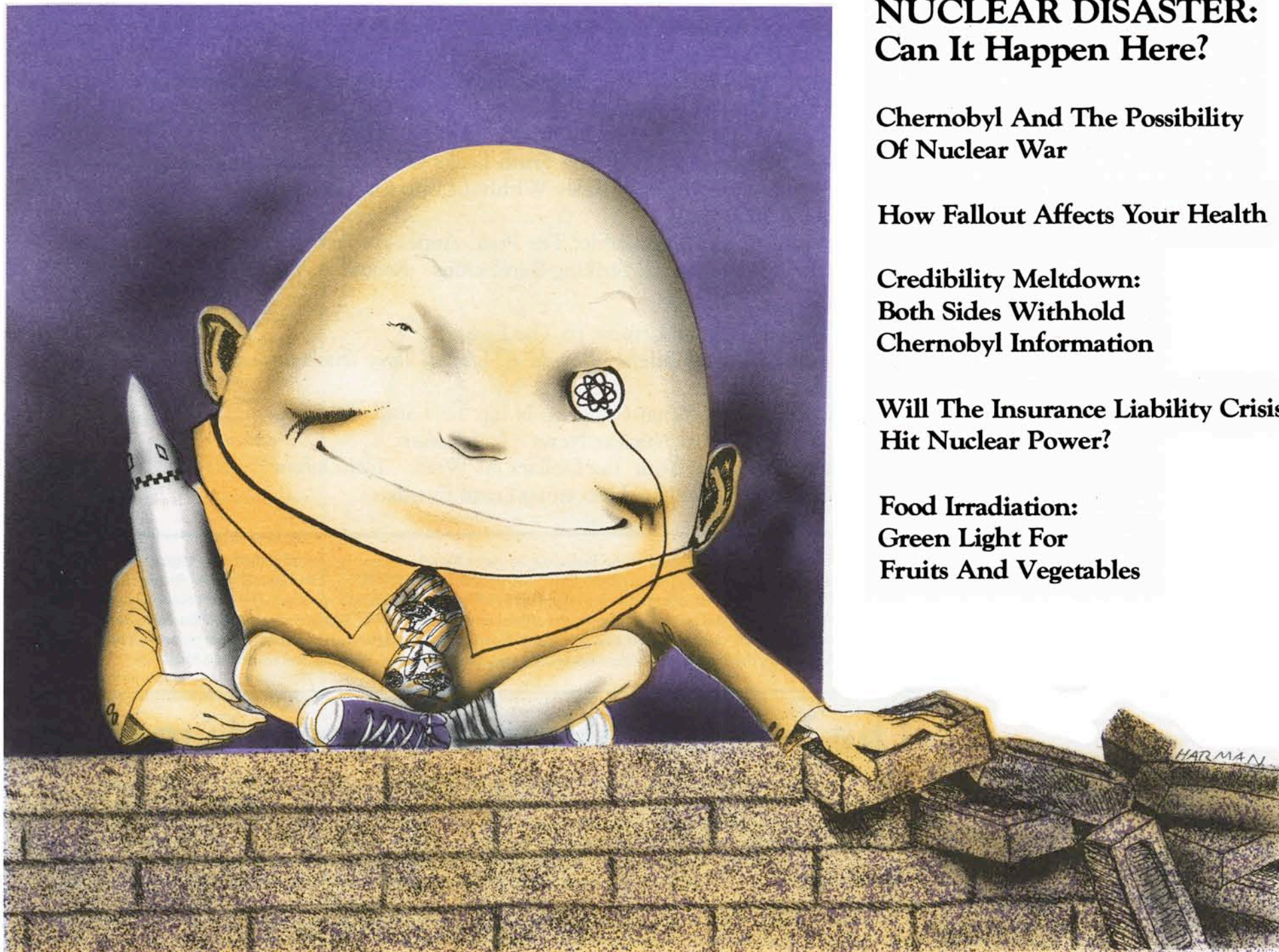


June 1986

Volume 2, Number 5

The MONTHLY PLANET

Published by the Santa Cruz County Nuclear Weapons Freeze



NUCLEAR DISASTER: Can It Happen Here?

**Chernobyl And The Possibility
Of Nuclear War**

How Fallout Affects Your Health

**Credibility Meltdown:
Both Sides Withhold
Chernobyl Information**

**Will The Insurance Liability Crisis
Hit Nuclear Power?**

**Food Irradiation:
Green Light For
Fruits And Vegetables**

The MONTHLY PLANET
c/o Nuclear Weapons Freeze
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THE FREEZE PROPOSAL

"To improve national and international security, the United States and the Soviet Union should stop the nuclear arms race. Specifically, they should adopt a mutual freeze on the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and of missiles and new aircraft designed primarily to deliver nuclear weapons. This is an essential, verifiable first step towards lessening the risk of nuclear war and reducing the nuclear arsenals."

The Call to Halt the Arms Race
 Randall Forsberg, August 1980



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The *Monthly Planet* is published at the beginning of every month (except January) by the Santa Cruz County Nuclear Weapons Freeze, 320-G Cedar Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. (408) 429-8755. The *Planet* is mailed free to all Santa Cruz County Freeze members. Memberships are available at \$15 for one year (\$10 low income). The views expressed in the *Planet* are those of the authors and are not necessarily the official views of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze. Articles, calendar items, and letters should be typed, double spaced, and sent to the above address. Letters must be signed and not more than two pages in length. We reserve the right to edit letters for brevity and clarity. Call for deadlines and advertising rates.

The Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign

The Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign had its beginning in late 1979 when Randall Forsberg, director of the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies, drafted a paper — The Call to Halt the Nuclear Arms Race — and circulated it to a number of well-known arms control experts, directors of national organizations, and peace groups around the country. In less than a year, some thirty national organizations and hundreds of regional and local groups and individuals had endorsed the Freeze proposal and its goal of calling the U.S. and U.S.S.R. to stop the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and missiles and new aircraft designed primarily to deliver nuclear weapons. This would be an essential, verifiable first step toward lessening the risk of nuclear war and reducing nuclear arsenals.

Since March of 1981, when the national campaign began, support for the Freeze has broadened and deepened. The Freeze has been endorsed by 370 city councils, 71 county councils and 446 town meetings. One or both houses of the legislatures in 23 states have passed freeze resolutions. More than 150 national and international organizations support the Freeze. In the fall of 1982, more than 30% of the American electorate had a chance to vote on the freeze in 10 states, the District of Columbia and 38 cities and counties. As of June, 1983, there have been 58 state and local freeze referendums; overall, 60% of those voting favored the Freeze. On May 4, 1983, the House of Representatives passed a Freeze resolution by a vote of 278-149, almost a two-to-one victory.

The Freeze Campaign is now active in all 50 states. It is broad-based and it is non-partisan. It includes both conservatives and liberals, young and old, whites and non-whites. While it has found an enthusiastic response in the halls of Congress, the Campaign is rooted in town halls, union halls and parish halls in hundreds of communities all across America. American citizens are demanding that the nuclear arms race be stopped and then reversed.

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Letters to the Freeze must be **typed, double spaced**, and not more than two pages in length. We reserve the right to edit for brevity and clarity. Letters must be received by us no later than Friday, June 20 for inclusion in the July issue.

Playing With Fire

Dear Freeze,

The Ukrainian meltdown reminds me of the time I found the machine gun bullets. I was eleven years old, rummaging in the basement of our Milwaukee house. Digging into a box of my Uncle Frank's papers, I uncovered a treasure: a khaki belt loaded with dozens of big shiny bullets. "I wonder what would happen if . . ."

I pulled a couple out, and slipped them into my pocket. Heavy! Then I went up to the kitchen, took a few strike-em-anywhere wooden "farmer" matches from the box on the stove, and slipped those into my other pocket. What power! I headed across the street to the hillside vacant lot we called The Dump. Down in my secret place among the trees, I tried to pry the bullets out of the casings — no luck. But a pair of pliers "borrowed" from the house did the job. I poured gunpowder pellets out on a rock, and lit them; there was a whoosh of flame, and a fascinating smell. I extracted another bullet, but left the gunpowder in; I held the cartridge horizontal with pliers, and put a lit match to the open mouth. A yellow-blue flame squirted out with a roar.

I was in heaven. I knew it was dangerous, I knew I shouldn't be taking my Uncle Frank's things, but oh, the excitement! Day after day I pilfered more bullets and matches to play firegames. I would walk around with my hands in my pockets, jangling bullets, rubbing matches softly against each other, thinking, "Oh, what I've got in my pockets!"

My mother began to miss the matches. "Johnny, are you playing with matches?"

"Oh, no, Ma!"

"You know what happens to people who play with fire?"

"Ma, I'm being careful."

I was, too. What did she know about such things? I was the smartest kid in my class.

Then one day, caressing matches in my pocket, I ignited two of them between right thumb and forefinger. As I pulled my hand out, molten sulfur stuck the blazing matches to my skin.

Now, about those 50,000 nuclear bombs . . .

John Morearty
Stockton

Selective Protests

Dear Freeze,

"Where have all the protestors gone?"

Since the Russians have spewed radiation all over the planet, how many Santa Cruz "environmentalists" and peace activists have demonstrated at the Russian embassy?

If a Chernobyl disaster had happened at a nuclear site in the United States, how many "progressive" activists would have (justifiably) demonstrated at the scene of the accident?

There appears to be selective protesting in "progressive" circles.

Bob Lissner
Soquel

Another Voice Added

Dear Freeze,

I have worked with women and children survivors of sexual assault for several years. After being exposed to the appalling suffering resulting from sexual assault and the fact that women and children are not even safe in their own homes, I did not feel that putting my energy into something as "distant" as supporting nuclear freeze was warranted.

I did not realize how incredibly stupid that attitude was until the effects of the Reagan Administration's senseless spending on the arms race and subsequent cuts of social programs rendered women and children homeless, hungry and struggling for survival.

You have my full support and personal pledge to advocate for a nuclear freeze. I have enclosed my subscription fee to *The Monthly Planet* and have begun to voice my commitment.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Diaz
Pomona

Morton's More Than Salt

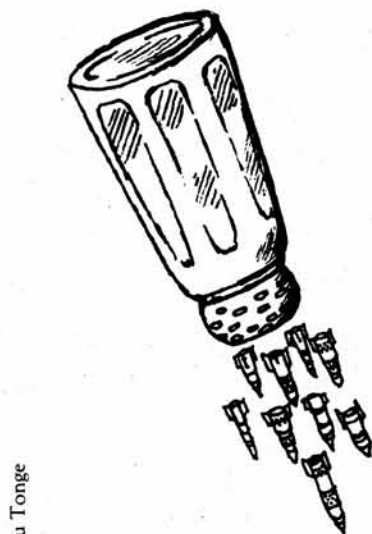
Dear Freeze,

Thanks for your coverage of the Morton Salt Boycott in your last issue (May, 1986). The same issue also had an article (on the facing page) about the recent explosion of a Titan 34-D rocket launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base. The Titan explosion, like that of the space shuttle, was caused by the failure of booster rockets made by Morton Thiokol.

In addition to blowing up the shuttle and two Titans in a row, the company is also responsible for some extremely poor management decisions. The commission investigating the space shuttle has learned, for example, that the Morton Thiokol engineers who warned against the launch were overruled by their own managers. The engineers were then punished by the company (transferred out of their jobs) after testifying about this before the commission!

A more detailed review of Morton's recent history is enclosed. Please share as much of this with your readers as you can (perhaps in the "Contractors Corner" section). And keep up the great work. *The Monthly Planet* is by far the most elegant and informative newsletter we receive (and we get over 200 a month!).

peace,
Albert Donnay
for the staff and board of Nuclear Free America
Baltimore, Maryland



Su Tonge



Su Tonge

Soviet-American Focus

Dear Freeze,

In one of the series of Soviet Events on campus, Professor Dallin of Stanford University spoke on May 8th on Soviet-American relations. It was both an illuminating and penetrating talk. In the Soviet view, said Alexander Dallin, the U.S. is the challenge. But in the U.S.S.R., as in the U.S., there are hard-liners. In that respect both superpowers have the same problems. However, Gorbachev is committed to lessening the tensions. The arms race for the Russians is burdensome and they fear the first strike capability of SDI. Gorbachev's disarmament proposal was a sincere one. "Then why was it not honored by some consideration by the U.S.?" one listener asked. Was it because the Reagan administration has a whole new series of weapons systems to manufacture and test and that because the U.S. is a war economy, disarmament even in part is undesirable? Professor Dallin agreed that it was so and went on to elaborate that even though there was a war economy, the U.S. had participated in disarmament talks in the past. Was the U.S. nuclear policy intent on bleeding the Russians white? Whether by design or not, the policy will have a harmful effect on Soviet economy.

That the U.S. doesn't have a definite policy toward the U.S.S.R. was an important comment the professor made. The Reagan administration is divided on that score. Reagan talks tough with pathetic perceptions, and the allies have had to cool him down and point out that the Soviet Union is not on the verge of collapse, nor is the Russian populace about to revolt. The Reagan doctrine means resorting to force against Soviet "clients." The Russians have been cautious in avoiding confrontation. We ourselves cannot afford to engage in nuclear fantasies. It is absolutely essential to have a breakthrough in this fragile set of circumstances. There has been a breakthrough of sorts proposed by both sides to avoid some nuclear accidents. Upon agreement, there will be scientific personnel and military people exchanged on both sides to sit in each other's territories and check on what appears on the radar screen as a strike. Then this could be verified before the missiles begin to fall or be erased. Small comfort in light of the escalating arms race.

One woman asked what are we to do in the face of all this to prevent a catastrophe? Professor Dallin's reply was: educate. Educate for dialogue. There are no alternatives, he asserted, in a world that must avoid further belligerence. And yes, make the Soviet-American relations question an election issue. Why not?

Rachel Dranow
Santa Cruz

Reagan's Law

Dear Freeze,

We are a group of Santa Cruz citizens who have met to discuss the recent U.S. bombing of Libya, and we find that we all have similar and very worrisome concerns about the way our government is acting in this situation.

We are concerned that our government finds it proper to escalate bombing and killing of innocent people in the supposed quest for peace. Apparently many innocent Libyans died in the U.S. raids, and certainly the number of bombings against U.S. interests have not decreased as a result. We consider our government's bombing of defenseless civilians just as "terrorist" an act as any act perpetrated by others.

We also object to the President's by-passing the laws of our land, specifically the War Powers Act, and independently committing acts of war against other (usually small) nations. Ronald Reagan likes to speak about Law and Order, but his application of it seems more the exception than the rule.

The cycle of violence in the Middle East is very scary to us. Many different organizations have claimed responsibility for anti-U.S. actions, and certainly the actions of our own government have added fuel to the flames, a recent case in point being our massive "muscle flexing" in the Gulf of Sidra. It is easy for our government to claim to have intercepted "coded messages" from Libya, since no one can investigate the claim. The U.S. government also recently claimed a massive invasion by Nicaragua of Honduras, a claim which later turned out to be 90% government manipulation of the news. Would our government also lie to us about the Middle East?

Whatever Libya's role actually is in all the violence, we suspect that our government may have ulterior motives for its current Libyan preoccupation. For instance, the manufactured war hysteria enables the U.S. to greatly increase its military presence in the entire Middle East region, and creates an atmosphere where presumably the American people will sanction any military acts on the part of our government in the name of "fighting terrorism." This is a very dangerous situation in such a sensitive part of the world, where the U.S. government has declared repeatedly a special right to protect its "national interests." We suspect that often the "national interest" gets confused with the interests of the oil companies. We also fear that the "terrorist" hysteria serves as a diversion and cover for U.S. policies elsewhere, such as Central America.

The vast majority of the earth's nations have condemned the U.S. actions in Libya. The Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of African Unity, the Arab League, and even most of the European Common Market countries have spoken out against the U.S. attacks.

We find it incredible that supposedly over 80% of the American people support our government's actions, as claimed by the administration. We're sure that after a little sober reflection the American people are realizing that it is dangerous to believe Ronald Reagan every time he opens his mouth.

Sincerely,
Chris Ballin
Robert Barnhart
Judy Hurley
Bob Malpede
Dagmar Platzeck
Lorretta Paetsch
Maggie Reynolds
Patricia Schroeder
Luther Wallace
Alan Weinerman
Santa Cruz

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**SATURDAY, MAY 31
SAN LORENZO PARK**

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FOR A TEST BAN

**March begins 9:30 am
Rally begins at noon**

Speakers

Leon Panetta, Congressman
Gary Patton, Santa Cruz County Supervisor
Jane Weed, Santa Cruz City Councilmember
Terry Teitelbaum, Santa Cruz Freeze
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Same Difference

The United States government and General Electric Co. are under fire as U.S. nuclear plants are bearing closer scrutiny to see if "it" can happen here—"it" being an accident similar to the recent one at Chernobyl, near Kiev.

Robert Pollard, formerly of the Navy's nuclear power program and currently on the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, joined with Daniel Ford, former executive director of the Union of Concerned Scientists, in charging that the U.S. government covered up the fact that 39 of the country's 100 nuclear plants have containment structures that could leak or rupture as a result of a reactor accident.

They pointed out that the Chernobyl plant had a containment building that "bears a striking resemblance to the defective pressure suppression design used by General Electric."



Ford claimed that documents he obtained through the Freedom of Information Act show that defectively designed containment structures were used in 39 nuclear plants built by G.E. This was covered up by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), he asserted, citing memos from safety advisors in the commission written in 1972.

Stephen Hanauer, then top safety advisor for the AEC, "recommended in a confidential memo that G.E. no longer be allowed to build nuclear plants with a plainly defective shield," according to Ford.

This recommendation was apparently not accepted according to a memo from another safety advisor, Joseph H. Hendrie, who claimed it "could well be the end of nuclear power" and "would throw into question the continued operation of licensed plants... and would generally create more turmoil than I can stand thinking about."

Hanauer's memo noted that G.E. emergency cut-off valves "do not have a very good reliability record."

Hugh Hexamer, a spokesperson for G.E.'s Atomic Power Equipment Department in San Jose, has dismissed the charges of coverup and defective design as "a blatant effort to exploit the Soviet tragedy to raise support for the nuclear opposition."

The fact remains, says Pollard, that the Chernobyl plant relied on the same type of pressure suppression systems as those built by General Electric. He said, "There was a cooling system problem—reportedly—at Chernobyl. Could that occur at a G.E. plant? You bet."

—TT

Military Reactors Probed

Can it happen here? As the Department of Energy (DOE) owned and operated plants receive closer scrutiny in the wake of the Chernobyl nuclear accident, the department will hear this question asked repeatedly.

The DOE operates 50 nuclear facilities in 11 states. These are all exempt from the safety regulations imposed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on commercial plants.

It now looks as if there are serious problems with safety systems and procedures, according to a recent review of internal department investigations and interviews with plant officials by the *Los Angeles Times*.

Seven of the 50 DOE-run reactors have no protective containment domes, the last line of defense in the event of a major accident. Five of these are comparable in size to Chernobyl.

The most recent probe of these plants was completed in the spring of 1985 by James Kane, then associate director of DOE. Kane described the facilities' work as "one of the potentially most hazardous undertakings in the world." He referred to DOE's activities such as production, reprocessing and long-term storage of weapons-grade plutonium. And he called the department's now defunct office of environment, safety and health "a disgrace."

In response to Kane's report, Energy Secretary Herrington recently restructured the department and ordered a review of all DOE reactors. It remains to be seen how these administrative moves will affect the actual safety of the department's nuclear plants.

—TT



Hot Flashes

by Ronald A. Lampi, Terry Teitelbaum, and Douglas Dirks

All's Radioactive On The Western Front

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is busy parrying recent criticism over nuclear safety since the Chernobyl accident. After admitting it didn't have adequate means to measure total breathable radioactivity in the atmosphere, the agency asserted there was no health threat posed by the air-borne Iodine-131. Iodine-131 is one of the radioactive elements released by the Soviet nuclear accident.

Only after environmental advocacy groups pointed out discrepancies between agency readings and those made by the Oregon Health Department did the EPA admit that most of their monitoring stations lack the charcoal filters necessary to trap gaseous compounds of the Iodine-131. The EPA said that the actual doses of radioactivity could be more than three times in excess of amounts earlier believed to exist. They had only measured solid compound particles, not gaseous compounds, which certainly were present.

However, the EPA's latest admission may still understate the actual case. Richard Piccioni of Accord Research and Educational Association, Inc. claims that the agency's readings are actually eight times lower than the actual amount of radioactive Iodine.

On another front, the EPA is facing criticism regarding its nuclear reactor at Hanford, Washington. The graphite core reactor is the most similar of U.S. reactors to the ill-fated Chernobyl plant.

In spite of the testimony from Daniel Hirsch and W. Jackson Davis of the Steven-

son Program on Nuclear Policy at the University of California at Santa Cruz, the EPA maintains that the plant poses no hazards and that the core is safe from fire. Hirsch and Davis testified at a congressional hearing that the plant is not any safer than the Chernobyl plant.

—TT

Politicians First

A new civil defense plan has been concocted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that would favor officials and land records over ordinary citizens. At an initial cost of \$1.5 billion, 600 fallout shelters (with a projection ultimately of 3,400) would be built between 1988 and 1992 to protect local officials in the event of a nuclear war. The assumption is that local governments would be able to restore a "post-attack society." And since survivors would need to demonstrate ownership of property in the post-attack restoration period, land records would also be protected. But how is the general population expected to survive? The FEMA proposal also "recognizes the need for citizens to assume greater responsibility for their survival protection." In other words, ordinary citizens are expected to fend for themselves. Incredibly, FEMA is counting on perhaps millions of volunteers to help on the outside as war is unleashed, while government officials wait it out in the shelters.

The Reagan administration had proposed an earlier civil defense plan in 1982 that called for the massive relocation of whole populations to more rural areas. With 120



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cities and eight states representing over 50 percent of the U.S. population refusing to participate, it failed to win approval. The program was derided as absurd, with images coming to mind of huge traffic jams as missiles exploded overhead. Critics said that the Reagan administration had obviously no conception of the devastating impact of nuclear war. The new plan has been called by Nuclear Free America "even more politically and technically absurd" than this last one.

Most civil defense officials are said to prefer spending funds on natural disasters, such as hurricanes and floods, or on accidents, such as chemical plant explosions or hazardous waste spills. Yet, those communities that refuse to participate in the new plan are now being threatened by FEMA with the loss of all emergency funds. For now, however, the plan is still but a proposal.

—RL



Jordan Wolfson

Just In Case

What the Pentagon wanted, the American Medical Association (AMA) has now agreed to provide. A listing of virtually all the doctors in the country, with their addresses and specialties, will be now be handed over to the Pentagon. The listing is meant to be used in the event of war, or as one Defense Department official put it, "in times of a presidentially declared crisis."

AMA executives had at first hesitated to provide such a list, citing its personal nature, but found it more acceptable than a recently proposed bill making the peacetime registration of doctors and nurses mandatory. The Pentagon called their decision a breakthrough.

—RL

Just Testing

Even one of our nuclear tests has recently malfunctioned. An April 10 underground test in the Nevada desert, code named Mighty Oak, left \$20 million in equipment damaged and high levels of unwanted radioactive contamination throughout a maze of tunnels where the blast took place. Department of Energy officials have no idea what went wrong; to determine that, they would have to reach the damaged equipment, which the radioactivity is preventing them from doing. Two workers received low doses of radiation when they tried entering one of the tunnels. Officials have said it could be weeks or months before they are able to reach the equipment and resume tests.

This was a weapons effects blast, designed to test the survivability of U.S. space and military hardware, for programs such as Star Wars. The bomb is detonated in a huge pipe within a tunnel; whether the hardware can withstand the radioactivity released is then determined. That the test itself failed, contaminating the instruments that were supposed to measure the nuclear impact on hardware, is an incisive statement of its own.

—RL

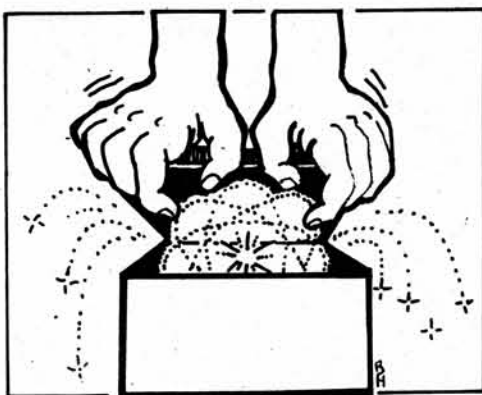
McNamara, Brown Sack Star Wars

Two former Secretaries of Defense have joined the ranks of those who question whether the Star Wars space-based missile defense system would actually be able to defend anything. Robert S. McNamara, Secretary of Defense under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, and Harold Brown, former President Carter's Defense Secretary, both testified before the Defense subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee that the program would be both very expensive and unable to protect the civilian population.

Brown estimated the cost of maintaining a space-based defense system at between \$100 and \$200 billion annually. McNamara quoted a figure of \$300 billion for a system that might provide limited defense of missile silos. Both stressed that any workable system would have to operate under the worst possible conditions and be effective against enemy countermeasures, with Brown adding, "That has not been proven [of Star Wars]."

Also before members of Congress who will be deciding the fate of the Administration's \$4.8 billion budget for Star Wars is a report by Michael M. May, the associate director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. May's report questions the wisdom of pushing Star Wars at this time, saying, "We are not even close to knowing whether an effective defense system can be built or what it would look like." May also calls for new arms control agreements banning anti-satellite weapons.

—DD



Bruce Harman

Twisted Logic

The Reagan administration is threatening to reinterpret the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty if Congress doesn't support its Star Wars program. The problem is, the reinterpretation would be a looser interpretation, which may, in effect, violate the treaty. The treaty defines sharp restrictions on anti-missile systems research and deployment; the administration claims that current Star Wars research is still within those restrictions. But the administration's specious argument claims that the Star Wars program would have to be redeveloped along lines requiring the looser interpretation if Congress cuts funds for it.

Whether it is possible to reinterpret the ABM treaty in this way without breaking it has been hotly debated among administration and Pentagon officials, and outside experts. Some administration officials con-

tend that a new interpretation is still legally justified. Other officials and experts have seriously questioned it. Even if Congress capitulated to the administrations's requests, and the administration thereby promised to abide by the original, stricter interpretation, the question remains for how long.

Some Pentagon officials are using an economic argument for loosening the original version of the treaty, claiming that money could be saved by doing so. Apparently, some in the administration are wary of tampering with the treaty and see the latter argument as more of a political one — the Pentagon, by and large opposing the treaty, is attempting to find ways of breaking it.

—RL



Jordan Wolfson

Catastrophic Sale

The Navy has admitted that it made a mistake when it sold four Aero 14-A systems to the Aero Union Corp. of Chico, California in 1982. The company paid \$976 for the systems, designed for use with aircraft; the original cost to the Navy was \$108,000. What the company had in mind was the spraying of pesticides and detergents. But Jack McGeorge, head of the Institute for Public Safety, a military consulting agency, offered a different opinion. He said that the sprayers were "built for one thing and one thing only: to apply biological and chemical weapons." It would be "catastrophic," he said, if the systems ended up in the wrong hands.

The Navy has tried to get the systems back. The Aero Union Corp., however, has been advertising them for sale overseas.

—RL

Professors' Pledge

A recent announcement by John Koput, a University of Illinois physics professor and a leading opponent of the Star Wars program, asserted that a "pledge of non-participation" in Star Wars research has been signed by over 6,500 scientists. This includes a majority of professors in the nation's top 20 university physics departments combined. Among those signing were also 15 Nobel laureates. All agreed to boycott Pentagon funding for the program. The pledge calls the Star Wars program "ill-conceived and dangerous," and says it is liable to boost the arms race even more.

Last fall, Lt. Gen. James A. Abrahamson, Star Wars director, said that "only a few die-hards" opposed the program.

—RL

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Budget Battle Continues

MILITARY BUDGET

On May 16 the House of Representatives approved on a vote of 245-179 a 1987 budget package of \$994 billion, including a military budget of \$285 billion. The military budget figure stands in sharp contrast to the \$320 billion requested by the Reagan administration, and actually represents a decrease of one percent over last year's military budget figure of \$297 billion. In April, the Senate approved a budget package totalling one trillion dollars, including a military budget of \$301 billion. Shortly after June 2, a joint House-Senate conference committee will meet to iron out the differences between

the two versions, and come up with a compromise budget which will then go to the President for his signature. In addition to the budget package, the House also passed a controversial resolution which would curb the President's power to defer spending. Currently, the President has the authority to delay or defer spending on specific programs, even though their funding was already approved by Congress. The administration is adamantly opposed to any such attempt to weaken its power in that regard and will probably veto the measure.

In early June, separate deliberations will begin in the House and Senate Armed Services Committees on the 1987 Defense Authorizations Bill. The Authorizations Bill sets the funding limits on specific weapons programs. It is at this time that specific amendments will be made to weaken or eliminate certain programs. Congress is adjourned for Memorial Day recess from May 23 until June 2. This is an optimum time to make an appointment with your representative and air your views on crucial arms control issues.

In general, with few exceptions, both Democrats and Republicans are unwilling to reduce social programs any further without making significant cuts in military spending. President Reagan's proclaimed support for deficit reduction coupled with his adamant insistence on increasing the military budget has begun to ring a little hollow even among stalwart Republican allies.

What follows is a summary of specific items:

TEST BAN

An amendment which would have cut funding for nuclear weapons testing was withdrawn from consideration in the House by its authors who felt it was ill-timed in light of the Chernobyl accident. The amendment, sponsored by Representatives Schroeder/Downey/Markey would cut funding for nuclear testing as long as the Soviet Union continues its moratorium on testing. The Soviets recently announced that they will continue the test ban until August of this year. The Schroeder/Downey/Markey amendment will most probably be attached to a Department of Energy Bill. In addition, Representative Patricia Schroeder has her own bill, H.R. 3442, which is essentially the same as the amendment. However, it is highly unlikely that her bill will make it to the House floor for a vote during this session of Congress. The amendment process is seen as the best way to get a test ban bill heard before Congress this year. There is an identical bill offered in the Senate (S.2220).

ACTION: *The National Nuclear Weapons Freeze has declared June 3 as a national call-in day on nuclear testing. Call your representatives in Washington D.C. and tell them to support test ban legislation.*

NUCLEAR POWER

In the wake of Chernobyl, numerous bills have been proposed that would increase the amount of money that utilities would be liable for in the event of a power plant accident. The current limit on liability as set by the Price-Anderson Act is \$650 million.

Contact Your Representatives Today!



Hotlines

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500
(202) 456-1414

Senator Alan Cranston
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-5353

Senator Pete Wilson
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-3841

Congressman Leon Panetta
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2861/local: 429-1976
(Sixteenth Congressional District)

Congressman Ed Zschau
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-5411/local: 1-730-8555
(Twelfth Congressional District)

To keep you abreast of late-breaking events on peace and arms control issues, the following organizations run regularly-updated taped messages:

- Nuclear Arms Control Hotline (Council for a Liveable World) 202-543-0006
- S.O.S.—Save Outer Space Alert 202-462-0777
- Central America Legislative Hotline 202-543-0664
- Witness for Peace Hotline (religious activists in Nicaragua) 202-332-9230

H.R.3653

Authored by Morris Udall (D-AZ), this would set the limit on liability at \$8.2 billion. It is currently being debated in the House Committee on the Interior and Insular Affairs, of which Udall is Chair.

H.R.51

Authored by Representative Melvin Price (D-IL), co-author of the original Price-Anderson Act, it is also being considered in the same House committee as H.R.3653. This would set the liability limit at \$1.12 billion.



Some bills have identical versions in both the House and the Senate:

S.1761 Stafford (D-VT)/H.R.2665 Weiss (D-NY)

This is probably the best of the bunch. If enacted, it would require full liability in the event of a nuclear accident. All utility companies would share equally in the financial responsibility; however, there is a provision that would allow those utility companies not at fault to sue the utility responsible for the accident in order to regain their costs. It would also allow private individ-

uals to sue the utility, which is not currently allowed.

S.445 Hart (D-CO)/H.R.445 Sieberling (D-OH)

Would remove all limits on liability; however, would hold only the individual utility financially responsible. Would allow private individuals to sue the utility company.

S.1225 Simpson (R-WY)/McClure (R-ID)

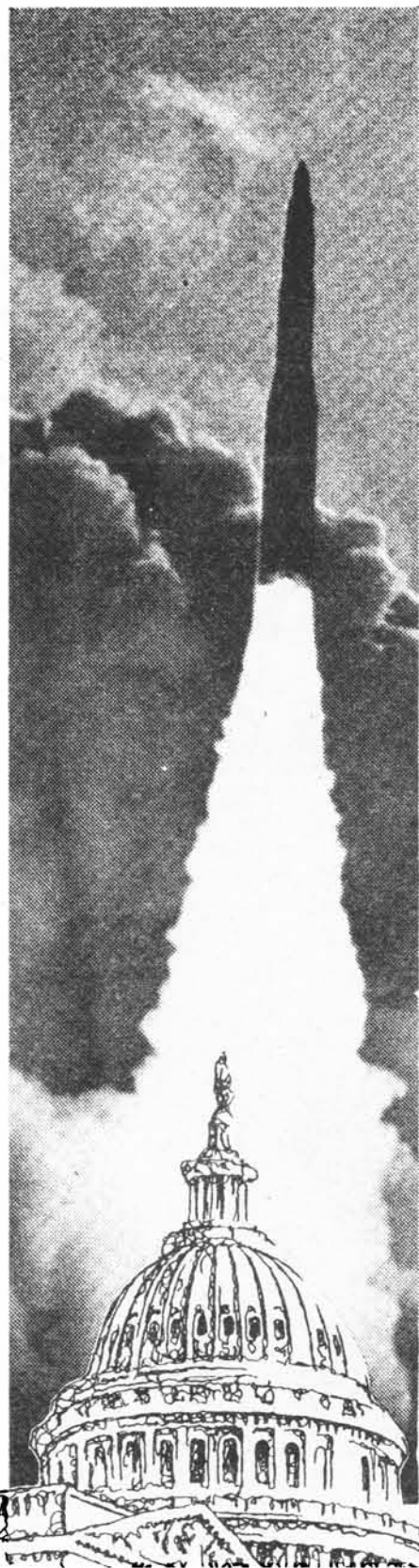
Definitely the worst of the bunch. Would raise the liability limit to \$2.4 billion. It would extend the Price-Anderson Act for 25 years, which means that discussions on raising the liability limits could not occur for 25 years. All other proposals would extend the Act for ten years. S.1225 is currently in the Senate Committee on Environmental Public Works, of which Alan Simpson is chair.

S.2072 Metzenbaum (D-OH)/H.R.2524 Morrison (R-WA)

This bill deals with death, injury or property damage caused by radioactive waste. If enacted, it would remove the limits set on liability (currently \$500 million). The first five billion in costs would be paid out of the Radioactive Waste Fund, which is a mandatory fund paid into by nuclear power plant contractors and others. Any additional costs would be paid by the federal government.

CONTRA AID

A June 9 vote is scheduled in the House on whether to approve military and non-lethal assistance to the Nicaraguan Contras. At this point, it appears that two bills will be offered. One, possibly sponsored by Representative Hamilton, would eliminate all



funding to the Contras, and strongly emphasizes the Contadora process. The other bill will be offered by Representative Robert Michel, and will essentially be the \$100 million in aid requested by President Reagan. The Reagan administration has set June 6 as the deadline for Nicaragua to sign the Contadora treaty. The treaty would require Nicaragua to make sharp reductions in its troops and scrap some of its arsenal. Nicaragua is unwilling to do that until the United States removes all of its troops from Honduras and disavows all support for the Contras. The Reagan Administration demands that Nicaragua be the first to act.

ACTION: Tell Rep. Leon Panetta that you want him to hold firm and oppose ALL aid to the Contras.

POLICE TRAINING
S.1915

Would provide \$22 million in aid for a "counter terrorism" program for the region of Central America. The money would go to train the police forces in Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. It would remove all restrictions that currently exist on police training tactics in Honduras and El Salvador; and lift an eleven year ban on such aid to the country of Guatemala. It has passed the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and will most probably be attached to the Embassy Protection Measure, which will go before the Senate soon.

ACTION: Contact Senators Alan Cranston and Pete Wilson and tell them not to support any funding for police training in Central America.

Shelly D'Amour is the Action Alert Coordinator of the Santa Cruz County Nuclear Weapons Freeze.

Fifth Annual Freeze Walk-a-thon
March For A Test Ban



Using their legs to stop the arms race, Nuclear Freeze supporters will "March for a Test Ban" in the Fifth Annual Nuclear Weapons Freeze Walk-A-Thon on Saturday, May 31. The March will begin at 9 AM from San Lorenzo Park (Duck Island) and will follow a visible 10 kilometer route through the city of Santa Cruz. The March will culminate in a noon rally at San Lorenzo Park. The rally will feature Representative Leon Panetta, County Supervisor Gary Patton, and City Councilmember Jane Weed, among others. Music will be performed by Rhythmical and the Continental Drifters, as well as other local artists.

The recent nuclear accident in the Soviet Union has reignited existing public concern about the nuclear arms race, according to walk-a-thon co-coordinator Jody Trager. She said, "Since the Chernobyl accident, our phone has been ringing non-stop. People want to get involved — now! The

walk-a-thon is one way to channel people's frustrations into concrete action."

Freeze organizers believe that the Chernobyl accident tragically illustrates how dangerous our dependence on nuclear technology really is. Santa Cruz County Freeze Director Terry Teitelbaum said, "Many reactors in the U.S. are very similar in construction to the plant in Chernobyl — and many of these plants produce plutonium for weapons. The Chernobyl accident shows us on a smaller scale one aspect of what we fear from a nuclear war."

The March and Rally will kick-off the local Freeze organization's campaign for a comprehensive nuclear test ban (CTB). A CTB would end all nuclear explosions, anywhere, for any purpose. The campaign is part of a nationwide effort mounted by many peace organizations, including SANE, Greenpeace, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Physicians for

Social Responsibility and others. Teitelbaum said, "This is probably the most coordinated effort ever among diverse peace organizations to work together for a common goal — a test ban." Freeze organizers see the test ban as the most achievable and sensible arms control measures to pursue at this time.

Other activities to be undertaken by the local and national Freeze to pursue a test ban include a major public education effort, a petition drive, local resolution campaigns, letter writing and actions at the Nevada Test Site near Las Vegas.

For more information about the March and Rally for a Test Ban, call the Freeze at 458-9975. To participate as a sponsored walker, or to sponsor a walker, call the Freeze right away or stop by the office at 320-G Cedar St., downtown Santa Cruz.

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Planet Watch

by Igal Dahari



U.S.S.R. Soviet Extension

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has extended his country's unilateral nuclear testing moratorium for the fourth time. The extension's announcement came on May 14, during Gorbachev's first speech on the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The Soviets will not test until August 6, the 41st anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. On that day, their moratorium will be one year old.

Gorbachev has invited President Reagan to a special summit meeting, at an unspecified location in Europe, or even in Hiroshima, to work out a comprehensive test ban treaty between the superpowers. Gorbachev has asked the United States to join his country's moratorium until such a treaty can be agreed to. The White House has so far refused to consider such a meeting, labeling the invitation and the moratorium "Soviet propaganda."



Jordan Wolfson

demning the Polish government's repression of independent peace groups, and calling for the release of the two activists. Freedom and Peace is now active in ten Polish cities.

Meanwhile, the Polish government wants to help the "many thousands of homeless people" of New York City by giving them 5,000 blankets and sleeping bags, to be handed out by private charity groups. The offer was made as a response to the United States Senate's insistence that 50,000 tons of powdered milk to be donated to Poland be given to private Polish charity groups. The surplus powdered milk is being given to Poland by the United States in the wake of the Chernobyl disaster.

Europe NATO On Chem Weapons

Despite the fact they approved the manufacture of new chemical weapons by the United States, at least six NATO defense ministers strongly objected to the idea. Three of the ministers at the Brussels meeting asked Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger to deliver their strong objections to Congress. These ministers, from Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands,

were the most adamantly opposed to the United States breaking a 17-year unilateral moratorium on the production of such weapons.

Congress, as part of last year's appropriations bill, stipulated that the funds for these new weapons could be released only if the plan "has been formally adopted by the North Atlantic Council," NATO's governing political body. On May 23, House Foreign Affairs Committee chairperson Dante B. Fascell announced that he would lead a congressional challenge to revoke these funds because this condition has not been met.

France Maginot Line, Part II

For the ten days that shook the world after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, the French government did not tell its citizens about the significant amounts of fallout radiation over France. In some areas, the level of radioactivity was 400 times normal, but back-to-back weekend holidays made it "very complicated to transmit the data," according to Pierre Pellerin, director of the

Center for Radiation Protection. And anyway, scoffs Pellerin, "my offices are not a public relations agency."

Following the coverup's revelation, headlines screamed "The Radioactive Lie," and "Nuclear Disinformation." Editorials and columns abounded about the irresponsibility of a government that so willingly lies to its people, and comparisons between France and the Soviet Union were made.

Gerard Dupuy, writing in the paper *Liberation*, summed up the situation this way: "There is unquestionably a French trait: In no other Western nation—and even in some communist countries—is the state permitted to treat what must be called 'its subjects' as such extended children."

Besides Dupuy's "trait," the French government's choice of action may be explained by France's heavy use of nuclear power. France has more than 40 operational nuclear reactors, and they produce about 65 percent of that country's power. In no other country is the dependence on nuclear power that high. And, unlike most of France's neighbors, there is no "nuclear issue," meaning a vast majority of the public is not concerned about the dangers of nuclear power, or at least not yet.

Nuke Tests Continue

The French have exploded a nuclear bomb in the South Pacific for the second time this year. The May 8 test, which took place underground at Mururoa Atoll, was not reported by France. Instead, it was recorded by New Zealand scientists at the earthquake recording center in Rarotonga, the Cook Islands. Despite the fact most of the countries in the South Pacific condemn the testing program, and have called for its cessation, the French are expected to continue exploding their nuclear bombs.



Jordan Wolfson



Jordan Wolfson

Poland Peace Activists Jailed

Piotr Niemczyk and Jacek Czaputowicz, two young Polish activists, have been formally charged with belonging to the Warsaw chapter of "Freedom and Peace," an "illegal" peace group. The two were arrested on February 19, after their apartments were

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West Germany The Growing Greens

West Germany's Green Party has decided to make the abolition of nuclear power, renouncement of NATO membership, and the removal of all foreign troops and weapons a part of their election platform. The decision was made during a recent four day congress the party held in Bonn. The Greens' popularity has been increasing consistently since last year, and it has been helped tremendously by the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. It is believed that after the national elections, to be held this coming January, the Greens could become West Germany's third largest party. Together with the opposition Social Democrats, the Greens would then be able to form a majority in the Bundestag.

Clash At Nuke Plant

More than 1,000 demonstrators, many of them wearing black hoods to hide their identities, recently clashed with 2,000 riot police at Wackersdorf, West Germany. The police fired tear gas and water cannons at the protestors, who responded by throwing stones, steel balls and Molotov cocktails. Police spokesperson Oswald Ertl said 132 police were injured. He said 25 of them, along with nine protestors, were taken to hospitals.

Wackersdorf, a Bavarian town near the Czechoslovakian border, is the site of a nuclear waste reprocessing plant still under construction. The demonstrators want the West German government to stop building the plant, which will be able to produce five tons of plutonium a year when fully operational.



Israel

Third To Join

Israel has become the third country to officially join the Reagan administration's Star Wars program. Great Britain and West Germany have already made agreements with the Pentagon allowing private industry to bid on lucrative contracts. These contracts would allow European companies to do highly advanced research, financed by United States government money, with the potential for huge profits. Israel's arrangement is similar, with the important difference that allows government laboratories to bid as well. Britain and Germany have shied away from direct government participation in Star Wars.

One of the reasons for Israel's eagerness to participate in Star Wars may be its quest for a defense against short conventional missiles possessed by Syria.

Great Britain

Threat From The U.S.

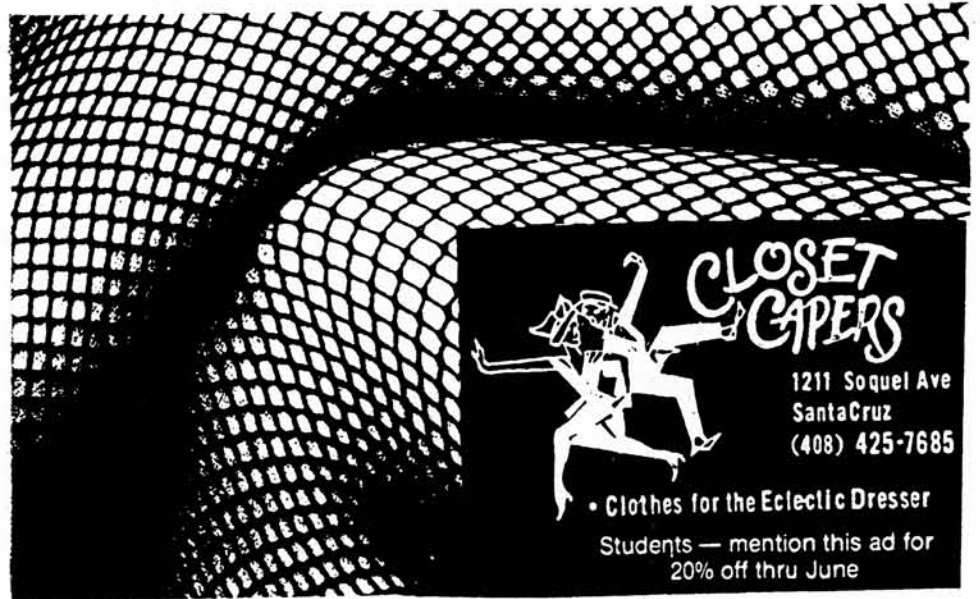
The Labor Party's antinuclear stance has elicited a sharp warning from the United States. Labor, led by Neil Kinnock, says that if the party comes to power all United States nuclear installations would be closed down — including facilities for cruise missiles, Polaris and Trident submarines.

United States Ambassador Charles Price responded recently by saying the Reagan administration would consider closing all of its military bases in Britain if U.S. nuclear weapons are expelled from the country.

Sweden

End Nukes Now, Not Later

In the largest demonstration Stockholm has seen in more than six years, 10,000 Swedes called for the shutdown of all Swedish nuclear power plants. Some demonstrators at the May 15 march carried banners with such messages as "For The Sake of Peace—Stop Nuclear Power." A 1980 referendum provides for the closure of all nuclear power plants in Sweden, but its deadline is set for the year 2010. The marchers demanded a shorter time limit imposed on closing the plants.



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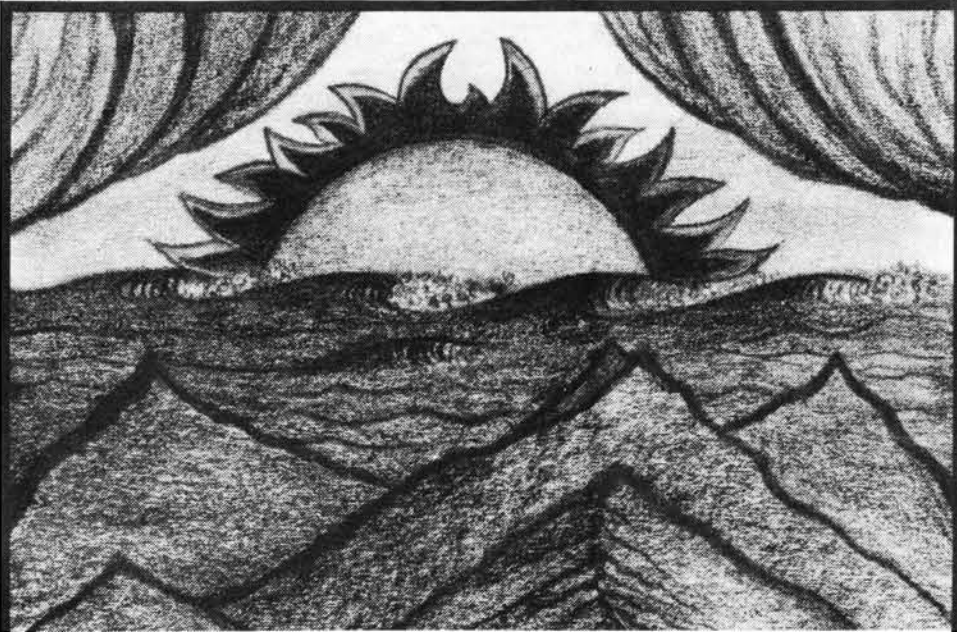
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- A halt to testing would stop testing of the nuclear-powered X-ray laser component of "Star Wars" and its potential Soviet counterpart; and
- A halt to testing would end the "talk-build-talk" mentality that has historically characterized arms control negotiations.

GET INVOLVED: HERE'S HOW

MAY 31, National Freeze Campaign/American Peace Test (APT) National Demonstration at the Nevada Test Site. (Located about 70 miles north of Las Vegas). Bring your banners and state flags.

MAY 31, Solidarity Actions. Local groups are encouraged to organize of local events to coincide with the demonstration in Nevada. Several groups already have activities planned.

JUNE 1 & 2 Non-violent Civil-Disobedience. The APT is organizing non-violent civil disobedience at the test site on June 2. Civil disobedience training will be conducted June 1. For more information call or write: The APT, P.O. Box 26725, Las Vegas, NV. 89126 (702) 878-4989.

JUNE 3 National Call-In to the U. S. Congress (202-224-3121). Jam congressional lines. Let your Representatives know you support a funding cut-off for nuclear warhead testing. A vote is expected in early June on testing legislation. (More information about this event is on the reverse of this leaflet.)

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Human Error Unlimited

by Stephen Kessler

During the 1970s, some peace workers and environmentalists held out the hope that, at worst, the occurrence of a serious accident at a nuclear power plant would serve to wake up the general public to the dangers in this diabolical technology. It followed that, as public opinion changed, industrial and governmental policies would necessarily shift in response to growing popular opposition. Such an accident, however tragic, could carry with it the redeeming aspect of sooner or later shutting down the machinery of the nuclear menace in its presumably "peaceful" mode — as generator of domestic electricity.

Then came the "event" at Three Mile Island in the spring of 1979. For a minute there, at least while the national media focused on the prospect of a meltdown and parts of Pennsylvania were evacuated, it seemed that this might be it, the terrible turning point we were waiting for. But Americans tend to forget fast, and as *The Washington Post* reports in a recent issue, within three months of Three Mile Island, polls showed "no real change" in the people's attitudes, only "an open-minded skepticism" toward nuclear energy.

With development of new plants at a standstill, the industry has not exactly surged ahead since then, but neither has it ceased to operate. Despite a multitude of technical snafus at Diablo Canyon, for example, that facility has come on line at full power and is boasted by PG&E to be saving its ratepayers money. Whatever the perils of plutonium, the utilities and manufacturers and regulators seem to be saying, the juice must go through.

In the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster, one might think a change in the domestic status quo were finally possible. As the fallout settles and the death toll mounts and fear that it can happen (and is happening) here increases, popular demand for a nuclear-free future may intensify. Meanwhile, however, with notable exceptions, most U.S. media and government officials continue to congratulate themselves and our "free press" for being more open than the Soviets in the business of spreading information and for being more technically competent in containing radiation.

Even so, as Anna Mayo reveals in her



Becky Fuson

excellent piece in the May 13 issue of *The Village Voice*, the Russians have no monopoly on secrecy: the American public has been shielded from many scary truths trailing from the plumes of Three Mile Island, duped into ignoring that nightmare's cancerous consequences. Radioactivity

transcends politics.

Lest the *Voice's* leftist leanings taint its journalistic credibility, no less an establishment authority than Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) member James K. Asselstine, writing in the May 11 *Los Angeles Times*, reports that both the Rancho Seco and San Onofre plants last year experienced "serious operating events that created the potential for a far more dangerous accident." Asselstine, who ought to know, says, "Safety analyses of several U.S. nuclear plants indicate that there is about a 45% chance of a core meltdown at one of the 100 plants now in operation in this country during the next 20 years." Yet even this dissenter from within the NRC refuses to see the writing on the wall: he calls for safer nuclear plants rather than none at all.

The media will undoubtedly be chewing Chernobyl over for awhile — at least until the next sensational story comes along — but I suspect the disaster, for all its fallout, will continue to be seen as something Soviet by official thought controllers in this country. The President, a graduate of the General Electric school of techno-diplomacy, and

his two right-hand men, both Bechtel alumni, typify the prevailing corporate attitude toward the "need" for nuclear power. Bureaucratic inertia, if nothing else, will keep us on this path for some time to come. This is the political equivalent of trickle-down economics: decisions made by corporate executives (or Party officials) eventually drip on the heads of ordinary citizens.

Those of us committed to resisting the downpour are faced with philosophical and practical challenges of daunting magnitude. Knowing as much as we do about the permanence of the plutonium already circulating in our skies, and understanding that the poisons now plaguing life on this planet will outlive any of us, how do we proceed with our personal lives without surrendering to panic or despair? Surely an objective assessment of our dilemma justifies the most hysterical reactions. Helen Caldicott's uncool eloquence is a model of sanity under the circumstances.

The value of grief and anger is enhanced when we harness them for daily action. Each small act of compassion offered in sympathy with our fellow creatures increases the power of our humanity. The tenderness with which we touch each other gives us that much more strength to carry on. The will to live, to work together, to savor one another's company, can be contagious.

Whether we succeed in shutting down the nukes or merely enrich our shared moments with the satisfaction of feeling the passionate texture of our experience, my sense of the situation is that anything we do — both intimately and publicly — toward lifting the weight of doom is worth the effort. Creating pieces of perishable art or constructing ongoing institutions of protest, we can keep hope alive even as we acknowledge the inevitability of human errors destined to make our lives unbearable.

The torment of this horrible knowledge must nevertheless be measured against the actual suffering of people who lack the luxury of anticipating the worst. Struggling with hunger and disease and the other indecent exposures of poverty, some folks couldn't care less about potential holocausts. It is the relatively comfortable who can most afford to imagine the world's end. Others' worlds are ending every day.

Taking the geological perspective, we can consider the prospect of large-scale extinction as a temporary flicker in a longer cycle. Is it anything but vanity to assume that we should live forever as a species any more than as individuals? I believe we must acknowledge realistically the odds against us — facing both the insidiousness of nuclear power and the outright evil of atomic weapons, not to mention the monumental idiocy that has brought us to this brink — in order to take the leap of faith that says we can survive. As we approach the incredible conclusion of this consciousness-wrenching century, I feel a miraculous sense of solidarity with lovers everywhere.

Stephen Kessler is a poet, journalist, and editor-publisher of *The Sun*, expected to be on the streets of Santa Cruz in July.

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Nuclear Disaster: Could It Happen Here?

by Glenn Barlow

During the two weeks that the Soviet disaster near Kiev dominated the media, Americans were frequently reassured by government and atomic industry propaganda that such an accident could not happen here. Unlike the reactor at Chernobyl, we were told, our nuclear power plants have containment structures to prevent the accidental escape of radioactivity. Three weeks after the Soviet accident, U.S. officials admitted that information had been available all along from technical Soviet literature and from the CIA that revealed that the

Reagan was an employee of General Electric for many years.

Alongside Pollard on May 20 was Daniel Ford of the Union of Concerned Scientists. He said that U.S. authorities have made "a false claim" that U.S. plants are housed in "magic shield" containments that will protect against radiation leaks. "There is no magic shield at any American nuclear plant that is designed to cope with a major meltdown accident," he said. "What is more, at roughly 40 percent of the nuclear plants in the United States, the containment building may leak or rupture in the event of relatively minor accidents."

The NRC estimates there is a 45 percent chance of another core meltdown as bad or worse than TMI in the next 20 years.

Chernobyl reactor, which is only three years old, actually did have containment features very similar to those in the U.S. "The U.S. nuclear industry is . . . wrong when it asserts that it can't happen here. Containment buildings are not failsafe," said Congressman Edward Markey of Massachusetts. His committee has oversight on nuclear reactor issues.

On May 20, 1986, Robert Pollard, who has worked in the Navy's nuclear power program and on the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), charged at a Ralph Nader-sponsored press conference that the U.S. government is covering up its own official findings that 39 of America's 100 nuclear power plants have containment structures that could leak or rupture as a result of reactor accidents. He said that contrary to early reports, the Chernobyl reactor had a containment building that "bears a striking resemblance to the defective pressure-suppression design used by General Electric." He said that General Electric, which has built 32 nuclear power plants in the U.S. and 17 abroad, has persuaded U.S. authorities not to publicize criticism of its design. President Ronald

Five of America's largest nuclear reactors do not have containment structures at all. These are owned by the federal government, and operated by private contractors, at sites in South Carolina and Washington. They produce plutonium for nuclear weapons. These five reactors were retired antiques until Reagan pulled them out of mothballs in 1981 to meet his goal of producing enough plutonium for 17,000 new nuclear weapons during his reign. Many nuclear weapons facilities have been careless about safety because they operated behind a veil of secrecy until quite recently. For example, since 1952, the Livermore labs near San Francisco have frequently leaked plutonium and other radioactive contamination into the air, San Jose's water supplies, and the fertile farmlands of the Central Valley.

On May 12, 1986, Americans learned that military reactors and plutonium factories at Hanford in the 'past routinely released radioactive gases at levels that today would qualify as a major nuclear accident, thousands of times greater than the levels recorded after Three Mile Island (TMI). The American public did not gain access to realistic information on the health



Bruce Harman

hazards of exposure to radiation until the 1970s because most nuclear activities were shielded from public scrutiny by the excuse of "national security secrets." Thus, when atmospheric nuclear explosions near Las Vegas were spreading radioactive contamination all the way to New England and around the globe in the '50s and '60s, naive Americans were reassured by their government that there was no danger to the public.

The list of American nuclear accidents (elsewhere in this issue) reminds us that there have been many leaks of radioactivity from U.S. military and commercial nuclear facilities. Most of these were kept secret until after the leaking radiation was dispersed. The amount of radiation released was usually not adequately measured.

Rather than ask can it happen here, we should be asking what will we do when it happens the next time. Because radiation is invisible and undetectable by human senses, governments can avoid informing the public of the true dimensions of nuclear accidents. The Soviets were trying to do what they and the Americans have done in the past, i.e., keep it a secret. But this time, the radioactivity was detected by other governments up to thousands of miles from the source. Monitors in Sweden found 16 types of radioactive particles in Scandinavian air. All

over Europe, higher than normal levels of radiation were observed. People took iodine to prevent thyroid cancers. Milk, beef, fresh produce and water supplies were contaminated. In past nuclear accidents, public panic was avoided simply by not informing people in the exposed regions. Because ordinary citizens do not have radiation monitors and because the cancers caused by radiation often do not surface until 10 to 30 years after exposure, governments always say "there is no danger to the public" from nuclear accidents. Our worsening cancer epidemic is possibly to a large extent due to past exposures to radioactivity.

WE ALMOST LOST DETROIT

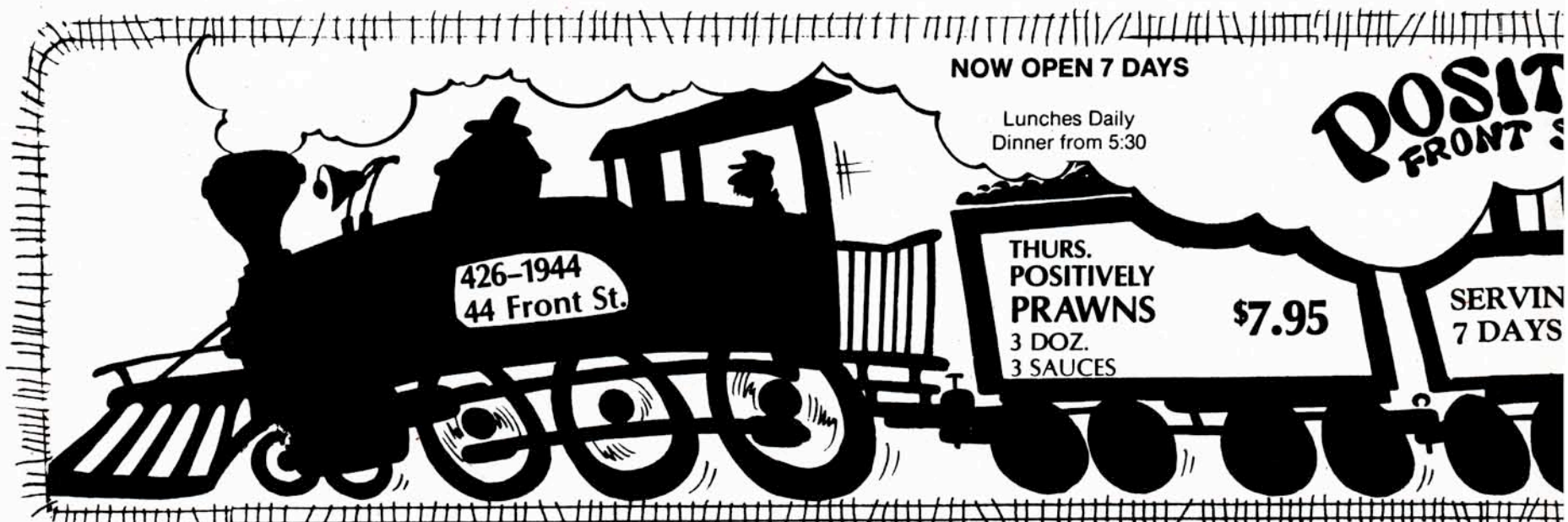
We almost lost Detroit from a nuclear meltdown in 1966. Los Angeles suburbs were dosed with radiation in 1957 from a meltdown at the General Atomics reactor. Denver suburbs and water supplies are permanently contaminated with plutonium from a long series of nuclear accidents at Rocky Flats. The 1979 meltdown at TMI could have been much worse. An area the size of Pennsylvania could have been permanently contaminated with radioactivity.

When Jimmy Carter was asked, "Could there be a nuclear accident like Chernobyl in the USA?" the former nuclear engineer responded, "Yes, it's possible. Somewhat similar events have occurred in England and in Canada. When I was working in the nuclear submarine program, there was a disaster of this kind in Canada, at a place called Chalk River . . . We have nuclear reactors in this country . . . without massive containment buildings. We've been remarkably fortunate in this country that there has been minimal injury and death to human beings. It's always a possibility."

NUCLEAR ACCIDENT INSURANCE

It was coincidental that during the Soviet meltdown the U.S. Congress was debating the first major revision in 30 years of nuclear accident insurance laws. The NRC estimates there is a 45 percent chance of another core meltdown as bad or worse than TMI in the next 20 years. A recent NRC report estimates that a major melt-

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Chernobyl And Nuclear War

by Peter Lumsdaine

Like a bad dream from which you awaken only to find that it is no dream, the nuclear disaster at Chernobyl has brought both outcries and a strange, numb quiet. We often feel this numbness when shocking but distant events spring unexpectedly at us from the headlines, especially when they seem to hold some larger and ominous implication or warning: like the destruction



Bruce Harman

of the Challenger, the Titanic, or Korean Airlines flight 007; as well as the long-predicted but suddenly real crises of chemical and nuclear pollution disasters or an American military strike in the tinderbox of the Middle East.

Beyond its potentially profound impact on the nuclear power debate, Chernobyl has crucial implications for the even more perilous problem of global military competition between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

COLD WAR: THE BIG LIE SYNDROME

Continuing in a centuries-long pattern of secretiveness, suspicion of outsiders and fear of revealing national failures or weaknesses, the Russian government tried to control information about the disaster and prevent the spread of bad news, especially

in the first days of the accident when Moscow officials were struggling to understand what was really going on in the crippled reactor. In fact, both genuine confusion and deliberate coverups have also characterized U.S. officials' handling of deadly radioactive contamination incidents and other disasters, from the government's massive iodine releases at Hanford, Washington in the 1940s and U.S. bomb testing fallout in the '50s to Three Mile Island and the Challenger explosion.

History and personal experience tell us that in a confusing and dangerous crisis the reactions of stonewalling, covering up, scapegoating, and anger toward critics or attackers are not only characteristics of the Soviet government, or even of the traditional Russian state. They are characteristics of almost all governments, almost all bureaucracies, and indeed almost all individuals suddenly faced with a stressful and frightening situation.

Nevertheless the accident was seized on by high-level Western government officials and analysts, especially in the United States, as a tool in their ongoing campaign to paint the U.S.S.R. as an exceptionally ruthless, lying, crude and brutal enemy power that cares little for human life. This Cold War propaganda offensive, dutifully spotlighted but not critically analyzed by major news agencies, was used to hammer on the themes that arms control agreements with the Soviets are worthless and that only military power combined with strategic defense technology can counter the threat of a deceitful Communist dictatorship that regards the lives of its own people as expendable.

The Soviet press did blame Three Mile Island and Bhopal on profit-hungry capitalist negligence, while ignoring their own covered-up 1957 nuclear disaster in the Ural Mountains (an event that the CIA also successfully kept secret from the American people for over 20 years). But the Soviets did not use those Western accidents to label the U.S. as an enemy power so ruthless and treacherous that there was no point in negotiating with this country as a reasonable member of the international community, or in working together for an end to the escalating nuclear arms race.

American pro-nuclear analysts and govern-

ment officials, who consistently downplay the casualties from Western nuclear accidents and military actions, dismissing any evidence of greater destructive impacts as "unsubstantiated" and "alarmist," suddenly reversed roles. They confidently proclaimed an enormous immediate death toll (actually based only on shaky rumor) in the hundreds or even thousands, while ridiculing the Soviet press accounts of minimal prompt fatalities (which were later quietly recognized as correct).

The unfounded rumor-based "estimates" of 2000 immediate deaths at Chernobyl were prominently featured in major news-media reports, while on the other hand

ignored by these same publications and broadcasters, despite the Pentagon news blackout at the time. Likewise the technological failures and government negligence, the confusion and lack of information, the official pride and bureaucratic rigidity that outweighed human lives in some notable decisions, were all reported during Mexico City's disastrous 1985 earthquake, but not with the exaggerated emphasis and grim editorial warnings about "the nature of the Mexican system" or the futility of our imperfectly adhered-to treaties with that country—a treatment that would have paralleled the Chernobyl coverage.

Yet the relentless logic of the intensifying

We go on assuming that the "crisis management" diplomats and the complex of electronic warning and control systems . . . will continue to prevent disaster indefinitely.

rumors in October 1983 (which like the Chernobyl rumors later turned out to be false) that hundreds of Grenadans had been killed in the U.S. invasion were consistently

Cold War is to use any available means to discredit and attack the adversary.

HOT METAL: A GLIMPSE INTO THE OVENS

In the impact of Chernobyl there is not only the direct damage or the likelihood of a similar tragedy in the U.S. or other parts of the world. There is also the shadow of a far greater catastrophe that we persistently tell ourselves will not really occur, a chilling vision that we glimpsed in the billowing smoke and flames of the crippled reactor, in the nightmare image of the incredibly poisonous white hot molten core burning its way into the dark soil and water bearing rocks of the Earth.

The meltdown in the Ukraine was an almost subliminal reminder of the carefully prepared global holocaust that the third World War would unleash. Mikhail Gorbachev, somberly announcing that nine people in his country had died and 299 remained hospitalized from acute radiation poisoning, added that Chernobyl "showed

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Bruce Harman

A cartoon illustration of a train with three cars, set against a background of a brick wall and a yellow sun. The train is moving from left to right. The first car is labeled "LIVELY TREE" and "BREAKFAST A WEEK AGAIN!". The second car is labeled "DINNER SPECIALS" and lists various dishes. The third car is labeled "BREAKFAST 7:30-12:00" and lists breakfast options.

LIVELY TREE

BREAKFAST A WEEK AGAIN!

DINNER SPECIALS

- Fettucine Carbonara
- Fettucine Alfredo
- Clams and Linguine
- Halibut Sauce Mornay
- Shrimp Provencale
- Coquilles St. Jacques
- Pacific Snapper Provencale
- Prawns Richard-Bordelaise

DINNERS INCLUDE SALAD AND FRENCH BREAD

BREAKFAST 7:30-12:00

- POSITIVELY JOE'S
- HANGTOWN FRY
- CORNED BEEF HASH
- BACON OR SAUSAGE & EGGS
- VEGETARIAN

How Fallout Affects Your Health

by Colleen DeLaney

The exact numbers on the cloud of radioactive fallout that is now spreading across the globe from the Chernobyl accident are hard to come by. But while we don't know what additional amount of radiation we will be exposed to, in addition to pre-existing background radiation (composed of cosmic rays, radioactive elements in the earth, and fallout from weapons testing) one thing is certain: there is no such thing as a "safe" dose of radiation. Period.

Radiation is dangerous because of its ionizing effect on human tissues. This effect happens when the powerful incoming photons of radiation knock electrons out of their orbit around the nucleus, leaving the atom unstable and changing the chemical binding properties that are essential to its normal functioning.

At low doses of radiation, the cell can often repair the damage. The unstable atom can attract another electron; molecules can be mended by repair enzymes. But if the damage is not repaired, the cell can die or the organ's function may be impaired.

It may not hurt the organ to lose one cell, but if enough cells essential to the functioning of the organ are destroyed, the well-known harmful effects of radiation can occur: cancer, leukemia, sterility, cataracts, mutations — even death. The higher the dose, or the more frequently even "small" doses are administered, the harder it is for the cell to keep up with repairs and the greater the chance of permanent damage occurring. What's worse, the cell "remem-

bers" every assault by radiation, making it more susceptible to the damaging effects of radiation the next time around.

In measuring radiation doses, however, it's not just the dose, but also the age and type of tissue irradiated that's important. Cells that are reproducing rapidly are more sensitive to the damaging effects of radiation; hence, children are more sensitive than adults, and fetuses during the first trimester of pregnancy are the most sensitive of all. In adults, the blood forming organs, bone marrow, and reproductive organs are the

most sensitive to radiation. While radiation from medical or dental X-rays passes right through your body, radioactivity behaves differently. Radioactivity isn't here one day and gone the next — instead, isotopes decay slowly, and this rate is measured by "half-life" — that is, how long it takes the isotope to decay to one half of its strength. Although the quantity of the isotope keeps decaying, it never reaches zero — traces will always remain.

most sensitive to radiation.

The isotope Barium 140, for example, has a half life of 12 days, and since its atomic structure resembles that of calcium, it collects in the bones. Cesium is worse — it has

a half life of 30 years, and because it resembles potassium, it concentrates in the liver and muscles, where it will continue to release radiation for decades. Receiving even a small dose of radioactivity from fallout means becoming a life-long host to a cancer-causing agent.

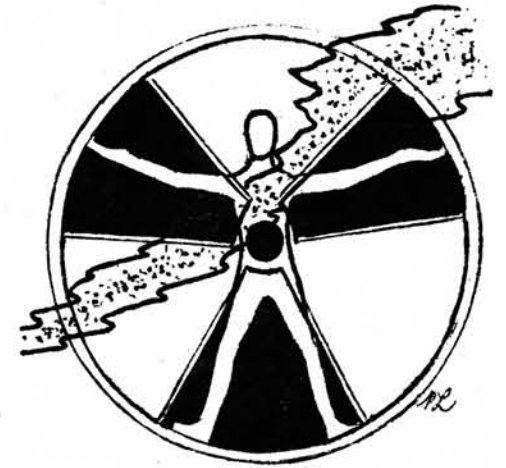
You may be used to hearing doses from medical and dental X-rays being reported in Rads (Radiation Absorbed Dose). Radiation doses from sources other than diagnostic X-ray are measured in Rems (or Radiation Equivalent Man. Perhaps the term

... one thing is certain: there is no such thing as a "safe" dose of radiation. Period.

should be changed to REPs, since all persons are equally exposed?).

Measuring radioactivity on a different scale than diagnostic radiation reflects the reality that some types of radiation — such as those found in nuclear reactors or food irradiation plants — are far more damaging than X-rays. In X-ray, one Rad equals one Rem, and when low energies are involved, doses are often measured in millirems, or thousandths of a rem. (see chart)

Scientists are busily reassuring us that only very low levels of radiation from Chernobyl, measured in millirems, will reach North America. This may be true, but



it conveniently overlooks the fact that extremely high doses have been received in the Soviet Union and surrounding countries. It's as if they're telling us we can all calm down since it happened to "them" and not "us."

This kind of reassurance also overlooks the fact that there is no such thing as a "safe" dose of radiation, even though very little effect can be measured by small doses. As John Gofman, author of *Radiation and Human Health* puts it, cancers don't pop up waving little flags telling us what caused them — and a condition like cancer may appear as long as 20 years after exposure. Once you know that one single particle of radiation can theoretically hit one gene and cause cancer, you realize that the radioactive fallout from the Chernobyl accident is going to affect every one of us on the planet for decades to come.

Colleen DeLaney is an instructor in Radiologic Technology.

Multiple Choice #3

What is the best homemade dessert at the Blue Moon Cafe?

- A. Cool & Creamy Cheesecake
- B. Turkish Coffee Mud Pie
- C. Honey-sweetened Carrot Cake
- D. Saturn Ring Chocolate Cake
- E. The Hot Fudge Sundaes
- F. The Fruit Pies
- G. I can't decide

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EFFECTS OF RADIATION EXPOSURE

by Colleen DeLaney

5000	Rems	Immediate death
1000	Rems	Death within days from radiation sickness
500	Rems	Permanent sterility
300	Rems	Kills half the population within 30 days
200	Rems	Temporary sterility (up to 12 months)
150	Rems	Survivable radiation sickness
50	Rems	Measurable increase in genetic mutations
10	Rems	Reduction in sperm cell count
5	Rems	Chromosome aberrations
1	Rem	Shortening of life span by 10 days

RADIATION DOSES RECEIVED

100,000	Rems	Amount used in food irradiation plants — can be as high as 4 million Rems
1000	Rems	Possible peak levels of radiation near Chernobyl at the time of the accident
200	Rems/hour	Radiation levels at Chernobyl after one week. (Note: Five hours of this dose would be fatal.)
0.500	Rems/year	(500 millirems) Amount that food irradiation plants are allowed to emit per year
0.300	Rems/year	(300 millirems) Background radiation in Denver, Colorado. (Increases at high altitude.)
0.100	Rems/year	(100 millirems) Average "background" radiation
0.080	Rems	(80 millirems) Average dose from medical X-rays per patient per year
0.025	Rems/year	(25 millirems) Amount that nuclear power plants are allowed to emit per year
0.022	Rems	(22 millirems) Average chest X-ray dose

A Partial List Of American Nuclear Accidents

compiled by Glenn Barlow

May 10, 1986, Brown's Ferry, Alabama — Fire destroyed reactor cooling tower, no radiation released.

January 6, 1986, Gore, Oklahoma — One dead, 100 injured, radiation released into the community from nuclear fuels accident at plant run by Kerr-McGee, Karen Silkwood's employer.

December 26, 1985, Rancho Seco, California — A "pressurized thermoshock" almost caused a major meltdown at this "twin of Three Mile Island (TMI)." Rancho Seco has had so many accidents that it has been shut down more than it has operated. It will not start up again before 1987.

September, 1985, San Diego County, California — San Onofre Unit 1 came very close to a major meltdown. This reactor has one of the worst track records of any reactor in the country. San Onofre sits on two active earthquake faults.

June 9, 1985, Oak Harbor, Ohio — At least 16 equipment failures and human error caused a loss of cooling water accident sequence similar to the TMI failure. A major meltdown was barely averted.

According to Nuclear Regulatory Commissioner Asselstine, 1985 was the worst year since TMI, with 10 reactor accidents. Five of the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) reactors were shut down indefinitely.

January 25, 1982, Rochester, New York — Steam generator pipes broke in the Ginna reactor. Radioactive steam escaped into the air.

February 11, 1981, Tennessee — Eight workers were contaminated when 110,000 gallons of radioactive coolant leaked at TVA's Sequoyah 1 reactor.

January 24, 1980, Livermore, California — A small earthquake damaged the nuclear reactor at the Livermore nuclear weapons labs and caused leaks of radiation which were at first denied by lab officials. Within three months, two unrelated accidents caused leaks of plutonium from Livermore, which is licensed to handle 500 pounds of plutonium each year, in the midst of 13 active earthquake faults.

September 19, 1980, Arkansas — Titan missile, armed with nuclear weapon, exploded in its silo. Neighbors complained of illnesses for weeks afterward.

July, 1980, September, 1979, May, 1979, San Diego, California — Nuclear powered Navy vessels accidentally spilled reactor coolant into San Diego Bay. Dozens of Navy reactors move in and out of California harbors each year. They routinely dump radioactive waste at sea. The Navy dumps 25,000 gallons of radioactive contamination per year inside U.S. harbors.

August 7, 1979, Erwin, Tennessee — Radiation released from a top secret nuclear weapons facility contaminated over 1,000 people.

July 16, 1979, New Mexico — Huge amounts of radioactive wastes from uranium mines spilled into a river, onto Indian Reservation farmlands, and on into the Colorado River, drinking water supply for southern California.

March 28, 1979, Three Mile Island (TMI), Pennsylvania — Human errors and equipment failures caused a partial core meltdown. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said TMI came within an hour of a catastrophic meltdown.

March 22, 1975, Decatur, Alabama — Catastrophic meltdown barely averted at Brown's Ferry reactors.

1974, Cimarron, Oklahoma — Numerous accidents exposed workers, including Karen Silkwood, at Kerr McGee's plutonium fuels factory.

1973, Northern California — Livermore Labs discover that radioactive waste evaporators have spread plutonium onto nearby farmlands surrounding open-air South Bay aqueduct that supplies San Jose's water.

April, 1973, Denver, Colorado — Significant radiation released into atmosphere from Rocky Flats accident at nuclear weapons facility.

February 8, 1972, Denver, Colorado — Rocky Flats fire releases plutonium.

November 19, 1971, St. Paul, Minnesota — 50,000 gallons of radioactive wastes spill from reactor into St. Paul water supplies.

1971, Denver, Colorado — Four separate accidents at Rocky Flats release radioactive contamination.

August 6, 1970, California — Livermore accident releases 300,000 curies of radiation into the air.

June 5, 1970, Illinois — The Dresden nuclear power plant went out of control for two hours. Meltdown barely avoided.

April 13, 1970, Livermore, California — Radioactive wastes from the Labs spilled into city storm sewer.

February 10, 1970, San Diego, California — Nuclear missile cracked on aircraft carrier, one mile from downtown. The crew was evacuated while demolition experts removed the missile.

May 11, 1969, Denver, Colorado — Plutonium fire at Rocky Flats caused \$26.5 million in damages.

February 1, 1968, Livermore, California — Labs spill radioactive iodine and strontium into city storm sewer.

1968 — A B-52 with 4 H-bombs crashed into Greenland. The Air Force shipped 1.7 million gallons of radioactive wastes back to U.S. for disposal.

May 25 to June 15, 1967, Livermore, California — Plutonium from the Labs was leaking for 21 days into the city sanitary sewage system which dries its wastes for use as fertilizer.

September 1967, October and November, 1965, Denver, Colorado — Rocky Flats plutonium fires released radiation.

October 5, 1966, Detroit, Michigan — Partial core meltdown at Fermi reactor 30 miles from Detroit was kept secret from the public.

January, 1966, Spain — B-52 accident drops three Hydrogen bombs on fishing village and a fourth into the Mediterranean. Plutonium was spread over 640 acres of farmland. Radioactive soil was shipped to U.S. for burial.

January 20, 1965, Livermore, California — Accidental release of 300,000 curies of radiation into the air.

September 13, 1965, Livermore, California — Plutonium fire at nuclear weapons labs.

March 26, 1963, Livermore, California — Nuclear critical mass experiment, with no containment systems, released large amounts of gaseous fission products.

January 3, 1961, Idaho — Military reactor exploded, killing three workers. Radiation was spread over several states.

March 14, 1961, Yuba City, California — B-52 with nuclear weapons on board ran out of gas and crash landed. The Pentagon only admits to 27 nuclear weapons accidents such as this one, but other sources claim at least 125.

1961, North Carolina — B-52 carrying H-bombs equivalent to 1600 Hiroshima bombs crashed. Five of six safety switches broke on the bombs. We almost lost the East Coast.

November 8, 1960, Livermore, California — Fire released radiation from Curium Processing Cave.

July 24, 1959, Los Angeles, California — Partial meltdown at reactor in San Fernando Valley released unmeasured amount of radiation.

September 11, 1957, Denver, Colorado — Fire in nuclear weapons manufacturing building at Rocky Flats released large amounts (25,618 microcuries) of plutonium dust.

March 1, 1954, Micronesia (U.S. Trust Territory) — H-bomb blast on Bikini Island, equal to 1,000 Hiroshima bombs, accidentally contaminated several inhabited islands and U.S. military men. This was one of 66 atmospheric blasts in Micronesia in the 1950s. Paradise Lost.

August 5, 1950, San Francisco, California — Air Force bomber carrying atomic bombs crashed at Travis A.F. Base, killing General Travis and 18 others, injuring 60, and spreading radioactive contamination.

1946 to 1970, USA — Nuclear weapons facilities dumped 76,000 tons of nuclear wastes at 50 dumpsites in the coastal waters, usually near prime fishing grounds including the Farallon Islands near San Francisco.

1940s until 1963, Las Vegas, Nevada — University of California's nuclear weapons labs exploded atmospheric bombs near Las Vegas, accidentally dosing the entire USA with radioactive contamination.

1940s, '50s, and '60s, Hanford, Washington — Nuclear weapons facilities were allowed to routinely release huge amounts of radiation. The Hanford reactors, operated by General Electric, spewed out over 2000 pounds of plutonium.

Chernobyl Information Scarce

by Ronald A. Lampi

Who in this country ever heard of Chernobyl before April 28, 1986? Within a day or two of that date, however, everyone had to have heard of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the Soviet Ukraine, site of the worst nuclear accident in history. Though the news media were quick to splash major headlines, the story that came out of Chernobyl those first few days was not exactly clear, with the Soviets understating the scope of an accident that Western sources were too eager to make sound even worse. The Soviet's initial calm and reticence about the accident contrasted sharply to the outbreak of hysterical concern in the West. And while many in the West angrily decried the Soviet's withholding of infor-

mation, the Soviets, in turn, accused the Western news media of concocting propaganda hoaxes to discredit the Soviet Union once again.

In the February issue of *Soviet Life*, Ukrainian Power Minister Vitali Sklyarov

have at least partially melted the uranium fuel. That a full scale meltdown was a real possibility could be gathered from the hints given by the Soviets themselves that a far greater catastrophe was averted after a turning point on May 11. It was then that

The United States government also "knew more than it was telling."

had boasted that "the odds of a meltdown are one in 10,000 years." This was in an article on Chernobyl. Though we may never know everything that did happen at Chernobyl, we do know that there was an explosion kindling a graphite fire that must

the overheated condition of the reactor core was finally brought under control.

Little did the world know that a disaster was in the making at Chernobyl on April 25 when, apparently, during a scheduled shutdown of the plant, a loss of water coolant in

the reactor allowed both its temperature to rise dramatically and a gaseous mixture to build up. The explosion occurred the following day, blowing off the top of the reactor building and immediately starting a fire that spewed a radioactive cloud into the atmosphere. Little did the world know of any of this until Sweden realized that something was terribly wrong on April 28. Technicians at Sweden's own nuclear power plants found abnormally high levels of radiation in the environment, and quickly concluded that it had to have come from its neighbor to the south — the Soviet Union. It was then only after Sweden's pressuring of the Soviets that the world received an answer later that same day: a terse, four-sentence statement was issued on Soviet television about an accident at Chernobyl, far less information, however, than what the world community wanted to hear. Meanwhile, the radioactive cloud spread in a wide belt from Scandinavia, then reaching across all of Eastern Europe, to as far west as France and Italy.

It was uncertain how long the graphite fire would continue burning — some experts said possibly weeks — though it appeared the Soviets, as a result undoubtedly of heroic, but suicidal measures by firefighters, had the fire under control and out sooner than expected. Apparently our own government knew it long before the rest of the world did. According to a former Director of Central Intelligence, Stansfield Turner, the United States had already known the fire was extinguished only three days after it had started. Though criticizing the Soviets for their failure of communication, he also added that the information gathered from U.S. spy satellites should not have been withheld from our European allies. The United States government also "knew more than it was telling."

Though the Soviets initially downplayed the accident, leaving the Western news media to conjure up a far bleaker picture, they did come to realize that they had underestimated its seriousness. Nearby residents of Chernobyl were not evacuated until 36 hours after the explosion; days later, even more evacuations were underway, raising a total figure of 92,000 people displaced. While all this was going on, and while foreign governments were rushing to evacuate their own citizens from Kiev, only 80 miles away, the Russian people were celebrating May Day with their traditional parades as though nothing had happened. It was only after May Day that safety measures were initiated in Kiev. Then, on May 6, the Soviets finally admitted to the world their mistake of underestimating the extent of the accident and its danger to the surrounding communities; the finger of blame, however, was pointed at officials in Chernobyl, not in Moscow. To some degree, the Soviets were probably mired in the incompetence of certain officials who had firsthand knowledge of the accident and bungled in evaluating it.

From the beginning, the Soviets insisted that there were initially only two fatal casualties in the accident, though the toll has gone up since then; and still more are expected to die. Overall, 50,000 to 100,000 people received radiation doses that could have long-term health effects. This is not to mention the increase in cancers that is predicted to occur in the general populations of Europe. Though the worst may be over, the consequences may have only begun.

Ronald A. Lampi is a staff writer for *The Monthly Planet* and Chairperson of the Santa Cruz County Nuclear Weapons Freeze.

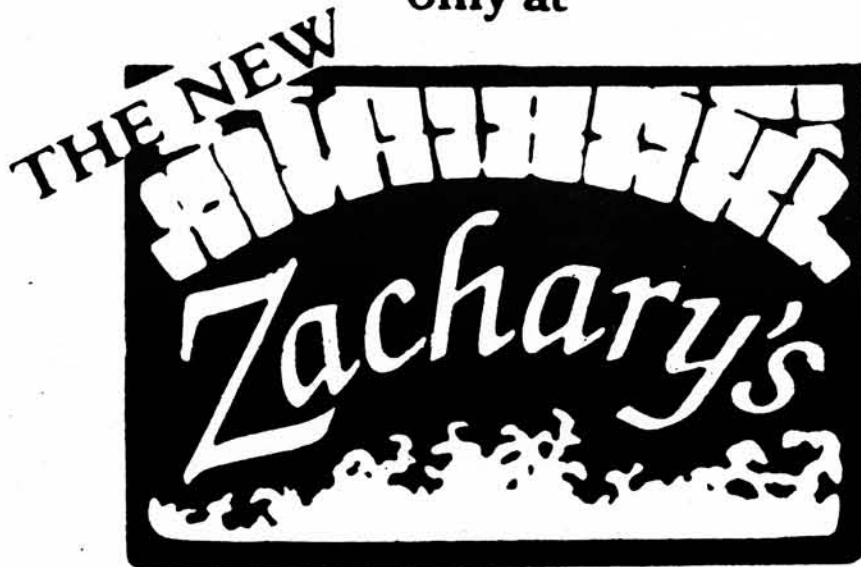
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Underwriting The Unthinkable

by Glenn Barlow

First passed by Congress in 1957 and renewed twice since then, the Price-Anderson Act sets a limit on the amount of damage for which a utility is liable in case of a nuclear accident. The Price-Anderson Act expires in 1987 and Congress is currently debating 10 bills that would revise it. (See this issue's Legislative Update section.) Just a few days before the disaster at Chernobyl, the House Interior Committee voted 21 to 20 in favor of HR 3653 by Representative Morris Udall to require the nuclear industry to pay up to \$8.2 billion and compensation to victims of a nuclear accident. The existing limit on liability is \$650 million. The nuclear industry put "enormous pressure on some of the members to reverse the decision [of] the committee," according to Representative John Sieberling (D-OH). Even during the Chernobyl disaster, one member changed his mind, thus enabling a reversal of the vote. "I think they had one vote on us," said Rep. George Miller from Northern California who supports the Udall bill. Rep. Sieberling said, "I don't see how in the light of the events in the Soviet Union in the last three days members can face their constituents and say they voted to reduce the coverage." He was referring to the attempt by Republican members of the committee to pass an alternative to the Udall bill, authored by Representative Price

(Yes, the same Price who wrote the original bill in the fifties.) The Price bill, HR 51, would only raise the limit to \$1.12 billion. Committee Chairperson Udall decided to postpone the vote on the bills to give the committee members more time to understand the implication of the Soviet nuclear meltdown.

UNLIMITED LIABILITY?

Of the ten bills on nuclear insurance reform being debated by Congress, the one that would provide the best protection for

do, Senator Stafford's bill puts no limit on liability. Instead, the owners of nuclear power plants would contribute to an industry-wide self insurance fund that would pay all valid liability claims following future nuclear accidents. The NRC official added that Stafford's bill is actually modeled on a recommendation that was unanimously adopted by the five NRC commissioners in 1983, based on an extensive NRC staff report. Asselstine revealed that the 1983 vote alarmed the nuclear industry so much that each of the five NRC commissioners

"I don't see how in the light of the events in the Soviet Union . . . members can face their constituents and say they voted to reduce the coverage."

the public is Senator Stafford's proposal, S 1761, according to NRC Commissioner James Asselstine, who has been called "the conscience of the NRC" by Congressman Leon Panetta. Asselstine discussed nuclear insurance during a seminar on May 15, 1986, at the University of California at Santa Cruz. He noted that instead of setting a new limit on liability of one, two, or eight billion dollars, as the other proposed bills

received private lobbying visits from officials of the industry that the NRC regulates. According to federal regulations, such visits are highly illegal. The issue was put up to a new vote and the previous decision was reversed in a three-to-two vote. Thus, it was back to business as usual until Senator Stafford adopted the idea for his bill.

All of the bills before Congress base future nuclear insurance on what is called a



Su Tonge

deferred premium plan whereby the industry would not make payments until after an accident happened. Then, based on the NRC staff report on the industry's capacity to pay, each reactor owner would pay \$10 million per reactor per year into a mutual fund. Other bills set limits, but Stafford's would require the annual payments to continue until all claims were paid. Another difference is that Stafford's bill now has an amendment, #770, that allows utilities not involved in accidents to sue the owner of the reactor that has the accident to recover their premiums. Another bill, introduced by Gary Hart in the Senate and Sieberling in the House, would remove absolute limits on liability and hold individual utilities liable. Either the Stafford or the Hart bill would give the utilities some incentives to get their acts together and try harder to prevent accidents. The way things are today, there is no way to hold them liable for their mistakes.

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Nuclear Disaster

continued from page 14

down could result in up to 700,000 early injuries, over 100,000 early deaths, and up to \$314 billion in economic damages. Do you know who would pay the bill for the enormous costs resulting from a nuclear accident? Under current law it would basically be the victims and the taxpayers. Commercial reactor owners are shielded by an absolutely unique limit on liability that even protects them from lawsuits in cases of willful misconduct or gross negligence. Also, every insurance policy in the USA has a "nuclear exclusion clause" that means that you cannot buy insurance for damages to your health or property in case of nuclear accidents.

How did this happen? When Eisenhower launched the "Atoms for Peace" program to encourage private ownership and export of nuclear technology, no corporation or utility would invest in it at first because the insurance industry refused to insure for nuclear accidents. That was in the mid-fifties! Even then they knew that losses could reach into the billions. So the McCarthy-era Congress passed the Price-Anderson Act which provides a unique subsidy in the form of absolute limits on liability in case of accidents. The privately owned atomic industry would have never begun if it had had to stand on its own in the free enterprise system by paying full liability insurance; today, it is such a subsidized and pampered industry that it can properly be termed socialism for corporations and their investors. As a result, today more than 130 million Americans live within 50 miles of a nuclear power plant.

NRC Commissioner James Asselstine recently spoke in Santa Cruz on the nuclear insurance situation. Asselstine commented that the Chernobyl accident would probably have an effect on the debate in Congress, but he added that this nuclear insurance debate is a unique opportunity for American citizens to have an effect on the nuclear industry, if they make their views known to Congress. He believes that "The time has come for the nuclear industry to provide full insurance protection so that taxpayers and the victims of future accidents do not have to bear the costs." He further elabo-

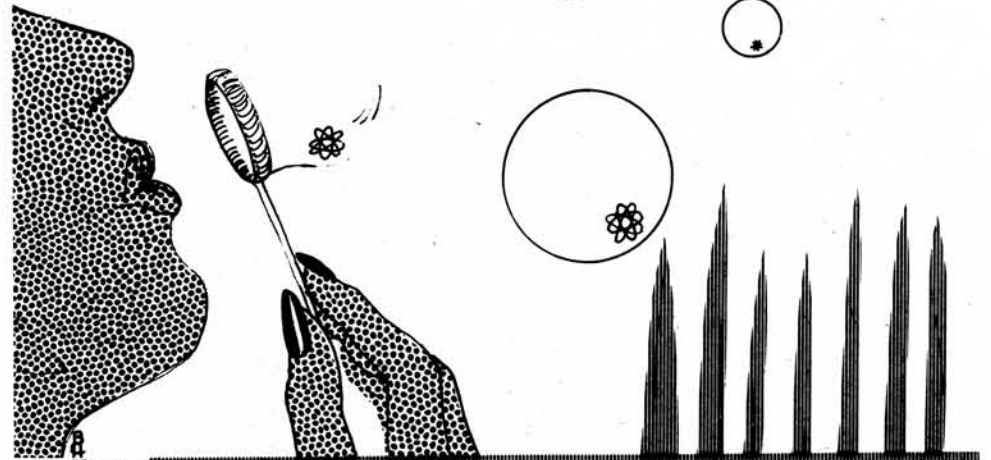
rated that the NRC's estimates of economic consequences from a nuclear meltdown (the top estimate was \$314 billion) may be too low a figure because the criteria used for computer modeling included a bias that he suspects would tend to underestimate economic losses. For example, a meltdown at one of three reactors at San Onofre, halfway between Los Angeles and San Diego, was estimated by the NRC study to cause \$186 billion in losses. But an independent study done for the state of California said that such a meltdown could require the evacuation of eight to ten million southern Californians, could contaminate 16,000 square miles, and could require emergency health care for hundreds of thousands of radiation victims. So it seems that the NRC has put too low a price tag on the loss of southern California.

Asselstine admitted that the NRC licensing of the 100 nuclear power plants now operating in the U.S. was based on "probabilistic risk assessments." For example, before TMI, the chances of a TMI type accident was estimated to be one in a billion. The NRC thus concluded, based on probabilities, that a worst case accident was incredible, could never happen, and need not be considered in the licensing process. Therefore, the NRC has never required reactor owners to analyze worst case accident scenarios in order to get a license.

DIABLO CANYON AND ACTS OF GOD

That "head in the sand" attitude of the nuclear establishment led to extremely circuitous logic in the licensing of Diablo Canyon and San Onofre Units 2 and 3, in the early Reagan years. Diablo and San Onofre are the only two nuclear power plant sites in the nation where earthquake hazards are extreme and very real. The NRC labels earthquakes as "acts of God." Based on probabilities, licensing a reactor is a gamble at best, but when you toss in acts of God such as earthquakes, then licensing reactors at sites like Diablo and San Onofre begins to seem like a bargain with the Devil.

Asselstine earned his title of "the conscience of the NRC" during the debate on licensing Diablo. On numerous NRC votes he was the minority in 4 to 1 decisions. Ultimately, he voted against licensing each of the Diablo reactors. He also persuaded the NRC to require a Seismic Review of new earthquake information by 1990. One



Bruce Harman

issue that he attacked with a vengeance earned him respect from Congressman Leon Panetta. It became a case in federal courts until the final decision was made in May 1986, after Chernobyl. That story began at San Onofre but did not surface in the media until Panetta asked for congressional hearings on transcripts of the NRC's secret meetings where they decided not to consider the possibility of an earthquake causing an emergency or accident at Diablo Canyon. In their Catch 22 logic, the NRC said that they were told that Diablo was built to withstand the strongest possible quake at the site and therefore no quake would ever damage Diablo and therefore no emergency plans had to be made to deal with simultaneous earthquakes and nuclear accidents. When the NRC was confronted in the Diablo case with the lack of logic in its reasoning, it resorted to relying on the fact that a precedent had been set in 1982 when San Onofre was granted its operating licenses using the exact same train of logic, i.e., there is no need for emergency plans following a hypothetical earthquake and nuclear accident because that will never happen. The San Onofre license also relied on generic rather than site specific accident analyses. Commissioner Asselstine was very frustrated with his colleagues over this. As he put it, Diablo and San Onofre were the only two sites in the country where earthquake hazards really mattered and the NRC failed to cope with reality. He thinks the

Intervenors (citizens groups who opposed the licenses) should have been given more opportunity to argue their case on this. He also charged that the NRC violated its own regulations in the licensing of Diablo and San Onofre by consistently favoring the positions of the utilities and by treating the citizens groups like the enemy. The Intervenors at Diablo took the matter to court after the NRC voted to license the Diablo Canyon reactors for operation. After several lower decisions, the U.S. Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia voted in early May 1986 to uphold the earlier decision in favor of reactor owner, PG&E.

When NRC Commissioner Asselstine was asked, "considering the disastrous effects of this Soviet meltdown, why can't we just shut down all the reactors in America and end this risk to our national security?" the federal official responded, "Who would bear the financial burden? The utilities have invested \$200 billion in nuclear technology."

Based on the NRC Commissioner's analysis, it seems that the synchronicity of the Chernobyl meltdown and the congressional debate on nuclear insurance laws offers a golden opportunity for the ordinary citizen to participate in changing nuclear history.

Glenn Barlow works as a media consultant in film and television production. He has taught Environmental Studies and Politics classes at UCSC. His writings have been published by Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, the Sierra Club, and UCSC. He spent five years coordinating legal interventions against the federal licensing of nuclear facilities at San Onofre, Vallecitos and Livermore. He is credited with the permanent shutdown of the largest reactor at Vallecitos, 17 miles from San Jose, which operated unchallenged for 20 years.

Chernobyl And Nuclear War

continued from page 15

again the abyss that will open if nuclear war befalls humankind."

Although a large nuclear reactor can contain more radioactivity than any but the largest kind of bomb, even the 5000 degree Celsius graphite fire at Chernobyl, which spread lethal radioactivity over an estimated 30 square miles, was no match for a major warhead explosion in terms of fallout alone. The multi-million degree heat and enormous pressure from a single one megaton H-bomb detonated near ground level would vaporize its own uranium and plutonium components as well as other radioactive

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elements produced by the explosion, blasting them outward and upward into the atmosphere, and blanketing about 500 square miles with fatal doses. The fallout from a nuclear weapon hitting a large nuclear reactor or waste facility could be far worse.

Chernobyl: the smiling faces of local children and dedicated technicians, whose placid daily routines were depicted in a national photo-feature magazine only weeks before; the long years of complacent normalcy, with a few anxious mishaps and passing false alarms; the unexpected breakdown, the rising worry and dogged denial that events were out of control; the shattering blast, broken walls and twisted steel; the scorching heat, blazing flames and billowing dark smoke; the fear and confusion, desperate measures, unanswered questions and anguished prayers; the spreading pall, the deserted towns, the agonized victims; the disaster long warned of, long dismissed as each year passed by still under control . . . and then suddenly real, unfolding before our disbelieving eyes, the runaway forces in the machine finally overtaking its designers.

One power plant failing; damage limited; it could have been worse . . . Chernobyl was, above all, a prophetic microcosm of nuclear energy unleashed on the Earth, of a technological civilization suddenly overwhelmed by its own destructive power, a vision of a white hot furnace, a glimpse into the exterminating ovens that our 50,000 nuclear weapons are programmed to ignite when the military standoff one day slips out of our grasp and the electronic circuits flash their final pre-set commands.

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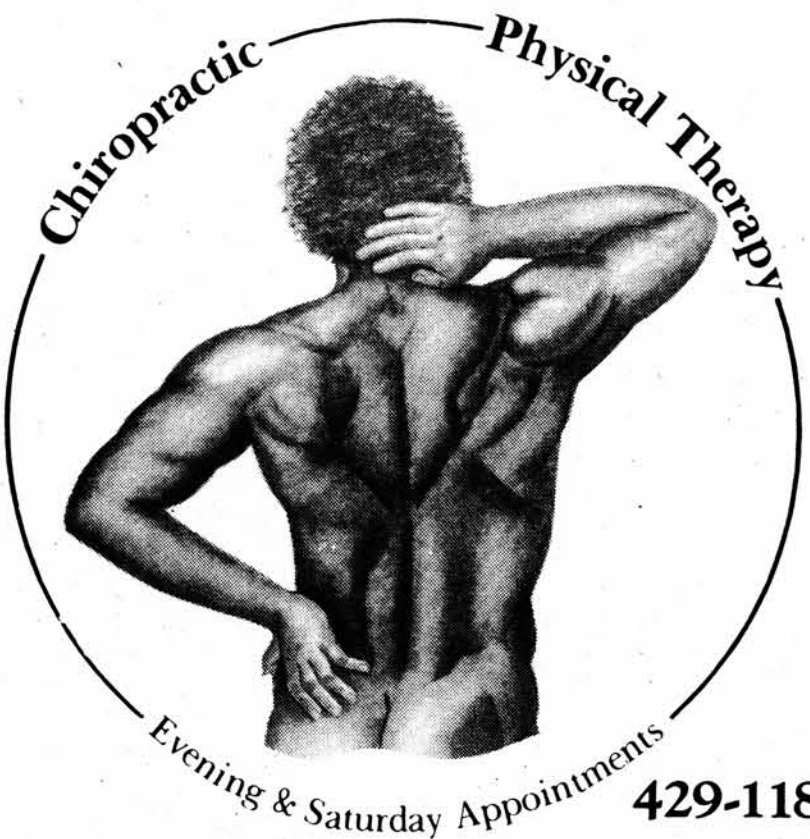
Occurring on the heels of the Challenger, Titan, and Delta rocket failures, the Soviet meltdown once more underlines the hard lesson of technological (and human) fallibility. Though partially buried in the propaganda contest and the more immediate issues of spaceflight and power plant safety, this lesson has much wider implications, beyond the illusion of a "leak-proof" but untestable Star Wars umbrella (which even the Pentagon's SDI strategists are not trying to achieve).

Like NASA's 19 years of safe launches, or the nearly five decades of "armed peace" before World War I, our policies have supposedly deterred nuclear war since the mid-1940s. We go on assuming that the "crisis management" diplomats and the complex of electronic warning and control systems, on which the shaky stability of the nuclear arsenals depend, will continue to prevent disaster indefinitely.

The development of ever faster and more accurate nuclear weapons cuts the military warning/decision time to a mere handful of minutes, and shifts the arsenals toward an increasingly automated hair-trigger "launch on warning" alert. This high stakes strategic gamble to credibly threaten a decisive first strike will make nuclear world war (by design, desperation, or accident) far more likely or even inevitable in the next 15 years, if the current tide is not reversed.

Peter Lumsdaine is the coordinator of the First Strike Prevention Project.

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Hanford And Chernobyl: Striking Similarities

by Ronald A. Lampi

In the desert of eastern Washington is a nuclear reactor that is getting a lot of attention these days, especially after Chernobyl. It is the federally owned and operated (Department of Energy) reactor at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, a facility of reactors, weapons factories, and a large nuclear waste repository comprising 570 square miles. Hanford's main reactor is larger than any commercial one in the country; it is a major producer of plutonium for nuclear weapons, and generates electrical power for the Northwest. Of all U.S. reactors, Hanford is the most similar to the Chernobyl plant in the Soviet Ukraine. It has a graphite block design for controlling the fission reaction, like Chernobyl. And it lacks the airtight containment structure that other American reactors have. Alarmingly, it has had ten times more shutdowns related to safety problems in recent years than any commercial reactor in the U.S.

A recent finding may be even more alarming. It has now been revealed that there were a number of radioactive leaks at the Hanford complex back in the mid- to late 1940s. Radioactive gas escaped and contaminated the surrounding environment at levels we today would consider a major accident; leaks from the Three Mile Island accident, in fact, pale in comparison. The Hanford leaks are said to have been 1000 times greater than those at Three Mile Island. The doses of radiation involved,

largely Iodine 131, which collects in the thyroid, are also considered hundreds of times greater than today's safety standards allow. Thousands of southeastern Washington residents were exposed, with children and developing fetuses receiving the largest doses and being the most vulnerable to health problems.

The story came to light after the Portland *Oregonian* spent two months poring over 19,000 pages of recently declassified Han-

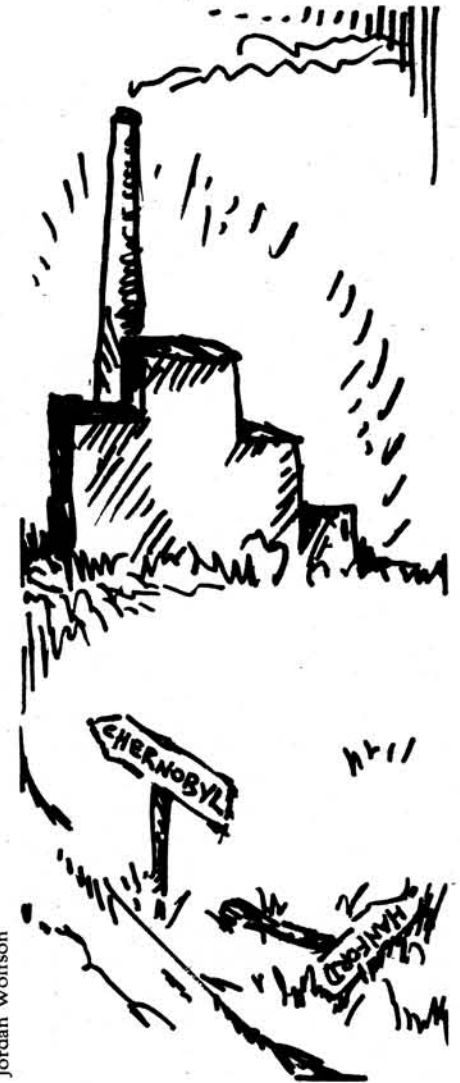
ford documents. It took 40 years for the Department of Energy to release them. The secrecy around Hanford and the Energy Department's other nuclear facilities has been likened to the Soviet Union's.

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Using these documents, Robert Alvarez, director of the Environmental Policy Institute, a public-interest group in Washington D.C., presented a preliminary study of the radioactive iodine leaks at a recent symposium in Spokane. The study estimated

that the leaks caused between 90 and 140 thyroid cancers in the 250,000 people who live within a 50-mile radius of the Hanford facility. Said Alvarez, "We should shut this reactor down right away. If it were subject to Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations, it wouldn't meet licensing standards, because it operates without a containment dome." The reason, of course, the plant does operate is because the Department of Energy is exempt from such regulations.



Jordan Wolfson

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Military Consumerism

The Pentagon has indicated that cost overruns on the B-1B bomber will probably reach \$500 million dollars. The original cost of the 100 B-1B's was \$20.5 billion, with the contract requiring the Air Force to pay four-fifths of any extra costs. Earl Blount, a spokesperson for the Rockwell Corporation, the primary contractor for the bomber, said there was "no specific cause" for the overruns.

Securities analyst Joseph Campbell, a former official in the Office of Management and Budget who specialized in military matters, said he expects the extra costs on the B-1B to reach \$1 billion. Campbell, who works for Paine Webber Inc. in New York City, expected Eaton Corporation alone to produce excess costs of \$300 to \$400 billion. An Eaton spokesperson said his company does not expect "a cost problem" in its part of the contract, which involves making sophisticated electronic equipment for the plane.

Other B-1B prime contractors, such as the Boeing Company and General Electric Corporation, may also exceed their original costs. General Electric builds the bomber's engines, and Boeing makes the electronic equipment used, among other things, to launch nuclear-tipped cruise missiles.

On top of all this, Rockwell would like to unload 48 more B-1B's on the Government, once the contract on the first 100 planes is completed. But the Pentagon has its sights on a different bomber, a plane so advanced that the Department of Defense has kept its pricetag a secret.



Bruce Harman

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Bruce Harman

Same Old Story

As usual, there are some new and very expensive toys on the Pentagon's wish list. Here are a few of them:

The Navy wants 900 planes capable of vertical take-off, at a cost of more than \$20 billion. The Navy has just been authorized to hand out contracts for development of the V-22 Osprey.

The Air Force wants 270 air defense fighters, and depending on the winning bidder, the cost would be a minimum of \$10 million per plane. This is not to mention all the repair and maintenance costs that would be added by all these new planes.

The Army, meanwhile, is still trying to get its 55,000 Hummers—at a cost of \$1.2 billion—from the LTV Corporation. The Hummer is a vehicle designed to replace the jeep, but after the first 2,700 were delivered, its brakes were found to be faulty. Then the Hummer was humming too loudly, so the insulation around the engine block had to be replaced. While all this was going on, payments to LTV were frozen. But H.J. Dalton, a company spokesperson, said he "has no doubt" that LTV will eventually receive all the money owed to it.

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Food Irradiation Moves Forward

by Brion Sprinsock

Treating food with radiation to retard spoiling is not a new idea. For years the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has permitted the irradiation of potatoes, spices, wheat and wheat flour. Last August the FDA approved the irradiation of fresh pork. But it wasn't until the 18th of April 1986 that irradiation proponents got what they've all been waiting for — the go-ahead to treat fresh fruits and vegetables.

Irradiated foods are products that have been exposed to high levels of gamma radiation, the byproducts of nuclear weapons production and nuclear power generation. Irradiation is used by some food processors to kill insect and bacterial pests. While the FDA contends that food irradiation is "safe and wholesome," irradiation critics cite scientific evidence of new chemical compounds in irradiated foods that were not present before irradiation. These subtle chemical changes are impossible to fully characterize and may pose a health risk to those who eat irradiated foods.

That didn't stop Otis Bowen, Secretary of Health and Human Services, from signing into law the FDA ruling which adds fruits and vegetables to the growing list of foods which may be irradiated. In the ruling the FDA acknowledged that they had received over 5,000 public comments in response to their 1984 fruits and vegetables proposal, the greatest number of comments received in response to any food ruling in FDA history. This comes as no surprise to irradiation opponents who point out that this ruling is unlike any other previous FDA

irradiation ruling.

Traditionally the FDA issues a ruling in response to an industry petition which asks the agency to sanction irradiation's use on one food or another. With this Final Rule the FDA acted on its own, with direction coming from FDA Commissioner Frank Young. The agency intended this ruling to be a sweeping reform of past FDA labeling and food safety policies, bringing new standards in line with Reagan administration ideology of getting government off of

only the Radura will remain to let consumers know their food has been irradiated. The FDA ruling specifically says that the agency will enforce labeling on irradiated whole foods only, not on foods with irradiated ingredients. As long as a food product is in any way processed, or contains more than one ingredient, it need not carry a label or flower symbol.

Where did the FDA get the power to implement such broad and sweeping rulings? They got it from Congress, which

... irradiation proponents got what they've been waiting for—the go-ahead to treat fresh fruits and vegetables.

industry's back.

For health conscious food shoppers the ruling is a washout. It allows food processors to irradiate fresh fruits and vegetables at doses up to 100,000 rads. A rad is a measure of an absorbed radiation dose (the higher the absorbed dose the higher the rad level). A level of 100,000 rads is the equivalent of 2 1/2 million chest X-rays. The ruling also liberalizes existing irradiation labeling requirements. The agency is now calling for the words "Treated with radiation" to appear on food labels, along with a flower design called the Radura. That is the good news. The bad news is that on April 18, 1988, the words "Treated with radiation" will no longer be required and

created the FDA to oversee and regulate the food we eat. It stands to reason that what Congress gives it can also take away, and that is exactly what some members of Congress intend to do. On May 7, California Congressman Doug Bosco introduced legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives that would head-off the FDA's recent fruits and vegetables ruling. HR4762 was introduced with 12 co-sponsors, and more are expected as the bill makes its way through the House Energy Committee. HR4762 would repeal the 1985 FDA approval of pork irradiation and halt any further expanded radiation treatment until the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) undertakes detailed studies on the safety of irradiated foods. Bosco's bill, formally called The Food Irradiation Safety and Labeling Act of 1986, also directs HHS to oversee Environmental Impact Reports on radioactive material shipment and worker safety at food irradiation facilities. Most importantly, HR4762 amends the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to provide for clear and honest labeling of irradiated whole foods and food ingredients. The bill calls for the words "Treated with ionizing radiation" to appear on all irradiated food and does not permit the use of a food irradiation logo or symbol. Finally, the bill places an export moratorium on any irradiated foods not already approved for human consumption in the United States.

Santa Cruz County House of Representatives members Leon Panetta and Ed Zschau have yet to co-sponsor Bosco's bill. You can write these Representatives and express your views on this important piece of consumer interest legislation. If you live in Boulder Creek, Ben Lomond, or Scotts Valley send your letter to: The Honorable Ed Zschau, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20510. All other Santa Cruz County residents can write to: The Honorable Leon Panetta, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Brion Sprinsock is the President of Food Irradiation Response, a Santa Cruz-based non-profit organization. Food Irradiation Response is one of over 45 organizations nation-wide which make up the National Coalition to Stop Food Irradiation. Food Irradiation Response may be reached at (408) 426-2734.

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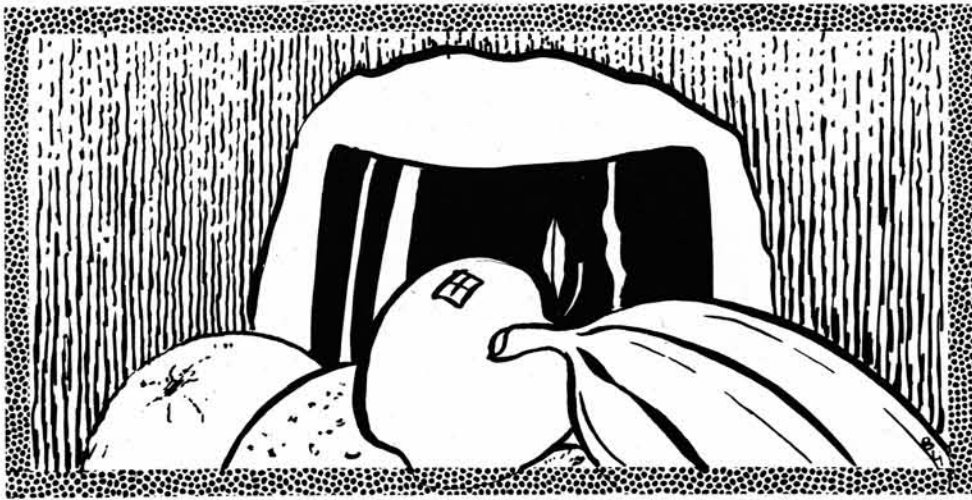
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Santa Cruz Supervisors Pass Labeling Law

by Brion Sprinsock

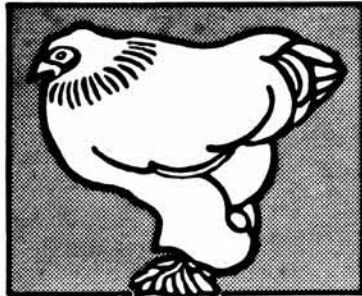
On May 20, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors gave final approval to this country's first local law regulating the marketing of irradiated foods. Board Chairperson Gary Patton introduced the Food Irradiation Ordinance in November 1985 in response to growing concern over inadequate federal labeling requirements.

The new county law, which goes into effect 30 days from approval, will require food store owners in the unincorporated areas of the county to hang a three by five inch sign adjacent to any food that is known to be irradiated. The sign will read, "This food product, or one or more of its

ingredients, has been treated or processed with radiation." The new law includes a provision which protects local store owners from penalty if they had no knowledge that a given food was irradiated.

This Santa Cruz law represents the strongest food irradiation consumer noticing requirements in the country, and should provide other communities with a model for change. The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the Berkeley City Council are considering local laws modelled after Supervisor Patton's ordinance.

For more information on this local ordinance call: Food Irradiation Response at (408) 426-2734.



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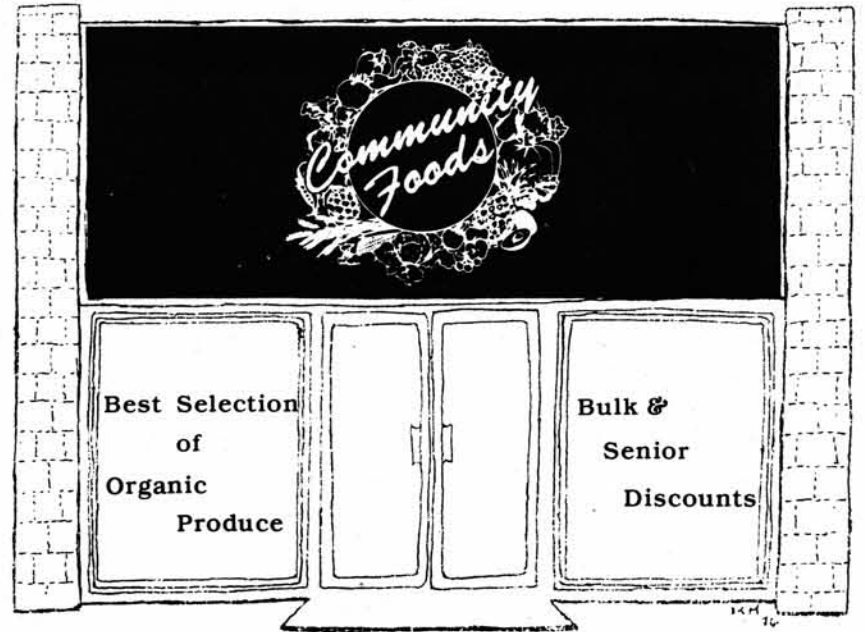
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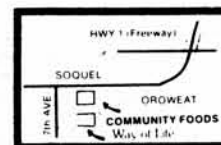
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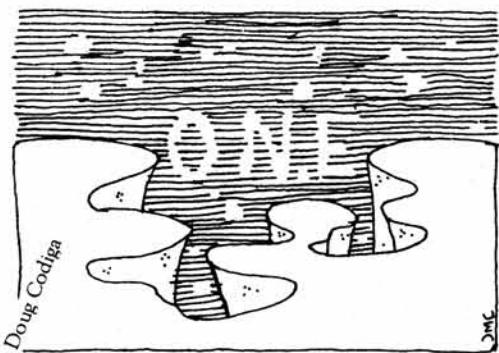
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Peace & Justice Calendar



**SATURDAY, MAY 31-
MONDAY, JUNE 2**

Direct Action in the Desert. To call attention to the need for a comprehensive test ban, a large legal demonstration sponsored by the Nuclear Weapons Freeze will be held on May 31 at the Nevada Test Site (with additional activities afterward in Las Vegas). The action on June 2 will be civil disobedience organized by the American Peace Test. Info: (702) 878-4989. Local info: 458-9975.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

March and Rally For a Test Ban! The Santa Cruz County Nuclear Weapons Freeze is sponsoring this march and rally in conjunction with its 5th Annual Walk-a-thon. Speakers include Leon Panetta, Gary Patton, Jane Weed, and Terry Teitelbaum. Music by Rhythmical, Continental Drifters, and more. San Lorenzo Park, downtown Santa Cruz. March starts at 9:30 am, rally noon to 4 pm. To pre-register as a walker, to volunteer, or for more info call 458-9975.

Bridges. See May 30.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Peace Child. Matinee 2 pm. Evenings 8 pm. Loudon Nelson Center, 301 Center St., Santa Cruz. \$7 regular tickets, \$6 seniors, \$4.50 children at Loudon Nelson Center and Capitola Book Cafe. Info: 475-9244.

Bridges. See May 30.

Calendar items must be **typed, double spaced**, and received by us no later than **Monday, June 23** for inclusion in the July issue (publication date Thursday, July 3).

FRIDAY, MAY 30

Bridges. An exciting and innovative new multi-media production. Explores the theme of bridges: a passage from one safe place to another over an area of danger. Presented by Hit and Run Theatre Company. Santa Cruz Actors Theatre, 1001 Center St. \$6 general, \$5 seniors and students. Info: 425-PLAY.

(Note: Performances will be on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, May 30 through June 15. Showtime 8 pm, except Sunday, June 8, 3 pm.)

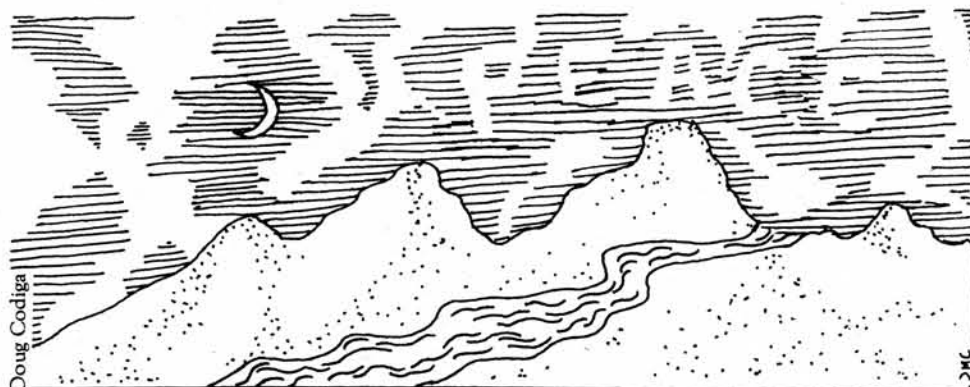


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MONDAY, JUNE 2

Coalition for Nicaragua. General Meeting. Loudon Nelson Center, 7 pm. Info: 458-0303.

Native American Support Group. General Meeting. First Congregational Church, 900 High St., Santa Cruz. Info: 423-5349. Throughout the month of June there will be a table for letter writing on Big Mountain every Monday and Thursday at various places in the County. Info: Robin at 426-8673.

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

National Call-In to the U.S. Congress (202-224-3121). Jam congressional lines. Let your representatives know you support a funding cut-off for nuclear warhead testing. See this issue's Legislative Update for more info or call the Freeze at 458-9975.

Home of the Brave. Film and discussion. Links between North American and Central American Indian Struggles. Led by Anita Heckman. 7:30 p.m. Resource Center For Nonviolence, 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz. Info: 423-1626.

Rainbow Coalition National Convention Report. Program will include: Dorothy Zeltzer, member of the New Jewish Agenda, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Women's Action for Nuclear Disarmament; Sol Zeltzer, attorney and member of New Jewish Agenda; Harry Adams, union representative for the International Association of Machinists; and Deena Hurwitz, an observer at the convention representing the New Jewish Agenda, and staff member of the Resource Center for Nonviolence in Santa Cruz. 7:30 pm Loudon Nelson Center. Free. Info: Alan 427-1211.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

Friends Meeting Vigil. 4:30-5:30 pm. Town Clock, Santa Cruz. Info: 427-2399.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Lion of the Desert. Movie about Libya, its history and development up to today. Sponsored by the Unitarian Social Action Committee. At the Unitarian Fellowship, 6401 Freedom Blvd., Aptos. Pot luck starts at 6 pm, movie at 7 pm. \$3 admission if you don't bring anything to the pot luck. Info: 684-1401 or 684-0506.

Redwood Youth Foundation. General Meeting. Del Mar Middle School, Live Oak. 7:30 pm. Info: 476-2905.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

Bridges. See May 30.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Freedom Fair. Celebrate our First Amendment with peace and social justice organizations of the county. Main speaker will be Dorothy Ehrlich, Director of the Northern California A.C.L.U. The panel of local organizations involved with Constitutional problems are Cruz Gomez who will relate problems in the Watsonville strike, Michael Mehr of the Central Coast Sanctuary, Bert Muhly of the Coalition for Nicaragua, Kathleen Transchina who will present peace movement problems, and Luther Wallace of the Rainbow Coalition. Speakers and panel will start at 2:30 pm. Booths and entertainment will start at noon to 1 pm. Loudon Nelson Center. Info: 425-7618.



Pickle Family Circus. San Lorenzo Park. Info: 429-3777.

Multicultural Workshop by Claudia Schwalm. Topics include: multicultural activities in all areas of classroom curriculum, guidelines for identifying racism and sexism in children's literature, locating cultural resources within the community and ways to effectively use them. 1-4 pm at the Child Development Resource Center Studio. Info: 476-0349 or 476-7140 ext. 282.

Bridges. See May 30.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Bridges. See May 30.

MONDAY, JUNE 9

Native American Support Group. See June 2.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

Food Aid for Nicaragua. The Westside Community Market will be donating 5% of today's sales. The Coalition for Nicaragua will be at the store with information. 9 am-9pm. The Westside Community Market, 328A Ingalls St., Santa Cruz. Info: Market at 426-1299 or the Coalition for Nicaragua at 458-0303.

Friends Meeting Vigil. See June 4.

Cabrillo College Performers Coalition



Bruce Barryhill
Andrea Atkins, Karen Priest, Bart Snyder, and Ed Weber performing the dance piece "Arbitrage!"

Many roads circle the globe and many reactions present themselves. One such reaction came across at the end of May with the Performers Coalition at the Cabrillo College Theater. Featured was a production of various dance works in the program Dance Politics. Some of the works had global themes dealing with the nuclear industry, world hunger, ecological pollution and political struggle.

Art has many forms: forms that express beauty, humor, tragedy, etc. The efforts of a small part of our dance community justly strove in this vein for their cause and concern: our world. It's such a relief to let the insides of all our yearnings be explored and expressed. Does one really have to say it? Yes, the hunger to hear is out there. We rejoice in speaking up and speaking out.

Dealing abstractly with problems is a creative process that may excite unforeseen solutions (as we do need solutions). For all intellectualism, it is the gut that moves us to act on what we think. Dance may not be a real solution, but it can and does communicate analogies to further and excite our humanness.

Dance Politics in its theatrical sense gave to the audience (as all painters, poets, dramatists, musicians, and sculptors do) the fortitude to support moments that otherwise are terrible to endure. This dance concert was a need to express both joy and outrage for, as well as to, the world.

"When they dance all the spirits rejoice, as do all the people."

—anonymous (New Guinea)

FRIDAY, JUNE 13
Bridges. See May 30.

FRIDAY, JUNE 13-
MONDAY, JUNE 16
West Coast Regional Nonviolence Networking Conference. Outgrowth of 1984 South Dakota conference. Workshops on Multi-cultural Alliance Building, Ending Death Penalty, World Peace Games, Nonviolent Civilian Based Defense, Feminism and Nonviolence, Eliminating Classisms, War Tax Resistance, and many more important topics. Limited scholarship assistance. \$20 registration fee. At Mount Toyon Retreat Center. Info: (415) 526-8760.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14
Second Annual Bike-a-thon for Peace in Central America. From Santa Cruz to Davenport and back with breakfast. Pledges fund medical aid to El Salvador and the Let Nicaragua Live campaign. Meet at 8:30 am. To register or sponsor a rider: 458-0303 or 458-3535.

Bridges. See May 30.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15
Dennis Banks Victory Tour. Dinner with music and dancing. Raffle for a "Star Quilt" made by Plains Indians. Dinner starts at 6 pm. Eagles Hall, 306 Mission St., Santa Cruz. Info: Jamie 426-9403.

Bridges. See May 30.



Su Tonge

MONDAY, JUNE 16
Native American Support Group. See June 2.

Coalition for Nicaragua. General Meeting. Loudon Nelson Center. 7 pm. Info: 458-0303.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18
Friends Meeting Vigil. See June 4.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19
National Delegation to Honduras and Nicaragua applications due. Info: 423-1626.

MONDAY, JUNE 23
Native American Support Group. See June 2.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25
Friends Meeting Vigil. See June 4.

THURSDAY, JUNE 26
People's Democratic Club. General Meeting and Program. Gary Patton will talk on the "Anatomy of Oil." General meeting at 7:30 pm, lecture at 8 pm. Sesnon House, Cabrillo College. Info: 429-2543.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29
Tenth Anniversary Open House. Resource Center for Nonviolence. Music, greetings, meetings. Begins 2:30 pm. 3:30 pm - Auction of Movement Memorabilia. 5:30 pm - Group dancing, sing-along. Door prizes, ethnic food, children's activities. Info: 423-1626.

MONDAY, JUNE 30
Coalition for Nicaragua. See June 16.

Native American Support Group. See June 2.

Attention Women Writers

Attention: Santa Cruz Women Writers. Submissions are now being accepted for In Celebration of the Muse VI, which will begin again in September, 1986. Writers interested in reading in this series should submit no more than 3-5 poems or pages of prose.

This series welcomes participation from women of Santa Cruz County and will benefit Matrix Women's Newsmagazine. It is a celebration of creativity, the muse and the written word.

Send work to: In Celebration of the Muse, P.O. Box 971, Felton, 95018. Include telephone number and SASE. For more information please call Patrice Vecchione (462-1176) or Amber Coverdale Sumrall (335-4084).

Please submit work as soon as possible; deadline for submissions is July 15, 1986.

Join The Freeze!

The Nuclear Weapons Freeze in Santa Cruz County is funded entirely by membership dues and contributions from local supporters. Where does the money go? To office rent, director's salary, telephones, postage, printing and copying, utilities, bookkeeping, and other costs of keeping our office and organization visible and effective. We also make contributions to the regional and national Freeze organizations. We are committed to getting the most out of each dollar contributed to stopping the nuclear arms race. A very small percentage of our expense goes toward fundraising costs.

Won't you help too? Membership dues for 1986 are: \$15/individual; \$25/family or household; \$10/senior, student, or low-income. You can also become a sustaining member by pledging an amount monthly or quarterly. Sustainers help stabilize our financial base so we can spend more time organizing and less time fundraising.

Members receive a subscription to *The Monthly Planet* and are kept up to date on all activities and events. To join, just fill out the form below and send it to:

Nuclear Weapons Freeze
320-G Cedar St.
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060

Yes! I want to join the Nuclear Weapons Freeze for 1986. Enclosed are my dues of:

_____ \$15/individual _____ \$25/family; household

_____ \$10/senior; student; low-income

_____ I will pledge \$_____ quarterly/monthly; enclosed is my first pledge.

_____ Enclosed is an additional contribution of \$_____.

Yes! I want to get more involved. I'm interested in the following volunteer task(s):

___ Office Work ___ Typing ___ Phoning ___ Signature Gathering

___ Tabling ___ Events ___ Other _____

I'd like to serve on the following committee(s):

___ Newspaper ___ Education ___ Petition Drive ___ Steering Committee

___ I'll host or co-host a housemeeting.

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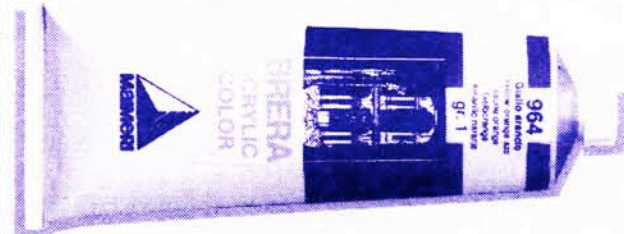
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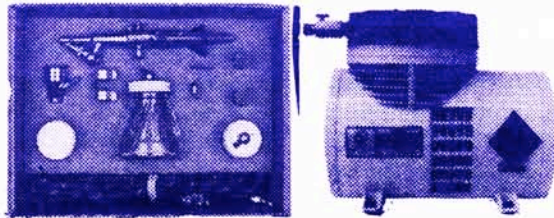
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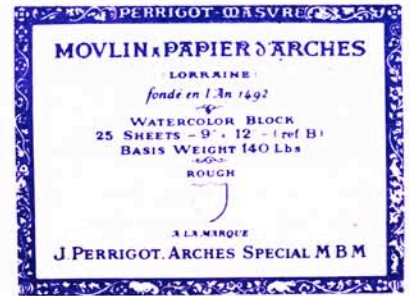
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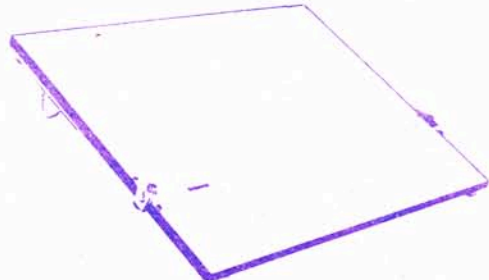


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