

# NUKEWATCH PATHFINDER

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## Sam Day 1926-2001

We received news of the death of our dear friend and Nukewatch founder Sam Day with shocked and unprepared hearts. Sam was 74 when he died Jan. 26 of a massive stroke at his home in Madison, Wisc. He is survived by his brother Christopher and sister Mayflower, his wife of 44 years Kathleen Day, his sons Philip, Joshua and Samuel III and six granddaughters.

Sam's genuine optimism for the movement, his personal affability and disarming smile and, above all, his gravelly-voiced insistence on freedom from nuclear weapons endeared him to peace activists around the world.

Former Nukewatch staffer Cassandra Dixon told the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*, "Whoever he was talking with, he made that person feel like they were the center of the universe. He lived his life for social change. But rather than forcing his view on other people he always managed to bring out the best in them."

It was Sam Day who took Nukewatch into the streets and the headlines. Initially a legal defense foundation established to support *The Progressive* magazine against the federal government's attempt at censorship, Nukewatch has grown to expose, publicize and resist nuclear weapons for 21 years.

The landmark 1979 First Amendment case propelled Sam, as the magazine's managing editor, into the national spotlight—over publication of "The H-Bomb Secret: How We Got It, Why We're Telling It." The government eventually dropped its attempt to restrain *The Progressive*. The result was that millions learned that the supposed secrets of H-bomb mechanics were detailed in public documents, easily understood and duplicated—by any government willing to expend several billion dollars.

After *The Progressive* victory, Sam decided that Nukewatch should stay focused on nuclear weapons. He was



Photo by John LaForge

**Sam Day relaxed during a break in a Nukewatch board meeting last June at Anathoth Community Farm. Sam was a newspaperman, editor, Nukewatch founder, author and an uncompromising activist in the struggle against nuclear weapons and war.**

convinced that if citizens knew the dirty and dangerous facts about the Bomb, the day would sooner arrive when it could be abolished.

Nukewatch campaigners focused first on nuclear warhead transportation, and later on the IC BMs scattered across the Great Plains. The "TruckWatch" campaign lifted the veil of secrecy from the routine but nearly unknown movement of H-bombs on the nation's highways. The Missile Silo Mapping project culminated in publication of *Nuclear Heartland: A Guide to the 1000 Missile Silos of the U.S.* in 1988.

Sam conceived of both of these national projects. They put Nukewatch on the political map. And they put the government on notice that its nuclear weapons wouldn't proliferate without public scrutiny. British activists soon modeled an H-bomb TruckWatch of their own that is going strong to this day.

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# Enduring Words from Sam Day

By Matthew Rothschild

Five years ago, I interviewed Sam Day for my now-defunct radio show, *Second Opinion*. Here is an excerpt from that conversation.

**Q: You just got out of prison. What were you in for?**

**Sam Day:** I was in for six months for crossing the line at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, the headquarters of the U.S. Strategic Command, which controls the launching and targeting of every long-range missile in the nuclear arsenal.

**Q: Why did you decide to trespass there?**

**Day:** To try to lift the veil of secrecy and numbness which covers that and other nuclear installations in our country, and to help the people of Omaha and the people of America understand that this is a very, very dangerous facility having control of some 8,000 nuclear warheads, all of them still aimed at targets all over the world and ready to go just as surely now as they were at the height of the Cold War.

**Q: A lot of people assume that the threat of nuclear war had passed. Why is that not the case?**

**Day:** Because, while it's true that there's no longer a confrontation between two nuclear superpowers, one of those superpowers—namely the United States—continues using nuclear weapons and the threat of the use of nuclear weapons as the basis for projecting power. And by doing that, we set an example for other countries to say that nuclear weapons are the way for them to protect their interests, too.

**Q: How has the United States used this threat to protect its interests?**

**Day:** Ever since the beginning of the nuclear era, we have been using our nuclear weapons as a way of reinforcing our economic and diplomatic positions. First of all, in a dispute over Iran way back in 1946, we directly threatened the Soviet Union with a possible nuclear strike. And as late as the Persian Gulf War, President Bush directly threatened Saddam with a nuclear strike. Now, the United States is saying that only it and the small group of nuclear powers can legitimately have these weapons of mass destruction. That's a way of keeping our dominance in perpetuity. And it's maintaining the double standard of a few privileged countries having nuclear weapons, while the rest of the world either doesn't have them or pretends not to have them.

**Q: You're referring to Israel, India, and Pakistan?**

**Day:** The most notorious example is Israel, which is a major nuclear weapons power now, with at least 200 sophisticated warheads. And it has acquired these with the knowledge and the protection of the United States. India is another example. So is Pakistan. No doubt there will be others as the future unfolds: Iraq, perhaps North Korea, Libya. Why shouldn't they have nuclear weapons so long as the United States and Israel and Britain and France and Russia and China have them?

**Q: So your position is that every country has an equal right to nuclear weapons but that no country should have them?**

**Day:** If we accept nuclear weapons as a legitimate way of conducting our policy in the world, then every single nation is entitled to nuclear weapons, which is the definition of ultimate insanity. Obviously, we can't have that, and so I think we've got to work toward zero. And the United States has got to take the lead because the United States has more—and is more seriously involved in producing nuclear weapons—than any other country. We should be for nonproliferation in the sense of stopping our own proliferation, stopping our own development of more and more sophisticated nuclear weapons, and leading the way toward zero nuclear weapons.

**Q: So how should we work toward zero?**

**Day:** We should start by stopping the production of nuclear weapons, just ceasing altogether and dismantling our 15,000 to 16,000 remaining nuclear warheads, and doing it regardless of what any other nation does. Simply because it's in our own interest to get out of the nuclear weapons business.

**Q: But that's not self-evident, at least to many people.**

**Day:** It's in our interest because sooner or later they're going to be used. We may think it's a long time—fifty years—to have gone without the use of nuclear weapons. But fifty years is the blink of an eyelid in human history. It's axiomatic that eventually these weapons are going to be used just as every other weapon that's been developed by humankind eventually has been used. And we still have no conception—we as a society—of the incredible, uniquely devastating, destructive force of nuclear weapons. Not just the blast, which is thousands of times greater than any other weapon that has ever been developed, but the radiation effect, which is of incalculable damage to the environment and to the human genetic system.



Sam Day joined the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. gathering at Project ELF in 1998.

It's the most urgent cause that exists: Sooner or later, we've got to come to terms by getting out of this venture into nuclear weapons. Either we will do it through the democratic process, or we will do it in the aftermath of some God-awful tragedy, which has wiped out maybe half a dozen cities of a million or more people overnight.

If that happens, we will get out of the nuclear business, but it will be over the dead bodies of untold millions.

**Q: Why did you decide to follow a course of civil disobedience, instead of staying in journalism?**

**Day:** Matt, it's really not all that different from journalism. It's another form of education, it's a form of theater, it's a form of psychologically bringing the general public into close emotional touch with the reality of nuclear weapons. Journalism, writing, is certainly one way to do that. And I continue to write a lot. But doing civil disobedience is a way of stating an editorial point with the greatest force.

I'll cite you an example: Martin Luther King went to jail many, many times. The most famous letter he wrote, about the injustice of the denial of civil rights, was not called "Letter from Holiday Inn." It was called "Letter from Birmingham jail." And it made the point that this is such an important issue that it's worth making some sacrifice of one's personal liberty in order to advance the cause of civil rights.

It's the same thing in the nuclear area. Nuclear weapons are, from my perspective, the most important issue that society faces today. And anything that will help to engage the emotions of the public in this area, by doing things that risk arrest, that risk punishment, is worthwhile, if it serves that educational purpose.

If it doesn't serve that educational purpose, then it's simply a matter of morality, of my doing it because I think it's important to do. It's my way of saying, "I withdraw my consent to building nuclear weapons, and it's over my dead body that this policy will continue."

**Q: So, even if no one took notice of you going to prison, it still would be worthwhile for you to do it?**

**Day:** It would be, yes. It would be. Just simply as a matter of my own humanity. I'm in a position to do it. You know, I'm getting old enough now that others don't depend on me for their bread or their shelter, and I'm free to do it, much freer than many people are.

**Q: What was it like to be in prison?**

**Day:** Prison life is absolutely terrible for 99 percent of the people who are in prison. It's an abomination. It's a terrible waste of human resources. It's a terrible waste of taxpayers' money. It's barbaric. It makes animals both out of the prisoners and the prison guards.

For the remaining one percent—those people who are in prison because they have conscientiously and deliberately broken laws that they feel are immoral laws—for those people, jail is the right place. It was the right place for me. Not only because I felt good to be making that statement by saying no

to nuclear weapons. But also because I found it an educational experience to be with people who have been oppressed, or who have had unequal opportunities in life, who come from a different social order. It's a way of getting out of the narrow, middle class layer I inhabit.

**Q: How many times have you been in jail or prison, and what was the longest sentence you served?**

**Day:** Well, I served two six-month sentences. Those are the longest. And I've been in jail or prison maybe twenty-five, thirty times in the last fifteen years, often for no more than overnight.

**Q: Did you ever feel threatened?**

**Day:** I never felt threatened, wasn't threatened. That may be because of my age, and because I don't get into fights. I know how to avoid fights.

**Q: How do you do that?**

**Day:** You just turn around. Somebody assaults you, just turn around and walk away. You don't fight.

**Q: And that's effective?**

**Day:** In my case, it's effective, and I think it's effective for most everybody else, too. The people who get into fights are young, hot-headed guys who are not mature and who have no other way of handling themselves except with their fists.

**Q: Do you see yourself going to prison again?**

**Day:** Matt, it all depends on the government of the United States. I hope I don't have to go back to prison. So long as we continue to be in the business of producing nuclear weapons, threatening basically to blow up the world or poison it to death, then I think I have a right or a duty, within my limited powers, to try to say no and try to report to my fellow Americans the insanity of that policy. If it means going to jail, so be it. I'm perfectly prepared to do that.

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## Sam Day, 1926-2001

Continued from cover

Sam's genius was not only in pithy, incisive writing, but in bringing together hundreds of activists and organizers all across the U.S.

Along the way, Sam put his money where his mouth was and joined dozens of nonviolent actions that landed him in jail for days, weeks and sometimes months at a time. In 1989 he and Chris Inserra of Chicago organized the single largest occupation of multiple ICBM silos, with 15 war resisters sitting atop 10 different Missouri silos. While all 15 went to jail, Missouri's missiles have been removed.

In 1991, I had the honor of joining Sam in serving the longest jail sentences to come of resistance to the Persian Gulf bombing. In court we argued that handing out leaflets at Ft. McCoy against the commission of war crimes was lawful. The jury deliberated five hours while Sam & I cooled our heels in holding. That long afternoon with Sam is a moral victory I'll savor forever. Before our release in May, Sam suffered the retinal strokes that left him legally blind. For a life-long reporter and editor, it could have been a devastating blow. But Sam enrolled in blind school, never lost his convivial gumption and became a world traveler.

Soldiers are commended for surviving wounds suffered in battle. In 1992 Sam was awarded the Fellowship of Reconciliation's highest honor, the M. L. King, Jr. Peace Prize. But the loss of his sight while in a U.S. jail for leafleting, qualifies Sam, an Army veteran, for the humanitarian's Purple Heart.

Again in 1993, Sam traveled to Medford, Wisc. to join an action against the Air Force's Ground Wave Emergency Network (GWEN). The group planned to pull up survey stakes to protest the building of the "survivable nuclear war" system.

Sam chose not to slog through the mud to remove stakes, but he met us at the road with his white cane. He said, "Hand me a pile of those stakes before the cops get here." After boldly pleading guilty before a judge he couldn't see, Sam and the rest of us got 60-days. Congress later cut the funding for GWEN.

After leaving Nukewatch, Sam launched the U.S. Campaign to Free Mordechai Vanunu, the technician-turned-whistle-blower sentenced to 18 years in prison for telling the world about Israel's arsenal of H-bombs. The U.S. Vanunu campaign will continue from the offices of *The Nuclear Resister* in Tucson, AZ.

Sam's comic sense of drama and fun was contagious and inspirational. It was in evidence during a 1995 action at the Navy's ELF system in Wisconsin. With his white cane in hand, he made a show of trying to climb the wire fence along with the youngsters in the group. The deputies quickly took him into custody—his wry grin leading the way.

Always conscious of the movement's economy, Sam wanted remembrances sent to *The Progressive* magazine, the U.S. Campaign to Free Mordechai Vanunu, or to Nukewatch.

—John LaForge

# Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembered at Project ELF

CLAM LAKE, WI—Honoring the anti-war activism and non-violent actions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., eight protesters from around the U.S. and Canada were arrested on January 14 for trespass at Project ELF. Those cited for opposing nuclear weapons and exorbitant military spending face a \$212.00 fine or 60 days in jail. All eight were released at the site where about 40 people gathered.

Project ELF—for extremely low frequency—south of Clam Lake, Wisc., sends one-way messages to submerged U.S. and British nuclear-armed Trident submarines. The Tridents carry 24 ballistic missiles with up to eight nuclear warheads on each missile. There are 18 U.S. Tridents.

The protest concluded a King holiday weekend gathering at Anathoth Community Farm—an intentional peace community near Luck, Wisc.—involving 21 international volunteers from the Chicago-based Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT). CPT trains activists in unarmed intervention and sends volunteers to areas of conflict around the world. The visiting CP Team included volunteers from Ontario, British Columbia, England, North Carolina, Connecticut, Maine, Kansas, Washington, Texas, Maryland and Ohio. Peace activists from Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota also participated.

Recalling that Dr. King said, “We have guided missiles and misguided men,” the activists studied the pacifist writings and the nonviolent action techniques of the slain civil rights leader. The group also reviewed current Navy policy regarding first-strike nuclear war plans as they pertain to the Trident fleet and ELF.

Since the collapse of the USSR, Wisconsin’s congressional delegation has questioned the justification of the ELF system, and U.S. Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) has three times unsuccessfully introduced legislation to terminate the program’s funding. Since 1991, more than 47 demonstrations at the site have resulted in 546 trespass citations issued to protesters who have spent a total of over 40 months in jail.

In a statement of purpose, participants said in part, “The U.S. Navy and the United States of America have no right to assume ownership of the entire ionosphere, sending communication waves to Trident and Fast-Attack submarines around the entire globe. We want federal funds to be rerouted from the military to housing and social programs.”

Activists prepared a basket—a gift of corn, sunflower seeds for forest birds, pieces of art, children’s photos, messages of peace—and delivered it to sheriff’s deputies across the line.



Photo by Bonnie Urfer

Claire Millikan, with the Chicago-based Christian Peacemaker Teams, adds her gift to the basket presented at the gate of Project ELF.

Speakers told of sorrows connected with militarism and nuclear weapons, sang songs of peace and justice and everyone joined in a ceremony filled with symbolism depicting our life-sustaining forces.

## Plutonium Wars: Depleted Uranium Shells Dirtier Than Ever

### Munitions poisoned with waste 200,000 times more radioactive than DU

By John LaForge

*Professionals in the radiation protection field prudently assume that...the risk is as high for chronic exposure as it is for acute exposure. In other words, it is assumed that no radiation exposure is completely risk free.*

—U.S. EPA, Office of Radiation & Indoor Air Radiation Protection Div., May 1998

*Plutonium is a fuel that is toxic beyond human experience. It is demonstrably carcinogenic to animals in microgram quantities. The lung cancer risk associated with these radiologically unique aerosols is unknown to orders of magnitude. Present plutonium standards are certainly irrelevant...*

—Dr. Donald P. Geesaman, health physicist, formerly of Lawrence Livermore Lab

*Kadhim and colleagues...point to the possible importance of their findings in radiation-induced leukemogenesis and childhood leukemia clusters associated with nuclear sites.*

—H. John Evans, Feb. 20, 1992, *Plutonium*

*Plutonium, exposure to which remains difficult to detect, may be even more carcinogenic than previously thought.*

—Howard Hu, *Plutonium*

The world press has discovered depleted uranium (DU) weapons—the super hard munitions made with toxic radioactive waste material.

The deaths from leukemia of 16 white Europeans—after their participation in military missions in Bosnia and Kosovo—have moved major news groups, the European Parliament and 11 European governments to launch investigations into the health and environmental consequences of—as Dr. Rosalie Bertell puts it—shooting radioactive waste at your enemy.

U-238 is left after uranium ore has gone through the gaseous diffusion process that removes most of the fissionable isotope U-235. By building radioactive waste into armaments, the U.S. is in effect using radiation as a weapon of war.

Some 320 tons of DU munitions were blasted into Iraq and Kuwait by U.S. forces in 1991.

The Pentagon says the U.S. fired about 10,800 DU rounds—close to three tons—on Bosnia in 1994 and '95. More than ten tons were blasted into Kosovo in 1999.

A total of 16 soldiers from Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands, Portugal and the Czech Republic have died of leukemia since their 1994 and 1995 service in Bosnia and Kosovo. Portugal’s Prime Minister Antonio Guterres wrote to NATO Secretary-General George Robertson demanding an explanation of where and why DU munitions were used in Europe.

The U.S. military and apologists for the nuclear industry reacted swiftly to Italian and German politicians who demanded information from the Pentagon and called for a moratorium on the use of DU. NATO’s hasty assurance that DU used in the Balkans can be “ruled out” as a significant health hazard came after a one-week-long study.

**NATO denials contradicted**

Prominent scientists worked to calm the uproar. Dr. John Boice of the International Epidemiology Institute, told the *New York Times* Jan. 13, “To get leukemia you need to get the

radiation to the bone marrow. The radiation does not go to the marrow. And uranium 238 will not get to the bone marrow. I don’t think it causes leukemia at all.”

U.S. physicist Steve Fetter told the same paper that uranium did not penetrate to bone and marrow, where leukemia originates. This half-truth refers to external DU exposure and neglects the internal hazard from ingestion or inhalation.

Jean Francois Lacronique, director of France’s National Radiation Protection Agency, flatly contradicted NATO, saying, “U-238 has been found stored in bone, and if it gets into bone, it can reach the bone marrow.”

Dr. Frank von Hippel, author of a Dec. 1999 *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* article on DU, told Nukewatch, “Yes, it does get to the bone. We looked at that in our study.” And the Dec. 2000 *Science for Democratic Action* reports that “Some particles remain in the body where they can build up in lung [tissue], or enter the blood stream where it can accumulate in bone tissue.” Internal exposure “increases the risk of leukemia and lung, bone and soft tissue cancers, particularly when inhaled or ingested.”

At the height of the January media frenzy, a 17-year-old advisory bulletin from the U.S. Federal Aeronautics Administration was leaked to the press. It puts the lie to official government denials of health risks associated with DU exposure. The Dec. 20, 1984 memo warns FAA crash site investigators, “If particles are inhaled or digested, they can be chemically toxic and cause a significant and long-lasting irradiation of internal tissue.”

Needing no further evidence of harm, the European Parliament on Jan. 17 voted 394 to 60, for a resolution urging a moratorium on the use of DU among its members.

Just when NATO felt it was getting the public “hysteria” over DU munitions under control, the presence of plutonium was disclosed.

**Plutonium contamination raises stakes**

A wildfire of publicity was lit by the United States’ belated admission in January that its DU shells contain plutonium and other nuclear wastes far more radioactive and carcinogenic than uranium-238.

Dr. von Hippel wrote in *The Bulletin* that plutonium-239 is roughly 200,000 times more radioactive than U-238. And plutonium-238 is 300 times more radioactive than Pu-239.

The dose of plutonium-239 needed to cause lung cancer is about a millionth of an ounce. “...plutonium is probably the most carcinogenic substance known,” according to Dr. Arjun Makhijani writing in the 1992 book *Plutonium*.

Pentagon assurances regarding plutonium appear preposterous in light of its power to cause cancer. “U.S. officials have said the shells contained mere traces of plutonium, not enough to cause harm,” the AP reported Feb. 3.

NATO said Feb. 13, “...traces of highly radioactive elements such as plutonium and americium were not relevant to soldiers’ health because of their minute quantities.” “If it has been through a reactor, it does change our idea on depleted uranium,” said Dr. Michael Repacholi of the World Health Organization that has demanded to know how much plutonium is in the DU ammunition. The Energy Dept. is still working on an answer to that question.

As early as Jan. 2000, the U.S. admitted that its DU munitions are spiked with deadly plutonium, neptunium and americium—“transuranic” (heavier than uranium) fission wastes

from inside nuclear reactors.

DU “contains a trace amount of plutonium,” said the DOE’s Asst. Sec. David Michaels, who wrote to the Military Toxics Project Jan. 20, 2000. “...recycled uranium, which came straight from one of our production sites, e.g., Hanford, would routinely contain transuranics at a very low level. ... We have initiated a project to characterize the level of transuranics in the various depleted uranium inventories,” Michaels said.

The DU is made by Starmet Corp. in Concord, Mass., Aerojet Corp. in Sacramento, Calif., and others, into at least five munitions, as well as casings for bombs, shielding on tanks, counter weights and “ground penetrators” on missiles.

**Laws of war apply to any conflict**

The Air Force’s 1976 “International Law: The Conduct of Armed Conflict and Air Operations,” governs the actions of all U.S. pilots. “It is especially important,” the manual says, “that treaties, having the force of law equal to laws enacted by the Congress of the United States, be scrupulously adhered to by the United States armed forces.” The manual names treaties specifically recognized as binding, including the Hague Conventions of 1907, the Geneva Gas Protocol of 1925, and the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilians in Time of War, 1949.

Even without a declaration of war, poison weapons are banned by the Hague Conventions, the Geneva Conventions and the USAF’s law of armed conflict, which says, “The law of armed conflict applies to an international armed conflict regardless of whether a declared ‘war’ exists. ... The Armed Forces of the United States will comply with the law of war in the conduct of military operations and related activities in armed conflict however such conflicts are characterized.”

The USAF manual recognizes that, “The law of armed conflict applies equally to all parties to an armed conflict, whether or not the international community regards any participant as the ‘aggressor’ or ‘victim’.”

The Geneva Conventions also require obedience to its provisions in any conflict: “...at all times in their relations even when other parties to the conflict are not also parties to the Conventions. ... the Conventions shall apply during any armed conflict, including undeclared war, and during occupation whether it is resisted or not. Thus, artificial distinctions between ‘war’ and ‘armed conflict’ are eliminated.”

**Poison weapons never legal in war**

The Geneva Gas Protocol outlaws “the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of all analogous liquids, materials or devices...” The Hague Conventions explicitly outlaw poison saying, “...it is especially forbidden: a) To employ poison or poisoned weapons...”

Poison is defined by the Air Force manual as “biological or chemical substances causing death or disability with permanent effects when, in even small quantities, they are ingested, enter the lungs or bloodstream, or touch the skin.”

Although the law couldn’t be more clear, NATO spokesman Francois Le Blevenec told *Knight Ridder* Jan. 6 that DU “has never been declared illegal by any war convention.” Indeed, as the Air Force manual makes clear, “Any weapon may be put to an unlawful use.” The manual declares, “A weapon may be illegal *per se* if either international custom or treaty has forbidden its use under all circumstances. An example is poison to kill or injure a person.”

# "Silence Trident"

## Bonnie Urfer & Michael Sprong

# Found Guilty

### Sentencing Friday, May 4, 1:30 Federal Courthouse, Madison, WI

By John LaForge

A federal jury took fewer than three hours to convict Bonnie Urfer and Michael Sprong of willfully damaging Navy property after a one-and-1/2 day trial in Madison. The hasty deliberations were the result of a court order that declared "irrelevant and inadmissible" all testimony or evidence referring to Project ELF, Trident submarines, nuclear weapons and war policy, the humanitarian laws of war, or the U.S. Constitution.

Bonnie and Michael took the verdict in stride, disappointed but unfazed and upbeat. Michael said, "My heart and head both agree with Philip Berrigan who says these plowshares actions are the best way we've found to disarm the weapons."

At sentencing in Madison May 4, the two face a possible year in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

The Feb. 21 conviction was all but guaranteed when federal Magistrate Stephen L. Crocker granted the government's pretrial motion "in limine." The Feb. 8 order forbade Bonnie and Michael or any witness from mentioning "their motive in damaging the poles; the justification defenses of crime prevention or necessity; international law regarding nuclear weapons; and the policy of the U.S. regarding nuclear arms, and the deployment of nuclear weapons on nuclear submarines."

The Magistrate, as with most district courts, based his nearly airtight gag rule on a string of U.S. Appeals Court



Photo by Steve Pearson

Madison activists enhanced the scenery outside of the federal courthouse in Madison, WI. The "Nuclear Mutants Caravan" drummed during the lunch break and marched up State Street to the Capitol in colorful costumes carrying puppets and pedaling a cardboard Trident submarine in the parade.

## DU Disarmers Get Additional Year

BALTIMORE, MD—Philip Berrigan and Susan Crane were sent back to federal prison March 1, after a brief respite at home that followed their release in early January from state prison. Both were on probation for their Feb. 1997 Plowshares action at Bath Iron Works aboard the *USS Sullivan*, a Navy destroyer, when they participated in the Dec. 19, 1999 "Plowshares vs. Depleted Uranium" action. The additional year in prison came as a result of revocation of federal probation.

At Susan's probation revocation hearing Judge Gene Carter charged her with participating in a violation of the law, failure to make restitution—her share of \$88,622—and associating with other felons.

What she had done was disarm the planes used to fire 95% of the depleted uranium used against Iraq in 1991 and Kosovo in 1999. Stephen Kelly, Elizabeth Walz, Susan and Philip were convicted last March for damaging two USAF A-10 "Warthogs." Susan and Philip each spent the past year in prison for disarming the pair of A-10s. Stephen Kelly continues to serve his 27-month sentence in solitary confinement. Elizabeth Walz served her time in county jail.

In addition to the prison sentences, Berrigan and Crane were ordered not to associate with convicted felons. This order appears to forbid Philip from returning home to Jonah House where community members are nearly all Plowshares activists with felony convictions.

findings. Defense attorneys argued that the motion in limine destroyed the jury's rightful power to try the case, since they would hear no expert opinion about standing U.S. threats to use nuclear weapons.

Crocker's offhanded reply drew an audible gasp from the gallery. He said, "No one in their right mind would use a nuclear weapon."

A glimmer of hope for an affirmative defense appeared in a ruling made five days before trial. Attorney Margaret Danielson of the University of Wisconsin Legal Defense Project, representing Bonnie Urfer, suggested the unusual "advice of counsel" defense, in which competent legal advice by an attorney excuses a crime—if the defendants were informed that a particular act would be lawful. "Advice of counsel" is always a defense to a crime," Magistrate Crocker said Feb. 8.

Legal authorities all over the world have concluded that nonviolent disarmament action taken against nuclear weapons systems is lawful. However, in orders made immediately prior to trial, Crocker called for a "newspaper model" of defense testimony. "No elaboration" he said, "just headlines." With the motion in limine on one hand, and the "headline" restrictions on the other, witness testimony was in a straight-jacket. (Imagine writing a paragraph without any nouns.)

The jury heard no expert testimony and saw none of the voluminous documentation of the fact that Pentagon plans for nuclear war are illegal under U.S. law, U.S. military manuals and binding treaties.

In an opening statement, defense attorney Kary Love of Holland, Mich., used an analogy that would be used many times during the trial. "Attorney Dwyer was aware that Project ELF is a gun cocked and pointed at the head of another person, and that if Mr. Sprong knocked that gun away, that action would be lawful."

The prosecutor, Asst. U.S. Atty. John Vaudreuil, argued that his case was simple and easy to prove, and called three witnesses. With the help of a dozen TV monitors, the jury and the gallery of about 90 people watched the now famous videotape of the June 24 action filmed by Barb Katt.

The tape shows Bonnie and Michael sawing through the poles and posting their Citizen's Indictment, and the jury saw the word "Nuremberg" clearly painted on a downed pole. But neither the Citizen's Indictment nor the Nuremberg Principles were allowed as evidence or seen by jurors.

Bonnie and Michael both testified about the advice given them by attorney Anabel Dwyer, an Adjunct Professor of international human rights law. In her testimony, Bonnie calmly insisted, "I thought the action to be completely lawful. ... I believe that stopping the annihilation of life on Earth is lawful." She explained that nuclear weapons violate the U.S.'s own rules of war. "They kill indiscriminately and poison the earth far into the future," she said.

Michael testified that they'd put a great deal of time into planning, studying the laws of war, and deciding on the best way to go about lawfully disarming Project ELF. A question about Article VI of the U.S. Constitution (which calls treaties "the supreme law of the land") was raised. "Objection!" cried the prosecutor, and the question was ordered withdrawn by the Magistrate.

Michael said from the stand, "Anabel explained that according to law, the threat to launch [nuclear weapons] is as illegal as using the weapons." He said, "As we sit here, [ELF] is an active threat. That's its job; that's what it does."



Photo by John LaForge

The "Silence Trident" legal team and defendants breathing easy after trial. From upper left: Jenny Rim, Kathy Dresser, Margaret Danielson, John Bachman, Kary Love, Michael Sprong and Bonnie Urfer. Bonnie and Michael were convicted of damaging Navy property and face sentencing May 4.

The prosecutor saved most of his objections for attorney Dwyer.

With the jury out of the room, the court took arguments about jury instructions. Over the strenuous objections of defense attorneys, the Magistrate suggested an instruction that both misstated the status of international law and drew attention to a point the jury was not supposed to consider.

Defense Attorney Danielson pointed out that the Court's proposed instruction negated Dwyer's legal advice, even though the truth or accuracy of that advice was not at issue, and even though the defendants were not allowed to present any evidence as to the soundness of the advice.

Even Magistrate Crocker said, "Whether the advice was correct is legally irrelevant. ... The question is whether the defendants' beliefs were honest. And if they were, they cannot be convicted." Crocker decided to sleep on the question and rule in the morning.

With the jury back, Dwyer testified that she had spent six years studying the legal status of nuclear weapons and had presented evidence to the UN's International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Defense attorney Kary Love asked Dwyer, "What advice did you give the defendants regarding U.S. law applicable to ELF?" She replied "That ELF and Trident is an ongoing threat to use a nuclear weapon. And that the general 'protection of property' statute did not apply to a nuclear weapon system such as ELF. That 18 USC 2441 [of the United States Code], the U.S. law on war crimes, applies." Dwyer said she explained, "That because the threat [ELF] poses is a war crime, it therefore would be lawful to use reasonable force to stop that threat."

In explaining the justification for the defendants' action, Dwyer returned to the "loaded gun" analogy, saying "the defendants had a privilege to disable ELF—the 'cocked trigger' for nuclear weapons aimed at specific targets." Government objections moved the court to order the jury to disregard most such answers.

In closing remarks, the prosecutor portrayed the defendants as people who took the law into their own hands because of their disagreement with the government. He asked the jury to use their common sense, since one of the first things we learn is "thou shall not damage the property of others." In his closing, Kary Love countered saying, "Even earlier, we learn 'thou shall not kill.'"

Finally, the Magistrate instructed the jury, "Although there is no applicable privilege under international law or U.S. law to injure the ELF system...the question you must answer is whether either defendant honestly believed their attorney's advice..." Reversing earlier statements, Crocker instructed that "the reasonableness of the advice given is a factor you may consider..."

As attorney Love argued, the instructions practically "gutted" the advice of counsel defense.

The court did instruct that the jurors were to focus on "...whether the defendants, after receiving the advice...honestly believed that what they were doing was legal." If so, Magistrate Crocker instructed, "...then the defendant would not have acted willfully..."

Ultimately, it's unclear whether the jury deliberately ignored the court's instructions, refused to believe Bonnie, Michael and their advisor Anabel Dwyer, or whether they were simply confused by the self-contradictory instructions.

Michael Sprong summed up the trial this way: "The courts have determined that they will protect the weapons at all cost ... to uphold illegal U.S. nuclear weapons policy. And until they follow the law we'll continue to have the same results in court."

Bonnie Urfer recalled, "Judge Crocker said, 'This trial is ahead of its time.' I wish I were more confident of having enough time."

# Food Irradiation

## Long-term studies have never been done

By John LaForge

The midwest recall of one million pounds of E. coli-contaminated ground beef and 16.7 million pounds of chicken and turkey products has generated an industry-sponsored chant for meat irradiation. But irradiation is a deal with the devil. The fact that nothing is known about a childhood or long-term diet of irradiated food makes the practice tantamount to human experimentation. With scores of people made sick locally, industrialists who stand to make millions from irradiation are turning concern for the victims of bad meat into a rush for profits.

Irradiation will not eliminate E. coli from the meat supply or halt the spread of food-borne disease since E. coli is often introduced locally—after irradiation. This is because local supermarkets regularly mix their meat scraps with ground beef from meat packers. The meat industry can use cheaper, conventional methods of killing pathogens, such as better hygiene, safe chemical rinses, hot water and steam vacuums. Steam pasteurization at 185 degrees eliminates E. coli and is the normal practice at most meat packers.

In approving irradiation, the FDA reviewed 441 short-term toxicity studies. Dr. Marcia van Gemert, who was in charge of the review, testified that all 441 reports were flawed. In fact, the FDA now says only six were “properly conducted, fully adequate by 1980 standards, and able to stand alone in support of safety.” One of the six showed a statistically significant increase in stillbirths among rats fed irradiated wheat. The study used irradiation levels well below those proposed for human food. Public Citizen, the consumer group in Washington, concludes in an October 2000 report that “the FDA legalized—and continues to legalize—food irradiation without testing it for safety.”

Today's irradiators, using radioactive cesium or cobalt or electron beam linear accelerators, expose food to the equivalent of between 30 million and 150 million chest X-rays. Some of the foods now approved for irradiation are beef, pork, poultry, nuts, potatoes, wheat, wheat flour, fruits and vegetables, tea and 60 dried herbs and spices.

As if irradiation doesn't have a past, its proponents say, “It's safe ... with no reported cases of harm to humans or test animals.” This is not true, as the FDA's own rat studies prove. Indeed, irradiation has already had its own Three Mile Island.

Outside Atlanta, Ga., Radiation Sterilizers Inc. (RSI) got 252 canisters of cesium-137 from the Energy Department and in 1988 began irradiating spices. Within two years, a capsule began leaking cesium into RSI's storage pool. While workers took the carcinogen home on contaminated clothing, it took federal officials six months to find the leak's source. In 1992, the contaminated building was abandoned.

Any widespread use of cesium-137 and cobalt-60 will further compound deadly radioactive contamination with inevitable accidents along highways and railways, inside irradiation facilities and in surrounding communities.

### H-bomb program wastes

The origin of cobalt-60 and cesium-137 is rarely mentioned in glowing reports of irradiation's benefits: they are

radioactive wastes left in huge quantities from nuclear weapons programs. Cesium-137 is extremely hazardous, deadly for 300 years, water-soluble and very expensive to store.

The FDA's Jim Greene said in 1986 that using cesium-137 for irradiation “could substantially reduce the cost of disposing of nuclear waste.” In 1983 the Energy Department told the House Armed Services Committee, “The utilization of these radioactive materials simply reduces our waste handling problem. We get some of these very hot elements like cesium and strontium out of the waste.”

The FDA says irradiation doesn't change food's nutritional content, but it destroys vitamins A, B, B12, C, E and K, and it creates new chemicals in meat known as “radiolytic products,” some of which are known carcinogens—like benzene and formaldehyde. Dozens of “unique radiolytic products” or URPs are completely unknown and as such haven't been identified or tested for toxicity. The government granted these irradiation-induced chemicals a blanket exemption from safety testing—deciding that they didn't qualify as “food additives.”

### Smells like steamed cow

While industry claims that irradiation doesn't change the flavor or aroma of meat, taste testers disagree. New York Times food writer Marian Burros found, “In a side-by-side test, all the irradiated meat smelled funny, especially the ground beef. A slight barnyard odor escaped from the package, like steamed cow.”

At a Nov. 27 meeting of the Sauk Rapids, Minn., City Council, officials from Huisken Meats of Chandler, Minn., and Titan Corp. of San Diego were on hand to counter public opposition to their plan for a meat irradiator across from the local high school. Opponents warned that irradiation can't eliminate E. coli and pointed to the shortage and weakness of safety studies, but the council approved industrial bonding for the project.

Titan's “SureBeam” electron linear accelerator (e-beam) irradiator was described as “safe and effective.” But e-beams cause the same food safety problems as cesium and cobalt—the loss of vitamins, nutrients, and the introduction of radiolytic products and carcinogens.

Furthermore, e-beams—unlike the cesium-137 irradiators—cause activation of trace minerals in the meat, contaminating the meat with radioactivity. Even the pro-irradiation Council for Agriculture, Science and Technology (CAST) acknowledges this problem with e-beams. CAST says in its food irradiation report, “The increased risk of cancer from the induced radioactivity caused by treating meat with accelerated electrons thus is negligible.” Are you reassured?

Labels are required on bulk packages of irradiated food, but consumers are wary, and poor test-market sales have kept irradiated food out of most stores. Enter industry pressure, which moved Congress to minimize the label requirement—from a prominent “Treated With Radiation” warning on the front, to a tiny, ingredient-list-size notice on the back. However, no labeling of irradiated ingredients is required, so canned soup made with irradiated potatoes, onions and spices need not be so labeled. Likewise, food caterers, hospitals, schools, restaurants, retirement homes and child-care centers are not required to inform their clients that foods they serve were irradiated.

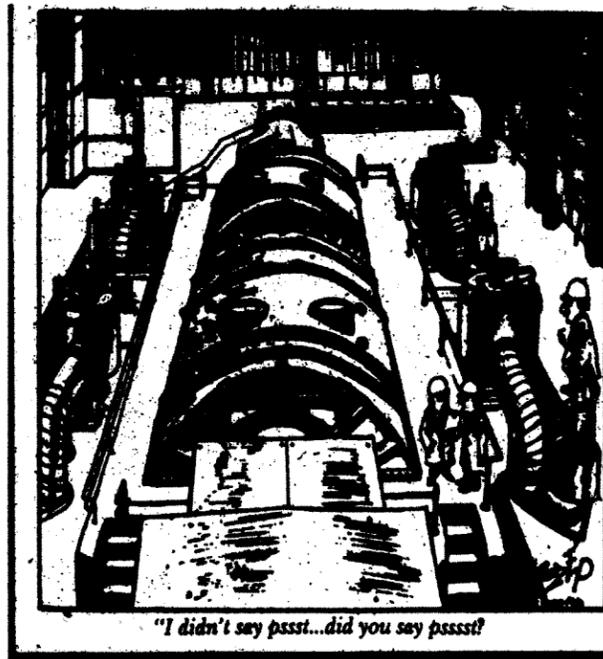
Stamps of approval from the FDA and USDA shouldn't ease healthy public skepticism—not after 80 deaths were attributed to Propulsid, and another 63 to Rzulim—both FDA approved, then banned. Consumers will be better off demanding tougher regulation of meat packers and handlers, rather than submitting to industry's latest radiation experiment.

*This article ran in the Mpls., Minn. Star Tribune Feb. 4, 2001*

## Ballistic Mi\$\$ile Defen\$e

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A 1995 CIA intelligence estimate concluded that the U.S. was safe from ballistic missile attacks launched by small “rogue states.” Furious Republican lawmakers created a commission to challenge the findings, put Donald Rumsfeld in charge, and got the report they wanted. Rumsfeld was appointed Secretary of Defense in January. The “Rumsfeld's Report” is now used by the Bush administration to promote and protect the profiteering bonanza that is “missile defense.” The Center for Strategic and Budget Assessments in Washington, D.C., estimates that \$130 billion has been spent on Ballistic Missile Defense since the 1960s, without a single successful test to show for it.

Meanwhile Sweden, which holds the rotating European Union presidency, joined Germany, France, Russia and China in urging the U.S. to scrap its BMD plans. German officials have accused the U.S. of overstating the threat from “rogues,” and French President Chirac has said the system “cannot fail to relaunch the arms race.”



“I didn't say pssst...did you say pssst!”

## Private Reactor Operators & DOE Target Goshute People for Nuclear Waste

By Bonnie Urfer

The Department of Energy reported in its *Radioactive Waste News*, Jan. 2001, that Skull Valley in Utah has been approved for “temporary” storage of 4,000 casks (40,000 metric tons) containing irradiated fuel rods, enough to fill a football field with 12 feet of deadly waste.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission said the casks used at the facility would be “invulnerable to floods, fires, lightning strikes, earthquakes and tornadoes.” The casks are also said to be able to withstand explosions, aircraft crashes and impacts from Cruise missiles gone astray.

The DOE also reported that the project will go forward depending on the outcome of Goshute tribal elections, a contest between incumbent Leon Bear (dump proponent) and contender Sammy Blackbear (dump opponent). The federal agency isn't too worried. According to the DOE, “Replacing Bear may prove difficult; most of the tribe's 70 voting members are his relatives.” Bear is reported to have said that 85 % of the band's eligible voters have signed a resolution of support for the project.

The Goshute tribe is surrounded by environmentally destructive projects. To the north sits a magnesium plant; to the south the Army tests equipment for exposure to nerve gas. To the west is a bombing range (a recipe for disaster with 12 Air Force crashes in the past decade) and a stockpile of chemical weapons. A chemical weapons incinerator and two hazardous waste landfills sit to the east.

The DOE plans to cover 450 of the 17,000 acres of reservation with concrete pads just 3.5 miles from homesteads. The waste casks—each 16 feet tall and made of concrete and steel—will be filled with irradiated fuel rods that will remain radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years.

Money is driving Tribal Chairman Bear. In 1997 he signed a lease to accept half of the nation's deadly reactor fuel rods. He claims the nuclear waste storage dump will save the tribe's struggling economy. The government promised 40 jobs within the one square-mile site. Meanwhile, Private Fuel Storage (PFS), the consortium of eight utilities pushing for the dump, is advertising across the nation for 40 experienced applicants.

Utah Governor Michael Leavitt strongly opposes the waste dump proposal. Leavitt traveled to Minnesota to complain directly to Governor Jesse Ventura saying, “Not only is there opposition, but it's statewide, it's deep and it's heartfelt. And we're going to fight it by every means possible: legal, political, legislative and environmental.” Leavitt reminded Ventura that Utah chose to remain a nuclear-power-free state. Bear says, “It's time for outsiders to admit they can't stop it.”

Xcel Energy Inc., (formerly Northern States Power) has been deceiving Minnesota regulators about Utah's willingness to accept nuclear waste. Xcel's two Prairie Island reactors, located on the Mississippi River, are running out of storage space in cooling pools and at its on-site cask storage area. The other utilities in PFS face the same dilemma: find somewhere to dump their waste or shut down their reactors.

The DOE says it hopes to reimburse private utilities for costs incurred to store irradiated fuel rods—on-site or off. It's been an ongoing federal bailout since Congress passed the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act. The initial estimate for construction of the Goshute site, not including transportation, long-term monitoring, or environmental degradation, is \$3 billion. The cost to the Goshute people in longterm health and environmental harm cannot be measured.

## NUKEWATCH PATHFINDER

The Pathfinder is the quarterly newsletter of Nukewatch, a project of The Progressive Foundation, founded in 1979 by Samuel H. Day, Jr.

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Nukewatch educates and organizes to nonviolently promote an environment free of the nuclear industry, militarism and weapons of mass destruction.

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# Nuclear Shorts

## Care Enough to Plan Ahead

ROCKVILLE, MD—The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) decided Dec. 23, 2000, that it would require states to consider stockpiling potassium iodide tablets for distribution in the event of a power reactor radiation accident.

Potassium iodide saturates the thyroid gland and prevents the body from absorbing radioactive iodine-131, just one of the isotopes released from nuclear power reactors.

Studying the proposal cost more than the distribution plan. Distributing the tablets to every state for those living within 10 miles of a reactor will cost \$2.4 million. The 18-year debate over whether or not to do so cost \$2.6 million.

Each state or municipal authority can decide for itself whether or not to store the isotope inhibitor.

The NRC earlier promised to have a plan by 1982 for regional access to the tablets. Pharmaceutical companies scrambled to produce them following the 1979 Three Mile Island reactor eruption. By 1985 the NRC had a plan. The agency chose to discourage the use of potassium iodide tablets.

Current members of the NRC—while advising states to store potassium iodide—are simultaneously studying extending the expired operating licenses of aged and increasingly dangerous U.S. nuclear reactors.

In an accident, reactors spew hundreds of different dangerous isotopes, so potassium tablets would not protect against lung, bone, liver, colon or any other cancers caused by the mix of exposures.

—*New York Times & Mpls. Star Tribune*, Dec. 25, 2000

## Wreck of the *Tireless*: Unwelcome, Unwanted

GIBRALTAR—*HMS Tireless*, the British fast-attack nuclear powered submarine with the cracked reactor cooling system, continues to vex Gibraltar and Portugal. The *Tireless* is scheduled to leave Gibraltar in late April, after tests on the experimental repair are complete and the reactors are restarted.

Portugal objects to any movement of the *Tireless* from Gibraltar, because the submarine would have to tour the Portuguese coastline, and has vowed to refuse entry into its ports should the *Tireless* have problems en route to Britain.

Threats of a national industrial strike have surfaced in Andalusia to protest any restart of the *Tireless*'s reactors.

The main local and regional Spanish news agencies, as well as many of the popular regional newspapers, have officially joined in the protest against the untried repair plans for the *Tireless*. Newspapers have printed anti-*Tireless* logos on their front pages, and television networks such as San Roque TV and Campo de Gibraltar TV have placed an anti-*Tireless* logo on their screens.

Protest demonstrations continue in response to the Navy's secretive and untested repair scheme, including a three-day protest in January in Humiladero. The British Consulate was occupied by 100 protesters in December and Greenpeace activists have been arrested for boarding *Tireless* with banners.

Local residents reacted with outrage at news that Britain had decided against issuing potassium iodide tablets to local residents for use in case of a radiation disaster. The wreck is docked in the densely populated Gibraltar harbor. The UK claims it has contingency plans in place in the event of an accident and will distribute the tablets then.

Fifty-seven U.S. nuclear submarines are reported to have the same reactor cooling defect that led to the *Tireless*' leaking of an undisclosed amount of radioactive cooling water.

—Compiled from *Iberia News* (Gibraltar), Dec. 2000 -to- Mar. 2001

## Big Response to Big Blockade at Faslane Trident Base

SCOTLAND—The Royal Marines are moving in—500 of them—to protect Faslane, home to Britain's Tridents. The "Commachios," currently based elsewhere, are relocating their entire operation to the base in April.

An investigation is underway because disarmament activists have repeatedly evaded security at the base and been arrested deep within its perimeter. In one incident personnel discovered a tour group of pensioners lost inside!

For over two years, Trident disarmament activists have been cutting through fences, climbing over barbed wire barricades, boating and swimming into restricted territory.

Second in command Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Conway said: "Our task is simple. We will be based in Faslane to protect it and its nuclear submarines from small groups of aggressors..."

At the heavily publicized "Big Blockade" Feb. 12, 385 people were arrested attempting to enter and disrupt Faslane. Anti-Trident activists came from England, Wales, Ireland, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Spain, South Korea, Belgium, Holland, Australia and Columbia as well as considerable numbers from Scotland itself.

In December, Scottish MP Tommy Sheridan served five days in jail, raising the visibility of the campaign and adding

to the 860 jail days served by war resisters over the last 30 months. The actions have resulted in 782 arrests, 94 trials and three acquittals.

Blockade organizers said, "The civil resistance to Trident must continue and intensify. The blockade shows that the number of people ready and willing to share in this urgent disarmament task is growing all the time."

—Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Dec. 11, 2000

## "Safe" Levels of Radiation Killing Children

NEW YORK—Nukewatch reported in the *Pathfinder* last fall that infants are dying down-wind of nuclear reactors. "How much more of this bodies-in-the-morgue approach to public health research do we need?" asked Robert Alvarez, Executive Director of Standing for Truth About Radiation, a national safe-energy organization. His comment was in response to a new study showing the deadly effect the routine nuclear reactor emissions have on infants. The research shows a 33.4 to 54.1 percent drop in infant death rates among down-winders after the close of nuclear reactors.

That study, published in the journal *Environmental Epidemiology and Toxicology*, looked at mortality rates at Wisconsin's Genoa reactor near LaCrosse (closed in 1987), Sacramento's Rancho Seco (closed in 1989), Colorado's Ft. St. Vrain (closed in 1989), Oregon's Trojan (closed in 1992) and Connecticut's Millstone (closed in 1995). Later research included Michigan's Big Rock Point and Maine Yankee (closed in 1997).

In another deadly connection, roughly 1.6 million children in the U.S. get CT scans of the head and abdomen each year. About 1,500 of those will die later of radiation-induced cancers. CT scan machines used on children are typically calibrated for adults, so children absorb two to six times the radiation needed. According to David Brenner of Columbia University, the doses from CT scans are "way bigger than the sorts of doses that people at Three Mile Island were getting."

The results of two CT scan studies appeared in February's *American Journal of Roentgenology*, a leading radiology journal. In one, Brenner and colleagues estimated the risks of "radiation-induced fatal cancer" from pediatric CT scans. The other study, conducted by Fred Mettler of the University of New Mexico said, "Breast doses from a CT scan of the chest are somewhere between 10 and 20 mammograms." Since adult women must weigh the serious risk of getting even one mammogram, the risks for children are clear. Compared to adults, children have more rapidly dividing cells that in turn are more susceptible to radiation damage. Children also will live long enough for latent cancers to develop.

—*Arizona Republic*, Jan. 22, 2001; *The Nation*, Jan. 29, 2001; Radiation and Public Health Project

## Deep in the Heart of Tennessee

OAK RIDGE, TN—NASA uses plutonium-238 to power satellites in deep space. In a new DOE proposal, the High Flux Isotope Reactor in Oak Ridge, Tenn. and the Advanced Test Reactor in Idaho would share the plutonium production role. The project would bring \$34 million for renovations to the former weapons labs and employ about 70 people. Plutonium production could begin in late 2006 or early 2007.

NASA wants plutonium-238, which is far more radioactive than the fissionable plutonium-239 used in nuclear weapons. But the two isotopes share some of the same radiation hazards. The material must be handled behind barriers known as hot cells and glove boxes. Oak Ridge has been handling plutonium-239 for decades and contamination at the site is legendary.

The DOE has disclosed that 5,600 tons of uranium contaminated with trace amounts of plutonium were brought to Oak Ridge in the 1950s and '60s for weapons fuel production. Abnormal amounts of radioactive material were found in waste ponds at the site in the early 1980s. DOE officials have promised to investigate the pollution's impact on workers and the environment at the same time they are proposing to introduce even more plutonium.

—*The Tennessean*, December 25, 2000

## Nuclear Warhead Test "Oboe 6"

NEVADA TEST SITE—The Energy Dept. detonated number six in the "Oboe" series of "subcritical" nuclear experiments Dec. 14, 2000, at the Nevada Test Site (NTS). According to the DOE, the blasts are designed to answer questions about "ejecta" and "spall" associated with plutonium warheads. "Oboe 5" was exploded on August 18, 2000. So-called subcritical tests replaced traditional underground nuclear tests in 1992 to give the impression of compliance with the Limited Test Ban Treaty. Each experimental blast costs about \$20 million.

The U.S. DOE began exploding the Oboe series on Sept. 30, 1999. The bombs have been designed at Livermore Labs or Los Alamos labs.

To celebrate 50 years of nuclear weapons detonations, the public was invited to the NTS History Center in Las Vegas

on Dec. 18, 2000, just four days after the detonation of Oboe 6. —*Shundahai Network News*, Spring 2001

## Fire Destroys ICBM Launch Center

BISMARCK, ND—A fire destroyed the land-based missile Launch Control Center "G-1" southwest of Minot, North Dakota Nov. 30 and the Air Force is investigating the cause.

Two "missileers" were trapped in the sealed command post 100-feet underground where they control 10 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missiles. Thirteen others "left the site aboveground." The underground crewmembers were unharmed and eventually relieved by replacements later the same day. The Air Force of course said, "The fire never posed a threat to national security." It will take two years to rebuild.

In Nukewatch's book *Nuclear Heartland*, G-1 is named "The Little Shop of Horrors."

—*Bismarck Tribune*, Dec. 2, & *Associated Press*, Dec. 1, 2000

## Irradiated Fuel Rods Gone Missing

WATERFORD, CT—Millstone, a three-reactor site near here, has one of the worst safety records in the country. Employees recently discovered that two irradiated fuel rods went missing. They were last accounted for in 1980!

In the mid-1990s all three reactors at Millstone were shut down due to safety violations. Northeast Utilities pleaded guilty to 23 felonies and was fined \$10 million. One of the three reactors, Millstone I, is scheduled for decommissioning, not because it endangers residents and the environment but because it can't produce sufficient profit.

NRC officials issued their standard mantra after discovering that irradiated fuel rods were lost—"there's no danger to the public"—although they don't know where the fuel rods are.

The cooling pond at Millstone holds 2,900 extremely hot fuel assemblies and other radioactive garbage. Employees are sorting through the deadly pit for the 14-foot-long container they thought was stored there 20 years ago. Irradiated fuel rods remain deadly for hundreds of thousands of years.

—*New York Times*, Jan. 8, 2001

## Shuttered H-Bomb Production Sites Still "Cooking"

DENVER, CO—Kaiser-Hill, the company awarded the decontamination contract at the former Rocky Flats plutonium production site, has revealed that 10 workers tested positive for radiation poisoning while working to clean-up contaminated buildings, storage tanks, and waste pits. Factory officials do not yet know when the exposure occurred and have not been able to determine its source. As many as 200 other workers may have been exposed and have not been tested. Paul Golan of the DOE insisted that even the elevated exposures were within federal standards for nuclear workers, but said that this was the first instance since 1995 in which officials had been unable to gauge the magnitude of the problem.

Meanwhile, six decontamination contractors at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) near Idaho Falls have been named in a lawsuit alleging that beginning in 1976 they deliberately bypassed safety measures, turned off monitors and alarms, falsified documents, failed to report spills, dumped hazardous wastes on the ground and illegally shipped plutonium-contaminated waste to a public landfill. Neil Mock and Scott Lebow were hired in the early 1990s as environmental, safety and regulatory auditors by one of the companies they are now suing. Among the allegations of deadly recklessness are incidents occurring from 1995 to 1998 during which employees turned off spill alarms on 300,000-gallon tanks containing liquid high-level radioactive waste, did not respond to spills, and disabled monitors on smokestacks where high-level radioactive waste was processed, thereby concealing excess emissions of iodine-131, a radioactive isotope that is readily absorbed by the body.

—*New York Times*, Feb. 19, 2001, & Dec. 8, 2000.

## RESOURCES

- \**The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 6042 S. Kimbark Ave. Chicago, IL 60637; phone: (773) 702-2555.
- \**International DU Study Team*, P.O. Box 1688, Bernalillo, NM 87004; phone: (505) 867-0141; email: idust@swcp.com
- \**Military Toxics Project*, P.O. Box 558, Lewiston, ME 04243; phone: (207) 783-5091; web: milttoxproj@org
- \**Nuclear Information & Resource Service-SE*, P.O. Box 7586, Asheville, North Carolina 28802; (828) 251-2060; email: nirs.se@mindspring.co
- \**The Nuclear Resister*, P.O. Box 43383, Tucson, AZ 85733; phone: (520) 323-8697.
- \**Radiation and Public Health Project*, 302 W 86th St., #11B, New York, NY 10024; phone: (305) 532-5565; web: www.radiation.org
- \**Science for Democratic Action*, available free from IEER, 6935 Laurel Ave., #204, Takoma Park, MD 20912; phone: (301) 270-5500; email: ieer@ieer.org
- \**Scottish CND*, 15 Barriland Street, Glasgow, G41 1QH, Scotland.
- \**Shundahai Network*, P.O. Box 6360, Pahump, NV; phone: (775) 537-6088; email: shundahai@shundahai.org; web: shundahai.org;
- \**U.S. Campaign to Free Mordechai Vanunu*, P.O. Box 43384, Tucson, AZ 85733; phone: (520) 323-8697.

# USA Today exposes vast worker radiation poisoning

USA Today — September 6, 2000  
by Peter Eisler

From mom-and-pop machine shops to big-name chemical firms, private manufacturing facilities across the nation were quietly converted to the risky business of handling tons of uranium, thorium, polonium, beryllium and other radioactive and toxic substances. Few of the contractors were prepared for the hazards of their government-sponsored missions.

Thousands of workers were exposed to dangerous levels of radiation, often hundreds of times stronger than the limits of the time. Dozens of communities were contaminated, their air, ground and water fouled by toxic and radioactive waste.

## The risks were kept hidden

In some cases, they have remained so. A USA Today investigation found that the government's reliance on a vast network of private plants, mills and shops to build America's early nuclear arsenal had grave health and environmental consequences. Federal officials knew of severe hazards to the companies' employees and surrounding neighborhoods, but reports detailing the problems were classified and locked away.

The full story of the secret contracting effort has never been told. Many of the companies that were involved have been forgotten, the impact of their operations unexamined for half a century. Yet their history carries profound implications for the thousands of people they employed, as well as for the thousands who lived—and still live—near the factories.

At a time when the nation is reassessing the worker ills and ecological damage wrought by large, government-owned nuclear weapons plants, the record of the private companies that did the work before those facilities were built has had little scrutiny. Most of the contracting sites were in the industrial belt: through New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, around the Great Lakes and down the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys. They were in big cities such as Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago and St. Louis. And they were in smaller communities, such as Lockport, N.Y., Carnegie, Penn., and Joliet, Ill. Some did only minor work for the weapons program, but dozens of private facilities handled large quantities of radioactive and toxic material. "These places just fell off the map," says Dan Guttman, former director of the President's Advisory Committee

on Human Radiation Experiments, set up in 1994 to investigate revelations that government-funded scientists exposed unknowing subjects to dangerous isotopes in secret Cold War studies. "People were put at considerable risk. It appears (the government) knew full well that (safety) standards were being violated, but there's been no effort to maintain contact with these people (and) look at the effects," says Guttman, a lawyer and weapons program watchdog who returned to private practice after the committee finished its work in 1995. "There's no legitimate reason for this neglect."

USA Today reviewed 100,000 pages of government records, many recently declassified and never before subject to public review, to assess the scope and impact of nuclear weapons work done at private facilities in the 1940s and '50s. Reporters visited archives and former contracting sites in 10 states, interviewing scores of former employees, neighbors and government officials. Key findings:

- Beginning with the development of the first atomic bombs during World War II, the government secretly hired about 300 private companies to process and produce material used in nuclear weapons production. At least a third of them handled hundreds, thousands or even millions of pounds of radioactive and toxic material, often without the equipment or knowledge to protect the health and safety of workers or nearby communities. The contracting wound down in the mid-1950s as government facilities were built to take over most weapons-building operations—a move spurred partly by hazards at contracting sites.

- The government regularly documented worker health risks at many of the private facilities doing weapons work, producing highly classified reports that detailed radiation exposure rates hundreds of times above its safety standards. The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER) a non-profit think tank that specializes in assessing radiological risks, hired by USA Today to provide an expert review of old radiation data on three contracting operations, estimates that work-

ers in the riskiest jobs had a 40% chance of dying from cancer—an increase of 200% over the general population—as well as higher odds for respiratory and kidney ills. But there's no telling how many, if any, workers have gotten sick or died from their exposures; they've gotten virtually no medical study.

- Dozens of companies doing weapons work contaminated the air, soil and water with toxic and radioactive waste. Studies done at the time documented some operations pumping hundreds of pounds of uranium dust into the sky each month and others dumping thousands of pounds of solid and liquid wastes on the ground or into creeks, rivers and sewers. Federal officials sometimes endorsed such practices as cheap, easy ways to get rid of hazardous by-products that in many cases left contamination that persists today. As with the workers' health, there's been no effort to assess whether the hazards made anyone ill.

- Both the government and executives at the companies it hired for weapons work hid the health and environmental problems. Federal officials misled workers, insisting their jobs were safe despite having evidence to the contrary. Surviving employees still have not been told of their risks, though screening and early treatment could boost their odds for surviving some illnesses they might face as a result of their work. Like-

lunch bucket?" The workers learned that this was serious—and secret—business. Many recall federal agents visiting their homes to do background checks and warn them not to discuss the plant's activities. This was standard fare at private facilities hired for weapons work.

By the time the contracting wrapped up at Simonds in the mid-1950s, the company had heated and milled 25 million to 30 million pounds of uranium and 30,000 to 40,000 pounds of thorium. Much of it was rolled into fuel rods for the government's plutonium-producing nuclear reactors in Hanford, WA. Federal officials suspected soon after the operation began that it was putting workers in danger.

In October 1948, the medical section of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) found "hazardous concentrations" of airborne uranium dust in a site study. The most highly exposed workers were, on average, breathing the dust at levels up to 190 times the "maximum allowable concentration" of the time.

"This operation results in profuse atmospheric contamination," AEC medical experts warned in another report in 1949. "To satisfy Hanford's urgent need for rolled metal, it was necessary to begin (the work) before suitable (safety) controls could be installed."

Over the next few years, the AEC medical section urged Simonds repeatedly to boost safety. The company implemented some orders, building new ventilation systems and issuing coveralls that were laundered each day. Others, such as demands that the plant install a vacuum system to clean radioactive dust, never were implemented.

Still, the changes had an impact. Site studies into the early '50s found uranium dust levels had declined markedly, though in some spots they still hovered at several times the AEC limit. But thorium, which continued to be rolled on mills without ventilators, remained a problem.

In 1954, an AEC survey at Simonds found that levels of thorium dust, which poses far greater radiation hazards than uranium, reached 40 times the federal limit—"too high, even for intermittent operations." AEC staff pointed out to Simonds' management in a follow-up letter that recommendations for safety upgrades, including mandatory respirator use, "were not followed." A later memo reported that the mill superintendent resisted such ideas and "intimated that if it became necessary to install elaborate dust eliminating equipment, further work of this nature would have to be abandoned." As was often the case, the AEC

backed off, too dependent on Simonds' work to risk having the company call it quits.

## 'Horrible' exposures

Based on the worker exposures documented in the old AEC reports, during Simonds' peak years of operation, workers in the most dangerous jobs suffered annual lung doses of radiation well over 130 rem (a unit of radiation measurement), according to estimates by IEER. The doses ranged up to 10 times the federal safety standards of the day. "These exposures are horrible. They were unconscionably high. They violated legal and ethical norms," says Arjun Makhijani, the institute's director, who has written several books on radiation risks and provided expert testimony on the subject for Congress and various court proceedings. "At the high end of the (estimated) doses, workers' risk of dying from cancer was increased by more than 20%. Many of the workers would also be expected to have kidney damage." Most of the surviving workers have no idea of the risks they faced, neither the government nor Simonds' management ever informed them of the plant's radioactive dust problems.

"They never told us any more than they had to," says Charles Leavitt, 71, a Simonds retiree with kidney trouble. "I think there were respirators around, but I don't ever remember seeing anyone wear one. They never gave us a reason, never said there was a health risk." In fact, an AEC information sheet for workers at contracting sites stated that "there will be no danger to anyone's health." The 1947 memo told workers they might "hear the word radiation" mentioned on the job, but it assured them that the level would be "so slight that special instruments must be used to detect it."

Even extreme doses of radiation can't be detected without special instruments. There's no way to know whether the health problems later suffered by some Simonds workers are the result of the uranium and thorium work. The sort of epidemiological studies that might conclusively link illnesses to their exposures have never been done. Congress and the Clinton administration are considering legislation to compensate people who did the same sort of work at govern-



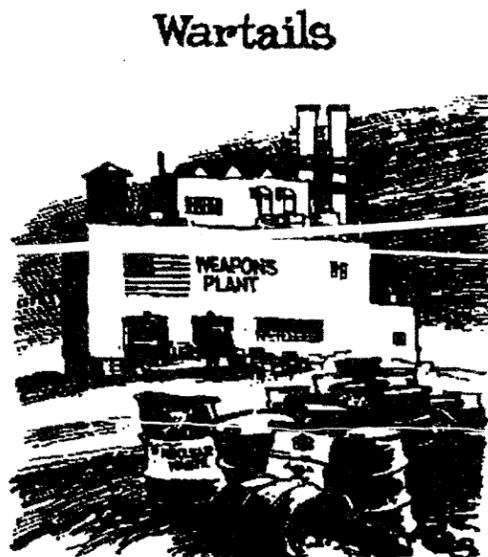
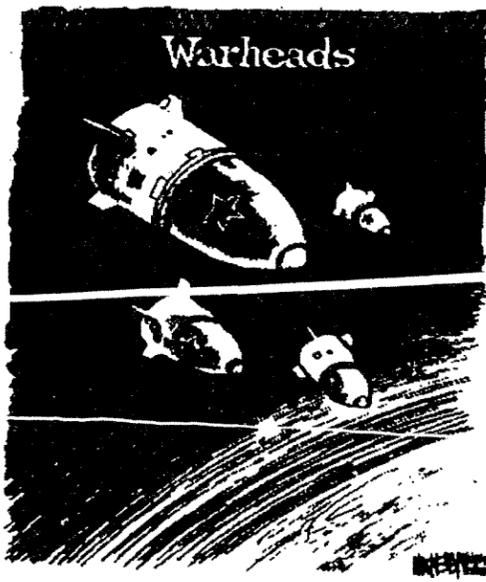
wise, communities were left unaware of toxic and radioactive waste spilling from behind the innocuous facades of local businesses.

The secrecy that shrouded the weapons program's contracting still masks residual contamination at some sites. "It was a different time, the Cold War was on," says Arthur Piccot, 81, a health and safety monitor with the weapons program in the late '40s and '50s. Producing weapons "was the priority, period," he says. "A lot of these places were modified (for weapons work) in a hurry. There might be a hole in the roof for ventilation. . . . We did what we could to protect (workers). The radioactive waste, we didn't think much about it. People didn't (fully) understand the risks." The risks were known, but not relayed to workers.

His once-strapping frame was so withered that his wife had to help him to the car and then drive him 30 miles to a Niagara Falls hospital for the weekly dialysis treatments that kept him alive these past few years. He wasn't bitter about his illness—one of several linked to the kind of uranium dust exposures he incurred during his years at Simonds. Just curious, "I've wondered whether something like that could be a cause of this," he said in an interview before he died. "There was a lot of dust. We thought there might be problems. They took urine samples. Sometimes they sent us to the doctor (for exams). They always assured us there was no danger."

On the job at age 18, Malcolm started at the steel mill in the late 1930s. He left to serve in the Army during World War II, returned in 1945 and stayed 30 years until he retired. In 1948, workers were told they would be rolling a new metal, a government job they would work part time each month. The shipments arrived with armed guards who stayed until the metal billets all had been heated and milled into long rods of a precise diameter, often 1.45 inches.

"I told (a guard) one time that I stole a piece, and I really got chewed out, almost got fired," recalls Ed Cook, 84, another Simonds retiree. "I was just kidding. The billets weighed 200 pounds. What was I going to do, carry one out in my



ment-owned weapons plants and later contracted certain cancers and other ailments tied to their jobs.

But the bill makes no promises to compensate people who worked at Simonds or most other private facilities. It notes only that workers at commercial sites can be added to the eligibility list in the future. "It sure would help," Malcolm said of the compensation idea in the interview before his death. By that time, he was spending about \$550 a month on medication and private insurance he'd had to buy since his health benefits from Simonds disappeared with the company's demise 20 years ago. His monthly pension from the steel mill totaled about \$580.

A few years back, he and his wife, who also collected Social Security, sold the little farm where they ran a roadside produce stand and moved into a tidy mobile home. "I asked my doctor whether my (lung and kidney) problems could be related to the work we did, and he said, 'Could be; you just can't know for sure,'" Malcolm said. "You just have to go along with it."

There were sites like Simonds all over the country. After World War II, U.S. officials decided to build on the Manhattan Project, the top-secret military program that yielded the first atomic bombs, and launch a full-blown nuclear weapons production effort.

The Atomic Energy Commission, a civilian agency set up by Congress in 1946 to run the program, recognized that the government lacked the manufacturing facilities and expertise to do the job alone. Initially, the AEC simply renewed contracts with a small group of companies that had been hired to do work for the Manhattan Project, where the practice of using private firms to do nuclear weapons work was born. But with the Soviet Union's detonation of its first atomic bomb in 1949, the Cold War arms race was on, and the AEC, made up of political appointees of various stripes, moved to a far more aggressive weapons-production schedule. The number of private companies hired to work for the weapons program multiplied.

"Not all contractors are safety-conscious since in every case they are chosen primarily because of (production) capabilities," warned a 1947 memo to AEC officials from Bernard Wolf, medical director in the commission's New York office. "Hazards to public health of AEC operations have been given inadequate consideration." Wolf, who is now dead, advocated a strong "regulatory" program to see that contractors ensured worker safety; he also noted the need for "studying the waste disposal problem." His recommendations, like those of many health and safety officials in the coming years, were not fully implemented. The commission's main goal was to get a lot of weapons built quickly.

"It was almost like being on a wartime footing," says Richard Hewlett, official historian for the weapons program from 1957 to 1980. Production "was done almost on a crisis basis. The commission approved (operations) that in a normal, peacetime atmosphere would not have been approved."

Most of the AEC's contracting involved uranium, used in various forms as a fissionable explosive for weapons and as raw material to make plutonium, the core of most nuclear weapons. But there were plenty of other toxic and radioactive jobs given to private companies.

Some examples of the types of operations—and risks—that defined the contracting effort:

- Big uranium-refining and processing plants in Cleveland; St. Louis; Canonsburg, Penn.; Deepwater, N.J.; and outside Boston and Buffalo handled some of the most dangerous operations. At Harshaw Chemical Co. in Cleveland, for example, classified AEC studies in the late '40s and early '50s found that employees faced "severe exposures" to uranium dust and beta radiation, and workers' kidneys regularly showed signs of uranium poisoning. During that time, records show, the plant also pumped 350 to 500 pounds of uranium dust from its stacks each month, spewing it over nearby areas. The site remains contaminated.

- Steel mills and metalworking shops cut and forged uranium, thorium, beryllium and other hazardous material. At Vulcan Crucible Tool and Steel in Aliquippa, Penn., some workers breathed uranium dust at 200 times the AEC's safety limit, records show. At Revere Copper and Brass in Detroit, dust levels of uranium and beryllium, a chemical that causes lung disease, hit 20 times the maximum safe level at that time. Residual pollution was common. A 1980 federal survey of the Carnegie, Penn., site where Superior Steel rolled uranium for the weapons program found radiation in scrap pits and floor areas well above safety standards. Plant owners later had the areas cemented over; federal officials saw no need to check the fix.

- Chemical and metallurgical companies produced an array of specialized metals, compounds and solvents with radioactive and toxic properties. Workers making polonium at plants run by Monsanto Chemical in Dayton, Ohio, routinely were found to be excreting high levels of the radioactive element in their urine, records show. At Carborundum Metals in Akron, N.Y., where hafnium and zirconium were refined for weapons use, federal officials endorsed the dumping of hundreds of thousands of gallons of ammonium thiocyanate waste into a sewer that ran into the Niagara River. At Linde Air Products in Tonawanda, N.Y., weapons program officials endorsed the dumping of millions of gallons of radioactive chemical wastes generated by contracting operations into underground wells.

The contracting network set up by the weapons program "was like a root system spreading into all different sectors of (American) industry. The companies were really diverse," says Timothy Karpin, an industrial historian who has spent the past five years doing research for a "traveler's guide" to nuclear weapons production sites. "The companies doing the work often weren't aware of the overall goal," adds James Maroncelli, another historian on the book project. "They were told just enough to do the job."

The AEC began to move away from using private facilities to do weapons work in the early '50s, building a network of large, government-owned complexes that gradually took over most operations. The federal plants typically were run by commercial contractors, which still employed some subcontractors to do certain jobs at private facilities. And a number of commercial firms also did radioactive and toxic work for the AEC Naval Reactor Program, which built power plants for nuclear ships and submarines. But most work at private sites ended by 1960.

The AEC "wanted to get things standardized and keep more control over the operations," says Maroncelli. "It was about efficiency and secrecy."

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# Calendar

## March

**17-18**—2001 National Space Organizing Conference and Demonstration, Huntsville, Alabama, home of the Army's Space Command and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. Contact: Global Network, web: [www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org)

**29-April 3**—Close the School of Assassins, Days of Resistance. Join groups from across the country for six days of puppet parades, leafleting, nonviolent direct action. Contact: SOA Watch, PO Box 4566, Washington, DC 20017; phone: (202) 234-3440; web: [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org).

## April

**8-13**—Walk from Las Vegas to the Nevada Test Site, 65 miles in 5 days. Join this experience to end the violence of nuclear weapons. Contact: NDE, PO Box 46645, Las Vegas, NV 89114; phone: (702) 646-4814; email: [nde@igc.org](mailto:nde@igc.org); web: [NevadaDesertExperience.org](http://NevadaDesertExperience.org)

**19**—Carl Kabat Trial Motions hearing: April 9 at 1:30; Pre-trial conference: April 19 at 8:30 am; Trial: April 30 at 9:00 am at the Federal Courthouse in Colorado Springs, CO. Contact: Bill Sulzman, PO Box 915, Colorado Springs, CO 80901; phone: (719) 389 0644.

**21**—Call for de-alerting at Missile Silo N-5 near New Raymer, Colorado. Legal gathering with banners, signs, symbols and vestments. Gather at First Mennonite Church in Denver on the southeast corner of 9th and Elati at 9 a.m. on the 21st, take I-25 to I-76 and proceed to McDonald's in Fort Morgan (for a rest stop) and then go on to the Silo. Contact: AFSC, Jennifer Coulter; phone: 303-623-3464; or Mag or Ken; phone: 303-986-1173.

**22**—Nuclear power is not sustainable action at UN Headquarters in NYC. Contact: NIRS, 1424 16th St. NW, #404, Washington, DC 20036; phone: (202) 328-0002; email: [nirsnet@nirs.org](mailto:nirsnet@nirs.org); web: [www.nirs.org](http://www.nirs.org)

**25-26**—National Action Days on Nuclear Waste. Stop the private fuel storage dump on native land in Utah. Actions at Cook nuclear complex, MI and across the nation. Contact: NIRS, 1424 16th St. NW, #404, Washington, DC 20036; phone: (202) 328-0002; email: [nirsnet@nirs.org](mailto:nirsnet@nirs.org); web: [www.nirs.org](http://www.nirs.org)

## May

**4-6**—2001 Global Network Annual Membership Meeting in Leeds, England. Protest at Menwith Hill U.S. spy base. Menwith Hill is now undergoing upgrade for Star Wars. Contact: PO Box 90083, Gainesville, FL 32607; phone: (352) 337-9274; web: [www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org)

**7**—2nd Annual Spirit Run/Walk will circle the Nevada Test Site and join the Mother's Day Gathering. It begins in Warm Springs, NV. Contact: Johnnie Bobb, HC 61 Box 6250, Austin, NV 89310; phone: (775) 964-2210.

**12**—Annual Mothers' Day Gathering at Project ELF. "You Can't Jail the Spirit!" Saturday gathering and action at Project ELF in the Chequamegon National Forest. A day of speakers, music and nonviolent direct action. Contact: Nukewatch, PO Box 649, Luck, WI 54853; phone: (715) 472-4185; email: [nukewatch@lakeland.ws](mailto:nukewatch@lakeland.ws)

**11-14**—2001 Mother's Day Gathering at the Nevada Test Site. "Celebrate Life & Sovereignty". Organize to stop nuclear contamination. Support Environmental Justice. Contact: Shundahai Network, PO Box 6360, Pahrump, NV 89041; phone: (775) 537-6088; email: [shundahai@shundahai.org](mailto:shundahai@shundahai.org); web: <http://www.shundahai.org>

**12**—16th Annual Maryland United for Peace and Justice Conference: "P & J in the 21st Century," 8:00 am to 5:00 pm River Road Unitarian Church in Bethesda, Maryland. Workshops, networking sessions & Fred Benjamin Peace Awards. Contact: MUPJ/IPA Peace Conference, 327 E. 25th Street, Baltimore, Maryland; phone: (410) 363-3140 or (301) 390-9684; email: [mupj@bigfoot.com](mailto:mupj@bigfoot.com)

**21-26**—Journey Embracing Active Nonviolence. Spirituality & practice, discipline and prayer. Visit Los Alamos in a public witness. Contact: Center for Action and Contemplation, PO Box 12464, Albuquerque, NM 87195; phone: (505) 242-9588 or (510) 849-1540.

## July

**17-29 & 28-29**—Local opponents of the French project of nuclear waste dumping call for support this summer. Protest at a camp in front of the building site, Bure, France, 150 kms south of Belgium. The nuclear industry needs France. Support from abroad could help to show people that the rest of the world refuses the nuclear industry. Nonviolent actions. Contact: For Mother Earth, email: [burestop@multimania.com](mailto:burestop@multimania.com); web: <http://burestop.multimania.com>

Contact: Nukewatch, PO Box 649, Luck, WI 54853 (715) 472-4185  
Nonviolent direct action for a nuclear free world

10:00 a.m. Gathering Puppet workshop Nonviolence training  
Noon lunch provided. Afternoon rally Speakers & music

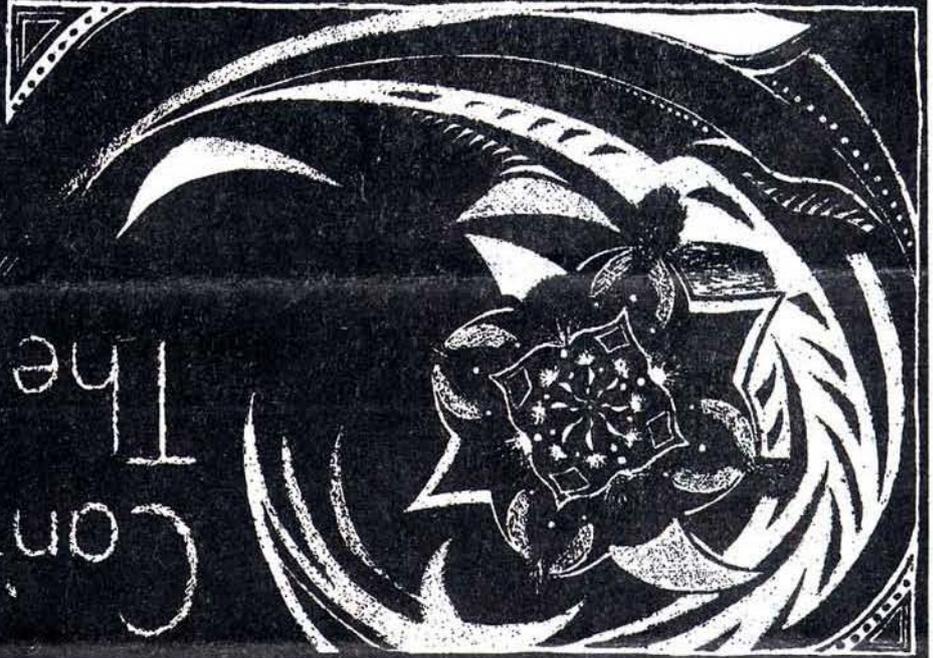
Our annual Mothers' Day event is moving to Saturday!

May 12, 2001

Saturday

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