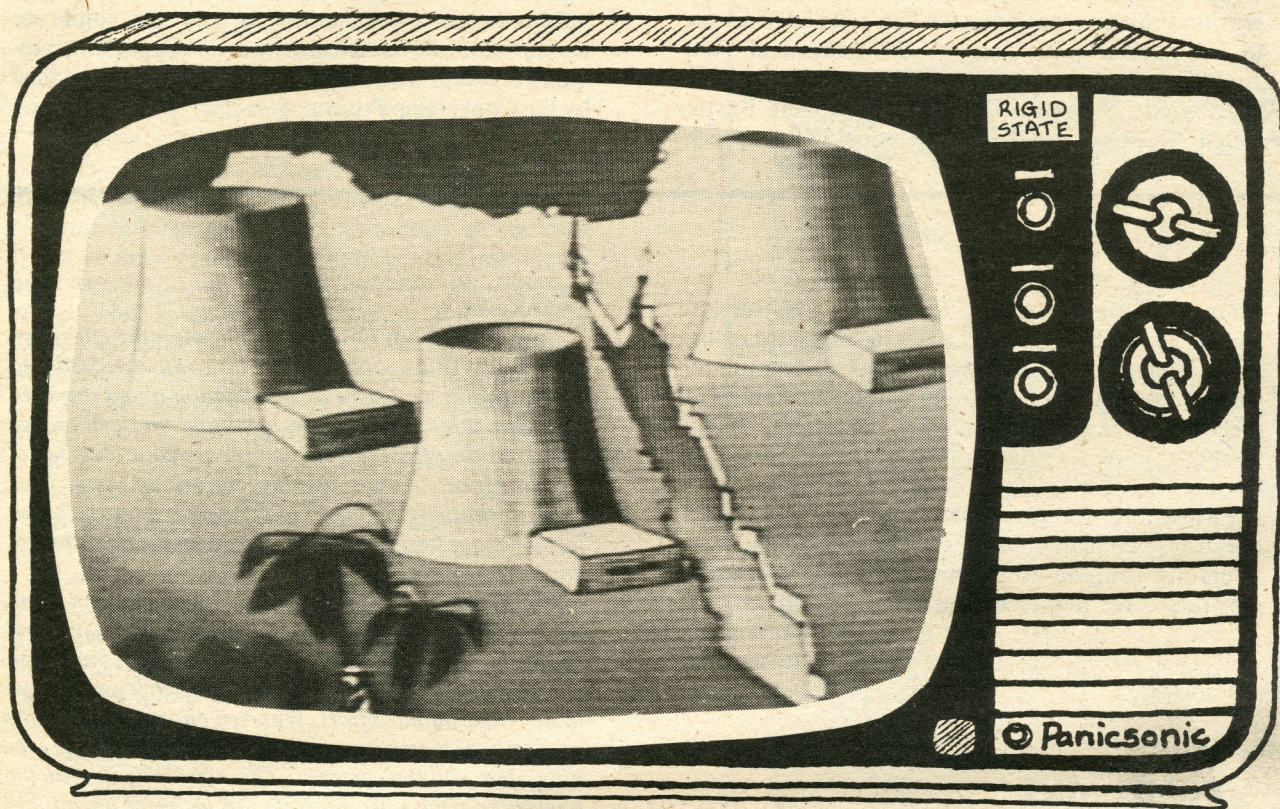


IT'S ABOUT TIMES

Mid-June-July, 1980



"Why, even Arab countries are looking toward nuclear power for the day when their oil runs out."

Industry launches media blitz

The nuclear hardsell

"Oil—there's just not enough to go around. And *because* of that, a lot of other countries—like France, Germany, Japan, Canada, Russia, and others—are moving ahead with nuclear power. Why, *even* the Arab countries are looking toward nuclear power for the day when *their* oil runs out. Only America has been slow to make up its mind. Nuclear power? You bet. Because America *needs* energy."

—Committee for Energy Awareness ad

"Nuclear power is, of course, only usable to produce electricity and therefore can, for all practical purposes, only free up residual oil, of which there is something of a surplus anyway. . . . the fact that more residual oil is available does not mean that there will be an increase in the supply of heating oil or gasoline . . ." "We have misspent literally billions of dollars over the last three decades by misdefining the relationship between our national security, the health of our domestic oil industry, and the importation of foreign oil. It would be well to avoid extending [this] overall sloppiness of thought . . . to the

relationship between nuclear power and foreign oil as well."

—Peter Bradford, Commissioner, NRC

Rest quietly, America. The search for the right kind of sloppy thinking goes forward even while you sleep. If you live near San Francisco, Sacramento or San Diego; Boston, Springfield, Philly or Pittsburgh; Toledo, Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, or Indianapolis then you may have recently heard some of the television and radio ads brought to you by 52 American utilities that own nuclear plants. The first sequence of seven television and three radio ads (aired in May and June) never mention Three Mile Island. They try to take back the offensive by stressing foreign control of oil, by claiming that other countries are ahead of the US in developing nuclear and by subtly warning that we must tolerate more costly energy. The only substantive issue addressed is waste storage. Nothing is said about low-level radiation, uranium mining, decommissioning or proliferation.

The appeal is delivered in a folksy "you bet," "yeah" tone with facts smothered in patriotism and xenophobia.

"Remember when you were proud as a peacock to be an American? . . . it was back when gas and oil were cheap . . . While those foreign sheiks and ayatollahs have been monkeying around with *our* oil, we've been slow to move ahead with energy right here at home. Like nuclear power. We've got to get that foreign oil monkey off our back . . ." [emphasis added]

This ad ends with a frozen-frame portrait of a monkey that is a dead ringer for Ayatollah Khomeini.

The ads are part of a larger campaign sponsored by the Committee for Energy Awareness, which describes itself as an "ad hoc nuclear public relations group" put together as a direct result of Three Mile Island. It was born in what was meant to be a secret meeting on May 30, 1979 at the world headquarters of the Bechtel Corporation in San Francisco. According to a memo obtained by the *San Francisco Chronicle* on June 7th, eleven executives from nuclear utilities, trade groups and nuclear plant builders were frantically trying to prevent a meltdown of their industry's credibility. "I'll organize housewives," volunteered Bechtel's representative. "Senior citizens," countered Westinghouse. Edison Electric agreed to handle the "college campus programs . . ." the Atomic Industrial Forum took the "scientists programs," Kansas City

continued to page 10

Diablo gets the shakes

As a decision on licensing the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant draws inexorably closer, a number of last-ditch efforts and a timely earthquake are chipping away at the massive barrier created by PG&E's \$1.8 billion investment in the San Luis Obispo facility.

People Generating Energy (PGE) in San Luis Obispo has proposed that the Abalone Alliance set a September 22 date for the long-planned blockade of the Diablo Canyon plant, regardless of whether the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has announced its licensing decision by then. (See page 7 for details.) The Diablo Conversion Campaign is applying all the pressure it can muster to force the Public Utilities Commission to reopen hearings on its original certification that allowed work on Diablo to begin. (Report on page 6.)

On May 28 the Marre Land and Cattle Company, which owns the land Diablo is built on, filed a \$100 million civil lawsuit charging that PG&E concealed information about earthquake hazards at the site. The accusations are based on recently obtained 1976 memoranda to PG&E president Barton Shackelford which the suit contends "reveal a systematic plan to conceal and destroy evidence of PG&E officers' conspiracy

continued to page 7

The weapons ban that couldn't

Lockheed wins a round

The manufacture of nuclear weapons systems usually proceeds without comment. But in the June election in Santa Cruz County Lockheed Missile and Space Co. was forced to spend \$200,000 to defeat an anti-nuclear weapons manufacture initiative. Despite their efforts 40% of the ballots were cast in favor of the ban.

In Santa Cruz the international campaign to stop the arms race has taken the form of opposition to the production of non-nuclear "confined detonating fuses" for the Trident and the testing of various body systems for the Poseidon and Trident submarine-launched nuclear weapons systems at Lockheed's Santa Cruz Mountain facility.

Measure A asked voters to prohibit the manufacture and testing of parts for nuclear weapons in Santa Cruz County, effective five years after the vote, and to establish a commission to plan for the conversion of affected industries.

Vern Smith, manager of Tests at Lockheed Santa Cruz, told a press conference in early April that passage of Measure A would mean a court battle to challenge its constitutionality. If Lockheed lost, Smith threatened, the plant would have to move outside the county, taking with it 375 direct jobs and \$11 million in salaries benefits plus tax revenues and business which Lockheed brings to the county.

The No on A effort relied on a sophisticated, "targetted" direct mail system based on telephone surveys, a search of voter registration lists, door-to-door surveys and finally a phone call to every voter in the county. Depending on your political party, income, occupation, length of time in the county, whether you own property and several other factors, you would receive an appropriately tailored direct mail package from your neighborly Lockheed Company.

Further opposition to Measure A came from almost every Chamber of Commerce in the county, from conservatives who believe in nuclear weapons and from some progressives who felt that Measure A was less than practical.

Much of Lockheed's No on A blitz stressed economic risks and made only passing references to "national defense." A smaller portion of the material, designed for Republicans and Cold Warriors, emphasized "threats to national security" and warnings that a yes vote would mean "support for the *Stop Trident/Convert Lockheed Coalition*, PNFF and campus radicals."

One of Lockheed's more powerful tools was the slogan "No on A—Stop nuclear politics." This pro-

continued to page 11

Inside

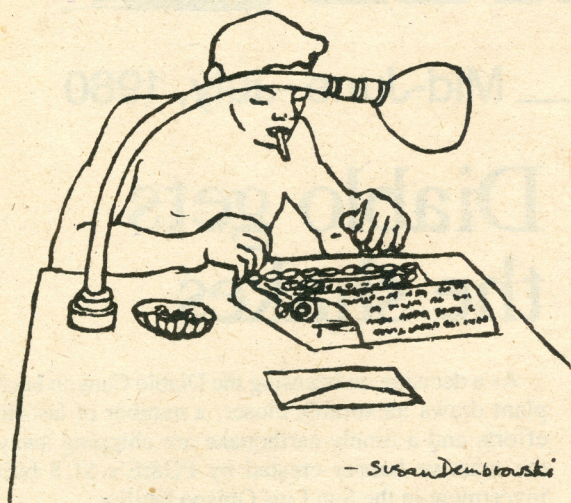
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if there is an * on your label your subscription expires with this issue. see page 12.

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Letters



- Susan Dombrowski

WHAT'S NEW IN THE OFFICE?

We are Charlotte Davis and Dick Clark, your not-so-new-anymore statewide office staff. Both of us would prefer a more personal approach than a letter in attempting to introduce ourselves to you, but the size and scope of the Alliance limit our outreach possibilities.

We are particularly concerned in knowing exactly what the expectations of member groups are about the functions of the statewide office. How could we serve you better? What would you like to see us doing? What complaints and appreciations do you have regarding our tenure thus far?

The other side of the coin is that we would like some feedback from member groups. Please keep us informed of what you are doing.

Financially, the Abalone Alliance is not in good shape. The general fund is beginning to dwindle dramatically, and donations have practically dropped to zero. A stronger commitment from AA member groups to support the office and Alliance functions is crucial. While appreciating the fact that many groups are financially floundering and acknowledging the lethargy pervading the Alliance overall, the increasing probability that Diablo will be licensed makes it imperative to keep the AA state office and the Diablo Project Office functioning smoothly. When/if Diablo goes on line, it will be too late to start looking for the needed funds. We've got to act now and be prepared.

We are meeting with the Diablo Project Office staff in June. Hopefully representatives from the Office Support and Fundraising Collectives will be present with us. Our purpose will be to coordinate our efforts in preventing the opening of Diablo through establishing clear and frequent communications between our offices. This will prevent unnecessary duplication by establishing areas of responsibility toward achieving our common goal.

The Office Support Collective has been a great help to us in our work. Besides ourselves, members of the collective are: Sue Mesner, Steve Leeds, Lynn Pierotti, and Meg Simonds. Please address all complaints and (especially) praise to them, through this office. We are still looking for interested participants. Our office projects include issuing an updated organizers' manual, creating a new resource list, etc. . . .

Weapons lab visitors to hear other side

The UC Nuclear Weapons Labs Conversion Project, due to a recent court decision, has been given the right to distribute their literature inside the visitor center of the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, the birthplace of nuclear weapons.

The Lab Visitor Center had been built at public expense to provide information to the public on the weapons facility. The ACLU, representing the Conversion Project, argued that the Lab's denial of access to anti-nuclear views was an abridgement of First Amendment rights.

Alameda Superior Court Judge Robert Bostic stated, "I believe that the considerations of free speech

that are involved here outweigh all other considerations," when issuing his decision. The Project will also be permitted to display placards on the wall and show an hour-long slide show on the dangers of nuclear war twice a month.

In a related matter, former lab employee Karen Mewes has retroactively been given permission to show the film *War Without Winners* and to hold a public forum on the arms race in the employee auditorium. Lab administrators had reversed their previous decision when confronted with the lawsuit filed by the Conversion Project.

On a more philosophical note, Charlotte's mentor is Miss Piggy and Dick's patron saint is the Little Flower. This information may give pause to some and provoke the thought of re-convening a meeting of the Hiring Collective. But don't worry, neither one of us believes in Pyramid Power, nor have either of us gone through EST training.

Please feel free to contact this office with any questions, concerns, suggestions, etc. We remain hopefully yours in our common struggle toward a safe future for ourselves and for our children.

Peace and No Nukes,
Charlotte Davis and
Dick Clark

A COMPLAINT

Dear People;

Your response to my complaints and concerns with the misleading story (April, IAT) about the PG&E "energy literacy" project is most disconcerting. That our Alliance relies upon your services, in light of the problems we discussed, evidently doesn't concern you, or a statement of your policy about using stories written by others would have appeared in May.

Had the editors insisted on identifying the source of the article (the *Chronicle's* 3/25/80 story, plus papers I distributed at the March AA Conference), your readers would have seen little usefulness in your story, except perhaps the curious failure to correctly reprint quotes from me in the *Chron's* story.

Since our office has a tape machine, as does Tom Richman, we are quite baffled by the failure to receive even one message from your staff, yet see ourselves "quoted" by you. The absence of any significant additions to the *Chron* story, despite your use of some literature we gave you, further raises suspicions. Enclosed you will find the "update" you so generously offered to allow me to write and submit.

Again I ask that you explain the appearance of this story, and separately state an editorial policy for the future, that any story will accurately state the original source, e.g. in this case instead of a misleading byline, you would put "taken from the *S.F. Chronicle*, 3/25."

Doing so will allow me more information to determine who is publishing stories in your paper, and why. It will also give reason for feeling it is "our paper".

Thanks,
Kevin Armstrong

Dear Kevin,

Since *It's About Times* is an all-volunteer effort, we often rely on the people directly involved in activities to write articles and send us information about them. In this particular case, as we have told you before, we extended an offer—in fact, a plea—to a member of *So No More Atomics* to write an article about your work in challenging the PG&E "energy literacy" project when we first heard about it at the Abalone conference in March.

We received no article or communication from *So No More Atomics*, but the day before our April deadline we decided that the story was important enough to write up ourselves even though it would have to be a last-minute effort. We tried phoning your office and several members of your group at home that evening, but without success. The copy was due at the typesetter's the next morning, so we went ahead and used the sources we had—the literature you had distributed at the conference and the *Chronicle* article. The *San Francisco Chronicle* was cited as a source twice in the story we published and as far as we can tell your comments were reprinted correctly from the *Chronicle*. We agree, however, that the quotations should have been specifically identified as coming from that newspaper.

We haven't been able to mollify your "suspicions" thus far, so we can only ask that you judge *It's About Times* by the quality of its coverage and analysis. As always, this will depend in part on the contributions of anti-nukers around the state. We are certainly aware that we sometimes aren't as thorough as we'd like and that the *Chronicle* is not a reliable source of information.

Kevin's account of the Sonoma situation and his part in it appears on page 10 of this issue. —eds.

... AND A COMPLIMENT

Dear IAT friends,

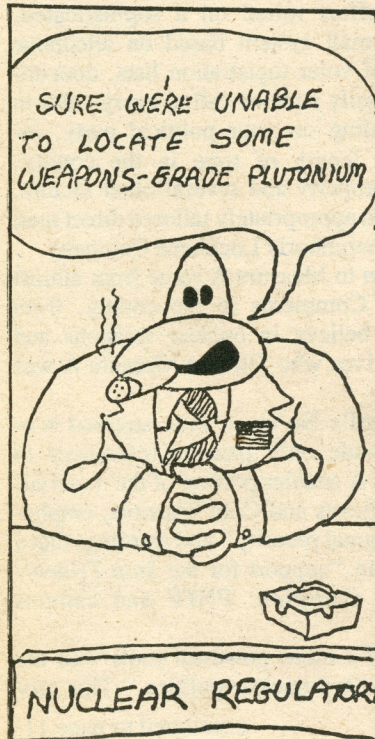
I am very glad you folks have devoted so much energy to IAT. It is an excellent newspaper, probably the most convincing example that we (Abalone Alliance) are not a bunch of kooks. I particularly like the Corporate Lies Department. Unfortunately, too many people see the corporate lies and not our counter-arguments. Thanks again for your efforts.

—Randy Schutt
Palo Alto, CA

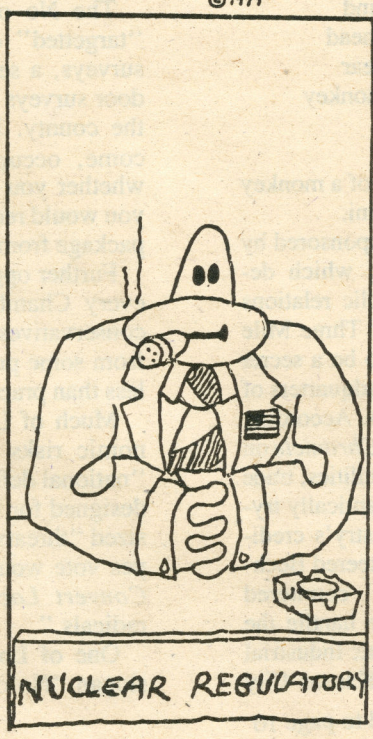
THE NUCLEAR DUCKS

© 1979

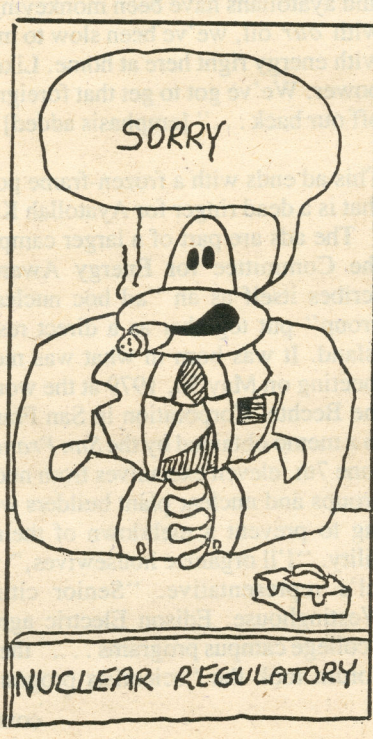
BY DEN MANGAN



NUCLEAR REGULATORY



NUCLEAR REGULATORY



NUCLEAR REGULATORY

ABALONE ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

IT'S ABOUT TIMES

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

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

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Nuclear junk takes ocean cruise

Imagine you're on the Columbia River in Oregon with a 200-ton hunk of radioactive junk in tow. Forward progress consists of picking your way through ash-laden skies and around miles of shoals created a few days earlier by the eruption of Mt. St. Helens. Suddenly a wall of water sent surging by a dam break threatens to sink your cargo. *Surf's up!*

Greenpeace described this not-unlikely drama as a barge loaded with a junked nuclear steam generator made its way from the Surry Nuclear Power Plant in Virginia through the Panama Canal and up the West Coast to the Department of Energy's nuclear energy and weapons complex at Hanford, Washington. Mt. St. Helens had already sent giant waves down the Toutle River to the Columbia River near Longview, Washington (on the barge's route). Now the town of 50,000 was keeping a close eye on a dam made of debris from the initial floods with twelve miles of river built up behind it. "In the middle of this mess, at the bottom of the river you'd have a bloody radioactive steam generator with no contingency plans for dealing with it," Greenpeace warned state authorities.

The dam held and the barge got through, but it was a hazard even without the added risks posed by the Mt. St. Helens disaster. Its cargo of nuclear junk emitted three times the maximum level of radiation considered safe by the federal Department of Transportation.

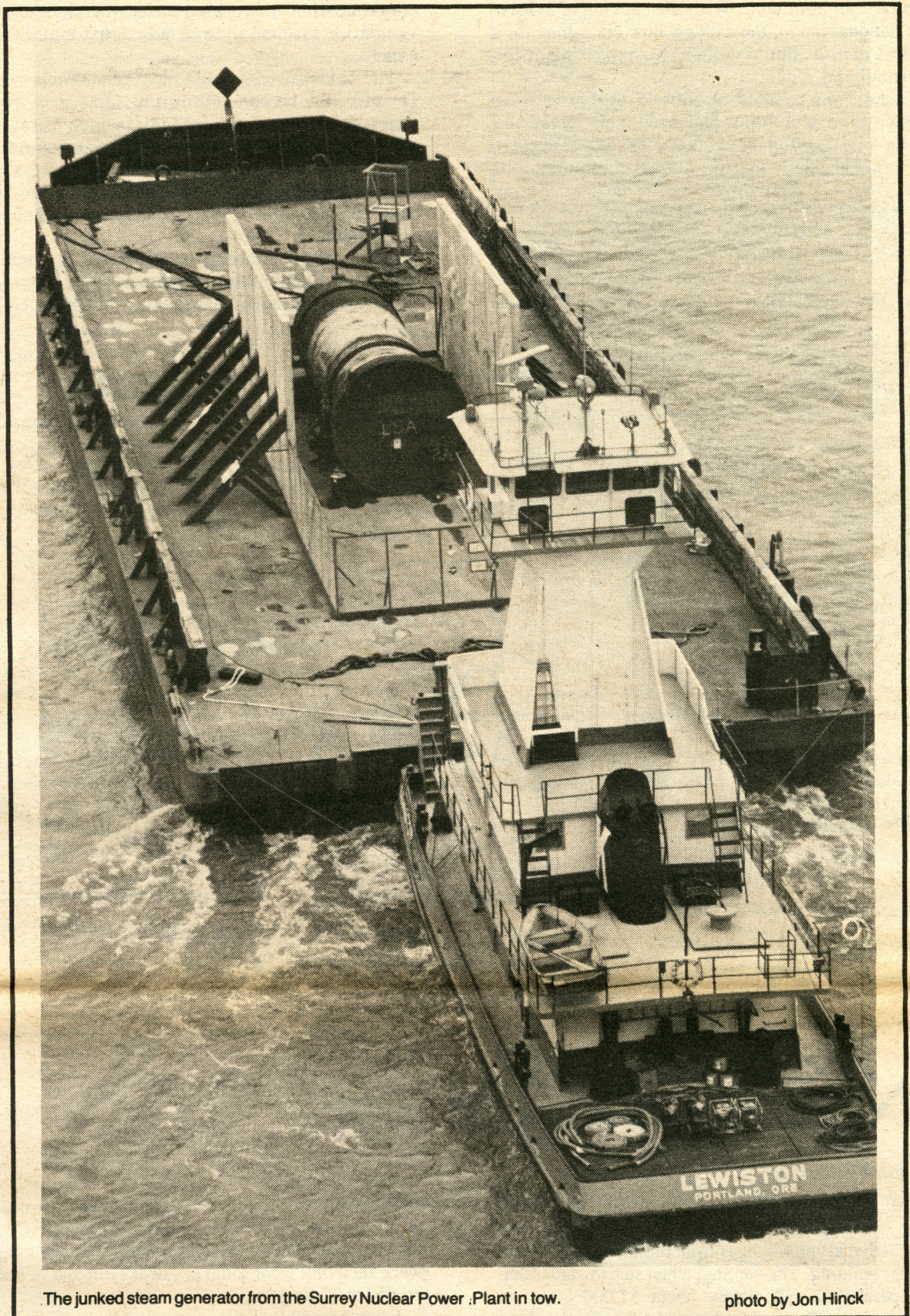
Why the special exemption? The generator's huge size (40 feet by 16 feet) would have made radiation shielding difficult and expensive. But more importantly, this was a *generic* piece of radioactive junk—one of 22 steam generators in reactors across the country that are being corroded by what Westinghouse calls "the green grunge." The US Department of Energy bought the generator from the Virginia Electric Power Company for \$1 and will pay Battelle Northwest Laboratories \$5 million to find out why it lasted only seven years instead of its projected 25-year life span.

The Surry generator was the first major shipment of a large decommissioned reactor part by water to the West Coast. According to Jolyon Weston of Greenpeace, "This means that Hanford may become the location for permanently storing junked steam generators, pressure vessels, reactor cores or indeed, spent fuel."

Greenpeace decided to give the nuclear industry some exposure along the generator's route as part of a wider coalition effort to stop the transport of radioactive materials in the United States. The group tracked the barge on the West Coast and monitored its radioactive emissions in the Columbia—a task that government agencies neglected. The *Bay Guardian* reports that a spokesman at the Dangerous Cargo Shipments Office in San Francisco said of the shipment, "It's news to me. We don't keep track of tugs or barges."

Greenpeace and the Multnomah County, Oregon Sheriff's Department independently monitored radiation levels at 2.5 millirems per hour from sixty feet. This was ten times the level Battelle Labs reported to local newspapers along the two day journey.

Weston points out that if Hanford becomes a nuclear waste depository for the Western world, the Columbia River would become a major nuclear route—and it's already the most radioactive river in the world. In the '40's the river was run through reactors used in making plutonium for the first atomic bombs. Its waters



The junked steam generator from the Surry Nuclear Power Plant in tow.

photo by Jon Hinck

directly washed away the heat from each reactor's core, along with large amounts of radioactivity.

Residents of the river area are beginning to resent further designs on it. Initiative 383 placed on Washington's ballot by the Don't Waste Washington Committee addresses the Hanford plans. Three unions whose livelihoods depend on the Columbia River supported the initiative and opposed the transport of the Surry generator. The Inland Boatmen's Union protested the shipment at first but eventually handled it.

Generic Junk

The steam generator problem in many Westinghouse and a few Combustion Engineering reactors first showed up in the early '70's. In each generator, primary coolant water pumped through the reactor core circulates through about 3000 3/4-inch tubes which are bathed in secondary coolant. This secondary water boils to steam which is removed to turn a turbine and generate electricity. The steam generator thus acts as both a transfer device and a barrier between the reactor's two plumbing systems.

The narrow tubes have been eaten away by chemical and physical processes that are not fully understood. Westinghouse, however, says it already knows what causes the corrosion. According to the *Bay Guardian*, Kip Newton of Public Relations in San Francisco stated, "We're convinced it's due to improper water chemistry maintenance by the utilities." However, generators of a different design have not experienced the problem.

Tubes Tied

When the faulty reactors are shut down, workers must inspect and plug each tube individually, an opera-

tion involving high radiation exposure and great cost. Major leaks from tubes missed by inspection and consequent releases of radiation into the environment have resulted.

Most of the 22 reactors in question have one to six per cent of their tubes tied, but in the five most seriously affected (including San Onofre) up to 1/4 of them are plugged. The NRC considers 30% as the cutoff point beyond which the Emergency Core Cooling System cannot be relied on.

Federal Bailout

The risk of operating reactors with damaged steam generators increases with each tube taken out of service. Also, sudden changes in pressure from an accident would probably rupture tubes already on the verge of leaking. As few as five or six ruptured tubes could theoretically prevent operation of the Emergency Core Cooling System.

Replacement of the generators may become necessary in all 22 reactors but poses enormous problems. The Battelle Northwest Labs estimates that replacing the six generators at Surry alone would involve an occupational radiation exposure as high as 11,600 person rems.

The federal government is obliged by its special relationship to the nuclear industry to pay close attention to its generic junk. According to Jolyon Weston, "The bailout for the first Surry generator includes five million dollars for research, one million for transportation and—what's never mentioned—storage at Hanford for 100 years or more. Here's a generic problem of the nuclear industry and the Department of Energy is paying for it."

—Ward Young

Source: *Groundswell*



Jolyon Weston of Greenpeace monitors radioactive release from the junked nuclear generator as it is towed up the Columbia River.

photo by Jon Hinck

Near miss at French reprocessing plant

Workers at the French nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at La Hague say an April 15 power failure at the facility could have been disastrous if it had occurred an hour later. With the backing of at least one national union, the workers now are calling for a several month shutdown of the troubled plant for overhaul and repair.

Technicians contend that if chemical processing of recovered plutonium had been in progress, the power interruption could have caused a nuclear criticality accident and widespread contamination. The process is shut down every night and begins again at 9:00 the next morning. The April 15 failure, caused by a transformer short circuit and fire, started at 8:35 a.m.

When the power failed backup systems at the plant reportedly failed to work properly and mobile

generators, including some from a local military base, had to be brought in. Power was not restored to parts of the plant for ten hours, resulting in some contamination of working areas when inoperative ventilation systems allowed radioactive materials to escape.

The consequences could have been much worse. In addition to the plutonium hazard workers pointed out that the process which dissolves incoming spent fuel relies on ventilation equipment to draw off radioactive gases. If the process had been going on at the time of the power failure, that area of the plant would have been heavily contaminated.

Worst of all, if power had not been restored to cooling and agitation equipment in high-level liquid waste storage tanks, the tanks could have boiled

dry. This could have caused a chemical explosion which would have dispersed the wastes into the surrounding countryside. Such an explosion is believed to be the cause of a 1957 Soviet nuclear disaster which contaminated about 160 square miles of land in the Ural mountains and reportedly caused at least several hundred deaths (see *New Scientist*, 1/10/80).

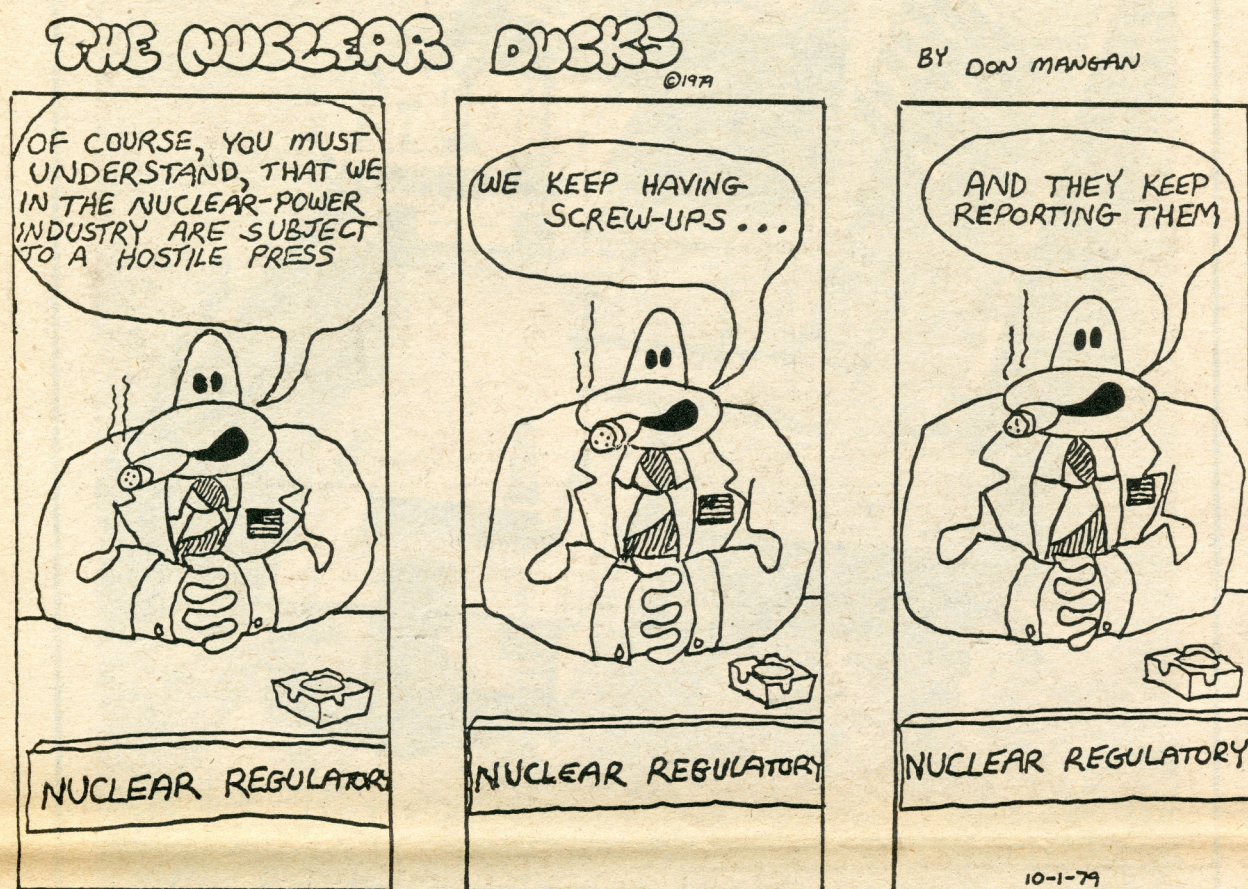
It is estimated that the tanks would take about 18 hours to boil dry, and plant officials said power was restored to the tank equipment in about 40 minutes. But nearby residents and nuclear critics were angry that they were not informed of the problem and that reports of the accident didn't surface in French newspapers until two days later.

The power failure is only the latest of many problems plaguing the La Hague facility. American nuclear promoters often point to the plant as "proof" that reprocessing is practical, but in reality it has fallen far short of expectations. In 1979, for example, it processed only 65 tons of spent fuel — about a fifth of its goal of 350 tons and a small fraction of its designed capacity. Increasing radiation levels are leading to rapid employee turnover with 1300 of the 2600 workers holding temporary status and getting only three days of training before going on the job.

Sources quoted by *Nucleonics Week* say the plant is "held together by miles of industrial tape" and that much equipment is inoperative. One example is the spent fuel storage pools, designed for automatic operation but now handled manually by workers with six yard-long poles. One pool has about a ton of radioactive sludge at the bottom, the result of fuel degrading after it was left there too long. Another 250 ton capacity pool is stacked with 308 tons of unprocessed fuel.

Continuing revelations of conditions at the plant, as well as the power failure, are increasing French concern about reprocessing and nuclear power in general. Demonstrations are tentatively scheduled at the plant on June 28 and 29.

—Bob Van Scoy
Sources: *Nucleonics Week*
3/20, 4/21, 4/24/80



NRC to vent TMI gas

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission decided in early June to proceed with a controversial plan to vent radioactive krypton-85 gas from the Three Mile Island reactor building. The venting, a first step toward clean-up operations, will release about 57,000 curies of radioactivity. The accident last March released about 200 times that amount.

Because of intense local concern the anti-nuclear Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) last month agreed to study the venting proposal. The recently released UCS report concluded the procedure posed no physical health risk, but suggested the NRC consider other methods of disposing of the gas. Suggestions included blowing the gas high into the air with an incinerator or discharging it through a long plastic pipe suspended from a balloon. These techniques would disperse the gas more widely and minimize radiation doses to local residents.

The UCS also recommended that the NRC consider alternatives such as selective absorption and cryogenic distillation, which would allow removing the gas in cylinders for storage and disposal elsewhere. But an NRC staff source told *Nucleonics Week*, "We see nothing right now to alter our position on the venting."

This attitude angered Representative Allen Ertel, whose district includes Harrisburg. He says the NRC may favor venting because it is the least expensive option and cites congressional staff estimates that a selective absorption system could be built in six months. He "questions the motivations" of NRC and utility staffers who claim such a system would take two to four years to complete. For his part Pennsylvania governor Richard Thornburgh says he is convinced the release plans are safe and has promised to help reassure local residents.

Anti-nuclear activists have registered mixed reactions to the venting. The TMI Legal Fund, a coalition of intervenor groups, may seek an injunction to stop the releases. But Harrisburg's TMI Alert, while unenthusiastic about the plan, has voted not to oppose it. Spokesperson Chris Sayer explained in a telephone interview that many activists feel continued stress on local residents from further delay will have far more

serious health effects than the venting itself. He cited a study by the conservative Hershey Medical Center which found that 15 to 20 percent of area residents were suffering from some physical symptom of stress related to TMI.

Sayer personally believes that the stress is also contributing to community problems such as alcoholism and child abuse and that distant activists often don't fully understand the damage that would be caused by more months of delay. He also points out that future operations such as water decontamination and core removal at the crippled plant may be far more hazardous than the venting, so activists must focus their opposition on aspects of the cleanup which pose clear threats to public health.

Barring a successful injunction the venting is expected to begin in July and extend over the next two months on days with favorable weather conditions. TMI Alert and the state government have asked for three to four weeks delay after the decision to allow setting up rumor control, mental health and other services in the community.

In preparation for repair work two Metropolitan Edison technicians attempted to enter the reactor building May 20 to inspect the condition of the equipment inside it. They were prevented from entering by a stuck and apparently rusted door, but this failure is not expected to affect the venting plans.

Rate hikes, hard times for utilities

In early May TMI operator Metropolitan Edison was allowed to continue in business by a decision of the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission. Met Ed was granted a rate boost of roughly \$110 million, which will hike the average residential electric bill by \$3.70. But the Commission also removed the undamaged but inoperative TMI Unit 1 from the rate base, a move that will cost the company \$27 million annually.

Despite the loss of Unit 1 revenue, the PUC actions were good news to General Public Utilities (GPU),

Met Ed's corporate parent, which was recently forced to cancel its stock dividend for the second consecutive quarter. Another GPU subsidiary, Jersey Central Power and Light, was also granted some relief from its nuclear follies when the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities approved a 20%, \$76 million rate hike. Jersey Central's financial problems stemmed from its 25% ownership of TMI and an extended outage at its Oyster Creek nuclear plant. Industry rumors suggested a denial of the increase might have led to the firm's bankruptcy.

With rates up and utility profits down the main beneficiaries, it seems, are the banks which set up GPU's revolving credit pool and are now assured of getting their loan money (and interest) back.

Violations routine at TMI?

A federal grand jury in Harrisburg began taking testimony in mid-May based on charges by Harold Hartman, a former control room operator at TMI. Hartman alleges that for at least several months before the accident tests on the plant's primary cooling system were falsified to show leak rates in compliance with NRC regulations. He says that water was added to the system to make up for leaked coolant. Hartman resigned shortly after the accident.

The NRC is starting an even more sensitive inquiry into the possibility that Met Ed operators falsified data on radiation releases and plant conditions during the first three days of the accident. The NRC's enforcement division has subpoenaed five Met Ed employees, who have all refused to testify. As of early June the Commission was seeking a court order compelling their testimony.

—Bob Van Scoy
Sources: TMI Alert
Nucleonics Week 5/8, 5/12, 5/15/80

Seabrook: Direct Action confronts the state

On the morning of Saturday, May 24 five hundred people gathered at Salisbury, Massachusetts and walked up Route 1 to Seabrook for a legal support rally and picket at the gates of the plant. By afternoon the occupation and blockade called by the Coalition for Direct Action at Seabrook began with about 1500 people approaching the plant from the north, south and west sides. On the west some 600 gathered at the fence, cutting it in their attempt to move onto the site. State police repelled occupiers with clubs, mace and tear gas and made selected arrests throughout the day. One group succeeded in freeing an arrested occupier by crowding around a police car. A medical team treated people for club wounds and for chemical agents in their eyes. Many affinity groups used protective equipment including gas masks, helmets and plywood shields, but the state police and national guard just came down on them harder, confiscating the shields and masks. Late in the afternoon those who remained at the plant gates were dispersed and blockade materials were bulldozed.

On Sunday demonstrators were invited by the Seabrook chapter of the American Legion to join them in their Memorial Day Parade. Many local folks and demonstrators took part in the day's festivities, while others continued their pickets at the plant gates. After the parade some 600 people again tried to blockade the north and south gates of the plant while the occupation attempt returned to the south approach. More fence was taken down, but occupiers were prevented from gaining access to the site. Throughout the day and into the night there were cluster and affinity group actions around the plant's perimeter. Police made more arrests and sent a few people to the hospital. At the Rocks Road entrance some 30 people from the Massachusetts Clamshell Alliance blocked police vehicles, taking away arrested demonstrators. Each evening after the day's attempts to occupy and blockade the plant, affinity groups returned to several campsites in Seabrook to eat, rest and discuss plans for the next day's actions.

Continued blockade attempts on Monday met with sporadic success. During the day about 30 people occupied the offices of Public Service Co.'s main administration building in Manchester, New Hampshire for half an hour before being arrested and removed. Five of them suffered minor injuries.

Almost everyone had left by Tuesday evening except for 100 or so who wanted to continue developing the freestate organizing community. The freestate was never able to establish itself and pursue its intentions of demonstrating alternative energy sources and skill-sharing with townspeople because they were repeatedly harassed by state police.

During the four days of the action there were about 70 arrests, mostly for trespass and disorderly conduct. Everyone was released on personal recognizance or bail except for a few who refused to give their names to the authorities. As many as 60 people were hurt and required medical attention, but none seriously enough to remain hospitalized.

Overall, participants in this direct action were better organized than they were on October 6 last year. Affinity groups were able to make decisions more quickly. Cluster spokes meetings of 40 to 80 persons helped in the decision making process. Still, disputes over blockade tactics at the front gates brought disunity to the ranks of the demonstrators.

The townspeople of Seabrook showed their support of the action in many ways. Local residents offered land for the Coalition to use as staging sites and the town granted camping permits. There were donations of food and clothing and local folks in the streets were cordial to demonstrators, honking horns in approval.

In all the occupation/blockade cost the financially ailing Public Service Co. and the state of New Hampshire an estimated \$750,000.

The Coalition for Direct Action is having a weekend session on the east coast to reflect upon and evaluate this latest action at the Seabrook power plant. The anti-nuclear movement as a whole needs to learn what



Trooper and protester at Seabrook.

it can from the occupation/blockade attempt and apply its lessons to up-coming actions around the country.

—Peter Galbraith
Jane Kesselman
Don Nicodemus

Humboldt Supes block wastes

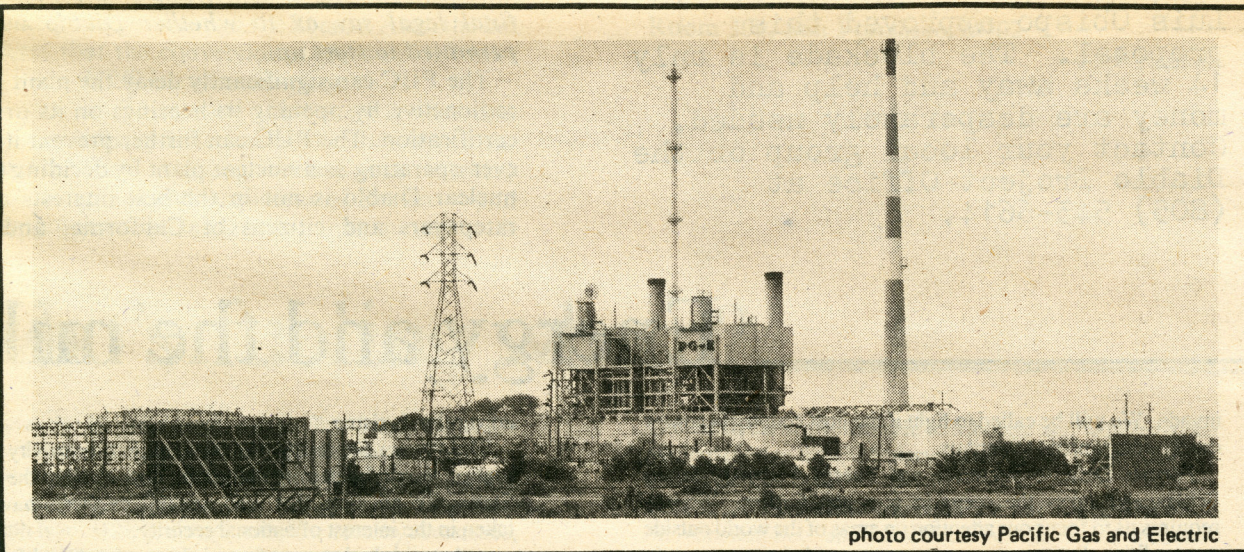


photo courtesy Pacific Gas and Electric

Transportation of nuclear fuel, waste or by-products for storage purposes in Humboldt County will soon be illegal.

In a unanimous decision reached on May 8, Humboldt County Supervisors agreed to become the eighty-third community in the United States to pass a restrictive ordinance on the transportation of nuclear waste. The proposed ordinance will become law after a public reading and two public hearings.

The Board's consensus was prompted by the proposal of new regulations by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding the transportation of radioactive materials (RAMs). These measures would throw open the door to using the partially empty storage pools at the Humboldt Bay nuke for radioactive spent fuel from other areas where storage capacities are nearly exhausted.

Though supposedly formulated to increase public safety, the new regulations would increase risks by stripping away local laws designed for and by unique communities with varying transportation problems. They would further increase the secrecy employed by the already shady nuclear industry, shielding it from public scrutiny in this sensitive area.

The proposed regulations would eliminate state and local laws which require escorts, restrict RAM transportation during peak traffic hours and weekends and restrict the use of thoroughfares considered hazardous. They would also remove ordinances requiring notifications to local agencies about what is being transported, on what roads and

when. Pre-notification enables local emergency personnel to respond more effectively in the event of an accident.

Redwood Alliance spokesman Dan Strait pointed out to the Board that while local governments would lose their right to regulate, the DOT measures would mean that their constituents would be expected to shoulder the financial burden resulting from an accident. According to the NRC and Sandia Laboratories, this expense could climb to hundreds of millions of dollars. The Supervisors were reminded of their unanimous resolution last year condemning the transportation of nuclear waste and were encouraged by Strait to "put some teeth into it."

The Supervisors expressed concern that the change in the regulations was being attempted with minimal public input and only five public hearings nationwide. No hearings were held in California although it has one of the longest and busiest spent fuel routes in the country as well as organized and widespread opposition to nuclear waste transportation.

In response to this information and acting on recommendations presented by the Redwood Alliance, the Board decided to join the chorus of communities statewide that are calling for public hearings in California. They promised to send a supervisor to any such hearing to express their opposition to the DOT regulations and to speak in favor of a plan that would include state and local input.

— Carl Zichella

NRC okays Philippine nuke

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission finally gave the go-ahead to ship the controversial Westinghouse nuclear reactor to the Philippines. The long-delayed decision, announced May 6, means that the NRC has rejected responsibility to look into the environmental, health and safety impacts of this and any other reactor being exported. About 185 other applications for export licenses are pending.

The Philippines reactor was one of the first to test a January, 1979 executive order requiring that the guidelines set by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) apply to nuclear reactor exports. NEPA requires that a full environmental assessment be conducted before an export license is granted. But not even the extraordinary environmental circumstances—the Philippines reactor site is on the slope of a volcano and in an area of intense earthquake and tidal wave activity—convinced the Commissioners that full environmental, health and safety hearings were necessary.

The reactor is not completely clear to go yet because opponents have filed suit in the Federal Court of Appeals against the NRC. The Center for Law and Social Policy will argue on behalf of six environmental groups—Philippine Movement for Environmental Protection, Natural Resources Defense Council, Friends of the Earth, the Union of Concerned Scientists, National Audubon Society, and Sierra Club—that the NRC violated NEPA, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act, and the Atomic Energy Act in its decision to limit the scope of the review. They also feel that the NRC was negligent in not considering the impact of the reactor on the people of Bataan Peninsula, location of the reactor, and on the U.S. military and civilians at nearby Clark Air Force and Subic Bay naval bases.

The suit is expected to be hung up in the courts through most of the summer. The Campaign for a Nuclear Free Philippines is using this leeway period to prepare for a concerted action when the reactor does leave the country. Interested persons seeking more information or wishing to participate can contact: Connie Clark, 415-849-1172 or Madge Bello, 415-451-9069.

—Connie Clark

Diablo Canyon ap

Diablo blockade set

If the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not permanently denied a license to the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant by Monday, September 22, 1980, we will begin the blockade encampment at Diablo and will sustain it for as long as necessary to ensure that the plant will never operate as a nuclear facility. Of course, if the NRC issues a license or any fuel loading permit before September 22, we will begin the action when that happens.

DIABLO TESTING TO BEGIN?

A rapidly accelerating push by the government and industry for renewed nuclear expansion has dramatically underlined the growing urgency of the situation at Diablo Canyon and in the entire nuclear industry. Since it abruptly terminated its post-TMI licensing "moratorium" in February, the NRC has granted three "low power testing" licenses (which mean fuel loading and reactor core fissioning.) **Diablo is next in line.**

On May 14 NRC Assistant Licensing Director Robert Tedesco announced that the long-awaited supplement to Diablo's Safety Evaluation Report, previously expected in July at the earliest, would be issued in June. In it, he said, the NRC staff will recommend a low power testing license for Diablo. According to Tedesco, such a license could be issued without an evacuation plan and without completing tests of the plant's safety systems. PG&E officials were on the television news the next day confidently stating that the fuel would be loaded at Diablo by September.

In light of these developments and related considerations summarized below, we now believe that it is crucial for us to regain the initiative at Diablo Canyon. We are calling for a massive mobilization this summer to build for the blockade encampment.

Our proposal is the result of extensive discussion, analysis and consideration within People Generating Energy and with people from other areas outside San Luis Obispo. (Although the Abalone Alliance agreed to a Diablo blockade in February of

1979, a definite date has never been set because the action has been made contingent on the granting of an operating license. — eds.)

In order to effectively organize, make logistical preparations, train and maintain affinity groups and develop a timeline for a massive mobilization to stop Diablo we need to set an action date. Especially if we are to involve the large numbers we will need as participants in a sustained blockade encampment, we must know when the action will be so that people can plan and prepare for this commitment well ahead of time.

The blockade will need several months of intensive build-up rather than the extremely short notice which we might face if we continue to make our action contingent on the NRC's uncertain timing. Although the plant could be licensed at the end of the summer it **could** also be delayed for much longer, leaving us in limbo and dissipating the summer organizing campaign, just as the spring/summer 1979 organizing was diffused by indefinite waiting. A September 22 action date would give us the summer months to prepare. We see this activity as complementary to efforts like Survival Summer.

If the license has not been issued before September 22, the massive grassroots pressure and political/logistical dilemma that the blockade will present to authorities may well increase the slim chance of an NRC license denial, even if they are ignoring the safety considerations (which, as we know, they are).

Whatever the actions of PG&E and the NRC, the Diablo blockade will strengthen the movement for a nuclear-free Earth and build much-needed momentum for the future.

—People Generating Energy

On June 14, an Abalone Alliance spokes meeting in San Luis Obispo approved this proposal. The blockade is only 14 weeks away and help and money are desperately needed. Contact your local group or the Diablo Project Office at (805) 543-6614.



Abalone Alliance affinity groups shortly before arrest during the at August 1978.

Conversion strategy to sto

The movement to convert Diablo Canyon to a non-nuclear fuel has come a long way. The Diablo Conversion Campaign now has the support of over 60 environmental, anti-nuclear and civic groups, as well as the city councils of San Luis Obispo and Pismo Beach and the San Luis Obispo County **Telegram-Tribune.**

However, despite mailings, articles in *It's About Times* and a great deal of publicity — as well as personal communications — it is apparent from discussions with various members in Abalone that many people still do not appreciate the urgency, scope and potential of what the Campaign is doing. Moreover, many people do not seem to understand that no matter what the Nuclear Regulatory Commission rules in its licensing, *the PUC has the final legal say as to whether Diablo will be permitted to start up.*

The PUC can significantly delay the plant going radioactive by opening its hearings on its original certification. The PUC can further prevent it from ever operating as a nuclear plant by deciding that a nuclear Diablo is not in the best interests of the ratepayers and citizens of California, and that

Energy and the military

Energy and national security are frequently used to justify increased militarization and the research and development of centralized hard technologies. An enemy is identified and the federal government finds a scapegoat for the policies it pursues.

President Carter identified the United States' vital interests in his State of the Union address last January. "... any attempts by the Soviet Union to control the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States," and will be "repelled by any means necessary, including military force."

Statements by other federal bureaucrats speak to a commitment to intervene in the Middle East even if the Soviets don't

invade. We will be called to fight if the host country becomes overly antagonistic toward us.

Former Defense Secretary and Energy Secretary James Schlesinger takes the scenario one step further. "Energy requires us to focus our attention on areas of the world outside our traditional concerns. ... we must avoid circumstances in which indispensable energy resources fall under the domination of a hostile power. ... History has destined this American nation to be a super power—indeed the single, great superpower among the free nations."

Schlesinger was particularly worried about internal dissent within oil-producing nations. "[Saudi Arabia] is exposed to a fennel of social change. It is one in which the sensitivity to

corruption is rising."

The former Secretary was worried that sensitivity to corruption would be detrimental to the flow of oil to the United States. To alleviate that fear, several measures have been taken in the interest of national security.

- A rapid deployment force is being developed for use in the Middle East. Heavily-armed U.S. shock troops will be flown in quickly when any kind of trouble arises.

- Precision-guided munitions or smart weapons designed to seek out targets are being refined.

- New systems of defense are being explored. Michael Klare of the Institute for Policy Studies points out, "By combining small nuclear warheads with precision-guided tracking systems, the Pentagon hopes to introduce a new breed of 'surgical' nuclear munitions whose effects could be confined to a limited area."

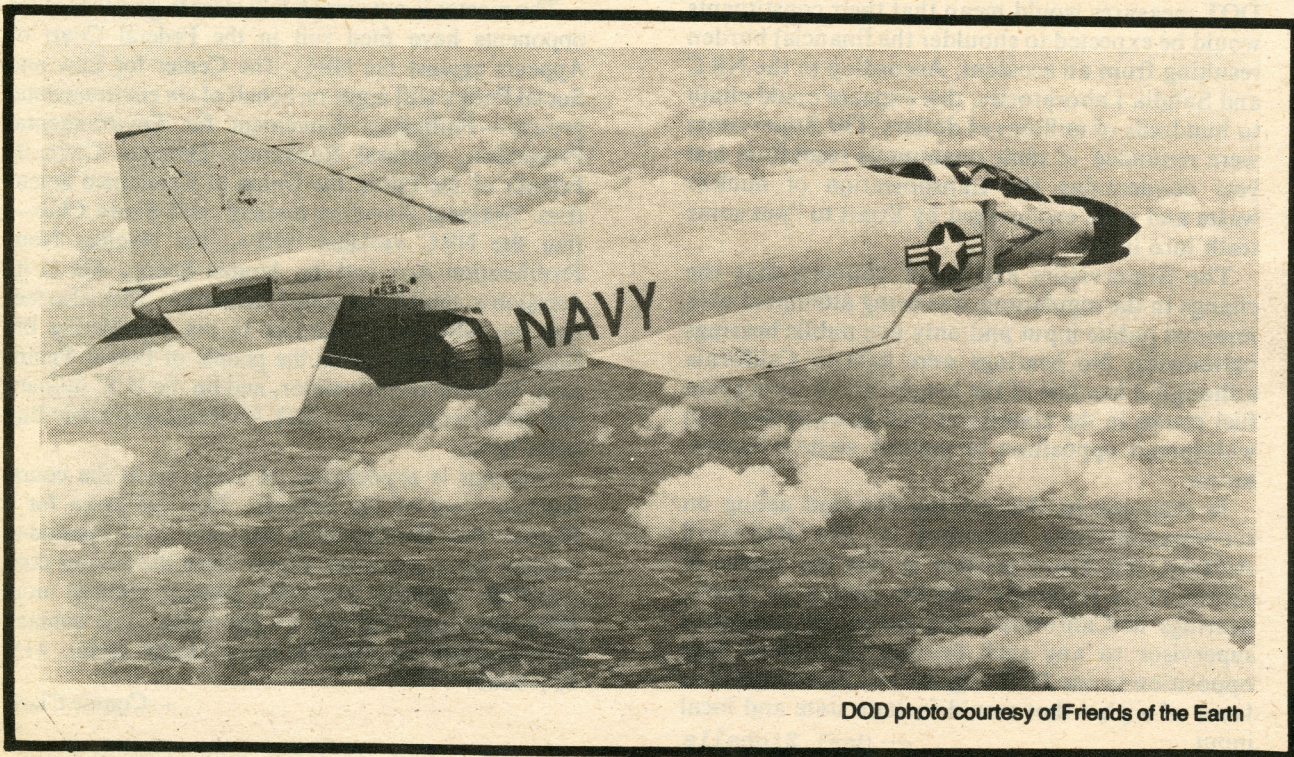
- President Carter has authorized the stockpiling of the components of neutron bombs (the bombs that emit high levels of radiation to kill people, but do little property damage).

- Howard Morland of *The Progressive* points out that many of the sophisticated weapons being developed can be converted in the field to neutron bombs.

- Even without nuclear warheads these weapons are extremely accurate and deadly. Everyone is buying them. Third world spending on sophisticated weapons tops \$100 billion a year. 100,000 soldiers were killed or wounded in the 17-day October 1973 Middle East War, when such weapons were deployed.

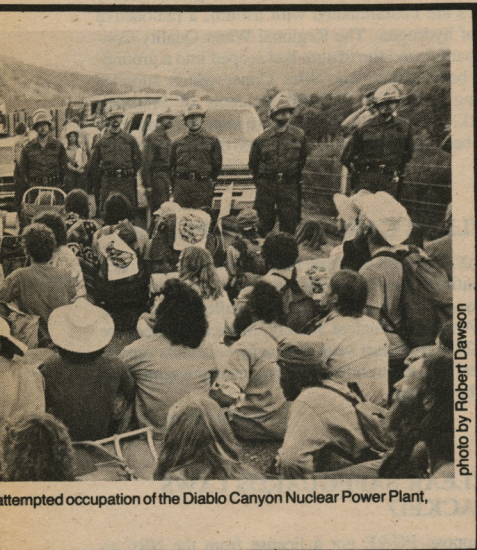
DOE gets into the act

Domestically, the nation is preparing for energy wars. The Department of Energy spends 35% of its budget on nuclear weapons research, 25% on nuclear power and 8% on solar. Few funds will go to decentralized renewable alternatives. \$19 billion of the \$20 billion generated by the oil windfall profits tax will be given back to the oil companies for synthetic fuels research, technologies that don't work (see *IAT* September, 1979).



DOD photo courtesy of Friends of the Earth

proaching critical



attempted occupation of the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant,

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another affordable alternative exists. The Campaign believes that a conversion study, which has appropriate public input and oversight, and takes into account all the appropriate cost factors, would help the PUC make the right decision. It should be noted that with the recent overturning of the Nuclear Safeguards laws, the PUC certification process remains the *only* direct legal way that the State can influence the development of nuclear power within its own borders.

Recently, a bill passed the State Assembly (AB 2726) commissioning the CEC to do a conversion study of Diablo to be completed in late 1981. The Campaign *has not supported this effort* because we believe that the study must be started and completed sooner, and because the bill will most likely not get through the Senate. Also, the bill stipulates that the conversion study wouldn't take effect if the NRC licenses the plant.

The Diablo Conversion Campaign is now in a position to directly influence the Brown administration and the PUC. Although there is good reason to always be vigilant and suspicious of Brown — and of any government leaders for that matter — it

Diablo gets the shakes

continued from page 1

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The suit also covers much ground familiar to those who have followed the Diablo story: PG&E's failure to do adequate seismic studies despite warnings of nearby fault zones from local geologists, its continuing refusal to conduct investigations despite mounting evidence and public concern, its attempts to "obscure the true nature and extent" of the Hosgri Fault once its existence could no longer be denied and NRC collusion with the utility's efforts. The suit concludes, as many observers have, that PG&E's "plan was to get the plant built as quickly as possible. Once a large investment

was made, no opposition would withstand the economic pressures to license the plant."

Though it is a civil suit seeking punitive damages for Marré rather than directly opposing the operation of the plant, Kevin Blankenburg of PGE points out that the trial "may open up a new can of worms for the licensing of Diablo."

Hosgri gets restless

Just twelve hours after the suit was filed, San Luis Obispo County and the central Coast were rocked by a 4.9 magnitude earthquake that seismologists at the California Institute of Technology and the California Polytechnic Institute say originated on the Hosgri fault zone. They placed the quake's epicenter 25 miles north of Diablo Canyon, though at one point the Hosgri runs as close as 2½ miles to the Diablo nuke. PG&E's reaction to the quake on a fault which for years they had denied existed and for more years had claimed was inactive was, "Earthquakes were anticipated in the Hosgri zone and the quake was only 1/100th of that which the plant was designed to withstand."

Antinuclear supervisors elected

Residents of San Luis Obispo and other towns near the reactor, who have grown increasingly hostile to Diablo over the years, re-elected two anti-Diablo county supervisors on June 3. A third, running in what John Rosenthal of PGE calls "the most conservative part of a very conservative country," was defeated. The two supervisors not up for re-election are pro-nuclear, so the anti-Diablo forces still come up short of a majority.

Pismo council to ban wastes?

On June 16 the city council of Pismo Beach will vote on an ordinance that bans outright the transport of radioactive wastes within its boundaries. Since Diablo's garbage would be forced to go through the town, such a ban would seem to put a crimp in Diablo's viability. But regulations proposed by the federal Department of Transportation will preempt any local and state laws which restrict the transport of radioactive materials.

—Marcy Darnovsky

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Joseph Nye, DOE Undersecretary for Security Assistance, Science and Technology explains the policy. "... the Carter administration balanced energy security and military security by choosing the middle path in domestic energy policy. The middle path avoids energy solutions that count prematurely on either windmills or plutonium. It does include a significant role for nuclear energy."

The nuclear industry has been quick to jump on the anti-foreign domination bandwagon. Nuclear, we are told, will release us from the grip of OPEC and save us from the Soviets. Robert Kirby, president of Westinghouse, speaking at a meeting of the Atomic Industrial Forum conference last November in San Francisco illustrated the dilemma utilizing slides as a visual medium. A map of the world was projected on the screen showing the Middle East oil fields, and the oil supply lines. Stepping up to the microphone Kirby boomed, "Russian bases and Russian ships are located strategically so that they can cut off the bulk of our overseas oil supplies in hours." The second Russian was mentioned, a giant, blood-red hammer and sickle exploded onto the screen, blotting out America's oil lifeline. Kirby concluded saying, "Imposing any moratorium on nuclear power, a source of oil independence, is absolutely ludicrous."

John Simpson, former head of Westinghouse's nuclear division continued the scare. "You know, even if we killed hundreds of people a year, we'd still have to have nuclear. There's just no other way. The Russians could paralyze this country overnight by wrecking the Middle East oil fields. The United States just can't stand for that."

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The oil fields are vulnerable to sabotage and require worker participation to flow. Military solutions don't work on political problems.

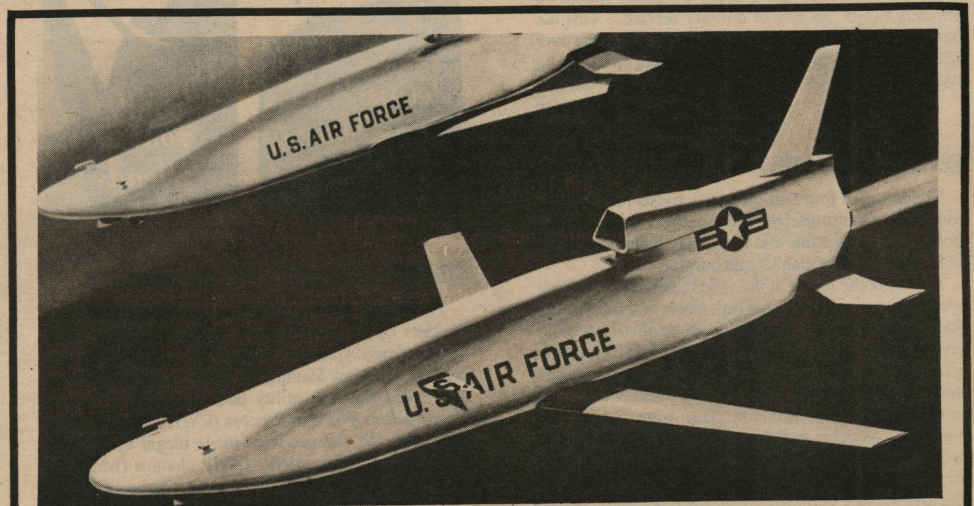
Secondly, the world community is not overly fond of US oil consumption and its effects on the world monetary system. The US imports 45% of its oil. When trade concessions were being sought with Europe and Japan, the nations insisted that the US decrease oil consumption.

Thirdly, the world is suspicious of nuclear non-proliferation efforts. The Non-Proliferation Act is designed to prevent further nuclear development in countries without the technologies, while retaining it in countries that have the technologies. The French, Germans and English charge that

the treaty is designed to give the US time to catch up in developing the breeder and reprocessing technologies.

New solutions will be needed to cope with the energy situation. Heavy dependence on non-renewable energy sources will create continuous problems. Consumer energy self-sufficiency is one step toward alleviating the political and economic domination suffered under the controllers of energy sources.

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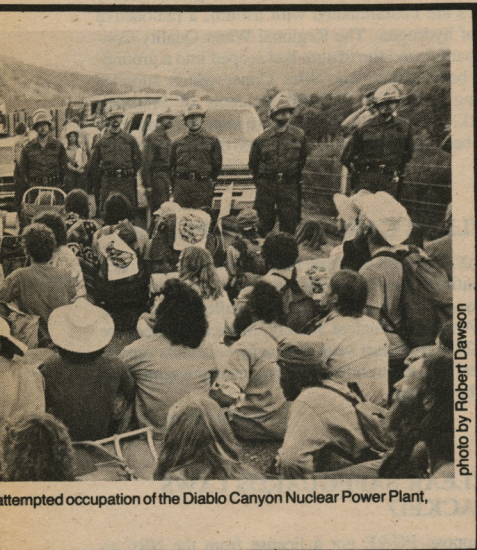


DOD photo courtesy of Friends of the Earth

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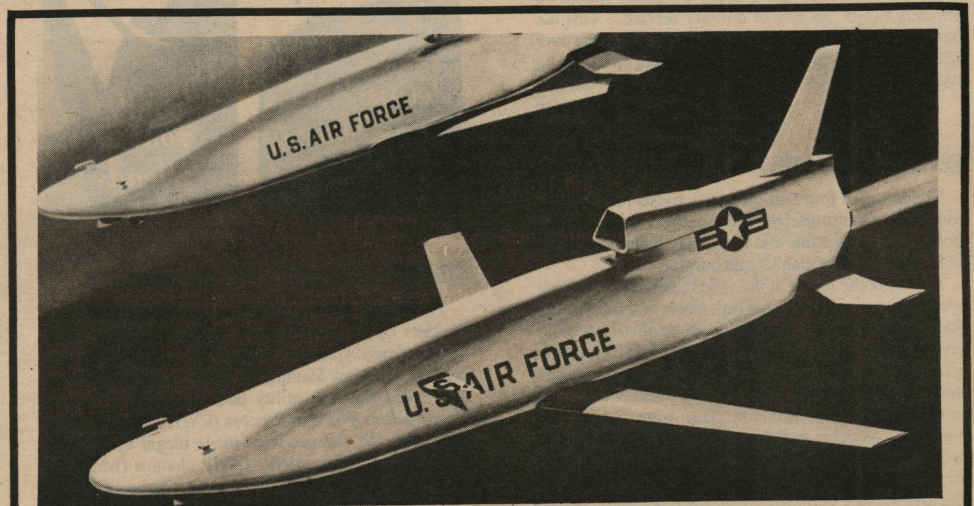
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Abalones walk the picket line

Labor Task Force supports OCAW strikers

When 60,000 oilworkers went on strike in January, Abalone Alliance Labor Task Force members turned out to help. This article describes their experiences on the picket line.

We first approached the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers to ask them to endorse our conference on "Labor and the Nuclear Issue." We had made a friendly contact with a member of Local 1-5 (oilworkers in Martinez) who agreed to back us. With this assurance we got in touch with the business agent, were cleared by the executive board and were invited to the next general meeting.

We conferred with union officials before the meeting and explained that the point of the conference was to set up a dialogue between unions and the anti-nuclear movement. They felt uncomfortable endorsing any event connected with nuclear politics because their international includes atomic workers and they didn't want to step on anybody's toes. But our request that they send a delegate to the conference was brought before the membership, which voted yes.

On the day of the conference, January 6, the chosen delegate was forced to work overtime. We heard that the local was busy with contract negotiations and two days later 60,000 oilworkers across the country went out on strike.

At first the Abalone Labor Task Force wasn't sure if supporting the strikers fit in with our work since OCAW doesn't represent nuclear power plant workers in California. And we didn't know if they wanted our help. But we formed a solidarity committee with the basic idea that oilworkers are up against the same energy corporations as we are.

As it turned out OCAW was already calling a meeting for sympathetic environmental organizations. The local oilworkers have a longstanding history of friendly cooperation with some of these groups and they wanted to explain the strike demands and communicate their fears about increased pollution while supervisors were running the plants. There was a press blackout through most of the strike and this information was getting out only by word of mouth.

The group of environmentalists at the meeting named itself the Community Health Coalition and drafted a statement of support which we signed. The Coalition discussed tactics like press conferences, letters, fundraising and resolutions at the Board of Supervisors.

The Labor Task Force decided that our contribution should be in keeping with the Abalone's spirit of direct action. So we thought the best way for us to support OCAW would be at the scene of their direct action, the picket line.

The picket line is traditionally where a union's total membership becomes active. Here was a great opportunity. As members of a grassroots organization, we could meet rank and file members of this union face to face in a common effort.

In these days of black lung, brown lung and white lung the oilworkers, who are continuously exposed to the toxins put out by oil and chemical plants, are still fighting to get a fully paid health plan. As in most other labor strikes nowadays, the union was asking for a cost of living increase just to keep up with inflation.

On the picketlines

The first picket support group of the Task Force went to an oil refinery in Rodeo represented by Local 1-326. We were each teamed with a striker and sent to different gates. The union members at this plant seemed to be mostly older white men.

The picketers were not really stopping traffic through the gates, just delaying it. They talked a lot to the supervisors going in, bumming cigarettes and asking how things were going. In some ways it was fairly amiable, but it was also frustrating to everyone because the plant wasn't being shut down.

The next Abalone group went to Concord to the Chevron credit card facility being struck by Local 1-1978. These were mostly women workers with no contract in an open shop. Only about 500 of the 1700 employees were in the union.

As their strike newsletter, the "Stranded Oiler," pointed out, the company took the risk of putting them all in one building because they didn't think these women from the suburbs were going to get organized. The women struck with the other locals, determined to get better terms and a contract for everyone in the building.

By law, California does not allow blockades, whether by anti-nukes or labor. But it seemed that both union and management wanted to avoid a violent confrontation. The company was allowing us to halt the cars for five minutes. There were always two or three supervisors standing just inside the parking lot and a

police car parked across the street. If we blocked a car too long the cop would come over and give us a little lecture. The union wasn't pushing it because it's hard to carry on a picket line when your members are in jail.

While walking on the line we talked about the Abalone to those who hadn't heard of us, talked about jobs, exchanged life stories. Some of the strikers knew a lot about nuclear hazards. They also surprised us with a description of the health hazard they face as office workers in a credit card facility. The credit card records are stored in a vault lined with uncovered asbestos and the powder floats through the room as they take the records in and out.

Payday

The last Abalone group went to a chemical plant in Richmond. Strike headquarters for the members of Local 1-5 was in a bikers' club. This sounded intimidating, but like the other times we were made to feel welcome. These strikers were mostly male, though here many were younger and third world men. They had asked us to come on a Friday afternoon when the scabs got their paychecks.

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c/o Abalone Alliance
944 Market St.
S.F., CA 94102

— Kate Benn
Alan Ramo
Marti Stayton



Abalones walk the picket line

Labor Task Force supports OCAW strikers

When 60,000 oilworkers went on strike in January, Abalone Alliance Labor Task Force members turned out to help. This article describes their experiences on the picket line.

We first approached the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers to ask them to endorse our conference on "Labor and the Nuclear Issue." We had made a friendly contact with a member of Local 1-5 (oilworkers in Martinez) who agreed to back us. With this assurance we got in touch with the business agent, were cleared by the executive board and were invited to the next general meeting.

We conferred with union officials before the meeting and explained that the point of the conference was to set up a dialogue between unions and the anti-nuclear movement. They felt uncomfortable endorsing any event connected with nuclear politics because their international includes atomic workers and they didn't want to step on anybody's toes. But our request that they send a delegate to the conference was brought before the membership, which voted yes.

On the day of the conference, January 6, the chosen delegate was forced to work overtime. We heard that the local was busy with contract negotiations and two days later 60,000 oilworkers across the country went out on strike.

At first the Abalone Labor Task Force wasn't sure if supporting the strikers fit in with our work since OCAW doesn't represent nuclear power plant workers in California. And we didn't know if they wanted our help. But we formed a solidarity committee with the basic idea that oilworkers are up against the same energy corporations as we are.

As it turned out OCAW was already calling a meeting for sympathetic environmental organizations. The local oilworkers have a longstanding history of friendly cooperation with some of these groups and they wanted to explain the strike demands and communicate their fears about increased pollution while supervisors were running the plants. There was a press blackout through most of the strike and this information was getting out only by word of mouth.

The group of environmentalists at the meeting named itself the Community Health Coalition and drafted a statement of support which we signed. The Coalition discussed tactics like press conferences, letters, fundraising and resolutions at the Board of Supervisors.

The Labor Task Force decided that our contribution should be in keeping with the Abalone's spirit of direct action. So we thought the best way for us to support OCAW would be at the scene of their direct action, the picket line.

The picket line is traditionally where a union's total membership becomes active. Here was a great opportunity. As members of a grassroots organization, we could meet rank and file members of this union face to face in a common effort.

In these days of black lung, brown lung and white lung the oilworkers, who are continuously exposed to the toxins put out by oil and chemical plants, are still fighting to get a fully paid health plan. As in most other labor strikes nowadays, the union was asking for a cost of living increase just to keep up with inflation.

On the picketlines

The first picket support group of the Task Force went to an oil refinery in Rodeo represented by Local 1-326. We were each teamed with a striker and sent to different gates. The union members at this plant seemed to be mostly older white men.

The picketers were not really stopping traffic through the gates, just delaying it. They talked a lot to the supervisors going in, bumming cigarettes and asking how things were going. In some ways it was fairly amiable, but it was also frustrating to everyone because the plant wasn't being shut down.

The next Abalone group went to Concord to the Chevron credit card facility being struck by Local 1-1978. These were mostly women workers with no contract in an open shop. Only about 500 of the 1700 employees were in the union.

As their strike newsletter, the "Stranded Oiler," pointed out, the company took the risk of putting them all in one building because they didn't think these women from the suburbs were going to get organized. The women struck with the other locals, determined to get better terms and a contract for everyone in the building.

By law, California does not allow blockades, whether by anti-nukes or labor. But it seemed that both union and management wanted to avoid a violent confrontation. The company was allowing us to halt the cars for five minutes. There were always two or three supervisors standing just inside the parking lot and a

police car parked across the street. If we blocked a car too long the cop would come over and give us a little lecture. The union wasn't pushing it because it's hard to carry on a picket line when your members are in jail.

While walking on the line we talked about the Abalone to those who hadn't heard of us, talked about jobs, exchanged life stories. Some of the strikers knew a lot about nuclear hazards. They also surprised us with a description of the health hazard they face as office workers in a credit card facility. The credit card records are stored in a vault lined with uncovered asbestos and the powder floats through the room as they take the records in and out.

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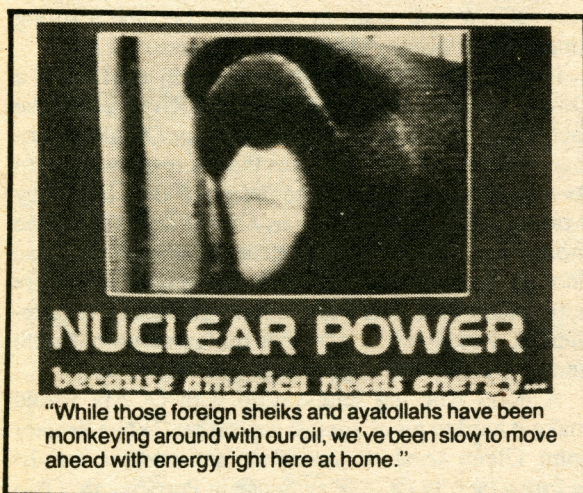
Media blitz

continued from page 1

Power and Light Co. the "financial community," and so on.

The industry would have us believe that the day's triumph was measured by the number of executives who came forward and were born again—as organizers who could rally grassroots support for nuclear power. But all this was an elaborate shell game designed to conceal where the vast majority of the money would be spent: on slick media advertising.

Tray Taylor of the Edison Electric Institute, a nuclear industry trade association, thinks the \$800,000 spent on the first phase of ads this May is a "pitiful amount, not enough to state our case the way we'd like to." The nuclear industry feels cheated by network news reporting which they say has had a distinct anti-nuclear bias since Three Mile Island. The industry's only resort is to buy media time to communicate their views, so the Committee intends to spend millions



PG&E's free lunch for schools

Sonoma schools "Energy Literacy" program

Pacific Gas and Electric Company continues to sponsor a controversial "energy literacy" project in Sonoma County public schools, even as opposition grows. An analysis criticizing the materials written by the Chairperson of the California Board of Education's Curriculum Commission, has been widely distributed and reported in the press. The statewide Local Government Commission, an arm of the Solar Cal Council, has asked State Superintendent of Education Wilson Riles to intervene, and if necessary, have the materials recalled. (See the *S.F. Chronicle*, 4/17, p. 26.)

Riles refuses to get involved, claiming the issues raised by the privately operated group PG&E finances are strictly a matter for local school districts and that his position on PG&E's Board of Directors has no bearing on the issue (he also serves on Wells Fargo's Board). Riles' position rests on the contention that the materials PG&E provides through the non-profit "Energy and Man's Environment" (EME) are given to schools free. The state has very little concern with such "free" materials as long as they do not advocate communism or violent revolution, don't teach sex or religion and don't contain corporate advertising logos.

The essence of the EME materials are a series of "lesson plans" concerning energy. SO-NO More Atomics learned of the project in a tiny newspaper article buried in the back of a local daily. The project's goal is to reach 70% of the personnel in Lake and Sonoma County schools and develop their "energy literacy".

This reporter was the first to publicize PG&E's role in the project, having been previously referred to in the press as "private sources". Several other individuals and organizations have also analyzed the curriculum, and none has contradicted the original claims I made in writing to the local Working Committee of EME. Among the evaluators are the state League of Women Voters, who, in late April, voted to alert their local affiliates and object to the use of the materials. The *S.F. Chronicle's* science reporter, David Perlman, found the materials outdated, pro-nuclear, and generally of poor quality prior to the *Chron's* big story in March (see accompanying letter to IAT). Two days after the *Chronicle* story, the County Superintendent, an EME Advisory Board member, ordered his staff to conduct a survey of attitudes of teachers who had been introduced to the EME materials.

When critics pointed out that this was an unscientific survey that didn't even concern content, the superintendent backed off from his claim that the Board of Education had instructed him to do an evaluation. He then had the survey changed to include questions about the materials' content. The survey was supposed to be ready by May Day, the

over the summer.

According to Brian Smith of Smith & Harroff, Inc. which developed the Committee's ad campaign, "Broadcasters owe it to the industry under the Fairness Doctrine to accept these spots." Although Smith claims an 80% success rate with television stations, all of the network-owned or operated stations have found the ads "controversial" and have rejected them, in order to avoid getting involved with challenges from nuclear opponents based on the Fairness Doctrine. The networks have also refused ads from Mobil, Kaiser and others and so far have been backed by the courts on First Amendment challenges. Some independent stations have also refused the ads, although most have sold time and are waiting for those with opposing viewpoints to knock on their door.

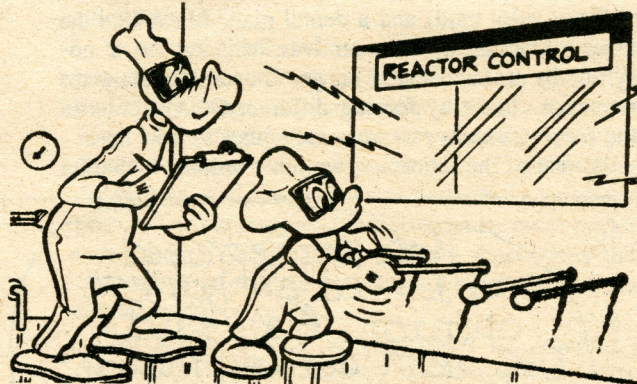
A coalition of environmental groups, media projects and anti-nuclear activists are spearheading a campaign to rebut the nuclear industry. The Public Media Center in San Francisco is producing ads to challenge the industry's message and helping with negotiations for access to free air time under the Fairness Doctrine.

Michael Singen observes, "The Federal Communications Commission is looking for good faith negotiations on the part of stations. Since the Fairness Doctrine doesn't require a response within a set period of time, the negotiating abilities of activists throughout the country will be the key factor in determining how much time stations will accept, the ratio of pro and anti-nuclear spots, when they will air, and which of the spots will be used."

—Ward Young
Julia Randall

Board's next meeting. This reporter was invited to help the Board analyze the import of the results.

However, the survey was mailed out only two days prior to the Board's May meeting. Without providing me an opportunity to comment on the staff's May report to the Board, the national president of EME was introduced and given the floor for over one hour of uninterrupted description of his "educational corporation's" history, purpose and nature. This event was not on the agenda, a curious detail since the Board refuses to allow any subject to be addressed which was not put on its agenda and mailed to them ten days in advance. However, EME may have strung its own noose with some loose talk at the meeting. The EME president claimed to have a letter from the California Education Review Commission stating it had evaluated EME's material and recommended that local districts "get these materials!" There is no such Commission.



Kent Gill, chair of the state's Curriculum Commission had been asked earlier in the year by Alan Mirviss of the pro-solar, anti-nuclear SUNRAE organization to perform an official evaluation of EME's material. However, the Commission has never looked at "free" material, so Gill did his own personal evaluation instead, which was very critical. After EME's claims of support from a fictitious state Education Review Commission at the May Day meeting, I brought Gill a letter asking for official intervention by the Curriculum Commission on the grounds that its position was being misrepresented by EME. Gill will raise the matter with the Commission and agrees that the problem deserves serious attention.

On the same day, May 13, I met with Assemblyman Mike Gage, who was similarly upset by this project. Gage is gathering information and hopes to initiate legislative hearings for the upcoming Interim Session.

The EME controversy raises several questions. Can school districts make use of free materials without independently evaluating their content? If so, how do schools prevent themselves from becoming vehicles for the distribution of blatant, economically-motivated propaganda?

Direct Action in SF

The Direct Action Working Network, DAWN, is calling for people to join in a non-violent direct action in San Francisco during August of 1980 to begin stopping the nuclear industry.

We are suggesting that the week from July 30 to August 5 be a period of outreach, leafletting and street theater explaining to people working in San Francisco why we are taking these actions which may interrupt their work routine.

Beginning on Wednesday, August 6, Hiroshima Day, we are calling for people to initiate non-violent disruption of the business of Pacific Gas and Electric's corporate headquarters by non-violently blockading access to the building and by urging people not to collaborate with PG&E's pursuit of its nuclear program. Our aim is to insure that no business as usual occurs for PG&E until they get out of the nuclear industry. Specifically, this means no nuclear power at Diablo Canyon, no more purchases of power from Rancho Seco and the decommission of the Humboldt station.

On Saturday, August 9, Nagasaki Day, we are calling a general gathering in support of the ongoing blockade efforts.

We are seeking people interested in contributing their creative energies to this action by joining or forming affinity groups, developing regional support, acquiring food and sleeping accommodations for people coming from out of town, receiving or giving non-violent training, designing and distributing posters and organizing the many other tasks that are before us.

For more information, contact the Direct Action Working Network at 1846 Church Street, San Francisco, CA 94131, 415-826-7776.

EME very quietly "recruits" what they themselves call "Key Administrators". These people have what are then legally termed "discretionary powers" over taxpayer resources meant to upgrade teachers' abilities to teach, meaning that administrators don't have to go to the public school boards to allocate these resources. The resources include teacher-release-time (which allows teachers to be paid for attending training conferences), communications, administrative assistance and financial assistance.

Superintendents also select which funding applications by community groups they wish to support. With EME's presence, the county has seen no need to apply for grants from federal, state or private sources. It's impossible to determine how much grant money has been "lost" to community based energy groups in this manner, but it is easy to see that something needs to be done to balance out the EME project.

The key for our groups is prevention—get down to the County Office of Education and learn what is going on in the fields of energy, science and the environment. It took PG&E several years to find a county willing to help their program and resistance to it increases with awareness of its problems. Summer is a good time for planning the next year's activities and since Diablo is expected to go on-line later this fall (or attempt to), a fall program of school presentations is most appropriate. Activities can include seminars for teachers, film presentations purchased by the county offices, grant applications and providing schools with "free" materials from a variety of sources.

Another preventive strategy includes legal changes. Letters should be written to Riles and state Assembly people. Riles should be asked to intervene on the EME issue, and/or choose between his job with the state and that with PG&E. Assembly-people should be asked to initiate an inquiry into EME specifically, and "free materials" in general. This may also lead to new revisions of the Conflict-of-Interest Codes.

SO-NO-More Atomics has lots of background information and can also provide help on good instructional materials. SUNRAE is a statewide group with similar capabilities. At this time Gary Hart appears to be the key legislator to approach, and Wilson Riles is the key Administrator.

Reports indicate EME is continuing to make overtures throughout Northern California. At least 9 counties have been given some materials and nothing prevents EME from going elsewhere.

People interested in developing Alliance-wide strategy are asked to contact me, through SO-NO-More Atomics and/or P.O. Box 1334, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.

—Kevin Armstrong

Announcements

ESSENTIALS FOR THE DIABLO BLOCKADE

Cut-rate sale! Get the 10-page booklet "What You Should Know About the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant" for 50 cents for 10 copies, \$1.00 for 25, \$1.50 for 50, and \$2.00 for 100, postage not included from Abalone Alliance, 944 Market St., Rm. 307, SF 94102. First 100 orders include free "Stop Diablo Canyon" buttons, a collector's item. Get yours before the blockade at Diablo!

WESTERN STATES WOMEN'S GATHERING

We will focus on the issues of feminism, nonviolence, and the new militarism. Sponsored by the Feminism & Non-violence Program of War Resisters League/West, at Cazadero Music Camp in Sonoma County, September 5-7. Total cost \$27.50, \$10.00 non-refundable deposit requested. Send reservation to WRL/West, 1360 Howard St., S.F. 94103. For info: 415-626-6976.

MANUAL FOR SURVIVAL IN THE '80'S

The Survival Summer Project's Trainer's Manual is an 88-page guide on the how-to's of organizing for survival in the '80's: models for training, canvassing, direct actions, and more are included as well as an overview of the issues and organizing ideas. Single copies \$2.25 postage inclu.; 10 or more \$1.00 apiece plus shipping from Survival Summer Project, 944 Market St., Rm. 808, SF 94102.

Lockheed

continued from page 1

duct of Orwellian doublespeak was cooked up from survey results that showed that county residents feared both nuclear materials and politicians. It confused many potential yes on A supporters and rallied no on A supporters.

Despite the knockout punch that Lockheed was able to deliver, 26,000 voters registered their dissatisfaction with the nuclear arms race. —Don Haifley

BLACK HILLS INTERNATIONAL GATHERING

From July 18-27, 1980, people from many parts of the world will gather in the Black Hills of South Dakota to document and diagnose the threats to survival.

Three simultaneous events are featured: a citizens' review commission on energy development corporations, an alternative technology and self-sufficiency project, and a forum on Indian genocide and the planned extinction of the family farm.

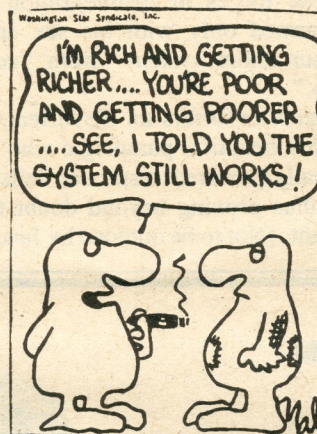
For info and carpools: 415-781-5342.

STOP SAN ONOFRE FESTIVAL

On Saturday, June 21 at 12 Noon at Laguna Niguel Park in Orange County, the Alliance for Survival will hold a "Summer Solstice Festival to Stop San Onofre." San Onofre Nuclear Unit I has been on line since 1968, and construction is underway at Units II and III, with Unit II to go on line in 1981, and Unit III shortly thereafter.

John Trudell, member of the Dakota Nation, Former Chair of the American Indian Movement, will be one of the national figures presenting keynote speeches. Confirmed artists include: Country Joe and the Fish, Steve Gillette, Bonnie Raitt, War, John McEuen, Mark Turnbull, Father Guido Sarducci and Jesse Colin Young.

There will be a "Safe Energy Fair with exhibits of appropriate energy technology. Directions: South on San Diego Freeway to La Paz exit, go right. North on Pacific Coast Hwy. to Crown Valley and Parkway turnoff to La Paz Rd. For info. 213-738-1041.



Calendar

June 1-Nov 1: The Long Walk for Survival, from Alcatraz to Washington, D.C., to support world peace and the preservation of Mother Earth through a halt to nuclear development, uranium mining and the draft. Support and contributions needed. Contact A.I.M. for Freedom, Survival Group, (415) 234-5155.

June 22: Poetry & Music, a benefit for the War Resisters League, with Grace Paley and Judy Grahn, Women's Building, 3543 18th St., S.F., 8:00 p.m. \$3.50 in advance, \$4.00 at the door. Info: 626-6976.

June 30: PANP general meeting, 944 Market #808, 7:00 p.m. Info: 781-5342.

JULY 4 ACTION AT LIVERMORE

Nonviolent civil disobedience and legal support to oppose weapons research are planned for the last working day before July 4th at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. Individuals and organizations are invited to join. For more info: 845-3686 eves. or 465-9187.

Mid-July: Attached Solar Greenhouse Workshop, 2 days, 1 evening. Community Network for Appropriate Technology, Santa Rosa. Info: 707-528-6543.

Thursday, July 17 Survival Summer Teach-in at Fort Mason Center, Bldg. C Room 260, 7:30 pm. Speakers: Dr. Susan Lambert, MD, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Randy Tinkerman, Transitional Energy Projects Institute on *Alternative Energy and Nuclear Disarmament—the Arms Race vs. the Human Race*. Admission: \$2.00

August 6: Hiroshima Day Rally in San Fernando Valley sponsored by Alliance for Survival. Info: 213-989-5003.

August 6: Action at a Nuclear Weapons facility sponsored by Community Energy Action Network, San Diego. Info: 714-236-1684.

AA Safe Energy Groups

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

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

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

NORTH

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

COVELO: DOWNWIND ALLIANCE, P.O. Box 183/95428 • (707) 983-9969

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

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

ST. HELENA: UPPER NAPA VALLEY ENERGY ALLIANCE, 1513 Madrona Ave./94574 • (707) 963-7835

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, 433 Russell/95616 • (916) 758-6810

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: NEVADA COUNTY PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, P.O. Box 457/95959 • (916) 272-4848

NORTH HIGHLANDS: SACRAMENTANS FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, c/o Dan Eichelberger, 3430 E. St. Apt. 72/95660

RED BLUFF: TEHAMANS AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER, 103 Glenna Lane/96080

REDDING: VOLCANIC ALLIANCE, 431 Manzanita Lane 96002

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

VISALIA: SEQUOIA ALLIANCE, 824 Goshen #C/93277 • (209) 625-1328

GREATER BAY AREA

BERKELEY: PEOPLE'S ANTI-NUCLEAR COLLECTIVE, U.C. Berkeley, 607 Eshelman Hall/94720 • (415) 642-6912

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

CONCORD: CONTRA COSTANS AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER, P.O. Box 743/94522

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

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

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

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

SAN ANSELMO: *ABALONE ALLIANCE OF MARIN, 1000 Sir Francis Drake Blvd./94960 • (415) 457-4377

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

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

ALLIANCE AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER, c/o Carroll Child UC Med Center N319X/94143 • (415) 681-1028(h) 666-1435 (U.C.)

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

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

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

SAN BRUNO: CITIZENS FOR SAFE ENERGY OF SAN MATEO COUNTY, 653 Pepper Drive/94066

SARATOGA: ABALONE ALLIANCE CLUB West Valley College, 1400 Fruitvale Ave./95070 • (408) 867-1096 or 374-6459

STANFORD: ROSES AGAINST A NUCLEAR ENVIRONMENT, P.O. Box 8842/94305 • (415) 322-2759

WALNUT CREEK: CONTRA COSTANS AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER, 195 Grover/94596 • (415) 938-3062 or 934-5249

CENTRAL COAST

AVILA BEACH: A.V.I.L.A., P.O. Box 34/93424 • (805) 595-7208

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

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

SAN LUIS OBISPO: MOTHERS FOR PEACE, 114 Del Norte/93401
PEOPLE GENERATING ENERGY, 452 Higuera/93401 (805) 543-8402

SANTA CRUZ: PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, P.O. Box 2324/95063 • (408) 429-9525

SOUTH

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

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

CAMARILLO: CAMARILLO COALITION FOR SAFE ENERGY, 1759 Marco/93010 • (805) 482-7321

LA JOLLA: U.C.S.D. Abalone Alliance, U.C.S.D. Student Organizations, B-023/92093 • (714) 271-4248

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

GEO, 1556 Wellesley Ave./90025

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

RIVERSIDE: RIVERSIDE ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL, c/o 3150 Redwood Dr./92501 • (714) 748-0047

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTH LAGUNA: LAGUNA BEACH AFS, 30832 Driftwood/92677

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

VENTURA: VENTURA SAFE ENERGY ALLIANCE, P.O. Box 1966/93001 • (805) 643-2317

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

WOODLAND HILLS: SAN FERNANDO VALLEY AFS, 6123 Lockhurst Dr./91367

CORPORATE LIES DEPARTMENT

(Division of Literary Attempts)

Some of the corporate ads we've reviewed here stretch the truth so far they seem like fiction. But when a work of fiction reads like a nuclear industry ad, you start to wonder. Take Alex Hailey's recent novel, for example. . . .

Overload

by Arthur Hailey, Bantam Books, 1980, \$2.95 (paper). Doubleday & Company, 1979 (hardback).

In the soap epic tradition of *Airport*, *Hotel* and *Wheels*, Arthur Hailey's *Overload* is a number one bestseller. It is also a not-so-subtle salvo in what Edward Teller, father of the H-bomb, has called "a desperate struggle against whatever you wish to call them—no-growthers, environmentalists, elitists."

Overload's utility executive comme cowboy hero, Nim Goldman, is high-minded and virile as he fights the sacred battle to keep California's electricity flowing and sleeps with very nearly every woman who graces the book's 500 pages. Laura Bo Carmichael, head of the Sequoia Club, is sincere and well-intentioned in her attempts to save the wilderness from the coal plant that Nim's company wants to build.

Tragically, Laura Bo is being duped and milked for a sizeable amount of money by Davey Birdsong, leader of "power & light for people," a grassroots

group that pays demonstrators to carry picket lines and shout slogans. Birdsong himself makes \$60,000 a year as a protester and a sort of malevolent clown. As the (much too) dramatic tale unfolds, we learn that Davey is also the behind-the-scenes mastermind of the terrorist group Friends of Freedom.

The nominal fuhrer of the terrorist band is Georgos Winslow Archambault (Yale, class of '72) who is most commonly found building bombs to blow up power plants and getting an erection as he contemplates all the people he's going to kill. After one successful attack on the utility, Archambault writes in his journal, "One of the dead was a senior management criminal. The rest were minor lackeys—typists, clerks, etc.—who should be grateful for their martyrdom in a noble cause."

Every few pages Hailey treats us to a sermon of pathos about environmental "fanatics" and the beleaguered utilities. These unappreciated servants of the public good are also being persecuted by "paper-eating bureaucrats," politically ambitious government regulators, "charlatans and crooks in Washington," dishonest consumers who tamper with their electric meters and an arrogant, scandal-seeking press. In the face of these forces of disintegration stands Nim Goldman, armed only with his sex appeal, trying to keep "our entire system" from "coming apart, breaking up."

No wonder Nim suffers so. He suffers when he falls in love with a beautiful paraplegic who dies because her electrically-powered respirator fails in a power shortage—thus proving beyond doubt that we need that coal plant. (Not to be outdone by Jane Fonda, Nim

and the paraplegic have great sex while it lasts.)

Nim also suffers because the wife he's cheating on is dying of cancer. And he suffers about whether or not to have his son bar-mitzvahed. In one touching family scene Papa teaches Junior how to sign a room check for a steak dinner at a fancy hotel.

Almost two million copies of *Overload* have been printed since the Bantam paperback edition came out in January, 1980, a tribute to the compelling nature of trashy novels, the advertising budget of its publisher, or the state to which America's aesthetic and political sensibilities have been brought by the "free" press. But there's lots of bad literature on the bestseller list; what's special about *Overload* is that it corresponds so precisely to the energy industry's plans to make coal the next energy boondoggle and to its post-Three Mile Island strategy of taking the public opinion offensive. One would think that *Overload* would seem embarrassingly crude to sophisticated corporate heads, but perhaps we give them too much credit.

The editor's epilogue to *Overload* informs us that Arthur Hailey spends a year researching each of his novels. It quotes the *London Times* which enthuses, "The backgrounds of his stories are so carefully and accurately portrayed that they . . . seem more akin to in-depth journalism than popular fiction." For all I know, Mr. Hailey has done a thorough investigation of the love life of utility executives. But if this account has anything to do with the anti-nuclear/safe energy movement, I'll eat my Abalone Alliance bumper sticker.

—Marcy Darnovsky

Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide

On July 13–18 SONO More Atomics, in coalition with many other progressive organizations, will focus public attention on the Bohemian Grove encampment in the Russian River community of Monte Rio. Our purpose is to educate the public on the interlockings of corporate, military and government leadership and how these relationships are directly responsible for the deteriorating quality of our lives.

Saturday, July 5 at the Cotati Plaza we will have a "Bohemian Boogie" concert and fundraiser from noon to five.

Sunday, July 13 at the Rio Theater (½ mile from the Grove) we will have a public teach-in with speakers, music, films, childcare, information tables and a press conference.

Friday, July 18 we will greet the Bohemians with pickets and billboards as they make their limousine caravan from the Santa Rosa airport to the encampment.

July 19–22 we will have a series of presentations and fundraisers at the Village Inn Restaurant in Monte Rio. Info: 707-526-7220.



Zbigniew Brzezinski at work in Afghanistan. Zbiggy and his cronies relax every summer at the Bohemian Grove, an all-male summer camp for the rich and powerful. Meet them as they arrive on July 18.

It's About Times reader survey

Dear Readers,

Please help us by answering some or all of the following questions. Return your answers to the address on the subscription blank. We'll print some of the comments in future issues. The questions apply to all issues of *IAT* that you've seen.

1. What do you like about *IAT*? What would you like to see more of?
2. What do you dislike/want less of?
3. What other sources of energy or nuclear news and analysis do you have? How does *IAT* compare to those sources?
4. Do you think *IAT* helps interest people in nuclear issues and in getting involved in the anti-nuclear/safe energy movement? Why/why not?
5. Does *IAT* provide adequate coverage and discussion of nuclear-related political and strategic issues? Comments?
6. Where did you get this copy of *IAT*? If you subscribe, when did you get this issue? Do some issues come very late or not at all?
7. How many issues of *IAT* have you read? How much of the paper do you usually read?

Background info (optional but helpful. Answer any you like.)

8. How many hours per month do you spend on anti-nuclear/safe energy work (if applicable)?
9. How old are you?
10. What's your occupation (or what you do for \$)?
11. Where do you live (area of CA or US)?
12. ?

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Cartoon by Bill Oettinger.