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The MONTHLY PLANET

Elections '86: The Road To Arms Control?



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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 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. National organizations and hundreds of regional and local groups and individuals 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.

Since 1981, when the national campaign began, support for the Freeze has broadened and deepened. In the fall of 1982, more than thirty percent of the American public had a chance to vote on the Freeze. Overall, sixty percent of those voting favored the Freeze. In 1983, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a Freeze resolution by almost a two-to-one victory.

In 1985 and '86, Freeze activists are focusing on the Comprehensive Test Ban as a first step to a comprehensive freeze on all testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons.

The Freeze Campaign is now active in all fifty states. It is broad-based and non-partisan. Through the Freeze, American citizens are demanding that the nuclear arms race be stopped and then reversed.

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From The Grassroots



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.

A Shocking Story

Dear Freeze,

Recently, my local newspaper, the *Atlanta Journal*, published the story of which I am enclosing a copy to you. The report is about the release of a report by the Environmental Policy Institute and its findings in a study done of the Savannah River Nuclear Reactor (SRP). The

report is, to say the least, most shocking. That this plant be permitted to operate despite its obvious and numerous flaws and problems is one way in which I feel we are victims of a brand of terrorism practiced by the nuclear industry.

But what is really more shocking about this report is that I have not heard one word more about it since its release! When it came out I expected it to be on television and in newspapers all over the country. Sadly, though, this one edition of the *Atlanta Journal* is the only place I have seen it. Consequently, I have taken the time to write to you and other concerned folks about the report and to send copies to you. As I say the report is shocking. The lack of news coverage it has received is just as disturbing. I hope you put this to effective use.

In Peace,
Fred E. Reed-Stevens
Atlanta, GA

Editor's note: Thank you for your letter and information. See this issue's Hot Flashes section for the story.

JOHN COLLINS



Peace March Update

Dear Freeze,

This is Britney House, a Great Peace Marcher from Santa Cruz. In less than two months we'll be arriving in Washington D.C. (Nov. 15) and what we're trying to do is get the word out to people that we hope as many people as possible can travel by bus, plane, train, or hitch-hike to join us in letting our representatives know how badly we want Global Nuclear Disarmament.

If you could, please put something in the calendar section of *The Monthly Planet* telling people about increasing the attendance of our arrival in D.C.

Here are some up-dated facts:

- We are walking from L.A. to D.C. — 3,235 miles altogether.
- We're having around 3 people added per day.
- We're over 650 strong, ages 1 to 79.
- We're now in Warren, Ohio.
- We've covered 2,890 miles in 6½ months.
- We travel 15-22 miles a day.
- There are 30 Santa Cruzans on the march and our morale is soaring.

Best wishes for world peace,
Love,
Britney

Left-handed Compliment

Dear Freeze,

Clearly the anti-left, anti-liberal, anti-communist phobia is reaching idiotic proportions.

Mr. Maurice E. Connor (Green Sheet 9/10/86) argues that the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (W.I.L.P.F.), along with other women's peace organizations who advocate disarmament, oppose nuclear power, and criticize our foreign policy, are nothing but communist front groups.

He displays his ignorance about the W.I.L.P.F. He did not take the trouble to find out that W.I.L.P.F. was founded in 1915 — no Communist fronts then. It was among the first, if not the first, to struggle and work for and help achieve the Women's Right to Vote. It was working for peace even then against the first World War, and is still working for peace.

Could it be that Mr. Connor is in reality a closet communist? And in his twisted way by posing as an anti-communist wants to convince people that only communists are for peace, disarmament and criticize our foreign policy. A sort of left-handed compliment.

Sincerely,
Zena Druckman
Santa Cruz



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Fast For Life

Dear Freeze,

On September 1st Charles Liteky, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War, along with George Mizo, another Vietnam vet, began a Fast for Life. Their action is a plea to the U.S. public to wake up to the reality of the slaughter that U.S. tax dollars are paying for in Central America. They, along with two other vets, who began a fast on September 15th, are willing to give their lives to shake us out of our numbness and failure to react as we watch our government override the democratic process by issuing yet another \$100 million to fund the contra war in Nicaragua. The latest poll showed 62 percent of the public opposing military escalation in the region.

Are we living in a democracy and, if so, why are we willing to accept this kind of behavior? I don't want these good men to die to prove a point that should be self-evident. Let's let the media and our legislators know how strongly we feel about what our government is doing in our name. Let's keep these men and our democratic rights alive.

Roberta Labovitz
Santa Cruz



KAREN STACKPOLE

Staying Informed

Dear Freeze,

Although I reside in Marina (Monterey Peninsula) I make it a habit to keep informed through the *Monthly Planet*. I drive up to Santa Cruz each month to get my copy. I attended UC Santa Cruz in 80-82 and remain a political activist. I am currently involved with Amnesty International & Beyond War which I assume you are familiar with.

I am very concerned with the CONTRA issue and the Star Wars nightmare. I have enclosed several letters I have received in the past from U.S. Representatives and Senators (I use a pseudonym.) I trust you might find them useful for your purposes. I have also submitted some poetry for your poetry section of the *Planet*. Thanks a thousand times for the in-depth, top-notch information you provide all anti-nuke, anti-duke citizens of Mother Earth!

Yours Truly,
Jon Noggle
Marina

Editor's note: Thanks for the praise. It sounds like a \$15 subscription would save you some gas money!



KAREN STACKPOLE

Stop The Slaughter

Dear Freeze,

I am very concerned about the threats of nuclear war at this time in history. I have observed the sincere efforts of thousands of people toward disarmament. However, I have also noticed one great philosophical flaw by the proponents of the "PEACE ON EARTH, GOODWILL TOWARD MEN/WOMEN" Movements . . .

There has been perpetuated for years and

years the falsehood that it is necessary and "all right" to absorb ourselves in the cruel, brutal, and inhumane slaughter of innocent animals such as cows, pigs, chickens, ducks, etc. in order to satisfy the demands of the lusty palate. Totally ignoring the obvious laws of action and reaction, (as we sow, so shall we reap), (THOU SHALT NOT KILL), etc., human society (loosely termed) creates unlimitedly painful situations for animals via slaughterhouses. Because the laws of action and reaction are a reality and inescapable, humankind must pay for their individual and collective ignore-ance and blatant cruelty. Thus, nuclear war is not only bearing down upon us threateningly, but would be a natural and just reward for cruel people who pose as members of the human race. "HUMAN" means kindness, and especially gentle behavior towards animals, senior citizens, Mothers, and children, etc.

Therefore, I very strongly recommend that if "Humanity" wants to avoid nuclear catastrophe, then it should collectively abandon the cruel slaughter of animals immediately, as these creatures are created by God to live a natural

duration of peaceful life. By continuing this type of slaughter, human slaughter becomes necessary as the reaction to a violation of natural laws in the physical universe. After all, it is common knowledge that he who lives by the sword must die by the sword. Industries such as MacDonalds, Burger King, Sizzlin', and Kentucky Fried Chicken are all genocidal, inhumane, cruel and demonic. They must all be abandoned immediately, otherwise there shall be ABSOLUTELY NO SUCCESS for the Nuclear Freeze Movement, or related movements for disarmament, stopping holocaust, etc. There is no other alternative but to stop animal slaughter. It is the first step to rehumanizing so-called "HUMANITY" and helping people in general to develop the finer qualities of mercy, kindness, and compassion.

In conclusion, I repeat in all certainty: There cannot and will not be genuine peace until cruel animal slaughter is totally abandoned.

Sincerely Yours,
Geoffrey Robert Blake
St. Augustine, FL

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Media See Red, Turn Yellow

by Igal Dahari

Soviet bashing is an established tradition for the mainstream media in this country. This year the tradition is reaching new highs, as *The New York Times* and CBS fall all over themselves in their lust to "expose" Soviet "propaganda ploys" and wrongdoings. In effect, this whipping up of anti-Soviet hysteria by the press is playing straight into the hands of those in the Reagan administration who want the Soviet Union to be seen as an untrustworthy, evil empire.

The most recent crusade to be taken up involves the case of Nicholas Daniloff. A U.S. *News and World Report* correspondent, Daniloff was arrested by the KGB on spying charges one week after Gennadi Zakharov, a Soviet U.N. official, was arrested by the FBI. Zakharov is being charged with purchasing unclassified information, and his guilt has not at all been doubted by the press. Nor have the media taken much time to explore the reasons why the FBI would waste its time netting such a small fish as Zakharov.

But Daniloff is being given the highest status the media could think of for a victim: he is described as a hostage. The "Free Daniloff" campaign has spilled right off the editorial pages and seeped into the "straight" news sections of most major newspapers. *The New York Times*, for example, recently ran a short biography of Daniloff on page four entitled "The

Bolsheviks' Prisoner," along with a story detailing how the KGB preys on innocent journalists.

Starting with their disgraceful handling of the Chernobyl tragedy, this country's major news organizations have been doing a fine job covering for the Reagan administration. The administration does not have to work full-time putting out its vitriol; it can simply sit back and let a single-minded press corps do its work.

As a result, some of the most important issues the media should be paying full attention to are being relegated to the back pages—if they even get into print. The failure of Reaganomics and the tremendous budget deficit are just two among dozens.

And then there is the Soviets' unilateral nuclear test ban. This issue, so adamantly opposed by the Reagan administration, is nonexistent as far as our media are concerned. It has been buried alive by spy novel stuff. Only when the House of Representatives cut off funds for nuclear tests—effectively joining the Soviet moratorium—did the issue of a comprehensive test ban get any attention, and then only briefly.

Taking a critical look at the Soviet Union is warranted, but twisting the facts and blowing stories out of proportion is yellow journalism. And playing into the hands of the Reagan administration is a complete compromise of freedom of the press, while relegating issues with very important long term consequences to the back pages is dangerous.

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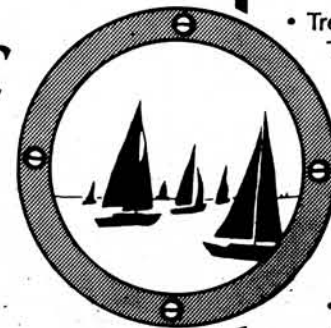
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Oh Those O Rings

Anyone who has fixed a leaking faucet or changed the oil filter on an automobile has dealt with a defective or worn out gasket. To be sure, the household varieties aren't likely to cause problems greater than motor oil on the driveway or water on the kitchen floor, but their cousins, called "O rings" by engineers, play an important role in many engineering solutions.



O rings form a seal between two parts that must contain liquid (or gas) under pressure. While the idea seems simple and foolproof — the O ring is supposed to deform under pressure to make the seal even tighter — in the real world some O rings are bound to fail. The current explanation of the explosion of the Challenger shuttle says the rocket booster's O rings failed to make a tight seal because of the cold of the January morning. Now, a group of engineers looking closely at the role of O ring seals in nuclear power plants have pointed out their poor performance there, and hinted at the safety problems they might pose.

The report, written by nuclear safety engineers from the Union of Concerned Scientists, listed dozens of instances of O ring failures in nuclear plants over the past 11 years, some minor, some not so minor.

"I don't know if [O ring failures] will cause an accident tomorrow any more than the National Aeronautics and Space Administration knew before January that its O rings would cause the Challenger shuttle disaster," said Robert D. Pollard, one of the authors of the report. "But nuclear plants are running with known safety defects, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is not taking systematic action to correct them."

NRC executive director Victor Stello agreed that failing O rings are a "perennial problem," but that they were not the serious danger Pollard made them out to be. "In a nuclear plant, with thousands of O rings, you will see a lot of failures of O rings," he said. "We are issuing bulletins for these problems to be fixed. But there is nowhere in a nuclear plant where any collection of O rings can cause a major safety problem. There is no basis for making any comparison with the Challenger."

Leaking O rings have never caused a serious accident, according to the report, but they have affected cooling pumps, earthquake protection equipment, and

backup generators at various plants around the country. In June of this year, faulty O rings at a plant in Seneca, Illinois caused the failure of an automatic shutdown system and an emergency cooling system.

—DD

Dubious Honor

In a new congressional plan for the dumping of the nation's low-level radioactive waste, regional compacts have formed around the country. The difficult responsibility of each compact is to select the state that will operate the waste dump for that region. North Carolina, this last month, has been the first state nationwide to be selected in its region. The two North Carolina officials on the Southeast Compact Commission voted against it, however, in a temporary move. Naturally North Carolina officials were not happy about the commission's selection and want first to study it to determine if it was fair.

Up to now, the nation's low-level nuclear waste has been stored at three dump sites: Hanford, Washington; Beatty, Nevada; and Barnwell, South Carolina. The new plan will spread the responsibility of collecting and storing nuclear wastes to other states.

North Carolina does have the option of pulling out of its regional compact, thereby nullifying the commission's recent selection. If North Carolina decides to do so, it would still have to operate its own dump. The plan, as ruled by Congress, requires that states either participate in a regional compact or operate their own dumps. So far three states have opted for the latter — Pennsylvania, Texas, and New York.

—RL



CONI PITTMAN

Limited Warranty

FMC Corporation of San Jose, developers of the Army's Bradley Fighting Vehicle, has just been awarded a contract to design a new electromagnetic tank cannon they believe will "punch a hole through just about anything," according to company spokesperson William Highlander.

The Pentagon will be paying FMC and Maxwell Laboratories of San Diego \$14 million to produce a gun that works without explosives. Instead of gunpowder, the gun will use a pulse of electromagnetic energy to propel shells forward at up to three kilometers per second. Guns of this type, known as "rail guns" have already been built, but require banks of electricity-storing capacitors that fill a large room. Not surprisingly, Maxwell Labs already holds a \$13.8 million Department of Defense contract to develop the space-saving capacitors necessary if the gun is to fit into a tank.

FMC is optimistic about having a proto-



Hot Flashes

by Ronald A. Lampi and Douglas Dirks

type of the new gun in 15 months. FMC has also been consistently optimistic about the progress of the Bradley Fighting Vehicle, which has been under development since the late 1970s and has once again run into trouble. The Bradley, which is supposed to carry nine soldiers just about anywhere, will apparently sink if it tries to "swim" through water more than 3½ feet deep. Former FMC engineer Henry Boisvert has sued FMC for certifying the vehicle safe for water crossings — he says that even under carefully controlled laboratory test conditions, the vehicle does not meet specifications. Despite the possibility that the Bradley would sink if used to cross a river in a combat situation, FMC claims the vehicle is safe "given that the hardware is in an as-designed, undamaged condition, and is properly maintained and operated." FMC does not warrant the Bradley to remain "undamaged" under combat conditions.

—DD

If It Fails, It's A Secret

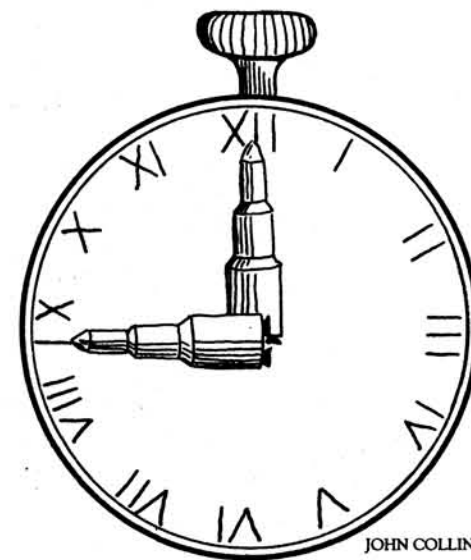
On September 5 NASA finally enjoyed some success. Its launch of a Delta rocket was preceded, though, by weeks of secrecy; not until almost the last day was the public given notice of it, and even then the exact launching time was still withheld. In May, another Delta rocket had failed, one in a series of failures that sent shock waves throughout the space agency.

The Delta payload was a secret experiment in the Pentagon's Star Wars program, the first of its kind to be carried out completely in space. Two satellites were sent aloft, in close orbits, one an attacking satellite programmed to track and intercept in a collision course the other, target satellite. In addition, without any advance notice, an Aries rocket was launched from the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico sometime after the Delta launch; it, too, took part in the test, conducted to develop the tracking of satellites and rockets in orbit. The Pentagon called the experiment a success.

The experiment was reportedly carried

out within the restrictions of the Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty. What contrasted sharply with all the secrecy shrouding the launch was the Pentagon's willingness to talk about it after it was deemed successful. As a result, the necessity for all the secrecy was brought into question. John E. Pike, associate director of the Federation of American Scientists and a critic of Star Wars, was quoted in *The New York Times* as saying that the Pentagon "was deliberately vague about the goals of the test before it was held so that if things went wrong it would not be perceived as a failure."

—RL



JOHN COLLINS

Convenient Timing

Because of an Air Force delay in its deployment of cruise missiles on bombers, the United States will not exceed the missile limit set by the 1979 SALT II agreement before a possible summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev this fall. In May, President Reagan made the decision not to abide by the missile limit of the unratified treaty. If the Air Force had been on schedule, the limit would likely have been exceeded before the possible summit. Political pressure would undoubtedly have been put on Reagan not to do so, or he

might have found himself in an unwanted, awkward position at the summit itself. That the Air Force has fallen behind schedule has relieved him of any such possible difficulties. The reasons given for the delay of the cruise missile deployment were technical ones, not political, however. Yet, the delay does appear to have a conveniently timed outcome nonetheless: President Reagan has gained a political advantage.

The updated Air Force schedule for the date when the treaty limit will be surpassed is now sometime in December, possibly just before Christmas — December 22. That such a date may allow the event to go largely unnoticed may also be considered conveniently timed. The treaty limit will be surpassed when the 131st bomber is equipped with cruise missiles. To offset that figure and keep within the limit, other deployment systems would have to be dismantled.

—RL

Calling It Quits

One of the most valuable young scientists behind President Reagan's Star Wars program has recently decided to call it quits. Peter Hagelstein, inventor of the nuclear-powered X-ray laser that was largely responsible for inspiring the Star Wars program, has resigned this last month from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory to take up a teaching and research position at MIT. At Livermore his departure is being considered "a very big loss."

What originally was intended as a breakthrough for medical research — his concept of a laser for viewing the structures of cancer cells — wound up being, instead, the key weapon concept in the Star Wars repertoire. Hagelstein's computer code, Xraser, also provided the calculations necessary for Livermore's X-ray laser program. According to some of his colleagues, however, Hagelstein never did feel comfortable working on weapons research. How Hagelstein found himself "trapped" and "forced to work on weapons" at Livermore would be an interesting question to have answered.

At MIT Hagelstein will no longer work on weapons. Word is that he now wants to pursue research that will "benefit all mankind." It is ironic that the "star warrior" of the Star Wars' X-ray laser doesn't "want to be remembered" as a maker of weapons.

—RL

Pink Menace

The Soviet Union may not have such a fearsome influence in the world as the Reagan administration would have us believe. According to a private study just released by the Center for Defense Information, Soviet power and influence on the global scene has been grossly overrated. "The record shows that the Soviet Union has not been very successful at increasing or even maintaining their influence in other countries," said retired Admiral Gene R. LaRocque, director of the non-profit center. "Outside of Eastern Europe, the Soviets today have significant influence in only a dozen nations," he added.

The study asserts that the high point of Soviet influence occurred over 25 years ago and since then has only declined, countering the Reagan administration's claim of a Soviet giant on the loose. For all its efforts,

Moscow has not been able to consistently sustain the wide global influence it has sought. Commenting in reference to the study, Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said, "The bottom line is that the United States has significant non-military advantages in the competition for world influence and that temporary Soviet successes provide no grounds for alarmism or military intervention."

—RL

Wasted Sacrifice

A five-year review of South Carolina's Savannah River nuclear weapons plant, operated by the Department of Energy, was brought out this last summer by the Washington-based Environmental Policy Institute, and reported on by *The Atlanta Journal*. The review of the more than 14,000 incidents at the plant is quite alarming, to say the least. The radioactive contamination threat of the 300-square-mile government reservation is so "severe," according to the institute, that the area "has been treated by the federal government as a national sacrifice area for the U.S. nuclear weapons program."

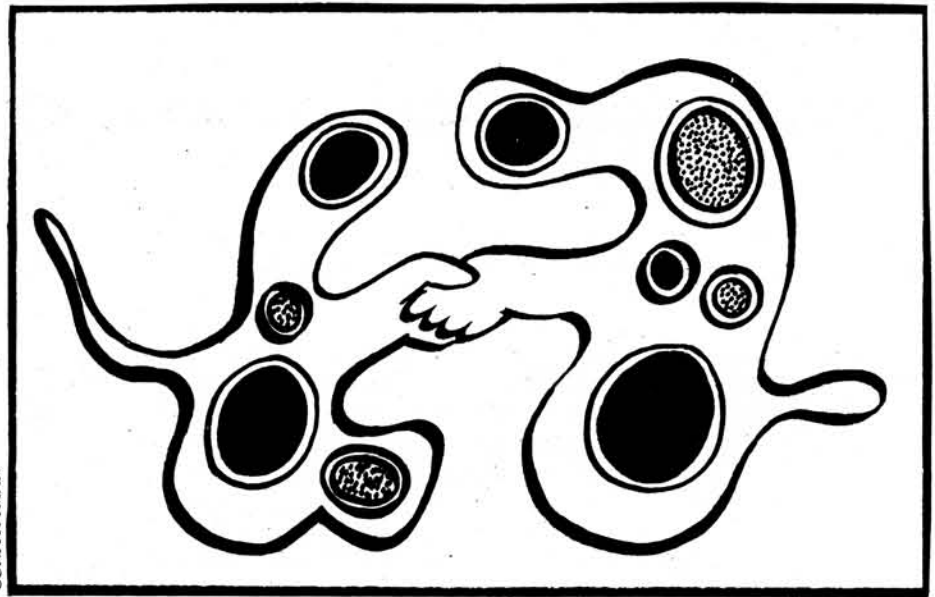


DIANNA MOLL

The Savannah River facility, comprised of a series of nuclear reactors that produce weapons-grade plutonium, plays a key role in the nuclear weapons program. It is also the storage grounds for 75 percent of the nation's high-level radioactive military waste. In its 36 years of operation, nearly 30 million gallons of highly corrosive radioactive sludge has been collected and stored in its underground tanks. The institute's study has charged that the tanks are dangerously deteriorating. The review contains numerous incidents of cracks, leaks, accidental releases of radioactive gases, worker exposures, and environmental contamination. The whole Savannah River facility sits atop one of the largest sources of fresh water in the Southeast, the Tuscaloosa Aquifer.

Robert Alvarez, director of the Environmental Policy Institute's nuclear weapons and power project, was quoted in the *Journal* as saying, "There had never been a thorough, independent examination of how the nuclear weapons program handles wastes. They are using obsolete and dangerous technologies to generate some of the most destructive nuclear explosive materials known and pushing these old facilities to their limits."

—RL



CONI PITTMAN

Germ Diplomacy


Environmental activist Jeremy Rifkin, a staunch opponent of genetic engineering, has filed a lawsuit charging the Department of Defense with violating environmental law in expanding its research on biological weapons.

Rifkin's suit asserts that biological warfare research is being conducted without the environmental impact assessments required by the National Environmental Policy Act. According to the Foundation on Economic Trends, which Rifkin heads, the DOD is conducting at least 75 experiments which could endanger the public, if the biological agents used were to escape.

Pentagon spokespeople counter that the research program, budgeted at \$54 million, is geared to defensive measures, is consistent

with U.S. environmental laws, and is within the bounds of the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention currently under review in Geneva. U.S. negotiators there are expected to call attention to what the Pentagon calls "a resurgence of research into potential germ weapons, especially by the Soviet Union." Douglas J. Feith, who is in charge of U.S. negotiating policy, told *The New York Times* the treaty "must be recognized as critically deficient and unfixable." Feith also told the House Select Committee on Intelligence that the Soviet Union "has built a large organization devoted to the development and production of offensive biological weapons." Still, he added, the United States intended to remain in full compliance with the treaty.


—DD



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Veterans Fast To Protest U.S. Policy In Central America

On September 1, two Vietnam veterans began an open-ended water fast in Washington, D.C. to protest what they say is an undeclared war by the United States against the people of Nicaragua. They are Charles Liteky (a former Catholic priest), and George Mizo. Charles Liteky first came to national attention in August when he returned his medal of honor to the government which he earned for saving the lives of 20 people in Vietnam. On September 15, they were joined by Brian Willson and Duncan Murphy, also veterans. This "Fast for Life" is a desperate attempt to draw attention to the U.S.-backed Contra war and to catalyze the American people into action against it.

What follows is a transcript of remarks by Charles Liteky, via telephone, addressed to a gathering of protesters at the main gate of Ford Ord, Monterey County, on Sunday, September 28.

I'm speaking to you today as a veteran of the Vietnam war.

I went to Vietnam thinking that I was going to defend a small country, South Vietnam, from Communist oppression from the North.

I didn't know until years later that

Vietnam was a lie, a pure fabrication of the Johnson Administration, based upon the Gulf of Tonkin incident of supposed provocation, and it never took place. As a result of that initial lie and all the lies that followed, it was used to support our presence in Vietnam. Fifty-eight thousand young Americans died, and millions of Asians died.

That is the stain on the soul — the stain on the soul of America, until we repent for it, and we are not even about to get into a disposition of repentance, as we know.

During that era, Martin Luther King said the United States was the first purveyor of violence in the world. Since 1967, we have not gone up the ladder, we have gone farther down the ladder, and here we are repeating it again — an undeclared war against the tiny nation of Nicaragua, of 2.8 million people.

Congressman Bonior said, "the Central American situation, particularly in Nicaragua, was rotten from the start," and that it is a waste of the taxpayers' money, and it is a shame on the American heritage. I agree with him. In addition to that, it is a gross violation of national and international law.

We have, by an Executive Decision, withdrawn ourselves from the World Court. We didn't even have the honesty, and the decency, to defend our case, if it was so clear-cut and just, before one of the most distinguished bodies of lawyers in the world. It is also immoral. I challenge anyone to give me a rationale according to Biblical precepts which would justify this war!

So, to all of you people who are in the



Hundreds of people turned out for last year's first annual Monterey Bay Peace March, sponsored by the Monterey Bay Pledge of Resistance. This year's march will begin at the Santa Cruz town clock on Friday, October 24 at 8:00 a.m. and conclude with a rally at Custom's House Plaza in Monterey on Sunday, October 26 at 1:30 p.m. The rally will feature former CIA officer John Stockwell, and Sister Darlene Nicgorski, who was recently convicted in the Arizona Sanctuary trial. (See the Calendar for more details.)

and about all the times the United States has intervened in Nicaragua in a military way for our own purposes.

There is a process going on now, which the United States is constantly trying to subvert — imagine that! — called the Contadora process.

We are four veterans here — Brian Wilson, Vietnam; George Mizo, Vietnam; Charlie Liteky, Vietnam; and

about it — what we're out to do is destroy that country, the same way we did Vietnam.

Vietnam — it will be centuries before the effects of Agent Orange, with which we polluted the soil, the effects of all the damage from our bombs, and all the people we killed and the psychological wounds we inflicted — it will be centuries before that is all over! We don't need to do it again in Central America. So, please, help us save lives in Central America now, by first informing yourselves about the history of what's going on. We say, we Vietnam Veterans particularly, say: It's a Lie! This is not an East/West conflict down there, it's a North/South conflict. And there are many, many lies that followed that big one! So, I say, may God bless you, and I pray for you in your struggle. There were many Vietnam Veterans who actually quit the service and went to jail, rather than continue to participate. I was not that sensitive at that time. But, by God I know now! I know what the truth is, and if you don't believe it, read excerpts from the Pentagon Papers, Or, read *Vietnam Verdict*, A Citizen's History, by Joseph Amptner.

We four veterans have done our homework, and if we can make a stronger statement with our deaths than with our life, we will do that, because we are standing here, in Washington, D.C., as proxies for the Nicaraguan people who can't be here themselves, and we're saying "Yes! Give us liberty, or give us death," the same as Patrick Henry said for this Country.

... if we can make a stronger statement with our deaths than with our life, we will do that ...

service now, please don't do what I and many other Vietnam Veterans did — please don't be duped into the blind acquiescence of another Vietnam! This administration's motivation is coming out of fear and insecurity.

There are other ways that we can help bring about freedom and democracy, and release from oppression in the world, particularly through our economic power, and the sharing of our technologies as well. There are many creative ways of bringing about peace — *without killing people!* We Vietnam Veterans know what that's all about! We were trained to kill, and that's what we did, over and over again, and the victims of those killings happened to be many innocent women and children. So, please, read about the situation in Central America. Read the history of Nicaragua,

Duncan Murphy, World War II. We believe, and know, and are so convinced in our hearts and minds, as a result of study and experience, that what this present administration is doing in Central America is immoral, illegal and irrational, and we have placed our lives on the line.

I ask for this particular truth. I ask anyone, who truly believes in what the United States is doing in Central America, particularly in Nicaragua now in a military way, to place his or her life on the line in a non-violent way.

So, this is not a condemnation of anybody who is in the military service right now. I think we can be very proud that we have men and women of integrity in the service. However, we are asking you to consider what we are about to do in Nicaragua, and there is no question



**COBBLESTONE
FLOWERS**

A Lighted Match

by Susan C. Strong

We've all heard the match story—the United States and the Soviet Union are like two people in a gas-filled basement, competing to have the most matches. But the match story only works for already committed peace activists, not the general public. It persuades only the committed because of its two hidden premises. The first one is that if you just own enough matches someday one will be lit. This premise is based on some educated acquaintance with the history of warfare and weapons buildup. The other hidden premise is that, given enough time and opportunity, people will behave irrationally. Again, history provides plenty of evidence to support this assumption. But there are powerful reasons why the public does not want to believe it, in practice and on a daily basis. Just getting through the average day with minimum efficiency requires that everyone start by assuming that reason and justice will prevail. Nevertheless, the public evidently feels an increasingly powerful malaise about things nuclear.

In order to move the people from mere malaise to real political action, however, one must have "a lighted match," or a clear and present danger, to quote the Constitution. Haven't we all carried whole matchbooks in our pockets or purses for years, without going up in flames yet? Matches must be struck deliberately. And the basis of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) as a theory is that governments and people will act rationally. Of course, everyone also knows there are irrational ones—the Third Reich and Idi Amin, for instance. But even in mental institutions, behaviorist techniques are used to appeal to whatever vestiges of rationality may still exist in a patient's mind. Having a large nuclear threat is a behaviorist solution to the problem of incipiently psychotic or sociopathic governments or leaders. It says, you may be crazy, but are you this crazy or greedy?

Of course, the public also knows, deep in its heart, that some people and governments are not even marginally sane. It is to this deeply suppressed fear of the uncontrollable in malevolent others that Star Wars ultimately plays. Criticism of Star Wars' effectiveness to protect people, rather than bombs, has done much to discredit it as a real answer to this fear. In the wake of the shuttle and Chernobyl accidents, the public has clearly been doing a rough and ready cost benefit, probability analysis of its own; to wit, international nuclear crazies are less likely to appear than technological failures. But the most important development of all in the public meditation on recent events is the rediscovery of something much more basic. If we antinuclear activists are to be effective, we must pay very close attention to this shift and act accordingly.

The change is represented in a cartoon by Summers reprinted from *The Orlando Sentinel* in a recent *Newsweek*, which now



boasts a circulation of 17.4 million. It shows two men going through a syllogism of sorts, which goes as follows: "Think about it...the Chernobyl explosion was caused by human error...and the shuttle was caused by human error...so, I don't know about you, but I'm worried." This is said against a background of Soviet and American missiles pointed at each other.

The finding that in both of these cases people deliberately and cavalierly did not follow known and established safety rules has enormous persuasive potential. Nor were these situations where war or enemy

psychology were involved. The people who made these mistakes were just going about business as usual. Somehow, in these cases, the "matches" got lit: by accident, stupidity, exhaustion, just plain laziness, drug induced befuddlement, greed, hangovers, or even irritable rebellion. Who knows? We all know how we make mistakes. And how often. Moreover, every five year old knows that while his or her parents may mean well, they certainly do make a lot of mistakes.

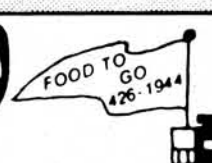

To persuade a significant number of the people to political action, you not only

need a "lighted match," but one the whole public can understand. Poisoning babies with strontium 90 at their mother's breasts or watching a president lie in order to get re-elected are some recent examples. Public outrage reached effective levels in these cases because fundamental home truths that everyone understands and accepts were blatantly violated. The relative certainty of human error leads immediately to the conclusion that having so many and so destructive an inventory of nuclear weapons is a risk we absolutely cannot afford.

We are at an enormously crucial point in the public debate over nuclear weapons, because the public now has a new idea. It has slipped out of the mental gridlock created by our faith in human and mechanical rationality. We have been reminded that it is fallible people who make and run the machines. That is the bottom line. The Freeze and other peace organizations must immediately and explicitly connect their lobbying, education and electoral messages to the public's new awareness of the human error factor. It is the lighted match. Just as President Reagan's talk of limited nuclear war gave the Freeze idea its original impetus, the new direction of public thinking can sweep us beyond the impasses of Star Wars and the administration's test ban stall. Once again, events have placed the perfect lever in our hands. We have arrived at the next major stage in public debate, and we must act quickly and decisively to use it.

Susan C. Strong is a conflict resolution consultant and free lance writer living in Orinda, California. She has taught persuasion and communication at The University of California, Berkeley, and St. Mary's College. She is currently serving as Chairperson of the Northern California Freeze Campaign.

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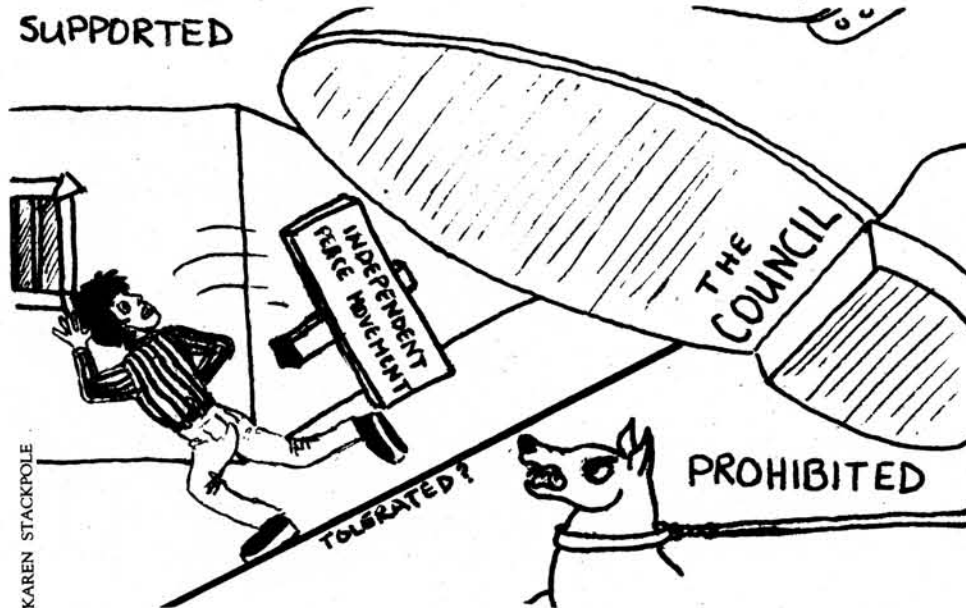
Hungary: Walking A Thin Line

by Igal Dahari

The following is the third of a four-part series focusing on unofficial peace movements and activists in Eastern Europe. Because this is a vast subject, the series will concentrate on some specific groups and individuals who have been ignored by the mass media in this country.

Hungary may have the least repressive government in Eastern Europe, but it is still characterized by an intolerance for independent citizens' movements. Although there exist numerous unauthorized publications, groups, and activities, participants can expect some sort of harassment from the authorities. Perhaps not to endanger its special economic relationship with most Western countries, or to avoid a repeat of the near-revolution of 1956, Hungary's

SUPPORTED



leaders have attempted to defuse "threatening" activities in more cunning and less violent ways than their counterparts in neighboring countries.

János Kádár, the present leader and main architect of today's Hungary, first took power in 1956, while Soviet troops were crushing the last remains of the Hungarian resistance. In an effort to create a sort of pressure release valve, the Kádár regime liberalized restrictions on public expression and activity in the mid-1960s by creating a middle category between what it considered legal and illegal. All fully legal ideas and forms of expression are under the "supported" category, while those deemed "politically hostile" remain under the "prohibited" category.

In the middle is the "tolerated" category, which can even include things that are "ideologically debatable and more or less in opposition to Marxism or socialist realism." The Rakpartklub, a weekly forum attended by some of Budapest's intellectuals and college students, falls under this middle category. Some of the quasi-legal topics discussed at the forum include anti-Semitism, religion and nationalism in Eastern Europe.

Still, each topic presented at the Rakpartklub must be submitted in advance to the government's Hungarian Peace Council. The Council was created for the multi-purpose task of taking away the initiative from independent peace groups, coordinating all official peace groups, and keeping a watchful eye on all of the "tolerated" activities. One of the Council's early victims was Budapest's Peace Group for Dialogue. This independent group, which attracted a large following since its inception in 1982, disbanded in late 1983 after its members suffered continued government harassment.

In March of 1983, after several peace groups, including Dialogue, had become active, the ruling Political Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party passed an important resolution. In it the Committee stated that "the peace movement cannot be allowed to become a forum for external and internal opposition . . . [and] must be kept united under the direction of the National Peace Council. Movements standing outside the Peace Council cannot be legalized." The resolution goes on to direct the proper government agencies to "isolate and expose in open debate those who seek to use the peace movement as a pretext for questioning the peace policies of our party . . . and the peace initiatives of the Soviet Union and the socialist community."

Social activists, like the members of the Foundation to Assist the Poor (SZETA, as it is known in Hungary), are also subject to harassment by the government. SZETA was originally the brainchild of a group of young sociologists who were studying the state of poverty in Hungary. They had determined that no less than 20 percent of all Hungarians (out of a population of about 10 million) lived below the poverty line, and of those, one half could be described as being destitute.

In November of 1979, this group of intellectuals decided to take action by starting a campaign to collect money, food and clothing to be given to the poor. By March of

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the following year, the group had formally adopted the name SZETA and issued a public appeal for support. With that, SZETA became the first independent organization to be formed in Hungary in almost 25 years. By August of 1980, SZETA had not only distributed a substantial amount of money, food and clothing, but had also given legal, health and educational advice. SZETA also helped improve the poor's dwellings, and aided them in getting social assistance.

As it began to grow, SZETA planned to spread its message by holding large public

auction attracting so much attention that a public hall had to be secured. After much persistent negotiation with the authorities, SZETA was allowed to use a public hall in exchange for not advertising the organization's name. Despite the restriction, the three-day auction drew thousands of people and raised a substantial sum of money. SZETA continued to be active in 1981, again using the benefit as its main fundraising technique, despite the difficulties imposed by the authorities.

SZETA and other independent groups

"the peace movement cannot be allowed to become a forum for external and internal opposition . . ."

events. Unfortunately for SZETA's members, however, they were not only drawing the attention of the public, but also that of the government. The young organization was refused the use of any public buildings for its benefit concerts and readings, and had to hold its events in private residences. Its leaders were beginning to receive warnings from the police, while some of them were even interrogated.

Despite the attempted intimidations, SZETA's members continued their work. At the end of 1980 the group held an art

continue to operate in Hungary. Along with many independently published newspapers, newsletters, reports and books, they continue to pose a challenge to the authorities. How this state of affairs will eventually turn out — or if it will even change — will probably depend heavily on Kádár's successor. Kádár is now 74, and is expected to retire soon.

Next Month: East Germany

Igal Dahari is the International Editor of The Monthly Planet.



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House And Senate Split On Defense Bill

SUMMARY

Test ban legislation may become the political Rubicon between Congress and the Reagan administration this session. In August, the House, in an unprecedented move, voted 234-155 to support a mandatory cutoff of funds for testing of nuclear weapons over one kiloton, so long as the Soviets do the same. This amendment was part of the 1987 Defense Authorization Bill, which sets the spending limits for all military programs for the coming year. The Senate did not include any test ban provisions in its version of the bill. As we go to press, a joint House-Senate conference committee is being appointed to iron out differences between the two versions of the bill. When they are finished, a final unified version is presented for a vote by the full House and Senate. The conference committee has the prerogative to remove any arms control provisions from the bill that it chooses, which it would do if it felt that such provisions might cause the House or Senate to vote down the whole bill, or might lead to a presidential veto. On September 23, President Reagan threatened to veto the defense bill if it contained the arms control restrictions imposed by the House, namely, the test ban, anti-satellite weapons testing, a ban on chemical weapons, a freeze on Star Wars funding, and binding legislation on Salt II. At the other end, Representative Les Aspin (D-WI), chair of the House Armed Services Committee, has vowed not to let the bill out of the conference committee unless it included the test ban provision passed by the House.

As if this weren't enough, the same battle will soon be waged on another front. Last week, House and Senate subcommittees

each completed work on the 1987 Defense Appropriations Bill. Appropriations bills grant the check writing power for programs within the limits set by the authorization bill.

Even though a final version of the authorization bill is not complete, it is customary for Congress to get right to work on the appropriations process anyway. Again, the House kept intact all five key arms control provisions, including the test ban legislation. Normally, the appropriations bills are then

grams to continue to receive funding. Amendments can be made to the continuing resolution on the House and Senate floors. Any differences between the House and Senate versions of the continuing resolution are again resolved by means of a joint House-Senate conference committee. Then, a unified bill is presented to both houses of Congress and then goes to the President for his signature or veto.

The second reason is that the entire House of Representatives is up for re-

resolution.

2) Continuing Resolution: The test ban will automatically be included in the continuing resolution, since it was already approved by the House Appropriations Committee. However, any member of the House can offer an amendment to delete the test ban provision from the continuing resolution. Since the test ban won such overwhelming support from the House in August, it is unlikely that they would pass such an amendment. If they did pass an

... President Reagan threatened to veto the defense bill if it contained the arms control restrictions imposed by the House ...

voted on by each house of Congress, and the differences are again ironed out in a joint House-Senate conference committee. The appropriations bill is the final version of the defense bill, and supersedes anything passed during the authorizations process.

This year, however, the appropriations bills from all 13 governmental departments, including the Defense Department, will be rolled into what is called a "continuing resolution." This means that instead of Congress voting on each department's appropriations bill separately, they will vote on all of them at once under a sort of umbrella resolution.

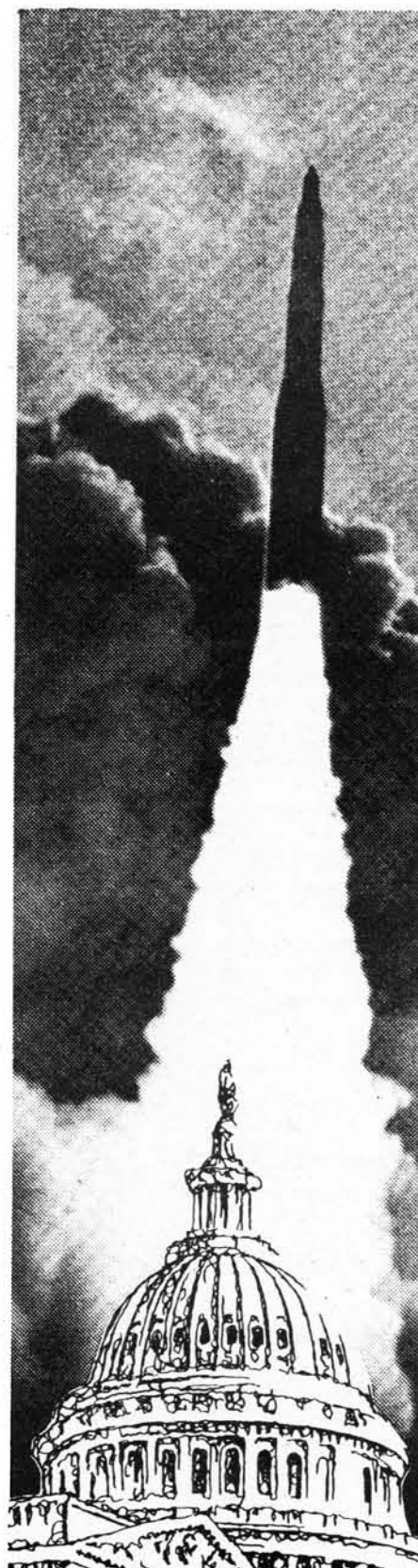
There are two reasons for this. One is that the fiscal year ends October 1. The continuing resolution is a temporary stop-gap measure that allows governmental pro-

election in November, and House members are anxious to return to their home districts to hit the campaign trail.

SO WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

There are several places that test ban legislation could meet significant challenges in these processes:

1) Authorizations Conference Committee: If the conference committee completes a bill that includes test ban legislation, it will help create momentum toward maintaining the test ban as part of the continuing resolution. If the authorizations conference committee does not include test ban legislation in its final version of the authorization bill, the test ban legislation will still be contained in the Defense Appropriations Bill, which is part of the continuing



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amendment to delete the test ban from the continuing resolution, then the issue would be dead and would have to start all over again next year. If the House passes a continuing resolution that contains a test ban, then the matter will move on for consideration by the conference committee.

3) Continuing Resolution Conference Committee: This is the final and critical challenge. If the test ban legislation makes it all the way to the continuing resolution conference committee, you can bet it will face stiff opposition from conferees that are determined to delete it from the bill. We should also expect serious efforts to undermine the strength of the test ban legislation by replacing it with language aimed at weakening and altering its original intent. Threats of a presidential veto may also help to sway hesitant conferees who don't relish the prospect of going through this process all over again. The final version of the defense bill will then go to both houses of Congress for a vote, without amendment, and on to the President for his signature or veto.

4) The President: He will either sign the defense bill, making it become law, or veto it. A presidential veto must be overridden by two-thirds of the Congress. If the Congress is unsuccessful in overriding the veto, then the entire appropriations process must begin again.

WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

There are some very important steps that Freeze supporters can take to lobby for the test ban legislation.

1) Call Representative Les Aspin immediately at (202) 225-3031. Tell him that you support the stand he has taken on test ban legislation. Tell him to hold firm and not permit any bill to pass the Defense Authorization Conference Committee that

does not include the test ban legislation. Also tell Rep. Aspin to make sure that any substitutions aimed at weakening the language of the test ban legislation are not permitted.

2) Call your local representatives. In Santa Cruz County, call Rep. Leon Panetta (202) 225-2861, or locally 429-1976 AND Rep. Ed. Zschau (202) 225-5411 and tell them to vote against any amendment that may be offered to the continuing resolution that is aimed at deleting or weakening the test ban legislation that was passed by the House in August.

3) Call Senator Alan Cranston (202) 224-5353 and Senator Pete Wilson (202) 224-3841 and tell them you support the test ban. Tell them to vote against any amendment that may be offered to the continuing resolution that is aimed at deleting or weakening the test ban legislation that was passed by the House in August.

4) Join our Action Alert Phone Tree in Santa Cruz County. This way you will get a personal phone call informing you of critical weapons legislation that is being decided upon. Call the Freeze office at 458-9975 to put your name on the phone tree.

It is critical that each one of us makes these phone calls. This is the closest we've ever come to achieving a test ban legislatively. It will be difficult, but not impossible, if test ban supporters make their voices heard. It costs less than 60 cents to call Washington before 8 a.m. That's a small investment that may lead to saving tens of billions of dollars in nuclear weapons testing, and finally send us on that critical first step toward achieving a freeze on and eventual dismantling of all nuclear weapons.

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

Contact Your Representatives Today!

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

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

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



Hotlines

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

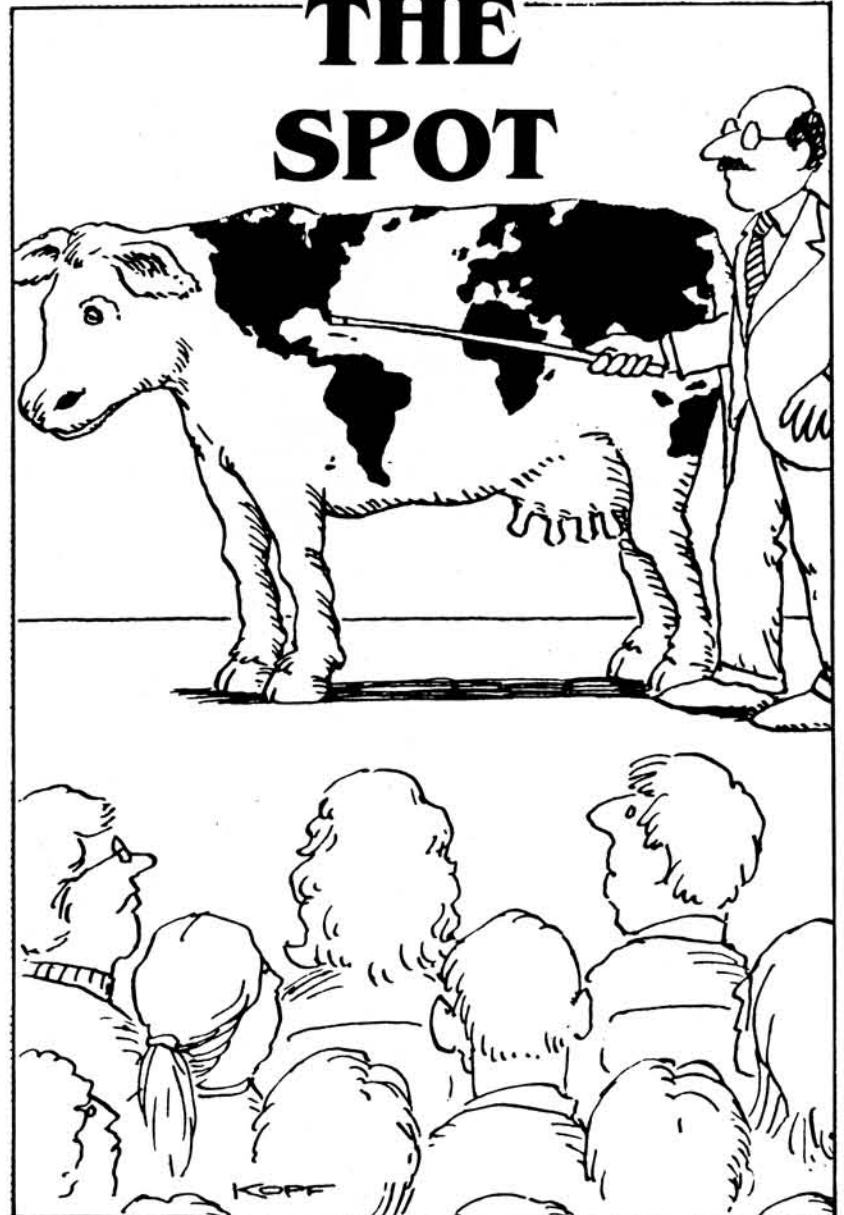
Nuclear Arms Control Hotline
(Council for a Liveable World)
202-543-0006

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

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Nuclear Information At UCSC

A Monday Afternoon Nuclear Policy Workshop

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Students interested in pursuing research on a particular aspect of nuclear weapons or nuclear power will work with a faculty member on their independent project or assist in faculty-led research. Independent study credit is available.

Mondays
3:30 PM
Stevenson Conference Room
Available through the Stevenson Nuclear Policy Program

Nuclear Weapons: Effects, Proliferation, and Control (Mod. Soc. 163B)

A thorough examination of the nuclear arms race from Trinity to Star Wars. Some of the topics include: the develop-

ment of nuclear weapons, an exploration of both vertical and horizontal nuclear proliferation, the links between nuclear energy and nuclear weapons, arms control successes and failures, and proposals for arms control and disarmament and methods for their implementation.

Tuesday and Thursday
3:15 - 5:15 PM
Cowell classroom 134
Available through the Modern Society and Social Thought Board

Nuclear Film Series

This film/discussion series is run concurrently with Mod. Soc. 163B, Nuclear Weapons: Effects, Proliferation, and Control. The films raise important, emotion-laden questions. All participants are asked to remain after each film for a brief open discussion led by a member of the Nuclear Policy Program. All showings are free and are open to the public. See the calendar for films and dates.

Tuesday and Wednesday
7:30 PM
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If you object to helping the government enforce the draft law, there are options available which may help you get financial aid for school. Most states offer financial aid to students without requiring them to certify that they have registered for the draft. Privately-funded

financial aid also has no such requirement. In fact, National Student Services, a group which helps students to find private financial aid, says that each year millions of dollars in private aid goes unclaimed because students do not know it is available.

The Committee Against Registration, an organization which provides counseling and legal help for people facing the draft, encourages students who oppose the draft certification law to write their congressmembers. For further information, contact the Resource Center for Nonviolence at 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz, CA, 95062; 408-423-1626.



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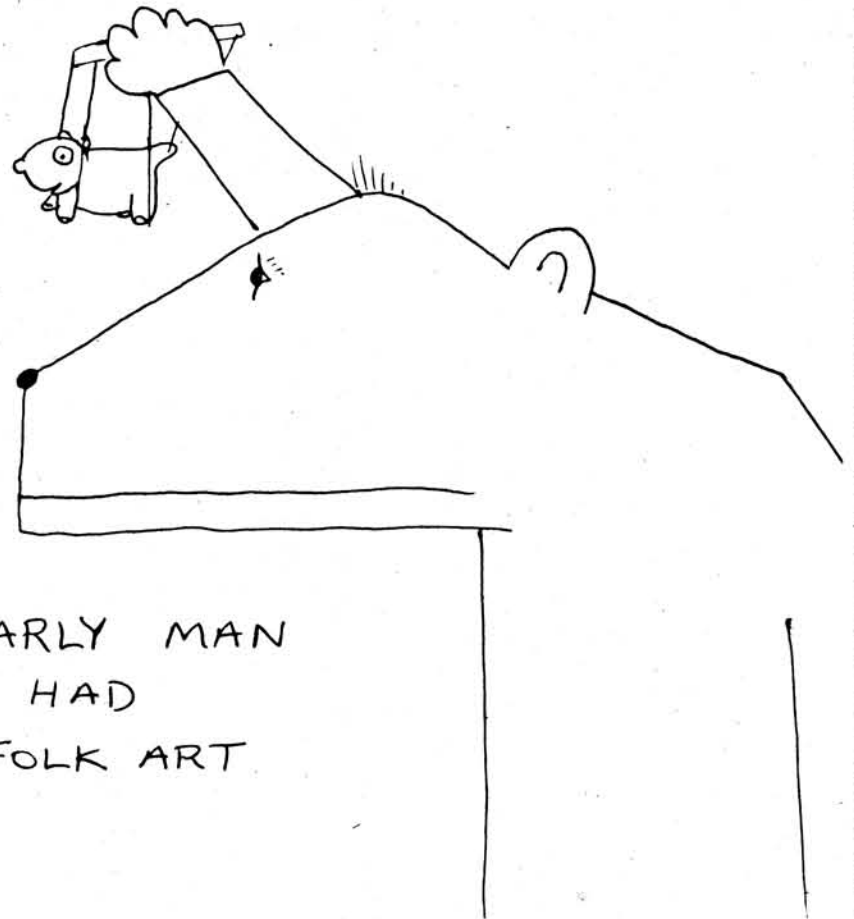
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November 4th: Turning Point For Arms Control?

by Marshall Krantz

The fall Senate elections mark a critical juncture for the peace movement. Either the voters turn the Senate toward peace on November 4th, or a hawkish Senate majority champions the arms race into the next century.

leaves office. I disagree. Active involvement to elect a pro-arms control Senate this year could make a crucial difference.

The Senate elections are crucial for two reasons: they will determine the Senate's posture on arms control for perhaps the next 15 years; and, more important, they present a realistic opportunity to win a pro-

Active involvement to elect a pro-arms control Senate this year could make a crucial difference.

These elections are even more important than those of 1982, when statewide nuclear freeze initiatives won voter approval but carried no legal force, and in 1984, when the removal of Ronald Reagan as the major obstacle to a Soviet-American arms-control agreement was highly desirable but virtually impossible.

Many peace activists, who had waged an all-out effort to defeat Reagan in 1984, became deeply discouraged in the face of his landslide victory. They gave up on national politics, saying nothing can be done until he

peace Senate majority, thus greatly increasing the chance that the United States and Soviet Union will at long last act to lessen the nuclear threat. (Don't count on the summit, if there is a summit. Administration factions can't even agree among themselves what they want.)

The electorate, traditionally somnolent in off years, is largely unaware of what's at stake in 1986. Political observers and politicians, however, recognize where the big prize lies. Normal Ornstein, a political scientist at the American Enterprise Insti-

tute, was recently quoted as saying about the Senate races, "Both parties believe the long-term majority is up for grabs."

This year, the numbers favor the Democrats, who, despite the peace movement's reluctance to speak in partisan terms, have generally been more supportive of peace issues. Nearly twice as many Republican seats (22) are on the election block. Moreover, 8 of 15 first-term conservatives running for re-election won by 52 percent or less of the vote in 1980, even with the benefit of Ronald Reagan's coattails. They won't enjoy that benefit November 4th, plus, as members of the majority party, they'll carry the burden of a souring economy.

Several of these first-term conservatives — almost all hard-liners — are considered particularly vulnerable this year. They include the likes of Idaho's Steve Symms, best known for expressing regrets that the Chernobyl nuclear power accident didn't happen closer to the Kremlin. Symms, who won by only 2,000 votes in 1980, faces strong opposition in Governor John Evans. Another promising race is in South Dakota, where Representative Tom Daschle currently leads incumbent James Abdnor in public opinion polls.

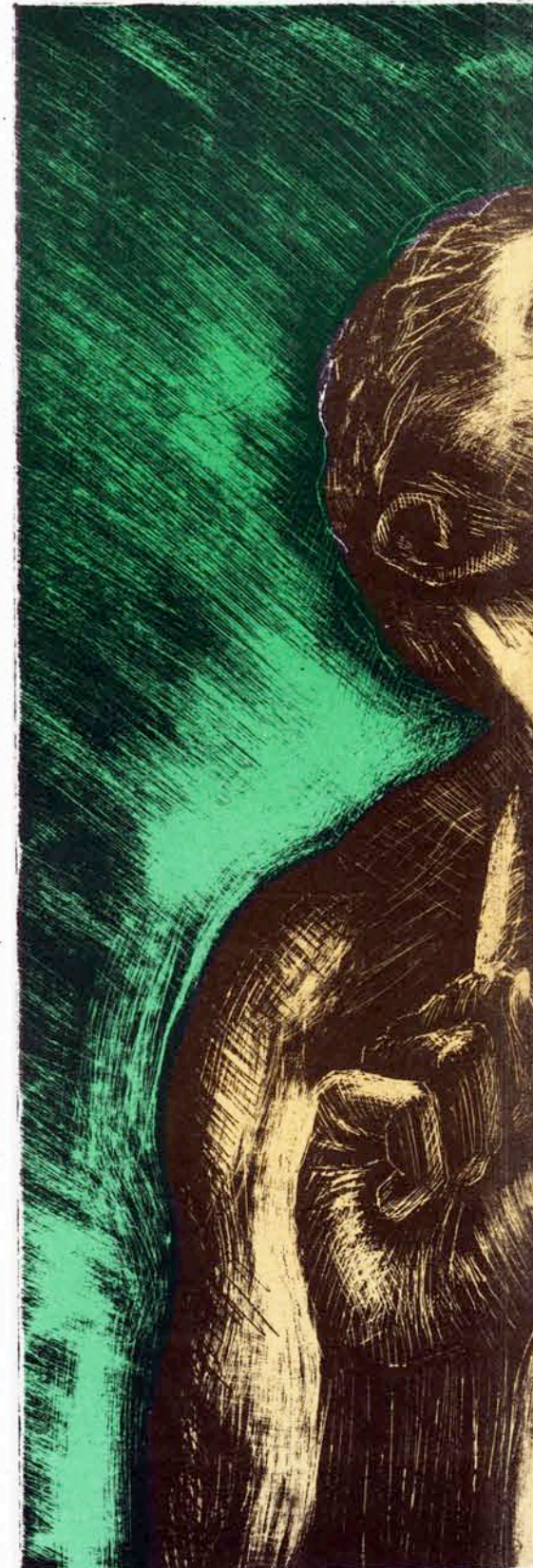
Members of the 1980 Senate Republican class who win re-election in 1986 will prove even more of an obstacle to peace afterward. Over the next six years they will consolidate political support and win senior assignments in key committees. In short, they will prove much harder to beat in 1992.

Add the difficulty of entrenched conservative incumbents to the fact that in two years more pro-peace senators will need help to keep their seats, and the importance of 1986 becomes clear.

Turning back the tide of Senate militarism will no doubt require concerted effort, but the goal is within reach. Consider the following: only one additional vote would have defeated the MX missile and chemical weapons projects; only two additional votes were required to fund Star Wars at current levels instead of the 75 percent increase the Reagan administration proposes; and a switch of four votes would have denied \$100 million in weaponry to the contras.

A changed Senate could also mean the realization of two important nuclear arms-control measures: a comprehensive test ban, and maintaining SALT II provisions. The House passed amendments in August requiring the president not to break SALT II limitations, as he intends, and to join the Soviets in the testing moratorium they unilaterally enacted over a year ago. The Senate, however, passed nonbinding resolutions; encouraging, but finally words, not action.

For those of us in California, the Cranston-Zschau race presents a clear choice, and an opportunity for direct involvement. Alan Cranston has been a consistent, strong supporter of peace issues. Most recently, he sponsored a binding comprehensive test ban bill, and he voted against aid to the contras. Ed Zschau, on the



BRUCE HARMAN

other hand, has bounced back and forth faster than a tennis ball at Wimbledon. He voted against the MX and then for it, against contra aid and then for it. He co-sponsored a test ban resolution, voted against it, and then abstained from voting on the binding amendment.

Although Cranston currently leads Zschau in public-opinion polls, the race could wind up very tight. Despite his name-recognition television commercials, Zschau is still relatively unknown. He stands a better chance of capturing a larger share of the undecided vote than Cranston, of whom the undecided know but have doubts. In addition, Cranston is a major target of the ultra-right with its formidable fundraising

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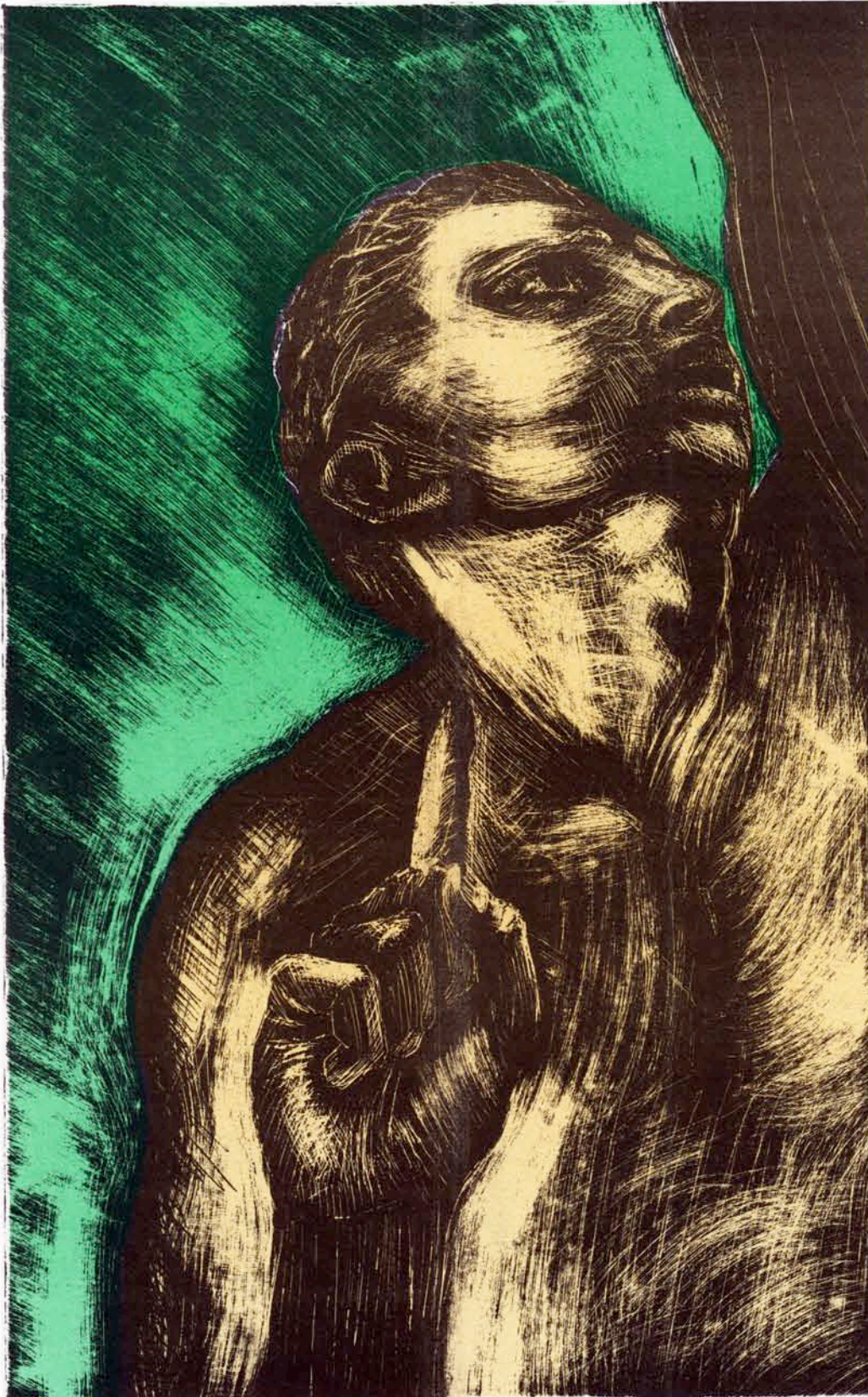
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machine, Jesse Helm's political action committee being the most notable.

Despite conservative electoral victories these past six years, a substantial majority of Americans still favor a bilateral nuclear weapons freeze and a comprehensive test ban, and disdain American intervention in Central America. The recent House action on the test ban and SALT II reflects public discontent with conservative intransigence towards peace. The Senate can be made to keep pace with House strides, if only those concerned about such intransigence act in sufficient numbers in the coming weeks.

Marshall Krantz is Chairperson of the Alameda County Nuclear Weapons Freeze.

National Free Discusses Ele

by Marshall Krantz

"We have so much at stake," said Chip Reynolds, national director of Freeze Voter, in a recent phone interview from his Washington, D.C. office. "I would rate this election decidedly more important than any election since the Freeze movement began. This election will set the tone for the Senate's behavior over the next 15 years."

"It's critical that we increase our numbers in the Senate," he continued, "and make it clear that progressive voters can win. We have to demonstrate our ability to win so that we can sustain our involvement over the long period of time it will take to turn the arms race around. Some people in the news media and political world already think the Freeze has fallen off the map."

Reynolds said progressives stand an excellent chance of capturing the Senate in the upcoming elections.

"We need only three or four more seats," said Reynolds. "We have had a number of very close votes in the Senate. Chemical weapons and the MX missile were decided only by (Vice President) George Bush's tie-breaking votes."

Reynolds warned that any hawkish first-term senator who wins re-election this year will be much harder to defeat in 1992. In addition, in 1988 the Freeze will need to focus primarily on re-electing arms control proponents.

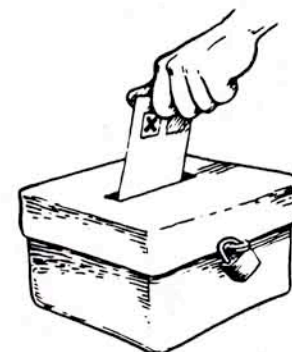
Freeze Voter has targeted Senate races in six states in order to concentrate its efforts. These states are Pennsylvania, Idaho, South Dakota, Missouri, Colorado and Vermont. Freeze Voter is attempting to gain new pro-Freeze seats in the first three states, and retain pro-Freeze seats in the latter three.

Reynolds explained that national strategy was to select states in which Freeze Voter's strength — voter mobilization through labor-intensive organizing — would make the most difference.

California was not selected as a target

**October 6
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(If you've moved since
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must re-register)



National Freeze Voter Director Discusses Elections

by Marshall Krantz

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state, despite its critical importance, because the Freeze in California is much stronger than Freeze movements in the target states, Reynolds said.

Freeze Voter's national strategy bore fruit earlier this year in Pennsylvania. The Freeze played a crucial role in Rep. Bob Edgar's narrow victory over a right-wing opponent in the Democratic senatorial primary.

As of mid-August, two dozen Freeze

Daschle has increased his lead in South Dakota."

Races in the other states, however, continue to be close, including those in Missouri, Colorado and Idaho, he added.

Reynolds, who participated in the Freeze national founding conference in 1981 and led Freeze Voter efforts in 1984, said peace activists will have to turn out in force to capture the Senate this fall.

"Every single individual can find some-

"I would rate this election decidedly more important than any election since the Freeze movement began."

Voter organizers were working in target states full-time either directly with the candidate's campaigns or with the local Freeze chapters.

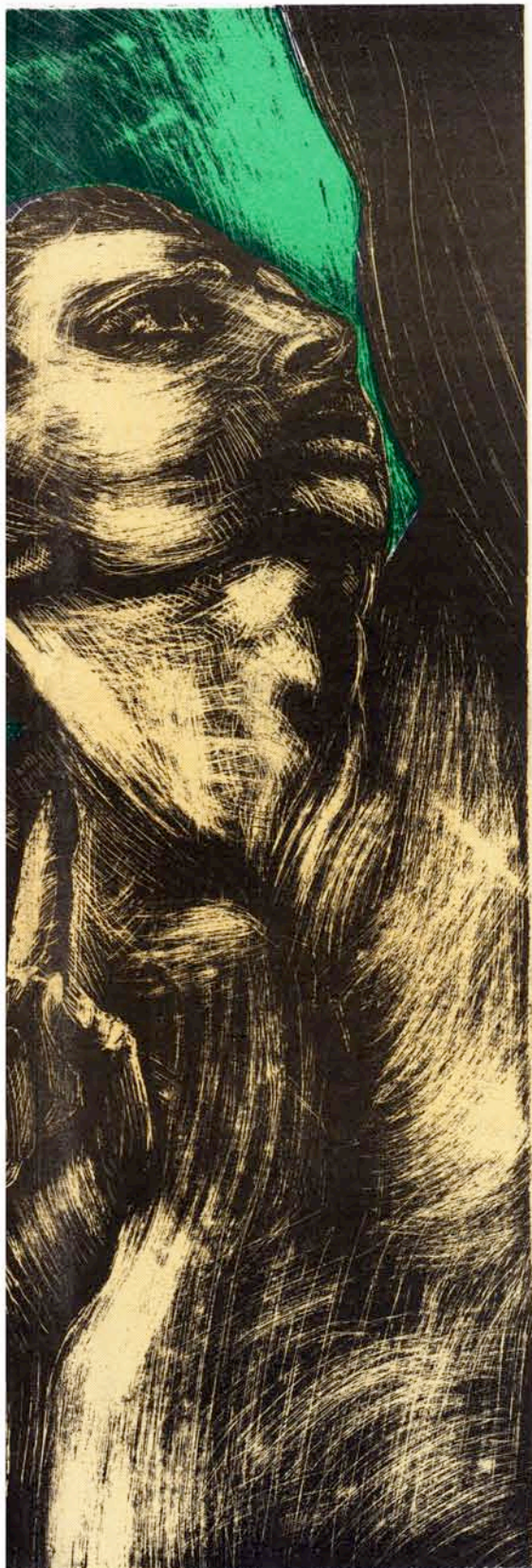
Freeze Voter organizers, known as the Freeze Corps, perform such nitty-gritty campaign work as phone banking, leafletting, fundraising, voter registration and organizing volunteers.

"The momentum has been going in our direction," Reynolds reported. "Patrick Leahy has increased his popularity since our involvement in Vermont and Tom

thing to do to contribute to the Freeze Voter election program," he said. "I don't expect people to spend 40 hours a week on the elections. Everyone needs to find out what makes the most sense in their own lives."

"But they need to do something, from volunteering an hour a week to writing a check — not only for this election, but for the months and years beyond until we achieve our objectives."

This article is reprinted from Turning Point.

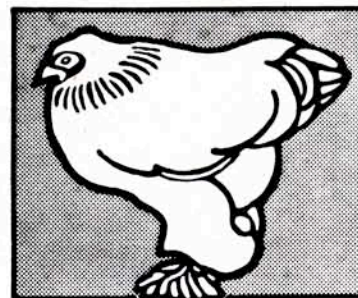
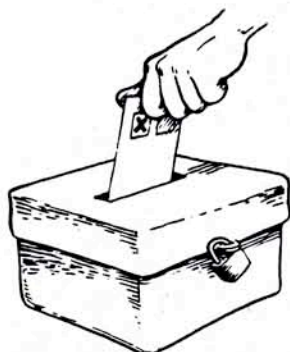


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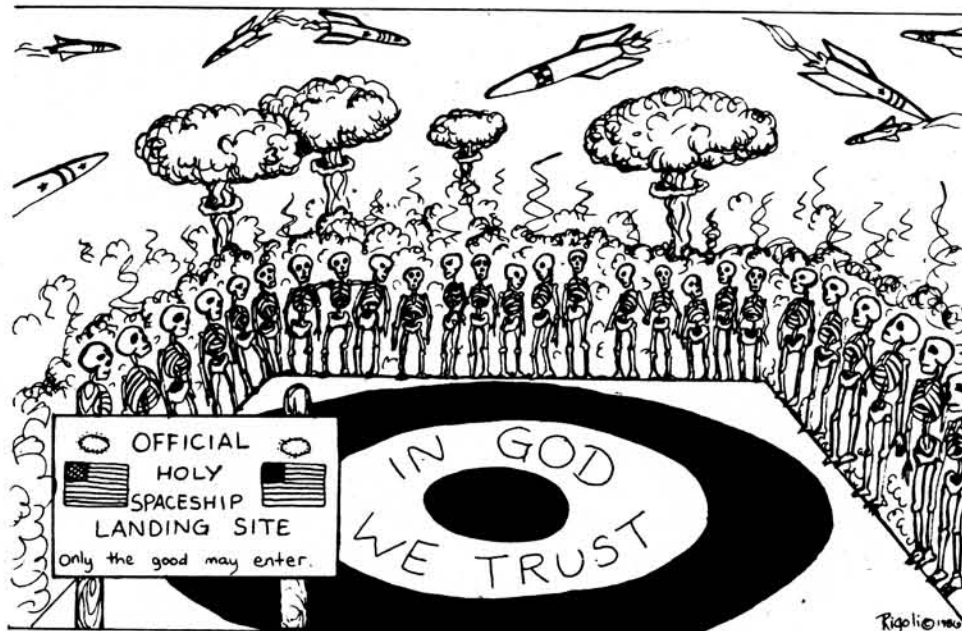
The Politics Of Armageddon

by Glenn Barlow

On September 17, 1986, TV evangelist Pat Robertson announced that he will seek the 1988 Republican nomination for president if three million of his followers signed petitions in support of his campaign. President of the Christian Broadcasting Network, he hosts a daily program that goes out to 4.4 million homes. His supporters say that 40 million evangelical Christians in the United States share their views. Robertson's friend Jerry Falwell, head of the Liberty Federation, formerly known as the Moral Majority, broadcasts his weekly program over 400 TV and 500 radio stations. Falwell said that he had registered eight million new Republicans in the 1984 campaign.

Now that the ultraconservatives of the New Christian Right are on the ascendant in an attempt to dominate American politics, we need to take a fresh look at the beliefs of this "army that meets on Sunday."

Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell are good friends of President Ronald Reagan. What they have in common is that they are "born-again fundamentalists" who believe that the end of the world is coming soon in a "Final Holy War" that will destroy everyone on the planet except for those born again like themselves. They believe they will be taken off the earth for seven years while the rest of humanity burns in the fires of a nuclear war. This "punishment by fire," as they call it, is



DIANE RIGOLI

inevitable because it is God's will according to their interpretation of certain passages from *The Bible*.

Their ideological doctrines are not shared by Catholic, Jewish, or mainstream Protestant theologians. In fact, the Catholic Bishops of America have declared it a sin for any Catholic to work on the production or use of nuclear weapons. They state that to possess, use, or threaten to use nuclear weapons is immoral.

On the other hand, the fundamentalist

Protestants insist that nuclear war is inevitable as God's punishment for humanity's sins. They assure one another that they will be spared the terrors of radiation by a divine dispensation known as "The Rapture." The New Christian Right is dominated by these nuclear dispensationalists.

Several members of Congress have helped to create the New Right, and their fundraisers promise to bankroll election campaigns that may result in their having more power in Congress in 1986 and 1988. The

current born-again Congresspersons include eight members of the House and six senators (Hatch, Helms, Humphrey, Jepsen, Laxalt, and Simms).

Reagan has become the first president to give nuclear war a religious respectability in our cultural mythologies. Prior to both the 1980 and 1984 elections, Reagan often made references to Armageddon, a "Final Holy War" between God's chosen nation and an Evil Empire. Reagan said, "We may be the generation that sees Armageddon," and "There have been many times in the past when we thought the end of the world was coming, but never anything like this... We're heading very fast for the Armageddon right now." Reagan's Pentagon chief Caspar Weinberger has also said, "Yes, I believe the world is going to end, and every day I think that time is running out."

Reagan believes *The Bible* predicts that the Holy War will begin when the atheistic Soviets and their Moslem allies invade Israel and are destroyed by nuclear fires. Reagan has said, "Most of the prophecies that had to be fulfilled before Armageddon can come have come to pass. Ezekiel said that fire and brimstone will be rained upon the enemies. That must mean that they'll be destroyed by nuclear weapons." Thus, Reagan seems to have had a religious agenda behind his two trillion dollar military buildup that included the building of 17,000 new nuclear weapons. Those weapons were

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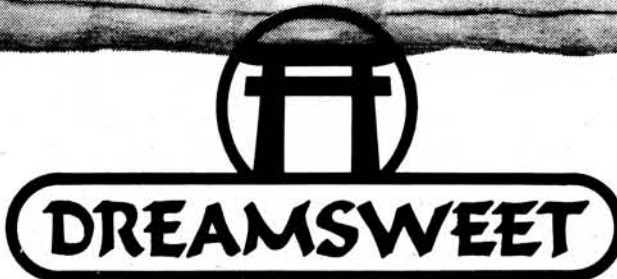
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built for the destruction of the Evil Empire.

One would think that peace in the Middle East would not be served by aggression against Moslem nations. Yet, Reagan condoned the Israeli invasion and occupation of Lebanon. American weapons were used against Soviet weapons as Israelis battled Syrians. Perhaps Reagan had a secret agenda in mind when he ordered the bombing of Libya and when he threatened to punish Syria if it harbored any terrorists. Both Libya and Syria are Soviet allies.

Where is all this leading us? Would Reagan, Weinberger, or Pat Robertson become confused during international political crises and act on their conviction that

Christ."

Many American voters seem to believe a lot of this. One recent poll found that four out of 10 Americans believe that Bible predictions that the earth will be destroyed by fire means that nuclear war is inevitable. Perhaps that is the key to Reagan's two victories at the polls. Religious mythology has become so interwoven with anti-communism that Americans are electing leaders who are prepared to push the button that would destroy "God's enemies": the communists, and all those sinners who are not born again. If that's the case, then voters must feel that they are either among the chosen few who will be saved or among

Reagan has become the first president to give nuclear war a religious respectability in our cultural mythologies.

they are fulfilling Biblical prophecies? Will their belief that the world will end soon in nuclear "fire and brimstone" become a self-fulfilling prophecy? Why are Reagan and Falwell against any end to the arms race and against the peace movement, which they say is communist inspired? Maybe the answer can be found with the born again minister who Reagan chose to have open the 1984 Republican convention in Dallas, James Robinson, who has said, "Any teaching of peace prior to his [Jesus'] return is heresy. It is against the word of God — it is Anti-

those who deserve to die in a nuclear war. Perhaps that is the basis for the skyrocketing increases in alcoholism, drug abuse, apathy, and divorce in America. If the world is going to end soon anyway, why bother believing in a future that will probably never come?

Glenn Barlow is a staff writer of *The Monthly Planet*



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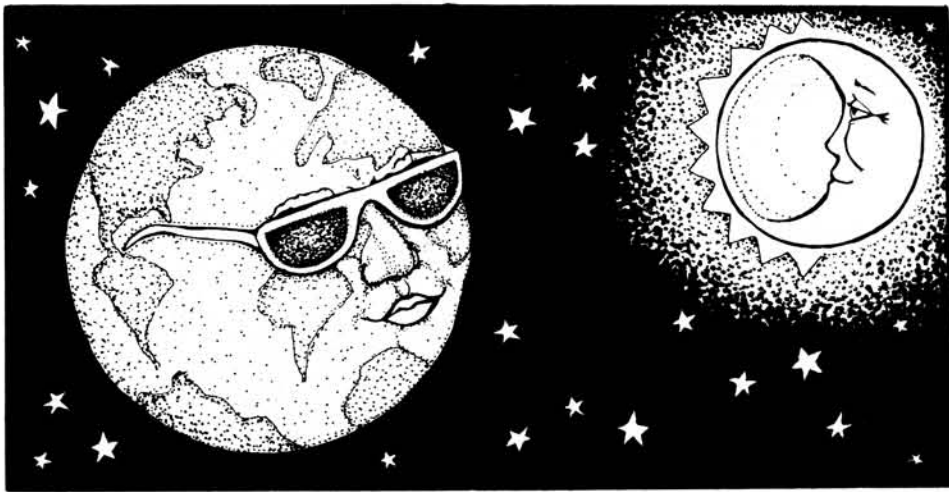
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Planet Watch by Igal Dahari

Derogy and Pontaut cannot conclusively prove their assertion, they do seem to have enough evidence to convince several newspapers. The prestigious French daily *Le Monde* called the journalists' work "precise and rigorous."

The journalists report that Mitterrand was kept up to date on the operation by his government's intelligence agency, which had assured him that the move against the environmental organization's ship would leave "no victims, no traces, no implication of France."

Britain Alliance Defiance

The alliance between Britain's Liberal and Social Democratic Parties took a blow on September 23 when the Liberal Assembly narrowly voted against a proposed stand by the two parties' leaders. David

Steel, who leads the Liberals, and David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats, had taken a compromise stand on the issue of nuclear weapons in Britain. The leaders called for a nuclear pact with France to lessen the cost of defending Western Europe, while also reducing the influence of the United States in Britain.

The position of Steel and Owen appears to be a compromise between that of the government and that of the opposition Labor Party. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher wants to replace Britain's Polaris nuclear missiles with American Trident missiles, at a cost of \$12.8 billion. Labor has vowed to take Polaris out of service, while also removing the United States' cruise missiles. The Social Democratic Party was formed by disgruntled Labor members who did not agree with their former party's antinuclear stand.

The alliance's proposed stand was voted on by 1,277 delegates at the Liberals' convention; it lost by 27 votes.

France Knew And Approved

French President François Mitterrand knew and approved of the plan to sink Greenpeace's flagship, the *Rainbow Warrior*, according to a recent account by two French journalists. Jacques Derogy and Jean-Marie Pontaut claim that Mitterrand was "well informed" beforehand of the

plan to sink the protest vessel, which was docked at Auckland, New Zealand, and gave his "assent." The *Rainbow Warrior* was sunk on July 10, 1985, when bombs attached to its hull by French agents exploded. One person was killed in the blast.

The book by the two journalists, to be published this fall, is being excerpted in the weekly magazine *L'Express*. Although

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JORDAN WOLFSON

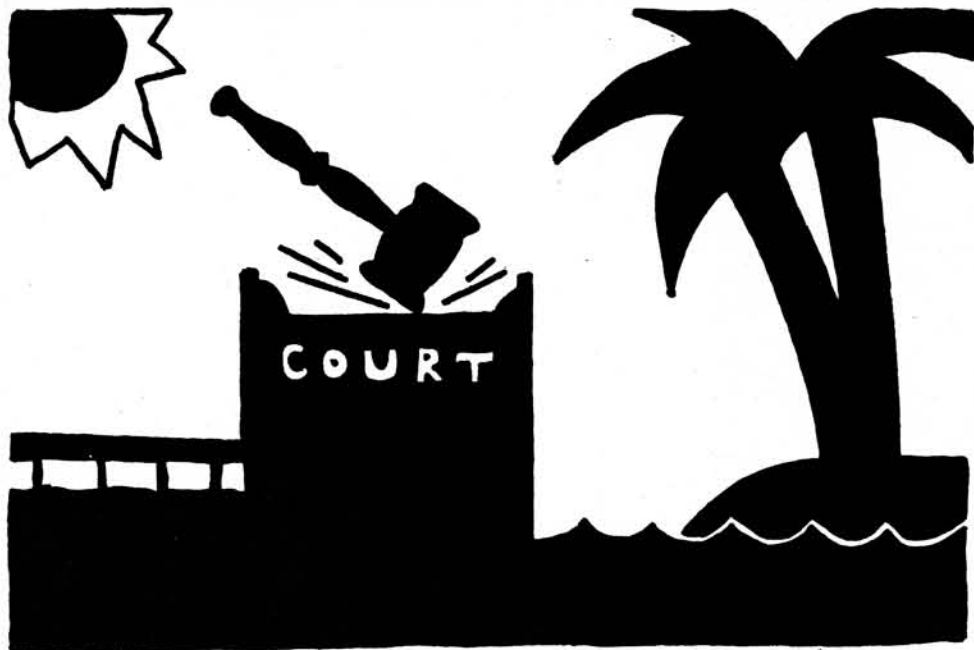
Soviet Union Going On Leave

Three members of the only known unofficial peace group in Moscow have been given exit visas from the Soviet Union. One of the members of the pro-disarmament Group to Establish Trust Between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S., Vladimir Brodsky, had been sentenced in August, 1985, to three years in a labor camp. Brodsky, who was charged with malicious hooliganism, will soon leave the Soviet Union with his wife. Olga and Yuri Medvedkov are the other two members of the Trust who will leave the Soviet Union, along with their two small children.

Fallen Missiles

At least three Soviet Missile tests have failed this year, according to reports by United States intelligence. One failure occurred in April, when a missile exploded soon after leaving its silo. A similar incident happened in August, and a third failure occurred on September 11, when a missile fired from a submarine went 1500 miles off course and crash landed near the Sino-Soviet border.

The United States has also experienced problems with missile tests, especially with the cruise and Pershing 2. At least two Pershings have crashed on Canadian soil this year.



JORDAN WOLFSON

Palau Court Bans The Bomb

A special tribunal on the tiny Pacific island state of Palau recently rebuffed a treaty with the United States allowing the stationing of American nuclear weapons. The special court ruled that a plebiscite held last February did not garner enough votes to overturn a provision in Palau's Constitution declaring the country a nuclear-free zone. The treaty needed to win 75 percent of the vote, but received 72 percent.

The government of President Lazarus Salii has indicated that it is "disappointed" with the ruling, which also struck down several provisions in the treaty favorable to the United States military's plan to open a base in Palau. A spokesperson for Lazarus said that the government is now exploring several "alternatives."

The treaty, known as the Compact of Free Association, was to have released Palau from U.S. trusteeship, while also providing the 12,250 residents with \$1 billion of aid over the next 50 years. In return, the Pentagon would get a major military base, along with military sites at several locations in the archipelago.

Greece Greeks Want No Nukes

Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, in a recent speech to Socialist Party members, has announced that his country may remove all nuclear weapons from Greek soil. Greece has been negotiating with several of its neighbors towards an agreement to make the Balkan Peninsula a nuclear-free zone. Papandreu said that if there is no progress in the negotiations, Greece "will unilaterally send back all the nuclear weapons." He also said that he had informed the United States of Greece's decision.

Many Greeks have long contended that Greece has nothing to fear from its communist neighbors to the north, which include Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. Rather, they say that the real threat to Greece is from Turkey, a fellow NATO member to the east. Papandreu has accused Turkey of attempting to block the way towards making the area a nuclear-free zone.

Japan Leadership Embraces Star Wars

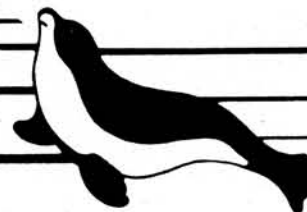
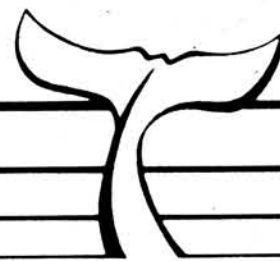
After months of internal debate and pressure from the United States, the Japanese government recently consented to approving of participation in Star Wars. Although Japanese private industry could have participated in Star Wars without government approval, it would probably not have done so. The government is heavily involved in subsidizing and promoting a large part of the Japanese private sector, leaving corporations uneasy about participating in a project not officially approved.

Despite the fact that a major Japanese contribution to Star Wars is not expected—and the same is true for West Germany, Britain and Israel, the other three participants—the political gain for the Reagan

administration is definite. The administration has admitted that Star Wars could be entirely researched by American companies, and that if a system is ever deployed, it will only be used to defend missile silos. But by getting political and military allies to sign on—using lucrative Pentagon contracts as a lure for foreign companies—the administration believes it can raise Star Wars' image both abroad and at home.

Although Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone is a stronger supporter of participation in Star Wars, many Japanese are not, and are likely to be very unhappy about the government's decision. A statement released by the Socialist Party, the leading opposition force, accused the government of participation in "a strategy that expects to make the globe and space a battlefield." Furthermore, the decision seems to forsake a 1969 parliamentary resolution limiting Japanese space projects to "peaceful objectives."

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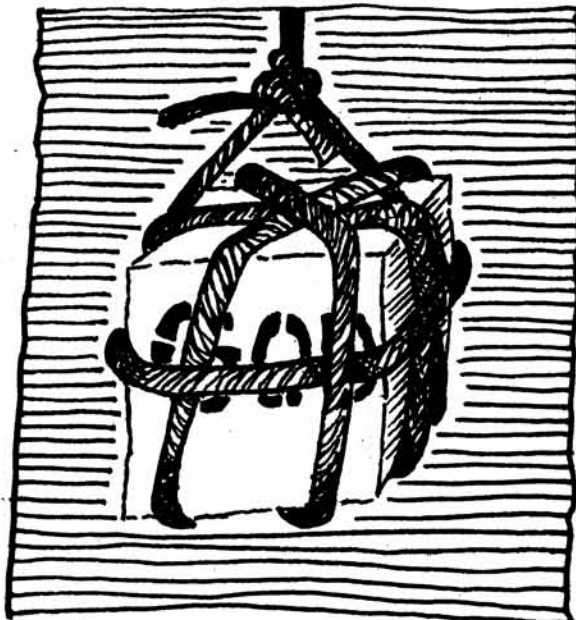
I address the Christians who believe nuclear holocaust
is inevitable
according to *The Bible*—
Have you forgotten the Holy Spirit?
How limited you must think of God, the absolutely creative
Fountain,
that God cannot send to us the Holy Spirit, the saving power
of the Earth—
As if God were circumscribed by completed mental pictures,
as if God were the closed book of simple childhood interpretation,
as if God were boxed in by Christian preconception.
God is not constrained by us, God will speak

when God will

God sends the Holy Spirit, God speaks in new tongues—
Open your ears! Open your hearts! and you may hear a new tongue.
Do not forget the Holy Spirit, do not forget—
God is the absolutely creative Fountain.

What you believe is fixed
God reverses

Ronald A. Lampi



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Choose neither, choose both,
but beware the trap of Black
& White.

Ronald A. Lampi

Poetry submissions are now being accepted for Planet Poetry. Poems must be typed, double spaced, and sent to the poetry editor at *The Monthly Planet* address. Enclose a SASE if you wish to have your poem returned.

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Blow Your Whistle

A bill strengthening a 1978 law protecting Federal employees who blow the whistle on corruption was passed unanimously by the House of Representatives recently. The bill, whose main sponsor was Representative Patricia Schroeder of Colorado, strengthens a whistleblower's ability to fight off retaliation from superiors, or to sue when retaliation has already occurred.

The bill's most important features involve the rules for arbitration of cases brought before the Merit Systems Protection Board, which decides disputes in the civil service system. In the past, it was up to whistleblowers to prove they were punished for their actions. The new bill shifts the burden of proof from a whistleblower to the accused agency. The bill also redefines the role of the Office of the Special Council, which was created in 1978 to deal specifically with employees who come forward to expose corruption. The Office has been criticized over the past few years for not adequately serving its purpose.

The bill came as a result of a report to Congress stating that "the number of Federal employees who feel that they cannot safely come forward with allegations of waste or mismanagement is increasing." The report, which was prepared by the Post Office and the Civil Service Committee, accuses the Office of the Special Counsel of not helping a single whistleblower since 1981.

The bill is certain to be important for Pentagon whistleblowers, who are almost guaranteed to suffer retaliation for exposing fraud or waste regarding military contractors.



JORDAN WOLFSON

Bottomless Hole

"I frankly doubt we will ever get to the bottom of this," said the chair of the House Armed Services Committee, Representative Les Aspin of Wisconsin, in a report he released recently. He is talking about up to \$32 billion of extra cash that the Pentagon should have, but doesn't. The extra money was given to the Defense Department over the last five years to make up for an inflation rate that never came about.

Pentagon comptroller Robert Helm explains it this way: "As inflation has declined, we have identified savings and either re-applied these funds or contributed to deficit reduction."

Aspin counts it this way: \$1.1 billion is either in the Pentagon's savings account or at the Treasury; \$9.3 billion was taken back by Congress; and \$7.9 billion was just shifted to other, unspecified military accounts. If there was any more, where could it have gone?

"Major defense contractors have been enjoying a profit bonanza," said Aspin in his report.



JORDAN WOLFSON

Pentagon Leaks

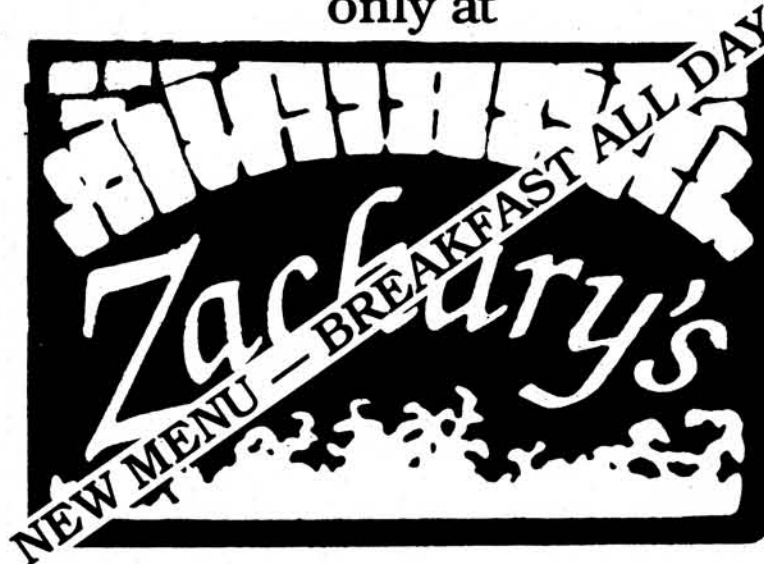
The bombers the Air Force had been waiting for for so long (the ones President Carter had canceled because he believed they were not necessary; the ones President Reagan ordered built at a cost more than ten times the original price; the ones that are scheduled to be replaced by the Stealth bomber in the not-too-distant future) have been found to be leaking fuel when flown under the conditions they were designed to fly under.

The B-1B bomber's prime contractor, Rockwell International, has so far not leaked anything about the leaks, but is kind enough to pay for the repairs. However, Air Force Brig. General James Evatt did have a lot of comments, including one that explained how the plane was to be fixed. "They'll put goop on it," said the General.

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Fragmentation Grows in Japan's Peace Movement

by Peter Lumsdaine

On a hot summer day (August 9) in Nagasaki, Japan, the vendors are selling ice cream from a cart at the edge of a small quiet park: a tidy little rectangle of shade trees and pathways in a densely built neighborhood, on the ground zero point of the searing atomic inferno ignited here 41 years before.

This is my first visit to Nagasaki and Hiroshima, to Japan, and to Asia. Only a few days before I was invited to represent the national Mobilization for Survival at a series of international conference sessions in early August, hosted by Japanese nuclear disarmament organizations. Now, in a rare moment of quiet by myself, away from the speeches and bustle of the conference, I stand at the edge of this ground zero park, with its flowerbeds and statues, its pillar from the ruined Nagasaki Cathedral and its abstract stone monument draped with garlands of colored paper cranes; and I wonder. Well it is a hot day and refreshment has its logic, but . . . perhaps there are also ice cream stands by the memorials at Auschwitz, yet somehow I find it hard to imagine. At any rate here in Japan the memories of holocaust seem to be skillfully normalized into the national patterns of business as usual.

From the moment that our Boeing jetliner swept into sight of land after a ten-hour journey across the vast watery expanse of the Pacific, the contradictions of this country were manifest. North of Tokyo, little patches of trees and wooded hills still punctuate the bright green rice fields which fill nearly every available space between closely packed housing and urban-industrial developments on the long coastal plain where most of Japan's 120 million people live. As our 747 roars low over the countryside on its landing approach, rice fields and trees give way to the concrete expanse of Tokyo's new Narita international airport. For years the families whose fields and hills were condemned to be bulldozed for Narita's runways steadfastly refused to abandon their ancestral land. The farmers' struggle became a national cause celebre leading to violent clashes where masses of protesters, some fighting from trenches with bamboo spears, battled armies of riot police, five thousand to fifteen thousand strong on each side. Blood flowed in the rice fields before the bulldozers arrived, and even now, after repeated sabotage, Narita can function only as a fortress airport surrounded by walls with guard towers and floodlights. As our bus leaves Narita for the 70-minute highway trip to downtown Tokyo, I glance out the window at the steel grey armored truck with its swiveling turret-mounted water cannon and helmeted samurai/riot policeman standing guard at the gate of the airport. Welcome to Japan.



REBUILDING AND RE-ARMING/ RITUALS AND REALITY

Hiroshima and Nagasaki have become legendary symbols, especially in the peace movement. But here, on the ground so to speak, my strongest impression is the overwhelming urban *normality* of these rather pleasant, bustling medium-size modern cities. Each has a peace park with stone monuments and an atom bomb museum, and in Hiroshima one ruined building has been left, fenced off and surrounded by tree dotted lawns and a circular path. But unless you seek out or stumble on the two parks, or notice an occasional brass plaque on the streets, you would never suspect that these cities were vast charnel houses of misery and ruin when today's senior citizens were starting their careers. Yes, even here at ground zero, the prospect of nuclear war seems abstract and distant.

The recovery has been cited by U.S. strategic planners to show, intellectually and emotionally, that nuclear war is survivable and that (in their phrase) "if deterrence fails" we can prevail and rebuild from the ruins. Japan too has its own patterns of denial and psychological avoidance mechanisms. Prime Minister Nakasone's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the dominant force in Japanese politics since World War II, is unconstitutionally expanding Japan's military forces with Pentagon encouragement, while officially minimizing its "defense budget" by elaborate juggling of figures. Re-armament is becoming respectable and there is a powerful tendency to brush over Japan's military slaughter of several million Chinese civilians during the 1930s and '40s (in pursuit of an

economic empire which Japanese corporations have now virtually secured by other means). The LDP not only supports the continued presence of several dozen U.S. strategic military installations in Japan, but unquestioningly welcomes U.S. warships into its ports while politely ignoring the fact that many of them certainly (though unofficially) carry nuclear weapons. In short, Japan under the LDP is more than a major power in the global techno-corporate economic system: it has become an integral part of the Pentagon's worldwide nuclear-armed warfighting machinery. Despite their "anti-militarist" constitution and 15-year-old resolution by their national assembly to not allow nuclear weapons into the country, an *increasingly* large majority of Japanese voters keep voting for the LDP.

The yearly memorial ceremonies at Hiroshima and Nagasaki have become formalized rituals, complete with speeches by national government officials, attended by less than 5 percent of the cities' adult residents. Even the international conference against nuclear weapons, held annually for the past 30 years, often seemed like a rather empty exercise in rhetoric, passing endlessly repeated resolutions while nuclear cruise missile-armed ships steam in and out of Japanese ports, guided by electronic communications bases on Japanese soil.

Nevertheless there *are* moments when a slap of reality breaks through the pre-packaged rhetoric and busily banal high-tech modernism of Japan in the '80s: a single strand of paper cranes left on one of Hiroshima's dark, old stone bridge pillars, far from the ceremonies and decorated monuments, perhaps left

by some individual whose relative or friend had suffered and died by the scorched river bank 41 summers ago; an unexpectedly chilling surge of fire from the usually quiet eternal flame by the memorial's heavy grey arch and reflecting pool; the pain-filled words of an aging Hibakusha (bomb victim) in Nagasaki, still suffering the physical penalties and emotional wounds of massive third degree burns that had made him beg for death when he was young.

A HOUSE DIVIDED, A FUTURE IN DOUBT

The Japanese peace movement is badly split. This year, instead of the united World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs which has been held annually since 1955, there were three separate conferences in early August, sponsored by three rival peace organizations, Gensuikyo, Gensuikin, and the Peace Office.

Gensuikyo, firmly led by the Japanese Communist Party, takes an absolute stand for immediate abolition of all nuclear weapons and against the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty. It has many hard-working volunteers and a few million loyal voters. However, it rigidly avoids coalitions with less absolutist groups, shys away from direct action or civil disobedience, and its party is a small (even diminishing) minority in the Japanese parliament, with almost no chance of unseating the LDP. Although the Party has contradicted Moscow position on issues such as Czechoslovakia, Afghanistan, and nuclear arms in the past, Gensuikyo's international conference was heavily weighted with Eastern Bloc delegates from various official organizations. On the one hand there is widespread and well-founded global support for the Soviet Union's nuclear testing moratorium, its expressed willingness to sign a Comprehensive Test Ban treaty with on-site verification, and some of Gorbachev's recent nuclear disarmament initiatives, all of which were repeatedly praised by delegates from the East Bloc countries and their allies, as well as other delegates. On the other hand, many of the East Bloc delegates tried to place the *entire* blame for the nuclear arms race *and* wars in the Third World on the Western governments, while almost no one at the conference criticized any Soviet policies. U.S. military violence against the peoples of Vietnam, Lebanon, and Central America was often denounced and linked to the danger of world war, and support was frequently expressed for anti-military struggles in the West; but only two or three delegates *also* denounced Soviet military violence against the peoples of Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Eritrea, or supported the illegal peace protests within the Warsaw Pact countries.

Gensuikin, affiliated with the Japanese Socialist Party, broke away from the "World Conference" last year because it felt Gensuikyo was not open to internal democracy, to broad coalition building, or to opposing nuclear power plants along with nuclear weapons. In addition, however, the Socialist Party has been significantly watering down its call for immediate nuclear disarmament and its opposition to the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty, presumably to broaden its appeal and form a political coalition with one or more other (non-Communist) parties that might together unseat the LDP. This approach has borne little fruit, however, since the Socialists have been losing votes and the LDP gaining them.

Gensuikin's international antinuclear meetings in Japan this August included a diversity of delegates ranging from moderates to dedicated leftists, but people from official East Bloc peace organizations were, perhaps ironically, not included. The meetings placed special emphasis on the struggles of indigenous native peoples, represented by delegates from the American Indian Movement, Australian Aboriginal land rights organizations, and Pacific Islander groups. Although somewhat livelier and more genuinely participatory than Gensuikyo's, this conference also was essentially a forum for speeches and information "networking" that seemed to lack any coherent strategy or plan for concrete progress toward a nuclear-free Earth or nuclear-free Japan.

The best news at these international conferences generally came from the countries of the tropical and southern Pacific islands, where there are strong movements to create effective, enforceable nuclear-free zone policies. The government of New Zealand, with about 70 percent of New Zealand's (or Aotearoa's, in the language of the native Maori people) population supporting it, is holding fast to its official ban on nuclear-armed ships entering the country's ports, despite heavy pressure from the U.S. government. People in Palau are working hard to maintain their nation's nuclear-free constitution, again in the face of intense U.S. harassment and destabilization moves. Nuclear-free Pacific work continues throughout the region, and now the Philippines, whose non-violent uprising brought down a hated dictatorship, are pushing toward a nuclear-free clause in their new constitution which would directly challenge the U.S. military presence in their country.

Two conversations during my last one and a half days in Japan made an especially strong impression on me. Earlier I had tried to contact Fumi Yamashita, a key organizer of the Peace Office, which is the third major part of Japan's disarmament movement, but unfortunately I had not been able to arrange a meeting with her. I did, however, visit Venerable Gyotsu Sato, a Buddhist monk and co-founder of the Peace Office. Yamashita and Sato had worked in Gensuikyo, which Sato helped to start in 1955, but had left under heavy pressure two years ago because of their differences with the Party line. The Peace Office, unaffiliated with any political party, acts as a loose network of independent grassroots groups and individuals. Venerable Sato sees increasing public disillusionment with

all the existing parties, but finds hope for the future in the resistance of local communities like Zushi and Miyake-Jima to expansion of U.S. military facilities, in the committed nonviolence of the Buddhist Nipponzan Myohoji order's activist nuns and monks, and in the em-

his country's gruesome near-defeat in World War II and who now works for an international organization in Geneva, underlined the sobering urgency of this question. Although I had publicly denounced his government's policies in Afghanistan and Eritrea (along with U.S.

faction was trying to begin this process), he eloquently expressed the deepening depression of Soviet arms control experts about the escalating buildup of first-strike nuclear weapons and the consistent U.S. government rejection of proposals to halt it on both sides: of a warhead test ban, a moratorium on space weapons testing, or a bilateral freeze. He concluded by stressing that if the nuclear arms race or key parts of it were not stopped in a very few years, he was convinced that the Soviet government (with which he evidently has important contacts) would conclude that the U.S. leaders have no real interest in a peaceful solution to what he called our "pre-war situation," and that nuclear world war will then be inevitable. I left Japan, our plane roaring into the night above the runways of Narita, with his quiet intense words ringing in my ears.

Peter Lumsdaine is coordinator of the First Strike Prevention Project and a member of the Mobilization for Survival's national coordinating committee.

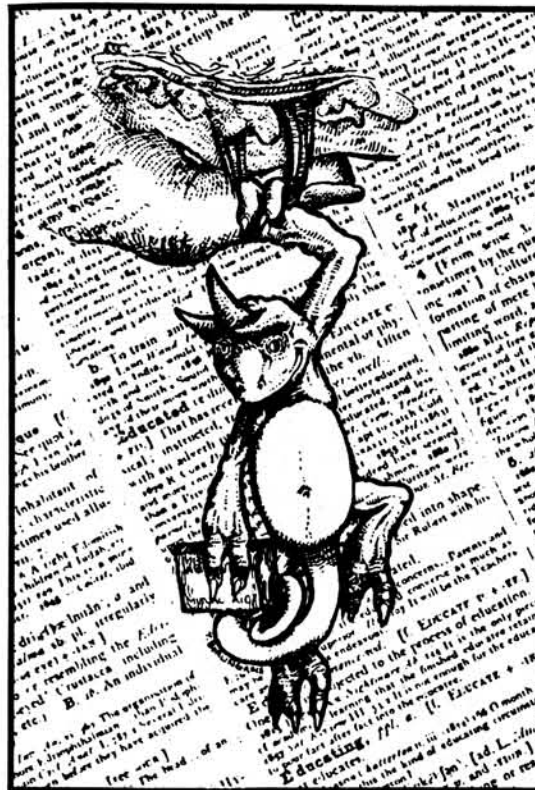
... here in Japan the memories of holocaust seem to be skillfully normalized into the national patterns of business as usual.

bryonic resurgence of nonviolent harbor blockades against nuclear warships. Whether the independent thinking and conscientious action which Venerable Sato believes in will grow fast enough to overcome the momentum towards war is an unanswered question.

The other conversation, this one with a Soviet citizen who had lived through

policies in South East Asia and Central America) during the conference, and had argued with him about dissident peace groups in the U.S.S.R., I wound up respecting his personal integrity and I don't believe his words to me can be dismissed as "propaganda." While privately admitting that the Soviet Union needed change (and that Gorbachev's

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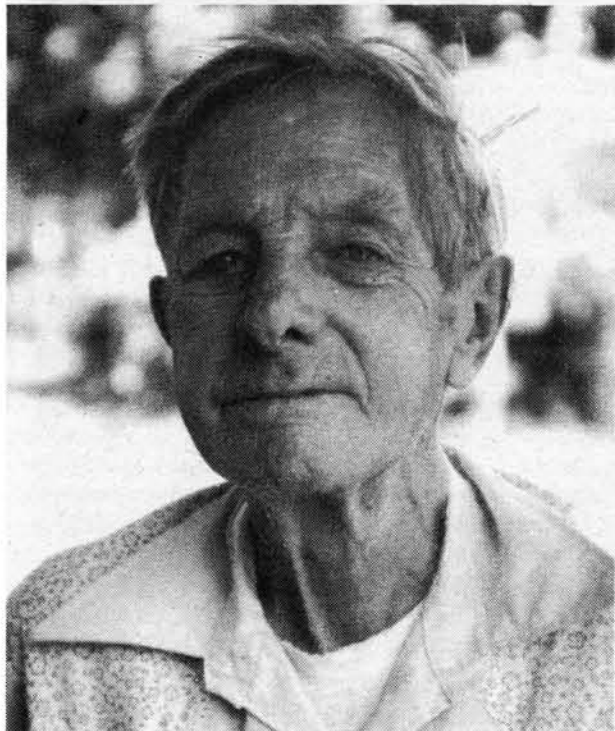
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"Does Your Vote Make A Difference?"



Alfred Payne
Student
Soquel

I don't believe my vote makes a difference in the national elections, I believe it makes a difference in Santa Cruz County. I feel the political system has gotten so muddled up on the Federal level that the individual doesn't have a chance.



Virginia Sajan
Graduate Student
Capitola

I would like to think it makes a difference. When I was teaching sixth grade I encouraged my students to stay politically aware, since their opinions would make a difference, and that, likewise, my vote would make a difference as well.



Ronald Braxton
Salesperson
Watsonville

Yes, I think everyone's vote makes a difference. If people didn't vote, the mayors and governors wouldn't know what the people want and how many are interested, so the votes do count.

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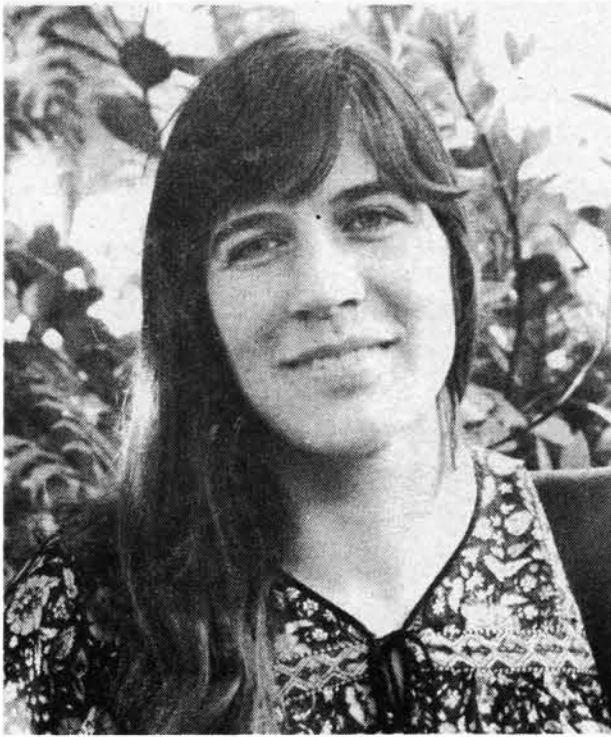
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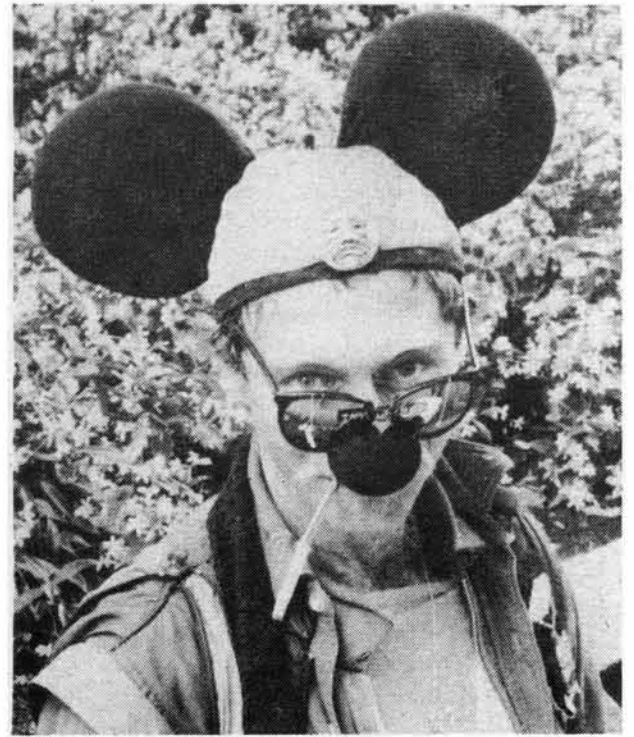
Steven Ward
Illustrator
Santa Cruz

I think your vote can make a difference. I don't know if it matters in the long scheme of things, but I think it can make a difference in your own personal sense of at least trying to do something.



Lorelei Bosserman
Editor/Student
Santa Cruz

I'm not sure if my individual vote makes a difference. I know that traditionally Republicans turn out for the vote. My only explanation for why Democrats don't is because we are idealists. If we can't vote for Mr. Right, we don't want to vote at all, while Republicans are just out there protecting their interests.



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Food Irradiation Facilities Planned As Demonstration Projects

by Brian Sprinsock

Food irradiation, the controversial process of treating foods with radiation to retard spoiling and kill insect pests, is being actively promoted by both government and industry. The Food and Drug Administration has recently allowed fresh fruits and vegetables to be irradiated. Now the Department of Energy is promoting a plan to build two regional food irradiation facilities as demonstration projects.

In the spring of 1985 both houses of the U.S. Congress appropriated \$5 million to the Department of Energy's "Civilian Byproducts Utilization Program" (BUP). The funds came from the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Energy and Water.

In a letter to the U.S. Secretary of Energy, John Meyers and Tom Beville write: "Our respective committees believe that the D.O.E. support of agricultural commodity processing [food irradiation] using nuclear waste byproducts can best be accomplished by supporting a number of regionally based research, development, and demonstration projects." The letter goes on to state that the regions which would benefit most from the DOE programs are Oklahoma, Washington State, Hawaii, Iowa, California, and Florida.

The link which connects the DOE to

"agricultural commodities" is cesium-137. Cesium makes up 55 percent of the radioactivity, and 50 percent of the heat in the DOE's civilian and military nuclear wastes. In 1974 the department began separation of cesium-137 from military wastes at the Richland, WA Hanford Nuclear Site.

Once separated, cesium-137 is encap-

137 sources, for the most part food processors and the irradiation industry are taking a wait-and-see attitude. Most commercial irradiators world-wide use cobalt-60 as their radioactive source. Cobalt-60 is not only a proven and familiar source, it is also much safer than cesium-137, which is highly water soluble. Industry's reluctance to embrace cesium is what the

provide the region with a research facility which will coordinate feasibility and marketing studies with local agricultural universities and extension programs.

On July 31, the DOE's Richland operations office sponsored a pre-proposal conference on both the Hawaii and Washington irradiator projects. The conference drew more than 40 prospective partners representing firms such as Rockwell International, Emergent Technologies Inc., Westinghouse, Pacific Nuclear, AMFAC, WasteChem, Nuclear Waste Technologies and Combustion Engineering.

The DOE will receive proposals from industry until early October, at which time a DOE Technical Review Group will scrutinize the proposals and recommend a regional sponsor for each of the two projects. While these regional projects are sure to draw controversy, the DOE's Technical Review Group is quite controversial all by itself. The group is made up of six men, each chosen for his area of expertise. Members include a food scientist, the Public Information Officer from the Atomic Industrial Forum, a venture capitalist, a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, a food technologist, and Dr. Martin Welt, ex-president of Radiation Technology Inc. of Rockaway,

continued on page 32

"... support of agricultural commodity processing using nuclear waste byproducts can best be accomplished by supporting ... research, development, and demonstration projects."

sulated in stainless steel for future use as an irradiation source for industry. The separation process simplifies the DOE's interim waste management program, and will reduce the cost of ultimate disposal of the remaining fractions of nuclear waste. Encapsulation provides the BUP with an inventory of cesium isotope which can be leased to private industry.

Although there are now three private irradiation facilities operating with cesium-

DOE's six regional demonstration facilities are all about.

In early July, a Federal Register entry announced the DOE's plans to move forward on the first two demonstration projects in Hawaii and Washington state. Through competitive bid, the DOE will choose a private industry partner for each joint-venture irradiation facility. The purpose of these plants will be to demonstrate the "beneficial use" of cesium-137, and

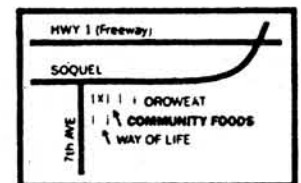


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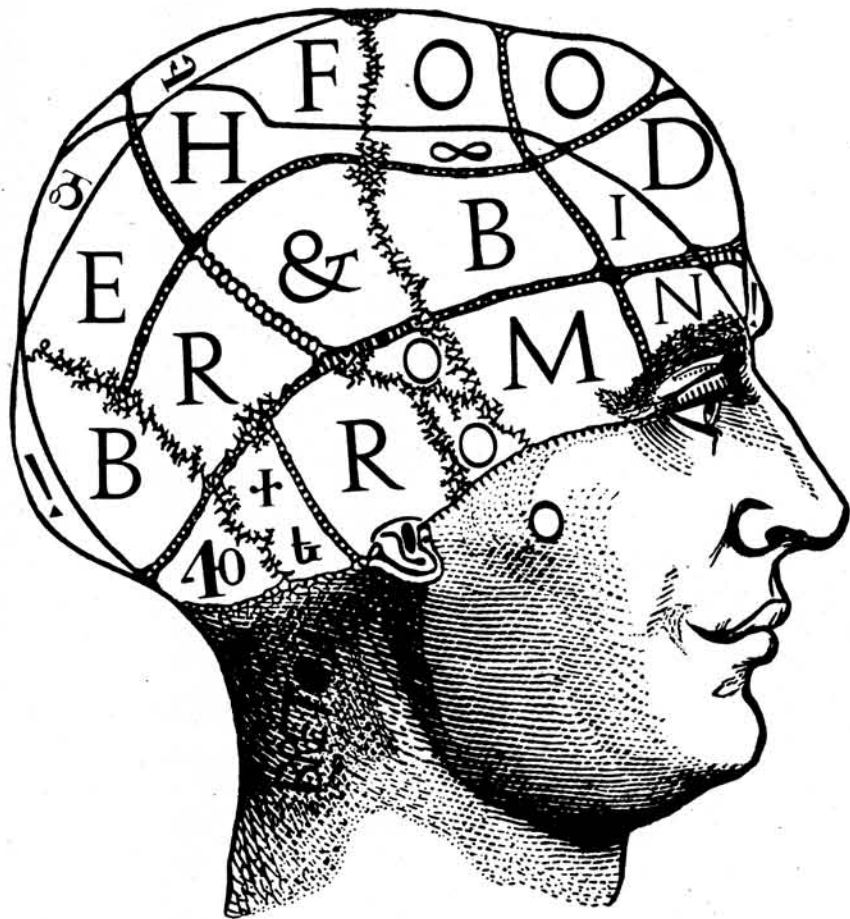
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Nuclear Free Zone Zapped

A food irradiation company in New Jersey has succeeded in having an ordinance declaring Union County a nuclear free zone (NFZ) struck down. The first lawsuit against an existing NFZ was brought by Radiation Technology Inc., whose license to operate an irradiation facility in nearby Morris County was temporarily revoked recently by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) because of "gross safety violations." The company now plans to go ahead with the construction of a 66,000-square foot plant in Elizabeth, a city with a population of 106,000.

Judge John W. Bissell of the Federal District Court held that the NFZ ordinance, passed in 1985, was an unconstitutional and unenforceable infringement of Federal powers to regulate the nuclear industry. Bissell has set an important precedent for the 118 NFZ communities in the United States, 47 of which have adopted NFZ status through legally binding bylaws, ordinances or charter amendments.

Vincent Cino, the attorney representing Union County, views the broader implications of the decision as "devastating." But Albert Donnay, director of Nuclear Freeze America (NFA), insists that since NFA



has encouraged NFZ ordinances to address a variety of priorities, Union County's defeat remains isolated. Donnay maintains that the NFZ legislation can't be preempted if an economic justification, rather than merely health and safety arguments, is cited in the NFZ ordinance. In such cases, he maintains, the state rather than the federal government enjoys overriding authority.

This article was reprinted from Nuclear Times.

Food Irradiation

continued from page 30

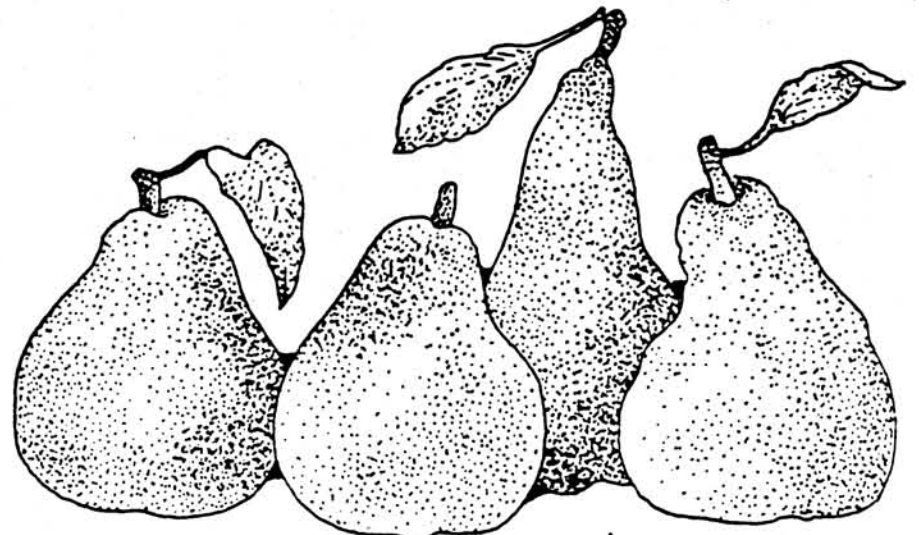
N.J.

Dr. Welt's appointment to the DOE Technical Review Group is very disturbing in light of recent events surrounding Radiation Technology Inc. In June of this year the Nuclear Regulatory Commission indefinitely suspended RTI's operating license at their Rockaway facility. The suspension was ordered due to RTI's continual failure to adhere to NRC requirements for worker safety. In their suspension order the NRC states that they "lacked reasonable assurance that the facility would be operated in a manner that assured that the health and safety of the public would be protected." In other action against RTI, the state of New Jersey has imposed a \$600,000 directive which RTI must pay to research and clean up

groundwater which was contaminated by an RTI chemical site. As of late August, RTI has refused to pay the directive, leading the state to prepare a suit against RTI seeking \$1.8 million.

The DOE contractor in charge of overseeing the Technical Review Group is Battelle Pacific Northwest Labs. The Richland, Washington research lab told Food Irradiation Response that Dr. Welt is paid for his work with the Technical Review Group, but refused to discuss exact dollar amounts. (FIR has filed a Freedom of Information Act Request with the DOE to determine the salaries of all Technical Review Group members).

For more detailed information on the DOE's irradiator projects, or copies of DOE documents discussed above, please contact Food Irradiation Response at 426-2734. FIR is the Santa Cruz chapter of the National Coalition to Stop Food Irradiation. Brion Sprinsock is the Board Chairperson of FIR.





Food Irradiation Groups

The following is a directory of member chapters and affiliates of the National Coalition To Stop Food Irradiation. For information on organization outside California, contact the NCSFI main office in San Francisco.

NCSFI Main Office
Box 59-0488
San Francisco, CA 94159
(415) 566-2734

Food Irradiation Response
Box 5183
Santa Cruz, CA 95063
(408) 426-2734

CSFI Berkeley
Box 2925
Oakland, CA 94618
(415) 848-4424

CSFI Marin
Box 2472
San Rafael, CA 94912
(415) 435-1534

CSFI Burlingame
1325 Paloma Ave.
Burlingame, CA 94010
(415) 344-9778

CSFI Palo Alto
Box 2384
Stanford, CA 94305
(415) 321-1620

CSFI Napa
2411 Soda Canyon Rd.
Napa, CA 94558
(707) 252-8757

Citizens Against a
Radioactive Dublin (CARD)
6979 Portage
Dublin, CA 94568
(415) 828-5263

CSFI Sonoma
Box 524
Petaluma, CA 94953
(707) 578-6018

CSFI Ojai
Box 1705
Ojai, CA 93023
(805) 649-9115

CSFI Pasadena
Box 3294
South Pasadena, CA 91030
(213) 682-2734

National Nutritional Foods
Association
125 E. Baker Ave., Suite 230
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

CSFI San Diego
1844 Laula Lane
El Cajon, CA 92021
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Peace & Justice Calendar

All events listed are in Santa Cruz, unless otherwise noted.

Calendar items must be typed, double spaced, and sent (along with any photos) to *The Monthly Planet*, 320-G Cedar St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

We must receive your listing no later than Tuesday, October 21, for inclusion in the November issue (publication date: Thursday, October 30).

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom General Membership Meeting. Report and slides on South Africa by Catherine Allport, photographer and activist. 11:30 am, Trinity United Presbyterian Church Social Hall, Poplar and Melrose Streets. Santa Cruz. Info: 425-7618.

Silent Vigil. Town Clock, Santa Cruz, 4:30 to 5:50 pm. Sponsored by Friends Meeting. Info: 728-0636.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Steering Committee meeting. Loudon Nelson Center, 10 am. All welcome. Info: 728-0636.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

The San Francisco Mime Troupe will present one performance of their newest production, **The Mozambique Caper** in a benefit for the Santa Cruz Action Network (SCAN). Original music and songs, African-inspired dancing costumes. 8 pm, Santa Cruz High School, 415 Walnut Ave., \$6.50/advance, \$7.50/door. Info: 458-9425.

Mingle with the Mime Troupe. Reception following S.F. Mime Troupe performance at Mardi & Ken Wormhoudt's home. Benefit for Coalition for Nicaragua and help pay for Mime Troupe tour of Nicaragua. Donation: \$5. Info: 458-0303.



The San Francisco Mime Troupe will be in Santa Cruz to perform their newest production in a benefit for the Santa Cruz Action Network. See the October 3 listing for details.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7 -

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Nuclear Film Series: A is for Atom, B is for Bomb. This episode of NOVA shows the development of nuclear weapons and focuses on the role of Edward Teller in perfecting such weapons. 7:30 pm, Cowell Fireside Lounge, UCSC, Free.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Silent vigil. See October 1.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Rose Bird and the Independent Judiciary — lecture by Judge Spurgeon Avakian. Harvey West Park, 12:30 pm. Sponsored by Women's Democratic Club. Info: 688-4235.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Save Our Shores Reception, Darling House, West Cliff Drive, Santa Cruz. For time and details: 425-1769.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14 -

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Nuclear Film Series: Nuclear Strategy for Beginners. This episode of NOVA analyzes U.S. and Soviet nuclear strategies and looks at the global role of the anti-nuclear movement and arms control talks. 7:30pm, Cowell Fireside Lounge, UCSC, Free.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Silent vigil. See October 1.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16 -

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24

National Peace With Justice Week.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17

Guatemala: The Hidden Holocaust, a documentary film on the role of the church in the deepening Latin American crisis. Also **Camino Triste,** a half-hour of interviews in Mexican refugee camps. Featured guest: Jose Gutierrez, Guatemalan Relief Project. 7 pm, Loudon Nelson Center. Donation: \$3. Sponsored by Luz de Esperanza Fund. Info: 423-5349.

Concert: Isabel Aldenate, Chilean folk singer. 8 pm, Merrill College Dining Hall, UCSC. Benefit Coalition for Nicaragua. Advance tickets \$5 Cymbaline & Blue Rhythm. \$6 students, \$7 general at door. Info: 458-0303

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

The Economics of National Security Conference. Examining the relationship between America's economic vitality and national security. Stanford University, Dinkelspiel Auditorium, 9 am to 1 pm. Enroll early to ensure space. Info: (415) 723-9060.

From Despair to Empowerment: How Citizens Can Affect National Policy. A seminar at the College of San Mateo, Main Theatre, 1700 West Hillside Blvd., San Mateo. 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Fee \$15. Info: (415) 574-6563.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18 -

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

Earth First! Rendezvous of California participants at Big Basin State Park. Contact: Dennis Davie, 427-2626.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19

New Age Gala No. 2 ... More Than A Psychic Fair. Promoting World Peace Through Inner Peace. Lectures, music, Ramtha Video, astrology, massage, psychics, acupressure, and more. 7 pm to midnight, Coconut Grove, Santa Cruz Boardwalk. \$5 admission at the door. Free parking across the street. Wheel chair accessible. Info: 462-2388.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20

Conversations In Nonviolence, "No on 64." 7:30 pm. 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz. Info: 423-1626.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21 -

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Nuclear Film Series: WAR: Anybody's Son Will Do. Gwynne Dyer discusses the processes that turn ordinary young men into fighters and visits a Marine Corps base to observe the "rituals" firsthand. 7:30 pm, Cowell Fireside Lounge, UCSC, Free.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21

"Is it worth the Risk?" Slide show on action against offshore oil drilling with guest speaker, Dan Haifley. Sponsored by Save Our Shores. Info: 425-1769.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Silent vigil. See October 1.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23
Reports: State of the Nation; State of the State. Congressman Leon Panetta and Assemblymember Sam Farr. 8:30 pm, Sesnon House, Cabrillo College. Sponsored by People's Democratic Club. Info: 688-4235.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24 - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26
Peace March For Central America from Santa Cruz to Monterey - Starts at Town Clock in Santa Cruz, 8 am Friday. Ends with rally at Customs House Plaza in Monterey, 1:30 pm Sunday. Speaking at rally: John Stockwell, former CIA officer who headed covert war in Angola, and Sister Darlene Nicgorski, Sanctuary trial defendant in Arizona. Goals of march: demonstrate resistance to U.S. intervention in Central America, encourage coalition building among Monterey Bay peace and labor groups, build Sanctuary for refugees, initiate contact with GI's at Fort Ord, and do educational outreach about the situation in Central America. 52 miles - join for all the march, any part, or any event along the way. Info: John Hunter 426-6916, Bob Tingleff 429-1247 or Cynthia Kingsbury 423-9080.



Isabel Aldenate will appear in concert at UCSC in a benefit for the Coalition for Nicaragua. See Oct. 17 for details.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25
WILPF Annual Rummage Sale-Treasure Sale-Peace Kitchen - Booths of Lively Connection Peace and Justice Groups. Expanded this year to celebrate the International Year of Peace with a film program which will include UNESCO and International Women's films - a report on WILPF's International Congress. From 10 am. Save your best rummage and "international" treasures and bring to Loudon Nelson Center Friday, October 24. They do not have a storage depot. If you can help, call Pat Arnold 425-7618 and to help in the Peace Kitchen, call Freda Mallen 476-6347.

Fourth Annual National Conference, Educators for Social Responsibility. "Ensuring the Future: Educating for Global Responsibility." University of California, Berkeley. Guests: Dr. Charlie Clements, Assemblymember John Vasconcellos and national peace educators. Three panels and 40 workshops. Also Bay Area - Moscow Student telecommunications, live via Slow-scan Video Technology. Info: (415) 268-9898.

March and Rally for Peace, Jobs and Justice will take place in San Francisco and thirteen other cities nationwide. Peace, anti-nuclear, non-intervention, labor, anti-apartheid and many community groups are uniting together. Assemble at 11 am at Dolores Park (Dolores and 18th Streets), San Francisco. March begins at noon and the rally at 1 pm at UN Plaza. Info: (415) 621-0858.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26
Lecture: "The Role of the Church and Dissent." Robert McAfee Brown. 2:30 to 5 pm. Cabrillo College. Info: 722-5691.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27
World Peace Day, Nevada Test Site. Prayer, contemplation and civil disobedience for the cause of peace and in protest of nuclear weapons testing. Info: Nevada Desert Experience, P.O. Box 4487, Las Vegas, NV 89127, (702) 646-4814.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28 - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29
Nuclear Film Series: WAR: The Profession of Arms. Gwynne Dyer talks with officers around the world about their career and how they feel about killing others and the thought that they might be killed. 7:30 pm, Cowell Fireside Lounge, UCSC, Free.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29
Silent vigil. See October 1.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31
KUSP public affairs program on War Toys. 10 am, 90.3 FM.

Earth First! Halloween Party. Come dressed as your favorite endangered species. Info: 427-2626.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7
Planned Parenthood of Santa Cruz County Open House to celebrate its 15th anniversary of service to the local community., 5 - 7 pm in the agency's recently-remodeled main office at 212 Laurel Street, Santa Cruz. Info: 425-1551.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8
Dance Your Nukes Off. First Annual 12-Hour Dance Marathon to benefit The Nuclear Weapons Freeze. Live music noon to midnight. Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. To be a dancer or a sponsor, call 458-9975 now!



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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6
Benefit concert: Sowing A New Life with the People of El Salvador, with Holly Near and Sweet Honey in the Rock. Berkeley Community Theatre. Info: (415) 549-2114 or (415) 861-0425.

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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:

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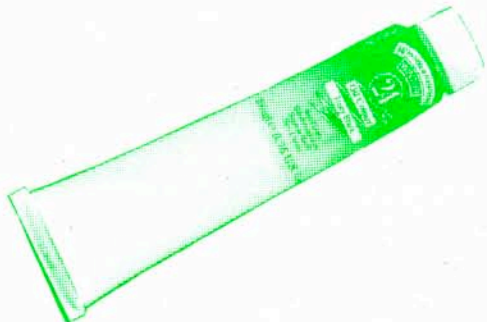
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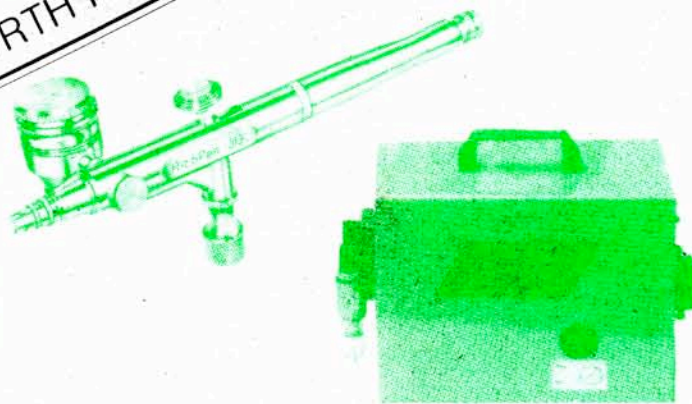
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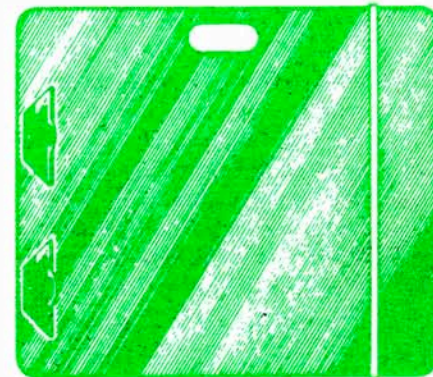
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