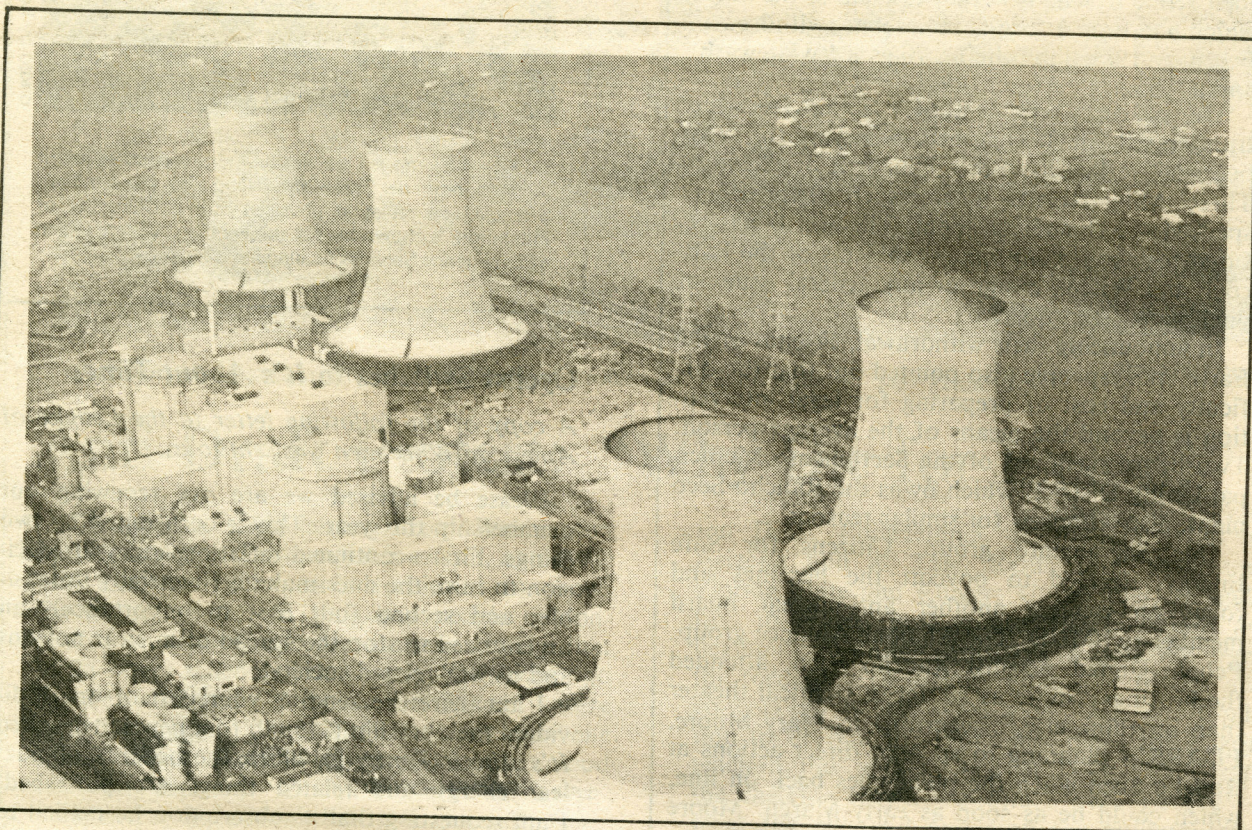


IT'S ABOUT TIMES

MARCH 1980

TMI: ONE YEAR LATER



THIS month *It's About Times* presents a special four-page section on the Three Mile Island accident and its effects on the nuclear industry and the anti-nuclear movement.

It was 4:00 a.m. on March 28, 1979, and the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant was about to celebrate its first birthday. Exactly one year had passed since the first nuclear reaction was started in the plant's core. It had not been an easy year.

TMI-2, like many nuclear plants, had once appeared to be a good investment. But by the time construction was finished in early 1978, the plant was five years behind schedule and \$600 million over budget. The plant's ultimate owner, General Public Utilities, had a serious cash shortage. Faced with a choice between reducing dividends or cutting spending on the plant, it cut spending by 22%. Despite the reduction in funding, GPU still planned to get the plant into commercial operation before January 1, 1979.

Owners Play "Beat the Clock"

If commercial operation began in 1978—even
(continued on page 5)

PG&E's Secret Humboldt Memo

An internal PG&E memorandum called "Public Relations Problem in Humboldt County" has been obtained by the Redwood Alliance, an Abalone Alliance group. The January 19 memo, written by the Humboldt nuclear plant's E.D. Weeks, contains a shopping list of proposed solutions to the utility's "problem"—suggestions the company is beginning to carry out.

The memo starts by describing the recent Humboldt Decommissioning Conference which the Redwood Alliance sponsored. Conference participants are identified in detail, and Weeks complains of the effectiveness of the conference and of antinuclear letters in the local newspaper. He writes, "The Redwood Alliance people are well organized and getting stronger. At a demonstration in mid-1979, they got out approximately 30 people. In November they were able to get approximately 80 people out for a decommissioning demonstration. Local TV covered both events. This group of people are in the right places... They exert great influence (manipulate or control) the Arcata City Council and the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. Their people are infiltrating with little resistance the local labor groups and Democratic party committees. In my opinion, they will continue their anti-

nuclear, anti-PG&E campaign with vigor."

Week's solution to all this? "To offset the anti-PG&E, anti-nuclear campaign, we need a strong, well coordinated public relations effort and a strong governmental affairs effort. In my opinion, the Company should consider assigning one or more competent people to work more or less full time initially on a PR program for our Division." Weeks has a few ideas on how to keep them busy. Some samples:

"Establish a continuing interface with the local media... Find out where the influential media people stand on nuclear power, identify their concerns, problem areas, etc., and work on these. Above all, establish credibility... I realize there has been some effort in this area, but it has been too small to offset the media job the Alliance people have done."

"Get some positive, factual, pro-nuclear information out to the various media. In the sensitive areas of geologic studies, seismic work, decommissioning, develop a good story and get it told. We've been evasive on these issues too long and as a result our credibility is stretched thin. In addition, the PR people should prepare timely press releases to respond to adverse publicity (such as recent PUC decisions) or to take advantage of current events (like the December storm)."

"We get many requests from local junior high schools and high schools for nuclear talks. This is a tough age group for technical people to talk to. A need exists for a few good canned programs to present to that age group. The PR department should develop these."

"The NRC liaison with the media hurts us almost every time he opens his mouth."

Weeks also suggests setting up a "Public Information Center," "educational" programs for the media, training a speaker's bureau in responding to "adverse questions," and getting PG&E employees into local labor and community groups. But he saves his best idea for last.

"The NRC Region V Public Affairs liaison with the media hurts us almost every time he opens his mouth. The PR department should talk to the corresponding group in the NRC and see if they can't solve this problem."

We wonder what other favors a phone call to the NRC will get you.

Some of these "suggestions" are already being implemented. Four new flacks have been hired and are already hard at work. Redwood Alliance reports that PG&E is running candidates for the Arcata City Council, and is importing professional campaigners to help defeat an upcoming anti-nuclear, pro-safe energy initiative. The company has formed a local pro-nuclear "front" group, and is getting media exposure. Sandra Keifer, a professional pro-nuclear speaker who once worked for Westinghouse, has been sent by PG&E to Board of Supervisors meetings and TV appearances.

PG&E is clearly worried that the closing of Humboldt would raise embarrassing questions about Diablo Canyon, since both are built near major earthquake faults. Redwood Alliance is appealing for financial support in their efforts to counter the new PG&E offensive. They can be contacted for details.

—R. Sources

"The anti-nuclear group is expert at giving us a black eye."

"If we (plant people) are expected to respond to the many allegations, etc., made by the anti-nuclear groups, the PR people should coordinate that effort. To date, the only thing that the PR group has done has been to edit letters initiated and written by plant people and obtain approval to send them. They should be calling the shots. We will assist to the best of our abilities but PR work is distracting from our main function of operating and maintaining a plant. The anti-nuclear group are experts at giving us a blackeye. We need guidance and direction on how to react."

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LETTERS



JAIL FOR RANCHO SECO PROTESTOR

Robert Dun of Bolinas was one of the Rancho Seco 9 who nonviolently crossed the fence into the site of the Rancho Seco plant last November. The nine were all given six days in jail, a fine and two years probation. Those who are appealing the fine are still bound to the terms of the probation. They are not allowed to even go near the Rancho Seco plant for two years. Robert has refused on the basis of conscience to pay the fine or sign the probation papers. Robert entered jail on February 15 and the judge has said he will have to stay there for six months.

Robert is alone in jail and would appreciate any letters of support or encouragement at Rio Cosumnes Correctional Facility, Bruceville Rd., Elk Grove, Ca. Personal visits would also be much appreciated—on Sundays. Call ahead to confirm at 916-685-4705. The jail is south of Sacramento.

If you feel like writing Judge Henke or the *Sacramento Bee*, *Stockton Record* or other papers saying what you feel about the sentence and the service Robert and the others were doing for the people of California by their action, such letters could help. Let's let Robert know he is not alone in his resistance.

Thanks for anything you can do.

—David Hartsough

No Nukes Election Strategy

With elections coming up we need to keep on applying pressure for a nuclear free future. One of the key areas that we can target is the Price-Anderson Act. It provides a good local organizing issue by exposing industry's concern for profits over people. Without it, no private insurer would offer coverage at a price the industry could afford, so nuclear facilities could not be built or run.

The Price-Anderson Act sets maximum liability limits for nuclear power plant accidents at \$560 million. This would be provided from three sources:

\$160 million from private insurance purchased by the utilities,

\$335 million from utility assessment (\$5 million for each of 67 licensed plants) and

\$65 million from the Federal Treasury.

As a Columbia University study of Price-Anderson declared in 1974, "The decision to limit liability represents a determination that a major share of the costs of an accident should be borne by the victims."

Congress renewed the Price-Anderson Act in 1967 and again in 1975, until August 1, 1987. In March 1977 Judge James MacMillan of North Carolina declared Price-Anderson's liability limit unconstitutional. But in June 1978 the U.S. Supreme Court overturned that decision, ruling that Congress had passed it repeatedly and it was up to Congress to change or repeal it.

The responsibility now rests with us to educate the public and elect a Congress that will repeal the Price-Anderson Act. The California Campaign to Repeal the Price-Anderson Act is targeting 11 congressmen, and petitioning 18 unfavorable congressmen. If you/your organization want to participate in the campaign write us at P.O. Box 60274, Sunnyvale, CA 94086.

—Fred Cash

Rancho Seco Hearings Called "Sham"

Two men were arrested February 26 at NRC hearings on the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant near Sacramento. Will Nettleton and Francisco Whitecloud were charged with "disturbance" after Nettleton attempted to prolong a silent vigil past his five allotted minutes during the public testimony session.

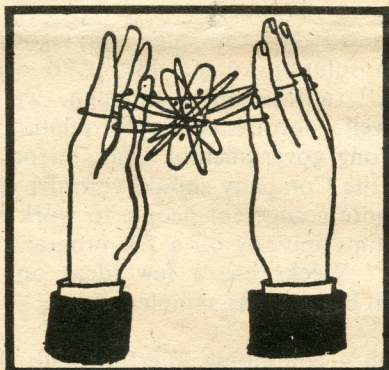
The hearings are being held to discuss safety aspects of the Rancho Seco plant. But the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has defined their scope so narrowly that Friends of the Earth, which had been a formal intervenor, withdrew on February 19, calling the hearings a "whitewash" and a "sham."

The hearings will deal only with "feedwater transients," which have been worrying the NRC because the Rancho Seco plant is a duplicate of Three Mile Island, where such "transients" sparked the famous accident. The ASLB has refused to take up any other problems of the Babcock and Wilcox design or any general issues of nuclear reactor safety.

In announcing their withdrawal, Friends of the Earth spokespeople also pointed out that the difficulty and cost of preparing for legal intervention is beyond the means of the average person. Two board members of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, which owns the Rancho Seco plant, also withdrew for similar reasons.

One Sacramento group, Citizens for Safe Energy, decided to boycott the hearings and focus on electing another anti-nuclear board member to SMUD. The Abalone Alliance group, People United Against Rancho Seco, attended the hearings "more as an act of political theater than anything else," according to Mary Moore. PUARS is planning to sponsor direct actions at Rancho Seco when the plant goes back on line, which could be as soon as early March. Moore explained, "We've adopted the slogan, 'Better to alienate than radiate.'" For more information, call 916-448-5071.

—Marcy Darnovsky



RANCHO SECO: An Appeal for Help

Dear Friends,

In November, voters in the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) will decide the future of the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant. Three of the five SMUD director seats are up for election. There will be candidates for each of these seats who want Rancho Seco replaced by safe energy. Two of them are incumbents.

Rarely do local residents have any control over nuclear power, let alone district elections. We believe that these circumstances make Sacramento a critically important area for anti-nuclear organizing in 1980.

A coalition known as People United Against Rancho Seco (PUARS) recently occupied Governor Brown's office for 38 days in protest against Rancho Seco. This group has now acquired a storefront at 1414 16th Street, Sacramento (916-448-5071). It has scheduled a series of five teach-ins and numerous showings of Helen Caldicott's film, "The Medical Implications of Nuclear Energy." But Sacramento is a conservative community and much more intensive outreach is needed. Activists from outside Sacramento can play a vital role in helping PUARS build momentum. There is unlimited work to be done in canvassing, public speaking, student organizing, media contacts, and other areas. Money is needed, too.

Those of us in SoNoMoreAtoms live 100 miles from Sacramento, but we are assisting PUARS in these ways. We urge that our organization consider making the same kind of commitment. Rancho Seco is a battle that we can win.

SoNoMoreAtoms
January 22, 1980

(adopted at a general meeting)

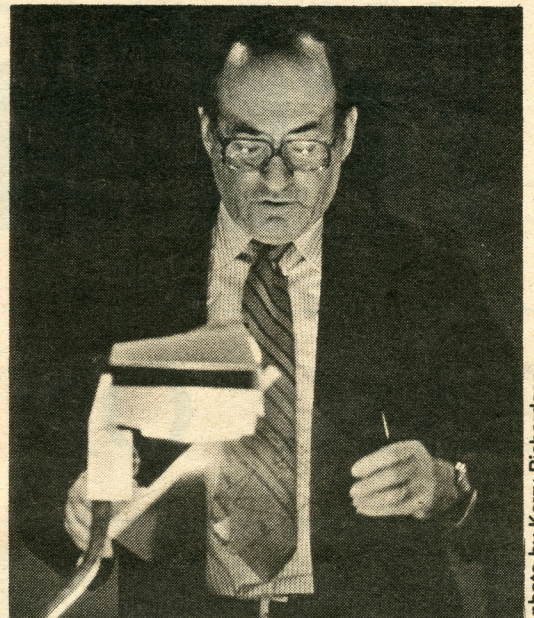


photo by Kerry Richardson

Dr. Ernest Sternglass testifies he found a doubled infant mortality rate near Three Mile Island after the accident. Sternglass, a radiation physicist at the University of Pittsburgh, is shown here at the February 9 State Office of Emergency Services hearings in Sacramento.

Cyclist Switches to *It's About Times*

A copy of the following letter to the League of American Wheelmen was sent to us:

Please be advised we are not renewing our membership this year. This is occasioned by two things. First—continued inflation and your decision to raise the dues make it financially unfeasible; and second (but first in importance)—an urgent need to stop the spread of nuclear poisons and its war-related society.

I am therefore sending your cost of one individual membership (\$15.00) to a newsletter called *It's About Times*, in which the hazards of nuclear energy and related things are published. I am requesting that a subscription be mailed to your organization so that you may get some idea as to what prompted me to switch from mental journeys in the never-never land of bicycles to what is being done to our mother earth.

In my opinion, the L.A.W. board of directors is wasting its time worrying about lights on bicycles and pros and cons of bicycle matters when our very existence on this planet is threatened. My frame of mind was not acquired overnight, as I have listened to and read both sides of the matter since retiring a year and a half ago. I was a policeman for over thirty years and had the welfare of others foremost in mind, and tried to always do what was right and good. I am doing that now.

Enclosed is my February issue of *It's About Times*, which you may keep.

Sincerely yours,

Ted Lydon, Sr.
San Mateo

Spiritual Dimension Important?

As of late the American Indian Movement has been conveying an overtly spiritual orientation as a vehicle to oppose the nuclear industry. Such phrases as "natural relation to Mother Earth," "sacred," and the "old ways" seem to be the key lines which encompass an "alternative way of thinking" to fight the decadence of "industrial technological growth."

At a recent Western Strategy and Skills Conference held at Laney College, spokespersons for AIM presented a spiritual analysis of the present world situation. The attitude that dominated the AIM presentation was that of offering spiritual guidance and leadership to the anti-nuke and anti-capitalist movement at large.

Is this spiritual dimension an important asset to the movement? Should we be pondering the question of how to incorporate the reality of decadent capitalism into a personal spiritual quest that is integrated with teachings born in the past? If so, how does this perception reflect a coherent strategy for people to work together towards a qualitatively better life?

AIM seems to be proposing that we abandon technology altogether. Who wants to live their lives as if they are living their ancestors'?

After all, we are not committed or bound by our genes to stick to one activity forever, like ants. This episode of spirituality sounds too much like an illuminating doctrine which is supposed to emerge real smooth and casual-like to deliver us from our own inertia.

—Jaffery Ryder



Conflict simulation: Union of Concerned Comics at Union Square, San Francisco

photo by Magui

Anti-Draft Protest: "Why Die for Exxon?"

Though the saber-rattling from Washington has been a bit more muted this month, anti-draft and anti-war rallies have continued to grow. On February 11, ten thousand people demonstrated on eight California campuses in the first of 26 rallies scheduled that week. "We won't go for Texaco" and "Why die for Exxon?" were recurring slogans; at the U.C. Berkeley rally one sign showed a multicolored mushroom cloud with the caption, "Ouchless Auschwitz." Another read, "Save the dollar, start a war."

Other demonstrations and mock draft card burnings took place in New York City, Washing-

ton D.C., Philadelphia, at the University of Arizona and at Yale, Kent State, Princeton, Florida State and Rutgers Universities. In addition to rallies, new groups and coalitions are beginning to bloom. Speakers in Berkeley urged the formation of affinity groups of friends and co-workers. A Bay Area-wide "Ad Hoc Coalition to Prevent the War" laid plans for a large teach-in this spring. And at U.C. San Diego, the cheering crowd was told, "Let's go beyond what the 60's did and stop the military from getting us back here again in 10 years."

—Marcy Darnovsky

Accident at Florida Nuclear Plant

Another nuclear accident occurred on February 26, the same day the NRC promised to resume nuclear licensing. An apparent control system failure caused the emergency shutdown of the Crystal River nuclear power plant, located about 60 miles north of Tampa. Backup power systems at the plant also apparently failed to work properly, and reactor operators were left in the dark for seven minutes. At least 40,000 gallons of radioactive cooling water was spilled into the reactor containment building during the accident.

Instruments inside the containment registered a radiation level of 50 rads per hour at just after 3 PM, causing the Florida Power Corporation to declare a site emergency. The NRC opened up its "Incident Response Center" in Bethesda, Maryland, and sent five inspectors to the plant by

chartered jet. The NRC inspectors reported the reactor core was apparently undamaged and claimed there was no release of radioactivity outside the plant. They said the plant will begin cooling off normally after a pump is repaired. No estimate was given of the time or cost involved in decontaminating the plant.

The Florida reactor is the fourth Babcock and Wilcox plant to malfunction similarly in the last two years. The other plants were Oconee (in South Carolina), Rancho Seco—and Three Mile Island.

(Note: This article is being written as we go to press, and is based on preliminary and conflicting news stories. More details next month.)

—Bob Van Scoy
(from AP, UPI, Washington Post 2/27-28/80)

Senate Bill 7-6-5-4-3-2-1

While nat'l attention is being diverted to issues of draft registration and the new Cold War, our civil liberties are being quietly undermined. Few of us realize that very repressive legislation aimed to curtail anti-war and anti-nuclear activities is now sliding its way through the Senate. The so-called Criminal Code Reform Act, S.B. 1722, targets anti-war and anti-nuclear activists for special investigation and federal prosecution. Planning or participating in a demonstration at a nuclear power plant, a military installation or any energy facility, completed or not (or even at a federal courthouse) could result in five to ten years in prison and \$250,000 in fines.

S.B. 1722 is the latest reincarnation of the dreaded S.B. 1 from the Nixon era. It is authored by none other than Senators Edward Kennedy and Strom Thurmond. 1722 is a step toward 1984, a preparation toward a nuclear state and the plutonium economy which can tolerate no opposition. Given the present climate of war hysteria, S.B. 1722 cleared the Senate Judiciary Committee 14 to 1. It will reach the Senate floor March 3.

—Ralph Steiner

Are You a Subversive?

Corporate nostalgia for the McCarthy era seems on the rise. In a December 24 article called "The Growing Danger of Terrorism in the U.S.," *Business Week* magazine bemoaned 1970's laws that made it illegal for the FBI and CIA "to attempt infiltration of groups that might undertake violence." (Our italics.) It went on to say, "Fear is expressed among law enforcement experts of the growing alliance—through European headquarters of the two movements—of anti-nuclear agitation with the traditional Communist-led world peace movement. In recent demonstrations against U.S. nuclear energy installations, demonstrators were armed with gas masks, cable-cutting tools, ladders, and other equipment. It could be only one more step toward sabotage and violence." The magazine concluded with the dire warning that new restrictions on Government snooping "may now leave the U.S. a zero security society."

—Bob Van Scoy

Licensing Imminent for Philippine Reactor

The final obstacle to the shipment of a Westinghouse nuclear reactor to the Philippines has been cleared. On January 29, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission decided not to hold hearings on the environmental, health and safety impacts of the reactor. In disclaiming any responsibility, the Commissioners maintained that it would be inappropriate to investigate the effects on the Filipino people living near the reactor site or on American military personnel at the Clark and Subic bases, as this would interfere with Philippine national "sovereignty." (But the United States' subsidy and de facto control of the Marcos regime are *not* considered acts of intervention; they are "aid and advice" to a close ally.)

The NRC decision means that the reactor will be licensed very soon, probably within one or two weeks. The Campaign for a Nuclear Free Philippines is preparing a Bay Area action for the time of the licensing, corresponding with demonstrations planned in other cities. A blockade by a Greenpeace boat at the reactor's shipping point in Tennessee is also being discussed. For more information, please call Connie Clark at 845-6562; Madge Bello at 451-9069 or 835-1474.

—Connie Clark

NRC Resumes Licensing

On February 26, Nuclear Regulatory Commission chair John Ahearne told Congress that the NRC's 11-month licensing freeze might end within a few days with the granting of an interim operating license for Sequoyah 1, a Tennessee Valley Authority nuclear plant located near Chattanooga, Tennessee. The plant is the first on a list of 14 new plants the NRC says could be put into operation in 1980. The list includes the two reactors at Diablo Canyon and Unit 2 at San Onofre.

The NRC's action was partly prompted by pro-nuke congressmen who think the moratorium has lasted too long already. Tom Bevill (D-Ala.) went so far as to threaten the agency. "You have been nitpicking on these plants," Bevill said. "If (Sequoyah) is not in low power operation by early March, we're going to have another hearing and you're going to have a low-power budget."

—SF Chronicle, 2/27/80

Late update: As IAT goes to press, Sequoyah 1 has reportedly received its license and fuel loading has begun.

Thanks to all who helped with this issue of *It's About Times*, especially Cindy Cornell, Marcy Darnovsky, Mark Evanoff, Joanne Evind, Winston Grant, William Meyers, Tom Price, Steve Stallone, Bob Van Scoy, Ward Young.

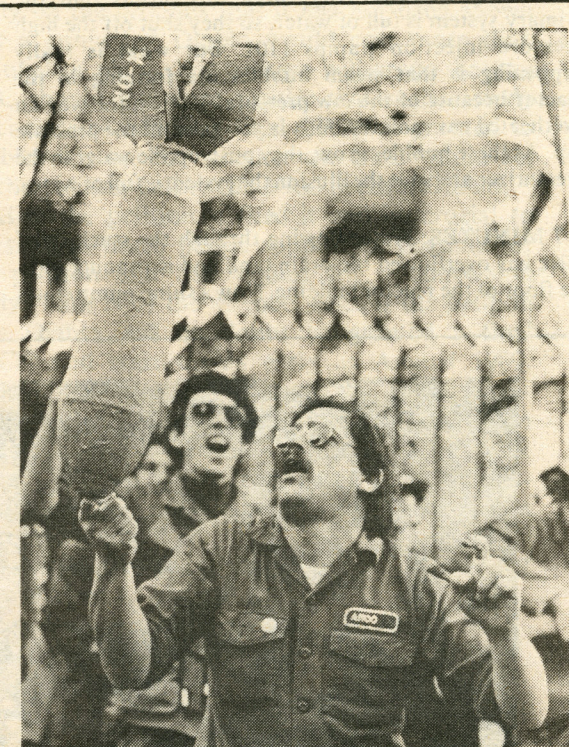


photo by Magui

The balance of terror

One Accident's Story

To understand the TMI accident, it helps to know a little about the plant's design and normal operation. TMI is a "pressurized Water Reactor", or PWR. This type of reactor has two main systems of plumbing.

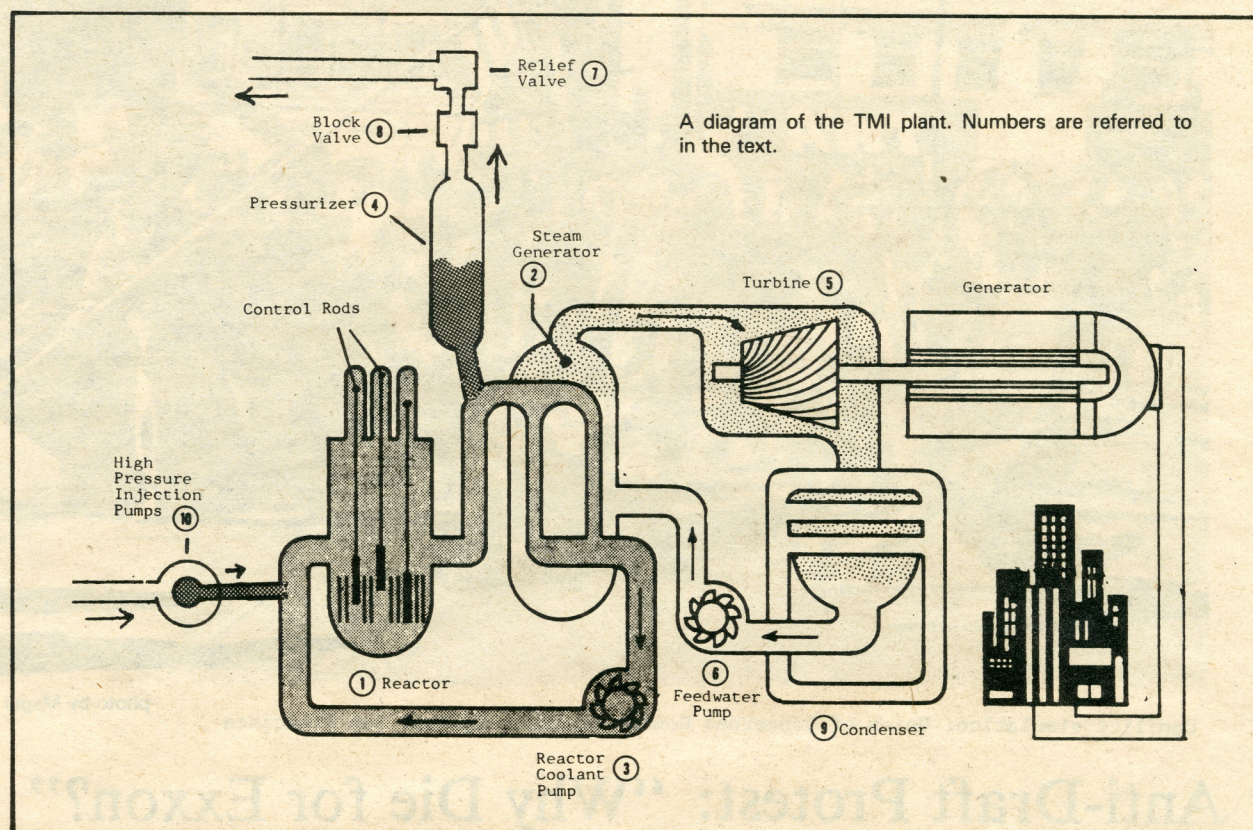
One system (shaded on the diagram) is called the primary. Water is pumped through the reactor (1) and the steam generator (2) by the reactor cooling pump (3). A tank called a "pressurizer" (4) is also part of the system. Its purpose is to put pressure on the water in the primary system to keep it from boiling. Since the water is at about 600°F, very high pressure is needed.

The pressurizer is normally filled with part water and part steam, and electric heaters allow turning more of the water into steam in order to maintain system pressure. This is the only place that steam is allowed in the primary system because it is much worse at removing heat than water is.

Water in the primary system is always somewhat radioactive because it picks up radioactive material in the reactor core. In an accident like TMI where fuel rods are damaged, it becomes very radioactive.

The other main system of plumbing is the secondary. Here water is at a lower pressure, and it boils when it enters the steam generator and picks up heat from the primary system. The resulting steam turns a turbine (5) which spins a generator to make electricity. The "used" steam coming out of the turbine is turned back into water in the condenser (9), and the water is pumped back into the steam generator by a feedwater pump (6). This water is not radioactive unless the steam generator leaks (in older plants, it often does).

In actual plants, there are often several pumps, valves, etc. where the diagram shows one.



The Accident: A Chronology

At 4:00 AM, March 28, 1979, TMI-2 was running at 97% of rated power. The accident began 37 seconds later. The following times are from the start of the accident.

START: Main feedwater pumps (6) shut down, probably due to a clogged water purification device. Almost immediately, the turbines (5) shut down and the plant is disconnected from the electric lines. Auxiliary feedwater pumps (also at 5), designed to take over when the main ones quit, automatically start up.

3 SECONDS: The reactor's heat, which was just being turned into steam (and electricity) now has nowhere to go. It causes a rapid rise in reactor temperature and pressure. About five seconds into the accident, the relief valve (7) opens automatically, releasing steam into a drain tank in the containment building (not shown).

8 SECONDS: The high reactor pressure causes a "scram", or nuclear shutdown. All the control rods drop into the reactor core, and the nuclear reaction stops.

13 SECONDS: Reactor pressure drops to where the relief valve (7) should automatically close. A light in the control room says this happens. **But in fact it is stuck open, and will stay open for two hours.**

38 SECONDS: The water level on the secondary side of the steam generators has dropped. Water from the auxiliary feedwater pumps **should** now be going into the steam generators. **But maintenance workers have closed these pumps' "block" valves, preventing water flow. The operators don't know this.** By two minutes into the accident, the steam generators have "boiled dry" and are removing no heat from the primary system. (The reactor manufacturer says this made the accident more difficult to control.)

2 MINUTES: Reactor pressure keeps dropping, due to the stuck valve. It drops to where high pressure injection pumps (10) automatically turn on and begin pumping water into the primary system. This is an emergency measure designed to keep the reactor core covered with water.

4 MINUTES: Operators see the pressurizers' (4) water level rising quickly. They think this means that the primary system is full of water, so they shut off the high pressure injection pumps (10). **But what is really happening is that steam bubbles are forming in the reactor because of the low pressure** — much the way an overheated car radiator boils as you take off the pressure cap. As these bubbles grow, they push up the water in the pressurizer and give the illusion the system is full of water.

7 MINUTES: Water flowing through the stuck relief valve has overflowed the drain tank and is running onto the floor of the reactor building. Now a sump pump starts

up and begins pumping the radioactive water into a tank in the auxiliary building. But this tank is defective, and the water spills onto the auxiliary building floor.

8 MINUTES: Operator notices and opens the closed auxiliary feedwater block valves (but too late to improve the course of the accident).

18 MINUTES: Reactor building exhaust shows tenfold increase in radiation levels.

32 MINUTES: Core temperature indicators go off the high end of their scales. Reactor is now being cooled by steam water mixture — much less effective than the normal water alone.

50 MINUTES: Operators are now aware that something is wrong. They call operating engineer to the site.

1 HOUR, 14 MINUTES: As more and more steam forms in the primary system, vibrations worsen in the reactor coolant pumps (3), which are designed to circulate only water. Vibration alarms begin sounding.

1 HOUR, 41 MINUTES: Operators fear they will ruin one of the pumps, causing a large loss of coolant and a possible meltdown. They stop the pumps. With no coolant circulation at all, the core heats up rapidly. Many experts believe that turning off the pumps was the fatal mistake that sealed TMI's fate.

2 HOURS: Plant officials call a Babcock and Wilcox engineer at his home (it is about 6 AM). He suggests shutting the block valve (8), which finally stops the flow of water through the stuck relief valve. **The NRC's Rogovin commission found that if this valve had stayed open 30-60 minutes longer, a meltdown would have occurred.**

3 HOURS: Radiation levels show a marked increase. There are now 50 to 60 people in the control room attempting to deal with the crisis.

3 HOURS, 30 MINUTES: Utility officials declare general site emergency.

3 HOURS, 37 MINUTES: Middletown police dispatcher is notified there is a problem at the plant, but that no local action is needed.

4 HOURS, 20 MINUTES: Reactor building radiation level reaches 600 rad/hr. New instruments indicate core temperatures as high as 2500°F. Hydrogen is being generated as the zirconium fuel rods react chemically with steam (see Dave Troup's article, November '79 *It's About Times*).

4 HOURS, 35 MINUTES: Middletown police dispatcher is told emergency has "stabilized".

5 HOURS: Containment building radiation level reaches 6000 rad/hr. 5 minutes of exposure at this level would be fatal; 1 second would be equivalent to about 10 years of normal background radiation.

6 HOURS: Rising radiation levels in control room force most people to leave. Remaining operators don masks.

7 HOURS: Some operators are forced to take off respirators for brief periods in order to communicate. They still believe the core is covered with water and worry about uncovering it as they discuss their options.

7 HOURS, 30 MINUTES: Operators release some reactor pressure in an unsuccessful attempt to start another emergency core cooling system.

9 HOURS, 50 MINUTES: Accumulated hydrogen gas in the reactor building explodes, causing a pressure surge of 30 pounds per square inch. The building holds.

12 HOURS: NRC senior manager expresses concern that the high core temperature readings might be accurate and indicate the core is uncovered. (This is 7½ hours after the readings were taken). Present temperatures are unavailable due to a computer or sensor problem.

13 HOURS, 30 MINUTES: Some core temperatures begin returning to normal. System is repressurized and one reactor coolant pump started.

18 HOURS: It is now 10 P.M. An NRC official tells the press that there has been "no significant core damage" at the plant. The NRC has "no comment" on reports of high radiation levels in the reactor building.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29: Metropolitan Edison admits that radioactive gas escaped during the accident. Utility and NRC statements are reassuring and carry the implication the accident is over.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30: A large burst of radioactive gas is released from the plant, starting at 6:40 AM. Pennsylvania advises children and pregnant women to evacuate the area.

Within the NRC, there is grave concern that a hydrogen explosion will rupture the reactor vessel or the containment building. In secret NRC meetings, Roger Mattson, director of the division of systems safety, urges a general evacuation. Some residents, wary of official announcements, begin evacuating on their own.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31: In a 1 AM status report, the NRC publicly admits the condition of the reactor and the possibility of a meltdown. In a meeting, Mattson says, "I'm not sure why we're not moving people. Got to say it. I don't know what we are protecting at this point."

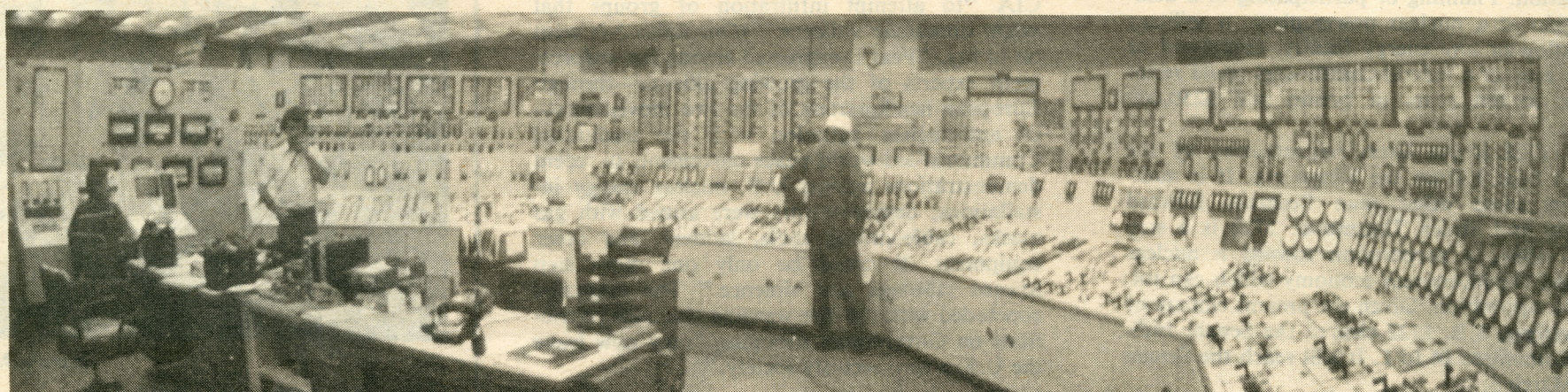
The NRC fears that an explosive mixture of hydrogen and oxygen might be forming in the reactor vessel. They consider ways of removing the gas bubble from the reactor — and the risks of each.

SUNDAY, APRIL 1: As the NRC continues evacuation planning, President Carter tours TMI's control room to reassure local residents. He wears protective boots.

MONDAY, APRIL 2: The gas bubble in the reactor is shrinking rapidly. All breathe sighs of relief.

—Bob Van Scoy

Sources: SF Chronicle, March 29-April 3, 1979
IEEE Spectrum, November, 1979
San Jose Mercury News, April 29, 1979



Harrisburg Since TMI

The people in Newberry Township, Pennsylvania, across the river from the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant, were unprepared for coping with the accident at the reactor next door. In a telephone interview with *It's About Times*, organizer Pat Smith described the community as middle America—people who listen to the government, pay their bills on time, and once believed that nuclear power was safe and necessary. "I know the majority of people now oppose nuclear power, and support us, but we haven't been able to mobilize them in an active way. People want to get on with living their own lives." Twenty to thirty groups emerged after the accident, but now activities have quieted down.

The TMI Plant

Prior to the accident at TMI Unit 2, Unit 1 had a less than exemplary safety record. "Nuclear Safety," a bimonthly technical progress report prepared for the

NRC by the Nuclear Safety Information Center at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, reports more than 16 radiation leaks and numerous breakdowns between October 1974 and May 1977.

Conditions around the TMI facility have not been good since the accident:

- Met Ed still plans on reopening TMI Unit 2. Ronald Arnold, head of clean-up operations, estimates the cost of getting the facility back into working order at \$400 million.
- Robert Kapler, investigative reporter for *The Guide*, serving the area surrounding TMI, easily gained access to all parts of the plant. Posing as a security guard, Kapler discovered numerous security problems. A potential saboteur wouldn't need explosives, he concluded. The control room of Unit 2 is kept unlocked. Tape covers the door latch, and a nylon cord serves as a handy door handle. Kapler "waltzed into the room", took numerous photographs, and encountered only a friendly "Howyadoin".

Metropolitan Edison, the utility operating TMI, went to court to bar *The Guide* from publishing Kapler's story. They had never discovered Kapler's true identity during the month he worked for them.

- A thousand gallons of radioactive water leaked from the plant's cooling system February 11. Some radioactive gases were released into the atmosphere.
- Met Ed has continually threatened to release radioactive materials into the environment as part of the clean-up operation.
- General Public Utilities, Met Ed's parent company, decided February 9 not to pay \$15 million in dividends to its stockholders. There has only been one other default on dividend payments by a utility since the 1930's.
- The price of GPU stock has fallen from \$18 to \$7 a share.
- The same day General Public Utilities didn't pay, Met Ed was granted a \$55 million rate increase by the Public Utilities Commission to pay for the extra power they purchase while Unit 1 is closed down.

Keep It Closed

Eighteen groups, including the Union of Concerned Scientists, are intervening against the reopening of Unit 1. "We're asking the PUC to remove Unit 1 from the rate base, even though it is 25% of the rate base. We don't care if Met Ed goes bankrupt. We don't want to see them manage the plant," said Smith.

Each of the intervening groups is challenging the license of the plant on different grounds. "There are several justifications to keep the plant closed," Smith continues. "Lack of an adequate evacuation plan alone is enough to keep the plant from ever opening."

Smith, herself an intervenor, is seeking closure on the basis of the plant's psychological effects on people. "The people in the area are frightened. People are so upset they can't bear to testify about their fears in court. Psychologists must visit these people in their homes to get their testimony."

Met Ed wants to release the two million cubic feet of krypton gas that has collected in the containment dome into the atmosphere. "People call up their friends to talk about it, and all they can do is cry."

Ms. Smith reports that she knows three women on her street that have experienced miscarriages in the last 9 months. But she cautions that miscarriages have been high since the plant's opening. New York physics professor Michio Kaku reported to *It's About Times* (November-Mid-December, 1979) that stillbirths have been increasing. Dr. Ernest Sternglass reports similar findings, but no official studies have yet been completed.

Future Plans

The organizers, who are mostly in their 30's and 40's, have been kept very busy. A large rally is planned for March 29 in Central Pennsylvania. Most of the speakers will be local people, but Ralph Nader and Linda Ronstadt will also participate. John Gofman will give a presentation to the community the night before.

Smith hopes to get more people involved in what is now an informal rate strike. "We're having to pay higher bills because of TMI. 350,000 people are being asked to pay for the clean-up."

"I've never been compensated for my mental anguish. They owe me something. I deduct 10% from my bill, and have never received even a letter of complaint from the utility. Other people have deducted 25%. Some have received warnings, and have ended up paying part of their bills to keep their power from being shut off. I wish all 350,000 ratepayers would deduct payments. God help those who only write a letter of protest when they pay their bill."

A variety of other creative tactics have been employed in opposing bill payments. Computer numbers are cut off the bill, causing the utility to look up every customer individually. Some people wrote their checks to the president of the utility, forcing him to endorse all the checks to the utility by hand. This worked well until the utility purchased a stamp endorsing all checks to Met Ed.

The people in the area surrounding TMI are determined to keep it shut down, close the other seven nuclear plants in the state, and stop all nuclear facilities, both military and civilian. Pat Smith quit her job to work full time fighting the plant. "The Public Utilities Commission can stop the bloodshed. I know what people are talking about doing if the plant is not permanently closed. It will make the Civil War look tame."

—Mark Evanoff

TMI's History

(continued from page 1)

on December 31—the plant would qualify its owners for \$32 million in tax benefits on their 1978 tax return. The utility could begin charging ratepayers for TMI-2, through a rate hike of about \$35 million a year. And Metropolitan Edison, the GPU company that operated the plant, could stop buying electricity from other utilities and start selling it, since the plant would produce more electricity than needed by Met Ed's own customers. These incentives proved irresistible.

"That Rush Job"

Starting in March 1978, the utility tried to rush TMI-2 into service. In the next ten months, the plant suffered at least 11 unplanned nuclear shutdowns, or "scrams." The first occurred on the second day of testing, and one on April 23 was so serious that operators were afraid the reactor's core had been exposed. The reactor was shut down until September for repairs.

By all accounts, working conditions were terrible during the commissioning period. Some workers went 24 to 32 hours at a stretch, and others averaged 18 to 20 hours a day. Maintenance

Man Machinist Norman Reismuller, who called the plant "that rush job," quit after he was nearly killed while testing incorrectly installed steam valves. Many workers began jokingly referring to the plant's generating capacity in "megabucks" rather than megawatts, and told of practices including faked tests of safety equipment. An NRC inspection in December, 1978, found radiation suits and boots lying around on stairways and missing radiation warning signs. The inspectors cited inadequate or incomplete operating procedures in 13 areas of plant operation.

Routine equipment maintenance was also neglected, since there wasn't enough time to fix all the problems while the reactor was shut down. So the repairs were put on back orders, which built up to a stack that one worker said was probably "a foot or two high." Routine "preventive maintenance," intended to prevent failures, became impossible. A foreman summed up the atmosphere as "if something broke, then it got preventive maintenance."

In February, 1979, the reactor finally operated for a full month. But it continued to have problems until the day of the accident. "Nobody ever did like Unit Two," said a technician who worked on it from the start. "It just always was a disaster. The equipment never ran right."

—Bob Van Scoy

Late Leaks at TMI

NO MORE RUMORS

Harrisburg: Twice in the last month, faulty valves at TMI released radioactive krypton gas into the atmosphere. Since Metropolitan Edison and the NRC considered the two releases harmless to the public, they failed to report the incidents to Pennsylvania state officials. Oran Henderson, the Director of Pennsylvania's Civil State Defense, said he learned of the recent emissions "through the back door." Harrisburg residents say they're tired of relying on the rumor mill, and they've requested President Carter to establish a "credible committee" that would investigate and make public all events at the reactor site.

RADIATION'S FAR REACH

Wind-borne radiation affects communities within 200 miles of nuclear accidents, according to radiation physicist Dr. Ernest Sternglass. Sternglass drew that conclusion after studying infant mortality rates in a wide region around Harrisburg. He contends that Three Mile Island's partial meltdown raised infant death rates in upstate New York and throughout Pennsylvania, where the death toll rose from 141 infant deaths per 10,000 before the accident to 271 per 10,000 afterwards. Other scientists disagree with Sternglass's conclusion and attribute the higher death rate to normal variations in small populations.

TMI BIRTH DEFECTS?

Still another controversy is brewing over the effects of the Three Mile Island accident. Pennsylvania health officials confirmed February 20 that an abnormal number of babies with a thyroid defect have been born in three counties near the plant. The defect, called hypothyroidism, can cause grave mental retardation and stunted growth unless quickly treated. In the three counties, 13 babies were born with the disorder in the last nine months of 1979. Three such births would ordinarily be expected.

It is well known that radioactive iodine, released in the TMI accident, can cause thyroid disorders—and that infants are particularly susceptible. But NRC officials maintain that the iodine emissions from the plant were far too low to have caused the defects.

—San Francisco Chronicle, 2/21/80

After the Accident: Reflections

Which Anti-Nuclear Movement?

It was mentioned to me more than once that Three Mile Island was the Tet Offensive of the anti-nuclear movement. In one brief episode it shattered the status-quo for perhaps millions of people and did what countless rallies and pamphlets had been unable to do — bring the issue of the dangers of nuclear energy to the forefront of most people's attention and prompt many of them to further investigation, discussion and activity. For the Abalone Alliance in particular, and the anti-nuclear movement in general, it resulted in the sudden formation of new anti-nuclear groups, an instant swelling of the ranks of the more established groups and a barrage of requests for more information from neighbors and newspaper reporters.

A year has passed since the accident in Harrisburg and the conditions of the anti-nuclear movement seem to have changed more than conditions at the plant. I want to mention three particular areas of concern when examining the current state of health of the anti-nuclear movement and the probability of its surviving and making the needed changes. (This is not meant to be a complete laundry list of ailments.) It should also be noted that none of these issues are a specific result of TMI and in most cases were merely exacerbated by the near disaster.

The most obvious question that comes to mind is **which** anti-nuclear movement. The price for popularity is often the bandwagon syndrome and the anti-nuke movement is no exception. It has become a multi-layered movement: where you sit and how much you believe the media will greatly affect your perceptions of the anti-nuclear movement and how you ally with it. The grassroots organizations have been accused of a particular brand of myopia that manifests itself in targeting local facilities with all the fervor of the newly converted, to the exclusion of all other aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle — much less adequate attention to the political and economic forces that continue to breathe life into a wounded industry. While there is ample justification in the charge, the hesitation in rushing to the national scene lies partly in suspicion of the electoral process and the personality fixation of such ventures as the Hayden/Fonda tour and the MUSE concerts. Conversations turn to how we can use each other and I'm reminded of the old adage, "You are what you eat."

The second point is the problem of making health and safety *the* main organizing focus and how TMI reinforced the tendency to concentrate on that particular issue. While it is an important area to organize around because it touches people's lives in a tangible way and can be useful tactically, it also obscures the issues of economics and the power structure that not only allows but subsidizes and protects the interests of the nuclear industry. We are learning that we can never win the experts' game because they will always have a few more facts and figures. With health and safety as the cornerstone of the anti-nuclear movement, we set ourselves up to be bought off by piecemeal concessions and improvements, or cornered into the oversimplified argument that "no radiation is safe, therefore nuclear power is unacceptable." While valid in its charge, it sidesteps the question of how much radiation is

acceptable, from what sources and when do benefits outweigh risks.

Lastly is the (much heralded) myth of the demise of nuclear industry. Due to financing troubles, endless delays due to interventions and licensing difficulties, and the opinion of many that "they don't want a nuke in their backyard," domestic orders for nuclear plants have dropped to zero. TMI forced the NRC and industry to make some changes, if only cosmetic, in the shabby process known as regulation and licensing. This keeps the attention on *them* making nuclear power just as safe as they possibly can. It has fostered a complacency in many that nuclear power is just about dead and the main issue now is closing down the plants still operating. It ignores the history of how and why nuclear power came into existence and the present realities of its continued importance in legitimizing and helping to sustain the nuclear arms race. It is not a function our government will forfeit easily, and the recent decision on the reactor sale to the Philippines is a good indication that the nuclear industry will do what all business has been able to do when faced with an unfavorable climate at home — take its business elsewhere, with the passive (or in this case) active assistance of the U.S. government.

These are three issues that I feel need to be addressed in our analysis and strategy. I am struck by the possibility that the single most powerful impact on the anti-nuclear movement may be the current national/international crises and how we respond to them. The dangers of nuclear power have faded in peoples minds with the events in Iran and Afghanistan, the reinstitution of registration and inevitably the draft, and the rising spectre of nuclear war. This is not to suggest that fighting nuclear power is no longer important but rather to emphasize the need to understand and speak out strongly on how the energy crisis has become a rationale for war as well as for nuclear power and the breeder reactor. At a time when our fears are being played like a well-tuned fiddle we must, as Holly Near says, "Fight back, in large numbers."

— Susan Mesner

Where Do We Stand?

If you are involved on any level in it, you know. Since you, the readers, are the anti-Nuclear movement, it is doing exactly what you are doing. Whether you quit your job to go and sit in Sacramento to work for 18 hours a day in Politics, or got frustrated with your disorganized, elitist, contradictory anti-nuclear group and left the "movement", or just joined one of the dynamic, forward moving, Abalone Alliance locals(?), the movement is doing what you are doing.

If SO NO MORE ATOMICS (in Sonoma County) is at all representative, then the movement grew some roots over the last year. Films and video tapes were shown to school and churches, vigils were held, concerts for fun and funds were organized, community dinners were eaten, PG&E and other pro-nuclear representatives were debated, frustrating and exciting meetings about who, where and how to be most effective were endured, etc. etc.



Rainy rally, Lawrence Livermore Labs, May 5.

People found out that they can organize their neighborhood without having someone from the "Abalone Alliance Central Office" surveying them every step along the way. They do it in their own fashion and it works just fine. The movement got decentralized, sometimes too decentralized and people lost contact with each other. But what is a grass-roots movement if not decentralized?

On the other side of the fence (some of us climbed) the nuclear industry is going merrily after its profits, regardless of earthquakes, cancers or us.

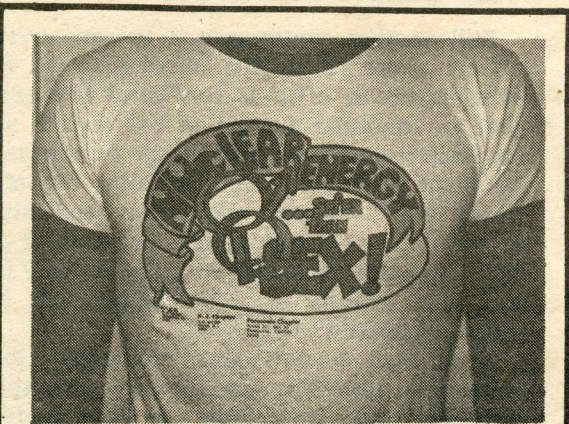
What if the construction workers refused to build the thousands of miles of tunnels for the MX missile system in Nevada? What if the operators of nuclear power plants refused to start them up after they are shut down for safety reasons? What if nobody shipped reactors overseas anymore, what if truckers refused to transport wastes on our roads? The two labor-anti-nuke conferences held during the last year are of enormous importance. So are the other contacts made on many local levels between anti-nuclear activists and labor people.

We make blunders and mistakes all the time, but let's face it folks, we are very effective, we got 'em running and spending lots of the profits they are squeezing from us on counter intelligence, propaganda and dirty dealings. The measure of repression is a measure of our success too. We are in an historically decisive period. The choice is either

The Nuclear Industry

AIF Urged to "Take to the Streets"

Speakers at a November meeting of the Atomic Industrial Forum in San Francisco urged members to "take to the streets with moral indignation." Senator James A. McClure (R. Idaho) advocated an attitude of "religious fervor" aimed at those intending to stop nuclear energy "dead in its tracks". Anti-nuclear activists, he concluded, are embarked on a "quasi-religious crusade" to rid mankind of the "imagined horrors of the atom." This provides them with a "strong moral position," he said, "which can easily override the factual arguments and logical presentations of nuclear energy supporters."



This T-shirt was produced by the Society for the Advancement of Fission Energy (SAFE). Such "grass-roots" pro-nuclear groups are usually supported out of corporate coffers.

Members of the Atomic Industrial Forum (AIF) include utilities, oil companies, banks, investment houses, universities, unions, and even government agencies from foreign countries. The AIF is the group which prevented the broadcast of "Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang," and "Plutonium, Element of Risk," in most parts of the U.S.

The San Francisco convention was the first major meeting since the accident at TMI. The corporations sent in their presidents and chairmen of the boards to participate in this crucial strategy meeting for the industry.

Mark Herstgaard of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, D.C. attended the meeting and wrote in the December 15 issue of *In These Times*, "Consciously or not, they feel nuclear opponents are really attacking economic growth and by extension the private enterprise economy." Herstgaard believes that economic blackmail will be used if the industry does not get their way. Slowing the economy and casting workers from their jobs if nuclear power is not developed were openly discussed.

Edward Teller, father of the H-bomb, articulated the situation to the assembled crowd. "We are in a desperate struggle against whatever you wish to call them — no growthers, environmentalists, elitists. They may win the battle and, if they do, America is doomed and freedom is doomed."

Robert Kirby, chairman of Westinghouse, expressed concern about the industry's image. He warned that "a second TMI could change the public's reasonable fear into hostility." The struggle for nuclear power, he said, must be won by 1983 if the American economy is to endure and prosper.

Discussions on the crisis have continued in the trade journals of the nuclear industry. An editorial in the January issue of *Nuclear News* questions the economics of making nuclear power acceptable. "As things are done to make nuclear energy more politically and socially

acceptable — better equipment; improved training of people, etc. — the doing of many of these things serves to erode the economic promise of nuclear. The unhappy choices concern these corrections, or "fixes," that the industry generally feels are too expensive. The industry's challenge in the 1980's will be to maintain or improve the public acceptability of nuclear energy without eroding its economics. It is a larger challenge than any it faced in the 1970's.

Battle Against Safe Alternatives

Another editorial, this one in the January 15, 1980 *Electrical World*, reveals an even deeper problem faced by the nuclear industry. Like the rest of the economy, it must constantly expand to stay healthy. "Our crisis . . . is not one of resource scarcity. Rather it is rooted . . . in our . . . perverse insistence upon inhibiting expeditious development of our abundant nonpetroleum energy resources. . . if substitutes are available, then conservation *per se* actually becomes an anti-social policy, imposing unnecessary and unjustifiable social costs." Here the good of society is seen as synonymous with the good of the energy industry.

Still another lament about the predicament of the nuclear industry came from Chauncey Starr of the Electric Power Research Institute. He testified before a House subcommittee last September that "many of the anti-nuclear partisans have promulgated the simplistic fantasy that clean limitless solar energy is now available, with only the stupidity, greed or inertia of the establishment holding up the transition." He sadly concludes, "The public does not distinguish between the technology and the institutional system for its use — both are tarred with the same brush."

Let us hope that Starr's perceptions of the public are accurate.

— Mark Evanoff

on the Anti-Nuclear Movement



photo by Jessica Collett

corporate facism or social democracy. And the choice is yours! Keep it up and congratulations to us all!

— Urs Schuler

Electoral Cooption, Leftist Exploitation

The anti-nuclear movement has gained sufficient public visibility, credibility and support to run two risks: cooption by conventional electoral politics and exploitation by the orthodox left. Both have predictably, if regrettably, begun to occur.

Those who have chosen conventional electoral strategies for gaining power are preoccupied with what is possible, what is popular, what 'will sell.' The CED/Hayden/Nader/Commoner crowd makes a persistent, if illogical, distinction between nuclear power and weapons. Apparently they believe work on the latter is antithetical to building a mass movement at this point and detrimental to the nuclear power struggle. We see a more or less conscious effort to minimize the links between nuclear power and weapons, and to defer if not ignore the threat of nuclear weapons and need for disarmament.

The orthodox "organized left," on the other hand, has

gauged the anti-nuclear movement's success as sufficient to merit its opportunistic infiltration and diversion. This is evident in insistence on "correct line" political posturing and rhetorical excess, socialistic jargon quite foreign to the bulk of the American people, and worker and economic conversion strategies to the neglect of direct-action and alternative life-style concerns. It dodges or finesses the socialistic countries' commitments to nuclear power. (Castro recently reiterated his commitment to nuclear power because the Soviets will take the waste home with them!)

The left typically fails to address the dehumanizing impacts of centralized, industrialized and technologized societies per se. We see signs of this development also in the preachy and condescending, though oftentimes alluring enticement to strategies and analyses destined to build a mass movement. (How ironic that those who fail to build a mass base are so confident in prescribing how it is to be done.)

And, finally, it is seen in the erosion of the movement's commitment to nonviolence in our own organizations and in our political work and actions. This is attempted by caricaturing pacifists and those committed to nonviolence, and insisting on nonviolence merely as a technique for exercising power and nothing more, certainly not a life-style, or a philosophical or moral conviction.

If these developments continue, and I suspect they will, the struggle will likely be as intense within our own groups and movement as with our several foes. In the contending of views we may well learn the difference between a truly liberating form of social struggle and more of the same politics. In any case, the fact that we have to face it is itself a sign of the anti-nuclear movement's success to date.

—Scott Kennedy

Beyond Single Issues

The accident at Three Mile Island was only the first major turning point for the anti-nuclear movement this year. The second was the sudden emergence of the anti-draft, anti-war movement over the last few weeks. If Three Mile Island made nuclear power a household nightmare, the recent international events have done the same for nuclear war.

Most people have found it natural for speakers at anti-draft rallies to address these questions together: the energy quagmire is connected to the threat of war is connected to military registration is connected to the liberation of women. In fact, the whole year has been marked by an expansion of the anti-nuclear movement's concerns—to labor issues like unemployment and working conditions, to international issues, to nuclear weapons, to increases in military spending and cutbacks in social programs.

Yet all of these miseries are treated only as issues. There's not much talk about the fundamental economic and social structures that underlie them. And there's been no attempt to build a

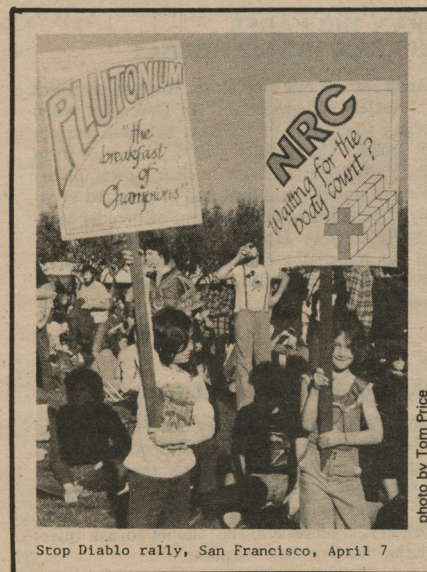


photo by Tom Price

Stop Diablo rally, San Francisco, April 7

politics that opposes the capitalist system as a whole rather than a piece at a time.

In the short run, single issue movements fail because they bring people out only for a crisis, like a nuclear meltdown or the imminent re-statement of the draft. Most of us who hang in through thick and thin do so because we share a deeper and broader understanding of society. But though we'll discuss that over a beer, it never gets mentioned at our rallies or in our leaflets.

In the long run, single-issue movements fail even when they succeed, because they invite single-issue solutions. And these leave the existing capitalist system intact, ready to spawn the next horror (which joins the ever-present ones) and to re-incorporate the next partial solution.

We need a movement that will be compelling not just in moments of crisis, but all the time. We can begin by creating a movement that pushes on the already existing perceptions of the links between the issues until it finds the economic and political logic that unites them. We will have to understand and name both our visions of utopia and our fears of apocalypse (whether of the 'whimper' or 'bang' variety). And in the recent words of one informed observer, we will ultimately have to "throw down the bloodstained idols of Economy and Nation and take collective control of our own lives."

—Marcy Darnovsky

Comes Out Swinging

The Industry — One Year Later

Business Week, *The Wall Street Journal* and Barry Commoner are all talking about the demise of the nuclear industry. At first glance, they appear to be right.

Nuclear-generated profits are continuing to plummet and more domestic reactor orders are being cancelled — nine in 1979 and five so far this year. More than 60 plants have been delayed and no new ones have been ordered since 1978. Electricity generated by nuclear power plants went to 11.5% of the U.S. total in 1979, down from 13% the previous year. Growth in electricity sales was only 3% in 1979, while increases in peak load — the traditional justification for nukes — hung out at 0%.

Throughout the rest of the world, nuclear power expansion is being fought tooth and nail. Citizens in Austria voted not to open a fully completed nuclear plant. Sweden will hold a referendum in March to decide the fate of nuclear power development in their country. Reactors have been delayed in West Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Spain.

Nuclear Industry Still Makes Gains

Despite these gains, nuclear power is still a very real threat. Ninety reactors are being built in the United States. *Electrical World* (January, 1980) reports that eight plants are scheduled to go on line this year, followed by an average of ten a year through 1988.

Departing from a licensing moratorium that has held since the Three Mile Island accident, the NRC agreed in February to allow the Tennessee Valley Authority to begin low-power testing at the Sequoyah Nuclear Power Plant. A week later, the Commission ruled that they would accept no authority in evaluating the environmental, health or safety impacts of U.S. reactor exports

on recipient countries like the Philippines. (See *Short Circuits*.)

Even a moratorium on new construction in this country would not finish off the nuclear industry. There are 166 commercially-operated nuclear reactors throughout the world, 156 plants under construction, and another 266 planned or ordered. France has begun an aggressive pro-nuclear campaign, aiming at getting 55% of its electricity from nuclear by 1985. In fact, the American industry is beginning to get nervous about French and German competition.

Despite the cancellations and construction delays, the American builders of nuclear reactors (Westinghouse, General Electric, Combustion Engineering and Babcock & Wilcox) are doing well financially.

Mark Hertzgaard of the Institute for Policy Studies writes in *Not Man Apart*, November 1979: "Right now nuclear executives are most hopeful about profits to be had from existing plants. When they service an operating reactor, they make about one-and-a-half times the 10 to 12 percent (pre-tax) profit they make when selling reactors. And the market promises to expand as more of the plants presently under construction come on line. Combustion-Engineering, for instance, anticipates about a \$200-million-a-year business in refueling and servicing the 31 plants it expects to have on line by 1992. Conservatively estimated, that translates into \$30 million (in 1979 dollars) of nuclear profit every year, even if Combustion-Engineering never gets another reactor order."

The New Campaign

Utilities and the nuclear industry want to assure the continued prosperity of nuclear development. Competition has been placed on the back burner as all parties involved engage in a concentrated, coordinated effort to promote their product. The Environmental Action

Foundation estimates that \$60 million will be spent on public relations this year.

The industry has been busy creating new organizations to promote nuclear power and give the impression of concern about safety. One of these, the Committee on Energy Awareness, will join the Edison Electric Institute in coordinating public outreach and legislative lobbying. College campuses, scientists, senior citizens, women and the financial community have been specifically targeted for a special outreach campaign.

Part of the industry strategy is to mobilize "grass-roots" pro-nuke groups.

The Energy Research Group, Inc., a nonprofit organization, offer this advice on pro-nuclear organizing: "It is often necessary for the corporate participant to help initiate, implement, and help sustain citizen action while allowing the group to develop their own identity. Done with care... corporate participation can help citizen groups multiply and influence decision makers."

The new corporate facade also includes the image of a rigorous self-policing. The Institute of Nuclear Power Operation will set "standards of excellence" for the industry and train operators. Its staff of 200 will play with a \$12 million annual budget. The Nuclear Safety Analysis Center, created to "analyze" accidents, will have \$7.5 million a year to spend.

The new campaign for nuclear power will focus on the threat to national security (sic) if nuclear power is not developed, domination by OPEC if the nuclear licensing moratorium continues, and the prospect of deteriorating lifestyles. Sadly, it is the ratepayers who will be paying for all the propaganda.

—Mark Evanoff

Special thanks to Cathy Sunshine
Nuclear Information Resource Service
for supplying background material

SHORT CIRCUITS

JAPAN DECLARES NUCLEAR INDEPENDENCE

Japan moved one step closer to what its rulers call "nuclear independence" in December when it began operation of its own uranium enrichment plant. The facility will try to transform accumulating wastes from nuclear power plants into more power plant fuel and is expected eventually to further the development of breeder reactor technology in Japan. The Japanese government has hailed the enrichment plant as significant in removing U.S. control over nuclear power technology.

—Critical Mass Journal

FRENCH PROTEST PLANT

Over 20,000 people congregated February 3 in the French village of Plogoff to protest the proposed siting of four large nuclear reactors there. The protesters, mostly from agricultural regions, came in the opening days of a month-long "public inquiry," which allowed people to ask questions but not to refuse the plant.

—Nucleonics Week, 2/7/80

CANADIANS COOL TO NUKES

A Canadian poll commissioned by the Department of Energy, Mines, and Resources showed Canadians skeptical about energy shortages and opposed to nuclear power. Only 32% of the 1500 people interviewed believed the country is facing an energy shortage. Further nuclear construction was opposed by 63% and favored by only 33% of the sample.

—Nucleonics Week, 2/7/80

MAPPING RADIATION

Is there radiation beyond the U.C. Labs? The Labs Conversion Project thinks so. The Project has initiated the first step in studying radiation dispersal and formally requested the State Health Department to undertake soil sampling in the Livermore Valley.

Some of the elements health officials would look for are the alpha-emitters plutonium, curium, and uranium. Plutonium has already been discovered beyond the Lab site; Lab officials attribute the isotope's escape to the use of solar evaporators, a practice abandoned since the off-site discovery. Soil analysts would also look for cesium-137, a fission product that would attest to a fission accident.

So far, Health Department officials have put off the study, which the Conversion Project regards as the first step to an extensive examination which would eventually document cancer incidence, congenital birth defects, and autopsy tissue-analysis within 20 miles of the Labs.

—Julia Randall

MOBIL, STANDARD FINED FOR PRICE GOUGING

On February 14, a U.S. District Court fined Mobil Oil \$500,000 for price gouging. Mobil pleaded "no contest" to charges of shifting price-controlled natural gas from interstate pipelines to unregulated Texas pipelines where it could be sold more profitably. Mobil, of course, is famous for full-page ads about how government regulation is bad for the energy consumer.

On the same day, Standard Oil of Indiana agreed to pay \$690 million in settlement of a government suit charging price violations. With the two fines, the Department of Energy has reached settlements with oil companies totaling \$1.64 billion. But the Government estimates major oil companies have made at least \$10 billion through illegal overcharges.

MAYBE THEY SHOULD CHECK

An interesting little item popped up at the American Nuclear Society winter meeting. It seems that Rockwell International, which runs the Rocky Flats, Colorado nuclear weapons plant, is being sued by its neighbors over contamination of their land with airborne plutonium. Two adjacent patches of land compared by Rockwell researchers were expected to have comparable levels of contamination, but a section that was primarily used for grazing land had about 20 times the contamination level of a heavily cultivated area used to grow wheat. Asked whether studies had checked for plutonium contamination of the wheat, the Rockwell representatives claimed they didn't know of any such studies.

—Nuclear News, 1/80

I WANT YOU



IN MY TANK!

NEW EVIDENCE IN URANIUM CARTEL CASE

In the early 70's, while the Trilateral Commission was promoting cooperation and mutual backscratching among the multinationals, the uranium industry was engaging in a bit of backstabbing. The cartel that pushed the price of uranium ore from \$7 per pound to \$45 between 1972 and 1975 also aimed at eliminating "middleman" competition such as Westinghouse and General Electric. Eventually, Westinghouse filed an anti-trust suit against 29 uranium producers. That case is still pending.

Now, *Critical Mass Journal* reports obtaining new documents that may reopen the uranium cartel case. The documents show that in 1978, a unanimous recommendation by Justice Department attorneys to seek tough felony indictments against nine corporations for their part in the cartel was brushed aside by then-antitrust division head John Shenefield, now acting associate attorney general.

The documents also reveal that the State Department apparently suspected as early as 1972 that potential price-fixing operations were underway by the uranium companies. But then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger took no action until three years later when *Forbes* magazine reported that the cartel existed.

—Thanks to *Critical Mass Journal*

DISNEY TO REMAKE PRO-NUKE MOVIE

Walt Disney's late 50's cartoon feature, "Our Friend the Atom," is being updated for release later this year. The film, which featured the Disney gang romping through a hazard-free nuclearland, is being redone with a little help from its friends—the American and German nuclear industry. Retitled "The Atom—A Closer Look," the \$500,000 revision is partly financed by \$110,000 from the American Nuclear Society and \$90,000 from Deutsches Atomforum. The societies have also agreed to purchase 300 copies of the film at \$500 each.

But there is one hitch in this cozy little plan. Disney Studios retains editorial control of the film, and its advisors include the Union of Concerned Scientists and other nuclear critics as well as industry people. So what happens if the film comes out anti-nuclear? An American Nuclear Society spokesperson said the studio is being paid in four equal installments—and each depends on the industry liking what it sees at that point. He went on to say, "The film is supposed to be very much as it was before, and it shouldn't get too involved with social issues." So don't expect to see Huey, Dewey, and Louie fleeing a meltdown.

—Bob Van Scoy
(from *Nucleonics Week*, 2/14/80)

Join the Picket Line!

Sixty thousand oil workers of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers union are still on strike around the country. OCAW is asking the oil industry for fully paid medical and dental plans and wages that keep up with inflation.

Oil workers' wages account for less than 1¢ of a gallon of gasoline. But the industry that engi

Oil workers' wages account for less than 1¢ of a gallon of gasoline. But the industry that engineered shortages and conjured up gas lines has so far refused to meet OCAW's demands.

The Abalone Alliance Labor Task Force is asking affinity groups to help out on the OCAW picket lines in Martinez and Richmond. "It is our growing conviction," reads the Task Force letter to affinity groups, "that when we in the anti-nuke movement begin to act not only in our roles as community members but also in our roles as part of the working majority we can create the alliance necessary for significant change."

The Task Force is working out scheduling, carpools, and other strike support activities. For more information, call Kate at 835-9437 (eves), 642-9833 (days); Marti at 848-4934; or Donna at 549-3505.

PG&E Checks Its Credibility

It's About Times has obtained a copy of a "Systemwide Customer Attitude Study" that PG&E has contracted through the Field Research Corporation of San Francisco. R. Sources suggests that the results of the survey will never be released because the respondents have been overwhelmingly anti-nuke and anti-PG&E.

The attitude survey is designed to get an idea of public opinion on questions ranging from the "seriousness" of the energy crisis to the feasibility and desirability of various energy sources; from the credibility of government regulatory agencies to the profit rates of PG&E itself. This kind of study is used to plot out corporate advertising strategies. Here are a few examples chosen from the 54 questions asked:

Energy conservation reduces the demand for electricity while new families and a growing economy increase the demand for electricity. Do you think energy conservation is going to be effective enough to eliminate the need to build new power plants or not? The implication here is that an ever-increasing demand for electricity is essential for a healthy economy.

"Do you agree or disagree with the Company's plans to operate the Diablo Canyon plant if it's approved by the NRC?"

"Did you see or hear anything about the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania last April?" Our suggestion for a follow-up question: "If no, do you own a sensory deprivation tank?"

"Here is a card listing the names of some organizations which deal in some ways with energy and the energy situation. For each one, tell me how much confidence you have in it." The Energy Commission, NRC, PUC and Kemery Commission are listed. "The Company" must've been afraid to ask about the Abalone Alliance.

"Like any other business, the prices or rates a public utility such as PG&E charges have to cover all its costs and a fair profit for those who have invested their savings in the company. Do you think PG&E is allowed to make too much profit, about the right amount, or too little profit to do these things?" What we want to know is, what's fair about profits?

A Labor and Anti-Nuclear Conference

Over 300 labor and anti-nuclear activists joined forces on Sunday, January 6 for a conference on "Labor and the Nuclear Issue" at Laney College in Oakland. Organized by the Abalone Alliance Labor Task Force and the Bay Area Rank and File Coalition, and co-sponsored also by AFSCME 1695, SEIU 535, and the Office and Professional Employees Local 29, the gathering was marked by the diversity of the participants—though few minority people attended—and by the wide range of unions represented.

Commoner Urges Neighborhood Solar

Barry Commoner opened the conference by laying out his vision of the problem—the exponentially rising cost of energy—and the solution—an economy driven largely by solar energy in its various forms. Denying that he is a "solar energy freak," Commoner condemned tax incentives to finance solar collectors for the middle and upper classes as a "retrogressive burden on the poor"; he urged instead large-scale public funding of "collective" applications of solar energy, such as district heating for low-income neighborhoods. He pushed solar energy (especially sewage-to-methane) not so much for the

specific jobs it can produce as for the crucial role it can play in restoring and stabilizing the economy as a whole. When asked what other solutions he recommends, Commoner plugged the new Citizens Party that intends to challenge corporate power through electoral activity and lobbying. Many in the audience seemed supportive of Commoner's solar vision, but he was sharply criticized by two questioners who asked him how solar energy will further the interests of the working class and help to overthrow capitalism. Commoner responded that it would be impossible to "go solar" in this country unless the people, especially the workers, participated in making the decisions about energy production and distribution.

Workshops Explore Common Interests

Workshops followed on such issues as "Jobs: Solar vs. Nuclear," "Anti-Nuclear Organizing in the Labor Movement" and "Occupational Health and Safety." Fifty people, mostly rank and file union activists, joined the largest workshop, "Organized Labor and the Anti-Nuclear Movement" that aimed directly at "bridging the gap" and finding common interests. The labor people

came from such unions as United Auto Workers, SEIU, postal workers, hospital workers, steamfitters, construction workers, public employees, American Federation of Teachers, and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, which represents most nuclear plant employees in the state.

The fertility of ideas in this workshop was impressive. Rank and file activists made it clear that though they opposed nuclear power they were unable to give much energy to anti-nuclear battles since their main priority is to defend their unions against attack and to preserve hard-won gains. Some criticized the lack of responsiveness of union leadership. There was much debate about union hierarchies and whether or not to work with union bureaucrats on energy and other issues. "Let's not kick the unions all that much," urged a construction worker, since they are all that workers have.

Other workshops were equally dynamic and wide-ranging. At the end of the day the participants gathered to hear concluding remarks by Australian trade union leader John Baker, who urged the creation of a world movement of independent grass roots organizations to fight for a world moratorium on the entire nuclear fuel cycle.

—Stewart Burns

Commoner: Nukes No, Profits Yes

Last summer, before his new Cold War saved Carter from oblivion, a group of what the *New York Times* called "disenchanted activists" announced the formation of a new Citizens Party that would field its own Presidential candidate in 1980. Though the party's nominating convention won't be held until April of this year, it has always been clear that Barry Commoner is their man.

Commoner's approach is that of a personable and only slightly condescending professor. At the "Labor and the Nuclear Issue" conference held in Oakland on January 6, Commoner expounded in what seemed to be excruciatingly oversimplified terms on his hypothesis that the rise in the price of energy has been the driving force behind inflation and the chief source of all our economic problems.

This was Commoner's central point, and it was challenged quite forcefully from the audience. There are deeper dynamics and mechanisms of capitalism that are creating our current economic crisis, one speaker pointed out. But Commoner didn't back down a bit.

It's not that Commoner is afraid to mention capitalism. He often refers to "the mistakes (sic) made by capitalists in the interests of improving their profits." He recommends workers' participation—assuming that if workers had a say in the management of capitalism, our economic problems would be solved and we'd have undertaken some fundamental social transformation.

Perhaps Commoner's basic satisfaction with the existing society is best revealed in the Citizens Party's working paper which states, "There is nothing wrong with profit, or with private ownership." The paper dwells longingly on the days when "our country began as a place where people had control of their lives" and "the free enterprise economy meant something important."

These declarations stirred dissension and embarrassment among some Citizens Party members. But despite Commoner's talk about internal democracy in the organization—"we've erected a flagpole, but it's up to whoever joins us to design the flag"—his next draft of a working paper emphasized the offending points all the more. One Citizens Party member said, "He wrote a paper showing how entrepreneurial business is what America should be about and tried to push it through."

Another part of Commoner's vision is the nationalization of part of the economy, including some unprofitable sectors like the railroads but emphasizing especially the energy industry. Assuming that such a move would be any improvement over the current state of affairs, how would it be accomplished? When asked, Commoner suddenly becomes quite unprofessionally vague. Once he replied, "It'll just fit into the natural scheme of things."

The two times I've heard Commoner speak have been in front of anti-nuke audiences, and both times he has exhorted the anti-nukers to take "the moral responsibility of victors—to seize state power." Commoner's listeners haven't seemed to share his assurance that the nuclear power industry has agreed to roll over and play dead, and there has certainly been no overwhelming consensus that anti-nuclear or anti-corporate (let alone anti-capitalist) aims can be accomplished through the only strategy that Commoner recommends—national electoral politics. One questioner at a Commoner speech in Davis last November piped up, "Tell me, Mr. Commoner, if I join the Citizens Party, and it wins in 1984 or 1988—does that mean I have to become a bureaucrat?"

—by Marcy Darnovsky

Diablo Conversion Plan Develops

In October, the Diablo Conversion Project (DCP) released a preliminary study on the feasibility of converting Diablo Canyon to a non-nuclear fuel. Since then, the DCP has been gaining momentum and support.

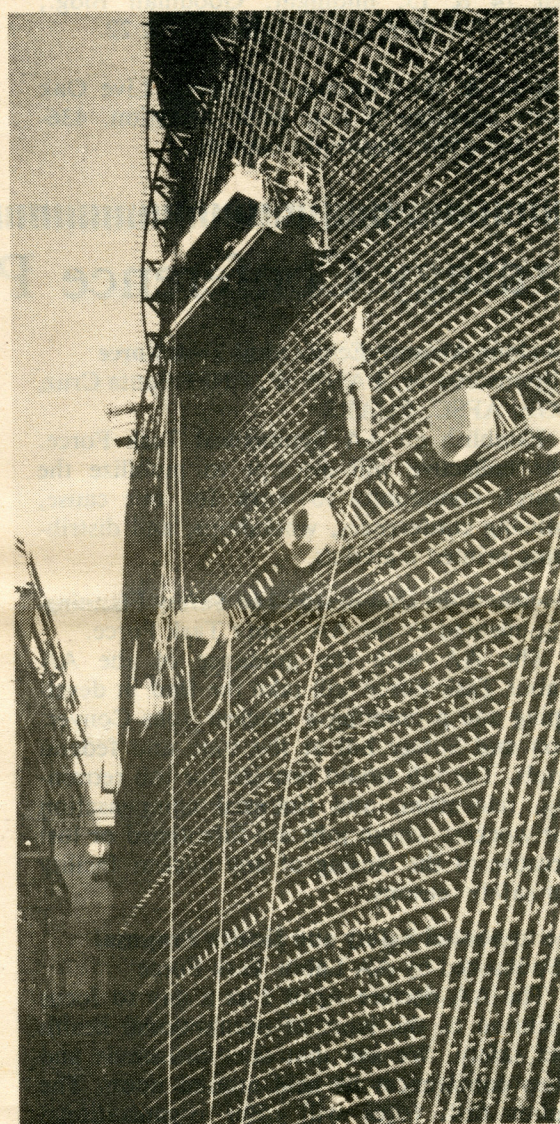
The DCP's major research efforts are now directed towards a cost analysis of a conversion scheme where Diablo would be converted to a natural gas fired combined cycle plant. Natural gas usage in other sectors of the utilities' system would be reduced by conservation measures and replaced by solar options and renewable synthetic fuels. The savings in cost could be applied towards conversion. In this scenario, then, conversion may cost only a little more over the plant's lifetime and could very well be the best option for the price.

On January 13, a Diablo Conversion Strategy Meeting was held at the offices of Friends of the Earth. A conversion network was established state-wide and work is progressing on a number of fronts. There are people making contacts within the Brown administration and exploring the best political strategy to convince Brown, the PUC, the California Energy Commission, or some inter-agency task force to conduct a conversion study that is legally effective and politically acceptable in stopping a nuclear Diablo. The feeling of the anti-nuclear community in San Luis Obispo is that conversion may be the

most likely way to stop Diablo's operation as a nuclear plant.

The Center for Law in the Public Interest, the Sierra Club and the Environmental Defense Fund are preparing a brief petitioning the PUC to reopen hearings on the conditional certification of Diablo. The brief will be filed sometime in late February, and will have three main arguments. The first concerns economics—that the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) issued by the PUC in 1967 and 1969 for units 1 and 2 is no longer justified based on the actual costs of building the plant, now four times the original cost estimate. Further, given renewable resource alternatives, changes in population and electricity demand, and an increasing commitment to conservation in the state, serious doubt arises whether there is an actual need for nuclear-generated power.

The second argument concerns safety, arguing that PG&E has failed to show that the reactor can be operated safely. The Atomic Energy Act, however, pre-empts state review of radiation hazards, so that the petitioners will have to identify non-radiation related safety issues within the PUC's jurisdiction. The third argument is that the local community is no longer supportive of the plant. These arguments are not felt sufficient to prevent certification, so the petitioners will request the PUC to commission a conversion



Diablo Canyon under construction.

study on the grounds that it has not been shown that a converted Diablo would cost more than the nuclear plant. The petition will argue that the PUC should therefore require that such a study be completed before a final CPCN is granted to Diablo. It's unclear whether the PUC would act on the petition before the NRC licenses Diablo.

After the petition is filed it will be crucial to marshal as much public support as possible for the petition and the request for a conversion study. Time is of the essence, since if the petition fails Diablo will no doubt be granted a final CPCN and start up as early as August 1980.

The DCP is a coalition of the EBANG research group, The Mid-Peninsula Conversion Project and the Abalone Alliance Labor Task Force. Any donations from groups and individuals would be greatly appreciated, as we lack a source of funds.

Make checks payable to: Gary Farber of Gary Farber
Diablo Conversion Project
1945 Berkeley Way #218
Berkeley, CA 94704

Diablo Conversion Project contacts:
Joel Yudken—(415) 968-8798
Gary Farber—(415) 845-5769

—Adam Sampson-Johannes

March 7 8 p.m. Benefit for *People United Against Rancho Seco* and the *Women's Building* presented and performed by Lynn Grasberg (singer/songwriter), Fran Peavey (sit-down comedian), and Kathy Burick (singer/dancer). 3543 18th St., San Francisco. 552-0290. Sliding scale \$3-5. Childcare provided and wheelchair accessible. Contact Lynn Grasberg, 1971 Oak St., SF 94117. 751-6790.

March 8 Potluck/mtg. of Bay Area affinity groups in preparation for the Abalone Alliance conference. 5:30 p.m., Friends Meeting House, Vine & Walnut, Berkeley. For more info, call 415-465-9187.

March 13 Meeting of the Ad Hoc Coalition to Prevent the War, 7:30 p.m., Peralta School, 460 63rd St., Oakland. The group has decided to go ahead with two projects: a large teach-in this spring, and a Bay Area wide demonstration toward the end of March. Contact: 415-653-2854.

March 14-16 Abalone Alliance Conference. Contact PANP-SF 415-781-5342.

March 14 & 15 *Plutonium Players* present the revised *Rocky Hieroglyphic Show*, in which *Hexxon's* David Rockefeller meets sunworshipper King Tut. Final Bay Area Shows: Fri. & Sat. March 14 & 15, midnight, Goodman Bldg., S.F. Info: 776-1848, and see March 21 & 22.

March 14 & 15 *Plutonium Players*. Live Oak Theater, Berkeley. 8 pm, \$2.50 donation. 436-7345 841-5580. Anti-nuke comedy.

CALENDAR

March 15 9 p.m. Fran Peavey, Lynn Grasberg and Kathy Burick perform "low level" humor and "incidental" songs and dances for the "critical masses." Pro-survival/anti-nuclear entertainment. Artemis Society, 1199 Valencia St., San Francisco. 647-4144. \$2 (more if you can, less if you can't). Wheelchair accessible. For women. Contact Lynn Grasberg, 1971 Oak St., SF 94117. 751-6790.

March 21 Protest U.C. management of the Livermore and Los Alamos Laboratories, at the Regents meeting. 8:30 am, U.C. Extension, 55 Laguna, San Francisco. Contact UCNWCCP 415-982-5578.

March 28 CEAN TMI Actions. Walk to San Diego Gas and Electric and the Federal Building. Assemble at the Community Concourse Plaza, 202 C St. at 11:45 a.m. Contact CEAN: 714-459-4650.

March 28 or 29 *Anti-Military Benefit & 3 Mile Island Party* organized by Plutonium Players and War Resisters League. New Wave, Reggae, and political comedy. Volunteers and help needed. More info: 415-436-7345; 626-6976.

March 30 *TMI Memorial Parade* San Francisco. Civic Center to the Panhandle. Assemble by 11:00. Participants needed. Contact: Susan Eenteen 641-0489.



The Plutonium Players begin a new season of anti-nuclear theater. See calendar for dates.

April 1-30 *Art for Life's Sake*. A benefit show and sale produced by the Abalone Alliance Artists Guild to benefit People Against Nuclear Power. The show is open 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. An Opening Reception featuring live acoustic music, and refreshments will be held 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Ecology Center, 13 Columbus, San Francisco.

Strategy Conference Proposals

1) Abalone Alliance Ecumenical Task Force

Sponsored by: PANP-SF, PNFF Santa Cruz, PGE, AFSC, PUARS.

Establish an AA Ecumenical Task Force. The collective will attempt to mobilize the church community to work for our cause, utilizing conferences, workshops, and distributing printed materials.

2) Nuclear Jobs Conversion and Safety Planning

Sponsored by the AA Labor Task Force.

The AA with the guidance of the AA Labor Task Force will take the lead in developing and promoting a Nuclear Jobs Conversion and Safety bill at the state and federal levels. The bill would provide for job retraining, relocation, and financial compensation for workers whose jobs are threatened or lost because of the closing of any nuclear facility for safety reasons.

3) Occupational Safety and Health Proposal

Sponsored by AA Labor Task Force

The AA declare April 2 as a day to focus attention to the issue of occupational health and safety. We ask that demonstrations and press conferences be held around noon. The Labor task force will offer organizational assistance for the regional actions.

Senate Bill 2153 is presently before Congress, and it will exempt 90% of the workplaces from OSHA inspections. OSHA is responsible for workplace safety, and the bill, sponsored by Senator Cranston, will weaken its effectiveness.

4) Land Use and Rights Project Office

Sponsored by: Direct Current, PANP-SF, AFSC, PNFF Davis.

A. The Abalone Alliance shall establish or designate a Land Use and Rights Project Office, eligible for funds within priorities established by the finance spokes council. The office would serve as a clearing house on the issues of uranium mining, waste disposal, and construction of nuclear facilities on native American lands. The office would work with other organizations focusing on these issues in the Western U.S. and the Great Plains States.

B. The AA shall go on record opposing the forced relocation of any Dine (Navajo) people from the Big Mountain area of Arizona. A statement of opposition will be mailed to appropriate federal officials and to the Dine Nation. The AA will sponsor a food and clothing drive for the Dine, and facilitate a California speaking tour for the elders. A \$500 seed loan for the tour would come from the general account, to be repaid by member groups, and funds raised on the tour. The Coalition Against Uranium Mining will coordinate the tour.

5) Rancho Seco Actions

Sponsored by: PUARS, RANE, SAFE, Sacramentans for a NFF.

A. The closing of Rancho Seco shall become an immediate priority for the Abalone Alliance, with members contributing time and money. The PUARS office will become the AA project office for coordinating actions. A mass outreach campaign will continue, focusing on a 150-mile radius of the plant. A coalition-building campaign will begin to bring together a broad base of people. State-wide support will be given for lobbying directed at state government.

B. A date will be set for direct actions at Rancho Seco. One suggestion includes beginning a vigil when the plant goes on line between March 5 and March 15. The vigil would culminate in a large rally on the weekend of May 24 and 25 in solidarity with Seabrook. Direct Action could follow on May 26 to occupy the SMUD office. August 6 is another possible date. The action will follow the AA code of non-violence.

6) AA Finance Collective Guidelines

The AA Finance Collective will become the Fundraising Collective. The collective may raise funds in the name of the Abalone Alliance through mass mailings, personal interviews with private donors, house parties, and grant proposals.

For any fundraising done by the collective, 25% of the first \$1,000 raised will be retained for use as a seed fund for future activities, and 10% of all subsequent income will be retained for the seed fund. The remaining will go into the general account. \$5.00 of any contribution of \$15.00 or more will go to *It's About Times* to give the donor a year's subscription.

The collective may assist local groups in fundraising efforts, and negotiate a percentage for the AA general account. The collective will work with the Agape Foundation to provide tax-exempt money to local groups.

7) Mailing Seed Fund

The fundraising collective shall be given a seed fund of \$500 to pay for a mass mailing to past AA donors. Monies made will go to the general fund.

8) First There Was the Bomb Nation-Wide Marketing

Sponsored by the Fundraising Collective

The AA will continue to participate with the U.C. Nuclear Weapons Labs Conversion Project in nation-wide marketing of the magazine. The AA will provide half the printing costs, and receive half the proceeds (or \$2,000 per 10,000 magazines sold). 20% shall go to

Strategy Conference

The Abalone Alliance Conference will be held March 14-16. The purpose of the conference will be to plan future actions, and to approve budget priorities for the next six months. This will be the first conference using our new structure.

Twelve proposals have been submitted for consideration. They include actions and task forces' and collectives' operational guidelines.

The proposals are presented in summary form here. It is essential that each local group discuss these proposals before the conference, and have a clear idea of what concerns, if any, they have. Questions should be addressed to the group sponsoring the proposal.

Decisions can only be reached on those proposals that have been circulated before the conference. New proposals can be discussed, but decisions can only be made through the mail process, or an empowered spokes meeting after the conference.

The agenda allows most of the proposals to be heard three times to allow time to hear concerns and to work out differences in subgroups if needed. Final decisions will be made Sunday morning, or follow-up spokes meetings will be scheduled.

A final agenda planning meeting will be held 12:00 noon March 14. Each group is asked to send an experienced facilitator who is willing to be a part of the facilitation team for the weekend.

Cost of the conference is \$15 including housing and 5 veggie meals, and \$2.00 for children and childcare. Bring eating utensils, sleeping bag, and ground pad.

Registration begins at 5:00 on Friday, March 14, followed by a pot luck at 6:00. The meeting will begin at 8:30.

Please send registration to People Against Nuclear Power, 944 Market, Room 808, San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 781-5342. The phone number during the conference will be 826-4290. Please bring the following dishes corresponding with your last name/ A-E salad, F-J veggie dish, K-O bread and/or cheese, P-T dessert, U-Z liquid refreshment.

IAT, 10% to the fundraising collective, and 70% to the general account. The finance collective will make the decisions to reinvest profits in future printings if a market is available.

9) Media Service Guidelines

The media service will act as clearing house providing information to the media on nuclear issues. They will provide workshops for local groups, and maintain the state media phone tree for late breaking news. The collective requests \$150 a month to pay for phone, mail, and communication needs. The collective has gotten all of its funding from outside sources in the past. (continued to page 11)

10) It's About Times Guidelines

IAT will continue to be the newsletter of the AA and will print stories about nuclear issues, Abalone debates, and AA proposals. It will also cover the anti-draft movement. The collective is free to solicit outside funding to hire paid staff. *IAT* shall receive \$5 from contributions to the AA of \$15 or more.

11) Labor Task Force Guidelines

Our focus will be on the organized labor movement, working with the leadership and the rank-and-file. We will seek to promote co-operation between organized labor and the anti-nuclear movement on issues of mutual importance.

To implement these goals we will continue to: organize conferences, distribute printed materials, and provide support to labor in its struggles.

12) AA Budget Priorities

Sponsored by the Finance Spokes Council

Priorities have been established for allocating Abalone money to selected projects. The budget is for six months. When each project receives its allotment, the next project on the list gets funding. Projects will be funded in the following order.

- A. \$500 to the Fundraising Collective
- B. \$5,400 to the state-wide office to cover operating expenses, and one half-time person.
- C. \$2,000 Priority Loan Fund for AA sponsored actions, project offices, and task-forces and collectives.
- D. \$2,400 for project offices for rent and phone.
- E. \$2,000 for AA sponsored actions.
- F. \$2,400 for the state-wide office for one half-time position and remaining office expenses.
- G. \$3,900 for each project office to cover office expenses, and one half-time position.
- H. \$3,900 for two half-time staff positions at the state office. (This would bring total state staff to two positions, consistent with AA Structure)
- I. \$1,800 for each project office to cover office expenses, and one half-time position.
- J. If all of these projects are funded, then money will be available for AA sponsored actions, task forces and collectives, loans, education and outreach, grants, resources, AA endorsed actions. The amount of funding will be determined by the Finance Collective.

Announcements

INTERNATIONAL BOYCOTT

When confronting an opponent the size and strength of the nuclear industry, head-on confrontations often fail. Only by being more clever than the giant (along with being right!) can one hope to have an impact.

We propose a boycott of General Electric products. GE is involved in all phases of the nuclear industry.

Contact: *Citizens Against a Radioactive Environment*, 2699 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio 45220.

New Woman's Group Against the Draft

The National Organization of Woman Against Registration (No War) is a coalition focusing on women's registration and conscription. In addition they support any anti-draft group. For more information call Donna Benson, (415) 527-2780 or Ruby Lieberman, (415) 848-6517.

Newsjournal Project Announced

A group of anti-nukers from the East Coast are planning an "independent, nation-wide anti-nuclear newsjournal," with the first issue to be published this spring. In part, their proposal reads:

"By newsjournal we mean not only a vehicle to communicate news and events to each other, but a meeting place for debate about tactics, political analyses and future directions of the movement against nuclear power and nuclear weapons. We also plan to have a large section devoted to announcements and networking. We believe a collectively done newsjournal, written and edited by activists for activists, can fill the void in our present communications network. In the long term, we hope to organize the newsjournal's production on the basis of independent collectives around the country operating semi-autonomously."

Submissions are due by early April. The group is also soliciting suggestions for a name. For more information, contact Newsjournal Project, Star Route, Box 64, Wendell, MA 01379.

Plutonium Players Available

Plutonium Players are interested in doing your show: as a benefit, or for outreach (free), or to support our group. Will travel. Please contact: 4321 E 12th St, Oakland, CA 94601 (415) 436-7345 or 841-6500 (ans. serv.)

Direct Action Available

Direct Action, a 54-minute documentary of the nonviolent struggle at Diablo Canyon—including the 1977 and 1978 Abalone occupations, produced by Steven Doran, is available from him at 2558 Hutton Dr., Beverly Hills, CA 90210 (213) 274-1964. A 16mm print can be purchased for \$500, or a ¾-inch video cassette for \$100. Rental of the film is \$40.

Abalone groups may rent the film for \$15 plus postage from American Friends Service Committee, 2160 Lake St., San Francisco, CA 94121.

Close Seabrook

The Coalition for Direct Action is sponsoring an occupation and blockade of Seabrook for May 24. The action will include the non-violent removal of fences, and if need be, resisting arrest. People participating should join an affinity group, and attend preparation sessions. Contact: Boston Clamshell, 595 Mass. Ave., Cambridge, MA 02139 (617) 661-6204.

Nukes Never Have a Nice Day

What do sailors in the nuclear program of the U.S. Navy do in their off-duty hours? A couple of them have produced a "Mutant for Nuclear Power" T-shirt. This one-eyed frownie tells it straight—*Nukes Never Have a Nice Day*. Available in S, M, L, XL from Progressive Concepts Inc., P.O. Box 5388, Vallejo, CA 94590.

Support Request From Redwood Alliance

The Redwood Alliance requests financial support from local AA groups to help pass the "independence from nuclear" initiative in the City of Arcata. Groups are further requested to attend PUC hearings on the decommissioning of Humboldt. Finally groups are urged to write to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Jerry Brown, and local newspapers demanding the decommissioning of Humboldt. Make checks payable to Arcata Safe Energy Coalition. Contact: Redwood Alliance.

The Harbinger File Is Now Out!

The Harbinger File is an annual directory of San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay area environmental groups. It lists more than 350 groups in 11 counties, including citizen groups, government agencies and environmental education programs. To order a copy, send a check for \$5.00 to Harbinger Communications, 50 Rustic Lane, Santa Cruz, CA 95060, (408) 427-2510.

Safe Energy Groups

ABALONE ALLIANCE OF MARIN*
1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd.
San Anselmo, CA 94961
415-472-4007 or 472-4047

ABALONE ALLIANCE CLUB
WEST VALLEY COLLEGE
1400 Fruitvale Ave.
Saratoga, CA 95070
408-867-1096 or 374-6459
PEOPLE UNITED AGAINST
RANCHO SECO
Box 160334
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-448-5071
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE
COMMITTEE
2160 Lake St.
San Francisco, CA 94121
415-752-7766

BOLINAS AGAINST NUCLEAR
DESTRUCTION
P.O. Box 708
Bolinas, CA 94924
415-868-1401

ALLIANCE AGAINST NUCLEAR
POWER
c/o Carroll Child
University of California Medical Center
N319X
San Francisco, CA 94143
415-681-1028 (h) or 666-1435 (UC)

ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL*
712 S. Grand View St.
Los Angeles, CA 90057
213-738-1041

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

CITIZENS ALLIANCE FOR
SAFE ENERGY
Box 887
Mendocino, CA 95460

CITIZENS FOR ALTERNATIVES
TO NUCLEAR ENERGY
424 Lytton
Palo Alto, CA 94301
415-325-6049

CITIZENS FOR A BETTER
ENVIRONMENT
88 First St. Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94105

CAMARILLO COALITION
FOR SAFE ENERGY
1759 Marco
Camarillo, CA 93010
805-482-7321

COMMUNITY NETWORK FOR
APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY
709 Davis St.
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
707-528-6543

COASTSIDERS FOR A
NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE
P.O. Box 1401
El Granada, CA 94018
415-728-7406

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

CHICO PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR
FREE FUTURE
708 Cherry St.
Chico, CA 95926
916-891-6424

DOWNWIND ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 183
Covelo, CA 95428
707-983-9969

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

CONTRA COSTANS AGAINST
NUCLEAR POWER
c/o Carol John
195 Grover
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
415-938-3062 or 934-5249

LOMPOC SAFE ENERGY
COALITION
238 South J St.
Lompoc, CA 93436
805-736-1897

ABALONE ALLIANCE OFFICE: 944 Market St., Rm. 307, San Francisco, CA 94102 415-543-3910

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

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

SACRAMENTANS FOR A
NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE
c/o Dan Eichelberger
3430 E. Street, Apt. 72
North Highlands, CA 95660

MID-PENINSULA CITIZENS
FOR SAFE ENERGY
75 Ladato Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94403
415-574-3245

MOTHERS FOR PEACE
114 Del Norte
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

VOLCANIC Alliance
431 Manzanita Ln.
Redding, CA 96002

NAPA VALLEY
ENERGY ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 97
Napa, CA 94558
707-255-7493
NEVADA COUNTY PEOPLE
FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE
P.O. Box 457
Nevada City, CA 95959
916-272-4848

PELICAN ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 596
Pt. Reyes, CA 94937
415-663-8483

PEOPLE'S ANTI-NUCLEAR
COLLECTIVE
U.C. Berkeley
607 Eshelman Hall
Berkeley, CA 94720
415-642-6912

PEOPLE AGAINST NUCLEAR
POWER
U.C. Santa Barbara
P.O. Box 14006
Santa Barbara, CA 93107
805-968-4238 or 968-2886

SANTA BARBARA PEOPLE
AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER
312 East Solá St. #1
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805-966-4565

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

PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR
FREE FUTURE
433 Russell
Davis, CA 95616
916-758-6810

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

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

PEOPLE FOR SAFE ENERGY
c/o Grant Marcus
2069 E. Harvey
Fresno, CA 93701
209-268-3109

REDWOOD ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 293
Arcata, CA 95521
707-822-7884

RIVERSIDE ALLIANCE FOR
SURVIVAL
c/o 3150 Redwood Dr.
Riverside, CA 92501
714-748-0047

ROSES AGAINST A NUCLEAR
ENVIRONMENT
P.O. Box 8842
Stanford, CA 94305
415-322-2759

SONOMA ALTERNATIVES FOR ENERGY
P.O. Box 452
Sonoma, CA 95476
707-996-5123

MOUNTAIN PEOPLE FOR
A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE
8181 Hermosa St.
Ben Lomond, CA 95005
408-336-8051
SO NO More Atomics*
883-E Sonoma Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-526-7220

STANISLAUS SAFE ENERGY
COMMITTEE
P.O. Box 134
Modesto, CA 93354
209-529-5750

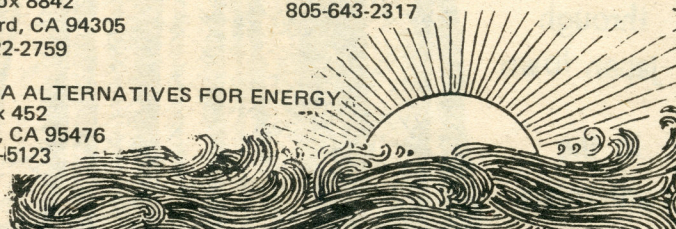
STOP URANIUM NOW
P.O. Box 772
Ojai, CA 93023
805-646-3832

SOCIETY UNITING FOR
NON-NUCLEAR YEARS
580 Lighthouse Ave.
Monterey, CA 93940
408-375-7794

TEHAMANS AGAINST NUCLEAR
POWER
905 Jackson No. 2
Red Bluff, CA 96080
916-527-8054

UPPER NAPA VALLEY
ENERGY ALLIANCE
1513 Madrona Ave.
St. Helena, CA 94574
707-963-7835

VENTURA SAFE ENERGY ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 1966
Ventura, CA 93001
805-643-2317



CORPORATE LIES DEPARTMENT



Beyond The Headlines...

You've heard it called a "catastrophe" . . . a "disaster" . . . and "the week we almost lost Pennsylvania."

Opponents of nuclear power say that Three Mile Island *proves* that nuclear power plant construction should be halted. They've launched a campaign using TMI as a rallying point to convince Americans to go without nuclear energy.

Nothing is to be gained by distorting the truth: TMI was a problem, and a serious one at that. There were some anxious moments for us all.

But beyond the sensational headlines, there are some important facts which every American deserves to know—and should consider before allowing opponents of nuclear energy to deprive us of still one more source of energy.

The Safety Systems Worked.

Every nuclear power plant is designed with a series of redundant safety systems so that even if one system fails, there are others to prevent any harm to the public or the environment. The ultimate safety system is a concrete containment dome several feet thick—strong enough to withstand major earthquakes or even the crash of a commercial jet.

When malfunctions occurred at Three Mile Island, the containment dome did exactly what it was supposed to do: it prevented the release of any harmful amount of radiation into the atmosphere.

Public Health Was Maintained.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, as well as the American College of Radiology, have concluded that there is no evidence of adverse health effects from the low level of radiation released at TMI. In fact, the radiation dosage distributed over the area of Three Mile Island was far less than that which one person receives flying across the United States in a jet aircraft just once.

Lessons have been learned from TMI—and are being used to improve nuclear power's unsurpassed safety record.

For example, even before the President's Commission on TMI issued its report, we moved to improve reactor safety by creating the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations to assure more sophisticated training for the men and women who operate nuclear power plants.

Among the other steps we've taken is the formation of the Nuclear Safety Analysis Center, which has investigated the technical lessons of TMI in order to suggest improved safety measures in *all* reactor designs and operating procedures.

One thing is certain: what happened at Three Mile Island does *not* justify a halt to nuclear power development, especially at a time when America needs all the power we can get. The system worked. And we've moved to make it work even better.

Nuclear Power. Because America Needs Energy.

America's Electric Energy Companies, Department B, Post Office Box 420, Pelham Manor, New York 10803.

This full-color, two-page attempt to minimize the TMI accident manages to avoid mentioning that the reactor came within 30 to 60 minutes of a melt-down (according to the NRC's Rogovin report). Had that happened, thousands might have been killed. So headlines calling TMI a *potential* or *near* disaster (and the press *did* use those qualifiers) were completely justified.

The ad goes on to cite a few irrelevant examples of safety systems "working." The (doubtful) ability of a containment dome to withstand "the crash of a commercial jet" has nothing at all to do with its (even more doubtful) ability to contain a white-hot, molten reactor core. That, of course, is the real issue.

The ad's claims on public health are equally ridiculous. "One person flying across the United States in a jet aircraft just once" receives about .002 rems additional radiation exposure. The Kemeny commission estimates total public exposure from the TMI accident at 2000 person-rems—or *one million* times as much. So to get "the radiation dosage distributed over the area of Three Mile Island," the ad's "one person" would have to fly across the country *not* "just once," but a *million* times.

The authors of this ad apparently *do* believe that "nothing is to be gained by distorting the truth." But a few outright lies might help to resell nuclear power to an unwilling public.

—Bob Van Scoy

THREE MILE ISLAND MEMORIAL PARADE

STOP NUCLEAR WEAPONS

STOP NUCLEAR POWER

MARCH 30 noon

a march/ritual/street theater/event

assemble at 10:30

bring shareable food

tentative route:
s.f.
civic center

through japan town
to the panhandle

call 863-7251
paraders
824-8190
political groups
431-4872
artists



Abalone Alliance Strategy Conference

March 15-16, San Francisco
See Page 10

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It's About Times is completely a volunteer effort. Writers, editors, artists, photographers, typesetters, and layout people all donate their time, effort, and equipment because they think that continuing communication within the anti-nuclear movement is important. We hope you agree, and would like to see us continue.

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Cartoon by Bill Oetinger.