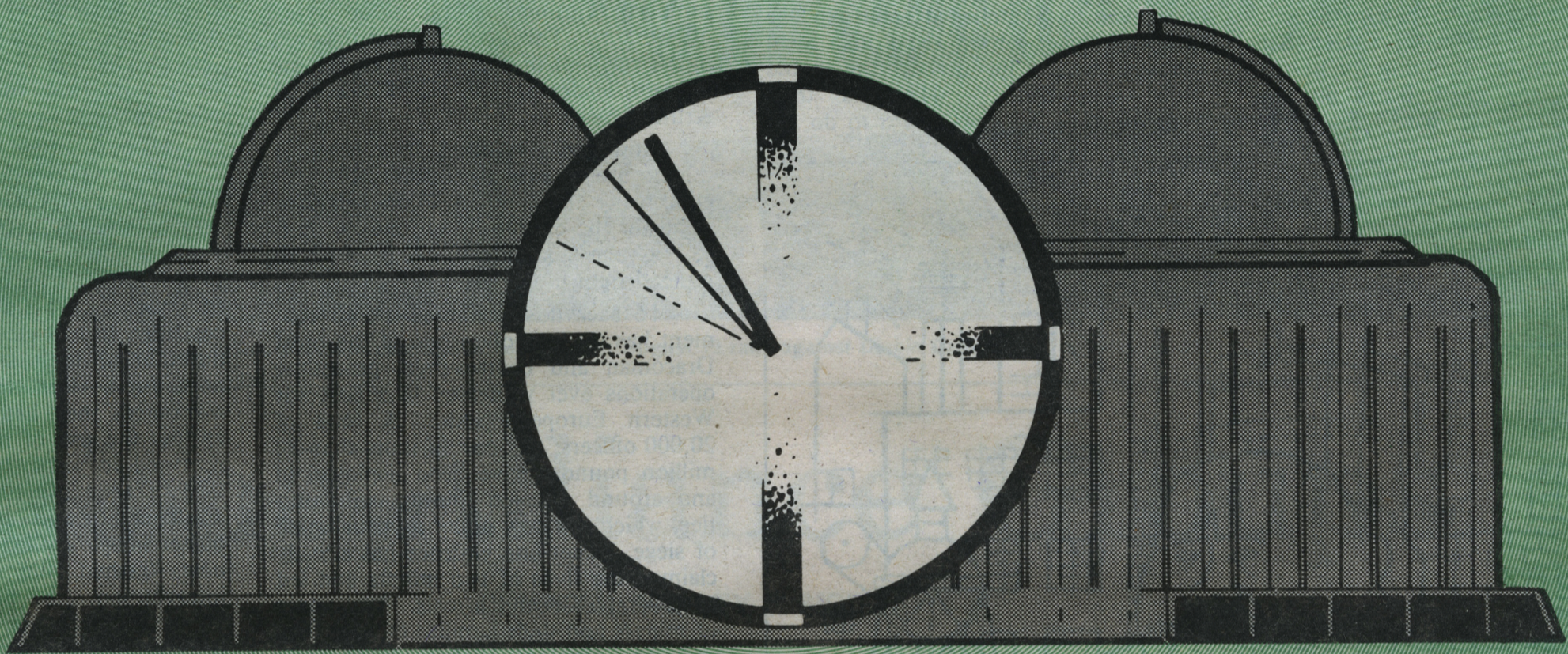


It's About Times

Abalone Alliance Newspaper

August—September 1984

Diablo stopped at eleventh hour



After years of delay, PG&E finally received its full-power license for Diablo Canyon from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on August 10th — only to have it nullified at the eleventh hour.

In a 2-to-1 ruling, a three judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia granted an injunction against the nuclear plant's full-power operation. The August 17 decision marked the first time a Federal court had blocked a licensing decision by the Commissioners.

Previous court rulings have almost universally maintained a "hands-off" attitude toward the nuclear realm, citing Congressional intent in the Atomic Energy Act to reserve all regulatory control to the NRC. The injunction will hold until November when the court hears the intervenors' case.

With characteristic speed, the Mothers for Peace, which is a legal intervenor against the plant, had appealed the NRC decision on August 13. Its argument pointed out the lack of experienced reactor operators, failure to consider effects of an earthquake in emergency planning, poor quality assurance programs and illegal procedures on the part of the NRC. The judges cited each of these objections in granting the stay.

PG&E was clearly not pleased, and it wasted no time in reacting. Within hours, it had appealed to the Supreme Court to overturn the injunction. On Tuesday, August 21, Chief Justice Warren Burger denied the appeal, apparently assuring that the intervenors and their Center for Law in the Public Interest

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission gave Diablo Canyon its full-power license in August — but a last minute injunction stalled the plant's operation once again.

attorneys will get a chance to present the evidence against Diablo in court.

In the interim, congressional hearings on Diablo will be held in San Luis Obispo on August 30th. Morris Udall's Subcommittee on Energy and Environment will hear from Diablo whistleblowers and the public. NRC Commissioners will be present and will have to face the local community for the first time.

Until the stay on full-power operations at Diablo was granted, the NRC's ritual offering — first a low-power followed by a full-power license — worked faultlessly. The Commission was able to scuttle the most damaging evidence against PG&E in the low-power proceedings by promising to correct critical pipe support problems discovered by Isa Yin before full-power licensing. But the furor over testimony provided by Yin, the NRC's top pipe-stress expert, died down after a few months, and the NRC dished out the full-power license without correcting the deficiencies.

At the hearings for full-power licensing Yin argued that four of the seven issues which he had raised were unresolved and requested the license be held up for 3 to 5 weeks to allow him to

finish his investigations. In addition, Yin wanted complete freedom to investigate and complained that his queries were hampered by the NRC constantly looking over his shoulder. Although his request was denied, Yin stated up-front that he would go along with the Commission should they decide to license Diablo.

Since Yin testified in March at the low-power hearings, a number of important allegations have been added to the staggering list of Diablo's problems. A welding inspector forced off the job by harassment revealed numerous and serious defects he was ordered to cover up. (See story, page 3.) There are now about 1400 allegations of defects and violations at Diablo from numerous workers — most of which were ignored by the NRC in granting the full-power license. In addition, new studies released this summer by geologists indicated that the earthquake threat from the Hosgri fault may be more severe than previously believed. (See *IAT*, June-July, 1984.)

Following the Commission's decision to license Diablo for full-power, the Abalone Alliance organized an action of protest at the plant entrance on Sunday, August 12. The rally saw a respectable turnout of 1500 and by day's end more than 100 were arrested for civil disobedience, adding to a cast of thousands who had trudged those same steps before.

Music and speakers were interspersed with civil disobedience acts at the main gate. Speakers recounted the history of the fight against Diablo and detailed the numerous other reactor cancellations which came about because the grassroots movement helped create the current anti-nuclear climate.

After nearly two decades of controversy over Diablo, another three month delay may seem like small potatoes. But meanwhile the allegations by whistleblowers keep piling up, the price tag, now at \$5.2 billion, keeps mounting, and Unit 2 is still more than a year from completion.

The prospect of successfully operating Diablo Canyon gets more grim as each deficiency unfolds. The Congressional hearings in San Luis Obispo, motivated by pressure from local residents, will put the spotlight on PG&E just when it least wants it. The stench of Diablo's manifold problems, which the NRC and PG&E swept under the rug, is becoming overpowering.

— Ward Young

IAT staff

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British coal miners buck Thatcher

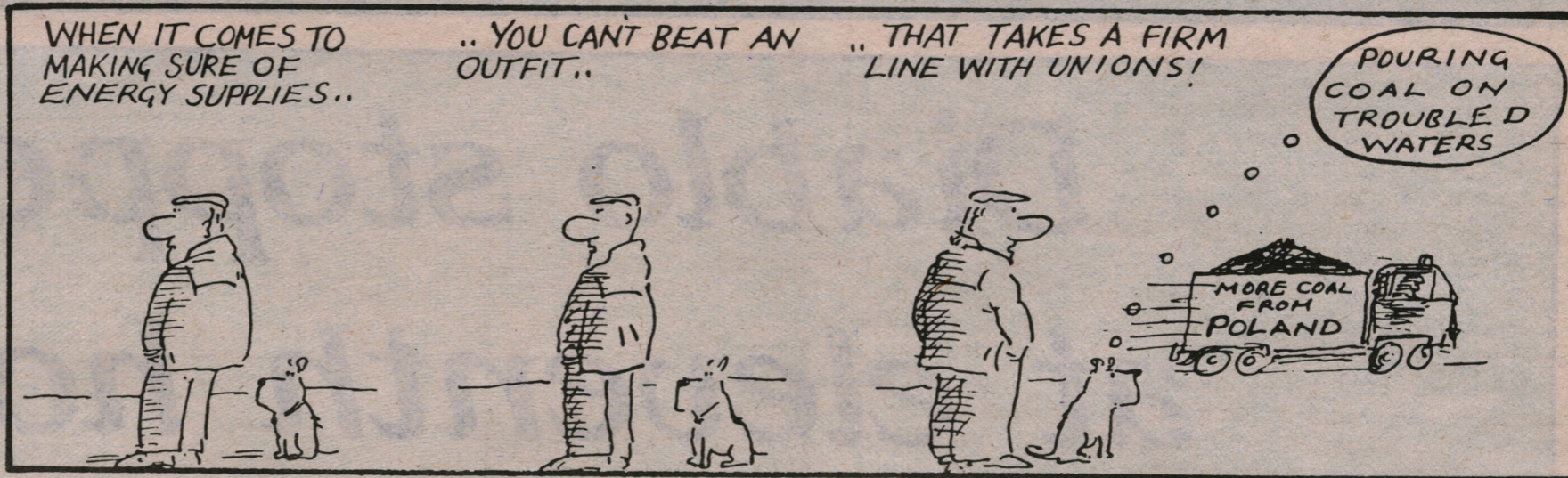
"While hitchhiking home on the weekend, I was searched by the police. . . I was asked for my name, what I'd been doing that day, and was I 'a Com-mie?' When a private citizen, suspected of no crime, can be interrogated in this way; what land of freedom are the police protecting?" El Salvador? No, the alarmed newspaper correspondent is referring to Britain in 1984, now being shaken by the bitterest and most violent industrial conflict since the 1926 General Strike.

For the Conservative government, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) represents its biggest challenge, and they have reason to fear the outcome. Their last great struggle with the miners 10 years ago ended in humiliation for the Conservatives, who called a general election only to be rejected by the voters.

This time Margaret Thatcher is bent on total victory, and has prepared her ground accordingly. Fronting for her as chairman of the Coal Board is Ian MacGregor, a New York financier,

FRANK AND HIS DOG

By DAVID AUSTIN



brought in by Thatcher at great expense to do a hatchet job on the British Steel Industry where he earned the name "Mac the Knife." He was then transferred to the Coal Board to do the

same job, closing coal mines and laying off workers. This plan is being opposed by 80 per cent of coal miners under the militant leadership of NUM President Arthur Scargill.

However, the other 20 percent of miners are defying the strike call. This chink in the miners' armor gives Thatcher the opportunity to present herself as the guarantor of the dissident miners' right to work.

To back this guarantee the government has set in motion one of the most Draconian and controversial peacetime operations ever witnessed in a post-war Western European state. A total of 20,000 officers, at a cost of more than 80 million pounds, have been deployed in and around selected mining communities, which are now under a virtual state of siege. Picket-line violence has already claimed the lives of two miners and led to several thousand arrests. The anger of miners and their families at what they see as constant police harassment sparked rioting in two Yorkshire mining villages, causing almost \$400,000 worth of damage.

For the first time in peacetime history police forces around Britain have submitted themselves to central control and coordination for the duration of the operation. There are even reports of the increasing unease among police officers at being used as a government battering ram. One police chief described his officers as "meat in a sandwich."

Until very recently Thatcher tried to promote the fiction that her government was not involved in industrial disputes and that it was strictly a matter for the Coal Board and the miners to settle. However, this charade was soon exposed by a leaked Cabinet memo which ordered British Rail to head off a threatened strike by rail workers by offering their unions more than the government wage ceiling would have allowed. This was done to prevent the opening of a "second front" by the unions against the government. The rail workers accepted the increased offer, but are still refusing to move the 22 million tons of stockpiled coal at pitheads. Their refusal will create a crucial dilemma for the government come November, when coal stocks will be down to dangerous

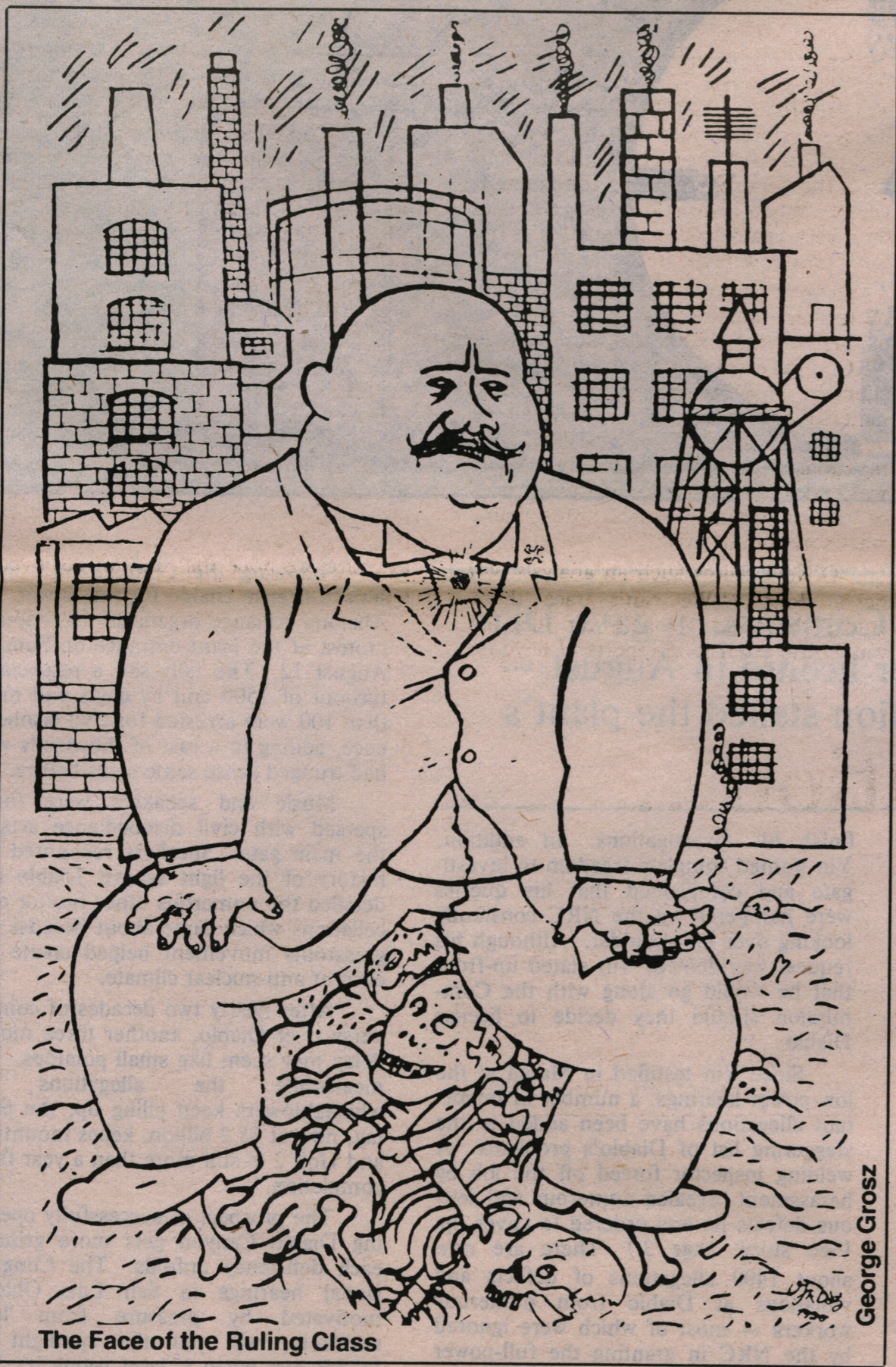
levels. Will Thatcher use troops to move the coal, or will she, as her Ministers are hinting, try a coal juggling act using convoys of trucks to equalize supplies among the power stations?

Having settled with the rail workers, the government was dealt a further blow by the dock workers, who struck to protest the use of unregistered dock labor to unload iron ore destined for British steel furnaces. This encouraged the miners who had been trying, unsuccessfully, to halt steel production for the duration of their strike. After closing ports for a week, the dockers won the assurances they had long been seeking against the use of non-union labor and returned to work, having taken advantage of the government's vulnerability. Thatcher, furious at having her union buster image spoiled by two unions, has now trashed the pretense of non-intervention. She has taken her gloves off to deal with the miners, mounting a propaganda blitz against the miners and labor opposition.

Thatcher suffered another sharp setback, however, when a high court judge ruled illegal her clumsy and abrupt attempt to ban trade union membership at the Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ), a supersecret center for eavesdropping on world telecommunications. Thatcher's move not only aroused protests from the trade union movement, but attracted heavy criticism within the Conservative Party and left a legacy of bitterness, low morale and noncooperation among the GCHQ staff.

Thatcher feels she can throw her weight around because she commands one of the postwar era's largest parliamentary majorities. Elected as it was by only a plurality of the votes cast in the last election, this majority gives her undue power as she attempts to grapple with the dissenting factions of an increasingly bitter and divided nation. As the debate rages on over Thatcher's "police state" tactics, she will doubtlessly continue to take advantage of her unchallengeable position in the government to try to bludgeon Britain's workers into line.

— Nick Barnes



The Face of the Ruling Class

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Although many copies of *It's About Times* are distributed free, it costs us a bundle to put out this paper. Even with an all-volunteer staff and access to production facilities at very minimal rates, we often have a rough time making ends meet. Since *IAT* does not accept any paid advertising, we have relied solely on our loyal subscribers and donors for the past five years.

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It's About Times

Abalone Alliance Newspaper

It's About Times is the newspaper of the Abalone Alliance, a California antinuclear / safe energy organization consisting of over 50 member groups (see page 15). The opinions expressed in *IAT* are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Abalone Alliance.

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Welding defects whistleblower

Threats force Diablo inspector to resign

Quality control problems are nothing new to the construction teams at Diablo Canyon. A quality control error shut the plant down just days before fuel loading was to begin in 1981; hundreds more errors surfaced in the weeks and months that followed. As the Nuclear Regulatory Commission prepared to vote on a low-power license this spring, an NRC engineer named Isa Yin made public several dozen more.

By the time the hearings on Diablo's full-power license drew near, the Washington, DC-based Government Accountability Project had documented more than a thousand individual allegations of quality control foul-ups at the plant, made mostly by current or former plant workers. But perhaps the most serious complaints of all did not become public until the week before the NRC voted 3-1 to grant the plant's commercial operating license.

On July 27th, a Diablo welding inspector announced he would petition the NRC not to grant the Diablo license until his concerns for the safety of the plant had been resolved. Tim O'Neill told reporters that he personally had evidence of 14 serious mistakes at the plant. Every one of those, he said, could seriously threaten the safety of the plant's operations.

But the most significant allegation made by O'Neill — at least in legal terms — did not involve welds, pipe supports or concrete casings. O'Neill alleged that, shortly after he began to report his concerns to the NRC, he became the object of harassment by other plant workers. At one point, he said, he heard what he took to be a death threat.

O'Neill spent more than a year at the Diablo site, working as a welding inspector for Pullman Power, one of the subcontractors hired by the plant's owner, PG&E. His job was to review both the procedures used in welding key sections of pipe supports, and to check the quality of the final welds themselves.

"I realized there were deep problems the first day I started working there," he said. "In the beginning, I felt I had a public duty to stay on the site, to check each item carefully and to report the problems to the proper authorities. But pretty soon it began to get ugly."

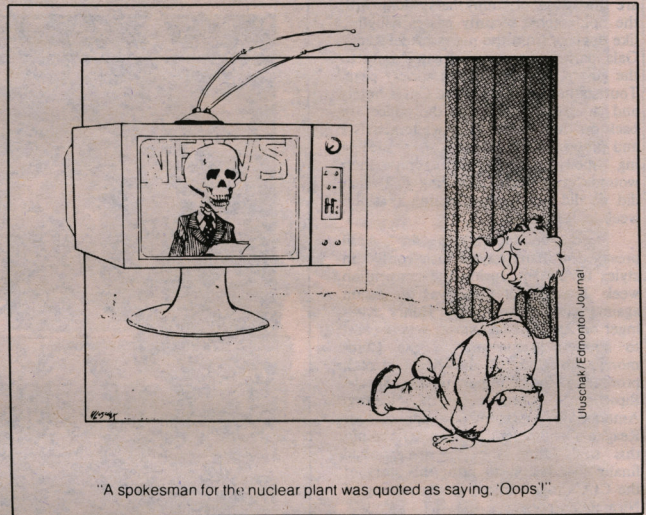
O'Neill contacted the NRC after several months of trying unsuccessfully to get PG&E to examine his complaints. Soon, he began to feel hostility from other plant workers. "I was immediately branded as a shit-distributor," he said. "They accused me of being an infiltrator from an antinuclear group. I told everyone I'm not antinuclear — I'm a welding engineer, and I want to see my job done right."

As O'Neill's complaints to the NRC built up, the harassment intensified. At one point, he said, he was hit from behind with a heavy rope swung by a construction worker. "The guy said it was just a mistake," O'Neill explained. "It was one of those things — I didn't believe him. Too many little mistakes like that had been happening to me."

"When I heard people behind me one day start talking about how a few bullets would end all these problems, I decided to get out of there," he said.

O'Neill said his personal experience with PG&E executives led him to believe that "they just don't want to hear about any problems." His complaints, he said, all pointed — at least potentially — to deep problems throughout the plant. "My allegations involve procedural problems. If they are shown to be true, they will suggest that other areas of the plant also suffer from a lack of controlled construction procedures."

O'Neill's specific allegations involve some of the most important systems in the plant. One of the areas in which he says problems exist is the emergency cooling system that would operate in an accident similar to that at Three Mile Island.



"This is one of the systems that was brought in after TMI," he said. "If the reactor vessel suddenly suffers a loss of coolant, the backup kicks in, and cools the atmosphere in the containment vessel. When it turns on, the pipes take on a very heavy load, very suddenly; the force on the welds is tremendous."

The pipes that carry this crucial coolant are welded to studs in the roof of the containment vessel. According to NRC regulations, O'Neill explained, a chemical analysis both of the welding material and the stud metal should be done in advance of any welding. "It makes perfect sense," he said. "Any welder knows you can't put two pieces of metal together unless you know what's in both of them."

O'Neill claims such an analysis was never done. "We can't trace those studs," he said. "Nobody can find the warehouse acquisition reports. I have no

idea what's in them. When I reported this, PG&E told me to go back and reconstruct some acquisition forms."

Tom Devine, an attorney with the Government Accountability Project, has prepared O'Neill's testimony to the NRC. "The staff is taking it very seriously," he said. "We don't know whether the full commission will take their staff seriously or not."

Devine said, however, that O'Neill's allegations make up potentially the most serious charges yet at the \$5 billion plant. "The NRC can dispute some of the charges," Devine said. "But as far as the law is concerned, harassing someone who is trying to report safety problems is a serious violation of the Atomic Energy Act. If it gets to court, we hope that doesn't get overlooked."

— Tim Redmond
IAT staff

The 'solution' to pollution...

Rancho Seco's operator, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), has finally found a cost-effective way of getting rid of more of its radioactive garbage — by dumping it into the atmosphere.

SMUD is using a \$2.5 million evaporator to get rid of up to 2000 gallons per day of tritium-contaminated water.

SMUD's evaporator — an update on the smokestack — is certainly "high-tech" by comparison with previous methods.

Until 1978 SMUD trucked 6000 gallons of the liquid waste a month to the nuclear dump at Beatty, Nevada for \$3 to \$4 a gallon. Here operations were so scandalously sloppy that radioactive tools and equipment from nuclear site

clean-ups sent to Beatty for disposal were pilfered and ended up at construction sites around Nevada.

In 1981 the NRC banned shipments of liquid wastes so SMUD began solidifying its tritium waste for disposal at Hanford, Washington at a cost of \$13 to \$16 a gallon.

At this point, SMUD decided to use

an evaporator because of the high cost of solidifying. The evaporator also releases other gases. Plant spokesman Kerry Shearer maintained that the wind usually blows the waste to the east, away from Sacramento. But Dr. Homer Ibsen, a physicist at California State University at Sacramento and an opponent of the plant, pointed out that although the amount of tritium released daily is not large, Sacramento frequently experiences temperature inversions that limit air circulation, particularly at higher elevations.

On another cheery note, a highly radioactive piece of metal was left on a workbench at Rancho Seco for several days at the end of July before being reported to plant safety officials. Several workers handled the fragment and measurements indicate it could expose a person handling it to 3000 rems per hour, or 50 rems per minute. Federal standards limit exposure to workers to 5 rems per year.

Initially the metal was identified as so radioactive that "it pinned the survey meter" to the top of its range. It then was set aside in an open work area. High-level safety officers at the plant were not formally notified of the problem.

Jeff Marx of SMUD said, "We feel we have a reliable system for dealing with safety, but a complete review will be made to see if any changes are required." Harry North, a radiation specialist with the NRC's Walnut Creek office, claimed that re-enactment of the incident suggests that no worker handled the metal for more than one second, and the workers involved were wearing radiation safety garments including gloves and hoods.

— The Sacramento Bee, 7/26/84



photo by Bob Van Scoy

This sign at the August 12 rally refers to upcoming congressional hearings in San Luis Obispo, which begin August 30. NRC commissioners will be present and will have to face local residents for the first time.

Convention crackdown greets

San Francisco has returned. Gone are the arrays of funny hats, along with the holographic security passes dangling like dogtags from the necks of delegates. Gala parties are now relegated only to the gossip column and the society page. Tourists have reclaimed the City's hotels and chic restaurants, and the police are back on their beats. Meanwhile activists and protestors are taking a short breathing spell to lick their convention wounds, and begin analyzing just what did or did not happen during that hot week in July.

Two demonstrations in April presaged in many ways a basic conflict in styles of dissent during the convention week. The first of these was the action against an appearance by Henry Kissinger on April 16. Kissinger was in town to address a meeting of the Commonwealth Club at the Hilton Hotel, promoting the findings of his Special Bipartisan Commission on Central America — basically, support for Reagan's belligerent policies. At about this same time the newspapers had finally just begun to print the story of the CIA's involvement in the mining of Nicaraguan ports.

Given Kissinger's lead role in this and previous war crimes, it is perhaps not so surprising that a lunchtime crowd of over 1,500 latinos, punks, secretaries, and assorted leftists came to the Hilton to vent their rage. Even the police were taken aback by the unexpected size and militance of the crowd, and brought out mounted police to try to bully people into remaining on the sidewalks. However, the crowd was not in a mood to be intimidated, particularly after being joined by some rowdier political punks, and soon they overflowed into the street.

The police then regrouped and attacked the crowd with horses, swinging their clubs and nearly starting a riot. Despite police efforts to scatter the crowd, many people re-grouped on the adjoining street in front of the Hilton. However, by then the crowd had cooled down considerably, and its numbers were greatly reduced by the police action and lunchtime attrition. Numerous undercover cops among the demonstrators began to make individual arrests. Soon afterward the police read the riot act (out of the hearing range of most of the crowd), and then, in a preview of coming attractions, blocked off the street and proceeded to indiscriminately arrest the entire 190 people still present.

In contrast to the Kissinger demo was a protest a week later against an appearance by Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger at the St. Francis Hotel. Here the CISPEs and LAG



photo by Steve Stallone

Mounted San Francisco police charge into the crowd at the April 16 demonstration against Henry Kissinger outside the Hilton hotel.

organizers had met with the police and had agreed to have a large force of monitors on hand to try to prevent any spontaneous action from happening in the crowd. The monitors did their assignment well, for the most part keeping the crowd of more than 1,000 aimlessly circling on a crowded sidewalk, and except for a few small incidents, away from spoiling the rich folks social affair. In return for such cooperation, the Police Department had nothing but lavish praise for how well the demonstrators behaved.

again pull out some exhausted slogans in hopes of disrupting the affair and perhaps getting a little media coverage.

The police were out in force with their horses and red dirtbikes in the expectation that this was going to be a large and rowdy affair. After two hours of chanting the crowd began to stroll down the two blocks to a planned rally in Union Square, and along the way, not only did they dare to cross against the light, but a small group even staged a short die-in at an intersection! The cops, who were instructed by Mayor

three demands: Freeze now and continue reductions in nuclear weapons; No intervention in Central America; Fund human needs, not military ones. However, as most of the speakers were from the Democratic Party (albeit its left wing), one heard little mention of the contradiction of a Democratic-controlled House voting for both the Nuclear Freeze and for funding the MX within a few weeks of each other. Of course there was no mention from the podium of the root causes of war contained within a system whose *raison d'être* is the need to make profits.

This nice, loyal opposition was even more apparent in the *Visions of (white, middle-class) America at Peace* exhibition and direct lobbyist efforts, sponsored by the Peace and Environmental Coalition, whose member groups had a significant cross-over with the *Vote Peace in 84* people. These events seemed to confirm a distinct shift to the center for the official peace movement, now acting as a special interest group seeking favor with the powers-that-be. In contrast was an impromptu appearance at the *Vote Peace* rally by a guerrilla theater group called *Shock Troupe*, who distributed a leaflet entitled "Beware Geeks Bearing Gifts" that listed wars and interventions led by the Democratic Party. They were accompanied by a 12 foot tall Trojan Donkey that was fed ballots, money, and a globe and then excreted missiles, tanks and skeletons.

On Tuesday morning about 500 people had gathered across from the protest pen to oppose an anticipated rally by the KKK, about which the police had refused to divulge any information. However, as the Klan was a no-show, the anti-Klan rally was somewhat of a non-event. The crowd nonetheless hoped that it was because of their presence that the Klan had backed out.

Later that afternoon, the Livermore Action Group (LAG) held a rally that billed itself as "the only real protest against the Democrats." LAG had been given some hassles by the play-permit police, who, after LAG had already advertised a six o'clock rally, gave them a permit for the four to six shift. (They instead gave the six o'clock slot to the Jesus freaks, the only group to be given two different time permits for the area.) Although the LAG rally itself remained well within the standard boring mode, the politics that were advertised were decidedly more radical than that of the *Vote Peace* affair — the Democrats at least were criticized for their complicity in the war machine. The rally was disrupted at one point by a sideshow staged across the street by members of the Jewish Defense League who dangled a racist effigy of Jesse Jackson from a rope. As the angered crowd surrounded them, the mounted police moved to the rescue,

The police regrouped and attacked the crowd with horses and swinging clubs, nearly starting a riot.

The stage thus set, enter Jerry Falwell and Phyllis Schlafly, who organized a pre-convention convention of the Moral Majority entitled "Family Forum" on Thursday, July 12. A welcoming committee of more than 1,000 activists of various stripes gathered on the sidewalk near the convention to once

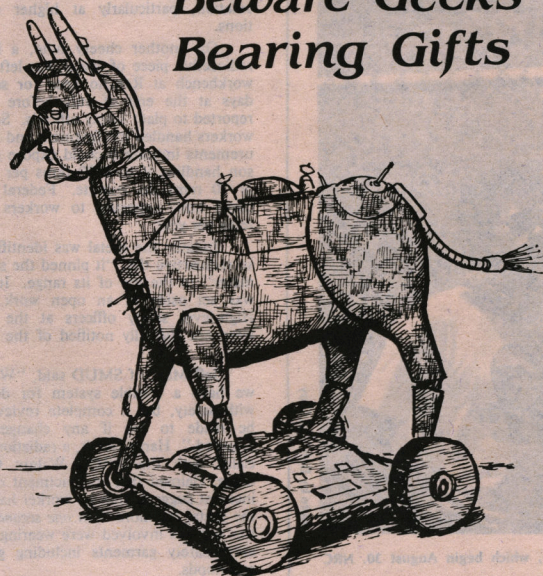
Feinstein not to tolerate any nonsense, took these defiant acts as their cue to play out their months of "getting ready." Mounted police led a charge into the crowd, swinging clubs and trampling several people, including a woman medic who received serious head injuries, and arresting eight people in the ensuing melee. Angry protestors then moved from corner to corner of Union Square, trying to inch out onto the streets, only to be quickly pushed back by the cops. Despite the tension, many protestors picked up on satirical chants such as "the whole world is laughing."

On the following Sunday there were two large but largely dull demonstrations, both essentially pep rallies for the Democrats. One was a gay/lesbian march and rally estimated at 100,000 people, and was described by one of its organizers as "not a protest, but [rather] a show of support for the Democrats."

Likewise, a march and rally of some 150,000 union members remained well within the expected constraints of union politics. However, one moment of tension developed when about 75 Teamsters chanting "Scabs go home!" attempted to go into the locked-out Emporium store, but were restrained by a wedge of monitors. (The Emporium store locked-out its union workers in sympathy with Macy's, whose employees went on strike in the days before the convention.)

On Monday, July 16, the main attraction began, as the Democratic Convention opened inside the Moscone Bomb Shelter. Meanwhile, in the officially designated protest "playpen," a parking lot adjacent to the Convention site, the first and by far largest demonstration occurred, the *Vote Peace in 84* rally. Sponsored by a huge coalition of peace and environmental groups, it attracted some 20,000 people and issued

Beware Geeks Bearing Gifts



San Francisco demonstrators

threatening the crowd with the ever familiar charge of the Light Brigade. After the tension subsided, the rally continued on.

On Thursday morning the usual bustle of downtown shoppers and office workers was briefly interrupted by a moving mass theatre piece organized by *Casa El Salvador-Farabundo Marti*. Some 750 mourners dressed in black staged a funeral, complete with coffins and flowers, for the victims of repression in Central America. The emotional intensity generated seemed to overwhelm even the participants, as well as many of the bystanders witnessing the march as it slowly made its way from Union Square to the Powell BART plaza. At various

attended the next tour on Wednesday. The larger numbers and the press presence kept the police watching their manners and obeying the law. However, during the smaller tour Thursday afternoon, the press, assuming that nothing hot was going to happen, sought out other stories. About 200 people left a "Rock Against Reagan" rally at the Moscone demo pit, and visited the Stock Exchange, Standard Oil, Control Data, and had just left the B of A plaza, where a handful of people had knocked on the windows. As they walked up Kearny Street, a line of police on motorcycles surrounded the demonstrators, ordering them to stay where they were. Some people managed to escape through the

The War Chest Tour organizers did not bother to get the official "Good Demonstrator" seal of approval.

points a slow motion victim-executioner scene was mimed by a line of singing mourners.

The most interesting development of the week was the appearance of the War Chest Tours, billed as guided tours of war-related corporations in the Financial District that have significant ties to the Democrats. The tours were organized by people from LAG, Abalone Alliance, and assorted independents, who did not bother to get the official "Good Demonstrator" seal of approval from the police ahead of time.

The first of the tours was held on Monday afternoon, with a plan to give a short rap on crimes committed by the specific corporations visited and then doing symbolic civil disobedience, i.e. die-ins. However, as the crowd was gathering on the sidewalk in front of the Diamond Shamrock Corp., the police appeared, surrounded the "tourists," and arrested 89 for "conspiracy to trespass," a felony charge.

During the arrests several people were injured. For the most part the press did not question the police account of what happened and blanketly labelled the crowd as "punk rockers." These conspiracy charges, which carried a stiff \$2500 bail, were an attempt by the police/ D.A./ Mayor's Office to sweep the more radical elements off the streets in hopes that they would not be able to make bail and have to stay in jail for the duration of the convention. However, Judge Herbert Donaldson agreed with the Public Defender that the conspiracy charge was a bad joke, waived the bail and released people on their own recognizance.

Many reporters, in search of a scoop with a little "action," accompanied the several hundred people who

incompletely formed police lines, but 87 (of the, until then, moving crowd), were arrested on charges of "obstructing sidewalks."

Three people were injured in these arrests, including one 16 year old who was severely kicked by a police horse. Once again, the police, press, and politicians labelled the arrestees as "a bunch of punk rockers," in an attempt to marginalize those who dared to show that the emperor to-be's new wardrobe included military designs.

Meanwhile, back at the "Rock Against Reagan" rally, as news of the arrests spread, various comedians, speakers, and new wave/punk bands urged the crowd to go to the Hall of Justice after the rally to protest the arrests. (The Hall of Justice also houses the main SF jail and Police Department.) About 1000 people, escorted by the Trojan Donkey, marched to the Hall to show their disgust with the police tactics. The crowd rallied in the street out in front of the building, under the watchful eyes of a division of cops guarding the entrance. Many of the demonstrators sat down in the streets, while others urged people not to. Everyone remained non-confrontational yet very spirited in chanting "Let them go!"

The police charges quickly split up the remaining crowd into small groups, who were completely intimidated by the fear that the person next to them was really a cop. Altogether, 282 people were arrested that night, and many received serious injuries from clubs,

However, a contingent of cops was sent from the side of the building, trapping those who had remained sitting, arresting them and piling them into buses. Those who managed to get away chanted "Dan White was a cop" and



"sex party cops" to the ever-growing police presence.

The most insidious police element was the large number of undercover cops who were used at all the demonstrations that week, and who were present in large numbers at this one. Dressing as demonstrators and wearing political buttons (with the added chic touch of aquarium tube communication devices on the backs of their ears!), these wolves would stalk their targets

proudly bragging to the press, claimed the police action was totally justified as he "had reports that demonstrators were going to rip apart the Hall of Justice and free the prisoners." Later that night, police also arrested the Trojan Donkey, and he is still languishing in solitary confinement in the Police Property Room.

Over 500 people from the week's activities are now facing trial on various charges, some of them felonies. The

Police and politicians labelled the arrestees "punk rockers," trying to marginalize those who dared to show that the the emperor-to-be's new wardrobe included military designs.

and then nab their prey as people ran to avoid the repeated charges of the mounted police.

horses and motorcycles. Police continued to chase, harass, and arrest people in tiny groups, blocks away from the Hall of Justice. Police Chief Murphy,

defendants hope to garner enough public support to demand that all these charges be dropped, and to expose the conspiracy arrests for the legal sham they are.

— Gary Roush



Demonstrators face police at the SF Hall of Justice on July 19. The demonstration, in protest of arbitrary arrests earlier in the day, was later declared illegal by the police. Uniformed and undercover officers then arrested 282 people.

Largest protests in years

French breeder reactor set to run

Californians are not the only ones this summer to be engaged in a last ditch fight against a controversial nuclear reactor. On August 4 and 5, five thousand people gathered outside the Rhone valley town of Malville, France to protest the imminent start-up of the nearby "Super Phoenix", a 1300 megawatt prototype commercial breeder reactor. While the August 4-5 rally and teach-in was the largest action at Malville in years, the number of people present was not nearly enough to affect progress on the Super Phoenix, whose completion represents a much greater defeat for the French movement than that of Diablo Canyon does for the American one. The Super Phoenix marks the commencement of a new and more dangerous phase of the French atomic energy program whereas here in the US, Diablo Canyon may well be one of the last gasps of a dying industry.

False promises

A breeder reactor is a type of nuclear power plant which, as it generates electricity, converts uranium-238, an isotope that is worthless as a reactor fuel, into plutonium — a highly suitable fuel indeed. It does this so effectively that more fuel is produced than consumed. The relatively simple breeder concept engenders enormous engineering problems, however.

Breeders are powered by a very hot, compact reactor core loaded with concentrated plutonium. At the slightest disruption in its cooling system, such a core threatens to start melting down into an ever hotter and more reactive mass. A runaway meltdown of this kind could lead to a nuclear explosion.

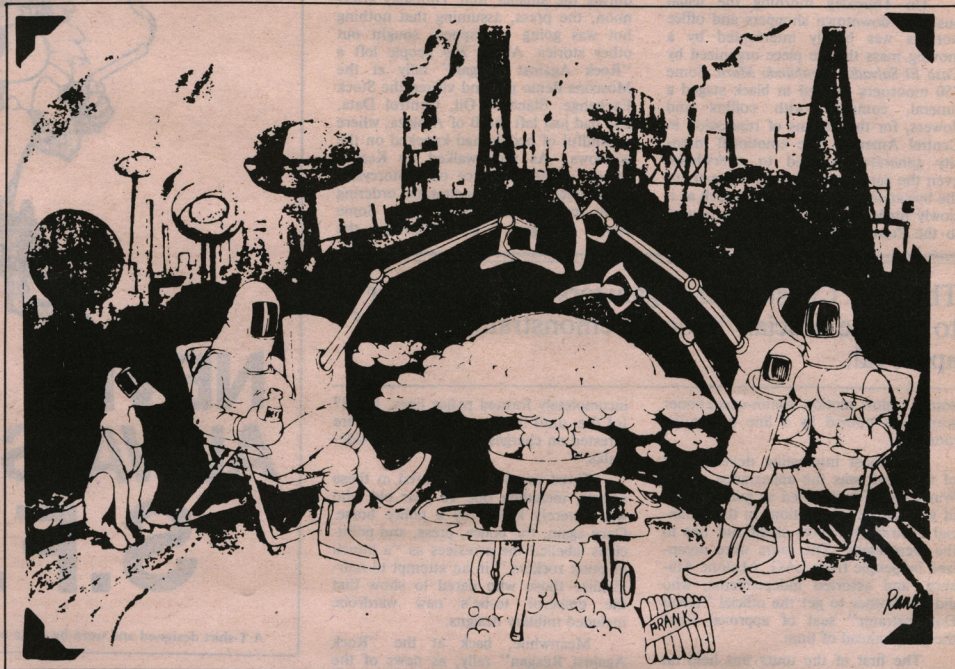
The liquid sodium employed to cool this special core brings with it added hazards. Liquid sodium reacts explosively with water, and the slightest leak in the heat exchangers where the hot molten sodium boils water to run the power plant's generators can escalate into an accident endangering the whole facility.

The plutonium that breeders produce and use as fuel greatly enhances the dangers involved, too. Plutonium is famous for both its extreme carcinogenicity and the ease with which it can be fashioned into bombs. As breeder reactors spread, the chance of plutonium somehow leaking into the environment or being diverted for making weapons will become very great.

A historic defeat

Construction of the Super Phoenix began in the midseventies, when the French antinuclear power movement was in a period of rapid growth following the government's commencement of a massive nuclear energy program. Starting out with safety and environmental objections, this movement at first took the form of increasingly militant local struggles against specific power plants. By the end of 1976, however, anti-Malville committees were springing up throughout France. The Super Phoenix became the unifying issue for the national antinuclear movement. This movement was able to garner broad-based support as local governments, scientists, trade unions and the Socialist Party all came out against the breeder reactor project. It also increasingly opposed the oppressive French state system behind the breeder folly.

The campaign against the Super Phoenix climaxed in a demonstration at Malville on July 31, 1977 that ended in fiasco. Due to the extreme divisions among the activists who made up the anti-Malville committees, the demonstration had not been properly organized or prepared for. Thus, 60,000 people gathered on that fateful rainy day to march on the future site of the breeder reactor with a wide range of ideas about what they were supposed to do once they got there. When clashes between some of the demonstrators and the police occurred, the police responded by



attacking the entire crowd with tear gas grenades. In the ensuing confrontation, several marchers were maimed and one killed. After the demonstrators retreated, the police moved in to round people up. Meanwhile, the mass media blacked out the whole affair, and the police repression at Malville was met by silence in the rest of France.

movement. It also represents a step forward for the nuclear power opponents, who, during the seventies, were not concerned with French nuclear weapons at all.

The attempt to combine nuclear issues has been successful to the extent that such organizations opposed to the French nuclear force as the Movement

certainly no political obstacle in France to either course.

The reasons behind the French breeder reactor program are actually much more complicated than the simple underhanded ploy antinuclear activists are suggesting. The Super Phoenix results from the ability of France's state-run nuclear industry to overcome all opposition to its search for a technological solution to France's energy problems that reinforces the power of the national state bureaucracy.

Up to now, the French nucleocrats' record has been pretty bleak. At home the national electric utility has built far too many reactors. The result is that France is now saddled with a debt-ridden utility producing a formidable surplus of expensive electricity. Since a good deal of the uranium needed to generate this electricity is imported, even the much touted goal of energy independence has proved elusive. In the world market, French firms have failed to make much headway with their copycat pressurized water reactors. Built with technology licensed from their chief competitors, the Americans, French reactors have not contributed to making France a preeminent manufacturer of high-tech products, as once hoped.

These difficulties were not entirely unforeseen by French atomic energy proponents, however. Since the late sixties, their idea has been that in the long run a new technological development, breeder reactors, would resolve all difficulties. By seizing leadership in the breeder reactor field, France would be able to dominate world energy markets for decades to come and provide a sound basis for a prosperous economy. Inside France, electric rates would be greatly reduced and energy independence at last achieved because of breeder reactors' efficient use of France's moderate uranium reserves.

And so we go from the fat into the fire...

If French antinuclear activists are ever to stop this cycle of continuously more elaborate and dangerous technical schemes, they are going to have to go beyond searching for simple governmental conspiracies and examine the social role played by science and technology, as they started to do in the seventies. Only by breaking the state's reliance on massive, capital-intensive technology to create a France to its liking can projects like the Super Phoenix be prevented.

— David Gilden

The antinuclear forces are claiming the government plans to use the Super Phoenix breeder reactor as its source of plutonium for the vast expansion of France's nuclear arsenal.

The events at Malville broke the momentum of the great upsurge of 1976-1977. Never again could the various antinuclear factions get together to confront the centralized French bureaucracy in a united fashion. Over the years, the struggle against nuclear power degenerated into a set of isolated, mostly ineffective local battles that gradually petered out.

The movement revives

The approaching completion of the Super Phoenix has sparked some life back into the opposition. This time around, opponents are concentrating on the plutonium Malville will produce. They claim that the government plans to use the Super Phoenix as its source of fissile material for the vast expansion in France's nuclear force now under way.

French plans call for having 1000 nuclear warheads installed on a variety of strategic and tactical weapons in the 1990's. This number of warheads requires about 5,000 kilograms of plutonium, and it is unclear where the French military expects to obtain that great an amount. According to an article by Michel Genestout and Yves Lenoir in the October, 1982 issue of the magazine *Sciences et Vie*, the French breeder reactor program has in fact been conceived solely to provide this material.

The argument that the Super Phoenix is really a weapons-grade plutonium plant that produces electricity on the side is a particularly elegant line of attack since it combines the issues of nuclear power and nuclear weapons. It thus draws on some of the energy present in the French peace movement to reinvigorate the antinuclear power

for a Nonviolent Alternative and the Committee for European Nuclear Disarmament have lent their support to the actions against the Super Phoenix. However, these groups are very small themselves. In fact, warning that the real purpose of the French breeder reactor program is to make more bombs is not likely to rally mass opposition to the Super Phoenix. General public opinion in France supports France's nuclear arsenal as a necessary evil that insures French independence from the two superpowers.

The system breeds the breeders

The Genestout-Lenoir critique of the breeder reactor program is in any case a weak one. Their argument depends mostly on circumstantial evidence, and when you look at the basic problems of relying on the Super Phoenix for military plutonium, the whole thing doesn't make much sense.

The Super Phoenix will produce only about 200 kg of plutonium per year, not much compared to short term French military needs of 5,000 kg. (Additional breeder reactors are under consideration, but they couldn't be ready until the late nineties at the earliest.) And that's assuming the Super Phoenix works as planned — a dubious assumption at best. Indeed, the Malville reactor is already three years behind schedule.

If the French military really is in need of more plutonium, it could get the same amount as the Super Phoenix might produce from a couple of more reliable standard reactors. Or it could convert some of France's excess civilian reactors to military use. There is cer-

The militarization of the Mediterranean

Throughout history many an empire has sought control over the Mediterranean Sea, the only sea in the world to border three continents — Europe, Africa and Asia. Its geographical location has made it an active area of cultural and trade exchanges — and of war.

Today the Mediterranean area is a hotbed of military competition and international political tensions, making it one of the world's most unstable and dangerous zones. It is here that the East-West and North-South tensions meet.

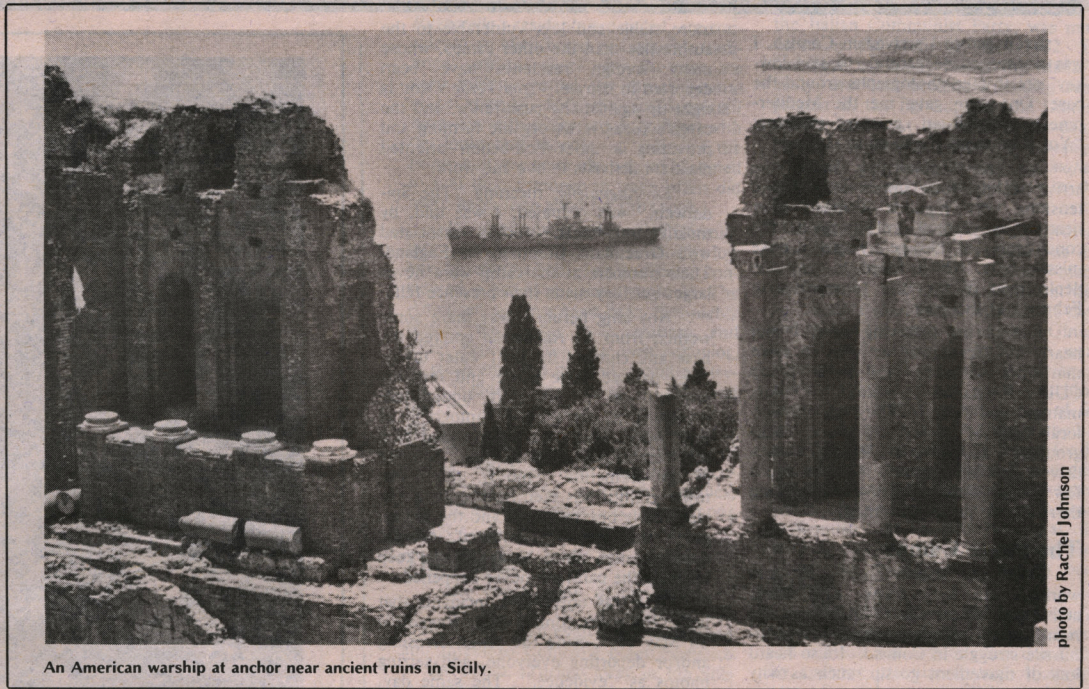
The building of NATO's largest Cruise missile base in Comiso, Sicily has brought the attention of the international peace movement to the Mediterranean region. But the missiles in Comiso are not meant as a direct threat to the Soviet Union — they can hardly reach there. Far from the traditional front line of NATO in Central Europe, the Comiso base is to be used as an advanced installation for intervention in the Mideast and North Africa, areas of vital interest to NATO countries — the Mideast for its oilfields and Africa for its cheap labor and raw materials.

The stationing of Cruise missiles in Comiso is only one small part of a much larger picture. Not only is the whole island of Sicily being turned into one giant military base by NATO and the United States, but the whole Mediterranean is being militarized at an accelerating rate. Facilities for the US Rapid Deployment Force (RDF), with its hundreds of thousands of military personnel specially trained, equipped and ready to intervene anywhere in the world, are being established heavily in such Mediterranean countries as Italy, Turkey, Morocco and Egypt.

The Mediterranean is known as the place "where the fleets meet," patrolled by American, Soviet, NATO and French naval forces, all nuclear armed. The US Sixth Fleet has been stationed there since 1947, prompting many to refer to the Mediterranean as the "American Lake." The Soviet fleet moved into the Mediterranean in 1964, and since then the superpower navies have had regular contact with each other in Mediterranean waters.

Given the confined space and strategic importance of the area, both powers are extremely jumpy, and the possibility of an incident such as the August 1981 clash between the American Sixth Fleet and the Libyan Air Force is ever present.

In addition to these naval forces, the Mediterranean is surrounded by the



An American warship at anchor near ancient ruins in Sicily.

photo by Rachel Johnson

largest array of military bases found anywhere in the world. From Portugal to Turkey on the north, and from Morocco and Syria on the south and east, all the countries bordering the Mediterranean have their own military bases. There are hundreds of NATO military facilities of all kinds in Italy, Greece and Turkey, where the predominant presence is American.

US military for both NATO and non-NATO missions.

The US also has its own bases in Spain, Italy, Greece and Turkey. (In 1952, on the occasion of Turkey's entry into NATO, a top ranking US general remarked that Turkey was "one of the most valuable pieces of real estate in the world" because of its substantial land border with the Soviet Union.) Nuclear

of Sicily's land will be occupied for military purposes.

The listing of the web of bases in and around Sicily could go on and on: the airports at Lampedusa and Trapani with their secret and underground entrances; the land expropriated for shooting ranges (and other unknown purposes) near Agrigento; and the expansion of the firing range and weapons depot at Piazza Armerina are only some examples. These are all in addition to the base that has drawn the most attention in recent years — the Magliocco Airport at Comiso — where 140 Cruise missiles will be stationed once deployment is complete.

Another aspect of the increased militarization of Sicily is Italy's southward shift of its conventional defense system. Italian troops are being transferred to Sicilian territory and nearby islands in the guise of anti-emergency squads, since Italy doesn't yet have emergency corps such as the RDF, capable of intervening overseas.

Italy's participation in the "multinational peace force" in Lebanon was the first time since WW II that Italian soldiers went abroad to a war situation. The operation in Lebanon was also significant because it was the first experiment in which allied nations acted on American orders to support American intervention, and it may be used as a model for future interventions in the Mediterranean region.

In addition to the superpowers presence in the Mediterranean, and their readiness for armed conflict at any moment, the whole region is rife with its own conflicts. Open warfare continues in Lebanon and the nearby Persian Gulf, while Israel and its Arab neighbors, as well as Greece and Turkey, face each other in mutual postures of unrelieved hostility.

The superpowers' nuclear weapons are stationed in and all around the Mediterranean, but that isn't where the nuclear arms race stops in the area. Nearly every country in the region either is already developing or is planning to develop its own nuclear bomb program — usually in the guise of nuclear research or commercial reactor development. Khadafy of Libya has made no secret of wanting to get the bomb, and Iran and Israel have both had their go at bombing Iraqi "research" reactors, presumably because they both feared the nuclear weapons implications of these facilities.

With the installation of first strike weapons in Comiso, the development of the Rapid Deployment Force, increasing superpower tensions and all the other conflicts, the Mediterranean region, armed to the teeth, may be the powder keg of World War III.

— Rachel Johnson

The Mediterranean is known as the place "where the fleets meet," with nuclear-armed American, Soviet, NATO and French naval forces all patrolling.

It's nearly impossible to separate NATO and US military involvement in the Mediterranean. The US Navy and Air Force used Sicilian NATO bases during the American intervention campaign in Lebanon. While these bases are supposedly only meant for NATO operations, the Italian government has acknowledged that it can authorize their use for other purposes. This means that the bases are almost permanently used by

weapons are routinely stored in at least fifteen US and NATO bases in the Mediterranean, and nuclear-capable aircraft, ships and submarines regularly go in and out of nearly all the others.

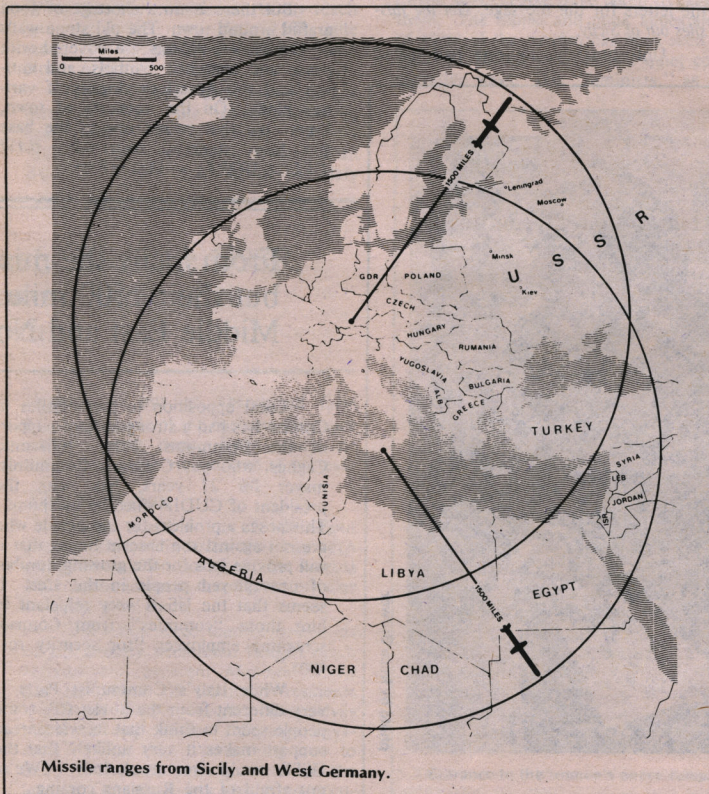
In addition to a concentration of Soviet bases on the nearby Black Sea, the USSR has access to Syrian naval facilities on the Mediterranean and Soviet ships occasionally put in at ports in Algeria and Tunisia. The Mediterranean is under siege.

But nowhere in the Mediterranean has the process of militarization gone on so intensely as it has in Sicily during the past three years. Until 1979 NATO's "southern front" had its main base on the island of Malta, located between Sicily and North Africa. With the end of good relations with Malta, Sicily became NATO's new southern "command headquarters."

In Sicily and the neighboring small islands, there are about thirty military sites — many of them recent additions. Most of these are being readied to support the new US Rapid Deployment Force, as well as the new Cruise missiles. Work is under way to build airstrips, ports, military plants, depots and roads and to expand radar systems and communications facilities.

The huge Sigonella base, where the Cruise missiles first arrived before being deployed in Comiso, hosts the US Sixth Fleet and supervises military forces throughout the Mediterranean. This base is the best equipped for the RDF and is constantly used by it. The island of Pantellaria, to the south of Sicily, has become a NATO superfortress, and together with the new base at Noto, Sicily, has the most advanced radar system in the Mediterranean.

At the present time, 7200 hectares of land in Sicily — about 6 percent of the island — are used for military purposes. But a new plan to build Europe's largest firing range in the Nebrodi Mountains of northern Sicily will, when completed, mean that nearly one fourth



Missile ranges from Sicily and West Germany.

Comiso confronts NATO,

Even before I arrived in Comiso, I was warned to be careful, to stay low-key, not to take photographs around the base. One man gave me the Mediterranean cross-fisted gesture meaning: "You'll go to jail if you go to Comiso."

All this forewarning made me arrive feeling quite uncertain. I found tensions very high in Comiso after nearly three years of protests against the construction of Europe's largest Cruise missile base, which failed to stop the deployment of the first 16 missiles in February of this year.

During the following days, I met nearly all the regular activists in town that work with the local peace group CUDIP (Unitarian Committee for Disarmament and Peace). They were mostly local men of diverse ages and backgrounds: middle-aged leftists, truck drivers, marble workers, students and a few young foreigners living and working there for the peace movement.

The Peace Camps

As I was shown around by, and worked, ate and drank with these activists, I asked lots of questions and heard many stories about the anti-missile struggle in Comiso. I also heard lots of movement gossip, such as why there are three peace camps whose differing political styles made it impossible for them to work together.

Some of the people at IMAC, the

Police brutality was so extreme at the Comiso blockades the European Parliament passed a resolution condemning the beatings.

large international camp, thought the all-women's camp, *La Ragnatella*, was too separatist and unfriendly, while the *Ragnatella* women in turn disliked the male dominance and more hierarchical style of IMAC. The comment I heard most frequently about the third camp, *Vigna Verde* was that "They're a bunch of anarchists who tend to keep to themselves."

IMAC (International Meeting Against Cruise), the camp most closely affiliated with CUDIP, was by far the largest. It was from here that the blockades of the base in the summer and fall of 1983 were launched. Police brutality was so extreme at these actions that the European Parliament was prompted to pass a resolution condemning the beatings of protestors in Comiso.

Vigna Verde meaning "Green Vineyard," is a permanent agricultural commune whose small number of residents are mostly Italians. This makes it much

more stable and less vulnerable to the authorities than the other camps, whose many foreign residents have been deported in droves. *Vigna Verde's* land is right up against the base fence, and the camp's focus is its organic farming and providing a quiet non-action oriented place for activists to live and work.

La Ragnatella, meaning "The Spiderweb," was occupied, I was told, by mostly non-Italian women associated with Greenham Common in England. Their numbers at the camp were never large, but they made their presence felt.

Not long before I was there some women from *La Ragnatella* entered the base and climbed its giant water tower. They painted huge peace and feminist symbols on it and left undetected, managing to get a good photograph of their work, which was soon erased by a most embarrassed US military. In spite of its premature removal, the water tower graffiti was seen from quite a distance early one morning, and the photograph was widely distributed, causing quite a laugh since base officials keep insisting the paint job never happened.

This was one of the incidents that led to the police coming to *La Ragnatella* on May 11, closing the camp, arresting and/or deporting everyone, and seizing photos as "evidence." The same day, the other two camps were also raided and closed by police, who claimed that the camps were sites for the planning of crimes.

When I arrived at Comiso, the only camp that had been reoccupied was *Vigna Verde*. I visited the other two abandoned camps, poking around the remains of tents and empty structures where many thousands of peace activists had lived in 1983-84. Wrapped around a torn-up tent in the middle of *La Ragnatella's* overgrown field I found pieces of the famous cloth peace dragon, which had been hand sewn by peace movement women world wide. I wondered if the heyday of the peace camps was over, and all the government intimidation tactics would succeed in keeping people away.

In Town

Although the camps were closed, the local activists around CUDIP were busy working on their own projects. One night I went out with them to wheatpaste anti-missile posters all over town, making such a commotion in our



A silent vigil at Comiso's Piazza Fonte Diana, the town's central square, on December 30, 1983.

large group that the police must not have cared what we were doing.

Early the next morning we caravanned up the valley side on a winding dirt road, planning to spray paint huge letters on the hillside that would be seen from all over the valley floor as well as from Comiso. I had never seen such an elaborate set-up for a spray painting job: huge barrels, pumps and hoses feeding from an old well by an abandoned stone farmhouse, stakes and ropes marking the letters for the message, *Get the missiles out of Sicily*.

Unfortunately, no one had tested

out this scheme to graffiti the hillside, and before long we realized that it wasn't worth finishing because with the paint so thin and the hillside so rocky, the lettering couldn't even be seen from a couple hundred meters away. However, nobody seemed too upset that the project had flopped. Someone drove quickly back into town, loaded up with food, and returned so we could have a big picnic there on the hillside overlooking the base.

But there is no shortage of good graffiti around town. The old stone walls of Comiso's buildings are covered with peace and anarchist symbols, and anti-war and anti-American slogans of various kinds. On the outskirts of town, every sign that points toward the base has been stenciled over with *BASE DELLA MORTE* — Death Base.

From Sicily the missile but their 1500 mile range Middle East and North

Local opposition to the missiles in Comiso has had a strong base of support in the Communist Party. (Giacomo Cagnes, who was Comiso's Communist mayor for 27 years, has been the president of CUDIP since its inception.) This poses a problem for the people who are not against the base in hopes that it will provide jobs for the growing number of unemployed people in the area. It seems that the US is very reluctant to hire those "commies" from Comiso, screening employees "for security reasons."

While Italy's Communist Party is very different from the Soviet CP, some people seem to think that its widespread support makes it very unlikely that the USSR would ever attack Italy. "We're not afraid of the Russians coming," I



Three Comiso women at a provincial demonstration against the Cruise on December 18, 1983.

photo by Imco Brower

the Mafia, and the Cruise



photo by Imco Brower

was told several times. "We're much more afraid of America."

The majority of people in Comiso are against the base — more than half the adult population signed a petition to that effect. They also don't believe the missiles there are aimed at the Soviet Union. The base has been constructed at the site of the abandoned Magliocco airport, built by Mussolini during WW II as an outpost in the Mediterranean from which to conduct his African campaign. From here the missiles can barely reach into the USSR, but their 1500 mile range covers most of the Mideast and North Africa.

Libya's Khadafy knows this and has threatened to take countermeasures against the missiles at Comiso. (Libya's capital, Tripoli, is closer to Comiso than Rome.) Locals joke about Khadafy

being pried by Arabs, Byzantines, Romans, Spaniards and Normans. The story goes: "They all left something of value, at least. The Greeks left their culture, the Arabs their agriculture, the Romans their architecture; but then the Americans came with their missiles and they may not leave anything at all."

The most "foreign" part of the recent invasion, ironically enough, are the outside peace activists, or the *pacifisti* as the townspeople have taken to calling them. The hippie and punk appearance of some of the *pacifisti* has been seen as quite an affront to Comiso's quiet conservative ways. The "feminists," as *La*

Ragnatella's residents are called, are considered an alien breed in Comiso's traditional culture, where only the men are seen milling around the town's central piazza at night. Even the local activists I hung out with expressed discomfort with the looks and behavior of many of the peace campers from abroad, and seemed to feel their presence in town often did more harm than good for the cause.

Up until now the arrival of US military personnel has been relatively low key by comparison, and has been considered a public relations success. The American soldiers have been thoroughly briefed to respect local customs, and come into town on their best behavior, all clean and neat in civilian clothes, trying to speak some Italian in the local markets. They are also under strict orders not to associate at all with the anti-missile crowd. All this will change, of course, when all 5000 American occupiers arrive, some with their families, and their full impact is felt among Comiso's 27,000 inhabitants.

The Mafia

The construction of the base and the arrival of US servicemen has brought with it an even bigger disruption and threat to Comiso's quiet existence — the Mafia. Tucked away in the hills in a prosperous agricultural area of southern Sicily, Comiso has hitherto been a relatively Mafia-free town. The Mafia is now being lured by the hun-

dered by the Italian Communist Party, was murdered by the Mafia in April 1982. He had been a lifelong foe of the Mafia in Sicily, and had become a leading campaigner in the fight against the Comiso missile base. At the time of his death he was said to be preparing investigations into the bank accounts of *mafiosi* suspected of having connections to the base construction.

While it's unlikely that his involvement with the peace movement was the primary motive for his murder, many newspapers, reporting his death on May 1st, made a connection between the date and that of the massacre of Porta Ginestra in 1947, when peasants who were celebrating a left-wing election victory at their Mayday picnic were machine-gunned by bandits on the orders of the Mafia. It may not be too far-fetched to suppose that the choice of timing for La Torre's murder was intended as a deliberate warning to the peace movement not to oppose Mafia interests in the base at Comiso. At La Torre's funeral, the crowds chanted: "La Torre has been killed; the missiles have already been fired."

The Mafia poses real problems for the peace movement in Sicily, by making life difficult for anyone they don't like by applying pressure through their system of social control which can include the police, tax inspectors and local government. When the idea of a peace camp at Comiso first came up, the group

The Mafia is being lured by the smuggling, prostitution, drugs and black market that always exist around a military base.

dreds of millions of dollars that are being spent to build the base, and by the business opportunities in smuggling, prostitution, drugs and black market trading that always exist around a military base.

Local government officials deny that the Mafia has its grips on Comiso, but they acknowledge that Mafia-style crime has been skyrocketing in the area since the base construction began. The local chapter of the Catholic workers organization, ACLI, says it has evidence that one third of the land around Comiso has been bought by Mafia-front companies, and points to the vicious circle of building contracts on the base turning into subcontracts and subsubcontracts. Members of Comiso's pro-missile city government have been accused of accepting kickbacks from the contracts awarded for the construction of the base, and of letting the town in general fall into the hands of Mafia blackmail.

Pio La Torre, Sicily's secretary of

was unable to find a site near the proposed base because local farmers had supposedly been threatened and were too frightened to let them on the land. In Comiso, this "familiar enemy," the mafia, which was held off for centuries, now represents a much more disruptive threat to many people than the hypothetical possibility of nuclear war.

The actual deployment of the first missiles felt like a major defeat to resistance in Comiso, as well as a big blow to the international peace movement's struggle against the new Euromissiles. However, recovery is beginning to happen. Activists are realizing that militarism is everywhere, not just concentrated in a few key missile sites. While the struggle at Comiso will continue, people are looking at the larger picture and learning about the militarization of all of Sicily — and of the whole Mediterranean region — and what it means in terms of war.

— Rachel Johnson

es barely reach the USSR,
nge covers most of the
a Africa.

planning to buy an abandoned farm house alongside of the base, as the peace campers have done, from which he would do a more violent kind of protest.

The Invasion

I also heard a lot of talk about another kind of invasion that has been going on in Comiso since the August 1981 announcement that Cruise missiles would be sited there.

The influx since then of thousands of US military personnel, foreign peace activists and apparent *Mafioso* activity has left some of Comiso's residents wondering if the missiles themselves could be any worse. "Foreign invasion," I was told, "is nothing new to Sicily." Once a thriving center of the ancient Greeks, it has also been occu-



Entrance to the women's peace camp at Comiso, La Ragnatella (meaning The Spiderweb).

photo by Rachel Johnson

Mondale: recycling cold-war liberalism

On November 6, 1984, millions of hope-weary Americans will go to their local polling place, take a deep breath, bite deeply into their punching devices — and vote for Walter Mondale.

It's amazing to see how many true believers still truly believe. In light of the dirty tricks played on blacks and peace groups before during and after the democratic convention — all of Jesse Jackson's proposals including his defense cutbacks were turned down flat, and the same congressmen who "supported" the freeze turned around days later and voted for the MX missile — it's a wonder there are any believers left.

The bad news is, Walter Mondale is no exception. His adroitness at reassuring the power brokers — in his acceptance speech Mondale asked listeners to look at the Democratic platform: "There are no defense cuts that weaken our security. . . ." — does not inhibit him from presenting himself to workers and minorities as a "people's candidate" who would bring all things to all people.

And I guess it's just his "new realism" that allows Mondale to openly support deployment of the cruise missiles in Europe, the single warhead Midgetman missile (as an alternative to the MX) and the Stealth Bomber while mouthing support for the Freeze.

The picture darkens under scrutiny. In a recent interview with *Nuclear Times*, Mondale denounced the MX missile as he has repeatedly in interviews with left-leaning political journalists. Yet in a policy paper drafted at the request of the Arms Control Association he noted he was "prepared to endorse it," if national called for its deployment in multiple protective shelters. That, "in recognition of a strong nuclear and conventional defense."

In a campaign speech to the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, Mondale demonstrated he's not above a little red-baiting when he rebuked Gary Hart for what he termed "dangerous defeatism" (in the Third World), saying Communism, not poverty, is the real enemy there and that Hart was wrong to urge withdrawal of all US troops from Central America. That, for one of the few principled statements of Hart's entire campaign? Makes a person wonder if Fritz is as sorry as he says he is about his avid support of the Vietnam war up until 1969 — just after Humphrey lost the election.

While Mondale's "call for" a US/Soviet ban on anti-satellite and space weapons, underground nuclear testing and the deployment of nuclear-armed cruise missiles is theoretically comforting, it is likely to have little bearing on anything but his popularity with the currently fashionable "peace movement" otherwise known as the Freeze, Natch. Any good "peace candidate" knows s/he needs the support of the Freeze to win votes.

Then there's his non-positions on the MX missile, no "first use" policy, Cuba and Central America. Mondale won't say anything about those topics except that he would end all covert military aid to the *contras* trying to overthrow Nicaragua. That's scary enough. But his support of the Duarte regime in El Salvador as a legitimate democratic government and his unwavering support of Israel — which serves the US well as its client state in shipping arms to Guatemala, El Salvador and other Third World countries when political pressures don't allow it to be done overtly — expose the man for the shameless Cold Warrior he is.

A close look at Mondale's past reveals a history of youthful idealism gone AWOL. Under the wings of such Cold War luminaries as Harold Brown — former Director of the Livermore Lab and Carter's defense secretary — and Zbigniew Brzezinski, Carter's hawkish National Security Adviser, Mondale's years as vice-president under the Carter administration saw the crumbling of detente and some of the most damaging changes in foreign policy and US/Soviet relations since the early days of the Cold War.

It is widely understood that the Democratic Party, under Jimmy Carter,



Would you buy a used car from this man?

photo by Keith Holmes

created conditions for the current rightward shift in government by embracing deregulation and incorporating policies that sent the US into the worst recession since the Depression. But it would also be wise to remember that Walter Mon-

since gutted those plans.

Mondale, in those days, lobbied for restrictions on CIA activities from a standpoint of domestic civil liberties. He resisted national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski's provocative attitude

Mondale openly supports the deployment of the Cruise missiles in Europe, the single warhead Midgetman missile and the Stealth Bomber while mouthing support for the Freeze.

dale was extremely close to Carter during those years and was consulted by him before any important decisions were made. In fact, Mondale was given "unprecedented access to information and practically unlimited opportunity to comment on decisions," according to Carter aides at the time.

Mondale's liberal status was scarred by his years under Carter — and it should have been. Although he argued against Carter's Soviet grain embargo, opposed his draft registration plan, and urged a presidential veto when Congress authorized billions of dollars for an extra nuclear aircraft carrier, his disagreement with Carter's conservative policies never went beyond the Oval Office.

Back in the early seventies, Mondale did lead a legislative battle for aid to women and children, from day-care centers to adoption services. And when other politicians were shying away from the racial integration issue, Mondale chaired a Senate select committee on equal educational opportunity, producing a report that led to new federal aid for school integration plans. Reagan has

toward the Soviets and he took a stand against many military spending programs from the ABM system to the Trident submarine and B-1 bomber. As a very junior senator, Mondale even took on the defense barons of the Senate, hawkish committee chairmen like John Stennis and Richard Russell, who always won on Pentagon weapons votes.

But things change. Youthful idealism gives way to bigger things.

Despite his pro-worker rhetoric and union endorsements — his acceptance speech was full of references to "American workers, American businesses and American farmers — Mondale is not likely to more than marginally improve the lot of the American working class. While his proposals focus on "balancing the budget," his speeches are curiously devoid of any reference to tapping the hundreds of billions of dollars that go into the military budget.

Instead he urges the American people to tighten their belts and "admits" taxes will have to be raised to avoid an economic disaster. And you can bet he won't try to get it from the corporations

once he gets elected and begins to feel the painful tug of the corporate strings.

Although Mondale has shown some degree of political sensitivity to women and minorities, although the Democrats have a much better record on minorities' and women's issues — like poverty — and although Mondale will be under a certain degree of political pressure to live up to the "peaceful image" he has been trying to project, he still labors under the illusion that beguiles most politicians including *real* liberals — that if you throw the "people" a few crumbs, they'll be perfectly happy to nibble on them while the whole world falls apart. Meanwhile the crumb-throwers get fatter and fatter.

Casting a ballot won't change that. If it could, it would likely be illegal. That becomes more and more obvious with every new weapons system that is approved by our "representatives," with every massacre by US backed regimes in the name of "democracy," with every person who dies of starvation while billions of dollars, countless resources and immeasurable quantities of human labor are absorbed into the war machine that is destroying the very planet we share.

When it comes right down to it, Walter Mondale's roots as a Cold War Liberal are just a little too deeply entrenched in the institutions that thrive on the arms race for him to sincerely want to end it. At this late date, to merely cast one's ballot for Mondale and go home is to abdicate power to the same greedy, time-warped politicians who got us into this mess. It's all too obvious that "we the people" they are supposed to represent are not the ones profiting from their dirty little arms race.

— Sandy Leon
IAT staff

A woman's electoral blues

According to the mass media, the feminist revolution happened at the Democratic Convention last week. Maybe I missed it because I was too busy protesting the Democrats' duplicity on the peace issue. Or maybe I was just in the ladies' room when it went by.

How did the Democrats become the women's party, anyway? The logic of the gender gap and women's progressive alienation from the Reagan administration is that the Democratic candidate — any candidate — begins to look like the feminist alternative. The logic of Democratic opportunism is to translate that sentiment into the lowest common denominator, a female vice-presidential candidate. So it started with NOW's early — many thought premature — endorsement of Mondale, went through Jackson's pledge to choose a woman as his running mate to a groundswell of "woman-on-the-ticket" agitation, and culminated in the nomination of Geraldine Ferraro.

Was that really the women's movement — my movement — that passed me by? Or just another bandwagon? And how can I tell the difference? Before racing to catch up with it, we need to take a look at the Democrats' recent history on women's issues, at the politics of concentrating feminist aspirations in a single electoral candidacy, and, most of all, at the vision of society implicit in the Mondale-Ferraro campaign.

Since the Democrats are still purportedly trying to recover from the electoral disaster attendant on McGovern's "greening" of the party, history of their dealings with women need go back no further than the convention of 1972. You know, the one where Shirley Chisholm's candidacy was treated as a minor irritant and both the abortion and gay rights planks were rejected by McGovern's most fervent supporters. McGovern distinguished himself that year by his perplexity that feminist representatives were interested in welfare rights "and not just women's issues." His other claim to distinction was the selection of Thomas Eagleton, now the Senate's most virulent anti-choice Democrat, as his Vice-Presidential nominee. Then, when Eagleton turned out to have a highly shocking skeleton in his closet, he named Sargent Shriver, who hadn't been seriously in the running at all, while the convention's second highest Vice Presidential vote-getter, Frances Paret-hold, was contemptuously overlooked.

Support for abortion and the Equal Rights Amendment are the touchstones of mainstream feminism. The Supreme Court decision of January 1973, removing legal barriers to abortion, eliminated the immediate need to call for this reform in subsequent Democratic platforms. In 1977, however, under a Democratic administration, federal funds for Medicaid abortions were withdrawn from the states, most of which failed to take over the payments themselves. President Carter's classic comment on the resultant inequity? "Life is unfair."

As for the ERA, the organizations and activists working on the issue generally agree that Carter did not provide the moral and political support needed to get it through the required number of state legislatures in time. The Amendment itself has been part of the Democratic platform for more than four decades. The Republicans, who had been paying it lip service for the same amount of time, recently took it out; in the interests of *editorial simplicity* the Chair of this year's Democratic Platform Committee, one Geraldine Ferraro, wanted to do likewise. Now, of course, the Mondale-Ferraro ticket is campaigning on the promise to pass ERA in the next four years.

At both the 1976 and 1980 conventions, feminists shifted their focus onto issues of economic inequality. The "\$9 €" buttons worn by many women delegates — reflecting how much the average working woman earns for every dollar earned by a man — were a dramatic statement of their position. Once again, however, it was not until this year that the Democratic program has included significant economic



Would you let this woman do your taxes?

photo by Keith Holmes

reforms to redress sex inequality in job training, hiring, and compensation.

Within a week of her nomination, Ferraro specifically (and, God knows, correctly) attacked Reagan on affirmative action and comparable worth issues. The Platform and the Convention addressed a wide range of women's concerns, from abortion to child care to school lunches. So why rake up the past — even the very recent past? For the same reason we have to do it on the issue of the Cold War and the arms race:

the right of the Republicans.) The point is not only that her conversion is relatively recent or even that it does not go very far (against the MX but for Trident, against Star Wars but for Pershing II, against B-1 but for draft registration). It's that her allegiance is to the sources of her political experience and clout, the old-line Democratic Party structures, and not to any of the movements or forces working for the kinds of change her candidacy is supposed to herald.

Ferraro's brand of feminism has

It's hard to tell if Ferraro is meant to symbolize the difference between the past and present on questions of concern to women — or whether she is meant to *be* the difference.

because the best way to predict what these people will do is on the basis of what they have done before. The Democrats aren't even like an errant husband who begs to be taken back and claims he's a totally changed man; to hear their rhetoric, they've *always* been the party for women. Yes, but in 1972...

Okay, now though, they have Geraldine Ferraro. The trouble is, it's hard to tell through the ballyhoo whether Ferraro is meant to symbolize the difference between then and now on questions of concern to women — or whether she is meant to *be* the difference. When those "\$9 €" buttons are replaced by "woman-on-the-ticket" stickers, clearly the symbol and the fact are hopelessly confounded.

Obviously, not just any woman on the ticket or in high office will do. Promotion for one woman does not necessarily improve the status or the welfare of the rest of us. Geraldine Ferraro is certainly no Margaret Thatcher or Indira Gandhi. She's a liberal politician who admits she used to be a "small-c conservative." (There's a big-C Conservative Party in her home state, usually well to

won praise as pragmatic, gutsy, down to earth. We're told she represents the very middle of Middle America and the gut feminism of real American women, not mere activists and ideologues. As the daughter of poor, immigrant parents, she claims to have made it to the top through hard work and playing by the rules. But she solved the difficult task of financing her eventual Congressional campaigns by marrying a rich real estate broker — hardly an inspiring feminist achievement.

Once the Democrats recognized the chief thing about American women — that, as a group, we reject Reagan and his policies and are therefore desperate to find an alternative — it is as if feminism, as ideology and as movement, had nothing further to contribute. Gloria Steinem says (approvingly, approvingly) that Ferraro doesn't use words ending in "tion." I fear one of those words may be "liberation."

This fear is particularly real as I follow the Democrats' apparent campaign strategy. The nomination of a woman is held up as proof that the system — which worked fairly except for the

quirky little anomaly about women — can be made to work for all. (It's the same logic by which Jackson's acceptance by the Democrats — however equivocal and however unattended by specific gains — is supposed to represent a victory for Blacks.) Moreover, the system can be made to work without activism, by playing the game according to the "rules" Ferraro constantly evokes, and without fundamental change. That is, women can be granted equality without its causing essential change and it can all take place in the name of good old American values. Not, mind you, good old values like justice, but ones like hard work and family. In fact, in their attempt to capture the pro-family turf from the Republicans, the Democrats are behaving as if feminism proposes no basic challenge to the family as a traditional institution. It is hardly in their interest to consider whether such a challenge is justified and might lead to a better way of imagining and living our lives. And what's not in their interest to consider just doesn't get considered. The long-range effects of this bandwagon may be far from beneficial to women.

But what are the options for November? We can vote for Mondale-Ferraro with a certain deadness in the heart. Or we can register a protest vote for Sonia Johnson, a radical feminist running with Citizens Party and Peace and Freedom endorsement, who crams a somewhat more congenial message into the Procrustean bed of electoral concepts. Or we can not vote at all, recognizing that four more years of Reagan are bad, but that the electoral system does not offer a route to making things significantly better. Whether we vote or not, women, especially, cannot afford the illusion that it makes a great deal of difference, much less allow electoral politics to package our needs, our priorities, and our movement and then peddle them back to us. The real movement and its real struggle are elsewhere.

— Lillian S. Robinson

Short Circuits

THE ONLY THING WE FEAR...

In contrast to the "nuclear doom-sayers," Uncle Sam has an upbeat message that you'll be hearing in case of international crises which might threaten nuclear war.

To avoid panic, just follow the animated stick figures in FEMA's film (Federal Emergency Management Administration) "Protection in the Nuclear Age" as they calmly pack the car, leave town and drive to an emergency "relocation center."

The 25-minute film describes fallout shelters, evacuation of high-risk urban areas and other emergency measures and proclaims that "the greatest danger is hopelessness, the fear that nuclear attack would mean the end of our world."

During war-time a prerecorded radio message will advise nuclear-attack survivors that "if because of the emergency you have become separated from or do not know the whereabouts of family members, relatives, employers, employees or government agencies... the Postal Service will provide the principal, and perhaps the only, means available for re-establishing such contacts." Reassured? Good.

These are a couple examples of FEMA's civil defense contingency plans, which are exhaustively detailed in a new book, "The Day After World War III," by Edward Zuckerman. The author differs with those critics who contend that civil defense efforts would be useless. FEMA's emergency measures, he said, "would definitely save some lives in a nuclear war. Maybe not a lot. We don't know."

But, Zuckerman said, "you have to look at the role civil defense planning plays in the arms race." With civil defense capabilities viewed as an element of the US-Soviet strategic balance, the issue "becomes one more bargaining chip on the table in the confrontation between the two nations. The Russians can look at our planning, and even if our planning isn't going to work, they can justifiably — or with some reason, at least — be scared by it. Just as we look at Russian civil defense and are scared by it."

One conclusion from all this might be that fear of nuclear war is more dangerous than the war itself and that we should fear the Russians' civil defense planning as much as their bombs.

FEMA is trying to bounce back from the rubble it was almost reduced to starting in 1982 when the nuclear freeze movement was spurring city councils and town meetings to flatly reject FEMA-formulated evacuation plans.

FEMA's director of public affairs, James Holton, said, "We took a lot of lumps [while] looking for a way to redesign this system that would make it more palatable for the public." FEMA is rewriting its civil defense booklets to replace Cold War-vintage literature that was "rather naive."

Previously, civil defense officials had asserted that a well-planned and supported evacuation would ensure the survival of more than 80 percent of the country's population, even in a full-scale nuclear war.

— San Francisco Examiner, 7/23/84

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT CHEATING ON MISSILES

The Defense Department recently admitted that the Navy has begun arming its ships with nuclear cruise missiles in spite of a recently passed amendment to the fiscal 1985 defense spending bill that prohibits the assignment at sea of nuclear-tipped Tomahawks, so long as the Soviet Union refrains from installing a counterpart missile, the SSNX-21.

Pentagon sources said the missiles were placed aboard four submarines and are to be installed on surface ships as well. The Soviet Union has "refrained" from installing its equivalent missile — at least until now.

— Sandy Leon



PENTAGON BUDGET RUNS AMOK

A Defense Department trust fund that administers arms sales is so ineptly managed that the Pentagon can't determine how much foreign governments owe for the weapons they buy, according to government officials and audit reports. This mismanagement has reportedly resulted in billion-dollar discrepancies in the Pentagon's records.

More than 40 reports by Pentagon auditors and the General Accounting Office (GAO), dating as far back as 15 years, have turned up a persistent pattern of incomplete records, unbalanced books and inaccurate billings in the accounts of the Foreign Military Sales Trust Fund. Adding to the problem, some 40 defense-related organizations are involved in management of the fund.

Due to continued blunders, some foreign governments aren't making payments for the weapons they buy from US companies. Saudi Arabia, which has negotiated weapons and related agreements with the US worth \$45 billion over the last decade, says it won't pay the US for its ambitious naval expansion program because the bill was wrong and the weapons weren't delivered on time anyway.

In fiscal 1983, \$18.3 billion in sales agreements involving 74 nations were channeled through the trust fund, representing about 90 percent of foreign weapons deals with US companies. One auditor in the Office of the Inspector General at the Defense Department reported, "We may never get a true picture of the trust fund," because there are documents missing and "the records are inaccurate." A Pentagon official says the whole thing is such a mess that "the best thing to do is create a whole new trust fund and do it right from the start."

Good idea. Meanwhile all outstanding accounts could be turned over to US collection agencies, who would demand immediate payment on the balance due or all tanks, ships, missiles and the like would be repossessed.

— Sandy Leon

CUBA BUILDS FOUR NUKES

President Fidel Castro announced on July 26 that Cuba is building a nuclear power plant with Soviet aid. He also said he is willing to pursue talks with the Reagan administration to ease tensions in the Caribbean region.

Speaking on the 31st anniversary of his first attempt to overthrow dictator Fulgencio Batista, Castro said Cuba is willing to continue talks on immigration issues with Reagan administration officials begun July 13. Castro praised the visit to Havana by Jesse Jackson in June as providing an opportunity to ease relations with the United States.

"Jackson brought a message of peace from important sectors of the North American society. He represented a spirit of peace opposed to the arms race and disposed to seeking a political solution in Central America," Castro said. Jackson last month secured the release of 26 Cuban political prisoners and 22 Americans held in Cuban jails.

Despite the conciliatory tone of Castro's speech, he warned that Cuba was prepared to defend itself against aggression. "We do not want a war. We would fight a war if it is imposed on us. We are revolutionaries of firm conviction and our ideas and convictions are not renounceable. Who should try to destroy them will have to fight against us."

Castro said 5500 Cuban and 188 Soviet technicians are building the first nuclear power plant in the Caribbean region. He said there were also 82 Bulgarians working on the plant.

The plant site is located at Cienfuegos, 150 miles southeast of Havana on the southern shore of Cuba. It will have four reactors, each of 417 megawatt capacity, to supply electricity to Cuba's 9.7 million population.

Castro said the power plant would be built to withstand earthquakes, tidal waves and even a jet plane crash. He said the plant would save \$500 million on Cuban oil bills. He did not say when it would be completed.

— SF Chronicle, 7/27/84

US FORCES IN A SLUMP?

The readiness of US armed forces and their ability to fight a sustained war have continued to decline during the third year of the Reagan administration, according to a congressional investigation. Increased military budgets have done little toward improving the situation.

According to the investigation, the Pentagon is not even close to being able to fight the sustained global war on several fronts for which Caspar Weinberger has said the military must be prepared.

One high-ranking officer told congressional investigators that if war in Europe precedes a conflict in Korea, "US troops in Korea best learn how to swim the Straits of Japan, as there is nothing left to reinforce them."

Defense Department and Army studies have concluded that "the Army does not have the men and material to sustain combat operations in a major contingency." The report also noted that the Navy could conduct a full war against the Soviet Union for less than a week, while even smaller nations could inflict enough damage against the Navy to cause a "national disgrace."

Despite the increase in spending for spare parts, ammunition and other essential supplies, the shortages in war reserves have persisted, due to "planning errors."

The same was said for the Air Force, which right now is suffering from a "critical shortage in spare parts," also due to "ineffective planning." Because of the spare parts shortage, the Air Force had to assign extra F-16 fighter jets, which cost more than \$20 million each, to serve solely as spare-parts reservoirs. These were designated, "Forward Based Attrition Reserve" or "Parts Management Pool" aircraft. Army units are already experiencing shortages of spare parts for the M-1 tank, the military's newest and most expensive toy at \$2 million apiece.

The Pentagon insists everything is shaping up just fine now, blaming current problems on past politics. But a House report released recently on the 1985 defense budget directly contradicts that claim, saying that improvements claimed by administration officials were not to be found. In fact, they reported that, "the conditions of force readiness and sustainability have experienced some deterioration throughout the military services since...1982."

Meanwhile, the use of other new and expensive equipment is being hampered by, "inexperienced and ill-trained personnel, the absence of test sets and manuals and a continuously increasing shortage of spare parts." Some of the more complex equipment rarely worked. "The test equipment for the Dragon and TOW (anti-tank) missile was a cause for celebration on one occasion because it was working, however no one would dare to take it to the field," investigators said.

The report said a majority of TOW crew members had never fired a live missile from their weapon and some Navy F-14 fighter pilots, "may never fire a Phoenix missile in their entire career."

— San Francisco Chronicle, 7/23/84

TMI STRIKES AGAIN

On July 25, three workers at the crippled Three Mile Island nuclear plant were "contaminated slightly" after a work crew removed the steel top from the reactor, plant officials said. The cap has to be removed before the utility can take out the mangled and highly radioactive uranium fuel in the reactor's core. That procedure is supposed to begin in 1985.

The accident brings to four the number of people exposed to radioactivity during the two-day operation. The workers went home clean, though. According to a plant spokesman, they were "decontaminated" with soap and water.

— Sandy Leon

Blockading the Bohos

On Sunday, July 22, in the quiet Russian River resort town of Monte Rio, over 300 people descended upon a dirt road which is the only way in or out of the Bohemian Grove — a summer camp for the US ruling class. For the first time since the Bohemian Grove Action Network brought attention to the encampment over five years ago, people committed acts of civil (dis)obedience as a means of expressing their outrage at the power these men have over all of our lives.

For five hours a combination of demonstrators, rows upon rows of spider webs made from yarn and string, "Flo the Whale" and the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department blockaded over 60 carloads of corporate biggies, including David Rockefeller and Henry Kissinger. The action, organized by the Sonoma County Direct Action Coalition (SCDAC) and the Livermore Action Group (LAG), netted 51 arrests, including a reporter for the *San Francisco Examiner*. All were cited out by nightfall with a return court date of November 2nd.

There were many exciting moments which helped keep spirits high and the action lively. Members of the Spiderwomyn affinity group strung yarn across the road to create spider webs, reminiscent of the Women's Pentagon Actions and Greenham Common. The use of the webs seemed especially appropriate for the Grove since the motto of the enclave is "Weaving Spiders Come Not Here." The sheriff's deputies seemed very frustrated, since as soon as they cut their way through the strands of web people were there to reconnect it, advising the officers that it is extremely bad luck to destroy a spider's web. Major General Moore of the Monte Rio police force, the officer in charge, was overheard muttering that they should use the webs to string up the protesters. This, fortunately, did not come to pass.

After the deputies arrested the first wave of blockaders they hopped on their buses and drove off, leaving the remaining demonstrators in total control of the road, wondering what was going on. A



Using yarn and string, protestors weave a spider web at the Bohemian Grove as sheriff's deputies prepare to arrest them.

photo by Lisa Bonneau

group of people dressed in the style of beatniks and bohemians gave a rousing reading of poetry by Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti and Jack Kerouac. After finishing their "cool" reading they climbed over the wooden gates at the entrance of the Grove and sat down. They were quickly joined by members of the youth affinity group from Bolinas called PINK — People Infuriated with Nuclear Killing.

As the grove security forces frantically phoned the sheriff's department to

come back and arrest the trespassers, they tried out a few threats. "You'd better leave before you get in trouble. Don't you know this is private property?" The people continued to enjoy control of the road for at least another 45 minutes, whence the authorities rolled up in their buses to arrest the folks inside the Grove (the blockaders — not Rockefeller and his buddies, unfortunately.)

The blockaders were told that they were part of an "illegal assembly" and

that those remaining would be arrested. The deputies then made a sweep down the road, poking people with their clubs and throwing them onto the side of the road as they cleared the way for the Porsches, Mercedes, BMW's and other cars that had been waiting to escape. Many men were observed crouching down in their seats to avoid recognition as they sped away. People along the roadside called out to them, warning them that we'd all be back next year.

— Geoff Yippee!

Russia wins WWII in Day After sequel

News Item — Under pressure from a group of right-wing stockholders, ABC has announced it will produce a sequel to *The Day After*. The Soviet Union has won WWII, and ten years later occupies the US, or what's left of it.

Work on ABC's new film has barely begun. But we have all seen a lot of films like the one this will be. This review is based 100% on safe assumptions.

The Day After the Day After: A Pre-review

ABC's sequel to *The Day After*,

entitled *The Day After The Day After*, sends a hardnosed, no-nonsense message to those who insisted — not without cause — that the first program was soft on Communism.

In the wake of *The Day After*, the network was stung by criticisms that the show pulled its punches both in laying the blame for nuclear disaster on the Russians and in showing the full horror of the post-nuclear war landscape. ABC apparently has decided to make amends by depicting the devastation ten years following the events of *The Day After* — a devastation not caused by "nuclear winter," but by a fate that would be worse: the Russian occupation.

The producers have recreated all the horror of Warner Brothers' 1962 masterpiece about Russian occupation, *Red Nightmare*. But the new made-for-TV film is far superior to the original. For one thing, *The Day After The Day After* is in color, tinted in some scenes a wicked shade of pink. Secondly, while Jack Webb's narration was a powerful device in *Red Nightmare*, here the filmmakers have wisely chosen to let the images speak for themselves.

Most remarkably, however, the Russians are depicted not as monsters but as human beings — warm, caring, and wrongheaded. Remember the kindly doctor in *The Day After*? He's still alive. It turns out he's actually an angel (played this time by Jimmy Stewart) sent to shepherd our Earth through its time of tribulation. After he treats a Russian soldier who's inexplicably had a cold for seven years, the grateful man reveals he was always dissatisfied with the Soviet system, but could do nothing about it because otherwise his mother, thrown in jail for protesting the Soviet decision to boycott the 1984 Olympics, would be executed.

Another scene bears description. After ten years of brutal occupation, the Russian commander realizes that he hasn't been in Afghanistan for the past decade. He defects to the American government in exile in Grenada (the only place left on Earth with an airport big enough to accommodate Air Force One) and declares that he will open a soda shop, to be called *Ninotchka's*, just as soon as Topeka, Kansas cools to a point permitting ice cream production once again. He's warmly embraced by the former White House bathroom attendant, who by virtue of line of succession became president after the war.

Also hard hitting: a scene in which a twelve year-old boy in a museum remembers when he was two that the building had once been a church and asks the Russian guard, "Where did you put God?" The shameful Russian, practically a boy himself, tries to interest the child in the Famous Soviet Inventors exhibit and a slide show that tells museum visitors that the telephone, motor car, airplane, and microwave oven were all invented by Russians. But the cagey twelve year old persists, asking, "Did you invent God, too." In the most shocking moment of the movie, the bewildered Russian soldier shoots the boy in the head. The final scenes at the funeral in which the entire remaining population of the United States gathers in a country church before revolting against the occupation forces (who outnumber them two to one) is an emotional *tour de force*.

Perhaps the most important part of the show, however, is the panel discussion afterwards. Featuring Helen Caldicott and seven Navy admirals, the debate dramatically focuses attention on the need for ever-greater preparedness in the face of Russian aggression. Admiral Nimitz, whom I thought was dead, makes a surprisingly vigorous speech in support of the profound notion first voiced by the liberal McNamara in the panel discussion following *The Day After*: that the reason we need so many nuclear weapons is so that we never have to use them.

But this idea is no more vigorous than the honesty and integrity that infuse the rest of the program. ABC is taking a stand for independence and innovation in making this remake. It should be congratulated accordingly.

— Fred Glass



'We're in luck! A distinguished panel of experts!'

BOB ENGLEHART, THE HARTFORD COURANT

Is there really an Abalone Alliance?

The SF statewide office had a conference June 8-10 to answer that question. Guess what? Not only did we find out that the Alliance is alive and well, but also very hard at work. About 35 folks from as far south as LA (!) and as far north as Humboldt gathered under the giant Sequoias at Kings Canyon National Park and inspired each other with the amount of work and outreach their organizations are doing. Here's a partial update of activities by represented Member Groups. (Please send IAT news items about your group for future issues.)

- The next state-wide conference will be in October, hopefully hosted by COCOCounty (Contra Costans for a Nuclear-Free Future) at Mt. Diablo.
- Pelican Alliance has done ads in a local paper for outreach and fundraising. Signers of the ad contributed towards the ad costs. Pelican produced a musical about the 1981 blockade, the "Blue Line," and a child's anti-nuke song, "Kiss Your Jelly Beans Goodbye," which is getting local and Bay Area air play.
- Contra Costans for a Nuclear Free Future is doing a lot of legal Defense of Necessity work around the Livermore, Diablo and Site 300 actions. They have monthly community meetings of about 50 people. They're doing tabling, producing leaflets and factsheets and have monthly letterwriting parties.
- Acorn Alliance has an office and meets every 2 weeks with 20-30 people. They are working on Diablo, Humboldt, Livermore, Freeze and anti-draft issues. They have regular slide shows and non-violence trainings, are networking around the world, and have working groups on the Sinkyone Redwoods, the Red Mountain Mine, Native American struggles and Central America.
- Golden Gate Alliance does tabling and educational outreach, and legislative lobbying, mostly on weapons issues. They're working on the statewide Nuclear Free Zone initiative.

- Sequoia Alliance meets every three weeks and has a monthly newsletter. They're involved in Central America Coalition and planned Hiroshima/Nagasaki actions.
- People Generating Energy organized the August 12th action at Diablo. They need a part-time staff person.
- The Statewide Office is answering mail/phones/keeping files. It is convening/doing Bay Area outreach for Abalone actions and shows support for, endorses, tables at and does outreach to Abalone Alliance about Bay Area coalitions.
- The canvass does nightly outreach about AA and member group projects and fundraises for the statewide office. It wants to do active organizing as well (around the rate strike or other AA actions), and will go to local areas also.
- NRC group did People's Emergency Response Plan organizing and is now reforming.
- The Isla Vista affinity group is doing monthly mailings and weekly meetings.
- The Alliance for Survival did a rally on August 5th and is doing a voter registration drive for the '84 elections.
- The Rate Strike Task Force is researching the percentage of the average electric bill that goes to nukes both statewide and for PG&E, rate protest and tax protest models, outreach and coalition building and finding ways of offering alternative energy as a way to unplug from PG&E.
- The Abalone has reaffirmed its commitment to pay the legal costs resulting from the lawsuit brought against it following the 1981 blockade. Western States Legal Foundation has set up a legal defense fund to hold monies. Strategies to pay legal fees include decentralized fundraising by member groups or possibly a special mailing to '81 blockade participants. Please send contributions to Western States Legal Foundation, 1440 Broadway Suite 517, Oakland, CA 94612. Be sure to note on the check that it is for the Abalone Alliance.



There's a smell of rabble here

Announcements

HOTLINE: HOTFLASH: HOTNEWS?!

The NRC has a taped hotline for Region V which gives a daily status report on Diablo Canyon, San Onofre, Rancho Seco, Trojan and Washington Nuclear Project 2. As of 8:00 am, Tuesday, July 24, there was not one nuclear power plant operating in the Western US. Is that good news or bad?

Diablo Canyon was doing pre-operative tests waiting for full-power. Rancho Seco was in cold shut-down. (Didn't say why it was shut down.) San Onofre 1 was closed for seismic modifications. San Onofre 2 was preparing for re-start after shutdown (didn't say why it was shut down, either.) San Onofre 3 was closed for steam-generator tube repair. Trojan was closed for steam generator tube repair and test. Washington Nuclear Project 2 was closed for repair and modifications on diesel generators.

The recording is very slick and is designed to give you the impression "they" know what they're doing. Call 415-943-3825 24 hrs/day to hear the voice of the NRC.

YOU CAN CANVASS

Anti-nuke canvassers travel to exotic places - San Francisco, Palo Alto, Berkeley - meet exciting people, and canvass them! Contact your local canvass recruiting office. The Abalone Alliance needs you! Commission pay, part-time/full time. Call 861-0592.

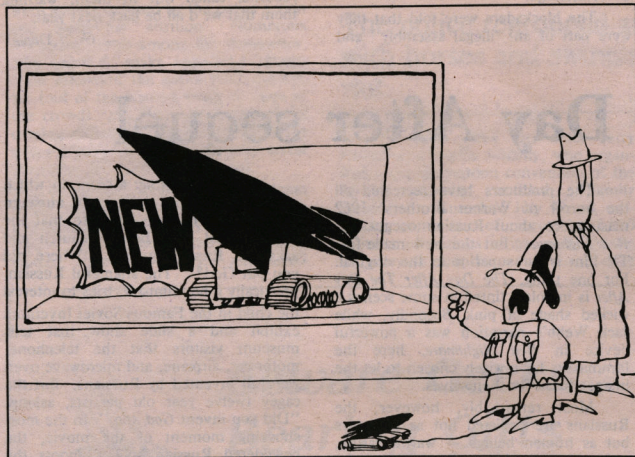
ACROSS FRONTIERS

A Journal of East-West Solidarity

A 34p. Quarterly documenting democratic, socialist and anti-militarist movements in Eastern Europe. Summer issue contains a special supplement on E. Europe's environmental catastrophe, plus original documents from grassroots, peace campaigns, the Polish workers' movement and much more.

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CALLING ALL '81 DIABLO BLOCKADERS AND SUPPORTERS...

...In the June issue of IAT (p. 14) you read about our recent victory in the Pacific Legal Foundation's attempt to sue us for over \$3 million in law enforcement costs from '81. But our struggle isn't over! PLF has promised to appeal. Legal costs (not including attorneys' time, which is being donated) are expected to run from \$1,000 to \$2,000 a year. If everyone who participated in the '81 blockade contributed just \$1.00, these costs would be easily covered! So do your part! SEND \$1.00 OR MORE TO: WESTERN STATES LEGAL FOUNDATION, 1440 BROADWAY #517, OAKLAND, CA 94612. Note on your check: Abalone Alliance/Greenpeace Defense Fund. (Contributions are tax deductible.) AND MANY THANKS TO OUR LEGAL TEAM!!!

- Contra Costans for a Nuclear-Free Future

Advance Notice:

BLOCKADE LIVERMORE!

Sept. 24, 1984

Get involved early--
We need your help--

JOIN A WORKING GROUP!

Call the Livermore Action Group - 644-3031.

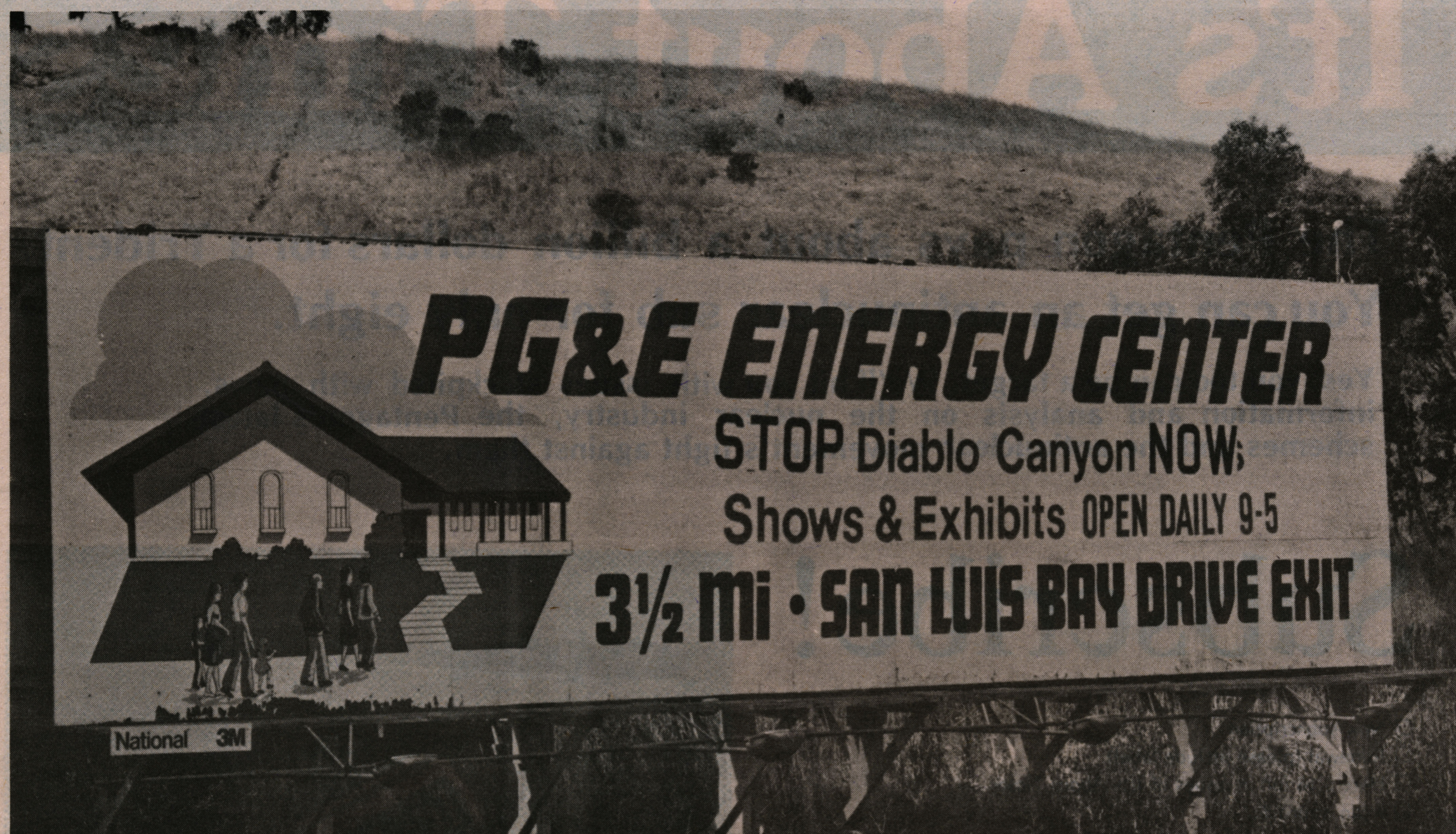


photo by Bob Van Scoy

A billboard near San Luis Obispo displays a mutant message in honor of the August 12 rally against Diablo Canyon.

Abalone Alliance Groups

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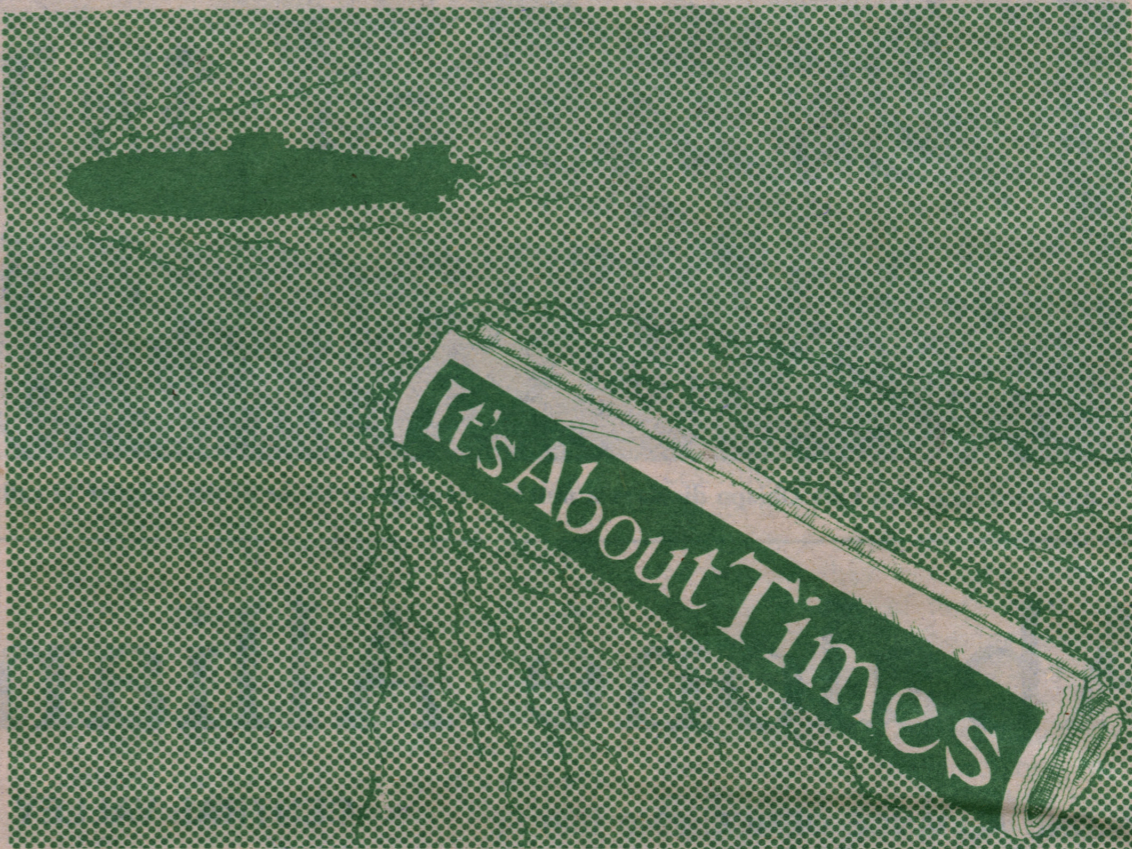
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