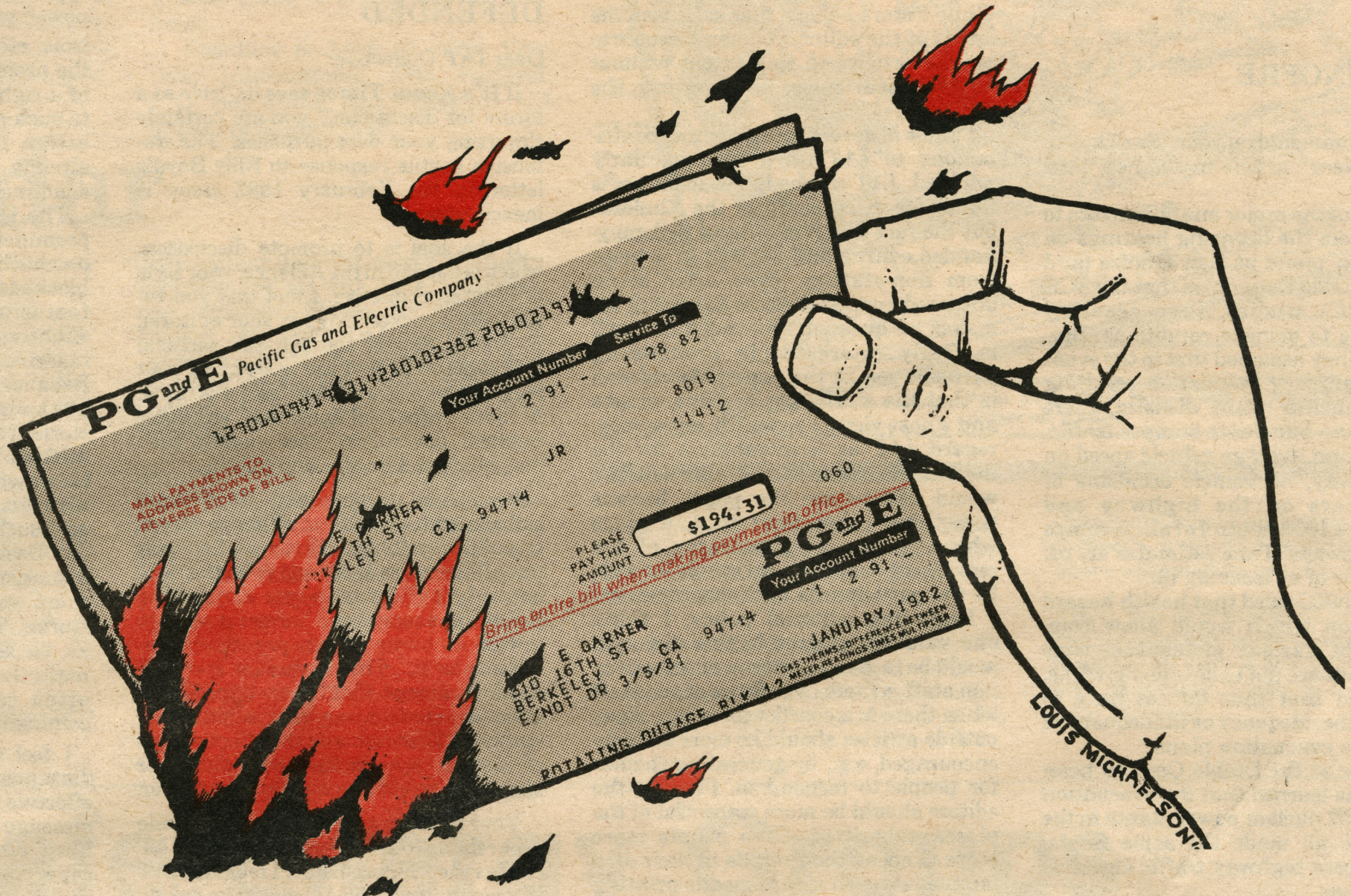


It's About Times

Abalone Alliance Newspaper

March 1982



PG&E rate hikes ignite protests

The biggest rate hike ever granted to PG&E, which doubled and tripled utility bills in January, has sparked a prairie fire of protests. A widespread and bitter defiance of both the utility and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has spread to nearly every county in northern California.

In several towns PG&E offices have been picketed daily. Voluntary blackouts have been organized as expressions of disgust--and by some accounts as attempts to damage PG&E equipment with the sudden power surge caused when the juice is simultaneously turned back on. Tens of thousands of signatures have been gathered on several petitions demanding rate rollbacks and new PUC directors. Elsewhere, protesters kept warm around bonfires fueled by PG&E bills.

Many of these activities are being put together by novice protesters like Judy Stilwell of Upper Lake, who "raised goats and kids all my life." Stilwell got involved when high electricity bills forced her to stop canning and freezing the vegetables she grows on her farm outside Upper Lake. She has contacted organizers in most northern California counties, people who "opened their mouths at the right time or the wrong time and found themselves leading a protest," she said.

PG&E offices are being picketed and protest blackouts organized. Utility bills fuel community bonfires and tens of thousands of irate customers are demanding rollbacks.

In Loomis, a small town in the Sierra foothills, 600 people showed up at a February 10 strategy session. This turnout was typical in the foothill areas, where utility bills zoomed up as much as 300% because of a change in the electric rate structure and the region's dependence on electricity rather than natural gas.

Overflow crowds plotted their counterattack against PG&E in high school gyms and auditoriums and an atmosphere of "we're mad as hell and we're not going to take it any more" reigned. PG&E was rebaptized "Pacific Greed and Exploitation" and the PUC became the "Perfectly Useless Commission."

Many northern Californians have tried to take advantage of a PUC regulation that says contested

utility bills can be paid to the commission while the disagreement between the ratepayer and PG&E is investigated. But the PUC says this "rate strike" won't work since it was the commission that approved the rate hikes in the first place.

PUC public information officer Eugene Raleigh admitted that the agency has been swamped with PG&E bills sent by irate customers. In fact, he said, by the time the PUC can process them and send them back, their payments to the utility could be overdue. "Unfortunately some customers' service will be terminated because we don't have the resources to handle these complaints

fast enough," he said.

At the offices of Toward Utility Rate Normalization (TURN), the state's leading utility watchdog, the phones ring all day. "Everyone wants to know what they can do to protest," said staff person Jamie Huberman. "We asked people to send us copies of their PG&E bills and now we have stacks of them all over the office."

The rate protests are still gathering momentum. A statewide rally in Sacramento is planned for March 8.

The barrage of protests and the overwhelmingly sympathetic media treatment they got prompted the state legislature-- which can remove PUC board members--to pass a resolution asking the commission to revoke the entire \$909 million rate hike pending a report on PG&E management by a state auditor. Feeling the heat, the PUC hastily cut \$100 million from the rate boost on February 18.

TURN's Sylvia Siegel quickly pointed out that the \$100 million concession would save the average ratepayer 86 cents. Siegel called the reduction was "peanuts" compared to the fuel savings PG&E would

(continued on page five)

Inside

Blockade at weapons lab	3
Diablo to boost PG&E bills	3
Pop goes the vessel	4
Rate strike Italian style	5
Youth revolt in Switzerland	6-7

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
American Friends Service
Committee, Inc.

AMERICAN FRIENDS
SERVICE COMMITTEE
2160 Lake Street
San Francisco, CA 94121

Letters



SAN ONOFRE

Dear IAT,

A few comments on your "San Onofre License Near" article in the Feb/1982 issue:

1) One of the major analytic errors to emerge from the licensing hearings on evacuation plans at San Onofre (and later at Diablo Canyon) is that the SCE (and NRC) studies have assumed impossible to achieve conditions. Specifically, they assumed that in the event of an emergency evacuation resulting from a nuclear plant disaster, there would be no bumper-to-bumper traffic, i.e. a 35 mph average vehicle speed on the highway, no vehicle accidents or stalled cars on the highway and continuous 100% control of all on-ramps to the freeways. Time estimates are off by a factor of at least six (6).

2) The NRC ruled that health hazard information which would allow comparison of various evacuation time possibilities are not to be considered, i.e. they ruled that they do not have to consider the adequacy or inadequacy of any of the evacuation plans.

3) Later at the Diablo Canyon hearings it was learned that the evacuation plans for 52 nuclear power plants in the U.S. have all made the same fundamental gross highway traffic errors as in (1) above.

We should all be aware of exactly what kind of technical gibberish the NRC, electric utilities and highway traffic engineering firms with national reputations have been engaged in. It was pointed out in testimony that these kinds of gross errors are the result of either technical incompetence or engineering dishonesty.

Sincerely,
Sheldon C. Plotkin,
Ph.D., P.E.

ECONOMY ÜBER ALLES?

Dear IAT,

Your article on Poland and Solidarity (February issue), though informative on the history of the Polish workers revolts, is confusing on what seems to me a fundamental question--whether the crisis in Poland is at root social or "economic."

I don't think I'm just quibbling over terminology--Solidarity fell victim to a similar confusion. Before the December coup, the workers movement tried to have it both ways--reform of the system (limited rationalization of the economy) and overthrow of the system (dumping the Party/police apparatus). This led to fatal vacillation, hedging of bets, fragmentation at the base and centralization of the national organization.

The conclusion of your article seems to miss the *radicalism* of the class struggle--its critique in acts (however abortive) of the economy as a separate sphere, as something divorced from society, culture, and politics.

J. Brook
Berkeley

P.S. I wonder if your other readers are at all interested in this discussion or in IAT's other articles on the international scene. Judging by the letters you print, it seems IAT readers are much more concerned with fighting certain obviously dangerous technologies (nuclear power, nuclear weapons) than with any broader contestation of the total set-up that produces these technologies.

TO EDIT OR NOT TO EDIT

Dear IAT,

I'm unhappy with the treatment of my article entitled (by you) "The Art of Democracy" (February 1982). When I consented to editing of the piece because of space limitations, I didn't know that you were going to alter practically every single phrase. Several of my cutting edges were smoothed over, important points extracted, nuances changed to suit the outlook and tastes of the editor, who even made a couple of points I don't fully agree with. While I don't believe that such was the intent of the editor, you can't expect to rewrite articles to this extent without your political biases entering into the picture.

I know of several people whose contributions to IAT have been similarly handled. IAT claims to see itself as "a forum for discussion" in the Abalone but the fact that it continues its heavy-handed editing and altering of articles from non-staffers, even after being criticized countless times for doing so, makes me question how much the staff is really interested in broadening participation in the paper. My opinion is that the staff, who are fine writers and whose views I generally agree with, regard IAT as a mouthpiece for the individuals involved in its production. I would like to see the paper become something other than that, a place where the pressing concerns of the movement are aired and struggled with by the participants in that movement.

Regarding editorial policy, I think one valuable change in this direction would be to give priority to articles from non-staff writers over those of the staff when there is a conflict for space. Also, outside articles should be more actively encouraged, e.g., by generating themes for people to respond to. Finally, the editors should be more respectful of the pieces submitted. Give people more room to speak their minds in their own languages, even if that means printing articles which are, in your view, a bit amateurish or wordy. I don't think IAT will fall under if it runs a few "unprofessional" pieces. In fact it might become a more vibrant, diverse and politically useful anti-nuke rag than it already is.

Sincerely,
Howard Ryan
Berkeley, CA

P.S. Great article on the Polish workers movement. Bravo!



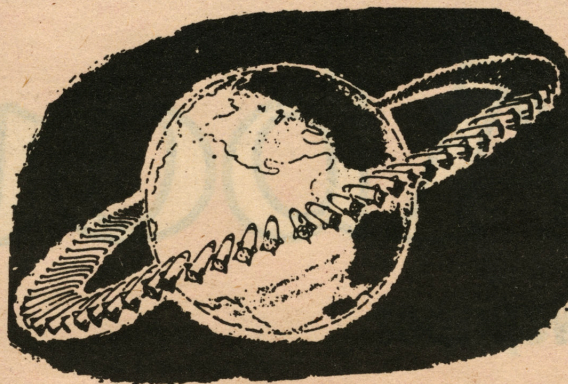
"Dear author . . . Just a friendly note to inform you that some no-talent idiot sent us the enclosed drivel and had the poor taste to sign your name to it."

The editors reply:

Dear Howard,

Every article in *It's About Times* (including every story by the staff) is edited according to our best judgments of clarity, style and space considerations. When a long piece like yours is shortened, there are bound to be some lost nuances. We know authors resent this shortening, but readers have often told us they appreciate it. After reviewing the original version of your article, we don't feel we changed your meaning.

Because we have been criticized several times for the extent of our editing, we now try to show changes to authors. But you declined our offer to see the edited version of your piece.



RAINBOW WARRIOR DEFENDED

Dear IAT Collective:

If *It's About Times* sees its "role as a forum for discussion," you are certainly thwarting your own purposes. The defensive hostile response to Billy Boyd's letter in the February 1982 issue is inexcusable.

If the goal is to promote discussion, which is needed in the Alliance, your style is counterproductive. I feel that you essentially attacked Boyd in your editorial response. Sifting through the sarcasm and ridicule to find the essence of your message (which is still unclear) was tiring. A more respectful tone may engender political discussion more readily than one which is arrogant and hostile.

It's fine to disagree with Boyd about ridicule and satire as an effective means of political criticism. However, IAT was out of line when it carried it further and implied that Boyd or anyone who dislikes ridicule and satire has a "reverent attitude toward authority (which) reinforces submission to it." The movement and IAT need to accept that many approaches exist to confronting and eliminating authority. Discussion on the effectiveness of various approaches, collectively or singularly, would be a worthwhile endeavor.

Your position on the nonviolence code as it relates to IAT is unclear. Since IAT carries the Alliance name, I feel that IAT is accountable to the Alliance. The debate may be non-violence as a tactic versus non-violence as a philosophy. Regardless of IAT's position, the Alliance adopted an attitude of non-violence and I feel that you should comply at least in spirit.

Just because one adheres to a non-violent code, one is not bound to refrain from disagreement and dissent. I think what Boyd is asking, and I along with him, is that you think about the consequences of what you are doing and will the means get your ends? I don't think I am as offended as Boyd by the cartoons in the last several issues. I do, however, dislike the cartoon on the front page of the February 1982 issue because of its depiction of law enforcement as cooling towers and the judge as a reactor. I question the use of the paper as tool for outreach when such images are presented.

It's About Times has the opportunity to facilitate serious political discussion on a variety of topics--from Alliance structure and process to strategy to vision and direction for the future. If people are attacked, IAT will facilitate people retreating from rather than engaging in such discussions.

Sincerely,
George Whitaker
San Francisco, CA

NEW ZEALAND NOTES

Dear Friends,

I have just received a copy of *It's About Times* that you forwarded to me. I am particularly interested in the Diablo Canyon action, as we have, for the past two years, had a public policy of nonviolent direct action against a proposed aluminum smelter to be built at the mouth of Otago Harbour. At the moment, the plans are in abeyance due to economic conditions forced on the company by the widespread public opposition to the plan (including high power prices, expensive pollution controls, etc., which affect the viability of the project). With the recent re-election of a right-wing government committed to such projects, we anticipate renewed action in this fight, despite having already put plans 18 months behind deadlines.

The Diablo Canyon action gained a prominent place on national TV news on both channels throughout the blockade, with a couple of evenings featuring film. The action gained slightly better publicity here than the massive anti-nuke marches in Europe. Because of the pre-publicity of the blockade, most news media covered the stories related to the engineering faults in the plant in some detail. I am sure these would not have made the news here if it were not for the blockade. The approach was generally along the lines of "Design faults achieved what the demonstrators could not" although there was some linking of the two stories. The blockade itself was shown as "a few demonstrators," but each night the numbers arrested were given, often contradicting the American commentary on the film.

I feel that despite the international distances involved, the action was effective in itself, certainly getting the message across to places that would have otherwise had no mass media reporting of opposition to nuclear power. By simply achieving coverage in New Zealand, the job of those opposing nuclear power is minimal, following a massive national campaign in 1975 which forced the government to halt all plans on nuclear power generation (first plant was due to begin operation in 1986) and declare a moratorium on the question until 2000.

I am also particularly interested in your comments on problems with the RCP and similar groups. We have just been through the most hectic winter in New Zealand's history as a result of a tour of this country by a South African Rugby team. Between July and September, we saw daily demonstrations throughout the country, with a total result of 2,500 arrests, several hundred injuries, and a complete change in attitudes relating to demonstrations and police. Violence by police brought about the situation of "battles" where "nonviolent" demonstrators with wooden shields, helmets, faceguards and boots met police with long batons, helmets and visors in a series of bloody clashes.

Much of this escalation, which was frighteningly rapid in a two-month sustained action, was promoted by the hierarchy of the anti-apartheid move-

(continued on page nine)

It's About Times

Abalone Alliance Newspaper

It's About Times is the newspaper of the Abalone Alliance, a California antinuclear/safe energy organization consisting of over 50 member groups (see page 11). The opinions expressed in IAT are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Abalone Alliance.

It's About Times is a project of the American Friends Service Committee. IAT is published ten times a year. The annual subscription rate is \$8.00.

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

Managing Editor: Steve Stallone

Editorial Staff: Marcy Darnovsky, Mark Evanoff, Bob Van Scoy and Ward Young

Poetry Editor: Bill Garret

Production friends: Louis Michaelson and Shendl Tuchman

Typesetting: Cindy Cornell and Bill Garret

Copyright ©1982. Permission is given to reprint articles and graphics if credit is given to IAT. Please send us a copy. *It's About Times* / 2940 16th St. Room 310 / San Francisco, CA 94103. (415) 861-0592.

Protestors block gates of weapons lab

On February 1, 170 people were arrested at a blockade of the Lawrence Livermore nuclear weapons laboratory. It was the Bay Area's largest civil disobedience action in over ten years.

In an attempt to stop the lab's 7000 employees from going to work, the blockade began before 7 a.m. Affinity groups of blockaders, supported by 700 other demonstrators, approached each of the lab's four gates in waves, sat down, and were arrested.

By 10 a.m. the blockade was over. Among those arrested were eight juveniles, a San Francisco sheriff's deputy and a 17-year-old employee of the Livermore Labs.

In jail a strategy of solidarity was put into effect. Almost all the blockaders refused to accept probation, fines or bail. They demanded equal treatment for first and second-time offenders, pled guilty and asked for jury trials if their demands were not met.

This solidarity put the authorities in a difficult position. Holding 170 people in jail and drawn-out jury trials would have added to the costs already incurred in the arrests.

When the arraignments took place in a large auditorium at the jail, the judge spoke to the 158 blockaders still being held through a bull horn. Bowing to their solidarity, he offered a choice of a \$210 fine, five more days in jail or seven days of community service. No one was given probation.

Most of the blockaders chose community service and were released that night. Some will do their time in Livermore and try to open a dialogue with residents of the community. Twenty-nine people chose to serve the additional five days in jail.

The blockade was organized by the Livermore Action Group, a recently formed association composed of Diablo blockade veterans, members of the UC Nuclear Weapons Labs Conversion Project and many people newly active in the disarmament movement. The goals of the Livermore Action Group are (1) to present viewpoints critical of the arms race to the lab's employees,



Livermore blockaders are ordered by police to disperse or be arrested.

photo by Drew Mazer

- (2) a freeze on nuclear weapons testing, production and deployment and
- (3) an end to the weapons work of the lab and its conversion to peaceful, socially useful research.

The message of the blockade was that the government will no longer be able to continue developing nuclear weapons at Livermore without being forced to arrest Americans who oppose them.

The Livermore Action Group is now organizing for another blockade of the lab on June 21. On June 19 there will be a rally in Oakland or Berkeley and then a march to Livermore, after which the blockade will begin.

Anyone interested in helping with the action and/or in forming an affinity group to take part should call (415) 644-2028.

Dave Raymond

UC Nuclear Weapons Labs Conversion Project

PG&E gets set to charge for Diablo

Despite delay after embarrassing delay, PG&E is confident that the Diablo nuke will soon be given the go-ahead. In anticipation, the utility has submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) an amendment to its 1979 rate adjustment application to cover Diablo's construction and operating costs. PG&E wants the new rate structures ready to go into effect as soon as the plant goes on line, which it expects by August 1 of this year for Unit One and April 1, 1983 for Unit Two.

PG&E claims that utility bills won't increase when Diablo is put into the rate base because savings from oil it replaces will offset its construction costs. Unfortunately for ratepayers, several fallacious assumptions have been made to arrive at this conclusion.

First, PG&E calculates Diablo will save 20 million barrels of oil a year at \$43 per barrel. This would be a significant savings except that PG&E burned only 9.5 million barrels of oil last year. So natural gas will end up

approved. Extra costs would be tabulated yearly, approved by the PUC and passed on to ratepayers. PG&E adds that rates will be reduced if expenses are less than planned.

The rate adjustment amendment was submitted to the PUC on January 27. Kenneth Chew of the PUC said no hearings have been scheduled yet and that the staff had several questions about PG&E's application.

Ratepayers are also being charged for the replacement of defective parts used in the plant. Westinghouse turbine blades, which have a history of cracking in other reactors, have been replaced twice at a cost of \$32 million. The latest blades are supposed to be a stronger design.

Steam generator tubes, similar to those used at Diablo, have cracked and leaked, leading to the closure of San Onofre and causing problems at other reactors around the country. So Diablo's copper tubes were replaced with titanium ones and a water demineralizer

PG&E wants ratepayers to cover unexpected costs.

being displaced as well as oil. However, natural gas costs about half the price of oil so the fuel savings will not be as large as estimated.

Second, PG&E assumes the plant will run at 65% capacity. But nuclear plants the size of Diablo operate at an average 51.8% capacity. During the first year of operation, their efficiency is even less. A lower output than PG&E foresees will mean an increased cost for each kilowatt of electricity generated.

As if anticipating the inadequacy of its own predictions, the utility refuses to commit itself to its rosy prophecies. "The estimated costs used in the application are just that — estimated costs," said Donald A. Brand, PG&E Vice President of Engineering. "The final adjustment will be based on recorded figures approved by this commission (PUC)."

Not surprisingly, PG&E is suggesting the creation of a "balancing account" to cover unanticipated expenses after the rate adjustment is

was installed to help prevent corrosion and leaking at a cost of \$20 million. Because of inadequate earthquake studies before construction, ratepayers will be charged \$103 million for bracing to make the plant "earthquake safe." And it's still not clear if ratepayers will bear the expense of correcting the design errors revealed after the blockade — an expense PG&E has called "small compared to the overall cost of the project."

One final major expense will be unavoidable if Diablo goes into operation — decommissioning. PG&E assumes the cost of completely dismantling both reactors will be \$195 million in 1981 dollars. There is no evidence that plants the size of Diablo can be dismantled immediately after shutdown because of high radiation. According to PG&E's current plans, the Humboldt Bay plant, 3% the capacity of Diablo, won't be dismantled until 100 years after permanent shutdown.

—Mark Evanoff IAT staff



Non-cooperating demonstrator is dragged away from Livermore gates.

photo by Drew Mazer

Pop goes the vessel

Reactors aren't all they're cracked up to be

To hear your local electric company tell it, the major parts of a nuclear plant have been carefully designed to last for the plant's expected life of 30 to 40 years. But there is increasing evidence that the reactor vessel surrounding the nuclear core is becoming brittle in some plants which have been running for only about ten years -- and concern is mounting that this condition could lead to sudden vessel rupture and a catastrophic meltdown accident.

The cause of the embrittlement problem is radiation damage to the walls of the vessel, which are bombarded by neutrons when the reactor is in operation. The problem is more serious in the pressurized water reactors (PWRs) designed by Westinghouse, Babcock and Wilcox, and Combustion Engineering than in the boiling water type designed by General Electric.

All California nuclear plants except Humboldt are PWRs, and Southern California Edison's San Onofre-1 is one of eight plants in the country that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) singled out in the summer of 1980 for special attention in its embrittlement investigations. The utilities that own the plants were not exactly thrilled, and by November of 1981 seven of the eight had refused to supply the NRC with some of the data it requested. As in previous cases where utilities have defied the NRC, the commission has decided not to press the issue rather than use its enforcement powers to obtain compliance.

The number that the NRC most wanted - and didn't get - goes by the tongue-twisting name "reference temperature-nil ductility transition," understandably abbreviated to RT-NDT. Below this temperature, a reactor vessel behaves in a brittle fashion, becoming much more susceptible to cracking or rupture if overstressed. Above this temperature, it is considered "ductile" and can withstand much higher stresses without cracking.

Reactor vessels start life with a RT-NDT in the range of 0 to 40 degrees F., well below the temperatures they encounter in plant operation. But as the vessel is exposed to radiation, it becomes embrittled and the RT-NDT rises, reaching as high

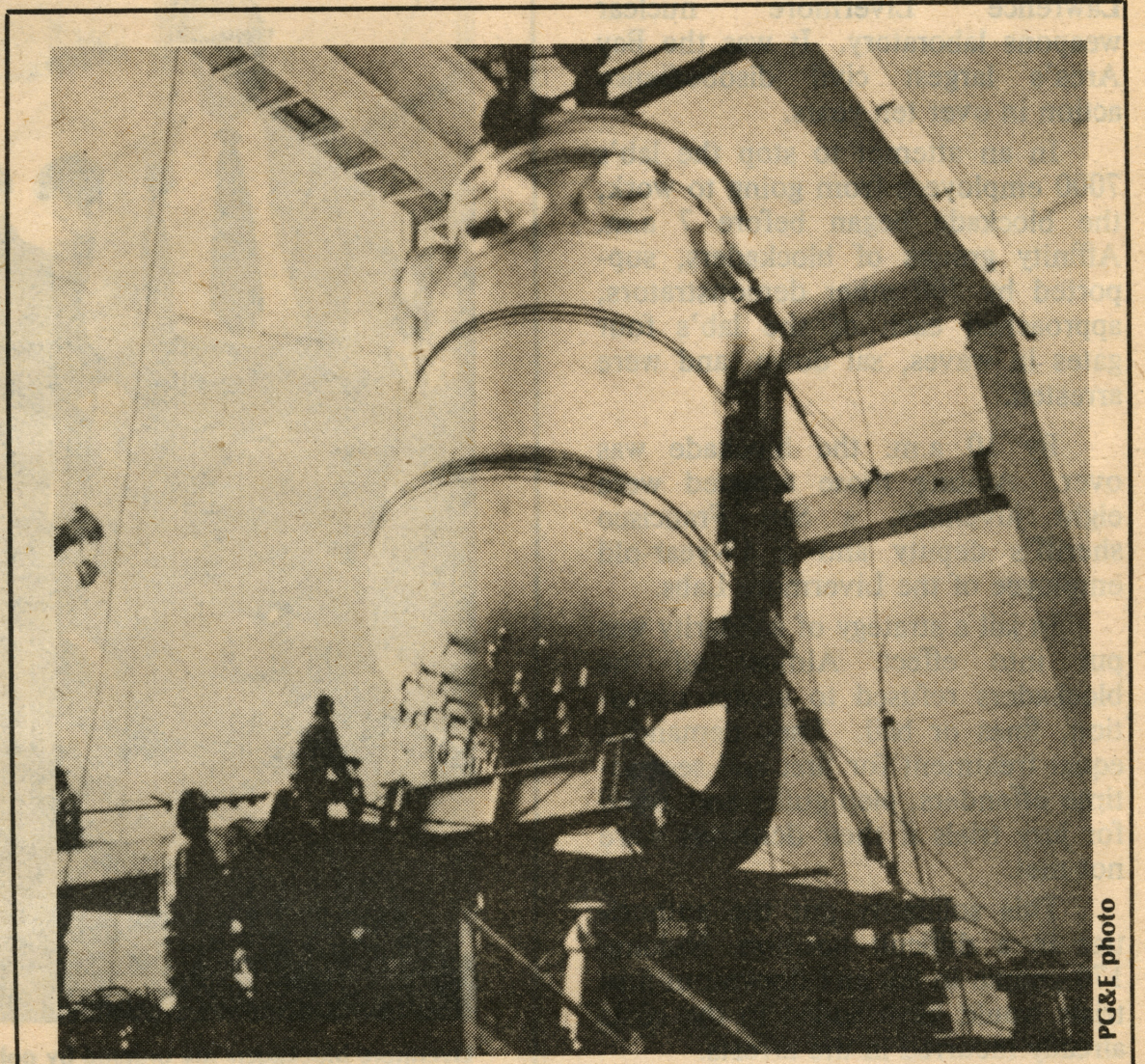
as 250-280 degrees F. in older plants such as San Onofre 1.

At first glance, this still seems to present no problem since the normal vessel temperature in a running reactor is around 550 degrees F. However, in starting a plant up -- and especially in shutting it down -- much lower temperatures are common. The most worrisome situation arises in emergencies such as a break in the piping connected to the reactor. When this happens, cold water from the emergency core cooling system is pumped into a hot reactor vessel to replace the water lost through the break. The rapid cooling of the inside of the vessel wall while the outside is still hot creates large stresses of the same kind that have shattered many an overheated glass coffeepot suddenly filled with cold water.

To make the situation worse, reactor operators have been instructed to leave the emergency core cooling systems running during this kind of accident to prevent a recurrence of the events at Three Mile Island, where reactor pressure dropped too low, allowing a steam bubble to form which caused core overheating. With the emergency systems running, the pressure inside the reactor vessel would be rapidly increasing as the vessel cooled. While this strategy might work for preventing steam bubbles, the combination of the rising pressure, the stresses of sudden cooling, and an embrittled pressure vessel below its critical RT-NDT temperature could spell disaster.

Reactor vessels have already been stressed by too-rapid cooling in several incidents, including one in March 1978 at the Rancho Seco plant near Sacramento. But Rancho Seco was new at the time. There is growing concern that older plants with embrittled vessels may not survive similar mishaps.

Although the issue of radiation embrittlement is unique to nuclear pressure vessels, the unexpected failures of large pressure vessels used in other industries have been studied for years. It is well known that relatively small manufacturing defects or cracks can spread sideways uncontrollably under certain conditions, ripping the vessel apart even when it is subjected to relatively low



Diablo's reactor vessel being installed.

PG&E photo

pressures. Despite this "real world" experience, the NRC has never required nuclear plants to be able to survive a pressure vessel failure. It and its predecessor, the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), have taken the public position that such a failure was so unlikely to be "incredible." But this position had little to do with engineering certainty. As the AEC's Peter Morris told a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency in 1973, "The reason is very simple -- no design was available for a building that could withstand the consequences of pres-

aftermath of a meltdown.

Only the nuclear industry remains confident. Westinghouse, for instance, says that there is no need to worry about any of its reactor pressure vessels until at least January of 1983. Even if the company can support this claim, it represents an admission that the problem can't be ignored for more than another year.

The NRC faces some hard choices. It could set an arbitrary limit on RT-NDT and prescribe a means of determining it -- with no evidence that such a limit would

The NRC doesn't require nuclear plants to be able to survive a pressure vessel failure.

sure vessel failure, so it was decided to accept the risk."

British scientific authorities took a different view when their government was considering building American-designed PWR's in 1974. Unlike their American counterparts, British officials didn't face the pressures of a domestic industry heavily committed financially to PWR's. Prominent among those troubled by the possibility of vessel failure was Sir Alan Cottrell, an eminent metallurgist and the chief government science advisor, who warned that unrealistic perfection in building and monitoring the vessels would be needed to assure their safety. Partly as a result of Cottrell's concerns, the plan to build the reactors was rejected.

Back in the US, nuclear authorities continued to sweep the problem under the rug. The NRC's 1975 Reactor Safety Study, widely criticized for its pro-industry bias, used an estimate for the probability of reactor vessel failure that was 100 times lower than the rate actually experienced with similar vessels in other industries. Seven years later, the Commission has yet to give the problem the serious attention it deserves. But the clock is ticking away in nuclear plants around the country, and the NRC must soon decide on a course of action or risk being charged with negligence in the

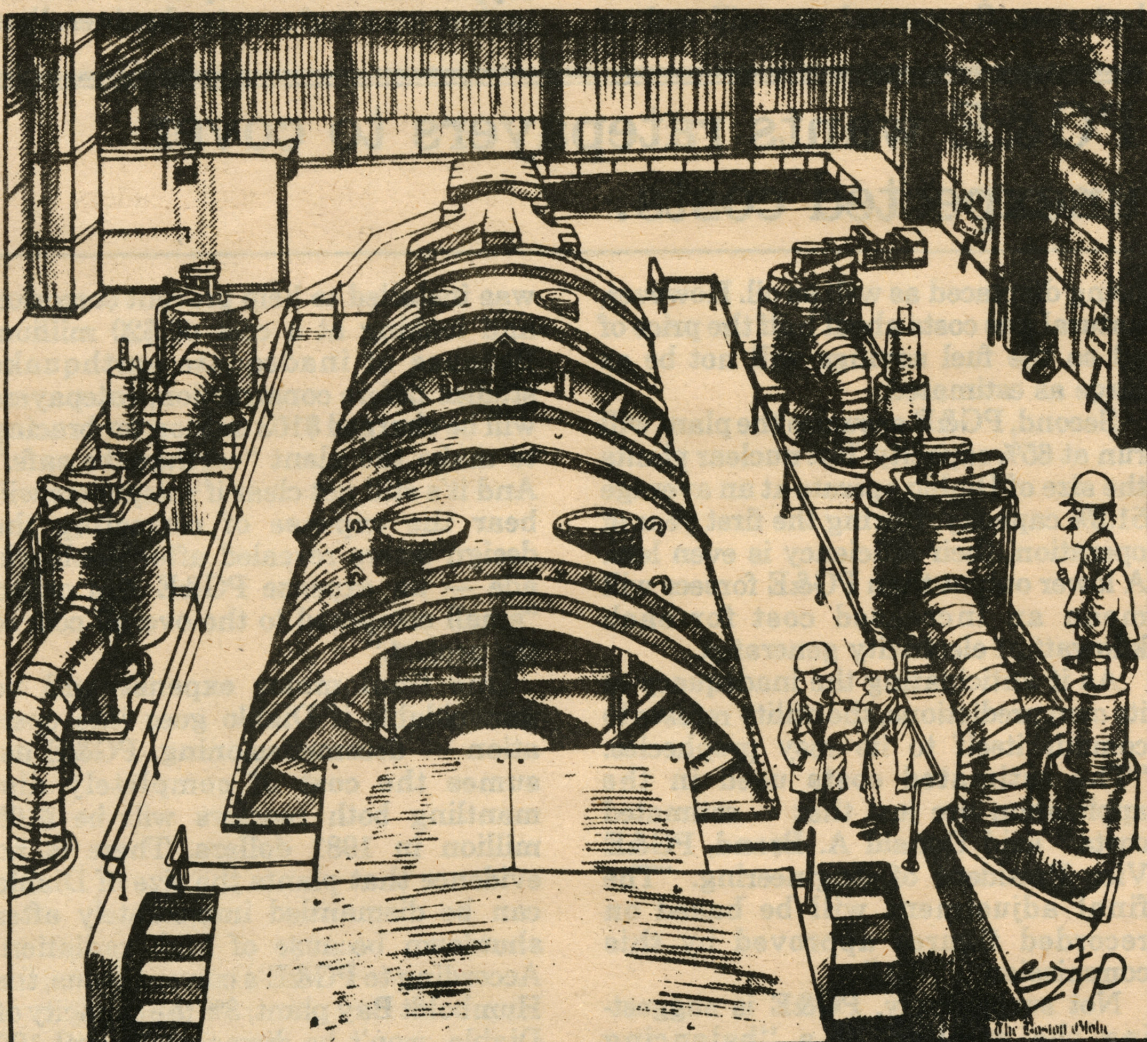
prevent catastrophic vessel failures. It could set up more rigorous inspection procedures to find cracks before they reach a dangerous size -- despite the known unreliability of the available inspection methods. It could let utilities try heating brittle vessels to high temperatures in order to "anneal" them and reverse some of the radiation damage -- with no assurance that this would work. It could simply continue to ignore the problem and hope for the best.

Alternatively, the Commission could take its own rhetoric about safety seriously. It could realize, at last, that it and predecessor agencies have made a serious mistake in licensing a reactor design susceptible to a type of accident that not even the best safety systems and most competent operators can control. It could order the reactors shut down, starting with those in the most dangerous condition. In short, it could choose to value public safety over the continued profits of the nuclear industry. But don't hold your breath -- unless you live downwind of an aging reactor.

--Bob Van Scoy IAT staff

Sources:

Nucleus, Union of Concerned Scientists, Fall, 1981; Nucleonics Week, 11/12/81; USNRC memorandum, 11/3/81; The Risks of Nuclear Power Reactors, Union of Concerned Scientists, 8/77.



"I didn't say psssst . . . did you say psssst?"

Rate hikes ignite protests

(continued from page one)

recoup in low-cost hydroelectricity from this year's heavy snowpack.

The PUC also restored some of the cuts it had made in allowances for all-electric homes. And it ordered PG&E to restore its low-interest loan programs for conservation and solar energy, which the utility had abruptly cancelled in February.

Stilwell dismissed the suggestion that the protesters would back off after the PUC's concessions. "Hell no," she said. "Granted all sorts of moves are being made in the legislature, but those methods take months and meanwhile people are not going to grin and bear it. The banks foreclosed on forty homes in one week in Redding because people couldn't afford to pay both their utility bills and house payments."

One established group that has shifted gears to work with the rate protesters is the Sierra Foothills Community Assistance Project, which is active in 14 counties. Director Houston Spires believes that a more responsive PUC is the first step toward rate relief. His group is circulating a petition to replace the current PUC board with new appointees from each geographic area, who would be subject to voter approval in the next general election. Another of the group's petitions calls for rolling back utility rates to their January 1981 level.

According to Spires, the purpose of the voluntary blackouts was not to hurt PG&E but to provide a way for people to "vent their anger together instead of throwing bricks or punching noses."

According to Spires, there are no great fans of nuclear power in the

Grass Valley area where he lives, especially with Rancho Seco "off line more than it's on." Spires says that many ratepayers think they're already paying for the Diablo boondoggle. More will become disenchanted with nuclear power, he predicts, when the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, which owns Rancho Seco, raises its rates 20% in March.

The rate protesters seem open to working with anyone opposed to rate-gouging. Some Abalone Alliance members are involved, and the Alliance has been asked to send a speaker to the March 8 rally.

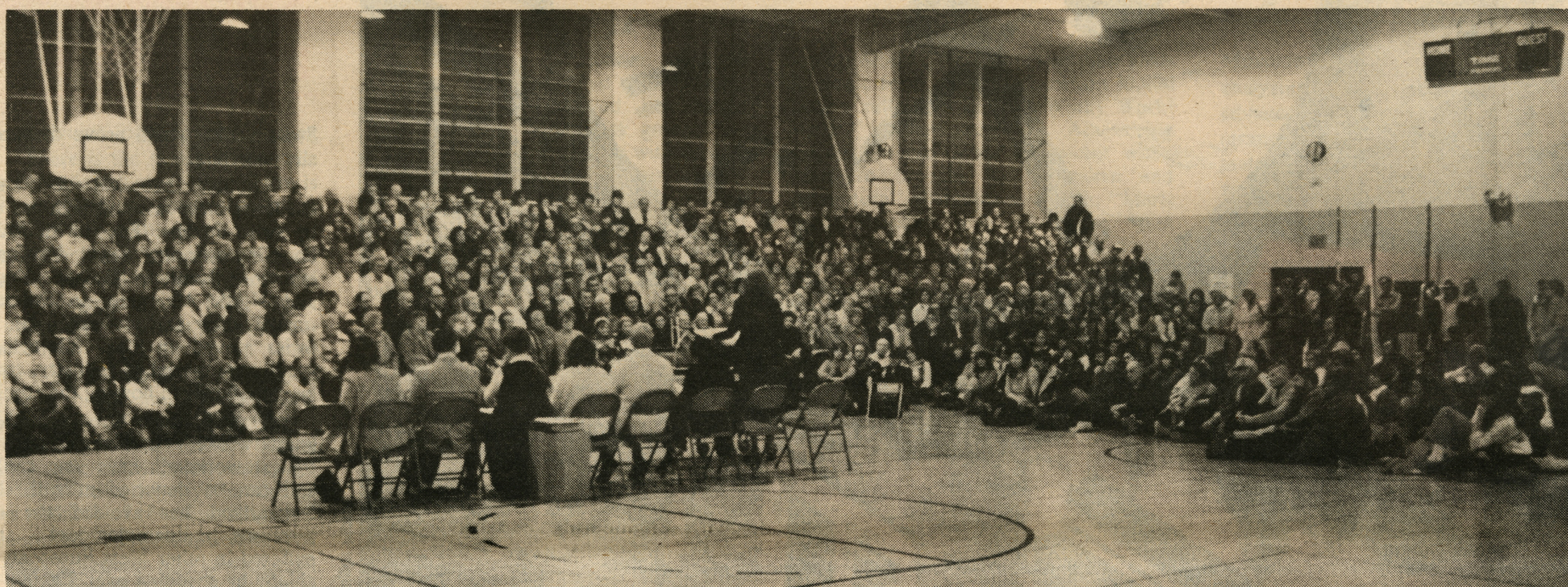
But Fatima Gips of the Nevada County People for a Nuclear Free Future, an Abalone Alliance affiliate, feels that some differences remain to be overcome. She suspects that the rate protesters include people who called her "when our group was

demonstrating at PG&E a year ago and told me to shut up about Diablo Canyon. They said if it wasn't for us they'd have cheap electricity."

In a move calculated to encourage splits among PG&E's critics, Frederick Mielke, the utility's chief executive officer, blamed antinuclear protesters for the higher rates. At a February 22 hearing of the Assembly Select Committee on Utility Performance, Rates and Regulations, Mielke said that "the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant would cut our rates by \$500 million in the first five years of operations, even at present costs."

Only days before, however, PG&E had applied to the PUC for an additional rate adjustment to go into effect when Diablo goes on line.

Ward Young
LAT staff



Irate northern California ratepayers meet in a high school gym to discuss strategies.

Rate strike Italian style

When a huge rate hike in Italy sent utility bills skyrocketing in 1972, a neighborhood assembly in Rome decided not to pay the bills. The neighborhood women demonstrated at the headquarters of the state-run utility company, ENEL. With the help of electrical workers acting outside of official union structures, they occupied the manager's office.

The utility's management agreed its billing system was "imprecise" and worked out an arrangement for paying in installments. Although only a symbolic victory, it showed the women that together they could fight the company.

In response to the deepening economic crisis, a group within the Italian ruling elite proposed an economic reform program known as the Carli Plan, named after the president of the Bank of Italy. In June 1974 the government adopted the plan. Even the Italian Communist Party (PCI), in accordance with its policy of "historic compromise" with the capitalist system, accepted it.

Essentially the plan called for restructuring production-- diversifying some industrial sectors like the auto industry and formulating a nuclear energy program, and restructuring consumption--reducing poor and working class living standards by increasing prices. Specifically, the government's new policy of "fair pricing" of public services entailed massive price increases, often

exceeding 50%, in transportation, electricity, telephone, health care and housing.

At the beginning of July the government tested the political waters by boosting electricity rates an average of 70%. If they could get away with this, they seemed to assume, imposing other planned increases would be much easier. But the response came quickly.

Neighborhood assemblies and utility workers decided to "self-reduce" their electric bills by 50%.

Neighborhood assemblies and ENEL workers met and decided to "self-reduce" their electric bills, paying only 50% of the new rates. By using this form of direct action, utility customers showed their disagreement with and disdain for the government's unilateral rate-hike decision.

The electrical workers union declared that they would refuse to turn off the electricity in apartment buildings practicing self-reduction. Moreover, they were prepared to warn the tenants of pending cutoffs, allowing neighborhood assemblies time to mobilize militant picket lines to prevent access to apartment building power boxes.

To spread the movement

quickly, petitions were circulated. The signers committed themselves to paying only half price and to sending, along with the payment, a letter in which they explained that they were acting in accordance with the directions of the union.

The rate strikers played on the legal loopholes of the system. ENEL could not call the police because their "crime" fell under civil code,

not the penal law. As long as ENEL workers were not attacked or the company had not obtained a court order for the cutoff, ENEL had no recourse.

At the height of the movement in late 1974, there were 160,000 "self-reducers" in Turin and tens of thousands in Rome, Milan, Florence, Venice and Naples.

In Turin self-reduction tactics were used in other spheres as well. When transit companies increased fares by 20% to 50%, the union prepared its own weekly transit passes for the same price as the old ones. Union delegates aboard the buses offered passengers these tickets as an alternative to buying the new, more expensive company pass.

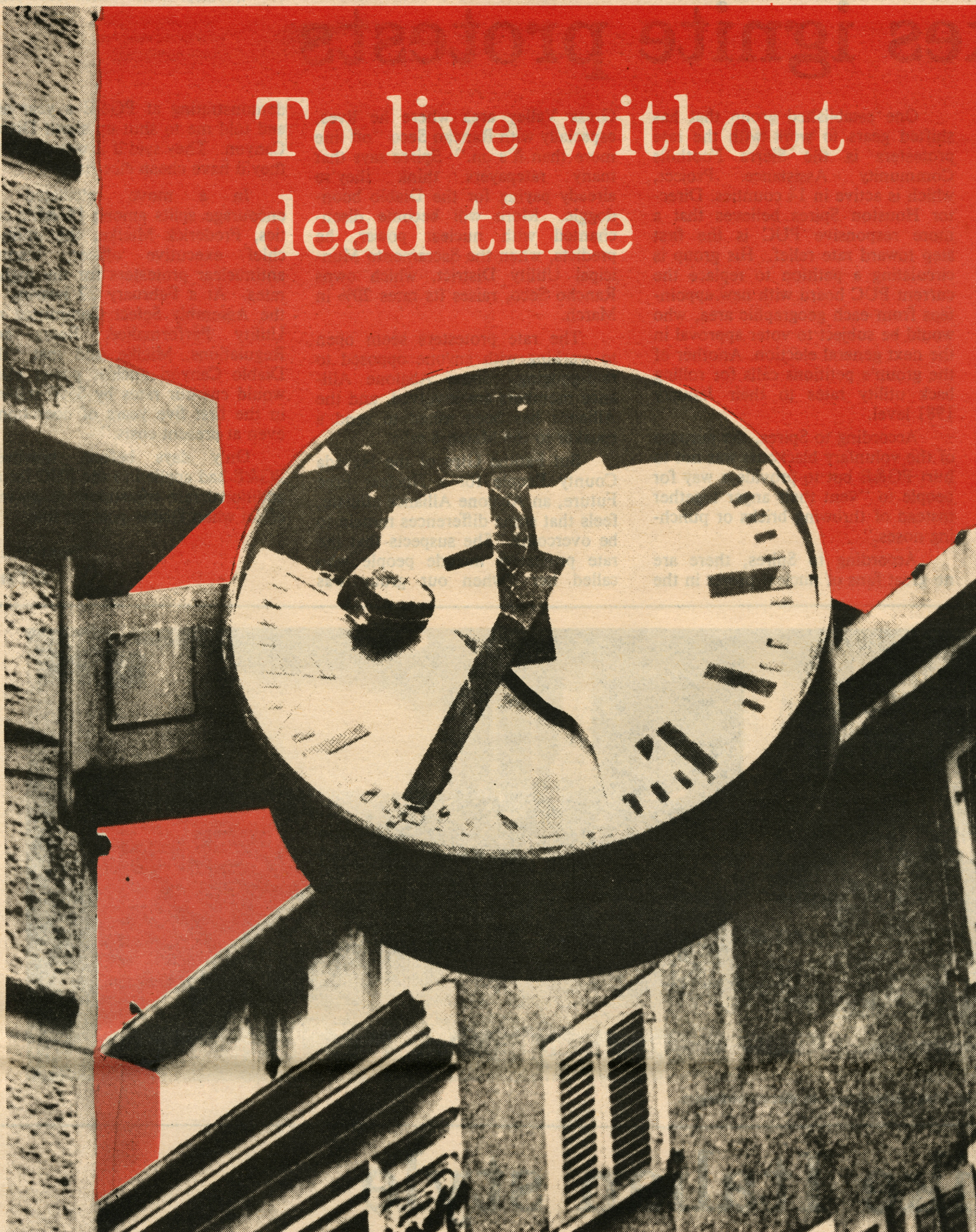
More and more consumers and workers were taking it upon themselves to reduce the prices of public services, housing, telephone and electricity to a level they determined collectively. Such tactics understandably struck fear in the hearts of landlords and company managers, especially when certain workers seized on them not simply as a way to enforce "fair pricing," but as a method of political struggle. Something had to be done.

By October of 1974 the new center-left national government was anxious to settle the utility rate question. Many union leaders were willing to give in. On December 28 they signed an agreement with ENEL and the government whereby individual consumers still paid exorbitant sums and corporate rates were kept low. The agreement also stipulated that the "self-reduced" fractions of past utility bills must be paid.

The more conservative, PCI-led sections of the unions backed the pact. This blocked further extension of the movement. But self-reduction committees, along with some factory councils and renegade union groups, signed an appeal to continue. In the spring of 1975 there were still hundreds of thousands practicing self-reduction. The tactic was to reappear in France and Portugal in 1975-76 and may yet make its way west across the Atlantic.

Steve Stallone
LAT staff

To live without dead time



sexually repressive society, traditionally dominated by an obsession with money-making and a work ethic that *London Guardian* correspondent Iain Guest calls "terrifying."

It is also notoriously sexist. The nation's women did not win the vote until 1971, and were granted full legal equality only last June. Surveys of Swiss men conducted at the time revealed deep-seated male supremacist attitudes.

These are some of the reasons why Zurich's rebels call Switzerland "Greenland" or "The Iceberg"—a cold rigid place which tolerates little deviance from its narrow norms.

Furthermore, Switzerland's peace and prosperity have been bought in some real devil's bargains. First among these concerns its famous neutrality. The main reason that not even the Nazis dared grab this cozy little country is its pivotal role in world finance.

For Swiss bankers, no money is too dirty to handle. Dictators, arms-merchants and swindlers on the run still stash their ill-gotten gains in numbered Swiss accounts, as do many "legitimate" transnational corporations. Any major disruption of the cash flow through

Switzerland has bought prosperity in some re

Swiss vaults would prove disastrous for all concerned.

Another diabolical deal underlies the low jobless rate and high pay enjoyed by Swiss citizens. Back in the fifties, the booming economy began drawing workers from Southern Europe, Yugoslavia and North Africa to do Switzerland's menial, dirty and low-paid jobs. Native Swiss moved up into white-collar work or, if they stayed in industry, tended to become foremen bossing the foreigners.

By 1975, there were 830,000 immigrant workers in Switzerland. These "guest workers" have few civil rights and can be deported at will. In fact, Switzerland has avoided the massive increases in unemployment recently suffered in other West European nations chiefly by shedding over 200,000 foreign workers in the last six years. Easy come, easy go . . .

Moreover, labor peace has not been won by bread alone. When the long boom faltered in 1973, angry rumblings were heard from lower-paid Swiss. Top union bureaucrats put their heads together with business and government and came up with a system of binding arbitration in collective bargaining that makes US arrangements look loose. Twelve-month contracts for each branch of the economy are worked out behind tightly closed doors, and the government has the power to force them down the throats of the rank-and-file if they fail to ratify. One result is that Swiss employees still have the longest work week in Western Europe. Only the typographers have so far managed to win the 40-hour week.

Dirt behind the daydream

"I don't wanna be the same/As all the people on the street/Who always look so beat. . . I won't fit the big picture."

The Subhumans, "The Big Picture"

Swiss youth have other specific complaints. For one thing, the government's protectiveness toward its citizens with regard to atomic war has not prevented it from licensing four nuclear reactors. During the last decade a lively antinuke movement grew steadily, despite some brutal police repression and floods of pro-nuke propaganda from the industry. In February 1979, after a long and exhausting campaign, a national referendum which would have blocked any further nuclear plant construction was defeated by less than one per cent.

This outcome elicited widespread expressions of disillusion among the young. As an ex-secretary active in the Zurich movement put it: "Few people of my generation believe in this country's so-called democratic institutions any more. Even the referendums are manipulated by . . . the banks and corporations. We feel powerless and without the chance to change things."

The fight against nuclear power

Switzerland's autonomous youth movement

Zurich, Switzerland, May 30, 1980: The early evening calm of one of Europe's most prosperous and law-abiding cities is shredded by the unfamiliar sounds of massed police sirens, smashing glass, shouts, screams and popping tear-gas grenades.

For days ominous unsigned leaflets have been appearing, inviting all comers to "an unforgettable night at the opera." Zurich's Opera House is having its gala reopening tonight after having been renovated at a cost of \$49 million. No one has objected to this lavish proceeding—no one but a handful of punkies, hippies and other disreputable youth who have complained that they can't find anywhere to stage their cheap rock concerts, and that some of the money spent on the Opera House should have gone to their "alternative culture" instead.

They have been ignored, except by the police, whose job it is to be paranoid. Just in case, the super-rich arriving at the gala in their limousines are being discreetly protected by squads of Zurich's tough riot cops.

Lucky for them. Hundreds of youth abruptly converge on the Opera House and attempt to force their way inside. Beaten back, they drain away through the side streets into the Bahnhofstrasse, the city's most luxurious shopping promenade. Display windows shatter, jewelry, furs and designer clothes are dragged out and trampled in the gutter.

Driven by the police, the crowd gradually disperses across the river Limmat into the area around the University. Behind them come the looters—ordinary

citizens who can't resist the chance to grab merchandise that would cost them months of wages.

By the early hours of the morning all is quiet and the cops breathe a sigh of relief. But the very next night it happens again. And it keeps on happening.

By September, 1981 Zurich had seen over 2000 separate clashes between police and dissident youth, at a cost to the city between \$9 and 13 million (including 160,000 hours of police overtime). Even more serious than the financial damages, however, was the cost to the complacent self-image of what was, until Norway edged ahead last year, the world's most affluent country. Why are so many young Swiss so angry and bitter? What could they possibly get upset about?

Anatomy of an Iceberg

"Things they do look awful c-c-cold."

The Who, "My Generation"

Switzerland, known to the world for its banks, clocks, cheese, chocolate and charming mountain scenery, is perhaps the most "advanced" of all the industrial countries. Out of its labor force of nearly three million, half are employed in the "tertiary" or clerical/services sector, another 40% in manufacturing, construction and transportation, and the remaining 7% in agriculture. Almost 40% of the actively employed are represented by some kind of union or craft guild. Despite the worldwide recession, unemployment in Switzerland has yet to top 2%, and wages and pensions are among the highest anywhere.

No war has been fought on Swiss soil since the seventeenth century, yet Switzerland has the most extensive civil defense system on earth, with bomb shelters ready for instant occupation in the event of nuclear attack. Many Swiss are proud of their democratic traditions: the Swiss Republic is governed by a parliament, but matters of national concern are routinely put directly before the voters in referendums.

Sound too good to be true? It is. Switzerland, especially German and Protestant Switzerland, is an uptight and



Pre-teen punks in Zurich.

photo courtesy Midnight Notes

photo courtesy Midnight Notes

served as one initial rallying point for the disaffected. Another has been the struggle over housing. Rents in some Swiss cities rose sharply in the late seventies as residential construction slowed, especially for moderate and low-income units.

Following the leads of Berlin and Amsterdam, young Swiss workers began squatting in deserted or condemned buildings, demonstrating against high rents and the highway and airport extensions which replace affordable old houses with noise, pollution and concrete.

Along with these troubles developed a less definable malaise, a deep sense of frustration and suffocation with overtones of impending doom. Heroin addiction has become a serious problem--397 arrests of addicts and 12 overdose deaths in Zurich last year alone--and Switzerland replaced Sweden as suicide champion of Europe.

A huge number of young Swiss have come to view their parents' lives, goals and values as meaningless, and themselves as outsiders. Nicholas Lindt, 27-year-old editor of one of Zurich's underground papers, explains: "We feel

ht peace and al devil's bargains.

we have not come into the world just to work. . . There is the threat of war, the world is going kaputt every day. There is no point in thinking about the future when there might not be one."

These familiar "no future," anti-work attitudes bred a familiar cultural response. Beginning in 1977, punk caught on rapidly in Swiss cities, especially Zurich.

In fact, punk is only one of a cluster of dissident youth subcultures there. The "youth revolt" and "alternative" movement of the late sixties left behind a sizeable crop of hippies, many of whom went off into the Alps to take up the Swiss tradition of cheesemaking.

A more recent import is a variant of British mod, a vaguely preppy dandyism known as "chic-eria," whose partisans blow their money on clothes and dance to the electronic pulse of Eurodisco. And from West Germany came a revival of the classic "rocker" or leather-boy style, but with a more rebellious edge than its British and US versions.

In Zurich, all these subcultures and more managed to flourish side by side among working class youth. Despite their widely divergent tastes, the subculture kids were united in their contempt for the work/consumption treadmill on which their parents shuffled, in their dislike of being pushed around "for their own good," and in their intense boredom. Their styles embody attempts not merely to "be (i.e. look) different" but to live differently, to create their own universe.

Official Zurich persistently blocked such attempts--breaking up squats, closing down clubs, refusing funds for music gigs. Backed up behind this dam, energies that have elsewhere trickled away in licensed "alternative lifestyles" built into a vast angry pressure. In May 1980, the dam burst.

The making of an anti-culture

"Don't know what I want/But I know how to get it . . ."

the Sex Pistols, "Anarchy in the UK"

Early in July, dazed by the fury it had provoked, the city agree to give the Movement an unused factory on the Limmatstrasse in which to hold its "cultural activities." But the kids defined such activities in their own way. "For the moment," said one, "we want a youth center where we can come and go, spend the night, smoke dope and make love in complete freedom." He added sardonically, "I know that'll involve practical problems."

That was an understatement. The Autonomous Youth Center, as it was baptized, quickly became a haven for drop-outs and runaways as well as a hotbed of sex, drugs and rock'n'roll.

The Center is run, like other Movement activities, by leaderless, open general assemblies of several thousand peo-



The Youth Center is run by leaderless, open assemblies of several thousand people, who delegate execution of decisions to task groups.

photo courtesy Midnight Notes

ple, who delegate execution of their decisions to semi-formal task groups. This system has proved surprisingly efficient: by late 1981, task groups had organized a Red Cross team with its own doctors, three restaurants, a bar, a printing press, a movie theater, and a food service that feeds 150 people every night in the Center. One group regulates the price and quality of the hashish sold locally and kicks out heroin pushers.

On July 12, 1980 the general assembly called a rally demanding that all charges against people arrested during the "Night At The Opera" be dropped. Six thousand turned up for what quickly became another all-night battle with the cops.

From then on, something of a pattern developed. The Movement would demand money to fix up the Center, the City would respond with an offer (usually insultingly low), there would be another demo/riot, the Center would be raided and closed down, then reopened after more fighting and trashing. Demonstrations demanding amnesty would be attacked by the police and converted into yet more riots, and so on.

Finally, last spring, the city allowed the Center to reopen, putting up a joint renovation fund of about \$200,000 together with the Protestant and Catholic churches and a secular youth organization. Since then, despite numerous police raids, the Center has remained open.

Riots have also continued, though they have tailed off since the middle of last year. Police have used water cannons and rubber bullets as well as clubs and gas, while demonstrators have also escalated with rocks and Molotovs.

However, most injuries on both sides have been minor. This may be partly because a suspiciously large number of respectable-looking older "bystanders" keep getting in the way of the police, and even tossing the odd rock through a window themselves. The window-smashing and skirmishing have become a sort of game, a "ballet" as one participant put it.

This playful feel extends to the Movement's other tactics as well. "Happy in Greenland," proclaimed a banner slung across the front of the Center. "No Power To Nobody," demanded another. Crowds of demonstrators confronted by the cops have been known simply to undress and stand there naked.

When two people from the Movement agreed to appear in a televised panel discussion with City councillors, they denounced the Movement in arch-reactionary terms, demanding that the youth be shot or put in concentration camps. The confused councillors were forced to defend the Movement against this unexpected onslaught, much to the amusement of the show's young viewers. This sort of "disinformation," along with its poetic and humorous language, helps to protect the Movement against "framing" by the media.

Like their counterparts in the Italian Autonomy movement of 1977, the

Zurich rebels typically present their goals in ironic form. On one occasion 10,000 people rallied to chant "Work! Work! Work!" at busy passers-by. Advertising slogans are also turned inside-out: when Marlboro brought its "Freedom and Adventure" billboards to Zurich, "Marlboro: Freedom and Adventure" was spray-painted on walls all over town, simultaneously making the demand for real freedom and adventure and pointing out that Marlboro can provide neither.

In fact, the young people of the Movement have found much of the excitement, the sense of community and purpose that they crave precisely in attacking the ruling order and its values. The revolt has created a sort of "posi-

Movement, were already brilliantly analyzing the "new poverty" of advanced capitalism. This social arrangement, the Situationists said, eliminates material scarcity only to replace it with a scarcity of real life, of opportunities for large-scale creativity, communal play, adventurous encounter. The "entertainment" and "consumer durables" industries capitalize on the profound hunger for these experiences, but cannot satisfy them.

The high rates of suicide, drug addiction and aimless violence in the most affluent parts of the world testify that this new poverty is as lethal as the old.

The subculture kids have found much of the excitement and purpose they crave in attacking the ruling order.

tive hole" in the frozen firmament of capitalist routine, sucking in its money, banalities, false promises and pseudo-information and converting them into subversive communal energy. Other such zones, some modelled on the Zurich Center, have since appeared in other Swiss cities and elsewhere in Northern Europe.

Beyond survival

"We don't want a world in which the guarantee we won't die of hunger is bought at the risk of dying of boredom."

Situationist slogan 1968, adopted by the Zurich Movement 1981

The Movement's playful aspects should not obscure its underlying seriousness. Twenty years ago, the Situationists, a group of revolutionary ex-artists and ex-workers whose tactics and ideas have obviously influenced the

The Zurich Movement points beyond the "enhanced survival," the dressed-up dreariness that is the very best modern society can offer. Yet, the Movement youth by themselves lack the means to bring this new world into being. Although most of them are workers, they have not yet rebelled as such, using their leverage in production to shut down the old society and start over.

A Movement partisan sums up their achievement so far: "For the first time there is a front line going through the whole society . . . More and more, all social movements relate to that front, like the railroad workers making jokes about 'icebergs.' Everywhere you find that this new language is taking over. The language is a threat . . . and it's European now."

Louis Michaelson



Zurich youth refer to their country as "Greenland"—a cold, rigid, hypocritical society.

photo courtesy Midnight Notes

Short Circuits Short

WE'RE NUMBER ONE!

California leads the nation in non-compliance with draft registration--only 51% of all men who turned 18 last year signed in, according to Keith Lamb, head of the Selective Service in California.

Sacramento County led the state with only 38.3% compliance, with Bay Area counties like San Francisco (40.1%), Santa Clara (42.7%), and Alameda (42.8%) not far behind.

Lamb said the Selective Service System uses census data, driver license information and social security records to gather the names of Californians who are required to sign up. He also threatened to prosecute those who didn't register by the end of February.

Although Reagan has assured the nation he has no plans for a draft, the Selective Service System is holding a dress rehearsal induction. On March 20, 1000 army reservists will be chosen by lottery and ordered to report to one of six Armed Forces Entrance and Examination Stations. This simulated draft operation, called "The Great Payload," is a practice run for a larger operation planned for late 1982, which is a dress rehearsal for...

ARMY RADIATION COVERUP

A former medic has charged the US Army with covering up the fact that soldiers were exposed to high levels of radiation at atomic bomb tests in the 1950s.

Van R. Brandon said he and his top-secret medic group were ordered to prepare two sets of books on the soldiers' radiation exposure at four atomic tests in Yucca Flats, Nevada. A "hot set" contained the true information and a phony set was prepared recording doses below the maximum permitted levels whenever these were exceeded. The Army not only denies Brandon's charges, but also insists his medic unit never existed.

A witness to these bomb tests himself, Brandon now suffers from degenerative discogenic disease and has been denied veteran benefits.

—from *United Press International*

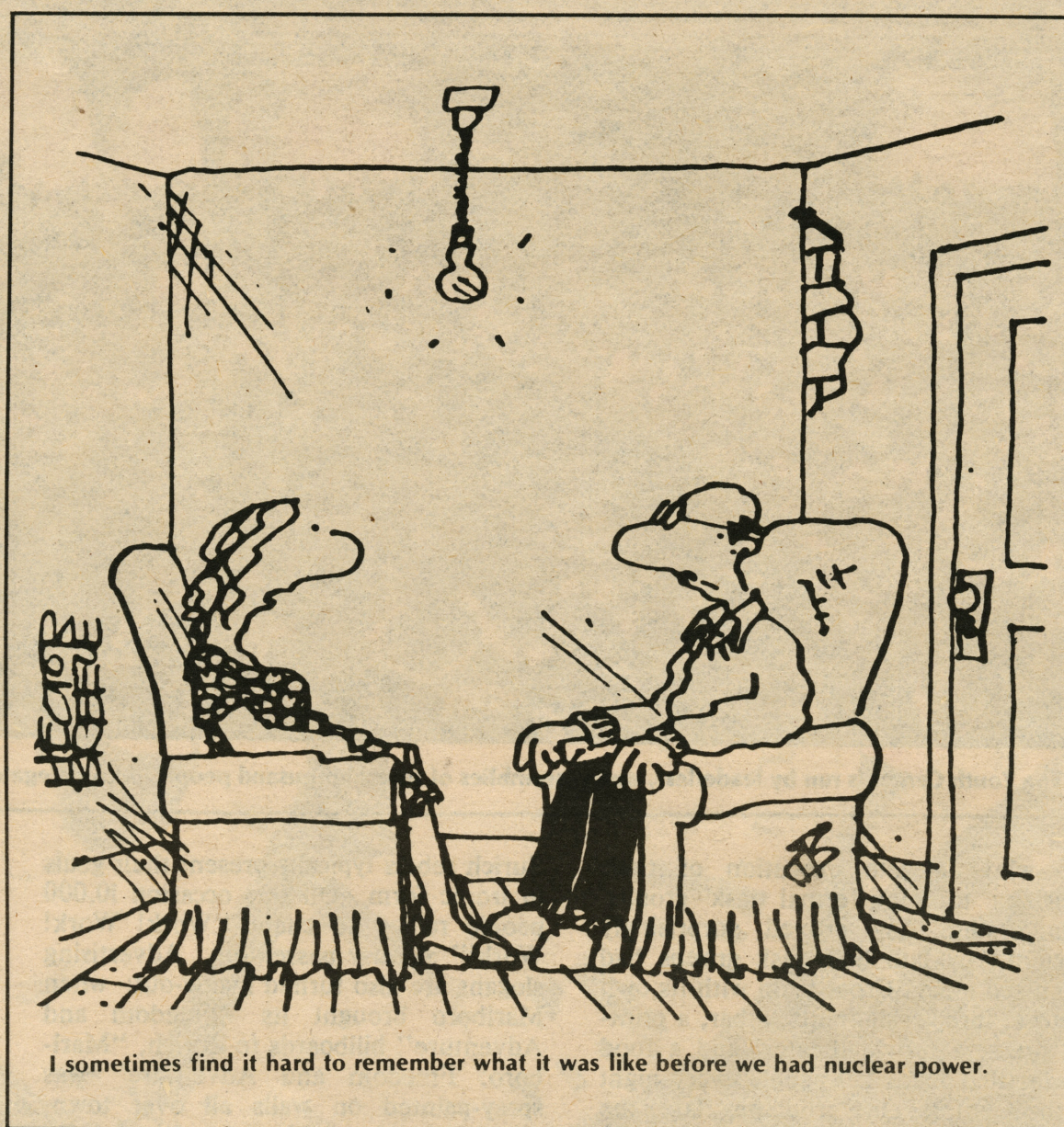
WASTE FUNNEL PLANNED

The state of Pennsylvania, which has already had its share of problems with nuclear power, is due for more. A National Academy of Sciences report says that by the mid-1980's, hundreds of shipments of nuclear waste will be criss-crossing the state from power plants in New England to temporary disposal sites.

The report, which was released by the Environmental Policy Institute, says Pennsylvania will form a key part of a "national waste funnel" that could carry up to 9,000 shipments a year by the end of the century. Many of those shipments would go through New Jersey if not for that state's strict regulations on the movement of radioactive waste. Pennsylvania only requires that radioactive shipments avoid heavily populated areas.

A spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said, "We just can't conceive of any circumstances where the shipping containers would not withstand an accident."

-- *Pacific News Service*, 11-20-81



TAXPAYERS GET TMI BILL

Ronald Reagan may be cutting welfare programs right and left, but there's still a soft spot in his heart for crippled nuclear reactors.

Administration budget director David Stockman announced on October 9 that the government would spend "in excess of \$100 million" to help decontaminate the damaged Three Mile Island nuclear plant, which has been a literal "hot potato" since the March 1979 accident. Stockman's pledge was the first public confirmation of a commitment made earlier by Reagan to Pennsylvania Governor Richard Thornburgh. Thornburgh had proposed that the government kick in \$190 million toward the estimated \$1.3 billion cleanup effort, now expected to take another five years.

The balance of the cleanup money would come from state governments, insurance, TMI's owners, and other nuclear and electric companies. If these utilities can get state regulators to play along, ratepayers around the country may ultimately get stuck with much of the tab.

-- from *SF Chronicle*, 10/12/81 and *Nucleonics Week*, 10/15/81

LANTERNS THAT GLOW WHEN THEY'RE DARK

Health physicist Walter Wagner has filed a \$300 million class action suit against the Coleman Lantern Company, claiming that the thorium-coated mantles in its lanterns can cause cancer and birth defects.

The mantles produce radioactive vapors that Wagner, a radiology specialist with the Veterans Administration, argues can easily be inhaled when the lamps are used in enclosed spaces like tents or RV's. He claims they could cause 50 cases of cancer a year, and wants a federal court in Sacramento to order Coleman to put warning labels on the lanterns. The company denies all allegations.

ZNS/PNS, 1-11-82

STAR DREK

In a rare discussion of nuclear problems, the official Soviet newspaper *Pravda* ran an article suggesting that waste from nuclear plants and weapons tests be disposed in outer space. The author, a leading figure in the Soviet space and nuclear weapons program, admitted that radioactive waste disposal poses "great technical problems." Although a procedure for launching the waste into space has not yet been perfected, *Pravda* said it may soon be more practical than continuing to bury it or dump it into the ocean.

Times of London, 1-30-82 via *Rip'n'Read*

THE SWISS CHEESE OF THE PACIFIC

French engineers on Mururoa Atoll, which is used as an atomic test site, report that the explosions are causing the South Pacific island to slowly sink and that storms have exposed radioactive waste buried there.

Since 1975, the report says, the atoll has sunk more than seven feet, and cracks up to a mile and a half long are allowing radioactive waste to seep into the ocean. Last spring near-tidal waves ripped apart the asphalt covering several pounds of plutonium and flooded a 30,000 square-meter storage area reserved for radioactive waste. Some of the plutonium and the waste was swept into the atoll's lagoon and some out to sea.

The engineers were unable to convince the government-controlled radio station on Mururoa to broadcast the results of their study, so they gave the information to a "pirate" radio station in the South Pacific. About 2500 French engineers and technicians threatened to strike over the crisis, and a crew from Greenpeace sailed into the prohibited zone around the atoll to publicize it. The French government has declared that it will continue the tests.

No Nuke News Japan, December 1981 and *PNS/ZNS*, 12-15-81

RANCHO SECO A GLUT ON THE MARKET

Calling power from the Rancho Seco nuclear "a glut on the market," a UPI story on February 25 reports that the Sacramento Municipal Utility District is cutting the plant's output almost in half. There are no customers for the remaining output because utilities are buying cheap hydroelectric power from the Pacific Northwest, which is in plentiful supply because of abundant snowfall. The power reduction is expected to last for at least several weeks.

Since PG&E has bought most of Rancho Seco's power in the past, the substitution of cheaper hydropower may lower customer rates, according to the UPI account. But most of the cost of nuclear power is paying off the high costs of the plant itself — and utility ratepayers will continue to pay those charges even while their electricity comes from hydroelectric dams.

—based on *Oakland Tribune/Eastbay Today*, 2/25/82

ATTACKS HALT SPANISH NUKE

Spain's largest private utility announced February 15 that it will suspend work on the nearly completed Lemoniz nuclear power plant unless the government resolves the project's unsettled political status.

Lemoniz, ten miles from the industrial city of Bilbao, has been the target of a strong antinuclear movement since the mid-1970's. The plant has also been attacked by Basque guerillas, who kidnapped and killed its chief engineer, Jose Maria Ryan, in 1980.

Ryan's death and repeated threats to others working at Lemoniz persuaded Westinghouse, the supplier of two power units, to withdraw its engineers from Bilbao. Other engineers have been afraid to return to the site, although the utility giant Iberduero has continued to employ 3700, most of them construction workers.

Iberduero's president, asserting that its losses on Lemoniz are running at \$1.2 million a day, demanded that the central government and the Basque home-rule authorities end the uncertainties that have enveloped the undertaking for more than a year. "I don't like the word ultimatum," he said, "but the problem is essentially political." Iberduero critics consider the utility a classic example of right-wing business interests that flourished under the Franco regime.

New York Times, 2-16-82

NUCLEAR UTILITY SUES UNIONS

The Arizona Public Service Company is suing 17 labor unions for \$5.1 million over a one-day walk-out at the Palo Verde nuclear plant being built near Phoenix. The utility said that the unions' participation in a May 13 demonstration in Tucson was in violation of no-strike agreements.

The demonstration took place at the 1981 stockholders meeting of another utility, Tucson Electric Power, in protest of that firm's decision to hire non-union contractor Brown and Root to build a coal-fired plant at Springerville, Arizona.

-- *Nucleonics Week*, 11/26/81

Circuits Short Circuits

GOING ONCE FOR 13,000

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission proposed a safety goal in early February that would accept the deaths of 13,000 Americans over the next 30 years from reactor accidents. The NRC goal, announced February 11, is to make the risk of immediate deaths and lethal cancers from reactor accidents 1000 times smaller than actual deaths from all other causes, which would be expected to total about 13 million in the same period.

The proposal, up for 90 days of public comment, including three or four public hearings around the country, is the NRC's first attempt to determine numerically how safe nuclear power has to be. Such a determination of safety goals and the related economic tradeoffs was recommended by the president's Kemeny Commission that studied the Three Mile Island accident.

NRC Commissioner Victor Gilinsky, who is not an avid nuclear promoter, commented that, "The Commissions' unwillingness to display these numbers (the calculation of 13,000 deaths) . . . is a small but revealing sign that it does not trust the public's good sense."

—From *Oakland Tribune/Eastbay Today*, 2/12/82

UNDER EVERY BED

In an interview taped for the Public Broadcasting System in mid-December, Ronald Reagan was asked about European protests earlier that month in which hundreds of thousands of opponents turned out to protest of US and Soviet nuclear policies. "Oh, those demonstrations," Reagan said. "You could have used newsreels from the '60's in America. Those are all sponsored by a thing called the World Peace Council, which is bought and paid for by the Soviet Union."

-- from *Oakland Tribune/Eastbay Today*, 12/22/81

Letters

(continued from page two)

ment which while verbally claiming adherence to nonviolent principles, exhibited little understanding of the dynamics of the situation and were solidly opposed to openness, consensus and participatory decision making. The hierarchy was in some centres mellowed by the presence of nonviolent trainers and activists who had long-term standing in the movement (which has been operating continuously since 1969 and has had three major campaigns in 1972/73, 1976 and 1975) and who worked through 1980/81 to try to maintain a commitment to nonviolence. But even in these areas the need for "secrecy and protection" was seen as more important than openness and nonviolent dynamics. Our greatest mistake in these areas was a failing to impart an understanding of the dynamics to existing movement leaders early enough, largely because we did not anticipate how quickly things would escalate.

In other areas effective control of the movement was seized by the Workers Communist League, a Maoist group which is very closed and believes in strong internal discipline. They were effective in organizing highly intricate demonstrations involving large numbers of small marches completely disrupting traffic in Wellington and closing all streets to the grounds on the day of the Wellington match. However, they also alienated large numbers of people who resented being led into potential arrest and personal situations without knowledge. Indeed, at one point the marshals were refusing to let people



Ronald Reagan said demonstrations such as this one sponsored by Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament last year in London were "bought and paid for" by the Kremlin.

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

The Sunday Times of London reported that Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger had "taken up" with a British liberal identified as Janet Morgan. Weinberger had escorted her to an anti-nuke rally in London's Hyde Park last October. The newspaper speculated the relationship may have "mellowed" Weinberger's hawkish views toward European defense.

A spokesman for the Secretary described the newspaper report as "utter nonsense. The ludicrousness of the whole thing is underlined by the idea that he could be swayed into a soft defense posture," said Henry Catto, the assistant secretary of the defense for public affairs.

—San Francisco Chronicle

GRAY-BAITING

The Gray Panthers, a national lobbying group for senior citizens, is reportedly considering legal action against the Moral Majority for labeling it a pro-communist nest of free love advocates. A new Moral Majority publication edited by the Reverend Jerry Falwell cites the Gray Panthers as an example of dangerous left-wing organizations receiving indirect financial support from the federal government. The book describes the Gray Panthers as a "pro-Castro activist group which encourages multi-generational, mixed sex and communal living."

Gar Smith, *Grassroots*, via *Rip'n' Read*, 2-10-82

TO DISARM THE DISARMAMENT MOVEMENT

Even before the Reagan "zero option" speech, the US was preparing to launch what *Aviation Week and Space Technology* called an "information campaign" on the Soviet threat. The campaign is to be directed at "segments of the European population where anti-American and antinuclear sentiment has been growing at an alarming rate."

A US NATO official in Brussels said the campaign is necessary because Soviet "disinformation" has been so effective. "There's been a constant effort by the Soviets to drive a wedge between Americans and Europeans and to make us look like warmongers," he said.

-- *Aviation Week and Space Technology*, 11-16-81

GIVE THIS MISSILE A HOME

The Reagan administration is discarding its plan to harden the underground silos in which it will put the first 40 new MX intercontinental ballistic missiles. This plan was devised in October, shortly after the mobile MX basing scheme was abandoned. At the time the administration had argued that the hardened silos would protect the super-accurate missiles from attack until it settled on a permanent basing scheme.

According to *Aviation Week and Space Technology*, the Pentagon would prefer to protect the MX missiles with an anti-ballistic missile system. By fiscal 1984, ABM funding is expected to climb above \$1.5 billion.

The destabilizing nature of such systems, and the fact that the US has signed a treaty banning them, was not mentioned by *Aviation Week*.

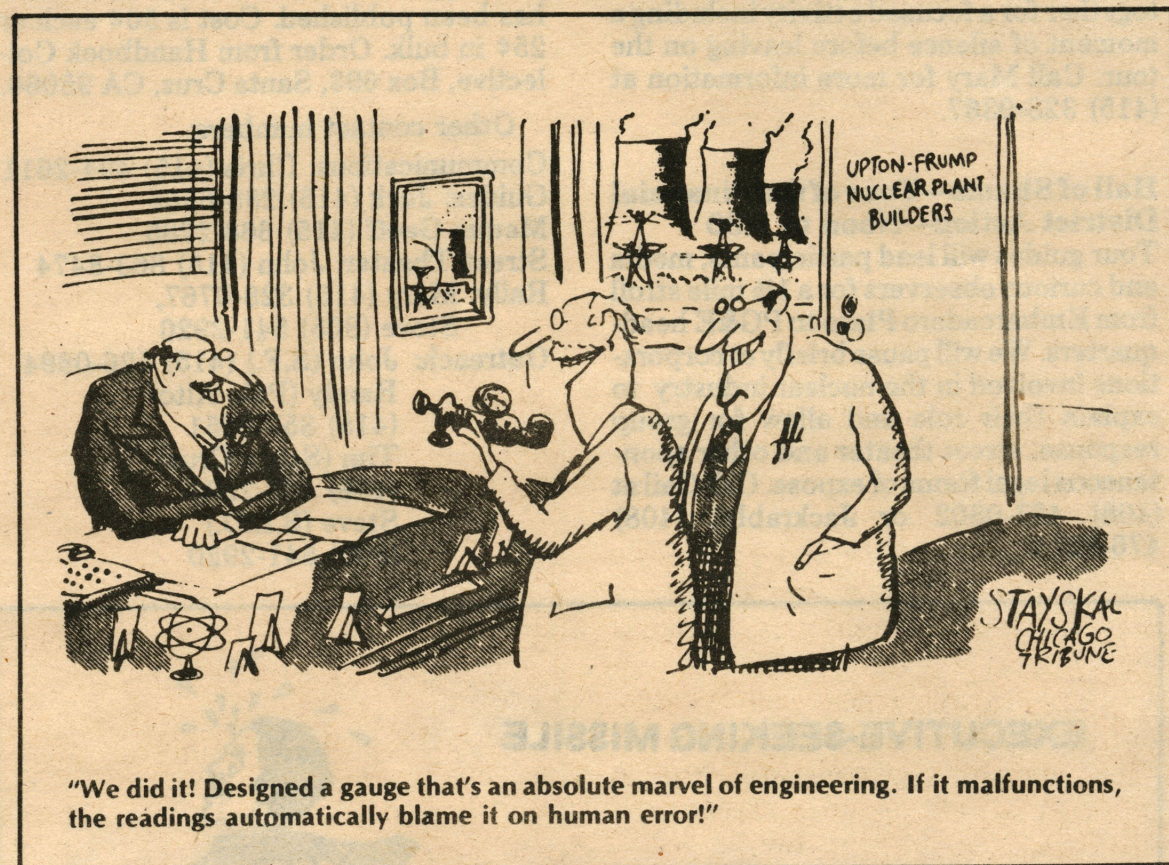
San Francisco Chronicle, 2-11-82

leave marches by linking arms along the outside of the marches, although this led to such opposition that the practice was dropped. In areas where the WCL was prominent, nonviolent training was actively discouraged and trainers were identified as a "threat to the movement".

There is unfortunately always going to be a wide range of attitudes in any open group such as the anti-tour movement and the anti-nuclear movement. Until the tour I was prepared, and advocated, the admittance of all ranges of people to the movement, but now I am far more aware of the dangers of groups that have hidden agendas such as "trying out their revolutionary discipline" rather than a primary commitment to the issue. I offer no solution however, because by excluding such groups we are on the way to becoming like them. However, if they gain prominence the movement is severely threatened. Openly challenging their motives, and clearly present nonviolence is important, dispelling the many myths about it, is the only approach I can see as having any hope of success. However, we discovered too late that this must be done before pressure of action forces an attitude of "we must work together and sort out differences later because the demonstration is all important" takes over.

I wish you well with the campaign at Diablo Canyon, and with *It's About Times*.

Allan Cumming
Dunedin, New Zealand



"We did it! Designed a gauge that's an absolute marvel of engineering. If it malfunctions, the readings automatically blame it on human error!"

WRITE A LETTER

Dear IAT,

If each person who was or will be arrested for civil disobedience would take an hour or two to write a letter/article to his or her hometown newspaper — there'd be a powerful lot of ripples across the continent. Following the February 1st Livermore blockade, I xeroxed a couple *Chronicle* and *East Bay Today* articles that gave background and "facts," and also enclosed pamphlets on the Nuclear Freeze initiative and an info sheet on the upcoming Hall of Shame rally.

My letter was anecdotal in style, reliving the 2 days from arrest to return home. I stressed how supportive my employers were and in general tried to impart to the small town PA audience the fact that most of us do this work in the context of jobs and families. Difficult but crucial to erode the image of the California radical hippie doer surfer which still reigns in many American towns.

Use the media — it's there, and mostly theirs.

—Randi Farkas

March 22 in SF

The Magical Nuclear Tour

We are coming to the Financial District because it is the place where the decisions are made and the profits are counted. A relatively small group of corporations and their shareholders, financiers, service agencies and government agencies form a tight web of concentrated control over the West's nuclear energy and weapons production. PG&E controls Diablo, but who controls PG&E? What nuclear investments and production are carried on by corporations we deal with daily will provide amusing and revealing stories.

Raising public awareness of how corporate investments mandate the continuation of nuclear technology is one major goal of the action. We are bringing together different activist groups and organizations for a single action. Each group will select a particular corporation as the focus for the expression of their political perspective, enabling a variety of anti-nuclear and other groups to make their statements autonomously and yet with a high degree of unity.

The action contributes to the movement against nuclear weapons and energy by identifying the institutions that are really dictating our foreign and domestic policies.

Several other issues underline the prevailing strategy of the March 22 action. Affinity groups thrive on action and languish in committee — many of the newer groups will perish if they can't express their hopes, fears and dreams. March 22 is an opportunity to break down the needless division between legal and illegal direct action. We are beginning an ongoing campaign to reach out to the employees of these institutions, especially the clerical workers that are our potential allies. The action enables us to adopt an active stance against all nuclear technology, insisting that our technology be used to create the things we want to use, rather than things we *never* want to use. By acting in the Financial District, we are asserting our right to control our own lives.

EVENTS OF MARCH 22

Assembly—11:00 a.m.—Embarcadero Plaza

Political theater, music, rituals and information tables will entertain and inform participants as they gather before the Hall of Shame Tour. Everyone will gather together for a focused activity including a moment of silence before leaving on the tour. Call Mary for more information at (415) 328-0367.

Hall of Shame—Tour of the Financial District Action—Noon to 1:30

Tour guides will lead participants, media and curious observers for a 1½ mile stroll from Embarcadero Plaza to PG&E headquarters. We will pause briefly at corporations involved in the nuclear industry to explain their role and allow for group response, street theater and other spontaneous legal forms of expose. Call Gail at (408) 427-0802 or Jackrabbit (408) 476-8215.

Direct Action—2 p.m.

Nonviolent affinity group actions will take place at several nuclear corporations. Actions such as street theater, blockades, legal pickets, leafletting, sit-ins and citizens arrests are being considered by affinity groups and allied organizations.

SCENARIO INFO

Nonviolence Preparations/Trainings are now being held around the state for this action. Nonviolence preparations will also be available on Saturday and Sunday, March 20 & 21 just before the action. For assistance with nonviolence preps in your area, call (408) 476-8215.

March 7 Affinity Group Meeting.

Affinity groups and working collectives will consense on the sites and tactics for direct action.

Affinity groups will come prepared with their own action strategies to be checked out with the Communications and Guides collectives for feasibility. No additional sites will be taken on after March 7.

Monitors. There will be several monitors at every direct action site, who may be support members of affinity groups. Monitor briefings will be held throughout the weekend of 3/20-21, with a final briefing Monday morning. Monitor trainings will be held in local areas with a final training on Sunday 3/21 in S.F. Call Steve at (805) 541-2920 for more info.

Ritual—Sunday 3/21. On the day before the action, we will celebrate the spring equinox, affirming the spiritual roots of our actions and building solidarity within our group. For more info call Matrix AG at (415) 681-5857.

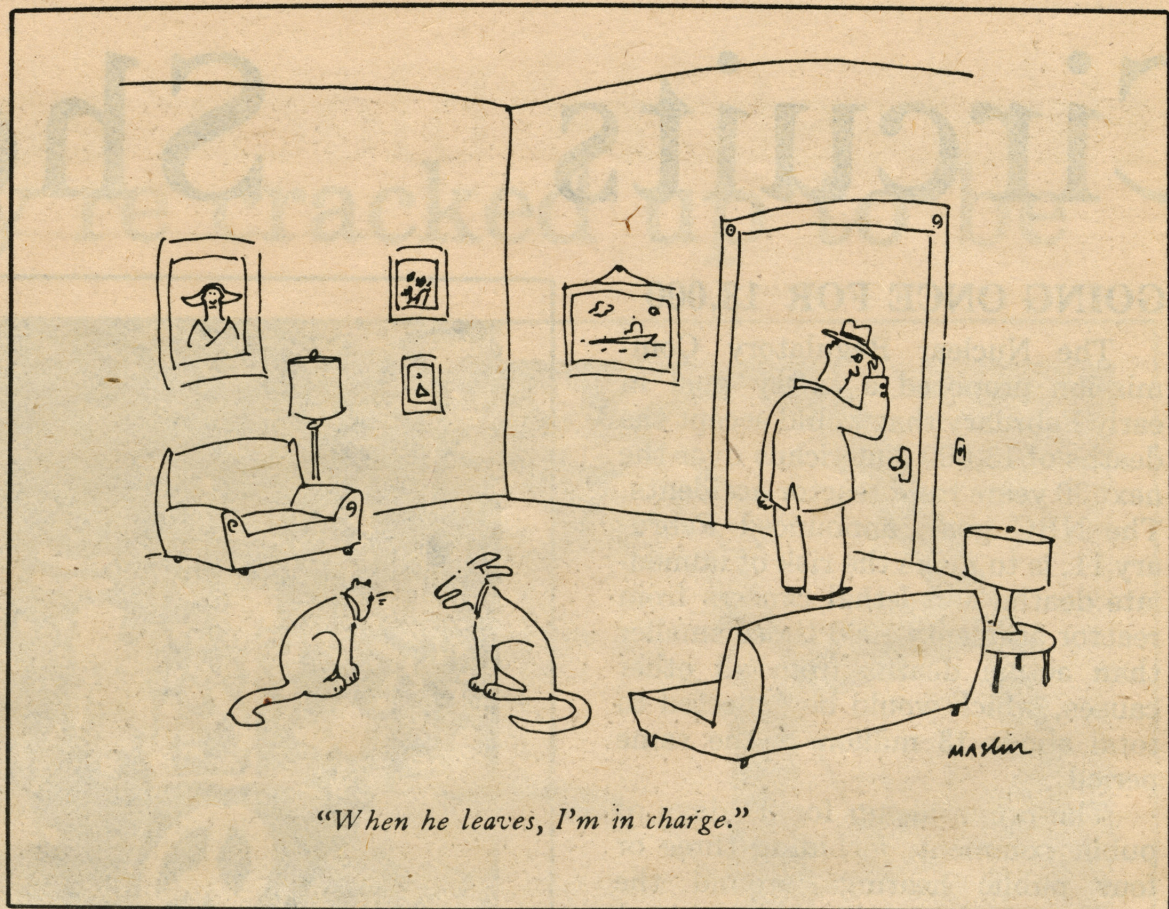
Check-in—Monday 3/22. Before doing direct action, AGs will check in at Embarcadero Plaza. They will have some form of identification and coordinate with monitors, guides and communications.

Legal Strategy. AGs will decide their own strategy. An emphasis is being placed on solidarity: mass arraignments, no bail, no fines, no probation, equal treatment and maintaining our identity and power throughout the legal process. Members of the Diablo and Livermore Legal collectives are forming the legal collective for this action. Call Bill at (415) 824-2578 for info.

A supplement to the Diablo Handbook has been published. Cost is 50¢ each or 25¢ in bulk. Order from Handbook Collective, Box 693, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Other contact numbers:

Communications: Chris (415) 494-2611
Guides: Jack (415) 285-6965
Media: Geoff (415) 668-2785
Street Theater: John (415) 863-8474
Rally: Mary (415) 328-0767,
Steve (805) 541-2920
Outreach: John (S.F.) (415) 526-0894
Randy (Palo Alto)
(415) 857-9251
Tim (Santa Cruz)
(408) 423-2504
Steve (S.L.O.)
(805) 541-2920



Abalone conference

The Abalone Alliance will sponsor a skills sharing conference April 16-18 at Cazadero Music Camp in Sonoma County. The weekend begins Friday evening with a special seminar on "The Draft, Feminism and Emerging Social Ecology," presented by activists from the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors and War Resisters League West.

Saturday and Sunday sessions will include: fundraising canvasses, militarism, dealing with regulatory agencies, films & slideshows, how to respond to questions from the media and proponents of nuclear power,

unlearning classism, new games, group dynamics and facilitation, and long term strategizing.

Registration information is available through AA member groups or from the AA statewide office. Cost is \$20.00 per adult which includes 5 vegetarian meals, entertainment Friday and Saturday nights and lodging in cabins.

For additional information on workshops, childcare, transportation, etc., call the statewide office. We are still in need of some support work by member groups during the conference.

San Onofre

Fuel loading has been completed at San Onofre Unit and fissioning will begin in April with the plant operating at 5% capacity. Southern California Edison (SCE), owner of the plant, expects a full-power license any day and plans full-power operation this summer.

The utility has filed for a rate adjustment with the Public Utilities Commission. Like PG&E, SCE says oil displacement will offset the cost of operating its nukes. Both utilities assume their reactors will operate at an average 65% capacity, an expectation belied by the records of other reactors of similar size.

Southern Californian ratepayers are being asked to pay \$502 million

during the San Onofre reactor's first 16 months of operation. Unlike PG&E, the SCE rate application does not contain an open-ended request to cover unexpected increases in the cost of operation. But a hedge clause is included for unexpected personnel costs. So if SCE hired 1500 workers to repair the plant, as they did at Unit One, they could charge the bill to ratepayers.

Community Energy Action Network and the Orange County Alliance for Survival are sponsoring a rally against San Onofre and a commemoration of Three Mile Island at noon on March 28 at Doheny State Beach. Confirmed musicians are Graham Nash and Nicolette Larson.

"JOIN THE 1,000,000 WHO DIDN'T."

Some people will tell you not to register for the draft. But we'll tell you *how*. Because the new draft is coming. And your decision to register—or not to register—will change your life.

EVERYBODY'S GUIDE TO NON-REGISTRATION

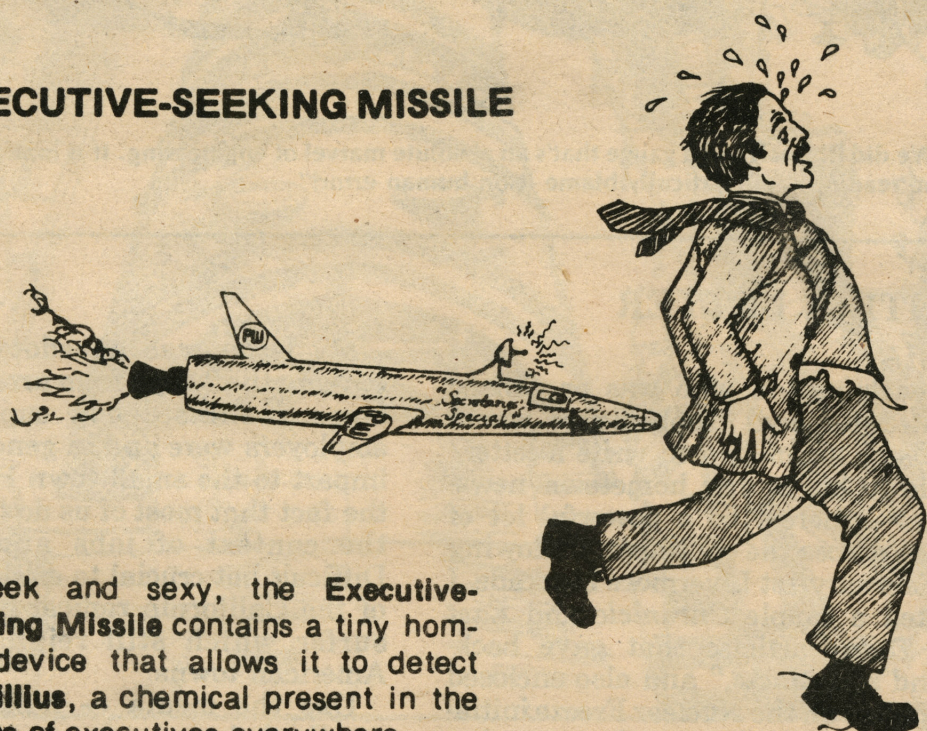
By Carol Delton, Attorney-at-Law, and Andrew Mazer.

I'm enclosing \$2.50 for the most thoughtful and thorough guide to non-registration now available. Please include information about bulk-order discounts.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

Please make check or money order payable to **EGNR**
2000 Center Street #1091 Berkeley CA 94704
Sponsored by Regional Young Adult Project,
a non-profit organization.

EXECUTIVE-SEEKING MISSILE



Sleek and sexy, the **Executive-Seeking Missile** contains a tiny homing device that allows it to detect **egocillius**, a chemical present in the brains of executives everywhere.

HELP WANTED

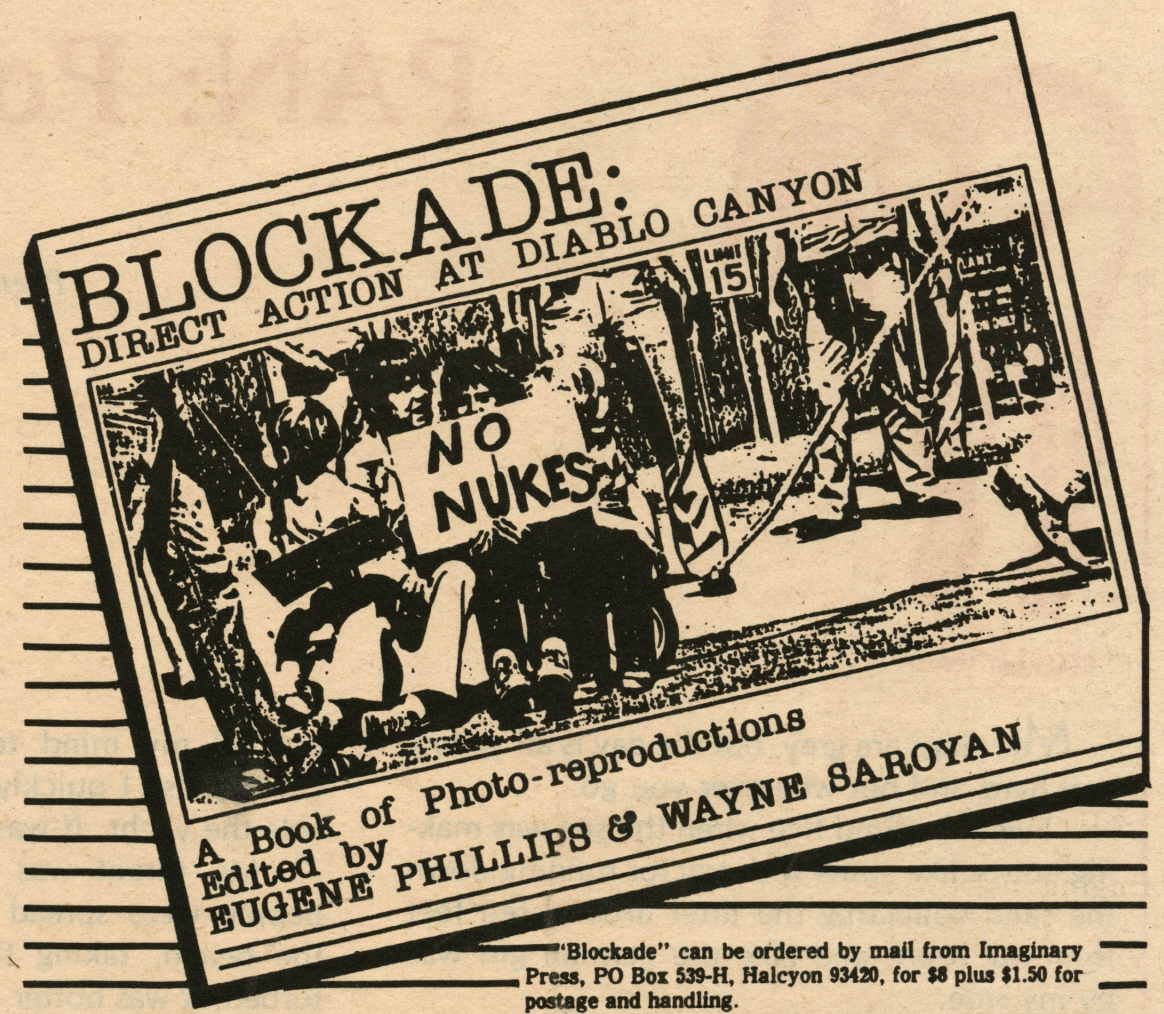
World Information Service on Energy (WISE) position as Office Coordinator in Washington, D.C. beginning mid-May. Responsibilities include: maintaining contact with grassroots activists, writing and editing articles for WISE publication, fundraising, networking with Washington, D.C.-based organizations, some travel to conferences. Salary is \$11,000, with health insurance, vacation and limited travel expenses. For more information, contact AA statewide office: 2940 16th St. Room 310, San Francisco, CA 94103.

ANTI-WW3 ART SHOW

An "International Arts Festival — Anti-World War Three" will take place in May at Southern Exposure Gallery, San Francisco. Artists and writers are invited to participate. Send drawings, paintings, xerox, photos, music on cassettes, poetry, etc. on the theme.

Proposals are being accepted for installations, performances, video, dance, theatre, comedy and music to take place in a cafe-like environment.

Deadline is April 10, 1982. Contact: International Arts Festival, P.O. Box 31428, San Francisco, CA 94131. (415) 391-7546.



Calendar

March 15: Benefit for Livermore Action Group with Gary Lapow, Swing-shift, Grupo Raiz and Linda Hirschhorn and Tay. Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley, 8 pm. \$5.50 general, \$4.50 student and elderly discount. For tickets call 848-3949 or 644-2028.

March 16: Dr. Helen Caldicott, pediatrician, author of "Nuclear Madness," and president of the Physicians for Social Responsibility, will talk on the medical consequences of nuclear war. Co-hosted by authors Alice Walker and Tillie Olsen. Tickets are \$5.00-10.00 sliding scale. For advance tickets and child care call the Women's Party for Survival at 981-8909.

March 27: Fourth annual FOOLSDAY

antinuclear benefit party. Comedy begins at 8:00 pm with Jane Dornacker, Jim "Reagan" Morris, the Plutonium Players and more. Dancing begins at 10:30 pm with the Lemmings and others at the Berkeley Vet's Hall, 1931 Center St. near Grove. \$4.50. Info: 549-3030.

March 27: War Resisters League/West and the Agape Foundation sponsor the Sixth Annual Pacifeast Dinner, a special gourmet meal, live entertainment and raffle prizes at the Trinity Methodist Church, 2320 Dana St., Berkeley. \$6 in advance or \$7 at the door. Info: 731-1220.

March 27-28: Movement Building in the 80's for Abalone Alliance trainers,

facilitated by Bill Moyer. For more information contact: Liz Walker, 180 Andover, San Francisco, CA 94110, (415) 285-9685.

April 2-4: Bill Moyer, of Movement for a New Society will facilitate a workshop in movement building for the 80's. The training is open to members of the

Abalone Alliance anti-nuclear weapons activists, and third world groups. For more information contact: Liz Walker.

April 24: Workshop in Unlearning Racism, sponsored by Social Change Meeting. 10 am - 4 pm, Glide Church, San Francisco. Contact: Liz Walker, (415) 285-9685.

AA Safe Energy Groups

ABALONE ALLIANCE OFFICE: 2940 16th St., #310, San Francisco, CA 94103 • 415-861-0592

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

NORTH

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

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

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

COMPTCHE:
MENDOCINO TRAVELING ALL STARS,
P.O. Box 326/95427

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

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

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

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

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

FAMILIES FOR PEACE, P.O. BOX 362/95465

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

POINT ARENA:
POINT ARENA ACTION FOR SAFE ENERGY,
P.O. Box 106/95468

PORTLAND, OREGON:
SOLARITY, 3210 SW Arnold/97201 (503) 245-6273

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

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

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

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

CENTRAL VALLEY & SIERRA

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

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

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

GRASS VALLEY:
NEVADA COUNTY PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE
FUTURE, P.O. Box 471/95945 • (916) 272-6418

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

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

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

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

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

GREATER BAY AREA

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

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

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

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

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

PLEASANT HILL:
CONTRA COSTANS FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE,
P.O. Box 23103/94523 • (415) 934-5249

PT. REYES:
PELICAN ALLIANCE, P.O. Box 596/94956 • (415) 663-8483
SAN ANSELMO:
ABALONE ALLIANCE OF MARIN, 1024 Sir Francis Drake
Blvd./94960 (415) 457-4377

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

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION MINISTRY
942 Market St., Room 310/94102 (415) 391-7112

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

PEOPLE AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER,
1021 Sanchez/94102 • (415) 285-2262

CENTRAL COAST

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

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

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

SANTA CRUZ:
ACTION COMMUNITY ON DIABLO CANYON,
P.O. Box 693/95060 • (408) 462-4524

PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, P.O. Box 1236/
95060 (408) 425-1275

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

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

SOUTH

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

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

WALDEN WEST, c/o Michael Newcomb,
44 Ozone Ave./90291

OJAI:
STOP URANIUM NOW,
P.O. Box 772/93023 • (408) 462-4524

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

SAN DIEGO:
COMMUNITY ENERGY ACTION NETWORK, P.O. Box 33686/
92103 (714) 275-1182

TOPANGA:
LOU SNIT, P.O. Box 152/90029 •
(213) 455-2867, 455-2768

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

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

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



PAN: Poets Against Nukes

Poetry is a weapon loaded with future. —Gabriel Celaya

HEAT

Stephen Barber

Mornings are grey, but the day is all yellow and hard and hot wherever you go.

I woke around five when the sea was making noises like straw with tractor running down the sand collecting the litter around ten feet from my head, and Elke the german girl was by my side.

Otherwise there was silence. I was lying in a little white yacht and the floor was so cramped that during the night she had pressed her dry lips against my cheek and said 'it's so full.' I stood up and the boat rocked, I looked at the soft greyparticled dawn above the long sea and the algerian borrowed holiday houses the other side of the beach, I ran my hands along my face and down my shirt, so filthy it felt like silk. Somehow pieces of cold were forcing between my skin and I shivered, the girl was smiling up and I lay down again and slept warm while the boat rocked down.

Then I felt burning, even around my mouth, I looked up into the sun and it was sending rays like iron already through my shirt. The noise grew and I saw through eyes sticking at the corners, and heavy, people lying on the beach. They were talking because the day was still in its infancy and things will happen soon, and nothing has happened yet. And my body still pulled me down forever, with no trouble, the girl was asleep on her side, I could see her blond hair and her mouth, I wanted to lie down again and I did but the sun was picking at me and pushing and strangling. I lay and

opened my mind to the sunlight's colour. On impulse I quickly stood and jumped outside the yacht. It was later.

My throat was tearing with sand and people were spread with flickering pain on the beach, taking the sun. They were disturbed, it was hotter than usual, my shoulders ached. And the brightness in the sky knifed my eyes. The sea simply looked a mass and part of a big blurred vision.

It was getting hotter, I noticed it. I was sitting on the edge of the boat and watching an incredibly fat boy acting mad and slapping another kid, he was sweating badly and the drips covered his whole fat corpse. 'I'm very thirsty' the girl said, and she nearly choked, I said I'll go get something and I walked the sands in agony with my feet bare, I had nowhere to put them, I had to move all the time.

There was pain in the face of the people and the heat was reaching their brains, a frenchman said to me the weather's a pig, or something. I could see some people walking in off the sands and rubbing their forehead, though others were still smiling. I reached the concrete and stood on some glass.

It was getting hotter, I was burning. I felt I didn't want to go any further, I was weak, I wanted to go back to the beach and put something on my feet but I couldn't go back. I came to a covered stone bridge over the marina, the sun was pounding down, I sat down on the stone, I was panting, everywhere

was monstrous yellow.

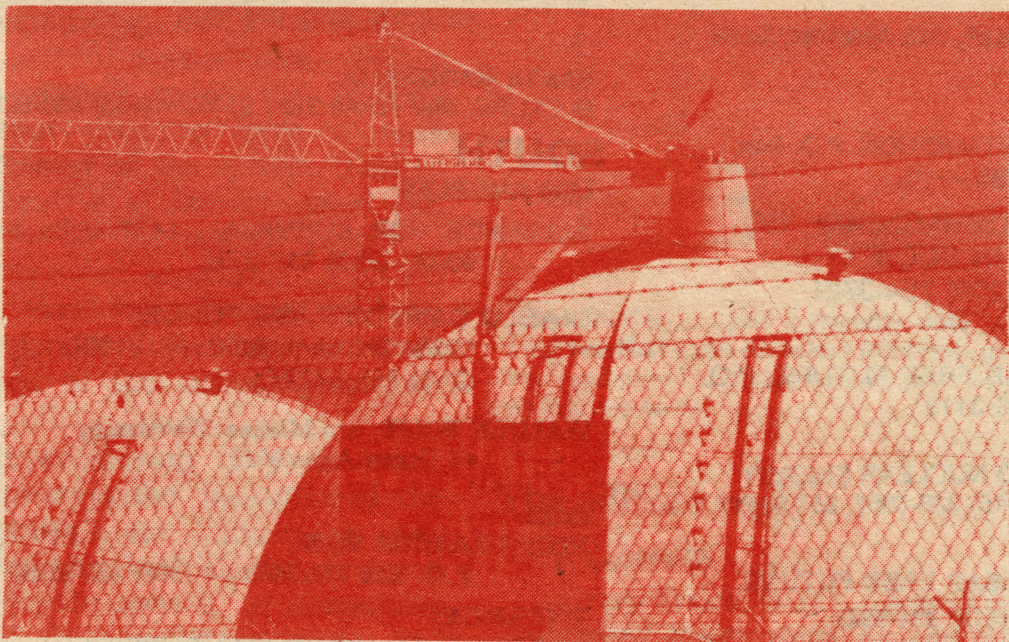
Someone ran across the bridge and his feet still rang away after he was gone, and now there was nobody on the beach and the people were screaming, I could see their redness. There was heat inside the bridge and it was making my flesh go soft, it looked like it was bursting out yellow. I was in pain, my head burned like a hand in a fire, I was asking: when can I breathe again? The stone was too hot for my legs, I had to stand up, the stone was too hot for my feet, I had to run and I fell again and again and the pain started again. The air was on fire, some buildings were on fire, my skin flaked and I rubbed at it and it rubbed away, my eyes were drying towards blindness.

People came running from the houses, some had their red hair on fire, I saw men on the ground spinning, everyone was running to the sea, there was noise. Things turned orange, then they went red, there was struggle, I got pushed on the back and thought the hand would come out the other side, I felt my face and it felt like mud and paperspirals, I ran, things were dissolving before my eyes, I saw people in the sea, they were yelling with scalding. I came into the steam, I saw the boat, I looked into the boat. Elke the german girl looked dead. Everyone screamed.

Suddenly the sea froze and the beach was covered with frost. The ice age begins—the evil has already happened.

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

RALLY AGAINST SAN ONOFRE



on the third anniversary of
Three Mile Island

MARCH 28, 1982
DOHENY STATE BEACH

Info: CEAN, (714) 275-1162

or Alliance For Survival, (714) 997-9922.

It's About Times

Subscribe!

If you got this copy of *It's About Times* free, please help us.

- ☐ New subscription
- ☐ Renewal (please include label)
- ☐ Here's \$8 for 10 issues of *It's About Times*
- ☐ I can afford \$
- ☐ I can contribute \$ to help IAT
- ☐ Here's \$5 for a set of IAT back issues

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Make subscription checks payable to *It's About Times*. Donations over \$25 are tax deductible if made payable to the Agape Foundation.

