

ALERT

Venting and Our Health

As many of us have heard, Met-Ed senior vice-president in charge of clean-up operations, Robert C. Arnold, at a meeting of Met-Ed and Bechtel Power Corporation officials Monday, August 13 made public the utility's preferred method of eliminating the two million plus cubic feet of krypton 85 gas ($\frac{1}{2}$ -life of 10.4 years) which is now inside the Unit II containment building. Their preferred method would be to vent the gas into the atmosphere. Of course, we are assured that "...the emissions would be within the NRC's technical specifications, legal limits and federal guidelines for normal plant operations". Mr. Arnold stated that the "controlled releases" would not exceed 0.14 millirem of gamma radiation (similar to X-rays but intermittently passing through the skin and into sensitive organs during exposure, estimated to last 51 days) and 14.8 millirem of beta radiation (negative ly charged particles).

According to the Bechtel study this would be approximately a sixth of a dose caused by the March 28 event. As many of us recall from media reports in early April, 30,000 rems or 30,000,000 millirems of radiation per hour existed inside the containment building. It is illogical that this huge amount of radiation can translate to the smaller doses which we're told would be released if the gas were vented.

It should be noted that the majority of Met-Ed's figures concerning the

amounts of radiation released are based on an Ad Hoc Assessment done by seven industry and government "experts" whose basic conclusion was that the radiation exposure to the public was "minimal". One basic fault of the Ad Hoc study was that it was concluded on April 7 yet the effects of the accident were still occurring.

In addition, the study itself cites a basic weakness—the small number of instruments, TLDs (three of which got wet and thus were inaccurate) on which the calculations were made during the early days of the accident.

Another legitimate reason for questioning the accuracy of Ad Hoc dose figures comes from the lack of sophistication of the TLDs which only measured gamma radiation and did not distinguish between types of radiation, some types being much more damaging to living tissue than others. On page 66 the Ad Hoc report states: "The composition of the radioactive gases in the plume is not well known for most of the locations of interest."

To further weaken the credibility of Met-Ed's official figures, one cannot ignore that, because of the nature of the emergency, and for other reasons, most of the calculations of radiation released were performed by Radiation Management Corporation, a private testing firm in Philadelphia which was co-founded in 1969 by General Public Utilities and seven other utility companies. In September of 1977 the U.S. General Accounting Office

charged that the NRC depended "excessively on data from private utilities-the utilities getting most of their data from their privately funded labs.

At a meeting of concerned citizens of Londonderry Township August 14th, corporate power attempted to influence public sentiment with questionable "facts" versus human logic. Mr. Arnold, referring to the 14.8 millirems of beta radiation, assured the audience that no danger would be involved since beta radiation "does not penetrate the skin." But radiation does penetrate up to a depth of 2 cm. Does Arnold forget that we inhale huge volumes of air daily and that it is quite probable that the "harmless" beta radiation can easily enter through the nose or mouth and become affixed in the lungs or digestive system?

Three alternatives for removal of the krypton and other noble gases not mentioned include: 1. Compression and storage in tanks 2. cooling to +300 degrees causing the gases to liquify and then be stored at low temperatures 3. absorbing the gases in charcoal filters cooled to very low temperatures. Why would Met-Ed choose to vent the gases when they have three alternatives for containing it? To many the answer is obvious-once again the seemingly omnipotent utility places dollars over the quality of life, now and in years ahead.

Arnold cited the most favorable weather conditions, "Ideally we would want the windiest day. The more wind the more dispersion of gases." Would people in New York or Philadelphia want the gases to settle on their lives?

"If the public feels wastes may not be safe that is an issue which needs to be reviewed." Now is the time for us to review our information and feelings and continue to circulate the facts to the decision-makers on all levels. We understand that the clean-up of Unit II is an unprecedented and challenging task but it's ob-

vious that some means of removing the potentially lethal wastes are safer than others. We choose the safest logical route which may not be the cheapest.

Arnold also said that "what constitutes what will be safe is not a judgement that can be rendered in a vacuum."---The decisions affecting all life in this area have for too long been made in the Met-Ed, Radiation Management Corporation, NRC vacuum. The people are getting increasingly angry and tired of this experiment with their lives. The voice of the people will be heard in larger and louder numbers. Let logic, accurate facts and a humane motivation direct our future efforts.

For more information contact the Health Committee of TMIA, Mike Klinger (921-8618) or the TMIA office (233-7897).

A Watery Death

After the flood that covered the earth in Noah's time, God promised that never again shall all flesh be destroyed by water.

However, Met Ed in its attempt to cleanup Reactor 2 at TMI is taking a good shot at it.

Unit 2 Cleanup

From March 28, highly radioactive water has continued to leak onto the floor of the containment building. On the morning of the accident nearly 250,000 gallons condensed from steam were released onto the floor. According to Met Ed, the water continues to this day to leak at a rate of 1/2 gallon a minute or 700 gallons a day. Water fills approximately 25% of the containment structure. The water in the containment contains isotopes with long half-lives--cesium 134, 136, 137, cobalt, barium 140, and strontium 89 and 90.

In early May, Met Ed shocked the surrounding areas by announcing they would dump this water, after filtration, into the Susquehanna River. The Epicor II system has been installed to treat the water that flooded the

Unit 2 auxiliary building after the accident. This water is in tanks inside the auxiliary building and is considered "less radioactive" than water in the containment. The Epicor II system and other auxiliary construction have cost nearly \$35 million thus far, although Met Ed has not yet received final approval to begin using them.

The contaminated water will pass through resin beds which will remove particulate contamination. The "hot" resin filters will be stored at the Island until the radioactivity decreases to levels that allow them to be transported.

Met Ed has admitted that although the radioactive water will be filtered before release, there is presently no technology available to remove tritium from the water, so it will have to be diluted. Tritium is a hydrogen isotope emitting negative beta particles and having a half-life of 12.5 years. Its ionizing radiation can affect your whole body, especially bone marrow, causing cancer when ingested. Because of its similarity to ordinary hydrogen, its chemical behavior is the same and it can replace hydrogen in water. Consequently, the human body has no way to discriminate between the two elements and readily incorporates radioactive water.

The dumping has been stopped, at least temporarily, by lawsuits filed by the City of Lancaster, the Susquehanna Valley Alliance and petitions to the NRC. Subsequently, the NRC barred the dumping of the water until an environmental assessment is conducted.

However, Met Ed has gone ahead with plans and awarded a 1.8 million dollar contract to Chem-Nuclear Systems of Washington to begin work on a system to purify the highly radioactive water in the Unit 2 containment building. Shortly after Met Ed announced plans, the Susquehanna Valley Alliance asked for a preliminary injunction in U.S. Middle District Court to prohibit Met Ed from investing large sums of money in the decontamination process until all environmental studies are complete.

Unit 1 Water

But Met Ed was not to be foiled in its efforts to foul the waters of the Susquehanna.

On July 26, the NRC stopped Met Ed from dumping water from Unit 1 into the Susquehanna after it was discovered that it was not being tested for Strontium 90, as was recommended by the NRC. However, this fact only came to light when a Limerick Ecology Action member reported the fact to The Associated Press.

Evidently water is needed to cool Unit 1 as part of routine maintenance. Thousands of gallons of processed water have been continuously released from Unit 1 since March 28 even though the NRC knows that the Unit 1



Utah Citizen Action Group

system is contaminated by radioactive water from Unit 2.

Instead of being fined, or at least chastised for this apparent "oversight", Met Ed was permitted to resume dumping of the water after it was tested and found that the concentration of Strontium 89 & 90 in the water was less than 10% of allowable levels.

Met Ed apparently is not investigating alternatives to the dumping of the water into the river. There will most certainly be a point at which the water will have to be released from the containment building in order to ensure the continued "safe" condition of the reactor. What then?

HoeDown Low Down

It was a typically American day-- everything and everybody was wrapped in plastic. The rain dampened all but the spirits of those attending the Shut 'Em Down Hoe Down.

The tickets said, "Rain or Shine," so TMIA's benefit concert was held as planned on August 12th, despite a steady downpour. Concert organizers Pat and Dave Leitman and a soggy crew set up booths for food and literature amid the mud puddles at the Halifax Blue Grass Festival Grounds.

Music and entertainment was provided by a number of local bands and theater groups. The New York Repertory Company filmed some of the concert, and their band, The Fourth Wall, performed a number of original anti-nuclear songs. There was something for everyone from bluegrass to loud rock and roll. A skit performed by members of Harrisburg's Children's Theater Company drew rave reviews. Among the bands who performed were Trigger Happy, High Strung, Cooney and Elliott, Fat Chance and Fresh Air.

The day was not without its problems. Members of one band missed the Halifax turn-off and wound up in Selinsgrove. Attendance, and hence our profits, were diminished by the weather. Those who attended, however, were dedicated to the anti-nuke cause and to having a great time and they were not disappointed.

The fun outlasted the rain and the sun. At 11 p.m. the crowd still danced around the bonfire. Inevitable comparisons to Woodstock and the spirit of the 60's were made. We may not have made money but by any other standard the day was a foot-stomping, hand-clapping, muddy success.

Ertel Responds to TMIA

U.S. Representative Allen E. Ertel (D-17th) recently responded to individuals who signed the TMIA petition in April calling for: 1) the closing of TMI; 2) a moratorium on future construction and licensing of nuclear power plants; 3) immediate monitoring of health hazards and 4) consumer liability.

Ertel "welcomed knowledge of your agreement with the positions as stated by the petition" and in his two-page re-

sponse attempted to answer these straightforward statements with the "Congressman's waltz." He said he thinks it appropriate to "defer judgement" about the reopening of TMI until the NRC's hearings have been held and the Kemeny Commission reports its findings.

He said he has encouraged Harold Denton to revoke Met-Ed's license to operate a nuclear power plant; but he did not rule out the possibility of the plant being operated by another company. Ertel stressed the issue of safe operation of the plant, and assured his constituents he has "taken action" to upgrade operator training.

On the issue of moratorium against future construction and licensing, Ertel referred to the current legislation before the House of Representatives which requires an NRC-approved emergency evacuation plan before licensing. This legislation has not yet come up for a vote in the House.

On monitoring, Ertel said "It will interest you to know that measurements of radiation in and around the plant are continuing to be made on a daily basis. In addition...a number of studies of the health impact of the accident have been undertaken." Ertel went on to enumerate these studies, which include a random sample of psychological and social effects of the accident upon residents in a five-mile radius; a study of the pregnant women and their offspring within a ten-mile radius and a study of cancer incidence in dogs and cats. While these efforts are important, they are not, of course, exactly what the signers of the petition had in mind.

Ertel stated he agrees that consumers should not bear the burden of replacing or rebuilding TMI. He said "As I concluded in my testimony to the President's Commission, accountability and responsibility for the accident rest with the utility company, the manufacturer and the federal government." Sorry, Mr. Ertel. We won't pay with our tax dollars, either.

H'burg and Hiroshima

On August 5th, local peace and justice organizations including the TMIA Religious Task Force sponsored an inter-faith service commemorating the bombing of Hiroshima. The service, held at Lakeside Lutheran Church was followed by a candlelight procession to the Japanese Bridge at Italian Lake Park. The service represented a wide range of religious convictions and was one of repentance, reconciliation and renewal of commitment. Readings included appropriate themes from the Old and New Testaments, the Sukhmani Sahib-Ashtapaki XIX, and the words of a Cayuse Indian Chief. Portions of the May 1976 statement of the Holy See to the United Nations General Assembly were read which "condemned unreservedly" the arms race as a "violation of law, a form of theft and an act of aggression . . . for even when they are not used by their cost alone armaments kill the poor by causing them to starve." Main speaker, Rev. Robert Moore discussed the "nuclear twins," Harrisburg and Hiroshima. He said that the people of Japan understand the terror of area residents because they have lived through it. Several speakers moved the congregation with the recounting of personal TMI stories. The words and music created a spirit of faith and fellowship that lingered long after the candles burned down.

The committee received letters of support from several state and federal legislators. U.S. Representative Bill Goodling said, "I agree that we must take a hard look at all aspects of the nuclear industry, both for domestic supply and for international arms control." U.S. Senator Richard Schweiker stated that, "We have seriously underestimated both the health and safety problems of nuclear power generation and our ability to cope with a nuclear emergency. For my part I will continue working to see that all the facts about TMI are brought to light and problems corrected. The lessons to be learned must not be forgotten."

The weapons connections was drawn most forcefully by State Representative Steven Reed, who said, "This is to express to you my personal support for the efforts by you and your committee to bring international attention to the military and peacetime dangers associated with the use of nuclear power and energy. Clearly, the effects of the nuclear bomb in Japan and the technological deficiencies existant in nuclear power plants in the U.S. today are ample evidence of the need to place public emphasis on alternatives, so that government and elected and appointed officials will 'see the light' and act accordingly in favor of those alternatives."

Betty Sue Lentz represented TMIA and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom at the World Conference Against Nuclear Armaments in Tokyo. The conference attendees responded with a great deal of enthusiasm to the suggestion that Harrisburg and Hiroshima become sister cities. Betty Sue will be most anxious to report on the conference to all of us.



4-7
"The public and press are demanding the truth . . . I want you to come up with three versions of it."

Frank and Edith Brown report that they have withheld 10% of their P.P. & L. bill. They hope others will follow.

Mysterious Bird Deaths

On May 2, Mrs. Henry Gilbert, of S. Annville Township, and her four children returned from a 2-hour fishing trip to discover that 500 of their prize birds had mysteriously and suddenly died in their absence.

The state Department of Agriculture conducted a complete series of tests on five of the corpses, but according to an August 9 TMI ALERT interview with Mrs. Gilbert, a cause of death has never been determined. "I think they know but aren't telling us, she said."

Although radiation was ruled out as a possible cause by the Agriculture Department, Mrs. Gilbert is not so sure. "I really think they're covering up, and I'm very afraid because I have four children."

Mrs. Gilbert said her suspicions were aroused because no state official has ever investigated the premises. "Why aren't they investigating? I've spoken to a lot of veterinarians who said they'd be out here with every instrument they have. They must be lying to us."

Mrs. Gilbert said a lot of "strange things" have been going on since the TMI accident, all of which she has become increasingly aware because of her own tragedy. "I just want to know the truth," she said. "Anything would be better than not knowing at all."

E'town Solar Expo

The first Elizabethtown Solar Expo will be held as part of the community fair on September 17-22. The purpose of the fair is to achieve the transition to renewable energy resources through public information and education. Exhibitors will include solar equipment companies, insulation companies, various government agencies involved with energy, utilities and different solar groups. Special exhibits will include a hot air balloon demonstration, an operating wind-powered turbine generator, "solar fun" exhibits (solar cooking) and motor vehicles powered with alternate forms of energy. A schedule of Expo events is listed below. For more information, contact Barry Leader, 204 N. Poplar St., Elizabethtown.

Sept. 19	1 PM	State Rep. Ken Brandt
	1 PM	E-town Mayor, Ken Reighard
	7 PM	Mrs. Jane Kries, V.P. Solar PA
	8 PM	Prof. Jack Hedrick Local Solar Home Owner
Sept. 20	7:30 PM	Dr. Mark Shaw, Agricultural Engineer, Penn State
Sept. 21	7:30 PM	State Senator Clarence Manbeck, and State Rep. Ken Brandt
Sept. 22	1 PM	Continuous Showing of Films

Kids Column

A 5th grade reading class at Lower Allen Elementary School was asked to write a poem last April for the Arbor Day dedication of a tree. This is their poem:

ODE TO A TREE

Your life has changed a lot,
You were first an evergreen
so free
Then you were potted and sold,
As a living Christmas tree.

Little tree so green,
You are not too humble and plain.
You're getting more noble and
bigger every day
So we can decorate you again.

You were standing there all alone
During the episode with TMI
Absorbing all the radiation,
We were so glad you didn't die.

As a cone-shaped tree so green
and clean,
You are pretty enough to be
in a park,
Where people could be dazzled
When you glow in the dark.

Submitted by Mary Hartnett



Matthew Paul Age 12

Forebodings

"I know it sounds strange," a 28-year old Harrisburg man began, "but I just had to tell someone." What he then recounted—a dream from October 1978—could have been no less strange than the accident that began some five months later inside TMI-2.

It was nighttime in his dream and he was looking "from a high-up-on-a-hill perspective" at Three Mile Island. The night was clear and he saw "the air charged with static electricity." Lightning-like discharges flashed around the cooling towers. One more aspect of his dream echoed a reality months away: "It definitely had chaos!"

On Wednesday, March 28, as the accident received its initial publicity this man recalled the warning of his dream and—before more radiation releases and chaos occurred—fled the area.

Another Harrisburg man experienced his own precognitive warning in late February or early March 1979. His dream also had "an air of reality and an air of chaos and electrically charged lights crackled around a series of towers." "I wasn't sure of any one thing," he said, "except that it was Three Mile Island!"

He wasn't alone in his psychic certainty. In early March, Linda Campbell, who lives a few miles from the ill-fated reactor, had another strange dream. From an aerial viewpoint, she saw "black smoke" coming

from some—but not all—the cooling towers at TMI. Something was clearly amiss. Additionally, there lingered "a bad negative feeling that it wasn't over when I woke up. Nothing specific, just that it involved TMI."

Around March 17, three days after the feedwater valves were closed at TMI-2, Bill Pepper was awakened from a blissful sleep in Newberry Township. "We gotta leave!", shouted his wife, whose family has a history of psychic sight. Bill chose not to act—until March 28, when the concern of his wife became unequivocally verified. They evacuated immediately.

In a vivid dream by an elderly grandmother in Carlisle (25 miles west of TMI), firemen were watching a red glow on the eastern horizon which didn't move at all. Asked why by the dreamer, one Fireman turned and said: "Lady, it's not the kind of fire you put out with water!" Perhaps at that very moment, the atomic conflagration at TMI-2 was beginning.

Call it intuition...second sight...psychic perception...admonitions from angelic guardians; whatever, the facts remain. The human psyche was warning of danger at TMI-2 through archetypes that symbolized the massive unleashing of out-of-control atomic energies. As March 28 approached those paranormal warnings were replicated and intensified, indicating to a parapsychologist that the event-threshold was very near.

Had Met-Ed been informed of these premonitions, one wonders if the course of history would have changed. Would equipment checks have revealed the closed valves? Would the area's population have been spared the hazards of irradiation and the agony of uncertainty? Or would it have been business as usual? One thing is certain, however. Not all the precognitive and occult factors that played a role in America's worst-yet commercial reactor disaster have yet been uncovered. There is more to Three Mile Island than has yet met the public's eye.

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Energy Reading List

The following is a partial list of energy related reading. Some of it is about nuclear power. The rest is more general. If you would like to recommend books, articles or films to others, or if you would like to review any books which you have read, please write to the ALERT.

Barney, Gerald O. (ed.). The Unfinished Agenda; The Citizen's Policy Guide to Environmental Issues, New York - Crowell, 1977.

Center for Science in the Public Interest, Energy Project 1518 R. Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009; write for their publication list.

Caldicott, Helen Nuclear Madness, Autumn Press - \$3.95.

Comey, D.D. The Incident at Brown's Ferry, Friends of the Earth, Washington, D.C. - 1975.

Commoner, Barry. Poverty of Power. Alfred Knopf, NY, 1976.

EARS (Environmental Action Reprint Service) Energy Catalogue, EARS. 2239 East Colfax, Denver, Colorado 80206. A mail-order bookstore for solar and alternative energy information and for audiovisual sources.

Energy Bibliography (annotated). National Intervenors, 1413 K Street NW. 8th floor, Washington, D.C. 20005.

Environmental Action Foundation, 724 Dupont Circle Building, Washington, D.C. 20036. Write for their publications on citizen guides to utilities, public power, nuclear energy.

Epstein, Samuel. The Politics of Cancer. San Francisco: Sierra Club 1978. Introduces the relationship between cancer and toxic substances in the workplace, in water, air and food.

Faulkner, Peter (ed.) The Silent Bomb: A Guide to the Nuclear Energy Controversy. Vintage Books, NY, 1977.

Gofman, John W. An Irreverent, Illustrated View of Nuclear Power, Committee of Nuclear Responsibility - \$3.95.

Grier, Eugene. Colder... Darker: The Energy

Crisis and Low Income Americans. Washington Center for Metropolitan Studies 1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Gyorgy, Anna, et al. No Nukes: Everyone's Guide to Nuclear Power. South End Press, Boston, 1978.

Lovins, Amory Soft Energy Paths: Toward a Durable Peace, Cambridge, MA; Ballinger, 1977. Proposes a new vision of the good life, away from polluting, centralized large-scale technology to technology appropriate to life.

Nader, Ralph and Abbotts, John. The Menace of Atomic Energy. W.W. Norton & Co., Inc. NY, 1979, \$4.95 An excellent overview with a 1978 update.

Steinhardt, Carol and John. The Fires of Culture: Energy Yesterday and Tomorrow. North Scituate, MA; Duxbury Press, 1974. A basic and very readable introduction to energy.

Labor Task Force

At the July meeting, the Task Force formulated a list of goals and priorities to be communicated to our individual Union Locals (see the August issue of the Alert's newsletter). At the August meeting, we discussed methods of reaching our Sisters and Brothers with the message that "nuclear" means fewer jobs, higher taxes, and enormous health costs to workers. The first major project of the Labor Union Task Force will be to compile a Labor Education Package to be distributed to the Union Locals in Central Pennsylvania. We will need help from everyone on this-- which means that if you have a copy of a brochure, or leaflet, or report, or anything relating to Labor Unions and the issues of nuclear power and weapons, please bring it to the next meeting or send it to Susan Barley, 129 Cocoa Ave., Hershey, PA 17033. To all Union Members interested in helping put the Labor Education Package together and working on other Task Force projects, the next meeting will be Thursday, September 6, at 7 p.m., in the Pennsylvania Social Services Union office, 2903-A N. 7th St., (7th and Division Streets), Harrisburg. Questions and information about the Task Force? Call Susan Barley, 533-6516, 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Editorial: On Unity

I've found myself lately casting a lot of stones and I am certainly not without blame. And I'm not the only one. A couple of weeks ago a can appeared at the TMIA office for people to put their quarters when they utter disparaging words. Within a few months we'll probably have collected enough money to install a solar heating system at the capitol.

I'm not interested in rehashing all the specifics of this dissension and internal criticism. It's an old story: a small organization grows rapidly, spawning a number of other organizations; communication sometimes breaks down; people power-trip; lots of people want authority and a few get stuck with responsibility; no one has enough time and energy and nerves grow taut, tempers grow short. Some of the problems are inherent in large volunteer-based organizations. Others can and should be rectified. The reorganization planning process will help.

The fact is, though, that we have to stop criticizing each other and/or our organization. We've got a common enemy--nuclear power. Let's devote ourselves to fighting that enemy. That enemy is a very powerful one, and perhaps no single opponent can topple it. But collectively we can. WE WILL.

Several people have said to me, "Yeah, I'm anti-nuke, but I hear that TMIA is a mess." TMIA is what you and I make it. There is no reason that people should

not become involved in TMIA or in community groups. If things are wrong with the organization, work to change it. If personalities conflict, find different people with whom to work.

As I said I am far from blameless. I've decided to make my own can and fill it with constructive criticisms and offers of help. Alone I'm relatively powerless. But with all of you, I'm part of force to shut down Three Mile Island forever.

The Deadline for the next issue is September 17. No articles or reports will be accepted after that date. Please try to keep articles under 300 words if possible. Include a name and phone number of a contact person, if that's appropriate.

The Alert still needs help. If you can type, edit, proofread, do layout or artwork (or would like to learn any of these useful skills, please contact Terry Roth 236-9486 (work), 763-1835 (home).

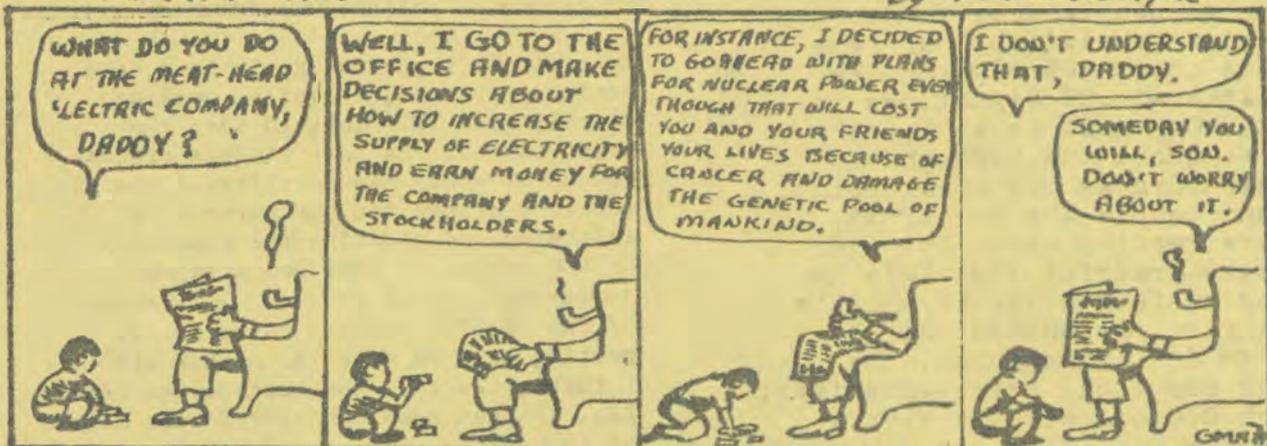
Many thanks to all of you who submitted articles, reports, comics, poems, and letters to the editor. Thanks, too, to Douglas Grier who designed our new logo.

STAFF THIS ISSUE

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Nancy Baumgardner
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CORPORATE CRAP

by MAC Albright



Community Organizing

Apple Core, the Adams County Community group, is continuing its commitment to community awareness through an extensive letter-writing campaign. All physicians, clergy, selected teachers and librarians have already received carefully worded letters urging their active involvement in the anti-nuclear cause. Reprints of articles by Caldicott and Bertell were selected and bulk purchased from EARS in Colorado as persuasive enclosures. Early feed-back indicates some positive response from recipients.

Apple Core members have been serving at TMI Observation Center "counter-measures" operations to share in that responsibility with other groups.

A booth will be manned all week at the annual South Mountain Fair to extend the anti-nuclear outreach (Sept. 3-8). Plans include videotapes, leaflets, bumper sticker and button sales, as well as personal witness. For more information, contact Gene Albright, Box 235 Arendtsville, 17303

August has been a month of petitioning, concerts, fairs and vacations for Mechanicsburg. We worked several weeks documenting our fact sheet, making a list of people to write and formulating our petition.

Talking to people door-to-door has been a revelation. Our response is about 50% signing. We have gathered 600 signatures in a month. Our goal is at least 1000. We chose the borough of Mechanicsburg as our focal point. We found people are concerned, they are reading about TMI and many were grateful that TMIA is working so fervently. We will be planning to present our signatures to Gov. Thornburgh, the NRC and our local representatives. Borough Council will receive a resolution.

We are extremely proud of the small Carlisle group's first pro-

ject, the Carlisle Fair. Sterling Mills has pulled the group together and we were happy to help them out.

We, too, are very concerned about Met-Ed answering questions and presenting one-sided literature to our school children. Mrs. Robbie Hoffman, a consumer relations specialist for Met-Ed has already offered her assistance to the West Shore School District. We will be doing all we can to help Al Mirando plan our educational packet for school pupils.

There are problems in trying to keep our group well-informed other than by phone. We are typing a detailed agenda which will be sent to our telephone chairperson and other key people who may be out of town etc.

We would like to thank Dave and Pat Leitman for working so hard on the concert. They did a fantastic job.

For more information contact Mary or Dan Hartnett; 766-0592.

Throughout the summer the Uptown Harrisburg-Susquehanna Township (UH-ST) community group has been struggling through growth pains. Though the group has been organized for a relatively short period of time, significant steps have been taken or planned in the areas of community action, education and reform.

Specifically, several goals have been actively pursued, including working closely with TMI Alert to keep the plant closed. As part of this process, the UH-ST group has facilitated monthly public meetings for the purpose of informing and updating the community on the status of TMI, and strategic responses for the public. A highlight of the UH-ST's efforts was a public meeting held on June 19, at Lakeside Lutheran Church. The meeting featured Rep. Stephen Reed, Senator Robert Mellow of Lackawanna, Robert Gary, Esq. of Philadelphia, Dr. William Shoff of the Hershey Medical Center, and Mark Widoff, former Pa. Consumer Advocate. The focus of the meeting was to look

at medical, legal, political and economic implications and alternatives of the TMI accident. The meeting was attended by 130 persons.

The group has also been active in eliciting a resolution that was unanimously passed by the Susquehanna Township Commissioners reflecting the constituents' grave concern over the reopening of TMI reactors 1 and 2. A key method that insured the resolution's passage was the development of a telephone network that has distributed information to group members as well as soliciting volunteers for projects in the Harrisburg area.

Other projects have included intensive letterwriting campaigns to Met-Ed, the NRC, and senators and representatives regarding the Bloom-PUC fiasco, involvement in TMIA task forces, planning council, education projects, and weekend staffing of the TMI Alert Alternative Visitors Center near the TMI Observation Center. It must be noted here that there is a great need for more volunteers for the projects that are going on in Harrisburg, contact Suzanne Patton at 238-6329 or Ed Nielsen at 236-0521 if you'd like to become more active. Future plans include a public meeting at HACC on September 13 at 7:30 p.m. The film "Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang" will be shown. The most important plan for the future of the UH-ST group is to get the people involved, in an issue that not only affects our lives now, but the lives and futures of unborn generations; truly a moral responsibility and obligation that everyone must share.

On Monday, September 10, 1979 at 7 P.M., the Swatara Township/Steelton Community Group of TMIA will hold a public meeting at the Swatara Township Building, 599 Eisenhower Blvd., Harrisburg. Residents of Swatara Township and Steelton will be given an opportunity to express their opinions and ask questions concerning the accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station.

Swatara Township Commissioners and Steelton Borough Councilmen are being invited to enable them to assess the feelings and opinions

of their residents in an effort to have resolutions passed in both municipalities.

Several area political figures will also be available to answer questions. All residents of Swatara Township and Steelton are cordially invited to attend.

Met Ed's proposed venting of gasses moved a number of Lebanon citizens. At the August 14th meeting of the Lebanon Valley Alliance, the group doubled in size as eleven new members attended.

Energized by the influx of new people, the Lebanon group made a number of plans. They intend to send a group to Met Ed's Observation Center. On August 15th, they will speak to the United Labor Council of Lebanon in hopes of drumming up support from local labor unions. They are also considering other ways to reach out to the community including door to door distribution of literature.

The next meeting of the group is August 28th at 7:00 at Coleman Park. For more information contact Maggie or Jim Hummel at #865-6232.

In Sept. the Newberry Twp. Group will start holding monthly meetings again. We have already heard from a number of Pa. and US legislators and administrative and NRC representatives. We've testified to the N.Y. City Council and the N. Carolina Utilities Commission and commented to the NRC on "an extraordinary nuclear occurrence". We're writing letters and calling the school board to protest Met Ed-ucation in the classroom. We cooperated with the New York Film Co. in their TMI documentary. Intervention at NRC hearings and protests on the release of krypton gas are also planned. Contact Pat Smith (938-6923).



"First we have to convince the people that good health isn't everything."

No-Nuke Resolutions

In the aftermath of the nuclear accident at TMI, several municipalities in the area have passed resolutions concerning TMI. These resolutions vary in their degree of opposition and their emphasis.

The majority of resolutions passed offer conditions that must be met before TMI goes back on line. Only Highspire and Newberry Township support the unconditional closing of the nuclear power plant.

Harrisburg and Susquehanna Township resolutions are quite similar in that they both urge that the cost of cleanup be borne by the utility. However, Susquehanna Township goes several steps further in that it prohibits nuclear waste products being transported through the township and the dumping of radioactively contaminated water into the Susquehanna River and promotes energy conservation and alternative energy sources.

Hampton Township drafted a resolution, which was later passed by the Pa. Association of First Class Townships. This deals primarily with the financial aspects of the accident and calls for the repeal of the Price-Anderson Act.

Goldsboro asks that the startup of Unit 1 not be considered until all investigations are complete and the environment made safe for its people.

Surprisingly enough, in the municipalities that lie closest to TMI, anti-nuclear groups had some difficulty getting their governmental bodies to pass anti-TMI resolutions.

In May, the Lower Swatara Township Commissioners voted down a resolution calling for permanent closure of the nuclear facility. In June, they unanimously adopted a resolution stating that Unit 1 should not go back into operation until the President's Commission completes its investigation. Only after receiving results from a questionnaire sent out with tax

bills of township residents in which 37% opted to close TMI forever and 27% to open it as a non-nuclear facility, did the Commissioners pass a resolution supporting the latter.

Middletown Borough Council was reluctant to pass a resolution calling for the continued closing of Unit 1 until all commissions report their findings. However, after a very vocal and heated public meeting, a resolution calling for (1) continued shutdown of Unit 1 until all studies are completed; (2) until all safeguards have been implemented; (3) a public meeting held by the NRC for persons within a 5 mile radius; and (4) nuclear hazard exclusions in all homeowners and commercial property insurance are rendered invalid by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was passed.

Londonderry Township, in which TMI is located, just recently passed a resolution. In June, Concerned Citizens of Londonderry Township petitioned the supervisors to adopt a resolution opposing reopening of the power plant. However, the supervisors would only consider a "less drastic" version. The resolution that was passed, among other things, calls for improved plant security, plans for dealing with radioactive wastes, an effective communications network and a published evacuation plan. However, the township states at the beginning of the resolution that all decisions regarding the operation of the nuclear plant "are pre-empted by federal government agencies."

Several community groups are still working to get resolutions passed in their communities.

TMIA to Governor

Three Mile Island Alert called for the Governor to take the lead in blocking Metropolitan Edison's proposed venting of radioactive gases from its crippled Three Mile Island generating plant.

In a letter delivered to the Governor's Residence, TMIA demanded the following four steps:

1. That Governor Thornburgh instruct the Justice Dept. to move to stop the venting.
2. That Governor Thornburgh instruct

the Justice Dept. to move to block the dumping of water into the Susquehanna River.

3. That Governor Thornburgh take the lead in demanding safe, alternative methods of disposing of radioactive wastes.
4. That Governor Thornburgh take the lead in insuring a safe and healthful environment for our citizens.

"People are angered by utility actions and government inaction," the letter read.

"We have been getting phone calls all day," said Kay Pickering. "Our office has been swamped. People are tired of the utility, afraid of the utility, angry at being forced to consider leaving their homes."

The letter from TMIA demands that the government stop "placating the utility and start protecting the citizens."

"We feel that these steps, if forcefully taken, will be a good first step in restoring public confidence in public officials and the institutions of government."

Costs of N-Accidents

"Cost of Nuclear Accidents" was the subject of a two-day seminar July 27, 28 at Hershey Motor Lodge. Sponsored by the Pennsylvania Law Journal, approximately 150 lawyers from all over the country attended.

Chaired by Mark Widoff the topics included Rate Structures, Insurance, Price-Anderson Act, Regulation.

The anti-nuclear arguments were ably presented by Mike Cherry, attorney for the NEPA case who laid it on the line. "The values which prompted the growth of this country no longer pertain." Further, he thinks the responsibility for safety has been too broadly diffused and that one politically accountable person should make vital decisions.

Professor Harold P. Green was critical of the licensing process for nuclear plants, describing it as

polarized. He said the regulatory structure has evolved in an abnormal manner without precedents.

The 1954 Atomic Energy Act was not constructed to protect public health and safety but was designed to undergird a fledgling industry. It was to be regulated by a benevolent Big Brother, the NRC, which tried to substitute a sophisticated science technology for experience. "This assumed the omniscience and infallibility of scientists and technicians. The nuclear industry has been over-protected by the government in the role of a parent who feared public response."

He said that public participation in the licensing process is a sham and a charade, as can be attested by local anti-nukes who have attempted to use the process in the past.

"TMI can become the last nail in the coffin or the opportunity to revive a moribund technology." (Editor's note-let's dig that grave)

The present public perception of nuclear power is trauma for the industry and with the NRC it is still looking for a short-term PR fix using a bandaid approach.

Gerald Charnoff, utility lawyer, described the NRC as benumbed and introspective, and stated that the Senate is intent on forcing the NRC's hand on the evacuation issue. The initiative has been passed to Congress.

There will be stricter procedural requirements, more intervention at the operating license stage, slower licensing, more involvement of PUC's, more involvement of NRC commissioners in licensing. In the past they have been shielded by staff reviews and diverted from details.

According to Phillip McClelland, consumer advocate who was in attendance, the industry is mainly concerned about who will be financially liable for future ac-

idents: what effect investor lack of confidence and greater earning demand will have. It is becoming harder to attract investors because of the financial risk involved and the potential for accidents. Wall Street and investor banks are realizing that the risks were underestimated and are raising interest rates accordingly.

Nuclear utilities want a guarantee that they are not financially liable for accidents. They want to be bailed out by the government. Not being strong enough to go it alone they want their investment insured by the ratepayers.

A legal question to be decided is what is the meaning of fault and how does that change regulation. How should Met Ed be dealt with if "at fault"? (The ratepayers might have some interesting ideas-Editor)

McClelland believes that as Met Ed goes so goes the industry. Investor attitude will be greatly influenced by what happens. Nuclear power may be priced out of existence. This could be more of a telling factor with the general public than issues of health and safety.

Windmill Controversy

The case of Pat mcGloughlin's windmill has generated not only widespread attention in our area, but throughout the entire country. Establishing decentralized, safe, and undepletable energy sources is among the highest priorities in our fight against nuclear power. Thus we must support strongly the principal with which Pat has been proceeding.

Several months ago Pat obtained a wind generator capable of generating 4.5 KWH of electrical power. The recent addition of a family room to his house would have been heated electrically with power coming from the generator.

Neighbors of mcGloughlin, whether by ignorance or malice, have taken an adamant stand against his option for energy independence. Their organized opposition presented a petition with

over 100 signatures to the Mechanicsburg Boro Council. Before this however, Mechanicsburg Boro Zoning Officer Kime denied Pat's request for a building permit. Not to be stymied, Pat retained Dick Esposito as counsel in the ensuing appeal before Boro Council. The hearing lasted for more than three hours with a crowd of more than 40 persons crammed into the smoke-filled Boro Meeting Hall. Numerous witnesses were called for the defense including Paul Gipe, a Harrisburg based wind machine expert. Gipe recently completed a wind feasibility study in Texas. Currently he is studying the applicability of wind systems in Pennsylvania. After hearing testimony from area residents, council adjourned for decision until July 31.

On that Tuesday evening, final statements were heard from the Boro Solicitor and Esposito. With only three councilmen present, permission was denied by a vote of two to one. No reason was given for the denial although a zoning ordinance disallowing building space over 30% of lot size was cited in the Boro solicitor's final statement. The addition of the windmill would have increased lot size to 36%.

At this time the decision by boro council has still not been released, thus delaying any decision to appeal. Another decision holding up the appeal is financial in origin. And although the National Health Foundation has offered support, nothing concrete as of yet.

There will be more information on this situation as it becomes available. Contact Randy King 432-5570.

Letters to the Editor

This is just a note to express my feelings about manpower. Everyone who reads this newsletter is in some way concerned about nuclear power. Now the latest news to date is that Met-Ed is going to supply us with Krypton 85--whether we need it or not.

There are a few people working very hard at TMI Alert. At a recent meeting I was feeling frustrated that a handful of people seem to be carrying the ball. And still they were being asked to do

more. There is so MUCH TO BE DONE!
But a few people can't do it all! If
we become involved in petty conflicts
within TMIA and if we don't get some more
people sharing the work effort, then
we may lose.

It is extremely important that we
become a well-organized, cohesive
group. Don't we all have the same
goal? Shutting down TMI forever is
no small task and it requires the
efforts of everyone of us.

When you go to your community meetings
(and I hope you do), please see what
you can do to help. Remember, it takes
a busy person to get things done. Any
effort you make with your time and
your expertise will pay off.

Elyse Clark, APPLECORE, Gettysburg

A mistake was made: the Aug. 26 rally
conflicts with the previously scheduled
ERA walk-a-thon. By the time the mistake
was noted, it was too late to change.
Even though the mistake was innocent, its
affects are large. The purpose of this
letter is to address the problem of the
way TMIA makes decisions and to recommend
specific redress to ERA/TMIA conflict.

First, the mistake was made because the
decision to hold the rally was made by
four people; it even bypassed the interim
committee. How does this situation occur?
And, how can the assumption be made that
not only can four people justifiably make
policy for an entire organization, but do
it without much input (like consulting a
calendar)?

Regardless of the intent of the decision-
makers, the result of scheduling this rally
is to insult all the TMIA women who have
worked equally hard for women's issues as
they have for the no nukes movement. It
is horrible publicity for TMIA, as the
action seems to suggest that the ERA rally
is of less importance.

I will be going to the Planning Council
with the following suggestions:

- 1) That TMIA, as an organization, apologize
to N.O.W.;
- 2) That a speaker for the ERA be invited
to share the platform at our rally;
- 3) That a statement of support for the
ERA function be made, and that people be
encouraged to go to the ERA get-together
after the TMIA rally;
- 4) That once and for all, people pass a
resolution mandating that decision making
follow the proper channels either through

the Interim Committee or whatever replaces
it;

5) That calendars (such as the HIP one) be
consulted before TMIA rallies are set up.

If the mistake was indeed an honest one,
then now is the time to honestly examine
the impact of our actions. It is indeed
ironic that after all the support women
have given to TMIA (remember the women's
and children's march?) that TMIA should
appear to be so unsupportive of women and
the ERA.

Andrea Chesman

Enclosed please find my check for \$5.00
for a subscription to the newsletter.
I received a copy of it in the mail last
week from Michele Zimmerman and read it
over and over. It gave me renewed strength
and hope that many people are organized
and really are accomplishing things.

I have been living in New York for the
past four years, but my family and
friends at home in Harrisburg have
kept me closely tied to the area. I
have also been strongly opposed to
nukes for years. My immediate and
continued anger and fear when the
accident occurred at TMI was perhaps
greater than many others because I was
already aware of the fraudulent
aspects of the industry and the apparent
danger from low level radiation that
everyone there was exposed to; I still
have not recovered emotionally from
the sleepless nights away from those I
cared about feeling full of rage,
helplessness, and despair at what damage
had already occurred.

Yet as your editorial stated so well,
there are ways to channel that anger
and frustration and I have been doing
so. I am an active member of SHAD
Alliance and prompted Bruce Birnburg
to write an open letter to TMIA. I
also keep close ties with a few active
members of TMIA and with Bruce Smith
of Newberry Township, because they are
so informative and encouraging. I
have spoken to people who want to
hear about the dangers of nuclear energy
and I have continued to speak out to
those who don't want to hear. I
spread leaflets over New York and
participate in the forums and large
demonstrations here and elsewhere. But
I want to do more. Your newsletter gave
to ideas which I will pass on to others
and addresses of legislative individuals

about nuclear power and the dangers and implications that a nuclear economy holds. People also wonder, especially after the highly technical "explanation" in the film, "Is Met Ed telling us the whole truth?" This passive approach to the people has worked very well for us, because it shows how deeply we do care and how committed we are, and this concern and commitment is communicated to the people we talk with. It must also be bothering Met Ed, because on Sunday, August 12, we were told by Robert Ansel, the man who is always at the Visitors' Center, that "his boss" didn't want us standing around like that anymore during the films. We could watch one showing, but then we would have to leave. (A couple of words here about Bob Ansel--he's a science teacher for a school district on the West Shore and is working parttime this summer for Met Ed's Public Relations Department. It's bad enough that we pay his salary through our electricity bills, but to pay him again through our taxes is outrageous. And, he couldn't look me in the eye when he answered my questions.)

The importance of the weekend actions cannot be overemphasized. There are hundreds of visitors there every day, six days a week, from all over America and many foreign countries. The weekend of the 11th and 12th, there were people from Alabama, Michigan, California, Virginia, Delaware, New Jersey, Indiana, New York, Maryland, and from Japan, Australia, Belgium, Austria, Argentina, Canada, England and Venezuela. These people have come to get answers to their questions, and Met Ed is not giving the answers they seek.

The weekends are also important to each of us as a catharsis, a way of working out our anger and frustrations by doing something, anything, to fight that monster in the river. Those of you who have already come as groups and individuals deserve many thanks.

Cheryl Lee, of the Hershey Area Alliance, is doing a terrific job of coordinating the weekend effort, but she needs a lot more support from everyone in the community groups and from the Alert.

If you can give a couple of hours on a Saturday or Sunday, it can mean that the truth will be spread to one more person. Cheryl's phone number is 566-9777--call and volunteer to be at the Center for at least an hour.

MA BELL has been doing us a good turn. Occasionally when people call Information for the number of TMI, they get TMIA instead. So, we've talked to some interesting people and they've heard our side of the story. So far nobody's complained. THANK YOU, MA BELL!!

A study, funded by the National Cancer institute, has shown that varying doses of radiation exposed to a colony of monkeys 20 years ago has caused a high incidence of cancerous tumors.

Dr. Harold M. McClure of the Yerkes Regional Primate Center in Atlanta said it is conclusive proof that radiation causes cancer.

The NRC hired an agency called Radiation Management Corporation (RMC) to analyze radiation data during the TMI emergency. RMC was founded by a group of utilities which includes GPU, principal owner of TMI.

This fact confirms the contention of the U.S. Government's General Accounting Office, among others, who have long criticized the NRC for relying too heavily upon industry-based information about nuclear energy issues.

The apparent conflict-of-interest situation, exposed by anti-nuclear groups under the direction of Ralph Nader, was not a new revelation to GPU. An internal RMC report from 1975 stated that "it is no longer feasible for operating utilities to have any ownership in advisory service companies which must render objective judgements about ecological and safety factors in the utilities' economic processes."

Apparently only citizen activism will halt a historical process which has long been known by both government and industry.

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT, INC.

Health Questionnaire

In order to more accurately determine what occurred at THREE MILE ISLAND in the early days of the accident which began March 28, 1979, we invite you to respond to the following questions.

PLEASE ANSWER AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE AND INCLUDE:

- A. Date
- B. Length of time experienced
- C. Did condition change if you left the area? (Yes) (No)

IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL SPACE, NUMBER AND USE BACK OF PAPER.

1. Metallic taste _____
2. Metallic or iodine-like odor _____
3. Watery or irritated eyes _____
4. Skin disorders (rash, etc.) _____
5. Respiratory problems _____
6. Gastro-intestinal disorder _____
7. Face flushing _____
8. Headache _____
9. Menstrual irregularity _____
10. Body pain _____
11. Change in dosage or type of prescribed medication _____

Did you observe any of the following:

12. Changes in animal behavior _____
13. Health problems with animals _____
14. Atmospheric/climatic change _____

For purposes of validation and possible follow up questions we ask that you include name, address & phone number (leave phone # blank if you'd rather not be contacted). Also include, if possible, your approximate location to the TMI plant.

If there are other members of your family or neighbors who are interested and would like to respond to this survey, contact TMIA Health Committee, 315 Pepper St., Hbg., 17102 233-7897 and we'll send you the necessary number of questionnaires.

The results of this survey will be published at a future date. THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE.

Return to TMIA

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

CALENDAR

MON. SEPT. 3rd-SAT. SEPT. 8th

South Mountain Fair. Apple Core to have a booth.

THUR. SEPT. 6th

Labor Union Task Force Meeting. 7:00 P.S.S.U. (2903-A N. 7th St., 7th & Division, Harrisburg). For information contact Susan Barley, 533-6516.

MON. SEPT. 10th & SEPT. 24th

Alternative Energy Committee Meetings
Swatara Township/Steelton Community Group, Public Meeting, 7:00 Swatara Township Bldg., 599 Eisenhower Blvd., Harrisburg

WED. SEPT. 12th

Mechanicsburg Group to show film "Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang". Time and place to be announced. 766-0592

THUR. SEPT. 13th

Susquehanna Township/Uptown Hbg. Community Group, Public Meeting, 7:30. Place to be announced. The film, "Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang" will be shown.

WED. SEPT. 19th-SAT. SEPT. 22nd

Elizabethtown Solar Expo. See article for details and schedules.

THUR. SEPT. 20th

New Cumberland Energy Alliance, 7:30 p.m. Middle School, New Cumberland.

MON. SEPT. 24th

Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden in town. Plans to be announced.

SAT. SEPT. 29 to MON. OCT. 1st

Rally and occupation at Barnwell, S.C. Info: Southeastern National Guard, P.O. Box 1065, Barnwell, S.C. 29812

TMIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____

Telephone No. _____

Check Type Membership Desired

- \$ 15 regular
- 5 low income & student
- 25 non-profit organization
- 50 sustaining member
- 100 patron
- 200 club member
- \$5.00 non-member newsletter subscription

Return to: TMIA
315 Peffer St.
Harrisburg, PA 17102

Natural Detection

The spiderwort, a common three-petaled wildflower of the dayflower family, can be used to detect low levels of radiation more accurately than mechanical devices currently in use at nuclear power plants, according to a Japanese geneticist. Dr. Sadao Ichikawa has been watching the cells in the stamen hairs of the spiderwort (*Tradescantia*) change from blue to pink for nearly a decade. His research findings indicate a strong correlation between the pigment mutations and the radiation levels emitted by nuclear power plants. In 1974 Dr. Ichikawa and a high school biology teacher in Japan planted 40 spiderwort clones in ten locations up to five miles from Hamaoka, site of a new nuclear plant. Dr. Ichikawa's findings--increased frequency of mutations corresponding to operation of the reactor--led him to being lecturing in North America on the plant's abilities. Along the circuit, he left plants with scientists to continue the experimentation. The significance of the spiderwort tests,

says Dr. Ichikawa, is that the flower shows the effects of internal exposures, which is how living systems take up radiation. Dosimeters, mechanical radiation detectors now used near nuclear plants, measure only external exposure.

from Conservation News, June 15, 1979

Each year, 6,000 American children may be entering the world deformed as a result of pre-birth exposure to man-made radiation. This is the conclusion of a newly published study called the Bair Three Report, released by a committee of experts from the National Academy of Sciences. The document reportedly contains figures that half of a percent of the American people or one million people, may in their lifetimes develop cancer from man-made sources.

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