

June 1987

Volume 3, Number 5

The MONTHLY PLANET

Direct Action To End The Arms Race

Protests Escalate
At The Nevada Test Site

Mother's Day Action
A Huge Success



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 c/o Nuclear Weapons Freeze
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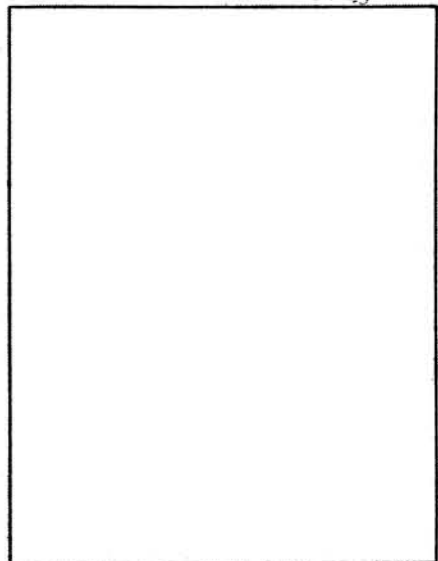
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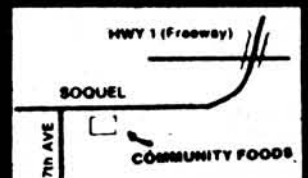
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Deadlines:

for the July Monthly Planet

- Publication date
Thursday, July 2
- Poetry submissions
Monday, June 15
- Letters to the Freeze
Tuesday, June 23
- Calendar listings
Tuesday, June 23, 5 p.m.
(no phone calls, please)
- Display Ads
Friday, June 26

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Hot Flashes Editor: Ronald A. Lampi
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Calendar Editor: Beth Mucatel
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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 December, 1986, the National Conference of the Freeze adopted the current long-term goal of the Campaign: Enactment of a bilateral, comprehensive Freeze as an essential verifiable step toward lessening the risk of nuclear war; and the phased mutual reductions of nuclear weapons, beginning with U.S and Soviet ballistic missiles. These goals are concrete steps toward a vision of a world without nuclear weapons by the year 2000. Achieving the elimination of nuclear arsenals should be accompanied by an end to the cold war, sharp mutual reductions in conventional forces, conversion to a peace economy, and establishment of common security among the nations of the world.

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. *Handwritten letters are now O.K., too. (But please be legible.)*

Armageddon: An End Or A Beginning?

Dear Freeze,

The Fundamentalist Christian view of Armageddon as the end of the world is only one of several possible interpretations of this prophetic book of the Bible. This view has become an insidious force within our political leadership, and society in general, that cheers on this impending disaster as God's will. Whether one accepts the Book of Revelation as Truth or as myth, Armageddon is an appropriate metaphor for today's world, for never before has man had the awesome capability of ending existence on our planet, or creating this Final Battle. One longs for the triumph of good over evil, for the world, not as it is, but as we would have it be. It is easy to become discouraged when nightly we watch on TV the disclosures of the amorality, corruption, and greed not only of our political leadership, but of our spiritual leadership, as well. Wouldn't it be easier to wipe the slate clean, to start from scratch? What can one feel but hopelessness and resignation in the face of such an overwhelming task?

But Armageddon is a warning—and what would be the purpose of a warning without the possibility of change? If one believes that man has free will, can he not choose the path toward peace rather than destruction?

The archetypal struggle is coming to a head, but it is hypocrisy, greed, self-interest, and the quest for power that need to be destroyed, not mankind. The vision of man's true nature, his potential for good, must be restored. We glimpse this in the radiant love and sacrifice of Mother Teresa, in the generous and genuine outpouring of aid to the starving in Africa and the disaster victims in Mexico City, in the day-to-day care of



the hungry and homeless across these United States. The seed of this capacity for good is within each of us, but we must have the spiritual strength to nurture it, to help it grow. Achieving peace does not begin somewhere "out there," rather it begins within the heart of each individual.

As Baha'is we have a different interpretation of the Book of Revelation, one that is symbolic rather than literal. Armageddon is not the end of the world, but the end of an age—the end of man's immaturity with its concomitant selfishness and limited vision. It is also the beginning of a new age marked by mankind's maturity and world-embracing vision. Baha'is believe that humanity has been given the "blueprint" for a new world order in the writings of Baha'u'llah, the prophet-founder of our Faith. The "Millennium" and the "New Jerusalem" are the Biblical names for the era that Baha'is refer to as the Most Great Peace. It is difficult to perceive that we stand on the threshold of a new age, for our vision is clouded and many "battles" for peace remain before us—battles against racism, sexism, poverty and injustice. To provide the guidance

essential for this transition to a new civilization, the Universal House of Justice, the international administrative body of the Baha'i Faith, has released a statement to the peoples of the world entitled, "The Promise of World Peace." This assesses from a spiritual perspective the condition of contemporary society and outlines the steps needed to move us toward peace. A copy of the Peace Statement may be obtained without charge by calling 425-0993.

Whether we regard the Book of Revelation as myth or Divine Truth, we must heed the warning it brings. We cannot continue the escalation of conflict nor the abnegation of moral responsibility. Those whose beliefs center on a literal interpretation of these words should remember that the most learned among the Jews failed to recognize Christ for they were blinded to their own preconceptions. If we overcome our apathy, our resignation and despair and have the courage to assume the moral responsibility for our future, we can bring about the "kingdom of God on Earth," a Golden Age, a lasting peace.

Ann Miller
La Selva Beach

Armageddon Issue Well Done

Dear Freeze,

I live in Sunnyvale and I'm an ardent anti-nuker (letter-writer, etc., etc.). When I saw your article today on Armageddon, I wanted to stop by and compliment you on a fine job!! I do have a suggestion, though. There is no reference in it to a phenomenal and scholarly book which would have served to provide lots more telling data, etc. Name is *Reagan, God and the Bomb* by Fred Knelman. (Prometheus Press, I believe.) Highly recommended by Barry Commoner, Linus Pauling, etc. Need I say more?

It took me months and an appeal through the City Manager of Sunnyvale to get our library to buy and shelve it (here in the nation's hotbed of nuke development). That's significant, I think.

Anyway there it is and keep up the good work! I always read your paper with great interest and use it for quotes, etc.!!

Sincerely,

E.S. "Les" Tremayne
Sunnyvale

P.S. Have you ever tried to get *60 Minutes* to do an exposé on the "Nukes for Profits" theme (or something similar)? I tried some years ago and no success. Point is, when they take up a cause things almost always start to happen!

No Letter

So!

Letters to *The Monthly Planet* must be type-written AND double-spaced!! How short sighted. There are still many who feel that handwritten items are more feeling than mechanical ones. Also, the fountain pen is making a comeback. So—I guess no letters from me.

A San Jose Reader

Editor's note: We love to get letters from our readers, so, yes, we will now accept handwritten letters. We only ask that they be as legible as possible and not longer than two pages.

Good Questions

Dear Freeze,

I've been reading *The Monthly Planet* for a year now and I love reading about all the things people are doing to bring peace to this planet. I have written letters to my representatives on many freeze issues and I've donated to many organizations working for peace. It feels good to do these things, but I still feel that there is so much more I could do. I would love to go to a demonstration, but I'm a little nervous because I've never been to one. Do you have information on how to prepare for a demonstration? How do I find out about up and coming demonstrations?

Are there other things I can do to help the Nuclear Weapons Freeze? I do have some free time to do volunteer work. I'd like to get my friends more involved in the peace movement. I've ordered subscriptions to *The Monthly Planet* for a few of them. Do you think it would be appropriate to bring a potential peace-activist to a demonstration? Am I asking too many questions?

Peace,

Jennifer Burch
Santa Cruz

Editor's note: No, you're not asking too many questions—and the ones you're asking are the right ones. This month's issue should provide you with a few of the answers.

To find out about future actions, you can, of course, continue to read *The Monthly Planet*, or stop by the Freeze office (320-G Cedar St., Santa Cruz) and check out the bulletin board. And if we haven't already called you about volunteering, you'll be hearing from us shortly.

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What's Wrong With The Media?

History was made on May 10 at the Nevada Test Site, although most Americans probably didn't know it. On that date over 3,000 people from around the country journeyed to the middle of the desert to demand an end to nuclear testing.

Entirely organized by women, this "Mother's Day Action" was the largest demonstration in the history of the test site. At least 746 arrests were made for trespassing on the site, overwhelming the local authorities' ability to cope with the situation. And the protests there continue to grow larger all the time.

How did the press react? Most newspapers, if they covered the action at all, ran the Associated Press or United Press International wire story. The AP's lead sentence said that "more than 1,000" attended; the UPI quoted "officials" as estimating 2,000 present.

Of course none of this is surprising to long-time activists who have come to expect sparse coverage and gross underestimates where peace demonstrations are concerned. But a new twist has emerged in the UPI story—overestimating the number of counter-demonstrators. UPI reported that "about 350 test site workers and their families" were on hand, while many activists who were present put the figure closer to 200.

At least they can't do anything about the number of those arrested for trespassing, right? After all, it's a matter of public record. Well, never underestimate the powers that be. Many media outlets "explained" the huge number by reporting Department of Energy statements that many who were cited and released returned to be arrested a second and third time.

As many Americans know, the real story is that people everywhere are taking action to end the nuclear arms race. While the mainstream media watch Gary Hart's bedroom, the real news is left unobserved and unreported.

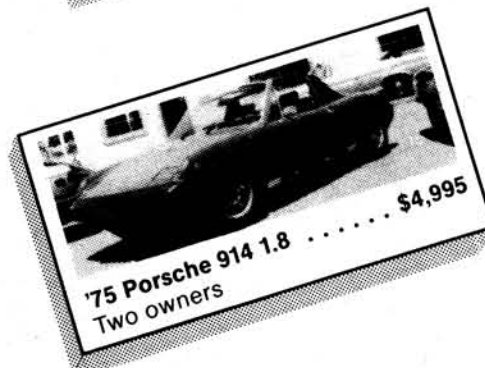
Regardless of how the media play the story, concerned citizens will



continue to act against nuclear weapons. The direct action campaign for a comprehensive test ban will soon focus on Washington, D.C. Large-scale nonviolent civil disobedience actions are planned to occur at the White House, where the press will find it difficult to ignore the activity.

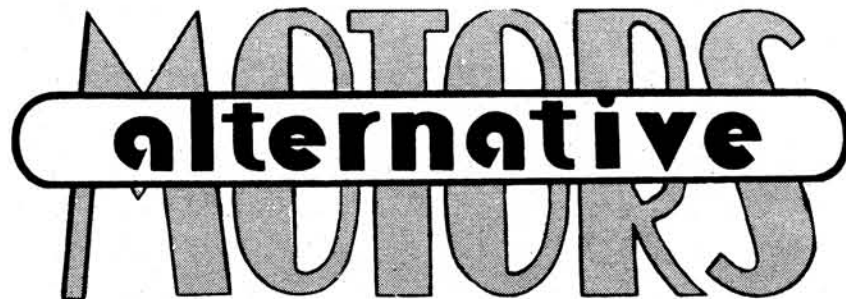
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Progress Never Stops

A third generation of nuclear weapons, as reported in a recent issue of *Time* magazine, is currently being developed by the United States. In contrast to the ever bigger atomic and hydrogen bombs that have made up the bulk of our nuclear arsenals, these new weapons have very small explosive yields; the emphasis is on selective destruction and specialized purpose.

One such weapon, called the Hazebrook nuclear device, is a kind of nuclear shotgun which would blast pellets through space at enormous velocity to knock out missiles

and swarms of warheads and decoys. Another new weapon is designed to produce mostly microwaves. Such a bomb could fry the electronic circuitry of any command center, satellite, and guided missile within an extremely large radius. Other third-generation bombs would be shaped in specific ways to deliver a highly focused blast; a specific target could be destroyed, leaving surrounding areas relatively unscathed.

Critics have charged that the main reason the U.S. government continues to insist on nuclear testing is to be able to build up this new generation of weapons.

—RL

Hot Flashes

by Ronald A. Lampi and Bradley David Neily

It's Not The Ratepayer's Fault

The Public Staff Division of the Public Utilities Commission has recommended that Pacific Gas & Electric be barred from using rate increases to recover \$4.37 billion out of its \$5.8 billion cost in the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. While the recommendation isn't binding, it will begin the debate on how much consumers should be required to pay for the controversial power plant that took 20 years to design and construct, due mainly to delays involving earthquake safety issues and citizen opposition.

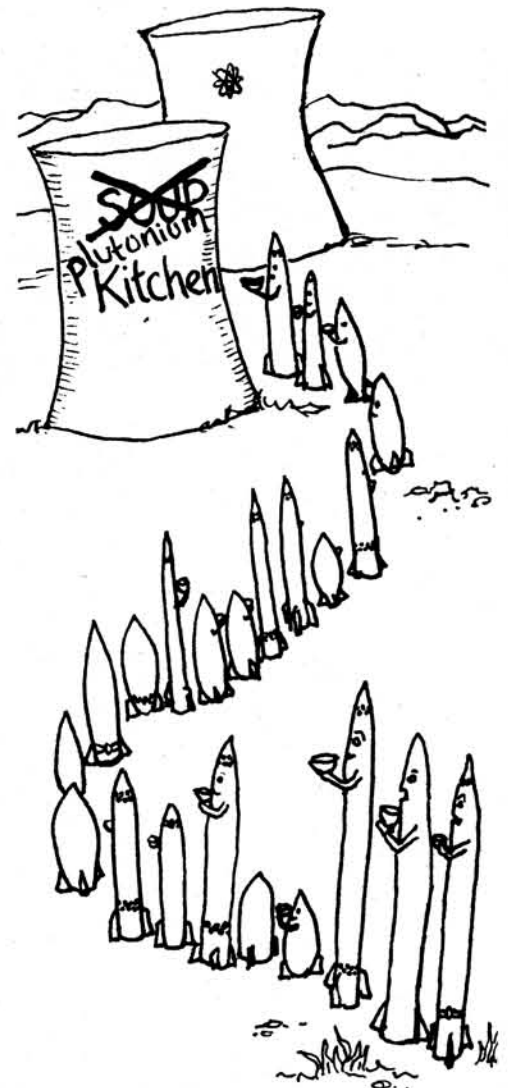
Staff director William Ahern said Nuclear Regulatory Commission orders in 1976 and 1982 required the plant to be redesigned to withstand a major earthquake and then to correct design and construction errors. At one point it was discovered that construction blueprints had been mixed up and that equipment had been installed backwards. Mr. Ahern said the staff "doesn't believe the ratepayers should pay for the unnecessary costs of designing and completing Diablo Canyon for the second and third time."

—BDN

Satisfying America's Needs

The Department of Energy's N reactor at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington was closed this last January for \$50 million in safety improvements, but it may be some time before it is restarted, if ever. In late April the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee both voted to keep the N reactor closed. The N reactor met a third of the military's plutonium "needs," and with the government's Savannah River reactors currently at reduced capacity, there is now concern in the Energy Department that these "needs" will grow more serious.

Critics have charged, however, that the Reagan administration had blown out of proportion the country's need for increased plutonium production and a nuclear arms buildup. With the passage of time the Reagan goals have, in fact, been consistently cut down to size, as the MX missile, Trident II, and warheads for



various artillery projectiles and other missiles all met with substantial cutbacks. The irony, too, is that Reagan had promised to increase plutonium production dramatically to meet all the anticipated needs, but what has happened recently, what with the government's aging reactors in trouble, is the reverse of this—plutonium production has gone down.

The vote on the N reactor must still go before the full Senate, however. The debate on its future therefore still goes on. One compromise that has been put forth is to place the reactor on a standby basis—that is, not restarting it, but also not permanently shutting it down, which would imply dismantling it.

—RL

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Drugged By The Army

The federal government was ordered by U.S. District Judge Constance Baker Motley to pay over \$700,000 to the family estate of Harold Blauer. Blauer died on January 8, 1953 from drugs given to him as part of a series of chemical warfare experiments secretly conducted by the U.S. Army. Blauer, a tennis pro, was voluntarily admitted as a civilian mental patient at the New York State Psychiatric Institute in December, 1952.

Judge Motley ruled that the Justice Department, the Army, and the New York state attorney general's office engaged in a 20-year conspiracy to keep the true cause of Blauer's death hidden from the public. His medical records were altered to make it appear that his death was caused by a weak heart, instead of an experimental drug injection. The drugs being tested were derivatives of mescaline, a very powerful hallucinogenic substance.

In her ruling, Judge Motley wrote that Blauer knew that he was being given experimental drugs but had no idea he was being used "as a guinea pig in an experiment to test potential chemical warfare agents for the U.S. Army."

—BDN

California Dumping

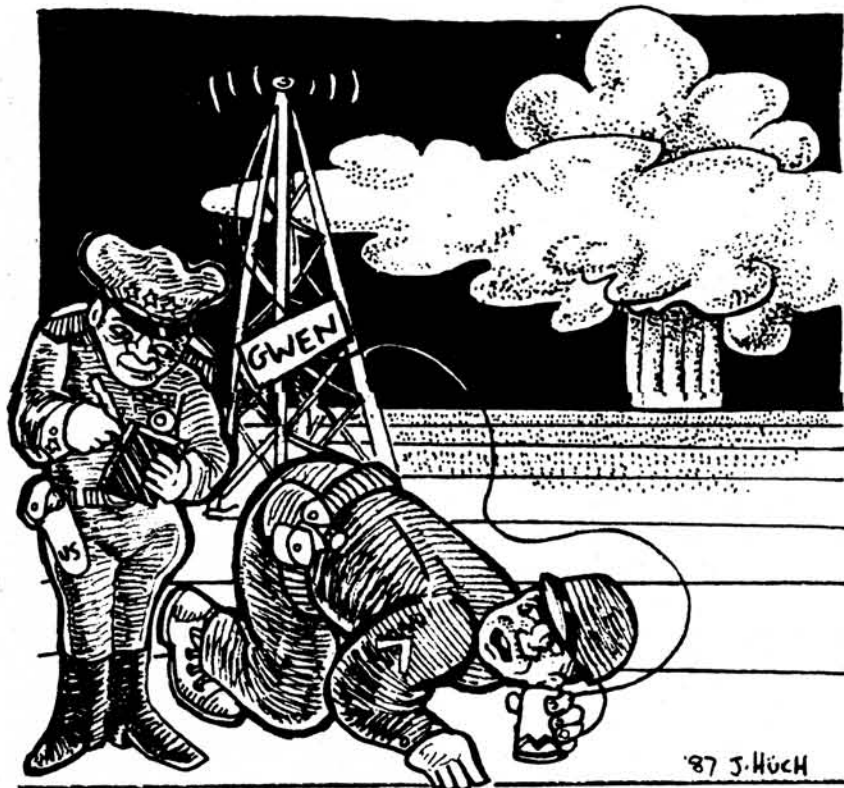
By 1990 California will have opened a low-level nuclear waste dump somewhere in the Mojave Desert. The firm U.S. Ecology has been designated by the state Department of Health Services to choose the actual site. Now, with the recent approval of a bill by the state Assembly, three other states will be allowed to use the dump. The negotiations which made the plan acceptable to California were said to have gone on for years; the bill's recent approval, though, was unanimous. The other states are Arizona, South Dakota, and North Dakota. The bill would ratify California's participation in a newly-formed Southwestern Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact. The compact is not official, though, until one of the other three states ratifies it also. Arizona is expected to do so.

California will be required to operate the dump for 30 years. If, after that time, California decides against continuing as a host state, Arizona will then have the responsibility of building and operating a new dump.

—RL

DOE Fails The Test

When the underground nuclear test Mighty Oak of April 1986 went awry it left \$32 million worth of equipment destroyed. It cost the Department of Energy another \$2.5 million to re-enter the tunnel area this March where the accident took place. A safety system of tunnel doors apparently failed to contain the blast, allowing heat, pressure, and



JEFF HUCH

radiation to destroy the instruments in the tunnel. Though the DOE has claimed there was no accidental release of radiation from the accident, controlled venting of radiation into the air was done after the re-entry work. The releases were said to be "insignificant."

On a related note, the Soviet Union has claimed that its monitors registered radioactive isotopes in the atmosphere following U.S. nuclear tests in February and March. A formal protest was filed against the United States for the releases, which, if true, would violate a 1963 treaty prohibiting atmospheric contamination from nuclear tests. The protest resulted in a round of counter-charges by both sides.

—RL

Yet Another Scandal

Nuclear Regulatory Commission member Thomas H. Roberts agreed to take a leave of absence at a hearing in front of the

Nuclear Regulation Subcommittee headed by Louisiana Senator John B. Breaux. "I have agreed to refrain from participating as a commissioner, either personally or through my immediate staff," he said.

House and Senate members have accused him of favoring the nuclear power industry. Ohio Senator John Glenn and five House Democrats have demanded he resign after it was discovered that internal NRC documents bearing Roberts' initials were somehow leaked to the Louisiana Power and Light Company, which was under a NRC safety investigation.

Mr. Roberts was formerly president and chief executive officer of Southern Boiler and Tank Works that manufactures reactor containment liners for nuclear power plants. During the 1980 election, he became a campaign finance officer for Vice President George Bush and was appointed to his first NRC term as commissioner a month after President Reagan took office. In 1985 he was named to a second term due to expire in July 1990.

—BDN

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GWEN Attacked

Members of several peace groups assailed an Air Force plan to expand its program called the Ground Wave Emergency Network (GWEN) at the third and last public hearing on a draft environmental impact statement. GWEN is a system of low-powered radio antennas and transmitters designed to help U.S. military communications keep operating despite the electromagnetic effects of a nuclear explosion. The system has been denounced ever since its inception three years ago by critics who say it illustrates the government's belief that a protracted nuclear war can be fought.

Joseph Engel of Tiburon, a member of the group Beyond War, told the Air Force at the hearing that "GWEN assumes an attack is taking place. The madness with this plan is the belief that we can make war with nuclear weapons and survive on this planet." Grace Bukowski of the Nevada-based Citizen Alert and Western Solidarity said, "This program is a boondoggle. Worse, it is there to fight the next world war."

Opponents of the system helped stop plans for towers in Eugene, Ore., and Castine, Me., and No-GWEN Alliance groups in Oregon and California's Butte County have a lawsuit pending in the Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

—BDN



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Mothers, Fathers, And Children In The Nuclear Age

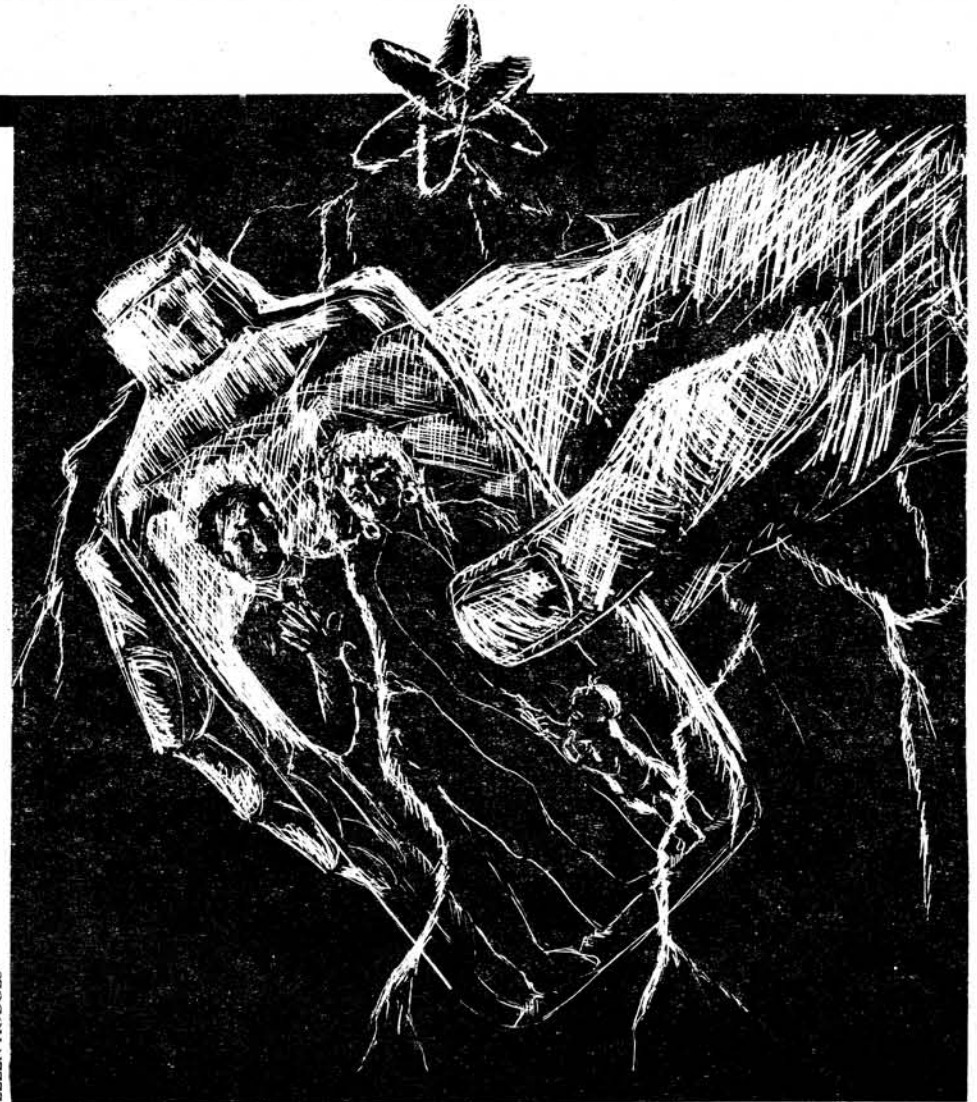
This spring has been filled with exciting events for women in the peace movement — an academy award for filmmaker Vivienne Verdon-Roe's anti-nuclear film, *Women — for America, for the World*, and a large and successful Mother's Day demonstration at the Nevada Test Site. These events pointed to the urgent need to empower much larger numbers of American women to take some kind of active stand on the nuclear question.

It is not merely because women represent more than half the U.S. population, according to the last census, although in politics this is reason enough. The main point is that, for the most part, women are still the primary caregivers for the nation's children. And it is the actual day-to-day care of a child which almost infallibly produces the kind of understanding of life needed for adequately assessing the nuclear problem and how it should be handled.

To prove this point, in *The Strangelove Legacy*, *Parents* magazine contributing editor Phyllis Lafarge reports that fathers or other men who had spent significant amounts of time with children or taken real respon-

sibility for their daily care were more likely to share an important trait with women as a group. Lafarge identifies it as understanding the "realism of vulnerability" with respect to the nuclear question. According to this view of reality, it is essential to accept the inescapability of risk and vulnerability, pay attention to it and act accordingly. Not to do so is too risky. This view is opposed to a stand more often found among male interviewees. According to that premise, there is danger in paying too much attention to the risks of war, nuclear weapons or other global life threats. Such thoughts, it is felt, may hinder the construction of a healthy self-defense. Some real fear of experiencing any feelings of vulnerability seemed to characterize those taking this position.

But this is far from the end of the problem. The impact of "nuclear fear" on children, Lafarge argues, is to cause them to construct "ego defenses" which barricade out all kinds of feelings, not just fear of nuclear war. The result of these special ego defenses is the same as it has always been or the classic old list of projection, repression, suppression, denial, reaction formation,



ELLEN HODGES

fixation and regression. If you don't face up to reality as it is, you can't plan to deal with it effectively either. For our children, being "defensive" may be fatal if it creates behavior patterns maladaptive for living in or creating a world not completely dominated by nuclear weapons or other global life threats.

But it is not yet the job of the children to create such a world. We are the adults here, men and women together, the activists and the silent majority together. And it is the

ism of vulnerability" to learn how to talk to men and women who don't yet see it, for the sake of the children. Such separations are most likely to be healed definitively by dialogue in a public forum, but before this can happen, there must be more talking at the local level, in places where the private world of personal feelings and the public world of national action naturally meet. In American society, that place is the school, and that is also where the children are. All

It is the silence itself that is the ultimate problem: the fact that the subject of nuclear war is systematically avoided in the homes and private spaces of America.

silence itself that is the ultimate problem: the fact that the subject of nuclear war is systematically avoided in the homes and private spaces of America. It is more taboo between the sexes and generations than any other single subject.

Taboos in conversation do seem to be dying pretty quickly lately, though death itself remains high up there on the list. To face up to talking about death we usually need help — most particularly, we need to feel that we are not alone with the subject, though necessarily alone with the fact. The same thing is true of the topic of nuclear war, which is equivalent to discussing death, for many people. This is why divisions between the sexes and divisions between antinuclear activists and the silent or non-activist majority are so serious.

Women — for America, for the World and the Mother's Day demonstration came about because women broke the silence with each other. There is still much more of this to be done. But it is also important for men and women who understand the "real-

American parents think about the schools. Maybe it is safe to say that all Americans think about the schools. If you haven't just gotten out of one, or are about to go back to one, you are likely to have a child in one.

After elections, school policy is one of the hottest sources of local dispute in the country, day in and day out, although it is seldom reported, and school principals do everything they can to avoid any kind of controversy. And antinuclear education is too often seen in that context as a form of mere one-sided political advocacy.

The challenge is to design and get adopted curricula which will raise the questions the nuclear age brings, in such a way as to empower both parents and children to feel like problem solvers, and to know that they can win against these new and terrible 20th century odds — if they will just start talking about it.

Susan C. Strong chairs the Northern California Freeze Campaign.

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Danger Rides the Rails

by Robert Aldridge

When a special freight train destined for Subase Bangor derailed near Puget Sound in April 1986, Navy officials promptly disclaimed the presence of explosive material. Documents later obtained through the

Analysis

Freedom of Information Act revealed that over 50 tons of Class-A explosives in the form of missile rocket motors were on board. Class-A tops the danger list.

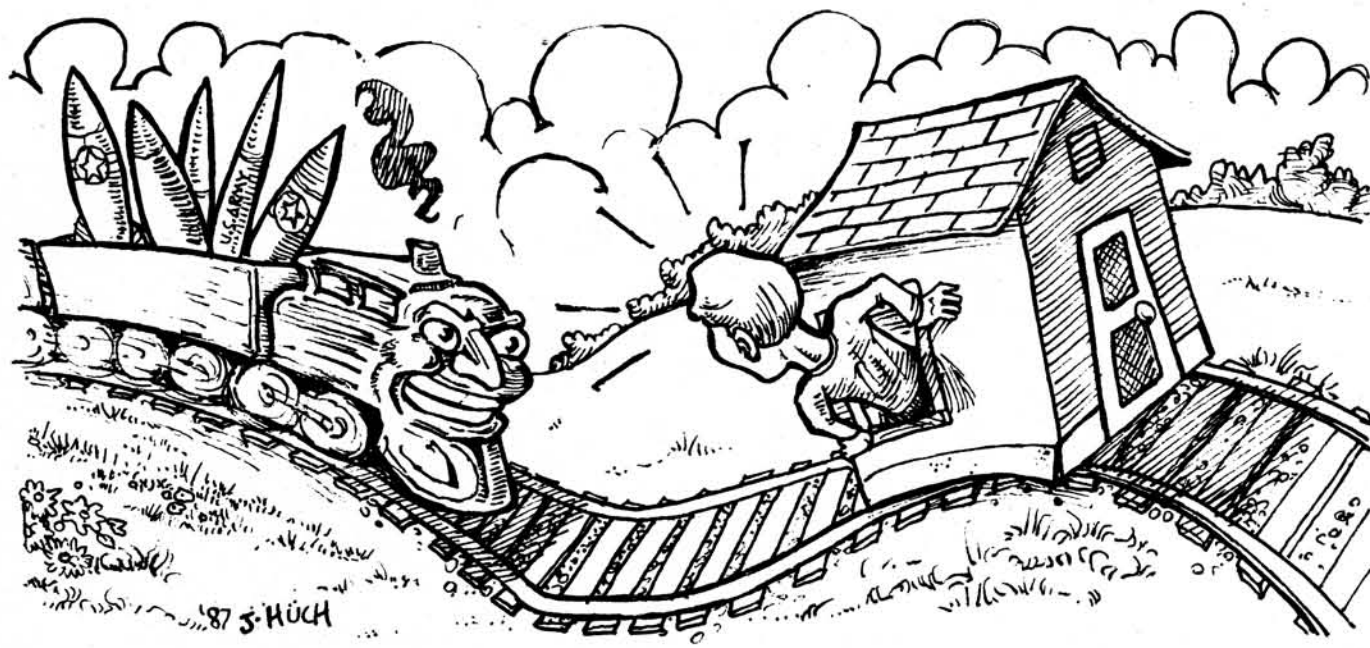
A look at the January 1985 Pershing-2 accident in West Germany is helpful in understanding rocket motor hazards. Three soldiers were killed and 16 injured when a first stage booster ignited while being handled. Heavy winter parkas, hoods, boots and gloves minimized the number and severity of casualties. Official reports blame the accident on electrostatic discharge through the Kevlar motor case to the propellant — an unlikely event since a layer of silico-neoprene rubber insulates the propellant from the case.

A more logical explanation is a sharp blow received by the motor while being removed from its container. The investigatory report admits: "The rocket motor hung up momentarily, then released, causing the front end to rise about 7 inches. The motor moved toward the rear a few inches and the after end bumped a steel cross member in the container. It was at this time that the motor caught fire and burned."

The report continues that "the fire was abnormal and occurred near the outside surface of the propellant grain (the portion nearest to the inside wall of the motor case) . . . abnormal burning caused the propellant to collapse inward, blocking the center cavity and jamming the motor nozzle with chunks of propellant. As rapid burning continued, pressure rose inside the motor case until it exceeded the strength of the case (which) ruptured less than one second after catching fire."

Ammonium perchlorate is a major propellant ingredient and chemists agree that, when mixed with aluminum and other combustibles as is done with rocket fuel, a sharp blow would cause detonation. Static electricity appears to be a psychological ploy to keep German people from understanding the real danger in having this missile travel their roads. Nevertheless, Pershing-2 motors are small compared to Trident, Minuteman and MX rockets.

Neither is Pershing-2 propellant the most dangerous type. Trident missile motors — two of which were on the derailed train — and the MX third stage use a higher energy propellant called Class-7. In addition to aluminum and ammonium perchlorate, Class-7 also contains nitrous cellulose-nitroglycerin and something designated HMX in place of Pershing-2's HTPB (hydroxyl-terminated polybutadine). This yields such tremendous power that special weather conditions for test launches are observed at Cape Canaveral because under certain inverted temperature and wind conditions a motor explo-



sion could cause damaging shock waves to the nearby town. Cape Canaveral also has a new, more isolated wharf for loading Trident missiles into submarines. At such times only essential personnel are present so as to minimize casualties in case of a

of Transportation regulations which specify no such buffer zones. Special instructions accompanying rocket motor shipments do allow fighting a fire until it reaches the cargo, but when that happens all firefighters and the public must with-

called The Agape Community has been tracing these trains and organizing trackside vigils along their routes to alert endangered people. Citizens are dumbfounded to discover such cavalier transportation practices.

If a main highway or railroad track passes through your community, there is high likelihood that this volatile cargo also goes by. We were lucky during last June's rail accident, but it is only a matter of time until we reach what statisticians call "Probability One," the moment when our chances run out and a really serious accident occurs. Will it take such a catastrophe before democratic processes and the peoples' right to know abate this hazard?

Robert C. Aldridge is a former strategic missile engineer who is now engaged in private research to improve public understanding of military activities. He is the author of *First Strike: The Pentagon's Strategy for Nuclear War* (Boston, Sound End Press; 1983).

A nationwide network called The Agape Community has been tracing these trains and organizing trackside vigils along their routes to alert endangered people.

Pershing-2-type accident.

Wide buffer areas are required around all locations where Trident motors are handled and assembled. But no such safety zone exists along railroad tracks during transportation because, according to the Navy, when shipped by commercial carrier the motors are subject only to Department

draw to at least 2,500 feet (about one-half mile) from the scene.

Trains and trucks criss-cross our nation daily with cargos ranging from Pershing-2 type motors through monstrous strategic rockets and space launch boosters, to the actual nuclear warheads. Yet the public is never warned. A nationwide network

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Congress, Reagan Clash On Arms Control

The fiscal year 1988 Defense Authorizations Bill has reached the floors of both the House and Senate amid storms of controversy over arms control provisions enacted by the Democratic majorities of Congress.

The authorizations process sets the spending limits for specific weapons systems and other military programs for the coming fiscal year, which begins October 1. On May 5, the House of Representatives passed its version of the military spending bill, allocating \$288.6 billion, \$23 billion less than what the Reagan administration requested. The Senate Armed Services Committee approved a budget of \$302.7 billion, which must now be affirmed by a vote of

the full Senate. Differences between the two bills will be reconciled in a conference committee made up of selected members of both the House and Senate Armed Services committees. The bill will then go to the president for his signature or veto.

Arms control advocates in the House of Representatives won an unprecedented six out of nine targeted votes on issues including nuclear weapons testing, Star Wars, SALT II, the ABM treaty, and ASAT testing. In the Senate, conservatives have been spearheading a filibuster to prevent the Senate from passing legislation that would restrict Star Wars testing.

President Reagan has vowed to veto any bill that contains restrictions on nuclear weapons testing or Star Wars activities.

The Democrats this year have demonstrated a new willingness to fight for their arms control initiatives in the face of presidential opposition. Last November, you may recall, the Democratic leadership dropped all of the arms control provisions that the Congress had just passed so that Reagan could go to Reykjavik without restrictions. The subsequent failure of the summit to produce an arms control agreement left many congressmembers feeling burned by the administration, with no defense to offer angry constituents.

What follows is a summary of key arms control votes.

Nuclear Testing

On May 19 the House overwhelmingly approved the Schroeder-Gephardt amendment, which prohibits all underground nuclear weapons testing over one kiloton for a period of one year, as long as the Soviets also refrain from testing.

In the Senate, Senators Mark Hatfield (R-OR) and Edward Kennedy (D-MA) will introduce a similar amendment, which is given little chance of passing. In order to garner support among moderate senators, Hatfield and Kennedy have included in their bill a provision for one "reliability" test per year of up to 15 kilotons. Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) intends to make a motion to delete the reliability test requirement from the Hatfield/Kennedy amendment.

In a related matter, the *Washington Post* has reported that the Department of Energy awarded a \$500,000 contract to a Virginia military contractor to lobby Congress against a nuclear test ban.

The firm, RDA Logicon, has been hired to provide "information" to members of Congress on the impact of various restrictions on nuclear testing. Currently, the DOE's own regulations prohibit military contractors to make unsolicited calls upon members of Congress. However, the DOE does not feel that RDA Logicon's "education project" violates these rules.

Similarly, in 1985 Congress forbade DOE contractors from using public funds for "influencing directly or indirectly, legislative action on any matter pending before Congress." Since the DOE is funded by the federal government, courtesy of our tax dollars, it is arguable that public funds are being expended to lobby Congress against a nuclear test ban.



ASAT

For the third consecutive year the House voted to uphold a ban on anti-satellite testing against an object in space. An amendment offered by Rep. George Brown (D-CA) and Lawrence Coughlin (R-PA) garnered a solid 229-188 vote. The Soviet Union has not conducted any ASAT tests since 1982. Proponents of the ASAT ban argued that a resumption of ASAT testing on the part of the United States would allow the Soviet Union to improve its system.

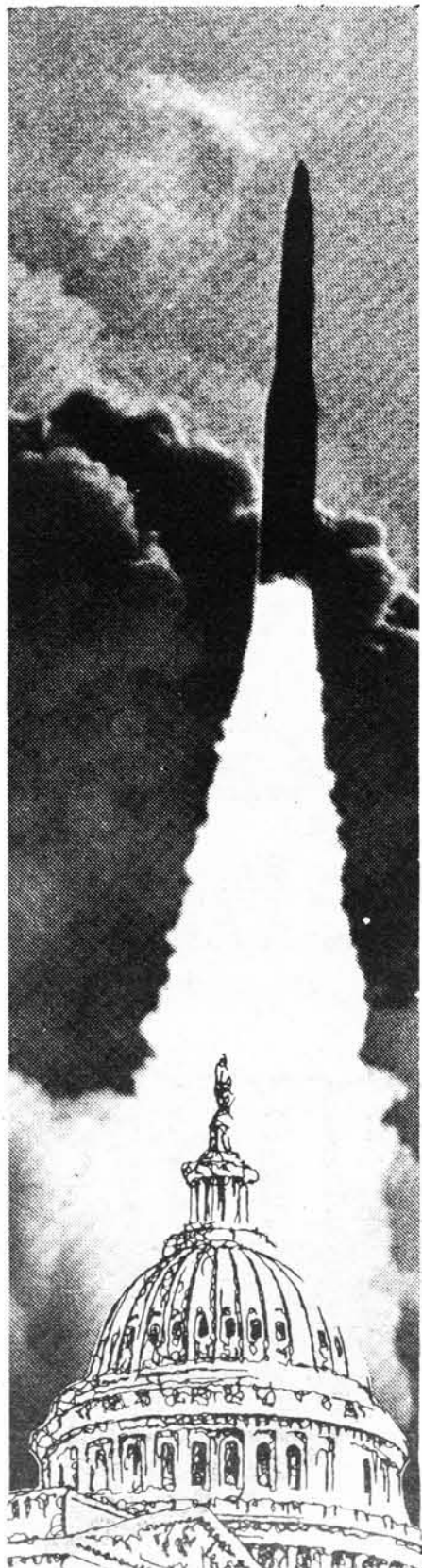
Chemical Weapons

By a vote of 230-191, the House voted to allow the production of new chemical

weapons for the first time since 1969. The binary nerve gas system will replace aging supplies of a "unitary" nerve gas system. A binary system involves two separate sets of chemicals that become lethal only when mixed. It is considered to be safer for storage purposes than the unitary system. However, approval of funding for any variety of chemical weapons at all represents a step backwards.

MX

Arms control advocates suffered an unexpected setback on the MX missile system as House members moved to approve \$250 million to research new basing modes. Two years ago, Congress fixed a "flexible cap" of 50 missiles on the MX program, stating



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Congressman Leon Panetta
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S.O.S.—Save Outer Space Alert
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Central America Legislative Hotline
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Witness for Peace Hotline
(religious activists in Nicaragua)
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they would not consider funding additional missiles until a more acceptable basing mode was found. The administration would like to have 100 missiles. Currently, MX missiles are stored in existing Minuteman silos in Wyoming and Nebraska.

To date, more than 30 basing modes have been rejected by Congress. The \$250 million will go toward a study on the feasibility of basing MX missiles on railroad cars, which would remain on military bases except during times of international crisis. The idea is that if the MX is mobile, it will be much harder to locate and destroy.

SALT II

The House passed, by a margin of 245-181, an amendment offered by Rep. Norman Dicks (D-WA) which would bar the deployment of any weapons that exceed the limits of the SALT II treaty. Last fall the Reagan administration deliberately exceeded the numerical limits of the treaty when it deployed the 131st B-52 bomber retrofitted with nuclear warhead cruise missiles. Currently, there are nine such retrofitted bombers in excess of treaty limits. If the Senate also moves to force the administration to abide by the terms of the SALT II treaty, the administration would have to dismantle the cruise missiles it deployed in violation of the treaty.

Star Wars

By a vote of 219-199, the House approved an amendment offered by Rep. Charles Bennett (D-FL) to freeze Star Wars funding at last year's level of \$3.1 billion. In so doing, it rejected the recommendation of its own Armed Services Committee for \$3.8 billion. The Senate Armed Services Committee approved a whopping \$4.5 billion for the program. Whatever final figure is arrived at, Star Wars will definitely be the single most expensive item in the Pentagon's budget.

Rep. Jack Kemp (R-NY) attempted to gain approval for early deployment of a rocket-powered collision vehicle that destroys offensive missiles on impact. His motion was soundly defeated by a vote of 301-122.

Debate raged lively at times, with comments ranging from Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Coronado) "... we are absolutely naked against incoming missiles" to Rep. Barney Frank's (D-MA) comment that Star Wars was a "pork-in-space project." Through it all, House Democrats seemed set on maintaining Star Wars funding at current levels, rejecting attempts to drastically alter that figure to either extreme. An amendment offered by Reps. Barbara Boxer (D-Greenbrae) and Ron Dellums (D-Berkeley) to completely eliminate funding for Star Wars was overwhelmingly defeated, as was an amendment by Rep. Duncan Hunter to raise the funding level to \$4.1 billion. Rep. Vic Fazio (D-Sacramento) predicted that the conference committee would ultimately agree on a figure close to \$3.7 billion.

ABM Treaty

Senate Democrats and administration supporters are currently engaged in a contest of will over whose interpretation of the ABM treaty will prevail. The emergent victor may well determine whether the arms race will extend unhindered into space.

The Reagan administration has stated that it wishes to "re-interpret" the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty to mean that it can test and deploy Star Wars components. The ABM treaty specifically forbids the testing and deployment of any space-based

require the administration to adopt a strict interpretation of the treaty. In addition, Biden's amendment provides that the "meaning of a treaty would be determined primarily by what the Senate understands the treaty to mean when it gives its advice

administration is unilaterally choosing to interpret and implement a treaty in a manner contrary to the understandings of Congress when it entered into the treaty. On May 5, the Senate Armed Services Committee voted 12-8 to accept Nunn's proposal to prohibit any tests that would violate the ABM treaty.

As we go to press, Reagan supporters in the Senate have been engaged in a filibuster in order to prevent a vote on the ABM restrictions. Led by Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole (R-KA), 34 Senate Republicans signed a letter to President Reagan asking him to veto the entire defense bill, due to the restrictive ABM language. In the letter they state that there are enough votes in the Senate to sustain a presidential veto. President Reagan has indicated for a long time that he will absolutely veto any defense bill

continued on page 31

The Democrats this year have demonstrated a new willingness to fight for their arms control initiatives in the face of presidential opposition.

system.

The House approved language mandating a "narrow" interpretation of the treaty. Similarly, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted 11-8 to adopt a measure offered by Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE) to

and consent."

The fight to preserve the traditional interpretation of the ABM treaty is being led by Sen. Sam Nunn (D-GA), chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Nunn has expressed alarm and concern that the

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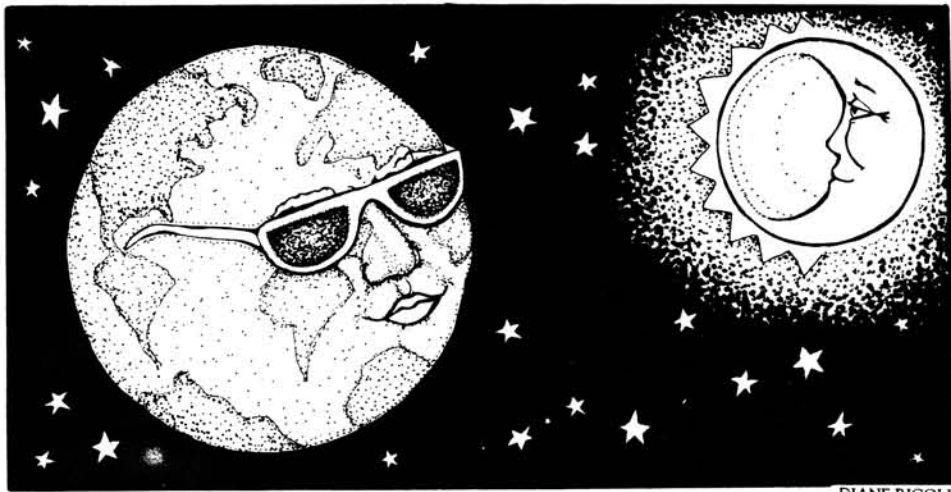
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Planet Watch by Igal Dahari

Fiji Suspicious Coup D'Etat

A bloodless coup on this Pacific island of 714,000 people has left some observers wondering whether the ousted government's proposed antinuclear policies had something to do with its ouster. On May 14, Lieutenant Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka and several other officers arrested Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra and dissolved his month-old government, ignoring the state of emergency declared by Governor General Ratu Penaia.

Bavadra's government proposed to make Fiji a nuclear-free zone, along the lines of New Zealand. The United States, which has been trying to change New Zealand's antinuclear stand in both overt and covert ways, had expressed alarm at Bavadra's plans.

Rabuka has formed and chairs a "Council of Ministers," which is charged with writing

a new constitution. Former conservative prime minister Ratu Kamisese Mara, who was beat by the more liberal Bavadra in the last election, is one of the ministers in the Council.

Some observers believe the coup was triggered strictly by the racial tension that seems to exist between the indigenous Melanesians and the Fijians of Indian descent, who constitute a bare majority on the island. Bavadra is of Indian descent, while Rabuka and Mara are Melanesian. There are indications that the new constitution will be designed to insure Melanesian rule.

So far, no country has recognized Rabuka's new government. The United States, New Zealand, Australia, India, and Britain have all publicly condemned the coup, calling for the re-establishment of Bavadra's elected government.

West Germany Popularity Polls

Without exception, every recent poll taken on the subject has found that West Germans believe Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is more a man of peace than President Reagan. For example, a poll commissioned by *Stern* magazine and conducted by the Forsa Institute reported

that 49 percent of respondents saw Gorbachev as "more concerned about the securing of peace and disarmament." Only nine percent chose Reagan, while 30 percent said the same about both. Even a poll commissioned by Chancellor Helmut Kohl's conservative government indicated that West Germans who think Gorbachev is "really concerned about peace" outnumber those who think the same of Reagan.

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New Zealand France's Flaunt

France conducted its first nuclear test of 1987 on May 6, continuing to flaunt the wishes of local South Pacific countries. The explosion, France's 82nd in the South Pacific, was set off at Mururoa Atoll, 2800 miles northeast of Wellington, New Zealand. New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange called the test a "blatant disregard of the conditions of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty," and pledged that his country will not become "complacent about [France's] testing program."

It's Christmas In June

The Nuclear Weapons Freeze has made its Christmas list early. We need, among other things, the following items to make ending the nuclear arms race just a little easier:

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Canada

Blow To Food Irradiation

A Canadian parliamentary committee's recent report to the government strongly recommends the banning of wheat irradiation. The House of Commons Committee on Consumer and Corporate Affairs cited severe ill effects on malnourished children in India who consumed irradiated food, and pointed out that food irradiation is suspected of destroying "essential nutrients, in particular, vitamins." The Indian children showed an increase in the rate of polyploidy, a chromosomal abnormality. Also, committee chair Mary Collins of the ruling Progressive Conservative Party made public her personal disinclination to consume irradiated food.

The government-owned Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd., irradiates a number of different foods in Canada, while also building irradiating plants in several Third World countries.

Nuke Subs Wanted

The Canadian government is reportedly ready to acquire 10 nuclear-powered submarines, armed with conventional weapons. The submarines would be purchased over a 20-year span, at a cost to Canadians of more than \$3.8 billion. Currently, the Canadian navy operates three diesel-powered submarines off the country's Atlantic coast. The government says it needs the submarines to protect Canada's sovereignty over certain passages between its numerous northern islands.

The Reagan administration, which has usually pressured allies to increase military spending, reacted unfavorably to Canada's intentions. The uncharacteristic reaction was caused by the United States' refusal to recognize Canada's claims of sovereignty, and the fear that the new submarines may be used to deny access to United States ships seeking to use the northern passages.

Furthermore, the Canadian government, in turn, has attempted to ameliorate the administration's negative views by claiming that the submarines would be used to protect against infiltration by Soviet submarines. But the government's toughest fight may be at home, where Canadians tend to oppose nuclear power of any kind.

Soviet Union Risk Reducers

The first finalized agreement to emerge from the 1985 Geneva summit between Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan has nothing to do with reducing the number of nuclear weapons, but ostensibly reduces the risk of their accidental use. The agreement, whose details were hammered out in several confidential meetings between U.S. and Soviet delegates following the summit, provides for the establishment of communication centers in each nation's capital. The centers will have the capability of sending instant messages concerning events such as nuclear and missile tests, but will not supercede the Kremlin-White House hot line according to the State Department.



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Jack Evernden, Seismologist

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Earle Reynolds, Early Test Ban Activist

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Direct Action's Success Challenges Test Ban Movement

by Terry Teitelbaum



The sun rises on the desert — home of the Nevada Test Site, where nuclear bombs are exploded beneath its surface about once every two weeks. The Shoshone Indians, who originally held the land by treaty where the test site lies, see the desert as a part of the Earth — the great mother who gives and sustains life. To those working to end the nuclear arms race, the desert provides a symbol around which people can rally. Like travelling to Nicaragua or El Salvador to witness for oneself

what U.S. intervention means to the people who live there, a trip to the Nevada Test Site lends a deep sense of meaning and profound reality to the situation which one is working to change.

Yet the desert is more than a symbol — it is where the engine which drives the nuclear arms is housed. Constant nuclear testing virtually guarantees an ever-escalating nuclear arms race. The opportunity to go to one of the sources of the nuclear arms race — to directly confront this awesome threat — adds a

continued on page 20

MOTHER'S

May 10
Nevada

"Hi Mom!" Santa Cruzans Philippe and Stephane Joyet cross the line for their mother Alexandra (who was also there).



GREG MARTIN

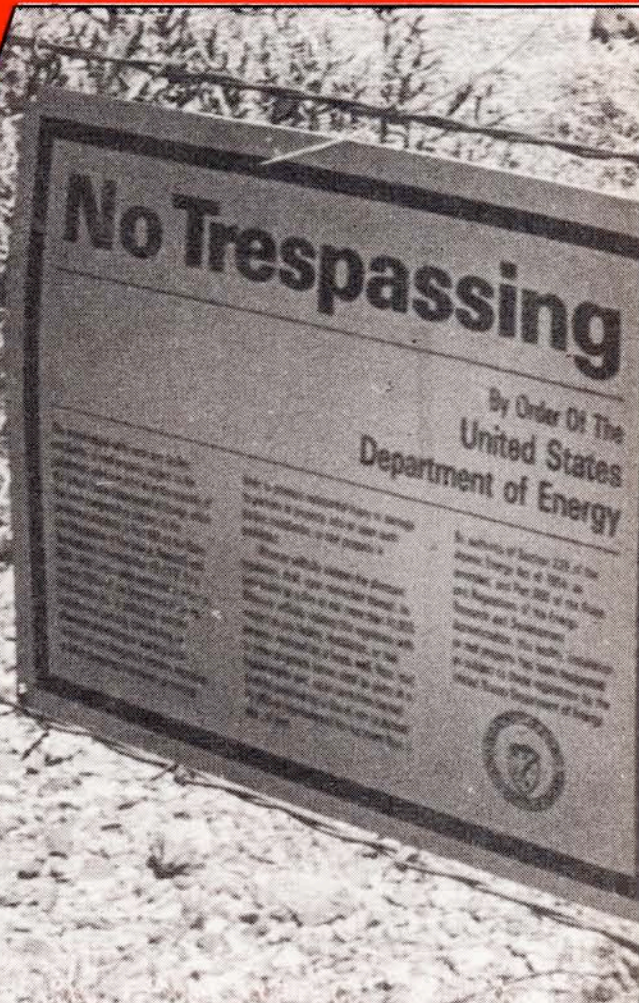


GREG MARTIN



TERRY TETELBAUM

Many women refused to wait in line to be arrested; some went through the barbed wire fence.



PAT KITSON

ER'S

May 10, 1987
Nevada Test Site

DAY



GREG MARTIN



In a non-traditional way to commemorate Mother's Day, more than 3,000 people came to the nation's nuclear test site on May 10 to demand a comprehensive test ban. A record number of people, at least 746, committed nonviolent civil disobedience and were arrested for trespassing on the test site.

PAT KITSON



GREG MARTIN

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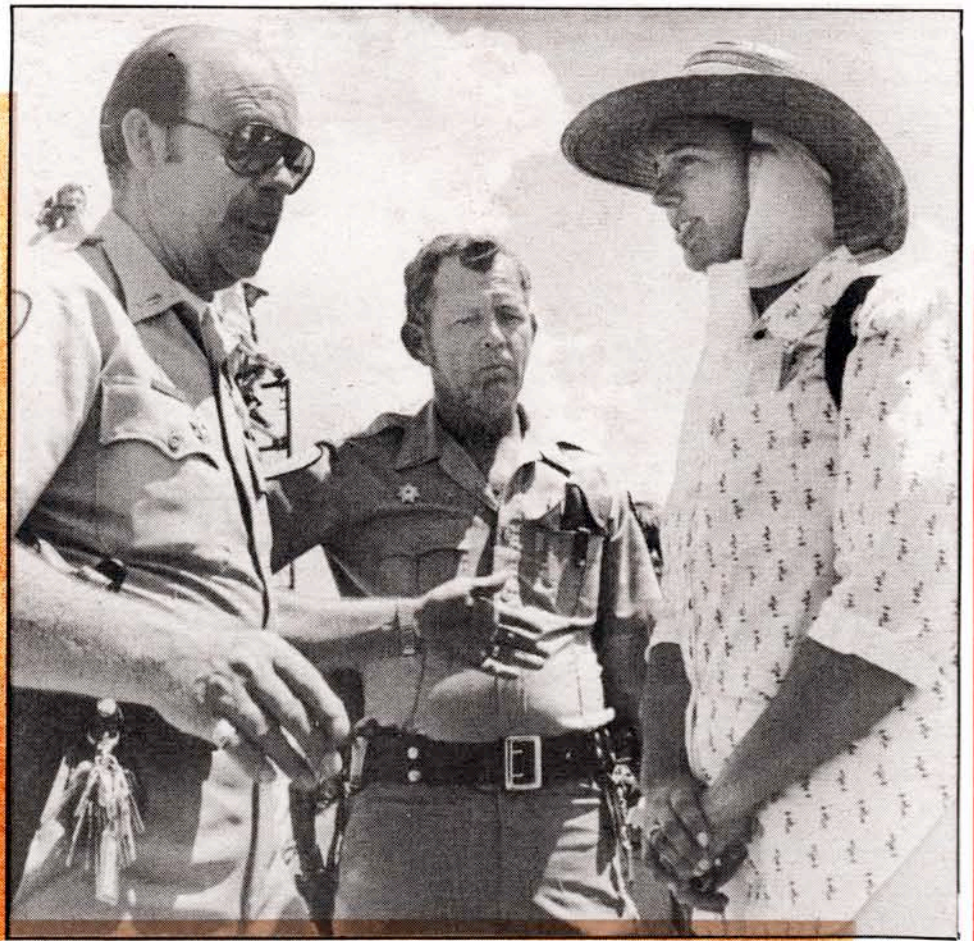


Rev. Dave Mac
Unitarian U
waiting bus.

May 10, 1987
at the Test Site

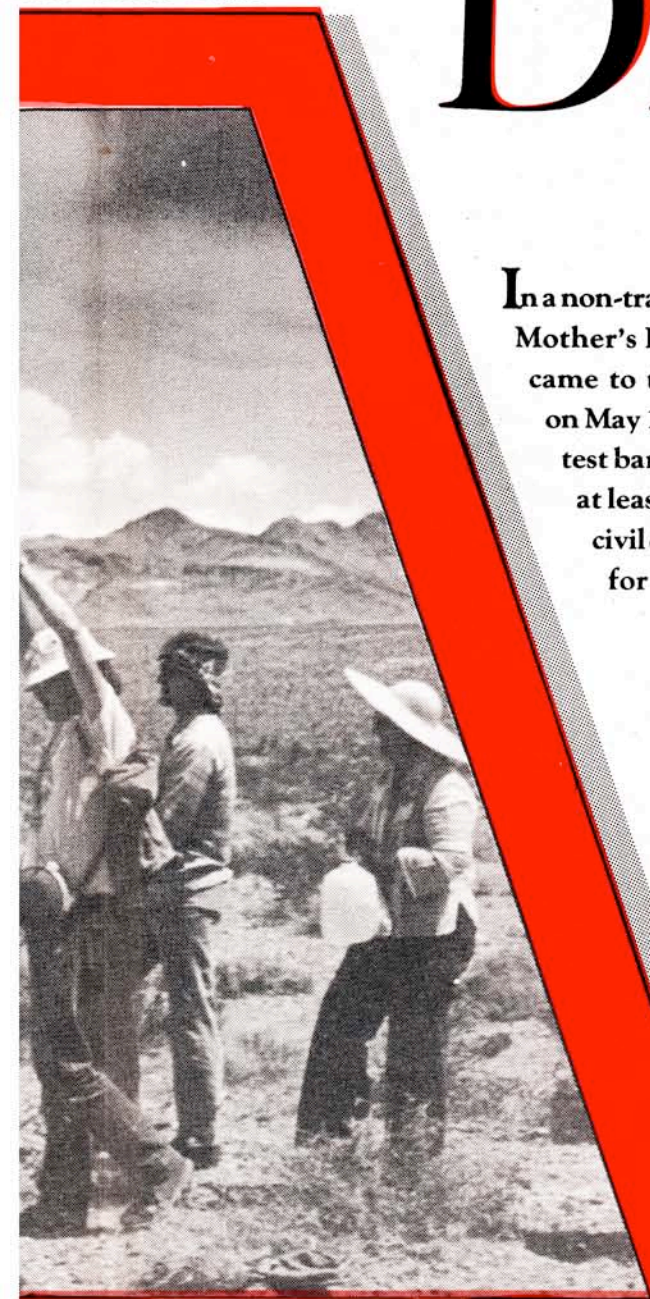
DAY

In a non-traditional way to commemorate Mother's Day, more than 3,000 people came to the nation's nuclear test site on May 10 to demand a comprehensive test ban. A record number of people, at least 746, committed nonviolent civil disobedience and were arrested for trespassing on the test site.



PAT KITSON

The police inform Capitola City Councilmember Stephanie Harlan that with her next step she will be arrested for trespassing. She took that step.



Rev. Dave MacMillan, Ruth Hunter, Lea Wood and Beth Coats from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Santa Cruz are ushered to waiting buses after trespassing.

Design by Ellen Hodges

CTION

→ Direct Action

continued from page 17

crucial element of drama to the test ban movement.

The key elements in direct action which make it truly effective, beyond even the symbolic and personal rewards to its participants, are the ability to sustain and increase the pressure on policy-makers and to remain on the offensive. Overwhelmed by the vast numbers of people trespassing on the test site, Nye County, Nevada has announced it will no longer prosecute protesters. Over 2000 people have been arrested there since 1982. On February 5,

thus negating the smaller transgression of trespassing onto federal property.

The Mother's Day Action on May 10 was a very different type of demonstration. More than 3000 people showed up and 746 of them committed civil disobedience. What made this action different was the way it was conceived and organized. It was a women's action — all leadership roles were held by women while men performed supportive tasks such as childcare, typing and envelope stuffing. There were fewer famous people and participants were en-

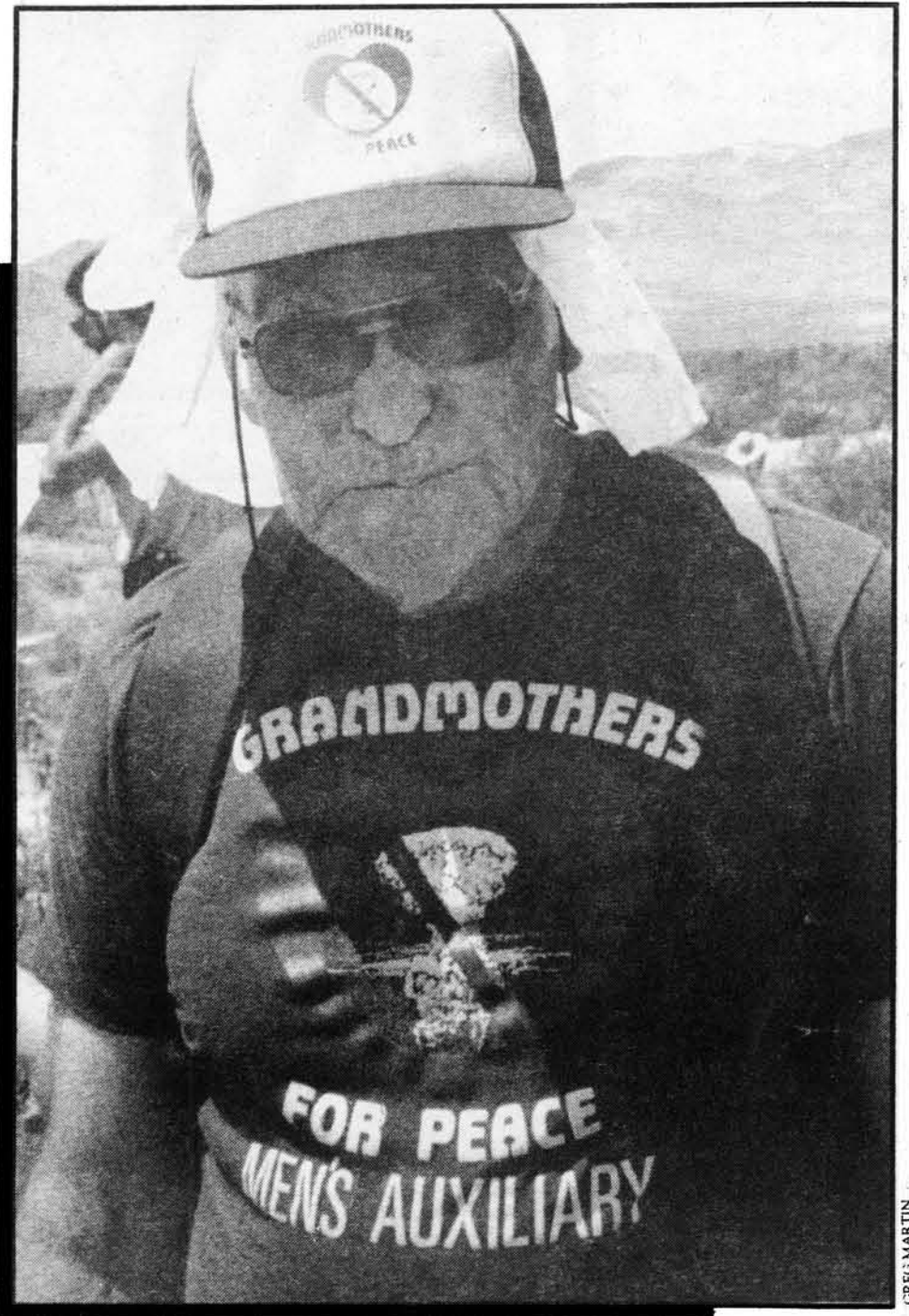
Phil Dunleavy, the Nye County District Attorney, claimed the decision not to prosecute protesters was intended to take the steam out of the growing movement.

438 committed civil disobedience; there were 746 arrests on May 10 at the Mother's Day Action. All charges were dropped for those who were arrested from January 27 through May 18. The county simply cannot bear the financial burden of transporting, processing and prosecuting test site demonstrators.

The February 5 action, two days after the first U.S. nuclear test of the year broke the Soviet Union's self-imposed testing moratorium, was by far the largest up to that time. It drew a diverse range of people from all over the country. Well-known and respectable people such as Dr. Carl Sagan and former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, as well as a congressional delegation, were on hand to lend credibility and enhance press coverage by the mainstream media. The message the general public got from the press about this action was that far from being "vaguely reminiscent of the sixties," demonstrations at the test site were attracting very new people — including professionals leaving their homes and families to commit a crime in order to prevent a greater evil,

couraged to creatively express their demands for an end to nuclear testing. This led to a more diverse and decentralized action than the one on February 5 in which virtually everyone who committed civil disobedience did so by crossing a cattle guard on the road leading onto the test site. While many repeated this action on Mother's Day, a large number of participants, mostly women, crossed onto the site by going over or under a barbed wire fence surrounding it. People breaching the fence carried colorful banners, batik butterflies and other elaborate visual displays. Two women spread seeds and flower petals across the desert floor. The fence itself was festively decorated with family pictures and children's paintings. While organizers of this action — the largest to date at the test site — celebrated its impressive success, the press gave it only passing notice, vastly underestimating the number attending.

Demonstrations at the Nevada Test Site have been growing largely under the leadership of the American Peace Test (APT). The APT was formed by members of what



GREG MARTIN

Although the Mother's Day Action was organized entirely by women, men also showed up in large numbers to show their support.

was the Direct Action Task Force of the national Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign with the objective of planning direct actions at the test site to protest nuclear testing.

As more and more people participate in actions at the Nevada Test Site, the APT and the test ban movement are faced with new challenges. How can existing decision-making and planning structures accommodate the swelling numbers and diversity of people eager to confront testing at its source? And, how can the movement take best advantage of its successes?

APT organizers have done an impressive job of organizing actions, fostering friendly relations with Nye County officials and attracting large numbers of people to the site. But their efforts, or rather their style, have not gone on without some criticism. While many participants and organizers were jubilant at the positive press reaction to the February 5 action, others were distressed by what they saw as the autocratic ways the APT told participants what to do. The central focus on crossing the cattle guard and the heavy emphasis on celebrities did make it easy for the media to respond favorably. However, some felt this was gained at the expense of democratic input from action participants.

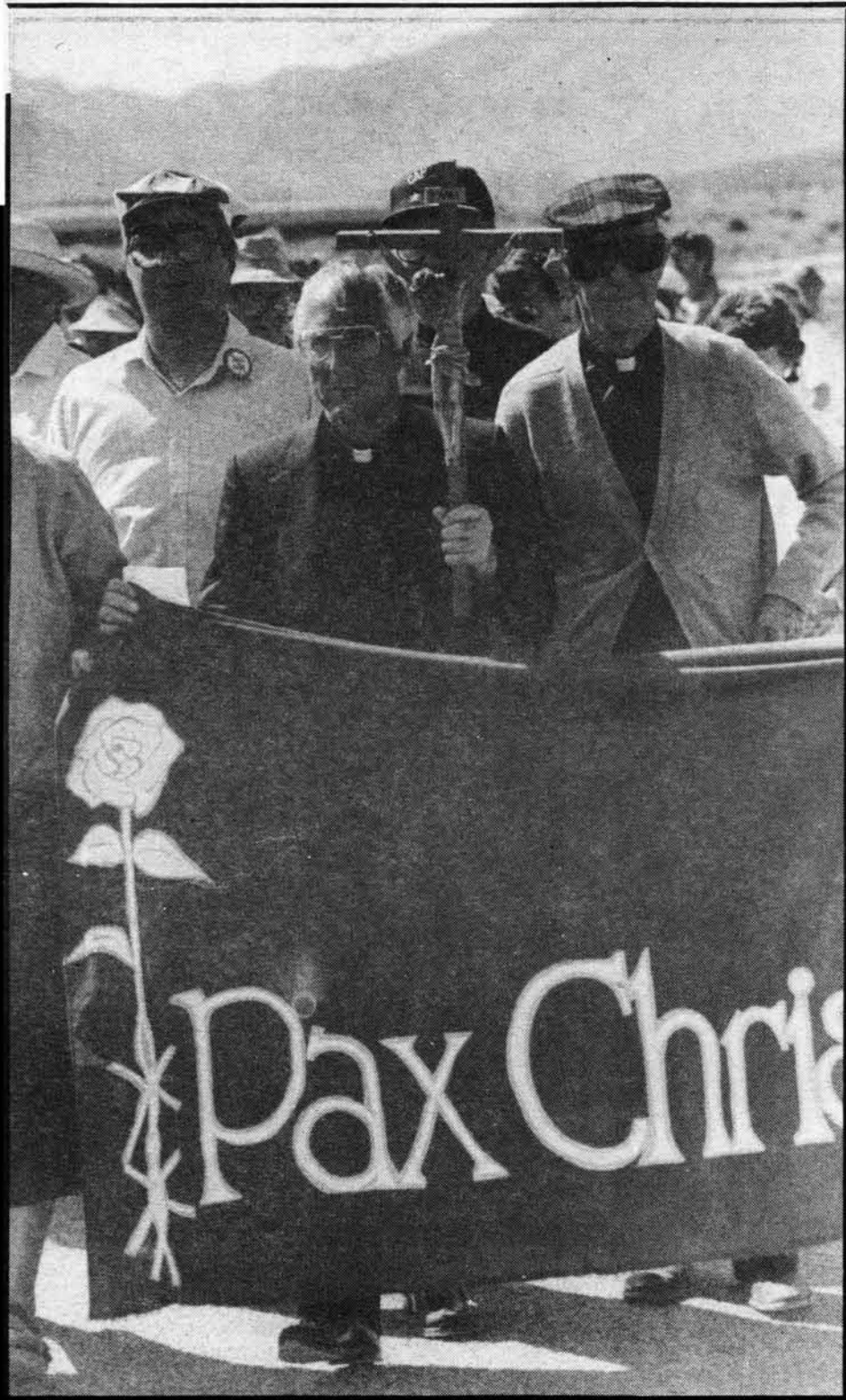
While the APT has been sensitive to such concerns and has been decentralizing its

organizational structure somewhat, issues of leadership and decision-making must soon be resolved so that the movement can focus on sustaining and increasing the pressure at the test site. For example, just before the Mother's Day Action, Nye County's new non-prosecution policy was announced. It came at a time when it was extremely difficult to facilitate widespread discussion within affinity groups all over the country. The topic of how to develop a plan to take advantage of the new policy was not on the agenda of the affinity spokesperson meeting the day before the action. Participants in the action, many there for the first time, may not have been ready to go beyond the simple act of crossing the line onto test site property. (Rather than patiently waiting in line to be arrested, a more dramatic action could have included a hike toward ground zero or Mercury, the restricted town where secret research and control facilities are stationed.) In fact, many of those attending the demonstration made the decision to commit civil disobedience because of the non-prosecution policy — it made it easier for them to get arrested knowing they would be released and suffer no further legal consequences. Also, knowing they would be immediately released enabled people to return home that night or early the next day without fear of



GREG MARTIN

Hundreds camped out in the Nevada desert on the eve of the Mother's Day Action. These rocks told those on the highway that they had arrived.



RON PERILLI

Auxiliary Catholic Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit (center) and retired Bishop Charles Busuwell of Pueblo, Colo. were among 98 arrested at the Nevada Test Site on May 5.

missing a plane or bus.

Nevertheless, there now exists an important opportunity at the Nevada Test Site. Making strategic decisions democratically on how to step up the pressure, on the day before the action, with a large group of people who had their travel plans pretty well set, was probably impossible. Phil Dunleavy, the Nye County District Attorney, claimed that the decision not to prosecute protesters was intended to take the steam out of the growing movement. He said, "We will now give their temper tantrums the attention they deserve — none." His face-saving rationalization does not cover the real reasons for the new policy — that the movement to stop testing has grown to the extent that the local government there simply cannot deal with it.

To sustain the momentum at the test site, demonstrations must now grow in intensity as well as numbers. There exists a rare chance to force the issue into federal jurisdictions. It is the federal government which is continuing the nuclear arms race against the will of the majority of its citizens. Many feel it appropriate that the burden of the

protests should not fall on Nye County officials and taxpayers.

The main challenge for the APT and other individuals and organizations is how to form that strategy. Issues such as the growing diversity of participants and the need for unified action must be balanced with demands for democratic decision-making aimed at accommodating all participants' needs for individual expression. The ability to make strategic decisions quickly, in the face of rapidly changing circumstances, is especially tricky, as evidenced by the Mother's Day Action. And the more people involved in any given endeavor, the more difficult it is to reach consensus without considerable difficulty.

There is no typical site protester. Certainly long-haired men and women with backpacks were abundantly visible. Yet so were people in suits (not as many recently because it's getting hotter there), in minister's garb, and in polyester pants. Local government officials, doctors, lawyers, midwives, nurses, therapists, students, and

continued on page 23

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Direct Action Decision-making

by Terry Teitelbaum

Direct action, including nonviolent civil disobedience, has a strong tradition of decentralized organization. Making the very personal decision to commit civil disobedience — to physically put one's self on the line — involves a certain commitment on the part of the individual as well as a structure in which one can feel comfortable making the decision.

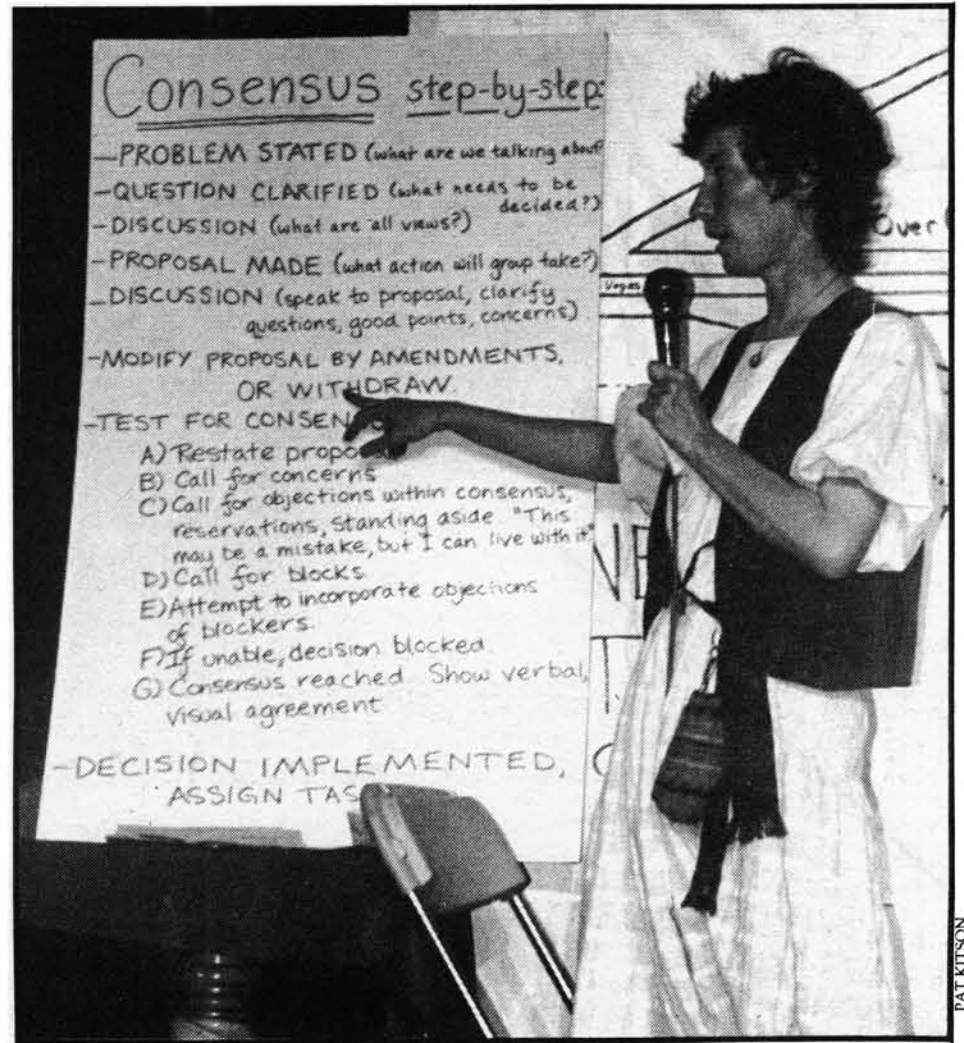
For many veterans of direct action, particularly of the movement to stop nuclear power, the familiar affinity group and consensus decision-making structure is preferred. People who want to participate in a particular action form an affinity group, or activate an existing one. It is within the affinity group — literally a group of people who feel an affinity with each other — that plans are made for how they will get to the action, who will commit civil disobedience, who will make sure people have transportation from jail, and what they want the larger action to look like. They also determine how needs such as food and housing will be met for the group's members.

A more centralized organizing group plans the logistics of the larger action — site considerations, transportation for large groups of people, permits, notification of necessary authorities, and the distribution of information about the area and legal matters, i.e. the expected consequences of civil disobedience.

Scenario decisions — what will the actual

acts of civil disobedience look like, where will they occur, will people sit down or go willingly with the arresting officers, etc. — are made by an affinity group spokescouncil. This spokescouncil is composed of representatives from the affinity groups. Theoretically, members of the affinity groups have discussed possible scenarios and have reached at least tentative decisions about what they would like to have happen and what they would be willing to participate in. These scenario decisions are then to be made by consensus. Each member of the spokescouncil must agree with each proposal regarding the action, or at least be able to live with it, for the proposal to be accepted by the council. All of these decisions are made within "nonviolence guidelines" which have been set prior to the scenario meeting.

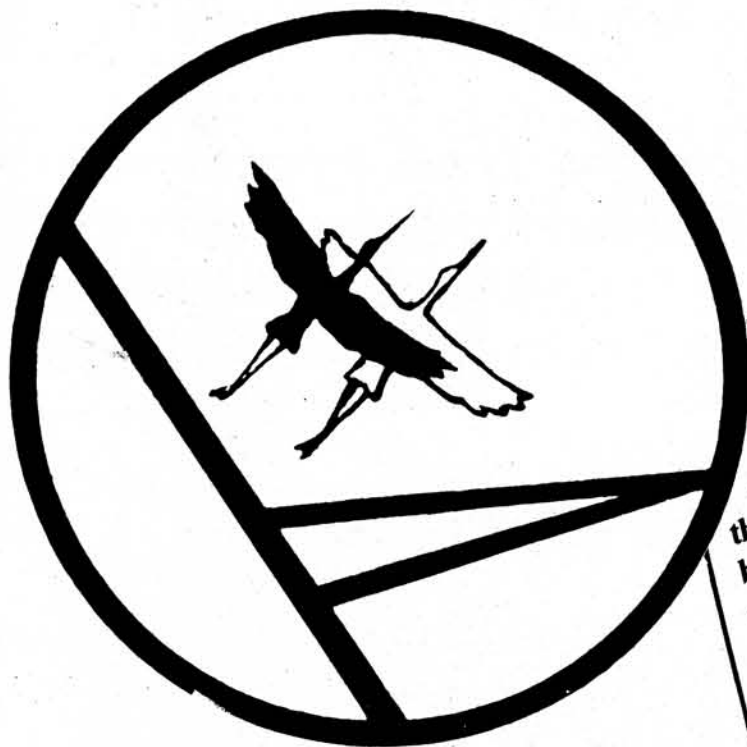
Democratic decision-making is important, especially since decisions about continuing to build and deploy nuclear weapons were made without meaningful input from the many who are so deeply affected by those decisions. Any social change movement is defined not only by its product by also by its process. How people feel about their role — are they part of the process, do their concerns have a place to be considered, are their ideas listened to and incorporated into larger decisions — deeply affect their propensity toward staying involved. And the synthesis of the ideas and thoughts of many committed and intelligent people usually leads to better decisions.



American Peace Test Organizer Nancy Hale

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→ Direct Action

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unemployed transients have all been there — all for their own reasons and all for one reason — to end nuclear testing. On May 5, Catholic bishops and nuns were among 98 protesters arrested after marching onto government property. The diversity of a movement tells much about its strength. If a single issue can cut across political, cultural and any other societal lines, it is indeed a potent issue.

It seems that all the ingredients for a

the computer. However, not everyone involved in direct action against nuclear testing has access to a computer — in fact, some activists resist gaining such access, preferring face-to-face communication for important decisions.

Other strategic issues include maintaining a positive image for the movement without unduly compromising its integrity or squelching freedom of expression. At the scenario planning meeting on the day before the

Press accounts of direct action, when they exist at all, usually fail to put them into the context of the larger movement.

successful movement to end the arms race exist. There are strong and growing organizations, an ever-increasing number of empowered individuals, and visible signs of their efforts having effect. Support for a comprehensive test ban is growing in the U.S. Congress as well as among peoples and governments around the world. The time is at hand to mobilize the many resources and take advantage of a unique, unprecedented opportunity.

Communication among activists, networking structures, and public education will go far to efficiently take advantage of the vast resources so carefully accumulated since the movement to end the nuclear arms race began. The APT uses PeaceNet, a computer network which provides up-to-the-minute information as well as a means for communication among its subscribers. Many users can hold a conference through

Mother's Day Action, a group of high school students proposed carrying an American flag spray painted with the words "Should the greed of America be the death of a nation?" Strong, vociferous objections to this idea were raised for a variety of reasons, the main ones being that it did not represent what the action was about and that it was unnecessarily offensive and disrespectful, doing more potential harm than good. After a lengthy discussion the students agreed to withdraw their proposal.

Publicly conveying a positive image — with all its diversity and commitment among famous as well as not-so-famous people — without relying solely on the media to define its identity poses a complicated challenge. Good press is always welcome, but the organizers must be mindful that the effort to obtain it does not become more important than a particular action or overall

THOM UNGER



GREG MARTIN



TERRY TEITELBAUM

These women, in a life-affirming act, planted wildflowers and spread birdseed on the desert floor before their arrests for trespassing at the Mother's Day Action.

strategy.

The truth is that nonviolent resistance to the nuclear arms race has a rich history.

People are resisting every day. Press accounts of direct action, when they exist at all, usually fail to put them into the context of the larger movement. Communication among activists and would-be activists alike is essential for them to assess where they've been and where the movement is going.

Maintaining the movement's strength even at current levels requires growth — again, in intensity as well as numbers. Like all of Earth's creatures and plants, if a movement isn't growing, it's dying. To keep the pressure increasing, the APT has recently opened a Washington, D.C. office to confront nuclear testing at another of its sources — the White House. On June 9, in conjunction with a Freeze-sponsored national lobby day, the APT is planning a major civil disobedience action there. And on June 15, the next large demonstration at the Nevada Test Site is scheduled.

Even as the sun rises on the Nevada desert, there is a strong, growing belief that nuclear testing is in its twilight. Those interested in ending this arms race are encouraged to act out their part in history by participating in one or more of these actions. For more information about these and other efforts to stop nuclear testing, contact the American Peace Test in Las Vegas, (702) 363-7780/7875; in Washington, D.C. (202) 546-5796/5849; or the Santa Cruz County Nuclear Weapons Freeze, (408) 458-9975.

Terry Teitelbaum is the Executive Director of the Santa Cruz County Nuclear Weapons Freeze. ★

Mother's Day Action participants were greeted by a group of about 200 counter-demonstrators near the rally site. Nicknamed "pro-testers" by some, this group seemed to be made up of test site workers and their families.

Veterans Peace Action Team Returns From Nicaragua

interview by Pat Kitson

In February of 1987, three members of Santa Cruz's controversial Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bill Motto Post visited Nicaragua on a fact-finding mission with the first Veterans Peace Action Team. Unarmed during their four-week trip, they traveled many miles in a

Interview

war zone, visited field hospitals, and held impromptu interviews with government soldiers as well as with the real victims of the war, the "campesinos," or peasants.

The following excerpts are from an interview with Jim Bush, a Vietnam-era veteran. He went to Nicaragua with the team to see, firsthand, the effects of present U.S. foreign policy.

Monthly Planet: What is the Bill Motto Post's position on U.S. policy in Nicaragua?

Jim Bush: Most members of the post support the position of non-intervention in Central America or the Contradora process. This is an issue Bill Motto delegates brought before the national V.F.W. We're in an ongoing process of walking the line where we stay in the V.F.W. and don't step out so far that they don't throw us out again.

M.P. Bill Motto post is somewhat of a maverick in comparison with the national V.F.W. position. Did the question of your

post's patriotism ever come up?

J.B. Sure it did. When our delegates went to the national convention they were hooted and hollered at. They were under a great deal of pressure as a small group of men up against thousands. But there were also individual members from other posts who came around privately and praised our group's courage and expressed their sympathies.

M.P. What was the reason for your trip to Nicaragua?

J.B. Basically it was an effort to put ourselves with the Nicaraguan people and to bring back our show of support to the North American people.

M.P. How did the Sandinistas and general population react to your delegation?

J.B. The Sandinistas wanted us to see the truth. They allowed us to travel and didn't watch over us all of the time. They wanted us to see, hear, and witness the stories of the war. People said the most important thing is to spread the word to the American people so they know what's going on. Many people told us, "Please tell the American people to stop supporting the contras. We don't blame the people, we blame the American government."

M.P. What about the "communist threat" in Nicaragua?

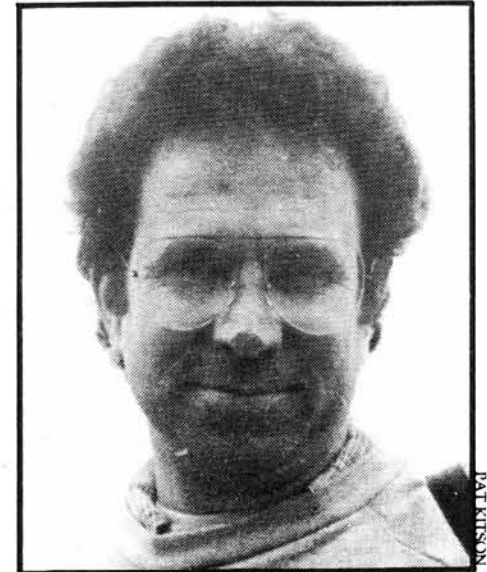
J.B. Obviously the Nicaraguan government leans in a Marxist bent along with Catholic ideals and even capitalist ideals.

They have combined a lot of ideas into their system. They have allegiance to, and are inspired by, the Cuban Revolution, the war in Vietnam, and even the Russian Revolution. It is important to note that in Nicaragua, not including the contras, there are still seven political parties. Among those on the far right is the Conservative Party, who call the Sandinistas totalitarians to their faces. And those on the far left, the Marxist-Leninists, in turn call the Sandinistas petty bourgeoisie.

Nicaragua has also been forced by circumstances to get help from wherever they can. They also get help from our allies, too. If we were to offer them a loan tomorrow, they would take it.

M.P. How militarized is the populace of Nicaragua?

J.B. It's true as President Reagan says that they have a military of about 60,000. It is also true that there are upwards of 340,000 men, women and children who are armed. There is a huge military presence. I didn't see, however, that it was that well equipped or so advanced that it could be a real threat to the countries around it, especially considering that the surrounding countries have jet aircraft, supplied mostly by the U.S. Most of these weapons the Sandinistas don't have. The Nicaraguan people are armed; that is their way of showing it's a government of the people and that they're not afraid of the people.



Jim Bush

M.P. What is your hope for Nicaragua's future?

J.B. I'd like to see an end to U.S. contra support and the embargo—plus real honest support for the Contradora peace process.

M.P. Where is the Veterans Peace Action Team going next?

J.B. To the El Cau-Bocoy area to rebuild a health clinic that was destroyed by the contras. This is the same area in which Benjamin Linder was killed. In the end of May one member of the Bill Motto Post will join eleven others for the trip to Central America.

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German Judges Blockade Missile Base

by Ulf Panzer

Mutlangen is a small town in Southern Germany, not too far from Stuttgart. It is nicely situated in a valley surrounded by soft hills with green forests. Five years ago almost nobody knew of Mutlangen, but today it is a place of sad eminence, the place where Pershing-2 missiles are deployed, a place of nuclear death.

It is also a place of life. At the gate of the Mutlangen military base people keep a constant vigil against those missiles. Thousands of people come to Mutlangen. They come to protest nuclear arms; they come to block the Pershing base until disarmament. They get arrested by the police, they get their sentences from judges, and some of them go to jail because they cannot pay their fines. One thousand ninety-six sentences since 1983 when the Pershings were deployed at Mutlangen. One thousand ninety-six guilty verdicts—but the people keep coming.

It took us judges more than a year to come to Mutlangen. The idea was in our minds and hearts much longer, and it kept growing. But it was a difficult step into what our fellow judges said was illegal. We were afraid, but we knew we should be afraid of those missiles, not of a criminal trial or disciplinary action.

Our group, "Judges and Prosecutors for Peace," a loose-knit group of about a thousand German judges and prosecutors, had its second peace conference in November 1985. We had invited Phil Berrigan to speak to us, and he called us up for action. It was true: All our warnings against nuclear holocaust had died away unheard. The missiles had been deployed and people had forgotten.

Slowly the idea took shape: a judges' blockade at Mutlangen. Some of our colleagues had participated in peaceful blockades before, but an "official" judges' blockade would mean something. One of us judges started a little letter-writing. He wrote about 250 letters to possible participants of the blockade: "We must go to Mutlangen." By November we were 20, and we fixed the date.

January 12, 1987

It was a bitter cold morning when a group of about 30 people, heavily muffled up in warm clothes, walked up the little street that leads to the Mutlangen military base. Twenty-two below zero Centigrade.

We were calm, but also very excited. We were 20 judges, 18 men and 2 women, accompanied by some colleagues with cameras to report on the action, and some press people.

What would happen? Would they just close down the base for the day, letting us sit in the snow until our judicial behinds got frozen? We unrolled our scrolls, barring the street that leads to the base. One of the scrolls read, "Judges and Prosecutors for Peace."

We had not yet sat down in the snow when the first military truck came up the road. It was unable to pass between us and proceed to the base. The two servicemen just stopped in front of us, did not even look up, grabbed a newspaper and with a bored expression began to read. More cars appeared and patiently waited in line. We



"Judges and Prosecutors for Peace"

Excerpt from Ulf Panzer's Personal Statement Mutlangen, January 12, 1987

Fifty years ago, during the time of Nazi fascism, we judges and prosecutors allegedly "did not know anything." By closing our eyes and ears, our hearts and minds, we became a docile instrument of suppression, and many judges committed cruel crimes under the cloak of the law. We have been guilty of complicity.

Today we are on the way to becoming guilty again, to being abused again. By our passivity, but also by applying laws, we legitimize terror: nuclear terror. Today we do know. We know that it needs only the push of a button and all Germany, Europe, the whole world, will be a radiating desert without human life.

It is because we know this that we have to act.

Many of us judges have organized "Judges and Prosecutors for Peace." We have raised our voices in warning against nuclear death. We have worked with local peace groups, advertised against nuclear armaments, demonstrated and submitted resolutions to our parliament . . .

Our warnings have died away unheard. That is the reason why we today block the U.S. air base in Mutlangen. We hope that such an action will be heard more loudly than all our words before.

began to sing peace songs.

It took an hour until the first German police car drove up. They stared at us and drove away. Finally, after an hour and a half, a whole bunch of police cars came up, including two busses. About 20 police officers climbed out and remained standing just in front of us. They did not look too happy with a sort of uneasy smile on their faces. A police car with a loudspeaker drove up and an officer said that by decree of the district authorities of Mutlangen our assembly was dissolved. We should leave the road immediately or the police would help us to do so.

Exactly at 11:07 a.m. the police began to carry us to the waiting police bus. Everything was very friendly, calm and gentle. We were photographed; they took our identity cards; then they drove us down to the police station of Mutlangen for interrogation. As we drove away, we saw little strips of paper being distributed to the U.S. servicemen. When we asked what this was about, the officer said, "Oh, this is

essential for the trial, you know. The servicemen have to confirm that by your blockade, they felt physically forced. Some soldiers have said in court that they were

just waiting, and did not care — this makes it difficult to get a guilty verdict." Then he wanted to know if we were real judges, and we engaged in a discussion of the nuclear issue.

Later we found out that the police just could not believe us to be judges. That is why it took so long to arrest us. If we really were judges they would have liked to avoid publicity, because TV was present. On the other hand, "You can write a lot of things on scrolls," a police officer told us, "and the only way to find out was to arrest you." So they did.

So far nothing has really happened to us. The local prosecution board has brought a criminal action against us, and disciplinary actions have been suspended until the final settlement of the criminal charge. The five criminal court judges who participated in the blockade are still in office.

We do not know if we succeeded in moving something towards peace. The public discussion of our blockade is still in full swing. But nobody talks about the danger we live in — all the world talks about is the professional standards of judges. Still, we have a lot of radio interviews, discussions in the papers, in universities, schools, and different lawyers' associations, so we have a lot of opportunities to make our points.

One thing is remarkable: After 1096 guilty verdicts in the court of Schwäbisch-Gmünd, four days after our blockade were the first seven acquittals. The judge said that in regard to the existential issue behind the protest he could not see anything to object to in the action of the defendants. He had changed his mind, and he would acquit all blockaders in future trials. We do not know if there is some connection to our blockade.

We have received many letters of solidarity from countless citizens and organizations. One of them was from Inge Aicher-Scholl, the elder sister of Sophie Scholl who was sentenced to death by German judges. She was executed because she was part of the White Rose movement resisting the terror of Hitler's fascism. Inge Aicher-Scholl told us that she felt somewhat consoled to experience another generation of German judges. Even if we have not changed anything, I do believe our blockade was worth it, just for this one letter.

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Convicted Of Caring

by Karol Schulkin

On Friday, April 3, 1987, Naval Submarine Base Bangor held an elaborate gathering to mark the beginning of the 10th anniversary year of the Trident base. They erected large signs on base announcing the theme for this

Activist's Notebook

special year: "Peace Through Strength." With seven Trident submarines now based there and a modern \$750 million base, the Navy sees much to celebrate.

On Monday, April 6, 1987, fifteen of us went on trial for our acts of resistance to the Trident weapons system. Vigilers outside the courthouse held banners with our theme: a star-studded sky above a global

world and the words "Resist Trident: For Love & For Life." Not coincidentally, the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action celebrates its 10th anniversary this year as well.

The trial itself lasted 15 hours. The facts of the case, as special prosecutors Lt. Sheryl K. Parkinson and Lt. Cmdr. John D. Morgan presented them, were quite simple. They asserted that 15 people had, on one or more occasions, reentered Naval Submarine Base Bangor. By so doing, we had violated barring letters prohibiting our presence on the base. Why we were there was not at issue, they said.

The defendants readily testified that we had indeed sat on the railroad tracks on August 8, 1986 with the intent of stopping the Burlington Northern train from delivering its cargo of Trident missile motors. And furthermore, they held that we had, on two successive Monday mornings, crossed the line to leaflet workers driving

into the Trident base. Without denying the facts, we maintained we had both a right and a duty to be there.

Presiding Judge John C. Coughenour made several rulings at the case's outset. He denied the defense motion on our right to a trial by jury. He granted the government's motion *in limine*, thereby eliminating the defense of necessity or a defense based on international law. The only line of defense left the defendants was our First Amendment right to the exercise of speech and religion.

What the judge could not rule out, however, was the power of truth and the force of nonviolence. Very quickly the adversarial arena of the courtroom was transformed into a place to share deeply held concerns. Video tapes of the August 8th train arrival and the October 27th vigil and leafletting effort were shown. A standing-room-only crowd first heard Richard Falk, professor of international

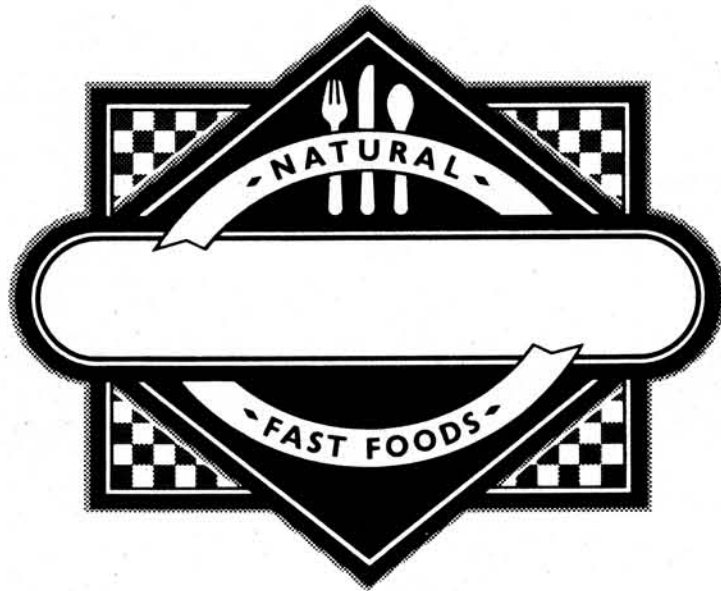
law at Princeton, and then former Attorney General Ramsey Clark testify to the need for citizens to take all reasonable, possible action given the nuclear evil the world faces. We heard examples from the civil rights days made immediately applicable to our case, as Ramsey Clark testified to the difference between talking and *being heard*. He recalled a time in Selma when, late one night, Martin Luther King told both his co-workers and the law enforcement people that in the morning he was going to step across the line by walking across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Knowing full well he faced arrest for that action, he did it nonetheless, saying, "It's the only way I can be heard." Martin walked, was arrested, and the rest is history.


A remarkable group of witnesses testified throughout the trial. The Reverend James W. Halfaker, Conference Minister of the United Church of Christ, and Father David Jaeger of the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle each introduced into evidence the peace documents of their churches. Dr. David Hall, a child psychiatrist and husband of defendant Anne Hall, cited studies revealing that a majority of children now live with a significant concern about nuclear war. Jim Douglass testified to the process of tracking the trains and to the growth of the communities of resistance along the tracks. The government bill of lading (obtained through the Freedom of Information Act by the diligent efforts of Glen Milner) entered into evidence the fact that the August 8th train had, indeed, been carrying "Explosives A" cargo from the Hercules Corporation in Salt Lake City, Utah to the Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific at Bangor. Elkanah Montgomery and Al Drinkwine, employees at the Trident base who resigned for reasons of conscience, told how leaflets had played a part in their decisions to resign. Robert C. Aldridge, who as a former designer of the Trident missile could speak to the weapon's design and purpose, was prevented from speaking at all.

Although none of the attorneys, Patrick W. Crowley, Kenneth S. Kagan, and Michael J. Trickey, had ever before worked together or with our group, they soon became "one of us." Using their training and their understanding of the issues involved, they opened for us windows of opportunity to speak and stood beside us when doors were shut in our faces.

Each of the 15 defendants offered either direct testimony or a closing argument. We were a surprisingly "older" group of resisters and we laughed about only one person among us being under 30. Ironically, it was in this young man's name that the case against us had been filed. We were parents and women religious, a hospital administrator and a house painter, educators and nurses, ministers and a book-seller, a grandmother and a fisherman. Each of us had come to the place of knowing that we must interrupt our lives in order to interrupt the gathering madness of nuclear war preparations. Each of us had acted in a way we believed to be both truthful and nonviolent. We knew we had sought not to commit a crime, but to prevent one.

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Defendant Group. Back row, left to right: Ron Krom, Jon Nelson, Karol Schulkin, Dick Arnold, Jon Agosti, Jim Burns. Middle row: Jim Jarosz, Marya Barr, Kim Wahl, Mary Gleysteen. Front row: Anne Hall, Renee Krisko, Johnny Baranski, Chauncey Boyle. (Not pictured, Rodney Lund.)

A week before the trial, I had the opportunity to be with my community in a retreat led by Dorothee Soelle. Dorothee is a feminist and a theologian who lives and teaches half a year in the United States and half a year in her native Germany. Dorothee was a teenager during Hitler's rise to power. Today, she is painfully aware of how the German people live as an occupied country, surrounded by U.S. made and

staffed Pershing missiles. Observing that today we do not have weapons any more, but rather means of mass destruction, Dorothee went on to make the following sobering comparison. She said, "The Nazis, too, did not call the gas that they used in Auschwitz a 'weapon'." She challenged us to look at our relationship to authority, and she suggested the need to make distinctions between legitimate and illegiti-

mate authority. She reminded us that the construction of the Nazi crematoria and the atomic bomb were both sanctioned by legitimate governments — as was their use.

Her words were echoed for me a week later as Richard Falk urged us to find ways to be citizens, not subjects. In his ever gentle way, he admonished that there

did not question our motives. He sought to make clear, as well, that he did not do the bidding of the government. Then in a strong voice, with a tone of regret, he stated he felt obligated to find us guilty. He set April 24, 1987 as our date of sentencing.

Even as I write these words others are

Each of us had come to the place of knowing that we must interrupt our lives in order to interrupt the gathering madness of nuclear war preparations.

should be no unconditional obedience to unjust rule; that there are limits to the powers of government to impose its will.

What does this have to do with a trial on charges of "re-entry on a military reservation?" Everything in the world. To be nonviolent is not to be neutral. We act to destroy life or to preserve it. We act to see law upheld or watch as it is violated with immunity. The 15 defendants in this trial, as many others before them, made their choice. Within the limits imposed by the court, we told why we felt obligated to act, as we openly admitted what we had done. We are aware that we did not do anything remarkable. But we did what we could at the time.

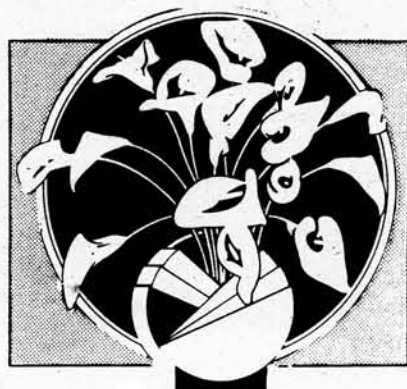
Judge John C. Coughenour, having listened to the testimony, praised our conduct and that of all of those in the courtroom as being in the great tradition of peaceful resistance. He stated that he

preparing to act again at the Bangor base. The resistance will go on, as surely it must. In the end why we go on is to me a matter of faith. But it is also a matter of justice. And law is supposed to serve justice.

I believe one day the truth about Trident will be revealed, and when it is we will all be set free. The question is not whether the truth will be heard, but whether it will be heard in time. But for now, we stand convicted of caring. May it ever be so.

Karol Schulkin is a core community member at Ground Zero and a member of the Los Angeles based Immaculate Heart Community. She was one of the defendants in this trial. Despite the verdict, she still maintains she is "not guilty." This article is reprinted from Ground Zero, a publication of the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Rd. N.W., Paulsboro, WA 98370.

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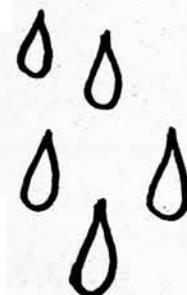
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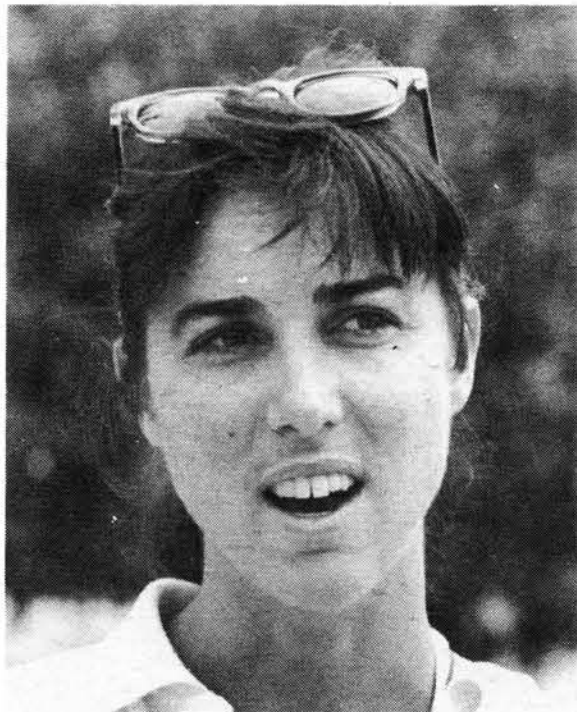
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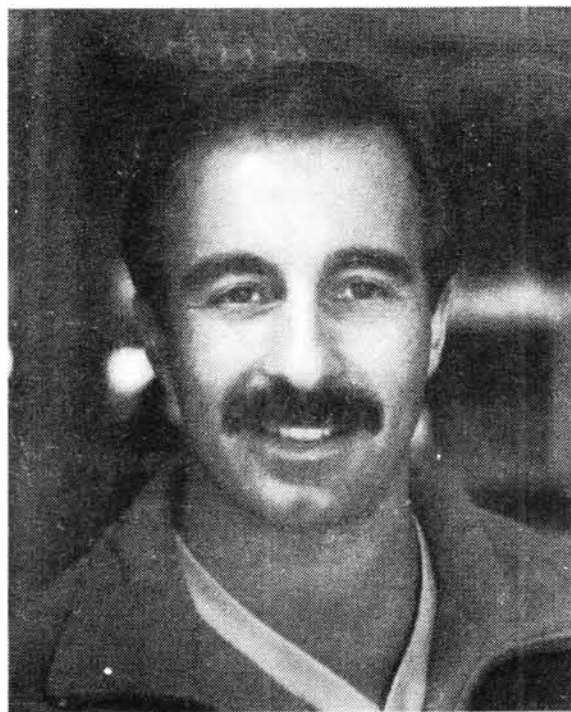
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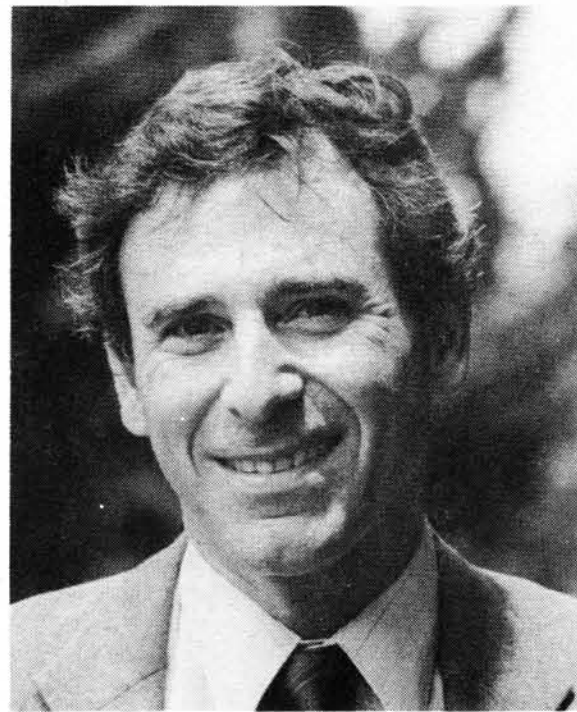
Natasya Gundersen
Artist
Santa Cruz

Yes, because if people don't stand up, then no change will occur. When there is media coverage of the protest it creates public education on the issues.



Luis Silveira
Self-employed
Santa Cruz

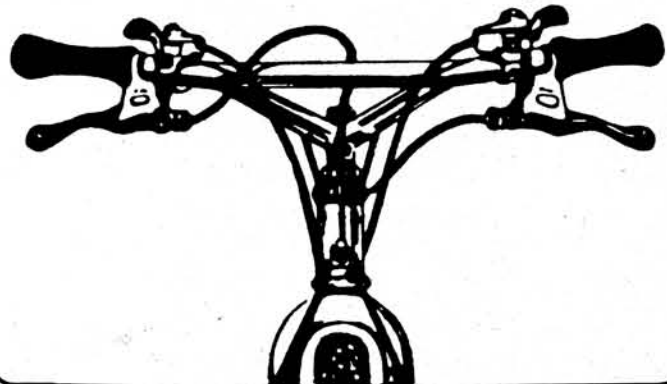
Unfortunately, I don't think it makes a difference. In the political world money talks and people don't.



Richard Damon
Attorney
Santa Cruz

Yes, because it brings attention to an otherwise overlooked issue. Secondly, it lets the politicians know that there are intensely committed people, to whom the politicians are likely to pay more attention, than to the apathetic who do nothing.

the bicycle trip



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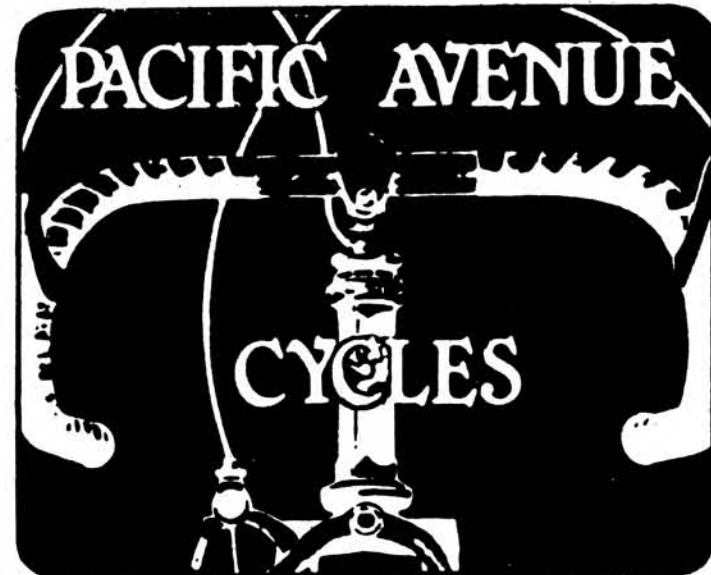
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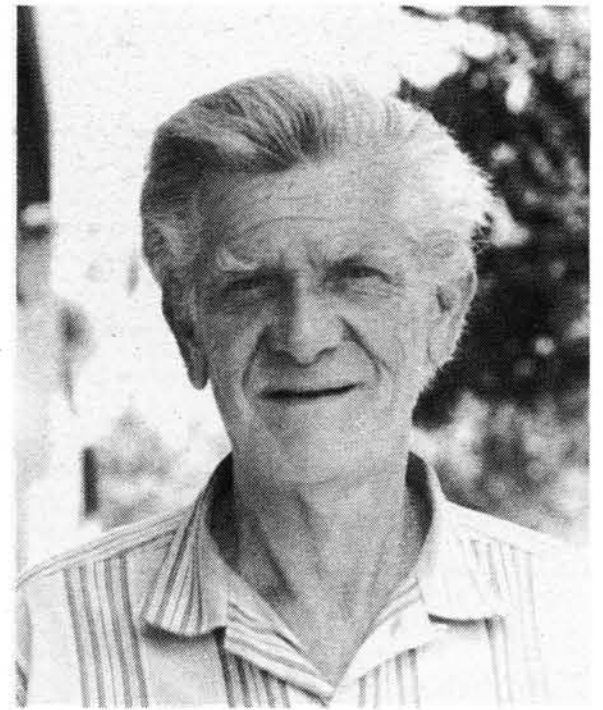
Lori Tracy
Office Manager
Ben Lomond

I feel people should protest, but the people in charge are not listening.



Shamim Formoso
Software Analyst
Santa Cruz

Yes, I think it does. I was raised in India and my family was involved in the Gandhi movement. There was a mass awareness there and protesting is a form of public awareness.



Joseph Baugh
Musician
Santa Cruz

Yes, I think the government has created a monster that is out of hand, but if enough people continue to protest it could still be stopped.

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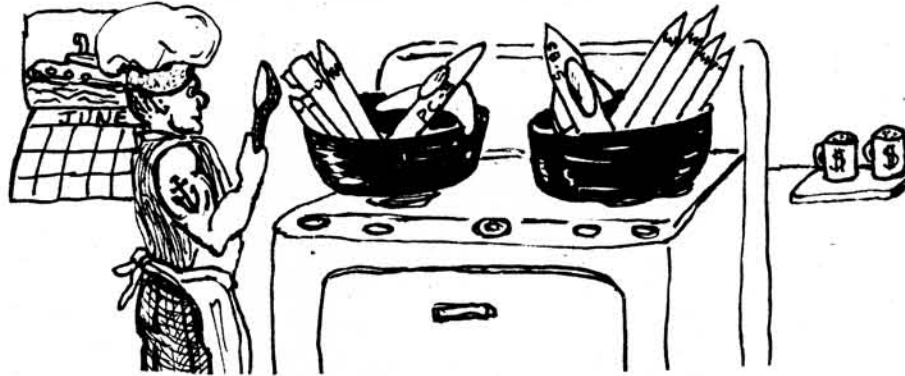
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Lockheed's Kitchen

No one would ever say that Lockheed Corporation Chairperson Lawrence Kitchen is not for capitalism. So why does he speak out against competition in the military contractor business? Following a recent Lockheed shareholders meeting, Kitchen railed against the Navy's decision to consider—that's consider—to have companies bid to build its nuclear missiles, such as the controversial first-strike Trident II. He has also decried the Navy's decision to halt production on Lockheed's submarine-hunting P-C3 plane. That move, which is now under fire from several Pentagon officials and California Senator Pete Wilson, was designed to break Lockheed's monopoly on this type of plane.

Both the Trident II and the P-C3 are big contracts for Lockheed, the sole maker of



these types of weapons, so it is not surprising to see Kitchen upset at the Navy's recent moves to break his company's monopoly. The Trident II is responsible for generating about 14 percent of the sales of the California-based corporation, which has a plant in Santa Cruz County.

In other comments, Kitchen called "atrocious" a report by the government's

Defense Contract Audit Agency alleging his company overcharged the Pentagon (i.e., the American taxpayer) \$489 million for the C-5B cargo jet. It appears that after Lockheed gave the Air Force a price and won the contract, the company received negotiated wage concessions from its workers, thus lowering its labor costs on the C-5B.

The Buddy-Buddy System

Over the past five years, as many as 300 military contractors may have used various accounting tricks to defraud the government of more than \$1 billion, according to the Pentagon's Defense Contract Audit Agency. Now this may not come as a surprise to those who watch the industry or read this column (are you out there?). But Pentagon officials involved in the audits and investigations are really on the warpath, acting like men and women with a noble task. Statements such as, "I told the Secretary [of Defense Caspar Weinberger] this morning I was going to get [the money] all back," and "Appropriate action will be taken to protect the government's interest," are being issued all over the place by eager Pentagon officials.

However, the past speaks louder than words. Many of the military contractors under investigation, including most of the largest companies, have monopolies over weapons systems that the Pentagon insists on possessing. This has led to what conservative Republican Senator Charles Grassley called the "buddy-buddy" system between arms manufacturers and certain important Pentagon people, along with making it hard to do more than slap the wrist of "important" offenders.

The Investigation Gap

In a move that builds on its dismal record of effectively prosecuting military contractors strongly suspected of defrauding the government, the Justice Department recently decided to drop its case against the General Dynamics Corporation. There exists strong evidence that General Dynamics, the country's largest military contractor, provided the government with false information both in 1977 and 1981. The information concerned the 688-class and the Trident submarine programs, and possibly allowed the company to earn hundreds of millions of dollars more than the original cost estimates. The investigation first began in 1984.

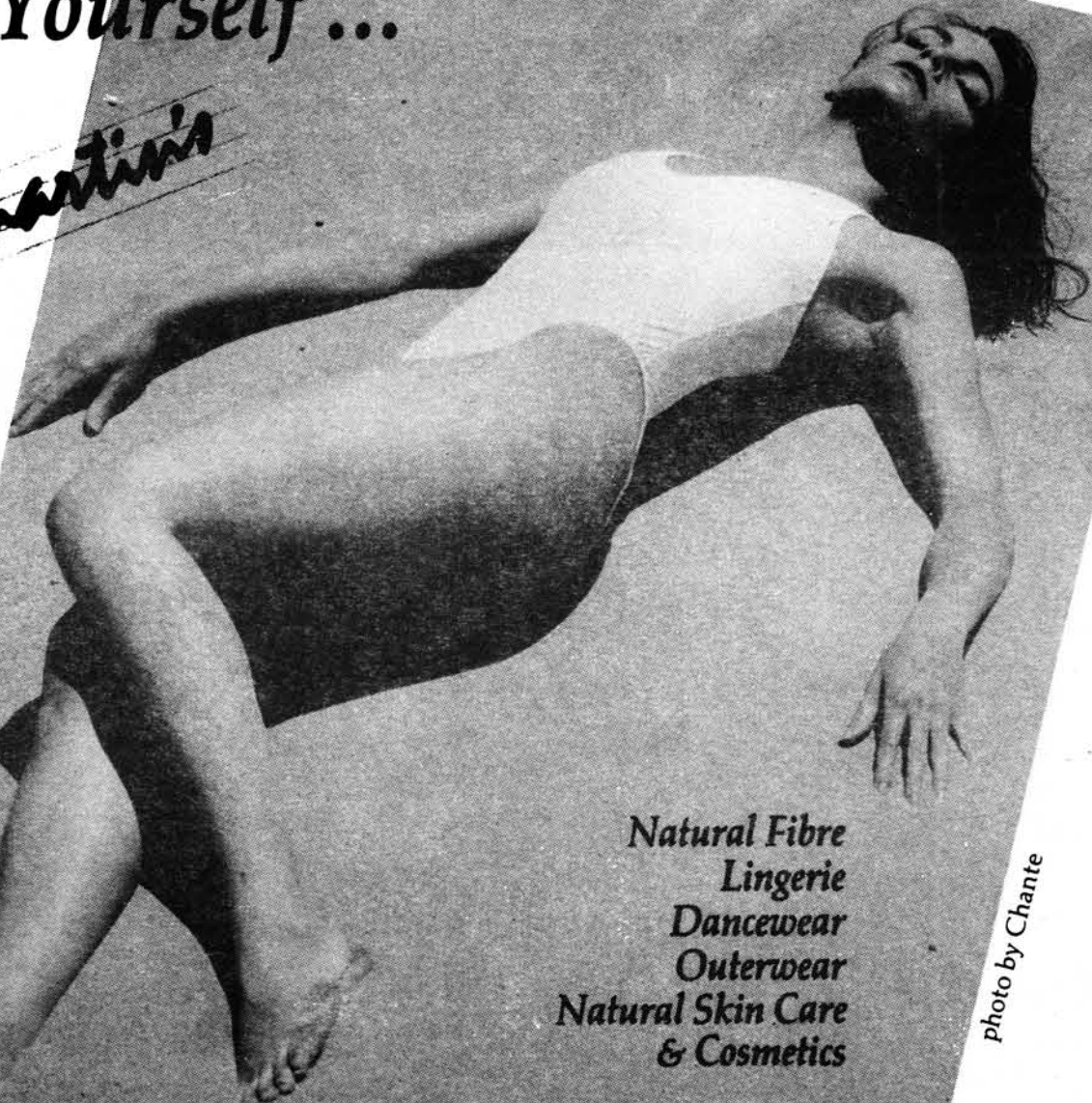
Although prosecutors in the case claim they cannot find enough evidence to continue the case against General Dynamics, many in Congress remain unsatisfied, including such conservatives as Senator Charles Grassley, a Republican from Iowa. Grassley, along with other congressmen, have asked the General Accounting Office to investigate the Justice Department's investigation. Representative John Dingell's oversight investigations subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee will also be studying the matter.

General Dynamics has been the subject of several investigations since the late 1970s. But the giant military contractor has never received more than a slap on the wrist—not surprising when its virtual monopoly on certain weapons, such as submarines, is considered. This monopoly has led to an especially cozy partnership with the Navy, whose recently retired secretary, John Lehman, said, "I think we have one of the healthiest relationships now between the Pentagon and a supplier [General Dynamics] that can be found."

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Star Wars Plan Questioned

by Bradley David Neily

The technical feasibility of the proposed Star Wars system has come under renewed doubt in a panel report released this last month by the American Physical Society that said many scientists were not sure if some of the futuristic weapon systems are based on sound physical laws and principles. The report cited that "significant gaps" existed in the scientific and technical understanding of the required technologies needed to fully implement a strategic defense against nuclear missiles as envisioned by the Reagan administration.

The panel, made up of some of the nation's top scientists, concentrated solely on "directed energy" weapons such as lasers and particle beams that are considered the critical elements of a full-scale system. The panel also did not consider the computer technology, especially software, that would be needed to manage a defensive system, a technical problem

considered by some experts to be the most formidable obstacle of all.

A major disclosure by the panel was that many space-based platforms would require nuclear reactors to generate the tremendous power needed for laser and particle beam weapons. This contradicts earlier administration assertions that the system would be non-nuclear in nature. The panel did not say outright that President Reagan's goal was impossible, but called it "highly questionable" whether a Star Wars system could survive an attack upon it.

In a related development, Senator J. Bennett Johnston (D-LA) disclosed that in 1982 top government officials and analysts faulted a missile defense plan known as "High Frontier," advocated by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative research group. Called "unrealistic" and "unworkable" at the time, High Frontier envisioned the use of space platforms to fire rockets or homing projectiles to destroy enemy

missiles by smashing into them, the so-called "kinetic energy option." One of the government officials who found fault with the plan five years ago was Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, who now supports the use of kinetic weapons as a first phase deployment of Star Wars.

"These documents show the danger of politically driven research programs,"

Senator Johnston said, in disclosing the government documents. "Before the president's Star Wars speech, the Department of Defense and State Department objectively examined putting space-based kinetic kill vehicles in orbit and found it undesirable. Since the President's speech, it has become the centerpiece for early deployment."

Legislative Update

continued from page 13

that puts restrictions on the testing and deployment of Star Wars components.

In order to stop the filibuster, Senators must garner a minimum of 60 votes to invoke cloture and cut off debate, forcing a vote on the issue. So far, they have been unsuccessful.

Central America

So far, this has been a terrible year, legislatively, for Central America activists. The week of May 19 witnessed the defeat of three important amendments to curb the progress of the U.S. war in Central America.

Rep. Barbara Boxer offered a strongly-worded amendment stating that "any activities by the Department of Defense that have the effect intended or unintended, directly or indirectly, of aiding the contras should be carried out only with funds specifically authorized for that purpose." The measure went down to defeat 165-257. Rep. Leon Panetta voted for the amendment and Rep. Ernest Konnyu voted against it.

Rep. Robert Mrazek (D-NY) authored an amendment to forbid U.S. troops from training within 20 miles of the Honduras border. Surprisingly, this also failed 197-225. Again, Rep. Panetta voted for the measure and Rep. Konnyu voted against it.

Rep. Thomas Foglietta (D-PA) offered a measure to cut \$4.1 million in military construction funds earmarked for the construction of a concrete barracks at Palmerola Air Force Bas in Honduras, indicating a permanence to the U.S. military there. The amendment also failed, 197-225. However, the very fact that such measures are being offered shows that awareness is growing among some members of Congress regarding U.S. foreign policy and its expansion in Central America.

In a somewhat humorous turn of events, first-term Congressman Jack Davis (R-IL) offered a serious resolution that Con-

gress should recognize the Nicaraguan contras as the legitimate government of Nicaragua. He was almost never heard from again after a vote of 74-347. Even Ernest Konnyu voted against this one.

It is difficult to predict what the outcome of these votes may mean vis-a-vis the upcoming contra aid vote in the fall. Authorizations this year have been a long, difficult, and drawn out process for Congress. The House alone dealt with more than 200 separate amendments to the defense bill, and the Senate has yet to consider many of its own arms control amendments. Most of the lobbying effort has been placed on nuclear testing and the ABM treaty. Central America activists can expect that the Reagan administration is going to push for a renewal of the \$100 million in aid to the contras with everything in its power.

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

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Planet Poetry

DREAM

*Living One Mile
From the Naval Base*

A hundred armies march
into the city where I live
Soviets in black fur fezzes
Chinese in bloodshot red
and an army I've been told
to call my own

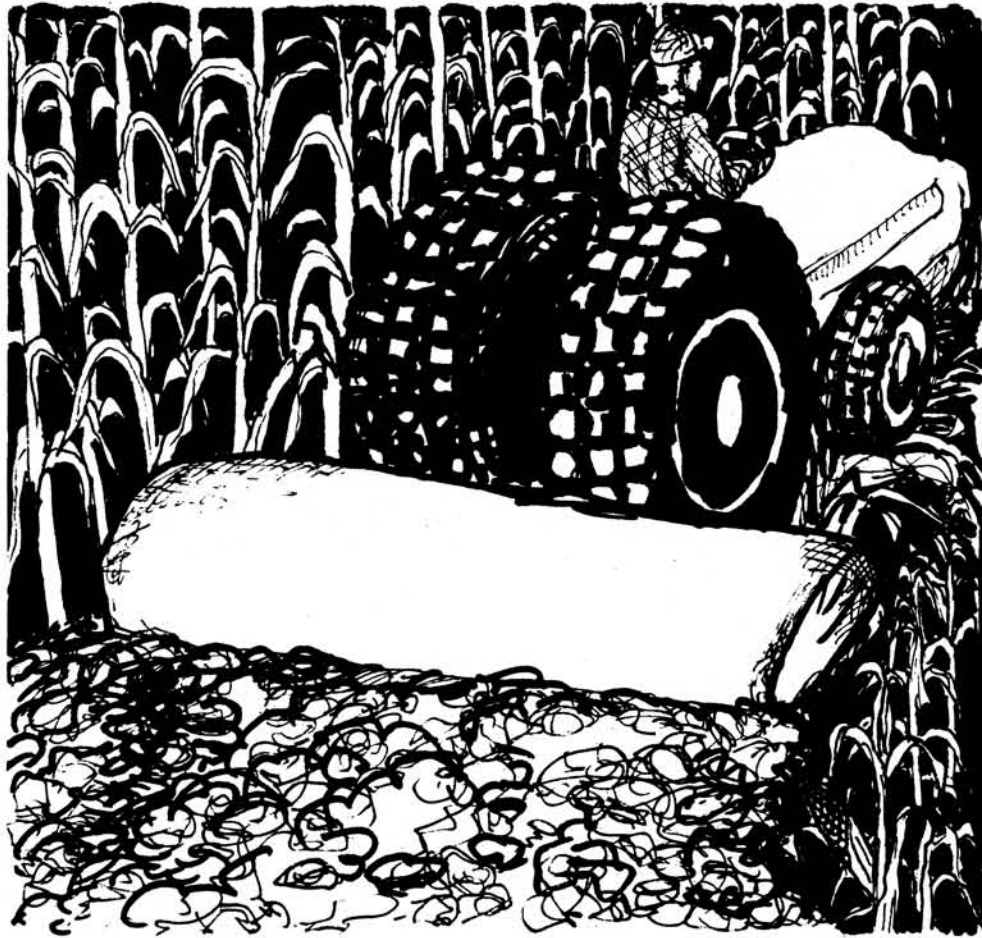
A silent army
with eyes that have no focus
chains around their wrists
an army self-captured
Prisoners of War

The bootstep dirge approaches
the garden that my mother planted
But I am young as roses
blooming in a bed of bombs

Naked in spring sheets I shelter
an old woman in my arms
They'd destroy us
if they saw us

But they cannot see us
with frozen
winter
eyes

*Justine Tatarsky
Santa Cruz*



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and sent you
guns and ammunition
and fat statisticians

Sent you words
"tools of progress"
that mired in the mud
"weapons in the war against poverty"
that lodged in your flesh

Sent you devalued currencies
of sentiment
that mockery of flowers
decorating graves.

*Justine Tatarsky
Santa Cruz*

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

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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, June 23**, for inclusion in the July issue (publication date: Thursday, July 2).

FRIDAY, MAY 29

Sign and Banner Making Party. Come on down to the Freeze office and help make signs and banners for tomorrow's March for a Test Ban. We will have some materials, but people are encouraged to bring their own. Refreshments provided. 7-9 pm, 320-G Cedar St. Info: 458-9975.

FRIDAY, MAY 29 - SATURDAY, MAY 30

A Conference Towards Full, Fair, and Gratifying Employment For Quality Life and a Liveable Earth. Special guest participants include State Senator John Garamendi, Bertram Gross, Derek Shearer, Wilson Riles, Jr., Percy Steele and Tony Mazzocchi. UCSC, Thiman Lecture Hall 3. Friday, 7:30 - 10 pm; Saturday, 8:30 am - 6 pm. Open to the public, free admission. Info: 429-2033.

SATURDAY, MAY 30

March and Rally For a Test Ban! The Santa Cruz County Nuclear Weapons Freeze is sponsoring this march and rally in conjunction with its 6th Annual Walk-a-thon. Speakers include Representative Leon Panetta, Santa Cruz Mayor Jane Weed, seismologist Jack Everndon, direct action veteran Earle Reynolds, student organizer Haley Mack, and Watsonville community organizer Cruz Gomez. Music by the Freedom Song Network and the Continental Drifters. San Lorenzo Park, downtown Santa Cruz. March starts at 9 am, rally noon to 3 pm. For more information, or to help with the event, call 458-9975.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

Peace Day Workshops. 1 - 2 pm: Children's Creative Response to Conflict, with Wendy Wheeler (Info: Wendy 427-0893); 2:30 - 3:30 pm: The Conflict Resolution program of Santa Cruz County, with Lucy Van Elgort and Sandy Sweitzer (Info: Lucy 427-3234 or Sandy 423-1626); 4:30 - 6 pm: Speaking Up and Speaking Out, with Jacqui Harmes. Holy Cross High School, Room 101. To register, contact Andy Carman 425-8790.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

Peace Day: Discovering Our Common Ground, noon to 9 pm, Mission Plaza Park (in front of Holy Cross Church). Join in as our community unites to express our common desire for a safe, peaceful, and healthy planet. There will be educational booths, workshops, New Games, multi-cultural entertainment, and art activities—emphasizing cooperation, communication, and reconciliation; the day concludes with an Interfaith Celebration at Holy Cross Church. All activities are free, and delicious ethnic food will be sold by non-profit groups. Come with family and friends, and bring canned goods to help build our "Feed the Hungry" canned-good-sculpture. Phone Sheila 336-5670, or Bonita 479-8905 for



information, to make a donation, or to volunteer.

Meditation, sponsored by the December 31st Committee for world peace 7:30 pm, Unity Temple, 407 Broadway. Let's continue the momentum towards Critical Mass for world healing. In unity we have power.

Vladimir Posner will be the special guest speaker at this year's People's Daily World Banquet. Posner, a popular radio and TV commentator from the Soviet Union, has recently appeared on many U.S. TV shows, from Nightline to Phil Donahue, and has co-hosted several people to people peace bridge telecasts between the U.S. and the USSR. Posner will speak on "Peace, Friendship and Democracy—A Soviet View." Banquet organizers say Posner's appearance will offer a unique opportunity to hear first-hand Soviet proposals for a nuclear-weapons-free world, as well as his commentary on the internal changes underway in Soviet society. Richmond Memorial Auditorium, near Berkeley. 12:30 pm. Ticket and car pool info: 429-9720. Best hours to call are before 9:30 am and after 6 pm.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4 and SATURDAY, JUNE 6

First Annual Freedom Film Festival Honoring the 200th Anniversary of the Constitution. Presented by American Civil Liberties Union, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and Students and Educators for Social Responsibility. UCSC Classroom 2, behind the Bay Tree Book Store. On Thursday "Quest for Power," a documentary on the Far Right by Saul Landau, will be shown at 7 pm, followed by "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" with Jimmy Stewart. Donations requested are \$5, \$4 students/seniors. Saturday, the Festival begins at 5 pm with a repeat of "Quest for Power," "Woza Albert," a film on apartheid in South Africa and "Destination Nicaragua," a film on the Witness for Peace journey to Nicaragua. Tickets for this portion of the Festival are \$5, \$4 students/seniors. At 8 pm, the Festival resumes with "The Klan, Legacy of Hate in America" and "To Kill a Mockingbird," an award winning film on race

prejudice. The Festival will end with "Push! A Women's Western," celebrating the freedom of choice for women giving birth. Tickets for the second portion will be \$5, \$4 students/seniors. Tickets for the whole of Saturday evening are \$7 and \$6 or for both nights \$10 and \$9. Ticket info: 429-9880, 425-7618 or 423-3095.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 - TUESDAY, JUNE 9

Test Ban Caravan Goes To Washington, D.C. Monday: workshops and issue brief-

ings, Freeze-sponsored evening rally. Tuesday: lobby visits to your senators and representatives, American Peace Test-sponsored civil disobedience. Info: the Santa Cruz County Freeze, 458-9975.

JUNE 12-14

First Strike Weapons and Star Wars weekend workshop at Ben Lomond Quaker Center. Lectures, discussions, and videotapes. Info: San Jose Peace Center 297-2299.

SATURDAY, JUNE 13 - MONDAY, JUNE 15

Demonstration and Nonviolent Civil Disobedience at Nevada Test Site. Sponsored by the American Peace Test. Info: 458-9975 or (702) 363-7780/7875.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Give Peace a Dance '87 Fourth Annual Marathon! Benefit for the Committee in Solidarity with the people of El Salvador and the San Francisco Nuclear Weapons Freeze. Noon to midnight, Fort Mason Center, Pier 3, San Francisco. Info: (415) 861-0593.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Festival of Unity celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Abdul-Baha's visit to the United States. 12 noon to 5 pm. Upper Glen/Friendship Garden, Harvey West Park. Sponsored by Bahá'í Faith of Santa Cruz. Info: 476-4584.

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

I will be an annual member.

Enclosed is: \$15 Individual
 \$25 Family
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 \$30 Joint Local-National

OR:

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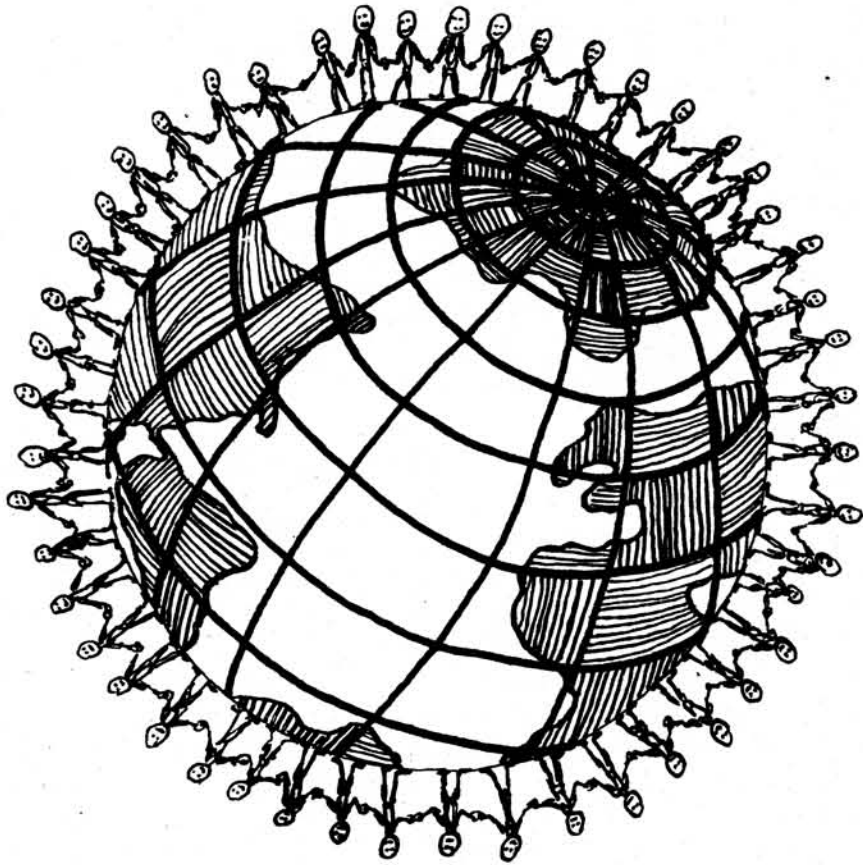
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Save the United Nations



KAREN STACKPOLE

It would be a terrible tragedy if, by our own apathy, the Heritage Foundation and their allies were allowed to succeed in their drive to destroy the United Nations. The right-wing, ultra-conservatives have already achieved major reductions of U.S. financial contributions to United Nations specialized agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF), the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), etc. Our country has left the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) and removed itself from the jurisdiction of the World Court, the United Nations Court of Law, in the case of U.S. vs. Nicaragua. Further reductions and pull-outs are on the horizon as the ultra-conservatives move toward their goal of a total pull-out of the United States from the United Nations. This would effectively destroy the planet's largest and most democratic institution.

This drive to destroy the United Nations is an expression of greed and hatred toward the poor of the world, on whose behalf the United Nations works to achieve

a better world through a more equitable sharing of the world's resources.

Much of the success of destroying the United Nations is achieved through there being no information—or misinformation—about the UN. The work of UN specialized agencies in health, education, hunger, children, refugees, trade, population, development, environment, apartheid, disarmament, etc., are virtually unknown. Resolutions of the UN General Assembly on major issues—South Africa, toxic materials, the Law of the Sea, Central America, the nuclear arms threat, space wars—are not widely reported and the

country, can help change this ominous direction. We can do this by the distribution of United Nations information so that there begins to be a public more knowledgeable about the United Nations, its accomplishment and deficiencies.

The United Nations is, ultimately, ourselves—all of us. Our government is committed by law—and as co-founder, host and financial contributor—to the maintenance and growth of the United Nations.

Our nation is one of the large "homeowners" in the world's "Homeowners Association," the UN. As such, we reap

The drive to weaken and destroy the United Nations is a coordinated and well-financed campaign.

opinions of the world are ignored. Due to this lack of information the United Nations is thus less able to accomplish its mission of mobilizing public opinion and working to create a better world.

The drive to weaken and destroy the United Nations is a *coordinated* and well-financed campaign. A recent Heritage Foundation book, *The World without the UN*, was delivered to opinion makers throughout America. Their budget has increased to a whopping 12 million dollars, with a highly trained staff lobbying against the UN at all levels of government and distributing large amounts of mis-information about the United Nations.

We can save our United Nations. A rather small number of public relations volunteers, networking effectively throughout

much of the benefits of its work in money spent in our country, in trade agreements, health programs and international standards in every area of human endeavor. We are enriched by the contact with the many thousands who come here from every land on the planet.

Since our country has a special relationship with the United Nations—as host and founder—our people need to know what the "Homeowners Association" of the planet, the UN, is saying and doing. We have a right to know.

Public relations volunteers for the UN need only give a small amount of time and energy. No meetings or special talents are required. You will be expected to distribute UN information to selected media, legislators and opinion makers in your congressional district. Materials will be sent to you together with suggestions for its distribution. How much you will do will be entirely your decision.

Visibly seeing ourselves save the United Nations and our planet will give us not only a sense of empowerment and pride, but will help us to contact one another and future generations. Please join us in this special wonderful effort. You'll be glad you did.

Friends of the UN, P.O. Box 40041, Pasadena, CA 91104, USA, (213) 207-2178. This article is from Share International Media Service.

The Free Speech Message is an opportunity for you to share your views on issues covered by *The Monthly Planet*. Submissions will not be considered for publication unless they are **typed, double spaced, and no longer than three pages**. The opinions expressed in the Free Speech Message are those of the writer and are not necessarily the views of *The Monthly Planet*.

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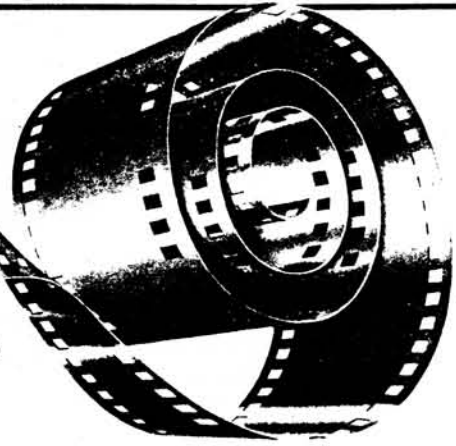
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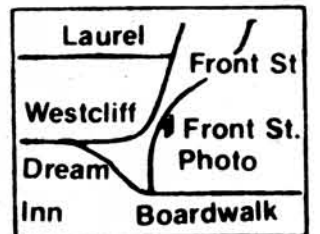


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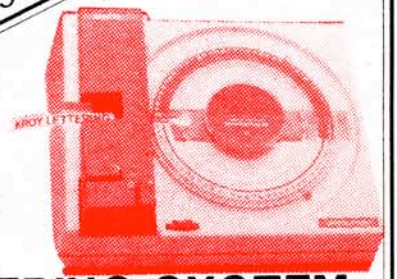
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