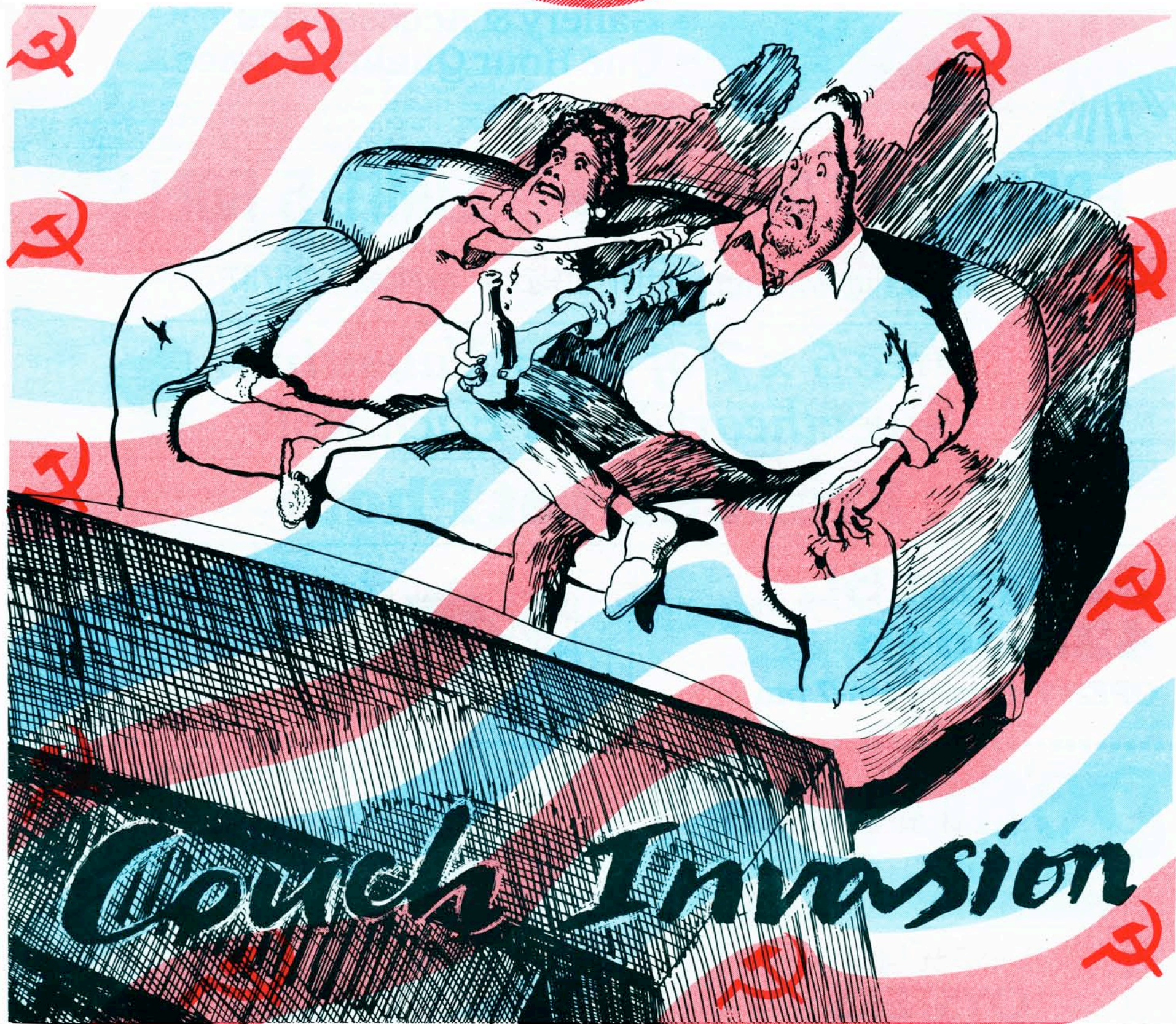


January/February 1987

Volume 3, Number 1

The

# MONTHLY PLANET



The MONTHLY PLANET  
c/o Nuclear Weapons Freeze  
320-G Cedar St.  
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060  
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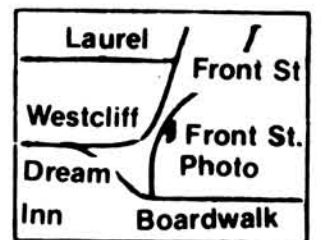
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"To improve national and international security, the United States and the Soviet Union should stop the nuclear arms race. Specifically, they should adopt a mutual freeze on the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and of missiles 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



GREG MARTIN

**Cancel the Countdown:** see the centerfold for a special photo-essay on the action against the first test launch of the Trident 2 missile at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

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**Typography:** Typola  
**Cover Art:** Bruce Harman  
**Production Coordinator:** Terry Teitelbaum  
**Production:** Ronald A. Lampi, John Govsky, Diane Rigoli, Igal Dahari, Celia Quinn, Ellen Hodges, Elizabeth Sadoff, Jim O'Neal, Marv Lewis, Pat Kitson, Catherine Banghart, Tracye Lea Lawson, Glen Schaller, Jack Nelson, Eric Kleinspehn, Judy Lowenberg, John Hellman, Julie Brogan, K.C.  
**Printing:** Gilroy Dispatch  
**Distribution:** Resource Distributors 684-0811

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

## The Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign

The Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign had its beginning in late 1979 when Randall Forsberg, director of the Institute for Defense and Disarmament Studies, drafted a paper—the Call to Halt the Nuclear Arms Race. 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.

# 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.

## Help The U.N.

Dear Freeze,

The United Nations, its image often maligned, its social programs rarely heralded by the press, nevertheless, has played a unique and compelling role within the family of nations since its inception in 1945. These nations, large and small, have used this singular world forum to dialogue, to meet as a body, "where even enemies can talk."

Today, a financial crisis confronts the United Nations. The impact of this crisis is serious enough that it may undermine its purpose, its morale, and its effectiveness as a forum for international dialogue. The United States, its severest critic and largest contributor, is cutting its annual assessment by \$110 million. Specialized agencies of the U.N. such as World Health or the children's programs through UNICEF are but a few that will be affected.

It is time to reaffirm the role of the United Nations; it is time to publicize its worth to the family of nations. One of its major contributions has been creating awareness of the awesome implication of nuclear arms build-up. This, in turn, has brought forth an unprecedented response from peoples around the globe. Peace movements, environment advocates, and non-nuclear nations have actively begun to exert pressure to stop nuclear testing, freeze nuclear weapon inventory, examine pollutants, and highlight the dangers of ending civilization on this planet.

Through the programs of the specialized agencies, the United Nations reaches out to enhance the quality of life. This includes aiding the poor in the Third World countries, publicizing the abuse of human rights, and disseminating information regarding the limitation of the earth's resources. This involvement with humankind has raised the consciousness of world opinion—a comparatively recent world phenomenon. One of the most dramatic results of this new awareness was the U.N.'s Women's Nairobi Conference where 1000 met in July, 1985. Here, a



DIANE RICOLI

network empowering women in the '80s took seed. Their influence continues to grow, motivating activities worldwide for economic and social justice.

The United Nations, with all of the problems inherent in its quantum leap from 55 to 159 nation-members in 40 years, has a relevant role in world affairs. Its laurels in peacekeeping, mediating, educating, and specialized consulting are seldom noted. Its strength lies in being the forum of conscience in a world overwhelmed by the insatiable greed for power by military-industrial forces. The United Nations, a beacon of light in a complex society, will continue to serve the family of nations as long as it is kept vital and financially healthy.

Ruth Hunter  
Santa Cruz

## What Are They Scared Of?

Dear Freeze,

On December 31, 1986, 500 million people all over the world (in the U.S., U.S.S.R., India, China, Japan, Australia, South America, Europe, and Canada to name a few), joined together in spirit at the same moment (12 noon Greenwich time) to pray and meditate for peace. It was advertised months

ahead of time.

There was a worldwide candle lighting ceremony held 12 hours later (12 midnight Greenwich time), which was planned to be televised via satellite linking all the countries.

When the day came, none of the governments would allow the satellite link. That includes our "free" country. Our government's official excuse was that it was inappropriate. (Ironically, Reagan complained because Russia didn't want to air his New Year's greeting the next morning.)

That evening after I finally went home, I found not one word mentioned of the event in the six o'clock news. Not locally. Not on the radio. And I have not yet seen anything in the newspapers about it except for "alternative" news sources. Maybe I just didn't listen in the right places. If anyone else has or hasn't heard anything on it, I'd like to hear from you.

Some who participated are angry. But I find something exciting. This sends some definite messages to us. One of these messages reinforces my belief. It is: 1) We cannot depend on our governments to bring peace. We must give up expecting "them" to work towards peace. It is we, the people, who must bring peace. We must start with our own peace within ourselves and work out our relationships with our families and then on to the community and to the world. One cannot give what one does not have.

2) Our governments do not want peace. I wasn't sure before, but this has shown me that they only pretend to work towards peace to appease us. They have no intentions for real peace. Who really knows why not? Not me. There are many good educated guesses around, but mine isn't one.

3) We have power. We had enough power on December 31 to make our government feel threatened enough to take action. What reason had they to feel threatened? It was not even a demonstration against anyone. It was the purest connecting of loving hearts. Could what saints and philosophers and dreamers tell us be true? That love is more powerful than anything, more powerful than brute force or guilt induction or bombs?

Now that we know we have power, we have no excuses for whining and blaming others for a bad situation. Take back your power. If the word "power" frightens you as it did me months ago, seek to understand what power really is. Seek, it will come to you, in books,

in articles, in quiet people, in the elements, in nature, in classes, in scriptures, in a person's voice (it need not be loud to have power), in observing life, in opinions of friends (at least it'll make them think!), and most of all in yourself. Explore it in yourself. Write it down.

Someday, we will all have to stop blaming others for our problems and look to ourselves for the answers. And, hopefully, with the help of December 31, it will be soon.

De'lia North  
Santa Cruz

## Thank You

Dear Freeze,

Greg Martin and Stephane Joyet wish to thank all those generous souls who contributed to making it possible for Greg to attend the Trident 2 protest in Florida. The event was a success, all the way around, as you will read in this issue of the Planet. Even though Stephane never got off the ground (he felt that he would ring in his "silver" year by doing something he had never done before... break a bone), Greg had an enlightening experience. And we thank you for your support and generosity and especially for the opportunity to represent all of our outrage on this subject. And the struggle continues...

In February, from the 5th through the 12th, nonviolent disobedient activists from around the country will gather at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site. We all know why. And yes, we will be there. For what more is there to do, aside from refusing to pay one's taxes? Yet, again, we could use some help. After all, we are in this together. If you can help, let us know: 426-2359 or 662-3714. Again, thank you for having a conscience.

Greg & Steph  
Santa Cruz



## Boycott Amerika Sponsors

Dear Freeze,

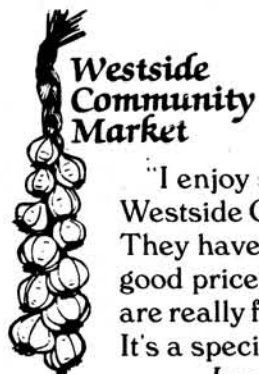
In his quest for the presidency of a future U.F.A. (United Fascists of America), Chrysler President Lee Iacocca will sponsor the virulent series *Amerika* on ABC TV.

It's essential to boycott the products and services of ABC and Chrysler Motors (Plymouth, Dodge, Mitsubishi). The executives of recognizable organizations must conjoin to inform local ABC affiliate KNTV Channel 11 that they are accessory to a violation of international law protecting all ethnic groups (.e.g Cubans, Angolans, Russians) from hostile propaganda. We should seek a local injunction against showing this series.

It is also necessary to field a team of speakers in high schools, since that's where the confusion will be greatest.

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Nicholas Whitehead  
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  - C: in the mail
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DIANA MOLL

## Media Fail The Test

by Igal Dahari

To paraphrase one of President Reagan's favorite lines, there they go again. The news media, that is. While thousands of people across the country are involved in trying to stop the government's dangerous and destabilizing practices of developing and testing nuclear weapons, they and their actions are given small notice by the nation's leading newspapers.

This snub is particularly alarming at a time when government attacks on those working against its warlike policies are escalating. In Nevada, the government has charged three people with conspiracy to commit a misdemeanor, the harshest charges nuclear testing protesters have yet faced. Duncan MacMurdy of Nevada Desert Experience, and Jessie Cocks and Peter Bergel of the American Peace Test may get up to one year in jail and pay up to \$5000. (The date of their arraignment was not known at press time.)

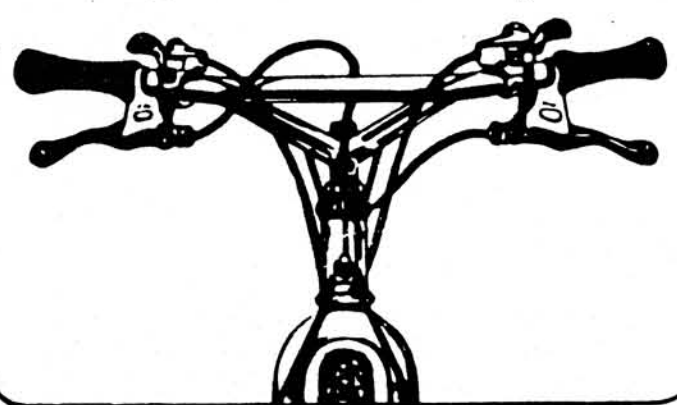
There is widespread support for MacMurdy, Cocks and Bergel. In a January 15 press statement, the American Peace Test said it has "already received well over 100 statements signed by people expressing their complicity with any conspiracy charges, and more are arriving regularly." But none of this is news to the editors of *The New*

*York Times* and its comrades in the fourth estate. Or perhaps it is news—of the kind best kept out of the public's reach.

The press' failure to report also extends to its lack of attention to the dropping of charges against approximately 150 protesters who were arrested at the Nevada Test Site on September 30 and November 17. Their trial was to be held on January 21 and 22 in Beatty, Nevada. Among the defendants were Carl Sagan, Martin Sheen, Dr. Vic Sidel and Dr. Jack Geiger. They were to be represented by former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, and scheduled witnesses for the defense included retired Admiral Gene LaRocque, Bishop Gumbleton of the Diocese of Detroit and Representative Ed Markey of Massachusetts. The trial, had it happened, would have been a media event. But a sluggish press will not report the trial of MacMurdy, Cocks and Bergel, or scrutinize the government's strategy of only prosecuting those protestors who are not celebrities.

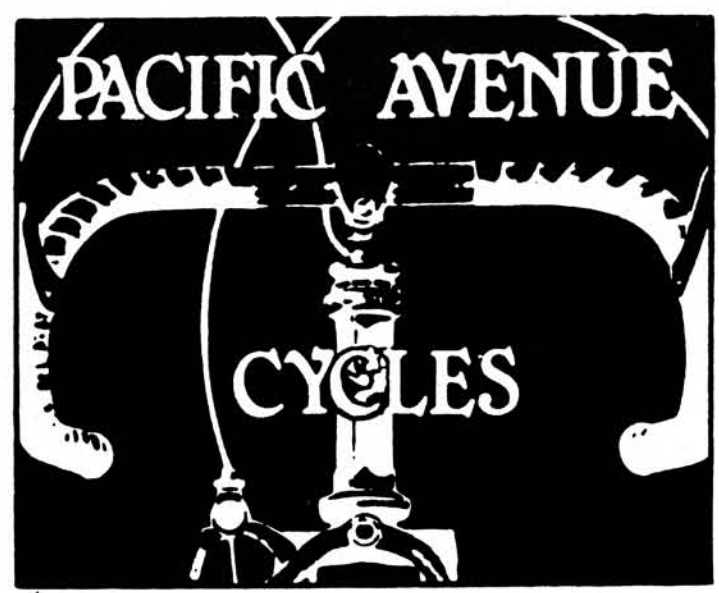
We urge all of you who read newspapers or news magazines, or watch network news shows, to write letters asking for more coverage of nonviolent civil disobedience actions. Especially important are the ongoing actions at the Nevada Test Site and at Cape Canaveral, Florida, where the Navy is testing the first-strike Trident II nuclear missile (see this issue's centerfold).

*the bicycle trip*



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ELLEN HODGES

## The New Faith

In what American institution do you have the most confidence? The church? The Supreme Court? Congress?

Well, according to two major opinion polls, the military has replaced the church as the institution in which Americans have the most confidence. Two separate polls taken in 1986 show that "leaders of the military" beat out leaders in medicine, academia, and organized religion as those who instill the most confidence in the American people. The clergy had been at the top of the polls for many years, but last year the same polls showed for the first time that most Americans have dumped faith in the church in favor of faith in the Pentagon!

One explanation attributes the fall of the clergy as the most confidence-inspiring institution in America to its increased politicization in the 1980s. According to this interpretation, the strong stands taken by major religious organizations, such as support for the sanctuary movement, or opposition to the nuclear arms race and the excesses of free market capitalism have generated so much controversy that Americans are now looking to the military for the stability and moral leadership that was once provided by organized religion.

Another explanation, however, views the new faith in the military as an ideological manifestation of \$1.6 trillion pumped into the defense sector, coupled with six years of the martial spirit emanating from Washington.

-JP

## Routine Cleaning

A Federal judge imposed \$115,000 in penalties against the Veteran's Administration last month for its unlawful destruction of thousands of documents it had been ordered to produce in a law suit filed by veterans. The National Association of Radiation Survivors is suing the V.A. on behalf of thousands of veterans who were exposed to life-threatening doses of radiation while occupying Hiroshima and Nagasaki, or while serving at nuclear test sites after World War II.

According to Federal District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel, who leveled the penalties against the V.A., officials of the agency started a conscious effort last summer to purge their files of any docu-

ments that would be helpful to the veteran's group in the litigation. *The New York Times* reported that an assistant director of the agency's pension service said he ordered the destruction of the documents—the first such purging of the agency's files on the processing of benefit claims in nearly 20 years—as part of "a routine house-cleaning."

Ten officials of the V.A.'s Washington headquarters gave conflicting accounts about the destruction of the documents. Some lower-level V.A. officials who questioned the legality of the action claimed they were told by their superiors to mind their own business or risk jeopardizing their careers. One V.A. employee told of being advised to look for another job after he questioned the legality of shredding court-ordered documents.

Judge Patel ordered the Veteran's Administration to establish an internal procedure that would prevent records from being unlawfully destroyed or withheld in the future. She promised to appoint a "special master" to evaluate the agency's compliance with the order. Attorney General Edwin Meese remains adamant against the idea of a "special master" to monitor the V.A., but Judge Patel pointed to the agency's abhorrent record of illegally destroying documents. Meese "is hardly in a position to complain," she said.

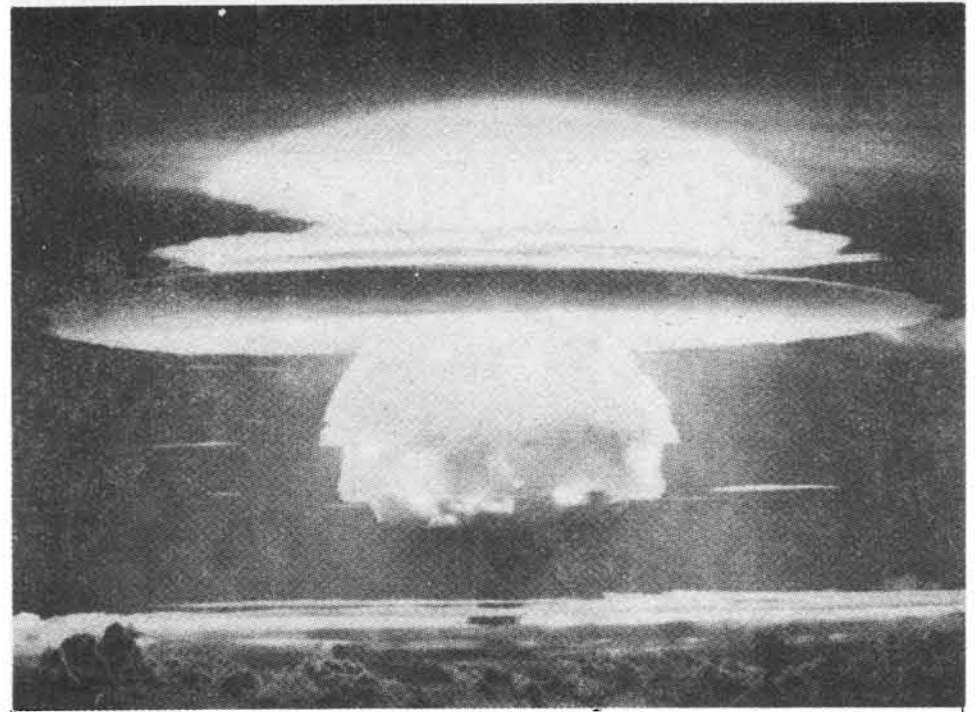
-JP



DIANA MOLL

## You Gotta Believe

It was claimed to be the largest participatory event in history. On December 31, 1986 from 150 to 400 million people worldwide took part in the "World Peace Event." With over 50 countries participating, people locally gathered in churches, temples, ashrams, town squares, auditoriums, community and convention centers, in private homes to pray for peace and world harmony. The event centered around one hour of silent meditation that was set to be observed simultaneously around the world. It was the belief of John Randolph Price, a key figure behind the event, that "[I]f these men and women would meditate simultaneously and release their energies into the Earth's magnetic field, the entire vibration of the planet would begin to change." For many participants, it was simply the belief in the power of prayer, and the belief that if enough people want



# Hot Flashes

by Ronald A. Lampi and Joe Palermo

peace it will create change.

Activists viewed the event as one of a series that included the 1985 Live Aid concert and the 1986 Hands Across America. December 31 also marked the end of the United Nations designation of 1986 as the International Year of Peace.

In Santa Cruz an estimated 2,300 people showed up for the one-hour meditation at the Civic Auditorium at 4 o'clock in the morning. Santa Cruz boasted the third largest gathering in the country, behind only Denver and Seattle, with an estimated showing of 6,000 each.

-RL

## "Political Hassling" Pays Off

For 20 years now there has been a one-megawatt nuclear reactor operating at the University of California, Berkeley campus. And for 20 years there has also been a great deal of protest from students and local residents centering on the reactor's presence. Last month, the U.C. Regents finally agreed to shut down the controversial reactor, claiming that its "diminished usefulness for research" was the primary reason. But Vice Chancellor Roderick Park recently admitted to the press that a "secondary" reason for the reactor's closure was "to get rid of all the political hassling that goes along with it."

Last November, Berkeley voters approved an ordinance declaring the city a "nuclear-free zone." Under the law, companies in the city are prohibited from handling nuclear materials, but the state-run university is exempt from the new law. As usual, the Regents were reluctant to recognize the concerns of local residents. But activists view the decommissioning of the reactor as a happy ending to 20 years of uneasiness caused by a nuclear reactor resting just 500 feet from the unstable Hayward earthquake fault.

The celebration might be premature, however, because the Nuclear Regulatory Commission must approve the shutdown

of the reactor, and an NRC spokesperson said that this process could take six months to a year to complete. And Vice Chancellor Park estimated that the decommissioning could take as long as four years.

-JP



DIANA MOLL

## U.S.S.A.

In 1996 there is a military takeover of America. Generals have renamed the country "United Secure States of America." Teenagers must band together to take back the country and restore its traditional values, including rock'n'roll. A hero emerges: 17-year-old Eddie Ludlow. No, it is not another TV miniseries, at least not yet; it is a new series of fiction published by Avon Books, due out this month. Titled *U.S.S.A.*, it is aimed at the largely untapped male teenage market.

The political thrillers, as they are being called, are written by former high-school



English instructor Tom DeHaven. He states they are not another version of Rambo, though they do pick up the patriotic message that was triggered by the Rambo phenomenon. The style is more highbrow; there is little violence. It is considered by its packagers/producers Bryon Preiss and Dan Weiss to be a daring experiment. U.S.S.A. "is really meant to deal with the issue of what it would be like to live in a country in which there were no civil rights," said Preiss.

A military takeover, political intrigue, the call to patriotism, and the fight to gain back America's freedom and tradition: seems to be a familiar scenario these days.

—RL

## Testing The Movement

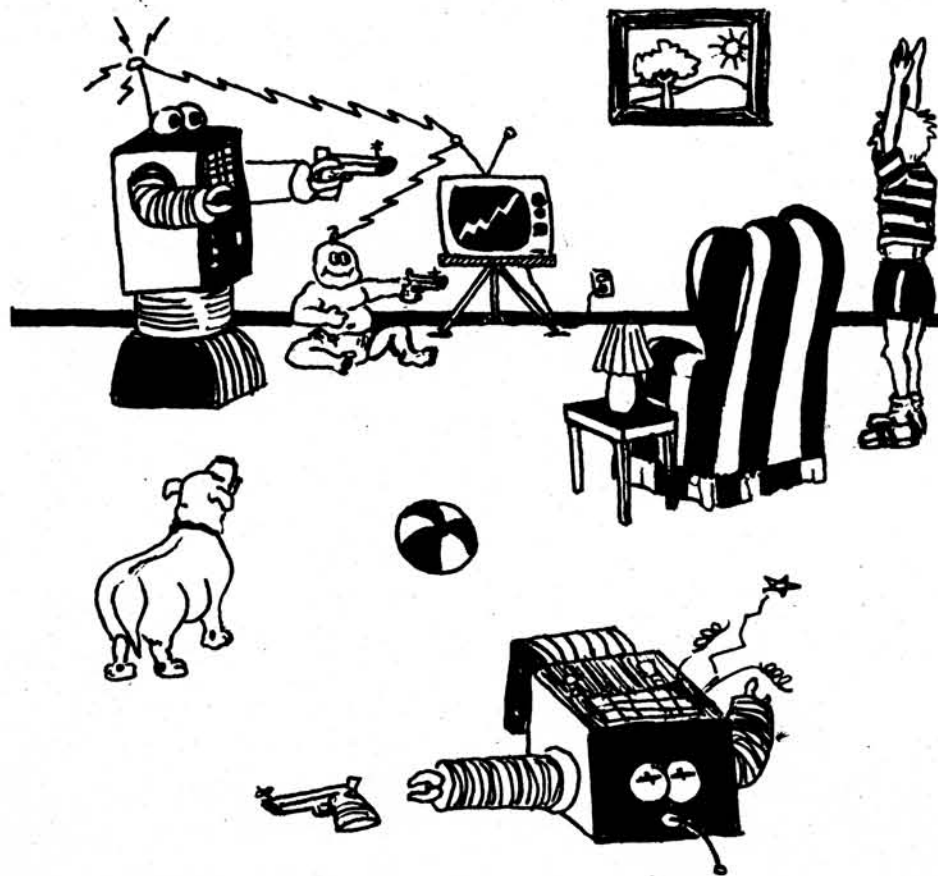
The first U.S. nuclear test of the year, code named "Haysbrook," is scheduled for February 5. The Soviet Union has announced that the next U.S. test would bring an end to its 18-month-long moratorium on nuclear weapons testing. February 5 may well mark the end of an unprecedented opportunity to have ended nuclear testing altogether.

The American Peace Test is planning another nonviolent civil disobedience protest in response to the upcoming test. Unless the U.S. government had announced cancellation of the test by January 26, protests will have taken place on January 27 at the Nevada Test Site and at the Department of Energy building in Washington D.C.

In a related development, a trial for approximately 150 people arrested during previous Test Site protests in September and November had been scheduled in Beatty, Nevada for January 21 and 22. Among the defendants were Carl Sagan, Martin Sheen, Dr. Vic Sidel, Dr. Jack Geiger, and a number of members of the American Public Health Association. Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark was to have been the chief counsel for the defense. The trial promised to be one of the largest and most significant anti-nuclear trials conducted in U.S. history, and to be a major media event. It was because of this, it is believed, that the government has dropped its charges. Apparently it feared all the public attention the trial would have generated. The question is, is this setting a precedent? Will the government back down each time a trial promises to be a major media event?

It looks as though the U.S. government is resorting to another tactic, however, in its attempt to disarm the nuclear testing protests. Three protest leaders, Duncan MacMurdy of Nevada Desert Experience, and Jessie Cocks and Peter Bergel of the American Peace Test, were recently summoned to appear in court for arraignment on, of all things, *conspiracy* charges to commit a misdemeanor. The American Peace Test claims that this targeting of peace organizers is nothing other than a brazen attempt by the government to intimidate peace activists and undermine their work. APT is confident the attempt will fail.

—RL



KAREN STACKPOLE

## Tube War Toys

Children's toys electronically controlled by a TV program? That is exactly what will happen this year when Axlon Inc. comes out with its new generation toy TechForce, brainchild of Nolan Bushnell, who has been called "father of the video game." The \$250 electronic toy will correspond to the new children's program "TechForce and the MotoMonsters," due to be broadcast in September 1987. The toy itself has been likened to a three-dimensional version of the Space Invaders video game. TechForce is essentially a set of robots, with a couple of computerized command consoles. When played with in connection with the TV show, "enemy" robots in the living room will be controlled by an inaudible signal beep from the show's sound track; the child will be expected

to control the "friendly" robots as the two sides engage in battle. The robots fire light beams at one another; a hit deactivates a robot for so many seconds.

So far, the Federal Communications Commission has given permission for the toy and program interaction. Bushnell believes that the concept has potentially strong educational aspects. But Peggy Charren, president of Action for Children's Television, is not so impressed. She considers at least this application of it "an absolute idiotic idea." Not only is her organization concerned about its impact on children's play, but also about the kind of pressure the program will put on the child's family to buy the toy. That the FCC has given the legal go-ahead for it worries many. Its future implications can only be guessed at.

—RL

—JP

## The Tech Scare

The "national security" benefits of the Reagan administration's restrictions on high-technology exports to Soviet bloc countries have been seriously questioned by a panel of former defense and intelligence officials, businesspersons, and academics. A National Academy of Sciences (NAS) study has found that the administration's attempts to keep high technology out of the hands of the "evil empire" have not significantly improved America's "national security," but have cost the United States 188,000 jobs and \$9 billion a year in lost export revenues.

The Academy panel, which was chaired by former Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Lew Allen, and included among its members former Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, and former director of the National Security Agency and former deputy director of the CIA, Bobby Ray Inman, recommended ending the Defense Department's "de facto veto" over U.S. technology sales to the Eastern bloc.

The Pentagon released its own "study" claiming that the high-tech export ban has saved the United States \$7.3 to \$14.6 billion in military spending needed to match the Soviets if the restrictions had not been in place. But the NAS panel questioned the Pentagon's estimates, along with higher ones contained in another Pentagon "study," and said the Defense Department has declined to supply data backing up its claims.

The NAS panel estimated that the export restrictions are responsible for a \$17.1 billion drag on the U.S. economy, and also estimated that the United States and its allies hold a five-to-10 year technological advantage over the Soviet Union, an advantage that lifting the export ban would not affect.

Predictably, Assistant Defense Secretary, Richard Perle, denounced the Academy report on the basis that the committee's members represented only the views of the business community, although most members were not businesspersons. Said Perle, "we had misgivings about the report from the very beginning."

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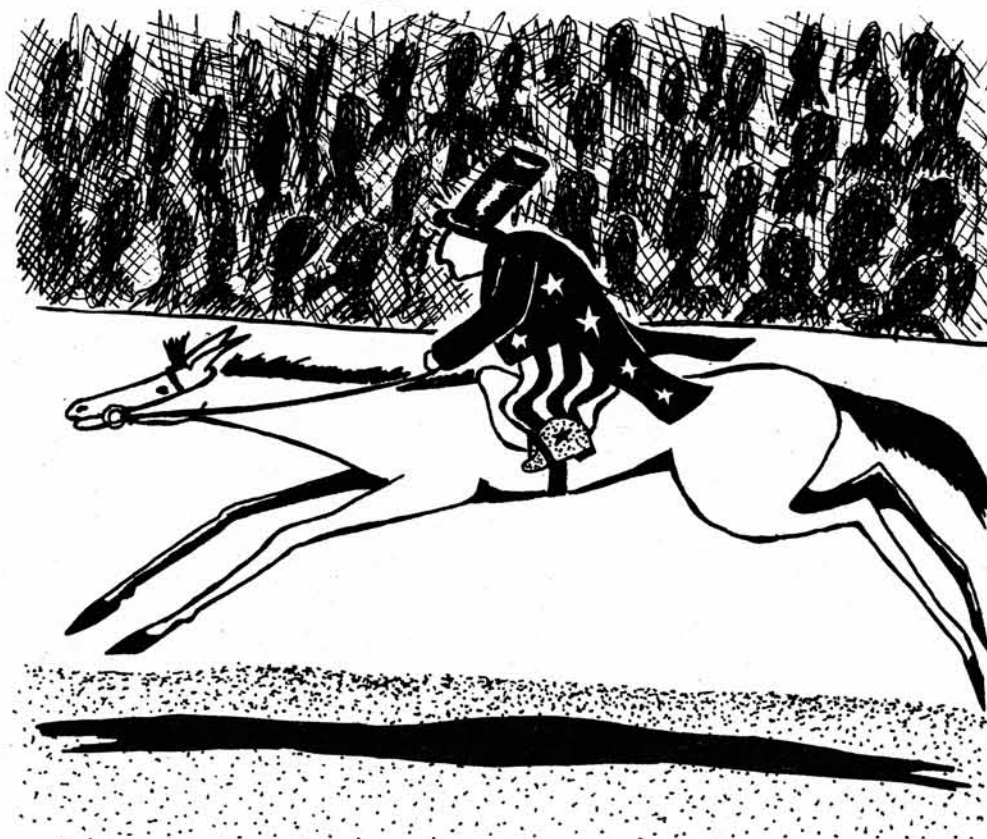
# Jockeying For Position In The New Congress

by Shelly D'Amour

In November, voters placed Democrats in control of the Senate, 55-45. Democrats also gained five seats in the House of Representatives, adding to an already healthy majority, and bringing their total to 258-177. Upon assuming power in January, members of this new 100th Congress began the process of redefining and fine tuning the committee power structures.

Representative Les Aspin (D-WI), chair of the House Armed Services Committee, survived a serious attempt to remove him as chair of the committee and replace him with a much more conservative member. Aspin had angered liberal members of the House, many of whom had supported him in his bid for committee chair two years ago, by supporting many of President Reagan's military policies, particularly the MX. When Aspin voted in favor of President Reagan's request for \$100 million to the Nicaraguan contras, it was the last straw. A coalition of liberal and conservative Democrats, each for their own reasons, rendered Aspin a vote of "no confidence" as chair on January 7, and proceeded to draft as their candidate Marvin Leath, a very conservative Democrat from Texas.

That such staunch liberals as Rep. Ron Dellums would support such a staunch conservative for chair of Armed



DIANA MOLL

Services came as a surprise to many. But Aspin had lost credibility among his supporters, and Leath is widely regarded as open, straight-forward and a coalition-builder. Explained Dellums: "... That

one candidate might be more liberal than another is not the relevant criterion. . . The most important characteristic is that the chair allow for a fair and open debate." Added Rep. Leon Panetta, "Les, . . . is always a question mark. He's brighter, but you're never quite sure where he's going to come out on an issue."

In the end, however, House Democrats decided to give Aspin another chance. After several rounds of secret balloting,

that Les has a great incentive not to go through this again."

In a similar move, Senator Jessie Helms (R-NC), was handed an initial 7-0 vote of no confidence in his bid for the position of ranking minority member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Foreign Relations deals with funding of and investigation into U.S. policy and activity in other countries, such as contra aid and other U.S. military programs in Central America.

However, by secret ballot, the Senate Republican caucus voted 24-17 to install Helms as the ranking minority member, replacing Sen. Richard Lugar, who was seen as too "liberal" by members of the Republican caucus.

Helms would have been chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee two years ago, but passed up his opportunity in order to fulfill a campaign promise to his electorate, becoming, instead, chair of the Agriculture Committee, with the intent of protecting North Carolina tobacco interests. Because Republicans are now a minority party in the Senate, Helms can only be ranking minority member of the committee, and not chair. Democratic Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island has assumed the chair of Senate Foreign Relations.

Helms will add a feisty, confrontational flavor to the committee's proceedings, no doubt attempting to push through his ultra-conservative agenda with a fury. However, Helms' abrasive style coupled with his radical right-wing posture has tended to isolate him. Even the State Department lobbied against his appointment. Given the fact that his own

*... a much humbled Aspin declared that he would oppose both the MX and contra aid.*

the House affirmed Aspin as the chair of the House Armed Services Committee for another two years by a vote of 133-116.

House Democrats are hoping this little dose of humble pie will cause Aspin to straighten up his act and be more responsive to their concerns. Indications are good that he will do just that—at least for awhile. Following the vote to reconfirm his position on the committee, a much-humbled Aspin declared that he would oppose both the MX and contra aid. Said Aspin, "I need to be more open. I need to be more up front. When I'm listening to someone, I need to say more than just uh huh, uh huh, uh huh."

Committee Democrats believe that Aspin's ascendancy to chair will signal the death-knell of the MX program. In addition, they are expecting him to take strong initiatives on legislation to force the president to abide by the terms of the now-defunct SALT II treaty. Commented Rep. Barney Frank, "Very few people are made anew in politics. But people feel

committee voted 7-0 against him, there is cause for hope that Helms' influence on this very powerful committee will not be nearly as great as he would like. That being said, expect Helms to take the lead on pressing for additional monies for the contras, as well as urging support for every dictator he can find.

Locally, Rep. Leon Panetta (16th district) easily won re-election to the 16th congressional district. In the 12th district, Republican Ernest Konnyu won the seat vacated by Rep. Ed Zschau, when Zschau ran and lost a bid for the U.S. Senate against incumbent Senator Alan Cranston. It appears that Konnyu will be a fairly predictable hard liner on defense and foreign policy issues. During his first day in office, Konnyu boasted that he was looking forward to "keeping the Soviets in line." Freeze supporters in the 12th district have their work cut out for them.

Shelly D'Amour is the Legislative Editor of The Monthly Planet.

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Joining Together For Peace

# Break-Ins Suggest Pattern

by Joe Palermo

The daily revelations regarding the Iran arms sales and the illegal diversion of funds to the Nicaraguan contras should be encouraging news to those who wish to see the executive branch brought under closer public scrutiny. The National Security Council's (NSC) covert action squad that so adroitly circumvented Congress in its quest to crush the Sandinistas has now suffered an ignominious defeat. One thing is certain, however: the limited "success" of this elaborate foreign policy apparatus depended upon the ability to ensure absolute secrecy.

White, an outspoken critic of administration policy. The only item stolen in the burglary was a paper taken from White's desk that was part of a Southern Air Transport flight manual documenting an April 1983 covert flight from the United States containing 44,000 pounds of arms and ammunition for the contras.

Another interesting break-in occurred about a week later at the Cupertino legal office of Albert Hakim's lawyer. Hakim is the Los Gatos Iranian who is a senior business partner of retired Air Force Major Gen. Richard Secord, a key figure in the Iran affair, and the alleged financial "brain" of the entire Iran-contra diver-

**"I'm confident it's not the FBI. I don't think they're doing this kind of thing anymore, though they did in the '60s and '70s."**

**—Rep. Don Edwards**

It is interesting that while the NSC was secretly evading Congress in its bid to aid the contras, various political groups across the nation that oppose the Reagan administration's Central America policy fell victim to a series of suspicious burglaries where files were ransacked and, in some cases, documents stolen.

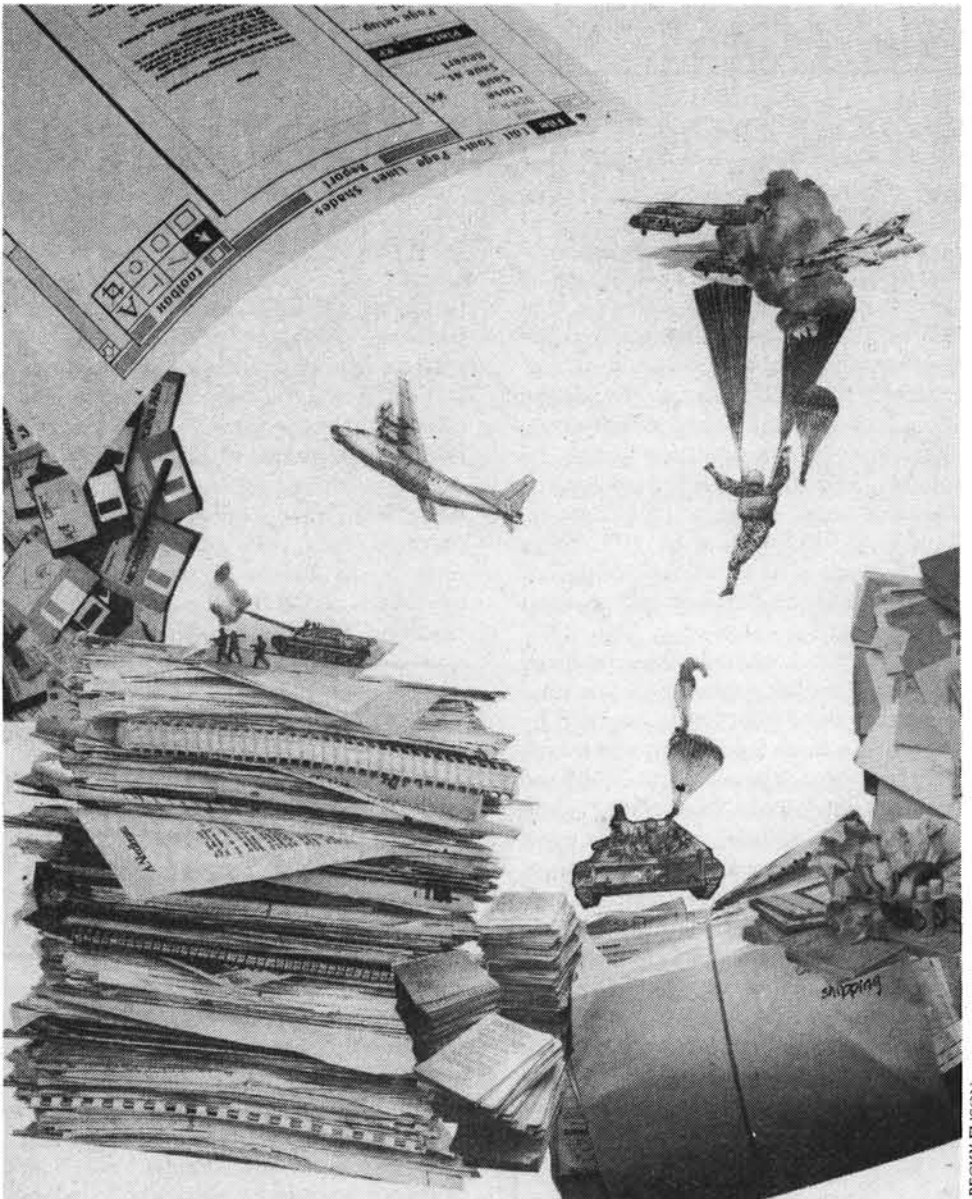
The Center for Constitutional Rights, a New York-based lawyers' group, has compiled a list of some 50 suspicious break-ins reported in the last two years. These involve the offices of political groups that monitor Central America, sanctuary churches, and the cars and homes of several workers with such groups. In almost every case, intruders rifled through files while leaving office equipment and other valuable items untouched. None of the cases have been solved, and break-ins have been reported in New York, Boston, Chicago, Seattle, San Francisco, Berkeley, Los Angeles, and Louisville, Ky.

In one case that occurred a few days after the Iran scandal broke, the Washington, D.C. office of the International Center for Development Policy, a Central America resource group, was burglarized and files and computer disks were ravaged. The group is headed by former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, Robert

White, an outspoken critic of administration policy. A file on Hakim was the only item stolen from the office in a break-in deemed "professional" by local law enforcement officials. The lawyer, Horace Dunbar, first told detectives that the stolen file contained information about the secret arms sales to Iran, but later retracted his statement. Hakim is the only key player in the Iran scandal whose whereabouts are unknown.

The burglaries that have targeted opponents of U.S. policy in Central America have led Rep. Don Edwards (D-San Jose) to call for an investigation. Edwards recently told the *San Jose Mercury News* that he was "very concerned that there could be a large federal responsibility here." FBI Director William Webster has refused to investigate all but one of the break-ins on the grounds that there is no evidence the burglaries are linked. But the list of break-ins has grown so long that Edwards has asked the House Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, which he chairs and which has jurisdiction over the FBI, to hold hearings on the FBI's refusal to investigate.

Director Webster has repeatedly denied that his agency has been involved in the burglaries. But it is curious that the FBI can find no special jurisdiction to investigate break-ins that have been re-



BECKY FUSON

ported in nine cities in seven states, targeting only groups critical of U.S. policy in Central America, where documents have been the only items stolen.

The bulk of the break-ins occurred at a time when secrecy was imperative for the NSC-contra supply line, lest the whole operation blow up in the face of the administration.

As Attorney General, Edwin Meese wields considerable authority over the FBI. Last October, Meese asked the FBI to delay an investigation it had begun into the activities of Southern Air Transport, the principal airline that secretly funneled arms and materiel to the contras. It has been suggested that the motivation for obstructing such an investigation could

have been a desire on the administration's part to keep details of the NSC operation hidden.

Because critics of the administration's Central America policy are regular targets, the break-ins are reminiscent of the politically-motivated FBI harassment and surveillance of anti-war and civil rights groups that were rampant during the Nixon years.

"I'm confident it's not the FBI," Rep. Edwards recently said of the break-ins. "I don't think they're doing this kind of thing anymore, though they did in the '60s and '70s."

Joe Palermo is a staff writer of *The Monthly Planet*.

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How Much Is A Trillion?

Reagan Budget Breaks The Record

Military Budget

A record \$1 trillion budget for fiscal year 1988 was presented to Congress by the administration in January. Of that figure, \$312 billion was requested for the Pentagon. The current military budget for 1987 is \$289 billion. The Reagan administration has indicated that it would like to increase the military budget by roughly \$20 billion each year for the next five years, projecting a budget request of \$396.9 billion by 1992. This would mean a total military outlay of approximately \$1.8 trillion over the next five years.

In order to accommodate the requested increase in military spending while staying within the deficit limits imposed by Gramm-Rudman legislation, severe cuts were proposed in programs such as food stamps, college loans, mass transit, child nutrition, vocational education, and farm aid. Programs slated to receive an increase in funding were: the military (surprise!), Medicaid, civil service pay, the space shuttle program, and tax collection.

While domestic program budgets are being frozen, slashed, or eliminated, the military budget is one of the few items to have what is termed "real growth" built

into it. The \$312 billion requested for fiscal year 1988 represents 3 percent real growth after inflation. But even the Pentagon has to at least look like it's trying to hold the line. In order to maintain a budget-conscious appearance and still get all the weapons systems and other military programs they want, the Defense Department has resorted to certain accounting gimmicks. One such tactic is to reapportion the cost of a particular item over a longer period of time, e.g. a missile system that might have been slated to be paid for and in place by 1989 might instead be com-

pleted in 1992. In this way, all the major Pentagon programs would be left intact. They would just take longer to complete. Another such device came to light last month when it was revealed that since 1984, the Office of Management and Budget has been claiming "cuts" in Pentagon spending by making "cuts" in inflated future budgets instead of cutting current existing programs. In other words, the Pentagon would propose a budget containing various new programs that had yet to receive any funding. The OMB would cut these newly proposed programs from the military budget proposal without making any cuts in actual monies being spent on actual programs. They would then claim that they had "cut" the military budget by X amount of dollars. For example, in 1986 the administration claimed that it had slashed military spending by \$11.1 billion, when actually it had requested an \$18.1 billion increase.

However, the president insists the

same. A similar bill was passed in the House last year, but became a casualty of the Reykjavik trip. A vote could happen in the House as early as March.

The Soviet Union has announced it will end its 18-month moratorium on nuclear weapons testing after the United States conducts its next test, but will resume the moratorium any time the U.S. is ready to also stop testing. At least 834 nuclear weapons have been tested above or beneath the floor of the Nevada desert since 1945. Of these, 24 have taken place since the Soviets announced their moratorium, including 15 in 1986. The next test is scheduled for February 5.

ACTION: Contact the White House to express your outrage over the Feb. 5 test. Contact your representatives in Congress and tell them to sign on as co-sponsors to H.R. 12, and to actively support binding test ban legislation. (In the 16th district, call Rep. Leon Panetta; in the 12th, Rep. Ernest Konnyu.)

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It is worth noting that increases have been sought for most of the nuclear weapons programs, usually at the expense of conventional defense forces. The big ticket item again this year is the Star Wars program—Reagan is requesting \$5.8 billion.

Whatever claims the administration may make concerning its "commitment" to pursuing arms control are clearly refuted right in its own budget priorities. Missile defense systems, first-strike nuclear weapons, and rapid deployment/interventionist forces have taken their place first in line at the coffer ahead of more conventional, non-nuclear types of military programs.

Nuclear Testing

On January 13 and 15, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee held hearings on the 1974 Threshold Test Ban

treaties are not adequately verifiable in their present form, and has requested the Senate to attach a stipulation that the treaties only be ratified after a verification agreement has been signed with the Soviet Union.

On a more hopeful note, Representatives Schroeder and Gephardt have reintroduced a measure (H.R.12), calling for a cutoff of funds for testing of nuclear weapons over one kiloton for a period of one year, so long as the Soviets do the

MX/Midgetman

Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger has requested 50 additional MX missiles. In 1985 Congress affixed a "flexible cap" of 50 missiles to the program, with the stipulation that additional missiles would be considered only after an acceptable basing program had been approved. The Pentagon is requesting \$1.9 billion to conduct a feasibility study on a proposal to base MX missiles on railway cars, a move which prompted congressional critics to label the pro-

Advertisement for Cobblestone Flowers featuring an illustration of a Native American figure and the text 'COBBLESTONE FLOWERS'.

Advertisement for 'Contact Your Representatives Today!' listing hotlines for various political figures and organizations, including President Ronald Reagan, Senator Alan Cranston, and the American Peace Test Hotline.

gram, "Amtrak-pack."

In conjunction with this is a request for \$2.3 billion to further develop the Midgetman missile, a 94 percent increase over funding received last year. The Midgetman, like the MX, is a first-strike land-based missile. Unlike the MX, it contains a single warhead (each MX contains 10 warheads), and does not pose the basing problems that the MX does. Individual members of Congress usually prefer one system over the other. The Pentagon, of course, would like to have both.

### ASAT

The Air Force will seek funding for three tests of its anti-satellite (ASAT) weapon against targets in space. If approved, such funding would be released after October 1. The current ban on ASAT testing has enjoyed broad support

in Congress over the years. So far the Soviets have not tested an ASAT weapon, although it is rumored that they have developed the technology. It is hoped that by maintaining the moratorium, both sides will refrain from expanding the arms race deep into space.

### Star Wars

The administration has requested \$5.8 billion. Last year, Congress approved \$3.5 billion for the program. Congress is currently in a mood to cut back on Star Wars funding, especially since the Iceland debacle. The United States has spent \$9.2 billion to date on the program.

### Contra Aid

The House of Representatives is moving toward a total cutoff of all military aid to the Nicaraguan contras. The \$100 million in military assistance which was approved by Congress last June was slated to be disbursed in three installments. Prior to each installment the president was required to certify that good faith efforts at a negotiated settlement had been attempted and failed. The final installment of \$40 million is due to be requested by the president on or after February 15. Rep. Leon Panetta will introduce legislation to put a moratorium on the final \$40 million until November 15, at which time the select Congressional committees investigating the Iran/contra arms scandal will issue their final reports.

Such a move to forestall the final \$40 million would require a majority vote of both houses of Congress, a vote which could still face a presidential veto. A recent Gallup Poll revealed that 69 percent of all Americans want Congress to cancel the final \$40 million. The new Congress will face its first test of resolve if it is faced with the prospect of overriding a presidential veto on this question.

In addition, the president will request \$105 million in additional funds for the contras for fiscal year 1988. Senators Dodd and Weicker of Connecticut have introduced a curious piece of legislation that appears designed to try to appease everyone. Among other provisions, their bill would: terminate the remaining \$40 million in aid; provide assistance for relocating contra troops (to where is not clear); provide more funds for the Contadora peace process; and reinstate \$300 million that was requested last year to aid police agencies in Central American nations. Senator Dodd is chair of the Senate Subcommittee on Western Hemispheric Affairs, the subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee that deals specifically with contra aid. He will hold hearings in committee on this proposal, and possibly others, in early February.

**ACTION:** Contact your representatives in the House and Senate and let them know you oppose all further aid to the contras. Ask them to take leadership on this issue by actively encouraging their congressional colleagues to also oppose contra aid.

Shelly D'Amour is the Legislative Editor of The Monthly Planet.



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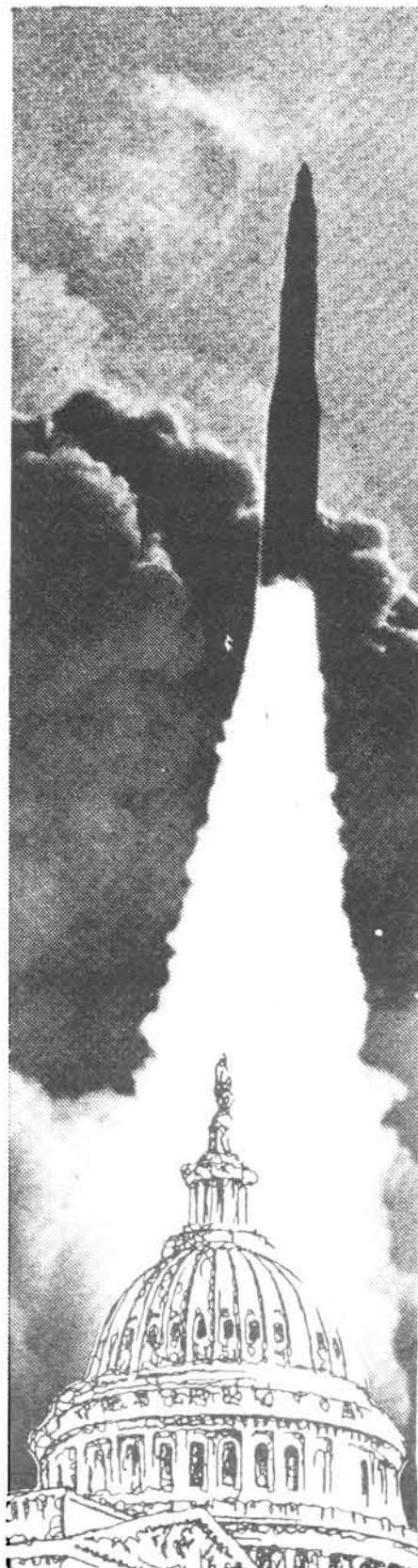
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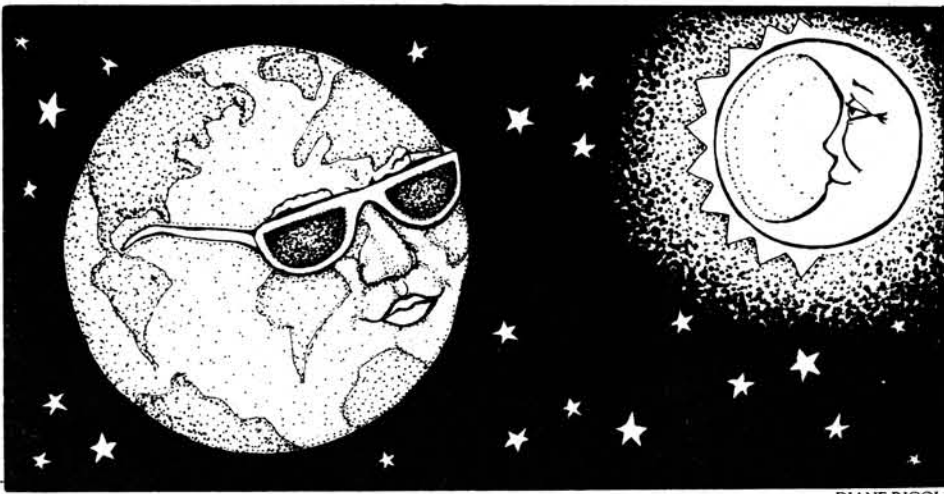
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DIANE RIGOLI

# Planet Watch by Igal Dahari

## Japan Surge in Military Spending

After years of bearing United States pressure and months of preparing the public, Japan's ruling political party will almost certainly approve a cabinet decision to increase military spending above an absolute limit that has been self-im-

posed since 1976. The limit stood at 1 percent of the gross national product (GNP), but for the coming fiscal year military spending will be 1.004 percent of the GNP. Although the rise is small, it is seen as a symbolic break with Japan's forswearing of militarism. The country's post-World War II constitution forbids military aggression as part of foreign

policy.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's government also announced on January 23 that the 1 percent limit will no longer guide Japan's military budget. The decision to break the limit is viewed with alarm by Japan's Asian neighbors, some of whom were under brutal Japanese domination during periods in the first half of the century. It was also unpopular with opposition parties, including the Socialist Party, whose leader described the move as "a rash act that greatly deviates from the principles of the peace constitution."

United States Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger described his reaction to the breaking of the limit as one of "great pleasure," and an unidentified U.S. official in Tokyo was quoted by *The New York Times* as saying: "We don't care about percentages."



ELLEN HODGES

## Brazil Radioactive Milk

The effects of the Chernobyl nuclear accident have been felt as far away as Brazil in the form of contaminated food imported from Europe, including 30,000 tons of powdered milk containing high levels of radioactive cesium. A scandal is brewing in the country over the fact that certain government agencies, although aware of the contamination, broke a government directive not to allow the importation of food showing any level of radiation. But later, Brazil's Nuclear Energy Commission was asked to establish a minimum acceptance level of radiation in food. The level was comparable to the one used in Europe, which had been raised following Chernobyl to reduce the accident's impact on food consumption.

## Hong Kong Nuclear Bay

In a surprise development, 20 percent of Hong Kong's 5.5 million people have signed a petition calling for China to stop construction on a nearby nuclear power plant. The plant, which is due to be completed in 1992, is being built at Daya Bay, 30 miles from Hong Kong. China first announced plans to build the nuclear plant in the early part of the decade, but an opposition in Hong Kong did not surface until after the Chernobyl nuclear accident.

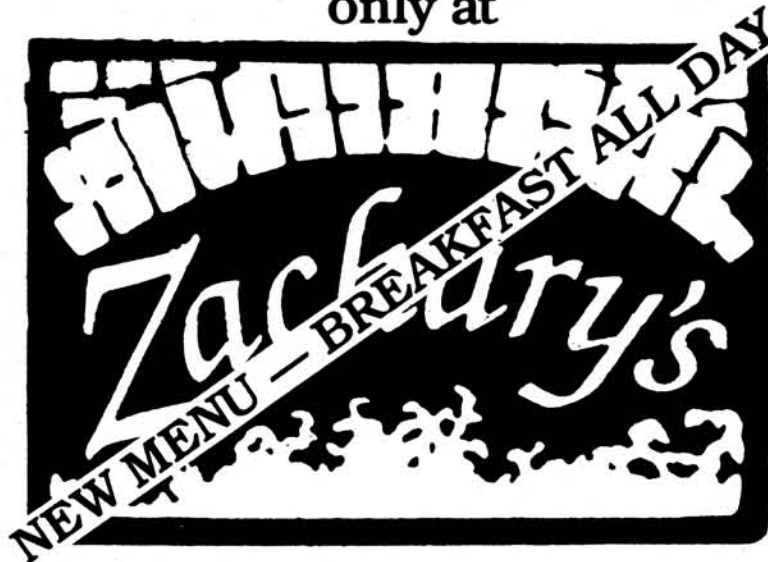
Despite polls that show most people want the plant to be canceled or delayed, the government of Hong Kong favors construction on schedule. Fully 70 percent of the plant's output is slated for Hong Kong, which will be returned to China in 1997. Until then, the territory will remain a British colony.

The British government, which recently negotiated the return of Hong Kong with China, also does not oppose the plant's construction. Some of Hong Kong's residents believe that the British government's complacency is due to the fact that a British company is supplying the plant's turbines.

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## Greece Leader Changes Tune

The latest word from Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou is that Greece will remain a member of NATO, and that the government will attempt to negotiate a new contract with the United States regarding American military bases in Greece. The old contract, which Papandreou's Panhellenic Socialist Movement party pledged not to renew during its election bid in 1981, will expire in December of 1988.

Speaking before the Greek parliament, Papandreou explained that Greece should remain in NATO to avoid "... war with Turkey [another NATO member]... and not because we believe in a future clash between East and West."

The United States maintains two Voice of America relay stations, four military bases and 20 other known installations in Greece, which it pays for with military credits. This year the credits will total about \$340 million.



## Britain Truck Stop

A 20-ton military truck, possibly carrying nuclear weapons, overturned in western England recently, causing an 18-hour security alert. Roads near West Dean, 12 miles east of Salisbury, were sealed as military engineers worked to turn the truck upright. Although the Defense Ministry refused to comment on the truck's payload, Labor Party spokesperson Martin O'Neill said "it would seem that this convoy [of which the truck was part] might well [have been] carrying nuclear weapons." Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament's William Peden, founder of the nuclear convoy monitoring group Polaris Watch, said the number of vehicles seen protecting the truck indicated that it was carrying nuclear weapons.

A group of demonstrators greeted the truck with shouts of "Nuclear terrorists!" as it was being towed past a roadblock.



## Soviet Union ABC Invades Soviet TV

While ABC is preparing to broadcast the TV miniseries *Amerika*, the Soviet Union has bought the rights to air the TV movie *The Day After*. Ironically, it was ABC that first produced and aired *The Day After*, and that will now allow Soviet television—for an undisclosed sum of money and several restrictions—to show the film. The restrictions include a pledge to keep the translation faithful to the original script, and to broadcast the film sometime in the next three years.

## West Germany Money Is Thicker Than Politics

Bonn may soon sign a secret agreement to sell modern nuclear power plant technology to the Soviet Union, according to a January 12 account in the West German daily *Bild*. The newspaper estimated the pact to be worth \$2.5 billion, and stated that the United States opposes the contract. *Bild* also reported that West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher supports the agreement, although the government's Ministry for Research has said it was not aware of the issue.



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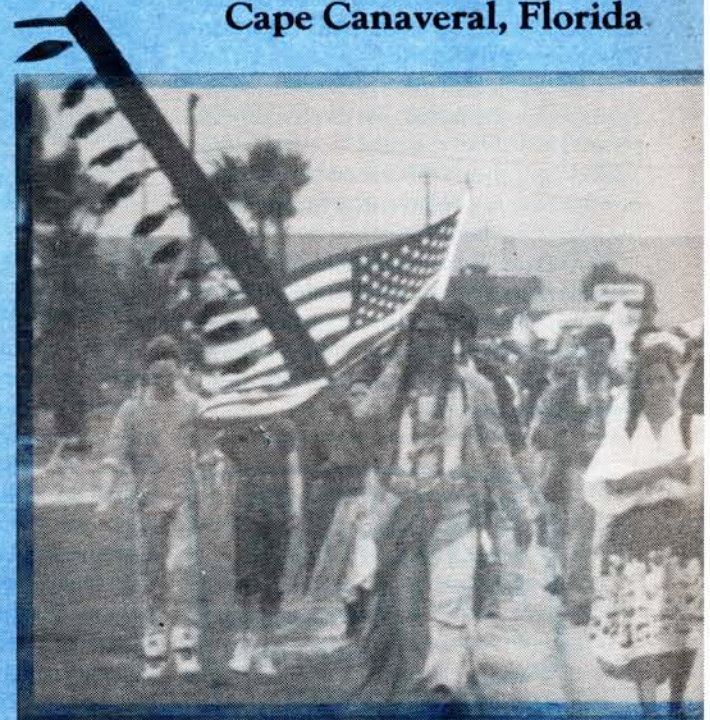
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# CANCEL COUNTDOWN

Saturday, January 17,  
Cape Canaveral, Florida



On January 17, 4500 peace activists marched to the test launch of the Trident 2 nuclear missile. Led by the well-known pediatrician-author Dr. Benjamin Spock, the group was greeted at the gates by hovering air force helicopters and a small group of taunting counter demonstrators.

With the entrance gate chained shut, activists were forced to carpet or wade into the Banana River to go around the gate and removed to a detention area.

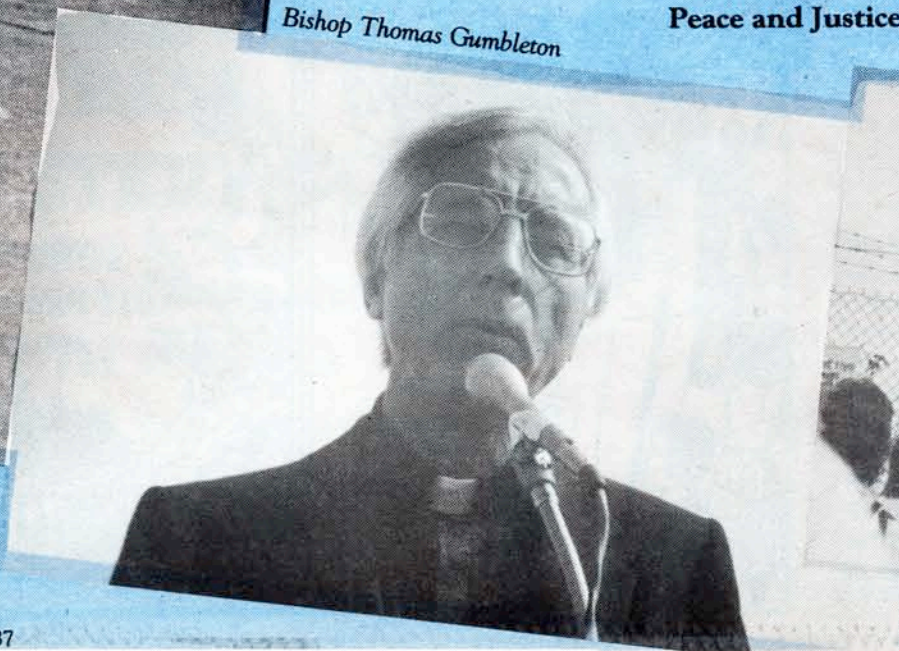
At a rally preceding the three-mile trek to the gates, a crowd of nuclear protesters: "You've got to do more than just say 'No'." Another speaker at the rally, Catholic Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, read the Pastoral Letter on War and Peace, said the United States should not support the missile.

Earlier in the week authorities arrested 60 other protesters who tried to disrupt the test flight of the missile. Some 150 activists had walked 217 miles from Kings Bay, Georgia, to Cape Canaveral.

Cancel the Countdown was sponsored by the National Council on Peace and Justice, and the First Strike Prevention Committee.



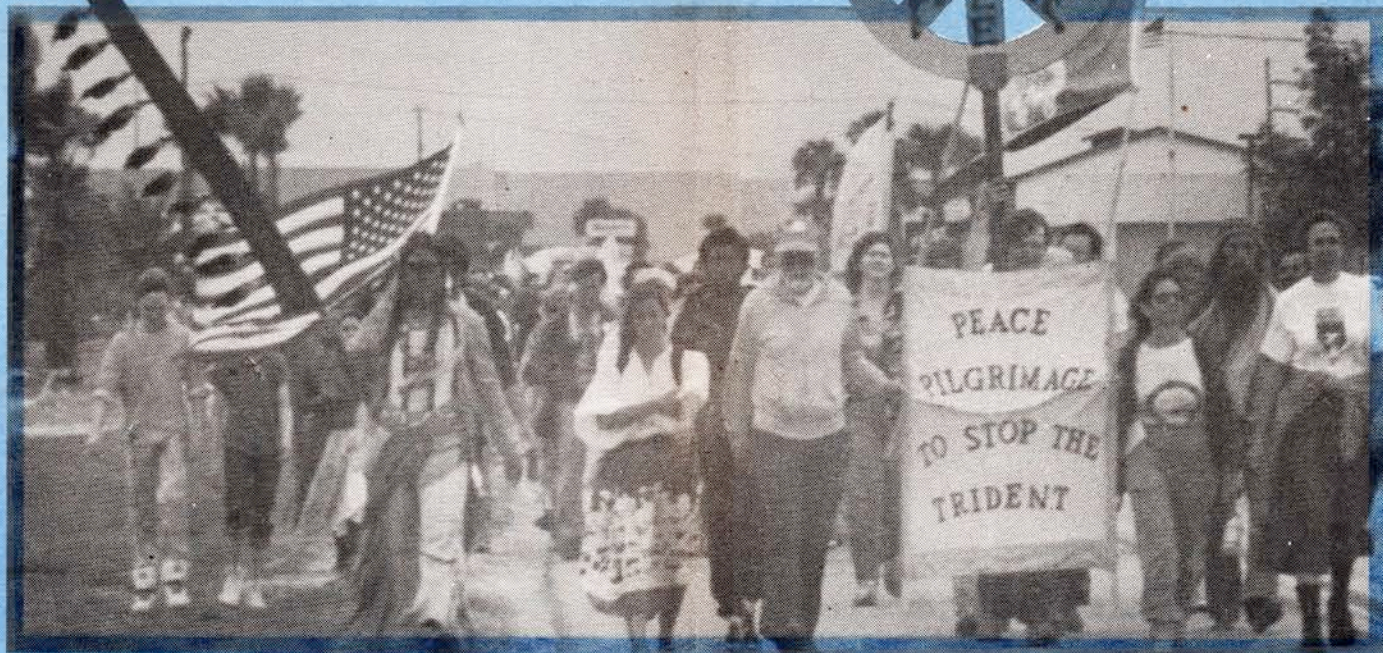
Bishop Thomas Gumbleton





# CANCEL THE COUNTDOWN

Saturday, January 17,  
Cape Canaveral, Florida



On January 17, 4500 peace activists marched to the gates of Cape Canaveral, Florida to protest the first test launch of the Trident 2 nuclear missile. Leading the mile-long line of marchers was 83-year-old renowned pediatrician-author Dr. Benjamin Spock, who was one of the 138 peacefully arrested.

From children to grandparents, punk rockers to ministers, the protesters from around the country were greeted at the gates by hovering air force helicopters, police clad in riot gear, revving police air boats, and a small group of taunting counter demonstrators.

With the entrance gate chained shut, activists were forced to scale the barbed wire fence with strips of carpet or wade into the Banana River to go around the north end of the fence, only to be promptly arrested and removed to a detention area.

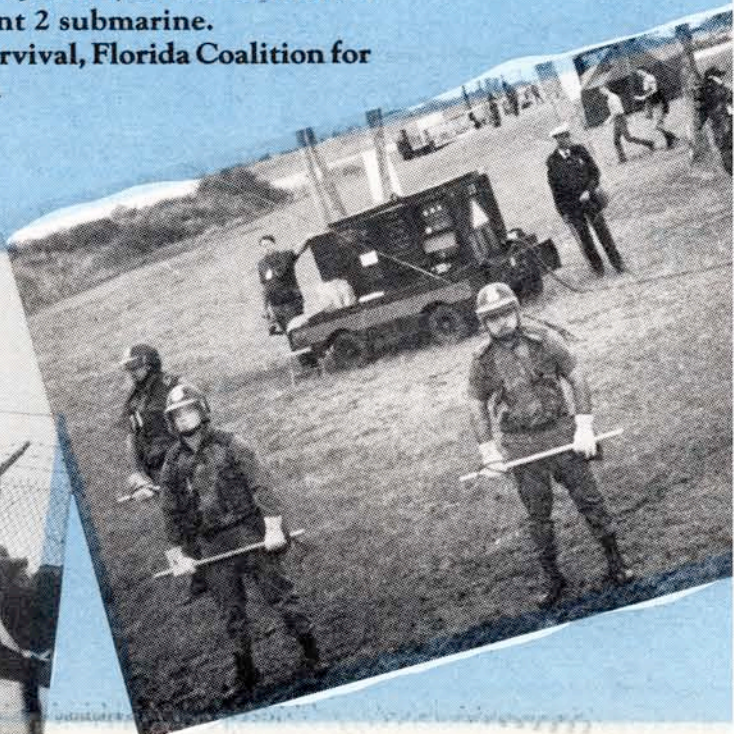
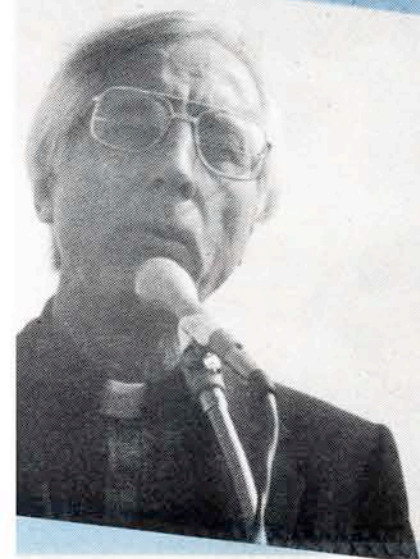
At a rally preceding the three-mile trek to the gate, Dr. Spock had one very important message to the crowd of nuclear protesters: "You've got to do more than you've done before to halt nuclear armament." Another speaker at the rally, Catholic Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, author of the Catholic Bishops' Pastoral Letter on War and Peace, said the United States was making a "choice to die" with the Trident 2.

Earlier in the week authorities arrested 60 other activists for trespassing on the base in an attempt to disrupt the test flight of the missile. Some 150 activists who participated in the January 17 demonstration had walked 217 miles from Kings Bay, Georgia, the home port of the Trident 2 submarine.

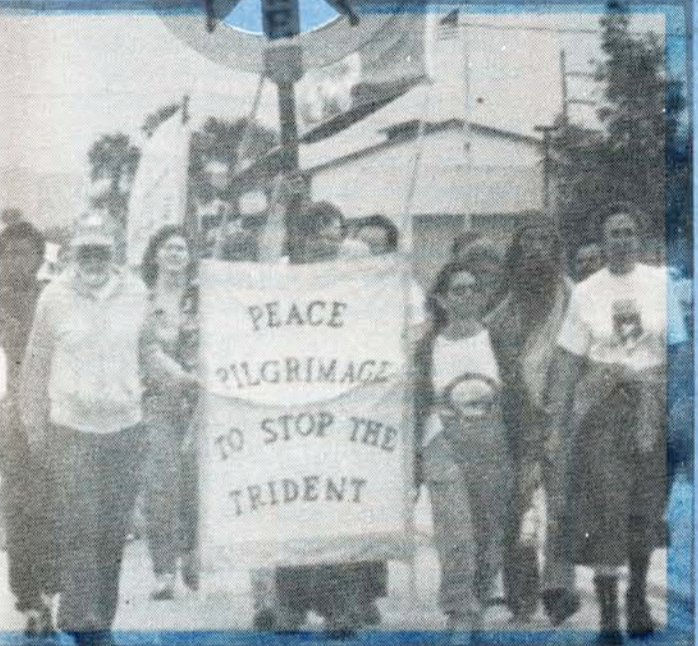
Cancel the Countdown was sponsored by the National Mobilization for Survival, Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, and the First Strike Prevention Project. —Greg Martin

photos by  
Greg Martin

Thomas Gumbleton



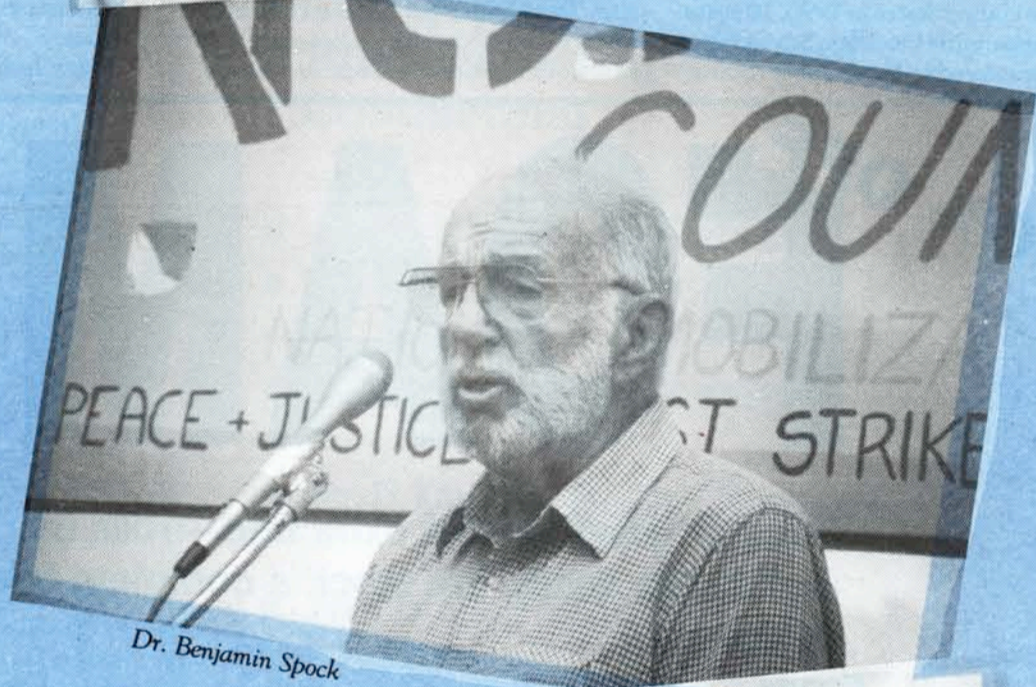
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Dr. Benjamin Spock

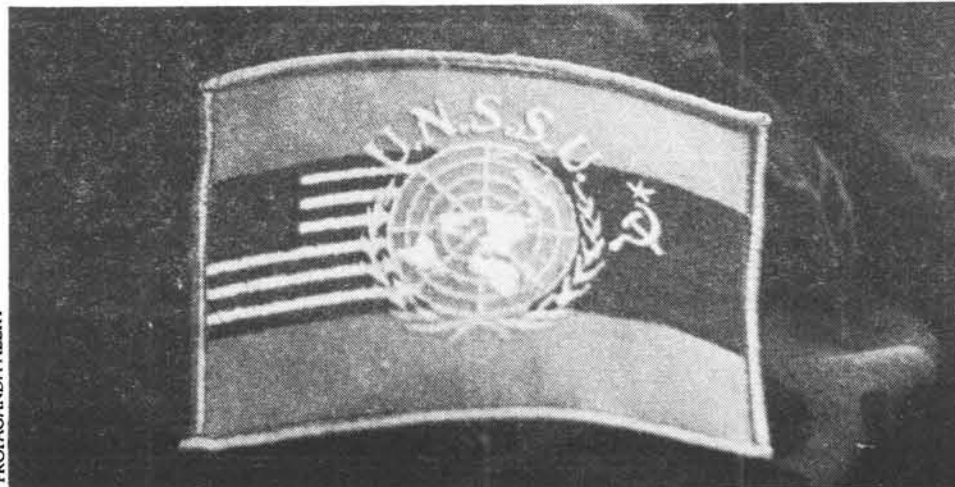
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Greg Martin



# Amerika: Implausible Propaganda

by Ronald A. Lampi

The Soviets have invaded and now the KGB rules the nation from Washington. Exactly how they managed to do this is left rather vague, but the little we are told is downright implausible, to say the least, for America fell without a fight. The problems with ABC's miniseries *Amerika* start here. To hang their story on the premise of America becoming so faint-hearted as to be a pushover before the more virile Soviets is wild beyond the imagination. Our suspicion is immediate: this is not mere entertainment for a TV-hungry nation but something like prop-  
PROPAGANDA ALERT



versial program since *The Day After*, it was produced at a cost of over \$30 million. The filming was done in Nebraska, where much of the story takes place, and at various locations in Ontario, Canada.

Filming in Canada, it is said, helped cut the projected exorbitant cost. Toronto, for example, was used as a substitute Chicago.

Many have already written on sneak

previews of the script and the first few hours of the film. What can be gathered about the story is this: As background to the events taking place in 1996, we are told that the invading Soviets of 1986, after somehow knocking out communication systems for the entire country, came up through what had become "Greater Cuba," that is, Central America. One gets the impression that the Soviets simply arrived, with many Americans apparently receiving them with open arms. The occupying forces of 1996, however, are United Nations "peacekeepers," called United Nations Special Service Units, or UNSSU. The United States itself is now called "Soviet United Nations Amerika."

The story revolves primarily around the relationships between a few true-blooded Americans who rediscover their nationalistic identity and plot rebellion against their Soviet masters and those other Americans who collaborate with or simply accept the new Soviet regime. Soviet characters, of course, add to the intrigue. Kris Kristofferson plays the rebel leader-hero Devin Milford, a Vietnam veteran, anti-war activist, and former congressman who had run for president—the last independent candidate in the country—in 1988. What the Soviets become faced with then is their "American problem." The UNSSU is given orders to clean up the resistance, and in the schools a new "social humanism" is taught: cooperation and conformity are stressed as against the old American frontier individualism and free market enterprise. The Soviets also plan to create a new nation out of the Midwest called "Heartland," and choose as its leader an American, Peter Bradford (played by Robert Urich), an old college roommate of Devin Milford.

The loaded question is: why did America fall? Or, to put it more pointedly, why did it *allow* itself to fall? Here is the core of the show's controversy, as well as its point of absurdity and unreality. America fell because of its own internal moral rot, decadence, spinelessness, "loss of purpose, loss of vision." America was gutless, patriotism anemic—no one wanted to defend the country. And what brought this about? Primarily progressive liberal ideas, peace activism, and the diversity of special interests and viewpoints which we naturally expect to find in a pluralistic society such as ours. The implications here are incendiary.

Realistically speaking, *Amerika's* accuracy concerning American citizens is nowhere on target. Americans of 1986, in the era of Reagan, surrendered without a fight? Here we are living during one of the biggest military buildups in history. If there is one thing Americans take pride in, it is in our ability to defend ourselves. The premise of *Amerika* is slanderous to those of us living today, above all, to those who are serving in the armed forces. Though "loss of vision" is a legitimate characterization of our era, having already been coined by many scholars and poets, the notion is a complex one, not limited to nationalism; it can be used as a premise in arguments by those representing any political bent, right or left, conserva-

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tive or liberal. The danger with a portrayal like *Amerika* is that the rhetoric of strength, passion, vision, and patriotism is easily monopolized by one political segment of the country. Peace activists, too, should just as readily complain about "loss of vision."

There are two other dangerous implications of *Amerika* that need to be mentioned. First, the other half of the premise upon which everything hangs is the old paranoid belief that the Soviet Union is out to conquer the world. If America is weak from too much liberalism and arms control activism, then the Soviets will certainly take over, ipso facto. Indeed, the premise is so crude that the Soviets had protested the making of the series to ABC in 1985. It has been suggested that the Soviets' displeasure upon learning of *Amerika* was actually a factor in going ahead with its production during a time when there was still some uncertainty about its completion. ABC did not want to appear to be caving in to Soviet pressure, so it resumed production with renewed vigor as if to spite them.

There is also the implication that the United Nations is a tool of the Soviets. A variant on the U.N. logo is used as the insignia of the occupying UNSSU troops. U.N. General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuéllar has raised the issue with Capital Cities/ABC chairman Thomas Murphy in protest, but was rebuffed with reassurances that the real United Nations was in no way being disparaged. Hopefully, the general public will not come away from *Amerika* with prejudicial associations confusing the real United Nations with ABC's fiction.

Many have already pondered the motives behind producing such a miniseries. Already many see it as obvious right-wing hysteria and propaganda, a reactionary bugle call for patriotism; one group has called it a "12-hour commercial for Star Wars" and, as some have suggested, it is ABC's making amends to the right for its 1983 TV movie *The Day After*. According to Brandon Stoddard, president of ABC Motion Pictures, *Amerika* is about "freedom and responsibility and the American character." All right, but why in the context of a film that maligns both real, living Americans of today and the Soviets? Even the writer-director-executive producer of *Amerika*, Donald Wrye, is said to have felt uncomfortable with its basic premise, yet lived with it in order to get the real, intended message across. In his view, what he is presenting to the American public is "12 hours of civics lessons" that "makes us think about what our values are, and about the responsibilities of being an American." Again, however, from whose point of view?

From their own admissions at ABC, *Amerika* is not meant as mere entertainment. Though it uses the entertainment medium of television, it *does* have a message. One wonders whether such a "civics lesson" could not have taken another form, a form showing both greater realism and the imagination often required to create such realism. How this longest and most expensive miniseries ever produced will register in the American psyche has yet to be seen.

Ronald A. Lampi is a Santa Cruz writer and the Poetry and Hot Flashes Editor of The Monthly Planet.

# What People Are Doing About Amerika

by Terry Teitelbaum

Many patriotic Americans are less worried about a Soviet invasion than the invasion of extreme, right-wing propaganda and its effects on freedom, peace and justice. By reinforcing growing fears and prejudices, *Amerika* could have an impact on presidential and congressional elections, votes on contra aid, efforts to end nuclear proliferation, and efforts to encourage arms control negotiations. More importantly, its insidious message is that the effort to achieve world peace through cooperation and social development is unpatriotic and treasonous.

The American Friends Service Committee has developed an organizer's packet for *Amerika*. It recommends focusing on getting equal time from ABC affiliates rather than attempting censorship. A coalition formed by the Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Nuclear Weapons Freeze and the Santa Cruz, San Jose, and Palo Alto Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is spearheading a campaign to convince KNTV Channel 11, the local ABC affiliate, to air a panel of local experts to present alternative views to those expressed in *Amerika*.

The Resource Center for Nonviolence and the Nuclear Weapons Freeze in Santa Cruz are co-sponsoring a community viewing of *Amerika*. The first installment of the miniseries on Sunday, February



15 will be preceded by two classic, exceedingly humorous, anti-Soviet propaganda films, *What is Communism?* (1963) and *Red Nightmare* (1962), produced by the Department of Defense. Popcorn and lively discussion will be provided at the Resource Center, 515 Broadway, Santa Cruz. If a sufficient number of people indicate an interest after the first night, there will be community viewing of the rest of the series at the Resource Center.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Don't be a couch potato. You can help to get air time from KNTV by writing to the station's general manager. Keep your letters brief and focused. Two points you might make are:

1. *Amerika* raises important questions for the people of our country. These in-

clude questions about the policies and intentions of the Soviet Union toward the United States, the nature of the United Nations, the rights and responsibilities of citizens within a democracy, and the nature of patriotism.

2. *Amerika* is based upon a very extreme political point of view. The assumptions upon which it is based, and the viewpoints expressed by the series, are clearly those of the extreme right wing in this country.

When requesting that KNTV arrange for a panel discussion of the issues raised by *Amerika*, cite the responsibility the station has to conduct fair and balanced programming in the interests of its entire viewing audience.

Send your letter to:  
Dick Fraim  
General Manager  
KNTV Channel 11  
645 Park Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95110

It's also a good idea to send a copy of your letter to the national ABC network:

John B. Sias  
President, ABC Network Division  
Capital Cities/ABC, Inc.  
New York, NY 10022

For information about this campaign, call 458-9975. For information about community viewing and discussion of *Amerika* call 423-1626 and see this issue's calendar for more details.

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## Analysis

# U.S. Media Loyal To The Home Team

by Igal Dahari

Imagine the following scene. An average American gets home from work and plops down in front of the tube. CBS *Evening News* is the fare, anchored by Dan Rather, the most "liberal" of the network news announcers and a seemingly genial fellow. As the canned music fades and Rather's bright visage lights up the living room, our viewer perks up and listens to a report on a Soviet arms control proposal. While the story unfolds, the phrases "propaganda ploy," "public relations" and "influence Western Europe" are heard from Rather alongside the words "proposal" and "offer." It becomes obvious to our weary viewer that the latest Soviet arms control initiative is—in the words of Rather speaking for CBS correspondent Lesley Stahl who spoke with "White House officials"—"considered a propaganda ploy."

Regular viewers of the CBS *Evening News* might have noticed a pattern. Each time a story concerning the Soviet Union is aired, words and phrases such as "propaganda," "party line" and "rubber stamp" are always mixed in. Modifiers such as "official" and "what it [the Soviet Union] called" are heard several times during reports on the Soviets'



test moratorium, or on the Chernobyl nuclear accident (see the September/October, 1986, issue of *Deadline*, published by New York University's Center for War, Peace and the News Media).

But CBS is just another brick in a wall of nearly indistinguishable mass media enterprises. What CBS does to prolong the American public's distorted view of the Soviet Union is done by the other networks, and by a host of major newspapers and news magazines. The year 1986 offers several excellent examples of the media's ability to dress up the facts: two summits, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's comprehensive disarmament plan, the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, and the Daniloff affair.

Some of the media's most hysterical reporting on the Soviet Union is exemplified by the initial coverage of Chernobyl. On April 29, three days after the reactor exploded and the day after the first public announcement about the incident was made, Soviet television reported that only two people died at Chernobyl. On April 30, the Soviet news agency Tass reported that 197 people had been hospitalized, and repeated the previous day's death toll.

Enter the U.S. media, which leaped on the story with characteristic Cold War zeal. Some of the sources used for the incredible stories first appearing were glaringly partial and/or obscure, and yet virtually the entire mainstream media took for granted that anybody was at least as trustworthy as the Soviet government. The *New York Post* ran a front-page story

were quoted often on the death toll issue, calling the Soviet figures "preposterous" and authoritatively stating that the real figures "are far in excess" of the Soviets'. Reporters hardly questioned these comments, nor were opposing viewpoints given much say; the media seemed happy to have found another issue over which they did not have to be at odds with the administration.

But what most distorts the picture Americans get of the Soviet Union is the way everyday life in that country is portrayed in the American press. Americans hear about the intolerably long lines in stores (as if to say that one of the pillars of our system's superiority over the Soviet Union's is the smaller average length of an American line), the shortage of fresh vegetables, and other travesties typically afflicting communist societies. The following list of headlines, which appeared in *U.S. News and World Report* above articles written by celebrity-reporter Nicholas Daniloff, illustrates this point: "The Grim Side of Soviet Medicine"; "Squeeze on Consumer Gets Tighter"; "For Russian Women, Worst of Both Worlds"; "Religion's Fight for Survival in Russia"; "Stunted Crops, Stunted Hopes"; and "Soviet's Problems With Turned-Off Youth." These types of headlines are by no means restricted to *U.S. News*. They can be found in most mainstream publications at one time or another.

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**Each time a story concerning the Soviet Union is aired, words and phrases such as "propaganda," "party line" and "rubber stamp" are always mixed in.**

with the headline, "MASS GRAVE—15,000 Reported Buried in Nuke Disposal Site." This report found its figures in a Ukrainian weekly—published in New Jersey. United Press International (UPI), one of the most prestigious and often-used news services in the country, quoted a death toll of 2,000 and did not correct itself until a month after first making the mistake. The status of UPI's single Kiev source: unidentified and unconfirmed. The *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the Associated Press and the three major television networks all used the figure of 2,000 deaths, each with its own degree of caution.

Although the final truth about the number of initial deaths and injuries at Chernobyl has proven the Soviet news agencies correct, first impressions were already made. The way in which the media faced up to their mistakes was almost grudging, and lacked the power of those first shrill headlines.

Chernobyl is also illustrative of the media's "only too glad" attitude about working as a team with the Reagan administration. Administration officials

While terrible conditions exist in many parts of the world, it seems that the troubles of Soviet society is a favorite topic. According to some media analysts, the reasons journalists write unbalanced accounts of the Soviet Union include feelings of nationalism, laziness (e.g., repeating "facts" from American officials versus investigating), and a resistance to learning more about a country and a society most reporters know little about, much less understand.

But all of the American public is not being fooled all of the time. A February 1986 ABC/*Washington Post* poll found that 63 percent of those questioned described their knowledge of the Soviet Union as "not good" or "poor." The poll may show a lack of trust in the mainstream news media, or a general lack of knowledge due to some other reason. In any case, it does leave the door open to educating the public on viewing the Soviet Union outside of the Cold War perspective.

Igal Dahari is the International Editor of *The Monthly Planet*.

# America: Where The Real Fear Lies

by Marshall Krantz

A black-uniformed German officer, evoking memories of the Nazi SS, commands a host of Darth Vader lookalikes. They rape and pillage America. They bomb the Capitol and murder our leaders. They tear apart families and brainwash children. They take labor from men, sex from women, and dignity from everyone.

Television viewers can look forward to these and other nightmares when the ABC miniseries *Amerika* airs for 14 hours over seven nights beginning Feb. 15. The United States has capitulated without firing a shot - the result, we are told, of our own moral decay, brought about largely by secular humanism. We now serve the Soviets, who compel our children to learn "social humanism." The Soviet henchmen are the United Nations forces, renamed the UNSSU, initials suggesting a malevolent amalgam of United Nations, Nazi SS and Soviet Union.

*Amerika's* message is that if we're not careful, we'll lose our freedom and American way of life, we'll be oppressed and impoverished by sinister forces. We are losing our American way of life already, however, but not because of Soviets or secular humanists. We're losing it primarily economically. Middle-class America, the class which traditionally provides social and political stability and whose members comprise the majority of the American people, is eroding.

Ronald Reagan has told us that it's morning in America, and low inflation and economic recovery would indicate that. But many middle Americans are spiraling downward into an underclass of working poor and poverty stricken, while the poor are getting poorer. For many, it's a cold morning in America, and the heat's been shut off.

Consider the following published reports: more than half the eight million new jobs created from 1979 to 1984 paid less than \$7,000 annually, while the number of jobs paying \$28,000 or more annually declined; personal bankruptcy filings increased 35 percent last year over the previous year, to 400,000; and household debt, now at a record 20 percent of personal income, is rising.

These numbers reflect changing patterns in the American workforce. Manufacturers are sending jobs overseas, leaving workers with generally lower paying, non-unionized service jobs. There is a growing number of temporary and part-time service workers, who must contend with little or no benefits or job security. U.S. companies have even begun sending certain service jobs, such as data entry, to lower paid overseas labor markets. Computer technology is eliminating clerical as well as middle management positions.

In addition, some sectors of the American economy, most notably family farming, simply never recovered from the worst recession since the Great Depression, while new slumps have developed,



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such as in semiconductors and in the oil patch.

Two wage earners per family have become necessary in many cases just for families to stay afloat. The National Coalition for the Homeless estimates that the number of homeless families is increasing 25 percent a year. About 40 percent of the nation's two million to three million homeless are now families.

On top of all this, the national debt has doubled during Ronald Reagan's presidency. It now stands at \$2 trillion, about \$9,000 per person. The Reagan presidency has also seen the country go from the world's largest creditor nation to its largest debtor. And the record trade deficit stands at \$170 billion. None of this can inspire confidence in the nation's strength, however much optimism the president exudes. The specter of America as colony looms.

And, in the background, everpresent, even if we can't comprehend that it could happen to us personally, is the threat of nuclear war. The prospect of instant annihilation means that all of us, no matter how well off, always live in jeopardy.

Despite our alleged good times, Americans have plenty of fears, and *Amerika* plays to almost all of them. *Amerika's* creators have given our fears a name, UNSSU, and, in their fantasy, blamed our current ills on the new rulers, the Soviets. They've declared liberal ideals responsible for weakening our resolve. And they've found the means of our salvation: patriotism, the kind that brooks no dissent.

Whatever ABC intended with *Amerika*—there's ample evidence it bowed to right-wing pressure—the miniseries is classic propaganda. Foreign menace, imagined or magnified, constitutes the threat; domestic collaboration, also imagined or magnified, supplies the scapegoat; and a strong dose of patriotism provides the antidote. The purpose: to mask the root causes of internal dissatisfaction, and justify or further authoritarian con-

ing communists under every bed.

Unfortunately, our own president has made use of such tools. In his first term, he talked about the "window of vulnerability," through which the Evil Empire would enter. Along with his right-wing allies, he decried the perceived erosion of family, moral values and patriotism, and attributed it to liberal thinking. In his second term, he initiates mass drug testing, and conducts foreign policy in secret, without the advice and consent of Congress. His aides spread disinformation, and distort or transgress laws in single-minded pursuit of ideological goals—and the president calls them heroes.

In the interest of reality, let alone fairness, ABC executives should broadcast another miniseries about the overthrow of American democracy. Its much more plausible scenario could go like this: in the midst of national economic discontent, a popular president, filled with the arrogance of power, creates a climate of fear and suspicion, allowing him to suspend the Constitution and declare martial law—all without firing a shot.

They could call it *Amerika: It Can Happen Here*.

Marshall Krantz is a Berkeley writer and chair of the Alameda County Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign.

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# Unbalanced Coverage: The Failure Of The U.S. Media

by Peter Dykstra

When U.S. Vice President Spiro Agnew initiated a series of broadside attacks on the "liberal bias" of the U.S. news media in the late '60s, initial reaction from Washington's press was critical, if not downright reactionary. After all, the man whose candidacy inspired the Spiro wristwatch and "Spiro WHO?" bumper stickers was not, despite his high office, a paragon of credibility. Angered by the media's unprecedentedly graphic coverage of the Vietnam War, Agnew led a continuing charge on the bias issue until it was eclipsed by the Watergate scandal in mid-1972.

When Agnew himself was felled by an October, 1973 *nolo contendere* plea to tax-related offenses, the U.S. press felt vindicated. Less than a year later, the press reached their zenith of political power by toppling Agnew's boss, Richard Nixon. Dan Rather, then White House correspondent for CBS, and Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, two unheralded Washington Post reporters, became the symbols of the new, robust and often adversarial American journalism.

Today, more than twelve years after the Nixon resignation, conservatives are

on the offensive and, this time, journalists are knuckling under. It's increasingly common to find descriptive terms like "environmentalist," "pacifist," and for that matter, "liberal," used as insults. Only 10 or 15 years ago, they were words which conjured a largely positive

Add to this troubling scenario a telegenic, personable president with a 30-year-long Hollywood resume and an aggressive, media-wise staff, and the results are nothing short of shocking. The Cold War has been re-declared, "disinformation" is back in vogue, and thanks

**Like it or not, the Reagan administration is simply the best "news management" organization in history.**

public image: "environmentalists" were those who heeded Rachel Carson's warning call years before it was fashionable; "pacifists" were those who faced down tear gas, guard dogs, and on a few occasions, bullets, in the name of stopping race prejudice and an immoral war; "liberals" were those who hung posters questioning a president's integrity with the phrase "Would You Buy a Used Car from This Man?" several years before the Watergate scandal confirmed Mr. Nixon's level of integrity.

to an uncritical press, the policies and pronouncements of the United States are less comprehensible to much of the rest of the world than they ever have been. Could all of this have been started by Spiro Agnew?

Like it or not, the Reagan administration is simply the best "news management" organization in history. One of their most astute practices (if manipulating the media should indeed be called astute) is the invocation of opposition-free issues as a means of simultaneously uniting and distracting the public.

This has been most successfully practiced against the triple threat of communism, drugs, and terrorism. The terrible trio are unvarnished "Good-versus-Evil" issues, lending themselves fully to the president's strong suit—oversimplification. They each have no legitimate interest group: there is no Cocaine Growers' Association or Terrorists' Political Action Committee, to lobby or sway public opinion. (Not surprisingly, the administration has yet to combine its zealous anti-drug campaign with equally high-profile efforts to curb the dangers posed to Americans by tobacco or alcohol, each of which is responsible for deaths and injury far in excess of the toll of terrorism and hard drugs. Both are powerful U.S. industries and each has its vested interests—including the vast infusion of advertising revenue to newspapers and magazines.)

In its most bizarre manifestation, the Reagan agenda has imposed this diversion on last year's congressional candidates, who suddenly became preoccupied with pronouncements on the tangential issue of drug testing—frequently culminating in the candidates themselves submitting to drug tests. This has served in some races to blunt Democrats' challenges on issues like Star Wars, disarmament, and the national debt. These historic public policy issues have been relegated to the shadows, waiting their turns while our nation's leaders oblige the press and public by peeing into plastic bottles.

Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams, the Reagan administration's front man on Latin American and Caribbean issues, provides the best ex-



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ample of another Reagan strong suit in bending the accepted rules of the news business. As an unspoken matter of policy, Abrams simply refuses to appear on discussion or interview programs with the best-informed of his ideological opponents.

This past May, Harvard's Public Affairs Forum caved in to Abrams' refusal to appear unless Robert White, Ambassador to El Salvador from 1979-1981, was disinvited. Declaring a possible face-down with White to be a "waste of time," Abrams agreed to appear before the forum with another speaker more to his liking.

Ambassador White, a vocal critic of current U.S. policy in the region, is the opponent perhaps most frequently ducked by Abrams. "Part of [a public official's] obligation," said White, "is to educate the public on their policies. That can't be done without responsible debate and critique by qualified people." By ducking such debate, White concluded, Abrams ducks the most articulate challenges to U.S. policy.

One need only look as far as Europe to see the problems with the American press. Compared to the vibrant and diverse political perspectives available in European news, their American counterparts are embarrassingly homogeneous. Political variations in the three U.S. networks' broadcasts may only be detectable in measurements of parts per billion. Each sits astride the same political fence, frightened to lean to either side in order to not offend viewers—or more importantly, to not offend sponsors. Opinions which stray too far on either side are routinely excluded from the 22 minutes of network news offered each evening, stripping both passion and diversity from the U.S. political debate.

By contrast, Londoners, for example, need only look as far as the *Times*, the *Guardian* and the *Daily Telegraph* to gain an appreciation of a variety of views unavailable in the American press. In France, the conservative *Figaro*, establishment *Le Monde* and socialist *La Libération* share newsstands.

Television coverage also has perceptible political variations throughout most of Western Europe, and is less likely to share the apparent assumption of U.S. broadcasters that no viewer can remain attentive to any story for more than 120 seconds.

Canadian journalism has its own cur-

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ious variations: Southam and Thomson, two publishing giants, control the vast majority of Canadian daily newspapers. The two companies drew howls—and an inconclusive government inquiry—several years ago when they simultaneously closed competing newspapers in Winnipeg and Ottawa, each publisher emerging with a newspaper monopoly in one of the two cities.

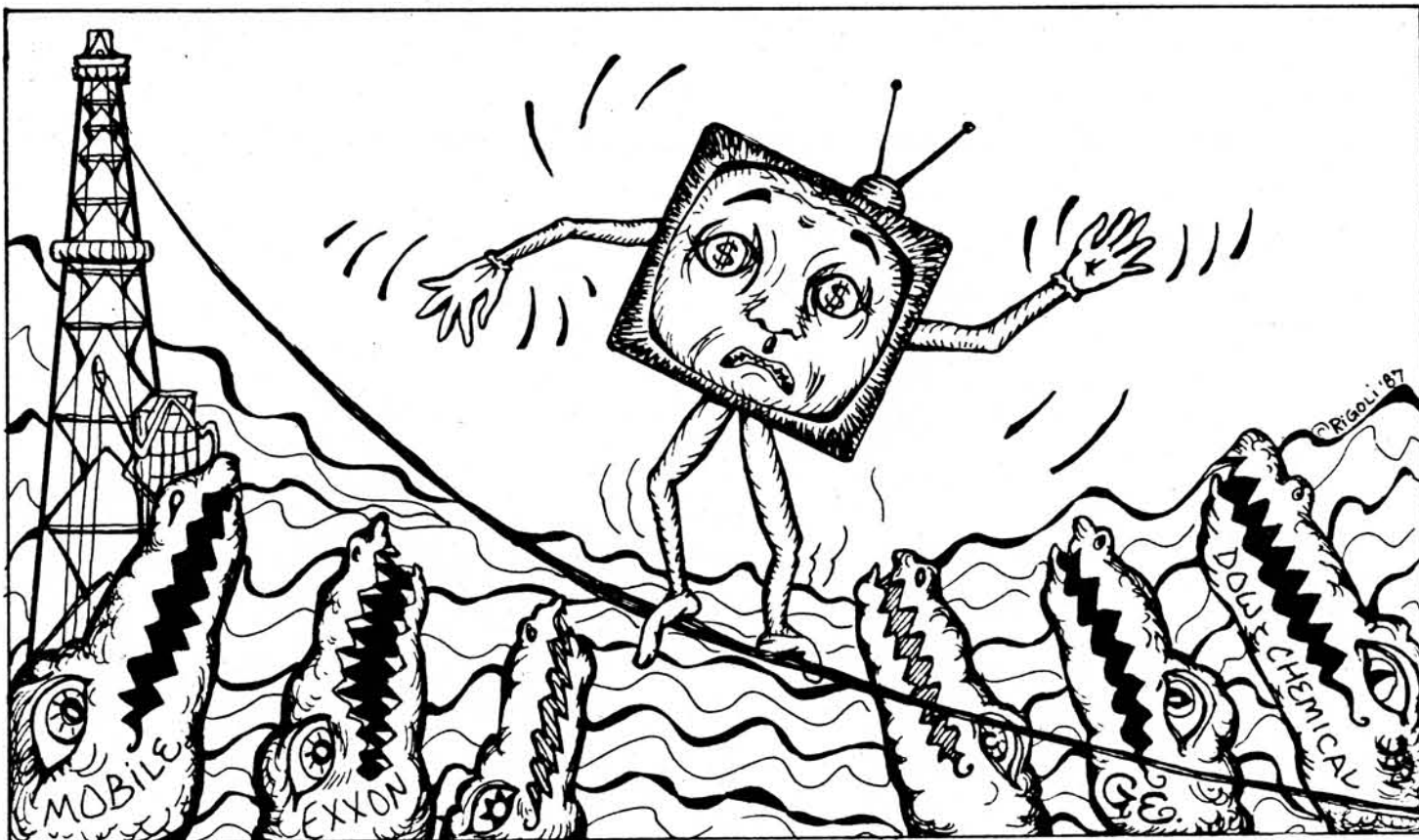
In 1984, the Toronto Sun Corporation sold off its 80 percent share of United Press Canada, cutting UPI's Canadian presence to four offices and leaving Canadians with only one wire service offering national coverage. Canada's two national television networks present easily distinguishable news broadcasts: the CBC rarely offers strong criticism of its owners, the Canadian government, but provides foreign coverage that often surpasses its wealthier U.S. counterparts. The commercial network, CTV, is far more willing to air Canada's dirty laundry, but has smaller foreign operations.

Far more tepid is the American variety of television news programs, such as "The McLaughlin Group," "Agronsky & Co.," or "Washington Week in Review." A large part of the problem: corporate sponsorship. Major share of sponsorship in these programs is undertaken by single companies: "McLaughlin" is fully sponsored by General Electric, a major defense contractor and new owners of NBC. Until last year, the show was sponsored in full by the Edison Electric Institute, a consortium of utility companies which devoted much of its energy to pro-nuclear power lobbying. As if to underscore their preference of style over substance, "McLaughlin" recruited Nicholas Daniloff as a new panelist shortly after his return from detainment in Moscow—suggesting that Mr. Daniloff's authority on national and world affairs was somehow augmented by his brief stay in prison.

These shows are not the only ones prone to conflict with commercial supporters. Independent Washington film and video producers have a running joke that the "non-commercial" Public Broadcasting Service, which has turned to a huge influx of corporate sponsors to fend off financial decay, will retain its initials but change its name to the Petroleum Broadcasting Service. In fact, petrochemical giants like Exxon, Mobil, Dow Chemical, and Ciba-Geigy figure among the top 20 private contributors to PBS.

More disturbing, according to Arlen Slobodow, Director of the Washington-based Public Interest Video Network, is the fact that, while the public shoulders public broadcasting's basic operating costs, it is the large corporations that fund, and thus influence, the contents of programs. Day-to-day operating costs for public TV are largely covered by memberships solicited through fundraising and through the taxpayer-funded Corporation for Public Broadcasting. However, the bulk of programs' production costs are paid by large-block grants—many from corporations with a political axe to grind. By underwriting basic costs, Slobodow said, "the public is providing a corporate subsidy."

A final threat to fair exchange of opinion is the current assault on the



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Fairness Doctrine, a Federal Communications Commission decree which calls for the provision of some amount of response time when broadcasters air opinions on controversial issues. Once bitter adversaries, the networks and President Reagan's FCC have joined forces to challenge this measure. There's widespread fear that its demise would open the floodgates to television advocacy advertising—leaving any controversial issue open to a spending free-for-all. The side able to spend the most will have an open door to public opinion, a prospect which leaves many non-profit public interest groups apprehensive.

Not since Senator Joseph McCarthy's day has xenophobia gripped America's press so firmly. TV's eagerness to please the American public has led the way

Oversimplification serves the Reagan agenda well in another context: The press willingly accepts and institutionalizes clichés that are politically-motivated, oversimplified, and often intentionally distorted: The MX missile, badly in need of a sales pitch, is re-named the "Peacekeeper" in best Orwellian form; followers of Nicaragua's deposed despot Anastasio Somoza become "Freedom Fighters."

Perhaps the best of these is the regular reference to New Zealand and other countries' reluctance to accept nuclear weapons in their homelands as a "Nuclear Allergy" (a phrase frequently credited to Assistant Defense Secretary Richard Perle). Here, a refusal to allow one's nation to join the arms race is equated with a physical affliction.

than in disarmament debates. When a toxic waste or endangered species story breaks, typical reporting will always present three (or more) sides: the polluters, who will either insist they are well within legal limits or deny the existence of a problem; the environmentalists, who will portray the problem (and on occasion, over-portray it); and the government, who will typically stand firmly and equidistantly between the two.

This isn't a perfect model, but it's far better than the standard nuclear weapons story. On arms control issues, it's far more unusual to see a third voice included: The Kremlin and the Pentagon are rarely given an arbiter. The vague honor of "authority" is almost never conveyed upon peace groups, a practice supported by the press' judicious use of those damning adjectives—liberal, environmentalist or anti-war.

Unfortunately, today's dormant, pliable press is as influential and ubiquitous as it was in its presidential-toppling heyday of 15 years ago. The ironic backlash of Watergate is that our leaders have taken more liberty with the truth than ever, and the best we can expect is a soon-forgotten splash of feigned indignation when high officials are caught lying through their spokesperson's teeth. The need for a questioning, skeptical and strong U.S. news media is as great today as any time in history. Yet the Pentagon and Kremlin are more free now than ever before to depart from the truth and dodge responsible action on reducing the threat of nuclear war. The people who build, own, and operate nuclear weapons are still given far more credence than those who don't like them. As long as that persists, guilty presidents can look the U.S. public right in the eye and say "I am not a crook," deadly missiles will be called "Peacekeeper," and failed summit meetings will be declared successful.

Peter Dykstra has been National Media Director for Greenpeace in the United States since 1981. This article is reprinted from Greenpeace.

### ***The people who build, own, and operate nuclear weapons are still given far more credence than those who don't like them.***

toward unprecedented flag-waving. However appropriate the orgies of patriotism which surrounded coverage of the Bicentennial, Los Angeles Olympics, and the Statue of Liberty's birthday ceremony may or may not be, they helped to further drive out of fashion the advocacy reporting that helps cure America's warts by revealing them.

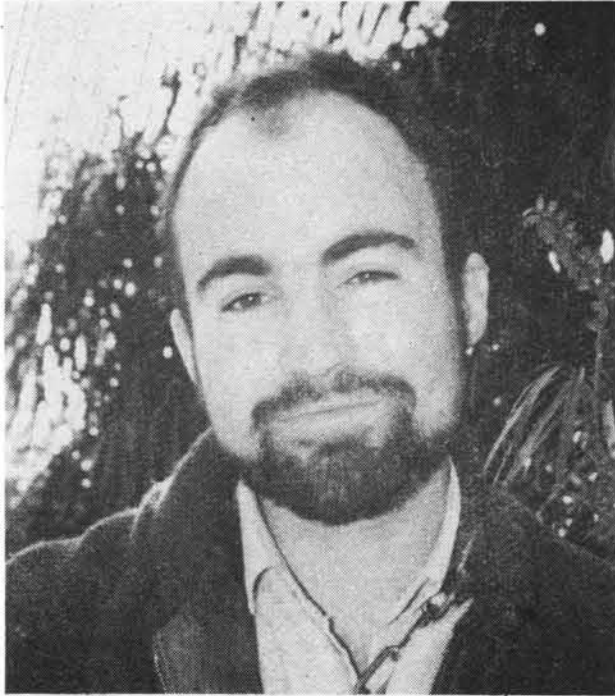
The Soviets abet this by lying, and on occasion lying absurdly: In the days following Chernobyl, Soviet diplomat Eugene Pozdnyakov incurred Nightline host Ted Koppel's wrath by explaining that the reason the Soviets did not warn neighboring governments of the existence or extent of the accident was because the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made a presumably high-level decision that other governments could not be reached during the weekend.

The good news in all this is that if the Reagan administration has succeeded in a daily twisting of the portrayal of its foreign policy aims, it has largely failed to do so in the realm of environmental issues. Much of this can be traced to the zealous ineptitude of the administration's first environmental executives, EPA Chief Anne Gorsuch and Interior Secretary James Watt. Clearly, when the man whose highest responsibility is to protect the nation's resources tells a Senate committee that resource protection for future generations is a dubious goal because "there won't be many more future generations before the Lord comes," the administration has a credibility problem.

The Washington press corps has always been more willing to include public interest groups in environmental debates



## "Do You Fear The Soviet Union?"



**Elliot Scott**  
Student  
Santa Cruz

Yes, I fear interaction between the United States and the Soviet Union. I fear them equally. I think it's the competition between countries that makes it dangerous.



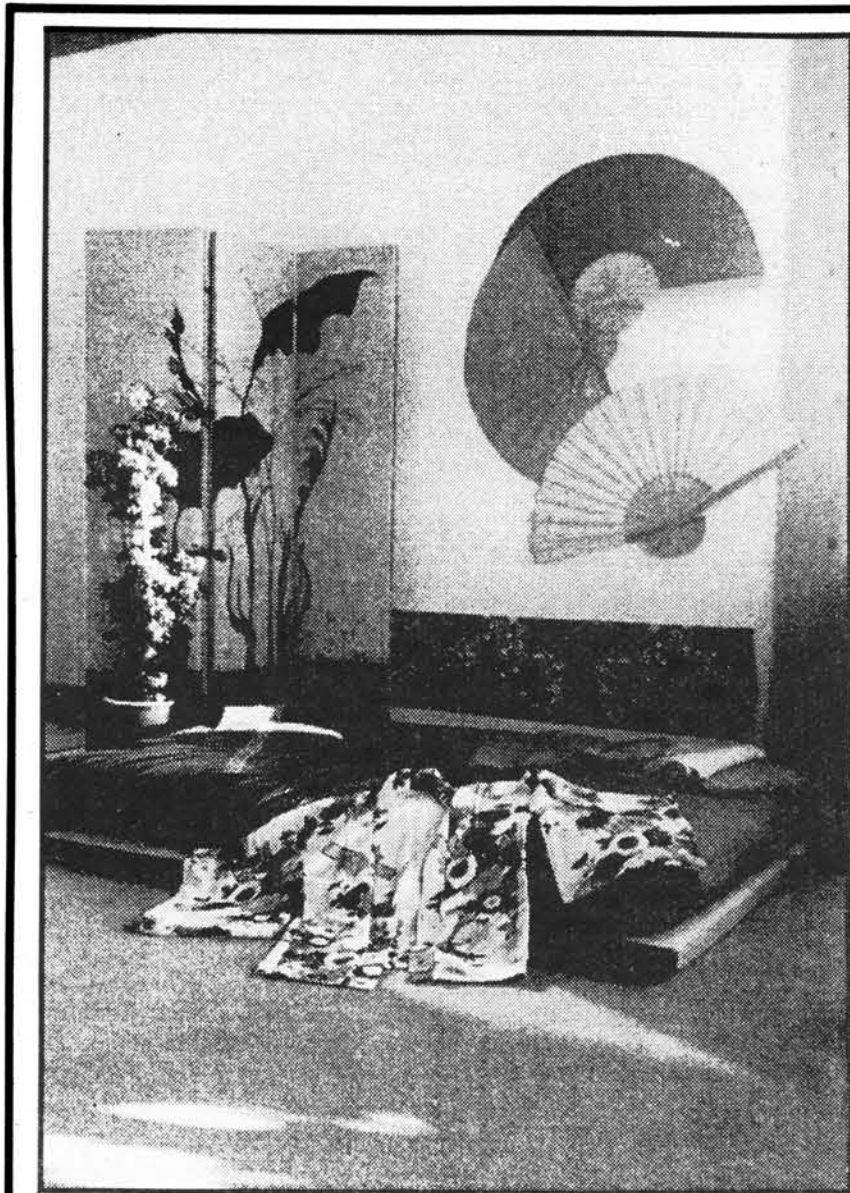
**Jahne Reyes**  
Midwife-Artist-Homemaker  
Live Oak

No, I initiated a peace button exchange with the people in the Soviet Union and networking has been accomplished through my artwork. Fear is what keeps people apart.



**Tom Curren**  
Parking Deputy  
Santa Cruz

No, I don't believe that the Russians would want to go to war. Economically we are stronger and they are not in the position for confrontation.



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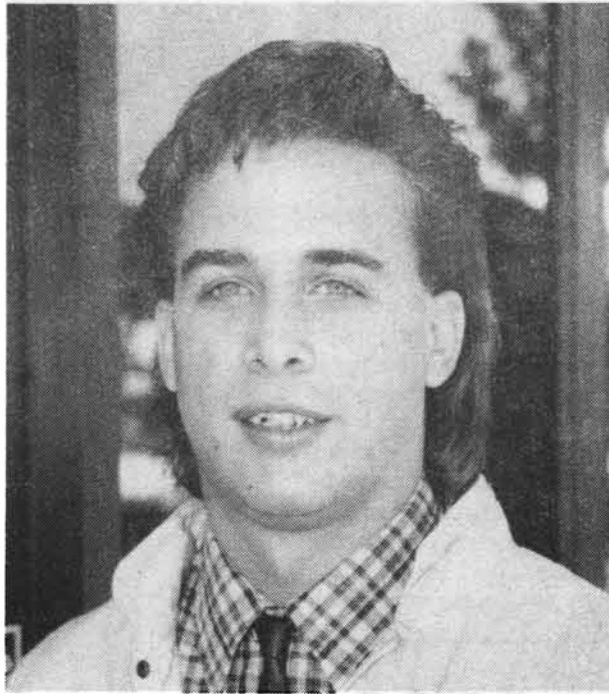
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No, the people I know from the Soviet Union were very nice and caring. The last thing they would want is for anyone to be hurt. They spend so much time keeping their day-to-day survival together that they are sympathetic to the struggle of all people.



**Doug Erb**  
Programmer  
Santa Cruz

Yes, if any major conflict came down from the super-powers, they would be the ones to blow us away.

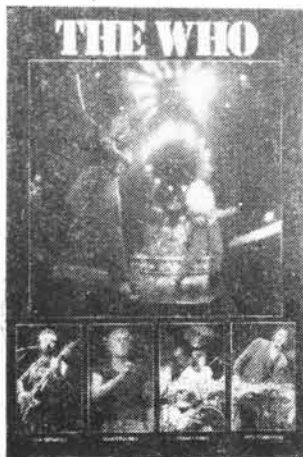


**Cecelia Martinez**  
Produce Warehouseperson  
Ben Lomond

No, I think there is a lot to be learned from the Soviet Union. We haven't really tried to explore the possibilities. I fear Reagan more than the Soviets.

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## The Freeze and SANE Unite

# Merger Mania Hits The Peace Movement

by Susan Strong

In a historic move, the national Nuclear Weapons Freeze conference in Chicago in December voted overwhelmingly to merge with SANE. SANE is one of the largest organizations in the country working to end the arms race. The new organization will be the largest peace organization in U.S. history.

The vigorous Freeze grass roots network of 1,800 local groups combines with SANE's strong Washington presence and well-developed communications program. All legal work will be completed and formal ratification will take place at this year's annual Freeze convention.

The merger vote reflected the general

color.

The tone of the conference was also reflected in the revised mission statement of the Freeze, which now includes the following:

"Enactment of a bilateral, comprehensive Freeze as an essential first step toward lessening the risk of nuclear war; the phased mutual reductions of nuclear weapons, beginning with U.S. and Soviet ballistic missiles. These are concrete steps toward a world without nuclear weapons by the year 2000.

"Achieving the elimination of nuclear arsenals should be accompanied by ending the Cold War, by sharp mutual reductions in conventional forces, conversion to a peace economy, and establishing common security among the nations of

*It was clear that in Chicago the American peace movement passed its most severe test so far—the danger of splitting into fragments.*

mood of this year's conference. Freeze founder Randy Kehler urged delegates to reach out to a broad range of other groups in the peace and justice family, calling for a National Peace Federation.

Non-intervention is one way to prevent nuclear weapons use, Kehler said. He called 1987 a year of great potential, saying "Congress changes at the local level."

Senator Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.), who remembers being a lone vote against the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, pointed out the importance of broadening both our constituency and our definition of national security.

"America is vulnerable if our people are poor, badly educated, and in ill health," Hatfield said. The Rev. Jesse Jackson and Chicago Mayor Harold Washington had the same message, with an added call to reach out to people of

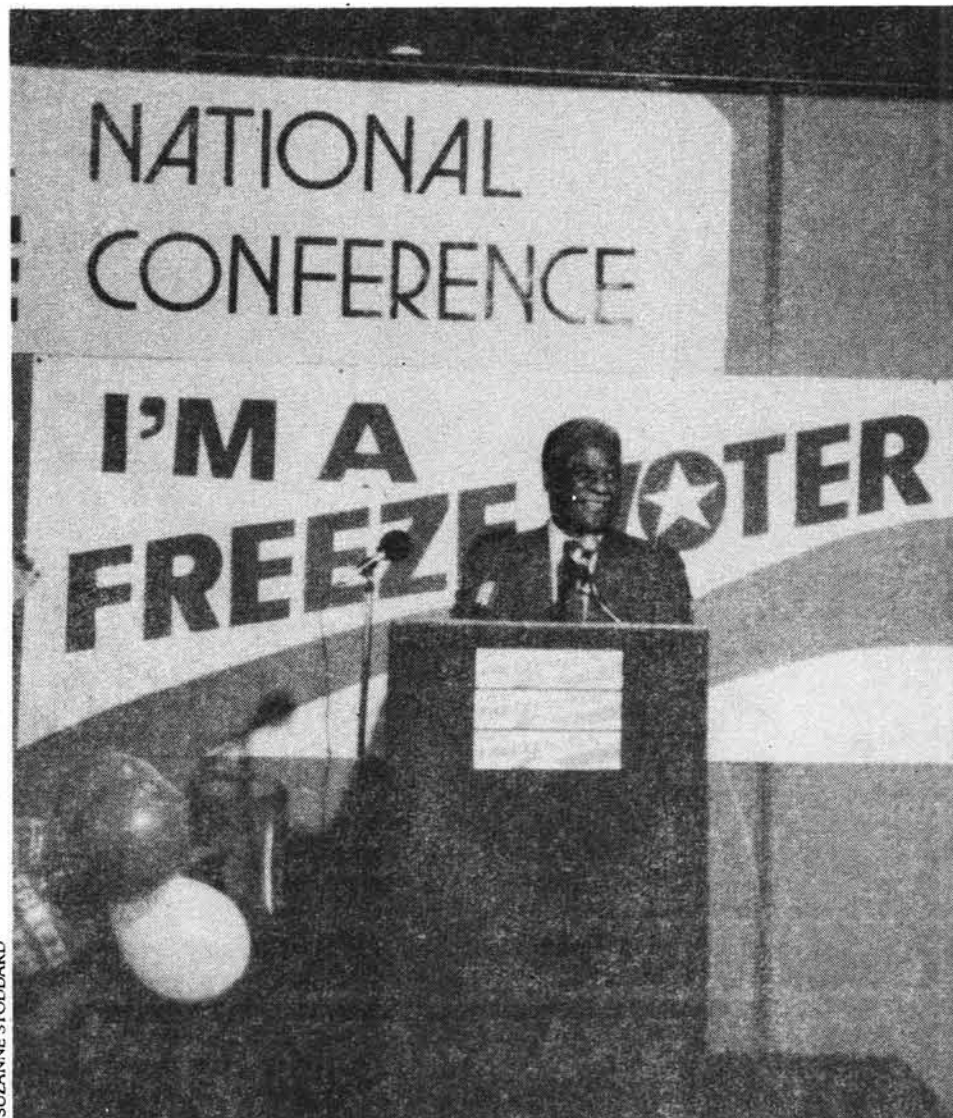
the world."

Although the keynote was breadth, the action program voted by the conference for 1987 was succinct: continue pressing for a comprehensive test ban.

Secondary goals include halting deployment of weapons in space and a missile flight test ban. Actual tactics recommended were actions and media work whenever there is a nuclear test anywhere in the world.

Aggressive lobbying around the military budget and other related legislation will culminate in a national lobby day June 11, and an American Peace Test-sponsored day of actions June 12, commemorating the fifth anniversary of the huge New York city demonstration of 1982.

One of the most important overall themes of the strategy papers and the



Mayor Harold Washington welcoming the seventh annual National Nuclear Weapons Freeze Conference to Chicago.

conference, in terms of the future of the U.S. peace movement, was diversity within unity—those who prefer electoral work, direct action or legislative lobbying were all seen as part of one family. Legal requirements may mandate specialized organizations or changes in those which now exist, but these divisions were seen as less important than in the past.

It was clear that in Chicago the American peace movement passed its most

severe test so far—the danger of splitting into fragments. In its new, strengthened form, with a more favorable Senate and a changing climate in Washington, the peace movement and the Freeze can expect substantial forward motion in 1987, and a good start on 1988.

Susan Strong chairs the Northern California Freeze Campaign.

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## No Laughing Matter?

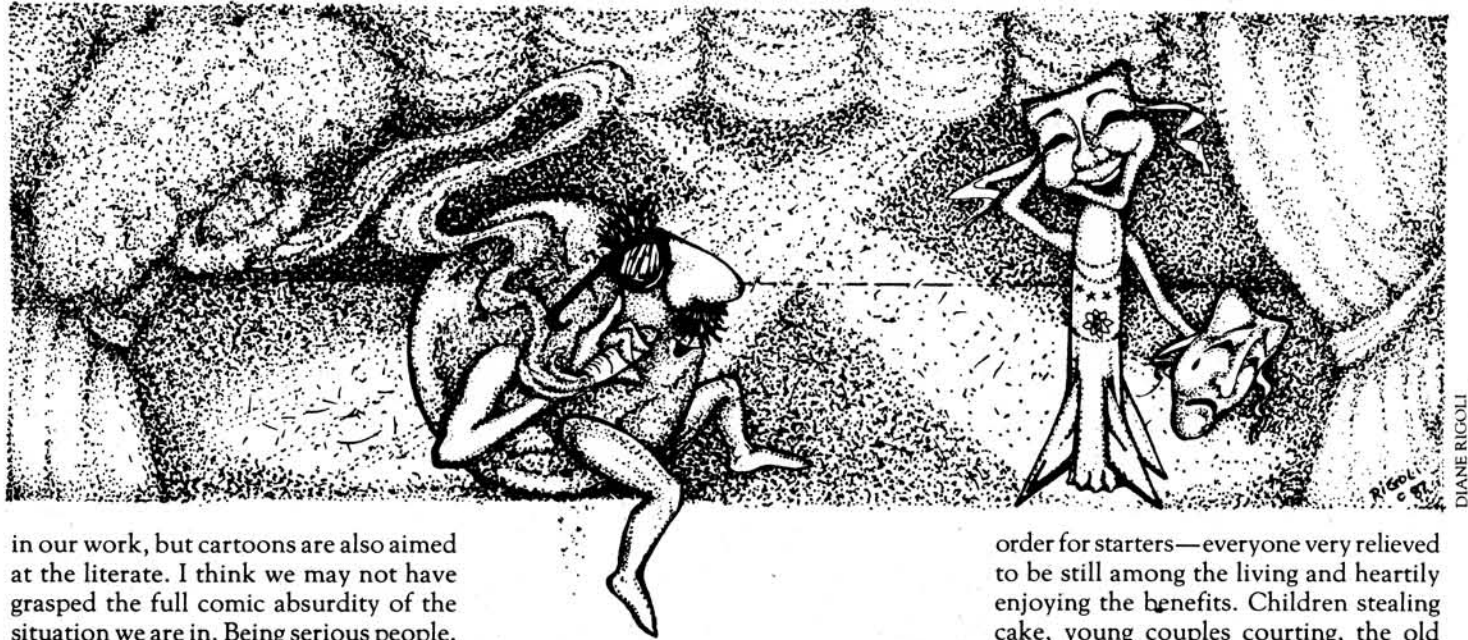
by Susan Strong

In a remark much favored by peace movement writers, Albert Einstein said that some problems cannot be solved at the same level at which they appear. Usually this quote is used by those who would oppose nuclear weapons by dreaming of a new and better world rather than relying on adversary politics.

There is more than one way, however, to change levels: one can rise above it all, or sink down lower. This does not necessarily mean becoming worse than one's opponent — it might also mean getting a grip on the root of the problem. Well, you might exclaim that we have been busy doing that—examining premises, bringing forth counter arguments, providing information, making charges—all good, solid, serious left brain stuff.

After five years of working this way, I have concluded that the whole peace movement is a tribe of grassroots intellectuals, engaged in celestial combat with the tribe of nuclear intellectuals holding Washington. We already have a star war—the fight is going on completely over the heads of the majority of the American people. Most Americans do not read. Furthermore, the great mass of the American people do not want to be serious in the time they have to spare, away from the workplace or family responsibilities. Denial, apathy, yes, but even more, there is a great craving for fantasy and comic relief—escape from the ordinary displeasures of life, much less nuclear war. If they are not adoring Clint Eastwood, they are howling at Eddie Murphy.

If it is true that a mobilized citizenry is



in our work, but cartoons are also aimed at the literate. I think we may not have grasped the full comic absurdity of the situation we are in. Being serious people, we also may not be paying attention to the enormous persuasive power that visually oriented humor has. Moreover, the issue is so apocalyptic and the consequences so grave that it seems like sacrilege to make jokes, except at the bitter end of a 16-hour day.

But everyday paranoia, which is certainly the most fundamental cause of the arms race, is one of the most difficult human behaviors to fight with reasoning and one of the most contagious. It is also one of the easiest to depict and expose as ludicrous. What we need now is another film like *Dr. Strangelove* and dozens more quick clips like the one featuring Aaron Freeman.

One of the many beauties of this strategy is the way it avoids libel—we can say anything tongue-in-cheek and, like the makers of *Amerika*, claim it's just

ly, I can just see it now—wouldn't it just be a lot easier to fit these missiles with some false eyelashes and ensconce them in 10 yards of funeral satin, at great public expense?

Then, after the funeral, we could all go out to play—doing all the things we really like to do and want to keep on doing. Maybe a nice Irish wake is in

order for starters—everyone very relieved to be still among the living and heartily enjoying the benefits. Children stealing cake, young couples courting, the old telling yarns, the animals and butterflies cavorting, trees singing—Disney would have loved it.

*Susan Strong chairs the Northern California Freeze Campaign, but this piece was not written at the end of a 16-hour day. It was the product of sober reflection and more than a decade of teaching linear thinking.*

**... we may not have grasped the full comic absurdity of the situation we are in.**

what we need to end the nuclear threat, then we will have to learn to play to the couches and rows of TV and movieland. Now that the Nielsen ratings have been exposed as inaccurate, we are going to find out what people are really watching, and my bet is that what they want most of all is a funny story.

A graphic example of the power of satire embedded in the nuclear issue was provided by some clips of Aaron Freeman, a Chicago comic, shown on the McNeil-Lehrer Newshour last December. Freeman got into some kind of circular structure in what appeared to be a tree, and in mock seriousness explained to us the difference between a defensive bomb and an offensive bomb. The same standard clips of nuclear devastation we have all seen 50 times followed each explanation. The effect was hilarious. The concept was exposed as completely absurd.

Of course, we all use cartoons already

fiction, and protected by the Bill of Rights. And humor has a way of operating at many levels at once, something we desperately need to do, in order to succeed. The limitations of the linear thinking required by expository persuasion are severe. A graphic sense of what this means when you are faced with film propaganda like *Amerika* can be seen by studying Sam Keen's recently published book, *Faces of the Enemy*. The most fundamental psychological function of hate propaganda uncovered by Keen is the way in which killing the enemy is represented as destroying death itself.

In death-phobic America, destroying death is already big business, as Jessica Mitford showed us in her expose of the mortuary business more than two decades ago. We also spend a lot of money on fitness, cosmetics, hair dye, false teeth, hair implants, contact lenses, face lifts, nose jobs, and body surgery. Actual-



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**Once More**

Yet another study was released recently concluding that the Pentagon's purchasing policies are flawed. And the Defense Department has, once again, promised to be good and ensure "the best buys for our defense dollars." That last statement is in a letter by Richard Goodwin, recently appointed to keep an eye on these matters. The latest study was by the General Accounting Office (GAO), and concluded that the Pentagon's practice of sending observers to plants doing military work was not effective.

The GAO report was released by Senator Bill Roth of Delaware, the ranking Republican on the Senate Government Affairs Committee and its former chair. Roth compared the Pentagon's buying policy to a game of "blindman's bluff."



**Grumman's "Weight" Problem**

Grumman Corporation's president, John O'Brien, termed it "a weight-reduction and muscle-building program" to save the Long Island, New York, military contractor \$50 million this year. What it means to 1500 Grumman employees in Long Island's Nassau and Suffolk counties is the loss of their jobs. Grumman, which employs 25,000 people in the Long Island area, is far from being in financial straits. In fact, O'Brien admits that the move to put these workers on unemployment is motivated solely by the company's wish to maximize its profits. Grumman builds five different types of planes for the Pentagon.

Most of the people to be laid off are those working on the production lines at the Calverton, Long Island, plant.



**A Real Bomber**

Recent news reports show that the B-1B nuclear bomber is a huge success—if you're the Boeing Company, Eaton Corporation, Rockwell International Corporation, the General Electric Corporation or one of many subcontractors. It appears that the \$20.5 billion paid for 100 of the bombers—none of which are completely operational yet—will have to be increased by \$600 million in fiscal 1988 and 1989. The Air Force wants the money to fix the host of problems its newest flying (on paper, at least) toy developed before ever being completed.

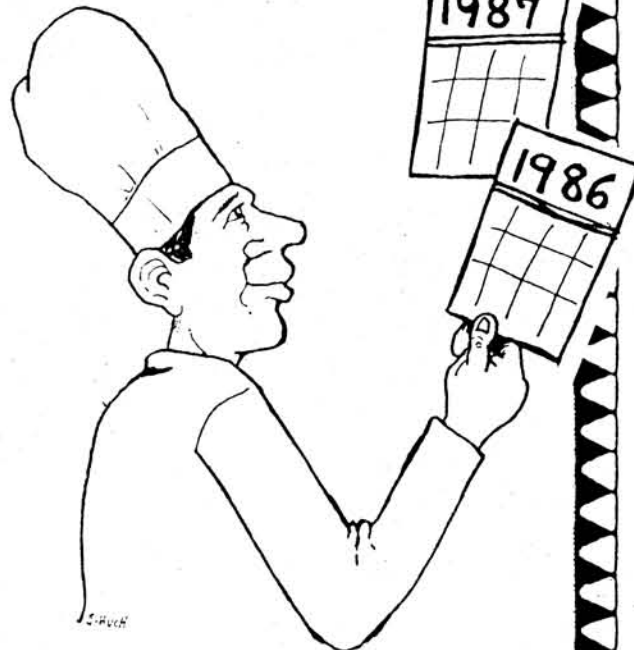
Some of the bomber's problems make it its own worst enemy, like the fact that its receivers and transmitters interfere with each other. "In effect, the system was jamming itself," said Lieutenant General William Thurman, commander of the Aeronautical Systems Division at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, from where the B-1B program is managed.

(For a good discussion of the B-1B program's numerous shortcomings, see "Why the B1 Can Be Expected to Bomb," by retired Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel David Evans, senior military adviser with Business Executives for National Security and formerly with the Secretary of Defense, *The Washington Post National Weekly Edition*, 1/19/87.)

*Some things just keep getting better . . .*

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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, February 24, for inclusion in the March issue (publication date: Thursday, March 5).

**FRIDAY JANUARY 30-  
SATURDAY JANUARY 31**

**Conference on military intervention in Nicaragua featuring Ron Dellums** in Berkeley. For more info: the Nicaragua Information Center (415) 549-1387.

**SATURDAY JANUARY 31**

**Santa Cruz Socially Responsible Investment Symposium.** An all-day workshop at Cabrillo College. See box for details.

**Rummage Sale for The Redwood Youth Foundation**, which promotes international understanding among young people through instruction in ham radio operation given in the public schools. Volunteer help and saleable donations appreciated. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Live Oak Grange Hall, 1900 17th Avenue. Info: Marge Bailey, 475-6603.

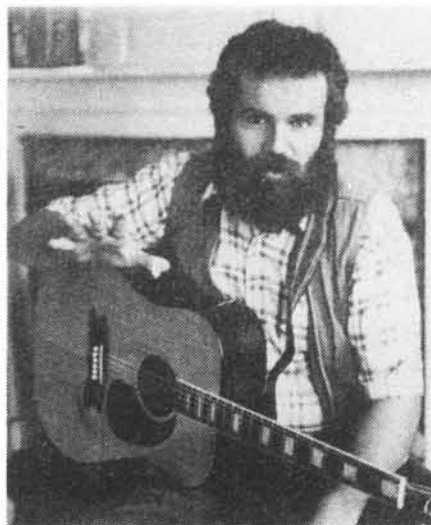
**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4**

**Women's International League for Peace and Freedom meeting**, led by the Women's Budget committee, with audience participation, on "How the Reagan Budgets Have Affected Our Local Community." The public is invited to this brown-bag meeting held at 11:30 a.m., Trinity Presbyterian Church Social Hall, Poplar at Melrose. Child care is available by reservation. Info: 425-7618.

## Test Ban Vigils

Lenten Desert Experience will gather people of faith to the Nevada Test Site for 40 days of prayer, vigil, and nonviolent civil disobedience in protest of nuclear weapons testing. Local test ban vigils around the country will be held on Fridays during the Lenten Season (March 6-April 17) in conjunction with the test site witness. In Santa Cruz, join us at the town clock these Fridays between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

For more information write or call Nevada Desert Experience, P.O. Box 4487, Las Vegas, NV 89127, (702) 646-4814. In Santa Cruz, call Robby Labovitz, 479-8183.



Charlie King's performance at Santa Cruz High on Thursday, February 12 will benefit the Santa Cruz Action Network.

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5**

**Help end nuclear testing by occupying the Nevada Test Site**, or by helping those who do. This will be the U.S. test that ends the Soviet moratorium! Occupy the test site through February 12th; Write or call your congressperson; Donate equipment to participants; Contribute to the legal fund for protesters; Talk to your friends. (See this issue's Legislative Update section for details on test ban legislation.) Info: Livermore Action Group, (415) 644-3031 or (415) 621-1470.

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 6**

**Submissions deadline for Arts For A Better World.** See box for details.

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 7**

**Mayor Jane Weed will speak at a dinner/fundraiser for the Santa Cruz Action Network (SCAN).** Dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30 p.m., with discussion beginning at 6. A \$3-6 donation is requested. At the Santa Cruz YMCA, corner of Chestnut and Walnut. Info: Janet at 429-0137.

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8**

**Annual Dinner for the Resource Center For Nonviolence** will feature Grace Paley, prominent short story writer, poet, and long-time peace activist. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. at the Jade Park/Capitola Community Center, 45th Ave. at Jade St., Capitola. Tickets cost \$15-25 (sliding scale), available at the Resource Center, 515 Broadway. Limited tickets for only the program with Paley, at 7:30 p.m., are available for \$5-7. Info: 423-1626.

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 9**

**Social Change Workers Support Group** will have its first meeting. Anyone on the staff of a social change organization is encouraged to attend the monthly meetings to be held the second Monday night of each month. We will help one another to be the most effective humans we can be, including conquering burnout. Limited space. Call now. Info: Ann at 427-1081.

## A Military Space Expert Looks at Star Wars

**Dr. Robert M. Bowman**

(Lt. Col. USAF, ret.)



- \* Former Head of all "Star Wars" type programs for the Air Force
- \* President, Institute for Space and Strategic Studies
- \* A noted military expert on space weaponry
- \* A speaker and writer of great clarity. Author of Star Wars: Defense or Death Star?

### Schedule of Speaking Tour:

- Mon. Feb. 23** 8:00 PM - McKenna Theatre, San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway. \$3 general, \$2 student
- Tues. Feb. 24** 7:30 PM - Harlan Adams Theatre, Chico State University, Chico. Free
- Wed. Feb. 25** 8:00 PM - Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley. \$3 general, \$2 student
- Thurs. Feb. 26** 11:45 a.m. - Playwright's Theatre, Drama Building, California State University at Sacramento. Free  
7:30 PM - Young Hall, room 198, UC Davis. Admission.
- Fri. Feb. 27** 10:00 a.m. - San Jose State University, Umunham Room in the College Union. Free  
7:30 PM - Grace Cathedral, California and Taylor, SF; "Confessions of a Star Warrior". Contribution requested
- Sat. Feb. 28** 7:00 PM - The Palace of Fine Arts, San Francisco. Bowman speaking and premiere of documentary film "Star Wars: A Search for Security", by Ian Thiermann for Physicians for Social Responsibility. Admission \$7
- Sun. Mar. 1** 1:00 PM - First Presbyterian Church, 27th and Broadway, Oakland; "A Christian Perspective on the SDI". Free
- Mon. Mar. 2** 7:30 PM - Dinkelspiel Auditorium, Stanford University. \$2.50 general, \$1 students

Sponsors include: SDI Roundtable, Northern California Nuclear Freeze, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, Peace Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of California, and the San Francisco Presbytery Peacemaking Task Force.  
For further information, call (415) 845-6750.

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**The Nuclear Weapons Freeze**  
458-9975  
and  
**The Resource Center  
for Nonviolence**  
423-1626

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12**

**Charlie King performs original folk music** to benefit the Santa Cruz Action Network (SCAN). Concert begins at 8 p.m. at the Santa Cruz High Auditorium, 415 Walnut. Tickets are \$5/advance, \$6-9/at door, and are available at Cymbaline Records and SCAN, 320-H Cedar St. Info: 458-9425.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

**Red Scare Night.** Two classic, hilarious propaganda films, *What Is Communism?* and *Red Nightmare*, will be shown at the Resource Center for Nonviolence at 7:30 p.m. to be followed by a public viewing of *Amerika* at 9. Info: 423-1626.

**MONDAY FEBRUARY 23**

**United Methodist Bishop Leontine Kelly** will be the first speaker in the 1987 Lenten series on peacemaking, sponsored by Peacemakers. Her topic, "In Defense of Creation," will address the 1986 United Methodist pastoral letter on nuclear weapons, which she played a major role in drafting. Bishop Kelly has long been an outspoken critic of the nuclear arms race. In 1984 she was arrested in a Good Friday protest at Lawrence Livermore Laboratories. 7 p.m. at Resurrection Catholic Church, 7600 Soquel Drive, Aptos (off the Seacliff exit). Free-will donation requested. Info: Shelly, 423-1626.

**Dr. Robert M. Bowman**, former head of the Star Wars programs, speaks in San Francisco. See box for details.

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 24**

**Sing-a-long with the Freedom Song Network**, in their monthly meeting (last Tuesday of each month) 7-9 p.m. at the Resource Center for Nonviolence, 515 Broadway. Info: Theodora at 458-1241.

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25**

**Dr. Robert M. Bowman**, former head of Star Wars programs, speaks in Berkeley. See box for details.

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27**

**Dr. Robert M. Bowman** speaks in San Jose and in San Francisco. See box for details.

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 28**

**Ancient Future plays world fusion music** to benefit the Santa Cruz Nuclear Weapons Freeze. Concert begins 8 p.m. at Moraga Hall, 1307 Seabright Ave., Santa Cruz. Tickets are available at the Freeze office. 320-G Cedar St. Info: 458-9975.

**Ian Thiermann premieres the documentary film "Star Wars: A Search for Security,"** and **Dr. Robert M. Bowman** speaks in San Francisco. See box for details.

**SUNDAY MARCH 1**

**A Christian Perspective on the SDI**, with Dr. Robert M. Bowman. See box for details.

**MONDAY MARCH 2**

**Dr. Robert M. Bowman** speaks. See box for details.

**SATURDAY APRIL 25**

**March and Rally: to end U.S. support for South African Apartheid; to end U.S. intervention in Central America and the Caribbean; for Jobs and Justice, Not War; to Freeze and Reverse the Nuclear Arms Race.** Mobilization for Peace, Jobs and Justice needs marchers, funds and volunteers for the 11 a.m. assembly, 12 p.m. march, and 1 p.m. rally, all in San Francisco. Info: (415) 626-8053.

**Socially Responsible Investment Symposium**

Amy Domini, author of "Ethical Investing" and Vice president of Franklin Research and Development in Boston, will provide the keynote address for a symposium on Socially Responsible Investment at Cabrillo College on Saturday, January 31.

Afternoon highlight will be a panel discussion on "Can California Afford Peace? Impact of Defense Dollars on the California Economy." Morning and afternoon workshops will center on social screening of stocks, bond and mutual funds, community investing, banks, savings and loans, credit unions, philanthropy, shareholder and consumer activism, and housing cooperatives.

The day-long symposium will focus on how and where to find information in order to make investment choices in line with an individual's ethical position and to provide a variety of choices not generally recognized.

Those wishing to attend are urged to register with Cabrillo College as early as possible since enrollment is limited. Registration is \$35 or \$25 for seniors and students. The event begins at 8:30 a.m. Call 425-7474 for more information.

**A Call For Entries!**

Submissions are now being accepted for **Arts for a Better World**.

Themes: The Nuclear Arms Race, World Hunger, Civil Rights, Apartheid and other issues of local, national or international importance.

Submissions categories: Paintings, Prints, Photography, Sculpture, Mixed-Media, Music, Film, Video, Poetry, Performance and Site-Specific Installations.

The selection committee will include: Cecile N. McCann, Editor in Chief, Artweek, Inc.; Michael S. Bell, Curator/Art Historian; Trinh T. Minh-Ha, Filmmaker/Professor of Cinema; and John High, Poet/Translator.

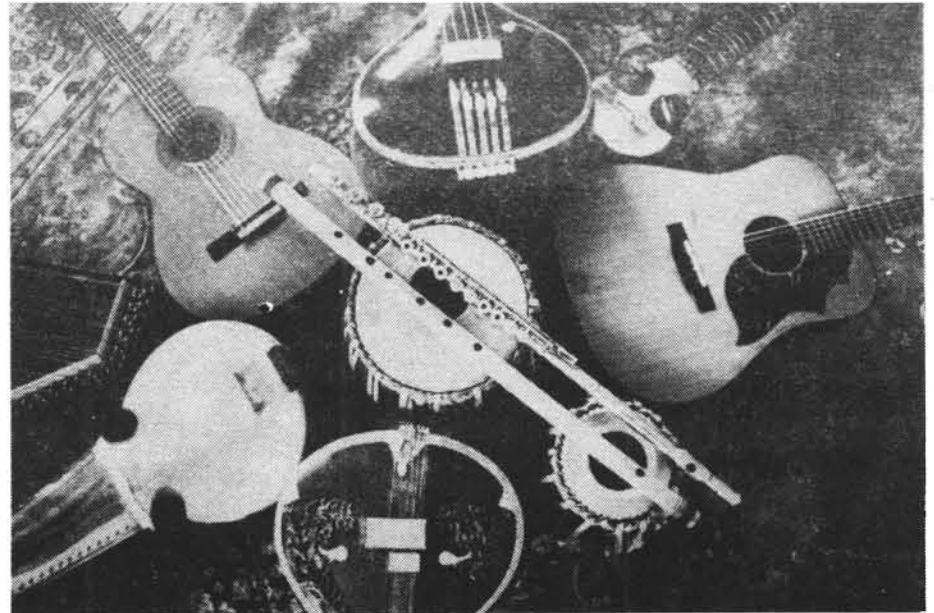
Submissions deadline: February 6, 1987, 6 p.m.

Exhibition place: San Francisco State University Student Union

Exhibition date: May 4 - June 1, 1987

To receive a detailed submissions flyer, please call the San Francisco Freeze at (415) 621-0858 or the SFSU Student Union Art Gallery at (415) 469-2580.

**Arts for a Better World** is co-sponsored by the San Francisco Nuclear Weapons Freeze and the SFSU Student Union Association.



*Ancient Future* will appear at Moraga Hall on Saturday, February 28 in a benefit for the Santa Cruz Nuclear Weapons Freeze.

**Join The Freeze!**

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

Won't you help too? Membership dues for 1987 are: \$15/individual; \$25/family or household; \$10/senior, student, or low-income. You can also become a *sustaining member* by pledging an amount monthly or quarterly. Sustainers help stabilize our financial base so we can spend more time organizing and less time fundraising.

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

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

**Yes! I want to join the Nuclear Weapons Freeze for 1987. Enclosed are my dues of:**

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is an additional contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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

\_\_\_ Office Work \_\_\_ Typing \_\_\_ Phoning \_\_\_ Signature Gathering

\_\_\_ Tabling \_\_\_ Events \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_ Newspaper \_\_\_ Education \_\_\_ Petition Drive \_\_\_ Steering Committee

\_\_\_ I'll host or co-host a housemeeting.

\_\_\_ Here is my contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

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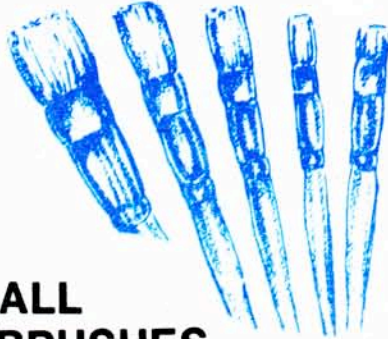
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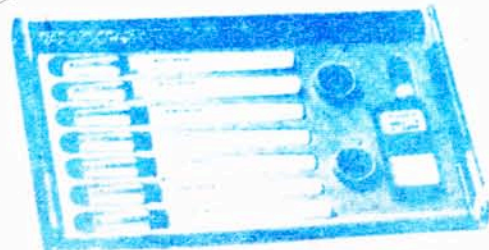


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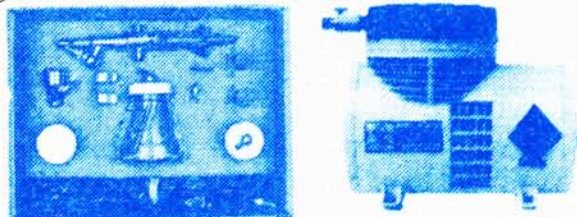
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