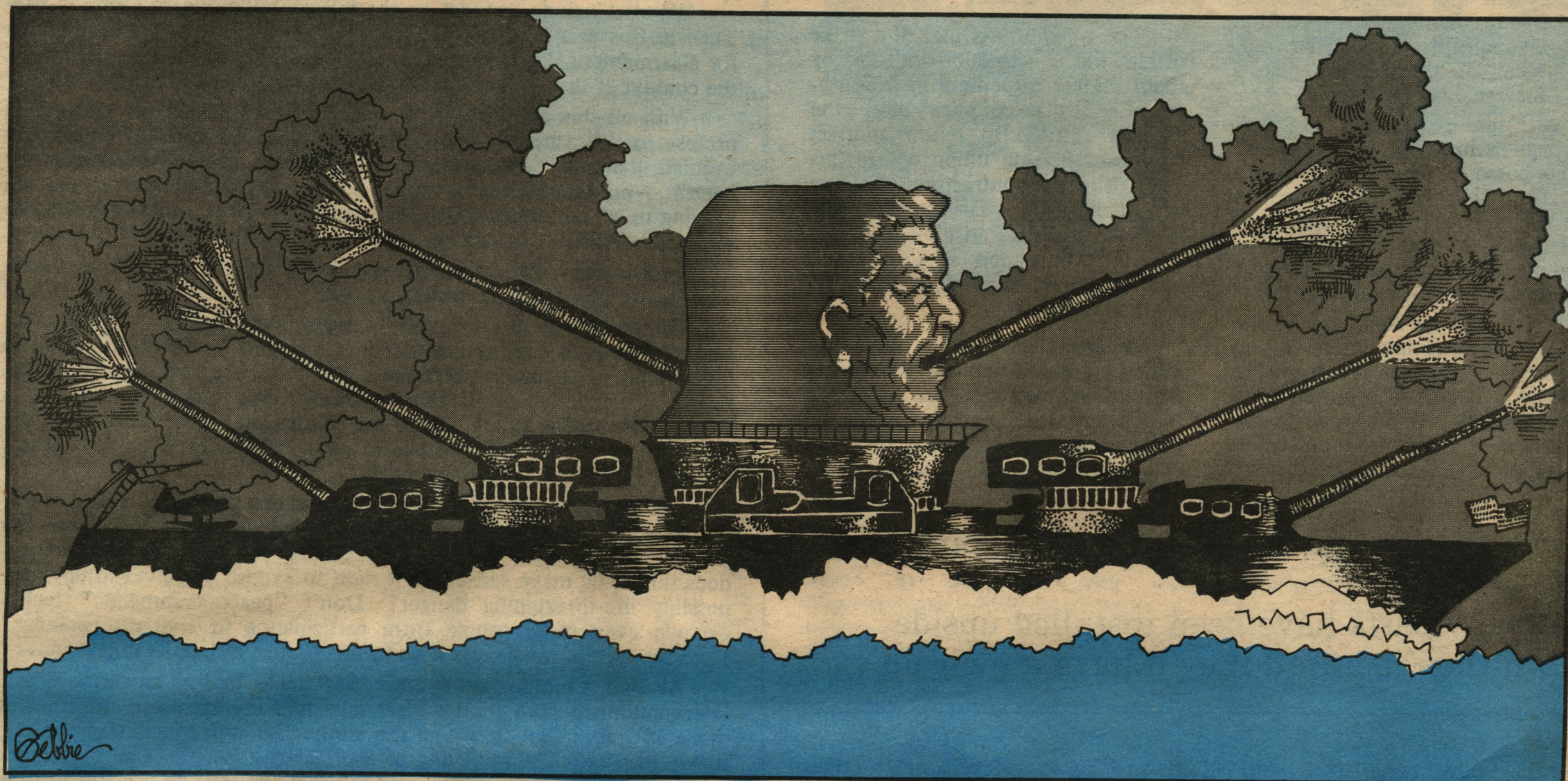


It's About Times

Abalone Alliance Newspaper

August—September 1983



Wartime for Bonzo?

Reagan sends in the gunboats

Over the course of the next six months, some 20,000 American troops, two aircraft carrier battle groups, and 140 war planes will be conducting land and sea maneuvers on Central America's doorstep. Reagan is using this gunboat diplomacy to intimidate the Sandinistas and the Salvadoran guerillas into negotiating on his terms. But the escalation raises new dangers.

The flotilla steaming towards Central America gives Reagan the conventional war equivalent of the nuclear "button": the ability to order immediate military action whenever he chooses. With the gunboats in place, he could shoot now and pacify Congress -- as we've seen, not a particularly difficult task -- later. He could justify a quarantine or military incursion with a concocted incident that had forced the Americans to fight back in self defense.

In other words, Reagan has prepared a Gulf of Tonkin on demand. He has set up a hair-trigger situation that will allow him to bypass the political process altogether if he decides to wage war. By the time Congress or some bipartisan commission got around to investigating, it would be too late. By the time demonstrations could be mounted against war in Central America, we'd be protesting bombing raids that had already destroyed

Reagan's use of gunboat diplomacy gives him the conventional war equivalent of the nuclear 'button.'

villages or troops that had already toppled governments.

Even before the latest escalation, Reagan was facing protest not only from opponents of militarism, but also from within the ruling elite. Top Pentagon officials, for example, have strongly opposed sending troops to topple the Sandinistas or shore up the government in El Salvador because they don't want to fight Vietnam-like wars that they can't win. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General John Vessey takes this view, and also emphasizes a second "lesson of Vietnam": the importance of engineering public consent for military adventures.

Though the administration is unwilling to forego its military options, it is also reluctant to stir up protest from the public or Congress. These contradictory aims lay behind the mixed messages -- gunboat diplomacy one day and bipartisan commissions the next -- sent from Washington in late July.

Though it's hard for us to believe, the appointment of Henry Kissinger to head a bipartisan commission is meant to reassure North Americans about Reagan's modera-

tion and flexibility. But the mainstream view in the US of Kissinger as a moderate and able statesman is not shared in Central America, where Kissinger is best remembered for his part in overthrowing Allende's government in Chile.

According to the *New York Times*, the announcement of the Kissinger commission was supposed to overshadow military preparations for a quarantine of Nicaragua. "Highly classified plans outlining the military activities called for developing a public relations strategy that would permit the Administration to control their disclosure in a manner that would minimize the impact in the US while maximizing it in Central America. These plans unraveled when officials opposed to the policy informed reporters about the plans."

These shenanigans show that our opposition *does* weight the calculations of the administration and mil-

itary planners. Our opportunity to stop intervention in Central America is now, and the chances of doing so are much better if the antinuclear movement flexes *its* muscles against intervention.

The combined strength of the groups and individuals opposed to nuclear weapons and American intervention will be needed to put effective pressure on policy makers. Reagan's military escalation was undertaken without Congressional consultation, a slap in the face that goaded the House to buck Reagan on covert military aid to the counter-revolutionaries in Nicaragua. But the ban isn't permanent, and anyway is unlikely to be passed by the Republican-controlled Senate.

Other Central American policies have gone largely unchallenged by Congress. Substantial amounts of aid to rightwing governments in Honduras, Guatemala, and of course El Salvador continue, and the administration wants more. Reagan has threatened left-leaning governments in Grenada and Surinam, where some of the first training

Continued on page 7

Inside

Double trouble at Diablo.....	2
Port Chicago demos.....	3
Nuclear power alive and, well.....	4
June 20 at Livermore Lab.....	8-9
Is the Freeze on the skids?	10
Protesting the MX, guerilla style.....	12-13

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

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

Bad welds and labor strife at Diablo

Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials have reported that pipe welds at the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant are too thin to meet safety requirements. The condition has been found throughout the cooling system of the nuclear plant's Unit 1 reactor.

A "mini-evidentiary hearing" has been scheduled by the NRC appeals board for July 19 in San Luis Obispo to help determine whether to approve requests by Governor Deukmejian and the Mothers for Peace for more extensive hearings on the plant's construction quality.

PG&E and the NRC oppose the hearings, maintaining there is no evidence of any construction quality problems at Diablo in spite of the 10 problem welds. It has yet to be determined whether there are other

again, turning away about 2500 construction workers and pre-empting much of the repair work that was underway at the plant.

The walkout was part of a strike against the construction industry by about 35,000 carpenters in 11 Southern California counties after the industry refused to renew contract provisions barring union contractors from using subcontractors who hire non-union labor. The International Piledrivers Union, an affiliate of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters, walked out in support of the carpenters' demands.

Meanwhile, Joel Reynolds, attorney for Mothers for Peace, has asserted in a letter to the NRC that PG&E officials recently pressured design consultant Robert L. Cloud to

Did you hear the one about Diablo going on line?

So many parts have been installed upside down they're afraid they'll have a melt up.

bad welds in the system.

PG&E has announced it hopes to complete its revisions of Diablo by September 2 and get NRC approval by September 30. The company hopes to begin low power testing by November 30 and commercial operation by March 30 of next year.

In light of a recent labor dispute, however, it appears as if PG&E officials may have jumped the gun again with their optimistic schedule. Workers walked off the job for two days in June but were soon back after the dispute was apparently "settled." Then on July 7, some 70 members of the International Piledrivers walked off the job

reword his report because it might be misinterpreted "as an indication that the (Diablo Canyon Project) was trying to cover up its failure to qualify the [concrete auxiliary building] slabs."

According to Reynolds, PG&E officials were put off by Cloud's report, which claimed PG&E listed a new seismic analysis of the concrete slabs of the plant's auxiliary buildings as complete when it had never been performed. Cloud told a reporter that after some deliberation he decided to leave the report as it was originally worded.

-- Sandy Leon
IAT staff

The defense budget Death and Taxes

It was Christmas in July in the nation's capital. While cold war winds blew December cold, Congress played summertime Santa to the Pentagon and your local defense industry. Stockings were stuffed with MX missiles, B-1 bombers, new chemical poisons and lucrative contracts for their manufacture.

Proving its passage of the Freeze resolution was a completely meaningless gesture, the House authorized \$2.6 billion for procurement of 27 MX missiles and another \$2 billion for further MX testing.

But being sensitive to the antinuclear movement's claim that the MX, with its ten warheads per missile, is a destabilizing first strike weapon, Congress attached a string to the MX. The Air Force would have to make a promise to develop a whole new missile system, the "less threatening" single warhead Midgetman, whose cost is now being estimated at more than three times that of the MX. In a single stroke, this move insured the continued development of new weapons systems and affirmed the House's commitment to arms control.

Congress also authorized more than \$6 billion for the purchase of the new strategic B-1 bomber, even

though, as Senator Dale Bumpers (D-Ark) pointed out, the first flight test of the current B-1 version "won't take place until the 50th B-1 is in production." Neither this nor the fact that his presidential campaign has been run almost entirely on the Freeze resolution deterred Senator Alan Cranston (D-Cal) from voting for the B-1.

Vice President George Bush broke a tie vote in the Senate to pass a measure resuming the production of chemical weapons. The House killed a similar proposal and now a conference between the two legislative bodies must work out a compromise, meaning, in all probability, just a little less chemicals than previously hoped for.

The Senate also voted to develop a 155 mm. neutron warhead designed to counter a Soviet tank invasion of Europe, even though no NATO country is willing to have it deployed within its boundaries.

In its almost \$200 billion defense budget, Congress assented to nearly everything the Reagan Administration had requested, including dozens of new fighters and hundreds of new guns, missiles, tanks and other vehicles.

-- Steve Stallone
IAT staff

In this issue . . .

This issue of *It's About Times* reflects the phenomenal level of recent protest against foreign and defense policies of the Reagan administration. In these pages you'll find stories and pictures of the June 20 international disarmament protests and the Livermore blockade, the Port Chicago rally and blockade against intervention in Central America, and the guerrilla-style attempt to stop the test launch of the MX at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

We also include a report on the Silicon Valley Peace Camp, a new tactic in this part of the world. Another new tactic, a "general strike for disarmament," is proposed by two long-time antinuclear activists in the context of their reflections on the Freeze campaign.

With all this activity and these days in jail behind us, with more protests of all varieties being planned, it seems time to pause and evaluate the tactics and strategies we're using. How effective have we been? Who are we convincing, who are we educating, who are we moving to action? How much leverage do we have, and how much do we need? What is our strategy, what is our political vision?

Besides these general questions, recent actions have evoked concerns about specific tactics and strategies.

The International Day protests raised questions about the media-centered focus of large civil disobedience actions. Is it worth pouring so much energy, so much preparation and jail time, into an event the impact of which depends largely on the coverage it gets? Do the issues come across on the tube? Don't our politics get lost or distorted in the process? Isn't civil disobedience a luxury that only a few can afford, and therefore a marginalizing tactic?

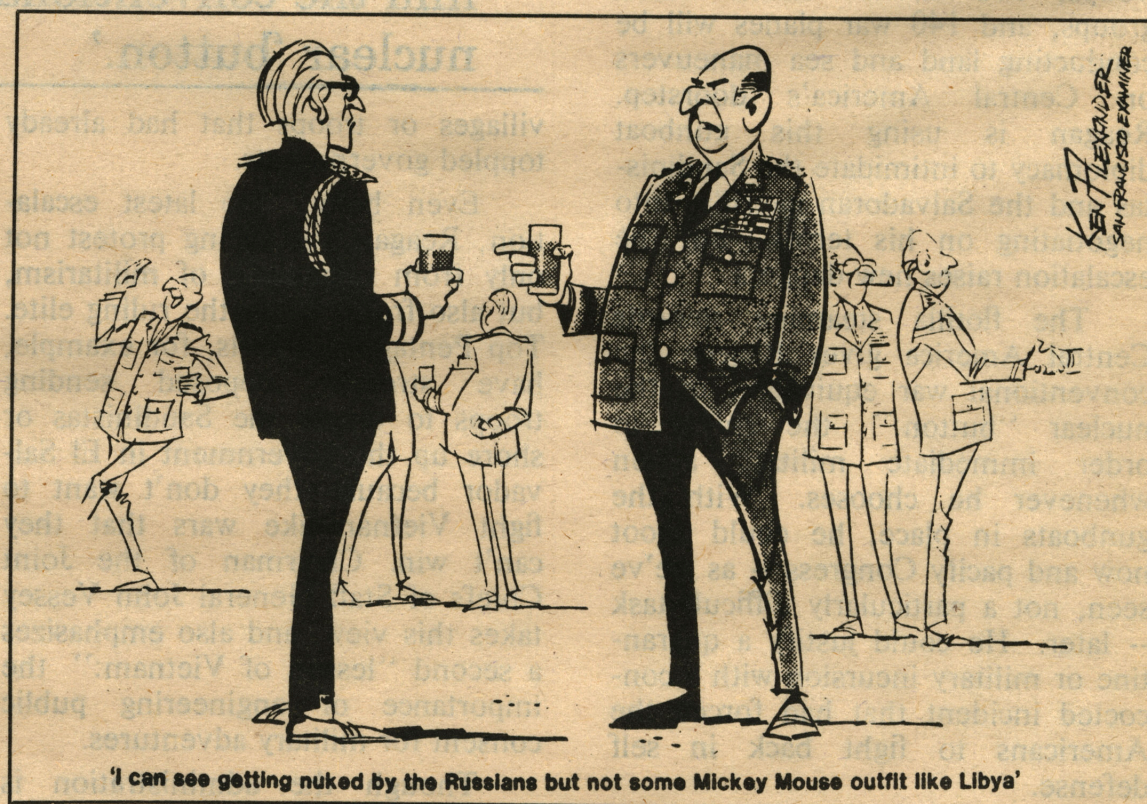
The Vandenberg occupation was intended not as a media event, but as a means to physically prevent the launch of the MX. Since the missile was launched despite the presence of protesters on the base, does this tactic make sense? Is it right to expose ourselves to physical, possibly life-threatening danger? Don't "peace commando" tactics exclude even more people from participating in civil disobedience? Does the lack of media attention to this protest negate its importance?

At Port Chicago, an attempt was made to link nuclearism and interventionism both in the legal rally and the blockade. Which was more effective? Should we in the antinuclear movement take the initiative to continue this mixing of energies and issues? Can the tactics that have been developed to protest "single issues" be brought to bear on the systems of social control at their roots?

These questions are being asked in informal discussions and meetings, and will be a focus at the Livermore Action Group Congress on August 13 and 14. (For details, see Calendar, page 15.)

We invite you, our readers, to carry this discussion to the pages of *It's About Times*. Please send typed, double-spaced manuscripts, and keep them to about 500 words. We'll need all submissions by September 5.

-- The IAT crew



'I can see getting nuked by the Russians but not some Mickey Mouse outfit like Libya'

It's About Times

Abalone Alliance Newspaper

It's About Times is the newspaper of the Abalone Alliance, a California antinuclear/safe energy organization consisting of over 50 member groups (see page 15). The opinions expressed in *IAT* are those of the authors and are not necessarily endorsed by the Abalone Alliance.

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

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

Managing Editor: Steve Stallone

Editorial Staff: Marcy Darnovsky, Mark Evanoff, Sandy Leon, Tim Redmond, Bob Van Scoy, Ward Young

Typesetting by Cindy Cornell and Terminal Words

Cover Graphic by Melinda Gebbie

Copyright ©1983. Permission is given to reprint articles and graphics if credit is given to *IAT*. Please send us a copy. *It's About Times* /2940 16th St. Room 310 / San Francisco, CA 94103 (415) 861-0592.

New coalition forms

Port Chicago demos oppose US in Salvador

The timing of the July 24-25 demonstration at the Concord Naval Weapons Station was perfect. Generalissimo Reagan had released a machine gun burst of Central American war announcements the preceding week.

The newspaper headlines spoke for themselves: "Big U.S. Boost Urged in Latin Military Aid -- 40% More to Central America (*SF Chronicle* 7/18/83); "Kissinger Heads Reagan's Panel on Latin Policy" (7/19); "Kissinger's Tough Line on Central America" (7/19); "Eight Navy Ships Diverted to Latin America" (7/20); "Reagan Denies Using 'Gunboat Diplomacy'" (7/22); "Nicaragua May Be Quarantined by U.S. -- Military Buildup Planned" (7/23); "Pentagon Asks More Salvador Advisers -- Proposal Would Double Number" (7/24); "CIA Latin America Role Expanding" (7/25).

Practically lost amid the welter of war *pronunciamientos* was Reagan's fourth (and final) "certification" of human rights progress in El Salvador -- the original reason the Naval Weapons Station protest had been scheduled for Sunday, July 24, and Monday, July 25, 1983.

The Port Chicago demonstrations -- so-called because the Naval Weapons Station is based in what was formerly the City of Port Chicago -- linked the anti-intervention movement to the anti-nuclear movement in an important and unprecedented way. The Port Chicago Campaign, the group responsible for the demonstration, united several anti-war, anti-nuclear and Central American solidarity organizations. The fact that the Naval Weapons Station houses nuclear weapons while functioning as the central shipping depot for weapons destined for Central America allowed the Port Chicago Campaign to emerge as an effective working coalition of groups such as the American Friends Service Committee, the Livermore Action Group, CISPES and others.

The protest was far larger than most recent Bay Area demonstrations against U.S. militarism and intervention in Central America. In brilliant sunshine and gusting winds, more than 3000 spirited demonstrators with seemingly endless banners marched 2 1/2 miles from the Concord BART station to a park at the edge of the weapons station. Like the coalition effort it was, the rally that followed also seemed endless -- too many speakers representing too many groups took turns denouncing U.S. military policy.



Blockaders plunk down in front of the main entrance to the Concord Naval Weapons Station at dawn Monday, July 25, 1983.

Early Monday morning blockaders arrived at the Concord Naval Weapons Station for the second part of the protest. But they were outflanked by the Navy.

Knowing of the blockade plans in advance, the shipyard workers were bused into the facility an hour earlier. With hardly any traffic to blockade, protesters and police

waited. By 2 pm the police realized that the blockaders were going to stay until the next shift or the next day if necessary. To curtail the length of their own deployment, the police began making arrests. By the end of the afternoon 104 people had been arrested.

In an attempt to minimize the cost to the city and the publicity of the action, Concord Police released the blockaders later that evening without charges.

But early Tuesday morning protesters returned. This time the police were caught off guard and the blockade tied up traffic at some entrances for as long as an hour while police scrambled to respond. At the Willow Pass entrance some protesters chained themselves to the gate while an unofficial lock was added at the Bailey entrance, slowing down its opening until Marines could saw it off.

Some 60 people were arrested and the authorities, who had been trying to be nice and friendly the day before, were obviously annoyed by the repeat performance.

The police then performed a check on those arrested, to identify and separate second-time offenders (recyclers) but several managed to slip through. The recyclers and those who chained themselves to the gate were held while the others were released that same day. The 25 protesters held were arraigned Thursday afternoon and released on time served.

-- David Smith

-- Steve Stallone



Flotilla of sea blockaders practice maneuvers at Port Chicago, the conduit for weapons from Concord Station

Investors lose by default

The sky is falling on WPPSS

The Washington State Public Power Supply System (WPPSS, pronounced WHOOPS!) has gone belly-up on \$2.5 billion it borrowed for two defunct nuclear power plants in the largest such default in history.

Financial fallout from WPPSS' debacle (only one of the 5 nuclear plants it started stands a chance of being completed soon) has begun to hit other municipally-owned electric utilities, especially those involved in nuclear projects. For example, investor alarm over skyrocketing costs at the Seabrook, New Hampshire nuke has forced Massachusetts Municipal

Wholesale Electric Cooperative (MMWEC), which is heavily involved, to pay substantially higher interest rates than other municipals.

As a result, ratepayers are forced to shore-up poorly managed municipal utilities by paying for higher interest rates and insurance to make such municipal bonds attractive again to investors. Unless ratepayers refuse, their dollars will flow increasingly to giant brokerage houses and the vultures that scrap over nuclear carrion -- like lawyers, insurance companies and banks.

Public utility districts in Wash-

ington state and even the state itself are getting the cold shoulder from investors. Meanwhile, slicing up WPPSS assets -- its three other partially completed nuclear plants -- promises to be a decades-long process. This is the most likely source of money to pay off the debt on Units 4 and 5. The 88 public utilities which sponsored 4 and 5 are another possible source, but all of the Washington utilities involved are off the hook since the Washington State Supreme Court ruled that the contracts between the utilities and the supply system were invalid.

Unless the supply system voluntarily declares bankruptcy and reorganizes, it will face a multitude of lawsuits from brokerage houses, bondholders and contractors. But some WPPSS executives want to weather the current storm and hold onto Units 1-3 at all costs. The electricity from them isn't needed now, but it may be some day, and they'd like to be there to "provide" it.

-- Ward Young

IAT staff

-- from *NY Times*, July 26

Nuclear power alive and, well . . .

Almost before nuclear power opponents had a chance to breathe a sigh of relief at the latest "crack down" by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on some of the more obviously hazardous nuclear plants, the order was rescinded.

In a recent NRC ruling, five nuclear power plants with General Electric reactors were instructed to shut down within 30 days pending "inspections of their cooling systems."

The ruling was inspired by inspections of 16 other General Electric-designed plants. Cracks were found in the cooling system piping of 13 of those reactors, and six are now shut down. Seven others have resumed operation after companies "repaired the cracks or replaced the piping."

But no sooner had the shut downs been announced when the feds took it all back. That part *wasn't* announced on network television.

On July 15, within days of the shutdown order, utility officials and the General Electric Co. contested the ruling before the NRC. They contended that the cracks in the cooling pipes just aren't that dangerous and that the shutdowns would cost their customers money. To the surprise of practically no one, the NRC retracted the order the very next day, scheduling a review for August 4. Meanwhile the plants remain in operation. The recent turnaround is nothing new and has, in fact, become almost standard operating procedure at the NRC.

"The government has licensed more than seventy nuclear power plants," says Robert Pollard, a former NRC project manager, in a May 7 article in *The Nation*. "Each one has major safety deficiencies in design and hardware and each does not have stringent enough personnel qualifications." Yet even after several serious accidents, "few NRC officials . . . consider forcing the industry to take the steps needed to make the plants safe."

Shifting With the Wind

It has become a well known axiom among corporate elites and politicians alike that, as NRC commissioner Victor Gilinsky stated last year in a speech to an industry audience, "the political winds have shifted," in favor of nuclear power. "Some of the very same senior NRC officials who were outdoing each other proposing new safety requirements are now competing to eliminate such requirements."

And Reagan still intends to free the industry from the "morass of regulations," that heretofore has kept the industry at least technically in check. "The administration has eroded positive changes in NRC attitudes," states former NRC commissioner Peter Bradford.

In fact, it is beginning to seem as if those who proclaimed the nuclear power industry to be "dead in the water," could be in for a rude awakening.

Still Treading

"Where there's a will there's a way," the old adage goes. But where there's a will, an ideological fervor, a pro-nuclear administration and big bucks - look out.

In a May, 1983 article in *Mother Jones*, Mark Hertsgaard, the author of *Nuclear Inc: The Men and Money Behind Nuclear Energy*, says, "America's leading nuclear corporations are not giving up." In spite of

the failure to receive a single order for a domestic nuclear power plant since 1977 and the cancellation of some 100 reactors in the past few years, the infamous "Big Four" (Westinghouse, General Electric, Combustion Engineering and Babcock & Wilcox) all announced at a 1982 conference on the industry's future that they were committed to staying in the nuclear business indefinitely. And according to Hertsgaard's article they have the capital and the ideological commitment to pull it off.

Hertsgaard conducted more than 100 hours of tape-recorded interviews with 40 key executives from ten leading nuclear firms and attended a multitude of informal sessions at industry conferences. One industry executive told him, "There's a nuclear imperative in this country. We know it. Wall Street knows it. And we're prepared to meet it." Hertsgaard claims that the issue goes beyond mere "corporate greed" -- that in the minds of nuclear executives, nuclear power is "the very embodiment of progress" and the "entire future of American capitalism, technological society and . . . Western Civilization may depend on its survival."

Hertsgaard further emphasizes that the nuclear oligopoly has the capital to subsidize their nuclear divisions for years while waiting for the "nuclear imperative to assert itself," partially because "none of the industry's leading corporations depends upon nuclear-related sales for more than ten percent of its total revenues and for most . . . the figure is under five percent." This, Hertsgaard asserts, "makes it fairly painless for them to absorb nuclear

Those who proclaim the nuclear industry to be dead in the water could be in for a rude awakening.

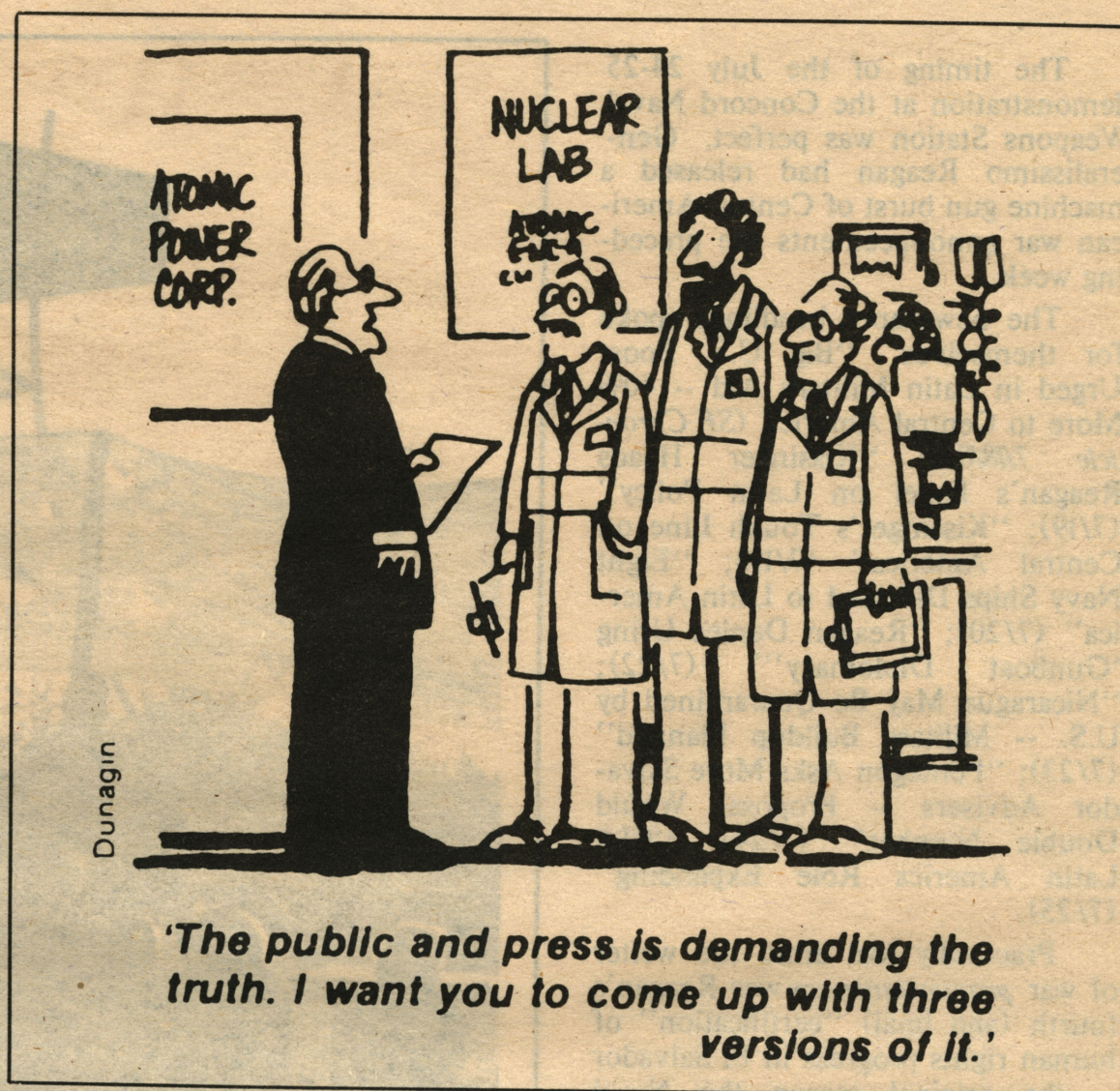
losses while waiting for the revival." Indeed, nuclear executives seem to believe the big payoff is yet to come in the late 80s or early 90s.

Although Hertsgaard does take it a bit far when he describes Three Mile Island as "a blessing in disguise" for the nuclear industry and suggests that, contrary to what some believe, TMI did little to damage the public's opinion of nuclear power, his assertion that TMI was the impetus for the PR campaign that followed is plausible.

Pro-Nuke Media Blitz

In late May of 1979, a month after the TMI accident, eleven executives from nuclear utilities, trade groups, and nuclear plant builders met at the headquarters of the Bechtel corporation in San Francisco. They were there to form the Committee for Energy Awareness, an "ad hoc public relations group" intended to counter the wave of antinuclear public opinion then sweeping the country.

The execs cooked up a number of outreach programs aimed at particularly important groups such as scientists and students. But the main thrust of their efforts was a media campaign. By mid-1980, slickly-produced television and radio spots produced for the group were running in 13 major cities. This test phase of the advertising campaign, with an \$800,000 budget, was followed by a larger program in other areas.



The CEA ads generally avoided taking on the issue of nuclear safety directly, attempting instead to capitalize on the then-current "oil shortage" mentality. A typical TV spot presented nuclear power as a way to "get that foreign oil monkey off our back" -- while showing a monkey with a striking resemblance to Ayatollah Khomeini, America's favorite villain during the "hostage crisis" with Iran.

After its 1980 ad blitz, CEA seemed to go dormant for a while.

The "safely operating" part of Sagan's quote was added only after the CEA began worrying that antinuclear groups could claim equal time under the Federal Communications Commission's fairness doctrine if the ads came off like the one-sided hype that they are. The fairness doctrine requires a licensed broadcaster to give balanced coverage to important issues.

The CEA is especially worried about one antinuclear organization: the Safe Energy Communications Council (SECC), a coalition of some 16 environmental and public interest groups formed in late 1980 in direct response to CEA's earlier media blitz. About half of SECC's \$80,000 annual budget will likely be spent helping local antinuclear groups to gain free air time from the television stations to rebut the CEA ads. CEA, with an annual advertising budget of over \$13 million, has presented more than 1800 radio or television ads to date. The SECC has received between a fifth and two-thirds that number of free rebuttal spots.

As the success of many doubtful consumer products proves, just about anything can be sold with a big enough advertising budget. But there are those who believe that the CEA campaign could backfire. Janet Beardon, the SECC's national press coordinator, told *IAT* that CEA's ads de-emphasize solar energy as a rather far out possibility and point to photovoltaic (solar cell) electricity generation as if it were the only solar possibility in the foreseeable future. But in Phoenix, where an ad campaign is now going strong, the potential for solar energy has unexpectedly become a major issue -- to the dismay of the CEA and the delight of renewable energy advocates.

The *National Journal* quoted one CEA ad as stating, "For billions of years, the earth has been bathed by radiation from the sun. . . In fact, more than half our radiation exposure is from nature."

The magazine reports that the Coalition for Responsible Energy Education, a SECC affiliate in Phoenix, took that theme and ran with it. It responded with its own ad -- which also shows the sun. "You're looking at the world's largest nuclear power plant: the sun," the group's ad says. "It's about 93 million miles away - about how far a nuclear plant should be to be safe."

-- Sandy Leon
IAT staff

Meanwhile, the CEA has pulled out all stops in their media campaign. One ad features a physician, Leonard A. Sagan, (who *wouldn't* believe a guy with a name like Sagan?) standing in the Colorado mountains, in New York's Grand Central Station, at the Lincoln Memorial and, ultimately in front of a nuclear power plant. Sagan quips, "All those places expose me to much more radiation than I'm getting right here at a safely operating nuclear plant."

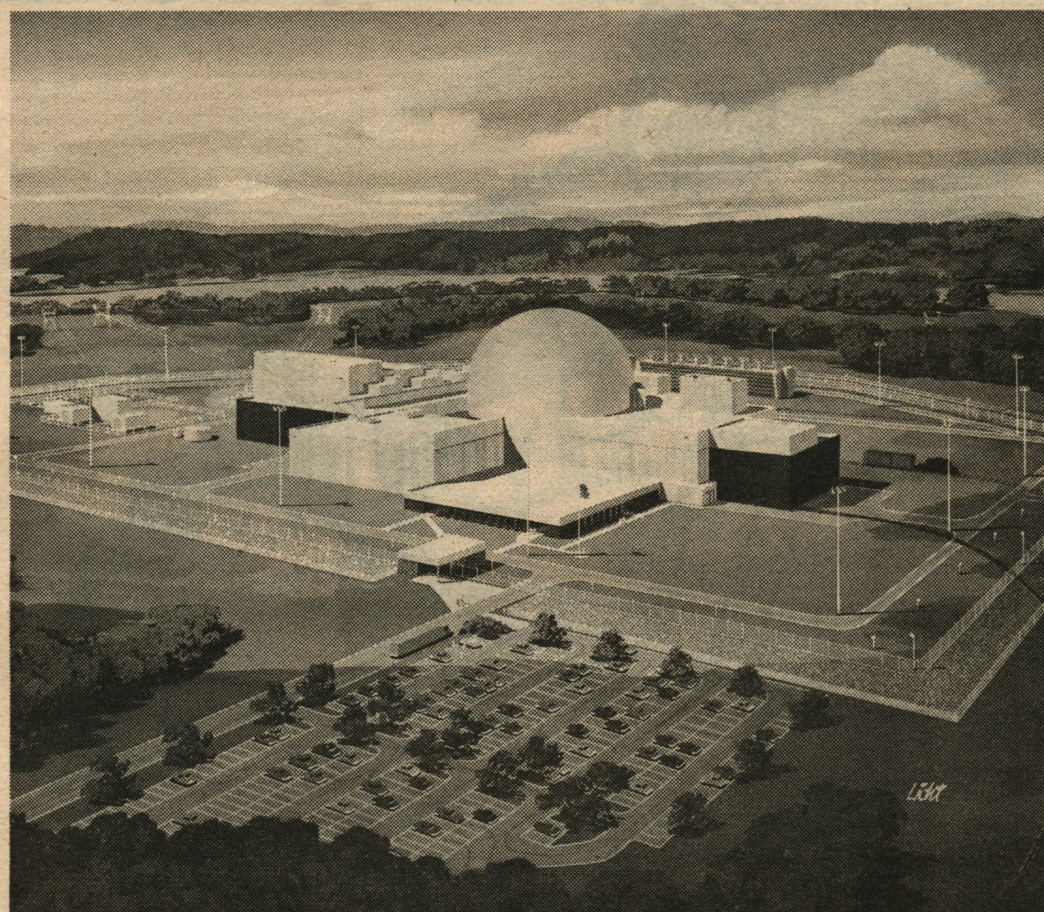
Clinch River breeder scheme in trouble

The Clinch River breeder reactor project, long a target of antinuclear forces, may finally be abandoned by Congress. In late June, the Senate denied a Reagan Administration request for \$270 million to fund the project next year. The House also has voted to turn down the appropriation request.

Although the Congressional decisions were not final, and allowed for revived funding under cost-sharing arrangements with private industry, even long-time Clinch River supporters are not optimistic. Senate Majority Leader Howard Baker, long the most influential booster of the project, gives it no better than a "50-50 chance" for survival. Opponents such as Senator Gordon Humphrey of New Hampshire say the project is dead, or at least dying.

The Clinch River project's importance lies in the fact that it was intended to launch a whole new generation of nuclear power reactors. Such breeder reactors would be able to use nuclear fuel much more efficiently than the reactors operating now -- and are thus the key to the nuclear industry's dreams of expansion, since domestic uranium supplies are relatively limited. A decade or so ago, when Clinch River was begun, nuclear promoters schemed to eventually build 1000 or more large breeders, supplying up to a quarter of US energy (compared to the mere 2% nuclear power now provides).

Despite this enthusiasm, no private concern was willing to fund the development of a full-scale breeder reactor. This was no doubt due to the fact that previous US attempts to build breeders have ended in failure. In 1955, the EBR-1 experimental breeder was destroyed by a core meltdown -- a result of operator error, but nevertheless an illustration of the touchiness of the design. But only a year later, the Atomic Energy Commission issued a construction license for a large breeder to be built near Detroit.



An artist's conception of the Clinch River Breeder Reactor

The reactor, named after scientist Enrico Fermi, was finished in 1963, but produced only a trickle of power before suffering a near-catastrophic partial meltdown three years later. Clinch River represents the first US attempt to revive the commercial breeder since that debacle.

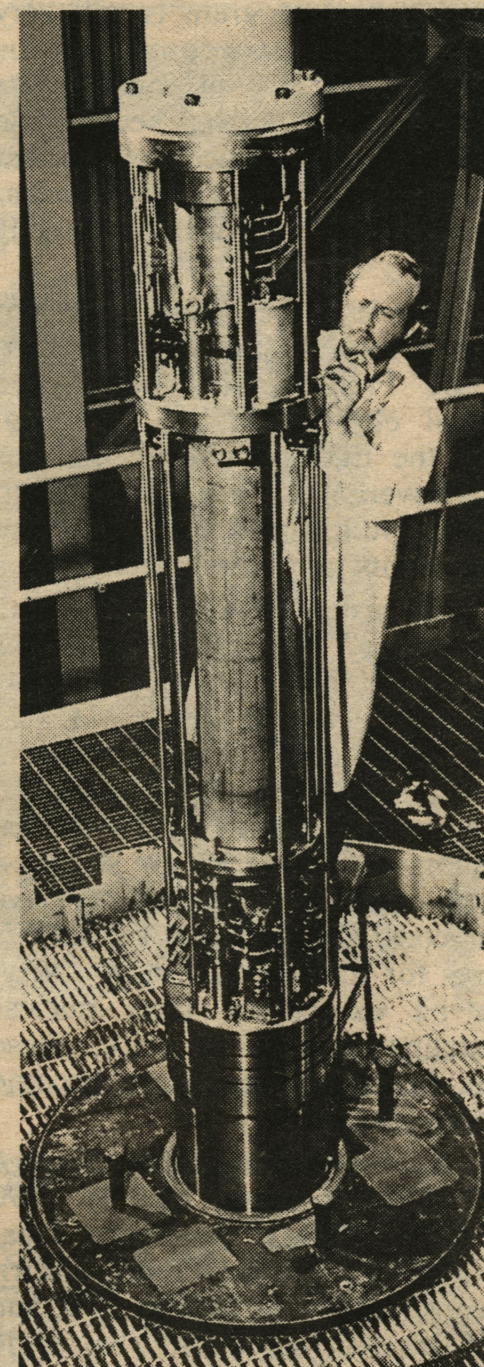
The breeder's problems aren't just a matter of ironing the bugs out of a new technology. Current breeder designs include inherently risky features: operation at high temperature, a core containing a high concentration of plutonium, a cooling system filled with liquid sodium (which reacts violently with water). In the event of an accident where the core is distorted or melted, an uncontrolled nuclear reaction -- in essence a small explosion -- could occur. This need not be much by atomic bomb standards to rupture the reactor's containment and release its radioactive contents to the environment.

Nor are accidents the only prob-

lem. Because of its dependence on plutonium, the breeder is useless without nuclear reprocessing -- and reprocessing plants around the world have proven to be the least practical and most contaminating and hazardous of nuclear installations.

All this adds up to a lot of risk -- both financial and physical -- and a lot of money. The estimated total tag for Clinch River is \$3.9 billion, and at that price there is little profit to be made even in the unlikely event that the reactor runs perfectly. So the nuclear utilities came up with a token \$257 million, and hit up their ever-indulgent Uncle Sam for the rest. By 1981, a billion dollars had already been spent -- an investment in the nuclear industry's future, courtesy of the public.

Nuclear opponents can only welcome Clinch River's apparent demise. But it's unlikely that the government's overall energy priorities -- billions for nukes and crumbs for alternatives -- will change. And it's worth noting that the Congress-



By early 1981, more than \$1 billion had been spent on Clinch River. Some of the money was spent designing and testing components that may now be scrapped.

sional skepticism on Clinch River has yet to be applied to other nuclear matters. The same energy bill that put Clinch River's \$270 million appropriation on ice also dished up 25 times that much -- a staggering \$6.5 billion -- for the production of next year's nuclear warheads.

-- Bob Van Scoy
IAT staff

PG&E's seven-year itch

Humboldt nuke dead but not buried

PG&E has finally bowed to inevitability and agreed to decommission its twenty year old Humboldt Bay nuclear power plant, seven years after opponents forced its shutdown due to nearby earthquake faults.

Like the shutdown in 1976, the decision to decommission the 63-megawatt nuke resulted not from PG&E's sense of responsibility but from the efforts of plant opponents like the Redwood Alliance. Now the giant utility would like to stall for another 30 years or until the federal government comes up with a facility to take the reactor's high-level waste. For now, PG&E is simply ignoring substantive questions -- like how to dismantle the highly radioactive plant, and who will pay for the \$100 million the utility spent while the plant sat idle for seven years -- which remain crucial for plant opponents and ratepayers. How these questions are dealt with may affect the future of nuclear power in California.

The Redwood Alliance began turning up the pressure for decommissioning Humboldt in 1979. National decommissioning confer-

ences it held that year and again in 1981 spawned the first widespread awareness of problems in embalming nuclear plants which the industry had kept concealed. The Alliance also participated in two years of state Public Utilities Commission hearings into utility financing mechanisms for decommissioning, and their decisions will now affect Humboldt. According to the Alliance's Carl Zichella, the fact that utility commissions across the country are requiring nuclear plant operators to keep decommissioning accounts separate from the rest of utility assets is a consequence of the Alliance's proposal on Humboldt.

The Redwood Alliance would like to do better than PG&E's proposal to "safe store" Humboldt -- or let it lie for 30 years and then start dismantling it. The Humboldt site is far too dangerous to be licensed for radioactive waste disposal, since it lies within 2000 feet of three earthquake faults. Yet PG&E's proposal for "protective storage" amounts to the same thing. Since the federal government has no high level waste storage site and probably won't until after the current 1995 deadline,

PG&E has a perfect excuse to wait another 30 years before doing anything.

The NRC contends that the sole remaining radiological hazard from the plant is to the workers who will take it apart, so it is wise to wait since that hazard diminishes over time. This is incredibly optimistic given the long half-life of many of the contaminants and the possibility of surface faulting at the site. The Redwood Alliance favors dismantling the plant as soon as a high-level waste site is established.

The Redwood Alliance also thinks that PG&E ratepayers should pay only 13/30ths of the decommissioning costs, which PG&E estimates at \$65 million, since the plant only operated for 13 years of its expected 30 year lifetime. The group opposes the utility's plans to bill ratepayers for \$600,000 in costs for every year the plant is "safe-stored" as well as for the \$80 million in financing costs the company has paid since the 1976 shutdown.

Although PG&E claims that lower oil prices make re-starting Humboldt uneconomic, in fact ever

since the early 1970's the nuke's fate has been out of PG&E's hands. When PG&E technician Robert Rowen went to the AEC in 1971 with over 40 safety violations at the plant he got national headlines for his trouble -- and a dossier from the Eureka police department that called him "a possible nuclear terrorist."

Shortly after Rowen's revelations, Humboldt State University geology professor Adam Honea's discovery of earthquake faults within 2000 feet of the plant forced its closure. The utility's studies show it would cost between \$241 and \$446 million to bring Humboldt up to seismic and post-Three Mile Island safety standards, much more than the putting the plant back in operation is worth.

The PUC may end up penalizing PG&E for failing to do an adequate seismic study before building Humboldt, since it is that lapse that now makes decommissioning necessary. In fact, the company has never since the beginning gotten full approval of its seismic studies from the NRC.

-- Ward Young
IAT staff

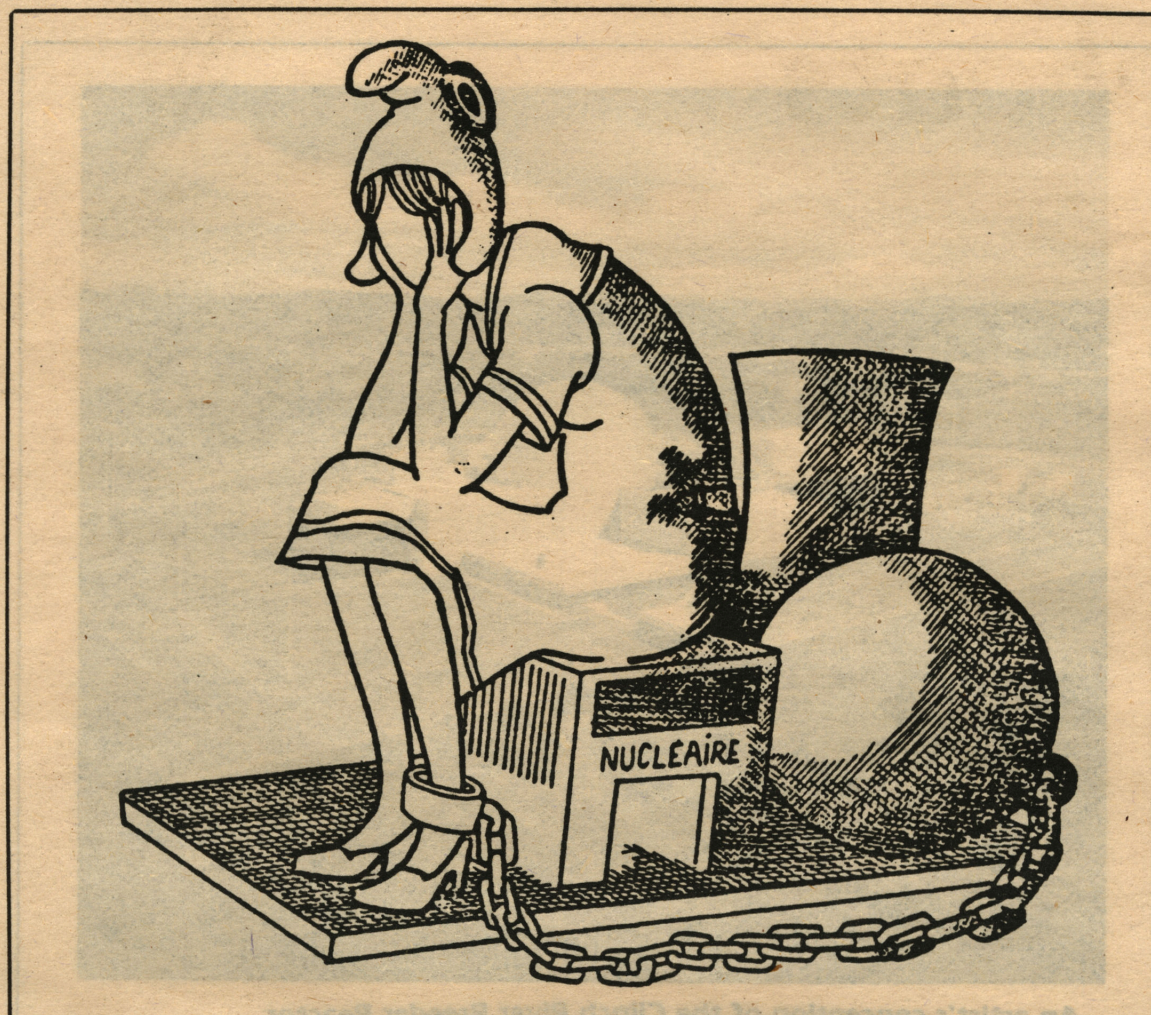
French patriots: Consume more energy!

In contrast to the present stagnant situation in the US, France's nuclear energy program is still very active. New reactors continue to be ordered at the rate of four or five per year, and France has become the second largest producer of nuclear energy in the world. Antinuclear protest, meanwhile, has been largely silenced.

However, the picture is not really so rosy for the EDF (Electricite de France), the state-owned national electric utility. In recent years, the EDF's annual deficit has been hovering around \$1.5 billion, much of it incurred to build those power plants in the first place.

This gusher of red ink is just the beginning of the EDF's problems with the commercial aspect of its nuclear program. It turns out that when planning how many reactors to build, the EDF went overboard and vastly overestimated future electrical consumption. This is no secret -- French critics of nuclear energy have been complaining about the EDF's figures for the past ten years. Now, with an excessively large nuclear generating capacity in place, these gross miscalculations have become an open scandal.

The French magazine *Ecologie* (#349-350) forecasts that by 1990 the EDF's nuclear generating capacity alone will exceed French electrical consumption by at least 10%, and the EDF does not know what to do with the extra electricity. Its previous approaches, such as production of hydrogen from water for fuel, pumped storage reservoirs and increased use of electric heating have



proved either insufficient or uneconomical. Even exporting the energy to neighboring countries will not do. They already have plenty.

In an attempt to resolve this issue, the "Long Term Energy Group" of the Ministry of Planning released a report July 12 on the future direction of French energy policy. While France does not actually need any further investment in electric production for years, the Long Term Group calls for continued construction of new reactors, at the scaled-down rate of one or two

per year. This is mainly to keep the nuclear industry going, on the theory that it will eventually be needed again, perhaps by the year 2000.

While the report does recommend that certain efforts be made to promote energy conservation, alternative energy sources and the industrial use of coal (the sole mineral energy source France has in abundance), its main thrust is that nuclear-electric energy should replace fossil fuels in many applications. If all goes according to the report, by the year 2000 nuclear

energy will supply 36% of France's total energy needs (up from 12.5% in 1982), oil 26.9% (down from 46.5%), and coal just 13.4% (down from 17.7%).

How this substitution is to be made and what it will cost is not analyzed in detail in the Long Term Group's report. Similarly, the Group also calls for more energy exports, but it is unclear where such exports are supposed to go.

The trouble with pushing extensive conversion from fossil fuels to electricity is that using electricity is frequently very wasteful, especially as a source of heat. Faced with large amounts of expensive energy, France's "solution" is to produce still more and use it inefficiently.

France is the victim of a runaway nuclear establishment. This complex of state and private organizations continues to push for nuclear power so as to concentrate ever greater power in the hands of the EDF and governmental bureaucracy while adding to nuclear industry coffers.

The civilian interest in atomic energy is backed up by the French military, which can use the plutonium that reactors produce in its weapons. (In France, nuclear critics speak of nuclear power as "civilitary" in nature to reflect its dual purpose.) Together, the bureaucrats, industrialists and generals have formed a so far unbeatable combination to keep the nuclear energy program growing, no matter how impractical it becomes.

-- Dave Gilden

Maze of French disarmament politics

Despite the sparseness of disarmament activity in France, recent public opinion surveys have uncovered a sizeable sentiment for peace. In June, a Harris poll found that 44% of the French public opposes the installation of Pershing 2 missiles in Europe even if there is no reduction in the Soviet SS-20's. Half of the respondents support demonstrations against the Euromissiles, though three-quarters consider themselves poorly informed on the matter -- a reflection of the French government's history of preventing open debate on nuclear issues. A separate, government-sponsored poll found that while 63% of the French people find France's membership in NATO "reassuring," a mere 15% actually think the USSR constitutes a military threat.

This disarmament sentiment has yet to find viable political expression. The independent peace movements in other countries have had a deep impact in France, but the French Committee for European Nuclear Disarmament, CODENE, has remained small and without much direct influence. Now that CODENE has managed to put arms control on the agenda, it must contend with establishment political parties that are moving in on the issue and overshadowing CODENE's independent approach to nuclear politics. Both the French Communist Party (PCF) and, astonishingly, elements of the right-wing Union for French Democracy (UDF), have recently taken up the antinuclear cause. Events in June illustrate the relationship among these forces -- and their sharp political contrasts.

CODENE, the main French participant in the May conference of European Nuclear Disarmament in West Berlin, is really the tail that

wags the dog. It is a federation of some 25 different groups with a total of 25,000 members, including a core of about 500 activists.

CODENE attempted to mount a major action in June centering on the Armaments Trade Fair in Satory, outside of Paris. The action went through several incarnations; at one time a blockade was even discussed. In the end, a "counterfair" was decided on, but this was eventually cancelled because of "problems in finding space or a building in which

on June 19 of this year the duo assembled a broad coalition to run a "peace festival" in the Bois de Vincennes, a Parisian park. Once again about 250,000 attended. However, these events can hardly be considered statements of serious commitment to disarmament. This year's festival was a giant eight-hour happening with four stages simultaneously presenting entertainment. Political discussion was relegated to a minor position, squeezed between the other acts.

Disarmament sentiment in France has yet to find viable political expression.

to hold it." The whole affair was finally reduced to a one-day workshop on arms sales.

Apart from a lack of organization, CODENE's chief problem is to penetrate public consciousness and establish itself as a serious independent force with a reasoned critique of the role of France and the superpowers in the arms race. In this effort, it certainly gets no help from the French media. To the extent that CODENE is not blacked out entirely, the press represents it as either a bunch of Russian dupes or impractical pacifists.

The French Communist Party has none of these problems. Armed with its own daily newspaper and associated with the CGT, the largest labor union federation in France, the PCF manages to receive roughly 20% of the vote in French elections.

On June 20, 1982, the PCF and CGT put together a peace march of a quarter million people in Paris, and

The PCF wants to be seen as the leading proponent of arms control in France. But its motives and approach seem essentially opportunist. With an eye on next spring's elections for the European parliament, the PCF is looking for "safe" issues with which to club Mitterand's Socialists. Yet it wants to maintain its membership in the governing coalition. This means that the PCF can't attack the French nuclear strike force, which it supports in any case. The PCF is also constrained by its pro-Soviet stance, which causes it to shun any criticism of the Russians' nuclear force. All this explains the bland nature not only of the festival itself, but also of the original announcement for it, which was limited to an appeal that the East and West "negotiate with determination."

The French right, on the other hand, is strongly anti-Soviet and has no compunctions at all about breaking up Mitterand's governing coal-

tion. With the decline in Mitterand's popularity because of economic difficulties, the right has moved in for the kill with a series of virulent attacks on many different government policies. In this context, several prominent figures in the UDF are now criticizing France's nuclear weapons program.

A striking example of this strategy is an article by Michel Pinton, the UDF's secretary general, on the front page of the June 16 *Le Monde*. In very eloquent terms, Pinton uses political, moral, and military arguments to denounce France's preparations for unleashing nuclear war. Only at the very end of the lengthy article does the reader discover that what Pinton has in mind is more government spending on conventional military forces and less on social services. Pinton never actually calls for reducing nuclear weapons expenditures and remains an unwavering cold warrior throughout.

Nonetheless, this was pretty heady stuff for the French political establishment. Pinton was immediately denounced in the National Assembly as an irresponsible anti-nuker by every political party. Even his own UDF disavowed him.

Between the PCF, whose pro-Soviet policies foster a strangely apolitical approach to disarmament, and the anti-Soviet UDF, which is not really in favor of disarmament at all, CODENE is trying to find a third path. There are many obstacles along the way. It is difficult to work out a perspective that refuses the categories of the Cold War and the old catch phrases of French politics. When such a position is elaborated, it's hard to bring it to public attention, since the French media are distinctly uninterested in it.

-- David Gilden

Reagan sends in the gunboats

Continued from page 1

exercises of the recently announced war games will take place.

The urgency of the Central America situation calls for continued large public protests, the only way to force politicians to respond. It's also crucial to convince millions of other Americans that we're right. We have to clear away the smokescreens of bipartisan commissions and olive-branch rhetoric. We have to challenge Reagan's logic that the US has the right to supply arms to repressive regimes while popular governments under siege are not allowed to obtain weapons to defend themselves from thousands of CIA-financed troops. We have to explain that it's brutal exploitation and the desire for a better life that provokes people in El Salvador to fight their government, not outside agitators from Cuba or Russia.

Some voices in the disarmament movement have argued for sticking to the nuclear straight and narrow, for keeping a distance from protests against US intervention. Broadening the focus to other issues of war and peace, they say, would muddy the respectability of the antinuclear movement and weaken it. But the movement follows this advice at its peril.

The manipulated militarism sur-

rounding a war in Central America would be a godsend to proponents of nuclear buildup. And the same Cold War mythologies about demonic Russians that justify intervention in Central America form the basis of the argument for first-strike weaponry.

The issues of nuclear weapons and intervention -- not to mention more routine kinds of exploitation -- are connected in a web of economic and strategic interests, ideological constructs, and superpower arrogance. An antinuclear movement blind to these underlying structures, ignorant of the systemic causes of militarism, or deaf to the cries of the death squad victims in El Salvador will soon find itself stumbling along aimlessly or falling into a pit of ineffectiveness.

The Port Chicago Campaign, an anti-intervention coalition that organized the July 24 and 25 actions at the Concord Naval Weapons Station, has made an explicit effort to link the intervention to nuclearism. Now it's our turn. This is the time for disarmament activists to take initiatives against intervention, for the antinuclear movement to transform itself into an antiwar movement that challenges the roots of militarism.

-- Marcy Darnovsky
IAT staff



Reaganzilla vs. Sandinista Man

A letter from the Polish underground

The Committee for Social Resistance (KOS) is a Polish underground organization established to help jailed Solidarity members and their families and those who lost their jobs because of their political activity.

We print here a document the KOS addressed to the Western European disarmament movement, originally published in an underground magazine and smuggled to the West. Note the appeal to the Western movement to add opposition to the Soviet SS-20s to its demands. The official media in the East, like that in the West, portrays END as pro-Soviet, even though the movement has consistently called for a nuclear-free Europe, both east and west.

Note also all the nasty references made of the Soviet ruling clique. They are oddly similar to what the American movement says of Reagan or the British of Thatcher. Curious that everyone seems to feel their own ruling class is the most despicable.

Committee of Social Resistance Appeals to the Peace and Antinuclear Movement in Western Europe

One of the important underground groups in Poland, the Committee for Social Resistance (Komitet Oporu Społecznego -- KOS) issued the following document, dated May 9, 1983 -- the anniversary of Victory in Europe Day.

World peace is threatened. The threat of nuclear annihilation hangs over all the inhabitants of the earth. An unbridled arms race is against the interest of all people, regardless of where they live. It threatens you, the inhabitants of Western Europe, just as it does us, the inhabitants of Eastern Europe.

It is therefore with respect and understanding that we view your protests against the growing frenzy of the arms race and the build-up of world-wide nuclear potential. We

view your protests as a defense of the most basic human right -- the right to live.

Like you, we are convinced that war can bring the world nothing but death and destruction. Like you, we say NO to the arms race. We are aware that the frontier that divides the two huge military blocks carries incalculable consequences for us all.

The military power of the Warsaw Pact is built at the cost of the increasing poverty and subjugation of millions.

We believe, however, that protest against the threat of war will be successful only when it is taken up by people living on both sides of the frontier, in unison and on the basis of a joint program of demands. We believe that to demand an arms freeze by NATO countries, without simultaneously demanding a reduction of the military potential of the Warsaw Pact does not serve the cause of peace.

Your protest against the arms race is being exploited by Eastern bloc propaganda -- it is presented as a demand for unilateral disarmament by the West. In this way the totalitarian communist system intends to exploit the Western peace movements for its own aggressive and coercive ends. It is a tragic characteristic of our times that people of good will, authentically engaged in the cause of defending peace, are exposed to manipulation by those who represent the most dangerous form of militarism.

The expansionist policy of the USSR is based on military blackmail and aggressive and mendacious propaganda. Totalitarian systems have always resorted to this type of blackmail in their political dealings. We

Poles are the victims of this blackmail as are the Afghans, Czechs and Hungarians and other nations subjugated to the USSR. The military power of the Warsaw Pact is built at the cost of the increasing poverty and subjugation of millions of people living in the USSR and the so-called "real socialist" countries. There are no institutions of social control, the

militation of nuclear arms by the Eastern Bloc.

According to the legal system of totalitarian countries, any opposition to the build-up of the State's military power is treated as treason, which means several years imprisonment at the very least. We are allowed to "fight for peace" only by demanding the disarmament of "our opponents." This makes it impossible to carry on an open, public and honest peace campaign in the Eastern bloc.

We turn to you with an appeal, that your demands against the deployment of the Cruise and Pershing II missiles be accompanied by a demand for the limitation of the military power of the Warsaw Pact, and a demand for the reduction of the SS-20 rockets which are aimed at your cities. We would like to count on your support in the struggle we are waging against totalitarian coercion and violence, which today is the basic threat to world peace. This is a struggle which, through necessity, must, for us, be an underground struggle.

The movement for the defense of peace grows from moral protest against violence -- it will therefore not fulfill its role if it is exploited by the propaganda of those whose authority is based only on coercion.

We want the same as you do, we want to live in peace and security, in conditions which guarantee us the basic human and civil rights. In order to make the world in which we live more human, we should unite our efforts. Let the international solidarity of people who wish to live in peace be expressed in united action against all acts of violence, blackmail and lawlessness throughout the world.

We await your reply which could be the starting point for our future joint activities in defense of peace.

LAG blockades Liverm

As dawn broke over the Livermore Valley on Monday, June 20, the players took up their positions and the cameras began to roll.

On one side were the challengers, disarmament activists of the Livermore Action Group (LAG), who had come to blockade the bombmakers. On the other side was

the "defending" champion of the world, the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, designer of America's nuclear force. This morning, the champ was represented by about 1000 California Highway Patrol officers, Alameda County sheriff deputies and University of California police.

Ironically, the first move by the police was to block off the access road to one of the lab's four gates. So blockaders placed themselves at to the other three, cutting off all entrances to incoming lab staffers. For the next four hours police were kept busy handcuffing demonstrators and trying to clear the way for traffic. As arrests depleted protesters' forces in one area, reinforcements were dispatched from more heavily occupied zones.

Some of the blockaders went along peacefully, not making much of a fuss. Others went limp and had to be dragged off, while some actively resisted being moved from the streets. Those who did not cooperate were treated to a display of the latest wrist holds and other pain techniques.

A group of about fifty young people showed particular determination. The police were at first reluctant to arrest them, being content to merely push or drag them to the side of the road. But these teens and pre-teens kept forming line after line behind the ones police had just broken up, keeping the street clogged for half an hour. Finally, the officers realized they were dragging off the same kids over and over and began arresting them.

Meanwhile, two marches were held in support of the blockade. The first involved some 500 senior citizens and the second included contingents from the Committee in Solidarity with the people of El Salvador (CISPES) and several labor unions and church groups.

LAG had won a court ruling earlier in the week to prevent Alameda County officials from holding arrested blockaders at Camp Parks as they did last year. LAG attorneys successfully argued that the camp, which was used for radiation experiments in the sixties, might still be contaminated. So the 980 arrested men and women were taken to Santa Rita, the Alameda County men's jail, to await arraignment on charges of obstructing a thoroughfare. The 72 juveniles arrested were taken to the San Leandro Juvenile Hall and released later that day. In all, between 2500 and 4000 people took part in the action.

Right after confronting LLNL and its assembled police forces, the jailed blockaders found themselves battling the local courts for their right to continue protesting.

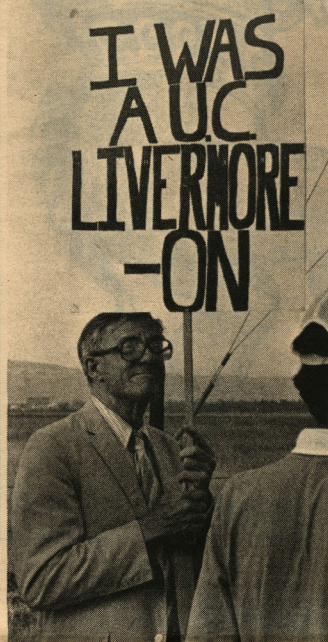
Having weathered more than a dozen such blockades in the last year and a half, Alameda County Deputy District Attorney Joe Hurley decided it was time to get tough and increase the penalties. He asked the court for sentences of two years probation and 11 days in jail or a \$250 fine.

The blockaders, many of whom had planned to plead guilty or no contest, serve their time and get on with organizing the next demonstration, immediately objected to the two year probation provision. They



argued that it was a political move designed to prevent them from participating in other protests, since probation violation could mean up to six months in jail. They also demanded a mass arraignment and equal treatment for all offenders so no one could be singled out and arbitrarily harassed.

Livermore/Pleasanton Municipal Court Judge John Lewis consistently refused mass arraignments and would not even discuss a plea-bargaining deal with the LAG legal team. He made it clear that he saw no need to "undercut the DA in sentencing." Because of this statement and his private conversations with the DA about sentencing, the LAG legal team filed a "challenge



photos by Ste

More Lab, sits in at jail



for cause," claiming that Lewis was biased against the blockaders and should be removed from the case.

The challenge for cause also alleged that Lewis had a conflict of interest. It seems that Lewis belongs to an organization called the Valley Study Group (VSG), a sort of local Livermore mini-Bohemian Grove. Bill Perry, former Director of Public Relations at LLNL, has characterized VSG as the main public relations effort of the Lab in the Livermore area. According to attorney Jonathan Souffer of the LAG legal team, VSG was organized by employees of LLNL, but for appearance's sake these employees are not allowed to be members. Even so, many meetings are held in

LLNL buildings, employees of the Lab have often been guest speakers and there have been meetings to specifically discuss anti-LLNL demonstrations. The press and the public are excluded and membership is by invitation only.

Since Judge Lewis would not step down voluntarily nor negotiate, the blockaders staged a sit-in, refusing to leave the large circus tents where they were housed in order to go to arraignment. But Lewis wouldn't budge. He insisted on the probation sentence; required full (\$1000) bail rather than the usual 10% bond; and threatened those who plead not guilty to get out immediately with 45 day sentences if they were later convicted. The standoff continued for days.

In a strong show of solidarity, the protesters hung tough together, the vast majority staying in jail until their demands were met. They passed the time playing, singing, and holding talent shows, workshops and meetings. Since they spanned entire generations, veterans of the Lincoln Brigade of the Spanish Civil War, survivors of the McCarthy era and others passed on an oral history of their struggles. After about a week of incarceration the tents were declared the "Santa Rita Peace Camp." Both the men and women held their own Gay Day parades on Sunday, June 26, fabricating elaborate costumes and musical instruments from the plates, utensils and assorted trash in the tents.

The ten phones in both the men's and women's facilities allowed constant contact with the outside

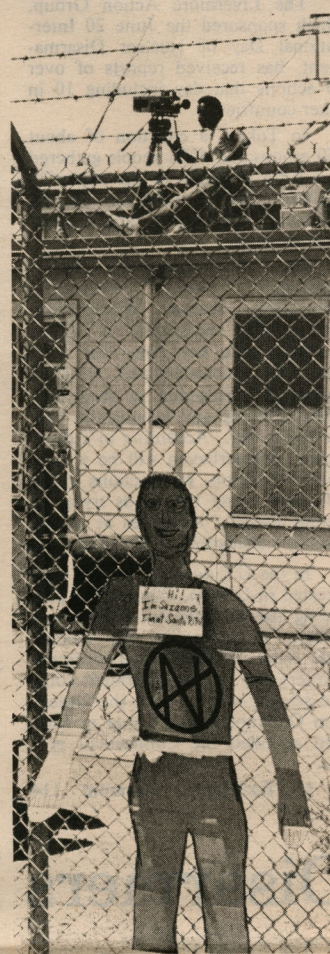
world and each other, buoying both morale and solidarity. The 3500-strong legal demonstration at LLNL on Saturday, June 25 boosted spirits even higher. The protesters showed no signs of weakening.

Eventually, political pressure and the cost to Alameda County of holding hundreds of people (renting the tents alone was running \$20,000 per day) caused District Attorney Hurley to cave in. He accepted the blockaders' counter-offer of five days in jail or a fine of \$150 -- no probation. But Judges Lewis and Hyde would not accept anything lower than eight days or \$240.

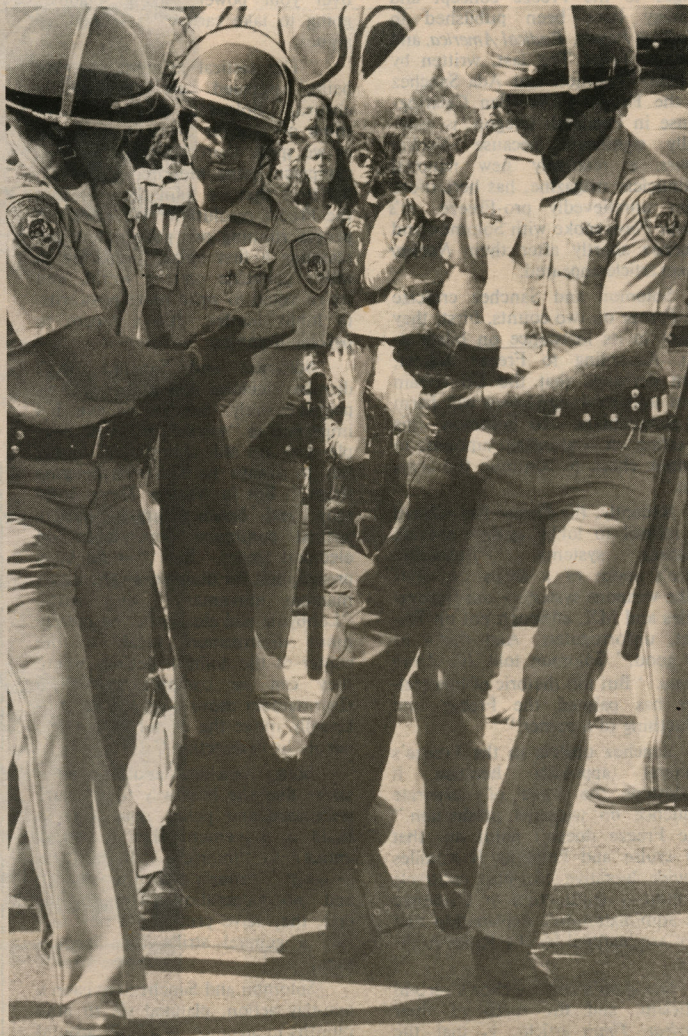
The non-cooperation tactic had worked. Long meetings ensued in the tents as the democratic decision-making process swung into gear. Small groups sent delegates to a spokes council with their thoughts and concerns about the deal. They then returned to report to their groups what they had heard from the other delegates, discussed it and brought new ideas back to the spokes council. This went on till everyone's fears and reservations had been addressed and the hundreds of people had collectively decided to accept the deal.

Arraignments were held on Friday, July 1. Some blockaders agreed to pay the \$240 within 90 days and were released. Others chose the eight more days (with two days off for good behavior they were out Monday, July 4). Still others plead not guilty, hoping to organize a large representational trial and continue their protests in the courts.

-- Steve Stallone
IAT staff



Steve Stallone and Bob Van Scoy



International Day disarmament actions

The Livermore Action Group, which sponsored the June 20 International Day of Nuclear Disarmament, has received reports of over 60 actions that day including 10 in other countries.

In Tokyo, a coalition of about 150 groups and 4000 people gathered to call for abolition of the Japan-US Military Treaty, removal of the Nakasone government and nuclear disarmament.

On the outskirts of Bremerhaven, West Germany, Gewaltfreie Aktion Wesermunde and others organized a major blockade of a key American army base. 100 blockaders and 50 active supporters succeeded in paralyzing traffic entering and leaving the base for half a day. According to a participant, Bremerhaven will be a focal point for nation-wide actions in the fall, with many thousands trying to mount massive blockades at all the military installations in the area.

In the US, over 120 people were arrested in Groton, Connecticut protesting the commissioning of a new Trident submarine at the Electric Boat plant. The British government is interested in buying Trident subs, and several women from the Greenham Common Peace Camp in England attended the Connecticut protest.

In Burlington, Vermont 114



Elders for Survival confront police at Livermore on June 20.

photo by Bob Van Scoy

people were arrested for blockading at the General Electric armaments plant and were successful in stopping all vehicles throughout the afternoon. G.E. is the sole producer of the Vulcan Gatling gun, which was

used in Vietnam and is currently being exported to Central America and elsewhere. Organizers pointed out that Burlington's socialist mayor does not approve of civil disobedience but is "willing to negotiate."

A strong local labor leader also attacked the civil disobedience tactic as being middle-class. A statewide network of peace, environmental and feminist groups is being formed in Vermont and plans are being made for future actions around the state.

80 blockaders led by *Disarm Now* kept anyone from entering the Math Research Center at the University of Wisconsin in Madison from 1 to 5 pm on June 20th. Northrop Defense Systems Division in Chicago was also blockaded, and 37 were arrested protesting Northrop's manufacture of electronic warfare systems for B-1 and B-52 bombers.

In California, actions took place near San Diego against the Ballast Point submarine base at Point Loma; at the Pt. Mugu Naval Air Station, site of test firing of the cruise missile; near Fresno at Lemoore Naval Air Station, a weapons storage site and training base for pilots of the Hornet F/A 18 nuclear bombers; and in Santa Cruz at the Lockheed plant where components for cruise missiles are manufactured.

This list was compiled from LAG's mid-July issue of *Direct Action*, which has a more detailed listing of the June 20th events and can be obtained from LAG at 3126 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley.

Disarmers look beyond the Freeze

The Nuclear Freeze is no longer a sacred cow to the American peace movement. In recent months, challenges to the Freeze concept and strategy have been published in *Working Papers*, *Radical America*, and *Nuclear Times*. The last, written by Norman Solomon and Ada Sanchez of the People's Test Ban Clearinghouse in Portland, Oregon, is especially significant because *Nuclear Times*, a relatively new national antinuclear magazine, has heretofore been unrelievedly pro-Freeze. *It's About Times* spoke with Solomon and Sanchez shortly after their *Nuclear Times* article appeared.

Solomon and Sanchez criticize the Freeze on two counts. First, they object to its insistence on bilateralism. According to Freeze dogma, even demands that the US refrain from unilateral escalations will harm its acceptability. To Solomon, this "fixation on bilateralism amounts to a blank check to continue the arms race."

Recently, the Freeze has relaxed its refusal to lobby against specific weapons systems. "Belatedly, there's more of a focus on first-strike weapons systems -- on Euromissiles and MX, although not on Trident, unfortunately. And, that's to the good," Solomon told *It's About Times*. "But the rhetoric of bilateralism has painted the Freeze into something of a corner."

Sanchez objects to the Freeze's bilateral approach because it "sidesteps the issue of corporate influence on weapons production." The Freeze doesn't point out that the cruise and Pershing II missiles provide lucrative cost-plus contracts to military contractors or challenge the administration's explanation that they are justified by the Russian SS-20's.

Solomon's and Sanchez's second criticism, and the focus of their *Nuclear Times* article, is that the

Freeze's electoral focus is disempowering. "When you ask a politician to do something, you're turning over your power, saying 'Daddy's going to take care of it,'" Sanchez argues.

"The tactical avenues that are being pursued are increasingly absurd," Solomon says. "I can't think of a better example than that as we speak there's a huge postcard campaign being mounted to inform Senators that we want them to pass the Freeze resolution. We think the people running our government are planning a first strike, preparing to inflict genocide on the world, and we're asked to write more postcards, to lobby harder. It's a return to psychic numbing."

Solomon and Sanchez don't dismiss electoral and lobbying campaigns entirely. Sanchez believes it's important to "work closely with people who are still choosing to lobby, but to always be there challenging them." But in *Nuclear Times*, Solomon and Sanchez argue sharply against continued dependence on electoral tactics. This "would be a prescription for disaster for the disarmament movement," they write. "Lobbying and electioneering merely move disarmament ideals to the center of the political debate, where they can be compromised. The disarmament movement should continually move the center of political debate in its direction."

Both Sanchez and Solomon stress that the best way to pressure politicians and policy makers is to build a movement that is strong enough to "interfere with business as usual" through civil disobedience and noncooperation. Toward this end, they have proposed a new tactic: a general strike for disarmament.

Solomon and Sanchez envision a one-day action, planned six to nine months in advance, and built around

a no-business-as-usual theme. "The tactics would be inclusive," Solomon says. "Civil disobedience would be one aspect, rallies another, shutting down campuses another. People who couldn't leave their jobs could try to do something on their lunch hour. So we'd be moving in the direction of the kind of power that was actualized in Poland."

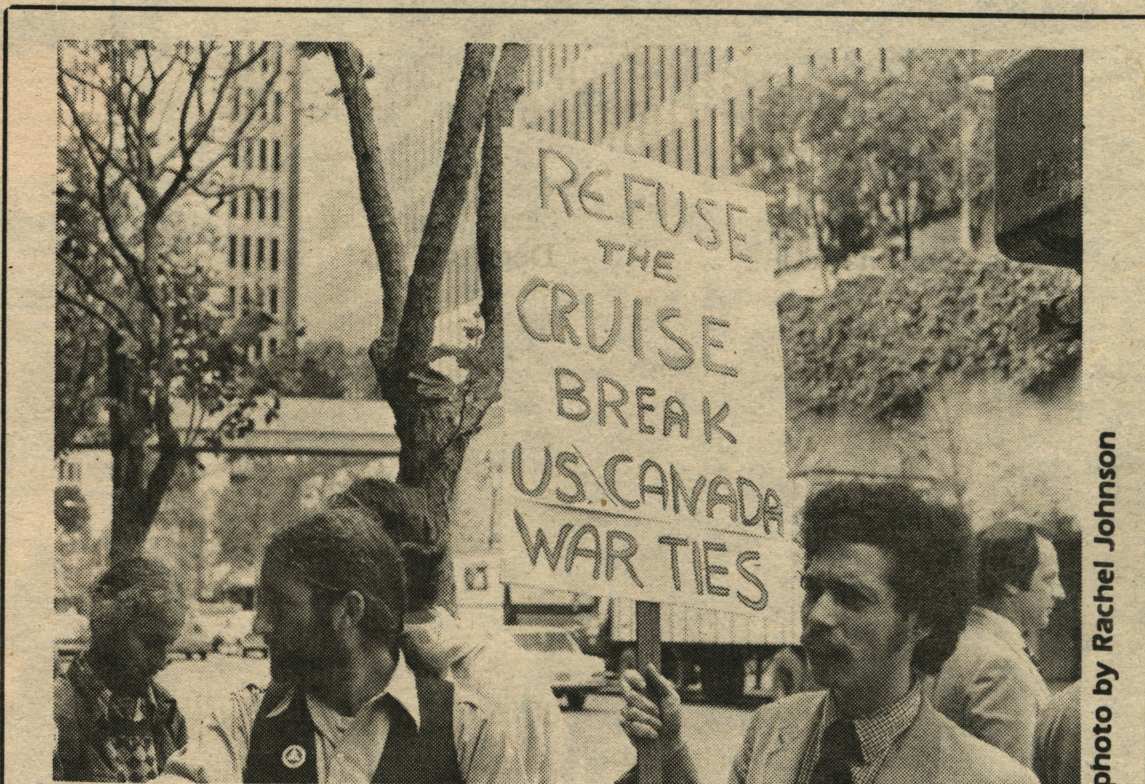
Sanchez says that the idea of a general strike for disarmament has been picked up by "people already organizing in the workplace and by peace activists who are weary of the Freeze." The proposal has led to "a new dialogue" and offers of help from union activists and other workers -- as well as words of caution. "We've been warned that organizing in the workplace is quite different from antinuclear organizing."

While acknowledging the difficulties and hard work to come,

Solomon and Sanchez are hopeful. "There's a widening gap between what we understand as the problem and what has so far been suggested as the solution," Solomon says. "If you have millions of people who some time in the last year have been weeping about the imminent threat of nuclear holocaust, is it really such a tremendous sacrifice to ask that they take a day off school or work the same day that millions of others are doing the same?"

People's Test Ban National Clearinghouse is also involved in planning "Refuse the Cruise" Canada-US Solidarity Days on December 2 and 3. Copies of their call to action and other information can be obtained from People's Test Ban, P.O. Box 42430, Portland, OR 97242.

-- Marcy Darnovsky
IAT staff



"Refuse the Cruise" demonstration at the Canadian Consulate in San Francisco, July 23. Peoples Test Ban, a Portland-based group, coordinated actions at all 14 Canadian consulates in the US that day to protest Canada's decision to allow flight-testing of cruise missiles in its territory this winter.

photo by Rachel Johnson

Short Circuits

OH SO LOW

A July 16 accident at the Savannah River nuclear weapons plant in South Carolina released 56,000 curies of radioactive tritium to the atmosphere. Energy Department spokesperson R.C. Webb said the release was due to equipment malfunction, but refused to provide details because the process was classified. It is well known, however, that tritium, an unstable form of hydrogen, is an essential component of thermonuclear warheads or "H" bombs.

Webb characterized the release as "low-level," although it is over 1000 times the amount of tritium typically released by a nuclear power plant in a year of operation. But when has a government spokesperson ever said that a radiation release was anything but "low-level" and "harmless to the public?"

Nuclear public relations seems to rely on a special arithmetic where 1000 times "low level" is still "low level" -- and all those "little" radiation releases put together always add up to "no problem."

-- based on *SF Chronicle*, 7/18/83

NRC CAVES IN ON INDIAN POINT

Plain ol' stonewalling by Consolidated Edison and the New York Power Authority has stymied three recent threats by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to shut down the Indian Point nuclear plant for lack of a workable emergency evacuation plan.

The latest deadline for evacuation preparedness came and went June 10 when the NRC split 3 to 2 not to close the plant despite continuing deficiencies. As reported in the June-July issue of *IAT*, the most glaring problems include a lack of bus drivers who will volunteer for hazardous duty in case of an accident, and the difficulty of substituting state officials, unfamiliar with local terrain, for Rockland county officials who are refusing to participate in the drills.

Both the emergency evacuation drill held this March and a first attempt a year earlier were failures. The NRC gave the utilities which own the plant until June 9 to clean up their act or else, but caved in when it came time to vote. One of the dissenters, Commissioner James Asseltine, told the *New York Times* that the decision made "a mockery of our emergency planning regulations." Ellen Weiss of the Union of Concerned Scientists, which asked the NRC to close the plant in 1979, said, "There will never be a more clear-cut case for enforcing the rules. . . none of the commissioners even argued that there is preparedness today or will be in the future."

The utilities tossed a bone to the NRC by promising to hold a third evacuation drill in mid-August, and two of the three Commissioners in the majority mentioned this in support of their decision not to close the plant.

The *New York Times* showed its true colors in two of its latest articles on the controversy by prominently displaying charts purporting to show the dire consequences of shutting down Indian Point. On the other hand, *The Times* didn't see fit to describe the disaster that could result from a major accident at Indian Point, only 35 miles from Manhattan.

--Ward Young
IAT staff



MY MIDGETMAN'S BIGGER THAN YOURS

The Air Force recently calculated it would cost \$70 billion to develop and operate the proposed "Midgetman" intercontinental ballistic missile system for the first ten years of its life.

Brigadier General Gordon Fornell, missile project manager for the Air Force, said the estimate is based on a program that would ready 1000 mobile single-warhead missiles by the early 1990's. Fornell said Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger prefers 15-ton missiles, each with a single nuclear warhead, in "hardened" vehicles able to dodge Soviet surprise attacks by moving around vast military reservations. The giant vehicles, each weighing 35 to 45 tons, would be designed to resist blast and other crippling effects from the detonations of Soviet warheads.

The Air Force plans to deploy the mobile Midgetman on about 12,500 square miles of land already occupied by the Defense Department in order to avoid the kind of controversy kindled by the MX basing shenanigans.

-- based on *SF Chronicle*, 7/8/83

OAK RIDGE LAB A POLLUTION HOT SPOT

The Oak Ridge Nuclear Weapons Plant was described recently by Dr. Michael Bruner, head of the state Health Department's division of water management, as a "witch's cauldron" of pollution.

An analysis of soil samples in the East Fork of Poplar Creek has turned up trace amounts of radioactive PCB, lead, uranium, plutonium, thorium, beryllium and other toxic substances.

The plant's mercury spill from 1950 to 1977 is believed to be the world's largest. Much of the toxic metal was discharged in the 1950s during the crash program to build a hydrogen bomb.

Recently, Dr. Frank D'Itri of the Institute of Water Research at Michigan State University toured the plant's burial pits and disposal ponds. Saying that "the magnitude of these

BENDING THE RULES

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff members have repeatedly violated agency rules by giving draft copies of safety inspections to the utilities involved, according to testimony in late June before a House subcommittee by NRC Chair Nunzio Palladino.

Palladino defended the inspectors' intentions, saying, "If we don't tell people what is wrong with their building or operation, we would not be doing our job." But subcommittee chair Edward Markey said it was disturbing that the inspectors were never disciplined for breaching the rules. He pointed out that if utilities got their hands on the reports before the NRC decided on enforcement action, they would be able to "put the fire out" and avoid penalties.

At least one incident supports the idea that such favors by the inspector can be of benefit to a utility company. In 1982, Southern California Edison was leaked a draft report about security deficiencies at its San Onofre plant. It made corrections before a scheduled enforcement conference with the NRC -- and was able to avoid a \$20,000 fine the NRC staff had been considering.

-- *SF Chronicle*, 6/21/83

WHAT WASTE?

In early June, the Supreme Court gave the nuclear industry an important boost by ruling that the issue of radioactive waste disposal need not be considered individually in each reactor licensing proceeding. The decision effectively prevents nuclear opponents from raising the waste issue either for nuclear plants already licensed or in hearings for new plants.

The court said that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has already determined that the wastes -- mostly spent nuclear fuel -- can be safely stored in underground salt formations and thus present no significant environmental impact. The agency need not reconsider its findings each time a new license is sought, according to the opinion written for the court by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Curiously, O'Connor wrote that courts should be especially deferential to agency decisions made at "the frontiers of science" -- a very backhanded way of acknowledging that many scientists don't think much of the NRC's plans. The court seems to be saying that agencies should be deal with scientific criticism by ignoring it.

The decision has implications beyond the radioactive waste issue. In the past, the NRC has classified a number of important nuclear safety concerns as "generic" to all plants. This has effectively put these issues off limits in hearings for individual nukes, depriving intervenors of some of their most important arguments against a proposed plant. One analogy to this closedminded process would be refusing to consider whether a school bus has bad brakes because all buses of that model might also have bad brakes.

The Supreme Court ruling may well encourage other federal agencies faced with public opposition -- such as the EPA or the Forest Service -- to resort to similar "generic rule-making" proceedings, allowing the hottest issues to be disposed of with minimal participation from local residents. For example, the use of a particular herbicide -- or a particular design for a toxic waste dump -- might be "preapproved" in Washington, effectively muzzling local critics who want to bring up safety issues.

-- Bob Van Scoy

-- *SF Chronicle*

Vandenberg III: Protesting

For ten days in June, a small group of disarmament activists created havoc and chaos at Vandenberg Air Force Base in central California. They succeeded in delaying the first MX missile test for nearly a week. "Everyone on base is talking about it," said one Vandenberg worker. "It's the most exciting thing that's happened here in 30 years."

On June 8, the Vandenberg Action Coalition (VAC) activated a state-wide alert system to notify members that the MX missile had been sighted on the launchpad. The experience and contacts gained at two previous Vandenberg actions in January and March, which resulted in over 1000 arrests, made it possible to call the action alert with no prior planning.

As VAC activists arrived in the Vandenberg area, the word went out that they intended to stop the test launch. Although enlisted personnel joked about it ("What're they gonna do, lasso the missile?") base officials took the MX foes seriously enough to classify the launch date.

In guerrilla style, small groups entered base property with the belief that military officials would be unable to launch the missile with civilians in the "exclusion zone" around the launchpad. The occupiers felt strongly that this was not a symbolic blockade, that it would directly stop the missile test. The goal for many was to stay on base as long as possible, making their presence known in a cat-and-mouse game without necessarily getting arrested.

Most occupiers entered the base from outlying areas during the night and did their on-base hiking in the dark. They hid and slept under trees and bushes during daylight. A few hopped freight trains in nearby towns, jumping off as they passed along the stretch of the Southern Pacific Railroad that winds through Vandenberg.

At the front gate, a 24-hour vigil was maintained to let the public know that the MX test was imminent. On base, the occupiers used flares, lights, balloons, banners and airhorns to make their proximity



photo by Rachel Johnson

to the missile known. A reconnaissance camp was established in the hills just north of the base to monitor the MX launchpad with high-power binoculars and to radio out

messages. Vandenberg Security Police undertook backcountry foot patrols and aerial surveillance, but the thick brush and rugged terrain made it possible for many occupiers

to enter and leave the base without being arrested.

Detained occupiers heard stories about groups of Security Police reporting each other, thinking they'd found a band of protesters. "This reminds me a lot of what I saw in Vietnam," said one action participant. "We've got the will and determination, and the military guys are just doing their job. They don't really care about it the way we do."

During the action, the "Pacific Peacemaker" waited off shore in full view of the MX missile until the Coast Guard impounded it on June 16, charging that it was a foreign vessel operating illegally in US waters. When Captain Orleman presented current legal registration and all other papers necessary to prove that the ship was of American registry and operating legally, customs officials claimed the documents were forgeries. But the charges were dropped and the ship released 16 hours later.

The MX missile was finally launched on the evening of June 17, after years of preparation and a pre-launch week filled with confusion and delays. Even with the help of heavy fog and a computer malfunction on the final day, stopping the MX test proved to be more than a hundred people could accomplish on such short notice. At least one person was still in the exclusion zone when the missile was fired, shattering the myth that the Air Force would make human safety a priority.

However, many of the action's participants said that it had been one of the most powerful experiences they had ever had, and it was certainly an intense learning experience. With virtually no pre-planning, a small group of people had disrupted an entire Air Force base for over a week. Many of them had done it without getting arrested. For the 34 people who did get arrested, treatment in the legal system has varied greatly, with sentences ranging from 35 hours community service to 60 days in jail, while others still await sentencing and/or trials. Here are some personal accounts from participants in the action.

--Rachel Johnson

"Midnight special, shine your light on me"

We had planned to release helium-filled balloons with an emergency light and a radar jammer attached from the southbound freight train that passes through Vandenberg right in front of the missile launch pad. The three of us didn't want to get busted, but because of the possible launch Thursday night, we felt that we still had to do something.

Unfortunately, though I didn't know it at the time, both my compatriots were pulled off the freight by railroad detectives as we boarded it in San Luis Obispo and I was alone. The ride down was uneventful, but when I went to look for my balloons I found they had blown off the 50 to 60 mph train.

I felt helpless in the thick fog as I watched the MX site pass. Then I remembered the emergency chemical light in my pocket. I reasoned that, if seen, the base police would have to search near the missile before firing -- delaying the launch, while they looked for the light owner or source. So I threw it from the speeding train.

I've never seen a long freight train stop so fast! We were just

south of the missile, still in the exclusion zone. As they searched the train, I overheard the engineer and the caboose person discuss their pressing schedule and the spookiness of being out at night in the fog with no radio on the train.

They didn't find me. I thought they would decide the strange event was inexplicable and continue on their way. The train began to move, but instead of going on, it was backing up. We backed up until my car was just about due west of the MX and the train was now extending all the way through the exclusion zone. If the Air Force wanted to launch, they couldn't because we didn't have a radio and they can't launch a missile when a train is in its path.

Finally we moved, and though the train stopped once to pick up the light I'd thrown, and once to rest, they never searched it again. I ducked off in Santa Barbara as soon as possible to avoid arrest on the felony charges that might be brought for stopping a train. Support people took care of my wasted body, rejoicing in my tale of how I blocked the missile with a freight train for well over an hour, possibly two.

-- Brook

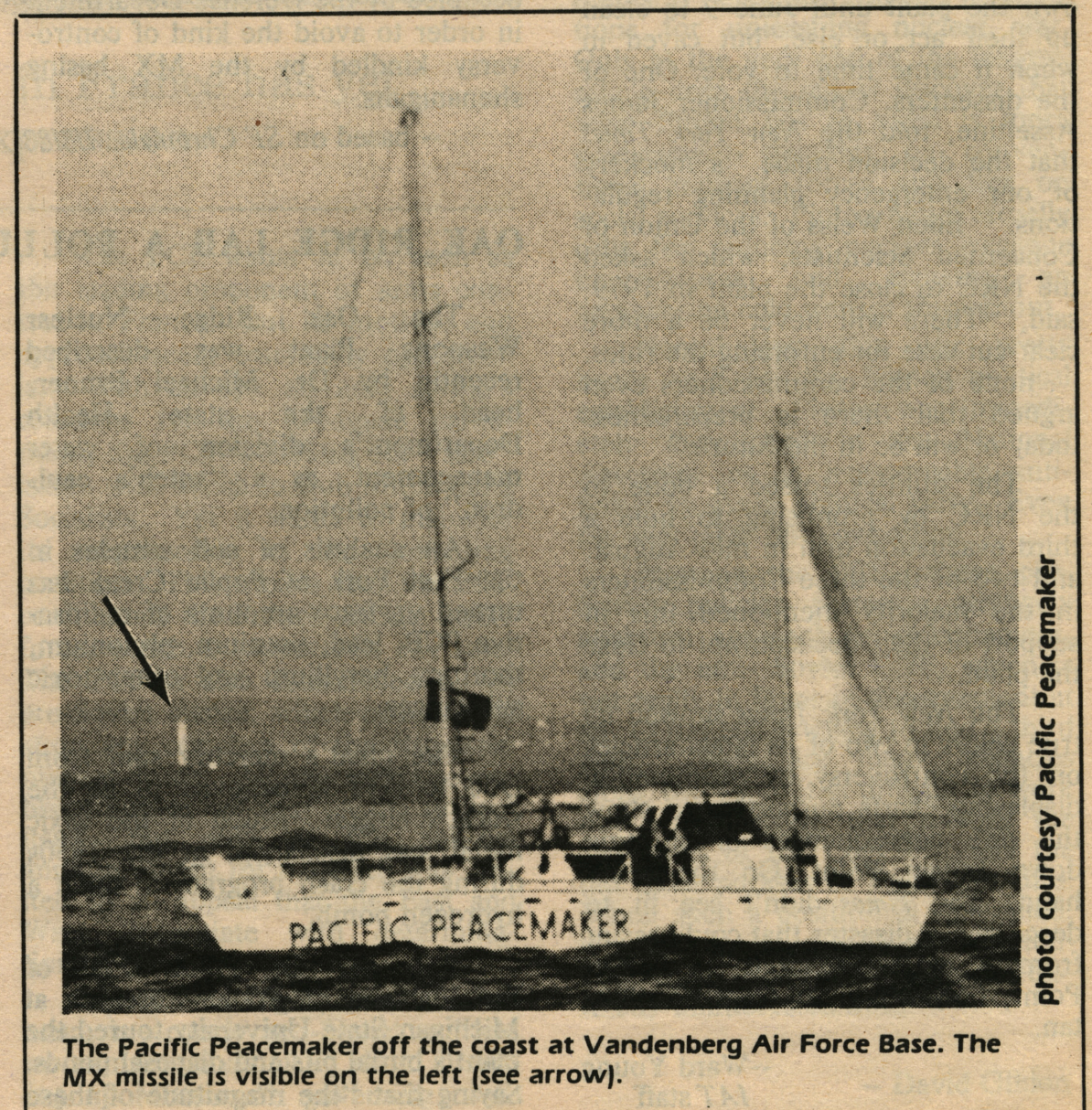


photo courtesy Pacific Peacemaker

The Pacific Peacemaker off the coast at Vandenberg Air Force Base. The MX missile is visible on the left (see arrow).

the MX guerrilla style



Ex-Marine strikes back

It was Thursday evening, around 8 p.m. I had just given Bob my extra food and water; he was going to leave the base, while I had decided to turn myself in. Since this was my first action at Vandenberg, I had the luxury of surrendering myself to the Air Force -- to let them know I had penetrated their security, getting into the "exclusion zone" around the MX launch site -- without too much personal risk.

All of a sudden, we heard two sets of voices coming closer. Rather than running the risk of getting our asses kicked by Air Force foot patrols, we decided it was time to move. Bob and I split up. I headed toward the launch pad, while he went deeper into the underbrush.

Without much trouble, I was able to outrun the voices. Using the natural cover -- hills and gulleys covered with chapparal -- I kept moving toward the launch site. I figured I'd get as close as I could before I got caught or surrendered.

and swimming through a couple of swamps. The terrain at Vandenberg is worse than any I saw during combat training in the Marine Corps in 1969. (Fortunately, I never got sent to Vietnam so I can't compare its terrain.) What with the cold, the fog, and exhaustion, I decided to surrender myself at about 2:30 a.m.

The missile was about 20 yards away, the guard shack about 40. I decided to stand up and walk directly to the guard shack. I got around to the far side of the shack and in the door without being noticed. I entered and asked the guard, "Where do I turn myself in to protest this monstrosity?"

I don't know who was more surprised -- the guard, from having me walk into his shack, or me, when I realized that the Air Force had a private security guard protecting the MX. After tripping over his tongue a number of times, the rent-a-cop finally got it together and told me to follow him. As we walked towards a

The terrain at Vandenberg was worse than any I had dealt with going through combat training in the Marine Corps.

At 50 yards from the missile, I dropped to my hands and knees. I kept moving forward, trying to be as quiet and inconspicuous as possible. I stopped when I got within 20 yards: I had found good cover and thought going any farther would be pushing my luck. I lay down, closely observing the launch site.

The missile itself was in its white canister, so I never saw it. The night before, looking down from a hill on the other side of the pad, we had seen the name "Peace-keeper" and a US Air Force emblem painted on the canister. I lay within 20 yards of the missile for about five and a half hours, serving as a feast for the local mosquito hordes until a cold fog rolled in. I was certain no launch would occur until the fog cleared and knew that could be days.

I was also very tired. The first of three nights on the base had been spent fighting through jungle, crawling through mud, picking through poison oak, and climbing, crawling

Security Police truck, he called out three times. Finally I saw heads rise above the dash of the vehicle and the dogs outside begin to move. The Security Police and their dogs had been asleep.

Then the SP's began their game, telling me to lay down and handcuffing me. When one got a little carried away in the cuffing process, I told him I was a former Sergeant in the Marine Corps, that I respected them as people and as such, I expected their respect. After that I was never harassed. The only thing the airmen did that upset me was to lie on the arrest report, claiming they had apprehended me 250 yards away from the missile. You'd think they would have enough respect to give a person credit for what he had accomplished.

At arraignment later that day, the Magistrate ordered a probation report done on me. I return to Vandenberg on August 18 for sentencing. -- Kim

Lost and Found

We came in from the south on Saturday at about midnight. Though there were guards on the railroad trestle, there was no moon, so we were able to hide on an island in the river while they searched for us. When they'd given up, we took off our clothes and waded through the dark water, sinking in mud to our thighs. We hid in the dunes the first day, and walked north on washed-out roads lit only by the wheel of stars.

ing Schumann Terrace could we tell that the missile was still there. That night our flare was a dud, but at sunset Tuesday we lay out our "No MX" banner on top of a metallic blanket and set off a hand-held flare on either side of it. Then we ran on roads, crawled past open doors and clawed our way through eight-foot stands of poison oak. We got lost.

Just before dawn we bent down, felt the grass and realized we were

At sunset we lay out our "No MX" banner on top of a metallic blanket and set off a hand-held flare.

About 2:30 Monday morning we hit thick brush and thicker fog, so we set off our first parachute flare and tunneled into brush for sleep. We had heard rumors that the launch was originally scheduled for that night: our friends in the recon camp told us later that they'd seen a sudden increase of activity around the pad shortly before they saw our flare.

All next day we hid from helicopters, and not til Monday night when we reached the ridge overlook-

on the golf course. We were apprehended by a solitary SP a few feet from the public road.

"Stop where you are. Put your hands up."

"We're lost. Could you tell us which way to Casmalia?"

"Turn left on that road, but you'll have to get off base property."

"Thanks."

So we're laughing through morning fog, four nights, three days on base, and almost home free.

-- Cookie

Close encounter of the MX kind

Barry Smith tried to stop the MX at Vandenberg but instead it almost stopped him -- for good. After starting at 2 AM, hiking all night and slogging through streams for maybe 10 hours, Smith eventually found himself within 300 yards of the MX test launch pad. He had encountered no security, no guard dogs, no one -- except curious hawks and a spotted fawn which jumped in front of his path -- for the last 2 miles of his hike.

Initially shocked at the startling absence of the military, Smith decided the shot must have been cancelled. Incidentally, the Air Force had told the local press exactly that earlier in the day, probably hoping to throw blockaders off the scent. But among the 100 or so reporters sworn to secrecy and allowed to view the launch from the concrete bunker underneath the launch pad was a "little birdie" who kept the protesters informed that indeed today really was the day for the shot.

Moments later Smith felt an

explosion like a slap in the face as the canister sitting on the top of the MX began peeling back its covering. The missile ignited and Smith dropped to the ground, numb all over from the blast. He followed the missile's flight as the first stages separated and noticed an aircraft carrier probably tracking it on the horizon. While thinking about "the people in Kwajalein in concentration camps" waiting for the missile's approach, a couple of fire engines and a half dozen soldiers converged on the launch pad. Smith decided to let them know he was around, and let off a blast from a freon horn. "While the generals were popping champagne corks, I represented a fuck-up so no one came out after me." After watching himself being watched through binoculars by the soldiers, Smith decided he didn't really want to go to jail if they weren't forcing him, and hiked back to civilization.

--Ward A. Young
LAT staff



Hitching to the MX, in search of America.

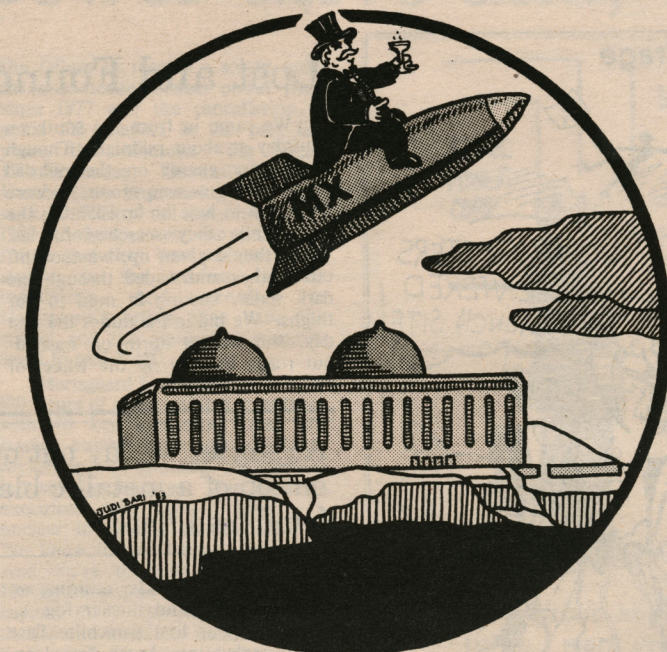
No peaceful retreat for the Bohos

With each passing summer, the Bohemian Grove Action Network (BGAN) gets closer to its goal of informing the world about America's power brokers and their annual romp in the Northern California redwoods.

Before this year's festivities ended, BGAN received calls from media all over the country, and from international news organizations as far away as London. And several Bohemians came to talk with BGAN's demonstrators -- at times leaving the activists in a state of amazement.

The Network maintained a constant vigil outside the gates of the Grove, drawing on support from a large number of organizations with diverse interests and far-ranging perspectives. On the first day of the vigil, July 15th, David Black of the New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rico talked about formerly-secret US plans to turn the island into a giant military-industrial base for American forces in the Caribbean. The "2020 Plan," named for the year of its scheduled completion, would ring the island with military bases, strip mine the interior for strategic metals, and reduce the island's indigenous population by two-thirds through a forced sterilization program, Black said.

David Bomberry, local Tribal Sovereignty Program director, spoke on mining of land occupied by native people in this country and elsewhere. He told countless horror stories of American companies and their campaign to dig valuable materials out of



Guatemala despite the "genocide" of native Mayans necessitated by that plan.

Sonoma County NAACP President David Johnson compared the Bohemian's addiction to power to alcoholism. "You can't reason with a drunk," he said, explaining that our "tacit support" for the Bohemians is shown by our failure to "seriously oppose" their actions.

After the first day -- which focused on Human Rights -- a few Bohos began to drift across the lines to talk to demonstrators. Joseph Baird of Occidental Petroleum spoke with BGAN members and told a very different tale than had the Human Rights Day speakers. His only "moral" consideration, Baird said, is his responsibility to stockholders to maximize his company's profits. He said South African

apartheid is "a shame," but explained he still keeps much of his personal stock portfolio in firms that do business there because "it pays so well."

Another Bohemian visited demonstrators and called them "ignorant" and "arrogant." He claimed his membership in the Bohemian Club does little to help his business. The man then explained that he had just had dinner with A.W. Clausen, president of the World Bank, but was still denied a loan to build hotels in Nepal, the world's third-poorest country. Such a venture would be a great boon to the country, he said, because it would employ 550 people. He went on to say, though, that he hasn't given up hope, because the Prime Minister of Nepal would soon arrive to lobby Clausen for the money.

A sympathetic Grove employee sent a schedule of events to BGAN, which included a list of the notorious "Lakeside Talks." Featured this year were Henry Kissinger, Clausen (who spoke on "The Global Economy,"), Edmund W. Littlefield, corporate director of General Electric, Utah Mining and TWA (his topic: "Enjoying the Corporate Climb") and Fred Henderson III ("Commercial Opportunities in Space: The Next Decade.")

Also featured at the Grove were Admiral Robert Foley ("World Naval Power") and Walter Cronkite, whose speech was titled "Reflections of a Misspent Youth."

--Don Eichelberger and Mary Moore

Silicon Valley peace camp

Anti-interventionist groups seeking to halt U.S. interference in Central America have found a good deal of support among Silicon Valley workers. But when organizers of a local Peace Camp tried to pass out leaflets outlining the connections between the electronics firms in Santa Clara County and the threat of nuclear war, they encountered a very different response.

"People are reluctant to look at their own home," said Mary Klein, who helped start the Peace Camp in the heart of America's single most defense-dependent county.

The president of Rolm industries -- long reputed to be the most liberal of managers -- met with the demonstrators and asked them not to leaflet his company's headquarters. The firm gives its employees time off to participate in demonstrations, but Klein feels it didn't want anyone to mar its comfortable, utopian image. The firm gets 14 percent of its business from the Pentagon.

And when the leaflet-bearers showed up at the annual Air Force flying show July 4th, military police followed them around Moffett Field with garbage bags and encouraged spectators to rid themselves of the group's flyer, which outlined Moffett Field's role in the nation's First Strike capability and described how military spending limits freedom.

Nevertheless, volunteers staying at the camp have continued to leaflet at defense contractors in the Valley. In a few instances, they found individual employees who thanked them for their efforts.

The Peace Camp, modeled after similar ventures in Europe, will remain open until August 10th. Organizers plan special activities for August 6th and 9th -- Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days.

Information on how to reach the camp is available from CANE, P.O. Box 377, Palo Alto 94302, or by calling (408) 251-4717.

Announcements

FILING CABINETS NEEDED

The Abalone Alliance statewide office needs filing cabinets donated. If you have some lying around call 861-0592.

NEWS FROM THE EAST

Labor Focus on Eastern Europe is the best source for information on the movement for democratic rights in Eastern Europe. The most recent issue contains an interview of Zhores Medvedev on Yuri Andropov, information on the independent peace movement in Hungary, news from Poland, Czechoslovakia and Rumania and much more. Single copies (\$3.50) are available from: Solidarity Update, PO Box 112, Palo Alto, CA 94301 or write directly to: Labour Focus on Eastern Europe, Box 23, 136 Kingland High St., London, England.

KEEP UP WITH END

The *END Journal* contains first-hand news from Europe's growing peace and antinuclear movements. Documents and analysis from East and West. Four issues available to date plus a special pamphlet series (latest: *Voices from Prague*). Write: David Baum, Nation Institute, 72 5th Ave, NY, NY 10011.

SOLIDARITY UPDATE

The latest news and documents from Poland on underground Solidarity's program, resistance in Polish factories, the KOR trial and more. Single issues via first class mail, \$1.50. Write: Solidarity Update, PO Box 112, Palo Alto, CA 94301.


WAR TAX RESISTANCE

A group of war tax resisters, peace activists and lawyers are developing ways to challenge the Reagan administration's new tax law. This law requires penalties against people who have taken a war tax reduction or credit or used a similar method on their 1040 form. Such methods are being defined as "frivolous" and the IRS is responding with \$500 fines.

If you have been or suspect you might be assessed with this fine, we want to get in touch with you. Please attend our next meeting and/or spread the word to other supporters. Both financial support and personal energy are needed for upcoming court action, outreach and publicity.

For more info call Northern California War Tax Resistance at (415) 849-2360, 2118 8th St. Berkeley, CA 94710.

Preventing Euroshima



An Organizer's Guide for a Local Campaign Against Deployment of the Cruise and Pershing II Missiles

mobilization FOR SURVIVAL

What Can You Do In Your Community To Prevent A Hiroshima In Europe?

40-page organizers booklet with sections on strategy planning, suggested local actions, public education, and coalition building.

\$3.00 each. \$2.25 each for 10 or more.

mobilization FOR SURVIVAL

853 Broadway, Room 2109, New York, NY 10003

Send me _____ copies of Preventing Euroshima,
Enclosed is a check for \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____



Calendar

August 8: Green Party representatives will hold a public meeting. Includes Marie-Luise Beck-Oberdorf, speaker in the Bundestag, and Christoph Oberdorf, of Green Party in Baden-Württemberg. Call Media Alliance 453-4121 or Disarmament Resource Center 495-0526 for location.

August 9: Nuclear Newsreel: A half hour TV show on the June 20, 1983 Livermore Laboratory demonstration. 10:30 pm KQED (SF channel 9).

August 11: The Atomic Comics in performance. Activist comedians Fran Peavey and Charlie Varon affirm the absurdity of the nuclear situation. 8 pm, Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St., San Francisco. (415) 648-7425. \$5.

The Euromissile Coalition will meet at the Student Union Bldg. on UC Berkeley campus to organize actions against deployment of Cruise & Pershing II.

August 13-14: *Secrets in the Sand*, SF Mime Troupe's musical mystery combines the Hollywood of John Wayne and Ronald Reagan with bits of Watergate, the Karen Silkwood story and Melvyn & Howard. 2 pm, Precita Park, Folsom & Precita, SF.

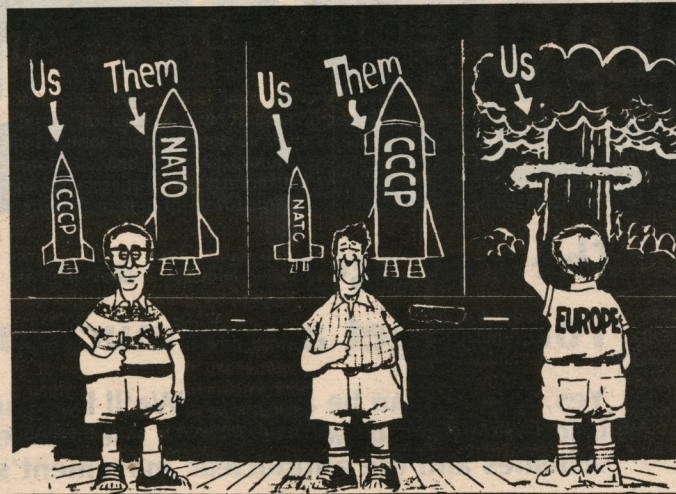
August 14: Atomic Comics in performance. (See listing for August 11.)

August 15: Peace and security forum: effects of military budgets on the US and Soviet economies. 7:15 pm, Ft. Mason conference center, Bldg. A, SF. \$2, \$1 students. For info, call PSR, 845-8395.

August 16: *Women in Arms*, a film about Nicaraguan women in the revolution, and *Nicaragua 1979 - Scenes from the Revolution*, SF Public Library, Main branch, in the Lurie room at noon. Free.

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day benefit for AIM for Freedom Survival Group and the International Indian Treaty Council. 7:30 pm, La Pena, Berkeley. 441-7841.

August 20-21: *Secrets in the Sand*, 2 pm, Live Oak Park, Shattuck & Berryman, Berkeley. Free. (See Calendar listing for August 11.) **August 27:** We Still Have a Dream! March on Washington for jobs, peace and freedom. 20th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington. San Francisco march & rally, 10 am, assemble at Panhandle at Baker, betwn. Oak and Fell. 11 am, march to Civic Center, rally at noon. Parti-



cipating organizations bring banners and signs. 921-2607 or 282-6611.

August 27-28: *Secrets in the Sand*, 2 pm, Washington Sq. Park, Columbus & Union, SF. Free. (See calendar listing for August 11.)

August 30: *Four Corners - A National Sacrifice Area?* a film showing followed by discussion with the filmmaker and a Friends of the Earth representative. San Francisco Public Library, Main branch, in the Lurie Room at noon. Free.

September 30-October 2: Women's gathering on feminism and non-violence: "Our love goes deeper than our anger," a time for women from all over the West who are active in various kinds of nonviolent organizing to meet and share and play. Camp Cazadero, 70 miles north of SF. \$30 for adults, \$20 for children 3-9. For more info and registration form, contact the War Resisters League/West, 85 Carl St., SF, 94117. 731-1220.

AA Safe Energy Groups

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

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

NORTH

ALBION:
PACIFIC TIDEPOOL ALLIANCE,
P.O. Box 462/95410 • (707) 964-7468
WOMEN FOR SURVIVAL,
Box 72/95410 • (707) 937-0462

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

BOONVILLE:
ANDERSON VALLEY NUCLEAR AWARENESS COMMITTEE,
P.O. Box 811/95415 • (707) 895-3048

CAMP MEEKER:
NUCLEAR FREE SOCIETY,
P.O. Box 433/95419 • (707) 874-3197

COMPTCHE:
COMPTCHE CITIZENS FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT,
P.O. Box 326/95427

EL VERANO:
NO NUKE OF THE NORTH,
P.O. Box 521/95433 • (707) 938-0622

EUGENE, OREGON:
SOLARITY,
358 W. 4th Street/97401

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

MENDOCINO:
ALL US MOLLUSKS,
P.O. Box 1385/95460 • (707) 937-4068

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

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

REDWAY: Southern Humboldt County
ACORN ALLIANCE,
P.O. Box 858/95560 • (707) 923-2136

SANTA ROSA:
SONOMORE Atomics,
1030 Second Street/95476 • (707) 526-7220

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

SAINT HELENA:
UPPER NAPA VALLEY ALLIANCE FOR DISARMAMENT,
1472 St. Helena Hwy./94574 • (707) 963-4728

UKIAH:
NEWTS AGAINST NUKES,
1155 South Dora/95482

CENTRAL VALLEY & SIERRA

CHICO:
CHICO PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE,
930 Walnut St./95926 • (916) 893-9078

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

EXETER:
SEQUOIA ALLIANCE,
224 10th Ave., #294/93221 • (209) 592-5252

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

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

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

MOUNTAIN RANCH:
FOOTHILL ALLIANCE FOR PEACE,
P.O. Box 66/95246 • (209) 728-2698

PLACERVILLE:
ENERGY FOR PEOPLE,
1459 Lane Drive/95667 • (916) 626-6397

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

EARTH KEEPING MINISTRY,
3860 4th Ave./95817

WILLITS:
ARTISTS FOR RESPONSIBLE ENERGY,
27900 Skyview/95490
WILLITS NUCLEAR AWARENESS COALITION,
P.O. Box 393/95490 (707) 459-4852

GREATER BAY AREA

BERKELEY/OAKLAND:
EAST BAY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP,
1600 Woolsey St./94703 • (415) 841-6500, 665-1715

BOLINAS:
LEGAL ACTION FOR UNDERMINING GOVERNMENT HARRASSMENT IN SOCIETY,
P.O. Box 249/94924 • (415) 868-0245

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

PALO ALTO:
COMMUNITY AGAINST NUCLEAR EXTINCTION,
P.O. Box 377/94302 • (415) 328-0367, 857-9251

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

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

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

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

SAN FRANCISCO:
ALLIANCE AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER,
UC Med Center, c/o Michael Kosnett, MU 249/
94143 • (415) 666-2010
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE,
Liz Walker, David Hartsough, 2160 Lake St./94121
• (415) 752-7766

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

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

LUMPEN GUARD,
143 Noe St./94114 • (415) 864-4589

PEOPLE AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER,
1824 Lake Street/94121 • (415) 387-1772

CENTRAL COAST

AVILA:
PLEXURE,
P.O. Box 564/93424

CAMBRIA:
APPEAL TO REASON,
P.O. Box 1374/93428 • (805) 927-8030

MOONSTONE ALLIANCE,
849 Drake St./93428 • (805) 927-3542

LOMPOC:
LOMPOC SAFE ENERGY COALITION,
P.O. Box 158/93438 • (805) 736-1897

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

SANTA BARBARA:
SANTA BARBARA PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE, 331 N. Milpas St. Suite 7/93103
• (805) 966-4565

SANTA CRUZ:
ACTION COMMUNITY ON DIABLO CANYON,
P.O. Box 693/95060
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NON VIOLENCE TRAINERS/
PREPARERS COLLECTIVE, P.O. Box 693/95060
• (408) 476-8215

SANTA MARIA:
UNIVERSAL LIFE CHURCH,
512 W. Evergreen/93454 • (805) 922-1309
481-2757

SOUTH

LOS ANGELES:
ALLIANCE FOR SURVIVAL,
1434 West Olympic Blvd./90015 • (213) 388-1824

END NUCLEAR DUMPING IN THE PACIFIC,
614 Gretna Greenway/90049 • (213) 472-4406

NUCLEAR RESISTANCE COALITION
DIABLO CANYON TASK FORCE,
4670 Hollywood Bl. #103/90027 • (213) 666-1517,
395-4483

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

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

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

SAN DIEGO:
COMMUNITY ENERGY ACTION NETWORK,
P.O. Box 33686/92103 • (619) 275-1162

TOPANGA:
LOU SNIT,
P.O. Box 1252/90290 • (213) 455-2867, 455-2768

VENTURA:
VENTURA PEOPLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE FUTURE,
P.O. Box 308/93002

It's About Times

The Pentagon pays about a billion dollars for a Trident.
You can get an antinuclear sub for only eight.

- Yes, you too can be a target. We'll hit you with ten issues stockpiled with news, information and analysis on the nuclear industry, the Pentagon's latest schemes and the antinuclear movement's fight against them.

Subscribe!

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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



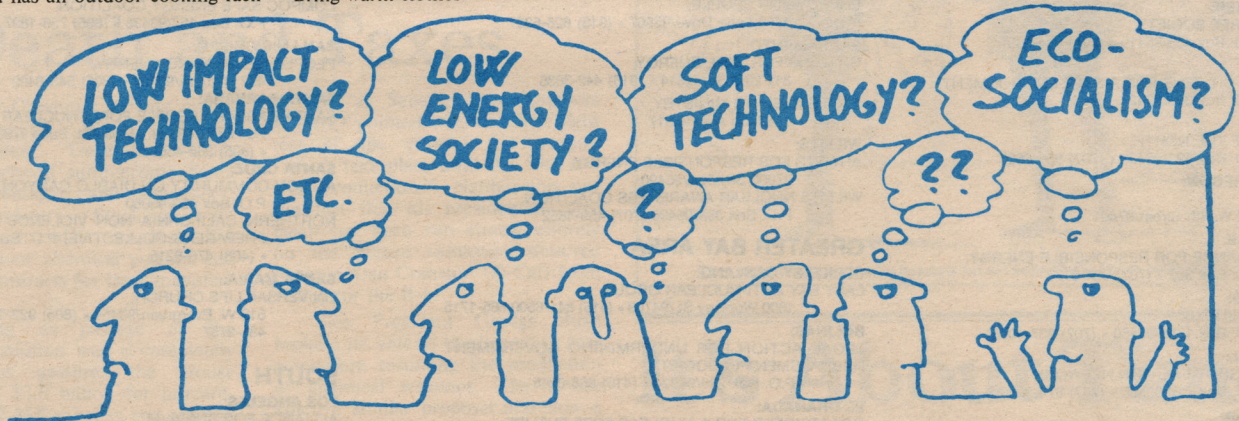
Abalone Alliance skills-sharing conference September 16-18

The Redwood Alliance will host an Abalone Skills Sharing Conference on September 16-18 at Patrick's Point State Park, 14 miles north of Arcata off Hwy. 101. Check-in begins at 2 pm Friday. The campground has an outdoor cooking facility

(propane stoves, barbeque pits, sink, etc.) fire rings for bonfires, restrooms, hot showers and a central meeting area. September is generally a dry month, but it might be a good idea to bring a tarp just in case. Bring warm clothes.

The cost of the weekend will be \$15. The Redwood Alliance will be doing all the cooking so anyone who wants to help should call (707) 822-7884 or 822-6171. The Redwood Alliance has brainstormed a number of ideas for workshops just as each

group should do. Send the Redwood Alliance your ideas no later than August 15 (the sooner the better) as well as an estimate of the number of people who will attend the conference from your group.



LAG Congress August 13-14

The Livermore Action Group (LAG) will hold its second annual Congress on the weekend of August 13-14 at the Urban School, 1563 Page (near Masonic) in San Francisco, 11 am - 5 pm.

The Congress will deal with future actions and the direction and

long-term planning and focus for LAG. It will also include workshops and seminars. Everyone involved or wanting to get involved with LAG is encouraged to attend.

Long-range weather forecasts predict a second Tornado of Talent Saturday night. Contact Beth at the LAG office for info, (415) 644-2028.



photo by Bob Van Scoy