

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

Vol. 3, No. 1

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May 1981

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Steering Committee would like to thank all TMIA members who helped with the March 28th anniversary march and rally and particularly the following people, who worked at TMIA's concession tables on City Island and behind the capitol: Lewis Bucher, Judy Bayliss, Kathy Manfred, Holly Davenport, Nancy Sponeybarger, Paul Makurath, Sandra Choma, Sharon Creeden, Mitch Turnauer, Barbara Nace, M'Liss Halsey, Jackie Reigel, Janet Smith, Joel Roth, Kay Pickering, Louise Bradford, Joanne Doroshow, Pat Scrignoli, Mike Escabar, and Brenda White. (We apologize for any names missed or misspelled.)

TMIA took in \$2,306.21 at the rally by selling cider, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, buttons, bumper stickers, T-shirts, rubber stamps, hats, etc.

TMIA Chairman Joel Roth traveled to Reading several days before the rally to address a meeting called to organize Reading-area support for Project David. About 200 people attended. Joel also spoke to students at the John Harris Campus of Harrisburg High School during John Harris's Energy Week in late March. The students were generally receptive and a few expressed an interest in meeting with some TMIA members and perhaps forming a TMIA chapter

at school.

Joel is presently talking to representatives of the other local anti-nuclear groups about the possibility of launching a campaign, coordinated with possible efforts of the advisory panel on the TMI cleanup, to get President Reagan to issue an executive order requiring the removal of accident-related radioactive waste from TMI. It now appears that presidential action will be necessary to get the waste removed, since Congress has so far indicated no willingness to act.

-Paul Makurath

YES WE CAN -- JUST ASK!

To me, the rally was a tremendous success. I wept when I saw so many people from all walks of life, marching together, pouring on to the empty parking lot behind the state capitol.

I was so proud to have been a small part of so many people working tirelessly for months because they know our lives and our earth cannot continue with the burden of the nuclear fuel cycle forced upon them.

Everyone I called to help baked their bread, sold their balloons, loaned us their kitchen, and made endless phone calls. Not one refused when asked to contribute in their own way.

I would like to use this space to sincerely thank Karen Melvin, who was tremendous in coordinating the Mechanicsburg bake sale. She also

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involved her whole family, coming from as far as Greensburg, Pa. Thanks to each of you who baked, delivered, and manned the Mechanicsburg table.

Thanks to Drew Kosida and the Hershey group who phoned and gave so many baked items; to Dana Spitzform, who called her members in Carlisle; to Ann Miller, who organized her group to bake many loaves of bread. Thanks to Ron and Shirley Blough, John and Nancy Orłowski, and Paul Makurath, who asked their Lower Paxton group to bake again for us. We thank each of you and your groups for helping us. Together we made \$264, which will go directly to TMIA. Let us never forget - together we can achieve many things.

A special thanks to Cese Viti, her husband, daughter, and many others, who sold 2,000 misprinted balloons.

A big thank-you to Rev. Dave Fisher and Rev. Greg Harbaugh for allowing us the use of the Lakeside Lutheran Church kitchen facilities. Without them, there would not have been vats of hot soup and homemade bread for all those who worked night and day, Friday and Saturday.

Thanks to Mary Ann and Ed Charles, who gave many days stirring soup and lugging big pots. Thanks to Mike Jones, who never complained about picking up coolers and food, and even scrubbing pots and pans.

Thanks to Ruth Gentle, who baked many things even though she is still recuperating from a broken leg.

I have overlooked many names, but you know who you are and you can all be proud of your efforts. We know we can do anything together - just ask.

-Mary Hartnett
Mechanicsburg TMIA

PROJECT DAVID FOLLOW-UP

Project David organizers estimate electric utility bills totaling over \$70,000 were burned on the Capitol steps March 27th at the Bill Burning and Tea Party.

The target canvassing in Newberry Township resulted in the withholding of March payments to MetEd

by at least 9% of the Township households. This represents approximately \$47,000 in one community.

The bills collected from GPU ratepayers for February usage ranged in amounts from \$1.37 to \$611.13. In contrast, PP&L striking ratepayers February usage ranged from \$9.07 to \$148.99.

Project David was a joint venture of TMIA and the Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee. Letters containing the ashes from the charred bills have been mailed to all area elected officials who serve in Congress and the state legislature, in addition to the PUC Commissioners, the Governor, Lt. Governor, GPU, MetEd, PP&L, and NRC officials.

Ratepayers are encouraged to continue the protest of increasingly high rates by withholding part or all of their monthly bill payments. THE BATTLE HAS JUST BEGUN! The PUC continues to grant rate hikes.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL PROJECT DAVID PARTICIPANTS!

A meeting for all interested ratepayers has been set for Thursday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Harrisburg Friends Meeting House by TMIA and the Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee. A legal services attorney will be present to discuss PUC regulations and alternatives for ratepayers.

We must plan for future support activities. Call Kay at the TMIA office for details -- 233-3072.

LEGAL FUND REPORT

Hello again from your Legal Fund representative. In this report, I can relate to you some changes in officers and members of the Board, allocations that we have made, and a decision of some significance to be made by the Board.

We were informed on March 19 that Jim Perkins of the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power (ECNP) will no longer be the Coalition's representative to the Board. Jim has been a well-respected participant not only because he showed the commitment to drive from State College to Harrisburg for each of our meetings, but also be-

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cause he could always be counted on for insightful comments and for accurate minutes. There's some good news to this story, however. All representatives to the Legal Fund eventually move on and are replaced. Jim is being replaced by Bev Davis from Mechanicsburg. Bev will certainly be equally as helpful as Jim has been and she won't have to drive from State College to participate!

We held our annual election of Board officers at our April 14 meeting and elected the following people:

Tom Smithgall (SVA) - President
Don Konkle (PANE) - Treasurer
Bev Davis (ECNP) - Secretary

While it is felt by Legal Fund members that it would be inappropriate to publish generally the allocations we make to various groups, it is felt there is no problem with disclosing the groups that have been funded for their various anti-nuclear legal involvements. The following have been funded during April:

Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee
Susquehanna Valley Alliance (SVA)
Anti-Nuclear Group Representing York (ANGRY)

If you're interested in finding out more about how much was allocated or specifically what legal battles each group is involved in, please give me or the representative of that group a call.

I mentioned that we have a difficult decision coming up. Our contract with Charlene Divorky & Associates of Winchester, Mass., for professional fundraising efforts has just expired. It's time to renew if that's what we want. The dilemma is that while Charlene has been successful in raising contributions for legal efforts and obtaining continuing pledges from donors, her services don't come cheap. We will soon be deciding whether there are better, less expensive ways of raising funds or whether her national fundraising attempts should be seen as successful enough to continue them for another year.

As usual, please feel free to contact me if you have questions or wish to make comments. I'm not always easy to reach, but be persistent. My number is 717-243-9828.

-Sam Milkis

TRANSFER OF OFF-SITE MONITORING PROGRAM THREATENS EFFECTIVENESS

During a recent meeting between the NRC and the Advisory Panel on Decontamination, NRC Chairman Hendrie expressed concern that responsibility for the off-site monitoring program at TMI was to be transferred from EPA's Division of Research & Development to EPA's Division of Radiation Protection. Hendrie went on to say that because of budget cuts within EPA, such a transfer could well mean a reduction or an end to the off-site program.

There is apparently a strong philosophical difference between the two divisions within EPA - the Division of Research and Development feels that the full array must be maintained and weekly published reports must be made; Radiation Protection believes that nothing is here and therefore the program is not a critical one, either from maintaining the full array or publishing the results.

Concerned citizens and organizations are encouraged to voice their opinion on this issue to David A. Stockman, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503; Phone: 1-202-395-4747. Copies of any letters should be sent to Reps. Ertel, Goodling, and Walker at the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; and to Sens. Heinz and Specter at the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Mention should be made of the fact that EPA's Division of Research & Development is one of the few federal government bodies with any credibility left in this area. To make the proposed switch would severely damage the posture of the national government in the TMI operation.

-Chris Sayer

CONSERVATION TIP: SOLAR GREENHOUSES

By Cathie Musser

When someone mentions "solar energy," it's not unusual for most people to think only of rooftop collectors for hot water heating. This application of the sun's energy is what most technologists refer to when speaking of "solar energy." They also make a point of telling us that "solar" needs lots of work to make it useful, making it an answer for the "future." It is true that heating a large home with water heated only by the sun may be some years away, but there are many proven, effective, and uncomplicated uses of "solar energy." While the term "passive" solar seems mysterious and foreign, it simply means ANY use of the sun's energy without the aid of pumps, fans, or other moving parts.

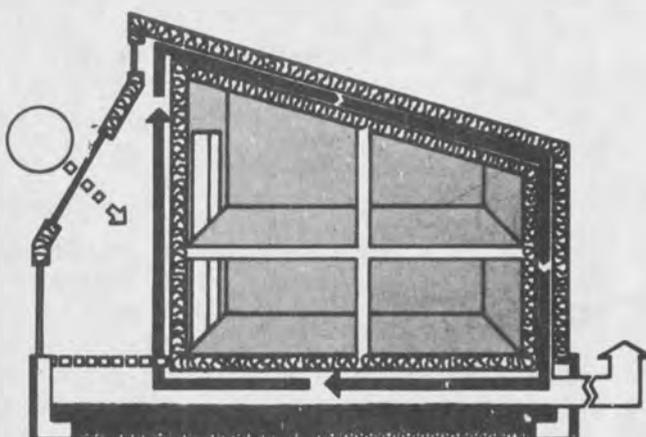
One of the most exciting new concepts is the "greenhouse," either as an addition to an existing structure, or as the focal point in a new home. A solar greenhouse built on the south side of an existing home acts as a collector of the sun's daytime strength. The heated air from the greenhouse, which is, as expected, constructed of glazed glass, rises to the top of the structure and enters your home through vents. Similar vents are placed at floor level. As the air in the home cools, it is drawn into

the greenhouse by natural convection and reheated. At night you can either close the vents or install some panels to insulate the glass areas. The system can be as simple or as complicated as you wish to make it, and is an excellent supplement to your existing heat.

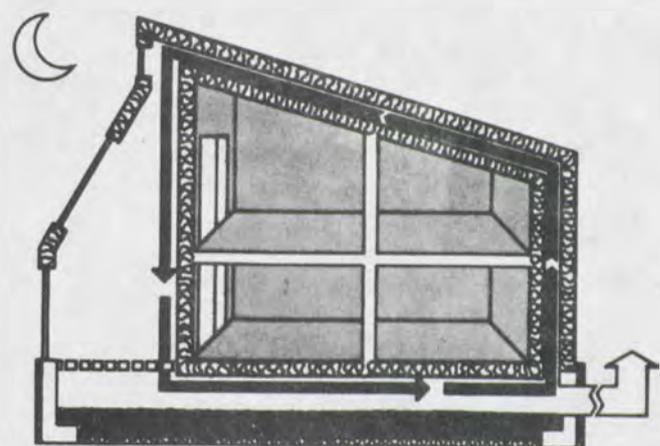
The same concept, when designed into a new home, can serve as the major heat source. Usually a two-story structure, the greenhouse makes up the entire south side of the home. The heated air rises to the top and enters an interior envelope which surrounds the entire interior of the structure (with the exception of the east/west walls, which must be heavily insulated). This idea is so simple it's hard to believe it hasn't been used until now. Please look closely at the pictures; they explain the concept far better than words alone.

At the present time, there are very few contractors doing this type of solar construction in this area. However, the law of supply and demand will increase this number in direct proportion to the number of people knowledgeable enough to request this kind of structure! A greenhouse addition to your present home can be constructed by anyone with a limited knowledge of construction. There are books available to aid in the determination of the best degree of slant for this area of the country. One such book is *THE SOLAR GREENHOUSE BOOK*, edited by James C. McCullagh

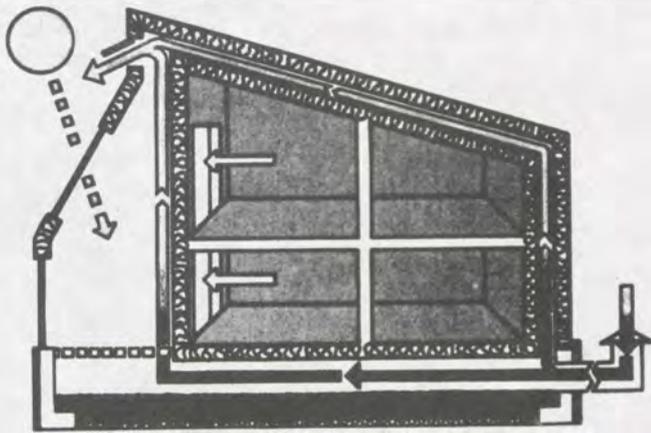
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GAINING HEAT



LOSING HEAT



VENTILATING AND COOLING

and published by Rodale Press. This publication focuses mainly on production of food from the greenhouse (an added benefit I haven't even touched on!), but has excellent sections on design and construction.

BUDGET PRIORITY NEEDED

Here's one budget cut we can all get behind, a cut in funds for the Clinch River Breeder Reactor. Coming up, probably the first week in May, is a vote to increase funds for this project by \$254 million. Congressman Allen Ertel is a member of the House Science and Technology Committee that will be considering this bill.

The breeder is a reactor designed to make reactor fuel, 2 to 4 tons of plutonium a year. (One nuclear bomb uses only 10-20 lbs.). Not only does it create enormous health and safety hazards, but is expected to cost \$3.5 billion. When it was first planned, the industry was to pay half the \$500 million cost. Now that this 15-year-old white elephant would cost seven times that, industry still pays \$275 million and the federal government the rest. (Who says we can't afford TMI clean-up?)

AND THE WINNER IS...

The holder of the winning raffle ticket and owner of a new wood/coal burning stove is Linda Gurtler of Marietta, Pa. Linda is a member of Susquehanna Valley Alliance. Congratulations!

MET ED'S EVACUATION PLANS

A rare Saturday hearing for the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board on April 4 allowed area residents a discouraging close-up of how MetEd sees evacuating timing in case of another accident. Such calculations are required for licensing.

Only people within 10 miles of the accident are planned for, MetEd consultants explained. Anyone outside that zone will be politely turned away from the evacuation routes by the traffic cop posted at each entrance road.

Even those inside the 10 mile Evacuation Planning Zone (EPZ) are expected to evacuate with orderly restraint. Those at the edge of the 10 mile zone will wait like the folks in the last pew of the church at a wedding - till everyone closer to the accident has left. This wait may be as long as nine hours.

Disabled vehicles, road repair zones, and Amish buggies are not taken into account in the estimates. The consultants assume there will be plenty of room to drive around them and that there will be plenty of tow trucks, if needed.

School children will be taken out in buses. The planners simply asked the bus companies how many buses would be available. They did not ask how many buses might be out of service or how many bus drivers might be around.

The Governor would give the word to the emergency county preparedness coordinators, who would then sound their sirens. In 20 minutes, the first evacuees would be expected to pull out of the EPZ. Gassing up, going to the bank, packing, are all supposed to have been taken care of before the sirens sound.

No time was allowed for picking up breadwinners in the EPZ or gathering up the kids at school. Buses will take both to safe mass care centers. Those people at home without a car will need to walk or hitch a ride to an evacuation point.

Buses may make many trips; how many will be determined on the spot.

To get an extra bus, the consultants suggested flagging down a police car, which could radio in a request. Police cars may not be easy to come by. Twelve police cars will evacuate the prisons, and policemen themselves will be out directing traffic.

A "worst possible" scenario assumes a snow storm, with PennDOT plowing according to its usual timetable.

Perhaps the most accurate commentary on the plan was made by one of the consultants. When asked by the intervenor how he could check his estimates of evacuation times and procedures, he replied, "I hope I never have to."

MET ED TAX WOES WILL MAKE YOU CRY!

MetEd worried during most of April that it might not be able to get the \$23 million it needed to pay its state gross receipts tax when it came due. Would the PUC grant it a \$75 million rate increase so it would have the money? (The PUC gave them \$50.1 million.) Would the bankers loan them money enough to pay it? (The bankers loaned them \$19 million.)

We simple ratepayers who don't understand high utility finance have to ask the question, "Why did MetEd have to go looking for the money?" The tax is a simple pass-through fund collected by MetEd (and other utilities) for the state. Every penny was paid by the public in their bills during the year. However, under a strange quirk of utility law, the companies are allowed to use the money until the bill comes due.

NEW INVESTIGATION ON RADIATION HEALTH

The General Accounting Office released a report, "Problems in Assessing the Cancer Risks of Low-Level Ionizing Radiation Exposure," on January 2, 1981.

It recommends fewer epidemiologic studies and increased reliance on cellular, molecular, and animal studies to determine cancer risks.

The study, initiated by David Rosenbaum (current director of the EPA Office of Radiation Programs) while employed by the GAO, has come

under fire for its treatment of the Hanford Workers Survey by Mancuso, Stewart, and Kneale.

Among the critics' charges are that a GAO project consultant was retained for the Hanford Worker critique after it was learned that the consultant had written attacks published in the Washington Post and other newspapers in 1977 on Mancuso's and other scientists abilities as researchers.

Second, the GAO undertook an analysis of the Hanford employee data. Data was requested from Battelle Northwest and from Dr. Mancuso.

A comparison of the two data sources found the Battelle data to be incomplete.

Yet, the primary analysis contained in the GAO report is primarily based on the Battelle data, which is more limited.

Federal agency reviewers are concerned that the GAO is over-estimating the ability of cellular research to resolve uncertainties about cancer risks and that it has not adequately addressed the need for animal research in the area.

The GAO has recommended that Congress enact legislation giving statutory authority to an inter-agency committee to coordinate Federal research on the health effects of ionizing radiation exposure.

The Study is available from the GAO, Document Handling and Information Services Facility, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20760 (EMD-81-1).

From "Radioactive Readings"
Vol. 2, No. 1

WRITE ON...WRITE ON...WRITE ON

People who want to tell the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board facts which have not come out in the hearings on restart of Unit-1 can still do so. While there will be no time for personal Limited Appearances before the Board, the Board will accept written comments. Board Chairman Ivan Smith assures citizens that every word will be read. You may send them: Attention: Ivan Smith, NRC, Washington, D.C. 20555

*****UPCOMING EVENTS*****

Monday, May 4 - TMIA Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the TMIA Office, 315 Peffer St., Hbg.

Tuesday, May 5 - TMIA Planning Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Meetinghouse, Hbg.

Thursday, May 14 - Ratepayers Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Meetinghouse, Hbg.

Saturday, May 16 - The Party - Keep the evening open for fun and frolic. Place and time to be announced.

Monday, May 18 - TMIA Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the TMIA Office, 315 Peffer St., Hbg.

Tuesday, June 2 - Mock accident at TMI to test the emergency response of 15 state agencies and the 5

counties surrounding the nuclear plant.

Every Tuesday in May - TMI-PIRC Meetings, 7:00 p.m. at the PIRC Office, 1037 Maclay St., Hbg.

TMIA OFFICERS: Joel Roth, Chair; Louise Bradford, Vice-Chair; Paul Makurath, Treasurer; and Mary Osborn, Secretary.

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD: Bev Davis, Cathy Musser, and Paul Makurath.

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Sue Olmstead (Editor), Chris Sayer, Bev Davis, Paul Makurath, Kay Pickering, Sam Milkis, Mary Hartnett, Georgianna Nyce, and TMIA office volunteers.

DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE: May 15, 1981

TMIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

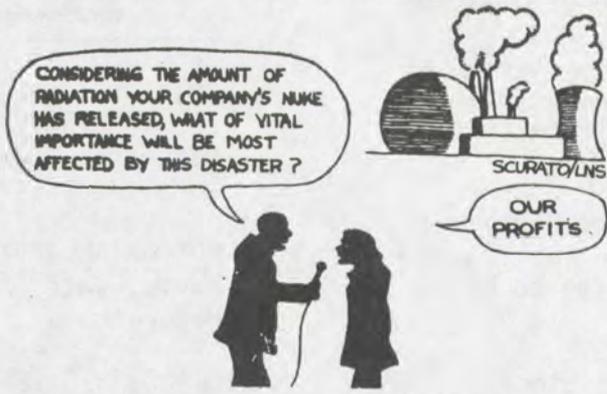
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