

It's About Times

Abalone Alliance Newspaper

December-January 1982



P.R. WARS

or

How to fake trends and pacify people

While Reagan and Brezhnev strive to upstage each other in the offering at which their B-movie scripts are directed remains unimpressed.

Three days after Reagan's "zero being played remains unimpressed. Three days after Reagan's "zero option" speech was satellite-beamed to Europe, 350,000 antinuclear demonstrators took to the streets of Amsterdam. The following week, when Brezhnev came to Bonn to deliver his arms control lines, he was greeted by more demonstrators.

Both proposals are part of a cynical public relations game, crafted to be unacceptable and rejected. The very day the zero option plan was presented, White House offi-

cials admitted that they knew it would be turned down by the Soviets. Reagan had suggested that if the Soviet Union agreed to remove from Europe all its existing intermediate-range missiles, the US would promise not to build any new ones — though it would keep all its weapons already in Europe. Despite the fanfare from the White House, the proposal did not even have the appearance of fairness.

The USSR, after 35 years of second place in the arms race, has finally managed to achieve a roughly defined parity with the US. It seems also to have learned the rules of the "arms control" game. Brezhnev's recent offer to move the USSR's

SS-20's behind the Ural Mountains and hence officially out of Europe is a meaningless gesture since the only European country that would be put out of range is Portugal.

Reagan has had a hard time settling on the proper pose toward the European nuclear protestors. The trial balloon to label them "Communist-inspired" was rapidly deflated, and he has been forced to retreat to calling them "sincere by naive."

The European disarmament movement can take credit for having forced Ronald Reagan to put on a

peacemaker mask. But the true colors of American policy are more clearly shown in an open letter to European leaders written under the pseudonym Justin Galen by a former senior civilian official at the Department of Defense and published in the November 1981 issue of *Armed Forces Journal*. Galen writes, "We are not pursuing [arms control] because it offers any significant hope, but rather to help you deal with your domestic political concerns."

Each side is approaching the talks
(continued on page 4)

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Letters



CALDOCOTT AND GOD

Dear IAT,

Dr. Helen Caldicott spoke November 2 at Berkeley's UC Theater following the showing of her biographical- documentary film, "Eight Minutes to Midnight." This is my favorite quotation from her speech: "We have a duty to God to continue evolution." The audience just lapped up this sentimental drivel.

Caldicott's appeal lies in her ability to turn on the tears while pandering to her fans' inner needs -- 1) to avoid conceptual thinking about the causes of war, 2) to keep out of politics, and 3) to feel better about themselves. Caldicott's self-presentation as a long-suffering mother and instant expert helps her put over the "idea" that nuclear war is a *personal* problem, whether considered in its moral, medical or religious aspects.

A patent medicine: Survivalism for morally fit small car owners. Forget your life and/or hot tub, and save the children.

Caldicott demands that her audience commit itself to preventing nuclear holocaust, i.e., sign the Freeze petition, because she is "very tired" -- burdened by our sins of indifference.

A droll moment: a Physicians for Social Responsibility representative asked for donations -- "Make out your checks for 5000, 1000, 500, even 100 dollars" -- as if PSR members couldn't make their car payments.

I am not enchanted.

James Brook Berkeley

WHAT'S A MOTHER TO DO?

To the Editors:

I read your publication regularly and am generally impressed by the quality of your work, but never have I seen in *IAT* any mention of the inadequacy of childcare programs at nuclear facilities.

It is the duty of publications like yours to speak truth to power and, if need be, to act as an advocate for the oppressed. Wives of nuclear workers are often stuck at home with little ones simple because childcare programs are poorly supervised or, in some cases, non-existent.

Supervision of mutant children has been especially lax.

I urge *It's About Times* to learn the truth about this situation -- and to report it.

Yours,

Catherine Lercer Metz

TYPESETTER NEEDED

It's About Times is looking for typesetters in the immediate Bay Area who either have their own equipment or can work on others we have access to. A few hours of labor a month would make a big difference. Please contact us through the Abalone Alliance office, 2940 16th St. Rm. 310, San Francisco, CA 94103. (415) 543-3910.

WHO'S TRESPASSING?

Dear *It's About Times*,

I have lived in San Luis Obispo County for the past ten years and have been involved, to varying degrees, in the antinuclear movement for more than five years. My involvement has been lessening more recently due to frustration with the bureaucracies, Board of Supervisors, NRC, etc. However, I wish to express my appreciation to those who have continued to actively oppose nuclear technology and the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant.

I didn't believe that the blockade would accomplish any direct action results. Although I am not a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party and I don't honestly know their positions I wish to express possibly similar viewpoints.

I did not feel that I could

IAT IS THREE

With this issue *It's About Times* begins its fourth year of publication. We would like to thank all our subscribers, readers and contributors for their support throughout the years.

In the past few issues we've added both color and four extra pages to the paper. We've let our monthly publication schedule stretch to 6 to 8 weeks for the sake of our all-volunteer staff, but this won't affect the number of issues you get for your sub.

Making ends meet is never easy. For this paper to survive we must have your help now. If you don't subscribe, please do. If you do subscribe, talk to your friends and relatives about subscribing or buy them a gift subscription. Donations are greatly appreciated and if over \$25 are tax deductible when made out to Agape Foundation and earmarked for *It's About Times*. Thank you.

PAROCHIAL ANTINUKISM

Dear IAT,

Yes. Let's have more coverage of movements outside the antinuclear, as promised in the Oct.-Nov. issue and so brilliantly delivered in Louis Michaelson's astringent piece on Britain's no-future kids.

You'll continue to get criticism from some readers for breaking out of the confines of parochial antinukism, but, as the Diablo Blockade experience made clear, nukes are just the focus of a movement that challenges the ruling system as a whole while proposing a saner way to organize human activity overall.

Divide and conquer is the favorite strategy of the system we challenge, and single-issue politics is one of its most insidious tactics. IAT is to be congratulated for refusing to play along.

Challenges to the old way of rule are heating up globally. The authorities respond increasingly with their nuclear ace in the hole, be it with threats of atomic bombing in the name of a largely fictional U.S.-U.S.S.R. conflict or atomic irradiation in the name of electric power. That's why our focus is, of course, on nukes.

Western Europe has now become a major arena of this challenge and suppression, as Michaelson's coverage helps us to see, and it takes violent forms on both sides. Michaelson's reports also tell us that the Europeans can get 15,000 to blockade Dodewaard to our 5,000 at Diablo. Is this because Europe has unlearned single-issue politics?

Perhaps we will benefit from the Europeans in the wisdom of unity and they will benefit from us in the wisdom of nonviolence.

IAT's editorial expansion will contribute to this exchange of knowledge and power.

George Trinkaus
SUN
Ojai, CA

blockade because I cannot commit myself to nonviolent behavior on the issue. I was afraid that even as a monitor I might not be able to contain my rage.

I object to the hypocrisy of being arrested for trespassing on PG&E property while PG&E faces no repercussions at all for its low-level radioactive emissions trespassing on mine and other properties, or its radioactive fuels and wastes trespassing on our public highways. Not to mention the aspect of financing my own arrest. Who's trespassing?

I am furious with governing boards and agencies that don't listen and don't care, with police who don't have the guts to refuse an assignment based on personal convictions. What about all those blockaders who risked jobs, arrest records, etc. based on personal con-

victions?

The Diablo employees are not innocent in my mind. Their frequent responses of, "Who cares, we're all gonna die anyway?" and "Someone will be paid to do it, it might as well be me" are simply excuses for intense greed, ignorance, and selfishness. What if nobody would build a nuclear power plant? I'm sorry but I can't and don't feel nonviolent towards these automations!

For these reasons I did not feel the blockade represented me. I wonder what recourse is available to the RCP and people like me who don't totally agree with nonviolent direct action. However, again I would like to thank those of you who blockaded and supported and organized the blockade.

S.C. Los Osos, CA



The Sea cluster discusses strategy for their aquatic maneuvers.

BLOCKADE ELITISM

Though I admire its goals, determination, perseverance and ideals, the blockade alienated thousands of sympathizers with its rigid demands for an open-ended time commitment and a willingness to go to jail. If we truly wanted numbers, why didn't we combine the forces of blockaders with a massive symbolic demonstration? The support was there, as evidenced by the five thousand locals who staged their own demonstration in frustration at not being able to participate in what was already happening without risking arrest.

Screening visitors at the camp was understandable, but its extent was unreasonable. Was it really necessary to exclude so many sympathizers who couldn't or wouldn't take the nonviolence training? Who has the right to determine which commitments are meaningful? I was embarrassed, saddened and discouraged, as were many less vocal people, when local farmers bringing truckfuls of fresh food were told they weren't allowed to look around inside the fence.

Even in jail, only certain attitudes were "approved of". When a group of women in jail voiced their desire to get out on their own recognizance, in order to return to the blockade, they were angrily and militantly chastized and pressured to stay. Finally someone cried out, "What are we here for anyway?"

In addition, those who chose to leave for personal reasons were not given the support and respect they deserved. It seemed that only certain predetermined roles of commitment were acceptable. As a result the blockade was interpreted by many uninvolved people as evidence that there was not the massive antinuclear support that they had surmised.

We can learn from these mistakes to more truly "work together," recognizing and accepting diversity in abilities, personalities and fears. We must remember that any political action is never an isolated event, but a stepping stone to more and a foundation for the quality and momentum of future events.

—Jakota
Santa Barbara

It's About Times

Abalone Alliance Newspaper

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More design mistakes at Diablo

Amid discoveries of a series of major design errors and new reports of falsified safety inspections, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission revoked PG&E's license to test the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. The November 20 NRC action coincided with state Public Utilities Commission hearings on PG&E's request for an unprecedented \$1.3 billion rate hike -- a request PUC staffers charge is partially a result of the utility's troubles at Diablo.

Errors, errors everywhere

PG&E's latest round of Diablo problems began in late September with a young engineer's discovery that the wrong blueprints had been used in designing earthquake bracing for the Unit One reactor, which had received its low power testing license only a few days earlier (see *IAT*, October-November '81). In the process of tracing that mistake, engineers found that the weight of some of the equipment in the building had been underestimated, casting doubt on the overall soundness of Diablo's design and adding to existing skepticism about its ability to withstand a major earthquake.

PG&E's troubles were far from over. Even as the design problems were being publicized, an investigation by the *San Jose Mercury-News* revealed sloppy construction work at the plant -- and inspections that were often incompetent or falsified.

"Pencil whipping" charged

The newspaper interviewed Diablo workers who said they were ignored when they pointed out mistakes to inspectors. "Everyone who's worked there has seen problems," said former pipe support designer Richard Peterson. "If they haven't, they're blind." Donald Hendrick, former supervising quality assurance inspector, told the paper that some inspectors signed reports without examining the work they were approving -- a practice known as "pencil whipping."

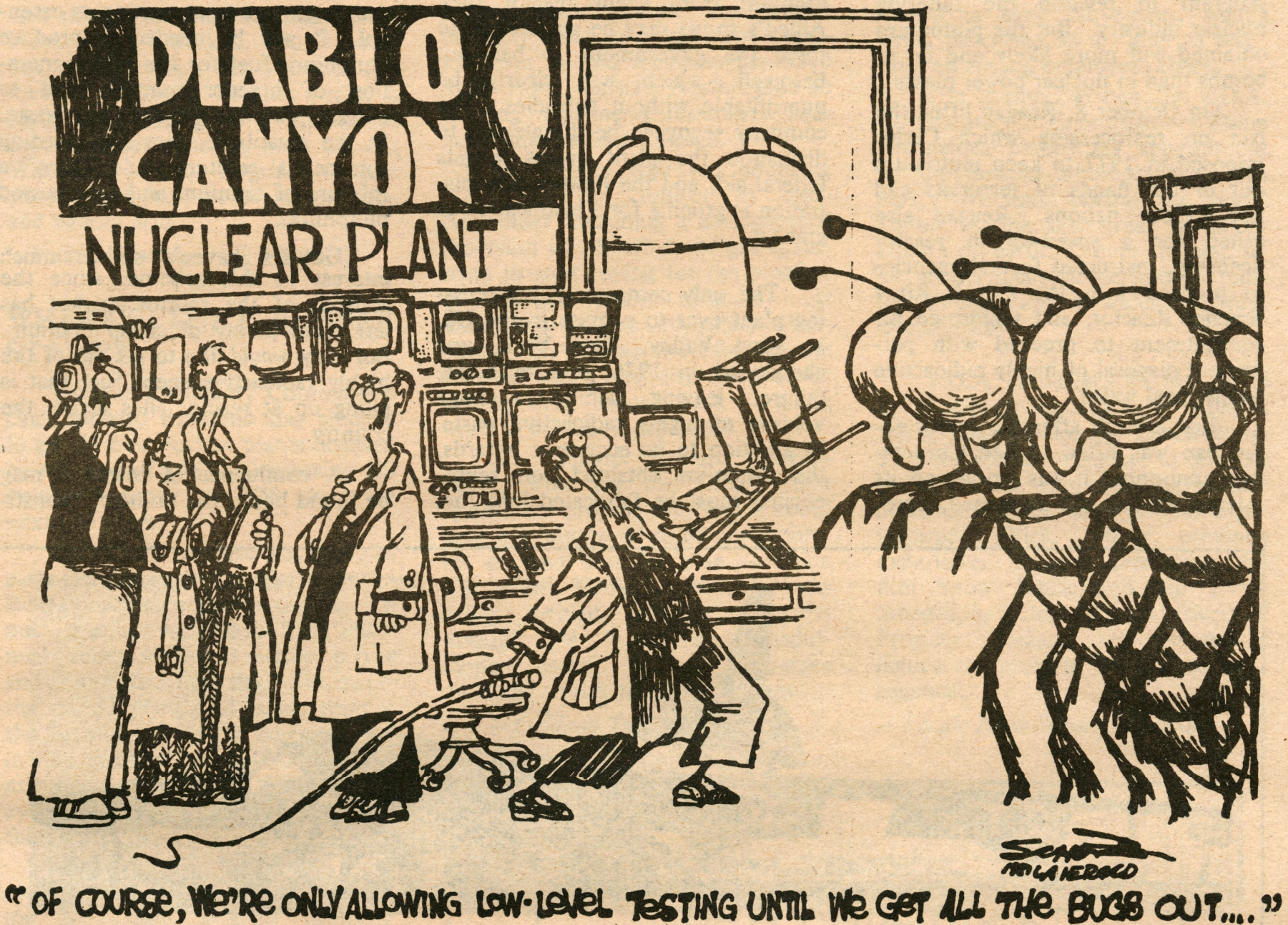
"There are certain inspectors who had a reputation for pencil whipping practically everything they did there," said Hendrick, who worked for the Guy F. Atkinson Company, the firm which built much of the plant's foundation and earthquake supports. Hendrick called the NRC's inspections at Diablo "sketchy and spotty" and said PG&E and Atkinson officials gave federal regulators a "guided tour" that included only the best welded areas of the plant.

He also claims that specifications were often changed to match errors that had been made. Darrel Bateau, a former Atkinson welding inspector, told the *Mercury-News* that "Pieces of steel were put in the wrong places out there. It became inconvenient to have them, so documentation was altered."

Another fault covered up?

Adding to PG&E's embarrassment was a long-buried Atomic Energy Commission memo turned up by plant opponents. The document, which was obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, implies that PG&E wanted to suppress studies of a significant earthquake fault found at the Diablo site. It covers a meeting between PG&E and AEC officials in April of 1967, about a year before Diablo Canyon's construction license was issued.

One passage reads, "It was suggested that the exposed fault at the



"OF COURSE, WE'RE ONLY ALLOWING LOW-LEVEL TESTING UNTIL WE GET ALL THE BUGS OUT...."

seawall be traced by further trenching to establish its exact location in relation to the containment (reactor building). The applicant (PG&E) stated that they did not believe this was necessary and that further information of this type would only complicate a contested hearing. . . They do not intend to do further trenching at the risk of uncovering geologic structures which could lead to additional speculation and possibly delay the project."

Both PG&E and NRC officials now say the fault was fully investigated and shown to be inactive, and they deny any coverup. That could conceivably be true, but the memo shows that there are attitudes at PG&E far different from the utility's oft-repeated claims that public safety is its first priority.

The episode also raises questions about PG&E's motives in warning the state Seismic Safety Commission to stay out of the Diablo controversy. On November 13, PG&E engineer Otto Steinhardt told the Commission that it would be a mistake to get an independent panel to review the project "unless the intent is to stop the entire construction of the plant and permanently, well, nearly permanently, prevent it from going into operation." Is the utility hiding something it knows independent investigators would find?

Still More Mistakes

Some reasons for PG&E's nervousness about an independent audit were suggested by a preliminary report by Robert Cloud Associates, a Berkeley consulting firm hired by the company to investigate the errors found in September. The report shows that:

- PG&E record-keeping was so poor that little or no documentation exists to prove that dozens of other parts of the nuclear plant can safely withstand the earthquake forces for which they were supposedly designed.

- Nearly half of the electrical cable supports and housings checked

by Cloud were designed with wrong earthquake-acceleration values.

- The floor of the reactor's control room may be more prone to movement than its current design allows.

The report came to the incongruous conclusion that the earthquake design process at Diablo was "satisfactory in its main features." But the NRC's regional inspection chief, Bobby Faulkenberry, had another opinion. He thought that PG&E would have to provide "a hell of a lot more justification than they have now to show that there are no serious consequences to these errors." He said that problems found at the plant have grown so fast that the report became outdated before its final form could be drafted, and just designing a new study would take at least three weeks.

Another rate hike

"The company's requests seem virtually endless, but there's a limit to the rate increases you can impose on consumers," commented PUC staff counsel Tim Treacy during mid-November hearings on PG&E's latest rate hike requests. Despite big boosts already granted this year, the company is back for more -- an average of \$17 more per residential customer, beginning January 1.

PUC staffer Treacy -- and a host of consumer groups -- don't think PG&E deserves the money. They point to inflated cost estimates in the company's calculations and the fact that it is asking a 17% dividend for stockholders, which many regard as excessive generosity with ratepayers' money. Treacy also said that the "cash drain" from the utility's Diablo misadventures had depressed its earnings.

PG&E chair Frederick Mielke claimed that the company was selling electricity "below cost" and warned the PUC commissioners that if they follow the PUC staff's advice this time "deteriorating levels of service will begin to appear."

For all its talk of poverty, PG&E was able to afford full-page newspa-

per ads the week after the hearings. The ostensible purpose of the ads was to thank dedicated employees for their service during recent storms, but the ads were really a thinly disguised effort to polish up the company's rather tarnished image as a public servant.

Whither Diablo?

In order for PG&E to get its Diablo license back, it will have to get the plant's seismic design verified by a consultant approved by the NRC. It is unclear whether this review will really look closely at the plant's design and construction or will be just another in the long line of rubber-stamp approvals.

In the long run, it may not matter much. Even a Diablo Canyon that meets the NRC's requirements perfectly may still fail in an earthquake. And even if the Hosgri fault could be made to go away, there are plenty of other causes for catastrophic nuclear accidents. Defective machinery and human error will always be with us.

But the revelations at Diablo have damaged the NRC's credibility like no event since Three Mile Island, and it has been forced to assert itself. In a recent speech to a nuclear industry convention in San Francisco, NRC Chair Palladino blasted utilities that complain about regulation but won't take any responsibility for quality control on their own nuclear plants. He wasn't shy about letting reporters know he had PG&E in mind.

Even if the NRC's outrage is mostly for public consumption, the requirement that the Diablo review appear thorough will probably prevent low power testing before next summer at the earliest -- enough time for opponents of the plant to regroup and plan their next moves.

--Bob Van Scoy
IAT staff

Sources: *Oakland Tribune* / *Eastbay Today* 11-13, 20-81; *AP* 10-30-81; *San Jose Mercury-News*

“Atoms for peace” become bomb pieces

Ronald Reagan has called for the reprocessing of fuel waste from commercial reactors as part of his program to revamp the faltering nuclear industry. But the plutonium obtained will more likely end up in bombs than in nuclear power plants.

On October 8, Reagan lifted the ban on reprocessing which Carter imposed in 1977 to keep plutonium out of the hands of terrorists and non-nuclear nations. Reagan also called for a speed-up in reactor licensing, instructed federal agencies to proceed with the Clinch River Breeder Reactor, and reaffirmed his commitment to proceed with permanent disposal of highly radioactive commercial waste.

Just a week after the reprocessing ban was lifted, Allied Corporation announced it was writing off its interest in the still-unopened repro-

cessing plant at Barnwell, South Carolina, which is designed to separate plutonium and unused uranium from spent reactor fuel. Allied's move may be an attempt to force the government to bail out Barnwell, which will clearly be unprofitable without subsidies. The company seems to be threatening to dismantle the plant unless it gets federal aid, and the Reagan administration is groping for a justification to grant it.

The only commercial reprocessing plant ever to operate in the US, at West Valley, New York, was abandoned in 1976 as a miserable failure, leaving behind a huge volume of highly radioactive waste. In addition to its economic hazards, the plutonium obtained from reprocessing must be fabricated into fuel

rods -- and plutonium is much more dangerous to handle than uranium.

Despite its problems, nuclear promoters see reprocessing as essential. It will be needed to produce plutonium fuel for the next generation of breeder reactors and to extract plutonium from their waste. In the meantime, they say, existing commercial reactors could “burn” a mixture of uranium and reprocessed plutonium.

Utilities haven't shown much interest in this scheme, since the collapse of the reactor market has left them plenty of cheap uranium. But they would like to get rid of the highly radioactive spent fuel that is piling up at reactor sites across the country.

A confluence of interests may be found here: the utilities' “consti-

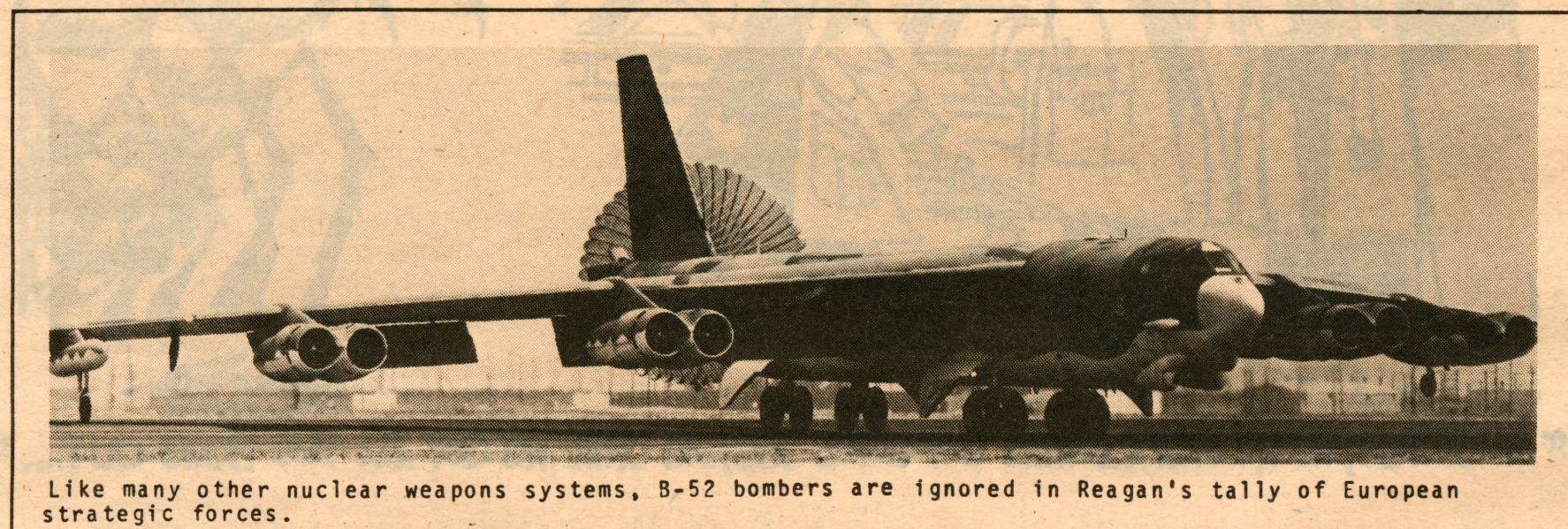
pation” problem could satiate the bomb-makers' need for a plutonium fix. The Reagan administration, fearing there won't be enough plutonium for all its new weapons systems, has already ordered a 70% increase in the production of weapons-grade plutonium at DOE-owned facilities. Existing plants are being modified and old ones reopened to meet the demand.

Federal officials have downplayed the possibility of using commercial reactor wastes for the weapons program, perhaps to avoid eroding the “Atoms for Peace” myth. But Secretary of Energy James Edwards endorsed the concept in a recent speech to the DOE Research Advisory Board. “There are some advantages to reprocessing,” he said. “For example, we are going to be needing some more plutonium for our weapons program, and the best way to get that plutonium is to solve your waste problem.”

New technologies are being developed to reduce the cost of purifying reactor plutonium to weapons-grade. The Lawrence Livermore Lab is working on a process called Laser Isotope Separation (LIS). It has requested \$155 million for research, development and the construction of a pilot plant.

Ostensibly, LIS is being developed to reduce radiation exposure to workers involved in the production of nuclear weapons. But according to testimony by the DOE before the House Armed Services Committee, the LIS program -- if successful -- could recover 70 tons of plutonium from commercial spent fuel by the year 2000 -- enough to make thousands of warheads.

-- Mark Evanoff
IAT staff



Like many other nuclear weapons systems, B-52 bombers are ignored in Reagan's tally of European strategic forces.

P.R. WARS

(continued from page 1)

now underway in Geneva with one eye on its “peaceful” image and the other eye on its real geopolitical interests. Both need some sort of agreement, and they are taking serious gambles if they push too hard and the talks break off.

In the long run, the US must worry about the very existence of the NATO alliance. Closer at hand, it must ensure that the disarmament movement in Western Europe doesn't become so powerful that by 1983 when the new Pershing II and Cruise missiles are ready to be deployed, the European governments are forced to refuse them. If this is unavoidable, the US would at least like to have gained some con-

cessions from the Russians.

For its part, the USSR must stop the deployment of the Pershing II and Cruise or be faced with a Cuban missile crisis in reverse -- nuclear warheads that can reach the Soviet Union in a very short time.

In the past, arms control agreements between the superpowers have at best set a ceiling for the production of more missiles, more bombs. Usually these ceilings have happened to coincide with the plans and production schedules that had already been set.

The US wants the current arms control talks to address only intermediate-range nuclear missiles in Europe. The Russians want to include submarine-based missiles and British and French nuclear forces. Even this would leave out dozens of

weapons systems and tens of thousands of warheads aimed at each other -- enough to wreak “unacceptable damage” many time over.

-- Steve Stallone
IAT staff

Water board puts PG&E on ice

After seven days of hearings spread over a two-month span, the Regional Water Quality Control Board in San Luis Obispo has decided to place such tough restrictions on PG&E's permit to discharge waste-water from Diablo that the utility might be unable to fully test the plant -- even if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission reissues its license.

Once the board completes the permit, which might not be until mid-January, PG&E will probably ask the state water board to overrule it, according to company spokesperson Sue Brown.

As part of its ruling, the nine-member board has also asked PG&E to give it detailed information about alternative cooling systems for the plant. Several members wanted to know if waste-water problems could be sidestepped by installing cooling towers at Diablo -- an extremely expensive option.

Board members are concerned that the 2.67 billion gallons of contaminated water dumped into the Diablo Cove each day will kill marine wildlife there. They voted to ban all hot-water discharges from the plant until July 1, 1982.

The board also tightened restrictions on the amounts of toxic chemicals that could be discharged with the daily release. Lead, zinc,

arsenic, cyanide and mercury are just some of the metals and chemicals that would be present in the waste-water.

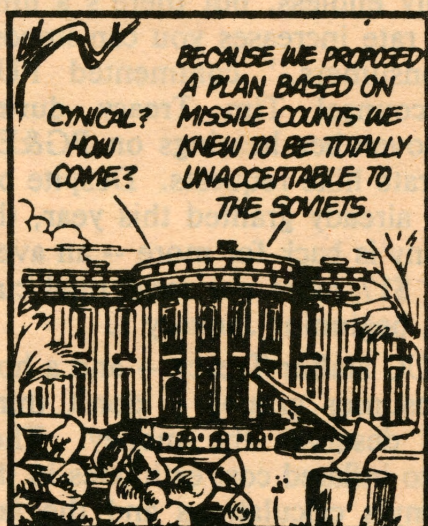
Before its decisions, the board heard hours of testimony from area environmentalists and PG&E engineers. They generally agreed with critics of the company who charged that the plant's monitoring systems are inadequate to detect the levels of toxic substances released from the plant. In addition, the board was influenced by PG&E's past cooling system mishaps, the most severe of which killed between 4,000 and 13,000 abalone during a test in 1975.

The board was divided on whether it has the legal power to review the plant's low-level radiation releases. Attorneys for the utility and board staff argued that the federal government has jurisdiction over such emissions. However, five of the nine board members believed the water agency could at least take testimony on the issue.

According to board member Linda Phillips, the Water Quality Board may still issue some findings on Diablo's radiation releases. Phillips said that it likely that the board will send a resolution to the NRC expressing their concern about radiation emissions, but will not try to regulate them itself.

-- G. Pascal Zachary

DOONESBURY / Garry Trudeau



Short Circuits

ALL IN A DAY'S WORK

US Navy officials have confirmed reports of a November accident in which an armed nuclear missile was dropped while being lowered from a crane. The accident occurred at a naval base in Holy Loch, Scotland as a Poseidon missile was being transferred from a submarine to the sub tender *USS Holland*.

Contrary to official US policy, the accident was not publicly reported and came to light only when local journalists began investigating reports of a "red alert" at the base. According to witnesses aboard the *Holland*, the missile fell 17 feet before crashing violently into the side of the submarine. They say the crane operator released the missile from the winch because he was drunk, drugged, or both. The Navy blamed the fall on a mechanical malfunction.

An alert was immediately declared and people in the area were evacuated. Four witnesses aboard the *Holland* said the men on the submarine were transfixed by the incident and did not run. "We all thought we'd be blown away," one commented.

Navy officials refused to tell reporters if the incident was classified as a "broken arrow" -- the military code for serious damage to a nuclear weapon. The Defense Department has confirmed 32 "broken arrows" since World War II. A particular danger in this case is that the type of Poseidon warhead still in use at Holy Loch contains a high explosive called LX-08 which is especially prone to accidental detonation.

Scottish antinuclear activists have been campaigning for the removal of the Holy Loch facility as part of their broader campaign for European nuclear disarmament.

-- *SF Chronicle*, 11/29/81

SWAT THOSE DEMONSTRATORS

Are you a utility executive who has to deal with "high risk situations" like public hearings or press conferences? Well, ads in the *Energy Daily* now offer you the chance to go to "Nuclear SWAT School."

Proclaiming "North American energy companies are training SWAT teams to go into battle and win," the ad continues with a thrilling example of the kind of elite propaganda corps any besieged utility can put together. "A nuclear corporation has organized a team of scientists and engineers to handle risk communications. At a moment's notice, they can be delivered to a college campus or crisis situation to debate critics or provide in-depth information to calm fears. . . Graduates of SWAT training are consummate communicators, skilled therapists, and formidable debaters who win by using documented evidence and unique approaches." (Tear gas?)

The ad doesn't promise that the training will make you able to leap whole demonstrations in a single bound. But for only \$1600, you'll get a week of the best advice of prominent nuclear lobbyists and experienced journalists. Just charge it to the ratepayers.

-- from *Not Man Apart*, 12/81

STINGING IN THE RAIN

In case you're curious about acid rain, Chemical and Engineering News has worked out some equivalents. You can recreate the level of acidity in Toronto's rain, it says, by standing in a stream of tomato juice. And no need to visit Wheeling, West Virginia -- just shower in a mixture of lemon juice and battery acid.

-- Pacific News Service, 10-14-81

WHERE'S THAT RUBBER STAMP?

Nuclear Regulatory Commission chair Nunzio Palladino has pledged to get 33 new nuclear plants licensed by the end of 1983 -- increasing US nuclear capacity by 50% over the next two years.

Palladino's promise was made in early October in conjunction with the Reagan Administration's release of a nuclear policy statement. That statement called for more nuclear power and faster plant licensing. But meeting the 33 plant goal would require the licensing process to be completed in one third to one half the time it now takes -- a prospect that even the ever-optimistic nuclear industry thinks is unlikely.

According to Palladino, plant approvals could be speeded by granting the NRC interim licensing authority, which would allow plants to begin low-power operation before licensing hearings are complete. Legislation is pending to give the NRC this power. Palladino also thinks the agency takes too much time in planning for emergencies at new nuclear plants and is seeking a way to speed up that process.

-- from *Nucleonics Week*, 10/15/81

YOUR TAXES AT WORK

A US Department of Energy memo has just surfaced with details of a multi-million dollar campaign the agency has developed to try to win back support for nuclear power. Among other things, the memo recommends granting \$200,000 to "Scientists and Engineers for Secure Energy," an industry-sponsored pro-nuclear group, to fund campus presentations and the development of "educational" materials.

The DOE plan also calls for a \$50,000 effort to monitor media coverage of nuclear matters, write newspaper editorials, and set up interviews with sympathetic columnists. To avoid those embarrassing moments of candor, a \$40,000 "media training" program for DOE officials is suggested -- taught by the nuclear industry.

Congressmember Richard Ottinger, who leaked the memo to the press, called the plan "a blatant propaganda campaign for the nuclear industry that will cost taxpayers millions of dollars."

-- *Washington Post*, 10/12/81
via *Not Man Apart*, 12/81

OUR MAN IN MOSCOW

Radio Moscow says it knows how the Pentagon got a photograph of a supposed top secret Russian electronics command center published in its slick pamphlet on Soviet military strength. The picture isn't a command post at all, says Radio Moscow, but a chemical industries exhibit at the 1979 Moscow World Exhibition.

-- *Gar Smith*, *Pacific News Service*, 10-29-81

COURAGEOUS CAPITALISM

Backers of the \$43 million Alaska natural gas pipeline have won assurances from the Senate that they will get their money back -- even if the project is never finished. The pipeline, said to be the largest privately financed construction project ever, would transport gas 4800 miles from Alaska's North Slope to existing pipeline connections near San Francisco and Chicago.

The Senate approved financing plans for the project in mid-November, including a controversial provision which will force gas customers to start paying for the pipeline in the late 1980's even if it is unfinished and is ultimately abandoned. So bankers who finance the scheme won't lose any sleep about getting their money back -- along with, of course, a tidy profit.

Ohio Senator Howard Metzenbaum, who led the Senate fight against the project, says that it could raise gas bills by \$4 to \$8 per month. He charged that the plan -- which still needs House approval -- was being lobbied through Congress through the "sheer and unadulterated greed" of oil companies unwilling to risk their own money.

-- *Oakland Tribune*, 11/20/81

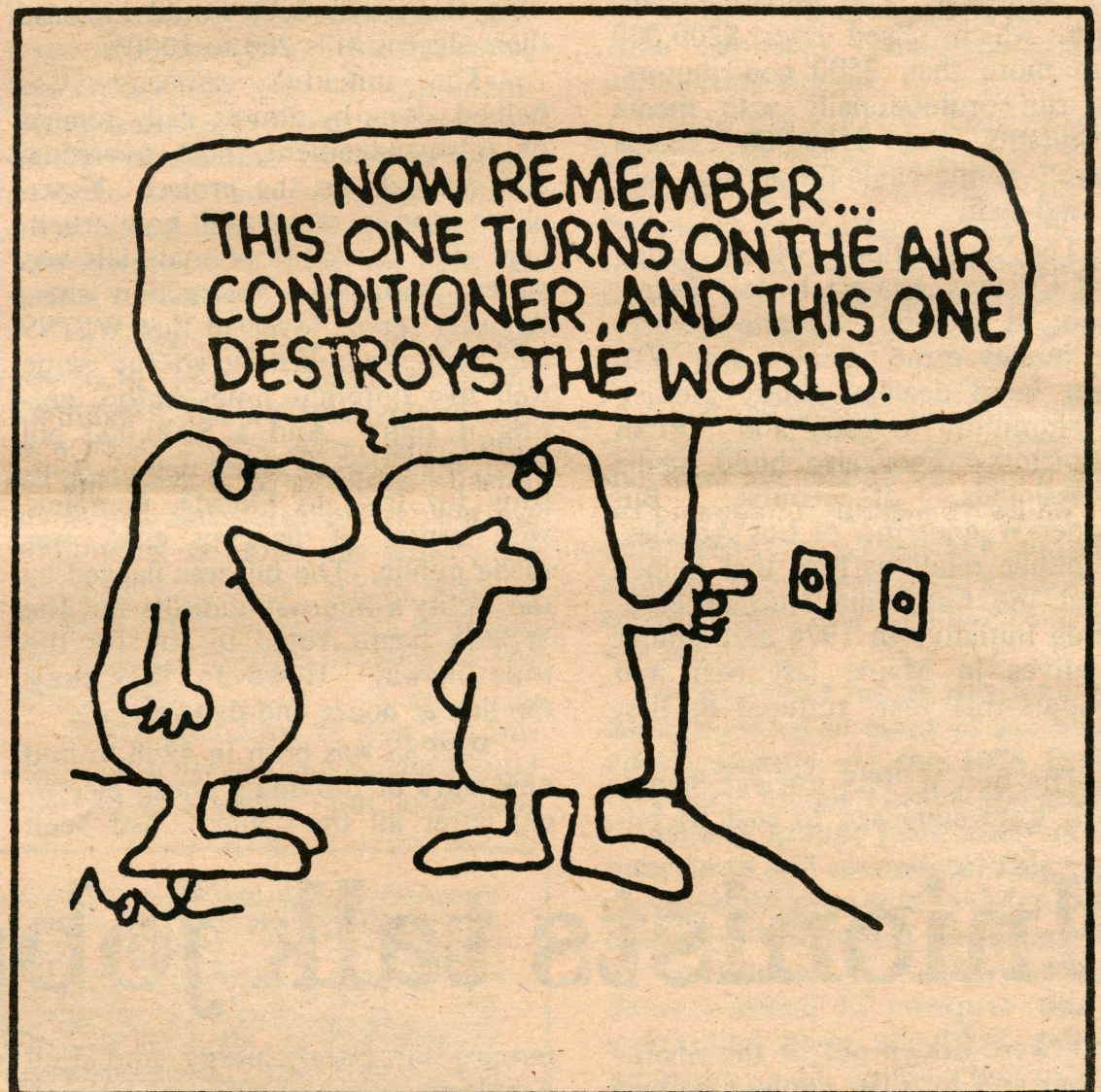
VOICE OF AMERICA DISSENTS

Even at the Voice of America, reporters don't like open challenges to their journalistic integrity. So when a memo urging the V.O.A. to become "a propaganda agency" was leaked in early November, what's being described as a "guerilla war" erupted among employees there.

The memo, written by V.O.A. Commentary Coordinator Philip Nocolaides before his appointment by the Reagan administration, also says, "We must portray the Soviet Union as the last great predatory empire on earth. . . ever seeking, by all means from subversion to military intervention, to widen the areas it subjugates."

V.O.A. employees are also upset by a report requested by Charles Wick, head of the US International Communications Agency, to develop evidence that European antinuclear demonstrations are Communist-inspired. Wick, whose previous experience includes producing the film *Snow White and the Three Stooges*, is a close personal friend of President Reagan. He adamantly denies any plans to disseminate propaganda.

-- *Pacific News Service*, 11-18-81



NOTHING LIKE SOMETHING WITH MILK

A mistake at Britain's Windscale reprocessing plant on October 4 contaminated nearby farms, sending radioactivity levels in milk produced there soaring to as much as 3000 times normal.

The accident apparently occurred when the plant began processing a batch of spent reactor fuel which hadn't aged long enough for most of the radioactive iodine-131 to decay. About six curies of the substance were released to the countryside -- the equivalent of about six years normal emissions from the facility.

The plant management went on as if nothing had happened, resuming operations the next day and only then notifying British authorities. Nearby residents weren't told of the accident until October 8, four days after it occurred.

Initial reports from Britain's ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food indicated that radioactivity levels in locally produced milk were as much as several hundred times the normal reading of 1.5 picocuries per liter. But since they were within supposedly safe government stan-

dards, the milk was approved for sale. It later turned out that some of the milk was as "hot" as 5000 picocuries per liter, several times the government's safe limits for continuous consumption.

Government and corporate officials were quick with the predictable assurances that the radioactivity release was harmless. But local dairy farmer John Fawcett noticed something was amiss the day of the accident. "You know when something is not right," he said. "The cows were off their feed. Then (the plant) phoned up and said they wanted some extra milk. They normally take one pint (for testing) every two weeks, but now they are taking ten pints a day."

This isn't the first time such an accident has occurred at Windscale. A reactor fire at the site in 1957 spewed out so much radioactivity that a half million gallons of milk from a 200 square mile area had to be confiscated and dumped in the Irish Sea.

-- from *Nucleonics Week*, 10/15, 22/81 and *WISE* bulletin, 10/15/81

Washington utilities lose initiative

An initiative passed by Washington voters on November 3 has given the purse strings of America's most ambitious nuclear construction project to the public. The five nuclear power plants being built by the Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS -- pronounced "whoops") may never be completed. And WPPSS, which represents about 60% of Washington's utilities, will now need voter approval before undertaking major projects.

The initiative won with 58% of the vote. Both sides steered clear of making it a referendum on nuclear power. The instigators of the initiative named it Don't Bankrupt Washington and built the campaign around pocketbook issues. It gathered support from unions, the state Democratic Party, and environmental and consumer groups. Even fiscal conservatives were attracted to the initiative.

Don't Bankrupt Washington had polled potential voters and discovered that although there was an even split on nuclear power, 71% wanted to stop public utilities from financing power projects without their approval. The initiative campaign, which raised over \$200,000 from more than 2500 contributors, was run professionally with media consultants, a \$100,000 media budget, phone-bank fundraising and six paid staff.

The opposition, which called itself Citizens Against Unfair Taxes, raised \$1,350,000, a state record. The money came mainly from Wall Street bond dealers, utility groups, the aluminum industry and WPPSS contractors. They also hired media professionals, of course. But Winner-Wagner Inc. of Los Angeles, the public relations firm that helped defeat the California Nuclear Safeguards Initiative in 1976 and similar initiatives in Maine last year and Missouri this year, suffered its first loss.

The five WPPSS nuclear plants, which were supposed to cost \$4 bil-

lion, are now estimated at \$24 billion. To finance the project, Washingtonians have been told to prepare for a total price tag four times the size of the state's entire budget -- \$30,000 per household. This staggering debt would increase their electric bills 200 to 1000%.

The initiative campaign was helped along by almost daily reports of mismanagement, cost overruns, and scandals on the project. Newspaper stories recounted how truckload after truckload of materials was stolen from the construction sites. Another report revealed that WPPSS had built and torn down the same wall five different times before getting it right. And a \$900,000 bill from the Ebasco construction company for trips to Florida, complete with rental of dancing girls, was made public. The bill was flagged by the utility's internal auditors but the WPPSS board voted to pay for the trips anyway. However, they drew the line at booze and dancing girls.

WPPSS was born in 1968 to find new ways of providing cheap electricity after all the "juice" had been

wrung out of the Northwest's supposedly inexhaustible rivers. That cheap energy, from giant hydroelectric dams built in the thirties, had attracted the region's most powerful (and power-hungry) industry -- aluminum. Ten plants produce one-third of the nation's aluminum and gulp four nukes' worth of electricity.

With a little hand-holding from the aluminum companies (Reynolds, Alcoa, Kaiser, Martin-Marietta, Anaconda and Intelco), WPPSS' small fry rural executives took a flying leap into the murky waters of megabucks and gigawatts and planned five 1200-megawatt nuclear plants. Just about every utility in the Pacific Northwest bought a piece of the action.

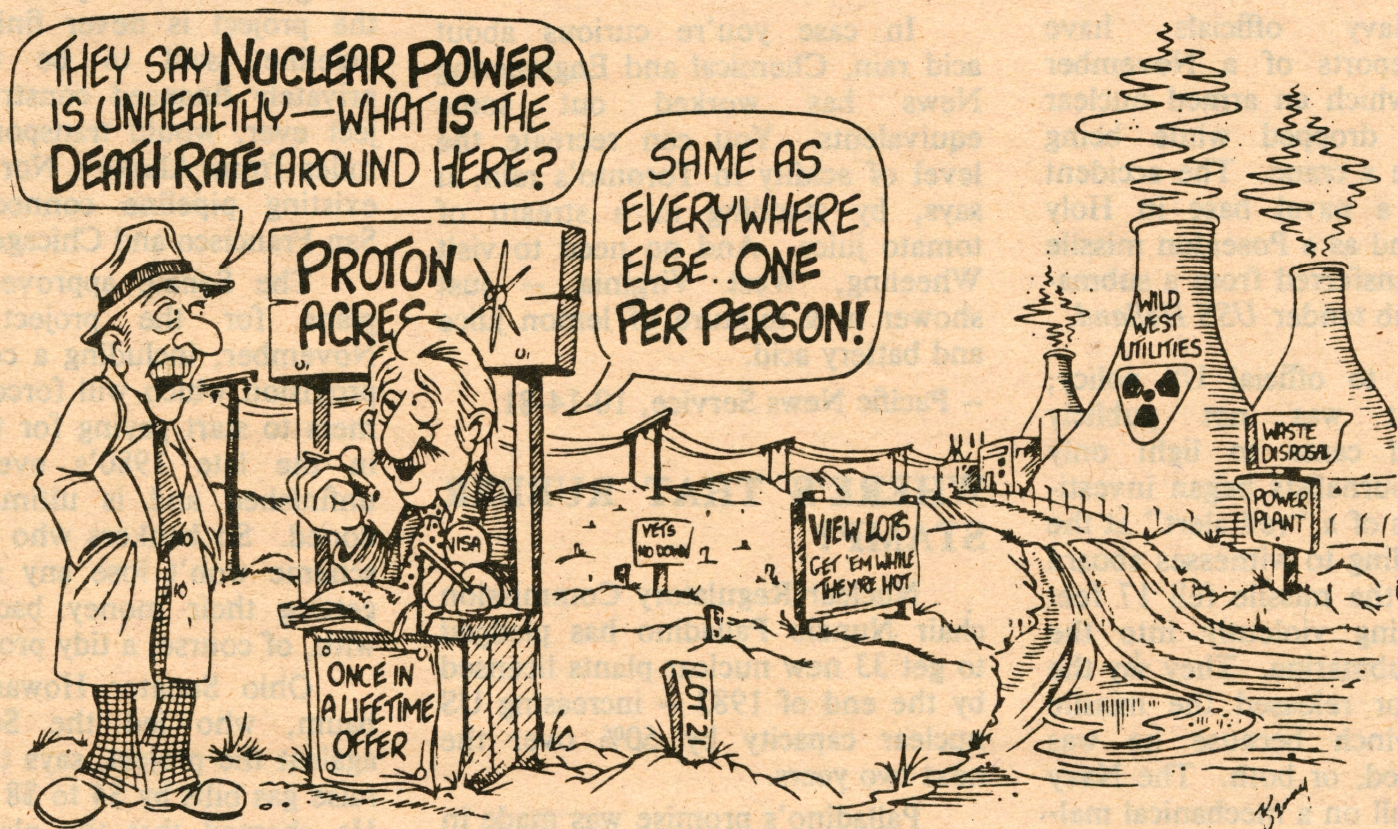
Before long, WPPSS, which like all public utilities in Washington has the authority to issue revenue bonds, became the biggest issuer of tax-exempt bonds in the country. Today, its nuclear project is six years behind schedule and \$20 billion over the original cost estimate, and it can't find buyers for more of its bonds.

In June of 1980, the NRC fined WPPSS \$61,000 for safety violations at Unit 2, including improper welding on the shield wall that surrounds the reactor vessel. Some believe that Unit 2 will never operate because of all the construction errors.

Last spring a study by the Washington legislature concluded that mismanagement was "the most significant cause of cost overruns and schedule delays." A long-time observer comments more caustically, "The WPPSS board is a bunch of ranchers and sheep farmers who have no business trying to build nuclear plants."

WPPSS is now trying to cut a deal with the aluminum industry and private utilities to contribute money for mothballing units 4 and 5 for two years. If the aluminum giants ante up now, they could get power at half the going rate later -- worth \$200 million annually.

-- Ward Young
IAT staff



Unionists talk jobs and energy

We were drawn out of the Sheraton bar and into the conference hall by Charlie King singing, "Solidarity forever... the union makes us strong." Representatives from over 38 unions and 24 states and a small contingent of environmentalists gathered November 20 in Gary, Indiana for the 2nd National Con-

ference for Safe Energy and Full Employment.

The tone of the conference varied, but the spirit of solidarity rarely lagged. Whether the topic was disarmament, development of coal and renewable resources, the PATCO strikers, recent victories of the Bailly and Abalone Alliances or analyses of Reaganomics, the smoke-filled Sheraton ballroom remained lively.

The atmosphere was most like a boisterous union hall whenever Larry Phillips, International Vice President of the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization approached the podium. Three hundred fifty trade unionists would rise together clapping and chanting, "PATCO, PATCO, PATCO" in a display of solidarity with the decertified air traffic controllers. Several times the suggestion to call a one-day general strike was made, but the idea was never translated into action.

Saturday morning's plenary surveyed a wide range of issues. Unionists talked about organizing their locals by initiating safe energy/full employment committees or by bringing the nuclear issue to existing political action and health and safety committees.

Members of United Steelworkers of America Local 1010 told how they

recently shut down the partially constructed Bailly nuclear power plant. Their victory is especially significant in the context of the Midwest's high unemployment and severe climates. The local anti-nuclear group, the Bailly Alliance, is comprised largely of trade unionists, who built a successful coalition of environmentalists, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) workers and miners from southern Indiana. The \$1.8-billion plant was canceled in August as a direct result of persistent outreach by the union. Opposition was especially strong among the 25,000 steelworkers employed at the Bethlehem Steel mills, located less than a mile from the Bailly site.

As at the first National Labor and Safe Energy conference, the United Mine Mineworkers (UMW) formed the most radical and largest contingent. Their vision of expanded coal production was broadly supported at the conference and indicates one complexity of melding labor and safe energy goals.

Roger Myers of the UMW International Executive Board claimed that the U.S. is sitting on 400 years worth of safe energy in the form of coal. His figures were supported by economist Charles Komanoff, who asserted that new processes such as

fluidized bed combustion can produce more energy more cheaply than any existing alternative.

With old-style political fervor, Robert Muehlenkamp of the National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees expounded on the tyranny of Reaganomics. He brought the crowd to its feet with the statement, "Everyone's talking about social service cuts, but no one is talking about military spending."

On the same theme, Charles Hayes, International Vice President of the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, said, "We must stand up against those who think they can insulate themselves... who think they can send the poor off to fight their war."

The link between nuclear power and weapons was unanimously decried in one of the major resolutions of the weekend, which called for opposition to the world-wide nuclear build-up, nuclear proliferation and Reagan's effort to reprocess spent nuclear fuel.

We know by the conference's end that organized labor had taken major steps towards confronting the nation's energy challenges. We left with the intention of carrying the spirit of our resolutions back to our communities and unions.

--Susan Swift



Charles Hayes of the United Food and Chemical Workers Union: "We must stand up against those who think they can send the poor off to fight their war."

Labour pains: Peace politics in Britain

Demanding the removal of all nuclear weapons from European soil, 250,000 protesters marched through London on October 24. The demonstration, which drew twice as many people as a similar rally last year, was timed to coincide with another demonstration in Rome, which also drew 250,000. The next day, giant rallies were held in Paris, Brussels, Oslo -- and in Potsdam, East Germany. All in all, nearly a million people were in the streets that autumn weekend to support European nuclear disarmament.

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) and affiliated local groups, which organized the British demonstration, hired 30 special trains and 1400 buses to bring protesters into the capital. Arriving contingents were still setting out from the Victoria Embankment for the rally at Hyde Park three hours after the march began.

Explosive Growth

The scale of the London demo reflects the extraordinary growth of the disarmament movement in Britain over the past two years. During this period, CND's national membership has grown from 3,000 to 30,000. Local groups have multiplied from 30 to 1,000 with a total membership that CND can only guess at. The CND bi-monthly magazine, *Sanity*, now sells 60,000 copies per issue, over ten times its circulation last year.

As it grows, the movement's composition becomes continually more diverse. At its core are the veteran peace activists that kept CND alive through the sixties and seventies -- pacifists, Christians, Communists, independent socialists and radicals.

Around them, making up most of the formal membership, are thousands of doctors, teachers, scientists, technicians, trade union functionaries, lower-to-middle level managers, civil servants and college students. A growing number of rank-and-file trade unionists are also joining, particularly from the clerical sector whose workers are culturally closer to the "middle class" CND image.

Also present at the demonstration, however, were thousands of participants in Britain's "marginal" youth subcultures -- especially crop-headed mods, leather-clad punks and "New Romantics" with multicolored hair and fancy-dress clothes.

The subculture types are distinguished from the bulk of CND members by more than just style. Most of them are either unemployed or have low-paying, part-time or "under-the-table" jobs, and rebellious social attitudes to match.

It Takes All Kinds

The colorful diversity of the rally, as well as its huge size, underscore the startling changes in the European political climate being brought about by the peace movement. E.P. Thompson, one of the founders of European Nuclear Disarmament (END) and a hero of the movement, has argued that only the complete removal of nuclear weapons from Europe can break up the political pack ice of the Cold War and create "open water" for a mass libertarian socialist movement in East and West alike.

In one sense, Thompson is being proved right even sooner than he expected. West Germany's ruling Social Democrats are ready to split over the issue (see *IAT*, October-November 1981) while Rumanian premier Nicolai Ceausescu has broken ranks with the Warsaw Pact in calling on the Soviets to withdraw their SS-20 missiles from Eastern Europe.

Even more important, the disarmament movement is bringing together layers of the European population -- often across national and power-bloc boundaries -- that are normally separated by the other frontiers of income, occupation and culture. "Respectable" secretaries and technicians march side by side with apprentices, students and bizarrely-dressed unemployed youth. Demonstrations and local meetings are creating a face-to-face public sphere largely outside the control of the ruling order and its media, in which basic social questions cannot help being discussed -- and imaginative, radical solutions aired.

This process is less advanced in Britain than in West Germany and Holland, where the disarmament movement is closely linked with squatters, antinuclear power activists and more generalized youth movements. But the British surge of disarmament protest is certainly beginning to release pent-up social energies. The danger is that these energies will be channeled back into the Labour Party and its insistence on politics-as-usual.

Labouring Under Delusions

Labour Party speakers overwhelmingly dominated the rally. Michael Foot, national party chief and himself a compromise candidate between the party's right and left wings, exemplified the problems with his expert hedging. "When we get a new Labour government... we will translate these measures of nuclear disarmament into practical action," he said. But he carefully avoided specifying just what action that might be.



250,000 protestors jammed London on October 24 for the biggest British rally ever.

Tony Benn, leader of the Labour Left, took a tougher stand, as did Alan Sapper, chairman of the Trades Union Congress (the British analog of the AFL-CIO) and Miner's union leader Mick McGahey. However, their militancy on disarmament does not make these gentlemen's other social ideas any less bankrupt, nor their role any less fundamentally conservative.

For two thirds of a century the apparatus of the Labour Party and the unions, like a vast bureaucratic sponge, has absorbed virtually all the immense rebellious potential of British workers and intellectuals. It has dampened class confrontation and stifled real social imagination, sucking up the energy of its rank and file and squeezing it out into soggy compromise.

The apparatus succeeds in this by being so large and so omnipresent that both debate and action are constantly forced back onto its terms. Even now, when the one-third of British industry that Labour has nationalized has become even more notorious for managerial incompetence than the private sector, British leftists still argue about how much more state ownership how soon. They still try to "radicalize" the unions rather than recognize how the union form itself constrains and divides workers.

Most important, they are still arguing how best to fight for "the right to work" when most modern work serves no purpose except to reproduce the power of business and the state, and is boring and dehumanizing to boot. Moreover, the system is now so automated -- and getting more so all the time -- that it can no longer generate even enough useless jobs to employ the new generation.

A large minority of European working class youth are very much aware of all this. In Britain, contempt for work has become a frequent theme in pop music. In 1977 the Clash sang: "They offered me the office, offered me the shop / They said I'd better take anything they got (. . .) / Every job they offer's just to keep you out the dock / Career opportunities are the ones that never knock."

In the wake of this summer's riots, The Beat elaborated in "Get a Job": "Manufacture rubbish / Although no one can afford it (. . .)

/ Oh you young people are revolting / 8- to-5 should give the jolt needed."

Meanwhile, the older "mainstream" workers continue to fight against work in their own ways, resisting speedup imposed through automation and "job redesign."

The Thatcher government is trying to break the stalemate by bludgeoning both unionized workers and young marginals into submission with layoffs and social welfare cuts. In response, the unions bluster and compete with each other for members, while Labour blames everything on Thatcher and "the multinationals." At its last conference, the party voted through a program of yet more nationalizations.

A growing number of young people are dissatisfied and disgusted with both sides. And they are suspicious of organizations, like CND, that seem too cozy with the Labour establishment. Even E.P. Thompson belongs to the Labour Party, though he says he is a "reluctant member."

A punk rocker at the London rally voiced a very different attitude. "We don't believe in membership," he said. "We can do just as much on our own." His friend, who said he repaired refrigerators for a living, added, "Wars still happen. They've done nothing to stop them. I disagree with politics altogether. It doesn't matter who you vote for, the government always wins."

These views were amplified by a group of anarchists who fiercely heckled Michael Foot during his speech. When Thompson came on stage, they held up a sign reading, "E.P. Thompson is not God."

So far, the openly hostile attitude of many young Britons toward wage labor and state authority has not been translated into a coherent, widely shared vision of a world beyond both. Such a vision is already being elaborated in the communes, "squats" and Autonomous Youth Centers of Italy, Switzerland and West Germany. But unless it spreads across the English Channel and percolates to more sections of the population, the political space opened up by the peace movement is in danger of being recolonized by Labour and the dreary, obsolete society it defends.

-- Louis Michaelson



Theater, music and dancing made the London disarmament rally a festival of protest.

Tales of the D



Blockaders listen to the judge after days in jail.

photo by Robert Van Scoy

Thanks to everyone who sent us their stories and comments on the Diablo blockade. Here are some excerpts from the dozens of pages we received.

Variations on towel and bandana

The cops surround us, scores of them, and we sit and make statements, read poems, snack and sing. Wavy Gravy unzips his green jumpsuit to reveal his Santa Claus outfit and whips on his beard and hat. He tells the cops they will get nothing in their stockings.

I am in my Sponge suit with giant clown sunglasses and a wind-powered propeller beanie. We look the cops in the eyes as we tell our reasons for being there. Many of them smile as we joke with them, but straighten up as the police TV cameras pan their way.

They lift us up out of our circle one by one and book us, striping us of our jackets and backpacks. "Take that thing off," mutters the officer, disdainfully perusing my Sponge's pores.

It's about 2 a.m. when we arrive at the California Men's (Penal) Colony. We are issued a blanket, a towel and a bag dinner, and processed like Velveeta cheese. One blanket is not enough in this gym and I wake up shivering in the night.

Over the next few days, our peak population is about 450. Each time a busload of people comes in we line up and make a clapping, singing bridge to welcome the new arrivals. Myth California, dressed in her evening gown and crown, feeds them each a sacramental bite of sweetroll. The welcoming committee holds a briefing.

Strategy meetings. I get clusterphobia. We chose a legal liaison team. Our lawyers are refused entrance for a couple days.

Trying to wash the poison oak off our only clothes with bars of Safeguard (how apt) is a neat trick and Gucci would be impressed by the tres chic variations on the theme of towel and bandana. The yard adjoining the gym is good and sunny and an increasing number of women opt to go nude.

We start classes in juggling, sign language, co-counseling, nonviolence trainer's training . . . the witches even give magic classes.

—Sharon Sponge
The Mutant Sponges

"This is the way the sheriff talks to you"

"Are you the one who asked about the doctor and the soap?" It was C.O. (correctional officer) Lt. Small.

"Doctor?—No. Soap?—Yes, I answered, interrupting my practice reading of my statement to the judge.

"Come with me. There are some people from the sheriff's office who want to talk to you."

I turned, whispered to Anne, "Keep track of me. I think they're going to beat me up." Lt. Small accompanied me through the hall between the gym where 250 women were being held and the bathrooms with their showers and single flush toilet. The sealed hall was lined with C.O.s. I began rolling my blanket (coat) up around my shoulders, figuring bruises were better than broken bones. I remembered what my dentist said about holding your jaw slightly ajar—for strength, and to keep your teeth from breaking. I tried to lock my jaw open. At the front door I swept my eyes around a circle of eight armed/batoned "peace" officers. Eight. Whew, I thought, I don't have a chance.

Someone ripped the blanket off and threw it on the ground. "Turn around and put your hands up." I faced a brick wall. I thought about how my blood wouldn't show against the red brick. They pushed me against the wall and hooked their feet around my ankles which were swollen with poison oak and seeping. I was spread-eagled. They grabbed my wrists, more poison oak, and locked me into registered handcuffs. A man took my shoulders and turned me around. In a different movie, it could have been a gesture of love. He pinched my arm above the elbow, led me to an awaiting sheriff's car, and inserted me into the back. Apparently I was not going to get beat up—or, at least not here. I wondered where I was being taken.

This is the way the sheriff talks to you.

For eight years Mothers for Peace had been trying to talk to Nuclear Regulatory commissioners and PG&E officials. The paper work probably cost a small forest. And every so often, the rules changed. In the beginning, money, the Mothers were assured by the NRC, would not be an issue. In the end PG&E's \$2.4 billion investment was the only issue.

I spent one night in the county jail, in solitary isolation, naked. Naked not so much because I didn't like the Sears bra and panties, the cotton flannel nightie, or the red polyester slacks and blouse—but because I'd been reading Bobby Sands, and I didn't have anything for my poison

oak except wet towels. I had to strip, squat, get checked for body lice and shower in front of a short-tempered, over made-up, over-weight matron.

"Hey, number two—who are you?" called out women in an invisible neighboring cell. (I'd been listening to them bitch about the "demonstrators.")

"Jane," I volunteered. Of course they wanted to know Jane who?, and what I was in for? More curses.

"We've been locked down for two weeks because of you. We lost all our day privileges because of you."

"Go home!" yelled the ladies from the other side of the wall.

That night I listened. I couldn't formulate a lucid three sentence argument for winning their hearts and minds. But I said I would tell my sisters how these women were being manipulated and—I was sorry.

I shut up and reread my charges: Failure to disperse, and trespass. Same thing everybody else had. I heard the women laughing. It was like catching a glimpse of a daisy growing out of a concrete slab out of my peripheral vision. The next morning when they heard my cough I got sympathy, and a cigarette from the trustee. I'd spent the night scratching my p.o. and trying to figure out why I was where I was, and therefore, who I should be.

I re-requested a phone call. God damn you! the day guard shrieked, jugulars erect. "We're not playing games here."

—Freddie Moore



Diablo Toilet Bowl

The first arrestees were temporarily held in a parking lot yards from the twin reactors and the ocean. As the hours wore on and the temperature dropped, we had to figure out ways to keep warm.

First, the porta-potties were pushed together to block the wind. Then some of us started pushing a toilet back and forth across the compound (labeled Stalag 13 by the guards) to keep warm.



Diablo blockade

Backcountry blockading

The sun is rising over the Irish Hills. We're hidden on the side of the main road in two little groups, crouching under the low chaparral everytime a helicopter stutters by. In a section of pipe on the other side of the canyon some of the Heliotropes from Palo Alto are listening to the play-by-play account of the blockade at the main gate on an AM radio. We want to make our move onto the road when the police break the blockade at the main gate, not before.

It holds. You'd think by now the police could just sweep them up but noooo. They proved slow learners at blockade busting. The minutes crawled by. Raven, a rock'n'roll singer in Love & Rage, crawls back and forth with reports... "arrests are being made... police are pretty rough... the workers haven't gotten through yet..."

The AM station switches to a commercial. I'm huddled with Jack-rabbit the Poet, Snail, and Juana. We debate what to do. What if the workers get through during the commercial break? This is what we get for relying on capitalist media. But we do have a back-up plan. Up the road a woman from the Zen Archers is hiding under a green packing cloth. I don't know her name. She's 20 or so, strong like she spent the summer hiking alone in the Canadian Rockies.

In our little clump, of a.g.'s we start discussing going now. Mother Earth, an affinity group made up mainly of women from San Luis Obispo, thinks maybe we should. Some Zen Archers want to wait. Love & Rage is confused as usual. It's a hard situation to make a decision in. The Handbook didn't say there would be

days like this. Most of the Heliotropes are in the drain pipe and difficult to communicate with. "What should we do?" asks C. of Mother Earth. She is quite relaxed, this is a lot easier than being a camp resource person.

The woman from the Zen Archers ends the discussion.

"They're coming, they're coming!!!" she waves the cloth over her head. I feel like a soldier. "Thank the goddess this isn't a real war," I find myself thinking. Then I'm to the fence and over it.

Pouring from the canyon, a mother spider giving birth, the first cluster rushes the road. I run up to the woman Zen Archer. She and I have signs that say "STOP PLEASE BLOCKADE AHEAD". She's having trouble with the barbed-wire fence.

"Hurry Sister, we've got to stop the buses."

"I'm sorry brother, I've hurt my knee." It seemed absurdly polite but that's how we felt: calm and full of consideration.

The Pacific Ocean, a deep rich blue, is just on the other side of the road. Just out of sight, a few miles down the road,



The driver of a "medical supply" truck tries to bluff his way through blockaders' lines. It didn't work.

photo by Steve Stallone

school bus comes from the same direction to be used in our arrest. The Narcolyptics, SAVE from Santa Cruz, and Solidarity from Oregon come out of their hideouts a little further up the road and block it. We cheer. The police are

groin for no reason. The Zen Archer woman goes limp and gets a badly twisted wrist for her principles. It could have been worse. The cops were pretty pissed.

But we talked to them: shouted when we had to.

"Officer Bowker, you're hurting him."

"Officer Bowls, she's not resisting, why so violent? ... We're non-violent."

"We aren't your enemies. We do this for you and your children too."

"Officer Bowker we'll remember you!"

They throw us on the truck, they order us off the truck. The workers pass. The California Highway Patrol shows up. Some of them are wearing anti-nuke buttons under their jackets. We ask them what they think of the fact that a lot of the SLO Sheriffs aren't wearing badges or name tags. Several look embarrassed.

The Highway Patrol wants to let us go. The Sheriffs are against it. They argue. A PG&E official gives us an order to disperse. We try. The Sheriffs won't let us. Legally we are in the clear since the police are so confused they have completely blown the bust. But force is nine tenths of the law, as is soon to be made clear. Off we go to jail.

I traded my blockade button for a cup of coffee with a Chicano National Guardsman who drove the Sheriffs around in the army truck. He was OK. When we asked him why he was doing it he said: "You guys don't understand. I was ordered to. I'm not a cop. I'm in the army. We're on your side."

— Crystal

The police are so confused, they have completely blown the bust.

the massive Diablo plant sits at the mouth of Diablo Canyon. The buses are a half-mile away on the other side of us coming at 40 miles an hour or more, snaking down the coast. It is a very still morning, bright and clear. I feel like the morning.

I help the Zen Archer woman through the fence and we slip and slide down onto the road from her lookout holding our signs high.

"Spirit of America" it says on the first big Greyhound bus. The driver sees us, hesitates, sees the people ahead and slams on his brakes. The Greyhound swerves back and forth across the road, tires steaming, big body swaying, and so does the next one and the next and the next. As far as I can see down the road, it's buses and cars. The workers stay on their buses as they've been told and we sit and sing: "The earth, the fire, the water, the air; returns, returns, returns..."

I make a sign "I'M A CONSTRUCTION WORKER AGAINST NUKES! CONVERT DIABLO." It goes over moderately well. Shoshone writes: "I'M A TEACHER. STOP DIABLO FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN." The workers in the first bus lean forward to read it and several nod. One of them takes a polaroid of us. Raven and L. climb up on the front bumper to look at it.

Two police cars come up from behind us and so does a PG&E truck. They get out and scratch their heads. An empty

now surrounded. They turn in little circles as they talk about it. They are holding their hats in their hands and as they talk they are also turning their hats in little circles, working them like worry beads.

'28 minutes pass. How much time is that really? How much money for PG&E? What do the workers think sitting on their buses half-way between the main gate and Diablo, now one and a half hours late to work? (Later, after the bust when they rolled through on to their jobs we got more peace signs flipped at us than fingers. But mostly they just stared.)

Oh, the bust. It could have been worse. An army truck pulled up to our line, sirens screaming. A squad of San Luis Sheriffs in riot gear lept out on the run and piled into us without slowing... a few people get pretty juked around. Randi Heliotrope, an engineer for one of those companies in Silicon Valley, is clubbed in the face and kicked in the

81... and other tales

Later, we evolved a football game with a roll of toilet paper. The Diablo 81 Toilet Bowl! Points were scored with 'melt-downs' and one strategy was for players to run out from the line and link hands — the blockade defense. Needless to say, it sort of worked and sort of didn't.

— Terry Lamphier
The Mutant Sponges



New Age culture, same old crowd

The people who watched the Diablo blockade on television could easily have concluded that 2000 New Age clones of the infamous Feather Man had swooped down on San Luis Obispo. This pigeon-hole reporting ignored the numerous other influences on the blockade -- the Cal Poly faculty and staff, the ordinary folks, the local residents who kept bringing food supplies to the camp.

On the other hand, it is true that the blockade and the camp were permeated with the New Age style -- by which I mean more than long hair, embroidered Mexican shirts, or an earring in one ear. The style of a movement or subculture also refers to its shared assumptions, attitudes, customs and taboos. It is the cultural reflection of its political views.

Pardon the laundry list, but it was painfully obvious that the blockade had attracted very few "people of color," punk/New Wave elements or working class suburban types. The projected style of the "visible" antinuke movement tends to isolate it from millions of people who hold antinuclear views but just don't recognize themselves in the cultural norms of the movement.

An example. On Tuesday, the day the blockade actually began, I gave a ride to a young Chicano who had come from Los Angeles for the blockade. But he had decided to hitchhike back home because he felt so out of place at the camp.

Someone with a name like Cosmic Dust, who was a mellow white Aquarian between 20 and 35

years of age, into nonviolent vegetarianism and the owner of 2.5 pairs of hiking boots, would have felt instantly validated upon strolling into camp. In contrast, my antinuclear Latino passenger felt like a stranger in a strange land. As I left him off at the freeway ramp he had some second thoughts and started talking about trying to come back up with some friends. But that was the last I saw of him.

One blockade custom that seemed a bit strange was the habit of hugging anyone who happened to come within a ten-yard radius. Some would argue that this "builds community." And I agree that hugging friends with whom one has shared enough discussions, laughs and experiences to form a real emotional bond feels wonderfully and uniquely human. But does a minimal political agreement instantly constitute that kind of emotional intimacy? I wound up feeling emotionally homogenized by the "completing the circle" ritual which, like clockwork, was "spontaneously" suggested at the end of nearly every meeting.

There are a lot of people who shy away from a movement in which "touchy-feelyism" is the norm. Some are repelled out of unfamiliarity with it, others out of a conscious criticism of its psychological and theoretical underpinnings.

The theory of the New Age seems to be based on its vague concepts of "one planet, one people" and "the earth is all one family."



The "feather man" was often the focus of media attention. Some reporters seemed to make a special effort to photograph the blockade's most bizarre participants.

These ideas do contain a radical kernel of truth, in that national boundaries are artificial barriers which prevent the organization of a cooperative global community. At the same time, they blur the way that a small but immensely powerful side of the "family" pursues goals divorced from the interests of the rest.

These deviants (of the ruling class persuasion) dictate as the terms of alimony their exclusive legal custody of the world economy, and unlimited visiting rights in all major cultural and political institutions. Through various forms of thought control, this family rift is made to appear as something "natural" and thus politically irrelevant: "Father knows best." Curiously enough, many New Ageists wind up implicitly accepting this domestic compromise.

It is a New Age affliction to be overly polite and respectful. This "niceness" dooms its adherents to remaining merely questioners of authority, rather than its abolitionists.

Underlying this symptom of gently overlooking class antagonisms is a collective amnesia about history. The Diablo blockade handbook, for example, absurdly implied that the militant and sometimes bloody actions in defense of working class gains by the Wobblies and the Flint sit-down strikers fit the same mold as the pacifism of Gandhi, Martin Luther King and the Abalone Alliance. This kind of historical distortion, whether due to ignorance or manipulation, only deludes and dilutes the debate on the social questions of today.

-- Gary Rouge

New Age Politics



Jay Kinney



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Making friends in jail

There are a million stories going out now into the culture from the blockaders about those transforming moments. There are stories about the correctional officers at the women's jail who joined released blockaders for pizza after they got off their shifts; who told us they loved us, too; who said they understood what we were doing when they listened to the songs and shared the collective joys of personal victories.

There were deputies who tied our wrists loosely with the plastic handcuffs, saying quietly, "Now that's not going to keep you from freeing your hands so just don't go waving them out the window, OK?" There was one officer who drew pictures in the numbers he wrote on our arms with black marking pen... "How about a happy face and a sun," he said to me, as he merrily wrote D01915 along my arm, and decorated the "0" with a smile and rays of sunshine.

No one in the woman's jail will forget

Sandy, Sgt. S.E. Johnson, supervisorial corrections officer from San Quentin, assigned temporarily to the blockade prisoners, or Lt. Larry Small, another imported correctional officer. They towed the perfect line between their responsibilities toward the system and their understanding of our needs and purposes in jail. The strange arbitrary rules which were enforced which had no purpose or meaning for us began sliding away along with the distance which is usually kept between guard and prisoner.

When one young woman gave in to a flood of tears after hearing a tender and poignant song written in jail -- inspired by the eternal nature of what we were doing -- it was a uniformed deputy who came and sat with her and comforted her. She had felt equally moved by the song. "I think you people are beautiful," she said. "Now I understand."

— Elizabeth Whitney

"Witch is a word that scares people"

During the blockade, the Matrix affinity group facilitated rituals in camp, in jail and in the back country -- on the full moon, the Fall Equinox and the new moon at the end of the blockade. We feel that the false split between the spiritual and the political, between mind and body, culture and nature, is the basis in consciousness of the system which produced Diablo. That system is based on the principle that some people have the right to wield power over others.

The community of the blockade was based on a very different principle—that each human being is inherently valuable, that we each should have power to make the decisions that affect us. That value, that power-from-within, is what I mean by "spirit," a word I use only because our inadequate language provides no better.

Our spiritual tradition goes back to the pre-Christian, tribal religion of the West called paganism, Wicca or Witchcraft. The Craft is similar to Native American religions. Our practice of it is non-hierarchical and structured much like the Abalone Alliance, around small, autonomous groups we call covens. It has no dogmas or doctrines—only practices. Its goal is not individual salvation (there is nothing to be saved from) nor even enlightenment, but communal bonding and balance that supports the richness and diversity of life.

"Witch" is a word that scares people (as does 'anarchist') due to centuries of propaganda, but its

original meaning is "one who shapes." We use it to reclaim our pride in being women of power -- although men, too are witches.

The rituals Matrix facilitated, however, were not "witch" rituals. We tried to create a simple framework that would encourage everyone's participation, spontaneity and improvisation. A ritual "works" when energy moves in a pattern. We draw it up from the earth, focus it as it peaks and then "ground" it back into the earth. It looks like this:

The group gets into a circle and begins chanting -- something so simple it doesn't need to be taught, something everyone can understand. Volunteers sing and dance, perhaps in a spiral or a weaving snake dance. A good ritual has its funny moments and its moments of strong emotion. Laughter, grief and rage are all aspects of our power.

Did we 'hex' the plant? We certainly did, but what stopped it ultimately were the years of organizing, work and protest that culminated with the blockade. That cumulative pressure, I believe, created a climate in which P.G. & E.'s screw-ups could no longer be covered up. We may never know the whole story because one way the system keeps us powerless is by not letting us see that our successes are *ours*. When we claim our victories and take our power, we are strengthening our spirits for the years of work and struggle ahead.

—Starhawk

Headlines and hype

If the media coverage of the Diablo blockade is evaluated by P.T. Barnum's dictum -- "I don't care what you say about me; just spell my name right," -- then it must be counted a huge success. For over two weeks, the blockade grabbed headlines not only in California, but across the country and around the world.

Most of the approximately 1000 reporters there -- the largest number to cover any event since the first launching of the Space Shuttle -- managed to get "Abalone" spelled right. But in general the quality of the coverage went downhill from there.

There were a few flights into outright fantasy, like the September 15 report by H.G. Reza of the *San Francisco Examiner* that blockaders and supporters in camp were starving. In fact hundreds of hot meals, made largely with food donated by local residents, were being served there. Reza's story brought in a deluge of new donations.

Other reporters rose to great heights of nastiness. John Hurst of the *Los Angeles Times* called the blockade, among other things, a "hyped fizzle." Most newspapers characterized it as "faltering," "powering down," and "sputtering" throughout the two weeks that it persisted. The *Oakland Tribune* pronounced it "over" almost a week before it was.

These hasty judgments were helped along by the inflated estimates of numbers of blockaders made in the weeks prior to the action. Although the Abalone Alliance, as a matter of policy, never gave out any numbers, PG&E and the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department told reporters they expected up to 50,000 protesters.

So while the Diablo blockade resulted in the largest number of arrests of any American antinuclear protest, the media measured it against figures provided by PG&E and law enforcement agencies, and

concluded that it was a failure. Is it too paranoid to suggest that PG&E may have released the exaggerated numbers to set up exactly that response?

There were some exceptions to the media's undistinguished record, most notably the *San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune*, which devoted page after page to examining the issue of nuclear power, the history of the battle over Diablo, and the blockade itself. The alternative radio stations and newspapers were generally sympathetic. And some other reporters, including several from large newspapers and news services, were accurate and fair. A few went with affinity groups into the back country, and even got arrested.

But hundreds of reporters arrived in San Luis Obispo and promptly started grumbling while they waited for the blockade to get underway. A chorus of "media manipulation" began, though none of these aggrieved parties would dream of accusing Ronald Reagan of playing to the media by making a splashy propaganda speech like his "arms control" proposal. When it came to the Abalone Alliance, though, they thought they could have it both ways. After finding the blockaders guilty of staging a media event, they complained bitterly when the blockade wasn't timed for the evening news.

Meanwhile, most reporters were so busy complaining that they managed to overlook the local opposition to Diablo -- certainly "good copy" for a background story. In fact, an *Oakland Tribune* headline on September 15 read, "Diablo Canyon protest annoys local residents." The media was largely taken by surprise when San Luis Obispo residents organized a rally that drew 5000 in support of the blockade. After that, the tone of the blockade coverage grew more respectful.

The blockaders were actually a pretty diverse bunch in terms of age, background and appearance



Reporters scramble to interview Robert Blake of *Baretta* fame at camp.

photo by Robert Van Scoy

(although not race). But most of the press corps didn't bother to do enough interviewing -- or seemingly, even looking around -- to notice this. Instead, they dished up easy stereotypes that depicted the blockaders as hippies coming out of retirement. The *Los Angeles Herald Examiner*, whose September 16 front-page headline was "Shades of the 60's," editorialized that the blockade was a "throwback to a previous era; as such it is infantile and ineffective."

As for the issue of nuclear power, it was given only the briefest treatment. The blockade was treated as a police blotter story, and rightly so, according to *San Francisco Chronicle* City Editor Jerry Burns. "It has nothing to do with the issue," he stated categorically. When news of PG&E's construction goofs surfaced, the media suddenly discovered the connection.

Rough handling of popular protest by the mainstream media should come as no surprise. But some peo-

ple in the Abalone Alliance seemed to err on the other side. They assumed that the media is an active enemy and treated it that way. As a result, many reporters grew unhappy. And unhappy reporters write unflattering stories.

This unfortunate Abalone attitude can be traced in part to a basic confusion about the nature of the blockade. In the face of reality and thousands of cops, some organizers insisted that the blockade could physically shut down the Diablo installation.

The advocates of this willful myopia rejected the suggestion that the blockade was in any way a symbolic event. Perhaps because of their desire to go beyond symbolic protest, they steadfastly refused to acknowledge that media coverage was important.

Discussion of media relations was deemphasized in many of the blockader trainings. At the 1978 Diablo blockade, media spokes designated by affinity groups gave many of the interviews and comments. This time, participants were told to defer to the centrally designated media spokes on questions of Abalone policy. Some seemed to interpret this to mean that they shouldn't talk to reporters at all. Quite a few took to rudely shooing them away.

Many of the official spokes felt uncomfortable about the existing Abalone consensus that required them to tell reporters what they themselves had a hard time believing -- that the blockaders would be able to directly halt operations at the plant. As the absurdity of this claim became clear, they increasingly voiced their objections to holding to it. But the line was insisted upon and enforced by other organizers. At least one spoke quit because she couldn't bring herself to mouth the official line.

No wonder, then, that reporters complained that the spokes sounded evasive, formulaic and stilted.

Despite the prejudices of the media and the shortcomings of the Abalone's media work, the blockade was a media success. PG&E's ploy, if that's what it was, to set up the image of a flop backfired by enticing such a large media contingent to show up. The local rallies, the incapable dedication and high spirits of the blockaders, and the timely discovery of the construction errors all conspired to get the blockade's message across.

-- Marcy Darnovsky
IAT staff

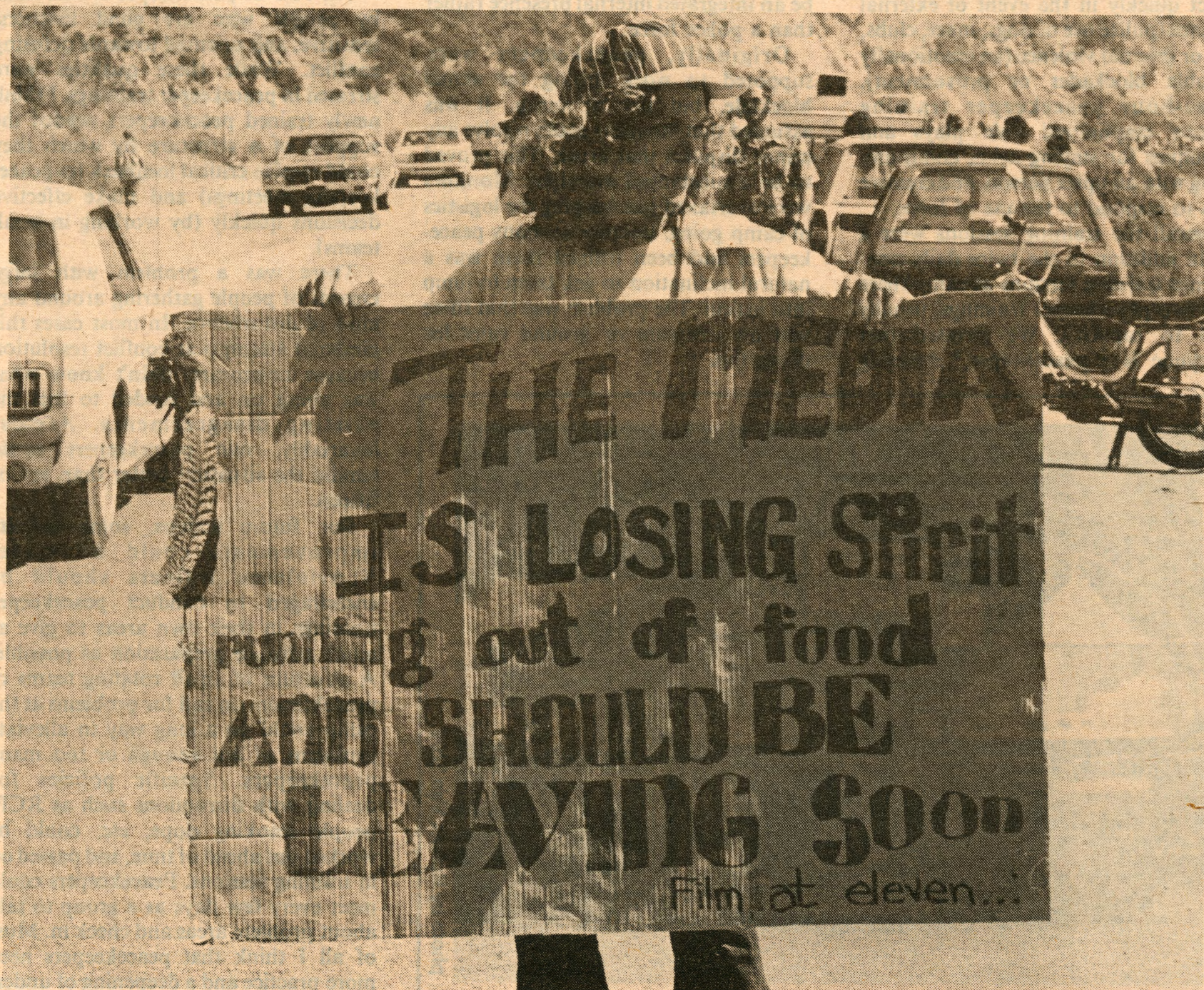


photo by Robert Van Scoy

A blockader's response to media coverage.

Stop the press, I want to get off

The most difficult part of our job as media spokes was to explain that the blockade was not symbolic, that it was actually intended to prevent PG&E workers from loading fuel into the reactor. The blockade would not end, we repeated to incredulous reporters, until PG&E agreed never to operate Diablo Canyon as a nuclear plant.

It was difficult to continue arguing the Abalone "line" when it was so obvious that I was either lying or hopelessly naive. Having become a public relations flak for the Abalone Alliance, I began to feel twinges of empathy for my counterparts at PG&E.

Our silly pretense made it easy for the media to concentrate on the

message across, and our mysterious and somewhat dishonest approach, destroyed the opportunity to develop some trust with press people. We don't have to play to the media, but neither should we ignore them or make their work unnecessarily difficult.

In our assumption that the blockade would stop the plant and that blockading was the most important thing a person could possibly do, we lost track of what we were doing. We were mesmerized by our own self-importance.

After two weeks, arrest numbers dwindled and the great "unwashed" began flocking to our tent city to hang out. The deterioration at camp made it obvious that the blockade could not be kept going; the expense of emptying the "Honey Huts" finally forced us to confront the reality we had created. Even then, the Abalone Alliance had to invent the concept "phase one" to describe the blockade in order to come to an agreement to call it off. Fortunately, the timely discovery of PG&E's blueprint errors provided an unanticipated climax to the action.

The Diablo blockade was the largest civil disobedience action ever at a US nuclear facility. We have a lot to be proud of. But should it have been the central focus of the Abalone Alliance for two and a half years?

Not everyone is able or willing to be arrested, and perpetuating the idea that organizing for the blockade is the only honorable pursuit keeps many people from getting involved. Some Abalone organizers went so far as to ridicule the two "local" marches and criticize the participants

for not blockading.

Ginger Varney argues that these marches show how badly the Abalone screwed up with local outreach. Thousands of people in San Luis Obispo County want to do something about Diablo, but they don't want to blockade. Their energy is not being tapped by the Abalone or Mothers for Peace.

Stopping Diablo Canyon is not a one-time event. Direct action, marches and legal intervention can augment and build each other. People have worked for eighteen years to stop Diablo -- and we have a chance of winning if we can acknowledge our mistakes and learn from hindsight.

-- Mark Evanoff
IAT staff

It was obvious I was lying or hopelessly naive.

"defeat" rather than to report our reasons for blockading and the story of the people involved. Everyone knew the action was symbolic -- the blockade ended before fuel loading was scheduled to begin.

There's nothing wrong with symbolic actions and no need to be ashamed of them. The story of the blockade was the commitment of the people involved -- the long meetings, the jail solidarity, the trainings -- and their just plain having fun together.

"It's just this gritty, infectious fun for life that Lou Snit [an affinity group] individually and collectively possesses which the blockade was

Ron Kelly, another reporter for the *L.A. Weekly*, wrote, "Media visitors to the blockaders' campground were herded into a media corral and escorted (effectively guarded) in small groups through camp to observe, fishbowl-like, the proceedings. Hopefully, this was to guarantee that the media wouldn't gravitate, as usual, to misfits and flukes, the atypical, that they would be continually directed to important concerns. . . [but] this kind of careful control had the ring for some ornery press people of propagandistic indoctrination."

Our reluctance to admit that the media is a resource to help get our

Keeping the peace

"Peacekeepers!" came a loud yell through the early morning mist as the Diablo blockade camp was waking up. Soon a crowd gathered around. "Those two men over there just tried to climb through the fence. They said they wanted to go for a hike," the person who had raised the cry explained.

For the next twenty minutes the group of about eight peacekeepers debated what to do. Meanwhile, the two men went off on their hike, without understanding that the rule against climbing the fence had been made to protect the Abalone Alliance's relationship with the owner of the land adjoining the camp, who had not given his permission for its use.

This situation was representative of many in which the role of peacekeeper

was zealously over-performed. What happened?

The role of "peacekeeper" was designed to help remind people of the nonviolence code and to help the group to act quickly in the event of external violence (police use of dogs, mace, clubs, etc.) or internal violence (an emotionally unstable blockader or provocateur). Three-hour peacekeeper training sessions emphasized role plays and techniques for staying calm, communicating with an upset person, and creative ways to respond to the use of force.

Overall the training sessions were a hit. In addition to the twice daily non-violence training sessions at camp there were two peacekeeper trainings, usually filled to capacity. We stressed that "everyone is a peacekeeper," meaning

that each of us must take responsibility for keeping a good tone to the action. People who went through the training had merely given it a little more thought than others. Peacekeepers were meant to be an integrated internal presence rather than a police force.

Originally, peacekeepers were supposed to work during the actual blockade, but not at camp. It was assumed that monitors could resolve any minor disputes that arose. This proved to be a substantial oversight. Monitors were overtaxed just keeping the logistics of camp going. Because so many peacekeepers had been trained there was a natural inclination to ask them to jump into action. The problem was that there was no structure or ground rules for doing this.

To me, fears of a "police force" of on-duty peacekeepers seemed highly exaggerated. In fact, I felt that the very lack of structure and accountability caused some of the problems of abuse of authority. The lack of structure gave free rein to a few over-zealous individuals who, using the title of "peacekeeper," influenced large numbers of less decisive people into over-reacting.

The role of peacekeeper is best filled by people who are good listeners, sensitive, and oriented towards defusing conflict. While these qualities were stressed in peacekeeper trainings, I think newly trained peacekeepers needed the support of a structure by which they could receive critical feedback (in peacekeeping meetings) and make effective decisions quickly (by working in small teams).

There was a problem with large crowds of people gathering around any kind of disturbance. In most cases this hindered attempts at conflict resolution because newcomers didn't know what was going on and tended to fuel the existing disagreements. Almost invariably, two peacekeepers could handle the situation better than ten or fifteen.

For future actions, some definite improvements could be made. Nonviolence trainers should be encouraged to conduct peacekeeper trainings in their own areas to give as much advance preparation as possible. A structure of small rotating teams of peacekeepers on call for problems at the camp could go a long way to alleviate problems of not enough or too many peacekeepers. Specific policies for dealing with disruptions such as RCP, people smoking dope, etc. could be worked out ahead of time, and passed on in training sessions. Peacekeepers could meet every few days as a group to talk about problem areas and check in. Most of all I think that peacekeepers need more practice and a deepening of understanding of nonviolent methods.

— Liz Walker

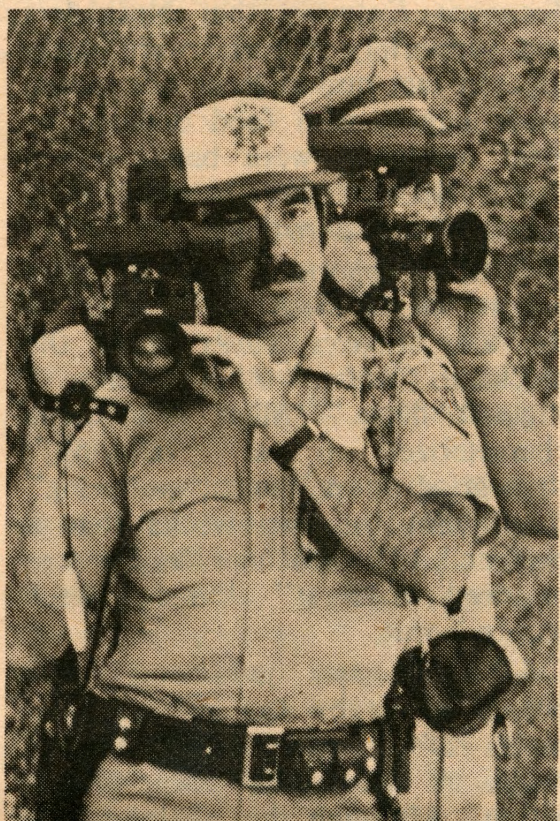


photo by Robert Van Scoy

CHP-TV films the proceedings.

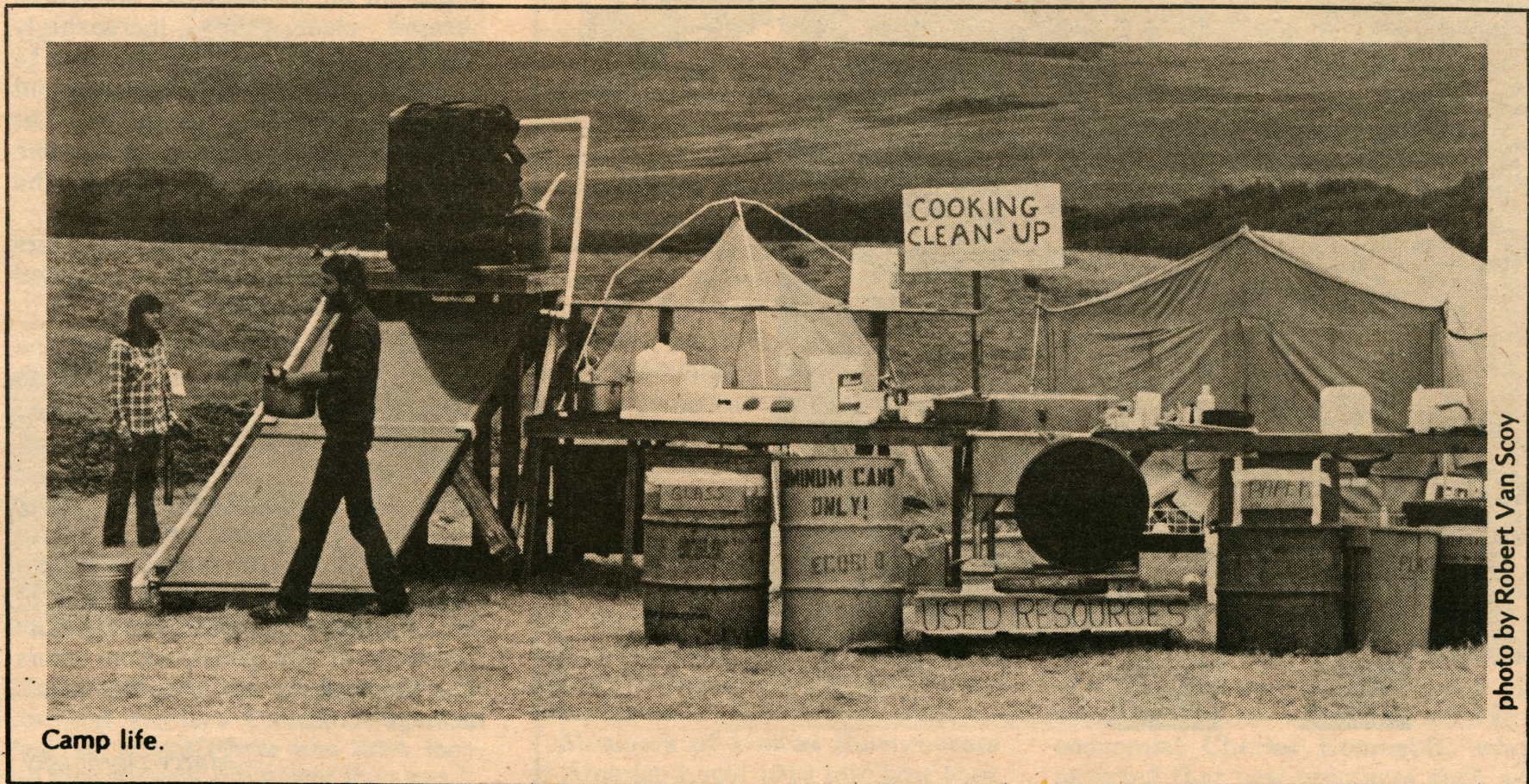


photo by Robert Van Scoy

Camp life.

'The revolution is not a popularity contest'

Nobody loves the Revolutionary Communist Party, but that doesn't seem to bother its members. "The revolution is not a popularity contest," they are fond of saying.

So when the RCP contingent was booted out of the Diablo blockade camp, they weren't too distressed. RCP'er Joe Veale told *It's About Times* that the party considers its participation in the blockade a "success in terms of preparing people's minds for revolution."

During a two-hour conversation in a Berkeley bar, Veale explained how this preparation process is supposed to work. The RCP goes into a situation like the Diablo blockade in order to encourage confrontation on the political issues it considers important, or to "sharpen the splits," as Veale put it. At the blockade, they were actively looking for disagreements to exploit, asking participants to point out "the liberals." The RCP doesn't consider that destructive. "We don't create the polarization," Veale said. "We just try to give leadership to it."

Easy Out?

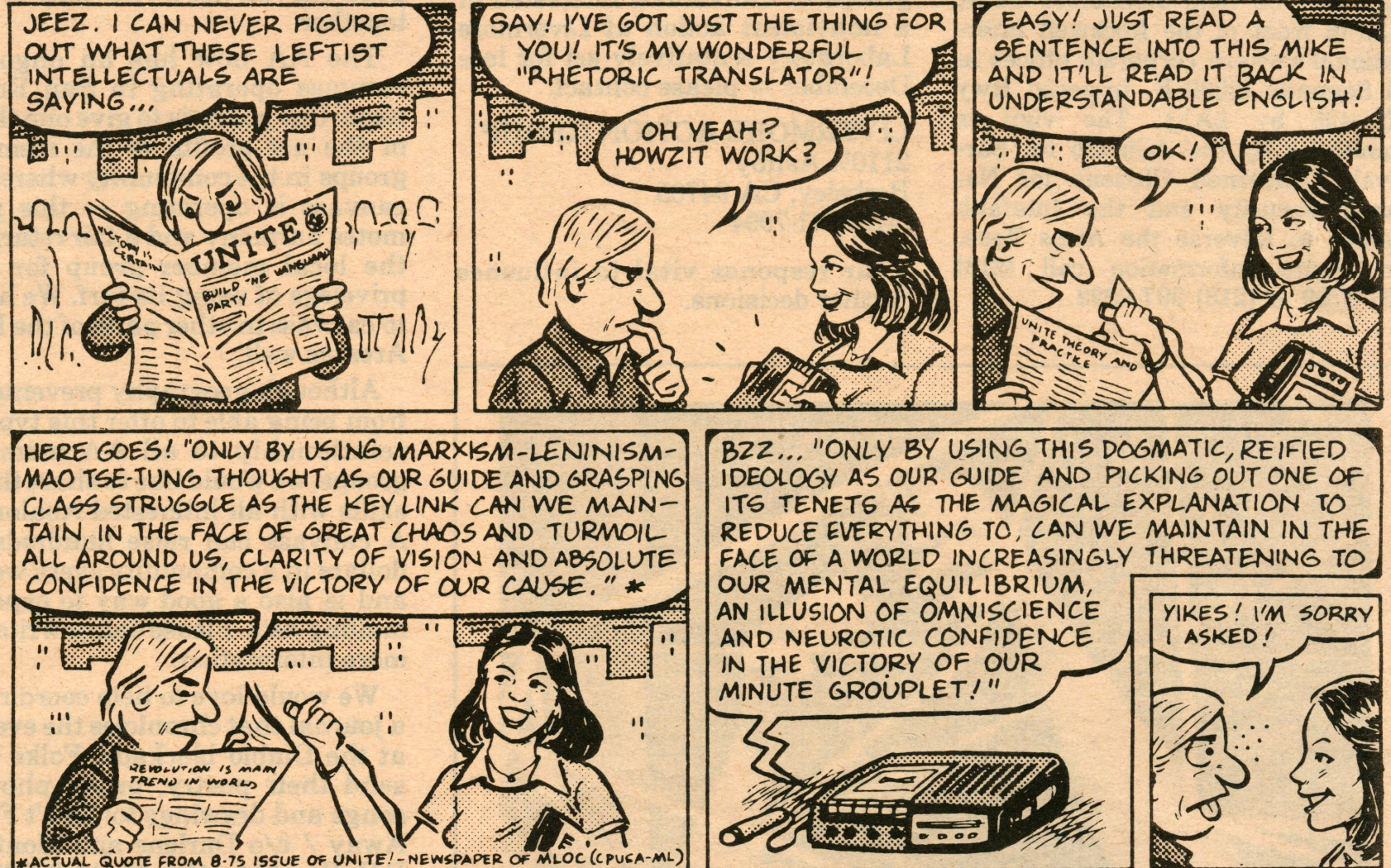
The notion of centralized parties that provide "correct lines" to political movements is anathema to most of the Abalone Alliance, as is the RCP's strident, dogmatic style and its habit of disrupting meetings with rhetorical harangues.

But the antinuclear movement also shares a strong commitment to freedom of expression. "We've never agreed to kick people out for being obnoxious or even disruptive," said Monty Walters, an Abalone Alliance monitor trainer from Sonoma County.

Some people in the camp favored allowing the RCP to stay, either because they felt evicting them would violate their rights to free speech or because they believed that despite disagreements "we're all on the same side." But most seemed relieved when a spokes meeting on Saturday night, September 12, decided to ban the RCP from camp on the grounds that some of its members were advocating breaking the Abalone's nonviolence code.

According to Walters, it wasn't that the RCP was questioning the code -- he wanted people to do that -- but that they were "proselytizing against it." The declarations of several RCP members that they would not agree to nonviolence even as a tactic for the blockade prompted the decision to kick them out. "They dug their own grave," said camp monitor coordinator Arlene Feng.

THE AMAZING RHETORIC TRANSLATOR! © TM by Kinney



(Veale insisted that no one in the RCP had advocated violence. "It's a lie," he said. But many witnesses to RCP statements disagreed.)

The Abalone Alliance peacekeepers who physically carried an RCP member out of the camp the next day, after he said he wouldn't keep the nonviolence code, felt that the majority in the camp supported their action. "It was important to show that we could be heavy as well as nonviolent," explained Walters. Darleen Comingore, a civil engineering student who withdrew from school to train peacekeepers and go to the blockade, said that the response to the RCP made it clear that "we weren't going to let them manipulate our openness."

Peacekeepers as Police

But Walters and Comingore, along with many others, weren't so happy about what happened afterwards. By a couple of days after the first eviction, according to Walters, the assumption had developed that every RCP person should automatically be kicked out, whether he or she agreed to accept the nonviolence code or not. In that atmosphere, whenever an RCP'er appeared -- or any other minor disturbance occurred -- "people started yelling

for peacekeepers instead of dealing with it themselves."

"That was scary -- peacekeepers started to act like police," said Walters. At this point, Walters said, some of the peacekeeper trainers tried to cool the situation down. After a few days, they had succeeded in shifting the attitude to one of toleration of RCP members as long as they weren't actively advocating violence.

nonviolence to a universal imperative. But so far, this middle ground has remained a no man's land.

The RCP believes that it was kicked out of the Abalone camp because of anti-communism. Feng agrees that some red-baiting undercurrents existed. But Walters believes that "there was much more irritation and feelings of being dogmatized than anti-communism."

Some of that irritation was the

"Peacekeepers started to act like police."

But the incident had also shifted the way that peacekeepers were perceived, and the way they perceived themselves. "There were some people who liked the power," Walters commented. But when the policing function is given to a separate body of authority, the danger of overzealous individuals is transformed into one of abuse strengthened by institutional prerogative. The answer to the problem is not to bureaucratize and institutionalize the peacekeeping function, but to limit it and strip it of any unnecessary power.

The presence of the RCP and the overreactions of some peacekeepers heightened the tensions at the camp. One *IAT* staffer was mistaken for an RCP member, he said, and "shaken down" because he had a stack of newspapers under his arm.

Silence in No Man's Land

The testy atmosphere also served to clamp down on the allowable range of political debate. For example, anyone with an idea that happened to coincide with something the RCP talked about, such as opposition to nationalism, felt they had to apologize for it. Anyone who questioned nonviolence -- either as a philosophy or as a tactic -- was immediately identified with the RCP.

Yet the "official" version of nonviolence, as elaborated in the training sessions, was only one among many interpretations held by the blockaders, who were quite diverse in their political beliefs. There is an extensive middle ground between the RCP style, which has provoked police to attack them, and the Quaker view, which elevates

result of the RCP's arrogance, which probably stems from its conception of itself as a vanguard bringing "correct" ideas to the masses. This makes discussion or dialogue impossible. "It's like talking to the Moonies," said one Abalone.

More resentment derived from the RCP's free ride on the painstaking work that went into organizing the blockade. They were seen as political parasites trying to foster splits so that they could have one of the splinters for their very own Maoist antinuclear movement.

The issues that the RCP "raised" often devolved into a sterile polarization in which you were either for the RCP or against it, even though some of these questions were substantive. The presence of the American flag at the camp was the focus of much of the party's agitation. Veale felt that the flags identified the protesters as a "loyal opposition" and couldn't understand why they were tolerated when so many blockaders said they were opposed to what it stood for. "It comes down to whether or not you're going to defend the American empire," he said.

The RCP believes that its presence at the blockade forced into the open political questions that otherwise wouldn't have surfaced. Without the RCP, said Veale, discussions on these issues would have been confined "to whispers in the middle of the night." But it was the RCP itself, rather than the political points they made, that was the focus of confrontation.

-- Marcy Darnovsky

IAT staff



Announcements

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

A "Peace on Earth" candlelight vigil will be held December 14 at 7:30 in front of the Rockwell International western corporate offices in El Segundo (2230 E. Imperial Hwy off 405 by LAX). The vigil is sponsored by the Alliance for Survival, Concerned Citizens for National Security and the Intefait Center to Reverse the Arms Race. For more information call (213) 267-8789 or (213) 997-9922.

LIVERMORE ACTION

For those Abalone Alliance groups or individuals interested in a nonviolent action at Livermore Laboratory tentatively set for late December — please contact:

LIVERMORE ACTION GROUP
2110½ Ashby
Berkeley, CA 94705
(415) 841-7994

Your response vital to influence further decisions.

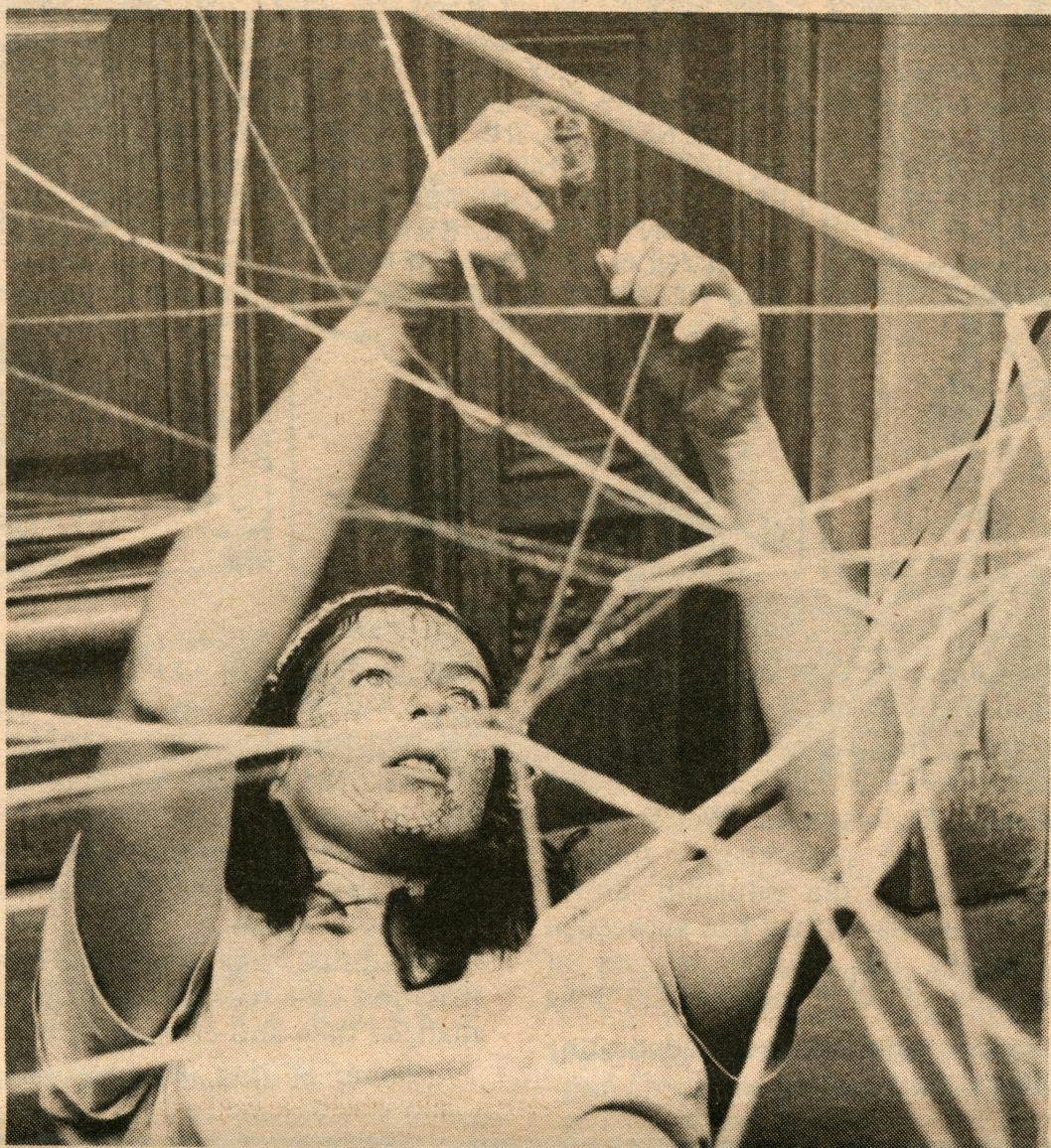


photo by Sue Bloch

"Weaving spiders" at the Bohemian Club in San Francisco

Weaving in the Bohemians

Sunday, November 15 began as a stormy, windy day with toppled power lines and slick dangerous roads. But that didn't deter 300 women from all over northern California who met in San Francisco's Civic Center to march to the exclusive, all-male Bohemian Club on Taylor Street.

The San Francisco protest coincided with the second women's action against the Pentagon, which drew women from Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden and West Germany to Washington, D.C.

The Bohemian Club was chosen as a target in order to illustrate the connections between social issues such as sexism, racism, nuclear power and war by exposing the men who profit from other people's suffering. The protest was organized by the feminism task force of the War Resisters League, a member of the Bohemian Grove Action Network, a coalition of 26 Sonoma County and Bay Area organizations.

When we reached the Bohemian

Club, we began weaving a huge web of yarn, string and rope which soon covered the entire front door of the club's block-long, ivy-covered building and stretched across the sidewalk to trees near the street. The image of the web was meant as a challenge to the club's motto, "Weaving spiders come not here," which the Bohemians use to claim that they don't discuss business or politics. Chanting and drums created a powerful background to the weaving of the web and the placement against the building of a hundred cardboard "tombstones" bearing the names of women killed as a result of patriarchal greed and oppression.

There was no response from inside the club, though we noticed faces peeking through the drapes in second-floor windows. We weren't bothered by the police during the hour we were there and by the time they came to cut down our "mistresspiece" we had captured the event on both movie and still film.

-- Mary Moore
Bohemian Grove Action Network

Decommission Humboldt

The Abalone Alliance will hold simultaneous statewide demonstrations against the Humboldt Bay nuclear plant on January 15. Local groups are encouraged to create their own actions focusing on decommissioning the plant. The Redwood Alliance will coordinate events and provide leaflets to local groups.

PG&E has known since 1973 that the Humboldt Bay reactor could not

withstand possible earthquakes in the area, yet refused to modify the plant or decommission it. In 1976 the NRC suspended the plant's license until it could be made safe.

The Public Utilities Commission, worried that utilities will not be able to afford decommissioning, will hold hearings in late January to discuss various financing schemes.

FUNDRAISING STRATEGIES

Dear friends,

This is a quick hello from the Abalone fundraisers to let you know how things are going, what our current needs are and suggestions on how we can work together.

The AA now has an ongoing canvass operating in San Francisco. Our policy is to give one-third of the net profits to the member groups in the community where the canvass is operating — this promotes harmony and a fair return to the local member group for the privilege of using its turf. We hope to canvass in other parts of the Bay Area as well.

Although geography prevents us from being able to offer this type of relationship to all AA member groups, we would like to share these skills with all interested Abalones. A canvass can raise hundreds of dollars in a community every week, and is also a good way to expand mailing lists. Please call or write for more information.

We would love to help coordinate a journal that chronicles the events at the Diablo blockade. Folks can send their poetry, prose, photos, songs and drawings to: Don't Fade Away / c/o Darlene and Monty / P.O. Box 114 / Cotati, CA 94928. It could emerge as a very powerful statement, documenting the culture

DIABLO DIARY

We wish to collect your experiences and impressions of Diablo — poems, vignettes, court statements, journal writings, and songs — into an anthology. We would like to give people a chance to understand in depth why we have taken this decision to blockade. Some suggestions are: how you made the decision to come, what it meant to you, and an evaluation of your blockade, support and jail experience. Please send these in by the end of December, 1981.

We could develop a book including photos and graphics which would be a good fund-raiser for the Abalone Alliance. Also, if anyone is interested in joining us as part of a writers' affinity group, please contact us to work on this project.

Cathy Gunderson, Melissa Everett,
Jane Miller, and Russ Groh
308 Cleveland
Santa Cruz, California 95060
(408) 427-1494

of hope and resistance that is growing throughout America.

It also offers an excellent way to do outreach to the local businesses, allied organizations and concerned individuals that may have not yet participated in Abalone actions. By soliciting advertisements and statements of solidarity for inclusion in the journal, we can raise some real money — much of which will go back directly to the local member groups. Contact us for further details. If only a few of you keep those cards and letters coming soon, we can do it.

Finally, we've sent out three fundraising mailings and are preparing for a large bulk mailing. We plan to reach out to subscribers of health and nutrition magazines, a practical means of broadening our base. The best way to do it is by swapping mailing lists.

This is a *real need*. Could member groups send us their mailing lists on a one-time only basis so that we can swap them with these magazines? No one will receive another fundraising appeal — only an offer for a magazine sub. We will be calling around the state on this request.

A benefit concert is also in the offing... stay tuned. We love to get letters, even nasty ones.

Tracey Schear
Bill Simpich

FELLOW BLOCKADERS

A number of us are embarking on an effort to collect and publish writings, drawings and photographs generated by peoples' experiences at the Diablo Canyon Blockade. Send jokes, songs, narratives, stories, whatever you desire. Please retain a copy of your creation for yourself. Looking forward to hearing from you.

Susan Birchier
c/O The Plan
P.O. Box 872
Santa Cruz, CA 95061

HOME ACTIVIST'S KIT

Concerned about nuclear power and weapons but don't know how to start doing something about them? The Home Activist's Kit can help you make a start. Handy for anyone but especially for those who are short on time. Send \$4.25 plus 80¢ for postage to Golden Gate Alliance, 2735 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94123.



photo by Sue Bloch

Police clear protestors' web after women's action in the Bohemian Club.

STATEWIDE ABALONE ACTION PLANNED

A rally, march and direct action in the financial district of San Francisco, agreed on at the Abalone spokes meeting on November 22 in Santa Cruz, will be held on February 16, 1982.

A "Hall of Shame" guided tour of nuclear corporations, ending at PG&E headquarters, will be followed by direct action/civil disobedience. The Abalone Alliance nonviolence code has been adopted for this action, and training will be required for participants.

A coordinating collective is meeting to plan the action. Help is needed in all areas, especially media, outreach and fundraising.

To make contributions or get information, call: San Francisco, Susan Lawrence (415) 661-3521; Santa Cruz, AC/DC (408) 425-8897; San Luis Obispo (805) 543-8402.

WHERE THE BOMBS ARE -- AND WILL BE

A map of "Nuclear Threats to the Bay Area" has been made into a three-color poster that shows the location of every major nuclear facility from Vallejo to San Jose, and from the Farallon Islands to Livermore.

The Pelican Alliance of western Marin County designed and produced the map, and is distributing it at cost. They hope that groups, schools and churches will use it. The 17" by 22" posters are available for \$1.00 each, or at bulk rates as low as \$40 for 100. Contact Pelican Alliance, Box 596, Pt. Reyes Station, CA 94956, (415) 663-8483.

MEMO FROM THE DPO

Phase 1 is over but our work is not. . .
1. Many items were left behind in San Luis Obispo. They range from sleeping bags to keys and binoculars. We cannot store these items indefinitely. Please contact the Diablo Project Office if you lost something or still have someone else's possessions.

2. We still have Blockade buttons, T-shirts and handbooks that can be purchased. Please contact the DPO.
3. And as usual funds are needed to continue our efforts. We now have to defend ourselves in the Pacific Legal Foundation lawsuit. Financial help is desperately needed.

4. Any pictures of the Blockade would be appreciated. Many publications are asking for them. Please send immediately to the DPO.

Thanks for all your support,
Diablo Project Office
452 Higuera St.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 543-6614, 543-7518

STAFF POSITION

People Against Nuclear Power has an opening for an Organizer/Office Manager. Good coordinating skills and knowledge of antinuclear issues are essential. Twenty hours per week. Pay is \$400 per month. Application deadline is December 15. Call (415) 781-5342.

ANTINUCLEAR NEW YEAR'S EVE

On December 31 at 11:30 p.m. the Third Annual Nuclear Free 80's celebration will be held at UN Plaza Fountain, near Market and 7th, San Francisco. Call (415) 334-0795.

ABALONE MOVES DEC 11

Circumstances are forcing us to relocate the statewide Abalone Alliance office. Persons in the Bay area with van or truck willing to help us sometime after December first, please call. Also, donations of any of the following would be immensely appreciated: file cabinet, carpeting or rug, table lamps, curtains. Thanks, for Abalone Alliance, Susan (415) 543-3910.

LITERATURE NEEDED

Does your group have literature it would like to distribute? Please send copies of materials that your group has produced on nuclear and safe energy issues to the Abalone statewide office. We hope to initiate regular mailing to local groups in the spring that will include new literature.

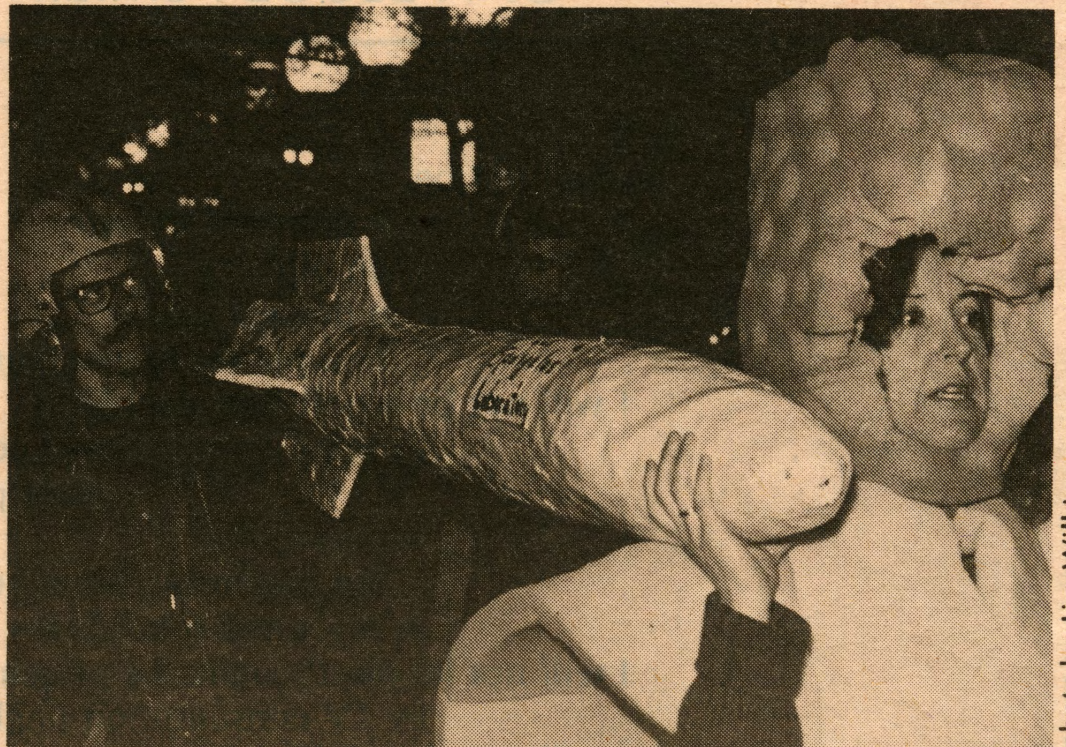


photo by Jim Wilkin

Demonstrations marred the otherwise comfortable semi-annual meetings of the "Bohemian Club" of the nuclear industry, the Atomic Industrial Forum and the American Nuclear Society, both of which were in San Francisco recently.

The AIF is an international organization of utility executives, reactor manufacturers and builders, and other nuclear industry leaders. The ANS is a major technical organization of nuclear scientists and supporters who publish technical papers and educational materials for distribution.

Over 100 demonstrators picketed outside the Hilton and St. Francis hotels. The Mutant Sponges are shown here with a missile to point out the connections between nuclear weapons and power.

-Terry Lamphier

AA Safe Energy Groups

ABALONE ALLIANCE OFFICE: 2940 16th St., #310, San Francisco, CA 94103 • 415-543-3910

DIABLO PROJECT OFFICE: 452 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 • 805-543-6614, 543-7518

NORTH

ALBION:
WOMEN FOR SURVIVAL, Box 415/95410 • (707) 937-0090

ARCATA:
REDWOOD ALLIANCE EDUCATIONAL COLLECTIVE, P.O. Box 293/95221 • (707) 822-7884

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

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

LAYTONVILLE:
CAHTO ALLIANCE FOR RESPONSIBLE ENERGY, P.O. Box 902 • (707) 984-6170

LITTLE RIVER:
ALLUS MOLLUSKS, P.O. Box 361/95456 (707) 937-4068

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

OCCIDENTAL:
BOHEMIAN GROVE ACTION NETWORK, P.O. Box 216/95465 • (707) 874-2248

PHILO:
ANDERSON VALLEY NUCLEAR AWARENESS COMMITTEE, Box 136 / 95466 • (707) 895-3048

PORTLAND, OREGON:
SOLARITY, 5903 S.W. Corbett / 97201

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

SANTA ROSA:
SO NO MORE Atomics, 1030 Second Street / 95402 (707) 874-2702

SONOMA:
NO NUKE OF THE NORTH, 429 Bettencourt St./95476 (707) 938-0622

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

CENTRAL VALLEY & SIERRA

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

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

FRESNO:
PEOPLE FOR SAFE ENERGY, 175 Blackstone / 93701 (209) 266-5471, 485-9444

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

MOKELUMNE HILL:
FOOTHILL ALLIANCE FOR PEACE, P.O. Box 127/95445 (209) 754-3721

NEVADA CITY:
NEVADA COUNTY PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, 419 Spring Street/95945 (916) 272-6418

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

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

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

GREATER BAY AREA

BERKELEY/OAKLAND:

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

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

BOLINAS:
BOLINAS AGAINST NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION, P.O. Box 708 / 94924 • (415) 868-0245

LEGAL ACTION FOR UNDERMINING GOVERNMENT HARASSMENT IN SOCIETY, P.O. Box 249/94924 (209) 754-3721

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

PALO ALTO:
CITIZENS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO NUCLEAR ENERGY, P.O. Box 377 / 94302 • (415) 328-0367, 857-9251

PLEASANT HILL:
CONTRA COSTANS FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, P.O. Box 23103/94503 (415) 934-5249

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

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

SAN JOSE:
GROUP OPPOSING NUCLEAR ENERGY, 520 S. 10th St./95112 • (408) 297-2299

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

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

GOLDEN GATE ALLIANCE,
2735 Franklin/94123 (415) 673-7422

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

CENTRAL COAST

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

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

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

SANTA CRUZ:
ACTION COMMUNITY ON DIABLO CANYON, P.O. Box 693/95060 (408) 426-6099
PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, P.O. Box 1236/95060 (408) 425-1275

SANTA MARIA:
UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH, 510 S. Thornburg #F/93454 (805) 922-3079, 922-1309

SANTA MARGARITA:
PLEXURE, Star Route 313 / 93453 • (805) 438-5235

SOUTH

LOS ANGELES:
ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL, 1473 Echo Park Ave./90026 (213) 617-2118

DIABLO CANYON TASK FORCE, 12304 Burbank Blvd. #5/91607 • (213) 761-8727

OJAI:
STOP URANIUM NOW, P.O. Box 772/93023 (408) 426-6099

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

SAN DIEGO:
COMMUNITY ENERGY ACTION NETWORK, P.O. Box 33686/92103 (714) 275-1162

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

TOPANGA:
LOU SNIT P.O. Box 1283/90290 (213) 455-2867, 455-2768

VENICE:
GEO, 102 Wavecrest Ave./90402 • (213) 396-1479

VENTURA:
VENTURA ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL, c/o Ron Cone, P.O. Box 308 / 93002 • (805) 642-0584

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

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



PAN: Poets Against Nukes

THE PLEDGE OF A HUMAN ANIMAL, OF A BLOODY SMILING FOOL

Kirk Lumpkin

I will not be
a drone of industry
an oily cog
a devoed clone
or a plastic mannequin
I will not be a polished steel ball
in some multinational corporation's
giant pinball game
with nothing
but electronic bleeps repeating
in my wired robot brain
I will not let my thoughts be programmed
by TV consumption jingles
I will not cheerfully join
the disco-mechano lockstep
toward doom
I will live
in protest of chemical poisons
nuclear weapons and reactors
until they are stopped
or made safe
or i am split
like an atom
Part of me becoming unbelievably beautiful
part burning unbearably powerful
My mutant cells growing wilder
than my own imagination

Ira Cohen's poem originally appeared in *Dream Helmet*, No. 1, 1978.
Kirk Lumpkin's poem originally appeared in *City Miner*, No. 15, 1980.

PAN: Poets Against Nukes, P.O. Box 1139, Berkeley, California 94701 USA

I STAND INVERTED

Ira Cohen

I stand inverted
at the crossroads
of many mirrors
rippling on the
intersection of
the soul's geometry
or the explosion of
a single point
(silk)
making streamers to
illuminate
interior verandas
of darkness
in seeds
which
grow
wherever they fall
I see wheels of teeth
invisible fulcrums
& the weavers are weaving
new glyphs in the sky
Radioactive
we decompose by
spontaneous
emission
It is something like growing
WINGS or fingers,
a trembling of waves
between
the poles:
a falling & a rising up!

Abalone Alliance

GIVE THE GIFT THAT GIVES THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY A HEADACHE

Individual Membership ☐ \$15
Friend of the Alliance ☐ \$25 or more*
Fixed Income ☐ \$ _____

Membership entitles you to a year's subscription to **It's About Times**, the Abalone Alliance newsletter, and an informational packet. We have purposely set up individual membership so everyone can join and give support. This is a non-decision making membership.

*If you can afford more, you will be helping someone who lives on a fixed income.

☐ Send gift cards to recipients with my greeting

NEW ADDRESS: *It's About Times*, 2940 16th St. #310,
San Francisco, CA 94103

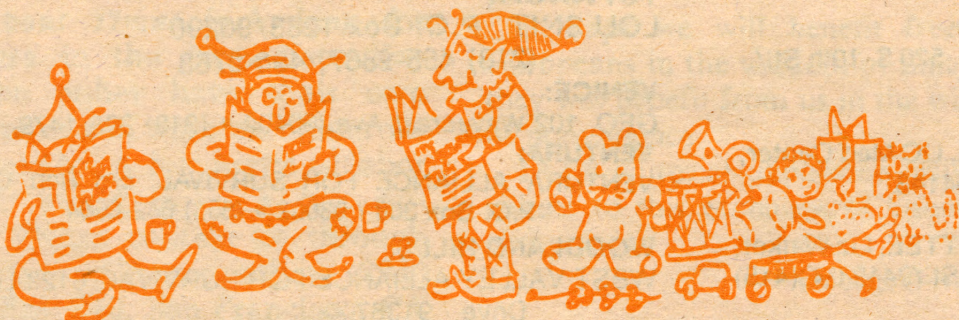
Donations of \$25 or more are tax-deductible and should be made payable to the Agape Foundation.

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It's About Times

Abalone Alliance Newspaper

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