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Three Mile Island Resources

Title: Three Mile Island Alert Newsletters, 1980

Date: 1980

Location: TMI-TMIA

Contact:

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ALERT

Vol.2, No.1

Three Mile Island Alert

February, 1980

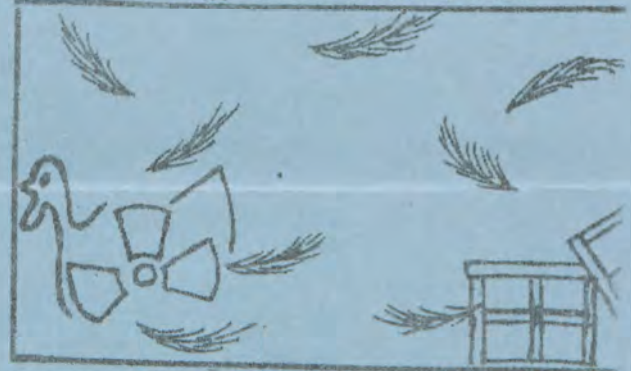
Cobalt & Turkeys Collide

by Mike Klinger

Late Sunday evening, January 13, on I-80 north of Pittsburgh, a tractor trailer carrying radioactive cobalt pellets destined for use in a NYC hospital collided with a trailer load of turkeys. On Monday morning WHP news initially reported a broken canister was emitting substantial amounts of radiation, .65 Rem/hr. to 4.0 Rem/hr.--"a major health hazard," according to Warren Bassett, administrator of nearby Brookville Hospital. WHP's coverage of the accident decreased and by mid-morning, the story was no longer broadcast. A fifteen-mile stretch of I-80 was closed off as state police waited for a DER radiation expert before getting close to the truck. The DER expert was stranded due to bad weather and didn't get to the scene until later in the day. The initial dangerous readings of .65 R/hr. to 4.0 R/hr. was supposedly taken by non-specified "authorities"; civil defense personnel later measured the radiation at less than 2 millirems/hr. I called Margaret Reilly, Chief of Environmental Resources--Bureau of Radiological Health, on Monday afternoon and she explained that the initial readings were inaccurate because the unnamed authority had to be "convinced" on how to properly read the instrument. Ms. Reilly said also that newspapers in the area were reporting persons coming in for

treatment of radiation exposure. These reports, she assured me, were inaccurate.

A lot of questions remain unanswered. Why was the story played down so quickly? Why did the leaking canister later



become "a crack in the trailer compartment"? Why was there such a large discrepancy in the figures? Why and how did a "major health hazard" in the morning become "slight" by the time it hit the Evening News? What if the accident had been worse? And finally when will DER, Civil Defense and State Police authorities provide for precise management and an escort for the shipment of radioactive substances and prohibit shipment of those potentially deadly substances in dangerous weather conditions?

In this case the cobalt was to be used beneficially for the treatment of disease. But there are thousands of pounds of much more deadly plutonium and other

carcinogenic wastes produced each year by this country's operating nuclear reactors--wastes so unstable that modern scientific technology has not, and will not, be able to determine how to safely store it for the thousands of years required. Enlarging of on-site storage facilities, like that which has been done at the under construction Berwick Nuke is hardly a satisfactory answer. No state in the Union wants the wastes, and even if they did we don't know how to safely ship them. And yet "experts" continue to try and tell us that nuclear power is safe. Maybe they should ask the turkeys on I-80.

GPU's Shell Game

by: Jim Gornley

General Public Utilities, parent of Met-Ed, Pennelec, and Jersey Central Power and Light, is resorting to fancy footwork to stave off the lingering shocks of last March 28th's "normal aberration." Its latest move involves creation of a subsidiary (GPU Nuclear Corp.) to operate and maintain its nuclear plants at TMI and Oyster Creek, NJ. Simultaneously, GPU merged the management of Pennelec and Met-Ed. The surprise announcement was made at the PUC investigation of Met-Ed's fitness to retain its operating license and the continuation of the TMI-1 reactor in the ratebase. Commissioner Johnson chastised Met-Ed a week earlier for failing to apprise the PUC of the impending merger. The move was characteristic of GPU/Met-Ed abruptness and penchant for surprise.

Met-Ed (50% TMI owner) and Pennelec (25% TMI owner) serve a combined total of over 800,000 customers. Nearly twice Met-Ed's current number of ratepayers will be affected by the merger. The management merger leaves the financial structure of both GPU subsidiaries unchanged. However, future merger developments may arise which would combine the

assets, service areas and rate-payers under a new corporate entity. Met-Ed is currently scrambling to meet its financial obligations, having its cash flow disastrously impaired by the TMI-2 accident.

A PUC ruling on Met-Ed's request for an additional \$55 million in rate relief will follow the fitness investigation and the TMI-1 decision. If this ruling goes against Met-Ed, highly unlikely with Susan Shanaman and Linda Talliaferro on the PUC, it will be comforting for Met-Ed to know they have the stalwart rate-payers of GPU's fief in Johnstown to turn to.

The American Nuclear Insurers Co. reports having paid over 1.3 million dollars so far to TMI evacuees for expenses and wage losses. Eligible families were those within a 5-mile radius who evacuated after Governor Thornburgh's advice to pregnant women and pre-school children. This comes nowhere near compensating all affected area residents or local municipalities. But still we can't help wondering how the \$1.3 million in insurable liabilities affects the industry's "clean, safe and economical" formula.

Krypton Update

In recent issues of "The Alert", we reported on the threatened release of 2 million cubic feet of Krypton 85 gas from TMIA 2's containment building into the atmosphere.

Met Ed submitted a proposal to vent the gas into the atmosphere under controlled conditions to the NRC in mid-December. The NRC has requested additional data in response to the company's proposal. The information requested is (1) Whether Met Ed has considered other alternatives (2) A cost and schedule for the alternatives and (3) Specific design features of both the venting operation and alternatives. (cont.)

PUC Input

In late December, Met Ed announced that small amounts of the Krpyton 85 gas are leaking from the containment building into the crippled reactor's non-nuclear system. When contacted by this reporter, Sandy Pollon, Met Ed's public relations representative, stated that as of now about enough to fill a nail polish bottle has leaked out. He also added that at the present rate of leakage, it would take about 2,000 years for all the gas to leak out of the containment building.

When Robert Arnold announced this leakage, he said, "I consider it to be of no consequence. I only mention it to point out the tremendous sensitivity of our instruments."

By announcing this small leakage, I think Met Ed is trying to pressure the NRC into a prompt, favorable and cheap decision for Met Ed--venting the gas into the atmosphere.

In late November, Joel Roth of TMIA, wrote a letter to President Carter opposing this venting. We ask you to do the same. Also contact your representatives and senators.



In early January Governor Thornburgh appointed Susan Shanaman to chair the PUC. Many of you will recall that Shanaman's appointment to the PUC in November, 1979 was opposed by a number of anti-nuke and consumer groups. Shortly after the January appointment, the Patriot reported that one of Shanaman's goals included developing "energy plans of action." She mentioned conservation, coal use and alternative energy sources as areas to be addressed and said the PUC will work closely with federal and state government, consumers and utilities to develop the energy plans. It's up to us to make the anti-nuke consumer heard in this planning process. Write to Shanaman today. Her address is:

Susan Shanaman, Chair
Public Utility Commission
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Legislation

Presidential commissions generally have about as much effect as a temperance union member at a brewery picnic.

The U.S. House of Representatives drove that message home once again as they voted for passage of the NRC authorization bill without any changes in the NRC structure or without any moratorium to keep the commission from acting until such changes were made.

In the most publicized of all the moratorium measures, the Markey Amendment which would have called a halt to licensing of new plants for a six month period, went down to a heavy defeat 135-254. The Pennsylvania delegation split was a little less overwhelming, 10-12 (with 3 non-voters).

Local congressmen voted unanimously for the Markey Amend-

(cont.)

ment. The nearest legislator to vote "nay" on Markey was conservative Congressman Bud Shuster, representing Perry and parts of Cumberland counties.

Congress did pass, however, an amendment which requires the NRC to evaluate all operating nukes within 120 days to see how well they conform to NRC safety-related regulations. Also, it requires the NRC to identify all generic safety problems within the same period.

This bill, sponsored by N.Y. congressman Jonathan Bingham, was overlooked by both pro and anti-nuclear lobbyists. It passed the House 217-161. Once again, the Pennsylvania delegation voted more anti-nuclear than the national average (14-7, with 3 no-votes). Locally, Ertel and Goodling voted in favor; Shuster and Walker voted against.

The Pennsylvania legislature continued its course of action on nuclear issues - members kept their heads buried in the sand. Bills requiring a moratorium and clearing financing issues remained mired in the quagmire of the Republican-controlled House committees.

The Select Committee on TMI has announced that it will require such sweeping changes as a statewide bank record depository so that we can get out money when we evacuate. Also, homeowners may be able to get insurance for nuclear accidents. Somehow, we might have hoped for more "sweeping" changes. Instead, they seem to be sweeping the accident under the rug.

Dickinson College will hold a public symposium called "Our Nuclear World and Welcome To It" on February 10 - 13 in Carlisle.

The keynote address on Sunday, Feb. 10th will be given by Dr. Barry Commoner.

Panel discussions will take

place on the 11th, 12th and 13th.

The closing address will be given by Sam Love, writer-activist, co-founder of Environmental Action and one of the principal organizers of Earth Day.

Additionally, there will be a series of films shown during the three days. Included are "Dr. Strangelove," "Fail-safe," and "Hiroshima, Mon Amour."

For more information about the four-day events, contact Dickinson College's Office of Information Services at 245-1289 or the Office of Student Services at 245-1555.

The public is invited without charge.

Nuke Victim

In 1957 Sergeant Orville Kelly of the U.S. Army was stationed on Japtan Island in the South Pacific. He was in charge of a squad working on "Operation Hardtack"--a series of 22 atmospheric nuclear detonations in nearby lagoons and on nearby islands. Sixteen years later Kelly learned that he had malignant cancer of the lymph glands in an advanced stage. Kelly is convinced that his cancer was caused by the radiation he was exposed to on Japtan, but he has been unable to convince the Feds.

Along with his work with other cancer patients and their families, Kelly in 1978 founded the National Association of Atomic Veterans. The 750-member organization collects data for Veterans Administration claims, serves as an information clearinghouse, and publishes a monthly newsletter. In April Kelly will testify in Washington at a national conference of radiation victims, civilian as well as military. Those who are interested can contact Kelly at 1109 Franklin St., Burlington, Iowa 52601 (319) 753-6112. (Information from Parade Magazine, January 13, 1980).

Intervention

A U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission Administrative law panel approved the participation of nine groups and individuals, including TMIA, as intervenors in the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board hearings on Met Ed's proposal to restart Unit 1. The other intervenors are as follows: Marjorie Aamodt, Coatesville; ANGRY (Anti-Nuclear Group Representing York); Chesapeake Energy Alliance; ECNP (Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power); Marvin I. Lewis, Phila.; Newberry Twp. Steering Comm.; Steven Sholly, Mechanicsburg; and Union of Concerned Scientists. The Board rejected two petitions and deferred a decision on whether PANE may participate.

The Licensing Board stated that the proceedings may include any issues which can be related to the TMI accident and whether Unit 1 can be operated safely. However, the Board rejected the suggestion that issues raised need not be related to the accident.

The Board will not allow intervenors to raise issues on unspecified theoretical Class 9 accidents. The intervenors may raise issues on specific hypothetical Class 9 accidents if they can be related to TMI.

The Board deferred ruling on contentions involving Met Ed's emergency plans and on psychological stress issues.

It is obvious the Board is trying to keep the scope of the hearings narrowly focused on TMI and Met Ed and away from the total failure of the NRC and the entire nuclear industry.

Knake Complaint

Jack Knake of Heidlersburg, Pa first refused to pay part of his electric bill last August. He did the same thing in September. When Met. Ed. threatened to cut off his power by Oct. 1, he filed an informal complaint with the PUC which was denied. He was in-

formed that he would have to pay the bill even though he could file a formal complaint. He paid and filed his formal complaint.

The complaint charges that since radiation given off by the nuclear fuel cycle causes cancer, leukemia, and birth defects, Met. Ed. is contributing to the random murder of human beings in this and future generations. Knake contends that as a ratepayer to a company with a nuclear plant, he is indirectly contributing to the random murder, and this is

causing him mental anguish since he is morally opposed to murder. Knake had asked for \$100 a month to help compensate for the mental anguish.

On November 16, the attorneys for Metropolitan Edison filed a motion to dismiss the complaint stating that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission lacks the legal power to award monetary damages. Administrative Law Judge William Shane agreed that the authority to award damages was in the hands of the Court of Common Pleas. Since Knake can't afford to hire a lawyer to take his complaint to Common Pleas Court, he has decided to sue Met. Ed. himself in small claims court of \$1,200. He urges others who have suffered mental anguish to file similar charges against their electric company in an effort to force an end to the murders caused by the nuclear industry. He can be reached at #528-8265.

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Bonnie McCormick, a resident of Montgomery County, was recently scolded by District Judge Charles Dasch of Pottstown for being "irresponsible and misleading" as a parent. Ms. McCormick had let her daughter take part in an illegal demonstration at a nuclear plant construction site (presumably Limerick). In addition to the scolding, Ms. McCormick drew a four-day prison sentence.

No mention was made of Mr. McCormick, who was presumably watching a football game at the time.

## Community Notes

Many Community groups have not been submitting reports to the ALERT. Things have slowed down over the holidays, but now we're gearing up again for 1980. Please let the rest of us know what you've been doing. It may not seem "important" to you, but it'll give other groups some ideas.

Adams County Community Group has had significant success with its outreach effort. Group leader Wayne James and his wife Sue have promoted scheduling of anti-nuclear messages to church groups throughout the county using the group's own copy of "The Last Slide Show" (a copy is also available at 315 Pepper St. Office). Churches have responded eagerly, as if they have just been waiting for us to drop into their laps. Wayne has challenged the group to form a local teach-in panel to address the church groups and to build a back-up capability.

Wayne James is responsible for technology of nuclear power and alternative energy, Patricia Hammann has economics of nuclear power, Bob Stoner has political implications, Dorothy Lamberti has health effects, and Mac Albright has moral implications.

Using the excellent model of the main TMIA Teach-In Panel, we have really gotten rolling on this effort. We recommend it highly to other groups.

Group member (ex-leader, present TMIA Steering Committee member and secretary) Mac Albright delivered a sermon to the congregation at Fairfield Mennonite Church entitled, "If

nuclear power is the answer, what is the question? A moral response to the nuclear challenge Reaction was overwhelmingly positive and provoked lively debate in the adult Sunday School sessions for the next several Sundays.

The group invited Bill Vastine to introduce Last Resort non-violent civil disobedience training in December and decided to proceed with the training in February. Marge Clement and Bill Vastine are scheduled to carry out the training.

Now is the time to set new goals, reorganize our groups and begin anew. There is hope for a better 1980. The Mechanicsburg group was one of the few groups that was able to show the film, "Nuclear Wastes." After our showing, Mr. John Khanlian contacted the superintendent of Mechanicsburg schools and arranged showing the film to 360 senior high students. We then donated two books to the high school for further background. We are now in the process of reorganizing our telephon committee, to incorporate many of the 1600 petition signers who expressed an interest in TMIA. We have made initial contacts with the ten churches in the area, but now want to expand with personal contact. We are using church bulletins now to announce our meetings. We will be assigning 2 churches to our various members for initial contact and follow-up. Steve Ficks will begin a discussion group to review various books on the nuclear issue and other pertinent topics. Many of us have let our self education program slide. The West Shore Public Library and the Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce have agreed to put our literature in their information centers.

Our surveys have been sent to 4,000 Mechanicsburg Borough residents in sewer and refuse 6 bills. The survey question is:



Do you wish for the permanent shutdown of Three Mile Island as a nuclear facility? Yes or no. Mike Jones and Tim Lyng put an incredible amount of work and perseverance into finally achieving this survey. Mr. and Mrs. Ira Heckart were also staunch supporters at Borough Council meetings. One member of Borough Council confided, "You know, this subject never would have been discussed if you hadn't approached Borough Council." We are now notifying 1,000 apartment dwellers via flyers that the surveys will either be mailed out on request or may be picked up. The deadline is January 31st, so we will be helping tally the final results.

Several of our members are covering the PUC hearings for January. It really is extremely interesting and informative. Joe Bard will be looking for help the next few months. Give it a try!

We also will be helping Fred Girondi, a graduate research associate in environmental education from Ohio State University by completing an attitude questionnaire. The purpose of the study: to improve understandings and communications between the pro-nuclear and anti-nuclear groups in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Wishing each of you renewed success in 1980. A beautiful thought I received via a thank you note from Carlisle's Paula Prober: "It will be a great day when our schools get all the money they need and the air force has to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber." For more information, call Mary Hartnett at 766-0592.

## Contact People

ADAMS COUNTY - Mac Albright -  
761-6280 (W)  
BOX HUCKLEBERRY - Anne Miller -  
582-2875

CARLISLE - Mike Kline -  
249-4143  
HACC'S STUDENTS FOR PEACE -  
Brian Downey - 236-9533 or  
238-6486  
HERSHEY AREA ALLIANCE - Georgia  
Lookingbill - 566-6480  
LEBANON VALLEY ALLIANCE - Jim and  
Maggie Hummel - 865-6232  
LONDONDERRY TWP. Pat Street -  
944-2334  
LOWER PAXTON - Lee Garland -  
561-0701  
MECHANICSBURG - Mary Hartnett -  
766-0592  
NEW CUMBERLAND ENERGY ALLIANCE -  
Al Mirando - 774-7215  
SEA (CHAMBERSBURG) - Michael Kohler -  
264-4729  
SWATARA TWP./STEELTON - Nancy Baumgardner  
939-7530  
UPTOWN/SUSQUEHANNA - Suzanne Patton -  
238-6329

### TASK FORCE:

ECONOMICS - Jim Gormley -  
944-7011  
EDUCATION - Louise Bradford -  
232-3070  
HEALTH - Mike Klinger -  
921-8618  
LAST RESORT - Matthew Magda -  
545-6320  
LEGAL - Joe Bard -  
238-0004  
LEGISLATIVE - Chris Sayer -  
233-7897  
MARCH 28th COALITION - Bill Vastine -  
774-6711  
NEWSLETTER - Terry Roth -  
763-1835 (H) - 236-9486 (W)  
RELIGIOUS - Marge Clement -  
774-5767  
STAFF - Chris Sayer -  
233-7897

Island Updates is a new TMIA publication, designed to keep national activist groups abreast of the latest news of the accident. We print every third Wednesday. Anyone interested in helping out and learning a few skills should call Andrea Chesman (232-3070 or 234-5091, ext. 162) or the office (233-3072).

## TMIA : 1979-1980

by Chris Sayer

As we enter a new year, we can look back on 1979 with a feeling of pride for our many accomplishments. Many, many of you have worked long hours to bring about these successes.

Immediately following the accident, a handful of people organized the first rally on the Capitol steps. More than 1,500 people showed up.

Next, TMIA organized 31 busloads of people (plus thousands of people who went by car) to go to the May 6th rally in D.C. Harrisburg has never before mobilized so many people for anything short of a flood.

On May 20th, TMIA hosted the Women and Children's March on MetEd at the Reading headquarters. Several thousand people travelled to MetEd from up and down the East Coast.

Berwick, another Capitol rally and the concert in Halifax kept the ball rolling during the summer.

In September, more than a thousand people turned out to see Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden at the Penn Harris. Hundreds more were turned away.

And in November, several hundred area residents got an education on nuclear power as TMIA and NPIRG hosted a major national teach-in.

But it was not all events during the year. Robert Bloom found out that he couldn't advocate nukes and get renominated to the PUC. Joseph Cossetti learned that you could not duck the issue. Both nominations went down to overwhelming defeat.

The PUC became one of the focuses of our effort. On June 15th, the commission ruled that the cost of cleanup could not be passed on to the ratepayers, a landmark decision.

Finally, and most importantly, TMI is still closed. The gas has not been released; the

water has not been dumped into the Susquehanna. And while MetEd complains, the NRC has now required a full environmental impact study before the utility can go ahead with any cleanup activities.

What lies ahead? Well, we are rapidly approaching the first anniversary of the accident. A major effort to organize people must be made for the 28-29th actions.

The PUC and NRC hearings will continue through the midpoint of the year. Our attorneys will represent TMIA in both sets of hearings.

April 26th will see another large gathering of people in Washington. Already, national and local organizing is proceeding to increase our participation over last year.

We need to be looking for ways of involving new people in each of these efforts.

The fundraising effort now underway will serve as an organizing tool. We need to increase the number of public forums so that new people become involved in TMIA. Regular meetings of TMIA should be scheduled by the Planning Council.

Everything we do must carry one single message. We, the people of Central Pennsylvania, will not allow our lives to be put in jeopardy once again - we will not allow TMI to reopen as a nuclear facility.

And that effort will take money, time and energy. I urge you to give as much of each as you possibly can. We must guarantee a non-nuclear future for Central Pennsylvania.

### Staff this issue:

Terry Roth (ed.)  
Nancy Baumgardner  
Sue Eason  
Debbie Fetterman  
Doug Grier  
Maggie & Jim Hummel  
Sue Shetrom  
The Williams Family

Edward and Perri Klick are convinced their stillborn baby died because of radiation emitted during the TMI accident, and filed suit against Met-Ed, GPU and Babcock & Wilcox in federal court in December.

The York County couple, who live in Manchester, 3.2 miles from TMI, contend that the utilities and the builder knew at the time of the accident that the radiation would directly and adversely affect the vital organs of any child in the womb.

The suit also contends that Met-Ed violated federal safety regulations; did not train its employees properly and failed to take safeguards to prevent a radiation leak.

The judge in the case, Sylvia Rambo, has placed a gag order, or a halt to further discussion, on the case until it comes to trial.

## No Nuke No Smoke

Hardly anyone, smoker or non-smoker, is unaware of the irrefutable evidence that smoking causes cancer and other serious health problems. Somewhat less well-known are the hazards to the passive smoker: the innocent bystander who cannot avoid breathing what the U.S. Surgeon General has called "side stream smoke", which is even more harmful than what the smoker inhales directly. At least two-thirds of smoke from a cigarette is "sidestream".

These effects are well-documented. The exact cause of the problem could be any of the gaseous poisons identified in tobacco smoke: tar, nicotine, 3-4 benzpyrene, carbon monoxide, ammonia, cadmium, nitrogen dioxide, formaldehyde, hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen sulphide. There are dozens of others, each of which is bad news by itself, but many of these substances work in consort with each other and other substances in the environment to harm the body. Some researchers are convinced that radioactive substances in

tobacco are also responsible. In industrialized nations, tobacco smoking is the greatest single cause of excess death from lung and other cancer, from heart attacks, and from emphysema in both men and women.

Within the anti-nuclear movement, we are all well aware of the real and the potential dangers from radiation exposure. We are concerned about our own health and that of countless others who are being unwillingly jeopardized by proponents of nuclear power. If we care about our own health in terms of the nuclear threat, how can we continue to smoke? Even more to the point, if we care about others' health, how can we continue to smoke where others have no choice but to breathe the toxic and carcinogenic fumes we generate as we smoke? If we endanger the health of others by smoking in the air they have no choice but to breathe, how are we different from nuclear power advocates?

We have a good opportunity to be consistent on this issue. Let's not blow it.

by Mac Albright

On Monday, December 3, 1979, Mary Douglas, Betty Sue Lentz & Milton Lowenthal met with four foreign students from Liberia, France, India and Czechoslovakia, who represented the International Union of Students. The main topics of discussion were concerns about the proliferation of nuclear weaponry, its connection with nuclear power and the need for the SALT II agreement to attain disarmament.

Apparently foreign students are more aware of the connection between nuclear weapons and nuclear power and their dangers than U.S. students. To help alleviate this problem, arrangements were made to provide speakers and literature, through the Commonwealth Students Assoc., for student groups in area colleges.

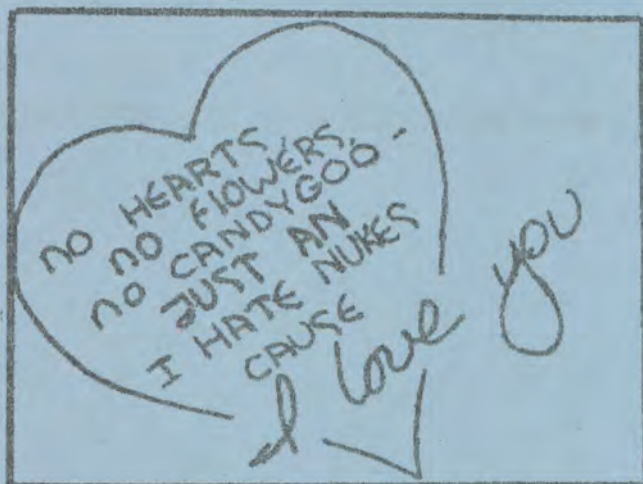
## Grants

Three Mile Island Alert was recently awarded a \$3,000 grant by the MUSE (Musicians United for Safe Energy) Foundation.

The grant, which comes from proceeds of the September concerts at New York's Madison Square Garden, is for general support and/or litigation against Three Mile Island.

Other large grants received during the past few months include \$500 from the Bread and Roses Fund (for the Teach-in), \$3,000 (\$2,500 for litigation and \$500 for general support) from the United Methodist Church, and \$2,000 from the May 6th Coalition (for the publication of a national newsletter).

Despite this infusion of capital into the organization, costs have outrun income. The legal effort has suffered from an inability to hire the sort of expert witnesses that will be necessary.



## FundRaising

Three Mile Island Alert will begin on February 1, 1980 a massive direct mail campaign in an effort to raise funds and to enroll new members.

Lee Garland, chairperson of the Lower Paxton Twp. TMIA has agreed to head the effort.

Over the next several months, letters will go to 25,000 or

more residents of Central Pennsylvania asking for support.

Paul Makurath, also of the Lower Paxton Twp. group, will head up the workforce who will actually get the mailings out.

The money raised will go both to fund the legal efforts and to increase our educational and organizational outreach within Central Pennsylvania.

The letters will go to area residents who have attended TMIA events or who have signed petitions calling for the closing of Three Mile Island as a nuclear power plant.

Anyone willing to help in this effort should call the TMIA office at 233-7897. Workdays for the mailings are generally held Saturdays (from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM) at the Friends Meeting House, 6th and Herr Streets, Harrisburg.

We are former York residents who left because of the disaster at Three Mile Island. In our travels, looking for work and a place to live, we have spoken to many people about what happened. We have found them to be interested but entirely unaware of what all of us have gone through. Despite all the commissions, studies, and official recommendations, few of the people around Three Mile Island have a chance to express their personal viewpoints.

We are gathering statements from residents and former residents of the Three Mile Island region, with the idea of collecting these statements into a book. Hopefully, the book will find a publisher so that the public can hear our story. If you are interested in writing a statement or participating in this project, please write to us soon and we will send you further information. Also, if you or your friends know of anyone who has left the area since the accident, let us know so that we can get in touch with him or her.

Thank you for your help.

Susan Mills  
Russell Mills  
129 E. Irvin Ave.  
State College, Pa.  
16801

## Ed Panel

Met Ed has a new propaganda tool: They call it the "truth force," and they are sending public relations people into private citizens' homes to explain to them the "truth" about nuclear power. Since October 1979, TMIA has had a "truth force" of its own, and we call ourselves the Education Panel.

Composed of Casey Zaleski, Bill Shoff, John Murdoch, and myself (Andrea Chesman), the panel speaks on four aspects of nuclear power: government regulation and response, health and safety, economics, and alternatives to nuclear power. Our format is flexible; generally we each speak for fifteen to eighteen minutes and answer questions from the audience after each speaker. Our concluding remarks always let people know what they can do to keep TMI closed.

Panels such as ours can be highly effective organizing tools for bringing the facts and options concerning nuclear power to people. Panels can also keep people aware of what TMIA is doing and how they can become involved with TMIA. Thus far, the response to our panel has been good. Because Met Ed is now competing with us, we would like to intensify our efforts.

First, we would like to invite all TMIA members to consider gathering their neighbors and friends into their homes to hear a panel. This kind of "kaffee klatch" organizing can bring out people who would never dare come to a rally or a public meeting. We would also like to urge any members who belong to other organizations to see if they can schedule us for one of their meetings. Anyone who would like to hold a panel meeting should contact Casey Zaleski (534-8595) or the TMIA office (233-3072) to the clear

the date.

But there are hundreds of TMIA members, and there is just one panel--so far. We believe that education should be a major goal of TMIA. In order to accomplish that, we really need additional panels. Our panel has evolved a style of working together as a team, and we would like to see additional teams formed. And one doesn't have to be an expert to be an effective panelist--one has to care about teaching others (and themselves) about the dangers of nuclear power. Anyone interested in working on a panel, or helping to organize, schedule and promote the panels should contact the office or Casey at the numbers listed above.

## Zirconium

by Dr. Daniel M. Pisello, from  
Greenpeace Chronicles, Sept, 1979

Most nuclear reactors in the world are operating with a fatal design flaw, brought to light by the recent accident at Three Mile Island. Fuel rods in these reactors consist of uranium oxide fuel pellets held in thin metal tubes called cladding, in all water-cooled reactors is in an alloy of the metal zirconium which reacts violently with air or water, under a variety of conditions likely to occur.

No viable alternative to the highly dangerous zirconium exists. Because of the zirconium cladding, water cooled nuclear reactors run a high risk of violent chemical explosion and catastrophic release of radioactivity. All but one of the 72 reactors in the U.S. are water-cooled, as are 95 percent of all the nuclear plants in the world outside Great Britain, which uses gas-cooled reactors.

At Three Mile Island, mechanical difficulties led to a partial loss of coolant, and a partial meltdown of the reactor core. As an emergency measure, reserve cooling water was sprayed onto the dangerously exposed and overheated core. Hydrogen explosions occurred in the (cor

containment and later a huge bubble interfered with efficient cooling of the damaged core, presenting the possibility of a hydrogen explosion inside the reactor vessel.

Spokesmen for the utility company and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) claimed ignorance on the subject of the origin of the hydrogen bubble, referring to it as a "new twist," and "something that had not been foreseen when the reactor was designed." The next day the bubble shrank and disappeared.

The claims of ignorance by the utility companies and federal experts about the appearance and disappearance of the hydrogen are lies. Explanations for these occurrences are commonly available in the literature on nuclear engineering and safety, and concern the use of zirconium alloy cladding.

Experts agree that the hydrogen was produced by the reaction of tons of zirconium cladding with steam formed in the reactor vessel during the early stages of the accident. But weeks after the event the only public reference to the role of zirconium in the production of the hydrogen bubble was in the British press, in the only nuclear nation that has no water-cooled reactors.

Sir Martin Ryle of the Cavendish laboratory in Cambridge stated in a letter to "THE GUARDIAN" (London) that a highly dangerous hydrogen bubble should have been predicted as a matter of "A-level textbook knowledge." The following is taken from a standard text on reactor safety:

The chemical reaction of the cladding with steam...has three important effects. First, it furnishes energy, which can increase the heating rate of the core. Second, hydrogen, a reaction product, is released to the containment structure. Third, the reaction also changes the character of the cladding (i.e., the metal cladding is converted to an oxide), which can affect the behavior on quenching.

The nuclear industry and the NRC know full well the hazards of zirconium in water-cooled reactors. The NRC is therefore emphasizing poor operator performance and mechanical failures in their analysis of the accident in order to divert attention from the more fundamental problem of the chemical activity of the cladding.

The state's Welfare Department has received a \$375,000 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to study the mental health impact of the TMI accident on residents in a 10-mile radius of the plant.

The study will focus on young mothers, workers at the plant and persons already receiving mental health treatment, as groups who may have experienced greater stress during the crisis. 700 persons will be interviewed in an operation devised and directed by Evelyn J. Bromett, a psychiatrist from the University of Pittsburgh.

A comparison will be made to determine any differences in mental health characteristics of the population group which has experienced an accident and one which has not, people living near the Shippingport plant in Beaver County. Follow-up interviews will be conducted during the first anniversary of the accident at TMI, a time which Welfare officials expect to be particularly stressful for residents of the area.

The 1977 U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Report shows that in 1975, electric utilities ranked 140th of 142 industries when it came to the proportion of officials and managers who are minorities. Only the paper and coal companies ranked lower. 1.9% of officials and managers were minorities in electric utilities while minorities made up 16.2% of the work force.

(The electric utilities were 122nd out of the 142 industries in hiring women as officials and managers, with 2.9% being female, compared to a 14.2% average for all industries and to 37.1% of the workforce being female.)(cont.)

The electric utilities fared only slightly better for professional and technical workers, with 5.4% of these employees being minorities (and 6.7% being female).  
from Up Against the Wall  
Street Journal

Nine reporters and television camera operators were convicted last month of criminal trespass charges growing out of their coverage of an anti-nuclear protest at a power plant construction site last June.

Similar charges against 319 protesters also arrested at the Oklahoma Black Fox site had earlier been dismissed after a jury had been unable to reach a decision.

The convictions come at a time of mounting opposition to nuclear power plants.

The action by Judge David Allen Box drew immediate fire from groups protecting the rights of reporters.

The reporters' group said that the decision will have a "chilling effect" on their coverage of anti-nuclear events.

Jack Landau, director of the

Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, described Box's ruling as outlandish. He said it would tell utilities "they can stage the news, and if the reporters wander off the set they're going to be arrested."

In November Daniel Berrigan, activist Roman Catholic priest and 14 others were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and trespass after chaining themselves to a fence at the Riverside Nuclear Research Institute in New York. On December 26, the judge granted the District Attorney's request to dismiss the charges. It was clear that this was not a demonstration of Christmas spirit when the D.A. explained the reason for dropping charges. "We want to prevent these defendants from using the Criminal Courts as a forum for their views," he said. Berrigan told reporters later, "They are so determined to keep that stuff (the research) classified they would rather dismiss the charges than have a public trial."

#### 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 non-member newsletter subscription

Return to: TMIA  
315 Peffer Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102

## March 28 Coalition

The March 28th Coalition now has an office at 1037 Maclay St. (across from the Farm Show) staffed by Gail Bradford (phone 233-NUKE). An interfaith service is planned for Friday night the 28th followed by a WITF sponsored forum and/or a candlelight vigil. There'll be a rally on Saturday afternoon with displays and local and national speakers and entertainment. Since the eyes of the world will be on us, we need to get Central PA people who are anti-nuke but do

not come to rallies to participate. This is our time to remember the accident and to make our statement that TMI must never reopen.

The next Coalition meeting is Sunday, Feb. 3 at 6 pm at 1037 Maclay. We really need money and help with planning events --phone calling, making armbands and displays, arranging parking and logistics, doing media and publicity, getting out mailings, etc. Call 233-NUKE for further details and/or come to the next meeting.



315 PEPPER STREET  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17102

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## THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

VOL. 2. NO. 2.

Three Mile Island ALERT

March, 1980

## Call To Action: One Year Later

As Met Ed has recently graphically demonstrated, the accident at TMI is not over. March 28th, 1980, a year after the accident began, is the time for Harrisburg area residents to tell the world TMI MUST NEVER REOPEN!! This is also our time to seek the support of our friends and neighbors to air our fear and anger, to celebrate the fact that we are still alive and to put forth a united front to overcome the money and power of the nuclear industry.

As has been previously reported, the March 28th Coalition is planning events to commemorate the beginning of the accident at TMI. On Wednesday, March 26th a benefit concert will be held at the Forum in Harrisburg. At 4:00 A.M. on March 28, the time the accident began, a vigil and speak-out will be held near TMI. The press will be invited to hear our statements. Friday night, March 28th, an inter-faith service is planned at a church near the State Capital. Events will climax on Saturday, March 29, with a large rally on the West Shore at the farm overlooking TMI.

The March 28th Coalition needs your help. First and foremost plan to attend the events and bring along friends who don't want TMI reopened but don't usually come to rallies and meetings. We don't want another huge national rally -- we want to show the world how the people

in this area feel. The March 28th Coalition also needs volunteers to prepare for the events. Armbands are being produced which depict the cooling towers and bear the message TMI is no over. (1-9 for \$1.00; 10-49 for \$.80; 50-or more for \$.60). Order armbands for yourself and your family and friends.

If you can volunteer time (or money), would like to order armbands, or want more information please contact the Coalition at 233-NUKE or come by the Office at 1037 MacLay Street -- across from the Farm Show in Harrisburg.

## And In Washington

The Coalition for a Non-Nuclear World is currently planning what they hope will be the largest anti-nuclear demonstration in U.S. history to be held in Washington, D.C. on April 25 through 28. The coalition comprised of groups from all over the country, including TMIA, has five major demands: Stop Nuclear Power, Zero Nuclear Weapons, Full Employment, Safe energy and Honor Native American Treaties.

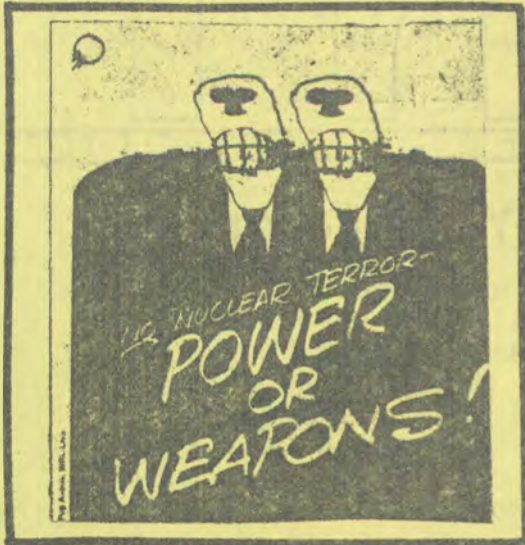
The group is planning a broad range of events. On Friday, April 25, there will be a non-nuclear lobbying day and teach in. On Saturday, a huge rally and march is planned. Sunday afternoon will feature workshops on non-violence training for those planning to participate in civil disobedience the following day followed by a religious convo-

CONT.

DEADLINE: March 24

cation on Sunday night. Civil disobedience aimed at closing the Department of Energy is planned for Monday.

Keep reading the ALERT for further details.



## Accident Continues

by Mike Klinger

The peace of mind of Central Pennsylvania citizens was again disrupted the week of February 11-16 when we learned of releases of Krypton 85 (and other radioactive substances consistently not mentioned by Met-Ed and the NRC). On Monday the 11th, about 1000 gallons of "highly contaminated water", according to a DER spokesperson, leaked through pump seals into the auxiliary building. Workers were evacuated but civil defense authorities were not notified.

On Tuesday, beginning around 7:30 PM until noon Wednesday about four curies of K-85 were released. Neither the NRC on-site inspector nor plant personnel noticed the leak until early Wednesday morning. Civil Defense authorities were not notified until 3:30 PM Wednesday.

As has been suspected and recorded by persons owning their own radiation monitors, radiation has been leaking from TMI-II since the accident. The Harrisburg Patriot reported this amount to be 75 to 80 curies per month, 2.5 to 2.7 curies per day. According to John Collins, Director

of the NRC's support staff in Middletown, the average pressurized water reactor releases about 10,000 curies of radioactive noble gasses each year. However, in the same article, more of the truth came out regarding exposure during the early days of the accident. "About 13,000,000 curies of noble gasses, including Krypton, were released..."

Obviously the accident exceeded normal "safe" operations for one year by 1,300 times, and yet all official reports following the accident claimed that exposure to the public was minimal and posed no risk to public health and safety. These studies do not consider cumulative dose, but the cumulative effects will be statistically documented in the years ahead. They ignore the numerous studies that show that exposure to any amount of radiation increases the risk of getting cancer. According to Healthy People, the Surgeon General's Report on Health

Promotion and Disease Prevention (1979), "Ionizing radiation from nuclear energy... if there is exposure to large enough doses can cause cancer, genetic defects, and tissue injury. The entire population is also at potential risk as the cumulative dose to low-level ionizing radiation grows." Unfortunately, the accident at TMI-II combines both of these types of exposure.

As John Gofman, M.D., PhD, one of the discoverers of the fissionability process for Uranium-235, says, "(Nuclear) Utilities are willing to risk your lives and your property on nuclear power, but they are not willing to risk their dollars... Experimentation of humans, without their knowledge or consent is obviously a crime. Taking life without due process of law is obviously a crime. There can be no doubt that the promoters of nuclear power - be they engineers, politicians, or scientists - are indeed committing crimes against humanity. Americans would be justified in demanding that Nuremberg-type trials be held for those individuals."

So while we and our future generations continue to be victimized, the nuclear industry continued to assure us the risks are all acceptable. Acceptable to who?

## P.U.C. Actions

As most of you know, TMLA, together with other legal parties of record, are intervening in the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission versus Metropolitan Edison.

There are three issues before the PUC involving Met-Ed. They are:

1. A request by Met-Ed to increase their energy cost by \$55 million to be passed on to the consumers.
2. The viability of Met-Ed to continue as a public utility (can they furnish and maintain adequate, efficient, safe and reasonable service and facilities).
3. Whether TML-1 should be excluded from the rate base of Met-Ed (it has not been in service since February 1979).

According to Section 1501 of Chapter 15 of the Public Utility Law, the PUC is charged with overseeing that all utilities shall furnish and maintain adequate, efficient, safe, and reasonable service and facilities and shall make all repairs, changes... and improvements in or to such service and facilities as shall be necessary or proper for the accommodation, convenience and safety of its patrons, employees and the public (emphasis added). Met-Ed and GPU have failed to meet these requirements and cannot be expected to meet them in the near future.

The Consumer Advocate has also stated that "while the Commission does not have the authority generally over public safety as a policy, the Commission does have the authority over safety as it is affected by utility operations. The public whose safety is entrusted to the Commission may not be limited to the actual users of a utility's services and may include the general public".

The PUC probably will not see safety as their function, but will use the NRC jurisdiction argument. We must tell them that it is their responsibility to see that the people of central Pennsylvania are protected.

Last Spring, a virtual avalanche of letters arrived daily at the PUC

(more than 100 per day, according to former PUC chairman Wilson Goode). The fact that the case is still in the PUC is due, in part, to our response. It is time, once again, to tell the Commission of our concerns. Tell the Commissioners that we want Met-Ed shut down; tell them that we want Unit 1 out of the rate base; tell them that we have paid enough! Please address your comments to the following commissioners: Chairperson Susan Shanaman, Michael Johnson, Linda Taliaferro and James Cawley at the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, North Office Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120. (Many thanks to Bob Shively, LEPOCO, for much of this information)

## MetEd Bankrupt?

General Public Utilities' recent threats of bankruptcy may have just backfired.

When Jersey Central Power & Light, a GPU subsidiary, recently asked for a \$100-million rate hike to help pay for the Three Mile Island accident, Alfred Nardelli, attorney for New Jersey's Department of the Public Advocate, responded, "let them go bankrupt."

The president of the state's Board of Public Utility Commissioners George Barbour is looking into the idea of establishing a "public power authority" in the event JCP&L is unable to continue providing electric service at reasonable rates. (From Power Line, October, 1979)

Residents of the Washington area and much of Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey may face higher electricity bills in the near future as part of a utility industry plan to help out MetEd.

Both Potomac Electric Power and Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. have filed petitions with their respective public service commissions, asking the agencies to declare that it is in the "public interest" to alter the rate structure for power sold to MetEd.

If the plan is put into effect, the move would cost PEPCO's residential users

CONT.

as much as \$9 per household this year.

"This would be a transfer of income from rate payers here to (General Public Utilities) to help bail out GPU," said Brian Lederer, the people's counsel at the D.C. Public Service Commission

"You can always justify things in the short run and maybe it is in the best interest of the public that we don't let GPU go bankrupt . . . But there is a lot of money at stake. It's an example of things beyond regulatory control," he added.

## Uranium

It has recently been discovered that Exxon Corp. is exploring 50,000 acres of privately owned land in Pa. for uranium deposits.

There are many reasons why the people of Pa. cannot allow Exxon to mine and mill uranium in our state. A ton of raw ore of uranium will yield only 4 pounds or less of yellowcake (the raw material of nuclear fuel). The leftovers from the milling process are millions of tons of a powdery substance referred to as tailings. These tailings contain radium and its associated radon daughters, which are powerful alpha emitters that can cause lung cancer when inhaled. Mountains of tailings rest near uranium mines and mills to be blown around by wind and to enter the water table as rains leach the radium into ground water. Evidence has shown that the NRC has underestimated the health effects of uranium mining by a factor of 100,000.

We have no way of knowing what Exxon plans until they request a license from the NRC to mine and mill uranium in Pa.

Write your congressmen and senators immediately to express your opposition. Also write the NRC insisting they not issue a license to mine/mill uranium in Pa. The address is:

NRC

Region I

631 Park Ave.

King of Prussia, PA 19406

TMIA has recently developed a flyer on this issue. Call the TMIA office at 233-7897 to request a copy.

## ERTEL OPPOSES UNIT II

In a statement entered into the Congressional Record on February 12, Congressman Allan Ertel (D-17th) spoke out against TMI. His remarks were provoked by the release of krypton gas on Feb. 11.

"I am thankful that there were no serious injuries resulting from this incident; however, we must not forget the psychological impact of the accident at Three Mile Island last March, and the subsequent problems, nor the fact that serious questions remain concerning the possible long-term health hazards of exposure to low levels of radioactive materials.

"The damage to the reactor, the cleanup problems, and the continuing incident - not to mention the psychological impact - are all clear signs that Unit II continues to have serious problems and we should seriously consider closing it forever."

## Community News

Adams County Group is continuing its outreach to the community through a teach-in panel modeled after the original TMIA panel. Churches have been inviting the panel to a series of dates, usually three, so that more material can be covered.

Placement of anti-nuclear books in church and school libraries is being undertaken by the group.

Member Jack Knake had his hearing date changed from February 19 to the 28th on his contention that Met-Ed is causing mental anguish which should be reimbursed monetarily.

Another member, Mac Albright, was a lone demonstrator at the White House on February 15 with posters

reading "Met-Ed is incompetent to operate or clean up TMI" and "Central Pennsylvanians: Hostages in our own land". Lone demonstrators do not need a permit - more than one would require a permit from the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department.

The group put in about twenty hours producing posters for the February 22nd public meeting in Harrisburg.

In spite of the distance involved, the group is maintaining significant member input into many Harrisburg functions - fundraising letter preparation, telephone follow-up, March 28 Coalition, planning council, and steering committee. As gasoline prices climb, we may have to re-examine how we support and relate to Harrisburg functions. Suggestions from other out-lying community groups are solicited. Write Adams County Group of TMIA, Box 235, Arendtsville, PA 17303 or talk it over at planning council meetings.

Members of the Hershey Area Alliance met in early January, after a brief rest during the holiday season, to reorganize and plan future goals and activities for the organization.

A recent project of Hershey members was a joint sponsorship with members of the Lower Paxton group in holding a bake sale on Friday and Saturday, February 9 & 10. Because of the generous donations and hard work by all members, close to \$500 was raised for the Legal Defense Fund at TMIA.

Two members from Hershey are also researching materials (both pro and anti-nuclear) available for students in the public library and school libraries in Hershey. Based on a suggestion at a recent community group meeting, the Hershey Alliance hopes to be able to provide a bibliography of anti-nuclear materials as well as donate subscriptions to magazines and books against nuclear power.

A newsletter, outlining upcoming TMIA activities and the March 28 Rally, has been mailed to 150 contact people in Hershey. It is hoped that this periodic mailing to people will keep them in touch with on-going events and promote the need for volunteer support. No public meetings are planned for the Alliance in the near future.

The Mechanicsburg Borough surveys are in. Residents were asked to respond by checking either Yes or No to the question, "Do you wish for the permanent shut down of TMI as a nuclear facility?" There were 2,726 surveys sent out with sewer bills, 2,234 residents responded with 57% voting yes for shutdown and 43% voting no. We are now and have been asking Borough Council to pass a resolution calling for the permanent shut down and de-commissioning of Units 1 and 2 and actively support the use and development of SAFE alternative energy sources.

The bake sale was a tremendous success on the West Shore grossing \$162.37. More important was the overwhelming support we received from Carlisle, New Cumberland, Dillsburg and our own good people in Mech. A big thank you to each or you. All baked goods that remained were transported to Colonial Park for their two-day bake sale. Working together is a most rewarding experience.

We would like to thank Paul Makaruth for his undying efforts in gathering, translating and organizing the names for the fundraising mail campaign which is going on now. Every Saturday, for many months, we are meeting at Friends' Meeting House, 6th and Herr Streets, downtown Harrisburg, from 10-5. Surely everyone can get away for two hours or more to help on this massive effort. There is a great playroom for the children, so bring the whole family. Thanks to those who have already sacrificed their time.

UPDATE: On Tuesday, February 19th, the Borough Council voted to support the shutdown resolution. Copies will be sent to President Carter, Governor Thornburgh and all area elected officials.

On February 13, the Swatara Township Board of Commissioners voted unanimously in support of a resolution calling for the closing of TMI as a nuclear generating station. Last year, the Board had refused to adopt such a resolution, but recent releases of radiation and Met Ed's failure to inform civil defense officials finally convinced them.

## Editorial: On Cleanup

In the wake of recent releases at TMI, and even before then, public and Met Ed officials began to push for a quick clean-up of TMI. On January 29th the Patriot reported on an interview with Clifford L. Jones, secretary of the State Department of Environmental Resources. Jones said that a delay by the NRC on allowing clean up could "lead to needless public exposure of uncontrolled radiation." During the week of February 11 when releases occurred, Met Ed pointed out that such leaks would continue because much equipment could not be checked and serviced until the plant was cleaned up. Robert Arnold expressed concern that the sentiment of area residents might stand in the way of effective clean up.

Meanwhile, the NRC has stood firm in their commitment to prepare an environmental impact statement focusing on all issues related to decontamination and clean up before commitments on specific clean-up choices are made. Met Ed's proposals for clean up will be evaluated in light of that statement.

It's clear that we want TMI cleaned up as much as Met Ed does, but for very different reasons and in very different ways. If we don't want what is quickest and cheapest for Met Ed, we must make our own proposals. It is, therefore, essential that we let the NRC know what we know and what we feel.

The second in a series of public meetings was held by the NRC in Middletown on February 12. The meetings are being held to solicit public comments on the environmental impact statement (EIS). At the meeting a number of suggestions were made: a citizen's advisory committee to work with the NRC on the EIS; monitoring devices available at convenient locations for the public; inclusion of the effects on the food chain and on geology; a new look at "cost/benefit analyses." A number of these suggestions including the citizens advisory committee are under "active consideration" according to NRC spokesmen. But all comments received by the NRC will CONT. 6

be included as appendices to the EIS. WRITE the NRC today (the deadline for comments is supposed to be February 29, but hopefully they won't ignore comments submitted after that date):

Donald R. Muller  
Acting Director  
Division of Site Safety &  
Environmental Analysis  
Office of Nuclear Regulation  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555



### SPEED ON SAFETY ISSUES CHALLENGED

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards told the NRC on Feb. 11 that government may be moving too swiftly to develop criteria for reactor safety in the wake of the TMI accident.

"The rush to judgement may result in, at worst, error, and at best, inefficient uses of resources important to safety," said Milton S. Plesset, ACRS Chairman.

President Carter, however, has recently stated that he has recommended that the NRC resume licensing of reactors as soon as possible.

# TMIA Structure

by Mac Albright

Three Mile Island Alert is made up of volunteers. The organization provides only a framework for the power of people involved to make actions more effective. During the summer of 1979, the organizational structure of TMI Alert was set. Membership consists of dues-paid individuals in local community groups, task forces, and member at large. One representative from each task force and community groups plus one paid staff person constitutes a planning council. The planning council meets monthly and plans general meetings and sets broad policies and strategies. Vote is by 2/3 majority.

The steering committee is constituted of seven members elected by planning council for one year terms. The steering committee is responsible for all decisions and coordination of the organization including fund-raising, in order to implement policies and strategies. The steering committee's responsibility to coordinate the organization and make decisions can only be accomplished by close connections with day-to-day events and conditions. The steering committee has met weekly with very few exceptions since September. Elected members are as follows: Joel Roth, Chairman; Al Mirando, Vice Chairman; Will Rodgers, Treasurer; Mac Albright, Secretary; John Murdoch, Pat Street and Tim Percarpio recently resigned and replacements are currently being sought.

The organization's purposes have remained basically unchanged although individuals attending at various times have lent particular emphases:

- to insure that TMI remains closed,
- to broaden the base of informed citizenry opposed to nuclear power,
- to promote the use of alternate energy sources.

Toward these ends, the steering committee has been working to make sure the legal intervention is proceeding properly and that adequate funding for this legal process is assured. Local, joint, and national fundraising have

been encouraged and will continued through 1980.

Continuing emphasis on the permanent shut-down of TMI is currently stressing that clean-up operations be conducted safely. The task of achieving an informed citizenry opposed to nuclear power is being attempted through encouraging of task forces and community groups. Meetings, rallies, media, direct mail, telephone campaign - all are planned or in operation to accomplish TMI Alert goals.

The steering committee and planning council have been re-examining the status and operation of sixteen task forces. An original list of thirteen community groups has been in a state of flux as new groups form and some original groups flounder.

In spite of organization problems inherent in any group of volunteers facing the enormous threat of nuclear madness, the successes have been considerable.

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The TMIA fundraising effort got off to a strong start when nearly 5,000 letters were put into the mail on February 1. Another 2,500 letters are ready to go out as we go to press.

Using lists from petitions, rallies and other events, the task force plans on getting nearly 20,000 letters into the mail during the next few months.

While normal fundraising efforts can be expected to return roughly 1%-2%, our effort has returned over 3% already. In dollar figures, that means nearly \$3,000 from the first mailing.

The letters are being followed up with telephone contacts; the calls are being made by community groups. We hope that the calls will push the return to close to 8%.

Among the responses to the letters have been nearly 80 new memberships and 25 new volunteers.

But costs (both legal and organizational) continue to mount. To help, call Al Mirando at 774-7215 or call the office.

Don't try to sell your house for a profit if you live within five miles of TMI, according to a recently released study commissioned by Governor Dick Thornburgh.

The study, conducted by the Department of Community Affairs, concluded that the volume of property sales in that area has decreased over last year's sales, and unsold properties have remained on the market longer than in the past. In addition, housing sales prices have not appreciated at the same rate as those in surrounding areas, according to the study.

## Home Energy

More than a year ago, Congress passed the National Energy Act of 1978 which mandated the states to prepare plans for a program of residential energy retrofits.

Pennsylvania, held up by slow issuance of federal regulations, is now in the process of developing such a plan. The plan will be prepared by the Governor's Energy Council.

To aid in the drawing up of such a plan, an advisory panel made up of representatives from utilities, manufacturers of insulation and conservation devices, and consumer and energy groups has been formed. Chris Sayer, staff coordinator of TMIA, has been appointed to this panel.

A staff draft plan has been prepared by GEC counsel, John Buffington. Copies are available at the TMIA office. The plan has drawn fire from both consumer groups and the utilities.

"One complaint of the consumer groups," said Sayer, "is the failure to require solar conversion information in the house audits for most regions of the state."

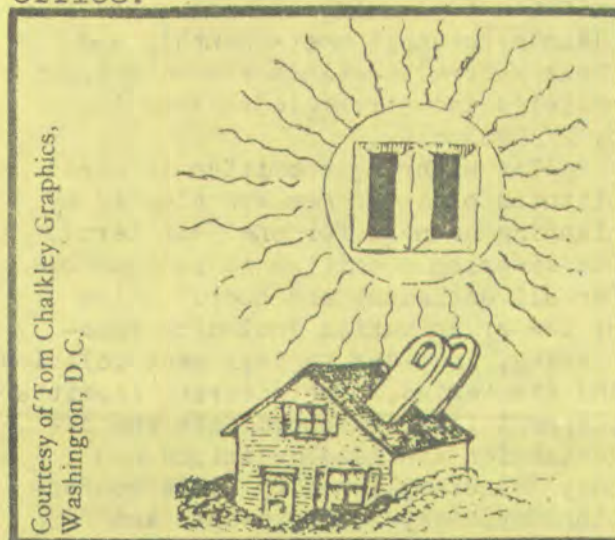
"Additionally," he added, "the funding mechanisms set up

to aid consumers appear to woefully inadequate."

The draft plan leaves funding of the retrofits to the commercial banks. In most urban areas, banks have been unwilling to provide housing rehab loans to people living in older areas.

"Since these houses are often the ones that need the retrofits most, any program must address the problem of financing in a serious, complete manner," said Sayer.

Anyone wishing to provide input into this process should contact Chris Sayer at the TMIA office.



Unlike the governors of a number of other states, including Maryland and California, Governor Thornburgh seems unwilling to take on nuclear power. In an editorial published on January 29, entitled "Where Does the Governor Stand?", the Patriot refers to Thornburgh's increasingly ambiguous statements on TMI and the future of nukes. He seems to be waiting for someone else to decide.

After an emergency meeting of TMIA on February 22, a group of approximately 100 angry area residents marched to the Governor's Mansion chanting and carrying signs. Unfortunately, the Governor couldn't speak to us because "he had a cold." It's important to keep the pressure on him. Write to the Governor and urge him to take a stand on the closing of TMI!

## Shorts

A "moderate" earthquake caused \$1 million damage to the Lawrence Livermore nuclear weapons factory in Northern California last month, and caused a small leak of "harmlessly radioactive" tritium into the atmosphere.

The quake also burst gas pipes near a storage area for plutonium. A fire in that area would have led to radioactive smoke and debris being spread over a wide area, 30 miles east of San Francisco.

According to Philip Day, the director of San Francisco's Office of Emergency Preparedness, the only bright spot is the fact that now the city administration has agreed to raise his budget from \$200,000 to \$350,000, which would qualify him for an additional \$150,000 in federal funds.

The dog pound budget in San Francisco is \$750,000.

The managers of Harrisburg's incinerator/steam generator have made it clear they don't want any garbage from TMI except "ordinary litter."

Public Works Director Russell Myers, Jr. and his deputy, Jack Karper, said they will accept other trash from TMI only if it is accompanied by a certificate from the NRC which states it is not contaminated with radioactive materials.

If you want to retain your good reputation, don't tangle with the FBI.

A recent Jack Anderson column reported that the FBI have harassed and slandered congressmen, legislative staff and reporters who have questioned their role in the controversial Silkwood case.

Anderson said the FBI accused the Congressman, John Dingell (D-Mich.) of patronizing a prostitute who had Mafia connections.

Staff member needed. Must be good typist and have other office skills. Interest in alternative energy required. Contact Wind Power Digest at 233-3996.

Next month we'd like to do a story on the transportation of atomic wastes. If you have information, or can write the article, please contact The Alert at 233-3072 or Terry Roth at 236-9486.

Nuke jargon has spread. It's now applied to cold-war activities.

On January 18, State Department press aide Hodding Carter, attempting to quiet growing apprehension over reported Russian troop movements on several fronts, described them as "low-level" military moves.

Our guess is that on that scale the Russian incursion into Afghanistan would earn at least in "intermediate level" rating - unless Met-Ed has a copyright on that term.

The nuclear industry has persistently sought recognition of its efforts - and this time has gotten what it deserves.

The National Council of Teachers of English presented its annual "doublespeak" award last month to the nuclear industry for its oral response to the TMI accident.

William Lutz of the teacher's group cited the following items which won the award for the nuclear industry in a landslide:

- \* "Energetic disassembly" - meaning explosion
- \* "Rapid oxidation" - meaning fire
- \* "Normal aberation" - meaning reactor accident
- \* "Plutonium has taken up residence" - meaning plutonium contamination.

And who claimed the nuke industry didn't have a sense of humor?

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Kay Rogers  
Sue Shetram  
The Williams Family

## Resources

The following articles are available from the Clamshell Alliance. To order send a check or money order payable to Re-Source, Inc., P.O. Box 127, Astor Station, Boston, MA 02123. Add a 10% handling charge:

--Energy and Nuclear Power - A basic guide to the nuclear fuel cycle, reactor operation and radiation dangers. 4 p.p. \$.15 each (\$.05 for 15 or more)

--"Nuclear Waste" - Another basic describing nuclear wastes and problems of transportation, storage, disposal and security. 2 p.p. \$.15 each (\$.04 for 15 or more.)

--"Nuclear Accidents: A Look at the Record" - \$.15 each (\$.05 for 15 or more)

--"The Medical Implications of Radiation" - Helen Caldicott explains the health hazards of the nuclear fuel cycle from mine to waste dump. 2p.p. \$.15 each (\$.04 for 15 or more)

--"Hot Work" articles on uranium mining, construction, workers, etc. 4p.p. \$.15 each (\$.04 for 15 or more)

--"Radiation Standards and Public Health" - at \$4 per copy, available from Environmental Policy Center 317 Pennsylvania Ave. S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003 (202) 547-6500

--Energy, Jobs and the Economy - by Richard Grossman and Gail Daneker. \$3.45 for a single copy, bulk discounts available. From Carrier Pigeon 75 Kneeland St. #309, Boston MA 02111

--Counterforce Syndrome: A Guide to U.S. nuclear weapons policy. \$3.95 from institute for Policy studies, 1901 Q St. NW, Washington, DC 20009

--The Lizard's Tale, El Relato Del La Taranta - About nuclear power and ecology. Kissing Bears Collective, 224 Solano Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108

--Organizer's Guide to Nuclear House Meetings - 50¢ from Juli Loesch, Pax Center, 345 E. 9th St., Erie, PA 16503

--Accidents Will Happen - the Case Against Nuclear Power, \$2.50 + postage, from the Environmental Action Foundation, 1346 Conn. Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20036

--The Politics of Energy - a new book by Barry Commoner. Analyzes Carter's Energy Plan, solar energy potential. Available in bulk (10 or more) @ \$2.97 each from Jane Friedman, Alfred Knopf, Inc., 201 East 50th St., NY, NY 10022; a single copy is \$4.95

--Energy War: Reports from the Front - by Harvey Wasserman. Articles summarizing the dangers inherent in nuclear power plants. Lawrence Hill Publishers, 9392. Paper: \$4.95; cloth: \$10.95.

--The New Tyranny: How Nuclear Power Enslaves Us - by Robert Jungk. Succinct presentation of the global dimensions of the nuclear energy controversy. \$2.50, also discounts possible. Contact Jill Goldberg, Warner Books, Inc. 75 Rockefeller Plaza, NY, NY 10019. (212) 484-8000.

For an up-to-date flyer on costs and problems involved in decommissioning a nuclear power plant write: Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance, 5 State Street, Box 117, Montpelier, Vermont 05602

The Diablo Conversion Project has published preliminary findings showing Diablo Canyon nuke in San Luis Obispo can be economically converted to burn natural gas and methane. Costs would be competitive and impact on workers would be minimal while the eventual development of renewable fuels (such as production of methane from organic waste) would create many new jobs. For more information, contact Diablo Conversion Project, 1945 Berkeley Way, Berkeley, CA 94704, (415)-981-3800.

Solar Power Advocates, under the guidance of Jim Perkins, has completed its catalogue of Solar Energy Programs in Pennsylvania.

The catalogue contains information on statewide programs for solar development.

Copies of the first printing of the catalogue are available from Jim Perkins, P.O. Box 1378, State College, PA 16801. Cost is \$3.00; checks should be made out to Solar PA.

# No Nukes Calendar

## EVERY SATURDAY

TMIA Volunteer Work Sessions

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Ground Floor, Friends Meeting House

6th and Herr Sts., Harrisburg

## EVERY SUNDAY

MARCH 28 Volunteer Work Sessions

1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Basement, 1037 Maclay St., Hbg.

233-NUKE

Coalition meets every Sunday

night, same address.

## MARCH 4

Planning Council Meeting

7:30 p.m., Friends Meeting House

## MARCH 5

Robert Arnold invited to speak  
in Lebanon by mayor.

8:30 p.m., Municipal Bldg.

First Half hour for press questions  
and rest for citizen questions.

## MARCH 6

TMIA Health Committee Meeting

7:30 p.m., Friend's Meeting House

Call Mike Klinger, 921-8618

New Cumberland Energy Alliance

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

Jake Meyers, Chairman, Cumberland  
County Commissioners and John  
Baer of WITF-TV to speak.

## MARCH 8

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Events include a panel discussion  
at 2 p.m. at Lakeside Lutheran  
Church, Division St., Hbg. Topics  
include women and the draft, ERA,  
1980 U.S. budget. Sponsored by  
the Women's International League  
for Peace and Freedom.

MARCH 28 COALITION benefit vege-

tarian dinner, 6 p.m., Messiah

Lutheran Church, 6th and Forster,

Hbg. Entertainment and door prizes.

## MARCH 26

Benefit Concert for MARCH 28 COALITION.  
Forum. Call 233-NUKE for details.

## MARCH 28

Vigil near TMI - 4 a.m.

Vigil continues, one-minute speakout  
by area residents, press invited. 11 a.m.

Interfaith service, Grace Methodist  
Church. 7 p.m.

Debate on nuclear power, sponsored by  
WITF-TV. 8:30 at the Forum

## MARCH 29

Rally at farm near Goldsboro, 12 - 4 .

Many local speakers, entertainment  
and displays.

National speakers and entertainment  
including Ralph Nader, Pete Seeger,  
etc. For details call 233-NUKE.

**feiffer**

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TRUST ME.



4-25

feiffer

TMIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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Check Type Membership Desired

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

Return to: TMIA  
315 Peffer Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102

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## THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

Vol.2 No.4

Three Mile Island Alert

May, 1980

## Transporting N-Waste

By Ed Charles

The transportation, storage and disposal of radioactive materials is one of the gravest social responsibilities mankind has ever assumed. Three million packages of nuclear fuel, medical isotopes and atomic wastes travel through our highways, railroads and airports each year. It has been estimated that by 1985 the number of these shipments will quadruple.

The Department of Transportation estimates that one accident involving radioactive shipments happens every two days. Approximately 1,100 accidents have occurred in the past five years.

The effects of a radioactive accident from TMI are not limited to those people who reside in a 50 mile radius around the plant. The transportation of nuclear wastes from TMI brings the possibility of a nuclear accident to thousands of towns and cities across the U.S.

Since Barnsville, South Carolina will not accept the waste materials from TMI's unit II, the wastes must be taken to Hanford, Washington. This is a distance of approximately 2,800 miles. It has been estimated that it will require at least 2,500 trips to ship part of the waste from the damaged reactor to Hanford. This amounts to 7,000,000 miles one way, or a total of 14,000,000 miles roundtrip.

There are two approved routes for the waste materials from TMI to be sent to Washington - Legal Weight vehicles: PA. 441, I 283, I 83, I 81 N, I 80 W, I 294, I 90, I 94,

I 694, I 294, I 90, US 395, Wa. 26, Wa. 240. to Hanford; Overweight Vehicles (in PA only): PA 441, I 283, I 83, I 81 S, I 70 in Maryland.

In Pennsylvania there are many communities these waste shipments must pass through. Perhaps you have family or friends residing in one of these communities. Are they aware of the fact that nuclear wastes are being shipped in their area? Are they aware of the evacuation plans and medical procedures to follow in case of a severe nuclear waste shipment accident?

In Pennsylvania the towns on or near the radioactive waste routes are for Legal Weight Vehicles: Middletown, Steelton, Harrisburg, Linglestown, Indiantown Gap, Pine Grove, Frackville, Mahanoy City, McAdoo, Hazelton, Berwick, Lightstreet, Bloomsburg, Danville, Milton, Longantown, Milesburg, Bellefonte, Snow Shoe, Clearfield, Dubois, Brookville, Clarion, Emlenton, Mercer, Farrell and for Overweight Vehicles: Middletown, Steelton, Harrisburg, Summerdale, Enola, Wertzville, New Kingston, Carlisle, Shippensburg, Scotland, Chambersburg, Greencastle, Hagerstown, MD.

The above-mentioned routes are only for low level radioactive waste from TMI. So far no plans or routes have been established for the removal of the high level radioactive wastes.

It should be remembered that  
(cont.)

Deadline Next Issue: May 19

there are many nuclear facilities in the State and nation and that at some time the nuclear wastes from these facilities must be moved to storage areas. The NRC has estimated 1.7 accidents per million miles traveled by vehicles carrying nuclear wastes.

The Hanford site was closed briefly in 1979 and will probably not accept waste material for TMI after 1981. The radioactive material would either be sent to Idaho Falls, Idaho or Beatty, Nevada. Recently Indiantown Gap has been named as a possible site for low level nuclear waste.

For additional information about the transportation of nuclear wastes from TMI you could contact: Tri State Trucking, Box 113, Joplin, Missouri 64801 or Met Ed Personnel, Larry Zainer #948-8551, Mr. Heck #944-2500

Some relevant pieces of federal legislation are:

HR 3692 gives the Dept. of Transportation principal responsibility for transportation of wastes. Status: Referred to Subcommittee on Energy and Power, Energy and the Environment, Surface Transportation. Sponsor Harold Runnels (D-NM);

HR 4455 directs the NRC to require notification to the Governor of any State before nuclear waste is transported to or through the State. Status: Referred to Subcommittees on Energy and Power, Energy and the Environment. Sponsor: Cecil Heftel (D-Hi);

HR 792 prohibits transportation of radioactive material through or into an area with a population density greater than 12,000 persons per square mile, unless the material is related to a medical use, or unless an emergency exists. Status: Referred to Subcommittee on Transportation and Commerce and Surface Transportation. Sponsor: Ted Weiss (D-NY).

Meanwhile the U.S. Department of Transportation has published proposed regulations which would pre-

empt all local authority and nearly all state authority to regulate the highway shipment of radioactive materials. The proposed rules were published in the Federal Register on January 31, 1980. Written comments can be filed before May 31 with: Dockets Branch, Material Transportation Bureau, U.S. Dept. of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590.

## Rate Boycott

by Jack Knake

As a protest against the use of nuclear energy, we call upon you to join us in a rate boycott of your electric company. If you know the percentage of your local company's power that is produced by nuclear facilities, withhold that amount from each month's bill. If you do not know your local average, 10% is the nationwide average. PP&L customers are withholding 10% as PP&L is building the Berwick nuke. Met Ed's customers are withholding 25%. Adams County Electric Co-Op customers can withhold 10% due to their company buying electricity from nuclear power companies. Most every utility has some nuclear connection, even if it's only through their corporation structure.

It is suggested that you open a special savings account and each month deposit the withholding. Send your utility a letter with your payment stating your reasons. An example is: "As radiation from the nuclear fuel cycle is increasing the percentage of cancer deaths and genetic defects, I am morally obligated to withhold the nuclear percentage of my bill. It will be deposited in a savings account and will be returned to you with the account's interest at such time that you close your nuclear plant and convert it into a non-nuclear generating station."

Don't be afraid that they will shut off your electricity. In Pa. the utility must give 10-15 days notice and provide the customer with an opportunity to file a complaint with the PUC. The company can not terminate service when no one is home and must

(cont.)

leave a 48 hour termination notice. At any time during the termination process, you can pay up and begin the boycott again with the next month's bill. Many of us have been doing this since August 1979.

Many writers have suggested that, in the end, the future of nuclear power rests in the hands of the financial backers. If we all join together we can hit them where it hurts--in their pockets.

**WE AT MET-ED  
ARE PROUD  
TO GIVE YOU  
ENERGY**

**AT  
ANY  
COST**

## **Phantom Taxes**

According to an recent report by the Environmental Action Foundation, "phantom taxes" are collected from ratepayers but never paid to the federal government because of a series of tax loopholes. In 1978, on the average only 6% of income went for federal taxes.

Met Ed collected more than \$21 million from consumers in 1978 in order to pay their taxes. But, because of some accounting tricks (two-book or normalized accounting), the company actually got \$14 million back from the Feds. The consumers got nothing back from the windfall.

PP&L paid nearly \$10 million in taxes during the same year. Unfortunately for the ratepayers, they had charged us over \$70 million for these taxes. The difference - over \$60 million - went into their own pocketbook.

Past efforts to stop the dual tax system have failed because of

powerful lobbying efforts by the utility industry. In fact, several years ago, the late Senator Lee Metcalf tried to get utilities declared "tax-exempt" so that they could not charge the rate payers for taxes they would never pay. The utility industry ironically blocked that effort.

For a copy of the "phantom tax" update, call or write the TMIA office.

General Public Utilities annual stockholder's meeting will be held on Monday, May 5, 1980 at 2:00 P.M. at the William G. Mennen Sports Arena in Morristown, N.J.

S.E.A. Alliance in Morris County, N.J. will be organizing pickets outside the meeting. It is hoped that a number of TMIA members will be able to join the lines. For directions to the meeting, or for carpooling (either driving or riding) call TMIA office at 233-7897

## **Krypton**

The Governor is listening! On Friday, April 11, Governor Dick Thornburgh wrote to the NRC and asked for a delay on the krypton venting decision until an independent study by the Union of Concerned Scientists is completed. "The [venting] proposal has aroused considerable anxiety in the surrounding area, coupled with the assertion by some that safer alternatives exist for krypton decontamination," Thornburgh told NRC Chairman John F. Ahearne in his letter. Maybe we should write the Governor a thank-you letter for a change.

In other krypton related news, Senator Ted Kennedy stated his opposition to the venting of the krypton during his recent visit to Harrisburg. Dauphin County Commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution opposing venting plans. And the TMI Legal Fund investigation has lead them to conclude that venting the krypton is not a prerequisite to continuing maintenance work on Unit 2. Jean Kohr, Lancaster attorney and spokeswoman for the group said that workers can wear protective suiting to enter the krypton atmosphere in the containment building and service equipment there. (cont.)

Meanwhile, the Mayors of Lebanon, Harrisburg, Lancaster, York and Elizabethtown recommended that Thornburgh make an immediate decision on the venting. They contend that the UCS study will not be "objective." Mayor Doutrich of Harrisburg said he was concerned with, "removing the festering sore that's in our midst and removing it as soon as possible." Apparently expressing similar concerns, the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce on April 17 announced their support of the plan to vent krypton.

## Legal Update

by Chris Sayer

TMIA's case before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission moved into the final stages last month, with the presentation of witnesses and the filing of briefs for the Commission.

TMIA witnesses Dr. Robert Tower, Dr. William Belmont and Dr. Vince Taylor argued that TMI Unit I should be removed from the MetEd ratebase since it did not meet the statutory requirements of being "used and useful." Tower testified that there was no indication when Unit I might again be available to the utility. "To say merely that TMI-1 is neither used nor useful is an understatement," concluded Towers.

Belmont argued that the entire cost of nuclear power in general and the TMI accident, in particular, had never been figured into an economic analysis of nuclear power. Belmont pointed out that a full risk-benefit analysis should be done to see if the closing, conversion or phase-out of TMI as a nuclear facility might be better for everybody in the long run.

Belmont told the commission that an analysis of utility stocks indicated that there was a higher cost of equity capital to those utilities which had made decisions to go down the nuclear path. Belmont demonstrated that both before and, to a greater extent, after the accident, investors have required a significant, demonstrable risk premium for investing in

utilities which wanted to build nuclear facilities.

Vince Taylor answered testimony presented by the utility on the importance of nuclear power and the effect of the PUC decision on national security, national energy policy, God and motherhood (not to mention apple pie). Taylor outlined the economic and political impact of nuclear power, concluding that "No matter how large and important nuclear power appears to utilities and nuclear manufacturers, it is, in the vernacular of my part of the country, mighty small potatoes when viewed in the overall context of the energy crisis."

What's more, as Dr. Belmont testified, a decision by the Commission which either implicitly or explicitly causes a proper valuation of nuclear energy would be a positive contribution to national energy policy. Belmont summarized this need, saying "It may be useful to think of sending a more accurate signal of the true economic cost of this technology to the investment community by increasing their relative share of the financial burden of the TMI accident by somewhat more than has been suggested as appropriate in these proceedings."

The PUC is expected to make a decision in late May on whether the temporary rate increase will stand, whether Unit I should be taken out of the rate base, and whether MetEd should be allowed to operate in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Jimmy Carter has designated the Environmental Protection Agency as the primary federal agency responsible for the monitoring of off-site radiation levels around TMI and for running a program to keep local elected officials and the public informed on clean-up activities.

The EPA is opening an office in Middletown. H. Matthew Bills of EPA's office of Monitoring and Technical Support will coordinate local activities. Erich W. Bretthauer, director of EPA's Nuclear Radiation Assessment Division, is project manager for the monitoring program. Time to write some more letters!

## Editorial: On Hate

All of us are hostages to Met-Ed and it is only natural that we are angry. I have watched our anger build in private conversations, public meetings, on buses and street corners. It reached a resounding crescendo one night in Middletown, I looked around the room that night and I saw it and heard it from hundreds of people. I am afraid.

I was afraid because in some of those eyes I also saw hatred. And that hatred was not directed at nuclear technology, but at the men in the front of the room.

Don't get me wrong--John Collins is not among my favorite people. But he is a person. Because he is a representative it is easy to direct our emotions at him. But I think that is wrong.

If we resort to verbal and emotional violence against people, we lower ourselves to the level of the people we are opposing. If their tools are war, hatred and fear, then we must choose better tools.

I'm not suggesting that we take the NRC home to dinner this month, or that we in any way soften the points we are making. I'm simply saying that if a year of fear and anger has turned to hate, let's make clear that it's the cooling towers we hate and not the men who build them. We are much more likely to convince them of the rightness of our fight for our lives if we respect theirs.

Philadelphia Electric wants to complete construction on the Limerick nukes on the Schuylkill River in Montgomery County near Philadelphia. According to Critical Mass Journal, it's the second worst nuclear power plant site in the U.S. because of high population density -- 7 million people within a fifty mile radius.

On Sunday, May 18, Limerick Ecology Action and the Keystone Alliance will sponsor a rally in Chester County, just across the river from Limerick. It will run from 11 A.M. till 5 P.M. Speakers include Marjorie

Aamodt, TMI-NRC hearings intervenor; Kay Camp of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Rev. Bob Moore of Mobilization for Survival; and Danny Sheehan, attorney in the Karen Silkwood case. Entertainment will be provided by local talent.

For more information, contact TMIA (233-3072) or the Keystone Alliance. (Information from Lepoco's April/May newsletter.

## Nukes & Oil

by Chris Sayer

Last February, Jimmy Carter made the statement that "each nuclear plant eliminates the need to import 13 million barrels of oil annually."

Since 68 plants had commercial operating licenses during 1979, Carter's figure translates into an oil savings of 884 million barrels of oil annually.

On January 9, at a meeting of the NRC, Roger J. Sherman, Chairman of the Atomic Industrial Forum, stated: "The nuclear reactors presently licensed to operate...supply the nation with electricity that otherwise would require burning 1.5 million barrels of oil a day." This translates into 548 million barrels a year.

Both Mr. Carter and Mr. Sherman are operating from an assumption which significantly distorts the relationship between operation of nuclear plants and oil saved. This relationship is important to those who plan our energy policies and to the public, which must judge these policies. Both are being grossly misled.

According to George L. Weil, former assistant director of the Atomic Energy Commission's Reactor Development Division, most of the displaced fossil fuel is coal. He cites a recent study by the NRC (using utility figures) that shows that nuclear plants definitely displace 80 million barrels of oil (during an 11 month period from Jan. to Nov., 1979). The annual total, Weil says, was probably close to 87 million barrels - not Mr.

(cont.)

Carter's 884 million or Mr. Sherman's 548 million. Sixty-one per cent of the electricity generated by nuclear plants displaced coal, 20 per cent displaced oil and 19 per cent displaced oil, coal or gas.

In other words, according to the former AEC official, in 1979 American nuclear plants that clearly displace oil saved as much oil as Americans could have saved if they had consumed 3% less gasoline. That means if you normally drive 10,000 miles each year, you could shut down nukes by driving just 300 miles less each year.

## Community Groups

Concerned Citizens of Londonderry is trying to remain active by scheduling monthly meetings with a theme for each month. Our meetings will be held the third Tuesday of every month at the Geyer's Civic Center at 7:30pm. Our March 18th meeting concerned "TMI Is Not Over." Andrea Chessman from the TMIA education panel brought some facts to our attention--facts which raised questions that were suggested we ask of the NRC.

Our April 15th meeting will face the issue of evacuation. The Londonderry Township civil defense director will inform us of the evacuation plans being considered for our township. At this time, our township supervisors "have not gotten around" to approving the plans. By the suggestion of a Concerned Citizen, the supervisors have agreed to hold a meeting open to the public strictly for the discussion of the evacuation plans and to allow input from township residents. The supervisors did have to be reminded that it's been over a year since the accident and we still are without evacuation plans. Township residents are becoming increasingly concerned about the lack of plans. We hope these meetings will be the final push needed to get

evacuation plans into every home. (NOTE: Met-Ed has offered to print our plans for us!)

Londonderry Township was proud to host the vigil held on March 28th. Some pro-nuclear residents were disgruntled, but we proved to them that we can protest and still show respect for others and their property. Township officials were braced for riots and general lawlessness which was proven unnecessary if not totally ridiculous. If only as much attention could be given to evacuation plans for everyone as was given to the protests of a few who were concerned about their private property!

Members of the Hershey Area Alliance participated in the rally commemorating the March 28 accident by selling sandwiches and buttons and bumper stickers. They raised close to \$400 for their organization.

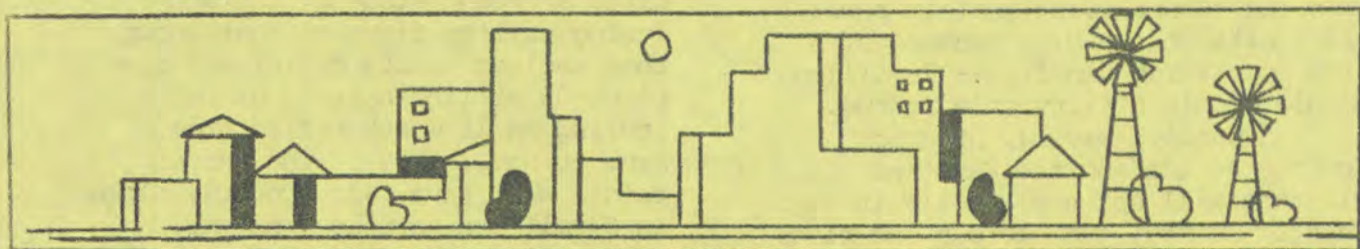
A recent newsletter was mailed to over 175 members and interested residents in the Hershey-Hummelstown-Palmyra area outlining upcoming TMIA and HAA events. Also included in the mailing was a fact sheet highlighting the anti-nuclear candidates in the April 22 primary election.

There will be a meeting of the Hershey group on Wednesday, May 7 at 7:00p.m. in the Hershey Chocolate Workers' Union Hall. At that meeting, members will discuss plans to hold a future fund raising project at the Fireman's Parade on May 17 in Hershey.

The Lower Paxton TMIA Chapter is not holding a public meeting in April in order not to compete with TMIA's April 16th meeting featuring Art Purcell.

Our executive meeting was held April 9th. We welcomed some new members and re-organized our committees. So far in 1980, as a

(cont.)



fund raising project, we have had a very successful bake sale at the Colonial Park Plaza, which resulted in a profit of nearly \$500, all of it donated to TMIA legal or/and general fund. On this occasion, we want to thank the Mechanicsburg group for bringing us some bake goods and the Hershey group for joining us the last day of the sale.

A lottery drawing netted \$50. Some of this had to be used for room expenses for our February 27th public meeting. We also bought three copies of "Nuclear Madness" by Dr. Helen Caldicott. Those books were donated to the Lingelstown Junior High School.

Our first public meeting was very well attended and we are very grateful to the TMIA panel for a most informative presentation. The panel consisted of John Murdoch, Dr. William Shoff, Andrea Chessman, and Karen Zaleski, all of them dedicated and knowledgeable. Education, determination and unity can and will alleviate our fears and frustrations by giving us direction and strength. The TMIA panel is a great tool toward those goals and we thank them sincerely.

On April 19th, our group will be at the St. Catherine Laboure Church on Derry Street for the flea market.

Since September 1979, when our group was formed, we are proud to have donated \$1,263.40 to TMIA. We are also proud to have Paul Makurath, heading and organizing in our area the TMIA fund raising project. The steady flow of letters and follow-up phone calls he has generated with his helpers is bringing great results. You will find Paul at the Friends Meeting House every other Saturday. Join him and all the other dedicated people from 9am to 5pm.

from Janine R. Ullom

Want a warm house at lower cost? TMIA is raffling off a wood/coal stove. Donated by Schrader Stoves of PA, the stove will burn wood or coal. It will produce energy to evenly heat 1800 to 2000 square ft. of living space. The stove retails for more than \$600.

For those who need chimney preparation, Leo Fetterman of Right Way Chimney Sweep will donate a free chimney cleaning.

Tickets are \$1 (6 for \$5) can be purchased at the office or through your community group. All money raised goes to TMIA to keep TMI closed. So, save heating costs and support TMIA - sell or, at least, buy chances on a warmer, less-expensive winter.

"THESE AREN'T EXACTLY  
THE KINDS OF CLOUDS  
I HAD IN MIND"



DOUG

#### Staff This Issue

Terry Roth ed.  
Sue Eason  
Debbie R-Fetterman  
Doug Grier  
The Hummels  
Mary Rosenkrans  
Sue Shetrom  
Chris Sayer  
Doug West

The Alert is looking for an editor. If you'd like to learn new skills, have a good time, and make a valuable contribution, please call Terry Roth at 236-9486 (Work) or 232-1191 (home) or the TMIA Office at 233-3072.

SHOW MET-ED/PPL YOU CARE TOO!

Roses are red  
Violets are blue  
Show Met-Ed/PPL that you care too!

Mutilate your bill  
It's easy to do  
It may sound silly  
But it puts them in a stew!

More work for Met-Ed/PPL  
More jobs too.

They can't say you're a bum  
And they can't sue

So deface your bill  
And have fun too!

REPRINT FROM LEPOCO NEWSLETTER

## Shorts

The plutonium prize of the month goes to Cumberland County officials including Robert L. Collins of the New Cumberland Borough Council and Earl R. Keller of the Carlisle Borough Council. At a recent meeting with Harold Denton of the NRC, they suggested that the NRC "release the Krypton without public notice to avoid public protest."

The April 2 issue of The Guide reports on Met Ed's latest contribution to the world of literature. They're spending \$137,000 for 16-pages of "corporate propaganda about the clean-up operations." The booklet fails to mention the Krypton issue (just think what it would cost if it had). Two-thirds of the cost will be paid by the stockholders. And the other third? You guessed it--Met Ed rate-payers pay again.

The folks in Livermore, California, are not having a good year. First the earthquake and then in early April, an "insignificant" amount of radioactive plutonium leaked from the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. Laboratory officials assured that there was "no danger to the public."

A year later and memories and moratoriums fade. In March and April, the NRC approved limited operating licenses for the Sequoya Plant in Tennessee and North Anna 2 in Virginia. These were the first licenses issued since the TMI accident began.

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club has called for the permanent closing of the TMI facility as a nuclear generating station and for conversion to another energy source, "provided the best available technology is implemented to protect the environment from pollution." For more information, or a copy of the resolution, contact Jim Schmidt, Nuc. Chair, 190 Gehman Road, Macungie, PA 18062.

Official NRC Data, used by Critical Mass Journal to study the risk nuclear power plants pose to American's major cities (populations exceeding 100,000) reveal that 66 cities have five or more reactors within a 100 mile radius. Allentown, PA and Providence, R. I. lead the list with 17 reactors a piece. Other Pennsylvania cities:

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Allentown, PA | 17 |
| Philadelphia  | 15 |
| Scranton      | 7  |

On May 18-21 the sixth Eastern Consumer Conference will be held at the Host Inn in Harrisburg. Conducted by the Institute for Community Services, Edinboro State College, the conference is sponsored by a large number of consumer offices, agencies, and organizations from throughout the East.

Major topics this year include the impact of multinational corporations on consumer interests, the bypassing of low income consumers in market-place issues, consumer policies in the energy arena, and the need for changes in our health care system.

Conference fees are somewhat steep--\$75 for the full conference or \$25 for a single day--but a limited number of consumer scholarships are available. For more information, or to register, contact the Institute for Community Services, Edinboro State College, Edinboro, PA 16444.

# May Calendar

Saturday, May 3: TMIA work session.  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Friends Meeting  
House, 6th & Herr Sts., Harrisburg.

Mon., May 5: GPU Stockholders Annual  
Meeting, Morristown, N.J.

Sat., May 10: ECNP Meeting, 10a.m. to  
4 p.m., 225 Hetzel Union Bldg, State  
College, PA.

Saturday, May 17: Work Session at  
Friends.

Sunday, May 18: Rally at Limerick.  
See story in this issue.

Sat., May 31: Work Session at  
Friends.

Wed., May 21: PANE showing of We Are  
the Guinea Pigs, 7:30, Capitol  
Campus Auditorium.

May 18 - 21: Eastern Consumer Con-  
ference, Host Inn. See accompanying  
article in this issue or contact the  
Institute for Community Services,  
Edinboro State College, Edinboro, PA.

## TMIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

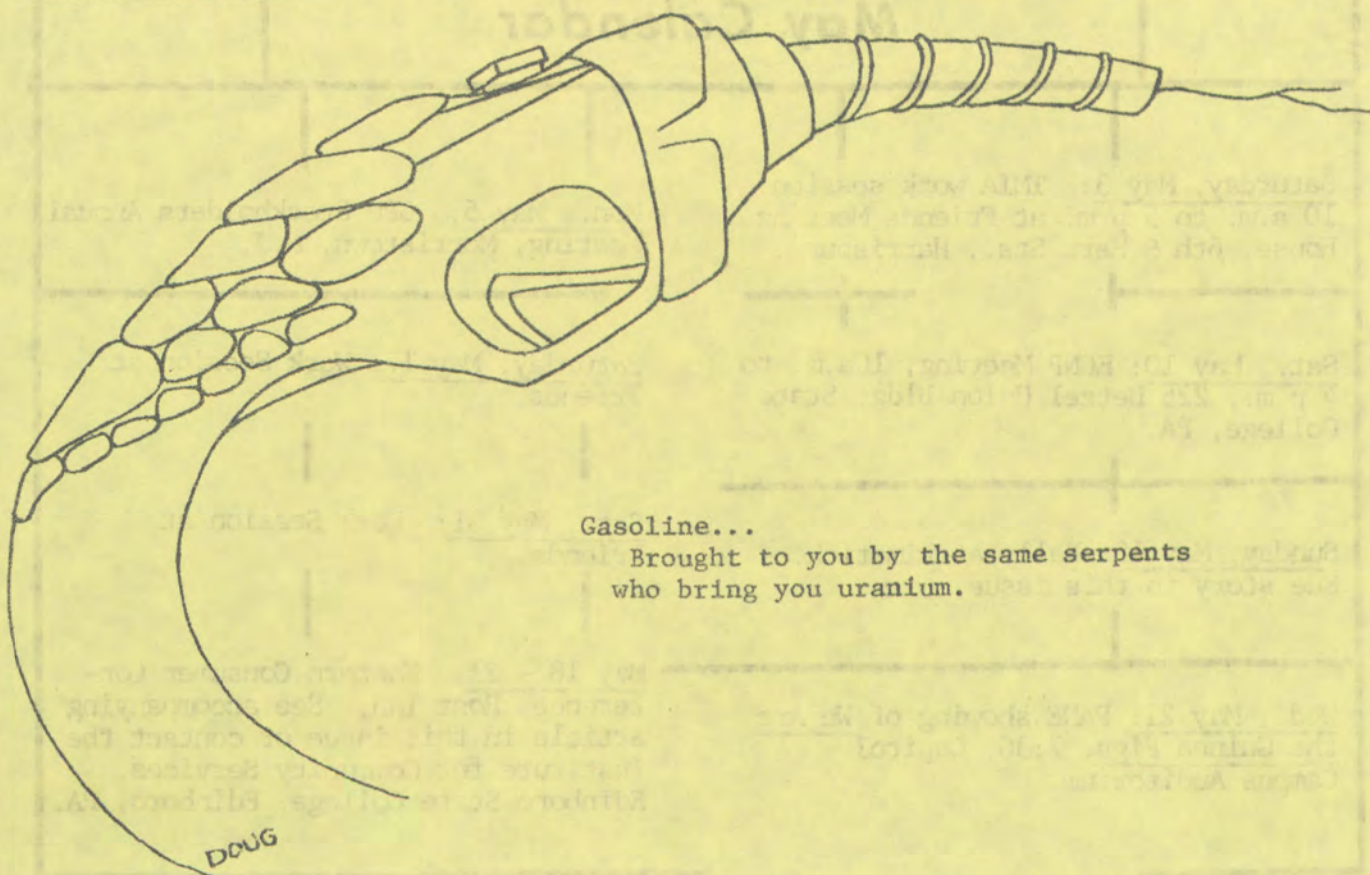
ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

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 non-member newsletter subscription

Return to: TMIA  
315 Pepper Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102



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Brought to you by the same serpents  
who bring you uranium.

315 PEPPER STREET  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17102

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# ALERT

## PUC Gives and Takes

by Chris Sayer

After five months of exhaustive testimony (most presented by the Utility) the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) handed down a decision on whether Met Ed could keep its license, whether they would get purchase power from the ratepayers, and whether Unit 1 would stay in the ratebase.

In a decision which took a middle road and thus dissatisfied most everyone, the Commission did the following:

1. Withdrew their "show cause" order on whether MetEd could continue to operate a utility in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
2. Ordered that Unit 1 be taken out of the ratebase and all costs arising from Unit 1 be borne by the corporation.
3. Allowed the full cost of "replacement power" to be passed on to the consumers, retroactive to March 28, 1979.

The withdrawal of the show cause order allows utility to continue to operate in the state. While not agreeing that MetEd had acted in a responsible manner, the Commission passed judgement on to the federal authorities saying that it felt that the federal government preempted any regulatory role of the PUC in the question of nuclear power.

The order to remove Unit 1 from the ratebase deprives stockholders of \$26.9 million in earnings that

they had been receiving from that plant, even though the unit was not "used and useful", the standard "measuring stick" for utility property.

The replacement power decision placed nearly \$140 million in new costs on MetEd ratepayers. With the savings from Unit 1, the net cost will be nearly \$110 million to customers of the utility. In the short term this will help to keep the utility alive, while in the long term the loss to stockholders and the resulting loss of attractiveness to investors will hurt them.

TMIA immediately moved to file exceptions to the decision. TMIA attorneys Larry Selkowitz and Mark Widoff submitted a brief raising the following objections to the decision:

1. That the PUC erred in not requiring that an independent panel be appointed to assess the conversion option.
2. That the PUC erred in not requiring immediate, drastic conservation measures.
3. That the PUC erred in allowing full recovery of energy costs before considering the utility's culpability for the accident and the present litigation.

One of the arguments raised by TMIA consultant William Belmont

cont.

DEADLINE: June 16th

was that no one has ever attempted to determine the full cost of nuclear power, including the increased cost of equity capital. TMIA is arguing that a full study of the cost of conversion should take place, and should include an assessment of whether Met Ed would be better able to raise investment capital by converting Units 1 and 2 to coal or other fossil fuels.

Additionally, TMIA argued that the PUC should order, not suggest, that conservation take place.

Finally, the TMIA experts argue that the Commission has placed great stock in the NRC in determining the degree of management culpability in the accident. If the NRC places blame on the utility, the PUC may determine that portions of the replacement power should be placed on the utility. Since there is little likelihood of the utility being able to repay this money if so ordered, TMIA has argued that full cost recovery should be deferred until after the NRC decides blame for the accident and management culpability in the event.

TMIA believes and is arguing that the decision does "great violence" to the opinion stated in the PUC order of June 15, 1979 that "that the ratepayers of Metropolitan Edison and Pennsylvania Electric Company should be no worse off - and no better off - because of the accident."

In an April 30 press release, GPU announced that first quarter earnings of 28 cents per average share, down 53 per cent from the 59 cents reported for the comparable period a year ago. Net income was \$17.1 million, down 52 per cent from the \$35.7 million reported in the first quarter of 1979.

P.R. BLITZ  
by Cathie Musser

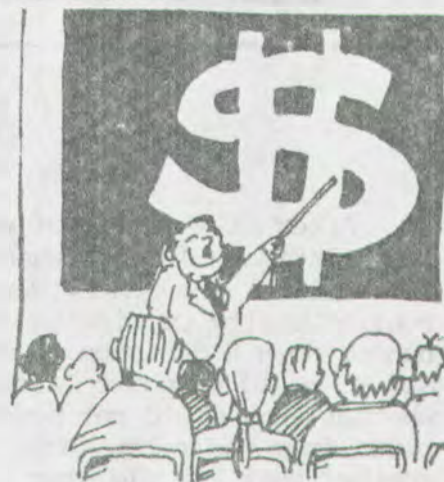
Heard the latest?

The electric companies through a group called the "Committee for Energy Awareness" is buying lots of time on area radio stations for nuclear energy "advertisements" (some stations playing

the ads are WHP-FM and WKBO, but there are probably more).

What can we do about it? If you object to the ad--call the radio station and ask them to stop playing it--or you'll stop listening. Then call businesses advertising on the station and tell them what you told the station. It doesn't take a lot of protesting listeners complaining to paying advertisers before the station learns they are losing money playing the plug!

DO IT TODAY!!



MEMBERS OF THE BOARD  
OF A UTILITY CONSIDERING  
ALL ASPECTS OF BUILDING  
A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Of the nation's 72 commercially licensed reactors, 20 generated nearly a watt of electricity in March, 1980. Some were down for repairs, some for modifications, some for refueling and TMI. Another 5 reactors operated at less than 10% of their capacity. Only 29 managed a capacity factor above 75%. Peach Bottom 2 operated at 42% and Peach Bottom 3 at 62%.

[from April, 1980 ECNP article;  
source: Nucleonics Week 4/24/80]

In related news, the Susquehanna Environmental Advocates are calling for an independent audit of PP&L's records in order to assess the company's need for additional power--the reason given to justify construction of the nuclear plant near Berwick. In light of the events of Three Mile Island, SEA also asks the Public Utility Commission to fully explore the consequences to our region's population, health and economy should a serious accident occur at Berwick.

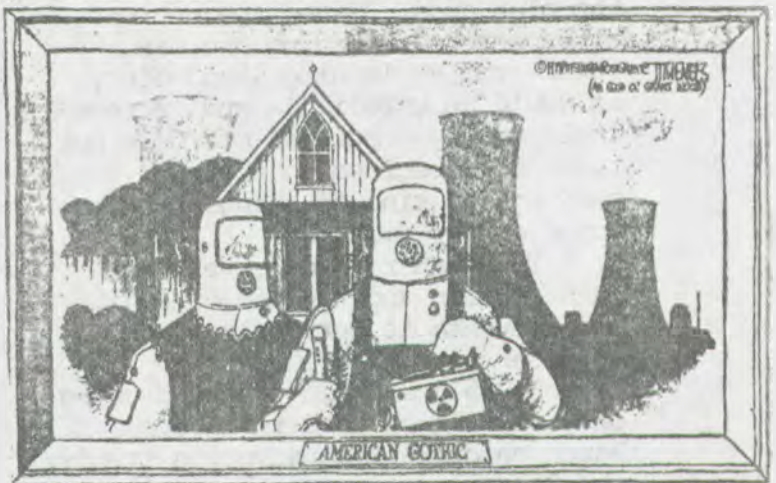
## UCS On Krypton

As most readers already know, the Union of Concerned Scientists has issued their report to the Governor on the proposed venting of Krypton 85. Briefly they stated that there would be no "directly induced radiation health hazard" but a great deal of psychological stress if the venting were carried out. They also disputed Met Ed's claims of dangers inherent in prolonging the decision and said that there was time and good reason to consider alternatives such as a different kind of venting, selective absorption, or the cryogenic process.

After the UCS report was released, Governor Thornburgh said that he would no longer oppose venting.

On May 17, TMIA held a press conference commending the study and Rep. Allen Ertel for his work on selective absorption. Joel Roth, speaking for TMIA, said that the UCS conclusion as to the lack of health dangers would go a long way toward relieving fears of area residents, but that no radiation should be released where an alternative exists. Roth also called for full consideration of the alternatives and the establishment of an independent technical panel (preferably the UCS) and a Citizens Advisory Panel while condemning the "shallow and incomplete" exploration of alternatives by the NRC.

This month the ALERT has a different letter-writing recommendation. In the past we've pushed critical letters to government officials. Let's try our hands at a thank you note for a change. U.S. Representative Allen Ertel has put a lot of time and energy into opposing venting of Krypton and favoring the use of a selective absorption system. Congressman Ertel deserves a pat on the back and reassurance that anti-nuclear voters will remember him at the polls. You can write him at local office in the Harrisburg East Mall.



### HEALTH AND OTHER EFFECTS NEAR TMI

A Pennsylvania Health Department study released this month showed "surprising" levels of anxiety among people living near TMI. The study showed disturbing increases in the use of sleeping pills, tranquilizers, alcohol and cigarettes. According to Peter Houts, a behavioral scientist at Hershey Medical Center and the director of the study, "The distress as we define it, has persisted for nine months, out to a distance of 15 miles."

One of the figures drawn from the study will have major significance for anyone trying to plan for an orderly evacuation. 54% of the people living within 5 miles of TMI said they would "evacuate immediately" in another nuclear crisis. That means that at the first word, 19,000 people will be packing up, going to the schools to pull out their children and getting on the road to get away. They will not assemble patiently at street corners, waiting wishfully for the school buses that may come to take them somewhere.

[from April, 1980 EBNP article;  
source: New York Times 4/18/80]

## PA Energy Plan

On May 19 Lt. Governor William Scranton 3d, Chairman of the Governor's Energy Council, released a state energy plan. Among the 61 recommendations was one calling for no new licensing of nuclear construction. The plan would, however, allow completion of plants under construction in Limerick, Berwick and Beaver Valley. And on a further note of caution,

cont.

the plan adds, "Given the current atmosphere surrounding nuclear power from a planning standpoint, it would be unreliable and increasingly costly. But the staff is not ready to foreclose that option, pending any kind of changes in the world energy picture."

The plan relies heavily on conservation and the use of coal. Pennsylvania is currently a net exporter of coal producing approximately 85.3 million tons and using only 61 million tons in 1978. Based on current consumption trends, the Council estimates that PA's coal reserves would last 500 years.

The final shape of the plan will depend upon legislative and administrative action. A series of public hearings is planned for June and July with a hearing in Harrisburg on June 25. Scranton predicts opposition from utility firms, the construction industry and others.

## Survey Results

Nearly three out of four Pennsylvanians feel that nuclear power plants are not safe enough and their number should be reduced until more strict regulations are put into practice. And Pennsylvanians with the TMI accident still fresh in their minds, are even more strongly concerned about nuclear safety than the rest of the country.

The public opinion survey of 1,100 residents was conducted by the Gallup Organization for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette late in March. On nuclear power, the pollsters asked the following question: DO YOU FEEL THAT NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS OPERATING TODAY ARE SAFE ENOUGH WITH THE PRESENT SAFETY REGULATIONS OR DO YOU FEEL THAT THEIR OPERATIONS SHOULD BE CUT BACK UNTIL MORE STRICT REGULATIONS CAN BE PUT INTO PRACTICE?

Twenty per cent of the state residents polled felt that plants were safe enough, while 72 per cent felt operations should be cut. Eight per cent had no opinion. Geographically, Philadelphia showed the most distrust with 88 per cent saying that operations should be cut back.

In the Philadelphia suburbs,

74 per cent felt they should be cut back; in the Southwest counties 67 per cent agreed on cutting back; in the rest of the state, the figure for cutback was 68 per cent.

All four of the areas were significantly higher than a national Gallup survey done in January 1980 which showed that 30 per cent felt that nuclear power was safe, 55 per cent wanted operations cut back and 15 per cent had no opinion.

## Silent Majority?

On Monday, May 12 a group of 25 Central Pennsylvanians met with the NRC in Washington. Claiming to represent the "silent majority" of the TMI community they advocated venting of the Krypton so that cleanup and reopening can proceed. The group stressed their trust in the NRC, condemned "sensationalist" media reports, and apologized for the behavior of other Central Pennsylvania residents. State Representative Kenneth E. Brandt told the Commission that he wanted them to know that Central Pennsylvanians "are not represented by a group of ill-mannered individuals who are not willing to listen to or accept the views of others". Needless to say Commissioner Joseph Hendrie welcomed the group with open arms. Would anyone care to place a bet as to whether we have heard the last from the "silent majority"?

## Survival Summer

A massive grassroots education campaign is being launched this summer under the sponsorship of Mobilization for Survival. Called "Survival Summer", the campaign is patterned after 1964's Freedom Summer and 1967's Vietnam Summer. Survival Summer seeks to instill a broad awareness of the threat to human existence posed by militarism, nuclear technology, energy policies and distorted national priorities.

The present national leadership is committed to a future of conventional mistakes on a grand scale. Survival Summer will offer a vision

cont.

of a strong and healthy society grounded in concern for the well-being of all Americans - and people everywhere. The specific goals are: no war, stop the nuclear arms race, sane energy policies and reordered national priorities.

Individuals and groups can make the campaign (and the future) a success by assisting in the carcassing, neighborhood forums, referendums, presentations, leafletting, candidate confrontations and teachins that make up the fiber of Survival Summer. For more information contact: MFS, 3601 Locust Walk, Phil. PA 19104 (215-386-4875).



## PAC Forming

Plans for the formation of a "safe energy" political action committee are underway. The PAC will operate through the fall elections.

PACs are nothing new. Many corporation (especially energy corporations) have them. They are a legal way for groups and people to funnel money into the political process. We hope to add a new dimension.

The plans call for dollar contributions to candidates for office in the state. Additionally, however, we hope to be able to provide consulting services to candidates, volunteer help for distribution and telephone work, and graphics and media assistance. Plans are already underway for production of TV and radio safe energy spots.

One of the criticisms leveled at anti-nuclear and other safe energy people is that they have no clout at the polls - and electoral

clout may be the only thing that a politician or public official will listen to.

Anyone who is interested in finding more should write to Chris Sayer, 313 Pepper Street, Harrisburg or CALL 233-3072.

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED

## Help Wanted

TMIA has the following openings for top-quality personnel. Payment will be in bananas, milk bones or other non-negotiable items.

EDITOR and other editorial people - to run and help with the ALERT. CALL Terry Roth at 236-9486 or 232-1191 or the Office at 233-3072 if you can help or would be interested in taking over.

OFFICE staffpeople - we need people who would be willing to spend a day or a half day per week in the office handling normal office duties. Call Chris or Kay if you can help (233-3072).

RETAIL MERCHANDISE COORDINATOR - how's that for a good title. We need someone who would take responsibility for getting shirts and buttons to retail outlets and then coordinating money pickups, shirt deliveries, etc. Much of this can be done from the privacy of your own home. Call Chris at the office.

FUNDRAISERS - all the world needs fundraisers. We need people to help with the mailings, make telephone calls. Also, we will be setting up a whole schedule of events for the summer and fall. We are looking at picnics, concerts and the 2nd HoeDown, polka parties, flea markets, etc. Anyone interested in working should call Chris at the office. Also, anyone with fresh ideas on fundraising events should contact the office - you will probably be put in charge of your own project.

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## News & Notes

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The Nuclear Information and Resource Service has a toll free line that you can call from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. weekdays if you need help finding something or someone having to do with nuclear power. Their phone number is 800-424-2477.

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Three Mile Island Alert now has available Bill Keisling's book on Three Mile Island: Turning Point.

Keisling, former editor of Harrisburg Magazine, was one of the first reporters on the site of the March 28th accident. His book looks at the accident, the utility and the NRC, the citizen response and the overall effect of the accident on the nuclear industry.

Keisling's work has appeared in several national publications including ROLLING STONE, and THE PROGRESSIVE. He is currently working on a piece for ATLANTIC on the Philadelphia Inquirer's coverage of the accident; coverage which won it a Pulitzer Prize for local reporting.

Copies of the book will be available at the TMIA office for \$4.95.

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The Alert is sad to say goodbye to Andrea Chesman. Andrea, who edits Island Updates and has been a hardworking member of TMIA, is leaving to take a dream job in Vermont. Andrea, we wish for you higher mountains, cleaner rivers, good friends and a nuclear-free future.

---

### STAFF THIS ISSUE:

Terry Roth (Ed.)  
Sue Eason  
Debbie R-Fetterman  
The Hummels  
Chris Sayer  
Sue Shertom  
Doug West  
The Williams

"Three Mile Island: A Report by the People" will appear in the June issue of The Progressive magazine. The article is a condensation of several statements written by people in the TMI area, who explain in their own words how the accident has affected their lives. The article was edited by former York residents Susan and Russell Mills, who have been collecting the statements since September. A special thanks to all of you who have contributed statements to the project and/or helped encourage others to participate.

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TMIA's fundraising drive has brought in money, members, and support. It's also brought more than one interesting letter. One person failed to check any of the spaces on the blue card and instead added some new categories which s/he checked:

"I have an instinctive dislike for any organization headed by a 'chairperson.'"

Also, for organizations that use four-letter words in their solicitations.

I'm in favor of nuclear plants.

It's good you folks weren't around when coal mining, oil exploration, etc. began--have you ever tried spending the winter in a dark tent heated with burning buffalo chips?"

---

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration recently awarded a \$296,000 contract to the Boeing Company to help learn whether nuclear wastes can be fired into orbit around the sun, into another solar system, or elsewhere in the universe. The initial assessment due in December is part of a four year study project by NASA and the Department of Energy.

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## June Calendar

JUNE 1 - 3: International Anti-Nuclear Days of Protest: Local Observances around the world.

JUNE 3: TMIA Planning Council Meeting, Friends Meeting House, 7:30 P.M.

JUNE 11: TMIA Steering Committee Meeting, Avatar's in New Cumberland, 7:30 P.M.

JUNE 14: ECPN Board Meeting, Messiah Lutheran Church, 6th and Forster Street, Harrisburg, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

JUNE 19: TMIA Community Group has booth at Mechanicsburg Jubilee Days. The drawing will be held for the wood stove.

JUNE 23: P.P.&L. Public Meeting about their proposed rate increase, 1801 Brookwood St., Harrisburg, 7:30 P.M.

JUNE 25: Public Hearing on the Governor's Energy Plan in Harrisburg. Call TMIA for time, location, & details. #233-7897

### 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 non-member newsletter subscription

Return to: TMIA  
315 Pepper Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102

FROM WHERE DOES THE WIND NOT BLOW  
By Alfred J. Miranda

From where does the wind not blow  
High above or far below?

Tree tops listen, bending with the wind  
while flags fly at half-mast  
letting us know, where we have been.

Do the builders of nuclear plants  
have the wind currents in their design?  
Or is it a coincidence  
just sitting in my mind.

During each controlled  
and uncontrolled release,  
it disturbs the balance  
all inner peace.

Misty steam bellows out  
Air becomes too thick  
Particles fall back to earth  
Pieces of the "yellow cake"\*

Anxiety, Fear  
Anger, Enraged  
Depression, Settles  
Neuroses grow deep er

and

Three Mile Island feeds the Susquehanna River  
Are we not the fish and other foods we eat?

The water we drink  
The air we breath  
How soon will the warmth  
of the day  
turn cold and barren as night?

\*"yellow cake"--raw materials of nuclear fuel

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## THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

Vol. 2 No. 6

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

September 1980

## THANKS FOR YOUR HELP

Dear TMIA Supporter,

Over the past several months, you have contributed money and frequently your time to the continuing struggle that we in Harrisburg find ourselves up against: the ongoing accident at Three Mile Island and the subsequent clean-up. The situation has been complicated by an insensitive Governor, NRC, and federal administration. The situation has been ironic, in the sense that a great deal of our money has been going to support Met-Ed via us as ratepayers and us as taxpayers. The battle will be won by those with the greatest resources. For now, the other side appears to have our money; however, you are beginning to turn that trend, by lending your financial support to TMIAAlert. Your money goes directly to the legal intervention that we are involved in, and also to efforts to keep getting the truth out to the public in this area about the travesty of justice that has been inflicted on the people of Central Pa. The struggle promises to be long and difficult, but with people like yourself sacrificing your hard-earned money toward the fight, we will overcome TMI.

Thank you letters rarely express feelings better than words; our thanks to you can only be done for now through this method. But, the appreciation we feel remains real. Together, we will get this monster out of our lives, and insure that

others do not suffer the same that we have. Thank you.

Joel Roth  
TMIA Chair

## WHO'S DOING WHAT

By Al Mirando

Out of necessity, common cause and purpose, local anti-nuclear organizations have joined together to insure the safe and rapid decontamination of TMI and to promote regional conversion to safe energy alternatives. The groups involved since the beginning of 1980 are TMI Alert (TMIA), Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power (ECNP) of State College, Anti-Nuclear Group Representing York (ANGRY), Susquehanna Valley Alliance (SVA) of Lancaster, Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee of Newberrytown, and People Against Nuclear Energy (PANE) of Middletown.

Two boards have been established under the fiscal sponsorship of the Youth Project. The Boards are the Three Mile Island Public Interest Resource Center (TMIPIRC) and Three Mile Island Legal Fund (TMILF). PIRC's function is to gather and disseminate reliable information and conduct scientific and technical analysis. Other activities include media, community organizing, and fund-raising. TMILF allocates funds in support of a variety of legal cases resulting from the TMI situation. To date, TMIA has received \$6,000 from TMILF for the last three months with allocations of \$2,000 per month.

As the hearings grow near (October) so do our financial needs. We will be turning to the Legal Fund for monies in order to obtain: witnesses, cross

cont.

examination, subpoena and other related legal obligations. It is important to note that the Legal Fund is not going to meet all of our needs. It is still essential for TMIA to continue an aggressive fund-raising effort.

Presently PIRC is seeking funds, submitting proposals to national funders in order to sustain both boards. A national direc-mail campaign has been operating for many weeks; however, it will be a full year before we will be able to benefit.

A representative from each group sits on each board and works with acting project director and research coordinator Steve Sholly. An administrative assistant has been hired. Additional staff will be hired, as funding permits, for media and community organizing.

Soon the NRC staff will issue its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on clean-up of Unit 2. One of the major tasks will be to analyze the EIS and print PIRC's findings. Steve Sholly has researched and written several fact sheets concerning the issues of krypton, radiation monitoring, and "Nuclear Accident and Recovery at TMI."

Recently Steve has researched Dr. Baratta and Dr. Garcia of Penn State University and their application to National Science Foundation for a grant to operate a "Public Citizen Science Center" (PCSC) at Penn State. Information indicates that Penn State is an inappropriate choice as a location for the proposed PCSC project. Penn State has trained nuclear reactor operators employed by Met-Ed and other utilities, including some involved in the TMI-2 accident. It is common knowledge that the president of Penn State, Dr. John Oswald, was appointed to the board of directors of Met-Ed's parent firm, GPU, after the TMI accident. It appears Penn State has a special interest and a built-in bias. This is clearly one of the movements to counter the anti-nuclear effort.

There is much to be done to demonstrate our sanity over the insanity of nuclear. We never thought it would be easy, but we have done much together and we must continue to renew our commitment together.

\*FIND OUT THE TRUE STORY--  
READ THE ALERT\*

## STAFFER RESIGNS.

On June 26, 1980, Chris Sayer resigned his position as Staff Coordinator of TMIAAlert. The best expression of how the members felt about this can be seen through a letter sent to Chris by Mike Jones on behalf of the Planning Council:

Dear Chris,

Your recent resignation as Staff Coordinator of TMIA was announced at the Planning Council meeting, Tuesday, July 2, 1980.

As a group and as individuals we would like to express our deep felt appreciation for the time, effort and care you put into the TMIA organization.

The expertise you have displayed in the many facets of nuclear energy and related issues has been an asset to us and the anti-nuclear movement as a whole.

We value your friendship and the fact that you have always tried to be available when we have had organizational or personal needs.

We remain your anti-nuke friends,

The TMIA Planning  
Council

For those unaware, Chris was an instrumental part of the growth of TMIA in the days following the accident. His sense of humor, warmth toward people he met and worked with, and his profound understanding of the issues regarding TMI, will make Chris sorely missed. All of us at TMIAAlert are grateful for his contributions to the organization. We wish you the best, Chris.

## LEGAL UPDATE

By John Murdoch  
While cleanup of TMI Unit 2 proceeds in fits and starts, the legal wheels grind slowly but inexorably toward the eventual start of hearings on whether or not Unit 1 should be allowed to reopen.

These hearings have been tentatively scheduled to begin 100 days from July 1, in early October. At that time, the three-member Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will open

what promises to be a lengthy proceeding, with a parade of witnesses and introduction of volumes of evidence, leading to eventual decision by the NRC itself on the question of permitting Met-Ed again to operate Unit 1. It is reported that those hearings will be held in the Harrisburg area.

Meanwhile, more than a score of TMIA volunteers (Their names will appear in a later issue of TMI ALERT) have been quietly at work at the laborious and unglamorous job of researching reams of records to unearth the facts regarding Unit 1 that will help support the basis of TMIA's case against restart. In the spartan setting of Met Ed's "Discovery Room" at the old Crawford (coal-fired) electric generating plant (now out of service) near the Harrisburg International Airport, they have been reading through the files that record Unit 1's day-to-day history. Other volunteers are working at compiling and typing the information found. A total of 590 hours has been devoted to this task.

A source close to the firm of Widoff, Reager, Selkowitz & Adler, retained by TMIA to represent its interests as an intervenor in the case, while unwilling to make a public statement prior to the hearing, did call the information unearthed to date "extremely interesting" and said it ought to help document TMIA's contentions as to how Unit 1 operations were conducted.

Dennis Bonetti, of the same legal firm, and John Murdoch, who stepped in to enlist and organize the volunteers, have been in charge of the "Discovery Room" work.

"Discovery," it is explained, is a legal process aimed at providing parties to a legal proceeding with evidence to support their case, and requires litigants to supply one another with files and similar information in their possession, on specific request. The objective is to prevent "courtroom surprises" -- Perry Mason to the contrary notwithstanding!

TMIA is one of several intervenors in the upcoming case; all are intent on keeping Unit 1 closed. Others include: PANE, ANGRY, the Union

of Concerned Scientists, Newberry Township, the Chesapeake Energy Alliance, the Environmental Coalition, and three individuals (Sholly, Aamodt, and Lewis). Each is concentrating on a different aspect of the situation. TMIA has chosen to devote major attention to the questions of Met-Ed's financial and managerial capabilities to operate Unit 1.

That the TMI case will mark a landmark in the history of nuclear regulation and in administration law seems like a foregone conclusion. Those who are supporting the battle with their dollars, as well as the volunteers who are helping with the legal preparation can know that they are helping shape a chapter in that history.

## CONSERVATION TIP

Hot water heaters can be more efficient. As well as the insulation, lowered water temperature and other conservation tips that are widely publicized, there is a way of turning off your electric hot water heater, except for the times of day you need it. The timer you can have attached is inexpensive and saves both money and energy.

A regular hot water heater keeps water at a usable, HOT temperature 24 hours a day. I know very few people who use hot water while they sleep! The timer can be set for any time you use most of your water (mornings--6:00am to 8:00am for showers and dishes) and some can be set to turn the heater on twice a day (morning and evening or any other time you choose). The insulation built into your heater (as well as the kind you can install) will keep the water hot after the heater is turned off and unless you drain all that water before the heater comes on again--you should never notice that you're conserving! It will save a bundle of money since hot water heaters make up a huge percentage of your home's electric bill!

Call a plumber now! Our timer cost us approximately \$40 installed and is called "The Little Grey Box." We have yet to run out of hot water.

Cathie Musser

# ELECTION CAMPAIGN

By Ed Nielsen

TMIA will be starting a Fall '80 Campaign on the Elections, that will be extremely critical to the efforts to keep TMI shut. Several Community Group Reps and others have put together a plan for September thru late November '80. Though plans are tentative, it appears that this campaign will be initiated immediately.

The plan will be action-oriented, with the focus on placing the following issues in the public eye:

1. intervenor funding for all facets of the continuing accident at TMI
2. public meetings for all phases of the cleanup
3. establish a citizen advisory panel that truly represents the interests of the people of the Central Pa. area
4. continuing problem of waste disposal from TMI

The plan must work. TMIA is at a crossroads and must rely on the commitment and active involvement of all members in order to keep TMI permanently shut. The plan includes these actions: several press conferences designed to place TMIA in the media's focus, as well as in the public's eye; continuing fund-raising efforts, including phone follow-ups to the letter campaign, and a legal update and appeal from our lawyers in the NRC intervention; an action designed to have the people of this area confront those in power (legislators) with anger and demands for a responsible end to our nuclear nightmare at TMI - this will occur in Harrisburg and then in Washington, D.C. in early October; attendance at the NRC public meetings that have already begun; and Election Day demonstrations at as many polling areas as possible.

The only way that any of this can occur is for all of the members to become actively involved in these strategies. We are about to have the nuclear industry (including the NRC and the White House) try to ram more of their ideas down our throats under the guise of democratic process. ARE YOU GOING TO LET THIS RIP-OFF HAPPEN TO US? 4

ARE YOU GOING TO SIT BACK AND LET SOME-ONE ELSE DO THE WORK? ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH THE FANTASY THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF BY THE TMIA OFFICE?

YOUR'RE DEAD WRONG...ONLY EACH OF YOU, THROUGH ACTIVE WORK WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE TMIA WORK.PERIOD...NOBODY ELSE BUT YOU.

CALL THE OFFICE AT 233-7897, OR ED NIELSEN AT 236-0521. OR BETTER YET, CALL YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP REPS AND GET INVOLVED!

## THANKS!!

A very big THANK YOU to all who made our raffle of a wood/coal stove a success. Donated by Jerry DuBois of Schrader Stoves of Pa., the stove demonstrates an alternative source of energy and burns wood or coal. The raffle was for the benefit of TMIA and raised approximately \$1200. The winner was Rich Plona of Houston, Texas, who was passing through and bought a ticket "for the heck of it." In a most charitable gesture, Rich gave the stove back to TMIA as an additional contribution.

## STEERING COMM. REPORT

By Joel Roth, Chair

"Going to sleep counting millirems instead of sheep - just one of the 'hazards' of being a member of TMIA." Anonymous TMIA member.

The Steering Committee has been incredibly busy during the past twelve months. We have been charged with the day-to-day operation of the organization and the implementation of the goals and strategy as determined by the Planning Council.

We meet three or four times a month as a committee and the following items could be found on our agenda: PUC hearings; restart hearings; a legal update from our attorneys; budget; cleanup operations and the need for a citizen's advisory panel on the clean-up of Unit 2.

A considerable amount of time has been spent on getting this panel appointed. We have recommended that this panel have complete access to all documents, technical assistance, and input into the decision-making process. We

want to avoid a duplication of the sort of decision-making that occurred during the krypton venting.

Word has been received, unofficially, the citizen's panel will be appointed in the near future.

The seven-person committee, as elected by the Planning Council, includes Cathie Musser, Ed Nielsen, John Murdoch (Secretary), Will Rogers (Treasurer), Al Miranda (Vice Chair), and Joel Roth (Chair).

Our philosophy is anchored in optimism. It must be, for optimism brings with it hope and purpose, and therefore, a will to fight for a safe cleanup and a permanent shutdown of the Island as a nuclear plant.

At times we do fall back and become discouraged, but it is not that we are making no progress, simply resolution of issues that in turn create other issues.

A sense of humor is a must: appreciating the absurd and helping to maintain a perspective of ourselves. After all when you are dealing with the "Twin Sisters" of arrogance (Met-Ed and NRC) or otherwise known as the "Evil of the Two Lessers," humor helps keep your sanity.

The Steering Committee is a microcosm of the organization. What I have written about the Committee applies to all of our members.

We do not have a monopoly on the work being done - nor should we. Our organization is strong and will become stronger because of the commitment of all the members.

The national elections coming up in November will be a springboard for action. We will put pressure on the candidates. No politician can sit on a hot issue if we make it hot enough.

## OFFICE REPORT

Most members of TMIA have never visited the office at 315 Pepper Street in Harrisburg and until I started working there on a regular basis--I didn't know what happens there--or at least is supposed to happen.

First, there's the phones. TMIA is listed in the phone book and a varying amount of calls come in every day. Most calls are from concerned local individuals, but the media call for opinions or statements and other

groups and individuals from all over this country and others call to be kept up to date on what's happening here. Unfortunately, there are calls going unanswered these days.

Secondly, the mail: Newsletters come from all over the world; requests for information from individuals, scientists, grant foundations; Technical Reports from the NRC, other scientific organizations and private citizens. Right after the accident, there were also a large number of new memberships and contributions. The direct mail fundraising has been initiated again (and is in need of help), but almost no contributions are coming in. However, the bills keep coming regularly.

There's also mail that should be going out. With this issue, we'll be returning to two newsletters being mailed each month: THE ALERT, and ISLAND UPDATES (keeping other groups "updated" as to our progress), Planning Council announcements and minutes, membership renewal letters, announcements of coming events, all need to be processed. These all add up, although a mailing is a simple thing--IF you have the supplies for it, which brings me to the next point.

An organization of this size (approximately 700) requires large amounts of paper, envelopes, tablets, stamps and someone to order and inventory them. We also need to keep track of all the T-shirts, books, bumper stickers, buttons and pamphlets--very necessary items if we're going to educate our neighbors.\*  
\*Most work done in and for the office is uncomplicated, requires little time if done routinely and absolutely necessary if TMIA is going to survive and (more importantly) be effective! If all the key people use their time keeping up with the necessities--there's no energy or time left for the programs everyone wants us to be providing.

I didn't intend this to be a depressing report, but until we can afford to hire the staff person to fit the job description designed by the personnel committee, we are responsible for the day-to-day operation of TMIA.

Cont.

Several members spent two consecutive weekends improving the physical appearance of our humble home, so those who visited several months ago and were unimpressed by the decor, should give it another try.

There needs to be some individuals who can spend part of one day a week answering the phone and possibly handling one small aspect of the day-to-day routines. After one or two visits to the office, you'll become acquainted with the types of calls received. Until then, someone will arrange to be there with you. The key here is that time required of one individual is directly related to how many individuals are involved. Being involved with the office has taught me new skills and expanded my horizons tremendously. There are benefits to everything!

So--I am offering my services as a job counselor for TMIA. I'm sure there are many of you that want to help, but don't know where you'll fit in. Believe me, there's a function to suit every skill and amount of time you have to spend. Just call me (652-8651) at home or leave a message with whoever answers TMIA's phone (we have call forwarding). I will get back to you and we'll discuss it--NO STRINGS ATTACHED.

Cathie Musser

## ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE- WE NEED YOU

The nominating committee to elect new members of TMIA Steering Committee is gearing up under the direction of Debbie Tulli, assisted by Karen Helvin and Nancy Orlowski. They will need your suggestions and help to put together a good slate for the October elections. You may call in to the TMIA office or call Debbie at 232-9104. It is extremely important to our efforts to continue with good leadership. We owe our present Steering Committee a debt of gratitude for working so hard under such difficult conditions and doing a great job. If you are committed, NOW is the time to accept the challenge.

## RATE BOYCOTT

People all over the country are fighting against rate hikes and the nuclear power that causes them by participating in a rate boycott of their electric company. Here's how it works: Each month when you pay your utility bill, withhold a portion of the bill. Met-Ed customers should withhold 25% as this represents the nuclear portion of their budget. PP&L customers should withhold 10%, which is the national average of electricity generated by nuclear reactors. Adams Electric Cooperative customers should withhold 10% since they buy some of their power through nuclear companies.

Write out two checks--one for the utility and the other for the boycotted amount. Open a special savings account in which to deposit the boycotted amount. By depositing your withholding you are demonstrating "good faith" and showing that you are not just trying to avoid payment of your utility.

Don't be concerned that your electricity will be shut off. In Pa., you must be given ten days notice and an opportunity to file a complaint with the PUC. At that point, you may choose to pay up and begin the boycott again with the next month's bill. You will have the money readily available in the savings account with accrued interest that would help offset any service charge the utility may require.

For additional information on the rate boycott campaign, contact Jack Knake at 800-932-0701 or 528-8265.

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### \*\*\*\*\*UPCOMING EVENTS\*\*\*\*\*

October 1 "Nuclear Nightmares: Wars That Must Never Happen" on WITF/Channel 33 at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 1. The 90-minute documentary, narrated by Peter Ustinov, depicts four "nightmares" acted by Ustinov that imagine circumstances leading to nuclear conflict.

October 4 Rally at Berwick Plant, sponsored by Susquehanna Valley Alliance on Oct. 4, 12-3 p.m. Contact Bob Witkowski at 829-5788 for additional information.

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## COMMUNITY REPORT

Fall is coming! We've plugged through the humidity long enough. With the cool air of autumn will begin the fresh vibrations of new beginnings within Three Mile Island Alert. The Mechanicsburg TMIA community group had a successful Jubilee Day, selling raffle tickets, buttons, T-shirts, and books from First Edition Book Store. We netted 25 new names of interested people and \$130. We wish to thank Cese Viti, Helena Dietz, Nancy Kohlstrak, Pam Hamilton, Kim Scott, Keith Bentz, Chris Thorpe, Wendy Lathram, Sharon Umholtz, Ruth Gentle, Frank Davis, Ed & Mary Ann Charles, Winifred Najdek, Tim & Peg Lyng, Barb Smith and especially Mike Jones for making it all happen. Most people were concerned about what will happen in the future--decontamination and waste materials. Other citizens were neutral rather than negative in regard to nuclear energy.

During the summer months, several members from Carlisle, New Cumberland and Mechanicsburg met and discussed the Cumberland County evacuation plan. We came up with many problem areas and wrote a list of questions. We assumed the next step was to talk with Mr. Tom Blosser, Office of Emergency Preparedness for Cumberland County. Mr. Blosser was polite and nonchalant, but could not begin to answer any of our specific questions. We will now meet with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to get some satisfactory answers.

Frank Davis, on behalf of Mechanicsburg TMIA has written to the WHP station manager expressing our anger concerning the recent advertisements in support of nuclear power. WHP said we would be given time to air our views, but specific arrangements are forthcoming. A letter was also sent to Ms. Susan Shanaman, Chairwoman of the Public Utility Commission, concerning the publication and distribution of a propaganda report entitled "Three Mile Island--One Year Later." This report was enclosed with the West Shore Shopper, which is delivered throughout the entire West Shore area. Another letter went to the Shopper asking pertinent questions about Met-

Ed's financial arrangement with the Shopper. We will share all responses in the next Alert.

In May, we approached the Lower Allen Township Commissioners requesting them to make a statement concerning nuclear energy. They agreed to take a survey of 5000 residents via the township's monthly newsletter. The survey question: "Are you in favor of the permanent shutdown of TMI as a nuclear facility?" The survey results showed 58% were opposed to TMI, 41% not opposed, 1% undecided. Last year, in the Borough of Mechanicsburg, the results were 56% opposed to 43%, and 1% undecided. We are making progress and judging from the comments on the surveys, people are becoming more knowledgeable and still have very strong feelings on the subject. One comment was, "I'd like to tell Harold Denton and his boys to kiss my grits!" We won't be satisfied until the commissioners make a public statement on Three Mile Island.

Mary Hartnett

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Let us tell you a very ugly fact about every nuclear power plant... a fact that your utilities do not tell you...a fact that the United States Department of Energy has not told you.

\*After approximately 30 years of operation, each nuclear power plant will no longer be operable. The plant will be so radioactive that it will have to be sealed and guarded for centuries.

\*After approximately 30 years of operation, each plant is so thoroughly poisoned with very high levels of radiation that each plant must be considered a permanent hazard to the public health for centuries.

The process of radioactive poisoning begins from the moment that the first atomic fuel core is inserted into a plant. The radiation levels in the plant structure rise steadily week after week, month after month, year after year as a succession of atomic fuel cores are inserted into a plant, used in the generation of electricity, and are extracted from the plant.

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## TELL ME A HORROR STORY MOMMY

By Doris Jean (Simmons) Clayton

Listen little children don't you cry  
while I tell you the story of TMI;  
Like the big bad wolf, radiation  
came to town,  
causing all the people to cuss  
and frown:  
Now like the three little pigs,  
all the people were filled with fear,  
for where could they run with death  
in the air:  
They decided they would stay and  
fight,  
entertainers came to join their plight:  
Linda Ronstadt sang Home on the Range,  
Pete Seeger said things gotta change;  
Dick Gregory said above the crowd,  
in a deep seeded voice strong and  
loud:

Not only are we free at last,  
but nuclear power will be in the past:  
Children you are here today,  
because in the past someone else  
had to pay:  
Long ago the Indians took a stand,  
they fought and they died for love  
of their land.  
The Blackman was brought here, bound  
and tied,  
robbed of his dignity, stripped of  
this pride:  
Now it took TMI's accident to make  
us see,  
if we support nuclear power, we will  
never be FREE:

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### Staff This Issue

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Sue Olmstead, Ed. | Cathie Musser   |
| Joel Roth         | Mary Hartnett   |
| Al Mirando        | Mary Rosenkrans |
| Ed Nielsen        | Doug West       |
| John Murdoch      | Sue Shetrom     |
| Terry Roth        |                 |

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: Sept. 19

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315 PEPPER STREET  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17102

Non-Profit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

P A I D

Harrisburg, PA  
Permit No. 807

## THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

Vol. 2 No. 7

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

October 15, 1980

### STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

The people listed below have been nominated to serve on the TMIA Steering Committee. Seven members will be elected. The results will be announced at the Nov. 4th Planning Council meeting, at which time the newly elected Steering Committee will assume their duties. Any member of the present Steering Committee who is re-elected will serve for 6 months. New members will serve for a one-year term.

Strong leadership is essential to our efforts. The Steering Committee represents the entire membership and YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT!

Please vote by marking a check (✓) next to your choices. Vote for seven. Return your ballots to Debbie Tulli, 200 Shamokin Street, Harrisburg 17110 by no later than October 31st.

VOTE AND MAIL IT IN TODAY!

#### NOMINEES...

Louise Bradford - Education task force; Coordinator of HACC Teach-In and May 6 March on Washington; Organizer of Speakers Panel; Volunteer staff person at TMIA.

Barbara Smith - Active member of Mechanicsburg Community Group; Former member of Mechanicsburg Steering Committee.

Paul Makurath - Active member of Lower Paxton Township Community Group; Coordinator of direct-mail fund drive; Assists with fundraising and political lobbying activities.

John Murdoch - Steering committee member since October 1979 and now serves as secretary; Heads legal task force volunteers; Member of Mechanicsburg Community Group and TMIA Speakers Panel.

Mary Osborn - Heads Steelton-Swataara Township Community Group; Community group representative on Planning Council.

Mary Hartnett - Organized and head of Mechanicsburg Community Group. TMIA newsletter staff person.

Ed Nielsen - Member of present Steering Committee; Community Group organizing; former member of Susquehanna Township/Uptown Harrisburg Steering Committee.

Joel Roth - Chairman of present Steering Committee; TMIA Interim Committee member; TMIA newsletter staff person.

### WE NEED EACH OTHER

The past several months have been extremely difficult ones for both TMIA as an organization, and the individuals as members. Because of the long period of time during which clean-up and other issues would be sequenced, activists trying to keep TMI shut would have to pace their energy and work closely with each other. To do otherwise would lead to burn-out and personality conflict so severe that the organization itself could be jeopardized. We now find ourselves at a crossroads that will test our commitment to each other and our effort; this is something that most

Cont.

members were aware of, even at the time of the accident.

The status of TMIA as a large membership organization, is presently somewhat shaky. Many people who were once actively involved, have now dropped or burned out; their reasons were many, but often cited were "too much work for too few people," or "I couldn't stand being around the office or \_\_\_\_\_." Personal, petty gripes that don't need to have such an impact...yet they do... Within TMIA, a system can be created that equally distributes workload, provides for interaction rather than conflict, and doesn't allow personality conflicts to have such far-reaching effects on our organization. We have the capacity to make TMIA much more effective than it presently is. Of course, the key is everyone's involvement. Period.

In the past several weeks, the Steering Committee has attempted to restructure and address some long overdue issues within the organization. Nominations from Planning Council for Steering Committee and the structure for elections; running the Pepper St. office with an all-volunteer staff; responding to the numerous requests for comment on the continuing accident; setting up public meetings with a reluctant NRC; continuing fund-raising for organization survival and most important, the legal intervention with the NRC; repainting and remodeling the office; developing a realistic budget; assessing, restructuring and rechanneling the remaining Community Groups; trying to assure that new projects and ideas get the appropriate support and follow-up, if the project is seen as workable within TMIA; and finally, though not conclusively, taking on the frustration of the membership who see the Steering Committee as doing very little for them.

At this point, I'll stop. It should be quite obvious that the key to the problems I outlined, as well as the key to virtually any problem we face, is our involvement. It should also be obvious that Steering Committee does put in a lot of time and effort into developing TMIA. Yes, mistakes have

been made; however, instead of dropping out, people have continued to push on. The hope is that all of us who truly care about keeping TMI shut for future generations will finally learn that we can have our disagreements, but still work superbly together. We have no excuse not to do this; yet, we have every excuse: OURSELVES.

We can no longer afford to choose to allow our individual needs to stand in the way of the group's and community's needs. The power and money (almost all of it is ours, tax or rate) that is against us is incredible. For now, only the people who read this and choose either to push for active change and growth via involvement, or drop out because "it's not worth it" have the decision to make. Any of us can make decisions and feel good about it: now we need to act on those decisions. It's on each of us....call the office...WE NEED EACH OTHER...damn it, it's our future...not Met-Ed's.

Ed Nielsen

## A PEOPLE'S ENERGY MOVEMENT

"From 'No Nukes' To A PEOPLE'S ENERGY MOVEMENT: A Strategy For The 1980s," co-authored by Pamela Haines and Bill Moyer, was recently published by the Movement For A New Society's magazine, DANDELION.

The article describes a broad strategy for the anti-nuclear energy movement to develop from a basic emphasis of no nukes to a broader people's energy movement in which people take charge of the energy sector of their lives. This process is actually already well under way, but different parts of the movement are often not aware of each other because they don't see how the different sectors complement each other. It includes a description of the historical development and changes in the movement, emphasizes the need for movement pluralism, and describes a wide variety of current groups and reference materials.

Copies of the article are available from Bill Moyer, 4713 Windsor Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143; phone: (215) 729-3276. The cost is 25¢ for one copy, \$8 for 50, \$15 for 100, all including postage.

\*FIND OUT THE TRUE STORY--  
READ THE ALERT\*

## CAMP SPEAKS ON NUCLEAR WAR

Kay Camp, past president of the U.S. Section of the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, and of its International from 1969 - 1980, will speak on the "Danger of Nuclear War -- and How to Prevent It" on Sunday, October 26 at 4:00 p.m. at the Lakeside Lutheran Church, Division & Green Streets in Harrisburg.

"The connection between nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons, and the significance of Presidential Directive No. 59 make clear the need for arms control and a strong United Nations," declared Ms. Camp. An authority on disarmament, Ms. Camp is presently vice-chairperson of the Non-Governmental Organizations' Commission on Disarmament at the United Nations. During the May, 1978 Special Session on Disarmament at the U.N., she was special advisor to the U.S. Delegation. Her appointment to this position was recommended by Cyrus Vance and approved by President Carter.

As president of the International WILPF, Ms. Camp has travelled widely to member branches in 27 countries located on five continents. More recently she was a member of Ramsey Clark's delegation to Iran, where she expressed concern for the hostages and hopes for their release.

A question period will follow the October 26th meeting. Refreshments will be served.

## COUNTERATTACK

In response to a national pro-nuclear power campaign sponsored by the nuclear industry, the Safe Energy Communications Council (SECC) has been formed to present the other side of the issue. One of the first efforts of the new coalition has been to develop a series of public service announcements (PSAs) in response to the paid nuclear ads. The PSAs cover such issues as nuclear waste, energy demand, foreign oil dependence, and nuclear safety. Regional representatives of SECC are monitoring TV and radio stations across the country, and are

informing those which run the pro-nuclear ads of their Fairness Doctrine obligation to present the other side of the issue and of the availability of the SECC spots.

The industry media blitz will continue into the fall. They are currently preparing a new series of ads emphasizing the "moral need" for nuclear power. The industry's campaign is emphasizing the need for energy self-sufficiency and the possibility of war. This emphasis responds to a national poll showing Americans are more concerned about the possibility of war based on foreign oil dependence than about nuclear safety issues such as the TMI accident. SECC plans to develop a series of PSAs in response to this new ad series as well.

In order to determine all of the radio and TV stations carrying the pro-nuclear ads, SECC is looking for more regional representatives willing to monitor their local stations. If interested in monitoring or in receiving more information about SECC's media campaign, contact SECC at its toll-free number Monday to Friday between 1 and 5 p.m., 800-424-2477, or write SECC, 1536 16th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20036

From "access," published  
by the National Citizens  
Committee for Broadcasting

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Susquehanna Valley Alliance will sponsor a "Harvest Festival" on Saturday, October 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House on Tulane Terrace, Lancaster.

There will be crafts, a greenhouse, vegetable and fruit market, a secondhand bookstore, alternative energy booth, a bakery, clowns, jams, jellies, and relishes, a vegetarian cafe, films, and live music.

From Harrisburg, take 283 to Lancaster. Get off at Rohrestown Exit onto Rohrestown Road. At third traffic light (Two Guys), take a left onto Columbia Pike. Go past McDonald's and make a left on the next street (Tulane Terrace). Friends Meeting House is one block in.

## WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING ON NOVEMBER 4TH?

On November 4, put your vote where your mouth is, and help to establish a new political party! The Citizens Party, the Consumer Party in PA

--is the only party to advocate the swift development of alternative energy, such as solar, wind, biomass, etc.

--is committed to phasing-out nuclear power throughout the country.

--is committed to keeping TMI closed until such time as it is not nuclear.

--supports the idea of individual and community development of power, to cut the utility costs.

--will not be bought-out by special interests.

--supports the election of the P.U.C. to make it accountable to the people.

VOTE BARRY COMMONER FOR PRESIDENT!  
DAVE LEACH FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE,  
87TH DISTRICT, AND THE ENTIRE CONSUMER TICKET.

\* \* \* \* \*

On November 4th . . .

Don't vote for Carter. Cast a third-party protest vote for John Anderson, Barry Commoner, or Andrew Pulley. Carter will win in Pennsylvania anyway. So a vote for one of these men will

not help to elect Ronald Reagan. Don't vote for Carter.

Remember that Carter is a nuclear enginaer.

Remember that Carter favors the insane MX missile system.

Remember that Carter signed the Venice Accords, which endorse the world-wide expansion of nuclear power.

Remember that Carter approved the sale of 38 tons of reactor-grade uranium to India.

Remember that Carter essentially ignored the recommendation of the Kemeny Commission to reorganize the NRC.

Remember that Carter's Vice President came to speak to a dinner of the Democratic State Committee but would not speak to the 100 TMIA demonstrators outside.

Remember that Carter has refused to meet with Central Pennsylvanians to discuss the issues surrounding TMI.

Remember what Carter has done for the people of Three Mile Island. Nothing.

Vote for almost anyone. But don't vote for Carter.

--Paul Makurath

# VOTE

## Funky Winkerbean



## COMMUNITY REPORT

Adams County Group produced a folded brochure hand-out over the summer. We have been using it to meet an unfilled need to have a single item that covers the ground simply and gets to the point. Since it has worked well for us we recommend the idea to other community groups and will send a copy on request with SASE (TMIA-Adams County, Box 235 Arendtsville, PA 17303). Special recognition goes to Jerry DePew and Dorothy Lamberti who wrote and designed, the group who proofed, and Mac Albright who arranged printing. Brochure title: "Why We Must Oppose Nuclear Power".

Wayne and Sue James continue their outreach to church groups in the county. As part of their presentation, they are donating copies of John Gofman's "Irrevy". Elyse Clark has been buying new books in the anti-nuclear and energy areas, reviewing them for the group, and donating them to the county library.

The group was significantly involved in support of the Harrisburg-Hiroshima connection this summer in conjunction with Nobuko Miyake, a Hiroshima native whose life-mission is interpreting the significance of Hiroshima in Christian terms. Nobuko shared her perspective with the group several times and made special presentations in Gettysburg, Fairfield, Lancaster and Harrisburg, aided by TMIA-Adams County.

The Adams County Apple Harvest Festival, October 4, 5 and 11, 12 will again include anti-nuclear outreach. The group will operate a booth for hand-outs, buttons and T-shirts, conversation and a few surprises. The festival will be at the South Mountain Fairgrounds. Stop in and say hello when you come to visit the festival.

Meeting with Representative Bill Goodling, the group secured his promise of an in-depth public session on energy to be scheduled

in October. Member Jerry DePew requested that Congressman Goodling sign the Environmental Action pledge to refuse any contributions from the "Filthy Five" major corporations designated as notorious polluters. We are pleased to report that Goodling unhesitatingly agreed, pointing out that his policy is not to accept any contributions in excess of \$100.

The group also made anti-nuclear inroads at a public meeting conducted by state legislator Ken Cole for the purpose of airing ratepayer dissatisfaction with Met-Ed rate hikes. Cole has been highly active in proposing legislation aimed at protecting residents and ratepayers from further abuse by Met-Ed and his campaign to improve state government involvement on the cancer front makes us proud to have him representing us.

\* \* \* \* \*

## REFERENCE MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The TMIA office receives numerous materials such as NRC bulletins, EPA bulletins, and national and local newsletters, that are kept on file. If any interested person would want to read some of these materials and then share highlights in the newsletter, call the office at 233-7897 or stop by at 315 Pepper Street, Harrisburg.



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TMIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

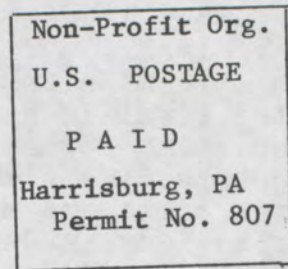
Check Type Membership Desired

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

Return to: TMIA  
315 Pepper Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102

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315 PEPPER STREET  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17102



## THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

Vol. 2 No. 8

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

December 1980

### STEERING COMMITTEE NEWS

The new Steering Committee has elected officers for this term. Mary Hartnett of Mechanicsburg was elected chairperson, with Louise Bradford of Harrisburg as vice-chair. The man behind our main fundraising efforts, Paul Makurath of Lower Paxton, was elected treasurer. Mary Osborn of the Swatara-Steelton group was elected secretary. Barb Smith, John Murdoch, and Joel Roth make up the rest of the Steering Committee. Ed Nielsen had also been elected, but has resigned.

We thank the outgoing members for their long hours of hard work that has resulted in making TMIA a respected and well-known anti-nuke group. Guiding TMIA will be quite a challenge for the new officers. The Steering Committee is looking forward to working closely with the Planning Council to keep things moving. If you've got any ideas --or complaints-- jot them down and mail to TMIA-Suggestion Box, 315 Pepper Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102.

### UNIT 1 HEARINGS

The opening round in the legal battle to keep TMI Unit 1 shut has ended, but not before TMIA, through its attorneys, appears to have scored a series of telling blows against the nuke plant operators.

The 3-member Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, which opened the restart issue hearings on October 15 in Harrisburg, listened in rapt silence as company witnesses tried to explain away a consistent rec-

ord of maintenance postponed for more than a year on critical plant parts, and of workers pushed to the point of exhaustion through excessive overtime to get the plant back "on line" in order to churn out electricity and more dollars for GPU's and Met-Ed's coffers.

The records, accepted into evidence, are examples of those gleaned from Met-Ed's own files by three dozen diligent and dedicated TMIA volunteers who devoted more than 1,000 hours of work to digging out the damning facts.

The NRC's own staff attorneys have appeared to be joining the high-priced lawyers of Met-Ed in arguing that what happened in the past doesn't count. Together they have fought against having the evidence accepted. However, Ivan Smith, respected Board Chairman,

\* \* \* \* \*

### BULLETIN

The law firm of Widoff Reager Selkowitz & Adler has sent a letter to TMIA emphasizing that their ability to continue to represent TMIA in the Unit 1 restart hearings now depends on the provis-

Cont.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP? The date above your name and address indicates when your TMIA membership should be renewed. Please cut out all this information and return with your check so we can be sure our records are correct. Thank you.

ion of funds needed to further meet past (and anticipated future) legal expenses incurred by the firm, and to provide for much-needed expert witnesses.

Mary Hartnett, TMIA Chairperson, in noting the seriousness of the financial need, praised those individuals and organizations whose past contributions made possible what has already been accomplished in the hearings.

\* \* \* \* \*

was quoted by the Harrisburg Evening News on October 17 as warning that if TMIA were able to make a case that Met-Ed was incompetent in the past and "continues to be bad" then "somebody's going to have to disabuse the Board of that impression."

The opportunity to prove the second part of that case will come when TMIA, through its attorneys, gets the chance to cross-examine Met-Ed's own presentation to the Board, by early next month, of the company's sanitized plans and much-vaunted management shake-up, on which the plant operators are thought to have been working feverishly since the "worst-ever" accident of March 28, 1979 at Unit 1's sister reactor.

(Whether TMIA will be able to seize that opportunity and complete its case likely will depend on what happens as a result of the situation described in the "Bulletin" above.)

Meanwhile, other intervenors are presenting their arguments before the Board on a score of reasons why (they contend) Unit 1 should not be permitted to reopen. The hearings are expected to continue until next April. Anyone is entitled to sit in on the hearings as an observer. They are being held each week, Tues. thru Thurs., on a 9-5 schedule, and Friday mornings, in a ground floor hearing room (enter from Court St.) in the parking garage across Walnut St. from the Federal Building.

## PEIS & ADVISORY PANEL MEETINGS

On Nov. 10th, the PEIS (Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement) meeting took place at the Forum. Honored guest was Mr. Victor Gilinsky, NRC Commissioner. The final document should be ready in March, '81. Dr. Peterson from Lancaster commented that long term depression is still prevalent in our area. The decision on what will finally be done with the contaminated water is a constant, gnawing concern for the residents of Lancaster and many other people who obtain their drinking water from the Susquehanna. The Clean Water Act does not prohibit the discharge of radioactive water into a navigable waterway.

The League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania and Maryland asked that the NRC be extremely vigilant on monitoring for contamination of soil, ground and surface water. The League also stated that citizens have a basic right to know about all governmental actions and decisions that concern them. Public health and environmental issues here have world-wide ramifications.

A lady from SVA made an analogy; licensing any more nuclear plants without a sound plan for waste disposal is like "building a house without an outhouse." She begged the NRC not to add any more rooms to their house.

On Nov. 12th, the first NRC-appointed Advisory Panel met at the Forum, with approximately 200 people in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to establish organizational procedures and familiarize the panel with the PEIS. The panel is composed of Dr. Arnold Muller, Pa. Dept. of Health, Mr. Cliff Jones, Dept. of Environmental Resources, (present), Lt. Gen. Dewitt Smith, Pa. Emergency

Cont.

Management Agency, Mayor Robt. Reid, Middletown(present), Mayor Arthur Morris, Lancaster Mr. John Minnich, Dauphin Co. Commissioners, Chairman of panel, Nunzio Palladino, Dean, College of Engineering, Penn State Univ., Dr. Henry Wagner, Baltimore, Dr. Thomas Cochran, Natural Resources Defense Council, Washington, D.C. (present), Mr. Joel Roth, (present), Ms. Jean Kohr, SVA attorney, (present), and Mrs. Ann Trunk, Middletown, (present).

Mr. Cochran asked why the storage of wastes inside the containment building had not been included in the PEIS. Tom also suggested an answer; that the NRC is already predisposed to restart. If you narrow the feasible choices down, people believe other options cannot be considered.

Mr. Minnich asked the NRC "to decide whether the plant will be allowed to restart or not. The people are entitled to know, after all they have been through."

The dumping of the waste water was another major issue. Mr. Jones asked the panel to hold on a decision until they had an opportunity to ask further questions.

Several citizens had requests or questions: Mike Horgan wondered how we ended up with type of panel when we had asked for a citizen's panel. Mrs. Pat Smith, Newberrytown, asked that one or two one or two representatives from York County be included on the panel. Mr. Jim Hurst asked the panel to check into the pro-lobbying efforts going on in this area and their effect on the people. Mr. Will Rodgers asked why intervenors representing the citizens couldn't obtain funding.

The next meeting will be either Dec. 10th or 12th. A representative from the Dept.

of Energy is being requested to discuss where to put the wastes and a member of Congress.

## PIRC & TMILF: TRANSITION 1981

Three Mile Island Public Interest Resource Center, consisting of the six local anti-nuclear groups in the Central Pa. area, is looking towards 1981. The areas being discussed are: maintaining the PIRC office, research, public information, education, media, political/legislative, and fundraising.

Clearly the cooperation of all groups and their members is needed to achieve our goals. Instead of each group trying to do everything, a system of organization is needed which would efficiently utilize the energies of each group while avoiding duplication. Not only would we know what each other is doing, but we would be more effective and lessen the chance of burnout. It is important to note that each group has its independence and can do whatever it decides, since by no means can PIRC mandate any group. However, without some cooperation, our efforts will be in vain.

Chairperson Bev Hess and Director Steve Sholly have met with five funding representatives (Veatch, Rockefeller, MUSE, Boehm, and Funding Exchange). Hopefully one or some of these sources will continue to sustain PIRC and TMILF in the near future.

A leadership meeting with representatives of all area groups has taken place. The purpose of this meeting was to help plan strategy and establish direct action-oriented programs. The first attempt at direct action was to encourage people to attend the first meeting of the Citizens Advisory Panel on Nov. 12. It worked! 200 people were present to give the type of support that is needed.

Presently the Legal Fund Board is discussing a new process to appropriate funds. They are also updating and reevaluating every intervenor's case presented before the Licensee Board hearings on the restart of Unit 1.

TMIA received \$5,000 in September from the Legal Board and we are thankful for the Board's support. Fortunately we were able to raise an additional \$5,000 in order to meet our attorneys' needs of \$10,000 to begin the first phase of the hearings. The next phase - rebuttal - is due to start in March 1981.

The TMILF direct mail campaign is in its second national cold mailing. Thus far, \$14,174 has been raised, with a break-even point of \$20,000.

Although slow at times, our progress has been encouraging. We look to 1981 as a time of cooperation and further achievement.

If you have any questions or recommendations, or would like to offer your assistance in these efforts, please call Al Mirando at 774-7215, TMIA office at 233-3072, or PIRC office at 233-4241.

## EVACUATION CONCERNS

Paula Prober

Members of the Carlisle and Mechanicsburg groups have been meeting to compile a comprehensive list of weaknesses in the Cumberland County TMI Emergency Evacuation Plan. Mike Kline procured a copy of the plan (an achievement in itself). Sections were handed to members to analyze and a follow-up meeting was held to list the questions and determine the next steps.

In mid-August a meeting was held with Tom Blosser, author of the plan. He found it difficult to respond to certain inquiries, such as: "How long will it take to get the entire ten mile radius evacuated?" (assuming of course that people 11 plus miles away will not be leaving), or "Are there enough vehicles to transport school children to the various locations and will problems result when parents go to pick them up?" "Do teachers know that they are supposed to stay with the students and not return to their own families?" or "When vehicles are decontaminated by some sort of rinsing process, what happens to the run-off?"

A PennDot official, a Mr. Hackman, was questioned by phone. It was his responsibility to assign traffic volume estimates to the evac-

uation routes and make any revisions in PEMA's plan. He claims the plan is workable, but admits that there may be problems if people should panic...

We hope to meet with the Cumberland County Commissioners to see if this plan has been approved and to see if they have answers to the unlimited numbers of questions/problems that would arise following another accident at TMI or any nuclear facility. Their response or lack of it will then be passed on to the media.

As a nuke is not permitted to operate without an approved evacuation plan, and as we need to investigate all avenues open to us, we're hoping we can ultimately uncover the inherent flaws in this (and all?) evacuation designs and consequently KEEP IT CLOSED! We encourage all local groups to contact their county officials, request copies of their plans, and point out the many discrepancies.

Any suggestions or questions, call Paula Prober at (717) 697-9245.

Note: In a referendum on Nov. 4th, the people of Washington state voted to close the Hanford site as of July 1st. Call the DER's Dept. of Radiological Health and ask who is going to take TMI's waste material now.

## COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Mechanicsburg is holding their meeting at 7:30, Thurs. Dec. 11th, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, 421 E. Simpson St., Mech. Topic: What is Civil Disobedience? Mech. is also selling "No Nuke" rubber stamps for \$2.50 (ink pad not included). Will make nice Christmas gifts with a message. You may place your orders with Mike Jones, 766-4100 or Ruth Gentle, 737-20-75.

## SPECIAL REQUEST

We are trying to locate pictures or slides taken of meetings (especially the March 19th, '80 meeting in Middletown) rallies, or shots of the Island. Please call the office if you can help in this regard - 233-7897.

## COMPUTER MALFUNCTION

Georgianna Nyce

Computer malfunction is occurring at nuclear power plants. The B & W reactors seen particularly susceptible to this serious problem. The March 28, 1980 issue of Science magazine discusses the problem which caused the Crystal River accident in late February. An electrical short circuit causes loss of non-nuclear instrumentation which in turn leads to erroneous signals to the ICS which uses a computer to perform operations.

In the Crystal River accident, the computer in the ICS gave out and received erroneous information due to a short circuit in the non-nuclear instrumentation. The computer erroneously sensed the coolant was growing too cold. It began to accelerate the nuclear reaction in the core by withdrawing the rods. At the same time it reduced the flow of coolant. The reactor overheated, driving the pressure up to the dangerous level, and then shut down. The computer told the pressure relief valve to open and remain open. The emergency cooling system began pumping water into the reactor. An operator noticed the open relief valve and shut a block valve. Water filled the reactor to the top and flowed out through two safety valves. One of these did not seat properly at first. Forty-three thousand gallons of radioactive water was dumped on the floor of the reactor.

A similar accident happened on March 20, 1978, at the Rancho Seco plant in California. The following is the description as taken from ITC files: On March 20, 1978, Rancho Seco experienced a severe cool-down caused by the loss of electrical power to a substantial portion of the non-nuclear instrumentation. Two-thirds of the non-nuclear instruments were affected by the power loss. Erroneous signals provided faulty information to both the control room and the integrated (computerized) control system. The integrated control system cut off all main feedwater flow in response to faulty

signals. The cutoff in feedwater flow caused the reactor cooling system pressure to increase and the reactor to trip or shut down.

In the period following the reactor shutdown, the operators still were hampered by the lack of instrumentation and by equipment responding to inaccurate signals. These false signals had several effects. It was difficult for the operators to ascertain which indications were valid, given the changing plant conditions and the wide variety of possible errors that were introduced. Only a select few parameters were known to be valid readings, and the operators had to control the plant based on that information. The second effect was that false signals were fed into the integrated control system, so equipment was operated without regard to actual conditions.

Contrary to the Kemeny Commission Report, we can see that we have a very serious computer problem. The files show evidence of a power failure during the TMI accident. We know that some instruments malfunctioned. We know there was a cutoff of feedwater flow. We know that thousands of gallons of radioactive water spilled into the containment building. You can draw your own conclusions.

## IT'S THANKSGIVING TIME FOR ME

In March of 1979, this accident happened to me and my family (and you and yours). When I didn't know what to do or who to seek for help or information, I found a paper saying: "For Our Lives - For Your Own Lives - Support Us! Join the Rally! Sunday, April 8 - 2:00 p.m. State Capitol Steps. Three Mile Island Alert." Well, my daughter and I went and listened to the speeches. Even though I didn't know anyone there, I didn't feel alone.

It was the beginning of meeting many new friends.

Well, I want to thank those people now - from those who staffed the office to those who did petitions or stuffed envelopes or did research - everyone. It has been a long time since the accident, and even though we have a longer way to go, I need to thank you now. Thank you. M.S.O.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE RESOURCES

The newsletter "Exposure" is a free monthly publication of the Environmental Action Foundation dealing with pesticides, hazardous waste transport and disposal, worker health and safety, groundwater protection, and public right-to-know. To get on the list, write EAF, WATS Project, 724 Dupont Circle Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20036.

\* \* \* \* \*

For a complete reprint of the PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER's "Poison At Our Doorstep" series, the six-part expose on illegal dumping of hazardous wastes, write the PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, 400 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

\* \* \* \* \*

The National Wildlife Federation, as part of the Waste Alert project, has recently prepared a series of excellent background papers assessing solid and hazardous waste management in each state. These are available from the National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

\* \* \* \* \*

EPA Region 3 and the Office of Solid Waste have established a grant program for Waste Alert activities. Citizens groups working on hazardous waste issues are eligible for grants up to \$30,000. Pre applications are due Dec. 10. For information: Bob Axelrod (WH-562), EPA Office of Solid Waste, 401 M St., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20460.

## FYI: REAGAN ON NUCLEAR POWER

When Ronald Reagan takes office in January 1981, he promises that there will be some changes made. With respect to nuclear power, Ralph Nader stated the following in his Citizen's Guide to the 1980 Election, "Selecting A President."

"Though Reagan did not strongly advocate nuclear power as a governor, since 1975 he has made it a crusade. Two weeks after TMI, he said nuclear power is 'the cleanest, most economical electrical power we can have.' Reagan believes private industry should be responsible for the storage and disposal of nuclear waste. His campaign literature says the 'waste disposal problem has been overstated,' and he has told voters that 'all the waste from a nuclear power plant could be stored under a desk.' The Republican platform supports development of the breeder."

## WOMEN AND ENERGY

Consumer Action Now (CAN) has recently launched a national energy education program to heighten female clout in the national energy picture. "Women are responsible for 80 percent of all consumer purchases, and more women than ever are becoming heads of households, yet most women are not aware of the overwhelming impact that energy has on family budgets," says Lola Redford, CAN president.

To increase their awareness, CAN's Energy Project for Women has set the following goals: to interest women in energy decision-making by showing them how these decisions have an economic impact on their daily lives; to encourage women to assess energy needs and problems at the local level; to provide them with the tools to impact state and national energy policy; to encourage more women of all ages to pursue jobs and business opportunities in the energy field; to convince women that they should promote renewable energy production.

A report on the project is available by writing Consumer Action Now, Council on Environmental Alternatives, Inc., 355 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10017.

The Humanist  
November/December 1980

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\*\*\*A major national conference is scheduled for December 11-13, 1980 on solar energy and energy conservation aimed at bringing together state and local officials, policy analysts, and representatives of citizens organizations and community groups to focus on specific ways for state and local governments to support conservation and solar energy. The conference, to be held at the Stephen F. Austin Hotel in Austin, Texas, is sponsored by the Conference on Alternative State and Local Policies under a grant from the Department of Energy. For further information, contact Becky Glass, Energy Project, Conference on Alternative State and Local Policies, 2000 Florida Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20009, Phone: (202) 387-6030.

\*\*\*The FIRST RATEPAYER'S CONGRESS will be held on December 13, 1980 at 9:30 a.m. at the Harrisburg Friends Meetinghouse, 6th and Herr Sts., Harrisburg, PA. Discussion will focus on a regional rate strike against Met-Ed, P.P.&L., etc. For more information, call Bill Keisling at (717) 233-1144, or TMIA at (717) 233-7897. The meeting should end by 3:00 p.m. at the latest, so please bring a bag lunch.

\*\*\*The 21st Annual Christmas Peace Pilgrimage will take place Saturday, December 13, 1980, beginning at noon from the parking lot under the Hill to Hill Bridge in Bethlehem, PA. Participants will be transported to Nazareth, PA, where the pilgrimage will begin at 1:00 p.m. For more information, call Joseph C. Osborn at (215) 866-3127.

### TMIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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\_\_\_\_\_ 200 club member  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 5 non-member newsletter subscription

Return to: TMIA  
315 Peffer Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102

## ONLY ONE

Only one will sit on the cold stainless table  
(Wrinkling the neat disposable liner)  
Hearing through roaring ears  
Damp-palmed in disbelief as the doctor  
pronounces doom.

Only one will dread the stab of the needle  
Waiting to see if veins will collapse;  
Only one will crawl shaking and shattered  
And heave out one's hopes in a torrent of groans.

Only one will watch in despair as his hair  
Follows his energy, his appetite and dignity,  
Fleeing a body bereft of humanity,  
So gaunt and grotesque that all turn away.

Only one will finally expire in relief  
When drugs and crazed cells have done their work;  
Only one more hole will yawn in the earth  
Surrounded by mourners who sigh and move on.

"The procedure is totally safe you see.  
Oh, but of course it's remotely conceivable--  
There's just the merest tiny chance  
Of one more death -- but only one."

R.S. Albright II  
Marysville

315 PEPPER STREET  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17102

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Deadline Next Issue: December 15

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