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## **Three Mile Island Resources**

**Title:** Three Mile Island Alert Newsletters, 1979

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**Location:** TMI-TMIA

### **Contact:**

Archives & Special Collections  
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# **TMIA: THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT**

315 Petter St., Harrisburg, Penna. 17102

(717) 233-3072  
233-7897

## Your TMIA Newsletter May, 1979

We are successfully making it clear that many of us do not want to live in the shadow of any nuclear power reactor. More and more people firmly are saying they will not live in the shadow of a nuclear reactor. There is much to be done before they are closed down forever. YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!!!

This NEWSLETTER is designed to give you specific information so you can act on those issues or concerns most important to you and your family.

The volunteers and staff at the TMIA office need your input, your ideas, your time and energy. Those people who routinely do the office work are: Chris Sayer, Louise Bradford, Joel Roth, Kay Pickering and Kirsten Moe. Call or come in.

Three Mile Island Alert was first organized two years ago. By-laws were developed and elections took place in April, 1978. The current Coordinator is Bill Vastine; Treasurer, Lee Musselman; Recorder, Joy Miller. Incorporation papers have been filed with the Commonwealth. Financing the operation of the organization has always been a problem and is increasing due to the enormity of the demands since the TMI accident March 28th.

YOU have helped collect over 20,000 signatures on petitions. (Petitions were duplicated and presented to Senators Heinz & Schweiker and Rep. Ertel in Washington, May 7th) YOU made it possible for 4,000 Central Pennsylvanians to lead the March in Washington May 6th. YOU MAKE IT HAPPEN!



**active today ... or radioactive tomorrow**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 22    PUC Hearing, 10am, North Office BLDG., Rm.1.  
HACC-TMI Lecture Series, "Who Pays-The Economic  
Consideration of TMI", Rep. Steve Reed, Mark Widoff,  
former Pa. Consumer Advocate, 7:30pm, Student Center.

May 23    PUC Hearing, 10am, North Office BLDG., Rm.1.  
Susquahanna Township Community meeting, 9pm at the  
Township Building.  
ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM, 7:30pm, Allen Jr. High, 4225  
Gettysburg Rd., Camp Hill, speakers-Clifford Jones,  
Sec. of Pa. Dept. of Environmental Resources and  
Mark Widoff, Former Pa. Consumer Advocate.  
Environmental Exhibits by organizations & State  
agencies open at 6pm. TMIA exhibit is planned.

MAY 24    DEBATE, Judy Johnsrud vs PP&L officials in Allentown,  
CoChaired by Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power,  
Sponsored by Sierra Club, Contact Sarah Bramson, 966--  
3148.

\*\*\*\*HEALTH RESOURCES PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT PUBLIC HEARINGS

2:30 to 4:30 pm  
6:30 to 8:00 pm  
Tues. (5/22) at Galery Lounge, Capitol Campus  
Wed. (5/23) at Columbia, 10th & Manor Sts (Fire House)  
Thurs. (5/24) at the Sheraton

\*\*\*\*LEAFLET AT THE ARTS FESTIVAL

MAY 29    PUC Hearing, 10am, North Office Bldg. Rm. 1  
TMI-HACC Lecture Series, "TMI: The Decisions That Can  
Be Made", Rep. Allen Ertel, State Sen. George Gekas,  
State Rep. Bernard O'Brien (Ch. House Committee on Mines  
& Energy), Rep. Eugene Geesey, at the Student Center, HACC.

\*\*\*\*STATEWIDE RALLY AT THE CAPITOL      MAY 30, WEDNESDAY

PUC Hearing, 10am, North Office Bldg. Rm. 1  
Last day of hearings. Last chance, write, phone,  
testify!!!!

RALLY ON THE CAPITOL STEPS 12 (noon) to 1pm.  
SPEAKERS, SPEAKERS, SPEAKERS

AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOV. DICK THORNBURG HAS BEEN REQUESTED

Visit your Senator and or Representative.

TMIA will be the host organization. It is important that  
as many people as possible attend the entire days activities!!

**You Will Make It Happen!**

**Rally**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

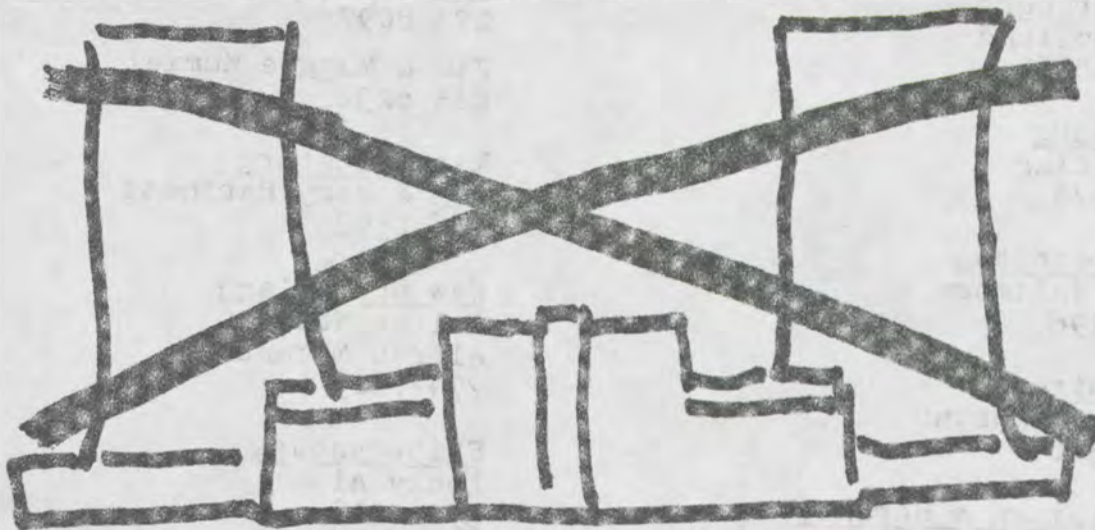
MAY 31 HACC-TMI Lecture Series, "The Role of the Media in TMI", Bob Livengood and Bob Becker, 7:30pm, Student Center.

PERRY COUNTY GROUP MEETS MONDAY, MAY 28th, 7:30pm. Call Larry & Ann Miller (582-2875) for more information.

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# RALLY TO STOP THE BERWICK NUCLEAR PLANT



**JUNE 3. 12-4:00 PM**  
**AT CONSTRUCTION SITE**

Pennsylvania Power & Light (PP&L) is building two General Electric Boiling Water Reactors (BWR) six miles north of Berwick, Pa. They are scheduled to begin operation in 1981 and 1983. The plant is located on Rt. 11.

SPEAKERS ### ENTERTAINMENT ### ALTERNATIVE ENERGY DISPLAYS  
MARCH TO PLANT SITE FOR BALLOON RELEASE#### SPONSORED BY  
The Susquehanna Alliance, P.O. Box 249, Lewisburg, Pa., 17837

TMIA WILL HAVE BUSES GOING TO BERWICK  
TICKETS \$4.00 #### MEET AT CITY ISLAND 10:00am

PHONE THE TMIA OFFICE 233-7897 FOR MORE INFORMATION  
OR STOP BY, 315 Peffer Street, Hbg., FOR TICKETS.



PEOPLE ORGANIZING COMMUNITY MEETINGS

GET INVOLVED IN A COMMUNITY GROUP!! PHONE PHONE!!

Camp Hill  
Barbara Smith  
737-2164

Carlisle  
Adah Sigumoff  
243-4716

Pat Barrett  
M. Larnason  
243-2674

Chambersburg  
Bill Bollend  
1-263-8861

Dillsburg  
Randy King  
432-5570

Elizabethtown  
David Whitmore  
367-4796

Highspire  
Barbara Sansone  
939-1526

Hummelstown & Hershey  
Bev Jones  
533-2371

Randy Weeks  
533-9477

Mary Rosenkrens  
533-5533

Halifax & Lykens  
Jeffrey Popchuck  
362-9714

Harrisburg Zip 17101 & 02  
Doug West  
236-6727 home  
787-1396 work

Harrisburg Zip 17104  
Brian Donahue  
238-5666

Harrisburg Zip 17109  
Suzanne & Mathew Magda  
545-8839

Harrisburg Zip 17110  
Suzanne Patton  
238-6329

Judy Faruquee  
652-3749

Lebanon Valley Alliance  
Andy Vesper & Judy Vesper  
273-8097

Jim & Maggie Hummel  
865-6232

Mechanicsburg  
Dan & Mary Hartnett  
766-0592

New Cumberland  
Avitar Nectar  
Alfred Mirando  
774-7215

Shippensburg  
Becky Alen  
532-3218

Middletown  
Jim Hurst  
944-3909

John Garver  
944-0678 home  
232-7644 work

Newberry Township  
Pat & Bruce Smith  
938-6923

Perry County  
Larry & Ann Miller  
582-2875

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS GET IN TOUCH WITH THE COMMUNITY  
GROUP COORDINATOR, KIRSTEN MOE (H) 232-8879 or call the office  
233-7897.



Have you written to Gov. Thornburgh within the last two weeks; your Senators and Representatives?? KEEP THE MAIL FLOWING !

If you were unable to appear before the Presidential Commission, by all means write:

Presidential Commission on the Accident at TMI  
2100 M Street, NW  
Suite 714  
Washington, DC 20037.

The Pa. House Consumer Affairs Committee is presently considering several bills regarding rate hikes for the utilities. Phone their staffperson, Christine Dixon (783-5332) or come into the TMIA office(233-7897). \*\*\*\*\*

LEGISLATION

TASK FORCE GROUPS

Health

Lee Musselman  
238-3587

Mike Klinger  
921-8618

Nuclear Economics

Jim Gormley  
944-7011

PUC

Jim McGee  
238-2314

Jobs/Conversion

Mathew & Suzanne Magda  
545-8839

Alternative Energy

Randy King  
432-5570

ORGANIZATION & OUTREACH

Kirsten Moe  
232-8879

Training & Education

Communication

Finance

Lee Musselman  
238-3587

Office Administration

Sandy Nevius  
236-0080

Unit #1 Shutdown

Kathy McCaughin  
232-8534

Perwick Rally

Mathew & Suzanne Magda  
545-8839

COMMENTS FROM THE PUC TASK FORCE

Senator Franklin Kury has scheduled a Consumer Affairs Committee nomination hearing for Wednesday, May 30th to consider the nomination of Robert Bloom to the PUC. Gov. Thornburg has nominated Bloom to another 10 year term to the PUC where he has been the leading anti-consumer, pro-utility voice for the past 10 years. We urge individuals to attend the hearing. If you can attend and would like more information, call Jim McGee (238-2314) or phone the office (233-7897).



PRICE-ANDERSON ACT or Nuclear Accident Non-insurance.

In 1957, the government was eager to have the private sector take over its nuclear power program. However, the private insurance industry refused to fully underwrite the liability of any catastrophe that might occur. Nevertheless, the federal government decided to underwrite the nuclear industry by enacting the Price-Anderson Act.

The Price-Anderson Act has effectively insulated the industry from the liability and risk that are inherent in any business venture. Under the Price-Anderson Act, the nuclear industry is neither financially responsible nor accountable for its decisions.

The Price-Anderson Act presently limits the liability of the industry to \$560 million. In essence, the federal government imposed an artificial ceiling on the entire nuclear industry's liability costs. In the event of an accident, the estimated cost of the damage ranges from \$14 billion (Rasmussen Report) to \$35 billion (1976 GAO report). Presently, only \$560 million can be recovered. As illustrated by the Three Mile Island accident, had there been a disastrous radiation leakage, the public would have recovered only between 3 percent and 20 percent of their losses. Suits filed within two weeks of the accident involve claims of more than the \$560 million limit.

In addition, the Price-Anderson Act places a limit of 20 years on the application for compensation. This is of particular concern because the effects of radiation may not be known to an individual until after the 20 years have elapsed.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR CONGRESS TO RECONSIDER ITS POSITION ON INSURANCE LIABILITY FOR THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY.

Rep. Theodore Weiss (D-NY) has introduced legislation (HR 789) that would end the limit on financial liability for damage to citizens injured by a nuclear accident. This bill also removes the 20 year limit on application for compensation.

WRITE, PHONE AND GO SEE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AT THEIR LOCAL OFFICE OR IN WASHINGTON----House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.. 20515.

There are a number of other Bills supportive of the anti-nuke movement. The Nuclear Energy Reappraisal Act (HR 366) introduced in the House by Rep. Hamilton Fish (R-NY) would halt, if adopted, the issuance of construction permits for new nuclear power plants for 5 years while a thorough study of the entire nuclear fuel cycle is conducted by the Office of Technology Assessment.

\*\*\* TMIA requests contributions for the JUNE NEWSLETTER. \*\*\*\*\*  
We are still in the process of indexing our mailing list. HELP !

May 18, 1979  
Newsletter editor and typist, Kay Pickering.  
315 Peffer Street  
Harrisburg, Pa., 17102  
233-7897



# Alert

VOL. I, NO. 2

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

JULY 1979

## Radiation goes off the charts

For several months, government and utility officials have been telling people in Central Pennsylvania that the releases of radioactivity were minor. Last week, new testimony at the NRC shows that they, at best, did not know what they were talking about - or, at worst, they were telling us some outright lies.

According to the NRC's Albert Gibson, "All the radiation monitors in the vent stack, where as much as 80% of the radiation escaped, went off-scale the morning of the accident.

"So we don't really know what went up there?" questioned Commissioner Victor Gilinsky. "Up through the stack?"

"That's correct," replied Gibson.

"One set of readings was greater than 1000 Rems per hour," he added. "We don't know how much greater because the licensee did not have instruments that measured more than 1000."

These readings, the testimony shows, remained at these high levels for three straight days, starting on March 28th.

Gibson also questioned the conclusiveness of readings taken outside the stacks. He said

that the readings were often taken when the wind was shifting or when escaping radiation was not at it's peak.

"All they will show will be dose rates at the moments when the measurements were made and without knowing the precise weather patterns we don't know if they were made at the appropriate locations," Gibson testified.

Mike Klinger, chairperson of TMIA's Health Committee, called the testimony incredible. "To think that Met Ed even considers starting up Unit 1 and possibly exposing living organisms to many times the debatable 'safe standard' shows an arrogant disrespect for the quality of life inconsistent with the values of the citizens of this greater Central Pennsylvania area."

### *No More Alert*

This is the last newsletter you will receive unless you are a member of TMIA or have paid the ALERT subscription rate of \$5.00.

We are sorry, but we just can't afford to keep mailing to everyone.

PLEASE JOIN.



## A Bloomin' bust

Strong pressure from a coalition of anti-nuke, consumer and neighborhood groups force the Pennsylvania State Senate to reject Gov. Richard Thornburgh's first important non-cabinet nomination, Robert Bloom.

The groups which came from Philadelphia, Harrisburg, York and Pittsburgh put the Senate on Notice that it would not accept anti-consumer, pro-nuke appointments.

The vote was 12 to 36 against Bloom. He needed 34 votes for confirmation. Voting against the nomination were area senators George Gekas (R-Dauphin), Hopper (R-Cumberland) and Hess (R-York, Adams). Voting for the nomination were Sens. Moore (R-Perry, Cumberland) and Manbeck (Lebanon, Lancaster).

Gekas said that while he felt that Bloom had done a good job during his past tenure on the PUC, he felt that the citizens of Dauphin County were strongly opposed to the nomination. So, he voted with the constituents, not his own feelings.

Bloom's defeat was a major victory for the newly formed coalition. In Central Pennsylvania, anti-nuke people put strong pressure that resulted in swinging these normally Republican-voting senators.



## Gekas poll results

State Senator George Gekas (R-Harrisburg) published a questionnaire in the Harrisburg papers recently to determine voter opinion on nuclear power. Approximately 1,500 persons responded, and opinion was overwhelmingly against nuclear power, reopening of TMI and consumer payment for ensuing costs. The results of the poll, according to Sen. Gekas' office, are reprinted below.

Do you believe that nuclear energy is safe today? 132 Yes 1021 No

If not, do you believe that nuclear energy can be made safe someday? 263 Yes 733 No

Do you favor the continued use and research of nuclear power as an energy source in our nation? 386 Yes 828 No

Do you favor a moratorium on the building and operation of new nuclear power plants in the U.S.? 736 Yes 321 No

Do you favor the continued operation of present nuclear power plants? 227 Yes 839 No

Concerning TMI, do you wish to: 767 Close TMI forever; 274 Reopen TMI as a non-nuclear energy producing facility; 272 Reopen TMI as a nuclear facility only when improved and tested nuclear safeguards are developed.

Who should pay for the cost of the accident at TMI? Met-Ed 1069 Consumers 42 Federal Government 214 State Government 42 Others 82



# PUC holds the line on costs

On March 29, the day after the TMI accident, the Public Utility Commission granted Metropolitan Edison, operator and 50% owner of TMI, a \$49 million rate increase. The rate increase was based almost entirely upon inclusion of Unit 2 in the rate base. The rate base takes into account such factors as operating costs, fuel costs and profits. These factors should equal the revenue.

The cost of building a power plant can not be included in the rate base until the plant is completed and in service, or "used and useful."

Responding to public outcry against paying for an accident which had already cost area residents so much, the PUC issued in early April complaints against Met Ed and Pennsylvania Electric charging "excessive, unjust and unreasonable rates." This enabled the PUC to roll back the recent increase until hearings could be held to determine who should pay how much.

At issue in the proceedings were cost of including Unit 2 in the rate base; cost of clean-up of the accident and the cost of replacement power.

On June 15, the PUC announced its decision to remove Unit 2 from the rate base, to not include clean-up costs of the accident but to allow Met Ed to collect \$46 million from the rate payers to cover replacement power.

The PUC's decision set a precedent, since no other regulatory agency has yet ordered the removal of a nuclear plant from the rate base because of anticipated long-term outage. Because many nuclear plants are down more than they are operating, the PUC decision could impact on many other nuclear utilities.

The cost of clean-up was not really an issue in the proceeding other than its impact on the short-term debt of the company. Nevertheless, the PUC declared

that "none of the costs of responding to the incident, including repair, disposal of waste and decontamination are recoverable from ratepayers."

The basis of the PUC approach to the problem of replacement power costs was stated in its decision. "The purchase of energy is a reasonable and necessary cost of providing service which must be recovered from ratepayers. Service cannot be provided without cost.

It is equitable for the ratepayers of Met Ed and Penelec to pay the cost of purchasing power since they are receiving service and will be paying none of the costs of TMI-2. With the levelized energy charge which we will order here, the total rates for electric service to the customers of Met Ed and Penelec will be no greater than the rates which would have been allowed had the incident never occurred. We believe this accomplishes a fair and just result for all concerned... The Commission is of the opinion that the recovery of these costs is required by law. The remaining question is, What is the level of recovery?"

The level the Commissioners settled upon was approximately 20% less than that demanded by Met Ed and even less than the level asked for by the Office of the Consumer Advocate. On its surface, the PUC's decision appears reasonable.

However, upon closer examination, several questions arise. TMI-2 was only generating electricity for three months before the accident happened. Before December 30, 1978, Met Ed. did not have those 800 megawatts. What is it replacing? Did Met Ed have to buy power from the grid before January? If so, why do Met Ed customers now have to pay extra for it? If not, why do they now need to purchase power?

Met Ed repeatedly claimed its stockholders could not possibly absorb the cost of replacement power. Yet testimony during the PUC hearings revealed



that if G.P.U. continued to pay dividends at the post-accident reduced level, yearly payments would total \$60 million.

However, the most disappointing aspect of the entire proceeding was the role of the Office of the Consumer Advocate, which was originally established because the PUC was not adequately representing consumer interests. Immediately after the accident, the O.C.A. enraged the Governor by filing a series of petitions with the PUC seeking financial relief for Met Ed rate payers. Subsequently, however, the O.C.A. has not been conspicuously pro-consumer. During the recent proceedings, the O.C.A. actually reached an agreement with Met Ed on a settlement figure. The position of the P.U.C. staff was much more pro-consumer.



## Messing with Met Ed

By Larry Arnold

Having just received your electric bill, what are you going to do? Mail it off with payment right away? Then you just blew the easiest and one of the more effective ways to voice your anti-nuclear position and make it heard where it counts most!

Next time you get an electric bill, apply this simple three-step formula:

- 1) On the bill, in big red letters vent your viewpoint by writing "No Nukes," "Ban Berwick," "Shutdown TMI" or whatever other anti-nuke expression you find appropriate.
- 2) Then withhold it, along with payment, for two months.
- 3) Finally, place the bill and payment in a plain or manila

envelope--anything but the envelope provided by the utility-- and address it to the utility's president and mark it "Personal."

What does this achieve?

First, withholding payment will mess up the utility's cash flow. So let them suffer a bit, as you suffer through emotional and financial costs because of their pro-nuke position. (Don't fear electric cut-offs; they won't do it in two months, and legally have to notify you of any attempt at service termination. You can also request a hearing before a court, at that point.)

Second, your message can be effectively communicated in seconds rather than by the time-consuming and expensive form of letter writing.

Third, by using your own envelope and addressing it to the company president, he or his secretary will personally and regularly be exposed to the anti-nuke stance of their salary-providing customers (rather than having the bill in its normal envelope keyed directly to the processing department where the computer never sees your handiwork). Not only does the president see your message immediately, this fouls up their bookkeeping and bill processing. So make 'em suffer a bit more, huh?

Once they suffer enough inconvenience and cash flow disruptions, they just might decide to see things our way!

This strategy was suggested by Sandra K. Nevius of TMIA, and it's one of the best we've heard. It's worth a dedicated and prolonged effort. So join in!!

Address to: Robert Campbell, President  
Pennsylvania Power &  
Light Company  
Routes 309 & 22  
RD #2, Box 811-B  
Allentown, PA 18106

Walter M. Creitz, President  
Metropolitan Edison Company  
P.O. Box 542  
Reading, PA 19603



## Politics in PA.

It is, of course, a shock to no one that T-shirt manufacturers and bumper-sticker makers were not the only ones to jump on the TMI bandwagon after the disaster. Grabbing the chance to earn some political mileage, state politicians introduced key anti-nuclear bills in the Pennsylvania Senate at the end of April. The bills are now bottled up in House committees, though, and their chances for passage are grim. S.B. 600 imposes a moratorium on both the operation and construction of nuclear plant facilities and provides for off-site radiation monitoring by the utility. S.B. 632 requires the utility to pay for all costs of a nuclear accident if the utility is at fault.

The Senate passed both bills overwhelmingly, voting 48 to 1 for S.B. 600 on May 22, and 36 to 14 for S.B. 632 on May 30. The bills were then sent to House committees which are chaired by strongly pro-nuke representatives. S.B. 600 is now in the House Conservation Committee, chaired by Rep. H.R. Bittle (R-Cumberland/Franklin) of Chambersburg, and S.B. 632 is in the House Committee on Mines and Energy Department, chaired by James L. Wright (R-Bucks). The ranking Democrat of that committee, Bernard O'Brien (Luzerne), is also considered strongly pro-nuke.

Pressure from this area and around the state must be put on the chairpeople of these committees to force them to send the bills to the House floor for a vote.

Other anti-nuclear bills which have been introduced in the Pennsylvania legislature are S.B. 641, which limits utility rates when a major forced outage of a nuclear reactor occurs due to a plant shutdown, and S.B. 642, which prohibits electric public utility companies from applying for rate increases for additional costs resulting from nuclear accidents. These bills, in the Senate Consumer Affairs Committee since the end of April, have not yet been considered by the Committee.

People who want to work on a legislative task force can contact the TMIA office for more information.

## and in Washington

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the 1979-80 appropriations bill for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (H.R. 2608) on June 18 by a vote of 359 to 29, but the anti-nuclear amendments offered on the floor were defeated, signaling an important victory for the nuclear industry.

The House defeated an amendment by Rep. Jim Weaver (D-Ore.), 147 to 235, which would have blocked the issuance of plant licenses in states without emergency evacuation plans. Rep. Peter Kostmayer's (D-Pa.) amendment, which would have halted NRC's hiring of 100 new employees to expedite plant-licensing procedures, was defeated 12 to 350.

In deference to the critics of nuclear safety, however, the House passed an amendment, offered by Rep. Dan Glickman (D-Kan.), to give NRC an extra \$5 million to station resident inspectors at nuclear generating plants.

H.R. 2608 now goes to the Senate, which has its own Nuclear Regulatory Commission Appropriations bill, S. 562, waiting for a vote early in July. Several senators intend to offer anti-nuclear amendments on the Senate floor.

Gary Hart's (D-Colo.) amendment to require all states to file and have approved evacuation plans may be in trouble. The amendment requires that within six months, all nuclear plants in states without evacuation plans will be forced to shut down. The Hart amendment is drawing the fire of pro-nuke forces who are fighting to keep the operating plants open, even if no evacuation plans exist.

Two other important amendments will be offered. George McGovern (D-S. Dak.) will propose an amendment giving states the right to decide whether nuclear waste facilities will be sited in their own state. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) will propose a six-month moratorium on new licenses so that TMI can be studied.



## Looking for a few good spies

The Environmental Action Foundation is enlisting a cadre of "citizen spies" to help monitor the activities of utility companies across the nation.

For example, if you have heard of a radio, TV or print broadcast or article that has been withheld because of utility company pressure, please get in touch with the TMIA office. In order to expose the massive PR machine, we need examples of how the nuclear industry attempts to control public opinion in your community.

Also, if you hear that somebody from the Atomic Industrial Forum, Met Ed, PP&L, etc., is going to speak at a club, meeting, school, or other public forum, please attend and take notes. Let us know what they say. We will funnel all this information to EAF's Utility Project so they can draw up a national profile.

Thanks and good spying. This paper will self-destruct in 30 seconds.

## Nuke P/R

At a kickoff breakfast at Stefanie's 230 Diner in Middletown and at a later press conference at the Hershey Motor Inn, MetEd announced their newest campaign to get the public on their side.

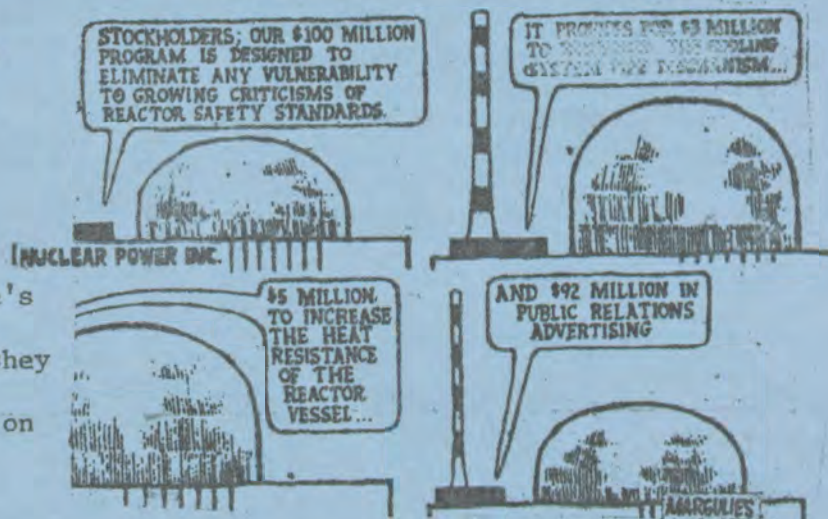
At each of those meetings, they announced a series of breakfast, luncheon and other meetings with community leaders around the area. They also said that they intend to set up a course at Capitol Campus to train high school and college teachers how to teach the subject of nuclear energy.

What they didn't say is that the rate-payers of the area will probably have to foot the bill for this latest effort.

Since community relations expenses are considered normal operating costs, they can be passed on to the consumer. The costs of this effort will most likely come out of their normal community relations budget or show up in their next rate increase application.

There are several different tacks that MetEd consumers can take to block this program. First, you might approach your school board and get them to withhold accreditation from teachers who take the MetEd course. This would mean that the teacher investing the time and energy would not increase their salary by taking the course. Secondly, you could file a complaint with the PUC and ask the commission to discover how much MetEd is spending on the new program and to declare it a cost of the stockholders, not the ratepayers.

And finally, you could withhold another small portion of your bill, sending them a note that you do not intend to have your hard-earned dollars going for a program to convince area residents that nukes are cheap, safe, energy independent, efficient, etc.



### Editor's Note:

Anyone with knowledge about setting up escrow accounts to hold withheld money should contact the TMIA office. It would be helpful to put together a brochure explaining the procedure and effects of putting part of your money into escrow.



## Rally at Berwick

TMIA assisted the Susquehanna Alliance and LEPOCO on the Berwick rally by coordinating the publicizing of the rally in the Harrisburg area, sponsoring buses to the rally and contributing marshalls. About 2,500 people attended the rally, several hundred coming from the Harrisburg area. Following a program of speakers and alternative energy displays, a short march was made to the site of the nuclear reactor building and a cooling tower.

Although the rally attenders were rain-soaked, most maintained a pleasant disposition and showed great enthusiasm throughout the demonstration. Speakers at the rally were: Susan Cassidy (a pregnant mother, former resident of Middletown), Dr. Michael Gluck (Physicians for Social Responsibility), Mark Widoff (former Consumer Advocate for Pennsylvania), Tim Laidman (a former PP&L engineer), Chris Fried (alternative energy consultant), Betty Thompkins (Susquehanna Valley Alliance) and Dr. Judith Johnsrud (Co-director, Environmental Coaliton on Nuclear Power.)

Most of the speakers addressed the issues of nuclear power hazards and called for stopping construction on the PP&L nuke plant at Berwick. Music was provided by Spiritwood, Kim David Reichley, Bruce Barr, Jeff Vitelli, L.A. Williams, Sharon Ettinger and Jerry Gallagher.

TMIA would like to thank all members and other volunteers who helped make this rally a success.



I'm tired of reading that 55,000 people are killed each year in automobiles. I'm tired of hearing this statement being used to say that nuclear energy and its consequential radiation are no more dangerous. If there is no difference between automobiles and radiation then how come Harry Truman didn't drop all our used cars on Japan during World War II?

Middletown Press & Journal

## Stuff it!

The use of utility bill stuffers may have come to a halt in New York. Long used to sway public opinion in behalf of the utility companies, the stuffers were held not to be a part of corporate free speech guaranteed by a recent Supreme Court decision.

Two separate cases, one in a U.S. Court of Appeals and the other in a Federal District Court, held that ban ordered by the Public Service Commission of New York was well within their mandate authority.

"In view of the non-competitive market in which electric corporations operate," the appeals judge wrote, "it is difficult to discern how the promotional advertising of electricity might contribute to society's interest in informed and reliable economic decisionmaking."

In the federal district case, Long Island Lighting Co. (LILCO) had included bill stuffers which touted nuclear power as a "savings." The judge in that case ruled that PSC's ban was legitimate but did allow LILCO to continue sending stuffers which promoted the use of electric space heating.

Next time you get your electric bill here in Pennsylvania, see what they are sending you. MetEd or PP&L may offend you--and if they do get in touch with the TMIA office or file a complaint with the PUC.



# Community organizing

Adams County - Applecore  
Gene Albright  
232-1988 (work)

Camp Hill  
Barbara Smith  
737-2164

Carlisle  
Melinda Wilson  
486-3717

Chambersburg  
Bill Bollerid  
263-8861

Dillsburg  
Randy King  
432-5570

Elizabethtown  
Patty and John Longenecker  
367-2405

Highspire  
Barbara Sansone  
939-1526

Hershey Area Alliance  
Kathy Chamberlin  
599-5963 (home)  
534-8518 (work)

Nancy Peresnik  
533-5327

Halifax and Lykens  
Jeffrey Popchuck  
362-9714

Harrisburg Zip 17101 and 17102  
Doug West  
236-6727 (home)  
787-1396 (work)

Harrisburg Zip 17104  
Brian Donahue  
238-5666

Harrisburg Zip 17110  
Suzanne Patton  
238-6329

Lebanon Valley Alliance  
Jim and Maggie Hummel  
865-6232

Londonderry Township  
Pat Street  
944-2334

Lower Swatara Township  
Synara Viskovich  
939-1149

Mechanicsburg  
Dan and Mary Hartnett  
766-0592

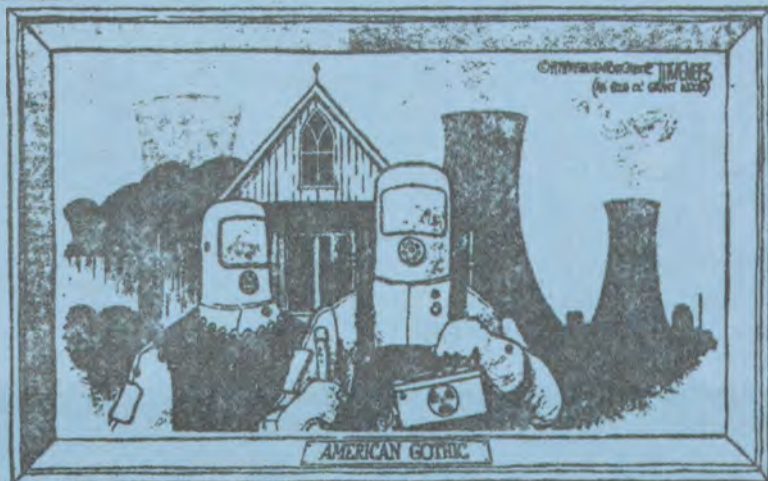
New Cumberland  
Avitar Nectar  
Alfred Mirando  
774-7215

Middletown  
Jim Hurst  
944-3909

John Garver  
944-0678 (home)  
232-7644 (work)

Newberry Township  
Pat and Bruce Smith  
938-6923

Perry County  
Larry and Ann Miller  
582-2875



Resolutions against nuclear power and/or reopening TMI have been passed in the following municipalities:

Newberry Township  
Hampden Township  
Goldsboro  
City of Harrisburg  
Lower Swatara Township  
Middletown Borough  
Susquehanna Township

Lobbying for similar action is now being conducted in the following areas:

Highspire  
New Cumberland  
Londonderry Township  
Lebanon

What are your public officials doing?

- \*Write letters
- \*Present petitions
- \*Attend meetings
- \*Speak out



# From the groups

The Mechanicsburg group held its fifth meeting recently, with eight new people and four original members. The next group meeting will be at Mary and Dan Hartnetts on July 5th.

The agenda included announcing upcoming TMIA events, plus making our group aware of a June 27th meeting of Mechanicsburg Township concerning Patrick McLoughlan, who wants to erect a windmill in his backyard. His neighbors and others are concerned about it being an eyesore.

We also stressed the importance of getting on various Task Forces.

Packets of information, which included the Gekas questionnaire, copies of SB 600, SB 632, HB 1080, and HB 965. Maps of nuclear facilities in the U.S. and a condensed list of U.S. and state legislators for our area were also distributed.

Two of our members are writing to the Nader group for more information. We made bumperstickers, pins, truck route maps and membership cards available. Several members brought anti-nuclear books to be shared by members and copies were bought for our local library. We are urging all persons to write letters for insertion in utility bills and we have sent clean energy petitions across the country to friends and relatives.

One of our main goals is to begin canvassing the Borough of Mechanicsburg to get petitions signed and to pass out fact sheets. We will be going door to door primarily to make people more aware, to supply them with addresses of legislators and to

widen the circle of support for closing TMI.

Contact: Mary and Dan Hartnett  
766-0592

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The Perry County anti-nuclear group is now officially known as the "Box Huckleberry Alliance." The box huckleberry found on Rt. 34 just outside New Bloomfield is the world's largest and oldest single living plant. The initials BHA--the same as the common food preservative--will now take on a new significance, as a preservative of life and health.

On Thursday, July 12 at 7:30p.m. the NBC documentary on radioactive waste will be shown at the Perry County Courthouse in New Bloomfield. A guest speaker will discuss the nuclear issue and answer questions on insurance and health, following the film. The public is invited to the film and town meeting. In addition, the film will be shown at several county churches, senior citizens' homes, fire companies, granges, and area organizations. Members of BHA will speak after the film and answer questions. (This film is free and available at one week stretches from ACTION.)

We are also trying to arrange for Paul Jacob's documentary, "Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang," to be shown late this summer at another town meeting.

A bluegrass and folk benefit concert will be held at the Tuscarora Timbers in early August.

One of our members is purchasing a button-making machine so we'll be making our own buttowns! We'll



also silk-screen T-shirts and make bumper stickers within a month.

A weekly column is being prepared for distribution to county papers titled "Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Nuclear Fission but Weren't Allowed To Ask."

Contact: Anne Miller  
1/582-2875

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Seven members of the Lebanon Valley Alliance demonstrated on the sidewalk in front of the Lebanon Treadway Inn on Thursday, June 21, while Herman Diekamp breakfasted with civic leaders and members of the press. An LVA member attempted to speak to Diekamp but was blocked by an unidentified individual. When she indicated that she was worried about her son's health in conjunction with nuclear power, he said, "You'll just have to learn that there is more to life than your little boy."

Karen did corner Walter Creitz and brought him out to speak to the rest of the group. His answers to several questions were as follows: Unit 2 will be entered in 3-4 months and he personally will enter. One idea for waste disposal is to process and glassify it, then pour it into storage tanks and bury it. An area 100 yards wide, long and deep would hold all the nuclear waste in the U.S. and that of projected nuclear plants through the year 1992. Met Ed does not plan another nuclear plant until at least 1997, but a sister company in New Jersey plans one for 1985. He's all for solar power, but says it's not as economically feasible as nuclear power.

Contact: Maggie Hummel  
1/865-6232

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Efforts to organize the downtown Harrisburg area (zips 17101 and 17102) have met with little suc-

cess. Attempts to arrange meetings of area residents have been unsuccessful partially because a list of those interested in organizing has not been assembled. We need your help in telling us who you are.

Zip Code areas 17101 and 17102 lie within 12 miles of the plant and everyone living there is directly affected by every decision that is made concerning nuclear power. You are directly affected and we are asking you to become directly involved.

Contact: Doug West  
236-6727

An ecumenical commemorative observance of Hiroshima Day will be conducted at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, August 5th at Lakeside Lutheran Church, Green and Division Streets, Harrisburg.

Speakers will include, Rev. Robert Moore, Director of the National Mobilization for Survival and religious leaders from the Harrisburg area.

A proposal will be made to establish a sister-cities relationship between Hiroshima and Harrisburg since both have now become symbols of the hazards of nuclear technology. Similar proposals will be made in Japan at the 34th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing.

The service will be followed by a candlelight processional through Italian Lake Park. There, near the Japanese Bridge, the symbolic peace cranes will be utilized on the commemoration.

The sponsoring organizations include: local chapters of Clergy and Laity Concerned, the United Nations Association, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Pax Christi, the Union of American and Japanese Professionals Against Nuclear Omnicide and the Religious Task Force of TMIA. The public is most cordially invited to attend.

For further information on the TMIA Religious Task Force, please call Marge Clement 774-5767.



## *Gang of Six*

Due to the enormous growth of the anti-nuclear movement in the Harrisburg area since the TMI accident, the TMIA organization must grow as well. An Interim Committee has been formed of representatives of various local groups as well as TMIA members, and has been charged with designing and implementing a new organizational plan, coordinating local group activities and serving as a governing body until a full reorganization has been completed. A target date for completion of reorganization is September 15, 1979.

The Interim Committee meets every Tuesday night at Friends Meeting House at 7:30 p.m. Local groups, task forces and committees are encouraged to keep in touch with the interim committee for the sake of coordination of activities and ideas.

For more information, contact: Kay Pickering at 232-1326(home) or 233-7897 (office.)

## *Alternative Energy*

The accident at Three Mile Island has raised not only the awareness of the fallacies of nuclear power, but also the frightening reality that our present energy policies are leading us to the brink of self-destruction. Our current energy resources upon which our very lives depend, will soon leave us literally in the cold. The time is now, and perhaps more importantly, the need is now, to develop safe, cheap, and non-depletable forms of energy.

The Alternative Energy Committee will examine all of the various facets of alternative energy forms. Not only the sources themselves, but the safety, economics, and practical implementations also. Our primary functions will be to develop an informational clearing house on alternative energy sources, co-ordinate and develop an energy conservation/alternative energy educational curriculum for local

schools, and promote the usage of alternative energy in our area.

Anyone interested in becoming involved in these important tasks, or just finding out more about alternative energy, please contact Randy King at 432-5570 or attend our committee meeting July 9 at 7:30p.m. at the Friends Meeting House, 6th and Herr Sts., Harrisburg.

## *Health*

The Health Committee is alive and well, but we need your help. There is a huge amount of information to be collected, analyzed and shared. Join us. The next meeting will be held on Wed., July 11 at the Friends Meeting House (Sixth & Herr Sts). The meeting will begin at 7:45 PM. For more information, contact Mike Klinger at 921-8618 or the TMIA office at 233-7897.

A number of governmental and private groups are currently surveying the effects of the TMI accident. We feel that these surveys do not ask some pertinent questions, especially about the early days of the accident. In order to address these pertinent questions, the Health Committee is presently assembling a brief survey.

We have not yet received a response to questions which we asked two months ago of the Bureau of Radiological Health of the Department of Environmental Resources and of the NRC. We were, for example, concerned about the 50,000 gallons of contaminated water released on March 29th by Met Ed without notification to the NRC. Unless or until we get the facts, we can only assume that the effects of such occurrences were more serious than officially reported and/or have serious ongoing implications. We hope to have received some response to our questions in time to keep you informed in the next ALERT.



Along with our other activities, the Health Committee has delivered testimony to and established communications with the Presidents Commission on TMI and the Health Planning and Resource Development. We are also preparing a fact sheet on the TMI radioactive emissions and their effect on our health and environment.

## ***Legal***

The Task Force is presently considering the 12 page report from Attorneys Widoff, Reager, Selkowitz & Adler. We have been cooperating with the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power and the Susquahanna Valley Alliance. ECNP will soon petition the NRC to revoke the license for Unit I, permanently.

The Task Force is developing a draft paper with SVA in order to initiate a TMI LEGAL FUND.

We have been in touch with Gov. Thornburgh's office and the Justice Dept. ENCOURAGE area residents to write and phone Gov. Thornburgh to proceed to take whatever legal action may be necessary to prevent the reactivation of Unit I. Phone---

787-2500

## ***Jobs/Conversion***

The Harrisburg Area Jobs Conversion Project held its first meeting on June 18, 1979. The Conversion Project is a long-term strategy for converting arms industries to peaceful purposes and the creation of new economic and political institutions which are more responsive to local human needs. The first meeting focused on specific goals and future activities of the Conversion Project. Members discussed various conversion projects underway in other parts of the nation. Special attention was given to the Mid-Peninsula Conversion Project in the

Santa Clara Valley of California as a useful model.

Members decided to consult conversion resources at the National Action Research on the Military-Industrial Complex (NARMIC), SANE, the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy and other organizations.

The next meeting will be held on July 2nd at the Friends Meeting House. Anyone interested in joining the Conversion Project should contact Jim Gormley at 944-7011 (TMIA's representative) or Suzanne and Matthew Magda (545-8839 (Project Coordinators).

## ***Last Resort***

The Last Resort/Non-Violence Training Committee is the new name for the TMIA Task Force dedicated to training and education. At their first meeting on Sunday, June 10th, The Last Resort established as their purposes: (1) To train people for non-violence for a TMIA-sanctioned civil disobedience, non-violent action that would be employed as a last resort to prevent the re-opening of TMI Units 1 and 2.

(1) To train people for non-violence for a TMIA - sanctioned civil disobedience, non-violent action that would be employed as a last resort to prevent the re-opening of TMI Units 1 and 2.

(2) To develop a training program in non-violence.

(3) To contact local and national groups for help in the development of strategies for our non-violence program.

(4) To reach out to other community groups to train them in non-violence.

(5) To plan for the possibility of a non-violent, TMIA



sanctioned action by utilizing traditional non-violent strategies and techniques, which include:

- (a) Organizing affinity groups
- (b) Organizing legal defense services
- (c) Providing support for participants as needed, either in the court system or by meeting basic needs during the sanctioned non-violent civil disobedience action.

Non-Violence can be a way of life or it can be a political strategy. In any case, it is a strongly active position in the spiritual sense, although it may be physically passive. The non-violent resisters do not seek to defeat or humiliate their opponents, but they try to win their friendship and understanding. The resistance is directed against the forces of evil and not at the person who happens to perpetrate the evil. Non-violent resisters take a stand for human dignity, love of others and service for them (an excellent essay on non-violence is Martin Luther King's "Pilgrimage to Non-violence").

It is in this spirit of community and love others that the Last Resort will be training themselves and others in specific ways of resistance to prevent the re-opening of IMI. Teachers will be trained first; then the task force will train as many people as possible.

There is always the hope that one of this training will be necessary, but if we do use the training, the groundrules are:

- (1) No one can participate in civil disobedience without training, and

- (2) No one with training is obligated, at any time, even up to the last minute, to engage in civil disobedience. There is a need for many people to be trained - even if they have no intention of getting arrested. Such trained persons can perform valuable support functions.

The dates for training sessions will be established soon. Interested persons should be in touch with Pam or Tom Rogers at 763-4600. Tell them whether you want to be trained as a teacher or just as a participant. Remember, there is a need for trained persons, whether or not they are planning to engage in civil disobedience.

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This newsletter, The Alert, is new and many of us working on it are new to the anti-nuclear movement. So we need a lot of help - your help. We need your suggestions, praise, criticisms and moral support. We need your articles, art work, and poems. We need some of your time, if you have some to give, to write, edit, type, do layout, and help with mailing.

If you would like to help with this newsletter, please call TMIA (233-7897 or 233-3072) or call Terry Roth (763-1835).

If you have copy or artwork for the next issue, please send or bring it to the TMIA office.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:  
Wednesday, July 18th

#### NEWSLETTER STAFF

Terry Roth-Editor  
Nancy Baumgardner  
Marge Clement  
Debbie Fetterman  
Chris Sayer  
Ellen Yacknin

Special thanks to all those who submitted reports.



# No Nukes Notices

6

GOV. COMMISSION ON TMI, Agriculture Building, Hbg. 10:30am.

7

MET ED TMI OBSERVATION CENTER re-opens. 12-5pm. Be there!

8

LAST RESORT Meeting. Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr, Hbg. 7:30pm.

9

TMIA ALTERNATIVE ENERGY COMM. & TMIA LEGISLATIVE COMM. meetings. Both at Friends Mtg. 7:30 pm.

10

TMIA GENERAL MEETING, Calvary United Methodist Church, 7th & Market Sts., Lemoyne. 7:30. Y'all come!

11

TMIA HEALTH COMM. meeting, Friends Meeting House, 7:30 pm.



12

SUSQUEHANNA/UPTOWN Meeting. Lakeside Lutheran Church, Green & Division, Hbg. 7:30 pm.

NEW CUMBERLAND PUBLIC MTG., Middle School, 8th St., N.C. 7:30 pm.

PERRY COUNTY PUBLIC MTG., Perry Cty. Courthouse, New Bloomfield, BHA will show NBC film on nuclear waste. 7:30.

TMIA LABOR COMM., 129 Cocoa Avenue, Hershey. 7:30 pm.

14

LONDONDERRY TWP. MTG. (see community contacts for phone contact)

16

JOBS/CONVERSION PROJECT, Friends Meeting House, 7:30pm.

17

TMIA INTERIM COMMITTEE, Friends Meeting House, 7:30 pm.

18

WIND POWER: Presentation by Paul Gipe, Wildware. 995 Peiffer's Lane (off Union Dep. Rd., at I-83). 7:30 PM.

ALERT NEWSLETTER COPY DEADLINE!

24

TMIA PLANNING COMMITTEE MTG.

25

WIND POWER: Course at HACC. 3 eves. Aug. 1, Aug. 8. Paul Gipe teaches. Call HACC/CRI for reservations.

27

LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF TMI: 2-day conference for lawyers. Hershey Motor Lodge. Cont. on 28th.

29

ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION ON NUCLEAR POWER, Monthly meeting, HACC. 10AM to 4PM.

THE ADVOCATES: "Should we stop construction of nuclear power plants?" WITF-TV, Ch. 33. 6 PM.

31

TMIA INTERIM COMMITTEE Mtg., Friends Mtg. House, 7:30pm.

AUGUST 4

HIROSHIMA REMEMBRANCE, City Park, Reading, Pa. 1:30 PM.

5

HIROSHIMA DAY OBSERVANCE, Lakeside Lutheran Church. (see article for details.

12

TMIA BENEFIT CONCERT, Halifax. A day of fun in the sun. \$5.00.



## State of our money

On June 21st, a finance committee representative, Ruth Gentle, met with accountant Bob Welch. Mr. Welch has agreed to help set up the books of TMIA in such a way as to facilitate the transition from a small, part-time organization to that of an internationally-known, non-profit corporation. Some of the large national fund raisers are also interested in TMIA. Hopefully, their aid may alleviate some of our immediate financial needs. However, the main strength of the organization is its members. It is vitally important that all of you become involved in this effort and join TMIA.

### FINANCIAL REPORT as of 6/20/79

Bank Balance           \$ 1240.60  
Outstanding Bills       59.68  
Net Worth               \$ 1180.92

(Does not include an inventory of saleable produces, office supplies, or end of June bills.)

## TMIA NEEDS YOU

To stop the nukes, we DESPERATELY need your time, your energy, and your financial support. This means we need you TO BECOME MEMBERS.

In the face of a million-dollar utility campaign designed to mesmerize the populace into believing nuclear power is safe and necessary, TMIA's \$15 per year membership is a small price to pay for the counter-attack. Not only does that money help us fight back, but your membership provides you with our newsletter and all the information and resource material that TMIA can accumulate in this cause. Please send in your membership today, if you haven't done so already. If you have, get your friends to join too.

### TMIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Check Type Membership Desired

- nothing RM*
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 15 regular *RM 7 80*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5 low income & student *?*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 25 non-profit organization *OM 7 80*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 50 sustaining member *SM - 80*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 100 patron *PM - 80*
- \_\_\_\_\_ 200 club member *TC - 80*
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 non-member newsletter subscription *NS 7 80*

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



# Editorial: On fear and anger

On Friday morning, March 30th, I was driving 80 miles an hour down the Turnpike. I was scared, about as scared as I was the time I was jumped by four women with switchblades, but this time I couldn't see my attacker. I was also angry, nearly blind with anger. If a cop had pulled me over s/he would have locked me up.

When I returned to Harrisburg, I was just as scared and a whole lot angrier. My fear and anger translated into insomnia, short temper, and long-lasting indigestion. It occurred to me that there were a few things I could do. I could leave the area and find a place far away from any nuclear facilities, (attractive, but deserting a sinking ship). I could deny that anything life-

threatening was happening to all of us and allow myself to be lulled by false reassurances (a lot of people did that). Or, I could channel my anger and my fear into working against those ugly, eerie, dangerous cooling towers in the sky. In the end, the best way to deal with my wholly reasonable emotions was to use them to attack the source.

I've never presumed that my way of dealing with emotions was right for anybody else, but it worked for me. Maybe it's worth a try -- standing in a vigil line or lobbying a legislator has got to be better than bad dreams. Whatever you do, though, don't let your fear and anger die. You were right to feel it. Now use it.

315 PEPPER STREET  
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# Three Mile Island Alert

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 3

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

AUGUST 1979

## Benefit concert set

Sounds of voices, banjos, electric guitars and other instruments will join together to shut it down at TMIA's first "Shut'em Down, Hoe Down."

The concert, a benefit for Three Mile Island Alert, will be held on August 12 in Halifax.

Area musicians are volunteering their time to help keep Three Mile Island shut forever. Among the bands that will perform are Trigger Happy, High Strung, Fresh Air, Fat Chance, Cooney & Elliott and Phoenix.

The all-day festival will include displays of alternative energy technology, children's entertainment, anti-nuclear information and other interesting displays.

All area anti-nuclear groups have been invited to set up information and materials tables.

Coordinated by Dave and Pat Leitman, the concert is one of the major fundraising events being held during August and September. The money raised by the concert will go to help pay administrative and legal costs of Three Mile Island Alert.

"We hope," said the Leitmans, "that the concert will allow many people to join together in a festive way to help to shutdown TMI. And while this is a political concert, it will also simply be fun."

"There are still many jobs that need doing," they continued. "Anyone who is interested in helping out should call the office and leave their names."

The concert will be held, rain or shine, at the Halifax Blue Grass Festival Grounds (just off of Pa. Route 147 - 3 miles north of Clark's Ferry Bridge).

Tickets can be gotten for \$5 (\$6 at the gate) from your community groups or at the following locations: Budget Disc-o-tape (all locations); Shenk & Tittle, Sight & Sound (all locations); Music Scene (East Mall); Avatar's Golden Nectar (New Cumberland); Music Merchant (Hershey); and The Taproot (Harrisburg).

For more information or to volunteer, call the TMIA office at 233-7897.

Many thanks to all of you who said nice things about the July ALERT. We need all the praise we can get. We also need your art, poem, articles, ideas, reports and time. If you have things to submit, please send them to THE ALERT, TMIA, 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, 17102. If you'd like to help, please call Terry Roth #236-9486 (work) or #763-1835 (home) or the TMIA office #233-7897 or #233-3072.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: August 16th.

Last month we said you wouldn't get another newsletter without joining. We were just kidding. This time we mean it. If you want to keep receiving the Alert, PLEASE JOIN.



# GPU and the weapons connection

Nuclear generating stations are a rich capital harvest for their owners, builders and vendors. Utilities enjoy nuclear stations because the cost of equipment, the rate base foundation, is highest. Overall, total expenses were expected to be dramatically offset by very low fuel costs. Operating and maintenance expenses were to be kept in line by advanced technology but top management directed the enterprise and mediated the flow of money. Ratepayers picked up the bills. The take was routinely split between GPU, Babcock & Wilcox (reactors), GE and Westinghouse (turbines), Bechtel and United Engineers (builders). There were the banks and underwriters to provide construction and operating credit.

GPU is three utilities, Jersey Central, Met Ed and Pennelco. At its recent stockholders meeting several directors were selected who exemplify that combination of engineering and business skills so necessary in manufacturing electricity and weapons. Paul R. Roedel, President and Chief Operating Officer of Reading's Carpenter Technology Corporation serves as a director (and member of the Audit Committee) of GPU. Mr. Roedel is also a director of Reading's American Bank and Trust Company. GPU borrowed \$6,000,000 from them in 1978.

We trust Americans will bank on Carpenter Technology to help make their nuclear weapons. Its specialty, cadmium alloys, are used in the control rods balancing reactor's criticality everywhere. Carpenter Technology also supplies zirconium alloys for cladding fuel in commercial, submarine and production reactors, such as breeder reactors. Breeding transmutes non-fissionable uranium to fissionable plutonium. Sophomore chemistry separates plutonium from the waste. Breeding renders cumbersome diffusion plants like Oak Ridge, TN, (Union Carbide, United Engineers) obsolete for fueling weapons. Bechtel, Westinghouse and Dupont built the ones at Hanford, WA

in 1944. Their product destroyed Nagasaki.

William G. Kuhns, Chairman and Chief Executive of GPU, knows breeding plutonium from A to Z. He's a director of the Breeder Reactor Corporation and wants to build a few more. Since he's also a director of Marine Midland Banks, Inc., owned by a shy and retiring Spanish Corporation, capital formation will be no problem. Marine Midland lent GPU \$12,200,000 last year. As Vice Chairman of the Atomic Industrial Forum and a member of the Edison Electric Institute he sways opinions. As all reactors breed to some extent, Mr. Kuhns' TMI 1 and 2 were each making 400 pounds of plutonium annually. Enough to destroy 40 Nagasakis. Fortunately, spent fuel reprocessing bans render the plutonium lethally inaccessible to unofficial terrorism.

For official terrorism, Pittsburgh's Rockwell International Corporation now runs Hanford's breeders and Rocky Flats, CO where every thermonuclear weapon gets its plutonium trigger. Herman M. Dieckamp, President and Chief Operating Officer of GPU, rose to be President of Rockwell's Atomics International division in his twenty-three years with them. Mr. Dieckamp's handiwork now adorns the Polaris, Poseidon and soon Trident missiles that American submarines carry. GPU's reactor vendor, Babcock & Wilcox, provides the GE nuclear boats with fuel from its fabrication plant in Lynchburg, VA, perhaps using Mr. Roedel's zirconium.

Long before the blast at Nagasaki, the American nuclear industry was established and thriving on the public purse. It soon learned to thrive on the ratepaying purse. Today's commercial nuclear power program is the image of those three years feverishly preparing a weapon. The peaceful atom is also a bomb.

In addition to the weapon's connection, the TMIA's economics task force is investigating TMI's effects on realty, the economics of alternatives, jobs and several other topics. Feel free to join the session. For more information, contact Jim Gormley 944-7011.



# Uranium mining in Pa.

According to a spokesperson for the Pennsylvania Game Commission, the commission will deny Exxon's request to explore for uranium on State Game Lands at their August 8th general meeting. Hopefully, our calls and letters of concern were beneficial to the commission in making their decision. We would like to see as many people as possible at the meeting (8000 Derry St., Hbg, PA August 8, 1979, 8:30 a.m.) to show our concern over uranium mining in Pennsylvania and our approval of their rejection of Exxon's proposal.

However, the exploration continues on private land in Northeastern Pennsylvania - there is still much to be accomplished.

Before Exxon, or any other corporation, could open a uranium mine they must receive a licence from the NRC. The licensing process requires environmental impact studies and a public hearing. According to the NRC, no application has been requested for a license to mine uranium in Pennsylvania, but we must be ready! At the present time, there are no regulations requiring Exxon to make reports on their findings to anyone. The impact studies and hearing will be our best chance to stop uranium mining on private lands.

Several groups in the area have some-one working on the mining problem. For more information - or to offer assistance, please call:

T.M.I.A.  
Cathie Musser/Elizabethtown  
944-6229

A.N.G.R.Y.  
Liz Stiens/York  
846-2804

S.E.A.  
Mike Kohler/Chambersburg  
264-4729

The reopening of schools is not too far away. It's important that we begin to think of ways to teach our children about the dangers of nuclear power. For years the utility companies have gotten permission from schools to address assemblies to further their public relations. It's essential that the kids begin to hear the other side.

Immediately after the accident, some mental health professionals from Holy Spirit Hospital approached area school districts and offered to come to talk and to help allay fears. In many cases, they were turned away. The schools did not want to mention TMI and scare the kids further.

In order that school children hear both sides of the story, it's important that we begin to organize speakers for the schools, teacher training, and educational materials. No one at TMIA is currently coordinating this effort. If you are interested in working on the development of an educational program, or have information on what's going on in the schools, please send notes to the Alert c/o TMIA, 315 Peffer St., Harrisburg, or call the office at 233-7897.

## TMIA Kids

Central Pennsylvania is the home of a large number of kids who do not like nuclear power plants. Their levels of understanding of nuclear power and the issues surrounding it vary, but they understand that the cooling towers are their enemy. Many of these kids were pulled out of school, and taken away from their homes by frightened parents. The health effects on these kids may not be apparent for some time, but the emotional impact is already clear.

"I hate them," says Stephanie Fetterman. "Me and my school is mad." Another personal statement from one of the kids is reprinted below.

The Alert would like to publish a regular kids column by and for the "TMI Children." Please send articles, poems,



etc. to THE ALERT, TMIA, 315  
Peffer Street, Harrisburg 17102.

Dear Readers,

Everyone has forgotten the terror of TMI. And now that they're talking about opening it again remember the terror of it. We left our homes, the bubble almost exploded, the China Syndrome almost happened. And we still don't know what to do with the nuclear waste. Even though there's an energy crisis I still think we should use solar or wind power and not nuclear power.

Charla Myers  
Age 9

## Labor organizing

The Labor Union Task Force has been created for the purpose of initiating a grass-roots anti-nuclear movement within the Labor Unions of Central Pennsylvania. Primary emphasis of the Task Force will be on:

- A) worker health and safety in all phases of the nuclear fuel cycle;
- B) the implications of nuclear power to the rest of us as workers; and
- C) the creation of jobs through the development of alternative technologies, conversion and conservation.

The Labor Union Task Force has formulated the following list of priorities to be communicated to our individual labor unions:

- 1) The problem of safe transportation, storage, and disposal of radioactive waste must be of highest priority and utmost concern to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the energy corporations. The problem must be solved before any more nuclear power plants are licensed, built, or ongoing construction completed.
- 2) Plants currently supplying nuclear-generated power should

be converted to environmentally-sane coal burning plants. The workers at the nuclear plants must be guaranteed jobs, wages and benefits, during and after conversion, by the "public" utilities. Any and all costs of clean-up and conversion are to be borne by the utility corporations.

- 3) The Labor Union Task Force is demanding Congressional action to create a national health care and monitoring fund to alleviate the pain and hardship caused by health problems faced by past and present workers in all phases of the nuclear fuel cycle. The funding for this program is to be provided by a direct tax on the enormous guaranteed profits of the energy monopolies.
- 4) The Labor Union Task Force is calling for a national energy policy that will stress alternative energy technologies and will be more desirable from health, safety, environmental and economic standpoints.

One way to get these priorities and other information to union members is through presentation of resolutions to our individual unions. To date, two unions in this area have passed anti-nuclear/anti-TMI resolutions: Chocolate Workers Local 464 of Bakery, Confectionery and Tobacco Workers International Union of America (June 21) and Local 972 of American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (June 23). At future Task Force meetings, we will discuss ways to write and present resolutions to a union, and other methods of reaching the membership.

The next meeting of the Labor Union Task Force will be Monday, August 6, at 7 p.m., in the Conference Room of Chocolate Workers Local 464, Union Hall, 16 W. Caracas Ave., Hershey. For directions and Task Force information, contact: Susan Barley, 533-6516, 5 to 10 p.m.



# Community organizing

The Community Groups are growing and becoming more active and visible. Last month, we reported on the number of groups which had successfully lobbied for resolutions against nuclear power and/or reopening IMI. We have several more to add this month.

Inadvertently, we omitted the resolution of the CALN Quarterly Meeting of Friends in our columns last month. Also, during the past few weeks, Highspire joined the list by getting a particularly strong resolution passed unanimously. Also, under the leadership of Hampden Township officials the Association of First Class Townships passed a resolution calling for the repeal of Price-Anderson. Copies of most of these resolutions are on file at the office.

In the interest of saving space, we will not republish the entire list of community groups each month (see the July ALERT). The following changes or additions should be noted, however:

Chambersburg  
(Sun-Earth Alliance)  
Wayne Cove  
1-263-0662

Hershey Area Alliance  
Georgia Lookingbill  
566-6480

Lower Paxton Township  
Lee Garland  
561-0701

Steelton-Swatara  
Judy Williams  
939-5486

The Adams County Group, Apple Core, has met weekly since forming in April. We amassed petitions, marched on May 6th in Washington and presented the petitions through TMIA to President Carter. Since then the group has engaged in intensive self-education.

Programs have included the film "The Last Resort" and videotapes of "Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang", "Three

Mile Island Syndrome" and "Do I Look Like I Want to Die?". In an exemplary relationship, Apple Core has co-sponsored with the Adams County Health Interest Movement, a presentation by John Davenport of the York Committee for a Safe Environment, and another by Susan Stoller, Adams County Solar Consultant. While resolving a statement of goals and objectives, members have been reporting on specific topics of complexity after researching and compiling a report each meeting. Some members have been working to promote a Solar Harvest Festival in early autumn. Political action through letter writing, mailgrams, phone and personal contact continues to be strongly pushed. In spite of the gas crunch, representatives have attended TMIA meetings in Harrisburg and Angry meetings in York. The group has been exploring methods of outreach to the community and is continuing this search. Other groups are urged to convey successful tactics to Apple Core. Please contact Gene (Mac) Albright at 677-8449 or at work (after August 27th) at 761-6280.

The Dillsburg group is beginning to move. The first meeting was held on July 11. At this meeting, members set a number of goals. We are currently looking for a place and some speakers for a public meeting. We intent to begin leafletting and public education on the critical economic and health issues. In addition, we are investigating our public officials' positions on nuclear power.

The next meeting is August 14. For information please contact, Pat Sgrignoli at #432-5571.

The Hershey Area Alliance Against Nuclear Power, with members from the Hummelstown, Hershey and Palmyra area, has been meeting on Wednesdays at 7:00 at the Chocolate Workers' Union Hall. Since our first meeting in April, we have been directing our efforts to educating the people in the Hershey area and also to



# From the groups

increasing our membership. Two town meetings were held in June to accomplish these initial goals. Future activities of the organization include presentation of a proposal to the Derry Township Commissioners asking for the permanent shutdown of Three Mile Island as a nuclear power plant; this proposal will be presented in mid-August. Informational tables will be staffed by members of the Hershey Area Alliance on two separate occasions in August: one will be at the recycling centers in Hummelstown and Hershey on Saturday mornings; the other will be at the "Energy Conservation Fair" in Hershey on August 16. This fair is sponsored by a joint project of the conservation districts of Dauphin, Lancaster and Lebanon counties and will be held from 9:00-3:00 at the Milton Hershey Farm #6B (2 miles north-east of Hershey). For more information on this, contact Georgia Lookingbill of the Hershey Area Alliance at 566-6480.

One suggestion has been a telephone tree or periodic conference calls between one representative of each group. Any thoughts on these problems can be shared with Georgia Lookingbill at 566-6480.

While The H.A.A. is growing and expanding its membership, we continue to face the problem of communication with those area residents who are supportive of our activities, but who don't necessarily attend the weekly meetings or are active workers in the organization. A telephone tree has been established and is proving to be somewhat effective. We would be interested in any feedback from other local groups who may be facing a similar problem. Communication between local chapters, providing current information on each groups' activities, problems, appears to be a problem as well.

~~~~~

The New Cumberland anti-nuke group has been busy and their efforts are producing results. They recently sponsored a public meeting in which Mark Widoff, former Consumer Advocate, addressed the assembled group. They

are planning to set up a table to reach out to more of their neighbors at the upcoming New Cumberland Jubilee. A strongly worded anti-nuclear petition is currently pending before the council. Also, the group is hoping to start a project in the fall to impact on area schools.

For more information, please contact Al Mirando at Avatar's Golden Nectar (774-7215), Bill Vastine (774-6711), or Stuart Sacks (774-0808).

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The Steelton/Swatara Community Group of TMIA held its first meeting on Wednesday, July 11, 1979 at 7 p.m.

One of the major tasks of the group is to canvass the communities to get petitions signed, with the goal of presenting a resolution to Steelton Borough Council and the Swatara Twp. Board of Commissioners.

It was decided that the thrust of information distributed to residents of the communities would stress the economic detriments of nuclear power. One member has prepared a fact sheet for distribution to people signing petitions and/or requesting information. Another has drafted a resolution for consideration of the community group at their next meeting.

At present the group is comprised of six members, and help is needed to circulate petitions in the Steelton/Swatara Twp. area. If you are interested in helping in this effort or in coming to the meetings, contact Judy Williams, 939-5486 or Nancy Baumgardner, 939-7530.



# TMIA's Japanese visitors

Working with TMIA is demanding, depressing, energizing, frustrating, broadening, time-filling, but never dull. To give you an idea of the kind of work that gets done, the ALERT is starting a series of some of the TMIA tasks. The first part of this series is Joel Roth's account of hosting the visit of the Japanese delegation on July 1-3.

## JAPANESE DELEGATION

Our visitors were: Mr. Ishino, team leader - member of the House of Representatives; Mr. Yoshida, member of the House of Councilors (Senate); Mr. Endo, General Counsel of Labor Unions of Japan (5 million members); Mr. Masutani, general secretary of all Japan Electrical Workers Union; Dr. Ono, President of the Physics Society of Japan; and Katsushige Murayama (Kats), secretary to Mr. Miyake, House of Representatives and interpreter for the group.

Their visit here was to include meetings with state and local officials, a TMI on site visit, meetings with local people, and a press conference. In the course of the visit we shared laughter, sadness and anger.

The site visit was going to be one of the highlights of the U.S. visit. For unknown reasons the N.R.C. and Met Ed did not allow the visit which had been confirmed days before by the N.R.C. and the Japanese Embassy. As an alternative we planned the airplane photo mission of Mr. Yoshida. A plane was chartered early Tuesday morning. On our arrival at the terminal, the pilot explained the restrictions placed on flying near TMI. The restrictions would prevent any good pictures because of the distance. A call was placed to the tower requesting a waiver, but it was denied.

Since Mr. Yoshida did not speak English, I explained to the pilot how important Mr. Yoshida was - in Japan he was as well known as Senator Kennedy is here. It worked. This time the tower called Washington, D.C.; a few minutes later the waiver was granted.

To overcome the language problem, we placed some bottles on a table - these were the cooling towers and our hands were the plane. For the next few minutes, hands flew around the bottles showing our Japanese friend what type of pictures he would be able to get. Three grown men heartily enjoyed this game.

Fifteen minutes later the plane landed and out came a very happy Mr. Yoshida. With the bottles, he showed me how close the plane had flown to the towers. The hand and bottle game was getting to be contagious - the pilot joined us until I reminded him that he could talk to me in English.

Planning the statement for the press conference was much more serious business. Several members of the delegation were summoned from their beds at 1:30 a.m. for a discussion on the future use of nuclear power. It was very important to them, even in the wee hours of Tuesday morning, that their message be clear. The press conference went very well and received good coverage.

Our goodbyes were mixed with laughter and tears. The last few minutes were spent - you guessed it - playing the hand/bottle game.

At 1:00 a.m., Sunday morning my home phone rang. Kats calling from San Francisco, had forgotten about the three hour time difference. He was calling to express the teams thanks to all the people in the Harrisburg area who made their trip so warm. He also told me that Mr. Yoshida wanted to say something; I was confused since Yoshida did not speak English. "Thank you very much for the plane ride so close to the towers, I will send pictures to you - thank you and goodbye," he said.

Yoshida had insisted that Kats teach him those words. After all, you can't use hands and bottles over the phone.



# Ghost of the Susquehanna

A pall, humid and sick, hangs over  
Harrisburg  
As if a shade were pulled across the  
sun.

No blue sky or happy racing clouds  
Look down to greet our numbed  
existence.

Fair Susquehanna flows churlish and  
angry.

Foliage is lush, irradiated  
unnaturally.

Horror looks out from the eyes of the  
people.

All forms of life bear insult.

Nothing much happened, they tell us.  
Clean up, start up, pay up for TMI.  
Yet a corpse stalks through our  
valley.

It is faith in government that died.

--Eleanor Grubb,  
Colonial Park

## Harrisburg/Hiroshima

The following proclamation has been  
issued by Harrisburg, Major, Paul E.  
Doutrich, Jr.:

WHEREAS: The 34th anniversary of  
Hiroshima Day will be  
observed throughout the  
world on August 6th.  
Because the people of  
Hiroshima were the first to  
suffer from use of atomic  
bombs, Hiroshima has become  
the symbol of the dangers of  
nuclear war to survival of  
the human species. The  
Three Mile Island accident  
has shocked people everywhere  
into recognizing the equiva-  
lent dangers to life from  
the application of nuclear  
technology for the generation  
of electricity, and now  
Harrisburg is being recogniz-  
ed as the symbol of the  
hazards of nuclear power, and

WHEREAS: In the light of the  
catastrophic nuclear dangers

now revealed and because of  
the common concerns of the  
people of both cities over  
the dangers from nuclear  
technology, and in the hope  
that cooperative measures  
may be taken in time to avoid  
disasters, I propose that  
Harrisburg and Hiroshima  
establish a sister-cities  
relationship, and

WHEREAS: Such a relationship would  
facilitate pursuit of  
cooperative endeavors, to  
assure development of all  
possible measures to over-  
come the hazards of nuclear  
technology. While these  
steps are undertaken, it  
would be prudent to reach  
agreement on a policy oppos-  
ing first-strike use of  
nuclear weapons, and

WHEREAS: I call upon citizens of  
the Harrisburg area to  
cooperate with citizens  
of the Hiroshima area in  
observing Hiroshima Day,  
in their determination to  
explore every possibility,  
so that there shall be a  
livable world for our  
children and future  
generations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I PAUL E. DOUTRICH, JR.,  
MAYOR OF the City of Harrisburg, do  
hereby proclaim August 4 thru 9, 1979,  
as

### HIROSHIMA DAY

a period for commemorative observances  
of Hiroshima Day, and invite the  
cooperation of citizens of the area.



*Hitch Your Wagon to a Star*  
-- Ralph Waldo Emerson



If you or your group would like to spend some time spreading the truth at the TMI Observation Center, please contact Cheryl Lee at 566-9777 (evenings). We are going to have anti-nuke people there every weekend and whenever else possible. The TMI Observation Center is open Tuesday thru Sunday from noon to 5:00 PM.

People are needed to mingle with the visitors, leaflet at the gates to the parking lot and to distribute literature at our own TMIA Information Center.

## Met Ed Education

If you have had the opportunity to go to the TMI Observation Center to view the film, you may have picked up "Educational Bulletin 73-1--What About Radiation?"

This wealth of information makes the following claim:

If you were to live a mile from Three Mile Island and remain there for 24 hours every day for a year, you would be exposed to less than 1/2 mrem. of additional annual radiation. If for that one year you stayed five miles from Three Mile Island, you would be exposed to less than 1/20 mrem. of additional annual radiation, and if you lived at a distance greater than 5 miles from Three Mile Island, your additional radiation exposure would be so low as to be considered 0 mrem.

It also enlightens us to the fact that "In almost every instance radiation is fatal only when absorbed in brief, concentrated doses." This supposed fact sheet mentions nothing about the long term effects of low level radiation or the devastating consequences to a family hit by cancer or leukemia.

According to this masterpiece of misinformation, you get more radiation from a radium dial wristwatch (2 mrem.) than from TMI, even if you live a mile from the plant (1/2 mrem.).

Met Ed is insulting the intelligence of people everywhere by printing such obviously false and misleading information.

It points up the fact that in the face of Met Ed's million dollar PR campaign, TMIA and its community groups and task forces must get the real facts to the people.

## We're an Inc.

Six weeks ago, the TMIA filed to become a non-profit corporation. Copies of the Articles of Incorporation are available from the TMIA office.

The official purposes of TMIA are to act as an organization to inform the public of nuclear related dangers, to serve as an instrument for people and groups to oppose nuclear energy and to promote alternative energy, and to relate to State, national and international groups acting in this and related areas.

Officers of TMIA, to be elected by a majority of the general members, are a coordinator, a recorder and a treasurer. The Planning Group will be the primary governing body. This group consists of the officers, the heads of the Tasks Forces, representatives from member organizations and at large representatives. This Planning Group, to meet at least once a month, will hold it's first meeting on July 24, 1979.

More members of The Last Resort Task Force are completing training to train others for non-violent direct action. We will begin training, after Labor Day, to develop affinity groups for the TMI I campaign.

If you or your anti-nuke organization want to become part of these training sessions, please call Chris or Louise at the TMIA office (233-7897) and a member of the task force will get in touch with you.

### COMING NEXT MONTH

- Mysterious Bird Deaths in Lebanon.
- Listing of other anti-nuke groups.
- Bibliography of Nuke reading.
- A Day in the TMIA Office.
- A report on the reorganization of TMIA.
- Relating to MetEd's Public Relations.



# Foreboding of nuclear disaster

Four A.M., Wednesday, March 28, 1979 - the beginning of America's worst commercial nuclear reactor accident to date.

Three hours later off-site emergency officials in the area surrounding Three Mile Island would learn for the first time that disaster loomed at Met-Ed's Unit 2 reactor, though surprisingly it would not be until mid-day Friday - some 55 hours into the accident - that many people in the crucial 5-mile radius learned they were in danger.

Yet there was a group of Southcentral Pennsylvanians not at all surprised by the accident the Nuclear Industry had declared impossible. For in the mystery of human consciousness, they had seen the accident at TMI before it happened.

Based on an investigation conducted by TMIA's Special Projects Committee and ParaScience International, we have identified a dozen instances in which persons predicted, dreamed or experienced lucid visions of a malfunctioning reactor at Three Mile Island before March 28th.

These men and women, some with a history of psychic experiences and others with none, ranged in age from three years old to septagintarians. Apart from having little or no understanding of how a reactor worked, they exemplified one other trait: they were sincere people who, through a process said by many scientists to be as impossible as a ruinous reactor accident, shared independent yet incredibly similar forebodings of disaster at TMI.

The first indication of a troubled future for TMI came on April 15, 1975, as Jennifer Street celebrated her third birthday in view of Unit 1's

cooling towers. "The steam will get me," she began to wail. Her mother, Pat Street (now TMIA organizer for Londonderry Twp.), tried to calm the child by explaining the steam was only harmless water vapor from the cooling towers. Nearly four years later, TMI-

2 went supercritical and containing so much radiation that monitors went off-scale were released into the air around Londonderry. Noting that "was the day that everything was almost lost," Mrs. Street recalled her daughter's cries and pondered, "I wonder if she knew something the rest of us didn't."

Also in 1975, another area resident sensed problems for the now-crippled reactor. Peggy Townsend-Beddoes, founder of the Aquarian Searchers in Harrisburg, foresaw in an altered state of consciousness that "valves would be turned off, etc." at TMI. That clairvoyant prediction was fulfilled on March 14, 1979 when valves to the main feedwater pumps in Unit 2's crucial cooling loop were shut off and illegally left off. In the third week of March 1979, Mrs. Townsend-Beddoes had another premonition about TMI and confided to a friend: "I have a bad feeling about it, a depressing feeling." She was one week ahead of almost everyone else.

But there were others. In the weeks preceding the so-called transient at Unit 2, a series of ominous visions and dreams wafted through the area just as radioactive plumes would soon be doing. As some would later taste the released radionuclides others sensed precognitively the destiny of Met-Ed's brand new reactor. Those premonitions, and the implications to their believers and to concepts of reality, will be explored in the next issue.

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## STAFF FOR THIS ISSUE

Terry Roth(Editor)  
Nancy Baumgardner  
Debbie Fetterman  
Chris Sayer

Sue Eason's name was omitted from the staff list last time. Many thanks to all the others who submitted articles.



# No Nuke Poetry

The following poems were submitted by Cecilia Parsons Miller:

## WHAT USED TO BE

I wash the lettuce long and well,  
I ponder as I do so...  
The water's junked where fall-out  
fell.  
I envy Mr. Crusoe.

## DEPT. OF UDDER CONFUSION

"No damage to the public health"  
they state with utter candor;  
They try so hard to clear their skirts--  
false facts lead up to slander.

The lowly cow, who gropes her way  
through clover, grass and briars,  
Gives milk with Iodine concealed  
and shows them up as liars.

## IODINE, OH IODINE

My thyroid's packed and I'm ready  
To take off on voyages heady;  
just where I will end  
proves a question to lend  
Concern: it's NOT back in my beddy!

## BY NUKE, BOMB TEST, CHEMICALS AND/OR X-RAY

No need to fear the Russian Bear-  
at China's purpose scoff;  
In nearer time, OUR scientists  
will neatly kill us off.

Paul Walker's column  
Hbg. Patriot

## Legislative update

both the state and national legislatures followed the old adage, "when in doubt, do nothing" this past month.

The NRC Authorization, long languishing in the U.S. Senate did finally get to the floor where anti-nuke forces won a small battle and lost two large wars. An effort to strip the bill of provisions which would require evacuation plans to be approved by the NRC within 6 months was defeated narrowly. Our two Senators, Schweiker and Heinz voted

with anti-nuke forces in defeating this amendment.

Later, however, the anti-nuke people did not fare so well. Sen. McGovern's amendment to give states the right to decide whether nuclear waste facilities could be sited in their own state was roundly defeated with Heinz and Schweiker voting against us.

Kennedy's moratorium amendment went down 57-35. Again, our two Senators voted against us.

No action has taken place in the House. Last month, however, a trial run was held on a number of amendments which will be tacked onto the NRC Authorization. While all went down to defeat, area Congressmen ALL voted correctly. It is expected that the right to site and moratorium amendments will be added to the House version of the Authorization when it comes to the floor after Labor Day.

Meanwhile, we will have to force each of our national legislators to make a commitment to keep TMI closed. During the recess (scheduled to start around August 1) we must go to all the public meetings and keep the pressure on them. Call the TMIA office for schedules of these meetings.

The Pennsylvania legislature recessed without moving on a number of anti-nuke bills. SB 600 and SB 632 are still bottled up in House Committees.

Additionally, two new names have been put forward by the Governor as nominees to the PUC. Neither of them are particularly favorable to consumers or anti-nuke forces. Full backgrounds are being developed on each. Hearings in the Senate Consumer Affairs Committee will be held after the summer recess. Call the office for the schedule of hearings and for more information on Cosetti and Shaneman.





# Kemeny citizen's panel resigns

Question: What has a critical mass of 8, and a half-life of 6 hours?

Answer: The citizen's advisory panel of the President's Commission on Three Mile Island (Kemeny Commission).

At least that's what seemed to be the case in what Richard Pollack, of Critical Mass, called "the shortest-term advisory task force I've ever sat on."

The dispute between the citizen's panel and the Commission developed over whether the panel would have access to anything other than already printed committee transcripts.

According to William Millerd, a Jesuit priest and a physicist with the Interfaith Coalition on Energy, a set of ground rules had been drafted in cooperation with Bruce Lundin, Kemeny's second in command. One of the agreements was that the panel would have access to the commission's data.

Kathy Chamberlin, a TMIA interim committee member and a member of the citizen's panel, said that Millerd had received word the night before the first meeting that the panel would not have access to the data.

"We were willing to compromise," said Chamberlin. "We realized the need for security and sensitivity. We obviously would not have asked for every document - we simply wanted the right to ask for anything we wanted."

The Commission staff, however, had different ideas. They gave the group nine questions to answer, questions that had previously been asked of the industry

panel.

"One of the questions that particularly bothered me was: 'Can and should the utilities do more to develop public trust and confidence in nuclear power plants?'" said Mark Widoff, a panel member.

After a stormy session with Lundin and chief information officer Barbara Jorgenson, the group asked that Kemeny be brought into the dispute. When told that he had already left for New York, the panel requested that he be contacted about the problem. Four hours later, Jorgenson returned to tell the group that Kemeny had refused their request. The citizen's advisory panel immediately resigned.

"We were angry, discouraged," said Chamberlin. "All the way home, Mark (Widoff) and I didn't say anything to each other."

"We really thought things could be worked out," she added.

Widoff said the group was forced to resign. "Many of the people felt that they could not conscientiously lend their names to this whole affair if it was simply going to be a public relations exercise."

He added that the whole thing had made him skeptical of the entire Kemeny investigation. "I'm going to be more skeptical today than I was yesterday. And I think all of us are going to be more skeptical when that report comes out."

And now? Chamberlin said that she didn't think the Commission effort would be worth much. "I assume the entire effort is going to be, has been and has been from the very beginning, to further nuclear power."



# No Nukes Notices

SUN. AUGUST 5th

Hiroshima Commemorative Interfaith Service. Lakeside Lutheran Church, 245 Division St., Hbg. 7PM. Speaker, Rev. Robert Moore, Exec. Dir., Mobilization for Survival. Call TMIA for details or see The ALERT.

MON. AUGUST 6th

Hiroshima Day Observance, Lancaster. Noon to 1 PM, Silent Vigil, Penn Sq. Movie at Hafer Center, F&M College, 8 PM. Call Sandy Fluck for details, 1/392-6648.

TMIA Nuclear Economics Task Force mtg. Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Sts. Hbg. 7:30PM.

TUES. AUGUST 7th

PANE Meeting. Film "More Nuclear Power Plants." Dr. Ollio Larri will discuss ethical implications of the film. Capitol Campus Aud. 7PM.

WED. AUGUST 8th

Pa. Game Commission mtg. They will discuss exploration & mining of uranium on state lands. 8000 Derry St. 8:30AM.

THURS. AUGUST 9th

Rally at PP&L headquarters. Spons. by LEPOCO. For information, contact TMIA office. 7 PM.

SUN. AUGUST 12th

Shut'em Down Hoedown. Benefit concert for TMIA. See page 1 for details. Y'all come!!!

Carlisle Fair begins, runs thru 8/19. TMIA booth coordinated by Carlisle TMIA. Call office to volunteer to staff the booth.

MON. AUGUST 13th

TMIA Alternative Energy Task Force. Friends Mtg. House. 7:30 PM

WED. AUGUST 15th

Jobs/Conversion Project meeting. Friends Meeting House, 7:30PM

TUES. AUGUST 21st

TMIA Planning Council mtg. Friends Mtg. House, 7:30 PM.

WED. AUGUST 22nd

TMIA Last Resort Mtg. 616 N. 2nd St., Hbg. Home of Doug West. 7:30PM.

THURS. AUGUST 23rd

PANE Meeting, Capitol Campus Aud. 7PM.

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## 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

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# Editorial: On humor and perspective

Movements form when people draw together on an issue (or issues) that they all think are important. Very important. And the people develop a seriousness of purpose, and that, too, is important. The problem is that somewhere along the way the people get a little too serious about their seriousness. They forget to see the absurdity, the iron. They forget to laugh at themselves, at their predicament, and at the enemy as well.

I'm afraid that this has happened with the anti-nuke movement. I've seen a lot of heavy important newsletters which are (frankly) stodgy. I've sat through long meetings where we got so much accomplished that my head hurt (not to mention my sitter). But we didn't laugh.

I spent some time recently talking to one of our visitors from Denmark

about how to involve more people in our movement. He suggested that meetings were too intellectual, (I think that was the word he wanted, we had some trouble in translation). He recommended that we sponsor anti-nuke art shows, and plays, and more "fun-things." He had a good point. Maybe we should have anti-nuke block parties (and barbecue burgers in the shape of cooling towers). Maybe we could put out a little red book on the with and wisdom of James Schlesinger. Maybe we should have a gossip column in this paper and call it "Nuke Nooky."

I don't mean to imply that this isn't serious business. Our lives are at stake, and our children's lives and that just isn't funny. But still, I think we've got to be sure to hang on to our creativity and our sense of humor and the positive energy that these things generate. What do you think?

315 PEPPER STREET  
HARRISBURG, PA. 17102

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# ALERT

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 4

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

SEPTEMBER 1979

## 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 (negatively 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  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 judgment" 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.



"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 NW, 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 Intervenor, 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).

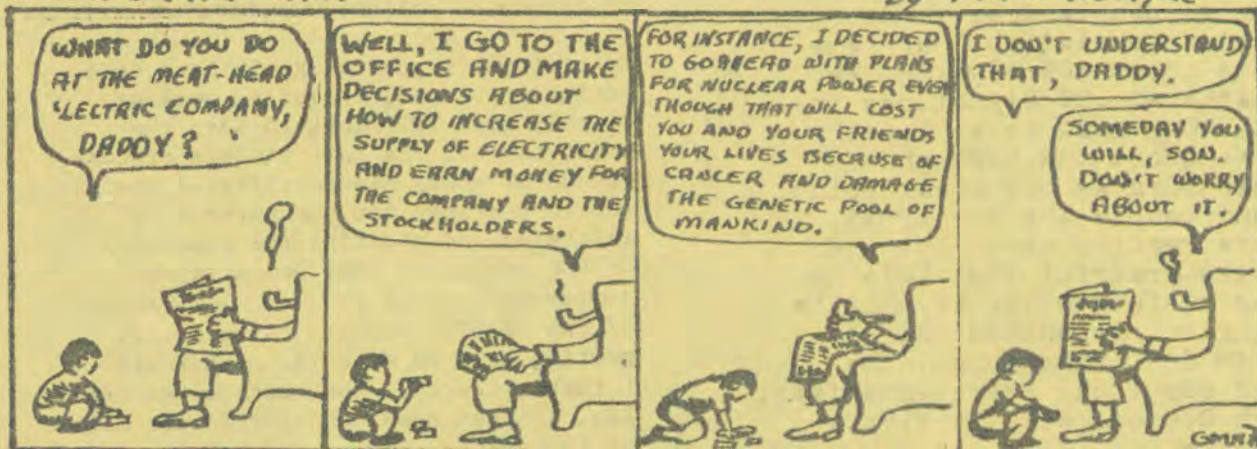
Many thanks to all of you who submitted articles, reports, comics, poems, and letters to the editor. Thanks, too, to Douglas Grier who designed our new logo.

### STAFF THIS ISSUE

Terry Roth, Editor  
Nancy Baumgardner  
Sue Eason  
Debbie Fetterman  
Eleanor Grubb  
Chris Sayer

### 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 safeguards 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-



cidents: 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



in Pennsylvania which are not easily accessible to me and I intend to write to them having retained my voting status in Pennsylvania.

If I sound forceful and overly positive about what I have been doing, it is because the opposition is as forceful and as strong. I work in the Conservation Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and in our immediate area we have equipment used in research which uses radioactivity and which requires us to wear badges to monitor the low level intake of that radioactivity. My outspokenness against nuclear power is regarded by my co-workers as both foolish and embarrassing and many of them believe as strongly in the use of nuclear energy for research and for power as I believe that nuclear energy must end. I can only hope to convince them now and not later when more Harrisburgs have a chance to occur and affect their lives as much as mine has now been affected. When I was in grade school we used to hide under our desks during air raid drills and even then I could not understand what good hiding from danger did. Now I am even more convinced that the dangers which we cannot see must be faced and fought and that the bullshit which the government is feeding us is just that--and like you said I am angry and I won't give up.

Dyane Walters

~~\*\*\*\*\*~~  
We are not contributing money to TMIA for entertainment. We only want information. The more space for poetry, etc. the more money it costs to print the newsletter. "Nuke Nooky" I know only one meaning for nooky and I don't have to pay for it.

TMIA Member

## Our Visitors Ctr.

Since a June 18 press conference in Hershey, Met Ed has been waging war against the anti-nuclear movement, pumping out propaganda in a massive "public re-education campaign." (One wonders how the public got so poorly educated in the first place.) On July 7, Met Ed reopened the Visitors' Observation Center across Rte. 441 from TMI. The lies and half-truths flow freely ten times a day in the form of a film which "explains" the accident.

Hundreds of people every day are exposed to this new form of pollution. It's enough to make you want to do something probably unprintable--or at least wish for a few million dollars to present the other side of the story, i.e., the truth.

Well, the anti-nuclear movement doesn't have millions of dollars, or even very many thousands of dollars. But we do have the best, safest, most renewable and economically viable form of energy there is--Peoples' Energy. (Not only that, we're clean and "too cheap to meter" too!) Since July 7th, dozens of volunteers have been at the Center every weekend--handing out leaflets, talking to visitors, and showing our opposition to nuclear power by our visibly anti-nuclear presence. The change in Met Ed's attitude toward and treatment of anti-nukes has been interesting. On July 7, as long as the national television news cameras were around, we were "allowed" to stand at the entrance to the back of the building and give out leaflets (and flowers!) to visitors. By mid-afternoon, the press and cameras had left, and we were told we could only leaflet at the entrance to the property, along the right-of-way of Rte. 441. It's kind of hard to leaflet cars that are speeding by at 55 mph. Somewhere along the line, between July 7 and August 11 and 12, an agreement with Met Ed was worked out that we would be "allowed" to do our leafletting along the public right-of-way on the north side of Pecks Road, north of the parking lot exit. That's what we have been doing, working out of a car trunk. We are told that we are all right as long as we don't go onto the parking lot to leaflet--it is private property, and the time for civil disobedience has not yet arrived. We are "allowed" to go into the building and watch the film--and we have been, sort of. (The film, if you haven't seen it, is hard to stomach through even one showing). So we go inside and be passive--stand at the bottom of the steps during the showings, wearing a T shirt with an anti-nuke slogan and lots of buttons, and after the film, go up onto the observation deck--and people, curious as cats, will inevitably begin to ask questions. The peoples' questions reflect a desire to learn more



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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HARRISBURG, PA. 17102

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# ALERT

Vol. I No. 5

Three Mile Island Alert

October 1979

## Fonda & Hayden Visit the Burg

The Campaign for Economic Democracy (CED) kicked off their Harrisburg visit on September 23 to an overflow crowd at the Penn Harris Convention Center. As hundreds of others were turned away, over 1,200 people squeezed into every available space to hear Jane Fonda, Tom Hayden and Pete Seeger speak and sing about the crises in American economics, energy policy, and morale.

Pete Seeger is a far cry from the traditional "warm up act." A favorite of several generations, Seeger has lost none of his electricity. Few in the audience, including the press, could resist singing or clapping along with him. He sang anti-nuke songs, feminist songs and old favorites accompanying himself at times on a banjo embossed with the words, "Love surrounds hate and forces it to surrender."

Tom Hayden, former radical anti-war activist who has taken his struggle to the political mainstream, explained the goals of CED which he chairs--to raise issues and debate around the issues of inflation, energy and "unbridled corporate power." He stressed the importance of consumers' and taxpayers' voices in economic decision making. Both in his speech and in a question and answer period, he stressed the hazards of and problems with nuclear power and the need to develop solar power.

From her experiences as an active CED member and as star and co-producer of The China Syndrome,

Jane Fonda underlined these same themes. She empathized with the people of the Harrisburg area who lived through the accident at TMI--an accident predicted by the "real experts" who she consulted in making China Syndrome. We can win the fight against nuclear power, Fonda said, but we "must remain united and brave." In fighting powerful forces aligned against us we must organize. "History will prove us right," she assured.

The rally Sunday night was organized by Suzanne Magda. Randy King pulled together an efficient crew of TMIA marshalls to deal with the large crowd inside and the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council protestors outside. Funds for TMIA were collected at the Sunday rally and at a fund-raising cocktail party on Monday at the home of Estelle and Jerry Fried. Other CED events on Monday included a press conference, a labor reception, and a visit to the B'nai B'rith solar heated apartments in Harrisburg.





## Legal Intervention

By order dated July 21, 1979, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ordered the closing of the undamaged reactor at TMI Unit 1. On August 9, 1979, the NRC issued another Order designating an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to hold hearings concerning the re-opening of the plant. TMIA has intervened in these proceedings.

Some of the issues that TMIA has requested the Board to consider are these eight:

- 1.) The effect that the reopening of Unit 1 will have on the physical and mental health of the population located near the plant.
- 2.) The effect of additional radioactive discharges on the water quality of the Susquehanna River.
- 3.) The adverse economic impact on the Harrisburg area that will occur if the Unit is reopened.
- 4.) The inability of local and state officials to deal with civil unrest that may occur if the Unit is reopened.
- 5.) The inability of Met-Ed to safely operate the unit.
- 6.) The inability of Met-Ed, the NRC and the State to deal with a serious accident at Unit 1 while Unit 2 remains contaminated.
- 7.) The Unit 1 can be more economically and safely converted to a coal-fired plant, than remain nuclear.
- 8.) The present financial viability of Met-Ed and GPU.

TMIA hopes to be able to retain attorneys with experience representing clients before the NRC and who are familiar with the Atomic Energy Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. TMIA feels that the reopening of Unit 1 presents a clear and present danger to the people of Central Pennsylvania. With adequate support, TMIA is convinced it can demonstrate to the NRC, and to the Courts, if necessary, that Unit 1 must remain closed forever.

On September 21, 1979, the NRC ruled on the initial petitions to intervene. Neither the staff (NRC) or the licensee (Met-Ed) opposed our intervention.

Also accepted were petitions from Newberry Township, PANE, Union of Concerned Scientists, A.N.G.R.Y. (York), Chesapeake Energy Alliance, Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power, and Stephen Sholly (a Mechanicsburg resident).

## PUC Nominees

The Economics and PUC Committee of TMIA has announced their opposition to Governor Thornburgh's nomination of Senate Republican Counsel Susan Shanaman and Pittsburgh attorney Joseph Cosetti to the PUC. In so doing, they joined other organizations whose research has led to opposing the nominations. These organizations include the Philadelphia Council of Neighborhood Organizations, the PA Alliance for Jobs & Energy, and the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power. Both Cosetti and Shanaman have repeatedly refused to take a stand on nuclear power. Both hold views that could penalize poor people and consumers generally.

Shanaman and Cosetti were nominated to fill two vacant seats on the five member Commission. Commissioner Louis Carter announced recently that he is resigning effective October 9. Gov. Thornburgh will soon have yet another nomination to make, and the impact of these three votes could be felt for the next 50 years.

The Democratically controlled Senate is reportedly considering rejecting both nominees who are Republicans. It is critical that we strongly oppose these nominations both individually and as community groups. **WRITE OR CALL YOUR STATE SENATOR TODAY.** Let Gov. Thornburgh know that future nominees must be sensitive to the interests of the people of Pennsylvania in a safe energy future. We defeated Bloom. We can do it again with your help.

~~~~~  
Sometime this month TMIA is sponsoring the first in a series of "theme meetings." This one is on decommissioning versus cleanup. The details were not available by press time, so please check with the TMIA office (233-7897) or watch your local papers.  
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# Psychological Effects

Pro-nuclear sources are suggesting that the accident is an indication of the safety of nuclear power, not its dangers. They say that this is so because containment was not breached, a full melt down did not occur, and because there is debate over physical health effects of the "relatively low levels of radiation" which were emitted.

This position ignores any psychological damage produced by the disaster and its aftermath. The fact is, the damage done offsite seems at this point largely to have been psychological. Understanding the nature of these effects is critical for understanding the meaning of TMI.

We can draw on disaster literature for help. (Disasters are sudden, unexpected events which damage property and people. By this standard definition, the TMI accident was clearly a disaster.) Psychological damage seems to come from two sources: immediate stress from the disaster's impact itself, and continuing sensitization to the possibility of future disaster.

The stress effects are usually short-lived, if painful. They include depression, irritability, agitation and anxiety. The stress can lead to disruption of work and relationships. The problems people experienced during evacuation fall into this category. (Interestingly, disasters tend to agitate and disrupt people, and not to drive them crazy: Anxiety is a more likely result than schizophrenia.)

In Harrisburg, the continuing sensitization effects are the most interesting. People still twitch when they hear the term "radiation"; they respond quickly and negatively to threats of future radioactive releases from TMI. Outside researchers are beginning to refer to a "Harrisburg hysteria." Why, they seem to ask, is there so strong a reaction here, if the accident was minimal in its immediate impact?

As it happens, the events at TMI could hardly have been better designed to produce long-term sensitization. Three characteristics of the events were particularly important. First, in coming so close to a melt down, we were exposed to a near-miss situation, so that we could imagine all possible scary outcomes from an almost incredibly large threat. Second, we were all vulnerable, since radiation respects no high ground. Third, and perhaps most important, it was a high technology accident, compounded by human error. Since the same people--Met-Ed and the NRC-- show every indication of planning to use the same high technology, we are exposed to a continued vulnerability. And outsiders wonder why we act concerned? One additional consideration: Direct stress effects, are usually short-lived. However, there is increasing evidence in the literature of latent traumatic neuroses from disasters. In other words, people can have anxiety symptoms which show themselves in behavior only under additional, later stress. It is for this reason, along with continuing sensitization to threat, that re-opening TMI, Unit 1 or 2, would be a serious mental health hazard. The best corrective for feelings of vulnerability is success in trying to regain control over one's life. Locally the clearest way to do this is to work successfully to close TMI.

The Harrisburg Chapter of the League of Women Voters will sponsor a tour of alternative energy installations in the greater Harrisburg area. The date for the tour is Sunday, October 28th. The tour, which will cost \$4 per person, will allow individuals to visit residential alternative energy installations such as home solar collectors, wood stove installations, wind generators and passive collectors (greenhouses). In addition, the tour will also include a visit to such large solar installations as B'nai B'rith Apartments in downtown Harrisburg. Information about the tour can be gotten from Candy Warner (763-8381) or through the TMIA office. Tickets will be available through the office.



# Repeal Price-Anderson

The Price-Anderson Act, established 21 years ago to get nuclear power off the ground, limits liability to \$560 million with an average of \$140 million coming from private insurance, \$300 million from an industry pool, and \$120 million from a general guarantee.

The Weiss bill would require utilities to get maximum private insurance coverage. When claims exceed that figure, the plant would be liable to the full extent of its assets. If an industry pool could not cover the balance, federal loans would be available.

The bill also removes the 20-year limitation on claims. Thus, victims contracting cancer more than 20 years after an accident could be compensated.

A total of 27 representatives have cosponsored a Ted Weiss (D-NY) bill (HR 789) to remove the Price-Anderson's liability in the case of a nuclear accident. In a letter soliciting cosponsorship Weiss stated, "No other method of energy generation enjoys a similar liability limitation, and Congress now has a clear duty to end this unfair underwriting of atomic power."

Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) is soliciting cosponsorship for his Senate version of the bill (S 1082).

The Weiss bill is being handled through the Energy and Environment Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee (Rep. Morris Udall, Chair) and the Senate version will be considered in the Nuclear Regulations Subcommittee of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee (Sen. Gary Hart, Chair).

Other bills of importance this Fall are the moratorium bills (S 926, HR 3945, HR 3988). These bills, introduced by Sen. George McGovern in the Senate and by Ted Weiss and Ed Markey respectively in the House, would halt construction and operating licenses pending a three-year safety review. No action on these bills has been scheduled in their respective committees.

In the Pennsylvania legislature, Geesey and Reed's HB 1080 is stopped in the House Rules Committee. Two other important pieces of legislation remain bottled up - SB 600 (Sen. Mellow's moratorium bill) remains in the House Environment Committee (chaired by Rep. Bittle) and Sen. Mike O'Pake's SB 632 which would keep costs from being passed through to the consumers which is in the House Committee on Mines and Energy Management.

## No Nuke Poems

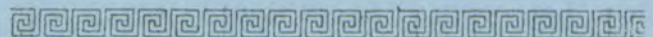
### WE'VE SAID IT BEFORE

We might have left the Arab sheiks  
a-smoking in arrears  
If we had opted solar heat  
these wasted twenty years.  
Old Sol keeps on deluging  
this land with power spate  
But those in power have no time;  
they only can negate  
The efforts of the clever few  
who's programs we have heard.  
Meanwhile we'd have the ergs we need  
with "Waste" a dirty word.

### THE CEMETERY GATES ARE ALWAYS OPEN

Recall the fight on offshore drilling?  
The oil men hoped to make a killing;  
Ecologists were strong against them - -  
they worked for laws which would have  
fenced them.  
How time has proven they were right;  
the shrimp and lobster take drops more.  
The fish we thought would help us fight  
the howling wolf pack at our door  
Grow less and less, while oil spills  
squander  
our total reservoir out yonder.

by Cecilia Parsons Miller



Governor Thornburgh spoke recently at the Annual Congress of the American Correctional Association. Among other things, he discussed the plan for evacuating the state prison at Camp Hill in case it had been necessary. The arrangements were so satisfactory that the "even brought in teams from other institutions to conduct the annual basketball tournament on schedule."



# Molloy: Emergencies

Kevin J. Molloy, Director of the Dauphin County Office of Emergency Preparedness, was interviewed recently by TMIALERT. The interview is reprinted below:

TMIA: What do you think of Met-Ed's statement that Unit I should go back on line soon?

Molloy: Our office is currently in the process of revising our emergency preparedness plans from a 20-mile radius of the plant down to a 10-mile radius, on the advice of the NRC. I don't think the plant should go back on line until after the plans have been drawn up and approved, training of staff has been completed and our equipment has been modified.

TMIA: But you wouldn't have any problem with the plant reopening if those things are completed?

Molloy: Well, I'm in a unique position because I live quite close to the plant in Londonderry Township. But my job is making sure we are prepared for any emergency in Dauphin County, and I think we will be, and I'm not going to sit around worrying about it.

TMIA: Therefore, in the event of another nuclear accident - one which would require evacuation or relocation of people - your office is prepared to handle it.

Molloy: Yes. NRC guidelines say that our original 20-mile plan was too large, and have advised us that we should develop a 10-mile plan. We will still keep the 20-mile plan, of course, but the other document is now being prepared and I think that will give us the kind of coverage we need.

TMIA: Won't that 10-mile plan exclude most of Harrisburg?

Molloy: Yes, it will only cover the areas south of the South Bridge, and below 19th and Swatara Streets.

TMIA: What kind of cooperation have you been getting from government officials at all levels?

Molloy: We haven't had any problems with federal or state officials.

They have been most cooperative. And of course, there has been a renewed interest in emergency preparedness on the local level in recent months.

TMIA: Didn't you publicly state that you were unable to obtain funding for radio equipment but that you became aware of funding awarded to study the effects of TMI upon local tourism?

Molloy: Yes. I wanted to purchase \$30,000 worth of radio equipment, of which \$15,000 would be reimbursed by the federal government. However, the funding for that project had been depleted and we were unable to get the equipment this year. Although I realize the funds for the tourism study come from another source, it still seems to me that the priorities for funding programs are a little mixed up.

TMIA: Are you kept advised of data and predictions on danger of radiation contamination by the NRC and other monitoring agencies?

Molloy: I am advised on all shipments of waste coming through the county. I receive copies of NRC material relating to emergency planning and in the event of a nuclear accident I am called directly by the facility.

TMIA: Would you be in favor of a nuclear waste facility in Dauphin County?

Molloy: I don't think I'm qualified to say yes or no, but my personal reaction is no.

TMIA: Would you have any recommendations regarding TMI for the President's Commission or the House Committee?

Molloy: Long before TMI happened I called for a law which would provide state match for federal funds for emergency preparedness and for training local directors. I will be happy to testify before the President's Committee if I'm called upon, and I do plan to testify before the House Committee, but I'd rather not say what my testimony will be in advance of that hearing.



# May 6th Money

Late last month, the May 6th Coalition announced that Three Mile Island Alert would be one of the recipients of cash grants from the money left over after the giant Washington demonstration. TMIA will receive \$2,000 from the coalition.

Following the action in the nation's capital, it was decided that left-over funds (roughly \$28,000) would be earmarked for local efforts. TMIA submitted a proposal for \$3,000 to publish a national newsletter that would keep groups and individuals around the country apprised of what is occurring here at Three Mile Island.

Many TMIA speakers have returned from speaking engagements and rallies with the feeling that people outside of Central Pennsylvania simply do not realize what is going on back here. The lack of ongoing national news coverage on TMI lets people believe that everything is okay here in Harrisburg. The newsletter, which will include important news stories from the Harrisburg, York and Lancaster newspapers, will try to keep TMI alive as a national issue.

## Apology to NOW

The following letter was sent by TMIA to the Harrisburg Chapter of the National Organization of Women when TMIA learned of a scheduling conflict:

We are writing this letter to formally apologize for the scheduling confusion

surrounding our upcoming rally and your ERA Walkathon. Let us take this opportunity to explain how the problem occurred and try to rectify it.

When Med Ed announced that they were planning to vent radio-active gases, our office was deluged with phone calls and mail. Many people in this area were, and still are, outraged and looked to TMIA for some way of expressing this outrage. We acted quickly to plan a rally for Sunday, August 26th. The need for quick action meant that we did not discover the previously scheduled walkathon. This was a serious error on our parts and one we regret.

By the time this discovery was made, our planning process was quite far advanced; permits had been acquired and speakers were scheduled. We, therefore, could not change the date. We have, however, adjusted the time after consultation with people from NOW. We hope that this change will minimize the impact of the rally on the walkathon, thus allowing those who wish to participate in both events to do so. It is our hope that this will alleviate problems.

Many of our members are vocal feminists; still more of us actively support the ERA. We wish you every success with the walkathon. We hope that NOW, both locally and nationally, will recognize that nuclear power is a women's issue and will lend their voices in support of the anti-nuclear movement as well.

## CORPORATE CRAP

by Mac Albright





# Communities Organizing

Apple Core is lending its support to member Jason Coe who has decided to make a personal statement on the nuclear issue by walking from Three Mile Island to the White House with a canister of radioactive waste. Aside from the physical hardship and vehicular peril, considerable logistical support is needed. Apple Core is launching a concerted membership drive combined with petition-signing. The outreach campaign to teachers is being intensified through purchasing and supplying to schools a filmstrip-cassette program, "The Last Slide Show," by Mobilization for Survival. It depicts the nuclear problem as a flaw in human nature, "fascination with war," and traces the lock-step relation of nuclear weapons and nuclear power in society. Its conclusion is powerfully hopeful--that concerned and active citizenry can put an end to the nuclear threat. Other groups wishing to do the same can send \$24 to the Packard Manse Media Project, Stoughton, Mass.

The Carlisle group of TMIA has been holding weekly meetings for the past month, each with increased attendance. Twenty-five residents of the area were present at the August 19 meeting, where the results of the group's efforts at the Carlisle Fair were discussed. Over \$300.00 was raised for TMIA by volunteers who sold tee shirts, bumper stickers and buttons. Hundreds of names were gathered for various petitions all anti-nuke, pro-solar, etc. The Carlisle group has been particularly interested in lobbying state representatives for H.B. 1080, which would serve as an expression of Pennsylvania's dislike for nuclear power.

Members of the group sold tickets and baked goodies for the Shut 'em Down Hoe Down, distributed publicity for the Harrisburg rally on August 26, and showed "The Nuclear Gang" on September 10.

Task forces have been formed for political petitions and letter-writing campaigns, finances, a local newsletter, callers, media, and for leafletting at the TMI observatory.

Members of the group will be responsible for compiling a fact sheet on specific and topical nuclear items. Meetings with the Cumberland County Commissioners are being arranged, and when the school year begins, a student TMIA interest group will be started at Dickinson College and Dickinson School of Law. 243-4716.

The Dillsburg group voted to recommend that TMIA not support the demonstration on Wall Street on October 29 where people are reportedly planning to chain themselves to the front of the stock exchange. The majority of Dillsburg members felt that our primary mission is to prevent TMI from reopening and also to work towards the complete elimination of nuclear power. We feel that such a demonstration is New York would only serve to alienate many potential anti-nuclear advocates.

The next New Cumberland meeting will be held on October 23rd (Tuesday). The subject will be the clean-up of TMI Unit 2 with Chauncey Kepford as the main speaker. In hopes of reminding people that the results of the accident are not over since there is still much danger from the water and the gas in the containment vessel. We have been concerned about the growing need for anti-nuclear literature in the school and public libraries. We have donated literature to the New Cumberland Public Library and have submitted a reading list to New Cumberland Middle School. We intend to expand this list and get it to all schools and public libraries in the area in the hope that they will purchase anti-nuclear books.

The Swatara Twp./Steelton Community Group held its first public meeting on September 10. Approximately 150 people attended. The speakers were Rep. Stephen Reed, Dr. William Shoff, Mark Widoff and Joel Roth.

The purpose of the public meeting was to urge the Commissioners of Swatara Twp. and the Councilmen of Steelton to pass resolutions calling for the closing of TMI. Although



invited, only 4 of the 16 members of both bodies attended.

Our group was formed in July and the first project was a questionnaire to the Commissioners and Councilmen regarding their opinion on the TMI issue. Two Commissioners of Swatara Twp. and two Councilmen and the mayor of Steelton responded.

A few days after the public meeting, draft resolutions and petitions signed by a total of 1100 residents of Swatara Twp. and Steelton were presented by members of our group to the two local governing bodies. Both informed us that they would act on the resolutions "at some future time." Although frustrated by the lack of action by our local politicians, our community group was greatly encouraged by the good turnout of residents and hope to get additional members during the coming months.

## Fonda Commentary

On September 23rd, Jane Fonda came to town and I expected the worst. Several veterans groups had vowed to be there protesting. Security threats were rampant. Reports varied between not enough publicity and anticipated overflow crowds. And perhaps worst of all, the CED advance people had succeeded in angering, alienating, or disillusioning many of the TMIA people with whom they worked.

The latter is a story that should be told. When we first heard that Fonda and Hayden wanted to make Harrisburg an early stop on their tour and wanted us to sponsor their visit, we were delighted. Then the details started coming in via the advance people: no separate women's meetings unless they were women's labor meetings, a bus for the press (which we were supposed to pay for), and last, but certainly not least, two four door economy cars stocked with drivers who wouldn't speak and coolers filled with Perrier Water and other California delights.

And suddenly my image of Hayden and Fonda had changed. I could have dealt

with the American Legion, but it pained me to think of Fonda and Hayden as arrogant jet set types. As it turned out my fears were unfounded. The evening was a rousing success (see news story) and Jane Fonda was wonderful.

All of those who spoke to Fonda seemed to agree that she was kind, considerate and very much a real person. In person she is frailer than in her films and you can tell that she doesn't take the criticisms of her lightly. Her speech to the crowd at the Penn Harris reflected these personal observations.

She was one of the only "outsiders" who seemed to understand the trauma of TMI and spoke to us as non-guinea pigs. She understood, too, the anger that is caused by a betrayal of faith in government. Until the Vietnam War she believed in the government and when her faith proved unfounded it turned to rage. Many of us have experienced these same feelings in our fight against nuclear power.

Fonda said she considers herself to be a good American. I agree with her. American history is filled with women and men who loved their country enough to take the personal risk of being openly critical and trying to make things better. Jane Fonda is a patriot in the same way that we are patriots fighting the menace of nuclear power.

I still can't really explain the Perrier Water, although someone pointed out that frequent travellers often drink bottled water as a way of avoiding the sickness that can come from drinking different local water in each place they visit. Perhaps the advance people were simply being overprotective and were not experienced enough in dealing with local organizers. I hope that they learned from their Harrisburg experience. We certainly did.

by Terry Roth



Enough weapons-grade uranium has been lost from a nuclear fuel producing plant in Erwin, Tenn. over the last 11 years to make at least six atomic bombs. NRC records show inventory losses of 246 pounds from January, 1968 to December, 1978.



## Nuke Panel

A panel on nuclear energy will be part of an all day workshop at St. Theresa's School, rear, 1212 Bridge Street, New Cumberland, on Saturday, November 3rd beginning at 9:00 A.M.

Panelists will be Mark Widoff, Esq., former Consumer Advocate for the Commonwealth and William Millerd, S.J., PhD, a physicist and Director of the Inter-faith coalition on Energy in Washington, D.C.

Cost for the day, including lunch is \$6.00 or \$3.00 without luncheon.

For more information, please call Marge Clement - 774-5767 or Obie Fuhrman 774-1291

## Fighting Big Oil

Recently a local chapter of the Citizen/Labor Energy Coalition formed in the Harrisburg area. C/LEC is a coalition of 150 organization nationwide, including Ralph Nader's Public Citizen, the National Education Assn., several large labor unions, Rev. Jesse Jackson's PUSH, and the Campaign for Economic Democracy. The Coalition formed because of their concern about the impact that the decontrol of crude oil and home heating fuel prices will have on cities and neighborhoods.

Energy costs are expected to rise \$600 in the next twelve months for the average family, according to the Congressional Budget Office. The poor and the elderly who are on a fixed income will be affected severely as home heating fuel rises to \$1.00 a gallon this winter. Also workers will suffer layoffs which can be attributed directly or indirectly to increased energy costs. The Carter Administration says that one million people will lose their jobs by the end of the year. The C/LEC points out that while consumers and workers are hit hard, the largest oil companies are making record profits--up an average of 66% over the second quarter of last year.

To combat this grim picture, the C/LEC proposes an alternative to the Carter energy program that consists primarily of Price Controls on Crude and Heating Oil (HR 3621), The Energy Corporation

of America (HR 4649--a nonprofit, taxpayer owned corporation which would compete with the oil companies in producing oil from federal land and in purchasing foreign oil, and renewable energy resource development.

The Harrisburg area C/LEC is planning a drive to influence Rep. Allan Ertel's votes on these issues by soliciting signatures on the Big Oil Discredit Cards urging community leaders to write Ertel letters, and telephone his office on C/LEC's National Day of Protest, October 17th. For more information or to pick up a card contact Louise Bradford or Randy King at the TMIA Office (233-7897).

## Rate Withholding

The Susquehanna Alliance is beginning a rate withholding campaign against PP&L. They have information on their plans and on the legal requirements that the utility companies must fulfill before shutting off your electricity. For more information contact Tony Sade at 1-524-7947 or 1-523-0511 (both numbers are for evenings).

## Miseducation

Recently I was given the opportunity to review the material that was distributed at the Radiation and TMI Seminar for teachers sponsored by Penn State Nuclear Engineering Dept. on August 21, 1979. The material consisted of two royal blue binders bearing the Penn State seal and a brown manila envelope.

The contents of one binder come under the heading "Energy" and consist of photocopied articles written by several professors from the University of Detroit and one from the University of Pittsburgh. A few of the articles were compiled by the Atomic Industrial Forum and one was written by H.A. Bethe, who won the Nobel Prize in 1967. One of Dr. Bethe's remarks was "an average American would receive 1/10 of a millirem if 1,000 reactors were deployed." Also included are articles from Newsweek and Time that tell us why this country "needs" nuclear power.

The second binder deals with radiological health and radiation. Again some of these are authored by university professors and some



compiled by the Atomic Industrial Forum. There is even one that was compiled by the American Medical Association Council on Scientific Affairs and printed in the Journal of the AMA that tells us why coal is a more dangerous source of energy to our health than nuclear power. Most of these articles do not imply that radiation is harmless but stress the background radiation we are exposed to daily and the risk of death from other sources.

The closing articles deal with the TMI accident. Included is a report by the NRC that was printed in the Federal Register on August 3 and the report of the Ad Hoc Population Dose Assessment Group that was made up of 4 NRC employees, 1 EPA representative and 2 from the Dept. of HEW that states the maximum dose that might have been received was 37 millirems. The crowning touch is a report by the Atomic Industrial Forum on the Offsite Contamination and Radiation Exposures from the TMI accident that concludes by stating that the human health effects of TMI due to radiation exposure, if they occur, will be undetectable.

The only redeeming article in the whole packet is a paper presented by Amory B. Lovins of Friends of the Earth, Inc., a nonprofit conservation group to the participants of the Future Strategies for Energy Development Conference at Oak Ridge, Tennessee in October, 1976, in which he stresses alternative energy sources (the soft path). However, take heart, the very next article was a rebuttal of Mr. Lovins paper written by George W. Pickering and Margaret N. Maxey of the University of Detroit titled, "The Road Not Taken--and Wisely So: A Path Too Soft to Travel."

The brown envelope contains (1) Citizens Workshops on Energy and the Environment Handbook published by the US Dept. of Energy (2) A Selected Bibliography of Energy Publications (3) Sources of Information about Energy, and (4) Three reports to the Met Ed Community, which include the Report of the Ad Hoc Population Dose Assessment Group and testimony given by Herman Dieckamp and W.G. Kuhns to the Sub-

committee on Nuclear Regulation of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, which includes their explanation of the accident and the report given by Dieckamp at the GPU Stockholders Meeting on May 9.

However, the masterpiece of the brown manila envelope is a paperback written by Dr. Ralph E. Lapp who feels there was no hydrogen bubble. He contends "TMI was a completely artificial crisis induced by a threat that did not exist." He also states that the media and the NRC are to blame for blowing it out of proportion. His final comment in the book is really "the living end" in that he points up the complete ignorance of the American people by stating: "In attempting to influence national judgments, extremists have appealed to the emotions of the masses who are untutored in technology. Inevitably, this excursion will produce "street science" which is free from the rigorous discipline of the scientific process. Three Mile Island tells us just how primitive the nation is in its comprehension and communication of modern technology. We must set about filling this void of knowledge with solid information--not with shouts from the street."

After reviewing this material, it is extremely hard to believe that the purpose of the seminar, as stated by Warren F. Witzig, Professor of Nuclear Engineering at PSU, was to offer accurate data and thoughtful analysis concerning the TMI-2 accident.

#### Staff This Issue

Terry Roth, Editor  
Nancy Baumgardner  
Sue Eason  
Debbie Fetterman  
Jim Hummel  
Maggie Hummel  
Chris Sayer



# No Nukes Calendar

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1

Carlisle TMIA Meeting 7:30 For details call Sterling Meals, 243-4716  
Jonestown PTA, Joel Roth (TMIA) vs. Met-Ed representative. 7:30 PM.

TUESDAY, OCT. 2

TMIA Planning Council. Election of Steering Committee and other business. Friends Mtg. House. 7:30 PM. Debut of TMIA Teach-in panel.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 3

Grass Roots Fund Raising Workshop. Speaker, Joan Flanagan. \$15 fee includes Ms. Flanagan's book. All day in Philadelphia. Call Chris at the office for arrangements.

THURSDAY, OCT. 4

TMIA Health Committee. Friend's Meeting House. 7:30 PM.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

Occupation of Seabrook Nuclear Plant Site Begins. Call Boston Clamshell Coalition (617) 661-6204 for information.

TUESDAY, OCT. 9

1979 SANE PEACE AWARDS Dinner. Jane Fonda & Tom Hayden. Holiday Inn, City Line Avenue, Phila. Other speakers include Bill Lucy, Sec'y-Treas. AFSCME-AFL-CIO.

TUESDAY, OCT. 18

Mechanicsburg TMIA. St. Joseph's Church. 420 E. Simpson St., Mech. 7:30 PM.

SUNDAY, OCT. 21

Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power meeting. Lancaster Theological Seminary. 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

MONDAY, OCT. 22

Statewide Lobbying Day. Spons. by TMIA, Keystone Alliance, SVA and A.N.G.R.Y. Visit your legislators in the Capitol. For appointments, call TMIA office.

TUESDAY, OCT. 23

New Cumberland Energy Alliance. Chauncey Kepford, speaker. Call Al Mirando for details (774-7215).

SUNDAY, OCT. 28 & MONDAY, OCT. 29

New York: Stop Nuclear Investment/Fund Human Needs Rally: Sun., Oct. 28, 12:00, World Trade Center, New York City/ Shut Down the Exchange (on the 50th anniversary of the Crash): Non-violent civil disobedience, Monday, Oct. 29, Wall Street, NYC. (Must have C.D. training). For more info on both contact the Manhattan Project, Box 962, Seabrook, NH 03874 (603-436-5414) or 339 Lafayette St. NY, NY 10012 (212-475-4539)

Washington: Teach-in, religious service and non-violent civil disobedience, Dept. of Energy, Washington, D.C. For more info contact Mobilization for Survival, 3601 Locust Walk, Philadelphia 19104 (215) 386-4875.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Teach-in at H.A.C.C. on Nuclear Energy sponsored by the National Public Interest Research Group and TMIA. Possible speakers include Ralph Nader, Barry Commoner, Michael Harrington, Elizabeth Holtzman and others. For more info contact TMIA (233-7897).

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The Alert wishes to apologize for the delay in printing the September newsletter. We tried a new printing system and it didn't work. We're sorry about the meetings that didn't get announced in time and the short notice on the next deadline. This October issue has been put together quickly to get us back on track.

The deadline for the next issue is Tuesday, October 16th. Please submit all articles (please keep them SHORT), letters, poems, artwork and other anti-nuke memorabilia to The Alert, TMIA, 315 Peffer St., Harrisburg 17102 (233-7897). If you have questions, comments, curses, etc. or would like to work on the newsletter please call Terry Roth--236-9486 (day), 763-1835 (evening).

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TMIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

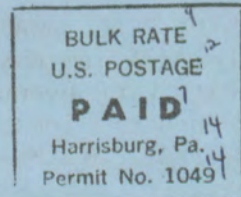
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## THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

Vol. 1 No. 6

Three Mile Island Alert

November, 1979

## Teach-In Slated

If you are tired of the treatment given Three Mile Island by such august educational institutions as Capitol Campus (Met-Ed's seminar for teachers) or Penn State and Hershey Medical Center (the Radiation & Health Conference, you can finally hear the other side on Saturday, November 10th.

On that day, TMIA and National Public Interest Research Groups (NPIRG) will sponsor a major teach-in on the question of nuclear power and future energy policy. Speakers and workshop leaders from around the country will be coming to Harrisburg Area Community College.

The conference, which has been endorsed by anti-nuclear organizations, labor unions and environmental groups throughout the country and locally, will begin at 10:00 A.M. Registration will start at 9:15. While pre-registration is not a necessity, it will be a help in planning the day's activities.

Among the nationally known speakers participating in the Harrisburg event will be Michael Harrington, author and chairman of DSOC, Dr. Robert J. Lifton, one of the nation's foremost specialists on mass trauma and stress and author of works on the people of Hiroshima, Richard Pollock, director of Critical Mass Energy Project, and Nancy Folbre, one of the authors of NO NUKES.

The day's events will be followed by a concert in HACC's Student Center. Music will be performed by Charlie King and BRIGHT MORNING STAR. The group, made up of anti-nuclear activists from New England, has recorded several albums and is currently touring the Mid-Atlantic states. King has written songs

such as "Acres of Clams." The concert will begin at 7:30 P.M.

The workshop topics and speakers are as follows:

HEALTH EFFECTS OF TMI - Speakers to be announced.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF TMI  
Dr. Robert J. Lifton, Yale University. Lifton is one of the foremost experts on the effects of catastrophic events on stress and trauma.

ORGANIZING AROUND NUCLEAR ISSUES - Peter Franchot, legislative counsel to the Union of Concerned Scientists and Betsy Taylor, director of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS).

THE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE - Dr. Peter Montague, Princeton University and one of the nation's experts on the proposed Waste Isolation Pilot Project (WIPP) in New Mexico; Marvin Resnikoff (tentative) co-director of Sierra Club Waste Project at West Valley, N.Y.

JOBS & ENERGY - Richard Grossman, co-author of the book JOBS, ENERGY & THE ECONOMY, and co-director of Environmentalists for Full Employment.

PUBLIC POWER - Jim Schmidt, People's Power Coalition (N.Y.) and former director of the National Center for Appropriate Technology (N.C.A.T.). Also there will be a representative from the American Public Power Association.

CONSERVATION - speaker to be announced.

DECOMMISSIONING & CLEAN-UP OF UNIT 2  
Marvin Resnikoff (tentative) and another speaker to be announced.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY - Jim Schmidt and others.

POLITICAL ACTION - Peter Franchot  
MUSIC - BRIGHT MORNING STAR



## Worker Exposure

On Wednesday, August 29th six TMI workers were exposed to high levels of radiation while repairing the packing on a leaking valve. Carl Abraham of the NRC initially said the workers received a maximum body dose of about one rem compared to federal limits of three rems per quarter year. "So that wasn't in excess of our limits," Abraham said.

Yet the workers suffered skin exposures of about 50 rems compared to federal limits of 7.5 rems per quarter and feet exposure of 40-150 rems, compared to federal limits of 18.75 rems per quarter.

It is safe to assume that the one rem total body dose was an arbitrary figure chosen so that the NRC could say the exposure was less than federal limits. The skin and feet exposures, however and unfortunately, tell it like it is. Abraham went on to say "...We do not expect any immediate symptoms of illness."

Two days later on September 1, 1979 Met Ed took advantage of the press to blatantly attempt to tone down the seriousness of the six workers' exposure. They reported that, "Three more workers were exposed to small amounts of radiation..., contaminated on their knees, washed it off and returned to work."

The follow-up A.P. article referred to here ironically closes with "the plant said in a prepared statement". Prepared indeed, to be intentionally deceptive.

## Met Ed Forum

Doubts that Met Ed prefers the cheapest and easiest way to rid itself of radioactive gases and contaminated water, which have been relentlessly building up since the March 28 TMI accident, were quickly erased for anyone who attended the "public forum" at the William Penn Museum on October 2.

Dick Boardman, associate deputy secretary for environmental protection of the Pa. Dept. of Environmental Resources, the convenor of the meeting, set the tone. He announced that it was to be a forum for "the exchange

of information on cleanup activities at TMI" and not an opportunity for speeches or debates on the future of nuclear power or on its safety or hazards. The "forum" included questions from the audience of approximately 150 people, but legislators and other officials were given first chance, followed by the media, with the public relegated to third place.

Panelists were: Robert C. Arnold, senior vice-president of Met Ed; Richard F. Wilson, director of TMI-II recovery for Met Ed; John Collins, deputy director of NRC's support operations at TMI; Tom Gerusky, director of the bureau of radiation protection, DER; and William Dornsife, nuclear engineer, DER.

Arnold indicated that, to his mind, the cleanup of Unit II could be completed in less than the four years previously judged to be a conservative estimate. (Ed.: Mr. Arnold appeared to forget that, nine days before, he was quoted in The New York Times as saying that "an additional two to four years (for the cleanup) is not too difficult to imagine" because of the past history of regulatory agency actions and court approaches.)

The company, hawking its usual bland sympathy soothing syrup, with the quiet acquiescence of the NRC, had nothing to say about the health hazards of tritium. Tritium would not be removed by the proposed experimental Epicor II water filtration system before the water would be dumped into the Susquehanna. There was no discussion of the dangers of krypton, which would be vented into the atmosphere over an extended period of weeks if the company succeeds in getting an NRC okay for the airborne release of the entrapped radioactive gases now bottled up in the containment building.

Unless additional storage facilities somehow are provided, or unless Met Ed gets NRC approval to begin processing and discharging the dangerous water,



the existing emergency storage facilities, by present estimates, will be exhausted by early November.

Leaks, which now cannot be plugged because of radiation hazard to repair crews, are adding more and more water (about 1,500 gallons daily) to the already dangerously high levels of pooled, contaminated water, estimated to exceed 1,000,000 gallons at present, according to recent reports.

It remained for environmentalist Barry Commoner, speaking four days later at Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, to "tell it like it is" about that water. Said Commoner "You've got an absolutely unprecedented dangerous situation upstream from you. You've got intensely radioactive water contained in a concrete shell that was never designed to hold that water. Nobody's got the foggiest idea how to get it out and what the dangers are."

Despite assurances that all officials in four surrounding counties had been invited to attend, only a handful of such officials apparently came to the forum. Most who did attend in official capacities chose to remain silent when time for questions arrived. (Ed.: Do they, or their civil defense personnel, know that Mr. Gerusky several weeks earlier said that there would be advance warning of only the first venting of radioactive gases--if that method is okayed--and that subsequent releases would go unannounced?)

Various members of the public, when they finally were allowed to speak, questioned why the forum had been scheduled during working hours, (9 to 11 a.m.), thus preventing persons who otherwise might have attended from doing so.

Boardman indicated that future meetings on related subjects would be held if persons desired that this be done. Mr. Boardman's phone number is 717-787-4686.

## More Miseducation

Two publications on nuclear power plant incidents will be released shortly. The first is a 14-page booklet prepared by the Pa. Emergency Management Agency for distribution to residents within a 10-mile radius of the Commonwealth's nuclear facilities.

In the pamphlet's introduction, Lt. Governor Scranton, chairman of Pa. Emergency Management, states two reasons for the release of the booklet (1) The public is not as well informed about nuclear power and the nature of radiation as it is about other dangers such as floods or tornadoes; (2) The public living near nuclear power plants needs to know that there are protective measures available to ensure their safety if an incident occurs.

The initial distribution of 265,000 copies will be through the electric utilities with nuclear powered generating plants as an insert with the monthly utility bills to residents within a 10-mile radius of these facilities. Met Ed will be distributing the booklet to all of its 300,000 customers and additional copies will be made available at the TMI Observation Center.

The booklets are being provided free of charge to the utilities (most likely at taxpayer expense) for the ten-mile radius population. Met Ed is printing the additional copies for their total customer population.

The second publication is a booklet to be distributed to all school children in the state of Pa. It will actually be 3 booklets geared to different reading and age levels. It is a joint venture by Pa. Emergency Management and the Department of Education. This booklet is presently ready for printing; however, final approval of the content and funds for the printing costs have not been received.

As these publications are released, future editions of The Alert will carry reviews of their contents.



Many of us have been following the continuing saga of Epicor II. The NRC ordered use of Epicor to decontaminate (loosely speaking) TMI waste water. Susquehanna Valley Alliance went to federal court to prevent this action. On Thursday, October 18, the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals refused to issue a temporary restraining order which would have stopped Met Ed. Met Ed has, however, given repeated assurances that none of the water "treated" by Epicor will be discharged into the Susquehanna. Do you believe them?

As we go to press with this ALERT, Met Ed has done it again. Another bubble. Epicor began operation on October 22 and shut down that same day because of an air blockage in one of the pipes. The water didn't make it through. As Chauncey Kepford said in a speech to the New Cumberland Safe Energy Group, "Met Ed has managed to design a system to thoroughly destroy 2000 years of knowledge on how to get water through pipes."

## NRC Obstructs

The NRC recently announced its plans to begin limiting the number of free copies it issues of its orders, decisions, etc. What they plan to do is make 200 free copies available in the Public Documents Room in Washington, DC on a first-come basis. Of course the industry will be waiting to pick up those 200 copies and citizen groups will be forced to pay copying charges if they want copies. This is a blatant attempt by the NRC to cut off the information flow to the public.

The NRC has also begun denying requests by intervenors for publications necessary for them to present their cases. In the past such documents have been distributed freely upon request, but in the Berwick intervention the NRC staff lawyer, Mr. Cutchins, has

indicated that if ECNP wants these they can come to Washington and get copies at 10¢ a page. This would, of course, financially prohibit intervenors from obtaining access to this information.

### WRITE YOUR LEGISLATORS!!!

Send letters to Senators Heinz and Schweiker and your US Representative. A copy should also be sent to Rep. Allen Ertel as he has shown a willingness to criticize the NRC. Tell these legislators of the NRC's attempts to promote nuclear energy by limiting opposition to the licenses. Specifically mention the above points and recommend that they contact Dr. Judith Johnsrud or Dr. Chauncey Kepford at 433 Orlando Drive, State College, PA 16801 (814-237-3900) for more detailed information on the treatment they have received as intervenors on behalf of ECNP. (Reprinted from the Susquehanna Alliance Newsletter).

The Alert wishes to thank all of the people who called and offered help and suggestions when our circuits overloaded including Mary Hartnett and the office staff. Also the following folks helped with the October issue and weren't given credit: Gary and Nancy Heuer, Suzanne Magda, David Wilderman, and Nancy Williams.

The deadline for the next issue is November 19. This will be a combined December/January issue. Keep those articles, art works, letters, kindnesses and coronets coming.

### Staff This Issue

Terry Roth, Editor  
Nancy Baumgardner  
Beth Brown  
Betty Brown  
Sue Eason  
Debbie Fetterman  
Doug Grier (Graphics)  
Eleanor Grubb  
Jim Hummel  
Maggie Hummel  
Sue Shetrom  
Nancy Williams



## Communities Organizing

The AC Group (AC stands for Apple Core, Adams County, or alternating current). We were legally challenged for infringing on the established name of a local band (The Apple Core Band - in case anyone is interested in hiring musicians hostile to the anti-nuclear movement), so we backed off and will henceforth simply be the AC Group.

Two members retreated from responsibilities within the group due to other mounting pressure: Mac Albright will continue as delegate to TMIA Planning Council and member of TMIA Steering Committee with Wayne James succeeding him as chairman of the AC Group. Elyse Clark continues as alternate to Planning Council and assumes the duties of secretary/treasurer from Carolyn Nunamaker who is pursuing administrative certification credentials while teaching.

The AC Group collected \$74.90 while spending four days on two weekends at the Apple Harvest Festival near Arendtsville. The sponsoring group, the Upper Adams Jaycees, permitted an outside table and display free if members paid their way in. Many good contacts were made a large number of hand-outs were distributed.

The Hershey Area Alliance Against Nuclear Power has been working for the past several weeks actively soliciting the opinions of the residents of Derry Township on the issue of nuclear power, and Three Mile Island in particular. In a three-week petition drive and a survey published in the Hummelstown Sun, residents overwhelmingly responded against the reopening of TMI, contrary to a proposal recently passed by Derry Township Commissioners.

The Alliance received 2,700 signatures to a petition supporting legislation in the State House that asked that TMI be closed forever as a nuclear operating station, 2,123 from township residents and 559 from non-residents. This petition campaign was in response to the passage of a resolution by the Derry Township Commissioners on August 27 asking that Unit #1 immediately be reopened and Unit #2 reopen after the investigations on the accident are completed.

Members of the Alliance had hoped

to present these signed petitions to the Township Commissioners at their next meeting on October 22, in conjunction with the statewide anti-nuke lobbying day. The feeling of the group was that the Township proposal did not at all represent the views of the residents and, based on the results of their petition drive, they hoped the Commissioners would reconsider their decision.

In a surprise vote, however, at their Monday workshop meeting, the commissioners' postponed permission for the group to appear until November 5. This postponement resulted from the opposition by Commissioner Richard Wright. Mr. Wright, the sponsor of the Township's proposal, felt that the Commissioners had made their decision and no further discussion on the matter was necessary. When other members overruled his objection, Mr. Wright then notified members that he would not be available for the October 22 meeting and requested that they delay any action until he could be present. It was then decided that the group will meet with the Commissioners on November 5.

The 227 Hershey area residents who responded to HAA's poll in local newspaper, the Hummelstown Sun, overwhelmingly opposed reopening TMI as a nuclear generating station and continued reliance on nuclear power as an energy source.

The poll shows that 70 percent of those questioned were for converting TMI to a non-nuclear power station. Another 17% supported nuclear power on the island only if there are improved safeguards developed and tested, and 7% didn't want TMI reopened at all.

Nearly 90% of those polled questioned the safety of nuclear power, 72% doubted that it could be made a safe energy source, 75% opposed continued use and research of nuclear power and 70% endorsed a moratorium on building and operating power plants. 71% doubted that their health and safety are of primary concern to those officials.

Unbelievably, 4% of those polled said they favored continued release of



radioactive materials into the environment. Looks like Met-Ed sent in a few copies themselves!

On October 5th and 6th the Lebanon Valley Alliance set up a booth during the Center of Lebanon Octoberfest celebration. We made almost \$100 selling coffee, not cider, home-made soup, baked goods, shirts, buttons, hats and bumper stickers. We were able to talk to people and get some information sheets to them. On Oct. 14 we set up at a local Flea Market to sell usable donations. With our profits we will get more information to the public through doortags and/or a newspaper ad.

Our next meeting is on Oct. 23. If you have an interested friend in the Leganon area have her/him call Maggie Hummel at 865-6232. No Nukes is Good Nukes.

How Often have you heard remarks like these? "They should close that thing down." "Y ou can't fight big government." "They are all liars." "You can't believe what Med-Ed officials say."

Comments, such as the above, extend from the anger and frustration of thinking that nothing can be done about the TMI nuclear accident to worry and fear for the health and safety of their families, damage to environment, and so on.

Concerned Citizens of Londonderry (C.C.L.) do more than just talk and worry. They meet regularly at the Londonderry Township Building, Geyers Church Road, Middletown, every other Thursday evening at 7 P.M. The next meeting is Thursday, October 18. We hope that all those who are angry because of TMI will attend our meeting or join the TMIA group nearest to you.

We invited our township supervisors, running for election this November to come and speak to our group. Mr. Allen Caldwell, is the only candidate who has attended our meeting so far. He said he supported our resolution concerning TMI, as the present supervisors have done. But he added further that he would be willing to have a referendum on the issue. We are still seeking candidates for supervisors to run on the anti-nuclear platform. Two new supervisors will be elected in November. We want them to be on our side

Our group has officially written letters to President Carter, Allen Ertel, George Gekas, Commissioner Gilinsky, and the President's Commission on the Nuclear Accident at TMI.

We faithfully pass out leaflets at the TMI Observation Site on the second Saturday of each month. Because there are a lot of people visiting this site, our group feels this task is very important. Are you doing your fair share?

Our group project is a Workshop on Uranium Mining and Milling to be held November 10 at Harrisburg Area Community College. We would appreciate the support of all TMIA groups, and other concerned people.

It is surprising how much one small dedicated group can do. We know we have accomplished a lot, but we still have a long way to go to make sure that the TMI nuclear power plant is closed down, and never reopened. We know we have to work for those who can not and/or will not take action, in spite of their objection to TMI. But we do know we have their support. Maybe that's why we work so hard. We feel we have the "silent (and angry) majority" behind us. Contact Mary Tritch, Member C.C.L.



Members of the Swatara Township/ Steelton Community Group went before the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners and Steelton Borough Council on October 10 and October 15 respectively to urge the governing bodies to adopt the anti-TMI resolutions presented in September.

The Commissioners expressed concern that our group did not represent the opinion of a majority of the Swatara Township residents. After lengthy debate, it was unanimously approved by the Commissioners that



a questionnaire would be sent to all residents of the township 18 or older. It will contain 3 questions-- (1) I support the permanent closing of TMI Reactors 1 & 2; (2) I support the reopening of TMI as a non-nuclear facility; (3) I support the reopening of TMI as a nuclear facility when improved and tested nuclear safeguards are developed.

After questioning by group members on the status of the resolution, Steelton Borough Council took no action. They are "investigating" both sides of the issue. Several council members had visited TMI during the previous week.

Police reported that James Haber, 48 year old security guard at Shoreham nuclear power plant, New York, was taken into custody when found swimming nude in Long Island Sound just offshore the facility. When on duty at the Long Island Lighting Co., Haber decided to take an "apparently irrational" swim.

Under U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations, all security guards must undergo extensive psychological analyses before being hired. Haber will be undergoing psychiatric evaluation again after being treated for exposure.

## TMIA at Work

What do the office staff people of TMIA really do? To answer that question, the Alert interviewed Louise Bradford in her palatial office at 315 Peffer Street. We would have presented this story in an interview format, but Kiowa (about whom more later) stuck his hot dog in the tape recorder.

The Three Mile Island Alert office regulars are Chris Sayer, Louise Bradford, and Kay Pickering, with a number of other semi-regular familiar faces. The aforementioned Kiowa is Chris' dog, who adds a touch of class to the operation when he isn't offending someone with his aforementioned hot dog. Of the three, Chris is the only full-time paid staff person; Kay and

Louise are both volunteers for TMIA.

We asked Louise what a day in the office is like. Our question was interrupted by a phone call which she said should answer the question. If the papers are carrying a big TMI-related story, or if a major event is being planned, about 85% of the work day is spent on the phone. These calls come in cycles. Shortly after the accident, many calls were from people who "needed to know that somebody was doing something and/or wanted to talk about their problems." "One woman called me and cried," Louise recalled. "She was afraid to stay in the area--afraid for herself and her children." These calls slacked off for awhile, but seem to be starting up again now. Other calls, from local individuals and from those as far away as Germany, are to share or solicit information. Many calls are from the press. TMIA also gets lots of calls for TMI, because their number is unlisted. "We're Met Ed's answering service," said Louise and she was quick to point out that she takes full advantage of these opportunities.

Aside from answering phones and talking to those who walk through the door, the office staff performs other functions as well. There are regular requests for speakers and people who need very specific information. These must be referred to the appropriate authorities. Flyers must be prepared and masses of information reproduced and distributed. Rallies and teach-ins like the one planned for November 10 are incredibly time-consuming.

"We've been working together enough that we're starting to be more comfortable with one another and we're starting to get organized," observed Louise. She cited several examples of the new organizational effort including a speakers notebook, a time-line for what needs to



be done before November 10, and logs of telephone calls. The latter is an attempt to deal with the "information bottleneck." Sometimes someone will call with information which may seem trivial at the time. That information may become critical later, but it was never shared or recorded. The phone logs will enable people to share information.

Louise is quick to point out problems. Often people come in to the office just to talk or to offer help, and the staff, swamped with other work, ignores them. "We don't want to hurt people's feelings," she said, "but sometimes you have to be really aggressive to get our attention." Another problem is the inability to recruit people and keep them interested. When special projects come up, new people are drawn in and there's a lot of activity in the office, but after the event the people don't come back. According to Louise, "Something is missing here."

Probably the biggest problem that Louise, spilling coffee on her overcrowded desk, pointed out is the office itself. "I definitely think TMIA should be moved out of this building. I think the office should be a place where members feel free and that's not happening." The lack of space is a serious problem. Volunteers are not utilized

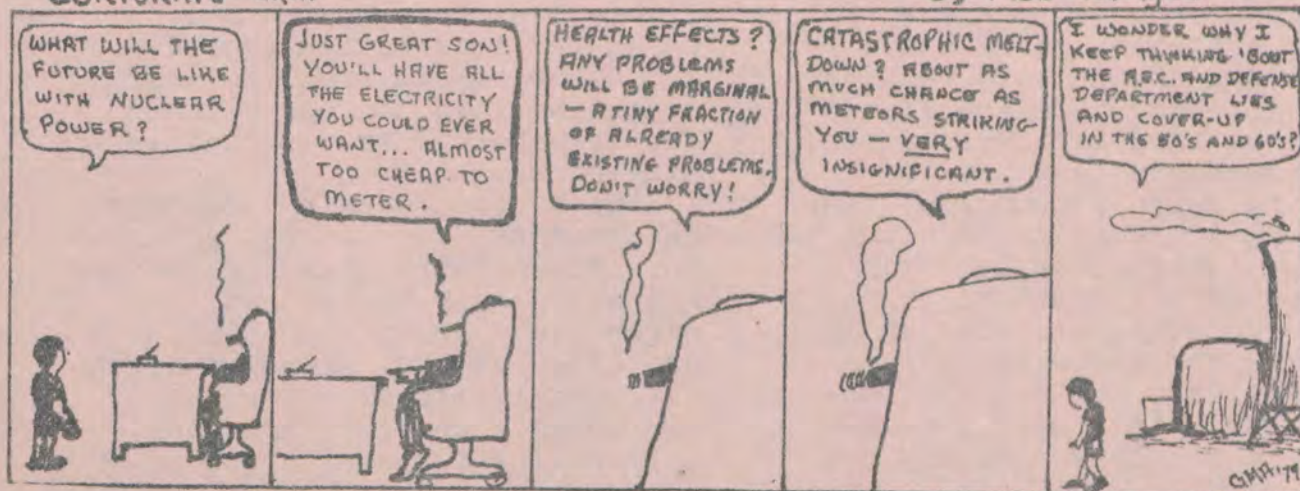
for many activities where they could be really helpful, because there is no room. Similarly there's no room for filing and displaying information. It would be really great to have a library or reading room where materials could be shared and circulated. Some people are so turned off by the clutter that they never come back for a second visit.

TMIA has always been housed in the Center for Peace and Justice. It was originally a project of the Center until last year when separate officers and a board of directors were elected. Before the accident TMIA received 3 or 4 calls per month. Now that we are a large organization in our own right we pay rent to the Peace Center which is used to maintain and heat the building and to cover our phone calls (Ed. note: At the direction of the Planning Council and the Steering Committee, Chris is searching for a larger and more suitable space to house TMIA.)

If this account does not answer your questions about what goes on in the office, we have a suggestion. Spend a few hours there yourself--wrestle with someone over who should answer the phone, try to find a message written on a matchbook cover, sell a few t-shirts, talk to a frightened pregnant woman. That's the only way to really get the flavor.

## CORPORATE CRAP

by Mac Albricht





## Letters to the Ed.

Editor:

In the October newsletter, there was an excellent review of the materials distributed at the Radiation and TMI Seminar sponsored by Penn State's Nuclear Engineering Dept. As a participating teacher, I had hoped to increase my understanding of nuclear energy. Instead, we were given biased information and nonsense. For example, Dr. Hoyt Whipple, Professor of Radiological Health, University of Michigan, explained that a large consumption of radiation in a short period of time will be harmful to your health, but that this is also true of ice cream (after we shut down TMI, I suppose we should shut down Sealtest). And Herman Dieckamp, President, General Public Utilities, said one of the "learnings" to come out of the accident is that more must be done to prepare the operators to handle such accidents when they occur, rather than placing all the emphasis on preventing nuclear accidents.

That last statement did absolutely nothing to relieve my fears or restore my confidence. And although most of the teachers I spoke with were not impressed with this blatant propaganda, I'm sure some will make use of the materials and programs offered. Therefore, I urge you to begin or continue efforts to get anti-nuclear books and programs into the schools.

Susan Shetrom

Dear Editor:

I am writing in regard to misinformation reported on page 3, second paragraph from the top, right-hand column. The paragraph reads:

"Immediately after the accident, some mental health professionals from Holy Spirit Hospital approached area school districts and offered to come to talk and to help allay fears. In many cases, they were turned

away. The schools did not want to mention TMI and scare the kids further."

The information I reported at HACC on June 12 was that the school administrators were very cooperative. However, one district refused because of a problem created years past with a school bus accident. It did not relate to our survey per se.

Thank you.

Herbert L. Bomberger,  
ACSW

Coordinator of Children's  
& Geriatrics Services  
Holy Spirit Hospital  
Community Mental Health  
Center

For all of you who a) Don't go to meetings; b) Fall asleep at meetings; c) Don't talk at meetings: The Alert would like to run a column of your ideas. We'll call it Suggestion Box and you can send us your suggestions/comments/criticisms on what TMIA should be doing.

## Health Effects

Shortly after his resignation (firing?), Secretary of Health Gordon MacLeod mentioned that his approach to TMI was one of the grounds on which he and Governor Thornburgh differed. It should be recalled that approximately a month ago, MacLeod requested half million dollars for additional follow-up health studies on the TMI accident. What questions might have been asked? Form your own conclusions.

\*\*\*\*\*  
It is increasingly important that the TMIA Health Questionnaire receive greater circulation. Have you filled one out? Have you asked neighbors, friends, offices, businesses and churches, especially those in the vicinity of TMI to do so? Do it today. This is our chance to gather information on the specific questions that the other agencies and institutions are not asking. Contact the Health Committee (at TMIA OFFICE 233-3072) for additional information or copies.



## Acres of Songs

When Pete Seeger was in town  
he sang Acres of Clams. We're  
reprinting some of the verses  
below along with some new  
verses composed by Andrea  
Knopf of the Lebanon Valley  
Alliance.

I've lived all my life in this  
country  
I love every flower and tree  
I expect to live til I'm ninty  
It's the nukes that must go and  
not me

It's the nukes that must go and  
not me  
It's the nukes that must go and  
not me  
I expect to live til I'm ninty  
It's the nukes that must go and  
not me

I swallowed enough radiation  
It's time I was standing my  
ground  
So I'm joining that great  
occupation  
We're shutting that power plant  
down

(Chorus)

We're seizing that land with a  
vision  
Exposing the NRC's shams  
As I sing of my happy condition  
Surrounded by acres of clams

(Chorus)

Met Ed says the water is safe now,  
We can't help but disagree.  
If the water's so safe let them  
drink it,  
I won't have it getting in me!  
They'll be venting the gasses in  
our air,  
By wind to be blown near and far;  
Remember that our air is your air,  
It's deadly where ever you are!

Utilities kill us for profits,  
We're expendable why do we fuss,  
When you're dying of cancer  
they'll tell you  
Just try and prove it was us!

We're helpless until we're united,  
Or else they'll go on recklessly,  
Polluting our air, land and water  
With help from the damned NRC!

GPU takes all our money  
To get Congress in D.C. to say  
If something goes wrong and it  
melts down  
They're not liable and don't  
have to pay!

A recent NRC document shows clearly  
how some people in the nuclear indus-  
try fix their highly technical equip-  
ment.

Following a recent accident at  
the North Anna power plant in Virginia,  
the NRC announced that it was examining  
operating records that showed that an  
unnamed reactor operator had "used a  
pencil and paper clip to defeat a  
spring-operated switch, located in  
the control room, on the Volume  
Control Tank automatic level control  
system."

According to the NRC, the opera-  
tor's action prevented the automatic  
system from diverting reactor coolant  
to boron recovery tanks, resulting  
in overfilling of the VCT and the  
relutant lifitng of a relief valve.  
About 7.5 curies of radioactive gas,  
mostly xenon, was released.

## Ed Panel

The TMIA Educational Panel made their  
first public presentation, Tues, October  
16th at the Hershey Medical Center. The  
four member panel addressed the Med.  
Center Wives Association on the following  
topics: Nuke Wastes, the History of  
Nuclear Power in Pennsylvania, Nuclear  
Economics and Alternative Energy. Mem-  
bers of the panel are Bill Sheff, M.D.,  
Carl Oblinger, PhD; John Murdoch, and  
Andrea Chesman. Biographies of these  
TMIA members are available. We've al-  
ready had a number of requests for the  
presentation. If you would like to see  
the panel or arrange to have them speak  
to a group, please call Louise Bradford  
at 233-3072. The group will do their  
presentation only one night in any week.

This group and groups like it are  
very important in light of the nuclear  
industry's increasing efforts at counter  
education.



## Churches Resolve

In a recent action, the Central Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church issued a strong resolution against the continued use of nuclear power. The resolution, which was adopted June 15, called for: separation of the promotional and regulatory functions of the NRC; on-site monitoring of all nuclear plants; declassification of all information about previous nuclear accidents; full disclosure regarding the problems of waste disposal, mounting costs and health hazards; a moratorium of all plants now in service and phasing out of existing plants as quickly as possible. Finally, the resolution called for all citizens to reduce energy consumption and urged the government to provide necessary and sufficient support for full-scale research of alternate energy sources.

In a similar action, the Central Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America adopted a resolution on June 9 which also called for a moratorium on construction and phasing out of all presently-operating plants as alternate energy sources become available.

## Windmill Revisited

In a previous issue the ALERT reported the case of Pat McLaughlin's attempt to erect a wind generator, and the subsequent refusal by the Mechanicsburg Borough Council. The Borough Council's official explanation is an ordinance stating that no more than 30% of a lot may be covered by an erected structure. The addition of the windmill would have increased covered lot space to 36%. McLaughlin had considered appealing Council's ruling, but has since decided not to pursue the matter any further for financial reasons. So as it

stands now, the only windmill in Pat's yard will be a miniature replica they purchased after the hearing.

Although this may seem like a defeat for alternative energies, we must remember that not all renewable energy sources are suitable everywhere. Today you can't put solar panels up anywhere and expect performance equal to conventional energy sources. The same is true for wind generators. Small, individual power sources are not self-sufficient, and 100% reliable. We can make the changeover to renewable sources of power, but we must do so with prescience and intelligence. If we attempt to do this blindly, we may do more harm than good.



## Editorial: Nuke Politics

Thornburgh's recent remarks concerning nuclear power to the General Assembly and the recent report of the Kemeny Commission's findings cause me to worry about political trends regarding nuclear power.

We should expect President Carter, who is aware that nuclear power is an explosive (pardon the pun) political issue, to grab onto the Kemeny report and make a grandstand gesture toward tighter regulation of the nuclear power industry. He will shake up the NRC as well, to prove that he's as much against the Washington bureaucracy as we are.

Thornburgh, who already stated that he would wait until all the studies are completed before he makes up his mind, will probably issue another equivocal statement about nuclear power's "burden of proof." We must be prepared for the possibility that he, like Carter, will



leap upon the Kemeny Report as a safe "out" and advocate for tightening of regulations and more stringent training of operators.

The establishment new media, who characterize us as "anti-nuclear activists and protestors" (a label which equates us, to most people, with the anti-war movement and thus with a relatively narrow base of support) will probably agree with this position and will say that the Kemeny Commission is right. They will applaud the "shocking" findings about laxity in control of facilities, which are certainly not revelations, and will express mild surprise, like Jack Anderson, about the repudiation of any long-term health hazards. After all, no one likes to be pessimistic. But the media can be expected to give their tacit endorsement of the report because it represents an easy answer. And it does, for the short term.

What we must make abundantly clear to our elected public officials is that we cannot settle for short term solutions to long-term problems. We have had enough band-aid energy policy in this country. Now is the ideal time to make our position clear. Politicians are most vulnerable to their constituents at election time. Tell your elected leaders that we want TMI and all other plants closed forever. Tell them if they do not agree they do not deserve to represent us in government. Make your point at the voting booth. Your franchise is your greatest power. USE IT.

BY SUE EASON

## Thornburgh Doublespeak

In his address to the state legislature on October 2, Gov. Dick Thornburgh kicked sand in the face of the nuclear power industry once again. However, he proved he really is a 98-pound weakling as he told the audience, "The expansion of nuclear power in Pennsylvania may well be necessary for the economic well-being of our people. Yet, the expulsion of nuclear power may well be essential to our very survival."

Thornburgh made strong statements about seeking alternative energy sources for the 1980's. He called upon Pennsylvania's leadership to begin planning for energy programs which are "... safe, efficient and dependable as the rising of the morning sun. It's very clear that if there are safer ways than nuclear power to meet our energy needs in Pennsylvania, we should be preparing to do just that. We can't afford to wait for a verdict on Three Mile Island that may be no more enlightening than that first rush of news reports when the accident occurred."

This statement to the contrary, the text of the Governor's proposals was characteristically cautionary and conservative when it stated that no position would be taken on nuclear power and its future in this state until the General Assembly, the Kemeny Commission and the other myriad task forces and study groups have completed their evaluations of the accident and its implications. As an intermediate step, he recommended the development of a Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority to examine and plan for the use of alternative energy resources.

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Wanna be on TV? WGAL-TV broadcasts 30 and 60 second opinion messages. Here is a chance to get anti-nuke statements broadcast to a large audience. To receive a copy of the Opinion Message Guidelines call WGAL at 236-5549. The phone number is local for Harrisburg area residents, but if you're chosen, you'll have to go to Lancaster for the taping of the message.

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The Legal Task Force has retained the services of a law firm (Mark Widoff, Esquire) to represent TMIA in the intervention of the NRC hearings. To write the intervention cost approximately \$500 in legal fees with another \$4,000 needed as a retainer. A total of \$3,000 is going to be needed for these legal services and fast. Please, think of your priorities, reach into your pocket and contribute. Stay tuned for future fund raisers to help the cause.



## ACLU Alert

"The most critical alert the ACLU has issued in your lifetime" recently called for "tough, principled stands" on the civil rights aspects of the nuclear power issues.

"Unless you and I act immediately to hold the government accountable in its headlong rush to satisfy the insatiable desire for energy we might find our system of freedom and individual liberty destroyed or altered in the name of energy expediency," the letter to ACLU members stated.

ACLU Executive Director Ira Glasser, author of the alert, asserted that the civil rights of all levels and by utility companies. Glasser cited the Eisenhower administration's suppression of the health hazards which were experienced by Army personnel during test bomb activities in Nevada and Utah. He claims our due process rights are violated in the licensing of unsafe nuclear power and increasing proof that opponents of nuclear power are illegally surveilled by government and nuclear power company agents.



At last, something for the kids. There is a large (11" x 18") children's coloring book entitled "What Kind of Plant Is This?" now available. The book teaches young children about the basic danger of nuclear radiation. It's published by Women Concerned About Nuclear Power Plants, 4108 Meadow Hill Lane, Fairfax, VA 22030 and it costs \$1.00. A sample copy has been ordered for the office and bulk orders may follow if it looks like something we want. Check the office for the copy or copies.

During the first few months of our effort, books were donated or bought by TMIA staffpersons so that a reference library would be available to our members and to those who need the information.

But now the shelves are nearly bare. Please check your shelves and see if the books have moved to your house. If they have, bring them back so others can share the knowledge. November is amnesty month--no fines levied or wrists slapped.

## Commoner Speaks

"TMI is the present best example of problems being reduced to reality and the problems must be solved by the people." "People here must let people around the country know of the still unsolved problems at TMI", so said Barry Commoner speaking at Franklin & Marshall College on October 6. Commoner is a professor of Environmental Science and world renowned expert on the same. Among his many books are The Closing Circle, The Poverty of Power and The Politics of Energy.

The task of boiling water to make electricity does not warrant use of a radioactive fuel source. While coal-fueled plants have had accidents there have been none in which the President of the United States has had to visit in order to reassure the people and put on plastic shoes. He suggested that it would be good if Carter were to visit now and answer questions.

The best and most convincing anti-nuclear argument for now could be that this area is in an "unprecedentedly dangerous situation" and that procedures of decontamination are being shortchanged to the goal of starting up the reactor. Nothing should stand in the way of safety procedures and safety requires that Units 1 and 2 be closed down permanently.

It is simply not true that nuclear power is necessary. The excess capacity in the U.S. power system is equal now to our nuclear capacity. All but two nuclear



power plants in eastern Pennsylvania could be turned off without loss of power to the people. Small low-powered hydro could be used. Decentralized power production as used in industry should be encouraged. It is 90% efficient.

Transition to renewable energy sources is imperative. The people who have suffered most from faulty political decisions on energy-- the poor and victims of TMI, should be the first considered in a national solar plan. The Susquehanna Valley area should be the pilot area for going solar since the unwilling victims of a national nuclear policy failure live here.

Agriculture should be reorganized through the use of alcohol to power

generators. Carbon could be removed from manure to convert it to methane with which to run the generators thus making farmers independent of utilities.

Commoner believes that the people affected should be given the option of deciding on nuclear energy; that the majority of persons on investigation commissions should be local since it is a local problem and difficult to deal with on a national world level. "Why is not a Lancaster farmer on the Kemeny Commission?" asked Commoner.

Since Barry Commoner believes that politics will not work for the national interest he is forming a National Citizens Party to deal with vital issues. We will be hearing more about this in 1980.





# No Nukes Calendar

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Susquehanna Twp./Uptown Hbg. Community Group, Robert Arnold of Met Ed on "Cleanup of Unit II & Epicor System", 7:30, Herbert Hoover Elementary School, Questions & Answers Afterward

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Human Rights Workshop II, Panel on The Moral & Ethical Implications of Energy, Mark Widoff & William Millard, St. Theresa School, New Cumberland, Registration starts at 9:00 a.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

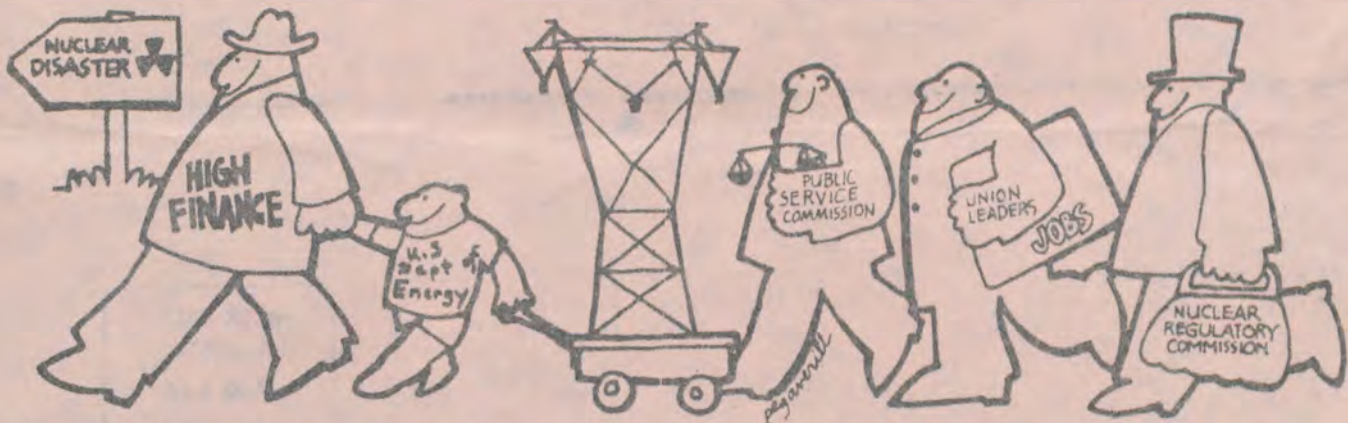
Atomic Safety & Licensing Board Hearings on Restart of TMI-1, 9:00 a.m., The Forum, Education Bldg., Hbg.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Teach-Inn, See article first page

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Hearings on Restart of TMI-1 1:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m., Hershey Little Theatre, Hershey Community Center Bldg., 14 E. Chocolate Ave., Hershey Public limited appearance statements



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Meeting of the March 28th Coalition to begin to plan actions for the weekend of March 28, 1980 to commemorate the accident at TMI 7:30, Friends Meeting House

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Hershey Area Alliance presents petitions to Derry Twp. Supervisors, Supervisors Bldg., Hockersville Rd., Hershey, 7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Capital Area Council for Social Studies, Panel discussion "Coping with the TMI Crisis: Citizen Responsibility, Joyce Freeman, Lt. Governor's Office; Kevin Molloy, Dauphin Cty. Emergency Preparedness; Robert Reid, Middletown mayor; Kay Pickering, TMIA; Ann Truck, Kemeny Commission

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Atomic Safety & Licensing Board Hearings, 1:00 p.m., Hershey Little Theatre, Public limited appearance statements

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Atomic Safety & Licensing Board Hearings, 9:00 a.m., Forum, Education Bldg., Hbg., Public limited appearance statements

MONDAY, NOV. 26 to THURSDAY, NOV. 29

NBC Film on Nuclear Wastes  
Nov. 26--Carlisle  
Nov. 27--New Cumberland  
Nov. 28--Dillsburg  
Nov. 29--Mechanicsburg  
Times and places to be announced.  
Check TMIA office for details



TMIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Check Type Membership Desired

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☐ 25 non-profit organization  
☐ 50 sustaining member  
☐ 100 patron  
☐ 200 club member  
☐ \$5.00 non-member newsletter subscription

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# ALERT

Vol. 1, No. 7

Three Mile Island Alert

Dec. -Jan., 1979

## Krypton Release Threatened

Ever have a recurring dream where an omnipotent force is trying its darndest to subject you to something you know is bad? The dream came true again for many of us on Nov. 14th when Senior Vice President, Bob C. Arnold, Met Ed's head of the recovery effort, testified before the State's Dept. of Environmental Resources. He tried to convince them, and us, that venting of the two million plus cubic feet of Krypton 85 gas is somehow safer than storing it by one of three technologically feasible means: compressed and stored in tanks; cooled to about 300° below zero, liquified and stored at low temperatures; or absorbed by charcoal filters.

Arnold neglected to mention that when Krypton 85 is present, so is Krypton 89 ( $\frac{1}{2}$  life, 10.4 yrs.) which decays into Strontium ( $\frac{1}{2}$  life, 29 yrs.). Arnold also decided to ignore a study done for Met Ed by Bechtel Power Corp. which stated the maximum offsite projected dose by venting would be 14 millirems gamma and 14.8 millirems beta. The debatable, to say the least, NRC "safe limits" per year are 20 millirems beta and 10 millirems gamma. Bechtel's estimate exceeds NRC's standards by 4 millirems for gamma. Perhaps this is why Arnold chose his estimates of five millirems beta and one tenth of a millirem gamma. (If you see him ask him where he dreams up these numbers.)

We're then asked to swallow

some shallow excuses for venting as opposed to storage such as (1) storage of the compressed or liquified gas might result in leaks which would allow exposures of 100-4,00 millirems beta and 1-50 millirems gamma or; (2) because of the length of time required--up to three years--to construct processing equipment to contain the deadly gases, the gas might leak resulting in 20-80 millirems beta and less than 1 millirem gamma.

I ask you, or better yet, you ask Arnold if you call him or see him sometime, how leaking krypton crap adds up to larger exposures than controlled releases of krypton crap. Even with the wind blowing, the krypton's still there.

Of course we were assured by Arnold that we would be notified in case we would want to leave when the venting began. Just carry a weather vane and go the opposite direction of the prevailing winds or crawl into a hole for the estimated two-three months and then don't come out for years. Arnold said, "As a practical matter, however, it would be difficult unless a person intends to leave for two or three months." At least we know Arnold has a practical side.

Arnold definitively and arrogantly said, "We have concluded that the best thing to do, from the viewpoint of

DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE: JANUARY 14

CONT.



protecting the public health and safety is to purge the containment in a controlled (Met Ed controlled? Ed's note) manner under specified meteorological conditions...We expect to receive authorization by the end of this year or early next year."

For the second time in a few months' time, Met Ed has attempted to flagrantly deceive the public into believing its gaseous lie. We know that they do what they do because it's the easiest and cheapest way for them. I say to Met Ed take your chromosome destructive gas and stuff it--into cooled cans or charcoal filters--but stuff it.

by Mike Klingner

## PUC: Political Choices

On November 13, 1979 the Pennsylvania Senate approved all three of Governor Thornburgh's nominees to fill 3 empty slots on the Public Utility Commission. The approval has been widely reported to be the result of a deal between Senate Democrats and Thornburgh which Sen. Edward M. Early described as playing "political hard ball." The three are Linda C. Taliaferro, James H. Cawley and Susan Shanaman. Taliaferro, who ran into the most difficulty, but eventually confirmed by a 38-11 vote, is currently employed as an attorney in the advanced energy division of Westinghouse Corp, a company that builds nuclear reactors. After she was confirmed she said that her knowledge of the nuclear industry would be an asset to the Commission and pressed for her personal feelings she added, "I'm not personally afraid of nuclear power."

Residents of Pa. may, however, have reasons to be afraid of Ms. Taliaferro. She was the only one of the three nominated to a full 10-year term. Furthermore, the Philadelphia Bulletin reports that W. Wilson Goode, current chairman of the PUC is being

considered for a high level post in Philadelphia government. If Goode resigns from the PUC, Thornburgh could name any of the members as chairman. The Bulletin claims that the most likely candidate is Taliaferro.

## PP&L Stock

TMIA members and friends served (?) by PP&L may be interested to learn their favorite utility issued \$45,000,000 in stock to pay off debts incurred in construction and nuclear fuel expenses on the Berwick twin 1050MW boiling water reactors. A 100 company underwriting syndicate headed by First Boston Corp. (Godfather of the New England nuclear industry) is marketing the 2,500,000 share of nuclear equity issued November 27, 1979. The underwriters (aka "the syndicate") provides two TOLL FREE NUMBERS (1-800-523-2972 and 1-800-462-2875) to query and comment on the offering. In a recent phone call, a syndicate salesperson forthrightly attested to the wisdom of purchasing the nuclear shares by citing the pliancy of the PUC administered ratemaking process, the continuing deferral of true costs of fuel enrichment, decommissioning and spent fuel perpetual guardianship (there is no disposal of nuclear waste) and the fact that the TMI accident will render an already safe nuclear power program safer still. It's an attractive investor package sweetened with the quarterly dividend payable in three weeks.

A call to the syndicate, FREE OF COURSE, is PP&L's open channel to the market and what people think of its operations. The views offered above suggest both the underwriters and PP&L believe our lives aren't included in the bottom line of their calculations.

by P.J. Mechl



# Kemeny Report

The President's Commission on the Accident at TMI was created April 11 and given a \$3 million budget to conduct an investigation of the Three Mile Island accident.

Although their report could be considered a stinging indictment of the industry, it failed to recommend a moratorium on the licensing and construction of new nuclear power plants. It was felt that Chairman Kemeny collapsed under pressure from the White House to produce a report that was not a political liability.

The report was slightly delayed because of disagreement over the moratorium issue. A last-minute procedural rule requiring a strict majority was adopted at the urging of Kemeny and the moratorium was defeated when he abstained from voting.

It was also reported that in addition to the moratorium issue, the report was delayed because the Commission members were having difficulties getting an appointment with Carter, who had seemingly backed off from earlier pledges to follow the Commission recommendations. It seems Carter does not want to deal with the controversial nuclear power issue with the presidential election around the corner. The Commission and its report seemed to come in like a lion and go out like a lamb.

Russel A. Peterson, President of the National Audubon Society and a member of the Kemeny Commission wrote a letter to the New York Times recently. In it he objected to an advertisement published by the Edison Electric Institute which said, "The electric companies agree with the Kemeny Commission's message on nuclear power: proceed, but proceed with caution." Peterson explains that the the Commission said no such thing and he concludes: "It is my own view that the only safe nuclear reactor is the sun, and

we should move aggressively to capitalize on this abundant source of energy so we can phase out as soon as possible the use of the life-threatening man-made nuclear fission reactor."

## Rate Withholding

The following information on rate withholding is taken from the ANGRY Newsletter, Vol.4, Oct., 1979:

Option 1 -- Withhold 25% of the base rate amount on the bill. This is an estimate we obtained from Met Ed of the percentage amount we are paying for TMI Unit 1 even though it is shut down.

Option 2 -- Withhold 40% of the energy cost adjustment on the bill. This is the percentage amount we are paying for purchased power while TMI Units 1 and 2 are shut down.

Each time you pay your bill include a slip which explains why you are withholding money.

The slip should say:

As a Met Ed customer I should not have to pay for TMI Unit 1 when it is not generating a single watt of electricity. Additionally, it is not fair to pay for both TMI Unit 1 and the cost of purchased power while TMI Units 1 and 2 are out of service. Therefore, I am withholding from every electric bill I receive from Met Ed (check one)

\_\_\_\_ 25% of the rate base amount which is the cost for TMI Unit 1

\_\_\_\_ 40% of the Energy Cost Adjustment amount which is the cost for purchased power until TMI Unit 1 is removed from the rate base. At such time I will pay, in full, the amount due.

Amount of Bill \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Amount Withheld \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# No-Nuke Xmas

As the holiday season draws close, many of us will be scurrying around looking for that last minute Christmas present for the person who has everything (except, perhaps, for a TMIA membership) or for the person who has nothing (including a TMIA membership). Let us make some suggestions that will not only bring joy during the season but for many years to come:

**TMIA MEMBERSHIP**--insuring a non-nuclear future is a gift that will last forever. Waste products from nuclear power plants last 250,000 years. So does stopping their production. A good gift for \$15.

**THE ALERT SUBSCRIPTION**--keep up on what is happening around TMIA and around the Island. 16 pages of community notes, anti-nuke calendar, news stories, etc. A 12-month stocking stuffer for only \$5.00.

**TMIA T-SHIRTS**--still some of the "I don't want it, I won't pay" classics available. Also "KEEP IT SHUP." \$5.00 The perfect gift for your cruise holiday or for volleyball.

**BUTTONS**--Need something to go into the toe of the stocking? Buttons will fill it nicely. Check with the office for current selection.

**SAFE ENERGY CALENDAR**--An absolutely joyful calendar in three colors for your wall. Produced by Syracuse Peace Council, we sold out of them at the Teach-In. More on order. Keep track of your days or nights. Good for desks or walls. \$4.00.

**ENERGY, JOBS & THE ECONOMY**--new book by Richard Grossman and Gail Denaker of Environmentalists for Full Employment. Grossman recently did the Jobs & Energy workshop at the Teach-In. A must for anyone who wants to develop a rational approach to energy. Offers solutions to the problems of jobs/conversion in the nuclear

industry. \$3.45

**POSTERS**--For that hole in the wall or just a blank space where you need some color. Selection includes the classic "No Nukes" poster from the May 6th Washington rally.



## Letters to the Editor

On March 30th, I ran away to my other home. Its in Virginia and happens to be 15 minutes from the North Anna Nuclear Plant. The people there were real supportive and helpful but had trouble understanding the terror I was feeling.

On September 28th I read that the N. Anna Plant burbed out some poison. My friend from Va., who's an ardent jogger was two miles from the plant huffing and buffing. He didn't know, of course, what had happened until he saw the local news that night.

Last Sunday he called to talk about the terror he was feeling. Unfortunately, I know just how he felt. I guess we all do.

Love, John Thomas

### HELP WANTED

A grant from the Youth Project is enabling us to put together a newsletter about the on-going TMI accident for national activist groups. We will be doing a bi-weekly edition, mostly reprints of the local news. All that's need is willing hands. Call Andrea Chesman, 232-3070 or leave a message at the office.



# MacLeod on Health

In an informal private interview with Dr. Gordon MacLeod in his office on October 24, 1979, one week before his last day as Penn. Secretary of Health, Dr. MacLeod said:

"We are in our adolescence of understanding regarding nuclear power" ... "I think health has been left out of the process, to too great an extent, to on unacceptable extent."

Why have the health aspects of nuclear power been so greatly ignored - there appears to be three major reasons; (1) Nuclear Engineers opinions illogically carry more weight than those of radiation/health experts; Dr. MacLeod said, "It seemed that no one outside of professional health circles could appreciate the potential for health hazards of TMI unless they saw people being carried off to hospitals with radiation sickness. There was not blast so there was no health hazard - that's the attitude that seemed to reign among nuclear engineers throughout the accident."

"Like so many other technicians responsible for engineering management, they trust themselves into the position of making public health judgements."

As many of us agree, Dr. MacLeod feels that, "The decisions to start up or re-start a nuclear plant or monitor its impacts on public health are too important to be left unto the nuclear engineers."

Reason number (2): Money appropriated for health research of the March 28th accident has been greatly lacking. The Dept. of Health ironically suffered a \$1.2 million cut in it's budget in June of 1979. This cut came at a time when nine Dept. of Health studies had been undertaken. At this time five studies have received total funding, four, only partial funding. The studies which may or may not receive funds for their completion are too important to not be completed. They are: 1) Evaluation of pregnancy outcome; 2) TMI Radiation Cytogenetic Studies - testing of adults for chromosome breakage and 3) TMI Population Radiation Dose Assessment - important because the study would calculate radiation exposure using

dose assessment studies (re: Ad Hoc Report). Finally, 4) Long-Term Disease Surveillance - obviously important in determining affects from radiation in the years ahead.

Dr. MacLeod and other health experts realize the need for these types of nearly unprecedented studies so we can better have an understanding of radiations' effects now and for future reference, should an accident occur elsewhere. If money is provided, through the legislature and private funds, studies will be completed. In October, the Health Dept. requested "\$500,000 in special appropriations to underwrite financial deficits in the research program," but has yet to receive any money. Dr. MacLeod simply asked that the health research into the accident receive the equal priorities with other studies being done.

Reason number (3) and probably the most influential force for health aspects of TMI having been ignored "to too great an extent" is political. Referring to the health care industry in Penn. which amounts to an "conservative \$12 billion a year." Dr. MacLeod said, "Any industry of such tremendous scope and size poses infinite temptations for political control...It is only fair to say also that the Governor has to be a victim of the politics surrounding the health industry. There are just too many factions pulling and tugging for their own better (or worse) interests."

Dr. MacLeod said, "The reality of politics says the when special interest pressures are exerted from a myriad of directions in the public and private sections, the commitment to public health quickly crumbles in the process." A disheartening process indeed.

So Gordon MacLeod was forced to resign and we can only hope the new Secretary of health does his best to see that the health studies are concluded. Strongly urge your State representatives to provide money so they can be carried out.

Dr. MacLeod was shocked and seemed dismayed that Governor Thornburgh forced him to leave a job he was trying to do well and, when asked



by a reported from the Philadelphia Inquire, on October 31, 1979 for the reasons he was forced to quit, Dr. MacLeod replied: "So what does it come down to? Basically, to Three Mile Island. That's the only thing I can make sence of - that this thing is tied to my position on TMI. The ~~Whole~~ health aspect has been left out of the governments' response to TMI and I have been saying that loudly." Apparently, too loudly for the special interests pressures, but as Dr. MacLeod said, "The public just has to know what happens with radiation." We'll find out, one way or another, eventually.

Michael Klinger,  
Health Committee Chairman  
TMIA

## Communities Organizing

Members of the Hershey Area Alliance visited with Senators Schweiker and Heinz on November 20. At that meeting in Washington, the group presented the 2,127 signed petitions they had collected from Derry Township residents asking for the immediate shut down of TMI, and addressed several other issues including: the proposed release of Krypton gas by Met Ed; the dumping of water containing Tritium into the Susquehanna; the fact that there is no overall plan for the clean up of TMI by Met Ed; the lack of public confidence in Met Ed and in the NRC; and Met Ed's poor record on safety procedures.

Members of the group referred to the recent Heidelberg Report where 15 Berlin scientists disputed the NRC's safe dosage assessment figures for residents living near a nuclear power plant. They pointed out that the NRC has known of the report for over a year, and only now has agreed with the DER to reconsider lowering the levels of acceptibility.

Finally, the group gave their reaction to the Kemeny Report and supported Rep. Allen Ertel's recommendation to President Carter that an oversight committee on nuclear safety be established. H.A.A. further suggested that in addition, or as an

a Citizens' Advisory Group be established that would represent only the consumer, be independent of the NRC and the nuclear industry, and would have input on all future decisions on nuclear power.

Neither Senator was willing to make strong commitments. Senator Schweiker expressed his concern on the safety design features of nuclear power plants and has voted in favor of improved training for operators. He also supports the reorganization of the NRC. Senator Heinz pointed out that he is a strong supporter of the use of coal as an alternative power source. He also said that he recently made a public statement against the release of Tritium and supports other means of removing the gas.

Georgia Lookingbill of the H.A.A. felt that while they did not get any definite commitments, the group had informed the Senators on many crucial issues. She stressed the importance of other community groups continuing to educate and lobby the Senators and Representatives by making personal appointments such as this one in Washington.

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The Lower Paxton Chapter of Three Mile Island Alert held its first meeting in September. Self-education and an efficient organization were our first internal goals. Our activities have included petition gathering, lobbying, and fund raising for legal and general fund of TMIA, Inc. Our two sales at the Flea Market were very productive - Net profit of \$246.50. But our Bake Sale at the Colonial Park Plaza was a great success - \$307.11 for our baked goods and \$55.01 in donations.

We have also placed some TMIA Donation boxes in several businesses in the area.

We would like to get acquainted with other groups who are working toward the same goals. We are fighting giants. We have to cooperate with each other and take a strong united stand.

For more information, call 652-863 or 652-4244 (Janine Ullon).



## Kid's News

There once was a nuclear plant.  
It's safety precautions were  
scant.

An accident came.

But who was to blame?

Now, "Drop dead Met Ed!" people  
chant.

by Mike Watson  
5th Grade  
Tri-Community School

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The December issue of Children's Digest includes an interesting article entitled, "Everybody's Trash Problem: Nuclear Waste." It's good basic reading for kids and grown-ups.

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Statements of local kids testifying before the NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board:

Danny Greenburg: "I'd rather live in Philadelphia where people get mugged than here where it's poisoned."

Jennifer Street: "I want Three Mile Island closed forever, so I can live till I'm 90."

## Editorial

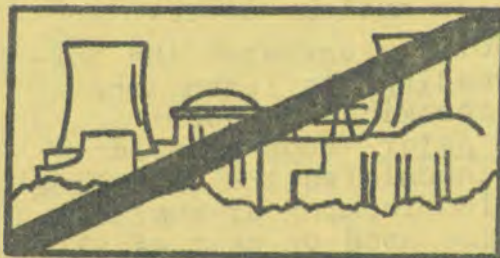
There are two things I've been thinking about a lot lately whenever I think of TMIA. Each time these things come to mind, I get a sick feeling in my stomach, not unlike my reaction to reading about the effects of low-level radiation. In this case, the sick feeling is not related to my fears about my health, but rather to my fears about the health of TMIA.

The first issue is unity. Over and over again I have heard that TMIA "does not have a good reputation nationally," or that TMIA does not work with other local anti-nuclear groups. I hope that the people who say these things are incorrect. The enemy is too large and too powerful and too anxious to have us divided. It is essential that we work with other groups, particularly Central Pa. anti-nuclear groups, to shut down TMI forever and thus toll the death knell of the nuclear industry forever. We have no chance alone. One concrete way to work with other groups is in planning commemorative events for the weekend of March 28. A coalition of anti-nuke groups has

already formed and met several times (see report elsewhere in the Alert) but TMIA and its community groups have not been well represented. Not only does this leave a bad taste in the mouth of coalition members, but it also leaves us out of planning events for March 28th. Let's let the March 28th Coalition be a first step in cementing relations with other area groups.

The other thing that's been bothering me is the quest for money. I would be the last person to say that fund raising is not important. We have chosen a route in our intervention on the reopening of Unit 1 that is very costly. Much energy must be devoted to financially supporting this legal intervention and to the day to day workings of TMIA. But not all of our energy. In recent weeks I have noted that many of the community groups are devoting virtually all of their efforts to raising money for the legal defense fund to the exclusion of other community education and organizing activities. After the teach-in of November 10th, someone commented, "Well, we did not raise enough money." I thought the teach-in was to educate ourselves, not to fill the coffers. At a recent Planning Council meeting, my heart stopped for a minute when someone said, "The focus of TMIA in upcoming months will be fundraising." I remember when the focus of TMIA was shutting down TMI. Let's raise money---honestly, creatively, energetically. But let's not let all of our energy go to that effort. The legal intervention is only one route, we must pursue all routes.

Lack of unity and the single minded pursuit of dollars are diseases. They threaten us just as surely as the radiation with which we've been dosed. But curing those diseases is within our control. Let's exercise that control and cure ourselves before it's too late.





# Nuclear Economics

The Economics workshop at TMIA's Teach-In was lead by Dr. Nancy Folbre of Yale University's Economic Growth Center. She presented anhistorical survey of economic issues associated with nuclear power and exchanged questions with the approximately 15 participants on future developments in the economics of nuclear power, public policy and utility issues.

Dr. Folbre spoke of the early optimism nuclear proponents enjoyed. By the early 1970's a strong construction cost inflation began which now stands at 17% per annum. The cost of building nuclear stations was increasing because of expenses incurred in correcting poor initial designs, retrofitting to meet new safety requirements, materials inflation and redesigns required with increases in size. In the mid 70's the utility industry rediscovered the cost competitiveness of coal fired with scrubber power stations. In the late 70's the situation compounded nuclear's economic dilemma with the economic competitiveness of conservation. Conservation being increasing the efficiency of energy use. It deals with energy demand.

Dr. Folbre also spoke on the defacto construction moratorium alluded to by Commissioner Hendrie in late October. This 2-year period of post TMI assessment also reflects a desire not to commit additional investment in an unsound technology. The public power policy issues are a new area of apportioning the costs of the investment we all make in nuclear power.

Dr. Folbre suggested the following readings to learn more on the economics of power:

Light Water--Bupp & Derian, (12/78) chronicles the marketing and opinion forming of nuclear sales, also good on cost escalation and European experiences.

Nuclear Power Costs--Past, Present & Future--Charles Komanoff (7/79) covers cost competitiveness of coal fired stations.

The Easy Path--Vince Taylor (1/79) documents the superior economy of increased end use energy efficiency and examines the conventional wisdom on nuclear power.

Jim Gormley, Economics  
and PUC Committee  
944-7011



## CALENDAR

### DECEMBER 4th:

Steelton Swatara Community Group Meets, 7 p.m. at St. Ann's Church, Steelton.

NRC's Advisory Comm. on Reactor Safeguards, technical meeting to discuss complications of TMI accident on other nukes. Open to the public. Rm. 1046, 1717 H ST., N.W., Washington, D.C. 8:30

### DECEMBER 7-9:

Mobilization for Survival National Conference, Louisville, KY. call Kay at TMIA (233-7897) for details.

### DECEMBER 10th:

PUC-Met Ed hearings begin. Call TMIA for details.

### DECEMBER 15th:

Christmas Peace Pilgrimage. A 10 mile walk via Rt. 191 from Nazareth to Bethlehem, PA. Walks begins at 1:00 at Center Square, Nazareth, followed by candlelight procession, singing, speaking, and meditation. For information call Joseph C. Osborn (215) 866-3127 or TMIA office (233-7897).



## Notes& News

The March 28th Coalition is a coalition of individuals and representatives of anti-nuclear groups united to plan commemorative events for the weekend of March 28th, 1980. The group has met twice and is currently investigating possible sites for rallies and other activities. Ideas under consideration are a candlelight march near Three Mile Island, a large rally, interfaith services and workshops. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 30th at 7:30 at Friends Meeting House, Harrisburg. If you would like to help to plan events, please come.

NRC staff believes that the issue psychological distress should not be considered in the up-coming Unit I relicensing hearings. They interpret the Atomic Energy Act and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to not require such consideration. The brief filed by the State of PA. before the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board argues that NEPA does require consideration of psychological distress. Many of those testifying at the limited appearance hearings and the intervenors including TMIA, documented personal psychological trauma and argued that it should be considered.

It was no ordinary drug bust. In Salem, Oregon, police arrested 11 persons for delivering marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines and LSD. All but one of those arrested were guards at the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant.

The NRC recently levied a \$450,000 fine, the largest in Commission history, against the Consumers Power Co. of Michigan for allowing two crucial control valves to stay open for 18 months.

The fine is nearly triple the \$155,000 levied against Met Ed for violations during the worst accident in commercial nuclear power history.

A lawsuit was filed in Superior Court recently by a New Jersey anti-nuclear group charging that three utilities and the New Jersey State Police have illegally harassed and spied on nuclear protestors in that state since 1977.

The suit alleges that state police and employees of the 3 utilities took pictures of anti-nuclear demonstrators and copied their license plate numbers during protests and other activities. It also charges infiltration of the anti-nuclear group by a part-time investigator hired by one of the utilities. Similar suits have been filed recently in Buffalo and Los Angeles.

A new course Social Science 282 will be offered this semester at HACC. The class, Introduction to Energy Alternatives, will be held from January 14 through May 10, 1980, and will be taught by Clifford Dillmann. The course will consider historic successes and failures, current activities and strategies for the future. Resource analysis and quantitative methods will be taught. There are no prerequisites and for those taking the course for credit, projects will constitute 50% of the grade. Students have the option of auditing or taking the class for three credits. For enrollment call or visit the college 236-9533. For further information, contact Clifford Dillmann during the day at 236-9533 or evenings at 238-3545.

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