RAIN
A Parable of Peace
Irate Ratepayers
Faith Into Action

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In our January issue (RAIN VIII:4) Joel Schatz described the new peace poster he and his wife Diane are working on. They are attempting to answer the question “If peace broke out, what would it look like?” and are inviting people from all over the country to submit their own visions for possible inclusion in the poster. Below are some ideas submitted by RAIN readers.

(Frank L. Moreland, an architect from Fort Worth, TX, sent in a large folder of earth covered structure plans and designs with the message: “Enclosed is an idea for a peaceful community, in response to Joel and Diane’s request in the January issue. Good luck in your search. I’m looking forward to the results.”)

I envision a peaceful society as one which encourages role playing from the earliest age. Role playing helps people learn to understand other people’s points of view. Another part of peaceful society would be that children are taught mutual aid rather than competition—all win, all together reach a goal or solve a problem. Moderate consumption and labor-intensive rather than machinery. Put control of resources and money in the hands of grass-roots local governments. To have grass-roots local governments, means to develop strong communities. This means fostering neighborliness, community self-help and community projects, etc., and using legislative power as well. It means towns and neighborhoods where people care for each other, work for the good of all. In a peaceful society it will be each neighborhood which decides what a simplified, non-consumptive lifestyle is for that community, including the use of renewable energy rather than fossil fuel hard technology.

—Tom Robinsen
Missoula, MT

I’ve seen peace. We have friends in Northern Ireland who are putting their lives on the line working for peace. There it’s called ‘reconciliation.’ A few months back there was real fear of a crisis—Rev. Ian Paisley was going to call a general strike, and open civil war was a possible outcome. Also, the prayer group that our friends lead was threatened: the chapel where they had met had been bombed, and the alternative of holding the meetings at their house was potentially quite dangerous. So they felt the need to hold an all-night vigil of prayer, asking for direction.

It works out that through-the-night in Northern Ireland is late afternoon to early night here. Many of us kept them in our prayers in those hours, and that was when Peace showed herself. Our friends were together in prayer a late night, in fear, in a dark city. I was taking a shower, playing with my babies, talking with my husband at dinner, and putting children into their beds. I have all that they are working for—a chance to get on with my life, a chance to be ordinary, and to enjoy all of those plain things.

Peace is not sitting around eating cloud ice cream. It is as full of difficult times as any. Difficulties are useful and good when they can be embraced. And, of course, there can be peace in a person even in the midst of war. But the Peace that I saw was just that chance to work on my own life, dance my own dance and embrace my own difficulties, to flourish in my special variety of ordinariness. I see it much more clearly now, and it’s opposite, war, has become all the more horrible. What is truly petty are the issues that wars are fought over, when seen next to the bone-marrow importance of all these details of getting on with our lives.

Peace be with you.

Eliza Gouverneur
New Castle, DE

Your project of visualizing peace is a beautiful idea. You might want to seriously consider using Christopher Alexander’s A Pattern Language as a basis—especially much from the first 100 patterns. Read them—it’s peace!

—Elias Velonis
Washington, MA
If peace broke out,
we wouldn't have to run harder and harder
just to stay in the same place.
The pace of change would ease and things
would slowly become less complicated.
We would no longer feel driven to pursue
things we do not really believe in.
We would not judge prosperity by,
or expect, escalating material wealth.
The decisions of the money managers would
directly involve the values of the
people whose money they manage,
not only $'s.
The money managers would take responsi-
bility for their collective influences as
well as their individual effects.
We would all judge our success by our ability
to compliment each other's work rather
than to compete with it.
—Phil Henshaw
Brooklyn, NY

A picture of peace would have small groups
of men and women obtaining locally and
noncompetitively almost all their material
support from noneconomic, though mutually beneficial, relationships where snobs
would be the first to pick up a shovel or clean
out the barn because that would be the most
dignified thing for them to do. It would be
more valuable to care well for a small piece of
land, using hand tools or relatively simple
technology than to teach in the schools.
Anyone seeking more than their meals or a
pittance for doing public service work would
be automatically disqualified from serving
the public. (Now that would decentralize
things!) Should anyone desire to teach, that
would have to be as a gift to the community:
a gift that the community could refuse. It all
sounds outrageous to me, but I wonder if
anyone thinks it would be easier for nations
to disarm than for the professional lions to
lie down with the lambs or whether physical
disarmament would not cry out for some sort
of social disarmament as well?
—Frank Hubeny
Dexter, ME

Did your greenhouse tomatoes collapse and die last January? Did
the melons never make it? White flies take over? Slugs decimate the
seedlings? Have you got the Solar Greenhouse Blues? Wonder
what's happening to your investment? No one ever said it would be
easy once you got the glazing on and the vents operable, but is
there even hope?

Take heart! Here in Portland, a couple dozen greenhouse owners
have been sharing their trials and tribulations (and successes) in
what we jokingly call “solar support groups,” more formally “The
Solar Greenhouse Society.” It was all the brainchild of Nancy Ben-
ner, greenhouse designer and gardener. She’d been walking her
clients through the period of adjustment when nothing seems to be
growing right, when it occurred to her that they all have some good
ideas of their own. All that was needed was an opportunity to share
them. So she sent out invitations to owners she knew, and the
group was up and going.

At the first meeting they began to exchange not only ideas, but
seeds, catalogues and genuine expertise. Local horticulturists came
to the meeting and classes were arranged for “members” to learn
planting techniques, varieties to grow, and ongoing maintenance.

At a recent meeting, Bill Head, author of Fish Farming in Your
Solar Greenhouse (RAIN VI:3:5) made a presentation on his hy-
droponics and aquaculture experiments. Bill is working on a new
book on yearround gardening under cover. The “solar support
group” was a great source of information for him and vice versa.

The latest project of the group is the testing of several seed varie-
ties for Territorial Seed Company, here in Oregon. The goal is to
determine which seeds will produce most predictably in solar enclo-
sures in the Maritime Northwest. This specific information is es-
sential to getting the most from your system in any particular cli-
mate. Perhaps you should form such an organization in your area.
Just think of the possibilities. . . . Portland’s group is beginning to
buy their supplies together. Shade cloth, window insulators, stor-
age devices and plant mediums are all cheaper in large quantities.
You could explore working with your local energy extension (or
agricultural extension) to provide them with your information.

If all of this seems too good to resist, and you do form a group,
please let us know, so we can share your work with other RAIN
readers and other greenhouse groups. Write RAIN, to my atten-
tion, and I’ll pass the word on to Nancy and the “solar supporters.”
—Carlotta Collette
It is difficult to organize against seeming abstractions—even those as profound as the current balance-of-terror of nuclear weapons systems.

by Norman Solomon

Visible Alternatives To Invisible Threats

As we brought this issue to our typesetter, I heard on the radio that the powers-that-be behind the recently defunct WPPSS nuclear plants (see RAIN VIII:5) are trying one last crazy scheme to pull their nuclear monstrosity from its well-deserved grave before the tombstone is engraved. They apparently want to revive at least one of the plants to become a weapons-grade plutonium processing plant. While the technical feasibility of converting a partially built commercial reactor into a high-class military installation is slim, the twisted, desperate mentality that produces such sick ideas is cause for genuine alarm.

We are fortunate to be able to offer a more refreshing perspective on the whole nuclear/military picture from Norman Solomon, co-author of the recently published Killing Our Own (see review). His article and the accompanying access information are your tools for a saner world. —Mark Roseland

For all of their imminence, nuclear weapons remain something of an abstraction in our society. Unlike nuclear power plants with their conspicuous cooling towers, stacks of industrial pollution, auto-clogged freeways and the like, the massively financed thermonuclear arsenals rarely become visible.

It is difficult to organize effectively against seeming abstractions—even those as profound as the current balance-of-terror of nuclear weapons systems. In contrast, we are much more apt to focus protracted efforts along the lines of moving our local utility company into renewable resources, demonstrating the benefits of energy-efficiency, putting up windmills, popularizing passive solar technologies, struggling for a humanistic urban environment positioned in harmony with nature rather than in opposition to it, and developing community-based food cooperatives. Such actions are vital. Yet, no matter how successful, they will become meaningless within an hour if nuclear warfare takes place.

Much of the verbiage surrounding alternative technology seems to have stressed being positively upbeat and bypassing the negative—a credo for which anti-nuclear work has sometimes been depicted as unsuitable.

Unfortunately, no matter how much we may wish it were not true, the real possibility remains that the finest flowerings of ecologically respectful, decentralized, democratically oriented and creative communities will be destroyed—along with less advanced counterparts—by the sudden and devastating uses of nuclear weaponry for the purposes for which it has always been intended.

Even with the “worst case” scenario of nuclear war held in abeyance, nuclear arms production is already fundamentally altering the Earth’s ecosystem by purveying long-lived radioactive carcinogens and mutagens. Strong epidemiological evidence, like the well-documented studies by Dr. Carl Johnson correlating the highest cancer rates in the Denver area with proximity to the nearby Rocky Flats plutonium production facility, verifies that we are being insidiously and brutally “nuked” on a day-to-day basis. With uncontrollable nuclear wastes mounting and federal interests gearing up the nuclear fuel cycle more than ever, normality is synonymous with long-term eco-suicide.

There are hopeful signs that resistance to nuclear weapons is gaining momentum in the U.S. (European opposition has shown itself to be farther along.) Significantly, the most tenacious and concerted efforts have tended to be deeply-rooted in local communities.

For years, organizers in Colorado have underscored the slogan “Rocky Flats—Local Hazard, Global Threat.” Independent research, mass rallies, civil disobedience, pressure campaigns aimed at noncommittal state politicians, and methodical, increasingly broad-
based public education drives, have succeeded in catalyzing tremendous regional pressure against continued operation of Rocky Flats, which produces plutonium “triggers” for U.S. nuclear warheads.

The longstanding work against Rocky Flats has served as a model for scores of newer efforts in communities around the country. Often, even locally, the role of a particular nuclear or military facility is unknown to the general public, so thorough, ongoing research is essential for developing long range strategies.

As the sophistication of anti-nuclear organizing grows, there has been increasing attention to jobs issues. Along with demanding conversion of nuclear facilities to non-nuclear and non-military purposes (or establishment of employment at other area sites if the original location is hopelessly contaminated with radioactivity), local organizers are developing in-depth analyses of just how conversion could be practically implemented. In some areas, proposals are being put forward in terms of establishing “nuclear-free zones.”

The nuclear weapons assembly line is strewn across the United States, and though sometimes low-profile, nuclear facilities have a presence in hundreds of communities (see map), ominously comprising both a “local hazard” and a “global threat.” They must be challenged in the communities which host them. The military means business; so must we. All segments of the population are potential allies in the arduous tasks of shutting down these facilities.

National policies must be oriented toward closing nuclear sites or converting them to other purposes. At the federal level, we need to force the government into a comprehensive test ban (the U.S. currently explodes full-fledged nuclear warheads underground in southern Nevada at an average rate of once every three weeks); a freeze on new weapons production; dismantling of first-strike-oriented new weapons systems already produced, like Trident subs and cruise missiles; removal of nuclear weaponry from European bases; and a steady diplomatic push for disarmament in all countries. The Reagan administration is moving in all the wrong directions, including a large boost in plutonium production that amounts to an attack on local ecologies all over the U.S. The need to change the course of federal policies is critical. And time is precariously short.

A statewide ballot measure calling for a bilateral nuclear arms freeze (currently in progress in California) must be seen as one of many possible small steps in a long, difficult and multifaceted groundswell; electoral campaigns are unlikely to provide the basis for a strong movement. Systems sanctioned by the state are prone to deflect us away from strengthening true community-based movements with independent power that cannot be co-opted, sidestepped or betrayed by politicians and administrators. Our best hopes are to be found in developing movements that will continue to gain momentum no matter who is in political office and no matter what ballot measures win or lose at the polls. □□

The nuclear weapons assembly line is strewn across the United States . . . it must be challenged in the communities which host it.

The H-Bomb Inc.

From: Makers of the Nuclear Holocaust

by Howard Morland

Some of America’s best-known corporations put their stamp on the hydrogen bomb. General Electric (“Progress for People”) builds the neutron generator at its Pinellas plant near St. Petersburg, Florida. Monsanto (“Without chemicals, life itself would be impossible”) manufactures explosive detonators at its Mound Laboratory near Miamisburg, Ohio. Du Pont (“The leading edge”) supplies tritium gas from its Savannah River, South Carolina, plant. Rockwell International (“Where science gets down to business”) fabricates plutonium and beryllium components at the Rocky Flats plant near Denver, Colorado. Union Carbide (“Today, something we do will touch your life”) contributes uranium, deuterium, and lithium parts made in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The paper honeycomb shield and polystyrene foam which help focus radiation pressure on the H-bomb’s fusion tamper are made by Bendix (“We speak technology”) at Kansas City, Missouri. Not so well known is Mason & Hanger—Silas Mason, the firm that shapes the chemical explosive charges and supervises final assembly at a plant near Amarillo, Texas. Western Electric, a subsidiary of American Telephone and Telegraph (“The system is the solution”) does general engineering for the H-bomb at its laboratory at Albuquerque, New Mexico, in cooperation with two laboratories which conduct research at Livermore, California, and Los Alamos, New Mexico, under auspices of the University of California (“Let there be light”).
Have you ever been disgusted by contact with one of those “friendly atom” comic books so generously distributed by your local utility in the interest of public education? Here is an effective counter-attack from our side! The attractive format and clearly presented facts (drawn from such sources as Amory Lovins’ Soft Energy Paths and Anna Gyorgy’s No Nukes) make this an excellent introduction to the implications of a nuclear society for adult readers as well as children. It is also an excellent introduction to the New Internationalist, which regularly provides some of the most provocative and stimulating information available anywhere on such world development topics as resource exploitation in Third World countries, arms control, food distribution, the changing roles of women and the skewed relationships between rich nations and poor. —John Ferrell


Compiled by over 40 citizen groups across the country, Makers of the Nuclear Holocaust brings reality to an element of American life made abstract by political jargon and largely veiled from public view. Informative descriptions on every conceivable dimension of the nuclear arms program are given, from design to deployment. Organizing tips for investigating the presence of nuclear stockpiles, flow charts on weapon production systems, and graphs depicting world military and social expenditures add texture and depth to this important, fact-filled booklet.

Moving beyond the usual arguments for global peace and stressing the increasing health risks of nuclear weapons plants, the authors underline the need for local economic conversion planning as part of the campaign to halve production of nuclear weapons. A study by the California Department of Labor found that almost all nuclear weapons manufacturing jobs examined could be shifted to peaceful applications. More studies on the conversion potential of nuclear weapons facilities to non-nuclear uses are needed, however. William Winpisinger of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers emphasizes the point: “Until the fears of the nation’s 2.5 million defense production workers in private industry can be constructively alleviated and their employment security assured, it may well be impossible to consider arms and military control measures and the defense budget on their merits.”

This essential and practical handbook closes with a listing of active weapons facilities conversion groups across the country. Information on the Nuclear Weapons Facilities Task Force, a network of organizations and individuals working locally and nationally on disarmament, is available from the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the American Friends Service Committee. —Laura Stuchinsky

“Conversion Organizing,” WIN Special Issue/Reprint, July 1, 1981, $1.00 each, $.50 for 10 or more (add 20% for p&h), from: WIN Magazine 326 Livingston St. Brooklyn, NY 11217

If you know in your heart that the Administration’s military build-up threatens economic (as well as national) security, but you still find yourself sucked into battered gun arguments because you don’t have a peaceful, prosperous alternative to propose, send for a stack of this special issue on conversion organizing. Converting the workplaces and communities that depend upon sometimes lucrative but often unstable military contracts to economically resilient, sustainable, non-military production is an essential element of any effort to free us from the roller coaster of destruction.

The highlight of this publication is a listing of resources for organizers compiled by Dave McFadden of the Mid-Peninsula Conversion Project (see RAIN VI:6). Along with articles on working with labor (an obvious key to successful conversion strategies) and national conversion organizing, there are stories of local conversion work in Missouri, Massachusetts, Colorado, California, Washington and the United Kingdom.

Conversion organizing is some of the most important work that needs doing these days. If you’re interested in helping out in your community, also get in touch with the Conversion Information Center, Council on Economic Priorities, 84 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10011, 212/691-8550. Californians should contact: Democrats for Peace Conversion, 372 W. Bay Ave., Suite A-201, Costa Mesa, CA 92626, 714/642-7721. —Mark Roseland

The psychological impact of nuclear issues has been put on the agenda. A network of activists, spanning the country and extending abroad, is actively conducting workshops, offering guest speakers, and publishing literature. The basic premise rests on the idea that the constant barrage of disaster-impending news and daily violence in our lives immobiles people. By acknowledging and expressing the depths of those feelings—fear, despair, rage, and pain—people can begin to move beyond feelings of powerlessness and numbness into action.

Organized two years ago, Interhelp uses nuclear issues to reach out to a broad spectrum of the population: school children, religious leaders, organized labor, low-income organizations, and universities. Without advocating a specific political approach, Interhelp leaders support the formation of affinity groups, train leaders, and help individuals move from hopelessness to helpfulness.

The national office is in the midst of launching a new newsletter (its name as yet undetermined) to serve as a vehicle for internal debate, information sharing on techniques and exercises, and updates on the national movement. The first issue will be free and can be obtained through Myra Levy at the national office. A regional journal, entitled Evolutionary Blues, is also in the making. The first issue of the fledgling “quarterly,” 60 pages long, was published in the fall of 1981. The second installment is due sometime this spring. Individual copies of both issues are available for $4.00 each from Evolutionary Blues, c/o David Hoffman, 1027 De Haro, San Francisco, CA 94107. —Laura Stuchinsky

Fear Into Action

Interhelp
330 Ellis Street, Rm. 505
San Francisco, CA 94102
415/673-5433

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National Peace Academy Campaign
110 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, DC 20002
202/546-9500

In November of 1978, President Carter approved legislation creating the Commission on Proposals for the National Academy of Peace and Conflict Resolution. To go about its work, Congress gave the commission $500,000—roughly equivalent to two minutes of the Defense Department budget.

Yet the trickle was well spent. Legislation to establish the National Peace Academy has been introduced in both the Senate (S. 1889) and the House (HR 5088). Both bills are now in committee and should reach the floor of Congress in the next month or two.

It may finally be recognized that disputes can be resolved without resorting to violence, and conflict resolution legitimated as a course of study. According to Milton Mapes, a key organizer of the campaign, "For an annual budget of less than one-fifth of one day's Pentagon budget, the Peace Academy could turn out experts who would help hold down the costs of everything from military defense to criminal justice."

You get back what you put out. When nations prepare for war, they get war. Presently we are paying for four military academies and five war colleges. If you think the Peace Academy sounds like a more appropriate use of your tax dollars, contact the Peace Academy campaign and your Congresspeople and let them know. —Mark Roseland

"Fate of the Earth," by Jonathan Schell,
The New Yorker, Feb. 1, 8, and 15, 1982, $1.25/each from:
The New Yorker
25 West 43 St.
New York, NY 10036

For The New Yorker to dispel, in so clear and complete a fashion, the myths of survivability and "win-ability" of a nuclear war, is pretty significant. I heard someone on the radio the other day remark that the real threat to world peace is Ronald Reagan and his cowboy mentality. It's a case where too much destructive power is concentrated in the hands of a very unwise leader; a case where the notion of democratic action by an informed electorate had better have an effect if we're to stop this excitable man and his crew. It's still too easy for us to ignore the implications of the D.C. swagger of Al Haig and Ronnie. A little background on devastation—stories from Hiroshima for example—helps to clarify the issue. And what of the consequences of withdrawal and deterrents? No one says it'll be easy to back down from the brink, but Schell explores several options.

As bright a hope as the new National Peace Academy for nonviolent conflict resolution may be (see Access), the responsibility is still with all of us. Read this series. You may decide to try to save your life. —Carlotta Collette

Killing Our Own: The Disaster of America's Experience with Atomic Radiation, by Harvey Wasserman and Norman Solomon, 400 pp., 1982, $11.95 from:
Delacorte/Delta
1 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
New York, NY 10017

When Albert Einstein, in 1947, compared the discovery of nuclear fission to the discovery of fire, he did not note how long it took primitive society to learn to keep that fire from destroying it, or what kinds of conscious changes were required of the species. Nor did he calculate how long it would take, or what changes in consciousness would be necessary for modern society to survive the splitting of the atom. He clearly suspected the time allowed for this second job would be short, and that the human race was at stake. But he also believed that given an informed populace, it could be done.

Keep in mind Einstein's optimism when reading Killing Our Own. The rage, pain,

Cont. on next page
and despair it evokes kept me awake many a night.

Based on government documents, personal interviews and published research, Wasserman and Solomon have written a penetrating analysis of atomic radiation and its impact on the health of Americans. Their investigation encompasses a wide range of incidents involving radiation exposure indicating disproportionate levels of cancer, respiratory illnesses, progressive muscle deterioration, and birth defects. Their research chronicles, among other things, the exposure of thousands of Americans to harmful levels of radiation in their workplace; radioactive emissions from nuclear waste dumps, bomb factories and processing plants; and the misuse of medical x-rays exposing patients to unsafe levels of radiation.

Military experiments with radiation are also uncovered. Nearly 300,000 U.S. military personnel were deliberately exposed to radiation during the nuclear testing program (1945-1962). Equally alarming, U.S. Marine clean-up teams were ordered into Nagasaki less than 60 days after the bomb fell. The government has adamantly refused to admit that the illnesses of vets involved in these maneuvers are in any way radiation related, despite volumes of personal testimony indicating otherwise.

As disturbing as it is to read about the needless and preventable human suffering caused by radiation exposure, the duplicity of government, utilities and the nuclear industry is even more appalling. A blind commitment to nuclear weapons and nuclear energy has prevented victims of radiation poisoning from getting access to speedy treatment and legal recourse, ensured continued risk to countless more lives, and denied millions of Americans the right to make informed decisions on national nuclear policy.

The first comprehensive investigation of its kind, Killing Our Own’s appendices alone are worth the price of the book. Not easy reading, but its message can’t help but catapult readers into action armed with the facts. Be sure your library has several copies. — Laura Stuchinsky

Mark Anderson

A PARABLE OF PEACE

Living on the World Equity Budget

by John Ferrell

If, then, you have not proved trustworthy with the wealth of this world, who will trust you with the wealth that is real? And if you have proved untrustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No servant can be the slave of two masters... You cannot serve God and Money. — Luke 16:11-13 (The New English Bible)

"Everything we own you see in this room," Charles Gray tells his guests. "That is, except for the bike and bike trailer on the porch. Those are our most valuable possessions, I guess." Gray chuckles and looks around at the sparse furnishings with obvious satisfaction. He compares the "luxury" of the life he now shares with Dorothy Granada in this rundown, cooperative house in Eugene, Oregon with the relative austerity of the life he led a few years ago when he was alone in Portland, sleeping in his office and spending less than $30 a month. Today, Charles, a former sociologist who, together with his former wife, once gave away half a million dollars, and Dorothy, a Chicana who grew up poor in East Los Angeles and made it into middle class society as a well-paid nursing administrator, are living contentedly on a monthly budget of $110 each.
The “how” of their lifestyle is surprisingly easy to explain. The rent for their room is low ($85 a month) and they have learned to live well on the wastes of an incredibly wasteful society. They glean discarded foods behind supermarkets, pick fruit which would otherwise go uneaten, and find clothing in thrift store free boxes. They have learned all the usual tricks of dedicated “simple lives” and added some of their own.

The “why” is a more complex matter. Charles and Dorothy are living on what they call the “World Equity Budget.” The idea for the budget had its roots in Charles’ long involvement in the peace movement (he was a conscientious objector in World War II) and in his extensive travels in Third World countries where he witnessed a kind of involuntary poverty which left a profound impression on him. “I’ve had some fairly vivid experiences in terms of hunger,” he says quietly. “Images just burned into my memory.” Over the years, he reflected more and more on the relationship between violence and the hunger he was observing. He saw the explosive potential of a world economic system which allowed the richest five percent of humanity to control more than 200 times the wealth of the poorest five percent. He also reflected increasingly on how global resource consumption was exceeding sustainable levels. It became a very personal concern about how the rich (including himself) were living on what they call the “World Equity Budget.” The idea for approaches to lifestyle change. They decided on separation (they have recently, they decided to establish an equitable per capita income level, he decided to pursue the idea of celebration because what’s important is the idea of celebration!”)

Today, Charles and Dorothy are living contentedly on a monthly budget of $110 each.

plotting charts and perfecting their pursuit of austerity. Each labors one day a week, Dorothy as a nurse and Charles as a janitor and gardener, to provide for their economic needs. The rest of their time is devoted to their work for world peace (they are active in an organization called the Nonviolent Tactics Development Project) and to enjoying their life together. A good time for them may consist of a bicycle ride or a single shared ice cream cone. (“Really, all you want is a taste,” Charles observes. “It’s just as much of a celebration because what’s important is the idea of celebration!”). Recently, they borrowed a rubber raft from Dorothy’s son and floated down the Willamette River from Eugene to Corvallis, a distance of 49 river miles. The four-day outing was made at a total cost of 25 cents—the amount needed for a pay phone call in Corvallis.

“It’s both a cost and a pleasure to have fewer options,” Charles concludes, “and the effects of living poor on your personal relationships can be very profound.” He misses the opportunity to visit his two grown children, who have both settled in New Zealand, and he sometimes must contend with the reactions of more conventional people who feel compelled to defend their consumerism to him—whether or not he cares to bring the subject up. There are the very real insecurities (he and Dorothy each contribute $5.00 a month to community emergency insurance fund called F.I.N.—Friend in Need) and the ever-present danger of lapsing into feelings of self-righteousness.

But balancing all that is a benefit afforded to relatively few peo-

ple: Charles and Dorothy are able to devote ample time and energy to the single thing which matters most in their lives. Their work with the Nonviolent Tactics Development Project currently centers around “political fasting,” a tactic designed to draw public and governmental attention to the connection between world hunger and the arms race. They will soon be joining people from churches and peace groups around the country in a series of fasts focused on influencing the deliberations of the Second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament which will be convening in New York City this summer.

“I guess I’m kind of pessimistic about our chances of this world surviving,” says Charles. “I view the political fasting as a thing that Dorothy and I might give our lives to some time in the next year or two as a kind of final expression of the need to stop the arms race. We will soon be joining people from churches and peace groups around the country in a series of fasts focused on influencing the deliberations of the Second United Nations Special Session on Disarmament which will be convening in New York City this summer.

As I listen to Charles speak, I try to reconcile the idea of pessimism with such a profound level of commitment, and to understand how this man can be at the same time so deeply troubled about the state of the world and so seemingly serene and in love with life. I venture the thought that for someone to live as he does must require, at base, a very real kind of optimism. He smiles and thinks about that for a time. Finally he replies. “I always have hope in our potential. If not now, perhaps in the future, we’ll come closer to attaining that potential.”

I am reassured to hear him speak hopefully about the future. Meeting him has already made me more optimistic about our chances for realizing our potential.
Many of us have fond childhood memories of our visits to Duckburg. Just ten cents got us 52 pages worth of Walt Disney’s Comics and Stories and kept us up to date on the latest adventures of Donald, his three nephews Huey, Dewey and Louie, his apparently plato­nic lifetime girlfriend Daisy, his lucky cousin Gladstone Gander, and his skinflint Uncle Scrooge. Looking back past Watergate, Vietnam and the asserted unpleasantnesses of the past two decades, the denizens of Duckburg seem to stand out in a pleasant wholesome glow.

But wait. Can it be that in our childhood innocence we were missing something sinister? Stop and think: do you recall anyone in Duckburg ever producing anything useful? (No. Virtually every character was somehow involved in the service economy and caught up in endless consumption of goods which no one seemed to be producing). Can you remember any Duckburg citizens (other than criminal elements like the Beagle Boys) who suffered from economic hardship? Did it occur to you that nearly everyone in Donald’s circle of friends was either clearly powerful or clearly submissive, and no one crossed the line? And was your childhood sense of social justice ever offended by the fact that Donald and his nephews were forever embarking on expeditions to exotic countries to lift gold or other treasures from under the noses of the simple-minded natives?

During the Allende regime in Chile, Marxist scholars Ariel Dorfman and Armand Mattelart not only noticed such things, but wrote a very serious and very angry analysis of how they believed Disney comics influenced the world view of youth in the developing countries. Apparently they touched a nerve: How to Read Donald Duck was a bestseller in Chile and other Latin American countries. After Allende’s downfall, copies of it were burned by his right-wing successors.

The book is a fascinating study, but it would have benefited from a more sparing use of political jargon and a considerably lighter touch. Its grim tone has more than a little in common (ironically) with Moral Majority attacks on the “secular humanists” who supposedly work overtime to corrupt America’s youth. Nonetheless, Dorfman and Mattelart are frequently perceptive in their analysis of the underlying American attitudes to­ward power, wealth, class and race which inevitably surface in that quintessentially American product, the Disney comic. The authors have an important point to make about the impacts of our talking ducks on Third World children. It’s interesting to reflect on how those same ducks may have influenced us. —John Ferrell

From: How to Read Donald Duck

How to Read Donald Duck: Imperialist Ideology in the Disney Comic, 1975 (original Chilean edition, 1971), 112 pp., $5.00 ppd. from:
International General
P.O. Box 350
New York, NY 10013

This is one of the best economic bibliographies I’ve seen, alternative or straight, largely because many of the writers represented in the collection are not professional economists. The subject areas range from Advertising to Education to Housing to Work, and the listings, although few are annotated, make an unusually comprehensive set.

In actual usage I encountered only two minor problems. The listings under Science, for some reason, are not up to snuff with the listings in other categories. And a few of the “annotated” listings offer somewhat sterile descriptions. The majority, however, are crisp, perceptive, concise and current, making this a most useful reference tool for researchers, writers, teachers and students.

—Mark Roseland

RESOURCES

The Human Economy Center
P.O. Box 551
Amherst, MA 01004

This series of exercises at the end of the booklet encourages the reader to work through the implications of population growth and to begin thinking about possible strategies for nations to adopt in dealing with population issues.

—John Ferrell
As energy costs rise and consciousness about energy conservation increases, more books on insulating appear on the shelves (see RAIN VI:8.21 for a review of The Complete Book of Insulating, ed. Larry Gay). The latest contribution is from Charles Wing, who has written a clear, concise guide to saving energy in the home from the ground up. He includes all the “standard” information, installation procedures, weather-stripping, hot water, and furnace efficiency improvement. In addition to the basics, he has a good section on spotting places in your house where heat leaks bypass the insulation. He completes the book with recommendations on establishing priorities for your conservation “game plan.” —Gail Katz

Superhouse, by Don Metz, 1981, 150 pp., $12.95 from:
Garden Way Publishing
Charlotte, VT 05445

Dazzled by the plethora of energy-efficient housing strategies? Swayed more by common sense than by computer print-outs? In this intelligently written introduction, you’ll learn about earth-sheltered, super insulated, and double envelope houses. Earth-sheltered buildings get the best coverage, including good information on waterproofing. Double envelope houses are treated fairly—the evidence presented here convinces us that they work, but that superinsulated houses can probably achieve the same level of thermal comfort for less money.

Metz writes clearly, with a minimum of jargon, and dispenses a good deal of Yankee horse sense:

The Solar Age has proposed exciting, challenging, and essential changes to the ways in which we interact with our natural resources and environment. Our computers and high-tech industries may provide easy access to the new, appropriate technologies, but in the end we must count on our common sense and basic physical evidence—and remember that no matter what it’s called, smoke goes up, water goes down.

This book makes all the new energy-conserving innovations look normal and conservative. It’d be a good gift for people who scoff at flashy solar houses and say “I’d never live in one of those.” —Tanya Kucak

Solar Energy, Conservation, and Rental Housing, by A. Levine, et.al., 1981, 59 pp., $9 (printed copy order #A04), SERI/RR-744-901, from:
National Technology Information Service
U.S. Dept. of Commerce
5285 Port Royal Rd.
Springfield, VA 22161

The Solar Energy Research Institute has compiled data from previous studies on rental housing and energy to produce this policy paper for use by state and local officials who influence energy policy.

The existing stock of rental housing in this country is older and less energy efficient than owner-occupied housing. Renters as a group have lower incomes than owners but are forced to pay a larger fraction of their gross income for energy, either directly or as part of the rent.

Energy conservation measures are rarely implemented for rental housing. Owners won’t spend the money if they don’t see an immediate return and tenants don’t have an interest in long term improvements. Legal barriers also stop landlords and tenants from taking action.

The study recommends a mixture of incentive programs based on local considerations. For tenants, the emphasis is on low cost, short payback conservation measures. To stimulate the major changes that must come from property owners, tax credits and attractive financing are useful measures. Solar systems could even be leased to owners to decrease potential liability. Their last recommendation is that rent control laws should be changed to permit owners to pass on the cost of energy conservation improvement.

The study does not deal with grass-roots organizing, but in the face of Reaganomics and recession, its recommendations may be the best option for creating energy-efficient rental housing. —Gail Katz

Expanding the Opportunity to Produce: Revitalizing the American Economy Through New Enterprise Development, edited by Robert Friedman and William Schweke, 1981, 550 pp., $19.95 from:
The Corporation for Enterprise Development
2420 K Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20037

This book was published as a primer for the second national conference on “Expanding the Opportunity to Produce.” Its primary value is in its balance rather than its all-inclusiveness. There are a few gaps, and the “Reality Checks” of the venture schemes they discuss are still to be discovered, but as an overview, a “reader,” this is the best source of information on small business development I’ve seen. The contributors range from very conservative to fairly radical and the beauty is that they almost arrive at a consensus over what are the problems and what are some solutions. A coalesced effort that could include, say, the Heritage Foundation and the Center for Community Economic Development, has some real potential for success. There’s clearly more likelihood for achieving certain goals together than there is at each other’s throats.

This book describes finance mechanisms, model cities and projects, and some projections of “what could happen if...?” It’s a good one to clip ideas from, to put into the hands of city commissioners and business leaders, and to use as a basis for dialogue in your own community. —Carlotta Collette
A Revival Of Christian Stewardship

by John Ferrell

In 1979, Protestant evangelist Billy Graham, once a strong proponent of American military strength, announced on the CBS Evening News that he had experienced a change of heart. "I'm in favor of disarmament and I'm in favor of trust," he said. "As I look back ... I think Mr. Truman made a mistake ... in dropping the first atomic bomb." In May, 1981, Spencer Kimball, president of the Mormon Church, came out strongly in opposition to the MX missile system as a gross extension of "the terrifying arms race in which the nations of the earth are now engaged." The following month, Roman Catholic Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen of Seattle counseled his flock to consider withholding half of their tax payments to protest the huge amounts being spent on nuclear arms. These events point up an important shift within segments of the Christian Church which have long been identified with conventional, even conservative, lifestyles and political perceptions. It is a shift which extends well beyond church leadership circles and is much broader in scope than the peace activism which has recently brought such dramatic headlines. "Mainline" and conservative church people are increasingly involving themselves in issues of economic justice, corporate responsibility, community renewal, and environmental awareness. In some cases, this involvement is already a matter of church policy; in others, it is still the work of relatively small numbers of concerned members within denominations.

What follows is a representative sampling of these church responses to peace and social justice issues. It is meant to serve as evidence of what Mark Carlson, in "Churches and the Public Interest Movement" (see review below) has called an "underappreciated source of human energy" which needs to be much better understood by secular activists concerned with broadening their own impact and finding new sources of support.

ACCESS: Christian Stewardship

"Churches and the Public Interest Movement," by Mark Carlson, NRAG Papers, Vol. 3, No. 1, 1979, 30 pp., $3.00 from: The Northern Rockies Action Group 9 Placer Street Helena, MT 59601

"Many members of churches have internalized a genuine ethic of responsible service to society," this study reminds us. "They are used to giving of themselves, their time and their money." Author Mark Carlson, an environmentalist and active church member, believes that churches and the public interest movement have many present and potential interests in common which are not always fully recognized on either side of the pew. He gives examples of innovative social and environmental programs already taking place among "mainline" Protestant and Roman Catholic organizations, examines attitudes in the churches which have thus far tended to limit such activities, and explores means for public interest groups to better work with the religious community on issues of mutual interest. This is a good manual, both for public interest group members concerned with coalition building and for already politically active church members concerned with increasing their effectiveness among fellow parishioners.

"Rich Christians in an Age of Hunger," by Ronald Sider, 1977, 249 pp., $4.95 plus $1.00 postage & handling from: The Other Side Book Service 2423 N. Clark Street Chicago, IL 60614

This book is representative of a growing body of religious literature which examines the gross inequities of world resource distri-
O ACTION

A Renaissance Of Jewish Activism

by Laura Stuchinsky

Disproportionately represented in U.S. social causes such as the labor movement, the civil rights movement and the anti-war movement, Jews have historically occupied a position left of center, from liberal to radical. This tradition of social activism has been a source of pride to many Jews. Yet along with the pride has been the continuing fear of anti-semitism, even among others working for liberal causes.

In the last decade a variety of factors, including internalized anti-Semitism, deteriorating relationships with other minority groups and the economic mobility of portions of the Jewish community, have contributed to a gradual inching toward the right in the mainstream Jewish community. Disillusionment with the Reagan economic plan, recent debate over the AWACS sale and massive budget cuts to Jewish social service agencies may have stemmed this rightward drift. In spite of the apparent conservative trend, however, Jews have remained among the more liberal voters, closely following the Black and Hispanic community. What is more, a large and growing Jewish progressive movement is making itself heard.

A Jewish cultural renaissance, sympathetic to progressive politics, nurturing a sense of ethnic rootedness, has taken firm hold within the past ten years. Internally, this renewal has been evidenced by the growth of havurot (small, egalitarian, self-run spiritual groups), the proliferation of Jewish art and music, and a re-examination of history (reclaiming Jewish women's history and dispelling cultural stereotypes of passivity during the holocaust).

Externally, the movement has affirmed the need for Jews, as Jews, to take a stand on issues of broad concern to Jewish survival and affirm Jewish values. Whether the issue be nuclear proliferation, discrimination, or energy policy, Jewish tradition, both secular and religious, provides continuity and a context for this renewal of Jewish activism.

Following is a sampling of Jewish-identified groups that have adopted stances drawn from their cultural or spiritual beliefs and that have either started or taken on new vitality in the past decade. The growing number of organizations working on Middle-Eastern issues linking Palestinian, Jewish, and leftist groups have intentionally been omitted for reasons of space and clarity. Unlike the Christian social action groups described elsewhere in this issue, the groups below may either be primarily secular or religious in their orientation, for Judaism is both a culture and a religion.

Cont. on page 15

On three things the world depends, on truth, on justice, and on peace. —Rabban Simon, Son of Gamaliel

Pirke Avot 1:18

Be of the disciples of Aaron, loving peace, and pursuing peace, and loving all living beings. —Hillel

Pirke Avot 1:12

Calligraphy by Scott Portnoff
A number of related books are available from The Other Side Book Service and from Sojourners (see access information below).

Sojourners, monthly (except in July/August), $12/yr., from:
Sojourners
1309 L Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

Sojourners was begun in 1971 by seven students at a midwestern Protestant seminary who felt a need for a publication to make connections between Biblical principles and a radical commitment to social justice and peace. A decade ago, this combination of conservative theology and political radicalism was considered highly unusual, but Sojourners has since become an important voice among both conservative and liberal Protestants and has taken on an ecumenical flavor with inclusion of articles by and about radical Catholics. Coverage is excellent in such areas as the growing European peace movement, the battle for the Equal Rights Amendment, the emerging revolutions in Central America, Christian resistance to apartheid in South Africa, and changing Christian perspectives on stewardship of the earth. Sojourners' contributing editors include such well-known figures as peace activist Daniel Berrigan, Global Reach co-author Richard Barnet and U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield of Oregon.

Evangelicals for Social Action
25 Commerce Street
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

This national membership organization with branches in a number of cities provides evangelical Protestants concerned about social justice issues with a support network and a channel for action in their communities. ESA is an outgrowth of the Chicago Declaration of Evangelical Social Concern, drafted nearly a decade ago by a group of religious leaders who believed that the concept of Christian discipleship called for a forthright witness against racism, materialism and the maldistribution of American wealth as well as a strong challenge to "the misplaced trust of the nation in economic and military might [which] promotes a national pathology of war and violence . . ." At the local level, ESA members involve themselves in a variety of peace and social justice concerns, and seek to educate their fellow church members on behalf of the poor, the disadvantaged and the unjustly treated.

Bread for the World
32 Union Square East
New York, NY 10003

Essentially a Christian citizens' movement, Bread for the World has a membership which spans the denominational spectrum. Its concern is hunger, but rather than distributing food directly, it concentrates on lobbying for government policies to better address the basic causes of hunger. In recent years its headquarters staff and hundreds of local branches have marshalled support for legislation in such areas as adding "basic human needs' provisions to IMF (International Monetary Fund) lending policies in the world's poorest countries; setting up a U.S. farmer-held grain reserve to stabilize grain price and supply at home and abroad; reforming food stamp requirements to assure eligibility for the poorest of U.S. citizens; and re-orienting U.S. foreign aid toward helping countries become more self-reliant. Arthur Simon, Bread for the World's executive director, has noted that Christian concern for the hungry is incomplete without political commitment: "to make an offering in church for world relief and quietly leave the big decisions up to political leaders only encourages them to make the wrong decisions. Our silence is taken as indifference or hostility when policies are hammered out, and hungry people become victims."

The Other Side, monthly, $16.75/yr., from:
The Other Side
300 W. Apsley Street
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Tax resistance as a means of protesting the arms race; strategies for overcoming personal consumerism; thoughts on the vices of capitalism; advice on living better without

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action
16159 Clear Creek Road N.W.
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Located directly alongside the Trident Submarine Base in Kitsap County, Washington, Ground Zero is headquarters for a community of people who are seeking to end nuclear proliferation through peaceful political action rooted in the Christian concept of agapé (the transforming power of God's love operating in the human heart). Through vigils, leafleting, worship services, and community meetings, Ground Zero members have been successful in creating a dialogue among Trident base employees about the significance of the submarine as an ultimate "first strike" nuclear weapon. They are presently cooperating with other American peace-makers and with Nichihonzan Myohoji Buddhist monks from Japan in the building of a peace pagoda at the Ground Zero site. It will serve as a gathering place for people of all faiths to pray for peace.

As we go to press, the people at Ground Zero inform us that an adverse ruling from Kitsap County authorities threatens the completion of the Peace Pagoda. We'll update you in a future issue.
automobiles; examination of the dilemma of "how much time and energy to spend on beauty when millions are starving". The Other Side tackles these subjects and many others in a style which is always lively and an editorial context which is consistently reverent toward traditional Christian principles, but irreverent toward fixed assumptions about how those principles should be applied in modern American life.

**Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility**

475 Riverside Drive, Room 566
New York, NY 10027

Since 1971, when the U.S. Episcopal Church filed a shareholder resolution protesting General Motors' operations in South Africa, Catholic and Protestant churches and church agencies have frequently used their leverage as investors to lobby for improved corporate responsibility. A number of them work through the Interfaith Center, which operates as a clearinghouse for information on corporate policies and facilitates an exchange of views on corporate involvement in such areas as agribusiness, nuclear energy, arms proliferation and Third World infant formula promotion. ICCR also provides a number of publications relating to issues of corporate accountability. Write them for a list.

**Brethren Volunteer Service**

1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

**Lutheran Volunteer Corps**

1226 Vermont Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20005

As VISTA vanishes before the onslaught of Reaganism, these church-based programs will be increasingly important in meeting community needs. Each offers volunteers a small stipend in return for service in such areas as community organizing, social work, urban education, emergency care and housing rehabilitation. The Lutheran and Marionist volunteers live communally. The Brethren program offers opportunities in international as well as U.S. volunteer service.

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**ACCESS: Jewish Activism**

cont. from page 13

A feminist Jewish journal, Lilith covers issues both inside and outside of the Jewish community which affect women: the difficulty in gaining ordination for women rabbis, abortion rights as a Jewish issue, Jewish women in prison, the recent U.N. Conference on Women, and dialogue between Jewish and Christian feminist theologians. Lilith is named for the legendary predecessor of Eve who insisted on equality with Adam!

**Lilith, bimonthly, $12.00/individual, $16.00/institutions from:**
Lilith Publications
250 West 57th St., Suite 1328B
New York, NY 10019

Jewish Currents, 8 issues/yr., $10.00/yr.

from:
Jewish Currents
22 East 17th St., Rm. 601
New York, NY 10003

Entering its 36th year of publication, Jewish Currents has tracked American Jewish activism’s highs and lows. Fortunately, Jewish Currents is experiencing renewed vitality, despite current economic woes, broadening its audience to include younger members among the ranks of old Jewish lefties. A clearly thought out and articulated perspective on ethnic politics informs the magazine’s coverage of issues, whether the topic be Argentinian and South American Fascism, a Jewish response to nuclear energy and weaponry, a memorial to the Warsaw Ghetto uprising (commemorating all people’s resistance to oppression), or the treatment of Gays under the Nazi regime. There are two special, annual issues, one devoted to Black/Jewish relations and the other to Women’s issues. An invaluable resource to the Jewish community, Jewish Currents belongs next to Genesis 2 on your bookshelf.

**Genesis 2**

Genesis 2, 8 issues/yr., $10 for individuals, $15 for institutions from:

**Genesis 2**
233 Bay State Road
Boston, MA 02215

Founded in 1979 as a college publication, Genesis 2 has grown steadily in reputation and readership. With refreshing insight, the newspaper has brought a progressive, Jewish perspective to topics as varied as U.S. media racism against Arabs, the celebration of Hanukkah as a liberation struggle, internalized anti-semitism among Jews, and solar/nuclear energy options. When I first came across Genesis 2 five years ago, its successful fusing of progressive politics and strong ethnic identification was a balm to my soul, and a source of inspiration in my work for social change. As the paper expands its focus beyond New England to a national audience, it’s sure to be well received.

**Chutzpah**

P. O. Box 60142
Chicago, IL 60660

Formed in 1971, Chutzpah has been a leading force in the Jewish political revival. Describing itself as a Jewish-Socialist-Feminist organization, Chutzpah has co-sponsored educational events with various Jewish agencies and left-wing groups on topics such as Jewish women and the Human Life Amendment and Antisemitism. Chutzpah has been active in anti-Klan, anti-Nazi work in the Chicago area, helping to organize a coalition for a young Black Communist arrested in an anti-Nazi demonstration. Chicago also maintains an active Middle East group. While Chutzpah’s magazine is now defunct, an anthology of the best of Chutzpah published in 1978 is still available. (Chutzpah, a Jewish Liberation Anthology, $5.95 from New Glide Publications, 330 Ellis St., Room 404, San Francisco, CA 94102.)
Jewish Peace Fellowship
Box 271
Nyang, NY 10960

Organized in 1941 to provide draft counseling to Jewish conscientious objectors of World War II, the Jewish Peace Fellowship (JPF) provides a strong Jewish presence in the international peace network. A quarterly newsletter, conferences and a series of publications convey the philosophy of the JPF: the roots of Jewish nonviolence and peacemaking, the need to eliminate the causes of war and the advancement of freedom and justice for all people. Affiliated with the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) for the past 15 years, JPF acts as a resource group both in the Jewish community and in ecumenical coalitions. JPF has taken a firm stance on disarmament issues, endorsing and distributing the World Peace Pledge and the New Abolitionist Covenant (co-authored by such groups as FOR and the Sojourners Community), helping to organize an International Inter-religious Peace Shabbat (to take place shortly before the upcoming Second U.N. Special Session on Disarmament) and collaborating on a religious convocation with the Religious Task Force of the Mobilization for Survival (also preceding the U.N. Special Session). JPF will be happy to provide additional information about these and other activities. Be sure to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Kol Ha Shofar
c/o Philip Block
4073 N.E. 12th
Portland, OR 97212

In existence for nearly three years, Kol Ha Shofar is one of a fair number of havurot that are attempting to blend political and spiritual work. In addition to organizing bi-monthly shabbat gatherings and holiday events, Kol Ha Shofar has co-sponsored cultural and educational events with the local Jewish Community Center, led a class in Israel/Palestine issues at a local school for activists, and it is currently working on disarmament issues. Their name, meaning "sound of the Ram's horn," was chosen to reflect the dual nature of the group through action and to prayer.

New Jewish Agenda
150 Fifth Ave., Suite 1002
New York, NY 10022

Founded in December of 1980, New Jewish Agenda is a multi-issue, grassroots organization of progressive Jews. Participants come from a variety of backgrounds with the common goal of building a progressive Jewish voice in both the organized Jewish community and left wing groups. With over 2000 members and more than twenty chapters scattered throughout the states, Agenda has developed task forces, endorsed initiatives, and organized local actions. It has formed coalitions around concerns such as sterilization abuse and abortion rights, the arms race and militarism, Gay rights legislation, human rights and anti-semitism, and the Reagan economic policy. Contact the national office for information about Agenda membership, newsletters, and local chapter activities.

Menorah
P.O. Box 1308V
Fort Lee, NJ 07024

A project of Jewish institutions of the Public Resource Center (Washington D.C.), Menorah is dedicated to Jewish spiritual renewal in daily life and prayer. Menorah has tackled issues such as the Reagan economy, Black/Jewish relations, defining “Jewish Politics,” and “Torah and Nuclear Power.” Currently Menorah and B’nai Or Religious Fellowship, a Philadelphia based havurah, are co-sponsoring the Rainbow Sign—a call for Jewish community action against nuclear war. Intermingling liturgy, workshops, art, and music, the organizers operate on the conviction that the survival of the human race and the earth is a “Jewish” issue. The Rainbow Sign is an attempt to spark anti-nuclear action around the country from similar Jewish groups.
LOOK WHO'S IRATE NOW

by Patrick Mazza

The word is that these are right-wing times, that we must accommodate to a conservative shift in the American mind. Yet at the grassroots, below the attention threshold of the national media, there are stirrings that belie that image. Put your ear to the ground, and you can hear them. Tough economic times are closing in, and it is becoming obvious to increasing numbers of working and middle class Americans that their interests are not the same as those of the institutions that govern them. The old consensus is breaking down. The righteous wrath of the American public is beginning to break surface.

"We never had this many people at any of our meetings," said the organizer. "I just wish they had been here five years ago."

In Washington state, that anger is being directed at an immensely powerful complex of public and private bureaucracies that runs the regional electrical supply system. In recent months, a full-scale ratepayers revolt has erupted over a nuclear construction program that has doubled power bills over the past few years and threatens to double them again this year. On the eastern side of the state, a major campaign against the construction of a coal-fired power plant has suddenly risen among traditionally Republican wheat farmers alarmed at the potential effects of pollution on their crops. Everywhere around the state the feeling is the same: Utility administrators and their legions of experts are operating outside of public control and contrary to popular sentiment. "They just are not listening to us," people are saying. In the Northwest, with its strong traditions of direct democracy and public ownership of utilities, this perceived insensitivity has inspired a strong movement at the political center. People are demanding that they once again be heard by the electrical powers that be.

One of the sparks that set off this explosion was the cancellation in January of two partially constructed nuclear plants (see RAIN VII:5:5). They were part of a five-reactor program created by the Washington Public Power Supply System (WPPSS), a consortium of the state's public utilities. Skyrocketing costs of the two nukes had begun to create serious angst on the East Coast bond markets through which WPPSS has been financing its program. There was uncertainty that the plants would be economically viable. Faced with that, WPPSS officials tried to postpone work on the two. That would have required funds from participating utilities, but growing popular opposition to spending any more money sank that plan. WPPSS officials tried to avoid the inevitable end, but finally gave in and cancelled construction. With that, utility ratepayers found they were already in debt for the plants to the tune of $2.25 billion. In addition, their Public Utility District (PUD) boards were asking them to pay additional termination bills for these "dry holes," as they came to be known. The result was the sudden emergence of a well-organized, largely middle class movement to demand a rollback of the power rates and to begin legal action to escape the burden of the WPPSS bonds.

The movement caught fire early in Grays Harbor County on the Washington coast. Massive unemployment in the wood products industry has left the timber-dependent local economy in disastrous shape. Huge power bill hikes were the last straw. In their economic pain, the people cried out and formed the Irate Ratepayers of Grays Harbor County. Over 2,000 of them packed the gym at Hoquiam
High one recent, rainy Sunday afternoon to demand that something be done to free the local PUD from the WPPSS debt. The gathering had a distinctly Middle American feel. Loggers, small business owners, members of the area VFW Post, housewives, children and older women and men crammed the bleachers. Near me sat a working man in his 50s, his hardhat decorated with an American flag decal.

Leaning against the back wall, gazing with wonder and amazement at the crowd, was one of the original organizers of the local anti-nuke group, the Crabshell Alliance. The alliance had long fought against two WPPSS plants at nearby Satsop. With the cancellation, only one of the plants is still under construction.

"We never had this many people at any of our meetings," said the organizer. "I just wish they had been here five years ago."

One division appears to be growing, the gap between the Northwest and the financiers of the East Coast.

The rally began, appropriately enough, with a Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation by the local Presbyterian minister. Standing on the platform were one congressman and several state legislators. Their sensitive noses had obviously picked up a scent in the political winds. All would get their chance to speak today, but none would get a reception like the one given to Dorothy Lindsey, the middle-aged housewife who leads the Irate Ratepayers.

"This crowd shows that democracy is healthy and very much alive at the grassroots," she told the gathering. "It shows we can win. For too long, the citizens of this state have sat back and let others manage our public power. Those days are over."

Sustained applause and a shout of approval rose from the crowd.

"We want this debt of $2.25 billion for two dry holes to be challenged in court," she continued. The applause grew louder.

"We want public power representatives to get control of the WPPSS monster that is endangering our livelihoods and our lives."

The response grew louder still.

"We want the Grays Harbor Public Utility District to push conservation and renewable energy sources to develop electricity our people can afford."

"The crescendo of applause and enthusiastic shouts increased with each sentence.

"We want the commissioners of the Grays Harbor PUD to conduct their business in the open."

The crowd jumped to its feet and clapped and yelled its approval for nearly half a minute. Clearly, this was a group with a sense of being shut out of decisionmaking processes and some very strong emotions about that.

"We are fully aware we are taking on greedy contractors, greedy bankers, the nuclear industry, the entrenched bunch of WPPSS managers with their $125,000 salaries. We expect a rough, bitter fight, but with your help, we can win."

This Middle American gathering loudly agreed.

Next spoke local attorney Jim Duree, an older man dressed in a gray suit and string tie. He lauded early WPPSS critics.

"There are many, many people. Some of them were hippies. They had long hair. But they saw much better than some of our business interests, and I think we ought to give them a round of applause."

"The response was immediate and warm. Loggers, senators, VFW and Chamber of Commerce members in this tradition-respecting community applauded the longhairs. It just wouldn’t have happened here a few years ago. Old divisions seem to be healing in Grays Harbor County."

But one division appears to be growing, the gap between the Northwest and the financiers of the East Coast. At the rally, I asked housewives and old Vets, "If defaulting on the WPPSS bonds would mean the collapse of the major financial institutions of the East (and some believe that it would), is that a price you would be willing to pay?" The answer, uniformly, was, "Yes." They told me that with the local economic depression, their personal finances are already collapsing, and paying the WPPSS bill imposes an impossible burden. If non-payment means some big banks go broke, "better them than us" was the general feeling. An officer of the local VFW Post went further. "There’s going to be a civil war if this keeps up, right here," he said, pointing at the ground.

Some people believe default holds one immediate and serious danger for the Northwest. In default they see the end, at least for a time, of the ability of public agencies to borrow money from private financial institutions.

"That idea, that if we try to pull the plug on WPPSS by not paying, by ratepayers revolts, that that’s going to mean the collapse of the region, I think is blackmail to begin with, and if we understand how our economic system works, is simply not the case," says Dan Leahy, a leader of Progress Under Democracy. The group is coordinating the statewide revolt and helping organize political campaigns to unseat pro-WPPSS PUD commissioners in fall elections.

Financiers, says Leahy, "are interested in investing in tax-exempt bonds. They love that stuff. It’s hard for me to imagine that anybody is not going to float bonds in an entire three- or four-state area if they can float them at all. That’s what they are in the business of doing, shifting capital from the west to the east, from our pockets into their investors’ pockets.

"I think this argument about regional responsibility is really a question of, ‘Responsible to who?’", Leahy continues. "I heard a couple of PUD commissioners say, ‘Gee, Dan, you don’t think we..."
should stick it to the bondholders, do you? I said, 'How many bondholders do you represent? How many bondholders live in your county? I think it depends on who you represent.' More and more people are beginning to make statements, so it's going to become clearer and clearer exactly who they represent. The kind of thing that's happening in Grays Harbor is indicative of what's going to happen around the state. There's going to be a real clear line drawn. That is, that the bondholders can eat it and we'll do our best to find any way out of this thing.'

On the other side of the Cascades, in the dryland wheat farming country west of Spokane, the feeling of popular revolt is the same, as is the basic issue, the economically-damaging impacts of large power plants. But the focus is different. Here, the concern is that pollution and acid rain created by a proposed coal-fire power plant would reduce wheat crop yields 10-15 percent, an assertion backed by scientific studies from Montana and West Germany. For farmers, that "would hurt to beat hell," says Ed Gray, a Rearden wheat rancher. "Basically, we're growing right at the cost of production. Anything that decreases our yield is going to mean a loss, and we can only stand a loss maybe three years in a row. If the plant goes in, it's not three years in a row, but from then on. So I can't see anything to do but fight the thing now."

Proposed by Washington Water Power, a Spokane-based private utility, the plant would be a giant. Located amid wheat fields near the small Lincoln County community of Creston, it would have a production capacity of 2,280 megawatts and use up to eight million tons of coal a year. The expected consumption is about 300 railcar loads each day. The resulting pollution would include large quantities of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide.

To Orlin Reinbold, another plant opponent, that would mean the end of wheat farming in Lincoln County, reputedly the nation's second largest wheat growing area. "You aren't going to be a wheat producing area anymore," Reinbold says. "You're going to lose the greatest food chain in the State of Washington. It's going to be all over with. People have got to wake up and beat the drums."

Reinbold was one of the early drum beaters. He and a group of fellow Lincoln County farmers several months ago formed Blue Sky Advocates, a coalition to raise funds for what is expected to be a very long legal battle. In addition, about 1,700 members of the farm community have signed petitions against the plant.

There is a measure of irony in all this. Eastern Washington farmers are not known as environmental types. In fact, if you sit with them in the small cafes where they gather most mornings, you have a good chance of hearing about the latest damnfoolery of "the invarmentlists." On issues like chemical spraying and expansion of irrigation, the farmers generally find themselves in conflict with "the birdwatchers from Seattle." But loss of crop productivity and farm income is serious business in Lincoln County. So the farmers have made their alliances with whomever they can, including major, Seattle-based environmental groups.

About this, says Blue Sky founding member Anthony Appel, "Adversity makes strange bedfellows. We're suddenly seeing farmers united with Sierra Clubbers. I guess that isn't all bad."

The issue with the farmers is not just economic or environmental. It is a matter of local control. It ranks them to see decisions so important to their livelihoods being made by institutions in which they have no voice.

"We should have a vote on whether we want this plant here or not," Harrington wheat farmer John Adams says. "We should have a say over our future. Washington Water Power shouldn't decide our future for us."

Construction of the plant could mean a 50 percent increase in Lincoln County population. Says Adams, "We feel we'll lose our power to control the circumstances in our area."

The farmers have even had difficulty making themselves heard before public bodies. Because they entered the process relatively late, they have had trouble getting legal standing before the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, the group that must approve major power plants.

"We are quite concerned they are not listening to us," Appel said. "We keep getting indications nobody is listening at all."

That's not how it's supposed to work in a democracy. The farmers of Lincoln County know that, as do the working people of Grays Harbor County. There is a feeling things have gone out of control, and that now is the time to do something about it. In all this, one sees old ghosts rising from the ashes, ghosts of agrarian populism and working class activism taking physical form, returning from their long absence to haunt their old enemies: banks, utilities and undemocratic institutions in general.

In the vast economic expansion of the post-World War II era, the average American seemed content to let things rest. In these new times, these times of unemployment and desperately tight family budgets, that is changing. Assertive democracy, asleep for so long, is being shaken awake by the harsh demands of a hard time. In that awakening, in that change, the seeds of a new popular movement are present. Their blossoming could change the political face of this country in this decade, and prove that democracy is still the central and driving force of the American experience.
BUILDING


...the building comes above all from the desire to make something which is simple, ordinary and comfortable. This simple comfort depends on certain definite and specific language, ordinary and comfortable. This simple desire to make something which is simple, use described in A Pattern Language, their interaction and use described in The Timeless Way of Building.

People get enthusiastic about Christopher Alexander's books. Five years ago, he and his colleagues at the Center for Environmental Structure in Berkeley wrote A Pattern Language, a book that has since become a Bible for architects and planners. I discovered the book in the Next Whole Earth Catalog, where Stewart Brand speculated that it was the best and most useful book in the toolbox. Once I got a copy of the book, I spent the next few months studying it daily and stopping friends on the street to tell them about the ideas at length. What exciting ideas! And what a combination of practical suggestions and inspiring ideas!

The Linz Café describes the ideas in practice—an example of their potential. (A Pattern Language is still the best introduction to these ideas, however.) Organizers of a summer exposition in Austria, who commissioned the Linz Café, wanted Christopher Alexander to "build something which thoroughly expressed his ideas and feelings about architecture."

How to design and build: start with the site; rough out design, using the appropriate patterns; refine the details as you build—try out each nook and cranny, each bench edge and window frame, until it feels right and fits into the whole—work each detail out, very exactly, by trial and error, using full scale mockups to get size and shape and proportion just exactly right. For example, in the case of the alcoves, I spent several hours in the office, playing with chairs, tables, and pieces of plywood, until I had the dimensions of the alcove exactly right. I knew I had it right when it felt so comfortable, that everyone in the office clustered round, sat in the simulated alcove drinking brandy, and refused to leave.

Color and ornament are also essential details. Alexander explains his ideas on color—he hand-mixed the paints to get precisely the right colors—and ornament. Half of the book is photographs of shimmering clarity, many in color, whose presence accounts for the book's steep price. (Half of the text is a German translation, incidentally, so the book is short enough for a quick first reading in a bookstore if your library doesn't have it.)

My main concern, is to make something in which a person sees himself reflected, in which we may claim to see the world, in miniature, and which I can make, as some kind of offering...a gift to the universe.

Of course, what we have here, is a handful of sticks, quickly thrown together...and to make too high a claim, would lay it open to laughter and make it seem ridiculous. But it can, perhaps, be understood as a kind of exercise...a preliminary exercise in which what it takes to make such a thing, has been laid out on the table...made...tested...and in which we have the opportunity to see whether it is possible, in our time, to make something in which we see a whole world, in which we see ourselves...in which we feel not only simply happiness, but a vision of an ordinary person, at home with a cup of tea.

Ideas of subtle power and magical simplicity, elegantly illustrated. —Tanya Kucak

From: The Linz Café, Das Linz Café

TOOLS


This is a basic introduction to welding, written for people with little or no experience who are toying with the idea of buying a welding rig and trying their hand. If you do have an interest in welding, the best way to learn some of the tricks is to take a night class or talk to someone who is skilled at welding. If you lack that type of access, this book may serve as a substitute. It covers the basics of welding equipment selection, techniques, applications, and safety. If you get into it seriously, there are better, more comprehensive texts on both arc and oxyacetylene welding, but as a short, basic introduction this will fill the bill.—Gail Katz

MEDI A

"10 Years That Didn't Shake the World," Undercurrents No. 50, 10th Anniversary Special Issue, Feb. 1982, $1.75 from: Undercurrents 27 Clerkenwell Close London EC1 OAT England

Undercurrents came to me in the bath. Yes, really. The name, I mean. For months I'd been trying to think of a good title for an "alternative" science and technology magazine and then suddenly, as I wallowed amid the soap racks, the loofahs and the rubber ducks it came: Undercurrents!—Godfrey Boyle, founding editor

One of RAIN's sister publications abroad, Undercurrents is celebrating its 10th birthday. It's put out by the people who, in 1976, amidst the ongoing debate about whether what we do is properly called "appropriate," "alternative," "intermediate," "soft," "con­vivial," or what-have-you, made their own position clear. They published an excellent volume, comparable to our RAINBOOK, called Radical Technology. You may not always enjoy British humor, but you have to appreciate their disdain for fuzziness. Congratulations on your first decade, mates!—Mark Roseland
**FOOD**

*Dinner Can Be A Picnic All Year Round,* by Sharon Elliot, 1981, 128 pp., $6.70 ($7.06 for California residents) ppd. from:
Fresh Press
774 Allen Court
Palo Alto, CA 94303

In *Dinner Can Be A Picnic,* the author encourages us to capture the magic of a picnic at any time of year, giving us seasonal menu suggestions. Her simple, meatless recipes are arranged by chapter according to time required for preparations; they are indexed and cross-referenced. Predictable meal fare takes a new twist: the zucchini in zucchini pizza is found in the crust; enchiladas contain extra-high protein with the addition of cottage cheese as an ingredient in the filling; quiche offers a potato crust.

The question of individual diet is addressed by several recipes—Lentil Bowlado, Salad Spectacular, Pumpkin Soup—that provide a variety of ingredients to be added at the meal itself by the diners.

The exclusive use of brown sugar as a sweetener and the processed, canned, or frozen foods called for in some recipes contrast with some innovative uses of tofu and sprouts in other recipes. Purists may decry the former while applauding the latter, but this cookbook may be most valuable for folks looking for an introduction to vegetarian eating. —Nancy Cosper

From: *Dinner Can Be A Picnic*

**RUSH**

RAIN staffer Steve Rudman will be travelling through Europe this fall ('82) and would like to visit creative/interesting community projects and describe their activities in RAIN Magazine. He's particularly interested in visiting models of community economic development, neighborhood services, and citizen action. Got any suggestions? Please write to Steve c/o RAIN, 2270 N.W. Irving, Portland, OR 97210.

Don't let Reaganomics split your community — strengthen it with help from the Community Technology Workshop at the Farallones Rural Center, in Occidental, California. Titles of the twelve-day, $350 sessions include Weatherization, Solar Space Heating, Solar Water Heating, and Community Food. For more information, contact Beisy Timm, Farallones Institute Rural Center, 15290 Coleman Valley Road, Occidental, CA 95465, 707/874-2441.


Cont. on next page
The Grantsmanship Center's Program Management Training is not the usual stand-up lecture routine. The intensive five-day workshops combine instruction and practical exercises in covering topics such as Clarifying Goals and Objectives, Managing Personnel, and Complying with Funding Source Rules. The workshops cost $395 and are held in 19 states throughout the U.S. For details, write or call Program Registrar, the Grantsmanship Center, 1031 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90015, 800/421-9512.

Don't be an ASS, be an ACE (ASS=Agent of Social Stagnation, ACE=Agent of Conscious Evolution). The Institute for the Study of Conscious Evolution will hold a conference June 18-20 in Menlo Park, California. Selected workshops will be offered with themes of "Relationships," "Personal Transformation," and "Science and Technology." The cost is $190 per person. Address inquiries to: 2418 Clement St., San Francisco, CA 94121.

Earth shelters may be the homes of the future. Learn more about them by taking a half-day bus tour of earth homes in Minneapolis/St. Paul, on May 15th and 16th. The tour fee is $25. Write to: Earth Shelter Tours, 902 Grand Ave., Suite 105, St. Paul, MN 55105, or call 612/788-9248.

The Harvard Graduate School of Design/MIT Joint Summer Continuing Education Program is offering a number of short, intensive seminars on such topics as Community Planning, Design for Housing in Developing Countries, Financing Community Development, and Low Energy Approaches to Commercial Building Design. For further information and a detailed brochure, contact: Arlayna Hertz, Harvard Graduate School of Design, Gund Hall, Room 506, 48 Quincy St., Cambridge, MA 02138, 617/495-2578.

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) will hold a Summer Study in Santa Cruz, California, August 21-28. The theme is "What Works? Documenting the Results of Energy Conservation in Buildings." The aim of the week-long study is to generate a credible document on energy efficient options to guide the future investments and policy choices of businesses and corporations. For further information, contact: Jeffrey Harris, ACEEE 1982 Summer Study, c/o Energy Efficient Building Program, 90-3028, Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, Berkeley, CA 94720, 415/486-4632.

November 1 is Fast Food Day, a protest against McDonald's. Paradoxically, this is also the international Earth Shawl Day. The workshop is for anyone interested in the design and building of underground homes. Workshop dates are November 17th and 18th, from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM. This workshop is being held at the Center for the Urban Environment, 2200 N.W. Irving, Portland, OR 97210. Deadline for receipt of applications is June 1. For further information call 503/227-5110.

A RAIN reader living near Dublin, Ireland, will be vacationing in America this summer and would like to find a family to mind his "large, ancient, lovely but somewhat ramshackle Irish country house" while he is away. The "house sitting" would involve maintenance of four acres of land, containing a garden and orchard and "loving care" for a menagerie of two donkeys, two dogs, three cats and two hens. Care (possibly necessary loving!) would also be required for several hives of bees. The temporary tenants would have free lodging in a picturesque portion of Ireland, rights to the food produced by the garden, and bicycle access to the ocean and nearby hills. If interested, write to D. Hopkins, Riversdale, Dargle Rd., Bray County, Wicklow, Ireland.

The 7th annual National Passive Solar Conference will be held Aug. 29-Sept. 1 in Knoxville, Tennessee. The program will include presentations on integrated heating and cooling concepts, energy-conscious passive solar retrofits, and will also translate sophisticated design tool methods into a language usable by builders, designers, and architects. For more information, write to: American Section of ISES, 205B McDowell Hall, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19711.

If you're on the international road this June, perhaps you'll want to check out the Mind-Body-Spirit Festival in London, England. The festival, which claims to be the world's largest gathering of people concerned with alternative lifestyles and social/technological options, will address the areas of health, ecology, fitness, arts and crafts, and spirituality. It will take place June 19-27. For further details, contact: Joanna Jacobius, Shire Hall Press & Public Relations, 9 Gooes Court, London W1, United Kingdom.

Country Workshops is a non-profit educational organization established in 1978 to meet the needs of those wishing to pursue an interest in traditional woodworking. During July and August, week long seminars will be held at which a master woodworker will teach courses in the use of traditional hand tools, chair making, and various other skills. Tuition per workshop is $180. For more information, write or call them at: Route 3, Box 262, Marshall, NC 28753, 704/656-2280.

What we eat, how much we exercise, how we manage stress, and how we take care of ourselves all affect our ability to stay healthy. A symposium entitled "Staying Healthy: The Healing Brain" will be held May 15-16 and 22-23 in Seattle and Los Angeles respectively. Self-diagnosis and treatment, coping with stress, and nutritional supplements are among the topics to be discussed. General admission is $135 which does not include accommodation. For further information, contact: Continuing Education, Pacific Medical Center, P.O. Box 7999, San Francisco, CA 94120, 415/563-4321, ext. 2761.

How are effective people's organizations built? What are the best strategies and tactics of citizen action? These are just two of the questions which will be addressed at the Community Organizing workshops sponsored by Organize Training Center. The five day, $550 sessions will be held in July and October in southern California. Contact: Organize Training Center, 1208 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94120, 415/552-8990 for details.
GREETINGS FROM ECOTOPIA!

KNOWING HOME: STUDIES FOR A POSSIBLE PORTLAND

Editors of RAIN

Knowing Home expands upon the ideas covered in RAIN each month with an integrated approach to self-reliance in one bioregion: our home town. An inspiring model for other cities and towns as well as an excellent way to introduce friends and family to community self-help, this beautifully illustrated book includes articles on the history of self-reliance in Portland, a bioregional map, our sense of place, strategies for a sustainable city, life support systems, profiles of community self-help projects, plus visions for an ecologically and socially balanced future. "A vision has emerged in our minds of how Portland and other communities around the country can meet the special challenges of the coming decades and become more democratic, more beautiful and more self-reliant places in which to live."

SUBURBAN ECOTOPIA POSTER
Diane Schatz
22” x 30”, $3.60 p.p.d.

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