

ALERT

Teach-In Slated

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

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

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

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

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

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

The workshop topics and speakers are as follows:

HEALTH EFFECTS OF TMI - Speakers to be announced.

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

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

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

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

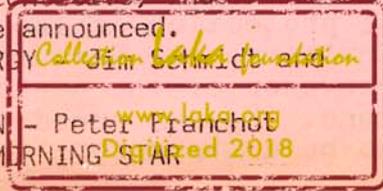
PUBLIC POWER - Jim Schmidt, People's Power Coalition (N.Y.) and former director of the National Center for Appropriate Technology (N.C.A.T.). Also there will be a representative from the American Public Power Association.

CONSERVATION - speaker to be announced.

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

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY - Jim Schmidt and others.

POLITICAL ACTION - Peter Franchot
MUSIC - BRIGHT MORNING STAR



Worker Exposure

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

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

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

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

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

Met Ed Forum

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

More Miseducation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NRC Obstructs

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

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

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

WRITE YOUR LEGISLATORS!!!

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

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

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

Staff This Issue

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

Communities Organizing

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

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

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

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

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

Members of the Alliance had hoped

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



NUCLEAR POWER: AN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WHOSE TIME HAS PASSED.
CLOSE THREE MILE ISLAND FOREVER!

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

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

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

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

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

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

TMIA at Work

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

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

Louise are both volunteers for TMIA.

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

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

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

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

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

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

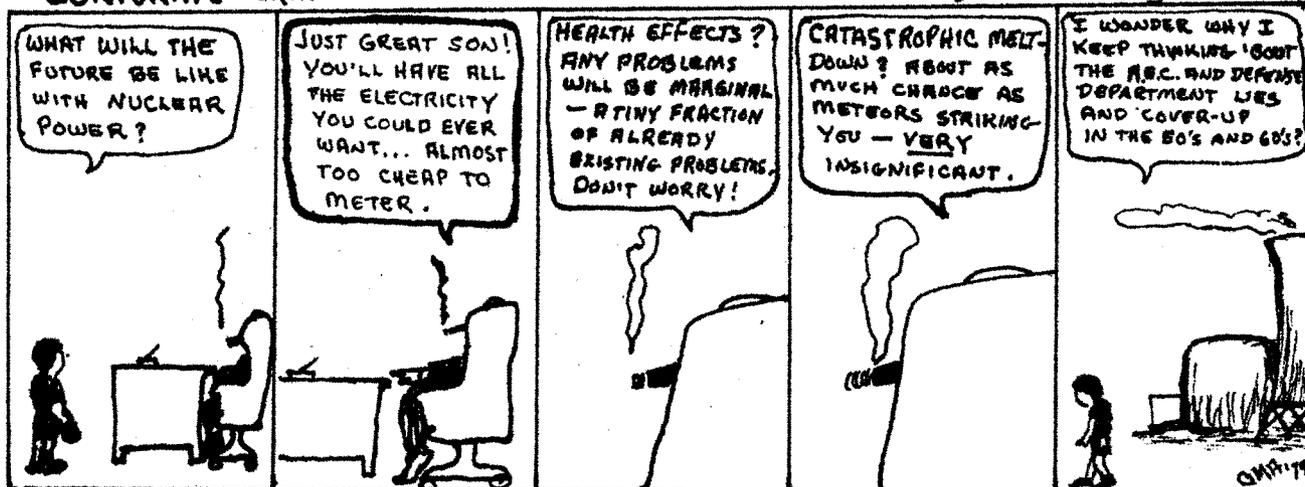
for many activities where they could be really helpful, because there is no room. Similarly there's no room for filing and displaying information. It would be really great to have a library or reading room where materials could be shared and circulated. Some people are so turned off by the clutter that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

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

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

CORPORATE CRAP

by Mac Albright



Letters to the Ed.

Editor:

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

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

Susan Shetrom

Dear Editor:

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

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

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

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

Thank you.

Herbert L. Bomberger,
ACSW
Coordinator of Children's
& Geriatrics Services
Holy Spirit Hospital
Community Mental Health
Center

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

Health Effects

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

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

Acres of Songs

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

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

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

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

(Chorus)

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

(Chorus)

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

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

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

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

A recent NRC document shows clearly how some people in the nuclear industry fix their highly technical equipment.

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

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

Ed Panel

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

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

Churches Resolve

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

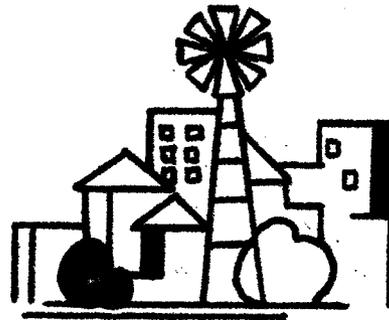
In a similar action, the Central Pennsylvania Synod of the Lutheran Church in America adopted a resolution on June 9 which also called for a moratorium on construction and phasing out of all presently-operating plants as alternate energy sources become available.

Windmill Revisited

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

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

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



Editorial: Nuke Politics

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

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

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

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

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

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

BY SUE EASON

Thornburgh Doublespeak

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

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

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

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

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

ACLU Alert

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

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

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



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

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

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

Commoner Speaks

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

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

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

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

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

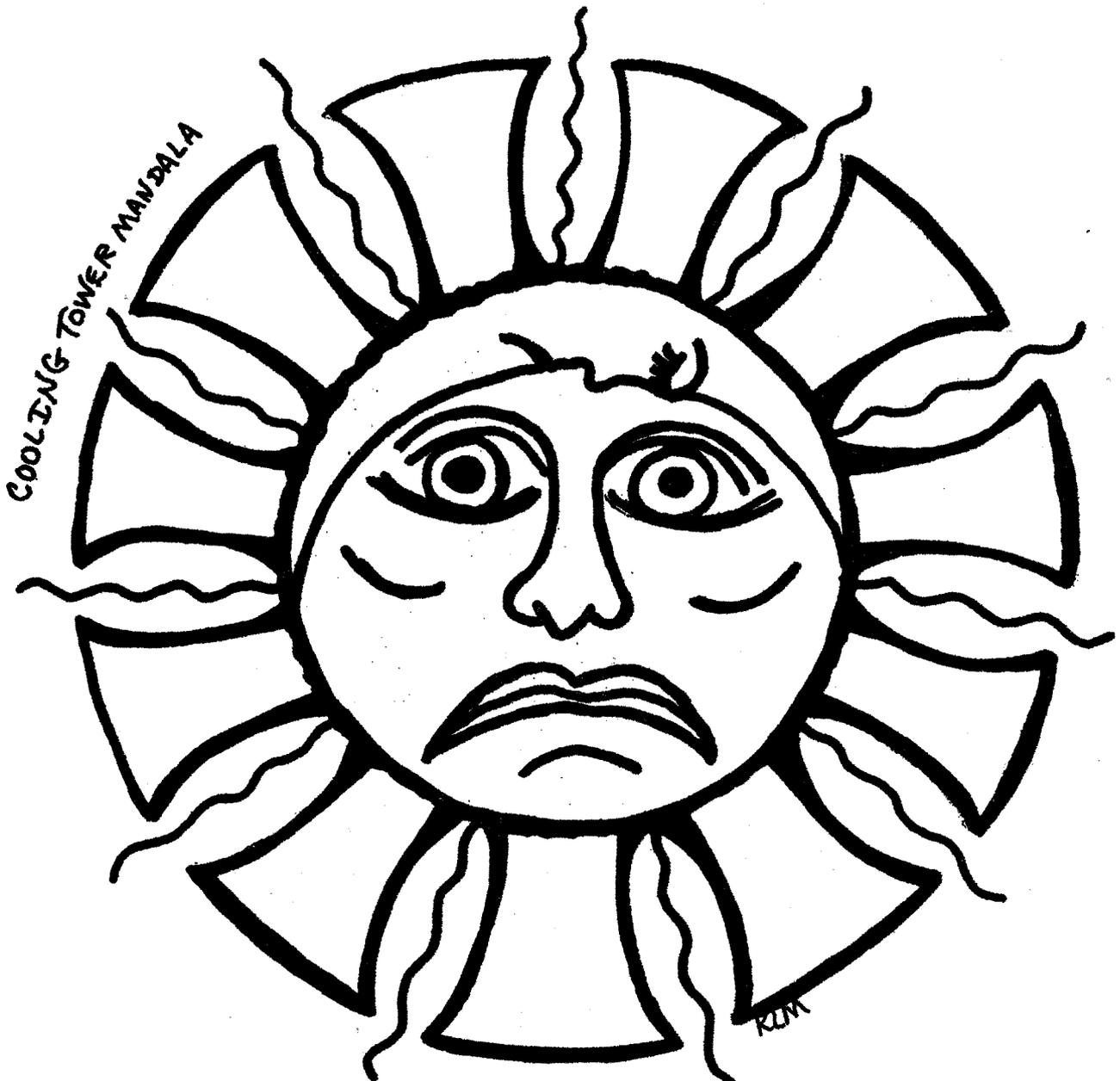
Transition to renewable energy sources is imperative. The people who have suffered most from faulty political decisions on energy-- the poor and victims of TMI, should be the first considered in a national solar plan. The Susquehanna Valley area should be the pilot area for going solar since the unwilling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

Agriculture should be reorganized through the use of alcohol to power

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

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

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



No Nukes Calendar

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

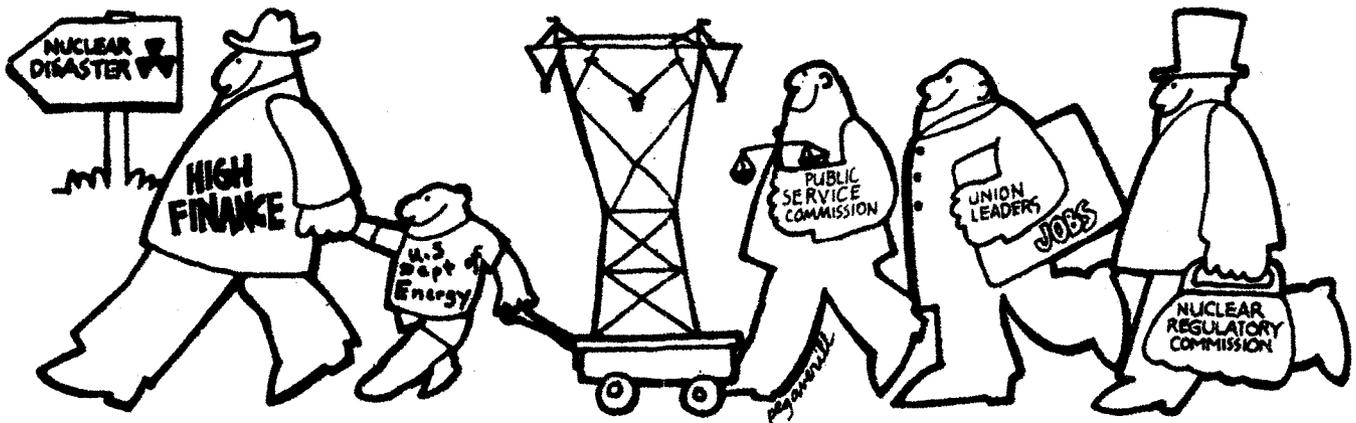
Atomic Safety & Licensing Board Hearings on Restart of TMI-1, 9:00 a.m., The Forum, Education Bldg., Hbg.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Teach-Inn, See article first page

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

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



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

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

MONDAY, NOV. 26 to THURSDAY, NOV. 29

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

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- _____ \$ 15 regular
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