

NUKEWATCH PATHFINDER

FALL, 1995

The Progressive Foundation, P.O. Box 2658, Madison, WI 53701, (608) 767-3023



Photo by Bonnie Urfer

Donna Husby draws “shadows” on the pavement as law enforcement officers arrest Cory Bartholomew at Project ELF. The Navy communication system, located near Clam Lake, Wisconsin, controls the equivalent fire power of 100,000 Little Boy bombs. “Shadows on the Rocks” Peace Camp began August 6th and ended on August 9th.

On this anniversary we joined with thousands around the world in renewing our commitment to remember, repent, and resist the continuing nuclear threat. Once again our voice rang clearly in the woods saying that 50 years of the Nuclear Age is ENOUGH! (See story on page 1.)

Collection *Laka* foundation

www.laka.org
Digitized 2018

"Shadows on the Rocks" Peace Camp '95



Barb Katt unloads the truck carrying supplies needed for the peace camp.

by Cory Bartholomew

On the heels of the Chicago-to-ELF Walk for Peace, resisters from around the world gathered at Wisconsin's Project ELF for the 1995 "Shadows on the Rocks" Peace Camp. The five day event, centered around the 50th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, combined thoughtful reflection and creative nonviolence in an attempt to commemorate the victims of the Bomb, past, present, and future.

The peace camp began with the arrival of the walkers on Saturday afternoon, August 5. After 435 miles and over a month on the road exposing deadly nuclear secrets, the sign-toting peace pilgrims arrived at the Navy's one-way trigger for nuclear war amidst the cheers of onlookers. Tanned and toned they shared tales of adventure, hope, friendship, ice cream and community building and gave the camp a unique energy.

Within hours of the walker's arrival a lively and colorful tent village sprang up. The large circus tent (recently purchased through the generous donations of Stop Project ELF supporters—thanks!) served as communal kitchen and meeting place. A fire pit and latrine were dug, a kitchen set up, banners strung, and city and country folks alike pitched in for an experiment in outdoor living.

A vigil on Saturday afternoon (Sunday morning in Japan) marked the moment when, fifty years previous, the flesh and bones of 140,000 Hiroshima residents turned to ash. Following several moments of silence resisters shared reflections on the Bomb and their motivations for coming to the camp.

If ever there was a doubt that the threat of another nuclear attack still existed, some campfire math revealed that Project ELF, via the Trident fleet, controls the megaton equivalent of 100,000 bombs like the one that destroyed Hiroshima.

Throughout the week we made an effort to carry the message of nonviolence to the employees of the transmitter by holding vigils at the facility's main entrance and by timing the first in a series of direct actions to coincide with the shift change on Sunday afternoon.

Following two complete laps around the ELF compound while singing a Buddhist chant for peace, resisters strung peace cranes from the fence, dumped piles of ashes on the ground and sat in front of the main gate in an attempt to stop business as usual. Dialogue with workers was sparse as Sheriff's deputies were on hand and immediately removed blockaders and cited them for trespass.

Several arrestees who refused to give their names were charged with "obstructing an officer" and taken to the Ashland County Jail.

Those detained agreed to fast while in jail and many on the outside joined in solidarity. Despite repeated attempts at clarification, the fast was branded a hunger strike by the local media and gained quite a bit of attention—in addition to leaving plenty of food for the non-fasters.

On Monday the nimble fingers of Philip and Emma Miles led us older folks in the folding of origami peace cranes and other colorful works of art. These became the focal point for the encampment's second direct action.

FALL 1995

Armed with songs, signs, chalk and our artwork we marched to the main gate and attempted to beautify a place with a truly ugly purpose. With the Sheriff's deputies off protecting and serving in another part of the county some adventurous decorators had time to climb the fence and continue the beautification project within the compound. Their paper cranes and colorful chalk messages scrawled on the pavement brought new life to the site. The law was soon on the scene, and the deputies joined in the decorating by giving away their own lovely pink pieces of paper (also called citations) to a few lucky individuals. Some explained that they didn't need any more pink paper but the deputies insisted.

Workshops were held throughout the encampment on various peace and justice issues including JROTC in schools, nonviolence and resistance, food politics, Northern Ireland, and the connections between the Bomb and homelessness.



Emma Miles displays a poster she created remembering the bombings of Japan.

Minutes before the Nagasaki anniversary (Wednesday morning in Japan, Tuesday evening in Wisconsin) people formed a circle around the fire for silent reflection and commemoration. The group then began a solemn march to the main gate. Some walked silently as others quietly sang "ashes to ashes/dust to dust/we are living creatures and we have seen enough."

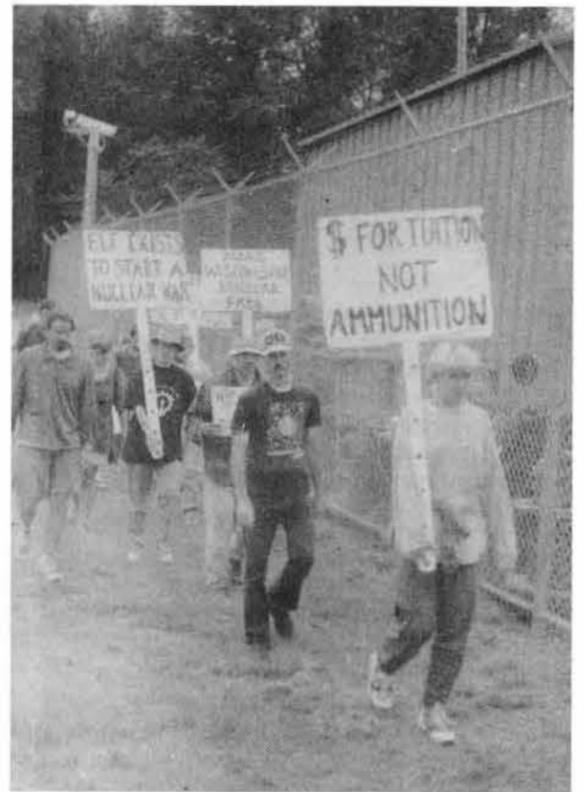
As they walked some "died" and others drew chalk shadows around the lifeless forms. Dozens of shadows were left upon the pavement, a powerful reminder of the shadows left by the vaporized victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Again some resisters became so engrossed in their activities that they continued drawing beyond "the line" and failed to heed warnings that they were trespassing. So the deputies issued another batch of citations and the road was again covered with a rainbow of shadows, pictures, and messages of hope.

On this anniversary we joined with thousands around the world in renewing our commitment to remember, repent, and resist the continuing nuclear threat. Once again our voice rang clearly in the woods of Wisconsin saying that 50 years of the Nuclear Age is ENOUGH!



Cory Bartholomew, Nukewatch staff member, recently completed a 6-month jail term for ELF resistance.



ELF EXISTS TO START A NUCLEAR WAR; \$ FOR TUITION NOT AMMUNITION; MAKE WISCONSIN NUCLEAR FREE.



In an effort to stop preparation for nuclear war, activists block the front gate of Project ELF.

ELF Legislative Update

FEINGOLD AMENDMENT TO "MOTHBALL" ELF PASSES SENATE

The U.S. Senate passed an amendment on August 10, offered by Senator Russ Feingold and cosponsored by Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI), to provide for the termination of Project ELF in fiscal year 1996. It would take effect in October of 1996. Feingold attached his amendment to the FY 1996 Defense Appropriations bill.

The Senate terminated funding for ELF's 1995 funding, but it was reinstated at the insistence of members of the House of Representatives based on arguments presented by the Navy in "top secret" meetings. The Navy supplied information on the wrong communication system. EHF was the basis for the "top secret" report, not ELF. Unfortunately it made no difference, and ELF was funded based on the erroneous information.

Feingold's amendment provides that the \$12 million normally spent on operating Project ELF in FY 1996, instead be spent on termination costs. The Navy has estimated the one-time cost of deactivating the system and shutting it down would amount to about \$12 million.

A House version of the amendment to terminate funding for Project ELF has not been introduced.

The Standard Remembering

I ask you to breath and open
as we do when we remember times that are very far past.
Times that are very hard for us to imagine.
Hard for us to go back to the time
when the poison fire was made on the planet.

We in the 22nd century are accustomed to the danger.
But the people of that time,
mid-20th century were so innocent, dangerously innocent.

And as we remember the old stories,
we remember how it began in the press of war.
Oh our ancestors in the press of war
were seeking new and larger ways to kill.
And they opened the nucleus of the atom.
And with great effort and with great acumen
and with great applications of their brains,
they made and exploded the first nuclear weapon,
and the project, God forgive them,
they called Trinity
in the desert of Almo Gordo.

And the stories come down to us of a president called
True Man
at a place called Pots Dam
receiving a telegram:
"Baby safely delivered!"

And that baby was the Poison Fire.
And then in that very year, in that very month,
yes, the poison fire was first used as weapons.
Against great cities of a great people.
And we know the names and you can say them in your heart,
— we shall not forget them:
Hero Shimah, Nagah Saki.

A quarter million people burned at once,
then people sickening slowly,
for that is how it destroys, slowly, hidden.

And then our ancestors of that time, the stories tell us
— this is hard —
they took that poison fire
to make electricity.
We know how easy it is
to share power with the sun,
and with the wind,
and with the biomass,
but they took it from the poison fire,
and they used it
to boil water.
Oh the lords of arrogance were riding high then.
It was a dark time, the times of nuclear peril

And the signs of sickening grew.
For at every step along the way the poison fire proliferated.

And there were epidemics of cancer
and there were epidemics of viruses
and immune deficiency
and deformity
and still births
and sterility.
Oh we know them well now.
And we know their source.
But for those ancestors
it was mysterious
whence came these sickenings of spirit and flesh.

And some,
sensing how these were connected with the poison fire,
with huge accumulation of its wastes,
wanted to wish it away.

And the Governments tried to bury it —
There were places called Carl's Bad, Yucca Mountain
— deep holes half a mile down.
They wanted to bury it
as if the Earth were not alive. "Not in my backyard."
Their pain and their despair were so great,
they wanted it out of their sight,
out of their minds.

We remember that in the story.
Because it was in those dark times
that our ancestors began to meet and take council,
groups coming together in where they lived.

They looked into their hearts
and thought:
"We can guard the poison fire.
We can overcome our fear of guarding it and be mindful.
Only in that way can the beings of the future be protected."

They remembered us!

How clear it is to us today.
But it was new in that time.

What inspired them?
What did they draw on in those closing years of the 20th
century
to hit upon this idea to inspire themselves,
and indeed then to carry it forward?

—from the Nuclear Guardianship Project,
Berkeley, California

**To express
your support
for solid,
sensible,
action
programs
by citizens
working at a
grass-roots
level for
nuclear
disarmament
and a halt to
the production
of radioactive
waste,
contribute to
Nukewatch.
Your gift
provides the
opportunity
for people
working for
peace to
become
involved.
Thank you.**

**Nukewatch
P.O. Box 2658
Madison, WI 53701**

Hiding AND DISCOVERING NUCLEAR SECRETS

Steam generators at nuclear power stations throughout the world have tubes that crack and leak radiation into the environment. Cracking and leaking is so bad that replacing steam generators is the only new business for nuclear equipment suppliers.

Of the 109 operating nuclear reactors in the U.S., 78 are pressurized water reactors (PWR) using steam generators to produce electricity. (Steam generators carry 'primary' water from the reactor core through tubes that heat 'secondary' water into flash steam that turn the turbines that are generating nuclear electricity.) In fact, more than a dozen U.S. electric utilities have sued Westinghouse Corporation (the supplier of most of the U.S. PWR) because of steam generator tube leaks and failures. So far billions of dollars have been collected by utilities to replace and/or repair steam generators.

Until now, all steam generator tube lawsuits had "protective orders" on all documents related to the lawsuit. These were agreements between Westinghouse and the utilities to insure that all of the evidence uncovered during the initial phases of the lawsuit was kept hidden until the actual trial. Then the utilities would settle out-of-court, without going to trial at all. The evidence about why the utility sued Westinghouse was kept a secret and the affected public was kept in the dark about their stake.

When Northern States Power Company (NSP) of Minnesota sued Westinghouse in late 1993 over leaks and cracks at its Prairie Island Nuclear Generating Station, the Prairie Island Coalition Against Nuclear Storage (PICANS) intervened and is allowed by federal court to represent the public's interest in the lawsuit. This means that PICANS has access to all the documents and other evidence in the suit and has the right to copy and make public any documentation of safety

2 Nukewatch—PATHFINDER

problems or activities that endanger the public in any way. This process is called discovery.

Since discovery began on February 6, 1995, NSP has attempted to prevent PICANS from learning about the Prairie Island power plant. They've put us in a small room to look through plant documents, charging 25 cents per page for copying. They've limited our discoveries to three per shift, refused access to certain documents, and claimed we were security risks.

NSP tried another trick to keep its dirtiest secrets. In the course of reviewing over 750,000 pages of NSP material, we would decide if we wanted a copy of a certain document, and NSP decided if it would allow us to copy it. If not, NSP declared the document to be "privileged or proprietary" and refused to produce it for copying. While we have copied over 30,000 pages so far, NSP has used this procedure to withhold over 7,500 of the most incriminating documents. So back to court we went.

On July 14, 1995, the court again ruled in our favor by ordering NSP to produce every page we requested and is requiring NSP to prove to the court that certain documents are actually proprietary or privileged. In response to the July 14 order, NSP claims there are no pages requested by PICANS that have not been produced. However, our records are very thorough. So back to court we go...again!

Regardless, the nuclear secrets we have already uncovered are truly alarming. PICANS has documents that provide detailed information about radiation pathways into the environment, about cracking and leaking mechanisms and rates, and about attempts of NSP and the nuclear industry to manage the problems. PICANS' knowledge about the failing nuclear technology crisis at Prairie Island and around the world is enough to cause nightmares—but also allow us to confront the

nuclear industry and decision makers more effectively.

NSP admits in one document that its generators are made of a substandard metal and are "almost good enough." In another NSP says it is not going to use the best technology for finding circumferential tube cracks (the most dangerous cracks because they lead to tubes that can cause a reactor core meltdown) because management is afraid that a "bad test" would shut down its profitable reactors for repair of the tubes.

In other documents, it becomes starkly clear that the whole nuclear operation is one big experiment and the nuclear industry doesn't really know what it is doing. For example, as NSP alters reactor core water chemistry, to reduce radiation fields, corrosion increases, not only for steam generator tubes but also for the cladding around the nuclear fuel in the core. The mentality is, "let's try it this way this week and see what happens."

PICANS still has massive quantities of NSP documents to review, depositions from past lawsuits against Westinghouse, and a review of Westinghouse documents. Discovery of Westinghouse documents will begin in late August at their headquarters in Pittsburgh. Already Westinghouse is trying to limit access to its documents. We'll see if they make us jump through as many hoops as NSP to get their secrets.

When discovery is done PICANS is likely to have about 100,000 pages documenting problems with steam generators at NSP's Prairie Island plant and others around the U.S. Then we'll index and catalog the documents as they are retrieved and prepare them for publication and distribution.

If you or your group want to be involved or have suggestions about how to most effectively use the nuclear industry's secrets, please call Bruce Drew @ (612) 927-5087.

FALL 1995

SOME THOUGHTS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS SINCE HIROSHIMA

by John LaForge

Having used and excused nuclear attacks against cities the way it did, the U.S. set several unfortunate precedents that work against direct actions the government could take to prevent another nuclear war.

Pledge No First Use

The atomic strikes were of course the "first use" of the Bombs. A U.S. renunciation of another first use would satisfy an international clamor for such a pledge, and would counteract fear and resentment by ending both the chilling debate over "threshold" use of the Bomb and the official duplicity of claiming that the nuclear arsenal is only a deterrent.

Such a policy would end a lot of costly research and development, and the maintenance of nuclear weapons designed to strike first: the MX, Trident, Cruise and Minuteman III missiles, and the B-1 and B-2 Stealth bombers. Forswearing first use wouldn't even be risky in the geopolitical sense because China has already done so, and all the other nuclear-armed states are either allies or clients.

This pledge would free U.S. Presidents from threatening first use of the Bomb, real terror they've exported many times. Putting an end to these ultimate Bomb threats would bring U.S. actions in line with its current rhetoric; President Clinton rightly denounced "nuclear terrorism" June 15 en route to the summit meeting in Halifax.

Significantly, the global sharks who use this first strike "master card" believe they've succeeded with their dreadful risk-taking—the way extortionists with weapons can get what they want without ever pulling the trigger—and want to keep this ace up their sleeve. And since official history has it that the U.S.'s atom bombings of Japan were justified, there is a heavy stigma against formally renouncing another first use. To do so might seem to question the decision of having crossed the line back then, and maybe even the usefulness of the Bomb today.

Promise No Nuclear Strikes Against Non-nuclear States

The use of the Bomb against non-nuclear Japan followed closely the mass destruction of Dresden, Germany, a non-military target, and the indiscriminate fire bombings of Kobe, Osaka, Yokohama and Tokyo. In August 1945, the power disparity between atomic and chemical firestorms must have appeared small. However, the Bomb's real punch—initially denied, and by nature delayed—is now known to be cancers, leukemias and birth defects. Today's warheads are from 12 to 30 times the size of the Hiroshima blast: from 150 kilotons on Cruise missiles, to 350 kilotons on some Trident II missiles.

The power of modern radiation Bombs gives the world-wide demand for a no-first-use pledge the advantage of being fair and rational.

The so-called rouge states that, according to the State Department, yearn to join the Nuclear club—Libya, North Korea, Iraq, Syria and Cuba—have a current combined military budget of \$9.64 billion, or one-27th of the Pentagon's. The 1991 Gulf war proved to all these non-nuclear governments, and should have proved to our own, that nuclear weapons are *superflu-*

ous, totally unneeded when the U.S. is bent on burning down small countries.

An agreement on non-nuclear immunity made May 11, 1995, by five Nuclear Club members, will not quell legitimate charges of hypocrisy made against them. The pact is full of exceptions and is not binding. Only China has made an unequivocal statement on the subject: "At no time and under no circumstances will China be the first to use nuclear weapons and [China] undertakes unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear countries and nuclear-free zones."

For 25 years the adoption of China's language has been ridiculed by the U.S., because it is perhaps afraid of the taint of impropriety that may accrue to the atomic bombing of Japan, should it grant immunity to current non-nuclear states.

Disclose the Secret Black Budget

The building, testing, and unleashing of the Bomb were all done in total secrecy, political cover that was needed for such extravagant spending on such a dubious project. One consequence of the Manhattan Project's leap into hidden government programs, is that a frightfully militarized and anti-democratic process was institutionalized (ironically in the name of combating anti-democratic militarism).

Nothing proves this point better than the Nazi-like radiation experiments conducted without informed consent on pregnant women, retarded children, prison inmates and stolen cadavers. If further proof were needed that secrecy recoils against those that condone it, we have thousands of tons of radioactive wastes dumped into the water table, buried in shallow trenches and thrown into the oceans—our submarines still do this—that will threaten living things with cancers forever. The government cover-up of these ethical and environmental outrages was exposed in 20 front page *New York Times* stories in 1989 alone.

The infamous Black Budget for secret military systems has now ballooned to about \$30 billion a year. Nothing positive can come from this unscrutinized slush fund. Indeed, it continues to exist because the boondoggles that are kept secret could not survive public or even Congressional oversight.

A middle west example is the Navy's Project ELF, attacked by liberals in Congress as a cold war relic. This nuclear war "starter pistol" was saved from certain cancellation in April, by a so-called "classified emergency reason" originating from the Navy itself. The well known function and dangerousness of ELF couldn't save it from the axe, so funding, which had earlier been cut, was scared-up by an "emergency" kept secret from the public.

Disclosing the Black Budget will prove embarrassing to the weapons labs, the Pentagon, arms contractors and their lobbyists. Their biased self interest has to be acknowledged in this context, and then their opinions and influence can be dismissed. Of course the legal protection that secret weapons are afforded makes it risky for federal officials to reveal them, but if the world were spared yet another means of mass destruction and the indestructible poisons that they leave behind, the rewards would outweigh the costs.

Admit the Uselessness of the Bomb

There has for 50 years been a debate about whether the wasting of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was justifiable. In September 1945 Brig. Gen. Bonnie Feller wrote, "Neither the atomic bombing nor the entry of the Soviet Union into the war forced Japan's unconditional surrender." And as recently as January historian Gar Alperovitz said, "I think it can be proven that the bomb was not only unnecessary but known in advance not to be necessary."

As intriguing as these indictments are, they share a misleading implication, namely that nuclear warfare could conceivably be necessary or excusable under some circumstances. That most people still believe this, is the result of decades of myth-making that began with President Truman. He said, "The world will note that the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, a military base. That was because we wished this first attack to avoid, insofar as possible, the killing of civilians."

Taking Truman at his word, the 140,000 civilians killed at Hiroshima are the minimum to be expected when exploding a *small* nuclear weapon on a military target. At this rate, today's "small" Cruise missile warheads, which are 12-times the power of Truman's



bomb, might "avoid" killing more than a minimum of 1.2 million civilians.

The ability to think of such an act as "necessary", to condone and prepare and threaten it, requires the adoption of a learned indifference that insulates the conscience of an executioner. Such a deep seated denial or blindness is needed in order to excuse any mass murder because, in general, the rightness of such a thing is not debatable—whether in Oklahoma, Sarajevo, Rwanda or Hiroshima. And since the H-bomb can produce only this one result, it follows that U.S. nuclear war planning has hardly changed since 1945. Consider how similar to Truman's words are those of the Department of State in its official declaration to the World Court in the Hague, June 10, 1994: "Nuclear weapons can be directed at a military target and thus can be used in a discriminate manner."

This dreadful lie, this engine of the nuclear arms industry, what is it but the Fascistic notion that a positive good can come from the commission of massacres? Such Hiroshima-based mythology—no matter how often repeated—cannot make the use of atom bombs either militarily practical or ethically justifiable.

Adm. William Leahy put this point succinctly. As the W.W.II Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Leahy's summary dismissal of the Bomb's usefulness bears repeating as an epitaph for the nuclear age: "I was not taught to make war in that fashion," the Admiral said in 1950, "and wars cannot be won by destroying women and children."

John LaForge is serving 7 1/2 months in jail for civil trespass convictions stemming from anti-Trident protests. Write to John @ Bayfield County Jail, 117 E 6th Street, Washburn, WI 54891.



**the
Nuclear
Resister**

"A Chronicle of Hope" 855 © 1995

Since 1980, THE comprehensive source for:

- Peace Prisoner Support
- Action reports and networking for anti-nuclear & anti-war nonviolent direct action.

Free sample issue on request.

\$18 / ten issues
+ US\$3 in Canada, + US\$10 overseas.
the Nuclear Resister, P.O. Box 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733

1945 - 1995
50 years is enough
of the nuclear age -
Support the Resistance!

A Link in the Chain of Hope: at Project ELF

October 21-22, 1995

Discussions, workshops, and Potluck on Saturday in Duluth, Minnesota and nonviolent direct action on Sunday at Project ELF.

For more information, contact: John or Donna @ (218) 728-0629.

Low-Intensity Nuclear War?

by John LaForge

U.S. generals have failed for 50 years to convince a President to bomb cities again with nuclear weapons. Until 1991 that is. The 40-day carpet bombing of the Tigris and Euphrates River Valley region, known as the Persian Gulf War, involved the first use ever of so-called "depleted uranium" (DU) armaments.

Without any public debate, a sort of back door Hiroshima—call it a low-intensity nuclear war experiment—was foisted upon the world by the United States. Much like how the U.S. sprung the atomic age 50 years ago, the human costs of testing radioactive weapons may prove to be as much cancer at home as on the battle field. (Add Gulf war vets to the 16,000 civilians used in government radiation experiments during the cold war.)

About 300 tons of DU was dispersed during the 1,000-sortie-per-day bombing of the Persian Gulf, according to William Arkin writing in the May 1993 *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*. Arkin estimated that 940,000 of the Air Force's 30mm DU shells, and 4,000 of the Army's 120mm DU anti-tank shells were fired. The military has its own classified estimates, but the 4,000 tank shells alone contained a total of more than 50,000 pounds (25 tons) of DU.

DU is uranium-238, a radioactive, alpha-emitting nuclear waste left over from the uranium "enrichment" process. Alloyed with titanium, the DU becomes extremely hard and makes devastating armor-piercing ammunition.

DU is left in vast quantities (1/2 million tons in the U.S.; 1 million tons world-wide) at 50 sites in 18 states where uranium ore has been "enriched" for warheads and reactor fuel. Enrichment separates the fissionable U-235 from the U-238, but there is only one pound of U-235 in a ton of uranium ore. The remaining 1,999 lbs. (of U-238) is nothing but nuclear waste, and is given away free to industries who use it to manufacture and sell DU shells to the U.S. military.

The danger posed by DU warheads is that when they smash through tanks, etc., the DU partially burns, producing uranium oxide dust which is spread far and wide by the wind. Small particles can be permanently trapped in the lungs, where the alpha radiation dose—cumulative and irreversible—increases over the victim's lifetime.

"The air-borne particles enter the body easily," wrote Dr. Eric Hoskins, about the Harvard Study Team's survey of health in post-bombardment Iraq. "The uranium then deposits itself in bones, organs (lungs), and cells. Children are especially vulnerable..." Hoskins warned in 1993.

The United Nations World Health Organization is investigating the health effects of the DU weapons that were used against and left littering the Persian Gulf.

Today, eerie complaints of possibly radiation-induced illnesses are coming from Iraq, and from vets and their families. In January, Iraqi diplomats at the U.N. protested the use of DU weapons before the International Red Cross, and in May acting Iraqi Foreign Minister H.Y. Hammadi blamed the use of "radiation weapons" for the otherwise unexplained incidence in Iraq of certain diseases. In his letter to the U.N. Secretary Gen., Hammadi wrote that, "Baffling pathological cases have appeared...an abnormal increase in leukemia, lung cancer, cancer of the digestive system and carcinoma." Mr. Hammadi also said there is, "an appreciable increase in congenital diseases and fetal deformities."

"The wide-scale use" of DU weapons meant that small particles of uranium oxide were carried by the wind over long distances, Hammadi wrote, "and conflicts with the claims of the coalition countries that the weapons employed...were...conventional."

At home, strange undiagnosed ailments have been reported of Gulf war vets in growing numbers: 37,000 by April 1994; 43,000 by January 1995—6% of the 697,000 people who were sent to the massacre. (Be-

4 Nukewatch—PATHFINDER



Photo by Bonnie Urfer

The all volunteer Disarmy is lined up and ready to roll up the cables of Project ELF. The Pentagon estimates shut-up costs for ELF to be around 12 million.

The All-Volunteer Disarmy

by Tom Hastings

The long Cold War was an expensive proposition. The fiery finish—the 1980s—saw the U.S. go from the world's largest creditor nation to the world's largest debtor in a mere five and one half years.

But the bills are still rolling in. The hooted Peace Dividend is a forgotten cruel joke. The Pentagon is still the largest producer of hazardous waste in the U.S. It is still the largest holder of radioactive waste in the world and those cleanup costs will be truly damaging. \$230 billion is the low estimate. It could go to half a trillion. Just for the nuke mop-up. That doesn't count taking apart the warships, the submarines, the bombers, or any of the rest of it. Expenses will clearly be astronomical.

In the interest of public spirit, in the interest of saving the country much-needed funds, Stop Project ELF has commitments from 50 willing volunteers who will go to the 28-mile antennae in Wisconsin and dismantle the entire line. For free. With our own tools.

We will go a long way toward fulfilling the promise made by the Navy 26 years ago, when they unequivocally swore, in writing to the US Forest Service and to the public, that they would "dismantle and remove the facility from the forest once testing is completed" (April 1, 1969 Memorandum of Understanding, also part of press release to media that day).

We have one, and only one, condition. The savings—which we calculate to be in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million dollars just to cut down and roll up the antenna—are to be spent on anything but the Pentagon. Spend it on veterans, health care, school lunches, on national parks, on further environmental clean-up, or on folks with disabilities. Or on deficit reduction.

We care, and we'll do the job. Just say the word. It's the all-volunteer disarmy. In service to our country.

Tom Hastings is a writer, peace activist and long-time ELF resister. This article first appeared in the Ashland Daily Press.

tween 75,000 and 150,000 Iraqi conscripts and civilians were killed.)

The Gulf War Syndrome's short-term symptoms are probably the result of untested vaccines and drugs given, in untested combinations, to vets without their informed consent. But chromosomal and reproductive damage and possible cancer incidence are the long-term dangers, and early warnings are now appearing in the flesh.

Since thousands of vets were exposed to the uranium oxide dust, DU could be responsible for symptoms that often result from radiation exposure: hair loss, fatigue, bowel disruptions, cancer, and, ominously, increased birth defects, miscarriages, still births and infant mortality among women partners of exposed vets.

As usual, the Pentagon has dismissed the symptoms as "stress related" or "in your head." The Defense Dept. has issued official brush-offs in July 1992; March, June and Dec. 1994; and August 1995. These denials of a Gulf War Syndrome are being countered by vets groups, their supporters and by scientists.

The *L.A. Times* reported in November that as many as ten times the expected number of birth defects and infant deaths among children of Gulf vets is perhaps caused by contamination in the Gulf. Uranium was among the possible culprits named by toxicologists who testified to Congress that contaminated men can pass toxic chemicals and genetic mutations directly to their children through sperm. "...as many as 65% of the children born to Gulf War soldiers are afflicted," according to some groups, the *L.A. Times* said. One environmental pediatrician, comparing Gulf War babies with other's, found a 30% rate of birth defects among the vet's children—"probably tenfold of what is in the normal population."

Complaining of what it called a "hodgepodge" of small-scale Pentagon studies of the vet's ailments, the Institute of Medicine (IOM)—associated with the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—demanded in January a large epidemiological study, and an end to wasteful, poorly designed research. Then in August, supported by Hillary Rodham Clinton, the IOM again blasted the Pentagon, saying it hadn't supported its August 1st finding of "no evidence" of a single Gulf

Syndrome. Mrs. Clinton seemed to direct her criticism at an earlier NIH panel's claim (April 1994), that some potential causes of illness—such as DU or experimental drugs—"seemed less likely as major factors." Mrs. Clinton said, "No issue is off-limits and every reasonable inquiry should be pursued."

The disability compensation bill passed last Nov. for Gulf War vets covers only those who registered a "chronic disability that became evident while in the Gulf." This eliminates diseases with latency periods. The Veteran Affairs Department says that disability comp. for sick vets cannot be made to those with undiagnosed symptoms. This eliminates at least 6,450 sick vets, by the Army's own count, and it gives the Pentagon a vested interest in not finding a diagnosis for unexplained ailments and reproductive disorders.

In other words, this latest round of human radiation experimentation has consequences that—conveniently for the Pentagon—can be plausibly denied—if you want to be fooled.

The Pathfinder

is the newsletter of Nukewatch,
a project of The Progressive Foundation.

Nukewatch Board of Directors

Cassandra Dixon, Patricia Kane, Barb Katt, Susan B. Nelson, Bonnie Urfer, Samuel H. Day, Jr., John LaForge

Co-Directors

Cory Bartholomew, Bonnie Urfer, Linda Urfer

Newsletter Staff

John LaForge, Bonnie Urfer, Linda Urfer,
Cory Bartholomew

The Pathfinder is published quarterly.

Nukewatch has been active against the nuclear industry since 1979, providing educational material, organizing gatherings and rallies, and piercing the secrecy of nuclear weapons production, transportation, and installation.

World Court Challenge to Nuclear Deterrence

by Alyn Ware

On December 15, 1995, after intense debate in the General Assembly, the United Nations adopted a resolution requesting the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to give an advisory opinion on whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons is permitted in any circumstance under international law.

The resolution was vigorously opposed by the U.S., U.K., and France, all of whom continue their policies of nuclear deterrence and reserve the option of using nuclear weapons either in retaliation or in first use.

Ambassador Errera of France argued that seeking an opinion from the ICJ was "tantamount to questioning the inalienable right of any State or group of States to remain sovereign, as long as they comply with international law, in the choice of their means of defense." In a veiled threat to supporters of the resolution Ambassador Errera said that those who challenge this "right" of the nuclear powers to use nuclear weapons "...should think twice. One day, they themselves could be called upon to defend the legitimacy of the means they use to ensure their security." In an acrobatic attempt to twist logic backwards, Ambassador Errera also claimed that seeking a legal clarification from the ICJ was "...a blatant violation of the United Nations Charter. It goes against the law; it goes against reason."

Sir Michael Weston for the U.K. argued that the nuclear powers are making progress on nuclear disarmament, and that an opinion from the ICJ would harm current disarmament negotiations.

However, the majority of States believe that the nuclear States are dragging their feet and need to be pushed along if any progress is going to be made towards nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Indonesian Ambassador Witjaksana Soegarda, introducing the resolution on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement, noted that "...strategic doctrines have yet to be renounced, even in the post-cold war era...It is undeniable that mankind throughout history has used every weapon invented including

nuclear weapons...It can therefore rightly be said that humanity continues to be confronted by the real danger of self extinction."

The General Assembly resolution follows a request to the ICJ from the World Health Organization on whether the use of nuclear weapons by a State in armed conflict would be a breach of its obligation under international law.

The approach to the Court was initiated in 1992 by three citizen's organizations, the International Peace Bureau, the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA). They believe that the threat or use of nuclear weapons is prohibited under rules of warfare which have been codified in a number of international instruments including the Geneva and Hague Conventions.

Such rules of warfare prohibit the use of weapons or methods of warfare which cause indiscriminate harm to civilians, use poisonous substances, affect neutral states, cause aggravated suffering, are disproportionate to the provocation or cause long term and severe damage to the environment.

IALANA argues that the threat to use nuclear weapons is illegal according to a general principle that the threat to commit an illegal act is itself illegal. This principle is supported by the Nuremberg Principles and Article 2 (4) of the United Nations Charter which links the threat and use of force.

Since 1961 the General Assembly has adopted resolutions condemning the use of nuclear weapons as a crime against humanity and a violation of the United Nations Charter. The nuclear states have however ignored these resolutions. An opinion from the ICJ, the "principal judicial organ of the United Nations" (UN Charter, Article 92) would be impossible for the nuclear powers to ignore, particularly as their own domestic military codes require them to uphold international rules of warfare. This is why the nuclear states tried unsuccessfully to stop the request going to the ICJ and then attempted to convince the Court not to accept the request. Mexican Ambassador Miguel Marin Bosch remarked that "The nuclear powers are scared shitless

(of this case). Their turn is up. And they are holding on to the only toys that have been the guarantee of their legitimacy."

Legal decisions have always been important in bringing about social change: outlawing apartheid, abolishing the slave trade, and gaining emancipation of women. Nuclear weapons are no exception. The Nuclear Tests Case (1974), was instrumental in forcing France to abandon its atmospheric testing program in the South Pacific. Aotearoa-New Zealand is now taking France back to the Court to challenge their underground tests.

An ICJ decision on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons is expected by the end of 1995 or early 1996. Already 42 States have joined the proceedings, the largest number of countries in any ICJ case. The citizens' organizations have made their own presentation to the Court in the form of declarations of public conscience against nuclear weapons. According to the Hague and Geneva Conventions, the dictates of public conscience are important in determining whether or not a weapon system or method of warfare violates the principles of customary international law. A further presentation of declarations will be made during the oral hearings which begin on 30 October. The Court's decision is expected in late 1995 or early 1996.

Disarmament diplomats and peace activists plan to use the decision of the Court to move the nuclear States towards a convention on elimination of nuclear weapons. Sri Lankan Ambassador Dhanapala, Chair of the Non Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference in his opening statement to the conference, compared the process of nuclear abolition with that of chemical, biological and inhumane weapons; "Those weapons (chemical, biological, inhumane) were not disinvented, They were declared illegal. That is how we put the genie back in the bottle—verifying at the same time that it stays there."

For more information contact: Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy, 666 Broadway, Room 625, New York, NY 10012, USA. telephone (212) 674-7790, fax (212) 674-6199.

NUCLEAR NOTES

* The U.S. spends \$25 billion on the maintenance and deployment of H-bombs, bombers, submarines and missiles, and has spent a total of \$3.9 trillion on its nuclear weapons industry since 1945. (Having produced 70,000 such weapons since W.W.II, the average cost has been \$57 million apiece.) The total includes the estimated \$385 billion that is expected to be needed to stabilize radioactive garbage left at bomb building sites. The four trillion dollars spent is roughly the same amount spent on the Army or the Navy over the same period. Researchers found also that about \$75 billion of the total was wasted on nuclear war systems that were dead-ended, \$25 billion on the Star Wars fraud alone. —*New York Times*, 12 July 1995; *Christian Science Monitor*, 12 July 1995.

* A huge new study of the consequences of nuclear weapons production has found it "responsible for extensive destruction, producing millions of tons of toxic and radioactive waste, massive damage to the environment and untold effects on human health." *Nuclear Wastelands: A Global Guide*, published by MIT Press, says that nuclear weapons governments have all kept secrets and lied in the name of national security to cover up gross endangerment of the public. The deception kept citizens in "ignorance that allowed nuclear weapons to be tolerated." Among the study's findings were that radioactive pollution has caused an increase in leukemia and brain cancers, and that, in the U.S., weapons plant workers were deliberately exposed to internal radioactive contamination without their knowledge or consent. —*New York Times*, 26 July 1995.

* The President's Committee on Human Radiation Experiments released its draft report on the thousands of unwitting human guinea pigs experimented on by the military, universities and hospitals under U.S. government direction. The report recommends compensation to "some" of the thousands of subjects, and warns that current laws are not strong enough to prevent

similar Nazi-like experimentation in secret today. The committee's investigation, which has disclosed ghastly and gratuitous irradiation of retarded children, poor pregnant women, prisoners and indigent hospital patients, found that secret classification of the experiments was done "out of concern for embarrassment of the government." (The CIA's radiation experimentation was not investigated by the committee.) —*New York Times*, 17 July 1995.

* At least 10 Russian nuclear power reactors are so shoddy that they could cause another "accident akin to Chernobyl," according to the DOE in Washington, DC. The DOE said the reactors are "unsafe and difficult to control," and one in Slovakia has an emergency core cooling system that is "dangerously undersized." The Natural Resources Defense Council has called for a \$10 billion fund for shut-down and replacement. —*The Guardian*, 24 July 1995.

* In Russia, life expectancy and the birth rate have plummeted to the lowest in the world, astounding scientists and health statisticians. "There is no historical precedent for this anywhere in the world," said the university of London's Judith Shapiro. Epidemic rates of heart disease and cancer have caused the death rate in Russia to more than double in the ten years since the radiation catastrophe at Chernobyl. While the death rate has rocketed 30 percent in two years—so that it is twice the birth rate—the rate of infant mortality has soared 30 percent in four years. And because the incidence of "serious birth defects" is "increasing faster than any other health problem," Russian scientists have now agreed that radioactive contamination of the environment is a major factor in the "disaster." "Everyone assumes the connection," said David Hoel of the Medical University of South Carolina. —*New York Times*, 2 August 1995.

* The Physicians for Social Responsibility calculate that the U.S. nuclear arsenal has the destructive power

of 200,000 Hiroshimas. In global terms, this is one Hiroshima-size bomb for every 28,000 people on Earth. —*New York Times*, 2 & 3 August 1995.

* The Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, reviewing only activities before 1975, issued an interim report Oct. 21, 1994, which dispels the illusion that most experiments took place very early in the nuclear age. It reports, "The Air Force provided a list of more than 600 human radiation experiments, approximately 90 of which predate 1975." —*Nuclear Examiner*, August 1995

* In what was called a "final tally," the Energy Department has almost doubled—to 16,000 civilians—the number of men, women and children used in government radiation experiments. The DOE's "finality" is bogus because CIA experiments are not being counted. At the same time, DOE public relations officers made this open self-contradiction: while admitting that they don't know whether the victims had given their consent, they concluded that only 10% of the experiments raised ethical questions. —*Associated Press*, 8 August 1995

* Karl Grossman and Judith Long report that Hollywood has detoxified its version of the 1970 Apollo 13 mission. The movie failed to mention that the spacecraft carried the SNAP-27 (Systems for Nuclear Auxiliary Power) to provide energy for lunar experiments. The power pack contained 8.3 pounds of plutonium and plunged back through the atmosphere, along with the three astronauts, and was spun-off toward a "spot off New Zealand." Grossman and Long, quoting NASA documents, say the plutonium was "successfully targeted to deposit intact in the Tonga Trench in the South Pacific where it is effectively isolated from man's environment." The two ask, "is the ocean isolated from our environment?" —*The Nation*, 11 September 1995

—Compiled by Nukewatch staff

Prison Resistance: It Feels Good

by Sam Day

There are many places I'd like to have spent the day on August 6th, fiftieth anniversary of the dropping of the first atomic bomb.

I'd like to have stood with friends who blocked the entrance to the Pentagon, disrupting at least momentarily the smooth management of the vast atomic arsenal amassed since 1945.

I'd like to have linked hands with others at the fence of the Nuclear Test Site in Nevada, where people from all over the world gather annually to protest the continuing development of weapons of mass destruction.

I'd like to have been in Hiroshima on that day, with tens of thousands of others, to place a floating candle on the Otai River in remembrance of those who perished a half-century ago and in dreadful anticipation of many more who now seem bound to follow them in future nuclear holocausts.

But most of all I'd like to have been exactly where I found myself on August 6th—flat on my back on a prison cot as a criminal convicted of interfering with our government's preparations for the waging of nuclear war. Without my having to say a word, sing a song, travel a mile, or even move a muscle, my status as an anti-nuclear prisoner of conscience put me in tune with all for whom the Hiroshima anniversary marked a renewal of the struggle for a nuclear-free world.

I had not planned it that way, but the Hiroshima fiftieth anniversary date happened to fall within the six months of my sentence for trespassing last February at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Nebraska, headquarters of the U.S. Strategic Command (StratCom), which controls the targeting and launching of all U.S. long-range nuclear weapons of the post-Cold War era. This coincidence connected me with other nuclear resisters outside as well as inside the prison system.

I thought of Carl Kabat, the Catholic priest now in his second year of a five-year term in the North Dakota State Penitentiary for hammering the concrete lid of a nuclear missile silo, of John LaForge, beginning eight months in a northern Wisconsin jail for trespassing at the Navy's ELF nuclear submarine radio transmitter, of Nukewatch organizers Bonnie Urfer and Cory Bartholomew, recently released after serving six months for the same offense, and of Mordechai Vanunu, halfway through an 18-year term in solitary confinement in an Israeli prison for going public with the secret of Israel's nuclear weapons production.

What were Carl and John and Bonnie and Cory and Mordechai thinking that day, I wondered as I lay on my bunk at the Oxford Federal Prison Camp in central Wisconsin. Did they also feel the vibrations?

Did they also feel a connectedness which transforms the deprivations of prison life?

A dozen times in fifteen years I have gone to jail or prison as part of my resistance to the making of nuclear weapons. I make no claim for the efficacy of "prison witness" other than it feels good.

It feels good to know that I have gone as far as my age and health and personal circumstances permit in resisting an abhorrent national policy, even though my risks and sacrifices are trivial in comparison with many others' (for example, soldiers going into battle.)

It feels good to know that "prison witness" can compel the attention, the interest, and sometimes the action of others. I have evidence of this in letters not only from friends and supporters but also others beyond the reach of articles, editorials, public meetings, and petitions.

It feels good to learn once again, as I have discovered many times before, that jail and prison life are bearable and valuable for the nonviolent nuclear resister, although for others it is an abomination.

Whether it be the noise and smell of a crowded county jail such as the one I endured for the first two months of my recent sentence or the sterility and boredom of an unfenced camp such as the one where I completed my term, the U.S. correctional system should hold no fears for the resister who is emotionally prepared and adequately supported. Far from being the self-sacrificing heroes and martyrs we are often depicted, we should be recognized as the beneficiaries of an unusual opportunity for self-reflection, for stripping away the non-essentials of our existence, for dialogue through correspondence with friends and strangers in the outside world, for insights into the racial and class inequities that beset our society.

For those who seek nuclear disarmament there can be no more important task than propagating the facts of life and dispelling myths about the consequences of nuclear resistance. Equally important is the building and strengthening of communities from which acts of individual resistance can best be planned, launched and supported. This is a role for which Nukewatch deserves much credit as a doer and promoter of nuclear resistance.

The Nuclear Resister (P.O. Box 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733) regularly lists the names and addresses of women and men currently incarcerated for acts of nuclear resistance. The list averages one or two dozen. There is no reason why it shouldn't be one to two thousand, given the danger fraught by our nation's commitment to a nuclear future.

Sam Day, a writer, peace activist, and Nukewatch board member, was released from Oxford Federal Prison Camp on August 18.



Photo by Bonnie Urfer

Ruthie Woodring walked from Chicago to Project ELF in northern Wisconsin.

The Chicago to Project ELF Walk For Peace

Below are brief comments from some of the people who walked from Chicago to Project ELF during July and part of August this Summer. Extensive coverage of this extraordinary event will appear in the Winter 1995-96 Nukewatch *Pathfinder*.

During the walk, I came to believe that peace means replacing hatred with love, resentment with hope, anger with faith, and replacing closed fists with open arms. Then perhaps, people around the world will communicate and exchange meaningful dialogue.

—Amy Campbell

Acting, singing, playing, praying—living simply and sharing on the road. These were instructive days, heartening times.

—Kathy Kelly

When I am with my community of walkers I am unafraid of addressing any problem, no matter how seemingly unresolvable. The power of the group is a power we must utilize.

—Ruthie Woodring

For me the walk was an attempt to listen to the rhythms of the earth and the messages it sends. It was an attempt to move toward humility and away from my complicity with the arrogant system which allows this genocide to continue.

—Charles Carney

A Shift of Power Under the Sun: The Peace Tax Fund Bill

by Genevieve Kortez

We deliver 26% of our federal taxes to the current military, and 19% go to past military expenses. In 1996 these combined taxes will total 43% of the projected budget. Yet Jeannette Rankin, the only Congressperson to vote against both World Wars I and II said, "You can no more win a war than an earthquake!"

Conscientious objectors (COs) face a dilemma every year in mid-April. Do they follow the state and be legal? Or do they follow their conscience, and refrain from contributing to the war economy? This dilemma is repeated year after year for untold numbers who have no legal alternative or recourse with the IRS.

This could be changed with the passage of the Peace Tax Fund bill. It advocates legislation enabling COs to war to have the military portion of their federal income taxes directed to a special fund. Its recipients would include Head Start, Women/Infants/Children's programs, the Peace Corps, and the U.S. Institute of Peace. It would raise the nation's awareness of misplaced military priorities.

The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund is engaged in a year-long project, titled "10,000 Letters, A Witness for Conscience." Its goal is to have 10,000 letters sent to Congress by Nov. 95. By June 30 it had

generated 4,600 letters. The primary goal is to boost the profile in Congress of the bill (H.R. 1402). Monthly form letters are sent to activists, who in turn seek people to send three letters each—to two Senators and one member of the House.

Congress has given final approval to a historic seven-year budget plan designed to increase military spending, slash taxes, and balance the budget by 2002. This would be achieved, according to *The Washington Post* by a blend of "Reagan-era 'supply side' economics and hard boiled budget austerity." The budget squeezes about \$900 billion from nearly every major program but the military.

These are some of the details: Medicare is reduced by \$270 billion; Medicaid by \$182 billion; Aid to Families with Dependent Children; child nutrition and the Earned Income Tax Credit for the working poor are reduced by \$100 billion.

At the same time, military spending will increase by \$58 billion. Included is 20 more B-2 Stealth bombers, and funding for a ballistic missile defense program. According to the Center for Defense Information, the President's five-year plan for military spending will consume \$1.3 trillion, keeping military spending close to cold war levels. The massive allocation is intended to enable the U.S. to fight two major wars at the same time without the help of allies.

The core of the Peace Tax Fund bill is freedom of conscience. Historically, legislation granting religious COs the right to do noncombatant service was adopted in 1940. In 1970 the Supreme Court ruled that "ethical and moral beliefs" were as valid as religious ones. Now even atheists could qualify for objector status if they demonstrated a deep moral aversion to war. A CO under Federal Selective Service law, and under this bill, is anybody who is conscientiously opposed to participation in all war.

The bill was referred to the Senate Finance Committee. In addition to contacting your representatives, there is a need to educate these Senators about issues of conscience and military taxes. They are: Packwood, OR; Dole, KS; Roth, DE; Chaffee, RI; Hatch, UT; Simpson, WY; Pressler, SD; D'Amato, NY; Murkowski, AK; Nickles, OK; Moynihan, NY; Baucus, MT; Bradley, NJ; Pryor, AR; Rockefeller, WV; Breaux, LA; Conrad, ND; Graham, FL; Moseley-Braun, IL.

Addresses are: Senators—U.S. Senate, Washington, DC, 20510; Representatives—U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 20515. Contact the Peace Tax Fund Office for more information, 2121 Decatur Place NW, Washington, DC, 20008-1923, telephone (202) 483-3751.

California Organizers Call for Help: Radioactive Waste Dump Back on Fast Track

by Tori Woodward

• There will be a gathering in Ward Valley, California, October 10-15, 1995, to protect sacred Indian lands, critical habitat, and the Colorado River. Everyone who opposes placing long-lived and highly dangerous radioactive waste in shallow, unlined trenches only 18 miles from the Colorado River is invited to attend the encampment and conference.

Organizers decided to call the gathering after Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt announced on May 31, that he will transfer federal land in Ward Valley to the State of California so that a nuclear dump can be created. Babbitt's announcement came after a National Academy of Sciences (NAS) panel issued a report on the project.

Although the majority of the NAS panel recommended going ahead with the dump, they also recommended additional testing to see if radioactive material could migrate into groundwater and the Colorado River. Secretary Babbitt and the California Department of Health Services refuse to do the testing because that would delay opening the dump. The dump would be upstream from aqueducts that carry water to Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix, Tucson, and other cities and farming communities in the Southwest and Mexico.

Ward Valley is the home of the last remaining robust population of the desert tortoise, which is protected by the Endangered Species Act. Ward Valley, the desert tortoise, and the Colorado River are sacred to Native Americans living in the area. To our dismay, biologists on the NAS panel recommended sacrificing the tortoises that live where the dump would go. Government officials from California, Nevada, and New York, as well as members of the NAS, have criticized the conflict of interest inherent in the links between many panel members and the nuclear industry.

Eighty percent of the radioactivity planned for the dump (measured in curies) would come from nuclear power plants. Although the nuclear industry claims that the dump is for medical radioactive waste, less than 1% of the radioactivity would come from medical research, diagnosis, and treatment.

Organizers intend to challenge in court any transfer of land in Ward Valley. However, U.S.

Senators from Alaska and Louisiana have threatened to introduce legislation in Congress that would force the land transfer and exempt Ward Valley from the Endangered Species Act and the Environmental Protection Act.

Activities planned for the six days include tours of the site, banner on Interstate 40 (which is only one mile from the proposed dump), creation of a 24-hour emergency response network, formation of affinity groups that will pledge to nonviolently resist any construction activity on the land, a Spirit Run, workshops on proposals to bury radioactive waste in several other states, strategy sessions, music, dancing, and other events organized by local Native Americans.

Because we cannot predict the status of the land in October, participants will determine whether non-violent direct action will be needed during the gathering.

People coming to the Ward Valley gathering should bring their own camping gear or plan to stay in a motel in Needles (22 miles away). Because we will be camping in critical habitat for the desert tortoise, it is important not to impact the land; even footprints must be confined to already disturbed areas. Sponsors of the encampment will provide water, meals, and sanitation. Registration is \$15 in advance, \$20 at the site. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

The Ward Valley gathering is timed to follow the annual "Call to the Desert '95", which will take place October 6-9. Call to the Desert '95 is a spiritual and educational gathering at the Nevada Test Site, called by Corbin Harney, a Western Shoshone spiritual leader. The focus will be nuclear testing, nuclear waste, and other environmental disasters.

Participants are encouraged to attend both events. It is about 160 miles from the Nevada Test Site to Ward Valley.

For more information about Call to the Desert '95, contact: Healing Global Wounds, P.O. Box 13, Boulder Creek, CA 95006. Phone: (408) 338-0147.

For more information about the Ward Valley encampment and conference contact: Bay Area Nuclear (BAN) Waste Coalition, 2760 Golden Gate, San Francisco, CA 94118. Phone: (415) 752-8678. Please indicate whether you want to be part of a 24-hour emergency response network to protect Ward Valley.

See you in October!

WHERE ARE THOSE TRAINS?

They're coming. Although there has been a long lull in the shipments of radioactive waste from Naval ports to the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory near Pocatello, Idaho, Governor Batt agreed to accept 24 more casks. The Navy claims it is necessary to send the waste as they have run out of storage space.

Beatrice Brailsford, Snake River Alliance spokesperson anticipates the floodgates of spent fuel rods to

open starting in October.

TrackWatch will again be active with movement of casks from either coast. The Navy shipments continue to be classified. Without citizen monitoring, the trains carrying this deadly cargo will go unnoticed. If you are interested in becoming a TrackWatcher, contact: Nukewatch, P.O. Box 2658, Madison, WI 53701. Telephone (608) 767-3023.

JUBILEE PLOWSHARES

by Rick Sieber

On August 7, 1995, six peace activists (two on the west coast and four on the east) calling themselves the "Jubilee Plowshares" carried out acts of nonviolent disarmament on U.S. first-strike nuclear weaponry.

Shortly after 8:00 a.m. Steve Kelly, S.J., a Jesuit priest from San Jose's Most Holy Trinity Catholic Church and Susan Crane, a teacher, war-tax resister, and mother of two sons, entered the Lockheed-Martin Corporation in Sunnyvale, CA, and began pouring blood and pounding the casing of a Trident D-5 missile. Upon finding the actual plans of the Trident missile Crane wrote "These plans kill children" and poured more blood.

In an indictment against those responsible for our militarized state Crane said, "These weapons are so powerful, accurate, and numerous that their only purpose is to start a nuclear war. We pay for these weapons with our taxes. We permit them by our silence. We are all complicit in the scandal of building these first strike weapons. We are wasting our valuable resources on them rather than working to clothe, feed, and shelter so many who need so much."

The two were charged with trespassing and felony counts of burglary, vandalism, and conspiracy and were kept in local jails after refusing bail.

Posing as employees four east coast activists simultaneously entered the Newport News Shipyard in Newport News, Virginia. Using fake identification cards Michele Naar-Obed, Baltimore, Amy Moose, New York City, and Rick and Erin Sieber, Philadelphia, proceeded past a check point to the nuclear-capable submarine, USS Greenville, which was in dry-dock at the shipyard. The group sang, prayed, poured their own blood, hammered on the missile hatches, and pasted pictures of Hiroshima victims onto the submarine. After approximately 30 minutes of uninterrupted peacemaking they turned themselves into shipyard employees.

The four are currently being held in the Newport News City Jail on charges of "Wanton Trespass" and "destruction of property in excess of \$1,000," a felony carrying up to a five year sentence.

For more information, contact: Earl Johnson (510) 632-9273 or (510) 351-1596 or Jubilee Plowshares-East Support Group 1321 W. 38th St., Norfolk, VA 23508 Phone: (804) 423-5420.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1995 THE YEAR OF NONVIOLENCE

September

13 Northern States Power's Annual Shareholder meeting, Minneapolis Convention Center, 9:00 a.m. out front. Voting at meeting on merger with Wisconsin Energy Corp., resolution to stop NSP's nuclear racism, and resolution to change the way NSP makes its profit to efficiency instead of the production of nuclear waste. **Contact:** The Prairie Island Coalition Against Nuclear Storage (PICANS) (612) 333-5807.

13 Wisconsin Energy Corp.'s Special Shareholder meeting, on proposed merger with NSP, in Milwaukee at The Grand Milwaukee Hotel, 9:00 a.m. For more information or to help organize around the meeting, **Contact:** PICANS (612) 333-5807 or David at Citizens Utility Board (608) 251-3322.

22-25 International Joint Commission (IJC) Conference, on the health of the Great Lakes will be held in Duluth, MN. The IJC was formed in 1906 concerning the U.S./Canadian border and is recommending to both governments a full phase-out of radionuclide emissions into the Great Lakes. (There are 36 nuclear reactors in the Great Lakes Basin.) A great opportunity to network with other non-nukers from around North America. Public comment will be taken for the IJC's Biennial Report. **Contact:** PICANS (612) 333-5807.

October

6-9 Call to the Desert Peace Camp, at the Nevada Test Site. Come for four days of ceremony, sweat lodges, talking circles and networking with the goal of healing the land and its people. This event is also part of the twice yearly Healing Global Wounds activities. Per person share of costs, \$20. **Contact:** Healing Global Wounds, (408) 338-0147.

10-15 Encampment to Save Ward Valley, California. Join activists and members of River Indian Tribes in a week of strategy meetings, protest actions, cultural events, and a Spirit Run directed at stopping a planned nuclear industry dump 18 miles from the Colorado River. **Contact:** Bay Area Nuclear (BAN) Waste Coalition at (415) 752-8678.

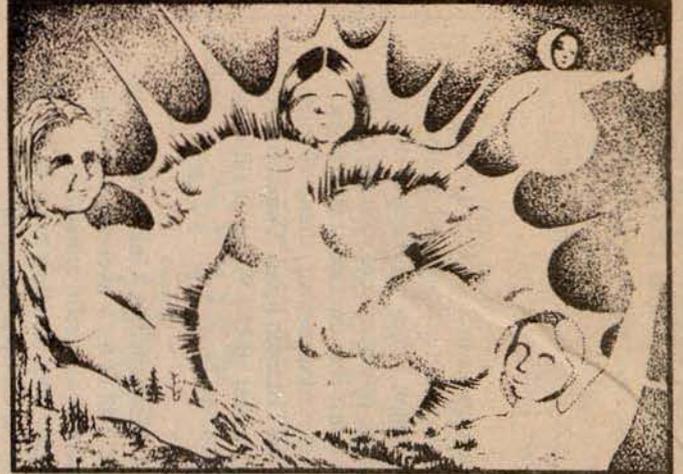
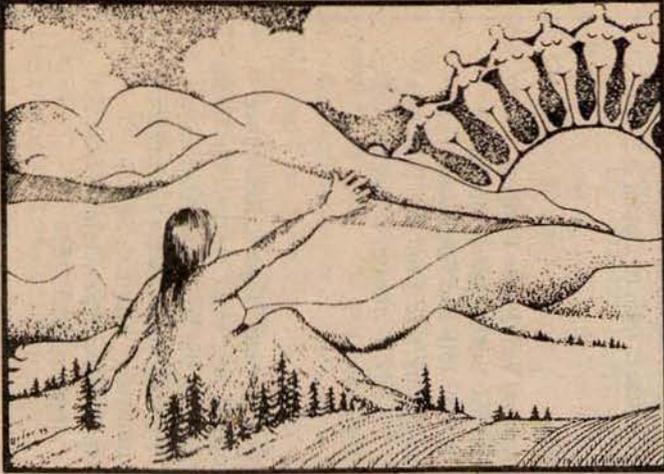
21-22 ELF Resistance: A Link in the Chain of Hope. Join us for a weekend exploring the history of successful nonviolent campaigns: from Gandhi's experiments in Truth to the Co-op struggles in Minneapolis. Discussions, workshops, and potluck in Duluth, MN on Saturday and nonviolent direct action at Project ELF on Sunday. **Contact:** John or Donna at (218) 728-0629.

DECEMBER

2 10th Annual Fall Peace Festival, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., St. Lukes United Methodist Church, NW 15th and Robinson, Oklahoma City, OK. **Contact:** The Peace House, 2912 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, OK, (405) 524-5577.

MAY 1996

15-19 15th European Hope & Resistance Gathering, Northern Germany. The theme is "evaluating the U.S. Plowshares movement; building the movement in Europe and worldwide." **Contact:** Stellan Vinthagen, Omega, Sandeslatt 59, S-42436, Angered, SWEDEN.



Help ***STOP PROJECT ELF!***

Order Our Beautiful Greeting Cards
Original Art by Bonnie Urfer

Mother's Day proclamation by Julia Ward Howe
Suitable for Mother's Day or any occasion
Pack of 5 for \$10

Write or call: Stop ELF Cards, 740 Round Lake Road, Luck, WI 54853 (715) 472-8721

THE PROGRESSIVE FOUNDATION
P.O. BOX 2658
MADISON, WI 53701-2658

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 2901
Madison, WI

Collection Laka foundation

www.laka.org
Digitized 2018