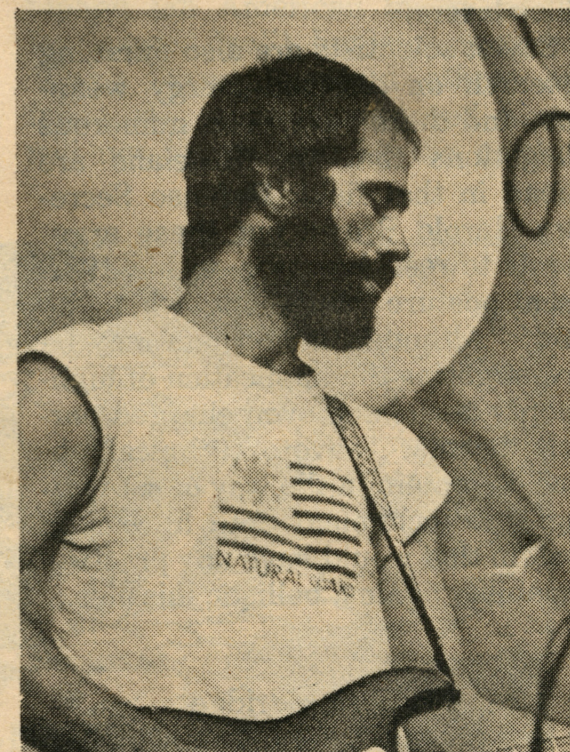
Obie Benz, a Foundation board member and liaison with Pacific Alliance, told *It's About Times* that although John Hall had the legal authority to take financial control, everyone had agreed that his presidency was only a symbolic position. He was not a member of the executive committee that made decisions between board meetings.

But Hall, Tucker and Salzman had decided the move was unavoidable. "We considered going public," Salzman said. "But the production board blackmailed us, claiming that we would be threatening the entire anti-nuclear movement if we did."

"John got dumped on pretty hard," Salzman continued. "Obie Benz called all the members of both boards, telling them John was hysterical, emotionally unbalanced and overstepping his authority. Tom Campbell contacted the musicians and pressured them into calling John off."

Hall did pull back, but his actions had some effect. "We blew the whistle," he said, "and things were cheaper in the long run." Foundation board member Pollock agreed. "He got the result he hoped for,"

continued on page 10



John Hall

—IAT staff

Where did the money go?

Holly Near on tour

MUSE's problems aren't inevitable. A different approach to benefits is represented by Holly Near's 31-city "On Tour for a Nuclear-Free Future" in the fall of 1979.

Fifty thousand people attended the concerts, which raised \$300,000. About \$110,000 was given away in grants after the tour, and an additional \$25,000 was paid as a production fee to anti-nuclear groups that helped out on the concerts. While 12% of MUSE proceeds were given away, Holly Near's group channeled 45% of the money it raised to grassroots anti-nuclear work.

Another difference in the Holly Near approach is that nuclear education is integrated into each event. Jo-Lynne Worley, national organizer for the tour, said, "Education was a part of the concerts. Between songs Holly would talk about nuclear weapons and power. And she made a point of working with the local organizers. The day before or after a concert, she held workshops to discuss politics and problems with organizing."

Concert-goers who were motivated into action could plug into groups immediately, since local organizers were right there at the concert hall.

After the tour Holly received thousands of letters from people explaining how they were affected by the shows.

Another feature of this concert model is that local anti-nuclear groups are brought into the process of organizing the productions. "The tour was not only for the educational value, but also to give other people experience in production," said Worley. "Local groups were responsible for renting the hall, distributing posters and doing publicity. A how-to guide that we sent out before the tour has since been published as the book *Making a Show of It*."

Sign interpretation was used at all the concerts and most of the halls were wheelchair-accessible. There were political workshops for disabled people.

Copies of *Making a Show of It* are available for \$5.80 (including postage) from Redwood Records, P.O. Box 996, Ukiah, CA 95482. They'll also send you a financial statement on the concerts for free if you send a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

—Mark Evanoff
IAT staff



Holly Near

photo by Vicki Vanderslice, courtesy Redwood Records

Some MUSE-ings

"We were over our head with MUSE. We were running so fast we couldn't think all the time," said Harvey Wasserman, a MUSE staff member and Foundation board member. But the MUSE structure made anything else impossible. When the assembled advisors, the production board and the Foundation board, tried to slow things down to take a moment to think, they were rebuffed.

The image of "grassroots and the

"The production board blackmailed us, claiming we would be threatening the movement if we went public."

musicians working together" appears to have been assembled only for show. The musicians, on the whole, were careful to avoid the impression of being "leaders" or "spokespeople" of the anti-nuclear movement. But some of the go-betweens on the MUSE staff used their contacts with the "musicians' community" to wield a disproportionate influence on the movement.

Even within MUSE, the two boards were played off against each other. The staff told the Foundation board that the musicians needed autonomy with production decisions. But there were only four musicians on the production board and two of them, John Hall and Bonnie Raitt, also sat on the Foundation board. Neither Hall nor the other musicians were involved in major production decisions, if only because they were often on the road.

In the rush to get the work done, the MUSE staff lost the ability to evaluate itself, and the decision-making structure dissolved. "The problem lay in the friendship network out of Montague," said Foundation director Gary Delgado. "When serious questions were raised about the viability of projects, the friendship network overtook the structure."

Any group organizing mass events needs to give some thought to evaluating its ability to pull them off. It's not good enough to start what Harvey Wasserman called "righteous and honorable projects" if they fall apart midway through.

But even if the MUSE structure had been sound and all its projects had been smashing successes, certain dynamics set up by MUSE-like events are perhaps unavoidably dangerous. MUSE set itself up as the

funding and media arm of the anti-nuclear movement—a position that gave it enormous power not only in the name of the movement but over and above it. Grassroots groups came to depend on MUSE for money (this was in part their own fault) and to stand in awe of it, afraid to discuss or criticize it.

The phenomenon of dependency and awe was also found within MUSE. Musicians were given special privileges not normally associated with movement organizing. As Pam Lippe explained, "When a musician wants to ride first class and you need him, you can't say no." According to Foundation director Lorna Salzman, one musician was flown to the concerts in a private jet.

MUSE came to identify itself as the be-all and end-all of anti-nuclear activity, as the agent that would bring change. Foundation staff member Pam Lippe summarized the MUSE experience as "a gamble taken in the interest of the movement." But why should a few people gamble for the entire movement?

MUSE's choices in funding recipients were good. Foundation staff members Pam Lippe and Susan Kellum took time to work with local groups, helping them find fiscal sponsors and providing tips on how

to approach other Foundations. But as it turned out, MUSE gave a relatively small percentage of its money to grassroots groups.

To the tens of thousands of concert-goers, record-buyers and movie-viewers, MUSE advertised itself as an organization raising funds "to help finance local and national groups committed to a non-nuclear future." Can that be taken to mean that most of the money would go to a few people's pet projects? The concerts, the record and the movie were seen by MUSE as political events in themselves, in fact, the most important educational and organizing tools around. But it ain't necessarily so.

After the concerts, Daisana McLane wrote in *Rolling Stone* that the music with an anti-nuclear theme seemed "heavy-handed, forced. When the music has no political content—which is most of the time—it seems like just another rock concert, and a slow one at that... The reason the concerts are so successful financially is Bruce Springsteen. But with Springsteen on the program, the political nature of the concert is lost; the crowd doesn't particularly notice the anti-nuclear theme."

As many others have pointed out, the almost total exclusion of black, reggae, salsa, punk, etc. reinforced



Sam Lovejoy

photo by Karen Spangenberg

the movement's narrow race, class and age composition. Even if the concerts had not relied so heavily on a single kind of music, there are again more general problems in the MUSE approach to politics.

Movements that generate audiences rather than participants will never be able to oppose the existing society. They are doomed to reproduce it. Getting a lot of people to buy a "politically correct" product does not a movement make.

A person may receive his or her first exposure to an issue at a rock concert, and may be convinced that it's his hip to oppose nuclear power because Jackson Browne is against it. But this can at best be a first step. The motivation to work toward change must be felt in a personal way.

The politics of rock concerts and media blitzes can get information to a lot of people quickly and turn out crowds that are taken of signs of support for an issue. But these politics have much less to do with organizing and education than with appeals to the lowest common denominator and the manipulation of images. They have inherent drawbacks, like the fostering of passivity and shallow identification rather than active participation, the creation of stars and power-brokers within a movement, the substitution of the image of opposition for an authentic culture and politics of opposition. At the very least, these dangers must be faced up to and evaluated.

The MUSE story raises many complex issues which we have only touched on here. *It's About Times* invites you to share your thoughts on what happened to MUSE and what it means to the movement. We are also interested in hearing about other experiences with concert fundraising. Please send your letters typed and double-spaced.

—Mark Evanoff and
Marcy Darnovsky
IAT staff

Short Circuits

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Informants posing as Clamshell Alliance members during the attempted blockade at the Seabrook nuclear plant in October 1979 apparently told some fanciful stories to the feds. According to documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, the informants told the government that the clamshell planned an armed takeover of the Fort Devens Air Force Base near Boston, was stockpiling explosives and weapons and planned to turn the Seabrook occupation into a riot.

As a result, the Clamshell Alliance was classified as a "terrorist organization" in government files. Clamshell spokesperson Nate Thayer says that the FBI, the CIA, the Justice Department and the National Security Agency have carried out surveillance and harassment tactics against the group.

—from Zodiac News Service

NEVER WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT

Energy Secretary James Edwards admitted in early February that the American people "may have been misled" by his prediction that gasoline prices would rise by only three to five cents as a result of the Reagan Administration's decontrol of oil prices. Edwards said he was "somewhat surprised" by the large price increases many refiners imposed after Reagan announced the total decontrol of prices on January 26.

Within two weeks of Reagan's announcement, the wholesale price of gasoline shot up ten cents a gallon. The prices are continuing to rise amid record oil company profits.

—from *Oakland Tribune*, 2/11/81

A SPY BY ANY OTHER NAME...

Protesters at Temple University in Philadelphia have forced the Central Intelligence Agency to abandon its plans to openly recruit students there.

When the CIA advertised on the Temple campus for the position of "operations officer," students pointed out in a leaflet that an "operations officer" is a spy. The CIA pulled its recruiter off campus and has refused to comment on the matter.

—from Zodiac News Service

MUSE escapade

continued from page 8

Pollock said. "But he suffered personally for it."

Work on the film continued, and another major battle erupted when the filmmakers refused to allow the production board which had hired them to view the completed film. Hall was finally allowed to see it, and discovered that no black acts had been included though several had been at the concerts and rally. At the last minute, Gil Scott-Heron was added to the film because of Hall's

TRUCK BITES SUBMARINE

Peter Demott, a former Marine and Vietnam veteran, has been convicted on felony charges for attempting to destroy a Trident nuclear submarine with a truck.

Demott was found guilty of entering a truck parked in the General Dynamic Shipyard in Groton, Connecticut last December 13, and then repeatedly backing it into a submarine that was being overhauled in the yard. He told the jury, "I rammed (it) as a protest. I see the Trident submarine and the arms race as an evil thing." Demott has been active in the peace movement since the late 70's.

—from Zodiac News Service

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

Montana residents voted last November to ban the shipment or disposal of nuclear wastes originating out of state. But the Montana legislature has now overturned the ban by nearly a two-to-one margin.

House members who voted to override the initiative said that voters were "misled" and "misinformed" when they approved Initiative 84 last fall. Proponents of the measure, however, are working to place it on the ballot again and say the legislature's vote was orchestrated by the nuclear industry.

—from Zodiac News Service

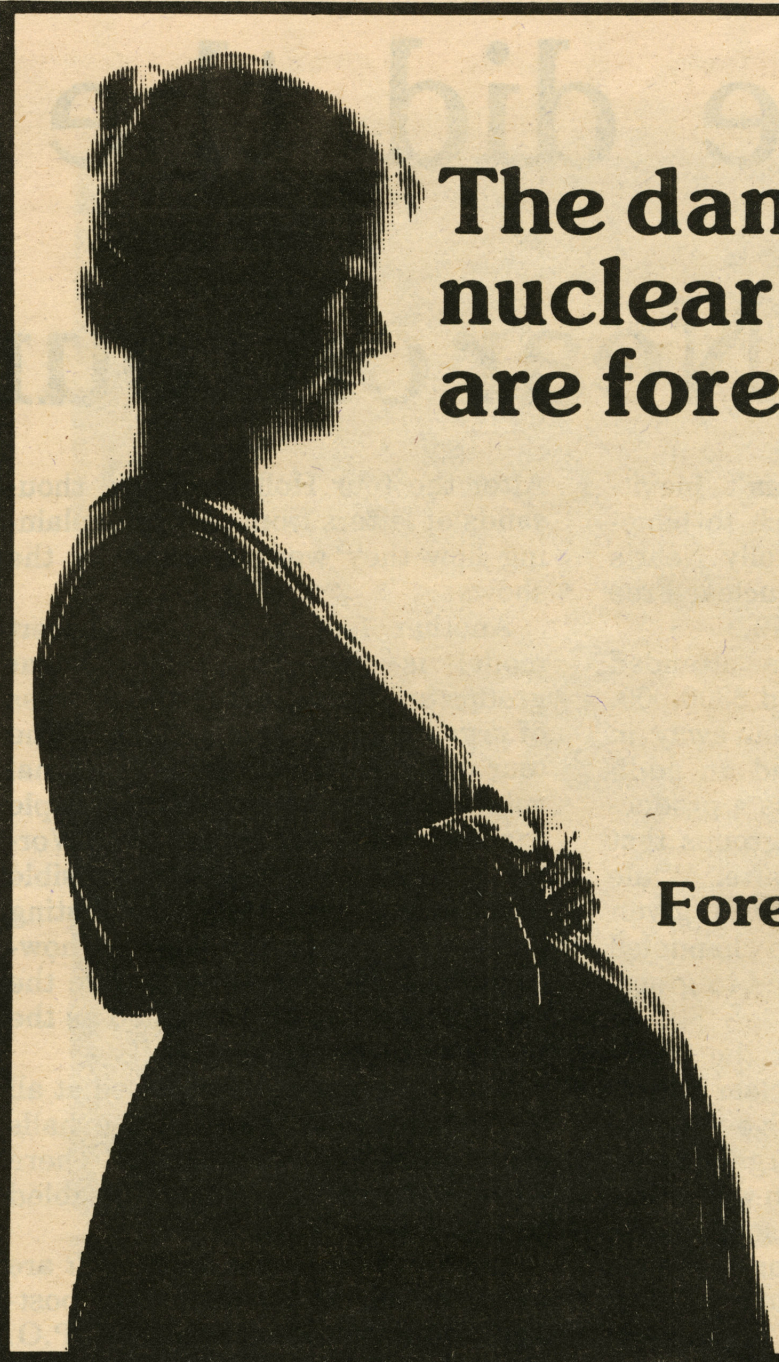
THE WAR KEEPS COMING HOME

A Philadelphia-based veterans support group says that more Vietnam veterans have committed suicide than died in action during the war.

Multi-Service Veterans Center in Philadelphia says a Congressional study has estimated that more than 50,000 Vietnam vets have committed suicide. The official figure for Americans killed in action in Vietnam is 47,500.

Richard Fuller, a Washington, D.C. spokesperson for the House Committee on Veterans Affairs didn't seem surprised by the statistics. Fuller says that in 1975 Vietnam veterans under the age of 34 had a suicide rate 23% higher than the non-veteran population of the same age and sex. There are about nine million Vietnam veterans.

—from Zodiac News Service



The dangers of nuclear power are forever.

Forever.

We must stop Diablo Canyon.

For more information please contact
People Generating Energy
543-8402

This ad has appeared in many San Luis Obispo County newspapers.

RALLY FOR 2ND TMI ANNIVERSARY

Seven international trade unions have called on other unions, environmental activists and community groups to join in a march and rally to be held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania on March 28, the second anniversary of the Three Mile Island nuclear accident.

The unions include the United Auto Workers, the United Mine Workers of America and the International Chemical Workers Union. According to Jane Perkins, coordinator of the Greater Harrisburg Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment, "We know there are safe alternatives to nuclear power that will keep Americans on the job."

The rally coincides with the expiration of the United Mine Workers contract, and part of the focus is expected to be on enlisting support for a new contract.

—Zodiac News Service

PLUTONIUM SHORTAGE?

Plans to double spending on nuclear warheads during the next five years means the resumption of large-scale plutonium production and reprocessing. The Pentagon and the Department of Energy maintain that existing facilities can produce only a few hundred new bombs a year — not nearly enough to deploy the MX, the Trident and Cruise missiles. Plutonium shortages have already caused production delays.

The American Friends Service Committee, the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Natural Resources Defense Council have filed a request that the DOE prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the nationwide effects of expanded weapons production. If their request is denied, the groups plan to sue in federal court.

—from *Potomac Alliance Power Plant*

never a commercial success. MUSE got no additional money from the film, which had cost them \$1¼ million.

The film loss and other debts apparently consumed the proceeds of the No Nukes record. So groups that had been promised grants had to wait. Some of them had already begun projects in anticipation of getting the money they had been promised by MUSE. A few ended up folding.

record. An annual report has been prepared, but it lists only grants given and concert and rally expenses.

No one has ever even hinted that any MUSE money found its way into someone's pocket. Even before the MUSE concerts Sam Lovejoy told the *Village Voice*, "The last thing in the world that is going to happen to this organization is that money is going to disappear. [If it does] I will name every name and I will drag this fucking organization through so much mud no one is going to believe it."

But many people have wondered why MUSE expenses have been so consistently high. MUSE has given away only 12% of the money it raised, while a recent Holly Near concert tour channeled 45% of its proceeds to anti-nuclear groups.

MUSE investment decisions, especially about the movie, have come under heavy fire. And there were complaints about an excess of consultants, particularly about Tom Campbell and other Pacific Alliance staff people who were paid by MUSE, but were doing Pacific Alliance work. Obie Benz defended this situation at a Foundation board meeting as an "in-kind contribution to the anti-nuclear movement."

Last fall MUSE reorganized to clean up its finances and reconcile personal differences between board members. Howard Kohn, Sarah Nelson and Harvey Wasserman are the only members of the new board. Their job is to oversee paying off the \$60,000 owed to groups and the \$180,000 debt remaining from the film. John Hall and Bonnie Raitt are still doing concerts to help pay off the debts. Some hope remains that the movie may eventually break even because of new video deals being pursued.

Some of those involved with MUSE still believe that it accomplished what it set out to do. Harvey Wasserman says, "We have a lot to be proud of. My first concern was not the money—I viewed MUSE as a series of political events. Up to the movie everything we did was pretty amazing. Ninety-eight thousand people came to the concerts. We've given away \$500,000 in grants and sold half a million records that contained booklets on nuclear power and weapons. We sold 50,000 program booklets and organized the largest anti-nuclear rally in the seventies."

—Mark Evanoff
IAT staff

"The producers handed us the film and the bills in a shoebox. It turned out there had been a \$750,000 cost overrun."

strenuous objections.

Still another surprise was in store. "After the producers were finished," Lippe said, "they handed us the film and the bills in a shoebox. It turned out there had been a \$750,000 cost overrun and they walked out without finishing the accounting. We got fucked."

No Nukes! received good reviews at its debut. But Warner Brothers did very little promotion and it was

A detailed accounting of MUSE finances has still not been provided by the production board to the Foundation directors or to *It's About Times*. Unaudited summaries have been distributed, but there are a number of confusing discrepancies.

Film expenses amounting to \$1,173,000 have not been itemized, nor has \$104,000 in yearly Foundation overhead. Detailed accounts are available for the concerts, rally and

Announcements

IAT BACK ISSUES

...are available. For \$5, we'll send you as complete a set as we have (at least 10 issues). Laugh at our early mistakes, cringe at our recent ones, get informed and entertained, and end up with fireplace kindling for those cold winter nights. Just send \$5 to IAT, 944 Market Street, #307, SF, CA 94102.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

On January 24 representatives of over 30 northern California peace and safe energy groups met to establish a cooperative information-sharing network. The purpose of the network is to share ideas, resources, timelines and plans between groups working around any or all of the goals: No War/No Draft, Stop the Nuclear Arms Race, Sane Energy and Environmental Policy and Reorder National and Global Priorities to Meet Human Needs.

A regional newsletter consisting of a calendar of events, a list of area contacts and information about campaigns of common interest will be sent out to all groups.

Gary McGhee Dobson has agreed to maintain the list of local area contacts as well as to channel information from other regional and national groups to the local areas. Volunteers interested in being contacts for areas not yet covered should contact Gary.

The nuclear industry is apparently sponsoring a nationwide letter-writing campaign to urge the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to re-start Unit 1 at Three Mile Island. The plant's other reactor, the now-infamous Unit 2, was destroyed by the accident in March 1979.

Three Mile Island Alert is asking people around the country to write asking that the reactor not be returned to service. The NRC's address is 1717 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20555.

SURVIVAL NETWORK

Central/Eastern Contra Costa — Gary McGhee Dobson, Mt. Diablo Peace Center, 65 Eckley Ln., Walnut Creek 94598 (415) 933-7850.

West Contra Costa — Mary Ellen Chell, 2341 Mono, El Cerrito 94530 (415) 540-8850.

East Bay — Sue Supriano, 2804 Piedmont, Berkeley 94704 (415) 540-8850.

Central Valley — Sylvia Palomo, 21862 Crystal Falls Dr., Sonoma 95370 (209) 532-3788.

Solano/Napa/Sonoma — Gordon Harten, Vallejo Peace/Environment Center, P.O. Box 5539, Vallejo 94590 (707) 644-8556.

Peninsula/South Bay — Christopher Booth, 943 Bryant St., Palo Alto 94301

San Francisco — Ken Mayor/Michela Perrazino, 20 Bronte St., S.F. 94110 (415) 647-3135.

Davis/Sacramento — Robert Alexander 620 L St., Davis 95616 (916) 758-8279.

GE STOCKHOLDERS ALLIANCE

GE stockholders should be sure to vote on the nuclear resolutions appearing in their proxies for the April 22 stockholders' meeting. Stockholders are also urged to write to GE management concerning nuclear hazards and the military nuclear industry. For info send SASE to GE Stockholders Alliance, P.O. Box 996, Columbia, MD 21044.

EL SALVADOR BUMPER STICKERS

"If You Liked Vietnam, You'll Love El Salvador" bumper stickers, black on white, available from ESBS, 930 D Street, #13, Arcata, CA, 95521. \$1 each, \$.75 each for 10 or more, \$.50 postage for each order.

ANTI-NUCLEAR BEGINNER'S KIT

Concerned but short on time and energy? Hate nukes but don't know how to start doing something about them? The Anti-Nuclear Beginner's Kit can help you. Handy for veterans too. Send \$4 plus 45 cents for postage to Abalone Alliance of the Marina, North Beach & Pacific Heights, 2735 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA, 94123.

JOB OPENING

War Resisters League—West is looking for a full-time person for its Feminism & Nonviolence Program, \$475/month. Application deadline, March 20. Info, call WRL at 415-731-1220.



A "light-and-lively" at the March 1 Abalone Alliance conference.

photo by Steve Stallone

AA Safe Energy Groups

*Denotes that several community/neighborhood and affinity groups are working in the vicinity.

ABALONE ALLIANCE OFFICE: 944 Market St., Room 307, San Francisco, CA 94102 • (415) 543-3910

DIABLO PROJECT OFFICE: 452 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 805 543-6614

NORTH

ALBION: WOMEN FOR SURVIVAL, Box 415/95410 • (707) 937-5596

ARCATA: REDWOOD ALLIANCE, P.O. Box 293/95521 (707) 822-7884

CALISTOGA: UPPER NAPA VALLEY ENERGY ALLIANCE, 2200 Diamond Mtn. Rd./94515 (707) 942-5856

COVELO: DOWNWIND ALLIANCE, Box 175/95428 (707) 983-9969

MENDOCINO: CITIZENS ALLIANCE FOR SAFE ENERGY, P.O. Box 559/95460

NAPA: NAPA VALLEY ENERGY ALLIANCE, 2119 Brown Street, #4/94558

REDWAY: ACORN ALLIANCE, P.O. Box 773/95560 (707) 923-2258

SANTA ROSA: COMMUNITY NETWORK FOR APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY, 709 Davis St./95401 • (707) 528-6543
*SO NO More Atomics, 883 E. Sonoma Ave./95404 • (707) 526-7220

SONOMA: SONOMA ALTERNATIVES FOR ENERGY, P.O. Box 452/95476 • (707) 996-5123

TRINIDAD: TRINIDAD ALLIANCE Box 30/95570 • (707) 677-3486

CENTRAL VALLEY & SIERRA

CHICO: CHICO PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, 708 Cherry St./95926 • (916) 891-6424

DAVIS: PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, 411 5th St./95616 • (916) 753-1630 M-F 12-6 P.M.

FRESNO: PEOPLE FOR SAFE ENERGY, 366 N. Van Ness/93701 • (209) 268-3109 or 441-8839

MODESTO: STANISLAUS SAFE ENERGY COMMITTEE, P.O. Box 134/93354 • (209) 529-5750

NEVADA CITY: PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, 419 Spring St./95959 • (916) 272-4848

REDDING: VOLCANIC ALLIANCE, 431 Manzanita Lane / 96002 • (916) 243-5941

SACRAMENTO: CITIZENS FOR SAFE ENERGY, 312 20th St./95814 (916) 442-3635

SHEEP RANCH: FOOTHILL ALLIANCE FOR SAFE ENERGY, Box 53 / 95250 • (209) 728-2193

VISALIA: SEQUOIA ALLIANCE, 3017 South Conyer / 93277 • (209) 733-9050

GREATER BAY AREA

BERKELEY: ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION MINISTRY, 2311 Bowditch / 94704 • (415) 848-1157

BERKELEY (UC CAMPUS): PEOPLE'S ANTI-NUCLEAR COLLECTIVE, UC Berkeley, 612 Eshleman Hall/94720 (415) 642-8165

BOLINAS: BOLINAS AGAINST NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION, P.O. Box 708/94924 • (415) 868-1401

CONCORD: CONTRA COSTANS FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, P.O. Box 743/94522 (415) 934-5249

EL GRANADA: COASTSIDERS FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, P.O. Box 951/94018 (415) 728-3119

OAKLAND: EAST BAY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP, 585 Alcatraz, Suite A/94609 (415) 655-1715

PALO ALTO: CITIZENS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO NUCLEAR ENERGY, P.O. Box 377/94302

PT. REYES: PELICAN ALLIANCE, P.O. Box 596/94956 • (415) 663-8483

SAN ANSELMO: ABALONE ALLIANCE OF MARIN, 1024 Sir Francis Drake Blvd./94960 (415) 457-4377

SAN JOSE: GROUP OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR ENERGY, 300 South 10th St./95112 • (408) 297-2299

SAN FRANCISCO: ALLIANCE AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER, UC Med Center, c/o Michael Kosnett, MU 249/94143 • (415) 666-2010

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, Liz Walker, David Hartsough, 2160 Lake St./94121 • (415) 752-7766

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT, 88 First St., Suite 600/94105 • (415) 777-1984

DIRECT ACTION WORKING NETWORK, 1846 Church St./94139 (415) 826-7776

GREENPEACE ANTI-NUCLEAR COMMITTEE, Building E, Fort Mason/94123 • (415) 474-6767

NURSES FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, 1447 7th Ave./94122 (415) 854-5404

*PEOPLE AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER, 944 Market St. Room 808/94102 • (415) 781-5342

STUDENTS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO NUCLEAR ENERGY, 1618 Hayes St./94117 (415) 563-3656

STANFORD: ROSES AGAINST A NUCLEAR ENVIRONMENT, Box 8842 / 94305 • (415) 854-5404

CENTRAL COAST

AVILA BEACH: A.V.I.L.A., P.O. Box 344/93424 • (805) 736-1897

CITIZENS FOR PEACE, P.O. Box 219/93426 • (805) 528-5626

LOMPOC: LOMPOC SAFE ENERGY COALITION, 238 S.J. St./93436 (805)736-1897

PACIFIC GROVE: SOCIETY UNITING FOR NON-NUCLEAR YEARS, P.O. Box 8/93950 • (408) 372-7476

SAN LUIS OBISPO: PEOPLE GENERATING ENERGY, 452 Higuera/93401 (805) 543-8402

SANTA MARIA: THE UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH, 512 W. Evergreen/93454 (805) 922-1309

SANTA CRUZ: ACTION COMMUNITY ON DIABLO CANYON, Box 693 / 95060 • (408) 423-7046

PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, P.O. Box 5204/95063 (408) 425-1275

SOUTH

AVALON: CATALINA ISLAND AFS, P.O. Box 1516/90704

BELLFLOWER: SUNSHINE ALLIANCE/NO RADIOACTIVITY COMMITTEE, P.O. Box 1135/90706

LOS ANGELES: ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL, 1473 Echo Park Ave. 90026 • (213) 738-1041

OJAI: STOP URANIUM NOW, P.O. Box 772/93023 • (805) 646-3832

RIVERSIDE: RIVERSIDE ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL, 200 E. Blaine St./92507

SAN DIEGO: COMMUNITY ENERGY ACTION NETWORK, P.O. Box 33686/92103 • (714) 236-1684 or 295-2084

SANTA ANA: SUNFLOWER COLLECTIVE, 206 West 19th St./92706

SANTA BARBARA: PEOPLE AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER, U.C. Santa Barbara P.O. Box 14006/93107 • (805) 968-4238 or 968-2886

SANTA BARBARA PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, 331 N. Milpas St./93103 • (805) 966-4565

SANTA MONICA: GEO, 1127 6th St./90402 (213) 394-4139

UCLA ALLIANCE/SANTA MONICA-VENICE, 235 Hill St./90405 • (213) 829-7251

SOUTH LAGUNA: LAGUNA BEACH AFS, 30832 Driftwood/92677

TOPANGA: TOPANGA CANYON AFS, c/o Food Chakra, Top. Cyn. Blvd. & Fernwood/90290 (213) 455-2867

VAN NUYS: SAN FERNANDO VALLEY ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL, 13615 Victory Blvd., Suite 204 / 91401 • (213) 969-5003

VENTURA: VENTURA ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL, c/o Ron Cone, Box 308 / 93002 • (805) 642-6522

WEST LOS ANGELES: COMMON GROUND, 2222 S. Sepulveda/90064

WOODLAND HILLS: WEST VALLEY ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL, 6123 Lockhurst Drive / 91367

CORPORATE "ALTERNATIVES" DEPT.

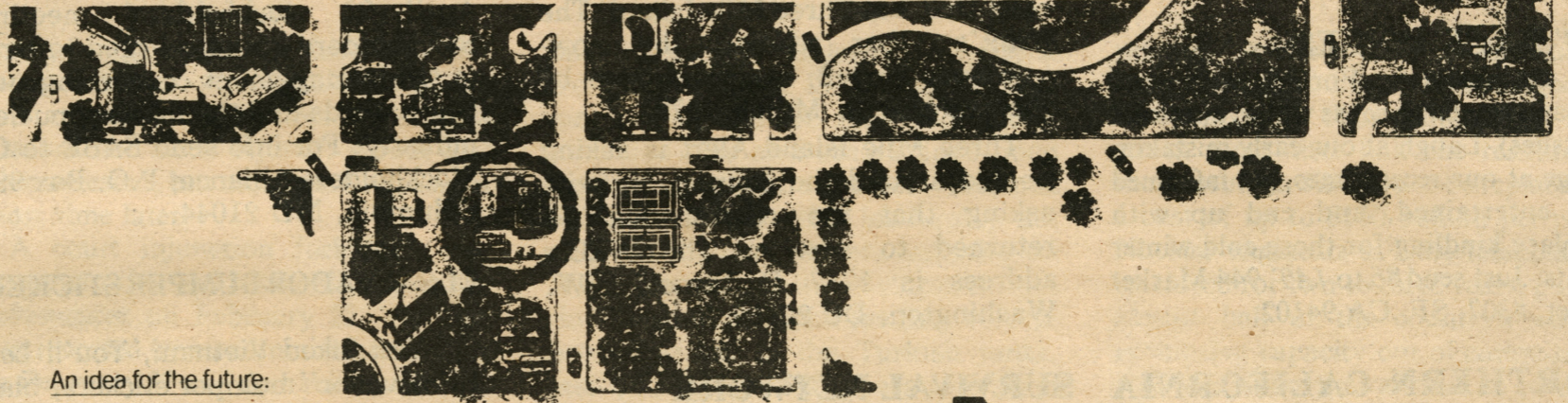
People still like the idea of local energy production despite years of corporate attempts to convince them it is impractical. This ad tries to exploit public enthusiasm for alternative energy by claiming that the nation's utility companies are working hard to develop neighborhood energy sources.

The ad opens by touting the advantages of neighborhood fuel cells. It claims they are "virtually pollution-free" and can be located near consumers—advantages shared of course by decentralized solar power. But while fuel cells burn expensive gases that must be piped from distant sources, sunlight is free and doesn't pass through the meter of your friendly electric company. Little wonder the utilities take a dim view of solar power.

All the talk about neighborhood energy, however, is in the ad only to grab the reader's interest. We are abruptly told that fuel cells won't amount to much anyway, and are urged to use less electricity and to use it "wisely".

Few would argue with that advice. But the energy savings from turning down the thermostat or turning off the lights are small compared with the savings that could come from more efficient buildings, appliances, and industrial machinery. The ad neglects to mention this, preferring to leave the false impression that we can save energy only by sacrificing comfort. The paragraph concludes with the strange statement, "no matter how much we conserve, it won't keep demand from rising." Less is more?

This brings us to the heart of the ad—and its most misleading statements. Contrary to the ad's asser-



An idea for the future:

New space-age power plants will save energy.

Fuel cell plants—in your neighborhood. They proved themselves in space, operating so cleanly their by-product was drinking water for the astronauts. Now there's the tough job of getting fuel cells to work for us at down-to-earth costs.

Conservation at the source.

Fuel cells get more out of fossil fuels than conventional combustion methods. They produce energy using an electrochemical reaction. Because nothing burns, fuel cells are virtually pollution free. They can be located very close to consumers, cutting power losses in transmission. Eventually, arrangements which capture and use waste heat could increase a fuel cell's efficiency to over 80%, more than double the efficiency of the best conventional plant today.

While these figures are promising, fuel cells are not yet economically feasible and reliable power plants. Even when they are, fuel cells will only contribute a small percentage of total electricity. But they will help us stretch our fossil fuel supply because they use fuels so efficiently.

Using less electricity.

There was once a time when we urged consumers to use all the electricity they wanted to. But times have changed drastically, and now all of us have to conserve as much energy as we can.

The utilities can conserve by finding ways to generate and transmit electricity more efficiently. Consumers can conserve by using less electricity and using it wisely. But no matter how much we all conserve, it won't keep demand from rising.

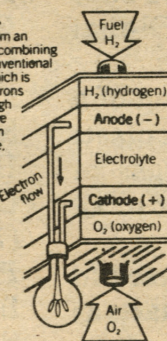
Conservation isn't enough.

Estimates are that we can save 20% by 1990 with everyone's best conservation effort. However, during the same time period, even with conservation, demand will have grown by over 50%. This figure assumes a slow rate of population and economic growth, but enough to keep employment up and to maintain our standard of living. So while conservation will help, it won't do the whole job of meeting demand.

Another solution is to use renewable resources. The electric industry is involved in intense research on many of these possibilities—geothermal, solar, wind, water, biomass, nuclear fusion, salt ponds, tides, you name it. But it is going to be a long time before any of these results in reliable, large scale electric generation. So what do we do in the meantime?

How the fuel cell works.

Fuel cells derive their energy from an electrochemical reaction of hydrogen combining with oxygen to form water (H₂O). A conventional fuel is converted into hydrogen gas which is then split into hydrogen ions and electrons at an anode (-). The ions move through an electrolyte, while the electrons move through an external circuit, both drawn towards a cathode (+). At the cathode, the hydrogen, electrons and oxygen (from the air) combine to form water. The flow of electrons through the external circuit from anode to cathode is electricity.



A fuel cell plant is now being built in New York City by the Consolidated Edison Company and its several partners. This test project is also funded by hundreds of electric companies through their membership in the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), as well as by the government and private industry.

We still need to build coal and nuclear plants now.

While we are conserving and working on new energy sources for the future, we need to build the generating plants we know we can rely on, coal and nuclear. And they must be safe and efficient.

Because it takes from 8 to 14 years to plan, build and license a plant, we need to begin now. Otherwise we may end up without enough electricity before the new technologies are ready to move in.

For more information about the electric industry's conservation and research efforts and the pressing need to build power plants now, write to the Edison Electric Institute, Dept. A, 1111 19th St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

Edison Electric Institute
The association of electric companies

tions, several studies have shown that conversation can drastically reduce energy use, not just slow its growth. The *Energy Future* report of the Harvard Business School concluded that US energy use could be cut by 20% to 40% without affecting the standard of living. A Ford Foundation study found that energy use could be cut 34% by the year 2000, also with no adverse effects. These conclusions are verified by actual experience in several Euro-

pean countries which use energy far more efficiently than the US. In light of this reality, it is hard to accept the ad's unsupported claim that electricity use must increase by 50% in the next ten years.

The next paragraph dismisses renewable energy sources because their use for "large scale" electric generation is far in the future. True, and so much the better. Who needs more "large scale" generation—and the corporations that control it?

Renewable energy sources are best suited for use in small-scale, democratically-controlled installations.

The ad's conclusion is all too familiar. It claims that more nuclear and coal plants are the only alternatives to freezing in the dark. Utilities seem to think that if they repeat this message often enough, people may come to believe it.

—Bob Van Scoy
IAT staff

Subscribe!

Get the news that gives the nuclear industry a headache

What's today's only publication with an all volunteer staff, hated but read faithfully by top PG&E executives, providing information on Abalone Alliance events and nuclear-related issues and conflicts throughout the world? *IT'S ABOUT TIMES*.

We try to provide a place to develop alternatives to corporate and government plans for the future—plans that include weapons to "win" nuclear war, repressive legislation for dictatorial power in the energy field and registration for the draft.

If you find *It's About Times* useful, please subscribe (or donate) now. We need your help to continue.

I can contribute \$_____ to help IAT

Here's \$8 for 10 issues of *It's About Times*

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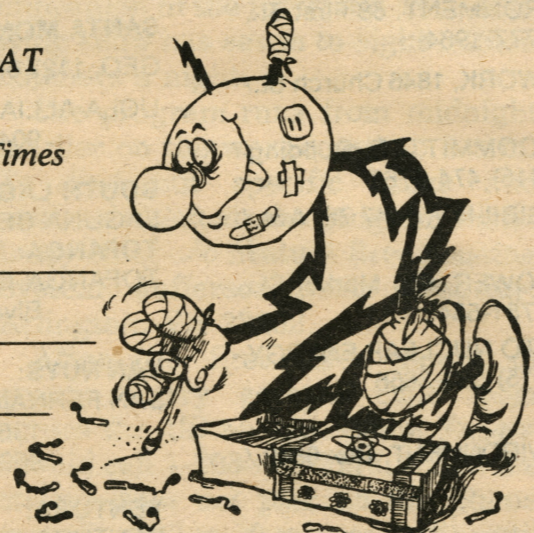
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Mail to: *It's About Times*, 944 Market Street, Room 307, San Francisco, CA 94102

Make subscription checks payable to *It's About Times*.

Donations over \$25 are tax-deductible and should be made payable to the Agape Foundation.



Calendar

March 19: The Mutant Sponges present the film "The Medical Implications of Nuclear Power" (boring title, great film) plus orientation to local anti-nuclear groups, Q & A, etc. Free/donation. Friends Center (across from Walnut Square), Berkeley, 7:30 p.m. Info, Sharon 548-8457.

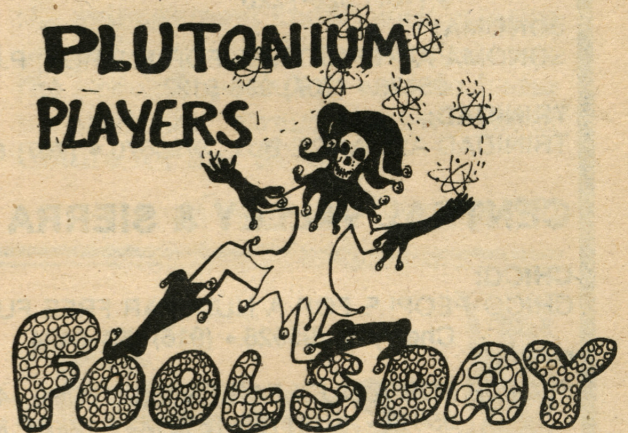
March 21: "Grand Closing" of the Etcheverry reactor, sponsored by the New School Anti-nuclear Group. Etcheverry Hall, Hearst & Leroy, Berkeley, noon. Infor, 841-6500.

March 21: War Tax Resistance: A Feminist Perspective, a workshop on protest and resistance to federal income tax. (52% of your tax money goes to support the military.) At 2160 Lake St., SF, 10 to 12 am. Facilitated by Marge Nelson. For info. 863-6138. 863-6138.

March 22: Two films, "Danger! Radioactive Waste" and "Lovejoy's Nuclear War" sponsored by the Abalone Alliance of the Marina, North Beach and Pacific Heights. Fort Mason Center, Building C, Room 390, 7 p.m. \$3.00 donation, refreshments included.

March 28: Plutonium Players present April Fool's Day '81. Comedy, clowns, music and dancing with Oquisha Paradox, the Natives, Stoney Burke, Dave Lippman's, Urgent Ensemble and more. A benefit for the Sponges and UC People's Anti-Nuclear Collective. Berkeley Veteran's Hall, 1931 Center Street near Grove, 8 p.m. \$3.50 donation.

March 28: War Resisters League—West presents its annual Pacifist Dinner, Show and Raffle. Music by Gary Lapow and Gwen and Tom Hunter; comedian Lauri Tanner with excerpts from "Colonel Crimson's Recruits." Trinity Methodist Church, Dana & Bancroft, Berkeley, 6 p.m. Tickets \$6 in advance, \$7 at the door, including a raffle ticket. Info and reservations, 415-731-1220.



April 25: "Women in the Environment," the first eco-feminist conference on the West Coast. Sonoma State University Campus, Rohnert Park. Registration, \$5-\$15, on a sliding scale. Info, 707-523-3434.

LETTER WRITING

Write letters opposing Diablo Canyon to President Reagan and the NRC. Request that citizen testimony be allowed at the low-power testing hearings. Urge Senator Cranston to take a public stand against the operation of Diablo.

USNRC
Washington, D.C. 20555