

It's About Times

May 1981

The Rancho Seco rebels

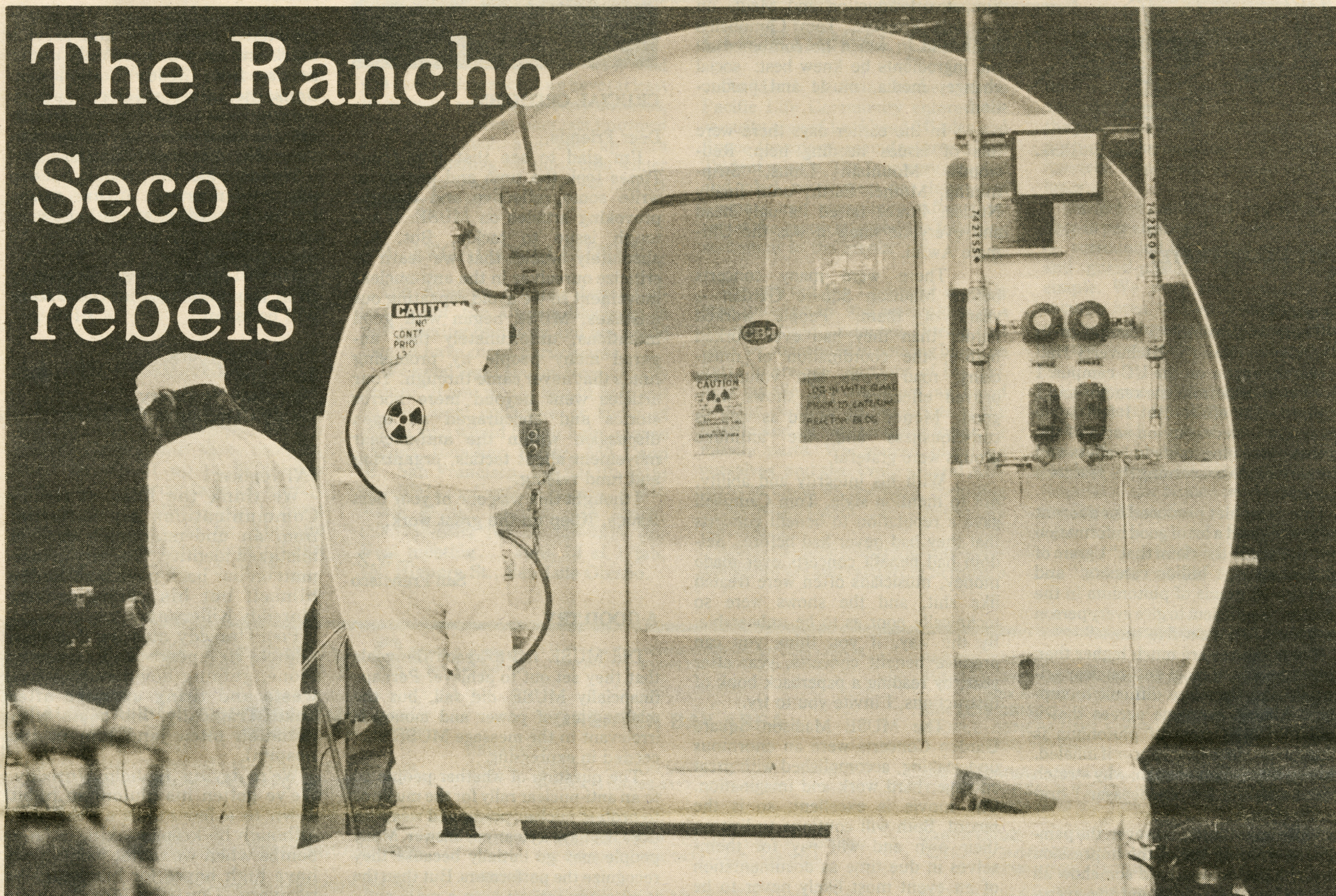


photo by Karen Spangenberg

Technicians and operators at the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant are angry and upset. They are disgusted with the plant's managers, who they say are prone to ignoring complaints about dangerous working conditions and playing favorites among employees.

The situation at Rancho Seco has already deteriorated to the point that there have been several acts of petty -- and not so petty -- sabotage. The smashed equipment and wrecked elevators at the plant were disturbing, but not dangerous. Then someone put a piece of cardboard in a controller, preventing the operation of an emergency diesel generator. Had a power failure occurred and the emergency generators not kicked in, temperatures in the reactor could have quickly mounted to critical levels.

It's About Times recently spoke with two technicians employed at Rancho Seco. Both of them seemed to take it for granted that the sabotage would continue and that it could

very well cause a serious accident. We wondered what would motivate someone at the plant to jeopardize its safe operation, and presumably their own safety with it. "People are getting a don't-give-a-shit attitude," one of the Rancho Seco workers explained. "Or they'll get pissed off and wreck equipment just to show management that they're going to do something about it. And then maybe somebody is having a conflict with somebody else who's responsible for a certain system and wants to damage that guy's reputation."

Our sources at Rancho Seco are

identities were disguised by back-lit silhouette camera shots and distorted voices to prevent management reprisals. But the show was considered "sort of a flop" by its instigators.

It's About Times spent several hours talking to one of the show's participants, who we'll call John. "If the news media were more familiar with the technics of the system they could nail these [management] guys to the cross," John said. "Instead the general manager and the head of nuclear operations did their silver-tongue act in front of the cameras."

into workers' complaints, he was not allowed to enter the plant. The Rancho Seco management has threatened that anyone who passes information about conditions at the plant to Castro will be instantly fired.

Obviously, we can't tell you much about "John." We can say that he, like many others in the nuclear industry, is a graduate of the Navy's nuclear training program. John has been a technician at Rancho Seco for over ten years and knows many of the plant's systems -- and their problems -- inside out. He is serious about running Rancho Seco as safely as possible. In short, he's the kind of guy you'd think

continued on page 6

"People will wreck equipment just to show management that they're going to do something about it."

risking their jobs by going to the media with their complaints. They made the decision, they told us, as "a last resort after all the other avenues had been closed off by management. They wouldn't pay any attention to us, to our speak-outs or petitions. So some of the guys started dropping stuff in front of the media. We put it before God and everybody."

The workers' most successful effort so far at publicizing their plight was on February 3, when Sacramento television station KRCA aired an hour-long special report called "Trouble at Twin Towers." The program featured interviews with several plant employees whose

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), which owns Rancho Seco, immediately issued a press release claiming that the show "revealed the high calibre of people who serve at California's largest generating facility." It said not a word about the complaints aired on the program.

The informal group of "rebels," as John calls them, was also disappointed that the documentary was delayed until after the SMUD board elections last November, when an antinuclear director was replaced by a well-financed opponent. One environmentalist, Rick Castro, still sits on the board. But when Castro tried to visit Rancho Seco to check

If there is an * on your label, your subscription expires with this issue. See page 12.

Inside

MUSE letters.....	2
Unions against TMI.....	3
TMI health effects.....	3
Diablo update.....	4
Energy budget goes to war..	4
NRC licensing speedup.....	5
Paradise bombed.....	5
Rancho Seco.....	6-7
Sunshine gap.....	9
Abalone news.....	10

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE 2160 Lake Street San Francisco, CA 94121	American Friends Service Committee, Inc.
---	---

Letters



- Susan Dembrowski

WHY EXAGGERATE?

Dear IAT,

There is presently a campaign in Berkeley to close the Etcheverry Hall research reactor on the UC campus. I live two blocks from the reactor and I support that effort. But I feel some comment is necessary on some of the statements being made in leaflets and press releases concerning the reactor's hazards.

One pamphlet produced for a recent rally contained a lot of good information but also made the claim that "1 gram of plutonium = 1 billion cancers" and that the 18 grams of plutonium in the reactor "is sufficient to give every person in the world cancer five times."

These figures are much higher than the estimates of most anti-nuclear scientists and therefore difficult to support. Almost everyone agrees that a millionth of a gram of plutonium is likely to produce lung cancer if inhaled. Surely that is bad enough; why stretch our credibility for (unnecessary) dramatic effect?

More importantly, however, the pamphlet's wording leaves the impression that the plutonium *could* somehow all escape from the reactor and give everyone on earth cancer. That idea doesn't seem too credible either.

Five tons, or four million grams, of plutonium have already been dispersed into the atmosphere by nuclear weapons testing. We all carry some of it in our bodies, and Dr. John Gofman estimates that a million of us will die from it. But it's not going to kill us *all*.

Overstating local nuclear dangers does the anti-nuclear movement a disservice. If people think that every research reactor might spell the end of their city or region, they are distracted and discouraged from fighting installations like Diablo Canyon or the Concord Naval Weapons Station which *could* cause such a major disaster.

Making personal safety the focus of organizing also neglects the Etcheverry reactor's function as a training ground for the nuclear engineers who run the power plants and weapons factories. Such a focus fails to point out Etcheverry as a symbol of the University's involvement in an anti-social industry and in a system which values profit over people's lives. It condemns us to the limitations of organizing strategies which treat each nuclear installation as an isolated evil, but never address the social forces which create those installations.

I know that it is far easier to motivate people to act against a visible and immediate threat than the seemingly more abstract dangers of a distant power plant or a nuclear war. But ideally organizing efforts like the Etcheverry one could result *both* in closing the reactor and in the education and empowerment of people to deal with the larger nuclear hazards. I hope that such a balanced, dual focus will be considered in future organizing.

V. Starkwell
Berkeley

MUSE DEFENDED

It's About Times:

The concept of music and motive is an excellent one, not at all passive in nature as erroneously judged in your article about MUSE. We are a generation who have always responded and reacted to the music and the message.

MUSE grew out of Pacific Alliance which grew out of Simpatico-Production and Media on People's Projects. Tom Campbell's brainchild in which he combined all the ingredients he knew best: social change, media, music and production.

In the earlier days there were lots of issues needing help: Redwoods, Mountain Lions, Strip-mining, Mother Earth, until finally Nuclear Power raised its ugly head and everyone knew it was the Ultimate Awful.

There were many concerts before Madison Square Garden -- years of them. People worked harder than they had ever worked before; the coordination of musicians, road crews and volunteers proved effective. The shows were good. Money was raised as well as consciousness and the antinuke groups were grateful.

With his integrity and ability, not to mention style, Tom Campbell gave a reputation to benefit concerts that they had never had before. Seldom had benefit concerts ever made money, musicians often were treated like shit, and the shows were so technically poor as to be unbearable. By the way, if you think you can produce benefit concerts, year after year, by reading a paperback book of instructions, I invite you to try.

The MUSE Madison Square Garden Concerts were an enormous undertaking, accomplished with great courage, hard work and imagination. The movie is excellent; so is the record. Both will continue to live on their own and will pay for themselves in due time as documentation of an event most likely never to be repeated. The total event was fantastic. It was rock 'n' roll at its best and it was No Nukes besides. Think back to where the antinuke movement was before the music, if you were around then.

"Make it on your own, if you think you can."

Janis Monaco
Sebastopol

Dear Janis,

Sorry we haven't fulfilled what you see as the role of antinuclear groups -- being grateful to Tom Campbell.

Campbell and MUSE did indeed raise a lot of money, on the strength of the promise that it was going to the grassroots antinuclear movement. But what happened to 88% of it? That's the question our article addressed.

You may be unaware of it, Janis, but for years there have been benefit concerts that have channeled a far greater percentage of their proceeds to movement groups, such as the United Farm Workers, than MUSE gave to the antinuclear movement.

And by the way, *It's About Times* has never received a penny from MUSE or Tom Campbell in the two and a half years we've been publishing. But we wonder why Pacific Alliance is threatening to withdraw its support of People Generating Energy in San Luis Obispo (which has no part in IAT's editorial process) as a result of our article.

-- the IAT staff

Ed. note: It has come to our attention that Janis Monaco is an employee of Pacific Alliance.



CRUCIAL CRITICISM

Dear Friends,

I'm glad to see that *It's About Times* took the time and energy to write some reflective and thought provoking articles on MUSE. It's a tough issue to tackle. But, it's absolutely crucial that we learn to criticize ourselves in the anti-nuclear movement so we avoid repeating our mistakes. MUSE began with good intentions, unfortunately they angered many people by promising funds that never came through. Your articles went beyond mere horror stories and encouraged an open discussion within the anti-nuclear movement about tactics, organizing and fund raising.

I thought this was one of your best issues. Keep up the great work.

—W.Z.
San Francisco

A GOOD TRY

Did MUSE fail to reach the goals that they set out to achieve? Perhaps financially MUSE did fail, but the mishandling of power and money is irrelevant to the message MUSE succeeded in expressing.

The question of whether people go to an anti-nuclear rally for the music or to protest nuclear power and weapons does not have a clear-cut answer. Many people may go initially because they recognize the performers. But then the local organizations have a mass audience to educate with literature and petitions. The battle to end nuclear power and weapons relies on educated people and if concerts can teach then they are vital to the cause.

Perhaps to the musicians and production people the idea of raising money for anti-nuclear groups was so exciting that financial responsibilities were not carefully taken into account. The important issue is not to point a finger of blame for the failed attempt, but to do better in the future.

The community groups have been doing without MUSE funds up to this point, so the MUSE people must not be ashamed for having reached for the best and coming up with less.

Anyway, the battle is still raging. NO NUKES!

— Kathy Cagle

REDDY OR NOT

Dear Sir:

Our attention has just been called to a recent issue of "It's About Times" which featured a misuse of our trademark, Reddy Kilowatt.

This is an unauthorized use of our trademark and we would appreciate your advising everyone concerned that such use is not permitted.

Reddy Kilowatt is a federally registered trademark and service mark and may be used only under license from Reddy Communications, Inc. by certain electric utility companies to identify and illustrate their communication services. No other use is authorized.

We must ask that you do not use our trademark in future newsletters. Naturally, any other use in other material should also be discontinued.

We will appreciate an early reply from you advising that these steps will be taken.

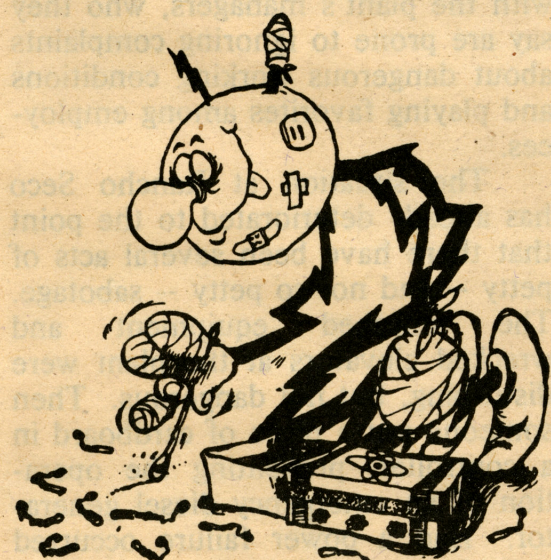
Very truly yours,
Jean Body
Corporate Secretary
Reddy Communications, Inc.

IAT replies:

We think the folks at Reddy Communications are suffering from an understandable case of mistaken identity. The wiry gentleman on our back page isn't Reddy himself but his young cousin, Unreddy Killerwatt.

Poor Unreddy, alas, is a radiation addict. He spends sad evenings alone, gulping down radioactive waste and firing up nuke after nuke. Tragically, his bouts with radiation often land him in the hospital.

We're trying to help Unreddy. We've gotten his plutonium habit down to a few nukes a year, and although he keeps making atomic bombs when we're not looking we have high hopes for his complete recovery. Contributions to help rehabilitate Unreddy can be sent to the Abalone Alliance.



Abalone Alliance Newspaper

It's About Times



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

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

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

Editorial staff: Marcy Darnovsky, Mark Evanoff, Steve Stallone, Bob Van Scoy and Ward Young.

Typesetting: Graphic Intervention, Cindy Cornell.

Production friends: Katy Anderson, Greg Dunnington, Jon Katz, Steve Markell, Tom Price and Gary Rouge.

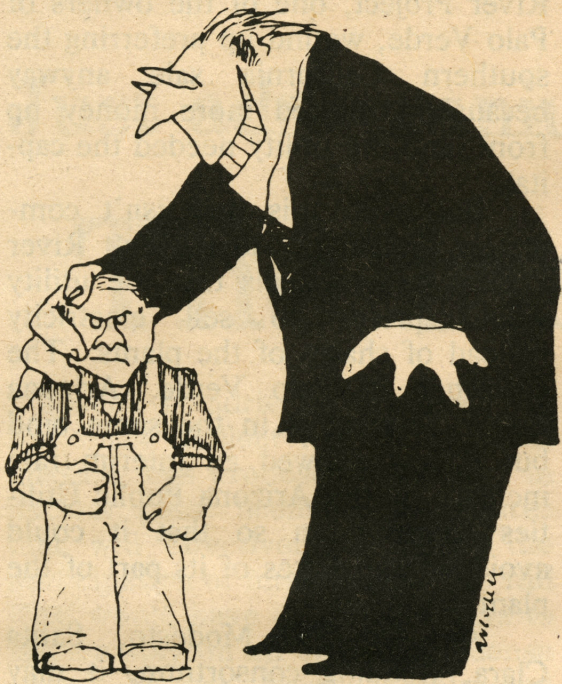
Copyright 1981. Permission is given to reprint articles and graphics if credit is given to *IAT*. Please send us a copy.

It's About Times / 944 Market Street, Room 307 / San Francisco, CA, 94102... (415)543-3910.

Union march on TMI

On March 28, the second anniversary of the accident at Three Mile Island, a significant part of the labor movement joined environmental and antinuclear groups in calling for an end to nuclear power.

Fifteen thousand nuclear opponents—including thousands from locals—marched in opposition to Metropolitan Edison's plans to restart TMI's undamaged Unit #1 and to dump 700,000 gallons of radioactive water from Unit #2 into the Susquehanna River. Support was also given to the United Mine Workers' contract efforts, full employment through a shorter work week, massive public works programs and guaranteed jobs at union wages for displaced nuclear workers.



Twelve international unions sponsored the march and rally, including the UMW, United Auto Workers, International Association of Machinists, Brotherhood of Railway and Airlines Clerks, and the National Education Association.

The march generated controversy within the labor movement. The Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO took out full-page ads in local papers and the *Washington Post* with the headline, "Is Organized Labor Opposed to Nuclear Power? No Way!" The ad, which claimed that the nuclear industry has "a virtually flawless health and safety record" and that "the system (at TMI) worked the way it was designed to work" was strikingly reminiscent of the claims of the nuclear industry itself.

When asked if the rally and march endorsed coal as an alternative source of energy, rally organizer Richard Grossman explained there was a lot of talk about building new coal plants to replace the electricity generated by TMI. Grossman argued that coal *can* be burned much more cleanly than it is now. He said that despite the efforts of the Reagan administration and industry, the UMW so far has not been blackmailed into dropping its support for the Clean Air Act in return for increased use of coal and more jobs for miners.

—Ward Young
IAT staff



TMI protestors march across the Susquehanna River on March 28

Allied Pix Photo

Infant deaths and disease

TMI health studies suppressed

Evidence of sharp increases in infant deaths and disease following the accident at Three Mile Island continues to mount—as does evidence of systematic efforts by Pennsylvania officials to suppress the information. The administration of Governor Richard Thornburgh explains that health data is being withheld to "prevent community breakdown."

In mid-March the Pennsylvania Department of Health released a long-awaited report which shows that the neonatal death rate (infant deaths in the first 28 days of life) in the ten-mile area around TMI jumped from 8.5 per thousand births in 1977 and 7.6 in 1978 to 19.3 during the three months after the near-meltdown. The actual number of deaths increased from 26 in 1978 to 52 in 1979.

Health Department officials insist there is no connection between the accident and the higher death rate. But Dr. Gordon MacLeod, chair of the University of Pittsburgh's Health Services Administration, told *It's About Times* that the report corroborates earlier evidence that the Health Department had suppressed. MacLeod was fired from his position as director of the Health Department in October 1979 while trying to force the release of accurate information.

The systematic distortion of health information began the day after the TMI accident, when early recommendations by MacLeod and others to evacuate pregnant women and school children from around the plant were ignored. The evacuation did eventually take place, but Governor Thornburgh then refused to heed warnings that the evacuees should not return until radioactive iodine levels in milk were no longer detectable.

In October, 1979, MacLeod criticized omissions in state reports to

the Kemeny Commission, which was investigating the TMI accident. One report failed to mention a possible large release of radioactive iodine which occurred several weeks after the mishap. Radioiodine levels in milk from local farms shot up to as high as 122 picocuries per liter several weeks after the accident, about three times the highest level previously recorded. MacLeod believes this surge probably resulted from a second large radioiodine release.

MacLeod advised Pennsylvania Environmental Resources secretary Cliff Jones that the reports would embarrass the Thornburgh administration if they weren't corrected. Thornburgh fired MacLeod four days after he delivered this unwelcome message.

As early as November, eight months after the accident, health officials knew about sharp increases in infant hypothyroidism, a thyroid

gland disease which can be caused by exposure to radioactive iodine. Cases of hypothyroidism jumped twelve-fold between June and November in Lancaster County, directly downwind from TMI. MacLeod, who had just been sacked, knew that the Health Department was planning to suppress both sets of data indefinitely. In February 1980 he forced every effort to get the data out officially. Finally I tipped off a UPI man and he was able to obtain the figures. The story went on the wire and received wide play."

MacLeod is not the only critic of the state government's evasiveness. Dr. Ernest Sternglass, professor of radiological physics at the University of Pittsburgh, cites a history of "revisions" and delays in state release of post-TMI health statistics. In the April 25 issue of *The Nation*, Sternglass points out that infant death rates are normally lower in the

spring months than in the winter. This change didn't occur after the accident in 1979. But Sternglass says that state officials misleadingly claimed that the accident hadn't affected infant mortality because the spring and winter rates were about the same.

There is still important data that the Health Department refuses to release. Figures on spontaneous versus induced abortions and deaths of infants during their first 20 weeks, as well as birth weights and sex ratios, which radiation is known to affect, have not been made public. According to MacLeod, "The current Secretary of Health—my replacement—has been very openly espousing nuclear energy and vehemently denying the health effects that could have occurred."

—Ward Young
IAT staff

Labor holds antinuke conference

Two hundred and fifty people, representing 21 unions and a few safe energy groups, met in Los Angeles on April 11 to address nuclear, safe energy and full employment issues. It was the largest conference of organized labor in California convened specifically for that purpose.

William Winpisinger, President of the International Association of Machinists, called for a national non-nuclear energy plan. He backed his demand for full employment by pointing out that the threat of unemployment is used to discipline those who do have jobs.

A Bechtel Corporation representative, Tom Carr, was allowed fifteen minutes to present a pronuclear case. Insisting that nuclear power is not a significant hazard, he urged his audience to "know nukes." His remarks [spiced with informative tidbits such as the claim that cigarette smoking creates worse radiation exposure than that experienced by nuclear workers] were repeatedly interrupted by boos and hisses.

The conference passed four resolutions. The first established the Southern California Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment to serve trade unionists as

a clearinghouse and supplier of materials to educate working people about the perils of nuclear power and the availability of safe alternatives. The second resolution called for support and aid for the United Mineworkers of America in their current strike. The third supported the railway labor organizations' national demonstrations on April 29 against Reagan's proposed budget cuts for Amtrak and Conrail. The last resolution called for the reversal of the arms race.

—Kate Benn, AA Labor Task Force
and
—Steve Stallone, IAT staff

Energy budget goes to war

During the 1980 presidential campaign, Ronald Reagan repeatedly stated his intention, if elected, to abolish the Department of Energy (DOE). But in spite of that promise and reports from Washington that the cabinet-level agency is in disarray, DOE's major function, the nuclear business, will not be disrupted. On the contrary, the administration plans a major increase in funding for both nuclear weapons and nuclear power development.

DOE has asked for \$5 billion for nuclear weapons work in fiscal 1982, up from \$3.67 billion in fiscal 1981. The 1982 figure represents 36% of DOE's budget, but the total military share is actually somewhat larger since military programs are often hidden in other budget categories. For example, the power system for the MX missile has been funded

missiles, the Pershing II missile, and parts for neutron warheads for artillery shells. The Reagan administration has also planned an expanded nuclear testing program.

On the energy side, DOE has requested \$4.05 billion for research and development, a cut from its fiscal 1981 allocation of \$4.73 billion. But there are still a few big winners in the new budget -- notably nuclear power (\$1.2 billion this year, \$1.1 billion last year) and the Clinch River breeder reactor, which got \$254 million this year.

The big losers for funding include conservation and solar (\$427 million instead of last year's \$1.1 billion), geothermal, and coal and fossil fuels. The hydropower and ocean energy programs have been completely abandoned. In all, the

cleanest and safest" source of energy available.

The proposed budget still has to be approved by Congress. But so far the only budget cut to produce a controversy has been in DOE's synthetic fuel program.

Most energy research and development in the US takes place in DOE's eight "Multiprogram Laboratories." According to a Government Accounting Office report, these

laboratories are supposed to accept non-weapons work only when it complements weapons development. So an increased DOE emphasis on nuclear weapons will mean further reductions or cancellation of non-weapons work such as solar and energy conservation.

In the DOE, energy development remains a captive of the nuclear weapons industry.

-- by Steve Leeds

Palo Verde deal falls through

The cities of Modesto, Santa Clara and Redding have been forced by strong antinuclear sentiment to abandon their plan to purchase a \$100 million share of the Palo Verde nuclear power plant in Arizona.

The Volcanic Alliance, an Abalone Alliance group, persuaded the Redding city council to vote against the purchase. No one testified in favor of the nukes at the public hearings held there, but two local papers ran pronuclear editorials.

The opposition in Modesto was led by the Stanislaus Safe Energy Committee, another Abalone group. The Modesto city council chose to place the issue on the ballot, but the election was canceled after Redding withdrew from the plan.

The Santa Clara city council initially voted in favor of the nuclear investment despite strong local opposition. But after the Santa Clara Ratepayers Association, a coalition of community and antinuclear groups, circulated an initiative for a special election on the matter, the city council rescinded its vote.

The Palo Verde electricity will be sold instead to a consortium of eight southern California cities and

the Imperial Valley Irrigation Project. Sam Tyson of the Stanislaus Safe Energy Committee said that the Salt River Project, one of the owners of Palo Verde, wound up preferring the southern California sale anyway because it offered more money up front, and the utility needed the capital.

But even this deal isn't completely satisfactory to the Salt River Project. Tyson feels that the utility would prefer to sell electricity instead of shares of the plants. The co-owner of Palo Verde, Arizona Public Service, is in the same bind but it was allowed an interim rate increase by the Arizona Public Utilities Commission so that it could avoid selling shares of its part of the plant.

As for the Modesto, Santa Clara, Redding consortium, it may try again to buy nuclear-generated electricity. Mark Levy of Group Opposed to Nuclear Energy reports that the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, which owns Rancho Seco, has joined MSR in a new public power agency.

-- by Mark Evanoff
IAT staff



Bombs Away!

through the "solar and conservation" budget.

The DOE notes that "most of [this] increase is due to new requirements for nuclear weapons and nuclear materials, as outlined in the President's recent Nuclear Weapons Stockpile memorandum." In other words, the billions will buy a new generation of nuclear weapons for every part of the nuclear arsenal. The Pentagon is planning production of warheads for the MX missile, the Trident I and II submarine-launched

Reagan administration is trying to chop \$2.8 billion from what the Carter administration had proposed spending on energy development. Yet it can still manage to increase nuclear funding.

Although Reagan often repeats that "the free market is clearly superior to the federal government in allocating energy resources," he is recommending hefty new subsidies for the 30-year-old nuclear industry. Reagan's Secretary of Energy, James B. Edwards, recently stated that nuclear power is "the cheapest,

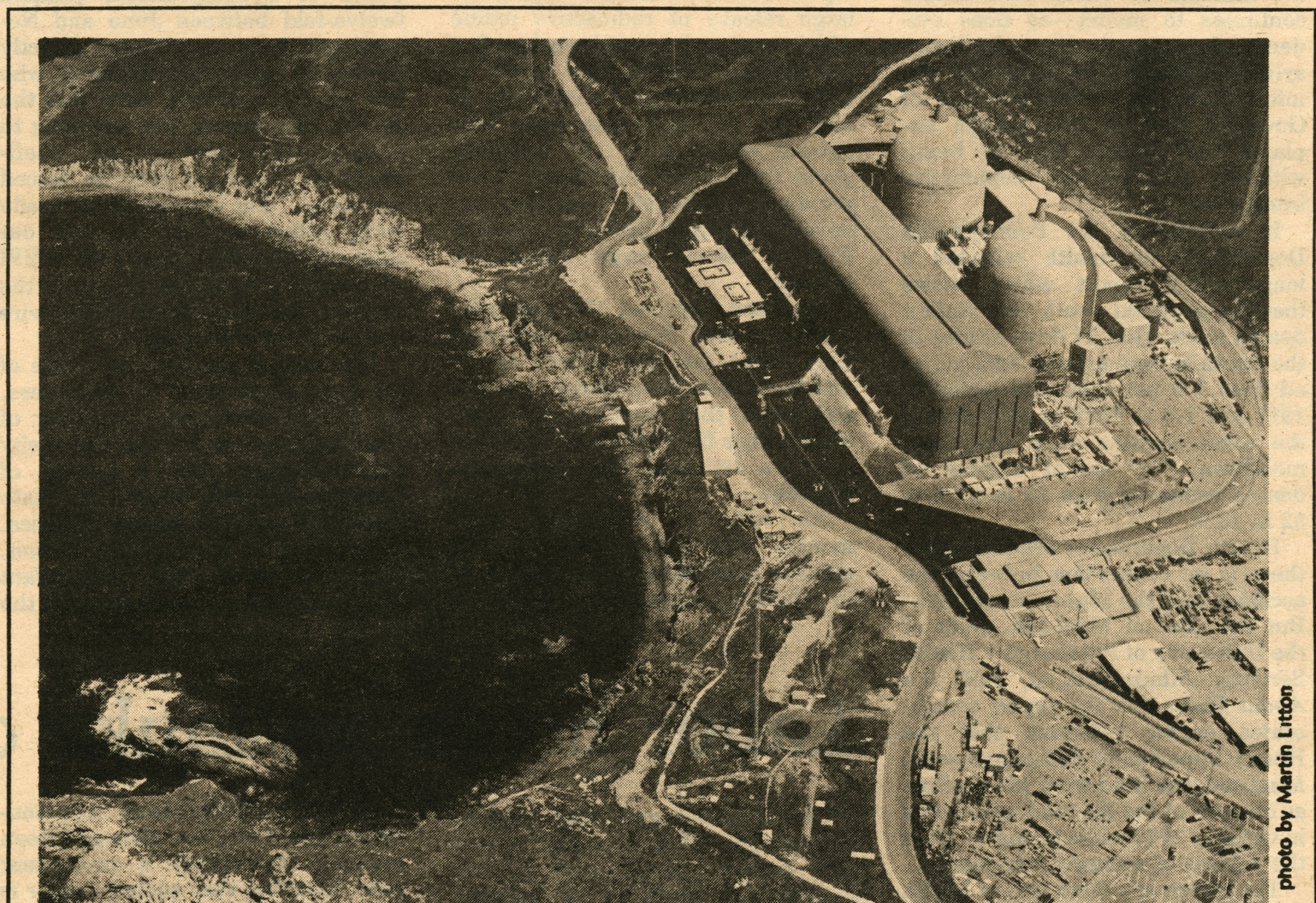
More Diablo maneuvering

The complicated legal battle over the licensing of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant is nearing its showdown stages. The next skirmish will determine whether low power testing hearings will be held and the number of issues the hearings can address.

In February the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) scheduled low power testing hearings for May 19 and ruled that they could cover emergency planning, emergency power supply, reactor water level indicators and reactor safety valves. The intervenors appealed this decision to the full Nuclear Regulatory Commission on the grounds that there are more issues that need to be litigated. Pacific Gas and Electric also appealed. They argued that there should be no hearings at all, because in their opinion all the pertinent issues have already been resolved.

In April attorneys for the NRC issued a motion agreeing with PG&E and recommending that a low power testing permit be issued immediately. The ball is now back in the ASLB's court, but they probably won't decide what to do until a few days before the hearings are scheduled to begin.

If a hearing is held, it would be six to nine months before Diablo could possibly be put on line. That would



The Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant.

be in the fall or winter of this year.

If no hearing is held, the ASLB will probably issue a low power testing permit immediately. The intervenors intend to appeal such a decision, a process which would take about 80 days. If the appeal failed, Diablo could be ready to go on line in August.

If a permit is issued, the Diablo

Project Office will set a date for the blockade. The DPO has been coordinating planning for the blockade, which has been continuing around the state despite all the delays and conjectures on the licensing timeline.

If you can help in any way, call the DPO at (805)543-6614. Outreach work and money are currently the

priorities. Statewide meetings are held monthly in San Luis Obispo, and any group actively working on the blockade is encouraged to attend.

For more information and/or to send funds, write the Diablo Project Office, 452 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

— from a Diablo Project Office update

Coverup scandal

Japan shaken by nuclear leak

On April 20 Japanese government officials disclosed that a 40-ton leak of highly radioactive water from the Tsuruga nuclear power station had been hushed up by the plant's owners for more than forty days. It was one of the worst nuclear accidents in Japanese history.

The leak was discovered when officials of the Natural Resources and Energy Agency closed the plant to investigate another previously unreported leak that left abnormally high amounts of radioactive cobalt-60 and manganese-54 in the soil around the plant. The second and

larger leak, which occurred on March 8, happened when primary coolant water spilled from a sludge storage tank into two manholes that were connected directly to a drain-pipe emptying into Urazoko Bay.

After the March spill eight plant workers were sent in to mop up with buckets and rags. A subcontractor then supplied additional moppers who worked for 15 more days. The utility said the cleaners, totaling 56 men, were exposed to no more than 155 millirems, considerably under the Japanese government limit of 3000 millirems over a three month

period. But the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, which regulates Japan's nuclear industry, disputed the company's statement saying that it was likely the moppers were exposed to dangerous doses of radiation since the waste water had a relatively high level of contamination.

Because neither accident was reported to authorities as required by law, executives of the Japan Atomic Power Company (JAPC), the plant's owners, face criminal charges. The company said top officials may resign to "take responsibility" for

the accident.

Although government officials said levels of contamination found in fish and other seafood from the local waters were not hazardous, fish markets closed their doors to products from the area. Fishermen are suing the JAPC to buy the fish they can't sell.

Already small sit-ins and vigils have been held in Hiroshima and Tokyo to protest further use of nuclear power in Japan. Larger antinuclear actions are being planned.

—from AP, UPI, LA Times

Just add uranium

The instant nuclear license

Joseph Hendrie, acting chairperson of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, has proposed a revision in nuclear plant licensing procedures that will effectively eliminate the participation of intervenors. The full NRC would have only thirty days to issue a stay on an operating license issued by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, before that license became effective. Only ten days would be allowed for a stay on low-power testing permits. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board which has allowed long reviews of operating license applications, would be eliminated.

Hendrie asserts that completed nuclear power plants sitting idle awaiting an operating license are costing ratepayers tens of millions of dollars a month. His solution to the problem is to issue interim low-power and full power operating licenses from now through 1983, even if the licensing hearing have not been completed.

Intervenors will be severely restricted in their efforts to stop plant licensing. P.S. Carstons, an intervenor at San Onofre, said, "the rule changes are a camouflage instigated by the nuclear industry to remove present legal rights of intervenors."

Intervention is one of the few methods for the public to legally

oppose the licensing of nuclear power plants by challenging their safety. Intervenors now have the authority to subpoena safety related information from both the NRC staff and the utility. NRC staff and consultants can be called to testify before the licensing board, one of the few times the viewpoints of dissident staff members can be heard publicly.

Hendrie's proposed regulations would eliminate intervenor's rights to discovery motions. The NRC staff would have discretionary power on deciding what information to give the intervenors. Hendrie claims the information normally gained through discovery is still available through cross examination of witnesses during the licensing procedure. But the new regulations would eliminate the right of intervenors to subpoena the NRC witnesses they would like to see testify. Intervenors would be allowed only twenty-five days to wrest what documents they can pertaining to the safety of a plant from the owner utility.

Under the proposal, new authority would be given to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board chairperson. He or she could rule on the relevance of prehearing issues of scheduling, defining issues of contention and limiting the issues addressed at the hearings.

Licensing hearings have been the only time safety issues could be brought before the public. The Kemeny Report on Three Mile Island admitted safety concerns in plant construction are often deferred until the licensing stage and that NRC staff have erred on the side of the industry's convenience rather than safety. Metropolitan Edison sued the NRC for not being strict enough in its regulations, holding them responsible for the accident at Three Mile Island. The new licensing speed-up

will only result in more lawsuits when accidents happen.

Plants that could be licensed under the new law are: Diablo Canyon, San Onofre, South Carolina's Summer, Ohio's Zimmer, North Carolina's McGuire, Minnesota's Fermi, Pennsylvania's Susquehanna, Louisiana's Waterford and Texas's Comanche Peak.

—Mark Evanoff
IAT staff

Pacific nuclear protests

A wave of antinuclear protests spread across the Pacific islands on March 1, the 27th anniversary of the US nuclear bomb test "Bravo" on Bikini Island. In the Philippines, Hawaii, Australia, Japan, San Francisco, New Zealand and Fiji, demonstrations and forums marked the Nuclear-Free Pacific Week that followed.

In Honolulu on March 2, members of the Pacific Concerns Resource Center dressed in replicas of radiation protection outfits rolled large metal barrels through a busy shopping center and handed out thousands of leaflets about Japanese nuclear waste dumping plans. Two days later nine members of the Catholic Action of Hawaii were arrested and detained after a demonstration on the US military base H.R. Smith.

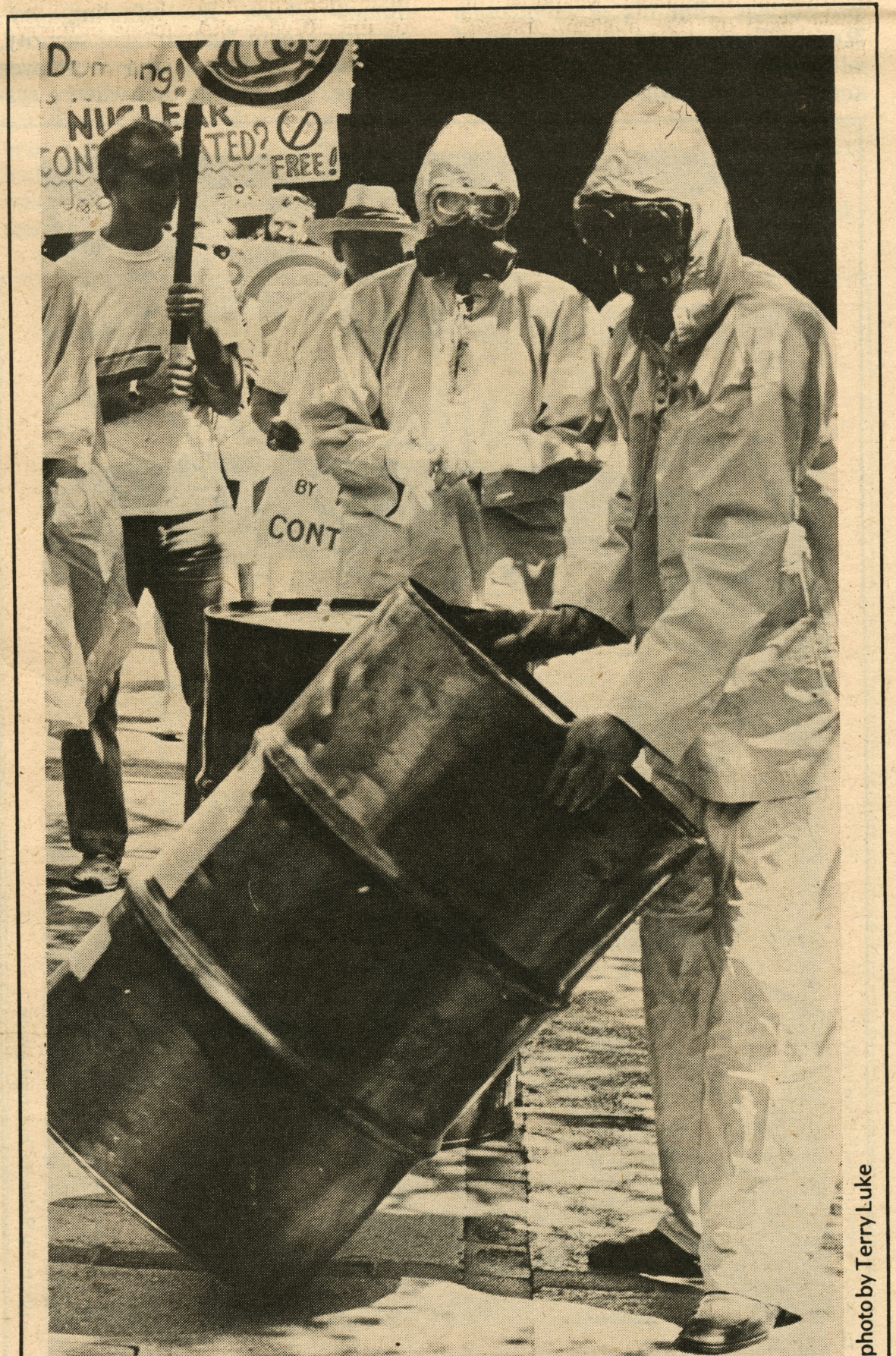
In the Philippines on February 15, the Nuclear-Free Philippines

Coalition held a large antinuclear rally, the first since martial law was lifted. The demonstrators passed through downtown Manila in a motorcade with leaflets, posters and megaphones. They plan to form a congress of all antinuclear groups in the country.

More than two hundred Pacific islanders living in California rallied in San Francisco on March 2 in protest of the Japanese dumping plans. In Fiji two hundred attended a forum on bomb testing in the Pacific. A torchlight procession in Sydney, Australia on March 5 drew one thousand participants, and in Tokyo more than 650 rallied in protest of their country's waste dumping program.

For information about the Nuclear-Free Pacific Coalition, contact Angela Gennino at (415) 495-4770

-- by Angela Gennino
Friends of the Earth



A demonstration in Honolulu against Japanese waste dumping plans.

photo by Terry Luke

A history of Rancho Seco

The Sacramento Municipal Utilities District never tires of bragging about Rancho Seco. According to its proud parents, California's only running nuclear plant is a great success. But its six-year operating history shows problems which will soon cost ratepayers millions of dollars.

Construction of Rancho Seco began in 1968 at a site 25 miles southeast of Sacramento. The plant was completed and running after six years at a cost of about \$400 million, double the original budget but still cheap by nuclear standards. SMUD had a tough time getting Rancho Seco off the ground. After only three months of commercial operation the turbine rotors failed and had to be replaced, keeping the plant shut down for eight months. It was restarted in late February of 1976, but ran for only about a month until the generator failed, putting it out of service until mid-October.

Since late 1976 Rancho Seco has suffered from the usual leaks and spills in addition to several incidents which have caused unplanned shutdowns. The most dramatic of these occurred in March 1978 when a technician dropped a light bulb on a control panel, causing a short circuit and triggering an im-

mediate shutdown which cooled the reactor core more quickly than NRC regulations allow. Similar events took place in August and September 1980, and could conceivably have stressed and weakened the reactor vessel. Despite all this, the plant's reliability over the past four years has been somewhat better than the national average.

The plant's major problem is still with its Westinghouse-built turbine. An inspection in February of this year revealed cracking in two places in one of the turbine's rotors. Such cracking is potentially serious because it could lead to a piece of the rotor breaking loose and flying out of the turbine at high speed, endangering workers and possibly triggering a nuclear accident.

Temporary repairs will have to be made before Rancho Seco is allowed to restart, and the NRC has ruled that its power output will have to be reduced from 913 to 715 megawatts until permanent repairs are made. These repairs are likely to be very expensive, especially if further damage is found.

A source at Rancho Seco told *It's About Times* that the Westinghouse turbine came without specifications for the control of its impurities in its steam system. Such control is essential to

prevent early failure due to corrosion. With no guidelines, plant technicians had to rely on guesswork for the task. They may not have always guessed right.

Our source also had nasty things to say about the poor quality of Westinghouse equipment in general, both at Rancho Seco and at other plants. He thinks that SMUD would have been far better off buying another make of turbine. His comments have interesting implications for PG&E's Diablo Canyon plant, which is all-Westinghouse.

Because the Rancho Seco reactor is a virtual duplicate of Three Mile Island, the TMI accident resulted in a flurry of NRC-required modifications. The plant will be shut down this fall for further TMI-related changes, and the total cost of the alterations is expected to exceed \$100 million.

Whether for bad turbines or TMI retrofits, the money has to come from somewhere. SMUD rates have gone up 30% since early 1980 and are not likely to stop there. SMUD customers may end up wishing the utility had turned the nuclear salesmen away.

—Bob Van Scoy
IAT staff

The rebels of Rancho Seco

continued from page 1

management would want to keep around. But John is making about \$6.00 an hour and because he's complained he's been told that there's no future for him in SMUD.

John used to be vehemently pro-nuclear. But his experiences at Rancho Seco and an investigation of other nuclear facilities that he undertook at his own initiative have

turned him into a critic of the nuclear industry. "My feeling now is that the industry is going to clean up their act or they're not going to function at all," John said.

During our recent conversation he recounted serious problems at Rancho Seco in refueling procedures, spent fuel storage, security, personnel policies and employee morale. He told us that when a sys-

tem at the plant doesn't meet NRC specifications, it is routine to simply change the specs.

According to John, Rancho Seco's head technical engineer has complained that SMUD "just wants to operate the plant. They don't want to operate it with safety considerations." And the quality assurance engineer asked to be transferred away from the plant because he "couldn't put up with the bullshit. He was supposed to be able to put a stop to something if he saw it was wrong. But management overrode him all the time so he thought his job was useless."

Resistance begins

Dissatisfaction has been brewing for a long time at Rancho Seco. But organized resistance to management didn't begin until about four years ago, when technicians refused to work in the containment building while the reactor was running. They were afraid of being scalded if a loss-of-coolant accident, such as a pipe break, sent superheated steam rushing into the building.

A year or so later, a water purification system began leaking concentrated sulfuric acid. Despite a series of requests from workers, nothing was done to correct it. "Guys were getting acid on their clothing and SMUD refused to pay for their clothing," John recalled.

which is out of channels. But management still ignored the problem."

What management did do, however, was to harass some of the people who had signed the petition. "Supervisors were calling them at home and threatening them with the loss of their jobs or with being passed over for promotion," John said.

It was not until after the situation had been aired on television that the water purification system was finally fixed.

Favoritism and nepotism

Some of the most bitter resentments at Rancho Seco are directed at management personnel policies. There are complaints about favoritism, nepotism, personality conflicts and a military atmosphere. None of this is really surprising when the roster of top managers is considered: Rancho Seco's manager, Ron Rodriguez, was at one time the chief engineer on the nuclear submarine

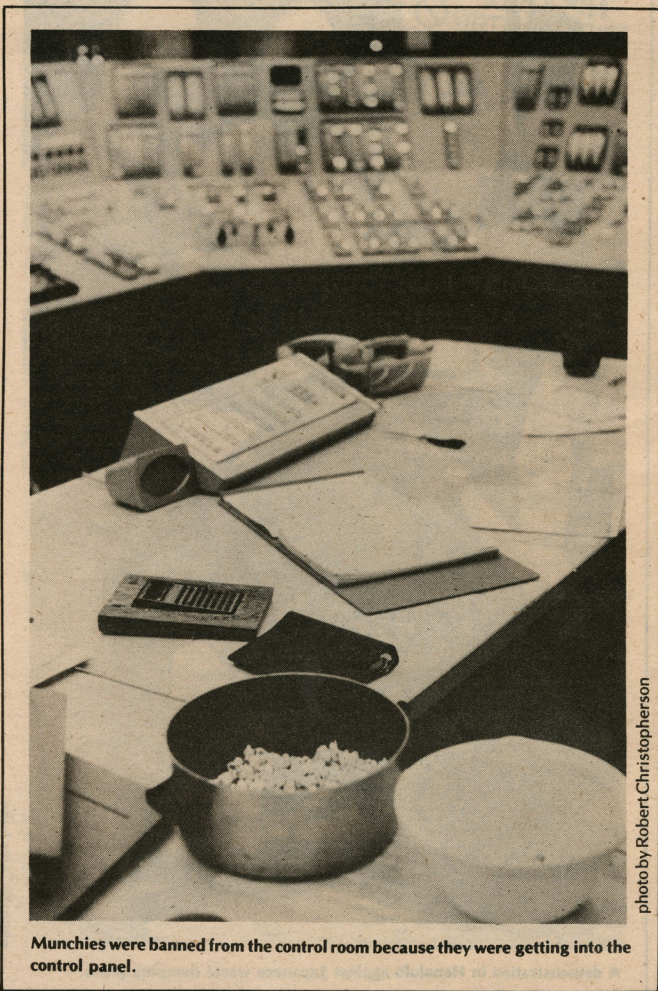
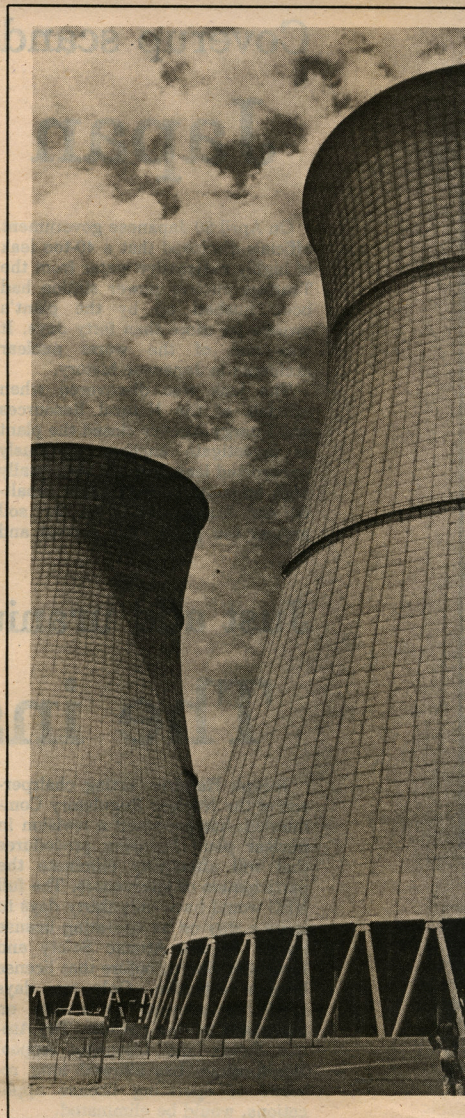
When a system doesn't meet NRC specifications, it is routine to simply change the specs.

"An auxiliary operator got acid on his face and had to go to the hospital."

Still the system was not repaired. After a while nobody wanted to work near it because they expected to get sprayed with acid. "The situation got steadily worse for a couple years," John said. "Finally the guys all signed a big petition,

Scamp. Pierre Oubre, now plant superintendent, was Rodriguez's reactor officer. A number of other Rancho Seco supervisors were also on the Scamp.

The good-old-boys manner in which these men run the plant, says John, "is driving a lot of our technically qualified people down the road." During the past year some



Munchies were banned from the control room because they were getting into the control panel.

photo by Robert Christopherson

Is PG&E covered with SMUD?

At first glance it seems absurd for the small Sacramento Municipal Utilities District to have tied up nearly half its assets in a huge nuclear plant which could produce far more electricity than it needed. But SMUD had a big, power-hungry friend — PG&E.

In 1970, the two utilities finalized an agreement for PG&E to buy the "excess" power from Rancho Seco and also make payments for a share of the plant's capacity whether it was running or not. In effect, PG&E was buying part of Rancho Seco — the largest part. In 1980, 60% of Rancho Seco's output went to PG&E.

From PG&E's standpoint, this arrangement is ideal. PG&E gets cut-rate electricity while SMUD takes the flak. With an elected board and the appearance of democratic control, SMUD can deflect public criticism much more easily than PG&E could.

Rancho Seco isn't kept running with rhetoric alone, however, and rate increases to cover nuclear costs are also easier for SMUD to arrange. It's harder to accuse a municipal utility of rate gouging because it is supposedly ratepayer-controlled. Another reason SMUD can hike rates more easily is that the rest of its power plants are hydroelectric and produce power very cheaply.

Even with big increases to cover problems at Rancho Seco, SMUD bills will probably remain lower than those of PG&E customers.

Although SMUD is supposedly controlled by its ratepayers, it hasn't exactly invited public participation in its nuclear decisions. SMUD has a public relations department which puts out press releases puffing the virtues of Rancho Seco and the wisdom of SMUD's board and management. It runs "energy expos" and "visitor centers" which are virtually identical to PG&E's. Far from encouraging democracy and public input, these efforts are based on the presumption that the public is too stupid to make energy choices and just needs to be fed reassuring pap. SMUD's booklet on Rancho Seco, for instance, features a little hard-hatted cartoon character who spends two pages looking up at the cooling towers and marvelling at how big they are.

Those who directly question SMUD representatives aren't likely to learn much more than that about Rancho Seco. One source at the plant told us that an employee at the visitor's center was transferred to another job because he gave the public too much information. Like many other "democratic" agen-

cies, SMUD's board is dominated with those with access to the money and influence needed to win elections. One new pro-nuclear board member, Ann Taylor, was reportedly elected with the help of money from Southern California. She defeated an anti nuclear incumbent. Another current director, Paul Carr, runs a company called Keyes Fiber which is the largest consumer of electricity in the SMUD district. He is being sued for conflict of interest by a coalition of safe energy groups since SMUD's rate structure gives a price break to large electricity users such as Keyes.

SMUD's future direction is uncertain. It is possible that sufficient public education — or a nuclear accident — might elect a safe energy majority to the board. But if this ever seems likely, expect some financial intervention from PG&E. Rumors at Rancho Seco hold that PG&E feels so secure about SMUD that it might encourage the construction of another nuclear unit there. SMUD could get a construction license far easier than PG&E, the theory goes, and would be glad to operate the plant largely for PG&E's benefit.

—Bob Van Scoy
IAT Staff

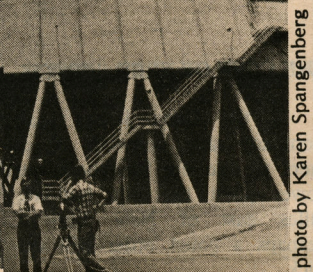


photo by Karen Spangenberg

job opportunities opened up and Sacramento and more than 170 technical employees at Rancho Seco.

SMUD is now scrambling to place these technicians, but as John explains, "A person who works with nuclear instrumentation can not find just any old place. He's

John also worries about security problems at Rancho Seco. "The NRC rules and regulations for security are changed at the whims of the SMUD security group downtown," he said. John pointed out that the spent fuel at the plant is stored in a building with a lightweight roof that couldn't withstand conventional explosives. And the guards have been careless enough to leave live ammunition lying around on the ground.

But instead of worrying about such things, the head of security plays games like planting a gun in an employee's purse without telling her to see if the guards would react when it went through the X-ray machine at the entrance. "They reacted all right," John said. "They

and dribbles is a good example of the plant management's public relations methodology. Radiation alarms went off in the reactor building, and technicians from a private firm, who had been hired to help with refueling, ran out, leaving 60 workers locked in the reactor building for half an hour. They finally got out through an air lock. Yet the Rancho Seco management told the press that nothing had happened. It was obvious, John said, that something had set those alarms off. A few days later it was proven that a faulty valve had caused radioactive gas from waste storage tanks to leak into the reactor building.

The rebels at Rancho Seco are determined to get their problems aired and remedied. They want to replace SMUD's general manager, the plant manager, the plant superintendent and other supervisors who they consider unresponsive to the problems at the plant. The disgruntled workers were reluctant to go to the media, but they've reached the limits of their tolerance. Some of them are no longer sure that a nuclear power plant can ever be a safe working environment. But they know it can be a lot safer than Rancho Seco is now.

-- by Marcy Darnovsky
IAT staff

Radiation alarms went off and 60 workers were left locked in the reactor building for half an hour.

some rehearsed television repairmen, despite what management says to think."

As a result of the exodus, reactor operators at Rancho Seco are working twelve-hour shifts. But a reactor operator apparently does not present a potentially dangerous situation in the eyes of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, despite all the post-TMI chatter about "human factors engineering." According to regulations, there has to be an incident before the NRC will look into personnel problems.

Those who left Rancho Seco took with them their first-hand knowledge of the plant. And since technical manuals and drawings of the plant are neither complete nor well organized, this is a serious loss. "Everybody has their own little library and you have to hunt and ask to get any up-to-date information on a specific system," John said. But in a typical move, management passed over for promotion the person who was working to put the information into a usable form.

jumped on her and she was quite taken aback. I think she's suing SMUD."

Public utility, public manipulation

Though SMUD is a public utility, John feels it's getting more and more like a private company all the time. He's afraid it will get as bad as PG&E, which "has internal security like the SS." As for its relations with the public, John believes that PG&E "manipulates information even more than SMUD does." Which is not to say that SMUD is a paragon of virtue. "SMUD floods the local population with bullshit," John said. He recounted how SMUD had moved a vent for radioactive gases off one of the cooling towers because people used to ask if the clouds of water vapor coming out of the towers were radioactive. Now SMUD can "truthfully" say no, while the radioactive gases are vented a short distance away.

One of the most recent incidents in Rancho Seco's history of leaks

NOTICE

OFFICE OF CIVILIAN DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INSTRUCTION TO PATRONS ON PREMISES
IN CASE OF NUCLEAR
*****CORE MELT DOWN

UPON THE FIRST WARNING:

1. STAY CLEAR OF ALL WINDOWS.
2. KEEP HANDS FREE OF GLASSES, BOTTLES, CIGARETTES, ETC.
3. STAND AWAY FROM BAR, TABLES, ORCHESTRA, EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE.
4. LOOSEN NECKTIE, UNBUTTON COAT AND ANY OTHER RESTRICTIVE CLOTHING.
5. REMOVE GLASSES, EMPTY POCKETS OF ALL SHARP OBJECTS SUCH AS PENS, PENCILS, ETC.
6. IMMEDIATELY UPON SEEING THE BRILLIANT FLASH OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, BEND OVER AND PLACE YOUR HEAD FIRMLY BETWEEN YOUR LEGS.
7. THEN KISS YOUR ASS GOODBYE.

An unofficial safety poster at Rancho Seco.

photo by Robert Christopherson

Short Circuits

ELECTRICITY SALES DROP

For the second time in the past 20 years combined electricity sales for California's five major utilities dropped from the previous year, according to the February edition of the California Energy Commission's publication *Energy Watch*. Higher electricity bills, conservation by ratepayers, and a mild summer were cited as having a major impact on electrical demand.

Utility	% Change in Sales, 1979-80
PG&E	-.96
Sacto MUD	-2.18
So. Cal. Edison	-.20
LA Department of Water & Power	-1.79
San Diego G&E	-1.14
Statewide	-.83

NO SUMMER SHORTAGE

Energy conservation measures have ensured plentiful electricity for California this summer. The state Energy Commission reported state-wide electricity reserves will measure between 20.8% and 29% of the total power supply, a comfortable margin above the 15% minimum reserve target. PG&E has the lowest reserves of utilities in California and normally buys power from the Northwest. If such purchases are low or if the San Onofre nuclear plant remains closed for repairs, state reserves could fall to 18.7% to 26.4%, still well above the minimum target.

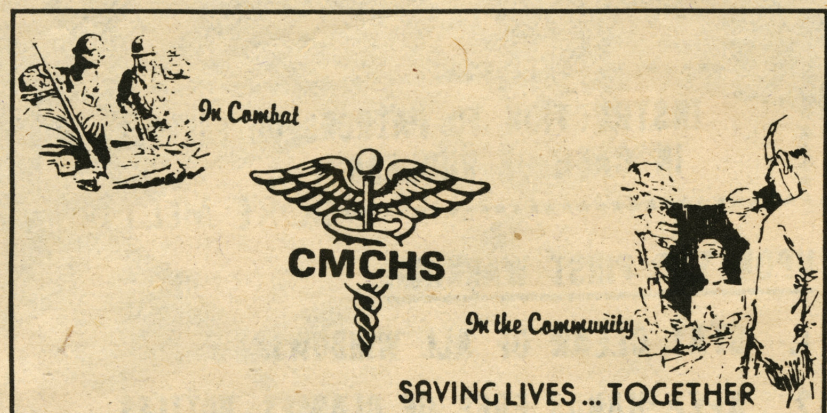
—from the *S.F. Chronicle*

SYNFUELS AND MUTATIONS

New discoveries at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory indicate that synfuel wastes, and probably synfuels themselves, may contain powerful birth defect-causing agents.

Oak Ridge researcher Barbara Walton says that insect "monsters" were produced when the eggs of crickets were exposed to synfuel by-products. In an article in *Science* magazine, Walton says that the insects that hatched sometimes had one or two extra eyes, two or more heads and branched antennae.

-- from Zodiac News Service



FRONT PAGE COVER OF DOD REPORT

PRONUKE MAYOR CANNED

The mayor of the Japanese town of Kubokawa has been recalled by the voters because of his support for the construction of a nuclear power plant in the area.

Mayor Susuma Fujito is the first head of a local government in Japanese history to be removed from office in an election initiated by a petition from residents. The close vote that defeated him is a major blow to Japan's pronuclear central government, which had promised huge subsidies to the town if it agreed to the siting of a plant there.

-- from Zodiac News Service

IT'S ONLY A TEST

Citizen groups near the proposed site of the MX "racetrack" have temporarily blocked an Air Force plan to detonate thousands of pounds of explosives in order to test the ability of the Nevada soil to withstand a nuclear strike. The project was vetoed by the US Bureau of Land Management after public hearings elicited thousands of petitions against the tests.

But the Air Force may go ahead with the tests anyway. According to the Sierra Club, an Air Force representative said the Pentagon may go over the head of the Bureau of Land Management "in the interests of national security."

-- from Zodiac News Service

WE THOUGHT THE WAR WAS OVER

A US nuclear submarine rammed and sank a Japanese freighter in the East China sea on April 9, and then left the scene without rescuing the Japanese crew. A Japanese destroyer rescued thirteen of the fifteen crew members after they spent 18 hours in a rubber raft. The ship's captain and first mate were missing and are presumed to have drowned.

The US navy said that the 6000-ton submarine *George Washington*, which is armed with nuclear missiles, surfaced after slicing through the *Nissho Maru* but sighted "no vessels or persons in distress." The submarine called in a search plane, but one of the survivors said the plane circled only twice before flying away.

A Navy spokesman said that "we deeply regret this unfortunate incident" and US ambassador Mike Mansfield sent a note of apology to Japanese officials. But the *Nissho Maru*'s crew was understandably angry. One survivor said, "This is something we can't tolerate, this being abandoned by fellow sailors. The sub may have military secrets, but after all it's a matter of humanitarianism."

—from *SF Chronicle*, 4/11/81

DOD PREPARES FOR WAR

CMCHS stands for the Civilian Military Contingency Hospital System, a Department of Defense plan to involve civilian hospitals in treating soldiers wounded in upcoming overseas wars. Assistant Secretary of Defense John Moxley explains, "Because of technical advances in weaponry and the greater mobility of armies today, a future large-scale conflict overseas will probably begin and end very rapidly and produce casualties at a higher rate than any other war in history."

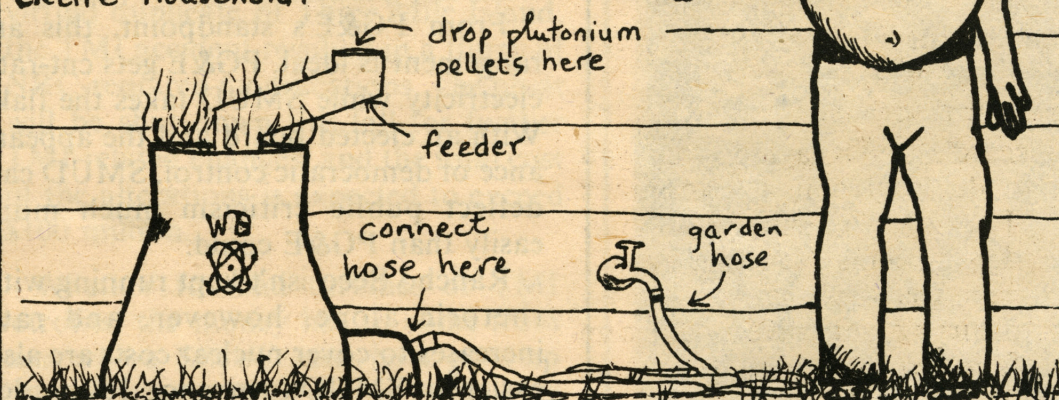
A recent memo directed to hospitals in fourteen US cities requests them to provide the military with 50 beds each on 48 hours notice.

—Sue Bloch

NEW! MINI-REACTORS!

\$1984

MANIFEST ENERGY SELF-RELIANCE with the new MINI-NUKE by Wilcock and Babcox. Provides electricity for your entire household!



5oz. "starter baggie" of plutonium! More plutonium can be ordered from the Dept. of Energy, Drawer H, Dept. 8-6-1945. (Wilcock and Babcox cannot assume responsibility of any kind due to neglect, misuse, or normal operation.)

T. BLOCHET '81

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OPPOSE NUCLEAR WAR

In Alameda, Marin and Sonoma Counties the Boards of Supervisors have unanimously passed resolutions urging the President and Congress to ease international tensions and ban nuclear weapons. The cities of Davis and Berkeley have done the same.

A campaign to spread the resolution as widely as possible got underway in February. In California, a group called Concerned Local Elected Officials (Opposing Preparations for Nuclear War) is aiming to get all the city councils and boards of supervisors in the state to pass the resolution.

The campaign in international in scope. The resolution has been sent to every "sister city" of the US in Japan and Germany, where opposition to US nuclear war preparations is strong.

Humboldt and Mendocino Counties will consider the resolution soon. "Everytime a board acts," campaign organizer Betty Siegal said, "it gets easier for the next board to sign on. The organizing crosses party lines."

For more information write: Concerned Local Elected Officials, P.O. Box 10604, Oakland, CA 94610, or call Betty Siegal (415)524-5619.

—Mark Evanoff
LAT staff

CAPT. AMERICA GOES TO WAR

Columnist Jack Anderson reports that a recent Pentagon study found that up to 90 percent of US nuclear weapons technicians -- the people who maintain and operate America's nuclear arsenals -- flunked their basic military skills tests last year. Anderson says the same study found that one-third of the supervisory personnel in a unit that was tested were found to be functionally illiterate.

To combat this problem, many technical manuals have been converted into comic book formats so the technicians don't have to rely on written instructions.

-- from Zodiac News Service

THE COST OF FREE SPEECH

If the Long Island Lighting Company can't convince its customers to like the Shoreham nuclear power plant that it's building 56 miles east of New York City, perhaps a court order will do the trick.

Lilco has filed for a permanent injunction against all demonstrations on or near the plant property. In addition, the utility is asking for \$2 million in damages from the SHAD Alliance, which like most grassroots antinuclear groups, has no elected leaders, no salaried staff and barely manages to pay its phone bills. The injunction would mean that everyone who has participated, planned or helped in a demonstration at Shoreham would be liable for a share of the \$2 million.

Lilco is the first utility in the country to seek both an injunction and money damages from protesters. The company claims that antinuclear demonstrations infringe on its private property rights -- which, it contends, supersede the First Amendment right to demonstrate. Lilco's attorneys are arguing that the Bill of Rights doesn't mention utility companies; it protects the citizenry from the government but not from private enterprise. Corporations have rights, too.

The SHAD defendants have filed a countersuit against Lilco, charging the company with harassment and invasion of privacy. They believe Lilco identified some of them by sending "spies" to SHAD meetings. And they are suspicious about a January burglary of their offices in which only their Rolodex and address card files were taken while valuable equipment was left behind.

-- by Susan Jaffe,
from The Nation,

3/21/81

Life After Doomsday

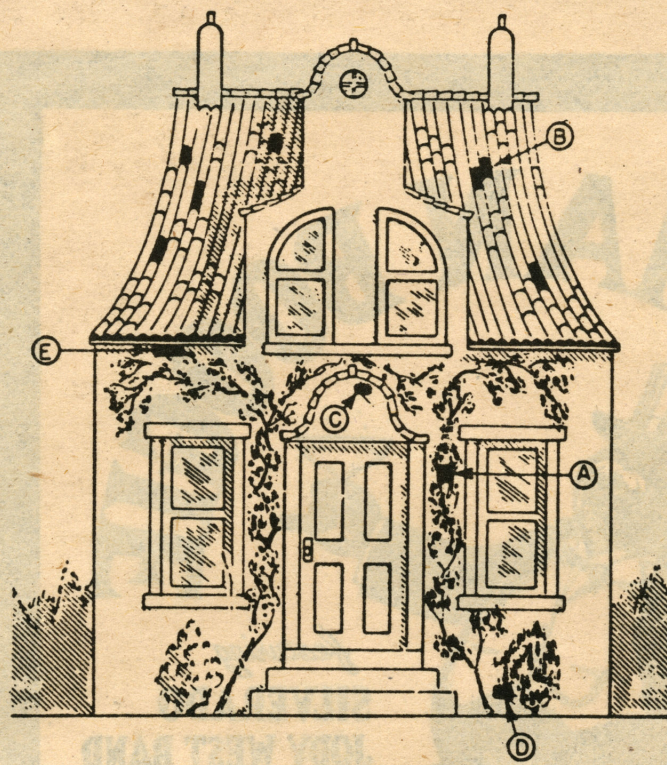
Life After Doomsday, A Survivalist Guide to Nuclear War and Other Major Disasters, Bruce D. Clayton, Ph.D., The Dial Press, New York, 1980, 185 pages, \$8.95.

Do you lose sleep over the prospect of earthquakes, epidemics, political collapse -- and especially nuclear war? Then Bruce Clayton has a message for you: life begins after doomsday. In fact, says Clayton, you and your friends can "live through the holocaust... with a minimum of unpleasantness." Which is certainly a relief, since there's nothing worse than an unpleasant holocaust.

According to Clayton, "all you have to do is give it a determined try." But after reading *Life After Doomsday*, it seems clear that even if you accept Clayton's projections, in order to survive you have to dedicate your life *before* doomsday to getting ready for the big boom.

Apparently there's a whole movement out there of "survivalists" or "retreaters" (Clayton uses the terms interchangeably) who are willing to do just that. First, you move away from all nuclear targets. (A handy appendix to this book lists 1550 of them.) Then, you build yourself a fallout shelter and stock up on food, medical supplies, and lots and lots of guns and ammunition. Clayton gives advice on all of these matters, as well as on other vital skills such as mapping fallout patterns, recognizing the symptoms of radiation sickness, and defending your shelter from assault. And he doesn't forget the important topic of "shelter management," including hints on how to keep the occupants of your humble hole happy and busy.

In the chapter called "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Nuclear War," Clayton discusses the shock, thermal, electromagnetic and radiological effects of a nuclear explosion, and then reassures the reader that with a little preparation, none of these need be so bad. It's not that he's lying about what to expect in case of a nuclear war. It's just that he's extremely optimistic.



A Loophole behind vine.
B Tiles lifted on roof. Dark patches are painted on roof as dummy loopholes.
C Loophole under shadow of porch.
D Loophole at ground level behind bush.
E Loophole under the eaves. Dummies should be painted all along under the gutter.

FIGURE 33: Technique of fortifying a house. Diagram shows methods of hiding loopholes to avoid the necessity for firing through windows.

Life After Doomsday provides helpful hints on greeting your neighbors after the big boom.

For example, in discussing evacuation after a one-megaton explosion, he concedes that at about two miles from ground zero, "there is a definite possibility of having highway bridges damaged too severely to use." However, he tells us, "this is actually good news in a way. It means that if you steer clear of target areas while driving to your retreat... you shouldn't have any trouble with collapsed bridges."

But this is nit-picking. It is more significant that the US Office of Technology Assessment reports that an all-out nuclear war would cause as many as 165 million fatalities in the first 30 days following an attack. True, this means that 60 million Americans would still be alive (though the fatality figures do not include "subsequent deaths among the injured or from economic disruption and deprivation"). Yet Clayton tells us that "for most Americans survival of at least the first few weeks following a nuclear attack is not only possible, it is almost unavoidable."

Whatever the numbers, the prospect of increasing one's chances of survival can't help but be seductive, even to those who think it's a better idea to concentrate on preventing a nuclear war before it begins. Clayton plays on the typical holocaust dream -- there you are wandering around, a little dazed but unhurt, while everyone else lies buried under the rubble.

Clayton is convinced, and feels he's fulfilling a moral obligation by trying to convince us, that the odds favor staking out a piece of turf in a post-Armageddon frontier. His model of the after-the-Bomb social order is vintage John Wayne: circle the wagons 'round and pick off the hordes of hungry savages who didn't have the foresight to prepare.

It's not that Clayton likes nuclear weapons. But his vision is markedly skewed. He is not willing to argue against nuclear weapons *per se*, but he does oppose particular varieties of nukes.

For example, he urges survival-

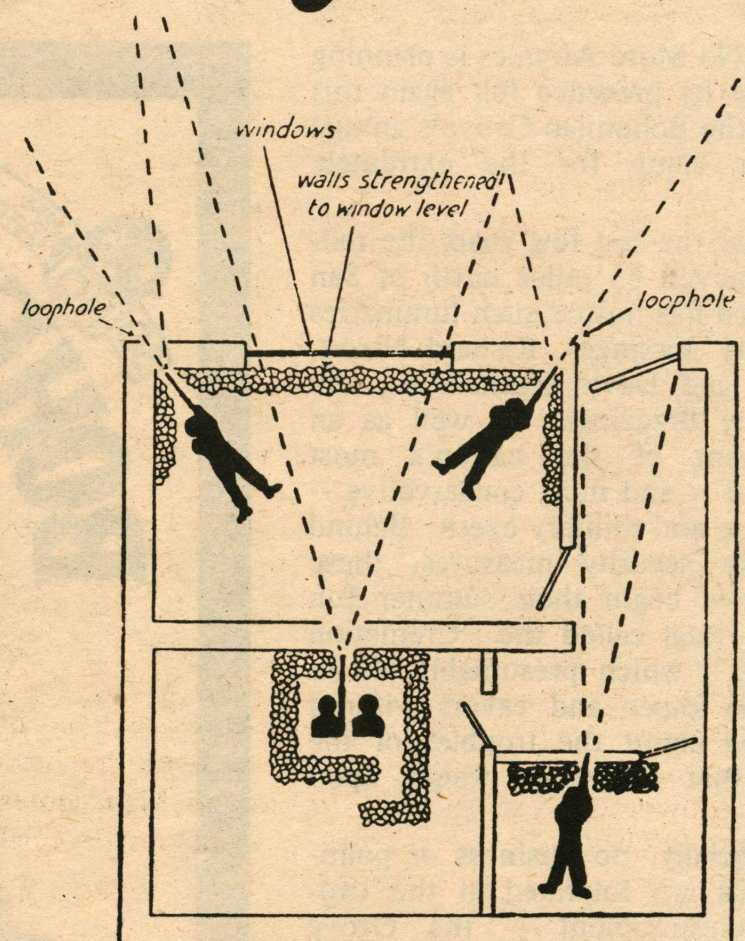


FIGURE 34: Shooting from internal forts. This technique makes it very difficult for attackers to achieve a hit.

ists to lobby against any new land-based missile program, since "adding more gratuitous target will just make our individual survival problems that much more difficult." He also opposes the Cruise missile.

But he favors improved missile guidance systems because more accurate delivery means smaller weapons which "would virtually eliminate the possibility of serious ecological disruption." For similar reasons, he goes along with the Trident submarine program, the B-1 bomber, and the neutron bomb.

As Clayton says, only survivalists are "looking at the subject in quite this way."

The fallout shelters, canned food and assault rifles are meant to provide a feeling of personal control over the terror of nuclear annihilation. But to substitute the illusion of security for efforts to prevent nuclear war is not a strategy for individual survival. It is a prescription for collective suicide.

-- by Marcy Darnovsky
IAT staff

The Sunshine Gap

Solar power offers something for everybody, except possibly oil company executives. The last few years have seen the dimming of its radical aura, as classically conservative goals like "rebuilding America" and reducing the balance of payments deficit have been recruited into the promotion of soft energy paths.

Now, thanks to a new report directed by longtime alternative energy activist Wilson Clark, the solar bandwagon is getting even more crowded -- and the tolerant ambience on board is getting somewhat strained. *Energy, Vulnerability, War: Dispersed, Decentralized and Renewable Energy Sources; Alternatives to National Vulnerability and War* is a pitch for a solar solution delivered in the terms of national security. To the missile gap, the MIRV gap, the SLBM gap and the bomber gap, Clark has added the sunshine gap.

The major findings of *Energy, Vulnerability, War* are simple and

compelling: "1) Current US energy systems (fuels and electricity) are highly vulnerable, due to requirements for imported resources and due to the centralized nature of the systems themselves. 2) Dispersed, decentralized and renewable energy sources can reduce national vulnerability and the likelihood of war by substituting for vulnerable centralized resources."

These claims are almost certainly true. The Pentagon seems to think so -- it started substituting photovoltaics for diesel generators in remote locations a few years ago, and the MX, if it is installed as a land based system, will be largely powered by the wind and the sun. Clark has merely taken the most common fare of the appropriate technology movement -- resilience, local self-reliance, decentralization -- and incorporated it into the logic of strategic planning.

But the safe energy movement would do well to evaluate the politics implicit in this argument --

its unflinching pragmatism and the servility with which it addresses only those aspects of the arms race which suit its purposes. Clark wants to recruit military planners into the solar energy coalition, and to do so he is more than willing to situate his technical discussions within the specter of "the Russian threat" and to ignore the dynamics of nuclear escalation.

Clark cannot have missed the substantial body of data and analysis indicating that it is the US which has consistently been responsible for escalating the arms race -- that it has a long term *offensive* nuclear strategy, and that it is in terms of this strategy that all civil "defense" programs must be seen. Unfortunately, political realities like these are out of the scope of his report. There is nothing whatsoever here that would be even remotely embarrassing to the men Clark hopes to sway, for his strategy is quite simply to gain a hearing by saying only what the language of power allows.

We may be permitted some doubt that this approach will avert catastrophe, or even, as Clark seems to think, undermine some of the deeper forces pushing us towards war. He is correct when he points to the dependency on "strategic" materials that high tech energy production engenders. But the coming war, when it arrives, will have more causes than simply the need of the empire for Persian Gulf oil and South African beryllium.

Conversion to a decentralized economy less dependent on the pillage of the Third World will, in itself, do little to avert the logic of militarism, or to undermine the economic and political dynamics of global domination. As for Clark's program for solar civil defense, it is no different than any other civil defense program: a strategy for increasing "survivability" that no matter what its intentions makes the use of our arsenals incrementally more thinkable.

-- by Tom Athanasiou

Sonoma prepares for corporadoes

So No More Atomics is planning to make its presence felt again this July at the Bohemian Grove's annual summer camp for the extremely elite.

Over the last few years the redwoods haven 65 miles north of San Francisco has hosted such luminaries as Henry Kissinger, Richard Nixon, Nelson and David Rockefeller, and Zbigniew Brzezinski, as well as an assortment of the nation's most powerful -- and most conservative -- corporate and military execs. Behind elaborate security measures, these dignitaries begin their summer fun with a ritual called the "Cremation of Care," which presumably allows them to caper and cavort without worrying about the troubles of the world that ordinarily weigh upon them.

Officially, no business or political deals are tolerated at the two-week encampment -- the Grove motto is "weaving spiders come not here." And according to a Grove employee, "Those guys are drinking morning, noon and night. They're too looped to discuss business." But of course, the friendships lubricated by too many martinis in the great out-of-doors can't help but carry over into the everyday business of ruling the world.

Last year, the nearly 2000 carefully selected good old boys enjoyed less than their usual quota of privacy and isolation. They were greeted at the airport by So No More Atomics pickets and pursued by publicity generated by a two-week vigil at the entrance to the Grove, a series of teach-ins, and a "Bohemian Boogie."

So No More Atomics also succeeded in sneaking a reporter into the Grove to hear Edward Teller deliver a "lakeside chat" about the



necessity of nuclear power and the probability of war in the Persian Gulf. These activities have drawn national attention, including an article by Jack Anderson which

appeared last February in *Parade Magazine*, the Sunday insert in many daily newspapers.

This year's Bohemian Grove protests will focus on the fact that

Reagan, Bush and a majority of the cabinet are members of the Bohemian Club. The participants connected with war industries and policies will also be targeted.

A Bohemian Grove Action Network has already been formed, and is requesting immediate help in researching the men and corporations that profit from weapons and war. The Network also wants endorsements from Abalone Alliance groups, and help in publicizing the protest plans, raising money, and finding musicians and speakers to participate in activities during the vigil.

In a letter to Abalone Alliance groups, Mary Moore of the Network explained, "Because Diablo has again been delayed we hope that some of the 'summer energy' will find its way north to help us in our action against the corporate, military and governmental sources of war, nuclear power, racism and sexism."

Contact the Bohemian Grove Action Network at 883 Sonoma Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95401. Or call them at 707-887-1716 or 707-526-7220.

-- by Marcy Darnovsky
IAT staff

BOHEMIAN GROVE EVENTS

- May 16: Rock for Survival, Cotati Plaza, 12:00-5:00
- June 20: Rock for Survival, Cotati Plaza 12:00-5:00
- July 10: Greet the Bohemians, Sonoma County Airport
- July 10-26: 24-hour vigil at the Bohemian Grove
- July 18: Survival Conference
- July 26: Resurrection of CARE
- Call SO NO More Atomics for more information. (707) 526-7220.

New Abalone budget approved

At the March 22, 1981, Empowered Spokes meeting, consensus was reached on the following proposals:

1. Group membership in the Abalone Alliance will be contingent on contributing \$10 or more a month to the state office, or making contact with the office to explain the situation. Membership means: —participation in statewide decision making —listing in *It's About Times* —receiving mailing from the state office and the Diablo Project Office —receiving mailings from local groups and task forces

2. Individuals can become non-decision making members of the Abalone Alliance. Membership entitles a person to a year's subscription to *It's About Times* and an information packet. Individual \$15, Friend \$25 or more.

3. Abalone Alliance budget priorities for March 15 through September 15 will be funded as money is raised in the following order:

- A. \$500 fundraising seed fund.
- B. \$1800 fundraiser position at \$600 a month for the first three months. (The fundraiser will

receive a percentage of the money raised thereafter up to \$1000 a month.)

C. \$450 Fundraising Office expenses.

D. \$9000 Expenses to the State Office and the Diablo Project Office. For the first three months 70 percent of the income will go

to the State Office and 30 percent will go to the Diablo Project Office. For the next three months all money will be divided 50-50 between the two offices. There will be a \$1500 monthly ceiling for each office which includes one staff position at \$600 a month.

E. \$1000 grant fund for Abalone Alliance Actions. No more than one-half the amount in the fund will be given away at one time.

F. \$500 loan fund for Abalone Alliance projects. No more than one-half is to be loaned at one time.

San Onofre rate protest

Southern California has had no nuclear-generated electricity for a full year and there have been no power shortages or brownouts. To mark the one-year anniversary of San Onofre Unit 1's shut-down for refueling and repair, Community Energy Action Network (CEAN) has announced an intensified rate protest against outrageous requests by SDG&E.

CEAN announced a rate diversion campaign last year in opposition to high electric rates for unreliable nuclear energy. It is now being accelerated to draw attention to the new rate request. SDG&E was granted a \$95 million increase by the PUC recently for 1981, and hearings began April 28 in San Diego on a new request of \$235 million. San Diego consumers pay the highest rates in the State and the second highest in the nation.

The rate protest is based on Public Utilities Commission (PUC) rules which

allow customers to dispute the amount of their bills by submitting the statement and payment to the PUC for deposit in an impound account until the dispute is settled. During the disputes, the utility cannot terminate service.

CEAN has been distributing "Rate Diversion Kits" since Fall and there are several hundred participants. Expanded distribution of the kits will occur prior to and during the general rate request hearings at the end of April. Hundreds more indignant rate-payers are expected to join the campaign.

Part of SDG&E's rate request is for repairs to San Onofre 1's steam generator tubes. The repairs were first estimated to cost \$15 million but the price is now \$50 million and climbing. Total expenses may go well over \$100 million and will be passed on to customers. Also, a significant portion of the requested \$235 million for 1982 is to allow SDG&E a higher rate of return to

finance construction of San Onofre Units 2 & 3, and the Eastern Interconnection Powerline Project designed to import power from Arizona and New Mexico.

Rate Diversion Campaign objectives are to (1) offer the individual a voice and a means of "personal empowerment," to express to officials and the utility strong opposition to unfair rate hikes and (2) pressure the PUC to investigate conversion of San Onofre and all California nuclear plants to safer, non-nuclear fuels such as natural gas, and ultimately, to convince the PUC to hold public hearings on the conversion issue.

Rate Diversion Kits are available through the CEAN office. Please call for further details: 236-1684

— Jay Powell
— Linda Newsum, CEAN

Announcements

TYPESETTER WANTED

It's About Times is looking for a typesetter, with or without equipment, to put in several volunteer hours each month. Help save our right-justified columns. Leave us a message at (415) 543-3910.

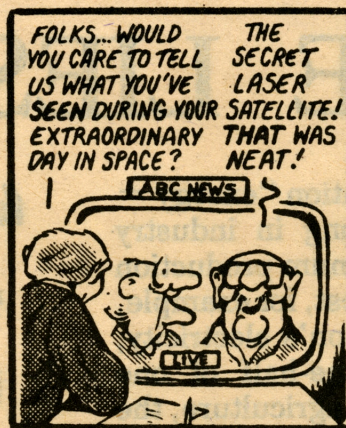
HELP DISTRIBUTE IAT

It's About Times needs distribution help. We'd like to hear from affinity groups or individuals throughout the state who can take the paper to bookstores, coffee shops, laundromats. Or answer our wildest dreams -- take charge of coordinating a statewide distribution network. There'd be a chunk of work initially in finding local contacts; then it would just be maintaining communications with them. Leave a message for us at (415) 543-3910.

AA JOB AVAILABLE

Experienced fundraiser wanted for the Abalone Alliance, \$600 a month for the first three months, then salary of up to \$1000/mo based on a percentage of money raised. Job to start June 1. Send resume by May 15 to: Abalone Alliance, 944 Market Street, Room 307, San Francisco, CA 94102.

BLOOM COUNTY / Berke Breathed



IAT BACK ISSUES

...are available. For \$5, we'll send you as complete a set as we have (at least 10 issues). Laugh at our early mistakes, cringe at our recent ones, get informed and entertained, and end up with fireplace kindling for those cold winter nights. Just send \$5 to *IAT*, 944 Market Street, #307, SF, CA 94102.

AA LEGAL COLLECTIVE

The Abalone Alliance Legal Collective for the Diablo Blockade is now meeting regularly and we would love to have more participants.

We need legal spokes from affinity groups. If you would like to help out on the legal collective or know of others who would like to help, please contact Jonathan Soffer, 558 Capp St., San Francisco, CA 94110, (415) 626-3031, or Cynthia Sharpe, 113 1/2 South H St., Lompoc, CA 93436, (805) 736-6582 (w) or 736-6278 (h). Next meeting... June 13 at 1 pm, 452 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

Lockheed protestor statement

On March 11, four members of the Pacific Life Community entered the security area of Lockheed Missiles and Space Company, manufacturer of the Trident missile. The four were arrested and pled no contest to charges of trespass and conspiracy. After their arrest the group released the following statement to the media.

We entered the Lockheed security area undetected, and were alone in a room for twenty minutes. During that time, we succeeded in pouring blood on four "interstage" sections of the Trident missile. We continued our blood pouring on 20 or 30 blueprints of the missile and on several order forms for missile parts. We poured blood on ourselves, and also wrote several messages in blood on the walls, including "Missiles are Death" and "Choose Life Not Death".

After our blood-labeling was completed, we sat and read from Scripture

until a Lockheed employee looked inside the room and called Security. As the police led us out, work stopped in a portion of the building while over one hundred employees watched us in silence.

Our act of nonviolent civil disobedience in penetrating this factory of death — surrounded by barbed-wire fences and guard-posts — was surprisingly simple. We were seen entering the security area, walked openly throughout the building without badges (which are required), and no one said a word to us.

Resistance to the arms race is an integral part of our lives, not an isolated incident. All four of us have been arrested at Lockheed in the past. Civil disobedience is one way we choose to respond to the human needs we see in our lives of service.

— Larry Ferlazzo
Catholic Worker House
336 N. 2nd St. San Jose 95112

AA Safe Energy Groups

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

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

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

NORTH

ALBION: WOMEN FOR SURVIVAL, Box 415/95410 • (707) 937-5596

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CENTRAL VALLEY & SIERRA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GREATER BAY AREA

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

BERKELEY (UC CAMPUS): PEOPLE'S ANTI-NUCLEAR COLLECTIVE, UC Berkeley, 612 Eshleman Hall/94720 (415) 642-8165

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAN JOSE: GROUP OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR ENERGY, 300 South 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

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

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

GOLDEN GATE ALLIANCE, 2735 Franklin/94123 (415) 673-7427
NURSES FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, 1447 7th Ave./94122 (415) 854-5404

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

STUDENTS FOR ALTERNATIVES TO NUCLEAR ENERGY, 1618 Hayes St./94117 (415) 563-3656

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

CENTRAL COAST

AVILA BEACH: A.V.I.L.A., P.O. Box 344/93424 • (805) 736-1897

CITIZENS FOR PEACE, P.O. Box 219/93426 • (805) 528-5626

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

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

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

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

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

PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, P.O. Box 5204/95063 (408) 425-1275

SOUTH

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

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

LOS ANGELES: ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL, 1473 Echo Park Ave. 90026 • (213) 738-1041

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

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

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

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

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

SANTA BARBARA: PEOPLE AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER, U.C. Santa Barbara P.O. Box 14006/93107 • (805) 968-4238 or 968-2886

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

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

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

SOUTH LAGUNA: LAGUNA BEACH AFS, 30832 Driftwood/92677

TOPANGA: TOPANGA CANYON AFS, c/o Food Chakra, Top. Cyn. Blvd. & Fernwood/90290 (213) 455-2867

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

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

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

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

CORPORATE LIES DEPARTMENT

Like a lot of corporate claims, this ad from "America's Electric Energy Companies" relies on dubious extensions of obvious truths. The ad correctly points out, for example, that the civil rights movement achieved important gains for blacks. But these concessions were won by massive grassroots campaigns and by widespread disruption in American cities, not by cooperation with the powers that be.

The rosier economic situation in the sixties made it possible, and strategically wise, for those powers to give disgruntled workers and minorities a slightly larger piece of the pie. Now, as this ad says, economic conditions are quite different. As always when the going gets tough, the poor and powerless get the short end of the stick.

But no matter what the shape of the economy, neither big government nor big business gives anything away unless they're forced to do so in order to maintain political stability and control (their own). Somehow the wealth never trickles down nearly as much as those on top promise, and never without a fight from those on the bottom.

America's Electric Energy Companies claim that nuclear power is the cheap and plentiful energy genie that will make the economy well again. But the nuclear industry itself is hardly a model of health. It's having a hard time just surviving, despite \$37 billion in federal subsidies over the past 30 years. What with all of those tax dollars, plus huge cost overruns on nuclear plants that turn out to be unreliable, plus the hidden costs of waste disposal, decommissioning and future TMI-type accidents, nuclear is hardly a cheap source of energy.

As for the assumption that the increased use of energy creates more jobs, the opposite is closer to the truth. Historically, fossil fuels and electricity have been used to run machines which replace workers—a boon to employers, since machines don't demand higher wages, complain about working conditions or go on strike.

The simplistic equation "energy = jobs" is proven wrong in industry after industry. Aluminum production in the Pacific Northwest, for example, uses 25% of the region's electricity, yet provides only one-half of one percent of its jobs. In agriculture, the use of energy for fertilizers, chemicals and automated equipment increased more than four times between 1920 and 1970. But agricultural employment in 1970 was only a third of what it was in 1920. Many more examples and a more detailed discussion of this subject can be found in *Energy, Jobs and the Economy* by Richard Grossman and Gail Daneker.

The energy industry uses "jobs" as a threat against everyone who has to work for a living. The way things are set up, that's how jobs are always used: when you're unemployed you quickly get nervous about surviving; when you're employed the boss controls half or more of your waking hours. The only thing worse than having a job is looking for one.

The myth that using more energy will "sustain an expanding economy" is a favorite of energy corporations. But how do they explain the fact, confirmed by many studies, that the US uses twice as much energy per person as does West Germany, Sweden or Switzerland, though the standard of living in these countries is comparable to that in the US? They can't really be expected to explain that they set up the generation, transmission and use of energy so that huge amounts are wasted. Or that they walk away with a pretty profit and then concoct ads like this one to justify whatever schemes best suit their interests.

Though the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People supports nuclear power, it certainly doesn't represent the opinion of all blacks. In fact, it seems that the NAACP's pronuclear stand isn't even supported by all of its own members. In southwest Mississippi a campaign against the construction of a nuclear plant was endorsed by the local NAACP chapter, and NAACP

"Without sufficient energy, 25 years of Black progress will be halted."

James E. Stewart, Sr.
Chairman,
Energy Committee
NAACP

From Little Rock to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Black Americans fought for—and won—new rights to equal opportunity.

Black Americans can take pride in these gains. Dramatic increases in the numbers of Blacks enrolled in colleges and universities, as well as the numbers who have entered professions such as Law and Medicine, testify to the economic progress that has followed the civil rights victories.

However, current economic conditions—which are greatly affected by the availability and cost of energy—threaten to halt this progress. Rampant unemployment among Black youth is but one example of this harsh reality.

Energy Means Jobs

For this reason, leading civil rights organizations have made energy one of their priority issues for the 1980s. They realize that America's failure to get its

energy act together is an important cause of Black unemployment.

For example, America's dependence on expensive and unstable foreign oil has contributed heavily to the high cost of doing business and to the slowdown in our economic growth. After all, business and industry cannot readily expand—and create new jobs—if the energy they need is too expensive or even unavailable.

Unless America has sufficient energy, its economy will stagnate. Unemployment and inflation will worsen. Who will be the hardest hit by these consequences? Those sectors of the population which have yet to achieve economic security, including a large segment of the Black community.

NAACP Supports Nuclear Energy

That's why the NAACP and the AFL-CIO — organizations devoted to achieving greater eco-

nomie opportunity for all—have called for America to produce more coal and nuclear power, energy which is cheaper and more available than foreign oil.

They realize that unless we use more of these domestic sources of energy, there just won't be enough reliable energy to enable the country's economy to grow — growth that is essential for creating and protecting jobs.

Says the NAACP about nuclear power: It "must be vigorously pursued because it will be . . . essential . . . to sustain an expanding economy."

We have too much at stake to allow energy scarcity to stand in the way of economic progress for all Americans. Only by using all of our energy sources can we create more jobs for more people.

Nuclear Power...Because America Needs Energy.

America's Electric Energy Companies, Dept. S, 1111 19th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

members attended a demonstration against the plant. Other black groups, such as Harlem Fightback in New York and the United League in the South, have actively opposed nuclear power.

This ad, which was run in the black Bay Area newspaper *The Metro Reporter*, tries to win its targeted audience with hip language like

getting our "energy act together." by the end of the ad, the energy companies are referring to their black audience as "we," "us" and "ours." That's always a sign that it's time to consider whether "their" interests are the same as "ours."

—by Marcy Darnovsky
IAT staff

Calendar

May 2: Survival Network meeting of local area representatives. Potluck, noon to 1 p.m., meeting 1 to 4 p.m., 2341 Mono, El Cerrito. Info, (415) 232-0909.

May 3: Stockton peace march and rally. McCloud Lake Park - Civic Auditorium. Info, Sylvia Palomo (209) 532-3788.

May 3: San Francisco march and demonstration against the draft and US involvement in El Salvador. Part of a national mobilization. Info, (415) 665-6944 or (415) 461-6179.

May 4: Physicians for Social Responsibility Spring General Meeting. John Holdren, Professor of Energy and Resources at UC Berkeley, will speak. Faculty Club at Milberry Union, UC San Francisco, 500 Parnassus Avenue, SF; 7:30 p.m.

May 4 - 10: Whole Earth Week, UC Davis campus.

May 10: Non-violence training. The training is a prerequisite for participation in the direct action blockade of Diablo Canyon. An affinity group may be formed by people that participate in the training, or people may join an existing affinity group. 9:30 am-5:30 pm. Contact the East Bay Anti-Nuclear Group (415) 655-1715.

May 16: Northern California organizing meeting for the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign. The Urban School, 1563 Page St., San Francisco, noon to 6 p.m. Send \$2 registration to Freeze Campaign, c/o War Resisters League/West, 85 Carl St., S.F. CA 94117. Info, (415) 731-1220.

May 19: Low Power Testing Licensing Hearings for Diablo Canyon, San Luis Obispo. Contact the Diablo Project Office (805) 543-6614

May 23, 24, 25: Working Conference on Worldwide Nuclear Disarmament, a participatory conference for activists. Fort Mason, San Francisco. Contact: Abalone Alliance of Marin (415) 457-4377.

May 27: Hearings on the reopening of Vallecitos. General Electric is trying to reopen the Vallecitos test reactor closed in 1977 because of the presence of earthquake faults. Issues to be presented before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board include the maximum possible earthquake in the area, the ability of Vallecitos to withstand that earthquake and given that information a determination will be made on keeping the plant closed.

Persons wishing to testify or submit written comment can contact Richard Bachmann, Council for NRC staff, US NRC, Washington, D.C. 20555.

Persons wishing to help with intervention organizing should contact Sharon Paltin (415) 548-8457.

May 29-31: Awakening in the Nuclear Age. Fort Mason Conference Center. \$58 registration. Info (415) 841-6500 ext. 362.

June 3: "Getting and Keeping Informed and Involved." Presentation by Martha Henderson of American Friends Service Committee on nuclear weapons. Fort Mason, Bld. D, Room 205. Sponsored by the Golden Gate Alliance. Contact: (415) 386-1227 or 673-7427.

June 13: Abalone Alliance Legal Collective meeting for the Diablo Blockade. 1:00 p.m., 452 Higuera St., San Luis Obispo.

Subscribe!

☐ I can contribute \$_____ to help IAT

☐ Here's \$8 for 10 issues of *It's About Times*

☐ I can afford \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ I already subscribe. This is a renewal.

Mail to: *It's About Times*, 944 Market Street, Room 307, San Francisco, CA 94102

Make subscription checks payable to *It's About Times*.

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

