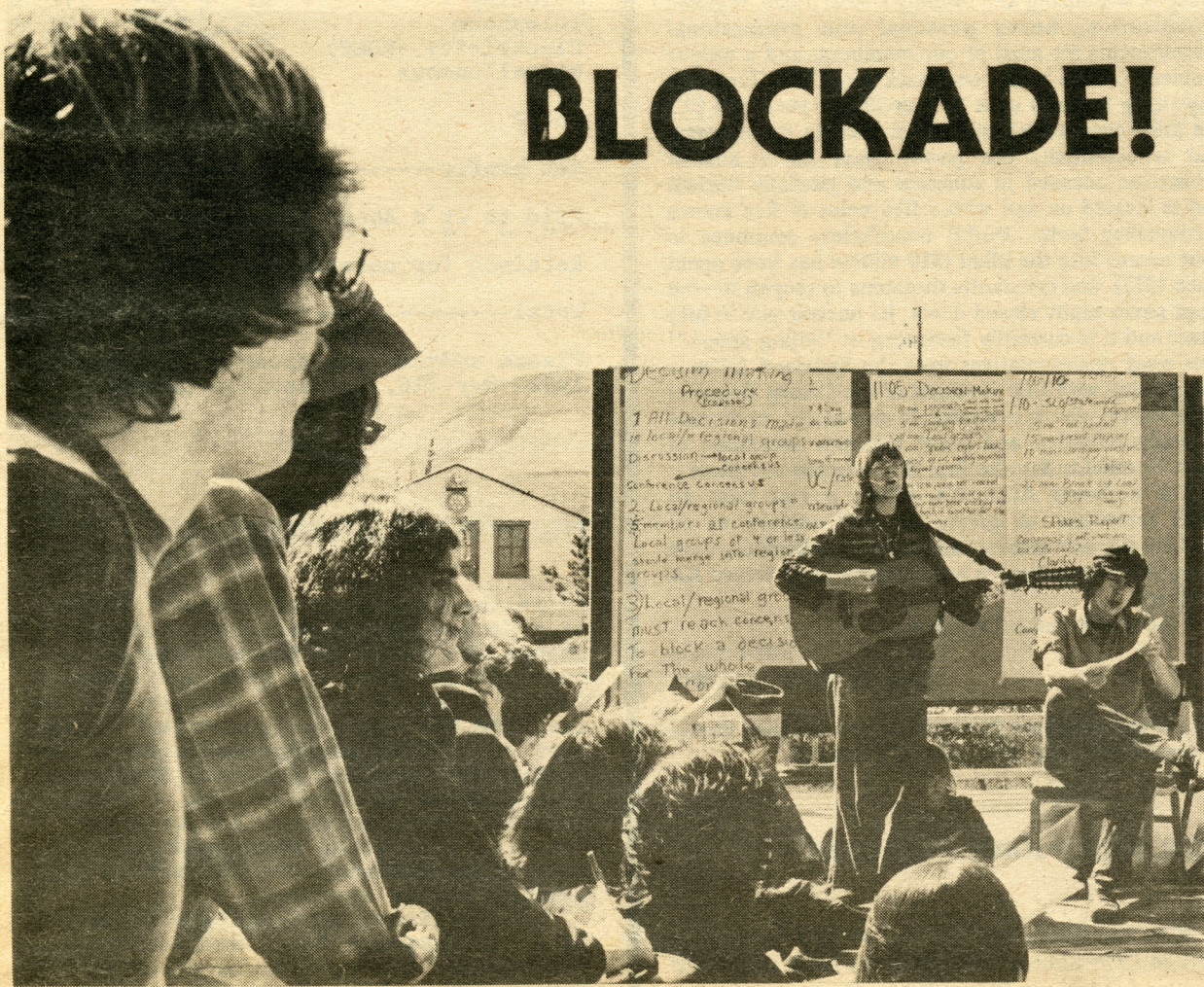


it's about times

march-april 79

abalone alliance newsletter



BLOCKADE!

Ede Morris sings at March 3 - 4 conference, San Luis Obispo.

photo by Jon Katz

Wheels have been set in motion for a land and sea blockade of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. If Diablo's operating license is granted, the Abalone Alliance will sponsor the blockade actions as an attempt to keep the plant from going on-line.

First, land blockaders will try to prevent workers from coming onto the site to load the fuel and conduct crucial tests. If the land blockade is broken to such an extent that the fuel is loaded, the sea blockade will begin within six days (the time it takes to prepare to turn on the cooling system.) People and crafts will simultaneously obstruct the intake and discharge structures of the plant.

The blockade plans were approved at an Abalone conference in San Luis Obispo after months of heated debate. Major concerns still outstanding will be considered at a representative meeting of statewide blockade collectives. For example, should inanimate objects (e.g. manure or a pile of gravel) be used as part of the blockade? In general, specific tactics will be left to trained affinity groups. Within the guidelines set by the statewide blockade meeting, all creative actions that would effectively blockade the plant will be encouraged.

In further discussion it was agreed that we shouldn't measure our success only by whether or not PG&E is able to load the fuel and start the plant, but also by public opinion and support for our action.

Affinity groups will be asked to do at least one day of outreach work in San Luis Obispo before the blockades. A Stop Diablo office will be set up in SLO to coordinate blockade collectives set up by local groups as well as the legal June 30 rally.

URANIUM MINING in CALIFORNIA

OJAI

Ojai, California, is a picturesque small town about 25 miles east of Santa Barbara. The town is nestled at the head of a valley through which runs the Ventura river. The river is partially diverted by canal to a large reservoir, Lake Casitas, which provides drinking water for 50,000 people in Ventura County. The Ojai Valley and Lake Casitas are bordered on the north by Los Padres National Forest. A large portion of watershed for the lake lies within Los Padres, which in our area is mostly chaparral-covered and mountainous. Privately owned lands between the lake and the national forest have recently been Congressionally classified as prime watershed preserve and are being bought by the federal government under eminent domain. The area is already limited by the fed to uses that will not disrupt the watershed ecology.

Just above this area, within the national forest approximately 2½ miles from the lake, Homestake Mining Company plans to explore and mine for uranium!

Yes, Virginia, under the antiquated 1872 Mining Law minerals found in public lands are open to exploitation by all and sundry. One need merely stake a claim to assert this "right." Homestake has filed 36 claims blanketing 720 acres of land. This land drains into two streams that flow into the lake.

In April of '78 Homestake's operating plan was reviewed by the forest service to determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required. In what could only be described as a "sweetheart" deal, the forest service ignored Council on Environmental Quality regulations, opting to review

exploratory drilling plans without considering the impacts of probable subsequent mining activity. Then, in a very sketchy report, riddled with inconsistencies and marked by a studied avoidance of the critical issues of strip mining and radioactive contamination, environmental impacts of exploratory drilling were found to be insignificant. Therefore an EIS was not required, and Homestake was given the green light.

The forest service review has been protested by nearly all of the local city councils, advisory councils, and resource agencies. Casitas Municipal Water District has filed several appeals, and local citizens' groups have rallied opposition in the form of demonstrations, petitions, and formal appeals.

Some people who participated in Diablo '78 (including an occupier-defendant) have really spearheaded much of the citizen outcry. We understand that it's not just our water supply that is threatened by uranium mining. The nuclear fuel cycle begins here. So we are twice-motivated to stop this thing.

The possibility that Homestake, with its record of pollution, has spuriously generated this issue as some sort of red herring has crossed our minds since the proposed operations are so obviously unfeasible. Whether their intention is to drain our energies, distract us from the issue of uranium mining to the issue of threatening a water supply, or to engineer some kind of legal precedent in a court case—of these things we can only try to be aware. Two things are clear—we must fight, and we will win!

Any support—money, media coverage, legal expertise, ANYTHING—is welcome. Please write Stop Uranium Now (SUN) P.O. Box 772, Ojai, CA 93023.

—Tom Erickson

RED WIND

Within the framework of current pro-nuclear federal energy policy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Bureau of Mines, and the mining industry are promoting and profiting from the development and use of an experimental uranium extraction method. They hope this new method will be better suited to the uranium industry's current economic and political problems than traditional mining techniques.

The drive to exploit this new technology has entered California for the first time in the La Panza area of the Las Padres National Forest, in San Luis Obispo County. This area is near the headwaters of the Navaho and Commatti creeks, and about two miles from the Native American community of Red Wind, which depends on a well for its water supply. The Lomex Corp. from N.Y. and Texas plans to use this new mining method (or open-pit if that's not feasible) on a four acre site there, and may expand their operations quite extensively. Grandfather, the leader of Red Wind, has seen Lomex prospecting for miles around, and Lomex has graciously offered to buy the mineral rights on Red Wind land for a generous \$4 per acre. Does this all sound somehow familiar?

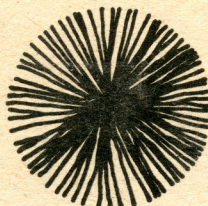
The new uranium mining method is known as in-situ leaching (or solution mining). A ring of wells and a central well are drilled into a groundwater layer containing the ore (in this case, from 60 to 310' deep). A chemical solution is injected through the ring of wells, and the uranium is dissolved and sucked out of the ground through the central (production) well. A surface plant extracts the uranium from the solution, which is then recharged with more chemicals and recycled into the injection wells. The resulting "yellowcake" is then ready for the initial stages of fuel fabrication.

continued to page eleven

Inside...	Uranium mining resistance. 3
	Short Circuits. 4
	Nonviolence Training. 5
	Calendar. 6, 7
	Process to Consensus. 8
	Wastes Not. 9
	Corporate Lies. 10
	NRC Update. 11

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LETTERS



MORE ON CD

I realized, after reading the articles on civil disobedience in the February issue of *It's About Times*, that we are at an important fork in our path. We must keep in mind that CD is probably viewed as the most radical action we can take. But do not forget that Thomas Jefferson and many others of the time were considered radicals. In his essay on CD, Thoreau stated that "all men recognize the right of revolution; that is, the right to refuse allegiance to, and resist, the government when its tyranny or its inefficiency are great and unendurable."

The use of CD will harden the opposition against us, but as mass anti-war demonstrations finally educated much of the public, so too will mass anti-nuke, pro-solar demonstrations. The public that we must reach does not read environmental newspapers or the small articles that support our beliefs in the back pages of the large newspapers. To get them to understand what is really going on, we must use the news media to our advantage.

We must not delude ourselves. All stages of CD must be well-planned before any action is taken. As Liz Walker pointed out, decisions must be made as to what plea will be entered for the ENTIRE group. We must present a solid, undivided front to our opposition.

As Thoreau said, if the law "is of such a nature that it requires you to be the agent of injustice to another, then I say, break the law. Let your life be a counter friction to stop the machine. . ."

Peace and love to all,
Keith Bouldin
San Luis Obispo

PATRONIZE YOUR POST OFFICE Write Your Congressperson Today!

Hearings on a repressive criminal code "reform" bill are again going on. The new bill, a descendant of S-1 and last year's S-1437, has the same anti-civil liberties features which can be used against political organizations like ours. Right-wing voices are being heard loud and clear in the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice--let yours be heard, too.

Senator McGovern intends to introduce a bill to give states the final decision over nuclear waste disposal within their borders. This idea needs your support too, as it could help the public to shut down the nuclear industry in many states.

Write your senator and representative--they say it really makes a difference.

STOP HUMBOLDT

Non-nuclear friends:

In the past the Redwood Alliance has been unrepresented in most important AA conferences, meetings and committees, but this shouldn't be interpreted as apathy in the Pacific North-west. In addition to keeping Diablo off-line, our group has faced the problem of our relative isolation from the rest of the state (northern Humboldt County is a six-hour drive from San Francisco and over ten hours from San Luis Obispo), organizing and funding a local office, regional organization, heavy personal and professional commitments for most of our members, and a unique problem: a nuke in our own back yard! The Humboldt Bay (King Salmon) nuke is over fifteen years old (it's the third commercial nuke plant built in the country, and is essentially the power plant for a nuclear submarine encased in concrete and partially buried) and is located on and within five miles of five known earthquakes faults. PG&E nonetheless continues to pour money into the plant (\$10 million has been spent since 1973), and constantly threatens to reopen it--the plant never really closed down, its nuclear pile is fully intact and it is currently fissioning at "idling speed." This week representatives from the Redwood Alliance are meeting with Eric Hedlund of the County Board of Supervisors, who is outspokenly anti-nukes, to discuss a county initiative and other legalistic measures to make Humboldt Bay the first decommissioned plant.

The Redwood Alliance's affinity groups have all reach consensus on giving our full support to all Abalone Alliance actions, and several individuals have committed themselves to representing us at future AA meetings.

Peace, love and...No Nukes.

Bob Carlson
Redwood Alliance member

P.S.: Correspondence for the Redwood Alliance should be sent to P.O. Box 293, Arcata, CA 95521.

NEW GROUP JOINS ABALONES

Hi,

Mountain People for Nuclear Free Life formed early in 1979 to help PNFF-SC in its work against the Lockheed facility in Bonny Doon. We have decided to join the Abalone Alliance, although we are unsure if there is any procedure established for doing so. We plan to work locally, primarily centered around Diablo Canyon, getting people to the rally in San Francisco, doing door-to-door canvassing to talk to people about nuclear power and recruiting people for the blockade at Diablo Canyon as well as other work around nuclear power and weapons.

We would appreciate getting mailings on AA business and communications from other groups.

Sincerely,
Christy Lanzl
for Mountain People
260 Desear Way
Felton, CA 95018

HELP FROM LAWYERS

This is a statement long overdue. Only a comparative few of us are aware of the contribution made to our movement by the lawyers who defended the Diablo 20 during the seven weeks trial in San Luis Obispo.

I have had a long enough experience in life to recognize excellence when I see it--and I have recognized plenty of it in many of the young members of the anti-nuclear movement who themselves may not have the experience to see it in others--even and especially in professionals (whom unexplicably to me, some distrust).

I would like everyone in the Abalone Alliance to know that Luke Ellis and Alan Ramo, lead counsel for the Diablo 20 trial, aided by Joe Bradley and Phil Kelly, put on a defense for us such as I have never seen in all my experience with many varieties of legal talent. They exhausted every possible means to put nuclear power on trial--and I think they came as close to succeeding as the legal system would let them.

Besides speaking brilliantly for us in the courtroom, Luke and Alan, Joe and Phil, gave hours of their time participating in our meetings about the trial. That must sometimes have been an exercise in patience I doubt many other lawyers would stand for.

Let's give credit where it's due. We are fortunate in having professionals such as they on our side, and I am not the only one deeply grateful for all they did.

Lea Wood
Santa Cruz

THANKS, SO NO MORE ATOMICS

FINAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT-- JAN 79 CONFERENCE IN SONOMA

INCOME from registration \$1861.93

EXPENSES:

Food	519.75
Kitchen supply	35.00
Firewood	40.00
Films, tapes, etc.	78.19
Transportation	30.00
Printing	157.74
Telephone	58.50
Electricity (PG&E)	100.00
Miscellaneous	57.55



Total 1076.73

Net profit-----785.20--

Paid to It's About Times	1-26	250.00
" " " "	2-15	500.00
Retained for outstanding bills		35.20

Total-----785.20--

Please address questions to Urs Schuler,
12060 Hwy 116, Guerneville CA 95446.

PHILIPPINE REACTOR UPDATE

At the beginning of January, President Carter made a decision that will change the rules of the nuclear industry's export game and give anti-nuke forces a new advantage. Carter decided that the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) is applicable to all international nuclear projects financed primarily by US corporations. Consequently, these corporations will be required to file an Environmental Impact Statement with the NRC before licensing can be approved.

International anti-nuclear forces like the Campaign for a Nuclear Free Philippines are working to pressure Carter into making the applicability of NEPA retroactive so it will cover both the South Korean reactor licensed in August, 1978 and the huge Westinghouse reactor just completed in Bataan province, Philippines. The NRC has not yet issued an export license for the reactor core of the Philippine plant, and since it is situated between five active volcanoes and a major earthquake fault, there is no conceivable way it could be issued a positive EIS. If NEPA were made retroactive, there is a good chance that this project could be stopped.

If you are interested in becoming active in the international anti-nuclear struggle, please come to the program presented by the Coalition for a Nuclear Free Third World at La Pena, March 28 at 7:30.

APRIL 1 SUNDAY 7:30

FOOLSDAY JAMBOREE

NO NUKES BENEFIT

DAVID LA FLAMME BAND
LEILA T. SNAKE SURPRISES
THE CHEAP SUIT SERENADERS
SCOOP NISKER & DARRYL HENRIQUES, MC'S
ZOLÉT THE WIZARD SWAMI FROM MIAMI
CLOWNS, JUGGLERS JOE CARCINOGENNI

450 AT BASS 550 AT DOOR

AT TEMPLE BEAUTIFUL

(Theatre 1839 Geary) 346-0306

Come as your favorite fool or clown!

BENEFIT for U.C. Weapons Labs Conversion
Project LIVERMORE SPRING ACTION and EBANG'S
Challenge to GE'S VALLECITOS NUCLEAR CENTER

NO NUKES especially on Fruit Zanes!
PRESENTED BY THE PLUTONIUM PLAYERS
To Volunteer Please Call 482-5537; 982-5578 Soon.



Red Wind cont'd. from p. 1

The primary economic advantage stems from the fact that small, low-grade ore deposits, previously by-passed as unprofitable using conventional methods (open-pit, strip and underground), can now be exploited by in-situ leaching. The miner's overhead costs are reduced by lower capital investment needed to reach and extract the ore, and by a smaller work-force needed for plant operations. The political advantages stem from the purported and *apparent* minimization of environmental degradation compared to conventional methods, i.e., no massive scars on the land, and from the fact that the primary impacts are subterranean.

Shortly after its birth in August 1978, the Oak Tree Alliance (OTA) decided to undertake research into the technology and its environmental impacts, and to oppose and prevent the proposed uranium mine through public education, community coalition building and political action. OTA research has been developed from information from federal, state, industrial, and independent sources. What follows is a brief summary of our results to date. A more comprehensive and detailed report will be available at the Abalone Alliance offices.

The primary problem with in-situ leaching is groundwater contamination with substances such as ammonia, nitrates, nitrites, uranium, thorium, and radium. In being dissolved by the leach solution, many elements besides uranium are physically and chemically changed so that they move faster and at higher concentrations through the groundwater. The toxicity of the contaminants (eg., 95% of the radium & 25% of the uranium is left in the groundwater) means they must be contained within the wellfield, and any contamination which does occur must be reversed. The main pathways of groundwater contamination are excursions (escape of leach solution from the influence of the wells) and inability to restore the groundwater to its original quality.

Yet, these are the very areas in which the greatest inadequacies and experimental nature of the technology appear. Control of excursions is so nearly non-existent that they are considered normal, inevitable, and irreversible. Restoration (like the "back-end" of the fuel cycle itself) is undemonstrated, very difficult or impossible, and has never been demonstrated at a commercial-scale site. Serious inadequacies also exist in the scientific understanding of subterranean environmental processes, and of the extent and long-term effects of groundwater contamination. Therefore, the purported minimization of environmental impacts relative to other methods, seems to be more a function of current ignorance than real knowledge about the actual impacts.

COME to Livermore: where the bombs begin.

U.C. NUCLEAR WEAPONS LABS CONVERSION PROJECT

944 Market St. Rm. 509, San
Francisco 94102 (415) 391-5215
or Berkeley Students for Peace,
608 Eshelman Hall, UC Berkeley,
Berkeley, CA 94720 (415) 642-
7783.



May 5 & 6 WORKSHOPS RALLY PEACE CONVERSION FAIR

APRIL 29 - MAY 4

Hunger fast, local rallies, caravans
to Livermore, mass leafletting.

Consequently, the regulation of this technology is also experimental in nature—rules and regulations for its use are either nonexistent or in development. The success of this industry has been partially attributed to this, and to two additional qualities of "regulatory" (sic) agencies—their cooperativeness & supportiveness. Definitions of excursions and restoration have been adjusted so that actual contamination can go undefined as such and, therefore, uncorrected. The licensing of in-situ mines and groundwater contamination have been justified on the basis of the demand for uranium, the need for further experimentation, and the desire to prove the technique an acceptable means of nuclear fuel supply.

The biggest obstacle and uncertainty in the battle against the mine is the matter of licensing (or "lead-agency") authority. On National Forest land, the 1872 mining laws define mining as a right, and preclude the Forest Service from prohibiting any mine. The local Forest Service people don't want "lead-agency" status; the division of Radiological

Health in the State Health Dept. may eventually get it. Presently, the SLO County Board of Supervisors has assumed this authority, and the OTA supports this alternative. The Board of Supervisors has required and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which has not yet been started, before it will consider allowing Lomex to begin testing. In the current confusion, the strength of the authority of this requirement is in doubt. Therefore, letters or phone calls to Governor's Office of Planning & Research; (attn: Ron Bass; State Clearinghouse, Rm. 121; 1400 10th St., Sacto, CA, 95814. Phone (916) 445-0613) will be the greatest immediate help. Urge transfer to "lead agency" status to the SLO County B. of S., as the body most directly representative of and responsible to the potentially affected area and people. The OTA can be reached at 6604 Portola Rd., Atascadero, CA 93422. Phone (805) 466-0352.

—Submitted by David Broadwater for the
Oak Tree Alliance

SAFE ENERGY GROUPS

ABALONE ALLIANCE CLEARINGHOUSE, 452 Higuera, San Luis Obispo 93402 (805) 543-6614

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

ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL
944 Market St., Room 808
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-781-5342

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

MODESTO PEACE/LIFE CENTER
631 15th St.
Modesto, CA 95354

MOTHERS FOR PEACE
1415 Cazadero
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

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

ROSES AGAINST NUCLEAR CONVERSION
c/o Steve Mentor
3470 Middlefield
Palo Alto, CA 94306
415-494-0355

BOLINAS AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER
c/o Gretta Goldenman
Box 361
Bollinas, CA 94924
415-868-1120

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

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

EAST BAY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP
585 Alcatraz, Suite A
Oakland, CA 94609
415-346-1530

GROUP OPPOSING NUCLEAR ENERGY
c/o San Jose Peace Center
300 S. 10th St.
San Jose, CA 95112
408-297-2299

ABALONE ALLIANCE OF MARIN
c/o Judith Rook
1215 Lincoln Ave.
San Rafael, CA
415-457-4453

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

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

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

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

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

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

PEOPLE FOR SAFE ENERGY
Grant Marcus
2069 E. Harvey
Fresno, CA 93761
209-268-3109

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

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

SO NO MORE ATOMICS
1385 S. Main St.
Sebastopol, CA 95472
707-829-1864

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



Short Circuits

GOVERNMENT SPILLS BEANS ON ACCIDENT RATE

The accident rate in the shipment of radioactive materials was at one time a closely guarded secret. Ralph Nader's anti-nuclear organization, Critical Mass, decided to change the situation and sued the U.S. Department of Transportation, under the Freedom of Information Act, for information on the accident rate in radioactive shipments. The results were not surprising. A total of 328 accidents have occurred in the last 5 years, and 118 have resulted in radiation leakage into the environment. 87% of the accidents have occurred on the highways.

According to the public interest group, the worst highway carrier offender was the Tri-State Motor Transit Company of Joplin, Missouri. That firm reported to the Department of Transportation that its drivers and handlers had caused or were involved in 152 mishaps with nuclear materials since 1974. Tri-State specializes in shipping hazardous and explosive substances, and according to one transportation safety official, is considered a "Blue Chip" carrier with an excellent reputation.

—Zodiac News Service, February 13, 1979

GETTY OIL'S HOT GIFT

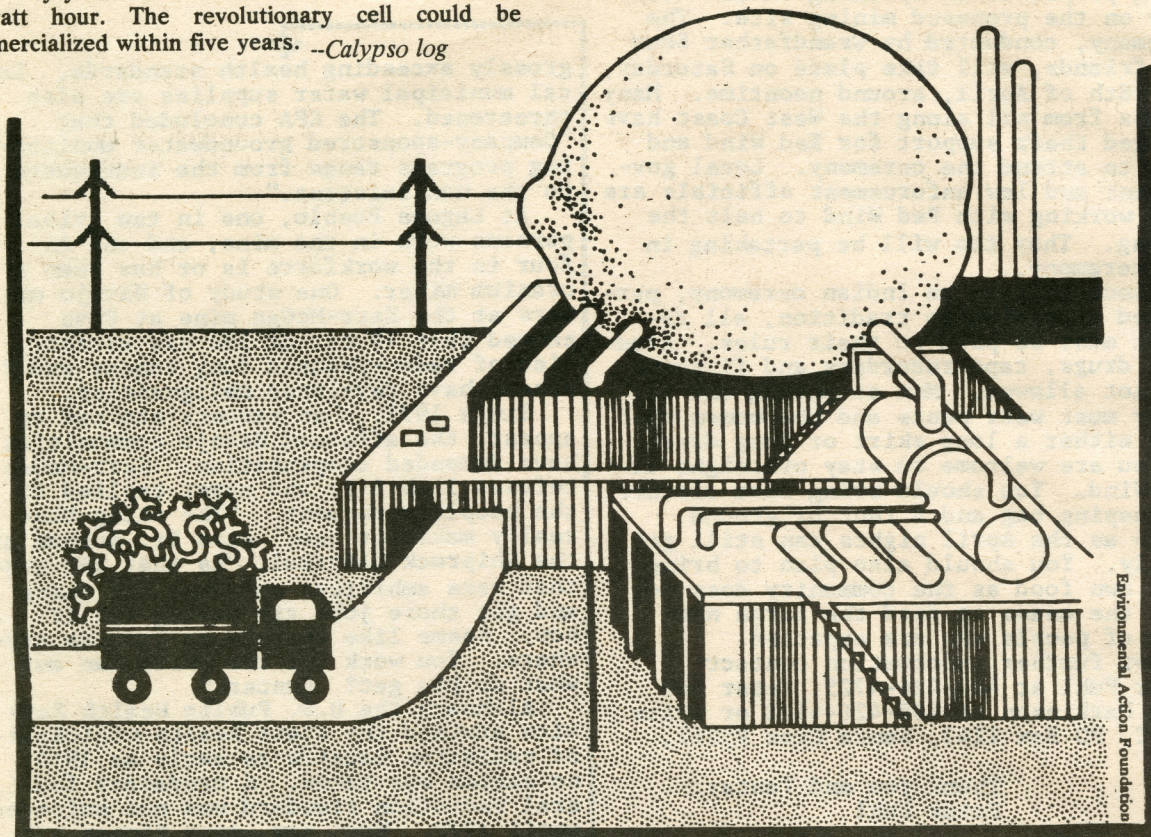
The Federal Government is now the proud owner of over 600,000 gallons of high level radioactive liquid wastes and 2 million cubic feet of radioactive trash. Getty Oil was the founding owner of these treasures. In 1973 they decided that they couldn't make any money reprocessing these wastes so they gave them to the State of New York. New York reluctantly accepted the gift, but found it too expensive to care for. By default the Federal Government has taken over the responsibility of finding a safe method of disposing of the wastes. The new estimated cost of clean-up is 1.1 billion dollars.

—Calypso Log

REVOLUTIONARY SOLAR CELL

Inventor Stanford Ovshinsky, of Troy, Michigan announced that he has developed inexpensive solar cells made of a new material, an amorphous alloy of silicon, fluorine and hydrogen, converting more than ten percent of the sunlight energy that strikes it directly into electricity. They would generate electrical energy for twenty years at an amortized cost of five cents a kilowatt hour. The revolutionary cell could be commercialized within five years.

—Calypso log



POOR HOUSEKEEPING AWARD

Steven Stalos, Manager of Rockwell Hanford's Nuclear Waste Surveillance Program has resigned, citing laxity in the company's safety program and a coverup of new leaks in waste storage tanks at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation. In a letter of resignation dated Dec. 5, 1978, Mr. Stalos complained that the reduced waste surveillance policy recently instituted by Rockwell International would mean "thousands of additional gallons of nuclear waste will needlessly leak into the ground."

HUNG JURY

25 members of the Paddlewheel Alliance were brought to trial on Dec. 27 for their peaceful occupation of the Marble Hill Nuclear Plant in Indiana. As events turned out, however, the members of this Ohio River Valley safe energy group were blessed with some jury members who refused to convict them on the charge of trespass. The final result of this "hung jury" will probably be dismissal of charges facing the 25. Though the state retains the option of retrying the defendants, Alliance members point to the relatively small \$50 fine levied against two members who pled guilty as evidence that the charges will be dropped.

Paddlewheel Alliance member David O'Loughlin attributes the hung jury in large part to Indiana's unique "jury nullification" statute. Under the statute, a jury can be instructed to disregard the law if the facts suggest the law is applied inappropriately. As O'Loughlin sees it, "enough information was introduced under the accompanying 'duress' defense (before the judge reversed himself and disallowed its use) to convince some of the jurors to vote for acquittal." For more information on the trial, O'Loughlin can be contacted at (812) 332-8203.

—NIRS

YOU DON'T EXPECT US TO CHECK EVERYTHING, DO YOU?

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Officials admitted in early January that they allowed four canisters of weapons-grade uranium to be shipped abroad despite broken security seals. The officials simply replaced the seals, without checking if any material had been removed. International inspectors are now attempting to determine if the uranium is, in fact, all there.

Oh well, what's an extra atomic bomb here or there?

San Francisco Chronicle, January 6, 1979

NO-NUKES CHARGES DROPPED

A panel of Montgomery County (PA) judges has dismissed as "too trivial to warrant the condemnation of conviction" the defiant trespass charges against 14 anti-nuclear power protesters arrested last June at Philadelphia Electric's proposed nuclear plant at Limerick. Assistant D.A. Bernard McNulty, who was to prosecute the case, said his office is considering an appeal. The protesters arrested last June at Philadelphia Electric's proposed nuclear plant at Limerick. Assistant D.A. Bernard McNulty, who was to prosecute the case, said his office is considering an appeal. The protestors are members of a group known as the "Keystone Alliance."

—Philadelphia Bulletin, February 2, 1979

REED REPORT BLACKENS GE'S FACE

As a result of the actions of Oklahoma environmentalists, one of America's largest nuclear corporations may be forced to release portions of an internal report which reportedly documents 27 safety-related "generic" problems associated with the company's reactors.

The study, known as the "Reed Report", has been requested by the Citizen's Action for Safe Energy (CASE) in their intervention against the proposed Black Fox nuclear station. It reportedly outlines a variety of problems GE has discovered in its own reactor design. The public thus far has not had access to it. NRC personnel traveled to G.E.'s San Jose office to read the report without "taking possession" of it, thereby shielding it from public disclosure. The importance of the Oklahoma intervention is that it signals the first time that an intervening group has been granted permission by the NRC to review an internal GE document.

—NIRS



REACTORS MADE EASY

David M. Clark of Greensboro, N.C., ran across an advertisement that reads as follows: "Nuclear Reactor Plant Operator; No Experience Necessary; Must be a high school diploma (sic) graduate 17 to 24, with at least a C average in Algebra. Full pay while training."

NO-NUKES PULL AHEAD IN POLL

An NBC Associated Press Poll of September 22, 1978 showed 52% of Americans opposed to any more nuclear power; this is the first national poll showing outright majority opposition. For details contact: Task Force Against Nuclear Pollution, P.O. Box 1817, Washington, DC 20013.

EMERGENCY SUIT ASKS NUCLEAR SHUTDOWN

Honicker vs. Nuclear Regulatory Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Jeannine Honicker, anti-nuclear activist from Nashville, Tennessee, petitioned the United States Supreme Court February 2 for a writ of certiorari and for a Temporary Restraining Order to shut down the entire nuclear fuel cycle throughout the country. Recent disclosures by the NRC show that low level radiation, as produced by the nuclear fuel cycle, is causing increased rates of cancer and birth defects.

The crux of the federal questions raised in this action are whether any agency of the United States may damage or cause the death of any person, knowingly and intentionally, without due process. While figures as to the magnitude of the crime vary, the facts are undisputed: The radiation released under federal license, sponsorship, and active promotion is killing and will continue to kill human beings. United States citizens will die. Citizens of foreign nations will die.

Labor Conference



Photo by Susan Swift

Wayne Thomas (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers), Percy Edmond (United Steelworkers) and Linda Brickman (Service Employees International Union) were among the Labor representatives at the Abalone Labor Conference held in San Francisco on March 18. Over one hundred people attended. All came away with a better understanding of each others' concerns -- and a basis ofr cooperation in the future.

Non-Violence Training

NON-VIOLENCE TRAINING COORDINATORS

Roy Gesley (Overall N. Ca. coordinator)	180 Cortland, SF 94110	647-9137
Wanda Michalendo (S. Ca. coordinator)	6688 Picasso Rd. #H Isla Vista 93017	805-968-2886 (before 8:30 a.m. or eves late)

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CONTACTS FOR NON-VIOLENCE TRAINING

AREA	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	(Call for location) DATE OF NV TRAINING
Sonoma	So No More Atomics office (day)	138 S. Main St. Sebastopol 95472	707-829-1864	4-21(?) and 5/25(?)
	David Victor (night)	790 Carley Rd. Santa Rosa 95405	707-544-1781	
East Bay	Dennis Burgess	1041 Miller Berkeley 94708	415-524-0236; 415-548-2292	4-23 & 24, 5-20 5-12 Women only (Call Nanci Bower)
Santa Cruz	Maurice Mamon	255 Seaside St. Santa Cruz 95060	408-423-9284	?
Peninsula	Tony Moy	407 Bay Rd. Menlo Park 94025	415-327-0429 (work) 415-326-3420 (home)	4-8 Anarchists only 4-21; 5-2 & 3 (eve.)
Chico	Mike Galbraith	1134 Magnolia #D Chico 95926	916-345-0321	4-16 & 17 (eve.)
Sacramento	Ed Lang	2723 D Street Sacramento 94816	916-446-1629	4-29; 5-10 & 11
Davis	Peter Lumsdaine	870 Linden Lane Davis 95616	916-753-3148	" " " "
San Francisco	Henry MinerMullen	851 Cole San Francisco 94117	415-564-1802	see separate listing
Bolinas	Eli Jaxon-Bear Tony Varner	2 Ocean Parkway Bolinas 94924	415-868-0159	5-19
Marin	Dorothy Hughes	32 Starbuck Muir Beach 94965	415-383-2808 (home) 415-456-7693 (work)	4-21 at Muir Beach 6-2 at San Rafael
San Jose	Leo Cauchon	S.J. Catholic Worker	408-442-5321	5-19



SAN FRANCISCO TRAINING SCHEDULE

NRC ACTION(CD)	April 8, 10-5:30	2728 Russell St., Berkeley Bring food to share
RALLY (MONITORS)	March 31, 12-3 April 4, 7-10 p.m.	AFSC, 2160 Lake St., SF
DIABLO (CD)	May 13 May 19 April 28, 10-6:30	Women only AFSC, 2160 Lake St., SF 3037 Market St., SF
DIABLO (MONITORS)	Late May or early June	TBA

ABALONE ALLIANCE CONFERENCE

Good spirits prevailed at the March 3 and 4 conference in San Luis Obispo. Besides the decision to implement a land and sea blockade (see page one), these other agreements were reached.

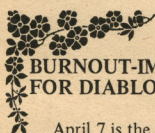
* A new statewide office will be set up in San Francisco to serve as communications and information facilitator for statewide actions other than the blockade and SLO rally. Both the SF office and the Stop Diablo office in SLO will have funded staff positions.

* AA will sponsor a Washington, D.C. action at NRC headquarters to coincide with the Walnut Creek action. Raye Fleming and Tony Metcalf are setting this up with people in Washington.

* The Abalone will pay for minimal costs incurred by a law firm which will file a court injunction against Diablo Canyon for various reasons, e.g., abatement of a nuisance, the Rasmussen refutation. This is the last possible legal step we can take against Diablo.

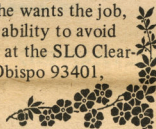
* Endorsement of a women's action at PG&E headquarters in SF. The action will be a citizen's arrest of PG&E executives.

* Several interesting reports were given on Sunday. Judy Hurley gave an account of uranium mining in SLO County which directly impinges on the Red Wind Indian community there. David Broadwater from the Oak Tree Alliance introduced the California Democratic Council, a grassroots progressive organization with substantial labor, minority and citizen action group support. Dorie Wilsnack from the Agape Foundation, a fiscal sponsor of the Abalone, asked AA to consider getting an outside consultant to help review our structure and decision-making processes.



BURNOUT-IMMUNE STAFF NEEDED FOR DIABLO ACTIONS

April 7 is the deadline for applications for the coordinator of the Diablo Blockade and rally. Applicants should include information on their time commitments, financial needs, why s/he wants the job, what s/he can add to the job, and ability to avoid burnout. Contact Sandy Downey at the SLO Clearinghouse, 452 Higuera, San Luis Obispo 93401, (805) 543-6614.



URANIUM MINING SLIDESHOW

"People and Energy in the Southwest," a slide show produced by the New Mexico People and Energy Research Project, is now available for group meetings, workshops, etc. The show offers an overview of how uranium, coal and oil development affect the land and people of New Mexico. Arrangements for the show and an accompanying speaker can be made by writing or calling Luba Zarsky, 1523 A Josephine St., Berkeley 94703, 415-843-0973 or Susi Christian, 243 Santa Rosa Ave., Oakland 94610, 415-653-7374.



This cartoon was drawn by an Abalone member while serving time in San Luis Obispo County jail.

page six



LA CONFERENCE DISCUSSES GOALS

Six hundred people attended a rally at Santa Monica College featuring Daniel Ellsberg, Helen Caldicott and Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul and Mary.) The Jan. 27 rally was part of a two-day conference sponsored by the Alliance for Survival.

Workshops on the arms race, biological effects of radiation, the nuclear fuel cycle and other topics followed the rally. Alliance chapters set up displays on nuclear threats in their areas and enlisted support.

On Sunday the conference mapped strategy for 1979, including halting the June start-up of Diablo Canyon. The conference also set "Survival Sunday" for June 10, a Hiroshima demonstration for August 6 and campaigns against the UC Weapons Labs and the transport of radioactive materials.

APPEAL UPDATE

Our attorney, Alan Ramo, has filed our notice of intent to appeal. People interested in attaching to the appeal were notified that we could expect to pay up to \$100 per person and that the first payment of \$25 should be sent to the Diablo Appeal Fund, c/o Nicole Magnuson, 1449 Arlington, El Cerrito, CA 94530. To date, 95 people have sent in a total of \$3,046. \$2,600 has been sent to pay for transcribing the main trial record, and another \$1000 will be needed soon for transcription of the pre-trial motions. Several lawyers have expressed interest in reviewing the transcript for us once it is received.

We ask people who have not sent in their share to please do so. The second \$25 payment was due March 15.

Thanks to all, and...NO NUKES!

DIABLO ACTION COLLECTIVES

MEDIA: S. Ca., Irv Sarnoff, Alliance for Survival, 213-937-0240.
N. Ca., AA Media Committee, 415-781-5342.

MEDICAL: So No More Atomics, Karen Green or Mary Moore, 707-829-1864.

RESOURCES: PANP-SF, Lori Kearney, 415-781-5342 or 863-9092.

MONITOR TRAINING: S. Ca., Dave Lumian, 213-937-0240.
N. Ca., PANP-SF, 415-781-5342.

PRECINCT WALKING IN SLO: PSE, Fresno, Grant Marcus, 209-268-3109.

LOGISTICS: People Generating Energy, SLO, 805-543-8402.

NEEDED: People to fill in these gaps.
LEGAL COORDINATOR (Raye Fleming and Joyce are willing to help, but not coordinate.)
FINANCE COORDINATOR
JAIL SUPPORT

WANTED: SMALL CRAFT FOR DIABLO BLOCKADE. CONTACT SLO CLEARINGHOUSE.

WANTED: OFFICE FURNITURE FOR NEW SAN FRANCISCO CLEARINGHOUSE. CONTACT PANP, 415-781-5342.

CALENDAR

march

- 27: LOS ANGELES. Catholic Worker 36 hour fast and vigil in front of the Century Plaza Hotel to protest Diablo. Call 213-264-9814.
- 28: LOS ANGELES. Picket Governor Brown at Century Plaza, Avenue of the Stars, Century City, 5:30-8:00 p.m. Call 213-937-0240.
- 28: BERKELEY. Coalition for a Nuclear Free Third World, La Pena, 3105 Shattuck Ave., 7:30. Speakers: from Australian Aboriginal Reserves; Walden Bello, International Association of Filipino Patriots; Daneil Ellsberg; Argentinian activists and Latin American folksingers. Donation \$2.50. Call Charlie Junkerman, 652-6046.
- 30: LOS ANGELES. Premiere of Nuclear Madness, a film featuring Dr. Helen Caldicott. St. John's Church at Flower and Adams, near Santa Monica and Harbor Freeway, 8:00 p.m. Admission free.
- 31: SANTA CRUZ. Talk by Dan Berrigan on civil disobedience. Resource Center on Nonviolence, 515 Broadway, 7:30. Call John Razz, 408-425-1275.
- 31: SANTA BARBARA. Non violence training for trainers.

april

- 1: VENICE. Artists for Survival Exhibit opens. 685 Venice Blvd, 4:00-11:00.
- 4: SANTA CRUZ: Salt Case: Denuclearization. Resource Center on Nonviolence, 7:00 p.m. Call John Razz, 408-425-1275.
- 5: LOS ANGELES. Regional office chapter meeting, S. Ca. Alliance for Survival. 5539 W. Pico Blvd., 7:00 p.m.
- 7: SAN FRANCISCO. Rally, SF Civic Center, noon. Call PANP, 415-781-5342.
- 7: LOS ANGELES. Rally, MacArthur Park, 1:00 p.m. Participants will distribute up to 200,000 copies of a special Diablo issue of Radioactive Times to shopping centers in LA County.
- 7: STATEWIDE. Application deadline for coordinator of Diablo actions in SLO.
- 8: BERKELEY. NRC civil disobedience and support training. 2728 Russell St., 10:00-5:45. Bring food to share for lunch. Call Ricky Jacobs, 415-781-5342.



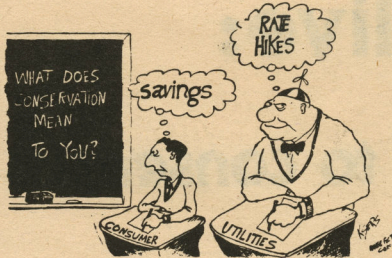
OF EVENTS

april

- 13: SANTA CRUZ: Tax Day demonstration, vigil and tax counseling. Call John Razz or Scott Kennedy, 408-425-1275.
- 13: SONOMA. Slide show on uranium mining. 7:30 p.m. Call So No More Atomics for location, 707-829-1864.
- 14: SANTA MONICA, VENICE. Mojave Desert MX missile study field trip. Call Alliance for Survival, 213-473-9732 or 213-399-7377.
- 14: LOS ANGELES. Radioactive shipments workshop. St. Benedict's Hall, 1130 Werchester Place, 10:00-6:00. Donation requested. Bring sack lunch.
- 14: SAN FRANCISCO. Spring/Summer Actions Collective Meeting, noon. Call PANP, 415-781-5342.
- 15: SAN FRANCISCO. Coordination Committee meeting, noon. Call PANP, 415-781-5342.
- 20: 7:30-9:30 p.m. and
- 21: 9:00 a.m.-5:00p.m. SANTA CRUZ. New Age Politics seminar. Resource Center on Nonviolence. \$8-\$15 donation. Call John Razz, 408-425-1275.
- 22: SAN FRANCISCO. Affinity Group Congress and reorganization meeting. Call PANP, 415-781-5342.
- 28: LOS ANGELES. Human Needs workshop. Call S. Ca. Alliance for Survival, 213-937-0240.
- 28: RED WIND. Fire ritual. Bring lunch and dish for pot luck. Directions: 8 mi north of SLO, Hwy 58 east off 101, go 30 miles. Call Judy Hurley, 408-425-5939.

may

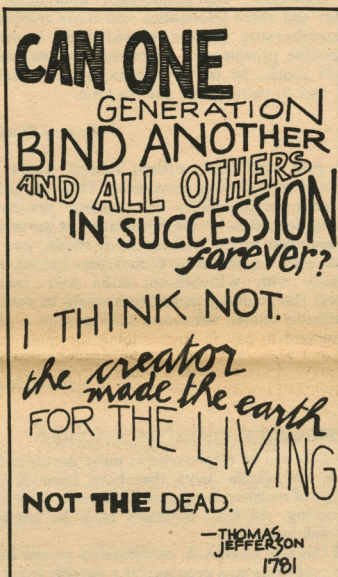
- 3: SUN DAY
- 25: STATEWIDE. Local actions at PG&E offices begin. Call Resource Center, John Razz, Kitty Miller or Liz Paul, 408-425-1275.



HELP NEEDED AT STUDENT GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

On April 8, 1979 four people from P.N.F.F. (People for a Nuclear Free Future) of Santa Cruz will be presenting a workshop on nuclear energy and alternatives to student government representatives at the California Community College Student Government Association's (C.C.C.S.G.A.) semi-annual conference. The conference will be held at the Marriot Hotel in Santa Clara on April 7, 8, and 9 and will be attended by approximately 400 student leaders representing 1.4 million community college students. People are needed to help distribute literature and to talk with the student reps. Interested parties should contact Joseph D'Amico or Dennis Collins at the P.N.F.F. office. (408) 425-1275.

—Joseph D'Amico



REPORT FROM MARCH C.C. MEETING

Proposals on duties of the Coordinating Committee...

1. Disseminate information.
2. Publish a regular report in *It's About Times*.
3. Formulate proposals in emergency situations.
4. Emergency decision-making power, so long as it does not change our basic goals.
5. The Clearinghouse in S.F. should keep track of what the C.C. does.

Other discussion...

1. The C.C. requests a report on C.C. functions from the Restructure Collective. The C.C. would like every ongoing collective, study group and local group to send a spoke to the meeting. Action collectives would not be expected to attend. Spokes should be committed to attending at least three meetings.
2. Local groups should consider the contracting process for fundraising. Grant-writers are allowed a percentage of a grant. (Contact your C.C. rep for details about this process.) Should organizers of other types of fundraising events get similar compensation?
3. Steve Mulford has volunteered to coordinate the preparation of the Abalone Telephone Directory. Persons wishing to be listed should send their names, addresses and phone numbers to Steve. Be sure to include the collectives and local group that you are a part of. Star Route, 1 Hilltop Rd., Smartsville, CA 95977.

The next C.C. meeting is April 14 in S.F.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

All the spring/summer action collectives are hard at work preparing for their respective events. The Walnut Creek NRC action will take place 3 days after the ASLB announces a positive decision on the Diablo license. All participants must receive non-violence training and will be responsible for their own defense. A simultaneous occupation is being organized by the Potomac Alliance in Washington, D.C. (N. Ca. contacts: c/o PANP, 415-781-5342, Ricky Jacobs, Rusty Frank, Henry Minermullen. In S. Ca., Wanda Michalenka, 6688 Picasso Rd., Apt. H, Isla Vista 93017, 213-968-2886.)

The Brown Task Force is researching the cost of decommissioning and conversion of Diablo. (Contacts: c/o PANP, Sam Blazer or Mark Evanoff, 781-5342 or 626-8949. C/o AFSC, David Hartstough, 752-7766. C/o PSE, Larry Levine, 419 Ferger, Fresno 93701, 209-268-2902.)

Actions at PG&E offices around the state will take place May 25. (Contacts: c/o PNFF-Santa Cruz, John Razz, Kitty Miller or Liz Paul.)

Dave Brower, president of Friends of the Earth, will be the featured speaker at the SLO June 30 rally.

The next general spring/summer actions meeting will be on April 14 in San Francisco.

ABALONE REFINANCED

On February 25, representatives from Abalone groups throughout the state gathered in San Luis Obispo to discuss the Finance proposal printed in the February issue of *It's About Times*. The meeting was productive. Some sections of the proposal were changed and consensus was reached on a modified version.

The Finance Committee also agreed to divide part of the money from the recent benefit concerts among member groups.

The next meeting, on March 19 in San Francisco, was equally successful. We began considering our overall budget for the next three months, which we hope to complete March 25 in San Luis Obispo. Proposals totalling \$65,000 were submitted—about three times the money we definitely expect to have in the next three months. However, with careful proposal trimming and some fundraising efforts, we hope that the dollars will stretch to cover our spring activities.

We also reached consensus on several urgent funding requests, including a Northern California Radioactive Times, the mailing of a national call for the blockade and the payment of a few outstanding bills.

—Bob Van Scoy



Bill Reid

Abalones Alive:

page eight

process to consensus

How many Abalones does it take to reach consensus? I hope the answer isn't one, although sometimes I wonder, as we struggle towards common decisions.

This page is devoted to some creative thinking that various Abalones have done on the subject. The upper half of the page contains excerpts from articles on structure and process that were submitted to the statewide committee on structure. Because the content of the articles overlapped, I took the liberty of substantial editing.

On the bottom half of the page, the focus is more on the consensus process itself, with some new ideas to mull over. I hope this serves to spark more discussion about the most effective ways of operating as a statewide Alliance and making decisions together.

--Liz Walker

STRUCTURE

REORGANIZE!

Our Alliance is disorganized. This does not show that we are weak, but rather that we are young and rapidly growing. If we are to continue to grow, we must recognize the need for some sort of structure that is centralized.

Organization, almost by definition, requires delegation of authority, and a healthy mistrust of authority is good. But to let our mistrust of delegated authority predominate in our organizational considerations would be very harmful: no body can exist without a skeletal structure, except a jellyfish. At the same time, a prime objective should be to maximize decentralization. The advantages of decentralization include: relative ease of outreach, opportunity for individual involvement, personal benefits etc. Of course, decentralization also involves some duplication of efforts, and to that extent is "inefficient." Some of this "inefficiency" is necessary if the benefits of decentralization are to be realized.

The functions of centralization (or at least some of them) include the need to coordinate certain matters on an Alliance-wide basis to save unnecessary expenses, and to allow certain day-to-day operations of a growing organization to occur.

We do risk certain things when we have more structure, when we delegate authority. These risks have the potential, if realized, to hurt us. But given the knowledge we have developed about ourselves over the past year, adequate safeguards in the selection of committee members, etc., we should be able to minimize these risks. In my opinion not to take these risks in order to be better organized means that we do not trust ourselves. When we consider how well organized our opponents are, I think we have to conclude that the much greater risk lies in the continuation of our present state of disorganization.

--David Victor

ROLE OF PAID ABALONE STAFF

The basic staff role is to be community organizers in the more or less strict sense of that term. Staff have no powers other than those assigned to it by the C.C. or A.A. conferences and those powers are subject to constant review and revision by those bodies. One staff function would be to provide feedback to the A.A. on the functioning of the A.A. structure and process, monitoring how consistently they're functioning and working with the C.C. and membership groups.

As "organizers," staff should gather information on resources and share information and those resources with membership groups rather than become indispensable providers of important services. Staff emphasis should be on strengthening our existing groups, and on helping new ones to form.

--Tommy Rinaldo

The paid staff (and perhaps others) would be members of an Operating Committee. This committee would have responsibility for making necessary day-to-day decisions, for the formulation of proposals for presentation to the Alliance as a whole, and to interface with the Standing Committees (permanent committees with well-defined tasks and named members) The Standing Committees would be staffed by specifically named volunteers (and perhaps a paid staff member).

--Dave Victor

COORDINATING COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

The C.C. will be empowered to make decisions for the A.A. on agenda items that have been in the possession of membership groups for 2 weeks prior to a C.C. meeting. All C.C. decisions must be reached through full consensus.

If three or more A.A. membership groups have achieved consensus on a proposal for a specific event or course of action, that is consistent with the A.A.'s adapted principles and code of conduct, then that event or course of action can be conducted under the name of the A.A. and it will be entitled to a reasonable amount of financial support as determined by the finance collective.

C.C. decisions can only be blocked if an A.A. membership group reaches consensus to do so.

--Tommy Rinaldo

ROLE OF CONFERENCES

I propose that groups, not individuals, be members of the Alliance. Only local groups should be able to make proposals or block consensus. If conferences were limited to members of local groups, it might help to alleviate fears of infiltration and crackpots messing up our process.

--Liz Paul

Presently our conferences tend to be deliberative. Given the size of our conferences, the turnover of people, the relatively short periods involved and the existence of egos, it's no wonder that many of our meetings sound like sessions of the US Congress.

To make informed decisions at conferences, proposals on a given topic should be submitted by statewide committees, groups or individuals to a statewide Operating Committee (paid staff and others...see Dave's comments under "Role of Paid Staff"). This committee would then distribute proposals to all Alliance members through their local groups. The newsletter could be the vehicle to inform members of the proposals to be considered at the conference and the alternatives to be presented.

--Dave Victor

A.A. conferences are ideally suited for providing an experience of power and unity through information and insight sharing, soul searching, outlining of common concerns, clarification of existing differences, and by establishing the appropriate ways and means to deal with the above between conferences.

Conferences are also a handy way to make specific decisions that address a broad base of member concerns without needing weeks to do so.

With decision making functioning more efficiently through the C.C., a group more suited for the consensus model, decision making at a conference will hopefully be largely curtailed. In situations where it seems preferable or unavoidable to make decisions at conferences the following "rules" should apply.

90% consensus is needed to resolve those issues placed on the conference agenda by the C.C. at least two weeks prior to the conference. Sufficient notice should thereby allow A.A. members to plan their attendance or to make their positions known to others who will.

90% consensus can be used to resolve other issues only if a conference first reaches *full consensus* to use the 90% standard for each specific decision. This might happen in cases where all agree a decision is of minor significance and all agree that it is essential to facilitate a decision being made.

--Tommy Rinaldo

PROCESS

AN ABALONE EXPERIMENT

Has your affinity group ever had a two-day meeting to decide on an issue? Probably not. Consensus clearly works most easily in small groups which share friendship and/or work ties, and who have a common sense of purpose.

At the San Luis Obispo March 3-4 conference, people not only stayed to the end (Sunday evening), but left feeling energized. I think this was due in large part to the decisions that were made, and the sense of moving forward after months of stalemate on the controversial issue of mass civil disobedience.

What made these decisions possible? A number of factors seemed to be responsible: a smaller than usual conference (about 60 people); a clear proposal from San Luis Obispo on the type of action they wanted; a willingness on the part of at least one

consensus; strong facilitation; time to consider proposals in depth. Perhaps the most significant difference in this conference, however, was a new decision-making process that was adopted as an experiment for the duration of the conference. This was a form of modified consensus in which only local groups (5 or more people) could block consensus for the whole group, and then only if they reached agreement to block consensus. In other words, blocking consensus became as weighty a process to consider as reaching consensus. The rationale was that if individuals had very strong reservations about a proposal, they should be able to convince a small group of peers before blocking the entire group.

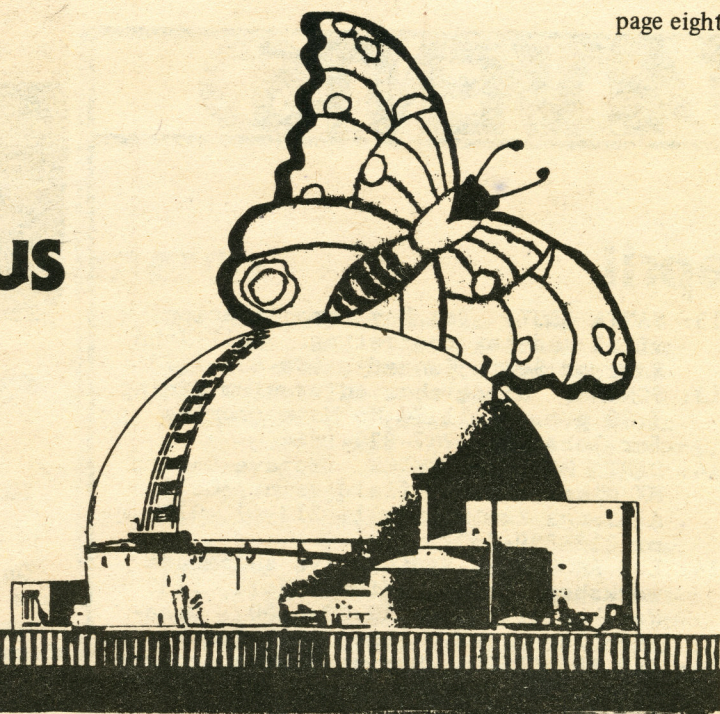
In practice, this process had its hang-ups as well as its good points. There were a number of times when it would have taken too long to break into small groups on minor decisions. Therefore facilitators often used a streamlined process of checking for full

consensus in the large group. If even one person had very strong reservations, we broke into local groups to discuss it. Because the process was new to people it tended to get muddy and there was sometimes a lot of confusion about what we were doing. I think this would improve with practice, and facilitators who were strong but flexible.

On the good side, this form of modified consensus helped us to reach decisions that we had been struggling with for over six months. It forced us to break down into small groups more frequently and thoroughly discuss an item with people we knew and trusted, rather than take up time in the large group.

I hope that we continue to experiment with this method.

--Liz Walker



WASTES NOT



The drama of finding a recipient for the nation's nuclear wastes continues to unfold. The Federal government is eager to give them away, but is finding it necessary to write legislation that will force states to accept the gifts. Government agencies are unsure if the problem will ever be solved, but foreign nations are being invited, nevertheless, to ship their spent fuel to us.

The battle lines are being drawn in Congress. The Inter Agency Review Group (IRG), a special committee set up by President Carter to recommend waste management policy, would like to establish a federal/state partnership to develop a mutually acceptable waste management policy. "Consultation and concurrence would be used," rather than allowing states the right to veto waste disposal facilities.

This suggestion is being countered by a bill introduced into Congress by Massachusetts representative Joe Moakley. The bill, titled "The Radioactive Waste Management Act of 1979," would give states the right to prohibit the location of federal radioactive waste disposal sites within the confines of their borders.

In addition, the IRG recommendations call for importing the equivalent of 63 reactors' worth of foreign wastes by the year 2000. Americans already pay for the financing of foreign reactors, and are now being asked to subsidize the reprocessing of their wastes. Domestic utilities would be required to pay a one-time only fee for federal assumption of waste management, while the taxpayer would be stuck with the 250,000 year storage fee.

The IRG report admitted that the waste problem was far from being solved, but did not recommend a nuclear moratorium in the meantime. The study group does not expect a permanent high-level waste repository to be built until 1988-1995.

Smaller test repositories are scheduled to be built in the early '80's. However, under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) the government is required to produce an environmental impact statement (EIS) on waste management before legislation can be introduced. The Department of Energy has not yet submitted a first draft on this kind of study. Environmentalists argue that a comprehensive EIS would demonstrate that current repository projects are not viable. That may be one reason why the IRG is attempting to circumvent the established legal procedure.

Nine states responded to the IRG recommendations with a 55-page statement requesting the Federal Government to consider ordering a moratorium on construction of new nuclear power plants until the waste problem is solved. New Mexico, one of the signers of the statement, has been selected by the Review Group as a viable site for waste disposal. The 9 states have charged the IRG with "telling the American people that 'all is well' in the nuclear industry, when in fact, all is not well."

The IRG report made some peculiar admissions on the safety of waste disposal. A statement on page 8 does not inspire absolute confidence in their plans. "Because the necessary isolation periods for waste disposal are so long, no demonstration can prove the presumption of safety. Thus, a social consensus based on scientific evidence must be obtained ... Only if such consensus is obtained, can disposal of ... waste in geological formations actually be implemented and the public be confident that nuclear waste can be safely isolated in this way over very long periods of time."

Perhaps the Abalone can hire itself out as a consultant to facilitate the "social consensus" process. Should such a meeting take the form of a nationwide conference, or should it be restricted to representatives of different social collectives? Recommendations should be submitted to the Abalone restructure committee.

-- by Mark Evanoff



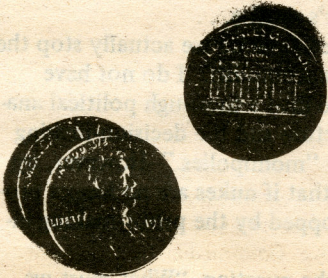
photo by Jon Katz

"CHINA SYNDROME" OPENS

The *China Syndrome* is a first-rate thriller about safety cover-ups at a nuclear power plant. The film stars Jane Fonda and Michael Douglas as a TV news team who stumble across a near-accident, and Jack Lemmon as a nuclear engineer trying to prevent a disaster -- if his company doesn't silence him first.

Even before the *China Syndrome* opened March 16, reactor-maker General Electric helped publicize it by cancelling sponsorship of a Barbara Walters special where the film was briefly mentioned.

Anti-nuclear groups have been finding that filmgoers clamor for leaflets. To help with the leafletting, contact Suzanne Feely at PANP - SF, 415-781-5342.



more CORPORATE LIES

ONE LINERS

Where does a PR person turn for answers to questions about nuclear power? Why, to *One Liners*, a handy handbook of "concise responses to many of the more frequently asked questions about nuclear power" published in 1976 by Westinghouse's nuclear division.

The nifty manual, in question-and-answer format, contains over 150 reassuring homilies, half-truths, and outright lies. Some gems:

Q: Why hasn't the Federal Government issued rules for permanent waste disposal?

A: Careful evaluation of the several methods available to us and selection of the best is time-consuming. The NRC has announced it will make its final decision in 1977.

Q: What is our experience with handling plutonium?

A: Plutonium has been handled for more than 34 years. No deaths or adverse health effects have resulted to any workers or members of the public.

Q: How did Karen Silkwood, the technician at a Kerr McGee nuclear fuel plant, really die?

A: The Oklahoma State Highway Patrol decided that Miss Silkwood fell asleep while driving and ran off the road. She had been taking drugs and drinking just before the accident.

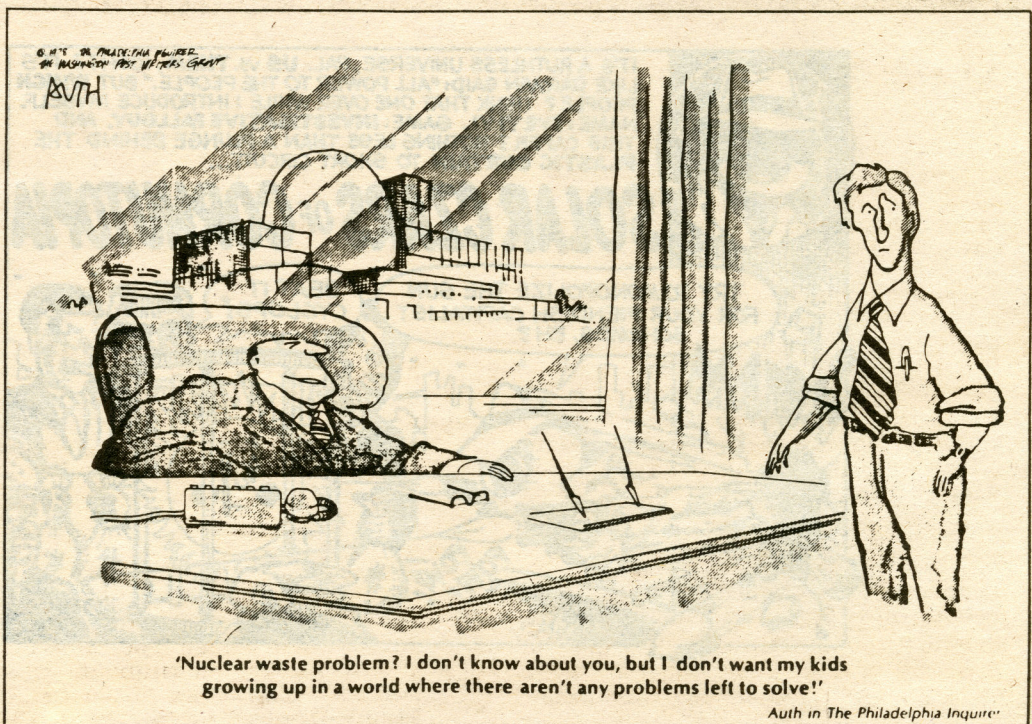
FORGET THE FACTS

The maddening thing about the campaigns of the anti-nuclear power activists is that they are working. Thus begins a full page diatribe in *Public Relations Journal*. The editorial speaks for itself:

"Instead of trying to arouse the public for nuclear power, we should change course and try to arouse the public *against* the antinuclear groups and what they advocate. Give the people something unattractive to be *against* instead of something beneficial to be *for*. . . We need to go on the offensive, to become activists ourselves. It's time to call a spade a dirty rusty shovel. . . So forget the facts once in a while. Counter the activists not with facts but with closed factory gates, empty schools, cold and dark homes and sad children."

San Francisco television station KGO may have found its inspiration there for its editorial that labelled us "Robots Against Nuclear Power." A few weeks later, the *Chronicle* chimed in with, "The anti-nuclear faith is one of the fastest-growing cults in this cult-ridden country. . ."

Watch the media for more name-calling and missing facts. Rest assured that they are prepared by professionals to deflect hostility from the nuclear shadow.



Auth in The Philadelphia Inquirer

STIMULUS / RESPONSE

no profits... no nukes

To start some discussion about questions that are important and perhaps controversial for the Abalone Alliance, I would like to quote from the "Citizen Guide to the Power Industry: HOW TO CHALLENGE YOUR LOCAL ELECTRICAL UTILITY," written by the Environmental Action Foundation, 724 Dupont Circle Building, Washington D.C. 20036. (Available from PNFF Santa Cruz.)

"Because of the social and environmental problems caused by the electric power industry, it is important for citizens to understand how the industry is structured and controlled. In the United States, 78% of our electricity comes from about 200 investor owned utilities (IOUs). These are privately-owned corporations, just like General Motors or Gulf Oil. The remainder of the public is served by about 3000 public power systems.

A 1973 report by the Senate Governmental Operations Committee entitled Disclosure of Corporate Ownership contains some revealing facts about the ownership of private electric utilities. The study determined that at least half the stock of 99 major IOUs was owned by their 10 largest stockholders. For most utilities the 10 largest stockholders were dominated by banks.

The financial institutions which control a utility may also control some of its large customers. The same New York banks which dominate the power industry also control its chief suppliers of generating equipment, General Electric and Westinghouse. (Note that GE and Westinghouse also make electrical appliances.) These banks also control oil companies which, in turn, control large portions of our energy resources (including oil, gas, coal and uranium.) A given utility may be striving to maximize profits for itself, Chase Manhattan Bank, General Electric and Atlantic Richfield all at the same time."

We now have some information about who and what we are up against. To summarize it as briefly as I can, *we are up against the profit motive* of banks and other investment corporations. They put nuclear power in our backyards.

Now, having defined our enemy, let's define our friends. According to the above, everybody not personally interested in increasing profits of banks and investment corporations should be a potential ally. Right? But how do we let them know that they are our friends? Are we going to tell the construction workers that put up these power plants that they had better give up their job for the next ten years to perhaps achieve a liveable environment? Should we seek out ghettos where 25% of the people are unemployed and angry and tell them that we have the solution to their problems: stop nuclear power, join us...?

How did we get involved? We learned about the dangers of nukes somewhere in a form which made some sense to us. We could hear what was being told. We became INFORMED! Therefore, no matter who, no matter where, informed people will join us. As I stated earlier, our allies are everywhere, so long as they do not have an interest in the profits of banks and similar institutions. Our tool to get allies is information!!

This means leafletting the construction workers on the construction site of a nuclear power plant like Diablo Canyon for months on end. This means going to construction workers' union halls and bringing hard facts that workers can relate to. For example, a nuke employs 2000 workers during a 5-year construction period, but employs only 200 (ten times less) workers of the white collar category during its entire life of thirty years.

Information means going into a poor neighborhood and being able to relate the everyday problems of people there. The same banks that support "renewal" projects loan millions of dollars to construct unneeded nukes. The same police force that brutalizes Third World people is being reinforced and expanded to guard nukes and radioactive transports against so-called terrorists. Did you know that the main force to defeat the establishment of a federal police force in Switzerland was the Swiss anti-nuke movement?

Information means going on Suburbia's TV shows and letting them know that the latest price increase in their electricity bill was to increase the profit of XYZ bank. Let them know that the electrical dryer they are using is manufactured by Westinghouse, which is controlled by the Chase Manhattan Bank or David Rockefeller. And that said dryer is designed to maximize David Rockefeller's profits...

Once we get the allies, how do we actually stop the nukes? What must we accomplish? I do not have enough room here to go into a thorough political analysis of the power structure and the decision-making structure of our energy "monopolies." However, by now it should be clear that if nukes are no longer profitable, they will be dropped by the profit-making institutions...

Another answer to the question, "What must we accomplish to stop nuclear power?" is to go not after the effect (the nuclear power plant) but rather the cause (the profit motive of banks, etc.) to eliminate the possibility of someone making money simply by investing money. Again, a thorough analysis of the inner workings of all this would surpass the limits of this article slightly; Karl Marx did it in several thousand pages in his last work, *Das Kapital*.

It is obvious that we will not be able to change the "profit motive" of our beloved multi-national corporations by a few eloquent TV speeches. The profits amassed by General Foods through the exploitation of Middle American banana republics, the eleven dollar savings in manufacturing death trap Ford Pintos, the plight of farm workers struggling for halfway decent wages and working conditions and the demands of United Mine Workers for the institution of existing safety regulations all testify to the rigid adherence by multi-national corporations to the profit motive. We all struggle and fight against the same enemy: profit on invested money.

Lo and behold, all of a sudden we have discovered our allies, thousands of allies, millions of allies. Everybody who fights against corporate profit fights against the same thing we do in our anti-nuclear movement. Why not join together and fight together the profit of capital investment?

--Urs Schuler, Sonoma

With help from Pat, Jeff and Paul.

yes, and...

There is much about this paper that I applaud and much with which I wholeheartedly agree. It is important to stress, as Urs does, that there are conflicts in our society based on real interests and that nuclear power is only one symptom—a particularly pestilent one, to be sure—of a system that degrades every aspect of life. But there are a couple of serious limitations to the argument that set us up for failure and truncate our vision of a transformed world.

One mistake is the assumption that "no matter who, no matter where, informed people will join us." While it is certainly true that the facts of the case are powerful weapons and that the dissemination of information is a crucial part of our work, it is naive to expect that once we tell people where it's at, they'll all rise, phoenix-like, from the ashes of apathy and false consciousness.

There are certain psychic adjustments and unconscious compromises that people make in order to tolerate the humiliation of wage labor, the boredom of scheduled leisure, the passivity of fraudulent democracy and the ache of repressed or exploited sexuality. Those with a stake in things the way they are understand these matters and quite concertedly manipulate our frustrated desires and submerged yearnings. The assembly line, advertising, consumerism, the "entertainment industry" as well as many schools, unions, shrinks and churches (of both the traditional and exotic varieties): all these cultivate the terrain of alienation. And this then is fertile ground for the creation of people who can't very easily understand their real interest, no matter how logically and earnestly they are presented.

The second point I'd like to raise may be merely an elaboration of what Urs means when he calls for eliminating "the possibility of someone making money simply by investing money." The important implication of this argument is that the productive powers of society should be deployed for our needs and desires, not for profit. This means an end to the production of commodities—things that are defined by their assigned value in the world marketplace, rather than by their utility or desirability. The real determination of use and desirability can only be made by a participatory process that holds the individual and society as a whole in a constant tension.

At this point in history, the material deprivation endured by such a large percentage of humanity is due not to the harshness of nature but to a social system that manufactures scarcity, enforces unequal distribution and emphasizes the production of goods and services whose only real usefulness is to generate profit and perpetuate itself. More simply: there's enough to go around, or would be in a society that didn't plunder its material and creative powers on stockpiling weapons, on consumption and on wasteful and ecologically destructive ways of living. It is no longer necessary to subject ourselves to tedious and boring work or the people of "less developed" regions to hunger, disease and the destruction of their cultures. As a French poster puts it: "NOTICE—In 1878 proletarians were needed because there was work. In 1978 work is needed because there are proletarians. Workers have always criticized wage labor. The time has come to get rid of it."

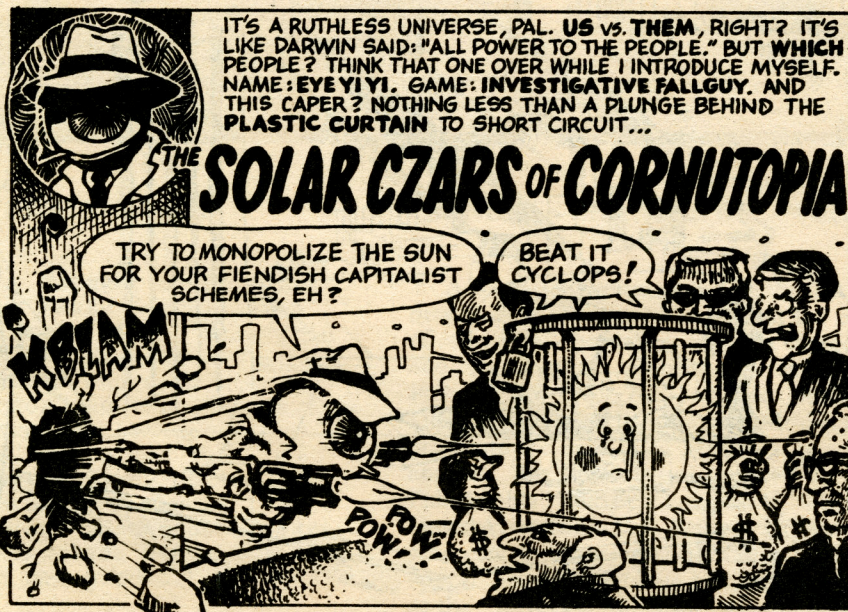
In the light of these arguments, we must evaluate not only the dominant culture but our own as well. The processes and structures we have created are undergoing evolution, but we retain an overwhelming commitment to non-hierarchical forms of organization. We are dealing directly with society's production of energy in a way that demonstrates how much creativity and sophistication have survived even in our massified culture. We share an ethic of avoiding both alienated work and meaningless consumption. We value ourselves as individuals and the culture and groupings we've set up, but we are also eager to reach out to other segments of society.

As this outreach builds, we should ask ourselves who we're approaching, with what and why. In our efforts to ally with labor, for example, we typically argue that they should join us in our fight against nukes because solar power creates more jobs. This is true, but is it a good "selling point"? Are you attracted by the prospect of building solar collectors on an assembly line and watching solar-powered soap operas on the weekend? The only circumstances under which that is appealing are the current ones: where the alternative is getting a job in an asbestos factory or a nuclear plant.

In fact, many of us have chosen to do without these kinds of jobs and to live on the fringes—though this is getting harder to do as the economy contracts. But what about the worker who has a family and a sense that his personal value is measured by the style in which he supports them?

It is excruciatingly difficult to design a strategy which takes into account both the world-that-is (and the need to make a living) and the world-that-could be (and the possibility of transforming all of life.) But the anti-nuclear movement is in a position to take some steps in that direction, to go about stopping nukes in a way that will sow the seeds of much more profound changes.

--Marcy Darnovsky



Red Wind cont'd. from p. 1

The primary economic advantage stems from the fact that small, low-grade ore deposits, previously by-passed as unprofitable using conventional methods (open-pit, strip and underground), can now be exploited by in-situ leaching. The miner's overhead costs are reduced by lower capital investment needed to reach and extract the ore, and by a smaller work-force needed for plant operations. The political advantages stem from the purported and *apparent* minimization of environmental degradation compared to conventional methods, i.e., no massive scars on the land, and from the fact that the primary impacts are subterranean.

Shortly after its birth in August 1978, the Oak Tree Alliance (OTA) decided to undertake research into the technology and its environmental impacts, and to oppose and prevent the proposed uranium mine through public education, community coalition building and political action. OTA research has been developed from information from federal, state, industrial, and independent sources. What follows is a brief summary of our results to date. A more comprehensive and detailed report will be available at the Abalone Alliance offices.

The primary problem with in-situ leaching is groundwater contamination with substances such as ammonia, nitrates, nitrites, uranium, thorium, and radium. In being dissolved by the leach solution, many elements besides uranium are physically and chemically changed so that they move faster and at higher concentrations through the groundwater. The toxicity of the contaminants (eg., 95% of the radium & 25% of the uranium is left in the groundwater) means they must be contained within the wellfield, and any contamination which does occur must be reversed. The main pathways of groundwater contamination are excursions (escape of leach solution from the influence of the wells) and inability to restore the groundwater to its original quality.

Yet, these are the very areas in which the greatest inadequacies and experimental nature of the technology appear. Control of excursions is so nearly non-existent that they are considered normal, inevitable, and irreversible. Restoration (like the "back-end" of the fuel cycle itself) is undemonstrated, very difficult or impossible, and has never been demonstrated at a commercial-scale site. Serious inadequacies also exist in the scientific understanding of subterranean environmental processes, and of the extent and long-term effects of groundwater contamination. Therefore, the purported minimization of environmental impacts relative to other methods, seems to be more a function of current ignorance than real knowledge about the actual impacts.

COME to Livermore: where the bombs begin.



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Consequently, the regulation of this technology is also experimental in nature—rules and regulations for its use are either nonexistent or in development. The success of this industry has been partially attributed to this, and to two additional qualities of "regulatory" (sic) agencies—their cooperativeness & supportiveness. Definitions of excursions and restoration have been adjusted so that actual contamination can go undefined as such and, therefore, uncorrected. The licensing of in-situ mines and groundwater contamination have been justified on the basis of the demand for uranium, the need for further experimentation, and the desire to prove the technique an acceptable means of nuclear fuel supply.

The biggest obstacle and uncertainty in the battle against the mine is the matter of licensing (or "lead-agency") authority. On National Forest land, the 1872 mining laws define mining as a right, and preclude the Forest Service from prohibiting any mine. The local Forest Service people don't want "lead-agency" status; the division of Radiological

Health in the State Health Dept. may eventually get it. Presently, the SLO County Board of Supervisors has assumed this authority, and the OTA supports this alternative. The Board of Supervisors has required and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), which has not yet been started, before it will consider allowing Lomex to begin testing. In the current confusion, the strength of the authority of this requirement is in doubt. Therefore, letters or phone calls to Governor's Office of Planning & Research; (attn: Ron Bass; State Clearinghouse, Rm. 121; 1400 10th St., Sacto, CA, 95814. Phone (916) 445-0613) will be the greatest immediate help. Urge transfer to "lead agency" status to the SLO County B. of S., as the body most directly representative of and responsible to the potentially affected area and people. The OTA can be reached at 6604 Portola Rd., Atascadero, CA 93422. Phone (805) 466-0352.

—Submitted by David Broadwater for the
Oak Tree Alliance

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COMMUNITY ENERGY ACTION NETWORK
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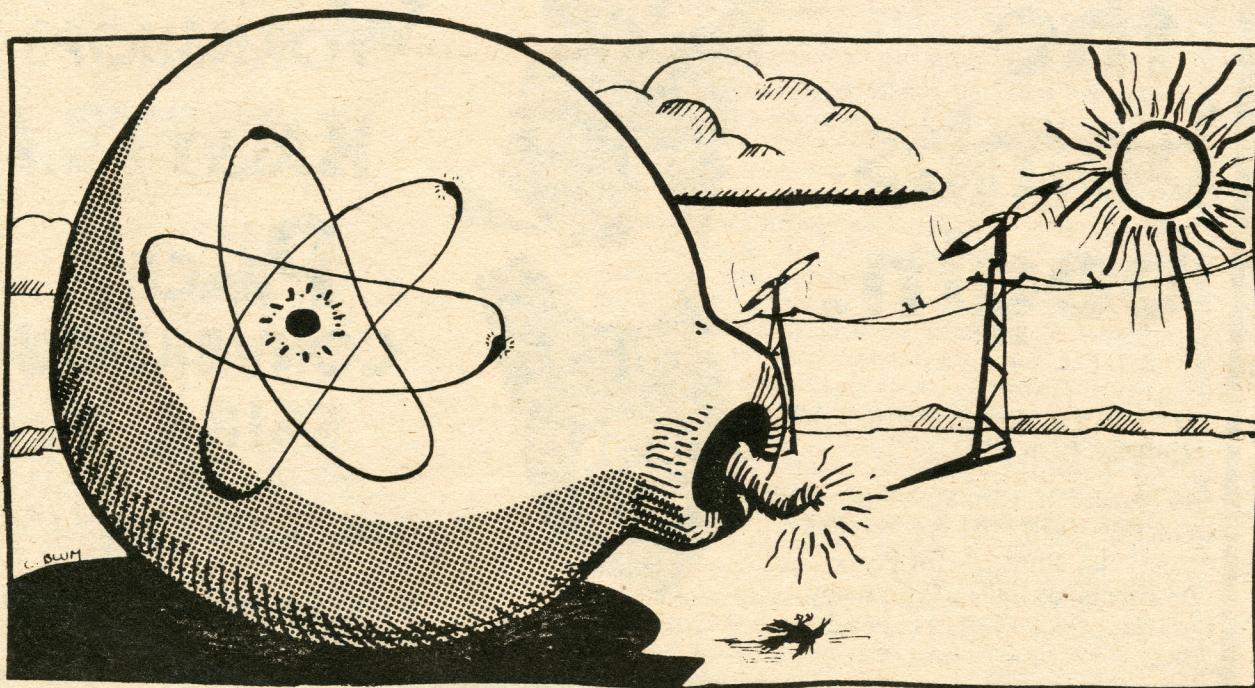
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Dennis Banks, AIM
Carol Ruth Silver, SF supe
Harry Britt, SF supe
Dick Kresja, SLO supe
Andrew Baldwin, Friends of the Earth
and speakers from
Supporters of Silkwood
UC Weapons Labs Conversion Project
Internat'l Longshoremen Workers Union

ENTERTAINERS:

Bonnie Raitt
Mimi Farina
Kate Wolf
Norton Buffalo
Tim Hardin
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Jane Swanson's NRC Update

The Diablo seismic hearings ended in mid-February, having consumed about 7 weeks since Dec. 4. Within the parameters allowed by the NRC, David Fleischaker and scientific witnesses of national and international reputation presented an excellent case. This could not have been done without the full financial backing of the Center for Law in the Public Interest.

Should the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board issue the operating license, we intend to respond with appeals. Appeals based on procedural grounds (i.e. exclusion of evidence, violation of due process) could be carried through the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board, to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and on into the Federal courts. Appeals based on scientific arguments would probably not get farther than the Commissioners, as the federal courts have made it

clear in other cases that they don't consider themselves competent to make decisions on scientific issues.

Both the Appeal Board and the Commission have a better record of objectivity than the Licensing Board in this case. In fact, the Licensing Board has already been reversed on a number of occasions, having deservedly earned a reputation for sloppy and unreasoned rulings.

All of this is not meant to foster rampant optimism, however. It is fully expected that a license to operate will be issued, although such a decision can be justified only by ignoring the opinions of some of the best scientific minds in the country.

The Center for Law in the Public Interest has greatly over-spent its budget for this case, which cost much more than could have been anticipated. Frank-

ly, the ability to carry through appeals is in jeopardy at the present. (Millionaires and others are invited to address tax-deductible checks labelled "Diablo" to 10203 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, 90067.)

The silver lining: the public has learned a lot about the issues of nuclear energy and the intervention has forced PG&E and the NRC to be a lot more "honest" than would otherwise have been the case. Those active in or witnesses to the licensing hearings are passing what they have learned about the regulatory process on to the general public. In recent months, it has become impossible to pick up a news publication without the nuclear issue in evidence. Let the facts speak!

--Jane Swanson for SLO Mothers
for Peace



THIS ISSUE AND NEXT...

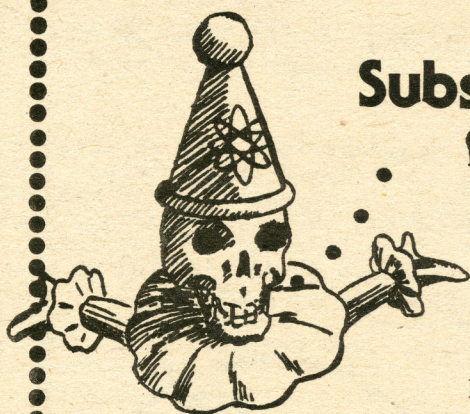
It's About Times invites your contributions--letters, essays, reports, news ita and money. The deadline for the May '79 *Times* is April 10. For this and subsequent issues we need editors, production folk and typists. If you can help, please leave a message for Liz Walker at 415-752-7766.

People who brought you this issue:
Mark Evanoff, Marcy Darnovsky, Bob Van Scoy, Liz Walker, Jon Katz, Bonnie Munnell, Connie Freed, Dennis Burgess, Maureen Hogan, Jeff Block, Alice Rogoff, Elaine Schiller, Sandy Emerson, Charlie Varoon and Rate Payer.

Pronunciation Note:

By a vote of 6 to 2, the editors of IAT have endorsed the following pronunciation of the word "nuclear":
NOO - KLEE - UR. The minority voted for the pronunciation NOO - KYUH - LUR. Consensus was not reached.

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