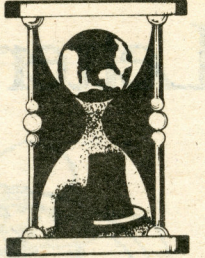


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It's About Times

mid-December — January 1981

Reagan's military posture

The Democrats and Republicans may be birds of a feather, but there will be a discernible shift in military policy when Reagan and his hawks nest in the White House.

The new flock migrating to the capitol subscribes to the "nuclear war is winnable" school of thought even more than do their predecessors. Reagan foreign policy advisor Laurence Beilenson, for example, insists that nuclear war is inevitable and advises that we get ready. He claims that "fall-out has been grossly exaggerated" and that increases in cancer could be offset by not "rebuilding the cigarette industry."

The Reagan advisors want the U.S. to reject "parity," the rough equivalence of strategic nuclear forces with the Russians. They long for the better days past, when for a brief time the US held a monopoly on nuclear bombs. But the road to strategic superiority, an elusive goal at any rate, is certain to be catastrophic.

The Carter administration never managed to reach a solid consensus on military policy. But Carter policies like Presidential Directive 59, which officially approved the targeting of Soviet military sites rather than population centers, paved the way for Reagan's "victory is possible" crew. They have now consolidated power, and with ample help from the media they are laboring to prepare the American people for nuclear war.

Weapons programs underway will be continued or accelerated. None of the major weapons systems now planned will be cancelled. Some, like the B-1 strategic bomber at a cost of \$3 billion per year, will be revived.

For starters, Reagan is expected to request a \$25 to \$37 billion supplement to the Fiscal Year 1981 military budget. While Carter planned to spend a trillion dollars on defense over the next five years, Reagan may top that by \$150 to

(continued on page 9)

Diablo hearings continue

The final phase in the regulatory battle over starting up the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant has just begun, with PG&E asking for a low-power testing license from the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. On December 3 the joint intervenors and Governor Brown separately filed 25 contentions opposing that license. After PG&E responds and the ASLB decides which contentions to consider, the hearings will begin.

Brown and the intervenors also filed a challenge to June 20 NRC policy statement which limits contentions that can be raised before licensing boards. The intervenors believe that this NRC decision leaves out important safety questions and they want the commission to consider their argu-

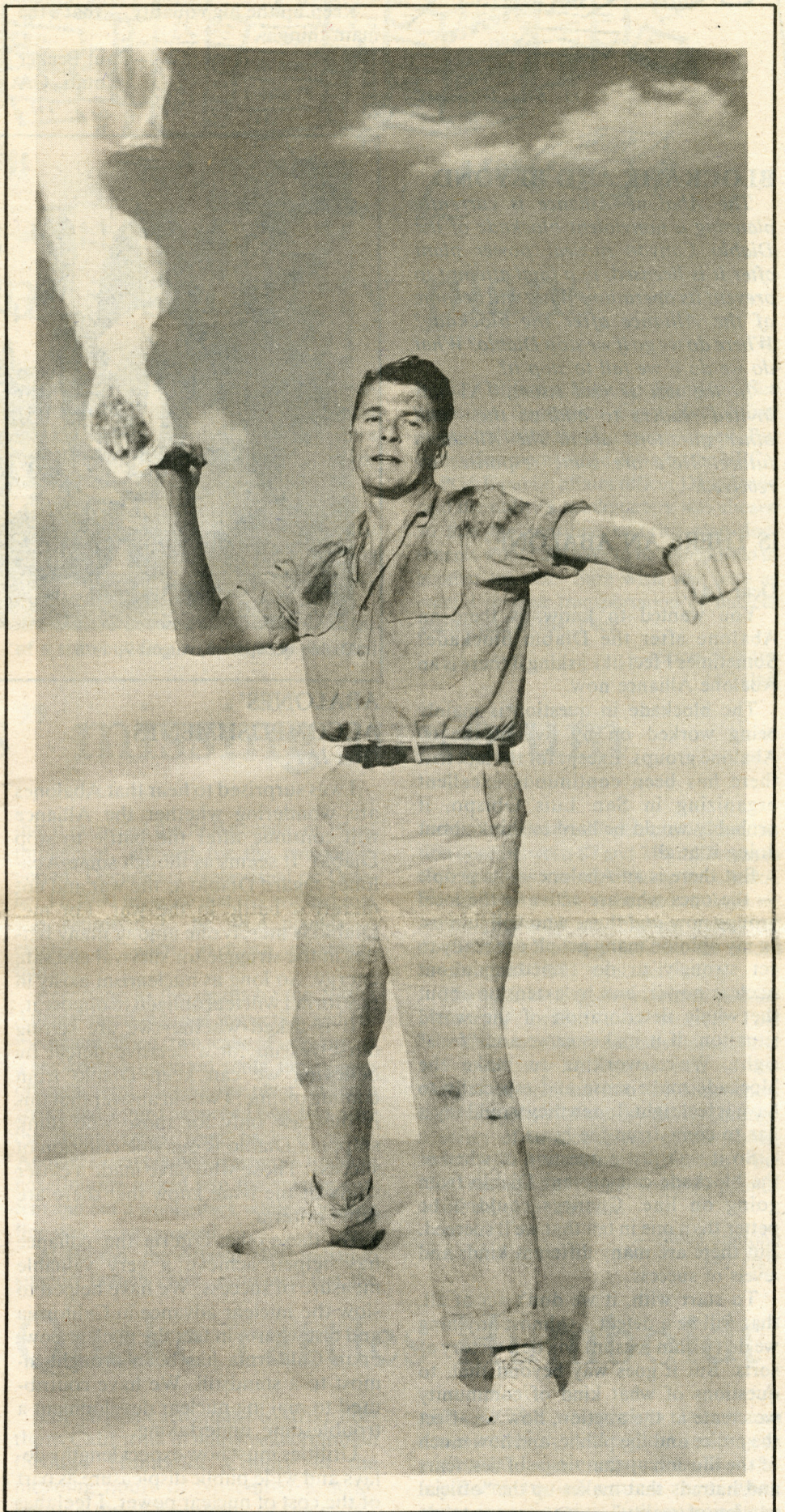
ments before hearings on the low-power testing license.

seismic issue at Diablo Canyon is so controversial. These requests and appeals make the timeline for licensing of Diablo Canyon less than certain. PG&E management, no doubt low on patience, hopes to begin low-power testing license hearings in February. But other observers don't expect them until April.

PUC denies Diablo conversion petition

On November 18 the California Public Utilities Commission denied for a second time a petition to reopen hearings on the need, cost, reliability and safety of the Diablo Canyon power plant.

The petition was submitted by a group



PG&E hopes to begin low-power testing hearings in February.

of PG&E shareholders and the Center for Law in the Public Interest (CLIP) representing itself, the Sierra Club, the California League of Women Voters, San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace and others. It was accompanied by a Natural Resources Defense Council study showing that renewable alternatives could replace the need for Diablo. Also submitted was a study from the Diablo Conversion Project which concluded that conversion of the Diablo plant to natural gas could be economical compared to nuclear fuel.

The PUC did not refute any of these findings. It reiterated that the high degree of uncertainty about costs unique to nuclear power — including waste disposal, decommissioning, emergency preparedness and regulatory requirements — make it unlikely that any study by the PUC could definitively determine whether or not Diablo is economical as a nuclear plant. According to the PUC, "Neither CLIP nor the shareholders appear to understand the limits of this Commission's own capabilities. The proceedings at issue were, for all intents and purposes, concluded over ten years ago. Without a more

significant possibility of an assured change in result, we simply are not justified at this time [in reopening the hearings]."

The petitioners contend that precisely because the costs and reliability of nuclear power are uncertain, "the commissioners are shirking their mandated responsibility to the ratepayers by not fully studying the costs of Diablo as a nuclear plant compared with those of various potential alternatives." They point out that this uncertainty is in large part due to the fact that "no full-scale analysis of the full, long-term costs of nuclear power, including front end and back end costs and federal subsidies, has ever been done by any state or federal agency for an individual power plant."

The Diablo Conversion Campaign also points out that the uncertainty claimed by the PUC doesn't extend to conversion since a few nuclear plants have already been converted to other fuels.

—Ward Young
IAT staff

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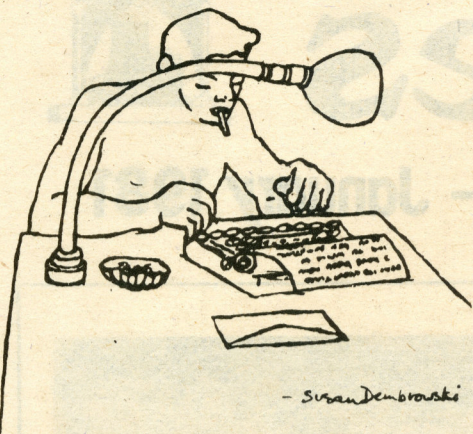
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Letters



SOMEBODY LOVES US

Hello,
I found a couple copies of *IAT* at an anti-nuclear potluck, I was very pleased to find the articles so informative and specific as opposed to hysterical raving from frightened people. I appreciate the factual approach.

I am so excited about this that I am subscribing eight people who may not have subscribed themselves. They may throw away the paper, but if they look and read they will be surprised.

Keep up the high quality — that's the main thing.

—Paul Becker
Cotati, CA

IAT is 2

This issue marks the start of *It's About Times*' third year. It is with some amazement that we look back over 20 issues and realize how the paper has become a regular feature of our lives.

Over a dozen people now volunteer their time and skills to produce each issue and ship it to local groups. Many others help to distribute the paper in communities throughout the state. With little money and a lot of dedication, together we have built an increasingly effective newspaper and a means of exchanging views on issues confronting the anti-nuclear movement.

We would like to thank everyone who has subscribed to and supported *IAT*, and especially those who responded to our plea for funds in the last issue. Because of your generosity, we are able to continue. Our special thanks also to the Ferry family and the A.J. Muste and Limantour Foundations, whose support has allowed us to sustain and improve the paper and increase its circulation. And we are most grateful to the people who have enriched *IAT* with their letters, articles, photos, poetry and graphics and who have given us their love, support and criticism.

—the *IAT* staff

BLOCKADE AND BEYOND

The Abalone Alliance is currently planning a nonviolent blockade of the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant after it is licensed, in a final attempt to prevent its operation. What will become of the Alliance after the blockade? Where do we go if we stop Diablo? What do we do if we fail to stop it?

In the last several issues, *IAT* has invited readers to address these and other questions about the Alliance's future. Here are some responses we received.

IS THERE AN ABALONE?

Dear *IAT*,

You wanted to know, is there an Abalone after the Diablo blockade? Sometimes I feel like asking if there is an Abalone Alliance now.

The blockade in question is mainly being worked on by five of the 60 Abalone groups. Except for the fact that there has been continuous excellent organizing in San Luis Obispo, it probably would be hard to think about doing it at all.

But there is an Abalone — its people — the ones who are active in the local groups now and those who will join us. In my opinion many people are ready to act strongly to do something about nuclear power, and by extension about the whole deterioration of the world situation, if it makes sense and "feels" right. We're working to make the blockade make sense and especially to have it feel right. In zen they would say it has to come from the heart.

So it isn't just a question of whether the blockade can prevent Diablo from going on line. Chances couldn't be better than one in ten that we'll succeed. But there are many different kinds and levels of success.

To start with, if we don't act at all, that will be a defeat — almost anything we do (within reason) will be a victory of sorts. But it goes way beyond that, to questions of what kind of community we create at the auction, how we affect the police and the public, and how much of the illusion — that tissue of lies, fears and hatreds that makes up the "official version of reality" — we manage to rip away.

Those of us active in the Handbook collective and the Northern California Trainers/Preparers Collective (mainly people from Roses Against a Nuclear Environment, Citizens Against Nuclear Energy, and Action Committee on Diablo Canyon) are groups that are interested in doing everything we can to help the affinity groups that are prepared for this action grow and take up the other things we find important, such as the draft, nuclear weapons, racism and sexism.

If by some miracle we don't have to blockade at Diablo, there are plenty of other nuclear facilities, toxic producers and environmental atrocities. But right now it seems that the licensing of Diablo is moving forward and if we are going to do anything about it we'd better start now.

See you at the next blockade meeting?

—Crystal
member of RANE, AC/DC
and the N. CA Trainers/
Preparers Collective



Diablo occupation, August 7, 1978

ABALONES' ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dear *IAT*,

I was surprised to hear that Abalones are wondering whether the Alliance will continue after the battle to stop Diablo. It seems as though some Abalones regard Diablo as the war and not merely a battle in the war. For me, Diablo is merely one among many battles in the struggle for survival and safe energy. So long as nuclearism exists in any form I will feel obliged to oppose it.

It is asked whether we are setting ourselves up for a decisive defeat by believing we can keep Diablo from coming on line. I would answer that this is the case only for those who think stopping Diablo is our sole criterion of success. Those who have made a closer study of the issue know that there are other criteria.

By these other criteria the Alliance has helped achieve a very valuable measure of success. We have helped to slow the nuclear advance in California and elsewhere; in fact the nuclear power in California has been brought almost to a standstill. We have contributed to making nuclear development a troublesome undertaking.

Utilities must now expect lengthy delays and wide public displeasure as part of the cost of nuclear power. I feel that So. Cal. Edison's recent decision to stress solar and phase out nuclear is based to no small extent on the stiff resistance PG&E has encountered over Diablo.

And can we imagine how things would be if there were no groups like the Abalone Alliance? I can imagine that California would have many more nuclear plants, that the plants would be built and operated in a much more reckless manner, that radioactive waste would be piling up in all kinds of places.

I am not saying that stopping Diablo isn't immensely important or that we should be satisfied with what we have already done. But it would be senseless to act as though nothing we have done or can do matters unless Diablo is stopped. Such a defeatist tendency would be not only senseless but disastrous, since the industry would use our defeatism as an opportunity to erase the gains we have made. I'm sure PG&E would like nothing more than to see us become demoralized and docile.

To decrease our activity after win-

ning at Diablo would be almost as senseless and disastrous. The Alliance did not arise in response to Diablo alone, but to all nuclear threats in California. And should Diablo fall California will still have Rancho Seco, San Onofre, the Livermore Labs and the rest. Any of these facilities could be the next main bone of contention.

Supposing we succeed in finally eliminating all nuclear threats from the state, would it be in our interest to dissolve the Alliance? Why should we stop at California? Why should we not arouse Californians to oppose nuclear threats in other parts of their home, the Earth? Finally, ought we to cease being concerned and active when there is a nuclear weapon aimed at any city in the world? What a shame that such a question should have to be raised!

For the near future, whether or not we win at Diablo, I think we would do well to do a massive outreach in preparation for a statewide referendum. Though the last referendum failed, a great many minds have changed since TMI and I feel we have a good chance to hamstring nuclear California through the vote. As for the rest of what we might do, I believe we should continue doing what we've been doing, only more of it. If we hang in there — realizing that progress is piecemeal and never unaccompanied by setbacks — then we can depend on our nonviolent methods to eventually KO a monster that is already on the ropes.

David Martinez
San Francisco

INDIANS ON A PEDESTAL?

Dear *IAT*,

In the last *IAT* Don Ogden said that he was disturbed by Marcy Darnovsky's sarcastic retort to the Russell Means speech. According to Ogden's view it's OK for Native Americans to speak their anger and to suggest that all white people are murderers; but that we should be "sensitive" and "understanding" and to not speak anger in return — even if their blanket accusations infuriate us. As I see it, the communicative approach suggested by Ogden is a kind of middle class condescension which is masked in sympathy and understanding. It deifies the Native Americans, puts them on a pedestal, suggests that they can do or say no wrong.

I applaud Darnovsky for not participating in that type of condescension and phoniness. She was angry and critical and she wrote just what she felt. The fact that Native Americans are spiritually close to the earth and are victims of a cruel genocide does not make them immortal saints. Like the rest of us, they are flawed human beings. When they express world views that place white working people, white Leftists, and white capitalists all in the same box, and label the box "the enemy: perpetrators of genocide and planetary rape," then surely they are suggesting that we are something other than compassionate, feeling human beings. If that is what they are suggesting, shall we prove them right by responding with understanding sympathy and smiling acknowledgements? No way.

Howard Ryan
Berkeley, CA

Job Openings

FUNDRAISER WANTED for UC Nuclear Weapons Labs Conversion Project. Health insurance plus \$600 net per month beginning February 1. Minimum one to two year commitment. Send resume and personal statement to UCNWLCP, 944 Market St., Room 508, San Francisco, CA 94102; (415) 982-5578.

POSITION AVAILABLE for 3 months, maybe longer: part time office/volunteer coordinator for East Bay Anti-Nuclear Group. \$400/mo. Enthusiasm and a little experience working with people required. Write to EBANG, 585A Alcatraz, Oakland, CA 94609 or call Arleen (415) 654-1930.

Abalone Alliance Newspaper

It's About Times



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

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Anti-nuke measures succeed

Despite conservative victories, the November election demonstrated growing opposition to nuclear power. Voters in three states approved anti-nuclear initiatives, and a fourth measure lost narrowly. Only one proposal was decisively defeated.

In Washington state 70% of the voters approved a measure banning the importation or storage of out-of-state nuclear waste. Although the state legislature can enact exemptions to the ban, the new law is expected to thwart federal and nuclear industry plans to use the Hanford nuclear facility as a waste dump for nuclear power plants around the country.

Oregonians passed legislation to require statewide voter approval of any future nuclear plants and to bar further plant construction until waste disposal problems are solved. The measure passed by a 60% to 40% margin.

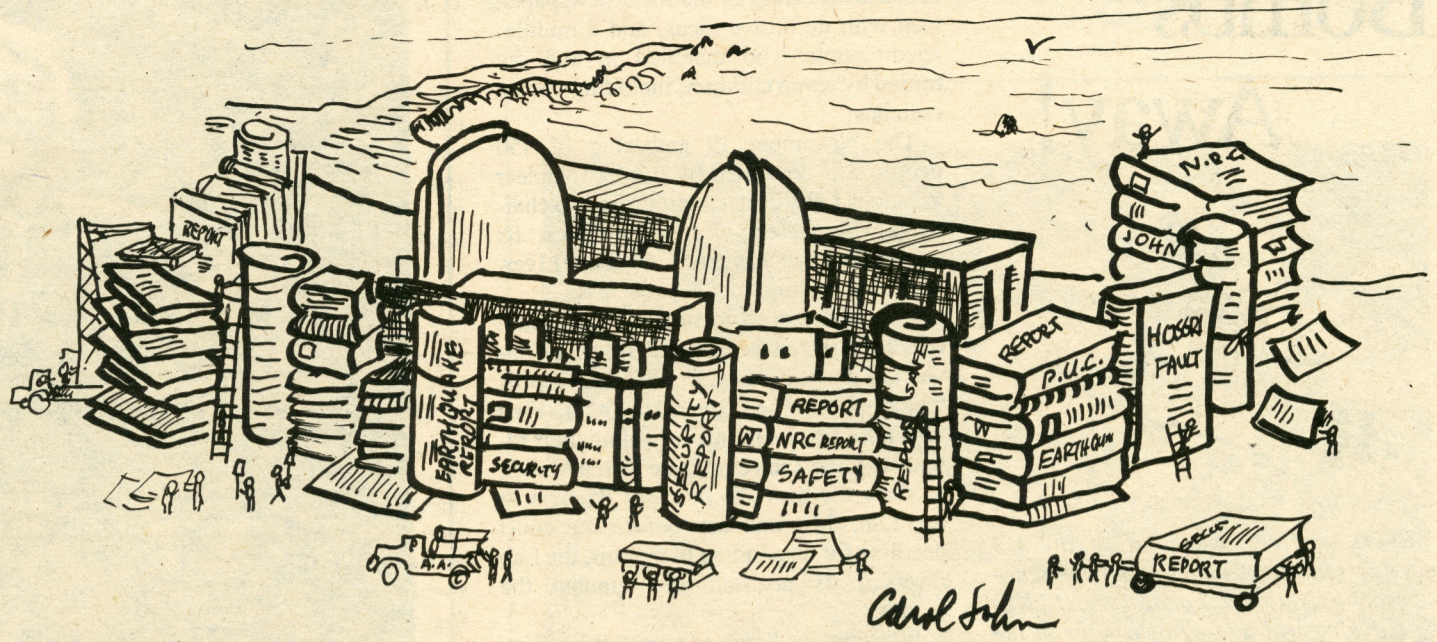
A Montana measure prohibiting nuclear waste disposal and effectively preventing uranium mining passed very narrowly. In fact, news media had reported that the initiative lost, but an official canvass by the Montana Secretary of State shows it won by 623 votes. Another close race was in South Dakota where a measure requiring voter approval of all new nuclear operations was defeated by about 1%.

The only clear loser was a tough Missouri initiative that would have banned operation of any nuclear plant until a federal waste disposal site is approved. It would also have required plant operators to post a bond covering the costs of decommissioning the facility at the end of its useful life.

The measure was defeated 60% to 40% in what may be one of the most lopsided spending contests ever. Opponents of the proposal outspent backers by 35 to 1, with much of the money coming from the Union Electric Company. The company is building a two-unit nuclear plant which it hopes to operate in 1983.

The battle is not over for victorious energy activists, as the newly passed laws will probably be challenged in the courts. But the relative success of this year's referenda is likely to inspire more initiative attempts around the country.

—Bob Van Scoy
IAT staff



PG&E defends security plans

A secret Nuclear Regulatory Commission hearing into security planning for the Diablo Canyon plant was held on November 10 at PG&E's San Francisco headquarters. Attorneys for the San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace and Governor Brown's office questioned the adequacy and desirability of the utility's plans to thwart theft and terrorism at the facility.

Due to the sensitivity of the subject matter only the carefully screened attorneys and representatives of the intervenors were

allowed into the hearings. This underscored the Mothers for Peace argument that the kind of security necessary to run a nuclear plant is incompatible with an ostensibly democratic society.

Bay Area anti-nuclear activists held a press conference at PG&E to point out that holding the hearing in PG&E's building violated even the appearance of neutrality by the NRC officers.

Governor Brown's office offered the use of a state building with security provided

by the California Highway Patrol and San Francisco Supervisor Carol Ruth Silver suggested using the San Francisco jail. But both offers were turned down by the NRC.

PG&E public affairs officer Dick Davin said the utility's headquarters was chosen so that the sensitive security plan documents would not have to be transported to another location. Sure wish you were as careful in your transportation of nuclear wastes and PCBs, Dick.

—Steve Stallone
IAT staff

NRC "finds" missing uranium

NRC staff investigators have concluded that some 48 pounds of bomb-grade uranium reported missing from a Tennessee nuclear fuel factory was not stolen as previously feared. Instead they say, most of it was dumped into a river, vented up a smokestack or allowed to seep into the plant's floor.

During its regular 60-day inventory for the period from June 18 to August 14, 1979, Nuclear Fuel Services, Inc., a subsidiary of Getty Oil, discovered accounting losses of major amounts of the enriched uranium it supplies for the US Navy's submarine and experimental reactors. The NRC ordered the plant shut down on September 18, one day after the losses were reported.

Citing national security, the government refused to make publicly known just how much uranium was missing, but did admit

that it exceeded the 19.8 pounds, or 1% of throughput, allowed for the two-month period. Documents declassified on October 17, 1980 revealed that the original loss was estimated to be 48.4 pounds — enough, if stolen, to make an atomic bomb.

According to the report by the NRC's Atlanta-based regional inspection and enforcement office, two leaks of uranium up a smokestack occurred while supervisory officials were running the plant during a strike and a third happened two days after the union crews went back to work. Another seven pounds of gaseous uranium hexafluoride leaked into the venting system and out a smokestack while a cooling line was being repaired.

Al Gibson, the Atlanta NRC radiation support branch chief, estimated that the

factory's nearest residents received a radiation dose between 87 and 796 millirems to their bones as a result of these three leaks. He said that as far as he knows these releases produced the highest calculated "bone doses" of any incident on record involving an NRC-regulated facility.

The NRC investigators claimed that the measuring method used Nuclear Fuel Services consistently underestimated floor and machinery tailings as well as discharges of uranium into the atmosphere and the nearby Nolichucky River. Through a series of recalculations of the spills, leaks and environmental releases, the NRC managed to "find" some 37 pounds of the missing uranium.

—Steve Stallone
IAT staff

Quake rattles Humboldt

The largest earthquake to strike northern California in many years rumbled through Humboldt County in the morning hours of November 8, highlighting the vulnerability of the state's oldest nuclear power plant.

The 7.0 magnitude quake was centered off the coast of Patrick's Point, some 20 to 30 miles northwest of PG&E's moribund Humboldt reactor. Despite the relatively distant epicenter, the majority of the damage was around the nuclear plant.

The damage underscored the inadequacy of the area's nuclear evacuation plans. The two southbound lanes of Highway 101, the primary evacuation route for the area, plummeted thirty feet, blocking the only railroad line on the Northcoast. If the Humboldt plant had been damaged, evacuation would have been excruciatingly slow if possible at all.

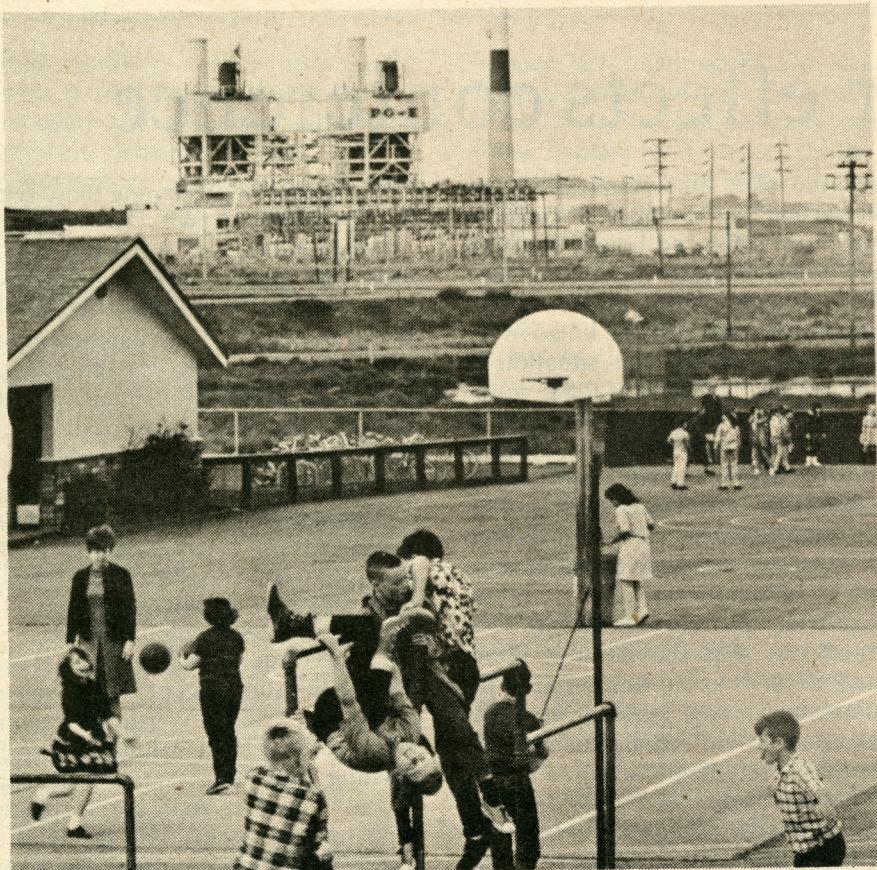
The situation could have been far worse. The extreme depth of the quake (12 miles), the muffling effect of the Pacific Ocean and the fact that the majority of the quake's energy continued westward out to sea were all factors preventing greater damage.

At first the quake was thought to have originated near the Humboldt

plant. PG&E was quick to claim it as a demonstration of the plant's ability to withstand large earthquakes. But this argument turned against them when state investigators later reversed the first opinion and placed the epicenter to the north, nearly thirty miles away. The cluster of damage near the plant, far removed from the quake's origin, gained new significance.

PG&E has tried to focus public attention away from seismic issues, apparently to "lie low" until the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant near San Luis Obispo is licensed. The utility's long-awaited seismic studies on the Humboldt plant, released on October 1, confirmed allegations made by intervenors about the presence, number and location of active earthquake faults near the plant. But PG&E was able to sidestep this issue by requesting another extension from the NRC to decide if the Humboldt plant is economically worth rejuvenating. This extension would head off embarrassing publicity about Humboldt's earthquake potential during the debate about similar problems at Diablo.

—Carl Zichella
Redwood Alliance, Arcata



PG&E used this photo to advertise the safety of its Humboldt Bay nuclear plant. The nuclear unit, largely underground, is invisible in this view. Robert Rowen, a plant employee, found radiation levels in this schoolyard were higher than his instruments could accurately measure.

PG&E photo

Bombs Away!



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

An anti-war evening

A recent forum called "National Insecurity" was reminiscent of a New England town meeting. The auditorium was filled with worried young mothers, serious-

minded high school students who'd read about the meeting in the local newspaper, men with definitive ideas, and a middle-aged couple who marched in and out trailed by seven children, including one on crutches.

The November 19 gathering of 150 people was convened by the UC Nuclear Weapons Labs Conversion Project to challenge US nuclear weapons policies. Its unwilling host was the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory.

LLL was forced to turn its auditorium over to critics of its *raison d'être* by a Conversion Project lawsuit filed last April. The suit charged the Lab with First Amendment violations, including their refusal to allow then employee Karen Mewes to show the film *War Without Winners* at the Lab. Just one day before the court deadline for responding to the suit, the Lab reversed its position and granted the request.

War Without Winners, narrated by Rear Admiral Gene LaRocque (US Navy Ret.) delivers a chilling evaluation of the possibilities and consequences of nuclear war. In interviews with the likes of former CIA deputy directors and high-ranking military officers, the conclusion indicated by the film's title is reached again and again.

Though its politics are limited — LaRocque recommends that we "write our rear admirals" in order to reverse the arms race — it is a powerful challenge to the now-fashionable idea that a nuclear vic-



Seymour Melman

photo by Steve Stallone

tory is possible. A comment by a civil defense consultant is particularly memorable: "What's our primary plan for a nuclear response?" he asks. "Opium and morphine stockpiles, that's our response."

LaRocque, who spent 31 years in the Navy and now heads the Center for Defense Information, which produced the film, was at the Livermore forum in person. In a short talk he underlined the dangers of a runaway nuclear weapons policy. "We have nuclearized our conventional forces," he warned. "We no longer have a firebreak between nuclear and conventional war."

Responding to highly-placed policy makers who are loudly declaring that nuclear war won't wipe out civilization but will merely set it back to 1925 or so, LaRocque pointed out that a return to 1925 means wiping out a hundred million people in the US alone.

Following LaRocque was Seymour Melman, professor of Industrial Engineering at Columbia University and author of *The Permanent War Economy*. Melman argued that the resources being wasted in military production could be used to retool America's obsolete and uncompetitive industry. He called on laboratory workers and management — or workers alone if necessary — to form "alternate use committees" that would begin to plan for conversion of lab facilities to socially useful production.

Melman is an engaging but unfortunately pompous speaker, and his sugges-

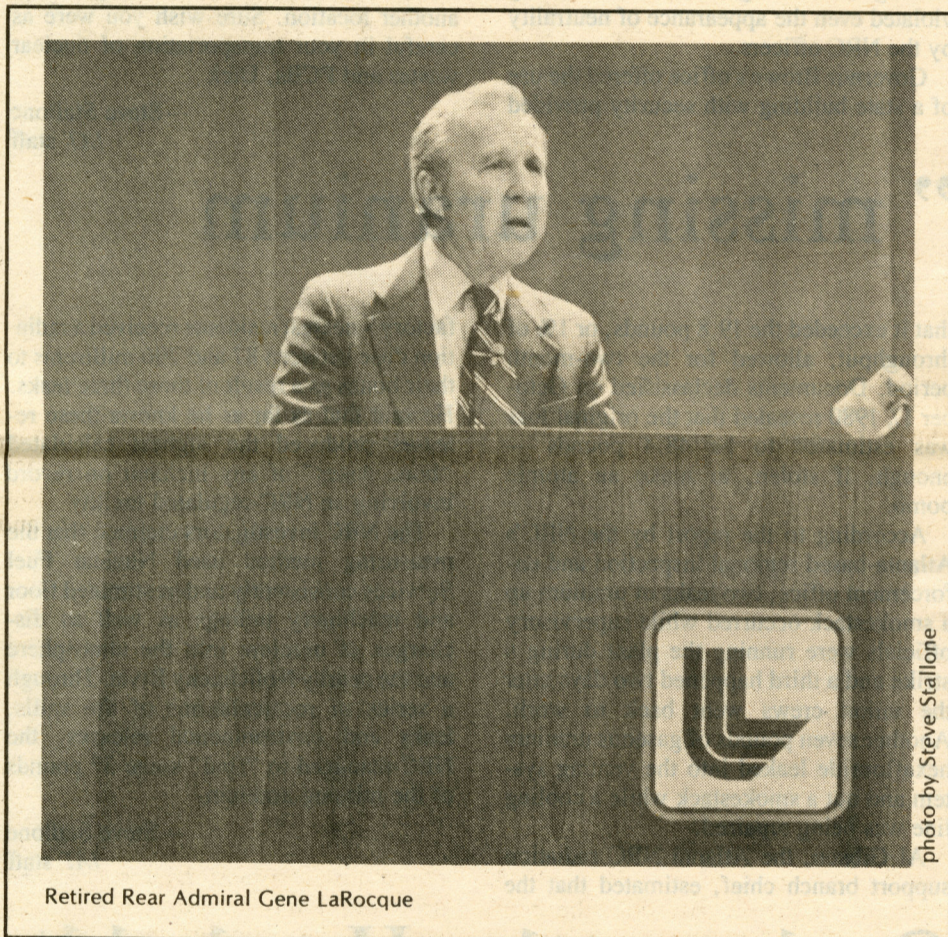
tion — which sounded more like a command — stirred a refreshingly sharp debate. Many in the audience giggled nervously when the professor jumped up from his seat and, just short of pounding his chest with his fists, boomed out, "To hell with this chatter. Isn't anyone interested in conversion?"

It was hard to take Melman's outbursts seriously, though tolerance turned to resentment when his responses to audience questions turned biting and condescending. But despite a few hard feelings, his unorthodox approach made for a much more sophisticated discussion than is typically heard following a presentation on nuclear war. Instead of remaining fixed on the horrific details of a nuclear exchange, it touched on issues ranging from nationalism to public education.

There were challenges to Melman of several varieties, including one pledge of support for the defense industry — "These boys are working hard for our country" — and a slowly articulated comment by a young man in work clothes: "I'm surprised that you put so much credence in a top-down way of doing things."

Though only ten hands went up when someone asked how many of these present worked at the Lab, Conversion Project staffers were pleased with the forum. They saw it as a first step in creating a continuing dialogue with Lab employees and the Livermore community.

—Marcy Darnovsky and Sue Bloch



Retired Rear Admiral Gene LaRocque

photo by Steve Stallone

Doctors pack nuclear war effects conference

A nuclear attack on downtown San Francisco would destroy everyone and everything within a six-mile radius and kill half the people within twenty miles. Winds up to 300 miles an hour would create vast firestorms, bomb shelters would become ovens, and windblown fallout would kill people hundreds of miles away.

So went the grim scenario presented to the physicians who packed San Francisco's Herbst Theatre on November 17 and 18 for a conference on the medical implications of nuclear war.

The doctors paid seventy-five dollars each to attend the two-day conference sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) and the Stanford and University of California medical schools.

The conference started on a decidedly conservative note, with a speaker announcing that PSR doesn't favor unilateral disarmament and supports retaining some nuclear weapons for "national security." Speaker Herbert Scoville, former research director for

the CIA and the current head of the Arms Control Association, expressed a preference for sea-based missiles rather than land-based ones. And the conference officially took a neutral stand on nuclear power.

While it is easy to criticize PSR's conservative posture, it may be more useful to look at the reasons for this tactic and its accomplishments. According to Peter Joseph, president of PSR's San Francisco chapter, the middle-of-the-road approach was necessary to attract some of the speakers and the endorsements of the medical schools. The tone of the conference did gradually become more liberal as it progressed. The MX missile, the arms race and "civil defense" programs were sharply criticized, and speakers such as Helen Caldicott urged doctors to get involved, saying that "stopping the arms race and averting nuclear war is the great medical issue of our times."

Lectures detailing the types of skin grafts and special surgeries needed by nuclear survivors inevitably ended on the same note: that learning these skills

was futile. The audience was repeatedly warned that in a nuclear exchange most cities would be bombed several times, most hospitals and medical supplies would be destroyed, and many medical workers would be killed in the initial blast. Unlike the situation at Nagasaki and Hiroshima, there would be no hope of medical aid from outside the city. The few remaining doctors would be unable to tell which of the thousands of seriously burned and injured people might survive if treated and which were already condemned to death by radiation exposure.

Professor Bernard Feld of MIT pointed out that the neutron bomb touted as a weapon which only kills soldiers but leaves buildings and features intact would actually have consequences beyond its immediate victims. The physicist said that the flood of neutrons from the weapon would make building materials radioactive, so bombed areas would have to be leveled, the rubble buried, and the structures rebuilt in order to be safe for habitation.

PSR's goal in presenting these sobering possibilities was to "penetrate numbed minds with the realities of nuclear war, and to press harder for disarmament and a reduction of international tensions." The "numbed minds" seemed to react to the ghastly scenarios. Films of Hiroshima were followed by several minutes of silence and lunch hour conversations focussed on the last lectures.

This was an audience that might have walked out on a lecture on the dangers of nuclear power, but they stayed to hear statistics about increased cancer and birth defects among people living near nuclear weapons plants and among the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And they listened intently when retired Real Admiral Gene LaRocque told them that even if war is averted, doctors may get to practice their newly learned skills if one of the hundreds of nuclear-armed Navy ships passing through the Golden Gate each year suffers a nuclear accident.

—Maureen Hogan

British disarmament movement grows

A vast crowd of at least 50,000 people jammed London's Trafalgar Square October 26 to demand the removal of all nuclear weapons from British soil and to call for their abolition worldwide. According to some estimates the rally was the largest political demonstration in Britain since the 1930's. The impetus for the rapid growth of this new disarmament movement has been mainly provided by the unabashedly militarist policies of the Conservative government under Margaret Thatcher.

Early this year the government revealed that at last December's NATO conference it had secretly committed Britain to hosting a substantial number of US-controlled Cruise missiles. Shortly thereafter, Defense Minister Francis Pym announced the near-completion of the hitherto secret \$2.5 billion "Chevaline" program to modernize the Polaris missiles carried by Britain's five nuclear submarines. Within weeks the Thatcher regime added insult to this injury by confirming that it had ordered new Trident subs from the US to replace the Polaris altogether at a cost of \$12.5 billion.

These revelations carried a potential for popular outrage which the government clearly underestimated. It was easy to question why such gigantic sums were being spent on Chevaline and Trident, which will amount to a piddling 3% of NATO's total nuclear capacity, while social spending in Britain is being slashed to the bone. In the case of the Cruise missile decision, a smoldering resentment of US domination of Britain fused with the sudden awareness that, in the event of a nuclear alert, these lethal little numbers were to be trundled about on trailers over hundreds of square miles of densely-populated countryside. This ingenious strategem, by making the missiles more difficult to locate, would drastically expand the target areas of an "enemy" strike and thereby guarantee the incineration of still more millions of people.

The third factor, which abruptly brought the remote sci-fi nightmare of thermonuclear holocaust several long steps closer to reality, was the Carter

administration's saber-rattling response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Mrs. Thatcher and her cohorts were virtually alone among Western governments in their enthusiastic support for America's revival of the Cold War.

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END, Edward Thompson and the Exterminist Colossus

Spearheading this new strategy is Edward (E.P.) Thompson, a prime mover of the extra-parliamentary New Left of the late '50's and early '60's and the author of such respected historical works as *The Making of the English Working Class*. The END manifesto

A smoldering resentment of US domination fused with the awareness that these lethal little numbers guarantee the incineration of millions.

administration's saber-rattling response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Mrs. Thatcher and her cohorts were virtually alone among Western governments in their enthusiastic support for America's revival of the Cold War.

The beginnings of END

All this helps to explain the unique scale and energy of the present movement in Britain. But its earlier history is another important factor. During the early '60's, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, (CND) brought out thousands for its famous Aldermaston marches, and in 1963 movement activists within the Labour Party were able to push through a resolution at the Party's annual Conference committing the next Labour government to unilateral nuclear disarmament. But Party Leader Hugh Gaitskell was able to get the resolution overturned and by the middle of the decade the movement had virtually evaporated.

The movement's rediscovered power—and perhaps also its limitations—showed up dramatically during this year's Labour Conference. Disarma-

ment forces were once again able to get the delegates to adopt a resolution committing Labour to unilaterally ridding Britain of nuclear weapons. In addition, this commitment was taken up by newly-elected party leader Michael Foot.

Foot's election and the disarmament vote were widely seen as major victories for the Party's left wing. Another was the passing of a statute making Labour Members of Parliament (MP's) subject to recall by their constituency organizations if they fail to carry out their mandates. This, the left hopes, will help to bring the parliamentary party—and by extension, any future Labour government—under closer control by the left-dominated rank and file.

But Labour MP's are actually elected by the voters at large, not by the constituency organizations. As long as a popular consensus in favor of the existing set-up is maintained, the real extent of the left's prospective influence over the parliamentary leadership is dubious, and the translation of the disarmament resolution into actual policy by the next Labour government far from certain. Already, true to form, Foot has affirmed his support for NATO and has begun backing off from his pro-disarmament stance.



Punks and MP's and nuns and Schoolkids Against the Bomb—50,000 in all—jammed London's Trafalgar Square to "protest and survive."

photo by Peter Anderson, New Musical Express, London

This logic not only escapes the control even of the ruling elites of both blocs, but has come to dominate them, deforming more and more repressively the political and economic structures on either side. Thompson names this phenomenon *exterminism* and squarely identifies it as the central problem of our epoch. Until the exterminist colossus is beaten back, he concludes, no real liberatory social movement is possible in the developed countries. And unless it is beaten back, war is inevitable. END offers the only hope.

At first sight Thompson's analysis seems unassailable. Both Ronald Reagan's election and the virtual disappearance of the autonomous workers' struggles which flared throughout much of Europe between 1968 and 1977 seem to confirm it. But does the fight against the "exterminist colossus" really necessitate the subordination of radical social movements to the extent that Thompson seems to think? If not, important aspects of the END approach, at least as he formulates it, become highly problematic.

The roots of apathy

Britain today is an excellent case in point. The Thatcher government is notorious for its brutal attack on working class living standards. But Thatcher & Co. are wielding the clumsy meat axes of mass unemployment and regressive taxation where the Labour regime that preceded them preferred to use scalpels—union-imposed "voluntary" wage restraint and a stealthy slicing away at social services. In fact, it is more than possible that the British elite may shortly abandon Mrs. T., whose economic policies are proving both ineffective and dangerously unpopular, and hand the management of austerity back to Labour via a media-organized "crisis of confidence" and a general election.

The leaders of both parties, though, agree on at least one thing. Within the terms of the present global economic and social order, austerity is necessary. So long as that order is in crisis—and the crisis shows no sign of going away—whichever governs Britain will have to

impose austerity. Hence the gradualist reformism of the Labour Party and its unions, and of their social-democratic and Eurocommunist analogs in other countries, is not only ineffective on its own terms, but has become an ideological cover for anti-working class policies. It is as bankrupt as Soviet- and Chinese-style "communism."

This double bankruptcy has produced in workers an apathy born of despair and a feeling of utter powerlessness. Their apathy is continually reinforced by a series of mind-numbing threats, including ecological catastrophe and economic collapse. The Cold War revival is only the latest on the list. While these attitudes persist among those not already infected by nationalist and racist hysteria, END is no more likely to attract large-scale working-class support than what are now perceived as the pie-in-the-sky promises of the Left, from Tony Benn to the Trotskyists.

When Goths are baptised

Yet without such support, the disarmament movement is itself disarmed. Lacking the power to paralyze the systems of communication, production and data processing on which the military machine depends, it is confined to protest. And protest, against the frenzy induced in the elites by deepening economic crisis, may not be enough.

Only a renewed vision of communal human possibility, a restored sense that together working-class people have the power not merely to survive but to create an entirely new life, can dissolve the present apathy. And only the creativity and solidarity experienced in widespread collective struggle can make such a vision credible.

If END can be kept genuinely independent, it may provide one locus for this kind of renewal. But the partisans of this vision can only enter the movement as the Goths, in early Christian days, went into the river to be baptised. Even while their heads and bodies were doused, they held their swords, in clenched fists, high out of the water.

—Louis Michaelson

Sierra Club Shenanigans: How "conser

This is a sordid story of the days when ecologists were conservationists and saving the coast could mean putting a nuclear reactor on it. It is the story of plots and counterplots, bureaucratic backstabbing and the manipulation of an organization by an elite rubbing elbows with corporate executives.

Though it took place only fifteen years ago it is the ancient history of the anti-nuclear movement, before the nuclear industry's "cheap, clean and abundant" myth had begun to unravel. Measuring our own organizations and battles against it, we can see how clear and broad the issues raised by nuclear power have become.

The 18-year battle against Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant began as a civil war that split apart the Sierra Club, at that time the country's most important environmental organization. When the bitter three-year internal conflict was over, the club's Executive Director, David Brower, had resigned over the issue and formed Friends of the Earth and Sierra Club Director Fred Eissler had organized the Scenic Shoreline Preservation Committee to begin legal intervention against the planned nuclear plant.

Former Sierra Club staffer Robert Golden remembers the battle as "an unhappy experience fought with stress, paranoia and an ominous presence"—a fight over the control and direction of the club. "It seems strange now," Golden says, "but we were doing PG&E's work. We were furthering the cause of nuclear power."

Former *Sierra Club Bulletin* editor Hugh Nash wrote at the end of the conflict, "Forward-looking elements in the club have lost more internal battles than I care to remember simply because they could not bring themselves to believe the 'old guard' would be so ruthless."

Members of the "old guard," on the other hand, viewed the Diablo controversy as a historic event — the first time conservation interests and industry sat down at a conference table to resolve their conflicts reasonably.

The fight began in 1962 when PG&E announced plans to build a nuclear power plant near Pismo Beach at the Nipomo Dunes. Local conservation groups and the Sierra Club opposed that particular site, but not the idea of having a nuclear plant in the county. PG&E, having just learned the power of conservationists in its unsuccessful attempt to put a nuclear plant on Bodega Head, began looking for a site that

sympathetic environmental groups would endorse.

PG&E executive representative Ken Diercks claims that "everyone who wanted to become involved in siting was allowed input. If there was ever an open exercise, Diablo was it."

But actually the process was never open. Those privy to input on site selection were instructed by PG&E President Shermer Sibley to keep the proceedings "confidential." Conservation Associates, the three-person group most involved in the process, was promoted by PG&E as a credible environmental organization even though member George Collins helped site the San Onofre nuclear plant and member Doris Leonard now sits on the PG&E Board of Directors.

An unholy alliance

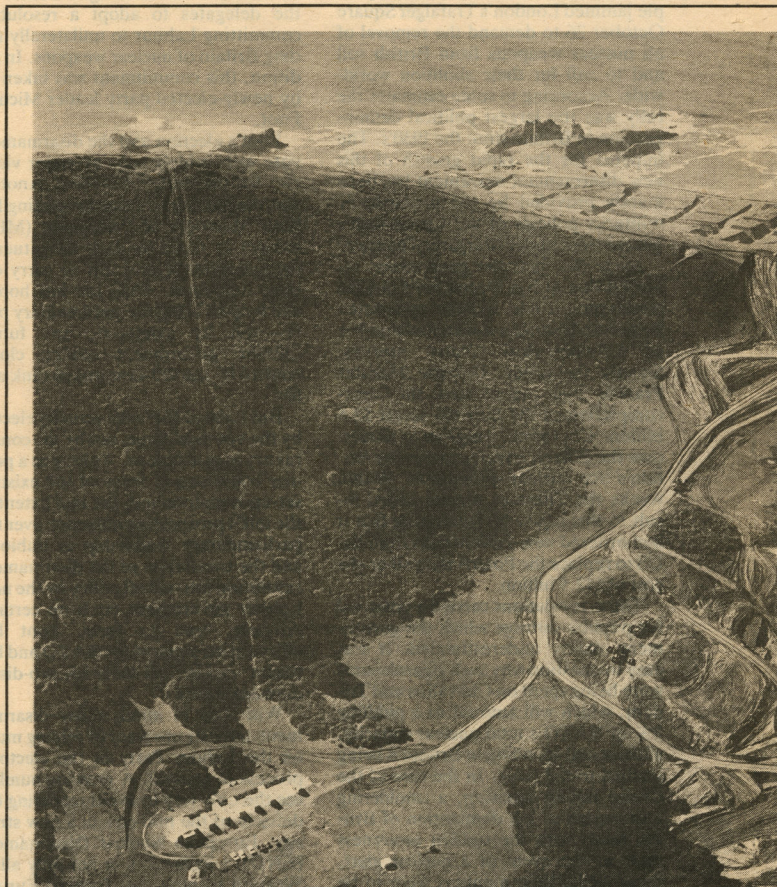
PG&E, Conservation Associates and Sierra Club President Will Siri settled on the Diablo Canyon site as the ideal place for the proposed nuclear plant. Their reasons for this opinion, however, remain a mystery. The area had been rejected by PG&E itself in 1963 because it was recommended for park development, it had no access road on which to move heavy equipment and it posed right-of-way problems for transmission lines.

Sierra Club President Will Siri was in close contact with PG&E and represented himself as speaking for the club, though he had never been given that mandate. The staff and most of the directors were unaware that negotiations were going on. Director Ed Wayburn, Siri and Richard Leonard, Conservation Associates' attorney, met regularly to evaluate the alternative sites suggested by PG&E in the context of regular Sierra Club business. Siri claims that Club Executive Director David Brower participated in these discussions, but Brower denies it.

On May 6, 1966 Siri wrote PG&E President Sibley thanking him for allowing his participation in the site selection process and for "promoting a mutual confidence that we hope may continue." The following day at the Board of Directors meeting, after leaving his post as president with an emotional farewell address, Siri moved for Sierra Club endorsement of a nuclear plant at Diablo Canyon as an acceptable alternative to the Nipomo Dunes, provided certain environmental constraints were met.

Siri described the site as being overgrazed, with an eroding canyon and dying trees. He was unaware that the National Park Service had recommended preservation of the canyon as a scenic resource.

David Brower suggested postponing



Diablo Canyon in 1968. The scarred area in the foreground is where some of the giant live oaks grew. PG&E yard—and actually painted the ground green to cover the construction scars.

the decision until the Directors could visit the site, since there was time to do so before PG&E's deadline for the decision. But Brower didn't have the authority to make a motion to this effect and the directors voted after only two hours of discussion to endorse the Diablo site. Only Fred Eissler cast a dissenting vote.

Hugh Nash recalls that no one at the meeting had first-hand knowledge of the site. They all thought they were saving the Nipomo Dunes. "I don't want to call them stupid, but they weren't very smart," he said.

Even with Sierra Club endorsement of Diablo Canyon, PG&E retained rights to develop the Dunes. It would be more than ten years before PG&E agreed to sell the site to the state park service — and then probably because of lowered electrical demand.

Escalation and harassment

Martin Litton, the only club director who had seen the site, was out of the country at the time of the vote. He was furious when he returned and wrote an angry letter to Sibley charging him with deliberately misrepresenting the facts on Diablo Canyon and fraudulently obtaining Sierra Club endorsement. He vowed to reverse the Board's decision. PG&E immediately circulated his letter to those directors sympathetic with PG&E's position. Directors Ansel Adams, Leonard and Siri wrote Litton harshly criticizing him for his letter to Sibley.

Taken aback by their reaction, Litton wrote to them, "It is a sad mistake to believe that PG&E's ambition must be accommodated. We cannot have our cake and feed it to PG&E too...we can go on smiling at PG&E and its ilk over drinks at the conference table or on a wildflower walk — or we can face the cold fact that those that profit by destroying beauty are going to keep destroying it until they are stopped, or until we run out of the last vestige of beauty to destroy. The way to stop ugliness is to stop preparing to accommodate it."

The directors did not turn around even when new information came to light. They felt a change in policy would cause the Sierra Club to lose face. Litton urged

the directors to personally inspect Diablo Canyon and Nash went along. "What I saw that day convinced me that the Board was guilty of ceding the finest remaining stretch of California coastline to PG&E without even knowing what it was doing."

Nash found that the Diablo Canyon area was unmarred by roads or railroads — the last stretch of California coast south of Humboldt county still in that condition. The world's largest live oak trees grew in the canyon. Abalones were so thick in the cove that they were stacked on top of each other.

The issue in question was not nuclear power itself, but proper siting of a power plant and the role the Sierra Club should take in the process.

Sierra Club members who continued to try to stop Diablo were harassed. Stewart Olgilvy, whose address was used as a contact in a tabloid arguing to save Diablo Canyon, recalls, "PG&E visited my employer at Fortune making inquiries about me."

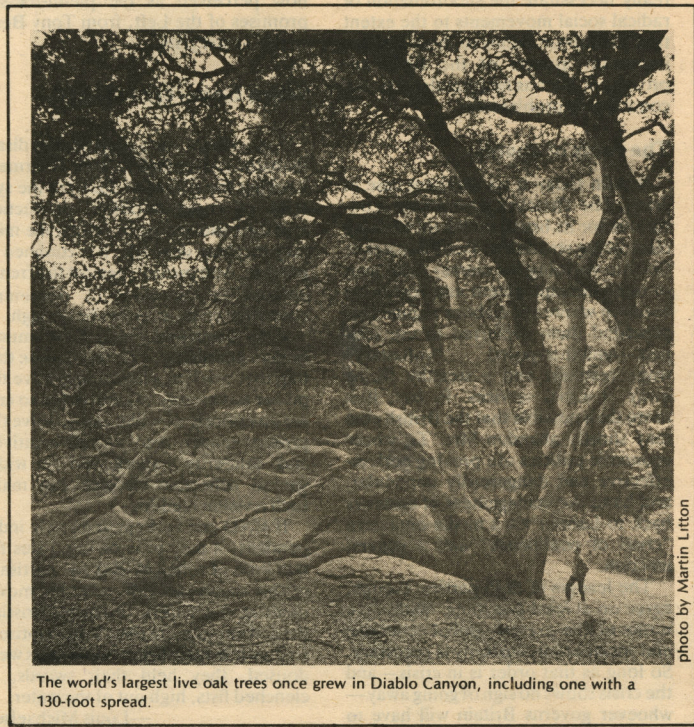
Litton recalls that PG&E infiltrated everything. They showed up at conserva-

She stated that a nuclear beautiful as a redwood tree

tion conferences. "And there was never any talk of getting rid of the bastards."

According to Litton, Dave Brower and David Pesonen suspected that their phones were tapped and staged a test. Pesonen called Brower and asked him when the Sierra Club White Paper on PG&E would be ready. Brower responded, "It should be back from the printer at 3:00." At precisely 3 p.m., Litton remembers, PG&E showed up and asked the Club receptionist for a copy of the nonexistant report.

PG&E kept in close contact with sympathetic directors, asking their opinion on things, taking them to dinner and offering special tours of Diablo Canyon. At one point PG&E flew some directors over the site in a Lear jet owned by Frank Sinatra and co-piloted by Danny Kaye. No one can remember who went. A



The world's largest live oak trees once grew in Diablo Canyon, including one with a 130-foot spread.

photo by Martin Litton

vationists" planted the Diablo nuke

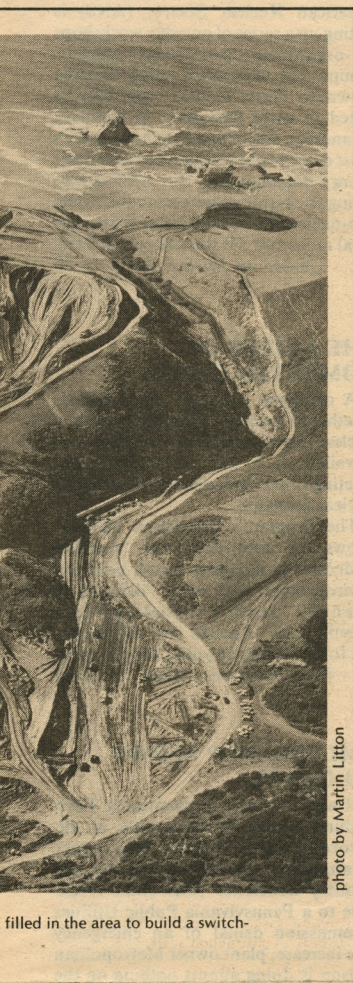


photo by Martin Litton

filled in the area to build a switch-

PG&E executive representative who was on the plane assured *It's About Times* that the company was considering purchase of a jet and the Diablo excursion was merely a test flight.

In 1966 PG&E convinced the State Resources Agency to allow it to monitor the environmental effects of its own project. The utility signed a contract promising to mitigate environmental damage — but only if doing so wouldn't interfere with the construction or operation of the plant. The contract was later overturned as a result of a lawsuit filed by activist David Pesonen.

On the local level, PG&E wooed the press. PG&E's nuclear specialist Hal Stroube bragged before the American Nuclear Society February 16-18, 1965, "PG&E always has set a premium on winning the local editors...the *Arroyo Grande Times Recorder* and the *San Luis Obispo Telegram* have been easy pickings."

The Diablo question was reconsidered by the Sierra Club Board in September 1966. Some additional votes were gained, but not enough to change the

plant was "as
ee."

policy.

At the February 18 1967 meeting, an economic alternatives committee used PG&E data to show that cheaper sites were available. The environmental impact committee, composed of Cal Poly professors already familiar with the site reported, "The Diablo Canyon area is remarkably worthy of preservation as a marine park and a pastoral reserve, not alone for its separate attributes, but more specifically for a combination in values."

Will Siri, fearing the conclusions of the environmental impact report, commissioned his own study. Clare Hardham, a botanist with only a bachelor's degree, accepted the task in a January 23, 1967 letter to Siri. She said she had not seen the site but added, "I should state here that I don't really care what

happens to Diablo Canyon since PG&E has to have a site somewhere for its atomic energy plants and every place is going to have some who love it and spring to its defense."

Hardham did a three-day study and concluded that Diablo Canyon was a dying forest and that there was nothing unique in the canyon. Her reports were used at hearings before the Public Utilities Commission and the Atomic Energy Commission. She later stated in an April 2, 1968 letter to PG&E's Bob Nichols that a nuclear plant she had seen was "as beautiful as a redwood tree."

Back at the Sierra Club, even those pushing for Diablo were becoming critical of Leonard and Siri. Incoming president George Marshall criticized Siri for not knowing Diablo Canyon was recommended for park development. He worried that the Sierra Club was

arguments with Adams, but Adams told *It's About Times* he had never been consulted.

By February 16 Siri still had not submitted his completed text. Throughout this time Siri travelled the country seeking Chapter endorsements of the board's policy. Nash and Brower decided to print 750 copies of the *Bulletin* to be mailed to Club Chapter leaders without Siri's arguments along with a statement explaining that Siri had not submitted his arguments on time.

Printing the *Bulletin* without the pro-board argument turned out to be a serious mistake for Brower and Nash. Many club members, unaware of the missed deadlines, interpreted the incomplete discussion as an attempt by Brower to manipulate the debate.

A second edition was printed, this time including Siri's arguments. But presi-

of course it does."

Berry wrote PG&E president Sibley the following day to say that in his opinion the motion did not change the Club's Diablo policy. He released a similar statement to the press.

This upset the directors who had voted in favor of the resolution. The matter was to be clarified at the next Board meeting in October. But the meeting was adjourned before the matter came up. The five-person executive board, composed of Berry and three directors who voted against the resolution, met and voted to approve Berry's interpretation of the May 1968 vote as explained to PG&E President Sibley.

Another defeat

The executive board ruling stood until the December 1968 full board meeting. The original interpretation of reversing Diablo policy was going to be accepted, but Phil Berry proposed a substitute motion to put the matter before the Sierra Club membership again. The substitute motion was passed.

Again Sierra Club members voted in favor of building a nuclear plant at Diablo. They were sick of hearing about the issue and felt the Sierra Club had to keep its word to PG&E. It was thought a change in the Diablo policy would threaten the existence of the Club. In that same election a progressive slate of directors organized behind Brower was defeated. At the May 1969 meeting when the new directors took office, Brower's resignation was accepted.

Fred Eissler had already left the Club to intervene against Diablo before the Public Utilities Commission and the Atomic Energy Commission. Ian McMill-

"Can we stage a get-together in which to plan covert action to force Brower further to tip his hand?"

compromising away the coast and questioned Siri's environmental studies of the site and the safety of nuclear power. He expressed his disgust with George Collins, whose arguments he considered to be similar to those of the Chamber of Commerce. Marshall was most critical of Siri for giving his opinions on scenic values to PG&E as an officer of the Sierra Club.

Marshall changed his attitude however. He asked Nash not to print a letter by Fred Eissler explaining his opposition to Diablo. Marshall eventually demanded total veto power over the *Bulletin*.

The membership votes

In January 1967 100 members of the Club petitioned to have the Diablo issue brought before the general membership for a vote but Siri managed to railroad the board of directors into changing the original wording of the measure to be placed on the ballot. Siri claims the original petition was biased to get people to vote against development of Diablo. He has since admitted that "to my everlasting discredit, I managed to get it biased the other way."

Siri's rewording portrayed the petition as a slap in the face to the club's Board of Directors. Pro-PG&E directors began orchestrating a campaign in support of the Diablo site and against David Brower. They persuaded Chapter officials to place articles in their local newsletters accusing Brower of overstepping his authority and of trying to politicize the Club. These articles succeeded in swaying many members to the pro-PG&E position.

Plots and counterplots

Arguments for and against the measure were to be presented in the February issue of the *Bulletin*. Nash suggested five pages for each side. Will Siri and Ansel Adams were to write in favor of the board's resolution and Martin Litton was to write the opposing viewpoint. A January 25 deadline was set. Ansel Adams then wrote Siri that more points could be gained for their position by reducing their article to two pages. They didn't want to see the issue magnified. Nash was forced to reduce Litton's arguments to two pages to give equal space.

In a memo to Litton and Eissler, Nash suggested, "it might be possible to outmaneuver the bad guys while playing the game their way...My plot is to cross them up by having an eight-page issue." The Diablo issue would be magnified and it would make it easier to get the *Bulletin* to the membership in plenty of time before the vote.

Will Siri's apparent counter-plot was to prevent the membership from getting the *Bulletin* before they received their ballots. He first requested a deadline extension to January 30. Nash agreed to this after making special arrangements with the printer. The deadline passed and Siri continued to ask for extensions. He claimed that he had to check all

dent Marshall ordered the edition destroyed because he thought a background article by Nash was biased against the board. He took ten days to rewrite it. The new article, warning that challenges to the board would hamstring the Club, ended up as another argument in favor of the Diablo siting.

The membership ended up voting strongly in favor of supporting the Club's Diablo policy. But when they realized what was going on, many were angry and wanted to change their vote.

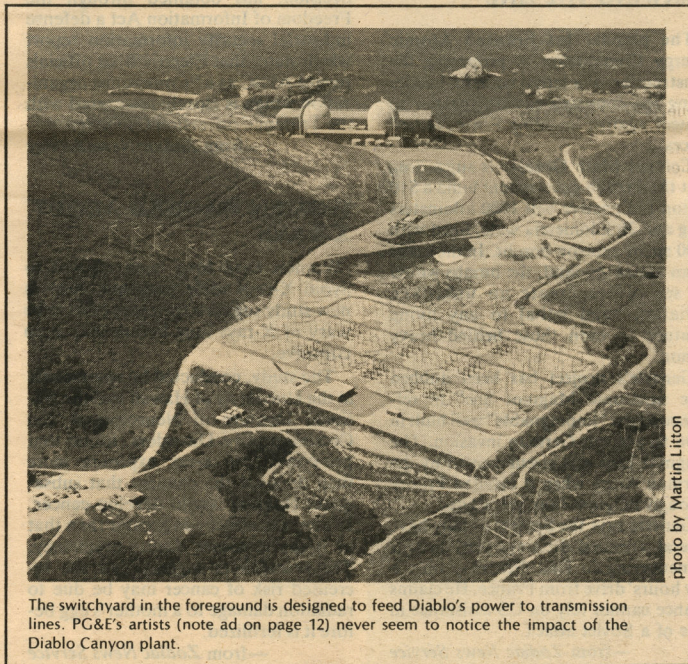


photo by Martin Litton

The switchyard in the foreground is designed to feed Diablo's power to transmission lines. PG&E's artists (note ad on page 12) never seem to notice the impact of the Diablo Canyon plant.

Fighting for a policy reversal

The pro-Diablo side was pleased with the turn of events. At the February 18 Board meeting, just after the *Bulletin* had been printed, a motion to change the Diablo policy was tabled 7 to 5. Richard Leonard wrote Siri February 20 congratulating him. "You, Will, switched at least two votes to your side...by simply not getting your homework in on time. We have a bit of momentum now. Though we may lose the battle I now think we may win the war. Can we somehow stage a get-together in which to plan covert action to force DRB [Brower] further to tip his hand?"

At the September 1968 Board meeting things changed. A resolution was passed acknowledging a mistake in principle in the Club's policy and opposing industrial development along scenic coastal areas of the United States. Secretary Phil Berry stated at the meeting his interpretation of the motion specifically did not include a change in Diablo policy. Sierra Club President Wayburn, who voted against the motion responded, "Oh Phil,

lian, a rancher in the area, joined him. McMillian recalls, "Intervention was lonely at that time. Everyone at the hearings was against us. The only way to oppose Diablo was to become an intervenor."

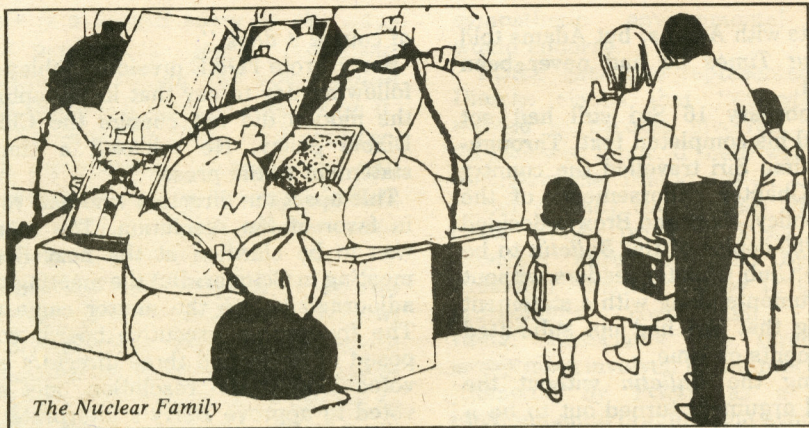
Ken Diercks kept Siri posted on what was going on during the hearings. Diercks asked Siri how to refute Eissler's testimony. Siri doesn't remember the letters, although they are in his files.

One PUC Commissioner, William Bennett, voted to deny PG&E Certification for Public Convenience and Necessity. He criticized the Sierra Club for not taking a stand against the plant. When a petition was filed for rehearing, his dissenting opinion stated, "PG&E demonstrated planning which is cold in concept and ruthless in application as far as nature is concerned."

The Sierra Club now opposes the Diablo Canyon Plant and nuclear power.

—Mark Evanoff
IAT staff

Short Circuits



The Nuclear Family

AND DON'T FORGET THE KITTY LITTER

The British government has just distributed a guide instructing its populace about what to do in the event of a nuclear attack. The pamphlet advises urban dwellers to draw their window shades prior to the flash. This accomplished, it recommends unbolting a door, leaning it against the wall and covering it with sandbags. Then food, water and reading material should be carried inside, along with food for the family pets.

If it becomes necessary for anyone to answer nature's call any time during the two-week danger period after a nuclear attack, the pamphlet advises, it is best to run outside and back in "as quickly as possible."

—from *Zodiac News Service*

DRAWING THE LINE

The planner for France's Atomic Energy Commission is proposing the construction of a lethal neutron barrier along the country's eastern frontier to protect against invading Soviet armed forces.

Colonel Marc Geneste is suggesting that the French government build a \$10 billion radioactive belt 1000 kilometers long and 20 kilometers wide, lined with 1000 small neutron bombs. In the event of an attack by land, the bombs would be set off to create an unbroken radiation band lethal to any living creature — even those behind heavy armor.

Geneste's project has been dubbed "the neutronic Maginot line" in reference to the "impregnable" wall built in 1936 to prevent German invasion. The Maginot Line was circumvented by the German Army when it invaded France through Belgium four years later.

Geneste says the Soviets usually have several armored divisions stationed or maneuvering in East Germany only a few hours' drive from France. He claims France cannot rely on US assistance in case of a Soviet attack.

—from *Zodiac News Service*

NAGASAKI STILL CONTAMINATED

It's been more than 35 years since an atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, yet a Japanese research team from the Medical School of Nagasaki University is still finding high levels of plutonium-239 in the soil of drinking water wells two miles from the blast site. Previous studies have found high levels of radioactive cesium-137 in the soil.

Dr. Shunzo Okashima says that some of the soil from the wells contains plutonium-239 at levels seven to eight times above normal. Okashima says the levels being detected are not so high as to affect human health directly. But he warns that the radioactive matter might concentrate in human bodies over a long period.

Plutonium-239 emits alpha rays and is highly toxic. It remains radioactive for tens of thousands of years.

—from *Zodiac News Service*

THE NAVY SEES RED

A 26-year-old Navy shipfitter may lose his job because of his affiliation with what the Navy has decided is a Communist organization—the American Friends Service Committee.

AFSC is a Quaker group that won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947.

Peter Fisher works at the Groton, Connecticut shipyards of General Dynamics Corporation's Electric Boat Company, home of the Trident submarine. Fisher helped AFSC and other groups prepare to leaflet the launching of the first Trident in 1979. Last March, he was interrogated for ten hours by two Pentagon investigators, and then received a certified letter from the Pentagon's General Counsel stating that "the Screening Board has considered your case and has determined... that granting or continuing security clearance for you is not warranted."

Fisher, who is planning to appeal the decision, has obtained through the Freedom of Information Act a defense industrial security information report which states that Electric Boat officials regard AFSC as a "Communist organization which is closely associated with the Trident Conversion Campaign."

—from *Zodiac News Service*

WOMEN WARNED ABOUT X-RAYS

Women have long been advised to avoid X-rays while pregnant. Now, a new study suggests they may have to be wary of X-rays long before they even conceive.

The study, conducted by researchers at the University of Hawaii and the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders, found that pre-conception x-ray exposure more than doubled the chances that subsequent children would develop cancer. In fact, the effect was greater than that of X-ray exposure during pregnancy. The researchers suggest that the increased risk of cancer may be due to radiation damage to a mother's egg before it is fertilized.

—from *Zodiac News Service*

NEW KIND OF MISHAP AT NY REACTOR

An undetected leak at the Indian Point-2 nuclear power plant near New York City caused the plant's reactor vessel to be submerged to a depth of nine feet in salty river water while the plant was running. Although the leak was finally corrected in mid-October, it may have long-term consequences.

One possible problem is that the stress caused by flooding the outside of the hot vessel with cold water may lead to later cracking. An even more serious possibility is that salt deposits left behind by the immersion will corrode and eventually weaken the vessel. No practical and proven means of detecting these kinds of damage exists, and undetected cracking could lead to sudden vessel failure and a meltdown. So New Yorkers have still another reason to be nervous about their nearby nuke.

—In *These Times*, 11/19/80

A REACTOR OF YOUR VERY OWN

The Canadian government's Atomic Energy Agency has developed a small nuclear power plant called the "Slowpoke" that will generate just enough power to heat one large hotel or building complex. Officials say that the "Slowpoke" can be built for less than a million dollars and that it is designed to be mounted in a 25-foot deep concrete-lined pool dug in the ground.

The designers claim that the small reactor is so inherently safe that it doesn't require on-site monitoring, and therefore will cost less to operate. Atomic Energy of Canada says it hopes to sell hundreds to buyers around the world.

"Slowpoke" has already met with opposition, however. One Canadian energy official warns, "Can you imagine the response if we start putting reactors in basements all over Ottawa?"

—from *Zodiac News Service*

DUTCH ACTIVISTS CONFRONT POLICE

More than 10,000 anti-nuclear activists have been confronting police in the Netherlands near the town of Dodewaard. The protesters have been using non-violent civil disobedience in an attempt to close down all the main roads leading to the site of an operating nuclear reactor there. The blockade was launched after polls found that up to 66% of the Dutch population is opposed to nuclear power.

Members of "Dodewaard Will Close," the group organizing the blockade, have announced that they want the protest to be non-violent. But they say they are worried about government security measures which could provoke a violent confrontation.

A former employee at the nuclear plant says that security measures already taken include the installation of listening devices inside the plant and along the dikes surrounding it, tear gas pipes for emitting chemicals and dyes, hidden holes and traps similar to animal traps, and new fences with razor-edge wires.

—from *Zodiac News Service*

BREATHE EASY

The 3-M Corporation reports that it will soon become the first major company in the US to sell anti-smog breathing masks to the general public. During the recent air pollution episode in Los Angeles, the company's southern California employees experimented with the specially-designed industrial respirators and reported excellent results.

3-M's John Pendergrass says that the so-called "smog respirators" are about the size of a surgeon's mask and will retail for about \$1.30 apiece. Each mask should be good for 30 to 40 hours in the smoggiest of air.

—from *Zodiac News Service*

DRAFT OPPONENTS HASSLED

Anti-draft activists who are planning to protest the Selective Service System's second go-round with military registration—scheduled to begin on January 5—may encounter increased harassment and surveillance by law enforcement officials.

The Washington-based "Campaign for Political Rights" says that since the first registration took place in July, draft registration opponents in various parts of the US have reported abusive and sometimes illegal harassment by government officials. Photographing and videotaping of draft protesters, police infiltration of meetings, wiretapping of activists' phones and detailed investigations into demonstrators' background has been documented in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Washington, DC, Texas and North Carolina.

—from *Zodiac News Service*

WITH GRASSROOTS LIKE THESE...

Despite massive waterings with corporate money, public enthusiasm for nuclear power has failed to grow. So the American Nuclear Society (ANS) is setting up a series of one-day workshops on organizing "pro-energy" citizens groups. The workshops, titled "Getting Down to Grass Roots," will first be tested in early December in southern Minnesota, site of some of the country's most determined resistance to corporate energy boondoggles. The ANS is also trying to recruit volunteers to distribute pro-nuclear press releases and pressure local radio and TV stations to use them.

—based on *Nuclear News*, 10/80

THE LATEST IN COMPUTER GAMES

A computer program which decides whether to evacuate people living near a nuclear plant during an accident was unveiled at a late November joint meeting of the American and European nuclear societies.

The program's developers claim it allows for uncertainty and "possible tradeoffs" in handling social, political, environmental and other "difficult to quantify" factors including "cost effectiveness." Sounds like the perfect gift for the utility on your Christmas list.

—from *Nucleonics Week*, 11/20/80

TMI CLEANUP SLOWS TO CRAWL

If any less were happening at TMI, nothing would be happening at all, according to a Nuclear Regulatory Commission source quoted by the industry newsletter *Nucleonics Week*. Due to a Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission denial of an emergency rate increase, plant owner Metropolitan Edison is doing almost nothing on the massive cleanup task. The PUC has also forbidden the use of operating revenues from ratepayers to fund the cleanup.

Met Ed is now spending only \$50 million a year, down from about twice that a few months ago. The Bechtel corporation, the prime contractor for the effort, is down to 75 employees at the site from a peak of 195, and other contractors have drastically cut back operations.

Maybe Met Ed hopes that TMI will just go away. But at the present rate the cleanup task, which may cost \$1 billion, may not be finished until the next century. Meanwhile, TMI's neighbors go on living next to a crippled plant of dubious safety.

—from *Nucleonics Week*, 11/20/80

UNIONS FIGHT PACIFIC WASTE DUMP

Two labor unions in Hawaii have joined forces with the unions of Australia, New Zealand and a number of island nations to stop the United States and Japan from turning the Pacific into what they charge will be an "international dumping ground for nuclear wastes."

The United States government announced last year that it was looking for dumping sites in the Pacific for both high and low level radiation wastes from Japan and its own nuclear programs.

The two Hawaiian unions, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union and the Service Employees International Union, with a combined membership of about 30,000, say their representatives have signed a pact laying the groundwork for an all-Pacific labor bloc to combat the nuclear dumping plans. Others who signed the pact represented unions from Guam, Iribati, New Caledonia and Vanuata (formerly the New Hebrides).

The anti-nuclear labor union bloc plans to hold a conference in May 1981, in Port Vila, Vanuata, to solidify their plan of action.

—from *Zodiac News Service*

Born-again reactors

Reagan's nuclear revival

"If the nuclear business can't be revived under a Republican president, it is dead—or at least the prospects are really bad for its future," said Kenneth Davis, vice-president of Bechtel Power Corporation and the "nuclear man" on Reagan's energy transition team. His statement indicates both the strength of the Reagan administration's pro-nuclear stance and the potential limits of its power to translate this commitment into a revitalized nuclear industry.

According to *Business Week*, Reagan's nuclear push will face the same obstacles as Carter's, whose mid-term switch to support more reactors and a licensing speedup bill in Congress got nowhere fast. "Nothing has happened in Congress," says *Business Week*, "and utilities have ordered no new reactors in two years. Odds are that Reagan would find this knot equally difficult to untie."

Many utilities are still feeling once-burned, twice-shy about nuclear. And even after the Republican sweep, environmentalist survivors in Congress still control some key committees. So any changes coming from the new pro-nuclear Congress will take a while. All in all, says

Nucleonics Week, "it will take several years...before any significant turnarounds in the current situation appear."

But Reagan and his unanimously pro-nuclear advisors will directly control some policy changes and funds by means of executive order, and if they have their way we will see a revamped NRC, siting and licensing of more reactors, the breeder and reprocessing programs accelerated, changes in US nonproliferation policies, and what *Nucleonics Week* calls "the streamlining of environmental controls."

The Reagan energy advisory group, headed by Houston petroleum consultant Michael Halbouty, favors greatly relaxed government control of the energy industry. "The keystone of our energy policy must be the use of the market system," declared a report written by the group and leaked to the public by Friends of the Earth. The group issued a recommendation for rapid decontrol of oil and natural gas, which spurred a sharp rise in energy stocks in late November. In addition, the advisors want to open public lands to energy exploration and development.

Although Reagan made no public statements on specific energy programs

before the election, some of his priorities are now becoming clear. Reagan's Nuclear advisor Davis believes that NRC is a major problem because it thinks that part of its job is to decide whether the country needs nuclear power or not. A stronger, more "independent" agency, Davis says, "must now be told that it is the policy of the administration to get on with nuclear power, and that it's their job to carry out the licensing process."

As for alternative energy sources, *Nucleonics Week* expects the Fiscal Year '82 budget to reflect the Reagan Administration's efforts "to wittle down funding on 'less significant' energy programs and direct the funds into nuclear projects." In Los Angeles on November 25, Reagan rejected conservation as a solution to energy demands with the comment, "Conservation means we all either have to be too hot in the summer or too cold in the winter."

Reagan will support a strong breeder program, and possibly will reverse Carter's opposition to the Clinch River Breeder Reactor. International collaboration on a large-scale demonstration breeder, perhaps with the British, French or Japanese, is likely.

Uranium enrichment will be boosted by taking it out of the DOE and putting it into a government-owned stock corporation so that, according to Davis, "people would stop arguing that enrichment is a government subsidy." Reprocessing will also be encouraged, though Davis doesn't expect any big rush to build new facilities. *Nucleonics Week* comments that enrichment and reprocessing do "not attract private investment at this time."

Nonproliferation is another priority area. The Reagan administration will have to "repair the damage done" during the Carter years and "regain leadership in international nuclear commerce." By meeting with other countries involved in the nuclear business, Reagan will come up with a "positive, constructive, new non-proliferation policy," Davis says. "We couldn't influence the rest of the world now if we tried," he remarked.

But that, like so much else, is supposed to undergo a complete transformation during the Reagan presidency.

—Marcy Darnovsky
IAT staff

Draft registration: Round 2

Jimmy Carter will soon be just another chapter in a high school civics book, but his draft registration program will probably linger on. The second phase of the program is slated for the week of January 5, when all men born in 1962 must register with the Selective Service System at their local post office. Men born after 1962 must register within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Those who don't register risk penalties up to five years in federal prison and a \$10,000 fine.

For most draft-age men, the decision of whether or not to register boils down to a choice between the threat of induction and the prospect of doing hard time in some penal hellhole. Now that Ronald Reagan is riding tall in the saddle, their choices aren't likely to improve. Although *candidate* Reagan voiced opposition to registration and a peacetime draft, *president-elect* Reagan, while still claiming opposition to an actual draft, seems to be backing down from an earlier pledge to roll back the Carter registration program.

Edward Meese, a top Reagan advisor, claims he doesn't know whether Reagan is empowered to eliminate the registration program without first seeking Congressional approval. But under the Military Selective Service Act of 1971, the President can discontinue registration, classification or any draft step short of induction without Congressional approval.

Reagan's waffling on the registration issue is indicative of the sharp divisions in his advisory camp. Draft hardliners like Richard Allen, who is expected to be named national security advisor, and William Van Cleave, the president-

elect's senior defense advisor, are expected to push hard for a continuation of the Carter registration program and a peacetime draft. Van Cleave is the administration's most vocal critic of the all-volunteer army, and both men believe a cancellation of the current registration program might encourage the Soviet Union to "new aggressions."

On the other side of the issue is Martin Anderson, Reagan's first choice for domestic affairs advisor. He played a major role in persuading Richard Nixon to end the draft in 1971 and still believes the all-volunteer army can solve its manpower crisis without resorting to conscription.

The cold warriors in the Reagan administration will also have to deal with Senator Mark Hatfield (R-Oregon), the new chairperson of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Hatfield, a vehement foe of the draft, led the unsuccessful Senate filibuster of the Carter registration bill last summer. He has let word out in Congress and to the Reagan camp that the new administration's domestic program will meet stiff resistance in his committee if the President proposes a draft. Hatfield has also been pressuring Reagan to abolish the Carter registration program.

But it would be extremely unwise for the grassroots anti-draft movement to waste precious organizing time waiting on people like Martin Anderson or Mark Hatfield. Draft-age men and their families need good sound counseling and support now.

—Mark Hage
Central Committee for
Conscientious Objectors

siles with the advance (Mark 12A) warhead was considered to be an alternative to the MX mobile basing mode, but Reagan will deploy both.

- Trident submarine construction will be stepped up, along with the development of the highly sophisticated Trident 2 counterforce missile.

- Anti-satellite weapons and space-based laser weapons programs will be accelerated.

The last vestiges of the rhetoric of detente are giving way to a belligerent, no-compromise stance toward the Soviet Union. Curiously, Reagan has made early overtures to the Soviets via

Senator Percy's recent visit. Percy has returned with talk of renegotiating SALT, but any such treaty would be virtually meaningless in the face of the weapons buildup now underway. Prospects for other arms accords, such as the Comprehensive Test Ban, look dim. But Reagan's extreme hawkishness toward Russia may cause him problems with his NATO counterparts. West European support for US forward-based nuclear missiles is shaky, as is the agreement by NATO members to maintain 3% annual increases in military spending. In addition, the growing movements in Europe against the Cruise missile and other Eurostrategic weapons is likely to

temper enthusiasm for their deployment among government leaders.

Campaigns underway in this country to stop first-strike weapons such as the MX and Trident, and to halt weapons testing via a comprehensive test ban, are gaining momentum. But in the face of such a vigorous buildup of so many weapons trying to stop them one by one is futile. A call for a US-Soviet freeze on new weapons systems and nuclear war fighting weapons and a call for a no-first-use pledge are demands that are understandable, simple and essential.

—Martha Henderson
American Friends Service Committee



Rally at San Francisco post office during the first registration period, July 1980

photo by Steve Stallone

Reagan's posture

(continued from page 1)

\$225 billion.

To detail the entire defense (read "offense") plan would take pages, but here's some of what the military journals say the Pentagon wants for Christmas:

- The massive MX missile system will probably be accelerated by three years, for completion by 1989, and then doubled. This speed-up could come at the expense of the environmental review process.

- Arming existing Minuteman 3 mis-

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"STOP DIABLO" BALLOON LAUNCH

Getting to know your anti-nuke neighbors is the theme of the Abalone Alliance balloon launch, January 10, 12:30 p.m. Activities will begin at Avila Beach with a group sing followed by a brisk one and a half mile walk to the gates of Diablo where helium filled balloons will be released. One balloon will be launched for each person contributing \$2.00.

Sponsorship cards for local groups to sell in their community are available through the state office. The completed cards and money raised (\$2 per card) should be sent to the Diablo Project Office, 452 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo 93401, as soon as possible.

An evening meal is planned after the launch. Later we will have music, popcorn and party. Sleeping (indoors) dinner and refreshments — \$6.00; just dinner — \$2.00.

Bring warm clothes, sleeping bag and eating utensils. **NO PETS PLEASE!** Let the Diablo Project Office (805) 543-6614 know by January 5th, how many people are staying for dinner and overnight.

FREE NEWSLETTER

For a free copy of the newsletter of the Resource Center for Nonviolence, which has as its theme this issue "Nonviolence and Community," send a self-addressed stamped envelope to: RCNV, POB 2324, Santa Cruz, CA 95063.

BLOCKADE/ENCAMPMENT HANDBOOK AVAILABLE

The Diablo Canyon Blockade/Encampment Handbook, essential for blockade preparation and non-violence training, is now available. Information on blockade logistics, Abalone history, the nuclear menace, anti-nuclear songs and much more are included in the 62-page book. The Action Community on Diablo Canyon is \$2100 in debt from the printing costs. Handbooks sell for \$1.00. Please pay in advance and include 25¢ per book to cover postage. AC/DC will pay postage for orders of \$10.00 or more. Make checks payable to Laura Wagner. Order from Pandora's Box, 127 Rincon, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

WE'VE GOT THE POWER SLIDE SHOW

We've Got the Power takes a lively and informed look at the urgent energy choice this country faces. The 26-minute slide show features interviews with Amory Lovins, Barry Commoner, Winona LaDuke and Richard Barnet. Slideshow \$70, filmstrip \$50, both with cassette tape. Rental (West Coast only) \$15.00. All orders must be prepaid. Energy Education Project/AFSC, 2160 Lake St., San Francisco, CA 94121. (415) 752-7766.

Humboldt decommissioning conference, page 12

NEW FUNDRAISER

Dear Abalones,

I'm your new Abalone Alliance funding coordinator. It's my job to generate ample funds for the next six months to keep us actively involved in anti-nuclear work and to raise the necessary support for the Diablo Blockade.

A Fundraising Collective is being formed to work, advise and set policy and we would like a *member of your group* to join the collective. Also, a volunteer group is being formed to work on specific tasks.

Our long range task is to build a strong network to support anti-nuclear action. We need your ideas, assistance, and group pledges. Please share with us your successful fundraising projects.

Fundraising office hours are Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10 am to 5 pm. The phone number is (415) 495-6577 . . . room 306, 944 Market St.

Peace and No Nukes,
Carol John,
Fundraising Coordinator

TRAIN TO PETITION BROWN

Contra Costans are planning a train trip from Martinez to Sacramento in early January to present their petitions to Gov. Brown. The petitions request that Brown invoke emergency powers to close the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, should it receive licensing. Contact: Jackie, 939-4035.

ART, PHOTOS NEEDED

It's About Times needs original art or cartoons on nuclear energy, the arms race, draft and related themes. We also need photos, especially of local events. Help spice up the paper by sending copies of your work to *IAT*, 944 Market Street #307, SF, CA 94102. We'd also like to hear from people willing to do custom cartoons or art to accompany specific articles.

RECENT SUBSCRIBERS! 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.

HELP PREVENT BURNOUT

...ours. We're trying to find a Bay Area affinity group willing to help us mail *IAT* to subscribers every month. The mailing is usually on the first Tuesday of the month and could be done during either the day or evening. It's easy, it's fun and it's only a few hours work for a group. Your help would let us regain our sanity after a long weekend of layout, and do a better job of organizing the next issue. Please contact us through the AA office. Individual help is also welcome and much appreciated.

Hot Flashes

This new column will report what's happening with active Abalone Alliance groups (you others can turn green with envy!). We were forced to leave out the torrid details this month to bring you up to date on many activities of California safe energy groups. But send us your best stories for next month

On November 14 So No More Atomics sponsored "Will We Survive the Nuclear Age," a presentation with Dr. Helen Caldicott that drew over 2000 people and sparked the formation of 15 new affinity groups. SONOMA is also doing nonviolence training for the Diablo blockade. The group is trying to develop a coalition with local environmental groups and there is talk of opening a regional AA office.

Two East Bay groups coordinated their Karen Silkwood vigils on Stop Diablo Day, November 14. People's Anti-Nuclear Collective at UC Berkeley held a candlelight memorial at UC's Etcheverry Hall reactor, and then marched to the Berkeley PG&E office where the East Bay Anti-Nuclear Group was holding a similar vigil.

PANC is working to pass a campus referendum advising closure of the Etcheverry Hall reactor and on electing anti-nuclear candidates to student government. It has sponsored petition drives and is offering a winter quarter class (for credit) on nuclear power. The group has held some very successful fundraisers at the "Source" in Berkeley.

EBANG has also had recent fundraising success with a raffle and benefit on December 6. Plans for the proceeds include an outreach tabloid and hiring a part-time staff person. EBANG is regularly scheduling nonviolence trainings.

Contra Costans Against Nuclear Power/Concord is leafletting and selling postcards at shopping centres and other busy areas to generate support for the Diablo Blockade. Pelican Alliance/Pt Reyes set up a table on November 14 to draw attention to Diablo with flyers and taped music.

On November 15 over 100 people marched through San Anselmo in an event sponsored by AA Marin. A ten minute silent vigil near city hall was followed by a rally with speakers and music. AA of



East Bay Anti-Nuclear Group benefit, December 6.

photo by Barbara Bowman

Marin is leafletting and fundraising for the blockade. Its speakers bureau is increasingly active and the group is involved in a work/study program with local high schools on environmental issues. It is also distributing a videotape of the April 7, 1979 SF rally titled "No More Nukes."

On November 14, about 50 people heard speakers from NOW, AIM and OCAW at a PANP/SF sponsored Karen Silkwood observance in front of Kerr-McGee Corporation's SF headquarters. The group marched to the Public Utilities Commission offices where it met with a commissioner and gave him a citizens' complaint against Diablo.

PANP is planning nonviolence training workshops (contact Charlotte, 543-3910) as is the American Friends Service Committee (contact Liz Walker). AFSC's Martha Henderson is working on a campaign against the MX missile in Nevada and can be contacted for details.

GONE/San Jose marched to the local PUC office on Stop Diablo Day and leafletted and made a presentation inside. The

group is holding regular nonviolence trainings, is engaged in a membership drive and has plans to do Diablo leafletting.

RANE, Stanford and AC/DC from Santa Cruz have produced the Handbook for the Diablo blockade and are doing regular trainings. The group is also working on an affinity groups newsletter which should come together in January. A statewide trainers gathering is being coordinated by RANE for 10:00 am January 11 at Rancho El Chorro. Contact RANE, AA office or DPO for info.

Lompoc and People Generating Energy are coordinating the balloon launch for January 10 in Avila Beach. Both groups leafletted on Stop Diablo Day and are heavily engaged in blockade outreach and fundraising. PGE is organizing a very extensive media campaign and is promoting the Preparers Handbook.

PNFF/Santa Cruz is expanding! Over 100 people joined in a rally and march to PG&E on November 14. There was all-day leafletting and over 150 balloon launch postcards were sold. The group canvasses

every Saturday and sponsors monthly education programs with showings of the film "Direct Action."

Alliance for Survival/LA sponsored a "Walk for Survival" on October 12 at Venice Beach. The event drew over 600 people and raised \$20,000. The AFS has a new Covina field office at 116 N. Citrus Ave., #209, (213) 339-4383.

GEO picketed Southern California Edison on November 14 and passed out rate diversion kits from San Diego's CEAN. GEO is regularly showing the film "Direct Action," conducting nonviolence trainings and distributing blockade materials. The group is doing outreach and education to the Redwind community near San Luis Obispo regarding uranium mining plans in the area. GEO representatives are planning to attend the upcoming low-power testing hearings for Diablo Canyon.

SUN/Ojai is involved with rate protests against both Diablo Canyon and San Onofre nuclear plants.

Abalone Alliance General News

Fundraising coordinator Carol John spoke at the Northern California Ecumenical Council board meeting and received a unanimous vote to provide support for the blockade. The Ecumenical Task Force plans to take similar requests to the San Francisco Archdiocesan Social Justice Commission, Franciscan Social Justice Committee and Christians for Socialism. Members of the task force will participate in a candlelight vigil from St. Mark's Lutheran Church to St. Mary's Cathedral on December 18 at 8 pm. The vigil is being organized by the Inter-Church Network on Central America and will mourn the recent murders in El Salvador.

The AA Fundraising Collective put out a 3000-piece mailing in early December. Because of lack of funds there will be only one part-time staff person in the AA statewide office starting Dec. 21 and there is no money going to the Diablo Project Office. The Collective will do grant work in January and a mailing to AA donors in February.

There will be a Abalone Alliance Skills-Sharing/Strategy Conference sometime in February. People should plan to register well in advance.

—Dick Clark
AA Office staff

Calendar

December 21: Winter Solstice Celebration. Tucker Farm Center between Calistoga and Mt. St. Helena on Hwy. 29/128. At 10:00 am Tibetan bells and a champagne brunch followed by the Murray Hill Rhythm Section. \$6.00 per person. At 3 pm Children's Christmas Party with Santa. \$2.00 for adults and one toy for children. At 5 pm "Peace on Earth" alternative energy/living groups and businesses followed by the Sonoma County Mens Anti-Nuclear Glee Club. \$1.50. At 8 pm The Harvest Band. \$3.50 at the door. All day passes and ticket info. 942-0176.

December 22: Abalone Alliance Fundraising Collective meeting, 9:30 am, Abalone state office — 944 Market St., Rm. 307, San Francisco.

December 28: All Contra Costans for a Nuclear Free Future are invited to a Christmas potluck social at Janet and Bill's home, 3031 Manor Ave., Walnut Creek — off Oak Grove Rd. at 4 pm. Please bring food for 8 as well as your own place setting. People are requested to bring: A-E salad, F-J hot dish, K-N dessert, O-S bread and butter or crackers and dips, T-Z drinks. Contact: Carol John, (415) 938-3062.

December 31: Second Annual Nuclear Free 80's celebration, 11:30 p.m., UN plaza fountain (near Market & 7th), SF. Info: (415) 334-0795.

December 31: New Year's Eve party for Survival II. Knights of the Red Branch Hall, 1133 Mission St., (Between 7th & 8th Sts.) at 8 pm. Benefit for Livermore Labs Conversion and AA Diablo Canyon Project. Oquisha Paradox, Lynn Grasberg, Plutonium Players,

Reagan for Shah, Mark Levy and more. \$4 at door or \$3 in advance. Contact: PANP (415) 781-5342.

January 10-11: 2nd Annual Humboldt Decommissioning Conference, Arcata. See page 12. Contact: (707) 822-7884.

January 10: Abalone Alliance Diablo Canyon Balloon Launch. Contact: Diablo Project Office (805) 543-6614.

January 11: Statewide meeting for non-violent trainers/preparers at 10 am, Rancho El Chorro, San Luis Obispo. Contact: RANE/P.O. Box 8844/Stanford, CA 94305 or (415) 854-5404, Dan or Kathy.

January 16-18: Reagan for Shah Committee presents "Death Valley Daze" at Julia Morgan Center, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley, 8:30 p.m. Admission \$4.00. Call (415) 548-7234 for reservations.

January 17: Training for nonviolence trainers, San Francisco area. Contact Charlotte Davis, (415) 543-3910.

February 2: Opening of the Nuclear Film Forum, nine evenings in February of the best films, slides and resource people on both sides of the nuclear weapons and nuclear power issues. All sessions at the Herbst Theater, War Memorial Building, Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco. Speakers include Daniel Ellsberg, Jim Harding, Andy Baldwin, Liz Walker and Sue Mesner. For information, 668-9045. Opening night: *The Day After Trinity*, directed by Jon Else, the story of Robert Oppenheimer and the building of the first atomic bomb.

February 3: Nuclear Film Forum — several films plus a debate on nuclear energy.



An Abalone Alliance balloon launch at Diablo Canyon is scheduled for January 10. The balloon launch in the photo was on May Day, 1977.

photo by Karen Spangenberg

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

ABALONE ALLIANCE FUNDRAISING COLLECTIVE: (415) 495-6577

NORTH

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONCORD: CONTRA COSTANS FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, P.O. Box 743/94522 (415) 934-5249

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

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 Vicky Sommers N319X/94143 (415) 666-1435
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, Liz Walker, David Hartsough, 2160 Lake St./94121 • (415) 752-7766

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

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

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

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 344/03424 (805) 736-1897

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

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

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

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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

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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

PG&E's wizards of the half-truth are at it again. A quick reading of this ad would lead you to think that Diablo would lower your electric bill. You'd be wrong.

According to data in PG&E's 1979 Annual Report, an average kilowatt-hour of electricity cost the company 2.1c to generate. Using this value and the existing reliability figures for Diablo-sized nuclear plants, you can calculate that Diablo will make only \$1.1 billion worth of electricity in five years. So even if PG&E gave away this electricity free, customers would save only about half the \$2 billion claimed.

But PG&E has no intention of playing Santa Claus. A notice in your July, 1979, bill announced that PG&E plans to raise electric base rates by a total of 12 percent when Diablo Canyon goes into commercial operation. This rate hike alone will cost customers \$1.4 billion for every five years of the plant's operation. When you subtract the \$1.1 billion the electricity is worth, the claimed "\$2 billion saving" turns out to be a \$300 million rate boost. Even a comparison of Diablo with costly oil-fired plants shows no savings to consumers.

In the July, 1979, *PG&E Progress*, Rate Manager Leland Gardner admits that the net effect of operating Diablo "will be no change in total customer rates at this time. However, our customers will start to realize savings from Diablo as the cost of oil continues to rise."

Gardner's optimism ignores a history of corporate manipulation of fuel prices. Oil companies used OPEC price hikes as an excuse to raise the prices of domestic oil and gas. It is absurd to assume that

they won't raise nuclear fuel prices too, especially since many of the same corporations that control uranium have a history of manipulating the prices of other fuels.

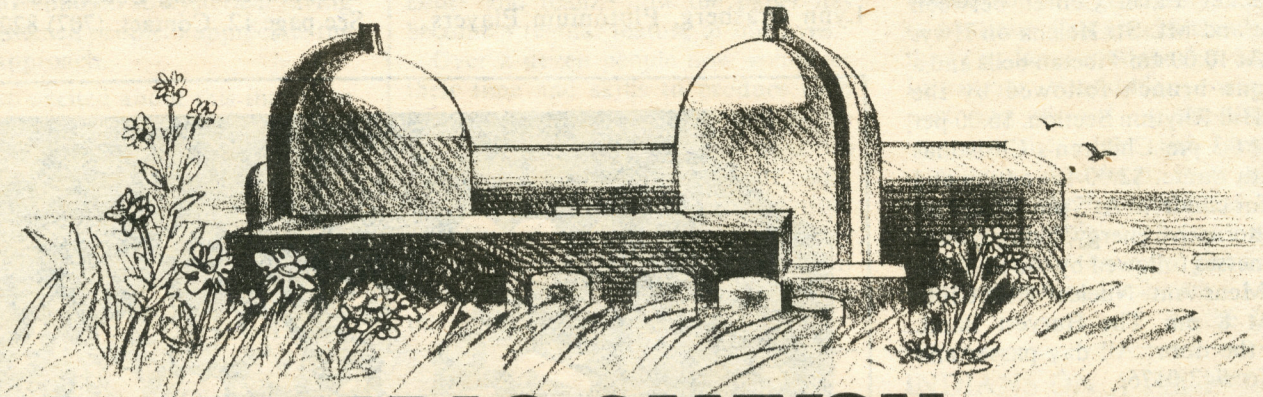
If Diablo is allowed to operate, its real cost could turn out to be far higher than even an oil-fired plant. Through taxes or future rate hikes, PG&E customers will pay the "hidden" costs of getting rid of the huge amounts of radioactive waste produced when uranium for Diablo is mined. They will pay for decommissioning the plant at the end of its life and

safely disposing of the several thousand tons of intensely radioactive spent fuel it will produce. And if the plant suffers an accident or turns out to be another nuclear "lemon," customers will go on paying for the nuke while they also pay for replacement power.

Even an accident at another nuclear plant could raise Diablo's bill. Research conducted by the *Charlotte Observer* found that reactor modifications and the like to nuclear plants around the country after the Three Mile Island accident cost the public \$4.5 billion.

Even if you accept PG&E's fantasy of a nuclearland where uranium prices never rise and accidents never happen, Diablo Canyon is still a bad deal. If Diablo's fuel were absolutely free, the plant would still cost ratepayers \$1.4 billion every five years. A modest program to improve the efficiency of energy use in California could save as much energy as Diablo Canyon could produce—at a fraction of the cost.

—Bob Van Scoy
IAT staff



DIABLO CANYON. A \$2 BILLION SAVING IN THE FIRST FIVE YEARS.

With the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant PG&E customers will pay \$2 billion less for electricity in the first five years than they would for electricity from increasingly expensive oil.

That kind of saving will continue year after year over the entire life of the plant. **PG&E**

Diablo Canyon. Built for safety, needed now.

(From the San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune, December 2, 1980.)

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RALPH NADER

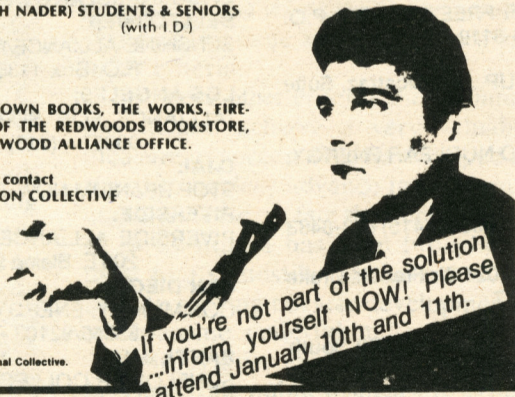
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SPEAKERS

RALPH NADER - KEYNOTE SPEAKER; will speak on Sunday, January 11th, at 4:00 p.m., in the East Gym, Humboldt State University, on the topic "Decommissioning and how it affects the Nuclear Syndrome."

Dale Bridenbaugh - Consultant at TMI Cleanup Efforts; partner in MHB Associates in San Jose, consultant to government agencies in New Jersey, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Sweden, and Norway; contributor to studies for Union of Concerned Scientists.

R. I. Smith - Research scientist at Battelle Pacific, specializing in decommissioning; study leader on research projects for N.R.C. on both boiling and pressurized water reactors; one of the top authorities in the United States.

Carl Feldman - N.R.C. representative expert in regulatory requirements for decommissioning; works through N.R.C.'s Office of Standards Development in Washington, D.C.

Vince Schwent - California Energy Commission expert on economic aspects of decommissioning; author of numerous articles and studies on assuring availability of funds.

Hal Rubin - Sacramento State University journalism professor and author of numerous articles on decommissioning for industry trade journals; a speaker at last year's conference.

Phillip Greenberg - Advisor to Governor Brown on nuclear energy; he was taskforce chairman for the prestigious study, "Radioactive Materials in California," compiled for State Resources Department.

Barry Hagar - Nuclear expert for the Congressional Subcommittee on Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources; he will lead a workshop on decommissioning and national energy policy.

PLEASE NOTE:

Registration will be held in Kate Buchanan Room at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, January 10th. Ralph Nader will speak in East Gym, Humboldt State University. Saturday workshops will be duplicated on Sunday.

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