

It's About Times

November—mid-December 1980

Prime time Armageddon

"This is not an exercise," the general aboard the flying command post is informed. B-52 crews are in their cockpits with engines running and Minutemen launch control centers are on red alert. On the screen a sensational bolt-out-of-the-blue Russian nuclear attack on the United States unfolds. Thirty-four minutes after first alert, the US President, with only a handful of his strategic arsenal intact, cancels all retaliation. Deterrence has failed because of inferior weapons which never got off the ground. America bows to Kremlin demands.

These dramatic scenes are from "First Strike," a "documentary" aired October 14 by San Francisco's KRON-TV.

Following producer Tex Fuller's visions of World War III, "First Strike" continues with interviews of pro-armament luminaries. Strategic Air Commander Richard Ellis deplores the tardiness in modernizing US forces. Former Secretary of Defense and Energy Czar James Schlesinger claims the USSR outspends the entire free world on military might and alludes to sinister motives. Paul Nitze dogmatizes Soviet intentions regarding expansion in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere. Under Secretary of Defense William Perry pleads the need for more survivable MX missiles.

In the wake of these hawkish heavies the viewer understandably feels worried. The stream of undeciphered technical jargon ("updated NCA succession list," Look-



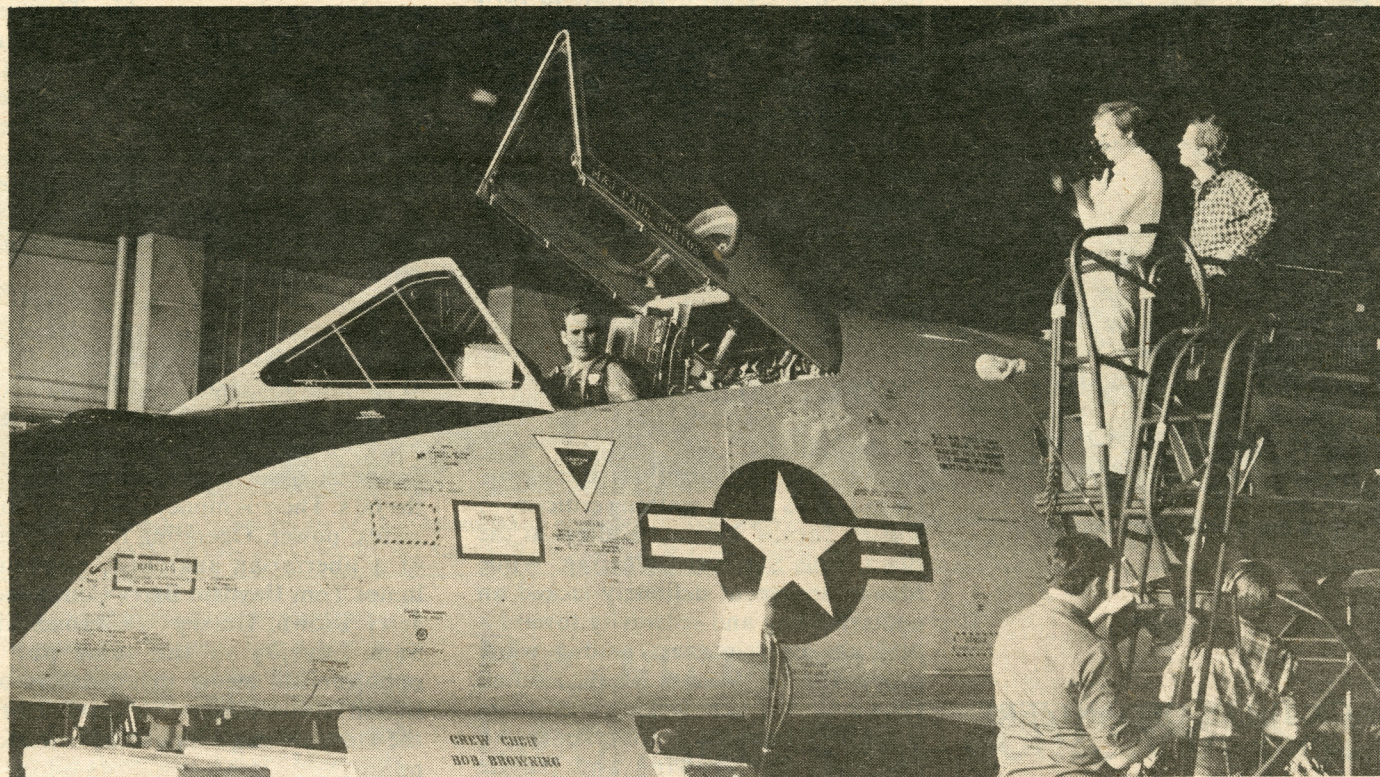
ing Glass, Pave Paws, Norad, etc.) doesn't help to motivate John Q. Public to critically analyze what is presented. The normal reaction is to leave this complicated stuff to the "experts."

Threaded throughout this one-hour presentation is the urgency of updating US strategic weapons. Professor Edward N. Luttwak of Georgetown University describes the need for more money, more competition, and conscription of young people so the money will be used efficiently. No mention is made of the profits reaped by arms manufacturers or the business lobby that shapes military and foreign

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A KRON-TV crew films an F-106 fighter for a scene in *First Strike*. Producers said the show was an "authentic simulation." Critics called it a genuine fake.

photo courtesy KRON-TV

Diablo licensing near Last stand on seismic issue

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeals Board staged what may be the last hearing on the earthquake safety of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant during the week of October 20 in San Luis Obispo. Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), Mothers for Peace, Governor Brown and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff presented seismologists, geologists, geophysicists, and civil engineers to the appeals board in a final showdown over the issue that has delayed the licensing of the plant for at least seven years.

The three appeals board members are Richard S. Salzman, an attorney, Dr. W. Reed Johnson, a nuclear engineer, and Dr. John H. Buck, a nuclear physicist. Both Johnson and Buck had ruled on previous Diablo appeals, always in favor of PG&E.

The technical issue before the appeals board was whether last year's Imperial Valley earthquake undermined the September, 1979 decision by an NRC licensing board that Diablo could withstand any probable earthquake. The Imperial Valley quake registered 6.4 to 6.9 on the Richter scale, and damaged a six-story county services building so heavily that it was condemned. That building was designed to withstand earthquakes and plant opponents say its failure casts doubt on earthquake damage predictions.

The Imperial Valley quake is considered key to the Diablo Canyon analysis because instruments were in place near the source of the earthquake. For the first time, "near-field" effects were measured. Diablo Canyon, situated relatively close to a fault, would be subjected to near field effects in an earthquake.

When the hearings opened, Governor Brown's legal affairs secretary, Byron Georgio, warned that the NRC's credibility was hanging in the balance. Georgio said the NRC should make Diablo the first plant to be denied a license in the history of nuclear power regulation.

"It is a two billion dollar mistake," he said. PG&E should bear the loss, not the people of California." The spectators, about 75 people, burst into applause.

Since most of the testimony had already

been submitted in written form, there were few surprises. Oral testimony was mainly limited to cross-examination, questioning and rebuttal.

Mothers for Peace, Governor Brown and other plant opponents argued that the Imperial Valley quake produced greater horizontal ground motions than were assumed in the larger shake that PG&E claims the Diablo plant will withstand. Vertical motions, especially damaging to nuclear plant equipment, were also worse than expected in the Imperial Valley earthquake.

PG&E said that the Imperial Valley data, when analyzed, does not show such severe ground motions. They also argued that the deep soft soil of the Imperial Valley aggravated the motions. Diablo Canyon is built on rock, which they said would reduce the shaking. PG&E also claimed that there is a damping effect on earthquake motion when forces from the quake travel from the earth through the foundation and structure of a building.

Later, under cross-examination, H. Bolton Seed, a professor of civil engineering and geotechnical engineering at the University of California at Berkeley, contradicted his fellow PG&E consultants about the difference between rock and soil. He said that during large earthquakes rock might actually transmit greater ground motions than the soft soil at the Imperial Valley. He also said that the damping effect relied on by PG&E might not be important on rock.

When asked why he would take a position contrary to PG&E's position in the litigation, Seed said, "That is what I believe. I have to be honest."

During the hearings, PG&E was confronted with its own map of the faults near Diablo Canyon, showing a fault line directed towards the Diablo Canyon plant site. It appeared from the map that the fault was a branch of the Hosgri faultline, although some experts doubt this.

According to geophysicist James Brune from the University of California at San Diego, a rupture of the Hosgri fault could send earthquake forces down through this

new fault if it is a branch. As the shock waves travel towards the plant, they could become amplified in what Brune calls seismic focusing. The result is higher destructive shaking of the nuclear power plant.

In a heated cross-examination, PG&E's attorney Bruce Norton forced the exclusion of a graph used by Brune. The controversy broke out over a graph illustrating Brune's discussion of a different method for evaluating the Imperial Valley quake. The graph was prepared by a graduate student under his supervision, however in Brune's written testimony he had said he had prepared the graph. Norton tried to attack him for the apparent discrepancy and for errors Brune had found in the graph.

"Mr. Brune," Norton said, "As a scientist, you are a scientist, aren't you?"

"I object," shouted attorney David Fleischaker.

Hearing chair Salzman admonished Norton to behave like a gentleman and

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Letters



In the September issue of *IAT* we ran a piece expressing our concerns with the literature review policy at the Black Hills Survival Gathering last July. We also published excerpts from Russell Means' keynote speech with a reply. The following letters are responses from our readers to these articles. The September issue is available for \$1.00 from the *IAT* office. Keep those cards and letters coming in.

BLACK HILLS ORGANIZERS RESPOND

Friends at *IAT*:

We appreciate your efforts to be sure that the planners of the Black Hills Survival Gathering have input in the dialogue about the event. Our response to your editorial on our literature review policy must be brief, as the Survival Gathering was only one high point in an ongoing, front-line struggle.

A bit of background is that local media coverage of the 1979 Black Hills Gathering was so poor that we spent the next six months rebuilding — while at the same time building for the Survival Gathering. We had a great deal of internal discussion around a literature review policy for the 1980 event, and it all boiled down to one question: "do we want to successfully organize in South Dakota?" — which is backed by the implicit question "do we want to stop uranium mining here?" The answers to both questions being "Yes!" we began planning a literature review policy.

It is very easy for people who live and work in areas of the country where large differences in people and ideas are tolerated to yell "censorship" but they do not deal with day-to-day life in a very conservative, rural area — and they do not have to organize here. The Black Hills cannot be saved by people who live on the Coasts, although we need your help. It has to be done by people who live here, and if we turn our neighbors off we are simply turning the Hills over to the corporations to rampage as they want. As Claire and Fran noted, we want people to focus on the issues, and they won't do that here or anywhere if they are turned off by surface appearances and won't listen.

As John Trudell noted during the Gathering, if you hold an event in California and ask that certain policies be followed by those attending, we will attend and will follow your policies. Your area is very different from ours, and we wouldn't want to hurt your organizing efforts. We asked the same respect of those coming to South Dakota, and we were very glad to see that respect given by the vast majority of those who came here. The result has been good coverage in the local press that has led to increased interest, credibility and organization among our neighbors.

—For Survival,
Lilias Jones
for the International
Survival Gathering Staff

PURE AND SIMPLEX

Dear Baloneys:

Re your whining about alleged censorship on the part of the Black Hills crowd: Did you or did you not require the governor of California, duly elected and all that, to let you edit and approve his statement at a Diablo Canyon rally a year or so ago?

—Herbert Simplex
San Francisco CA

Ed. response: We at IAT weren't asking the Black Hills organizers to turn over their stage to anyone that happened to show up at the last minute, as Governor Brown did at Diablo Canyon last June. But we felt it was wrong for them to insist on approving every piece of literature that participants in the gathering brought along. Applying the same principle to the Diablo rally, Brown was free to say whatever he wished in whatever leaflets he wanted to pass out.

OBJECTS TO TONE

To the Editors:

I was deeply disturbed by Marcy Darnovsky's recent scathing criticism of Russell Means' keynote address at the Black Hills Survival Gathering. While Means' statement definitely lacked an understanding and sensitivity toward a new age consciousness among white people for our Mother Earth, I found Darnovsky's article lacking even more sensitivity towards Native American concepts, the growing and fragile alliance between the safe energy/survivalist movement and American Indians, and Means' own words.

In fact, Marcy's criticism was an overreaction and could easily be construed as a blind defense of Marxism; a social outlook that has proved itself to be equally at fault in the exploitation and destruction of the Earth as capitalism. (As Russell Means has pointed out, the answers to this destruction are not so much a matter of political ideologies as they are a question of spiritualities: "Science has become the new European religion for both capitalists and Marxists...". I would amend that statement in saying that the benevolent use of science certainly has its place. It is scientism that is at fault.)

The most disturbing element of Marcy Darnovsky's criticism was its sarcastic and hostile tone. This too, like Means' reverse cultural imperialism, "is most definitely not the way to forge a real solidarity between peoples of different cultures." It speaks poorly for the non-violence, sisterhood and brotherhood that our movement has stood for, and that the Abalone Alliance has been so much a part of. Demeaning allusions about "romantic" ideas on nature and denial of the influence of the Great Spirit, are uncomfortably close to cultural imperialism also. This lack of sensitivity coupled with Means' statements taken out of context (ie. "set himself up as a prophet", reject all technologies) and the fostering of paranoia within the movement as to Native Americans attempting to assume leadership, shows a lack of clear thought and places Marcy Darnovsky's motives into question.

In the interest of solidarity, I would ask Marcy to reconsider her harsh words and, perhaps, make a point of becoming more familiar with thoughts and feelings within the Native American culture.

—in peace,
Don Ogden
Wellfleet, MA

MATTERS OF THE HEART

Dear *IAT*,

Re the excerpt from Russell Means' "speech" at the Black Hills Gathering printed in the September issue of *IAT*.

For many, what Russell Means says is irritating, even shocking. He states that the industrialism of whites is a basic problem in the degradation of life.

Anyone who has heard Dennis Banks will already have heard that Native Americans believe in Mother Earth, a kind of spirituality.

This does not sit well with the left progressives who are lost if logic is not the sole measure of action. In the push to rationalization (intellectualism) many activists believe that the social environment is the determinant, not one factor in what happens.

Further enraging was the insistence that the Black Hills Gathering control the content of any material there. This may be viewed as censorship. The complaint that any and all material should be allowed means that those who do the work and spend their money are subject to the whim of outsiders. Movement people often appear to be outsiders by their actions. It is normal for organizers to decide well in advance the tone of an action or conference. Whoever pays the piper calls the tune.

Russell Means' comments should be read in conjunction with Murray Bookchin's (also an excerpt) in *WIN* September 15, 1980, "The Selling of the Ecology Movement." Ecology has been had by us and is being done to death. It has been co-opted as was rock music of the 60's. There is money in ecology, also status, power. Operating from the bias of a libertarian anarchist, Bookchin lumps Tom Hayden, Barry Commoner, Jerry Brown, Harvey Wasserman and Sam Lovejoy in the same pot of opportunistic media manipulators out to win constituencies, for good. This is the same old bag with a shiny new decal on it.

It is such anathema to believe that our little minds are not the summit of the natural world. We are indeed as ants, in the cosmos, numerous, but not well organized and in combat with nature rather than in concert. Native Americans do accept that there is more than determinism; whether it is Mother Earth, God (before Christianity joined the State) or an unnamed spiritual force. It is out there and available. What boggles the intellectual head is that the heart is just as much a part of the whole, though unprovable by the rules of logic.

—Samuel R. Tyson
Modesto CA

MORE ON MEANS

First off, let's concede a point or two to Mr. Means. The overwhelming thrust of "European" philosophy and science from the seventeenth century to the beginning of this one was indeed narrowly rationalist and utilitarian. This thrust paralleled the furious advance of capitalist industry and commerce, with all its attendant looting and destruction of workers, non-capitalist societies and the natural environment. But most "Marxist" and "Socialist" tendencies have failed to make an adequate critique either of capitalist industry or of the ideas which accompanied and supported its rise.

Given all this, Marcy Darnovsky's response, while generally excellent, does not quite meet the case. "Machines do not oppress. People and social systems do," she writes. This is true to a point, but leaves her open to easy counter-arguments from Mr. Means and his ilk. The very existence of the anti-nuclear/safe energy movement is a recognition in acts that technologies are neither socially nor ecologically neutral, and that some are inherently destructive. Technologies embody the social relationships within which they are created.

Marx himself showed that industrial machinery and organization are shaped not simply by the need for profit, but by an unremitting effort to strip workers of control over their work and thus deprive them of means of resistance. Hence a great deal of existing industry would

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Help prevent burnout

...ours. We're trying to find a few individuals or an affinity group in the Bay Area willing to help us send *IAT* to subscribers every month. The mailing is usually on the first Tuesday of the month and can be done either during the day or in the evening. It's easy, the company's good, and it's only a few hours of work for a group of three or four. Your help would let us regain our sanity after a long weekend of layout, and do a better job of organizing the next issue.

Please leave a message for us at 415-543-3910.



photo by Karl

Abalone Alliance Newspaper

It's About Times

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

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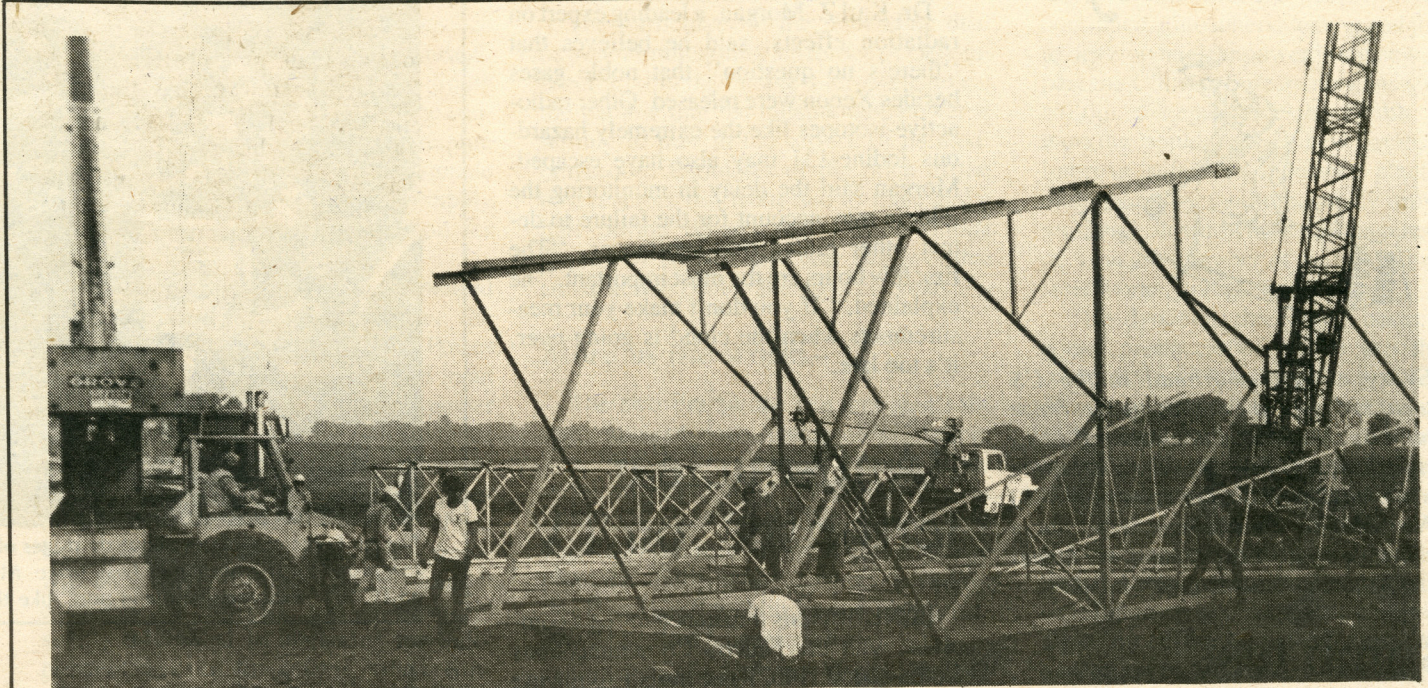
IAT welcomes letters, articles, photos and artwork from its readers, but reserves the right to edit them.

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Here come the Feds!

On September 9, the Federal Rural Electrification Association took over control of the high-voltage powerline that Minnesota farmers have been fighting for over four years. The utilities that built the line, United Power Association (UPA) and Cooperative Power Association (CPA), say that they supported the federal takeover because it will allow the FBI to come in and control the sabotage that state authorities have been unable to halt. But the protesters point out that the FBI has been quietly involved for a long time already. They believe that the main motivation for the takeover is to cover up the financial mismanagement of the UPA and CPA and assure them of more federally-guaranteed funds. The cost of the powerline has gone from the original estimate of \$536 million to \$1.2 billion.

The farmers are ready for the Feds. Their newsletter, *Hold That Line*, says "It will now be a little easier for people to understand just who is responsible for this dangerous boondoggle. We are by no means done with the lackies and puppets running around at UPA and CPA, but we are now a few steps closer to getting to the bottom of this whole sordid affair. As for the FBI, we are well aware of their history of attacking people who are only trying to gain a little control over their own lives. We will continue to educate ourselves and become more familiar with ways of defending each other. We are also looking



Minnesota powerline protesters are at a loss to explain an epidemic of "bolt weevils" that has toppled 14 of the line's towers since 1977. Here the 13th to go down gets a resurrection on August 29, two days after it fell. Tower number 14 met the same fate a week later.

photo courtesy Northern Sun News

forward to a few laughs at their expense."

For more on the powerline protest and the health dangers of the line, see *It's About Times*, April 1980 (we'll send you one for \$1) or contact: General Assembly to Stop the Powerline, Lowry Minnesota, 56349, (612) 283-5439.

PG&E's gas boost raises stink

"What's the point in turning off the juice, if PG&E won't turn back the tankers?" With this neat rephrasing of a PG&E ad, the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) finally did a little "turning back" of its own on October 8. The PUC refused PG&E's request for a \$589 million annual boost in natural gas rates. It also reduced by \$13.8 million the amount PG&E can recover from its customers for gas already purchased, citing "imprudence" in spending.

In February the Canadian government raised the price of natural gas. PG&E's response was to buy more of the costly gas in February and March than required by its Canadian contracts. Then it reduced its purchases of half-as-expensive California gas in April to even out its supply. PG&E claims its pattern of buying was necessary, even though it was removing gas from storage to burn in power plants—an unusual practice—at the same time it was paying a premium price for Canadian gas.

This irked the PUC. It has been publicly pressuring PG&E to renegotiate its gas contract with the Canadian producers from whom it buys about half its natural gas. The PUC wants PG&E to eliminate the "take or pay" provisions which require the utility to buy 90% of the gas under contract in a given year, or pay a penalty nearly as high as buying the remaining gas.

As a result of the take or pay provisions PG&E must buy Canadian gas (which has doubled in price in three months) at \$4.47 per 1000 cubic feet (tcf) instead of California gas at \$2.30 tcf or El Paso gas from the Southwest at slightly more. For years the PUC has allowed PG&E to buy less than half the gas available to it from northern California producers.

What's in it for PG&E? The utility has a 53% ownership of Pacific Gas Transmission Co. which pipes gas from Canada to California, but Michel Florio of Toward Utility Rate Normalization (TURN) thinks PG&E's preference for Canadian gas is due more to corporate worries about continued supply. "It's very embarrassing among your buddies in other utilities when you lose your supply. Who cares what the rates are—they're picked up dollar-for-dollar by rate payers... Even if it means \$700,000 a day in excess gas costs in the summer months, which it does, they're

willing to pay rather than run the risk that in 1990 they may not have as much gas supply as they want."

Florio also points out that PG&E is essentially the only buyer of gas produced in northern California and owns the pipelines to most of the gas wells. "PG&E has a monopoly buyer relationship... they treat the California producers the way they'd treat their customers if they weren't regulated by the PUC." But there are many buyers for the Canadian gas and PG&E says it must keep up its regular purchases in order to assure future supply.

TURN's arguments on PG&E's mismanaged purchases were largely accepted by the PUC. Dissatisfied with the pace of contract negotiations between PG&E and its Canadian suppliers, the PUC decided on October 8th to refuse the rise in rates and await clearer estimates of future supplies and costs.

According to a PUC official interviewed by *It's About Times*, action on the "take or pay" provision by the Federal Agency Regulatory Agency "appears imminent" after months of negotiations. The likely outcome, said this official, would reduce PG&E's yearly obligation to the Canadian producers from 90% of the contracted amount to something less than 80%. The difference would mean that PG&E could buy nearly all of the available California gas.

A PUC official interviewed in the *Sacramento Bee* in April called the take or pay provisions tantamount to "extortion." He noted that if PG&E wasn't always reimbursed through customer rate increases, "it is very possible PG&E would have found a way out of that contract." Florio points out that since the price of Canadian gas has more than doubled since the contracts were drawn up, PG&E probably couldn't be held to the 90% take or pay provisions.

The PUC's refusal to allow PG&E to collect the \$13.8 million that it has already spent may have "put the fear of God into management," Florio says. In its gas rate application for 1981, PG&E requested permission to buy only 84% of the full Canadian contract amount. Suddenly the utility seems to have stopped worrying about the penalties that would supposedly be levied by the Canadian companies.

—Ward Young

Big turnout at labor/anti-nuke conference

More than 800 union members turned out for the First National Labor Conference for Safe Energy and Full Employment held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on October 10 to 12. The unexpectedly large conference, whose sponsors included the Machinists, Autoworkers, Mineworkers and six other international unions, marks the first time a significant segment of the labor movement has come out against nuclear power. A broad spectrum of union leaders, staff and members came from 57 unions in 31 states, including California.

"A year ago we had a tough time getting just twenty unionists to sign our anti-nuclear declaration," explained one conference organizer. "This conference is a milestone."

Large numbers of Mineworkers attended and distributed information arguing that coal could be burned cleanly with new technology and mined safely. Mineworkers President Sam Church Jr. said in his keynote speech that coal is the most available immediate energy alternative. Machinists president William Winpisinger's keynote speech emphasized solar energy, energy efficiency, and diversification of energy sources to "get off the dependency hook."

The conference resolved to conduct educational activities among co-workers, establish safe energy committees in unions, organize regional safe energy/full employment conferences, and work in coalition with the rest of the anti-nuclear movement to commemorate Karen Silkwood week, November 8-16, through rallies and other activities. (Silkwood, a nuclear worker, was killed in a mysterious car accident six years ago while bringing documentation of safety violations at her plant to a meeting with a reporter and a union official. The documents were never found.)

Few building trades unionists attended the conference. Construction workers traditionally have favored nuclear power and account for much of labor's pro-nuclear image. About 35 members of a Pittsburgh construction local of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers staged a pro-nuclear picket line outside, reminding the participants inside that labor's debate over nuclear power is by no means settled. By contrast, several members of utility locals of IBEW, some anti-nuclear and some pro-nuclear, participated in the conference and opposed the picketing.

While education about energy was the main focus, some delegates discussed strategies for developing and winning a safe energy program. An Assistant Director in the Political Action Department of

the State, County, and Municipal employee's union (AFSCME) in Staten Island said his union and others are going to join with community groups to press for funding a study of the possibility of public ownership and control of Consolidated Edison.

The main national coalition in which labor has previously addressed energy issues, the Citizen/Labor Energy Coalition, has consciously ignored the nuclear question in order to keep the coalition as broad as possible. The Pittsburgh conference was a significant departure from this strategy.

—Liv Smith
Abalone Alliance Labor Task Force

Liv Smith will report on the conference on November 11 and 12. See Calendar, p12

Help!

Dear reader,

It's About Times is facing its most serious financial crisis since we began nearly two years ago. As of now, we do not have enough money to print another issue. Although we are expecting some foundation support, it is uncertain when we will receive it. We need your help now.

We appreciate the support of everyone who has subscribed to *IAT*, and that of the many local groups which help us pay for the copies that are given away free. We hesitate to ask you for more money, but just a few dollars now will help us get through this difficult period.

If you are reading a free sample of this issue, we especially appeal to you. The paper you are holding is there because a subscriber provided money so we could print it. By subscribing, you can help us survive and make this information available to other people.

We are all forced to support nuclear power every time we pay an electric bill. We are forced to support more nuclear weapons when the government takes taxes out of our paychecks. PG&E and the government don't have to ask for your support; they just arrange things for their own convenience.

IAT won't turn off your electricity or throw you in jail if you don't send us money. But just a small part of what you "give" PG&E each month will let us continue. Please fill out the blank on page 12 and send it now.

Bombs Away!



Every nuclear warhead in the US arsenal is designed either at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) 40 miles east of San Francisco or at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory (LASL) in New Mexico. This column keeps you in touch with what's happening at the homes of the A-bomb, H-bomb and N-bomb.

Bomb test leak cover-up

Three days after the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory published a new five-year plan which calls for doubling the number of its nuclear weapons tests, the lab's test shot "Riola" leaked radioactive gas from its underground cavern at the Nevada Test Site (NTS).

Though the Department of Energy claimed that "radioactive monitoring teams were immediately sent into the area to ensure the safety of workers at the NTS," off-site monitoring stations were not notified of the leak until twelve hours after it occurred.

In Lathrup Wells, 40 miles southwest of the NTS and just ten miles from the California border, radioactive Xenon-133 was measured at 20 times background level. According to Environmental Protection Agency spokesman Don Eisman, "It was not a significant amount. There are no known health effects and no detectable levels other than at Lathrup Wells."

Critics, however, charge that the notification delay may have resulted in inaccurate measurement of the amounts and types of radioactive materials released. California health authorities said they learned of the leak from the media, sixteen hours after it happened and too late to measure gas that may have drifted into the state. California Department of Health Services Director Beverlee Myers said, "These weapons tests have presented a health hazard in the

past and we're concerned that they might again in the future." In a letter to the NTS manager, Myers stressed the need for "appropriate notification mechanisms so that we can effectively respond to future radiation releases from the Nevada Test Site."

Dr. Karl Z. Morgan, a leading expert on radiation effects, said he believes that "there's no question" that noble gases besides Xenon were released. Other radioactive isotopes like the extremely hazardous Iodine-131 may also have escaped. Morgan said the delay in monitoring the release may account for the failure to detect other radioactive substances. "The first few hours are the most important," he explained. "If you don't make your measurements when the cloud is going over, it's too late."

"Anti-nuclear terrorists" on TV

LLNL officials threatened to file a complaint with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) last month following the broadcast of a KRON-TV series on lab health and safety hazards. LLNL spokesman Jeff Garberson called the series a "hatchet job" and a forum for "anti-nuclear terrorists. KRON went out of its way to terrify the viewers," he said.

The four-part series included interviews with former lab director John Gofman, Andy Baldwin of Friends of the Earth, and Conversion Project member Will Riggan. It addressed the hazards posed by plutonium use at the lab, the earthquake threat and the lab's abnormally high incidence of the rare skin cancer melanoma.

Lab Executive Associate Director Richard Wagner threatened KRON with the complaint in a letter requesting rebuttal time. In response, KRON reporter Evan White wrote, "Contrary to your allegation, opinions that differed from Dr. Gofman's were not limited to 'fruit vendors and housewives,' but included points of view by both yourself and representatives of the Department of Energy."

KRON has offered to rebroadcast the series followed by an open discussion with all original participants and any "objective experts" Wagner wishes to invite. "We continue to stand by the program. We're delighted to put the show on. It's only up to the lab to say yes or no," said KRON news director Jean Harper.

To date the lab has made no decision.

—Sue Bloch

UC Nuclear Weapons Labs Conversion Project



The Air Force complains about shortages of defense equipment, but was able to spare a few props for the filming of *First Strike*. Much of the show's action took place aboard an EC-135 "airborne command post" like this, with actors provided by the military.

FIRST STRIKE

(continued from page 1)

policy. No mention is made of the possibility of meaningful arms reduction treaties which can be adequately verified with today's technology. The only options presented are upping the Pentagon's 52-percent bite on our tax dollar or perishing in nuclear war.

Viewers of "First Strike" would have been well-advised to pay close attention to verb tenses. Producer Fuller fell victim to the Pentagon practice of comparing present US capabilities with what the Soviets could develop in the future. General Ellis alleges that they will soon be able to destroy 90 percent of US ICBMs (intercontinental ballistic missiles). Dr. Perry alludes to a possible Soviet advance in submarine detection. But these are merely future uncertainties. Then the film states that only ICBMs can attack "time urgent targets," a euphemism for missile silos. Submarine-launched missiles, it claims, are not accurate enough and bombers are too slow. This postulates that if Russia can destroy the US ICBMs her missiles would then be safe from retaliation while still

threatening to incinerate American cities if Soviet cities are destroyed.

In the film, James Schlesinger confirms that submarines are only for "city busting," not retaliation against silos. But he is talking about present conditions. He doesn't mention that the US Navy's accuracy improvement program for Trident missiles could very quickly give US submarines a silo-killing capability. When that happens the premise of "First Strike" falls apart.

Actually, however, neither the US nor USSR presently has the ability to attack silos with any degree of success. But if the counter-silo MX and Trident missiles are built they could bring about exactly what they are advertised to prevent—a Soviet first strike. President Carter's *Arms Control Impact Statements* to Congress clearly warn of that possibility. In times of crisis Soviet leaders would be extremely sensitive regarding a threat to their ICBMs which carry three-quarters of their strategic warheads. In contrast, only one-quarter of US strategic warheads are on ICBMs.

"First Strike" should be viewed with a critical eye and a clear mind. It is a poignant lesson in how fear and intimidation are used to keep the arms race running—a race where everyone will lose, although for some it is profitable and prestigious for a while.

—Robert Aldridge

(Robert C. Aldridge is a former strategic missile engineer who now specializes in private research on military technologies and policy.)

First Strike draws viewers' ire

San Francisco's KRON-TV has big plans for "First Strike," the hour-long documentary described by Robert Aldridge on page 1. KRON, an NBC affiliate, wants to distribute the locally-produced show throughout the country before Election Day. But its plans are meeting with some resistance.

A number of Bay Area reviewers panned the program. The *Chronicle* reviewer, of course, loved it (the *Chron* owns KRON) but the *Examiner* and other papers not usually prone to scathing criticism of the existing order saw through the propaganda. A reviewer for the *Livermore Valley Times* called the heavily promoted film "the worst mutilation of the medium called 'documentary'...the most slanted bit of 'journalism' I have seen in a long time." In an editorial called "The Campaign of Fear" the *Oakland Tribune* said that the film "far exaggerated the vulnerability of the US" to a first strike, and suggested that both the film and Ronald Reagan are using "scare tactics" rather than reason in addressing national defense.

Perhaps more importantly, viewer response to the film has been overwhelmingly critical. Hundreds of angry calls and

dozens of letters poured into KRON immediately after the showing. Fifty people showed up in front of the station the morning after the film was aired. A number of KRON employees, including some members of the crew that made "First Strike," privately complained about the film.

KRON was so overwhelmed by the negative feedback that it agreed to provide time for response. "War Without Winners," a film produced by the Center for Defense Information, was scheduled for airing on October 31. But it was cancelled after KRON screened it. The station claimed it did not address the issues raised by "First Strike." So instead, KRON gave 30 minutes of commercial-free time at 7:30 pm on October 30 to a panel discussion entitled "First Strike: The Politics of Fear."

Andrew Stearn and Ben Bagdikian, professors at the UC Graduate School of Journalism, retired Vice Admiral John Lee of the US Navy, Charles Schwartz, professor of physics at UC Berkeley and Victor Pinofsky, director of the Stanford linear accelerator, argued that the "First Strike" scenario was improbable, inaccurate and deliberately misleading. The panelists denounced the "documentary" as fiction and

propaganda for the MX missile. Bagdikian called the "authentic simulation" a genuine fake.

The response show received very little publicity, especially compared to the hype given "First Strike." And the format of the panel discussion seemed dull compared to the high-powered, high-financed original film.

Groups around the country are being alerted to watch for showings of "First Strike" in their area. Copies of materials helpful in refuting its claims are available from the addresses below.

"First Strike" is only one element of the current push to escalate the arms race. But peace activists are responding by laying the groundwork for national campaigns. Discussions of a call for a nuclear weapons "freeze" and a bilateral halt to the development, production and deployment of new nuclear weapons systems have already gathered wide support and could provide the disarmament movement with the unifying focus that it has needed for some time. A national strategy conference will be held in mid-January.

A December conference in Salt Lake City will initiate a campaign to stop

nuclear testing. This project is a joint effort of the UC Nuclear Weapons Labs Conversion Project, the National Nuclear Weapons Facilities Project and Citizens Call, a group composed of people living downwind from the Nevada Test Site.

Efforts to stop the proposed MX missile system, led by nearby residents in Nevada and Utah, have been going on for some time. But plans are now underway to develop a coordinated national campaign to defeat the MX.

These efforts are seen as first steps toward a movement to force a nuclear weapons freeze — the best response to the mentality displayed in "First Strike."

—Steve Ladd

War Resisters League/West

For more information contact War Resisters League/West, 85 Carl St., San Francisco, CA 94117, 415-731-1220 or Martha Henderson, American Friends Service Committee, 2160 Lake St., San Francisco, CA 94121, 415-752-7766.

Thunder out of China

Recently America's relationship with the People's Republic of China has come under a cloud—both figuratively and literally. In the fool's race to the White House, the ineptitude of the present administration and Reagan's cold-war cretinism regarding the issue of diplomatic relations with Taiwan both have beclouded the future of Sino-American affairs. The literal cloud of the present, however—a cloud of radioactive fallout from the Chinese nuclear bomb test of October 16th—is the cause of the most immediate concern.

The thousands of cubic feet of material displaced and irradiated by the bomb blast passed over a belt stretching across Canada and the northern two-thirds of the United States, arriving on the 20th of October. Fallout from the American election is expected to arrive later.

Fallout over Eureka

The amount of fallout that settles in an area depends on three variables: the quantity of fallout suspended in the air, the velocity at which it is traveling, and most crucially, precipitation. This time, most of California was comparatively lucky. Not so Eureka and the rest of the Pacific Northwest where rain brought radioactive particles to earth.

The size of the Chinese blast was estimated at 0.2 to 1.0 megatons. EPA monitoring showed minute amounts of radioactivity fell on parts of California, Nevada, and Utah. Officially the fallout was described as "not harmful."

China remains the only power to continue the atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons, and it shows no indication of stopping. To date it has exploded twenty-two nuclear devices above ground and three underground. The People's Republic would like to test a live nuclear warhead atop its new ICBM in the South Pacific, but it has encountered heavy opposition from Australia and New Zealand.

The logic of bureaucracy

Nuclear pyrotechnics are only part of the increased radioactivity generated by the "Four Modernizations." Since the Congress of the Chinese Nuclear Society in March, nuclear scientists, military officials and pro-nuclear bureaucrats have grown increasingly bold in pressing for a program of nuclear energy development. Their campaign in the press has gone publicly unopposed, but references to "some comrades" who are "worried about the safety of developing nuclear power" shows that not all is quiet beneath the surface.

The official Chinese line totally and deliberately obscures the reality of the situation. An example: "Even when nuclear energy is developed on a massive scale, the radioactive wastes discharged by nuclear power stations and related nuclear fuel industries as additional radiation doses to the inhabitants are only equivalent to one-thousandth to one-hundredth of the natural radioactivity." (People's Daily, June 14th, 1980.)

What has induced the Chinese technocrats to proceed on this expensive and dangerous course? Many of the intellectuals who were persecuted during the Cultural Revolution have regained their official positions under the Teng Hsiao-p'ing group. They are determined never again to be subordinated to the ideologists of Maoism. Their most obvious course is the expansion of their bases of power, such as a nuclear energy program.

The group of modernist bureaucrats around Teng sees the technocratic wing of the intelligentsia as a natural ally, disposed toward the same methods and administrative practices. To modernize technology would be to tip the balance of power in the Party and State apparatus in their favor.

This new orientation brought about the decision on October 17th to purchase two pressurized water reactors (PWRs) from Framatome of France. In addition to the long-range interests of Party technocrats,

two more immediate factors prompted this deal. The first is an impending oil crunch as fields in China's northeast are exhausted. Developing offshore fields in the South China Sea or in Sinkiang will be time consuming and expensive and will require foreign expertise. The new rationale recommends nuclear power to help supply domestic power needs, releasing oil for export.

The second factor is the entrepreneurial drive of Sir Lawrence Kadoorie, the Chairman of the China Light and Power Company of Hong Kong. Thwarted in an earlier attempt to build a nuclear power plant in Hong Kong proper, Sir Lawrence has been working for the establishment of a Chinese nuclear power station in Kwangtung province just across the border from Hong Kong. The sale of its excess power will be a source of much needed foreign exchange for the PRC and so hopefully supply additional insurance of the independent status of Hong Kong, whose British

lease from China expires in 1997.

The particulars of the impending deal between Framatome, a licensee of General Electric, and the People's Republic reveal the gamble that the bureaucratic power is willing to take in the service of its modernization. Estimates of the price of the two reactors run from two to three and a half billion dollars (US). *China Trade Report* of August this year suggests that construction could take up to ten years.

More in the works

The two Framatome reactors aren't the only nuclear deals under consideration. The PRC has expressed interest in the scrapped plans of the US Northern States Power Company for a plant to have been built in Wisconsin. There is also a nuclear plant feasibility study being conducted for the People's Republic by the California-based Quadrex Corporation.

Lack of concern for the health and

safety of the Chinese people shown by continued atmospheric testing and the rush to develop nuclear power is not new. In the past the Chinese bureaucracy has shown a callous disregard for the health of the working population. A new campaign to improve safety in industrial plants was undertaken by the bureaucracy only after workers' slowdowns had threatened production at a number of major coal mines, steel works, and chemical plants.

This dynamic, the conflict between the actual producers of wealth and the bureaucracy which controls it, is at the root of any question about development. Despite its twists and turns over the last thirty years, the Communist Party of China has been unable to develop the country or to continuously raise the standards of living for the rural and urban working populations. A real solution to the question of development in China would require the abolition of the bureaucracy and the organization of the workers, peasants, youth and unbought intellectuals in a directly democratic manner. The formation of an anti-Party wing of the Democratic Movement and the continuation of worker insurgency in urban China despite continuous repression is an indication that this idea has already occurred to some.

—Douglas Dinsdale

wise

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Special Theme: Nuclear Energy and the Third World

Volume 2 Number 4 May/June 1980

WISE

The yellow and orange "Smiling Sun" that says "Nuclear Power—No Thanks" has become the international symbol of the safe energy movement. Designed for the Danish anti-nuclear movement in 1975, the symbol is now available in more than 40 national and regional languages.

Local safe energy groups sell Smiling Sun buttons, stickers and shirts to raise needed funds. In addition, the symbol has become the main source of funds for a growing safe energy news network—WISE—the World Information Service on Energy. A royalty payment on every button, sticker and T-shirt sold goes to WISE.

WISE was formed by European energy activists in February 1978 as a way for movements in different countries to communicate with each other. Now a US office has opened. As in Europe, WISE/US offers a bimonthly bulletin of news from the international anti-nuclear/safe energy movement.

Contact: WISE/US, 1536 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. Ph: 202-387-0818. Subscriptions to the WISE bulletin are \$7.50/year. A \$15 membership includes a subscription.

For stickers and buttons, contact Border Crossings, Eleanor Patterson, P.O. Box 1253, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

Iraqi reactor bombed

Is this any way to stop nukes?

While the media has thoroughly documented the way Iran and Iraq have shelled each others' oil facilities to rubble, a curious event on September 30 received little coverage.

Two unmarked F-4 Phantom fighter bombers streaked across the skies of Iraq and shot their rockets at a nuclear research reactor at Tammuz, near Baghdad. The rockets bounced off the reactor's heavy concrete wall and exploded in the surrounding buildings of the complex.

Since Iran had been carrying on air raids over Baghdad during the previous week, Iraq naturally assumed the Tehran government was responsible for the raid. But Iran, normally quick to claim and even exaggerate their exploits, denied having taken the action.

The French government, which has supplied Iraq with its nuclear technology and

72 kilos of enriched uranium and has been awarded many arms contracts from Arab countries because of its support of Palestinian rights, claims Israel was behind the air strike. Of course, Israeli Prime Minister Begin denied this. But last August, after France rejected Israel's appeals not to send weapons grade uranium to Iraq, Israeli officials began hinting at the possibility of taking direct action to block Iraq's nuclear development.

"We will explore all legal and humane avenues," said Mordecai Zippori, Israel's deputy defense minister. "If pressure doesn't work, we'll have to consider other means." Transportation Minister Chaim Landau declared that Israel "won't permit" Iraq to utilize the French nuclear reactor for aggressive purposes. And the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, Matti Schmuelewitz, said that "Is-

rael could not wait until an Iraqi atomic bomb falls on it."

Israel is already suspected of two other covert actions taken against Iraq's nuclear potential. The first was the sabotage last year of two French nuclear reactors at a plant in Toulon, France just before their shipment to Iraq, setting back that country's nuclear plans by two years. The second was the assassination of an Egyptian-born Iraqi nuclear scientist, Yahia Mashad, in his Paris hotel room last June.

But no matter "who dunnit," the air raid on Iraq's nuclear plant highlights a new and very dangerous aspect of modern warfare—you may not need an atomic bomb if your enemy has a nuclear power plant.

—Steve Stallone
IAT staff

Once upon an ea

The Diablo story

The Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is a highlight of the nuclear industry's record of horrors and bumbling. Despite the fact that it is built two and a half miles from a major earthquake fault, it will likely be licensed to operate sometime early next year.

The Diablo site, twelve miles southwest of San Luis Obispo on the California coast, was selected by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company in the fall of 1966. The two reactors, totaling 2212 megawatts, were to be finished in the mid-70's at a cost of \$350 million. To date, PG&E has spent \$1.8 billion—and when the switch is thrown, much of that will be charged to ratepayers.

What happened to cause a "cost overrun" of more than a billion dollars? PG&E ran into many of the same problems that have plagued the nuclear industry everywhere. But the main hitch was the discovery of the Hosgri fault, which has given pause even to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and has caused what we can still hope will turn out to be endless delays.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is the judge and jury which decides whether nuclear plants are given a license to operate. It conducts "public" hearings which supposedly give citizens an opportunity to present evidence against licensing. But the NRC has never in its history turned down a request for an operating license.

When the first hearings of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), the predecessor of the NRC, began in February of 1967, PG&E confidently stated that the nearest important earthquake faults were the San Andreas, 48 miles away, and the Nacimiento fault, which had been inactive for several hundred thousand years.

A Santa Barbara group called Scenic Shoreline Preservation Conference, the original intervenor against Diablo Canyon, called on San Luis Obispo geologist Ralph Vrana to point out the inadequacy of the earthquake fault studies which had been done for the plant. Vrana suspected the presence of a fault several miles off the coast from the Diablo Canyon site. But his warnings went unheeded and the AEC refused to act on the intervenors' 1970 request that a thorough search for faults be done before construction on the plant proceeded.

The local establishment was unhappy with Vrana's testimony, which turned out

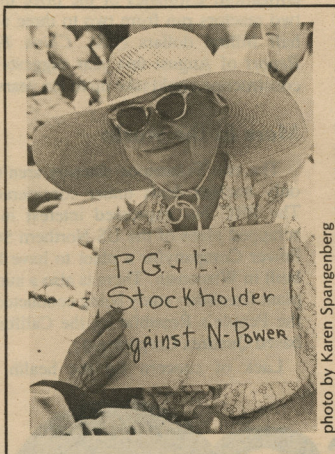


photo by Karen Spangenberg

to be uncannily accurate in predicting the presence and location of a fault. When Vrana's teaching position at the local California Polytechnic State University came up for review, he found himself without a job.

In 1971 rumors were circulating that the presence of an earthquake fault off the Diablo site had been confirmed. It later became known that two Shell Oil geologists, Hoskins and Griffith, had discovered an offshore fault while surveying for oil deposits in 1969. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) did its own investigation in 1971 and announced in 1973 that there was indeed a fault, named the Hosgri after its discoverers, just two and a half miles off the coast from the Diablo site.

The USGS then commissioned the chairman of the Department of Geology at UCLA, Dr. Clarence Hall, to investigate the Hosgri. His findings appeared in the December 26, 1975 issue of *Science*, but a reference in Hall's manuscript to the Diablo Canyon plant was deleted by the editors.

Dr. Hall found that the Hosgri is a major fault in the Pacific coast formation and that it parallels the feared San Andreas fault. The USGS then reported that the Hosgri fault is active and was very likely the location of a large 1927 earthquake. According to the USGS the fault is capable of producing a quake larger than PG&E claimed the Diablo plants were designed to withstand.

In early 1974 the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace petitioned the AEC to halt construction of the Diablo plants pending

the results of further studies of the Hosgri fault. PG&E opposed the intervenors' request and it was denied by the AEC. Construction went ahead as though the fault wasn't there. PG&E could have done its own study of the Hosgri fault at that point for about \$100,000. Instead, the utility spent \$400,000 on advertisements promoting nuclear power in 1974.

In the mid-70's PG&E was being forced to admit to a whole series of construction problems at Diablo. The most serious of these was the discovery of faulty welds in the plant's cooling system, a condition that was brought to public attention by welders at the site. Construction officials initially said the cracks weren't there. But a few years later PG&E was forced to repair them, a process which took five months. The welders had long since been fired and blackballed from the nuclear industry.

Construction supervisors at Diablo threatened to fire any worker who didn't have a "We Need Diablo Canyon" bumper sticker on his car. One memo to the workers said, "Those that don't like their job will get a chance to work for Mothers for Peace, who would like to shut the job down."

Meanwhile, the controversy over the Hosgri fault continued. The separation of the NRC from the AEC in 1975 was supposed to insure that the agency would regulate nuclear power, not promote it. In the case of Diablo Canyon, for example, the NRC would be obligated by law to deny an operating license if it was shown that the plants would be unable to withstand a maximum earthquake on the Hosgri fault. But when the studies by Hall and the USGS came in, the NRC began to look for ways to get around the uncomfortable facts. According to a private NRC memo made public by the *Los Angeles Times* in 1976, the NRC was afraid to deny PG&E a license "because of the large financial loss involved and the severe impact such action would have on the nuclear industry."

The NRC then proceeded to recruit earthquake specialists who would try to make the USGS reduce its estimate of the earthquake danger. But the USGS wouldn't budge. The NRC also sharply upgraded its view of how great an earthquake shock the Diablo plants might be able to resist and devised a special plan by which PG&E could apply for an unprecedented "interim" license that might be easier to approve than the normal full-term license.

In July of 1979 an NRC advisory committee admitted that it would have applied tougher standards if Diablo had been



Diablo blockade, August 7, 1978.

designed with knowledge of the Hosgri fault's existence. Seismologists have testified that the Hosgri fault may be capable of producing an earthquake of magnitude 8.0 on the Richter scale. PG&E now claims that it has modified Diablo so that it can withstand a 7.5 quake (three and a half times less powerful than one which measures 8.0). But these after-the-fact modifications do not satisfy many experts. Engineer Richard Hubbard, who left General Electric over the nuclear power issue in 1976, says that "what they have done is figure out a way to mathematically make the problem go away, by one assumption after another. Some of the factors used by PG&E to reduce their estimate of the earthquake's effects, says Hubbard, seem to have been "formulated especially for Diablo Canyon."

This article was compiled from *Decision at Diablo* and reports in *It's About Times*.



Diablo Canyon before construction began in 1966.

photo by Martin Litton, Friends of the Earth



The two Diablo reactors were built on the last roadless stretch of coastline in California.

Earthquake fault . . .

Abalone story

Affinity groups, consensus, demystification of leadership, nonviolence trainings—it all sounded so exotic when the Abalone Alliance was formed in June of 1977.

Now the Abalone Alliance is three and a half years old. What was once 60 individuals from seven groups is now an undeterminable number of people from 60 groups. A tight community focused on Diablo has become a collection of groups with a much more diffuse focus. This short history of the Abalone Alliance may help in understanding these changes.

Informal discussions on forming a statewide anti-nuclear alliance began at the Safety and Evacuation hearings for Diablo in 1976. Many of those attending had made contact with each other during the Continental Walk, a nationwide walk for peace. A few other anti-nuclear groups were scattered throughout the state, remnants of the Proposition 13 campaign.

These people had in common a frustration with the electoral process and legal intervention. Mothers for Peace, People Generating Energy, both of San Luis Obispo, and the American Friends Service Committee in San Francisco pushed for the formation of an alliance with a focus on Diablo Canyon. At the founding conference the name Abalone Alliance was adopted because of the thousands of abalone killed when the cooling system at Diablo was first tested.

The Alliance founders were excited about creating a network of affinity groups based on the model of European movements and the Clamshell Alliance in New England. They adopted direct action, both out of political principle and because of the attention given to recent attempts at occupying or blockading nuclear sites.

The small numbers in the early days of the Abalone allowed a strong sense of participation and family to develop. But there were no political discussions or long-term strategizing, and the problems of integrating affinity groups into the state structure and the growing pains of rapid expansion were never planned for.

In the early years of the Abalone, many of those involved were new to grassroots organizing. They muddled through, making a lot of mistakes, but they pulled off some impressive actions. Fifteen hundred attended a Stop Diablo rally on August 7, 1977 and forty-seven were arrested for occupying the plant site. Two of them turned out to be police agents, causing the dismissal of charges by the State Supreme Court two years later.

That fall, disagreements about civil disobedience versus traditional organizing tactics began to emerge. In November teach-ins were held throughout the state. Many Abalone members concentrated on building support in their own communities. Forty put on dresses or coats and ties and went to Sacramento to talk to every member of the State Assembly about the proposed Sundersert Nuclear Power Plant in southern California. (Construction of the plant was eventually halted because the Assembly refused to exempt it from California's Nuclear Safeguards Laws.)

But organizing for direct action proceeded in 1978. Twenty-five to thirty people met bi-weekly for five months planning an occupation and blockade. On August 6 and 7 five thousand attended a rally on the beach just outside the gates of Diablo and 487 were arrested. Their attempts to reach consensus on the "politically correct" legal strategy turned into a lengthy and sometimes acrimonious debate.

Legal complications and decisions con-

tinued to monopolize Abalone discussions through January of 1979. Four people who elected to plead no contest and refused probation wound up serving 60 days in jail. Others accepted two years probation and served two weeks.

Twenty people were selected for a show trial which was supposed to "put nuclear power on trial." But the state insisted that this was a simple case of trespass and refused to allow testimony by John Gofman and others. However, after an eight-hour argument the judge agreed to allow the defendants to tell the jury what they thought of nuclear power.

After three and a half days of deliberation the jury found the blockaders guilty of failure to disperse, but not guilty of trespass. Those occupying were found guilty of trespass and not guilty of failure to disperse. Judge Robert Carter handed down sentences that were harsh for these minor infractions—90-day suspended jail terms, two years probation and a \$400 fine. But in a surprise move the following morning he apologized for having handled the case badly and reduced the jail sentences to fifteen days without probation and a \$300 fine, applicable to everyone who had been arrested. Two hundred people eventually went to jail, but most refused to pay the fine. The rest joined the appeal, which is still awaiting a calendar date in the Los Angeles Court of Appeals.

Meanwhile, debates on strategy and organization were raging. At the October 1978 conference the Alliance was unable to reach consensus on a date for the next blockade. Another conference in January again debated a blockade date. Political and strategic disagreements emerged all weekend, with accusations of "liberal" and "civil disobedience junkie" flying. No consensus was reached, but a series of actions building up to a blockade were approved.

Dissatisfaction with the pure consensus process prompted the establishment of a committee to draft a new process of consensus by delegates from local groups, rather than by anyone who happened to

attend a conference. In March the Alliance agreed to blockade Diablo after an operating license was issued and after all legal mechanisms for stopping the plant had been exhausted.

Several new collectives, including *It's About Times*, the Labor Task Force, the Media Service and the Diablo Conversion Project, emerged around this time. Many who had been involved in general organizing got entrenched in more specialized tasks. Some of the organizers who continued to participate in state decision-making lost contact with their local groups.

The Abalone actions of spring 1979 were a huge success. Spurred by Three Mile Island, 25,000 people rallied in San Francisco on April 7. Ninety-three PG&E offices were leafletted on May 25. And on June 30, 40,000 people came to San Luis Obispo for the largest rally at a plant site ever to take place in this country. Jerry Brown showed up at the last minute and spoke to the crowd, creating major political dissension about who we should be working with and the potential cooptation of the movement. Even the concept of large rallies was questioned.

Small events were planned for the fall of '79. Over 60 teach-ins were held in 35 cities. Since then, there have been virtually no state actions although collectives and local groups have remained active. Because of the continued licensing delays, most groups have deemphasized Diablo and turned their attention to local nuclear threats and non-nuclear issues like the draft.

The problems of statewide coordination remain unresolved. Organizers are still burned out by statewide travel to meetings that produce no immediately tangible results. The Abalone has become too large to be "personal." And the continuing disagreements about direct action, civil disobedience and political focus have taken their toll.

The Abalone is scattered now. Its strength or weakness will be tested by the blockade and by what happens after it.

—Mark Evanoff
IAT staff



Balloons are launched at Diablo in May, 1977 to show how far radioactive emissions from the plant can drift.

photo by Helene S. Kassler



photo by Robert Dawson

BLOCKADE AND BEYOND

What will become of the Abalone Alliance after the Diablo blockade? Where do we go if we stop Diablo? What should we do if we don't?

Are we setting ourselves up for defeat by believing that we can keep Diablo from coming on line? If the plant is licensed, how will we keep the Alliance together after a heartbreaking defeat? Or is it even appropriate to discuss a failed blockade?

Why is there less activity now in the anti-nuke movement than a year ago? Has the movement lost its direction? Where should we go from here?

Next month *It's About Times* will feature a discussion on the Diablo blockade and beyond. Your input is invited. Please limit your statement to 500 words, and make them typed and double spaced. Send articles to 944 Market Street, Room 307, San Francisco, 94102 by November 15. Be sure to keep a copy for yourself.

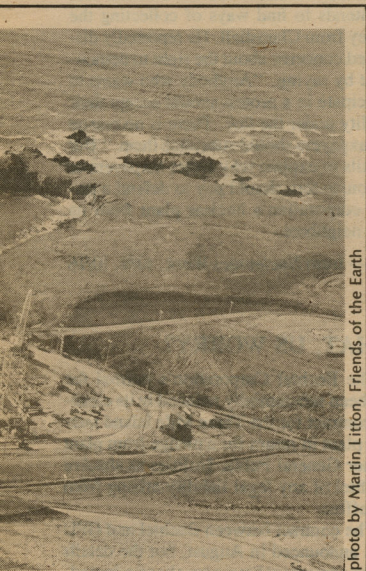
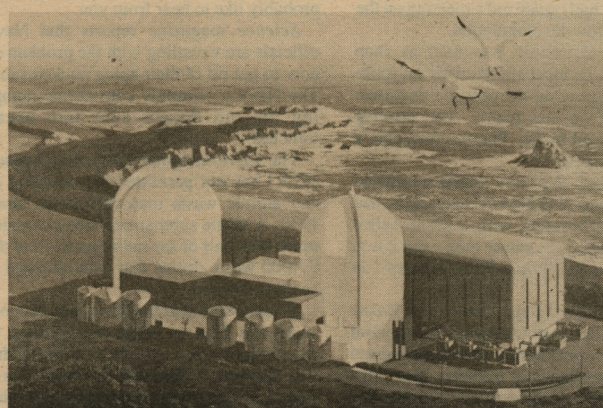


photo by Martin Litton, Friends of the Earth



A PG&E artist's conception of Diablo Canyon.

drawing courtesy PG&E

Short Circuits

A GRAVE MATTER

The sheriff's department in Austin, Texas says it has been unable to substantiate reports that the body of a construction worker is buried inside a massive concrete wall at the South Texas Nuclear Power Station.

County Sheriff Sam Hurta said that the report received by his office went like this: Eighteen months ago an undocumented worker at the construction site climbed down inside the foundations to straighten out some reinforcing bars. The unidentified worker was buried under tons of concrete within seconds. It was decided by a supervisor at the site to proceed with the job because digging the man out would have been virtually impossible.

Sheriff Hurta said that allegations were passed on to him by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission which had received a complaint from the leader of an Austin anti-nuclear organization. But a supervisor who was at the plant when the incident allegedly occurred has passed a lie detector test and the construction company's financial records do not indicate that any worker disappeared during the construction project.

—from *Zodiac News Service*

A FEW MINOR CHANGES

The US Air Force is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement on its controversial MX missile project. But some of the people working on the report are charging that it amounts to "a whitewash."

The MX missile system is the largest construction project ever undertaken. It is proposed for an area in Utah and Nevada which is the size of Connecticut and will involve the construction of 10,000 miles of heavy-duty roadway and the use of up to 120 billion gallons of water during the life of the project.

The environmental statement on the project is being prepared by the Santa Barbara firm of Henningston, Durham and

GUESS WHAT'S COMING FOR DINNER

Atomic wastes from the Kerr-McGee Nuclear Corporation in Oklahoma are reportedly being used to fertilize cattle feed.

Kerr-McGee's Sequoyah facility, a plant which converts uranium ore into uranium hexafluoride for processing as nuclear fuel, generates approximately 7.2 million gallons of radioactive waste each year. The nuclear firm has been using the waste from the uranium reprocessing—a water sludge called raffinate which has a high nitrogen content—to fertilize grass used as cattle fodder. Barium chloride is added to the raffinate to reduce radioactivity before it is stored in large concrete-lined holding ponds.

Kerr-McGee spokesperson Donna McFarland said, "For about five years we used the fertilizer to grow hay. It really increased the tonnage. Then in 1978 we introduced cattle onto the land to feed off the fertilized hay." McFarland claims tests on some of the slaughtered cattle gave the animals "a clean bill of health."

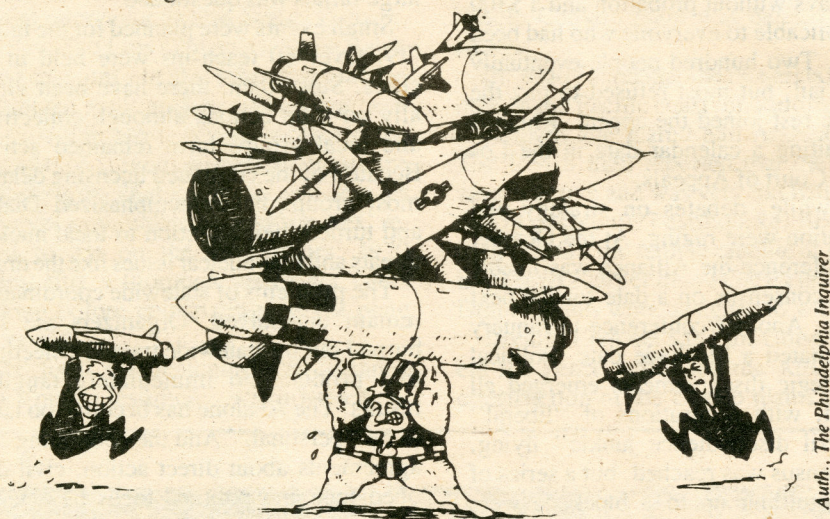
The Kerr-McGee Corporation is reportedly now planning to market the radioactive fertilizer commercially.

—from *Zodiac News Service*

Richardson (HDR). According to Pacific News Service, interviews with a number of HDR staff members indicate that the report is being edited and rewritten to play down the environmental damages that will be caused by the MX system. One unidentified staff scientist said that his data were "changed by the management to eliminate any specific references to adverse impacts."

HDR prepared a similar environmental study for the Navy's submarine base at Bangor, Washington. A federal appeals court later ruled that the report was inadequate and ordered a supplementary study.

—from *Zodiac News Service*



WORKER REGAINS POST

A federal judge in New York has ordered the Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA) to reinstate a shop steward who was dismissed from his post last fall because he had organized a meeting on the hazards of low-level radiation.

Richard Ostrowski was fired as shop steward of his local shortly after he sponsored a meeting on the potential radiation hazards of nuclear plants. The meeting was addressed by Dr. Thomas Najarian, a radiation expert.

The Utility Workers Union explained that it dismissed Ostrowski because he had been "collaborating with a group called the Shad Alliance, whose purpose it is to close down the Indian Point Reactor" in New York.

US District Judge Constance Baker Motley ruled that Ostrowski's dismissal violated his right to free speech and signed an order permanently restoring him to his job. The union stated it will not take any further disciplinary action against him.

—from *Zodiac News Service*

NUKES FOR DAVEY JONES

What do you do with a nuclear-powered submarine when it is retired from service after 20 to 30 years of duty? If you have a good practical answer, the US Navy would probably like to hear from you.

Science magazine reports that Navy officials are wrestling with the problem of how to get rid of their aging nuclear subs. The Navy is currently considering dumping the old Polaris subs into ocean trenches.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not permitted the dumping of any atomic waste materials at sea since 1970. A single submarine reactor contains more than half of the radiation as all of the 87,000 waste drums that were dumped at sea before then.

Science says that the Navy may yet convince the EPA to allow the scuttling of atomic subs at sea, simply by showing that this disposal method will do "less harm to man and the environment than any other practical alternatives."

—from *Zodiac News Service*

TAKE TWO EVERY FOUR MELTDOWNS

Five years ago a panel of nuclear physicists recommended that pills made of potassium iodide be stockpiled and readied for emergency distribution across the US in the event of a nuclear plant accident.

Potassium iodide pills reportedly can prevent radiation-caused thyroid cancer by blocking radioactive iodine from reaching the thyroid gland. The recommendation to stockpile the anti-radiation pills was made back in 1975, yet the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has delayed implementing any kind of potassium iodide program.

Now *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* is charging that the government is afraid to implement the program because passing out anti-radiation pills might give the nuclear industry a bad image. *The Bulletin* says the NRC is worried that if the pills are distributed the American public might become convinced that a nuclear accident is not only possible, but probable.

Ironically, in the midst of last year's accident at Three Mile Island, the US Food and Drug Administration initiated a frantic effort at 3 am the day of the accident to produce and fly in 250,000 one-ounce bottles of the thyroid-blocking chemical because none had been stockpiled ahead of time.

—from *Zodiac News Service*

"VOLUNTARY" STERILIZATION?

Anthony Mazzocchi, a director of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union claims that millions of American women are under increasing pressure from US industry to undergo sterilizations in order to avoid giving birth to defective children—defects caused by chemical exposure on the job.

Rather than remove dangerous substances from the work place, Mazzocchi said, companies are telling women to sterilize themselves. Those who refuse to do so either must accept lower-paying jobs or leave.

The union's health and safety director said that men are under similar pressure as new studies find that some chemicals are harmful to sperm as well. He said that if this trend continues, there is a real possibility that "neutering clinics" will be established for certain kinds of workers in the US.

The American Cyanamid Corporation was recently cited for barring unsterilized women from certain jobs. Mazzocchi said there are many other firms with identical policies who will be named in suits now being prepared by his union.

—from *Zodiac News Service*

DID HE HAVE TO SAY THAT?

Electric utility companies that want to promote the high temperature gas-cooled nuclear reactor are upset by a recent sales pitch by General Atomics, the reactor's developer. It seems that GA has been touting the reactor as a good source of tritium for the nuclear weapons program. Tritium is the radioactive form of hydrogen in the "hydrogen" bomb.

GA president Harold Agnew, formerly head of the Lawrence Livermore (nuclear weapons) Laboratory, doesn't understand what all the fuss is about. He sees the tritium production as a "plum" for reactor owners, pointing out that utilities could make at least as much money selling the tritium to the government as they would from selling the plant's electricity to their customers. In a letter to Department of Energy Secretary Charles Duncan, Agnew also suggested the reactor would be a good way to make weapons-grade plutonium.

Utility nervousness about Agnew's idea comes partly from worries about increased government control of their operations. But potential public relations problems are also on their minds. As one utility source said, "We have enough problems without having to sell the public on the idea of helping the government make weapons."

—from *Nucleonics Week*, 10/16/80

STATE SPLIT ON NUKE ISSUE

A Gannett News Service poll taken in early October shows Californians evenly split about nuclear development, with 44% opposing more nuclear plant construction and 43% favoring it. The strongest disapproval came from minority groups, with 74% of blacks and 65% of Hispanics registering opposition to nuclear power.

There was a dramatic difference in the opinions of men and women on the nuclear issue. The pollsters found that 53% of women but only 35% of men are against more plants. Other findings were that young people, Democrats and Northern Californians tend to oppose nukes while Republicans, Southern Californians and people over 50 tend to support them.

Only 15% of nuclear opponents favor the operation of the already-completed Diablo Canyon nuclear plant. It was not mentioned whether nuclear supporters were asked this question, or whether information on the plant's earthquake problems was provided.

The poll seems to indicate that nuclear opposition is still growing, since previous polls have shown a small pro-nuclear majority. The poll has a maximum estimated error of three percent.

—from *Oakland Tribune*, 10/23/80

NUCLEAR OPPONENTS SUED

A new legal tactic aimed at the anti-nuclear movement has appeared: suing plant opponents for "damages." With the aid of the conservative Pacific Legal Foundation, six pro-nuclear employees of the Shoreham plant in New York recently sued several anti-nuclear groups for \$2 million in damages. They claimed that a planned two-day blockade of the plant would cost the plant owners that amount if it succeeded. But the suit was dropped after the blockade failed to shut down the plant.

The same tactic was tested by John Sununu, a New Hampshire senatorial candidate, who brought a \$200,000 suit "on behalf of the state's taxpayers" against the Clamshell Alliance. Sununu, who was joined in his suit by several corporate-sponsored pro-nuclear groups, argued that the figure represented the cost to the state of repelling recent occupation attempts at the Seabrook nuclear plant site. Nobody from Clamshell showed up at a preliminary hearing last August, so Sununu won the lawsuit by default.

But activists aren't racing to pay the bill. One lawyer commented, "It was a political suit. Sununu got a few headlines for his campaign. Nobody ever expects to get a nickel out of it. So he got a default judgement—big deal. There's a lot less here than meets the eye." Another attorney pointed out that only one person in Clamshell even received notice of the suit—a person unconnected with the occupations.

Although Sununu lost his election bid, he intends to find ways of collecting the money from Clamshell. He reportedly dismissed concerns about the right to demonstrate by saying, "Anybody who wants to participate in a protest should accept their liability under the law. There is no reason the taxpayers should subsidize them." But he fails to explain why either taxpayers or demonstrators should pay to defend a private corporation's nuclear plant from its irate neighbors.

—from *Nucleonics Week*, 10/9, 10/16

WHAT, US WORRY?

The Bechtel Corporation's normal fee has been substantially reduced in its clean-up contract for the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in return for a pledge from plant owner General Public Utilities to absolve Bechtel of any legal liability arising from the effort.

The contract between Bechtel and GPU was announced in August, but the details of the agreement have never been released.

—from *Nucleonics Week*, 10/9/80

Nuke stake-out

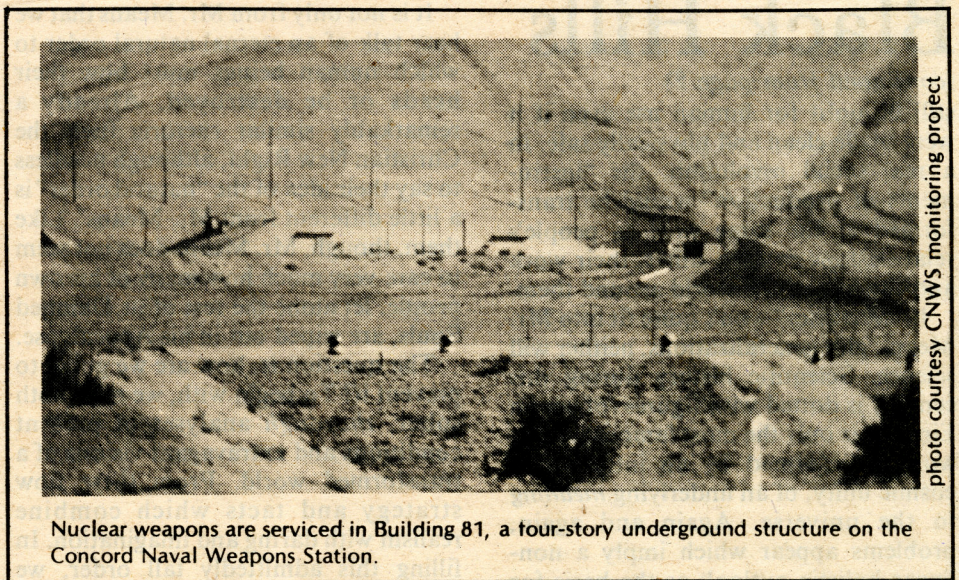
Since the Concord Naval Weapons Station made headlines in August following an investigation by Public Broadcast Station KQED (see *IAT*, September 1980), local elected officials have been expressing concern about the dangers of the nuclear weapons there. Their approach has been to call for emergency plans in case of an accident, but they haven't asked the real question: Should we allow such a threat to exist at all?

The Concord Naval Weapons Station (CNWS) is one of the largest and most important military weapons facilities in the country. Seven munition ships are homeported there and the base is guarded by a detachment of 300 Marines. Eighty percent of all the weapons shipped to Vietnam in 1967 went through the Concord base.

In 1944 an explosion on the CNWS

loading docks at Port Chicago killed 320 people, sank two ships and broke windows as far away as San Francisco. It was the worst homefront disaster of World War II. Stringent safety provisions have been instituted since then, but as weaponry becomes more complex and more efficient in destruction, the hazards and the chances for accidents increase.

In 1974, the Mt. Diablo Peace Center in Walnut Creek developed a 100-page report advocating the conversion of the station to a new community. The report was submitted to local city councils and to the county Conference of Mayors, but it met with a reaction similar to public sentiment today: If the Government says we need the station and says it's safe, it must be so. And if the Government doesn't even want to tell us what's stored there, there's nothing we



Nuclear weapons are serviced in Building 81, a four-story underground structure on the Concord Naval Weapons Station.

photo courtesy CNWS monitoring project

can do.

After 1974, organizing around CNWS dropped to next to nothing. But in June of this year, a task force was formed in response to the call to organize around local nuclear facilities as part of Survival Summer. The group has been attempting to make the nuclear weapons at Concord visible — and therefore real — to local residents, and to document the hazards of having those nukes around. Information is being compiled about transportation (by helicopter as well as on land), storage and the routine emissions caused by working on nuclear warheads.

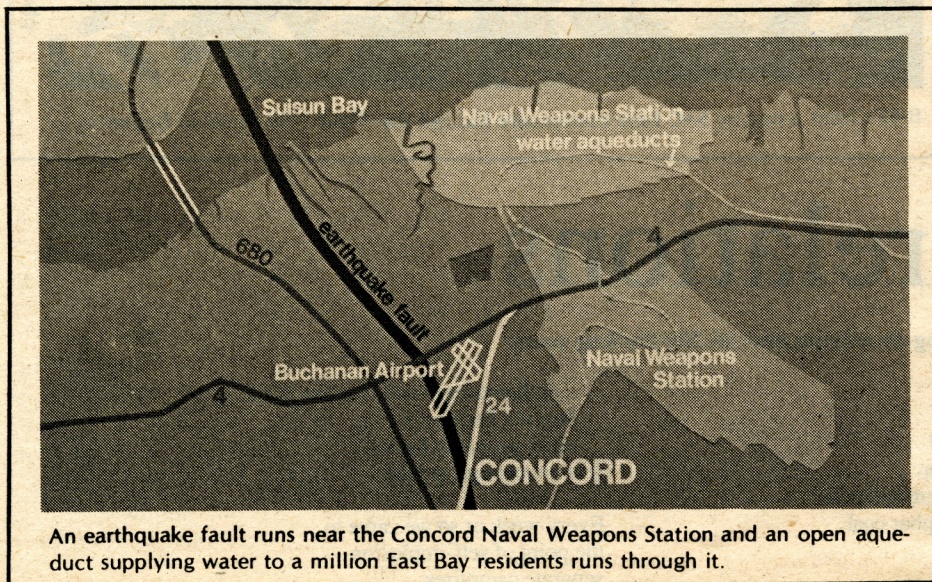
Since the Navy will neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons, the group has been monitoring the facility in hope of taking pictures of the weapons and/or the trucks carrying them. Monitoring involves researching the types of weapons with nuclear capability stored at CNWS, watching for movements of nuclear weapons from public roads which run through the facility, getting pictures of these weapons or of the trucks carrying them and following the trucks to document their routes. So far, the group has been unable to get

pictures, though missiles have been spotted twice in the "Special Weapons Area" where the nukes are stored.

In any nuclear war, nuclear weapons themselves would be primary targets, and communities near bases or nuclear storage areas would be primary victims. Whatever their political attitudes towards "defense," people living near these preselected targets are not likely to be comforted by the realization that they are programmed for destruction.

Nuclear war plans will look quite different when viewed from the perspective of these targeted neighborhoods instead of from the halls of Congress. In what sense is *this* community made more secure by the presence of nuclear weapons? How are we made safer by the prospect of accidental or intentional nuclear destruction? Would we *choose* to remain hostages of this uncertain balance of international terror, prisoners of a war yet to be fought? These are the questions around which public pressure must build to get rid of the nuclear threat.

—Gary McGehee Dobson
Mt. Diablo Peace Center



An earthquake fault runs near the Concord Naval Weapons Station and an open aqueduct supplying water to a million East Bay residents runs through it.

PG&E's hole in the head

PG&E's insistence on operating its Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, located only two and a half miles from an earthquake fault, may seem like the epitome of madness. But twenty years ago, the utility was trying to site a reactor just 1000 feet from California's most famous fault line — the San Andreas.

In 1958 PG&E proposed putting what would have been the world's largest nuclear reactor to date on the coastline of Sonoma County. PG&E claimed that Bodega Head, a piece of land that juts into the Bodega Bay, was the one spot in the entire Bay Area where nuclear-generated electricity could be priced competitively with power produced by a conventional plant. It planned to complete the 330 megawatt reactor by 1966 at a cost of \$61 million.

PG&E already owned 225 acres at Bodega Head and soon was able to get title to more. It obtained building permits on the basis that it planned a steam plant; nothing was mentioned originally about nuclear. A huge 100-foot deep hole was bulldozed out of the earth and concrete trucks began rolling through the small community of Bodega Bay. Before it was over, PG&E had poured \$7 million of ratepayers' money into the hole.

The first major problem discovered about the Sonoma site was that the nuclear plant was to be located only 1000 feet from the San Andreas fault zone. The Atomic Energy Commission, predecessor of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, declared that the distance must be increased — to 1320 feet. According to an eyewitness, the 1906 earthquake that wrecked San Francisco caused Bodega Head to ripple like a wave. At nearby Tomales Bay displace-

ment of the earth was an amazing 20 feet.

Opposition to the plant began in 1962 with a letter writing campaign by Karl Kortum, head of San Francisco's Maritime Museum. David Pesonen, at that time a UC Berkeley law student, is credited by most as being instrumental in the drive to preserve Bodega Head. Organized efforts soon arose.

The "Northern California Association to Preserve Bodega Head and Harbor" in Berkeley and the "Committee to Preserve Bodega Head" in Sebastopol led the fight against the Sonoma nuke, with public debates, lawsuits, petitions, letter writing, folksongs and rallies. Civil disobedience was not used. One of the groups' publicity projects was the release of helium-filled toy balloons from Bodega. On them were printed: "This balloon could represent a radioactive atom of strontium-90 or iodine-131." Several balloons were found in Marin County. The strong winds of Bodega Bay blow southerly toward San Francisco, only 50 miles away.

A few politicians opposed the Bodega plant, including State Assemblyman Alfred Alquist (D-San Jose), US Interior Secretary Morris Udall, Public Utilities Commissioner William Bennett, the California Democratic Council and Governor Pat Brown. Only two small newspapers in the county, the Sebastopol *Times* and the Cloverdale *Reveille*, came out against it.

In 1956, two years before PG&E's proposal was made public, the University of California had been negotiating for a Class A marine research station at Bodega Head. With its rich tide flats, tidepools in Horseshoe Cove, a bird habitat on land and a great variety of undisturbed ocean life outside the bay,

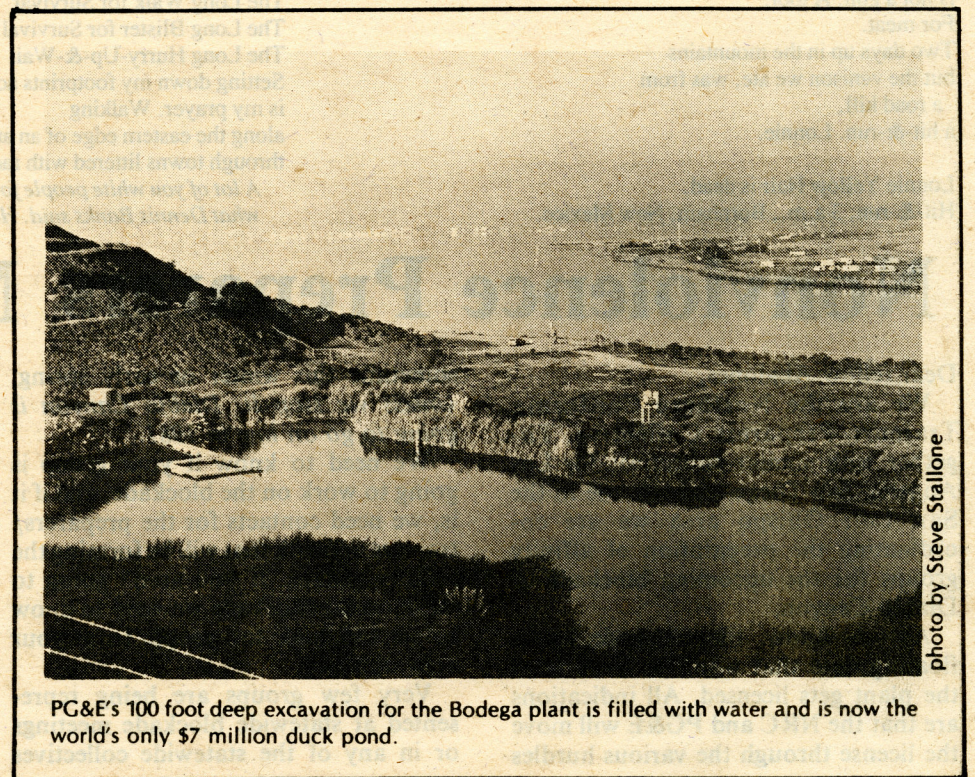
Bodega Head was considered the best site for a marine station on the entire California coast. But in 1957 UC withdrew in the face of PG&E interest and settled for a Class B site elsewhere in the headlands. The State Division of Beaches and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors also refused to stand up to PG&E.

The California Public Utilities Commission was no better. Four out of five PUC commissioners announced that they would leave considerations of safety up to the Atomic Energy Commission. The AEC, of course, was

committed to furthering the development of "peaceful use" of atomic energy and was hardly in the habit of denying nuclear licenses for *any* reason.

The US Geological Survey eventually agreed with environmentalists that the Bodega location was unsafe because of the nearby earthquake zone. After five years of battle, PG&E gave up on building a nuke at Bodega Head — only to settle soon after on the Diablo Canyon site.

—Jay Newbern



PG&E's 100 foot deep excavation for the Bodega plant is filled with water and is now the world's only \$7 million duck pond.

photo by Steve Stallone

Black Hills

(continued from page 2)

still be unfit for human use even if it were made clean and physically safe. In a real social revolution, the "instruments of production" would be transformed at the same time as people's relationships to each other, their work and the rest of the world around them.

If "Marxism" won't quite fit into Mr. Means' glib generalizations, neither will science. Scientific history during this century is dotted with figures (of whom Einstein is only the most famous) whose work is informed by an intuition of cosmic unity, of an underlying *meaning* to the universe. Again and again, problems appear which imply a non-linear holistic outlook as the basis for their solution. Yet the linear, one-fragment-at-a-time approach continues to dominate because the institutions which fund and direct research want quick technological yields.

The collapse of the ideology of "Progress" resulting from the global economic-ecological crisis has done much to discredit not only science, but Reason itself. In the midst of chaos and catastrophe, there is a deep popular thirst for a unifying vision, for satisfying and comprehensible explanations, for a sense of meaning and purpose to life. Hence millions are retreating into blind simplistic faiths of one sort or another.

It is not only from Mr. Means that we hear talk of an eternal natural order to which human beings must bow their heads or be destroyed. Already a remarkably similar rhetoric fuels the Christian New Right, although needless to say their idea of the "natural order" is a little different from Mr. Means'. Like them, though, Mr. Means does not seem to care very much how many of his own people, let alone the rest of us Damned Souls, are wiped out in his Apocalypse.

The question is, how are we going to prevent it? To begin with, we need both sober, *thorough* analyses of present conditions and extravagant visions of a transformed world. From these flow strategy and tacts which combine realism with daring and imagination. In filling this admittedly tall order, we must of course learn from "native peoples" here and elsewhere. But sources closer to the despised European tradition can teach us too — sources like Marx's work and that of anti-authoritarian revolutionaries and radical critics of work, culture, education and science.

Given Mr. Means' contempt for the written word, these sources are unavailable to him. I hope the same does not prove true of others in our movement to whom his facile, ill-informed diatribe might otherwise seem convincing.

—Louis Michaelson
Albany CA



photo by Ellen Shub

B-52's from a nearby SAC base continually buzzed the Black Hills Survival Gathering .

This do unto all my relations

Susu Jeffrey was on The Long Walk For Survival from Alcatraz to New Mexico—5 weeks. Following are excerpts from her 500-line long poem:

We cook chicken by flashlight in the snow.
Our leader sits in a van
heat on
eats his own food
wife, three daughters, steamed windows;
my shoelaces are frozen.

Dennis Banks says
*When you get tired of walking
try running.*

In the morning he drives.
We walk.
Dennis speaks.
Dennis speaks fire
bathes in snow
stops at the California line
convicted of being an Indian leader
in South Dakota the sheriff promised
You won't live more than 20 minutes in my jail.

This is survival school.
We have rules:
No alcohol.
No drugs.
No weapons.
A spiritual walk—
for the survival of Mother Earth and all that grows
or casts a shadow upon her.

A *spiritual* walk. I thought, well—
I'll just have to leave my dope at home.
Damn. No dope.
I had visions of
learning the names of things
I didn't know existed,
the songs that are prayers.
I learned that when you have a joint
you sneak out of camp.
And Bob's gun
is not a gun. A tool.
For meat.
Two days up in the mountains
but the venison we ate, was from
a road kill,
a hit-&-run. Lonnie.

Lonnie Yellow Hair is dead.
Hit-&-run, 3 a.m., Burnham, New Mexico.

Just had his 21st birthday.
I gave him a doormat I liberated
off Peabody Coal / *off* Peabody Coal
strip mining the Black Mesa, Arizona
another National Sacrifice Area / sacred plateau
stripped for 21 billion tons of low sulphur coal
for 15¢ a ton
for the white man
to light up his cities, to develop his industries
Peabody pumps
3 thousand gallons of water a minute out of the desert
to float
powdered coal to the Mojave
power plant for El Paso, Las Vegas, Phoenix, L.A.,
they scrape off top soil, coyotes, medicine,
robot dinosaurs dynamite, might rupture
drain Navajo wells.

We don't take any surface water.
There is no surface water.
We drill down 15-16 hundred feet for our water.

The water table is down a foot
in the 20 years Peabody's been stripping
the wind's picked up
and it doesn't rain no more.
Because they're greedy.
*They massacre people
not with their guns
but with their laws.*

56 hundred Navajo people will be removed.
This is not a political issue.
It's money. Religion
is a mask for the dream.
The dream is more.
My parents want for me, what they have
and more. The Christian
epidemic of rewards.

The Long Walk for Survival
The Long Blister for Survival
The Long Hurry-Up-&-Wait
Setting down my footprints across the Sierra Nevadas
is my prayer. Walking
along the eastern edge of an atomic test site in Nevada
through towns littered with radiation victims . . .
*A lot of you white people forgot
what Dennis Banks said. He said*

Indian people will *lead* the Walk
*then the Buddhists
white people in back.*
It is not enough to walk.

Every week or so we came to
the point of self-implosion—
separate campfires,
Indian leaders arguing in front of the groups
the groups reduced to gossip—
to receive an imported Elder
who passed the Peace Pipe
and touched us
with the sacred Eagle feather
charged with cedar smoke
each of us empowered with the smoke
of sweet grass
you allowed us in
to the ceremony
but I cannot walk in the back of the line
in the morning
and head up the kitchen in the afternoon.
And when I said I wouldn't go to bed with Juan
and he threatened to kill me,
and when I threw up for 2 days
and I couldn't make it up that mountain
and the Indian cars wouldn't give me a ride,
and when we lost 7 Indian people in Utah
to drink—the hospital, or jail
and they came back on the Walk,
I decided I couldn't walk to Washington with you
because you don't have the moral aura
to deliver a message of Peace.
And I respect you for not breaking your bread with me
but why do you ask me to walk with you?
This invitation I accept
no more of the guilt of 300 years of genocide
than the German people who refuse
to apologize for Hitler.
They learned:

Look what happened when our parents were quiet,
we should have a meeting.
There will be a ceremony.
Look what happens when people are quiet.
It is not enough to walk.
It is like walking off false labor.

Nonviolence Preparers Need Group Contacts

Dear fellow Abalones,

We are the Northern California Trainers/Preparers Collective. Together with similar collectives for Los Angeles/San Diego and the one in the San Luis Obispo area we are co-ordinating the preparation of affinity groups for the upcoming blockade of Diablo Canyon.

As you know, the blockade has a floating date that won't be fixed until the plant gets licensed. All indications are that the NRC and PG&E will move the license through the various hurdles

sometime this winter or early spring. *Unless we stop it, Diablo Canyon is going to go on line in 1981.*

We need to know if your group is going to work on the blockade, and if it is, we need contacts for the preparers/trainers network that will be forming the affinity groups. If you aren't going to work on the blockade we need to know so we can look for people from your area who will.

Very few groups are being represented at statewide blockade meetings or in any of the statewide collectives

working on the blockade. Before Three Mile Island led the the postponement of the licensing of Diablo, there were almost 3,000 people ready to blockade the plant. We need to recontact them and find others. Affinity groups are forming in Santa Cruz, Palo Alto, San Luis Obispo and Los Angeles...but what about the rest of the state?

The *Handbook* will be out in early November. It would help a great deal if Abalone groups would pre-order (and pre-pay). We're asking \$1 a *Handbook* (they are being paid for with borrowed

money) and the groups can resell them at cost or whatever they want. There are also preparers/trainers manuals available for \$1. Make checks payable to Laura Wagner.

More than money we need to hear from all trainers interested in preparing affinity groups and from all groups for contacts to the trainer/preparer network.

Northern California Trainers/Preparers Collective, c/o Pandora's Box, 127 Rincon, Santa Cruz, 95060. (408) 423-7046.

San Onofre vote

In the middle of conservative Orange County, a campaign to convert the San Onofre nuclear power plants to non-nuclear fuel is gathering steam. Grass-roots activists in Laguna Beach have collected over 2600 voter signatures and persuaded the City Council to place a measure on the November ballot which expresses opposition and suggests alternatives to the operation of nuclear power plants at San Onofre.

The Laguna Beach group, calling itself the Citizens Committee for the Right to Vote on San Onofre, is spearheaded by members of the local Alliance for Survival chapter. It has conducted a campaign which is completely funded, directed and carried out by local residents.

By election day three separate canvasses will have distributed three distinct packets of locally created educational material to every house in this city of 12,000 voters. Three public forums will have been held in City Council chambers. The first was a debate between Don May of Friends of the Earth, anti-nuclear physicist Dr. Michio Kaku, and representatives of Bechtel and Southern California Edison. In the second forum, members of the Orange County business community demonstrated a broad range of available alternative energy sources. The final forum, "The Case Against San Onofre," will present newly released data concerning seismic problems at San Onofre,

the devastating impact on local marine life, the lack of realizable evacuation plans and the potentially disastrous economic consequences for the surrounding community.

Other events include a high school dance, a beach-park gathering, a sign-carrying walk through town and an election night party. A celebration marking the 90th birthday of a founding member of the Alliance for Survival chapter generated support for Measure F while promoting a spirit of hometown good will.

For three years the Alliance for Survival and other environmental

groups have been working to build a political base in this region. The coalition which supports Measure F will take up the next phase of this campaign: to move Laguna Beach toward community energy self-sufficiency. The Laguna Beach campaign has already done much to convince nearby communities that they too can have some measure of choice about where their energy comes from and how it is produced. As the campaign slogan says, "We can do better than nuclear."

—Jeanie Bernstein
Laguna Beach AFS

Seismic hearings

(continued from page 1)

allowed him to continue.

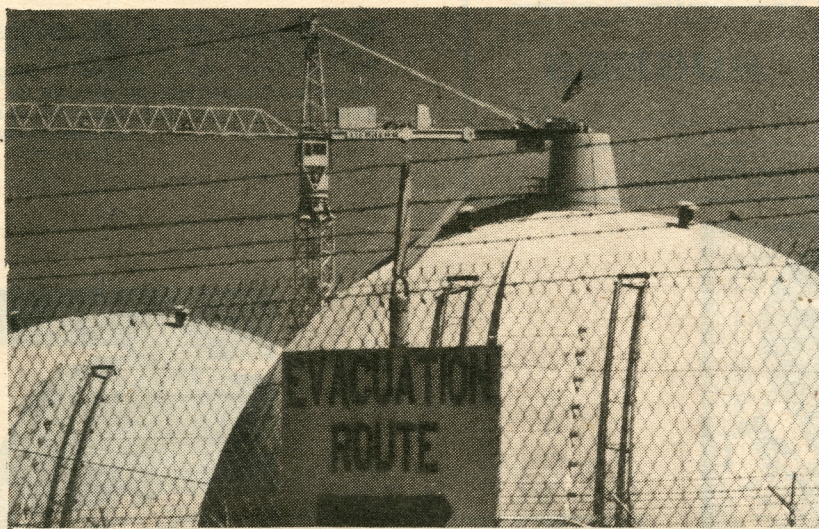
"Dr. Brune," Norton said, "As a scientist do you think the board should rely on these kind of exhibits prepared as they are?"

Over Fleischaker's objection, Brune was told to answer. He said the graphs were useful even with the errors, but he would like to replot the graph personally. The board refused to let him. The graphs and all related testimony were then excluded.

The hearings concluded with a flourish. Two seismologists who are consultants to the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, an advisory group to the NRC, attacked the scientific underpinnings of PG&E's entire case. Enrique Luko and Mikhail Trifunic said that the data on near-field earthquake forces are inadequate to allow for conclusions about Diablo Canyon. Luko also attacked PG&E's use of computer modeling in earthquake analysis as "premature."

The hearings finished on Saturday, October 23 and there still is no decision. Salzman said the board is under no statutory deadline, but the final decision by the NRC is expected by spring.

—Alan Ramo



San Onofre Units 2 and 3 under construction.

photo courtesy CEAN, San Diego

AA Safe Energy Groups

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

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

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

NORTH

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

COVELO:
DOWNWIND ALLIANCE, Box 175 / 95428 • (415) 848-1157

MENDOCINO:
CITIZENS ALLIANCE FOR SAFE ENERGY, Box 887 / 95460

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

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

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

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

TRINIDAD:
TRINIDAD ALLIANCE Box 60/95570 • (707) 677-3486

CENTRAL VALLEY & SIERRA

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

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

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

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

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

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

SACRAMENTO:
Citizens for Safe Energy 1917-16th St./95814 • (916) 442-3635

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

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

GREATER BAY AREA

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

BERKELEY (UC CAMPUS):
PEOPLE'S ANTI-NUCLEAR COLLECTIVE, UC Berkeley, 607 Eshelman Hall / 94720 • (415) 642-8165

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

CONCORD:
CONTRA COSTANS AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER, P.O. Box 743/94522 • (415) 934-5249

EL GRANADA:
COASTSIDERS FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, P.O. Box 951/94018 • (415) 728-7406

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

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

PT. REYES:
PELICAN ALLIANCE, P.O. Box 596/94956 • (415) 663-8483
SAN ANSELMO:
*ABALONE ALLIANCE OF MARIN, 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd./94960 • (415) 457-4377

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

SAN FRANCISCO:
ALLIANCE AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER, UC Med Center c/o Vicky Sommers N319X/94143 • (415) 666-1435

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

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

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

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

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

NURSES FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, 1444 7th Ave/94122 • (415) 681-1028

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

CENTRAL COAST

AVILA BEACH
A.V.I.L.A.
P.O. Box 344/93424
(805) 595-7208

LOMPOC:
LOMPOC SAFE ENERGY COALITION, P.O. Box 158 / 93436 • (805) 736-1897

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO:
PEOPLE GENERATING ENERGY, 452 Higuera / 93401 (805) 429-9525

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

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

PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE FUTURE, 112 Peyton Street / 95062 • (408) 426-9523

SOUTH

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

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

LOS ANGELES:
*ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL, 712 S. Grand View St. / 90057 • (213) 738-1041

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

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

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

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

SANTA ANA:
SUNFLOWER COLLECTIVE, 206 West 19th St./92706
SANTA BARBARA:
PEOPLE AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER, U.C. Santa Barbara P.O. Box 14006/93107 • (805) 968-4238 or 968-2886

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

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

SOUTH LAGUNA:
LAGUNA BEACH AFS, 30832 Driftwood/92677

TOPANGA:
TOPANGA CANYON AFS, c/o Food Chakra, Top. Cyn. Blvd. & Fernwood/90290

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

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AFS, 3615 Victory Blvd. #204 / 91401

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

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

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

"HELP WANTED" DEPARTMENT

The rapid growth of high-technology industries has created a shortage of trained engineers. Corporations are now placing dramatic advertisements in college newspapers in the hope of enticing engineering students to come to an interview. The companies wave around their sales figures and growth rates and proclaim that they have the exciting, challenging, high-paying career for you. With a little luck, the ads imply, you'll be running the company in no time at all.

But amid all the promises of upward mobility, you find only a few words about the firm itself. When it comes to the matter of what your potential employer actually *does*, some the ads become very quiet indeed. It seems, for instance, that nuclear and weapons work just isn't very popular these days, even among generally conservative engineering students. So here's a guide to a few recruiting ads—and the not-so-benign activities of a few of those nice companies.

IMAGINE YOURSELF AT HUGHES

You won't want to miss the Hughes Career Opportunity Presentation if you're an EE, ME, Physics, Computer Science, or Math major. Hughes will be on your campus.

U.C. BERKELEY
Wednesday,
October 29, 4-6 pm
Information Session

The left ad is from the *Daily Californian*. Hughes is less shy in the *Armed Forces Journal*.

To tell you how you can become involved with innovations that could change the world. Refreshments will be served.

At Hughes your future is limited only by your imagination.

HUGHES

HUGHES AIRCRAFT COMPANY
U.S. Citizenship required for Employment
Equal Opportunity Employer
Hughes Aircraft Company,
P.O. Box 90515, Los Angeles, CA 90009.

SCIENCE/SCOPE

Creating a new world with electronics

HUGHES

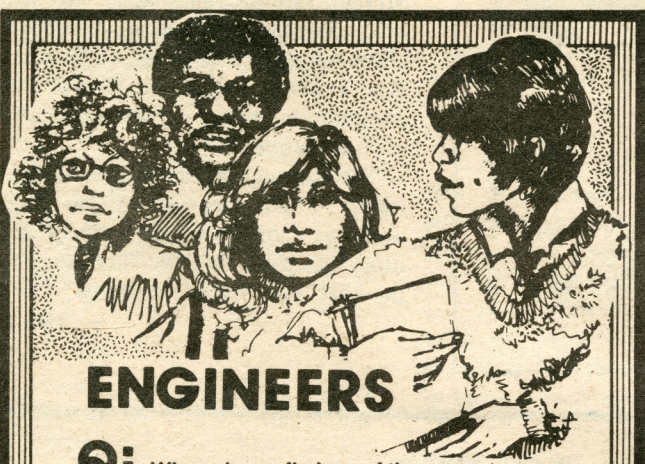
HUGHES AIRCRAFT COMPANY
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA 90230

A laser device that lets U.S. Army troops mark enemy targets for laser-guided missiles, bombs, and artillery shells is now in production at Hughes. The tripod-mounted device, called a Ground Laser Locator Designator (GLLD), directs an invisible beam of coded laser pulses at any target the operator selects. These pulses are reflected from the target, providing a bull's-eye for laser-homing weapons. The wavelength and periodic pulsation of the laser beam allow weapons and special sensors in aircraft to differentiate the correct target from others designated by other GLLD units in the same battlefield. GLLD also can pinpoint the range and bearing of still or moving targets for conventional artillery.

A rocket launcher developed for U.S. Army helicopters by Hughes is less costly, more durable, and lighter in weight than equipment now in service. The aluminum launcher, available in 19-tube and 7-tube versions, is used to fire 2.75-inch

be reused her into the support structures. This approach saves labor and trims weight associated with such conventional metalworking methods as riveting and welding. The weight savings allow improvements to be added to the helicopter rocket launcher system without sacrificing critical fuel.

Military pilots may get help in locating ground targets from far away with a new electronic process that examines TV-like imagery and selects potential targets. The technique, called automatic target cueing, is designed to enhance the performance of such imaging devices as forward-looking infrared (FLIR) systems. It would free pilots from having to study imagery and allow them to concentrate on planning evasive action or performing other tasks. The Hughes and



ENGINEERS

Q: Where do you find one of the world's largest energy, research and development centers with career opportunities allowing you to get involved?

A: In IDAHO, at EG&G...where your career will have enormous room to grow.

EG&G is the operating contractor for the Department of Energy's vast Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL).

The INEL covers about 900 square miles and employs some 7,000 people of whom roughly 4,000 hold degrees.

If your career plans include contributing to the development of alternative energy, EG&G Idaho, Inc. offers you a unique opportunity.

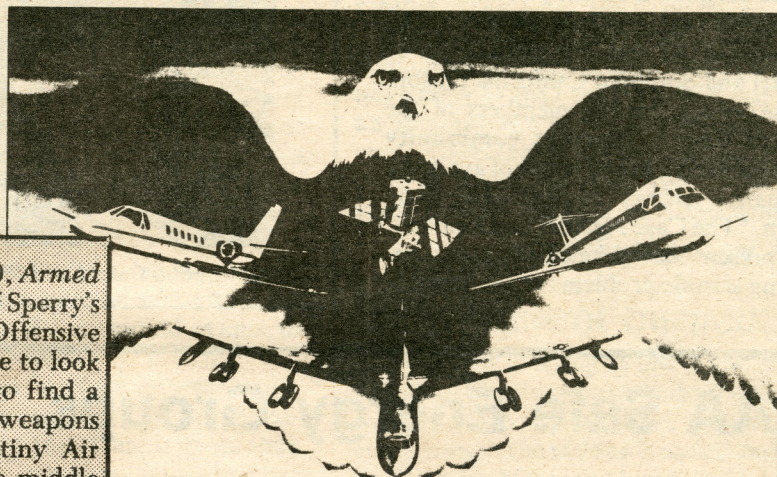
TECHNICAL EMPLOYMENT (C)
P. O. Box 1625, Idaho Falls, Idaho
We are an Equal Opportunity Employer

CAMPUS INTERVIEWS
Monday, October 20th and Tuesday,
PLACEMENT OFFICE
M. Hillyard

EG&G EG&G Idaho, Inc.
P. O. Box 1625, Idaho Falls, Idaho

The Idaho National Engineering Laboratory used to be called the National Reactor Testing Station. It is one of the largest nuclear facilities in the world, with 54 nuclear reactors, a reprocessing plant, and a nuclear waste dump. It is doing much of the development work for the breeder reactor. That's "alternative energy"??

An ad in the February, 1979, *Armed Forces Journal* seems proud of Sperry's role in building the B-52 Offensive Avionics System. But you have to look closely at this *Daily Cal* ad to find a clue that Sperry is in the weapons business. (Find it? It's the tiny Air Force star on the wing of the middle airplane.)



Graduating Engineers

Put your education to work. With Sperry.

A career with Sperry Flight Systems will make real use of the time and energy you've put into the last four years. The result: we both profit. The more innovative our engineers, the more opportunities they create for themselves. We appreciate that. After all, that's what makes us a growing company.

Speaking of growth, we're the fastest growing of all Sperry Corporation divisions. We're an industry leader in the design and development of high-technology control systems and electronics for air and space applications.

We're looking for BS and MS graduates in Electrical, Electronic and Aeronautical/Aerospace Engineering or a related engineering discipline. You may be involved in:

- Research & development
- Control systems
- Electronic design
- Product design
- Design analysis

Interested? If so, let's get together. We'd like to talk to you about our business and the Phoenix life-

style that offers you a vacation climate and outdoor recreation year-round.

We'll be on campus
Wednesday, Nov. 5.
See Jim Kenyon.

Investigate the opportunities at Sperry by talking to us while we're on campus. We'll fill you in on our competitive salaries and comprehensive benefits. Contact your campus Placement Office to arrange to see us.

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

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

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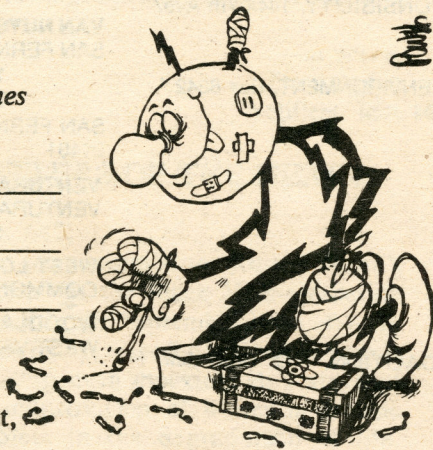
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Calendar

November 11 — Karen Silkwood Week benefit for the Abalone Alliance Labor Task Force featuring two films and a short report by Liv Smith on the First National Labor Conference for Safe Energy and Full Employment. The feature film "Salt of the Earth" and the acclaimed documentary "We've Always Done It This Way," about workers' efforts for an alternative production at the British defense contractor, Lucas Aerospace, will be shown. Mission Blue Cafe, 300 Precita (near Folsom and Army), 7:30 p.m.

November 12 — Same program as November 11, at La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation, \$2.50.

November 14: Stop Diablo Day. Contact your local group for more information.

November 17 and 18: Conference on "The Medical Consequences of Nuclear Weapons and War," organized by Physicians for Social Responsibility. Panel discussions on: The Threat of Nuclear Weapons, Nuclear War—Acute Effects, Nuclear War—Long Term Effects, Political and Economic Aspects of the Nuclear Arms Race.

Speakers include Congressperson Ronald Dellums, Peter Joseph of PSR, Admiral Gene R. LaRoque (Retired), Helen Caldicott and 14 others. Herbst Theater, War

Memorial House, San Francisco Civic Center, 5-8 pm. Contact: PSR, Box 144, Watertown, MA 02172. Cost: \$75 to physicians desiring Continuing Medical Education Credit, \$15 general admission.

November 17 — KQED will air a thirty-minute documentary produced by Steve Talbot on nuclear weapons in the Bay Area at 8 p.m.

November 20 — KQED will air a thirty-minute documentary produced by Steve Talbot on nuclear weapons in the Bay Area at 10 p.m.

November 22: Blockade meeting in San Luis Obispo at 12 noon.

SWAPO SPEAKING TOUR

A speaking tour of Northern California focusing on issues in southern Africa. Featured are Ellen Musialela, a 16-year member of the South West African Peoples Organization (SWAPO) and Mike Morgan, a war resister who refused to fight for the apartheid military of South Africa. They will be touring from November 4-26 and will hit the Bay Area, Sacramento, Davis, Fresno, Chico, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Reno and places in between. Among other important issues, they will touch on the problem of uranium mining in Namibia and the dangers of nuclear technology in South Africa. For further info: AFSC, (415) 752-7766 or SAMRAF, (415) 824-0468.